

## Steve McDaniel – Director

- ◆ September was a full month of programming which included the Johnny Appleseed Festival, the Salomon Farm Fall Festival, World River Days at Promenade Park, and the FitLot Celebration at the downtown Community Center to name just a few things.
- ◆ Four staff members attended the NRPA's National Conference. These staff members needed CEUs for their certifications. We are looking at several items from the conference to try and implement in the coming year.
- ◆ Several staff members attended the Norther District meeting for the IPRA. In the education session, we learned about an alternative funding method by the State of Indiana for Parks improvements.
- ◆ I attended the Mayor's Press Conference to announce the 2023 City Budget. This meeting kicked off the budget cycle discussions with City Council. Sandra and I presented the Parks and Recreation budget on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Discussion and final passage are scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ We celebrated two employees (Mike Gore & Kaye Callow) who have been with the department for 25 years this year. They were inducted into our Quarter Century Club. We also celebrated one employee (Kathy Pargmann) who has been with the department for 35 years. There is a total of 13 members in the club.
- ◆ We closed out our Theater season with two performances this month. The first was the Philharmonic with music from Jurassic Park. The second was country singer Brett Eldredge. It was a good season. Tim and his staff took on the concession and bar operations besides dealing with all of the performers.
- ◆ I attended the Harvester Neighborhood Association meeting to discuss the REA Magnet property on Pontiac Street. I received some input from the association on how they would like to view the property in the future.
- ◆ Several of the staff members attended a class on Cybersecurity Threats held by the City's computer consultant, Resultant. This started a quarterly computer meeting schedule held by that company.
- ◆ I met with a few staff members from Visit Fort Wayne to discuss how our two organizations can collaborate in the future. Also, I was able to meet with their new CEO Jill Boggs.

## 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**
  - On Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>, the Jennings Recreation Center and Weisser Park Youth Center both held their annual Harvest Fest. This is the first time since the Pandemic that the event has been open to the public. It was a wonderful time at both locations. The youth had a great time playing games, winning prizes and candy along with all the special treats. Both sites did a variety of games, costume contest, coloring contest, art and crafts which included painting pumpkins, making mummy heads and more. The sites served a variety of awesome food and snacks which included some specific harvest fest items, such as: Chili cheese corn dogs, popcorn hands, candy corn mix, walking tacos, hot chocolate, hot/cold cider and much more. The youth and families that attended the sites events had a great time. The staff put in a great

deal of work to have everything at the event ready to go and it all showed. Jennings had 30 in attendance and Weisser had 76 in attendance for this event.

- On October 31<sup>st</sup> the Jennings Center had an emergency shut down due to the smell of gas. After Lawton and the appropriate personnel from NIPSCO came out they determined it was a sewer gas due to dry pipes.

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

- In the month of October there was a 12% increase in youth attendance. Metro football ended and this is when we typically see an increase to After School Program. The Drum Line program ended and will resume in February programming. We have resumed the Dream Team youth Steppers Program.
- The MPCC Annual Harvest Fest yielded a successful turnout. This event returned this year after being cancelled the last two years due to COVID-19. The family-oriented event allowed community members a safe and fun environment to bring their families to. The event consisted of games, costume contest with prizes, raffles for prizes, community vendors, bounce houses, and a haunted room. 960 community members attended the event. Prizes that were given out were (2) 55" televisions, restaurant and manicure gift cards, six bicycles and two power wheel vehicles. Harlean Fall and Director McDaniel volunteered as judges for the youth costume contest. We were extremely pleased to have them and appreciate their volunteerism. Councilman Glynn Hines was gracious enough to emcee the event and he did a wonderful job. The youth and parents expressed on our Facebook that they had a wonderful time and the event and were extremely grateful that it was offered to their families.

#### **Salomon Farm Park**

- Sunflower fields are officially done for the season. Staff will spend the off-season planning and preparing for the 2023 flower season. Larry Hicks and Eden Lamb met with Lynda Heavrin to discuss the season and seed ordering. Staff will compile notes on what went well and what did not.
- Four Learning Center Rentals were successfully booked in the month of October. This is an increase from 2021 in which one rental was booked.
- Handmade Homemade Sale was held on Sunday, October 16 from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm. This is an annual vendor sale held at Salomon Farm Park in The Wolf Family Learning Center and the Old Barn. Farmers, bakers, crafters and artisan vendors were on-hand selling their handmade or homegrown goods. Our attendance was 325 which was slightly lower than 2021 which brought in 435 people. There were 21 vendors present.
- Salomon staff is working with McMillen Community Center's fall after school program in the months of October, November and December. McMillen will be bringing a small group out to Salomon Farm Park to visit with the farm animals, learn about farm animals and animal care. This will happen every Tuesday around 4:00 pm until 5:00 pm or 5:30pm.
- Salomon Farm Park was a satellite location for the 2022 General Election. Voting hours are: Monday, October 31, 2022 – Friday, November 4, 2022 from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm and Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.
- Old Barn rentals ended on Monday, October 31, 2022 for the season.

- Summit City Music Theatre's first rehearsal was held on Sunday, October 23, 2022 at 5:30 pm in the Learning Center. After the Old Barn rental season is over rehearsals will move to the Old Barn.

### **Sweet Breeze**

- Two speciality tours were scheduled. The theme Fright Night Haunted Tour which was on the same night has the Downtown Fright Night celebration Saturday, October 15 from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm. This tour included spooky music, haunted decorations, candy and scary stories. Participants were encouraged to dress up. 30 of 32 available seats were purchased for this tour at The second tour was a Fall Colors tour which was held on Sunday, October 16, 2022 from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. This tour included live music by LaDean, donuts and fruit with coffee and the beautiful autumn scenery. This tour was sold out with 24 guests.
- Sweet Breeze was pulled from the river on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 9:00 am to be winterized and taken to storage. The boat will be stored at the RAE building and wrapped within the next couple weeks.

### **Hurshtown Reservoir**

- Hurshtown Reservoir closed for the season on Saturday, October 15, 2022.
- Total attendance for May – October was 12,808 compared to 14,911 for the same time period in 2021.
- There were 253 Annual Season passes sold in 2022 compared to 260 in 2021.
- There were 199 Annual Senior passes sold in 2022 compared to 222 in 2021.

### **Golf**

- Gary Whitacre, Manager of Golf stated that golf play has continued to be steady, mainly due to the warm and dry conditions.
- Bryan Keister, Golf Superintendent reported that he had blown out the irrigation lines at all three (3) golf courses. He is working with City Utilities to replace a water meter at Foster Park Golf Course. The issue was found earlier in the season but City Utilities agreed to wait to replace after the lines were empty because there was no way to isolate the irrigation lines.
- Jason Smith reported that Shoaff Park Golf Course POS system has finally been upgraded with actual fiber optics. The hope is that these upgrades will limit the interruptions and complete shutdown of the system that has been a real problem in the past.
- Gary Whitacre stated that Shoaff Park GC was scheduled to close for the season at the end of business on Sunday October 30, 2022, however due to continued warm weather this was extended to November 3, 2022. Foster and McMillen Park GC will close for the season at the end of business Friday November 11, 2022.

### **Pools**

- Northside and McMillen Pools will have their sound systems upgraded for the 2023 season. The sound system is a vital part of the pool operations. They are used to make

announcements, alert patrons of safety situations and clearing the pool. The two (2) systems have encountered various problems for a few years.

- Jason Smith and Rob Hines are working with Anthony Wayne Services to secure a grant to purchase two (2) new portable pool lifts. The existing lifts are outdated as well as require maintenance to operate correctly. This has been a problem for a couple of years.

### **Riverfront**

- October at Promenade Park started with a week full of rentals in the Park Foundation Pavilion. The Animal Care & Control: Howl-o-walkoween rental held on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Animal Care & Control: Howl-o-walkoween was a great rental/event in the pavilion with well over 300 people and over 50 dogs at the event for people to meet. It provided a great way for people to come down to Fright Night and our Raven Scavenger Hunt.
- Riverfront Programs continued at Promenade Park in October with the continuation of our Sunday Heritage Concert Series and Yoga on the Riverfront. These Riverfront programs were integrated into our Sensory Expo event held on October 9<sup>th</sup>. At this event the Concert Series and Yoga were held as sensory friendly programs. The Sensory Expo had over 200 attendees with 10 local community vendors talking about all of the sensory programs and activities that have throughout the year. The event highlighted all of our own inclusive programming through Riverfront and created partnerships with other community organizations that work with sensory friendly programming. Fright Night: Raven Scavenger Hunt was held on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> as part of the Downtown Improvement District's Fright Night event. Around 380 people came to Promenade park and participated in the Raven Scavenger Hunt. This attendance continues to improve each year as more people learn about this event and continue to attend the Fright Night Event from the Fort Wayne DID. We hope to continue to build on this momentum for next and incorporate new elements to this event.

### **Community Center**

- Mary Wagner Stockman was promoted to Community Center Manger to replace Patti Davis who was promoted to Recreation Superintendent.
- The Halloween Haunt event was held on October 15 at the Community Center. There were 1,050 attendees including volunteers, sponsors. The weather was great for the variety of activities that included bingo, crafts, cornhole, kids' games and crafts. In addition, there was a car show in the parking lot.

### **◆ Salomon Farm Park**

- Old Barn Restoration work began the week of July 11, 2022. This project was scheduled for about 6 weeks of work, weather permitting, and was complete in time for Concert on the Farm on August 21, 2022.
- Sunflower fields and flower fields have been planted. The limited amount of rain in the area in June and July was concerning, sparking discussion of potential irrigation for the future. This had a major effect on the front field (seen from Dupont Rd.), which was designated for photographers. Due to the lack of rain, the weeds in the field grew much faster than the sunflowers stunting their growth. This

field was not as vibrant as in previous years so the decision to mow the field was made in mid-July. The focus was placed on the 6-acre plot by the Heritage Barn, the U-pick fields. With more rain in the area, August and September blooms looked promising. The first quarter of the field had sunflowers blooming in late – early August. U-pick hours remained the same in August. Scheduled U-pick hours were Wednesday through Friday from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm and Saturdays from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm.

- Annual Concert on the Farm took place on Sunday, August 21 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Old Barn. Three new bands were featured at Concert on the Farm this year. Cassie Beer from Rosalind and the Way opened the concert followed by Rogues & Bandits and the headliners were Debutants. Patrons were encouraged to bring their chairs due to limited seating in the Old Barn, gates opened around 3:30 pm and admission was \$5 per person. Food was available for purchase from Shigs In Pit and alcohol beverages were available from Mad Anthony's. Paid attendance was 310 people versus 175 in 2021.
- The Annual Fall Harvest Festival was Friday, September 23, 2022, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm and Saturday, September 24, 2022, from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. This was a two-day celebration of the history and culture of the American farm. Event admission was free and open to all ages. Traditional activities included: interaction with farm animals, hands-on activities, antique farm equipment demonstration throughout Friday and Saturday, horse-drawn tractor rides, tractor rides, learn to drive a tractor, kids barrel rides, Farmers' Market Saturday only, Antique Tractor Parade Saturday at noon and the Applejack cloggers performances on Saturday. The event sponsor was Fort Financial Federal Credit Union.
  - New additions to the festival in 2022:
    - Hooley Pony Rides – The paddock pasture provided a wonderful space for the kids to circle while on the pony rides as the staff guided.
    - Poplar Gap provided Bluegrass music in the Heritage Barn on Saturday.
    - On Saturday, patrons enjoyed watching dog frisbee demonstrations provided by Summit City Disc Dogs.
    - Sunflower u-pick was available on both days during the festival.
    - Fiber Art vendors joined the Festival with their fiber demonstration and items for sale in the Old Barn.
    - Our double gate system allowed for hands-on interaction with the goats. This was extremely popular on Friday and Saturday.
    - Face painting was available on Saturday.
- The last Salomon Farmers' Market was on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. In 2022 we saw a total attendance of 5,062 which was an increase from the 2021 attendance of 3,508. In 2022 we average 389 people per market.

#### ◆ Sweet Breeze

- 39 public tours were conducted for August. The average ridership was 24 in August 2022 compared to 34 public tours in August 2021 with an average ridership of 31.
- 37 public tours were conducted for September. The average ridership was 31 in September 2022 compared to 35 public tours in September 2021. The average ridership in September 2021 was 32.
- One specialty tour was scheduled. The theme was Fall Equinox Tour which was on Thursday, September 22 from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm. This tour included live Irish folk music by Carrie White and

Matt Katinsky with cider and donuts. 23 of 28 seats were purchased for this tour at a rate of \$35 per seat.

- Sweet Breeze tours will wrap up with three themed tours scheduled for Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The boat will be pulled and winterized shortly after these tours.

#### ◆ Johnny Appleseed

- Johnny Appleseed closed for the annual Johnny Appleseed Festival. The campground closed on Sunday, September 11, 2022, and reopened Wednesday, September 21, 2022.
- The campground will remain open for the first week of November for the Old Fort Cluster Dog Show.

