



Steve McDaniel, Director

- ✚ We kicked off the month with several musical acts. At the Foellinger Theatre, we had 1964 a Beatles tribute. Several acts at the Botanical Conservatory at the Roots Music Festival on Friday and Saturday nights.
- ✚ The team met with the Jennings Center Advisor Council to recap summer programming as well as look at our fall programming.
- ✚ I participated in the Mayor's press conference regarding Supplemental Local Income Tax distribution. The Mayor has earmarked \$1.86 million towards 6 playgrounds across the city. The team will start the process of designing those sites, with installation likely next spring.
- ✚ Rob and I met with the Foellinger Foundation to discuss the two facilities we have with the Foellinger name on them. It was a great discussion following the recent tours we did with their board members.
- ✚ We continue to work on our new Amenities Map App that we hope to launch soon. Building the framework to identify what each of our parks has to offer and their locations is taking a little bit longer than anticipated, but I hope that our final product will be useful for our park users. More to come very soon.
- ✚ The team and I have had several discussions this past month related to unhoused individuals. This is part in line with the work the administration is doing, while part is how it has impacted our parkland. We will continue to work on these issues.
- ✚ I met with Edward Leon, the new CEO of Fort Wayne PBS. It was a good discussion, and I wish him all the luck in his new position.
- ✚ Rhonda and the team submitted our proposed 2026 budget; we are seeing the impacts that SB1 will have on the city (statewide) and the Parks and Recreation Department.
- ✚ Jarin and Rhonda are working on a new contract for the Foellinger Theatre that will involve co-production of new shows. This will give us another option as we will work with promoters in the future.
- ✚ We had the Trace Adkins concert at Foellinger two-thirds of the way through the month. This was the highest concert attended of the season, and the team did a great job.
- ✚ We hosted an event for the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association this past month at Salomon Farm related to Trails and Natural Resources. It was a full day of classes and learning. We also had the opportunity to share our operations on the farm with those in attendance.

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

✚ McMillen Park Community Center

- We are officially making the transition into our after-school program. The summer wrapped up on a high note here at McMillen, leaving both staff and kids with plenty of great memories. On the very last day of our summer program, we held a special field day to celebrate all the fun and hard work the kids put in over the past couple of months.
 - Staff organized the event by dividing the students into two spirited teams, the Archers and the Panthers. From the moment the teams were chosen, the energy was high, and the excitement carried throughout the entire day. The field day included a variety of games and challenges such as kickball, tug of war, relay



races, hula hoop races, and handball. Every activity took place outdoors, allowing the kids to enjoy the sunshine, cheer on their teammates, and show off the skills they had been practicing all summer.

- Kids Café / FWCS: 454 Snack: 352 Breakfast: 94
- Youth Attendance: 743 30 new registrations

Weisser Park Youth Center

- At the end of July 2025, some of the things the youth enjoyed were making motivational posters, crocheting, playing Sprinkler Limbo, volleyball, making a clay mask, creating their own board games, playing disc golf, playing Sock War, and four squares.
- Outreach Programs
 - ACPL facilitated youth in making sea turtles out of felt and lucky charm keychains.
 - ArtVenture facilitated youth in making Who Are You collages and themed collages of their choice.
 - *Center for Non-Violence FACES Leadership* facilitated 6 sessions. The youth participated in activities surrounding their power within, breathing exercises, self-defense, and how to address difficult situations.
- Lessons
 - The Canine Coach provided a youth lesson on dog safety. Youth learned body language dogs display, the signs of a socialized dog, and what not to do when around a dog.
 - *Fishing Lessons*. On July 22, 2025, youth learned how to hook worms, how to fish with live bait, and how to attach a bobber. On July 29, 2025, the youth went to Fox Island and practiced the skills they learned at Reservoir Park. They also practiced identifying fish and where fish gather in bodies of water.
 - *Swim Lessons*. There were four sessions. Youth learned how to stay on the surface of the water, played Red Light Green Light, learned how to breathe underwater, and on the last day, they enjoyed using the slide to enter the water. Thank you to Daryn Schwartz and his team
 - Last two sessions of *Tennis Lessons*. Youth continued to strengthen their various shots and volleys, balance stances, balance the ball on their racket, and dribble.
- Field Trips
 - On July 23, 2025, 10 of our youth went to Packard Park to participate in the Open Futsal Soccer Play with DeMarcus Beasley.
 - On August 1, 2025, 12 of our youth went to McKinnie Commons to participate in the Park and Play End of Summer Celebration.
- Events
 - On July 25, 2025, we held our *End of Summer Celebration*. The youth enjoyed a meal of hamburgers and hot dogs, grilled by volunteers, Mr. and Mrs. Fortt, which included chips, a fruit cup, and ice-cream sandwiches. They also enjoyed an obstacle course inflatable.
 - On July 31, 2025, in collaboration with Ravenscroft Beauty College, we provided *90 Free Haircuts and Styles* to the community. 102 people showed up for the services. However, some did not want to wait to be served.

Jennings Youth Center

- We have 38 registrations and are averaging 12 youth daily. At the moment, this does allow us to spend quality time with our youth and generate a positive rapport.
- While we have just completed our Summer Programming and are just entering our After-School Programming we are striving to connect the youth to what they are learning at school. Enrichment, homework and literacy skills are at our forefront of the interaction we have with the youth.



- We completed our End of Summer Celebration on the last day of Programming! It was a huge success, two bounce houses, grilled food, games, and of course lots of laughter!
- Outreach Programs
 - The Park and Play Program finished its season, having reached a total of 2390 participants in the months of June and July. Of those participants, 2157 joined at park locations, and 223 joined at the Cooper Center. On August 1st, community members were invited to celebrate the end of summer at the Park & Play Carnival. 300 were estimated in attendance at McKinnie Commons. Participants at the carnival were not included in the overall total of participants for the summer.
 - Neil joined Park & Play staff members and McMillen Community Center staff members at Open Streets on August 17th from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. The overall event had an estimated attendance of 7000 people. Parks offered activities such as kick darts, Giant Connect 4, and others.
 - Neil and additional staff attended Taste of the Arts STEAM Park on August 23rd. Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation offered a color-you-own magnet activity to children while answering questions and passing out information to parents.



Community Center

- August monthly rental activity was busy, with four of five Saturdays booked with rental events. We had five Sunday rentals and two Friday rentals, no weekday rentals. There were 15 possible weekend rental dates of which 11 were booked for the month. The utilization rate for August was 73%. There were no rental cancellations.
- Linda, Mary, and Josh met with Ashley from Easter Seals about partnering to offer classes for the Easter Seals clients. We have now set up Acrylic Painting, Chair Yoga, Card Making, and Crochet for Easter Seals Clients. Classes will be in September and October. We are looking into offering knitting as well.
- Linda and Mary went to the Active Living Showcase for Seniors at The Charles on Saturday, July 19th, from 10-3. We had about 50 people stop by our table in total.
- Josh spoke to the Emmanuel Lutheran Church senior group on 8/4. The group was around 110 people. Josh spoke for 30 minutes and handed out promotional materials.



