Steve McDaniel, Director

- The department is announcing it has a new Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation App that will be launching soon. This app is for our citizens and park users. You will be able to sign up for programs, rent pavilions, pick golf tee times, buy tickets for the Sweet Breeze, and more. The team will be starting an informational campaign to share this news with the city.
- The Mother's Day Plant sale was held in May. It was our biggest year to date. I want to take a minute to thank all of the staff and volunteers who grew the plants, worked the sale, and made all of the logistics possible. Great job team! I also want to thank all of the shoppers for thinking of us when they made their plant purchases.
- We held a press conference and opened Boone Street Playlot's new playground. This was our first of the 10 new playgrounds being installed this spring. A grant from the AWS Foundation helped add safety surfacing in the playground.
- The team and I met with representatives of River City Ventures to discuss what documentation we would need to start the process of review by the staff for making a recommendation to the board. We are waiting for them to submit the additional materials.
- A draft of our Comprehensive Plan is now out for public comment. We have the plan located in a few spots for citizens to have access. Over the last few weeks, we have received a good amount of feedback. We are going to keep it up for the next few months to continue to gather this input.
- McMillen Golf Course partnered with First Tee of Indiana on an event with several FWCS schools related to golf. It was a great day in the park for the event and students with a good turnout of future golfers.
- The Foellinger Theatre season kicked off with the Rick Springfield concert. It was a great night for the event and the crowds loved his music. The next few weeks include part of our free concert series with the Fort Wayne Community Band, the New Millennium Jazz Orchestra, and the Fort Wayne Children's Choir.
- The team is working on pulling the information together for the 2025 budget process. This will then be submitted to the Controller's Office for their review along with all the other city departments.
- As we wrapped up May, our team was deep into getting everything ready for the summer season. Hiring staff, training, making plans, and securing materials. Most people do not know the amount of logistics that happens behind the scenes to get our parks and programs ready. I want to take a minute and share how proud I am of the entire team. Let's have a great summer!
- We will be <u>canceling our July 2024 Park</u> Board meeting. Our next <u>meeting is scheduled for August 8th, 2024.</u>

Chuck Reddinger – Deputy Director of Recreation

Salomon Farm Park, Neighborhood Outreach Community Centers (Youth/Downtown/McMillen Park), Riverfront, Athletics, Aquatics, Golf, Outdoor Recreation, Special Events, Headwaters Park, and Travel Service

<u>General</u>

• Staff have been working with Visit Fort Wayne and Fort Wayne BMX to investigate bringing a national tournament to Fort Wayne in 2026.

- Attended Downtown Safety Committee made up of downtown businesses and City Departments to look at ways to make downtown Fort Wayne more welcoming and safe
- Met with several non-powered boating enthusiasts to investigate ways to promote rowing, dragon boats, and other human-powered boating in Fort Wayne.

Riverfront Monthly Report

- Wedding season has finally sprung at Promenade Park with 6 weddings being held in the Park Foundation Pavilion along with a wedding anniversary and a weddings rehearsal. Around 500 people attended weddings throughout May from the Wells St. Bridge to the Park Foundation Pavilion.
- South Side High School held our second Prom of the year at the Park on May 4th with nearly 300 students filling the Park for an evening of dancing and fun around the Park. The fireplaces were lit up as students roamed the Park.
- The Fort Wayne Mayor's office hosted leaders and elected officials from the NE Indiana region at the Pavilion on May 15th. Ted's Snack Bar provided box lunches for the 50 attendees.
- Norwell Middle School hosted its annual 3rd year at the park "Last Day of School" event on May 21st with close to 200 students along with 50 teachers and chaperones.
- Whip and Chill had their food truck located near the Wells St. Bridge to provide the students with lunch and treats throughout the day. The students wore matching shirts to be easily identified in the Park and enjoyed games on the patio and the Auer lawn.
- Elevatus Architecture agency held its Employee Appreciation Day on May 23rd at Promenade Park with drinks and food provided by Ted's Snack Bar.
- May rentals concluded with the Spring Cycles two-day event. The first evening kicked off with registration and pick-up at the pavilion. All the race participants filled out the park to pick up packets, sign in, and other prerace information needed.
- The 2024 Headwaters event season continued in May on the 4th with the "Great American Cleanup" held on the West side of the Pavilion. Volunteers from around the Fort Wayne area participated in the cleanup activities throughout the City and then met at Headwaters to enjoy food and drinks for a post-event party.
- On the East Side of Headwaters Park, the MS Foundation held its annual MS Walk to raise money for the Foundation's research.
- The following weekend was Jake Slaters' "Taco's and Tequila Festival" in the Lincoln Financial Pavilion. Around 3,000 people attended the event as the rain held off and nice weather seemed to peak its way into the event.
- Eco Fest was the last Headwaters event held in May on the 19th with close to 2,000 people in attendance to learn from local vendors about sustainability issues along with good food and drinks provided by local restaurants.
- Riverfront Programs started in May with nearly 200 kids and family members coming out for an afternoon of learning about archeology and paleontology at our first Do You Dig History. event. Through both guided and self-led activities, the goal of this event was to make history more accessible to those in our community and to inspire kids to learn more about the history that surrounds them. Kids enjoyed digging through their Dino blocks, learned how to record their findings, and got to see historic items that were found in the St. Mary's riverbed.
- Dance Promenade: West Coast Swing wrapped up in May with 22 people attending the open dance party to put their newfound skills to the test. This 5-week series was brought back by popular demand and was once again a huge success.
- Petal Picasso was held on Mother's Day at the Park Foundation Pavilion at Promenade Park. Five families joined us in the Pavilion to create a Mother's Day craft consisting of mason jars and pressed flower petals.

- Between Yoga and Kickboxing, we had 78 participants join us on the Riverfront in May for these free community events. Now that the weather is warming up, it was great to be able to hold these classes outdoors in the plaza.
- We had a great crowd of 68 people come out for the monthly Sunday Heritage Concert, featuring Kyla J.
- The plaza at Promenade was packed as the Fort Wayne Ballet brought their Firefly Tour to the park. Around 200 people showed up for this free community performance.
- At our first Historical Tie Dye program, five participants learned about the historical uses of Flowering Dogwood, Redtwig Dogwood, Staghorn Sumac, and River Birch, and then used dyes made from these items to dye their t-shirts.

4 <u>Community Center</u>

- <u>Preschool/Youth/Athletics</u>
 - Caleb said that PODS counselors are fully staffed.
 - Summer Training was held on 5/29 and 5/30 at the Shoaff Riverlodge Pavilion
 - Spring tennis lessons (5-18) and Intro to Pickleball (5/20) ended after great turnouts and feedback.
 - Caleb and Karen did a video training on April 24 about Anxiety in Children.
 - On May 15 Karen was asked to set up a table with info and speak at the Brightpoint family gathering at Memorial Park. Lots of interest in FWPR programs and citywide opportunities. There were probably over 100 people that attended.
- The Volunteer Luncheon was held on May 3rd with 67 volunteers in attendance. This was to recognize all of the volunteers who contributed to the success of the Community Center in 2023. We had a nice lunch and handed out awards for hours that volunteers worked as well as Old Fort Baseball who spoke about the history of baseball in Fort Wayne.

Weisser Park Youth Center

- On Monday, May 13, 2024, the microgreens program continued. The youth began filling our small planters with dirt to plant a variety of vegetable and melon seeds that would later be transported to our outdoor garden. On Friday, May 17, 2024, they began planting cantaloupe, cucumbers, and corn seeds in the planters. The youth has continued to grow and harvest microgreens. On Monday, May 20, 2024, they harvested and bagged their microgreen salad mix.
- On Monday, May 6, 2024, we held our bucket drumming program. The youth practiced learning to follow drum patterns played by the leader.
- On April, 23 and 24, for the <u>STEM learning program</u>, the youth made Rubber Band (Slingshot) Cars using rubber bands, craft sticks, straws, bamboo skewers, plastic wheels, and glue. Monday,
 - April 29, 2024, children learned how to make no-bake cookies. They had to appropriately follow instructions and measure the ingredients for the red velvet and brownie cookies to enjoy their yummy treat.
 - On Tuesday, April 30, 2024, the youth built a rollercoaster using plastic pieces to test if a marble could get from the beginning to the end.
- On Friday, May 10, 2023, the youth presented their mother with the Forget Me Not or Sweet Williams flower they grew from seeds to give to their mother for Mother's Day. The mothers were impressed with their children's green thumb and appreciative of the gift.
- The staff has been working on introducing the youth to new games and activities. The youth learned how to play a variety of board games like Perfection, Mouse Trap, twister, and chess. They played Scooter Soccer, Bench Ball, Flag Tag, Birds of Prey, and Switch Dodgeball. The youth also enjoyed two tournaments of Mario Kart on the Nintendo Switch.

- Allen County Public Library had one session with our youth. On Wednesday, May 8, 2024, the youth was given a bag of assorted craft items and encouraged to create something. Some of the items in the bags were glue, cotton balls, colored tissue paper, clothes pins, colored pencils, and a variety of plastic shapes.
- Parkview Healthy Seeds had one session with our youth. The theme of the session was healthy habits. The youth learned how to incorporate daily exercise, calorie, and carb counting, proper food group consumption, and getting the appropriate amount of sleep.
- On Wednesday, April 24, 2024, Zynette and Dalton participated in the Great Kids Make Great Communities *Building Resilient Futures: Tools for Youth Anxiety Management* virtual training. Anxiety in youth increases attributed to an increase in screen time and less outdoor play. Identified current youth as the Selfie Generation meaning an increase in negative self-image and fear of failure due to unrealistically comparing themselves to others.
- Robert Mauldin was moved from a seasonal to a part-time position at Weisser Center

Jennings Recreation Center

- <u>Adult Programs</u>
 - Meditation happens every Tuesday from 12-1 pm this spring with Ms. Benson. She does a great job of engaging the adults in finding the best way to connect with the universe around us. We will also be using her this summer for adult programming in the evenings after the youth have gone for the day and she plans to come back this fall too.
 - Yoga is every Thursday from 12-1 pm this spring with Ms. Meagan. She has had some great turnouts from our adults and has allowed them to relax, stretch, and slow down a bit in the middle of everyone's busy days. Some adults use our cushioned chairs and some use our yoga mats. She will also continue this summer in the evenings for us as well as this fall.
 - Lunch and Games has been our biggest success with attendees for our adult programming. The adults come in and bring their lunch and we play games and have meaningful discussions. Our adults are always wanting to learn and grow so I like to allow them to do so.
 - Field Trip to Levi Coffin House in Fountain City, Indiana was a great experience for everyone who went. We had a full van of 12 adults. Participants went through the museum and had some time in the gift store. After visiting the museum, the group ate lunch at a local diner before meeting back for our tour at 1:30 pm. Our tour was outstanding. We took many pictures and learned a lot about the history of the Underground Railroad and the important part Indiana and the Coffin family played in freeing slaves.

4 <u>Park and Play/Community Outreach</u>

- On April 30th, Parks and Recreation employees Mary Wagner-Stockman, Caleb Schannep, Josh Ogle, and Neil Miller attended a "reverse job fair" at FWCS AMP Lab. There were over 300 students present.
- Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation is preparing to offer its Park and Play Program in June and July 2024. The program was started in 2023. Park and Play will visit 8 parks weekly, and include community collaborators during "Funtastic Fridays". Confirmed collaborators for the 2024 season include the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne City Utilities, Historic Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne Fire Department, Fort Wayne Police Department, and Riverfront Fort Wayne. As of the time of this report, 8 seasonal staff members have been hired.
- Beginning in June, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation will begin a new program called "McKinnie Commons Connections". Twice monthly in June and July, Parks staff will invite community organizations, vendors, and live entertainment to McKinnie Commons to highlight community resources, health, education, and culture. McKinnie Commons Connections will take place on Thursday, June 13th from 5:30

pm to 7:30 pm, Sunday, June 30th, from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, July 11th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, and July 28th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Collaborators include the Allen County Department of Environmental Management, Animal Care & Control, Fort Wayne Fire Department, and more.

