

## Steve McDaniel – Director

- ◆ January – 2022 - In December, we celebrated several holiday events within the department. Moving from the Night of Lights in November, we started the month at Jennings Center with the annual Wassail Celebration. We then moved to Salomon Farm Park for Christmas on the Farm. Throughout the month, we visited Promenade, Community Center, Botanical Conservatory, and Youth Centers.
- ◆ Staff worked with the City's IT department on upgrades to several computers. This brought many Office 365 along with Teams and OneDrive. We also have many computers that need hardware updating before this process can be completed. We continue to work with the IT department on those units.
- ◆ Rick Samek and Dr. Pam Kelly's terms ended as Park Board Commissioners. Rick has served for 17 years on the board with one year as Vice President and the last 16 years as President. Dr. Pam Kelly served for 16 years on the board as a Commissioner and the last several years as Vice President of the Board. I would like to thank both of them for their years of service and the hundreds of hours of volunteering to our department and the community.
- ◆ The staff and I completed the year-long training that was part of the United Front. This series was offered twice a month and covered several topics such as; Individual Bias, organizational bias, microaggressions, stereotype threat, imposter syndrome, high context-dependency, allyship, and many more. The staff and I learned a lot from Dr. Pascal Losambe.
- ◆ Sarah Nichter and Jim Hoy retired from the department at the end of the year. Sarah was our Manager of Development and over her career has written grants for the department of over \$33 million. Jim Hoy started his career in our Forestry Division, moved to our Heavy Equipment section, and retired as a Working Leader.
- ◆ The staff is working on hosting a Job Fair later this spring. Our goal is to provide as much opportunity to showcase all of the positions we have within the department. We will introduce potential employees to the various areas, have them fill out an application, interview, and be offered the job. All before they leave the fair. The team is also looking at having several small pop-up Job fairs this spring.
- ◆ A few of the staff are working with other city departments on a River Activation Plan. An RFP was sent out and five firms submitted proposals. Those were scored and shortlisted with four firms doing interviews. Then they were short-listed again with two firms being asked to submit fee proposals. Those are due later this month.
- ◆ We are working with Foster Park's Little League to apply for a permit. They are wanting to add batting cages next to the diamonds, but this area is in the floodplain. We plan to facilitate a meeting with the DNR to discuss options.
- ◆ February - 2022 - Volunteerism is a big part of what keeps our department moving forward. In 2021, was no different. We had about 650 people volunteer at various locations within our department. They totaled more than 17,700 hours (8.5 FTE) that they gave to our department. The Nonprofit Leadership Center takes the national average and equates to a rate of \$28.54 per hour. Taking our volunteer hours at that rate equals \$505,900.
- ◆ We continue to work with several neighborhood associations and groups on various improvements in parks. Examples like a proposed disc golf course in Northside Park, batting cages in Foster Park, as well as master plans in some neighborhood parks.
- ◆ I recorded the latest episode of the Parks Podcast with Jill Bowyer talking about Winterval this month. This one along with all of our past podcasts can still be downloaded for your listening.
- ◆ The team continues to work on several options for bringing in a seasonal workforce. They are focusing on three main areas. These include the main job fair, pop-up job fairs at various locations, and the third is a recruiting strategy that

places us in several area high schools and colleges. The team also met with representatives of Human Resources and Risk Management to help determine the appropriate levels of service for these events.

- ◆ We held an orientation meeting for our two new board members. They were each given a crash course in most things Parks and Recreation. Our goal was to bring them up to speed on some of the key points as well as introduce them to some of the staff members.
- ◆ I participated in two group events this month. The first was a state-level round table discussion held by IPRA involving several agencies throughout Indiana. The second event was similar but with NRPA involving larger agencies across the country. The key points for both discussions were issues with staffing shortages, Covid modifications, and alternative funding sources like ARPA, Infrastructure Bill, and BBB.
- ◆ The team convened a small group of staff members who are looking at the transition of bringing Headwaters Park into our operations.
- ◆ I was part of a discussion with the Children's Zoo staff and City IT services regarding the Zoo's telephone system. They are looking at options to update their system. The Zoo staff was interested in hearing more about what the City systems are like.
- ◆ I continue to participate in the Poka-Bache Coalition. This group of individuals is looking to strengthen the region by coming together for the united goal of building the connector trail system that connects Pokagon State Park to Ouabache State Park. When complete, this will be about 85 miles long going through four counties and about 9 cities and towns.
- ◆ We had a great turnout for Winterval even though the temperatures were a bit colder than what we had hoped for. The sunshine helped with attendance as well as our partner agencies and sponsors.
- ◆ We are happy to announce that ***Middle Waves Music Festival*** will be hosted at the Foellinger Theatre in the 2022 season. Along with this, we are finalizing several other concerts for the summer series. We hope to be able to make an announcement later this spring to showcase all of the great performers this year.

## **Chuck Reddinger – Deputy Director, Salomon Farm Park, Community Centers (Youth/Downtown/McMillen Park), Riverfront, Athletics, Aquatics, Golf, Outdoor Recreation, Special Events, Headwaters Park, and Travel Service**

### ◆ **General**

- Riley Hollenbaugh was hired as the new Riverfront Program and Events Manager and his first day was January 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Chuck Reddinger, Kathy Pargmann, and Steve McDaniel met with the City Human Resources and Risk Management Departments to identify ways to improve the seasonal hiring process.
- Chuck Reddinger and Kathy Pargmann have been leading the seasonal job promotion initiative that will include many promotional efforts this spring to help fill more than 350 seasonal positions with Parks and Recreation.

### ◆ **McMillen Park Community Center**

- Winter Break was full of exciting Minute -to Win it games, decorating cookies, writing what we were thankful for, Holiday dinners, Holiday Raffle, scavenger Hunts, Pin the Heart on the Grinch, Candy Cane Relays, Christmas pictures, decorated stocking, and much more. The youth received gifts from Toys 4 Tots and the Mad Ants. The children loved the Hot dog eating contest!
- The Social Status of African American Males gifted 28 pallets of hand sanitizer to MPCC. The sanitizer was shared with other organizations including FWCS, EACS, Boys and Girls Club, senior citizen homes in the community, local Day Care facilities, and Davita Dialysis.

- Through the Social Status of African American Males, we were able to adopt 20 single-parent Christmas families from the MPCC and the community this year. Toys, clothes, gift cards and games were among the presents. We were able to provide financial assistance with car repairs and rent for two months for one family.
- 15 students of Readers of the Pack Book Club completed a book written by local author, Tina Gasnarez, called *Martina Gets a New Home*. On Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> students were able to listen to the last chapter of the book read aloud by the author and afterward receive their own signed copy of the book! The children were thrilled to meet the author and had great questions for her like; Was the main character the author? When did the author start writing? How long did it take to write the book? and many more. They had so many questions that I had to cut the Q & A session short. 3 parents reached out to show their gratitude and how awesome the opportunity was for their children. We enjoyed cookies and punch afterward.
- Youth basketball has been going well. Every Monday, youth basketball development is taught from ages 5-10. Children are learning the basic skill of basketball and what it means to work hard and be a good team. For January 69 children have attended.



### **Community Youth Centers**

- Chantell Davis attended the Fort Wayne Community Schools (FWCS) Community Partner Meeting on January 20, 2022. FWCS is looking for new ways to prepare high school grads for a job the Monday after graduation. They introduced the new programming for high school students coming up at Electric Works. It is called Amp Lab. Amp lab is a community-based problem-solving design think tank and launchpad. They will offer programs to youth younger than high school, to see where their interest is and prepare them for what is being offered. We look forward to partnering with them in the 2022-2023 school year. The next meeting in February will begin the discussion of summer programming and what that looks like partnered with FWCS.
- **Parkview Healthy Seeds:** This month's focus was on Dairy. The Healthy Seeds team couldn't be with us in person due to the safety of COVID but joined the youth centers virtually. They shared various reasons why youth should have dairy in their meals. Explained the benefits of dairy products and what it supports. The activity was a healthy apple donut snack. To make this snack, the youth used apples, yogurt, and blueberries.
- **Indiana Donor:** Marti visited each site in speaking with the youth about various organs. This month she focused on showing them visuals of the various organs inside a person's body. The youth received their clay to make the images of organs, such as the lungs, heart, esophagus, and more. It was very engaging for the youth to have a hands-on activity. The Youth enjoyed and seemed to be very familiar with some of the organs when called upon.
- **Science Central:** Science central visited the sites with a focus on engaging the youth through demonstrations of what can happen with the various elements when combined.