Riverfront

- Total Promenade Program and Rental Attendance: 10,700
- Total Headwaters Program and Rental Attendance: 8,000
- Headwaters Park in August signals the end of the multi-day events and opens up to the one-day community events. Tacos, Tequila, and Margaritas kicked off August events at Headwaters on August 2nd with a day full of music, food, and cold drinks. Moving this event from the early summer to late summer has added more participants each year. The next two Saturdays of the month were filled with two new events of the “Heart and Soul” event on the 9th and Vet Fest on the 16th. Both events had great weather and turnout with live music, food, and drinks for the community to enjoy. Vet Fest will look to become a staple event at Headwaters Park in the future as it continues to expand. The next Saturday was the annual Fiesta Fort Wayne. Changing its date from early August to late August provided great weather for this one-day event that has



continued to grow each year, celebrating Hispanic culture in Fort Wayne. The Parking garage officially opened for Fiesta Fort Wayne, providing a proximity parking area for Events at Headwaters Park.

- In August, Riverfront hosted 13 programs, highlighted by the annual Fort Wayne Dragon Boat Races, the Muddy River Concert Series, Storytime in the Park, Paint with Your Pup, and more. Storytime in the Park, in partnership with the Allen County Public Library, welcomed 145 attendees this month and concluded its summer series on Wednesday, August 27. The Muddy River Concert Series also wrapped up in August with its final three performances featuring Austin Bridges, We Are CheckMark, and Open Mic Night, drawing a combined audience of 260 people to enjoy local music.
- Our signature special event this month, the 9th Annual Fort Wayne Dragon Boat Races, was a tremendous success, featuring 23 participating teams – five more than last year. The event was very well attended, with 3,100 visitors joining us for the opening ceremonies and 6,400 in attendance on race day, totaling 9,500 attendees at the event. The Fort Wayne Chinese Families and Friends Association played a key role, providing cultural activities, crafts, and traditional Chinese performances. This was made possible thanks to our generous sponsors and partners, Groundworks, McDonald's, SST Services, and Needham DBS.
- On the rental side, Promenade Park continued to host a wide variety of rentals ranging from weddings to corporate events. A total of 10 events in August were held in Promenade Park, bringing in more than 700 guests. Rentals included concerts, networking occasions, two weddings, a high school reunion, and corporate events.

Salomon Farm Park

- After summer camp wrapped up in July, staff assisted with cleanup and end-of-season meetings before being dismissed for the year. Our operations team is already planning, to post summer camp positions as early as December or January to secure potential staff early for the 2026 season.
- Salomon Farm Park is pleased to welcome **Hannah Basham** as the new full-time Program Coordinator. Hannah graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and a minor in Wildlife. She has spent the past few years serving as a Superintendent/Forester with the U.S. Forest Service in Priest River, Idaho. Her impressive background also includes experience as a Park Ranger, a teaching assistant with the Department of Forestry, and service with the Peace Corps in Senegal. Hannah brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and she is a wonderful addition to the Salomon Farm Park team.
- **Dinner in the Flower Garden** has been rescheduled for September, rather than August. Following recent media coverage, the event is now sold out with 50 guests and a waitlist of 13. The north garden is looking beautiful and will provide the perfect setting for the evening. Dinner in the Flower Garden will take place on **Friday, September 12, from 6:00–8:30 p.m.**
- Salomon Farm Park hosted the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association 2025 Trails Gathering on Friday, August 29, 2025. This event united trails enthusiasts from across the state, provided a platform to network and talk about the significance of trails within our communities. This event was held in the Wolf Family Center. Learning sessions kicked off at 9:15 am and ended at 3:45 pm.

 **Sweet Breeze** – We are rolling into the season of **field trips**. Throughout September, the **Friends of the Rivers** (FOR) subsidizes field trips for 3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade classes, allowing us to offer a reduced fee of \$5.00 per child.



These trips are extremely popular and fill up quickly, with many schools returning year after year to participate. Staff is diligently finalizing the field trip schedule, with **21 slots subsidized by FOR**. Field trips will begin on **Tuesday, September 10**, and run through **Thursday, September 25, 2025**, barring any reschedules.

Golf

- Chris Rudolph reported that after an extended period of time, the Foster Golf Course's sustainable pump was completed and installed. This gave Chris the ability to water the entire course in a shorter amount of time.
- Chris Rudolph reported that Allied Mechanical was working on getting a retrofit part for the backflow preventer at Foster Golf Course. The backflow preventer is a device that is required by law.
- Chris Rudolph stated that is/has been actively working on repairing or replacing forty-two irrigation heads that have been damaged or buried over the years. He stated that without repairing or replacing the heads, puddles and large wet spots will appear and stand on the golf course. This will lead to dead grass and bare spots.
- Chris Rudolph stated that he contracted with a company to come in and slit seed the fairways at Foster Golf Course. Chris stated that the plan was to do this early to take advantage of the growing season that we have left.
- Gary Whitacre stated that overall golf rounds are down for the year. However, play is still steady. Gary is hoping that the cooler weather will encourage later-season golfing.
- Gary Whitacre reported that the three pro-shops are starting to see their seasonal staff return to school or jobs. He will be hiring a few extra staff to cover the absences.

Pools

- Jason Smith reported that various departmental staff have been out to inspect the McMillen Pool leak and overall condition.
- Dave Weadock is in the process of bidding out a new McMillen Pool liner. The condition of the foundation will not be known until the liner is out.
- Daryn Schwartz reported that Spear Corporation was at Northside Pool to remove and install new laterals and media in the two sand filters. Daryn also stated that upon further inspection of the main pool sand filter, Spear deemed it to be in extreme disrepair. Spear noted that they could go ahead with the job but that the media may not hold. Daryn stated that this was what happened at McMillen Pool in 2018. The Parks and Recreation Department ended up having to replace the sand filter.

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

Payroll and Accounts Payable

- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 414 employees (145 full-time and 269 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending August 23rd, and paid on August 29th, 2025.
- We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of August 31st, 2025:
 - Assistant Golf Superintendent (Fund 121)
 - Manager – Neighborhood Programs (Fund 121)
 - Program Facility Coordinator – Jennings (Fund 121)
 - Fleet Mechanic – Golf (Fund 439)

- 49 total P-Card statements were processed for August for charges made at the end of July to almost the end of August.
- There was a total of 727 invoices processed during August from 8/1 to 8/31.
- We've been able to get a large chunk of the seasonal staff separated. We have almost all of the day camp staff separated, the preschool/youth and youth sports staff, and the vast majority of the Aquatic staff. The Aquatic Incentive payout was made for the bulk of the staff on the 8/23 pay end, paid on 8/29. We have two more staff Aquatic Incentive payouts on 9/6, paid on 9/12, and then all of the seasonal Aquatic staff can be separated. We are down to just these two activities.

Customer Service and Finance

- Fall Fun Times registration has begun. Front office staff is handling the registrations like pros.
- Joniece and Joyce have started monthly reconciling of the new parking gate fees at the Community Center through the companies Windcave and ParkWhiz.
- Joniece and Joyce completed their first month of the Parks and Recreation bank account reconciling. In the past this has always been done by the Controller's office staff.
- Maxine King gave her notice. The position of Administrative Assistant III – Reservations is currently posted.
- Maddie Gore has learned all of the tasks that Maxine King performed and will be taking on the extra reservation duties. She has also been learning several new tasks to help other areas of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Attending the first meeting of the Parks and Recreation Policy Manual review. This will be a long process, but well worth it in the end.
- Continuing to work on the 2026 budget to get it in line with what the Controller's office is requesting.

