

Steve McDaniel, Director

- This past month, several parks have been busy with activities. We kicked off the month with the Roots Music Festival at the Botanical Conservatory, Dragon Boat races at Promenade, and several concerts at Foellinger Theatre.
- Packard Park bids were received and will be submitted to the Park Board for approval. We will then take them to the City Council for approval.
- Brewer Park was approved by City Council and the team is working on finishing up contracts so that work can begin. We will be scheduling a ground-breaking ceremony towards the end of the month.
- A few staff members and I attended the ground-breaking ceremony for Arts United's project next to Freimann Square. There is now a fence around their project as construction has started.
- ↓ Jason, Rick and I met with Risk Management to discuss liability insurance for the golf courses and theatre. We have also filled out questionnaires for all locations and turned them back into Risk.
- Mayor Tucker has announced additional appropriations for Supplemental LIT towards Parks and Recreation. \$1.2 million towards six new playgrounds, one in each council district. Also \$2.5 million towards Riverfront Phase 2. The team is working on both of these projects now.
- I met with Rick Schuiteman from the Children's Zoo to make sure lines of communications were open to both organizations. Rick shared with me updates for their master plan while I shared the progress of the Franke Renaissance project. We did discuss looking at our agreement to see if there are any updates either party wants to make.
- The Headwater's Fountain project is out to bid. Bids will be due towards the end of the month with an approval process to follow.
- We received a proposal from River City Ventures regarding the property along the river where the Rivergreenway goes through just west of the Parnell Street Bridge. This has triggered the Land Use Policy group to meet and review the proposal.
- We continue to talk with the City Property Manager about the proposed fire station on Lower Huntington Road and the extra land behind it. The request for parkland and amenities will continue as they develop what is needed for the station.
- Staff and I met with representatives of City Utilities to discuss the progress of the construction at Foster Park. We have been pushing to finish grading the areas on holes 7 & 8 so that seeding can happen this fall with the hopes that we can plan on them next spring. They listed and will talk with the contractor to see what is feasible with the work remaining.
- I met with Julie Donnell representing Friends of the Parks group to discuss future needs and possible collaborations. We did discuss updates to the CLR's, GTCC, Foster Pavilion #3, and needed land/parks. I expect that we will continue to work through these and other items.
- Alec and I met with Allison Gerardot from the Community Foundation to discuss improvements in East Central Neighborhood specifically at Hanna Homestead Park. It was a great discussion that I hope continues to grow momentum toward the master plan.
- We are working with the new owners next to the entrance to Buckner Park about their need for drainage as they develop turning that property into a future business. Initial reports show that there would be very little impact to the park and we will continue to talk with them about their plans.
- We taped our latest episode of the Fort Wayne Parks Podcast with Larry Hicks talking about the U-Pick flower fields at Salomon Farm. This newest episode is ready to download and listen.
- We ended the month with two new additions to Salomon Farm. In a photo op with Mayor Tucker and Deputy Mayor Bandemer, Lucky and London two Valais Sheep also known as black nose sheep were introduced to Fort Wayne. We think these two will be great additions to the farm.



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

Community Center Downtown

- Learn to play PICKLEBALL CLASSES are still going strong with both classes full with 16 each class
- PODS did indeed finish strong. We were a bit short-staffed the last couple of weeks so it was great to have Daytona, Alexa and Samantha from the athletics staff fill in and help out. The weather cooperated with the Fun in the Fort walking tours the campers did last week. Cooking classes smelled up in the Community Center and went great.
- The Sensory Clubhouse was used July 26, 30, 31, and August 2 for a total of 11 people visiting. We hope numbers keep increasing as we continue to advertise and market to groups that may be interested.
- Mary did a phone interview with the Journal Gazette about how to combat loneliness and how the Community Center can help.
- Mary participated in a webinar hosted by IU called "Optimal Health for People with Disabilities". The
 Center for Health Equity at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community at Indiana University will
 provide a brief introduction to social determinants of health and health disparities for people with
 disabilities. A panel of individuals with disabilities will provide participants with their perspective on
 challenges and barriers they encountered in accessing health care and health services and activities.

Community Outreach

- On Friday, August 2nd, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation's Park & Play program finished its season with a wrap-up carnival at Headwaters Park West. The event was moved from Promenade Park after rain and storms were forecast. Despite the weather, an estimated 60 people attended including a group of clients from Easter Seals Arc. School of Rock's House Band performed. Overall, the Park and Play program attendance totals for July were 976 attendees. The total attendance for the summer (June and July) equaled 1,273.
- The final installment of the McKinnie Commons Connections event series took place on July 28th. The event featured a food truck, community groups, and the G-Money Band. The event was not well attended, with only 17 people visiting. A rainstorm moved through shortly before the event began which likely affected attendance.
- On August 18th, Supervisor of Community Outreach Neil Miller and three Park & Play staff members set up activities and a booth at the City of Fort Wayne's Open Streets event, from 12pom to 4 pm. An estimated 1000 people interacted with our staff either through play, conversation or by picking up information.
- On August 24th, Supervisor of Community Outreach Neil Miller and one Park and Play staff member manned a booth at Taste of the Arts STEAM park. The team helped kids (and adults, when applicable) make homemade catapults that they could take home. We created almost 250 catapults and talk with 500 + individuals.



Jennings Community Center

- Summer 2024 is over. The average of participants per day for the summer was as follows
 - o June 69 kids 58 kids FWCS Lunch
 - o July- 60 kids 55 kids FWCS Lunch
- Jennings Center participants had a good summer with going on field trips to the Zoo thanks to tickets provided by Fort Wayne Children's Zoo. Swim lessons were provided by the Parks and Recreation Swim staff at McMillen Park for 24 kids twice a week. This helps them experience the water and learn the basics of swimming.
- Friday, July 26, 2024, Jennings completed the last day of Summer Programming! The staff sent the youth off with a BBQ of hotdogs, chips, cookies, water, and freeze pops. They celebrated the completion of summer with music, two bounce houses, and a great time. Jennings averaged 70 youth per day.
- On August 8th, William Bryant Rozier, serving as the project manager for Shout-Out (Public Art Commission) hosted The Creative Job Fair at Jennings. They were happy with their turnout and plan to do more at Jennings soon.
- Chanell Ridley came on board as the Supervisor of Jennings Center on July 15th
- Jennings adult programming started September 5th with YOGA. Jennings will again receive FREE YOGA classes from the 3 Rivers Yoga Foundation
- The Lunch and Games began on September 6th and are held bi-weekly. There will be some special events that take place on some Fridays such as card making, T shirt designing and more. Jennings will have speakers come in from Parkview to speak on gut health, healthy hearts, diabetes, and more. This time is really a great time for the adults to just relax, laugh, play games, dance, and enjoy the company of others. They created some great bonds last session and we hope to help them create even more this session.