• Patti and Neil met with staff from Easter Seals Arc regarding a program R is for Respect. It will be offered at McMillen this summer and at Park and Play.

McMillen Park Community Center

- In May we celebrated Mother's Day by having the children make their mother or other special women in their life a Mother's Day card. The children were excited to make the cards and the parents were overjoyed to receive them.
- Our Community Extravaganza was held on May 18, 2024, and we had a great time. We had over 300 patrons that attended the event. We provided everyone with hotdogs, chips, water, and candy. We had 15 vendors that provided us with an array of information, including futsal, the ARMY provided the football toss, and we had a large Connect Four game, and a large Jenga game that everyone played. The golf game was a winner. There was also an alumni basketball game that was going on in the gym. We had a fun-filled, wonderful, and eventful day.
- During May open gym basketball slowed down due to the weather. Men's league and open basketball ended this month. The victorious team was Vision Squad. They won a championship first-place trophy and an MVP trophy. Also, in May McMillen Park had one of the most exciting events of the year the Alumni Games. The games are made up of former high school players of any age from all the local high schools. Teammates from all generations came and competed in a one-day tournament to see who had the best alumni team. The winner was Northside High School. They received a traveling trophy. Ms. Dorothy and Ms. Lisa's Cardio Fit and Dance class continues to grow. The ladies are enjoying the time they share.

<mark>↓</mark> <u>Golf</u>

- Gary Whitacre reported that golf play has increased since the weather has finally started to stay nice and allow the golf courses to dry out.
- Gary Whitacre informed Jason Smith that the additional 16 new golf carts arrived at Foster Park Golf Course. They will be rotated into the inventory and 16 of the existing golf carts will be transferred to Shoaff Golf Course.
- Tom Mizzell reported that he is continuing to go through all of the golf carts and fix existing problems. He stated that speed sensors and MCors are becoming a problem. After checking with other golf courses, he has found that this is a common problem.
- Bryan Keister, Dave Weadock, and Jason Smith met with representatives from City Utilities to discuss the cost of the restoration of the Foster Golf Course. After going over the estimate City Utilities gave Dave Weadock the "okay" to move forward with having Hills, Forrest, and Smith to design the restoration plan.
- Jason Smith reported that McMillen Golf Course hosted a First Tee Skills Challenge on May 20, 2024, for elementary kids as part of a state-wide competition. Jason Smith stated that 7 schools (62 participants) were represented at the challenge. Per Ali Beam, the event was a huge success and was very appreciative of the golf course staff for all of the preparation that they put into the event.
- Pools Daryn Schwartz and Jessica Witt reported that a majority of the lifeguard staff received Ellis Training May 25 and 26, 2024.

Salomon Farm Park

- Pre-employment hiring night for Farm Camp was scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024, and General Safety and Scan training was conducted on Monday, May 20, 2024.
- Farm Camp hired 17 camp counselors, 1 assistant supervisor, and 1 supervisor, bringing the total staff to 19, the same as the previous year.
- Spots are still available in the 4-5 age group for weeks 3 and 4, and in all weeks for the CIT, Counselors in Training, a program which is 13-18 years of age. The 6-11 age group, the 12+ age group, and 4-5 in weeks one, two, five, and 6 are all sold out.
- Farmin' Fun Day Camp will be held Monday, June 10, 2024, through Friday, July 26, 2024, with the 4th of July being an off week.
- All of the dahlias have been planted in the west 6-acre field as well as in the North Garden rental space and dining area. Staff is looking forward to upcoming programs and rentals in the North Garden area this year and hopes to expand both the rentals and the aesthetic appeal of the space.
- Despite a rainy spring season, tilling of the front field began in May. Staff is hopeful that the flower fields will look wonderful with all the extra rain. Sunflowers will be planted at the end of May or early June, weather permitting.
- Expanding on the animal programming, DeAnna Harris, the Program Coordinator, has added goat yoga to the program lineup. The first two sessions in May sold out quickly, leading to the addition of two more sessions in August.
- Salomon Farm Park welcomed two new additions to their animal family, who will be participating in goat yoga. They have two baby goats this year, with names yet to be announced. These goats were purchased through a generous donation from the Fort Wayne Anthony Wayne Lions Club.

Sweet Breeze Canal Boat

- Sweet Breeze was officially launched for the season on Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, and staff orientation was held on Thursday, May 9th, 2024, at 5:30 PM at Promenade Park.
- Tickets for both general public tours and specialty tours were available for purchase starting on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.
- Three days of staff training were held from Tuesday, May 14, to Thursday, May 16, 2024.
- Extra training will be held the week of May 27th, 2024, after the opening weekend. Opening weekend will be covered by veteran staff, with new staff shadowing.
- The Lawton maintenance staff managed to squeeze in time to paint the boat deck, a much-needed task before the season officially started.
- The season commenced on Saturday, May 25th, and Sunday, May 26th, 2024, featuring two tours scheduled for each day. Tours started at 1 pm, consisting of a 90-minute tour followed by a 45-minute one. Saturday's tours were fully booked, while Sunday saw 15 tickets sold for the 1 pm tour. Unfortunately, the 2:45 pm tour on Sunday had to be canceled due to thunderstorms and lightning in the area.

Johnny Appleseed Campground - Johnny Appleseed Campground officially opened on Wednesday, May 1st.

4 Lindenwood Nature Preserve

• A newly purchased fire pit has been installed at Lindenwood by the MTs this month. This addition will prove highly beneficial to both staff and guests, offering a more permanent alternative to a traditional brick ring.

• For safety purposes, the fire ring at Lindenwood is designated for Lindenwood programming and is accessible to the public only when staff is present.

Franke Park Day Camp

- Pre-employment hiring night for Franke Park Day Camp was scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2024, and General Safety and Scan training was conducted on Monday, May 20, 2024.
- Franke Park Day Camp hired 20 camp counselors, 1 assistant supervisor, and 1 supervisor, bringing the total staff to 22, two fewer compared to the previous year.
- Franke Park Day Camp will be held Monday, June 10, 2024, through Friday, July 26, 2024, with the 4th of July being an off week.
- All weeks are fully booked for the 4-5 age group. Limited spaces are still available in the 6-11 age group due to late increases in group sizes as staff became available for hire. All weeks in the JR Leader age group are full, and spots are still available in the Counselor in Training groups, which cater to ages 13-18.

Hurshtown Reservoir

• Opening day for Hurshtown Reservoir was Wednesday, May 1st, 2024.

Sandra Odisho – Finance Manager Payroll, Registrations,

Budgets, Rentals, Tickets, Receptionist, Donations, Banking, Commercial Vouchers

- **For Payroll:** The Parks and Recreation Department paid 396 employees (135 full-time and 261 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending June 1st, and paid on June 7th, 2024.
 - We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing, or in the process of being hired, as of May 31st, 2024:
 - Heavy Equipment Working Leader (Fund 121)
 - Heavy Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
 - Maintenance Technician II (Fund 121) 2 Positions
 - Supervisor IV Neighborhood Programs (Fund 121)
 - Gardener Helper (Fund 121)
 - Supervisor V Facility Maintenance Riverfront (Fund 439)
 - We have successfully hired the majority of our seasonal staff.
 - Seasonal hiring clearance has taken longer this year than in previous years. This is due to several factors including turnover in HR and the lack of availability of medical screening appointments on the same day the pending hires go downtown to fill out their new hire paperwork. HR has been sending us lists of pending employees who are still missing documents and we have been working with the Park managers to help make sure that our pending employees are getting HR what they need to get them fully onboarded.
 - All of our hiring events have taken place for the 2024 seasonal onboarding, seasonal hiring at this point has slowed significantly.
 - We are working with IT and planning to roll out Attendance on Demand for time clock management and payroll processing soon. We plan to implement this in phases over the next several months.

Front Office:

• The front office has been very busy selling Sweet Breeze tickets, and Foellinger Theatre tickets, processing registrations for Summer Fun Times programs, and pavilion reservations.

- May 8th was the first day of registration for the Summer Fun Times. Summer in the parks is in full swing!
- Sweet Breeze tickets went on sale on May 1st. We have sold 687 tickets for Sweet Breeze tours this summer so far. Tours began Memorial Day weekend and will run through the summer and into the early fall.
- As soon as the weather gets nice out, customers are reminded to get their pavilions reserved for summer. Weekends in June, including Fridays, have been booked for many months due to all of the high school and college graduations. July is very close to being completely booked on weekends also.
- The most exciting thing we have been working on is the new Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation app. It is now available for download. The QR code to download the app is at the end. Please download the app at your convenience and take a look!
 - This QR code allows you to download the app and then sign on one time. From there you can do anything you can do on our website register for a class, reserve a pavilion, purchase a golf or Conservatory membership, purchase tickets to the Sweet Breeze tickets, set a tee time, and more!
 - We will also use this as a tool to communicate to our customers such as letting them know a program is canceled due to weather, announcing new programs or concerts, sharing information on special events, and much more.
- Accounts payable is picking up. We processed 599 invoices, 45 P-card statements, and 14 purchase requisitions for May.
- We are performing preliminary work on the 2025 Budget preparation with the various Deputy Directors.
- The Controller's Office will announce a 2025 Budget Kickoff Memo in mid-June with various instructions and due dates. The completed 2025 Budget will be due in early July. The City Controller will meet with Departments to discuss their Budgets on an "as-needed" basis in July; this may also involve some recommended budget changes.
- The 2025 Budget will be introduced to City Council in September with Council Departmental Budget meetings and Budget passage occurring in October.

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation - App QR Code:



Steve Schuhmacher – Deputy Director of Park

Maintenance, Facilities, Grounds, Projects Administration, Safety Compliance, Storeroom, Fleet & Mechanical Operations

Facilities Supervisor: Greg Reith

- Pavilion rentals totaled: 300 for May. This is up from 144 in April.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations; Swinney Park, Martin Luther King Bridge, Boone Park, Bloomingdale Park, Swinney Park Japanese Pavilion, Hamilton Park, Lawton Park Skate Park, Lakeside Playground, Foster Park Pavilion 3, Shoaff Park boardwalk, and McKinnie Commons.

- The facilities staff pressure washed the following locations: Weisser Park shelter, Boone Street playground, Guldlin Park boat dock, Kreager Park shelter, Shoaff Park River Lodge pavilion and boat dock, Headwaters Park West dock, and Franke Park pond pavilion.
- The splash pads at Waynedale, Memorial, Franklin, Kreager, Meyer, McCormick, Buckner, and Shoaff Parks were prepped for the 2024 season.
- Facilities staff are working at the Botanical Conservatory to aid in servicing their facility until their vacant position is filled.
- Preparations were completed at the Weisser Park shelter for the Fort Wayne Community School disc golf tournament.
- The Weisser Park ballfield press box/ concession areas were cleaned to remove vandalism and outdated equipment.

