

Steve McDaniel, Director

- ✦ We continue to discuss with City Utilities the impacts that their proposed work will have on Foster Park regarding the deep tunnel project. There are a few overflow structures that they need to tie into the drop shaft at the entrance to the park.
- ✦ Several individuals have contacted the department regarding the proposed development of River City Ventures on Parnell Ave. This is tied to the Planning Commission and City Council votes for changing part of this parcel from one zoning category to another. On February 20th, the Planning Commission approved the rezoning. The City Council vote for the same thing is scheduled for some time in March.
- ✦ Staff met with Arts United and their architect to discuss their proposed renovations to the Civic Theater building. This renovation will include an addition on the west side of the building adjacent to Freimann Square. We all want to make sure our lines of communication are open and levels of expectations are known.
- ✦ Chuck and I met with representatives of the national organization of Boccia Ball. Fort Wayne and Turnstone will be hosting the Nationals this year and Boccia representatives would like to see about growing the game in our community. We are looking at ways we could incorporate the game into our programming.
- ✦ The design team of Riverfront Development met with a coalition from AWS to discuss accessibility and inclusion in Phase 2 designs. This was an additional opportunity to get feedback that will impact the final designs of Riverfront.
- ✦ Staff continues to develop operational and programming plans for the transition of Headwaters Park to our system. This includes staffing, maintenance, and programming curriculum. The new development to the south of the park is scheduled to start back construction in the next few months. We are trying to determine the impacts it will have on access to the park for summer festivals and park patrons.
- ✦ Ted's Snack + Bar has applied for a Riverfront Liquor License. City Council has voted in favor of this and will now go to the state level for approval. Ted's continues with renovations to the interior space in preparation for opening later this spring.
- ✦ I met with representatives of Fort Wayne United. They asked several questions about the composition of our department and how the board worked. I believe they are looking at us as a solid model that they might want to recreate for their organization.
- ✦ I presented an update to the Park Foundation Board in February. They are very interested in several ongoing projects and programs within the department.
- ✦ Tim is working on several shows for the Theater this season as well as working with promoters on their shows. Three concerts have been announced with several more coming soon.

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

+ McMillen Park Community Center

- There were 41 new registrations for the Youth After-School Program this month and there was a slight decrease from last month. In January there were 43 registrations and our number of children coming to the Center has been very consistent. There have been no changes in programming. We are continuing to offer youth a variety of program options. In February, we continued to offer Jump for Life, Youth Basketball, Arts & Crafts activities, Dance lessons, Organized board games, homework assistance, and STEAM. We had 1,429 patrons (Adults & Children) visit our Kids Korner this month. The Kids Korner number has increased tremendously compared to last month in which we only had 338 patrons visit here with us. We had a couple of Home School groups visit our facility and they said that they would be back. Staff was provided training through ARC on working with youth with Autism. Feedback was staff was encouraging. Staff feels they learned a lot of helpful tools to utilize with Autistic youth in our programming.
- Adult programming from January to February has increased exponentially in February. All adult programs combined have had 1,880 patrons come and participate in the programming that we offer to the community. Leading the way in programming is an adult open gym with 864 patrons coming to enjoy the courts of McMillen Park. This is a 42 percent increase from last month. The open gym has always been one of the biggest programs that serve the community well from youth to adults to seniors. Pickleball has been one of the most exciting programs for seniors, with its continued growth hours had to be extended to ensure everyone had a great competitive time. For the month Pickleball had approximately 787 seniors participating. This is a 31 percent increase this month. Pickleball has always been a good program for seniors to have Monday through Friday, they are really enjoyable to watch as they compete against each other. Essential Steps and Cardio Fit are still available to the community as well. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday the ladies come together and enjoy their time to dance and exercise. Cardio fit remained steady for February and had 53 ladies participate. Essential Steps continues to remain steady as well; for February the program had 43 ladies participate. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Yoga is available for adults and seniors. On February 18 people participated in the yoga classes.
- In February Camille Curry decided to pursue other career ambitions and resigned. We wish her well in her future endeavors. Nathaniel Thomas has been promoted to Youth Coordinator for MPCC.
- Lil ballers have begun. This is a program for children ages 4-7 who want to learn the fundamentals of basketball. We had 40 registered for the program and 36 showed up. This is the most successful year for the program since it began five years ago. This program also acted as an avenue for introducing parents and youth to the After-School Program and another programming that we offer. We are excited to watch the youth learn and develop as the program grows.

Golf

- Dave Weadock and Kathy Pargmann composed an online survey for the public to fill out regarding the Foster Park Golf Course redesign. There have been around 1,000 responses to date.
- 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 continue to prepare golf course equipment for the projected opening on March 13, 2023. He also stated that they are ahead of schedule which will free them up for other projects.
- Bryan Keister and Travis Whitman attended a turf management seminar in Mishawaka. By attending this, they accumulated points toward their spray license certification.

Aquatics / Pools

- Jenny Barney and Jessica Witt are scheduled to renew their Ellis Lifeguard Instructor certification. With this certification, we can train our lifeguards in-house and not have to rely on outside resources.
- Daryn Schwartz reported that all of the pool job positions have been posted through Human Resources and are ready to start taking applications.

Salomon Farm Park

- After a busy holiday season with new additions, which included Summit City Music Theatre's, A Christmas Carol, Salomon staff used February as a time to plan for summer and the 2023 season. Staff is planning for flower field expansions, new animal additions, new programs centered around Christmas on the Farm, and new additions to Fall Harvest Festival.
- The Fiber Art Celebration that was typically in the spring will now be combined with Fall Harvest Festival. Decreasing attendance over the last several years was concerning to staff. After careful consideration and communication with active vendors and partner groups, it was decided to combine Fiber Arts Celebration with Fall Harvest Festival, while staying connected with the Flax and Fleecers, who were the sponsor group, on single programs and a presence during Farm Camp.
- Job postings for Salomon Farm Camp Counselors and Rental Coordinators have been activated on the City of Fort Wayne's job site. Vicki Marquart will be returning as the Camp Supervisor and Melanie Rice will be returning as the Assistant Supervisor. Melanie was away from camp for a few years but will be returning for the 2023 summer season. Salomon Farm Park staff and the Fort Wayne Parks Department are excited to have her back at camp.

Lindenwood Nature Preserve

- Lindenwood has been working on presenting Lunchtime Virtual Hikes. These hikes take place on Lindenwood's Facebook page and are every "teenth" Thursday at noon. Virtual hikes have been done before but not regularly so this is a new program for Lindenwood.
- Maggie Bequette will be returning as Naturalist at the end of February.

Sweet Breeze

- The Sweet Breeze Operation Committee met in February to review the 2022 season and provide updates for 2023.

- Sweet Breeze job postings are now active on the City of Fort Wayne's job site, this includes Captain, First Mate, Docent, and Dockhand positions. All crew was contacted from the previous year.

Hurshtown Reservoir

- The Hurshtown Attendant positions are active on the City of Fort Wayne's job site.
- Dave Pufahl will be returning as the Hurshtown Supervisor.
- Dave Pufahl and Eden Lamb met with Tyler Delauder, DNR, to discuss fishing at Hurshtown and the fish population. This meeting usually happens every other year if not every year depending on the topic.

