

# Steve McDaniel, Director

- Construction on Franke Park Renaissance is moving right along. The new entrance off of Goshen Road, bridge over the Spy Run Creek, parking, and new pavilion are right on track for completion later this year.
- Work continues in Foster Park with City Utilities working on the Deep Tunnel Project. Also in Foster, we have held two public input meetings with residents to get their thoughts on how the gardens and park entrance should look once the green fences and construction materials are done. Our design team will continue to work with the information that was gathered.
- Brewer Park bids were received and we will be going to the Park Board and City Council for approvals within the next month. If all approve, then we will likely see construction start in September or October of this year.
- We are working through permitting for Riverfront Phase 2. One federal agency has put some unique requirements on our project and the team is working through them to determine impacts.
- We are also working through permitting for the Packard Park improvements. It is our goal to get this project out to bid within the month. It seems like we will be roughly behind the Brewer project by a few months. This gives our team time to manage both because they will be at different stages at the same time.
- As we move into August, we wrap up several of our summer programs. I want to take a minute and thank all of our staff for another great summer. The women and men of Parks and Recreation are so dedicated to providing great programs and facilities for our city. Thanks for a great summer.
- Staff and I met with Community Development and the development team from Browning to discuss new proposed public space at the former Pepsi site north of Promenade Park. We are at the very early stages of what this space might look like. As this develops, we will continue to share with the board.
- Alec and I were on Councilwoman's Chamber's television show sharing information about Parks and Recreation, our comprehensive plan, and future planning projects. This show is aired on public access through the library all month long.
- I had two guests, Rhonda and Kim, on the podcast to talk about the new Parks App. They were able to share how it came about, what is on the app, and who the app if for. I hope more citizens download it and use it to book programs, pavilions, tee times or many other options the app provides.
- The team and I met with new Councilwoman Booker to share what we do in Parks and Recreation. We also talked about park improvements and programming that happen in the sixth district.
- I attended the Friends of the Parks of Allen County's annual meeting. I listened to their presentation about cultural landscape reports and was also able to share with them some of our new improvements planned in several of the parks.
- We celebrated the closing ceremonies for this year's Lifetime Sports Academy. We had over 900 participate this year bringing our total up over 32,300 kids. The kids had completed 1,980 golf lessons, 665 tennis lessons, and 560 swim lessons. We awarded 33 sets of golf clubs and 15 tennis rackets.
- We had a great partnership with DeMarcus Beasley at Packard Park in July. This event brought skills lessons to those participating to help futsal and soccer to the youth. It is our hope that this is the first of many events like this with Mr. Beasley.
- The summer has held most of our free programming for the Foellinger Theater with performances from the Fort Wayne Community Band, New Millennium Jazz Orchestra, and the Fort Wayne Children's Choir. As we move into August and September, the theatre will become more active with Rockin the '80s, Lee Brice, Blues Travelers, Big Head Todd and the Monsters, Gladys Knight, High Kings & Gaelic Storm, Collective Soul, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Philharmonic with Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark, and Tesla.
- The team and I gave a tour of the Botanical Conservatory to Sarah Strimmenos the Director and CEO of the Foellinger Foundation. We are planning additional tours of this facility and the theatre in the near future.



- We kicked off summer with a press conference announcing the opening of the Senior Games. This was followed by a grueling game of table tennis with the Mayor and I competing against two Senior Games competitors.
- The team and I met with the Jennings Center Advisory Board to continue to discuss the future programming of the center. We meet every few months as the committee feels is appropriate.
- ↓ I attended the Public Art press conference to unveil the new downtown SoundWalk app covering several monuments and art displays.
- I joined the Mayor and Councilman Paddock at the tapping of the keg event for the German Festival. It was the first time that I was part of this event. It was a great time and I am honored to be part of the celebration.
- Alec and I did the latest podcast together talking about the Comprehensive Plan and the future of our parks. This newest episode can be downloaded and listened to now.
- We have been in talks with the City Property Manager about the land the city owns on Lower Huntington Road. This will be the home of the newest fire station. There will be a few acres of land that they are looking at opportunities. I shared with them that a small neighborhood park would be a great addition to the area. We met with Councilman Myers to gauge his feelings about this use and he was in favor of it.
- Parks and Recreation participated in the Waynedale Town Hall meeting with other city departments. This was very well attended with over 150 individuals. Before and after the presentation portion of the event, we hosted a table where attendees could come and ask questions. The entire event was well received by those in attendance.
- I attended the County's press conference where they re-opened Fox Island Park. Even though it was not our park, I think it is important to support our sister agencies when they are celebrating something of this magnitude. The park had been closed for just over two years after the devastating damage due to high winds and storms.
- We presented to the Park Foundation at their quarterly meeting. This gave us an opportunity to update them on the Comprehensive Plan and several of our construction projects.
- The staff dealt with extremely hot days this past month. The summer becomes more challenging when the temperature peaks like it did. The staff did great making sure that they were well hydrated, got into the shade where they could, and kept an eye on each other. They also did the same for all of those participating in our programs. Good job team!
- Our theatre team is preparing for the string of concerts that are planned later this season. Rick was able to book his first concert for next season. To my knowledge, this is the first time we have booked this far in advance. We can't announce yet who we booked until it is closer to next season.
- Construction continues at Franke and Foster Parks. Both projects are moving along and we can't wait for them to both be completed.
- We are starting our public input meetings concerning the gardens and entrance to Foster Park. We hope to get great input to guide us on our design after the green fence comes down.
- We are scheduled to meet with the developer of the Treeline District which was recently announced as the developer for the former Pepsi site just north of Promenade Park. Browning Development has some areas identified as public space. We will bring in our team to help define what that area will be so that it blends well with our Riverfront development.



# **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>Salomon Farm Park</u>

- The first three weeks of Farm Camp are complete, and so far, it's been a smooth season. In celebration of the 4th of July, camp staff will enjoy one week off. Camp will be closed from Monday, July 1st to Friday, July 5th, 2024, and will resume for Week 4 on Monday, July 8th.
- One space is still available in the 4-5 age group for Week 4, with all other weeks sold out at 30 kids per week. For the 6-11-year-old groups, all three remaining weeks are sold out at 120 kids each week. All weeks for FIT (Farmers in Training) are sold out at 12 kids per week. Spots are still available in the CIT (Counselors in Training) sessions for Weeks 4-6.
- Unfortunately, with the increase in rain in June, one-third of the dahlias planted in May did not survive. However, staff was able to save most of them and remain positive that the majority will thrive as the season progresses. The new irrigation system was tested and is working wonders, despite the increased rainfall compared to last year.
- The "Goat Meet and Greet" is a new program but has not gained as much popularity as goat yoga or the Highland cow meet and greets. Staff will reassess the animal programming and explore other ideas to better utilize the goats for interaction.
- With Old Barn rental availability in July, which is typically a less popular time, the rental coordinator Amanda Scherschel has been doing a fantastic job creating social media content to promote the space.

#### <u>Sweet Breeze Canal Boat</u>

- General public tours have been added to the website for purchase through the month of August. Sales have been slower this year compared to the last several years. To accommodate this trend, staff have adjusted the tour schedule. Currently, only two tours will run on Saturdays and two on Sundays until sales increase.
- Thursday night tours have been going well in June, and presales for July look promising.

## **4** <u>Franke Park Day Camp</u>

- The first three weeks of Franke Park Day Camp are complete, and so far, it's been a smooth season. In celebration of the 4th of July, camp staff will enjoy one week off. Camp will be closed from Monday, July 1st to Friday, July 5th, 2024, and will resume for Week 4 on Monday, July 8th.
- Limited space is available in the 6-11 age group for Weeks 4-6, and in the CIT (Counselor in Training) program for Week 5; all other spaces are full.

#### <u>Hurshtown Reservoir</u>

• Eden Lamb and Chuck Reddinger collaborated with Risk Management to reassess the policy on not allowing electric wheelchairs around the access road at Hurshtown Reservoir. This rule, which had been in place for many years, required review. Following a risk assessment at the reservoir, it was



decided that electric wheelchairs will now be permitted to travel around the access road, similar to walkers and bikers.

## <mark>↓ Golf</mark>

- 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.
- Bryan Keister reported that the Mad Anthony Par III irrigation pump has been replaced. They deeptined, over-seeded, and continued to water heavily to restore the burnt-up greens.
- Bryan Keister reported that the Wildlife Wrangler removed 48 geese from the Mad Anthony Par III in hopes of controlling the population that was getting out of control and causing a mess and hazard on the golf course.

## <mark>↓ Pools</mark>

- Daryn Schwartz reported that North Side and McMillen Pools have been running smoothly due in large part to having enough staff this season.
- Jeff Barney reported that the North Side Pool activity slide pump has been replaced and is functioning great.
- Daryn Schwartz stated that both pools were operating at full capacity during the hot weather.

# Lifetime Sports Academy

• Jason Smith reported that the Lifetime Sports Academy registration numbers and lesson attendance were up from previous years. He stated that they seem to be getting back to pre-Covid-19 numbers.

## McMillen Park Community Center

- Staff from Manchester College came to speak to the parents of the 11 and up group about a summer camp that will take place at the end of July. Multiple parents came to the parent meeting and signed up their children. The camp offers High School students a chance to stay on a real college campus and live in the dorms, to get a feel of what college life is all about. The children will also be given leadership classes and info on how to fill out FAFSA, an overall great opportunity for our older kids. Overall McMillen was offered 10 Scholarships valued at \$250 a child. All 10 openings were filled.
- There were 85 new registrations for June. The Kids Korner numbers have decreased due to the Youth Summer Program being in session.
- Parent's Night Out went well. The chosen theme for this week was "Being at the Beach" Mari Love, from the Indiana Autism Society, did a wonderful activity. She had the kids put their hand in glue and put their hand on a plate and she covered it with sand and a seashell. The children were so excited and they even got to pick out their seashells. They also had pizza and watched a movie
- During the summer, the youth Open gym program will be suspended due to the youth summer camp and lack of staff for evening hours. However, our adult programming will continue. The Summer Pro Basketball has started. Cardio Fit and Essential Steps are on a two-week break and will resume after their break is up. Both of the groups had an amazing performance at the Juneteenth Celebration at McMillen Park.

## Riverfront

• June begins the busy Headwaters event season at the Lincoln Pavilion on the East side of Headwaters Park. The Festival season kicked off at the West Side Pavilion with Arab Fest. This event continues to grow and will eventually move into other areas of the Park. Following the Arab Fest was the German Festival using both the East and West side Pavilions at Headwaters Park. German Fest had another



successful year fighting through construction and parking issues. Following German Fest was Rib Fest renting the East Side Pavilion. Although the Duck Street Parking lot was tighter for construction staging, they were able to fit BBQ vendors in the area to provide a great atmosphere for those attending the event. Greek Fest was directly after Rib Fest on the East Side. Although the weather was pushing into the 90-degree range plenty of people were able to come out for great food and music.

- Summer Promenade programming started with "Paint with Your Pup", on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event had 41 dogs and their owners come out to our annual Paint with Your Pup event where the dogs created their own paintings using Ziploc bags, paint, and spreadable treats. It was a rainy day, so the fact that we had almost as many walk-ins as we did pre-registrations was great to see.
- Storytime at Riverfront occurred every Wednesday morning at the Promenade Pavilion. This summer partnership with the Allen County Public Library to provide free story time each week began this month. We have had a good turnout so far, with as many as 23 people attending weekly. River Rangers kicked off its weekly Wednesday with the much-anticipated free summer learning program also beginning in June. The entire summer filled up in May, and we accepted up to 20 kids per session. Several of the kids are returning participants from last summer. So far, the kids have designed flying cars, learned about the earth's water cycles, and designed robots.
- Sunday Fitness Kickboxing and Yoga on the Riverfront, our monthly free fitness classes are continuing to have great attendance and it has been great to get to move the classes outside to enjoy the warm weather. This month, kickboxing had 27 participants which is the most we've had so far this year, and yoga had 103 participants at our annual "Yoga on the Bridge" session.
- The Fort Wayne's Children Choir performed at this month's free Sunday Heritage Concert. We had a huge turnout of 167 people attend the performance. The group used this as a local concert to prepare for their upcoming concert in New York City.
- Muddy River Concert Series started in June on the Auer Lawn with live music and drinks and foods from Ted's Snack Bar. We had two new bands perform at the Muddy River Concert Series so far Los Electro, a new local Latin band, and Wallen Road, a country group. Both concerts were well attended with between 125-150 people coming out to enjoy the free show.
- "Dance Promenade: Street Style break dance" classes were offered as a free, all ages break dancing class this summer for the community and have partnered with the local dance crew ICNH for instruction. In our first class we had 11 attendees. "Be Your Own Artist: Candle Canvases" was held on June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Promenade Park Pavilion. At this art class, participants painting on plain candles using melted colored wax to create a custom candle. 9 people attended this new art class. We partnered with Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana for our first annual "Paint with a Purpose" event, a family art and sensory expo this month, which took the place of our normal sensory expo that occurs in the fall. Several local organizations came out to share their resources with the community, such as Great Heights ABA, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Main Stay Music, Fort Wayne Ballet, SOAR Counsel, and Sunny Path. We had around 100 attendees.
- We partnered with the Sweet Breeze for Enchanted River Excursion: a princess party on the St. Mary's river. Sweet Breeze provided Tiana from Princess and the Frog, and Riverfront prepared a craft. The



plan was to do the craft on-shore for those not on the boat, but due to the rainy weather that day we assembled take-home kits so participants could do the craft indoors at a later time.

• During the month of June, Promenade Park hosted 14 rentals including graduation parties, wedding ceremonies and receptions, corporate gatherings, as well as large community events. Corporate gatherings included Lutheran Social Services, Coldwell Banker, Fort Wayne Metals, MedPro, and the Bowen Center. Community events included River Drums organized by Friends of the Third World and Spring Cycle organized by Fort4Ftiness. Overall, 4,255 guests enjoyed the several spaces Promenade Park has to offer.

# Community Outreach

- On June <sup>6th</sup>, Neil Miller and Riverfront Staff member Taylor Weldon tabled at Lunch on the Square and passed out information to 57 people.
- The Park & Play Program began June 3<sup>rd</sup>, with 88 participants the first week and numbers growing as weeks go on. In June, the Park & Play program has spent time at Packard, Hamilton, Waynedale, Shoaff, Psi Ote, Lions, Hanna Homestead, and Reservoir Parks. Special Friday events took place at Kreager Park, Lawton Park, and Camp Scott Wetlands.
- The First event in the McKinnie Commons Connections series took place on June 13th. 25 community members attended. The event included a DJ and participating groups included Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, Little River Wetlands Project, Allen County Health Department, Allen County Department of Environmental Management, St. Joe River Watershed Initiative, Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control, and the Fort Wayne Fire Department
- On June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm, the Fort Wayne Tincaps and Parkview SportOne held "Big League Basics", a baseball skills workshop for children at Weisser Park. Children enrolled in Weisser Park Youth Center, Jennings Youth Center, and McMillen Community Centers were invited to participate, alongside community members. Final attendance numbers are being processed.