Foellinger Theatre Report

- In August, the Foellinger Theatre hosted two ticketed rental performances in partnership with the Honeywell Foundation and one free community concert by the Fort Wayne Area Community Band. Collectively, these events welcomed diverse audiences and underscored the theatre's dual role as a professional entertainment venue and a civic gathering space.
- Trace Adkins drew the highest attendance of the 2025 season (1,814 paid attendees), reinforcing strong community demand for high-profile acts. The free community band performance attracted over 500 guests, the highest of their season, demonstrating the theatre's continued value as a cultural resource. Operational lessons from the high-volume Trace Adkins concert have already informed planning for improved bar efficiency, staffing, and concessions readiness for future events.
- Looking ahead, our focus is on successfully delivering September's events and closing out the season, while laying the groundwork for a strong 2026 programming calendar.
 - **Shows This Month:**
 - *1964 The Tribute 8/1* - **Count:** 1,036
 - *Fort Wayne Area Community Band 8/12* – **Count:** 502 (highest FWACB concert of the season)
 - Trace Adkins 8/22 – **Count:** 1,814 (highest attended show of 2025)
 - **Operational Notes:**
 - Staffing: Trace Adkins was short-staffed, but entry operations remained smooth with no major delays. The implementation of two walk-through weapons detectors played a role in getting patrons into the theatre in a safe and timely manner.
 - Bars: Identified needs for standardized equipment, better setup, and clearer protocols. Slushie machines could not keep up with the volume.
 - Merchandise: Extremely successful sales — the tour noted Foellinger sold more merchandise than any other stop. Additional staffing was required pre-show to keep lines moving.
 - **Operations & Facilities:**
 - Per the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) inspection findings, new signage was installed on doors with sprinkler/electrical access.



- All FOH emergency lights were replaced and upgraded to LED in the house, and batteries were replaced in all emergency exits on stage, backstage, and FOH.
- VFP repairs in the sprinkler room resulted in leak; repaired. Awaiting re-inspection from DHS (9/9).
- New floor scrubber and lighting desk (grandMA3) received!
- Leak in the Men's bathroom shower repaired.
- ARAB pest control returned for spider treatment.
- Additional radios requested from Fort Wayne Communications (unavailable).
- Top 10 theatre priorities list submitted following walkthrough with Dave Weadock.
- **Staffing & Front of House :**
 - Continuing discussions with Patrick regarding the 2026 Box Office position.
 - Concessions: ○ Developed concessions order guide.
 - Ongoing reorganization and equipment upgrades.
- **Ongoing Projects:**
 - Developing SOPs and job descriptions.
 - Finalizing co-promotion terms for 2026 and beyond.
 - Creating an end-of-year timeline and closing list.
 - Revising emergency protocols.
 - Exploring early opening procedures.
 - Discussing a potential partnership with Purdue Fort Wayne for a 2026 show.
- **Upcoming August Shows:**
 - *We Will Rock You: The Music of Journey & Queen* with the FW Philharmonic – 9/13
 - *Warrant: Let the Good Times Rock Tour* with Lita Ford and Firehouse – 9/26
 - *Mayoral Event* – 9/27

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 July were 259
- Pressure washed the following locations: Lawton Park skate park, Martin Luther King, Jr Bridge, Foster Park fencing, Foster Park west soccer field bleachers, Foster Park pavilion 3, Klug Park wrought iron arch and playground, Franke Park shelters, Kettler Park shelter, Ronald G. Repka Memorial Park shelter, McCormick Park splashpad and pavilion, Kreager Park splashpad, Memorial Park, Waynedale Park pavilion and splashpad.
- Assisted in the delivery of the new floor machine to Foellinger Theatre at Franke Park.
- Relief staff continued spin trimming and weed control at various pavilions, tennis courts, splashpads, River greenway, and various other playground areas.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Lawton Park skate park, Martin Luther King, Jr Bridge, Shoaff Park splashpad, Memorial pavilion and playgrounds, Foster Park, Franke Park, Klug Park, Bob Arnold Northside Park, and Foster Park.

Maintenance Technician Supervisor: Mike Cremeans

- Work was completed on repairing the gutters on the equipment barn at the Salomon Farm Park.
- All exit signs and emergency lighting at the Foellinger Theater were upgraded.
- Both McMillen and Bob Arnold/Northside Park pools closed for the season. The maintenance techs drained the pools, reinstalled shutters, and prepared the facilities for the off-season.
- Work began for the upcoming holiday showcase at the Botanical Conservatory. Maintenance techs are constructing a 14-foot-long, 8-foot-tall faux cave that visitors will be able to walk through.



- LED light upgrades were installed at both Johnny Appleseed's Camp Canine dog park and the McMillen Park Community Center parking lot. Work continued on the River Greenway trails. This includes inspections and repairs as needed.
- New picnic tables were delivered to Packard Park for the grand re-opening ceremony. Older picnic tables were also swapped for new ones at Swinney, Lakeside, Hamilton, and McMillen Parks.
- Lighting control repairs were completed for the Lakeside Tennis and basketball courts.
- New electronic timers were installed at the Lawton Park greenhouse to operate the ventilation panels.
 - ✓ **Maintenance Technician completed the following tasks last month:**
 - The on-call staff received a total of **42** calls to the on-call person this month, **13** of which were lock issues, **8** were calls from dispatch regarding alarms, and **21** were miscellaneous issues.
8: Alarm Maintenance, **17:** Building Maintenance, **4:** Carpentry, **29:** Electrical Repair,
9: HVAC Maintenance, **16:** Key Core Maintenance, **24:** Light Maintenance,
6: Lock Maintenance, **14:** Paint, **6:** Playground Maintenance,
31: Plumbing Maintenance, **11:** Sign Maintenance, **15:** Vandalism

Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment Rob Schenkel

- Crews added safety mulch to Swinney Park and Weisser Park playgrounds, and parking blocks have been straightened and replaced as needed in various parks.
- Heavy Equipment crews removed the old concrete stairs at Johnny Appleseed Park, then backfilled, graded, and seeded the area, as 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.
- 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; trash routes are run seven days a week, ensuring all receptacles in the parks are emptied.

Main Trac Coordinator: Nicole Roth

- Main Trac Entries: 10,326 for the month, and response to 91 calls issued from the 311 Call Center; there were no volunteer hours reported.
- Busy entering time sheets and contracted/sales invoices, and running monthly reports for Recreation Staff.
- Nicole is working on the Lead Boldly training.

Safety: Tony DeVido

- The Parks & Rec. The Safety Committee meeting was cancelled.
- 0 vehicle crash was reported for this time period.
- 5 employee injuries were reported during this time period.
- 1 CPR/FA classes were held. 4 employees were certified
- 2 CDL holders successfully renewed their licenses.
- 8 employees attended a *Tow/Recovery and Secure Loading* class.
- 30 Worksite inspections were done.
- The monthly Safety Review Council meeting was held, with 2 Parks employees in attendance.



Volunteer Day 2025: (see photos below) Nicole Roth, Ed Stange, Joe Houser, Jake Willis, Chris Day, Keven Richardson, Scott Oliver, and Keven Pio spent a day at Camp Red Cedar doing various volunteer tasks. This is their second year they have attended Camp Red Cedar, and they are already looking forward to next year.