Weisser Park Community Center

• Summer 2024 is over. The average of participants per day for the summer was as follows

June - 77 kidsJuly- 72 kids68 kids FWCS Lunch

- On Friday, July 26, 2024, we held our End of Summer Celebration. The celebration included a talent show, whiffle ball and tag games, and a huge inflatable obstacle course. The youth also enjoyed hotdogs, grilled by a parent volunteer, chips, snow cones, and sherbet.
- At the end of our Summer Program, the youth were able to go to McMillen Park pool for swim lessons. On Tuesday, July 23, 18 youths attended. On Thurs July 25, 20 youth attended swim lessons. On Tues, July 31, 12 youth attended swim lessons and on the final day Thurs, August 1, 2024, 11 youth attended.
- On Tuesday, July 23, 8 youth enjoyed attending Open Futsal Soccer Play w/ DaMarcus Beasley at Packard Park. The youth enjoyed learning the game of futsal, meeting collegiate and professional players, lunch and prizes.
- 20 youth participated in the Park and Play Funtastic Friday at Safety Village. Two groups attended and had a great time learning about fire and police safety.
- The end of July 2024, the youth enjoyed a Build a Cardboard City Challenge and Design Your Own Crest Challenge. The youth worked in teams and did a great job creating and working together. They also learned a variety of group interactive dances such as Veggie and Floor is Lava dance routines.
- The Center for Nonviolence Faces Leadership Program completed sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, July 22-24. Final lessons focused on being cooperative and following rules. The facilitators had youth play games of Ping Pong Bucket, Jenga, Uno and puzzles to illustrate the lesson topics.



• Teen Works last day was Tuesday, July 23, 2024. The youth enjoyed friendly competitions of kickball and tug of war against the Teen Works team. The youth and staff enjoyed our summer alongside the Teen Works team and look forward to them being at our site again next summer. The program helped with the lack of staffing and provided good role models for the kids.

McMillen Park Community Center

- There were 36 new registrations for the month of August.
- The 11+ group has started a program with Easter Seals Arc. Cece Porter comes in each Tuesday and teaches the children about disabilities. The program is aimed at educating children on how to interact with children who have special needs. There was a total of 8 classes that took place in 7 weeks, there were two classes in the last week of the summer program. The kids did all kinds of fun learning activities which were oftentimes hands-on. For example, when learning about children with cerebral palsy which is a lifelong condition that affects motor skills, Cece created a game where the kids put socks on their hands and had to solve a small puzzle. The purpose of this was to show the children how difficult living with a physical disability could be. Another activity that was done with the kids was a group activity where one kid was blindfolded and another kid was tasked with helping them down the hall to the water fountain. The children were given shirts with their names on them for completing the program. Cece will be back in the fall to teach another class in October.
- Mr. Nate has started a "Helpers" program with the 11 and up age group at McMillen. Each day the older middle school aged children help the younger elementary school kids with putting their book bags up in the coat room, helping the younger kids understand rules to games that are new to them, and helping with lunch. The older kids help keep track of the milk count, as well as carry the plates of small kids not strong enough to do it themselves. The 11 and up group has done a great job with helping.
- Kids Korner playground numbers has increased by about 40% this month compared to last month. We had 150 patrons visit the Kids Korner this month.
- The new playground outside is up and running now and some of our patrons have been very excited to use it. It's been very nice outside and this is the time to enjoy it and be out in it.
- Pickleball is slowly picking up due to the Summer Youth Program ending. We had 71 pickleball players come in and play at our facility this month. Pickleball has increased this month by about 25%. For the most part, many pickleball players still want to be outside enjoying the nice summer weather while they can. And now that the weather's changing its time to come in and enjoy our lovely pickleball courts.

Golf

- Dave Weadock attended an on-site meeting with representatives from City Utilities to discuss the
 progress of the Big Dig project at Foster Park. He was informed that they don't intend to have holes #7
 and # 8 restored until spring of 2025. Taking in to consideration grass growing time the golf course will be
 under construction for virtually two years.
- Jason Smith reported that he has been working with Risk Management to secure a new Liquor Liability Insurance provider. The intention is to find one that covers only liquor and doesn't factor in golf play and concessions to set the annual premium like the previous provider.
- Gary Whitacre reported that Foster Park Golf Course hosted the Concordia Invitational Golf tournament. He stated that even with all of the construction the tournament went smooth and there were less than expected play rulings.



Pools

- Daryn Schwartz reported that Northside and McMillen Pools closed for the season on Saturday August 3, 2024. He stated that it was a great season not having staffing issues that he had the past couple of years and added that the pools were open seven days a week, which hasn't happened in a couple of years. Also, the pools didn't have to close any of the days due to staff shortage.
- Daryn Schwartz reported that the Dog Swim on Sunday August 4, 2024 (the day after the pools closed) was well attended. Many of the attendees commented on how much fun the event always is and that they like the number of dogs allowed in each session.
- Jason Smith reported that the Lifetime Sports Academy had ended on Friday July 19, 2024, completing the programs 26th year.

Riverfront

- The month of August was a busy month for the Riverfront division with high attendance levels and steady rental reservations. We hosted a total of 11 programs throughout the month, including our Muddy River Concert series, Yoga on the River, Kickboxing with 9Round, and more! Our Muddy River Concert series came to an end with our final performance by Left Lane Cruiser. These programs attracted over 600 people and received positive feedback leaving the staff excited to begin planning for next year's programs.
- Our special event highlight of this month was our annual Dragon Boat Races. Despite the weather cancellation of open ceremonies, race day attracted 3,000 people including our 18 participating teams. Spectators enjoyed several on-site food trucks including Travelin' Toms Coffee, Polskis BBQ, Kain Na, and Carmelitas. In the Park Foundation Pavilion, children's activities were offered that included temporary tattoos, dragon masks, origami paper, and coloring pages. In addition to the wide range of activities, Kung Fu Tea served delicious teas including Mango Green Tea, Rosehip Lemonade, and Kung Fu Milk Tea. The event concluded with performances by the Chinese Friends and Family which was an exceptional ending to another terrific year of our Dragon Boat Races.
- On the rental front, we managed a total of 9 rentals, which brought in over 650 people to Promenade Park for a wide variety of occasions including Fort Wayne Children's Choir's Rhythm and Brews event, Miss Virginia's Food Pantry annual volunteer dinner, Concordia Lutheran High School leadership training, and more. A noteworthy rental, GiveHear's event, contributed to the high attendance numbers reserving both the Park Foundation Pavilion and Wells Street Bridge.
- Headwaters Rentals in August started to slow down as the festival season ends. The largest event at Headwaters was Fiesta Fort Wayne. This event had around 2,000 people enjoying great Latin American food and music from local Fort Wayne vendors Northwest Mutual rented the west side pavilion for their 2nd annual employee picnic. Looking ahead to September, Headwaters Park is booked every weekend with returning and one new event. We are excited to use this month to prepare for upcoming Halloween events including our annual Riverfront Halloween Hunt as well as prepare for the upcoming Headwaters Ice Rink season.

