



Steve McDaniel, Director

- ✚ **June 2025:** We started our month by celebrating the volunteers at the Community Center. Our annual luncheon was themed the Kentucky Derby with contests for best hat and best horse names. It was great to see all of the outstanding volunteers who give so much of their time and talents to our center.
- ✚ Parks, along with the Trails division of the Board of Works, celebrated with the Trails Volunteer of the Year Recipient, John Gardner. Besides volunteering on the trails, John is also a first mate on the Sweet Breeze, a cashier at McMillen golf, as well as works at the Headwater's Ice Rink. Thanks, John, for all that you do for us and the community.
- ✚ We continue to work with Resultant on our digital map app. We are to the point where we are testing the software and how information is represented within the app. I am hoping for a soft launch in the next few weeks.
- ✚ Sweet Breeze launched on a cloudy day early in the month. This was one of the many things that show that we are about ready to start the summer events. Our team spent the next couple of weeks preparing the boat and conducting our training. The first tours happen on Memorial Day weekend.
- ✚ We celebrated Mother's Day with the Plant Sale. It was another great year for the plant sale. We had our highest grossing year and want to thank all of the staff and volunteers who helped grow, set up, and run this year's sale. Thank you all!
- ✚ The design team and I spent several meetings this month on the Treeline District. As Browning finishes up on the Design Development portion, we wanted to make sure that our team was sitting well with all of the elements. We continue to discuss items like the treehouse element as well as more details on specifics like irrigation, material selection, and more.
- ✚ The Foellinger Theatre started its season with the Philharmonic and Dolly Parton's Threads concert. This was a great concert to start the year, and we look forward to more. Next up will be Justin Moore and Joe Nichols.
- ✚ We worked with the Mayor's office and Risk Management to host the City's Safety Fair at the McMillen Family Pavilion. The staff attended well, and this kicks off a new initiative from the city to ensure that our employees are trained and safe while performing their tasks.
- ✚ With the Memorial Day holiday, we kicked off the start of summer. Splash pads were open, as well as river tours on the Sweet Breeze. On Saturday, May 31st, we open the aquatic centers and our pools. In June, we have Senior Games, Camps, LSA, PODS, and so much more. Have fun in the parks this summer.
- ✚ We started the month with the Awards Ceremony of the Senior Games. The month-long competition had over 550 participants. It was a great month, and I want to thank all those who participated.
- ✚ The Parks saw lots of activities on July 4th. Our team did a great job cleaning up after the fireworks. It shows that our citizens use their parks on that day.
- ✚ I continued with the *Drop In with the Director* session to have an open dialogue with staff members. This month we had about 10 staff members stop in, and we discussed several different topics.
- ✚ I reached out and met with Andrew Gritzmaker from the YMCA and Kent Castleman from Fort Wayne Trails to collaborate on our community recreation. We are all dealing with similar situations, and we felt that building a better group would benefit us all. It is my hope to continue this collaboration.
- ✚ Our 2026 budget was submitted to the Controller's Office this month. We have had several conversations with their team. I want to thank everyone at Parks who has worked on this. It has a lot of moving parts. I also want to thank Rhonda for putting it all together into the final document we submitted.
- ✚ The team and I met with Patti and Joni from the AWS Foundation. We worked through several items that helped shape what we will be looking at for the future as well as discussed past grants and their statuses.
- ✚ Several of our summer programs closed out this month. Lifetime Sports Academy had a stellar year with attendance and lessons. Our camps, PODS, programs, and other events provided tons of activities.



- ✚ We also had several larger festivals filling in the vacancy of the Three Rivers Festival. I believe they were great additions to our schedule, and I hope that they will continue in the years to come.
- ✚ We also held two press conferences this month. The first was the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Mechanic Street Bridge in East Swinney Park. This pedestrian bridge connects the Nebraska Neighborhood to the park. The second was the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Packard Park. This new redesign of the park transformed the site into a new look and hopefully great activities from the Fairfield Neighborhood. Both events were very well attended.
- ✚ Packard Park also held the DaMarcus Beasley Futsal Camp this past month. This one-day event had lots of participation from area kids learning the skills associated with futsal. Several kids from our youth centers also participated in the camp.
- ✚ Over the last several months, the team has been working on a Parks Map App. We are in the final testing phase and hope to be able to go live later this summer. The App is geared towards finding parks and showing what amenities are within each of the parks.

- ✚ **July 2025:** Summer officially started when we kicked off the beginning of the Senior Games. This month-long event is for anybody 50 and older to keep them active, engaged, and in a friendly competition covering several different games. Our goal is to have 550 participants.
- ✚ Our summer programs started this month, including but not limited to summer camps, Lifetime Sports Academy, PODS, summer concerts, Sweet Breeze tours, and a ton of other activities.
- ✚ We had a few concerts this month at the Foellinger Theatre. They included Justin Moore & Joe Nichols, the Fort Wayne Community Band, and Tommy James and the Shondells.
- ✚ We saw a big incline in the temperatures for a little over a week this past month. Our teams kept a sharp eye on our park patrons, program participants, and their coworkers to make sure that we were safe during that time.
- ✚ The team produced a great press conference at Lakeside Park to cut the ribbon on one of our six new playgrounds. These playground replacements were funded through the supplemental local income tax that the city received. Mayor Tucker earmarked 1.2 million dollars for the new equipment. The parks receiving the new playgrounds included Jehl, Lakeside, Franke, Waynedale, Indian Village, and McCormick Parks.
- ✚ The team continues to work through the Treeline development and the designs for the public space, as well as the structure. I believe we have a great concept ready to go through and work out.
- ✚ Our development team is working with the City's new Grants Administrator on how we can maximize our opportunities by looking for grants of all sizes to benefit the Parks and Recreation system.
- ✚ I held another drop-in session at the Botanical Conservatory. These meetings offer a time when staff can stop in and talk about any topic they would like to cover. I have tried to have one each month throughout the year.
- ✚ I joined the Mayor and other department representatives on a neighborhood walk along Maple Ave and Maple Place in the 07. We heard from several homeowners about the successes of the city and items they would like to see improved.
- ✚ I, the development team, and the staff of the theatre gave a tour to the Foellinger Foundation of the Foellinger Theatre. It was an opportunity to showcase the facility and share with them an update on the projects their grant funded.

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

✚ **May 2025**

- Salomon Farm Park hosted its annual Garden Volunteer Orientation on Monday, April 21, 2025, from 9:30–10:30 AM. Volunteers are a vital part of Salomon Farm Park's operations. These garden volunteers help plan and prepare beds,



plant, weed, maintain tools, perform minor maintenance, and manage unwanted pests. The volunteer group meets every Monday and Thursday morning from April through September and also runs a booth at the Wednesday night Farmers Market. Five potential new volunteers attended this year's orientation. Typically, the park benefits from the support of approximately 10 dedicated garden volunteers throughout the season.

- Registration for the 2025 Farmin' Fun Day Camp is now open, with limited availability remaining in the 4–5 years, 6–11 years, and CIT (Counselors in Training) age groups. The FIT (Farmers in Training) program is fully booked. Based on staff feedback and a desire to provide a more personal experience, the child-to-counselor ratios have been adjusted:
 - Ages 4–5 reduced from 10:1 to 8:1
 - Ages 6–11 restored to the previous 10:1 ratio (from 12:1)
 - FIT and CIT ratios remain unchanged
 - The total weekly camp capacity has increased from 177 to 181 campers, assuming all weeks reach full enrollment. Camp runs from Monday, June 9 through Friday, July 25, 2025 with a one-week break from Monday, June 30 to Friday, July 4, 2025.
- Interviews for the Salomon Farm Park Supervisor position were conducted on Thursday, April 11 and Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Following the interview process, DeAnna Harris was promoted from full-time Program Coordinator to Supervisor of Salomon Farm Park. DeAnna has been with the Parks Department for over four years, originally starting at Salomon as a seasonal rental coordinator. She has proven to be an invaluable team member and is expected to thrive in her new leadership role.
- Soil testing for the Salomon flower fields was completed in March, with fertilizer applied in April. With assistance from the Tri-State Antique Tractor Club, the fields were also cultivated in April in preparation for planting. The two-acre field in front of the property will once again be planted with sunflowers, while the six-acre field on the west side will also feature sunflowers, with a quarter of it dedicated to a mix of specialty flowers.
- Significant effort has been dedicated to promoting Salomon Farm Park rentals from December through March—commonly referred to in the industry as “engagement season.” Staff increased social media marketing and promoted rentals at the February Bridal Extravaganza by placing brochures in attendee goodie bags. Amanda Scherschel, Salomon Farm Park's Rental Coordinator, has also been updating marketing materials with support from the Parks marketing team. New brochures have been created for each facility (the Old Barn and Learning Center), and a rental follow-up survey has been launched to collect testimonials for the website.
- Looking ahead, the team is exploring additional advertising opportunities, including FW Magazine and potentially a billboard campaign. So far, efforts have shown results:
 - Old Barn bookings: 31 (compared to 25 at this time last year)
 - Total rentals booked: 125 (compared to 94 at this time last year)
- Due to the increase in demand, there is an urgent need for an additional seasonal rental coordinator. The position has been posted, and interviews will begin as applications are received. May is fully booked with weekend rentals, and staff are preparing for a busy rental season.



Sweet Breeze Canal Boat

- The staffing plan for the 2025 season is nearly complete, with 14 of the 15 staff members returning from last year. All positions have been successfully filled, and the team is excited to welcome three new members for the upcoming season.
- Specialty tours and general public tours have been finalized for 2025. Ticket sales for all tour offerings will open on Thursday, May 1, 2025, with information available online. The team is looking forward to another great season on the water.

 Johnny Appleseed Campground

- Campground hosts returned to Johnny Appleseed Campground on Sunday, April 20, 2025, to begin preparations for the season opening on Thursday, May 1, 2025. This year, three campground hosts will be assisting with opening operations. We're excited to welcome one new hosting team, Tim and Marsha McDermott. With many years of hosting experience, Tim and Marsha are already settling in well and becoming a great addition to the team.

 Hursttown Reservoir

- Staff have been hired and are actively preparing for the season opening on Thursday, May 1, 2025. This year, three staff members are returning, and we are pleased to welcome one new team member.
- Both staff and management are especially excited about two key updates happening at Hursttown this year. First, the property will be receiving a brand-new EZ-Dock to replace the older, worn-out, non-accessible dock. This upgraded dock will improve accessibility for all visitors, making it easier for everyone to enjoy the water, whether they're kayaking or using a rowboat. Second, the facility will now be open on Mondays, marking a shift from previous seasons when it was closed one day each week. Hursttown Reservoir will now be open daily from 7:30 AM to 8:00 PM, providing more opportunities for the community to enjoy the park.

 Franke Park Day Camp

- Interviews for Franke Park Day Camp have concluded, and preparations are now underway for the upcoming staff hiring night, scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2025. This event will finalize employment for prospective staff members as the camp gears up for the summer season.
- As part of continued efforts to improve camper experience and safety, counselor-to-camper ratios have been adjusted. For the 4–5 age group, the ratio has been reduced from 10:1 to 8:1. In the 6–11 age group, the ratio has shifted from 12:1 to 10:1, aligning with best practices and staffing capacity. One additional group has been added for the 4–5 age group, bringing it to a total of three groups, while the 6–11 age group will continue with 16 groups for the 2025 season, similar to the 2024 season. Currently, registration is completely full for the 4–5 and 6–11 age groups, as well as for the Junior Leaders program. Counselor-in-Training (CIT) positions are still available.

 Golf

- Jason Smith reported that the new Golf Course Superintendent, Chris Rudolph, started on Monday, April 7, 2025. He also stated that Chris hit the ground running since the courses had been open for a couple of weeks.
- Gary Whitacre reported that with the emerging warmer weather, the three golf courses are seeing a real increase of rounds played. He also stated that patrons are patiently waiting for the natural tees on the driving ranges to open. As always, when this happens, the amount of activity picks up even further.

 Pools

- Daryn Schwartz reported that Spear Corporation would be doing the sand filter work at Northside Pool on the main and zero-depth pools. He also stated that once the project begins, it should take a couple of days, barring any unforeseen setbacks. This should still put the pool operation on track to open on May 7, 2025.
- Daryn Schwartz stated that pool staffing is on target to be fully staffed for the season. Daryn was very excited about this due to having a couple of really difficult staffing summers in the past.
- Jason Smith reported that the maintenance techs had done an outstanding job getting the leaves out of the pools. He also stated that the cleaning crews had power-washed the bottom of the pools. This will make a huge difference when cleaning the pools for opening weekend.

 Riverfront

- April was an exciting and engaging month at Promenade Park with a variety of events and programs that brought the community together and welcomed guests of all ages to enjoy the park! Riverfront Fort Wayne welcomed two rental reservations. One was a wedding reserving both the Park Foundation Pavilion and Wells Street Bridge, while the other was Fort Wayne Trails' annual Trek the Trails event, bringing the community together for an active, family-friendly experience. Together, these events brought a total of 350 guests to the park. In addition, Riverfront Fort Wayne hosted three programs during the month. Our popular monthly fitness programs, Yoga and Kickboxing, attracted 90

participants, with Yoga continuing to be the crowd favorite. We also held our annual Dig Day event, a dinosaur-themed program for children 4- 13. Young explorers had a blast digging for fossils in our dig bins, creating their own dinosaurs, and enjoying a day filled with prehistoric fun.

- Festival season began at Headwaters Park on April 26th with the Michiana Wine Festival. The event had close to 3,000 people in attendance tasting wines from 20 different wineries around Indiana and Michigan. Food trucks and live music also filled the grassy area of Headwaters Park, providing an atmosphere of great live music, wine, and food. This event continues to grow each year, and the Wine Festival will return for the Fall event on October 5th of this year. Overall, April was a successful month filled with events and activities that highlighted the versatility of Promenade Park and Headwaters Park, along with what Riverfront Fort Wayne provides the community. We look forward to continuing the momentum into May!



Community Outreach

- The Supervisor of Community Outreach is working with staff from the Mayor's office to create "Moving with the Mayor". This series of fitness classes and events will encourage City staff to join the Mayor for programs like Zumba, pickleball, bicycling, line dancing, and walking. The programs are intended to take place on various dates in May and June. The Parks Department has coordinated locations and instructors for four of the scheduled dates.
- On April 5th, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, the Community Youth Centers joined Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne to host its second annual Tri-Star Basketball Skills Contest. Participants ranged in age from 6-13 and were challenged in dribbling, passing, and shooting along with knockout and a 3-point contest. Participants were also encouraged to demonstrate their best sportsmanship in the hopes of being chosen for the Mental Attitude Award. This event was sponsored by the Downtown Optimists Club.
- The 2025 Park & Play Program will begin on June 6th and take place on weekdays, lasting through August 1st. Park and Play will take place at varying times in the following parks: Lakeside, Hanna Homestead, Packard, Waynedale, Psi Ote, Tillman, Lions, and Hamilton. On Fridays, Park & Play will visit Library branches and other local organizations. The Park and Play staff will also activate Cooper Center at Reservoir Park Monday through Friday from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM, with Fort Wayne Community Schools lunches being served out of this location.
- Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation will host 4 events at McKinnie Commons in the summer of 2025. On Friday, May 16th, a summer kickoff celebration will take place from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. On Friday, June 13th and Friday, July 11th, free concerts will be held from 7:30 – 9:30 pm featuring Phase One Band and the G-Money Band. On Friday, August 1st, the Park and Play program will wrap up at McKinnie Commons with a Back-to-School Celebration.
- Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Staff attended the 2025 JA Ignite event on April 16th and 17th. High school students from northeast Indiana attended to learn about job and career opportunities. An estimated 9000 children attended over the course of the two days. Staff in attendance included representatives from the Community Center, Weisser Park Youth Center, Jennings Youth Center, McMillen Community Center, Golf Courses, and Marketing. Hundreds of fliers were handed out encouraging job-seekers to consider Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation for employment.
- On April 23rd, the Supervisor of Community Outreach will present at a Fort Wayne Community Schools Title 1 District Family Advisory Meeting. The short presentation will cover summer programming opportunities offered by Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation.



Community Center

- We had a fire drill with all staff and participants who were present on Friday, March 28th.
- March 25 was Culture Night at Memorial Park Middle School. Neil Miller and Karen had an information table, gave out brochures, and answered lots of questions.

- March 27, Logan York, a member of the Miami Tribe, was contacted to get a First Nation speaker for PODS. Hopefully, we can set the dates for that next month. He will also be helping with resources and editing of a river program that Karen is developing.
- March 28 was the first-ever Bluey program as requested by parents. There were special Bluey crafts, games, dancing, and even Blue popcorn. Special guests were Chilli (Linda) and Bandit(Mary).
- Karen assisted with the last PODS interview, and all positions are now filled.
- Caleb, Linda, and Mary attended the JA Ignite job fair on 4/16 and 4/17.
- Caleb assisted with the basketball skills challenge held at McMillen earlier this month
- The parking lot got striped, and holes were filled.
- Children's Book Swap and Sale was held on April 1-3, and was one of our more successful book swap events. The weather for the week was great, which was a huge factor during spring break. Josh also did a Walk in the Park segment that ran during the week, which helped gain traction for the Book Swap.