Project Administration: Dave Weadock

- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Roof Design – Construction administration phase is in progress
- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Roof Replacement – Construction is in progress.
- Brewer Park Construction – Work throughout the park is complete except for splash pad reconstruction and punch list items.
- Community Center Berry St. Façade Building Signage – Project planning in progress.
- Foellinger Theatre Lighting Components Package – All but one item has been received and has been installed. Final product delivery in August.
- Foellinger Theatre House Lighting Products – All products have been received. Installation is planned in October.
- Foellinger Theatre House Lighting Installation – Bid has been awarded. Purchase order acquisition is in progress.
- Foster Park Golf Course Restoration Plan – Awaiting completion of utility work on golf course.
- Franke Park Pond Pavilion Interior Renovation – Bidding is complete and PO issued. Construction planned for October.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Construction in progress.
- Headwaters Park Service Buildings Roofing – Bids received and purchase order acquisition in progress. Construction planned for early Fall.
- Headwaters Park West Sidewalk Replacement – Project completed.
- Kreager Park Tennis Courts – Project completed.
- Lakeside Park Pavilion #1 Roof – Construction planned for September.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof Design – Planning documents sent to PAS for review.
- Lawton Park Skate Park Fence Walls – Planning in progress.
- McCormick Park New Drinking Fountain – Project completed.
- McMillen Park Pool Liners Replacement – Project is currently out to bid.
- McMillen Park Pool Drains Improvements – Planning is in progress.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Construction – Final punch list items are being addressed.
- Bob Arnold/Northside Park Psi-Ote Pavilion Lower Updates – Project is out to bid.
- Bob Arnold/Northside Park Administration 1st Floor HVAC Replacement – Bidding is in progress.
- Bob Arnold/Northside Park Administration Fire Alarm Panel – Replacement in progress.
- Bob Arnold/Northside Park Administration Front Entrance Improvement – Construction planning in progress.
- Packard Park Pavilion Roof Replacement – Construction planned for mid-September.
- Parks 2025 Pavement Renovations Project – Project completed.
- 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 – Project completed.
- Salomon Farm Pasture Barn – Exterior wood replacement and painting planned for late July.
- Shoaff Park Riverlodge Roof Replacement – Construction to begin in September or early October.
- Shoaff Park Boat Storage Building – Planning in progress
- Swinney Park Rear Entrance Arbor Replacement – Construction is in progress.
- Various Parks Signage Improvements – Projects ongoing.
- Wells St. Bridge Partial Deck Replacement – Construction planned for late September or early October.

Other work:

- Various Parks: reviewed potential and necessary future projects
- Various Parks: planning projects for 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 in progress with staff
- Preparing GIS content for the Parks mobile application

Operations and Support: Travis Roth

Storeroom and Property:

- Storeroom staff ordered absorbent mats, spill containment trays, and spray paint for marking drains and preparing for the annual Stormwater inspection to be conducted at 11 different locations throughout the Parks Department.
- Materials used for various day camps and summer programs were returned to the storeroom for winter storage.
- Staff has started reducing the amount of inventory on hand by ordering less each week to prepare for the internal audit inventory in December. Demand has also decreased with the ending of most day camps, pools, and recreation programs.

Property Transactions:

22 RedMax Reciprocator	Scrapped	P230
16 Eagle Gas Cabinet	Transferred from R610	P230
25 Stihl FS94 Trimmer	Added Into Inventory	P290
04 Shindawa Trimmer	Scrapped	P290
25 Viper Floor Machine	Added Into Inventory	R610

2025 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:

Ford Transit Cargo Van	Delivered
Ford Transit Cargo Van	Delivered
Shelving for Cargo Van	Delivered
Chevy Colorados (3)	Delivered
Bobcat T770	Delivered
Club Car 550 Carts	Delivered
Ford F350 Chassis	Delivered
Dump Bed	Delivered
Portable Welder	Delivered
Forestry Bobcat	
Attachment	Delivered
Mulch Mate trailer	Delivered
John Deere Gator	Delivered
Steel Green Sprayer	Delivered
Ford F250s (2)	Delivered

Garage Operations Highlights:

- 198 work orders were scheduled this month, 29 of which were services.
- A Viper floor machine was delivered for the Franke Park Theater. This was the last item to be delivered for the 2025 equipment lease.
- Lists for the 2026 equipment lease have been submitted and modified as the Controller's office works with Parks' finance on the funding and purchasing numbers for 2026.



- The Fuel Lock fuel pump controller system went live at both Lawton and Kreager Parks and has been a resounding success. There have been very few problems, and the system is running smoothly to track fuel and equipment usage. The golf courses are in test mode as the employees get comfortable with the system.
- Two new Ford F250s have had the correct utility beds installed and have been put into service on facility cleaning routes. A Ford F350 dump truck for Landscape also had the dump bed installed and is being prepped for use. Mechanics are sorting out how to integrate the factory backup camera with an aftermarket trailer camera installed on the Mulch Mate trailer.
- To prepare for the 2025 Stormwater inspection, mechanics removed old tires stored outside and placed them inside the used tire barn.
- The Forestry Toro Dingo TX1000 had new tracks installed by RPM Machinery when the original set started to wear out.
- 2006 Ford F250s, #42 and #62, were prepared for auction by removal of the decals, license plates, and other department property. These trucks, plus a few other items, will go to the fall auction later this year.
- Garage mechanics attended a towing, recovery, and secure loading class given by Fred Whitford from Purdue University. This class was presented at the Public Safety Academy.
- An electrical contractor is working on a quote to upgrade some of the wiring in the Lawton garage. The large shop air compressor is overloading the circuit that feeds the north side of the building, which will require installing a new breaker box to handle the increased demand and current draw.
- Ford F150 #1505 returned from Bob Thomas Ford after having front-end accident damage repaired by the body shop.
- Chevrolet Traverse #129 was taken to Kelley Chevrolet for an airbag warning light. Further diagnosis revealed that it was related to a faulty seatbelt circuit. Lawton mechanics performed the repair as opposed to having the dealer do the work.
- New ballistic glass panels have been delivered to be installed on the Landscape Bobcat to allow that unit to safely operate a forestry attachment. This attachment creates flying debris as it is operated, and this glass is required to keep the operator safe.
- Garage staff worked with golf course maintenance to order and deliver barrels of engine oil, hydraulic fluid, and engine coolant to the 3 golf courses to allow staff to top off equipment fluids on-site.
- A universal sun shade canopy is being tested out on a grounds John Deere tractor. This model attaches to the machine's factory roll bar and will fit various pieces of equipment.



BOTANICAL
CONSERVATORY

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

Botanical Conservatory Report – August 2025

- “...*Something Blue*” Showcase Exhibit warmly welcomed visitors, inviting guests to experience the romance and charm of a tradition reimagined in botanical form. With formal landscape design, a grand central fountain, and striking blue-themed plantings, the exhibit offered a dreamy setting for newlyweds and garden lovers alike. From heartfelt photo ops to leisurely strolls through enchanting scenes, the exhibit captures the essence of summer elegance. Generously sponsored by the Fort Wayne Park Foundation, English Bontier Mitchell Foundation, and Majic 95.1, “...*Something Blue*” sets the stage for a memorable season at the Botanical Conservatory.
- The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events in August 2025 including ROOTS Music Fest (August 1 – 2). Staff are gearing up for Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown (September 7), Fall

Bonsai Show (September 20), Pumpkin Path Display Installation (September 29), Botanical Brew (October 3), and several pre-registered programs and workshops throughout the month.

