

PARKS & RECREATION

Steve McDaniel, Director

Fort Wayne Board of Park Commissioners

Justin Shurley, President

Cory Miller, Vice-President

Rick Briley, Commissioner

Jenna Jauch, Commissioner

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains over 2,800 acres of public park land and provides numerous recreation facilities, programs and services for the Fort Wayne community. The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department was created in 1905 when the Indiana General Assembly adopted the Cities and Towns Law. The Parks and Recreation Department is administered by a four-member bipartisan Board of Park Commissioners. Each commissioner is appointed by the Mayor and serves a four-year term. The Park Board reviews and approves the annual budget, approves expenditures, holds regular public meetings as required by law and approves the awarding of all contracts.

Finance and Support Services Division

The Finance and Support Services Division is responsible for the financial accounting, program registration, facility reservation, budgeting, purchasing, payroll and administrative functions of the department.

Marketing Division

The Marketing Division is responsible for the public relations, publications, promotions, grant writing, service quality, strategic planning, market research, corporate sponsorship and other marketing/planning functions.

Parks Division

The Parks Division is responsible for operation and maintenance of the park land and facilities, vehicle and machinery operation and upkeep, building repairs and maintenance, construction, and engineering.

Parks Planning and Development Division

The Parks Planning and Development Division is responsible for short- and long-term planning, park and street trees, public gardens and flower beds, park landscaping, operation of the greenhouse, special projects, and riparian. The Division is also responsible for the operations and programming of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory.

Recreation Services Division

The Recreation Services Division is responsible for most of the recreational programs and facilities operated by the department. Facilities include: three public golf courses, two driving ranges, disc golf courses, tennis centers, tennis courts, pickleball courts, multipurpose athletic fields, basketball courts, ball diamonds, soccer fields, three aquatic centers, splash pads, boat launches, day camps, campground, dog parks, Community Center, Riverfront Park, Skate Park, Lifetime Sports Academy, Salomon Farm, Lindenwood Nature Preserve, and the Hurshtown Reservoir. The Division also manages the McMillen Community Center, three youth centers, and the summer playground program. The Division hosts a number of citywide and cultural events, offers competitive and instructional programs in athletics and outdoor recreation, and art programs, runs a travel program for seniors, families and adventure travelers, and offer classes covering a variety of special interests for pre-school through older adult.

Foellinger Theatre Division

The Foellinger Theatre Division is responsible for the operations and programming of the Foellinger Theatre.

Zoo Division

The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo Division is operated under an operating agreement between the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department and the Fort Wayne Zoological Society.

