

Steve McDaniel, Director

- ✚ Volunteers at the Old Fort rebuilt the northeast corner of the stockade fence that was damaged. Thank you to all those who helped rebuild the structure.
- ✚ Recently met with the Marketing Team, along with Tim Byers, Foellinger Theatre Manager, to work through advertising for the various shows we are producing this summer. Tim also had several new shows to plan for announcements.
- ✚ Alec and I presented the Franke Park Renaissance project to City Council for their approval of the funding and bids. This was approved and the team is working on contracts and purchase orders. Work to start in May.
- ✚ Gary Whitacre and I recorded the latest podcast covering golf. It was a little unique because we had a visitor from the Journal Gazette doing an article about podcasts in government. I am guessing that article will be coming out soon.
- ✚ Sandra and I started the discussion with the computer group Resultant on a Business Continuity Plan for the department. This is to determine minimum requirements from us if there was a serious event that disrupted our computer/telephone connectivity with the rest of the city.
- ✚ We held our latest public meeting for Foster Golf. This was to get our survey completed for those who have not done so via a digital format. We had almost 40 completed on paper. These results were shared with the design team and they are working on a new version of the master plan.
- ✚ I met with Kelly Updike of the Embassy Theatre to discuss Middle Waves Music Festival. They are in the process of acquiring the name of the festival as they see it has strong ties to the community. They are shooting for a small festival later this summer at Parkview Field.
- ✚ I gave an update to the Park Foundation towards the end of the month. This was their second meeting for the year.
- ✚ We had a few media events towards the end of the month. The first was the dedication of Foster Pavilion #3. This was well attended by the groups involved with the project. Later that week we sent off the School Children's Flower and Vegetable plants to area elementary schools. This was a photo op event. We closed out the month with another press conference celebrating Arbor Day. An annual event for us, where we celebrated the 33rd year of being designated a Tree City as well as the 18th year for the Tree Growth Award.
- ✚ I attended the Foellinger Foundation's Open House. They recently renovated their facilities with a beautiful construction project.
- ✚ We held our first Advisory Committee meeting for the Comprehensive Plan. This group will meet 4 to 5 times throughout this planning process.
- ✚ We also held our kick-off meeting for the Brewer Park Master Plan design. The team went through all aspects of the project to make sure we were all on the same page. It will take several months for them to work from schematics to construction drawings. We hope to bid out the project by the end of the year.

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

Riverfront

- April at Promenade Park seems like the calm before the storm. The warm spring weather begins to bring more patrons to the park as we get ready for summer programming and business summer rentals. Yoga on the Riverfront continued on April 16th with a larger crowd than normal as the warm spring air got people out and ready.
- Followed by yoga was our Sunday Heritage Concert Series in the pavilion with the Fort Wayne Children's Choir. This group was assembled by local Fort Wayne students who brought out their families to enjoy some magnificent singing with the great acoustics of the Pavilion.
- Riverfront Programs concluded in April with the first-ever Literacy Expo at the Pavilion to celebrate World Book Day. The event kicked off with live poetry reading from local artists. The pavilion was packed full of local non-profit organizations that support literacy programming in Fort Wayne including the Fort Wayne Library, Boys and Girls Club, PBS Fort Wayne, and much more. Kids and families began to pack the pavilion by the midafternoon to complete the literacy scavenger hunt and participate in the Human Library on the patio of the pavilion.

Golf

- Dave Weadock, Bryan Keister, Gary Whitacre and Jason Smith held a fourth public meeting for the redesign of Foster Golf Course. The meeting was simply for those who hadn't filled out the online survey. It was well attended by around 100 people. The mentioned staff cleared up a lot of confusion that was being circulated. The vast majority of participants thanked the staff when they left for answering questions and clearing up confusion. Also, for taking the time to host the meeting.
- Gary Whitacre stated that the Spring weather has been up and down for steady golf play. The positive aspect is that when the weather has been nice, the golf courses are packed for the day. Players are ready to play.
- Gary Whitacre reported that the Foster Park Golf Course hosted the Concordia Invitational which had 22 teams. Despite the early wet conditions, the tournament was a huge success. Numerous coaches, players, and parents commented on how nice the course looked and played.
- Bryan Keister reported that City Utilities finally came back and replaced the new water meter. He also reported that the Parks and Recreation Department MTs were reinstalling the irrigation motor and pump that were damaged by the flood conditions in the pump house.

Pools

- Daryn Schwartz reported that job applications for summer pool staff are starting to trickle in. Jenny Barney is continuing to interview potential pool staff as well as attending high school job fairs to get the word out about jobs.

Athletics and Special Events

- Jason Smith reported that the Lifetime Sports Academy staff has been hired and were even able to hire an additional golf position that couldn't be filled last year.
- Jason Smith and Dave Scudder met with Parkview Sports Medicine to film a promotional piece to push registrations for the Junior and Pee Wee Golf Tour.

- Jason Smith reported that the Fort Wayne Disc Golf Club hosted its annual spring tournament at Shoaff Park. As always, it was a huge success. Brian Miller (disc golf tournament coordinator) reported that they had 260 players sign-up within 10 minutes of opening registration. The tournament continues to be one of the most heavily attended in the state.

Salomon Farm Park

- Four Learning Center rentals were booked in March 2023 which was the same amount of bookings as March 2022.
- Thirteen Farmin' Fun Day Camp applicants have confirmed for the 2023 camp season, with three interviews still set up. Fourteen staff were hired in 2022.
- 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.
- New animal additions were released to the public on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. To celebrate the new animals Salomon Farm Park is hosting a special meet & greet with the Highland mini calves in May. Participants can be the first to interact with the calves and welcome them to Fort Wayne and Salomon Farm Park. The private session includes 30 minutes of exclusive interaction for up to 4 people. Brush, feed, pet and take pictures from your cell phone with the adorable Highland calves. The Highland calf's names are **Mickey, 7 months old**, and **Frankie who is 4 months old**. On Tuesday, April 18, 2023, after the press release, the 8 interactive sessions sold out within 1 hour. More sessions were then added through May. WANE 15, WPTA, and FOX 55 all scheduled appointments to get footage of the new animals, including the three baby Norwegian goats. The anticipated revenue from the meet & greet session is \$2,600. In May Salomon is offering 40 total sessions, 2 of the 40 sessions are still available.
- Salomon Farm Park in partnership with the Allen County Public Library held two Storytime on the Farm programs. Storytime is an interactive way to develop children's love of reading. Participants listen to stories, sing songs, and even make animal sounds. Ages 2 – 6 with an adult. Registration for the Storytime was free. After the program participants could stay for a hay ride around the farm. The hay ride was \$5 per person with ages 2 and under free. The Friday, April 7, 2023, Storytime had 35 participants, and the Friday, April 21, 2023, Storytime had 25 participants. This was a new program.



Lindenwood Nature Preserve

- On Sunday, April 16, 2023, Lindenwood Nature Preserve worked with the Purdue Fort Wayne Chapman Scholars on an invasive removal day. Students braved the rainy weather and helped remove invasive plants and spread mulch on some of the trails. In attendance were 6 students from PFW.

Sweet Breeze

- Final interviews for Sweet Breeze 2023 staff have been completed. Amanda Black and Eden Lamb are coordinating hiring and start dates with staff. All positions have been filled. The operation is welcoming 6 new staff members.
- Specialty tours and general public tours will be released to the public on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

Hurshtown Reservoir

- Warmer April weather allowed maintenance crews to install Hurshtown docks earlier than the week before opening day. Hurshtown staff are all cleared to work and ready to open the season on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Franke Park Day Camp

- Franke Park Day Camp will be hiring 20 camp counselors. Ideally, camp supervisors would like to hire 8 more counselors.
- 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.

