

Steve McDaniel – Director

- ◆ I met with the President of the North Highlands Neighborhood Association regarding activities and improvements they are planning within their community. I shared our plans for improvements to Hamilton Park. They are a very active group with some great ideas.
- ◆ I was on WPTA's Insight show on April 5th, talking about our Job Fair, the Foellinger Theatre, and overall things going on in our Park system.
- ◆ I attended McMillen Park Community Center's Spring Break Carnival. The team put together a ton of activities for the kids to participate in at the center. I believe the children had a great time. I know I did.
- ◆ The staff continued to work on the staff study that is being done citywide. This included updating all of our job descriptions and filling out a position-specific questionnaire for each position within the department. This was all done by the end of the month. HR and the City's consultant will be working through everything that was submitted.
- ◆ The staff conducted a Job Fair on April 14th. We had several people attend with a few of those applying. We will continue to have "Pop Up" events at various times in May to try and add to our staffing levels.
- ◆ We are working with the City's IT consultant to determine what it would take to develop a Parks and Recreation mobile map app. As we work through items that we would like to see shown on the app, the consultant will determine the best way to develop the software behind it.
- ◆ In conjunction with our consultants for the Foster Park Golf Course Master Plan, we held a public meeting at Sears Pavilion in Indian Village Park on April 21st. There were several people in attendance from golfers to neighborhood residents. Almost everyone spoke about what they liked and disliked about Foster and the golf course. Our consultants are due back on May 19th for a second public meeting.
- ◆ The Foellinger Theater received its Civic Center permit from the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission this month. Tim and his team are working through the next steps so that we can operate the concessions for this season.
- ◆ We are finalizing the concert series for the 2022 summer series at the Foellinger Theater. It is shaping up to be a great concert season with a variety for everyone. Check out our website at www.fortwayneparks.org for a listing of all of the performers.
- ◆ We had a great press conference for Arbor Day on April 29th. We also partnered with Trees Indiana and gave away a lot of seedling trees to our residents.

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

- ◆ **Community Youth Centers** (*Cooper / Jennings / Weisser Park*)
 - On April 6th the Community Youth Centers hosted a training offered by Playworks (out of Indianapolis) titled The Power of Play, at Weisser Park Youth Center. It was very good training. It educated on many things such as ice breakers for youth, how to keep youth engaged, the benefits of play, building rapport, how to transition, opening and closing, various learning styles, and much more.
 - Both Jennings and Weisser participated in the Citywide Great American Clean Up on Friday, April 29th. This activity served under our character-building program, social skills, and fitness. It gave the youth two hours of community service as well. Both sites cleaned their park and surrounding areas along with some neighborhood/street side clean-up. Between the 2 sites, we had 28 participants.

- Mr. Dmitri, Program Facility Coordinator, and Chantell Davis, Community Youth Center Manager, have been working together to create a summer schedule for outreach programs. Dmitri has met with several new businesses and organizations, to get their information to see how, if and when they would fit into our programs. Chantell has been working with Allen County public library Youth Coordinator Manager, Marra to discuss Teen Read and The Library's other summer activities that they can bring into the center. Chantell also worked with Indiana- Purdue Extension for a cooking class they want to bring into the centers.
- During the spring break week, each center did a variety of fun games, such as basketball, cornhole, big tic tac toe, Jenga, Connect 4, and more. The youth were able to win prizes. Weisser did a baking session in which they made small Bundtlet cakes inspired by Nothing Bundt Cakes. Mr. Ayers did a special BBQ day for the youth on outdoor field day.
- Total Registrations through the end of April: Jennings Recreation Center has 33 and Weisser has 71

◆ **Community Center (233 West Main Street)**

- The POD Program registration is going well with 13 sessions already full and another 5 almost full.
- We finished restructuring of Preschool/Youth summer programs and schedule to make better use of staff at sites. Will be using four sites this year only. These are Foster West, Sunrise/Deer Ridge, Arlington Elementary, and Robinson Chapel.
- Staff met with Tim Heffron and Julie Hollingsworth and will be working with the Pickleball Club to offer introductory classes when new courts are completed. They will supply all materials and we will trade court reservation time.
- Senior Games-Finalizing the 2022 schedule. We had our 1st coordinators meeting with 24 in attendance. Will be adding Euchre back this year along with a new event of Skee Ball. We are eliminating Foot Golf for this year.

◆ **McMillen Park Community Center (3901 Abbott Street)**

- Youth numbers in April fluctuated in programs due to Spring Break. In April there was a 10% decrease in youth attendance. The decrease is the result of youth returning to school from Spring Break. We had a 50% increase in registrations due to parents enrolling their children to participate in programming over Spring Break.
- Adult numbers in April fluctuated in programs due to Spring Break. Pickleball had a 5% decrease in participation due to patrons traveling for Spring Break/vacation and youth being in the building earlier in the day. Adult Basketball was suspended and will resume on April 12th for the Spring League. Essential Steps had a 45% increase in participants in April. We hope to encourage and maintain that number. Cardio fit participation increased by 8% and Zumba participation decreased by 44%.
- Over Spring Break, McMillen Park Community Center hosted our first Spring Break Carnival. The Carnival was created to provide youth without the financial means to travel or other opportunities with a fun and activity-filled day. Candy, prizes, games, and other treats were provided. Through the collaboration with Salomon Farm, the youth were able to interact with goats and chickens and enjoy a tracker ride through the park. There were bounce houses and obstacle courses as well. We appreciate all the assistance of the staff from other Parks and Recreation Departments in ensuring the youth had a fun and safe carnival experience. We hope to continue to provide this Carnival to the youth in our community going forward.
- To be at the full staff we would need to hire 9 more staff. 7 Seasonal Program Coordinators and 1 part-time maintenance staff. 5 Applicants have applied. 3 have been interviewed. 1 has been hired and is completing the hiring process. The others have not returned calls after several attempts to communicate with them.

◆ **Outdoor Recreation**

- Salomon Farm Park: Salomon Farmin' Fun Day Camp registration opened on Monday, March 21, 2022.
 - Capacities were reduced due to staffing concerns. If we can add staff we will be able to add more groups and welcome more children from the waitlist.
 - 2022 current camp capacity is 115 campers per week.
 - We currently have 14 counselors – 3 more counselors would be ideal to open up 3 groups from the waitlist.

- Salomon Farm Park staff is working on preparing for the upcoming Fiber Arts Celebration on Friday, May 13 from 10 am – 3 pm and Saturday, May 14 from 10 am – 5 pm. Local fiber art demonstrators will be located in the Old Barn and vendors selling merchandise will be located in the Learning Center. Lions Club will be serving food in the Learning Center. DeKalb County Horseman Association will be giving horse-drawn wagon rides and Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department will have a job fair table set up.
- Salomon Staff took baby goats and chickens to McMillen Community Center on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, to participate in their spring Carnival Day.
- Franke Park Day Camp
 - Capacities were reduced due to staffing concerns. As of April, Franke Park Day Camp is 11 counselors short.
- Other
 - Opening day for Hurshtown Reservoir was Sunday, May 1st. We opened the reservoir with one staff person short. We normally hire four people for the season, we had one staff drop out, leaving us with three.
 - Johnny Appleseed Campground hosts returned the week of Sunday, April 24, 2022. We opened Sunday, May 1st, 2022 with two working hosts.

