

## Steve McDaniel, Director

- ✚ The Franke Park Renaissance Project is moving forward. This month, the bidding process is open. Bids are due back for several packages near the end of the month. We hope to seek approvals in March for a beginning construction schedule this spring.
- ✚ We continue to move forward with the transition of Headwaters Park into our operations. April 1<sup>st</sup> is our first day. We also continue to work with the developer of the property to the south as it relates to access on Barr and Duck Streets to the park. Several festivals have reached out to us for plans as they develop their operations for the season.
- ✚ The team is working on a trail questionnaire for Foster Park concerning the golf course master plan. We hope to launch this very soon.
- ✚ Rob Hines and I met with a representative of the Community Foundation to discuss Planned Giving. This is something that we are working on this year to help increase awareness as people plan for the future.
- ✚ Staff members have started working on documents related to our Comprehensive Plan. We will be developing several stakeholder groups to be part of the public input portion of the plan. We will also be developing an Advisory Committee to help guide the process.
- ✚ Staff and I have been meeting with Resultant our city IT consultants. Our focus this month is on replacing older classroom PCs at all of our community and youth centers. We also discuss moving forward with creating a Parks Mobil App. We are currently determining the software, licenses, and features we want to use for the app.
- ✚ In January we dealt with one significant weather event and several minor ones. Crews did a great job of keeping our drives, parking lots, sidewalks, and trails cleared during the snow events.
- ✚ Our program of Winterval was a big success. January 28<sup>th</sup> was filled with a lot of activities throughout the city that our community participated in. Thank you all for coming out and enjoying everything we had to offer.
- ✚ Staff and I held an orientation for our new Park Board member Jenna Jauch. It was a crash course to bring her up to speed with many things going on in parks and recreation.
- ✚ Several staff members attended the Downtown Improvement District's celebration. The DID honored several members of our community for all that they do to keep our downtown thriving. Our own Kelly Hatfield was one of those honored. Congratulations Kelly!
- ✚ Rob and I met with Megan McClennan of Fort Wayne Trails to discuss several projects that impact the Rivergreenway. It is our goal to build better relations with partnering groups.
- ✚ I met with Mike Connolly of REA Magnet Wire to discuss neighborhood improvements in the Harvester Neighborhood and how REA Magnet might be able to help.
- ✚ The bonds for Franke Park Renaissance Project were sold. We had 10 bidders with the lowest bidding at 2.9% interest. This was my first experience selling bonds. According to the Controller's Office, it was twice as many bidders as they were expecting with the interest rate well below what they thought it would come in at.
- ✚ The team and I met with Geoff Paddock to discuss future capital improvements at Headwaters Park. We came up with a priority listing of how best we should move forward. Geoff confirmed that he would take this listing to the next Headwater's Alliance board meeting.
- ✚ Chuck and I met with Loren and Liz Thomas about the property on Gump Road. It was good to catch up with both of them and discuss any issues.
- ✚ We held the December Board of Park Commissioners meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Besides the business at hand, we thanked President Bill Zielke for his 17 years of service to the department and the board.
- ✚ The Park Foundation has committed to funding \$35K towards the update to the Comprehensive Plan. This was done at their December board meeting. I also gave a project update along with updating them on other issues within the department.

- ✚ I was sworn in as President of the Board for 2023 for the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association. This is the second year of a three-year commitment to the board.
- ✚ We celebrated the 69<sup>th</sup> year of the Wassail at the Jennings Center earlier in the month. We also had several celebrations of the holidays at multiple locations throughout the park system.
- ✚ I hope that we have a very prosperous 2023 Year. I am looking forward to what is coming this year.

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

### ✚ **General**

- Seasonal wages were finalized for the 2023 season. With the limited number of staff applications, it was decided to increase starting wages from \$10-\$11/hr. to a new starting rate of \$13-\$15/hr. Many program fees will be adjusted to help cover these increases.
- Seasonal jobs have been getting posted to the City of Fort Wayne's Human Resources page.

### ✚ **Salomon Farm Park**

- Six Learning Center rentals were booked in December 2022 compared to four in December 2021. Salomon Farm Park has seen a steady increase in Learning Center rentals from 2021 to 2022.
- Christmas on the Farm at Salomon Farm Park was held on Saturday, December 3, 2022, from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. The weather was great for Christmas on the Farm. It was mainly sunny and 36 degrees, making it the perfect combination for patrons to get into the holiday spirit. Activities included: make your bird feeder, farm scavenger hunt bingo, letters to Santa, visit with Santa, live Christmas music, horse-drawn wagon rides, concessions, Christmas tree sales, holiday vendors selling their handmade homemade items, and the Homestead was open for people to walk through. This year Salomon Farm collected \$2,135.00 for Christmas on the Farm for 427 cars. In 2021 Salomon collected \$1,745.00 with 349 cars entering the event. Attendance was 1377 compared to 1047 in December 2021.
- Summit City Music Theatre's, A Christmas Carol shows started on December 1, 2022, at 7:30 pm and ended on December 11, 2022, at 7:30 pm. Eight shows were initially offered, with the option of adding shows if the eight existing were to sell out. Once show dates were released and tickets became available in late September, it did not take long for each show to sell out. By November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 three shows were sold out. Each show date had 110 seats/tickets available. Soon two more shows were added, a Sunday evening show and a Saturday matinee. All ten shows sold out at 110 tickets. Tickets were \$25.00 per seat. An indirect heating unit was rented by Salomon Farm Park to blow heat into the Old Barn. The barn is so drafty that this only helped increase the temperature by 10 degrees. Since the performances were in early December the weather did not get too cold for most

patrons. This event needed to be promoted as a dress warm event due to no heat in the Old Barn. Patron's feedback was extremely positive despite some chilly windy days. Without stadium seating in the Old Barn, it was difficult for some patrons to see everything, this was the largest complaint. The actors did a fabulous job and patrons received the message to bundle up and stay cozy for this new family tradition at Salomon Farm Park. Salomon Farm Park Staff has begun planning with Summit City Music Theatre for A Christmas Carol which will be offered again in December 2023.

- Winter Solstice walk and the ride was held at Salomon Farm Park on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, from 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm. This event is in partnership with Fort Wayne Trails and Fort Wayne Public Works Greenways & Trails. Patrons could either participate in a walk around the Salomon loop or a bike ride on the Pufferbelly Trail. Upon return, they enjoyed free hot dogs grilled by Trek Bicycles and free hot chocolate provided by Salomon Farm Park. Salomon Farm Park also provided a bonfire and historic narration by Debby Bonbrake, who is a history docent for the Sweet Breeze Canal Boat.
- Salomon Farm Park is welcoming a new chef that will be teaching baking classes in the Wolf Family Learning Center. Jessica Waggoner, owner of The Hazelnut Baking Company will have baking classes advertised in the spring Fun Times. Jessica is a lifelong Fort Wayne native with degrees in both pastry art and psychology. After spending the last 10 years in the corporate world, she stepped away to focus solely on baking. She loves how food connects cultures and communities, and the joy good quality baked goods bring to people. In spring 2023 she will be offering five classes focusing on baking bread: Intro to bread baking, working with yeast, demystifying sourdough, enriched doughs: brioche and cinnamon rolls, and finally quick bread.

#### **Lindenwood Nature Preserve**

- Lindenwood Nature Preserve hosted a hike and bonfire social to celebrate the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation annual Winterval event. This event was held on Saturday, January 28, 2023, from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. This was a free event. 56 people attended the hike and enjoyed the bonfire. Staff served free hot chocolate over the fire, which was new this year. The Winterval pre-carved ice sculpture showed up around 10:15 am. This year's sculpture was a mushroom.

#### **Golf**

- Dave Weadock is in the process of formulating a public survey to further gather input for the Foster Golf Course master plan. A group of citizens voiced their concerns about the possible rerouting of a section of the River Greenway that goes around the golf course. Steve McDaniel stated that this is an additional step in the process that will ensure that everyone has a chance to be heard on the project.
- Gary Whitacre is in the process of stocking the pro shops at all three golf courses with opening day set for mid-March, weather dependent.
- Bryan Keister reported that he and Travis Whitman have been repairing golf maintenance equipment and continue to get prepared for the season opener.

## **Riverfront**

- Programs and Events at Promenade Park in December slowed down as fewer people tend to get outside for events. On December 8<sup>th</sup> we held the first “For Real For Real Comedy Stories” at the Pavilion in partnership with the local Fort Wayne MMJ Comedy group. The first event kicked off well with a crowd of 26 people. This event will continue through January and February showcasing local Fort Wayne comedians.
- Yoga on the Riverfront and the Sunday Heritage Concert Series remained steady with attendance on December 11<sup>th</sup> with the American Legion Christmas Show.
- Chess and Chill was a new event with our local chess organization moving inside the pavilion and holding a local chess tournament. Everyone that attended the event enjoyed the natural light of the pavilion and hopes to do future partnered events at this location.
- On December 22<sup>nd</sup> we held our first Christmas Movie in the Park with the Movie “Arthur Christmas”. The impending winter storm seemed to halt ticket sales for the day off but we went ahead with the event with an attendance of close to 30. Everyone enjoyed the Christmas snacks and popcorn at the event. We hope to continue this event next year with the hope of better weather and attendance!
- Dance Promenade kicked off January events with the Waltz on January 4<sup>th</sup>! Following the Waltz class was the foxtrot and the Hustle. Due to the winter weather storm, we had to cancel the Dance Promenade Swing class on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Yoga on the Riverfront continued inside the Park Foundation Pavilion with another strong showing of almost 50 attendees. The Sunday Heritage Concert series had a new performer for the first show of 2023 featured Quincy Sanders. Mr. Sanders told stories of songwriting and inspiration between each song in which he played smooth jazz riffs on his saxophone. January programming finished strong with our Winter Cozy event on January 28<sup>th</sup> which finished off the Parks Department Winterval event! The night was filled with campfires and smores along with ice carvings on the patio, live music, food, and drinks provided by Mad Anthony’s inside the Park Foundation Pavilion. Everyone seemed to enjoy all aspects of the event from inside to outside activities.
- Throughout October, November, and into December, we held an online auction for five bottle cap murals to be open for bid starting October 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on November 30<sup>th</sup> on [RiverfrontFW.org/mural-auction](http://RiverfrontFW.org/mural-auction). Each mural was designed by Sammie Vance, founder of Sammie’s Buddy Bench Project, and created into 4-foot-tall and 5-foot-wide murals completely made out of recycled bottle caps. All five murals were assembled by community members through a Riverfront program called Caps for a Cause. Two murals were featured on BYU tv’s Operation Awesome in 2020. All five murals were recently featured on Disney Parks Magical Christmas Day Parade, which aired on ABC Freeform, Hulu, and Disney+. Each mural sold for \$100 or more, with the highest bid at \$400. In total, the bottle cap mural raised \$810 to be donated to Riverfront Fort Wayne to be used towards inclusion programs. Two out of the five winning bidders requested their mural be donated to a Fort Wayne local organization. Three of the five murals will be publicly

displayed at the Boys and Girls Club of Fort Wayne, Erin's House for Grieving Children, and PQC Works.

- The transition to the operational management of Headwaters has been progressing well. The new full-time positions have been posted for the Operations Supervisor, program coordinators, and facility support. Riverfront staff has been communicating regularly with festivals and other rental groups. The transition team is also reviewing the current daily operations and will be meeting with the current Headwaters staff soon.

#### **Community Youth Centers (Jennings and Weisser Youth Centers)**

- Weisser Park Youth Center and Jennings Recreation Center combined programming this month due to staff shortages. Jennings transported (walker) youth from Jennings to Weisser and back to Jennings after programming daily. Youths whose parents dropped them off at Jennings were instructed to drop them off at Weisser Park. All youth who attend Jennings still have the opportunity to participate in our after-school programming.
- Dmitri Golson resigned from his position at Weisser Youth Center to take a position outside the organization.
- On December 4<sup>th</sup>, Jennings Recreation Center held the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Wassail program. The Theme for this year was "Bring Back the Memories". It was an awesome program and there were over 80 people who participated.
- On December 14<sup>th</sup> was the Toys 4 Tots Holiday party. Food was catered in by Big Lacy' Catering. The youth had a blast playing games and receiving gifts from Toys 4 Tots, Ten Point Coalition, and Erin's House.
- On Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, The Community Youth Centers held their 1st Annual Family and Friends Trivia Game Night at Weisser Park. The night consisted of trivia and karaoke along with an impromptu dance party at the end. 21 of our 32 families participated, making our total attendance 103. The Ten Point Coalition volunteered and also enjoyed participating in the activities.