McMillen Park Community Center

- This month we had our annual Spring Break Carnival. We were fortunate to have the National Guard bring an obstacle course to the carnival. The staff and some of the members of the National Guard interacted and enjoyed play time with the children. We also partnered with Kanvas Creations by Kasey. She is a local business owner who draws pictures on canvases for you to purchase. She supplied the with 40 canvases for the children to paint Easter pictures. The children enjoyed painting the holiday pictures. We also did an Easter egg hunt competition for each age group. The After-School program wrapped up this month as well. Two program youths were presented with awards for consistent participation, leadership, and behavior. We also came up with the McMillen Character Award. Which will be something we do each time, it is an award that will go to a student who is an all-around great kid they do well in school and at the center.
- Kids Korner had a 25% decrease from last month compared to this month. Last month we had over 1,100 patrons. visit the Kids Korner. Due to the youth being out for Spring break and the youth program hour change during this period, Kids Korner had 650 patrons compared to the previous month. We continue to have daycares and preschool facilities that visit with us every month. We have several parents, grandparents, and home-school groups that continue to utilize Kid Korner.
- Registrations continue to rise as we proceed into the summer months. There was a slight 10% decrease at this time compared to last month in which there were 86 registrations and so far this month there are only 69 registrations. We've been getting quite a few registrations daily because our Youth Summer Program will be starting on June 5, 2023. Parents are looking for a safe fun, safe environment to drop their child/children off for their summer break. We have new students coming to our center daily and not only are the children excited but the parents are excited as well.

- Open gym and Pickleball had a 20% decrease in participation due to patrons utilizing outside courts. Our men's 18 and over Thursday basketball league completed this month. We had a total of 6 teams in the league with an average of 8 players per team which is around 48 players a week that participated in our league for April. Our cardio fit numbers were down this month because the teacher of the class took some time off. Pickleball is still a fan favorite here from 9:00-2:00 pm In April we had 332 athletes come in and play Pickleball. Every Saturday we have Yoga in the mornings, this month 13 people came to Saturday Yoga classes.
- On April 1st we partnered with the Autism Society of Indiana and Easter Seals of ARC of Northeast Indiana to host our first-ever "Parents night out" evening. The night went great and we had 8 wonderful children join us, we are hoping to double that number going forward. We have interest from the community in utilizing this service.

✚ Community Center (Downtown/233 West Main Street)

- April was a busy month with ten rental events. There were four Saturday and five Sunday rentals for this April. There were two open Saturdays with no rentals. Each month/year is different from the previous month/year, which is dependent on several factors. Post-pandemic demand is still strong and the weather was favorable this month. Bookings for the year are behind pre-pandemic levels. There are still lots of Saturdays in August and September available that are usually booked by April.
- Pods staff are being staffed with full-time teachers for the summer. Hiring is going well, still need tennis and athletic staff. Candidates have enjoyed the flexibility of taking a Zoom interview with difficult schedules Recruitment letters were sent to 8 more high schools (athletic directors).
- The new carpet installation in the lobby and upstairs areas is complete and looks great! Everyone loves it!
- Most of the community center staff attended a dementia simulation presented by Emily Osborne to help us understand dementia from the afflicted person's point of view. It was very profound.
- Linda and Mary attended the first senior expo at the Jackson Lehman Yucca. We were there to introduce people to the community center and the activities that we offer. We spoke to approx. 85 people during the 3 hours we were there. Josh and Mary will be attending the volunteer expo on April 27th at the mall for volunteer recruitment purposes.

Sandra Odisho, CPA – Manager, Finance

- ✚ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 250 employees (130 full-time and 120 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending April 22nd, 2023, and paid on April 28th, 2023.
- ✚ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing, or in the process of being hired, as of April 30th, 2023:
 - Gardener Helper – Landscape and Horticulture (Fund 121)
 - Gardener – Landscape and Horticulture (Fund 121)
 - Heavy Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
 - Supervisor VI – Neighborhood Programs (Fund 121)
 - Recreation Center Coordinator – Weisser (Fund 121)
 - Supervisor IV – Food Service (Fund 121)

- Rental Coordinator – Riverfront (Fund 121)
 - Supervisor V – Riverfront Maintenance (Fund 439)
 - Program Coordinator – Riverfront (Fund 439)
 - Program Facility Coordinator – Education & Interpretation – Botanical Conservatory (Fund 439)
 - Park C – Promenade (Fund 451)
 - Night Security – Promenade (Fund 451)
- ✚ We have two upcoming seasonal hiring events in early May. The first is for our summer Aquatic staff and the second is for Franke and Salomon Farms Day Camps.
- ✚ Seasonal hiring for Foellinger Theatre is now complete.
- ✚ Hurshtown Reservoir is fully staffed, opens on May 2nd, and is ready for the public to come out and enjoy!
- ✚ April continued to be a busy month for day camp registrations. This time we were busy contacting the parents of the kids on the waiting lists for Franke Day Camp. The Recreation Staff was able to hire more Franke Day Camp staff so we were able to contact most of the kids that were wait-listed for the summer in the 4-11 age groups and get them registered. Those age groups are full again but there is still the possibility that we will be able to increase those maximums again if more staff is found.
- ✚ We began working on building the Sweet Breeze tickets and web ticket sales page for the summer/fall of 2023. There will be 189 tours offered this year. Tickets for these tours go on sale May 3rd.
- ✚ Foellinger Theatre continues to add concerts to its schedule. We are now up to selling tickets to 13 concerts. The Summer concert series opens on May 16th with Brit Floyd as the first act of this year!
- ✚ Front office staff entered 322 summer Fun Times programs into our software system to prepare for summer registration which begins May 3rd.
- ✚ Campground reservations have been steady. 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 on May 1st.
- ✚ Beginning May 1st, we will have all 22 of our pavilions available for rent. This includes the newest pavilion for rental, Foster #3!
- ✚ We are performing preliminary work on the 2024 Budget preparation with the various Deputy Directors.

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

✚ Facilities Maintenance

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **136** for April. This is up from **122** in March.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations; Weisser Park shelter, Lakeside Park's pavilion #1 restrooms, Shoaff Parks Splashpad and ball diamond restrooms, Swinney Park's playground, and the McCulloch Park bandstand.
- Floors were refinished at the McCormick Park Pavilion, McMillen Park Pavilion, and Shoaff Park Conklin Pavilion.
- Relief workers are working on the annual pressure washing of shelter patios, splash pads, and playgrounds to prepare for the summer season.
- Final prep work was completed for summer rental facilities. The 2023 season began on April 29th.

✚ Maintenance Technicians

- Playground repairs continue at multiple locations.
- Headwaters Park locks were all changed over to the FWPRD series after the acquisition of the park at the beginning of the month.

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department Staff Reports, submitted 5/4/2023

- The main pump and sustain pump for the Foster Park golf course irrigation system had to be removed due to a water maintenance issue that caused the pump house to flood. New pumps will be reinstalled once they are available.
- Work was completed at the Downtown Community Center to facilitate the opening of the new sensory room.
- Work continues to restore water service to the seasonal facilities/amenities for the 2023 season. All service will be restored by mid-May.
- Pool preparation work has begun at both Northside and McMillen Parks, in anticipation of another great swimming year.
- Lighting upgrades were completed at Shoaff Park's golf pro shop, Weisser Park's shelter, and the Botanical Conservatory.
- Windscreens and 2 new nets were installed at the Swinney Park tennis center.
- Winter covers for the fountains at Freimann Square were removed allowing for work to be completed to ready the fountains for the 2023 season.
- Pre-season work was completed at Hurshtown Reservoir. This included installing the docks and piers, removing the covers off the windows, restoring power and water service, and delivering the rental and rescue boats.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
 - 8 Alarms calls
 - 12 Paint projects
 - 4 Building maintenance repairs
 - 4 Carpentry repairs
 - 35 Electrical repairs
 - 3 HVAC maintenance issues
 - 9 Key core maintenance repairs
 - 47 Light Maintenance
 - 11 Lock maintenance issues
 - 40 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
 - 29 Plumbing maintenance issues
 - 3 Sign replacements
 - 23 Vandalism issues

Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment

- Crews began mowing on April 10th due to the warm weather. All three crews started and we began a new mowing route.
- Ball diamond crews have performed spring cleanup work on all of the rental diamonds, including Kreager, Foster West, and Hamilton. We will start prepping daily as needed for rentals starting in May.
- Athletic crews marked soccer fields at Foster West.
- Two flag football fields at Tillman and a rugby field at McMillen have been striped.
- Crews started performing weed control by spraying ball diamond infields, warning tracks, fence lines, and other areas that needed it.
- Heavy Equipment spent time converting plow and salt trucks back to dump trucks for the spring and summer seasons.
- Over 100 tons of gravel was added to the various drives throughout the parks.
- Parking bumpers in various parks were repaired and/or replaced as they became damaged from winter snowplowing.
- The Heavy Equipment Team also helped the garage by hauling tractors and mowers to and from the golf courses, as well as the removal of debris piles from the gardens, and pulling out stuck vehicles.
- Summer trashcans were placed in the parks a few weeks earlier than usual due to warm weather and demand.
- The garbage truck is operating three days a week as well as Sundays to service 193 cans throughout the parks department.

Manager of Facilities, Trades, and Grounds

- There were 19 after-hours calls: 10 code issues, 4 alarm calls, 2 lock issues, 1 plumbing call, 1 electrical issue, and 1 call about bad weather.
- American Elevator was hired to make some repairs to the Jennings Center elevator.
- Infinity Glass was hired to replace glass in the doors at the Jennings Center and Lawton garage doors.
- Arrow fence was hired to install a rolling gate at the Lawton facility.
- All of the trailers for the headwaters ice rink were placed at the Rea property.

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department Staff Reports, submitted 5/4/2023

- The Street Department helped with the cleanup of the sand at the ice rink at Headwaters Park.
- Jack Laurie was hired to make repairs to the floors at the Promenade pavilion and rental space.
- Fire inspectors have been to several of our buildings for their annual inspections.
- Playground parts continue to arrive and are being installed.
- Receiving quotes to fix the drain pipe under the road at the entrance of Shoaff Park.

Main Trac Coordinator

- Main Trac Entries: 6924 for the month.
- We have had 65, 311 calls this month.
- Busy entering time sheets and gas tickets.
- Entering all the information from playground inspections.
- Running monthly reports for Chucks Recreation Staff.
- 200 volunteer hours were reported for this month. (Northside, Lafayette, and McCulloch playground fibar)
- The Citizen Match Tree Program has started back up again and we have had several applications turned in so far.
- Helped with the 2023 school plants.
- Completed CPR training.

Lawton Garage/Operations - Garage Operations Highlights:

- 103 work orders were scheduled this month, 27 of which were services.
- Many of the 2022 lease purchases still do not have delivery dates. Toro mowers are expected in September of 2023 but Ford trucks, trailers, and golf carts are still pending.
- The 2023 lease money is on its way to being released so purchase orders can be written. 4 of the 5 pickup trucks needed for 2023 have been located and are being held for the Parks Department until the money is available.
- The large flatbed trailer for heavy equipment was hooked up for the first time to have the brakes adjusted, and numbers installed, and to verify the correct operation of all systems.
- Bandit Chipper #359 had a problem with the automatic feed system related to the tachometer programming. The tachometer was sent to Bandit for reprogramming to correct the feed issue.
- Toro 5910 unit #519 is at RPM machinery and the problem with the unit has been identified as a bad hydraulic drive motor which is in the process of being replaced.
- We have received a quote for the replacement of the 2 bad sections on the small forestry crane. The sections are being shipped to a specialty repair shop to have them repaired to save money over replacing them with new parts.
- Parts arrived at Ford to repair night utility truck #183 under warranty.
- Garage mechanics have finished with major repairs to the zoo train, carousel, and sky ride.
- The Parks Dept. is getting quotes on truck bed repairs from Bob Thomas Ford on 2 Ford F250s to create some spare trucks for extra positions that have been added and seasonal employees.
- A Freightliner Sprinter 3500 van was towed to the local dealer to get a quote for the new exhaust to fill in some gaps for vehicle needs until new trucks are delivered.
- 6 new fire pits were fabricated for the Johnny Appleseed campground and delivered to the park.
- Garbage truck #185 was delivered to Selking International to have a safety recall performed related to the truck's power take-off unit (PTO).
- Several pressure washers were serviced for the Foellinger Theater to make sure they are ready for the upcoming concert season.

Storeroom and Property:

- Storeroom staff continued to help supply new seasonal workers with gloves, PPE, shirts, and other required materials. The same items and materials were supplied to the new Headwaters staff.
- Bill Odier started as a summer storeroom seasonal employee. He has worked on engraving new equipment, making up first aid kits, organizing, and various other storeroom tasks.
- 8 Motorola radios were brought in from the Radio shop to be assigned to grounds maintenance and 4 storeroom radios were reassigned to the new Headwaters staff.

Property Transactions:

23 Makita Shop Vacs (2)	P250	Added into Inventory
Wilton Vertical Bandsaw	P252	Added into Inventory
Jet Combination Sander	P252	Added into Inventory
Wilton VSG-20 Drill Press	P252	Added into Inventory
Motorola XTS2500 Radios (8)	P240	Transferred from the Radio Shop
Motorola XTS2500 Radios (4)	R710	Transferred from P210 to R710
22 Easy Picker Golf Ball Picker	R212	Added into Inventory
19 Stihl BR600 Blower	Z200	Transferred to the Zoo from P210
Stihl BR600 Blower	P210	Transferred from the Zoo to P210
23 Stihl GTA26 Pruner	P230	Added into Inventory
23 Stihl MSA220 Saw	P260	Added into Inventory
23 Allsource Sandblaster	P252	Added into Inventory
23 Makita Battery Tool Set	R710	Added into Inventory
23 Makita Battery jigsaw	R710	Added into Inventory
23 Makita Battery multi tool	R710	Added into Inventory

- **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.

Superintendent

- Approve and record invoices for various materials used and applied in grounds, maintenance, and facilities departments.
- Working on 2023 Playground inspections.
- Working on River Greenway SOP.
- Working with supervisor staff to remind them of work that needs to be completed.
- Helping projects with Park Assessments.
- Working on monthly MMR reports for IDEM at the spray parks, and finishing the summer paperwork as well.
- Working on 2023 P.O. s and IDEM paperwork for 2023

Safety

- The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on, 4-25-23. Four employees were present.
- 1 vehicle crash has been reported for this period.
- 0 injuries were reported during this period. Kudos!!
- 3 CPR/FA were given with **37** employees receiving their certification.
- The upcoming Seasonals training schedule is final and available for sign-up.

- Self-Defense classes and a chainsaw class are being organized, hopefully occurring in May.
 - The review of Parks Safety SOPs continues.
 - The Certified Playground Safety Inspector class scheduled for May has been postponed until August.

