

Steve McDaniel, Director

- + The team is working hard on the onboarding process for our summer staff. This is when the bulk of our summer hires start with us. It is also the time when training, setting up materials, and preparing for the first days of summer happen.
- + The team continues to explore key values of the department when making sure that discussions of budgets get closer to being submitted to the Controller's office.
- + Several meetings with the Theatre team happened this month. The start of the new season and trying to maximize efficiencies in several areas. We are also looking at new concessions and drink ordering locations.
- + The Mother's Day Plant sale was a huge success. The four-day event culminated several months' worth of work and volunteer hours. This fundraiser helped secure funds to pay for staff members who are not supported by tax dollars.
- + We met with the team from Ruoff's Stadium to discuss parking, their start to the season, and how Buckner Park plays in all of that. We had a great dialogue, and we are excited about their success.
- + Sweet Breeze Canal Boat was launched on May 12th. It was about a week later than we had anticipated because of the river levels after several storms earlier in the month. The first tours happened towards the holiday weekend.
- + I attended training that the Foellinger Foundation held mid-month. This was a great experience that afforded me an opportunity to meet with non-profit leaders from several organizations in our area. I really appreciated the chance to attend.
- + Linda Falater from the Community Center retired after 14 years of service with the department. The team at the Center held a gathering for her.
- + Chad and I met with representatives of Arts United as stakeholders to share our thoughts on their organization as part of their strategic plan update.
- + As we led up to the Memorial Day weekend, we held a press conference in which we opened the Headwaters' Splash Pad. This was a project in the works for the last several years.
- + Rick Schuiteman presented at our board meeting, sharing news from the Zoo and their plans for the 2026 season. It was great information.
- + The Historic Fort Wayne group presented it to the Legacy Committee as part of their grant application process. I attended the meeting to show our support for their work at the Old Fort for all of these years. They were given directions to maximize their opportunities in future grants. I also shared that we would be there to help support them in those applications.
- + Deputy Chad Shaw, Superintendent Stacy Haviland, and I met to discuss the design work happening at the Botanical Conservatory. Several options were discussed, and I feel very good that the future will be in good hands as they work through several details. This was very exciting.

- ✚ I met with the president of G2 to discuss their plans for Shoaff Park, along with their programming. I connect them with Eden to open the door to possible future partnerships with our programming.

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 (Bob Arnold/Northside Park Pools/McMillen Park Pools), Golf (Foster Park/McMillen Park/Shoaff Park), Outdoor Recreation, Special Events, Headwaters Park, & Travel Service

✚ **Community Outreach**

- On Saturday, April 25, 2026, Jennings Recreation Center staff attended the Johnnie Mae Farm Block Party from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Staff interacted with approximately 30 attendees and shared information about Parks and Recreation programs and services.
- On Saturday, May 2, 2026, the Supervisor of Community Outreach and Jennings Recreation Center Supervisor participated in a wellness fair at Shepherd's Hand Church from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Staff engaged with approximately 100 attendees and provided information on Parks and Recreation opportunities.
- On Monday, May 11, 2026, the Supervisor of Community Outreach attended Family Night at Forest Park Elementary School from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Approximately 100 individuals visited the booth to learn about available programs and services.
- On Friday, May 15, 2026, the Supervisor of Community Outreach, Community Center staff, volunteers, older adult participants, the Superintendent of Recreation, and the Marketing Manager represented Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation at Sweetwater's Be Well Expo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. More than 300 people interacted with the Parks and Recreation booth, making it one of the largest outreach opportunities of the reporting period.

✚ **Jennings Recreation Center**

- Jennings Recreation Center averaged 28 youth participants per day. Staff continued supporting youth development through educational, recreational, and enrichment activities.
- The Allen County Public Library provided creative learning activities that encouraged youth engagement and participation.
- Erin's House wrapped up its school-year sessions with a pizza party for participating youth. The program continued offering support and education focused on emotional wellness and grief.
- Drum Fun sessions led by Kétu Oladuwa gave youth opportunities for self-expression and cultural enrichment through drumming activities.
- Sankofa Sessions continued with support from community Elders, offering activities centered on academic development, cultural learning, and mentorship.
- Jennings Recreation Center hosted its End of School Year Celebration, attended by 40 youth. The event included a meal, games, and prize opportunities, providing a positive end to the school year and promoting community engagement.

Community Center (Downtown/233 W Main Street)

- On April 23, Karen attended training at Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control. Heather Hunley taught tips and tricks for social-emotional training focused mostly on the kids we might see in our youth programs and camps with milder presentations of ADHD or Autism, etc. Some ideas have been included for training seasonal staff. While at FWAC&C, Karen chatted with the staff, and they agreed to bring animals and be a special speaker during the two weeks of PODS Animal Planet.
- The annual Disability Expo was May 9 and Karen attended and did networking. It was exciting to meet new faces and agencies and touch base with current people we are working with.
- Caleb and Karen have reviewed summer manuals, updated forms and will have manuals updated by start of training.
- The voting primary was held at the Community Center on May 5th from 6am – 6pm.
- We held a retirement part for Linda Falater on May 15th.
- The “Celebrate Service with Stars & Stripes” Volunteer Awards Recognition was held on May 1 at 11:30 a.m., featuring an America 250th birthday and picnic theme. Sixty-five volunteers attended and enjoyed a lunch of hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, condiments, and apple pie. Entertainment was provided by the Golden Oldies. Awards were presented for Volunteer Hours, with Ray Hunert receiving the Outstanding Commitment Award and Sandy Wilson receiving the Carol Clark Award. Guests enjoyed the festive décor celebrating America’s upcoming 250th birthday.
- The Senior Games Opening Ceremony and Health Fair took place on June 1, 2026, marking the kickoff of the 47th Annual Senior Games. The event featured an opening breakfast, a health fair with 14 participating booths, and support from more than 15 volunteers. The ceremony brought the community together to celebrate the start of the Games while providing attendees with valuable health-focused resources and engagement opportunities.

McMillen Park Community Center

- In April, 314 meals and 313 snacks were served to youth; in May, 211 meals and 172 snacks were served.
- The youth program recorded 388 participants in April and 280 in May, showing no increase in attendance.
- Kids Korner served 188 patrons in April and 71 in May.
- Adult Basketball: The men’s open league and the 40-and-over league completed their seasons with strong turnout. Planning is now underway for the summer men’s league.
- Pickleball participation totaled 295 players in April and 92 in May.

Weisser Park Youth Center

- A total of 856 youth participated in the After-School Program, with an average daily attendance of 38.9. An additional 52 youth registered for the upcoming Summer Program.
- On May 7, 2026, Weisser Park Youth Center hosted its End of After-School Program Celebration, with 42 youth enjoying an ice cream sundae bar, glow-in-the-dark dance party, awards, certificates, and gift bags.

- On May 11, 2026, members of the Summit City Distillers hockey team visited the center, sharing their championship trophy, playing hockey with the youth, and handing out popcorn.
- Five martial arts sessions were held, averaging 15.6 youth per session and focusing on fitness, discipline, and skill development.
- Erin's House for Grieving Children facilitated one session with 37 youth, and the Allen County Public Library provided an educational craft session with 31 youth.
- Staff offered a wide range of recreational, educational, and social-emotional learning activities, including team-building exercises, tournaments, arts and crafts, and games such as wiffle ball, gaga ball, tag, and survival kickball.

Riverfront

- Total Promenade Program and Rental Attendance: 1,200
- Headwaters Park Rental Attendance: 6,500
- Riverfront Fort Wayne continued to offer a strong lineup of free fitness and recreation programming throughout May. In partnership with community organizations, Riverfront hosted classes including Zumba, Barre, Yoga, and Pilates at Promenade Park. These classes brought accessible wellness opportunities for people of all ages. The Riverfront Social Runners Club remained a consistent and popular offering. Participation continued to be steady throughout the month, with Thursday sessions drawing between 15 and 23 runners. The club's momentum is reflected online as well, with the Riverfront Strava community continuing to grow and connect local residents through shared activities. Additional May recreation programming included Confluence Kitchen: Asia, the Fort Wayne Ballet Firefly Tour, Dragon Boat 101 – Session 2, and the Ready, Set, bRUNch! 5k. These events offered a variety of cultural, educational, and fitness-focused opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the riverfront in new ways.
- Riverfront rentals were active throughout the month with events hosted at Promenade Park such as Swiss Re Company Gathering, Martin Wedding Ceremony, Triumph Studios Fitness Saturday, Schwartz Rehearsal Dinner, Norwell Middle School, Johnson Wedding, and Peters Celebration of Life. These rentals included corporate gatherings, wedding ceremonies and rehearsals, graduation celebrations, and community events. Demand remains high for summer and fall reservations, with limited weekend availability remaining.
- Headwaters Park rentals began in May with the second annual Trap N Paint Mother's Day event at the Lincoln Financial Pavilion, with around 2,000 tickets sold. It was an evening full of great food from local vendors, music, and painting. Eco Fest held its event on Sunday, May 17th, at the Lincoln Financial Pavilion with activities for kids, live music, food, and local vendors. Eco Fest continues to grow each year in crowd size. The last rental in May at Headwaters Park was the Tacos, Tequila, Margarita Festival held in the Lincoln Financial Pavilion with a crowd of close to 2,000 people enjoying taco food truck vendors, live music, and drinks to enjoy a beautiful Saturday afternoon at Headwaters Park.