Salomon Farm Park

• The flower u-pick is still ongoing, now operating in the west 6-acre field. The front field has finished blooming and has been mowed. U-pick hours are Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, and Saturdays from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Blooms will be available through September.



- The August dinner in the flower garden was a success, with 38 out of 50 reservations filled. Staff is looking forward to more successful dinners in September and October. Due to the loss of some dahlias, other flowers like lavender and potted plants were added to fill the gaps.
- With a decline in wedding rentals over the past five years, Salomon Farm Park staff and the Fort Wayne Parks Marketing team have been strategizing ways to attract more rentals. One of the 2024 goals was to create a promotional video, which was produced with the help of Aaron Waggoner.
- Salomon Farm Park has welcomed two new animal residents—two male Valais Blacknose Sheep. Known as
 the cutest sheep in the world, this breed originates from Switzerland and is still quite rare in the United
 States. Salomon Farm staff sought out these sheep for their unique appearance, friendliness, and appeal.
 They will play a significant role in upcoming animal programming, both during Farm Camp and year-round
 activities.

Sweet Breeze Canal Boat

- Sweet Breeze field trips have been made availability and Sweet Breeze administrative staff have been working with local school to book 25 trips in September instead of 21 as in previous years. Per our operating agreement with Friends of the Rivers, the owner of the canal boat, trips are subsidized and only cost school \$5 per child with three teachers attending for free. These trips have been extremely popular and Friends of the Rivers agreed to subsidize 25 tours instead of 21 allowing us to pull from a waitlist.
- The annual Friends of the Rivers Sweet Breeze Fest will also offer \$5 rides over the course of two days on Saturday, September 21 and Sunday, September 22, 2024. Tickets for these tours will go on sale Monday, September 9th at 9:00 am. As in previous years, it is anticipated that tickets will sell quickly.







- Hurshtown Reservoir In response to patron requests from the past couple of years, a portable volleyball net has been purchased for everyone to enjoy. This new amenity is a great addition to the park.
- Lindenwood Nature Preserve

Maggie Bequette, who has served as a seasonal naturalist at Lindenwood Nature Preserve for the past three years, is now heading off to graduate school. Amanda Black, the Assistant Supervisor of Outdoor Recreation & Boating, will oversee Lindenwood programs throughout the winter months until a new naturalist i

Sandra Odisho - Finance Manager Payroll, Registrations,

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

4 Payroll:

- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 326 employees (137 full-time and 189 regular part-time and
- seasonal) for the payroll ending August 24th, and paid on August 30th, 2024.
- We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of August 30th, 2024:
 - Heavy Equipment Working Leader (Fund 121)
 - o Heavy Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
 - o Grounds Equipment Operator x 3 (Fund 121)
 - o Manager VI Facilities and Grounds (Fund 121)
 - o Program Coordinator Riverfront/Headwaters (Fund 439)
 - o Maintenance Technician II (Fund 451)



- A large number of our seasonal staff have been separated and are off of payroll. All camp, aquatic and preschool/youth sports staff have been separated. There will be additional separations in the coming fall months as locations close for the winter and we prepare for fall and winter programming.
- Seasonal hiring is infrequent at this time, we have only had 5 new hires for this month all to replace golf staff that have left.
- We've been working with Purchasing regarding new purchase order requirements and helping to ensure that we have the all the right documentation that is requested and necessary.
- 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:

- August was a month of many staff vacations so those that remained on the job were working extra hard!
- From the Summer Fun Times and Day Camp brochures we had 111 full classes!
- Fall registration began 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 have put together some great special events!
- Popular programs in the Fall Fun Times include:
- o Salomon Farm Goat Yoga, Cooking Classes and the Sheep Meet & Greet (with the new sheep)
- o Lakeside Park Pickleball Lessons
- o Community Center Pottery and Chair Recovery classes
- The pavilions were completely booked the first three weekends in August, including many Fridays.
- Foellinger Theatre tickets sales kept us very busy with six ticketed concerts in August. Ticket sales always pick up the week before the concert date.
- In August, we processed the following: accounts payable 739 invoices, 43 P-card statements and 10 purchase requisitions and 3 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 2025 Budget will be introduced to City Council in September with Council Departmental Budget meetings and Budget passage occurring in October.

<u>Steve Schuhmacher – Deputy Director of Park</u>

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

Storeroom, Fleet & Mechanical Operations

Facilities Maintenance

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **256** for August. This is down from **345** in July.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Packard Park, Weisser Park, Brackenridge Park, Old Fort, Hamilton Park, Lindenwood, Martin Luther King Bridge, Moody Park, McCulloch Park, Rockhill Park, and Lawton Park Skate Park
- Facilities Staff pressure washed the following locations: Psi-Oti Upper Pavilion Deck, Kreager Shelters, Hamilton Park, Rockhill Shelter, Memorial Splash Pad, Shoaff Splash Pad, Foster Park West, McCulloch Park, Foster Park,



Moody Park, Lions Park, Northside Pool, Headwaters Park Dock, Packard Park, Foster Park Playground, Taylor's Dream at Kreager Park, and Psi-Oti Park

• Psi-Oti Park- Painting was completed around the shelter area.

♣Maintenance Technicians

- Three specialized benches were installed at the Promenade Park playground area. These benches were fabricated out of old wind turbine parts and were donated by local businesses.
- Both Northside and McMillen Park pools closed for the season on the 5th. Pools were drained and guard shacks were closed up until the 2025 season.
- New parking lot lights were installed for the Franke Park Pond pavilion.
- Extensive work has taken place at the Northside Park Administration Building to renovate the west wing of the first floor. This involved removing built-in cabinets and a wall in between offices. Electrical, lighting, and plumbing were all updated. All walls and doors received were painted as well.
- New ventilation fans were installed in the west range of the greenhouse at Lawton Park.
- The spray structure and zero depth pool at Northside Park were repainted.

