

Steve McDaniel, Director

- ✚ I attended the Community Foundation's Donor Appreciation event. I was able to hear all of the great things they have done this past year and several new initiatives that will be coming in the future.
- ✚ I met with Councilman Paddock to discuss projects at Hanna Homestead that will be funded by his distribution of supplemental LIT funds that were allocated to council members. We have focused on lighting within the park while other funds will go towards sidewalk and lighting in the neighborhood.
- ✚ In September, we finished up this year's season at the Foellinger Theatre. We held several shows including Collective Soul, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's Rocky Horror Picture Show, FW Philharmonic's Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Arc, and Tesla.
- ✚ Deputy Director Alec Johnson took another position within the city. We wish Alec good luck in his new endeavor and thank him for his years of service to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- ✚ Chad Shaw was promoted to Deputy Director of Planning and Landscape.
- ✚ The team is looking at a new product produced by the National Fitness Campaign dealing with outdoor exercise. We are planning on visiting other communities that have this equipment to research the pros and cons.
- ✚ We held the 98th Annual Blue-Ribbon Show for the School Children's Flower and Vegetable Association. This is where kids K-4 receive a plant in the spring and they have to grow them all summer. This year's plants were well taken care of. Keep up the good work.
- ✚ We celebrated two new inductees into the Quarter Century Club. Zynette Paige and Chuck Reddinger joined 14 others who are part of the club. All 16 members celebrate a total of 438 years of service to the department and the city.
- ✚ We celebrated the ground-breaking ceremony at Brewer Park this month. Construction will continue for the next several months on this park's transformation.
- ✚ I joined other city department leadership at the Junior Achievements Bell Award ceremony to celebrate Mayor Henry and Cindy Henry's award.
- ✚ Nate Cardelli was my guest at this month's Podcast talking about all of the great things happening at the Botanical Conservatory. Download this episode now and take a listen.
- ✚ I gave an update to the Fort Wayne Park Foundation about all things happening in the parks. This was their quarterly meeting held at Promenade Park's Park Foundation Pavilion.
- ✚ The team and I meet with the Tennis Advisory group whom we have been meeting with for the last decade. We had a lengthy discussion about Swinney Tennis as well as several other sites.
- ✚ We kicked off Active Aging Week with a press conference. The event runs from September 28th through October 4th.
- ✚ Mayor Tucker and I meet with all of the staff of the Department. This gave Mayor Tucker her first opportunity to address all of the staff. We also included discussions about the employee survey that she sent out earlier this summer as well as allowed Sandra to talk about the new time management software we are rolling out.

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

- Mary Wagner Stockman, Community Center Manager, attended an IPRA session on youth programming on 9/23/2024 and a Walk in the Park segment for Active Aging Week.

+ Jennings Community Center

- Chanell Ridley, Supervisor, attended a Youth Monthly Marketing meeting. Discussed in this meeting were shadowing opportunities with other centers as well as focusing on center-specific avenues; such as S.T.E.A.M. at Jennings.
- Chanell Ridley, Supervisor, has been reaching out to a variety of organizations to promote the Jennings Center. There are now Jennings-specific Spanish fliers.
- Adult programming started adult yoga again and resumed Lunch and Games days.
- We had our first fall Parent Night, on Thursday, September 26, 2024, at 530 PM.
- A new outside stairwell is nearly complete with additional work being done to the outside of the building.
- Sensei Basche came to teach our youth self-defense and it was received very well!
- Supervisor Chanell Ridley attended a training at the University of St. Francis on “Protecting Youth in the Digital Age: Understanding Online Exploitation and Trafficking”. The information provided insight on how to assist our community with threats to our youth.

+ Weisser Community Center

- We had two sessions of our girl's and boy's Folasade Chat. The first session consisted of the individual introductions. Each facilitator and youth had to state their first and last name, their parent's first and last name, and their grandparent's first and last name. After the introductions, we discussed family connections, how we represent our family, and how we should behave in a way that honors our family. In the second session, we discussed the meaning of having a name with a positive meaning. The youth discussion involved how we maintain a safe environment within our group. The discussion involved showing respect and kindness, listening when others speak, not judging or making fun of others, speaking to an adult when you have a problem and following instructions, participating, and giving feedback. The facilitators and youth then signed a Folasade Chat Safe Zone Pledge consisting of the aforementioned points of discussion.
- We had three STEM sessions. The first session was the Upside-Down Glass of Water Science Experience. The experiment is a demonstration of how air pressure works. The youth that followed the instructions, were amazed that the water did not spill out of the cup. The second lesson was Pop a Balloon with Orange Peel. The youth were instructed to rub a freshly peeled orange peel over a balloon. When the youth did the balloon popped. It was explained that orange peel contains limonene which weakens the latex of the balloon causing it to pop. The third lesson was Colorful Rain in a Glass. The lesson demonstrated the molecule properties of oil and water keep it from mixing. Therefore, when you place water, and drops of food coloring in oil and stir it with a stick it breaks into smaller drops and forms an emulsion causing a colorful “storm”.



- We had two Bucket Drumming sessions. The youth learned basic rhythms, attention skills, and how to properly hold drumsticks.
- On Thursday, September 12, 2024, 19 of our 4th grade and up youth participated in Turner Chapel AME Ubuntu Learning Lab. The facilitators shared the meaning of the word Ubuntu and explained it is a spirit of sharing good, respect, caring, loving, and being helpful. The youth also discussed what they felt culture means. They learned that culture involves the lens through which we view ourselves, our values, perceptions, and beliefs. The facilitators also gave an introductory history of Ancient Africa.
- On Wednesday, September 11, 2024, ACPL (Allen County Public Library) staff facilitated the youth in making cactuses. The youth used cardboard, paint dabbers, scissors, and paint to create their cactuses.

McMillen Park Community Center

- The After-school program is in full swing here and with the nice weather the youth have been spending much time outside. The recently installed outdoor playground has been very popular.
- Parents night out was another big success in September. Parents Night Out is our partnership with Easter Seals Arc. Once a month on a Saturday McMillen hosts an event where the parents of autistic kids drop their children off from 5:00-8:00 pm and we entertain them for the evening. Each month has a theme and the theme this time was Disney.

Outreach and Park N Play

- Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation will join Fort Wayne's Branch of the National Pan-Hellenic Council to present the Unity Lighting on Monday, November 25th from 5:45 to 6:30 P.M. Activities will include live entertainment, giveaways, and speeches from community leaders.
- Planning has begun for Winterval 2025. On Saturday, January 25th, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation will join community partners including Heartland Mushers, Fort Wayne Curling Club, Fort Wayne Ice Skating Club, and more to present a day of activities centered on the winter season. Returning for its second year, The Amazing Winterval Race will invite teams of two on an adventure throughout Fort Wayne where they will complete physical and mental challenges in hopes of accumulating the lowest time.