### **Jennings Community Center**

- The S.T.E.A.M, Arts and Craft program consists of the youth doing an art project making an abstract painting each youth had to do their part on a painting to make one big painting. The children then were able to understand lines, form, shape, and color within an abstract painting. Kids are also learning the concept of numbers playing number games and matching cards of the same pattern. The children were also able to create their slime while understanding the simple science behind it.



### **Weisser Community Center**

- Weisser has had an increase in attendance this month. In December 2021 they had 243 youth sign-in and for January 2022 they had 431, a 56% increase. They also had 3 new registrations in January.
- **Monday Matters** - Dominique facilitated our Monday Matters sessions. January 10, lesson *Know Your Passion*, Dominique had a discussion with the youth about what passion is and youth shared the things they are passionate about. After the discussion, the youth made pictures of themselves fulfilling their passions. January 31, Dmitri

facilitated our Monday Matters lesson *Take the First Step*. The Youth came up with a goal they want to achieve and made a pyramid listing nine steps to take leading up to that goal.

- **Tuesday Character-Building** – Zynette facilitated our Character-Building sessions. January 4, the youth enjoyed a Good Character Word Scavenger Hunt. They were placed in 4 groups and had 2 minutes to find good character words on things that have always been posted throughout the building. We discussed some of the words found and the team that found the most words received gifts. January 11, Dmitri lead the youth, staff, and Fort Wayne 10 Point Coalition in Character Building Wheel of Fortune game. The youth were divided into 6 teams and all enjoyed the friendly competition.
- **Wednesday Challenges/ Ice Breakers** - Dmitri facilitated our Challenge/ Ice Breaker sessions. January 19, the Youth enjoyed a Trick Your Neighbor game challenge. A roulette-style card game where the objective is to have the highest card or lose your candy. January 26, the Youth enjoyed an Ice Breaker to help them get to know each other better by playing Time Bomb. The youth passed a ball around and if someone dropped the ball they continue to pass the ball for 10 seconds. At the end of 10 seconds whoever is holding or last to hold the ball has to tell the group a fun fact about themselves.
- **Thursday STEAM** - DaVontae facilitated our STEAM sessions. January 6, 20, and 27, youth that did not start making robotic hands started and youth that had started finished making their robotic hands. They also viewed more videos on robots in action and how they benefit humanity.

#### ◆ Foodservice

- Planned a youth boys nutrition class with Jasmine Harvey from McMillen. The class will focus on healthy eating and activities for eight (8) weeks beginning in February.
- Revised documents relating to Kid's Café to help differentiate between each of the different forms. Also, began reviewing Kid's Café's monthly paperwork mid-month. This hopefully reduces time spent correcting paperwork and improves efficiency in the future
- Kids Café meals & snacks served January 1<sup>st</sup> thru January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022
  - Jennings, 121 meals/115 snacks
  - McMillen, 282 meals/233 snacks
  - Weisser, 285 meals/274 snacks
  - **Totals, 688 meals/622 snacks**

#### ◆ Salomon Farm Park

- We are noticing a notable increase in rentals in The Wolf Family Learning Center in December 2021 and January 2022. This contributed to \$1,340 in rental facility revenue that we would not normally have in December.
- Farmin' Fun Day camp plans were finalized with the completion of the Children's Brochure on January 28, 2022. Farmin' Fun supervisors Vicki Marquart and Bailey Dzierla met on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, with Salomon Farm Park Staff, Larry Hick, Eden Lamb, and Margo Nussbaum, to discuss the upcoming 2022 camp season.

#### ◆ Lindenwood Nature Preserve

- There were several Winterval Hikes on January 29, 2022. The Winter Hike & Bonfire was from 9:00 am – 10:30 am and 54 people were in attendance. Staff kept the fire going from about 9:00 am – 12:30 pm to allow folks to enjoy the fire after their hike. The Winter Hike in Spanish was held directly after the first

hike from 10:30 am to 11:30 am and 7 people attended. The Stargazing Hike was from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm and had 11 people in attendance

#### ◆ **Sweet Breeze**

- 2021 Sweet Breeze Annual Report including financials was finalized by Chuck Reddinger and submitted to Ron Menze and Friends of the Rivers on Monday, January 31, 2022

#### ◆ **Community Center Downtown**

- The Holiday Dinner and Light Tour had 100 participants.
- The Volunteer Christmas Party had 40 participants who had finger foods, played games for prizes, and had a white elephant gift exchange. Fun was had by all. They look forward to getting together and it's a great time for them to meet each other since everyone's schedule is different.
- The Full-Time Program Facility Coordinator position is now posted.
- Created a **Code of Conduct** that was added to our participant's forms to help reduce issues that have come up including the Alley Kat suspension of Rita Self and Linda Wade taking our sewing machine as her own.

#### ◆ **Riverfront**

- The American Legion Band of Fort Wayne and New Horizon Band held a Festive Holiday Concert in the Park Foundation Pavilion on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Both bands consist of mostly brass instruments and feature a 90-year old songstress named Dottie Mack. Dottie stole the show with her passionate singing of wintertime classics and festive props. The audience included various ages that engaged in the concert. The American Legion Band and New Horizon Band have played at Promenade Park a few times before and will be back to play some other classics. Their Festive Holiday Concert was a great way to celebrate the season. Attendance of Sunday Heritage Concert Series: A Festive Holiday Concert: 88.
- Yoga on the Riverfront took place on January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. The attendance for this event was higher than average for this time of the year and was close to capacity for the event. The event did have multiple media outlets attend and were featured on Fox 55 and Wane 15.
- The New Horizons Polka Band played the Sunday Heritage Concert Series on January 9<sup>th</sup> in the pavilion after Yoga on the River at 1:00 p.m. The attendance was not high for this event but featured great music by the local polka band to keep the audience attending the event to stay for the entire show.
- The Rollin River Comedy Festival was canceled due to the program partner canceling the show. Along with this cancellation, the second Sunday Heritage Concert Series for January 23<sup>rd</sup> was canceled due to weather.
- The 2022 Dog Sweater Day, part of the Winterval, event took place on January 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. The event had close to 250 people attended along with 45 dogs registering for the competition for "Favorite Dog Sweater". Many of the dog owners that participated in last year's event attended this year's event again to take part in the competition. The photos were posted on the Riverfront Fort Wayne's Facebook page for voting.
- Rentals for January were limited to just three events. The Stine Wedding, Martin Baby Shower, and a Purdue Fort Wayne staff meeting. The rentals went well for this month and any issues were handled on the day of the event. The Purdue Fort Wayne Division team meeting had an attendance of around 55 on January 14<sup>th</sup> during the day. They seemed pleased with the venue and with the rental process and seemed as though they would utilize the pavilion for future events.

#### ◆ **Golf**

- Dave Weadock sent out a Request For Proposal for restoration and redesign of the Foster Park Golf Course due to the upcoming City Utilities (Big Dig Project) that will impact the course. The proposals are due back on January 27, 2022.
- Steve McDaniel, Mike Gore, Dave Weadock, Bryan Keister, and Jason Smith reviewed and scored the eight (8) Requests for Proposals that were submitted for the Foster Park Golf Course. After much discussion the top three (3) were identified. Reference checks will be conducted before choosing the firm.
- Gary Whitacre held a meeting with the Clubhouse Supervisors and Clubhouse Assistants to go over any changes in procedures as well as to get input from them for the upcoming season. The group had many good ideas to help the operations flow smoother.
- Dave Weadock sent out a Request For Proposal for a new chemical storage building at McMillen Golf Course. Dave received two (2) proposals. He is in the process of identifying the contractor. If the project is approved the new building could be in place by June 2022.

#### ◆ Aquatics

- Daryn Schwartz and Jenny Barney have been working on getting information out to pool staff from 2021 to see how many intend to come back for the 2022 season. That way they have an idea whereof which positions to target for more employment.