Community Center Downtown

- Winter Carnival was held on January 28, 2023, and was a huge success this year! Approx. 1800 people attended this event. There were carriage rides, a candy luge, games, crafts, and hot chocolate. Also had mini golf outside with ice sculptures. This was the second year for the warm heart market. There were 29 vendors up from 10 in 2022. The Antique roadshow was a new event with over 40 appraisals taken place.
- Positively Fort Wayne news segment on Betty Heck Dennison. Betty has volunteered over 15 year at the information desk of the Community center. She is currently 95 years old.
- Linda reported that the key club from new tech academy at Wayne High School have done 3 sessions to help seniors with their cell phones/tablets. The students helped 10 seniors in the 3 sessions everyone was very happy with the sessions.
- Suzan Moriarty, Graduate Student from Chamberlain University is completing her Master's in Public Health with Patti Davis as her Mentor. She is designing a Sensory room and programs for those with Autism and Dementia. The room is coming along and hope to have it partially usable by April 1st. Besides social media, a segment was just taped for the "Walk in the Park" program on 21Alive to start the promotions.

Community Youth Centers

- Much of the month's activities were focused around Black History Month at Weisser Center. This includes Ms. Onnie had the children brainstormed about current people that they know and the significances of them in this world. The children left were left with understanding that WE (they) ARE BLACK HISTORY.
- Ms. Allison worked with the youth to learned about Kenta Cloth's history, symbols, and colors and what they represent. The youth then made their own Kenta' Cloth with white, purple, black, red, gold, blue paper and glue.
- Ms. Woods and Ms. Allison programmed together- complete a Coloring page of a famous black American, Neil deGrasse Tyson and learning fun facts about him.
- The youth worked together in a group answering Black History question. This was challenging as they had to work with patience, listen to each other and come to a mutual answer
- The Youth learn about Empathy in Black History: Ms. Z. showed a portion of the video Hidden Figurers: one of the black women Katherines Johnson who was a key factor in the space program had to explain having to go to the bathroom in another building because it

was a black only restroom. Her supervisor had empathy & tore down Whites Only Restroom Sign so Anybody could use the same restroom.

- The youth worked on encouraging each other to find out about their Black History and build on what they learned from it.
- Chantell has been working very closely with CHFB/Jonta to ensure that the KC program is running as it should be. She is meeting with him, weekly as well as visiting the kitchens to ensure they are up to part and have all things needed and address any issues.
- Michael Ayres is retiring at the end of March after working 19 years for Parks and Recreation with his last job being the Supervisor of Jennings Center.

Computer Labs

- The computer labs at both Community Centers and two youth centers are being upgraded. They currently have Windows 7 on them with the exemption of Downtown which has the free upgrade from 7 to 10.
- The Community Center Downtown will be the first completed by April in order to continue to offer classes. All new computers that the public purchases have Windows 11 on them therefore the lab has to have the same in order to be able to teach classes for their computer. The current computers are not upgradable.

Riverfront

- Dance Promenade continued its Winter programming starting off February 1 with the “Two Step” class that had an attendance of around 20 people learning to dance this routine. The final Dance Promenade of the Winter programming concluded on February 8th with the “Open Dance” party for all those that have attended classes over the past month. There was live music along with professional dance instructors helping patrons enjoy themselves throughout the evening. Dance Promenade will pick back up in Spring programming at Riverfront.
- We had a new artist of Gracie Jo perform for our Sunday Heritage Concert Series on February 12th. Gracie Jo played an acoustic set of original songs that drew a larger than normal crowd for our February Concert Series.
- Yoga on the Riverfront continued inside the pavilion with close the maximum of 50 participants. As the weather begins to become warmer this event will move outside for participants.
- Our new “Be Your own Artist” event kicked off with a bang with us reaching our maximum for registrations. Participants created flower pot out of wine bottles and other crafts for home decorations. All the registrants had a great day creating this craft and most stated they will return for our next “Be Your Own Artist” event.
- Dog Sweater Day at Promenade Park was held on Saturday February 18th. This event was originally held as Winterval event in the past but was moved to be a separate event to compliment the Weather the Fort event held on the Landing by the Downtown Improvement District. The number of dogs participating in this year’s event increased by almost 30 dogs. It was sunny mild day for the participants who enjoyed meeting with other

dog owners at the Park. The pictures of dogs in sweaters are located online at our Facebook page for voting. After a few weeks the voting will conclude and we will announce the winner.

- Our Winter program of “Create & Play Tuesday” concluded on February 21st with a steady crowd enjoying board games, card games and arts and crafts. This event could come back in the Fall/Winter as look to add more programming post summer activities.

Sandra Odisho, CPA – Manager, Finance

- ✚ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 173 employees (129 full-time and 44 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending February 25th, 2023 and paid on March 3rd, 2023.
- ✚ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of February 25th, 2023:
 - Gardener Helper – Landscape and Horticulture (Fund 121)
 - Gardener – Landscape and Horticulture (Fund 121)
 - Park C - General (Fund 121)
 - Heavy Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
 - Program Facility Coordinator – Education & Interpretation – Botanical Conservatory (Fund 121) (Posted but will not be open until 3/1)
 - Recreation Center Coordinator – Jennings (Fund 121)
 - Recreation Center Coordinator – Weisser (Fund 121)
 - Supervisor IV – Food Service - Community Youth Centers (Fund 121)
 - Rental Coordinator – Riverfront (Fund 121)
 - Program Coordinator – Riverfront (Fund 439)
 - Supervisor V – Riverfront Maintenance (Fund 439)
 - Maintenance Technician II - Riverfront (Fund 439)
 - Gardener - Riverfront (Fund 439)
 - Park C – Riverfront (Fund 439)
- ✚ Seasonal hiring is off to a good start! We have our first Hiring Event on March 1st for staff at the golf courses.
- ✚ Seasonal maintenance staff are beginning to trickle in for Landscape and Horticulture and Riparian areas.
- ✚ Day camp supervisors and assistant supervisors have joined us and are getting ready to prepare to bring on the remaining day camp staff and provide fun and exciting programs for the kids this summer.
- ✚ The front office staff has processed 304 Dog Park memberships so far this year, this is about 38% of the total typically sold in a year. We have two Dog Parks and the Dog park memberships run on a calendar year, and fees are not prorated, although a half year pass can also be purchased from July 1st to December 31st.
- ✚ Campground reservations have been steady. We have processed 144 reservations so far this year. The main office processes reservations for the Johnny Appleseed Campground from January 1st - April 30th until the campground hosts move in for the season and start handling the reservations. We are very close to having all 43 RV sites full the weekend of May 20th at the campground.
- ✚ Front office staff have also set up all of the Franke, Salomon and Conservatory day camp programs and the Community Center PODS programs in the RecTrac registration software for registration which begins March 20th.

- ✚ We also began selling Foellinger Theatre tickets on February 3rd. Currently, we are selling tickets for four concerts/shows.
- ✚ Beginning November 1st, 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 booked up through February 28, 2023, on most Saturdays and Sundays.

