

## Steve McDaniel, Director

- ✚ I attended and answered questions at City Council regarding the re-zoning of property adjacent to the Board of Park Commissioners property. This was accompanied by several correspondences this past month from citizens opposed to the change in zoning.
- ✚ The team worked on the transition of Headwaters Park's Operations these past several months. It is coming down to the wire as the transition will happen on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ✚ Bids were received for the Franke Park Renaissance Project. The team worked through the 16 base bids and a variety of alternates. We then met with the City Controller to figure out the final funding sources. This is now going to City Council for additional appropriations and approval. It is also going to Park Board in April.
- ✚ The team and I met with Community Harvest Food Bank this month to discuss the Kids Café program. We also discussed ways of strengthening our partnerships.
- ✚ Our Foster Park Golf Master Plan team met and finalized the next public meeting date and time. It will be held at Sears Pavilion on April 11<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm. This will be an opportunity for the public to fill out the trail survey for Foster Park.
- ✚ Patti Davis, Chuck, and I met with the Resultant Team (City's computer consultants) to discuss computer hardware and software needs in our community and youth centers. This meeting helped us determine the best ways to provide for each facility along with the various programming that will happen.
- ✚ I recorded the latest Podcast with Derek Veit on the Benefits of Trees for our community. This podcast is now available to download and listen to.
- ✚ I attended the March meeting of the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association (IPRA). This year I am the president of the board. I also participated in the March meeting of the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Urban Leader Convening.
- ✚ A few of the staff joined me as we met with Jesse Webb the Director of the Career and Technical Academy at FWCS. We were looking at several ways we could collaborate with them to strengthen their students but also benefit the department. I see this as a beginning point for several future benefits.
- ✚ I spoke at this year's Botanical Conservatory's Volunteer Dinner honoring all those who helped at the facility as well as the Lawton Park Greenhouse.
- ✚ Chuck and I met with the City Attorney and associated attorney to discuss the River City Venture. I am guessing it will take several meetings to go through all of the items before we have a draft to discuss with the Park Board.
- ✚ Rob Hines and I met with the Foellinger Foundation and their Interim President and Chief Program Officer. We wanted to highlight some of our programs and projects with them.
- ✚ I attended a meeting to discuss routes for an event in September called Trail to Zero. This event is to bring awareness and assist with prevention tools to stop suicide by Veterans in our community. This will be a horse-riding event that will go across our city and stop in several places along the route.

- ✚ Tim Byers and I taped several segments of a PBS show that will air later this month as part of their Members Drive. The segments were geared towards live music at the Theatre and other park venues. This is part of the Brit-Floyd show that will showcase our first concert this season.
- ✚ I wanted to take a minute and honor two of our coworkers who retired at the end of March. Thank you to Mike Helgesen and Michael Ayers for their years of service to the department and its citizens

## **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

### ✚ **Riverfront**

- Dance Promenade kicked off our Spring programming on March 1<sup>st</sup> with the Bachata dance and continued every Wednesday of the month with the Rumba, Samba, Salsa, and the Cha Cha Cha. We averaged around 15 participants for this event throughout March with most being regulars that attend all Dance Promenade events.
- Our Sunday Heritage Concert Series was a special and unique show with the local group “The Distractions”. The show included traditional Irish music to fit the theme of St. Patrick’s Day. As we continue to expand on the new local artist playing this series we have seen an increase in attendance. We hope to continue this increase in attendance throughout the Summer with newer artists and Shows.
- Our Programming finished off March with our “Spring Celebration at Promenade Park!”. Over 100 people attended this event despite the rain and high winds. The event includes youth activities including arts and crafts from the Fort Wayne Public Library, an information table from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, an activity from Science Central, and our Parks Department job fair information. The event ended with an informational presentation from Soarin’ Hawk Raptor Rescue. They had multiple birds from a bald eagle, hawks, and owls inside of the pavilion for attendees to learn and interact with.

### ✚ **Community Center**

- The Electric Works tour scheduled for April 19 filled up within 10 days. We also had a waitlist of 40 people, Linda talked to Keith our volunteer who leads the tours and he was able to add 10 to this tour. We have also scheduled tours for July 11 and 13.
- Secured all Senior Game Gold Sponsorships for 2023
- Pre-School Youth: Hiring is steady for the summer, two are officially offered, and 3 returning from 2022. Feedback has been great and the raise in pay is attracting more candidates. Staff have been attending job fairs and pop-up events to recruit summer staff
- Pods registration opened on 3/20 with classes already filling up quickly.
- Sensory Room
  - The sensory room program and educational programming are 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. The room is coming along, the goal is to have it partially usable by April 3rd.

### **McMillen Park Community Center (MPCC)**

- Youth in our After-School Esports program had the opportunity to go to the University of Saint Francis to play in their exports lab and interact with other students. Saint Francis Esports coach has been assisting us with our program. The children participated in a Fortnite tournament there at the university and our very own, Amiya Custer, won first place. We appreciate the mentorship the University of Saint Francis has provided us and we look forward to future events with them. Our After-school Esports program youth also got a chance to go to South Side High School and see their Esports program and interact with their team. The children participated in a 2k tournament and Nasz Island made it to the final two against a high school student. They also participated in a Mario Kart tournament and Jahlynn Banks received 1st place. Lastly, they did a Super Smash Bros tournament and the high school. The children were able to learn some new moves from the high school team. We are looking to host a tournament here at McMillen and invite The University of Saint Francis and South Sides esports teams to join us.
- Kids Korner continues to be one of the main draws here at MPCC. Continuously we have people coming from surrounding areas to play here at Kids Korner. We had a 32% increase from last month compared to this month. We had Brightpoint preschoolers and teachers visit here with us 4 times this month. We had several parents, grandparents, and home school groups that come here daily to utilize the facility.
- Registrations are up 25% this month compared to last month. Some of the increase can be attributed to parents looking for a safe place to drop off their child/children during spring break. MPCC continues to have new students coming daily and they seem to be very happy and excited to be here.
- The open gym has had a 42 percent increase from last month. Pickleball had a 31 percent increase. Essential Steps and Cardio Fit are still available to the community every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The ladies come together and enjoy their time dancing and exercising. Those two exercise classes continue to grow in participation. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Yoga continues to be offered for adults and seniors. Adult men's basketball continues to remain steady in participation. The program averages 60-80 players every season. Sepak Takraw continues to be offered and we have been pleased to watch the participation grow.

### **Community Youth Centers**

- March 16, 2023, Ten Point Coalition held its annual dinner/fundraiser at Weisser Park Youth Center. They celebrated four years of servicing the Oxford resident and community. They discussed and provided data showing how the percentages of negative happen in the area have decreased as well as providing data showing how many residences they have helped in the community. They had a very nice turnout with various donors and supporters including the Mayor and various neighbors.
- March 31<sup>st</sup> is Mr. Michael Ayers's last day with Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation after 18 years of full-time employment (closer to 26 years including his part-time status). Mr. Ayers will be greatly missed by the youth and staff. His celebration party was held at Jennings Recreation during the day on March 31<sup>st</sup> and he was celebrated by the youth during program time that afternoon.