#### ◆ McMillen Park Community Center

- In August there was a 47% decrease in youth attendance. The decrease was due to the building being closed for annual clean-up and youth returning to school. Currently, we are offering homework assistance, free play, and Kid's Café. All other programs and services will resume in October. In September, there was a 48% decrease in youth attendance. The decrease is due to youth returning to school and not having transportation from the school to the center.
- To be at the full staff we would need to hire 7 more staff. 5 Seasonal Program Coordinators and 1 part-time maintenance staff. There were no new applicants in August.
- Percinta Hunter was promoted from Coordinator to Supervisor at McMillen Park Community Center.

#### Community Youth Centers

- The Youth Centers were closed from August 1-5, 2022 for their annual shut down. Both Jennings and Weisser supervisors have been doing some extensive cleaning of the buildings to create more space and remove things that have been stored for many years that can no longer be used.
- Fort Wayne Community Schools began August 10<sup>th</sup>- This is the schedule we follow for the Youth program. August is a "regroup" month for the youth. They do various activities and small programs which lead up to our full program beginning on Sept. 6, 2022.
- Supervisors and staff attended the annual Kids Café training at Community Harvest Food Bank on August 8<sup>th</sup>
- Mr. Dmitri and Ms. Davis continue to work on new relationships for more outreach to be brought in. this is especially important now as we are short on staff. Joel Bowerman is currently "stationed" at Weisser park Youth center due to only having one staff there at this time. He does the cooking and also some recreation daily.
- Mr. Ayers, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Chuck met with Mr. Dave Weadock at Jennings on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> to review potential improvements that could be completed by November, for the Wassail and the celebration of the 75yr anniversary of Jennings.
- Each site received new office furniture (desk, file cabinet, chair). The sites had not had new furniture in over 20 years. They have always received "hand me down" items for the building so this was a very much-needed and welcoming purchase.
- We will also start our E-gaming program with each center playing at the center level to begin then tournaments against the other center. They are excited to begin playing on the SWITCH game unit. Mr. Dmitri gave all the supervisors and managers a tutorial on how to work the unit. We will also begin our entrepreneur/skills-building program where the youth learn how to make T-shirts on the Cricut machine.

- On September 30<sup>th</sup> Community Youth Centers partnered with Fort4Fitness for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. The youth and staff participated in the Kid's last mile, where they went out to Parkview field and walk/ran the last mile of a marathon. Each site had been practicing with a specific exercise and short running program to get ready for this event. The youth enjoy being out in the community with all the other youth and participants. At the end of the mile, once they cross the finish line, they receive a medal for completion. It is awesome to see their faces as they complete their task of the last mile.

### **Food Service**

- Assisted Chef Carl during Ivy Tech's culinary program on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:00 PM. The program allowed youth the opportunity to learn kitchen etiquette and safety as well as sample some tasty toppings like sweet potato parfait, acai, citric acid, jam, and the favorite whipped cream all prepared by Chef Carl. Next month we'll be creating our fruit smoothies
- Staff attended Community Harvest Food Bank's Agency Day on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-11:00 AM. We the department in front of around fifty (50) other agencies let them know how Kid's Café works and answer any questions about the program. This was a great way to engage with people and organizations in our community providing exposure and promoting the department
- Kid's Café Meals & Snacks Served September 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022:
  - Jennings – 208 meals / 118 snacks
  - McMillen – 337 meals / 140 snacks
  - Weisser – 553 meals / 580 snacks

### **Community Center**

- A summer volunteer appreciation party was held on August 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm at the Community Center with 53 volunteers in attendance. This party was a very informal potluck party. We provided the shredded chicken sandwiches and drinks and the volunteers brought sides and desserts. This was a great opportunity for staff and volunteers to interact and participate in a variety of fun activities together
- Staff participated and help organize the Senior Information Fair that was held on September 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am-2:00 pm at Turnstone. Approximately 1000 attended.
- AARP hosted their COVID-delayed grand opening of the FitLot at the Community Center. Attendees had a chance to

### **Riverfront Monthly Report**

- As Summer begins to conclude at Promenade Park, August has proven how many people come to the Park for Riverfront Programs along with partnered events/programs that utilize the Park during this Month. The August attendance of 12,457 from Events/Programs at Promenade Park was the highest amount of attendance this year. With organizations like Arts United Taste of the Arts and the City of Fort Wayne Street Department's Open Street, the Park was filled with people attending downtown Fort Wayne events. Open Streets included many vendors in the space along with live music from the "School of Rock" in the Sweetwater Bandshell. Taste of the Arts included live music throughout the entire day in the Park Foundation Pavilion and the Sweetwater Bandshell. It also had food trucks on Harrison Street and vendors throughout the Park. Along with other organizations utilizing

the Park, Riverfront held its biggest event of River, Set, Go! Featuring the Fort Wayne Dragon Boat Races attracting 4,000 people to the Park. The event was held on a beautiful day and began with the Chinese Friends and Family Cultural elements that kicked off the racing on the St. Mary's River. River, Set, Go! programs included children's activities, food trucks, floating yoga, and live music that concluded with the lighting of the fire pits on the river. August also shows the conclusion of Riverfront Events of the Muddy River Concert Series and River Rangers.

- Riverfront programming began to slow down moving into September with our usual Yoga on the Riverfront and Sunday Heritage Concert Series. The American Legion played once again in the pavilion during the "Be a Tourist in Your Hometown" event hosted by Visit Fort Wayne. Bad weather on September 11<sup>th</sup> played a major factor in a decline of attendees for Promenade Park with most activities being outdoors during this time. We took advantage of the pavilion overhang to create a spot to get out of the rain for great activities. On September 24<sup>th</sup> we hosted "Free Family Fishing Day" at the North side dock. A colder morning did not stop attendees from coming out to this great event held on the DNR no fishing license day. September 24<sup>th</sup> was also the first day of World Rivers Day: Clean Drains Fest with children's activities and Family Movie Night with the playing of "Finding Nemo" on the Auer Lawn. The next day continued World Rivers Day: Clean Drains Fest with a large number of people taking advantage of discounted Sweet Breeze tickets along with live music, vendors, and educational demonstrations in the Park. The event was well attended even with unpredictable weather.
- The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation "Park Paddlers" participated in the Dragon Boat Races and placed 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Riverfront team met with several participating dragon boat teams to get their feedback from the River Set Go event to help plan for improvements next year.

### **Golf Courses**

- Gary Whitacre stated that Foster Park GC hosted the Concordia Invitational which had a total of nineteen (19) teams. That's a minimum of ninety-five (95) players and numerous spectators. Jason Smith stated that numerous coaches and spectators were very complimentary about the condition of the course as well as how organized it was.
- Tom Mizzell, Bryan Keister, and Jason Smith are making progress in continuing to replace all of the bad batteries in the golf carts as they are available. This is making a huge difference in maximizing the revenue for rentals. They will continue until all of the bad batteries have been replaced.
- One of the main irrigation motors at Foster Park GC burned up. The approximate date for rebuilding and replacement is four (4) weeks. Bryan Keister stated that they are still able to water the golf course effectively, it just takes more time.
- Gary Whitacre stated that there has been a large uptick in outings, especially at Foster Park GC. The official number for 2022 and the increase from previous years will be reported at the end of the season. The majority of the outings have already requested dates for 2023.

### **Aquatics**

- Daryn Schwartz reported that Northside and McMillen Pools have closed for the season. He also stated that it was a good season and there were minimal days that the facilities had to

close due to staffing issues. Overall the staff was very thin but worked exceptionally hard to insure the safety of the patrons.

### **Lifetime Sports Academy**

- Jason Smith reported that the Lifetime Sports Academy wrapped up the twenty-fourth (24) active years of the program. The program finished with seven hundred and eighty (781) participants registered. This was an increase over 2021. Jason stated that even with the extreme temperatures the kids still came out and participated regularly.

### **City Tennis Tournament**

- Jason Smith stated that the City Tennis Tournament finished on August 4, 2022. He reported that there was a total of one hundred and seven (107) participants that competed in ten (10) different divisions. He also stated that for the first time there were no women's singles or doubles divisions. Women's overall participation has been declining for years. After much discussion over several years, no one seems to be able to figure out a way to grow participation.
- Jason Smith also stated that a new format was implemented for the Singles and Doubles formats this year. The divisions were played on two (2) separate weekends instead of during the week with the rest of the events. He stated that the purpose was to try and attract more players. The results were positive, adding four (4) additional players to the Men's Open Singles as well as bringing back the Open Mixed Doubles. The hope is that in 2022 the dates and format will be in place early enough that players can get the tournament on their calendars. Jason also stated that there are other changes that he would like to get in place but details need to be worked out.

### **General Items**

- Several Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Staff attended the Indiana Parks and Recreation Northern District meeting hosted by New Haven Parks and Rec. on September first. Staff got a chance to see how they received funding for their recent improvements including a new playground, outside patio, and pickleball courts.
- In addition to planning fall and winter events, the Staff is working on their 2023 goals, capital projects, and seasonal staffing recruitment strategies.

## **Sandra Odisho, CPA – Manager, Finance**

- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 251 employees (128 full-time and 123 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending October 22, 2022 and paid on October 28, 2022.
- ◆ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of October 31, 2022:
  - Forestry Division (Fund 121) – Two positions
  - Supervisor IV – Community Center Outreach Services (Fund 121)
  - Supervisor V – Grounds Maintenance (Fund 121)
  - Gardener (Fund 121)
  - Project Management Technician (Fund 121)
  - Recreation Center Coordinator – Jennings (Fund 121)
- Pavilions rentals were still going strong in October. All enclosed pavilions were reserved every Saturday and Sunday along with many of the open pavilions.
- Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, we go from managing 21 pavilions down to the following eight:

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- Sears, Franke #1, Pond, Lakeside #1, Hefner, Riverlodge, and Psi Ote Lower and Upper are available year-round as they are enclosed and heated.
  - The eight pavilions that we reserve in the winter are almost completely booked up through December 31, 2022 on Saturdays and Sundays. Just a few options are still available.
  - Pavilion fee and policy changes approved in the October Board meeting were updated in RecTrac and on the Web:
    - The new pavilion, Foster #3, was added to the reservation software.
    - All pavilion fees were increased in the software in preparation for the November 1st price increase.
    - The Pavilion Rental Contract was updated with the new, more flexible refund policy that is effective November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Registration Staff was busy entering the 106 classes from the Winter Fun Times into our RecTrac registration software.
  - The Winter Fun Times registration will begin November 2<sup>nd</sup>. December through February programs are covered in this brochure. Breakfast with Santa at the Conservatory has traditionally been the most popular program in the Winter Fun Times!
  - Sweet Breeze ticket sales ended October 16<sup>th</sup> for the season.
  - Additional Appropriations for the 2022 Budget were submitted to the Controller's office in the amount of \$975,676. This was due to three Emergency Purchase Orders (EPO's) for tree related storm cleanup from storms dated 6/13/22 and 7/5/22. This request represents the actual costs incurred in the storm cleanup.
  - Budget Transfers for the 2022 Budget were submitted to the Controller's office in the amount of \$400,000. We requested a budget transfer from 5100's of \$400,000 to be transferred to 5200's for \$190,000 and to 5300's for \$210,000. This was due to excess amounts being available in the 5100's, due to seasonal employment being down. The need identified in the 5200's and 5300's was due to the increased cost of materials and supplies and contracted services we have experienced this year.
  - The 2023 Budget passed City Council on October 25, 2022. This included the Park Department Budget in the amount of \$22,414,287 which will be presented in the November Board meeting for Park Board approval.
- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 262 employees (126 full-time and 136 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending September 24, 2022, and paid on September 30, 2022
  - ◆ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing, or in the process of being hired, as of September 30, 2022:
    - Forestry Division (Fund 121) – Three positions
    - Program Manager – Safety & Training (Fund 121)
    - Grounds Equipment Supervisor (Fund 121)
    - Maintenance Tech II (Fund 121)
    - Project Management Technician (Fund 121)
  - ◆ The Finance and Support Services Division welcomed two new employees on September 2, 2022, and we have been busy getting them trained in their new positions:
    - Payroll and Accounts Payable Specialist, Tiffany Krizo
    - Front Office Registration Specialist, Maxine King.
  - ◆ Pavilion rental is still going strong in September. Almost all the enclosed pavilions were reserved every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in September, and almost all of the open pavilions were reserved every Saturday and Sunday in September

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- ◆ Set up an email survey to go to all pavilion renters. In the past pavilion, renters have been given a survey to fill out when picking up their pavilion key codes. Renters now receive this information by email without having to come into the office.
- ◆ Met with Kathy, Marketing Lead, to discuss changes to the Pavilion Rental Refund Policy. The recommended changes will be presented to the Board at the October Board Meeting
- ◆ Added 14 additional boat tours for the Friends of the River event at Promenade Park on September 24th and 25th. These tours were \$5 each and sold out quickly
- ◆ Wrapped up the Foellinger Theatre ticket sales on Friday, September 23rd.
- ◆ The completed 2023 Budget was due in mid-July to the Controller's Office. The 2023 Budget was introduced to City Council in September with Council Departmental Budget meetings and Budget passage occurring in October
- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 328 employees (125 full-time, 203 regular part-time, and seasonal) for the payroll ending August 13, 2022, and paid on August 19, 2022.
- ◆ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, or in the process of being filled:
  - Forestry Division (Fund 121) – Four positions
  - Grounds Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
  - Maintenance Tech II (Fund 121)
  - Manager VI - Safety / Operations (Fund 121)
  - Security (Fund 451)
  - Project Management Technician (Fund 121)
- ◆ The Finance and Support Services Division welcomes two new employees:
  - Payroll and Accounts Payable Specialist, Tiffany Krizo. Her first day on the job was September 2, 2022.
  - She comes to us from Petco Stores where she was an Assistant Manager.
  - Front Office Registration Specialist, Maxine King. Her first day on the job was also September 2, 2022.
  - She comes to us from Parkview Hospital where she worked as a Procedure Scheduler.
- ◆ Both of these new employees are great additions to our staff and we are so glad that they joined our Team!
- ◆ We began taking registrations for the Fall Fun Times on August 3rd. There are lots of great fall programs in this brochure! September through November programs is covered in this brochure.
- ◆ Pavilion reservations are still going strong and all of our 21 pavilions were reserved every Saturday, Sunday, and Monday in August.
- ◆ Sweet Breeze ticket sales are still going strong. We are currently selling tickets for tours through the 2nd weekend of October.
- ◆ The Foellinger Theatre ticket sales have been selling well and the concert season is winding down with only a couple of concerts left in September: Jurassic Park in concert with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and Brett Eldredge.
- ◆ The completed 2023 Budget was due in mid-July to the Controller's Office. The 2023 Budget will be introduced to City Council in September with Council Departmental Budget meetings and Budget passage occurring in October.