McMillen Park Community Center

- The after-school program began in April with spring break programming. During the first week, the center operated from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for youth participants.
- On Monday, 76 children signed in for the day's activities.
- On Tuesday, the youth went on a field trip to the skating rink. Children enjoyed skating, showing off unique skills like one-legged skating and skating backwards.
- On Thursday, participants visited Georgetown Bowling. Even the youngest children had fun using bumpers and smaller bowling balls.
- On Friday, McMillen hosted a movie day using the Parks' new 22-foot projector screen. Youth from Weisser Park Youth Center were invited to join. Popcorn and water were provided during the screening.
- On Saturday, McMillen co-hosted a basketball competition with the Optimist Club and the Boys and Girls Club. The one-day event gave youth ages 8–12 the opportunity to demonstrate their dribbling, passing, and shooting skills. McMillen youth Jaden Knox received the Sportsmanship Award.
- On April 18th (Good Friday), with schools closed, the center once again operated from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. At the end of the day, more than 240 candy-filled eggs were hidden outside the building for a festive egg hunt, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.
- Kids Café Service Totals:
 - Snacks served: 392
 - Breakfasts served: 80
 - Total youth attendance: 704

Weisser Park Youth Center

- Spring Break Staycation Activities:
 - On Monday, March 31, youth competed in an obstacle course featuring crawling tubes, wall climbs, hurdles, and cone agility challenges. They also painted ceramic coasters.
 - On Tuesday, April 1, a field day included games such as the bucket brigade, parachute games, potato sack races, tug-of-war, running challenges, scooter races, and ball toss.
 - On Wednesday, April 2, 20 youth enjoyed bowling and pizza at MVP Lanes.
 - On Thursday, April 3, 22 youth attended a skating outing at Bell's Skating Rink.
 - On Friday, April 4, 17 youth went to McMillen to watch *Wonka* and enjoy popcorn. Later that day at Weisser, the youth participated in a fun "cookie face challenge," where they had to move a cookie from their forehead to their mouth without using their hands.
 - On Saturday, April 5, six youth participated in the Tri-Star Basketball Skills Competition at McMillen. Weisser had two winners in their respective age categories.
- Recreation Room Reopening:
 - The recreation game room, closed since the COVID-19 pandemic, reopened on Thursday, April 10.

- Additions included a new Skee-ball and foosball game, along with the return of air hockey, ping pong, basketball arcade, and pool tables.
- Youth are excited to learn and engage with these games. Staff plan to add a bumper pool table and a retro arcade game soon.
- **Gardening Program:**
 - Youth helped clean and prep raised garden beds and grow pots by collecting leaves, sticks, and adding soil.
 - Seeds planted indoors included: collard greens, kale, mustard greens, Bok Choy, cabbage, tomatoes, bell peppers, onions, marigolds, and herbs.
 - On April 18, outdoor planting included: red potatoes, carrots, and additional leafy greens.
- **Outreach Programs:**
 - Erin's House held a pizza party on April 17 to celebrate program completion. Staff also reviewed what youth had learned during their sessions.
 - Allen County Public Library visited on April 9 and hosted a Lego-building activity.
 - Turner Chapel AME Ubuntu Learning Lab conducted a financial literacy lesson on April 10, covering spending, saving, taxes, charitable giving, and investing. Youth tracked their spending until April 24 and brought back their savings banks to share their progress.

Jennings Youth Center

- Jennings averaged 25 youth per day throughout April and aims to maintain this through the school year.
- Youth visited Lindenwood Nature Preserve for a guided nature walk led by a Naturalist Specialist.
- Another outing took them to Georgetown Bowling, where first-time bowlers were taught how to bowl, and top performers received prizes from Supervisor Chanell Ridley.
- **Outreach Highlights:**
 - *Allen County Public Library led a watercolor art activity.*
 - Erin's House continued its supportive programming with strong engagement from youth.
 - DrumFun resumed with Mr. Ketu, who focused this session on Identity and Heritage. Mr. Ketu will be on tour for the next few weeks.
 - The Top Tier Dance Program is preparing dancers for an upcoming competition.
- **Events and Special Projects:**
 - Jennings partnered with Indiana Tech Black Engineering students, the City of Fort Wayne, and the East Central Neighborhood Association to work on a youth-engaged EPA grant focused on addressing urban heat islands.
 - Five Jennings youth participated in the Tri-State Basketball Skills Competition, proudly bringing home awards and cheering for their peers.

June 2025 - Community Outreach

- **Moving with the Mayor** series:
 - May 19: 8 city employees joined Mayor Tucker for line dancing at the Community Center.
 - May 27: 12 employees participated in yoga at Promenade Park.
 - June 4: 9 individuals attended Zumba at the Cooper Center.
 - June 9: 10 employees played pickleball at Lakeside Park.
 - June 17: 12 employees joined the Mayor for a downtown mural walk.
- **Park and Play** began June 6; by June 20, 728 children had participated.
- **Cooper Center** opened daily (12–4 PM) starting June 6; 41 children attended by June 20.
- June 13: McKinnie Commons hosted **Phase One** band; 65 attended despite rain.
- June 16: Bicycle safety training at Buckner Park (16 children, free helmets provided by INDOT).

Community Center

- Mayor Tucker attended the **Senior Games** to present a proclamation.
- Director Steve McDaniel and Patti Davis played Dartball with the 2024 winners.

- June 13: **Daddy Daughter Princess Ball** welcomed 110 girls and escorts, with carriage rides, dancing, photos, and a live Cinderella.

Weisser Park Youth Center

- 152 youth registered for the Summer Program; 116 attended.
- Recreation: whiffle ball, flag football, soccer, basketball, hockey, cheerleading, art, and Mario Kart tournament.
- **Disc golf** lessons weekly; each youth received two discs.
- **Tennis** twice weekly, teaching basic skills.
- Outreach: art from ACPL and ArtVenture, leadership from Center for Nonviolence, grief support from Erin's House, nutrition from Purdue's Learn, Grow, Eat & Go, reading from Teen READ.

McMillen Park Community Center

- Outdoor sports, indoor games, trivia contests, coloring competitions, dance battles.
- June 7: **Parents Night Out** — activities included rock painting and bracelet making.

Jennings Youth Center

- 125+ registrations; average daily attendance 45 youth.
- Field trips: Memorial Park Splash Pad, Regal Cinema, Cooper Center.
- Outreach: watercolors and crafts from ACPL, grief programming from Erin's House.

Salomon Farm Park

- First 3 weeks of **Farmin' Fun Day Camp** ended June 27; strong enrollment.
- **Farmers' Market** began June 4; attendance grew after June 9.
- Rabbits River & Pebbles moved to a new outdoor hutch.
- Rentals up 39% over 2024 (130 vs. 93).

Sweet Breeze

- June 14: Bird Watching Specialty Tour — sold all 32 tickets.
- June 28: Princess Party Tour — 75 tickets sold over two sailings.

Franke Park Day Camp

- First 3 weeks ended June 27; all age groups sold out.

Hurshtown Reservoir - June 7: 37th Annual Fishing Derby — 62 children (up from 54 in 2024).

Riverfront

- **Electric Riverfront** multi-stage music event drew 2,000 attendees.
- **Color the Park** series began (sidewalk chalk art, music, games).
- **Muddy River Concert Series:** Left Lane Cruiser & Night to Remember — 300+ attendees.
- Headwaters Park hosted German Fest, Rib Fest, Greek Fest, and Middle Waves Concert.

July 2025 - Community Outreach

- Park and Play served **1,380 participants** total since June; Waynedale Park had highest attendance (18%).
- Cooper Center hosted **186 children** in June and July.
- July 11: **G-Money Band** performed at McKinnie Commons in tribute to late leader — 69 attendees.
- June 25: Bicycle safety training at McMillen Community Center — 45 youth.
- July 21: Bicycle safety training at Franke Park — 5 youth.

Community Center

- **Sensory Clubhouse** hosted 9 guests from Easter Seals (June 17) and 2 guests from Partners in Autism (July 10).
- **PODS program** featured theater, puppetry, Miami Tribe history, and local wildlife.
- Camps included hike/nature activities in new "Take a Walk on the Wild Side" at Lindenwood Park.
- **Senior Games** reached record registration of 552 participants.



Weisser Park Youth Center

- 163 youth registered; 127 attended.
- Recreation: water crossover dodgeball, scooter relay races, volleyball, nature walks, STEM, art, indoor tournaments.
- Sports: disc golf, tennis, fishing — 12 lessons total.
- Outreach: ACPL, ArtVenture, Center for Nonviolence, Erin's House, Purdue's Learn, Grow, Eat & Go, Teen READ.
- June 27: 10 youth attended Park and Play **Funtastic Friday** at Safety Village.
- July 17: 18 youth enjoyed pontoon boat rides.

McMillen Park Community Center

- New **Scouts program** for ages 11+ covering job applications, résumés, budgeting, and financial literacy.
- Monday art class: finger painting and vision boards.
- Women's dance/exercise programs expanded; performed at Juneteenth and other events.

Jennings Youth Center

- 150+ registrations; daily attendance 40+.
- Field trips: Zoo, Weisser Park Youth Center, McMillen Park Community Center, Northside Pool, Paige's Crossing, community walks, pontoon rides, mural tours.
- Outreach: sundial activities from ACPL, grief programming from Erin's House.

Outdoor Recreation & Salomon Farm Park

- Franke Park Day Camp ended July 25 with high enrollment.
- Farm Camp ended July 25; ages 4–5 weeks sold out.
- River Camp (July 28–Aug 1) had 40 participants — canoeing, kayaking, crafts, and guest presenters.
- U-Pick Sunflower Field opened July 23.

Sweet Breeze - Specialty tours: Water Quality Activism (July 19) and sold-out Irish Folk Music tour.

Riverfront

- Muddy River Concert Series: Six Foot Blonde & Kangaroo Kourt — 350 attendees.
- Color the Park continued Fridays.
- Storytime in the Park: 30 participants/week.
- Yoga on the Riverfront: 79 participants.
- **Big Fort Fest** replaced Three Rivers Festival slot — 3 days of concerts, food, kids' activities.
- Pride Fest held at Headwaters Park despite rain.

Golf

- Shoaff Golf Course replaced irrigation pumps/motors.
- Foster Golf Course lost one irrigation pump.
- Rounds steady despite heat/humidity.

Aquatics - McMillen Pool leak complicated chemical balancing, increasing chlorine use

Deputy Rhonda Berg - Director of Finance & Theatre, Budgets, Payroll, and Commercial Vouchers, Trust Fund Donations, Registrations, Rentals, Tickets, Customer Service, Accounts Payable, and Receivable.

May 2025

- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 468 employees (142 full-time and 326 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending May 31st, and paid on June 6th, 2025.

• We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing, or in the process of being hired, as of May 31st, 2025:

- Program Coordinator – Neighborhood Programs – McMillen (Fund 121)
- Grounds Equipment Operator – 2 positions (Fund 121)
- Park Person C – Facilities (Fund 121)
- Project Management Technician (Fund 121)
- Fleet Mechanic – Golf (Fund 439)
- Program Coordinator – Salomon Farm (Fund 439)

• Hiring for seasonal employees has slowed down some now that the bulk of the seasonal staff has been hired in. We have finished up with our yearly hiring meetings.

• We have received the additional time clocks and have the Pools up and running using the JetPack. We added a time clock out at McMillen for the Lifetime Sports Academy staff. They have been working with Bob Thiele, as the connectivity has been an issue at this location.

• Payroll on the new Attendance on Demand/Time Management System has been going pretty smoothly. We are having supervisors turn in overtime slips after the first week for processing to save some time for Friday/Monday main payroll processing. With this many seasonal employees onboard, reviewing is a time-consuming process.

• There were 49 total P-Card statements that were processed for the month of May for charges made at the end of March to almost the end of April.

• A total of 598 invoices processed during the month of May from 4/8 to 4/30.



Customer Service

• Front office Staff have become the main point of sales for pooch passes for campground renters. Previously, the campground hosts sold daily and weekly passes to the dog parks. To ensure better record-keeping, this was transferred over to the front office staff.

• Swim lessons and junior and peewee golf tour registrations have started and are running very smoothly.

• Started selling tickets for the Sweet Breeze for the 2025 season.

• Summer Fun Times registrations have picked up. Camps and several programs are quickly filling up.

• Assisted in the open house at the McMillen Family Pavilion on Wednesday, May 28th

• New Ticketmaster credit card machines were set up for the front office ladies, and we have been able to continue in selling tickets for the shows at the Theatre.

• Kim assisted the Theatre with scanner testing from Ticketmaster and conducted her second RecTrac training meeting, with two employees in attendance



Foellinger Theatre Report: Upcoming Concerts:

- Tommy James and The Shondells – June 28, 2025
- Fort Wayne Area Community Band – July 8, 2025
- New Millennium Jazz Orchestra – July 9, 2025
- Fort Wayne Children's Choir – July 25, 2025
- 1964 The Tribute – August 1, 2025
- Fort Wayne Area Community Band – August 12, 2025
- Trace Adkins – August 22, 2025
- Warrant, Lita Ford and Firehouse - September 26, 2025



New Concert Announced: Pink Droyd – July 18, 2025



Concerts Held and Attendance:

- FW Philharmonic – Dolly Parton Threads - 851



- Justin Moore and Joe Nichols – 1,019
- Fort Wayne Area Community Band – 413

General Management:

- Big Spring Cleanup! Spent the first two weeks of May deep cleaning the Theatre of what winter left behind.
- Facilitated the Fort Wayne Philharmonic in presenting the Dolly Parton Threads concert. All we spoke to really enjoyed the concert.
- Facilitated Exceptional Artists in presenting the Justin Moore and Joe Nichols concert. This was a three-and-a-half-hour concert that rocked the house!
- Booked Pink Droyd to play on July 18th. They will be bringing the iconic laser light show.

June 2025

✓ Payroll and Accounts Payable

- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 502 employees (143 full-time and 359 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending June 28th, and paid on July 3rd, 2025.
- We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of June 30th, 2025:
 - Program Coordinator – Neighborhood Programs – McMillen (Fund 121)
 - Project Management Technician (Fund 121)
 - Assistant Golf Superintendent (Fund 121)
 - Manager – Neighborhood Programs (Fund 121)
 - Fleet Mechanic – Golf (Fund 439)
 - Program Coordinator – Salomon Farm (Fund 439)
- Seasonal staff are all hired in, and summer programming is in full swing.
- In June, we processed 45 P-Card statements, two payroll periods, and 702 invoices.
- Began working on the 2026 Budget

✓ Customer Service

- Kim has been completing all updates to the Sweet Breeze tour changes on the internet and RecTrac.
- Joyce has continued to learn new tasks in her job and has recently started to process refunds and cancellations of pavilions, classes, and other point-of-sale items.
- Front office staff have been doing an excellent job of providing excellent customer service to all customers in the phone and in person.
- The front office staff is working hard to cover vacation days and make sure that all work is still completed in a timely and accurate manner. A few of the staff have been working extra hours at the Theatre to help provide great customer service.
- Attended the Lakeside Park Playground Dedication on June 12th

✓ Foellinger Theatre Report - Shows This Month:

- *Fort Wayne Area Community Band 6/10* - Easy set up and break down, Cole announced the band at the top of the show and mentioned our website, and upcoming shows

- **Count: 413**

- *Tommy James & the Shondells 6/28* - Our final time cleaning the seats and bleachers in-house, the process took over several employees 6 hours on the day of the show, making it difficult to get other important tasks done

- Tickets Sold: 1,031

- **Ticket Revenue: \$68,831**

- **Settlement: \$58,731**

✓ Upcoming Shows:*Fort Wayne Area Community Band: July 8th**New Millennium Jazz Orchestra: July 9th**Pink Droyd: July 18th*

- Added opening act Kid Gloves

- Finalized the show by upgrading it to the full laser show

*Fort Wayne Children's Choir: July 25th**1964 The Tribute: August 1st**Fort Wayne Area Community Band: August 12th**Trace Adkins: August 22nd**We Will Rock You: September 13th*

- Announced and started promoting the show

Warrant, Lita Ford and Firehouse: September 26th✚ **Attended the NIVA Conference 06/22-06/25:**

1. *Audience engagement must evolve with habits:* Across panels and round tables, a major theme was the shift in consumer behavior: patrons are buying later, they're attending more selectively, and seeking added value (experience, community, exclusivity)

Key Takeaway: We need to build deeper, year-round relationships, not just transactional ones. We do this through advertising the venue as opposed to advertising the show. Content that includes diverse, inclusive, relevant programming. We need a season with purpose.

2. *Operational sustainability is as crucial as financial sustainability:* A strong focus was put on burnout, staff shortages, and post-pandemic fatigue

Key Takeaway: Investing in internal culture, outsourcing key functions like cleaning or tech, and streamlining workflows, from settlement to marketing, is critical to long-term health and not just ticket sales.

3. *Advocacy and grant-funding are not one-time opportunities:* NIVA's work at the national level is pushing forward policy initiatives for ongoing support beyond emergency relief (i.e., tax incentives, workforce development, legislation surrounding PRO's)

Key Takeaway: The importance of a NIVA membership, and being a part of that community ensures small and mid-sized venues have a seat at the table, and tap into recurring funding opportunities for accessibility, community engagement, and infrastructure upgrades.