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

✚ **Facilities Management**

- Playground repairs are underway at multiple locations as inspections are ongoing.
- The Nice Rink at Lakeside Park was taken down for the season. The 2022/2023 season yielded just 14 skating days as the weather was not constantly cold enough to keep ice formed.
- The breakroom remodels project at the Botanical Conservatory was completed. This included installing the following: new FRP panels for the walls, a new three-bay sink and plumbing, new electrical outlets, new ceiling tiles, and lights.
- Repairs were made to the river greenway railings and deck boards at the Taylor St bridge.
- 22 new player benches were constructed for the Kreager Park soccer fields.
- Due to vandalism, the lock and gate were repaired at Foster Park West's dog park.
- The Lakeside Park Pavilion #1 and Northside Park PSI-OTE upper pavilions had wall repair and re-painting work completed.
- Fence repairs were completed at Foster Park tennis courts, Hamilton Park playground, and Lions Park tennis courts.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
 - 11 Alarms calls
 - 17 Paint projects
 - 38 Building maintenance repairs
 - 25 Carpentry repairs
 - 49 Electrical repairs
 - 19 HVAC maintenance issues
 - 6 Key core maintenance repairs
 - 18 Light Maintenance
 - 24 Lock maintenance issues
 - 30 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
 - 40 Plumbing maintenance issues
 - 6 Sign replacements
 - 31 Vandalism issues
- There were 16 after-hours calls: 10 code issues: 3 set-up calls: 1 alarm call: 1 lock call: and 1 miscellaneous call.

- Infinity glass was hired to replace 4 windows at the Metro offices.
- VFP replaced the fire alarm system at Lawton Park, they also tied the Ansul system in the fire alarm at the community center on Main Street and moved the pull station and strobe at the tenant space at Promenade Park.
- Arrow fence completed the rolling gate at Lawton Park, they were hired to fix approximately 70 feet of fence and top rail on Hessen Cassel Rd. due to an accident, as well as fixing the railing on Griswald Rd for the greenway, and 90 feet of fence and post at Boone Park.
- Havel installed a new lock on the Lions pavilion due to vandalism.
- T&E completed the repairs to the overflow pipe at Shoaff lake in Franke Park.
- Priority one has begun to install the security system at the Rea Property
- Sam Brandenburger was hired to fix the split rail fence at the Johnny Appleseed campground.
- BZW was hired to repaint the fascia board at the Weisser Community Center.
- DME conducted its annual inspection of the chair lift at the Foellinger Theatre.

Grounds Maintenance

- Crews continued with some winter work for February with time spent removing fallen limbs and debris from within the parks. They have also worked on cleaning up the grounds shop and repainting the break room.
- The winter maintenance crew at Kreager Park finished up the smaller trim mowers including Toro 7210s, Toro 7000 z-masters, Toro 224s, and 225s. They then moved on to the larger athletic field mowers such as the Toro 4000 and 4100 and several John Deere 1600 units. Currently, the crew is starting to do maintenance on the 16-foot Toro 580Ds and 5910 mowing units. They are also working on the large Woods batwing brush mowers to make sure they are ready for next season.
- Heavy Equipment spent some of the months removing and replacing parking ties. We have also awarded Amanda Hathaway the Heavy Equipment Lead position. She has accepted and her first official day was February 27th. We are happy to have filled this position and are preparing to interview for the fourth position in heavy equipment. This is along with assisting the garage by hauling tractors and mowers to and from the golf courses, removing debris piles from the gardens, pulling out stuck vehicles, and doing the weekly zoo refuse hauling.
- The garbage truck is currently running 2 days a week. We have also started adding trash cans in various parks where needed due to the nice February weather.
- There was major flooding on the greenway this month following heavy snowfall combined with several days with temperatures in the 50s. Crews have closed all gates under bridges until the water recedes. They have been checking the trail conditions daily but a continuing mix of rain and snow has kept the river levels elevated for the time being. Grounds will continue to monitor days closed to be able to report.
- We are providing one person a week to assist in the garage with various tasks.
- Continuing stump removals on parks, more than 40 have been removed in February

Project Administration

- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement – 2023 Project planning in progress.
- Botanical Conservatory Indoor Lighting – Project bidding in progress.
- Botanical Conservatory Entrance Sidewalk – Planning and design in progress.
- Bowser Park Pavilion – Project punch list items in progress.
- Bowser Park Pavilion Roof – The Contractor is acquiring materials. Work planned for March.

- Buckner Park Trail Construction – Project is progressing as site conditions allow. The first boardwalk has been installed.
- Casselwood Park Playground Replacement – Vendor selected, purchase order received. Scheduling in progress.
- 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 awaiting results from the trial survey issued to the public.
- Foster Park Golf Maintenance Barn Restroom – Renovation nearing completion.
- Franke Park BMX Track Building Roof – Purchase order received. Final color selection and material acquisition are in progress.
- Franklin Park Shade Structures – Requisition in progress for two shade structures around the splash pad.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress.
- Headwaters Park Sidewalks – Assessment in progress. Partnership in place with City R/W for leveling many sidewalks at joints.
- Headwaters Park Pavilion Report – Architect is engaged and reviewing plans. Kickoff meeting to review scope planned for early March.
- Jennings Center Kitchen Cabinets & Countertops – Design in progress.
- Kreager Park Tennis Backboard and Fence – Awaiting final painting.
- Kreager Park Shelters and Concessions Painting – Bidding in progress.
- Lakeside Park Courts Lighting – Construction is in progress. Foundations set and conduit ran. Awaiting light installation and final connections.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof – Design report in progress.
- McMillen Park Community Center Reception Area – Bids are due by end of February.
- McMillen Park Tennis Courts Resurfacing – Purchase order acquisition in progress.
- McMillen Community Center Bleachers – Working with manager and vendor for removal of bleachers in the multi-purpose room.
- McMillen Park Pool House Painting – Purchase order received. The project is to begin as the weather allows.
- 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 – Materials on order. Construction is to begin as the weather allows.
- Parks System Comprehensive Plan – Project in progress.
- Rea Building Overhead Door – Project in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. Additional work is ongoing at Heritage Barn.
- Salomon Farm Entrance – Bidding complete. The approval process is ongoing.
- Salomon Farm North Garden Fence – Plans and coordination with staff in progress.
- Salomon Farm South Field Watering System – Bidding in progress
- Sheldon Drive Playground – Playground is scheduled for installation in March.
- Shoaff Park Golf Pro Shop Flooring – Project completed.
- Various Parks 2023 Paving Projects – Bidding completed. The approval process is ongoing.
- 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 and design in progress.

Other work:

- Various Parks: accessed potential and necessary future projects
- Various Parks: updating park site plan bases and building plans.
- Various Parks: underground utility locates were scheduled and performed.
- Various Parks: cost estimates for various projects are being prepared upon request.
- Various Parks: playground inspections are being completed.
- Various Parks: park assessments are being completed.
- Parks Mapping: GIS mapping for parks is ongoing

Storeroom, Property, and Safety

- Storeroom staff worked on updating and filling first aid kits for both buildings and vehicles.
- Clean-up and organization have continued in the forklift bay by removing unused materials and storing others more effectively.
- The staff has assisted facilities by providing materials for their annual building cleaning.
- Several “trail closed” signs were fabricated for use along the river greenway.
- A large order of playground swings and related parts was ordered for the upcoming season.
- Property Transactions:

19 Boss UTV plow	P230	Added into inventory
19 SnoEx spreader	P230	Added into inventory
15 Stihl hand blower	P240	Scrapped for parts
23 Stihl MS500i chainsaw	P260	New purchase
19 Stihl MS201TC (2)	P240	Transfer from P210 to Grounds
19 Stihl MS201TC (2)	P230	Transfer from P210 to Landscape
97 Little Wonder blower	P230	Scrapped for parts
19 Versalift bucket	P250	Added into inventory
23 Makita impact driver	P250	New purchase
23 Stihl BG86 blower	P230	New purchase
23 Stihl spin trimmer	P230	New purchase
23 Stihl BR600 blowers (2)	P230	New purchase
19 Stihl backpack mister	P240	Transfer from P210 to Grounds
19 Stihl BR600 blower	P270	Transfer from P210 to Forestry
09 Shop Vac	P250F	Transfer from P210 to Facilities

2022 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:

Club Car Carry All (2)	22121100
Toro Polartrac	22121156
Toro 7210 Zero Turn Mower (3)	22121156
Toro Groundsmaster 4000 Mower	22121156
Ford F750 Chassis	22121101

Chip Body for Above	21121154
Ford F150 Pickup	22121105
Wide Equipment Trailer (2)	22121202
Ford Transit 250 Van	22121165

2023 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:

Quotes have been received from vendors.