Maintenance Technician Supervisor: Mike Cremeans

- Pre-season preparations were completed at both McMillen and Northside Park pools.
- A new drinking fountain was installed at Lawton Park's kids crossing ahead of the reopening of the newly updated playground.
- Repairs were made to sections of the river greenway and new signs were installed for the adopt-a greenway program.
- The deck and gunnel area of the Sweet Breeze canal boat were repainted.
- McCormick Park pavilion had new lights installed on the East side of the building and the parking lot lights were upgraded to LED.
- Several repairs were made to the Lawton Park greenhouse including replacing ventilation fans and repairing the automatic ventilation wall in the center range.
- Repairs were made to the Foellinger Theater seating area lights in preparation for the first show of the season on the 23rd.

\circ Maintenance Technician completed the following:

- 2: Alarm Maintenance, 18: Building Maintenance, 7: Carpentry, 22: Electrical Repair,
 - 3: HVAC Maintenance, 3: Key Core Maintenance, 8: Light Maintenance,
 - 5: Lock Maintenance, 16: Paint, 18: Playground Maintenance,
- 19: Plumbing Maintenance, 4: Sign Maintenance, 23: Vandalism

Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment Scott Winling

- Mowing crews have worked hard to keep the mowing rotation at one week. This includes mowing the Gump Rd. property, Salomon Farm, and Buckner weekly.
- The athletic field crew has had to mow athletic fields every other day to keep up with the grass.
- We are currently mowing ball diamond outfields 2-3 times a week and dog parks weekly.
- The ball diamond crew has remained busy with rentals every day of the week.
- Spin trimming was performed at various parks.
- Heavy Equipment repaired washouts and potholes at the Franke Theatre overflow lot (Lincolndale).
- The Community gardens on Bluffton Road were mowed with a brush-cutting mower and then tilled to prepare the plots for planting.
- Playground mulch was delivered to McCulloch, Reservoir, and Rockhill for volunteer groups along with a load of tree mulch to Lindenwood and Salomon.
- Busy assisting the garage by hauling tractors and mowers to and from the golf courses.
- Continuing to remove debris piles from the gardens.
- The garbage truck is running Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.
- The River Greenway is being mowed on a weekly schedule. Trimming is an ongoing job and the team is keeping up with most of it.

4<u>Manager of Facilities, Trades, and Grounds: Dennis Hamilton</u>

- There were 65after hours calls: 16 code issues, 3 door problems, 11 plumbing issues, 5 calls about items left in pavilions, 1 trash call, 3 calls about splash pads, 2 pest control calls, 1 storage call, 1 electrical call, 6 alarm calls, 3 lock calls, 4 parking calls, 1 security issue, 1 call about water leak, and 7 miscellaneous calls.
- Working on the fence at the McMillen Golf Course that was damaged due to a car accident.
- Working on repairs to the gates at Kreager Park Ball Diamonds and other fence repairs that are needed in our general park areas.
- Shambaugh repaired the lights at the McMillen Pool before the opening.
- The Foster fire alarm update was completed by VFP.
- Kayser was hired to cut asphalt at Lawton Kids Crossing playground before the contractor installed the new fibar. (*playground surface material*)
- Sam Brandenburger replaced the wooden steps at Lawton Kids Crossing playground.
- A PO was issued for the window replacement at the Northside office.
- Continuing playground inspections.

Main Trac Coordinator: Nicole Roth

- Main Trac Entries: 7,771 for the month.
- We have had 56, 311 calls this month.
- Working with supervisors to get their employees to turn in correct time sheets.
- The only volunteer hours have been through Landscape and they have 100 hours total. They mulched both Moody and Franke Park.
- Working on playground inspection reports.
- Busy entering timesheets, gas tickets, and contracted invoices.
- Running monthly reports for Chucks Recreation Staff.
- Helped with the school plants program.
- Nicole and Forestry starting the Citizen Match Tree program for 2024.

<u>Lawton Garage/Operations Manager: Travis Roth</u> Garage Operations Highlights:

- 204 work orders were scheduled this month, 45 of which were services.
- 4 Ford F250s that are part of the 2024 equipment lease were delivered to the City Fleet Department and then moved to Lawton Park by the garage mechanics.
- 1 Ford F350 chassis arrived at the Fleet Department and then was moved to Lawton Park.
- Purchase orders for a dump bed and service bodies for new trucks have been completed and the beds are on order from the vendor. They will handle the installation when they arrive.
- Garage mechanics continued with the fabrication work on the Salomon barrel train ride. Fenders have been fabricated for each barrel and a pull-behind sulky has been built.
- Five vehicles were taken to the city auction to be disposed of. Truck 14, van 24, truck 67, van 75, and truck 82 were auctioned off and brought in around \$9,000 for the department.
- Truck 10 was involved in an accident earlier this year and Risk Management negotiated with the insurance company to have the truck totaled. It was hauled away after the lift gate was removed for use on another truck.
- The zoo train had a major oil leak which required mechanics to remove the engine and replace the rear crankshaft seal. The engine was reinstalled the very next day to keep the ride open.
- Quotes are being put together for a new grapple truck for the forestry division for 2025. The chassis would come from Selking International with the body being built by Utility Truck Equipment.
- An older 4x4 Chevrolet Silverado was procured by the fleet department for Parks. This is an old Police Department truck that has been marked as surplus and will be used by Parks as an extra pickup truck.

- Two above-ground diesel tanks from Franke Park were moved to their new location in the Lawton Park bullgen. On-road diesel is on order to fill them and put them into active operation.
- A 19 ft. electric scissor lift arrived to be used by the maintenance tech and facilities crews. Two universal safety • harnesses were ordered to go with the machine and the vendor MacAllister will be doing on-site training on the operational procedures for the lift.
- A new, more powerful air compressor was delivered to the garage. The maintenance techs will perform the • plumbing and wiring to get it installed.
- A spare toolbox was removed from truck 10 and was installed in truck #1520 to be used by the riparian crew.
- The Parks Department pontoon boat had a failed water pump and is awaiting parts to get it back into the water.

4 Storeroom and Property:

- Storeroom staff assisted the Franke Park Day camp by supplying them with radios and other materials needed for their operation.
- Cleaning supplies and paper products are being stocked in greater quantities to handle the increased demand now • that the summer rental season has started.
- Banners and signs for the Senior games were updated by the storeroom for 2024.
- A new video conferencing setup was acquired from Resultant and installed in the Lawton Park office conference room.

Property Transactions:

20 Stihl BG86 Blower	Transferred	P210
24 Makita XPH10z Drill	Added Into Inventory	P210
24 Stihl Battery Kombi Unit	Added Into Inventory	P210
24 Ford F350 Chassis	Added Into Inventory	P240
24 Ventrac Snow Blade	Added Into Inventory	P240
24 Makita XAD05 Drill	Added Into Inventory	P250
24 Makita XPH14Z Drill	Added Into Inventory	P250
24 JLG Scissor Lift	Added Into Inventory	P250
24 Tennant Floor Machines (3)	Added Into Inventory	P250F
Simpson Pressure Washer	Added Into Inventory	P250F
24 Ford F250s (4)	Added Into Inventory	P250F
15 Snap On Floor Jack	Scrapped	P252
24 Sullair Rotary Compressor	Added Into Inventory	P252
17 Stihl MS271 Chainsaw	Transferred	R211
24 Stihl Battery Hand Blower	Added Into Inventory	R430
Titan PGD3200 Post Pounder	Added Into Inventory	R530

2024 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:

se i ui chuse e puutet	
Ford F250 Route Trucks (4)	Delivered
Ford F350 Chassis	Delivered
Ford Maverick Pick-up	P.O. Submitted
Chevy 1500 Pick-up (2)	24121158
IPC Floor Machines (4)	3 Delivered
Chevy Equinox	24121159
John Deere Gators (2)	24121161
Ventrac Tractor with Ball Diamond Attachment	Delivered
Bobcat Stump Grinding Attachment	24121149
JLG Electric Scissor Lift	Delivered
Motorola Replacement Radios	Quotes received

Gravely Remote-Control Mower Toro Pull Behind Blower

Delivered Delivered

4 <u>Superintendent: Mike Gore</u>

- Approve and record invoices for various materials used and applied in grounds, maintenance, and facilities departments.
- Overseeing a variety of issues on all sides of Maintenance.
- Going back over inspections of the Parks and doing new ones.
- Working on 2024 playground inspections.
- Working on River Greenway inspections.
- Working with manager/supervisor staff to remind them of work that needs to be completed.
- Working on 2024 monthly MMR reports for IDEM at the spray parks.

Project Administration: Dave Weadock

- Boone Park Playground Equipment Replacement, and Safety Surface Projects completed.
- Botanical Conservatory Linkway Interior Construction Final construction installation review in progress.
- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement Awaiting installation in July.
- Botanical Conservatory Boilers Replacement Project out to bid.
- Community Center HVAC Control System Upgrade is in progress.
- Community Center Art Room Renovation Project awarded. Construction is to begin in August.
- Foellinger Theatre Lighting Improvements Planning in progress.
- Foellinger Theatre Sidewalk Improvements, and Stage Floor Improvements Projects completed.
- Foster Park Golf Course Restoration Plan Planning in progress.
- Foster Park Playground Equipment Replacement Installation in progress.
- Foster Park Pavilion #1 Ceiling Painting Work in progress.
- Gren Park Playground Equipment Replacement Installation in mid-June.
- Headwaters Park Fountain Project planning in progress.
- Headwaters Park Pavilion Sidewalk Improvements Construction in progress.
- Headwaters Park Lighting Improvements Project out to bid.
- Irish Town Plaza Construction Construction is planned for July.
- Jennings Center Windows and Doors Sealing Purchase order acquisition in progress.
- Kettler Park Playground Equipment Replacement Installation in progress.
- Kreager Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project completed.
- Lawton Park Trestle Bridge Purchase order acquisition in progress.
- Lawton Park Playground Equipment Replacement, Drinking Foundation Projects completed.
- Lawton Park Pavilion Deck Replacement Planning in progress.
- McMillen Park Playground Equipment Replacement Installation in progress.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Construction Project going through review/approval process.
- Northside Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project completed.
- Northside Park Administration Building Flooring Bids received. The approval process is ongoing.
- Parks System Comprehensive Plan Project in progress.
- Salomon Farm Entrance Signage Initial project planning in progress, and Barn Entry Doors Replacements Construction in progress.
- Swinney Park Tennis Courts Recoating Work in progress.
- Tillman Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project completed, and Sidewalk Installation in progress.
- Turpie Park Playground Equipment Replacement Installation is in progress.
- Various Parks 2024 Paving Projects, and 2024 Pavement Restoration Works in progress.
- Various Parks Playground Borders and Drainage Construction is in progress at various locations.
- Various Parks Playground Safety Surfacing Installation in progress at various locations.

• Various Parks Entry Identification Signage – Fabrication in progress for Vesey, Sheldon, Daryl B. Cobin Memorial, Little Turtle Memorial, and Rudisill/Fairfield Parks.

Other work: Various Parks

- Accessed potential and necessary future projects, and began planning projects for next year's budget
- Currently updating park site plan bases and building plans, scheduling and performing underground utility locates, and park assessments being completed.

Safety: Tony DeVido

- The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on 5-28-24. 4 employees and 1 guest were present.
- 0 vehicle crashes were reported for this period.
- 1 employee injury was reported during this time.
- 4 CPR/FA classes were held. 31 employees were certified.
- 7 General Safety Training classes were held for seasonal employees
- First Aid kits were ordered and received for rental pavilions. Delivery has begun.
- Emergency Action Plan training has begun for all facilities.
- Swimming pool inspections were completed. Minor issues noted for correction.
- The review of Parks Safety SOPs continues.