◆ Riverfront

- April Riverfront program events at Promenade Park continued with the monthly Sunday Heritage Concert Series and Yoga on the Riverfront. Yoga on the Riverfront continues to grow in attendance from recent tv marketing and as the weather continues to warm up.
- The Sunday Heritage Concert Series also continues to expand in the audience with a variety of local artists and great weather.
- April 10th was the Heartland Sings playing a Cole Porter Concert and then April 24th was our largest audience yet this year at 91 with the New Horizons Band.
- One of the most anticipated spring programs was Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rescue on April 2nd. The event was a free pre-registered event that met and went beyond expectations for attendance with 255 people in attendance. Soarin' Hawk had their rescue birds on the patio of the Pavilion while patrons were located inside the pavilion for the entire show. The show included a wide range of birds including barn owls, red-tailed hawks, and the surprise appearance of the bald eagle at no extra cost. The event went well and we are looking at adding another event similar to this in the fall.

◆ Golf Operations (*Foster Park / McMillen Park / Shoaff Park*)

- The spring weather has not been very kind to the golf courses. Due to cold temperatures, wind and rain, Gary Whitacre stated that we have been able to run the golf carts fully for about 12 days since the courses have opened. On the few nice days that we have had, there has been a high demand for play. Hopefully, we are starting to put the unseasonably cold weather behind us.
- The first of two public Foster Golf Course RFP meetings was held on April 21, 2022, at the Sears Pavilion. Steve McDaniel, Gary Whitacre, Dave Weadock, Bryan Keister, Kathy Pargmann, Harlean Falls, and Jason Smith were all in attendance to support Steve and Shawn from Hills, Forrest, and Smith. There were probably 25 (twenty-five) citizens in attendance to listen and voice their concerns or support for some of the possible changes to the golf course. It was a very productive presentation and the majority of the citizens left with a better understanding of what was to possibly change.
- Concordia High School hosted their Invitational at Foster Park Golf Course on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Gary Whitacre reported that they had 19 (nineteen) teams. Bryan Keister reported that the course was in great shape and dry. The golf staff said that they received many comments about how nice the course looked.

◆ Pools

- Jenny Barney and Daryn Schwartz reported that staff applications are still trickling in. They both said that we are still in need of at least 12 (twelve) more lifeguards. Jenny Barney has been to numerous school job fairs, talked to Athletic Directors, posted on school message boards, as well as attended the Parks and Recreation Department job fair looking for employees. It should be noted that there is a nationwide lifeguard shortage and has been for a couple of years.

- Daryn Schwartz reported that the pools should start getting filled either Friday, April 29th, or Monday, May 2nd, 2022. Spear will be in town on Thursday, May 5th, 2022 to perform their annual start-up for the season. Start-up is when they check and replace any worn parts as well as get everything hooked up to start circulating chlorine in the pools.

◆ General Athletics

- Alec Johnson and Jason Smith met with Randy Rozewicz to discuss different items about 3RVS and mountain biking including the installation of a kiosk at the trailhead in Franke Park as well as the lower gravel lot. They would also like to add some more features to the skills area for the cyclocross area.
- Chuck Reddinger, Alec Johnson, and Jason Smith met with members of Blue Jacket to discuss Fantasy of Lights 2021 as well as 2022. The 2021 event was a huge success with record numbers. The possible driving route disruption (Franke Park new entrance) for 2022 was discussed. Alec reiterated that communication through this process would be key.
- The Fort Wayne Disc Golf Club hosted its annual tournament at Shoaff Park. They reported a record number of 250 (two hundred and fifty) participants. They had to stop taking registrations due to the vast amount. The weather was nice and the players were very complimentary of the course and conditions. This has become one of the premier tournaments in the state as well as the region.

Sandra Odisho, CPA – Manager, Finance

- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 235 employees (129 full-time, 106 regular part-time, and seasonal) for the payroll ending April 23, 2022, and paid on April 29, 2022.
- ◆ We currently have the following permanent positions open, posted, or in the process of being filled:
 - Full-time position, High Range Operator (Fund 121) - Five positions - Posted
 - Part-time position, Weekend/Evening Receptionist/Host(ess) – Botanical Conservatory (Fund 121) – Process of being filled.
- ◆ All seasonal jobs have been posted.
- ◆ April was a busy month for the front office! There were many dog park memberships sold along with many pavilions reserved and classes registered for. This is the beginning of our busy summer season. We will spend the next few months finding places for families and groups to have outings, getting many, many children registered for summer classes and day camps, getting lots of dogs registered to use the dog parks, and answering general questions regarding Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation.
- ◆ Front Office staff entered programs into RecTrac for the Summer Fun Times during April. The Summer Fun Times registration begins May 4th. June through August programs is covered in this brochure.
- ◆ Foellinger Theatre ticket sales have increased in the last month with the announcement of the new concerts and events. Tickets for the Sweet Breeze tours for Memorial Day weekend through the end of June were built and set to go on sale on May 2nd. More tours will be added as we get into the summer months.

- ◆ Front Office staff assisted with getting the Johnny Appleseed Campground staff up and running for the 2022 season which began May 1st. Reservations were transitioned from the Front Office staff to the Campground Hosts the week of April 25th.
- ◆ We are performing preliminary work on the 2023 Budget preparation with the various Deputy Directors.

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

◆ Facilities Management

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **193** for April. This is up from **125** in March.
- The facility crew completed all necessary work for the summer rental season which began on April 29th.
- Foster Park Golf pro shops restrooms were cleaned for the year including deodorizing the carpet in the locker areas.
- Crew member at Promenade Park is now on a Monday through Friday schedule that will align them with the rest of the facilities crew. Pressure washers and floor machines have been delivered to their summer locations. All outdoor restrooms have been sanitized and are now open to the public.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Packard Park shelter, Lakeside Park pavilion #1 restroom, Study Park playground, and an underpass at the Martin Luther King Jr Bridge.
- Water service has been restored to all outdoor facilities and drinking fountains and will remain until fall.
- Prep work for the 2022 pool season has begun service at both McMillen and Northside pools. Pools have water calibration scheduled for May 5th and will officially open on Memorial Day weekend.
- Work has been completed to open Hurshtown Reservoir for the 2022 season.
- Winter covers were extracted from the fountains at Freimann Square, the pond was filled to make it ready for the 2022 season.
- Show change assignment was completed the week of the 18th of April for the Butterfly Showcase at the Botanical Conservatory.
- The restroom buildings at Tillman Park baseball fields have been reconstructed. This included removing degraded ceiling panels, upgrading lighting both inside and out, and painting the interior.
- All sports lighting services have been restored for the 2022 season.
- New toilets were installed at Packard Park restrooms.
- Several deck boards were replaced and or repaired on the St. Mary's River Greenway boardwalk.
- Lighting upgrades were completed in the Salomon Farm Parks equipment barn.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
 - 15 Alarms calls
 - 21 Paint projects
 - 18 Building maintenance repairs
 - 5 Carpentry repairs
 - 35 Electrical repairs
 - 7 HVAC maintenance issues
 - 4 Key core maintenance repairs
 - 38 Light Maintenance
 - 10 Lock maintenance issues
 - 27 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
 - 27 Plumbing maintenance issues
 - 14 Sign replacements
 - 9 Vandalism issues

◆ Grounds Maintenance

- Mowing crews began their rotation on April 18th.
- Mowers are moving through the parks at a rate of 7 days per cycle.
- Cold temperatures have kept grass growth slower than regular.
- Ball diamonds have been open for practice rental permits.
- Crews have prepped all reserved ball diamonds such as Hamilton and Foster West.
- Athletic crews completed soccer, flag football, and rugby fields for the spring.
- All athletic fields and ball diamonds outfields have been aerated.
- Herbicide was sprayed on ball diamond infields, warning tracks, and fence lines.
- Weed control applications were completed in only 3 weeks.
- Heavy Equipment altered plow trucks back to dump trucks.
- A large forestry crane assisted in installing the docks at Hurshtown.
- Over 100 tons of stone were placed at Foster Park to repair worn gravel drives.
- Stone and soil were permeated to fill a large sinkhole at Northside.
- The Crew assisted the city with garbage removal until April 15th.
- Parking bumpers at various parks were restored and or replaced.
- Machines such as tractors, mowers, and sewage trucks were delivered to the campground.
- Two loads of specialty beach sand were transported to the zoo for the penguin exhibit.
- The garbage truck is operating 3 days out of the week including Sundays.
- Summer trashcans were assigned at various parks including Mason Park.
- Minor flooding on the greenway caused to close off of several of the gates and underpasses.
- Crews were able to use install equipment to clean off muddy trail areas and got them reopened.
- Mowing along the greenway was initiated every week.