♣Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment

- Heavy Equipment added drainage holes in the outdoor waterfall area for Chad Shaw and Gilbert Young at the Botanical Conservatory.
- Added fibar to McCormick Park playground before their neighborhood block party.
- Lawton and Foster West ball fields were verified.
- Trimmed trees and chipped brush at Vesey Park, Shoaff Park, and McMillen Park.
- The football field at Lawton was set up and marked.
- Mowed East Central and Riverfront Phase II-B with Ventrac
- New pitcher's mound and field prepped at Shoaff Ball field.
- Stone was added to Kreager ball field warning tracks.
- Multiple golf carts were delivered for the annual Open Streets event.
- Crews focused on overgrown areas of the greenway and trimmed boardwalks where needed.
- The river greenway is being mowed daily with a complete rotation taking around a week.
- A pull-behind debris blower was used to clean off the river greenway trails.
- The boom mower was used to clear the walking path at Shoaff Park.
- Heavy Equipment graded all boat launches before the Labor Day weekend.

Lawton Garage/Operations and Highlights

- 196 work orders were scheduled this month, 35 of which were services.
- 2 Chevrolet Silverado trucks and a Chevrolet Equinox were put into service. Seat covers, emblems, and toolboxes were installed as requested by the end users.
- The first group of new Motorola radios was delivered to the radio shop for programing and the quote for the next order was submitted to Parks from the radio shop. The P.O. for 2024 has been submitted.
- 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. The purchase order has been submitted for this
 vehicle.
- Mechanics finished the process of switching utility trucks beds from 2006 facility route trucks onto new truck chassis. This process leaves only 2 more 2006 models in facilities that will need updated in the



upcoming years. The older 2006 trucks have been decommissioned and will go to an auction in October.

- A new Ford F750 was delivered from Utility Truck Equipment (UTE) after having a chipper body
 installed. This new forestry truck will replace the older truck 2 (1995 model). Seat covers were installed
 and crews have been using this truck regularly.
- 2 Ford F250s and a Ford F350 returned from W.A. Jones after have utility and dump bodies installed. The utility trucks will be assigned to Headwaters and the dump truck will be used by grounds.
- A 2012 Ford Transit Connect van was sourced from the fleet department. It was a surplus vehicle that
 was going to auction. It needs some repairs but is a welcome addition for the parks fleet for future
 usage.
- Toro 581 at McMillen golf had damage to the cab roof requiring mechanics to construct a new roof, relocate the window wiper motor, and remove the air conditioning components from the cab and engine.
- An Airtow utility trailer was located at I69 trailer sales to use for moving the JLG scissor lift purchased for the maintenance techs. This trailer lowers to the ground to ease in loading and unloading. A purchase order has been submitted.

Storeroom and Property:

- Passenger vans were returned from the day camps and one has been sent out to be used by the theater for their concerts this month.
- The Link2pump fuel management system was installed at the Lawton fuel island and has been put into service. There haven't been any major problems with the implementation and this allows us to digitize the fueling process on the underground fuel tanks.
- Scissor lift training was conducted for the maintenance techs allowing them to start utilizing their new lift.

Project Administration

- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement Project completed.
- Botanical Conservatory Boilers Replacement Installation is in progress. End of September completion date.
- Franke Park Playground Equipment Request for proposals in progress
- Hanna Homestead Decorative fence removed around park.
- Headwaters Park Fountain Project is currently out to bid.
- Headwaters Park Pavilion Sidewalk Improvements Project completed.
- Headwaters Park Lighting Improvements Material acquisition in progress. Work to begin in October.
- Kreager Park Plans completed. Awaiting approvals for bidding.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Construction Work in progress. Contractor beginning work on west side of bridge.
- Northside Park Administration Building Flooring Installation in progress in west wing.
- Parks System Comprehensive Plan Project completed.
- Various Parks 2024 Paving Projects PFW trail completed. Gren Park trail planned for early September.

∔ <u>Safety</u>

• The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on 7-30-24. 5 employees were present.



- 0 vehicle crashes were reported for this time period.
- 3 employee injuries were reported this time period.
- 25 work site safety checks were done.
- 1 CPR/FA class completed. 3 employees were certified
- The Botanical Conservatory staff was re-trained on Accident/Injury reporting.
- Training for the new scissor lift was completed.
- I attended a Safety Leadership for Managers conference.
- A safety and training complaint in Grounds was investigated and documented.
- The review of Parks Safety SOP's continues.

Alec Johnson, Deputy Director of Planning & Development, Forestry,



Planning Report – August 2024

We received news that Deputy Director Alec Johnson is resigning from Parks, and will be taking the lead in Redevelopment as Director of that division. He has completed many noteworthy projects through his 17-years at Parks, setting a standard for excellence, community leadership, and progress. Although he will be missed, the vision and direction he has established for the department will be long-lasting and remembered.

Progress continues to be made on the Franke Park Renaissance Project. While construction has begun on Spy Run Creek Restoration Phase II, site work continues throughout the site, including placement of large stone and definition of landscape beds. Finish work continues in the pavilion, with concrete grinding and polishing anticipated in the coming weeks. Photovoltaic panels have been installed on the roof, and completion of caps and railings on the site walls will take place soon.

The design team is in the final days of construction documentation for Riverfront Phase II, with drawings due to the construction management team in early September. Following reviews and the definition of bid packages, the project will be out to bid in late September.

Bids were received for the Packard Park Redevelopment project, with Hamilton Hunter Builders, Inc. as the lowest responsive bidder. We will be seeking approvals for this project throughout September, with construction anticipated to begin this fall.

Staff continues to coordinate with City Utilities on the work being done in Foster Park. The final consolidation sewer project has begun, and is anticipated to be completed before next spring. Connections between the new structure in Park Drive and the tunnel were made in late August, bringing work on the north side of the park nearer to completion.

Work has been slow to begin on the redesign of Foster Park's entrance, as the team awaits completion of site surveying. Public surveys were completed, with over 200 gathered throughout the month. Data from these surveys and the public open houses will be analyzed as the team begins conceptual design.



The team met with CUE staff on-site to discuss maintenance access needs that will be incorporated into the design.

Staff has been coordinating projects with the Conservatory, including a reimagining of the terrace fountains and renovation of the Desert House. We look forward to moving these projects forward in the coming months.

Staff has been in discussions with Eric Ummel, Nate Cardelli and Lynda Heavrin in an effort to plan for the upcoming retirement of Lynda from the department. Efforts are being made to prepare for ease of the transition process to a new greenhouse manager as much as possible.

Staff served as members of an advisory group tasked with evaluating a request from River City Ventures to install a boat dock near Parnell and Spy Run Extended. The results of this evaluation are forthcoming.

Chad attended the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program annual conference in Muskegon, MI, representing Parks as a current grantee to their program (for Spy Run Creek Restoration Phase II).

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

SCFVA plant show judging began for the 57 schools who signed up for shows.

Volunteers worked 255.25 hours in the greenhouse in August.

The final deliveries of Poinsettias and Pot Mums arrived for the Botanical Conservatory Showcase displays.

Garden plots continue to be rented with 7 more plots rented in August.