Salomon Farm Park

- A pre-employment hiring night for Farm Camp staff was held on Thursday, May 7, 2026. General Safety and Iris Family Support Center Child Protection training followed on Monday, May 18, 2026.
- Farm Camp hired a total of 22 staff members this year, including 19 camp counselors, 2 assistant supervisors, and 1 supervisor—representing one additional counselor compared to last year.

- Camp enrollment is slightly lower than last year, but overall, groups have increased from year to year. Weeks 1, 3, 4, and 5 for ages 4–5 are sold out, with openings still available in weeks 2 and 6. Space remains available for ages 6–11 in all weeks. The Farmers in Training program (ages 12–14) is sold out, while the Counselors in Training program (ages 15–17) still has availability in each week.
- Farmin’ Fun Day Camp will run from Monday, June 8 through Friday, July 24, 2026, with the week of July 4th off.
- Staff training week is scheduled for Monday, June 1, through Friday, June 5, 2026.

Sweet Breeze

- The Canal Boat Touring Season officially launched on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. Staff orientation was held on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 4:00 PM at Promenade Park. Hands-on training for Captains and First Mates began on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.
- Tickets for both general public and specialty tours became available for purchase on Wednesday, May 6, 2026.
- The season opened on Saturday, May 23, and Sunday, May 24, 2026, with two tours scheduled each day. On Saturday, tours departed at 1:00 PM and 2:45 PM, with 19 tickets sold for the 1:00 PM tour and 11 for the 2:45 PM tour. On Sunday, 10 tickets were sold for the 1:00 PM tour, while the 2:45 PM tour was canceled due to low sales. Rainy and overcast weather throughout the weekend contributed to slower ticket sales.

Franke Park Day Camp

- The pre-employment hiring night for Franke Park Day Camp was held on Monday, May 4, 2026, followed by General Safety and Iris Family Support Center Child Protection training on Monday, May 18, 2026.
- Franke Park Day Camp hired a total of 29 staff members, including 26 camp counselors, 2 assistant supervisors, and 1 supervisor—an increase of 3 counselors compared to the previous year.
- Camp will run from Monday, June 8, through Friday, July 24, 2026, with the week of July 4 designated as a break.
- All age groups (4–12) have limited spots available in weeks 1–3 and 5–6. Weeks for ages 6–11 are fully booked. Junior Leader spots are limited in weeks 3–6, and all CIT (Counselor in Training) weeks are sold out.

Hurshtown Reservoir

- Hurshtown Reservoir officially opened for the season on Friday, May 1, 2026.
- Staff are preparing for the annual Kids Fishing Derby, scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2026.
- The derby is open to children ages 16 and under, with prizes awarded for the biggest fish caught in the five categories. On-site registration begins at 7:30 AM, with fishing from 8:00 AM until the weigh-in at 11:00 AM.
- While the derby is free to participate in, regular admission of \$5 per car applies to enter Hurshtown.

Aquatics

- Daryn Schwartz reported that 47 employees were hired for the upcoming aquatics season. This number included 33 lifeguards, 7 pool attendants, and 7 managers/supervisors.
- On Monday, May 4, 2026, Landmark Aquatic started up both Northside Pool and McMillen Pools.

- On Saturday, May 23, 2026, Sunday, May 24, 2026, and Monday, May 25, 2026, 30 aquatics employees went through and completed Jeff Ellis & Associates Lifeguard Training. Aquatics Supervisor of Programming Jessica Witt, along with Josiah Littleford and Stephanie Schortgen, led the training each day and plan to hold two more classes to get all lifeguards certified.

Placer AI

- In April 2026, there were approximately 542,000 combined visits to our parks.
- The three highest attended parks were Franke Park (98k), Foster Park (58K), and Kreager Park (51K)

 **Community Athletics:** The Softball fields opened on May 1, 2026, and reservations are taking place.

Rhonda Berg - Director of Finance, foellinger Outdoor 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, interviewed, or in the process of being hired, as of May 31st, 2026:
 - Program Facility Coordinator – McMillen (2) (Fund 121)
 - Heavy Equipment Operator – Grounds (Fund 121)
 - Park Person C – Facilities (Fund 121)
 - Fleet Mechanic – Golf (Fund 439)
 - Manager – Neighborhood Programs (Fund 439)
 - Security Person – Riverfront (Fund 451)
- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 490 employees (144* full-time and 346 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending May 30th and paid on June 5th.
*One extra full-time employee (Anna-Noel Salas, who is taking over Linda Falater's Program Coordinator – Adult Classes position. Anna-Noel hired on 5/26, Linda Falater retiring on 5/29).
- 43 total P-Card statements were processed for May for charges made at the end of March to almost the end of April.
- There was a total of 591 invoices processed during May from 5/1 to 5/31.
- Seasonal hiring meetings are complete! We have the vast majority of our summer hires on payroll now.

Customer Service and Finance

- Swim lessons and junior and peewee golf tour registration have started and are running very smoothly.
- Started selling tickets for the Sweet Breeze for the 2026 season
- Summer Fun Times registrations have picked up. Camps and several programs are quickly filling up.

- The front office Staff has been doing a great job of working together to cover days off and to continue to provide great customer service over the phone and to customers that come into the office.
- Joana continues to be a great asset since she is bilingual. It is becoming known in the community that she is bilingual, so we have had an increase in customers coming in for her assistance with registrations and Parks and Recreation questions. She will often help other areas of the department and respond to emails and phone calls if needed.
- Took the opportunity to tour the Riverfront Phase IIB project currently under construction

Foellinger Theatre Report - Overview

May marked the final month of preparation before the start of the 2026 season. Efforts centered on staff onboarding and training, venue improvements, equipment deployment, and operational readiness. Significant progress was made in preparing both the facility and seasonal workforce to support a successful summer of events.

Staffing / Training & Development

- Completed hiring and onboarding of seasonal staff across all departments.
- Conducted comprehensive lead staff orientation and department-specific training sessions for:
 - Front of House
 - Box Office
 - Bars & Concessions
 - Artist Hospitality
 - Security
 - Production
- Reviewed customer service expectations, emergency procedures, communication protocols, radio procedures, and venue policies.
- Finalized staffing assignments and leadership responsibilities for opening events.
- Continued building a culture focused on guest experience, safety, accountability, and teamwork.

Facility Improvements / Capital & Maintenance

- Completed extensive power washing throughout the venue, including seating areas, concourses, walkways, railings, and public-facing spaces.
- Continued facility restoration efforts through painting, cleaning, organization, and general maintenance projects.
- Installed new furniture and workspace improvements in operational and staff areas.
- Continued infrastructure repairs and preventative maintenance to address facility needs ahead of opening.
- Completed installation and testing of new LED house lighting throughout the seating bowl, improving visibility, safety, and energy efficiency.
- Enhanced guest wayfinding through upgraded aisle and pathway lighting.
- In early June, we will be repainting aiseways and stair paths within the seating bowl utilizing glow-in-the-dark striping to improve nighttime visibility and patron safety.
- Continued improvements to lawn amenities, including preparation and deployment of the new bar and concessions trailer as well as adding outdoor furniture to improve guest service and increase revenue opportunities.
- Continued enhancing patron safety, accessibility, and overall venue appearance throughout the facility.

Equipment & Technology Upgrades

- Purchased and deployed new two-way radios to improve communication and coordination across all departments.
- Continued modernization of venue communication systems, including upgrades to the theatre phone system.
- Organized, inventoried, and standardized equipment storage areas to improve efficiency and accountability.
- Expanded charging and storage solutions for radios, scanners, point-of-sale devices, and operational technology.
- Continued replacing outdated equipment and improving operational infrastructure to support event execution.