Salomon Farm Park

- The second dinner in the flower garden at Salomon Farm Park took place on Saturday, September 14, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. A total of 47 out of 50 tickets were sold for the event, and guests enjoyed dinner and drinks provided by Mad Anthony's Catering.
- Mayor Sharon Tucker welcomed the two Valais Black Nose Sheep to Salomon Farm Park on Thursday, August 29, 2024. On Saturday, September 7, 2024, eight Meet-and-Greet sessions were offered, allowing community members to spend 30 minutes in the pen with the lambs, pet them, take photos, and feed them. All eight sessions sold out, prompting the addition of eight more sessions on Sunday, September 8, 2024. All but three of these additional sessions were also sold out.
- The last Farmers' Market of the season was held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Average attendance remained steady at around 300 people per market, and feedback from vendors indicated satisfaction with the season.
- The annual Fall Harvest Festival took place on Friday, September 27, 2024, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and on Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. This two-day event at the farm featured



farm animals, wagon rides, a children's maze, barrel train rides, antique farm equipment demonstrations, a tractor parade, a farmers' market, pony rides, and much more!

Sweet Breeze Canal Boat

- Low river levels created challenges for loading and unloading at Promenade Park. On Wednesday, September 18, 2024, the Sweet Breeze administration decided to move all tour departures to the Headwaters Park West boat dock. The floating dock provided a safer alternative for boarding and disembarking, especially with little rain in the forecast for the busy weekend ahead.
- In partnership with Friends of the Rivers, Sweet Breeze Fest returned for another successful year on Saturday, September 21, 2024, and Sunday, September 22, 2024. Nearly all tours were sold out, with only two tour times remaining on each day not sold out. Thanks to the support of Friends of the Rivers, the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department was able to offer these tours at the affordable rate of \$5 per seat. A total of seven tours were held each day.
- Additionally, in partnership with Friends of the Rivers, field trips are scheduled throughout September. On select days, up to three field trips are offered per day, each lasting 45 minutes. The cost is \$5 per child, with up to three teachers able to ride for free.

Johnny Appleseed Campground

- Johnny Appleseed Campground hosts returned on Tuesday, September 24th, after the Johnny Appleseed Festival to prepare for the campground's reopening on Wednesday, September 25th. The campground will remain open until after the Dog Show in early November.

Golf

- Dave Weadock and Bryan Keister attended a "big dig" construction update meeting. They were told that the contractor was NOT going to remove the stone that they had placed for the temporary road. They are going to backfill dirt over it. This will create a problem when the area is finally reseeded.
- Gary Whitacre reported that golf play has slowed down from the summer pace but continues to be strong for the fall.

Aquatics

- Daryn Schwartz reported that he is continuing to look at purchasing additional new lifeguard chairs for the 2025 season. He stated that the lifeguard chairs purchased for 2024 were well received by the staff and created better aesthetics for the pools.
- Jason Smith reported that he had cleaned and rebuilt both of the dolphin pool cleaners. He stated that this was vital to keeping them in good working condition as well as saving money for costly repairs.

Sandra Odisho – Finance Manager Payroll, Registrations, Budgets, Rentals, Tickets, Receptionist, Trust Fund Donations, Banking, Commercial Vouchers

Payroll:

- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 326 employees (136 full-time and 168 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending September 21st, and paid on September 27th, 2024.
- We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of September 30th, 2024:
 - Heavy Equipment Working Leader (Fund 121)
 - Heavy Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
 - Grounds Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
 - Manager VI – Grounds (Fund 121)
 - Program Coordinator – Neighborhood Programs – Jennings (Fund 121)
 - Program Coordinator – Riverfront/Headwaters (Fund 439)
 - Maintenance Technician II (Fund 451)
- Most of our seasonal staff have been separated. We have just a few areas still staffed, like the golf courses, Foellinger Theatre, and Hurshtown. There will be even more separations by the end of October.
- We will start hiring for the Ice Rink this month as they get ready to open for the season.
- We have been working hard on working on software building and assembling training materials and meetings for managers and supervisors to assist in a successful transfer to a digital time card system to replace our outdated current paper time card system. We are planning on having the first phase of implementation ready to go live in November. The second phase will occur once we have successfully transferred all of the first phase of employees and managers.

Rental/Reception Office:

- Pavilion rentals are still going strong. The mild falls we have now make using even the outdoor pavilions enjoyable into October.
- We wrapped up Foellinger Theatre ticket sales and the processing of the Foellinger Theatre daily reports this month. In addition to those a few of the office staff also helped out this summer by scanning tickets at the gate.
- A couple of us helped out with the Salomon Farm Park Fall Festival. It was great to get out of the office and support another park area. Kim about blew away on Friday but the weather on Saturday was much better for both of us!
- We have met with the company that manages our phone system to discuss the possibilities of texting options for both us to get out information and the public to text questions or concerns. We are in the very early stages of that and do not yet even have pricing.
- Fall tennis lessons at Northside Park and animal meet and greets at Salomon Farm Park were the most popular registrations for September. Also, the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday classes for preschoolers are already full!
- In September, we processed the following: accounts payable 550 invoices, 43 P-card statements, 15 purchase requisitions, and 2 payroll periods.
- The 2025 Budget will be approved during the October 22nd Council Meeting.

Steve Schuhmacher – Deputy Director of Park

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

+ Facilities Maintenance

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **252** for September. This is **Down** from **256** in August.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Jehl Park, Franke Park, Packard Park, Martin Luther King Bridge, Rockhill Park, Swinney Park, and Lawton Park Skate Park
- Facilities Staff pressure washed the following locations: Guldlin Park Boat Dock, Waynedale Park Splashpad, Johnny Appleseed Park, McCormick Splashpad, Lawton Park, Swinney Park, Kreager Park Shelters, Rockhill Park, Tillman Park Tennis Center, and Packard Park.
- Vandalism occurred at the following locations: McCormick Park- Toilet paper dispenser and paper towel dispenser and Weisser Park- Picnic tables.

+ Maintenance Technicians

- Renovation work took place at the Northside Park administration office. This included updating electrical outlets, switches, lighting, plumbing fixtures, wall repair, and painting.
- Repairs were completed at the McCormick Park restrooms after vandals broke all the paper product dispensers and destroyed one of the toilets.
- The zero-depth pool and spray structure at Northside Park pool were repainted.
- The Johnny Appleseed Festival took place the 21st and 22nd. Set-up and preparations were completed the week prior to build stages, deliver tables and chairs, and distribute straw. Tear down and cleanup took place the 23rd and 24th.
- Repairs were completed on the river greenway at Roosevelt Park.
- The exterior covers for the lower windows at the Albert Jennings Center were removed for painting and resurfacing. Once completed, they will be reinstalled.
- Playground repairs at several locations have continued as replacement parts have been delivered.
- Repairs were completed on benches and wooden decking at the Lindenwood Nature Preserve.
- LED lighting upgrades were completed at Freimann Square, McMillen Park parking lot, and
- There was a total of 48 calls made to the on-call person which resulted in 4 in person responses. Of the 48 calls, 25 were lock/key pad related issues. 15 were facility related issues and 8 were general park questions.

+ Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment

- Mowing suspended for 3 weeks in September due to drought conditions.
- Athletic fields watered daily at both Kreager Park and Foster West during September.
- Started fall aerification on sports fields.
- Seeded Lawton Football field and put up goals for fall football leagues.
- Placed two extra bleachers at Lawton for fall football.
- Seeded Foster West soccer fields and McMillen rugby fields with turf type tall fescue.
- Softball fields sprayed, spin trimmed and groomed for daily use.
- Completed annual trim on greenway and started weekly mowing and blowing of leaves.
- Street boom mower was used at Franke for trimming pathways for Fantasy of Lights.



- Street boom mower used at Foster Park Greenway.
- Crews pruned trees at Foster Park Greenway, Shoaff, Old Fort and Lakeside Park.
- 10 crew members helped set up for Johnny Appleseed.
- 16 crew members helped clean up Johnny Appleseed Park after the Festival.
- 50 bales of straw were delivered to the zoo for their upcoming Halloween display.
- 9 tons of topsoil of soil was delivered to Kreager Park for fall soccer field renovations.
- Fibar delivered to Shoaff Park for a volunteer group on September 7th.
- Fibar delivered to Northside Park for a volunteer group on September 14th.
- 12 stumps removed and starting the backfilling and seeding process.
- Solomon Park mowed and trimmed for their Fall Festival.
- Temporary parking striping was painted at the fields at Solomon for the Fall Festival.
- Trash cans delivered to McMillen and Reservoir Parks for various events.
- Trash truck running daily and both days on weekends.

Lawton Garage/Operations/Highlights/Storeroom and Property

- 142 work orders were scheduled this month, 26 of which were services.
- A 2023 Air-tow trailer was delivered and paid for with some left-over funding from the 2024 lease. This trailer is assigned to the maintenance techs.
- A “new” fishing boat and matching trailer were entered into inventory and then given a tune-up. This boat will be used as a work/rescue boat for Sweet Breeze in the event it has any issues while out on the water.
- City staff involved in the yearly Stormwater inspections toured multiple locations within the parks to make sure the department is compliant with all stormwater regulations.
- A tractor from Shoaff Golf Course required a new clutch which necessitates splitting the tractor in half to replace both the clutch and the flywheel.
- Sweet Breeze had issues several times with the bow thrusters. Garage mechanics worked to correct the issue to allow operators to continue using the thrusters.
- The Headwaters Zamboni was transported to the garage for preventive maintenance before the start of the ice rink season.
- A second Zamboni was purchased from Sport ONE Parkview Icehouse. This second machine will act as a backup ice resurfacing unit for Headwaters Park.
- The Headwaters chiller trailer is a 1965 army surplus semi-trailer. As such, it had never been titled and did not have plates and registration through the Indiana BMV. Councilman Paddock was able to supply a bill of sale that allowed the Parks Department to title and register the trailer for use on the road.
- **Storeroom and Property:** A passenger van was used by Northside staff for a day trip and the mayor’s office also used a van to transport international visitors around the city.
- Storeroom staff supplied materials needed for stormwater inspections such as oil dry, absorbent mats, and spray paint for drains.
- Supplies were also provided to staff assisting with the set up and tear down of the Johnny Appleseed festival.

Project Administration

- Botanical Conservatory Boilers Replacement – Project completed.
- Brewer Park Construction – Site demolition in progress.
- Community Center HVAC Control System – Project completed.
- Community Center Art Room Renovation – Project completed.

- Foellinger Theatre Lighting Design Construction Drawings – In progress.
- Foster Park Golf Course Restoration Plan – Restoration plan for holes 7 and 8 are complete. Awaiting schedule from City Utilities.
- Foster Park Golf Course Irrigation – Bids received. Awaiting approval of purchase order.
- Foster Park West – Design completed.
- Hanna Homestead Sidewalk Replacement – Project completed.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project is currently out to bid.
- Irish Town Plaza Construction – Project completed.
- Jennings Center Windows and Doors Sealing – Project completed.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Construction – Work in progress. Paint and rust removal in progress on west side of bridge.
- Packard Park Redevelopment – Approvals in progress.
- Salomon Farm Animal Barn – Planning in progress.
- Shoaff Park Drainage Project – Project completed.
- Various Parks 2024 Paving Projects – Project completed.

Safety

- The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on 8-24-24. 3 employees were present.
- 2 vehicle crashes were reported for this time period.
- 3 employee injuries were reported this time period.
- 29 work site safety checks were done.
- Mandatory Compliance training has begun. 30 employees in 4 departments have been trained so far.
- 2025 training schedule for Recreational seasonal employees was finalized.
- The review of Parks Safety SOP's continues.

Chad Shaw, Deputy Director of Planning & Development, Forestry,

Landscape & Horticulture, Riparian and the



Planning Report – Planning Report – September 2024

- The Franke Park Renaissance Project is nearing completion- Spy Run Creek Restoration Phase II is complete, site work/plantings are being installed, interior concrete floors are complete, and mechanical systems are coming on-line. Demolition of the existing maintenance buildings will take place in early October, with final asphalt and concrete walk installations to follow. The open-air pavilion has been erected, and painting, staining and masonry will be completed in the coming weeks. Press conferences are being scheduled for the grand opening of the new Goshen Rd. entrance and the McMillen Family Pavilion this fall.
- Riverfront Phase II construction documentation is complete, and the project is officially out to bid. Bids are due through our construction manager, Hagerman Construction, on October 22nd. We continue to work through permitting conditions related to FEMA for portions of the project.
- We anticipate final approvals for the Packard Park Redevelopment project in October, with groundbreaking to take place in early November. An update on the project was presented to the Fairfield Neighborhood

Association.