Alec Johnson, Deputy Director of Planning & Development,

Forestry, Landscape & Horticulture, Riparian and the CONSERVATOR

4 <u>Planning Report – May 2024</u>

- Changes to Franke Park are happening quickly, and on a larger scale as part of the Franke Renaissance Project. While the pavilion continues to come into focus with preparation for glazing and completion of the roof, site walls are under construction, and the existing park drive is undergoing demolition. Coordination with the Franke Park Day Camp is completed, with necessary circulation accounted for in tandem with on-going site work.
- The design and engineering team continues to work towards the completion of construction drawings for Riverfront Phase II. We have defined a path forward concerning changes made necessary by permit requirements, but the picture remains unclear on exactly what might be buildable during this phase of construction; the team is working on revising hydraulic models to conform to requirements. We aim to bid on the project for construction in late July/early August. Coordination also continues between the team and the adjacent Schaab development.
- Brewer Park Redevelopment project is released for bids, due on 6/20. We are eager to see the start of construction in the coming months, following review and approvals.
- Packard Park Redevelopment project is in the final phase of construction documentation, with reviews being completed through routing and internally by Parks staff. We anticipate bidding on this project for construction in late July/early August.
- Staff presented various Park Master Plans to neighborhood associations, including Packard (Oakdale) and Hanna Homestead (East Central).
- Consolidation sewer projects continue at Foster Park. These projects are having a significant impact on the park both physically and related to access, but staff continues to coordinate with City Utilities in trying to minimize effects. The tentative completion of these projects is October 2024, so impacts will continue to be seen throughout the year. We are taking part in bi-weekly construction update meetings. Site safety

continues to be a concern- we have shared our concerns with CU staff and their contractors regularly.

- The Foster Park Entrance Design project kicked off in early June. Parks staff met with the project team to define roles, review the project schedule, and schedule public input meetings. Design is anticipated to wrap up in mid-spring 2025, with construction to follow as soon as possible concerning the completion of Utilities' work.
- Staff continues to meet regularly with Conservatory management to discuss various agreements, staff training, marketing, showcase, and facility operations. We continue to explore and implement ways to improve the physical facility and visitor experience.

4 <u>Horticulture and Landscape Report- May 2024</u>

- Landscape staff removed spring bulbs at Lakeside, Courthouse Green, Freimann Square, Downtown Community Center, and Foster Park.
- Annual flower displays began being planted at the end of May. The Community Center and the Bluffton Road Letterbed's annual displays were completed. The Swinney Letterbed will be completed the first week of June, as will Freimann, Courthouse Green, and Lakeside. Foster Park will soon follow.
- Landscape staff began their post-emergent herbicide treatments to landscape and tree beds across the parks system.
- The downtown team helped clean docks after flooding at Promenade Park. The area around the North dock was completely re-mulched to cover up muddy sediment that had accumulated due to flooding.
- Fountains at Freimann Square, the Courthouse, Lakeside, and Foster are on and being maintained now. The Japanese Garden Fountain will be installed in June.
- Foster Gardens staff spent much of the month edging and mulching landscape beds.
- The Downtown Team spent time cleaning and adjusting each jet on the Freimann fountain to improve its performance.
- Lakeside staff installed 18 new roses into existing rose beds. They also transplanted numerous others in an ongoing effort to better organize, maintain, and improve the aesthetics and health of the rose gardens.
- Landscape staff removed an outdated landscape around the Lawton offices and began installing a new one. This project will be completed in June.
- Landscape staff spent considerable time at the Foellinger Theatre, Northside Pool, McMillen Pool, and Hurshtown Reservoir on weed control and/or debris removal before their opening days.
- The Downtown team spent time pulling weeds at Promenade, Riverfront IIA, Headwaters, the Downtown Community Center, Courthouse Green, and Meyers Park.
- Landscape crews focused on weed control, debris clean-up, and mulching select areas of Memorial Park before Memorial Day.
- Landscape staff worked with a volunteer group from Neighborlink to spread approximately 60 yards of mulch in Kettler Park.
- Downtown team staff joined the Riparian team helping a group of approximately 150 kids from Canterbury schools remove Honeysuckle from the Headwaters Park riparian area.
- Landscape staff did some turf repair across the parks in early May. Headwaters Park was the main focus.
- Landscape staff hauled over 140 yards of mulch to the Franke Day Camp which was then spread by camp staff in all landscape beds in the area.
- Landscape staff spent time at the Community Gardens disposing of garbage.
- Landscape staff assisted in plant and equipment delivery during the week leading up to the McMillen Plant Sale.
- Landscape staff delivered all the large tropical plants to the zoo.
- Landscape staff completed and turned in their 2023 bulb designs so fall bulbs can be ordered. Bulb displays are designed and installed at Freimann Square, Courthouse Green, Downtown Community

Center, Lakeside Park, and Foster Park.

- Alexis Glover was hired for the Lawton Gardener Helper Position. Her first day is June 10th.
- As part of their contract, Pfister Sprinkler Systems began making necessary spring repairs to irrigation systems in Foster Park, Promenade Park, Lakeside Park, Northside Pool, Northside Main Office, Freimann Square, Courthouse Green, Downtown Community Center, Main St. Medians, Foellinger Theatre, Meyers Park, Bluffton Rd., Swinney Letterbed, and Riverfront IIA.
- Heartland Restoration Services began work as part of their Ecosystem Maintenance contract, making visits to the Thomas Nature Sanctuary pond, Reservoir Park rain garden, and Lakeside Park native plant pond buffer.
- Pride Landcare, Mow Baby Mow, and MJK Total Lawn Care continued mowing all contracted maintenance areas.
- Lawnganics continued turf fertilization and weed control on all park locations under contract.
- Clarity Pool began sweeping the Freimann fountain every other week per contract.
- Aquatic Management continued to maintain the Thomas Property pond spraying for algae and submerged weeds as per the contract.
- RFQs were sent out to mulch all chip beds in Memorial Park, Lawton Park, Rockhill Park, McMillen Park, and McCulloch Park.
- Volunteers worked 465.25 hours in the greenhouse in April
- The greenhouse sent approximately 21,576 plants/containers to the Botanical Conservatory Mother's Day Plant Sale. Of those approximately 19,403 sold with the breakdown being: Annuals 8276 sent, 7979 sold, Herbs 4146 sent, 3488 sold, Houseplants 1740 sent, 1232 sold, Perennials 2418 sent, 2204 sold, Vegetables 4495 sent, 3999 sold.
- The leftover plants are used for additions to park plants, Conservatory Showcase, Conservatory Sales Garden and Gift Shop, Conservatory Plant Swap, herb and vegetable planters at the centers, Weisser, Jennings, and McMillen, and donated to a few non-profit organizations.
- The School Children's Flower and Vegetable Association was represented at a Fort Wayne Community School event at the Allen County Public Library.

4 <u>Riparian Management Report- May 2024</u>

- Promenade kayak launch, Shoaff dock, Headwaters dock, and Guldlin dock were all launched and installed for the season. Safety cables were installed on Headwaters to further boost the strength of the strong-arm system.
- Kept the following bridges clear: Main, Van Buren, Harrison, MLK, and Columbia. The extensive log jam at Ewing was cleared and then maintained before and after the seasonal dock installation; approximately 77,560 pounds (38.78 tons). An extensive log jam at the Old Fort pedestrian bridge was cleared which was approximately 20,314 pounds (10.157 tons). Removed deadheads and floating logs along recreational paths along all three rivers totaling approximately 30, 540 pounds (15.27 tons). The total woody debris removed for the month was approximately 128,414 pounds (64.207 tons).
- Approximately 1500 pounds (0.75 tons) of litter and man-made debris were removed from the rivers.
- The Guldlin ramp was cleared and maintained after all recent floods.
- The silt was flushed from South Dock at Promenade as part of regular dock maintenance.
- Deployed the Idle Speed Zone buoys in all three locations along Saint Marys River.
- The historical canal sign was cleared for the recreational tours along Saint Marys at Roosevelt Park.
- Had one volunteer group from Canterbury Middle School on May 29th. We had 150 students and 12 adults working from 12 pm 2 pm at Headwaters West hand pulling small honeysuckle which equates to about 324 volunteer hours and \$10,850.76. A presentation on water quality and invasive species was presented before the work began.

- Assisted with the Boater's Safety Certification class for DNR and City employees on May 13th.
- Assisted with the season launch of Sweet Breeze on May 8th.

4 <u>Forestry Report- May 2024</u>

- Partnered with Trees Indiana, the Tree Canopy Growth Fund, and the Boys and Girls Club of Fort Wayne to plant 5 trees with the help of Boys and Girls Club students and staff. These trees are expected to enhance the children's experience at the Boys and Girls Club for generations to come.
- Met with the local Master Gardners Association to discuss all things involving community forestry. Members asked great questions and we had an engaging conversation.
- The 311 Call Center updated its existing platform. Change can sometimes lead to frustration but we are optimistic about some of the new features that are now available.
- Demonstrated proper seedling tree planting technique for Southwest Allen County School students. Following this demonstration, students planted 160 new trees at Summit Middle School.
- Our annual street tree inspection has begun. Each year, we inspect trees along all 1,300 miles of roadway in Fort Wayne. This process takes most of the summer and is expected to result in about 1,200 trees being identified as candidates for removal.
- Subcontractors continue to complete street tree removals throughout the City. These contracts were issued early in the year and are expected to be completed by mid-summer by mid-summer.
- In May, Forestry crews completed 91 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.
- In-house crews removed 27 trees in May. 8 street trees, 4 park trees, 9 resulting from storm damage, and 6 were the result of vehicle damage removals.
- Crews responded to and cleared 43 storm-related broken/fallen/hanging limbs. 5 of these were privately owned trees impacting the right of way.
- Responded to and closed 136, 311 Call Center requests for service this month. This represents a 48% increase from May of last year.
- Forestry staff reviewed 8 pruning requests from Indiana Michigan Power for powerline clearance. This has become necessary to ensure that the utility contractor practices comply with Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission protocol.
- Forestry Staff completed 6 tree-related property damage appraisals totaling \$7,175.00 in damages. The vast majority of these are the result of vehicles losing control and striking City-owned trees.

Botanical Conservatory Report – May 2024

- The 21st annual 'Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit' welcomed a staggering 15,373 eager visitors in May 2024. Color in Motion continues to prove its value as a regional attraction and essential life-cycle education exhibit, with over 2,700 school children enjoying the exhibit in May 2024.
- The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events in May 2024 including the Mother's Day Plant Sale (May 9-12), Mother's Day in the Garden (May 11-12), National Public Gardens Week (14-18), Spring Bonsai Show (May 18), Iris Flower Show (May 26), and Sales Garden Opening (May 28).
- Staff are gearing up for Camp ACTIVenture (Beginning June 10), Father's Day in the Garden (June 15-16), and Raise a Glass! Showcase Exhibit Opening (June 29), and several pre-registered programs and workshops throughout the month.
- Current vacancies include Seasonal Gardener (1) and Seasonal Maintenance Rentals (1) both are accepting applications. Two Camp ACTIVenture Counselors, Catherine Ahlersmeyer and Etheny McCall, and One Seasonal Gardener, Benjamin High (returning from 2023) have begun work.

Botanical Conservatory KPIs - May 2024 observed a 22.08% increase in attendance to May 2023, attributable to focused and sustained marketing efforts and enthusiasm for the offerings at the Botanical Conservatory. Membership revenue showed an immaterial decrease to May 2023, with the overall trend remaining over 9% above the same period last year. May 2024 was also the most successful revenue month in the history of the Conservatory Shop with an impressive 25.94% increase in revenue. Rental sales have slowed year-over-year, as availability for 2024 is very limited and Saturdays in 2025 are mostly sold through. Mother's Day Plant Sale revenue was up an impressive 18.07% to last year's record performance, with a total gross of \$124,437.02. Overall, compelling exhibit themes and inspired execution have continued to drive traffic.