Ticketing / Box Office / Ticketmaster

- Continued building and auditing events in Ticketmaster.
- Supported on-sale campaigns and event launches throughout the month.
- Coordinated ticketing logistics with promoters, community partners, and rental clients.
- Finalized event configurations, seating plans, pricing structures, and operational holds for upcoming performances.
- Continued refining guest service and box office procedures for the active season.

Operations & Event Management Systems

- Finalized event workflows and operational procedures for the season.
- Conducted readiness reviews across departments to identify and resolve operational gaps before opening.
- Strengthened communication processes between venue staff, vendors, and Parks & Recreation personnel.

Production & Vendor Coordination

- Finalized production schedules and labor planning for opening events.
- Continued coordination with production, security, medical, guest services, and operational vendors.
- Completed venue and stage preparation activities in partnership with in-house staff and contractors.
- Advanced show advancement efforts with artists, promoters, and touring personnel.
- Verified readiness of production infrastructure and support systems for the start of the season.

Additional Work / Ongoing Items

- Continued collaboration with Parks and Recreation on facility improvements and long-term infrastructure planning.
- Completed extensive cleaning and organization efforts throughout backstage, storage, concessions, and operational areas.
- Continued removal of obsolete equipment, unused materials, and accumulated storage items to improve functionality and organization.
- Continued refining internal processes and documentation to support efficient event execution.
- Prepared departmental inventories, supplies, and equipment for active season operations.

Next Steps / June Priorities

- Successfully launch and execute opening events of the 2026 season.
- Evaluate staffing levels and operational procedures following initial performances.
- Continue facility improvement projects as scheduling allows throughout the season.
- Monitor patron feedback and operational performance to identify opportunities for improvement.
- Maintain focus on safety, guest experience, and efficient event execution.
- Continue advancing future bookings and season development opportunities.
- Begin programming the 2027 season.

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

Facilities Supervisor: Greg Reith

- Pavilion rentals totaled 287 for this month.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: McCulloch Park, Brewer Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Bridge, Lawton Park Skatepark, and Packard Park shelter.
- The Crews pressure-washed the following locations: Memorial Park, Foster Park Pavilion 3, Kreager Park, McCulloch Park, Packard Park, Brewer Park, Study Park, and Ivan Lebamoff Reservoir Park.
- Completed the initial pressure washing of splash pads for the Memorial Day weekend.
- Two seasonal staff members started this month.
- Held interviews to fill the vacant Park Person C position.

Maintenance Technician Supervisor: Mike Cremeans

- All pre-season work was completed at both McMillen and Northside Park pools. This included the board of health site inspection/certification.
- The final section of the Hursttown dock was installed with the water level having dropped to a safe level.
- All eight splashpads opened as scheduled on Memorial Day weekend.
- The alarm system wires for the Salomon Farm Park Heritage Barn were replaced to bring that system back online.
- Work on the summer showcase for the Botanical Conservatory continued.
- Playground repairs took place at several Park locations.
- A 12 ft diameter concrete form was installed at REA Park. Contractors will pour the concrete, and a sculpture will be installed once the concrete work is complete.
- Plexiglass doors were replaced on the kiosks at Johnny Appleseed Park and Foster Park River Greenway trail heads.
- A water hose connection at Salomon Farm Park was replaced due to a leaking supply line.
- New FWFD regulations signs were installed in the pavilion kitchens stating that “frying of foods or cooking anything that produces grease vapors” is prohibited.
- There was a total of **36** calls to the on-call person this month. **9** of which were lock issues, **9** were calls from dispatch regarding alarms, and **18** were miscellaneous issues.

Maintenance Technician completed the following:

4: Alarm Maintenance, **12:** Building Maintenance, **4:** Carpentry, **19:** Electrical Repair,
3: HVAC Maintenance, **2:** Key Core Maintenance, **4:** Light Maintenance,
12: Lock Maintenance, **4:** Paint, **17:** Playground Maintenance,
18: Plumbing Maintenance, **14:** Sign Maintenance, **10:** Vandalism

Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment: Rob Schenkel

- Tree limb and debris cleanup continues as needed at various park locations.
- River greenway trail continues to be serviced weekly for mowing, removal of sticks and debris, and addressing flood damage.
- Botanical Conservatory, Foster Park, and Lakeside Park compost bins continue to be emptied as needed.
- The Grounds crews are running the trash routes three days a week, ensuring all receptacles in the parks are emptied. This will increase during the summer months.
- We are continuing to straighten parking blocks.
- Heavy Equipment crews removed old exercise equipment at Foster Park and backfilled, graded, seeded, and strawed the area following removal.
- Garden plots at Foster Gardens were tilled up by a Heavy Equipment crew member to prepare the ground for new garden installations.
- Four team members from the Grounds Department completed OSHA 30 training and received their certifications.
- The Sweet Breeze tour boat was hauled to Guldlin Park by the Heavy Equipment crew for launch into the St. Marys River.
- Grounds Department crews installed speed bumps at Foster Park to help reduce speeding through the park.

Main Trac Coordinator: Nicole Roth

- Main Trac Entries: 8,726 for the month.

Staff Reports Submitted June 11, 2026

- We have had 76, 311 calls this month.
- We had 40 hours of volunteer work at Northside Park.
- Busy entering time sheets and contracted/sales invoices.
- Running monthly reports for Recreation Staff.
- Continued to help the Forestry Department with their Citizen Match Tree Program.

Superintendent: Mike Gore

- Approve and record invoices for various materials that are being used in our grounds, maintenance, and facilities departments.
- Overseeing a variety of issues on all sides of Maintenance.
- The 2026 River Greenway inspections are continuing.
- Working with contractors to ensure 2026 purchase orders are completed.
- Starting the MMR reports for IDEM at the spray parks for the 2026 season.

Operations & Support: Travis Roth: Storeroom and Property:

- Low-cost Hi-Viz T-shirts with class 2 reflective stripes were purchased as possible alternatives to the cotton T-shirts currently supplied to employees. These shirts are the same cost but do not require a safety vest to be worn.
- Vans were made available to both the Botanical Conservatory and the Park and Play program for their summer camps and programs.
- Storeroom employees provided materials for the pool staff to support the opening of the pools for the summer season.
- **Property Transactions:**

26 Milwaukee Inflator	Added Into Inventory	P210
24 Sun Joe Pressure Washer	Scrapped	P230
09 Snapper Leaf Vacuum	Scrapped	P250F
26 Makita Impact Driver	Added Into Inventory	P250
26 Milwaukee Heat Gun	Added Into Inventory	P252
26 Makita Drill	Added Into Inventory	P252
Homemade Dock Trailer	Added Into Inventory	P280
26 Honda Generator	Added Into Inventory	P295
98 Lely Spreader	Scrapped	R211
12 Great Dane Van Trailer	Added Into Inventory	R710

2026 Vehicle and Equipment Purchase Update:

Forestry Bucket Truck
Ford F250 Pickup
Toro 5910 Mower

June Chassis date
P.O. Complete
P.O. Complete

Garage Operations Highlights:

- 204 work orders were scheduled this month, 30 of which were services.
- Tree truck #151 began experiencing a hard start situation, which progressively got worse. The truck was taken to the dealer, and the diagnosis is that the engine cylinders are suffering from blowby, requiring a rebuild. Selking International will rebuild the motor to get the truck back into service.