◆ Project Administration

- Botanical Conservatory Window Glass 2022 – Bidding complete, awaiting approval.
- Botanical Conservatory Main Hallway Ceiling and Wall Repairs – Bidding in progress.
- Bowser Park Pavilion – Renovation plans are in progress. Bidding in May and construction completed by October.
- Buckner Park LWCF Grant Project – Bidding in progress.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project Phase 2 – Purchase order issued, awaiting schedule from the contractor.
- Downtown Community Center Entry Doors – Installation planned by mid-June.
- Downtown Community Center Shuffleboard Courts – Awaiting purchase order and contractor schedule.
- Foellinger Theater Entrance Sidewalk Drainage – Project nearing completion.
- Foellinger Theater Parking Lot Repair – Project completed.
- Foster Park Pavilion #3 Construction – The Contractor mobilized and began work.
- Foster Park Pavilion #3 I&M Electrical Service – I&M continually delays the installation of electrical service.
- Foster Park Golf Course – Public meeting held. Conceptual plans are to be presented on May 19th to the Public.
- Foster Park 2-5-Year-Old Playground Equipment Replacement – Installation planned for early May.
- Foster Park West Pedestrian Bridge – Phase one renovation plans are in progress.
- Franke Park Playground 5-12-Year-Old Equipment – The playground has been installed. Final punch list items in progress.
- Franke Nature Lodge and Long House Roofing – Project nearing completion.
- Hamilton Park Tennis Courts Fencing – Project nearing completion.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress.
- Jennings Center Playground Equipment Replacement – Installation is planned for mid-May.
- Johnny Appleseed Campground Renovation – Planning in progress for additional spaces, and electrical and water upgrades.
- Johnny Appleseed Campground Electrical Engineer Services – Project in progress.

- Kreager Park Taylor’s Dream Playground Surface – Project completed.
- Kreager Park Taylor’s Dream Playground Equipment – Project completed.
- Kreager Park Tennis Backboard and Fence – Replacement plans are in progress.
- Lakeside Park Arbors Improvements – Work is in progress.
- Lakeside Park Trail Replacement – Awaiting purchase order and contractor schedule.
- Lakeside Park Courts Lighting – Planning in progress.
- McMillen Golf Course Cart Paths Phase 2 – Planning in progress. Construction is planned for summer 2022.
- McMillen Golf Course Chemical Building – Demolition of the existing building and new building pad completed.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Drawings nearing completion. The permit process is nearly set to begin.
- Memorial Park Olen J. Pond Monument – Completion is planned for late spring.
- Memorial Park Pavilion Roof Replacement – Construction is planned for mid-May.
- Northside Park 2-5-Year-Old Play Equipment Replacement: Installation is planned for early May.
- Northside Park Lighted Sign – Landscape installation is planned for the week of May 9th.
- Old Fort Footbridge – Planning in progress for replacement of wood components on bridge steps near the Old Fort
- Reservoir Park Cooper Center Roof Replacement – Punch list items in progress
- Reservoir Park Cooper Center Kitchen Exhaust System – Punch list items in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Construction is planned for July and August 2022.
- Salomon Farm Garden Fence – Purchase order issued. Scheduling in progress.
- Salomon Farm Learning Center Office – Planning in progress.
- Swinney Park Homestead Log House Roof Replacement – Construction is set to begin in early May.
- Weisser Park Youth Center Lobby Improvements – Project currently out to bid.
- Various Parks 2022 Paving Projects – Franke Park work completed, Swinney Park in progress.
- Various Parks Painting Projects – Currently compiling a list of pavilions and shelters for painting list.
- Various Basketball Courts Improvements – Planning in progress.
- Various Parks Pickleball Conversion – Scheduling in progress. Foster Park is scheduled as the first conversion.
- Other work:
 - Various Parks: accessed potential and necessary future project
 - 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 are being completed.
 - Various Parks: park assessments are being completed.
 - Various Parks: completed project photo documentation for marketing.

◆ **Storeroom, Garage, and Safety**

- Recreation supplies for summer programs are being received and stocked/delivered as necessary.
- Researching ice machine replacements for McMillin and Foster Golf clubhouses.
- Signs were made for the plant sale, pool markings, etc.
- Portable speed bumps were ordered for the Mother’s Day Plant sale access control.
- A new refrigerant recycling machine was procured to service the newer vehicle A/C systems that utilize the new 1234YF refrigerant. Property Transactions:

Toro 4000 Zero-turn mower	P242, JA Campground
Shindaiwa Hand Blower	P240; Parted out
Stihl BG 86 Hand Blower	P240, Grounds
Stihl Kombi Head Tool and hedge Attachment	P230, Foster Garden
Ford Transit Connect Cargo Van	A100, Recreation
Makita Hammer Drill	P250, R&C

Robinair Refrigerant Recycler	P252, Garage
2021 Vehicle Lease Purchase Updates:	
Ford Transit Connect Cargo Van	Received!!!!
2022 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:	
Toro 4000 Mower	Received
Club Car Carry All (2)	22121100
John Deere Gator	22121099
John Deere Hydro 1200 Bunker Rake	22121088
Lely Towed Spreader	22121088
Toro Polartrac	Awaiting Quote
Toro 7210 Zero Turn Mower (3)	Awaiting Quote
Toro Groundsmaster 4000 Mower	Awaiting Quote
Ford Ranger 4x4 Pickup	22121106
Ford F350 Chassis	22121106
Steel Flatbed for above	22121097
Ford F750 Chassis	22121101
Chip Body for Above	Awaiting Quote
Ford F150 Pickup	22121106
Heavy Equipment Trailer	Req'd
Wide Equipment Trailer (2)	Quoted
Ford F59 Chassis	Awaiting Quote
Van Body	Awaiting Quote

Garage Operations Highlights:

- 97 work orders were performed this month, 5 of which were preventative maintenance/seasonal services.
- The city equipment comes up on May 20th.
- Lastec 10' mowers were demonstrated at Kreager playing fields. Mowed good, but lots of moving parts and the recycler decks left clumps of grass on the fields.
- Tk 184, a night utility truck was hit head-on by a private vehicle traveling in the wrong lane. Repairs are being done in-house and should be finished the first week of May.
- Tk 59, garage shop truck, broadsided by a package delivery van last month, is still at the dealer undergoing repairs.

◆ The Safety Committee met on April 26, with two members and two guests in attendance.