Attendance	
May 2023:	12,593 visitors
May 2024:	15,373 visitors
An increase of 2,780 or +22.08% to 2023	
YTD Comparisons	
2023 Attendance:	47,865 visitors
2024 Attendance:	50,279 visitors
An increase of 2,414 or +5.04% to 2023	
Admissions Revenue	
May 2023:	\$48,075.00
May 2024:	\$57,858.00
An increase of \$9,783.00 or +20.35% to 20	23
YTD Comparisons	
2023 Admissions Revenue:	\$176,983.00
2024 Admissions Revenue:	\$198,960.00
An increase of \$21,977.00 or +12.42% to 2	023
Membership Revenue	
Membership Revenue May 2023:	\$8.633.00
May 2023:	\$8,633.00 \$8.491.00
May 2023: May 2024:	\$8,633.00 \$8,491.00
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023	,
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023 YTD Comparisons	\$8,491.00
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023 YTD Comparisons 2023 Membership Revenue:	\$8,491.00 \$47,628.06
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023 YTD Comparisons	\$8,491.00 \$47,628.06 \$51,928.00
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023 YTD Comparisons 2023 Membership Revenue: 2024 Membership Revenue: An increase of \$4,299.94 or +9.03% to 202	\$8,491.00 \$47,628.06 \$51,928.00
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023 YTD Comparisons 2023 Membership Revenue: 2024 Membership Revenue: An increase of \$4,299.94 or +9.03% to 202 Conservatory Shop Revenue	\$8,491.00 \$47,628.06 \$51,928.00 3
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023 YTD Comparisons 2023 Membership Revenue: 2024 Membership Revenue: An increase of \$4,299.94 or +9.03% to 202 Conservatory Shop Revenue May 2023:	\$8,491.00 \$47,628.06 \$51,928.00 3 \$33,368.23
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023 YTD Comparisons 2023 Membership Revenue: 2024 Membership Revenue: An increase of \$4,299.94 or +9.03% to 202 Conservatory Shop Revenue May 2023: May 2024:	\$8,491.00 \$47,628.06 \$51,928.00 3 \$33,368.23 \$42,024.98
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023 YTD Comparisons 2023 Membership Revenue: 2024 Membership Revenue: An increase of \$4,299.94 or +9.03% to 202 Conservatory Shop Revenue May 2023: May 2024: An increase of \$8,656.75 or +25.94% to 20	\$8,491.00 \$47,628.06 \$51,928.00 3 \$33,368.23 \$42,024.98
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023 YTD Comparisons 2023 Membership Revenue: 2024 Membership Revenue: An increase of \$4,299.94 or +9.03% to 202 Conservatory Shop Revenue May 2023: May 2024: An increase of \$8,656.75 or +25.94% to 20 YTD Comparisons	\$8,491.00 \$47,628.06 \$51,928.00 3 \$33,368.23 \$42,024.98 23
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023 YTD Comparisons 2023 Membership Revenue: 2024 Membership Revenue: An increase of \$4,299.94 or +9.03% to 202 Conservatory Shop Revenue May 2023: May 2024: An increase of \$8,656.75 or +25.94% to 20 YTD Comparisons 2023 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$8,491.00 \$47,628.06 \$51,928.00 3 \$33,368.23 \$42,024.98 23 \$128,775.62
May 2023: May 2024: A decrease of \$142.00 or -1.64% to 2023 YTD Comparisons 2023 Membership Revenue: 2024 Membership Revenue: An increase of \$4,299.94 or +9.03% to 202 Conservatory Shop Revenue May 2023: May 2024: An increase of \$8,656.75 or +25.94% to 20 YTD Comparisons	\$8,491.00 \$47,628.06 \$51,928.00 3 \$33,368.23 \$42,024.98 23 \$128,775.62 \$146,555.78

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

May 2023:	\$6,910.00
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 May 2024:
 \$2,695.00

 A decrease of \$4,215.00 or -61.00% to 2023

 YTD Comparisons

 2023 Rental Revenue:
 \$46,107.50

 2024 Rental Revenue:
 \$31,990.00

 A decrease of \$14,117.50 or -30.62% to 2023

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

May 2023:	\$111,053.87	(\$105,393.40 – Plant Sale)
May 2024:	\$128,704.66	(\$124,437.02 – Plant Sale)
YTD Comparisons		
2023 Other Revenue:	\$334,359.14	
2024 Other Revenue:	\$353,116.40	

Conservatory Total Revenue

May 2023:	\$208,040.10		
May 2024:	\$239,773.64		
An increase of \$31,733.54 or +15.25% to 2023			
YTD Comparisons			
2023 Total Revenue:	\$733,853.32		
2024 Total Revenue:	\$782,550.18		
An increase of \$48,696.86 or +6.64% to 2023			

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

- Staff submitted an application for \$8,628 support of conference expenses to the 2024 American Public Gardens Association (APGA) to the Arts United Capacity Grant Program. If funded, staff members Nate Cardelli (General Manager) and Amanda Amstutz (Supervisor of Public Programming and Volunteer Development) will attend a future conference.
- Staff applied for \$4,500 support of the 2024 Gnome for the Holidays Exhibit to the Wilson Foundation.
- Conservatory donations in March 2024 and April 2024 totaled \$164,940 ~ \$20 from Blake Stevenson as a general donation, \$160,940 from the Fort Wayne Park Foundation for Conservatory operations, \$50 from Julie Schoonover as a memorial for Julie McIntosh, and \$2,000 from Fort Wayne Metals for sponsorship of the 2024 ROOTS Music Fest.
- Staff submitted final promotional reports to WANE 15 and 103.9 FM for support of the 2024 Botanical Speedway Exhibit. These reports will enable us to approach these media for continuing support of upcoming exhibits.
- Promotional/complimentary tickets and fliers were distributed to 96.3 XKE for the 2024 Father's Day in the Garden. Provided information for and approved the station's promotional spots.
- Promotional/complimentary tickets were distributed to WANE 15 and Majic 95.1 for the 2024 Raise a Glass! Exhibit. Provided information and graphics for each station's promotional spots.
- Staff is organizing Conservatory photos, clippings, and historical information stored on floppy disks, CD-ROMs, and thumb drives and saving appropriately on the botanical shared drive folders. Also shared

pertinent information, history, and graphics/photos with Kelsey Gerig (Program Coordinator, Education & Interpretation) for the 40th anniversary panels/presentation she is creating for the 2024 Raise a Glass! Showcase Exhibit.

<u>Conservatory Public Programs</u>

Events

Mother's Day Plant Sale (May 9-12) - Held at the McMillen Community Center since 2011, the annual Mother's Day Plant Sale continues as a beloved community fundraiser in support of the Botanical Conservatory. Staff and volunteers with the Conservatory and Lawton Greenhouse are proud to have exceeded this year's goal with an impressive 18% increase from last year's records! This wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Parks Department in addition to 150+ volunteers over 6 days involving set up and the sale itself. In preparation for another successful year, staff continue to access areas of improvement with a shared persistence toward enhanced plant offerings and exceptional customer service.

Mother's Day in the Garden (May 11-12) - Total attendance was 2,772 visitors during this 2-day event when Moms receive free admission to the Botanical Conservatory. With 1,451 visitors on Saturday and 1,321 on Sunday, that is an increase of 22% in comparison to 2,276 total visitors in 2023. Looking ahead, staff intend to increase the number of free plants that are available "while supplies last."

Education

T'ai Chi Tuesdays (April 23-May 28) - Returning Instructor, Sandy Gebhard completed instruction of her six-week T'ai Chi course in spring. The class of 20 participants gave high marks as usual. Of the 13 who completed comment cards, 11 ranked overall satisfaction as 10 while the remaining 2 gave a 9.

Bonsai for Beginners (May 4) - Ten pre-registered participants enjoyed Bonsai for Beginners a program that is often requested by Conservatory guests. They learned about the art and history of Bonsai then planted and groomed their plant specimens while paying special attention to shaping limbs. In the second year of doing so, members of the Bonsai Club teach as volunteers and also as a method of recruitment.

National Public Gardens Week (May 14-18) - Conservatory guests who visit during this national celebration can discover all there is to see and do at their local public garden. As a special treat, Marigold seeds were given away as part of the celebration!

Youth Field Trips - In May of 2024, 52 groups totaling 2,721 students visited the Botanical Conservatory. In comparison, there were 1,626 students from 47 groups in 2023; 985 students from 23 groups in 2022; 152 students from 13 groups in 2021; no students in 2020; 1,959 students from 19 groups in 2019; and 1,703 students from 39 groups in 2018.

Plant Societies

Spring Bonsai Show (May 18) - This year, the Spring Bonsai Show was extended by two hours and ran the same as Saturday open hours from 10 am-5 pm. It also transitioned to the Magnolia Room, which both the Bonsai Club and the visiting public seemed to enjoy the change of room being more spacious and allowing guests to move more freely. Attendance increased to 783 as compared to 584 from the 2023 Spring Bonsai Show. This was an increase of 34%.

Iris Flower Show (May 26) - Conservatory attendance during the Iris Flower Show was 497. An interesting note, Conservatory members represented 60% of this year's guests at 298. Overall attendance was up 85% from the 269 guests who attended in 2023. The Northeast Indiana Iris Society continues to

present the show, and even though there were fewer blooms due to an early season, guests still thoroughly enjoyed this year's beautiful blooms on display!

Exhibits & Displays

Color in Motion (April 16-June 23) - The current showcase exhibit is among the most popular and is much anticipated by guests at the return of spring! With the live butterfly exhibit in its 21st year, high attendance numbers are anticipated especially concerning increased field trips. New this year is a beautiful butterfly bench in addition to a hydroponic system and backdrop of aquatic plants. Approximately 364 Butterfly Attendant shifts will be fulfilled by volunteers and staff over these next 10 weeks.

• Volunteers/Staff - May was another busy month of volunteer service! From May 7-12, over 150 individual volunteers made the Mother's Day Plant Sale possible including support received from Purdue Extension Master Gardeners, the Indiana Native Plant Society, and Fort Wayne Bonsai Club. Target employees, Easterseals Arc, and CAS students from the Center for Academic Success also volunteered in groups. This month at the Botanical Conservatory, 5 CAS students and 2 instructors completed a total of 36 hours also bringing them to their last day of service for the semester. At least 6 new volunteers joined the Conservatory and Lawton Greenhouse while 3 more volunteers trained as Butterfly Attendants. In all, 19 different volunteers covered 145 shifts as part of the Color in Motion butterfly exhibit. At the Front Desk, 8 volunteers covered 41 shifts while 10 volunteers covered 35 shifts in the Gift Shop. Two more volunteers trained in the Gift Shop and are being scheduled to begin shift coverage come June.

