

belle isle giant slide history

belle isle giant slide history is a fascinating journey into one of Detroit's most iconic attractions. From its origins as a family-friendly amusement on Belle Isle to its enduring status as a local landmark, the giant slide's story is filled with nostalgia, architectural ingenuity, and community memories. In this article, you will discover the full history of the Belle Isle giant slide, how it became a cherished part of Detroit's recreational landscape, and the key milestones that have shaped its evolution. We will explore its construction, cultural significance, memorable moments, and the ongoing efforts to preserve this beloved structure for future generations. Whether you remember riding the slide as a child or are curious about its legacy, this comprehensive guide will provide detailed insights, interesting facts, and a deeper understanding of why the Belle Isle giant slide remains a symbol of fun and tradition. Read on to learn all about the belle isle giant slide history from its humble beginnings to its place in Detroit's heritage.

- Origins of the Belle Isle Giant Slide
- Design and Construction of the Giant Slide
- Memorable Eras and Community Impact
- Renovations and Changes Over Time
- Present-Day Significance and Visitor Experience
- Fun Facts and Notable Events

Origins of the Belle Isle Giant Slide

The belle isle giant slide history begins in the 1960s, when Detroit city officials sought to expand recreational options on Belle Isle, a popular island park in the Detroit River. The idea for a giant slide was inspired by similar attractions in amusement parks across the United States, designed to provide a thrilling yet safe experience for children and families. The project aimed to create a large, durable slide that could accommodate dozens of riders daily and become a centerpiece of the Belle Isle playground area. After several proposals and community discussions, plans were finalized to build the slide in a prominent location easily accessible to park visitors.

Early Community Reception

When the Belle Isle giant slide first opened to the public, it quickly became a favorite destination for families. The unique design and towering presence of the slide drew

crowds from Detroit and neighboring communities. Its blend of excitement and accessibility made it a staple for summer outings and school trips. The slide's popularity was further boosted by local media coverage, which highlighted its safe construction and role in promoting active play among children.

- First introduced in the 1960s as a new amusement option
- Located near other playground facilities for convenience
- Became a central attraction for families visiting Belle Isle

Design and Construction of the Giant Slide

The Belle Isle Giant Slide was constructed with durability and safety in mind, using sturdy metal materials and supported by a robust framework. The design featured multiple lanes, allowing several riders to enjoy the slide simultaneously, and a gentle curve that added to the thrill while minimizing risks. The structure stood approximately 40 feet tall, making it one of the largest slides in the region at the time.

Innovative Features and Materials

Engineers and architects collaborated to create a slide that could withstand Michigan's harsh winters and heavy usage. The surface was crafted from smooth, high-quality steel to ensure a fast ride, while the sides were raised to prevent accidents. Wide steps and secure handrails were installed for safe ascent, and the landing area was padded with soft materials to cushion riders as they finished their descent.

Safety Considerations

Safety was a top priority during construction. The Belle Isle Giant Slide history includes regular inspections, maintenance schedules, and updates to comply with changing safety standards. Over the years, modifications were made to improve the landing zone, enhance handrail stability, and add signage instructing riders on proper use. These measures helped maintain the slide's reputation as a safe, family-friendly attraction.

Memorable Eras and Community Impact

The Belle Isle Giant Slide has played a significant role in Detroit's recreational culture for decades. During the 1970s and 1980s, the slide was at the center of countless family

outings, summer camps, and community festivals. Its presence helped shape the identity of Belle Isle as a destination for fun and relaxation, drawing visitors from all backgrounds.

Generational Traditions

Many Detroit residents recall riding the slide with siblings, friends, and even parents who enjoyed reliving childhood memories. The tradition of visiting the Belle Isle giant slide became a rite of passage for local children, contributing to the park's enduring popularity. School field trips often included stops at the slide, further embedding it in the collective memory of the city.

Cultural Significance

Beyond recreation, the Belle Isle giant slide history reflects broader social changes. The slide served as a gathering place that bridged communities and fostered inclusivity. Events held near the slide often celebrated Detroit's diversity, emphasizing the importance of public spaces in bringing people together. Today, it remains a symbol of shared experience and local pride.

Renovations and Changes Over Time

Throughout its history, the Belle Isle giant slide has undergone several renovations to maintain its appeal and safety. In the 1990s, the slide was temporarily closed for major repairs, including replacement of worn materials and updates to the support structure. Additional enhancements were made in the early 2000s to address changing accessibility standards and improve overall visitor experience.