✓ BONUS: *Looking for solutions to combat the shift in drinking culture:* People are still drinking at shows, they're just doing it differently, how do we capitalize on non-alcohol options

- **New Staff:**

- Rick Vance - Bartender

- Cole Nix - operations assistant

- **In-house projects this month:**

Production:

- Venue improvements: re-tagging seats, clearing clutter, upgrading appliances, and parks picked up unnecessary equipment.

- **Note:** We continue to research artists and routing for 2026 shows

- Gave a tour to Nitelite Promotions out of Chicago – We are hoping they will consider Foellinger Theatre as a venue for some of their 2026 concerts

- Rob and I met with Marybeth Bollinger (Adams Media Group) and Matt Kurten (WLDE/WAII) and talked about how we can increase our engagement and strengthen and deepen our relationship.
- Steve, Rhonda, Jarin, and Rob did a walkthrough with the Foellinger Foundation, showing them what improvements we have made and some areas where improvements are needed. We are extremely grateful for the support the Foellinger Foundation has and continues to give us
- Attended a meeting with Park staff regarding what part Foellinger Theatre will have in the 2026 BMX Festival that is coming to Franke Park in 2026 – stay tuned!

 July 2025**Payroll and Accounts Payable**

- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 503 employees (144 full-time and 359 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending July 26th, and paid on August 1st, 2025.
- We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of July 31st, 2025:
 - Assistant Golf Superintendent (Fund 121)
 - Manager – Neighborhood Programs (Fund 121)
 - Fleet Mechanic – Golf (Fund 439)
 - Program Facility Coordinator – Education & Interpretation (Fund 439)
- 49 total P-Card statements were processed for July for charges made at the end of June to almost the end of July.
- There was a total of 842 invoices processed during July from 7/1 to 7/31.
- Summer seasonal programs are winding down, and we have started to separate some of the seasonal staff. The Lifetime Sports Academy Staff have all been separated. We will have Park & Play, Day Camp, and Pool staff to separate in the very near future.
- With as many staff as we had on, the seasonal Staff did well adapting to the new TMS time keeping system and approving their time cards. There were some issues we had to iron out with mobile punch employees but with TMS Support, we were able to get their settings adjusted to minimize manual supervisor edits.

 Customer Service and Finance

- A part-time recreation employee, Jack Fife, has been trained to help the front office staff to help cover lunches and days off
- The front office staff will soon begin to help with the distribution of applications/resumes to the hiring managers within the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Starting in July Joyce, with the help of Joniece, will begin to reconcile the Parks and Recreation bank account. This was completed by the Controller's Office in the past.
- Joyce and Kim have registered for RecTrac training with Vermont in October.
- Kim has been making sure that all of the Fall Fun Times are entered into Rec Trac and that the Parks and Recreation App is functioning properly.
- Attended the Mechanic Street Bridge Reopening on July 24th
- Met several times with the Director to finalize our 2026 budget submission. It has been submitted and we are waiting to hear from the Controller as to any changes needed.
- Attended a finance manager's meeting led by the Controller staff. This was intended to assist the various departments in bouncing ideas off each other. Pat Roller will schedule these quarterly.



- ✓ Foellinger Theatre Report - Shows This Month:
 - Fort Wayne Area Community Band 7/8 - **Count: 502**
 - Easy set up and break down, Cole announced the band at the top of the show and mentioned our website, and upcoming shows
 - New Millennium Jazz Orchestra 7/9 - **Count: 362**
 - Loved having Tom Wilson as the guest TD
 - Pink Droyd 7/18 - **Count: 1,024**
 - **Sold: 986**
 - Fort Wayne Children's Choir 7/25 - **Count: 983**
- ✓ **Projects this month / Box Office:**
 - Talked to Patrick to secure his position in the Box Office for 2026
- ✓ Front of House:
 - Shelving and organizers were put in all around the theatre
 - All Staff meeting where we discussed logistics for each department, and what we found was that concessions wants help with staffing and organization. Staff reiterated that we need better job descriptions and a clear chain of command
- ✓ Ongoing Projects:
 - Developing SOPs and Job Descriptions
 - The bidding process has started for the in-house lighting. After the bidding is done, they will choose who will install the lights
 - Finalizing copro (contracts) terms
- ✓ Upcoming August Shows:
 - 1964 Tribute Band 8/1
 - FWACB 8/12
 - Trace Adkins 8/22

Steve Schuhmacher – Deputy Director of Park Maintenance, Facilities, Technicians, Grounds/Heavy Equipment, MainTrac, Projects, Storeroom, Administration, Safety Compliance

Facilities Supervisor: Greg Reith

- Pavilion rental totals for May were at 267.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Lawton Park skate park, Martin Luther King, Jr Bridge, McCormick Park, Foster Park restrooms, Bloomingdale Park.
- Pressure washed the following locations: Memorial Park splashpad, Waynedale Park splashpad, Buckner Park splashpad, Shoaff Park splashpad, McCormick Park splashpad, Kreager Park splashpad and shelters, Foster Park Pavilions and restrooms, Repka Park shelter, Buckner Park shelter, Memorial Park benches, and the pavilion patio.
- Relief staff provided maintenance assistance at: Swinney Park restrooms- paper towel dispenser install, Foster Park pavilions- painting of picnic tables.
- Working Leader provided aid to the Foellinger Theatre staff with the cleaning of the stage, before and after curtain install, and cleaning of the restrooms before the first show.

 Maintenance Technician Supervisor: Mike Cremeans

- All pre-season work was completed at both McMillen and Northside Park pools. This included board of health site prep, such as safety markings and concrete work.
- Maintenance techs constructed a temporary wall inside the Lawton Park greenhouses east range ahead of contracted construction to repair the exterior wall.
- All eight splashpads opened Memorial Day weekend, with only the Buckner Park backflow preventer needing to be replaced ahead of opening day.
- Both grinder pumps were replaced in the Shoaff Park sewage ejector pit.
- Contracted power washing was completed at the Foster Park golf pavilion and the Foellinger Theatre.
- Playground repairs took place at several park locations.
- Seasonal water service has been restored to all rental facilities and restrooms.
- Repairs were made to irrigation lines at the Foster West Pawster Dog Park.
- Display shelves were constructed and installed at the Botanical Conservatory's gift shop.
- The on-call staff received a total of **63** calls this month. **22** of which were lock issues, **15** were calls from dispatch regarding alarms, and **26** were miscellaneous issues.
 - **Maintenance Technician completed the following tasks last month:**
6: Alarm Maintenance, **60:** Building Maintenance, **4:** Carpentry, **21:** Electrical Repair,
3: HVAC Maintenance, **2:** Key Core Maintenance, **5:** Light Maintenance,
22: Lock Maintenance, **9:** Paint, **0:** Playground Maintenance,
23: Plumbing Maintenance, **0:** Sign Maintenance, **1:** Vandalism

 Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment: Rob Schenkel

- Tree limb and debris cleanup continued at various park locations.
- River greenway trails were serviced weekly to mow, remove sticks, debris, and flood damage.
- Botanical Conservatory and Lakeside Park compost bins were emptied several times this month.
- Heavy Equipment and Grounds Relief crews removed and excavated Indian Village Park and McCormick Park playgrounds to make way for the installation of a new playground.
- Crews are maintaining parks on a 6–8-day rotation, including mowing grass, string trimming around trees and fence lines, blowing off walkways, and spraying weeds.
- Parking blocks have been straightened and replaced as needed in various parks.
- Crews run trash routes five days a week, ensuring all receptacles in the parks are emptied.
- Heavy Equipment crews excavated a section of water line at Foster Park and McCormick Park so Maintenance Techs could access and repair the issue.
- Crews delivered safety mulch (FIBAR) to McCulloch Park, Lions Park, and Hamilton Park for volunteer groups to spread in the playground areas."

 Main Trac Coordinator: Nicole Roth

- Main Trac Entries: 9,101 for the month, and we have had 138,311 calls this month.
- Busy entering time sheets and contracted/sales invoices.
- Running monthly reports for Chuck's Recreation Staff.
- We have had 120 volunteer hours for the month, along with two webinar training sessions for the new volunteer website.
- We are also continuing with the Citizen Match Tree Program in Forestry.
- Nicole attended the safety training on May 22nd.



Superintendent: Mike Gore

- Approve and record invoices for various materials used and applied in grounds, maintenance, and facilities departments, in addition to overseeing a variety of issues on all sides of Maintenance; continue working on 2025 monthly MMR reports for IDEM at the spray parks, and writing and overseeing 2025 purchase orders.
- Going back over inspections of the Parks and doing new ones, as we gear up for the 2025 River Greenway inspections.



Operations Manager: Travis Roth

Storeroom and Property:

- Storeroom staff restocked first aid kits for the Franke Park day camp, as well as loaning them a spin trim and a backpack blower for the season.
- New first aid kits were ordered for the Franke theater, and gas-powered equipment stored at the theater was brought back to Lawton to be utilized in other areas.
- "No parking on the grass" signs were fabricated for installation at Foster West near the soccer fields.

Property Transactions:

14 Stihl BR600 Blower	Transferred	P230
13 Stihl Blower Vac	Transferred	P230
16 RedMax Reciprocators (2)	Scrapped	P230
25 Bobcat T770	Added Into Inventory	P240
24 Bobcat 80" Bucket	Added Into Inventory	P240
18 RedMax Spin Trimmer	Transferred	P240
00 Stihl Spin Trimmers (2)	Scrapped	P240
04 Shindawa Trimmer	Scrapped	P242
25 Makita 18V Drill	Added Into Inventory	P250
03 Mantis Tiller	Scrapped	P270
22 DSR Jump Box	Transferred	P295R
25 Stihl Electric Blower	Added Into Inventory	R213
25 Kenwood Radios (8)	Added Into Inventory	R530
97 Echo Hand Blower	Scrapped	R610

2025 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:

Ford Transit	
Cargo Van	5/26 build date
Ford Transit Cargo Van	5/26 build date
Shelving for Cargo Van	TDB After Delivery
Jeep Colorado (3)	Delivered
Bobcat T770	Delivered
Club Car 550 Carts	Delivered
Ford F350 Chassis	At Dealer
Dump Bed	P.O. Complete
Portable Welder	Delivered
Forestry Bobcat	
Attachment	P.O. Complete
Mulch Mate trailer	Ready to Ship

John Deere Gator

P.O. Complete

Motorola Radios

P.O. Written

Ford F250s (2)

P.O. Complete

Garage Operations Highlights:

187 work orders were scheduled this month, 20 of which were services.

- 2 used trucks were sourced from the fleet to use within the department. A 2008 Chevy Colorado will be assigned to the pools, and a 2011 Ford F250 utility truck will be assigned to a golf mechanic when that job is filled.
- A new Bobcat T770 was delivered for grounds. This will be used shortly to assist with playground removals.
- A truck, van, SUV, and several old Toro mowers were sent to the City's spring auction and sold. Those funds will be credited back to parks to be used for purchasing new equipment.
- A 1995 Case crawler dozer and trailer are going to be traded to RPM Machinery to allow the department to purchase a brand new Ventrac attachment for grounds.
- Multiple, older hand-held gas-powered pieces of equipment were removed from inventory and scrapped as replacement parts have become unavailable for them.
- The Zoo train suffered multiple electrical issues and had to be repaired a number of times to keep it operating.
- With mowing and golf season in full swing, mechanics have been busy making repairs to mowers on the golf courses and city mowing crews.
- A Toro 1200 pull-behind mower at McMillen golf course suffered substantial damage to one of the mowing decks, requiring a new deck shell to be purchased from Toro.
- Garage staff helped with the launch of the Sweet Breeze canal boat as well as performed yearly repairs to the riparian work barge.
- Toro 5910 #594 has been having drivability issues relating to check engine codes. Kenney Machinery replaced the computer that controls the Toro aspects of the unit but the issues are continuing to persist. A fuel pump has been ordered to hopefully remedy the issues.
- Gasoline Equipment has submitted quotes to install Fuel Lock fuel controllers at all three golf courses, Kreager Park, and Lawton Park. The P.O. is written pending the correct funding information.
- Cracks were found on the boom of one of the forestry bucket trucks during its yearly inspection. A certified welder was contracted to repair the cracks; however, it was determined that due to the age and condition of the unit, the cracks will probably reform, and this truck should be used as a back-up bucket as opposed to a primary work truck. Quotes will be received to price out purchasing a new bucket truck for 2026.

 Project Administration: David Weadock

- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement – Replacement of 25 roof glass panels planned for July. Additional panel procurement in progress.
- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Roof Design – Design documents are completed, and bids received.
- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Roof Replacement – Bids received. Purchase order acquisition in progress.
- Brewer Park Construction – Trail paving planned for early June. Restroom interiors installation is ongoing. Playground equipment and safety surfacing are nearing completion. Final grading in progress, and landscape installation planned second week of June.
- Community Center Parking Lot Control Gate – Purchase order issued and project coordination ongoing with vendor. Installation planned for mid-July.
- Community Center Shuffleboard Courts Shade Structures – Product received from vendor.
- Community Center Shuffleboard Shade Structures Installation – Installation in progress, and completed week of May 26.
- Foellinger Theatre Lighting Improvements – Revised project bidding in progress.
- Foellinger Theatre Lighting Components Package – All but one item has been received and has been installed. Final product delivery in July.

- Foellinger Theatre House Lighting Products – Purchase order requested.
- Foster Park Golf Course Restoration Plan – Awaiting completion of utility work on the Golf course.
- Foster Park Golf Course Irrigation – Bids received. Waiting for approvals.
- Franke Park Playground Equipment – Installation completed, the Franke Park Pond Pavilion Interior Renovation – Planning in progress, the Franke Park Pond Pavilion Rear Entrance – Design study in progress to enable ADA access at rear of building, the Franke Park Zoo Signage – Quotes have been received and shared with Zoo staff, and the Franke Park Zoo Aquarium Roof Replacement – Project completed.
- Hanna Homestead Lighting Installation – Installation of electrical components in progress, along with the Headwaters Park Fountain – Construction in progress.
- Headwaters Park Donor Columns Lighting – Project completed, and the Headwaters Park Service Buildings Roofing – Bids received and purchase order acquisition in progress. Construction planned for early Fall.
- Hurshtown Reservoir – Dock system installation nearly complete. The vendor is required to complete several punch list items per contract.
- Indian Village Park Playground Equipment – Removal of existing playground equipment completed. Installation of new equipment is scheduled to begin late May.
- Johnny Appleseed Park Fishing Piers Stabilization – Work schedule in progress with contractor.
- Kreager Park Tennis Courts – Net posts reconstruction completed on four courts. Remaining courts shall be addressed in June after the school tennis season, and Kreager Park Sidewalk Replacement – Purchase order acquisition is in progress. Construction planned for mid-summer.
- Lakeside Park Playground Equipment – Project completed. Lakeside Park Dome Arbor Renovation – Construction nearly completed. Punch list items by the contractor in progress.
- Lawton Park Trestle Bridge – Project completed. Lawton Park Greenhouse Wall Construction – Construction is planned to begin on May 28. Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof Design – Planning in progress.
- McCormick Park Playground Equipment – Purchase order issued. Construction planned for June 2025. McCormick Park New Drinking Fountain – Product on order with vendor, procuring quotes for plumbing and concrete flat work.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Construction – Bridge rehabilitation in progress. Wood decking installation is ongoing.
- Memorial Park Monument Sidewalk – Purchase order acquisition in progress for a new sidewalk to the World War monument.
- Northside Park Psi-Ote Pavilion Lower Updates – Planning in progress. Northside Park Admin Building – Design project completed.
- Old Fort Bridge Renovation – Planning in progress.
- Packard Park Redevelopment – Construction in progress.
- Parks 2025 Paving Projects – Kettler Park trails completed. St. Joe Rivergreenway trail completed. Lawton Park maintenance facility is in progress. McCormick Park parking lot construction is in progress. Parks 2025 Pavement Renovations Project – Repair work at various park locations is in progress.
- Repka Park Boardwalk Renovation – Bidding completed. Purchase order acquisition is in progress.
- Salomon Farm Animal Barn – Planning in progress. Salomon Farm Pasture Barn Utilities – Planning in progress to provide water and electrical service to the barn. Salomon Farm Trail Improvements – Construction work planned for late June, early July.
- Shoaff Park Riverlodge Roof Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Various Parks Façade and Monument Tuckpointing – Purchase order acquisition in progress. Awaiting work schedule from the contractor.

Other work:

- Various Parks: reviewed potential and necessary future projects
- Various Parks: planning projects for the 2025 budget
- Various Parks: updating park site plan bases and building plans.
- Various Parks: underground utility locates were scheduled and performed.

