

Steve McDaniel, Director

- ✦ The team is hard at work interviewing candidates for seasonal positions. As different areas come online for operations, we have staggered physicals, drug tests, onboarding procedures, safety training, and job-specific training. This will be happening for the next four months.
- ✦ The administration section of the department has been working with Internal Audit for the past several weeks, finishing up their section's audit. The team did a great job, and I want to thank them for their hard work.
- ✦ The Mayor held her State of the City address, and Parks were one of the first areas to be covered.
- ✦ The administration team continues to draft updates to our Park Policies. This will take several more months and will culminate in new documents for the board to review, comment on, and vote for acceptance.
- ✦ Annually, we hold an All-Employee Meeting in February. This year's agenda has been modified based on feedback from staff from last year's meeting. The meeting was held on February 24th and we received good feedback. We continue to improve to make sure that the team is getting the most out of it.
- ✦ I am honored to announce that we awarded two individuals the Employee of the Year award for going above and beyond this past year. Our two winners are Nicole Roth and Neil Miller.
- ✦ The Theatre team is working on several offers for bands. This is in the form of rentals and co-pros with promoters, as well as us purchasing acts. Over the last month, several have been made and now we wait to hear if they will be accepted. We also have a list of others we are looking at to make offers.
- ✦ As the snow melted, we did not see any major flooding in our parks that we have seen in other years. We will continue to monitor the weather as we predict that there will be at least one more snowfall (based on previous years).
- ✦ Several of our team members have been working on equipment for the past few months, going through each piece to make sure that they are ready for what spring will bring.
- ✦ The Headwater's ice rink finished its season on February 22nd. The past few months have flown by. Attendance was about what we expected, with a few days where temperatures affected operations. Some temps were super cold while others were higher than normal, leaving us to close a few days over the season due to both extremes. Thanks to the team from Riverfront for making it another memorable season.

Chuck Reddinger – Deputy Director of Recreational Services,

Salomon Farm Park, Neighborhood Outreach, Jennings Recreation Center, Weisser Park Youth Center, McMillen Park Community, Community Center (Downtown), Riverfront (Promenade Park), Athletic Fields and Courts, Aquatics (Northside Pools/McMillen Park Pools), Golf (Foster Park/McMillen Park/Shoaff Park), Outdoor Recreation, Special Events, Headwaters Park, & Travel Service

✦ **Salomon Farm Park**

- Farm Camp Counselor positions are currently posted on the City of Fort Wayne website, and Salomon program staff are actively conducting interviews. The City's recently adopted iSolved Talent Acquisition system is functioning effectively and has streamlined the process of getting applications to hiring supervisors promptly. Farm Camp plans

to hire a total of 22–23 seasonal staff members, including 1 Camp Supervisor, 2 Assistant Supervisors, and 19 Camp Counselors. To date, staff have received 55 applications for counselor positions and 16 applications for the Camp Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor roles.

- Rental Coordinator Amanda Scherschel was recognized at the Parks All-Staff Meeting with a Caught in the Act Award for her exemplary work implementing rental rate increases at Salomon Farm Park. Her dedication, passion, and attention to detail contributed directly to a 39% increase in rental revenue compared to the previous year. Her efforts have significantly strengthened rental operations and positively impacted the park's overall financial performance.

Lindenwood Nature Preserve

- Interviews for the Lindenwood Nature Preserve Naturalist position were conducted throughout February, resulting in 29 total applications. After multiple interview rounds, the position was offered to internal candidate Katie Pratt, who joins the Outdoor Recreation team from the Botanical Conservatory. Staff looks forward to welcoming Katie as the new Lindenwood Naturalist.

Franke Park Day Camp

- Franke Park Day Camp received 41 applications for Camp Counselor positions, with a goal of hiring 25–26 counselors for the summer. In addition, the camp will hire 1 Camp Supervisor and 2 Assistant Supervisors, and 8 applications have been received for those leadership roles. The hiring process is underway, and staff are working to ensure full seasonal staffing for a successful and safe camp season. Vivi Clark will return as the Camp Supervisor, and Hannah Freimuth will return as one of the Assistant Camp Supervisors.

Sweet Breeze Canal Boat

- Sweet Breeze Canal Boat operations received 31 applications for the 2026 season for roles including Trainers, Captains, First Mates, Docents, and Deck Hands. Nine staff members will be returning for the new season. The goal is to hire a total of 14–15 team members to support smooth and consistent operations.

Riverfront

- Total Promenade Park program and rental attendance was 620.
- Headwaters Ice Rink recorded 2,465 visitors.
- Notable events included Yoga on the Riverfront, the Winter Market at Headwaters Ice Rink, Pilates, Dr. John Crawford Days, and the Lunar New Year celebration.
- Throughout February, Riverfront Fort Wayne continued to offer programming that emphasized wellness, community connection, and cultural celebration. Yoga on the Riverfront on February 8 provided participants with an opportunity to focus on physical and mental wellness in an outdoor winter setting. A Pilates session held later the same day offered an inclusive, low-impact, strength-focused workout that appealed to a wide range of fitness levels. Hosting both programs on the same day helped reach a broader wellness audience.
- On February 21, Riverfront Fort Wayne partnered with the Korean Festival to celebrate the Lunar New Year. The event highlighted cultural traditions and strengthened community relationships through shared activities and engagement.
- The Headwaters Ice Rink saw strong attendance in February, welcoming 2,465 skaters. Dr. John Crawford's continued support of \$1 Skate Days on Thursdays drew 632 skaters. The Winter Market, held on Valentine's Day, featured one vendor and provided a continued winter commerce opportunity despite its smaller scale. The Xfinity Free Skate Day on February 20 drew 142 participants, further supporting accessibility and community engagement.

Overall, February demonstrated strong participation driven by community partnerships and special promotional events.

Jennings Recreation Center

- During the reporting period, Jennings Recreation Center averaged seventeen registered youth in daily attendance. An average of nine Kids Café meals and seven snacks were served each day.
- The Allen County Public Library facilitated a creative activity in which youth created scrapbooks and memory projects to support reflection and storytelling.
- Erin's House provided an art-based activity titled "Awakening into Spring," allowing youth to create flowers and three-dimensional artwork centered on emotional expression.
- The Drum Fun program expanded participation, welcoming new youth and preparing them for ensemble performance opportunities.
- Jennings Recreation Center also hosted activities recognizing Black History Month, including Ubuntu programming, Afrikan Drumming, and fellowship events. Members of the local Jack and Jill chapter volunteered and engaged with youth and older adults, helping promote cultural awareness and intergenerational connection.

Community Center

- Social media engagement rose significantly from January to February. Facebook reach increased from 2,939 to 4,919, and engagements increased from 8,900 to 13,312, demonstrating strengthened community visibility.
- The Senior Information Fair Board donated \$1,250 in recognition of the Community Center's continued partnership and service.
- A total of 113 registrations were recorded across adult enrichment programs such as Ballroom Dance, Macramé, Financial and Medicare education sessions, Ukulele, Candle Making, Rag Rug, and others.
- On February 13, ICan Dogs hosted its Puppy Love program, offering therapeutic and interactive activities to participants.
- All staff completed the 2026 Kulture City training, reinforcing the Center's commitment to inclusive service.
- One of the two boiler pumps malfunctioned during the reporting period, but repairs were completed and the system was fully restored.
- On January 24, the Community Center hosted the Winter Carnival as part of Winterval. The event featured the Warm Heart Market with 28 vendors and drew 280 attendees despite extreme winter weather. Sponsorship support was provided by IN Donor Network, McDonald's, and Goodwill, and volunteers included eleven regular volunteers and ten Homestead Key Club students.

Weisser Park Youth Center

- The after-school program served 742 registered youth, averaging 38 per day. Staff served 40 breakfasts, 401 Kids Café meals, and 480 snacks.
- On February 3, youth participating in the Finding Your Roots program learned about the origins of Black History Month and the contributions of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Frederick Douglass, and President Abraham Lincoln. On February 10, the youth selected African American historical figures to research and began creating exhibits about their contributions.
- On February 10 and 17, youth participated in a STEM bridge-building competition in which teams constructed bridges and were evaluated on creativity and structural strength.
- Three outreach sessions were conducted. On January 22 and February 12, Turner Chapel AME Ubuntu Learning Lab facilitated sessions on ancient African symbolism and cultural literacy. On February 11, the Allen County Public

Library led a craft activity in which youth created paper flexagon fidgets.

- On February 5, the center hosted its Fourth Annual Family and Friends Night, welcoming ninety-one attendees for a shared meal, trivia, and karaoke, strengthening family and community engagement.
- On February 12, youth in the Turner Chapel AME Ubuntu Learning Lab visited Jennings Recreation Center to participate in an African drumming presentation led by Ketu Oladuwa. Participants engaged in hands-on percussion activities and cultural learning.

Community Outreach

- Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation’s Winterval event took place on January 24, celebrating winter activities across multiple park sites, including the Community Center, Botanical Conservatory, Promenade Park, and Headwaters Park. Attendance was estimated at slightly over 1,000 participants. Despite wind chills reaching -15 degrees and snow later in the day, the event received positive feedback from attendees.
- Planning has begun for Park & Play summer programming. As of February 18, ten staff members have been hired for fifteen available positions. Parks scheduled for activation in 2026 include Brewer, Packard, Buckner, Lakeside, Psi Ote, Waynedale, Kreager, Lions, and Hamilton Parks.
- On April 3, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation will partner with the Boys and Girls Club and the Optimist Club to host the Tri-Star Basketball Contest at McMillen Community Center, to welcome 100 youth participants.