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

## **Facilities Management**

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **277** for October. This is down from: **279** in September.
- The summer rental season officially ended on the 31st. This means that the 14 summer facilities were winterized with all water shut off and supplies removed until spring 2023.
- Pressure washing was completed at the Promenade Park pavilion patio, Shoaff Park's Conklin pavilion, and Buckner Park's shelter.
- Graffiti was removed underneath the Wells street bridge at Bloomingdale Park, Swinney Park pavilion, Lakeside Park pavilion #1 restrooms, and the Packard Park shelter.
- Winterization continues on summer rental facilities as well as non-heated buildings and drinking fountains.
- Hurshtown reservoir closed for the season. The building was winterized and all piers were removed and stored.
- The Freimann Square fountains were shut down and covered up for the winter.
- The holiday lights were placed on the roof of the downtown community center in preparation for installation the first week of November. The youth centers display was installed at Weisser Park community center, and the McMillen Park community center. The displays for Jennings center, Reservoir Park's Cooper center will also be installed the first week of November.
- Memorial benches were installed at Foster Park, Foster ark West, and Repka Park.
- Both the shade structures at Kreager Park's Taylors Dream and the windscreens at the Swinney Park tennis center were taken down and stored for the winter.

## **Grounds Maintenance**

- Heavy equipment started on fybar work in some of our playgrounds.
- They are also working on gravel lots as well as doing work for Fantasy of lights.
- Heavy equipment also helped with the removal of the docks at Hurshtown.
- Mulching decks have been installed on the mowers.
- Trash cans were delivered to and picked up for cancer walk at Foster Park and Reservoir Park for a basketball tournament.
- Seasonal trash cans are being removed from the park for the winter and taken to Kreager where they will be cleaned and prepared for next summer.
- Football goal post were removed from Lawton Park for the season.
- Little league diamonds were Harley raked.

## **Project Administration**

- Bowser Park Pavilion – Concrete flatwork has been completed. Contractor is preparing for exterior and interior building improvements.
- Buckner Park Trail Construction – Project has begun including excavation of portions of the trail and drainage improvements.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project Phase 2 – Work is in progress including demolition, tuckpointing and installation of new roof materials.

- Foster Park Golf Course – Final plans and cost estimate submitted to Parks. A public meeting is scheduled for November 3<sup>rd</sup> to present master plan.
- Kreager Park Tennis Backboard and Fence – Construction is in progress.
- McMillen Golf Course Cart Paths Phase 2 – Construction of cart paths and seeding is completed. Contractor is performing additional parking lot work per the contract.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Drawings nearing completion. Permitting in progress, and may be finished in February 2023. Bidding planned for late 2023.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. Additional work ongoing at Heritage Barn.
- Salomon Farm Entrance – Plans in progress for improvements. Bidding to occur early 2023.
- Salomon Farm Garden Fence – Fence construction completed. Awaiting installation of gates.
- Sheldon Drive Playground – Playground scheduled for installation in January.
- Various Parks Pickleball Conversion – Construction is completed. Awaiting final change order approval and billing.

### **Storeroom, Property, & Safety**

- 116 work orders were scheduled this month, 17 of which were services.
- Garage staff assisted with removing Sweet Breeze from the river for the season.
- A John Deere Gator for Kreager Park is set to be delivered soon.
- Toro 6000 zero turn was purchased with left over 2022 lease money and will be assigned to the Hurshtown Reservoir.
- 2 new trailers and a pressure washer for Kreager park were quoted and the requisition process started to purchase them through the 2022 lease.
- Gasoline equipment gave us a quote replace our old gas and diesel dispensers here at Lawton with basic replacement models. They are also preparing a quote for moving the above ground diesel tanks from Franke to Lawton. We are currently looking for similar contractors who could submit competing bids.
- The list of vehicles and equipment for the 2023 lease is being prepared so that quotes can be obtained early next year.
- 2022 Ford and Toro lease purchases do not have a delivery date. The large trailer from Bridge Manufacturing will be delivered in December and the new golf carts in April of 2023.
- New radios are needed to replace our ageing Motorola units. The goal is to reduce the number of radios the department needs to lessen the impact of purchasing radios that are more than 1 and ½ times more expensive than previous models.
- New city door emblem stickers were purchased and a handful of those will be used to replace faded

#### **Safety:**

The Parks & Recreation Safety Committee met on Oct., 25 2022.

Seven Parks employees and one guest were present.

- There were two vehicle crashes since the last meeting for a total of 13 for the year.
- Five injuries occurred since the last meeting for a total of 28 for the year.
- One CPR/FA class is scheduled for 10/31/22
- Two CPR/FA classes will be scheduled for November
- Any additional training that is discovered to be necessary will be scheduled as needed.
- Work continues on the transition to the PSA training center.

## Facilities Management

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **279** for **September**. This is up from **299** in August.
- Route workers have begun removing supplies from facilities that have been shut down for the winter. This will continue through October as the 14 summer facilities are winterized.
- Weekly pressure washing was completed at the Promenade Park water rill, concessions trailer for Salomon Park, McCulloch Park's bandstand, McMillen Park's playground equipment, and Foster Park's plastic white fence, close to the golf pro shop.
- Graffiti was removed at the Lawton Park skate park, Promenade Park's playground restrooms, Lakeside Park's pavilion #1 restrooms, McCormick Park's Splash pad restrooms, and Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge.
- The Johnny Appleseed festival set up and tear down went on without a hitch.
- The Lawton Park garage office was remodeled to better accommodate the incoming new manager.
- A new irrigation pump was installed in the Foster Park golf course.
- Repair work on the Community Center Christmas light displays has begun. The installation will take place towards the end of October.
- Weisser Park's shelter had to be completely repainted due to graffiti covering the entire structure.
- The process of turning the water off and winterizing facilities and amenities has begun. This will shut down the non-heated rental facilities, irrigation systems, and drinking fountains.
- Toilet tank lids had to be replaced due to vandalism at PSI-OTE Park's shelter.
- Lights at Foster Park's tennis court were replaced.
- Cabinetry at the Botanical Conservatory was removed to make room for the new interactive space that will be installed.
- A memorial plaque was installed at the base of the "Megaflores" sculpture at the Botanical Conservatory.
- The exterior restroom doors at the Salomon Park learning center and Waynedale Park pavilion restrooms were repainted.
- A new irrigation pump motor was installed at the McMillen Park Lifetime Sports Academies' par 3 golf course.
- Playground repairs continue at several parks as parts and materials become available.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
  - 6 Alarms calls
  - 11 Paint projects
  - 2 Building maintenance repairs
  - 10 Carpentry repairs
  - 34 Electrical repairs
  - 7 HVAC maintenance issues
  - 1 Key core maintenance repairs
  - 20 Light Maintenance
  - 4 Lock maintenance issues
  - 5 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
  - 25 Plumbing maintenance issues
  - 5 Sign replacements
  - 23 Vandalism issues
- There were 55 after-hours calls: 1, key issue: 1 tree issue: 3 lock calls: 23 code problems: 3 trash calls: 1 power issue: 1 water issue: 6 calls about items left in a pavilion: 2 parking problems: 1 alarm call: 1 light issue: 2 water rill problems: 1 call about a fire: and 9 miscellaneous calls.
- Receiving quotes for replacing a light pole that was knocked over by a patron at the downtown Community Center.
- Lan Con electric was hired to install 3 electrical outlets at the Salomon Farm for campers to stay during the Johnny Appleseed festival.
- Getting quotes for a security system at the Ray property
- DME elevator made repairs to the lift at the Foellinger Theater.
- Permits were renewed for three of our four elevators.
- Infinity glass replaced the glass in the barn at the Lawton Complex.
- Schenkel was hired to make repairs to the restrooms at McMillen Pavilion due to a fire.
- VFP continues to do annual fire alarm inspections.
- Arrow fence was hired to fix the fence at the Foster volleyball court that was damaged during the storm

## ◆ **Grounds Maintenance**

- Heavy Equipment has begun the chore of going through 75 years of items to get ready for the big move.
- Heavy equipment started on wood mulch safety surfacing work in some of our playgrounds.
- The team has continued to help the Zoo with hauling animal refuse to Lake avenue.
- The mowing cycle is currently at 7 to 8 days.
- Athletic fields have been watered periodically this month.
- The football fields at Lawton were repainted.
- Foster west soccer is done for the year and the grass has been reseeded.
- The garbage truck is running Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- A water main leak at Franke Park was repaired.
- The new hill by the overflow project at Franke Park was mowed.
- Trash cans and bike racks were delivered and picked up at Lakeside Park for their neighborhood picnic.

## ◆ **Project Administration**

- Botanical Conservatory Window Glass 2022 – Project completed.
- Botanical Conservatory Gift Shop Wall – Project completed.
- Bowser Park Pavilion – The project is scheduled to begin by the first week of October.
- Buckner Park LWCF Grant Project – The project is scheduled to begin in early October.
- Casselwood Park Playground Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project Phase 2 – Work starting end of September.
- Downtown Community Center Carpet Replacement – Project is out to bid.
- Foster Park Pavilion #3 Construction – Project punch list items being completed.
- Foster Park Golf Course – Final plans and cost estimate submitted to Parks.
- Franke Park Playground Drainage Project – Project completed.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress.
- Kreager Park Tennis Backboard and Fence – Project scheduled to begin in October.
- Lakeside Park Courts Lighting – Awaiting approval to begin.
- McMillen Golf Course Cart Paths Phase 2 – Construction has begun.
- McMillen Golf Course Pavilion Improvements – Project completed.
- McMillen and Meyers Park Tuckpointing – Pro shop work has been completed. Meyers Park works to begin in October.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Drawings nearing completion. Permitting in progress.
- Memorial Park Fort Wayne Daisies Monument – Final planning in progress.
- Rea Building Overhead Door – Currently out to bid.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. Additional work is ongoing at Heritage Barn.
- Salomon Farm Entrance – Plans in progress for improvements. Bidding is to occur in early 2023.
- Salomon Farm Garden Fence – Fence construction completed. Awaiting installation of gates.
- Salomon Farm Learning Center Office – Electrical improvements in progress.
- Sheldon Drive Playground – The playground is scheduled for installation in January.
- Shoaff Park Golf Pro Shop Flooring – Planning in progress.
- Various Parks 2022 Paving Projects – Projects completed. Awaiting final change order approval.
- Various Parks 2023 Paving Projects – Planning in progress
- Various Parks Monument Restoration – On going
- Various Parks Site Furnishings – Acquisition and installations in progress.
- Various Sidewalk Improvements – Project completed.
- Various Parks On-Call Engineering Services – The consultant is currently inspecting the pedestrian bridge at Foster Park West.
- Various Parks Pickleball Conversion – Foster, Lakeside, and Hamilton Parks completed. Kettler Park is in progress.

## ◆ **Other work:**

- Various Parks: accessed potential and necessary future projects
- 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.