Staff Reports Submitted June 11, 2026

- The riparian work barge began running rough, and the oil was found to be contaminated with water. The initial fear was a bad motor, but a replacement thermostat corrected the problem, and the boat is back on the river.
- A John Deere Gator at the Salomon Farm Park began having operational issues with warning lights on the dashboard. The unit was taken to Truland Equipment for a computer reprogram to solve the issue.
- The chassis for the new forestry bucket truck has a June delivery date.
- Athletic field paint liners for grounds, and Kreager were experiencing issues with constant clogged tips and problems spraying. After replacing multiple parts in the system, a different brand of marking paint was purchased, and this new paint solved the issues. The previous brand of paint had been used for years, but either a change in ingredients or a bad batch of materials caused problems with the equipment.
- The Board of Park Commissioners approved the vehicles and equipment to be sent to auction. This auction will include 4 outdated trucks, surplus golf mowers, and some other surplus items that can be sold. The auction company was on site at the end of the month to take pictures and get accurate descriptions of all items to be sold.
- A forestry truck suffered damage to the safety cage from a tree limb falling on it. Mechanics were able to straighten some parts of the assembly. The uprights and cage were removed and transported to H&H in Huntertown to have the final repairs done.
- 3 Park vehicles had recalls from Ford relating to back-up cameras. All 3 were inspected by the Bob Thomas mobile technician and passed. They will remain under an extended warranty in case they do end up failing.
- Hoff mobile bucket truck inspected all of the forestry and electrician bucket trucks for their annual OSHA safety inspection. All units pass the inspection without any repairs needing to be completed.
- A service using specialized equipment to “smash” down the construction dumpsters at Lawton has been successful. The large machine allows the trash to be compacted, and the dumpsters can go twice as long without having to be removed for new ones. So far, this has reduced the monthly cost of the dumpsters by extending their time in service at the park.
- 5 new fire pits were fabricated by garage mechanics for the Johnny Appleseed campground.
- Mechanics have continued to repair and service golf course mowers daily as needed to keep those operations moving. This includes replacing blades, belts, damaged deck parts, deck tires, and other needed repairs.
- A new Toro Procore aerator was set up for the golf courses. This required purchasing some 3-point hitch parts for a tractor so the aerator could be mounted to one unit, while a pull-behind Toro mower could be hooked to another tractor.



Project Administration: Dave Weadock

- Bloomingdale Park Playground Equipment – Project completed.
- Boone Street Park Fence Replacement – Project completed.
- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Design – Planning is in progress. Construction planned for after Labor Day, 2026.
- Botanical Conservatory Gallery Corridor Design – Planning to begin in late June.
- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement – Purchase order acquisition is in progress.
- Buckner Park Stream Crossing – Planning ongoing through the Landscape Division.
- Foellinger Theatre Rear Parking Lot Lighting – Installation is completed. Restoration is in progress.
- Foellinger Theatre Spotlight Bay Improvements – Planning in progress.
- Foellinger Theatre Step Lighting – Lighting is completed. Step tread treatment planning is in progress.

Staff Reports Submitted June 11, 2026

- Foellinger Theatre Ticket Office Windows Replacement – Awaiting installation of glass windows.
- Foster Park Golf Course Practice Facility Topographic Survey – Awaiting schedule from surveyor.
- Foster Park Golf Course Practice Facility Permitting Services – Research and review of existing conditions is ongoing.
- Foster Park Golf Course Practice Facility Architectural Services – Initial planning is in progress.
- Franke Park Entrance Drive Curb Replacement – Project is completed.
- Gren Park Picnic Shelter – Shelter has been ordered. Bidding for installation planned for June/July.
- Hamilton Park Picnic Tables and Benches Project is complete, and the Playground Border Replacement – Project is completed.
- Hanna Homestead Park Playground Equipment – Installation of playground equipment is completed. Awaiting installation of safety surfacing.
- Hanna Homestead Park Redevelopment – Proposals received. Review in progress.
- Hanna Homestead Playground Border – Construction is ongoing.
- Headwaters Park Bridge Railing Renovation – Renovation work set to begin June 1.
- Headwaters Park West Sidewalk Leveling – Project completed.
- Headwaters Park West Sidewalk Stairs and Pavers Renovation – Project completed.
- Johnny Appleseed Campground Paving Projects – Installation of new paving and renovations to existing paving planned for September/October.
- Kreager Park Playground Equipment – Project completed.
- Kreager Park Tennis Courts Recoating – Project planned to begin after the spring high school season. Completion by the end of June.
- Lafayette Park New Sidewalks – Construction is in progress.
- Lafayette Park Playground Equipment – Installation planned to begin the first week of June, and the Playground Equipment Removal Project is complete.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof Skylights Replacement – Work is planned to begin in May/June, and the Roof Repairs Project is complete.
- Lawton Park Pedestrian Bridge Structural Engineering Report – The engineer is in initial stages of bridge review.
- Lindenwood Nature Preserve Wood Railing Replacement – Work is planned for late Spring.
- Lions Park Pickleball Court Paving Repair Project is complete, and the Tennis/Pickleball Courts Recoating – Work is planned for late June through early August.
- McMillen Park Basketball Goals Pads Replacement Project is complete, and the McMillen Park Community Center Security Cameras Upgrade – Work is in progress.
- McMillen Park Pool Deck Engineering Design – Design is completed. Engineer to remain engaged in project through construction.
- McMillen Park Pool Deck Construction – Bidding is completed. Work is planned to begin mid-August after swimming season.
- Memorial Park Picnic Tables – Project completed.
- Memorial Park Monument Sign Repairs – Work is in progress.
- Multiple Park Locations Playground Communication Panels – Construction planned to begin in July/August.
- Multiple Park Locations Pavement Repairs and Striping – Planning is in progress.

Staff Reports Submitted June 11, 2026

- Northside Park Pool Fence Replacement – Project completed.
- Northside Park Psi-Ote Upper Pavilion Awning Replacement – Order has been placed, and the new awning will be installed in May/June.
- Salomon Farm Animal Barn Renovation – Contractor to begin work in July.
- Salomon Farm Old Barn Flooring – Project completed.
- Salomon Farm Old Barn Gutters Replacement – Planning is in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rear Parking Lot Lighting – Planning is in progress.
- Shoaff Park Playground Equipment – Work is in progress with completion planned for mid-June.
- Shoaff Park Boat Parking Area – Planning in progress.
- Various Parks Playgrounds Dry Wells Installation – Planning is in progress for Lafayette, Hanna Homestead, and Bloomingdale Parks.
- Various Park Pavilions Exterior Painting – Project planned for Spring/Summer of 2026.
- Various Parks Paving Projects 2026 - Project planned to begin in May with work to proceed through late Spring and early Summer.
- Various Parks Sidewalks Replacement – Bidding planned for early June.
- Various Parks Park Identification Signage Additions – New signs to be installed at McKinnie Commons, Hurshtown Reservoir, and Hanna Homestead Park.
- Weisser Park Tennis Courts Fencing Replacement – Project planned for late Spring or early Summer 2026.
 - **Other work:**
 - PAS Division GIS training sessions in progress with staff
 - Preparing GIS content for the Parks mobile application
 - Content preparation for Engage Fort Wayne
 - Various Parks: cost estimates for various projects are being prepared upon request.
 - Various Parks: park assessments are being completed, and 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, along with updating park site plan bases and building plans.

Safety: Tony DeVido

- The Parks & Recreation Safety Committee meeting was held on 5/26. 3 employees and 1 guest were present.
- 1 vehicle crash was reported for this time period.
- 1 employee injury was reported during this time.
- 5 CPR/FA classes were held. 47 employees were certified.
- I participated in the city-wide Safety Review Council meeting.
- 2 employees received SOAR/CPR training.
- The biennial AED inspections continue.
- SDS book collection and digitization continue.
- Worker Protection Standard training was completed.
- Chainsaw/Chipper Safety training was completed for 25 city and county employees.

- General Safety training for Seasonal employees was completed.

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

Planning Report

Riverfront Phase II B construction continues. Concrete foundations have been installed for the seating for the amphitheater in the north lawn area. AEP has installed its new transmission poles within the riverfront site, which delayed landscape plantings by a couple of weeks. Staff continues to coordinate construction activities with adjacent developments at the old Schaab Metals building, More Brewing, relocated Depot, and the Eddy. The design team is working on finalizing plans for the Foster Park Entrance design.

Staff and members of Wildwood Park Community Association reviewed another completed section of the draft Wildwood Park and Rockhill Park Historic Landscape Study and Guidelines and provided comments to Heritage Landscapes.

Staff received 14 proposals for the Hanna Homestead Park masterplan. The review committee scored the proposals and selected the Anderson + Bohlander design team.

Staff is drafting schematic design plans for Wells Street Park.

Staff met with City Utilities to review the City's MS4 requirements. Staff is coordinating with City Utilities to provide an inventory of the Park Department's current construction projects and best management practices (BMPs).

Staff is coordinating with City Utilities Engineers regarding the proposed storm sewer alignment in Swinney Park along W. Jefferson Blvd.

Merritt Chase presented three conceptual garden layouts and a revised building footprint for the Conservatory's Exploration and Terrace Garden Design project for staff review.

We continued to coordinate efforts with the Public Art Commission's Shout Out program manager and team in anticipation of the sculpture that is scheduled to be completed and installed in Rea Park in June.

Staff led site tours of Riverfront Phase IIB with Parks staff on two occasions.