#### **Community Center**

- The Key Club from New Tech Academy students will be hosting the iPhone and iPad classes in January and February at the Community Center. The response was good for the 20-minute sessions.
- Community Center Downtown will be getting all new upgraded computers installed by April 1<sup>st</sup> so that classes can be taught in Windows 11.
- Josh Ogle was Hired as the Supervisor of Community Outreach, Volunteers, and Older Adults at the Community Center in December.
- Suzan Moriarty is completing her Master's in Public Health. Patti is her Mentor for the project. The sensory room program and educational programming will be designed to help older adults with dementia and individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The room intends to promote calmness, stimulate positiveness, and emotional well-being, improved socialization, and increased focus. All five senses will be targeted to create sensory stimulation therapy. Sensory bins will also be provided to stimulate STEM learning. This will offer different ways to engage all five senses while improving daily

functioning and cognitive awareness. This project serves to attract an underserved population within Fort Wayne and the surrounding counties that would not have access to this tool otherwise.

### **McMillen Park Community Center**

- In December, the number of youth participants in programming decreased due to the holidays and averaged 20 youth a day. The STEAM program was focused on E-Sports.
- At the Annual Holiday Celebration toys were provided to the youth in our After-School program by Toys for Tots. We had over 40 children in attendance that day and they were all excited about all of the amazing gifts that they received. The children got a variety of gifts such as; speakers, earbuds, remote control cars, hair gadgets, dolls, and games.
- Also, in December youth did a variety of activities, such as baking holiday cookies, and making ornaments and holiday cards for their family members.
- Adult programming saw a decrease in participation due to the holidays. Essential Steps and Cardio Fit continued to be offered to improve the physical and mental health of the community. These programs are averaging 43 participants a session. They continue to offer Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
- The new Yoga program offered to adults and Seniors on Wednesdays is developing and sparking more interest. This program has a 64% increase in participation in January.
- The MPCC has been introduced to a new sport called Sepak takraw, or Sepaktakraw, also called kick volleyball. This is a team sport played with a ball made of rattan or synthetic plastic between two teams of two to four players on a court resembling a badminton court. This sport is primarily played by Burmese in Fort Wayne. It has increased our participation with the Burmese 100%.

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

-  The Parks and Recreation Department paid 163 employees (129 full-time and 34 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and paid on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.
-  We currently have the following permanent full-time positions either open, posted, interview process, or in the process of being hired, as of January 31st, 2023:
  - Landscape and Horticulture - Gardener (Fund 121) - Two Positions
  - Project Management Technician (Fund 121)
  - Recreation Center Coordinator – Jennings (Fund 121) – Two Positions
  - Supervisor IV – Food Service – Community Youth Centers (Fund 121)
  - Working Leader – Heavy Equipment (Fund 121)
-  We verified that the full-time employees all received their 5% COLA increase for 2023, as passed by City Council.
-  We processed the seasonal wage changes and the part-time wage changes for 2023, as recommended by the Director and Deputy Directors.
-  We processed the 2022 Tool Allowance to eligible employees on the first payroll of January 2023.
-  We are working on getting several position approvals for the takeover of Headwaters Park also. As those approvals are received we will post those positions on the City HR website.

- ✚ We have been posting numerous Park seasonal positions for hire on the City HR website.
- ✚ The Front Office staff has processed 161 Dog Park Memberships so far in January, which is about 20% of the total typically sold in a year.
- ✚ They also processed 123 campground reservations in January. The main office processes reservations for the Johnny Appleseed Campground from January 1<sup>st</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup> until the campground hosts move in for the season and start handling the reservations.
- ✚ The Front Office Staff has also entered all of the Spring Fun Times programs into our RecTrac software to prepare for registration which begins February 1st. 151 programs are being offered this Spring!
- ✚ Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, we went from managing 21 pavilions down to the following eight:
  - 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 completely booked up through January 31, 2023, on all Saturdays and most Sundays.
- ✚ We have entered 50 purchase orders in January 2023 so far, which is about 25% of the total purchase orders typically done in a year.
- ✚ The 2022 Business year in Munis was closed on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We made several journal entries at year-end to make necessary corrections and to move expenses between funds. These will be reflected in the PV Ledger as Journal 2B and 2C on page 10 of the December 2022 PV Ledger.
- ✚ We moved the Foellinger Theatre Operations that were previously handled in the Trust Fund 422 to the Non-reverting Operating Fund 439 and Non-reverting Capital Fund 428, per the recommendation of the City Controller. We updated the accounting structure in Munis, RecTrac, and Access for this change.
- ✚ We set up the accounting structure in Munis, RecTrac, and Access for the takeover of Headwaters Park and we will be using the Non-reverting Operating Fund 439 and Non-reverting Capital Fund 428 to process those new operations, per the recommendation of the City Controller.
- ✚ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 170 employees (130 full-time and 40 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending December 31, 2022, and paid on January 6, 2023.
- ✚ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions either open, posted, interview process, or in the process of being hired, as of December 31, 2022:
  - Gardener - Landscape & Horticulture (Fund 121)
  - Working Leader – Landscape & Horticulture (Fund 451)
  - Working Leader – Heavy Equipment (Fund 121)
  - Project Management Technician (Fund 121)
  - Recreation Center Coordinator – Jennings (Fund 121)
  - Supervisor IV – Food Service – Community Youth Center (Fund 121)
- ✚ Beginning November 1, 2022, and lasting until April 30, 2023, we go from managing 21 pavilions down to the following eight year-round enclosed and heated pavilions:
  - Sears, Franke #1, Pond, Lakeside #1, Hefner, Riverlodge, and Psi Ote Lower and Upper.
- ✚ The eight pavilions that we reserve in the winter are completely booked up through December 31, 2022, on Saturdays and Sundays.
- ✚ We sold many gift certificates for holiday gifts.
- ✚ We sold many golf memberships to those wanting to purchase theirs before the price increase effective January 1, 2023.
- ✚ The Winter Fun Times registration began on November 2, 2022. December through February programs are covered in this brochure. We are currently wrapping up registration for those programs in the Winter Fun Times

- ✚ The Spring Fun Times registration will begin on February 1, 2023. March through May programs will be covered in this brochure.
- ✚ We are very busy with year-end accounting procedures for the Controller's Office.
- ✚ We boxed up files for storage preparing space for the new 2023 files.

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

### ✚ Facilities Management

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **98** for January. This is down from **161** in December.
- Graffiti was removed from the flowing locations; underneath the Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge, Theime Drive river lookout, McCormick Park splash pad, Foster Park river greenway wall, Promenade Park's playground restroom building, and Lakeside Park's pavilion #1 restroom.
- Annual cleans were completed at Weisser Park Youth Center, Community Center, and Jennings Youth Center.
- McMillen Park Community Center's basement carpet was removed by relief workers due to flooding.
- Annual cleans at the year-round facilities continued through January.
- New electronic locks were installed at both Johnny Appleseed's Camp Canine and Foster Park West's Pawster Park dog parks.
- A broken water line at the REA building caused flooding that had to be pumped out and was repaired by contractors.
- Work wrapped up on the new office conversions at the Lawton Park maintenance office building.
- The smoke detectors at the Swinney Park Homestead were upgraded.
- All receptacle outlets were replaced in the Northside Park PSI-OTE Lower pavilion.
- Locks were changed at the Promenade Park pavilion to prepare for the new tenant
- A water line froze and broke at the Repka Park restroom. Repairs were made to the water line and the walls were insulated to prevent future issues.
- Work began to pump water out of the Shoaff Lake at Franke Park. Water needs to be drained to expose the overflow culvert to verify if it is blocked which would lead to a high-water level.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
  - 12 Alarms calls
  - 8 Paint projects
  - 10 Building maintenance repairs
  - 9 Carpentry repairs
  - 27 Electrical repairs
  - 6 HVAC maintenance issues
  - 16 Key core maintenance repairs
  - 4 Light Maintenance
  - 12 Lock maintenance issues
  - 4 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
  - 33 Plumbing maintenance issues
  - 6 Sign replacements
  - 14 Vandalism issues
- There were 11 after-hours calls: 7 code issues: 1 power issue: 2 alarm calls: and 1 light question.
- The fence at McMillen golf course was repaired by Arrow fence.
- Power for cameras at Camp Canine was installed by Schambaugh.
- Cameras at Promenade were installed by Premiere Communications.
- The Fire inspector took a tour of the Lawton facility.

- Receiving prices for new fountains at Reservoir park.
- VFP moved a pull station and horn strobe at Promenade Park tenant space.
- VFP connected the hood system to the fire alarm panel at the Community center.

## **Grounds Maintenance**

- January is the start of the ground's winter work schedule after completely transitioning from summer and fall tasks. Crews spent the last 2 weeks of December and the first 2 weeks of January picking up limbs and pruning trees in the parks. Travis has acquired 2 more Kombi units and attachments for the crews to continue this program throughout the winter, weather permitting
- The winter maintenance crew at Kreager Park got started on mower repairs for the season. They are working closely with the storeroom and Lawton Park mechanics to ensure that maintenance records for each piece of equipment are updated and all parts and labor are assigned to the correct mower to be tracked within our maintenance software. We have a few mowers that will go to RPM Machinery for them to fix off-site.
- We have had two snow events this January, one on Sunday, January 22nd, and the other major storm on January 25th which brought a total of 6 inches. Being my first two snow events as a supervisor, I am very pleased with how the crew works together and communicates. There are a lot of moving parts and places to take care of and we will continue to make improvements in that area. The garage and its staff were very helpful in keeping the equipment up and running.
- Heavy Equipment is still moving things from Franke into Lawton. They received their new lowboy trailer and have been getting that ready for usage. We have addressed a sinkhole at Kettler Park and has been passed onto the city. We have been lowering the pond at Franke in hopes of digging up and replacing a section of pipe that has been compromised. Once fixed the pond should drain in a timelier manner.
- The River Greenway experienced minor flooding in January. Crews have periodically checked for downed limbs and other debris blocking the paths to ensure they remain open for users. I would anticipate some flooding in February with the amount of snow we received in January.

## **Project Administration**

- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement – 2023 Project planning in progress.
- Bowser Park Pavilion – Project punch list items in progress.
- Bowser Park Pavilion Roof – Bidding completed. Requisition in progress.
- Buckner Park Trail Construction – Project progress is on hold until weather permits work to continue.
- Casselwood Park Playground Replacement – Vendor proposals are due January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project Phase 2 – Project completed.
- Downtown Community Center Carpet Replacement – Work has been coordinated with staff to begin in mid-March.
- Foster Park Golf Course Master Plan – Plans completed. Parks staff determining next steps.
- Foster Park Golf Maintenance Barn Restroom – Renovation in progress, completion by March 1.
- Franke Park BMX Track Building Roof – Bidding completed. Requisition in progress.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress.
- Jennings Center Kitchen Cabinets & Countertops – Initial planning in progress.
- Kreager Park Tennis Backboard and Fence – Awaiting final painting.
- Lakeside Park Courts Lighting – Construction is in progress.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof – Design report in progress.
- McMillen Park Community Center Reception Area – Workspace improvements planning in progress.
- McMillen Park Tennis Courts Resurfacing – Project currently out to bid.

- McMillen Community Center Bleachers – Working with manager and vendor for removal of bleachers in the multi-purpose room.
- McMillen Park Pool House Painting – Exterior painting is planned for early May. The project is currently out to bid.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Drawings nearing completion. Permitting is in progress, and may be finished in February 2023. Bidding is planned for mid-2023.
- Memorial Park Fort Wayne Daisies Monument – Final planning in progress.
- Parks System Comprehensive Plan – Purchase order issued. A project planning to begin.
- Rea Building Overhead Door – Project in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. Additional work is ongoing at Heritage Barn.
- Salomon Farm Entrance – Bidding in early February.
- Salomon Farm Garden Fence – Project completed.
- Salomon Farm North Garden Fence – Plans and coordination with staff in progress.
- Sheldon Drive Playground – Playground is scheduled for installation in January.
- Shoaff Park Golf Pro Shop Flooring – Awaiting installation of flooring.
- Various Parks 2023 Paving Projects – Bidding in early February.
- Various Parks 2023 Sidewalk Improvements – Planning in progress for bidding. The project includes the repair and leveling of existing sidewalks.
- Various Parks Pavement Repair, Sealing, and Striping – Project currently out to bid.
- Various Parks Building Caulking & Sealing - Planning in progress for bidding. The project includes the sealing of existing building openings.
- Various Parks Site Furnishings – Acquisition and installations in progress.
- Various Parks On-Call Engineering Services – Consultant has submitted a report for the pedestrian bridge at Foster/Foster West over St. Marys River.
- Weisser Park Youth Center Interior Signage – Planning in progress for a project in 2023.