# **4** <u>Weisser Park Youth Center</u>

- We had 100 registrations this period, making a total of 194 Summer Program Registrations. 138 youth have enrolled in our Summer Program (attending).
- ✓ <u>Summer Program Highlights</u>:
- Wits Play The youth had a fun start to summer recreational learning. They had a week of orientation in which they were introduced to our Team Leads and Foster Grandmothers, learned the rules, expectations and safety procedures. The youth was also able to share what they wanted to do with us this summer and was able to ask us any questions. We began playing games to help the youth learn names and get to know the other youth and Team Leads.
- **Recreation** Youth enjoyed a variety of old and new recreational group games, challenges, board games, sports and crafts. To name a few, the Egg Spoon Relay, Growing Line Relay, Clothes Pin Tag, Cats Tail, Potato Sac Race and Human Scavenger Hunt; put together jig-saw puzzles, played Domino's and UNO; played Flag Football, Gaga Soccer, Soccer and Grand Canyon and Bench Ball; and made 3D houses, Friendship Bracelets and Marble Mazes.
- **Positive Energy** The youth enjoyed a variety of fitness and health and wellness activities. They participated in aerobic exercises, yoga, line dancing, and meditation.



# ✓ **Outreach Highlights**:

- Center for Nonviolence is a new program added to our Summer Program. The program assists youth in developing self-confidence, critical thinking, and nonviolent leadership skills. They come three days a week. On Monday ages 5 7 meeting, on Tuesday ages 8 10 meet, and on Wednesday ages 11 and up meet. Thus far, the youth meetings have covered getting to know one another, positive friendships, and establishing rules for the safety of participants. The three age groups have connected with the Center for Nonviolence facilitators and enjoy the sessions.
- Team Reads has returned for our Summer Program and continues to be one of the most beloved outreach programs for our youth. Our youth have enjoyed two sessions of the teens reading them books, playing board games with them and each Wednesday receiving books to build their own personal library.
- The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) Art program had one session with our youth. The youth made Letter Collages using construction paper, multiple patterns, a variety of colored small pieces of paper, glue, and markers. The youth came up with some very creative Letter Collages.
- On Friday, June 14, 2024, we hosted the Fort Wayne Tin Caps and Parkview Sports Medicine's Big League Basics. The youth enjoyed learning the basics of baseball from the University of Saint Francis and Indiana Tech baseball and softball players. All participants were given baseballs, bats, and other baseball equipment. The youth enjoyed themselves and look forward to playing baseball in the near future.

## **4** Jennings Recreation Center

- Jennings has 212 summer program registrations and they have 132 youth enrolled. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, they had their highest attendance of 101, and their lowest on day one of the program was 51 in attendance. They have had an average of 66 youth per day based on the thirteen days of service (June 3-20, 2024).
- Jennings Summer Program has had a great first month! Most of the youth that are in attendance are new to the center so they are having fun learning. Jennings staff appointed some junior mentors (the youth that attend Jennings on a regular basis) to the new youth, to help them feel welcome and learn the Jennings Center. The staff used the first week and continued to use meal time daily to review the rules, expectations, and safety guidelines with the youth.
- Jennings youth do a variety of fitness activities set up like games, such as Would You Rather which have the youth choosing a side, and to get to that side they have to do some type of movement i.e. high knees, jogs, squats, etc. The Jennings Center team also takes the youth on walks around the neighborhood and to Hanna Homestead Park to play. The younger youth enjoy the playground while some of the others enjoy basketball, soccer, or doing laps around the walking path. They all love the multiple swings that Hanna Homesteads offers.
- Structured and unstructured games and activities. This also includes inside and outside play, a variety
  of table games, and electronics. They are enjoying "free play" where they choose their activities, which
  quite often, are a football toss or a mock football game, soccer, chalk drawing, Legos, making up dances,
  and doing TikTok challenges. Table games are not a big hit with this group of youth, they prefer being
  outside. Even the older youth are enjoying the playground area and the merry-go-round.
- Ms. Onnie led a finger-painting activity for the younger youth. They enjoyed being able to use their gloved fingers to draw a variety of



- The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) Art division came in and taught the youth how to make a colorful collage with letters and shapes. The ACPL Team Read has been to visit twice. The youth are enjoying being able to read with the teens and play games after.
- Erin's House has come to visit one time. They jumped in and participated in the activities we had going on, then split the youth up into groups to have discussions.
- Purdue Extension, the CATCH program, comes to visit with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This program teaches the youth about health and wellness. They do fun exercises and learn to make simple healthy snacks.
- Crocheting with Ms. Tasha, a group of boys and girls were excited to learn to crochet. Ms. Tasha has shown them how to do a simple stitch which they will be able to use to create their first project.
- With the hot weather and heat advisory given in June, Jennings did water days with the youth. They
  played various water games outside which allowed the youth to get wet as well as set up the sprinklers
  so they could enjoy running in and out of the water. The team also made fruit smoothies for the youth
  as a cool-off and healthy treat for them. The youth had a blast in the water and they really liked the fruit
  smoothies.

#### <u>July</u>

# **4** <u>General</u>

- Met with YMCA to discuss cross-marking opportunities
- Participated in stakeholder conversation with the consultant for the Visit Fort Wayne study

## **4** <u>Salomon Farm Park</u>

- Farmin' Fun Day Camp wrapped up its final week on Friday, June 26, 2024. Farm Camp staff will return on Monday, June 29, 2024, for a final cleaning day, end-of-year meeting, and lunch. Six camp counselors from Salomon Farm Camp will be utilized during River Camp, which runs Monday, July 29, 2024, to Friday, August 2, 2024.
- The flower U-Pick is now open! It began on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The hours of operation are Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, and Saturdays from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Weather and blooms permitting, the U-Pick will remain open until October. The front field is currently blooming, so the flower concession trailer is parked there. In a couple of weeks, it will move back to the west 6 acres flower field.
- Larry Hicks, Salomon Supervisor, and his team have been diligently working on the North Flower Garden. After a lot of rain, the area is looking fantastic and is ready for upcoming rentals and dinners in August.
- Outdoor dinners are back for the second year in a row. Last year, two dinners in the flower field were held, both of which sold out. This year, three dinners will be offered, with the first dinner on Saturday, August 17, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM. The dinners will now be held in the North Flower Garden, accommodating up to 50 people. The August dinner already has 38 reservations.
- The Salomon Farmers' Market is underway and runs from Wednesday, June 5, 2024, to Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Every Wednesday, local vendors pack the Old Barn with fresh produce, baked goods, artisan goods, honey, and much more! Market musical entertainment will also be available on



select dates, courtesy of The Shepherd's Brass Quintet, New Horizon's Band, American Legion Band of Fort Wayne, and Remember When Duets.

# **4** <u>Sweet Breeze Canal Boat</u>

- The Sweet Breeze operation is still operating on a reduced general public tour schedule compared to previous years. Two tours on Saturday and two on Sunday compared to four tours each day. Staff is re-evaluating the tour schedule and planning to try new strategies in the last half of the season to gauge interest and understand why sales are lower. Specialty tours, however, seem to be doing well.
- In July and August, more community tours were added. Tours on Tuesday, July 16, 23, 30, and August 6 and 13, 2024, were all included in the schedule. These tours are offered at a reduced rate of \$15 for a 45-minute tour instead of \$20 due to non-prime pricing. So far, these tours are performing well. The new tours were also promoted to 15 senior living communities. Additionally, some Friday night tours were added to the schedule to gauge interest, following the success of Thursday night tours.

#### <u>Franke Park Day Camp</u>

- Franke Park Day Camp wrapped up its final week on Friday, June 26, 2024. Camp staff will return on Tuesday, June 30, 2024, for a final cleaning day, end-of-year meeting, and lunch.
- The Counselor-In-Training potluck and awards ceremony is schedule for Monday, June 29, 2024 from 6:00 pm 8:00 pm at Franke Park Pavilion #1.

# 4 <u>River Camp</u>

- River Camp will take place from Monday, July 29 through Friday, August 2, 2024, at Shoaff Park Riverlodge Pavilion, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This one-week day camp has been running since 2017, aiming to expose children aged 8-12 to water activities, outdoor games, fishing, science experiments, canoeing and kayaking, hiking, river clean-up, and river safety.
- River Camp was sold out this year at 40 children enrolled with 23 children on the waitlist. Please note that parents can sign up for the waitlist multiple times.
- The River Camp staff consists of Salomon Farm Park day camp counselors, with Vivi Clark, who was the Assistant Supervisor at Franke Park Day Camp, serving as the Supervisor.

# McMillen Park Community Center

- The summer program is in full swing here at McMillen. The youth have been doing a lot of fun things throughout. One of the games the youth enjoy is a new game called full-court handball. This game can be played with soccer nets or a basketball hoop. Each team has 7 players on it, and the game is played with a football, the objective of the game is to throw the ball through the soccer net or to hit the rim on a basketball hoop.
- Project Reads from Allen County Library continues to come and read to the youth and provide them with books. Youth have been utilizing the pool and the new outdoor playground.
- Youth have taken a couple of field trips this summer as well, first, they went to the zoo and then they took a trip on a boat to see the three great rivers this city has to offer. The trip to the zoo lit the eyes of many the students, for many this was their first time at the Fort Wayne Zoo. For just about every student the rainforest attraction was their favorite because they were able to see snakes up close and personal, for others it was the sting rays because the children were given the chance to touch them. The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo has a fantastic farm towards the end of the zoo which allows you to feed and brush goats, for multiple children this was a first-time experience.
- The other field trip that the children went on was a boat ride, this was courtesy of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation. During the excursion, our youth were so excited, seeing all the birds and a family of



turtles which the children named "The Green Family" due to their shell color. Overall every child who went had an amazing time.

#### <u>Golf</u>

- Bryan Keister stated that he continues to go the bi-weekly "Big Dig" construction project progress meeting. City Utilities representatives reported that the second phase bid came in too high and that they would have to open cut to lay the pipe going towards the river. This creates a problem for Foster Golf Course moving forward.
- Dave Weadock reported that he is in the beginning phase of gathering costs for the reconstruction of Foster Golf Course holes that were damaged during the "big dig" process. The project will be bid out instead of doing it in-house.

#### <u>Pools</u>

• Daryn Schwartz and Ed Stange reported that a new circuit board had been replaced in the Northside Pool heater and it is now functioning properly. They no longer have to periodically reset it.

#### **4** Programs and Miscellaneous

- Daryn Schwartz and Jason Smith continue to get requests for various drone flying projects. The most recent one was to document the new setup for the Three Rivers Festival as well as the damage that it caused to the turf areas at Lawton and Headwaters Park.
- Dave Weadock and Jason Smith met with representatives from Hamilton Park Little League to discuss improvements that they would like for the Parks and Recreation Department to make to the three diamonds in the park. Dave Weadock asked that they put everything in writing and submit it.
- Steve McDaniel, Chuck Reddinger and Jason Smith continue to work with the Fort Wayne Women's Softball Association at Packard Park to find a location for them to play in 2025. They will be vacating the existing diamond due to the renovation of the park and the removal of the diamond. They have been presented multiple options but have not conveyed which one they would like to pursue.

## Riverfront

Promenade Park rentals were filled throughout July with Weddings, corporate parties, birthday • celebrations, and community events. The first rental was held on Saturday, July 6th with the Culture Shift challenge Rental. Culture Shift Challenge held its second annual Unity on the River event at Promenade Park on the Auer Lawn. This family-friendly concert brought in 100 attendees to enjoy musicians and comedy acts. The renter, Alex MacDonald, expressed gratitude and appreciation for welcoming their event to the park and is looking forward to hosting it next year. Odoo Inc. made a stop at Promenade Park on their roadshow to highlight the new features of Odoo 17. This event did an awesome iob of highlighting what their cutting-edge software services provide as well as offering audience-driven demonstrations for the 15 registered attendees. Young at Heart, a Three Rivers Festival event, was held once again at the Park Foundation Pavilion bringing in 39 attendees to enjoy lunch and many rounds of bingo. Jane Surrbeck expressed how much she loves bringing this event to Promenade Park and looks forward to it every year. Northeastern Indiana Water Trails partnered with Three Rivers Festival to bring their annual event, Pedal, Paddle, Play to Promenade Park. Riverfront Fort Wayne, along with many others, offered information about the services we provide to the community to over 150 attendees.



- Phong Dang and the Fort Wayne Korea Festival held their annual KPop Random Dance Play at the Sweetwater Bandshell Plaza. This year's event consisted of hour-long random dance challenges, a half-time break of performances by those who attended and offered a meet and greet for fellow KPop enthusiasts. This event brought in 75 attendees and delighted many observers enjoying Promenade Park. Tom Pappas reserved the Park Foundation Pavilion for his wife's surprise birthday party. It was the perfect venue to hold the birthday bash with comments of how great it was to open the large garage doors to enjoy the fresh air. 50 attendees enjoyed food from Shigs in Pit, fun music, and good company.
- SCAN had another terrific turnout for their annual Duck Race held at Promenade Park. The event organizers closed off Harrison Street to expand their event footprint for the several activities they brought including animals from Indiana Wild, bounce houses, music, and other kids' activities. The event saw over 550 attendees and was a great success for SCAN.
- Dance Promenade continued the Riverfront programming into July with our highest attendance yet with 14 and 28 people attending. It was great to partner with ICNH to provide this free class to the community.
- The partnered story time program with the Allen County Public Library continues to be a successful, free program with 60 (July 3), 11 (July 10), 40 (July 17), and 20 (July 24) attendees.
- River Rangers ended this month after a successful summer. This month, the kids learned about sustainability in the community with special guests from Texas Roadhouse bringing snacks, natural resources, river ecosystems, and dinosaurs where the kids got to excavate their own plastic dinosaurs from bricks made from sand and coffee grounds.
- This month for the Muddy River Concert Series we hosted School of Rock and We Are CheckMark. For the School of Rock, they did a dual show with not only the Fort Wayne location performing but also the SOR location from Louisville. A lot of the performer's family members attended despite the rainy weather that almost canceled the show. It ended up being held in the pavilion which made for a fun atmosphere for the smaller show of around 100 attendees. We Are CheckMark is always a crowd favorite, with over 125 attendees.
- Kickboxing and Yoga took place per usual on the second Sunday, with 14 kickboxing attendees and 53 yoga participants coming to enjoy the park. It was a smaller slightly crowd than normal due to the weather that day. Both instructors have also agreed to come back in the fall and we are excited to continue to offer these free fitness programs to the community.
- This month, the American Legion Band was the performer for the Sunday Heritage Concert Series. Despite it being a rainy day, 43 people still came out for the show.
- The Heartland Sings Opera brought their summer tour to Promenade Park, performing on two days (Wednesday the 17 and Friday the 19). Between the two shows, there were over 100 attendees.
- Be Your Own Artist continues to be a popular program with another month selling out with very limited marketing needed. The class filled up on July 25<sup>th</sup> and we ended up adding a few extra spots to accommodate people that missed out. The class created their own glass patterns on 6" x 6" squares,



that the instructor will take to her studio kiln and fire into the shape of a votive candle holder. She will then bring the projects back to the office for participants to pick up.