- Construction on Brewer Park Redevelopment began in September; groundbreaking was celebrated on-site with community members, city officials and donors. This project is anticipated to be completed in late spring 2025.
- The restoration of bronze plaques was completed on the Aquaduct Club monument at Orff Park. This work follows an earlier restoration and repair of the stone portions of the monument.
- Two new sculptures were installed by artist Jim Merz, one at Lakeside and the other at Shoaff. These kinetic sculptures are constructed from steel and aluminum, and were chosen and located by the Public Art Commission and FWPRD. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for early October.
- Staff met with Harvester Neighborhood representatives to discuss potential improvements to McCormick Park.
- Staff continues to coordinate with City Utilities on the work being done in Foster Park. Site restoration is unlikely to be completed this year, as CUE is experiencing delays in receiving some necessary structures to wrap up connections to Indian Village. However, once complete, asphalt will be restored and regrading will take place prior to continuation of the final consolidation sewer project connecting Woodhurst neighborhood to the tunnel.
- Progress is being made on the redesign of Foster Park's entrance, with the design team working on conceptual plans to address all of the issues both assigned by Parks and discovered through public input. We are coordinating with CUE and Public Works to align permitting efforts across several projects in close proximity to the site.
- Construction on Irishtown Plaza wrapped up in September. This project, imagined and initiated by Community Development, provides an anchor and gathering space for residents of the Irishtown Neighborhood at the intersection of Taylor and Fairfield.
- Along with staff from CUE's Sustainability office, Chad presented information on Parks' current practices relating to sustainability and climate resilience at the Climate Leadership Summit at PFW.
- Staff assisted in leading a tour of past, current and future Riverfront Development efforts to members of the White River Technical Committee, who were visiting from Madison and Hamilton Counties. A tour of Promenade Park was also given to a University of St. Francis Biology class.
- Chad Shaw was promoted to Deputy Director of Planning and Landscape following Alec Johnson's move to Redevelopment. We anticipate hiring Chad's replacement in the coming months.
- 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- September 2024

- The School Children's Flower and Vegetable Association had its City-Wide Blue Ribbon Show on Saturday, September 14. There were 291 entries from 186 students representing 44 schools. The Blue Ribbon Show was a culmination of all the school shows held in August and September. In total there were 57 schools that hosted shows. Two new schools were added this year, Hopebridge and Classical Roots.
- Three flats of leftover plants were sent to the Botanical Conservatory for the Fall Plant Swap.
- Community Garden plots continued to be rented with 9 more plots rented in September.
- Volunteers worked 220.5 hours in the greenhouse.
- 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 Powdery Mildew and Black Spot this month. Staff also spent time pruning shrubs such as the Barberries, Yews, and Boxwood, as well as edging and mulching landscape beds. The annual flowers in the urns were removed and replaced with Mums.

- The Foster Park team focused on daily litter pickup; weekly mowing of the bridal glen, 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, and turf repair. Staff also spent time mulching around single trees, applying pre-emergent herbicides for weed control and cleanup of leaf litter. Staff has been removing honeysuckle in a wooded area south of the gardens as part of an ongoing project as well. Some annual beds that were done blooming for the season were removed. The annual flowers around the Clubhouse were removed and replaced with Mums, Kale, Cabbage, and other fall decor.
- 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, and Promenade; 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; deadheading in all annual beds, fertilizing specific shrubs at Promenade, and pruning shrubs at Promenade Park. Staff also spent time power washing Freimann Square, as well as sweeping the Freimann fountain twice this month before the sand in the filters were replaced. Time was spent transplanting perennials that had spread out of their area at Promenade. The majority of time was spent cleaning up from the 3-Rivers Festival. These duties included removing curbing that was damaged and out of place filling ruts and reseeding damaged turf.
- The City Team continued to mow Bob Arnold/Northside and Lawton Park offices weekly. Post-emergent herbicide applications and general weeding/bed and general weeding/bed cleanups were made in Tillman, Indian Village, Kreager, Shoaff, Spy Run, Lawton, Buckner, Franke, Jehl, Weissner, Reservoir, and Swinney Parks. Both Swinney and Bluffton Road Letterbeds were weeded, fertilized, and watered regularly. Staff visited Foellinger Theatre for landscape cleanups before shows. They also cleaned up at Johnny Appleseed Park before the annual festival. Mulching was completed at Bloomingdale, Guldlin, Repka, Hanna Homestead, Vesey, and Daryl B. Cobin Memorial Parks. Pruning was done at Buckner and the McMillen Community Center before the SCFVA show. Staff also spent time grinding stumps and working on turf repair projects at Northside, Lawton, and Jehl Parks.
- Landscape staff picked up pumpkins at Kurtz Farms and delivered them to the Botanical Conservatory before their Pumpkin Path setup.
- Seven landscape staff continued judging SCFVA shows up until the Blue Ribbon Show. Gardeners delivered materials to and helped clean up after the Blue Ribbon Show.
- Harlow completed the landscape renovation on the Lawton Park Cannon as per the contract.
- Gardeners completed their designs for their spring 2025 annual displays.
- All trees planted that were part of the 2023 Park Tree contract were checked for health. Dead ones were noted and turned in to last year's contractor, Shade Trees Unlimited, who will be replacing them this fall as part of the warranty.
- One seasonal staff team member worked their last day of the season this month.
- MJK Total Lawn Care's contract to pick up and remove all leaf litter in Headwaters Park this fall was extended. The contract includes 2 fall pickups, as well as one pickup in the spring of 2025.
- Pride Landcare & Mow Baby Mow continued with their annual mow maintenance contract.
- Lawnganics continued with their annual turf fertilization and weed control contract.
- Olympia Pool began sweeping the Freimann fountain every other week until it is drained in October.
- Olympia Pool replaced sand in both sand filters at Freimann after it was discovered that they were not

working properly.

- Aquatic Management continued to maintain the Thomas Property pond spraying for algae and submerged weeds as per the contract.

Riparian Management Report- September 2024

- Jefferson Bridge was cleared totaling 35,000 pounds (17.5 tons) of large, woody debris. Assisted The Board of Public Works operation of debris removal by cutting through large piles of debris at all Riparian/The Board of Public Works cache points.
- Washed the silt free from along Promenade North and South docks. As rivers dropped to a historical low, rip rap was redistributed along the south dock.
- 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.
- Coordinated between Purdue and Outfitters for a kayak volunteer river clean up along Saint Marys River. A team of 33 people from 12:30-2:30 pm removed litter along the river and riverbanks.
- Led the committee group tasked with upgrading the current volunteer management throughout Parks. Currently in progress.
- Assisted Sweet Breeze operation by removing low river level hazards and prepping Headwaters dock for alternate passenger docking.

Forestry Report- September 2024

- This year's fall tree planting project has been approved by the Board of Park Commissioners and City Council. Shade Trees Unlimited is expected to begin planting 1004 trees throughout our City in the coming weeks.
- Remnants of Hurricane Helene brought some much-needed rain along with exceptionally windy conditions during the afternoon hours of September 26th. These winds resulted in notable damage to trees throughout Fort Wayne.
- Forestry continued the process of inspecting trees located within the Parks system. So far, 37 of our parks have been inspected with all necessary work scheduled and prioritized according to the associated risk.
- Preparation for the 2024/2025 Street Tree Removal project has begun. In total, 467 street trees have been identified as high-priority removals based on a risk assessment completed by our Certified Arborists. Bids are expected to be accepted by the end of October.
- In August, 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 39 trees in September. 8 of these were storm-related.
- Crews responded to and cleared 43 storm-related broken/fallen/hanging limbs. 13 of these were privately owned trees impacting the right of way.
- Responded to and closed (106) 311 Call Center requests for service this month. This represents a 13% increase from September of 2023.
- Forestry Staff completed 9 tree-related property damage appraisals, totaling \$6,375.00 in damages. The vast majority of these were a result of vehicles losing control and striking City-owned Street Trees.