## ◆ Storeroom, Property, & Safety

- 128 work orders were scheduled this month, 16 of which were services.
- A solid waste rental Garbage truck was serviced by the garage techs.
- Riparian Truck #193 is just about finished at the Ford body shop having repairs done to the front end to fix damage from an accident in June of this year.
- A John Deere Gator for Kreager Park is set to be delivered soon.
- The first pieces of equipment from 2022 were delivered to Foster and McMillen golf courses.
- 2 tree trucks had their engines rebuilt and one required new bumper brackets to replace the ones damaged years prior when a log struck the front end.
- We are currently getting a quote from gasoline equipment to replace our old gas and diesel dispensers here at Lawton with basic replacement models. The old ones are obsolete and parts are hard to get.
- Seats for 6 facility route trucks are being recovered with replacement material and with new seat foam added as they have broken down after years of use.
  - **Storeroom and Property:**
    - Staff assisted with the unloading of large pallets of potting soil for the greenhouse.
    - Storeroom staff assisted with the setup of the Johnny Appleseed Festival by providing materials for the setup crews.
    - Staff also helped Salomon Farm by providing tents for their annual Fall Festival.
    - Garage and Storeroom staff have worked with Heavy Equipment to find storage locations for items from their barn and absorb some of their service items into the storeroom stock.
  - **Safety:**
    - There was no safety committee meeting this month.

## ◆ Facilities Management

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **299** for **August**. This is up from **433** in July.
- Due to continued staff shortages, both relief workers are currently assigned to routes with a working leader covering multiple routes daily.
- Weekly pressure washing was completed at the Promenade Park water rill, Gulldlin Park and Shoaff Park boat ramps, and the docks at Promenade Park and Headwaters Park.
- Graffiti was removed at the Lawton Park skate park, Promenade Park's playground restrooms, Justin Study Park's playground, Reservoir Park's playground, and Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge.
- Route workers pressure-washed the following locations; Memorial Park's splash pad, Waynedale Park's shelter, Buckner Park's shelter, Shoaff Park's splash pad, and Foster Park's pavilion #1.
- New backboard panels were installed at both the Lions Park and Shoaff Park tennis courts to fix the damaged areas.
- Pump #2 in the Shoaff Park lift station was replaced.
- A trailer was converted into a basketball carnival game for the Salomon Park fall festival.
- Repairs were made to the Franke Park day camp building and longhouse following the 2022 season.
- Playground repairs are ongoing throughout several parks.
- An irrigation pump and motor were replaced at Foster Park golf course.
- New thermostats were installed at the David Heffner pavilion at Franklin Park and Franke Park's pavilion #1.
- New lock cores were built and installed at the newly renovated Foster Park pavilion #3.
- Maintenance techs and contractors worked to repair Kreager Park's ball diamond lights.
- New lights were installed at the Foster Park volleyball court.
- Lakeside Park's pavilion #1 restrooms were re-painted due to vandalism.
- A new injector pump was installed at the Lawton Park greenhouse.

## Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department Staff Reports submitted as of 11/10/2022

- The Freimann Square fountain pond had to be drained, cleaned, and refilled due to vandalism.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
  - 7 Alarms calls
  - 8 Paint projects
  - 8 Building maintenance repairs
  - 37 Carpentry repairs
  - 43 Electrical repairs
  - 21 HVAC maintenance issues
  - 10 Key core maintenance repairs
  - 35 Light Maintenance
  - 6 Lock maintenance issues
  - 54 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
  - 16 Plumbing maintenance issues
  - 13 Sign replacements
  - 13 Vandalism issues
- to begin by the first of October.
- Buckner Park LWCF Grant Project – The project is scheduled to begin in late September.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project Phase 2 – Work beginning mid-September.
- Downtown Community Center Carpet Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Foster Park Pavilion #3 Construction – Project completion is planned for mid-September.
- Foster Park Golf Course – Architects submitted a plan for review. Final plans are forthcoming.
- Foster Park Tennis Court Construction Joint Renovation – Project completed.
- Franke Park Playground 5-12-Year-Old Equipment – Project completed.
- Franke Park Playground Drainage Project – Awaiting PO.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress.
- Kreager Park Tennis Backboard and Fence – Project scheduled to begin in September.
- Lakeside Park Courts Lighting – Awaiting approval to begin.
- McMillen Golf Course Cart Paths Phase 2 – Construction planned for October.
- McMillen Golf Course Pavilion Improvements – Construction to begin in September.
- McMillen and Meyers Park Tuckpointing – Pro shop and concrete pier work planned for September.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Drawings nearing completion. Permitting in progress.
- Memorial Park Fort Wayne Daisies Monument – Final planning in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. Additional work is ongoing at Heritage Barn.
- Salomon Farm Entrance – Plans in progress for improvements. Bidding is to occur in early 2023.
- Salomon Farm Garden Fence – Purchase order issued. Scheduled for September.
- Salomon Farm Learning Center Office – Electrical improvements in progress.
- Sheldon Drive Playground – Playground vendor selected.
- Weisser Park Youth Center Lobby Improvements – Project completed.
- Various Parks 2022 Paving Projects – Projects completed. Awaiting final change order approval.
- Various Basketball Courts Improvements – Project completed.
- Various Parks Monument Restoration – On going
- Various Parks Site Furnishings – Acquisition in progress.
- Various Sidewalk Improvements – Projects planned for September.
- Various Parks On-Call Engineering Services – The consultant is currently inspecting the pedestrian bridge at Foster Park West.
- Various Parks Pickleball Conversion – Foster and Lakeside Parks completed. Hamilton Park is in progress and Kettler Park is scheduled next.

### **Storeroom, Property, & Safety**

- Signs were fabricated for the Johnny Appleseed Festival indicating the dates that the dog park would be closed.
- Storeroom staff assisted in the closing of the pools, camps, and other summer programs by storing away materials from those activities.

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department Staff Reports submitted as of 11/10/2022

- Staff also supported the grand opening of the new Powell Park and provided tools and other supplies for the multiple Day of Caring volunteer groups.
- Property Transactions:

Redmax Reciprocator (3)	P210, Loaner
Redmax Spin Trimmer (3)	P210, Loaner
Toro Snow Blower	From P270 to P240, Grounds
Demco Pump Sprayer	Scrapped
Giant K18IT Push Blower	Scrapped
Honda WX10TA Pump	P210, Loaner
Makita XNB0Z Nailer	P250, Repair and Construction
Toro 724 Snow Blower	P270, Conservatory
Toro 1428 Snow Blower	P295, Promenade
Stihl BR600 Blower	P250F, Facilities
Shindawa Spin Trimmer	Scrapped
- 2022 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:

Club Car Carry All (2)	22121100
John Deere Gator	22121099
John Deere Hydro 1200 Bunker Rake	Shipped
Lely Towed Spreader	Shipped
Toro Polartrac	Req'd
Toro 7210 Zero Turn Mower (3)	Req'd
Toro Groundsmaster 4000 Mower	Req'd
Ford Ranger 4x4 Pickup	22121106
Ford F350 Chassis	22121106
Steel Flatbed for above	22121097
Ford F750 Chassis	22121101
Chip Body for Above	21121154
Ford F150 Pickup	22121106
Heavy Equipment Trailer	22121140
Wide Equipment Trailer (2)	Req'd
Ford F59 Chassis	Deferred to next year
Van Body	Deferred to next year
Toro 4000 Mower	Received
Ford Transit 250 Van	22121165
Ford Transit Connect Van	22121165

Garage Operations Highlights:

- 165 work orders were scheduled this month, 20 of which were services.
- One of the volunteer trailers from Kreager was transported to Lawton to verify its condition before being used at Salomon farm.
- Toro unit 586 came in from McMillen golf for a deck repair but multiple leaks and worn parts were replaced to get the unit ready to mow again.
- The Ford tractor from Franke was serviced to get it ready for the Johnny Appleseed festival.
- The first pieces of equipment from the 2022 lease are ready and will be on site from John Deere soon.
- The new riverfront Pontoon was entered into inventory with the trailer to come soon

The Safety Committee met on August 30, with eight members and a guest in attendance.

- There were five treatable personal injuries in this period, for a total of 13 for the year. OSHA recordable incidents total 12 for the year. 16 restricted days this period for current injuries, and the

annual total stands at 274 for ten incidents. 43 lost days to date for one broken leg incident. Recorded worker compensation costs to date are \$13,987

- There was one property damage incident during this period and a total of 6 for the year. Total damages for the year are estimated at \$23,426.
- A class on detailed operation and maintenance of chainsaws for storm response was held at the end of August.
- Ken conducted a worker protection standard class for Horticulture.

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



### ◆ Planning Report – October 2022

- The design team continues to complete and refine construction documents for Franke Park Renaissance: Phase I. Geotechnical reports have revealed that unsuitable soils exist on the site to the point that efforts need to be taken to compress and wick moisture from the roadway and bridge approach. This will result in an adjustment to the anticipated construction schedule; details and costs resulting from necessary work are being determined.
- We received official word that the Spy Run Creek Streambank Restoration: Phase II project is one of eight recipients of a Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP) grant. \$200,000 has been awarded by the Great Lakes Commission to be used in project completion; construction is anticipated to take place in 2023.
- Site conditions for Riverfront Development: Phase IIA have resulted in necessary design changes at the top of the streambank. These changes have prompted reviews by permitting agencies, setting back the construction schedule. This, along with an on-going Portland cement shortage, have slowed construction over the past month. Project completion by the end of 2022 is not likely; however, the site flatwork, retaining wall, grading and infrastructure should be complete.
- We continue to move forward on Riverfront Development: Phase IIB. Materials are being produced in order to approach potential funders for the project, while permitting and construction documents continue towards completion.
- Public comments were taken at an in-person event at the downtown Community Center for our 5-year DNR Master Plan. Approximately 60 citizens were in attendance. These comments will be incorporated into the planning document, which continues to move towards completion by January 2023.
- A request for quotes was sent out to potential consultants for completion of a Parks Comprehensive Plan. Proposals are due in early November; an internal committee will review proposals and choose a consultant to develop a 10-year plan for the department.
- Landscape improvements were completed by Sunflower Lawn and Landscape at Jennings Center. Existing trees and shrubs were removed from around the parking lot; new soil was incorporated, and new trees, shrubs, grasses and perennial plantings were installed.
- A draft master plan was completed for Moody Park. The plan was shared with the project steering committee; notes and suggestions from this meeting are being incorporated into the final master plan, which should be completed by year's end.
- Staff has renewed coordination with United Way in working towards a Born Learning Trail at Hamilton Park. Locations for signage/trail paintings have been identified, while signs have been approved and moved into production.
- Staff met regularly with Conservatory management to discuss various agreements, staff training, marketing, showcase, and facility operations. Progress continues to be made on the various capital projects

within the facility that were discovered through the facility assessment and internal discussions.

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

- Gardeners delivered pumpkins and gourds to the conservatory for the Pumpkin Path. The greenhouse provided 400 Garden Mums, 20 grasses and 120 pots of Ornamental Cabbage for the display.
- Tropical plants from all the parks and the Zoo were brought back to the greenhouse to be pruned and stored for the winter until next year.
- Annuals were removed from all the parks except Foster. Mums and other fall décor were installed at Freimann, Courthouse, Community Center, Lakeside, and Foster.
- Spring bulb installation began at Freimann and Foster Park. The Downtown Community Center was completed.
- Landscape staff ground stumps in beds, removed mulch, and turfed areas at Bloomingdale, Indian Village Park, and Northside in an effort to reduce bed sizes. Mulch projects were finished at Northside and Bloomingdale East.
- Landscape staff began regular leaf cleanup at Foster, Lakeside, Freimann, Promenade, and Lawton Parks.
- Landscape staff helped stack and organize pavers for the Botanical Conservatory that were found at Franke Park in heavy equipment's dump site. These pavers will be moved to the REA building and stored for the Botanical Conservatory for future projects if needed.
- Landscape staff completed and submitted their 2023 bulb plans.
- Landscape staff submitted their 2023 goals.
- The Great Tree Canopy Comeback event happened on October 22. Volunteers came out to assist in mulching around approximately 130 trees less than 5" in diameter at Memorial Park. Volunteers also removed the invasive shrub Honeysuckle at Foster Park along the St Mary's River.
- Layout for the park trees contract was almost completed. This year Shade Trees Nursery will be planting 41 trees in November across 14 different parks.
- Freimann Square pool was drained and cleaned.
- Lawnscape continued with their annual mowing contract.
- Lawnganics continued with their turf fertilization and weed control per contract.
- For the Holiday Showcase 3 donated evergreens were inspected for cutting and 19 were tagged for cutting at the St. Joe Christmas Tree Farm.

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

- Guldin boat ramp was cleared, washed and maintained. Woody debris and litter cleared multiple times from Guldin, Headwaters and Promenade docks.
- Approximately 400 pounds of general debris/litter removed from the St. Marys River, including chairs and a bike at Promenade south dock.
- Successfully hauled Sweet Breeze out on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Began the complete winterization, washing and minor maintenance of boat.
- Promenade kayak launch was successfully removed for the season and stored at Lawton.
- Recruitment of organizations for volunteer clean-ups continuing.

#### ◆ **Forestry Report- October 2022**

- An early season accumulating snowfall during the early evening hours of October 17<sup>th</sup> resulted in considerable damage to trees throughout the City. Crews spent much of the past two weeks addressing the impacted trees. We do not expect this event to impact November operations.
- Prior to the above-mentioned weather event, in-house crew efforts were focused on high-priority service requests.
- Shade Trees Unlimited is expected to begin work on the 2022 fall tree planting in the coming weeks. In total, 369 new trees will be planted this fall.