Horticulture and Landscape Report- May 2026

53 Volunteers worked 304.45 hours in the greenhouse

The greenhouse sent approximately 18,000 plants/containers to the Botanical Conservatory Mother's Day Plant Sale. Of those, approximately 16,351 sold with the breakdown being: Annuals – 6,172 sent, 5,843 sold, Herbs – 3,046 sent, 3,010 sold, Houseplants – 866 sent, 715 sold, Perennials – 3481 sent, 3052 sold, Vegetables – 2409 sent, 2385 sold. In all, 1,348 plants were left.

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

We provided approximately 29,594 plants for the Parks landscapes, including Foster, Lakeside, Downtown locations, and Swinney Letterbed to name a few.

Landscape staff supported the Mother's Day Plant Sale by assisting in 2 days of plant delivery and 1 day of pickup of unsold plants

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

Lakeside staff continued daily litter removal and weekly mowing and spin-trimming. They removed all tulips, tilled the beds, began planting annual flowers, and watered them daily. They un-hilled all the roses, edged all beds, weeded and fertilized them, made pest control applications to them, planted new/replacement roses, and began irrigating them. The fountain ponds were filled, and daily maintenance began on them. The fountains are being vacuumed every one to two weeks, depending on how dirty they are. Staff worked on bed and sidewalk edging, mulched tree and shrub beds, pruned shrubs, weeded, fertilized shrubs and perennials, and applied post-emergent herbicides.

Foster staff continued with daily litter removal, weekly mowing, and spin trimming of the bridal glen and daily maintenance of the bridal glen fountain. They removed all tulips, tilled, and edged flower beds; began planting annual flowers; and began daily watering. Staff also edged and mulched perennial and tree beds, pruned the Lilacs, blew off the tennis courts, pulled weeds, and applied pre and post-emergent herbicides for weed control. The City team continued their weekly turf care at Lawton Park office and the Administrative Office in Bob Arnold/Northside Park, mowing, trimming, and applying spring fertilizer. They spent time at Memorial Park before Memorial Day cleaning up and mulching all memorials, signs, etc., picking up limbs, and blowing pathways off. The sign bed at Foellinger Outdoor Theatre was replanted with perennials to improve aesthetics. Staff spent time at McMillen Pool and Northside Pool before the designated opening, pulling weeds and spot herbicide treatments. Staff also spent considerable time at the Theatre weeding and performing spot herbicide treatments. The Swinney Letterbed was cleaned up; Boxwoods were sheared, soil was prepped/tilled, and the bed was edged and planted with its annual flower display. In Bob Arnold/Northside Park, in and around the Administrative Office building, was cleaned up, edged, and prepped for mulch. Other parks where spring cleanups were done were Packard, Brewer, Swinney, Irishtown, Bass, and Rudisill. Weed control that included both post-emergent herbicide applications and hand weeding took place at Franke pavilions, Lawton, McCulloch, McKinnie Commons, REA Building, and Rockhill.

The Downtown Team continued daily litter removal at Freimann Square. They removed spring bulbs at the Courthouse Green, Freimann Square, and the Community Center in preparation for planting annual flowers. The team completed annual flower plantings at the Community Center, and Freimann Square. Bed preparation and planting began at the Courthouse Green. Weed control that included both post-emergent herbicide applications and hand weeding took place at Headwaters, Promenade, Main Street Medians, Freimann, Community Center, Little Turtle, Courthouse Green, Meyers Park, Rivergreenway beds, MLK bridge beds, Lawton Skate Park, Guldlin Park, Bloomingdale Park, and Riverfront IIA. Downtown staff cleaned up and mulched the MLK bridge beds as well as Little Turtle. Staff did some shrub and tree pruning at Promenade around the water rill, statue, and park signage.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Riparian Management Report- May 2026

Successfully installed the Shoaff Park and Headwaters Park docks for the recreational season. Improved the safety of the Shoaff dock path with stone. Improved the gangway footprint for the Headwaters dock.

Cleared the following bridges from woody debris: Main St., Van Buren, and Ewing. Removed several deadheads along the recreational pathway. Total woody debris for the month: 47,032 pounds (23.516 tons).

Removed 12 bags of litter and a variety of debris (600 pounds) from the riverbanks.

Added 5 geese nests with a total of 20 eggs.

Crew attended Forestry's annual Chipper and Chainsaw training.

Coordinated this year's Boater's Safety Certification for the Indiana DNR.

Hosted two volunteer events (Canterbury Middle school, TRAA, and SevenGen) that totaled 145 people, \$5900, and 4.25 tons of honeysuckle removed from Guldlin and Foster Park.

Continued coordination for several future volunteer events, including this year's TeenWorks summer program. The first round of foliar treatment was applied at Promenade, Bloomingdale, Headwaters, and Franke/Spy Run Creek.

Forestry Report- May 2026

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

Staff responded to 6 Tort claims during May. Tort claims are filed by residents seeking monetary compensation for damage caused by tree failures. These claims are not uncommon after storm events.

Citizen Match Tree Planting Program applications continue rolling in. So far, we have received 87 applications for 177 trees. The deadline for submitting applications is July 1st.

Staff continue working on this year's annual windshield inspection. This inspection intends to identify trees that have declined to the extent that justifies removal. Most of the compromised trees identified through this inspection are expected to be scheduled for removal during the winter months of 2027.

In May, Forestry crews completed 67 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 49 trees in May. 15 of these were storm-related.

Crews responded to and cleared 49 storm-related broken/fallen/hanging limbs. 3 of these were private trees that had fallen into the roadway.

Completed 9 tree damage appraisals for trees that had been struck by vehicles. These appraisals resulted in \$10,625.00 in damages to City-owned trees.

Responded to and closed (116) 311 Call Center requests for service this month.

Botanical Conservatory Report – May 2026

May represented a strong spring performance period for the Botanical Conservatory, with Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit driving continued guest interest, field trip activity, and seasonal visitation throughout the month. The Botanical Conservatory also marked a major annual milestone with the Mother's Day Plant Sale, which celebrated 40 years since the sale began in 1986 and remained one of the Botanical Conservatory's most important community fundraisers. Mother's Day in the Garden also welcomed strong visitation, while National Public Gardens Week, plant society events, and expanded field trip participation contributed to a busy and productive month.

The Botanical Conservatory hosted a full slate of May programs and community collaborations, including the Spring Bonsai Show, Iris Flower Show, String Jammers Spring Jam, National Public Gardens Week activities, and continued T'ai Chi programming. Staff also continued preparing for a busy early summer schedule, including Back to Our Roots, Breakfast with Butterflies, Camp ACTiVenture, Father's Day in the Garden, National Pollinator Week, the opening of Pueblo Garden: Style of the Southwest, Touching Grass by Jeremy Stroup, and the Summer Artisan Market.

Jaime Majewski has joined the Botanical Conservatory as the Clerical II – Retail Assistant, and Benjamin Dimino has begun work as a Seasonal Gardener. Etheny McCall has also joined the team as Assistant Supervisor – Camp ACTiVenture, and Catherine Ahlersmeyer has begun work as a Camp ACTiVenture Counselor. There is one current staffing vacancy for Seasonal Maintenance (reviewing applications).

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

May 2026 represented a strong spring performance period for the Botanical Conservatory, with monthly attendance reaching 17,282 visitors, an increase of 1,261 guests or 7.87% over May 2025. While year-to-date attendance remains 7.92% below the prior year due to softer winter visitation, May's performance reflects continued momentum during the peak spring season and strong public interest in Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit, field trips, Mother's Day programming, and seasonal visitation. Admissions revenue followed the positive monthly attendance trend, increasing 7.34% to \$62,076, though year-to-date admissions revenue remains 10.51% behind 2025.

Several earned-revenue areas performed well in May. Membership revenue increased modestly for the month, up 2.41%, while Conservatory Shop revenue saw a substantial increase of 25.27%, reaching \$43,139.34 and bringing year-to-date shop sales 6.79% ahead of 2025. Café Flora also continued to strengthen the Botanical Conservatory's overall guest experience and earned-revenue portfolio, contributing \$17,086.06 in May and \$59,878.21 year-to-date. Rental and catering revenue improved for the month by 13.45%, though year-to-date rental revenue remains below last year.