### **Salomon Farm Park**

- An Open House to promote rental facilities at Salomon Farm Park was held on Sunday, March 26, 2023, from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Two rental bookings were secured from the event. Despite a couple of families misunderstanding the intent of the event and thinking historic tours would be given, most people were there to check out the rental facilities: The Learning Center, Old Barn, and Homestead. Overall, the event was a success. The next Open House is scheduled on Thursday, March 30, 2023, from 6:00 pm 8:00 pm. Wane 15 was present to cover the event.
- Bethany Shipman was added to the Salomon Staff and will be focusing on animal care.
- Farmin'Fun Day 4-5-year-old program, 6-11-year-old program, and the Farmer-In-Training 12+ are all sold out. With additional camp counselor personnel, the maximum number of children can be increased for each session. Farmin' Fun Day Camp needs 3-4 more camp counselors.

### **Sweet Breeze**

- Amanda Black, Assistant Boat Administrator, and Eden Lamb have been conducting staff interviews. The Sweet Breeze Operation is looking for one more captain to replace a staff member that will not be returning, one to two First Mates, and at least two Deckhands.
- Eighteen specialty tour dates have been finalized and submitted into the Fun Times brochure on Friday, March 24, 2023. Seven specialty tours ran in 2022.

### **Hurshtown Reservoir**

- Dave Pufahl will be the Hurshtown Supervisor. This will be his 4<sup>th</sup> year. Jerry Hetrick will be returning this year and will fill the role of Assistant Supervisor. This will be his second year at Hurshtown and first year as the Assistant. Kathy Speckert will be returning as an Attendant after taking a couple of years off. The Hurshtown operation needs to fill 1-2 more attendant positions.

### **Franke Park Day Camp**

- As of Sunday, March 26, 2023, Franke Park Day Camp needs to fill 10 Camp Counselor positions.
- The 4-5-year-old program, 6-11-year-old program, and the Junior Leader program are sold out. With additional camp counselor personnel, the maximum number of children can be increased for each session.

### **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 2,000 responses to date.
- Steve McDaniel announced that the department will hold a fourth public meeting to gather input for the Foster Golf Course redesign. This meeting will only be for those individuals that have not completed the online survey.
- Gary Whitacre is in the process of stocking the pro shops at all three golf courses with merchandise and essential supplies.
- Bryan Keister reported that he and his staff had completed new tee markers for each of the courses. Due to the extremely rising costs for these products, they cut and painted them by hand to save funds.

- Linda Lipp, Gary Whitacre, and Jason Smith conducted General Safety and SCAN training for the majority of the golf seasonal staff. Gary and Linda then went over new procedures, price adjustments, and refresher on how to operate the POSs.
- Jason Smith reported that Shoaff and Foster Golf Courses opened for the season on Tuesday, March 22, 2023, with McMillen opening on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. Due to the cold conditions and extremely wet ground, all three of the courses were then closed through Saturday, March 25, 2023. With air temperatures starting to rise and level out, the hope is that the courses will know to stay open for the season.
- Jason Smith and Dave Scudder met with representatives of Parkview Sports Medicine (Junior and Pee Wee Golf Tour sponsors) to discuss new strategies for the promotion of the program. Some good ideas and avenues came out of the meeting and will be implemented.

### **Aquatics / Pools**

- Rob Hines, Jason Smith, Daryn Schwartz, and are working with Anthony Wayne Services to secure a grant to purchase two (2) new portable pool lifts. The existing lifts are outdated as well as require maintenance to operate correctly.
- Daryn Schwartz reported that job applications for summer pool staff are starting to trickle in. The hope is that more will start coming in as college students are home for spring break.

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

- ✚ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 204 employees (130 full-time and 74 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and paid on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
- ✚ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing, or in the process of being hired, as of March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023:
  - Gardener Helper – Landscape and Horticulture (Fund 121)
  - Gardener – Landscape and Horticulture (Fund 121)
  - Park C – General (Fund 121)
  - Heavy Equipment Operator (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)
- ✚ Golf courses are open for the season and the bulk of our golf course maintenance and starter/cashiers have completed the hiring process and have started working.
- ✚ Maintenance staff for landscaping and grounds has also started n as well.
- ✚ Hurshtown Reservoir staff are coming in and getting ready for another season to begin.
- ✚ We've had a few new hires for Salomon Farm to help coordinate programs and rentals for the upcoming spring, summer and fall events.

- ✚ The next big hiring events for Aquatic staff and day camp counselors will be happening in May.
- ✚ March is the start of the busy season for the front office staff.
  - March 20<sup>th</sup> was the first day of registration for Franke Park Day Camp, Salomon Farm Farmin' Fun Day Camp, and the Conservatory's ACTIVenture camp. All sessions of Franke Park Day Camp and Salomon Farm Farmin' Fun Camp for kids ages 4-12 are currently full! We are currently taking wait lists for those. Management of those camps is hoping to hire more staff to be able to increase the maximum capacity and accept more children.
  - We are now up to selling tickets for seven concerts at Foellinger for the 2023 season. Our biggest sale yet happened on March 17<sup>th</sup> when the Willie Nelson tickets went on sale. We had a very jovial group of fans in the office anxious to get tickets and we were happy to assist them!
  - Campground reservations have been steady. 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. We have all 43 campsites full for the weekend of May 20<sup>th</sup> and Memorial Day weekend!
  - The eight pavilions that we reserve in the winter (November 1 to April 30) are booked up through March 31, 2023, on most Saturdays and Sundays and include Sears, Franke #1, Pond, Lakeside #1, Hefner, Riverlodge, and Psi Ote Lower and Upper.
  - Beginning May 1st, we will have all 22 of our pavilions available for rent. This includes the newest pavilion for rental, Foster #3!

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

### ✚ Facilities Management

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **122** for March. This is up from **97** in February.
- Floors were refinished at the Franke Park Pond Pavilion and the David Heffner Pavilion at Franklin Park.
- Facilities team members collaborated with members of the grounds department to remove leaves, weeds, sticks, and rocks from the Tillman Park tennis courts.
- Annual cleans are complete in the year-round rental facilities and work has begun to get the summer rental facilities ready for the 2023 season.
- Playground repairs continue at multiple locations.
- Repairs were made to the river greenway kiosks at Foster Park, Lawton Park, Cobin Park, and Rockhill Park.
- Sears Pavilion at Indian Village Park Received several upgrades. These included; New lighting, ceiling tiles, FRP for the kitchen walls, and a fresh coat of paint throughout.
- All time clocks and timers were adjusted for daylight savings time change.
- Signs were installed around the path at Hamilton Park for the new Born Learning trail exhibit.
- Water service was restored to the Shoaff Park golf pro shop. The process for restoring service to the rest of the unheated facilities and amenities will begin on the first of April.
- One of the storage room ceiling heaters at the David Heffner pavilion at Franklin Park had a motor replaced. A new thermostat was also installed.
- The kitchen and restroom hall at the Promenade pavilion and the sensory room at the downtown community center were repainted.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:

## Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Staff Reports submitted April 13, 2023

- 3 Alarm calls
- 12 Paint projects
- 16 Building maintenance repairs
- 4 Carpentry repairs
- 31 Electrical repairs
- 12 HVAC maintenance issues
- 7 Key core maintenance repairs
- 21 Light Maintenance
- 4 Lock maintenance issues
- 131 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
- 19 Plumbing maintenance issues
- 6 Sign replacements
- 20 Vandalism issues
- Priority one completed the alarm system at the Rea Magnet Wire building.
- Infinity Glass installed 4 new windows at the Metro building.
- Interviews continue for the new Heavy Equipment operator.
- Resultant is working on a shared calendar for the code system we have for our pavilion locks.
- Schenkel completed the renovations at the McMillen Pavilion restrooms.
- Playground parts lists are coming in and parts are being ordered to fix issues found in the park's inspections.
- Sam Brandenburger fixed two broken metal gates at Kreager Park.

