

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

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**Steve McDaniel, Director**

**Fort Wayne Board of Park Commissioners**

**Justin Shurley, President**

**Cory Miller, Vice-President**

**Rick Briley, Commissioner**

**Jenna Jauch, Commissioner**

### **General Information**

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains over 2,800 acres of public park land and provides numerous recreation facilities, programs and services for the Fort Wayne community. The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department was created in 1905 when the Indiana General Assembly adopted the Cities and Towns Law IC.

The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department is administered by a four-member bipartisan Board of Park Commissioners; with each commissioner being appointed by the Mayor and serving a four-year term. The Board reviews and approves the annual budget, approves expenditures, holds regular public meetings as required by law and approves the awarding of all contracts.

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life in Fort Wayne by providing positive opportunities for leisure time and by being stewards of our parklands, facilities, public trees, and other resources entrusted to our care.

This mission is accomplished through the services provided by the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation divisions of Finance and Support Services, Marketing, Parks, Parks Planning and Development, Recreation Services, Foellinger Theatre and Zoo.

### **Finance and Support Services Division**

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

### **Marketing Division**

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

### **Parks Division**

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

### **Parks Planning and Development Division**

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

### **Recreation Services Division**

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

### **Foellinger Theatre Division**

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

### **Zoo Division**

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

PARKS  
Dept # 0121  
2025 BUDGET COMPARISON

	2023 ACTUAL	2024 ACTUAL THRU 30-Jun-2024	2024 REVISED BUDGET THRU 30-Jun-2024	2025 SUBMITTED	\$ INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM REVISED TO 2025	% CHANGE FROM REV TO 2025
5111 WAGES	8,955,788		9,954,692	10,646,381	691,689	
5125 OVERTIME PREMIUM	186,633		157,000	190,000	33,000	
5131 PERF - EMPLOYERS SHARE	809,942		928,600	981,723	53,123	
5132 FICA	569,797		666,170	700,440	34,270	
5134 LIFE MEDICAL & HEALTH INSURAN	1,778,000		1,651,000	1,755,000	104,000	
5136 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	9,244		10,218	10,941	723	
5137 WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	71,244		73,472	70,637	(2,835)	
513A PERF - EMPLOYEES/PD BY CITY	218,412		248,734	262,961	14,227	
513R RETIREES HEALTH INSURANCE	126,000		130,000	108,000	(22,000)	
5140 MERIT INCENTIVE POOL	16,316		—	—	—	
5161 WAGE SETTLEMENT/SEVERANCE PAY	3,781		—	—	—	
5162 ACCRUED WAGES ADJ	74,066		—	—	—	
5180 TOOL ALLOWANCE	6,300		—	—	—	
<b>Total 5100</b>	<b>\$12,825,525</b>	<b>\$ 6,373,468</b>	<b>\$ 13,819,886</b>	<b>\$ 14,726,083</b>	<b>\$ 906,197</b>	<b>6.56%</b>
5213 COMPUTER SUPPLIES	24,618		20,400	24,300	3,900	
5219 OTHER OFFICE SUPPLIES	20,693		22,550	23,450	900	
5231 GASOLINE	141,471		129,750	136,875	7,125	
5232 DIESEL FUEL / FUEL OIL	126,858		152,000	144,875	(7,125)	
5233 OIL	14,453		13,000	16,000	3,000	
5234 TIRES & TUBES	30,333		36,300	36,300	—	
5239 OTHER GARAGE & MOTOR SUPPLIES	23,555		25,100	25,100	—	
5241 MEDICAL & SURGICAL SUPPLIES	27,006		27,800	27,800	—	
5243 RECREATION SUPPLIES	152,706		236,875	273,275	36,400	
5245 LANDSCAPE & GRNHOUSE SUPPLIES	269,310		289,000	294,000	5,000	
5246 HOUSEHOLD & CLEANING SUPPLIES	92,921		91,850	91,850	—	
5247 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	1,791		3,150	3,150	—	
5261 BLDG REPAIR & MAINT MATERIALS	201,356		222,274	218,272	(4,002)	
5262 VEHICLE REPAIR PARTS	61,797		80,000	90,000	10,000	
5263 OTHER EQUIPMENT REPAIR PARTS	235,690		224,500	233,500	9,000	
5271 GRAVEL	15,679		15,000	17,000	2,000	
5272 BITUMINOUS MATERIALS	834		500	500	—	
5273 SAND	80		500	2,000	1,500	
5274 SALT	12,263		31,000	31,000	—	
5291 SMALL TOOLS	52,298		26,000	33,500	7,500	
5293 PAINT	23,415		15,000	19,400	4,400	
5299 OTHER MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	277,739		162,850	162,850	—	
<b>Total 5200</b>	<b>\$ 1,806,867</b>	<b>\$ 865,110</b>	<b>\$ 1,825,399</b>	<b>\$ 1,904,997</b>	<b>\$ 79,598</b>	<b>4.36%</b>
5312 MEDICAL SERVICES	1,509		4,500	4,500	—	
5314 CONSULTANT SERVICES	—		2,500	2,500	—	
5315 APPRAISALS & INSPECTIONS	28		850	850	—	
5316 RECREATIONAL SERVICES	144,885		239,050	283,700	44,650	
531H BANK SERVICE CHARGES	40,406		27,500	37,800	10,300	
531K SEMINAR FEES	23,592		21,400	26,150	4,750	
5321 FREIGHT EXPRESS & DRAYAGE	400		—	—	—	
5322 POSTAGE	45,869		69,275	70,775	1,500	
5324 TRAVEL EXPENSES	22,747		27,600	27,600	—	
5326 MILEAGE	1,213		2,250	2,250	—	
532C CELL PHONE	9,683		5,200	7,500	2,300	
5331 PRINTING OTHER THAN OFFC SUPPL	65,703		87,000	91,000	4,000	
5332 PUBLIC OF LEGAL NOTICES/ADVTER	3,911		16,450	16,450	—	
5333 PHOTOGRAPHY & BLUEPRINTING	188		500	500	—	
5342 LIABILITY INSURANCE	201,708		173,308	199,807	26,499	