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; specifically, for Japanese beetles this month. Staff also spent time mulching around single trees, doing selective tree trimming, and applying pre-emergent herbicides for weed control.

The Foster Park team focused on daily litter pickup; regularly removing tree debris from the tennis courts; watering/weeding/deadheading and fertilization of all annual beds; sidewalk edging; fountain maintenance and cleaning; landscape bed weeding and herbicide treatments; perennial bed cleanup, daylily garden cleanup, and turf repair. Staff also spent time mulching around single trees, applying pre-emergent herbicides for weed control and cleanup of leaf litter.

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, Little Turtle, Freimann, Community Center, and Meyers Parks; pre-emergent herbicide treatments at Headwaters;



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 and Headwaters Park. Staff also spent time power washing the docks at Promenade, spraying powdery mildew on affected shrubs at both Promenade and the Downtown Community Center, and cleaning up muddy pathways at Headwaters. Prior to Taste of the Arts, staff swept the Freimann fountain and cleaned up/deadheaded all daylily beds in the Main Street Medians. Staff spent a large amount of time on stump grinding, turf repairs, and landscape bed reductions in Headwaters Park.

The City Team continued to mow Northside and Lawton offices weekly. Post-emergent herbicide applications and general weeding/bed cleanups were made in Salomon Farms, McMillen, Franklin, Shoaff-Riverlodge, Jennings Center, Indian Village Park, Bass, Old Fort, YMCA/Pufferbelly Trail sign, Franke, Lawton, Kreager, Camp Canine, Memorial, Bluffton Road/Indian Village Blvd, Foster South, Vesey Greenway, Packard, and Swinney Parks. Both Swinney and Bluffton Road Letterbeds were weeded, fertilized, and watered regularly. Swinney Letterbed was also pruned and edged. Staff visited Foellinger Theatre for landscape cleanups before shows. Mulching was completed at Gren, Memorial, Miner, the Rea Building, Old Fort, Northside, Repka, Cornell/Seminole/Calhoun, Franke Pavilion II, Vanburen/Pape, Camp Allen, Thieme Drive, Bass, Packard, Rudisill Park and the YMCA Pufferbelly Trail Sign. Pruning was done at the Lawton Park playground, Reservoir Park, and Northside Park main office.

Landscape staff delivered 33 yards of mulch to Camp Canine, 30 yards to Shoaff, 14 yards to Memorial, and 38 yards to Reservoir where it was spread as part of volunteer events. Landscape staff led events on the 21st at Camp Canine, Shoaff, and Memorial where a group from Manchester University helped spread the mulch. They also led an event on Day of Caring at Reservoir Park where a group from Kroger Foods helped spread the mulch.

Gardeners began working on their 2025 annual flower designs. Designs are due at the end of September.

Beth Krill operated the Bobcat for a landscape project that was installed as part of the Day of Caring at Lutheran Life Villages.

Beth Krill, Sarah Allen, and Ashley Mitchell all passed their CORE herbicide exams.

Seven landscape staff began judging SCFVA shows. They will continue through the beginning of September.

An RFQ went out for a landscape renovation around the Lawton Park Cannon.

As per contract, Pride Landcare mulched all specified beds in McMillen, McCulloch, and Lawton Parks.

As per contract, Triscape mulched all specified beds in Rockhill 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 the contract.

4 Riparian Management Report- August 2024

Parnell bridge and Sunset Bay on St Joe River, fallen woody debris Headwaters Park West, a small debris riverbank strainer/clog near MLK and several deadheads removed along St Marys River were cleared totaling 43,807 pounds (21.9 tons) of large, woody debris.

Litter was periodically removed (floatables and dumped debris) along all three rivers totally approximately 300 pounds.

Fallen woody debris was removed from Bloomingdale Park totaling 3,940 pounds (1.97 tons).

Fallen woody debris was cleared from Headwaters dock totaling 2,110 pounds (1.06 tons).

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.

Coordinated and hosted Lippert for volunteer clean up at Johnny Appleseed. Volunteers were educated on water quality and invasives before work began. A team of 18 people from 9 am-12 pm removed 600 feet of honeysuckle, which totals 54 volunteer hours.

Cleared all remaining debris, cleaned/organized, and moved all Riparian Dept equipment to the Superior Street warehouse.

Attended the first "Working On Or Near Water" Risk Management training at the PSA.

Assisted with the preparation of the annual Dragon Boat Races river event including the launching and removal of the 60' floating dock extension. Improved the efficiency and safety of the fire pit the operation.

Forestry Report- August 2024

Prepared purchasing and approval documents for the 2024 fall tree planting project. We anticipate presenting to the Board of Park Commissioners on September 12th and the City Council on September 17th. If all goes well, our tree-planting contractor is expected to begin work in October.

Registered Derek Veit and Tony McGuire for the 2024 Partners in Community Forestry Conference. This year's conference will take place in Chicago and is the largest gathering international gathering of urban forestry practitioners, advocates, researchers, and government leaders.

Consulted with the Fort Wayne Fire Department about a privately-owned tree of concern at the Lindenwood Avenue station. At this point, the tree does not present an immediate risk of failure, but continued monitoring is recommended.

Forestry began the process of inspecting trees within our park system. So far, McMillen, Shoaff, Franke, Northside, Lions, and Memorial Parks have been inspected. We expect to continue these inspections through October.



In August, Forestry crews completed 71 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 August. 3 of these were storm-related.

Crews responded to and cleared 46 storm-related broken/fallen/hanging limbs. Only 1 of these were privately owned trees impacting the right of way.

Responded to and closed (180) 311 Call Center requests for service this month.

♣ Botanical Conservatory Report – August 2024

"Raise a Glass!" continued to welcome 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 40th anniversary year with an inspired art glass display featuring reimagined pieces from the Botanical Conservatory's 20th 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 August 2024 including Botanical ROOTS Music Fest (August 2-3), Open Streets (August 18). Staff are gearing up for Be A Tourist in Your Own Hometown (September 8), SCFVA Blue Ribbon Show (September 13 & 14), Fall Bonsai Show (September 21), as well as several pre-registered programs and workshops throughout the month.

Current vacancies include Seasonal Gardener (1), applications are being accepted.

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

August 2024 charted notable increases to August 2023, a nearly 37.72% increase in attendance was observed in what is typically considered one of the slowest months of the year for both revenue and attendance. Most of this attendance increase was due to increased member and free admission attendance, which explains why the growth in attendance did not correlate with a growth in admissions revenue. Membership Revenue increased by 23.34% on the month. The Conservatory Shop charted an impressive 46.62% increase, outpacing the attendance increase by a healthy margin. Facility Rental also saw a notable 38.02% uptick compared with August of last year. Overall, compelling exhibit themes and inspired execution have really continued to drive traffic.