McMillen Park Community Center

- Youth programming at McMillen Park remained active throughout February, offering daily opportunities including football, basketball, soccer, dodgeball, kickball, air-hockey tournaments, structured group exercise, and team competitions. Ongoing programs included Dance Collective and pickleball training.
- Youth attendance increased from 198 in January to 342 in February.
- Kids Café meals decreased slightly from 300 in January to 285 in February.
- Snack distribution increased from 175 in January to 220 in February, reflecting increased participation in daily programming.
- Kids Korner participation rose from 135 in January to 301 in February, showing significant growth.
- Facility rentals decreased from eight in January to five in February, consistent with normal monthly fluctuations.
- Pickleball participation increased from 222 participants in January to 310 in February, highlighting strong adult engagement.
- Two full-time Program Coordinator positions and one part-time Maintenance position remained vacant during the reporting period

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

Payroll and Accounts Payable

- The 2026 Budget includes the following permanent, full-time positions:
 - 130 general fund positions
 - 13 non-reverting operating positions
 - 7 local income tax (LIT) positions
- We currently have the following permanent, full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of February 28th, 2026:
 - Manager – Neighborhood Programs (Fund 121)

- Program Facility Coordinator – McMillen (2) (Fund 121)
- Relief Person – Grounds (Fund 121)
- Fleet Mechanic – Golf (Fund 439)
- Program Coordinator – Riverfront (Fund 439)
- Gardener – Riverfront (Fund 451)
- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 218 employees (143 full-time and 75 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending February 21st and paid on February 27th, 2026.
- 46 total P-Card statements were processed for February for charges made at the end of December to almost the end of January.
- There was a total of 543 invoices processed during February from 2/1 to 2/28.
- Seasonal hiring has begun! PDRs have been submitted for Golf Course employees who had the department’s first hiring meeting on 3/5.
- Theatre job descriptions have been revised, submitted to HR, and are now posted with applicants actively being hired in.

Customer Service and Finance

- An open house has been scheduled for the McMillen Family Pavilion on March 11th, 3:30 – 5:30.
- Vendor permit updated and added to web as Formata form. We have received a few since this started.
- Customers now have the option of receiving Dog park passes through the mail. The customer will need to complete the dog park registration online and submit current veterinary records. The front office staff will reach out to the customer once the forms are received to collect payment and see if the customer would like to pick up their dog park pass at the Parks and Recreation Main Office or have it mailed. Our customers like this new option, and most are requesting that their passes be sent to them by mail.
- Spring Fun Times registrations have started, and we are also receiving several questions regarding when registration will begin for summer camps, swim lessons, and all other fun summer activities.
- The front office entryway was recently changed and updated. It is more open and more accessible.
- All front office, payroll, and Theatre staff attended the 2026 All Employee Meeting
- Rhonda attended the Mayor’s State of the City
- Rhonda applied to renew the Theatre’s alcohol license
- Rhonda attended the Administration Audit Exit Review. Internal Audit had three findings. One was regarding our fleet vehicle use and preventative maintenance, the second was the Kreager Park Endowment investment account, and the third was a small change they recommended to the swimming pool change funds
- Rhonda attended the Southeast Area Partnership meeting on February 25th.

Foellinger Theatre Report - Overview

February focused on continued advancement of the 2026 Foellinger Theatre season through show confirmations, operational planning, staffing development, and new event management infrastructure. Efforts this month centered on confirming key shows, preparing ticketing systems, organizing staffing transitions, and strengthening operational tools that will support a more efficient and coordinated season.

Staffing / HR Development

- Conducted interviews for new seasonal staff applicants in preparation for the 2026 season
- Began rehiring returning seasonal staff members to retain experienced team members ahead of spring training and season preparation
- Began onboarding the new Theatre Community Events Assistant Manager, including orientation to theatre operations, event workflow, and upcoming season planning
- Managed the offboarding process for the Theatre Operations Assistant Manager, ensuring documentation and operational knowledge were transitioned appropriately



- Continued reviewing staffing structure and responsibilities to ensure readiness for the upcoming season

2026 Season Planning & Show Development

- Concerts currently on sale are David Lee Roth (6/11/26) and UB40 (10/4/26). Just announced on March 10th was Kansas +.38 Special (7/10/26). Continuing to work with Honeywell, Exceptional Artists and Mammoth Productions to confirm artists and finalize details for the 2026 Foellinger Theatre season
- Advanced booking conversations and routing opportunities as the season lineup continues to develop
- Continued planning the pacing and structure of the 2026 season to balance audience appeal, operational capacity, and venue goals
- Prepared confirmed shows for operational readiness and public announcement timelines

Ticketing / Box Office / Ticketmaster

- Continued building confirmed 2026 season events in Ticketmaster, including event setup and ticket configuration
- Prepared ticketing structures and internal event builds to support upcoming on-sale dates

- Continued organizing event scaling, ticket holds, and ticketing logistics to ensure operational readiness for the upcoming season

Operations & Event Management Systems

- Began purchasing and implementing Monday.com as the primary event management and project tracking platform for theatre operations
- Started building workflows and templates to track event logistics, production needs, staffing coordination, and vendor management
- Planning integration of Monday.com into internal operations to improve communication, transparency, and task management across departments

Production & Vendor Coordination

- Continued early coordination with Force Tech to support upcoming confirmed events
- Began organizing technical and operational requirements for the 2026 season, as details become available
- Initiated planning conversations to ensure production resources and vendor support are aligned with event timelines

Additional Work / Ongoing Items

- Continued coordination with internal departments and partners to support season preparation and the ongoing lighting project at Foellinger Theatre
- Continued administrative planning and scheduling related to the upcoming Foellinger Theatre season
- Continued refining event planning processes and internal workflows to support efficient execution during the season

Next Steps / March Priorities

- Confirm additional artists and finalize more shows for the 2026 Foellinger Theatre season
- Continue building events in Ticketmaster and preparing for upcoming ticket sales
- Continue onboarding the new Theatre Community Events Assistant Manager and integrating them into event planning workflows
- Continue interviewing and hiring seasonal staff in preparation for the season
- Train team on Monday.com, and expand setup and integrate event management workflows for theatre operation
- Continue production coordination and vendor planning for confirmed shows

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

Facilities Supervisor: Greg Reith

- Pavilion rentals totaled 69 for this month.
- Graffiti was removed from Lawton Park Skatepark.

- Annual cleanings were completed at Franke Park Day Camp Nature Lodge. The annual cleaning consisted of a top-to-bottom cleaning of the facility, which included everything from changing light bulbs to stripping and waxing the floors.
- Facility Park Person C's have been completing their annual cleans in the year-round rental pavilions. Next month, they will start the annual cleaning of the summer rental pavilions.
- Relief staff is finishing up preventive maintenance on the equipment. Once the preventive maintenance is completed, the equipment will be delivered to the routes to be used.

Maintenance Technician Supervisor: Mike Cremeans

- All toilets were removed and reinstalled at the McMillen Park golf pro shop to allow flooring contractors to complete their work.
- Renovations to the lobby area of the Northside Park administration building are ongoing. This is to expand the area to make customer interactions more accessible and inviting.
- The restrooms at the PSI-OTE lower pavilion at Northside Park were renovated. This included all new plumbing fixtures and wall covering.
- Franke Park pavilion #1 received interior renovations that included new electrical fixtures, ceiling fans, and a fresh coat of paint throughout.
- Heater motors in the center range of the Lawton Park greenhouse were replaced.
- Hose bibs were updated in the atrium area of the Botanical Conservatory.
- There were **9** calls to the on-call person this month. **4** of which were lock issues, **3** were calls from dispatch regarding alarms, and **2** were miscellaneous issues.

Maintenance Technician completed the following:

13: Alarm Maintenance, **38:** Building Maintenance, **14:** Carpentry, **57:** Electrical Repair, **16:** HVAC Maintenance, **1:** Key Core Maintenance, **19:** Light Maintenance, **13:** Lock Maintenance, **12:** Paint, **2:** Playground Maintenance, **28:** Plumbing Maintenance, **6:** Sign Maintenance, **4:** Vandalism

Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment

- Tree limb and debris cleanup continues as needed at various park locations.
- River greenway Trail continues to be serviced weekly to remove sticks, debris, and snow.
- Botanical Conservatory and Lakeside Park compost bins continue to be emptied as needed.
- Grounds crews are running trash routes three days a week, ensuring all receptacles in the parks are emptied.
- Crews have plowed snow, shoveled walkways, and applied salt to icy walkways, parking lots, and roads in parks and community centers as needed.
- Grounds crews transported several pieces of old equipment from the Harris Road Barn and delivered them to the Lawton Park laydown yard to be scrapped or sent to auction.
- Parking blocks have been straightened and replaced as needed in various parks.

- Trees were pruned at Shoaff Park, Memorial Park, Bloomingdale Park, Franklin Park, Hamilton Park, Franke Park, Psi-Ote Park, Gren Park, Repka Park, and Lafayette Park to improve appearance and allow mowers better access to maintain turf beneath the trees.

✚ Main Trac Coordinator: Nicole Roth

- Main Trac Entries: 5,526 for the month, and we had 15, 311 calls to the City’s 311 Center
- 0 volunteer hours reported, time sheets, contracted/sales were entered into the system, and monthly reports for the Recreation Staff were run.

✚ Superintendent: Mike Gore

- Approve and record invoices for various materials that are being used in our grounds, maintenance, and facilities departments, along with managing a variety of issues on all sides of Maintenance.
- The 2026 River Greenway inspections are continuing.
- Spending time with the new HR hiring system, trying to find our new employees in the grounds area, and continuing to work with contractors to ensure 2026 purchase orders are completed.
- Starting the MMR reports for IDEM at the spray parks for the 2026 season.

✚ Operations and Support: Travis Roth Storeroom and Property:

- Storeroom staff purchased nylon “fanny pack” style first aid kits for the Franke Park Day Camp to replace their outdated ammo can style kits. Several more were purchased to stock in the storeroom for future use.
- 2 additional Kenwood radios were purchased for the Salomon Farm staff.
- We continue organizing a new storage space for Toro parts in the storeroom.