#### **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.
- Parks Mapping: GIS mapping for parks is ongoing.

#### **Storeroom, Property, & Safety - Garage Operations Highlights:**

- 6 work orders were scheduled this month, 27 of which were services.
- Toro purchases from 2022 now have a September 2023 delivery date. This includes a Toro Groundsmaster 4000 and three 7210 zero-turn mowers.
- A new heavy equipment trailer was delivered from Bridge manufacturing and added to the city's and park's computer system.
- The three remaining Ford purchases from 2022 are still current orders and have not been canceled. There is no delivery date as of yet.

- The last remaining 2022 lease purchases that are pending delivery dates are 2 golf carts, 2 trailers, 3 Ford trucks, and 4 Toro mowers.
- The 2022 Ford F350 flatbed dump for trades was delivered and is processed by the garage and is now being used by the maintenance techs.
- A 2018 Ford Transit connect arrived to replace a 2022 model that was canceled by Ford. The van was processed and assigned to Lynda Heavrin. Her Ford Escape is being detailed and will become a pool vehicle.
- Quotes for 2023 purchases have been received and the final list is being prepared for both the controller's office and City council.
- 2023 blanket price agreement purchase orders have been submitted and around half of them have been approved.
- Garage mechanics helped with the removal of the zoo train and the parts in need of repair have been delivered to the garage.
- There is Golf course equipment that needs winter repairs have been brought to Lawton and are in various stages of completion.
- Many of the 2021 Ford F150s in the fleet have active recalls from Ford relating to wiper motor failures. We are waiting on Ford to have the parts in stock to do the needed replacements.
- Garage staff is working closely with the Kreager winter maintenance crew to create work orders for deck repairs and to make sure needed parts are ordered or rebuilt.

### **Storeroom and Property:**

- Storeroom staff finished their yearly inventory count and met with the controller's office to conduct the 2022 audit. Several items were spot checked for their quantities and locations and the storeroom passed with a perfect count.
- Internal audit determined that our inventory was down \$40,000 from the audit last year which is considered a positive outcome by their assessment.
- The garage/storeroom seasonal helped with engraving unit numbers on new equipment purchased for grounds.
- Storeroom staff assisted facilities by proving them with materials for their annual pavilion cleaning and supplied materials and support for the Winterval event.

#### **Property Transactions:**

23 Makita Hammer Drill	P250, Trades
23 Makita Angle Grinder	P240, Grounds
22 John Deere Gator	P240, Grounds
23 Stihl Pole Pruner (2)	P240, Grounds
23 Stihl Reciprocator	P240, Grounds
Stihl Kombi Unit Motors (4)	P240 and P210
23 Milwaukee Tire Inflator	P252, Garage
22 Makita Multi Tools (2)	P250, Trades
23 Behnke Flat Bed Trailer	P240, Heavy Equip.
22 Ford F250 Flat Bed	P250, Trades
18 Ford Transit Connect	P230, Horticulture
IPC Eagle Floor Machines (4)	P250F, Facilities
Stihl Hedge trimmer heads (3)	P210, Storeroom
88 Karcher Pressure Washer	Scrapped
22 RedMax Reciprocator	Scrapped for parts

**2022 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:**

Club Car Carry All (2) 22121100  
John Deere Gator Received  
John Deere Hydro 1200 Bunker Rake Received  
2- Lely Towed Spreaders Received  
Toro Polartrac 22121156  
Toro 7210 Zero Turn Mower (3) 22121156  
Toro Groundsmaster 4000 Mower 22121156  
Ford Ranger 4x4 Pick-up Canceled  
Ford F350 Chassis Received  
Steel Flatbed for above Installed  
Ford F750 Chassis 22121101  
Chip Body for Above 21121154  
Ford F150 Pickup 22121105  
Heavy Equipment Trailer Received  
Wide Equipment Trailer (2) 22121202  
Toro 4000 Mower Received  
Ford Transit 250 Van 22121165  
Ford Transit Connect Van Received  
Karcher Pressure Washer Received  
IPC Eagle Floor Machines (4) Received

✚ **Safety:** No Safety Committee meeting was held in January due to the safety manager being off work on medical leave.

- 2 vehicle crashes were reported in January. Both were non-preventable.
- 2 injuries were reported this month. Both were minor and did not result in any lost or restricted days.
- 1 CPR class was given. 8 employees attended and all passed.
- Safety Manager Tony Devido obtained his Forklift Trainer certification as required in the job description.
- Scheduling of training for Recreational seasonals.
- Coordinating with the Forestry division to develop a plan to make forestry trucks more visible.

✚ **Facilities Management**

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **161** for December. This is down from **147** in November.
- Graffiti was removed from Waynedale Park playground, Lakeside Park pavilion #1 restrooms, McCormick Park's pavilion and Splash pad shelter, Promenade Park pavilion exterior restrooms, and underneath the Martin Luther King Jr Bridge.
- Annual cleans at the year-round facilities continued through December. This includes projects at the Shoaff Park River lodge pavilion to sand and re-seal the floors and window bench seats, painting projects at the Lakeside Park pavilion #1, and Franke Park Day camp.
- Office painting and upgrades were completed for the Downtown Community Center.
- The Nice Rink was installed at Lakeside Park for the 2022/2023 season. No official skating days had been recorded as the ice was not solid enough to permit usage.
- Electrical outlets were replaced/upgraded in the Botanical Conservatories' tropical room.
- Work was completed at the Franke Park heavy equipment barn to relocate staff to Lawton Park and allow the building to be used for contractors during the park renovations.

- The partition wall in the Franke Park men's exterior restroom was repaired due to extensive vandalism.
- Sensors for the automatic door operation were replaced at the Northside Park administration building.
- Work was completed to move the employee resource computers to each of the individual areas of the Lawton Park maintenance facility.
- Repairs were completed on the Lawton Park Greenhouses heat bench and fertilizer injector system.
  - The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
    - 7 Alarm calls
    - 10 Paint projects
    - 19 Building maintenance repairs
    - 3 Carpentry repairs
    - 29 Electrical repairs
    - 3 HVAC maintenance issues
    - 3 Key core maintenance repairs
    - 9 Light Maintenance
    - 2 Lock maintenance issues
    - 4 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
    - 12 Plumbing maintenance issues
    - 1 Sign replacements
    - 10 Vandalism issues

### **Grounds Maintenance**

- Heavy Equipment has settled in their temporary home at Lawton. They are gearing up for snow as far as marking parks and installing plows.
- Heavy equipment is maintaining the gravel lot at Franke for the fantasy of lights.
- Scott Winling was hired as the new grounds supervisor. The Heavy Equipment working leader job was posted.
- Snow routes were reworked to be more efficient
- Two crew members spend a week in the garage helping with getting the Polar Tracks converted over and ready for snow
- Crews started their winter parks clean up, each crew has been assigned a list of parks to spin trim and get rid of the suckers around the trees and gather limbs in the parks
- Snow routes have been marked for the year.
- Stone was placed at Lawton Park by the tire barn so the Tree gang can park vehicles there without getting stuck in the mud.
- Equipment has been stored for the winter at both Harris Road and the barn at the Sears Pavilion.
- The reliefs cleaned and service the stumper in preparation to grind several stumps at Foster West.

### **Project Administration**

- Botanical Conservatory Window Glass Replacement – 2023 Project planning in progress.
- Bowser Park Pavilion – Concrete flatwork has been completed. Exterior and interior building improvements are ongoing.
- Buckner Park Trail Construction – Trail clearing is complete and excavation continues. Planned completion in June 2023.
- Casselwood Park Playground Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project Phase 2 – Punch list items are in progress by the contractor. The Downtown Community Center Carpet Replacement – The project has been awarded. Work has been coordinated with staff to begin in mid-February.
- Foster Park Golf Course Master Plan – Plans completed. Parks staff determining next steps.
- Foster Park Golf Maintenance Barn Restroom – Renovation plans in progress.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress.
- Jennings Center Kitchen Cabinets & Countertops – Initial planning in progress.
- Kreeger Park Tennis Backboard and Fence – Awaiting final painting.
- Lakeside Park Courts Lighting – Construction is in progress.

- McMillen Park Community Center Reception Area – Workspace improvements planning in progress. McMillen Park Tennis Courts Resurfacing – Plans completed for resurfacing. Bidding in early 2023. McMillen Community Center Bleachers – Working with manager and vendor for removal of bleachers in the multi-purpose room.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Drawings nearing completion. Permitting is in progress, and may be finished in February 2023. Bidding is planned for late 2023.
- Memorial Park Fort Wayne Daisies Monument – Final planning in progress.
- Parks System Comprehensive Plan – Proposals received. Review in progress.
- Rea Building Overhead Door – Project in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. 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 North Garden Fence – Plans and coordination with staff in progress.
- Sheldon Drive Playground – Playground is scheduled for installation in January.
- Shoaff Park Golf Pro Shop Flooring – Awaiting installation of flooring.
- Various Parks 2023 Paving Projects – Planning in progress.
- Various Parks 2023 Sidewalk Improvements – Planning in progress for bidding. The project includes the repair and leveling of existing sidewalks.
- Various Parks Pavement Repair, Sealing, and Striping – Planning in progress.
- Various Parks Building Caulking & Sealing - Planning in progress for bidding. The project includes the sealing of existing building openings.
- Various Parks Site Furnishings – Acquisition and installations in progress.
- Various Parks On-Call Engineering Services – Consultant has submitted a report for the pedestrian bridge at Foster/Foster West over St. Marys River.
- Weisser Park Youth Center Interior Signage – Planning in progress for a project in 2023.

#### **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.
- Parks Mapping: GIS mapping for parks is ongoing.

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

- 6 work orders were scheduled this month, 10 of which were services.
- A Toro grounds master 4000 from the golf course operations is awaiting the installation of a new clutch and hydraulic pump to get it back into operation.
- The oil pan was replaced on truck 87 which necessitated removing the transmission and lifting the engine several inches to remove to old part and install the new piece.
- Polar Trac conversions have been completed on the Toro 7210 mowers.
- The grounds and Promenade gators have been set up for snow removal with plow blades and salt spreaders installed.
- The rear salt spreader was installed on Truck 20 for the snow plowing season.
- 2 new trailers have been ordered and will have a delivery date available soon. One will go to the golf courses for hauling wide fairway mowers and the other to the grounds for the same task.

- The 2022 Ford F350 flatbed dump for trades has the bed installed and it is now at the city garage for initial processing. It is in the Faster system and has been invoiced.
- 2 vehicles from the 2022 Ford lease purchase were canceled by Ford. The money allocated for a 2022 Ford Ranger will be used to purchase 4 new floor machines and the 2022 Ford Transit Connect will be replaced by a used model that is in stock at Bob Thomas Ford.
- The Park Board approved the replacement of the unleaded and diesel pumps at the Lawton Park maintenance facility. The requisition has been submitted and the work will be performed in February of 2023.
- Heavy Equipment dropped off truck 147 at H&H to have the dump controls switched to a better system.
- The John Deere backhoe that was at West Side tractor sales has been finished. A requisition has been submitted for the invoice since it was over \$5000.
- Repairs to the head gasket on unit 1149 (golf ball picker) were unsuccessful so a remanufactured engine will be purchased after the first of next year. The gasket mating surface is badly pitted and we hoped to extend the current engine for another season.
- Additional modifications were performed to the dragon boat trailer to make it more usable and safer. A new, smaller toolbox was installed and a new bracket for temporary taillights was fabricated. This allows the lights to be installed during transport and stored when the boats are being used. Storeroom staff helped with logistics and materials for the annual downtown Christmas lighting events.
- Materials and support were also provided for the Botanical Conservatory showcase change for the Christmas season.
- The winter garage/storeroom seasonal worker has been able to assist with parts pickups, equipment pressure washing, and various storeroom organizational tasks.
- Storeroom staff provided tools and materials for various crews to perform their daily leaf cleanup and snow removal.
- Storeroom staff has begun the long overdue process of going through all of the old stock of supplies and clearing out unneeded materials and transferring usable items to the various work crews.