Upcoming

April 16-June 23: Color in Motion Live Butterfly Exhibit April 16-June 22: Dani Kiefer Art Exhibit: *Wild and Free* June 29-November 17: Raise a Glass! Garden Exhibit

June 1: Spring Plant Swap, pre-registered program
June 2 & 9: Breakfast with Butterflies, pre-registered program
June 10-July 26: Camp ACTIVenture, 6-week pre-registered program
June 15-16: Father's Day in the Garden
June 23-28: Showchange
June 29: Opening of Raise a Glass! Garden Exhibit

July 13: Daylily Show & Sale July 20: Jazzworks! Outdoor Concert July 21: Iris Sale

4 <u>Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture</u>

- Center for Academic Success (CAS) students worked diligently with Horticulture staff to do a final cleanup of a large patch of invasive wintercreeper after the removal work performed by a Vermeer branch location volunteer. Contractors then applied a thick layer of mulch to the entire bed to help smother out any other existing weeds. Throughout this year and into next year, staff will continue to treat the area to eliminate all wintercreeper. The area will eventually be planted to enhance the beauty of the Exploration Garden once the invasive weeds have been eliminated.
- Potted tropical plants and annuals were planted in the outdoor garden spaces to provide additional color and interest for Botanical Conservatory guests and for wedding rentals. Outdoor annuals were contract-grown to provide additional growing space in the Lawton Greenhouse to increase the number of plants available for the Mother's Day Plant Sale.
- This year continues a long tradition of growing new plant cultivars in our raised beds in the Exploration Garden. All-America Selections supplies seed to the Botanical Conservatory each winter and Lawton

Greenhouse staff grow the new plant varieties to trial and display for the public.

- All annual garden beds were again amended with locally sourced peat moss and thoroughly tilled. A noticeable improvement in the quality of the topsoil can be seen due to all the additional soil amendments during the last three seasons.
- Poinsettias have been selected for the Gnome for the Holiday Showcase garden and initial plants have been selected for The Floor is Lava Winter Showcase garden with plant selections being finalized in June.
- Contractors completed an additional fertilizer and weed treatment on all turfgrass areas at the Botanical Conservatory. The turfgrass health and vigor have improved substantially over the last two years due to comprehensive treatments.
- The Conservatory received a generous donation of a large *Philodendron giganteum*. This tropical vine will be planted as part of the permanent collection in the Tropical House. The giant leaves of this vine can be as large as five feet long and three feet wide.
- Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance
- The O'Neil Glass Company installed 3 new sets of doors and glass in the Jaenicke Room, Kessler Room, and Sales Garden. These replaced doors that had failing structures and poor ability to seal or secure the building. Koehlinger Security changed the lock sets to match our building and finalized security.
- Outside restrooms were opened for the season. Terrace Garden Reflecting Ponds were opened and issues were discovered with their ability to maintain an appropriate water level due to pipe failures. Staff are working on solutions and meeting with contractors as we try to come up with a plan of resolution.
- We have new conference tables and rental chairs we received from the Webstaurant Store for the Jaenicke Room and Kessler Room. The items were unpacked and organized, and the storage was rearranged to make a more efficient service area. These tables will allow for a cleaner, more streamlined presentation in these interior spaces.



Member's Preview Night kicking off the 2024 Mother's Day Plant Sale



Bonsai specimens on display by the Fort Wayne Bonsai Club



Beautiful Iris blooms displayed by the Northeast Indiana Iris Society



See the butterflies & refer to the guide as part of "Color in Motion"



CAS Students pulling tulip bulbs from the front flower beds



Volunteers assisting with setup of the Mother's Day Plant Sale



Pawpaw in Exploration Garden in bloom



New doors have been installed in the Kessler Room, Jaenicke Room, and the entry to the Sales Garden.

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

www.RiverfrontFW.orgwww.RiverfrontFW.org had 6,809 hits to the site this month and the Promenade Park link had 4,376 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 1,470 hits in May.

- Conducted Customer Service Training for Recreation staff in various locations.
- Released the following shows in May: Fort Wayne Children's Choir, New Millennium Jazz Orchestra, Fort Wayne Area Community Band (2 shows), Gladys Knight, and Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark Live in Concert/Fort Wayne Philharmonic.
- 4 Sweet Breeze launched on May 8th with great media attention.

- Working with Front Office staff on release of new APP. Soft launch at the end of May. Public launch in early June.
- **4 Web Statistics:** Users: 69,676 Hits: 202,781
- Completed 106 Design projects.
- Assisted with Theatre signage.
- Submitted a \$20,000 grant for Lifetime Sports Academy.
- Received \$480 from NIPSCO as part of an employee volunteer program that pairs a cash donation with volunteer hours.
- Assisted media sponsors with materials for upcoming summer programs including Senior Games, the Muddy River Concert Series, and the Salomon Farmers' Market.
- 4 Assisted with paid advertising agreements for Senior Games and Park and Play.
- Media promotions for Senior Games, Mother's Day Plant Sale, Input for Comprehensive Plan, Sweet Breeze, and IPRA Jobs video.
- Arranged for 17 media interviews with select staff.
- 4 May Media Mentions: 71
- Social Media Totals for May:

FB Followers	93,049
FB Reach	464,629
X (formerly Twitter) Followers	14,029
Instagram Flowers	25,875

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

After a cool and soggy April, May turned more seasonal. The golf courses continue to show tremendous activity and have already overcome the wettest April on record and show good revenue gains over a very strong 2023.

Here are the monthly and year-over-year numbers so far this year:

<u>MAY</u>	FOSTER	MCMILLEN	<u>SHOAFF</u>	
2023 REVENUE	\$69,201.75	\$42,608	\$94,716.50	
2024 REVENUE	\$69,518.50	\$49,674.50	\$104,476.75	
YTD 2023	\$107,793.25	\$68,161.75	\$145,448.50	\$322,403.50
YTD 2024	\$105,660.50	\$83,978.25	\$180,822.00	\$370,460.75 +15%

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager

- Korren
 K
- The Pufferbelly Trail bids will be opened on June 13th with construction beginning in August on this 1.8-mile section from Washington Center Road to the intersection of Lima Road and Ice Way and Glenbrook Square Mall.
- **4** The Covington Road Trail: Hadley to Getz construction will begin in mid-June.
- 4 The City had a ribbon-cutting for the Summit Park Trail and Sidewalk project on June 6th with Mayor Tucker.
- 4 The Liberty Mills Rd Trail from Middle Grove to the intersection of Falls Drive and Coventry Lane is 80% complete.
- Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails are off to great starts. We had over 60 walkers and runners and over 130 bicyclists attend the first events.
- ↓ Open Streets planning is in full swing. The event will be from Noon to 4 p.m. on August 18th.
- ↓ We are working on a federal grant for the 6-Mile Creek Trail.
- 4 The Parks Department will be resurfacing sections of the Rivergreenway along Spy Run Avenue Extended in June.
- 4 The Rivergreenway under Lower Huntington Road should open by the end of June as the bridge project wraps up.
- We have major erosion and cracks in the Rivergreenway along the Maumee River by the former Lakeside Golf Course. The trail has been closed for months due to flooding and has now been closed for more than a month due to erosion. We plan to put in a temporary stone path to get around the erosion area and then open the trail back up.



Division News and Media Coverage: Introducing the Fort Wayne Parks App

Fort Wayne, Ind –Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation announces the latest tool to help Fort Wayne residents discover recreation opportunities and connect to city parks. Get the free Fort Wayne Parks digital app today and access your favorite park services on the go.

With the Fort Wayne Parks app for mobile devices, users can register for a program, book a tee time, reserve a pavilion, buy tickets to a concert or a Sweet Breeze cruise, explore a park map, purchase a membership to the Conservatory, make a donation, call the main office and more.

"Creating or managing your Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation account has never been easier," said Director Steve McDaniel. "I encourage people to download and explore it today."

Find a QR code to download the Fort Wayne Parks App here or wherever you find your apps.

WANE, Former Councilman Didier proposes Tom Henry Memorial Pavilion https://www.wane.com/top-stories/former-councilman-tom-didier-proposes-tom-henry-memorial-pavilion/ WANE, Rohli Booker reflects on new role on City Council and tax abatements

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/rohli-booker-reflects-on-new-role-on-fort-wayne-city-council-tax-abatements/

Parks and Recreation Department Podcast – 2024 comprehensive plan

https://soundcloud.com/user-732441149/fort-wayne-parks-podcast-2024-comprehensive-plan-with-alec-johnson

Registration for the Fort Wayne Senior Games continues Until June 24

FWPR Community Center, 233 West Main Street, and other locations in Fort Wayne

Since 1979, the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Community Center has hosted the annual Senior Games. The popular event has expanded over the past 45 years. It offers 40 fun and challenging sports and game events for men and women aged 50 and above. The games promote the benefits of remaining active and physically fit and encourage all adults over age 50 to adopt a healthy, enjoyable lifestyle. Events are planned until June 27. Registrations are \$2 per event. Fort Wayne Senior Games event registrations are accepted up to two business days before the event. Download the entry form on the www.FortWayneParks.org website, or stop by the Community Center to pick it up. Follow the instructions and join the fun.

WANE, Parks Dept. restores Lakeside Garden after 200 plants destroyed <u>https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/parks-department-restores-lakeside-garden-after-200-plants-destroyed/</u>

WANE, Allen County proposes offices near new jail https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/allen-county-proposes-offices-near-new-jail-worries-about-transparency-ensue/

WANE, FWPD on gang activity

https://www.wane.com/news/fwpd-armors-up-as-younger-gang-members-with-more-deadly-weapons-hit-the-streets/

Lifetime Sports Academy continues

Monday to Friday, until July 19 McMillen Park, 3901 Abbott Street

The Lifetime Sports Academy is open to boys and girls ages 7-18 and offers free group lessons in the lifetime sports of golf, tennis, and swimming. The program operates Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Group lessons in golf, tennis, and swimming will focus on skill development, training, and participation and will be taught by certified coaches and highly trained professionals and volunteers. Participants may come as often as they wish and stay as long as they like. The Fort Wayne Community Schools summer lunch program will also be available at McMillen Park for Academy participants. The Lifetime Sports Academy is funded by the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department and Lifetime Sports Academy Committee and is offered free to area youth. Stop by on weekdays between 9 a.m.-3 p.m. to register, download a form at www.FortWayneParks.org, or call 260-427-6000 to request a brochure.

Muddy River Concert Series Wednesdays This Summer - 6:00 p.m. *Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street*

Enjoy live local music on the Riverfront from <u>*Wallen Road*</u> – on June 26, <u>*School of Rock,*</u> on July 10, and <u>*We are Checkmark*</u>, on July 24; along with food and drink to purchase from Teds Snack + bar at the Promenade Park Café.

Foellinger Theatre Community Concert: Fort Wayne Area Community Band

The much-loved free Community Concerts return to the Foellinger Theatre in June and July. All are welcome to take a seat in the covered outdoor theatre to experience live music on the hillside. On Tuesday, June 11, the Fort Wayne Area Community Band will present "Music for All Ages" beginning at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available at reasonable rates at the concession stands. The free Community Concerts are sponsored by PBS Fort Wayne. For more information about concerts and events at the Foellinger Theatre, please visit FoellingerTheatre.org.

McKinnie Commons Connections

Thursday, June 13, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Corner of McKinnie Avenue and South Anthony Blvd.

Join Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation on the second Thursday and final Sunday in June and July. The McKinnie Commons Connections events welcome the community to gather for entertainment, food, and learning opportunities to foster conversation.

20th Season of the Salomon Farmers' Market Wednesday, June 12, 4:00-7:00 p.m. and continuing each Wednesday until Sept. 4 *Salomon Farm Park 817 West Dupont Road*

Find fresh produce, baked goods, honey, and artisan crafts at this mid-week market. Stop by and say hello to the herd members—Mickie and Frankie the Highland Coos as well as the goats, miniature horses, and sheep.