- The Forestry team is beginning to take shape. In June of this year, we were down to 1 full-time employee and struggling to attract and/or retain forestry staff. With the help of Parks Department leadership, we were able to implement changes intended to resolve this issue. Today we have 3 full-time Forestry Technicians and have been receiving applications in hopes of filling our final two available positions.
- Forestry received (260) 311 Call Center service requests during October. Many of these requests were associated with the previously mentioned weather event. As the leaves continue to fall, we anticipate a significant decrease in the monthly ticket count (fingers crossed).
- In October, contract and in-house crews completed 80 tree removals and resolved broken/hanging tree limbs from 214 locations.
- 2 tree damage appraisals were completed this month resulting in \$1,676 in total damages.

◆ **Botanical Conservatory Report – October 2022**

- ‘Paris: City of Light & Love’ at the Botanical Conservatory continued to delight visitors in addition to the seasonal Pumpkin Path Display (Oct 4 – 30). The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events in October 2022 including Botanical Brew (October 7), Rocky Horror Picture Show (October 15), and Garden Trick or Treat (October 29). Sam Cote and Gavin Herron have joined the staff as Weekend/Evening Receptionists. Staff are gearing up for Happy Smallidays (Opening November 19), \$1 Night of Lights (November 23), and Holly Shopping (November 26). The Happy Smallidays exhibit will delight guests who visit with an interactive experience of the story of Little Mouse. The exhibit will encompass the Botanical Conservatory Showcase House and including an exciting scavenger hunt lifted from the pages of the book. For guests who want to take the magic home, the Botanical Conservatory will also be selling hardcover copies of the books in the Conservatory Shop for \$24.95.

◆ **Conservatory KPIs**

- Conservatory Shop revenue continues to increase year-over-year due to a more compelling strategy for obtaining and displaying merchandise. Rental & Catering revenue has dramatically increased with the rebound of the special event industry from the impacts of COVID-19. October 2022 also charted a significant attendance increase to 2021 attributable to a new event (Botanical Brew), enhanced exhibit marketing, and a compelling exhibit theme.

**Attendance**

October 2021:	4,789 visitors
October 2022:	5,971 visitors

An increase of 1,182 or +24.68% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Attendance:	54,828 visitors
2022 Attendance:	67,940 visitors

An increase of 12,799 or +23.34% to 2021

**Admissions Revenue**

October Admissions 2021:	\$14,085.00
October Admissions 2022:	\$30,371.00

An increase of \$16,313.00 or +116.04% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Admissions Revenue:	\$170,437.00
2022 Admissions Revenue:	\$262,005.70

An increase of \$91,568.70 or +53.73% to 2021

**Membership Revenue**

October 2021: \$2,783.00

October 2022: \$4,085.00

An increase of \$1,302 or +46.78% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Membership Revenue: \$45,491.00

2022 Membership Revenue: \$54,513.00

An increase of \$9,022.00 or +19.83% to 2021

**Conservatory Shop Revenue**

October 2021: \$11,463.41

October 2022: \$15,819.54

An increase of \$4,356.13 or +38.00% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Gift Shop Revenue: \$157,573.91

2022 Gift Shop Revenue: \$193,991.73

An increase of \$36,417.82 or +23.11% to 2021

**Rental & Catering Fee Revenue**

October 2021: \$5,380.00

October 2022: \$9,177.50

An increase of \$3,797.50 or +70.59% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Rental Revenue: \$53,629.17

2022 Rental Revenue: \$89,994.88

An increase of \$36,365.71 or +67.81% to 2021

**Other Revenue (includes Activity Enrollments, Donations, Plant Sale, etc.)**

October 2021: \$725.64

October 2022: \$13,796.16

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Other Revenue: \$315,354.71

2022 Other Revenue: \$401,961.13

**Conservatory Total Revenue**

October 2021: \$34,437.05

October 2022: \$73,249.20

An increase of \$38,812.15 or +112.70% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Total Revenue: \$742,485.79

2022 Total Revenue: \$1,002,466.44

An increase of \$259,980.65 or +35.01% to 2021

#### ◆ Conservatory Business Development

- Botanical Conservatory was awarded a \$7,500 aggregate donation from the Ian and Mimi Roland Foundation for support of the 2022 Showcase Garden exhibits.
- Botanical Conservatory received an in-kind gift of a nutcracker collection from Commissioner Bill Zielke and Pam Zielke. The collection is valued over \$25,000 and will be on display in the Botanical Conservatory Atrium for the 2022 holiday season and during the Happy Smallidays exhibit.
- Staff submitted grant applications for support of the 2023 California Dreamin' Exhibit to the Howard P. Arnold Foundation for \$1,000 support and to the Magee-O'Connor Foundation for \$5,000 support. Staff also submitted applications to the James Foundation 2023 Grant-A-Day for \$1,000 support of ten scholarships to the 2023 Camp ACTIVenture program. Staff also submitted for 2022 WOWO Penny Pitch for \$100,420 support of the 2023 Showcase Garden Exhibits.
- Staff submitted a description of the Botanical Conservatory and its appeal for donations to Fort Wayne Magazine for an annual listing of area non-profits in its December 2022 publication.
- Conservatory donations in October 2022 totaled \$31,711.67: \$250 in memorials for Conservatory volunteer Jo Ann Wyatt (\$100 from Marie Isherwood, \$100 from Lucy Hess, and \$50 from Jane and Bill McLean); \$7,500 from the Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation for 2022 Showcase Garden exhibits; \$18,961.67 from the Chuck and Nancy William estate; and \$5,000 from the Barbara Bradley Baekgaard Family Foundation for the 2022 Paris: City of Light & Love Exhibit.

#### ◆ Conservatory Public Programs - Events

- Botanical Brew (October 7)
  - In its first year, Botanical Brew succeeded as a brand-new event attracting 697 total attendees! It featured 11 local and regional beverage producers encompassing coffee, kombucha, soda, spirits, beer, wine, cider, and mead. Producers provided sample and sale of their product in addition to educating guests on the production of their brew. Four local food vendors supported the event while providing BBQ, Thai, hot dog, and vegan options. Botanical Brew also incorporated 4 artisan booths, 4 roaming buskers, and a concert lineup featuring Secret Mezzanine and Los Galaxy. Despite cooler than expected weather, attendees greatly enjoyed the event in an outdoor setting amidst the seasonal Pumpkin Path Display. They were also able to warm up while enjoying the indoor gardens and visiting the Conservatory Shop too.



*Moonlight evening for Botanical Brew 2022*

- Rocky Horror Picture Show (October 15)
  - The 14<sup>th</sup> showing of Rocky Horror Picture Show entertained 665 guests in 2022. This is an increase over last year's audience of 605 and an impressive outdoor attendance given the colder temperatures. The Botanical Conservatory screened the film in collaboration with the Downtown Improvement District's Fright Night celebration. Valerie Wallis emceed the event with ALT 99.5 & 102.3 sponsorship. Mad Anthony Brewing Company also sponsored the event with food and beverage service.



*Festive attendees at the Rocky Horror Picture Show*

- Garden Trick-or-Treat (October 29)
  - A total of 705 attendees, including 351 children, went table to table in the outdoor Exploration Garden collecting treats and the occasional trick from volunteers and staff. It was a warm, 65-degree, sunny day to visit all nine interactive stations including a photo boo-th, pumpkin ring toss, paint-a-pumpkin, costume show & tell, pot-a-plant, treats for tricks jokes, guess the pumpkin weight, and "Bags & Brushes" where IUFW students handed out toothbrushes. Kids could even practice brushing the teeth of colorful animal puppets. Trick-or-treaters knew they had visited each station when finding all nine cut-outs of Boo, the friendly ghost at the Boo-tanical Conservatory!



*Garden Trick-or-Treaters posing with a smile*

## ◆ Education

- T'ai Chi Tuesdays (October 4-November 15)
  - Continuing T'ai Chi Tuesdays is underway with 17 participants. Beginning T'ai Chi Tuesdays ended up being cancelled due to low enrollment; those enrollees were given the opportunity to transfer. So far, the weather was nice enough to offer at least one session in the outdoor gardens.
- Bee the Change- Green Halloween (October 6)
  - This drop-in program on first \$1-nights had 27 children in attendance. The month of October was staffed by volunteer Karen Martin with a focus on sustainable choices surrounding Halloween traditions. Participants were also invited to make monster décor from recycled toilet paper tubes.
- Succulent Pumpkins (October 6)
  - A total of 17 participants out of 21 registrations crafted succulent accented pumpkins as seasonal living décor. Program Coordinator, Kelsey Gerig prepared for and led this popular workshop that is expected to return come fall 2023.
- Pumpkin Macramé (October 17)
  - This workshop maxed out with 15 paid participants who created macramé wall hangings complimented by a mini pumpkin with succulent cuttings as the stem. Receiving high praise, this fall enhanced workshop was facilitated by guest instructor Laurie Higi.
- Youth Field Trips
  - There was 1 onsite youth group visit totaling 54 children in October. There was 1 onsite youth field trip in October 2021 which brought 26 students. In 2020, there was 1 group with 12 students. In 2019, there were 4 groups that brought 76 students.

## ◆ Exhibits & Displays

- Paris Dream of 2018 (July 2-November 13):
  - This art display features paintings by artist, Susan Taylor Suraci who is exhibiting Parisian inspired artwork during the garden exhibit “Paris: City of Light & Love.” Her paintings are for sale and on display until the end of the exhibit. An opportunity to meet the artist was offered during a garden opening event “A Night in Paris” in August.



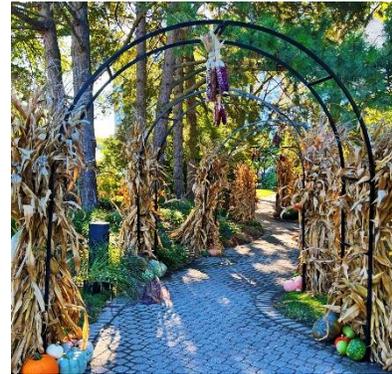
*Courtyard view in the “Paris: City of Light & Love” garden exhibit*

Paris: City of Light & Love (July 2-November 13):

This year’s summer/fall showcase exhibit at the Botanical Conservatory is an absolute stunning imitation of a visit to Paris! Visitors can not get enough of the familiar scenes and floral hues adorning a public square, café, floral shop, and even a view of the Eiffel Tower. In addition to these fun features and more, this exhibit introduced chrysanthemums in the fall.

Pumpkin Path Display (October 4-30)

The Exploration Garden was thoughtfully decorated in autumn shades of pumpkins, gourds, corn shocks, hay bales, tri-color dried corn, and a festive wagon too! Four main photo backgrounds dotted each quadrant of the garden while arches, lined paths, and a woodland-animal search guided Conservatory guests throughout. Accented by new solar lights, the beautiful arrangements of mums, ornamental cabbage, and grasses rounded out this annual display.



*Decorated arches aligning the Pumpkin Path Display*

### Volunteers/Staff

In the month of October, program staff were pleased with the volunteer response to fall events. Staff continue to gear up for the holidays and invite volunteers to assist during holiday happenings including Santa & Reindeer Saturdays, pre-packaging reindeer food, greens cutting, and holiday decorating.

*Volunteers from Target test out the wagon photo op*

In addition to regularly scheduled volunteers at the Front Desk (10) and Gift Shop/Plant Groomer (11), volunteers participated in the following:

- Pumpkin Path Set Up (4 + 6 Target employees); Tear Down (6)
- Botanical Brew (5)
- Rocky Horror Picture Show (4)
- Magical Reindeer Food Assembly (7 Clover Rovers from 4-H Club)
- Garden Trick-or-Treat (9)
- S.W.A.T. Garden Team (2, + 5 Anthis students)



### Upcoming

November 3: Bee the Change \$1 Night drop-in program  
November 9 & 10: Volunteer cutting evergreens & arranging pots  
November 10: Cornucopia Centerpiece pre-registered program  
November 14-18: Showchange & holiday decorating  
November 17 & 22: Volunteer preparation of magical reindeer food  
November 19: Happy Smallidays Holiday Exhibit opening day  
November 19: Book Signing- Talitha Shipman, Happy Smallidays  
November 23: \$1 Night of Lights, 5-8 pm  
November 25-December 23: \$1 Night Light Display, Thursdays & Fridays 5-8 pm  
November 26: Kickoff- Days of Holly Shopping  
November 26-December 17: Days of Holly Shopping  
November 26: Book Signing- Jamie Ward, 100 things to Do in Indiana Before You Die

### Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

Discovery Corner renovation is progressing nicely. BZW Masterpainters repainted the space. Obie play wall was installed. Parks Department MT's constructed and mounted the video screen. Fort Wayne Awning installed a matte white vinyl surface to finish the video screen. Incoming items include bench seating and skylight shading to finish off the space.

Front Door Replacement bids were received and CIH will begin work shortly.

Conversion of the Horticulture Library into a small conference room has been completed. BZW Masterpainters completed the painting. New Furniture and fixtures were built and installed.