Modernization Efforts

Recent updates have focused on sustainability and long-term preservation. Newer materials were introduced to reduce maintenance costs and minimize environmental impact. The slide's exterior was repainted to restore its iconic appearance, and surrounding landscaping was improved to create a more inviting atmosphere for families and tourists.

1. 1990s: Structural repairs and modernization
2. 2000s: Accessibility upgrades and safety improvements
3. 2010s: Cosmetic restoration and landscaping

Present-Day Significance and Visitor Experience

Today, the Belle Isle giant slide continues to captivate visitors of all ages. Its enduring popularity is a testament to the thoughtful design and community support that have sustained it over the years. The slide serves as both a historical landmark and an active recreation site, blending nostalgia with modern enjoyment.

Visitor Tips and Recommendations

For those planning a visit, the Belle Isle giant slide offers a unique experience that combines fun with history. Park officials recommend wearing comfortable clothing and following posted guidelines to ensure a safe ride. Weekends and holidays tend to be busiest, so arriving early can help avoid long lines. The slide is open seasonally, typically from late spring through early fall, and is suitable for children and adults alike.

Community Engagement

Local organizations frequently host events near the slide, promoting family-friendly activities and educational programs about Belle Isle's history. The slide's continued operation is supported by volunteers and donations, reflecting the community's commitment to preserving Detroit's recreational heritage.

Fun Facts and Notable Events

The Belle Isle giant slide history is filled with interesting anecdotes and milestones that highlight its unique place in Detroit culture. Over the years, the slide has been featured in news stories, documentaries, and social media, drawing attention from nostalgia enthusiasts and urban explorers alike.

Noteworthy Moments

- The slide celebrated its 50th anniversary in the early 2010s with a community festival.
- It has appeared in several local films and television segments as a symbol of Detroit's

resilience.

- Annual events, such as children's races and historical tours, often center around the slide.
- Decades-old photographs of the slide are frequently shared by local historical societies.
- It is considered one of Detroit's "hidden gems" by travel writers and park enthusiasts.

From its debut in the 1960s to its role in present-day celebrations, the Belle Isle giant slide stands as a testament to the power of community, creativity, and tradition. Its history continues to inspire new generations of visitors, ensuring its place in Detroit's cultural landscape for years to come.

Q&A: Trending Questions about Belle Isle Giant Slide History

Q: When was the Belle Isle giant slide first built?

A: The Belle Isle giant slide was first constructed in the 1960s as part of Detroit's efforts to expand recreational facilities on Belle Isle.

Q: What materials were used in the construction of the Belle Isle giant slide?

A: The slide was primarily built from high-quality steel, with reinforced metal supports and safety features such as padded landing zones and sturdy handrails.

Q: Why is the Belle Isle giant slide considered an iconic Detroit landmark?

A: The slide is iconic due to its longstanding presence, historical significance, and role in community traditions, making it a symbol of fun and togetherness in Detroit.

Q: Have there been any major renovations to the Belle Isle giant slide?

A: Yes, the slide has undergone several renovations, including structural repairs in the 1990s, accessibility upgrades in the 2000s, and cosmetic restoration in recent years.

Q: What safety measures are in place for riders of the Belle Isle giant slide?

A: Safety measures include regular inspections, secure handrails, padded landing areas, and clearly posted guidelines for proper use.

Q: Is the Belle Isle giant slide open year-round?

A: No, the slide operates seasonally, typically from late spring through early fall, to ensure optimal safety and maintenance.

Q: How has the Belle Isle giant slide impacted Detroit's community?

A: The slide has fostered generational traditions, served as a gathering place for diverse communities, and contributed to the park's reputation as a family-friendly destination.

Q: Are there any notable events associated with the Belle Isle giant slide?

A: Notable events include anniversary celebrations, children's races, historical tours, and appearances in local media.

Q: Can adults ride the Belle Isle giant slide?

A: Yes, the slide is designed for both children and adults, allowing families to share the experience together.

Q: What makes the Belle Isle giant slide unique among other playground attractions?

A: Its size, historical significance, multi-lane design, and enduring popularity set it apart from typical playground slides, making it a cherished Detroit landmark.

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Belle Isle Giant Slide History: A Thrilling Trip Down Memory Lane

The Belle Isle Giant Slide. Just the name conjures images of squeals of delight, the rush of wind, and the satisfying thwack as you reach the bottom. But this isn't just any slide; it's a Detroit landmark, a piece of history etched into the memories of generations. This post dives deep into the fascinating history of the Belle Isle Giant Slide, exploring its origins, its heyday, its closure, and its eventual, triumphant return. We'll uncover the stories behind this iconic attraction, revealing why it holds such a special place in the hearts of Detroiters and visitors alike.