- Various Parks: assisting the marketing department by preparing requested project information.
- Various Parks: cost estimates for various projects are being prepared upon request.
- Various Parks: Park assessments are being completed.
- Content preparation for Engage Fort Wayne
- PAS Division GIS training sessions are in progress with the Staff, and we are preparing GIS content for the Parks mobile application

 Safety: Tony DeVido

- The Parks & Rec. The Safety Committee met on April 29. 3 employees were present.
- There were no vehicle crashes reported for this period.
- 3 employee injuries were reported during this time period.
- 5 CPR/FA classes were held. 54 employees, mostly seasonal, were certified
- The OSHA 10 Hr. The class was held. 17 Parks employees attended.
- Worker Protection Standard classes continue.
- Seasonal employee general Safety training was completed.
- 1 employee successfully renewed his CDL.
- A Safety Fair was held in Franke Park.

 Facilities Supervisor: Greg Reith

- Pavilion rental totals for **June** were at 333.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Lawton Park skate park, Martin Luther King, Jr Bridge, Sheldon Park, Lakeside Park, Gren Park, Swinney Park, Psi-Ote Park, Bloomingdale Park, Lafayette Park, Franke Park, Klug Park, Bob Arnold Northside Park, and Foster Park.
- Pressure washed the following locations: Lawton Park skate park, Martin Luther King, Jr Bridge, Tillman Tennis Center, Shoaff Park restroom building at ballfield, McCormick Park splashpad, Buckner Park shelter, and Memorial Park.
- Relief staff have been assisting with weed control around splashpads and several park tennis courts.

 Maintenance Technician Supervisor: Mike Cremeans

- All pre-season work was completed at both McMillen and Northside Park pools. This included the Allen County Department of Health site prep, such as safety markings and concrete work.
- Maintenance techs constructed a temporary wall inside the Lawton Park greenhouses east range ahead of contracted construction to repair the exterior wall.
- All eight splashpads opened Memorial Day weekend, with only the Buckner Park backflow preventer needing to be replaced ahead of opening day.
- Both grinder pumps were replaced in the Shoaff Park sewage ejector pit.
- Contracted power washing was completed at the Foster Park golf pavilion and the Foellinger Theater.
- Playground repairs took place at several park locations.
- Seasonal water service has been restored to all rental facilities and restrooms.
- Repairs were made to irrigation lines at the Foster West Pawster Dog Park.
- Display shelves were constructed and installed at the Botanical Conservatory's gift shop.
- The on-call staff received a total of **80** calls to the on-call person this month. **25** of which were lock issues, **12** were calls from dispatch regarding alarms, and **43** were miscellaneous issues.

Maintenance Technician completed the following tasks last month:

9: Alarm Maintenance, **5:** Building Maintenance, **5:** Carpentry, **23:** Electrical Repair,
13: HVAC Maintenance, **18:** Key Core Maintenance, **11:** Light Maintenance,
21: Lock Maintenance, **3:** Paint, **26:** Playground Maintenance,



28: Plumbing Maintenance, 13: Sign Maintenance, 12: Vandalism



Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment Rob Schenkel

- Tree limb and debris cleanup continued at various park locations.
- River greenway trails were serviced weekly to mow, remove sticks, and debris.
- Botanical Conservatory and Lakeside Park compost bins were emptied several times this month.
- Crews are maintaining parks on a 6–8-day rotation, including mowing grass, string trimming around trees and fence lines, blowing off walkways, and spraying weeds.
- Parking blocks have been straightened and replaced as needed in various parks.
- Crews run trash routes five days a week, ensuring all receptacles in the parks are emptied.
- Heavy Equipment crews added gravel to the warning tracks at Kreager Park softball fields.
- Crews added safety mulch (FIBAR) as needed at Camp Allen Park, Rockhill Park, Bass Park, Jennings Center and Study Park.
- Heavy Equipment crews added stone and graded parking lots, and applied cold patch asphalt into potholes at Franke Park and the Foellinger Theatre (Lincolndale) overflow lot.



Main Trac Coordinator: Nicole Roth

- Main Trac Entries: 9,434 for the month.
- We have had 110, 311 calls this month.
- Busy entering time sheets and contracted/sales invoices.
- Running monthly reports for Chuck's Recreation Staff.
- We are also continuing with the Citizen Match Tree Program in Forestry.
- Nicole started with her Lead Boldly training.



Superintendent: Mike Gore

- Approve and record invoices for various materials used and applied in grounds, maintenance, and facilities departments.
- Overseeing a variety of issues on all sides of Maintenance.
- Going back over inspections of the Parks and doing new ones.
- Continuing the 2025 River Greenway inspections.
- Working on 2025 monthly MMR reports for IDEM at the spray parks.
- Writing and overseeing 2025 purchase orders.



Storeroom and Operations: Travis Roth

Storeroom and Property:

- Storeroom staff have stocked up on freezer pops and hydration drinks to help employees safely work through the extreme heat we have been dealing with.
- Coolers, trash bags, and rubber gloves were provided for the annual Juneteenth celebration.
- New backpack blowers and backpack battery vacuums were purchased for the Franke theater staff.
- The 2-storeroom loaner 15-passenger vans were signed out to the Park and Play Program and the Botanical Conservatory for their summer programs.



Property Transactions:

25 Workhorse Sprayers (2)	Added Into Inventory	P230
25 Fecon Forestry Attachment	Added Into Inventory	P230
24 DeWalt Battery Pole Saw	Scrapped	P230
25 Ford F350 Chassis	Added Into Inventory	P230
25 Stihl Battery Pole Saw	Added Into Inventory	P230
12 Quick Cable Battery Booster	Scrapped	P240
25 Club Car Carry All Utility Carts (2)	Added Into Inventory	P240
25 Ford F250 Pick Up trucks (2)	Added Into Inventory	P250F
25 Stihl BGA86 Battery Blower	Added Into Inventory	P260
02 Club Car Carry All DS Carts (2)	Scrapped	R213
13 Karcher Pressure Washers (2)	Scrapped	R610
25 Milwaukee Backpack Vacuums (2)	Added Into Inventory	R610
25 Stihl BR 600 Blowers (3)	Added Into Inventory	R610

2025 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:

Ford Transit Cargo Van	At Fleet
Ford Transit Cargo Van	At Fleet
Shelving for Cargo Van	Delivery
Chevy Colorado Trucks (3)	Delivered
Bobcat T770	Delivered
Club Car 550 Carts	Delivered
Ford F350 Chassis	At W.A. Jones
Dump Bed	P.O. Complete
Portable Welder	Delivered
Forestry Bobcat Attachment	Delivered
Mulch Mate trailer	Delivered
John Deere Gator	P.O. Complete
Steel Green Sprayer	P.O. Complete
Ford F250s (2)	Delivered

Garage Operations Highlights:

- 182 work orders were scheduled this month, 22 of which were services.
- A large portion of the vehicles and equipment for the 2025 lease have been delivered. Only a few items are pending, including a John Deere Gator and a Steel Green sprayer.
- Equipment lists for the 2026 equipment lease are being put together for the Controller's office, which needs these lists and numbers by July of 2025.
- Toro 5910 #594, which had been having drivability issues, was successfully repaired and put back into operation. Bad fuel lines and a faulty sensor were causing the engine to stall and generate trouble codes.
- Gasoline Equipment has started installing the Fuel Lock fuel controllers at Park's fuel tank locations. The controllers at Shoaff golf and Lawton on-road diesel tanks have been completed. Once all of the controllers are installed, they will go live to start tracking fuel usage and fuel levels.

- New windshields had to be installed in Van #140 and SUV #171. No immediate cause for the damage was located, and the damage occurred in 2 different locations. Vehicle #171 needed to have the interior deep-cleaned to remove small pieces of broken glass.
- Applied Metals was able to machine new breakaway arms for the older Toro 580D mowers. These parts have been discontinued by Toro, so having them made locally was the only way to source these parts for future replacements.
- The extreme heat this month has resulted in multiple repairs to the air conditioning systems in both vehicles and enclosed tractors and mowers. This included retrofitting new parts to the Toro mower 585, as the old components are obsolete.
- A new Mulch Mate trailer was delivered for Landscape. Mechanics have been busy getting the unit set up and learning how it operates so they can instruct the end users on how to safely use the machine to quickly unload bulk mulch.
- W.A. Jones picked up a Ford F350 chassis from the Fleet Department and transported it to their shop. They will install a new dump bed and then deliver the completed package to Lawton Park.
- K&S Pallet company brought in a flatbed semi-truck and removed over 100 pallets that had built up in the Lawton bullpen. This frees up much-needed storage space for equipment.
- Two new Ford F250 pickup trucks were delivered for the facilities. Garage mechanics will remove the service bodies from 2 older 2006 models and install them onto the new truck frames.

Project Administration: David Weadock

- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement – Replacement of 25 roof glass panels planned for July. Additional panel procurement in progress.
- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Roof Design – Design documents are completed, and bids received.
- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Roof Replacement – Construction planned to begin in early July.
- Brewer Park Construction – Trail paving completed, splash pad construction ongoing, final site preparation in progress, plantings and seeding planned for week of July 7th, basketball court goal posts and striping in early July, final punch list items being resolved.
- Community Center Parking Lot Control Gate – Installation planned for July 16-17.
- Community Center Shuffleboard Courts Shade Structures – Project completed.
- Community Center Shuffleboard Shade Structures Installation – Project completed.
- Foellinger Theatre Lighting Improvements – Revised project bidding in progress.
- Foellinger Theatre Lighting Components Package – All but one item has been received and has been installed. Final product delivery in July.
- Foellinger Theatre House Lighting Products – Partial order received from vendor, with remaining items delivery planned for mid-July.
- Foellinger Theatre House Lighting Installation – Bidding documents preparation in progress.
- Foster Park Golf Course Restoration Plan – Awaiting completion of utility work on the golf course.
- Franke Park Pond Pavilion Interior Renovation – Planning in progress.
- Franke Park Zoo Signage – Quotes have been received and shared with Zoo staff.
- Hanna Homestead Lighting Installation – Project completed.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Construction in progress.
- Headwaters Park Service Buildings Roofing – Bids received and purchase order acquisition in progress. Construction planned for early Fall.
- Hurshtown Reservoir – Project completed.
- Indian Village Park Playground Equipment – Project completed.
- Johnny Appleseed Park Fishing Piers Stabilization – Work is nearly completed on both fishing piers.
- Kreager Park Tennis Courts – Net posts reconstruction completed on four courts. Remaining courts shall be addressed in July.



- Kreager Park Sidewalk Replacement – Purchase order acquisition in progress. Construction planned for mid-July.
- Lakeside Park Dome Arbor Renovation – Project completed.
- Lawton Park Greenhouse Wall Construction – Wall installed and operational. Final punch list items in progress.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof Design – Planning in progress.
- McCormick Park Playground Equipment – Installation and site restoration in progress.
- McCormick Park New Drinking Fountain – Product on order with vendor, procuring quotes for plumbing and concrete flat work.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Construction – Wood decking installed. Final punch list items and site restoration in progress.
- Memorial Park Monument Sidewalk – Construction to begin mid-July.
- Northside Park Psi-Ote Pavilion Lower Updates – Planning in progress.
- Northside Park Administration 1st Floor HVAC Replacement – Planning documents in progress.
- Northside Park Psi-Ote Lower Pavers Repair – Project completed.
- Old Fort Bridge Renovation – Planning in progress.
- Packard Park Redevelopment – Construction in progress.
- Packard Park Pavilion Roof Replacement – Bidding in progress.
- Parks 2025 Paving Projects – McMillen parking lot completed, Rivergreenway trail completed, McCormick parking lot planned for early July.
- Parks 2025 Pavement Renovations Project – Repair work at various park locations is in progress.
- Repka Park Boardwalk Renovation – Final construction work in progress.
- Salomon Farm Animal Barn – Planning in progress.
- Salomon Farm Pasture Barn Utilities – Purchase order issued for design consultant. Installation work planned for late summer.
- Salomon Farm Trail Improvements – Construction work planned for late June, early July.
- Salomon Farm Pasture Barn – Exterior wood replacement and painting planned for late July.
- Shoaff Park Riverlodge Roof Replacement – Bidding documents preparation in progress.
- Various Parks Façade and Monument Tuckpointing – Work at Franklin School Park in progress.

Other work:

- Various Parks: reviewed potential and necessary future projects
- Various Parks: planning projects for the 2025 budget
- Various Parks: updating park site plan bases and building plans.
- Various Parks: underground utility locates were scheduled and performed.
- Various Parks: assisting the Marketing department by preparing requested project information.
- Various Parks: cost estimates for various projects are being prepared upon request.
- Various Parks: Park assessments are being completed.
- Content preparation for Engage Fort Wayne
- PAS Division GIS training sessions are in progress with the Staff
- Preparing GIS content for the Parks mobile application

 Safety: Tony DeVido

- The Parks & Rec. The Safety Committee met on April 29. 4 employees were present.
- 4 4-vehicle crash was reported at this time.
- 5 employee injuries were reported during this period.
- 2 CPR/FA classes were held. 18 employees were certified
- 2 employees successfully renewed their CDLs.
- GST was completed for Horticulture and Greenhouse Seasonal Employees

- 2 Parks employees attended an OSHA 10 hr. construction class.
- Inspections at Northside and McMillen pools were completed.
- 33 Worksite inspections were done.
- Confined Space class with/ CU was scheduled for July

Facilities Maintenance

- Pavilion rental totals for the month of July was at 269.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Lawton Park skate park, Martin Luther King, Jr Bridge, Memorial pavilion, Foster park, Williams park, Swinney park, Psi-Ote park, Bloomingdale park, Lafayette park, Franke park, Klug park, Bob Arnold Northside park, and Foster park.
- Pressure washed the following locations: Lawton park skate park, Martin Luther King, Jr Bridge, Foster park pavilions and fencing, Waynedale park splashpad and tennis court, Memorial park splashpad, Kreager park splash pad and shelter areas, aided the garage with pressure washing of equipment, Lawton park playground.
- Relief staff continue spin trimming and assisting with weed control around various pavilions, several tennis courts, splashpads, the River greenway, and various other playgrounds.

Maintenance Technicians

- Maintenance techs finished the Lawton Park greenhouse post-construction renovation in the East range. This included updating electrical and plumbing components.
- All pavilion keypads were inspected and repaired as necessary. This included changing keypads on some and batteries on all buildings.
- Temporary support structures were installed at the Lawton Park skate park to secure the concrete walls that are showing signs of degradation.
- Bollard painting projects were completed at several park locations.
- Saucer swings were removed from both Lakeside and Jehl Parks due to frame failure. These are both new playgrounds which will be replaced by the manufacturer under warranty. Other playground repairs are underway at multiple other park locations.
- A replacement drinking fountain was installed at Powell Park.
- New exhaust fan motors were installed at the Lawton Park glass greenhouse.

Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment

- Tree limb and debris cleanup continued at various park locations.
- River greenway trails were serviced weekly to mow, remove sticks, debris, and flood damage.
- Crews are maintaining parks on a 6–8-day rotation, including mowing grass, string trimming around trees and fence lines, blowing off walkways, and spraying weeds.
- Crews run trash routes five days a week, ensuring all receptacles in the parks are emptied.
- Heavy Equipment crews added and graded gravel near the Shoaff Pond parking area at Franke Park.
- Crews delivered and added safety mulch (FIBAR) to the Lawton Park playground for volunteers to spread.
- The sandbox at Waynedale Park was removed, backfilled, and seeded by Heavy Equipment crews.
- Volunteers: We had 30 volunteer hours this month.



Operations and Support

Garage Operations Highlights:

- 176 work orders were scheduled this month, 18 of which were services.
- Gasoline Equipment finished installing the Fuel Lock fuel controllers at all Parks fuel tank locations. All employees and equipment numbers have been added and employees have started using the controllers on a trial basis to work out any issues before the system goes completely live.
- The zoo train suffered a damaged ring gear on the transmission. Mechanics were able to source a very similar replacement part for Fort Wayne clutch. The part is currently at Applied Metals being machined to fit correctly.
- Two 2021 Ford F150s had factory recalls that could have resulted in engine replacements. Ford technicians performed in-depth testing on both vehicles and determined that the trucks will not require new engines.
- Forestry truck 151 had a factory recall on its boom lift which required a licensed inspector to sign off on specific measurements in the boom structure. Hoff mobile truck inspected the lift mechanism per the recall specs and it passed.
- The Sweetbreeze canal boat suffered from engine overheating issues which garage mechanics were able to repair by replacing the water pump impeller. Extra parts were ordered so that these parts are in stock at all times. Extra air filters were also ordered to be kept in stock for emergencies.
- Staff worked on repairing wide area mowers at several golf courses. Toro 580s, Toro 1200 mower decks, and Toro 4000s had multiple issues that needed addressed. A Toro 1200 had an entire deck shell replaced and is back in service.
- The forestry grapple truck began leaking at the main hydraulic pump which required the pump to be rebuilt and several of the hoses to be replaced.

Project Administration

- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement – Replacement of 25 roof glass panels planned for July. Additional panel procurement in progress.
- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Roof Design – Design documents are completed, and bids received.
- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Roof Replacement – Construction planned to begin in August.
- Brewer Park Construction – Work throughout the park is complete except for splash pad reconstruction and punch list items.
- Community Center Parking Lot Control Gate – Project completed.
- Foellinger Theatre Lighting Components Package – All but one item has been received, and has been installed. Final product delivery in July.
- Johnny Appleseed Park Fishing Piers Stabilization – Project completed.
- Kreager Park Sidewalk Replacement – Project completed.
- Lakeside Park Pavilion #1 Roof – Bidding in progress.
- Lawton Park Greenhouse Wall Construction – Project completed.
- McCormick Park Playground Equipment – Project completed.
- McCormick Park New Drinking Fountain – Installation is in progress.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Construction – Project completed.
- Memorial Park Monument Sidewalk – Project completed.
- Packard Park Redevelopment – Project completed.
- Parks 2025 Paving Projects – Project completed.