Terrace Garden and outdoor restrooms were cleaned and closed for the season.

Shelves formerly located in the Horticulture Library were relocated to the Atrium to prepare for a new holiday nutcracker display provided by Commissioner Bill Zielke & Pam Zielke.

Mr. Electric completed LED replacements in the gallery hall and restrooms.

Annual fire extinguisher inspection and service was performed. Annual elevator permit was renewed. Gabet Cleaning Services completed quarterly carpet cleaning.

### Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

Lawton Park Gardening Staff and Botanical Conservatory Staff palletized pavers at Franke Park. Thirteen full pallets were salvaged. The pavers salvaged consisted of the two styles found throughout the walkways of the Botanical Conservatory. They will serve as replacements as the current pavers continually wear down over time.

Nearly 350 perennials, shrubs, and small trees have been planted throughout the outdoor gardens of the Conservatory with the intent to add visual interest and inspire visitors to add beauty to their own personal gardens.

Invasive Japanese barberry have been removed outside the Terrace Wall and will be replaced with dwarf ninebark. Plans are being made to remove the remaining barberry shrubs from the outdoor landscapes and replace them with non-invasive species.

A shift of florist mums was planted in the Showcase House, with the final shift occurring in early November. The mums add bright color to the current Paris Show.

Pumpkin Path was successfully installed and de-installed. Lawton Park Gardening Staff assisted by picking up the pumpkins and gourds. Botanical Conservatory Staff picked up the mums, kale, and grasses. As part of Pumpkin Path, mums were planted in the decorative planters located throughout the Exploration and Terrace Gardens. Mums were also planted in the raised planters located at the main entrance of the Botanical Conservatory.

Terrace Garden ponds were drained in preparation for winter. The hardy aquatic plants (water lotus, water lily, frogbit, lizard tail, and blue flag iris) were placed in a tub of water to store outdoors, while the non-hardy water hyacinth was placed in the Botanical Conservatory Tank Room to overwinter.

Lawnganics performed their final turfgrass treatments for the season. The positive transformation of the turfgrass at the Botanical Conservatory during the past year has been quite extraordinary. It is greener, fuller, and much healthier than it was at the beginning of the year.



*Seasonal Gardener Sarah Allen removing sod to enlarge perennial bed*



*Seasonal Gardener Ashley Mitchell pulling aquatic plants from the Terrace Garden ponds*



*Gardener Julia Glessner working with Anthis student volunteers to apply manure and compost to annual beds*



*Seasonal Gardeners Ashley Mitchell and Sarah Allen releasing beneficial insects as part of the integrated pest management program*



*Gardener Staff from Lawton Park and Conservatory Staff sorting and stacking Botanical Conservatory pavers at Franke Park*



*Stacked pallets of Botanical Conservatory pavers salvaged from Franke Park*

#### ◆ **Planning Report – September 2022**

- Permit drawings have been submitted to agencies for the Franke Park Renaissance: Phase I project, and construction drawings continue to move toward completion. It is anticipated that bidding will take place in October.
- Progress continues to be made on concrete walks and earthwork at the Riverfront Development: Phase IIA site. The placement of boulders continued concrete work, and some planting installation will take place in the coming weeks.
- Design Development estimates were completed by Hagerman for Riverfront Development: Phase IIB. The internal team is working through funding, potential donation targets, and value engineering to keep the project on target. The design team continues to work towards permit drawing/application submittal. Regular meetings are also taking place between the design team and private development teams for adjacent parcels.
- The Planning staff continues to meet with Designing Local, our consultant for the DNR Master Plan. The consultant team was in town to visit parks and meet with various staff in September. The plan is scheduled to be completed in January 2023.
- A design was completed for a paver installation project around the Sons of Glory Monument at Memorial Park. Bids were received late in the month; work is expected to be completed no later than May of 2023.
- The Anthony Wayne Monument (Freimann Square) and General Foster Monument (Swinney East) were both cleaned and waxed by Conservation of Sculpture and Objects Studios as part of their regular maintenance program.
- Landscape improvements were completed by Burley Landscape at Lakeside Park. Climbing roses were removed from the columns at the arbors, while landscape beds were reduced. Yew hedges were planted in select areas with fewer new climbing roses being planted and new sod laid.
- Staff reviewed landscape drawings and made suggestions for changes to the McKinnie Commons project. This project, wholly led and managed by Community Development, has recently come under the purview of Parks as we will be taking over maintenance upon its completion.
- Progress continues toward the Master plan design for Moody Park. It is anticipated that this design will be completed this fall. Similarly, we continue to move towards design for Hanna Homestead; community input has been gathered and summarized, with design beginning soon.
- Staff met regularly with Conservatory management to discuss various agreements, staff training, marketing, showcase, and facility operations. In addition, the ongoing capital and operational project list were reviewed

and updated, with several projects taking incremental steps forward towards bidding and completion; of note is an upcoming interior lighting project that will improve both safety and user experience.

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

- Landscape staff continued to apply post-emergent herbicides as needed.
- Turf restoration began on the Auer Lawn at Promenade Park.
- Landscape staff continued to remove downed limbs throughout the Park system.
- A new landscape consisting of shrubs and perennials was installed around the Pond Memorial in Memorial Park.
- Landscape staff spent time mulching Camp Canine/Johnny Appleseed, Shoaff Park, and Indian Village Park.
- Three wood duck boxes were installed in the wetland at Thomas Nature Sanctuary.
- Landscape staff began mowing Powell Park weekly.
- Gardeners completed their designs for their spring 2022 annual displays.
- All trees planted as part of the 2021 Park Tree contract were checked for health. Dead ones were noted and turned in to last year's contractor, Shade Trees Unlimited, who will be replacing them this fall as part of the warranty.
- CL&S was contracted to clear honeysuckle by using a forestry mower along the St. Mary's riverbank adjacent to the Foster West Soccer fields. The area is much improved and views have been opened up across the river to see the new Pavilion in Foster Park.
- Heartland Restoration was awarded a contract to install a native plant pollinator buffer around the pond at the Thomas Nature Sanctuary.
- Lawnscape continued with its annual mow maintenance contract.
- Lawnganics continued with their annual turf fertilization and weed control contract.
- The 2022 SCFVA wrapped up the year with the City-Wide Blue Ribbon Show held on September 10 at McMillen Community Center. There were 27 volunteers and 8 employees who judged the shows at 52 schools. The Blue Ribbon Show had 271 entries from 184 students representing 48 schools.

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

- Guldin boat ramp and surrounding rip rap were cleared, washed, and maintained. Bloomingdale river access points cleared. Woody debris and litter were cleared multiple times from Guldin, Headwaters, and Promenade docks.
- Removed several deadheads along the St Marys River, St Joseph, and Maumee River. Approximately 800 pounds of general debris/litter were removed from all three rivers in the Downtown area. Several chairs and scooters were removed at Promenade's south dock.
- Cleared Headwaters' viewshed by removing 1.66 tons of fallen tree debris.
- Assisted landscape gardeners with foliar treatments along the river's edge at Promenade. Applied seasonal foliar treatment to control Japanese knotweed along Maumee River and Junk Ditch.
- Began planning and coordination for an end-of-season haul of Sweet Breeze. Continued maintenance support for the operation of Sweet Breeze and coordinated departments, minor repairs, refueling, and pump outs.
- Actively recruiting organizations for volunteer clean-ups.

#### ◆ **Forestry Report- September 2022**

- Summer storm cleanup is about 90% complete. Ongoing cleanup efforts are focused on the parks and golf courses. We anticipate releasing contracted storm response crews before the end of October.
- Our in-house crew continues focusing on high-priority service requests. Examples of these requests include tree pruning to resolve sight obstructions at street intersections, removal of limbs touching homes, and the

removal of large dead limbs.

- In total, forestry received 139, 311 Call Center service requests during September. Each of these calls was inspected and necessary work was inventoried and prioritized. Crews completed 91 this month. Currently, there are 101 outstanding tree-related issues awaiting resolution.
- During September, contract and in-house crews completed 120 tree removals and removed broken/hanging tree limbs from 158 locations.
- 8 tree damage appraisals were completed this month resulting in \$4,200 in total damages.

◆ Planning Report - Positive progress continues to be made on the Franke Park Renaissance: Phase I project. The team continues to move through construction documents, permitting, estimating, and detailing for the entirety of the project.

- Riverfront Development: Phase IIA construction continues; progress has been made with concrete flatwork and earthwork, but little else as the site is still occupied by the developer to the north.
- The design and construction management teams continue to work towards permit and construction documents and estimating for Riverfront Development: Phase IIB. It is anticipated that we will have project estimates at the end of September.
- The Staff has been working with the Landscape and Horticulture Divisions to determine ways in which to increase efficiency and set realistic goals and expectations for our crews. This work is necessary to maintain morale among employees and to be able to meet minimum maintenance requirements in the parks- the addition of park space and reduction in seasonal staff over the past few years has put a strain on the division.
- City Utilities has shared design options for necessary sewer work at Foster Park; we continue to collaborate with them on this design and in determining impacts to the park and golf course.
- Four chess tables were purchased and installed at Freimann Square. In partnership with taking A Stan, FortChess, Purdue Extension, and Three Rivers Chess Club, we applied (but unfortunately missed out on) an AARP grant for the project. Regardless, we moved forward and completed the project; an event is being planned by these groups for early October to celebrate the installation.
- Chad attended the Indiana annual CISMA (cooperative invasive species management area) conference in Trafalgar, IN. Efforts have been made to start a formal CISMA in Allen County in the past but to no avail. However, there has recently been a renewed effort; we hope to see further cooperation soon.
- Designs were completed for both the Shoaff Park Riverlodge and Jennings Center Parking Lot landscape projects. Bids for these projects are due in September, with construction anticipated no later than May 2023.
- Staff met regularly with Conservatory management to discuss various agreements, staff training, marketing, showcase, and facility operations.

◆ **Horticulture and Landscape Report**

- With the steady rains this year, landscape staff continues to apply post-emergent herbicides to control continual weed growth.
- Landscape staff spent several days assisting Forestry crews by removing brush piles in the right of ways across the city due to storm damage. Landscape staff also spent time in the parks removing limbs from storms.
- Landscape staff loaded and hauled approximately 275 yards of mulch for volunteer projects this month. Memorial Park had two different events, one part of the day of caring. Volunteers also helped spread mulch at Reservoir park this month.
- Flower and vegetable judging began in the schools for the SCFVA.
- Trees and brush were cleared by Sycamore Tree Service off the pond dam at the Thomas Nature Sanctuary. This will help improve the longevity of the dam and is part of a larger project that will improve pollinator habitat around the pond.
- Repairs were made to the retaining wall at Taylor's Dream in Kreager Park. Sunflower Landscaping began repairing the wall last year, completing it this summer.
- CL&S Landscaping mowed the brush down with a forestry mower on the hillside at Reservoir Park.

- With assistance from Community Corrections, the main street median day lily beds were dead-headed and cleaned up before the Art in the Park festival.
- Great Tree Canopy Comeback will be modified again this year. The event will take place on October 22. Foster Park will focus on removing honeysuckle from the existing woodland along the river. Volunteers will be helping us mulch around young trees at Memorial Park.
- Five seasonal staff finished their season with us this month. We are actively looking for help to carry us through to the end of the year.
- Lawnscape continued with the annual mow maintenance contract.
- Lawnganics continued with their fertilization and weed control contract to specific turf areas in the parks.
- SCFVA Judges and Chairpersons meetings were held at the Botanical Conservatory to prepare for the upcoming Flower, Plant, and Vegetable Shows. To make up for a shortage of judges several gardeners were trained to assist.

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

- Guldin boat ramp and surrounding rip rap were cleared, washed, and maintained. Bloomingdale river access points were washed.
- Woody debris and litter were cleared multiple times from Guldin, Headwaters, and Promenade docks.
- Removed several deadheads along the St Marys River and Maumee River. Approximately 1000 pounds of trash, motorized scooters, lawn furniture, barrels, bikes, and other general debris were removed from all three rivers in the Downtown area.
- Successfully participated in River, Set, Go! with the launching/hauling of fire pits and stage sections.
- Continued maintenance support for the operation of Sweet Breeze and coordinated departments, minor repairs, refueling, and pump outs.
- Participated in Day of Caring with Lippert volunteers with the clearing of Old Fort/Headwaters viewshed and litter removal along the Rivergreenway. The task was completed with 30 volunteers and 3 hours of work.
- Participated in the Purdue Community Engagement Fair for volunteer recruitment.