The list has been sent to the controller's office.

A written dialog of purchases and needs has been prepared.

- 154 work orders were scheduled this month, 42 of which were services.
- The list of proposed 2023 lease purchases has been sent to the Controller's Office for approval. All items have been quoted by dealers and manufacturers.
- Toro 580D unit #582 is in the process of having a new hydraulic tank installed to replace a leaking one. This required removing the cab, gas tank, and old hydraulic tank. Mechanics are almost finished with the installation of the replacement part.
- A Club car gas golf cart is having its engine boxed up to ship to a company for replacement with a remanufactured engine. New replacement engines are not available and damaged threads on the engine block make it unserviceable.
- All of the forestry and maintenance tech bucket trucks received their annual inspections and passed without needing any repairs.
- Forestry's small crane was taken to RPM Case for its yearly inspection. An out-of-spec boom section caused the crane to fail the inspection and we are waiting on a quote for the required repair.
- The driver's side door on bucket truck 74 became worn out and new parts were not available. We were able to source one from a salvage yard in Winimac, Indiana and it is in the process of being painted for installation.
- Garage clean-up and organization have continued. Extra mower deck spindles were stored above the storeroom, a room was made for an automatic blade sharpener from the grounds, and a room is being made in door #2 in the storage barn to store Toro engine blocks that are taking up floor space in the garage.
- 2023 blanket price agreement purchase orders have all been approved. A requisition was submitted for the purchase of replacement playground swing parts. The maintenance techs will now stock these items in their area instead of the storeroom.
- Garage mechanics have continued with repairs to the zoo train, carousel, and sky ride. These have required multiple bearings, sears, and drive shafts to rebuild the transfer cases and gearboxes.
- Various Golf Course equipment in need of winter repairs have been brought to Lawton and are in various stages of completion.
- Landscape employees worked alongside the small engine mechanic to get several chainsaws, spin trimmers, and reciprocators repaired.
- Grounds employees helped in the garage with mower deck spindle rebuilds and mower deck tire repairs.

Safety:

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

- 1 vehicle crash was reported in February.
- 2 injuries were reported this month. Both were minor and did not result in any lost or restricted days.

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



Botanical Conservatory Report – February 2023

- California Dreamin' continued its popularity in February, whisking visitors into a 1960s-1970s era-inspired Venice Beach, Los Angeles, California. This winter exhibit is getting 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 February 2023 including the Sweetheart Orchid Display (through February 26), Three Rivers Orchid Society Orchid Show (February 4), Kerstin Glaess Artist Reception (February 19), and several pre-registered programs and workshops throughout the month. Staff is gearing up for the Home & Garden Show (March 2-5), The Great Train Connection (March 10-12), and Volunteer Celebration Dinner (March 20). Kelsey Foster-Gerig vacated her role as Interpretation & Education Coordinator; Terri Theisen has been hired to replace her and will start on March 7. Current vacancies include Camp ACTiVenture Counselors & Supervisor (accepting applications), Seasonal Maintenance (accepting applications), and Seasonal Gardener (accepting applications).

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

- February 2023 continued an incredibly strong start to 2023 with an attendance increase of over 42% to the same period in 2022, and membership sales up over 46% to the same period in 2022. Rental & Catering Fee revenue increased precipitously year-over-year (over 125%) due to higher confidence in rental event booking in a post-COVID-19 special event rebound, as well as a streamlined booking process. Conservatory Shop revenue somehow continues to climb, with an impressive 85% increase month-over-month to February 2022 (which previously held the all-time February record for the Conservatory Shop). Overall a compelling exhibit theme and inspired execution have continued to drive traffic in the first quarter of the year.

Attendance

February 2022: 4,284 visitors

February 2023: 6,640 visitors

An increase of 2,356 or +55.00% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Attendance: 8,468 visitors

2023 Attendance: 12,089 visitors

An increase of 3,621 or +42.76% to 2022

Admissions Revenue

February 2022: \$19,723.00

February 2023: \$28,393.00

An increase of \$8,670.00 or +43.96% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Admissions Revenue: \$36,836.00
2023 Admissions Revenue: \$50,169.00
An increase of \$13,333.00 or +36.20% to 2022

Membership Revenue

February 2022: \$5,207.00
February 2023: \$7,022.06
An increase of \$1,815.06 or +34.86% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Membership Revenue: \$11,184.00
2023 Membership Revenue: \$16,372.06
An increase of \$5,188.03 or +46.39% to 2022

Conservatory Shop Revenue

February 2022: \$9,876.65
February 2023: \$18,295.24
An increase of 8,418.59 or +85.24% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Gift Shop Revenue: \$20,621.34
2023 Gift Shop Revenue: \$32,587.07
An increase of \$11,965.73 or +58.03% to 2022

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

February 2022: \$4,223.88
February 2023: \$7,875.00
An increase of \$3,651.12 or +86.44% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Rental Revenue: \$9,791.38
2023 Rental Revenue: \$22,192.50
An increase of \$12,401.12 or +126.65% to 2022

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

February 2022: \$1,463.00
February 2023: \$4,894.51

YTD Comparisons

2022 Other Revenue: \$14,623.30
2023 Other Revenue: \$14,399.29

Conservatory Total Revenue

February 2022: \$40,493.53

February 2023: \$66,479.81

An increase of \$25,986.28 or +64.17% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Total Revenue: \$93,056.02

2023 Total Revenue: \$135,719.92

An increase of \$42,663.90 or +45.85% to 2022

 Botanical Conservatory Business Development

- The Botanical Conservatory received confirmation of \$1,000 support from Fort Wayne Metals for sponsorship of the 2023 Botanical Brew event.
- Staff submitted a grant to the Foellinger Foundation for \$20,000 support of the 2023 Showcase Garden exhibits.
- Staff researched possibility of a 2023 grant/event proposal to the Surack Family Foundation. The foundation has received so many requests that its funding already is closed for 2023. Staff will aim to submit in early January in 2024.
- Staff submitted proposals for \$4,400 corporate sponsorships each for the 2023 ROOTS Music Fest to Fort Wayne Metals and ProFed.
- Staff submitted proposals for media sponsorship of the 2023 ROOTS Music Fest to 21Alive and 96.3 XKE (Adams Radio Group).
- Staff confirmed media sponsorships of the Conservatory's 2023 exhibits and special events: WBOI for Jazzworks and Botanical Brew; Majic 95.1 and Classic Hits 101.7 for Pumpkin Path; and Majic 95.1 for Garden Trick-or-Treat, Rocky Horror Picture Show, and the Timeless Tradition holiday exhibit, \$1 Night of Lights at the Conservatory, and Santa & Reindeer Saturdays.
- Promotional tickets were distributed to US 93.3 for the 2023 Great Train Connection.
- Staff is researching and compiling the contact names (human resources director, marketing director, president) for local and area companies for the marketing of the new Botanical Conservatory Corporate Memberships. The database should be completed in early March and ready for mailing to the corporations.
- Conservatory donations in January 2023 totaled \$8,705: \$5,000 from the Magee-O'Connor Foundation for support of the 2023 California Dreamin' exhibit; \$2,300 from Matthew W. Wyatt and family for support of the 2023 Color in Motion Butterfly exhibit; \$1,200 from Matthew W. Wyatt and family for a memorial bench for their parents; Conservatory volunteers Jo Ann and William Wyatt; \$200 from Cindy Hensley as a general donation; and \$5 from Melanie Clark as a general donation.