Property Transactions:

26 Stihl GTA26 Pruners (9)	Added Into Inventory	P230
26 Stihl GTA40 Pruner	Added Into Inventory	P230
26 Stihl MSA70 Chainsaw	Added Into Inventory	P230
26 Stihl BR600 Blower	Added Into Inventory	P230
26 Mantis 7940 Tiller	Added Into Inventory	P230
26 Countryline Box Blade	Added Into Inventory	P240
26 Stihl HS82R Trimmer	Added Into Inventory	P240
26 Stihl HT105 Pole Pruner	Added Into Inventory	P240
26 BE Pressure Washer	Added Into Inventory	P250F
23 Simpson Pressure Washer	Removed From Inventory	P295R
26 Dewalt Pressure Washer	Added Into Inventory	P295R
26 Stihl USG Chain Grinder	Added Into Inventory	P295R
97 Stihl 026 Chainsaw	Scrapped	R211
26 Kenwood Radios (2)	Added Into Inventory	R530

2026 Vehicle and Equipment Purchase Update:

Forestry Bucket Truck	Ordered
Ford F250 Pickup	Waiting on Fleet Quotes
Toro 5910 Mower	Quotes

Garage Operations Highlights:

- 177 work orders were scheduled this month, 25 of which were services.
- Power Components assisted the garage in organizing and stocking hydraulic hoses and fittings to allow staff to make hoses in-house. The first use was replacing a leaking line of the forestry grapple truck with a hose made in the garage within minutes of the breakdown.
- A large portable pressure washer with the ability to heat water was purchased for facilities to enhance their ability to pressure wash park areas and facilities.
- Garage employees worked on repairing and maintaining plow equipment as multiple snow events kept grounds crews very busy. This included replacing plow cutting edges, wiring, and hydraulic cylinders. A new powered V-plow has been ordered to replace one of the older models currently in use.
- One of the Toro 1200 towable mower decks from the golf courses has significant cracks and will require a replacement deck to be purchased. This deck has been ordered from Kenney Machinery. Rear roller kits were also purchased for all 3 of the Toro 1200 decks used by the golf courses.
- The 2026 purchase order for Kenney Machinery was presented to the city council and approved. This purchase order supplies parts for grounds mowers, along with golf course equipment repair parts.
- The riparian barge was brought into the garage for regular winter maintenance and a bilge pump upgrade. A new pressure washer was also purchased for the riparian division as well.
- New floor buffers have been ordered for facilities, along with a gas golf cart for the maintenance techs and a pull-behind pressure washer for Headwaters.
- Garage staff spent time making chainsaw chains, sharpening mower blades, and rebuilding mower deck spindles to prepare for the upcoming spring and summer seasons.
- Large storage cabinets were sourced to help organize the small motors shop. If they work as intended, more will be purchased to help organize the rest of the garage.
- The spare Zamboni is closer to being fully operational. An aftermarket ignition controller box was tested on the unit, and the engine now has spark and will run. A few small fine-tuning operations are required, and the ice machine will be able to be put into use if needed.
- Several grounds maintenance zero-turn mowers were brought into the garage to have wheel motors replaced and other repairs performed to prepare the machines for the upcoming mowing season.
- Multiple pieces of unused and junk equipment were transported from the golf course and the Harris Road barn to be either scrapped or sent to auction. These old mowers, seeders, blowers, and spreaders have been used for years and are no longer worth repairing, or parts are no longer available.
- The large New Holland tractor from Salomon farm was transported to Lawton to have the leaking front axle repaired. This has been leaking slowly for some time, but requires the entire front axle assembly to be removed, so this work could not be performed during the farm season when this tractor is used frequently.
- Stihl hand-held equipment was delivered for both grounds and landscape operations. These pieces of equipment were entered into inventory, checked over by the small engine mechanic, and then put into operation with the various divisions.
- A forestry attachment for a Bobcat loader was inspected by garage staff to prepare it for use by grounds to clear brush and trees at the Foster West dog park.

Project Administration: Dave Weadock

- Bloomingdale Park Playground Equipment – Installation planned for Spring of 2026.

- Boone Street Park Fence Replacement – Project planned for Spring of 2026.
- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Design – Planning is in progress.
- Buckner Park Stream Crossing – Planning ongoing through the Landscape Division, and the House Lighting Installation – Installation is 95% completed.
- Foellinger Theatre Rear Parking Lot Lighting – Installation is in progress, and the Step Lighting – Fabrication and installation of refurbished lighting is planned for March.
- Foellinger Theatre Ticket Office Windows Replacement – Installation is planned for early March.
- Foster Park Golf Course Restoration Plan – Is in progress with completion planned in Spring.
- Foster Park Golf Renovation Design – Planning is in progress, and the Pavement Striping – Installation is planned when weather allows.
- Foster Park Playground Drinking Fountain – New fountain is on order and will be installed by Parks staff in spring.
- Franke Park Concrete Improvements – Crosswalk and ADA ramp replacement scheduled for early to mid-March, and the Franke Park Day Camp Longhouse Lighting – Planning is in progress.
- Gren Park Picnic Shelter – Planning is progress.
- Hamilton Park Picnic Tables and Benches – Installation of new furniture and concrete pads is planned for Spring.
- Hamilton Park Playground Border Replacement – Construction planned for the summer of 2026.
- Hanna Homestead Park Playground Equipment – Installation planned for mid to late April.
- Hanna Homestead Park Redevelopment – RFP for design firms planned in Spring.
- Hanna Homestead Playground Border – Bidding is in progress.
- Hanna Homestead Playground Removal – Work is planned for late March to early April, and is planned with new playground equipment scheduling.
- Headwaters Park Bridge Railing Renovation – Renovation to begin in early Spring.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Construction is in progress.
- Headwaters Park West Sidewalk Leveling – Work is scheduled to begin in Spring.
- Headwaters Park West Sidewalk Stairs and Pavers Renovation – Purchase order acquisition is in progress.
- Johnny Appleseed Campground Fire Pit – Installation is in progress.
- Johnny Appleseed Campground Paving Projects – Revised campsite locations and pavement renovation planned for spring.
- Kreager Park Playground Equipment – Installation planned for Spring 2026.
- Kreager Park Tennis Center Fence Renovation – Work set to begin in March.
- Kreager Park Tennis Courts Recoating – Bidding is completed. Awaiting approvals.
- Lafayette Park New Sidewalks – Bidding is completed. Purchase order acquisition is in progress.
- Lafayette Park Playground Equipment – Purchase order acquisition is in progress.
- Lafayette Park Playground Equipment Removal – Work is planned for mid-April in conjunction with the installation of new playground equipment.

- Lafayette Park Tennis Courts Fence Renovation – Modifications are planned for early April prior to other construction projects in the park.
- Lakeside Park Electrical Service Upgrades – Installation with new fountain in Spring.
- Lakeside Park Pond Fountain – Awaiting installation of new fountain in Spring.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof Design – Bidding is completed. Purchase order acquisition is in progress.
- Lindenwood Nature Preserve Wood Railing Replacement – Work is planned for early Spring.
- Lions Park Pickleball Court Paving Repair – Work is planned for late April or early May.
- Lions Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts Recoating – Bidding is in progress.
- McMillen Park Basketball Goals Pads Replacement – Installation is in progress.
- McMillen Park Golf Clubhouse Flooring & Painting – Project is completed.
- McMillen Park Pavilion Roof Replacement – Bidding is completed. Purchase order acquisition is in progress.
- McMillen Park Pool Deck Engineering Design – Design is in progress.
- McMillen Park Pool Drains Improvements – Construction planned to begin once existing pool liners are removed.
- McMillen Park Pool Liners Replacement – Construction is in progress.
- Memorial Park Picnic Table Concrete Pads – Installation in Spring.
- Memorial Park Picnic Tables – Installation is planned for Spring.
- Northside Park Pool Sand Filters Replacement – Installation planned for April 2026.
- Northside Park Psi-Ote Pavilion Lower Updates – Project is completed.
- Promenade Park Safety Surfacing Replacement – Installation planned for Spring 2026.
- Repka Park Playground Equipment – Installation planned for early to mid-March.
- Salomon Farm Animal Barn Renovation – Planning is in progress.
- Salomon Farm Old Barn Flooring – Application to improve flooring planned for May.
- Salomon Farm Old Barn Gutters Replacement – Planning is in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rear Parking Lot Lighting – Planning is in progress.
- Salomon Farm Restroom Building Door Replacement – Awaiting delivery and installation of new door in late February.
- Shoaff Park Playground Equipment – Installation planned for spring.
- Swinney Park East Trail Relocation – Planning and permitting is in progress.
- Various Park Pavilions Exterior Painting – Project planned for Spring of 2026.
- Various Parks Paving Projects 2026 - Bidding is completed. Awaiting approvals.
- Various Parks Sidewalks Replacement – Planning is in progress.
- Various Parks Signage Improvements – Projects ongoing.
- Weisser Park Tennis Courts Fencing Replacement – Project planned for Spring 2026.

Other work:

- Content preparation for Engage Fort Wayne
- PAS Division GIS training sessions in progress with staff
- Preparing GIS content for the Parks mobile application
- Various Parks: cost estimates for various projects are being prepared upon request, along with the completion of several park assessments.
- Various Parks: planning projects for the 2027 budget
- Various Parks: underground utility locates were scheduled and performed.
- Various Parks: assisting the Marketing department by preparing requested project information.
- Various Parks: reviewed potential and necessary future projects, and are still in the process of updating park site plan bases and building plans.

Safety: Tony DeVido

- There was NO Parks & Recreation Department Safety Committee meeting held in Feb. due to the Annual All Employee Meeting
- 1 CPR/FA class was held. 2 employees were certified.
- 2 vehicle crashes and 2 employee injuries were reported for this time period.
- I participated in the city-wide Safety Review Council meeting.
- The initial new employee training program (SOAR) was held with monthly sessions planned.
- The biennial AED inspections continue.
- SDS book collection and digitization are underway.