- One new staff member, Anna Harpe, began work as the Program Coordinator – Interpretation & Education. Three Conservatory Food Service Assistants (Alison Cole, Rachel Cole, and Justina Odedina) have cleared the human resources process and will begin work in September as Café Flora prepares to open. There are currently no staffing vacancies.
- Botanical Conservatory KPIs
- While overall attendance and revenue in August 2025 were down compared to the same month in 2024, year-to-date trends remain positive across several key indicators, reflecting continued engagement and growth at the Botanical Conservatory.
- August 2025 Attendance totaled 5,661 visitors, a decrease of 1,247 visitors or -18.05% compared to August 2024. However, year-to-date (YTD) attendance continues to show strong performance with 85,325 visitors, marking an increase of 10,893 visitors or +14.63% over 2024.
- Admissions revenue for the month decreased slightly by \$256.70 (or -1.11%) compared to August 2024, but YTD admissions revenue is up \$13,397.95 (or +4.51%), signaling consistent visitor conversion.
- Membership revenue declined by \$1,430.00 or -31.50% for the month, though the YTD total of \$70,748.00 still reflects a modest increase of +4.57% over 2024, suggesting longer-term member retention efforts are holding steady. Timing for MAP receivables has influenced the decline in revenue.
- Conservatory Shop revenue saw a monthly decline of \$1,504.21 (-6.81%), bringing the YTD decrease to \$7,841.80 (-3.52%). This trend continues to reflect the temporary limitations due to the shop's prior relocation and lack of an operational café to encourage additional foot traffic in the space.
- Rental & Catering Fee revenue dropped by \$3,340.00 (-29.23%) in August; however, the YTD revenue is up by \$9,610.00 or +17.38%, a positive indicator of increased event bookings and space utilization over the broader timeline.
- Total revenue for August 2025 came in at \$57,241.83, down \$6,909.58 (-10.77%) from August 2024. However, YTD total revenue reached \$1,074,545.25, which is \$65,252.66 or +6.47% higher than the same period last year—evidence of continued strong performance despite temporary downturns in select areas.

Attendance

August 2024:	6,908 visitors
August 2025:	5,661 visitors
A decrease of 1,247 visitors or -18.05% to 2024	

YTD Comparisons

2024 Attendance:	74,432 visitors
2025 Attendance:	85,325 visitors
An increase of 10,893 visitors or +14.63% to 2024	



Admissions Revenue

August 2024: \$23,024.00

August 2025: \$22,767.30

A decrease of \$256.70 or -1.11% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Admissions Revenue: \$296,880.68

2025 Admissions Revenue: \$310,278.63

An increase of \$13,397.95 or +4.51% to 2024

Membership Revenue

August 2024: \$4,539.00

August 2025: \$3,109.00

A decrease of \$1,430.00 or -31.50% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Membership Revenue: \$67,655.00

2025 Membership Revenue: \$70,748.00

An increase of \$3,093.00 or +4.57% to 2024

Conservatory Shop Revenue

August 2024: \$22,089.96

August 2025: \$20,585.75

A decrease of \$1,504.21 or -6.81% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Gift Shop Revenue: \$222,873.84

2025 Gift Shop Revenue: \$215,032.04

A decrease of \$7,841.80 or -3.52% to 2024

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

August 2024: \$11,425.00

August 2025: \$8,085.00

A decrease of \$3,340.00 or -29.23% to 2024

YTD Comparisons

2024 Rental Revenue: \$55,290.00

2025 Rental Revenue: \$64,900.00

An increase of \$9,610.00 or +17.38% to 2024

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

August 2024: \$3,073.45

August 2025: \$2,694.78

YTD Comparisons



2024 Other Revenue:	\$366,593.07
2025 Other Revenue:	\$413,586.67

Conservatory Total Revenue

August 2024:	\$64,151.41
August 2025:	\$57,241.83
A decrease of \$6,909.58 or -10.77% to 2024	

YTD Comparisons

2024 Total Revenue:	\$1,009,292.59
2025 Total Revenue:	\$1,074,545.25
An increase of \$65,252.66 or +6.47% to 2024	

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

- Staff submitted a grant proposal to the Barbara Bradley Baekgaard Family Foundation for support of the 2025-2026 Fern's Fairylight Express Exhibit.
- Staff completed entering all current Conservatory 2025 and onward grant projects/applications (including DHIP) into the eCivis grants management system per the request of the City of Fort Wayne's Grant Administrator, Estela Perez, under the direction of the mayor's office. All grants in the future will be entered into eCivis as they are completed.
- Staff submitted final promotional reports to 21Alive and 97.3 WMEE for support of the 2025 Color in Motion Live Butterfly Exhibit. These reports will enable us to approach these media for continuing support of the upcoming exhibits.
- Staff submitted the final promotional report for support of the 2025 Color in Motion Live Butterfly Exhibit to the Matthew M. Wyatt family, given in memory of Jo Ann and William Wyatt. The family is considering support for future butterfly exhibits and someday the potential permanent butterfly wing.
- Staff submitted the final event report to Fort Wayne Metals for the 2025 Jazzworks! This report will enable us to approach this sponsor for continuing support of the upcoming special events.
- Promotional and complimentary tickets and fliers were distributed to WANE 15, 89.1 WBOI and PHP for the 2025 Botanical Brew event. Provided information for the stations' promotional spots.

Conservatory Public Programs

- *Events*
 - Botanical ROOTS Music Fest (August 1 & 2)
Amidst beautiful weather, Botanical ROOTS was held in the outdoor Terrace Garden in its third year as a two-day event. Attendance was up 44.6% from last year, increasing from 500 to 723 people in 2025; a total of 408 attended on Friday and 315 on Saturday. Conservatory members were 12% of the audience, as they have had an ongoing interest in ROOTS. Friday was headlined by Grammy-winning zydeco artist Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers, as well as by the very popular local funk group, Fort Wayne Funk Orchestra. Saturday was headlined by reggae-inspired Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad as well as Americana performers, The Gasoline Gypsies. Mad Anthony Brewing Company provided bar service both days, while Jimmy's BBQ vended food on Friday and Mercadito Taqueria vended on Saturday.



- **Education**

- T'ai Chi in August (August 5-26)
- Sandy Gebhard instructed another T'ai Chi series, and as a much-appreciated instructor, she drew a larger class size for a pre-registered program in the summertime. All returning students, a total of 15 participants, enjoyed T'ai Chi in August.
- How Invasive Species Reshape Our Ecosystems (August 14)
- A total of 15 attendees sat in on this lecture-style presentation by Brad Kopecky as part of Heartland Restoration Services, Inc. The program offering was included with \$1 Night admission, when everyone was welcome to drop in and learn more about native and invasive plant species.
- SCFVA, School Children's Flower & Vegetable Association
- School Plant Shows began in August with school back in session. A total of 18 School Shows were held with 45 spots (out of 49) fulfilled by Volunteer Judges. Thirty-one remaining schools are scheduled in September, with 12 volunteer spots yet to be filled (out of 83). In addition to coordinating individual School Shows, staff are preparing for the Annual Blue-Ribbon Show on September 13th; students who win a 1st Place Blue Ribbon at their school go on to participate city-wide! Hosted at the McMillen Community Center, this public event requires 15-20 staff/volunteers for 2 days of registration as well as 25-30 trained Volunteer Judges to assist with final ribbon winners. Staff look forward to celebrating 99 years with those who attend this special, community-wide event when the public show is held from 2:30-3 pm.

- **Youth Field Trips – The Botanical Conservatory**

The Botanical Conservatory hosted 1 on-site field trip, bringing 7 visitors in the month of August.

Exhibits & Displays

- ...*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 was held on August 15th from 1-3 pm.