• Headwaters Rentals in July were related almost all to the Three Rivers Festival with them renting all areas of the Park for multiple weeks. Junk food alley was held on the Grassy Lawn on the East Side pushing the Midway rides to Lawton Park. The East Side Pavilion was home to live entertainment each night of the event from July 12th to 20th. The West Side was home to the arts and crafts vendors and the helicopter ride landing area. Besides the rainy weather, the event seemed to attract a lot of tourism and locals to Headwaters Park. Headwaters Park concluded with the Pride Fest held on July 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. This event was well organized and the Park was well-cleaned after the event.

# <u>Outreach</u>

- On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Staff from Pods, Youth Sports, and Park & Play took part in disabilities training with representatives from Easter Seal ARC. Lessons included Autism Awareness, Empathy Training, teambuilding skills, and question-and-answer sessions.
- The Park & Play Program continues to grow, with participation numbers increasing steadily as the program continues. In July, Park & Play is taking place at Lakeside Park, Packard Park, Waynedale Park, Psi Ote Park, Lions Park, Tillman Park, and Hamilton Park. Friday collaborations in July have included Safety Village on July 12<sup>th</sup>, with an estimated 65 children in attendance, and Easter Seals ARC on July 19<sup>th</sup> with an estimated 300 people in attendance. The event at Easter Seals ARC was in coordination with their yearly carnival. Park and Play will host its final Funtastic Friday event on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Promenade Park.
- McKinnie Commons Connections has continued into July, with events taking place on June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup>. June 30 had an estimated 50 people in attendance. July 11<sup>th</sup> had an estimated 70 people in attendance. The final installment will take place on July 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm and will include the G-Money Band and a snow cone truck.
- On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation joined Fort Wayne FC to put on a Futsal workshop with Demarcus Beasley at Packard Park. The event had about 100 attendees, with many coming from neighboring homes. Participants were invited to play games with other players and run drills that could help to improve soccer/futsal skills. Groups from Weisser Park Youth Center and McMillen Community Center joined, along with a group from Bridge of Grace Ministries.

# **<u>Community Center (Downtown)</u>**

- Mary Millus and early childhood therapist signed up for more information at the Disability Expo about the Sensory Clubhouse. She came for a tour of the sensory room and was very impressed. She is with a group of therapists who serve Allen and DeKalb counties and will pass on the information to all the other therapists in her organization. They would like to do individual and group sessions with their children.
- Karen went to Literacy Night at Whitney Young School and did a table for Parks and Rec. Lots of information was handed out to probably around 200 kids, parents, and teachers.
- Completed an interview for 21 Alive's Walk in the Park Segment on July 2<sup>nd</sup>



- Fox 55 News did a short story for the "Kids Who Care" Segments. Drew came and interviewed Caleb and a couple kids that were participating in the Lego Challenge. The story ran Tuesday 7/16.
- Linda stated that the Line Dance Class this summer, has been going great. Johnnie is a new instructor and people seem to be enjoying the class.
- Linda mentioned that we have a volunteer that comes in quarterly to help people with their cell phones. The help sessions always fill up, he will be doing 2 in the fall.
- The Community Center held a mid-season gathering on July 1 to celebrate half of the season and to receive Empathy Training by the Easter Seals. It was great to combine this meeting for seasonal staff with Park and Play. After the training we had lunch, played shuffleboard and cornhole, and had a great day. Afterward, the 2 Easter Seals trainers plus one seasonal staff toured the Sensory Clubhouse. One trainer gave a suggestion of doing a themed event and invite people to experience the Sensory Clubhouse. There have been 8 people here in July to use the Sensory Clubhouse which were all first-time folks. They gave excellent reviews and said they would be back!
- Our annual Lego Challenge was a tremendous success! We had 34 total participants and a total of 75 people in attendance. It consisted of a team challenge being a "Free Style" build to get as creative as possible. The solo challenge was centered around a "Transportation" Theme. Projects are on display and voting was open from the 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> with winners being chosen Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>. We used newer and more unique Lego pieces which the participants liked. Families of participants have been coming in waves to vote in person at the Center. In-person voting was up this year. We finished with 122 voting slips. Caleb created a QR Code for online voting that can be shared with participant's families and friends. We finished with over 250 online votes!
- There was a total of 542 participants in Senior Games this year. That is up from the 529 we had in 2023. We had approx. 42 volunteers with recorded hours.

## Weisser Park Youth Center

- We had 18 registrations this period, making a total of 233 Summer Program Registrations. 188 youth have enrolled in our Summer Program (attending).
- The youth had many enjoyable learning experiences. For example, friendly competitions such as African American History trivia game, domino chain competition, participating in story circles in which they developed group stories, and a marshmallow tower building competition. They also enjoyed STEM activities and projects such as creating solar ovens using pizza boxes while learning how solar energy works and baking smores in them, making helicopters out of popsicle sticks and learning how the wing shape impacts lift and energy, making bottle slingshots, making rubber band catapults and electricity flashlights using LED lights, cooper strips, batteries and paper clips and a virtual field trip into space learning about stars, planets, and galaxies.
- To assist the youth in learning to work together and to achieve goals, our team leads facilitated enjoyable new and familiar games and challenges. The youth played a tag game of Cops and Robbers, Tug O' War against the team leads and TeenWorks youth, a team walk challenge relay, a blindfolded obstacle course, a Hula Hoop tag game, and a Pass and Duck relay.



- During positive energy, the youth learned various ways they can maintain their physical and mental health and well-being. They participated in aerobic hip-hop dance routines, meditation focusing on breathing, and positive affirmations. We also added taekwondo twice a week with Devon.
- Lynda Heavrin worked with our youth in planting various vegetables and herbs for our gardening program. The youth are doing a great job of maintaining our patio garden.
- TeenWorks has been great in assisting our team leads in providing fun and active activities. They definitely brought the energy and fun we needed. The youth has requested a cheer team for several years. The TeenWorks students began a cheer team with approximately 20 youth participating daily. They have had stretching and conditioning workouts, are learning cheer routines and formation, learning the art of cheer performance, and are being encouraged to maintain good behavior and respect. TeenWorks also facilitates our daily arts and crafts. The youth have made Paper Bag Puppets, Ocean Silhouettes, Fish Paper Mache, Puzzle Collages, Rock Paintings, Water Color Paintings and Friendship Bracelets.
- Center for Nonviolence had 8 sessions with our youth. The youth continue to enjoy their sessions of FACES of Leadership. They discussed what a perfect world looks like to them and made a collage to represent their thoughts. Their session on Recognizing Body Language was great and the youth learned different types of power (power over, power with and power within). Sessions also included understanding emotions
- Team Reads had 7 sessions with our youth. Each session the Team Read read a book to the youth, the youth was able to read a book to their Team Read partner, they received books to take home and were able to play games with the Team Read staff.
- ACPL had 2 sessions with our youth. The youth enjoyed building towers using cardboard boxes.
- 18Youth were taken to Safety Village on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- On Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, we took 6 youths to participate in the Lego Challenge at the Community Center.

# Iennings Community Center

- Jennings Youth have enjoyed the Allen County Public Library Art program, creating a variety of collages, 3D art, and paintings.
- Purdue Extensions Nutrition- Ms. Cynthia met with 4th and 5th-grade students and taught them about healthy eating, why added sugars in foods are not good, and how to make a healthy snack.
- Erin's House- Mr. Erick and his team came out 3 times in July and played various games with the youth in 2 groups (5-9 and 10 and up) the games ended with them sitting and talking about emotions and how to deal with them in positive ways. His last visit on July 19th ended with a pizza party and fun.
- Allen County Public Library Team Read- The youth are really enjoying reading and games with team reading. Some youth that started out not wanting to read at all, are now taking turns reading pages with the teens. Allen County Library brought a guest from the Follinger Foundation to Jennings to observe the Team Read program in action with the youth. They also took some photos of the program.
- Ms. Betty, from the Jennings Advisory Council, volunteered 2 days per week to read with the youth. She chose books related to African American history. She read to youths ten and under as they followed



looking at the photos. Ms. Betty said she really enjoyed being able to read with them and she believes they all learned a little something. She also had a group with the older girls. It was a chapter book, book group (The Skin I Am In).

- Crochet with Ms. Tasha- Crocheting is not as easy as some thought but the youth (both boys and girls 9 and up) are trying to figure it out. Some have gotten the hang of the stitch and are on their way to making their very first crochet blanket or cupcaster.
- The Jennings Center daily programs such as enrichment, fitness and recreation are going great! The Jennings Center team is being creative with the group games and activities teaching the youth new skills and building on what they already know. The daily attendance for the center has a daily range between 67 and 88, averaging in the 70's.
- The youth love nature walks and playtime at Hanna Homestead Park. They have enjoyed some water activities on the very hot days in the grassy area at Jennings as well as some computer/iPad time inside, especially on the rainy days.
- Fridays are special treat days for the youth, so the team creates some special treats for them, such as popcorn, smoothies, rice crispy treats, or popsicles/freeze pops.
- 40-plus youth were able to enjoy a fun field Pontoon boat ride on July 15th. They all said it was very exciting.
- 12 youth were scheduled to go to the zoo on July 16th however, that trip had to be rescheduled to July 19th due to the power being out at the Zoo because of a storm the night before. 24 youths attended the ZOO field trip between July 18th and 19th.
- On July 15th Jennings Recreation Center's new supervisor, Chanell Ridley started.
- The Jennings Center Celebrated the last day of programming on Friday, July 26, 2024.

# Sandra Odisho – Finance Manager Payroll, Registrations, Budgets,

Rentals, Tickets Sales, Receptionist, Trust Fund Donations, Banking, Commercial Vouchers

#### <u>Payroll:</u>

- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 450 employees (137 full-time and 313 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending July 27<sup>th</sup> and paid on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.
- We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024:
  - Heavy Equipment Working Leader (Fund 121)
  - Heavy Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
  - Grounds Equipment Operator x 2 (Fund 121)
  - Maintenance Technician II (Fund 451)
  - Supervisor V Facility Maintenance Riverfront (Fund 439)
- Seasonal staff hiring is pretty light currently. Just a couple new hires for the Theatre as they approach their busy season and replacement staff for the locations that are open year-round as they lose staff due to school starting back up.
- Some seasonal workers have already begun the process of separation, with day camp and aquatic staff coming next.



• 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 summer programs are wrapping up. Almost all of the swimming lessons that we offered filled along with all six sessions of Camp ACTIVenture, Franke Park Day Camp and Salomon Farmin' Fun Day Camp.
- Also, very popular are our new pickleball classes. If anyone knows a pickleball coach send them our way!
- Fall registration begins Wednesday, August 7th. Front office staff entered 189 fall fee-based programs into our registration system. In addition to those 189 fee-based programs, the programming staff has put together some great special events!
- Kim and Rhonda participated in a Park Podcast about our new Parks App. They had a great conversation with Steve and hopefully enticed more people to download the app. It is a great tool, even if you never register for a program. It gives you access to a lot of general information about Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation.
- Every pavilion, both enclosed and open, were rented every Saturday and Sunday in July. In addition to that most pavilions were reserved every Friday. That is normal for June but we don't expect that in July. This is a testament to the great job the parks facilities crews do to maintain the pavilions so that users come back year after year and recommend them to everyone they know.
- The front office staff all received new computers in July as part of the City's IT refresh program.
- In July, processed accounts payable 714 invoices, 48 P-card statements 17 purchase requisitions, and two payroll periods.
- The Controller's Office announced a 2025 Budget Kickoff Memo in mid-June with various instructions and due dates. The completed 2025 Budget was submitted in July. The City Controller will meet with Departments to discuss their Budgets on an "as-needed" basis in July and August; 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.

# Payroll for June 2024:

- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 436 employees (136 full-time and 300 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending June 29<sup>th</sup>, and paid on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024:
  - Heavy Equipment Working Leader (Fund 121)
  - Heavy Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
  - Maintenance Technician II (Fund 121)
  - Supervisor IV Neighborhood Programs (Fund 121)
  - Maintenance Technician II (Fund 451)
  - Supervisor V Facility Maintenance (Fund 439)
- Seasonal staff is all hired in and summer programming is in full swing.
- We are working with IT and planning to rollout 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:

• Summer is in full swing at Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation. Pavilions are full, class registration has been strong and ticket sales for both the Sweet Breeze and Foellinger Theatre have kept us busy.



- June kept us busy with day camp customers wanting to be moved around between sessions which is a common occurrence when they register for these in March. We do our best to accommodate schedule changes when there is space available.
- June is traditionally the busiest month for pavilion rentals. The David Hefner Pavilion was reserved every day except for two days in June. All Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays were reserved system wide and many other weekdays got reserved at the last minute due to the weekends being full.
- The phones have been very busy this month. Citizens call with questions about our programs, events at Headwaters, Promenade, and Foellinger Theatre in addition to general questions about the parks.
- The new Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation App is taking off. We have had hundreds of people download and use the App. It is very user-friendly and an excellent addition to our marketing toolbox.
- All front office staff attended Emergency Action Plan training.
- We processed 682 accounts payable invoices, 45 P-card statements, 9 purchase requisitions and 3 payroll periods for the month of June.
- The Controller's Office announced 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.

# Steve Schuhmacher – Deputy Director of Park

# Maintenance, Facilities, Grounds, Projects Administration, Safety Compliance,

#### **Storeroom, Fleet & Mechanical Operations**

## **Facilities Maintenance**

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **345** for July. This is up from **441** in June.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Martin Luther King Bridge, McCormick Park, Lawton Park Skate Park, Packard Park, Hamilton Park, and McCulloch Park.
- Facilities Staff pressure washed the following locations: Headwaters Park Dock, Packard Park, Foster Park Playground, Taylor's Dream at Kreager Park, and Psi-Ote Park.
- There were several issues of vandalism that were addressed: McCormick Splashpad Restrooms- smoke and fire damage, McMillen Ballfield Men's Restrooms- smoke and fire damage, Shoaff Park Ballfield restrooms- Building damage along with fire and smoke, Packard Park- toilet paper and paper towel dispensers and building damage, and Swinney West- toilet paper dispensers
- Rockhill Park Shelter and Lions Park Pavilion each received new entry door locks.