✚ Botanical Conservatory Public Programs - Events

- Orchid Show (February 4)
- The Three Rivers Orchid Society displayed a variety of their favorite orchids while also educating guests on orchid care. Two live potting demonstrations were even offered at 12:00 pm and 2:30 pm. Conservatory staff have been pleased with the return of the Orchid Show and look forward to future partnership opportunities.



Potting demonstration at the Orchid Show

- Kerstin Glass: Artist Reception (February 19)
- For the *Coast to Coast* art display, a public reception was held at the Botanical Conservatory as a Sunday afternoon event engaging friends and family of the artist as well as the general public. Kerstin's artwork has received wonderful feedback with intriguing textures, familiar scenes, and captivating colors that very much complement the beach-themed showcase. This artwork is available for purchase via shop.botanicalconservatory.org.

• Education

- Tai Chi for Relaxation (January 31-February 28)
- Returning instructor, Liz Monnier led this five-week T'ai Chi series consisting of both a morning and evening session. The morning session concluded with 10 total participants and the evening with 11. Of the 15 comment cards completed, 14 ranked the class with a Customer Satisfaction of 10, while one ranked the class with a Customer Satisfaction of 9.

- Bee the Change (February 2)
A total of 44 people engaged with this fun-themed program in February. "Love Each Other, Love Yourself, Love the Earth," was this month's theme with Valentine's activity reflecting on how we treat and care for the things we love.

- Modern Living Hoop Wreath (February 18)
- This new pre-registered program hosted a total of 16 participants. Each participant fashioned a trendy hoop wreath using preserved moss and eucalyptus along with live air plants. There was even a portion using macramé for the hanger. Facilitated by Kelsey Gerig, the program was received very well with positive feedback.



Modern Living Hoop Wreath in progress

- Youth Field Trips: There were 6 field trip groups in February totaling 103 students. For comparison, there were 0 students from 0 groups in both 2022 and 2021; 102 students from 1 group in 2020; and 83 students from 6 groups in 2019. We are finally seeing a return to pre-pandemic field trip numbers! The increased costs for Conservatory Field Trips have not faced any negative feedback or hesitation. The new and improved registration process has also been running very smoothly.
- Adult Group Visits: There were no adult groups who visited in February of 2023 totaling 0 guests, in the category.

✚ Exhibits & Displays

- California Dreamin (January 14-April 16)
- The current showcase exhibit has been overwhelmingly popular with guests returning over and over again! The sunset boardwalk is a favorite spot for photos and especially in front of the nostalgic 1967 VW bus. The lifeguard tower turned into a slide along with sandboxes including sand toys are certainly a favorite for the young, and for the young at heart, there is also beach volleyball, Jenga, ring toss, horseshoes, cornhole, and beach chairs with a whimsical “fire” pit. Seashells and a sandy “succulent and cacti reef” further complement the aesthetic.



Beachin' it up in the California Dreamin' Exhibit

- *Coast to Coast* by Kerstin Glaess (January 14-April 15)
Kerstin Glaess is a local artist displaying works in oil paint based on photographs and memories from 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.
- Sweetheart Orchid Display (January 31-February 26)
- Throughout February, a collection of orchids was beautifully displayed along the path leading to the overlook of the Tropical House. As expected, it served as a prime photo opportunity near the waterfall! Returning members were delighted at the new approach to this year's display incorporating a heart-shaped backdrop.

✚ Volunteers/Staff

- 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 February:



Conservatory guests enjoying the Sweetheart Orchid Display

- Goody Bag Assembly (8)
- S.W.A.T. Garden Team (4 from Anthis with a combined 13 hours of volunteer service)
- During February, RSVPs were received for the annual Volunteer Appreciation & Celebration Dinner to be held on March 20th. Orders were also processed for complimentary apparel offered as a gift to be distributed during the event. As the season picks up, staff continue to promote the Mother's Day Plant Sale and Live Butterfly Exhibit as high-need areas for recruitment.

✚ Upcoming

- March 2-5: Home & Garden Show
- March 4: Spring Equinox Blooms, pre-registered program
- March 7-28: Bones for Life, pre-registered program
- March 10-12: The Great Train Connection, event
- March 12: Garden Railroading, pre-registered program
- March 15: SCFVA, Volunteer Seed Packaging
- March 20: Volunteer Celebration Dinner, 2022 active service

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

- Sycamore Tree Care continued pruning in the Tropical House during the latter half of the month. They cleaned dead fronds from several palm trees, removed dead and diseased leaves from the largest Queen Sago, performed a major crown reduction pruning on the Indian Laurel Fig, and removed leaning stems from the Giant Bird of Paradise. The Queen Sago crown cleaning will improve health and reduce the long-term pest pressure on all three of the Queen Sagos in the Tropical House by improving air circulation and creating a physical separation between each of the plants. The Indian Laurel Fig crown reduction greatly improves light penetration to the north and northeast side of the Tropical House and provides a more suitable habitat for understory plant species.
- The annual Sweetheart Orchid Display was well received by visitors in February. The intimate space lent itself well to photography and an intimate view of the delicate form of several orchid species. Orchids were supplied by Lawton Greenhouse and additional orchids were added to the display as they came into bloom at Lawton Greenhouse. By the end of the month, approximately 120 blooming orchid plants were on display for the visiting public.
- Botanical Conservatory Staff and CAS at Anthis student volunteers have begun landscape renovations in the Desert House with the removal of mismatched rocks and boulders. Approximately three yards of boulders have been removed so far, with another five or six yards remaining to complete the rock removal. The mismatched rocks and boulders will be replaced with color-appropriate rock mulch and boulders.
- Outdoor spring cleanup has commenced as weather permits with perennials being cut back, hydrangeas being deadheaded, and dogwood shrubs being thinned.
- Storage areas in the Botanical Conservatory basement have been thoroughly sorted and organized with the addition of new heavy-duty rack shelving. The Tank Room is also in the process of being transformed into a more suitable space for Conservatory Gift Shop plant backstock and space to propagate unique species to add to the Conservatory's permanent plant collection.

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

- Priority 1 began the project of installing a new video intercom system to replace a failed airphone system. This project should be completed in early March.
- Allied Mechanical has finished working on the chilled water piping that posed a serious threat to basement storage, also removing large ice storage tanks that had not been utilized for over ten years as part of the project. Allied Mechanical has also been working with Conserv to wrap up the HVAC controls upgrade.
- Work has been substantively finished for the remodel of the Employee Breakroom / Catering Prep

Area with major support from Lawton Park Maintenance Technicians who installed new wall panels, rubber coving, plumbing installation (including a three-basin sink), and ceiling tiles. S&E Construction installed the new ceiling grid and SupremeCrete put down a new epoxy floor coating. Delivery of new appliances is expected in early March.