Attendance

 August 2023:
 5,016 visitors

 August 2024:
 6,908 visitors

An increase of 1,892 visitors or +37.72% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

2023 Attendance: 70,262 visitors 2024 Attendance: 74,432 visitors

An increase of 4,170 visitors or +5.93% to 2023

Admissions Revenue

August 2023: \$24,484.65 August 2024: \$23,024.00

A decrease of \$1,460.65 or -5.97% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

 2023 Admissions Revenue:
 \$275,344.33

 2024 Admissions Revenue:
 \$296,880.68

An increase of \$21,536.35 or +7.82% to 2023

Membership Revenue

August 2023: \$3,680.20 August 2024: \$4,539.00

An increase of \$858.80 or +23.34% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

 2023 Membership Revenue:
 \$63,491.26

 2024 Membership Revenue:
 \$67,655.00

An increase of \$4,163.74 or +6.56% to 2023

Conservatory Shop Revenue

August 2023: \$15,066.21 August 2024: \$22,089.96

An increase of \$7,023.75 or +46.62% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

2023 Gift Shop Revenue: \$193,899.55 2024 Gift Shop Revenue: \$222,873.84

An increase of \$28,974.29 or +14.95% to 2023

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

August 2023: \$8,277.50 August 2024: \$11,425.00

An increase of \$3,147.50 or +38.02% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

2023 Rental Revenue: \$69,066.00 2024 Rental Revenue: \$55,290.00

A decrease of \$13,776.00 or -19.95% to 2023

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

August 2023: \$2,480.73 August 2024: \$3,073.45

YTD Comparisons

2023 Other Revenue: \$341,156.20



2024 Other Revenue: \$366,593.07

Conservatory Total Revenue

August 2023: \$53,989.29 August 2024: \$64,151.41

An increase of \$10,162.12 or +18.82% to 2023

YTD Comparisons

2023 Total Revenue: \$942,957.34 2024 Total Revenue: \$1,009,292.59

An increase of \$66.335.25 or +7.03% to 2023

♣ Botanical Conservatory Business Development

Staff applied for \$1,000 support of the 2025 The Floor is Lava! Exhibit to the Howard P. Arnold Foundation.

Staff submitted an application for \$5,000 support of the 2025 The Floor is Lava! Exhibit to the Magee-O'Connor Foundation.

Staff submitted final promotional reports for the 2024 Botanical Speedway Exhibit and the 2024 Color in Motion Live Butterfly Exhibit to the Fort Wayne Park Foundation for their support. These reports will keep the foundation informed about the exhibits that their annual funding enables us to offer the public.

Staff submitted the final promotional report for the 2024 Color in Motion Live Butterfly Exhibit to the Matthew M. Wyatt family for support in memory of Jo Ann and William Wyatt. The family is considering sponsoring the 2025 butterflies exhibit.

Staff submitted final promotional reports to WANE 15 and 89.1 WBOI for the 2024 Jazzworks! concert. These reports will enable us to approach these media for continuing support of upcoming special events and exhibits.

↓ Conservatory Public Programs - **Events**

Botanical ROOTS Music Fest (August 2 & 3)

In its 2nd year, the Botanical ROOTS Music fest was maintained as a two-day music event; it was prior hosted as a Friday night concert series bringing in both national and regional acts since 2008. Eight different bands were booked with a total of four performances each evening. Friday's two headliners included reggae band, Zion Lion and the respected 2024 Grammy-winning zydeco performer, Buckwheat Zydeco Jr. & The Legendary Ils Sont Partis Band. Saturday's two headlining bands were soul artist, Aliah Sheffield and 2024 Grammy-nominee bluesman, John Primer & The Real Deal Blues Band. Unfortunately, inclement weather adversely impacted Friday's stage flow while attendance ended up being a fraction of 2023 on the same high interest evening. Total event attendance was right at 500 attendees with 229 on Friday and 293 on Saturday. Twenty-two people took advantage of prepurchasing two-day tickets while Conservatory Members represented 11% of attendees.

Education

Local Food Week (July 26-August 4)



In partnership with the Northeast Indiana Local Food Network, the Botanical Conservatory was one of many destinations celebrating locally grown food during Local Food Week. Throughout the week, 29 adults and 21 youth received free admission by mentioning the special event, with many more guests enjoying the "incredible, edible plants" scavenger hunt growing in the indoor and outdoor gardens.

T'ai Chi in August (August 6-27)

T'ai chi in August almost filled to a capacity of twenty, as a total of nineteen participants pre-registered for the program. A renewed drop-in option was also appreciated a couple different times, increasing attendance for two classes. Sandy Gebhard remains a very popular instructor.

Youth Field Trips

In August of 2024, there was just 1 onsite youth group visit totaling 15 children. Due to summer programs ending and school starting, this slower month is in line with past years. There was 1 group of 20 children in 2022 and no onsite youth group visits in 2021 nor in 2020. In 2019, 2 groups brought 39 students. In 2018, 1 group brought 36 students.

Exhibits & Displays

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 40th 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 40th 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

During August of 2024, 8 volunteers covered 37 shifts at the Front Desk while 13 volunteers covered 48 shifts in the Gift Shop. SWAT Garden volunteers continued to groom the gardens with the addition of a 3rd SWAT volunteer. Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana continued to sort blue glass in preparation for a future showcase exhibit. Over the course of two days, eleven different volunteers committed their time and efforts to support the Botanical ROOTS Music Fest. Volunteers assisted with event setup, received admissions at the door, applied handstamps/wristbands, assisted with hospitality/security, supported vendors, sold items in the Gift Shop, and captured the beloved musical event with photographs. What an impact!



Upcoming

June 29-November 17: Raise a Glass! garden exhibit

June 29-November 17: From Concept to Celebration, visual timeline

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

October 1-November 5: Bones for Life®, pre-registered series

October 1-November 5: T'ai Chi Tuesdays, pre-registered series

October 4: Botanical Brew

October 19: Rocky Horror Picture Show & Fright Night Market

October 26: Garden Trick-or-Treat

October 28: Teardown of the Pumpkin Path Display

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

A new commercial tank sprayer was purchased for the Conservatory. The new sprayer utilizes micro droplets which effectively cover all surfaces of plants sprayed. The sprayer will enable Conservatory staff to more efficiently treat incipient pest issues as they arise to gain effective control and will ultimately enhance plant health.

A vendor has been engaged to construct and install decorative retaining walls in the Arid House. This installation is part of the comprehensive efforts to improve the aesthetics, safety, and long-term viability of the plant collection in the Arid House. structural integrity of the space.

In preparation for the installation of the retaining walls in the Desert House, plants in the permanent collection growing within the footprint of the retaining walls are being potted up and temporarily relocated to ensure their preservation during the construction project. The retaining walls will be constructed in such a way that they can be modular, in case they should need to be relocated in the future for subsequent path replacement projects.