# Maintenance Technicians

- The Hamilton Park shelter was repainted.
- In Packard Par, the Futsol nets were replaced and perimeter fencing was repaired, ahead of a community event featuring DeMarcus Beasley.
- Repairs were made to a section of boardwalk at the Lindenwood Nature Preserve.
- Lighting upgrades were completed at Freimann Square and the Foster Park volleyball court.
- New tennis court backboards were installed at Kettler Park.



- New tennis nets were installed at Swinney Park's tennis court following the court re-surfacing.
- Playground repairs continued at several park locations.
- There were 74 after-hours calls this month: 39 code issues, 8 lock calls, 1 plumbing call, 1 door call, 7 power issues, 4 alarm calls, 3 calls about items left at the rentals, 4 miscellaneous calls, 2 vandalism calls, 4 parking issues, 1 call about a splash pad, and 2 rental issues.
- Allied was hired to make repairs to the HVAC system at the McMillen Community Center.
- Havel did some repairs to the control system at the McMillen Community Center.

# Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment

- Mowers are keeping up with the 5-day mowing cycle.
- Rugby fall season will be starting this month and 2 fields will be striped and maintained.
- Crews assisted with storm clean up by removing limbs from the July 15<sup>th</sup> storm.
- Athletic crews started daily watering of multiple athletic fields.
- Ball diamond use has remained consistent, averaging five diamonds per day.
- Heavy Equipment has been busy with, delivering fibar, filling many holes with dirt, seeding and placing straw and has completed putting new stone at boat docks.
- The team borrowed a boom mower from the street department has been used at Rockhill Park, Tillman Park and Lakeside Park. We will continue to utilize it in August.

#### Lawton Garage/Operations and Highlights

- 192 work orders were scheduled this month, 35 of which were services.
- A new John Deere Gator was delivered from Truland Equipment. This UTV, equipped with a snow plow will be assigned to the Headwaters maintenance staff.
- The first round of new Motorola radios was shipped to the radio shop on July 15th for programming and setup.
- Almost every item on the 2024 equipment lease has been delivered. The only vehicle pending is a 2024 Ford Maverick ordered through Bob Thomas Ford.
- Both parks department passenger vans have been utilized for day camp programming this summer. With the Conservatory's camp wrapping up for the season, that van was returned to Lawton Park. The park and play van will return soon as well.
- Multiple tractor implements at Salomon farm were serviced and repaired to prepare for the fall harvest season.
- Mechanics have begun the process of switching utility trucks beds from 2006 facility route trucks onto new truck chassis. The wiring has been a challenge, but the cost savings compared to sending the trucks out to an upfitting vendor are tremendous.
- The bow thruster control was replaced on Sweet Breeze along with the sea cock valve being repaired.
- Trucks 160 and 161 we part of a recall from Ford which required the transmission computers to be reprogrammed. Bob Thomas Ford has a mobile repair service that was able to do the recall on-site at Lawton Park.
- Storeroom staff assisted with materials and supplies for the annual Mr. Mac Day at Kreager Park.
- As day camps wrap up for the season, staff has started checking in items that were loaned to those programs for the summer including radios, keys, and power tools.

#### Project Administration

- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement August installation planned.
- Botanical Conservatory Boilers Replacement Approval of project in progress. Work is to begin in late August.
- Brewer Park Construction Approval process ongoing.
- 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 Lighting Design Construction Drawings In progress.
- Headwaters Park Fountain Project planning in progress.
- Irish Town Plaza Construction Construction is planned for early August.
- McMillen Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project completed.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Construction Work in progress including abatement, steel repairs and steel coating.
- Various Parks 2024 Paving Projects Work in progress. Gren Park trail and Rivergreenway trail are yet to be completed.
- Various Parks Playground Borders and Drainage Project completed.
- Various Parks Playground Safety Surfacing Project completed.
- Various Parks Entry Identification Signage Project completed.

#### Safety

- The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on 7-30-24. 4 employees were present.
- 2 vehicle crashes were reported for this time period.
- 7 employee injuries were reported during this period.
- 27 work site safety checks were done.
- Preparations for 2025 Seasonal employees have begun.
- 1 CPR/FA class completed. 10 employees certified
- The IAA Conference was held at the PSA classroom.
- The review of Parks Safety SOPs continues.

#### Facilities Maintenance

- Pavilion rentals totaled: 441 for June. This is up from 300 in May.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations; Weisser Park, Martin Luther King Bridge, McCormick Park, Lawton Park Skate Park, Packard Park, Hamilton Park, Buckner Park, Swinney Park Japanese Pavilion, Lions Park, Johnny Appleseed, and Northside Park.
- Facilities Staff pressure washed the following locations: Lawton Park Playground Area, Lafayette Park Playground, Lakeside Park Playground, Swinney Park Japanese Pavilion, Weisser Park Shelter, Lawton Park Skate Park, Waynedale Park Shelter, Waynedale Gardens, Indian Village Sears Pavilion, Kreager Park Playground, and Kreager Park Shelter Areas.

## Maintenance Technicians

- The summer show change took place at the Botanical Conservatory over the week of the 24<sup>th</sup>. This included removing the butterfly lab and tent, then installing a pergola and sculpture for the "Raise a Glass" show.
- Several projects were completed at Waynedale Park including; re-painting the shelters exterior, replacing the horseshoe pits, and repairing several picnic tables in the park.
- A new activity pump for one of the water slides was installed at the Northside Park pool.
- Repairs were made to two different camp sites at the Johnny Appleseed Campground.
- Two sections of handrails were repaired and re-welded at Hamilton Park.
- Irrigation lines were repaired in the Promenade Park mechanical room.
- Repairs were completed on two ball diamond backstops at Kreager Park.

#### Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment

• Hot temperatures and very little precipitation have allowed mowing crews to work on mowing equipment that to ensure the machines work properly throughout the remainder of the season.



- The athletic field crew is maintaining 3 large soccer fields at Foster West, McMillen and all of the soccer fields at Kreager for daily use.
- The ball diamond crew has been prepping diamonds daily for softball and baseball use.
- Seasonal crews have worked on spin trimming in the parks.
- Heavy Equipment has begun working on the Harris Road property for the police K-9 fenced-in training area.
- The garbage truck is running every day including Sundays.
- The River Greenway experienced no flooding during June. Seasonal employees led by our Reliefs cut back overgrown areas along the trail system.

#### Lawton Garage/Operations & Highlights

- 135 work orders were scheduled this month, 30 of which were services.
- New 2024 Ford trucks had decals and emblems applied to them and seat covers were delivered. The beds and bodies for the trucks should be delivered to the installation vendor within the first few weeks of July.
- The forestry bucket truck #167 was involved in an accident at Lawton Park and the bucket had to be inspected. The fiberglass bucket ending up being cracked in the incident and a replacement was ordered and should arrive in mid-July.
- A new laptop computer was procured from Resultant for the garage. The old computer was having problems communicating with the Ford IDS software. The new computer should cure those technical issues.
- The new diesel pumps at Lawton were filled and are being used by over-the-road vehicles. A fire extinguisher, spill kit, and vinyl lettering were installed at the fueling station.
- A john boat was repaired for the riparian division to use as an extra work boat. This boat had not run in years and needed a tune up and a service so it could be utilized by the department.
- Van #179 was used by city utilities for a tour and Van #180 is being used by the Conservatory for their summer camp. A passenger van was also borrowed from the Fleet Dept. to allow the Park and Play program to operate 2 vans simultaneously.
- The Parks pontoon boat was repaired and able to perform tours on the river. Two of the senior game's rides had to be rescheduled while the boat was being worked on, but the repairs were successful and the boat is back in service.
- A new Little Wonder push blower was purchased to replace the older model that was stolen from Freimann Square.
- The John Deere barrel train ride had all of the safety upgrades completed and was transported back to Salomon farm. The Wheel Horse barrel train ride is getting the same upgrades and will be ready for use this fall at the farm festival.
- Storeroom staff continued to assist the day camp, pools, and other summer programs with supplies and materials.

# Project Administration

- Botanical Conservatory Linkway Interior Construction Project completed.
- Botanical Conservatory Boilers Replacement Approval of project in progress.
- Community Center HVAC Control System Upgrade is in progress.
- Foster Park Golf Course Restoration Plan Planning in progress.
- Foster Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project completed.
- Foster Park Pavilion #1 Ceiling Painting Project completed.
- Gren Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project completed.
- Headwaters Park Lighting Improvements Purchase order acquisition in progress.
- Irish Town Plaza Construction Construction is planned for early August.
- Kettler Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project completed.
- Lawton Park Trestle Bridge Purchase order acquisition in progress.
- McMillen Park Playground Equipment Replacement Installation in progress.



- Mechanic St. Bridge Construction Work in progress including wood deck removed, scaffolding set, abatement beginning.
- Salomon Farm Barn Entry Doors Replacements Project completed.
- Swinney Park Tennis Courts Recoating Project completed.
- Tillman Park Playground Sidewalk Project completed.
- Turpie Park Playground Equipment Replacement Project completed.
- Various Parks 2024 Paving Projects Work in progress. McMillen Park trail, Gren Park trail and Kettler trail yet to be completed.
- Various Parks 2024 Pavement Restoration Project completed.
- Various Parks Playground Borders and Drainage Final restoration in progress.
- Various Parks Playground Safety Surfacing Installation in progress at various locations.
- Various Parks Entry Identification Signage Fabrication in progress for Vesey, Sheldon, Daryl G. Cobin, Little Turtle Memorial, and Rudisill Parks.

#### **↓** <u>Safety</u>

- The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on 6-25-24. 3 employees were present.
- 2 vehicle crashes were reported for this time period.
- 3 employee injuries were reported during this period.
- 3 CPR/FA classes were held. 16 employees were certified.
- First Aid kits were delivered to rental pavilions.
- 22 work site safety checks were done.
- Emergency Action Plan training was completed for all facilities.
- Swimming pool inspection corrections were completed.
- The review of Parks Safety SOPs continues.

# Alec Johnson, Deputy Director of Planning & Development,

# Forestry, Landscape & Horticulture, Riparian and the CONSERVATORS

#### Planning Report – July 2024

- Construction continues at Franke Park, with positive progress being made daily. Recently received final permits for Spy Run Creek restoration allow that portion of the project to begin construction in mid-August, while the balance of the project remains on schedule for a grand opening later this fall.
- Riverfront Phase II bidding schedule and scope remain in flux, with new information regarding FEMA requirements coming to light in recent weeks. The team continues to work together to determine the most prudent path forward. However, we still anticipate the project going to bid this summer.
- We await final contract approvals for the Brewer Park Redevelopment project. Once in hand, we will proceed towards construction with Schenkel Construction.
- Packard Park Redevelopment project request for bids has been posted, with bids due at the end of August. We anticipate a contract being awarded in late summer, with construction to follow. The staff has been involved in efforts to share the final plan and project schedule with various neighborhoods around the park.
- Consolidation sewer projects continue at Foster Park. These projects are having a significant impact on the park both physically and in relation 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. We are in



discussions with CU to make final requests/determinations on site restoration as made necessary by construction impacts in the park, including in the area of the final consolidation sewer project that will connect Woodhurst Neighborhood to the deep rock tunnel via the park.

- Two public input open houses were carried out to collect community data for the Foster Park Entrance Design project. In addition, a digital public survey is live, posted on various outlets in three languages. The design team has completed an initial site visit and conversation with Foster Gardeners, and will soon move into the conceptual design phase.
- A facility-wide accessibility assessment was completed for the Conservatory in July. We anticipate receiving the draft report in the coming months, with community input and final reporting to take place this fall.
- Staff is assisting in the coordination of the efforts of the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association in the production and installation of interpretive signs for Wells St. Park and the Historic Wells St. Bridge. These signs are being funded by a grant recently awarded to the neighborhood.
- Staff has been in contact with CUE in coordination of the low-head dam removal projects on Spy Run Creek at Lawton Park.
- Staff has been working with various city departments and developers in an effort to coordinate various planning and development projects, including the Northeast Neighborhood Plan, Lofts at Headwaters, and the Treeline District.
- 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.

#### Horticulture and Landscape Report- July 2024

- The Lakeside Park team focused on daily litter pickup; watering/weeding/deadheading and fertilization of all annual beds; weekly mowing and spin trimming; sidewalk edging; fountain maintenance including vacuuming; landscape bed weeding and herbicide treatments; rose bed maintenance that included deadheading, fertilization, and pesticide treatments; mulching beds; trimming the Yews; limb removal after storm damage; and felling/cleanup of dead trees in the park.
- The Foster Park team focused on daily litter pickup; watering/weeding/deadheading and fertilization of all annual beds; sidewalk edging; fountain maintenance; landscape bed weeding and herbicide treatments; mulching beds; pruning spring flowering shrubs; perennial planting in the garden; limb removal after storm damage; and turf repair.
- The Downtown Team focused on daily litter and trash removal in downtown parks; daily fountain maintenance in Freimann Square; post emergent herbicide treatments at Headwaters, Promenade, and all other Downtown Parks; annual/perennial/shrub bed weeding at Headwaters, Riverfront IIA, Promenade, Freimann, Courthouse Green, Main Street Medians, Community Center, Meyers Park, Japanese Garden, and Little Turtle; and pruning shrubs at Promenade Park. The Gardeners also spent time cleaning up storm damage in Headwaters and removing/pruning shrubs behind the Hamilton Sisters Garden. Downtown staff had all their parks looking good before the 3-Rivers Festival.
- The City Team continued to mow Northside and Lawton offices weekly. Much of their time was spent on weed control. Post-emergent herbicide applications and general weeding/bed cleanups were made in Swinney, Indian Village/Sears Pavilion, McKinnie Commons, Jennings Center, Taylors Dream, Tillman, Vesey Greenway, Rockhill, Franke, Camp Canine, McCulloch, Memorial, Rudisill, Reservoir, Rea Park & Building, Shoaff, Lions, McMillen, Salomon, and Gren Parks. Both Swinney and Bluffton Road Letterbeds were weeded, fertilized, and watered regularly. Staff visited Foellinger Theatre for landscape cleanups before shows. Time was spent on weed control and mulching around Lawton Park, the Skate Park, and the MLK Bridge landscape beds preparing areas to look good for the 3-Rivers Festival. Staff also helped with storm



damage around the parks.