### **Grounds Maintenance**

- Crews began wrapping up winter work and started transitioning into the yearly spring tasks performed by grounds maintenance. They continued to perform park cleanup work by removing fallen limbs and debris from the parks. With athletic field season quickly approaching, grounds employees set up and lined 2 soccer fields at Blackhawk middle school and also lined athletic fields at Foster West and Tillman. Kreager Park will be striping their fields the last week of March. Winter equipment also began to be stored and cleaned for the summer and mowing equipment was transported into Lawton to prepare for the mowing season.
- The winter maintenance crew at Kreager Park continued on the wide-area mowers and spent considerable time replacing multiple parts in the older 580 series mowers and newer 5910 units to make sure they would be able to continue to operate safely and efficiently this season. Todd Harrold has continued to help the garage with winter maintenance that will help keep us up and running throughout the 2023 season.
- Heavy Equipment spent some of the months replacing parking ties that were damaged during the plowing season. Both Headwaters Zamboni were transported to the Rae property. They will also begin converting winter plow trucks and salt boxes back to summer setups. 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 Mondays and Fridays to collect trash cans in the park, but we will move to several days a week starting next month. Crews will also start placing summer seasonal trash cans in parks due to increased park traffic.
- The River Greenway experienced flooding and was water covered through February until the week of March 13th. After the water receded multiple crew members assisted at the docks at Promenade. By March 15th all of the pathways

were cleaned and broomed and all gates opened. Continuing to communicate with Neil Miller daily. Crews also used backpack blowers to blow off bridges and underpasses too narrow for larger equipment.

## **Project Administration**

- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement – 2023 Project planning in progress.
- Botanical Conservatory Indoor Lighting – Project in progress.
- Botanical Conservatory Entrance Sidewalk – Planning and design in progress.
- Bowser Park Pavilion – Project complete.
- Bowser Park Pavilion Roof – The Contractor is acquiring materials. Work is planned for late March.
- Buckner Park Trail Construction – Project is progressing as site conditions allow. The second boardwalk is in progress.
- Casselwood Park Playground Replacement – Vendor selected, purchase order received. Scheduling in progress.
- Downtown Community Center Carpet Replacement – Work in progress.
- Foster Park Golf Course Master Plan – Public meeting scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Foster Park Golf Maintenance Barn Restroom – Project completed.
- Franke Park BMX Track Building Roof – Project completed.
- Franklin Park Shade Structures – Requisition in progress for two shade structures around the Splashpad.
- 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. Awaiting proposal for the report.
- Jennings Center Kitchen Cabinets & Countertops – Bidding in progress.
- Kreager Park Tennis Backboard and Fence – Awaiting final painting.
- Kreager Park Shelters and Concessions Painting – Bidding complete. Work to begin May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Lakeside Park Courts Lighting – Construction is in progress. Awaiting light installation and final connections.
- Lakeside Park Sunken Gardens Wall Repair – Requisition in progress.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof – Design report in progress.
- McMillen Park Community Center Reception Area – Contractor material acquisition in progress.
- McMillen Park Tennis Courts Resurfacing – Project planned for mid-May.
- 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 – Project in progress.
- Parks System Comprehensive Plan – Project in progress.
- Rea Building Overhead Door – Project completed.
- 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 – Project completed.
- Various Parks Basketball Courts Sealing and Striping – Project out to bid.
- 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 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 – Project in progress.

## **Storeroom and Property**

- 97 work orders were scheduled this month, 15 of which were services.
- The list of proposed 2023 lease purchases was presented to the Park Board by Deputy Director Schuhmacher and approved with no changes.
- Toro 580D unit #582 had a new hydraulic tank installed to replace a leaking one. The cab has been reinstalled and crews are buttoning up the final details.
- A Foley automatic blade grinder was moved from the grounds to the garage. A technician from Kenney Machine has identified a bad relay and will make the needed repairs.
- Toro 5910 unit #519 has been inspected by Kenney Machine and will need to go to their facility for a final diagnosis. Specialty flow meters are needed to find the issues with the hydraulic system.
- We have received a quote for the replacement of the 2 bad sections on the small forestry crane. Repair options are being explored to save some money.
- The replacement driver's side door on bucket truck 74 was painted and installed and the truck is now back in service.
- New aftermarket trailer brake controllers are being installed on 6 landscape trucks by H&H in Huntertown. 3 of the 6 have been completed.
- Parts arrived at Ford to repair night utility truck #183 under warranty. Parts should be in stock soon to take care of the other matching truck #184.
- Garage mechanics have finished with major repairs to the zoo train, carousel, and sky ride. A few small details on the train need to be finished but we are currently waiting on the parts to arrive.
- A new windshield was installed in truck #1506 to replace the original that developed a stress crack.
- Garage staff attended the 2023 Work Truck Week trade show in Indianapolis to look at the latest offerings in work trucks, parts, and accessories.
- Grounds employees helped in the garage with mower deck spindle rebuilds and mower deck tire repairs. Crews also cleaned and painted the bathroom and garage office.
- Facilities route trucks #14 and #19 both had their front seat cushions and covers replaced which finishes up the 6 trucks that needed this repair.
- Gasoline Equipment started the process of replacing the Lawton fuel pumps with new units. This work should be finished within a week.
  
- A large order of high visibility parks t-shirts and rain jackets arrived to fill the need of returning seasonal employees.
- Storeroom staff helped supply new seasonal workers with gloves, PPE, shirts, and other required materials.
- Storeroom and Garage computers were upgraded to new models running Windows 10. A new monitor for the sign lab computer was also purchased.
- A large safe was moved from the Zoo to the storeroom as it is a city asset and no longer fits the needs of the Zoo.
- Sample outdoor furniture arrived and was loaded into the storeroom for the riverfront.