- There were no treatable personal injuries during this period, for a total of 8 for the year. OSHA recordable incidents total 8 for the year. 54 restricted days for 5 injuries this period, and the annual total stands at 133 for 8 incidents. 43 lost days to date for one broken leg incident. Recorded worker compensation costs to date are \$4063.
- There were three property damage incidents during this period, the yearly total is four. Total damages for the year are \$16,426.
- A class on detailed operation and maintenance of chainsaws for storm response volunteers will be scheduled in Mid-May.

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



◆ **Planning & Development**

- Project drawings were submitted to permitting agencies for Phase I of the Franke Park Renaissance. The project team is working towards the completion of design development drawings in May.

- Chad and Rob completed and applied to the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program. If funded, \$200,000 would be awarded to the Spy Run Creek Bank Stabilization Project: Phase II.
- Successful applicants will be notified in August.
- City Council approved the construction contract for Riverfront Development Phase IIA. Construction is anticipated to begin in May, with completion set for this fall.
- Bids were received for landscape renovations at Lakeside Park. Improvements to the landscape around the arbors surrounding the sunken gardens should be completed by the end of June by Burley Landscape.
- Work continues on the Franke Park Drainage Project; the contractor expects the project to be completed by the second week of May.
- One bid was received for the St. Marys Bank Stabilization Project: Phase II. The Stanger Group was the lowest responsive bidder. We anticipate this project to be introduced to City Council in May or June; work is scheduled to be completed in winter 2022-23.
- Improvements to drainage adjacent to the BMX track at Franke Park were completed in partnership with the track coordinator. A newly cleared pit area is now available for riders and their families.
- Staff completed the review of job descriptions and position analysis questionnaires as part of Human Resource's new contract with Baker/Tilly.
- Chad and Derek presented the health effects of the environment to a group of high school students at the Mayor's Youth Engagement Council 'Peace of Mind and Body Symposium'.
- A third Weed Wrangle was held at Foster Park. Unfortunately, only one volunteer attended, but with the help of Landscape staff, another +/- 90' of invasive bush honeysuckle was removed from the riparian area along the St. Marys pathway.
- Staff met regularly with Conservatory management to discuss the upcoming Plant Sale, marketing, showcase, and facility operations.
- Staff reconvened with the Moody Park Master Plan steering committee. A third and final public input session will be held at the park in May; conceptual plans for the park will then be completed, with the master plan scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

Horticulture and Landscape Report- April 2022

- Show changes were completed the week of the 18th at the Botanical Conservatory; the "Under the Big Top" exhibit was removed and the "Emergence" Butterfly exhibit was installed.
- Landscape staff helped out in the greenhouse and delivered plants for the SCFVA the week of April 25th.
- Gardeners continued spring clean-ups throughout the parks. Clean-ups include debris and litter removal, pruning/deadheading, pre-emergent application, bed edging, and mulching. Priorities include rental facilities, high visibility areas, Zoo, and pools.
- Landscape staff continues to pick up limbs throughout the park due to the late snowstorm.
- Rose pruning and un-hilling were completed at the Lakeside Rose Gardens.
- Pre-emergent herbicide treatments on all large landscape/tree beds were completed in mid-April.
- The Freimann Square fountain was cleaned and filled late in the month.
- A total of 8 White Dogwood were planted at Rudisill Park (5) and Foster West (3) by Shade Trees Unlimited. The 3 trees at Foster West were part of the Arbor Day celebration. Quotes were received from contractors for Memorial Bench installations this spring. A Purchase Order will be rewarded in May.
- Quotes were received from contractors for continued maintenance, preparation, and seeding for the Buckner

Prairie. A Purchase Order will be rewarded in May.

- Lawnscape began mowing all contracted maintenance areas. Contracted bed cleanup and mulching continued.
- Lawnganics continued turf fertilization and weed control on all park locations under contract.
- Two seasonal employees began work in April.
- The job fair was attended on April 14th.
- Pfister Sprinkler Systems was awarded a PO to do seasonal irrigation repairs.
- Greenhouse staff has worked tirelessly throughout the month, preparing and delivering plants for the 'Emergence' showcase at the Conservatory and to all local schools for the School Children's Flower and Vegetable Association (SCFVA). Work for these programs was completed in back-to-back weeks, with the Mother's Day Plant Sale following immediately.

◆ **Riparian Management Report- April 2022**

- Isaac Hullinger- riparian seasonal hired.
- Eric Augsburger and Gregory Jacobs- hired as Sweet Breeze captains but are helping part-time in the riparian division.
- Attended the 2022 Job Fair at Psi Ote Barn.
- Hosted two volunteer events in April. First was with Target Team Members on April 19th, clearing honeysuckle along Spy Run Creek in the Brookview neighborhood. The second was Brightmark Plastics Renewal along St Marys River/Lawton picking up debris and litter on Earth Day, April 22nd. The total number of volunteers was 26 with a total of 120 hours.
- Guldin boat ramp was cleared and maintained after each flood. Continued to scour/wash silt build-up in gangway trench from flooding. Rip-rap was washed and maintained.
- Repairs on city docks were completed along with the improvement of the piano hinges for easier installation and removal.
- All four dock systems were successfully installed at Shoaff, Promenade, Guldin, and Headwaters West. Strong arms have now replaced the pole system at Headwaters dock.
- Operations are still under planning for the upcoming Sweet Breeze season. Cooperation between departments to complete maintenance and repair is still underway.

◆ **Forestry Report- April 2022**

- The forestry division continues working toward changes intended to attract and retain qualified forestry staff.
- This year's Arbor Day celebration was held at Foster Park West on Friday, April 29th, and was a success. The tree seedling giveaway was met with enthusiasm.
- Nearly 2,700 maple tree seedlings were distributed to area third-graders. The Homestead Highschool Environmental Club students and the School Children Flower and Vegetable Association deserve a big THANK YOU for all of their work that made this possible.
- Forestry Staff completed 7 tree-related property damage appraisals totaling \$4,590.00 in damages. The vast majority of these is the result of vehicles losing control and striking City-owned trees.
- We received bids for the 2022 fall tree planting. Shade Trees Unlimited was the only responsive bidder. Current tree planting cost has increased by 20%.
- Forestry staff installed 209 tree guards. These guards are intended to protect recently planted trees from damage caused by lawnmowers. Moving forward, the installation of these guards will be incorporated into the tree planting process.
- Crews pruned 0 street trees this month, bringing our total to 0 for the year. Our goal is to re-establish an 8-year pruning cycle.

- In March, Forestry crews completed 8 out-of-cycle tree maintenance requests. Examples of these requests include tree limb elevation to facilitate buses, removal of limbs touching homes, clearing street lighting and signage, and removal of dead limbs. We expect these to become more common as the routine maintenance cycle timeframe extends.
- 32 total trees were removed by in-house crews this month. (29 street tree removals, 3 park tree removals, 4 removals resulting from damage caused by storms, and 2 vehicles damaged tree removals).
- Forestry crews responded to 50 storm-related fallen/hanging limbs.
- Forestry staff responded to 3 after-hours calls concerning tree failures that resulted in blocked roadways.
- Forestry staff responded to and resolved (67) 311 call center tickets this month.

◆ **Botanical Conservatory Report – April 2022**

- Under the Big Top at the Botanical Conservatory continued to delight visitors until April 17; Emergence: Live Butterfly Exhibit was then installed and opened to the public on April 23 to an eager public. Bunny Tales in the Garden took place on April 15 – 16, marking the return of the Easter Bunny for the first time since 2019

Staff is gearing up for the Mother’s Day Plant Sale (May 5 – 8), National Public Gardens Week (May 10 – 14), and the start of Outdoor Wedding Season (May 21).