The most significant movement in May appears in Other Revenue and Total Revenue, due in large part to the timing of the annual distribution from the Fort Wayne Park Foundation endowment, which was reflected in May 2026. This helps explain the strong increase in Other Revenue and the substantial year-over-year growth in total revenue for the month. May total revenue finished at \$479,988.31, an increase of \$229,983.09 or 91.99% compared to May 2025. With this May activity reflected, year-to-date total revenue now stands at \$923,073.84, up \$47,419.66 or 5.42% over 2025, helping normalize the timing-related variance noted in April and reinforcing the Botanical Conservatory's overall financial strength heading into summer.

Attendance

May 2025:	16,021 visitors
May 2026:	17,282 visitors
An increase of 1,261 or +7.87% to 2025	

YTD Comparisons

2025 Attendance:	59,560 visitors
2026 Attendance:	54,842 visitors
A decrease of 4,718 or -7.92% to 2025	



Admissions Revenue

May 2025:	\$57,833.00
May 2026:	\$62,076.00

An increase of \$4,243.00 or +7.34% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Admissions Revenue:	\$220,371.00
2026 Admissions Revenue:	\$197,219.00

A decrease of \$23,152.00 or -10.51% to 2025

Membership Revenue

May 2025:	\$12,852.00
May 2026:	\$13,162.00

An increase of \$310 or +2.41% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Membership Revenue:	\$58,626.00
2026 Membership Revenue:	\$52,498.00

A decrease of \$6,128.00 or -10.45% to 2025

Conservatory Shop Revenue

May 2025:	\$34,435.90
May 2026:	\$43,139.34

An increase of \$8,703.44 or +25.27% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$148,727.42
2026 Gift Shop Revenue:	\$158,827.95

An increase of \$10,100.53 or +6.79% to 2025

Café Flora Revenue

May 2026:	\$17,086.06
YTD 2026:	\$59,878.21

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

May 2025:	\$4,442.50
May 2026:	\$5,040.00

An increase of \$597.50 or +13.45% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Rental Revenue:	\$39,162.50
2026 Rental Revenue:	\$25,290.00

A decrease of \$13,872.50 or -35.42% to 2025

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



May 2025:	\$140,441.82	(\$129,165.92 – Plant Sale)
May 2026:	\$339,484.91	(\$120,724.99 – Plant Sale)

YTD Comparisons

2025 Other Revenue:	\$408,826.44
2026 Other Revenue:	\$429,360.68

Conservatory Total Revenue

May 2025:	\$250,005.22
May 2026:	\$479,988.31

An increase of \$229,983.09 or +91.99% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Total Revenue:	\$875,654.18
2026 Total Revenue:	\$923,073.84

An increase of \$47,419.66 or +5.42% to 2025

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

The Botanical Conservatory received a \$5,000 grant from the O'Rourke-Schof Family Foundation for support of the 2026 Showcase Garden exhibits.

Staff completed a draft of the new comprehensive fundraising plan for the Botanical Conservatory and submitted it for review. The plan covers all earned and contributed revenue streams and incorporates key factors of the Botanical Conservatory's strategic plan (currently in process). The fundraising 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.

ST Radio (Majic 95.1 and related stations) has passed on promotional media partnerships for the 2026 Pueblo Garden: Styles of the Southwest exhibit and the 2026 Back to Our Roots.

Staff provided promotional tickets, information, and fliers to 96.3 XKE for the 2026 Father's Day in the Garden and to WANE15, 89.1 WBOI, and Fort Wayne Metals for the 2026 Jazzworks!.

Staff completed the follow-up email to the 2026 Spring Annual Appeal; it was sent on May 22nd.

Conservatory Public Programs

Events

Mother's Day Plant Sale (May 7-10)

Held at the McMillen Community Center since 2011, the Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale continues to be a beloved community fundraiser in support of the Botanical Conservatory. This year marked 40 years since the sale started in 1986! Overall coordination was noticeably improved thanks to an enduring collaboration between staff and volunteers at the Botanical Conservatory and Lawton Park Greenhouse who are proud to have accomplished another successful sale with 2026 being the third highest revenue year. With 2,806 estimated guests in 2026, attendance was down 18% from 2025 bringing in 3,355 total guests. Overall, the Mother's Day Plant Sale would not be what it is today without such generous and joyful support from the community.

Mother's Day in the Garden (May 9 & 10)

A total of 2,686 guests visited the Botanical Conservatory during this two-day event, when all mothers received free admission. This represents a 3% increase over last year's total of 2,605 visitors. Held during the popular butterfly exhibit, the event also featured complimentary plants available while supplies lasted. Still a fan favorite!

String Jammers Spring Jam (May 28)

Believe in a Dream's String Jam orchestra returned for a second year to perform outdoors in the Terrace Garden. Attendance on this \$1 Night surpassed 574 in 2025 with 601 in 2026, increasing by 5%. Overall, there were 180+ guests present throughout the event, while many passed through to enjoy the talent of 45 young, aspiring string performers from across the city.

Plant Societies

Spring Bonsai Show (May 16)

The Fort Wayne Bonsai Club returned to present another Bonsai Show with beautiful specimens filling the Magnolia Room. There were also 3 supporting vendors present with items available for purchase. An attendance of 1,052 well exceeded 770 guests in the spring of 2025, increasing by 37%. Attendance from members was strong at 92, with 14 reciprocal members in addition to regular members. As usual, another show is scheduled to come out in the fall!

Iris Flower Show (May 24)

The Northeast Indiana Iris Society presented gorgeous Iris flowers to the delight of 673 guests, including 85 members and 6 reciprocal members. This surpassed the exceptional attendance of last year's Iris Show when 654 attended, increasing by 3%. The Iris Society is scheduled to return on July 19 to sell the rhizomes that generate these beauties.

Education

Continuing T'ai Chi (April 28-May 26)

Sandy Gebhard completed another nearly filled session of Continuing T'ai Chi. Nineteen students enrolled with a limit of twenty. Many of them were returning students who happily came to the Botanical Conservatory for their morning practice. Several students commented that they would like more classes with Sandy.

National Public Gardens Week (May 8-17)

During this national celebration, Botanical Conservatory guests discovered all there is to see and do at their local public garden. Visitors also received complimentary Cosmo seeds to continue their gardening experience at home.

Grow it! School Plant Program

This month focused on completing Phase I of the program by ensuring each participating school received its correct plant order and is prepared for the upcoming fall season. Staff contacted all 61 schools to congratulate Chairpersons on a successful year and encourage early registration for preferred school plant show dates. In preparation for Phase II, staff will update the Chairperson Handbook and Judge's Training Manual while coordinating judges for School Plant Shows taking place from August through September. Consider volunteering as a Plant Judge for both the school shows and September's Annual Blue-Ribbon Show, which will celebrate the program's 100th anniversary!

Youth Field Trips

During the busy month of May, the Botanical Conservatory hosted 54 student groups totaling 2,311 visitors. This is an 8% increase from May 2025, when there were 40 groups with 2,140 visitors. Participation in educational programming also grew, with 18% of student groups taking part in classroom-based, staff-led lab activities, compared to a 9% participation rate in May of 2025.

In addition to the typical student groups, staff hosted a class of education majors from Goshen College, providing future teachers an opportunity to observe field trips in action and engage in discussions about program development and informal education practices. The Botanical Conservatory also welcomed a local middle school garden club as a community partner, supporting students' hands-on experiences in plant education while strengthening community connections through collaborative learning opportunities.

Exhibits & Displays

Color in Motion (April 21-June 21)

This annual showcase exhibit is among the most popular and is much anticipated by guests at the return of spring. New educational signage has been introduced, complementing a weekly rotation of unique and exotic butterfly species. With the live butterfly exhibit in its 23rd year, high attendance numbers are anticipated along with increased field trips.

Julie Wall: Grounded in Light (April 12-June 21)

Julie Wall is a multidisciplinary artist who has been making prints for nearly 20 years. Her work in this exhibit reflects a sense of interconnectedness with the universe, incorporating images of both earth and sky. Wall's pieces are available for purchase at shop.botanicalconservatory.org. A public artist's reception will be held on June 14th, from 1-3 pm.

Fort Wayne in Bloom Window Decorating Contest (Thru May 10)

The Botanical Conservatory participated in the 2026 Spring Window Decorating Contest put on by Downtown Fort Wayne. Designed by Anthis Career Academy Students, their "Garden Party" theme won 1st Place as People's Choice for the 2nd year in a row! Up until the end of June, the winning design is visible from Jefferson Boulevard, where it is located on the Connector Hall windows between the Embassy Theatre and Botanical Conservatory. Thanks to all who voted!