• **Property Transactions:**

23 Kaivac touchless cleaning machine	R320	Added into inventory
23 Honda FRC800 tiller	P230	Added into inventory
95 ice edger	R320	Scrapped for parts
23 Solo backpack sprayers (2)	P230	Added into inventory
23 Little Wonder bed edger	P230	Added into inventory
23 Flozone backpack sprayers (3)	P240	Added into inventory
23 Simpson pressure washer	P295	Added into inventory
23 Jump and Carry battery booster	P240	Added into inventory
23 Master spot sprayer	P230	Added into inventory
13 Foley blade grinder	P252	Transferred from P240
23 RedMax reciprocators	P230	Added into inventory
95 Meilink security safe	P210	Transferred from Z200

• **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 approved by the Park Board.

 **Safety**

Safety Committee meeting was held on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

- 4 vehicle crash has been reported for this period. 1 was ruled preventable, 1 preventable with extenuating circumstances, and 2 were nonpreventable.
- 8 injuries were reported during this period resulting in 5 restricted days but no lost time.
- After numerous discussions w/ Chuck Reddinger and Jason Smith, the training schedule for Recreational seasonal employees has been finalized.
- 3 CPR/FA classes are scheduled for April for current full and part-time employees that are due.
- The Certified Playground Safety Inspector course takes place in May.

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



### **+ Planning Report – March 2023**

- Franke Park Renaissance: Phase I bids were received; finalization of the contract award is in process pending City Council approval of additional funding and contract details. Tree removal for the project was completed in March.
- Completion of construction documents for Riverfront Development: Phase IIB continues. We have received 90% drawings, and are in the process of gathering comments for the design team. Permits (or comments from agencies) have not been received for the project. Tree removal for the project was completed in March.
- The IDNR 5-year Master Plan nears completion; a final draft will be submitted to IDNR in April following the addressing of agency comments and Parks review.
- Work continues on the Parks 10-year Comprehensive Plan; the steering committee has been assembled, and schedules are being established for public meetings, site visits, and addressing the committee.
- Construction continues on the St. Marys Streambank Stabilization: Phase II project. Stabilization is complete on the upstream portion of the project, and construction has begun on the downstream portion and canoe landing area. Despite fluctuating river levels, progress has remained steady and the project remains on schedule for May completion.
- Proposals for the Brewer Park Redevelopment project were received and reviewed. Local firm JPR has been awarded the contract for the completion of construction documents and construction administration.
- Bids were received for an interior lighting project at the Botanical Conservatory. L-A Electric was awarded the job; lights will be replaced throughout the gardens by the end of July.
- Staff reviewed potential 2023 CIP Landscape projects with Eric Ummel; a list of projects was finalized and work has begun on designs for landscape renovations at several locations including Lakeside Rose Garden, Sears Pavilion, and Tillman Park Tennis area.
- Staff met with Bloomingdale Neighborhood representatives to discuss and review potential changes to Wells St. Park. These changes have been suggested by the neighborhood and adapted into a new plan. We are currently seeking funding opportunities to implement the project.
- The paver project at the Sons of Glory Memorial at Memorial Park was 90% completed in March. Some site restoration and cleaning will be completed in April.
- Staff continues to provide input to the Downtown Design Manual revisions with the Planning Department. Changes include a Riverfront Overlay District and potential green infrastructure guidelines.
- Staff coordinated the installation of new Born Learning Trail signs at Hamilton Park. This project is the second of its kind and is being completed alongside United Way and FWCS.
- 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- March 2023**

- Landscape staff cleared mud off the docks after two large flood events at Promenade Park.
- Landscape staff continued spring cleanups in landscape beds throughout the parks, completing the clubhouses at Foster, McMillen, and Shoaff before the courses opened. The Staff has begun focusing on other high visibility areas, completing the Northside Main Office, and multiple beds in both Foster and Lakeside Park. Clean-ups include litter removal, pruning/deadheading, pre-emergent applications, bed

edging, and mulching.

- Pre-emergent herbicide treatments were completed at Lakeside Park and are ongoing at Foster Park.
- Landscape Staff edged sidewalks and concrete curbs in multiple parks that include Freimann, Courthouse Green, Community Center, Main Street Medians, Meyers Park, Promenade Park, Northside Pool, Memorial Pool, McMillen Pool, Foellinger Theatre, Powell Park, Nuckols Park.
- Lakeside staff began cutting rose canes down and un-hilling roses.
- Liriope groundcover beds in multiple parks were mown for aesthetics.
- Some poor weather has resulted in greenhouse work (transplanting, seeding, etc.) being completed by landscape staff.
- MJK Total Lawn Care has rewarded the contract for leaf removal at Headwaters Park. All beds were cleared of leaves where they are now stockpiled along Clinton and will be removed immediately.
- Landscape Maintenance contracts were awarded to Pride Landcare. This maintenance includes landscape bed edging, mulching, and pre-emergent applications. Parks under this contract include Kreager Boundless Playground, Courthouse, Freimann, Nuckols, Community Center, Main Street Medians, Meyers Park, McMillen Pool, Northside Pool, and Foellinger Theatre. All parks under contract were completed in March except for the Community Center, which will be done at the beginning of April.
- The Promenade Landscape Maintenance RFQ was awarded to Triscape. This maintenance includes mulching and pre-emergent applications. Work will be completed in April.
- The organic turf fertilization and weed control RFQs were rewarded to Lawnganics. They will be focusing on turf at Promenade, Headwaters, Foster, Lakeside, Courthouse Green, Freimann, Nuckols, Franklin, Community Center, Foellinger Theatre, Main Street Medians, McMillen Pool, Memorial Pool, Northside Pool, and Meyers Park.
- Mowing RFQ contract awards were split between Pride Landcare and Mow Baby Mow. Turf areas to be mown under these contracts are Promenade, Foster Gardens, Courthouse Green, Freimann, Nuckols, Franklin, Community Center, Foellinger Theatre, Main Street Medians, McMillen Pool, Northside Pool, Memorial Pool, Meyers Park, Powell Park.
- An RFQ was sent out in March asking for the maintenance of native landscapes that include areas such as the Thomas Nature Sanctuary Pond, Kreager Rain Gardens, Reservoir Rain Garden, Lakeside Pond buffer, and the Salomon Farms swale. Quotes are due in early April.
- An RFQ for removing aging shrubs around the parking lot and restoring the turf at Cobin Park was awarded to Pride Landcare. We will then plant trees in these areas this fall as part of our tree-planting contract.
- Myers Plant Health Care will be treating several select trees at Promenade, Lakeside, and Foster for insects, fungi, and improved tree health.
- Pfister Sprinkler Systems was given a PO to do emergency repairs to all irrigation systems. This work will be done as needed this season in Promenade, Freimann, Community Center, Main Street Medians, Courthouse Green, Meyers, Northside Park, Foellinger Theatre, and Lakeside.
- Sarah Allen was hired for the Headwaters Gardener position and began work on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Sarah was a recent seasonal employee at the Botanical Conservatory.
- Ashley Mitchell was hired for the Central Gardener position and began work on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Ashley was a recent seasonal employee at the Botanical Conservatory.
- The Foster Gardener Helper position is posted. Applications are being collected with interviews done in April.
- Greenhouse volunteers put in a total of 424.50 hours for the month.
- Five groups of volunteers, 3 schools, a garden club, and a Conservatory group helped package 4,500

packages of seed for the SCFVA that were purchased by students from 26 schools.