- Susan Boylan and Zoe Greer were hired as Weekend/Evening Receptionists, completing the receptionist team responsible for frontline customer service; Sophia Bodkin has been hired as a seasonal gardener. Two Camp ACTIVenture Counselors are in the process of being hired. Open positions include Seasonal Maintenance (1).

◆ **Conservatory KPIs**

- In April the Botanical Conservatory experienced an increase in attendance from last year. The removal of the mask mandate in City-owned buildings has anecdotally contributed to the increase. Conservatory Shop noticed a slight decrease from last year, however, the decrease was less than expected with one less April week of the Butterfly Exhibit compared to 2021; the Butterfly Exhibit has historically driven traffic into the building which increases Conservatory Shop revenue. Rental & Catering revenue continues to increase as the special event industry rebounds from the impacts of COVID-19; the new Rental Coordinator, Molly Shondell, is settling into her role nicely and has been a major asset to our rental clients.

Attendance

April 2021: 7,937 visitors

April 2022: 9,049 visitors

An increase of 1,112 or +14.01% to 2021

YTD Comparisons

2021 Attendance: 20,504 visitors

2022 Attendance: 24,426 visitors

An increase of 3,922 or +19.13% to 2021

Admissions Revenue

April Admissions 2021: \$24,679.00

April Admissions 2022: \$38,434.00

An increase of \$14,767 or +91.19% to 2021

YTD Comparisons

2021 Admissions Revenue: \$64,249.00

2022 Admissions Revenue: \$106,230.00
An increase of \$41,981.00 or +65.34% to 2021

Membership Revenue

April 2021: \$9,837.00
April 2022: \$9,500.00
A decrease of \$337 or -3.43% to 2021

YTD Comparisons

2021 Membership Revenue: \$26,450.00
2022 Membership Revenue: \$28,370.00
An increase of \$1,920.00 or +7.26% to 2021

Conservatory Shop Revenue

April 2021: \$25,656.69
April 2022: \$25,413.31
A decrease of \$243.38 or -0.95% to 2021

YTD Comparisons

2021 Gift Shop Revenue: \$58,909.50
2022 Gift Shop Revenue: \$78,779.09
An increase of \$19,869.59 or +33.73% to 2021

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

April 2021: \$4,137.50
April 2022: \$4,715.00
An increase of \$577.50 or +13.96% to 2021

YTD Comparisons

2021 Rental Revenue: \$12,860.00
2022 Rental Revenue: \$18,596.38
An increase of \$5,736.38 or +44.61% to 2021

Other Revenue (includes Activity Enrollments, Donations, etc)

April 2021: \$60,557.93
April 2022: \$10,486.45

YTD Comparisons

2021 Other Revenue: \$242,093.98
2022 Other Revenue: \$260,063.23

Conservatory Total Revenue

April 2021: \$124,868.12
April 2022: \$88,548.76
A decrease of \$36,319.36 or -29.09 to 2021

YTD Comparisons

2021 Total Revenue: \$404,562.48

2022 Total Revenue: \$492,038.70
An increase of \$87,476.22 or +21.62% to 2021

◆ **Conservatory Business Development**

- Staff continues working with Parks Department/Conservatory staff to coordinate details on media spots, contracts, tickets and giveaways, and video sponsor shoots for our 2022 events and exhibits. Spots and promotions by Fox 55 and Majic 95.1 were approved for the Mother's Day Plant Sale; Majic 95.1 for Bunny Tales in the Garden; 97.3 WMEE and ABC21 for the butterfly exhibit, and Majic 95.1 and ABC21 for Mother's Day in the Garden. All sponsors received their promotional tickets; a spreadsheet was created to track the distribution.
- Conservatory donations in April 2022 totaled \$29,873 (\$24,823 support from the Park Foundation, \$5,000 from the M. E. Raker Foundation for the 2022 Paris exhibit, and \$50.00 memorial for Lynn Knee).
- Staff completed the Spring 2022 Annual Appeal – it was sent on April 21st. The two-sided piece included donation and plant sale information.

◆ **Events: Conservatory Public Programs**

- *Bunny Tales in the Garden* (April 15-16) Throughout this 2-day event, there were 1,821 visitors (801 children, 1020 adults) who followed an Easter Tale leading them throughout the gardens. There were 6 main stations along the way, which included a spring craft, pot-a-polka-dot-plant, goody bags, a photo op with the Easter Bunny, and pets with baby animals. The weather turned out in the upper 40s and sunny on both days when the Easter Bunny was outside. The visiting public was very well pleased with changes to this year's event with positive remarks specific to traffic flow and layout.

◆ **Education**

- *Vegetable-Stamped Market Bag* (April 2):
 - This pre-registered program was canceled having not met a minimum registration requirement.
- *Spring Hoop Wreath* (April 9):
 - A total of 11 adult participants pre-registered and attended this trendy floral workshop facilitated by Conservatory staff. Additional wreath classes were requested for future programming.
- *Bee the Change- Flower Power* (April 12):
 - This drop-in program had 43 people (20 adults, 23 children) in attendance. Specifically, participants learned about flower parts with a positive emphasis on their role in the environment.
- *T'ai Chi Tuesdays* (April 12-May 24):
 - There is an AM (11 registered) and PM session (16 registered) as part of this spring series. Returning instructor, Sandy Gebhard is leading both sessions running until the 24th of May.
- *1st Garden Glimpse* (April 23):
 - A total of 118 visitors (30 children, 88 adults) stopped by a self-serve station offering butterfly activities on the opening day of the new showcase garden, "Emergence." A new scavenger hunt was also introduced to the public on this day!
- *Youth Field Trips*: In total, there were 4 groups with 99 students and 36 adults in April 2022. There

were 2 youth field trips totaling 36 students in April 2021. There were no groups in 2020 during the COVID-19 closure of the facility. In 2019, 12 groups brought 326 students. In 2018, 22 groups brought 749 students.

◆ Exhibits & Displays

- Naturescapes (April 14-June 23): The latest art display features work by the artist, Madeline Phuong. An opportunity to meet the artist was hosted at the Botanical Conservatory on April 17. Her works will be exhibited in the Jaenicke Room through the end of the current showcase exhibit.
- Emergence (Apr 23-June 26): The current Showcase Exhibit is an all-time favorite when butterflies return to the Botanical Conservatory each spring. It is our 19th year with live butterflies! This year's design includes sharp elements with a variety of structures for climbing and vining plants along with an emphasis on the act of emerging.

◆ Volunteers/Staff

- Program staff continues to schedule a variety of different volunteer opportunities at this busy time of year!
- Training for butterfly attendants is ongoing in the effort of fulfilling more open shifts. Considering a recent push with Plant Sale prep and Butterfly Attendant coverage, staff are assessing active participation in current volunteer opportunities and what recruitment strategies could be implemented going forward.

◆ Upcoming

May 18: Child Safety Training for camp staff
May 21: Spring Bonsai Show
May 22: Iris Flower Show
May 22: Build-A-Birdhouse pre-registered program

◆ Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

- Staff prepared and worked with Mutton rental to return the structural tent on the upper terrace and the outdoor restrooms were prepared for public opening in early May.
- Allied Mechanical has been on-site to work with the boilers to address issues with drains behind the boilers; carbon build-up inside the boilers is scheduled for maintenance in concert with the incoming HVAC controller replacement.