Planning Report – February 2023

- Franke Park Renaissance: Phase I was released for bidding, with bids due in early March. Construction is anticipated to begin in April following the finalization of contracts. Tree removal began for the project in February.
- Riverfront Development: Phase IIB planning and design continues- a two-week extension was granted to the design team for completion of the 90% of construction drawings. A contract was awarded for tree removal within the project area; this work has begun but is on hold due to rain and high river levels. A fundraising package has been put together to be shared with potential donors.
- Our consultant team continues to move toward the completion of the IDNR 5-year Master Plan. Agency comments will be addressed, and project goals will be reflected in the plan before its completion in April.
- The Parks 10-year Comprehensive Planning effort has begun. The project team has started to define roles, collect data, and begin inventory and analysis.
- Construction continues on the St. Marys Streambank Stabilization: Phase II project. Toe stabilization on the upstream portion of this project is nearly complete but has been suspended due to high river levels. The project is anticipated to be completed by May.
- The staff has been working with ERI in discussing the needs and wants of Public Works, FWPD, FWFD, and IDNR related to the planning efforts of the East Central Marina project. As the facility will not meet the definition of a marina per IDNR, we'll begin referring to the project as the East Central Docks.
- Staff continues to plan for the transition of Headwaters Park maintenance and management to be passed to the Parks Department from Headwaters Alliance. Staffing is the immediate need; interviews are taking place in early March for all new positions. Maintenance issues have started to be sorted out, with RFQs being released for contracts in March, as well.
- The Staff took part in Visit FW's recently kicked-off tourism planning efforts, including tours of the Riverfront and participation in focus group meetings.
- An RFP for the completion of construction documents for Brewer Park Redevelopment was issued in February. The Staff is reviewing proposals and anticipates the award of a contract in March.
- An RFQ was issued for the replacement of interior lighting throughout the gardens at the Conservatory; bids are due in early March. This project will be completed by mid-summer.
- The Staff took part in the final review of action items for the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. This plan is tentatively scheduled to be released to the public in April.
- 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- February 2023

- Landscape staff cleared mud off the docks after a large flood event at Promenade Park.
- Landscape staff continued landscape bed cleanups, completing large pruning projects at the Foellinger Theatre, Northside Pool, and McMillen Pool.

- Community Corrections assisted landscape staff with the bulk of the cleanup of the landscape beds at Promenade Park. Cleanup and pruning continue across the park in preparation for mulch in the spring.
- Due to seasonably warm weather, Lakeside staff has been working on park mulching.
- Some poor weather has resulted in greenhouse work (transplanting, seeding, etc.) being completed by landscape staff.
- Staff spent time maintaining equipment and did truck and tool organization in preparation for the upcoming spring. Staff also inventoried every piece of landscape equipment.
- Landscape staff attended the Green Expo at the Indianapolis Convention Center on February 1st. Staff spent the day in a variety of educational horticulture courses while earning continuing education credits toward their pesticide licenses.
- Multiple RFQs for landscape maintenance were sent out for bid. Maintenance projects included organic turf fertilization with weed control; spring bed cleanups/mulching; and low maintenance. The turf fertilization and mulching projects are in the process of being awarded. All mowing RFQs are due March 3rd. Parks that will be under contract for landscape maintenance are Promenade, Headwaters, Foster, Lakeside, Kreager boundless playground, Courthouse Green, Freimann Square, Nuckols Park, Franklin Park, Community Center, Foellinger Theatre, Main Street Medians, McMillen Pool, Meyers Park, Northside Park, Memorial Pool, and Powell Park.
- Kaye Callow was hired for the Foster Gardener position and began work on February 13th.
- Paul Rodriguez was promoted to the “South” Gardener position and began work on February 20th.
- Applications have been collected for 3 remaining open positions with interviews being done at the beginning of March.
- Seasonal interviews also took place with a total of 3 being hired. Start dates are mid to late March.
- Greenhouse staff provided and set up a floral display for the Mayor’s State of the City Address.
- SCFVA seed orders were placed and 4,300 packets of seed were ordered by students and their families.
- 29,600 seeds were sown in the greenhouse for the Mother’s Day Plant Sale, park floral displays, and Conservatory Showcase.

Riparian Management Report- February 2023

- Continued coordinating with the garage to strengthen the strong-arm system used at Headwaters dock for improved safety and repair of specific damaged panels. The improved system is expected to be completed and in use for this year’s dock installation.
- Currently improving operational protocol and safety for both the barge and service boat including new equipment, improved safety gear, and more efficient tools. This includes a new man overboard safety device that will be installed on both boats.
- Improved the current training for the Riparian department to include presentations on orientation and safety required for riparian work. Improved the department’s documentation process for all crew training.
- Collaborating with the garage to improve the bucket attachment on the crane to be more practical and efficient for use in the rivers including dredging silt from Promenade South Dock.
- Attended Strategic Volunteer Engagement webinar and a Volunteer Networking event to improve volunteer associations and contacts for future clean-ups events. Continuing to schedule volunteer clean-ups for the coming year.

Forestry Report- February 2023

- 289 new street tree planting sites have been identified and the species have been selected for a spring tree planting project. Approval for this project will be requested during the Board of Park Commissioners meeting scheduled for March 9th. If approved, we anticipate a completion date of May 1st.
- The 2023 Citizen Match Tree Planting Program application is now available on the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation website. With nearly 40,000 vacant planting sites throughout the City, this program serves as a tool for residents to prioritize the vacant sites near their homes. We welcome neighborhoods to participate as well. The deadline to have applications submitted for consideration is July 1st.
- Collaboration continues to offer seedling trees to area third graders. The Homestead Highschool Environmental Science Club has volunteered to individually package the nearly 2,800 seedlings for the second year in a row. Each tree will be distributed with an informative card that includes planting instructions as well as some general information about Pecan trees.
- In-house crew efforts were focused on high-priority service requests and tree removals. Crews have done a great job of taking care of the highest-priority tree issues with only 5 locations outstanding. Currently, there are 67 additional locations with confirmed tree concerns to address. Each reported/confirmed tree concern is prioritized according to the associated risk and addressed accordingly.
- Forestry received 46, 311 Call Center service requests during February. Each of these reports is inspected and necessary work is prioritized based on the related risk. The February ticket count in 2022 was 7.
- 4 tree damage appraisals were completed this month resulting in \$2,697.50 in total damages.

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

- ✚ The Parks Promenade link has received over 2,165 hits and www.RiverfrontFW.org has 4,298 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and received over 1,169 hits in February.
- ✚ Released Trail survey for Foster Park on 2/14 and over 2000 responses to date.
- ✚ Completed 51 Design projects.
- ✚ Day Camp, Summer Activity PODS brochures completed and out to schools, on our website, and highlighted in social media.
- ✚ Marketing Team completed the layout, design, and editing of the Annual Report. The Report will be presented to the Park Board in March.
- ✚ Five Sweet Breeze promo pieces were created.

- ✚ Completed application for Project AWARE (Mobile Recreation); the grant was denied. Looking into other funding sources.
- ✚ The completed final application for the AWS grant (pool lifts).
- ✚ Worked on language for Planned Giving for the web.
- ✚ Walk in the Park segments strategy/planning (4 pre-recorded segments on WPTA). The segments air on Wednesdays at 4 pm.
- ✚ Social media promotions mainly for Seasonal Hiring, On-line Trail Survey, Free Skate Day at Headwaters Park, and Walk in the Park segment.