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



Planning Report – April 2023

- A meeting was held with Michael Kinder & Sons, construction manager for Franke Park Renaissance: Phase I. Scheduling and mobilization were discussed; construction is anticipated to begin mid-May.
- Details continue to be determined for Riverfront Development: Phase IIB. However, comments have yet to be received from permitting agencies, so completion of construction documents is not yet possible.
- Staff continues to collaborate with Community Development in the completion of Riverfront Development: Phase IIA. Construction continues and is anticipated to be complete by June.
- The steering committee met for the first time for the Parks Comprehensive Plan. Project goals were discussed, as well as a timeline and brief project overview. Public input and stakeholder meetings are scheduled for the end of May.
- 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.
- A kickoff meeting was held with JPR for the Brewer Park Redevelopment project. Construction documents are scheduled to be completed in time for October-November bidding for construction.
- A grant proposal was completed and submitted to Erie Insurance Co. for the Wells St. Park Redevelopment project. This project was prompted by the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association and Wells Business Corridor; no funding is currently available for the project, but the award of grant dollars could help kick-start construction.
- The Sons of Glory Monument paver project was completed in April (see picture below).
- Lighting was installed for the 'Megaflora' sculpture at the Conservatory.
- Bids were received for a landscape renovation in the sunken gardens at Lakeside Park; Harlow will be completing these improvements in May.
- Chad attended the first year of the two-year Executive Development Program at Indiana University. Topics covered in the training included Customer Service, Risk Management, Leadership, Challenging Traditional Approaches, and Dealing with Change.
- The Staff has been researching the Inflation Reduction Act, searching for possible funding opportunities for Parks projects and initiatives.
- 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.



Sons of Glory Paver Project at Memorial Park

Horticulture and Landscape Report- April 2023

- Show change was completed the week of the 16th at the Botanical Conservatory; the “California Dreamin” exhibit was removed and the “Color In Motion” Butterfly exhibit was installed.
- Landscape staff helped out in the greenhouse and delivered plants for the SCFVA the week of April 23rd.
- Gardeners continued spring clean-ups throughout the parks. Clean-ups include debris and litter removal, pruning/deadheading, pre-emergent application, bed edging, and mulching. Parks worked on included Little Turtle, Japanese Garden, Franke Park entry beds, Swinney Letterbed, McMillen Community Center, Lakeside, and Foster Park.
- Rose pruning and un-hilling were completed at the Lakeside Rose Gardens.
- Landscape staff worked on the turf in Freimann Square, reseeding a north-facing hillside in the park. Foster Park and Lakeside Park also began doing some turf re-seeding.
- Lakeside Park re-planted native sedges in select bare areas around the pond that had been disturbed by patrons and geese over the past years.
- The Freimann Square fountain was cleaned and filled. Fountains were turned on at the end of the month.
- Approximately 8 acres in Buckner Park were seeded with native wildflowers and grasses. This has been an ongoing project since 2021. An RFQ will go out for long-term maintenance in May.
- Pride Landcare and Mow Baby Mow began mowing all contracted maintenance areas.
- Contracted bed cleanup and mulching were finished by Pride Landcare in early April.
- Triscape, Inc mulched Promenade Park in April per contract.
- Lawnganics continued turf fertilization and weed control on all park locations under contract.
- Myers Plant Health Care began treating several select trees at Promenade and Lakeside for insects, fungi, and improved tree health.
- Heartland Restoration Services has awarded a contract that includes all maintenance of native landscapes at Thomas Nature Sanctuary Pond, Kreager Rain Gardens, Reservoir Rain Garden, Lakeside Pond buffer, and the Salomon Farms swale. Work will begin in early May.
- Heartland Restoration Services completed a native plant buffer seeding around the pond at the Thomas Nature Sanctuary. This has been an ongoing project since 2022.
- One seasonal employee began work in April.

Riparian Management Report- April 2023

- Guldlin dock, Promenade kayak launch, and Shoaff dock were successfully installed for the upcoming rec season. Headwaters are pending and awaiting minor repair.
- Work barge continued clearing the Main Street bridge, MLK bridge, Old Fort pedestrian bridge, and Spy

Run bridge, along with several mid-channel navigational hazards and deadheads. The total debris removed by the barge for the month was 108,539 pounds (54.3 tons).

- Herbivory management continued with geese egg addling. Ten nests were found with a total of 60 eggs added.
- Sweet Breeze's fire system was inspected and cleared for the season. The launch is scheduled and coordinated with towing and FWPD escort for the beginning of May.
- Completed two volunteer events removing honeysuckle with Concordia students along St Joseph River. There were 24 students and adults, which totaled 72 work hours and removed 6,180 pounds (3.09 tons) of honeysuckle.
- Completed the Volunteer Engagement webinar education series.

Forestry Report- April 2023

- This year's Arbor Day celebration was held at McCormick Park on Friday, April 28th and was a success. The tree seedling giveaway was met with enthusiasm despite the weather.
- Nearly 2,700 pecan tree seedlings were distributed to area third-graders. The Homestead Highschool Environmental Club students and the School Children Flower and Vegetable Association deserve a big THANK YOU for all of their work that made this possible.
- Forestry began reviewing a potential federal grant opportunity. The Inflation Reduction Act Grant supports urban forestry efforts in disadvantaged communities. Over one-half of our inventoried trees are located in designated disadvantaged communities.
- Forestry Staff completed 7 tree-related property damage appraisals totaling \$4,590.00 in damages. The vast majority of these are the result of vehicles losing control and striking City-owned trees.
- This year's spring tree planting is well underway. The bulk of this planting is funded through the Southwest Area Partnership. The planting locations were prioritized to benefit elementary schools and students in the 4th district.
- In April, Forestry crews completed 29 out-of-cycle tree maintenance requests. Examples of these requests include tree limb elevation to facilitate buses, removal of limbs touching homes, clearing street lighting and signage, and removal of dead limbs. We expect these to become more common as the routine maintenance cycle timeframe extends.
- 203 trees were removed this month. 154 of these were contracted and completed by Custom Tree Care.
- Forestry crews responded to 26 storm-related fallen/hanging limbs.
- Forestry staff responded to and resolved 76, 311 call center tickets this month.
- California Dreamin' wrapped up on April 16 and whisked 28,984 visitors into a 1960s-1970s era-inspired Venice Beach, Los Angeles, California. On April 25, the 20th annual Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit welcomed its first visitors, this nine-week exhibit will last until June 25 with an anticipated attendance of over 25,000 visitors. The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events in April 2023 including Slightly Used Bulb Sale (April 6-30), Bunny Tales in the Garden (April 7 & 8), and the Color in Motion Butterfly Showcase Exhibit (Opened April 25). Staff are gearing up for Mother's Day Plant Sale (May 11-14), Mother's Day in the Garden (May 13-14), Spring Bonsai Show (May 20), Iris Show (May 28), 36 scheduled field trips (May 1-31), and the start of indoor/outdoor facility event rentals (May 27).
- A Camp ACTIVenture counselor, Brody Taylor, has completed the hiring and onboarding process. Seasonal Gardeners Kristina Pena and Josie Quack have begun their seasons.

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

- April 2023 began Q2 with an attendance increase of 58% and membership sales up 43% to April 2022. The attendance increase in April 2023 is highly attributable to both more paid attendance and higher member

attendance than in April 2022. Despite a one-week closure for painting, the Conservatory Shop increased nearly 6% to April 2022.

Attendance

April 2022:	9,050 visitors
April 2023:	14,331 visitors

An increase of 5,281 or 58.35% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Attendance:	24,426 visitors
2023 Attendance:	34,673 visitors

An increase of 10,247 or +41.95% to 2022

Admissions Revenue

April 2022:	\$38,434.00
April 2023:	\$44,096.00

An increase of \$5,662.00 or +14.73% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Admissions Revenue:	\$106,230.00
2023 Admissions Revenue:	\$126,777.00

An increase of \$20,547.00 or +19.34% to 2022

Membership Revenue

April 2022:	\$9,500.00
April 2023:	\$13,643.00

An increase of \$4,143.00 or +43.61% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Membership Revenue:	\$28,370.00
2023 Membership Revenue:	\$38,995.06

An increase of \$10,625.06 or +37.45% to 2022

Conservatory Shop Revenue

April 2022:	\$25,413.31
April 2023:	\$26,926.54

An increase of \$1,513.23 or +5.95% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$78,768.49
2023 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$95,407.39