◆ Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

- The final two shifts of spring bulbs were planted in the Showcase House as part of the Under the Big Top show. Each shift contained approximately 2500 bulbs. The fragrance and color brightened rainy spring days for Conservatory visitors.
- A large display of bulbs was installed throughout the indoor and outdoor spaces of the Conservatory to add color to the Bunny Tales in the Garden event.
- The contractor has completed the second set of turfgrass treatments. These treatments address turfgrass aeration and broadleaf weeds such as dandelions.

- Outdoor spring cleanup is nearing completion at the Conservatory. Staff continue to thin shrubs and clean the edges of the paths throughout the outdoor garden spaces.
- Aquatic plants have been ordered to plant in the Terrace Garden water feature. The plants include water lily, hardy water lotus, blue flag iris, sweet flag, and other floating water plants. This will provide a beautiful backdrop for weddings, while also reducing the need for chemical inputs in the water feature.
- The tree crew began work on the trees inside the Conservatory. The crew performed a crown/end weight reduction to the large Indian Laurel Fig in the Tropical House. The increased light penetration will allow for planting beneath the canopy. All the large palms' skirts were raised with all the dead fronds and flowers removed. The largest stems of the clumping fishtail palm were removed to provide clearance between the glazing and palm fronds. Work will continue into early next month.
- An aged pond aerator compressor was replaced which supplied aeration to the lower pond in the Tropical House. The aeration compressor and plates add oxygen to the water, improving the conditions for the koi fish.
- Through the teamwork of Conservatory staff, Lawton staff, and volunteers, the Emergence Butterfly exhibit installation was a success. Primary elements in this show include vining and climbing plants, edible plants, trellises for visitors to see and walk through, new seating, and hanging air plants.



Bunny Tales' visit with the Easter Bunny was a popular return



The Spring Hoop Wreath workshop was well received by participants

Emergence Installation



Emergence Installation



Emergence Installation



Tree work completed
in Tropical Garden by
Xtreme Tree Service

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

- ◆ The Marketing Team is continuing to work on various Riverfront Marketing tasks with a special focus this month on promoting May/June programs and special events.
- ◆ The Parks Promenade link has received over 3,099 hits and www.RiverfrontFW.org has 4,960 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and has received over 1,657 hits in April.
- ◆ Completed evaluation reports for Pre-school Special Interest (Winter 2021/2022)
- ◆ A Golf Master Plan input survey was created and posted on the web.
- ◆ The Marketing Team produced various marketing assets and supported messaging around job openings and Job Pop-Up events as well as the April 14th Job Fair.
- ◆ The Marketing Team worked on sponsorships, website, e-news, posters, handbills, and other marketing assets for six additional Theatre concerts released in April. We designed and completed 47 projects.
- ◆ Summer Fun Times produced/delivered. Web content updates were made as well as adding events to three calendars.
- ◆ Senior Games brochure produced/mailed.
- ◆ Confirmed Salomon Farmers Market sponsorship with WAYNE FM: confirmed Fiber Arts Fest and Fall Harvest Fest with PBS Fort Wayne.
- ◆ Finalized sponsorships for River, Set, and Go with WPTA and WMEE.
- ◆ Submitted a \$200,000 grant application to the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program for the next phase of the Spy Run Creek Restoration Project.
- ◆ Eight E-newsletters were produced (this includes: Foellinger Theatre announcements, Botanical Conservatory Members and Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation for April, and a Lindenwood event).

- ◆ The Department held a successful Arbor Day Press Conference, including a *FREE* tree seedling give-a-way on April 29th.
- ◆ **February** Media Mentions: **49** **March** Media Mentions: **52** **April** Media Mentions: **72**

Web Statistics:	Users:	Hits:	Month:
	26,422	75,120	February
	42,302	124,848	March
	43,103	126,298	April

Social Media Totals for the months of:

	February	March	April
FB Followers	69,721	80,373	70,440
FB Reach	137,645	160,850	117,626
 Twitter Followers	13,149	13,204	13,253
 Instagram Follower	20069	20,194	43,396

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

- ◆ Golf season is finally getting into full swing. By mid-May, all of the leagues will have restarted, and outings are beginning and continue to be booked. McMillen Park has picked up a new monthly event/outing that has 40 players. Multiple outings have booked Foster Park, and Sunday, May 22 will have a new (to the Parks' courses) 132-player outing that moved from another local course. Offering alcohol sales has helped in booking outings.
- ◆ Logistical issues are being ironed out, and alcohol sales will benefit the revenue streams at the golf courses.
- ◆ The only obstacle to play so far this year has been the weather. An unusually cold and wet early spring has affected total play numbers to this point. However, even during this stretch activity level on nice days was extremely strong. As the weather has turned back to more of a seasonal average, activity is extremely strong and can be assumed to continue.
- ◆ Some issues with carts were discovered and are being addressed. Some of the batteries purchased 3-5 years ago as replacements are not living up to their expected life cycles. New batteries have been sourced and are replacing these defective batteries. Procedures to maintain these batteries through consistent checking/replenishing the water in them are being put in place.
- ◆ With that being said, we still have a decent percentage of our cart fleet that is aging out. The 24 carts at Shoaff Park are a mixture of 2002/2007 models. A request was put in to acquire 24 new carts again this year, but due to supply chain issues cart manufacturers are not guaranteeing delivery of any new carts this year.
- ◆ Shoaff Park also continues to suffer from occasional internet connectivity issues. These issues make it impossible to transact credit cards or ring thru purchases. These issues have already cost us a few thousand dollars in lost revenue this year. The firm Zayo is preparing to install a hard-line internet

connection to the site that will alleviate this issue.

- ◆ Meetings continue with the architecture firm of Hills-Forrest-Smith regarding the Master Plan for Foster Park redevelopment. The second of a series of public meetings will be held Thursday, May 19 at Sears Pavillion.



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

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager

- ◆ The City was awarded a nearly \$2.7 million Next Level Trails grant from the DNR for the final phase of the Pufferbelly Trail between Washington Center Road and the intersection of Lima Rd/Ice Way. Construction will occur in 2023.
- ◆ We had our first *Tread the Trails* event on 4/26. This new program with the Fort Wayne Running Club, Fort Wayne Trails, Inc, and New Haven is a biweekly 5K walk/run on the trails with options for longer and shorter distances. We had 36 runners and 17 walkers. The next date will be May 12th. The runs/walks will be held every other Thursday.
- ◆ We also had our first *Trek the Trails* ride on 4/26. Despite the cold, windy weather, we had over 55 bicyclists. The rides will continue every Tuesday night until the end of October.
- ◆ We have our first *Trot the Trails* event on May 21st on the Towpath Trail for horses.
- ◆ Mayor Henry and Jessica Henry, Executive Director of Humane Fort Wayne, kicked off a new program called, *Tails on Trails*, at Foster Park on April 30th at 1 p.m. This volunteer program will encourage trail users to pick up an adoptable dog at the shelter and take the dog for a walk on the trails at Foster or Tillman or on the Hanna Street Trail.
- ◆ May is Bike Month. You can check out the bike activities at kickstartfortwayne.com. We'll have Bike to Work Day on May 20th from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at The Porch (alley next to Pint and Slice). After work that day, Fort Wayne Outfitters & Bike Depot will have a Bike to Work Day after-party from 4 – 8 p.m. at 1004 Cass St.
- ◆ The Dupont Road Trail is finally finished except for some minor restoration work by McDonald's. The trail now stretches nearly 5 miles from Lima Road to Tonkel Road.
- ◆ The Fishing Line Trail between Ludwig and Cook is being paved on 4/28 and 4/29.