#### ◆ Events and Facilities

- Steve McDaniel, Chuck Reddinger, Daryn Schwartz, and Jason Smith met with the representatives from Fort 4 Fitness to discuss the possibility of holding their August event at Shoaff Park again in 2022. 2021 was their first time for the event. After much discussion, it was decided that due to the timing of the event (Saturday) and everything that goes on in that park, it was not a good idea to have it there. Other locations were discussed and Daryn was going to check on availability for the discussed sites. Fort 4 Fitness would discuss the other options with their board members and get back to Daryn.
- Alec Johnson, Steve Schumacher, and Jason Smith met with Liam Graham and Lori from the Northside Neighborhood Association to discuss the proposed nine (9) hole disc golf course that they would like to add in Northside Park. After walking the proposed course location and reviewing the plans the project was approved. This project will be managed by the Parks and Recreation Department but all expenses, maintenance, and future upkeep will be the responsibility of Heartland Church. Heartland Church is the organization that the agreement will be with.

## Sandra Odisho, CPA – Manager, Finance

- ◆ January 2022 - The Parks and Recreation Department paid 167 employees (131 full-time, 36 regular part-time, and seasonal for the payroll ending January 15, 2022, and paid on January 21, 2022.
- ◆ We currently have the following permanent positions open or in the process of being filled:

- Full-time position, Supervisor IV – Neighborhood Programs – Cooper Center (Fund 121)
- Full-time position, High Range Operator (Fund 121) - Four positions
- Part-time position, Recreation Specialist – Preschool Youth and Special Events – Community Center (Fund 121)
- ◆ Staff entered programs into RecTrac for the Spring Fun Times. The Spring Fun Times registration begins February 3rd. March through May programs are covered in this brochure.
- ◆ We began selling 2022 Dog Park Passes on January 3rd. We have sold 206 memberships so far!
- ◆ PayTrac Conversion Update:
  - Received the 29 new credit card devices.
  - We labeled the devices for each of the POS computer workstations.
  - Worked with IT to learn what was needed at each facility to hook up the credit card devices.
  - Set up a plan to have the new POS devices working before the end of February.
  
- ◆ **December 2021** - The Parks and Recreation Department paid 180 employees (129 full-time, 51 regular part-time, and seasonal for the payroll ending December 18, 2021, and paid on December 24, 2021.
- ◆ We currently have the following permanent positions open or in the process of being filled:
  - Full-time position, Supervisor IV – Neighborhood Programs – Cooper Center (Fund 121)
    - Full-time position, High Range Operator (Fund 121) - Four positions
    - Full-time position, Manager – Program & Events – Riverfront (Fund 121)
    - Full-time position, Manager – Communications (Fund 121)
    - Part-time position, Recreation Specialist – Preschool Youth and Special Events – Community Center (Fund 121)
- ◆ The Spring Fun Times registration began on November 3rd. December through February programs are covered in this brochure.
- ◆ We are preparing dog park gate keys for the 2022 membership sales that begin January 3, 2022. In 2021 we sold 1024 memberships.
- ◆ We decided to move from our current credit card processor to PayTrac which is facilitated by our software vendor Vermont Systems. Reasons for this decision include more streamlined transactions for web users, the ability to use chip readers thus making for more secure transactions, and the ability to accept more types of payments such as Google Pay and Apple Pay. This will also make reconciling our monthly credit card statements much simpler as there will be no middleman involved that could process payments on a different pay cycle.
- ◆ We reviewed all trust funds in Fund 422 and merged many that had like purposes. We eliminated about 1/3 of the smaller stale trusts.
- ◆ We ordered copiers to replace aging copy machines at the Conservatory, Community Center on Main, McMillen Community Center, and the secondary copier at the administrative office.

## **Steve Schuhmacher – Deputy Director,** Facilities, Grounds, Projects Administration, Safety Compliance, Storeroom, Fleet & Mechanical Operations

- ◆ **Facilities Maintenance** - December
  - Pavilion rentals totaled: **152** for December. This is down from **177** in November.

- With the weather remaining warm in December route workers remained on their routes picking litter and working in buildings that do not have heat.
- Conklin pavilion kitchen walls were sanded down and re-stained. Drawer handles and cabinet faces were also scrubbed and repainted black.
- Contractors are finishing the work in Kettler Pavilion.
- Relief workers have been working on the annual clean at Franke Park Day Camp building and all route workers have started the annual clean in the buildings that remain open year-round.
- Relief workers cleaned gutters and roofs at the following locations; Franke Park’s Center Restrooms, Franke Park’s Pond Pavilion, and Franke Park’s Pavilion #1. The Harris Road Barn was also completed.
- Both North and South docks at Promenade Park were pressure washed after high waters from the river had flooded them both.
- Annual clean at the downtown Community Center began the last week of the month.
- Work began on the show change for the Botanical Conservatory’s winter showcase set to take place the week of January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The theme is “Under the Big Top” and involves creating three circus rings and has several character plywood cutouts that needed to be completed.
- The temporary ice rink at Lakeside Park was set up the week of the 13<sup>th</sup>. Once the weather reaches constant freezing temperatures, the liner will be installed and water will be added. This delay is an effort to preserve the integrity of the liner and the quality of ice produced.
- LED light upgrades were completed at the Downtown Community Center.
- A new drain tile and grounding rods were installed at the Johnny Appleseed Park’s SeeBee building.
- New toilets were installed in the following location; Foster Park Wests Men’s Restroom, Shoaff Park’s Splashpad Women’s Restroom, and Lions Park Men’s Restroom.
- New signage was added to the beer garden area at Promenade Park. These are to help identify approved drinking areas.
- Several boards were replaced on sections of the River Greenway that had been vandalized or degraded to unsafe conditions.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
  - 1 Appliance maintenance repairs
  - 2 Light Maintenance
  - 2 Vandalism issues
  - 3 Alarms calls
  - 3 Lock maintenance issues
  - 4 Key core maintenance repairs
  - 5 HVAC maintenance issues
  - 8 Carpentry repairs
  - 11 Electrical repairs
  - 11 Sign replacements
  - 13 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
  - 16 Building maintenance repairs
  - 29 Plumbing maintenance issues

### ◆ **Grounds Maintenance**

- The mowing crews mulched leaves until Dec. 15th.
- After large areas of the parks were clear, crews focused on leaves in fence lines.
- Crews pressure washed, greased, and then stored the wide-area mowers.
- All summer turf equipment has been stored for the winter season.
- All winter snow removal equipment has been set up and is ready to be used.
- Mowing crews removed downed limbs and debris from many parks.

- Equipment needing repairs were moved out of the way at Lawton to allow snow plowing.
- Relief crews removed more than 50 stumps in more than 15 park areas.
- The wood-splitting crew got set up and started splitting wood.
- 44 tons of stone was added to the berms along Shoaff Park's main drive.
- A hydrant at the Johnny Appleseed campground was dug up and repaired.
- A small load of wood chips was delivered to the Fantasy of Lights to reduce mud in one area.
- Parking bumpers and pylons were used to block off the old Franke overflow lot entrance.
- Jim Hoy is retiring after 24 years of service with his last workday being December 17th.
- The garbage truck is only running twice a week and no longer on Sundays.
- Leaves and other debris were removed from the greenway using a pull-behind blower.