WPTA, Lifetime Sports Academy feature https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/06/walk-park-lifetime-sports-academy/

WPTA, City announces 4th of July fireworks event <u>https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/05/city-shares-details-downtown-fort-wayne-fourth-july-fireworks/</u>

WPTA, FWPD Bike Unit gets new e-bikes

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/05/fwpd-bike-unit-gets-new-electric-bikes/

WPTA, City introduces new downtown Public Art Trail SoundWalk https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/05/city-fort-wayne-introduces-new-downtown-public-art-trail-soundwalk/

WPTA, Police: Gang violence in Fort Wayne different from other cities <u>https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/05/police-gang-violence-fort-wayne-different-other-cities/</u>

WFFT, Public Art Commission dedicates Public Art Trail SoundWalk <u>https://www.wfft.com/news/local/fort-wayne-public-art-commission-dedicates-downtown-public-art-trail-</u> soundwalk/article 374768ee-235c-11ef-a42d-973f4bb7768b.html

WANE, FWPD Bike Unit is increasing patrols and adding e-bikes to the fleet

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fwpd-bike-unit-is-increasing-their-patrols-adding-e-bikes-to-fleet/

Storytime in the Park

Wednesday, June 12, 9:30 – 10:00 a.m., and continuing *Wednesdays until July 31 Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

Join Allen County Public Library on Wednesday mornings for fresh air and children's literature at Promenade Park. Sessions will be held under the awning of the Park Foundation Pavilion. No preregistration is required for these free story sessions. There will be no Storytime on the *Juneteenth holiday (June 19).

Open Swim for Youth with Disabilities Sunday, June 16, 5:15 – 6:15 p.m., and continuing each Sunday until July 27 *Northside Pool, East State Blvd., and Parnell Avenue*

Northside Pool will host open swims for children with disabilities or special needs for one hour on Sunday evenings. The swim is free. Please check in before entering the pool. A parent must accompany each child in the water.

Sweet Breeze Tours

Thursday, June 13, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (60-minute tour), 7:15 – 8:15 p.m. (60-minute tour)

Saturday, June 15, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (90-minute tour), 2:45 – 3:30 p.m. (45-minute tour) Sunday, June 16, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. (90-minute tour), 2:45 – 3:30 p.m. (45-minute tour) South Dock Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

Travel Fort Wayne's rivers on Sweet Breeze, an authentic 1840 canal boat replica. This fully accessible tour provides an opportunity to learn something new about Fort Wayne through its riverfront. Choose 90-minute or 45-minute cruise options. Tickets are \$30 per person for a 90-minute cruise, \$23 for a 60-minute tour, and \$20 per person for a 45-minute cruise. Reservations can be made online at www.RideSweetBreeze.org, in person at the Parks and Recreation Offices (705 East State Blvd.), or by phone at 260-427-6000 during normal business hours. Walk-ups are welcome at the dock as space is available. Specialty tours are scheduled throughout the season. Visit the website to see all of the options.

Dani Kiefer: Wild and Free

Until - June 22, public hours - Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

Dani Kiefer is a teacher, graphic designer, illustrator, and fine artist. She received a Bachelor of Arts in graphic design and photography from the University of Saint Francis in 1999. Upon graduation, she moved to Chicago and began designing exhibits and marketing materials for the Field Museum of Natural History. She continued her career in Chicago at the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Lincoln Park Zoo where her brand design for the Pritzker Family Children's Zoo was awarded first place by the American Association of Museums. She currently teaches part-time at Concordia Lutheran High School, leads art workshops in her home studio, and designs communication materials and illustrations for a variety of clients. "I'm drawn to wildflowers. They thrive in the most unlikely of circumstances. They are strong, resilient, patient, trusting, wild and free."





Meet at 6:00 p.m.

Fort Wayne Running Club and the City of New Haven have joined the City of Fort Wayne and Fort Wayne Trails, Inc. to provide guided 1-mile/5k walks/runs beginning at different locations throughout the area! These 5k walks/runs are offered every other Thursday. All mobility aids are welcome at Tread the Trails, and participants are encouraged to lengthen/shorten the route as





Sweet Breeze is also available for private tours.

Monday-Wednesday, starting at \$1000 Thursday-Sunday starting at \$1,400 For booking information call or email: (260)427-5023 or ridesweetbreeze@cityoffortwayne.org





Come in, take a seat and enjoy the show!





Salomon Farmers' Market

Salomon Farmers' Market is a mid-week market focused on connecting the local community to farmers, producers, bakers and artisans that are within a 75-mile radius of Salomon Farm Park. We are committed to a "grower's market," where the majority of products that our vendors offer are grown, raised, and/or developed by the person selling them.

2024 Market Vendors

Glenn's Natural Honey S& B Sales Parr Farms Fresh Haven Farmstead C's Itty Bitty Greens Rocky Rhodes Bakery LLC Dragon's Keep Tea LR Farms Simple Bread

New Page Creations Salomon Farm Park Knotted by Lisa Loza Good -N-Full Farm Shannon Haven LLC F&K Designs LLC Old World Fudge Cedar Corner Produce

.....and others

Market Entertainment

Enjoy the sound of old brass bands while you shop. The bands will play outside the barn under the trees, weather permitting.

The Shepherd's Brass Quintet

June 19 New Horizons Bamd

American Legion Band of Fort Wayne

Remember When Duets

August 7 The Shepherd's Brass Quintet

> August 14 Remember When Duets

> September 4 Remember When Duets

Tour

Friday JUNE 21 7:30-9:00pm

ome celebrate the longest day of the year with a sunset cruise on the river! Grab a beer at the on-board cash bar, indulge in delicious hot dogs and burgers from Fort Wayne's Famous Coney Island, and enjoy a live performance by local folk-rock musician. Adam Baker

Ridesweetbreeze.org







Park & Play staff will bring free fun and games for youth ages 5 and up to a variety of Parks with two mobile recreation units. Two morning and two afternoon sessions Monday to Thursday and one session on Fridays will include a selection of sports, games, arts and crafts, fitness, nature, and outdoor educational activities.



WANE, TRAA update

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/traa-bill-killed-city-shifts-hope-to-tucker-administration/

Adams Radio Group, Public Art Commission to dedicate art trail sound walk https://www.1039waynefm.com/2024/06/05/public-art-commission-to-dedicate-fort-wayne-public-art-trail-soundwalk/

Registration for the Fort Wayne Senior Games continues June 3-27

FWPR Community Center, 233 West Main Street, and other locations in Fort Wayne

Since 1979, the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Community Center has hosted the annual Senior Games. The popular event has expanded over the past 45 years. It offers 40 fun and challenging sports and game events for men and women aged 50 and above. The games promote the benefits of remaining active and physically fit and encourage all adults over age 50 to adopt a healthy, enjoyable lifestyle. Events are planned from June 3 until June 27. Registrations on June 3 and after will be \$2 per event. Fort Wayne Senior Games event registrations are accepted up to two business days before the event. Download the entry form on the <u>www.FortWayneParks.org</u> website, or stop by the Community Center to pick it up. Follow the instructions and join the fun.

WBCL, City announces 4th of July fireworks event https://www.wbcl.org/news/fort-wayne-fireworks-show-announced

City TV, Neighborhood Presidents Meeting – June 2024 https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=73kGbuTIJpOpcDwP

WANE, City announces 4th of July downtown fireworks display <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/city-of-fort-wayne-announces-2024-4th-of-july-downtown-fireworks-display/</u>

Lifetime Sports Academy Begins

Monday to Friday, June 3 – July 19 McMillen Park, 3901 Abbott Street

The Lifetime Sports Academy is open to boys and girls ages 7-18 and offers free group lessons in the lifetime sports of golf, tennis, and swimming. The program operates Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Group lessons in golf, tennis, and swimming will focus on skill development, training, and participation and will be taught by certified coaches and highly trained professionals and volunteers. Participants may come as often as they wish and stay as long as they like. The Fort Wayne Community Schools summer lunch program will also be available at McMillen Park for Academy participants. The Lifetime Sports Academy is funded by the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department and Lifetime Sports Academy Committee and is offered FREE to area youth. Registration forms are available to download at www.FortWayneParks.org or call 260-427-6000 to request a brochure.

WELT Radio, 'Investing in the City of Fort Wayne' program with guest host John Felts interviewing Downtown Fort Wayne's Preston Wallace

https://soundcloud.com/mayorfw/downtown-fort-wayne?in=mayorfw/sets/investing-in-the-city-of-fort

The 20th Season of the Salomon Farmers' Market Kicks Off Wednesday, June 5, 4:00-7:00 p.m. and continuing each Wednesday until Sept. 4

Salomon Farm Park 817 West Dupont Road

Find fresh produce, baked goods, honey, and artisan crafts at this mid-week market. On June 5, enjoy the sounds of The Shepherd's Brass while you shop. Stop by and say hello to the herd members—Mickie and Frankie the Highland Coos as well as the goats, miniature horses, and sheep.

Storytime in the Park

Wednesday, June 5, 9:30 – 10:00 a.m., and continuing *Wednesdays until July 31 Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

Join Allen County Public Library on Wednesday mornings for fresh air and children's literature at Promenade Park. Sessions will be held under the awning of the Park Foundation Pavilion. No pre-

registration is required for these free story sessions. There will be no Storytime on the *Juneteenth holiday (June 19).

Open Swim for Youth with Disabilities Sunday, June 9, 5:15 – 6:15 p.m., and continuing each Sunday until July 27 *Northside Pool, East State Blvd., and Parnell Avenue*

Northside Pool will host open swims for children with disabilities or special needs for one hour on Sunday evenings. The swim is free. Please check in before entering the pool. A parent must accompany each child in the water.

WANE, Senior Games preview

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/the-winner-takes-it-all-at-the-2024-senior-games/

WANE, Update on The Pearl

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/a-look-inside-a-new-downtown-fort-wayne-development/

WANE, Parks and Recreation eyes 2025 for return of Headwaters Park splash pad

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-parks-and-recreation-eyes-2025-for-return-of-headwaters-park-splash-pad/

WANE, Promenade Park event from Sunday

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/paw-some-works-of-art-at-promenade-park/ Sweet Breeze sets sail this weekend for the 2024 summer season (msn.com)

WBOI, Mayor Tucker reflects on first 30 days in office <u>https://www.wboi.org/news/2024-05-30/fort-wayne-mayor-sharon-tucker-reflects-on-first-30-days-in-office</u>

WBCL, Mayor Tucker welcomes new FWFD recruit class <u>https://www.wbcl.org/news/fort-wayne-fire-departments-96th-recruit-class-welcomed-by-mayor-tucker</u>

City TV, On the Move program hosted by Councilwoman Chambers – Guest is Kelly Lundberg <u>https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=oC6M5sceNPRkoAP3</u>

WANE, Pat Pasterick receives Sagamore of the Wabash https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-business-owner-community-leader-receives-sagamore-of-the-wabash/

WPTA, City to replace Lawton Park Bridge

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/05/29/city-fort-wayne-replace-lawton-park-bridge/

WPTA, Feature on city pools overseen by Parks and Recreation https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/05/30/walk-park-fort-wayne-pools/

WFFT, City makes progress in plans to bring back passenger rail

https://www.wfft.com/video/city-makes-progress-in-plans-to-bring-back-passenger-rail/video_59c7d579-f68b-5040-bf0cbcc35de157b7.html

City Pools Open for the Season Saturday, June 1, 12:30 – 5:00 p.m. Bob Arnold Northside Park Pool, East State Blvd., and Parnell Avenue McMillen Park Pool, Oxford Street, East of Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation will open Northside and McMillen Pools for the season on Saturday, June 1. Public swim hours will be 12:30-5:00 p.m. A free swim for youth with disabilities will be held weekly beginning on Sunday, June 9, from 5:15 –6:15 p.m. at Northside Pool. For more information about special swim programs, lessons, punch cards, season passes, and pool/pavilion rentals, visit www.FortWayneParks.org.