An increase of \$16,638.90 or +21.12% to 2022

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

April 2022:	\$4,910.00
-------------	------------

April 2023: \$6,180.00
An increase of \$1,270.00 or +25.87% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Rental Revenue: \$23,506.38
2023 Rental Revenue: \$39,197.50
An increase of \$15,691.12 or +66.75% to 2022

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

April 2022: \$10,291.45
April 2023: \$11,352.37

YTD Comparisons

2022 Other Revenue: \$255,163.83
2023 Other Revenue: \$225,436.27

Conservatory Total Revenue

April 2022: \$88,548.76
April 2023: \$102,197.91
An increase of \$13,649.15 or +15.41% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Total Revenue: \$492,038.70
2023 Total Revenue: \$525,813.22
An increase of \$33,774.52 or +6.86% to 2022

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

- Staff submitted a proposal for a \$4,400 corporate sponsorship for the 2023 ROOTS Music Fest to Kelley Automotive Group.
- Staff submitted grants for support of the 2023 “An Herban Garden” Exhibit to the following foundations:
- \$5,000 request to the 3Rivers Credit Union Foundation
- \$2,200 request to the Waste Management Foundation
- \$5,000 request to the Tim and Libby Ash Family Foundation
- Staff sent an information request to the St. Joseph Community Health Foundation as the first step in the process to apply for possible support of the 2023 “An Herban Garden” Exhibit under their impact area of nutrition and food insecurity.
- Promotional tickets were distributed to Fox 55 and Majic 95.1 for the 2023 Mother’s Day Plant Sale; to 21Alive and Majic 95.1 for Mother’s Day in the Garden, and to 96.3 XKE for the 2023 Father’s Day in the Garden. Approved promotional spots for the Color in Motion Butterfly Exhibit by 21Alive and 97.3 WMEE; for the Mother’s Day Plant Sale by Fox 55 and Majic 95.1; and the Mother’s Day in the Garden by 21Alive and Majic 95.1.
- Staff completed the 2023 Spring Annual Appeal to our members – it was sent on April 27th. A follow-up email appeal will be sent on May 8th.

✚ Conservatory Public Programs: Events

- Bunny Tales in the Garden (April 7 & 8)
 - This spring event is regaining its pre-Covid level of attraction! In 2019, 2,678 guests visited for a one-day event. Now as a two-day event, Bunny Tales in 2023 attracted 2,713 visitors surpassing the 2019 attendance by 35 visitors. This year also exceeded 2022's two-day event volume of 1,398 visitors nearly double the number. During the event, guests followed a rhyming tale as posted and available on a handout leading them through the gardens where they participated in a craft, received a goody bag, met the Easter Bunny and chose an Easter egg, enjoyed a variety of baby farm animals, and selected a polka dot plant.



Bunny Photo Opp. at
Bunny Tales in the Garden

- Friday Night Flights Fundraiser (April 28)
 - This event welcomed guests to the opening of our Color in Motion butterfly exhibit. Guests took advantage of this exclusive opportunity to visit the butterflies and meet German artist Ramon F. Miller. They were also invited to enjoy hors d'oeuvres from Bluspoon and sample wine from Heritage Winery and beer from Hop River Brewing Company, with Hop River providing beverage service.
- Public Reception & Artist Lecture (April 30)

Ramon F. Miller shared his inspiration as part of this never before seen collection on display at the Botanical Conservatory that emphasizes change and a lack of control with light and shadow effects at the moment. Visiting from Germany, Ramon spoke to attendees about *randomness* in the current photography display, *Landscape Architecture, and Art*. Direct quotes were emphasized from *Theory of Garden Art* by C. C. L. Hirschfeld an original landscape architect who influenced landscapes as we know them today.

✚ Education

- Pysanky: Ukrainian Eggs (April 1)
 - This pre-registered program was brought back due to multiple requests in which 20 registered to achieve max enrollment. The historic, Ukrainian tradition of dyeing and coloring eggs was taught by Conservatory volunteer, Carol Ann Eckrich, and her daughter Karen Eckrich. Participants rated this class highly with 9s and 10s out of a 10-point scale.
- T'ai Chi Tuesdays (April 25-May 30)
 - Sandy Gebhard has returned to instruct this series exceeding its maximum of 20 whereas 23 participants were able to register. During class, participants are invited to be outside weather permitting. T'ai Chi continues to be a sustainable pre-registered program offered year-round at the Botanical Conservatory.
- Bonsai for Beginners (April 29)
 - This is another pre-registered program brought back by demand also maxing out with 20 registrants. Staff was pleased to secure 5 members of the Fort Wayne Bonsai Club to instruct the program. The plant species, *Portulacaria* was grown at the Lawton Park Greenhouse and provided to participants who followed step-by-step instructions on bonsai care and maintenance. Participants enjoyed the class and left smiling.

✚ Exhibits & Displays

- California Dreamin (January 14-April 16)
 - This showcase exhibit was overwhelmingly popular with guests returning over and over again! The sunset boardwalk was 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 was certainly a favorite for the young, and for the young at heart, there was 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 complimented the aesthetic.



Beachin' it up in the California Dreamin' Exhibit

- Color in Motion (April 25-June 25)
 - The current showcase exhibit is among the most popular and is much anticipated by guests at the return of spring! This year's live butterfly exhibit highlights 14 exotic butterfly species amongst a backdrop of aquatic plants. Roughly 50 volunteers directly support this exhibit as Butterfly Attendants. Conservatory staff anticipates high attendance numbers over these 9 weeks.
- *Landscape Architecture and Art* by Ramon F. Miller (April 25-August 13)

Hailing from sister city Gera, Germany, landscape architect and artist, Ramon F. Miller gives his perspective on *randomness* with modern-day photographs that celebrate the abstract beauty of nature. Presented in partnership with Fort Wayne Sister Cities and Friends of the Parks of Allen County. Artwork is for sale in support of the Botanical Conservatory at shop.botanicalconservatory.org.



Children marvel at exotic butterflies up close in the Color in Motion Exhibit

✚ Volunteers/Staff

- Volunteer recruitment has ramped up at this time of year, particularly for Color in Motion and the Mother's Day Plant Sale. The Volunteer Center was successfully utilized to recruit volunteers for both initiatives, attracting about 10 new applicants! During the first week of the butterfly exhibit, 7 first-time Butterfly Attendants were trained. By the end of the month, approximately 50 volunteers offered availability as Butterfly Attendants with roughly 100 volunteers scheduled to assist with the Mother's Day Plant Sale.
 - During April, 35 shifts were covered by 8 volunteers at the Front Desk with 39 shifts covered by 9 volunteers in the Gift Shop. 14 volunteers assisted with the two-day Bunny Tails in the Garden event, and a total of 6 volunteers helped package seeds for National Public Gardens Week. Program staff continue to recruit for upcoming volunteer opportunities with approximately a dozen new volunteers currently in the process of being oriented and trained in their roles.
- **Upcoming**
 - April 25-May 30: T'ai Chi Tuesdays, pre-registered program
 - April 25-June 25: Color in Motion Live Butterfly Exhibit
 - April 25-August 13: Art Exhibit by Ramon F. Miller: Landscape Architecture & Art
 - May 9-11: Plant Sale setup at McMillen Community Center
 - May 11: Plant Sale Member Preview at McMillen Community Center
 - May 12-14: Mother's Day Plant Sale at McMillen Community Center

- May 13 & 14: Mother's Day in the Garden event at the Botanical Conservatory
 - May 15: Plant Sale teardown at McMillen Community Center
 - May 16-20: National Public Gardens Week drop-in program
 - May 20: Spring Bonsai Show
 - May 28: Iris Flower Show
 - June 3: Spring Plant Swap, pre-registered program
 - June 4 & 11: Breakfast with Butterflies, pre-registered program
 - June 12-July 28: Camp ACTIVenture, pre-registered program