From Humble Beginnings: The First Slide (1902)

The Belle Isle Giant Slide's story doesn't begin with the behemoth we know today. In 1902, a much smaller, simpler slide was constructed on the island as part of its evolving recreational offerings. This early iteration, likely made of wood and far less imposing, laid the groundwork for the legendary attraction to come. Unfortunately, detailed records from this era are scarce, making piecing together its exact design and lifespan a challenge for historians. We only know it was there, a precursor to the magnificent structure that would define the island's identity for decades.

The Rise of the Steel Giant (1920s - 1980s): An Era of Thrills

The slide we truly remember—the Giant Slide—emerged in the 1920s. Constructed from sturdy steel, this new incarnation was significantly taller and longer, promising a more exhilarating ride. It quickly became a beloved destination for families and thrill-seekers alike, its towering presence visible from across the Detroit River. Its popularity soared throughout the mid-20th century, becoming synonymous with summer fun on Belle Isle.

The Slide's Design and Operation:

The slide's ingenious design utilized gravity and a series of strategically placed wooden slats to propel riders down its steep incline. Riders would climb a long staircase or use the adjacent lift, paying a small fee for the privilege of a thrilling descent. The sounds of laughter and shrieks echoed across the island as countless individuals experienced the thrill of the ride, creating a vibrant atmosphere unique to Belle Isle.

A Symbol of Detroit's Recreation and Community:

Beyond the pure adrenaline, the Giant Slide represented something more profound for Detroit. It was a testament to the city's commitment to providing accessible recreational opportunities for its citizens. It became a social hub, a place where families made memories, and generations connected across cultural divides. Numerous photographs and personal accounts from the period vividly

capture the slide's enduring appeal and its role as a symbol of community.

The Decline and Closure (1980s - 2012): A Period of Uncertainty

By the late 20th century, the Belle Isle Giant Slide began to show its age. Years of wear and tear, coupled with changing safety regulations, led to concerns about its structural integrity. The cost of renovation and maintenance proved prohibitive, ultimately resulting in its closure in 1988. The iconic structure sat dormant for years, a haunting reminder of what once was, its rusting metal a stark contrast to the vibrant memories it held. Despite efforts by preservationists and community members, the slide remained closed, becoming a symbol of the city's struggles and decay for a time.

The Resurrection (2012 - Present): A Triumphant Return

After years of neglect and fervent campaigning, the Belle Isle Giant Slide was finally resurrected. A massive renovation project meticulously restored the structure to its former glory, addressing safety concerns and preserving its historical integrity. Its reopening in 2012 was met with jubilation, marking a significant victory for the city and a powerful symbol of renewal. The restored slide continues to bring joy to generations, demonstrating the enduring appeal of this iconic Detroit landmark.

Conclusion:

The Belle Isle Giant Slide's history is more than just the story of a ride; it's a microcosm of Detroit's own journey – from periods of prosperity and innovation to struggles and eventual resurgence. Its enduring popularity reflects its ability to evoke a sense of nostalgia, community, and shared experience. The slide stands not only as a thrilling attraction, but also as a testament to the power of collective memory and the enduring spirit of a city.

FAQs:

1. Was the original 1902 slide similar to the later steel slide? No, the 1902 slide was significantly smaller and simpler in design, likely constructed of wood. Detailed records are scarce, making precise comparisons difficult.

2. What safety upgrades were made during the restoration? The restoration included extensive structural repairs, updated safety features such as improved braking systems, and a thorough assessment of the slide's stability.
3. How much did it cost to restore the Belle Isle Giant Slide? The exact cost of the restoration is not publicly available but involved substantial funding from various sources, including private donations and public investments.
4. Are there any plans for future renovations or improvements? While ongoing maintenance is crucial, there are currently no major renovation plans announced for the Giant Slide.
5. Can I find historical photographs of the slide online? Yes! Searching for "Belle Isle Giant Slide history" on image search engines like Google Images or Flickr will yield a wealth of historical photographs and archival material depicting the slide throughout its history.