A request for quotes has been sent out to contractors to perform the excavation work and subsequent installation of crushed stone to create a stable base for the retaining walls in the Arid House. The crushed stone base will ensure the walls are secure for guest and staff safety. This project should be complete by the end of September.

A request for quotes has been sent out to contractors to fill the abandoned Terrace ponds with a layer of crushed stone and the remainder of the pond depth with soil for planting. The first phase of this project should be complete by the end of September with the installation of an irrigation system and planting to occur by the end of spring next year, in time for the rental season.

Continued efforts were made to control weeds throughout the property, ensuring the overall health and appearance of the gardens.

Volunteer groups have been scheduled to assist staff with further wintercreeper removal this fall. Once the bulk of the plant material has been removed, staff will paint the stumps with herbicide





to eradicate the invasive species. The area of removed wintercreeper will then be reseeded with a native prairie grass meadow seed mix.

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

Staff completed many paint projects this month, including: Repainting the large doors of the Magnolia Room to the gardens, Light Bollards in the Exploration Garden, gates, large light posts, and ramp hand rails on the Terrace Garden, Doors on concessions, service, and outdoor restrooms.

Staff replaced the signs on the outside rest room doors with new ADA compliant signs.

Staff has been working with project management and Allied Mechanical as the replacement of the boilers has begun. The old units have been removed and the new units have been placed on new concrete pads in the basement. The process of reconstruction is moving forward.

Staff is working with the Maintenance Team at Lawton Park for repairs and some upgrades to the Color in Motion Butterfly Tent and vestibules for the 2025 exhibit.

Email quotes were solicited and received for the new blinds that we intend to install. The work will be completed by the end of October, the price of these services was under the \$5,000 purchase order threshold.

Muir Electric has been contracted to upgrade and add exterior lighting under the rear awning and back of the building near the parking lot in the coming weeks.

New utility cards have been procured. The old carts will be utilized at the Rea Magnet Wire facility and for the Mother's Day Plant Sale. The new carts will enhance operational efficiency for daily use.

Paint the Town Graphics is producing numbered signs for all exterior doors. This identifies each door for emergencies and public safety. They will be installed in mid-September.



Headlining Artist & 2024 Grammy Winner, Buckwheat Zydeco Jr. performing during the Botanical ROOTS Music Fest on Friday, August 2







Headlining Artist & Inductee to the Blues Hall of Fame, John Primer performing during the Botanical ROOTS Music Fest on Saturday, August 3



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



Volunteers with Easterseals Arc joyfully fulfilling a regular Tuesday shift

<u>Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing</u>

- www.RiverfrontFW.org had 4,096 hits to the site this month and the Promenade Park link had 3,776 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 1,085 hits in August.
- Marketing Team visited various parks to capture photos and video for use on various platforms



including coverage of the Dragon Boat Races!

Held a successful Photo OP with the two new Valais (va-LAY) sheep on August 29th.

♦ Web Statistics: Users: 59,829 Hits: 175,276

- Completed 40 Design projects, including a Jennings Recreation Center flyer successfully translated to Spanish so we can target this demographic.
- Submitted \$20,000 grant for Lifetime Sports Academy.
- Researching grants for Headwaters Ice Rink and Major Projects.
- Gathering data about radio advertising for Youth Centers.
- Media promotions for: Park & Play Fun Friday, Dragon Boat Races, Foellinger Theatre Podcast, Sweet Breeze Boat Tours and more.
- Arranged for 13 media interviews with select staff.
- August Media Mentions: 109 and Social Media Totals for August:

FB Followers	95,858
FB Reach	657,951
X (formerly Twitter) Followers	14,152
Instagram Flowers	26,475

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

♣ As usual, the golf season peaked in July and slowed down a bit in August, when vacation season hit and children returned to school. Although August revenue numbers dip slightly compared to July as they always do, the year-over-year numbers continue to show an increase. After the wettest spring on record, a historically dry period has helped, as few if any days were lost to weather. Here are the August revenue numbers:

<u>AUGUST</u>	FOSTER	MCMILLEN	SHOAFF
2023 REVENUE	78,797	51,343.50	96,740
2024 REVENUE	75,898	58,717.25	108,272.25
YTD 2023	358,178.75	220,582.50	446,851.75
YTD 2024	339,470.75	263,269.25	522,442.25



It was forecast for the Foster numbers to be lower this year, as the Deep Rock Tunnel project has disrupted much of the front nine. With that being said, the disruption to revenue has been lower than anticipated. It was thought revenue could be off 15-20%, through August it is down around 6%. Even with that, the courses as a whole are up 10% over a very strong 2023.

The tunnel project continues to be a disruption, with the end not yet in sight. The original plan was to open trench about half the east side of the golf course, and then bore the remaining half (which would have had minimal impact on the course). Now, the plan has been revised and the entirety of the eastern edge will be open-trenched. This may require further adjustments to how the course is played moving into 2025.

Discussions are ongoing with City Utilities as to how the course will be restored after they have moved out. A preliminary plan is in place to do a lot of the work in-house to keep costs down, but getting a complete plan is proving difficult.

The cart situation is moving in the right direction. Foster Park now has no carts older than 2022 models and has increased the number of carts available on a day-to-day basis. McMillen has also increased the number of carts available. By season's end, all of the pre-2015 carts will be out of service at Shoaff, but the number of available carts remains limited by the physical facilities to store and charge them. Shoaff currently has 24 carts available for daily use, the goal is to increase that to 30. Currently, 24 carts max out the available charging space, and even then the carts are still exposed to the weather.

All in all, 2024 is shaping up to be another very successful golf season. Both locally and nationally, there is no reason to think this trend will not continue.

<u> Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager</u> (







- The Liberty Mills Road Trail is complete. We had the ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 4th.
- The Covington Road Trail, Pufferbelly Trail, and Hanna Street Trail are all under construction.
- We have secured all five parcels for the Illinois Road Trail. Bidding will occur this December.
- We hope to bid on the Wheelock Road Trail soon. We are close to acquiring the final parcel.
- The City's Open Streets event was held on 20 blocks of Calhoun Street from The Landing to Pontiac Street on Sunday, August 18th, from Noon to 4. We had over 6,100 participants with more than 100 Activity Providers offering free activities. The Botanical Conservatory provided 1,000 free admission passes. We estimate the economic impact at \$313,000.
- We are in our last month of Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails.



- We are spending this next month on the trails inspecting the asphalt, concrete, structures, etc., and prioritizing maintenance needs. We are also having all pedestrian bridges and boardwalks inspected.
- ♣ A tree contractor will be removing some dead trees from the Maumee Pathway, Beckett's Run Trail and Fishing Line
 Trail soon.