PARKS  
 Dept # 0121  
 2025 BUDGET COMPARISON

	2023 ACTUAL	2024 ACTUAL THRU 30-Jun-2024	2024 REVISED BUDGET THRU 30-Jun-2024	2025 SUBMITTED	\$ INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM REVISED TO 2025	% CHANGE FROM REV TO 2025
5351 ELECTRICITY	638,998		723,100	772,506	49,406	
5352 NATURAL GAS	209,091		262,016	262,016	—	
5353 WATER	652,268		722,095	729,595	7,500	
5356 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	54,959		53,500	70,000	16,500	
5361 CONTRACTED BLDG & STRUCT REPAI	320,149		215,000	225,000	10,000	
5362 CONTRACTED VEHICLE REPAIR	67,072		40,000	55,000	15,000	
5363 CONTRACTED OTHER EQUIPMT REPAI	79,637		129,033	128,850	(183)	
5365 JANITORIAL & LAUNDRY SERVICE	35,564		36,450	68,450	32,000	
5369 CONTRACTED SERVICE	680,583		853,618	775,183	(78,435)	
536H DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAM SUPPORT	22,500		—	—	—	
5371 BUILDING RENTAL	—		1,000	1,000	—	
5374 OTHER EQUIPMENT RENTAL	34,956		41,400	50,325	8,925	
5381 PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL - BONDS	875,000		885,000	920,000	35,000	
5382 PAYMENT OF INTEREST - BONDS	380,654		366,800	331,725	(35,075)	
5391 SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DUES	10,784		21,285	21,285	—	
5393 TAXES	3,175		3,500	10,000	6,500	
5399 OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	154,925		117,600	117,600	—	
539A OPERATING TRANSFER OUT	2,517,732		2,626,856	481,382	(2,145,474)	
539B MASTER LEASE	807,268		827,059	—	(827,059)	
<b>Total 5300</b>	<b>\$ 8,107,158</b>	<b>\$ 2,575,152</b>	<b>\$ 8,602,695</b>	<b>\$ 5,791,299</b>	<b>\$ (2,811,396)</b>	<b>-32.68%</b>
<b>Total 5400</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>\$ —</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,739,550</b>	<b>\$ 9,813,730</b>	<b>\$ 24,247,980</b>	<b>\$ 22,422,379</b>	<b>\$ (1,825,601)</b>	<b>-7.53%</b>