City TV, "Public Works in your Neighborhood" program with Shan Gunawardena and Patrick Zaharako as guests discussing the 2024 construction season https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=Vz6RP2km4zWBMe93

WANE, Ten Point Coalition brings the community together after shootings <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/ten-point-coalition-brings-community-together-after-shootings/</u>

WANE, CTN conducts regional transportation study <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/ctn-conducts-regional-transportation-study-concludes-people-more-likely-to-skip-medical-appointments/</u>

Adams Radio Group, Splash pads led by Parks and Recreation to open this weekend https://www.1039waynefm.com/2024/05/23/splash-pads-open-saturday/

Free Concerts Coming to the Foellinger Theatre

Local musicians grace the stage this summer

Fort Wayne, Ind –Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation's Foellinger Theatre announces the return of the much-loved free Community Concerts this June and July. All are welcome to take a seat in the covered outdoor theatre to experience live music on the hillside.

- Jul. 9 Ft. Wayne Area Community Band (7:30 p.m.) "Salute to America"
- Jul. 17 New Millennium Jazz Orchestra, (7:30 p.m.) "25th Anniversary Show"
- Jul. 26 Ft. Wayne Children's Choir, (7:00 p.m.) "Choral Week Capstone"

Refreshments will be available at reasonable rates at the concession stands. For more information about concerts and events at the Foellinger Theatre, please visit <u>FoellingerTheatre.org</u>.

Inclement Weather Procedure: Any program changes, facility closures, or other weather-related adjustments will be posted to the FWPRD social media pages and website. If the Mayor declares an emergency, all Parks and Recreation facilities and programs will be closed or canceled.

WPTA, Bike to Work Day

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/05/17/city-fort-wayne-fort-wayne-trails-celebrate-bike-work-day/

WPTA, Booker wins 6th District seat

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/05/18/fwcs-board-member-rohli-booker-selected-fill-fort-wayne-city-council-6thdistrict-vacancy/

WANE, Booker wins 6th District seat

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/rohli-booker-wins-6th-district-city-council-seat/

WFFT, Booker wins 6th District seat

https://www.wfft.com/news/top-stories/rohli-booker-elected-to-represent-district-6-on-fort-wayne-citycouncil/article_e8cb458e-153a-11ef-a763-ab1e2e8b628b.html

WBOI, Booker wins 6th District seat

https://www.wboi.org/news/2024-05-19/rohli-booker-wins-allen-county-dem-caucus-for-vacant-fort-wayne-city-councilseat

Fort Wayne Politics, Booker wins 6th District seat

https://www.fortwaynepolitics.com/p/photos-rohli-booker-wins-caucus-to

Dani Kiefer: Wild and Free Until - June 22, public hours Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

Dani Kiefer is a teacher, graphic designer, illustrator, and fine artist. She received a Bachelor of Arts in graphic design and photography from the University of Saint Francis in 1999. Upon graduation, she moved to Chicago and began designing exhibits and marketing materials for the Field Museum of Natural History. She continued her career in Chicago at the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Lincoln Park Zoo where her brand design for the Pritzker Family Children's Zoo was awarded first place by the American Association of Museums. She currently teaches part-time at Concordia Lutheran High School, leads art workshops in her home studio, and designs communication materials and illustrations for a variety of clients. "I'm drawn to wildflowers. They thrive in the most unlikely of circumstances. They are strong, resilient, patient, trusting, wild and free."

WANE, Sit down interview with Chief Caudill

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/exclusive-fwpd-chief-scott-caudill-talks-glenbrook-traffic-stops-and-more/

WANE, Fort Wayne maintains Census ranking as 83rd largest city

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/were-83-fort-wayne-maintains-census-city-ranking/

WFFT, Fort Wayne seeing population growth

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/u-s-census-bureau-numbers-show-fort-wayne-is-the-fastest-growing-city-in-the/article_44066006-13d7-11ef-b25e-0b31993c232a.html

WPTA, Splash pads at City parks

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/05/19/multiple-splash-pads-fort-wayne-open-2024-season/

The **nine** area **Water Playgrounds** will open for the season on Saturday, May 25 at 9:00 a.m. They are located at the following parks:

Buckner Park	6114 Bass Road	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Franklin School Park	1903 Saint Marys Avenue	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Kreager Park (Taylor's Dream)	7225 North River Road	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
McCormick Park	2300 Raymond Avenue & Holly Avenue	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Memorial Park	2301 Maumee Avenue & Glasgow Avenue	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Promenade Park	202 W. Superior Street	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Robert E. Meyers Park	Inside the North Gate of Parkview Field on Jefferson Blvd.	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday, on days with no scheduled events)
Shoaff Park	6401 St. Joe Road	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Waynedale Park	2900 Koons Street & Elzey Street	9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

WPTA, 6th District caucus preview

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/05/16/fort-wayne-city-council-6th-district-caucus-candidates-address-residentswants/

WPTA, Conservatory feature

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/05/17/linda-likes-it-color-motion-botanical-conservatory/?tbref=hp

WANE, Parking app coming to downtown

https://www.wane.com/investigations/parking-app-coming-to-downtown-fort-wayne/

WANE, City Council approves funding for Historic Northeast 2035 project <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-city-council-approves-funding-for-historic-northeast-2035-project/</u>

WANE, Historic FW bridge gets funding, repairs coming soon <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/historic-fort-wayne-bridge-gets-funding-repairs-coming-soon/</u>

WANE, Trail etiquette

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/who-has-the-right-of-way-trail-etiquette-in-the-fort/

WFFT, City to host Waynedale Town Hall

https://www.wfft.com/community/city-to-host-waynedale-town-hall-with-information-about-4th-district-projects/article_ce533b5c-12cf-11ef-baeb-4b9470a49b33.html

WPTA, Parks, and Recreation seeking input on Comprehensive Park plan https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/05/14/fort-wayne-parks-recreation-seeking-public-input-park-plan-draft/

WANE, How much does Fort Wayne make on parking citations and where does the money go <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/15-finds-out-how-much-does-fort-wayne-make-on-parking-citations-and-where-does-the-money-go/</u>

WANE, Fort Wayne's tall grass/weed program returns <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/cutting-it-close-fort-waynes-tall-grass-weed-program-returns/</u>

WANE, Neighbors in uproar over proposed amendment in written agreement for St. Joe Township development <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/neighbors-in-uproar-over-proposed-amendment-in-written-agreement-for-st-joe-development/</u>

WPTA, FWCS honors late Mayor Tom Henry with the Friend of Public Education Award https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/05/14/fwcs-honors-late-mayor-with-friend-public-education-award/

Input Sought for Draft of Comprehensive Park Plan

Extended Comment Period Open Until August 2

Fort Wayne, Ind –After a year of gathering public input, meetings, and development, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation has released a draft of the Fort Wayne 2024 Park System Comprehensive Plan. The draft is available to view <u>online</u> and also in printed form at the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation office, 705 East State Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

"Our team is committed to enhancing the overall experience of our parks and recreational spaces," said Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Director Steve McDaniel. "We want to ensure that our parks continue to be welcoming spaces for everyone, which provide opportunities for relaxation, recreation, and community connection."

Feedback will directly influence the decisions that shape the future of our parks and can be provided through an online <u>survey</u>, or by emailing FWPR Deputy Director of Planning and Developing Alec Johnson at <u>Alec.Johnson@cityoffortwayne.org.</u> The comment period has been extended through to August 2, 2024.

WANE, Conservatory entryway is an urban oasis <u>https://www.wane.com/news/positively-fort-wayne/botanical-conservatory-entryway-is-an-urban-oasis/</u>

WANE, Housing of the future takes shape in Fort Wayne https://www.wane.com/top-stories/housing-of-the-future-takes-shape-in-fort-wayne/

WFFT, Mayor Tucker, and Parks and Rec dedicate new Boone Park playground <u>https://www.wfft.com/community/mayor-tucker-fort-wayne-parks-dedicate-new-boone-park-playground-in-the-nebraska-neighborhood/article_b31a4e68-0eef-11ef-8229-8f74a73fd374.html</u>

WPTA, a New accessible playground now open at Boone Park https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/05/10/new-accessible-playground-now-open-boone-park/

PBS 39, a Primetime program with local public transportation featured https://www.pbs.org/video/community-transportation-needs-assessment-hndntd/

Adams Radio Group, Public Works to lead resurfacing projects in census tract areas <u>https://www.1039waynefm.com/2024/05/09/78103/</u>

WFFT, City introduces Data Fort Wayne to access neighborhood information <u>https://www.wfft.com/community/city-introduces-data-fort-wayne-for-accessing-neighborhood-information/article_c731350a-0d4c-11ef-af71-53e3ec351f5b.html</u>

WFFT, Sweet Breeze back for the season

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/sweet-breeze-launches-into-the-st-marys-river-in-time-for-summer/article_f86adb1e-0d81-11ef-ad6e-fbb66b65d6db.html WANE, 'Living Local' program with a feature on the Fort Wayne Police Department's activities at the Public Safety Academy <u>https://www.wane.com/lifestyle/living-local-15/full-episode-may-8-2024/</u>

WANE, New city website showcases data on Fort Wayne neighborhoods https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/new-city-website-showcases-data-on-fort-wayne-neighborhoods/

<u>Seven-time Grammy Award Winner Gladys Knight to Play at Foellinger Theatre,</u> August 17

General and in-person sales begin Friday, May 17, at 10:00 a.m. Fort Wayne, Ind. –Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation announces that the Foellinger Theatre will host multi-genre artist Gladys Knight on <u>Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.</u>

The great ones endure, and Gladys Knight has long been one of the greatest. Very few singers over the last sixty years have matched her unassailable artistry. This seven-time GRAMMY Award winner has enjoyed #1 hits in Pop, Gospel, R&B, and Adult Contemporary, and has triumphed in film, television, and live performance.

All told, Knight has recorded more than 38 albums over the years, including four solo albums: "Good Woman" (1991); "Just for You" (1994); the inspirational "Many Different Roads" (1999); and "At Last" (2001). "At Last" showed the world that she still has what it takes to record a hit album, employing the talents of contemporary producers like Randy Jackson.

Knight has continued to spread her acting wings, making a guest star appearance in the FOX hit show "Star" and appearing in the film "Almost Christmas" in 2016, both of which were produced and directed by Lee Daniels. She appeared on ABC's 14th season of "Dancing with The Stars" in 2012. In 2019, she competed in the inaugural season of "The Masked Singer" and sang the National Anthem at Super Bowl LIII in Atlanta. Knight sang the National Anthem on yet another major sports stage at the 2021 NBA All-Star Game. This past 2022 holiday season she starred in "I'm Glad It's Christmas" on Great American Family and received the 45th Kennedy Center Honors for Lifetime Artistic Achievements along with George Clooney, Amy Grant, Tania Leone, and U2 in December. In addition, this past March she received the National Medal of Arts along with Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Bruce Springsteen, Jose Feliciano, and Mindy Kaling. This year she will be honored as a 2024 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree.

Her involvement in other creative undertakings, business ventures, and humanitarian activities has been extensive and has brought her honors from industry and community alike. In 2015, A portion of Atlanta's State Route 9 from Peachtree Street to 14th Street was officially named Gladys Knight Highway.

Local pre-sale tickets will be available from 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, with code SUMMER at <u>https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/050060AA3B4382E7</u>.

All general and in-person sales at the Parks and Recreation Department (705 East State Blvd.) begin Friday, May 17, at 10:00 a.m. For more information, visit <u>www.foellingertheatre.org</u> and click on Purchase Theatre Tickets.