Botanical Conservatory Report – September 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 – he even returned in September and was able to record a surprise interview with Living Local 15. 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 facilitated several well-received events and programs in September 2024 including Be A Tourist in Your Own Hometown (September 8), SCFVA Blue Ribbon Show at McMillen Park Community Center (September 13 & 14), Fall Bonsai Show (September 21). Staff are gearing up for Pumpkin Path Installation (Opens October 1), Botanical Brew (October 4), Rocky Horror Picture Show (October 19), and Garden Trick-or-Treat (October 26), as well as several pre-registered programs and workshops throughout the month.
- Current vacancies include Seasonal Gardener (1) and Seasonal Maintenance (1) – applications are being accepted for both positions.

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

- In September 2024, the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory experienced a 6.17% increase in attendance, welcoming 8,684 visitors compared to 8,179 in September 2023. Year-to-date (YTD) attendance rose by 5.86%, reaching 83,116 visitors, up from 78,518 in 2023.
- Admissions revenue saw a 10.76% increase in September 2024, totaling \$15,027, with YTD admissions revenue up 7.96% to \$311,907.68. Membership revenue for September increased modestly by 1.44%, and YTD membership revenue rose by 6.35%. The Conservatory Shop also showed a slight 0.56% increase for September, with YTD shop revenue growing 13.83%.
- Rental and catering revenue had a significant September increase of 63.74%, though YTD rental revenue saw a 12.11% decrease. Total conservatory revenue for September 2024 increased by 3.66% compared to the previous year, and YTD total revenue is up 6.94%, reaching \$1,056,836.11.

Attendance

September 2023:	8,179 visitors
September 2024:	8,684 visitors
An increase of 505 visitors or +6.17% to 2023	

YTD Comparisons

2023 Attendance:	78,518 visitors
2024 Attendance:	83,116 visitors
An increase of 4,598 visitors or +5.86% to 2023	

Admissions Revenue

September 2023:	\$13,567.00
September 2024:	\$15,027.00
An increase of \$1,460.65 or +10.76% to 2023	

YTD Comparisons

2023 Admissions Revenue:	\$288,911.33
2024 Admissions Revenue:	\$311,907.68
An increase of \$22,996.35 or +7.96% to 2023	

Membership Revenue

September 2023:	\$2,706.00
September 2024:	\$2,745.00
An increase of \$39.00 or +1.44% to 2023	

YTD Comparisons

2023 Membership Revenue:	\$66,197.23
2024 Membership Revenue:	\$70,400.00
An increase of \$4,202.77 or +6.35% to 2023	

Conservatory Shop Revenue

September 2023:	\$16,236.18
September 2024:	\$16,327.26
An increase of \$91.08 or +0.56% to 2023	

YTD Comparisons

2023 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$210,135.73
2024 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$239,201.10
An increase of \$29,065.37 or +13.83% to 2023	

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

September 2023:	\$7,130.00
September 2024:	\$11,675.00
An increase of \$4,545.00 or +63.74% to 2023	

YTD Comparisons

2023 Rental Revenue:	\$76,196.00
2024 Rental Revenue:	\$66,965.00
A decrease of \$9,231.00 or -12.11% to 2023	

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

September 2023:	\$5,624.04
September 2024:	\$1,144.26

YTD Comparisons

2023 Other Revenue:	\$346,780.27
2024 Other Revenue:	\$368,362.33

Conservatory Total Revenue

September 2023:	\$45,263.22
September 2024:	\$46,918.52
An increase of \$1,655.30 or +3.66% to 2023	

YTD Comparisons

2023 Total Revenue:	\$988,220.56
2024 Total Revenue:	\$1,056,836.11
An increase of \$68,615.55 or +6.94% to 2023	

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

- The Conservatory was awarded support of \$5,000 from the Olive B. Cole Foundation for the Desert House Improvements Project.
- The Conservatory was awarded support of \$5,000 from the Zollner Foundation for the Desert House Improvements Project.
- Staff secured agreements from the Cole and Zollner Foundations and the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne to extend their grant support for the Desert House Improvements Project to a completion date of September 2025.
- Staff submitted an application for \$10,000 support of the 2025 Showcase Garden Exhibits to the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation.
- Promotional and complimentary tickets and fliers were distributed to WANE 15 and 89.1 WBOI for the 2024 Botanical Brew event. Provided information for the stations' promotional spots.
- Promotional and complimentary tickets and fliers were distributed to 99.5 & 102.3 for the 2024 Rocky Horror Picture Show event. Provided information for the stations' promotional spots.
- Promotional and complimentary tickets and fliers were distributed to Majic 95.1 for the 2024 Pumpkin Path. Provided information for the stations' promotional spots.
- Promotional and complimentary tickets and fliers were distributed to Majic 95.1 and FOX55 for the 2024 Garden Trick-or-Treat. Provided information for the stations' promotional spots.

Conservatory Public Programs - Events

- Be A Tourist in Your Hometown (September 8)
- As part of this favored downtown event hosted by Fort Wayne's Visitor Center, the Botanical Conservatory offers free admission during its Sunday business hours of 12:00-4:00 pm. This year's event saw an increase of 16% growing from 2,361 in 2023 to 2,733 total visitors in 2024. The average guest count was 683 an hour! Three-quarters (77%) of guests were adults, up from 69% last year. This increase in adult participation suggests the Botanical Conservatory is being enjoyed by individuals as well as families.
- Fall Bonsai Show (September 21)
- For a second time, the Bonsai Show was held in the Magnolia Room as the preference going forward; its' wide-open space and natural lighting create a much more welcoming environment to view these miniature works of art! Of the 333 total guests in attendance, 81 were members (15 being reciprocal) at 24% of the attendance. Despite being held the same weekend as the Johnny Appleseed Festival, numbers increased 9.5% with attendance growing from the 2023 Fall Bonsai Show. An ongoing mutually beneficial relationship between the Bonsai Club and Conservatory staff continues to succeed.

Education

- Fall Plant Swap (September 7)
 - This ever-popular free fall program had 39 participants, with many being returning participants. It began with an abundance of plants thanks to contributions from Lawton Park Greenhouse, liquidation of the Sales Garden, and donations from volunteers and the participating public. The program concluded with a new, fun plant trivia activity led by volunteer Denise Lock. Survey feedback was overwhelmingly positive!
- SCFVA Blue Ribbon Show (September 14)
 - Concluding its 98th year, the School Children's Flower and Vegetable Association brought students and community members together at its Annual Blue Ribbon Show. Chosen from 291 plant entries submitted by a total of 186 students representing 44 schools, 5 merit awards and 56 blue ribbons were awarded at this year's final plant show. Parks and Recreation Director, Steve McDaniel greeted families to begin the program, and Manager of Horticulture and Landscape, Lynda Heavrin concluded the program by interviewing merit award winners, awarding door prizes, and thanking the students and families for participating. This worthwhile endeavor would not be possible without the support of numerous volunteer judges, school chairpersons, and Landscape/Greenhouse/Conservatory staff!