#### ◆ **Forestry Report- August 2022**

- Many of Forestry's day-to-day operations have been interrupted by severe weather events during June, July, and August. The streets of Fort Wayne were essentially cleared of storm debris by mid-August and contract crews were beginning to clean up storm debris from within the parks while the in-house crew was addressing time-sensitive service requests. Another round of severe weather on Monday 8/29 shifted our focus back to obstructed roadways and damaged street trees.
- So far, summer storms have resulted in the removal of 301 publicly owned trees. 53 additional trees, impacted to the extent that removal is warranted, have been identified and will be scheduled for removal. This includes trees within the parks. Pending a thorough inspection of the parks and 311 Call Center tickets coming in daily, this number is expected to grow.
- During August, contract and in-house crews completed 109 tree removals and removed broken/hanging tree limbs from 159 locations.
- Responded to 279, Fort Wayne 311 Call Center tickets requesting service. Our total 311 ticket count for the year has exceeded the total annual ticket counts for any of the reviewable years.
- Inspected Johnny Appleseed Park and campground for tree issues that must be resolved before the Johnny Appleseed Festival. This work will begin during the first week of September, weather permitting.
- A brief break from storm response allowed us to work on scheduling the 2022 fall tree planting. So far, 267 planting sites have been identified. We anticipate planting about 400 trees this fall and hope to complete the planning/scheduling process before the end of September.

#### ◆ **Botanical Conservatory Report – August 2022**

- 'Paris: City of Light & Love' at the Botanical Conservatory continued to delight visitors. The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events in August 2022 including Local Food Week (July 29 – August 7) where an interactive Food Scavenger Hunt was offered to visitors, A Night in Paris (August 5),

and the return of private special events after a July hiatus. Staff is gearing up for Be A Tourist (September 11), Fall Bonsai Show (September 17), Pumpkin Path Display installation (October 3), Botanical Brew (October 7), Rocky Horror Picture Show (October 15), and Garden Trick or Treat (October 29). There are two part-time staff openings for the Weekend/Evening Receptionist position.

◆ **Conservatory KPIs**

- Conservatory Shop revenue continues to increase year-over-year due to a more compelling strategy for obtaining and displaying merchandise. Rental & Catering revenue continues to increase as the special event industry rebounds from the impacts of COVID-19. It should be noted that the Botanical Roots Summer Concert Series did not occur in 2022, but did occur in 2021 and is reflected in the attendance & admissions revenue numbers; when removed, August Botanical Conservatory attendance shows an 11.26% increase to 2021. The Botanical Roots Concert Series is currently being reworked by Program Staff for a future reboot but was canceled in 2022 due to waning attendance in the face of increased competition.

**Attendance**

August 2021: 4,267 visitors

August 2022: 3,963 visitors

A decrease of 304 or -7.12% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Attendance: 47,131 visitors

2022 Attendance: 56,449 visitors

An increase of 9,318 or +19.77% to 2021

**Admissions Revenue**

August Admissions 2021: \$15,374.00

August Admissions 2022: \$14,471.00

A decrease of \$903.00 or -5.87% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Admissions Revenue: \$149,612.00

2022 Admissions Revenue: \$218,414.70

An increase of \$68,802.70 or +45.99% to 2021

**Membership Revenue**

August 2021: \$2,672.00

August 2022: \$2,760.00

An increase of \$88.00 or +3.29% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Membership Revenue: \$41,723.00

2022 Membership Revenue: \$49,293.00

An increase of \$7,570.00 or +18.14% to 2021

**Conservatory Shop Revenue**

August 2021: \$14,342.26

August 2022: \$15,004.82

An increase of \$662.56 or +4.62% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Gift Shop Revenue: \$134,830.46

2022 Gift Shop Revenue: \$162,831.81

An increase of \$28,001.35 or +20.77% to 2021

**Rental & Catering Fee Revenue**

August 2021: \$6,338.00

August 2022: \$8,802.50

An increase of \$2,464.50 or +38.88% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Rental Revenue: \$40,799.67  
2022 Rental Revenue: \$62,440.38

An increase of \$21,640.71 or +53.04% to 2021

**Other Revenue (includes Activity Enrollments, Donations, Plant Sales, etc.)**

August 2021: \$16,039.17  
August 2022: \$3,893.29

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Other Revenue: \$311,320.20  
2022 Other Revenue: \$369,860.91

**Conservatory Total Revenue**

August 2021: \$54,765.43  
August 2022: \$44,934.61

A decrease of \$9,830.82 or -17.95% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Total Revenue: \$678,285.33  
2022 Total Revenue: \$862,840.80

An increase of \$184,555.47 or +27.21% to 2021

◆ **Conservatory Business Development**

- The Conservatory was awarded \$4,500 support for the 2022 ‘Paris: City of Light & Love’ exhibit by the Edward M. Wilson Foundation. Old National Bank and Beacon Federal Credit Union Foundation both declined support for the 2022 Happy Smallidays exhibit, citing a lack of available resources.
- The partnership of PBS Fort Wayne for the 2022 Garden Trick or Treat will include the October benefit of the month admissions program and event promotions for their Kids Club. The wrap-up promotional reports were sent to the media for sponsorships of the following 2022 events: 96.3 XKE for Father’s Day in the Garden; ABC21 for Emergence: Live Butterfly Exhibit, Father’s Day in the Garden, and Mother’s Day in the Garden; WANE 15 for Jazzworks; and 89.1 WBOI for Jazzworks. Promotional and complimentary tickets and fliers were sent to Fort Wayne Metals, WANE 15, and 89.1 WBOI for their sponsorships of the 2022 Botanical Brew.
- Botanical Conservatory donations in August 2022 totaled \$570 in memorial gifts: \$120 for Janet Hansen (designated for the annual butterfly exhibit), and \$450 for Conservatory volunteer Jo Ann Wyatt: \$100 from Terri Hartley, \$100 from PNC Private Bank, \$200 from David and Susan Thoms, and \$50 from Julie Palmer and the Frey family.

◆ **Education - Conservatory Public Programs**

- Local Food Week (July 29-August 7):
  - The Botanical Conservatory offered a food scavenger hunt throughout Local Food Week in partnership with the Indiana Local Food Network. In addition, there was a scheduled educational lecture by the Indiana Association of Soil and Water. Parkview’s Youth Wellbeing Team also hosted a trivia game and the opportunity to write thank-you notes to local growers and producers. A total of 1,641 guests visited throughout the week and were invited to participate in provided educational activities.
- Bee the Change- Desert Living (August 4):
  - This drop-in program on the first \$1-nights had approximately 27 adults and 27 children in attendance this August. With the assistance of a volunteer, Karen Martin, a positive message and related activity was emphasized in correlation with the Desert Garden.
- A Night in Paris- Garden Opening (August 5):
  - A total of 45 pre-registered participants and 12 guests of the artist attended this themed garden opening. It was hosted within a romantic setting where live music was provided by harpist, Anne Lewellen. Guests could also enjoy Parisian-inspired paintings and meet the artist, Susan Taylor

Suraci. French-inspired hors d'oeuvres were served along with specially made Macarons and signature cocktails that were an absolute hit to top off the perfect date night. There was even an engagement toward the end!

- Summer Tai Chi (August 8-30):
  - This 4-week series had 16 pre-registered participants. Classes were held outdoors with returning instructor, Sandy Gebhard. They were well enjoyed during quiet summer mornings in the Terrace Garden.
- Yoga in the Garden (August 13):
  - This pre-registered program was canceled having not met a minimum registration requirement.
  - Youth Field Trips:
  - There was just 1 onsite youth group visit totaling 20 children this month. Due to summer programs ending and school starting, this slower month is in line with past years. There were no onsite youth group visits in 2021 or 2020. In 2019, 2 groups brought 39 students. In 2018, one group brought 36 students.
- **Exhibits & Displays** - Paris Dream of 2018 (July 2-November 13):
  - This art display features paintings by the artist, Susan Taylor Suraci who is exhibiting Parisian-inspired artwork during the garden exhibit "Paris: City of Light & Love." Her paintings are for sale and on display until the end of the exhibit. An opportunity to meet the artist was offered during a garden opening event "A Night in Paris" in August.
  - Paris: City of Light & Love (July 2-November 13):
  - This year's summer/fall showcase exhibit at the Botanical Conservatory is a stunning imitation of a visit to Paris! Visitors can not get enough of the familiar scenes and floral hues adorning a public square, café, floral shop, and even a view of the Eiffel Tower. In addition to these fun features and more, this exhibit will introduce chrysanthemums come fall.
- **Volunteers/Staff** - Engagement Coordinator, Kim Hartman attended the PFW Community Engagement Fair and interacted with approximately 65 students as a volunteer recruitment effort. Regarding seasonal opportunities, the staff is currently recruiting for the SCFVA Blue Ribbon Show, Pumpkin Path installation, Garden Trick-or-Treat event, and holiday decorating to come to the next show change. Program staff is also putting forth the effort to train new volunteers at the Front Desk.
- **Upcoming**
  - September 1: Bee the Change \$1 Night drop-in program
  - September 3: Fall Plant Swap pre-registered program
  - September 10: Autumn Leaf Macramé pre-registered program
  - September 11: Be A Tourist in Your Hometown event
  - September 14-Oct. 12: Yoga in the Garden pre-registered series
  - September 17: Fall Bonsai Show
  - September 17: Plein Air in Paris pre-registered program
- Conservatory Facility and Maintenance
  - A room divider was installed in the Magnolia Room, replacing the badly worn pipe and drape to enhance maintainability and guest experience.
  - Repairs were completed to the air handler unit in the Desert House. Allied Mechanical had a new turbine fan built and reinstalled all parts to return the unit to full operation.
  - Conserv and Allied continue to make progress on the upgrades being made to the HVAC controls and mechanical components.

- O’Neil’s glass has started the replacement of the contracted glazing repairs for 2022 with anticipated completion in September.
- Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture
  - Bulbs for the outdoor beds have been ordered and confirmed. The order consists of a mix of tulips and daffodils with varying bloom times to have an extended show of color in the spring. Bulbs will be planted throughout the outdoor beds in October.
  - The irrigation system along Harrison Street has been modified with MP rotator nozzles to water more efficiently and expand coverage to water the linden mound outside the Exploration Garden. This area currently has no irrigation, but will now have irrigation coverage with the new system modifications.
  - Two rounds of beneficial insects have been released throughout the Botanical Conservatory in August to combat scale, mealybugs, whitefly, and spider mites. A noticeable difference in pest pressure can already be seen in many parts of the Botanical Conservatory.
  - Supplies have been acquired to make repairs to the uneven pavers throughout the Tropical House and Exploration Garden. Pavers will be lifted and additional crushed limestone and sand will be added to create a level walking surface for visitors.
  - The Mediterranean beds within the Showcase House have received a significant overhaul. Removing some of the overgrown rosemary has created space for new plant species such as Conebushes, Kangaroo Paws, Pride of Madeira, Protea, and Statice. These plants will add interest to this space while also increasing the diversity of the Botanical Conservatory’s permanent collection.



*Local Food Week hands-on activity engaging with Conservatory guests*



*Guests enjoying a “Night in Paris” Garden Opening Summer 2022*



**Courtyard view in the “Paris: City of Light & Love” garden exhibit**



*Botanical Conservatory Booth at PFW's Engagement Fair*

## Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

- The Parks Promenade link has received over 3,072 hits and [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) has 3,976 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and has received over 1,033 hits in October.
- Complaint Reports completed for: July, August, and September.
- Completed 37 Design projects (flyers, brochures, signs, social media posts, a pop-up table tent and table covering, invitations, tickets and more)
- Winter Fun Times tasks include: layout & design, postcard edit, major web content updates, plus additions to 3 calendars (Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation, City of Fort Wayne, and Botanical Conservatory).
- Conservatory Christmas promo underway: exhibit flyers, tickets, invites, holiday e-news, electronic sign slides.
- Planned November donation drive and donation brochure design.
- Conducted year-end recaps with media sponsors.
- Renewed NIPSCO youth scholarship donation and Fun Times ad.
- Social media promotions for: Active Aging Week, Great Tree Canopy Comeback, Sweet Breeze, Share Your Park Story Ad Campaign and 5-year Master Plan Input meeting.
- Prepared for press conference for 30 new pickleball courts (Oct. 11).

- ◆ The Parks Promenade link has received over 3,699 hits and [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) has 4,081 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and received over 1,274 hits in **September**.
- ◆ Attended NRPA in Phoenix, Arizona September 19-23. Will compile a list of take-aways and continue with on-line training.
- ◆ Completed reports for Weisser Youth (Summer), Weisser Parents (Summer), River Camp, River Rangers, and Adult Special Interest (Summer).
- ◆ 51 Design projects completed (flyers, brochures, signs, social media posts, a pop-up table tent, table covers, invitations, tickets, and more)
- ◆ The Winter Fun Times copy deadline was September 23. Started on the layout.
- ◆ Continue working on the READI grant presentation.
- ◆ Continue working on ARPA funding.
- ◆ Complete the SIA grant for Cooper Center.
- ◆ Social media promotions for Salomon Farm U-Pick, FitLot Fiesta, and Sweet Breeze Specialty Tour Fall Equinox.
- ◆ The Parks Promenade link has received over 4,765 hits and [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) has 7,147 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and received over 1,377 hits in **August**.
- ◆ The Recruitment video was finalized and ready for a spring roll out.
- ◆ The Marketing Team completed various marketing tasks for River, Set, and Go including working with the media, and Chief photographers on-site, and developing various marketing pieces.
- ◆ 51 Design projects completed (sponsor tickets, billboards, displays, e-receipt flyers, brochures, flyers, and more)
- ◆ Completed Botanical Conservatory Showcase promo/ads for 2023.
- ◆ Submitted initial READI Application, working on supplemental materials.
- ◆ Working on the final grant agreement for the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrition Reduction Program for Spy Run Creek.