- Repka Park Boardwalk Renovation – Project completed.
- Various Parks Signage Improvements – Projects ongoing.
- Various Parks Façade and Monument Tuckpointing – Project completed.
- Wells St. Bridge Partial Deck Replacement – Awaiting purchase order.

Safety

- The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on July 29. 5 employees were present.
- 2 vehicle crashes were reported for this period.
- 2 employee injuries were reported during this time period.
- 1 CPR/FA classes were held. 5 employees were certified.
- WPS training was completed for the Botanical Conservatory staff.
- 11 Parks employees were trained in Confined Space Entry.
- 24 Worksite inspections were done.
- Safety SOP16 was updated to include a cotton shirt in approved hi-vis PPE.
- Inaugural city-wide Safety Review Council meeting was held. 2 Parks employees were present.

Chad Shaw - Deputy Director of the  **Planning & Development, Forestry, Greenhouse, Landscape & Horticulture, and Riparian**

Planning Report – May 2025

Construction of the Franke Park Renaissance, Phase I project is nearly complete. Exterior wall capstones are being fabricated for installation at the pavilion.

Construction is well underway at Packard Park and Brewer Park. Playground equipment has been installed at both parks. Rough site grading and sidewalk and trail paving is underway.

The Lawton Park/Fourth Street Pedestrian Bridge installation is complete and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held with the Mayor to officially open the bridge.

Riverfront Phase II B construction continues. The concrete curbs around the bioswale have been installed and the H-piles to support the landing for the tree canopy trail are being driven into the ground.

Design work continues on the Foster Park Entrance project. The design team delivered schematic design plans for review. Staff is also coordinating with City Utilities on the restoration of their utility construction project throughout Foster Park.

The Treeline District design team has finalized design development documents for the proposed park. Parks staff is working with Redevelopment staff and the design team to ensure the project aligns with the department's goals and that it is integrated with the adjacent Riverfront designs.

Staff received two proposals for the Wildwood Park and Rockhill Park Historic Landscape Study and Guideline project. Parks staff is assisting members of the Wildwood Park Community Association who are leading this effort.

Staff attended several sessions of the Mayor's Lead Boldly training.

Staff spoke as a panelist at ASLA's Groundwork: Midwest and Great Plains forum, a live conversation on disaster recovery and climate resilience in the region.

Staff revised the draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Botanical Conservatory Exploration Garden and Terrace Garden design for the Conservatory's supervisory team to review.

Staff assisted the Conservatory's crew with the Mother's Day Plant Sale.

Horticulture and Landscape Report- May 2025

51 Volunteers worked 493.95 hours in the greenhouse

The greenhouse sent approximately 21,837 plants/containers to the Botanical Conservatory Mother's Day Plant Sale. Of those, approximately 19,955 sold with the breakdown being: Annuals – 7011 sent, 6452 sold, Herbs – 3650 sent, 3399 sold, Houseplants – 1019 sent, 818 sold, Perennials – 3797 sent, 3666 sold, Vegetables – 4740 sent, 4431 sold.

- 300 leftover flowers and vegetable plants were donated to the Purdue Master Gardeners Program.
- 98 leftover vegetable and herb plants were donated to the Carriage House
- 400 leftover vegetable plants were donated to Miss Virginia's Food Pantry and Poplar Village Gardens
- All other leftover plant sale plants went to the Parks, Conservatory Sales Garden, and Conservatory Plant Swap.

We provided 32,594 plants for the Parks landscapes including Foster, Lakeside, Downtown locations, Swinney Letter bed to name a few.

Landscape staff supported the Mother's Day Plant Sale by assisting in 3 days of plant delivery and assembling all new plant carts.

Landscape staff spent time delivering greenhouse construction materials stored at Harris Road to Lawton Park for the upcoming east wall project in June.

Landscape staff delivered all the large tropical plants from the greenhouse to the zoo.

Landscape staff completed and turned in their 2025 bulb designs so fall bulbs can be ordered. Bulb displays are designed and installed at Freimann Square, Courthouse Green, Downtown Community Center, Lakeside Park, and Foster Park.

Lakeside staff continued with daily litter removal and weekly mowing and spin trimming. They removed all tulips, tilled beds, began planting annual flowers, as well as watering them daily. They un-hilled all the roses, fertilized them, made pest control applications to them, planted new/replacement roses, and began irrigating them. The fountain ponds were filled and daily maintenance began on them. Staff worked on bed and sidewalk edging, mulched tree and shrub beds, weeded, and applied post-emergent herbicides. They also spent time picking up limbs and assisting in the greenhouse due to poor weather.

Foster staff continued with daily litter removal, weekly mowing and spin trimming of the bridal glen and daily maintenance of the bridal glen fountain. They removed all tulips; tilled, amended, and edged flower beds; began

planting annual flowers; and began daily watering. Staff also edged and mulched perennial and tree beds, blew off the tennis courts, cut down spent daffodils, pulled weeds, and applied pre and post-emergent herbicides for weed control. Landscape staff spent time picking up limbs after a storm event and worked in the greenhouse due to poor weather.

The City team continued their weekly turf care at Lawton and Northside Office; mowing, trimming and applying spring fertilizer. They spent time at Memorial Park before Memorial Day cleaning up and mulching all memorials, signs, etc, picked up limbs, and blew pathways off. Staff spent time at McMillen Pool and Northside Pool before their opening with weeding and spot herbicide treatments. Staff also spent considerable time at the Theatre before their first concert cleaning up and mulching front entry and parking lot beds, weeding, and performing spot herbicide treatments. The Swinney Letterbed was cleaned up; Boxwoods were sheared, soil was prepped/tilled, and the bed was edged and planted with its annual flower display. Staff picked up trash at the Community Gardens to clean it up before tilling. Weed control that included both post-emergent herbicide applications and hand weeding took place at PSI OTE, Swinney, Franke pavilions, Bluffton Road, Jennings Center, McMillen Clubhouse and Community Center, Powell, Weisser, Shoaff, Lawton, Northside, Tillman, Kreager, Spy Run/Spy Run Extended, Jehl, Foster South, Rudisill Park, and McKinnie Commons. The team also spent time picking up limbs and assisting in the greenhouse due to poor weather.

With the assistance of Community Corrections, the Downtown Team removed spring bulbs at Lakeside, Courthouse Green, Freimann Square, and the Community Center in preparation for planting annual flowers. The team completed annual flower plantings at the Community Center, while planting at Freimann Square and the Courthouse Green. Weed control that included both post-emergent herbicide applications and hand weeding took place at Headwaters, Promenade, Main Street Medians, Freimann, Community Center, Little Turtle, Courthouse Green, Meyers Park, Rivergreenway beds, MLK bridge beds, Lawton Skate Park, Guldlin Park, Bloomingdale Park, and Riverfront IIA. Downtown staff began mulching MLK bridge and Rivergreenway beds. They also did the spring cleanup at the United Arts Japanese Garden. Staff blew pathways off regularly at Promenade, Riverfront IIA, and Headwaters. They spent considerable time installing sod to disturbed areas in the Headwaters East pavilion after improvements were made to sidewalks. Also, in Headwaters, shearing of the Euonymus hedge was completed and all riparian areas were mown. Finally, the team spent time picking up limbs and assisting in the greenhouse due to poor weather.

Two seasonal staff members were hired; one will be stationed at Lawton to help with the Downtown and City teams for the summer, while the other will report to Foster Park to help that team on a daily basis.

Landscape staff completed required annual pesticide training and attended the citywide Safety Fair at Franke Park.

As part of their contract, Pfister Sprinkler Systems began making necessary spring repairs to irrigation systems in Foster Park, Promenade Park, Lakeside Park, Northside Pool, Northside Main Office, Freimann Square, Courthouse Green, Downtown Community Center, Main St. Medians, Foellinger Theatre, Meyers Park, Bluffton Rd., Swinney Letterbed, Riverfront IIA, and Headwaters Park.

Heartland Restoration Services began work as part of their Ecosystem Maintenance contract, making visits to the Thomas Nature Sanctuary pond, Reservoir Park rain garden, and Lakeside Park native plant pond buffer.



Pride Landcare, Mow Baby Mow, and MJK Total Lawn Care continued mowing all contracted maintenance areas.

Lawnganics continued turf fertilization and weed control on all park locations under contract.

Olympia Pools began sweeping the Freimann fountain every other week per contract.

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

Contracts were awarded to: MJK Lawncare to mulch Swinney Park and REA Park; Pride Landcare to mulch Tillman Park, and Triscape to mulch Indian Village and Kreager Park. Work will take place in June.

The front entry bed project at Kreager, which included removal of stumps left by AEP tree removals, tree bed consolidation, and turf restoration, was completed by MJK Lawncare.

A contract was awarded to Triscape for a treescape renovation at Indian Village Park. This August/September, seven diseased and declining Crabapple trees will be removed along with large chip mulch beds. Turf will be restored at this time as well. Seven new native Redbud trees will be planted in October/November to take their place. This project will improve aesthetics, increase tree diversity, reduce herbicide usage, and decrease overall maintenance.

Riparian Management Report- May 2025

Installed the Headwaters dock for the season, the last of the dock system for the season.

Cleared Guldlin, Promenade Park- North Dock, and Promenade Park- South Dock from silt after the flood event.

Removed honeysuckle and improved viewshed at Guldlin. Removed approx. 0.62 tons of debris.

Cleared the Van Buren and Ewing bridge of woody debris. Total debris removed was 47.75 tons (95,500 pounds).

Hosted a volunteer event with Manchester University students at Shoaff. 60 students and staff cleared honeysuckle, burning bush, and multiflora rose from the riparian zone, totaling 130 man-hours and 2.5 tons of debris.

Forestry Report- May 2025

The Citizen Match Tree Planting Program has received 205 tree requests thus far. Applications can be found on the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation website. The deadline to apply is July 1st.

A severe weather event on 5/16 resulted in considerable damage to trees throughout Fort Wayne. Crews worked through the weekend to open roadways. All of the high-priority storm damage to street trees before the end of the month.

Our annual Emerald Ash Borer Treatment has begun. This year's treatment includes 383 ash trees and is expected to be completed within the first week of June.

We began our annual street tree windshield inspection. The purpose of this inspection is to identify hazardous tree conditions. Once identified, necessary mitigation efforts are prioritized and scheduled in accordance with

available resources. We hope to complete the evaluation process by the end of June. So far, 516 trees have been identified as candidates for removal. 233 of these have been deemed 'High Priority'.

In May, Forestry crews completed 57 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 64 trees in May. 27 of these were the result of damage caused by storms. 8 of these were located within the parks and 2 were the result of vehicle damage.

Crews responded to and cleared 155 storm-related broken/fallen/hanging limbs.

Completed 5 tree damage appraisals for trees that had been stuck by vehicles. These appraisals resulted in \$4,275.00 in damages to City-owned trees.

Responded to and closed 171, 311 Call Center requests for service this month. This is a 25% increase for the month from last year.

Planning Report – June 2025

- Construction of the Franke Park Renaissance, Phase I project is nearly complete. Exterior wall capstones are being installed around the pavilion.
- Construction is nearly complete at Packard Park and Brewer Park. Site paving and playground installation are complete at both parks. Final grading, landscaping, and site furnishings remain to be completed.
- Riverfront Phase IIB construction continues. The foundation for the cascading steps and starting point of the tree canopy trail has been installed. Boulders have been delivered to the site for the boulder mound and rough grading of the site continues. Staff continue to meet with AEP for coordination of this project with their transmission line rebuild.
- Design work continues on the Foster Park Entrance project. Staff met with the design team to review initial design development drawings. Staff is also coordinating with City Utilities on the restoration of their utility construction project throughout Foster Park.
- The Treeline District design team has finalized design development documents for the proposed park. Parks staff is working with Redevelopment staff and the design team to ensure the project aligns with the department's goals and that it is integrated with the adjacent Riverfront designs.
- Staff evaluated the proposals received for the Wildwood Park and Rockhill Park Historic Landscape Study and Guideline project. The committee selected Heritage Landscapes. Parks staff is assisting members of the Wildwood Park Community Association who are leading this effort.
- Staff attended an engagement event with the Department of Neighborhoods at Waynedale Park. While the Department of Neighborhoods staff gathered public input for their Waynedale 2040 Plan, Parks staff gathered information relevant to parks in the area to help with future planning of a potential new park in Waynedale.
- Staff completed the Mayor's Lead Boldly training.
- Staff attended the annual American Public Gardens Association conference in Denver, Colorado, for continuing education related to management of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory. The trip was funded by the Arts United Regional Arts Council Member Capacity Grant Program, administered by Arts United.
- Staff reviewed the final RFP for the Conservatory's Exploration and Terrace Garden Design with the Conservatory's supervisory team and has published it. Proposals are due July 25th.

Horticulture and Landscape Report- June 2025

- 39 Volunteers worked 219.25 hours in the greenhouse. One new volunteer started working in June.
- 39 plants were supplied for the Conservatory Plant Swap and 400 assorted herbs for Father's Day at the Conservatory. Approximately 2,500 plants were provided for the "Something Blue" show case.
- Garden plots at the Community Gardens continued to be rented with a total of 82 plots for the season.
- Downtown and City team staff assisted in removing the spring Butterfly Show and installing the "Something Blue" summer exhibit during show change at the Botanical Conservatory this month.
- The Lakeside Park team focused on finishing up spring cleanups, completing their annual flower plantings, watering and maintaining the annual flowers, litter pickup, mowing, spin trimming, edging beds and sidewalks, weeding, limb removal, and vacuuming/maintaining the water feature. They also made pest control applications to roses, performed general rose maintenance, and trimmed the Yew hedges.
- The Foster Park team focused on finishing up spring cleanups, completing their annual flower plantings, watering and maintaining the annual flowers, litter pickup, limb pickup, cleaning the fountain, weeding, mulching, and post-emergent herbicide treatments. The team also did some general tree pruning and trimmed back limbs and shrubs encroaching on the trails surrounding the park.
- The Downtown Team continued to pick litter daily at Freimann Square, the Courthouse Green, Main Street Medians, Community Center, and Meyers Park. Maintenance of the fountain at Freimann Square also continues daily as well. The team finished their annual flower plantings at the Courthouse Green and Freimann Square and began maintaining the flower beds. Weed control that included post emergent herbicide treatments and hand weeding was performed at Promenade, Headwaters, Riverfront IIA, Freimann, the Courthouse Green, Community Center, Main Street, Bloomingdale, Guldlin, and Meyers Park. Approximately 200 additional perennials were planted at Promenade to replace plants that had not survived. Shrubs and trees encroaching on pathways at Promenade were pruned back. Irrigation systems continued to be dialed in at Freimann, Main Street Medians, Courthouse Green, Community Center, Meyers Park, Promenade, Headwaters, and Riverfront IIA.
- The City Team continued to mow Northside and Lawton office weekly. Much of their time was spent on weed control. Post emergent herbicide applications and/or hand weeding was completed at Foellinger, Franke, McKinnie Commons, McMillen, Rudisill Park, Buckner, Salomon, Reservoir, Kreager, Irishtown, Northside, Indian Village Park and Boulevard, Cobin, Hamilton, Foster South/Floodwall, Kettler, Camp Canine, Franklin, Lawton, Moody, Miner, Swinney, Powell, and the Jennings Center. Mulching and pruning was done at Franke Park. The crews spent time watering their spring plantings and limb pickup was done throughout the park system. The City team also delivered the remaining large tropical plants to the zoo. Irrigation systems continued to be dialed in at the Northside office and pool, Foellinger Theatre, and McKinnie Commons.
- On Saturday, June 21st, Sarah Colter hosted a "Rose Garden Tour" at Lakeside Park. She taught approximately 20 people who attended how the Lakeside Gardeners care for their roses. Topics included pests, diseases, fertilizers, pruning, and over-wintering.
- An intern from Brightpoint was added to assist the landscape maintenance Staff while learning the landscape trade over the next two months.
- All Seasonal Staff attended General Safety Training.
- Two Memorial Benches were installed this month. One went in Pawster Park and another in Lakeside 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.
- Olympia Pool continued sweeping Freimann Square fountain every other week per contract.

- Aquatic Management continued to maintain the Thomas Property pond spraying for algae and submerged weeds as per contract.
- Triscape, Pride Landcare, and MJK Total Lawn Care finished mulching large chip beds at Kreager, Indian Village Boulevard, Tillman, and Swinney Park.