belle isle giant slide history: *Lulu & Rocky in Detroit* Barbara Joosse, 2019-08-15 Lulu and her cousin Rocky are visiting the city of Detroit, the Motor City! There are so many fun things to see and do, like visiting Campus Martius to make sand castles, eating cherries at the Eastern Market, riding the carousel at the Riverfront, and seeing the works of Diego Rivera at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Written by Barbara Joosse and illustrated by Renée Graef, this second book in the Our City Adventures series explores the city of Detroit, visiting well-known sites like Comerica Park, Fox Theatre, and Hitsville, U.S.A, where the Motown sound came alive, as well as unexpected gems.

belle isle giant slide history: *Where the Water Goes Around* Bill Wylie-Kellermann, 2017-05-30 Where the Water Goes Around is a biblical and political reading of Detroit over the course of three decades by an activist pastor. Detroit is a place where one can take the temperature of the world. Think on the rise of Fordism and auto-love, the Arsenal of Democracy, the practice of the sit-down strike, or the invention of the expressway and suburban mall. Consider more recently the rebellion of 1967, the deindustrialization of a union town, the assault on democracy in this black-majority city, the structural adjustments of municipal bankruptcy, and now a struggle for water as a human right. Bill Wylie-Kellermann tells the story of working out his place-based vocation with a simultaneous commitment to gospel nonviolence. He evokes the place Anishinabe peoples tread lightly the banks of Wawiatanong, where the waters go round. One narrative thread walks a procession through the streets, a contemporary stations of the cross, to the locations of crucifixion today. It names the occupying principalities and their outposts on the ground. Another tells the story of resurrection in struggle and human community. Herein are public disruptions, liturgical direct actions, and courtroom trials. In resistance and risk, this book proclaims gospel in context.

belle isle giant slide history: *Adventure* Christopher Schaberg, 2023-07-13 What is the meaning of "adventure" as we enter the third decade of the 21st century, after a global pandemic, social and geopolitical calamities, and accelerating environmental catastrophes? What stories are humans telling about wilderness, remote destinations, and the most difficult thoughts thinkable? Adventure is a pinball assortment of unexpected encounters. Each chapter entertains a specific project, fantasy, or activity that dabbles with adventure - and runs into limits. Subjects range from Mars exploration, commercial space tourism, and adventure consumerism, to the day-to-day experiences of living in a world increasingly impacted by climate change and environmental disasters. Taking a wide-angle view - at times personal, at others theoretical - Schaberg explores our ideas about adventure and their narrative, cultural, and philosophical underpinnings.

belle isle giant slide history: *Great Lakes Island Escapes* Maureen Dunphy, 2016-05-16 A comprehensive travelogue and guidebook exploring island adventures on many of the 135 islands accessible by ferry or bridge in the Great Lakes Basin. The Great Lakes Basin is the largest surface freshwater system on Earth. The more than 30,000 islands dotted throughout the basin provide

some of the best ways to enjoy the Great Lakes. While the vast majority of these islands can only be reached by private boat or plane, a surprising number of islands—each with its own character and often harboring more than a bit of intrigue in its history—can be reached by merely taking a ferry ride, or crossing a bridge, offering everyone the chance to experience a variety of island adventures. Great Lakes Island Escapes: Ferries and Bridges to Adventure explores in depth over 30 of the Great Lakes Basin islands accessible by bridge or ferry and introduces more than 50 additional islands. Thirty-eight chapters include helpful information about getting to each featured island, what to expect when you get there, the island's history, and what natural and historical sites and cultural attractions are available to visitors. Each chapter lists special island events, where to get more island information, and how readers can help support the island. Author Maureen Dunphy made numerous trips to a total of 135 islands that are accessible by ferry or bridge in the Great Lakes Basin. On each trip, Dunphy was accompanied by a different friend or relative who provided her another adventurer's perspective through which to view the island experience. Great Lakes Island Escapes covers islands on both sides of the international border between the United States and Canada and features islands in both the lakes and the waterways that connect them. Anyone interested in island travel or learning more about the Great Lakes will delight in this comprehensive collection.

belle isle giant slide history: A Targeted Management Plan for Belle Isle , 1993

belle isle giant slide history: Black Newspapers Index , 2006

belle isle giant slide history: The Incredible Scream Machine Robert Cartmell, 1987 In 1984 America celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the first successful roller coaster device: La Marcus A. Thompson's switchback railway, erected at Coney Island. Robert Cartmell examines every phase of roller coaster history, from the use of the roller coaster by Albert Einstein to demonstrate his theory of physics, to John Allen's use of psychology in designing one.