- ◆ Assisted with documentation for ARPA fund requests.
- ◆ On-site pictures/video for Salomon Farm Flower fields/Flower Arranging.
- ◆ Two podcasts released-“Improving & Protecting Shoreline of our Rivers” with Kaye C. Jones and “Outdoor Fall Activities” with Eden Lamb.
- ◆ Media Mentions: August 84     September 76     October 69
- ◆ Social Media Totals for **August, September, and October**

<b>Web Statistics:</b>	<b><u>Users:</u></b>	<b><u>Hits:</u></b>	<b><u>Month:</u></b>
	47,344	130,356	August
	33,452	102,665	September
	30,996	85,743	October

Social Media Totals for the months of:

	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>
FB Followers	73,347	74,610	75,171
FB Reach	414,695	86,579	278,039
 Twitter Followers	13,483	13,562	13,556
 Instagram Follower	20,825	21,026	21,044

## Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

- ◆ The golf courses ended up October on a successful note. The weather contributed by being very mild. All in all, 2022 turned out to be a better than average year weather-wise after a terrible start which cost us the better part of 4 weeks of play in the spring. Even after this very slow start, the courses all performed well above last year’s levels.

- ◆ Below are the year over year comparisons for the month of October, as well as year to date totals:

<b><u>OCTOBER</u></b>	<b><u>FOSTER</u></b>	<b><u>MCMILLEN</u></b>	<b><u>SHOAFF</u></b>
2021 REVENUE	\$16,200	\$10,289	\$19,3878
<b>2022 REVENUE</b>	<b>\$33,859</b>	<b>\$21,484.50</b>	<b>\$32,674.50</b>
YTD 2021	\$311,726.75	\$183,424	\$398,119
<b>YTD 2022</b>	<b>\$345,670.25</b>	<b>\$210,967</b>	<b>\$446,193.50</b>
<b>% CHANGE(21-22)</b>	<b>+13.6%</b>	<b>+15%</b>	<b>+12%</b>

- ◆ Shoaff Park was slated to close as of October 30, but a favorable weather forecast led us to keep the course open through Friday, November 4. Play was steady but unspectacular during the extended time. Foster Park and McMillen Park will close Friday, November 11. There could be confusion caused by the staggered closing of the courses. Perhaps it is time to close all of the courses at the same time to eliminate this confusion.
- ◆ The cart barn at Foster suffered a power failure Wednesday night, November 2<sup>nd</sup> that will not allow us to charge carts. A makeshift set up that allows for the charging of six carts at a time was set up to allow us to run carts, but it is far from optimal. Fortunately, demand is low at this point of the season, and we should be able to finish with minimal disruption to patrons.

- ◆ Carts will continue to be the number one area of concern heading into the 2023 season. The Board approved the purchase of 15 carts in October. No carts were traded in on this order, so we will have a net gain in the number of available carts. The carts that were kept are old (2002/2007) models, and not extremely reliable. The number and reliability of carts continue to be of concern.
- ◆ Some renovations are in process for the Shoaff clubhouse interior. These will improve the existing structure somewhat, but many problems still need to be addressed. Foremost among those is the lack of a proper area to store and charge carts. Carts are currently stored and charged outdoors in season, with both the carts and the chargers exposed to the elements. As the cart fleet is expanded and improved, this will become more of an issue.
- ◆ Alcohol sales were a success, and a definite benefit to both overall play numbers and the number of outings conducted. Alcohol sales numbers will be finalized upon closing all of the courses, and will be included in a separate report that includes a yearly overview.
- ◆ The golf courses are about to wrap up a very successful year. Through the end of September, two courses have already exceeded their total year revenue total from 2021, and the third will easily pass their total. Certainly, alcohol sales have helped in being able to do this, but play continues to increase year over year.
- ◆ Below are the year-over-year comparisons for September, as well as year-to-date totals:

<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAFF</u>
2021 REVENUE	\$42,243.25	\$24,699.00	\$48,810.00
<b>2022 REVENUE</b>	<b>\$45,203.75</b>	<b>\$27,855.00</b>	<b>\$54,913.75</b>
YTD 2021	\$295,526.75	\$173,135.00	\$378.731
<b>YTD 2022</b>	<b>\$311,811.25</b>	<b>\$189,482.50</b>	<b>\$413,518.75</b>

- ◆ Shoaff Park will close for the year after the play on Sunday, October 30. Foster and McMillen Park will remain open through Veteran’s Day, Friday, November 11. If the weather is favorable, we will stay open through that weekend.
- ◆ Carts continue to be the main concern moving forward. The size, age, and reliability of the fleet have cost us a lot of play by not having enough safe, functioning carts at peak times. The reliability and safety of the fleet have improved incrementally with the purchase of several new batteries but is still not optimal. After the season, all carts will be gone through and upgraded to the extent that they can be for use next year.
- ◆ We received a quote for 15 new carts for the Board’s approval. These carts are quoted without trading in any carts, which would theoretically increase the fleet size by 15. Depending on budget and supply issues, we may ask to purchase a similar amount of carts in the spring timeframe to further bolster the fleet in terms of both size and reliability.
- ◆ Alcohol sales went well. All staff 21 years of age and over are required to be trained and receive their license to serve. No problems with the sales were reported, and the response from the public has been good. Currently, we deal with one distributor, Aalco. The addition of another distributor (Five Star) would be good, as their product line is complementary to what we have. The barrier to bringing them in is how we must procure checks from the city. Logistically, this is not feasible. Both companies offer some form of Electronic Funds Transfer. If we were allowed by the city to utilize this option, we could stock products from both distributors.
- ◆ 2022 is turning out to be a great golf season, and golf is trending up.

## Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager

- ◆ We participated in the Great Tree Canopy Comeback on 10/22. We had 32 volunteers who helped plant 74 trees and shrubs and removed invasive Bradford pears on the Towpath Trail.
- ◆ Construction on the Hanna Street Trail between Pettit and Decatur Rd is ready to begin and will be completed in the spring.
- ◆ *Trek the Trails* and *Tread the Trails* ended in October. We had 320 different people register for the *Trek the Trails* rides (approx. 24 rides) and around 180 people participate in *Tread the Trails* (approx. 13 walks/runs).
- ◆ Dawn will be attending an all-day strategic planning retreat on 11/19 for the Greenways Foundation of Indiana.
- ◆ Dawn will be interviewed on 11/30 for a show that will air on PBS at 7:30 p.m. on 12/6 about trails in Indiana.
- ◆ The Community Research Institute finished an Economic Impact Study for the future 81-mile Poka-Bache Connector Trail from Pokagon State Park in Angola through Fort Wayne to Ouabache State Park in Bluffton. Nearly 50% of the trail is complete or funded. In Fort Wayne, the trail will follow the Pufferbelly Trail from the northern City Limits to Lawton and then utilize the Rivergreenway from Lawton to West Foster Park and then run alongside Bluffton Road to the southern City limits at Ferguson Road. The trail sections that have already been constructed have resulted in an economic impact of over \$42 million with approximately 265 jobs supported. It is projected that the remaining 38 miles of trail to be built will have an economic impact of over \$136 million and will support 858 jobs in the region. Unlike the one-time economic benefit of trails constructed and trails to be constructed, the visitor-retail spending is an annual event that is projected at \$6.4 million per year, supporting over 67 jobs per year. This economic benefit to the region will only grow as more trail users frequent the Poka-Bache Connector Trail and notoriety grows for this unique regional asset.
- ◆ We recently planted 32 trees that AEP donated (value of \$16,000) along the Maumee Pathway and the Beckett's Run Trail.
- ◆ We just planted 31 trees on the Fishing Line Trail.
- ◆ We will be replacing 21 dead trees covered by warranty and also replacing an additional 8 trees that are not covered by warranty.
- ◆ Bill Smith, a Greenway Ranger, was named 2022 Trail Volunteer of the Year. He will be honored with a new tree and plaque in Foster Park.
- ◆ Neil and Dawn attended the State Trails Gathering on 9/29 in Zionsville. This was sponsored by the Indiana Parks & Recreation Association and the Greenways Foundation of Indiana.
- ◆ We had another Trot the Trails event on 10/1 along the Towpath Trail in SW Fort Wayne. We had 30 horses attend. The horse owners were thankful. Trail users commented that it's fun to see the horses on the trail. This will likely be our final event since equestrian trails will be constructed in 2023.

- ◆ We have the Great Tree Canopy Comeback on 10/22. We'll be planting over 70 trees along the Towpath Trail between Covington and Smith Roads and removing invasive Bradford Pear trees.
- ◆ The Hanna St Trail from Rudisill to Pettit is 90% complete.
- ◆ Lake Ave Trail from Hobson to Coliseum is 99% complete. Contractor is working on the punchlist.
- ◆ Fishing Line Trail from Ludwig to Cook is 98% complete. Contractor is working on the punchlist.
- ◆ We continue to work on right of way acquisition for the Pufferbelly Trail, Covington Rd Trail and Liberty Mills Rd Trail – all to be constructed in 2023.
- ◆ We only have three Trek the Trails rides left and two biweekly walks/runs for Tread the Trails. The last ride of the year on 10/25 is our popular night ride on the Rivergreenway.
- ◆ Dawn attended a webinar on new federal funding sources for trails under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. There's about 70% additional funding, including some funding for maintenance. The Federal Government's focus is on connectivity, collaboration and equitable access.
- ◆ The Poka-Bache Coalition and Mayor will be holding a news conference (date TBD) in October to announce the results of the economic impact study of the 81-mile Poka-Bache Connector from Pokagon State Park to Ouabache State Park.

### Division News and Media Coverage:



◆ WANE, Leaf pickup update

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/first-round-of-leaf-collection-extended-a-day-in-north-side-neighborhoods/>

FW Business Weekly, Fort Wayne awarded \$45M in New Markets Tax Credits

[https://www.fwbusiness.com/article\\_976641cf-2b8f-5906-af08-588d0b4e13b6.html](https://www.fwbusiness.com/article_976641cf-2b8f-5906-af08-588d0b4e13b6.html)

WOWO, Fort Wayne named one of the best cities for remote workers

<https://www.wowo.com/fort-wayne-one-of-best-cities-for-remote-workers/>

WBOI, City budget draws bipartisan support

<https://www.wboi.org/news/2022-10-12/fort-wayne-mayoral-budget-draws-bipartisan-support>

City TV, FWPD awards ceremony

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=V6PK6ZbXMFon>

WANE, National speaker at United Front

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/national-speaker-urges-fort-wayne-united-front-to-create-community-of-civility/>

WFFT, Animal Care and Control budget requests

[https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-animal-care-and-control-faces-staff-shortage-asking-city-for-funding/article\\_f4ff845e-4a8a-11ed-a462-4f9d7011ac56.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-animal-care-and-control-faces-staff-shortage-asking-city-for-funding/article_f4ff845e-4a8a-11ed-a462-4f9d7011ac56.html)

WFFT, Fire prevention week

[https://www.wfft.com/news/students-evacuate-schools-for-fire-prevention-week/article\\_d8406d82-4a95-11ed-a44a-9329862d25ee.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/students-evacuate-schools-for-fire-prevention-week/article_d8406d82-4a95-11ed-a44a-9329862d25ee.html)

### **Paris: City of Light & Love Until November 13, public hours**

Paris, France has long exuded romance through its iconic cityscape, art, architecture, and famous riverbanks. Over time, a secluded atmosphere of cafes, lush landscapes, and carefree glamour have

come to define Parisian style. Catch a glimpse of a day in Paris through familiar scenes and playful hues adorning a public square in the Botanical Conservatory's summer and fall exhibit. It's bursting with light and love. Included with regular admission. Sponsored by the English Bonger Mitchell Foundation, M.E. Raker Foundation, Majic 95.1m WAJI, Classic Hits 101.7, and WANE15.

**Susie Taylor Suraci: Paris Dream of 2018 Until November 13, public hours**

Enjoy works of art by local and regional artists on display at the Botanical Conservatory. Susie Taylor Suraci originally hails from the Washington D.C. metro area. She is a 1982 graduate from the University of Maryland with a B.A. in Studio Art and a longtime Fort Wayne resident. Suraci is an active member of Artlink and an exhibitor at The Castle Gallery. She is also a recipient of an Indiana Arts Commission grant. In 2018, Suraci realized a lifelong dream of visiting Paris where she stayed mostly in the charming Montmartre neighborhood that was home to many 19<sup>th</sup>-century Impressionist artists. The resulting artwork is on display now through November 13 at the Botanical Conservatory.

## Sensory-Friendly Programming Inclusive Playgrounds



FORT WAYNE  
PARKS AND  
RECREATION

Sensory-Friendly Programming    Calm Water Sensory Tent    Wheelchair/Stroller    Early Stage Dementia  
Seating Accessible Trail



you are you, that is truer than true.  
There is no one

alive who is Younger than You.

~ Dr. Seuss