### Property Transactions:

Sioux Tools Bench Grinder P252, Garage	22 Stihl FS94R Spin Trimmer P230, Horticulture
Delta Rockwell Drill Press R240, Grounds	22 Stihl BG86 Leaf Blowers (2) P230, Horticulture
22 Milwaukee Grease Gun Kit P230, Horticulture	22 RedMax Reciprocators (2) P230, Horticulture
22 Workhorse tank sprayer P230, Horticulture	88 Karcher Pressure Washer Scrapped, Unusable
22 Stihl MSA161T Chainsaw P230, Horticulture	

#### **2022 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:**

Club Car Carry All (2) 22121100  
John Deere Gator At Kenn Feld  
John Deere Hydro 1200 Bunker Rake Received  
2- Lely Towed Spreaders Received  
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Ford F150 Pickup 22121105  
Heavy Equipment Trailer 22121140  
Wide Equipment Trailer (2) 22121202  
    Toro 4000 Mower Received  
Ford Transit 250 Van 22121165  
Ford Transit Connect Van Req'd  
Karcher Pressure Washer Received  
IPC Eagle Floor Machines (4) Req'd

#### **Safety:**

No Safety Committee meeting was held in December due to the number of employees taking time off for the holidays. The January 2023 meeting is scheduled for 1-31-23.

- 1 vehicle crash was reported in December for a total of 17 in 2022.
- 1 injury was reported in December (non-treatable) for a total of 31 in 2022. Those injuries resulted in 465 restricted days and 112 lost-time days for the year.
- A chainsaw safety/PPE refresher class was held for select maintenance personnel.
- 1 CPR class is scheduled for Jan. '23 w/ a possible second one.
- Prep for seasonals training begins. Meetings with recreational managers will come first.
- A review of all facility Emergency Action Plans has begun.

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



#### **Planning Report – January 2023**

- Franke Park Renaissance: Phase I continues to move forward; bid documents are being prepared by the design team with bidding anticipated for February. Areas for tree removal were surveyed and staked on-site, with bids being accepted through early February for this work. Tree clearing will be completed before April 1 to meet IDNR requirements for the protection of the Indiana brown bat.
- Riverfront Development: Phase IIB planning and design continues- permit applications were submitted along with 50% drawings. These drawings were reviewed and comments were shared with the design team. Coordination with various departments and agencies continues. 90% of construction drawings are scheduled for completion on March 3.

- Similar to Franke, trees need to be removed in preparation for the construction of Riverfront Phase IIB. Staff worked with the design team to identify and mark trees for removal in the field in anticipation of removal before April 1.
- The draft IDNR 5-year Master Plan was submitted to IDNR for review. Our consultants continue to refine the plan, graphics, and GIS maps; completion of the final plan is anticipated in April.
- The Parks 10-year Comprehensive Plan kick-off meeting was held in January with the project team led by Design Workshop. The advisory team is scheduled to meet again in February; we will begin to identify stakeholders and further define the project vision before beginning community outreach.
- Construction has begun on the St. Marys Streambank Stabilization: Phase II project. Stanger Group mobilized, prepared/protected the site, and has begun selective demolition of the site. Bank stabilization work will begin in early February.
- Staff met with ERI to discuss current and future project needs for the East Central Marina. The next steps will be to involve other city departments and public safety in determining potential complementary needs to be incorporated into the design.
- The Staff took part in a discussion with several other departments in making recommendations for the Downtown Design Manual revision. In particular, green infrastructure practices, requirements, and recommendations were discussed.
- Concepts for screens to be installed around the firepits at Promenade Park were completed. One cost estimate was received; we anticipate additional estimates and potential fabrication/installation in February.
- Staff continues to plan for the transition of Headwaters Park maintenance and management to be passed to the Parks Department from Headwaters Alliance. Staffing, equipment, and operations continue to be sorted out.
- The Moody Park Master Plan was completed and reviewed with the plan steering committee. We plan to post the plan to our website for public comment throughout February, with a presentation of the final plan anticipated for Park Board adoption in March.
- 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- January 2023**

- The Winter showcase was installed at the Botanical Conservatory following the removal of the Holiday show. This year's theme is "California Dreamin".
- Gardeners continued landscape bed cleanups at Promenade Park, Lakeside Park, the Foellinger Theatre, Northside Pool, and Salomon Park.
- Pruning has been done at Lakeside Park, Lawton Park, and Northside Pool.
- Landscape staff cleared mud off the docks after a large flood event at Promenade Park.
- Landscape staff assisted in snow removal at Lawton Park, Promenade Park, Lakeside Park, and Foster Park during our last snow event.
- Cleanup, organization, and equipment maintenance began in the Landscape-Horticulture shop.
- Landscape staff continues to assist in the greenhouse as the weather dictates.
- Seven landscape staff members were trained to do greenhouse seeding. They are now scheduled in the greenhouse at certain times weekly to work on seeding trays.
- One landscape staff member was signed up for online training that will prepare them for taking their test for an herbicide license this season.
- Austin Barton was hired for the Working Leader Position. His first day began on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

- The School Children’s Flower and Vegetable Association Chairperson meetings were held at the Botanical Conservatory to hand out the 2023 Booklets and prepare for seed, ribbon, t-shirt, and pencil orders.
- There were 29,486 seeds sown in the greenhouse for parks, SCFVA, Conservatory Showcase, and Mother’s Day Plant Sale.
- Volunteers worked 244.5 hours in the greenhouse.

 **Riparian Management Report- January 2023**

- Collaborated on updating the seasonal job description to include the word ‘river’ to widen the net for the Riparian department’s applicants.
- Assisted with the January showchange by providing possible woody debris for display.
- Removed 311 reported debris (tires and litter) that was accessible by land at Lawton and Swinney Park.
- Began the removal process of large, woody debris that is accessible on land while the river levels are down. Cut large debris into sections for easier removal later in the season along the St Marys River.
- Continuing recruitment and coordination with organizations for future volunteer clean-ups.
- Continuing to actively recruit seasonal workers by contacting organizations and teachers/students.
- Coordinating with the garage to strengthen the strong arm system used at Headwaters dock for improved safety.
- Began coordinating the maintenance list for future Sweet Breeze spring commissioning, improving the onboard maintenance records for Sweet Breeze, and assisting with the future training material for the crew on Sweet Breeze.
- Attended Virtual 2023 Purdue Pest Conference for Indiana Pesticide Certification for continuing credits.
- Assisted City Utilities’ Program Manager with the City’s 2022 annual stormwater report by providing statistics recorded from the Riparian department including volunteer hours, tons of debris/litter removed, and tons of woody debris removed.

- **Forestry Report- January 2023**

- Work continues to identify and prioritize planting sites in collaboration with the Southwest Area Partnership for spring tree planting. The spring planting will have an emphasis on planting street trees near elementary schools. There is substantial evidence that children who experience nature regularly (even if it is just a view of nature) perform better on tests of concentration, impulse inhibition, and delayed gratification.
- Most of the forestry team attended the 2023 Indiana Arborist Association Annual Conference. This conference offers an opportunity to learn from subject matter experts and network with others working in various capacities within the tree care industry.
- Began this year’s collaboration with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the School Children Flower and Vegetable Association to deliver seedling trees to area 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. We are working on another potential partnership that will offer an education component to classes/teachers who are interested. This year, children will be receiving Pecan trees.
- In-house crew efforts were focused on high-priority service requests. At present, there are 5 outstanding priority-1 service requests, 15 priority-2 service requests, and 51 priority-3 service requests. 30 were completed in January.

- Forestry received 27, 311 Call Center service requests during December. Each of these reports is inspected and necessary work is prioritized based on the related risk.
- 16 tree damage appraisals were completed this month resulting in \$15,128.00 in total damages

#### **✚ Planning Report – December 2022**

- Minor value engineering and design changes continue in the Franke Park Renaissance: Phase I planning efforts. Tree clearing is anticipated for winter, with bidding on track for late January/early February.
- Limited construction continues for Riverfront Development: Phase IIA. Cold temperatures and wet weather have slowed efforts heading into the winter.
- Riverfront Development: Phase IIB planning and design continues, albeit with several ongoing challenges for the design team. Utility coordination, private development needs and requests, funding, interpretive signage, and permitting are at the forefront of discussions. 50% of Permit Application drawings were submitted for staff review at the end of the month.
- A contract was approved with Design Workshop for the Park's 10-year Comprehensive Plan. Project kick-off is scheduled for January.
- A pre-construction meeting was held with Stanger Group and Biohabitats, Inc. in anticipation of the St. Marys Streambank Stabilization: Phase II project. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-January.
- Tree mitigation location and details were determined and submitted to IDNR for the Fourth St. Trestle Bridge project. Design development continues as the permit drawings are reviewed.
- Explored potential funding opportunities for upcoming park projects with Doug Nussbaum (IDNR) and Mike Cox (NRCS).
- Work continues regarding the addition and reorganization of personnel within the landscape division. Two new positions (working leader and Headwaters gardener) and one vacant position will be filled before spring 2023, while a new team structure is being explored to increase efficiency in landscape maintenance.
- 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. Of note is the development of an interior lighting upgrade project that is anticipated to be bid on in early 2023.

#### **✚ Horticulture and Landscape Report- December 2022**

- Landscape staff spent a lot of time with limb pickup in various parks due to high winds.
- Fall clean-ups were completed at over 40 parks.
- Leaf removal and fall bed clean-ups continued at Promenade, Lakeside, and Foster Parks.
- Landscape staff mulched Rudisill Park.
- Landscape staff ground stumps in multiple landscape beds across various parks.
- Landscape staff assisted in snow removal and salting during the winter storm.
- Landscape staff began pruning ornamental trees in select parks; priority parks have been identified and will be completed as possible throughout the winter.
- Our last seasonal employees were separated on December 21st.
- Staff evaluations and goals were completed.
- Lawnscape completed its 2022 Maintenance Contract. Leaf cleanups were finished this month, as needed.

#### **✚ Riparian Management Report- December 2022**

- Continued scouting for hidden navigational hazards along all three rivers.
- Coordination with Public Works for the removal of old debris around St Marys River levee.
- Recruitment and coordination of organizations for volunteer clean-ups for 2023 continuing, including opportunities for water quality presentations and education.

- Actively recruiting seasonal workers by contacting organizations and universities in preparation for 2023.
- Preparing for the continuation of the Parks Ecosystem Maintenance contract.

### Forestry Report- December 2022

- Pruning has been suspended and only special prunes will be considered for the time being. We were able to wind down storm operations by the end of this month, except for what remains in the parks. We did 68 special prunes as well as dead wooding of trees for clearance, failure potential, and visibility issues.
- **311 calls for December was 35. 2022 has been a record year for 311 calls since July.** We have surpassed all 311 annual call totals from any previous year that records are available. **We have a final count of 2,887, 311 calls for 2022.** The highest yearly total before 2022 was 1,449 in 2021.
- Our inventory shows 60 trees were removed from the ROW (right of way). Many of these were contract removals that were verified as complete once we were notified by the contractor.
- 6 removals were storm-related. 2 storm removals were from parks. Private trees blocking streets were 1. 5 removals were a result of vehicle damage.
- Forestry filled two positions, one was a groundman and the other a bucket operator. Presently there are a total of 5 field staff, 4 of which have CDL licenses.
- Forestry recorded 46 hangers and or debris picks up. 2 were a result of a vehicle collision.
- We recorded 20 call-inspections at properties that may be a future issue with the area resident's concerns.
- Tree inspections requested by risk management due to vehicle damage totaled 11 locations. 11 locations have been reviewed. The total tree damage appraised amount sent to risk was \$6,090.00.