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

Botanical Conservatory Report – February 2026

- February at the Botanical Conservatory carried forward the momentum of the winter season, with Fern’s Fairylight Express continuing to anchor guest interest while staff advanced a full slate of programs, exhibits, and behind-the-scenes work. After January’s unusually harsh weather, February represented a steadier return to typical winter operations—supported by strong admissions performance, continued growth in Café Flora, and increased “Other Revenue” activity. The month also marked an important lead-in to spring, as teams prepared for a variety of experiences, including Slightly Used Orchid Sale (March 7-8), Great Train Connection (March 13-15), Bunny Tales (April 3-4), and Color in Motion (Opening April 21).
- Public programs and seasonal displays remained active and well-received throughout the month, highlighted by the Orchid Show (February 7–8) in partnership with the Three Rivers Orchid Society, the continued Sweetheart Orchid Display (February 5–March 1), and another strong Talitha Shipman book signing tied to Fern’s Fairylight Express. Behind the scenes, staff and volunteers made measurable progress supporting the Grow it! School Plant Program, including Chairperson meetings, ongoing bag prep, and early logistics for April distribution.

- Facility and landscape work also moved forward despite winter conditions, including continued snow response, contractor coordination for repairs, and progress within the Desert House and outdoor spaces as they began to thaw. Meanwhile, business development remained active with new grant submissions, sponsor reporting, and continued advancement of a comprehensive fundraising plan to guide earned and contributed revenue strategy moving into Q2.
- Aleeyah Herport & Ava Beauchamp began their work in the role of Food Service Assistant – Café Flora. Current vacancies include Camp ACTIVenture staff positions (returning candidates have been selected and are awaiting clearance by Human Resources) and Seasonal Gardener.

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

- February 2026 represented a solid recovery from January’s weather-driven softness, as the Botanical Conservatory returned to a more typical winter operating rhythm following a stretch of exceptionally cold conditions that depressed attendance in January. While February visitation finished slightly below last year (7,505 visitors, down 3.82% from February 2025), revenue performance strengthened notably across several categories—most importantly in admissions, retail, and overall revenue.
- Admissions revenue held strong and modestly exceeded last February, and membership revenue also trended ahead for the month—signs of continued demand and steady member engagement even as year-to-date totals remain impacted by the January weather outlier. Retail activity remained positive, with Conservatory Shop sales slightly ahead of last year and Home & Garden Show performance also improving year-over-year. Café Flora continued to contribute meaningful earned income, supporting the overall retail operation and guest experience.
- While rental and catering revenue fell sharply in February—consistent with seasonal booking patterns and timing of full-facility rentals—“Other Revenue” increased significantly, driving a strong year-over-year gain in total revenue for the month. Overall, February total revenue finished up 32.91% compared to February 2025, lifting the year-to-date total revenue ahead of last year and reinforcing the Botanical Conservatory’s strong financial trajectory entering spring.

Attendance

February 2025:	7,803 visitors
February 2026:	7,505 visitors
A decrease of 298 or -3.82% to 2025	

YTD Comparisons

2025 Attendance:	17,271 visitors
2026 Attendance:	13,501 visitors
A decrease of 3,770 or -21.83% to 2025	

Admissions Revenue

February 2025:	\$31,544.00
February 2026:	\$31,636.00
An increase of \$92.00 or +0.29% to 2025	

YTD Comparisons



Staff Reports Submitted – Thursday, March 12, 2026

2025 Admissions Revenue: \$65,141.00
2026 Admissions Revenue: \$53,442.00
A decrease of \$11,699 or -17.96% to 2025

Membership Revenue

February 2025: \$9,430.00
February 2026: \$9,806.00
An increase of \$376.00 or +3.99% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Membership Revenue: \$22,063.00
2026 Membership Revenue: \$18,176.00
A decrease of \$3,887.00 or -17.62% to 2025

Conservatory Shop Revenue

February 2025: \$19,865.58
February 2026: \$20,465.30
An increase of \$599.72 or +3.02% to 2025

Home & Garden Show Revenue

Home Show 2025: \$13,946.29
Home Show 2026: \$14,733.20
An increase of \$786.91 or +5.64% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Gift Shop Revenue: \$54,468.43
2026 Gift Shop Revenue: \$49,062.64
A decrease of \$5,405.79 or -9.92% to 2025

Café Flora Revenue

February 2026: \$10,244.87
YTD 2026: \$18,921.29

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

February 2025: \$11,225.00
February 2026: \$1,995.00
A decrease of \$9,230.00 or -82.23% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Rental Revenue: \$21,550.00
2026 Rental Revenue: \$9,575.00
A decrease of \$11,975 or -55.57% to 2025

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

February 2025: \$13,137.20
February 2026: \$39,093.57

YTD Comparisons

2025 Other Revenue:	\$11,523.59
2026 Other Revenue:	\$40,663.27

Conservatory Total Revenue

February 2025:	\$85,201.78
February 2026:	\$113,240.74
An increase of \$28,038.96 or +32.91% to 2025	

YTD Comparisons

2025 Total Revenue:	\$174,746.02
2026 Total Revenue:	\$189,840.20
An increase of \$15,094.18 or +8.64% to 2025	

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

- Staff submitted a grant proposal to the BAE Foundation for support of the 2026 Showcase Garden Exhibits.
- Staff sent an interim report as required to Norfolk Southern for their support of the Desert House Improvements Project.
- Staff drafted a letter announcing the date of the grand opening and press conference (March 26, 2026, at 1 pm) to all the current foundation sponsors of the Desert House Improvements Project. The letter gave an update on the completion of mediation of the soil and mulch, the horticultural care needed for certain plant specimens, the fifteen new unique specimens, and the work done by local artists Julie Wall and Steve Perry. The letters will be sent in the first week of March.
- The Conservatory received \$1,000 from Liz Wyatt Melendez for support of the 2026 Color in Motion Butterfly Exhibit.
- The Conservatory received \$1,500 from PHP for support of the 2026 Botanical Brew.
- Staff is working on a new comprehensive fundraising plan for the Botanical Conservatory that covers all earned and contributed revenue streams. The plan will serve as the master playbook for revenue growth. Expected review, completion, and approval by the end of Q2 2026, with the plan in use by Q3 2026 and beyond.
- Staff submitted a media sponsorship proposal to ALT 99.5 & 102.3 for support of the 2026 Back to our Roots music program.
- Staff submitted an interim sponsorship report to the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Barbara Bradley Baekgaard Family Foundation, Magee-O'Connor Foundation, and Wilson Foundation for their support of the holiday season of the 2025-2026 Fern's Fairylight Express Exhibit. A final report will be sent in April 2026 for the entire period of the exhibit from November 22, 2025, through April 12, 2026.
- Staff provided promotional tickets and information to US 93.3 for the promotional spots for the 2026 Great Train Connection.

Botanical Conservatory Public Programs: Events

- Orchid Show (February 7 & 8)

In partnership with the Three Rivers Orchid Society, 7 exhibitors displayed diverse collections of orchids in bloom. These displays showed the true passion of the exhibitors who welcome Judge's ribbons, such as Best in Show! Three different vendors offered guests the opportunity to begin or add to their own collection, in addition to a fourth vendor who presented unique jewelry pieces made from dried orchids. While beautiful and much appreciated by 978 guests, attendance was not as high as 1,322 in the previous year. Members constituted 21% of the guest attendance at 204, up slightly over 20% in 2025, revealing that the Orchid Show remains popular among Conservatory Members.

Education

- Continuing T'ai Chi (January 13-February 3)

Sandy Gebhard resumed her t'ai chi instruction via a continuing series. With a max registration allotment of 20, 15 students registered to further their mastery of the Sun Style forms of t'ai chi offered during this 4-week program. Despite the bitter cold, this series maintained an 80% attendance rate with students braving the weather for their t'ai chi practice.

- Book Signing– Talitha Shipman (February 21)

Author and illustrator Talitha Shipman enjoyed another great turnout for her third *Fern's Fairylight Express* book signing. The Botanical Conservatory saw 216 visitors during this event, many of whom stopped for an autograph or a picture!

- T'ai Chi for Relaxation (January 20-February 24)

Liz Monnier returned with 13 students who registered for the opportunity to relax with the movement of t'ai chi. While Liz instructs the QiQong form, this 6-week evening series allowed students the opportunity to enjoy practicing in an exclusive garden setting after hours.

- Grow it! School Plant Program

There were two optional Chairperson Meetings held on February 5th at 10 am and 6 pm. Programming staff went through an overview of Phase I of the program, from seed and t-shirt orders to plant delivery windows. A total of 31 Chairpersons attended these meetings, allowing them to get their questions answered and move forward with confidence in supporting their schools.

- Behind the scenes in February, there were 2 days of bag prep when volunteers stapled plant care sheets, counted, and bundled bags, working toward a goal of 17,400 total. This will be the second year for bags to be distributed with the plants. Of course, plants are already being grown at the Lawton Park Greenhouse in preparation for April distribution! Allowing more time this year, optional orders of seeds, t-shirts, and pencils will be due later, with an added emphasis on helping to fund the program. All items must be ordered by March 6th with pickup at the Botanical Conservatory from April 1st to 30th. Coming up on March 18th is when seed packaging is scheduled for volunteers to count and package seeds according to student orders.

Youth Field Trips: The Botanical Conservatory hosted 96 visitors from three school groups in February 2026. Last year, three groups brought 128 students to the Conservatory.

Exhibits & Displays

Fern's Fairylight Express (November 22-April 12)

The newest showcase exhibit is one for the books! See the magic of *Fern's Fairylight Express* come to life, as you follow an enchanting story by local author and illustrator, Talitha Shipman. Books are available at Allen County Public Libraries as well as for purchase in the Conservatory Shop. With so many favorite features to choose from, guests ooh and aww at the book printed in an XXL version plus they cannot get enough of the Bromeliad Towers. There is also a G-scale model train and a bigger play train for guests to enjoy in addition to other elements from the book that were created in collaboration with the Botanical Conservatory. Guests are also invited to a Scavenger Hunt to learn about ferns and discover what smaller elements are in the garden.

Ben High: Gathered After the Fall (November 22-April 12)

Ben High is a multidisciplinary artist and graduate of Wabash College whose work incorporates a variety of natural elements foraged from the Botanical Conservatory. His pieces are available for purchase at shop.botanicalconservatory.org. A public artist's reception was held on February 22nd from 1-3 pm.