Volunteers/Staff

This past May, the Botanical Conservatory and Lawton Park Greenhouse welcomed 5 new volunteers. A total of 7 volunteers were trained as Butterfly Attendants, and another was trained to assist with pinning in the Butterfly Lab. This year's Butterfly Exhibit has been almost fully supported by 49 different Butterfly Attendants who filled 284 shifts over 9 weeks, which is a big deal! A total of 5 volunteers filled 27 shifts at the Front Desk, 8 volunteers filled 40 shifts in the Gift Shop, and 2 volunteers continued weekly garden grooming. Easterseals maintained volunteer service on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. From Alyssum Montessori, 4 students and their instructor spent a morning planting annuals in the Terrace Garden and surrounding areas. The String Jammers Spring Jam was supported by 5 volunteers over the course of the event.

At the Mother's Day Plant Sale, there was a noticeable level of volunteer support with 150+ volunteers contributing over 6 days, involving set-up and the sale itself. Each year, there is also an ongoing group of Conservatory and Greenhouse Volunteers who contribute immensely during the months leading up to the sale. In addition to various City and Parks staff who positively contribute, there were a handful of external groups



including the Purdue Extension Master Gardeners, Fort Wayne Bonsai Club, Center for Academic Success, YLNI Leadership Institute, Indiana Physical Therapy, and Easterseals Northeast Indiana as well as local South Side Honor Society Students and Amazon Employees.

Upcoming dates and Events

Present through June 21: Grounded in Light: Art Display by Julie Wall, public hours

Present through June 21: Color in Motion live butterfly exhibit, public hours

June 3: Desert Sound Relaxation, pre-registered program

June 4-25: Back to Our Roots, \$1 Night Thursdays 6:30-7:30

June 6: Spring Plant Swap, pre-registered program

June 7 & 14: Breakfast with Butterflies, pre-registered program

June 14: Artist Reception for Julie Wall, 1-3 pm

June 8-26: Camp ACTIVenture, pre-registered program

June 20 & 21: Father's Day in the Garden, special offerings 12-3 on Sunday

June 22-26: Showchange Week

June 23-28: National Pollinator Week, public hours

June 27-November 15: Pueblo Garden: Style of the Southwest showcase exhibit, public hours

June 27-November 15: Touching Grass: Art Display by Jeremy Stroup, public hours

June 28: Summer Artisan Market, public hours

June 30-July 28: T'ai Chi for Relaxation, pre-registered program

July 1: OPEN 10 am-5 pm

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

July 6-24: Camp ACTIVenture, pre-registered program

July 11: Daylily Show & Sale, 10 am-2 pm

July 22: Desert Sound Relaxation, pre-registered program

July 26: Artist Reception for Jeremy Stroup, 1-3 pm

July 29: Iris Sale, 12-3 pm

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

Horticulture staff have been diligently planting the new INcrEDIBLE Discovery Garden, which replaces the former Sales Garden with a dynamic edible landscape. The garden will feature a wide variety of edible trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals, including several plants not commonly found in the local landscape, such as medlar, hardy kiwi, jujube, and other unique selections. Once complete, this space will provide additional enrichment and enjoyment for guests while creating new opportunities for future interpretation and programming.

Staff have also continued converting the former pond in the Exploration Garden into a carnivorous plant bog garden. The existing pond required significant preparation, including the removal of numerous rocks, large stones, sediment, and debris. Installation of the bog garden is progressing and is expected to be completed within the next several weeks.

Preparations are underway for the upcoming summer showcase, Pueblo Garden: Style of the Southwest. Staff have been procuring pots, display elements, and plant material that will support the exhibit's Southwestern theme. Maintenance staff have also been working diligently to fabricate large-scale props for the showcase.

Several Southwest native plants have been acquired for use in the exhibit and will later be transitioned into the Desert House as part of the Botanical Conservatory's permanent collection.

A Plus Irrigation completed most of the spring repairs to the outdoor irrigation system. A few outstanding items remain and are expected to be completed soon.

The Botanical Conservatory also secured a rare and significant orchid acquisition: *Grammatophyllum speciosum*, commonly known as the Tiger Orchid or Queen of the Orchids. This species is exceptionally difficult to find for sale in the United States, and staff had been searching for more than three years to acquire one. Fewer than a dozen botanical gardens in the country are known to have this species in their collections. At maturity, it can reach up to nine feet tall, weigh more than 2,000 pounds, and produce flower spikes over 12 feet long with hundreds of blooms.

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

Fort Wayne Roofing completed warranty-covered roof repairs over the Conservatory Shop area. O'Neil's Glass also completed sealing work on leaking glazing panels above the north end of the Magnolia Room, resolving water infiltration concerns ahead of the rental season.

Fire Equipment Services completed the annual fire extinguisher inspection and service. A new extinguisher was also added to the Terrace area as required by the Fire Marshal.

Staff began preparing workspaces, protocols, and building needs for incoming Camp ACTiVenture counselors ahead of the summer camp season. In-house repairs were also completed on several pieces of equipment and operational items, including the sweeper machine, utility carts, a vacuum, and the doors for the butterfly tent vestibules.

Teusch Electric completed lighting improvements in the Atrium, replacing track light heads to improve the overall appearance and quality of lighting in the space. New pendant lights were also installed near the Conservatory Shop entrance area, further improving presentation and visibility.

Throughout the month, staff supported a heavy increase in visitors, school groups, programs, rental events, and seasonal operations tied to the live butterfly exhibit and spring event calendar. Recruitment has also begun for the open seasonal maintenance position, and staff have been working with new hires in horticulture and Café Flora to provide basic safety and building orientation.



Customers enjoy shopping at the 2026 Mother's Day Plant Sale



Students perform during the String Jams Spring Jam in the Terrace Garden



Guests admire beautiful art forms at the Spring Bonsai Show



Stunning blooms on display during the Iris Show



Students receive a greeting at the start of their Field Trip



Native to the Southeast Asia, a Rice Paper Butterfly rests in the sun



*A Butterfly Attendant
informing guests in the Entry
Vestibule*



*Joyful Plant Advisors as part
of the Mother's Day Plant
Sale*



*Students assist with plant
pickup during the Mother's Day
Plant Sale*



*Students help with annual
planting in the Terrace Garden*

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager, Lead of Marketing

- ✚ www.RiverfrontFW.org had 8,977 hits to the site this month. We continue to use RiverfrontFW.org to promote upcoming events and share current Riverfront news.
- ✚ **Web Statistics:** Active Users: 21,052 Event Counts:166,378
- ✚ Marketing team assisted with the Sweet Breeze Launch (May 12) and the Headwaters Press Conference (May 19).
- ✚ Conducting Customer Service Training for various Recreation Teams in May and June.
- ✚ 68 projects produced, including banners, signs, imprints, passes, tickets, postcards, social posts, web graphics, and more, in preparation for summer programs.
- ✚ Sent FREE Summer Program Flyer through Peachjar to every Fort Wayne Community elementary school.
- ✚ Working on a grant for Hanna Homestead.
- ✚ Distributed corporate sponsorship packets at several area businesses for Fall sponsorships.
- ✚ Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation featured as Community Organization of the Game at Tin Caps game on May 22. Staff assisted with the booth and threw out the first pitch.
- ✚ Social media promotions for: bus trips, scholarships, Summer (*June, July, August*) Fun Times Brochure, and Sweet Breeze Canal Boat Tours
- ✚ Arranged for 25 media interviews with selected Staff promoting May and early summer events.
- ✚ May Media Mentions: 65.
- ✚ Social Media Totals for May:

FB Followers	114,824
FB Viewers	883,745
X (formerly Twitter) Followers	13,880
Instagram Followers	32,325

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations – Foster/McMillen/Shoaff

By the end of May, the golf courses were up and running as normal. An abnormally wet early spring caused the start of the season to be slow. A drainage issue on Shoaff Park's range caused it to be closed for over a month, which cost us, on average, \$500/day in revenue. The drainage issue has been corrected at this time, and everything appears to be functioning normally.

Here are the monthly and year-over-year numbers so far this year:

<u>APRIL</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAFF</u>
2025 REVENUE	\$69,518.50	\$53,799.75	\$96,850.25
2026 REVENUE	\$50,533	\$64,295.50	\$97,341
YTD 2025	\$105,660.50	\$ 89,989.00	\$163,573.75
YTD 2026	\$84,808.50	\$101,248.50	\$153,245.00

The golf courses continue to recover from a “perfect storm” of situations last season that caused serious turf issues, especially with the greens. Green aerification is in progress, and at the time of this report, has been completed at Foster Park and on the main course at McMillen. This will be followed up by topdressing/seeding, and the turf should begin to improve. Continuing with the maintenance practices of aerifying, seeding, and topdressing as a regular program will greatly improve course conditions over time. The new green at Foster Park has been re-seeded, and hopefully, the hole that has been closed for 2+ years can be reopened later this season.