- The greenhouse provided decorative plants for a special event at Weisser and the Sister City Gala.
- Seed sowing continues with 23,300 seeds sown for the Mother's Day Plant Sale, parks, and Conservatory Showcases.

#### **Riparian Management Report- March 2023**

- Two seasonal riparian workers started in March with one more cleared for work early next month.
- Work barge and service boat were uncovered and launched for the first time this year. Successfully cleared four bridges in two days: Columbia, Tennessee, Ewing, and Van Buren. Debris and litter removed in Spy Run Creek at Lawton Park.
- Began plans for new Idle Speed buoy placement along the river with the upcoming DNR approval.
- Scouting for geese nests for the seasonal adling program is underway. Geese relocation will continue this year with Wildlife Wranglers.
- The Parks Ecosystem Maintenance contract was awarded and will begin in April/May to assist in maintaining the following parks: Old Fort/Headwaters, Bloomingdale, Promenade, and Franke 2A.
- Collaboration is continuing with Public Works' new manager for all future river work and debris removal.
- Sweet Breeze was uncovered at REA. Light maintenance and repairs are being scheduled for the upcoming season.
- Continued the Volunteer Engagement webinar education series. Several organizations and individuals are now corresponding for future clean-ups throughout the year. Volunteer tool trailer supplies were bolstered to keep up with the demand.
- Volunteer event with Concordia students removing honeysuckle on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 9 students and one adult working for 2 hours cleared a little over a ton of honeysuckle.

#### **Forestry Report- March 2023**

- Only special prunes, removals, and urgent tree work will be considered for the time being. Our goal is multifaceted. Mitigate the risk of city trees under our jurisdiction to persons and property, and maintain and grow the canopy. Implementing an effective pruning cycle is also a future goal of forestry.
- We did 22 special prunes for road, sidewalk, and/or house clearance.
- 77 total trees were removed from the right of way or parks.
- 24 were storm damage removals, and six of these were in parks. Six were private trees in the streets.
- There were 48 removals determined by an inspection process. Of the 48, 26 were contracted removals by Custom Tree Care. 17 were street removals from our forestry department. 5 removals were miscellaneous or unknown crews. The unknown is a result of, but not limited to possible missed recording of a storm removal, or a tree that was removed by the resident or other department without our knowledge.
- 2 removals were two-part removals where the crown was removed one day and the spar/stub was retrieved at a later date.
- 5 trees were removed as a result of vehicle damage.
- Responded to and cleared 36 storm-related limbs down and or hangers.
- There was one clean-up brush and wood go back due to the size of the debris and time of day.
- Responded to and closed 77, (311) call center tickets this month. The 311 calls were on par with last year's March calls, with only one more call as compared to March 2022. Currently, every month in 2023 had more calls each month over 2022. We hope this trend does not continue.
- We recorded 39 call inspections at properties that may be a future issue with area residents' concerns.

- 289 planting sites have been identified for a proposed Spring planting and planting will occur in April.
- Risk management requested location inspections regarding 7 police reports involving cars hitting trees. Vehicle damage locations totaled 5 reviewable sites. The total tree damage appraised amount sent to risk was \$3014.00.
- California Dreamin' continued its popularity in March, 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 March 2023 including the Home & Garden Show (March 2-5), The Great Train Connection (March 10-12), and Volunteer Celebration Dinner (March 20). Staff is gearing up for the Slightly Used Bulb Sale (April 6-30), Bunny Tales in the Garden (April 7 & 8), and the Color in Motion Butterfly Showcase Exhibit (Opening April 25). A Camp ACTIVenture Assistant Supervisor, Brittany Croy, was hired to lead a successful camp this year, and another Camp ACTIVenture staff member is in the hiring process. Seasonal Gardeners Sarah Allen and Ashley Mitchell were both promoted to full-time Gardener positions based out of Lawton Park. Current vacancies include Seasonal Maintenance (accepting applications), and Seasonal Gardener (accepting applications).

#### Botanical Conservatory KPIs

- March 2023 wrapped up a very strong Q1 for 2023 with an attendance increase of over 32% to the same period in 2022, and membership sales up over 34% to the same period in 2022. Rental & Catering Fee revenue increased precipitously year-over-year (over 140%) 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 28% increase quarter-over-quarter to Q1 2022 (which previously held the all-time Q1 record for the Conservatory Shop). Total revenue is down for March 2023 from March 2022, attributable to lower investment gains deposited with the Park Foundation Donation. The Park Foundation Contribution for 2022 was \$33,136 greater than the contribution received in 2023 due to investment performance stabilization in a post-COVID-19 market. Despite this shortfall, the Botanical Conservatory is still overperforming in total revenue on the year by nearly 5%. Overall a compelling exhibit theme and inspired execution have driven traffic in the first quarter of the year.

#### **Attendance**

March 2022: 7,452 visitors

March 2023: 7,710 visitors

An increase of 258 or 3.46% to 2022

#### **YTD Comparisons**

2022 Attendance: 15,366 visitors

2023 Attendance: 20,342 visitors

An increase of 4,976 or +32.38% to 2022

#### **Admissions Revenue**

March 2022: \$30,960.00

March 2023: \$32,512.00

An increase of \$1,552.00 or +5.01% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Admissions Revenue: \$67,796.00  
2023 Admissions Revenue: \$82,681.00  
An increase of \$14,885.00 or +21.96% to 2022

**Membership Revenue**

March 2022: \$7,686.00  
March 2023: \$8,980.00  
An increase of \$1,294.00 or +16.84% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Membership Revenue: \$18,870.00  
2023 Membership Revenue: \$25,352.06  
An increase of \$6,482.06 or +34.35% to 2022

**Conservatory Shop Revenue**

March 2022: \$32,733.84  
March 2023: \$35,893.78  
An increase of \$3,159.94 or +9.65% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Gift Shop Revenue: \$53,355.18  
2023 Gift Shop Revenue: \$68,480.85  
An increase of \$15,125.67 or +28.35% to 2022

**Rental & Catering Fee Revenue**

March 2022: \$3,895.00  
March 2023: \$10,825.00  
An increase of \$6,390.00 or +177.92% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Rental Revenue: \$13,686.38  
2023 Rental Revenue: \$33,017.50  
An increase of \$19,331.12 or +141.24% to 2022

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

March 2022: \$235,159.08  
March 2023: \$199,684.61

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Other Revenue: \$249,782.38  
2023 Other Revenue: \$214,083.90

**Conservatory Total Revenue**

March 2022: \$310,433.92

March 2023: \$287,895.39  
A decrease of \$22,538.53 or -7.26% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Total Revenue: \$403,489.94  
2023 Total Revenue: \$423,615.31  
An increase of \$20,125.37 or +4.99% to 2022