Sweetheart Orchid Display (February 5- March 1)

A stunning display of epiphytic plants welcomed guests into the Tropical House. These included a diverse array of Orchids and a variety of Air Plants in addition to the existing Staghorn Fern. Some of the Orchids even gave off a lovely fragrance! This year's Sweetheart Orchid Display also incorporated a large circular orb along with Kokedama-style hangings, all made in-house. Following the display on March 7th and 8th, there is a new Slightly Used Orchid Sale where plants from the display will be available for purchase during public hours.

Volunteers/Staff

February welcomed two new volunteers to the Botanical Conservatory. As for volunteers who are already active, 6 volunteers filled a total of 26 shifts at the Front Desk while 7 volunteers filled 31 shifts in the Gift Shop. Two regular volunteers continued doing weekly plant grooming in the gardens. Specific to *Fern's Fairylight Express*, 2 volunteers assisted with train maintenance and answered guest questions in the Showcase Garden. A total of 7 volunteers collectively prepared over 3,000 bags to be distributed as part of the Grow it! School Plant Program. A total of 8 volunteers prepared 700 goody bags for the upcoming Great Train Connection. With Color in Motion about 2 months away, 28 different volunteers have already committed to 207 shifts for 63% coverage to date!

Upcoming

November 22-April 12, 2026: *Fern's Fairylight Express* showcase exhibit

November 22-April 12, 2026: *Gathered After the Fall*, art display by Ben High

April 21-June 21: Color in Motion live butterfly exhibit

March 13-15: Great Train Connection

March 23: Annual Volunteer Celebration Dinner

April 3-4: Bunny Tales in the Garden

April 12-20: Showchange Week

April 21: Opening of Color in Motion live butterfly exhibit

April 26: Spring Artisan Market

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

Rock mulch was selected and procured for the Desert House beds. It was sourced locally from Felger's Peat Moss, and the material was available in three different sizes. All three sizes of material were utilized in various proportions to create a more interesting and varied appearance. A different rock material was selected for the

seating area and emergency exit walkway to provide contrast and to use something that would interlock to create a firm walking surface.

Labels have been ordered for the new plants in the Desert House. This new label format will be used as a template for future label purchased to continue the labeling through the other Houses and into the outdoor gardens as well.

Vanda orchids were procured from a grower in central Florida. The orchids were delayed in shipping due to exceptionally cold weather. The Vandas were a beautiful addition to the Sweetheart Orchid Display with their exceptionally large flowers. The plants will be kept as part of the permanent orchid collection.

Nearly all the noxious Algerian ivy has been removed from the south side of the Showcase House. The ivy harbored numerous pests and functioned as a refuge for the pests that would continually infect other areas of the Showcase House.

An RFQ was sent to vendors to procure quotes to install retaining walls on the south side of Showcase House to stabilize the slope. Once the slope is stabilized, it will be planted with permanent plantings that will be lower maintenance while also enhancing the aesthetics of the Showcase House

As the outdoor gardens have thawed, Botanical Conservatory Horticulture staff have begun to perform spring cleanup activities of shrub pruning and cutting back perennial plants.

Brandenberger TCP performed extensive tree work at the Botanical Conservatory. The contractor removed four trees—two that were becoming hazardous, and two of which were in decline. The crew also performed end weight reduction pruning on the large river birch, training pruning on the young zelkovas, and clearance pruning along Douglas Avenue and Harrison Street.

Insecticide treatments have been made in the Desert House to control pest issues, with follow-up treatments scheduled.

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

Central Indiana Hardware completed repairs to the southeast entrance door after high winds damaged the door closure.

McAllister Machinery has been contracted to perform a full maintenance service on the generator to evaluate overall function and determine whether the unit can be returned to service.

Allied Mechanical removed the primary failed large air compressor and also removed the secondary compressor from the basement boiler room, as both units were non-functional for Botanical Conservatory operations. The secondary compressor was transferred for reuse at the McMillen Golf Course maintenance garage, and the removal of both units freed valuable space in the boiler room for future operational needs.

Staff continued regular snow removal and ice control throughout the month to maintain safe passage for guests and to ensure contractors could access the facility for ongoing building projects.

Work also continued on the atrium wall spigot rebuild, with contractors addressing associated drywall restoration, as well as completing ceiling repairs in the Kessler Room. These items are expected to be finalized in the first weeks of March. Chair rail materials for the Kessler and Jaenicke Rooms have been ordered and are pending delivery prior to installation.

Teusch Electric completed the lighting replacement/conversion in the electrical rooms off the linkways and is scheduled to install LED ceiling puck lighting in the main hall in March.

Ruiz Painting completed painting of the gallery hall slatwall and addressed the angled wall sections after removal of damaged displays; they also removed remaining wallpaper, repainted the gallery walls, and completed door

frame painting.

Simplex was called on-site to correct a door fault in alarm wiring and replace two magnetic sensor sets, restoring full system functionality.

Katie Pratt will depart her position as Seasonal Maintenance in early March, as she has accepted the position of Naturalist at Lindenwood within the Parks & Recreation Department.



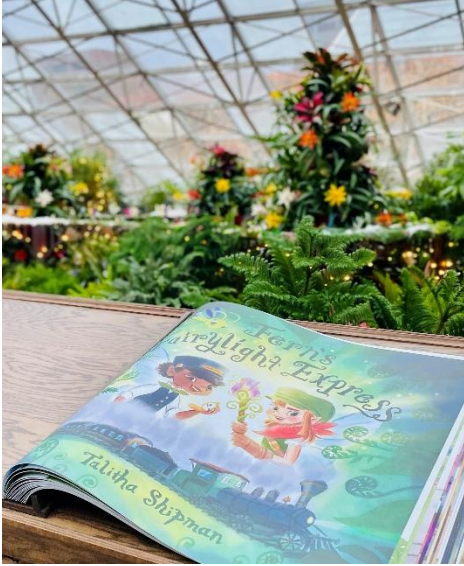
Guests marvel at beautiful displays during the Orchid Show



Students practicing T'ai Chi after hours in the Tropical House



February Chairperson's Meeting for Grow it! School Plant Program



An XXL version of Fern's Fairylight Express in the Showcase House



Epiphytes galore as part of this year's Sweetheart Orchid Display



Volunteers from EasterSeals are assisting with bags for Grow it!

Parks Planning

- Riverfront Phase II B construction has been slow due to the weather. The contractors have been working on an updated cost and schedule due to recent scope of work changes. Staff continues to coordinate construction activities with adjacent developments at the old Schaab Metals building, More Brewing, relocated Depot, and the Eddy. Staff continues to meet with AEP for coordination of this project with their transmission line rebuild.
- The Foster Park Entrance design development drawings have been reviewed for value engineering opportunities.

- Staff continue to coordinate with members of Wildwood Park Community Association and Heritage Landscapes on the Wildwood Park and Rockhill Park Historic Landscape Study and Guideline project.
- Staff met with neighborhood leaders, the Foellinger Foundation and Community Foundation leadership to discuss the next steps in the Hanna Homestead Park masterplan design process and funding concerns.
- The Wells Street Park conceptual plan has been posted on the Engage Fort Wayne website to obtain public input on the proposed plan in preparation for the next steps of design.
- Staff met with the steering committee for Reservoir Park to review the conceptual masterplan and discuss next steps for the design.
- Staff met to discuss the proposed projects for the Connected Neighborhoods Grant. Staff are working with the group to discuss the feasibility and cost of several proposed projects in the area parks.
- Staff drafted the plan for the upcoming Pueblo Garden showcase so the team can start building the various elements and procuring materials.
- The Conservatory’s Exploration and Terrace Garden Design project started with a two-day kick-off meeting with the design consultants and staff. The consultants interviewed the staff to gather information regarding day-to-day operations, events, rentals, maintenance operations, etc., as well as all the aspirations for the improvements to the gardens.

Horticulture and Landscape Report- February 2026

43 volunteers worked 355.35 hours in the greenhouse, helping to transplant, clean plants, price and label, clean the greenhouse benches, and get plants together for the home and garden show and the gift shop.

There were 13,319 seeds sown for Parks, Mother’s Day Plant Sale, and Conservatory Showcase.

765 plants were provided for the Home and Garden Show.

A total 3,588 Spider Plants, 3,469 Begonias, and 3,488 Umbrella Plants were propagated/transplanted for Grow it! School Children’s Plant Program.

All landscape staff assisted in snow removal and salting at Lawton Park, Promenade Park, Riverfront IIA, Lakeside Park, Headwaters Park, and Foster Park during winter weather events.

The Lakeside Park team focused on daily litter pickup, leaf removal, perennial bed cleanups, tree pruning, and equipment maintenance. Staff did daylight pruning on the Yews and Barberries, while also deadheading and pruning the Hydrangeas. The team also worked on removing brush around the west side of delta pond #3 to improve both aesthetics and views of the pond. Staff continued cutting down and cleaning up the native grass vegetation around the ponds.

The Foster Park team focused on daily litter pickup, leaf removal, perennial garden and golf clubhouse cleanup & pruning, stick/limb cleanup, tree/shrub pruning, and honeysuckle removal and treatment along the greenway trails. When the weather allows, the Foster Team has been working their way across the golf course raising tree limbs, removing brush around trees, and pruning dead wood.

The Downtown Team and City Team worked together most of the month to improve efficiency and to team build. The Downtown team did continue to consistently pick litter daily. Due to heavy snow, teams focused on pruning. Areas pruned were Kensington Boulevard, Pontiac Boulevard, Beechwood Circle, Lafayette Esplanade, Foellinger

Theatre, Franke Park, Northwood Boulevard, and the Indian Village subdivision Boulevard. Some dead/dying tree removal and stump grinding took place in Headwaters. Bed cleanups were made between snow melting events at Promenade and Riverfront IIA.

Lawnganics contract was renewed for Turf Fertilization and Weed Control for the Various parks contract, Headwaters Park, Riverfront IIA, and Promenade Park.

Triscap's contract was renewed for mulching Promenade Park and Headwaters Park.

Clounie Landscaping was awarded the Riverfront IIA mulching contract this year via competitive bid.