Riparian Management Report- June 2025

- Maintained Guldlin boat ramp and all dock systems, which include cleaning and removing debris on or around the docks.
- Cleared Main bridge, Harrison bridge, Old Fort pedestrian bridge, Spy Run bridge, and Tecumseh bridge along with several deadheads and strainers. Total woody debris removed approx. 76,643 pounds/ 38.32 tons.
- Removed approximately 6830 pounds of litter and man-made debris from all three rivers (bikes, tires, carts, carpets, chairs, traffic barrels, and several bags full of trash)
- Built and installed new dock debris booms for Guldlin and Headwaters dock systems. It should greatly reduce the amount of debris caught on these docks.
- Began Teen Works summer program that includes 13 teenagers and one adult. Cleared 3.38 tons of honeysuckle from Shoaff (126 volunteer man hours); removed approx. 200 pounds of litter from Old Fort, Headwaters, Promenade, Guldlin and Bloomingdale; and hosted a one-day watershed/water quality learning workshop at Lawton.
- Yearly contract for geese removal began at several park locations. 287 geese were removed so far from Guldlin, Bloomingdale, Swinney, McMillen and Lakeside.

Forestry Report- June 2025

- The Citizen Match Tree Planting Program received 358 street tree requests this year. We have begun inspecting these sites and intend to identify all the planting sites for this year's tree planting project in July.
- This year's Emerald Ash Borer treatment has been completed. Treatment included 383 ash trees throughout the City.
- We completed our annual street tree windshield inspection. The purpose of this inspection is to identify hazardous tree conditions. Once identified, necessary mitigation efforts are prioritized and scheduled in accordance with available resources. 834 trees have been identified as candidates for removal. 553 of these have been deemed 'High Priority'.
- In June, Forestry crews completed 98 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 46 trees in June. 21 of these were the result of damage caused by storms. 5 were located within the parks, and 4 were the result of vehicle damage.
- Crews responded to and cleared 67 storm-related broken/fallen/hanging limbs.
- Completed 16 tree damage appraisals for trees that had been struck by vehicles. These appraisals resulted in \$21,075.00 in damages to City-owned trees.
- We responded and closed 141- 311 Call Center requests for service this month

Botanical Conservatory Report – May 2025

The 22nd annual 'Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit' welcomed 16,021 enthusiastic visitors in May 2025; the nine-week exhibit will last until June 22 with a target attendance of 40,000 visitors. The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events in May 2025 including Mother's Day Plant Sale (May 8 – 11), Mother's Day in the Garden (May 10 & 11), National Public Gardens Week (May 9 – 16), Spring Bonsai Show

(May 17), and Iris Flower Show (May 25). Staff are gearing up for Camp ACTiVenture (Beginning June 9), Father's Day in the Garden (June 14 – 15), National Pollinator Week (June 17 – 23), ...Something Blue Showcase Exhibit (Opening June 28), Local Art Display: Nature Walk by Joni Walker (Opening June 28), Jazzworks! with Ty Causey (July 4), and several pre-registered programs and workshops throughout the month.

There is one current vacancy, Program Coordinator – Interpretation & Education (Pre-Requisition). One Camp ACTiVenture Counselor, Catherine Ahlersmeyer, One Camp ACTiVenture Assistant Supervisor, Etheny McCall, and One Seasonal Maintenance, JP Schey, have begun work.

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

The Botanical Conservatory welcomed 16,021 visitors in May 2025, a 4.22% increase over the previous year, contributing to a year-to-date attendance of 59,560—an 18.46% growth compared to 2024. This steady rise continues to reflect strong public engagement with our exhibits and programs. Admissions revenue for the month held steady at \$57,833, nearly identical to May 2024, helping push our year-to-date admissions to \$220,371, an increase of 10.76%. Membership revenue rose significantly, increasing 51.36% for the month and 12.90% year-to-date, reinforcing the value community members find in supporting the Conservatory.

While gift shop revenue in May declined by 18.06%, likely due to exhibit timing and abnormally high performance in May 2024 due to the timing of the Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit opening, the year-to-date total remains positive, with a 1.44% increase over 2024. This suggests that strong early-season performance is still driving a net gain. Rental and catering revenue saw a notable boost of 64.84% in May and is up 22.42% year-to-date, indicating continued demand for the Botanical Conservatory as a venue for special events.

Other revenue, which includes donations, activity enrollments, and the highly successful Mother's Day Plant Sale, totaled \$140,441.82 in May—surpassing last year's impressive showing and contributing to a year-to-date increase of 15.80%. Altogether, total revenue for May reached \$250,005.22, a 4.27% increase over 2024. Cumulatively, revenue for the year sits at \$875,654.18, up 11.90% year-over-year, demonstrating ongoing growth across key areas of the Botanical Conservatory's operations.

Attendance

May 2024:	15,373 visitors
May 2025:	16,021 visitors
An increase of 648 or +4.22% to 2024	

YTD Comparisons

2024 Attendance:	50,279 visitors
2025 Attendance:	59,560 visitors
An increase of 9,281 or +18.46% to 2024	

Admissions Revenue

May 2024:	\$57,858.00
May 2025:	\$57,833.00
An decrease of \$25.00 or -0.04% to 2024	

YTD Comparisons

2024 Admissions Revenue:	\$198,960.00
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2025 Admissions Revenue: \$220,371.00
An increase of \$21,411.00 or +10.76% to 2024

Membership Revenue

May 2024: \$8,491.00
May 2025: \$12,852.00
An increase of \$4,361.00 or +51.36% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Membership Revenue: \$51,928.00
2025 Membership Revenue: \$58,626.00
An increase of \$6,698.00 or +12.90% to 2024

Conservatory Shop Revenue

May 2024: \$42,024.98
May 2025: \$34,435.90
A decrease of \$7,589.08 or -18.06% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Gift Shop Revenue: \$146,555.78
2025 Gift Shop Revenue: \$148,668.24
An increase of \$2,112.46 or +1.44% to 2024

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

May 2024: \$2,695.00
May 2025: \$4,442.50
An increase of \$1,747.50 or +64.84% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Rental Revenue: \$31,990.00
2025 Rental Revenue: \$39,162.50
An increase of \$7,172.50 or +22.42% to 2024

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

May 2024: \$128,704.66 (\$124,437.02 – Plant Sale)
May 2025: \$140,441.82 (\$129,165.92 – Plant Sale)

YTD Comparisons

2024 Other Revenue: \$353,116.40
2025 Other Revenue: \$408,826.44

Conservatory Total Revenue

May 2024: \$239,773.64
May 2025: \$250,005.22
An increase of \$10,231.58 or +4.27% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Total Revenue: \$782,550.18

2025 Total Revenue: \$875,654.18

An increase of \$93,104.00 or +11.90% to 2024

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

Staff completed a grant to Norfolk Southern for support of the Desert House Improvements Project. This application will be submitted in June with the required 2024 Form W-9 and non-discrimination statements were requested of the Fort Wayne Park Foundation.

Staff submitted a grant to the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation for support of the Desert House Improvements Project.

Staff provided a comparison of rental venues and children's gardens to the parks administration for review in preparing and discussing the RFP for capital improvements at the Botanical Conservatory.

Staff provided promotional tickets and information to 96.3 XKE for the promotional spots for 2025 Father's Day in the Garden.

Staff submitted final media reports to FOX55 and Majic 95.1 for 2025 Bunny Tales in the Garden. These reports will enable us to approach these media for continuing support of upcoming special events and exhibits.

Staff submitted final media reports to FOX55 and Majic 95.1 for 2025 Mother's Day Plant Sale. These reports will enable us to approach these media for continuing support of upcoming special events and exhibits.

Staff submitted final media reports to 21Alive, Majic 95.1 and Aunt Millie's for 2025 Mother's Day in the Garden. These reports will enable us to approach these media for continuing support of upcoming special events and exhibits.

Conservatory Public Programs**Events****Mother's Day Plant Sale (May 8-11)**

Held at the McMillen Community Center since 2011, the annual Mother's Day Plant Sale continues to be a beloved community fundraiser in support of the Botanical Conservatory. Staff and volunteers with the Botanical Conservatory and Lawton Park Greenhouse are proud to have exceeded this year's goal with an impressive 3.80% increase from last year (a record year)! This is not possible without the support of the Parks & Recreation Department in addition to 180+ volunteers over a 6-day span involving setup and the sale itself. In preparation for another successful year, staff continue to assess areas of improvement with a shared persistence toward enhanced plant offerings and exceptional customer service.

In addition to various City and Parks staff who pitched in, here's a special thanks to supporting volunteer groups including the Purdue Extension Master Gardeners, Indiana Native Plant Society, Fort Wayne Bonsai Club, Center for Academic Success, YLNI Leadership Institute, and Easterseals Northeast Indiana as well as local South Side

Honor Society Students and Target Employees. Lastly, here's a shout out to a stellar group of regular Conservatory and Greenhouse Volunteers whose commitment to volunteer service does not go unnoticed.

Mother's Day in the Garden (May 10 & 11)

Total attendance was 2,605 visitors during this 2-day event when all Moms received free admission to the Botanical Conservatory. With 1,216 visitors on Saturday and 1,389 on Sunday, there was a decrease of 6.4% in comparison to 2,772 total visitors in 2024. Happening during the acclaimed butterfly exhibit, free plants "while supplies last" also continue to be a hit!

String Jams Spring Jam (May 29)

This was the first year for Believe in a Dream's String Orchestra to present a spring show. Held on the outdoor Terrace, the event afforded opportunity for 33 young, aspiring string performers from across the city to perform for a public audience; over 200 guests were outside for the performance. Overall attendance was 572, which more than doubled from 239 on this same Thursday \$1 Night at the end of May in 2024. It was a rather enjoyable and successful event worth repeating!

Education

T'ai Chi AM (April 22-May 20)

T'ai Chi AM maintained an elevated class through the end of this morning series. Seasoned instructor Sandy Gebhard ended up accommodating 24 participants, which was 4 over the typical maximum registration. This repeat wellness program continues to offer value to community members as well as the Botanical Conservatory.

Bonsai for Beginners (May 3)

In this popular returning program, 24 pre-registered participants were taught how to groom, plant, and care for their new miniature Weeping Fig, *Ficus benjamina* with a respect for the history and culture of bonsai. Six experts from the local Bonsai Club volunteered their time to coach participants while also encouraging them to return to the Bonsai Show later in the month.

National Public Gardens Week (May 9-16)

Conservatory guests who visited during this national celebration discover all there is to see and do at their local public garden. A special treat, Marigold seeds were given away as part of the celebration!

SCFVA, School Children's Flower & Vegetable Association

This month entailed follow-up orders while staff worked with chairpersons to correct miscellaneous errors such as missing plant tags. Staff also messaged all 51 different schools to confirm the date and time for their local plant show; this proved to be good timing at the end of the school year with new contacts being updated. Next, staff will be updating the 2025 Judge's Booklet and Training Manual while simultaneously scheduling volunteer judges for school plant shows from August through September; this is also in correlation with training meetings scheduled at the end of July. Furthermore, staff are adding a new plant order form to be distributed in fall as compared to the start of the new year. This update is in collaboration with the Lawton Park Greenhouse in the effort to be more intentional with plant counts before growing the plants.

Youth Field Trips

The Botanical Conservatory hosted 46 groups bringing 1,670 students in the month of May. In comparison, there were 2,721 students from 52 groups in 2024; 1,626 students from 47 groups in 2023; 985 students from 23 groups in 2022; 152 students from 13 groups in 2021; no students in 2020; 1,959 students from 19 groups in 2019; and 1,703 students from 39 groups in 2018.

Plant Societies

Spring Bonsai Show (May 17)

The Spring Bonsai Show continues to present well in the larger Magnolia Room where guests are invited to walk through a miniaturized forest of trees. This year's attendance of 770 closely approached 2024's attendance of 783. Interestingly, member attendance doubled this year to 108 from 51 in 2024. Coordinated by the Fort Wayne Bonsai Club, another show is scheduled to return come fall.

Iris Flower Show (May 25)

The Northeast Indiana Iris Society presented an abundance of beautiful blooms to a happy surge of Conservatory guests. This year, a total of 654 guests delighted in the show whereas total attendance was 497 in 2024 and 269 in 2023. Attendance increased 31.6% over last year; it is worth noting a presence on social media as well as local news.

Exhibits & Displays

Color in Motion (April 15-June 22)

The current showcase exhibit is among the most popular and is much anticipated by guests at the return of spring. With the live butterfly exhibit in its 22nd year, high attendance numbers are projected along with increased field trips. Some new butterfly species were introduced this year, along with a handful of new Butterfly Attendant volunteers who help staff the exhibit on a daily basis.

Gentle Turning by Grace Yencer (April 15-June 22)

Local artist Grace Yencer brings *Color in Motion* to the Gallery Hall with her 37 unique mixed media pieces titled *Gentle Turning*. Motifs of rolling hills, butterflies, short quotes, florals, and homes are familiar and whimsical. Within the first two weeks, five pieces have already sold! Her artwork can be purchased online at shop.botanicalconservatory.org. A public artist reception was held on Sunday, June 1st.

Soaring into Spring (April 15-June 22)

In partnership with the Anthis Career Academy, the Botanical Conservatory participated in the 2025 Fort Wayne in Bloom Window Decorating Contest put on by Downtown Fort Wayne. Determined in mid-May, the Botanical Conservatory was the People's Choice 1st Place Winner!!! Student, Molly Rider is the original artist while students, Virginia Keefe, Felix Duarte, and Kris Houghton-Thompson are the designers who worked together to reimagine, enlarge, print, and install the final artwork, which was also awarded for best use of theme!

Volunteers/Staff

This was an exceptionally busy month of volunteerism, as the Botanical Conservatory received remarkable support in May! Ongoing at the Front Desk, 8 volunteers covered 36 shifts while 11 volunteers covered 42 shifts in the Gift Shop. A total of 124 shifts were fulfilled by 34 different Butterfly Attendants as part of Color in

Motion. Two volunteers have maintained a commitment to garden grooming while another volunteer tends to plants held for sale in the Gift Shop. During a new event, 3 volunteers assisted with the String Jams Spring Jam. Two new volunteers completed orientation with attention to the Lawton Park Greenhouse and Mother's Day Plant Sale.

As compared to weekly, Easterseals Northeast Indiana is now scheduled on the first and third Tuesday mornings; this group assisted with setup of the Plant Sale in May. Five CAS students and their instructor completed 21 service hours including set up of the Plant Sale. Target employees also returned to assist with setup. Two new groups assisted with this year's Plant Sale; Honor Society Students from South Side High School along with members of the YLNI Leadership Institute. In addition to these external groups, there were at least 119 Conservatory and Greenhouse volunteers as well as various City and Parks staff who pitched in. In all, 180+ individuals volunteered their time to support the 2025 Mother's Day Plant Sale.

Upcoming

April 15-June 22: Color in Motion, live butterfly exhibit
April 15-June 22: Gentle Turning, art display by Grace Yencer
April 15-June 22: Soaring into Spring, window decorating contest
June 28- November 16: ...*Something Blue* showcase exhibit
June 28- November 16: Nature Walk, art display by Joni Walker

June 1: Breakfast with Butterflies, pre-registered program
June 1: Public Artist Reception, Grace Yencer 1-3 pm
June 3-July 8: T'ai Chi for Relaxation, pre-registered program
June 7: Spring Plant Swap, pre-registered program
June 8: Breakfast with Butterflies, pre-registered program
June 9-27: Camp ACTIVenture, pre-registered program
June 14 & 15: Father's Day in the Garden, public hours
June 17-23: National Pollinator Week, public hours
June 22-27: Showchange Week!
June 28: Opening of Summer/Fall Exhibit ...*Something Blue*
June 29: Summer Artisan Village, public hours

July 1: OPEN 10 am-5 pm
July 4: Jazzworks! with Ty Causey, 5:30-10 pm
June 7-25: Camp ACTIVenture, pre-registered program
July 12: Daylily Show & Sale, 10 am-2 pm
July 20: Iris Sale, 12-3 pm

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

The Botanical Conservatory received their shipment of Proven Winners annuals from Four Star Greenhouse. Horticulture Staff planted the annuals in the front entrance beds and in the beds and decorative pots on the Terrace. The Botanical Conservatory had remarkable success with the Proven Winners line of plants last year and are looking forward to their growth again this season.

Horticulture staff planted the AAS (All America Selections) beds with a variety of annuals and vegetables. The AAS program introduces new plants and trials them at various gardens throughout the country.

Staff have been making large strides in digging, performing root work, and potting up salvagable plant material in the Desert House in preparation for soil rehabilitation work. Certain large specimens had cuttings taken to ensure viability and to reduce space constraints in storage space.

Staff have made a concerted effort in weed abatement in the outdoor garden spaces with great success. Staff have made chemical treatments to the paver paths and to patches of Canada thistle. Staff have also removed volunteer tree seedlings and saplings throughout the property.

Pride Landcare added additional soil to the Terrace Pond beds due to expected settling throughout the winter. Next month staff will be planting those beds to provide a season-long floral display.

Pfister Irrigation completed the repairs of nearly all the existing irrigation breaks. Horticulture staff performed fine tuning of all the irrigation heads and nozzles for efficient watering.

All the bulbs for the Conservatory's 2026 season have been ordered. These bulbs will be used for the outdoor annual beds, outdoor perennial beds, Showcase House, Bunny Tales in the Garden, Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Home & Garden Show, and Conservatory Shop.

Lawnganics, a turfgrass contractor, completed a grub treatment and fertilizer application for the month. The work Lawnganics has done for the Botanical Conservatory for the past three years has completely transformed the appearance and health of the turf.