<u>EXPLANATION</u>	<u>LINES AFFECTED</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
• Added 2 High Range Operators - Forestry Division	5111	\$ 93,580
• Added 1 Relief Person - Buildings Maintenance	5111	\$ 48,621
• Increase in Seasonal Wages	5111	\$ 180,779
• Removing the Effect of 2023 Encumbrances in Revised Budget	5369	\$ (168,635)
• Decrease in Social Media Contract - Marketing	5369	\$ (13,800)
• Increase in Parks Maintenance Contracts - Fountains and Mowing	5369	\$ 30,000
• Increase in HVAC Maintenance Contract - Botanical Conservatory	5369	\$ 14,000
• Increase in Parks Maintenance Contracts - Landscaping	5369	\$ 60,000
• Increase in Funding in '25 to Headwaters and Salomon Farm	539A	\$ 27,467
• Capital Projects Funded in Fund 121 in '24 and Fund 431 in '25	539A	\$ (2,172,941)
• Capital Lease Funded in Fund 121 in '24 and Fund 431 in '25	539B	\$ (827,059)

Parks and Recreation 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program							
<b>FUNDING SOURCE CODE:</b> PS - Private Source ST - State Source LIT-ED - Local Income Tax - Economic Development							
Item #	Project Title & Description	Funding Source	Expenditure				
			2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
1	Master Lease Program - Trucks, Light Duty Vehicles & Equipment	LIT-ED	833,376	820,000	820,000	820,000	820,000
2	ADA Improvements	LIT-ED	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
3	Computer Equipment	LIT-ED	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
4	Office Equipment	LIT-ED	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
5	Betterments & Additions	LIT-ED	550,000	500,000	670,000	500,000	500,000
6	Resurfacing Roads\Parking Lots\Tennis Courts\Basketball Courts	LIT-ED	486,624	550,000	650,000	570,000	570,000
7	Playground Site Equipment-Various Parks	LIT-ED	150,000	300,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
		PS	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
8	Landscaping Parks & Boulevards	LIT-ED	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
9	Various Parks - Park Signage	LIT-ED	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
10	Street Tree (EAB - Emerald Ash Borer Treatment)	LIT-ED	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
11	Street Tree Planting	LIT-ED	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
		ST	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
12	Street Tree Planting (Citizen Request Match)	LIT-ED	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
13	Park Tree Planting (Canopy Recovery & EAB)	LIT-ED	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
		PS	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
14	Botanical Conservatory - Glass Replacement	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
15	Various Parks - Shelter/Pavilion Renovations	LIT-ED	40,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
16	Various Parks - Site Furnishing Replacement	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
17	Various Parks - Energy Conservation	LIT-ED	60,000	60,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
18	Various Bridge Improvements	LIT-ED	40,000	80,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
19	Various Parks Security Improvements	LIT-ED	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
20	Neighborhood Park Master Plan Implementations	LIT-ED	—	200,000	300,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
21	Land Acquisition	LIT-ED	—	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
22	Botanical Conservatory Terrace Improvements	LIT-ED	—	300,000	300,000	—	—
23	Monument Restoration	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
24	Neighborhood Facilities - Improvements and Renovations	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
25	Recreation Facilities - Improvements and Renovations	LIT-ED	70,000	70,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
26	Headwaters Park Various Maintenance Improvements	LIT-ED	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
27	Salomon Farm - Various Maintenance	LIT-ED	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
28	Foster Park Golf Course Improvements	LIT-ED	—	200,000	200,000	100,000	100,000
29	Botanical Conservatory HVAC Improvements	LIT-ED	—	—	—	450,000	450,000
<b>Subtotals</b>							
	LIT-ED (Local Income Tax - Economic Development)	LIT-ED	3,000,000	4,000,000	4,500,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
	ST (State Source)	ST	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	PS (Private Source)	PS	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3,070,000</b>	<b>4,070,000</b>	<b>4,570,000</b>	<b>5,070,000</b>	<b>5,070,000</b>