✚ Social Media Totals for **December - 57 January 73 February 46**

Web Statistics:	<u>Users:</u>	<u>Hits:</u>	<u>Month:</u>
	29,250	74,596	December *See Total
	36,505	101,721	January
	39,931	110,206	February

Social Media Totals for the months of:

	December	January	February
FB Followers	75,837	76,405	77,260
FB Reach	109,885	207,340	341,799
 Twitter Followers	13,560	13,627	13,664
 Instagram Follower	21,374	21,517	21,595

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

- ✚ The projected opening of the golf courses is March 15/16/17, with one course each day. Course order will be determined by the Golf Course Superintendent. Depending on the weather, there should be no issues with the opening.
- ✚ Staffing appears to be adequate, with the vast majority of last year’s staff returning, as well as several new staff recruited with the help of the Marketing Department. After opening, we will determine any additional staffing needs, and we have a good pool of applicants to choose from. The initial paperwork/drug testing day was March 1st and was well attended. Staff training is scheduled for March 8.

- ✚ Golf course merchandise is scheduled to begin arriving on March 22. Inventory will consist of basics (balls/tees/gloves) with some expansion into apparel (hats, shirts). Depending on how this is received by the clientele, further merchandise expansion will be undertaken.
- ✚ High School Boy's Golf and Middle School Golf will start as soon as the courses open. A total of seven schools utilize our facilities
- ✚ Leagues are being contacted for the start of their seasons (usually mid-late April). There is every reason to be optimistic about the new season!
- ✚ Some interior remodeling was done to Shoaff's clubhouse, with the floor being leveled and new carpeting installed. A new storage area was also sectioned off, and will greatly increase the appearance of the shop.
- ✚ New range ball washers were purchased for McMillen and Shoaff, and a new range picker attachment was purchased for McMillen. All of these items are just waiting on the opportunity

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



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

- ✚ We are finishing up permits and land acquisition to get these projects out to bid this month 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).
- ✚ We will have the Spring Forward Bike and Hike on March 12th at 1 p.m. The 6.5-mile bike ride will start at the Towpath Trailhead on Glendale Road and head towards Eagle Marsh. We'll take a short hike at Eagle Marsh with Little River Wetlands Group and then bike back.
- ✚ March 13th is Trails Day at the Statehouse.
- ✚ We've received a lot of emails regarding the River City Ventures development on Spy Run Avenue Extended by Parnell. Trail users are concerned about safety. They also don't want to see the trail routed away from the river and around the development. City Council will be discussing the development on March 7 or 14.
- ✚ On March 9th, Anthony Wayne Services will be hosting an Inclusion Institute in partnership with the City and Fort Wayne Trails. The topic will be accessible trails. This is a community input session. The location will be AWS at 5323 West Jefferson and the time will be 2:30 – 4 p.m. AWS will also have an Inclusion Institute on March 16th from 2-4 with Public Works. The topic for the community input session will be Accessible Infrastructure.

- ✚ The Greenways & Trails Department is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with Fort Wayne Trails. This MOU will identify the expected roles and responsibilities of each entity. The County is working on an MOU with Fort Wayne Trails, as well.
- ✚ We have a contractor removing over 160 dead trees on five of our trails.
- ✚ We just hired a contractor to begin replacing bollards on the Pufferbelly Trail.
- ✚ We will be hiring contractors soon to fix the Engle Road Boardwalk and to fix one of our informational kiosks. Parks is helping us replace broken plexiglass in several kiosks.
- ✚ We are also working on a new, long-term detour for the Rivergreenway downtown as we prepare for Phase 2 of Riverfront Development. We'll utilize sidewalks along Fourth and Wells. We've also got another long-term detour in place downtown utilizing sidewalks on Superior and Clinton since the railroad trestle bridge at Lawton has been closed and will be fixed later this year. All trail closures and detours are listed on the Parks Department's website under the trail page.

Division News and Media Coverage:



Sensory Workshop Series: Sensory Pillows

Friday, March 10, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Park Foundation Pavilion, 202 West Superior Street

Take control of your sensory needs through crafts, discussions with sensory professionals, and other resources. This spring Riverfront Fort Wayne will offer one DIY craft that involves all five senses on the second Friday of each month. The March project is a Sensory Pillow, which is customizable to anyone's sensory, motor, or memory needs. Sessions begin promptly at 6:10 p.m. Thanks to the generosity of the AWS Foundation, this program is offered free to the public, however, registration is required. Sign up online at www.fortwayneparks.org or by calling 260-427-6000. The deadline is two days before the workshop.

The Great Train Connection

March 10-12, public hours

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

Connect with Fort Wayne's rich railroad history at the Botanical Conservatory where local railroad clubs present various displays ranging from G scale to HO to tiny N scale model trains and more. It's a "freight time" for the whole family—especially the littlest engines! General admission fees apply. This display is sponsored by US 93.3.

Dance Promenade!

March 8, 6:00-9:00 p.m., and each Wednesday until March 29

Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

Learn some new moves at the riverfront. Shuffle into the Park Foundation Pavilion on Wednesday nights to learn and practice a new style of dance. Instructors from a variety of local dance groups and schools will offer lessons at the beginning of the night followed by open dancing. The type of dance will rotate to include styles from Bachata to Cha Cha Cha and also traditional cultural dances. All ages and abilities are welcome. Register in advance for \$10 per class online at www.fortwayneparks.org or by calling 260-427-6000. Drop-ins are available for \$12 per session if space allows. Maximum: 100.

Rumba 3/8/23

Samba 3/15/23

Salsa 3/22/23

Cha Cha Cha 3/29/23

Yoga on the Riverfront

Sunday, March 12, 10:30 -11:30 a.m.

Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

This free, relaxing one-hour flow yoga class is for all skill levels and is led by the owner of Discover Yoga, Chelsea Vona. Bring your yoga mat to Promenade Park or borrow one for the class.

Adams Radio Group, Registration is now open for the 2023 Fair Housing Summit

<https://1039waynefm.com/registration-now-open-for-the-2023-fair-housing-summit/>

Adams Radio Group, Downtown Fort Wayne's unsung heroes receive recognition

<https://1039waynefm.com/downtown-fort-waynes-unsung-heroes-receive-recognition/>

WANE, Acreage on Dupont Circle Drive near the hospital will be for sale

<https://www.wane.com/news/acreage-on-dupont-circle-drive-near-hospital-will-be-for-sale/>

WANE, Two national acts scheduled for Foellinger Theatre

<https://www.wane.com/entertainment-news/two-national-acts-scheduled-for-foellinger-theatre/>

WPTA, the Longtime community supporter, Bud Dyer, passes away

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/03/06/longtime-community-supporter-bud-dyer-passes-away/>

Sunday Heritage Concert Series: The Distractions

Sunday, March 12, 2:00 -3:00 p.m.

Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

Relax to the upbeat sounds of The Distractions. Craig Itt on bass, and vocals, Molly Brogan on guitar, and vocals, Duke Wick on percussion, cajon, and vocals, and John Brogan on guitar, mandolin, and vocals. Concerts are free and open to all ages. Seating will be on a first-come first served basis.

Spring Forward on the Trails

Bike Ride and Hike, Sunday, March 12

Fort Wayne, IN: The community is invited to join the City of Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne Trails Inc, and Little River Wetlands Project for a guided bike ride along the Towpath Trail, followed by a guided hike at Eagle Marsh. This event is FREE and open to all ages and experience levels.