### Botanical Conservatory Report – January 2023

Happy Smallidays' at the Botanical Conservatory continued to delight visitors through the tale of Little Mouse learning to take in the magic of the holiday season through to the end of the exhibit, which wrapped up on January 8. After a week of hard work and collaboration, 'California Dreamin'' began welcoming visitors into a 1960s-1970s era inspired Venice Beach, Los Angeles, California on January 14. This winter exhibit looks to get families out of the winter blues and into the spirit of surf, sun, and sand, while the outdoors may have other plans, families can enjoy summer vibes and play at the Botanical Conservatory through April 16. The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events in January 2023 including Winterval at the Conservatory (January 28), the unveiling of the Coast to Coast Art Display by Kerstin Glaess (Opened January 14), and the start of the Sweetheart Orchid Display (Opened January 31). Staff is gearing up for the Orchid Show (February 4), Kerstin Glaess Artist Reception (February 19), and several pre-registered programs and workshops throughout the month. Current vacancies include Program Coordinator, Education & Interpretation (interviewing), Camp ACTIVenture Counselors & Supervisor (accepting applications), Seasonal Maintenance (accepting applications), and Seasonal Gardener (accepting applications).

### Conservatory KPIs

January 2023 was an incredibly strong opening to the year with an attendance increase of over 30% to the same period in 2022, and membership sales up nearly 57% to the same period in 2022. Rental & Catering Fee revenue increased precipitously year-over-year due to higher confidence in event booking, as well as a streamlined booking process. Conservatory Shop revenue somehow continues to climb, with an impressive 33% increase in January 2022 (which held the all-time January record for the Conservatory Shop). Overall a compelling exhibit theme and inspired execution have driven traffic in the first month of the year.

**Attendance**

January 2022: 4,184 visitors  
 January 2023: 5,449 visitors  
 An increase of 1,265 or +30.23% to 2022

**Admissions Revenue**

January 2022: \$17,113.00  
 January 2023: \$21,776.00  
 An increase of \$4,663.00 or +27.25% to 2022

**Membership Revenue**

January 2022: \$5,977.00  
 January 2023: \$9,350.00  
 An increase of \$3,373.00 or +56.43% to 2022

**Conservatory Shop Revenue**

January 2022: \$10,744.69  
 January 2023: \$14,291.83  
 An increase of 3,547.14 or +33.01% to 2022

**Rental & Catering Fee Revenue**

January 2022: \$5,567.50  
 January 2023: \$14,317.50  
 An increase of \$8,750.00 or +157.16% to 2022

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

January 2022: \$13,160.30  
 January 2023: \$9,504.78

**Conservatory Total Revenue**

January 2022: \$52,562.49  
 January 2023: \$69,240.11  
 An increase of \$16,677.62 or +31.73% to 2022

**Conservatory Business Development**

- ✚ The Botanical Conservatory was awarded \$5,000 support from the Magee O'Connor Foundation for the 2023 California Dreamin' Exhibit.
- ✚ The Conservatory received \$2,300 for support of the 2023 Color in Motion Butterfly Exhibit and \$1,200 for a memorial bench from Matthew Wyatt and his sisters Liz and Katherine in honor of their parents Jo Ann and William Wyatt. Jo Ann and William (Bill) both volunteered for many years for Conservatory special events and especially as butterfly attendants for the annual live butterfly display.
- ✚ Staff submitted a grant to the Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation for \$7,500 support of the 2023 Color in Motion Butterfly Exhibit (the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the display).

Staff confirmed media sponsorships of Conservatory's 2023 exhibits and special events: 21Alive for the

Color in Motion Butterfly Exhibit and Mother's Day in the Garden; WMEE 97.3 for the Color in Motion Butterfly Exhibit; and Majic 95.1 for Bunny Tales in the Garden, Mother's Day Plant Sale, and Mother's Day in the Garden. Approved promotional spots for California Dreamin' Exhibit; promotional tickets were distributed to WANE 15 and 103.9 WAYNE FM for the exhibit and to all foundation sponsors.

- ✚ Conservatory donations in January 2022 totaled \$8,500: \$5,000 from the Magee-O'Connor Foundation and \$3,500 from the children of Jo Ann and William Wyatt.
- ✚ Researched possible grant funding from the Indiana Arts Commission for the 2023 Showcase Garden exhibits. The exhibits do not currently meet the criteria of the program. Staff will investigate again for a possible match in 2024 that will more closely align with the focus of their art.
- ✚ Staff coordinated information for the Winter 2023 Member ENews; it was sent on January 8.
- ✚ Staff completed the Fall 2022/Winter 2023 follow-up email appeal to our members and volunteers; it was sent on January 23.

#### ✚ Conservatory Public Programs **Events**

✚ Winterval at the Conservatory (January 28)

✚ Winterval held from 10:00 am-3:00 pm at the Conservatory attracted 581 visitors, 127 of which were members. A high number of additional memberships were purchased for the day as guests enjoyed activities in place to celebrate this park-wide winter festival. At the Conservatory, a live ice carving of a surfer riding a wave was performed on the sidewalk which winds through the newly developed front flower beds. Altogether, 300 plants, including thimble cacti, jade, and spider plants, were given away in Showcase, and 94 children with 95 adults enjoyed an Origami craft of crabs and sailboats in Jaenicke.



*Surfer on Wave  
Winterval Ice Carving*

✚ **Education:** Youth Field Trips:

✚ There was one field trip scheduled in January 2023 that was canceled because school was closed after heavy snow. There were two field trip groups in January 2022 totaling 28 students, 0 students from 0 groups in January 2021, 67 students from 1 group in January 2020, and 94 students from 2 groups in January 2019.

✚ **Adult Groups:**

There were 0 adult groups who visited in January 2023 totaling 0 guests.

✚ **Bee the Change:**

On Thursday evening, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 27 children and 2 adults engaged with the Bee the Change offering, "Botanical Fireworks," a craft activity that explored blooms in the Conservatory's gardens that look like exploding fireworks.

✚ **T'ai Chi for Relaxation** (January 31- February 28)

✚ At the end of January, Liz Monnier began offering instruction in two five-week sessions of T'ai Chi, one morning and one evening. Each session has 11 participants enrolled.

## ✚ Exhibits & Displays

✚ California Dreamin' (January 14 – April 16):

✚ Calling all mamas and papas – find your inner beach bum at the Botanical Conservatory. The kiddos will spring into the spirit of surf, sand, and sun! Bring on the good vibes and hang loose at the botanical boardwalk accented with sun-loving tropical plants and vivid waves of color. Don't be a drag; be sure to experience this Cali-cool winter exhibit.

✚ The initial reaction to the California Dreamin' Showcase has been overwhelmingly popular, including media features on WANE15, 21Alive, Fox55, and Journal Gazette. This showcase offers a view of a nostalgic bus, a boardwalk for photos, and many activities for the young and young-at-heart: a slide, sandboxes with accessories, Jenga, beach volleyball, ring toss, horseshoes, cornhole, and beach chairs with a whimsical “fire” pit.



Mid-Installation Photo of VW Scene  
in California Dreamin' Exhibit

VW

✚ *Coast to Coast* by Kerstin Glaess (January 14 – April 15)

Kerstin Glaess is a local artist displaying her works in oil paint based on photographs and memories from her worldwide military adventures as a child. Having lived on two continents, two countries, eleven states, and one U.S. territory, Glaess boasts a diverse collection of collages and drawings inspired by flora, fauna, and landscapes that tease the border between dreamscapes and reality.

## ✚ Volunteers/Staff

In addition to regularly scheduled volunteers at the Front Desk (7) and Gift Shop/Plant Groomer (7), we also had 6 volunteers for Winterval. Through January 14<sup>th</sup>, volunteers logged 193.75 hours of service.

✚ Several new volunteers are also in the application process, especially for Butterfly Attendants and the Mother's Day Plant Sale.

## ✚ Upcoming

January 14-April 16: Winter Showcase California Dreamin'

January 14-April 15: Art Exhibit Kerstin Glaess' Seascapes

January 31-February 26: Sweetheart Orchid Display

January 31-February 28: T'ai Chi for Relaxation

February 2: Bee the Change Love Others, Love Yourself, Love the Earth

February 4: Orchid Show

February 18: Modern Living Hoop Wreath

February 19: Kerstin Glaess Artist Reception



## ✚ Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

✚ The final week of Happy Smallidays wrapped up on January 8. Visitation remained quite strong through the entirety of the holiday show—even through the new year.

✚ Over five days, Botanical Conservatory and Lawton Park staff (gardeners and MTs) worked together to deinstall

Happy Smallidays and install the winter exhibit, California Dreamin'. California Dreamin' provides a fun and colorful space for families to bask in the warmth of a stunning beach-like environment replete with beach games, sunset scenes, sand, and a VW van.

✚ Sycamore Tree Care thoroughly pruned the loquat tree and two of the pillars covered in creeping ficus vines within the Showcase House. Later in the month, Sycamore Tree Care pruned several trees and palms in the Tropical House. The work they performed has greatly improved the aesthetic and health of the plants throughout the Botanical Conservatory.

✚ The Sweetheart Orchid display was installed at the end of the month in the Tropical House. It was completely redone this year—a welcome and much-needed transformation to provide a clean, contemporary, and aesthetically-pleasing display for visitors.

✚ Several Voodoo Lily corms were donated to the Botanical Conservatory—one with an emerging flower that was displayed for the public.

## ✚ Botanical Conservatory Report – December 2022

- 'Happy Smallidays' at the Botanical Conservatory continued to delight visitors through the tale of Little Mouse learning to take in the magic of the holiday season. 'Happy Smallidays' was produced by the Botanical Conservatory in collaboration with local author/illustrator Talitha Shipman as a children's storybook brought to life in this exciting twist on the Botanical Conservatory holiday exhibit. The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events in December 2022 including Member-Volunteer Holi-Day (December 7), Santa & Reindeer Saturdays (December 3, 10, 17), and the second of two book signings with Talitha Shipman (December 17). Staff is gearing up for California Dreamin' Showcase Exhibit (Opening January 14), Seascapes Art Display by Kerstin Glaess (Opening January 14), Winterval (January 28), and Sweetheart Orchid Display (Opening January 31). Program Coordinator, Education & Interpretation, Kelsey Gerig, will be departing the Botanical Conservatory on March 1, the full-time position has been posted with the intent to interview and hire by the time of her departure. Kelsey has been an incredible asset in her time at the Botanical Conservatory, starting and developing Camp ACTIVenture, multiple workshops, and enhanced exhibit signage.
- Conservatory KPIs - Conservatory Shop revenue showed a significant 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 and is trending up to 2019. December 2022 also charted a significant attendance increase to 2021 attributable to enhanced exhibit marketing and a compelling exhibit theme. During the year, overall attendance is marked at a post-COVID-19 high. While overall attendance is down to 2019 YTD, paid attendance figures are up 3.73% to 2019 YTD, indicating that more people are paying their way into the door during public hours. The increase in paid attendance to 2019 YTD indicates that free attendance is down, observed broadly in smaller rental events (down over 4,300 guests, or -61.2%) and a change in attendance-logging practices that omits facility attendance tracking at off-site events (over 9,200 visitors were recorded for off-site participation in Botanical Conservatory outreach in 2019). With the rental attendance drop and change in attendance tracking taken into consideration, attendance at the Botanical Conservatory is within 350 guests or -0.39% to 2019, indicating a near-full attendance recovery to pre-COVID-19

*Pictured are many (not all!) of the Botanical Conservatory & Lawton Park Gardeners who worked to make California Dreamin' a reality.*

figures.