belle isle giant slide history: Oakland County Telephone Directories , 2007

belle isle giant slide history: Mike's Guide to the Motor City Michael E. Fisher, 1993

belle isle giant slide history: Family Fare Martin F. Kohn, 1988

belle isle giant slide history: Isle of Bones Zan Safra, 2022-05-04 Venice, 1865: Everyone knows the tale of Poveglia. The lonely island has been haunted since the time of the Red Death, the vampire plague that swept across the Continent in centuries past. Five hundred years ago the island became a mass grave, the pyre of thousands upon thousands of half-transformed victims. No Venetian will sail within sight of it. It's said that Poveglia's very soil is made of ash. But sixteen-year-old Unnatural Ayanda Draculesti doesn't believe in curses or ghosts. She's learned well enough that the dead don't return as spirits, they return with fangs. It's been a fortnight since she, Yurei, Jette and Belle battled the fiend in the Doge's Palace and stopped her army from ravaging Venice. But their scars have hardly begun to fade when a new menace emerges from the cursed island, new creatures as mysterious as they are vicious. Creatures that rob Ayanda of her vampiric powers. That leave Yurei at the mercy of a hideous ghost from his past. That invade Jette's soul and tear it in two. That force Belle to discover their secrets alone. That threaten to rip Venice and its people to bloody rags. Creatures that aren't vampires. For, as Ayanda and her new family learn, the Dead aren't the only monsters lurking in the dark.

belle isle giant slide history: Guardians of Detroit Jeff Morrison, 2019-03-04

Building-by-building pictorial and historical survey of the remarkable collection of architectural sculpture found in Detroit. Detroit is home to amazing architectural sculpture—a host of gargoyles, grotesques, and other silent guardians that watch over the city from high above its streets and sidewalks, often unnoticed or ignored by the people passing below. Jeff Morrison's Guardians of Detroit: Architectural Sculpture in the Motor City documents these incredible features in a city that began as a small frontier fort and quickly grew to become a major metropolis and industrial titan. Detroit developed steadily following its founding in 1701. From 1850 to 1930 it experienced unprecedented population growth, increasing from 21,019 to over 1,500,000 people. A city of giants, Detroit became home to people of towering ambition and vision who gained wealth and sought to

leave their mark on the city they loved. This aspiration created a massive building boom during a time when architectural styles favored detailed ornamentation, resulting in a collection of architectural sculpture unmatched by any other U.S. city. *Guardians of Detroit* is a first-of-its-kind project to explore, document, and explain this singular collection on a building-by-building basis and to discover and share the stories of these structures and the artists, artisans, and architects who created them. Using a 600-millimeter lens and 23-megapixel camera, Morrison brings sculptural building details barely visible to the naked eye down from the heights, making them available for up-close appreciation. The photos are arranged in a collage format that emphasizes the variety of and relationships between each building's sculptural ornamentation. Well-researched text complements the photography, delving into the lives of those who created these wonderful works of architectural art. *Guardians of Detroit* is an extended love letter to the historic architecture of a city that would become the driving force of America's industrial and economic power. Fans of art, architecture, and hidden gems will love poring over these pages.

belle isle giant slide history: Idlewild: History and Memories of Pennsylvania's Oldest Amusement Park Jennifer Sopko, 2018 Idlewild and SoakZone has charmed people across Western Pennsylvania and beyond since the late 1800s. The park was developed by Pittsburgh's Mellon family as a picnic grove to boost traffic on the Ligonier Valley Rail Road. When C.C. Macdonald took the helm in 1931, rides, entertainment and other attractions came to Idlewild over the next half century, along with the adjacent Story Book Forest. After joining the Kennywood family of amusement parks, Idlewild added a Wild West town, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood of Make-Believe and a water slide complex. Author Jennifer Sopko tells the heartwarming history of a Pennsylvania amusement park that continues to delight generations of families.

belle isle giant slide history: Michigan Travel Ideas , 1997

belle isle giant slide history: *Field and Stream* , 1909

belle isle giant slide history: The Battles That Changed History Fletcher Pratt, Edward Gorey, 2000-03-27 Profiles of 16 decisive struggles from ancient and modern times. Gripping accounts range from Alexander the Great's overthrow of the Persian empire in the 4th century BC to World War II's Battle of Midway. Pratt depicts the circumstances leading up to the decisive clashes, the personalities involved, and the historically important aftermath. 27 maps.