Youth Field Trips

- In September of 2024, five groups brought 388 students to the Botanical Conservatory. Two groups totaled 42 children in 2023; 2 schools totaled 107 students in 2022; there were 0 visits in 2021; 1 group with 9 children in 2020; and 3 groups that brought 66 students in 2019.

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 the month of September, 8 volunteers covered 32 shifts at the Front Desk while 11 volunteers covered 40 shifts in the Gift Shop. Three volunteers also worked with frontline staff to manage a large influx of guests during Be a Tourist in Your Hometown. As for ongoing volunteerism, two garden volunteers continued grooming the gardens, and individuals with Easterseals Arc continued their weekly

routine. CAS, Career Academy Students returned to their volunteer work for the 2024-2025 school year. After a collective 18 hours of volunteering, the students have already made an impact by moving two boulders in the Arid House and assisting in the installation of Pumpkin Path.

- On the last day of the month, the Pumpkin Path outdoor display was installed with the assistance of 43 volunteers from a variety of groups and backgrounds! Five were ongoing Conservatory volunteers; 4 students and 2 instructors represented CAS; a shift of 15 graphic design students and their instructor came from the Anthis Career Academy in addition to a second shift of 12 students; a group of 4 employees served for Target. Overall, Conservatory staff did an excellent job collaborating and continually improving the efforts of this seasonal display.

Upcoming

- June 29-November 17: Raise a Glass! garden exhibit
- June 29-November 17: From Concept to Celebration, visual timeline
- October 1-27: Pumpkin Path Display
- October 1-November 5: Bones for Life®, pre-registered
- October 4: Botanical Brew
- October 8-November 5: T'ai Chi Tuesdays, pre-registered
- October 19: The Rocky Horror Picture Show & Fright Night Market
- October 26: Garden Trick-or-Treat
- October 28: Pumpkin Path Teardown

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

- Pride Landcare has completed the work to excavate the soil and install a compacted crushed stone base in preparation for the Arid House retaining wall installation project.
- Pride Landcare has also been contracted to add stone and soil to the abandoned Terrace ponds, but has had their work delayed unexpectedly, but will be filling in the pond areas with stone and soil the last week of October.
- Steve Perry Creations has commenced work on designing and building the decorative retaining walls for the Arid House the work should be complete by early November.
- An order of beneficial insects was placed and the insects released to target insect pest issues within the Conservatory, namely aphids, mealybugs, and spider mites. Overall, other pest issues are relatively minor right now.
- Plants for the Color in Motion Butterfly Exhibit have been selected and the list provided to the Lawton Greenhouse Manager to grow for the show installation next April.
- Conservatory Horticulture staff assisted with installing the annual Pumpkin Path Display. The display includes a wide variety of plants for seasonal interest including garden mums, ornamental peppers, kale, ornamental cabbage, sedum, and Creeping Jenny, along with the traditional pumpkins and gourds.
- Students from the Center for Academic Success (CAS) have begun volunteering again this month for the fall semester. So far, the students have assisted with removing weeds, moving boulders in the Arid House, and assisted with installing the Pumpkin Path display.

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

- Coving in the Magnolia room was switched from brown to grey to offer a more updated and contemporary appearance.

- Allied Mechanical continued to work on the replacement of the boilers. The projected goal is to have them fully operational by mid-October.
- Maintenance Technicians from Lawton Park removed the old ceiling-mounted video screen in the Kessler Room; Ryder Productions will get a new unit installed in the near future.
- Moir Electric installed new LED light fixtures rear-west side of the building.
- Coleman Flooring and Blinds will be installing the new roller shades in the Kessler and Jaenicke Rooms in the near future.
- Bids are being sought to make repairs to front desk and wall damage in the atrium.
- Paint the Town Graphics printed numbered door signs for the facility; they have been installed at each exterior door for identification and safety purposes.



The 2024 Passport and sticker offered during Be A Tourist at the Botanical Conservatory



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



Volunteer judging plant entries as part of the School Children's Flower & Vegetable Show



Student volunteers preparing the Terrace Garden for seasonal plantings



Student volunteers unloading plants for the Pumpkin Path Display

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

✚ www.RiverfrontFW.org had 2,852 hits to the site this month and the Promenade Park link had 3,685 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 1,037 hits in September.

- ✚ The Marketing Team held two press conferences in September: Brewer Groundbreaking and Active Aging Week. Six potential press conferences are being planned for late fall. Completed 46 Design projects.
- ✚ Created Conservatory Sponsorship Brochure and Salomon Farm Rental Guide.
- ✚ Submitted request for Youth Scholarship grant and a request for Weisser Park grant.
- ✚ There has been ongoing research for potential fundraising opportunities for the Packard Park project.
- ✚ Media promotions for: Positively Fort Wayne/Swinney Letterbed, Call for Evergreen Trees, Riparian Discovery, Brewer Park Groundbreaking, Active Aging Week, and more.
- ✚ Arranged for 15 media interviews with select staff.
- ✚ **Web Statistics:** Users: 47,544 Hits: 122,347

✚ September Media Mentions 82. and Social Media



FB Followers	96,673
FB Reach	631,138
X (formerly Twitter) Followers	14,191
Instagram Flowers	26,688

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

- ✚ As the season slows down, the weather continues to be nice and play is still good for the time of season. Here are the numbers through the end of September:

<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAF</u>	
2023 REVENUE	69,998.50	43,406	70,924	
2024 REVENUE	59,938	44,429.25	81,712.50	
YTD 2023	428,157.25	263,998.50	517,775.75	
YTD 2024	399,458.75	307,698.50	604,155.05	
		YTD TOTAL 2023	\$1,209,932.50	
		YTD TOTAL 2024	\$1,311,312.30	+8.4%

- ✚ Overall, total revenue is up over 8% from a very good 2023, as golf continues to grow. The decline at Foster Park was to be expected as the sewer project continues to be a disruption to play on the front nine. This will continue through the 2025 season.

- Throughout the summer, Foster was running about 6% below the previous year's numbers. This decline could have been worse, as it was thought the drop-off could be 15% or more. The number did drop in September, and this can be attributed totally to the lack of outings this year as compared to last. In 2023, every weekend hosted an outing, where there were none in 2024.
- Fall rates went into effect on September 30, and play should continue to be solid as long as the weather holds. The courses will remain open through Veteran's Day on November 11, and if the weather is conducive that may stretch out further.
- There have been no major problems with the cart fleet this year. The cart situation has improved this year with the addition of 16 new carts at Foster and adding carts to McMillen's fleet. We are getting closer to the optimal number of available carts.
- Golf continues to grow. Nationally through August, golf revenue was up 2%, while even with the disruptions at Foster, the Parks courses are up over 8%. There is no indication that this trend will end shortly. The Parks golf programs should continue to grow.