**Attendance**

December 2019:	11,780 visitors
December 2020:	6,320 visitors
December 2021:	8,196 visitors
December 2022:	9,981 visitors

A decrease of 1,799 or -15.27% to 2019

An increase of 3,661 or +57.93% to 2020

An increase of 1,785.00 or +21.78% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2019 Attendance:	98,653 visitors
2020 Attendance:	40,494 visitors
2021 Attendance:	67,764 visitors
2022 Attendance:	84,821 visitors

A decrease of 13,832 or -14.02% to 2019

An increase of 44,327 or +109.47 to 2020

An increase of 17,057 or +25.17% to 2021

**Admissions Revenue**

December 2019:	\$29,880.00
December 2020:	\$19,990.00
December 2021:	\$26,393.00
December 2022:	\$36,332.00

An increase of \$6,452.00 or +21.59% to 2019

An increase of \$16,342.00 or +81.75% to 2020

An increase of \$9,939.00 or +37.66% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2019 Admissions Revenue:	\$224,813.01
2020 Admissions Revenue:	\$101,343.00
2021 Admissions Revenue:	\$212,836.00
2022 Admissions Revenue:	\$322,807.70

An increase of \$97,994.69 or +43.59% to 2019

An increase of \$221,464.70 or +218.53% to 2020

An increase of \$109,971.70 or +51.67% to 2021

**Membership Revenue**

December 2019:	\$7,342.00
December 2020:	\$6,140.20
December 2021:	\$9,228.00
December 2022:	\$12,373.00

An increase of \$5,031.00 or +68.52% to 2019

An increase of \$6,232.80 or +101.51% to 2020

An increase of \$3,145.00 or +34.08% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2019 Membership Revenue:	\$54,547.00
2020 Membership Revenue:	\$31,864.90
2021 Membership Revenue:	\$59,346.00
2022 Membership Revenue:	\$72,456.00
An increase of \$17,909.00 or +32.93% to 2019	
An increase of \$40,591.10 or +127.38% to 2020	
An increase of \$13,110.00 or +22.09% to 2021	

**Conservatory Shop Revenue**

December 2019:	\$15,444.93
December 2020:	\$15,449.83
December 2021:	\$23,674.91
December 2022:	\$34,165.73
An increase of \$18,720.80 or +121.21% to 2019	
An increase of \$18,715.90 or +121.14% to 2020	
An increase of \$10,490.82 or +44.31% to 2021	

**YTD Comparisons**

2019 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$118,552.92
2020 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$86,218.17
2021 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$195,796.98
2022 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$246,128.94
An increase of \$127,576.12 or +107.61% to 2019	
An increase of \$159,910.77 or +185.47% to 2020	
An increase of \$50,331.96 or +25.71% to 2021	

**Rental & Catering Fee Revenue**

December 2019:	\$5,415.00
December 2020:	\$855.00
December 2021:	\$5,167.50
December 2022:	\$4,552.50
A decrease of \$862.50 or -15.93% to 2019	
An increase of \$3,697.50 or +432.46% to 2020	
A decrease of \$615.00 or -11.90% to 2021	

**YTD Comparisons**

2019 Rental Revenue:	\$88,590.00
2020 Rental Revenue:	\$60,153.00
2021 Rental Revenue:	\$60,619.67
2022 Rental Revenue:	\$98,394.88
An increase of \$9,804.88 or +11.07% to 2019	
An increase of \$38,241.88 or +63.57% to 2020	
An increase of \$37,775.21 or +62.32% to 2021	

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

December 2019:	\$6,544.96
December 2020:	\$14,546.87
December 2021:	\$64,463.41
December 2022:	\$45,505.26

### **YTD Comparisons**

2019 Other Revenue:	\$363,184.39
2020 Other Revenue:	\$320,862.83
2021 Other Revenue:	\$433,340.28
2022 Other Revenue:	\$451,049.27

### **Conservatory Total Revenue**

December 2019:	\$64,626.89
December 2020:	\$56,981.90
December 2021:	\$170,481.34
December 2022:	\$132,928.49

An increase of \$68,301.60 or +105.69% to 2019

An increase of \$75,946.59 or +133.28% to 2020

A decrease of \$37,552.85 or -22.03% to 2021

### **YTD Comparisons**

2019 Total Revenue:	\$849,687.32
2020 Total Revenue:	\$600,441.90
2021 Total Revenue:	\$961,938.93
2022 Total Revenue:	\$1,190,836.79

An increase of \$341,149.47 or +40.15% to 2019

An increase of \$590,394.89 or +98.33% to 2020

An increase of \$228,897.86 or +23.80% to 2021

### **Dollar Night Admission**

In 2022 The Botanical Conservatory began offering \$1 Admission from 5pm – 8pm every Thursday Night throughout the year. In previous years, \$1 Admission was offered from 5pm – 8pm on only the first Thursday of each month, being open for regular admission on the remainder of the Thursday evenings. Thursday evening attendance has increased nearly 100% to 2019 with immaterial revenue losses, meaning that the Botanical Conservatory has become more accessible to the public without compromising its operational integrity.

December 2019:	Attendance 3,013   Revenue \$7,261
December 2020:	Attendance 1,392   Revenue \$3,528
December 2021:	Attendance 2,145   Revenue \$6,121
December 2022:	Attendance 5,972   Revenue \$6,058

Attendance increase of 2,959 or +98.21% & revenue decrease of \$1,203.00 or -16.57% to 2019

Attendance increase of 4,580 or +329.02% & revenue increase of \$2,530.00 or +71.71% to 2020

Attendance increase of 3,827 or +178.41% & revenue decrease of \$63.00 or -1.03% to 2021

- The Botanical Conservatory was awarded \$10,000 support from the PNC Charitable Trusts (Schneider Foundation) for the 2022 Happy Smallidays Exhibit and the 2023 California Dreamin' Exhibit.
- The Botanical Conservatory was awarded \$1,000 support from the Howard P. Arnold Foundation for the 2023 California Dreamin' Exhibit.
- The Botanical Conservatory was awarded \$4,261 support from the Marvin and Marva Komisarow Foundation for funding of Botanical Conservatory exhibits and projects.
- The Conservatory received an unrestricted gift of \$27,500 from the Mastrangelo Foundation and the Mastrangelo children as a memorial for their parents Michael and Grace Mastrangelo. The gift is the end money donation from the foundation with the wish for it to be used locally. The gift is unrestricted but their desire is for the funds to be used for a future butterfly/children's garden at the Botanical Conservatory.
- The Botanical Conservatory received a grant of \$1,000 from the James Foundation for the 2023 Grant A Day for support of ten scholarships to the 2023 Camp ACTIVenture. The grant will be announced and promoted by the foundation in June 2023.
- Staff met with local media for support of the Botanical Conservatory's 2023 exhibits and special events. Confirmed media partnerships include Adams Radio Group for the California Dreamin' Exhibit, Great Train Connection, and Father's Day in the Garden; Fox 55 for Bunny Tales in the Garden, Mother's Day Plant Sale, and Garden Trick-or-Treat; PBS Fort Wayne for the Keeping Tradition Holiday Exhibit, Night of Lights at the Conservatory, and Reindeer Saturdays/Visits with Santa; and WANE15 for California Dreamin' Exhibit, An Herban Garden Exhibit, Jazzworks, and Botanical Brew.
- Additional partnerships are pending with 21Alive; Majic 95.1/Classic Hits 101.7/ALT 99.5 and 102.3; WBOI 89.1 and WMEE 97.3.
- Botanical Conservatory donations in December 2022 totaled \$44,761: \$4,261 from the Marvin and Marva Komisarow Foundation; \$1,000 from the Howard P. Arnold Foundation for the 2023 California Dreamin' Exhibit; \$10,000 from the PNC Charitable Trusts (Schneider Foundation) for the 2022 Happy Smallidays exhibit and the 2023 California Dreamin' Exhibit; \$27,500 from the Mastrangelo Foundation and Mastrangelo Family as a memorial to Michael and Grace Mastrangelo; \$1,000 as a memorial for Conservatory volunteer Jo Ann Wyatt from the Jim and Lee Vann Family and a \$1,000 IRA gift from Dorothy Shaffer.

#### **Conservatory Public Programs: Events**

- Santa & Reindeer Saturdays (December 3, 10 & 17)



- Almost 3,000 guests enjoyed visiting the Botanical Conservatory during three Santa & Reindeer Saturdays. The stars of the show were present from 12-4 pm for children and adults to visit. Magical reindeer food was distributed to 1,010 children for Christmas Eve festivities. Animal Grams provided the opportunity to pet a festively-dressed reindeer. Families also captured photos of young ones with Santa in the Showcase Garden where Santa had his own “grove” as located on the Happy Smallidays map!

*Santa greets the reindeer, Nutcracker*

- Suzuki Strings Performance (December 11)
- Children of Fort Wayne Suzuki performed a complimentary concert with their stringed instruments in the Magnolia Room during public hours. Over 100 guests sat in attendance to enjoy their holiday music. The live melodies were also enjoyed by those walking through the holiday exhibit.



- String Jams Holiday Concert (December 15)
- Youth of the Believe in a Dream String Jammers delighted Conservatory guests as they performed a mix of holiday and contemporary music on string and percussion instruments. This energetic group entertained guests during a \$1 Night when provided seating was competitive for up-close viewing as compared to just listening in the adjacent garden.



*entertain a full audience*

- Book Signing- Talitha Shipman (December 17)
- Conservatory guests were invited to meet Talitha Shipman the author and illustrator of the book Happy Smallidays. This special event was held for its second time in conjunction with the 2022 holiday exhibit in which the book corresponded with the garden itself! Books are available for purchase in the Conservatory Shop.

## ✚ Education

- Bee the Change- Joyful Carolers Singing (December 1)
- Guests were delighted by the melodies of the PFW Quartet of Carolers who sang Christmas carols amid Smallidays during the first Thursday of the month’s \$1 Night drop-in program.
- Breakfast with Santa (December 3)
- Breakfast with Santa proved to be both popular and cost-effective this year. The workshop maxed out at 40 registered participants with 2 individuals on the waitlist. Guests were served breakfast by Classic Cafe while the 20 children in attendance were able to visit with Santa and craft a memory frame as presented in the book Happy Smallidays. As a favored tradition, one particular family enjoyed the program for their 12<sup>th</sup> year expressing it as the best yet!



*Creating a Christmas tree of succulents*

- Succulent Christmas Tree (December 4)
- This (newly) annual workshop very rapidly met its maximum capacity of 20 participants in its second year. Feedback was positive, as participants were very pleased with their festive creations! Using plant material from the greenhouse reduces costs, but many hours of labor are necessary to collect succulent cuttings, cut the chicken wire into forms, and pre-soak the moss. Still, this trending program already has interest for next season! Guests have even requested a second date...
- Evergreen Centerpiece (December 8 AM/PM & 10)  
Yet again, a variety of beautiful centerpieces were created in this popular recurring workshop facilitated by returning instructor, Dennis Bowman. A total of 54 individuals participated across three different sessions. Two were taught on Thursday with both a morning and evening offering while Saturday morning remained the most popular session. Though material costs have risen, the program continues to have its following. Volunteers also assisted with prep and greens cutting.
- Youth Field Trips
- There were 4 onsite youth visits totaling 217 children in December. There were no educational group visits during December 2021 or December 2020.
- Adult Group Visits  
7 adult groups scheduled in December 2022 totaling 88 guests.



*Evergreen Centerpieces*

## ✚ Exhibits & Displays

Presence (November 19-January 5)

Prior seasonal gardener, Meghan Wilhelm is the featured artist with work displaying animals in their natural habitats. This collection served as her senior thesis project when graduating college; due to COVID-19, it is finally on display for the first time! On December 18, a Gallery Opening was hosted with 27 will-call guests in addition to many other Conservatory visitors throughout the day.

Happy Smallidays (November 19-January 8):

This year's holiday exhibit at the Botanical Conservatory is accompanied by a book that has come to life. With a tiny bit of magic, become mouse-sized and "just tall enough to finally notice all the little things!" All are invited to journey with Little Mouse through the Winter Woods as he discovers the value of slowing down to take in the wonder and warmth of the holiday season. All who visit continue to be inspired by this endearing story and heartfelt reminder to find joy in the little things.



*'Christmas Mouse Red'  
Poinsettia & Little Mouse*

\$1 Night Light Display (November 25-December 23)

Between downtown's Night of Lights and the Friday leading up to Christmas, the Botanical Conservatory remained open until 8:00 pm every Thursday and Friday. Admission was only \$1 from 5:00-8:00 pm on both days! It was the perfect occasion to visit the gardens in light when they are best seen at night. Overall attendance was around 1,421 individuals.



*Holiday cheer in the Atrium*

## **Volunteers/Staff**

Volunteer & Member Holi-Day (December 7)

Conservatory volunteers and members were shown appreciation by staff during this special Holi-Day event during public hours as well as from 5-8 pm with exclusive garden access! Both volunteers and members were treated to a complimentary beverage and pastry at Conjure Coffee, a 20% discount in the Gift Shop, an opportunity to create a memory frame from the book Happy Smallidays, and a performance by live carolers from PFW.

Volunteers also received a festive pin along with four guest passes as a thank-you for their service.