Division News and Media Coverage:

Concert in the Woods Sunday, September 15, 2024 – 4:00 – 6:00 pm Lindenwood Nature Preserve – 600 Lindenwood Avenue

- Why the Words We Use Matter | Open Space | National Recreation and Park Association (nrpa.org)
- ♣ September 2024 Parks & Recreation (nrpa.org)
- We are pleased to share our upcoming schedule of events, that are available for you through the Adult Programming at the Jennings Center!
 - Oct. 4th and 18th -(Oct. 4th) Card Making day for the holidays (Oct 18th) Nan Moore from Open Arms THTH discussing Wills
 - Nov. 1st and 15th -(Nov.1st) Jill Zahm, from Parkview Heart Institute, discussing: Prevention of heart disease & Stress Management (Nov15th) is our Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish carry in
 - Dec. 6th and 20th- (Dec. 6th) DIY T-Shirt Day (Dec 20th) White elephant gift exchange
 - Oct. 4th- Card Making Day & Dec. 6th- DIY T-Shirt making day
 - **We will be able to carry these things over to the next session for completion if finishing touches are needed.
 - Our Biweekly Lunch and games schedule will resume on January 10th.
 - Jan. 10th and 24th Feb.7th and 21st March 7th and 21st April 11th and 25th & May 9th and 23rd
 - As we schedule programs and activities on these days we will keep you updated.
 - We look forward to seeing you!
 **Yoga Is EVERY Thursday from 12-1 pm! JOIN US

If you have any questions, or concerns or just want to shout out an idea please do not hesitate to reach out to Chanell Ridley, Supervisor – Jennings Center - Thank you all again, I look forward to seeing you real soon!





WPTA. Feature on Sweet Breeze Canal Boat

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/08/08/walk-park-sweet-breeze-canal-boat-tours/

WFFT, City Utilities replacing lead pipes

https://www.wfft.com/news/spring-street-set-to-close-for-six-weeks-as-lead-pipes-are-replaced/article_f4362e3c-6b22-11ef-b018-87177a6afe4f.html

WOWO, Alec Johnson named deputy director of redevelopment

https://wowo.com/alec-johnson-named-deputy-director-of-redevelopment/

WANE, FWACC offering sale on some dogs

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-animal-care-control-offers-50-off-sale-on-some-dogs-until-saturday/WPTA, Salomon Farm Park closing market for the season

https://www.21alivenews.com/video/2024/09/05/salomon-farm-park-closing-market-season/

WELT, 'Investing in the City of Fort Wayne' program with Shan Gunawardena as guest

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

Business People, Feature on John Urbahns

https://www.businesspeople.com/Post/4974/8-questions-with



U-Pick Flowers

Wednesdays and Fridays 4:00-7:00 PM Saturdays 11:00 AM-7:00 PM

Salomon Farm Park 817 W. Dupont Rd.



Raise a Glass! Exhibit

Until 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, Trine students grateful for the university's new cold case unit in partnership with the FWPD https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/09/09/trine-students-grateful-universitys-new-cold-case-unit/

WANE, City planning \$20M housing development on The Landing

https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/city-of-fort-wayne-planning-20m-housing-development-on-the-landing/

WFFT, Fort Wayne neighborhood added to National Register of Historic Places

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/national-register-of-historic-places-adds-shawnee-place-historic-district/article 37763d98-6eb8-11ef-a863-471dd8dc95f6.html

WFFT, Liberty Mills Road Trail ribbon cutting

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/liberty-mills-road-trail-project-adds-0-75-mile-trail-to-aboite-township/article_4337cc82-6afd-11ef-9625-63afa07240a3.html

Raise a Glass! \$1 Nights

Thursdays, until November 14, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

Here's a toast celebrating not only 40 years as a unique botanical venue for public education and enjoyment, but 200 years since Allen County was officially born. During the Raise a Glass! Garden Exhibit, take advantage of \$1 admission every Thursday evening from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Cheers to the Botanical Conservatory as a community treasure serving over 3,000,000 tourists and residents since opening its doors in 1983...and here's to Allen County steadfast since 1824 with 400,000+ residents thriving and residing today. Together, the Botanical Conservatory and Bicentennial Executive Board wish to celebrate the past, present, and future with you!

WBOI, Fort Wayne maps heat in search of urban heat islands

https://www.wboi.org/health-science/2024-08-30/fort-wayne-maps-heat-in-search-of-urban-heat-islands

WANE, Swinney Park Letterbed celebrates 60 years

https://www.wane.com/news/swinney-park-letterbed-celebrates-60-years/

WANE, 40 years ago, GM brings hope to Fort Wayne after Harvester's departure

https://www.wane.com/top-stories/40-years-ago-general-motors-brings-hope-to-fort-wayne-after-harvester-departure/

WANE, EPA grant to help with North River Remediation

https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/epa-joins-city-of-fort-wayne-to-discuss-grant-that-will-advance-cleanup-of-former-omnisource-plant/

WBOI, City Council votes to terminate four tax abatements

https://www.wboi.org/government/2024-08-10/fort-wayne-city-council-committee-votes-to-terminate-four-taxabatements





WPTA, the Mayor asks for time to investigate the FWPD video and withhold judgment https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/08/07/fort-wayne-mayor-asks-time-investigate-video-fwpd-arrest-withhold-judgment/

WPTA, Concerns expressed about the pause on the Ten Point Coalition program

https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/08/08/we-need-this-fort-wayne-community-upset-by-pause-ten-point-coalition/



Saturday Sept. 21st & Sunday Sept. 22nd, 2024

FAMILY FESTIVAL HOURS: SATURDAY 10 AM – 6 PM SUNDAY 10 AM – 5 PM





Check out Golf Course fees & Specials at:

<u>Foster Park Golf Course</u> <u>Shoaff Park Golf Course & Driving Range</u> <u>McMillen Park Golf Course & Driving Range</u> <u>Mad Anthony III's Short Course</u>

Reduced



Golf Fees



WFFT, Concerns raised at public meeting for planned Paulding Road improvements

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/new-paulding-road-intersection-plan-receives-backlash-from-

neighbors/article 35f93882-552a-11ef-8580-a38f86f6de25.html

WFFT, Salomon Farm Park feature

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/salomon-farmers-market-continues-as-the-season-nears-its-end/article_e1897376-551e-11ef-9157-eb7908a79c25.html

WFFT, Passenger rail update

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/fort-wayne-welcomes-hntb-corporation-to-midwest-connect-passenger-rail-project/article_fcbbf8c6-54dd-11ef-bfdc-db19a8121032.html

WANE, Arts United groundbreaking

https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/arts-united-center-begins-expansion-with-plans-to-reopen-in-fall-2025/