belle isle giant slide history: Our Landscape Heritage Vincent Frank Zelazny, New Brunswick. Department of Natural Resources, New Brunswick. Ecosystem Classification Working Group, 2007 Our Landscape Heritage provides an overview of the history and ecological makeup of the landscapes of New Brunswick to help ecological seekers starting out with basic knowledge about geology, soils, climate, and vegetation, to better understand why plants and animals are today distributed as they are. Part I outlines the rationale and history of ecological land classification (ELC) in New Brunswick, and presents basic scientific concepts and facts that help the reader to interpret the information that follows. Part II, Portrait of New Brunswick Ecoregions and Ecodistricts presents a detailed look at the variety and distribution of ecosystems across the geographic expanse of New Brunswick. Each of the seven chapters of Part II provides a high level description of the ecoregion, followed by detailed descriptions of each ecodistrict within the ecoregion.--Includes text from document.

belle isle giant slide history: Detroit Is My Own Home Town Malcolm Wallace Bingay, 2018-02-19 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. As a reproduction of a historical artifact, this work may contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to

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belle isle giant slide history: *Mountains of the Heart* Scott Weidensaul, 2016-05-01 Part natural history, part poetry, *Mountains of the Heart* is full of hidden gems and less traveled parts of the Appalachian Mountains Stretching almost unbroken from Alabama to Belle Isle, Newfoundland, the Appalachians are one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world. In *Mountains of the Heart*, renowned author and avid naturalist Scott Weidensaul shows how geology, ecology, climate, evolution, and 500 million years of history have shaped one of the continent's greatest landscapes into an ecosystem of unmatched beauty. This edition celebrates the book's 20th anniversary of publication and includes a new foreword from the author.

belle isle giant slide history: My Forty Years with Ford Charles E. Sorensen, 2006-01-09 An unflinching eyewitness account of the Ford story as told by one of Henry Ford's closest associates. In *My Forty Years with Ford*, Charles Sorensen-sometimes known as Henry Ford's man, sometimes as Cast-iron Charlie-tells his own story, and it is as challenging as it is historic. He emerges as a man who was not only one of the great production geniuses of the world but also a man who called the plays as he saw them. He was the only man who was able to stay with Ford for almost the full history of his empire, yet he never hesitated to go against Ford when he felt the interests of the company demanded it. When labor difficulties mounted and Edsel's fatal illness was upon him, Sorensen sided with Edsel against Henry Ford and Harry Bennett, and he insisted that Henry Ford II be brought in to direct the company despite the aging founder's determination that no one but he hold the presidential reins. First published in 1956, *My Forty Years with Ford* has now been reissued in paperback for the first time. The Ford story has often been discussed in print but has rarely been articulated by someone who was there. Here Sorensen provides an eyewitness account of the birth of the Model T, the early conflicts with the Dodge brothers, the revolutionary announcement of the five-dollar day, and Sorensen's development of the moving assembly line-a concept that changed our world. Although Sorensen conceived, designed, and built the giant Willow Run plant in nineteen months and then proceeded to turn out eight thousand giant bombers, his life's major work was to make possible the vision of Henry Ford and to postpone the personal misfortune with which it ended. *My Forty Years with Ford* is both a personal history of a business empire and a revelation that moves with excitement and the power of tragedy.

belle isle giant slide history: *Illustrated History of Ships & Boats* Lionel Casson, 1964

belle isle giant slide history: The Routledge History of Literature in English Ronald Carter, John McRae, 2001 This is a guide to the main developments in the history of British and Irish literature, charting some of the main features of literary language development and highlighting key language topics.

belle isle giant slide history: *Summer on Fire* Peter Werbe, 2021-03-16 A mix of history and inventive remembrances, *Summer on Fire* recreates six weeks in the intense summer of 1967. Riots, rock and roll, shootings, marches, and bomb plots shake Detroit, reminding us that today's turmoil is a mirror of that era.

belle isle giant slide history: Unbroken Laura Hillenbrand, 2014-07-29 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE • Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more. In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be