- City Team staff delivered 50 yards of mulch to the landscape beds along the Foster Park South floodwall. On July 12<sup>th</sup>, they helped direct 150 kids from Camp Neighborlink to spread the mulch in these beds.
- One additional seasonal staff team member began work on July 8<sup>th</sup>.
- As per the contract, Harlow Enterprises mulched all specified beds in Memorial Park.
- 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 continued sweeping the Freimann Square fountain every other week per contract.
- Aquatic Management continued to maintain the Thomas Property pond spraying for algae and submerged weeds as per contract.
- Volunteers worked 238.75 hours in the greenhouse in July.
- The SCFVA Judges meeting was held at the Botanical Conservatory. Conservatory staff sent an email inviting their volunteers to attend the meeting and several new judges signed up for shows. Gardeners who were interested in judging were trained at the greenhouse.
- Herb and vegetable pots were installed at Jennings, Weisser, and the McMillen Community Center.

## **Riparian Management Report- July 2024**

- Class A CDL training and test completed.
- The Guldlin boat ramp was maintained and the dock was kept clean and free from debris continuously throughout the month. All docks were maintained and pressure-washed throughout the month.
- Headwaters East main viewshed was cleared over several days. The team removed and treated approximately 7,000 sq. ft. of undesirables which totaled about 58,000 pounds (29 tons).
- Pruned river willow in Headwaters East which totaled approximately 12,000 pounds (6 tons).
- Assisted with the preparation of the annual Dragon Boat Races river event. The team built wooden fire pit structures to make the process safer and more time-efficient.

## **Forestry Report- July 2024**

- Planning for the 2024 fall tree planting project is well underway. 783 of the 800 street tree planting locations have been identified. Of these locations, 381 were identified through the Citizen Match Tree Planting Program. In total, we anticipate planting about 1,000 trees. 200 of these are expected to find their new home in a park.
- On July 10<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a 1-day tree appraisal course for the Indiana Arborist Association. The event was attended by 15 Certified Arborists from throughout the state.
- Collaborated with Community Development on strategies for supporting neighborhoods in their goals to improve/replenish tree canopy cover.
- The early morning hours of July 16<sup>th</sup> presented us with severe thunderstorms and the associated tree failures. While we are still receiving reports of related tree concerns, all roadways were passable within the first 24 hours and most of the debris was removed within 2 weeks. This took a tremendous effort from the forestry staff. In total, 163 storm-related tree concerns were resolved this month.
- In July, Forestry crews completed 69 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 113 trees in July. 20 of these were storm-related. This is a 39% increase from 1-year ago.
- 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 337, 311 Call Center requests for service this month.
- The Franke Renaissance Project is on schedule, as the project continues to take shape. All glazing has been installed on the pavilion, with exterior cedar siding being installed now. Site work continues, with the preparation of new drives and walks nearing completion. It was noted by MKS (construction manager) that as many as 50 workers have been on-site daily completing their respective work.
- We are still aiming for a late July/early August bidding for Riverfront Phase II. Our final permit (with USACE) should be in hand the first week of July. We'll be reviewing 100% CDs from the design team as they are made available, and passing them along to Hagerman for bid preparation. We are in the process of purchasing credits through the state's in-lieu fee program to satisfy mitigation requirements. A significant amount of time has been paid to coordination with the adjacent Schaab development, as well.
- Bids were received for the Brewer Park Redevelopment project; we anticipate a contract being awarded in the coming month, with groundbreaking to take place in late summer.
- The Packard Park Redevelopment project is nearly ready to bid; we anticipate this taking place late in July, with construction to begin this fall.
- Consolidation sewer projects continue at Foster Park. These projects are having a significant impact on the park both physically and in relation 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. We are in discussions with CU to make final requests/determinations on site restoration as made necessary by construction impacts in the park.
- 4 Public input meetings have been scheduled in July for the Foster Park Entrance Design project.
- ♣ We received a proposal for an accessibility assessment at the Conservatory, and will be entering into a contract with Skulski Consulting LLC in July. This assessment is being funded in whole by AWS.
- **4** Staff took part in a town hall meeting for Waynedale, along with several other City departments. The event was very well attended, and we were able to share information about several current and upcoming Parks projects.
- Staff prepared a number of projects to be included on the newly formed Engage website, illustrating and describing current projects to be shared with city residents.
- 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.

## **Horticulture and Landscape Report- June 2024**

- Volunteers put in 230.25 hours in the greenhouse. Two new volunteers started working in June.
- Various plants were supplied for the Conservatory Plant Swap on July 1 and Rosemary for Father's Day.
- Garden plots at the Community Gardens continued to be rented with a total of 74 plots rented for the season.
- Landscape staff completed the planting of annual flower displays at Swinney, Freimann, Courthouse Green, Lakeside, and Foster Park.
- Downtown and City team staff assisted in removing the spring Butterfly Show and installing the "Raise a Glass" summer exhibit during show change at the Botanical Conservatory this month.
- The Lakeside Park team focused on watering and maintaining the annual flowers that they installed, litter pickup, mowing, spin trimming, weeding, cutting down wild rose canes, limb removal after storm damage, mulching, trimming Yews, and vacuuming/maintaining the water feature.
- The Foster Park team focused on the cleanup and removal of spring bulbs, watering and maintaining the annual flowers they installed, litter pickup, limb pickup, cleaning the fountain, pruning spring flowering shrubs such as Lilacs and Rhododendrons, installation of new perennials, and weeding.



- The Downtown Team focused on post emergent herbicide treatments at Headwaters, Promenade, and other downtown Parks. Weeding was worked on continually at Headwaters, Riverfront IIA, Promenade, Freimann, the Courthouse Green, Community Center, and Meyers Park. The team pruned the Viburnums at Little Turtle Park and shrubs and trees at Promenade Park. Time was also spent on the irrigation systems, programming them properly as they were turned on.
- The City Team continued to mow Northside and Lawton offices weekly. Much of their time was spent on weed control. Post-emergent herbicide applications were made at Nuckols, Foster West, and Foster South/Floodwall, Spy Run extended, Buckner, Shoaff, McMillen, Rudisill, North Side, Kreager, Lawton, Swinney, Rockhill, Jennings Center, Jehl, Tillman, and Indian Village. They weeded Foellinger Theatre, Weisser Center, McMillen Clubhouse, McMillen Community Center, Franklin Park, North Side office, PSI Ote Pavilion, and Powell. They also spent time cleaning up Reservoir Park before the fishing derby, as well as pruning shrubs at the McMillen Community Center. Time was also spent on the irrigation systems, programming them properly as they were turned on.
- Landscape staff delivered several pots to McMillen and Jennings Center for the kids to use as gardens.
- The Japanese Garden fountain at the Arts United Center was installed and turned on.
- Landscape staff loaded, hauled, and dumped approximately 52 yards of mulch at Jehl Park. Approximately 75 volunteers provided by Neighborlink spent the morning spreading it on all mulch beds in the park. Volunteers also helped cut and remove Honeysuckle and other trees and shrubs growing through the fences.
- Two Memorial Benches were installed this month. One went in **Bob Arnold**/Northside Park and the other along the greenway trail south of Shoaff Park.
- One additional seasonal staff member was interviewed and hired this month. Their start date is July 8.
- Alexis Glover officially began the Lakeside Gardener Helper position on June 10.
- 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 continued sweeping the Freimann Square fountain every other week per contract.
- Aquatic Management continued to maintain the Thomas Property pond spraying for algae and submerged weeds as per contract.

## **4 <u>Riparian Management Report- June 2024</u>**

- Josh Chapman was hired for the seasonal crew.
- Barge general operation and safety training was completed for all seasonals. Class A CDL training continued with a hands-on skills training section for supervisors and will continue through the following month.
- Guldlin boat ramp was maintained and the dock was kept clean and free from debris continuously throughout the month.
- Bloomingdale's stone river access points were cleared from debris/litter and deposited silt.
- Silt accumulation along the south and north Promenade docks were flushed and checked for debris.
- Rivers were kept clear of deadheads and debris within the downtown area. Approximately 560 pounds (0.278 tons) of deadheads were removed using service boat.
- Approximately 5214 pounds (2.6 tons) of woody debris was removed from Jefferson Bridge and work still continues.
- Assisted Public Works with maintaining vegetation along all levees in the Downtown area.
- Powerhouse Youth Group volunteered to remove honeysuckle for 3 hours with 9 people totaling 27 hours, approximately \$900 of work, and 1320 pounds (0.66 tons) of honeysuckle from the Brookview neighborhood along Spy Run Creek. Volunteer group was educated on water quality and watershed concepts and well as



invasive species management.

- Assisted with developing an Invasive Species Assessment process that will improve and prioritize where to remove invasive plants in the future.
- Assisted Risk with the continuation of river-related policy and safety.

# Forestry Report- June 2024

- We were able to complete our annual street tree inspection in June. In total, 766 street trees have been identified as candidates for removal, with 684 of these being high priority. We expect to complete this process within our park properties throughout the remainder of the summer. 311 call inspections are likely to add more as well.
- Collaborated with the Public Works Department on a few upcoming projects. Street trees frequently conflict with other elements of infrastructure. Collaboration allows us to consider strategies for preserving trees while reducing the additional tree-related risks that result from the construction process.
- 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.
- In June, Forestry crews completed 34 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 30 trees in June. 23 were street trees and 7 were park trees. 8 of the 30 resulted from storm damage, and 2 were the result of vehicle damage.
- Crews responded to and cleared 66 storm-related broken/fallen/hanging limbs. 9 of these were privately owned trees impacting the right of way.
- Received and closed 180 call center requests (311) for service this month. This represents an 18% increase from June of last year. The increase is expected because we are no longer able to maintain a routine maintenance cycle.
- Forestry staff reviewed 4 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 5 tree-related property damage appraisals totaling \$6,800.00 in damages. The vast majority of these are the result of vehicles losing control and striking City-owned trees.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> annual 'Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit' welcomed a staggering 32,534 eager visitors in its nine weeks, boasting a nearly 20% increase to last year's attendance during the same exhibit. Color in Motion continues to prove its value as a regional attraction and essential life-cycle education exhibit, with thousands of school children enjoying the exhibit in 2024.
- The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events and programs in June 2024 including Camp ACTIVenture (Began June 10), Father's Day in the Garden (June 15-16), National Pollinators Week (June 16-22), and Raise a Glass! Showcase Exhibit (Opened June 29). Staff are gearing up for continued fun with Camp ACTIVenture (through July 26), Daylily Show & Sale (July 13), Jazzworks! Outdoor Concert featuring Ty Causey (July 20), Local Food Week (July 26 August 4), Botanical ROOTS Music Fest (August 2-3), and several pre-registered programs and workshops throughout the month.
- Current vacancies include Seasonal Gardener (1) and Weekend/Evening Receptionist (2). Applications are being accepted for a Seasonal Gardener and one Weekend/Evening Receptionist; an additional Weekend/Evening Receptionist candidate has been selected and is in the process of clearing.

## Botanical Conservatory Report – July 2024

• "Raise a Glass!" welcomed enthusiastic visitors into a space of celebration, boasting a stunning display of



vibrant color. "Raise a Glass!" marks the end of the Botanical Conservatory's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with an inspired art glass display featuring reimagined pieces from the Botanical Conservatory's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit, "Kaleidoscope", which earned the Botanical Conservatory, at that time, a feature in the Chicago Tribune; the artist behind "Kaleidoscope", James Michael Kahle, visited "Raise a Glass!" in July and was inspired by the display. Also featured prominently are glass flowers by local glass blower Eran Park, owner of The Glass Park, and a pergola with a faux-glass ceiling constructed by the team of talented Maintenance Technicians at Lawton Park.

- The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events and programs in July 2024 including Camp ACTIVenture (through July 26), Daylily Show & Sale (July 13), Jazzworks! Outdoor Concert featuring Ty Causey (July 20), and Local Food Week (July 26 August 4). Staff are gearing up for Botanical ROOTS Music Fest (August 2-3), Open Streets (August 18), and Be A Tourist in Your Own Hometown (September 8), as well as several pre-registered programs and workshops throughout the month.
- Current vacancies include Seasonal Gardener (1), applications are being accepted. Two new Weekend/Evening Recentionists have begun their employment. Julia Andorfer and Samantha B
- Weekend/Evening Receptionists have begun their employment, Julia Andorfer and Samantha Boylan. Botanical Conservatory KPIs
- July 2024 charted notable increases to July 2023, a nearly 10% increase in attendance was observed in what is typically considered one of the slowest months of the year for both revenue and attendance. The Conservatory Shop charted an impressive 38.89% increase, outpacing the attendance increase. Overall, compelling exhibit themes and inspired execution have continued to drive traffic.

Attendance	
July 2023:	5,433 visitors
July 2024:	5,967 visitors
An increase of 534 visitors or +9.	.83% to 2023
YTD Comparisons	
2023 Attendance:	65,242 visitors
2024 Attendance:	67,505 visitors
An increase of 2,263 visitors or +	-3.47% to 2023
Admissions Revenue	
July 2023:	\$24,255.68
July 2024:	\$28,465.68
A decrease of \$4,210.00 or +17.3	36% to 2023
YTD Comparisons	
2023 Admissions Revenue:	\$250,859.68
2024 Admissions Revenue:	\$273,856.68
An increase of \$22,727.00 or +9.	06% to 2023
Membership Revenue	
July 2023:	\$5,083.00
July 2024:	\$5,452.00
An increase of \$369.00 or +7.269	% to 2023
YTD Comparisons	
2023 Membership Revenue:	\$59,811.06
2024 Membership Revenue:	\$63,116.00



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	An increase of \$3,304.94 or +5.53% to 2023				
	Conservatory Shop Revenue				
	July 2023:	\$17,251.88			
	July 2024:	\$23,961.32			
	An increase of \$6,709.44 or +38.89% to 2023				
	YTD Comparisons				
	2023 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$178,833.34			
	2024 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$200,783.88			
	An increase of \$21,950.54 or +12.27% to 2023 Rental & Catering Fee Revenue				
	July 2023:	\$5,141.00			
	July 2024:	\$4,490.00			
	A decrease of \$651.00 or -12.66% to 2023				
	YTD Comparisons				
	2023 Rental Revenue:	\$60,788.50			
	2024 Rental Revenue:	\$43,865.00			
	A decrease of \$16,923.50 or -27.84% to 2023				
	Other Revenue (includes Activity Enrollments, Donations, Plant Sale, etc.)				
	July 2023:	\$2,555.18			
	July 2024:	\$9,732.16			
	YTD Comparisons				
	2023 Other Revenue:	\$338,675.47			
	2024 Other Revenue:	\$363,519.62			
	Conservatory Total Revenue				
	July 2023:	\$54,286.74			
	July 2024:	\$72,101.16			
	An increase of \$17,814.42 or +32.82% to 2023				
	YTD Comparisons				
	2023 Total Revenue:	\$888,968.05			
	2024 Total Revenue:	\$945,141.18			
An increase of \$56,173.10 or +6.32% to 2023					
Botanical Conservatory Business Development					
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- The Conservatory received support of \$8,628 from the Arts United Capacity Grant Program to cover staff expenses to attend the 2025 American Public Gardens Association (APGA) annual conference.
- Staff applied for \$5,000 support of the 2024 Gnome for the Holidays Exhibit to the M. E. Raker Foundation. Also sent the final grant report for their support of the 2023 Timeless Tradition Exhibit.
- Staff submitted an application for \$10,000 support of the 2024 Gnome for the Holidays Exhibit and the 2025 The Floor is Lava! Exhibit to the PNC Charitable Trusts.