**Botanical Conservatory Business Development**

- Staff submitted a proposal for a \$4,400 corporate sponsorship for the 2023 ROOTS Music Fest to Sweetwater Sound who declined to cite limited resources. 96.3 XKE (Adams Radio Group) has confirmed the station will serve as the radio media sponsor of the 2023 ROOTS Music Fest.
- Promotional tickets were distributed to Fox 55 and Majic 95.1 for the 2023 Bunny Tales in the Garden and 21Alive and 97.3 WMEE for the 2023 Color in Motion Butterflies Exhibit. Approved promotional spots for Bunny Tales in the Garden by Fox 55 and Majic 95.1 and provided information and photos for promos of the butterfly exhibit by 21Alive and 97.3 WMEE.
- A pitch for corporate membership was sent the last week of March to 200 prominent area companies with a letter of introduction to the human resources and marketing managers and the corporate membership brochure. Research is continuing on additional companies and more pitches will be sent out in April.
- Conservatory donations in March 2023 totaled \$178,422: \$177,742 from the Fort Wayne Park Foundation and \$1,000 from Fort Wayne Metals for support of the 2023 Botanical Brew.

**Botanical Conservatory Public Programs - Events**

*Great Train Connection (March 10-12)*

Nine local model railroad groups gathered at the Botanical Conservatory for three days to demonstrate their craft, share in its joy, and educate the public about train safety. In all, 744 children and 1,340 adults (2,084 total) were drawn to the event where children received goody bags with train-related activities and were invited to craft a bracelet centering on a train bead. Youth were also allowed to operate train models and solve real-life puzzles with the replicas. This year's attendance was a drastic increase over 2022's 1,408.



*Excitement over the Conservatory's Model Train Display*



**Education**

- Spring Equinox Blossoms (March 4)
- Returning floral instructor, Dennis Bowman demonstrated the crafting of spring bulbs with festive accents as an indoor centerpiece. The 8 participants (9 registered) enjoyed the class, especially Dennis's instruction. Several asked for him to return to other classes.

- Bones for Life (March 7-28)
- For the first time, Bones for Life® was offered at the Botanical Conservatory. Liz Monnier, a certified Feldenkrais® instructor, guided 12 participants through gentle movements and body postures to increase awareness of physical self in the effort of increased bone strength, improved posture and decreased pain. Participants rated the class highly and requested that it return.
- Youth Field Trips
- There were 15 field trip groups in March totaling 422 participants.

## ✚ 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.

## ✚ Volunteers/Staff

- *Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (March 20)*

The Botanical Conservatory invited all volunteers, who were active in 2022, to a special dinner served by Mad Anthony at Promenade Park to celebrate 2022 service hours and further demonstrate staff appreciation. Of those invited, 63 attended with most bringing a guest. Attendees greatly enjoyed this celebratory event of volunteer recognition! Those with milestone anniversaries were also recognized with a pin. In addition, volunteers also received a T-shirt, if opted, DeBrands chocolate, and a complimentary beverage.

- At the Front Desk, 7 volunteers covered 31 shifts, while in the Gift Shop, 10 volunteers filled 37 shifts. The Home & Garden Show, March 2-5, was supported and largely manned by 8 very dedicated volunteers. March 10-12, 7 volunteers helped with the Great Train Connection, passing out goody bags, assisting with crafting a bracelet and running the Conservatory's model train. On March 15, an impressive number of 13 volunteers packaged seeds for the SCFVA; a couple of volunteers even stayed an extra hour and a half to finish the task at hand. Between March 29 & 30, 5 volunteers committed to filling 1,000 goody bags for Bunny Tales. March was also busy scheduling Butterfly Attendants for the upcoming Color in Motion exhibit as well as for the Mother's Day Plant Sale.
- On March, 5 Anthis students jointly contributed 35.75 hours. Volunteers, 5 new volunteers joined in March, including another high school student. This student was one of the volunteers for the Great Train Connection, filling two shifts, and also requested a special task with the plants. Our Gift Shop coordinator arranged for the volunteer to assist with sorting and labeling air plants for the Gift Shop. The volunteer was thrilled by the opportunity!



*Volunteer labels plants  
for the Gift Shop*

### **Upcoming**

April 1: Pysanky, Ukrainian Eggs pre-registered program

April 6-30: Slightly Used Bulb Sale

April 7 & 8: Bunny Tales in the Garden

April 12: Volunteer Seed Packaging

April 16-24: SHOWCHANGE Week

April 22-May 6: Butterfly Attendant Training

April 25-June 25: Opening of Color in Motion live butterfly exhibit

April 25-August 13: Landscape Architecture & Art display

April 25-May 30: T'ai Chi Tuesdays pre-registered program

April 28: Friday Night Flights Fundraiser

April 29: Bonsai for Beginners pre-registered program

### **Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture**

- Pride Landscape was selected from a competitive quote request for a quotation to perform outdoor landscape maintenance work at the Botanical Conservatory. Their scope of work will include mowing,

edging, string trimming, mulching, pre-emergent herbicide application, and fall leaf cleanup.

- Staff and CAS at Anthis student volunteers have made significant headway with landscape renovations in the Desert House. Staff and Anthis students have removed approximately 12 yards of rocks and boulders. The Botanical Conservatory staff has also begun removing the surface material which is adversely impacting the health of the Desert House plant collection. So far, approximately five percent of the surface material has been removed from the Desert House.
- Staff and CAS at Anthis student volunteers also began work to remove English Ivy from the Exploration Garden to expand the footprint of the existing butterfly garden. Students also assisted with cutting back perennials and grasses in preparation for spring.
- Outdoor spring cleanup is nearly complete with perennials being cut back, hydrangeas being deadheaded, and shrubs being pruned.
- Staff gardeners completed a comprehensive pruning and cleanup of the raised Mediterranean beds in the Showcase House. The pruning will promote healthy air flow through the tree canopy and provide additional space for new plants in the permanent collection.
- Staff is in the process of enhancing the orchid collection. As part of this effort, orchids were purchased from the Toledo Zoo which hosts an annual Orchid Show each February. At the end of the Toledo Zoo Orchid Show, a sale is held with below-market rate pricing, at which Staff procured a variety of orchids and developed a relationship with the Plant Conservation staff at the Toledo Zoo. The orchids will be displayed throughout the Tropical House in various locations, depending upon the need of the type of species.
- During the Toledo visit, staff purchased additional specimens for the permanent collection from a specialty greenhouse. Included in the purchase were papaya, tea plants, and cycads for the Tropical House.
- Staff released two rounds of beneficial insects into the indoor gardens to combat insect pests. Staff also sprayed a gentle insecticide that targets insect pests.



*Gardener, Sarah Allen, pruning Olive tree in Mediterranean Bed*



*CAS at Anthis students removing rocks from the Desert House*



*CAS at Anthis students removing English ivy*



*CAS at Anthis students cutting back grasses and perennials*

#### **+ Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance**

- Priority 1 completed installing a video door intercom system and card reader for the employee and volunteer entrance.
- Three Rivers Painting Co., completed the repainting of the Desert House, giving the house a fresh and clean appearance.
- Baby changing stations were replaced in all restrooms with new units (6 total).
- The structural tent was re-skinned and prepared by Mutton Rental for the upcoming Easter in the Garden event.
- Bid requests have been sent out as we are seeking a vendor to replace and install a new fire system that is failing due to age.