Division News and Media Coverage



◆ COVID Safety

Mayor Tom Henry today announced that masks will no longer be required at the City of Fort

Wayne- owned facilities effective March 1. Masks will continue to be recommended.

City-owned locations include Citizens Square, the Fort Wayne Metropolitan Human Relations Commission office, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department office, Parks and Recreation pavilions, community centers, youth centers, the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, and Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control's facility.

Additionally, the Indiana State Department of Health has rescinded much of the contact tracing and quarantine requirements. If employees test positive for COVID-19, they are still to notify their supervisor, stay home 5 days and follow the latest isolation guidelines. Risk Management no longer needs to be notified, as the City will cease contact tracing immediately. This is moving toward a more traditional model of how the flu and other diseases are handled.

Mayor Henry cited a reduction in local COVID-19 cases and fewer hospitalizations than in previous weeks and months. However, Mayor Henry continues to stress caution and vigilance and encourages residents to get vaccinated and use good judgment in public settings.

Registration continues for Learn to Swim Lessons

Learn-to-Swim is offered in conjunction with the American Red Cross and adheres to national standards for Red Cross aquatic programs. Classes are held at Northside Pool in Bob Arnold Park (Parnell Ave. at E. State Blvd.) and are open to boys and girls ages 1-15. Each Learn-to-Swim session consists of eight 45-minute lessons held Tuesday through Friday over two weeks. Pre-school and Toddler lessons are 30 minutes. Four Learn-to-Swim sessions will be offered this summer. Participants must be of minimum age **by June 1, 2022**. Register online at www.fortwayneparks.org, by phone at 260-427-6000, in-person at 705 East State Blvd. (business hours, Monday – Friday), or download the form from the website and mail, fax or use the drop-box at 705 East State Blvd.

On the Mayor Tom Henry Podcast, May 17, Brightpoint's Steve Hoffman is guest

<https://soundcloud.com/user-202170298/episode-79-brightpoint>

WPTA, May 17, Three Hoosier communities make Best Places to Live list – Fort Wayne cracks national Top 50, receives top rank among Indiana cities

<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/05/17/three-hoosier-communities-best-places-live-list/>

Inside Ind Bus, May 17, Fort Wayne on a list of best places to live

<https://www.insideindianabusiness.com/articles/three-hoosier-communities-on-best-places-to-live-list>

Foster Park Golf Course, 427-6735, www.fostergolfcourse.com

McMillen Park Golf Course and Driving Range, 427-6710,

www.mcmillengolfcourse.com Shoaff Park Golf Course and Driving Range, 427-6745,

www.shoaffgolfcourse.com

Season memberships are on sale at the Parks & Recreation Administrative Office (705 East State Blvd.) and all of the clubhouses. To schedule league reservations, an outing for a business, or tournaments, contact Gary Whitacre, manager of Golf Operations by phone at 260-427-6016 or email at gary.whitacre@cityoffortwayne.org

Masks are recommended inside city and park facilities but are no longer required as of March 1, 2022.

Melissa Etheridge to Play at Foellinger Theatre, August 2

General and In-Person Sales Begin Friday, May 13

Fort Wayne, Ind – Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation announces that Fort Wayne's Foellinger Theatre will host Melissa Etheridge and feature her new *One Way Out* album on August 2, 2022. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The concert will start at 7:30 p.m.

Known for her confessional lyrics and raspy, smoky vocals, Melissa Etheridge has remained one of America's favorite female singer-songwriters for more than three decades.

She stormed onto the American rock scene in 1988 with the release of her critically acclaimed self-titled debut album, then delivered such memorable originals as "Bring Me Some Water," "No Souvenirs" and "Ain't it Heavy," leading to the massive hits, "I'm the Only One" and "Come to My Window," followed by the hit single, "I Want to Come Over."

Early in her career, she acknowledged her sexual orientation when it was considered less than prudent to do so.

In 2004, after being diagnosed with breast cancer and losing her hair from chemotherapy, Etheridge appeared on the 2005 Grammy® telecast to sing "Piece of My Heart" in tribute to Janis Joplin. Eventually, she won her health challenge and gave hope to many women afflicted with the disease.

As a performer and songwriter, Etheridge continues to captivate and inspire audiences across the country with her signature rasp and substantial guitar chops combined with her endless tenacity.

All general and in-person sales at the Parks and Recreation Department (705 East State Blvd.) begin Friday, May 13, at 10:00 a.m. For more information, visit www.fortwayneparks.org and click on Purchase Theatre Tickets.

\$1 Admission to the Botanical Conservatory Thursday, April 14, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

New in 2022, the Conservatory admission is just \$1 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Thursday. Plus, Civic Center Garage parking is validated for free.

WANE, Golfing popularity is on the upswing – Parks Dept. featured <https://www.wane.com/news/golfing-popularity-is-on-the-upswing/>

WFFT, NIRRC plans for transportation trends 20 years in the future

https://www.wfft.com/news/northeastern-indiana-regional-coordinating-council-plans-for-transportation-trends-20-years-in-future/article_ed5ecfe8-d587-11ec-8160-0f03111e29ee.html

PLAY the PARKS

All Golf Courses Now Open!
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Make a tee time and play the parks!

Foster Park Golf Course	Shoaff Park Golf Course & Driving Range	McMillen Park Golf Complex
Historic 18-Hole Championship Course New Golf Carts • New Golf Paths	Challenging 18-Hole Course, All Par 3 City's Premier Driving Range Great for beginners, families and skilled golfers who want to play a quick round!	18-Hole Executive Course • Mad Anthony's Short Course Driving Range • Jerry Fox Learning Center Putting Green • Short Game Practice Area • Foot Golf Lifetime Sports Academy
Rudisill Blvd. & Old Mill Rd. (260) 427-6735	6401 St. Joe Rd. (260) 427-6745	Oxford at Hessen Cassel (260) 427-6710

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Just drag and drop to add text, images, dividers, and more.
Be sure to delete this section before sending it!

Lake Street Dive to Play at Foellinger Theatre, August 9

General Sales begin April 1

Fort Wayne, Ind – Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation announces that Fort Wayne's Foellinger Theatre will host Lake Street Dive on Tuesday, August 9, 2022. The concert will start at 8:00 p.m. By blending a variety of genres including pop, rock, R&B, and jazz, the eclectic Lake Street Dive has risen to become one of the premiere alternative rock bands. The band's most recent album "Obviously," is referenced as their "first truly abashed yacht rock record" by

Rolling Stone magazine

(2021) and topped the charts at No. 1 on Americana/Folk, No. 2 on Rock Albums, and No. 2 on Alternative Albums. Madison Cunningham will play the opening act.

All general and in-person sales at the Parks and Recreation Department (705 East State Blvd.) begin Friday, April 1, at 10:00 a.m. For more information, visit www.fortwayneparks.org and click on Purchase Theatre Tickets.

Five for Fighting with special guest The Verve Pipe to Play at Foellinger Theatre on August 13

General Sales begin on April 15

Fort Wayne, Ind – Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation announces that Fort Wayne's Foellinger Theatre will host Five for Fighting with a special guest The Verve Pipe, on August 13, 2022. The concert will begin at 8:00 p.m.

John Ondrasik -- the songwriter and performer known as the platinum-selling, Grammy-nominated, Five For Fighting has penned major hits, including the chart-topping "100 Years," "The Riddle," "Chances," "World," and "Superman (It's Not Easy)," which have earned tens of millions of streams and place him as a top-10 Hot Adult Contemporary artist for the 2000s. Ondrasik will have his full band on stage with him.