- Promotional and complimentary tickets were distributed to 96.3 XKE for the 2024 ROOTS Music Fest. Provided information for the stations' promotional spots. Complimentary tickets were provided to Fort Wayne Metals for their support of the 2024 ROOTS Music Fest.
- Complimentary tickets were provided to Sycamore Tree Care for their sponsorship of the 2024 Raise a Glass! Exhibit.

#### Conservatory Public Programs & Events

- ✓ Jazzworks! (July 20)
  - This year's attendance held to the level of 2023 with a total of 366 guests who were undoubtedly drawn by headliner, Ty Causey. The audience enjoyed the opportunity to groove to the music and also took advantage of a perfect view of fireworks on the last day of the Three Rivers Festival. Rider Productions continued as an excellent sound provider in addition to Shigs in Pit & Mad Anthony Catering who remain to be an excellent catering provider. Representatives with WBOI were superb emcees and sponsors while the crowd also enjoyed Greg Shoup as an emcee with WANE sponsorship. Of the total attendance, 50 were members accounting for 14% of the guests suggesting this event adds value to the benefits of a membership.

#### ✓ Education

- Camp ACTIVenture (June 10-July 26)
  - This field-tripping, high-adventure day camp is unlike any program in Northeast Indiana!
  - Returning for its third year, Camp ACTIVenture guided campers through active, adventurous experiences that teach new skills, foster community, and develop a sense of accomplishment. The Botanical Conservatory was home base where staff served 12 campers per week over 6 weeks. This program was supported by two seasonal camp staff.
- Daylily Show & Sale (July 13)
  - The Fort Wayne Daylily Society presented a diverse and beautiful display of Daylilies to begin the Three Rivers Festival. Select specimens were also for sale. Several members of the society were present to answer questions and discuss the colorful blooms.
- Iris Sale (July 21)
  - Members of the Northeast Indiana Iris Society returned to sell a variety of Irises and to answer questions as to how to best grow these beauties. Numerous guests took advantage of the occasion!
- Local Food Week (July 26-August 4)
  - A community celebration of local foods included the Botanical Conservatory as an event destination to highlight the "incredible, edible" plants within the indoor gardens. During this week-long event, guests received free admission with mention of the scavenger hunt activity in partnership with Northeast Indiana Local Food Network.
- Youth Field Trips
  - In July of 2024, 4 groups brought 75 children to the Botanical Conservatory. There was 1 group of 20 children in July of 2023; 6 groups totaling 149 children in 2022; 1 group of 26 students in 2021; 1 group with 12 students in 2020; and 4 groups totaling 76 students in 2019.

#### Exhibits & Displays

- Raise a Glass! (June 29-November 17)
  - A stunning showcase, this year's summer/fall exhibit commemorates a final celebration of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Conservatory guests find themselves in



awe as they enter the garden to see a large center pond with varying levels of hanging glass bowls. These colorful bowls from a 2004 exhibit have been renewed from storage and repurposed 20 years later as a major feature in 2024. Hand-blown by artist James Michael Kahle, they are available for purchase and pickup at the end of the exhibit. Also featured are glass-blown flowers locally made at Glass Park. In addition, there is a beautiful, abstract sculpture and a captivating pergola that was built on-site to reflect rays of light. Let us come together to celebrate the continued health, happiness, and success of this community treasure. Cheers to a vibrant future!

- From Concept to Celebration (June 29-November 17)
  - The latest display in the Gallery Hallway highlights the history of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory from an original idea to its current-day 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is truly awe-inspiring to see how much has happened over the years! A collaboration of archives from both the Foellinger Foundation and Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory made this visual timeline possible.

#### • Volunteers/Staff

 At the Front Desk, 8 volunteers covered 37 shifts while 12 volunteers covered 44 shifts in the Gift Shop; a 13<sup>th</sup> volunteer trained. Two volunteers as part of the SWAT Garden Team in addition to volunteers with Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana helped to keep the gardens tidy. A total of 7 volunteers ensured a smooth operation during Jazzworks! while an eighth volunteer prepared a festive setting by placing lights and grooming before the event began.

#### • Upcoming

- o June 29-November 17: Raise a Glass! garden exhibit
- o June 29-November 17: From Concept to Celebration, visual timeline
- August 2 & 3: Botanical ROOTS Music Fest
- o August 6-27: T'ai Chi in August, pre-registered program
- September 3-24: T'ai Chi in September, pre-registered program
- September 7: Fall Plant Swap, pre-registered program
- September 8: Be A Tourist in Your Hometown
- September 13 & 14: SCFVA Blue Ribbon Show
- September 21: Fall Bonsai Show
- September 30: Installation of the Pumpkin Path Display
- Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture
  - Additional herbicide treatments have been applied to all outdoor garden areas at the Conservatory to eliminate problematic weeds growing in the outdoor spaces with notable progress observed throughout the outdoor gardens.
  - Contractors completed an herbicide treatment on the Conservatory turf areas to target yellow nutsedge, crabgrass, and yellow nutsedge.
  - Permanent plantings were installed on the south bed of the Tropical House to include plant species that were not currently in the Conservatory permanent collection. These include pineapples, Chinese fan palm, foxtail palm, signature plant, a new Heliconia species, and new elephant ears cultivars. Plants were selected that can withstand extreme temperature swings due to the close proximity of the glass panes in the summer and colder temperatures in the winter due to the proximity of the vents.
  - Conservatory Staff attended the tradeshow at the Cultivate Conference in Columbus, OH. Staff were able to procure finished plants available for immediate sale in the Conservatory Shop as well as plant plug trays to produce future plants to sell in the Conservatory Shop. These plants were purchased for a significant discount due to vendors lack of desire to ship the plant products back to their growing facilities in Florida and across the country.



- Significant headway has been achieved in managing the three wintercreeper berms around the glass houses of the Conservatory. Staff have diligently worked to prune the wintercreeper branches back hard to contain the shrubs and to create an attractive hedged side facing the edges of the berms.
- Plants have been selected and plugs purchased for the Gnome for the Holidays holiday showcase and The Floor is Lava winter showcase. Plants with hot colors such as red, orange, and yellow will be incorporated into the winter showcase to give visitors the feeling of lava and provide a bright and vibrant garden to enjoy during cold winter days.
- Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance
- Koehlinger Security installed new magnetic locks on the interior connector door at the Atrium to secure the building.
- Project Management has been facilitating the 2024 glass panel replacement with O'Neil's Glass, which has sealed leaks over the Magnolia Room and will begin the replacements of glass panels and further sealing in August.
- Fax Quotes have been solicited for the replacement of a damaged ceiling video screen in the Kessler Room, as well as new window treatments for Jaenicke Room and Kessler Room.
- Homeland Security met with staff and approved the annual Amusements Permit, allowing the Botanical Conservatory to host public events.



Ty Causey brings the crowd to its feet durina Jazzworks!



Campers enjoying water day during week 4 of Camp ACTIVenture





Beautiful blooms on display during the Daylily Show & Sale

#### Botanical Conservatory KPIs

• June 2024 charted modest decreases to June 2023, which in attendance/admissions revenue and conservatory shop are generally attributable to having two fewer days of the Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit traffic in 2024, as compared to 2023. Q2 2024 wrapped up with a nearly 3% increase in attendance to 2023, an 8.68% admissions revenue increase, and a nearly 6% membership revenue increase, with overall revenues up 4.6% to Q2 2023. Overall, compelling exhibit themes and inspired execution have continued to drive traffic.

2023. Overall, competing exhibit memes at	iu inspireu exect	
Attendance		
June 2023:	11,944 visitors	
June 2024:	11,318 visitors	
A decrease of 626 visitors or -5.24% to 2023	3	
YTD Comparisons		
2023 Attendance:	59,809 visitors	
2024 Attendance:	61,541 visitors	
An increase of 1,732 visitors or +2.90% to 2023		
Admissions Revenue		
June 2023:	\$48,801.00	
June 2024:	\$46,431.00	
A decrease of \$2,370.00 or -4.86% to 2023		
YTD Comparisons		
2023 Admissions Revenue:	\$225,784.00	
2024 Admissions Revenue:	\$245,391.00	
An increase of \$19,607.00 or +8.68% to 202	23	
Membership Revenue		
June 2023:	\$7,100.00	
June 2024:	\$5,736.00	
A decrease of \$1,364.00 or -19.21% to 2023	3	
YTD Comparisons		
2023 Membership Revenue:	\$54,413.06	
2024 Membership Revenue:	\$57,664.00	
An increase of \$3,250.94 or +5.97% to 2023	3	
Conservatory Shop Revenue		
June 2023:	\$33,368.23	
June 2024:	\$30,266.78	
A decrease of \$2,538.35 or -7.74% to 2023		
YTD Comparisons		



2023 Gift Shop Revenue: 2024 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$161,581.46 \$176,822.56		
An increase of \$15,241.10 or +9.43% to 2023 Rental & Catering Fee Revenue			
June 2023:	\$9,540.00		
June 2024:	\$7,385.00		
A decrease of \$2,155.00 or -22.59% to 2023			
YTD Comparisons			
2023 Rental Revenue:	\$55 <i>,</i> 647.50		
2024 Rental Revenue:	\$39 <i>,</i> 375.00		
A decrease of \$16,272.50 or -29.24% to 20	23		

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

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June 2023:	\$2,018.76
June 2024:	\$671.06
YTD Comparisons	
2023 Other Revenue:	\$337,255.29
2024 Other Revenue:	\$353,787.46
Conservatory Total Revenue	
June 2023:	\$100,827.99
June 2024:	\$90,489.84
A decrease of \$10,338.15 or -10.25% to 202	23
YTD Comparisons	
2023 Total Revenue:	\$834,681.31
2024 Total Revenue:	\$873,040.02
An increase of \$38,358.71 or +4.60% to 202	.3

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

- Staff researched potential funding from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for support of the 2025 ROOTS Music Fest, it is a feasible ask and requires a 50 % match from other non-federal funds. Possible matches nationally may include the Mellon Foundation, and locally the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, area foundations, and corporations. Staff determined to make the ask in 2025 for funding for the 2026 event. This strategy will allow more time to research and make connections with local ROOTS musicians which will lead to a stronger application with an additional focus on music education and performance and sharing the ROOTS artistry between our performers and aspiring music students.
- Staff submitted final promotional reports to 21Alive and 97.3 WMEE for support of the 2024 Color in Motion Live Butterfly Exhibit. These reports will enable us to approach these media for continuing support of upcoming exhibits.
- Staff submitted final promotional reports to FOX55 and MAJIC 95.1 for the 2024 Mother's Day Plant Sale. These reports will enable us to approach these media for continuing support of upcoming special events and exhibits.



- Staff submitted final promotional reports to 21Alive and MAJIC 95.1 for the 2024 Mother's Day in the Garden. These reports will enable us to approach these media for continuing support of upcoming special events and exhibits.
- Staff submitted the final promotional report to 92.3 XKE for the 2024 Father's Day in the Garden. This report will enable us to approach this media for continuing support of upcoming special events and exhibits.
- Promotional and complimentary tickets and fliers were distributed to **WANE 15** and 89.1 **WBOI** for the 2024 Jazzworks! concert. Provided information for the stations' promotional spots.

#### Conservatory Public Programs:

#### ✓ Events

Father's Day in the Garden (June 15 & 16) - This event underwent some exciting revisions and enhancements in its third year! While a plant giveaway was maintained along with free admission for fathers and father figures, food and bar service were paired down to Sunday when the Spicy Bird served food and Hop River Brewing Company served beer. On Sunday from 12-3 pm, all event offerings were available outdoors where lawn games were also added. Furthermore, guests enjoyed music by the G-Money Band and art by figure drawing artists from Artlink, \*Plein air artist Jeff Baumgartner, and balloon artist Sunbeam the Clown. Overall weekend attendance was up 16% with 1,094 guests. Sunday's attendance was 502 from 12-3 pm, which is up 63% from 2023 during the same time frame. Membership attendance was up 50% as was free adult admission, suggesting a much larger number of fathers and father figures who attended this year. \*Plein air painting is the practice of painting finished pictures outdoors, in direct contact with nature and the elements. The term comes from the French phrase en plein air, which means "in the open air".

#### ✓ Education

- Spring Plant Swap (June 1) This popular semi-annual Plant Swap included 37 participants who brought plants and plant starts from their collection to swap. The Botanical Conservatory and Lawton Greenhouse supplemented the event by contributing plants, which delighted guests as everyone left with more plants than they arrived with! Hosted by Conservatory volunteer Denise Lock, this free event continues to receive outstanding feedback.
- Breakfast with Butterflies (June 2 & 9) Inspired by Breakfast with Santa, this remains to be a popular preregistered program in spring! The first program served a maximum enrollment of 48 participants with a waitlist of 10 while the second program served a total of 40 participants. As part of the experience, participants enjoyed breakfast catered by Classic Café, a more private visit with the butterflies, a paperbutterfly craft for the young, and exclusive access to the gardens. Interestingly, a few couples enjoyed this program sans children, suggesting an appeal to an adult audience.
- T'ai Chi for Balance (June 4-July 9) Although class minimum was set at 10, T'ai Chi for Balance ran with 7 participants. An interest had been previously expressed via a program comment card to pursue the practice with a focus on developing balance, which instructor Liz Monnier was happy to accommodate.
- Camp ACTIVenture (June 10-July 26) This field-tripping, high-adventure day camp is unlike any program in Northeast Indiana! Returning for its third year, Camp ACTIVenture guides campers through active, adventurous experiences that teach new skills, foster community, and develop a sense of accomplishment. The Botanical Conservatory is a home-base where staff are serving 12 campers per week over a period of 6 weeks.



• National Pollinators Week (June 16-22) - The Botanical Conservatory celebrated pollinators while highlighting its butterfly exhibit and honey bee observation hive. A table with pollinator-friendly handouts and free wildflower seed mixes was also on display and offered to guests throughout the week. This included a quiz highlighting five different pollinators – bee, beetle, butterfly, fly, and hummingbird. In all, 250 seed packets were distributed.

#### ✓ Youth Field Trips

In June of 2024, 13 groups brought 371 students to the Botanical Conservatory. There were 22 groups with 884 students in June 2022; 13 groups totaling 152 guests in June 2021; no groups in 2020 during the COVID-19 closure of the facility; 19 groups that brought 1,959 students in 2019; and in 2018, 39 groups brought 1,709 students.