Visionscapes contract was renewed for mulching Foellinger Theatre, Kreager-Taylor's Dream, Meyers Park, Downtown Community Center, McMillen Pool, Northside Pool, Nuckols Park, Freimann Square, Courthouse Green, and Main Street Medians.

Mulching contracts for Franke Pavilion 1, Franke Pond Pavilion, Salomon, PSI OTE Upper and Lower, Shoaff Riverlodge, Indian Village Sears Pavilion, Jennings Center, Powell Park, McKinnie Commons, McMillen Community Center, and the Weisser Center were renewed with Pride Landcare.

Mowing contracts were renewed with Pride Landcare for Foellinger Theatre, Myers Park, Franklin Park, Powell Park, Freimann Square, Courthouse Green, Main St. Medians, the Downtown Community Center, McMillen Pool, Northside Pool, Memorial Pool, Foster Gardens, and McKinnie Commons.

The mowing contract for Headwaters was renewed with MJK Lawncare. MJK was also awarded the mowing contract for Promenade and Riverfront IIA this year through competitive bid.

Pfister Sprinkler Systems contract was renewed this year to continue handling the irrigation maintenance contract for Headwaters, Promenade, Riverfront IIA, Northside Pool, Northside Office, Freimann, Courthouse, Community Center, Meyers, Foellinger Theatre, Main Street Medians, Lakeside, Foster, McKinnie Commons, and Swinney Letterbed.

Heartland Restoration Services contract was renewed for maintaining native plantings, rain gardens, bioswales, etc. at Salomon Farms, Kreager Park, Buckner Park, Lakeside Park, Reservoir, and the Thomas Nature Sanctuary.

Landscape staff completed online training to gain necessary credits and stay current with their herbicide licenses.

Riparian Management Report- February 2026

Continued research and planning for new dock system for Promenade.

Followed up on last year's TeenWorks volunteers' work site at Shoaff. Cut stumps closer to the ground and treated the stump.

Began extensive repair and maintenance on barge for upcoming season.

Continued to monitor geese activity for geese egg addling season.

Completed yearly maintenance on all wrapped trees and newly wrapped trees to prevent damage from beavers.

Supervisor completed OSHA 30 Hour class at PSA.

Presented to Little River Wetlands' "Breakfast on the Marsh" and Q&A session about the Riparian Division's work along the rivers.

Forestry Report- February 2026

The 2025/2026 Street Tree Removal Project is underway. So far, 71 of the contracted tree/stump removals have been completed. The remaining 23 contracted removals are expected to be completed by May. In-house crews will be working to remove 188 additional trees over the next few months.

Currently, 507 Street tree stumps are under contract for removal. We anticipate all of these stump removals being completed by May 1st.

The 2026 Emerald Ash Borer treatment is under contract. Davey Resource Group will be treating 383 ash trees in June.

Began collaboration for our annual Arbor Day celebration. This year's event will be held on April 24th. Stay tuned for additional information regarding when and where the event will take place.

Scheduled a small spring tree planting to replace a series of Callery Pear trees that were removed by AEP to facilitate their project. Funding for these replacement trees was provided by AEP.

In February, Forestry crews completed 5 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 34 trees in February. 2 of these were storm-related, and 2 were the result of vehicle damage.

Crews responded to and cleared 8 storm-related broken/fallen/hanging limbs.

Completed 11 tree damage appraisals for trees that had been struck by vehicles. These appraisals resulted in \$5,200.00 in damages to City-owned trees.

Responded to and closed (19) 311 Call Center requests for service this month.

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager, Lead of Marketing

✦ www.RiverfrontFW.org had 5,623 hits to the site this month. We continue to use RiverfrontFW.org to promote upcoming events and share current Riverfront news.

✦ Camp registration starts on March 23rd. The Marketing Team is working on various marketing pieces prior to this date.

✦ **Web Statistics:**

Active Users: 14,875

Event Counts: 105,356

✦ 61 Graphic Design projects completed.

✦ Redesigned the layout of the Senior Games brochure. Goal: to have the brochure in the mail by the 2nd week of April, with registration to start on May 4th.

✦ Spring Riverfront program promotions are near completion.

✦ Completed application for a local grant for playgrounds. Waiting for results.

✦ Received notice of Tree City USA award and Growth Award.

✦ Produced video for the All-Employee Meeting.

✦ Social media promotions for: Spring Fun Times, Citizen Match Tree Program, two Marketing Intern positions, Headwaters Park ice rink, Wells Street Park, Call for Input, and Annual Staff meeting photos.

✦ Arranged for over 10 media interviews with select staff promoting February events.

✦ February Media Mentions: 46.

Social Media Totals for February:

FB Followers 111,083

FB Viewers	396,391
X (formerly Twitter) Followers	13,907
Instagram Followers	31,440

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

- ✦ The Parks golf courses are slated to open on or about March 21. The winter has not been terrible on the courses, but a long period of cold weather has gotten the frost line low. As this disappears, it will take some time for the ground to firm up.
- ✦ The full-time maintenance staff is now set with the addition of Assistant Superintendent Seth Pequignot. Seth has a great resume, including time at the Fort Wayne Country Club. Maintenance has been hard at work all winter repairing and servicing equipment, and will be very busy once they can get outside to aerify the golf greens and get seed in the ground to repair last year's damage.
- ✦ Onboarding day for seasonal staff was March 4 and was well-attended. The inside golf staffing is good, with a nice mix of returning and new employees. The outside staff is in as good or better shape than it has been in years.
- ✦ In late March, we will take possession of 18 new golf carts, while trading in 12 2015 models. This will both increase and modernize our fleet. We will still have 28 remaining 2015 models, which are approaching the end of their usable life. We will continue to expand and modernize the fleet as budget allows.
- ✦ High School boys' golf and middle school golf will start as soon as the courses open. A total of six schools utilized our facilities.
- ✦ Leagues are being contacted for the start of their seasons (usually mid-late April), and new leagues are being added. With the Canterbury golf course closing, their golf association is moving to McMillen Park and offering a schedule of events open to all.
- ✦ The Deep Rock Tunnel project at Foster is finally completed. The 7th green has been rebuilt and the irrigation repaired. The repairs were not completed in time last fall to get seed in the ground, but that will be done as soon as the weather allows. Eventually, the course will return to its normal routing, but will start the season with the nines reversed (as they were last year).
- ✦ Golf in Indiana declined a bit in Indiana last year, completely due to weather. The national numbers continue up, as ours will with decent weather and improved playing conditions

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



FW PUBLIC WORKS
**Greenways
& Trails**

- ✦ City Council adopted ordinance revisions about electric devices like e-bikes and other vehicles on trails/sidewalks and in parks. The Park Board will vote on these changes at its March meeting. We will then get the message out at trailhead kiosks, update signage on the trails, the City website, social media, and John Perlich's 60-second weekly radio spot.

- ✦ We will have a “Meet the Contractor” meeting for the public and property owners for the Illinois Road Trail and Road Improvement project on March 25th at 3 p.m. in the Omni Room of Citizens Square. Our contractor, Bunn Excavating, hopes to begin construction of the 2-mile-long trail (Rockhill Park to Getz Rd) in late March/early April.
- ✦ We will hold a public information meeting at the Waynedale United Methodist Church on April 8th at 6 p.m. for anyone who wants to learn more and provide input on the Poka-Bache Connector Trail along the east side of Bluffton Road from Lower Huntington Road to Ferguson Road. This trail is scheduled for construction in 2028.
- ✦ We met with and are negotiating with one property owner for the Vann Family Crossing (Pufferbelly Bridge over Coliseum Blvd). Utility coordination continues. We are addressing INDOT’s comments and will hopefully secure a right-of-way permit from them soon. We are also in the last phase of the consultant selection process to select an engineering firm to manage the construction. The bidding will likely happen in May, with construction beginning this summer through the summer of 2027.
- ✦ We recently added 14 dog waste stations on the trail system. We already had some stations on the Pufferbelly Trail.
- ✦ Dawn will be attending the Greenways Foundation of Indiana Strategic Planning Retreat in Carmel on March 14th.
- ✦ Dawn will be on a panel and have an information booth at the “Women in Construction Day” Conference at Purdue-Fort Wayne on March 16th.
- ✦ Fort Wayne Trails has a new program called “soft maintenance teams” that they hope to kick off this spring or summer. They will have volunteer groups available to help with light maintenance projects along the trail system. Fort Wayne Trails will provide the supervision and tools necessary.

National / State / Division News and Media Coverage:



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION



[Parks Recreation Magazine • March 2026](#)

[Park and Recreation Month Cover Contest | Park and Recreation Month | National Recreation and Park Association](#)

[Fort Wayne magazine March 2026 | FortWayne.com](#)

[Fort Wayne magazine February 2026 | FortWayne.com](#)

WANE, Surack’s downtown investment

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/surack-enterprises-scottish-rite-vision-revealed-city-to-consider-tif-abaitment/>

WANE, Will it be illegal to drop off homeless individuals in Fort Wayne

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/will-it-be-illegal-to-drop-off-the-homeless-in-fort-wayne/>

WANE, Foellinger Theatre announces concert

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/classic-rock-bands-unite-for-concert-at-the-foellinger-theatre/>

WANE, Will it be illegal to drop off homeless individuals in Fort Wayne

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/will-it-be-illegal-to-drop-off-the-homeless-in-fort-wayne/>

WPTA, Airport Expressway project at City Council

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/03/11/fort-wayne-city-council-approves-29m-overpass-airport-expressway/>

WPTA, Paulding Road project

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/03/10/months-long-closure-planned-paulding-road-near-kettler-park/>

WPTA, Public meeting on the Illinois Road project

https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/03/11/fort-wayne-public-works-host-public-meeting-illinois-road-trail-road-improvement-project/?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=organicclicks&tbref=hp

WFFT, City to begin spring leaf bag collection

https://www.wfft.com/video/spring-cleaning-help-fort-waynes-leaf-pickup-starts-march-23/video_f6f82c52-aeef-53de-9128-d6eb7cd3ad08.html

Input FW, What do Citilink's route changes mean for southeast FW

<https://inputfortwayne.com/what-do-citilinks-route-changes-mean-for-southeast-fort-wayne/>

FW Bus Weekly, Fair Housing Summit is next month

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_da695106-39da-4ff4-bb57-1cf5859c264e.html

WANE, Hotel planned for southeast FW

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/trashed-54/Hotel>

Two Fort Wayne natives plan to build a \$9.5 million hotel on vacant land in southeast Fort Wayne, helping meet a need identified in a 19-year-old plan to revitalize the quadrant.