 **Volunteers/Staff** - At the Front Desk, 8 volunteers covered 34 shifts, and 10 volunteers covered 40 shifts in the Gift Shop. Three volunteers continued plant care, with 2 attending the Showcase and collecting plants, and the other tending to retail plants. Easterseals also maintained volunteer service, as they continued to sort tags for the Mother's Day Plant Sale. Regarding the Plant Sale, a meeting was held with 5 primary volunteers to recap 2025 and begin planning for 2026. A total of 17 much-appreciated volunteers supported Botanical ROOTS Music Fest, with 6 of them volunteering both days. Staff have also been busy recruiting Volunteer Judges to fulfill a total of 132 spots for SCFVA School Plant Shows.

Upcoming

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

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



September 30-October 26: Pumpkin Path Display

September 6: Fall Plant Swap, pre-registered

September 7: Be A Tourist in Your Hometown, 12-4 pm

September 9-30: T'ai Chi in September, pre-registered series

September 12 & 13: SCFVA City-Wide Blue-Ribbon Show

September 20: Fall Bonsai Show

September 29: Installation of the Pumpkin Path Display

October 3: Botanical Brew

October 7-November 4: Continuing T'ai Chi, pre-registered series

October 16: Succulent Pumpkins, pre-registered

October 18: Rocky Horror Picture Show & Fright Night Market

October 25: Garden Trick-or-Treat

October 27: Teardown of the Pumpkin Path Display

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

- Supervisor of Horticulture, Gilbert Young, traveled throughout Southern California and Southern Nevada to procure new plants for the Botanical Conservatory. One wholesale nursery in particular, San Marcos Growers, will be closing at the end of the year. This grower has been in business for nearly 50 years and has introduced numerous plant varieties and species to the trade. Traveling to this nursery has allowed the Botanical Conservatory to procure unique species and plant specimens that may be lost to the trade as this grower winds down their operation. The new plant species will add wonder and awe for Botanical Conservatory guests and elevate our standing in the realm of public horticulture.
- Due to the unique opportunity of having Northland Express Transportation, a specialty mover of plant material, haul plants from the Western United States to Fort Wayne, Gilbert Young also procured plants to enhance the Mediterranean beds, Showcase House permanent plantings, and the Tropical House. Plant procurements will add color, texture, and overall interest to the spaces in which they are planted.
- Horticulture staff have made significant progress in removing mismatched rocks and stones in the Desert House. The removal of the stones has provided greater access to the underlying soil to facilitate removal and remediation.
- Horticulture staff and contractors removed several shrubs and a few trees in the Arid House to provide space for new and more interesting specimens. The removals also eliminated duplicate plants that were already represented within the Desert House. These removals will create more space for new and exciting additions to the Botanical Conservatory's permanent collection.
- Contractors have removed a significant amount of soil from the Desert House this month. The existing soil was not conducive to plant health and contributed to the decline of some of the plants that were growing in the Desert House. New, specialty engineered soil will be added to the Desert House beds to facilitate healthy and robust plant growth for the new plant additions.
- Horticulture Staff have performed significant pruning and removals to rejuvenate plants and to remove pest-infested plant material throughout the Botanical Conservatory collection. The removals and rejuvenation pruning have helped increase air flow and reduce pest pressure within the glasshouses.



Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

- Staff have begun working on prop design and builds for “Fern’s Fairylight Express” showcase garden exhibit.
- Staff have worked with Parks Project Management and contractors to complete the yearly Glazing repair/replacements, new roofing over the Desert linkway, and warranty repairs to roofing over the front office areas of the building
- Staff worked to begin the process of the Office remodel for the Building Maintenance supervisor, Thomas Hegge.
- Staff installed a new bike rack to be used by employees
- Allied Mechanical was engaged in preparing a quote to replace the failed domestic hot water heater. The unit was original to the building, and costs dictated the replacement as the best option. The new unit will be installed in early September.
- Teusch electric was engaged to replace some of the failing and outdated track for the lighting in the Gallery Hall.



Attendees dancing on the 1st night of Botanical ROOTS



A camper bouldering during Camp ACTiVenture



A snapshot of beauty as part of the ...Something Blue Showcase Exhibit



A job well done by Volunteers & Staff who tend to the gardens

Planning Report – August 2025

- Construction of the Franke Park Renaissance, Phase I project is nearly complete. Exterior wall capstones are being installed around the pavilion.
- Construction at Brewer Park is complete. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for early September.
- Riverfront Phase II B construction continues. The cascading stairs and discovery ascent are well underway, and foundations for the hammocks are being prepped. 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 are 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 are 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 met with members of Wildwood Park Community Association and Heritage Landscapes to review tasks for the Wildwood Park and Rockhill Park Historic Landscape Study and Guideline project. Parks staff are assisting the Association members who are leading this effort.
- Staff are coordinating with members of the Maplewood Community who want to install a native pollinator garden in Sheldon Drive Park as part of their Neighborhood Improvement Grant.
- Staff reviewed the thirteen proposals submitted for the Conservatory's Exploration and Terrace Garden Design. The proposals varied greatly in both proposed fees and the grandeur of scope, and the majority of the proposals were well over the estimated cost. The proposals were all rejected, and the Staff is currently



working on revising the RFP to clarify and reduce the scope of work.

Horticulture and Landscape Report- August 2025

- 37 Volunteers worked 294.95 hours in the greenhouse.
- One more garden plot was rented at the Community Gardens for a total of 83 plots rented.
- The greenhouse provided 164 plants to be sold at the Botanical Conservatory's Gift Shop.
- 612 garden mums and 705 flowering cabbage and kales were planted for the Parks and Botanical Conservatory's fall landscapes.
- 667 Kalanchoe and 2,648 poinsettias were planted for the Conservatory's winter showcase.
- The Lakeside Park team focused on daily litter pickup; watering/weeding/deadheading and fertilization of all annual beds; weekly mowing and spin trimming; sidewalk edging; fountain maintenance, including vacuuming; landscape bed weeding and herbicide treatments; rose bed maintenance that included deadheading, bed edging, and pesticide treatments specifically for Black Spot fungal prevention this month. Staff also spent time mulching all crab tree beds.
- The Foster Park team focused on daily litter pickup; watering/weeding/deadheading and fertilization of all annual beds; fountain maintenance and cleaning; landscape bed weeding and herbicide treatments; perennial bed cleanup that included pruning off all spent foliage/flowers, and planting additional perennials in the garden. Staff cut down all the daylilies in the Daylily Garden, and edged and mulched those beds. Staff also spent time removing Honeysuckle on the riverbank that parallels Broadway Avenue.
- The Downtown Team focused on daily litter and trash removal at Freimann Square, Courthouse Green, and the Downtown Community Center; daily fountain maintenance in Freimann Square; post emergent herbicide treatments at Bloomingdale, Community Center, Freimann, Headwaters, Little Turtle, Meyers, and Promenade Parks; pre-emergent herbicide treatments at Headwaters and Promenade; annual/perennial/shrub bed weeding at the, Courthouse Green, Downtown Community Center, Freimann, Headwaters, Little Turtle Main Street Medians, Meyers Park, Promenade, and Riverfront IIA; and pruning shrubs at the Community Center, Headwaters Park, and Promenade Park. Staff spent time at Promenade and Riverfront IIA mulching the north dock, pruning, weeding, and blowing all riverfront pathways before the Dragon Boat Festival event. Additional time was spent in the annual and landscape beds at Freimann prior to the Taste of the Arts Festival. Community Corrections also assisted in the cleanup of spent plant material on the Main Street Medians prior to this event. Staff spent a large amount of time on stump grinding, turf repairs, and landscape bed reductions in Headwaters Park.
- The City Team continued to mow the Bob Arnold/Northside Park and Lawton office weekly. Per usual, a significant amount of time was spent on weed control. Post emergent herbicide applications and general weeding/bed cleanups were made in Bluffton Road/Indian Village Blvd, Brewer, Buckner, Franke, Franklin, Indian Village/Sears Pavilion, Kettler, Lawton, McCulloch, McKinnie Commons, McMillen, Bob Arnold/Northside Park, PSI OTE pavilions, Repka, Reservoir, Salomon, Shoaff, Spy Run, Swinney, Taylors Dream, Thomas Nature Preserve, Tillman, and Weisser. Swinney Letterbed was weeded, fertilized, and watered regularly. Staff visited Foellinger Theatre for landscape cleanups before shows. Staff spent significant time at McMillen and Swinney Parks on stump grinding, bed reductions, and turf restoration. The City team also made special visits for landscape maintenance prior to events at Bowser, McMillen, McKinnie Commons, Shoaff, Reservoir, and Brewer.
- Gardeners continued working on their 2026 annual flower designs. Designs are due at the end of September.
- Pride Landcare, Mow Baby Mow, and MJK Total Lawn Care continued mowing all contracted maintenance areas.
- Lawnorganics continued turf fertilization and weed control on all park locations under contract.
- Olympia Pools continued sweeping the Freimann Square fountain every other week per contract.