## **Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing**

- + [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) had 3,626 hits to the site this month despite the site being down for 9 days due to technical difficulties. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and the marketing team is working with the Riverfront team on rental strategies for weekday daytime use.
- + Released Trail survey for Foster Park Golf Course Master Plan on 2/14 and over 2,200 responses to date. A Public meeting is planned for April 11<sup>th</sup> as the last opportunity to give survey input.
- + Completed 50 Design projects.

- + Started work on Summer Fun Times.
- + Created marketing materials for Dragon Boats, Sensory Room, Sweet Breeze, and Senior Games.
- + Marketing Team worked on a hiring focus again this month. Highlights include social media messaging, attending various events to push our jobs, and 4 additional job recruitment videos were produced.
- + Submitted application for SIA grant for the Sensory room at the Community Center.
- + Youth scholarship program promoted through social media and email.
- + Received notice we are a Tree City USA (33 years) and a Growth Award winner (18 years) again. Our annual Arbor Day event will be on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Invitations coming soon.
- + Produced a podcast with Derek Veit on street trees and the tree planting program.
- + Strategized about the Foster #3 press conference to be held on April 24 at 11 am. Invitation to be sent soon.

+ **January 73                      February 46                      March 54**

<b>Web Statistics:</b>	<b><u>Users:</u></b>	<b><u>Hits:</u></b>	<b><u>Month:</u></b>
	36,505	101,721	January
	39,931	110,206	February
	48,683	145,004	March

Social Media Totals for the months of:

	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>
FB Followers	76,405	77,260	78,105
FB Reach	207,340	341,799	224,415
 Twitter Followers	13,627	13,664	13,686
 Instagram Follower	21,517	21,595	21,712

## Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

- ✚ Foster and Shoaff golf courses opened for the season on March 21, with McMillen following on March 22. This was one week later than projected, with the weather being the factor. As is expected, weather plays the most significant role in the golf operation at this time of year. Cold and wet conditions have dictated what can and can not be done early on.
- ✚ Easter Sunday, April 9, was the first day this year we were able to run carts at all three courses, albeit in a limited manner. April 9 was also the first day Shoaff Park's range was available. McMillen's driving range should be open by April 15, and a new range picker will be utilized. It appears the weather moving forward will be much better as temperatures rise and we begin to dry out.
- ✚ McMillen Park hosted a tournament for the 3 Rivers Golf Tour on April 8 with 80 participants. This was the first time this tour has utilized any of the Park's golf courses. Middle and High School teams will start in earnest the week of April 10, and Concordia will host a large Invitational at Foster Park on April 22.
- ✚ As we get to more consistent weather and normal activity levels, staffing needs are being figured out and staffing levels are being brought up to meet the needs. We have most of the prior year's staff returning, and a good pool of applicants to fill out the remaining needs.
- ✚ Shop inventories are filling in with new merchandise arriving. The shops are shaping up nicely. Although we are still at a low inventory level, new items are being brought in which are at a price level commensurate with our clientele.
- ✚ A quote for an additional 16 golf carts was received from Midwest Golf and Turf. These 16 cars would continue our efforts to replace old and worn-out golf cars (some as much as twenty years old) and to increase the size of our fleet to an acceptable level.
- ✚ With the weather breaking and indications of strong activity levels already appearing, there is every reason to be optimistic about the 2023 season for the Parks Department golf courses.
- ✚

## Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



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

- ✚ We are ready to bid out the 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 have one parcel to acquire before bidding out the Liberty Mills Rd Trail from Middle Grove to the Village at Coventry. We are close to acquiring this parcel as we make minor revisions to the transfer documents with their attorneys. We hope to bid this project out in late April/early May.
- ✚ We still have 8 of 14 parcels to acquire on the Covington Road Trail from Hadley to Getz. We want to bid on the project this spring.
- ✚ Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails will begin on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ✚ We'll have a tree planting with volunteers on the Pufferbelly Trail on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate Earth Day and to recognize "Celebrate Trails Day."
- ✚ We'll be running the mid-block crossing Public Service Announcement on all the local stations for two weeks in mid-April.
- ✚ I'll be attending the Greenways Foundation Luncheon in Carmel on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- ✚ The Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council will host an Open House for transportation projects, including trails, on 4/26 from 4 – 6 p.m. in the Omni Room of Citizens Square.

- ✚ May is Bike Month. One of the first events will be Bike to School Day on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- ✚ The City will be meeting with 15 businesses along Coliseum Boulevard on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m. to discuss the future Pufferbelly Pedestrian Bridge over Coliseum.
- ✚ Allen County is expecting to bid out the equestrian trails near the intersection of Paulding Road and Adams Center Road very soon.

## Division News and Media Coverage:



### Celebrate the Restoration of Foster Park Pavilion 3

*Learn more about this 1930 era open-air building and successful efforts to put it back into public use*

**WHO:** Join Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, Friends of the Parks of Allen County, Southwest Area Partnership, and VIPs at a press conference to experience the historically accurate restoration of Pavilion 3 and the physical improvements in the Foster Park Oak Grove.

**WHAT:** See the transformed building, a freshly revealed vista of the Saint Marys River, and nearby pedestrian and cyclist-friendly trails in this well-loved Legacy Park.

**WHEN:** **Monday, April 24, 10:00 a.m.**

**WHERE:** Foster Park West, 5113 Winchester Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46819

WANE, Businesses in downtown excited for TinCaps to be back for 2023 season

<https://www.wane.com/news/tincaps-return-means-return-of-extra-business-for-downtown-shops-and-restaurants/>

WANE, Groundbreaking held for The Lofts at Headwaters Park

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/its-been-a-long-time-coming-officials-hold-groundbreaking-ceremony-for-the-lofts-at-headwaters-park/>

WANE, Franke Park master plan at City Council

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/franke-park-master-plan-unveiled/>

WPTA, FWPD hosts first FORT training event to prepare future officers

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/04/12/fwpd-hosts-first-fort-training-event-prepare-future-officers/>

WPTA, City Utilities announces projects for 2023

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/04/11/city-utilities-officials-update-public-construction-efforts/>

Adams Radio Group, City Utilities announces projects for the year

<https://1039waynefm.com/city-record-investment-means-busy-construction-season/>

Adams Radio Group, City to host Great American Cleanup event

<https://1039waynefm.com/how-you-can-help-keep-fort-wayne-clean-green-and-beautiful/>

WFFT, Construction season underway – Veterans Memorial Bridge progress included in the story

[https://www.wfft.com/news/cone-zones-pop-up-around-northeast-indiana-as-construction-season-commences/article\\_4827463a-d4ce-11ed-9814-1baf320f7e1c.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/cone-zones-pop-up-around-northeast-indiana-as-construction-season-commences/article_4827463a-d4ce-11ed-9814-1baf320f7e1c.html)

WFFT, Opening day for TinCaps brings a boost to downtown

[https://www.wfft.com/news/tincaps-opening-day-brings-expected-downtown-boost/article\\_dfecaa5a-d8e3-11ed-a6f8-235cb8eb5b81.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/tincaps-opening-day-brings-expected-downtown-boost/article_dfecaa5a-d8e3-11ed-a6f8-235cb8eb5b81.html)

## Save the Date: May 2, 2023

The Joining Community Forces Suicide Prevention Working Group, a state-wide group to reduce suicide amongst the military-connected community, is seeking collaboration from parks services across the state. We have formed a coalition to bring more military and veteran families to the parks and support suicide prevention efforts for community partners. In this webinar, we will explore some services that are already being provided by the VA, and how parks could partner to offer programs and services locally.