*Carolers sing holiday favorites during Holi-Day event*

In addition to regularly scheduled volunteers at Lawton Park Greenhouse, the Front Desk, and Gift Shop/Plant Groomer, volunteers also assisted with the following opportunities in December:

Breakfast with Santa (4)

Santa & Reindeer Saturdays (5)

Evergreen Cutting (10)

S.W.A.T. Garden Team (4 from Anthis with a combined 11.5 hours of volunteer service)

## **Upcoming**

January 1: Closed New Year's Day

January 5: Bee the Change: Botanical Fireworks drop-in program

January 8-13: Showchange Week

January 14: California Dreamin' Opening Day

January 14-April 15: Kerstin Glaess: Seascapes art display

January 28: Winterval at the Conservatory

January 31-February 26: Sweetheart Orchid Display

January 31-February 28: T'ai Chi for Relaxation pre-registered program

## **Conservatory Facility and Maintenance**

- Sound system repairs were made by Ryder Productions in the Atrium, Meeting Rooms, and Showcase Garden, resolving issues of distortion and weak sound levels. Future work is contemplated to extend sound system coverage throughout the Botanical Conservatory.
- Central Indiana Hardware will be installing new Front Doors and an ADA door opener at the center entrance in early 2023, replacing the Front Doors installed in 1994.

- Allied Mechanical is making progress with repairs to Boiler #2 and Chilled Water Piping at the Botanical Conservatory. They have also submitted a bid to replace the 1983 Dunham Bush chiller with a more efficient unit.
- Requests for quotation have been sent for wallpaper removal and painting projects in the Atrium and Conservatory Shop and are expected in January.

#### Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

- The Staff completely removed the existing rows of arborvitae adjacent to Calhoun Street in the Beverforden Garden. The arborvitae hedge created a public safety hazard due to limited sight lines. By removing the hedge, the area is safer, and more inviting, and allows for the opportunity to plant new and interesting species in the space for visitor enjoyment and public beauty.
- Second and third shifts of paperwhite narcissus and a second shift of poinsettias were planted in the Atrium and Showcase House to keep the Happy Smallidays exhibit fresh for visitor enjoyment. The new poinsettia tree irrigation system has been a major success in keeping the plants fresh, healthy, and evenly watered.
- With the assistance of Lawton garden staff, sand, and fibar were acquired and stored in a dry place in preparation for the California Dreamin' showcase installation.
- The current cohort of Anthis students completed their fall semester and their time volunteering at the Botanical Conservatory. During December, they assisted garden staff in planting the remaining daffodil and tulip bulbs in the Beverforden Garden. Anthis students and garden staff also installed and graded new soil to create an even level between the sidewalk and garden bed to enhance safety of pedestrians walking along Calhoun Street. A new cohort of students will be volunteering at the Botanical Conservatory starting in January.
- Ancient tree roots from area peat bogs were sourced and will be used in the upcoming California Dreamin' show. They will be part of permanent displays within the Tropical House at the conclusion of the California Dreamin' show.
- Plants have been selected and will be installed as part of the permanent collection in the Atrium. The permanent collection will add welcome color to the space and give a consistent, attractive appearance as visitors first enter the Conservatory. Planters will be used to add seasonal color such as poinsettias during the holidays.

## Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

-  The Parks Promenade link has received over 2,260 hits and [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) has 4,284 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and received over 1,387 hits in January.
-  Marketing Team supported Winterval event with pre-promotion/marketing efforts and on the day of with photography/videography documenting the activities.
-  Evaluation Reports completed include Salomon Farm classes (fall), Botanical Conservatory classes (fall), Plant Swap, Breakfast with Santa, Evergreen Centerpiece,

and Adult Special Interest (fall).

- ✚ Marketing Team completed various tasks regarding the Spring Fun Times including producing, proofing, web content updates, 3 web calendars that were modified, postcard preparation, quote prep for Board Approval, and social media rollout plan.
- ✚ Completed 41 Design projects.
- ✚ Conservatory Volunteer celebration invite, program, and tickets.
- ✚ Met with select program managers to collaborate and mentor on funds sourcing.
- ✚ Completed Letter of Intent for AWS grant (pool lifts).
- ✚ Confirmed media sponsorships for Spring Fun Times events.
- ✚ Annual Report editing and photography.
- ✚ Podcast guest topics: Patti Davis (Winterval 2023) & Riley Hollenbaugh (Winter Cozy).
- ✚ Social media promotions for Kids Skate Free at Headwaters Ice Rink, Winterval, Severe Weather, and Open Positions.
- ✚ The Parks Promenade link has received over 1,577 hits and [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) has 2,979 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and received over 793 hits in December.
- ✚ Completed NRPA survey and submitted on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the team assist with this!
- ✚ Hired Marketing Intern Daisy Diaz. She started on 12/19/2022. Began training.
- ✚ The Parks Promenade link has received over 1,577 hits and [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) has 2,979 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and received over 793 hits in December.
- ✚ Completed NRPA survey and submitted on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the team assist with this!
- ✚ Hired Marketing Intern Daisy Diaz. She started on 12/19/2022. Began training.
- ✚ \*Total Web hits for 2022: 1,384,376. Note, this is the highest number of yearly hits in the last 10 years!
- ✚ Completed 25 Design projects.

- Started work on Spring Fun Times.
- Updated donation options online to allow easier and more effective online gifts.
- Met with AWS to work on the 2023 grant for updated pool lifts.
- Met with media reps for 2023 sponsorship discussions.
- Podcast guest topic: Nate Cardelli, December, and January at the Conservatory.
- Social media promotions for Christmas on the Farm, Winter Solstice Walk/Ride & Bonfire, Lindenwood Lunchtime Virtual Hikes, Holiday Posts, and Event Planning/Pavilion Rentals.
- Social Media Totals for **November - 65**      **December - 57**      **January 73**

<b>Web Statistics:</b>	<b>Users:</b>	<b>Hits:</b>	<b>Month:</b>
	27,217	74,797	November
	29,250	74,596	December *See Total
	36,505	101,721	January

Social Media Totals for the months of:

	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>January</b>
FB Followers	75,577	75,837	76,405
FB Reach	82,617	109,885	207,340
 Twitter Followers	13,528	13,560	13,627
 Instagram Follower	21,144	21,374	21,517

## Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

- The golf courses appear to be in good shape as we near the start of the new season. To date, no unexpected weather that could damage or delay the courses has been experienced, and if anything the weather has been somewhat mild.
- Course opening dates are projected to be March 15/16/17, with one course opening each day at the Superintendent’s discretion. If the weather is exceptionally good, these dates could move forward.
- Seasonal jobs for the golf courses were posted on January 27. Despite some confusion with the new system, applications have been good. A meeting was held with the course managers, and most employees from last year are expected back. At this time, we are determining how many new positions must be filled,

but do not expect to have any issues. A further escalation in the pay scale will affect our expenses and may lead to rate changes at the end of the season.

- ✚ Fifteen new carts were ordered at the end of last season, and are expected to be delivered at some point later this summer. The timeline and availability of new carts have been and continue to be affected by supply chain issues. We are checking into ordering more carts already, as we continue to battle an aging cart fleet that is undersized to the point of not being able to keep up with customer demand.
- ✚ Work continues to be done on gathering public input for the Foster Park renovation plan. The timing of the work that will affect the golf course is still uncertain.
- ✚ Merchandise for the golf courses will begin arriving around the middle of March. The strategy is to grow the amount of merchandise slowly by stocking essentials and items that provide value and are unique to the courses. We will not be stocking high-ticket items like clubs and bags, with the goal being to turn saleable merchandise repeatedly while not carrying a high dollar-value inventory.
- ✚ Golf continues to be gaining in popularity, and our numbers over the last two years show this. There is no reason to not be optimistic about 2023!

✚ **2022 Golf YEAR IN REVIEW**

2022 showed solid gains from a revenue and play standpoint. Golf continues to grow in popularity, continuing an uptick that started during the COVID pandemic. Here are the year-over-year figures for golf revenue:

	<u>FOSTER PARK</u>		<u>MCMILLEN PARK</u>		<u>SHOAF PARK</u>
2021	\$316,222.75		\$186,175.00		\$398,119.00
<b>2022</b>	<b>\$355,303.50</b>		<b>\$217,088.50</b>		<b>\$448,137.50</b>
	RANGE REVENUE	2021	\$11,406		\$78,581
		<b>2022</b>	<b>\$13,078</b>		<b>\$86,777</b>
	<b>ALCOHOL REVENUE* (a first full year of alcohol sales)</b>				
	<b>\$16,053</b>		<b>\$7,710.50</b>		<b>\$12,526.50</b>
	<b><u>TOTAL ALCOHOL REVENUE:</u></b>				
	<b>ALCOHOL COGS</b>		<b>\$11,279.50</b>		

- ✚ The total revenue shown at the top includes the range and alcohol revenue, it is broken down by course below the total figures.
- ✚ The golf courses opened for the year on Wednesday, March 16. Weather was very suspect for several weeks, with unusually cold and wet conditions compared to the average. When the weather did cooperate, play and activity levels were strong. The worry at the time was that so many days (and weeks) were being lost to weather that revenue would not catch up to previous year levels.
- ✚ Once the weather broke, those fears proved unfounded. Overall, the weather was good for the season and stayed warm until early November. By the end of June, the courses had caught up and surpassed 2021 revenue levels. Activity levels stayed high, allowing for a gain in revenues.
- ✚ On June 13, a major weather event known as a derecho hit the area with extremely strong winds and rain. The Parks courses were very lucky compared to several area courses and received comparatively minor damage.

- ✚ As the season went along, golf cart failures began to be a recurring problem. It became apparent that batteries purchased in 2019 were failing at a rate far ahead of their life expectancy. A Purchase Order to acquire new batteries eventually got this situation under control, but the number of carts and their reliability continues to be a concern.
- ✚ The number and condition of carts are becoming an issue. At Shoaff Park, in particular, not having functional carts is leading to a loss of revenue. It was suggested multiple times this summer during peak times that \$700-\$1,000 a day was walking out the door due to the lack of available carts.
- ✚ A purchase order was requested and granted for 15 new carts to continue updating and expanding the fleet. These carts will arrive in 2023.
- ✚ Shoaff Park closed for the season on November 4, and Foster and McMillen

## Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



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

- ✚ The Greenways and Trails Department continues to grow under the leadership of Dawn Ritchie, Greenways Manager, and Neil Miller, Program Manager. In 2022, 2.6 miles of trails were built in Fort Wayne, bringing the total to nearly 134 miles of trails in the regional network with 100 miles in the city limits.
- ✚ The primary functions of the Green ways Department include project development and management, overseeing volunteer programs, event administration, and coordinating trail maintenance and improvements.

### **2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Successfully secured a nearly \$2.8 million Next Level Trails Grant from the State of Indiana for the Pufferbelly Trail.
- Joined non-profit partners Fo1i Wayne Trails, Inc. and Fo1i Wayne Running Club to plan and cany out a new biweekly run/walk program called "Tread the Trails".
  - Leading into the year, The City ofF01i Wayne was awarded the Fo1i Wayne Running Club's President's Award for its trail system and support of the running community.
- Paired with Humane Fmi Wayne and Fmi Wayne Trails, Inc. to implement the "Tails on Trails" program.
- Successfully organized or assisted with 27 Trek the Trails Rides, a Spring Forward Ride, Winterval Trek the Trails, a Winter Solstice bike ride/ walk, and the Great American Cleanup.
- The Fifth Annual Open Streets event took place on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - the first under Neil Miller's oversight.

- Over 300 volunteer hours were logged on the trails by Volunteer Greenway Rangers in 2022. The trails are currently patrolled by 71 active Greenway Rangers.
- Created a partnership with the Volunteer Center to help secure volunteers for our programs and events.
- Executed signage installation along the Beckett's Run Trail.
- Planted 74 native trees and shrubs and removed invasive Bradford Pear trees along the Towpath Trail with 30 volunteers, Fort Wayne Trails, and City staff during the Great Tree Canopy Comeback.
- Hosted a Bike-To-Work Day Breakfast to support active commuters.
- Organized and hosted two Trot the Trail equestrian events.
- Assisted with the development of equestrian trails.
- Assisted with the Pufferbelly 5K/1 OK walk and run event.
- Coordinated the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Renaissance Cruise In Car Show.