suspended on the fraying wire of his will. Appearing in paperback for the first time—with twenty arresting new photos and an extensive Q&A with the author—Unbroken is an unforgettable testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit, brought vividly to life by Seabiscuit author Laura Hillenbrand. Hailed as the top nonfiction book of the year by Time magazine • Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for biography and the Indies Choice Adult Nonfiction Book of the Year award “Extraordinarily moving . . . a powerfully drawn survival epic.”—The Wall Street Journal “[A] one-in-a-billion story . . . designed to wrench from self-respecting critics all the blurby adjectives we normally try to avoid: It is amazing, unforgettable, gripping, harrowing, chilling, and inspiring.”—New York “Staggering . . . mesmerizing . . . Hillenbrand’s writing is so ferociously cinematic, the events she describes so incredible, you don’t dare take your eyes off the page.”—People “A meticulous, soaring and beautifully written account of an extraordinary life.”—The Washington Post “Ambitious and powerful . . . a startling narrative and an inspirational book.”—The New York Times Book Review “Magnificent . . . incredible . . . [Hillenbrand] has crafted another masterful blend of sports, history and overcoming terrific odds; this is biography taken to the nth degree, a chronicle of a remarkable life lived through extraordinary times.”—The Dallas Morning News “An astonishing testament to the superhuman power of tenacity.”—Entertainment Weekly “A tale of triumph and redemption . . . astonishingly detailed.”—O: The Oprah Magazine “[A] masterfully told true story . . . nothing less than a marvel.”—Washingtonian “[Hillenbrand tells this] story with cool elegance but at a thrilling sprinter’s pace.”—Time “Hillenbrand [is] one of our best writers of narrative history. You don’t have to be a sports fan or a war-history buff to devour this book—you just have to love great storytelling.”—Rebecca Skloot, author of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

belle isle giant slide history: *Ideal Power* , 1907

belle isle giant slide history: *The History of Spiritualism..* Arthur Conan Doyle, 1926

belle isle giant slide history: *How to Live in Detroit Without Being a Jackass* Aaron Foley, 2018-10-02 Are you moving to Detroit because your rent is too high? Did you read somewhere that all you needed to buy a house was the change in your couch cushions? Are you terrified to live in a majority-black city? Welcome to Detroit! And welcome to the guidebook that you coastal transplants, wary suburbanites, unwitting gentrifiers, idealistic starter-uppers and curious onlookers desperately need. Now updated for 2018, *How to Live In Detroit Without Being a Jackass* offers advice on everything from how to buy and rehab a house to how not to sound like an uninformed racist. Let us help you avoid falling into the jackass trap and become the productive, healthy Detroiter you've always wanted to be.

belle isle giant slide history: *The Illustrated London News* , 1866

belle isle giant slide history: *The History of Large Federal Dams* David P. Billington, Donald C. Jackson, Martin V. Melosi, 2005-10 Explores the story of Federal contributions to dam planning, design, and construction.

belle isle giant slide history: *Scientific American* , 1881

belle isle giant slide history: *The Football Girl* Thatcher Heldring, 2017-04-04 For every athlete or sports fanatic who knows she's just as good as the guys. This is for fans of *The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen, *Grace, Gold, and Glory* by Gabrielle Douglass and *Breakaway: Beyond the Goal* by Alex Morgan. The summer before Caleb and Tessa enter high school, friendship has blossomed into a relationship . . . and their playful sports days are coming to an end. Caleb is getting ready to try out for the football team, and Tessa is training for cross-country. But all their structured plans derail in the final flag game when they lose. Tessa doesn’t want to end her career as a loser. She really enjoys playing, and if she’s being honest, she likes it even more than running cross-country. So what if she decided to play football instead? What would happen between her and Caleb? Or between her two best friends, who are counting on her to try out for cross-country with them? And will her parents be upset that she’s decided to take her hobby to the next level? This summer Caleb and Tessa figure out just what it means to be a boyfriend, girlfriend, teammate, best friend, and someone worth cheering for. “A great next choice for readers who have enjoyed

Catherine Gilbert Murdock's *Dairy Queen* and Miranda Kenneally's *Catching Jordan*."—SLJ
"Fast-paced football action, realistic family drama, and sweet romance...[will have] readers looking for girl-powered sports stories...find[ing] plenty to like."—Booklist
"Tessa's ferocious competitiveness is appealing."—Kirkus Reviews
"[The Football Girl] serve[s] to illuminate the appropriately complicated emotions both of a young romance and of pursuing a dream. Heldring writes with insight and restraint."—The Horn Book

belle isle giant slide history: *From the Ground Up* Daniel Stoffman, Tony Van Leersum, 2007-01-01