PARKS
Dept # 0121
2024 BUDGET COMPARISON

	2022	2023	2023	2024	\$ INCREASE	% CHANGE
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL THRU 30-Jun-2023	REVISED BUDGET THRU 30-Jun-2023	SUBMITTED	(DECREASE) FROM REVISED TO 2024	FROM REV TO 2024
5111 WAGES	\$ 7,891,213		\$ 9,070,516	\$ 9,954,692	\$ 884,176	
5125 OVERTIME PREMIUM	149,198		138,000	157,000	19,000	
5131 PERF - EMPLOYERS SHARE	723,785		838,261	928,600	90,339	
5132 FICA	509,982		599,616	666,170	66,554	
5134 LIFE MEDICAL & HEALTH INSURAN	1,834,000		1,778,000	1,651,000	(127,000)	
5136 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	8,750		9,244	10,218	974	
5137 WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	61,691		71,244	73,472	2,228	
513A PERF - EMPLOYEES/PD BY CITY	195,176		224,531	248,734	24,203	
513R RETIREES HEALTH INSURANCE	112,000		126,000	130,000	4,000	
5161 WAGE SETTLEMENT/SEVERANCE PAY	19,027		—	—	—	
5162 ACCRUED WAGES ADJ	38,950		—	—	—	
5180 TOOL ALLOWANCE	7,566		—	—	—	
Total 5100	\$ 11,551,338	\$ 6,022,246	\$ 12,855,412	\$ 13,819,886	\$ 964,474	7.50%
5213 COMPUTER SUPPLIES	24,820		20,400	20,400	—	
5219 OTHER OFFICE SUPPLIES	59,307		21,250	22,550	1,300	
5231 GASOLINE	111,194		130,950	129,750	(1,200)	
5232 DIESEL FUEL / FUEL OIL	153,190		170,500	152,000	(18,500)	
5233 OIL	12,535		13,000	13,000	—	
5234 TIRES & TUBES	30,825		33,000	36,300	3,300	
5239 OTHER GARAGE & MOTOR SUPPLIES	26,452		25,100	25,100	—	
5241 MEDICAL & SURGICAL SUPPLIES	28,580		27,800	27,800	—	
5243 RECREATION SUPPLIES	141,120		220,675	236,875	16,200	
5245 LANDSCAPE & GRNHOUSE SUPPLIES	233,846		243,000	289,000	46,000	
5246 HOUSEHOLD & CLEANING SUPPLIES	71,022		91,850	91,850	—	
5247 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	258		2,350	3,150	800	
5261 BLDG REPAIR & MAINT MATERIALS	198,624		208,640	214,372	5,732	
5262 VEHICLE REPAIR PARTS	52,085		72,000	80,000	8,000	
5263 OTHER EQUIPMENT REPAIR PARTS	252,038		206,000	224,500	18,500	
5271 GRAVEL	9,235		15,000	15,000	—	
5272 BITUMINOUS MATERIALS	—		500	500	—	
5273 SAND	99		500	500	—	
5274 SALT	15,214		31,000	31,000	—	
5291 SMALL TOOLS	30,020		24,000	26,000	2,000	
5293 PAINT	12,081		13,350	15,000	1,650	
5299 OTHER MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	268,464		147,400	162,850	15,450	
Total 5200	\$ 1,731,011	\$ 991,744	\$ 1,718,265	\$ 1,817,497	\$ 99,232	5.78%
5312 MEDICAL SERVICES	766		4,500	4,500	—	
5314 CONSULTANT SERVICES	—		2,500	2,500	—	
5315 APPRAISALS & INSPECTIONS	332		850	850	—	
5316 RECREATIONAL SERVICES	125,082		219,050	239,050	20,000	
531H BANK SERVICE CHARGES	33,361		27,500	27,500	—	
531K SEMINAR FEES	17,579		20,600	21,400	800	
5321 FREIGHT EXPRESS & DRAYAGE	57		—	—	—	
5322 POSTAGE	61,057		49,475	69,275	19,800	
5324 TRAVEL EXPENSES	20,397		26,600	27,600	1,000	
5326 MILEAGE	1,299		2,000	2,250	250	
532C CELL PHONE	5,977		2,400	5,200	2,800	
5331 PRINTING OTHER THAN OFFC SUPPL	60,957		81,522	87,000	5,478	
5332 PUBLIC OF LEGAL NOTICES/ADVTER	9,304		16,450	16,450	—	
5333 PHOTOGRAPHY & BLUEPRINTING	240		500	500	—	
5342 LIABILITY INSURANCE	165,708		201,708	173,308	(28,400)	
5351 ELECTRICITY	637,188		623,100	723,100	100,000	