Tracy Foster and Quinton Dixie started F&D Hospitality Group LLC in December to pursue the hotel project. The hotel will be built at 1661 S. Phoenix Parkway, just southeast of Menards at Southtown Centre.

Fort Wayne City Council members approved an agreement that would phase in real property taxes over 10 years. During that time, F&D will pay more than \$1.6 million in real property taxes and save about \$1.3 million.

The property has been vacant for 22 years, which means it hasn't been generating tax revenues.

The Southeast Area Development Strategy adopted in 2007 identified several needs for the underinvested area, including hotels and restaurants. The plan was created after years of public and private disinvestment.

"The past 10 years or so, people were trying to get a restaurant southeast with limited success. We had Taco Bell, Starbucks, but not the sit-down-after-Sunday-dinner restaurant that people were kind of requesting," Dixie said. "The thought was, well, maybe we do that in reverse: get the hotel first and then it'll help create a market later for a sit-down restaurant."

Dixie, former CEO of the Fort Wayne Urban League, was asked whether he has led a development like this before. That isn't included in his experience, Dixie said, so he wouldn't do it alone. Foster, who will own 51%, has this type of experience.

The development is expected to create three full-time jobs with an average salary of more than \$46,000, along with eight part-time positions. The hotel, planned to be nearly 38,000 square feet, will have three floors and 80 hotel rooms.

Councilman Geoff Paddock, D-5th, said the tax abatement shouldn't be viewed as a handout because it is a great investment, considering the city hasn't received tax revenue from the land.

The need for more hotels in Fort Wayne has been discussed as the city continues to grow, including through a fieldhouse that will be built on the North River property in downtown.

Councilwoman Michelle Chambers, D-at large, said she is excited to see the project come together after she and Dixie first discussed it five years ago. She thanked him for being persistent and said he is creating a gateway project for the area. "We've been looking for a hotel to come southeast for decades now," she said, "and I believe that this is the perfect mix for the opportunity."

Councilman Tom Freistroffer, R-at large, said he was happy to support the project that will increase foot traffic for southeast businesses.

The development is in an economic development target area, which is why this hotel was able to get a tax abatement while others might not, said Councilman Russ Jehl, R-2nd.

The tax break was supported by all council members except one: Councilman Paul Ensley, R-1st. He opposes all tax abatements because he believes they create an unlevel playing field, with not all businesses getting them.

Construction is to start in August and be completed by the end of next year, according to council documents.

WANE, Redevelopment Commission takes action on North River project

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/master-planning-for-north-river-development-begins/>

FW Bus Weekly, Redevelopment Commission takes action on North River project

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_13db7b46-0a87-4477-8184-17828250fcc6.html

Adams Radio Group, Street Dept. to lead spring leaf bag collection efforts

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/03/10/spring-cleanup-brown-biodegradable-bag-collection-to-begin-3/>

WOWO. Sen. Busch discussing the casino

<https://wowo.com/state-sen-justin-busch-clarifies-ne-indiana-casino-plan-and-the-2026-referendum/>

WOWO, Rep. Morris on energy

<https://wowo.com/small-nuclear-reactors-and-data-centers-what-indiana-is-considering/>

Around Fort Wayne, Mayor Tucker at Yale Mayors College and Yale CEO Caucus

<https://aroundfortwayne.com/news/2026/03/06/mayor-tucker-to-attend-yale-mayors-college-and-yale-ceo-caucus/>

Indy's Child, Fort Wayne featured as a spring break day trip destination

<https://indyschild.com/travel-spring-break-day-trips-near-home/>

City TV, News Around Town program – Features on Peace Corps as well as New Markets Tax Credits

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=e3iNumrUVtHJO9n0>

WANE, Headwaters Church tenant to house single moms and families in need

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/headwaters-church-tenant-to-house-single-moms-families-in-need/>

WANE, Allen Co. Fire Districts hold third public hearing on consolidation

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/allen-county-fire-districts-host-third-public-hearing-on-consolidation/>

WANE, FWPDP using advanced ballistics technology to cut gun violence

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-police-using-advanced-ballistics-technology-to-cut-gun-violence/>

Indiana Capital Chronicle, Governor signs bill on immigration, homelessness and dozens more into law

<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/briefs/governor-signs-bills-on-immigration-homelessness-and-dozens-more-into-law/>

FW Bus Weekly, Barry Bagels expands in Indiana with new development deal in Fort Wayne

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_873b31a3-2a2f-4449-a8e8-468f0b711923.html WANE, HART releases

2025 stats and impacts

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/hope-and-recovery-team-hart-releases-2025-statistics-and-impact/>

WOWO, Turpin on North River

<https://wowo.com/commissioners-corner-update-on-north-river-development-project/>

City TV, Neighborhood Presidents Meeting

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=RUZ0EgW1TC4Dyamq>

Classic rock pairing Kansas and 38 Special to play at Foellinger Theatre, July 10

General and in-person sales begin on Friday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m.

Fort Wayne, Ind. –Two of America’s preeminent classic rock bands, **KANSAS** and **38 Special**, are coming for an incredible night of classic rock live at Fort Wayne’s **Foellinger Theatre** on **Friday, July 10**. The concert is hosted by Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation in partnership with Exceptional Artists and Mammoth.

Fans will hear iconic KANSAS classics including “*Carry on Wayward Son*,” “*Dust in the Wind*,” “*Point of Know Return*,” “*Play the Game Tonight*,” and “*The Wall*,” along with 38 Special favorites such as “*Hold on Loosely*,” “*Rockin’ into the Night*,” “*Caught Up in You*,” and “*Fantasy Girl*.”

With a legendary career spanning five decades, KANSAS has firmly established itself as one of America’s iconic classic rock bands. This “garage band” from Topeka released their debut album in 1974 after being discovered by Wally Gold, who worked for Don Kirshner, and have gone on to sell more than 30 million albums worldwide.

Composing a catalogue that includes 16 studio albums and five live albums, KANSAS has produced eight gold albums, three sextuple-Platinum albums (Leftoverture, Point of Know Return, Best of KANSAS), one platinum live album (Two for the Show), one quadruple-Platinum single “Carry on Wayward Son,” and another triple-Platinum single “Dust in the Wind.” KANSAS appeared on the Billboard charts for over 200 weeks throughout the ‘70’s and ‘80’s and played to sold-out arenas and stadiums throughout North America, Europe and Japan. “Carry on Wayward Son” continues to be one of the top five most played songs on classic rock radio, and “Dust in the Wind” has been played on the radio more than three million times!

50 years together. 20 million albums sold. More than 15 albums of guitar-driven southern rock stacked high with hits like “Hold on Loosely,” “Caught Up in You,” “If I’d Been the One,” “Back Where you Belong,” and “Second Chance.” 38 Special is proof that there’s strength in numbers.

Formed in 1974, the band toured tirelessly from the start, sharpening the explosive live show that’s been 38 Special’s calling card for a half-century. Along the way, the Florida natives fine-tuned their sound too: a blend of muscle and melody, filled with the arena-rock pop hooks that would soon become staples of FM radio. Years passed...trends



changed...some band members retired from the rigors...but 38 Special remained, hitting the road year after year, flying the flag for an enduring form of classic rock & roll that never dies.

Local pre-sale tickets will be available from 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, with code *MAMMOTH* at <https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/05006468346A9581>

All general and in-person sales at the Parks and Recreation Department (705 East State Blvd.) begin Friday, March 13, at 10:00 a.m. For more information, visit www.foellingertheatre.org.

City TV, FWFD graduation of the 98th class

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=74ftL4UhjReJWX2y>

WANE, FWACC feature

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/kitten-season-is-approaching-heres-how-you-can-help/>

WFFT, City Utilities breaks ground on Bullerman Drain project

https://www.wfft.com/news/business/750-000-grant-boosts-fort-waynes-bullerman-drain-flood-project/article_3853f81a-1012-4795-a8c9-dbc6b040cdf1.html

Indiana Capital Chronicle, Greg Ballard to run for Secretary of State in Indiana

<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/04/former-gop-mayor/>

Input FW, How volunteers and local businesses are supporting trails

<https://inputfortwayne.com/how-volunteers-and-local-businesses-are-supporting-160-miles-of-trails/>

WANE, HART releases 2025 stats and impacts

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/hope-and-recovery-team-hart-releases-2025-statistics-and-impact/>

WOWO, Turpin on North River

<https://wowo.com/commissioners-corner-update-on-north-river-development-project/>

WPTA, As Fort Wayne work to address homelessness, officials warn state's public camping ban isn't the answer

[As Fort Wayne works to address homelessness, officials warn state's pending 'public camping' ban isn't the answer](#)

WANE, Governor signs casino bill

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/indiana-governor-mike-braun-signs-casino-bill-says-referendum-change-was-a-must/>

Indiana Capital Chronicle, Greg Ballard to run for Secretary of State in Indiana

<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/04/former-gop-mayor/>

Input FW, How volunteers and local businesses are supporting trails

<https://inputfortwayne.com/how-volunteers-and-local-businesses-are-supporting-160-miles-of-trails/>

Input FW, Fort Wayne Trails – A merger that changed how the city moves

<https://inputfortwayne.com/fort-wayne-trails-a-merger-that-changed-how-the-city-moves/>

Retiree Rambles

Thursday, April 2, 10:00 a.m.