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Dept. Staff Forts, submitted March 9, 202

Cyclists should meet at the Glendale Road Trailhead (near 5510 Glendale Road) at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 12th. The ride will be 6.5 miles (including a small section of gravel). Immediately following the bike ride, staff from Little River Wetlands Project will lead a short hike through Eagle Marsh. Helmets are strongly encouraged for cyclists.

Those who would like to only participate in the hike should meet at the Eagle Marsh Barn (6801 Engle Road) at 1:30 p.m. The hike may include some grassy areas/gravel.

Contact Greenways Program Manager Neil Miller at 260-427-6228 with any questions.

The Fort Wayne Area Trails Network consists of 134 miles of trails, with 100 miles inside City limits. Most of the trails in City limits are planned, designed, constructed, and maintained by the City of Fort Wayne, under the leadership of Mayor Tom Henry.

\$1 Thursday Nights

Thursdays, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

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. Admission is just \$1 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Thursday. Civic Center Garage parking is validated for free

WANE, Taste of Sister Cities Gala makes its return

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-waynes-taste-of-sister-cities-gala-makes-its-return/>

WANE, New Scout won't be built in Fort Wayne

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/scout-wont-be-coming-home-south-carolina-picked-for-suv-production/>

City TV, Council Update program with host Councilman Didier interviewing Patrick Zaharako and Matt Gray from Public Works

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=K4jYSNiX5PhX>

WPTA, Fort Wayne UNITED Friday Tie Day feature

<https://www.21alivenews.com/video/2023/03/01/around-town-with-tony-dressing-success-with-friday-tie-day/>

WPTA, City to start construction on Pontiac corridor revamp project

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/28/city-start-construction-pontiac-corridor-revamp-project/>

WBOI, Fort Wayne sees progress on combined sewer overflows during storms

<https://www.wboi.org/news/2023-02-28/fort-wayne-sees-progress-on-combined-sewer-overflows-during-storms>

WANE, Opponents of party barge proposal attend City Council meeting

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/opponents-of-party-barge-proposal-attend-fort-wayne-city-council-meeting/>

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Dept. Staff Forts, submitted March 9, 202

WANE, ted's beerhall, and ARPA funds get the go-ahead from City Council

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/teds-beerhall-arpa-funds-get-go-ahead-from-fort-wayne-city-council/>

Adams Radio Group, Neighborhood Presidents Meeting to be held next week

<https://1039waynefm.com/neighborhood-presidents-meeting-to-be-held-next-week/>

WFFT, Spring Forward on the Trails event

https://www.wfft.com/news/spring-forward-on-the-trails-bike-ride-and-hike-coming-up-in-march/article_2088a276-b84b-11ed-96dc-470a9182133f.html

WFFT, Opposition to party boat plans

https://www.wfft.com/video/north-side-neighborhood-opposes-party-boat-expansion-at-city-council-meeting/video_b083dde6-1855-50ab-96d2-678d6a393a64.html

WFFT, Future city planners take their model to nationals

https://www.wfft.com/community/kids-who-care-future-city-planners-take-their-model-to-nationals/article_6839b1a8-b7e4-11ed-8e26-23c61d4719ee.html

Input FW, Three creative marketing firms in downtown share their most well-known campaigns

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/downtownfw-creativeagencies.aspx>

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.

PBS, Feature on Fort Wayne's art scene

<https://www.pbs.org/video/bringing-art-home-1677020113/>

WPTA, PBS NewsHour spotlights Fort Wayne's public art scene

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/22/pbs-newshour-spotlights-fort-waynes-public-art-scene/>

WFFT, Allen County Democrats host Black Women of Excellence panel

https://www.wfft.com/news/allen-county-young-dems-host-black-women-of-excellence-panel/article_37bceea0-b32a-11ed-8518-2b4453cda8cf.html

WBOI, \$1M in Legacy money to go to healthcare and early childhood care on the southeast side

<https://www.wboi.org/news/2023-02-22/1-million-in-fort-wayne-legacy-fund-money-to-go-to-healthcare-and-early-childhood-care-on-southeast-side>

**“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.

WOWO, Fort Wayne among top places for remote workers

<https://www.wowo.com/three-indiana-cities-among-top-places-for-remote-workers/>

WPTA, The Riverfront at Promenade Park update

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/21/neighbors-move-into-riverfront-promenade-park-apartments-downtown-development-continues/>

WPTA, FWPD: Drone helps officers respond to 911 calls

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/22/fwpd-drone-help-officers-respond-911-calls/>

WPTA, City Utilities ensures residents that Ohio train derailment won’t impact the local water supply

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/21/fort-wayne-utilities-ensures-residents-ohio-train-derailment-wont-impact-local-water-supply/>

WPTA, Groundbreaking held for Pufferbelly Trail extension in Huntertown

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/21/groundbreaking-held-pufferbelly-trail-extension-huntertown/>

WPTA, Parking changes announced at Electric Works

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/22/parking-changes-announced-electric-works/>

WANE, FWPD showcases the use of drones for first responder program

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-police-showcase-use-of-drones-for-first-responder-program/>

WANE, City Council meeting recap – Hope Unleashed eyes \$1M in Legacy funding for early learning facility, clinic

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/hope-unleashed-eyes-1m-of-legacy-funds-for-early-learning-facility-clinic/>

Input FW, an Eviction intervention program helps Allen County tenants stay in their homes

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/FWMC-evictioninterventionprogram.aspx>

Recreational Basketball

**Mondays, March 6 - May 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m. or
Wednesdays, March 8 - May 10, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Blackhawk Middle School, 7200 State Blvd.**

As exercise goes, it doesn't get much better than a fun team sport that requires no expensive equipment or major time commitments. Basketball is good for your heart, your muscles, your bones and your brain, your gut, your social life, and your stress level. And it's FUN! Pick a night and sign up for a few games of basketball in an informal, yet structured setting. This series is designed for ages 18 and above. Fee for 10 sessions: \$45-\$55. Registration deadlines: February 27 and March 1. Note: Some sessions rescheduled due to school closings.

Recreational Volleyball

**Wednesdays, March 8 - May 10, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Northwood Middle School, 1201 E. Washington Center Road**

Volleyball is one of the top three most-played sports in the world. It doesn't matter how fit or athletic you are. This high-energy, zero-body contact, mixed team sport is loads of fun. No matter what level you play, volleyball can help improve your fitness and coordination. Recreational volleyball is informal play with no officials. Teams form once players arrive and play proceeds for two hours. This series is designed for ages 18 and above. Fee for 10 sessions: \$45-\$55. Registration deadline: March 1. Note: Some sessions rescheduled due to school closings.

WANE, John Dortch to introduce Mayor Henry at today's State of the City address

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/dortch-to-introduce-mayor-henry-at-state-of-city-address/>

WANE, Village Premier groundbreaking

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/construction-begins-for-major-mixed-use-development-on-southeast-side-waiting-for-city-council-funding/>

WANE, Arp resolution to investigate Mayor Henry falls short during the vote

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/arp-looks-to-investigate-henry-in-latest-councilman-mayor-clash/>

WPTA, National activist at United Front event discusses healing as districts begin addressing racism in schools

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/14/national-activist-discusses-healing-districts-begin-addressing-racism-schools/>

WPTA, Council members reject a resolution that would have further investigated Mayor Henry

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/02/15/city-council-members-reject-resolution-further-investigate-mayor-henry/>

WFFT, Culver's to open at Southtown

https://www.wfft.com/news/new-culvers-to-open-at-southtown-centre/article_06ddaf86-ac6d-11ed-ba49-136801ec8b46.html