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

During May, staff coordinated and executed the full cycle of preparation, loading, setup, operation, breakdown, and storage for the 2025 Mother's Day Plant Sale—an event that once again proved to be a major success. The 2025 rental season also began in earnest, marked by the installation of a 30'x45' rental tent on the lower Terrace Garden by Mutton Rental. This installation included the debut of new vinyl tent skin, enhancing both the visual appeal and safety of the event space. Additionally, preparations were made for the indoor observation hive display in anticipation of the arrival of bees for the upcoming exhibit season.

The Lawton Park team turned on outdoor water lines and prepared all exterior facilities and rental areas for the summer season.

Renovation work in the Café and Gift Shop areas also progressed significantly. Coleman Blinds installed new powered window blinds, while new decorative light panels were mounted above the cabinetry. Lawton Park staff constructed, painted, and installed new pole shelf units, and Kaleidoscope Flooring completed the coving and new flooring installation—bringing both spaces closer to full completion.



Customers shopping during the 2025 Mother's Day Plant Sale at the McMillen Community Center



A Conservatory guest interacting with live butterflies as part of Color in Motion



Anthris Career Academy Students posing with their collaborative, winning design for a local contest



Volunteers tallying shopper's items before checkout at the Mother's Day Plant Sale



Director, Steve McDaniel assisting a shopper with Carryout during the Mother's Day Plant Sale

Botanical Conservatory Report – June 2025

The 22nd annual ‘Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit’ welcomed many enthusiastic visitors in June 2025; the nine-week exhibit ended on June 22nd with just short of 38,000 visitors; after a week of hard work, the ...Something Blue Showcase Exhibit welcomed its first guests at the end of the month. The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events in June 2025 including Camp ACTiVenture (Began June 9), Father’s Day in the Garden (June 14 – 15), National Pollinator Week (June 17 – 23), ...Something Blue Showcase Exhibit (Opened June 28), ...Something Blue Artisan Market (June 29), and Local Art Display: Nature Walk by Joni Walker (Opened June 28), Staff are gearing up for Camp ACTiVenture (Continuing in July), Jazzworks! with Ty Causey (July 4), Daylily Show & Dale (July 12), Iris Sale (July 20) and Botanical ROOTS Music Fest (August 1 – 2) and several pre-registered programs and workshops throughout the month.

There are currently five vacancies, Program Coordinator – Interpretation & Education (Reviewing Applications), Conservatory Retail Assistant (Reviewing Applications), and three open Conservatory Food Service Assistant positions (Reviewing Applications).

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

The Botanical Conservatory welcomed 13,732 visitors in June 2025, marking a 21.29% increase over the previous year’s attendance. This surge contributed to a strong year-to-date total of 73,292 visitors, up 19.05% from the same time in 2024.

While overall visitation continued to grow, admissions revenue in June declined by 12.83% compared to June 2024. This was likely influenced by increased member attendance and the way that the Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit fell on this year’s calendar. Still, admissions revenue remains up year-to-date by 6.30%, signaling steady growth in paid attendance overall.

Membership revenue saw a slight month-over-month decline of 9.19%, but remains up 8.97% year-to-date, suggesting that efforts to build long-term engagement with visitors continue to be effective.

Conservatory Shop revenue in June experienced a 13.58% decline compared to 2024, a planned and expected dip due to the Shop’s temporary closure for one full week as staff completed the move into the newly renovated space. Despite this pause in retail operations, the Shop remains nearly flat year-over-year, with only a 1.13% decrease year-to-date.

Rental and catering revenues continued to climb, with a June increase of 11.41% and a year-to-date increase of 20.36%, reflecting a robust return to private and public events in Conservatory spaces.

Other revenue, which includes activity enrollments and donations, remained steady with a modest difference from June 2024, and the year-to-date total continues to show growth over the prior year.

In total, Conservatory revenue for June 2025 was \$80,674.83, a decrease of 10.85% from June 2024. However, the year-to-date total revenue stands at \$956,329.01, an increase of 9.54%, further reflecting the strength of our overall programming, operations, and visitor engagement strategies.

Attendance

June 2024: 11,318 visitors
June 2025: 13,732 visitors
An increase of 648 or +4.22% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Attendance: 61,541 visitors
2025 Attendance: 73,292 visitors
An increase of 9,281 or +18.46% to 2024

Admissions Revenue

June 2024: \$46,431.00
June 2025: \$40,473.00
A decrease of \$5,958.00 or -12.83% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Admissions Revenue: \$245,391.00
2025 Admissions Revenue: \$260,844.00
An increase of \$15,453.00 or +6.30% to 2024

Membership Revenue

June 2024: \$5,736.00
June 2025: \$5,209.00
A decrease of \$527.00 or -9.19% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Membership Revenue: \$57,664.00
2025 Membership Revenue: \$62,835.00
An increase of \$5,171.00 or +8.97% to 2024

Conservatory Shop Revenue

June 2024: \$30,266.78
June 2025: \$26,159.63
A decrease of \$7,589.08 or -18.06% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Gift Shop Revenue: \$176,822.56
2025 Gift Shop Revenue: \$174,827.87
A decrease of \$1,994.69 or -1.13% to 2024

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

June 2024: \$7,385.00
June 2025: \$8,227.50
An increase of \$842.50 or +11.41% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Rental Revenue: \$39,375.00

2025 Rental Revenue: \$47,390.00

An increase of \$8,015.00 or +20.36% to 2024

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

June 2024: \$671.06

June 2025: \$605.70

YTD Comparisons

2024 Other Revenue: \$353,787.46

2025 Other Revenue: \$410,432.14

Conservatory Total Revenue

June 2024: \$90,489.84

June 2025: \$80,674.83

A decrease of \$9,815.01 or -10.85% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Total Revenue: \$873,040.02

2025 Total Revenue: \$956,329.01

An increase of \$88,288.99 or +9.54% to 2024

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

Staff submitted a grant to Norfolk Southern Foundation for support of the Desert House Improvements Project, with the required update for the 2024 W9 of the Park Foundation.

Staff submitted a grant to Spark Good Walmart Foundation for support of the Desert House Improvements Project.

Staff submitted a final grant report for the 2024-2025 Capacity Building Grant from Arts United. This grant is helping us build our capacity and develop plans for the Exploration and Terrace Gardens renovations.

Conservatory and Park Department staff (Amanda Amstutz, Gilbert Young, and Stacy Haviland) attended the American Public Gardens Association 2025 Elemental conference with the grant funding.

Staff provided promotional tickets and information to Majic 95.1 for the promotional spots for the 2025 ... Something Blue Exhibit.

Staff provided promotional tickets and information to WANE 15 and 89.1 WBOI for the promotional spots for the 2025 Jazzworks!.

Staff provided promotional tickets and information to 96.3 XKE for the promotional spots for the 2025 Botanical Roots Music Fest.

Staff submitted a final media report to 96.3 XKE for the 2025 Father's Day in the Garden. This report will enable us to approach media for continuing support of upcoming special events and exhibits.

Conservatory Public Programs - Events

Father's Day in the Garden (June 14 & 15)

Fathers and father figures were celebrated during this two-day event at the Botanical Conservatory when they were given free admission and also received a free herb. In its 4th year, the event attracted 1,468 guests with attendance increasing 34% from 2024. On Sunday, attendance for a 3-hour highlight was 639, up 27% over last year, when guests were treated to live music and the opportunity to purchase Hop River brews and food from The Spicy Bird. Lawn games were also enjoyed. The G-Money Band performed a 3-hour set in memory of Gary Brabson, G Money, who unexpectedly passed two weeks prior to the booked performance. While casting a slightly somber mood, those who knew him, knew he would appreciate the music being carried on in celebration of family and fathers.

Education

Breakfast with Butterflies (June 1 & 8)

A diverse group enjoyed this unique, pre-registered program offering a breakfast buffet, windchime craft, and most significantly, an intimate experience with the butterflies! While families with young children predominantly attended, a few couples made a date of the program, and some ladies celebrated a ladies' day out. The program allowed them opportunity to visit live butterflies in smaller groups than would be likely during business hours. Participants were also given the opportunity to enjoy the gardens before opening. The first Sunday exceeded the intended limit of 48 with 49 participants while the second Sunday received 39 total registrations. Overall, the program filled at 92% and received high ratings.

T'ai Chi for Relaxation (June 3-July 8)

This series led by Liz Monnier began with the minimum class size of 10 participants. Although a smaller class size, t'ai chi continues to be maintained as a year-round sequence of pre-registered programming that alternates between two instructors. The ongoing demand suggests the Botanical Conservatory is filling a public need.

Spring Plant Swap (June 7)

This popular semi-annual Plant Swap included 46 participants who brought plants and plant starts from their own collection to swap. The Botanical Conservatory and Lawton Greenhouse supplemented the event by contributing plants, which delighted guests as everyone left with more plants than they arrived with! Hosted by Conservatory volunteer Denise Lock, this free program continues to receive outstanding feedback.

Camp ACTIVenture (June 9-July 25)

This field-tripping, high adventure day camp is unlike any program in Northeast Indiana! Returning for its fourth year, Camp ACTIVenture guides campers through active, adventurous experiences that teach new skills, foster community, and develop a sense of accomplishment. The Botanical Conservatory acts as home-base where staff are serving 12 campers per week over a period of 6 weeks.

National Pollinators Week (June 17-23)

The Botanical Conservatory celebrated pollinators while highlighting its butterfly exhibit and honey bee observation hive. Free wildflower seed mixes were also offered throughout the week.

SCFVA, School Children's Flower & Vegetable Association

This month entailed prep work for upcoming plant shows. Pertaining to both volunteer judges and chairpersons, four different meetings have been scheduled for the end of July and first of August. Staff have also kept busy updating the 2025 Judge's Booklet and Training Manual while recruiting volunteer judges for school plant shows mid-August through early September. Staff are simultaneously waiting on confirmation from each participating school regarding the date and time for their local plant show in which staff will schedule 2-3 volunteer judges for each show. All judges must complete a required, annual training and also be confirmed as an official Conservatory volunteer. Next, staff will be giving more attention to the Annual City-Wide Blue-Ribbon Show coming up on September 13th. Following individual school shows, this public event requires volunteers for 2 days of registration as well as 25-30 volunteer judges to assist with final ribbon winners.

Youth Field Trips

The Botanical Conservatory hosted 22 groups bringing **598 students** in the month of June. In comparison, there were 13 groups with 371 students in 2024; 22 groups with 884 students in June 2022; 13 groups totaling 152 guests in June 2021; no groups in 2020 during the COVID-19 closure of the facility; 19 groups that brought 1,959 students in 2019; and in 2018, 39 groups brought 1,709 students.

Exhibits & Displays

Color in Motion (April 15-June 22)

The annual live butterfly exhibit is among the most popular and is much anticipated by guests at the return of spring. With the exhibit in its 22nd year, high attendance numbers were projected along with increased field trips. Some new butterfly species were introduced this year along with a handful of new Butterfly Attendant volunteers who help staff the exhibit on a daily basis.

Gentle Turning by Grace Yencer (April 15-June 22)

Local artist Grace Yencer brings *Color in Motion* to the Gallery Hall with her 37 unique mixed media pieces titled *Gentle Turning*. Motifs of rolling hills, butterflies, short quotes, florals, and homes are familiar and whimsical. Within the first two weeks, five pieces already sold! Her artwork can be purchased online at shop.botanicalconservatory.org. A public artist reception was held on Sunday, June 1st.

Soaring into Spring (April 15-June 22)

In partnership with the Anthis Career Academy, the Botanical Conservatory participated in the 2025 Fort Wayne in Bloom Window Decorating Contest put on by Downtown Fort Wayne. Determined in mid-May, the Botanical Conservatory was the People's Choice 1st Place Winner!!! Student, Molly Rider is the original artist while students, Virginia Keefe, Felix Duarte, and Kris Houghton-Thompson are the designers who worked together to reimagine, enlarge, print, and install the final artwork, which was also awarded for best use of theme!

...Something Blue (June 28-November 16)

The newest showcase exhibit is inspired by the symbolic wedding rhyme, "Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue!" Where enchanted scenery compliments a formal landscape of blue hues, visitors are immersed in a fairytale of blue beauty in bloom. The exhibit also features a grand fountain in addition to a variety of photo ops with complimentary pieces bringing together a lovely backdrop for heartfelt memories this summer/fall.

Joni Walker: Nature Walk (June 28-November 16)

This talented, local artist is now showcasing a collection of her watercolor paintings in the Gallery Hall at the Botanical Conservatory. Her artwork, featuring the beauty and wonders of nature, is available for purchase at shop.botanicalconservatory.org. A public artist reception is being held with Joni on August 15th from 1-3 pm.

Volunteers/Staff

At the Front Desk, 8 volunteers covered 32 shifts while 10 volunteers covered 37 shifts in the Gift Shop. Five of those volunteers also assisted with a 3-day move of the Gift Shop back to its newly renovated space. Our weekly garden volunteer and a plant-grooming volunteer maintained their Tuesday morning duties while a third volunteer has scheduled for Thursday morning garden duties beginning in July. Volunteers with Easterseals Northeast Indiana continued service while focusing on preparations for the upcoming showcase exhibit.

As for programs and events, 7 volunteers were greatly appreciated for their assistance during Breakfast with Butterflies, especially the 3 who volunteered for both sessions. Three different volunteers assisted with a 3-hour music event for Father's Day in the Garden. A total of 30 Butterfly Attendants, including a newly trained attendant, filled 94 shifts throughout the exhibit. The Botanical Conservatory greatly benefited from its volunteers in June!

Upcoming

June 28- November 16: ...*Something Blue* showcase exhibit

June 28- November 16: Nature Walk, art display by Joni Walker

July 1: OPEN 10 am-5 pm

July 1: Jazzworks! with Ty Causey, 5:30-10 pm

July 7-25: Camp ACTiVenture, pre-registered program

July 12: Daylily Show & Sale, 10 am-2 pm

July 20: Iris Sale, 12-3 pm

August 1 & 2: Botanical ROOTS Music Fest, 5-11 pm

August 5-16: T'ai Chi in August, pre-registered

August 14: How Invasive Species Reshape Our Ecosystems, 6-7 pm

August 15: Joni Walker Artist Reception, 1-3 p m

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

Horticulture staff have continued to dig out and pot up plants in the Desert House in preparation for soil excavation and remediation next month. Certain specimens are being staged on site, while others are being temporarily cared for in the glass house at Lawton Greenhouse.

Lawton Staff and Botanical Conservatory Staff worked together to deinstall the Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit and completed the installation of the new summer showcase ...*Something Blue*. The Showcase features an estate fountain in the center of the room, two gazebos—one white and one light blue. The flower beds are filled with flowers primarily with hues of blue, violet, lavender, and white. The garden also features a beautiful

stained-glass piece donated to the Botanical Conservatory. MT's repainted and repurposed the pillars used in a previous showcase, and also built an attractive frame for each panel of the stained-glass piece.

Botanical Conservatory staff performed insecticide treatments on the olive trees in Showcase and on the cycads in the Tropical House. One of the treatments was a systemic insecticide, which the plant will uptake to protect it from the inside out, while the other was a contact insecticide designed to suffocate the pests.

Beneficial insects have been ordered and will be arriving in early July to provide additional treatments for pest issues in all three houses. New insects will be tried to treat scale and trips as well.

The Botanical Conservatory horticulture staff have begun the installation of a paver base for Conservatory Shop plant sales in the Atrium. This will provide additional space to feature and sell plants being grown at Lawton Park Greenhouse and will mitigate plant sale space lost to the Café Flora space.

Botanical Conservatory staff planted the filled Terrace Ponds with a mix of annuals, perennials, and shrubs. The shrubs primarily feature variegated foliage and/or white flowers to create a moonlit garden for evening events and rentals, with a few dark-leaved shrubs to provide an accent during daylight hours.

Outdoor Detail, Inc. completed the installation of an irrigation system in the Terrace pond beds to minimize the amount of hand-watering required for the newly-planted beds.

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

Jeremy Schey joined the team as the new Seasonal Maintenance employee, and staff have been focused on providing thorough training and orientation to support his integration into daily operations.

The construction phase of the Conservatory Shop renovation was completed this month, and staff worked diligently to clean the area and assist with the transition back into the remodeled space. Final cleaning of the Jaenicke Room is underway to prepare it for its return to rental use.

In the Tropical linkway, the indoor observation hive display has been successfully installed for the season, offering a key interpretive feature for guests.

Maintenance staff also supported several major events throughout the month, including the Artisan Market, the Father's Day celebration, and a variety of facility rentals. The team continues to coordinate with contractors as work progresses on the Café renovation, with efforts focused on completing the space in anticipation of its public opening.

Additionally, Allied Mechanical responded to an insulation issue involving the condenser, which was causing water leakage into the building. Temporary repairs were completed, and they are scheduled to return to replace the damaged insulation. The team also addressed extreme heat-related concerns by clearing coils and resetting the system to ensure optimal function.