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

Riparian Management Report- August 2025

- Maintained Guldlin boat ramp and all dock systems, which include cleaning and removing debris on or around the docks. Repaired minor puncture/gash damage to the Shoaff Park dock.
- Pruned overhanging trees along the recreational path along the rivers to improve visibility and safety of boats.
- Completed this year's Dragon Boat Races, which include the large dock extension and fire pits. Assisted on the day of the races as safety boats monitoring the race route from traffic on the river.
- Attended TeenWorks end of end-of-year networking celebration at Electric Works, which included a river-related activity and an informational booth for volunteer recruitment.
- Hosted a volunteer group for Day of Caring at Foster. The number of volunteers totaled 77 adults for approximately 4 hours of work, which equated to 308 volunteer work hours, covering over 75,000 sq. ft. (1.7 acres). Crew cleared invasives with a chipper after the event. Approximately 7.5 tons of debris.
- Crew attended Purdue's "Securing the Load" training.
- Assisted Riverfront staff in testing the future river movie screen for World Rivers Day.

Forestry Report- August 2025

- Prepared purchasing and approval documents for the 2025 Fall Tree Planting Project. We anticipate presenting to the Board of Park Commissioners on September 11th and the City Council on September 2nd. If all goes well, our tree-planting contractor is expected to begin work in October.
- Forestry began the process of inspecting trees within our park system. We expect to continue these inspections through October.
- Collaborated with Fort Wayne Community Development and the Right of Way Department to address tree grate concerns around Parkview Field.
- In August, Forestry crews completed 85 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 26 trees in July. 8 of these were the result of damage caused by storms. 9 were located within the parks, and 1 was the result of vehicle damage.
- Completed 7 inspections/appraisals of trees that had been damaged by vehicles. In total, these incidents resulted in \$5,350.00 in damages.
- Crews responded to and cleared 63 storm-related broken/fallen/hanging limbs.
- Responded to and closed 101, 311 Call Center requests for service this month.

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager, Lead of Marketing

-  www.RiverfrontFW.org had 8,360 hits to the site this month, and the Promenade Park link had 824 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 571 hits in August.

-  Marketing Team took photos and videos at Dragon Boats on August 1-2.

-  **Web Statistics:** Active Users: 19,520 Event Counts: 141,717



- ✚ 47 Graphic Design projects completed, including 6 Riverfront event promotions, 7 Salomon Farm program/event promotions, Active Aging brochure, 12 class promotions for the Community Center, and the Botanical Conservatory e-news.
- ✚ Worked on e-mail campaign for winter program sponsorships.
- ✚ Conducted a meeting for Policy Manual updates and made some revisions. Policy Manual meetings will be conducted monthly as long as needed.
- ✚ Social media promotions for: Dragon Boat Races, Sweet Breeze, Playground survey, Extended Travel, and Volunteer Opportunities.
- ✚ Arranged for 10 media interviews with select staff promoting August events.
- ✚ August Media Mentions: 87.
- ✚ Social Media Totals for August:

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

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

✚ Past Labor Day, the golf season begins to slow down. This slowdown actually starts for us in August, as school starts back up and people are squeezing in their last vacations before school starts. This, combined with difficult course conditions for the Parks courses this year, is shown in the August numbers:

<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAF</u>
2024 REVENUE	75,898	58,717.25	108,272.25
2025 REVENUE	71,863	59,176.25	117,572.75
YTD 2024	339,470.75	263,269.25	522,442.25
YTD 2025	319,320.50	262,686	490,693.75

- ✚ The numbers are actually better than anticipated. Although down in the year-over-year comparison, it is not as bad as it could be. It appears that courses throughout the region are down a bit this year, mainly due to the weather.
- ✚ Repair work has begun on Foster Park. Play areas have been slit-seeded. As of the week of September 15, green aerification and slit-seeding on the greens will begin. The intent is to get seed in the ground as quickly as possible to take advantage of as much of the growing season left this fall as is possible. After completing this



process at Foster, the same will be done to McMillen and Shoaff greens. Upon closing this year, all greens will be aerified to provide a good starting point for next season.

✚ Golf staff is coordinating with City Utilities to begin reconstruction on holes affected by the Deep Rock Tunnel project. City Utilities is providing the dirt moving and the seeding. Our staff has a shaper ready to go to finish the dirt work on the green and fairway reconstruction. Irrigation systems that were affected are being repaired/replaced.

✚ We have asked for and received a bid to continue upgrading/expanding the cart fleet. That bid is being weighed against budget and other equipment needs, and we will update the Board as issues become clearer.

✚ 2025 is proving to be a trying year for the golf courses, but with the repair projects going on now and the prospective hiring of a new assistant superintendent, the courses will be much better off starting next year as opposed to where this year started. Although golf may have leveled out a bit nationally, there is still much optimism moving forward at the Parks courses.

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



- ✚ The Open Streets event was a huge success with approximately 7,000 participants, 120 activity providers and an economic impact estimated at \$370,000. These were all records for our 8th event.
- ✚ The Hanna Street Trail from Wallace to Berry construction has begun. We have the pre-construction meeting with Brooks Construction for the Hanna Trailhead at 612 E Pettit on 9/5. Both projects will be completed by the spring.
- ✚ Construction of the Covington Trail Hub at 7014 Covington Road has begun.
- ✚ The Illinois Road Trail from Rockhill Park to Getz Road is out to bid. We had the pre-bid meeting in late August. Construction will occur from October 2025 to October 2027. The project also includes roadway and intersection improvements.
- ✚ The Anthony Streetscape (includes a trail) project between Creighton and Pontiac was completed in August.
- ✚ The Glendale Road Trailhead Improvements for the Towpath Trail were completed in August. We added six parking spots, repaved the lot, and re-striped it.
- ✚ The ribbon-cutting for the Parnell Ave Bridge by Johnny Appleseed Park is slated for 9/18. This bridge project caused a detour on the Rivergreenway.
- ✚ I attended the Indiana Parks & Recreation Association's (IPRA) 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). I will be attending their first meeting on 9/11.
- ✚ I'm involved with planning a Legislative Round Table that will be held on 10/28 at 8 a.m. to promote the 82-mile Poka-Bache Connector to our state and federal delegations in hopes that they will help us secure funding for the remaining 30 miles.
- ✚ I'll be spending much of September working on the Indiana Trails Program grant for the Carroll Road Trail Gap. The grant is due to the DNR on 10/1. Hometown, Allen County and Fort Wayne Trails are partners.
- ✚ If I can get the grant done in time, I hope to attend the Greenways Foundation's Trails Gathering on September 25th and 26th in southern Indiana.
- ✚ We've begun crack-sealing some of our trails. We will also be marking dead trees for removal for a winter contract.