**More information to come!**

WANE, Public meeting held on Goshen Ave. road improvements

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/out-with-the-old-initial-goshen-road-plan-unveiled-still-years-out/>

WANE, Work to finally begin on The Lofts at Headwaters Park in downtown Fort Wayne

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/work-to-finally-begin-on-lofts-at-headwaters-park-in-downtown-fort-wayne/>

## **Headwaters Park Alliance Transfers Management of Headwaters Park to Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation**

*City Parks Department Assumed Operations, April 1, 2023*

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation announces that after more than 25 successful years, the Headwaters Park Alliance ended their lease agreement to run Headwaters Park on March 31, 2023. The following day, April 1, 2023, the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department assumed the management and day-to-day operations of Headwaters Park and plan to work with the Headwaters Park Alliance to ensure a smooth transition for all festivals, park rentals, and other user groups.

Executive Director of the Headwaters Park Alliance Geoff Paddock observes “The Headwaters Park Commission [beginning in 1993] and the Headwaters Park Alliance [beginning in 2001] worked to design, raise private dollars, and build and maintain the Headwaters Park Flood Control Project. Over those past three decades, we have raised almost \$15 million for that purpose.” He continues, “It has been a privilege and honor to serve as the Executive Director of this forward-thinking project for 30 years. We now leave Headwaters Park to the able staff of the Parks Department with the substantial festival and ice-skating revenue and a healthy maintenance endowment.”

Director of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Steve McDaniel states “Fort Wayne Parks looks forward to continuing the culture of excellence developed by the Headwaters Park Alliance to mitigate flooding, enhance economic development, and connect the downtown to opportunities for recreation and outdoor education. We expect most aspects of the park to remain the same in the immediate future.”

### **\$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

WPTA, Former donor accuses TRF board of trying to insert personal and social agenda with new events

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/03/30/former-donor-accuses-trf-board-trying-insert-personal-social-agenda-with-new-events/>

Input FW, Calling all inventors and innovators – This new program is ready to support your venture

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/news/scalableassembly.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.

Adams Radio Group, Site work to begin on The Lofts at Headwaters Park development

<https://1039waynefm.com/site-work-to-begin-on-the-lofts-at-headwaters-park-development/>

WANE, Two sponsors cut ties with TRF

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/two-sponsors-cut-ties-with-three-rivers-festival/>

WANE, Input wanted ahead of the impending Goshen Ave. corridor project

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/input-wanted-ahead-of-impending-goshen-corridor-project/>

WANE, Fort Wayne marijuana seizures down, fentanyl up

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/behind-the-numbers-fort-wayne-marijuana-seizures-down-fentanyl-up/>

WPTA, Why hasn't the county committed to helping fund TRAA

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/03/29/21investigates-why-hasnt-county-committed-help-fund-our-ambulance-provider/>

### **“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.

WANE, Coffee with a Cop is Positively Fort Wayne

<https://www.wane.com/news/coffee-with-a-cop-is-positively-fort-wayne/>

WANE, Taste of Sister Cities

<https://www.wane.com/news/annual-taste-of-sister-cities-gala-hosted-at-parkview-mirro-center/>

WANE, How Fort Wayne plans to build EV chargers across the city

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/heres-how-fort-wayne-plans-to-build-ev-chargers-across-the-city/>

WFFT, The Dream Center opens

[https://www.wfft.com/community/the-dream-center-opens-in-fort-wayne-offers-life-skill-classes-and-co-working-office/article\\_757a9532-ca98-11ed-8dcd-6f693a426f7e.html](https://www.wfft.com/community/the-dream-center-opens-in-fort-wayne-offers-life-skill-classes-and-co-working-office/article_757a9532-ca98-11ed-8dcd-6f693a426f7e.html)

WPTA, Disability Awareness Month – Fort Wayne/Allen County Disability Advisory Council featured on the Insight program

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/03/24/city-fort-wayneallen-county-talks-disability-awareness-month/>

WOWO, Procedural justice with FWPD

<https://www.wowo.com/kb-producer-josh-take-on-procedural-justice-with-fwpd/>

PBS 39, a Primetime program with Sen. Zay and Rep. Abbott as guests

<https://video.wfwa.org/video/sen-andy-zay-and-rep-david-abbott-uu9yk2/>

### **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.

City TV, 'Public Works In Your Neighborhood' program with Matt Gratz and Councilman Freistroffer as guests discussing solid waste services

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

WBCL, Spring leaf bag collection to begin through Street Dept.

<https://www.wbcl.org/news/fort-wayne-to-begin-brown-bag-collection>

WANE, City, and Habitat partner to build 32 homes in southeast Fort Wayne

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/city-and-habitat-partner-to-build-32-homes-in-southeast-fort-wayne/>

WANE, The Mystery of Stevies Island

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/whose-island-is-it-anyway-the-mystery-of-stevies-island/>

WANE, 40 under 40 event recognizes the best in business in NE Ind.

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/40-under-40-event-recognizes-very-best-in-business-in-northeast-indiana/>

WANE, FWACC offers tips and tricks for taking care of puppies

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/tips-and-tricks-for-taking-care-of-puppies-fort-wayne-animal-care-control/>

WANE, Developer proposes apartments at Lake and Reed

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/developer-proposes-40-units-on-less-than-two-acres-at-lake-avenue-and-reed-road/>

WPTA, Dozens of new homes to be built in Ren. Pointe neighborhood

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/03/23/dozens-new-homes-be-built-fort-waynes-renaissance-neighborhood/>

## **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, City plan would offer \$3M to TRAA

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/city-of-fort-wayne-plan-to-offer-3m-to-traa-needs-city-council-approval/>

WPTA, Fort Wayne UNITED begins to search for new executive director

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/03/10/fort-wayne-united-search-new-executive-director/>

WPTA, City creates resolution to provide \$3M in funding assistance for TRAA

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/03/10/city-creates-resolution-provide-3m-funding-assistance-traa/>

WBCL, a Grocery store coming to southeast Fort Wayne

<https://www.wbcl.org/news/grocery-store-coming-to-fort-waynes-southeast-side>

City TV, Everyone Home public meeting

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=mwkSwSSDs3D1>