### ◆ **Project Administration**

- Botanical Conservatory Window Glass 2022 – Bidding planned for early 2022.
- Bowser Park Pavilion – Renovation plans in progress.
- Buckner Park LWCF Grant Project – Army Corps permitting completed. Awaiting approvals from IDEM and IDNR.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project – Construction complete. Final cleanup closeout in progress.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project Phase 2 – Planning in progress, bidding in early March.
- Foellinger Theater Basement Waterproofing – Planning in progress. Project to begin as soon as possible.
- Foellinger Theater Entrance Sidewalk Drainage – Planning in progress.
- Foster Park Pavilion #3 Construction – Contractor starting on masonry work in November. Material acquisition in progress, due end of January.
- Foster Park Pavilion #3 I&M Electrical Service – Scheduling work with an electrician for installation.
- Foster Park 2-5-Year-Old Playground Equipment Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Franke Park Playground 5-12-Year-Old Equipment – Project installation planned for March-April 2022.
- Franke Nature Lodge and Long House Roofing – Plans completed. Bidding in January 2022.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress.
- Jennings Center Parking Lot Lighting – Temporary light fixture installed. Waiting on delivery of final materials in late January.
- Jennings Center Playground Equipment Replacement – Options provided by playground vendor. Selection pending.
- Kettler Pavilion Exterior and Interior Improvements – Exterior work completed, interior work nearing completion.
- Kreager Park Barn Structural Improvements – Construction complete. Project closeout in progress.
- Kreager Park Taylor's Dream Playground Surface – Requisition in progress. A project is planned for March-April 2022.
- Lakeside Park Arbors Improvements – Wood preparation and replacement in progress. Completion is planned for the end of April.
- Lakeside Park Trail Replacement – Planning in progress for a spring project.
- McMillen Golf Course Cart Paths Phase 2 – Planning in progress. Construction is planned for summer 2022.
- McMillen Golf Course Chemical Building – Planning in progress. Bidding is planned for February.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Engineer moving forward with renovation plans and preparation of permit applications.
- Memorial Park Olen J. Pond Monument – Project has begun, Landscape Department heading project.
- Memorial Park Pavilion Roof Replacement – Planning in progress. Bidding is planned for March.
- Northside Park 2-5-Year-Old Play Equipment Replacement: Planning in progress.
- Northside Park Lighted Sign – Retaining wall installed. Landscape installation in spring.
- Old Fort Footbridge – Planning in progress for replacement of wood components on bridge steps near the Fort.
- Reservoir Park Cooper Center Roof Replacement – Construction in progress.
- Reservoir Park Cooper Center Kitchen Exhaust System – Construction in progress.

- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Project planned for next year with bidding in early 2022.
- Sheldon Park Site Clearing – Project completed.
- Shoaff Park River Greenway Boardwalk Repair – Purchase order issued. Awaiting contractor scheduled to perform work.
- Swinney Park Homestead Log House Roof Replacement – Bidding scheduled for early 2022.
- Various Parks 2022 Paving Projects – Project out to bid, due end of January.
- Various Parks Pickleball Conversion – Project out to bid, due end of January
- Various Parks Sidewalk Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Various Parks Identification Signs – Project completed. Other work:
  - Various Parks: updating park site plan bases and building plans.
  - Various Parks: underground utility locates were scheduled and performed.
  - Various Parks: cost estimates for various projects are being prepared upon request.
  - Various Parks: playground inspections being completed.
  - Various Parks: park assessments being completed.
  - Various Parks: completed project photo documentation for marketing.

◆ **Storeroom and Property**

- The end-of-year stock inventory was completed.
- Two new floor machines were procured to replace current inoperable machines.
- The Controller’s Office completed a storeroom inventory spot verification, with no overages/shortages found. The yearend inventory value is \$150,359.
- The after-hours duty Sprint cell phones have been updated to iPhones on Verizon. This should resolve the poor cell coverage we’ve been experiencing.
- The Controller’s Office Park inventory (1606 items) is being updated and verified with our Maintrac property records. This has been a major, time-consuming effort.
- Property Transactions:
 

Stihl MS200 Chainsaw	Unrepairable, scrapped
Billy Goat Push Blower	Unrepairable, scrapped
Salt Dog Tailgate Salt Spreader	Unrepairable, scrapped
RGB Mower Blade Grinder	P252, Garage
NAPA Hydraulic Pipe Expander	P252, Garage
Hougen Mag Drill press	P252, Garage
Metabo Angle Grinder	Unrepairable, scrapped
A4695 IPC Floor Scrubber	P270, Conservatory
A4696 IPC Floor Scrubber	P250-F, Facilities
SnoEx Salt Spreader	P240, Grounds
01 Advanced Floor Scrubber	Scrapped
702458 Motorola Radio	Parted out.
V892 2006 Shredder/Vac	Scrapped
- 2021 Vehicle Lease Purchase Updates:
 

Ford Transit Connect Cargo Van	21121084
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- Garage Operations Highlights:
  - The Weld Shop is being reorganized and additional storage is added for welding rods.
  - The 2022 lease package is being prepared. There will probably not be a lot of over-the-road vehicles ordered due to electronic chip shortages.
  - The stumper axle broke and is not repairable. A replacement axle will not be available until February of 2022.
  - A SnoEx hitch-mounted salt spreader was installed on Truck 20 for small area salting.
  - 94 work orders were performed this month, 10 of which were preventative maintenance services.

- Parts availability continues to limit timely repairs.
  - The 2022 lease package is being prepared. There will probably not be a lot of over-the-road vehicles ordered due to electronic chip shortages. The Navistar chipper truck chassis we wanted to order this year will not be available until 2023; and the same for Toro Commercial mowers.
  - The replacement axle for the stump grinder was received and installed.
  - Seasonal maintenance of turf and golf equipment has started.
  - Maintenance focus has been concentrated on keeping our snow removal equipment and garbage trucks operational in support of city requirements.
- The Safety Committee met on January 25<sup>th</sup>, with five members and three guests in attendance.
    - There were two treatable personal injuries this period, for a total of 2 for the year. OSHA recordable incidents total 2 for the year. 5 restricted days this period, and the annual total stands at 5 for one incident. 20 lost days to date for one broken leg incident. Worker compensation costs to date are \$0.
    - There was one property damage incident this period, the yearly total is one. Total damages for the year are \$0.
  - There was no Safety Committee meeting during December.
    - There were no treatable personal injuries this period, for a total of 14 for the year. OSHA recordable incidents total eleven for the year. No restricted days this period, and the annual total stands at 115 for seven incidents. Lost days for the year are 0. Worker compensation costs to date are \$14366.
    - There were no property damage incidents this period, the yearly total is now thirteen. Total damages for the year are \$7562.

**Alec Johnson – Deputy Director,**  **BOTANICAL**  
 CONSERVATORY Planning & Development, Forestry,  
 Landscape, & Riparian

◆ **Planning Report – December 2021**

- Design work continues for Phase I of the Franke Park Renaissance. Schematic Design is wrapping up and will be reviewed by key staff in early January.
- Interviews were held with four consultant teams for the completion of a River Activation Master Plan (RAMP). Two teams have been asked to provide fee proposals for review and final selection in January.
- Construction of floating dock strong-arm markers was completed in Headwaters Park. These improvements will increase the efficiency of installation and longevity of the docks.
- Construction began on the Franke Park Drainage Improvement project. This project will slow the discharge of stormwater into Shoaff Lake and help protect park infrastructure.
- Permitting and planning continued for the construction of a boat storage area at Shoaff Park. Construction is tentatively planned for January.
- Staff assisted with the orientation of Gilbert Young, our new Horticulture Supervisor at the Botanical Conservatory.

◆ **Horticulture and Landscape Report- December 2021**

- Tulip and daffodil bulb planting was completed at Foster Park.
- Landscape staff spent a lot of time with limb pickup in various parks due to high winds.
- The daylilies were cut, removed, and beds were cleaned along the Main Street medians.
- Fall clean-ups were completed at various parks.
- Leaf cleanup continued at Promenade, Lakeside, and Foster Parks.

- Gardeners at Lakeside finished hilling all the roses in for the winter. A combination of chips and leaf mulch was used this year.
- Gardeners began pruning ornamental trees in select parks; priority parks have been identified and will be completed as possible throughout the winter.
- Water and spray trucks were serviced, winterized, and sent to the Harris Road property for winter storage.
- Our last seasonal employee was separated on December 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Seven staff members completed 8 hours of online training to attain continuing education credits to keep herbicide licenses current.
- Staff evaluations and goals were completed.
- Leepers Lawn Service completed its 2021 Maintenance Contract. Leaf cleanup was finished up this month, as needed.
- Park trees were completed by Shade Trees Nursery this month. 360 trees total were planted over 25 different parks.