## Exhibits & Displays

- Color in Motion (April 16-June 23) This annual showcase exhibit is among the most popular and is much anticipated by guests at the return of spring. New in 2024 was a beautiful butterfly bench in addition to a hydroponic system with a backdrop of aquatic plants. In its 21<sup>st</sup> year, high attendance numbers were anticipated especially regarding increased field trips. A total of 32,534 guests visited during the duration of this year's live butterfly exhibit, which is a 19.99% increase of 5,421 guests from 2023!
- Dani Kiefer Art Exhibit: Wild and Free (April 16-June 22)

*Wild and Free* is a collection of 25 pieces of acrylic, watercolor, and ink portraying Midwest urban and botanical scenes. The artist states, "I am drawn to wildflowers. They thrive in the most unlikely of circumstances. They are strong, resilient, patient, trusting, wild and free." Dani Kiefer 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. A public artist reception was held on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

- Raise a Glass! (June 29-November 17) An absolutely stunning showcase, this year's summer/fall exhibit commemorates a final celebration of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Conservatory guests find themselves in awe as they enter the garden to see a large center pond with varying levels of hanging glass bowls. These colorful bowls from a 2004 exhibit have been renewed from storage and repurposed 20 years later as a major feature in 2024. Hand-blown by artist James Michael Kahle, they are available for purchase and pickup at the end of the exhibit. Also featured are glass blown flowers locally made at Glass Park. In addition, there is a beautiful, abstract sculpture and a captivating pergola that was built on-site to reflect rays of light. Let us come together to celebrate the continued health, happiness, and success of this community treasure. Cheers to a vibrant future!
- From Concept to Celebration (June 29-November 17)
   The latest display in the Gallery Hallway highlights the history of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical
   Conservatory from an original idea to its current-day 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is truly awe-inspiring to see how
   much has happened over the years! A collaboration of archives from both the Foellinger Foundation and
   Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory made this visual timeline possible.

#### **4** Volunteers/Staff

• A busy month, June benefitted greatly from volunteer service! A total of eight volunteers assisted during the two Breakfast with Butterflies programs. Seven volunteers supported Father's Day in the Garden as a successful event when, for the first time, it expanded to include additional activities on Sunday afternoon. This year's annual live butterfly exhibit concluded June 23 with a count of 44 Butterfly Attendants who fulfilled their duties throughout its duration. It is also worth noting that Bug Wranglers, Dixie Bradley and Doug Laslie loyally hand-pinned up to 2,000 chrysalides over the course of the exhibit.



- At the Front Desk, 8 volunteers covered 34 shifts while 10 volunteers covered 44 shifts in the Gift Shop; an 11<sup>th</sup> new volunteer trained in the Gift Shop and as a Butterfly Attendant. Volunteers with Easterseals Arc continue to maintain pathways while one garden volunteer significantly contributes to the maintenance of planting beds in the Atrium and Tropical House.
- ✓ Upcoming
  - o June 10-July 26: Camp ACTIVenture, 6-week pre-registered program
  - o June 29-November 17: Raise a Glass! garden exhibit
  - June 29-November 17: From Concept to Celebration, visual timeline
  - July 13: Daylily Show & Sale
  - o July 20: Jazzworks! Outdoor Concert
  - o July 21: Iris Sale
  - July 26-August 4: Local Food Week
  - August 2 & 3: ROOTS Music Fest
  - August 6-27: T'ai Chi in August, pre-registered program

#### Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

- Herbicide treatments have been applied to all outdoor garden areas at the Botanical Conservatory to eliminate problematic weeds growing in the outdoor spaces.
- Contractors completed an insect and grub treatment on the Botanical Conservatory turf areas. Contracted arborists also completed follow-up insect treatments on outdoor trees with a focus on treating the magnolias on the property to control a magnolia-scale infestation.
- June saw the finale of the Botanical Conservatory's Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit and the installation of the Raise a Glass! Showcase Exhibit. This summer/fall show is a culmination to a year of recognition and celebration for the Botanical Conservatory's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The exhibit captures many forms of glass—from art glass blown in the form of bowls and vases, glass blown into the form of flowers and leaves, oversized wine and cocktail glasses filled with crushed glass, to crushed glass coloring the crushed stone pathways in the Showcase House.
- Plants for Raise a Glass! were selected to play on the theme of glass—namely, caladiums and Persian shield creating a living version of stained glass with their foliage. Flowers of other plants such as various salvia and dianthus provide vibrant celebratory colors and patterns that add to the visual appeal.
- Like most Botanical Conservatory Showchanges, this Showchange required effort and contributions from many individuals and teams. The Lawton Park MTs did an exceptional job deconstructing the butterfly-hatching lab and tent while turning around to build and assemble a pergola which acts as one of the major focal points of the current Show. They were also able to create a stable foundation for a large sculpture without the need to extensively excavate.
- Lawton Park gardeners assisted Botanical Conservatory staff in deconstructing the butterfly lab, removing the crushed stone base, digging to create a reflection pond, re-grading the soil, and adding fresh soil to the Showcase House. They also assisted Botanical Conservatory staff in planting all the plants in the current Showcase House.
- Sycamore Tree Care graciously provided a volunteer day with their team to hang all the necessary hardware from the Showcase House beams to creatively showcase the decorative glass bowls currently in the Conservatory's possession from the 2004 Kaleidoscope exhibit. Through the efforts of Sycamore Tree Care, the Botanical Conservatory avoided the time and expense of renting an articulating lift to hang the necessary hardware.
- The Botanical Conservatory commissioned a local artist to create glass art pieces to display in the Showcase. These pieces are botanically inspired with the artist creating leaves, flowers, and other botanical forms in the



form of glass. The artist installed the pieces on-site during the last day of Show changes, offering the public a glimpse of an art installation in process. The artist also spoke with and engaged with the public while completing the installation adding a unique experience for Botanical Conservatory visitors.

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

- Three Rivers Painting completed painting work in the Magnolia Room painting the top half of the east wall, trim on the west wall, and ductwork. This finalized the improved look of the rental space.
- The Terrace Reflecting Ponds are slated for transition to a planting space due to failed piping and drainage. Assistance is anticipated from Parks & Recreation Heavy Equipment and an additional contractor, with a landscape designed by Superintendent Chad Shaw.



Children play lawn games as part of Father's Day in the Garden



Campers enjoying water day during week 2 of Camp ACTIVenture



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





Stunning view of glass bowls with a featured pergola in the Raise a Glass! garden exhibit



Participants enjoy a VIP experience as part of Breakfast with Butterflies



Volunteer assists with crafts during Breakfast with Butterflies





Volunteers attend to nearby games during Father's Day in the Garden



The last day of pinning chrysalides for the 2024 butterfly exhibit

# Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

- www.RiverfrontFW.org had 5,457 hits to the site during the month of July, and the Promenade Park link had 4,905 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 1188 hits in July.
- 4 Marketing Team visited various parks to capture photos and video for use on various platforms.
- Fall Fun times and postcard completed. Released on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Various tasks for entire Marketing Team related to the switch to the Fall Fun Times.
- **Web Statistics:** Users: 72,354 Hits: 175,634
- Completed 44 Design projects.
- Lindenwood Trail guide created and produced in Spanish.
- 4 Marketing staff participated in McKinnie events on July 11 & July 28 and Tin Caps game on July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Finalized Youth Scholarship procedure changes.



- Submitted three nominations to IPRA to consider for potential awards. Created video in concert with submissions.
- Prepared for the Lifetime Sports Academy Awards Presentation photo op on July 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Media promotions for: McKinnie Commons Connections, Sweet Breeze, Fantastic Fridays, Foster Park Entrance Redesign Open Houses, Fort Wayne Dragon Boat Races and more.
- Arranged for 20 media interviews with select staff.
- July Media Mentions: 82
- Social Media Totals for July:
   \*FB Followers
   FB Reach
   X (formerly Twitter) Followers
   14,121
   Instagram Flowers
   26,208
   \*We exceeded 100,000 followers on 14 Facebook channels
- www.RiverfrontFW.org had 5,896 hits to the site during the month of June, and the Promenade Park link had 3,335 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 994 hits in June.
- Completed Customer Service Training for Franke Park Day Camp & Salomon Farm Camp staff.
- Released the following shows in June: Collective Soul, Mathew West (Rescue Mission Event), and one additional Community Band Concert.
- Set up and staffed a McKinnie Commons Connections booth on June 13 and June 30.
- 4 A total of 18 Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation links on the Engage Fort Wayne platform now.
- **Web Statistics:** Users: 71,683 Hits: 196,087
- Completed 49 Design projects.
- A successful Senior Games Opening was held on June 3. Over 1000 photos were taken at various Senior Games events throughout the month. A photo show was created for the Closing.
- **W** New APP promos created and sent sponsorship e-mails to local businesses and organizations.
- **4** Sent public donation drive e-mail, and confirmed media sponsors for Fall Fun Times.



- Media promotions for Senior Games, Sweet Breeze, Free Concerts at the Theatre, Podcast, APP, Comprehensive Plan input, and IPRA Jobs video.
- Arranged for 10 media interviews with select staff.
- June Media Mentions: 42

Social Media Totals for June:	
FB Followers	93,593
FB Reach	403,110
X (formerly Twitter) Followers	14,075
Instagram Flowers	26,035

## **Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations**

- The 2024 golf season is in full swing. The weather has been good, and rainfall has been below normal since a record-setting April. This below-average (since April) rainfall, along with a couple of stretches of hot weather and some untimely problems with the irrigation put a strain on the greens at Shoaff and McMillen.
- Here are the revenue numbers through July:

<u>JULY</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAFF</u>
2023 REVENUE	\$87,122.50	\$52,511	\$100,736.75
<b>2024 REVENUE</b>	<b>\$83,097.50</b>	<b>\$60,260.75</b>	<b>\$119,110.55</b>
YTD 2023	\$279,361	\$169,239	\$350,111.75
<b>YTD 2024</b>	<b>\$263,572</b>	<b>\$204,552</b>	<b>\$414,170.30</b>

- As expected, Foster is showing a year over year decline in revenue as the Deep Tunnel project has disrupted play on the front nine and wreaked havoc on ingress/egress from the park. Even with the decline in revenue at Foster of about 6%, overall the revenue for the three courses total is up **10.5%**.
- As stated earlier, the disruption to ingress/egress has certainly caused some of the drop in activity, and hopefully that part is resolving itself as construction moves past the actual entrance to the golf course parking lot. Communication between the contractors and the golf staff has not been good, and the entrance to the golf course lot has been closed or severely affected multiple times without our staff knowing that it was going to happen. By the end of July, some paving was done on the entrance road, and hopefully this situation will continue to improve.
- Of further concern is the knowledge that the second part of the project (from roughly #7 tee to the ball diamonds) will now be open-trenched as opposed to the boring that was originally supposed to occur. The additional impact to the golf course itself is unknown at this time. Plans are already being discussed to restore the playing areas upon completion of the project, and it appears much of this can be done in-house. Timing will be critical though if we are to have any hope of getting the entire golf course back to "normal" for the 2025 season.



- Problems with the pump on the par 3 course at McMillen have caused serious distress on that nine. Repairs to the pump are ongoing, as well as trying to isolate what the problem is. The problem appears to be getting consistent power to the pump, and this is being investigated.
- Overall, the season is trending upward, continuing on the momentum we have built the last three years. The cart situation is improving, and we have increased the number of carts available at McMillen. This month, we will complete replacing the 7 2005-era carts at Shoaff with 2015 models. Golf continues to be on the upswing.

# **Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager**





- City Council approved the contract with Crosby Excavating for the next phase of the Pufferbelly Trail. We'll have a ground-breaking ceremony on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. behind the PNC Bank Branch at 445 West Coliseum for this 1.7mile section from Washington Center Road to the intersection of Lima Road and Ice Way and Glenbrook Square Mall.
- The Mayor announced a \$5 million gift from Jim Vann and the Vann Family Foundation for the Pufferbelly Trail Bridge over Coliseum Boulevard. The bridge will be called the Vann Family Crossing and is expected to be constructed in 2026.
   Additional funding needs to be secured for the pedestrian bridge.
- The Liberty Mills Road Trail is nearly complete. The retaining wall on Falls Drive is finished. The surface asphalt along
   Falls Drive should be applied in early August. We may have a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late August.
- The Covington Road Trail construction began on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. A 2-month road closure between Hadley and Greenlawn Cemetery will begin August 5<sup>th</sup>. We'll also have lane restrictions between Getz Rd and the cemetery for two months.
- The Hanna Street Trail construction started the week of July 1<sup>st</sup>. The southern section is nearly complete. We have to wait for a utility conflict to move in order the finish the northern section.
- The Street Department recently created a detour around the section of the Maumee Pathway by the former Lakeside Golf Course that is cracking and eroding into the river. So, we were finally able to get the Maumee Pathway re-opened after having it closed for months.
- Dawn is working on a federal grant for the Vann Family Crossing, federal funding for the Poka-Bache Connector, and a READI 2.0 request for the Vann Family Crossing.
- We have secured 2 of the five parcels for the Illinois Road Trail. Bidding will occur this fall once all five parcels are acquired.
- We completed the survey work for the next phase of the Lake Avenue Trail from Coliseum Boulevard to Reed Road.
   Construction is planned for 2026.



- Survey work is wrapping up for the Stellhorn Road Trail from Maplecrest to Wheelock. We had the initial scoping meeting with DLZ. So, the design has begun. Construction is slated for 2027.
- We hope to bid on the Wheelock Road Trail in August. We are close to acquiring the final parcel.
- The City's Open Street event will be held on 20 blocks of Calhoun Street from The Landing to Pontiac Street on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, from Noon to 4: <u>www.openstreetsfw.org</u> We will have over 100 Activity Providers with free activities. Plus, the Botanical Conservatory is providing 1,000 free admission passes. We still need volunteers: <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4FAEAC2DA64-49688914-open</u>
- The Bluffton Road Trail will close soon between Old Trail and Liberty Drive for a water main project. Trail users can bypass the area by using the sidewalk on the west side of Bluffton Road.
- We will have a *Public Information meeting for the Pufferbelly Trail and Vann Family Crossing* on *August 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.* at the Roller Dome North.