Lindenwood Nature Preserve, 600 Lindenwood Avenue

Make new friends and enjoy a low-impact, mid-morning walk through the woods at Lindenwood Nature Preserve. Meet by the office at the park entrance **every first Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.** before heading out. No registration is required. Just drop in and join the walk. Recommended for ages 50+, but all are welcome.



For release: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 Contact: Natalie Eggeman, Mayor’s Office, (260) 427-1167

Workshops Set for Neighborhood Engagement Grant Program

Applications open April 6

Fort Wayne, Ind. – Fort Wayne Neighborhood leaders interested in applying for a City of Fort Wayne Neighborhood Engagement Grant are invited to attend one of two workshops that will explain the grant application process.

The workshops will be held at Foellinger Foundation, 520 E. Berry St., on the following dates, with food and beverages provided.

- Saturday, March 14, at 10 a.m. and
- Monday, March 16, at 6 p.m.

Applications for the grants will open on April 6 and close on May 8, with awards announced in early June.

The Fort Wayne Neighborhood Engagement Grant Program is funded by Foellinger Foundation and provides resources to help neighborhood associations host programs and events that bring residents, businesses, and organizations together to strengthen neighborhood connections.

“Empowering people to take an active role in their community isn’t just important; it supports lasting, positive change,” said Sarah Strimmenos, Foellinger Foundation President and CEO. “Foellinger Foundation is proud to once again partner with the City of Fort Wayne’s Department of Neighborhoods to support the residents they serve.”

Grants range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 to support activities such as educational workshops, neighborhood clean-up events, and social gatherings. The program’s goal is to encourage collaboration and volunteerism in neighborhoods and to address collective needs in ways that can make a positive, lasting impact.

More information on the grant requirements, including how to contact the grant administrator, is available at <https://engage.cityoffortwayne.org/2026-neighborhood-engagement-grants>.

The City of Fort Wayne’s Community Development Division works to establish Fort Wayne as the Community of Choice for residents, visitors, and businesses by growing the economy, strengthening neighborhoods, and supporting housing options. Visit CityofFortWayne.in.gov/CD for more information.

WANE, Parks and Recreation Community Center feature

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-parks-and-recreation-community-center-to-host-sensory-friendly-dr-seuss-event/>

Adams Radio Group, North River District moving forward

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/02/27/city-north-river-district-development-moving-forward/>



Adams Radio Group, FWFD graduation

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/02/27/95838/>

PBS, Indiana Lawmakers program – Local government is the featured topic

<https://www.wfyi.org/programs/indiana-lawmakers/television/local-government-1>

Indiana Capital Chronicle, Braun’s second legislative session – MIA or covert success?

<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/2026/03/02/brauns-second-legislative-session-mia-or-covert-success/>

WFFT, Allen County presents 2025 year in review

https://www.wfft.com/news/allen-countys-2025-in-review-73-6m-boost-pandemic-funds-transform-infrastructure/article_6435317c-3f26-4fc7-bb49-4c47063cb100.html

WANE, Nearly 700 homes proposed in SW Allen Co.

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/neighbors-voice-opposition-to-nearly-700-proposed-homes-ahead-of-public-hearing/>

Our annual Arts United & United Way Employee Campaign is here!

Learn more: [A Special Message from the Mayor & Community Partners](#)

From **March 3rd to March 18th, 2026**, we’re coming together to support **Arts United** and **United Way of Allen County** — two incredible organizations making a real impact for youth and families in our community.

Giving is easy!

Donate online using the links below or complete a paper pledge form (available in HR — contact Mayra Presley or Krista Diehl if you need one). Choose payroll deduction, cash/check, credit card, or “bill me later.”

Every donation — no matter the amount — enters you into our raffle!

[City of Fort Wayne Giving | Arts United](#)

[City of Fort Wayne Giving | United Way of Allen County](#)

Fun raffle prizes include:

- Show passes to the new Arts United Center
- Gift cards & swag items
- And much more!

Participating in **Jeans Fridays**? Just \$3 per pay period. Consider donating today! 😊



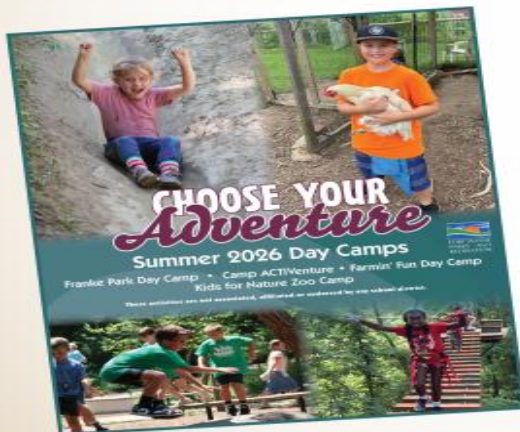
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PARKS AND
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SUMMER

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fortwayneparks.org

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★ **Scholarships Available** ★
See either brochure for complete details.



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WBOI, **AWS Foundation changes name to WindSwell**

<https://www.wboi.org/health-science/2026-01-21/aws-foundation-changes-name-to-windswell>

WFFT, Protecting animals during cold weather

https://www.wfft.com/news/protecting-your-animals-during-extreme-winter-temperatures/article_6657a0ad-d617-44ee-ae44-a5372a916505.html

Riverfront Social Runners

Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

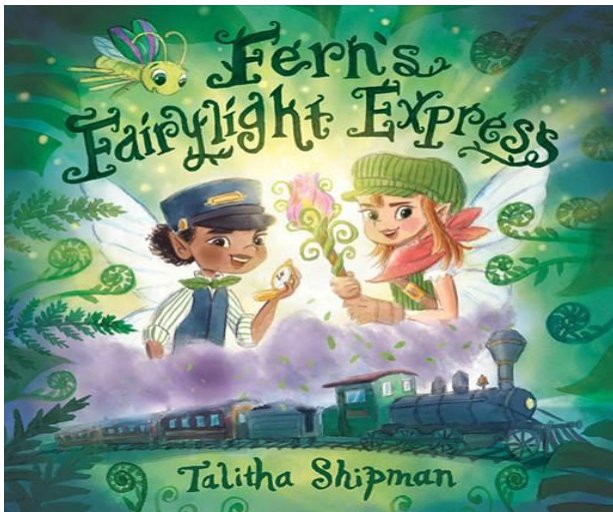
The Riverfront Social Runners are calling all runners and walkers—no matter your experience level! Join the club on the Strava App and discover your community at your own pace. Stay connected and up to date on upcoming

meetups, fun challenges, and Riverfront adventures by following Riverfront Fort Wayne on Strava and social media. Don't miss the chance to get active and make new friends along the way!

Holiday Showcase Exhibit: Fern's Fairylight Express

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

All aboard the Botanical Conservatory's journey of discovery, imagination, and botanical wonder. This winter, step into a one-of-a-kind exhibit where the magic of trains transports you to a whimsical world as part of an enchanting story by local Author/Illustrator, Talitha Shipman. Read along and join your new favorite characters, Fern, Bug and Sprout on an unforgettable adventure through Fairy Glen. Experience the magical transformation of the Fairylight Express as you work together to get it back on track. For visitors of all ages, don't miss this opportunity to Let Your Imagination GROW! Sponsored by: Fort Wayne Park Foundation, Barbara Bradley Baekgaard Foundation, English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Wilson Foundation, Majic 95.1 and PBS Fort Wayne.



SHOWCASE GARDEN
EXHIBIT

November 22, 2025

thru

April 12, 2026



FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION



HONEYWELL
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 27, 2026

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Announces New Performance
Presented by Honeywell Arts & Entertainment
Tickets go on sale Friday, January 30, at 10 a.m.

Fort Wayne, Ind. – Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation adds a new show to its lineup at the Foellinger Theatre. Honeywell Arts & Entertainment presents UB40 on Sunday, October 4, 2026, at the Foellinger Theatre. Tickets go on sale Friday, January 30, at 10 a.m. and will be available online at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or in person at the Parks and Recreation Department, 705 East State Blvd.

UB40: The Unstoppable Tour 2026 – Sun., October 4, at 6:00 p.m.

UB40 is one of the most successful British groups of all time, having sold more than 100 million albums worldwide. Their global No. 1 hits include “Red Wine” and “(I Can’t Help) Falling in Love With You,” along with U.S. Top 10 favorites “Here I Am (Come and Take Me)” and “The Way You Do The Things You Do.” The reggae/pop legends continue to perform their iconic catalog alongside songs from their 45th-anniversary album, *UB45*.

About the Foellinger Theatre

The Foellinger Theatre in Franke Park was constructed in 1949 as a gift to the community from Helene Foellinger in memory of her father, Oscar G. Foellinger, former publisher of the Fort Wayne News Sentinel. The Theatre was designed to provide a unique type of entertainment space—an informal, open-air community gathering and performing area, molded into a grassy hillside in the park. For more information about the Foellinger Theatre, please visit fortwayneparks.org.

Media Contact: April McCampbell | april.mccampbell@cityoffortwayne.org | (260) 427-6024

About Honeywell Arts & Entertainment

Honeywell Arts & Entertainment encompasses the full range of arts opportunities and venues of The Honeywell Foundation, a nonprofit public charity based in Wabash, Indiana. The organization is dedicated to providing arts, education, and entertainment for all through live entertainment, movies, arts education, cultural events, culinary experiences, Honeywell Arts Academy, and more. Offerings take place at eight venues including the Honeywell Center, Honeywell House, Eagles Theatre, Charley Creek Inn, Charley Creek Gardens, Dr. James Ford Historic Home, Clarkson House, and 13-24 Drive In. Honeywell Arts & Entertainment partners with a network of venues throughout the region to further the reach of live entertainment programming. Honeywell Arts & Entertainment programs and activities are made possible by generous donors and in part by Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne; the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. For more information about Honeywell Arts & Entertainment, please visit honeywellarts.org.

Media Contact: Jessica Bott | pr@honeywellarts.org | (260) 274-1429

Incident Weather Procedure: Any program changes, facility closures or other weather-related adjustments will be posted to the FWPRD social media pages and website. If the Mayor declares an emergency, all Parks and Recreation facilities and programs will be closed or canceled.