#### ◆ **Riparian Management Report- December 2021 - Riparian work**

- Coordinated with Right of Way to move barge out of Antille/Superior St warehouse due to storage issues with large equipment
  - New heavy-duty covers for barge for extreme elements
- Began coordination with Public Works for future contract bridgework outside of the downtown area
  - ✓ ***Riverfront Planning***
    - Finalized winterization of Sweet Breeze
      - Wrapped with two tarps for winter
    - Participated in a discussion group of seasonal hiring practices for next hiring season and future job fair
  - ✓ ***Training***
    - Continued CCH for Pesticide Training
      - 2021 Virtual Turf & Landscape Seminar
      - Certified Training Institute courses
    - Continued United Front Training

#### ◆ **Forestry Report- December 2021**

- Forestry continues seeking applicants for our four vacant High-Ranger Operator positions.
- Collaborated with Parks Department staff to assess the feasibility of creating a tiered pay structure within the forestry division. The intent is to offer entry-level positions and encourage professional development.
- Forestry has been selected as a 2022 McKinney Climate Fellow and Resilience Cohort host. Through this partnership, an Indiana University student will spend the summer with us, utilizing our recent Urban Tree Canopy assessments to inform the development of a planting plan, prioritizing equity.
- The 2021 fall tree planting is complete. In total, 1414 trees were planted in our parks and along our streets.
- In-house forestry crew efforts continue to focus on tree removals and mitigating significant immediate risk until staffing levels allow for the reimplementation of routine maintenance.

- Completed 4 tree-related property damage appraisals totaling \$1,910.00 in damages. The vast majority of these are the result of vehicles losing control and striking City-owned trees.
- Crews pruned 0 street trees this month, bringing our total to 2,581 for the year. Our goal is to re-establish a 7-year pruning cycle.
- 97 total trees were removed this month. (71 street tree removals, 6 park tree removals, 10 removals resulting from damage caused by storms, 4 vehicles were damaged during tree removals, and 6 private trees were removed, that had fallen into the street).
- Responded to 26 storm-related fallen/hanging limb calls, 3 after-hour calls concerning trees blocking the roadway, and resolved (46) 311 Call Center tickets in December 2021.

#### ◆ **Planning Report – January 2022**

- Design work continues for Phase I of the Franke Park Renaissance. An RFP for CMc (Construction Manager + Constructor) has been released for this project. The design team is shifting into the design development stage; pavilion details will be worked out along with key site decisions. The restoration of Spy Run Creek (phase II) is being considered for inclusion in the overall project.
- Funding sources are being sought out for the Spy Run Streambank Stabilization Project, Phase II. We're working with Rob Hines to identify potential grants to help move the project forward.
- Staff began working towards an outline for a Parks Comprehensive Plan RFP. The plan will aim to set strategic goals and establish a vision for the department for years to come; the last plan was completed in 2004. It is anticipated that this project will begin in 2022.
- The Franke Drainage Project continues very slowly; weather, staffing, and COVID issues have affected the contractor. It is anticipated that the project is completed in early February.
- Staff rekindled talks with the Moody Park Steering Committee in anticipation of moving forward with the master plan for the park. A final neighborhood input event is tentatively being scheduled for spring.
- Staff continues to work with the Riverfront Phase II/IIA teams. Phase IIA is set to move towards review by permitting agencies in the coming weeks, while we await a revised design proposal from the Phase II team.
- We continue to work with G2 towards the completion of the boat storage facility at Shoaff Park. Excavation and placement of the stone base were completed in January, while the fence and roof structure are anticipated to be completed before March 1.
- Significant management and planning efforts continue at the Conservatory. A meeting with supervisory staff resulted in a list of potential improvement projects for the facility; these projects, along with those identified in the recent building assessment, are being prioritized and considered for completion. These projects may be funded in part by the Williams estate gift.

#### ◆ **Horticulture and Landscape Report- January 2022**

- The Greenhouse has concentrated on seeding flats for spring annuals and growing plants for the upcoming spring Butterfly Showcase at the Conservatory.
- The Winter showcase was installed at the Botanical Conservatory following the removal of the Holiday show. This year's theme is "Under the Big Top".
- Gardeners continued pruning ornamental trees in select parks such as Foster, Lakeside, Indian Village Park, Kreager Park, Miner Park, Kettler Park, Northside Park, and Memorial Park.

- Gardeners continued to pick up limbs throughout the parks that have come down from ice and wind.
- Lakeside staff is clearing honeysuckle and other invasive shrubs from the remaining Delta ponds in Lakeside Park and maintaining any woody growth on the other pond.
- Landscape staff cleared mud from a large flood event at Promenade Park.
- Cleaning and organization began in the Landscape-Horticulture shop.
- Landscape staff continues to assist in the greenhouse as the weather dictates.
- Four landscape staff members were trained to do greenhouse seeding. They are now scheduled in the greenhouse at certain times weekly to work on seeding trays.
- Landscape staff with herbicide licenses completed 8 hours of online training to acquire their necessary continuing education credits.
- Four landscape staff members were signed up for online training that will prepare them for taking their tests for herbicide licenses this season.
- One seasonal staff member was brought back to begin work again on a part-time basis until the weather improves.

#### ◆ **Riparian Management Report- January 2022**

##### *Riparian work*

- Updated job descriptions for seasonal and seasonal supervisor
- Planning for herbivory management for the coming year (beaver and geese)
- Planning for low river navigational hazard marking for recreational map
- Currently preparing for upcoming ecosystem maintenance contract for a year
- Increased online presence to broaden net for future volunteers
- Began planning with Boys & Girls Club for future volunteer project(s)
- Continued planning for future strong arms for Headwaters dock

##### *Riverfront Planning*

- Continued participation in a discussion group of seasonal hiring practices for next hiring season and future job fair

##### *Training*

- Began updating department's boat safety procedures
- Completed CCH credits classes online

#### ◆ **Forestry Report- January 2022**

- Forestry continues seeking applicants for our four (soon to be five) vacant High-Ranger Operator positions.
- Began updating the Forestry Storm Response Plan in preparation for the coming year. We anticipate this update to include a real-time mapping component that will allow for a more organized and efficient response to traffic obstructions resulting from tree failures following storm events. This update will also include a more streamlined system for identifying available personnel when these events happen outside of regular work hours.
- Began collaboration with Southwest Area Partnership representatives to identify priority tree planting sites for the 2022 fall tree planting.

- Derek Veit and Tony McGuire attended the Indiana Arborist Association 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. This conference offers an opportunity to learn and network with other Indiana tree care professionals.
- In-house forestry crew efforts continue to focus on tree removals and mitigating significant immediate risk until staffing levels allow for the reimplementation of routine maintenance.
- Completed 15 tree-related property damage appraisals totaling \$4,837.50 in damages. The vast majority of these are the result of vehicles losing control and striking City-owned trees.
- Crews pruned 0 street trees this month, bringing our total to 0 for the year. Our goal is to re-establish a 7-year pruning cycle.
- 128 total trees were removed this month. (114 street tree removals, 6 park tree removals, 2 removals resulting from damage caused by storms, 6 vehicles damaged tree removals, and 6 were private trees that had fallen into the street).
- Responded to 3 storm-related fallen/hanging limbs.
- Responded to 0 after-hour calls concerning trees blocking the roadway.
- Responded to and resolved (17) 311 call center tickets this month.

## Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

- ◆ December: The Marketing Team is continuing to work on various Riverfront Marketing tasks with a special focus this month on promoting winter special events.
- ◆ The Parks Promenade link has received over 2,771 hits and [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) has 2,446 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and has received over 2,073 hits this month.
- ◆ Completed evaluation reports for Mobile Sensory Tent/Activity and Adult Special Interest Class Evaluation (fall).
- ◆ Planned a very successful Retirement party for Sarah Nichter on December 15 with the assistance of key staff. Sarah's last official day was December 30, 2021. She was a key component of the marketing team and will be missed.
- ◆ 40 Design projects completed.
- ◆ Lined up printer/mailer for 2022 Fun Times and started on spring issue.
- ◆ Winterval tasks included: Beer Trail Book, poster, billboard, social media flier.
- ◆ Under the Big Top tasks included: electronic sign slides, billboard, display poster, admission pass, sponsor template, and the member e-news.