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



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

- The Covington Road Trail between Hadley and Getz will be paved on 10/4 and 10/5. The road should re-open by 10/12.
- The contractor has cleared the right of way for the Pufferbelly Trail between Coliseum Blvd. and Washington Center. They are now cutting the trail and putting down the stone subbase.
- We have finished Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails for the season.
- We continue to check all trails older than 10 years for maintenance issues. We'll assign a ranking to help prioritize these sections and put a 3-5 year plan together for fixing the maintenance issues. We are just finishing up the inspection of all the bridges and boardwalks.
- A State Trails Charette will be held by the DNR on November 15th. Dawn Ritchie will attend.
- We did not submit the Reconnecting Communities Grant for the Pufferbelly Bridge over Coliseum Boulevard ("Vann Family Crossing"). The grant award minimum is \$10 million. The bridge estimate is much lower than \$10 million.
- We walked the north side of Stelhorn Rd from Maplecrest to Wheelock on 9/30 to review the 30% engineering plans with the consultant.



- ✚ We walked the north side of Carroll Road on 10/1 between the Fairgrounds and Lima Road to discuss the alignment of the trail. Survey work will be ordered and then in-house design will begin.
- ✚ We have a pre-construction meeting on 10/3 to discuss crack-sealing several trails.
- ✚ We will be hiring a contractor in October to place park benches in three locations on the Rivergreenway by The Plex and PFW, as well as a park bench along the Oxford Street Trail near the entrance to McMillen Park.
- ✚ We will also be getting some quotes to hire a contractor to fix issues with asphalt on two of our trails.
- ✚ We'll be removing some dead trees on five trails soon, as well as planting some new trees and shrubs on four trails.



Division News and Media Coverage:

Spirit of History Walking Tour

Friday, October 18, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Wells Street Bridge, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

This walking tour will tread through the history surrounding the park, including its hauntings and vices. Hosts will endeavor to bring history to life by telling tales and breathing life back into the souls that still haunt our building and town—relax and enjoy the tour through time. This is designed for ages 13 and above.

Admission is free.

WPTA, Innovative Housing Showcase

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/10/15/new-innovative-housing-fort-wayne/>

WANE, Innovative Housing Showcase

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/look-finished-project-shows-off-new-ways-to-build-houses-in-fort-wayne/>

Adams Radio Group, Wedge project

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2024/10/15/city-announces-the-wells-street-wedge/>

WOWO, County Commissioner candidate Ron Turpin on Fort Wayne's Morning News program

<https://wowo.com/candidate-for-county-commissioner-joined-fort-waynes-morning-news/>

WPTA, Walk in the Park feature with Parks and Recreation

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/10/11/walk-park-halloween-events/>

WFFT, Wedge project

https://www.wfft.com/news/construction-for-the-wells-street-wedge-starting-soon/article_829e5b02-8a88-11ef-975b-a766d8129bf4.html

WFFT, Electric Works update

https://www.wfft.com/news/electric-works-celebrates-construction-of-elex/article_a2f7261e-8a46-11ef-8c9c-232853a41548.html



WOWO, County Councilman Ken Fries discusses the jail and casino plans

<https://wowo.com/candidate-ken-fries-talks-allen-county-jail-and-new-haven-casino/>

WANE, Citilink seeks tax hike

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/citilink-seeks-tax-raise-as-company-drives-toward-service-cuts-fiscal-cliff/>

WANE, Budget discussions continue at City Council

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/high-profile-city-departments-present-budgets-to-fort-wayne-city-council/>

WANE, Feature on The Pearl

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/exclusive-inside-the-pearl-with-chuck-surack/>

WPTA, Two EV charging stations installed in southeast FW

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/10/08/two-new-ev-charging-stations-installed-fort-wayne/>

Great Tree Canopy Comeback 2024 Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Two sites in Allen County (see sign up form for more details)

The Great Tree Canopy Comeback (GTCC) began in 2001 with the mission and focus to restore a canopy that was found to be severely lacking in the Parks System. Since the first annual event, the GTCC has been responsible for planting nearly 3,000 trees in multiple parks and trails throughout the county. This planting success, with the addition of other tree care needs, led to the event evolving in 2018 to also include removal of invasive shrubs and trees from the parks' natural wooded areas. This year you can choose to volunteer to help plant trees at Kreager Park on North River Road or protect biodiversity and habitats by removing invasive plant species near the Historic Fort Park at 1201 Spy Run Avenue. Go to: **bit.ly/TreeCanopyComeback24** to sign up.

WBOI, Two EV charging stations installed in southeast FW

<https://www.wboi.org/government/2024-10-08/fort-wayne-installs-two-new-ev-charging-stations-on-southeast-side>

WOWO, Annual WOWO Fire Drill is today – FWFD featured

<https://wowo.com/today-78th-wowo-fire-drill/>

Spooky Critter Houses: Bat Boxes

Sunday, October 20, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

Did you know that a single brown bat can eat up to 3,000 mosquito sized bugs every night!? Join Riverfront and the Save Maumee Grassroots organization to build and decorate mini single-chamber bat houses and for these amazing natural pest managers. The bat box kits are made by Firefly Goods from repurposed wood and Save Maumee members will be on-site to help assemble the project. Guests will also get instructions on when, where and how to hang the bat home in the backyard. This is a great class for kids and adults alike. Parental supervision is required for children. It is designed for ages 8 and above. Register online at www.FortWayneParks.org or by phone at 260-427-6000. Fee is \$20 per person.



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.

From Concept to Celebration

Until 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.

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!

WANE, Construction season update from Public Works

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-construction-season-set-to-wrap-up-soon/>

[Fort Wayne Monthly - September 2024 \(thedesigndesign.com\)](#)

[October 2024 – Parks & Recreation \[Intro - Cover1\] \(nrpa.org\)](#)

[October 2024 – Parks & Recreation \[50 - 51\] \(nrpa.org\)](#)

[October 2024 – Parks & Recreation \[56 - 57\] \(nrpa.org\)](#)

WANE, City grant aims to strengthen pride in Fort Wayne neighborhoods with signage and branding

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/city-grant-aims-to-strengthen-pride-in-fort-wayne-neighborhoods-with-signage-branding/>

WANE, Turnstone opens accessible bus stop shelter

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/turnstone-opens-accessible-bus-stop-shelter/>



Feather Fest

Oct 19
1-3 pm

**Lindenwood
Nature
Preserve**
600 Lindenwood Ave

Live Birds from Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rescue
Live Music by Sam Dell
Owl Pellet Dissection • Crafts/Activities for Kids
ACRES & Three Rivers Birding Info Booths
Hiking Trails • Over 70 Identified Bird Species

Free Family Fun!