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

- Central Indiana Hardware completed the installation of new entry doors and an ADA opener. An electrical contractor will make a final connection for the ADA opener's power supply.
- Ruiz Painting & Drywall completed the removal of aged and peeling wallpaper and the subsequent painting in the Atrium and Conservatory Shop.
- Bids were sought for the Fire Suppression System Replacement of an antiquated and imminently failing system. Simplx Security was selected as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder with a bid of \$33,610.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Techs have been working to replace the rear parking lot lights and a control timer.
- Conserv and Allied wrapping up replacements and repairs for HVAC

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

-  The Parks Promenade link has received over 5,871 hits and www.RiverfrontFW.org has 8,015 hits to the site in March/April. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and has received over 2,544 hits in March/April.
-  Released Trail survey for Foster Park on 2/14 and over 2,539 responses before the survey was closed. The final results will be shared.
-  Submitted Erie Insurance Grant for Wells Street Park
-  Confirmed media sponsors for several Foellinger shows & confirmed PBS Fort Wayne as the new media sponsor for Foellinger Community Concerts
-  Confirmed media sponsorship for Sweet Breeze season with Federated Media
-  Participated in Giving Greater Allen County on April 20, a day-long fundraising event for local non-profits, where we raised \$1,430 for the Park Foundation
-  Summer Fun Times and postcards completed, printed, delivered to the mailer, and prepped for web
-  Senior Games brochure completed and mailed
-  The Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory's appeal letter was completed and mailed
-  20 promotional brochures/flyers/postcards completed and distributed

- + 27 graphics projects completed
- + Preparing for the Foster Park Pavilion #3 press conference
- + Announcing the full season of Foellinger Theatre concerts (to date) in a press release
- + Preparing social media messages and artwork for the Give Greater Development initiative
- + Preparing for the Arbor Day press conference

+ **Media Mentions:** **February 46** **March 54** **April**

+ **Web Statistics:**

<u>Users:</u>	<u>Hits:</u>	<u>Month:</u>
39,931	110,206	February
48,683	145,004	March
51,475	148,440	April

Social Media Totals for the months of:

	February	March	April
FB Followers	77,260	78,105	79,705
FB Reach	341,799	224,415	352,033
 Twitter Followers	13,664	13,686	13,668
 Instagram Follower	21,595	21,712	23,263

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

- + Springtime in Indiana continues to be eventful year after year. All in all, this has been a fairly normal spring, although temperatures on average continue to be low and precipitation continues to be high compared to the seasonal average. That being said, 2022 was a worse weather year (to date) than '23 has been.
- + This is reflected in the revenue numbers to date. When the weather has been conducive, the activity level has been VERY strong:

<u>APRIL</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAF</u>	<u>%(+/-)</u>
2022 REVENUE	24,269	12,776.50	27,267.75	
2023 REVENUE	35,997	23,975	45,614.75	+64%
YTD 2022	29,933	19,765.50	31,492.50	
YTD 2023	38,591.50	25,553.75	50,732	+41.5%

- ✚ By mid-May, all of the leagues will be restarted, and by the end of May, all of the high school and middle school teams that use our courses will be finishing their spring seasons. Multiple outings have been scheduled, and the season looks to be off to a tremendous start.
- ✚ Two contracted instructors have been added, and the availability of instruction should be sufficient to meet the increasing demand. Five-time Fort Wayne City tournament champion and PGA and Champions Tour professional Scott Pieri will be teaching for the Parks Department, as well as Indiana Tech golf coach and PGA Associate Mark Beneke. Along with myself, there is more opportunity than ever to receive professional instruction through the Parks Department.
- ✚ As usual with the age of our cart fleet, we are paying close attention to its serviceability. As the carts are being utilized, we are watching for mechanical issues and repairing them as necessary. The delivery of 17 new carts is anticipated later this year, and 16 more have been approved for purchase and are ordered. This is consistent with our goal of updating and expanding the fleet from the current 88 carts to an eventual total of 110.
- ✚ The Foster Park golf course master plan continues to evolve. After strong feedback from the public through a survey and multiple public meetings, a revised plan staying within the footprint of the existing golf course was created by the architecture firm of Hills Forrest Smith. This plan will be evaluated, and further information will be forthcoming.
- ✚ Overall, the golf season is off to a tremendous start, and there is no reason to believe that it will not continue in a positive direction for the foreseeable future.

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



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

- ✚ 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) is out for bid.
- ✚ The Liberty Mills Rd Trail from Middle Grove to the Village at Coventry will be out for bid on May 4th.
- ✚ Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails will begin on May 2nd with a special kick-off party afterward at the Salomon Farm Barn. We will have 22 rides every Tuesday at 6 p.m. through the end of September and 11 walks/runs every other Thursday at 6 p.m. through the end of September.
- ✚ May is Bike Month. One of the first events will be Bike to School Day on May 3rd. We'll be hosting the Bike to Work Day at four event sites on May 19th.
- ✚ Three Rivers Horse Trails, Inc. will have a public meeting on May 9th at PBS.
- ✚ The County will be opening bids for the equestrian trails in May.
- ✚ I attended the annual Greenways Foundation of Indiana Luncheon in Carmel on 4/25. Jon Bomberger, local attorney, and trail advocate, was the recipient of the "Trail Advocate of the Year" award for the entire state. Jon has helped with

our trails since 2005. He has served as the President of the Greenways Consortium and Fort Wayne Trails. He is also a board member of Fort-4-Fitness and started the Spring Cycle event. He also organizes the May Bike Month event calendar on a website, kickstartfortwayne.com. Jon has also played an instrumental role in the Poka-Bache Coalition and Task Force. It was his vision that led Mayor Henry to gather NE Indiana groups/agencies involved with the trail together in April of 2021 and form the Coalition, which has been meeting monthly.

- ✚ The Greenways and Trails Department will have two interns this summer.
- ✚ I'm a member of an internal City committee working on a new Active Transportation Plan. We just released a community survey on 4/26 to get feedback on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.



Division News and Media Coverage:

City TV, Fair Housing Summit Part 1

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=Ah8CD5CDo8ZC>

City TV, Fair Housing Summit Part 2

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=Xh6dWYqGXq1y>

Input FW, Feature on Conservatory's butterfly exhibit

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/PlacesofNEI-livebutterflyexhibit.aspx>

WFFT, Andy Downs on Fox 55 recapping primary election night

https://www.wfft.com/news/local-political-analyst-discusses-henry-didier-road-to-november/article_d383b80a-e95d-11ed-8272-27331a62c32b.html

WOWO, Tom Didier on Fort Wayne's Morning News program

<https://www.wowo.com/didier-wins-republican-primary-will-face-henry-in-general-election/>

Volunteers give wings to popular butterfly exhibit – Botanical Conservatory program in 20th year

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory - A fan whirred in the mesh enclosure where Jeff Calder was stationed Sunday at the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, but the constant breeze wasn't for his comfort as he allowed visitors to exit the popular live butterfly exhibit.

Instead, Calder said, the airflow deters the insects from straying from their spacious tent. Or at least that's the idea.

As many as eight to 10 butterflies at a time have slipped inside Calder's vestibule, either by hitchhiking on people or by flying inside, said Calder, who had about 30 minutes of training for his volunteer position. He helps visitors check for stowaways before opening the exterior door and bidding them farewell with his standard, "Thank you for coming."

Calder is among the volunteers vital to the nine-week Color in Motion exhibit, said Amanda Amstutz, the Botanical Conservatory's supervisor of public programs and volunteer development.

"This isn't really possible without them," she said.

Now in its 20th year, the butterfly exhibit generates the conservatory's biggest crowds – about 25,000 people per season, Amstutz said. It runs through June 25.

Several dozen people, including 6-year-old Sutton and 4-year-old Everett Steury – waited Sunday afternoon to enter the 30-by-30-foot tent in the conservatory's Showcase Garden. About 30 visitors are allowed inside the space at a time.

"We were practicing our finger," the siblings' mother Cayleigh Steury said, referring to the perch the family would create for the butterflies.