- ◆ Completed Shuttered Venue Grant Reconsideration Application (Request was denied, will follow up in January for cause)
- ◆ Submitted a \$15,000 request to the Journal Gazette Foundation to support LSA in 2022.
- ◆ Conservatory: Met with all media reps to discuss sponsorships and all 2022 showcases and events have agreements in place.
- ◆ The 2021 Year End Recap/Press Release prepared.
- ◆ Submitted IPRA Holiday Photos for a social media contest.
- ◆ Prepared State of the City materials.
- ◆ **January 2022** - The Marketing Team is continuing to work on various Riverfront Marketing tasks with a special focus this month on promoting winter special events.
- ◆ The Parks Promenade link has received over 2,571 hits and [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) has 2,904 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and has received over 2,809 in January.
- ◆ Completed evaluation reports for Dia De Los Muertos, Live Radio Show from the 1940s, Fireside Tales of Terror, and the Sensory Friendly Night of Lights.
- ◆ Updated information on the web based on the Spring Fun Times content as well as refreshing 3 online calendars.
- ◆ Welcomed April McCampbell as the Manager of Communications to the Marketing Team. April started on January 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ The Marketing Team is working on the Annual Report.
- ◆ 33 Design projects completed, as well as completed production of the Spring Fun Times, released on February 2, 2022.
- ◆ Winterval tasks included: brochure, signs, banners, and a punch card.
- ◆ Completed AIM High Grant Application for \$100,000 over two years for the Community Youth Centers.
- ◆ Staff met with DNR representatives to explore opportunities for Spy Run Creek and other projects.
- ◆ Met with media representatives to discuss River, Set, Go!, Christmas on the Farm, and the Salomon Farmers' Market.
- ◆ Produced the Winterval podcast.
- ◆ **December** Media Mentions: 34      **January** Media Mentions: 36
- ◆ **Web Statistics:**

<u>Users:</u>	<u>Hits:</u>	<u>Month:</u>
23,164	59,707	November
28,101	70,194	December
29,280	79,586	January

*Note: Total web hits for 2021: 1,259,208. This is the second-highest amount of yearly hits in the past 11 years.*
- ◆ Social Media Totals for the months of:

	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>January</u>
FB Followers	68,488	68,864	69,180
FB Reach	119,081	97,733	141,330
 Twitter Followers	12,999	13,042	13,097
 Instagram Follower	19,751	19,851	19,961

## Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

### ◆ January 2022

- Golf courses will be ready to open mid-March as per usual, and earlier if the weather allows.
- The following is a list of processes in progress in preparation for the upcoming golf season:
  - **Acquiring quote for 24 new golf carts from Club Car**  
*This acquisition would make all of the golf carts at Foster Park 2021 or 2022 models. All McMillen golf carts would be 2015. 16 of the Shoaff carts would be 2015, with the remaining 8 being 2002/2007 models.*
  - **Drafting letter to leagues/outings** *The letter will state that 2022 prices for 9 hole leagues and outings will remain unchanged. The letter will also highlight the fact that the golf courses will now be serving alcohol, and that all alcohol for consumption on the course must be bought at the course per state law.*
  - **Revamping policies and procedures**  
*This will include basic procedures, course-specific procedures, and finalizing alcohol procedures*
  - **Revamping volunteer program**  
*The volunteer program has become bloated and inefficient. The revamping will bring it back into line and improve efficiency, accountability, and help in keeping more accurate records.*
  - **Updating and ordering scorecards for the new season**  
*Will make sure scorecards are up to date and available in the quantity necessary for the upcoming year. Checking in-house pricing vs. having them done by an outside company.*
  - **Finishing up pre-order merchandise**  
*Merchandise in 2021 was limited to staple items (balls/tees/gloves). Expanding this inventory a bit this year to include some accessory items (hats/ball markers/ball repair tools) and possibly some limited clothing in an appropriate price range*
  - **Streamlining POS codes/screens for ease of use**  
*Streamlining sku#'s and removing obsolescent items from inventory and POS screens to improve efficiency*
  - **Acquiring new rate boards to reflect 2022 price changes**  
*Some green fee and range ball rates changed for 2022, new message boards reflecting said changes will be created.*
  - **Foster Park RFP progress**  
*Have met with three golf course architects so far. (Results of zoom meeting from January 6). Proposals are due by January 27.*
- ◆ On January 27, we received 8 RFP proposals for the Foster Park Golf Course Master Plan. All of the proposals were of high quality and came from architects of regional, national, and international repute with excellent examples of their completed work in a variety of different project scopes, aims, and budgets.

- These projects were graded and narrowed down to the top 3. These three are being discussed further, and a decision will be made with whom we would like to proceed. The three firms under consideration are:
  - **Hills Forrest Smith**
  - **Lohmann Quitno**
  - **Tim Liddy Associates**
- All are excellent firms, all based regionally, with several completed projects in our area. There is not a bad choice among them. The scope of the project needs to be clearly defined by the Parks Department, and at this point, there are still a lot of unknowns as to project timing, the extent to which the golf course will be disrupted by the completion of the Big Dig project, and other factors.
- Seasonal jobs for the golf courses were posted on February 9. A meeting was held with the Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors to discuss who among existing staff were returning and to identify areas where more help was needed, as well as to develop a coordinated strategy on what our goals are for the year.
- Most of our key personnel are expected to return this year. The pay scale was increased to retain good help and attract new workers in the current jobs market. An Assistant Supervisor position was added at each course to help take some of the load off of the Course Supervisors. The Cashier/Starter position was broken into two postings, one being 21 years of age/older and the other being under 21. All new employees 21 and over will be required to get a server's license to be able to sell alcohol.
- In conjunction with the Marketing Department, we have developed a recruitment strategy to bring in new help. This has already resulted in bringing in several new applicants. Achieving a proper staff size does not appear to be an issue at this point.
- The course targeted opening dates are currently March 14/15/16, with one course opening each day at the discretion of the Golf Course Superintendent. If the weather breaks earlier than that, we will be able to re-evaluate and move those dates forward.
- There is no reason to be anything but optimistic about the prospects for the golf courses in 2022!



FW PUBLIC WORKS  
**Greenways  
& Trails**  
*In Your Neighborhood*

## Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager

- ◆ The City's Greenways & Trails Department, the Parks Department, and Fort Wayne Trails, Inc hosted a walk and bike ride on December 21<sup>st</sup> at Salomon Farm for the winter solstice. We had 63 walkers and 33 bicyclists.
- ◆ We participated in Winterval on January 29<sup>th</sup> with a bike ride on the Pufferbelly Trail from Lawton to Franke and back. We had 10 participants.
- ◆ We have hired Wheatcraft Tree Service for dead tree removal on the Pufferbelly Trail and the Fishing Line Trail in February and March.

- ◆ Dawn met with nine property owners for the new Northeast Trail (extension of the Maplecrest Rd Trail from Stellhorn to the YMCA, St Joe Community Park, and Evard Road) to discuss the trail alignment on their properties. They are supportive.
- ◆ We will begin acquiring right of way for the Pufferbelly Trail, Covington Rd Trail, Liberty Mills Road Trail, and Hanna Street Trail in the next couple of months.
- ◆ We had a meeting with our Public Information Staff to discuss how we can market our Trail system more effectively.
- ◆ We have begun survey work on three new trail projects: Northeast Trail, Hanna Street Trail: Wallace to Berry, and Hanna Street Trail: Burns Boulevard to Decatur Road.
- ◆ The Dupont Road Trail between Coldwater Rd and Woodland Plaza Parkway will finally be completed soon. The construction of the ADA Ramp and connection to McDonald’s on the east end of the trail were held up due to utility conflicts. The utilities are now out of the way so trail construction can resume once the snow melts and the ground thaws.
- ◆ The Maplecrest Road Trail from Trier to Stellhorn is complete.
- ◆ We had the pre-construction meeting with API Construction for the Fishing Line Trail between Ludwig and Cook. They will begin construction in mid-March.
- ◆ The Fort Wayne Running Club presented the City of Fort Wayne with its “President’s Award” at their annual banquet on 1/30. They will also present the Mayor with the “Runner Friendly Community” Award Plaque on 2/21 at 1 p.m.
- ◆ We will be submitting the Beckett’s Run Trail as a nominee for “project of the year” to the Greenways Foundation of Indiana.
- ◆ We will be meeting with our 90+ Greenway Rangers in the next few weeks to introduce them to Neil Miller, give them updates on the trails, and remind them of their duties.
- ◆ We are reviewing a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the City’s Redevelopment Department and the Three Rivers Horse Trails group for temporary equestrian trails this spring on Redevelopment’s property at the NE corner of Paulding and Adams Center.
- ◆ The 2021 Trail Counts was 764,664 trips on the trails
- ◆ At the end of 2021, we had 128.72 miles of trails in the Fort Wayne Area Trails network (this does not include all paths within parks but does include main trails like the Rivergreenway, the Salomon Farm Loop, and trails in Shoaff, Foster, Swinney, and Kreager that connect to the larger trail system). Of the 128.72 miles, 97.4 miles are inside the City limits. Approximately 113 miles of the 128.72 miles of trails are connected.
- ◆ We will begin looking for a summer intern in March.