Families enjoying time together at Father's Day in the Garden



Participants doing a craft during Breakfast with Butterflies



Camp ACTiVenture out on the water



*A Conservatory guest interacting with live butterflies as part of
Color in Motion*



Couple posing on their wedding day in the new ...Something Blue Showcase Exhibit



Volunteers overseeing the craft for Breakfast with Butterflies



Butterfly Attendant Volunteer with guest in entry vestibule



Volunteers with EasterSeals helping sort blue colored glass

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager, Lead of Marketing

✚ www.RiverfrontFW.org had 4,873 hits to the site this month, and the Promenade Park link had 1,884 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 400 hits in **July**.

✚ Fall Fun Times released on August 6th. Various marketing tasks were completed associated with the



publication of this brochure.

- ✚ Held successful Press Conferences for: Mechanic Street Bridge Opening (July 24) and Packard Park Redesign (July 31).
- ✚ The new CivicPlus platform went LIVE on July 7!
- ✚ **Web Statistics:** Active Users: 31,478 Event Counts: 175,428
- ✚ 59 Graphic Design projects completed.
- ✚ Dragon Boat Event props and promotional material produced.
- ✚ Created an Electronic Appeal piece for Conservatory.
- ✚ Department brand guidelines/logos for individual entities created.
- ✚ Met with AWS Foundation to discuss current grant and potential future partnerships.
- ✚ Completed IPRA award nominations to be submitted in early August.
- ✚ Prepared materials for Tin Caps game in August.
- ✚ Social media promotions for: Sweet Breeze Tours, ½ price Golf Memberships, Fort Wayne Dragon Boat Paddlers, Park & Play and more.
- ✚ Arranged for 12 media interviews with select staff promoting July events.
- ✚ July Media Mentions: 55.

- ✚ Social Media Totals for **July:**

FB Followers	104,077
FB Reach	860,550
X (formerly Twitter) Followers	13,933
Instagram Followers	29,431

- ✚ www.RiverfrontFW.org had 4,273 hits to the site this month, and the Promenade Park link had 7,994 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 2,235 hits in **June.**
- ✚ Completed Customer Staff training for Recreation staff.
- ✚ Held successful Press Conferences for Senior Games (June 2nd) and Neighborhood Playgrounds (June 12).
- ✚ Botanical Conservatory changes over to “Something Blue” showcase on both platforms.

- ✚ The new CivicPlus platform goes LIVE on July 7 at 11 am. Performing various tasks to make sure our sites are fully operational on that date.

✚ **Web Statistics:** Users: 65,481 Hits: 192,244

- ✚ 44 Graphic Design projects completed.

- ✚ Senior Games photography/photo show.

- ✚ Fall Travel promos, Sweet Breeze specialty tour promos, and Foellinger Foundation tour of Foellinger Theatre completed.

- ✚ Met with radio reps to introduce Jarin (Theatre Manager) and discuss Foellinger Theatre advertising opportunities.

- ✚ Attended Data Collection seminar at Foellinger Foundation.

- ✚ Social media promotions for: Sweet Breeze Tours, Asphalt work, day trips, Park & Play and more.

- ✚ Arranged for 17 media interviews with select staff promoting June events.

- ✚ June **Media Mentions:** 82

✚ Social Media Totals for June:	FB Followers	103,139
	FB Reach	542,278
	X (formerly Twitter) Followers	13,928
	Instagram Followers	29,059

- ✚ www.RiverfrontFW.org had 3,330 hits to the site this month, and the Promenade Park link had 11,608 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 1,884 hits in **May**.

- ✚ The Marketing Team attended a variety of spring Wellness Fairs, school events, and more to promote our spring/summer offerings. These events will continue into May.

- ✚ The Marketing Team continues to push out job messaging and attend Job Fairs and related events. Over 6,200 hits to the Parks Job link in May!

- ✚ The Marketing Team completed a couple of DRAFTS of the Annual Report Summary. The document will be finalized in June.

✚ **Web Statistics:** Users: **64,182** Hits: **185,502**

- ✚ 59 Graphic Design projects completed.

- ✚ All ticket/passes/membership cards/brochures/banners ready for golf, pools, summer programs, and events.
- ✚ Community Center parking wrap finalized.
- ✚ Sent May Donation Drive e-mail to over 46,000 customers.
- ✚ Working on project fundraising information booklets for Hanna Homestead and Salomon Animal Barn.
- ✚ Worked on media sponsorships for Pink Droyd Foellinger Show (XKE confirmed, working on tv).
- ✚ Held a very successful Photo Op for the launch of the Sweet Breeze Canal Boat and a Press Conference for the Lawton Park Bridge reopening.
- ✚ Social media promotions for: Sweet Breeze ticket sales, Asphalt work notices, Farmin' Fun Day Camp, Travel, Senior Games registration, Pools, and more.
- ✚ Arranged for 11 media interviews with select staff promoting May events.
- ✚ May **Media Mentions**: 79.
- ✚ Social Media Totals for **May**:

FB Followers	101,936
FB Reach	359,365
X (formerly Twitter) Followers	13,918
Instagram Followers	28,654

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

- 2025 is proving to be a challenging year for the golf courses. The weather has been warmer than usual, with many consecutive days over 90 deg and nightly lows above 70. The rainfall total has been average, but how it has fallen has not been optimal. Periods of heavy rain were followed by immediate sun and high temperatures, boiling the standing water from the rain. This led to a condition called “wet wilt”, which has affected spots of the courses.
- There have also been multiple breakdowns in the watering systems. Shoaff Park was without a working pump for nearly a month. Foster Park’s jockey pump had been out for over 6 weeks until finally being repaired and re-installed the first week of August. This led to the discovery of another issue with the backflow valve. Currently, Foster Park is not able to water adequately.
- This has all led to far less than optimal conditions, especially at Foster Park. Steps are already being taken to repair the damage, but even the repairs will not be adequate if we can not get the pumps operating properly. Inoperable sprinkler heads are being replaced as they are discovered, but there is much to be done to get the watering systems up to speed.

- The Deep Rock Tunnel Project as it pertains to Foster Park is being completed, and efforts will soon begin to repair and restore the golf course. At the present time, it appears that most of this restoration work will be completed in-house, with funds coming from City Utilities. The timing of all this is good, as we are about to enter the fall growing season. If we can adequately water the repaired areas, we should be in good shape next season.
-
- Here are the revenue numbers through July:
-
- | <u>JULY</u> | <u>FOSTER</u> | <u>MCMILLEN</u> | <u>SHOAF</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2024 REVENUE | \$83,097.50 | \$60,260.75 | \$119,110.55 |
| 2025 REVENUE | \$67,160.25 | \$57,574.75 | \$109,925.25 |
| YTD 2024 | \$263,572 | \$204,552 | \$414,170.30 |
| YTD 2025 | \$247,457.50 | \$203,579.75 | \$373,121 |
-
- The numbers are down for this time of year, which is not surprising given the weather this summer and the conditions of the courses affected by irrigation issues. We also started almost two weeks later this year. As conditions improve and the weather moderates, numbers will improve but will most likely not catch last year. Our golf courses have consistently beaten the national numbers the last four years, so we are leveling off a bit.

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager

May 2025



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

- The Hanna Street Trail from Wallace to Berry will be bid in May.
- Fort Wayne Trails, Inc, the City's non-profit partner, provided \$157,000 in donor funds to the Mayor for the Hanna Street Trail project.
- The South Anthony Trail from Pontiac to Creighton construction will start in early May.
- The Wheelock Road Trail from Jefferson Middle School to Stellhorn Road construction will begin in early May. The pedestrian bridge has already been delivered and is being stored at the intersection of Wheelock and Stellhorn.
- The Rivergreenway will close under Parnell Ave in early May as the bridge project gets underway. We'll have a detour utilizing Parnell and Spy Run Avenue Extended.
- The new pedestrian bridge in Lawton Park for the Rivergreenway crossing of the Spy Run Creek recently opened up for use. It looks fabulous!
- *Trek the Trails* and *Tread the Trails* kicked-off on April 29th at Promenade Park. We had 77 walkers/runners and 49 bicyclists. The bike rides and run/walks will take place every other week until the end of September.
- *Bike to School Day* is May 7th. I'll be joining teachers and students at St. Joe Central Elementary School.
- *Bike to Work Day* gathering is May 16th at The Porch on Calhoun.
- The Greenways Foundation of Indiana just had their annual *Celebrate Trails* luncheon. The Allen County Equestrian Course received the Outstanding Trail project award for the entire state. Commissioner Richard Beck received the Outstanding Public Official for his work on the horse trails.
- The Great American Cleanup will be held May 3rd. Thousands of volunteers will be cleaning up sites around the city, including many of our parks and trails.
- National Trails Day is June 7th. We are working on an idea for an event.

- The Mayor recognized John Gardner as 2024 Trails Volunteer of the Year. John is one of our 108 Greenway Rangers. He communicates to us weekly to let us know about the condition of his trail (the Pufferbelly Trail from State to Lawton Park). He collects garbage along his section, as well. To recognize John, we planted a tree of his choice along the trail of his choice: a Bur Oak along the Pufferbelly Trail just south of State Boulevard.
- We are in the process of bidding out crack sealing for trail projects. Our concrete contractor is taking care of ADA ramp issues, trip hazards and fixing faulty concrete slabs along our trail system.
- We will be getting bids soon to repair asphalt issues on 4 or 5 trails – primarily issues with tree roots damaging asphalt.
- Staff has recently been blowing off trails from winter debris and storm debris. We'll be spraying herbicide in the joints along the concrete trails soon to keep vegetation from growing on our trails.
- We have started ramping up the planning of our Renaissance Car Show and Open Streets events, including securing sponsors.
- Our seasonal maintenance worker, Brad Baumgartner, started in late April.
- Our intern, Cora Hall, will be joining us again this summer on May 14th. Cora will help primarily with event planning.
- The Wheelock Road Trail from Jefferson Middle School to Stellhorn Road project is nearly finished. The trail is paved.
- Pufferbelly Trail between Ice Way and Washington Center Road is 75% complete. Work continues along Lima and Coliseum Blvd. The construction of the Gazebo by Lima Road has just begun. The Trail Hub amenities and the other rest areas will be constructed soon.
- The Hanna Street Trail from Wallace to Berry (final phase of 4.5 mile long trail) and the Hanna Trailhead at 612 E Pettit projects have been awarded. Construction could begin as early as this month. Both projects will be completed by the spring.
- ✚ We will be bidding the Illinois Road Trail from Rockhill Park to Getz Road this month. Construction will occur from October of 2025 – October of 2026. The project also includes roadway and intersection improvements.
- ✚ We had four bike safety training classes. FWPD, Parks and Public Works hosted these sessions at the request of Mayor Tucker. Unfortunately, they were not very well attended (10 participants at Buckner Park; 43 kids at the McMillen Youth Center; 5 at Franke; and 3 at Shoaff). Our committee is going to re-examine the program for 2026. We think it's a worthwhile program, but we need to reach more kids.
- ✚ We are spending much of our time organizing the Open Streets event for August 17th from Noon to 4 on the Calhoun Street corridor. At this point, we have 117 activity providers with free activities for the 6,000+ participants.
<https://www.cityoffortwayne.in.gov/854/Open-Streets>
- ✚ Indiana Parks & Recreation Association (IPRA) is having its annual Trails Gathering at Salomon Farm on August 29th.
- ✚ The State Legislature has created an Interim Study Committee to examine the economic value of public land for recreation (parks and trails).
- ✚ The Hanna Street Trail from Wallace to Berry was bid in June and awarded to Hipskind Concrete. Construction could begin in August. Completion date is May 15, 2026.
- ✚ The Hanna Street Trailhead at 612 E Pettit was bid in June and will be awarded to Brooks Construction in July. Construction could begin in August with completion next spring. The trailhead includes 13 parking spaces, three benches, a sidewalk connection to the trail, a driveway, grass, and possibly a drinking water fountain.
- ✚ The Hanna Street Trail from Burns Boulevard to Decatur Road is finally finished.
- ✚ The South Anthony Trail from Pontiac to Creighton is under construction with a road closure and detour.
- ✚ The Towpath Trailhead at Glendale Road construction has begun. The project increases the parking stalls from 9 to 15, repaving and re-striping the parking lot.

✚ June/July 2025

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- The Wheelock Road Trail from Jefferson Middle School to Stellhorn Road construction has begun. The pedestrian bridge was set in late June. Bridge foundation work continues. The trail has been cut, and some of the stone subbase has been installed.
- The Urban Trail along Superior from Clinton to Lafayette was awarded to Mallot. Construction will begin July 14th.
- Asphalt Authority was awarded our crack sealing for trail projects. Our concrete contractor is taking care of ADA ramp issues, trip hazards, and fixing faulty concrete slabs along our trail system.
- Pufferbelly Trail between Ice Way and Washington Center Road is 70% complete. The trail has been paved between Washington Center and north of Coliseum Blvd. A new traffic signal was installed at Washington Center and Industrial to get trail users across the road. Most of the concrete, electrical, and stormwater work is complete. The Contractor has asked for an extension, so we are giving them until Thanksgiving to finish the project.
- We will be bidding the Illinois Road Trail from Rockhill Park to Getz Road in August. Construction will occur from October of 2025 – October of 2026. The project also includes roadway and intersection improvements.
- We had the first two bike safety training classes. We only had 10 participants at Buckner Park. We had 43 kids at the McMillen Youth Center. We have one session at Franke and one at Shoaff in July.
- We are spending much of our time organizing the Open Streets event for August 17th from Noon to 4 on the Calhoun Street corridor.
- We've also been busy with Trek the Trails, Tread the Trails, Bike to Work Day, the Renaissance Car Show and National Trails Day events.

August 2025

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Division News and Media Coverage:

[Mental Health Tips from Park and Recreation Professionals | Open Space | National Recreation and Park Association](#)

[NRPA Recognizes Excellence in Parks and Recreation With the Innovation and Spotlight Awards | National Recreation and Park Association](#)

[July is Park and Recreation Month | National Recreation and Park Association](#)

2025 September, October, November Fun Times Brochure -  [Fall 2025 FINAL.pdf](#)

August NRPA's digital monthly magazine

<https://www.nxtbook.com/nrpa/ParksRecreationMagazine/august-2025/index.php#/p/Intro>

<https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/parks-recreation-magazine/>

WFFT, Lead line removal hits milestone

https://www.wfft.com/news/lead-line-removal-hits-milestone-in-city-s-get-the-lead-out-effort/article_56fee7cd-ea12-4eef-b81a-c0f30464a690.html

WPTA, City Council approves rate hike for services provided by City Utilities

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/08/13/city-council-approves-city-utilities-rate-hike-fort-wayne-residents/>

WPTA, Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne reacts to Mayor Tucker's youth violence prevention plan

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/08/11/boys-girls-clubs-reacts-mayor-tuckers-youth-violence-prevention-plan/>

WPTA, City Utilities replaces lead water pipes in more than 300 homes

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/08/11/getting-lead-out-fort-wayne-city-utilities-replaces-lead-water-pipes-more-than-300-homes/>

WANE, CU presents utility infrastructure plan to City Council

<https://www.wane.com/news/city-utilities-presents-utility-infrastructure-plan-to-city-council/>

WANE, Urban Trail project has uncertain future

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/urban-trail-pulled-from-agenda-future-lies-with-developer/>



WANE, Gov. Braun – Google and nuclear power intersect closely

<https://www.wane.com/investigations/braun-google-nuclear-power-intersect-closely/>

Input FW, Feature on Memorial Park Neighborhood

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/memorial-park-neighborhood-is-banding-together-to-bring-pride-identity-and-community-back.aspx>

WANE, Packard Park redesign highlighted

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-park-opens-following-redesign-and-1-9-million-investment/>

City TV, News Around Town program with features on OHNS and Parks and Recreation

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=kq1eHcmXjx8GM9n3>

WFFT, City receives \$12.5M in supplemental LIT distribution

https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-receives-millions-of-dollars-plan-to-invest-in-neighborhoods/article_92d59cee-5643-4266-bb04-9d0d3bd586fd.html

WPTA, Mayor Tucker's supplemental LIT announcement

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/08/05/tucker-city-council-share-plans-fort-waynes-126m-income-tax-distribution/>

WPTA, National Night Out - FWPD

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/08/06/national-night-out-helps-fwpd-connect-with-community/>

WPTA, New pathway along Broadway connecting Electric Works phases one and two

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/08/04/new-pathway-along-broadway-connecting-electric-works-phases-one-two/>

WANE, Fort Wayne to save millions from recycling; Solid Waste Dept. presents to City Council

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-to-save-millions-from-recycling-solid-waste-presents-to-city-council/>

WANE, City Council recap – Wrongful death spells expensive year for Fort Wayne as self-insurance continues

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/wrongful-death-spells-expensive-year-for-fort-wayne-self-insurance-continues/>

Adams Radio Group, Open Streets update

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2025/08/05/city-announces-open-streets-2025-events/>

WOWO, Commissioner Turpin on youth violence

<https://wowo.com/commissioners-corner-youth-violence/>



View All Events at the Foellinger Outdoor Theatre



TRACE ADKINS: SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA TOUR



WARRANT: LET THE GOOD TIMES ROCK TOUR WITH SPECIAL GUESTS LITA FORD AND FIREHOUSE



WE WILL ROCK YOU: THE MUSIC OF JOURNEY AND QUEEN