PARKS
Dept # 0121
2024 BUDGET COMPARISON

	2022	2023	2023	2024	\$ INCREASE (DECREASE)	% CHANGE
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL THRU	REVISED	SUBMITTED	FROM REVISED	FROM REV
		30-Jun-2023	BUDGET THRU		TO 2024	TO 2024
			30-Jun-2023			
5352 NATURAL GAS	256,720		262,016	262,016	—	
5353 WATER	628,339		582,027	722,095	140,068	
5356 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	48,915		46,000	53,500	7,500	
5361 CONTRACTED BLDG & STRUCT REPAI	110,431		329,239	215,000	(114,239)	
5362 CONTRACTED VEHICLE REPAIR	60,424		25,000	40,000	15,000	
5363 CONTRACTED OTHER EQUIPMT REPAI	92,480		118,850	128,850	10,000	
5365 JANITORIAL & LAUNDRY SERVICE	43,699		32,450	36,450	4,000	
5369 CONTRACTED SERVICE	1,687,888		947,982	684,983	(262,999)	
536H DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT	90,000		347,500	453,915	106,415	
5371 BUILDING RENTAL	—		1,000	1,000	—	
5374 OTHER EQUIPMENT RENTAL	17,562		30,232	41,400	11,168	
5381 PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL - BONDS	—		835,000	885,000	50,000	
5382 PAYMENT OF INTEREST - BONDS	—		425,877	366,800	(59,077)	
5391 SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DUES	22,420		19,385	21,285	1,900	
5393 TAXES	6,638		2,500	3,500	1,000	
5399 OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	123,521		101,288	117,600	16,313	
539A OPERATING TRANSFER OUT	2,268,849		2,201,931	2,172,941	(28,990)	
539B MASTER LEASE	731,156		798,069	827,059	28,990	
Total 5300	\$ 7,328,346	\$ 2,846,935	\$ 8,385,101	\$ 8,433,877	\$ 48,776	0.58%
Total 5400	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	0.00%
Total	\$ 20,610,696	\$ 9,860,926	\$ 22,958,778	\$ 24,071,260	\$ 1,112,482	4.85%

**Parks and Recreation
2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program**

FUNDING SOURCE CODE:

PS - Private Source
 PT - Property Tax
 ST - State Source
 ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act
 LE - Capital Lease Financing

ITEM #	PROJECT TITLE & DESCRIPTION	Funding Source	Expenditure				
			2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
1	Master Lease Program - Trucks, Light Duty Vehicles & Equipment	LE	827,059	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
2	ADA Improvements	PT	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
3	Computer Equipment	PT	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
4	Office Equipment	PT	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
5	Betterments & Additions	PT	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
6	Resurfacing Roads\Parking Lots\Tennis Courts\Basketball Courts	PT	232,941	340,000	340,000	280,000	280,000
7	Playground Site Equipment-Various Parks	PT	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
		PS	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
8	Landscaping Parks & Boulevards	PT	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
9	Various Parks - Park Signage	PT	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
10	Street Tree (EAB - Emerald Ash Borer Treatment)	PT	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
11	Street Tree Planting	PT	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
		ST	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
12	Street Tree Planting (Citizen Request Match)	PT	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
13	Park Tree Planting (Canopy Recovery & EAB)	PT	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
		PS	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
14	Botanical Conservatory - Glass Replacement	PT	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
15	Various Parks - Shelter/Pavilion Renovations	PT	40,000	40,000	50,000	60,000	60,000
16	Various Parks - Site Furnishing Replacement	PT	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
17	Various Parks - Energy Conservation	PT	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
18	Various Bridge Improvements	PT	50,000	100,000	100,000	—	—
19	Various Parks Security Improvements	PT	20,000	20,000	—	—	—
20	Kreager Park - Soccer Fields	PT	—	—	—	—	300,000
21	Land Acquisition	PT	—	250,000	—	—	—
22	Botanical Conservatory Terrace Improvements	PT	—	240,000	500,000	—	—
23	Monument Restoration	PT	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
24	Neighborhood Facilities - Improvements and Renovations	PT	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
25	Recreation Facilities - Improvements and Renovations	PT	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
26	Moody Park - Master Plan Implementation	PT	—	—	—	—	100,000
27	Salomon Farm - Various Maintenance	PT	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
28	Foster Park Golf Course Improvements	PT	—	—	—	250,000	250,000
29	Swinney Park - Mechanic Street Bridge Improvements	PT	620,000	—	—	—	—
30	Botanical Conservatory HVAC Improvements	PT	—	—	—	400,000	—
31	Brewer Park Master Plan	ARPA	1,836,600	—	—	—	—
		PS	500,000	—	—	—	—
32	Packard Park Master Plan	ARPA	1,800,000	—	—	—	—
		PS	100,000	—	—	—	—
Subtotals							
	LE (Capital Lease Financing)	LE	827,059	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
	PT (Property Tax)	PT	2,172,941	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,200,000
	ST (State Source)	ST	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	PS (Private Source)	PS	645,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
	ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)	ARPA	3,636,600	—	—	—	—
TOTAL			7,306,600	3,070,000	3,070,000	3,070,000	3,070,000