## **Division News and Media Coverage:**

### **COVID Safety**

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation has thoroughly researched COVID safety precautions, working with local, state, and national organizations to determine best practices for our facilities, services, and programming. Please review guidelines regularly and carefully, as we are counting on you to help us keep our community healthy; as we will continue to keep our department, and the community informed should guidelines change. As of the date of this report, Staff, and all attendees to any Parks & Recreation hosted events, programming. As of September 7, 2021, ***mask*** ***are required in all City-owned buildings and facilities***, and we encourage each household or individual to ***social distance*** when possible, following the guidelines set forth by the Allen County Board of Health.

JG, Jan. 28, County sees spike in virus cases – Triple amount of previous day; mask shipment arrives

<https://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/20220128/county-sees-spike-in-virus-cases>

WPTA, Jan. 27, Benz says TRAA is making some progress

<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/01/28/executive-director-traa-says-some-progress-has-been-made/>

WPTA, Jan. 27, Historically low unemployment rates add pressure to the stressed job market, recruiters

<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/01/27/historically-low-unemployment-rates-add-pressure-stressed-job-recruiters/>

FW's NBC, Jan. 27, State of the City set for mid-February

<https://www.fortwaynesnbc.com/2022/01/27/state-city-address-set-mid-february/>

WFFT, Jan. 27, Rising rent rates impacting Fort Wayne

[https://www.wfft.com/news/rising-rent-rates-impacting-fort-wayne-up-nearly-20/article\\_ca345e9c-7fe8-11ec-926f-8f51bc87bf24.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/rising-rent-rates-impacting-fort-wayne-up-nearly-20/article_ca345e9c-7fe8-11ec-926f-8f51bc87bf24.html)

WFFT, Jan. 27, Warming centers in Fort Wayne

[https://www.wfft.com/video/fort-wayne-warming-centers-provide-refuge-from-frigid-weather/video\\_2c904a11-da2b-53f9-ac88-171dd02b914d.html](https://www.wfft.com/video/fort-wayne-warming-centers-provide-refuge-from-frigid-weather/video_2c904a11-da2b-53f9-ac88-171dd02b914d.html)

WANE, Jan. 27, Continued garbage and recycling collection challenges

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-waynes-3-1-1-website-told-residents-with-trash-issues-their-address-wasnt-in-the-city/>

WANE, Jan. 21, Allen Co. Prosecutor and FWPD share the load and get convictions

<https://www.wane.com/news/crime/in-allen-county-prosecutor-and-homicide-share-the-load-and-get-convictions/>

WANE, Jan. 21, Missed trash pickups continue

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/missed-trash-pickups-continue-crews-to-continue-working-through-the-weekend/>

Inside Ind Bus, Jan. 21, Dreyer's adding jobs, raising starting wage

<https://www.insideindianabusiness.com/articles/dreyers-adding-jobs-raising-starting-wage>

WBCL, Jan. 21, Helping the homeless

<https://www.wbcl.org/news/helping-the-homeless>

JG, Jan. 20, County COVID deaths top 1,000 – 1-day case record set; local trials on hold; state all red

<https://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/20220120/county-covid-deaths-top-1000>

WOWO, Jan. 20, Russ Jehl on Fort Wayne's Morning News discussing Red River

<https://www.wowo.com/fort-wayne-city-councilman-russ-jehl-lays-out-issues-with-red-river-waste-solutions/>

**“Under the Big Top” Winter Showcase Exhibit**

**Until April 17, Public hours Botanical Conservatory, 1100 S. Calhoun Street**

Come one, come all to the greatest circus Garden in town! The “Under the Big Top” exhibit is open at the Botanical Conservatory. Marvel at exotic topiary animals and astonishing plant oddities. This winter, everyone is invited to go to the circus and “clown around” under the Conservatory’s Botanical Big Top. Learn more at [botanicalconservatory.org](http://botanicalconservatory.org). Sponsored by The Waterfield Foundation, the Howard P. Arnold Foundation, the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, the Magee-O'Connor Foundation, 103.9 Wayne FM, and WANE 15.

**Headwaters Ice Skating**

**Tuesday to Thursday, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Friday, Noon to 9:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (extended Winterval hours)**

**Sunday, Noon to 8:00 p.m.**

**Headwaters Park East, Clinton and Superior Streets**

**Admission**

Age 13 and under..... \$4

Age 14 and over..... \$6  
Skate Rental..... \$3  
Spectators & Parking ..... FREE

WANE, Jan. 19, Mayor and police/fire chiefs discuss public safety

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/mayor-police-and-fire-chiefs-discuss-public-safety-in-fort-wayne/>

WANE, Jan. 19, Carbaugh bill to avoid Red River repeat passes committee and heads to full House

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/carbaugh-bill-to-avoid-red-river-repeat-passes-committee-heads-to-full-house/>

WOWO, Jan. 19, City of Fort Wayne recaps public safety and looks ahead to 2022

<https://www.wowo.com/city-of-fort-wayne-recaps-public-safety-and-looks-ahead-to-2022/>

WPTA, Jan. 19, New garbage hauler may involve higher prices for customers

<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/01/19/mayor-henry-admits-replacement-garbage-hauler-may-involve-rate-hike-city-trash-customers/>

WFFT, Jan. 19, Violent crime declines in 2021

<https://www.wfft.com/content/news/Violent-crime-declines-in-2021-Fort-Wayne-public-safety-update.html>

WFFT, Jan. 19, City to hold a public meeting for Bluffton Road Bridge project

<https://www.wfft.com/content/news/City-of-Fort-Wayne-to-hold-public-meeting-for-Bluffton-Road-Bridge-Project-576088661.html>

JG, Jan. 19, New testing, vaccination site planned

<https://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/20220119/new-testing-vaccination-site-planned>

WOWO, Jan. 19, Recap of discussion about Red River at Tuesday's City Council meeting

<https://www.wowo.com/talkin-trash/>

WBCL, Jan. 19, City will seek new trash hauler

<https://www.wbcl.org/news/city-will-seek-new-trash-hauler>

Input FW, Jan. 19, Recruiting out-of-town employees to fill jobs? This Fort Wayne talent attraction can service can help

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/neita-talentservice.aspx>

The Mayor Tom Henry Podcast, Jan. 18, Mayor Henry highlights current city initiatives

<https://soundcloud.com/user-202170298/episode-72-looking-forward-to-2022>

WPTA, Jan. 18, Snowplow drivers grapple with COVID concerns

<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/01/18/snow-plow-drivers-grapple-with-covid-concerns/>

WPTA, Jan. 18, City seeking input on how to use federal funding to address homelessness

<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/01/18/city-seeking-input-how-use-federal-funding-address-homelessness/>

WPTA, City seeks feedback on MLK monument

<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/01/17/city-seeks-feedback-mlk-monument/>

WPTA, Jehl on trash collection

<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/01/14/councilman-jehl-proposes-steps-address-red-river-collection-issues/>



**G2 ROWING**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1/13/2022

Contact: Dan Wire, Board President of G2 Rowing Association  
P: 260-580-7415

## ***G2 Rowing Association to break ground on the first boat storage facility***

*The collaboration will boost plans to support and expand rowing for people of all abilities.*

### **Thursday, January 13, 2022, at daybreak At Shoaff Park, by the boat launch.**

Fort Wayne, Ind. – Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation has partnered with G2 Rowing, formerly Glorious Gate Rowing Association, to establish a boat storage facility at Shoaff Park, near the boat launch.

Contractors will break ground on-site on Thursday, January 13, at daybreak for a centralized facility to store and launch boats for practice and competition.

G2 Rowing has been training rowers for over a decade, working from a mobile boat trailer. “This boat facility will allow rowers to spend more time on the water and will enhance our sponsored regattas at this location in the spring and fall.” stated Dan Wire, Board President for G2 Rowing, “We are deeply grateful to the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department for the support of rowing as a sport on our rivers and G2 Rowing as an organization.”

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Director Steve McDaniel adds, “Partnerships with organizations like G2 Rowing Association enhance our parks and provide healthy connections to people and our parks and rivers. We’re excited to see the outcomes of this partnership.”