**2025 – 2029**  
**Parks & Recreation Department**  
**Capital Improvement Program Narrative**

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



**City of Fort Wayne, Indiana**  
**2025 Local Income Tax - Economic Development Allocation Plan**

			2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2027 Budget	2028 Budget	2029 Budget
<b>Cash Balance at January 1</b>			<b>\$ 16,728,706</b>	<b>\$ 13,381,930</b>	<b>\$ 8,829,103</b>	<b>\$ 6,353,155</b>	<b>\$ 7,887,613</b>
<b>Receipts</b>							
	Tax Revenue		39,898,459	40,297,443	40,700,418	41,107,422	41,518,496
	Reimbursements		643,050	653,330	663,810	751,661	545,390
	Estimated Interest		400,000	500,000	400,000	400,000	90,000
	<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>40,941,509</b>	<b>41,450,773</b>	<b>41,764,228</b>	<b>42,259,083</b>	<b>42,153,886</b>
	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE CASH</b>		<b>57,670,215</b>	<b>54,832,703</b>	<b>50,593,331</b>	<b>48,612,238</b>	<b>50,041,499</b>
<b>Debt Service and Appropriations</b>							
<b>Debt Service/Commitments</b>	Maturity Date	Original Debt					
	2020 CSQ Refunding Bond	2029 8,660,000	1,077,000	1,083,000	1,083,000	1,077,000	1,081,000
	2017 Park Bond	2026 5,150,000	807,096	808,922	—	—	—
	2019 CEDIT Refunding Bond	2034 20,715,000	1,740,222	1,744,449	1,741,947	1,747,625	1,741,574
	<b>Debt Service Total</b>		<b>3,624,318</b>	<b>3,636,371</b>	<b>2,824,947</b>	<b>2,824,625</b>	<b>2,822,574</b>
	Harrison Square	2027 20,000,000	1,496,229	1,497,229	1,495,229	—	—
	Science Central	2026 3,000,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	—	—
	Arts United-Operating	2027 2,500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	—	—
	Electric Works	2025 5,665,752	1,416,438	—	—	—	—
	Motorola Hand Held Radios		486,300	—	—	—	—
	<b>Project Commitments Total</b>		<b>4,498,967</b>	<b>2,597,229</b>	<b>2,595,229</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>							
	Incentive Fund		1,485,000	1,540,000	1,540,000	1,540,000	1,540,000
	Infrastructure Fund		800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
	Marketing Fund		787,000	687,000	687,000	687,000	687,000
	Strategic Objective Fund		932,000	977,000	977,000	977,000	977,000
	<b>Economic Development Total</b>		<b>4,004,000</b>	<b>4,004,000</b>	<b>4,004,000</b>	<b>4,004,000</b>	<b>4,004,000</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>							
	Streets & Roads Infrastructure		18,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000	18,000,000
	MVH Streets & Roads Infrastructure		5,100,000	5,100,000	5,100,000	5,100,000	5,100,000
	Trails		1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
	Pufferbelly Trail		—	2,500,000	—	—	—
	Southeast Plan Implementation		2,300,000	2,270,000	3,620,000	2,400,000	2,000,000
	Neighborhood Plans - Implementation		1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
	Parks Infrastructure		3,000,000	4,000,000	4,500,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
	Front Door/Bike/Walk Fort Wayne		1,061,000	1,196,000	896,000	696,000	696,000
	<b>Infrastructure Total</b>		<b>32,161,000</b>	<b>35,766,000</b>	<b>34,816,000</b>	<b>33,896,000</b>	<b>33,496,000</b>
	<b>Total Debt Service and Appropriations</b>		<b>44,288,285</b>	<b>46,003,600</b>	<b>44,240,176</b>	<b>40,724,625</b>	<b>40,322,574</b>
<b>Cash Balance at December 31</b>			<b>\$ 13,381,930</b>	<b>\$ 8,829,103</b>	<b>\$ 6,353,155</b>	<b>\$ 7,887,613</b>	<b>\$ 9,718,925</b>