2024 – 2028
Parks & Recreation Department
Capital Improvement Program Narrative

1. Annual payment for the purchases of vehicles and equipment through the Master Lease Program.
2. ADA Improvements include buildings, restroom renovations, and site pathways.
3. Computers and point of sales hardware. This also includes software licenses for various users to be a more web based provider.
4. Office equipment in various locations and other miscellaneous equipment.
5. Betterments and Additions include: renovations to facilities including roofs, bridges, mechanical, HVAC and various other improvement projects.
6. Resurfacing roadways, parking lots, sidewalks, pathways, and athletic courts including parking lots in parks, greenways, and golf courses.
7. Removal and replacement of aging play equipment, structures and safety surfacing in parks.
8. Landscape plantings to include foundation, garden plant material replacements, and new plantings in parks and on boulevards.
9. Various Parks replacement of the existing signage in parks. Improvements include new updated directional signage and new park monument signage.
10. Treatment of over 1,000 mature ash trees that are street trees from the Emerald Ash Borer. This is an ongoing treatment system of the same trees each year while the EAB is still in the area.
11. This is an ongoing program to plant new street trees in the city replacing those trees that were removed by the EAB and natural mortality.
12. This is an ongoing program to plant new street trees. Funding to combine with homeowner contribution that was previously paid out of Council District Match.
13. This is an ongoing program to plant new trees in the city parks to build up the canopy of our system. This also includes replacement of Ash trees within our parks. This also includes our contribution to the Great Tree Canopy Comeback program.
14. Botanical Conservatory continual glass replacement for removal and replacement of roof glass over the showcase, tropical and arid houses.
15. Various Parks renovations to shelters and pavilions.
16. Various Parks replacement of site furnishings including benches, bleachers, picnic tables, grills, bike racks, trash containers, etc.
17. Energy conservation program throughout the parks looking at replacement of equipment and fixtures that would provide more efficiency and less energy usage.
18. Improvements to various road and pedestrian bridges throughout the park system.
19. Various improvements in parks to improve security in the parks such as security cameras and security systems throughout park facilities.
20. The creation of new soccer fields at Kreager Park. Expanding more soccer opportunities to the community.
21. Land acquisition to property adjacent to existing park land and to create new parks in areas determined to be underserved by parks. Whenever there is an opportunity to acquire land the department evaluates those potential opportunities.
22. Improvements to the outdoor terrace area at the Botanical Conservatory.
23. Monument restoration to various monuments throughout the park system. Restoration is needed prior to the monuments failing.
24. Various neighborhood facilities improvements and renovations including but not limited to interiors and exterior spaces, furnishings, and improvements at Cooper, Jennings, McMillen, and Weisser Center.
25. Various recreation facilities improvements and renovations including but not limited to ball diamonds, soccer fields, golf courses, and tennis courts.
26. Moody Park implementation of the planned improvements based on the Master Plan for the park.
27. Salomon Farm funds intended for various maintenance needs on the barns and buildings.

28. Improvements to the Foster Park golf course and irrigation system.
29. Structural and aesthetic improvements to the Mechanics Street Pedestrian Bridge in Swinney Park.
30. Improvements to the HVAC system at the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory.
31. Funds attributed toward the creation of the Brewer Park Master Plan.
32. Funds attributed toward the creation of the Packard Park Master Plan.