Division News and Media Coverage:

WANE, Inside look at how the FWPD uses force

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/we-dont-shoot-to-kill-inside-look-at-how-police-use-force/>

WPTA, Zumba in the Park at Promenade Park

[‘Zumba in the Park’ happening at Promenade Park throughout the fall](#)

WFFT, MYEC to hold youth violence prevention forum

https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-forum-to-tackle-youth-violence-with-community-leaders/article_d7361554-852c-4215-ac0c-1102623bd199.html

WOWO, Mayor announces MYEC youth violence prevention forum

<https://wowo.com/mayor-tucker-announces-opportunity-for-young-people-to-have-conversation-about-youth-violence/>

FW Bus Weekly, Statewide conference to celebrate Fort Wayne’s historic architecture

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_46a375a1-29c9-473c-ba0b-5e7ae3ae37f9.html

FW Bus Weekly, Historic Schaab building to become home to Mitchell’s Downtown, Flashbacks Downtown

[Sept. 8 - Historic Schaab building to become home to Mitchell’s Downtown, Flashbacks Downtown | News | fwbusiness.com](#)

Input FW, Fort Wayne’s streets can be dangerous without a car – Advocates say the fix starts with a plan

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/fort-waynes-streets-can-be-dangerous-without-a-car---advocates-say-the-fix-starts-with-a-plan.aspx>

WANE, City Council receives update on Fort Wayne neighborhoods

<https://www.wane.com/news/council-receives-update-on-fort-wayne-neighborhoods/>

FW Bus Weekly, Taste of Sister Cities Gala raises over \$32k

[Sept. 4 - Taste of Sister Cities Gala raises over \\$32,000 to support Fort Wayne Sister Cities International | News | fwbusiness.com](#)

September 2025 – NRPA Ezine <https://www.nxtbook.com/nrpa/ParksRecreationMagazine/september-2025/index.php#/p/Intro>

WPTA, Brewer Park dedication

https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/09/03/fort-wayne-parks-recreation-celebrates-brewer-park-reopening/?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=organicclicks&tbref=hp

WFFT, Brewer Park dedication

https://www.wfft.com/news/ribbon-cutting-ceremony-for-newly-renovated-park-and-art-piece/article_ee1a6985-5b26-4c24-8a55-d837caff0d1f.html



Ribbon-cutting ceremony for newly renovated park and art piece





WPTA, Feature on the Conservatory

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/08/27/foellinger-freimann-botanical-conservatory-shared-vision-turned-downtown-fort-wayne-gem/>

WANE, Google applies for permit to build on protected wetlands

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/google-applies-for-permit-to-build-on-protected-wetlands/>

WANE, Feature on the FWPD – Detective work and research that make policing better

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-waynes-scholar-detective-and-research-that-makes-policing-better/>

Indiana Capital Chronicle, Powering northeast Indiana's future with a balanced energy approach

<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/2025/08/27/powering-northeast-indianas-future-with-a-balanced-energy-approach/>

City Beat, Mayor Tucker's City Beat program

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=5xoRW89Bo9FwcMCU>

WPTA, City making progress on Southeast Strategy

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/08/18/its-great-see-progress-city-fort-wayne-nears-halfway-point-10-year-southeast-strategy-initiative/>

WANE, Towing contract RFP for City of Fort Wayne

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-seeking-sole-company-with-new-towing-contract/>

WOWO, Ten Point Coalition returns

<https://wowo.com/ten-point-coalition-returns-fighting-violence-building-community-in-fort-wayne/>



Fort Wayne Business Weekly, Malak Heiny receives award

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_c627998c-ca01-469d-b41f-6588d50bc1e8.html



Adams Radio Group, City's BUILD program offered in Spanish

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2025/08/18/90771/>

WANE, Open Streets feature

<https://www.wane.com/news/open-streets-returns-to-downtown-fort-wayne-sunday/>

WANE, Governor – Cities need to find efficiencies

<https://www.wane.com/investigations/braun-cities-need-to-find-efficiencies/>

WANE, DID's recent report to City Council

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/officials-give-report-on-status-of-downtown-fort-wayne-at-city-council/>

City TV, On the Move program with Councilwoman Chambers – Guests are Michelle Wood and Russ Garriott

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=8yYSEE54nlgURzaW>

WPTA, Fort Wayne UNITED/Ten Point Coalition relaunch

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/08/16/fort-waynes-ten-point-coalition-program-celebrates-relaunch/>

WTPA, Walk in the Park feature on an upcoming Riverfront FW activity

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/08/15/walk-park-paint-with-your-pup/>

WPTA, Fort Wayne out of \$17M in grant funds after EPA ends Solar for All program

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2025/08/14/fort-wayne-out-17m-grant-funds-after-epa-ends-solar-all-program/>



FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION



FIND YOUR AUDIENCE WITH FORT WAYNE PARKS AND RECREATION!

Our team offers safe and fun recreation programs through the support of donors, charitable organizations, and sponsors like you!

With Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, you can find sponsorship opportunities that allow you to support your community while reaching the people you're seeking.





Opportunities throughout Fort Wayne

Downtown Community Center

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical
Conservatory

Salomon Farm Park

Winterval

Riverfront Programs

Foellinger Theatre Concerts

Weisser Park Youth Center

Youth Athletics

Jennings Recreation Center

McMillen Park Community Center

AVAILABLE NOW!

**Here are some exciting upcoming events and programs that
your organization can sponsor this year!**



SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Wednesday **NOV 26**

Community Center, 233 W. Main St.

4:30
until
7:30

Make-n-Take Crafts Refreshments "Buddy" the Elf
Christmas Shopping Lighting at 6:10 p.m.

Donate a new or gently used bear for a chance to win a giant elf bear.



Headwaters Ice Rink
Clinton & Superior • 427-6000

Opens for the Season in November!

For extended holiday hours please visit fortwayneparks.org



The Headwaters Park Ice Rink is accepting dasher board sponsors for the 2025-26 season. You can see your business featured on the boards surrounding the rink all season long!



Contact us at 260-427-6000 to learn more about joining the wintry fun!

Christmas on the Farm



SAT DEC 6 1-5 PM

Salomon Farm Park, 817 W. Dupont Rd.

Santa Claus

Farm Animals

Kids Crafts

Holiday Music

Christmas Shopping

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides

A festive poster for the 71st annual Wassail event. The background is a warm gold color with a pattern of yellow snowflakes. The top and sides are decorated with green pine branches, gold and red Christmas ornaments, and gold streamers. The text is centered in a white rectangular area.

Please join us for the
71st annual
Wassail
Celebrating UBUNTU
“I am because we are.”
Sunday | 4-6:30
DEC 7 | pm
Jennings Recreation Center
1330 McCulloch St., Fort Wayne



Questions?

We'd love to talk with you about your organization's needs and discuss how a Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation sponsorship can help you reach your desired audience.

Contact Rob Hines at rob.hines@cityoffortwayne.org to start the conversation today!

Learn More