With a reputation for spectacular live performances, the multi-platinum alternative rock band The Verve Pipe is recognized worldwide for radio hits "Photograph," "Hero," "Happiness Is," "Never Let You Down," and the #1 smash single "The Freshmen."

All general and in-person sales at the Parks and Recreation Department (705 East State Blvd.) begin Friday, March 15, at 10:00 a.m. For more information, visit www.fortwayneparks.org and click on Purchase Theatre Tickets.

Masks are recommended inside city and park facilities but are no longer required as of March 1, 2022.

Registration continues for Camp ACTI-Venture

The brand-new *Camp ACTI-Venture* at the Botanical Conservatory engages campers in active, adventurous fun! It incorporates off-site excursions to city and state parks, rivers, trails, and other recreation destinations. Campers will experience zip lining, kayaking, hiking, bouldering, fire building, and orienteering activities. Another perk is cooling off in freshwater sources. Camp ACTI-Venture integrates exploration and nature play to foster individual accomplishment, community belonging, and character development. Natural elements of earth, air, water, and fire are also explored through safe, outdoor challenges that are designed to educate and thrill. Registration deadlines are one week before each session. Space is limited to 24 campers per week. Download the brochure from <http://www.botanicalconservatory.org/youth-education/202-camp-acti-venture>

WBCL, May 11, City Council approves trash contract

<https://www.wbcl.org/news/city-council-approves-eight-year-trash-contract>

Input FW, May 11, Hybrid work - Where is it happening in Fort Wayne, and how does it affect business culture

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/hybridwork.aspx>

Input FW, May 11, Murals on Wells Street

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/WellsStreetCorridor-BloomingMurals.aspx>

WOWO, May 10, Mayor Henry on Pat Miller Program discussing a trip to Poland

<https://www.wowo.com/mayor-tom-henry-takes-upcoming-trip-to-polish-sister-city/>

WBCL, May 10, Fort Wayne delegation to visit sister city in Poland

<https://www.wbcl.org/news/fort-wayne-delegation-visits-sister-city>

USA Today 10Best, May 2022, Feature on Fort Wayne

<https://www.10best.com/interests/explore/guide-fort-wayne-indiana-best-things-to-do-vacation/>

WANE, May 10, James Khan feature on his plans for a new development

<https://www.wane.com/news/woods-trails-a-river-and-a-boulevard-will-mark-a-new-development-with-restaurateur-james-khans-stamp-on-it/>

WANE, May 10, Trail users fear for safety at crossing on Carroll Road

<https://www.wane.com/news/trail-users-fear-for-safety-crossing-carroll-road/>

WPTA, May 10, City Council approves GFL

<https://www.fortwaynesnbc.com/2022/05/10/city-council-vote-gfl-contract-tuesday-member-says-process-was-rushed/>

WANE, May 9, TinCaps and Parks and Recreation Department leading the way for Fort Wayne Daisies monument

<https://www.wane.com/sports/local-sports/tincaps-parks-rec-leading-way-for-fort-wayne-daisies-monument/>

What's Happening in the Parks

The following events and programs are happening the week of May 15-22:

“Emergence: Live Butterfly Exhibit”

April 23-June 26, Public hours Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

The live butterfly exhibit continues at the Botanical Conservatory bringing an array of natural beauty and wonder! As plants and butterflies emerge with warmer weather, we too unfurl like the tendrils of plants and the wings of butterflies. Flying, climbing, and vining remind us of our inner workings and what it takes to reach greater heights. Come “hang out” and enjoy a twist in this year’s exhibit where vines and butterflies intertwine! Learn more at botanicalconservatory.org. Sponsored by The English Bontar Mitchell Foundation, Richard Fox and Family, The Waterfield Foundation, Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation, WPTA21, and 97.3 WMEE.

Mid-Week Mellow Out

Wednesday, May 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 2020 West Superior Street

Experience physical, mental, and emotional relaxation with this free Restorative Yoga and Singing Bowls session. Instructor Diane Rogers of Rooted Connection will begin and end the session with sound therapy using the calming vibrations of the singing bowls.

Yoga mats can be provided if needed. To experience the full benefits, we recommend bringing a blanket or large towel and a pillow for your comfort. Please call 427-6000 to pre-register.

Spring Wild Edible Plant Walk

Thursday, May 19, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Salomon Farm Park, 817 West Dupont Road

Learn how to forage for food in your backyard! This class will identify common edible wild plants in our area and their toxic look-a-likes. Participants will have opportunities to taste some wild edible plants and learn how those plants can be used for food and medicine, and when and how to harvest them. Carrie Vrabel is a wild food forager who teaches regularly at state and county parks. She is certified by the state of Indiana as a Wild Mushroom Identification Expert and is the founder of Wild Edible Indiana. This class is designed for ages 8 and above. Admission is \$18 per person. All minors must be accompanied by a paying adult. Please register online at FortWayneParks.org, or by phone (427-6000) by 5:00 p.m. on May 16.

\$1 Admission to the Botanical Conservatory

Thursday, May 19, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. *Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street*

The Conservatory admission is just \$1 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Thursday. Plus, Civic Center Garage parking is validated for free.

Spring Bonsai Show

Saturday, May 21, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. *Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory 110 South Calhoun Street*

Stroll through a miniature forest of familiar trees and meet with members of the Fort Wayne Bonsai Club to learn about this fascinating art form. An array of bonsai specimens and pots will be available for cash-only purchase from the Club. Show entry is included with general admission.

Sunday Heritage Concert Series: Fort Wayne Ballet

May 22, 2:00-3:00 p.m. *Old National Bank Plaza, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street*

Start your summer with Fort Wayne Ballet's professional company of dancers and great music from their Firefly Tour performance in the Old National Bank Plaza. This special Sunday Heritage Concert brings a variety of amazing dance performances into the heart of our community. We encourage you to bring your lawn chair. Concerts are free and open to all ages.

Iris Flower Show

May 22, Noon – 3:00 p.m. *Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 110 South Calhoun Street*

Enjoy the best of this year's blooms and visit the Northeast Indiana Iris Society, a local group of gardeners with a passion for growing Irises. These showy flowers are on display with stunning colors and a range of species. Attendees may vote for their favorite Iris. Show entry is included with general admission.

Summer *Fun Times* Program Guide is now available

Be prepared for summer fun in the Parks when you pick up a copy of this extensive listing of Parks programming for all ages. Print versions are available at Parks facilities including the Administration Offices at 705 East State Blvd. and the main Allen County Public Library and branches. It is also accessible online at

www.FortWayneParks.org

Save the Date/Join the Press Conference for Wells Street Bridge

WHO: Mayor Tom Henry will join Steve McDaniel, Director of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, David Weadock Manager of Project Administration for Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, and additional public officials

WHAT: Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation celebrates the replacement of all decorative knee portal components in the truss of the historic 19th-century Wells Street Bridge in Fort Wayne. The bridge is not only beautiful, but it also represents historically significant features including a rare Whipple truss configuration and genuine patented Phoenix columns.

This project has been funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service's Historic Preservation Fund Program and is being administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation, and Archaeology. It complies with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations as required.

The bridge was designed by two local engineers to carry large volumes of city traffic and built-in 1884 by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio. It is unique and rare in that most bridges like it no longer exist. Today the bridge is preserved for pedestrian crossing over the St. Marys river from Promenade Park to the Parkview Tree Canopy Trail. It can also be rented for wedding ceremonies, parties, and public events.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 31, at 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Wells Street Bridge, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street (will move to Park Foundation Pavilion in case of rain)