Visiting the butterflies is a tradition for Kelly Rayle and her daughter, Hannah Hogan. The 8-year-old had her hands full – a butterfly rested on each, and a third clung to her shirt.

"I bring her every year," Rayle said, noting she even attended the exhibit when she was pregnant with Hannah. "We love this."

One annual visit isn't enough for the Steurys, who are conservatory members. Cayleigh Steury said her family expects they will see even more butterflies later.

New butterflies are regularly moved out of the hatching lab, where visitors can watch the insects emerge from chrysalises.

"They just multiply like crazy," Cayleigh Steury said.

If the Steurys return on a Sunday, odds are they will encounter Calder. He plans to volunteer every Sunday except one during the exhibit's run.

WPTA, Riverfront development update

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/04/28/sneak-peek-look-newest-portion-riverfront-development-opening-soon/>

WPTA, Rescue Mission names new leader

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/04/28/rescue-mission-names-successor-longtime-president-ceo/>

WFFT, Parks and Recreation celebrates Arbor Day

https://www.wfft.com/local-events/fort-wayne-parks-celebrates-arbor-day/article_5a3bc35a-e617-11ed-83a7-6b5432677201.html

WFFT, Meet the candidates for Fort Wayne mayor

https://www.wfft.com/news/meet-the-candidates-in-the-fort-wayne-mayoral-primary-election/article_dd41cf40-e63c-11ed-a741-bfd2f1d7dd78.html

WFFT, Fort Wayne named a Tree City USA

https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-parks-and-recreation-receives-33rd-tree-city-designation/article_859a685e-e5e9-11ed-82f2-97f03130ee02.html

WOWO, Parks and Recreation celebrates the 33rd Tree City USA award

<https://www.wowo.com/fort-wayne-parks-and-recreation-celebrates-33rd-tree-city-usa-award/>

WANE, Safe and Humane Fort Wayne Month feature

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/volunteer-showcases-animal-care-and-controls-safe-and-humane-fort->

[wayne-month-mission-and-is-positively-fort-wayne/](#)

PBS 39, PrimeTime program with recap of 2023 Indiana General Assembly
<https://video.wfwa.org/video/niki-kelly-brandon-smith-michael-wolf-bwfjkl/>

Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails Kick-Off the Season on May 2

Fort Wayne, IN: The 2023 season for Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails will begin on Tuesday, May 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Salomon Farm Park Old Barn. This special event also includes a Trails Celebration Party, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., hosted by Fort Wayne Trails Inc. (After the Tuesday season-opening, Tread the Trails will take place on Thursdays as they did in 2022.)

Tickets for the Trails Celebration Party cost \$10 and may be purchased before the event at <https://fwt.donorwrangler.com/donate/?id=19>. Children under 16 will be free. Tickets will be sold at the event, as well. Heavy appetizers will be included with tickets and a cash bar will be available. Music by DJ Trend.

Date and locations for the next 5 Trek the Trails bicycle rides:

- 5/9: Shoaff Park, 6401 St. Joe Road, Conklin Pavilion
- 5/16: Fellowship Missionary Church, 2536 E. Tillman Rd.
- 5/23: Covington Elementary School, 2430 W. Hamilton Rd.
- 5/30: Franke Park, 3411 Sherman Blvd., park at the lot between Pavilion #1 and Shoaff Lake
- 6/6: The Plex North, 1807 E. California Rd., park in the northernmost parking lot

Locations for the next 5 Tread the Trails for walkers, runners, and wheelchairs:

- 5/18: Fellowship Missionary Church, 2536 E. Tillman Rd.
- 6/1: Franke Park 3411 Sherman Blvd., park at the lot between Pavilion #1 and Shoaff Lake
- 6/15: Indian Trails Park, 10313 Aboite Center Rd, park in the southwestern-most lot
- 6/29: Rockhill Park, across from 1474 Catalpa St.
- 7/13: Moser Park, 601 W. Main St., New Haven

The full schedule of Trek the Trail bike rides: <http://www.fortwayneparks.org/trails/news-events.html>

Trek the Trails is sponsored by Freedom Cycle Co, Trek Bikes Fort Wayne, VS Engineering, UAW Local #2209, and Three Rivers Velo Sport.

Tread the Trails is presented by the City of Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne Running Club, Fort Wayne Trails, and the City of New Haven.

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.



Mother's Day Plant Sale

BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

FRI, MAY 12 1-7 pm • SAT, MAY 13 10 am-5 pm • SUN, MAY 14 11-2 pm

McMillen Park Community Center
3901 Abbott St., Fort Wayne

Conservatory Member Preview Sale
Thursday, May 11, 4-7 pm
Memberships available for purchase at the door.

In-Person Shopping * Drive-Up Loading
Plant Advisors * 700+ Plant Varieties

Herbs • Annuals • Perennials • Seeds • Shade Plants • Bonsai
Hybrid & Heirloom Vegetables • Houseplants • Patio Containers
Hanging Baskets • Indiana Natives • Potting Soil • Compost Worms

BConservatoryFW MAJIC95.1 FOX 55 WFFT.COM

The advertisement features a large, stylized illustration of various flowers in shades of blue, yellow, pink, and purple on the right side. At the bottom right, there are logos for social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), a local radio station (MAJIC95.1), and a local television station (FOX 55 WFFT.COM).

Mother's Day

in the Garden

Saturday & Sunday
May 13 *May 14*
10 am-5 pm **12-4 pm**

Botanical Conservatory
1100 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne



Coming to
Foellinger Theatre



BRIT FLOYD
50 YEARS OF
DARK SIDE
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON
May 16 at Foellinger Theatre

**WILLIE NELSON
& FAMILY**
IN CONCERT
WITH SUPPORT FROM
AUSTIN SNELL
FOELLINGER THEATRE
25 MAY
3411 SHERMAN BLVD, FORT WAYNE, IN
WILLIENELSON.COM

ONE NIGHT | ONE STAGE
TWO AMAZING PERFORMANCES!
LIVE IN CONCERT
**GARY ALLAN
AND
TRACY LAWRENCE**
JUNE 1
FOELLINGER OUTDOOR THEATRE

[Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com)

Tickets may also be purchased at the Parks and Recreation office at 705 E. State Blvd. (credit card only)

44TH ANNUAL

OVER 40 FUN AND CHALLENGING
SPORTS AND GAME EVENTS
FOR MEN AND WOMEN AGES 50+

50+

SENIOR GAMES

JUNE 3 – JULY 6 FORT WAYNE, IN

Get complete details at
fortwayneparks.org
Community Center, 233 W. Main St. or 427-6460

Axe Throwing Basketball Bike Tour Billiards Bocce Bowling Checkers Cornhole Darts Disc Golf
Golf Horseshoes Jigsaw Puzzling Kayaking Miniature Golf Paper Airplane Flying Pickleball Shuffleboard
Skee Ball Softball Throwing/Hitting Table Tennis Timed Walk Trivia Bingo Wii Bowling AND MORE!

Registration begins May 3

Pee Wee Golf Tour 2023

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation / Parkview Sports Medicine

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation
Ages 3-11
5 Tournaments
PSM
fortwayneparks.org

Junior Golf Tour 2023

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation / Parkview Sports Medicine

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation
Ages 12-18
8 Tournaments
PSM
fortwayneparks.org

GOLF LESSONS

McMillen Park Golf Course | Shoaff Park Golf Course



Scott Pieri

Champions Tour Pro
FWGA Hall of Fame Member
(260) 750-3292
Scottypgolf@hotmail.com



Mark Beneke

PGA Associate
Indiana Tech Head Golf Coach
(260) 467-9019
mwbeneke@gmail.com

	Adult	Junior (<18)
1 Lesson (30-min)	\$50	\$35
3 Lesson Series	\$125	\$75
5 Lesson Series	\$200	\$125

To schedule lessons, contact Scott or Mark directly or FWPRD Golf Manager Gary Whitacre at 427-6016.