Pumpkin Path



**BOTANICAL
CONSERVATORY**
1100 S. Calhoun St.
botanicalconservatory.org
BConservatoryFW

OCT 1-27
Tue-Sat 10-5
Thur 10-8
Sun 12-4

Exploration Garden
Fun Activity Scenic Display Festive Photo Op

MAJIC95.1



The illustration at the top of the poster depicts a spooky Halloween scene. It features a large, bright orange and yellow full moon in the center. Several black bats are flying in the sky around the moon. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of bare, gnarled trees on either side. A black cat is walking on the grass in the lower left, and a witch with a pointed hat and a jack-o'-lantern face is flying on a broomstick in the lower right. In the background, there are small silhouettes of tombstones and crosses.

Halloween Haunt

Saturday October 19	Community Center 233 W Main St	3:00-6:00 pm
--------------------------------	--	-------------------------

AN AFTERNOON OF FRIGHTFUL FUN WITH KIDS' ACTIVITIES, GAMES, CONCESSIONS
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

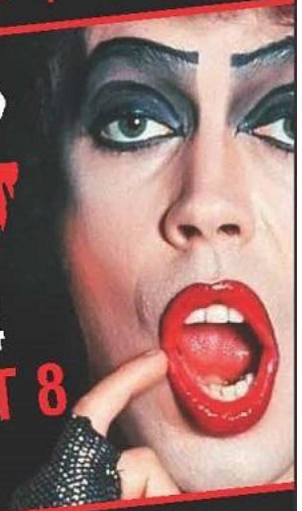


FREE ADMISSION
fortwayneparks.org

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

**COSTUME CONTEST AND
FRIGHT NIGHT MARKET**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024
DOORS 7 COSTUME CONTEST 8
SHOWTIME 9:15



Costume contest categories

Rocky Horror Character • Halloween Costume • Zombie

Rated R. Under 17 must be accompanied by an adult.

**Food /beverage available for purchase from
Mad Anthony Brewing Company.**

1100 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne



BOTANICAL
CONSERVATORY



botanicalconservatory.org

**Admission
\$10**



BConservatoryFW



The poster features a dark red wood-grain background. At the top, a string of colorful bunting flags hangs across the width. The central text 'HANDMADE HOMEMADE SALE' is in large, bold, orange and yellow letters, enclosed in a white, hand-drawn cloud-like shape with a dotted border. To the left of the title is a blue needle and thread, and to the right is a blue pair of scissors. Below the title, a paragraph of text describes the event. The date, location, and time are listed in a three-column format separated by dotted lines. At the bottom of the central area, it states that admission and parking are free and provides a Facebook link for updates. The bottom of the poster has a white banner with the website and phone number. Logos for Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, HOT 107.9, and PBS Fort Wayne are also present.

BUY LOCAL

SUPPORT ARTISTS

HANDMADE HOMEMADE SALE

Local bakers, crafters and artisans will be selling their homemade/home-grown and hand-crafted items just in time for your holiday shopping.

**SUNDAY
OCT
20**

**SALOMON
FARM PARK
817 W DUPONT RD
FORT WAYNE, IN**

**12-5
PM**

Admission and parking are FREE!
Follow Salomon Farm Park on Facebook for updates on vendors and sale items.

 FORT WAYNE PARKS AND RECREATION

 **HOT 107.9**

 **PBS Fort Wayne**

fortwayneparks.org 427-6000




		
<p>Vertical Gardening Tues., Oct. 22, 6-8 p.m. Free Seminar, RSVP by Oct. 15</p>	<p>Tornado Safety Mon., Oct. 28, 6:00 p.m. Free Seminar, RSVP by Oct. 21</p>	<p>Behind the Easel Mon., Oct. 7-Nov. 18, 1:30p.m. Ages 50+, \$81</p>



FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION

Classes held:
at the **COMMUNITY CENTER**, 233 W. Main St. Fort Wayne
Register online at fortwayneparks.org or call **427-6000**.



Raise a Glass to Fall at Conservatory

Step into Fall at the Conservatory in the latest Parks Podcast as FWPR Director Steve McDaniel talks to Conservatory Manager Nate Cardelli about favorite October events, updates to the iconic Woody talking tree and what you can look forward to seeing this holiday season.

[Click to listen](#)



WANE, FWHA project

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-housing-development-aims-to-support-chronically-homeless/>

WANE, Sculptures in northeast Fort Wayne parks encourage spending time in nature

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/sculptures-in-northeast-fort-wayne-parks-encourage-spending-time-in-nature/>

WPTA, Walk in the Park feature with Parks and Recreation – Plant Education

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2024/10/02/walk-park-plant-education/?tbref=hp>

FW Bus Weekly, Fort Wayne receives national ARPA recognition

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_6358d71e-8073-11ef-ac0a-5f90130aeed0.html?utm_source=fwbusiness.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletters%2Fheadlines%2F%3Fdc%3D1727949620&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline

Adams Radio Group, Neighborhood Identity Grant program announced

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2024/10/03/82165/>

WOWO, Citilink's future

<https://wowo.com/citi-link-future-at-a-crossroad/>

WANE, Tolan House will soon be added as local historic landmark

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/tolan-house-will-soon-be-added-as-local-historic-landmark/>

WANE, 2025 city budget – infrastructure

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/list-every-road-fort-wayne-has-budgeted-to-fix-in-2025/>

WFFT, Active Aging Week through Parks and Recreation

https://www.wfft.com/news/promoting-a-healthy-lifestyle-for-senior-citizens-national-active-aging-week-in-fort-wayne/article_d4d0a260-804f-11ef-b45c-bf5504008107.html

WFFT, City's HVAC program

https://www.wfft.com/news/local/applications-open-wednesday-for-fort-waynes-heating-air-conditioning-program/article_0c3dcd4c-8012-11ef-a8fb-ab5a2c3c1bbf.html

Business People magazine, Feature on City Utilities

<https://www.businesspeople.com/Post/5001/tapping-into-excellence>

Fort Wayne magazine, Feature on neighborhoods and the work being done in Community Development

<https://www.fortwayne.com/good-reads/fort-wayne-magazine-october-2024/>

Adams Radio Group, City's HVAC program

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2024/10/02/82121/>

Input FW, YLNI and Acts of Kindness effort

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/200-Acts-of-Kindness-YLNI.aspx>

Input FW, Feature on importance of voting

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/voter-engagment-2024.aspx>



Check out Golf Course fees & Specials at:

[Foster Park Golf Course](#)

[Shoaff Park Golf Course & Driving Range](#)

[McMillen Park Golf Course & Driving Range](#)

[Mad Anthony III's Short Course](#)