Trail counts in 2022 were 724,807 trips with 20 trail counters. This was down from 2021's number of 764,665. A few reasons for the reduction in trail traffic might be severe storms in June and July that created closed sections of the trail until downed trees could be removed. Flooding in the spring is always a problem on the Rivergreenway. Also, the counter at the confluence of the three rivers showed much lower traffic due to the bridge work on Spy Run Avenue by the Old Fort. While the trail was still open, trail users had to use an at-grade crossing of Spy Run Avenue instead of the below-grade crossing. Some trail users avoided the area. The trail counter on the Rivergreenway at Riverfront had the highest counts. The Pufferbelly Trail between Cook and Carroll is a close second with the Salomon Farm Loop third and Foster Park loop fourth.

2.6 miles of trails were constructed inside the City limits with another 2.74 miles constructed outside the City limits for a total of 5.34 additional miles. The total miles of the Fort Wayne Area Trails network is now 134 miles with 100 miles inside the City limits. Keep in mind that we only had about 18 miles in the whole network (the Rivergreenway) in 2005. Most of the pathways in parks are NOT included in the 134 miles unless they are directly connected with the larger network.

We are working diligently to secure permits and finish land acquisition to get these projects out to bid by March or April at the latest: Covington Rd Trail from Hadley to Getz; Liberty Mills Rd Trail from Middle Grove to Falls Drive; Summit Park Trail from the Fishing Line Trail to Lima Rd Trail along the south side of Ludwig Rd (named for the Summit Park Industrial Park).

Please see attached 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Goals for the Greenways Department.

City of Fort Wayne Greenways & Trails Department, Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation and Fort Wayne Trails, Inc will host our fourth annual Winter Solstice Walk and Bike Ride on 12/21 at Salomon Farm and the Pufferbelly Trail at 4:30 p.m. We'll have food, a bonfire, and entertainment afterward.

The Trine Engineering students have completed their mid-block crossing study for trails in Fort Wayne and will give a presentation on their findings at Trine on 12/9 at 10 a.m. Our working group will meet on 12/12 to discuss the Trine findings and make a decision on which treatment we will use consistently on our trail mid-block crossings of roads.

We continue to acquire the right of way for the Covington Road: Hadley to Getz and Liberty Mills Rd: Middle Grove to Falls Drive/Coventry Lane trail projects. Both projects will be bid out in early 2023.

We have begun the appraisal process on the Pufferbelly Trail from Ley Road to Lima/Ice Way. We anticipate the acquisition of the 12 parcels to be completed in the fall of 2023, then we will bid on the project (Washington Center Rd to the intersection of Lima Rd and Ice Way).

- Hanna Street Trail from Rudisill to Pettit is complete. We just need to check the trail before accepting the contractor's work. Hanna from Pettit to Decatur Rd is under construction. The concrete trail from Pettit to Humane Fort Wayne has been poured. The rest of the trail from Humane FW to Decatur Rd will be asphalt and will be paved in the spring.

## Division News and Media Coverage:



WFFT, Fox 55 adding hour-long weeknight newscasts at 5 and 6 p.m.

[https://www.wfft.com/news/fox-55-news-adding-hour-long-weeknight-newscasts-at-5-and-6-pm/article\\_2e806040-a715-11ed-9f70-3fbe38836184.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/fox-55-news-adding-hour-long-weeknight-newscasts-at-5-and-6-pm/article_2e806040-a715-11ed-9f70-3fbe38836184.html)

WOWO, Fort Wayne launches neighborhood accelerator

<https://www.wowo.com/fort-wayne-launches-neighborhood-accelerator/>

WANE, City Council looks at checks and balances on the Mayor's power with appointments

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/council-looks-at-checks-balances-on-mayors-power-with-appointments/>

### **Sweetheart Orchid Display Until February 26, Public hours**

Be captivated by the colorful mystique of Orchids. A tasteful display of orchids in bloom creates a delightfully intimate space in the Botanical Conservatory's Tropical Garden. Orchids and other stunning plants will be available for purchase in the Conservatory Shop. It's just the place for a date and an ideal photo opportunity with your sweetheart! This display is included with regular Conservatory admission.

WANE, Update on The Lofts at Headwaters Park project

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/downtown-fort-wayne-hole-faced-unexpected-environmental-remediation-but-everything-is-ready-to-go-now/>

WANE, Future of fast food block across from Parkview Field will come with \$6M purchase by CIB

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/future-of-fast-food-block-across-from-parkview-field-will-come-with-6-million-purchase-by-the-capital-improvement-board/>

WPTA, Grand Wayne Center had remarkable 2022, leaders say

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/03/grand-wayne-center-had-remarkable-2022-leaders-say/>

WPTA, EMS provider facing \$3.5M shortfall, plans to request public funding

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/03/ems-provider-facing-35-million-shortfall-plans-request-public-funding/>

WFFT, Mayoral candidates

[https://www.wfft.com/news/five-people-file-to-run-for-fort-wayne-mayor-here-are-their-positions/article\\_eaad44d0-a5c7-11ed-a90e-4738df6e68c7.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/five-people-file-to-run-for-fort-wayne-mayor-here-are-their-positions/article_eaad44d0-a5c7-11ed-a90e-4738df6e68c7.html)

PBS 39, Primetime program with Sen. Glick and Rep. Miller as guests

<https://video.wfwa.org/video/sen-sue-glick-and-rep-kyle-miller-ts9lbc/>

**Modern Living Hoop Wreath, a pre-registration required class**  
**Saturday, February 18, 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

Design a trendy 14" hoop wreath that welcomes visitors into your home, office, or any other space! In this guided workshop participants will create a charming wreath featuring real air plants, moss, eucalyptus, and other natural decorative items to match its aesthetic. Also, learn how to care for this low-maintenance design to keep it looking lush for years to come. The class fee is \$42 per person or \$39 per member. Please register online by Feb. 11. Garden admission is also included in this class fee.

The Mayor Tom Henry Podcast – Guest is City Attorney Malak Heiny

<https://soundcloud.com/user-202170298/episode-92-city-attorney>

WPTA, Fort Wayne lands #2 spot in emerging housing markets report

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/02/fort-wayne-lands-2-spot-emerging-housing-markets-report/>

WPTA, Indiana House passes bill that would allow cities to designate outdoor refreshment areas

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/01/indiana-house-passes-bill-allowing-cities-designate-outdoor-refreshment-areas/>

WPTA, Animal Care & Control recaps 2022

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/01/fort-wayne-animal-care-control-highlights-2022-successes-setbacks/>

City TV, Council Update program with Councilman Didier interviewing Jonathan Leist from Community Development

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=jog0qI9Jyfyn>

WFFT, Animal Care & Control 2022 highlights

[https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-animal-care-and-control-releases-2022-highlights/article\\_ff95dc8c-a292-11ed-80cb-9bb658eb8a69.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-animal-care-and-control-releases-2022-highlights/article_ff95dc8c-a292-11ed-80cb-9bb658eb8a69.html)

WANE, Street Dept. working to limit pothole season

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-street-department-working-to-limit-pot-hole-season/>

WANE, Southeast Fort Wayne housing development moves closer to construction

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/se-fort-wayne-housing-development-moves-closer-to-construction/>

WANE, FWPD photo receives national recognition

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fwpd-photo-receives-national-recognition-from-us-justice-department-branch/>

WANE, Didier officially announces run for mayor

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/tom-didier-officially-announces-run-for-fort-wayne-mayor/>

FW Business Weekly, City adds another \$1.6M to Lofts at Headwaters project

[https://www.fwbusiness.com/article\\_2406ecff-aec1-5a8b-8f1f-551dd97fb7b3.html](https://www.fwbusiness.com/article_2406ecff-aec1-5a8b-8f1f-551dd97fb7b3.html)

**\$1 Thursdays**

**Thursdays, 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

Find your inner beach bum and good vibes when you experience the *California Dreamin'* showcase exhibit along with the Tropical and Desert gardens in the Conservatory. The Conservatory admission is just \$1 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Thursday. **Civic Center Garage parking** is validated for **free**.

WBOI, Foster Park trail impact forces hold on golf course revamp  
<https://www.wboi.org/news/2023-01-18/foster-park-trail-impact-forces-hold-on-golf-course-revamp>

Adams Radio Group, Neighborhood Improvement Grant opens for 2023  
<https://1039waynefm.com/neighborhood-improvement-grant-program-opens-for-2023/>

WANE, New corporate campus, mixed-use gets lift from City Council  
<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/new-corporate-campus-mixed-use-gets-lift-from-fort-wayne-city-council/>

WANE, City Council sets up GFW budget for next meeting  
<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-city-council-sets-up-greater-fort-wayne-budget-for-next-meeting/>

WANE, Trubble Brewing leaves Promenade Park; new venture on the way  
<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/trubble-brewing-leaves-promenade-park-new-venture-on-the-way/>

WANE, Do it Best sign added at Electric Works  
<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/video-workers-add-do-it-best-sign-to-electric-works/>

WANE, Allen Co. leaders hold meeting to discuss jail plans  
<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/allen-county-leaders-to-hold-meeting-discussing-jail-plans/>

WANE, 2 shell buildings for lease, sale coincides with recent trends  
<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/2-shell-buildings-for-lease-sale-coincides-with-recent-trends/>

WPTA, North River update  
<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/01/11/digging-deeper-is-city-still-planning-build-soccer-stadium-downtown/>

WFFT, City offices to close for MLK Day  
[https://www.wfft.com/news/city-offices-closed-for-mlk-day/article\\_77209804-90f1-11ed-aa57-bfd46526080a.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/city-offices-closed-for-mlk-day/article_77209804-90f1-11ed-aa57-bfd46526080a.html)

WANE, With new jail looming, fate of the current facility is unknown  
<https://www.wane.com/news/commissioners-with-new-jail-looming-fate-of-current-facility-unknown/>

PBS 39, PrimeTime program – 2023 Indiana General Assembly preview  
<https://video.wfwa.org/video/2023-indiana-general-assembly-preview-kyvtp2/>

Adams Radio Group, City Utilities gifts STEM scholarships  
<https://1039waynefm.com/city-utilities-gifts-stem-scholarships/>

WPTA, Neighbors rally together against new location for Allen Co. jail  
<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/01/06/neighbors-rally-together-against-new-location-allen-county-jail/>

**“California Dreamin’” Showcase Exhibit Opens  
Saturday, January 14, Public hours, and continues until April 16  
Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street**

Calling all mamas and papas—find your inner beach bum at the Botanical Conservatory. Bring on the good vibes and hang loose at the botanical boardwalk accented with sun-loving tropical plants and

vivid waves of color. Let the kiddos spring into the spirit of surf, sand, and sun! Be sure to experience this Cali-cool winter exhibit. Sponsored by the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Howard P. Arnold Foundation, Magee-O'Connor Foundation, PNC Charitable Trusts, The Waterfield Foundation, WANE 15, and 103.9 Wayne FM.

City TV, Mayor Henry's City Beat program

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=sCWx3k1xjeAO>

WELT Radio, 'Investing in the City of Fort Wayne' program with Luke Labas from The League as guest

<https://soundcloud.com/mayorfw/the-league>

The Daily Beast feature on Fort Wayne as an overlooked Midwest city that's full of hidden treasures

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/fort-wayne-indiana-an-overlooked-midwest-city-is-full-of-hidden-treasures>

WANE, Hines was chosen as president of the City Council

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/glynn-hines-chosen-as-new-fort-wayne-city-council-president/>

WFFT, FWPD: Despite the rise in fentanyl use, Narcan is saving lives

[https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-police-despite-rise-in-fentanyl-use-narcan-is-saving-lives/article\\_79a0b168-8be7-11ed-98fb-c3951fbc96ae.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-police-despite-rise-in-fentanyl-use-narcan-is-saving-lives/article_79a0b168-8be7-11ed-98fb-c3951fbc96ae.html)

## **Art Display**

**Kerstin Glaess: "Seascapes" January 14-April 15**

***Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street***

Kerstin Glaess is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist working primarily in oil, collage, and photography. She is best known for her paintings based on photographs and memories from her worldwide military adventures as a child. Kerstin continues to be inspired by a nature collection of flora, fauna, and landscapes from her various homes across two continents, two countries, eleven states, one U.S. Territory, and counting! Her diverse collections of collages and drawings focus on the shared human experience teasing the borders between dreamscapes and reality. Seascapes are fittingly on display during the *California Dreamin' Showcase Exhibit* at the Botanical Conservatory.