This facility will allow G2 Rowing to grow their community rowing outreach to include:

- Adaptive rowing
- Middle School summer camps
- Masters rowing
- Learn to Row opportunities

The facility is expected to break ground on Friday, January 14, and be fully operational by April 1<sup>st</sup>. G2 Rowing would like to thank its sponsors and partners:

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation

AWS Foundation

Turnstone

William J. and Bonnie L. Hefner Foundation

CMS Roofing

Faegre Drinker Foundation

Transmission & Fluid Equipment, Inc.

Zimmer Biomet

Steel Dynamics, Inc

Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne

LCPA Group LTD

John and Tracie Martin

Sue Steffy, MD

Parkview Physicians Group

One Lucky Guitar, Inc.

Premier Bank Foundation

Teakwood Arms Apartment Homes

JG, Jan. 6, Holidays create county-record 1,244 new cases

<https://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/20220106/holidays-create-county-record-1244-new-cases>

WOWO, Jan. 6, Councilman Arp on Fort Wayne’s Morning News program

<https://www.wowo.com/new-fort-wayne-city-council-president-named-with-unanimous-democrat-support/>

WBCL, Jan. 6, Local STEM students presented scholarships from City Utilities and Rotary

<https://www.wbcl.org/news/local-stem-students-presented-scholarships>

WFFT, Jan. 5, Year in review with Mayor Henry

<https://www.wfft.com/content/news/A-year-in-review-with-Mayor-Tom-Henry-Development-and-growth-in-Fort-Wayne-576015971.html>

WFFT, Jan. 5, Site work planned for The Lofts at Headwaters Park

<https://www.wfft.com/content/news/Site-work-for-Lofts-at-Headwaters-Park-mixed-use-project-to-begin-this-month-576012941.html>

WFFT, Jan. 5, Public Art Commission seeks input on future art projects

<https://www.wfft.com/content/news/Fort-Wayne-Public-Art-Commission-seeks-input-on-future-art-projects-in-city-576012381.html>

WPTA, Jan. 5, Council leadership vote draws Republican ire toward Arp

<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/01/06/council-leadership-vote-draws-republican-ire-toward-arp/>

WANE, Jan. 4, Mayor on Red River

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/trash-collector-in-a-year-mayor-somebody-else-probably/>

WOWO, Jan. 4, Public Art Commission seeking input for future project

<https://www.wowo.com/public-art-commission-seeking-input-for-future-project/>

JG, Jan. 4, Schools restarting as surge continues – COVID numbers worry health commissioner

<https://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/schools/20220104/schools-restarting-as-surge-continues>

On the Mayor Tom Henry Podcast, Jan. 3, a guest is City Councilwoman Michelle Chambers

<https://soundcloud.com/user-202170298/episode-71-city-councilwoman-michelle-chambers>

WANE, Jan. 3, Red River update

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/red-river-payment-deadline-passes-still-collecting-trash/>

WPTA, Jan. 3, Area lawmakers discuss priorities for 2022 session

<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/01/03/area-lawmakers-discuss-priorities-2022-session-indiana-general-assembly/>

Pandemic Empowered: Creative Solutions in a COVID-19 World

**By Sarah Krug and Michael A. Mulvaney**

Excerpt from: We Are Parks and

Recreation



In March 2020, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and subsequent stay-at-home orders brought the world to a surreal halt. Businesses shut down, transportation was immobilized, and people across the globe sheltered in place.

One could argue that the pandemic empowered recreation professionals to move even further beyond their professional comfort zones and explore new managerial and operational strategies. Finding commonalities across these new approaches has the potential to help the profession learn how to better navigate future global events, grow and move forward together.

To better understand how the recreation industry has navigated these unique times, 15 professionals were interviewed to learn about their experiences and responses to the global pandemic. The 15 public park and recreation professionals ranged from entry-level positions to CEOs, and from rural to urban communities across the United States. A set of eight structured interview questions were posed to each professional, focusing on their immediate responses to the pandemic, how the global crisis has changed their agency's operations, and visions for the future. The results of these interviews yielded four major findings:

## 1. Providing Leadership in Community Risk Management Efforts

Whether it is employees, participants, communities or the public, safety has been, and continues to be, the most common focus and concern. Assessing and minimizing risk always has been at the forefront of every park and recreation agency's mission and overall operations — and the pandemic only intensified this focus. Drawing from this skill set, several professionals shared how their agencies were looked upon as leaders in their communities in responding to the unexpected conditions brought upon by the pandemic. For instance, one professional noted that having a thorough risk management background and existing framework helped them quickly develop safety plans, reopening plans and guidelines that were fluid and rapidly evolving as new information about the pandemic's effects emerged.

Since federal, state and local COVID-19 guidelines change often, many professionals have leaned heavily on local health departments to help them make decisions. Regular communication and collaboration across the local agencies became increasingly important, leading to community-wide safety protocols, such as masking, physical distancing and cleaning of high-traffic/-use areas. The need for staff to safely monitor and maintain these new precautions and protocols — all while continuing to provide essential recreation services to the public — also was stressed by nearly every professional interviewed.

## 2. Navigating Changes in the Work Environment

When news of the pandemic broke, a common initial concern expressed by many of the interviewed professionals was job security. This became a prevalent concern because of the cancellation of non-essential events and the importance of safe distancing. While safety always has been a top priority, the wide range of updates and changes to safety precautions worried many about how the pandemic could impact agency culture and employee safety.

The transition to working from home was also an adjustment. One professional stated that if they could've changed anything their agency did when the pandemic was first announced, they would have offered more employees the option of working from home and removing everything

from their offices that they would need. “We had no idea it would last as long as it did,” they explain.

The recreation profession often advertises diverse and dynamic work environments as an attractive benefit for new recruits. Initially, the pandemic negatively affected many of these opportunities, as working from home became the norm for many professionals. However, as time passed, several professionals shared how their agencies were using this time to review and update their flexible work policies. For instance, multiple professionals cited how impressed they were with how many positions could effectively work from home and how this has triggered a thorough review of their current flexible work policies as they plan for post-pandemic working environments.

### 3. Providing Resourceful Communication

Without the usual face-to-face interactions, communication lines and strategies also have changed with the pandemic. As one professional asks, “Where would we be without the internet?” Platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom have become the norm for meetings, presentations and even programming.

A common theme from the professionals was the implementation of regular safety briefings and updates. Social media and local websites were the most popular platforms for sharing these updates. Professional networks and listservs, such as NRPA Connect, were identified as great resources to share ideas, safety measures and implementation strategies, as well as engage in problem-solving discussions. Others looked to colleagues in the field to help them deal with difficult COVID-related scenarios. Through these platforms, many professionals reflected on the intense professional development they received during this time, as well as a rapid expansion of their professional networks — both of which resulted in the acquisition of new, marketable skill sets while accelerating their career development.

### 4. Being Prepared

Part of being prepared for the COVID-19 pandemic was being comfortable with change. Adaptability and efficiency became critically important for agencies. While adaptability and efficiency are characteristics needed in all professionals, one could argue these traits are synonymous with the “do more with less” mantra that has been pervasive in public parks and recreation for decades. And yet again, the park and recreation profession has been well-trained for successfully navigating these conditions.

For instance, many professionals identified a need to adapt their services to best meet the participants’ level of comfort. Participants’ comfort level varied as it related to their desired recreation services. This led many professionals to adapt and offer a variety of service delivery formats, while carrying out the necessary safety procedures. For instance, some offered a combination of virtual and face-to-face programming, allowing participants the option to select a format that most aligned with their level of comfort. Many professionals mentioned how they had previous experience in virtual service delivery platforms, or how they now have adapted

and grown these skills, which they can continue to use in the future. Through these experiences, COVID-19 made many agencies operate more efficiently.

## Looking Ahead

COVID-19 has been devastating, and parks and recreation was not immune to these changes. Despite these challenges, a great deal of innovation and growth occurred while many recreation service areas experienced significant upticks in participation and usage rates. Throughout these unique times, several new ideas and service delivery models emerged, empowering professionals to maximize the opportunities within these challenging conditions. As one professional notes, “After reflecting on the growth and innovation of recreation professionals during this pandemic, we have an unparalleled power to make passionate, positive changes!”

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