FORTWAYNEPARKS.ORG

JOIN OUR TEAM!

WORK WHERE YOU PLAY

In the PARK • At the POOL • In the TREES
On the SPORTS FIELD • On the FARM
At the GOLF COURSE • In the GARDENS
On the RIVER • In the WOODS • At the THEATRE

OVER 500 SEASONAL JOBS!

Pay Range
\$13-\$20

 FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION

APPLY ONLINE AT [FORTWAYNEPARKS.ORG](https://www.fortwayneparks.org)

SENSORY ROOM

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

A sensory room is a therapeutic room that integrates sound, colors, tactile objects, and sometimes even olfactory stimuli. Sensory rooms are designed to create a safe, relaxing space or an educational environment. They can be used for relaxation or for motor and cognitive development. They are most helpful for persons with sensory processing disorders such as autism and dementia.



MAY SEMINARS

How Can Recreational Therapy Create Leisure Experiences for Those with Autism and Dementia?

Thursday, May 11, 2:30 pm

Presenter: Kathy Morse,, owner of Leisure for Life of Indiana

What To Do After the Diagnosis

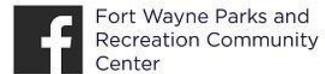
Monday, May 15, 5 pm

Presenter: Cecelia Porter, Community Resource Coordinator at Easterseals Arc of Nottheast Indiana

Call 427-6460 to sign up.



Community Center
233 W. Main St., Fort Wayne, IN
260-427-6460
fortwayneparks.org





COLOR IN MOTION

BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

1100 S. Calhoun St.
Fort Wayne, IN

April 25-June 25

f t i

BConservatoryFW

923WINO Today's Best Variety

21 ALIVE

English Bonter Mitchell Foundation
Jan & Mimi Rolland Foundation
Waterfield Foundation
In memory of Jo Ann and William Wyatt

Live Butterfly Exhibit



FORT WAYNE PARKS AND RECREATION

SUPPORT OUR PARKS

Donate Today!

OUR MISSION

To enhance the quality of life in Fort Wayne by providing positive opportunities for leisure time and being stewards of our parklands, facilities, public trees, and other resources entrusted to our care.

Quality of life means many things. It may be a child picking up a new sport or making new friends at summer camp. It may be an older adult enjoying social interactions while participating in games and hobbies. Sometimes, quality of life is just a quiet walk in a park.

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS

That commitment is possible because of the generous gifts we receive from our community. While a portion of our budget is covered through your tax dollars (which we also greatly appreciate), we still rely on millions of dollars of additional funding through grants, local organizations, and individual donations.

I love taking classes at the Community Center! I've learned a lot and it's a great creative outlet.

- Lisa O.



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

Ramon F. Miller: Landscape Architecture & Art

Until -August 13, public hours

Public Reception: April 30, 1:00-3:00 p.m. with an artist lecture at 1:30 p.m.

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

Outdoor landscapes are continually being influenced by the work of nature such as through the movement of trees, reflections in water, dark shadows from clouds, or shimmering light on a dewy morning. To the human eye, these random transformative effects are wildly emphasized as part of an intentional landscape. Inspired by the joy and happiness of the natural world, landscape architects have long embraced *randomness*. Hailing from sister city Gera, Germany, landscape architect and artist, Ramon F. Miller gives his perspective on *randomness* with modern-day photographs that celebrate the abstract beauty of nature. This never-before-seen collection on display at the Botanical Conservatory emphasizes change and a lack of control with light and shadow effects at the moment. This reception is presented in partnership with Friends of the Parks of Allen County.

Be Your Artist: Hoop it Up!

Sunday, May 7, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

For hula hoops, one size does not fit all, so here's your chance to make your own. We'll provide all the materials - tubing, wrapping colors, and sound effects - to create your custom hula hoop. Linda Duesler (aka Linda Hooper) is a local realtor who loves to hoop it up in the park! Realizing that the “kids” hoops were not suitable for an adult, Linda taught herself how to make hoops that are larger and heavier than those sold in stores. Linda began teaching hoop dancing and the group “Fort Wayne Hoopnotica” was formed. This activity is designed for ages 13 and above.

WFFT, Local political analyst weighs in on Fort Wayne mayoral race

https://www.wfft.com/news/local-political-analyst-weighs-on-fw-mayoral-race/article_30b852fe-e488-11ed-b8bf-13595c743dd5.html

WANE, Fair Housing Summit recap – New investments needed to boost minority homeowners

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-fair-housing-summit-new-policies-and-investments-needed-to-boost-minority-homeowners-and-buyers/>

WANE, Highway, transit, trail project draft welcomes public comment

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/highway-transit-trail-project-draft-welcomes-public-comment/>

WANE, Fort Wayne to see large-scale resurfacing projects this year

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-roads-to-see-large-scale-resurfacing/>

WANE, City and County clash over TRAA

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/behind-the-curve-councilman-jehl-looks-for-allen-county-commissioners-to-step-up-for-traa/>

WPTA, New five-story apartment complex planned for the Electric Works campus

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/04/26/new-five-story-apartment-complex-planned-electric-works-campus/>

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.

The Mayor Tom Henry Podcast with Blue Jacket's Tony Hudson as guest

<https://soundcloud.com/user-202170298/episode-95-blue-jacket-inc>

WBOI, City announces first phase of a sustainability plan

<https://www.wboi.org/news/2023-04-21/fort-wayne-leadership-announces-first-phase-of-sustainability-plan>

WFFT, Fort Wayne ranks third in nation as a hidden gem for homebuyers

https://www.wfft.com/community/fort-wayne-ranks-third-across-the-nation-as-hidden-gem-for-home-buyers/article_9214ace0-e0b0-11ed-b440-dfe8d5c886e5.html

WFFT, Smoke detector blitz in Waynedale with Red Cross, FWFD, and Mayor Henry

https://www.wfft.com/news/red-cross-installing-free-smoke-detectors-in-waynedale-neighborhoods/article_12262c44-e140-11ed-b1c1-a77328537c88.html

WPTA, City's climate action plan

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/04/21/fort-wayne-develops-science-backed-climate-action-adaptation-plan/>

WPTA, Red Cross, FWFD lead smoke detector blitz in Waynedale

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/04/22/red-cross-fort-wayne-fire-department-install-smoke-detectors-waynedale-residents/>

WANE, City announces climate action plan

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-waynes-climate-initiatives-focus-on-green-infrastructure-renewable-energy/>

WANE, City of Fort Wayne announces green initiative

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/taking-action-for-a-brighter-tomorrow-city-of-fort-wayne-announces-green-initiative/>

WANE, Study: Fort Wayne ranks among the best housing hidden gems in the U.S.

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/study-fort-wayne-ranks-among-best-housing-hidden-gems-in-us/>

WANE, Rusty bridge at Bluffton, Winter roads will be replaced next year

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/rusty-bridge-at-bluffton-winters-roads-will-replaced-next-year/>

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Date: May 13

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

3411 Sherman Blvd

Fort Wayne, IN 46808 United States [+ Google Map](#)

Phone:(260) 427-6800

Join us on May 13 and May 14 for a special Mother's Day celebration at one of the nation's top children's zoos. It is a great chance to get together as a family and treat Mom to a delicious brunch in a beautiful outdoor setting. Separate Zoo admission is required for this event.

The menu will feature:

Assorted Danishes
Assorted Muffins
Waffles with berries
Biscuits & Gravy
Fresh Fruit
Crudit s
Scrambled Eggs
Roasted Potatoes with veggies
Sausage
Bacon
Carved Ham
Coffee
Apple Juice

For details and full ticketing information, [click here.](#)

Mother's Day Brunch is presented by Vera Bradley