# **Division News and Media Coverage**:



WANE, FWFD debuts newest fire truck at Station 14

https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-fire-department-debuts-newest-firetruck-at-fire-station-14/

WOWO, a Report from RentCafe says Fort Wayne renters get more space for less <u>https://wowo.com/study-fort-wayne-renters-get-more-space-for-less/</u>

WPTA, National Night Out with FWPD at Science Central <a href="https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/08/07/national-night-out-with-fwpd-science-central/">https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/08/07/national-night-out-with-fwpd-science-central/</a>

WPTA, Family reacts to arrest caught on camera <a href="https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/08/06/family-reacts-arrest-caught-camera-early-monday-morning/">https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/08/06/family-reacts-arrest-caught-camera-early-monday-morning/</a>

WFFT, Open Streets update

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/open-streets-fort-wayne-releases-list-of-event-activities/article\_111db1f8-540f-11ef-9206-ab170ad74a1e.html

WANE, Passenger rail update https://www.wane.com/top-stories/city-gains-partner-to-try-and-bring-passenger-rail-to-fort-wayne/

WANE, Are there too many new apartments in downtown Fort Wayne <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/are-there-too-many-new-apartments-in-downtown-fort-wayne/</u> WANE, Mayor Tucker's first 100 days in office <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/100-days-mayor-sharon-tucker-on-traa-body-cams-and-fw-united/</u>Fort Wayne



Magazine, August issue feature is on Mayor Tucker https://www.fortwayne.com/good-reads/fort-wayne-magazine-august-2024/

WPTA, Fort Wayne ranked No. 1 housing market in the country <a href="https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/07/26/fort-wayne-ranked-no-1-housing-market-us/">https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/07/26/fort-wayne-ranked-no-1-housing-market-us/</a>

WANE, City Utilities groundbreaking for new water mains in Waynedale area <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/water-main-replacement-project-for-waynedale-residents-to-prevent-frequent-breaks/</u> WOWO, Groundbreaking for Arneo project <u>https://wowo.com/city-developer-break-ground-on-180-million-mixed-use-project/</u>

Foellinger Theatre Concerts 3411 Sherman Blvd Fort Wayne, IN 4680

https://www.foellingertheatre.org/events/146-lee-brice - August 8, 2024 7:30 pm

https://www.foellingertheatre.org/events/145-blues-traveler-with-big-head-todd-and-the-monsters - August 13, 2024 - 7:30

https://www.foellingertheatre.org/events/149-gladys-knight - August 17, 2024 - 7:30 pm

https://www.foellingertheatre.org/events/147-the-high-kings-gaelic-storm - August 21, 2024 – 7:30 pm

https://www.foellingertheatre.org/events/156-light-the-night-matthew-west-at-foellinger-theatre - August 22, 2024 – 7:30 pm

WPTA, Walk in the Park feature with Parks and Recreation

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/07/18/walk-park-foellinger-theatre-2024-summer-concert-series/

WPTA, City Council – Chronic problem property ordinance

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/07/17/lets-get-this-fixed-now-revised-chronic-problem-properties-ordinance-approved/

WTPA, TRF combats storm damage

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/07/16/three-rivers-festival-combats-storm-damage/

WANE, City Council – Legacy money for Brightpoint

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/2-5-million-legacy-brightpoint-funding-piques-city-councils-interest/

WFFT, Vincent Village names new leader

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/vincent-village-names-former-educator-as-new-executive-director/article\_91ba8a02-

43ac-11ef-8f9d-1ff7b22c3bb9.html

WFFT, Update on Wilt Street parking issue

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/downtown-parking-city-of-fort-wayne-releases-wilt-street-parking-lotupdate/article\_10d60122-407e-11ef-ba1d-835b5a27d306.html

WFFT, Open houses for Foster Park project

https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-parks-and-rec-host-july-open-houses-to-redesign-foster-park/article\_cb0f9bd8-424b-11ef-827e-678092fda6db.html

WTPA, Feature on Fort Wayne Firefighters Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/07/12/linda-likes-it-fort-wayne-firefighters-museum-50th-anniversary/



WPTA, City launches study on the need for more downtown public restrooms

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/07/12/city-fort-wayne-launches-study-need-more-downtown-public-restrooms/ WANE, Legacy Office Centre promotes small business growth https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/legacy-office-centre-promotes-small-business-growth/

City TV, 'On the Move' program with Councilwoman Chambers – Guests are Steve McDaniel and Alec Johnson <u>https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=UDaI04RMx7Ekkqa4</u>

#### \$15 Summer Special Sweet Breeze Tour

Tuesday, July 16, 1:00 – 1:45 p.m. (45-minute tour) and 2:00 – 2:45 p.m. and continuing each Tuesday until August 13

#### South Dock Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

Experience an iconic Sweet Breeze tour for just \$15! This limited-time opportunity will provide a guided history cruise on the Fort Wayne Rivers. Reservations can be made online (until midnight on the day before the tour) at <a href="http://www.RideSweetBreeze.org">www.RideSweetBreeze.org</a> or via the Fort Wayne Parks App; 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 by cash or credit card.

WANE, Decision crucial to riverfront plans put on hold <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/decision-crucial-to-fort-wayne-riverfront-development-plans-put-on-hold/</u>

WANE, Pufferbelly Trail update

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-city-council-paves-path-forward-for-important-addition-to-pufferbelly-trail/

Whatzup Fort Wayne, Open Streets takes over Calhoun on Aug. 18 <a href="https://whatzup.com/open-streets-takes-over-calhoun-on-aug-18/">https://whatzup.com/open-streets-takes-over-calhoun-on-aug-18/</a>

City TV, 'Public Works In Your Neighborhood' program with Traffic Engineer Phil LaBrash and John Metzinger from Citilink as guests

https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=RACisYvab3mJpvJU

WELT Radio, 'Investing in the City of Fort Wayne' program with Scott Hinderman as guest <u>https://soundcloud.com/mayorfw/fort-wayne-international-airport</u>

Business People Magazine, Feature on Excellence in Construction awards – Pontiac Street Market and Fort Wayne Veterans Memorial Bridge recognized

https://www.businesspeople.com/Post/4943/2024-excellence-in-construction-awards

Business People Magazine, Feature on The Lofts at Headwaters Park <u>https://www.businesspeople.com/Post/4942/lofty-ambitions</u>

WFFT, Leesburg/W. Main project meeting

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/public-invited-to-citys-unveiling-of-leesburg-road-and-main-street-roundaboutproject/article\_fb7632de-3add-11ef-8cf6-4786b5f28385.html

WPTA, Former police chief celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> birthday https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/07/09/former-fort-wayne-police-chief-celebrates-100th-birthday/



#### WBOI, Community leaders look to increase community resource awareness

https://www.wboi.org/government/2024-07-08/community-leaders-look-to-increase-community-resource-awareness

#### WANE, FWPD unveils boat for department's water patrol unit

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fwpd-unveils-boat-for-departments-water-patrol-unit/

WANE, Suit between ex-FWFD captain and VeoRide to move forward after Indiana Supreme Court ruling <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/suit-between-ex-fwfd-captain-veoride-to-move-forward-after-indiana-supreme-court-ruling/</u>

WPTA, Some community members express concern over Google's data center at IDEM meeting <a href="https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/07/02/community-members-express-concern-over-proposed-project-zodiac/?tbref=hp">https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/07/02/community-members-express-concern-over-proposed-project-zodiac/?tbref=hp</a>

WFFT, RAISE funding bringing changes to Fort Wayne's southeast side

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/new-raise-funding-bringing-changes-to-fort-waynes-southeast-side/article\_ebdb845e-3499-11ef-98dd-47b547852881.html

WTPA, USDOT awards Fort Wayne with an infrastructure planning grant

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/27/usdot-awards-fort-wayne-with-infrastructure-planning-grant/

#### 20th Season of the Salomon Farmers' Market

Wednesday, July 17, 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 as you take in the harmonious sounds of *Remember When Duets*. Stop by and say hello to the herd members—Mickie and Frankie the Highland Coos, as well as the goats, miniature horses, and sheep.

WANE, Conservatory feature

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/foellinger-freimann-botanical-conservatory-will-raise-a-glass-to-40-years-of-beautifulblooms/

WPTA, Pastor of man shot by FWPD officer says rushing to judgment will not serve the community

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/27/pastor-22-year-old-man-shot-killed-by-fwpd-officer-says-rushing-judgment-willnot-serve-community/?tbref=hp

WFFT, Broadway parking concerns

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/business-owners-on-broadway-sweat-as-the-city-hands-over-ownership-of-only-publicparking/article\_29c369e0-350c-11ef-8a78-9740445e8911.html

20<sup>th</sup> Season of the Salomon Farmers' Market Wednesday, June 26, 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.

WFFT, Pufferbelly Trail could see expansion

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/pufferbelly-trail-could-see-an-expansion/article\_e87d20ee-3410-11ef-9b1e-3727abb46344.html

WANE, Firefighters get raises, complex union deal looms https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-firefighters-gets-raise-complex-union-deal-looms/

Adams Radio Group, Mayor Tucker announces grants to several non-profits

https://www.1039waynefm.com/2024/06/27/79527/

Input FW, City launching an urban heat island mapping campaign

https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/UrbanHeatMapping-FW-launch.aspx

#### From Concept to Celebration

June 29 – November 16, public hours

#### Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

This visual timeline displays the history of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory from an original idea to our current-day fortieth anniversary! Images, news articles, and short stories provide historical context during the celebratory Raise a Glass! Garden Exhibit. Enjoy this unique display as a collaboration of archives from both the Foellinger Foundation and the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory.

WANE, City Council – Body cameras vote

<u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/bodycam-footage-of-police-shooting-pays-off-from-2020-decision/</u> WANE, City Council – Liquor license https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/bru-burger-bar-receives-liquor-license-clears-hurdle-ahead-of-fort-wayne-debut/

#### WANE, Feature on Senior Games

https://www.wane.com/news/the-senior-games-is-all-about-fun-and-friendship-and-is-positively-fort-wayne/

WPTA, Mayor Tucker responds to shooting

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/24/fort-wayne-mayor-responds-following-officer-involved-shooting-leaving-one-man-dead/

#### **Raise a Glass! Exhibit Opening**

#### Saturday, June 29 – November 17, public hours

#### Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

The Botanical Conservatory is celebrating 40 years! Since 1983, this unique botanical venue has served as a cultural anchor in Fort Wayne, having welcomed nearly three million visitors from near and far! During its 40th anniversary, the Botanical Conservatory is capturing vivid streams of light and reflecting into glimmers of a vibrant future. Raise your glass to the continued health, happiness, and success of this community treasure. Sponsored by: Fort Wayne Park Foundation, English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Majic 95.1, WANE 15, and Sycamore Tree Care.

WPTA, IDEM public meeting to be held to discuss air pollution concerns with new Google data center project



https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/20/idem-public-meeting-be-held-discuss-air-pollution-concerns-with-new-googledata-center-fort-wayne/

WPTA, What Juneteenth means to a FWFD firefighter <u>https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/19/juneteenth-what-holiday-means-black-fwfd-firefighter/</u>

WPTA, Feature on Salomon Farm Park

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/20/walk-park-salomon-farm-park/

WANE, Mayor Tucker and City Council support web upgrades for the city's website <a href="https://www.wane.com/top-stories/tucker-city-council-behind-fort-wayne-web-upgrades/">https://www.wane.com/top-stories/tucker-city-council-behind-fort-wayne-web-upgrades/</a>

WANE, Feature on Senior Games https://www.wane.com/lifestyle/living-local-15/full-episode-june-20-2024/

WANE, Will IU Health be building a new hospital in Fort Wayne <a href="https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/whats-going-on-with-a-potential-iu-health-hospital-in-southwest-fort-wayne/">https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/whats-going-on-with-a-potential-iu-health-hospital-in-southwest-fort-wayne/</a>

WANE, Population growth in Allen County and what that could mean for Allen County government <u>https://www.wane.com/investigations/breaking-the-threshold-how-an-impending-population-milestone-will-impact-allen-countys-future/</u>

PBS 39, Primetime 39 program with Alec Johnson from Parks as guest <u>https://www.pbs.org/video/fort-wayne-parks-update-a9apgt/</u>

WOWO, Fort Wayne named one of 10 best-run cities in study https://wowo.com/fort-wayne-named-one-of-10-best-run-cities-in-study/



"The best-run cities in America use their budgets most effectively to provide high-quality financial security, education, health, safety and transportation to their residents. Many of the top cities also have a very low amount of outstanding government debt per capita, which can prevent financial troubles in the future."

CASSANDRA HAPPE, WALLETHUB ANALYST

Best-Run Cities in America

https://wallethub.com/edu/best-run-cities/22869



Overall Rank*	City	Quality of City Services Rank	Total Budget per Capita Rank
1	Nampa, ID	45	1
2	Lexington-Fayette, KY	41	2
3	Boise, ID	4	4
4	Nashua, NH	3	13
5	Oklahoma City, OK	58	6
6	Durham, NC	16	20
7	Provo, UT	6	29
<mark>8</mark>	<mark>Fort Wayne, IN</mark>	<mark>49</mark>	<mark>11</mark>
9	Sioux Falls, SD	29	16
10	Wichita, KS	98	5

WANE, Plan to move downtown Taco Bell moves to City Council <u>https://www.wane.com/top-stories/plan-to-move-downtown-fort-wayne-taco-bell-pushed-to-city-council/</u>

WPTA, Cooling stations in Fort Wayne

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/06/17/fort-wayne-cooling-stations-open-ahead-hot-week/

City TV, On the Move program with Councilwoman Chambers – The guest is Riley Johnson from Amp Lab <u>https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=YQaKxHq0xbR96U2u</u>

WANE, Mayor Tucker recognizes Asher Agency for 50 years of service

https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/mayor-tucker-celebrates-50-years-of-the-asher-agency/

**Introducing the Fort Wayne Parks App** – 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.



Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation - App QR Code:



## **4** Other State and National Information:

### **IPRA 2024 Events**

Aug 13 | Southern District Meeting, Columbus Sept 13 | Fall Dollars for Scholars, Merrillville

Sept. 17-18 | AFO Training Course, Virtual

Sept 23 | Early Childhood Play Summit, Lake Station

Sept. 26 | Trails Gathering, Indianapolis

Nov 5-7 | Annual Conference, French Lick

Dec. 3-5 | CPSI Training Course, South Bend

Investing in Shade - June 2024 – Parks & Recreation [48 - 49] (nrpa.org)

Parks & Recreation Supports Older Adults - July 2024 – Parks & Recreation [18 - 19] (nrpa.org)

## Parks and Recreation: Is It Like the Show?

We often get asked in our line of work, "Is it like the show?" The show in question is the TV sitcom "Parks and Recreation." It's hilarious, but is it an accurate depiction of working for a park and recreation department in local government? The answer is yes! Well, sort of. <u>Parks and Recreation: Is It Like the Show? | Open Space | National Recreation and Park Association (nrpa.org)</u> Xplor Recreation's New Podcast: Parks and Recognize Interviews: <u>Read Our Blog | Xplor Recreation | Podcast</u>

Parks and Recreation Magazine | National Recreation and Park Association | NRPA

Fort Wayne magazine June 2024 | FortWayne.com

Fort Wayne Monthly - July 2024 (thedesignhornet.com)

Fort Wayne magazine August 2024 | FortWayne.com