belle isle giant slide history: *Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies* Danielle Aubert, Lana Cavar, Natasha Chandani, 2019 Lafayette Park, an affordable middle-class residential area in downtown Detroit, is home to the largest collection of buildings designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in the world. Today, it is one of Detroit's most racially integrated and economically stable neighborhoods, although it is surrounded by evidence of a city in financial distress. Through interviews with and essays by residents; reproductions of archival material; and new photographs by Karin Jobst, Vasco Roma, and Corine Vermeulen, and previously unpublished photographs by documentary filmmaker Janine Debanné, *Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies* examines the way that Lafayette Park residents confront and interact with this unique modernist environment. Lafayette Park has not received the level of international attention that other similar projects by Mies have. This may be due in part to its location in Detroit, a city whose most positive qualities are often overlooked in the media. This book is a reaction against the way that iconic modernist architecture is often represented. Whereas other writers may focus on the design intentions of the architect, authors Aubert, Cavar and Chandani seek to show the organic and idiosyncratic ways that the people who live in Lafayette Park actually use the architecture and how this experience, in turn, affects their everyday lives. While there are many publications about abandoned buildings in Detroit and about the city's prosperous past, this book is about a remarkable part of the city as it exists today, in the twenty-first century.

belle isle giant slide history: *History of Windham County, Connecticut: 1600-1760* Ellen Douglas Larned, 1874

belle isle giant slide history: *The French House* Don Wallace, 2014-06-03 On a tiny French island, a couple of American dreamers redefine their lives by restoring a ruin...The French House moves to a soulful, very funny rhythm all its own.—Meryl Streep
Don and Mindy Wallace have always been Francophiles, so when they had the opportunity to buy a home on a small French island off the coast of Brittany, they jumped—sight unseen—into a crumbling mess that challenged their finances and their family. But when the Wallaces arrived on the island they found a building in ruin, and it wasn't long before their lives resembled it. Plagued by emergency repairs, a stock market crash, and very exasperated French neighbors, Don and Mindy could have accepted their fate. Instead, they embraced it. Redolent with the beauty and flavors of French country life, *The French House* is a lively, inspiring, and irresistibly charming memoir. Fans of *Under the Tuscan Sun* (Frances Mayes), *Paris in Love* (Eloisa James), and *A Year in Provence* (Peter Mayle) will be enchanted by this account of a family that rises from the rubble, wins the hearts of a historic village, and finally finds the home they've been seeking off the wild coast of France. What readers are saying about *The French House* *The French House* is engaging and well-written and will make even non-Francophiles yearn for a trip to France. With hauntingly beautiful descriptions of a tiny French island and its inhabitants, this book will take you to a different place, and might even inspire you to reconsider your life and finally follow your dreams where you and your family can become whole. ...charming and witty -- full of hope and despair about this crumbling structure they chose to inhabit and make a home. I was captivated from the outset and felt like I was on their island living it all with them. A great read! What reviewers are saying about *The French House* Don Wallace has crafted a delicious French bonbon of a book...full of humor, hope, and lessons on how to live a life full of meaning.—Dani Shapiro, bestselling author of *Devotion* and *Still Writing*
Village life vignettes, the sensual celebration of island pleasures, eccentric neighbors, cuisine, beach life, natural history—readers will find a smattering of all that in these pages, but it's the story below, like the

unshakeable foundations of the house itself, that makes this such a satisfying read.—Rain Taxi Review The French House is a darling book that mixes local history, memoir, quirky characters, architectural challenges (what will the village elders do if they add windows to the second floor?) and humor...It was a lovely adventure and perfect for a summer read.—Under a Gray Sky The French House is a detailed, delightful memoir of their journey to restore a dilapidated abode into a beckoning sanctuary in an idyllic coast French countryside.. I have thoroughly been devouring it, and I think you will too.—The Simply Luxurious Life Author Don Wallace shares the heartwarming story about his family's 30-year journey to restore a ruined cottage on the tiny French island of Belle Ile off the coast of Brittany... readers are privy to the charming true story of a family's journey to create the perfect home away from home.--E! News

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belle isle giant slide history: **Explorers Journal** Ernest Ingersoll, 1943

belle isle giant slide history: The City of Detroit, Michigan, 1701-1922 Clarence Monroe Burton, 1922

belle isle giant slide history: Cuisine and Culture Linda Civitello, 2011-03-29 Cuisine and Culture presents a multicultural and multiethnic approach that draws connections between major historical events and how and why these events affected and defined the culinary traditions of different societies. Witty and engaging, Civitello shows how history has shaped our diet--and how food has affected history. Prehistoric societies are explored all the way to present day issues such as genetically modified foods and the rise of celebrity chefs. Civitello's humorous tone and deep knowledge are the perfect antidote to the usual scholarly and academic treatment of this universally important subject.

belle isle giant slide history: **The History of Winthrop, Massachusetts** William H. Clark, 1952

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