All of the watering systems have been brought back online for the season, and as usual, problems are being detected and fixed as they occur. The age and condition of the watering systems will continue to be a major issue in trying to improve turf conditions, as well as the age and condition of the course equipment. Already this season, there have been seven mowers in need of repair

Survey work has begun in order to acquire permits to build a range at Foster Park. Creating the range will require the building of three new golf tees and two new greens to re-route the course. The architecture firm of Hills-Forrest-Smith is once again working on this project.

Activity levels have been encouraging, and there is every reason to be optimistic about this season. The addition of 17 carts this spring is bringing us closer to the optimal number of carts we should have, and the number of repairs needed has become more manageable as the cart fleet ages. By all appearances and trends, things should continue to improve in 2026.

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



- ✚ We were finally able to reopen the Rivergreenway - Maumee Pathway east of Anthony to North River Road on May 29th. It has been closed all spring due to flooding, and then we had to wait for a piece of equipment to be fixed in order to clean the silt off the trail.
- ✚ Mayor Tucker had a ribbon-cutting for the completion of the 4.5-mile-long Hanna Street Trail and Trailhead at 612 E Pettit on 5/28 at 1:30 p.m. The trail connects to Weisser Park, Tillman Park, and the Rivergreenway. It also connects to Reservoir Park via the Renaissance Pointe Trail.
- ✚ We will have two sessions of Bike Safety Training this summer: June 24th at Shoaff Park at 6 p.m. and July 16th at Weisser Park at 3 p.m.
- ✚ We will bid the Vann Family Crossing (pedestrian bridge for the Pufferbelly Trail) over Coliseum Boulevard in July, with construction beginning in September.
- ✚ We will be painting black stripes on our yellow bollards to make them more noticeable to visually impaired trail users.



Staff Reports Submitted June 11, 2026

- + We will be re-painting “Slippery When Wet” logos at our boardwalks this summer.
- + We will soon be replacing all “No Motor Vehicle” signs along the trails with new signage that aligns with our revised ordinance, allowing certain electric vehicles.
- + We’ll have our Open Streets news conference on 6/24 at 10:30 a.m. to announce the date for the event (8/16) and highlight new activities.

National / State / Division News and Media Coverage:



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION



NRPA Magazine – June 2026 <https://parksandrecmag.mydigitalpublication.com/june-2026/cover1>

[Parks Recreation Magazine • May 2026](#)

[Crossroads - Fort Wayne | Crossroads | wdrb.com](#)

[Fort Wayne magazine June 2026 | FortWayne.com](#) (turn pages from right to left, by hovering your mouse, and clicking over the bottom of the right page) <http://thedesigndesignhornet.com/books/Fort-Wayne-Monthly-May-2026/> [Fort Wayne magazine May 2026 FortWayne.com](#)

The **Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory** was recently featured on Islands.com as a stunning indoor and outdoor oasis in Fort Wayne. According to Visit Fort Wayne, Islands.com receives approximately 1.83 million unique visitors per month, making this another meaningful opportunity for the Botanical Conservatory to be recognized by a national travel audience. This earned feature comes on the heels of other recent media attention and reinforces that our work is being noticed well beyond Fort Wayne. You can read the article here: <https://www.islands.com/2155405/foellinger-freimann-botanical-conservatory-fort-wayne-indiana-stunning-oasis-indoor-outdoor-areas-strolling/>

Cooling stations offered throughout the summer: The City of Fort Wayne’s Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services and the Fort Wayne Area Planning Council on Homelessness today announced that cooling stations are available throughout the community for residents seeking relief from the heat. The following locations are now serving as cooling stations and are open until September 1.

Allen County Public Library Main Branch, 900 Library Plaza, Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday noon-5 p.m. Closed July 4.

Botanical Conservatory, 1100 S. Calhoun St., Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday/Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday noon-4 p.m.



Citilink, Central Station, 121 W. Baker St., individuals may purchase a fare and ride one full trip on a route to cool off. Monday-Friday 5:25 a.m.-9:45 p.m., Saturday 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Closed July 4.

Inasmuch Ministry, 930 Broadway, Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.- noon, Monday evening 4 p.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 4-7 p.m. when the temperature is 90 degrees or more.

The Rescue Mission, 404 E. Washington Blvd., open seven days a week 7 a.m.-6 p.m. regardless of temperature. Meals at 7 a.m., noon, and 5 p.m.

The Salvation Army, 2901 N. Clinton St., Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed July 4.

The Office of Housing and Neighborhood Services and the Planning Council on Homelessness continue to look for other partners to serve as cooling stations, especially during the evening hours. Any agency or business interested in learning more about becoming a location should call 311 and ask for Amanda Fall. They can also email ohns@cityoffortwayne.org for more information.

Residents may find more information about the cooling stations online at

<https://engage.cityoffortwayne.org/2026-city-fort-wayne-cooling-stations>.

Around FW, Georgetown/Blackhawk neighborhood plan

<https://aroundfortwayne.com/news/2026/06/05/georgetown-blackhawk-2040-neighborhood-plan-kicks-off/>

WPTA, Four Fort Wayne groups receive mini grants through opioid settlement program

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/08/four-fort-wayne-groups-receive-mini-grants-through-opioid-settlement-program/>

WANE, New group launches campaign against Flock cameras ahead of July vote by City Council

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/new-group-launches-campaign-against-fort-wayne-flock-cameras-ahead-of-july-council-vote/>

Adams Radio Group, Fort Wayne receives climate award at U.S. Conference of Mayors event

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/06/05/city-of-fort-wayne-recognized-at-national-event/>

WPTA, City announces location change for 4th of July fireworks display

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/04/city-fort-wayne-announces-location-change-4th-july-fireworks-display/>

City TV, News Around Town program with features on Headwaters Park fountain/splashpad; Anchor Resource Center; Hanna Street Trail

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=iaN87bfPra7zdYeB>

WFFT, Fort Wayne music economy strategy unveiled



https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-music-economy-strategy-unveiled/article_a371c7fc-183d-456a-af61-b730aa620b8a.html

Ind. Cap. Chronicle, State lawmakers propose guardrails to limit the sharing of license plate camera data
<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/2026/06/04/state-lawmakers-propose-guardrails-to-limit-the-sharing-of-license-plate-camera-data/>

WPTA, Senior Games feature

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/03/fort-wayne-senior-games-kick-off-47th-year-with-month-competition/>

WANE, Waynedale 2040 plan nears adoption, receives do pass vote from Council

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/waynedale-2040-plan-nears-adoption-receives-do-pass-vote/>

WANE, AI is helping Fort Wayne decide what roads to repair

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/ai-is-helping-fort-wayne-decide-what-roads-to-repair/>

WPTA, Lt. Gov to host mobile office hours and town hall in Fort Wayne

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/03/lt-gov-micah-beckwith-host-mobile-office-hours-town-hall-allen-county/>

WPTA, Community asked to participate in Southeast Corridors Planning Project

https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/02/fort-wayne-community-asked-participate-southeast-corridors-planning-project-survey/?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=organicclicks&tbref=hp

WPTA, Walk in the Park feature on City pools

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/03/walk-park-city-pools/>

Whatzup publication, Councilwoman Booker op-ed – Artists have shown creative expression carries responsibility

<https://whatzup.com/artists-have-shown-creative-expression-carries-responsibility/>

WFFT, Farmers Market at Salomon Farm Park

https://www.wfft.com/community/salomon-farmers-market-opens-season-with-local-vendors-and-community-support/article_b04c0c78-2f27-4e4f-bea6-ac36a6c98a40.html

WBOI, Recap of City Council meeting – Public comments on homeless resource center

<https://www.wboi.org/government/2026-06-04/fort-wayne-city-council-hears-from-dozens-of-residents-about-proposed-homeless-resource-center>

WOWO, Jeremy Bush discussing city fire contract approval and county fire plans

<https://wowo.com/big-developments-in-public-safety-for-allen-county/>



FW Bus Weekly, Fort Wayne and New Haven youth sports centers to be complementary, not competitive
[May 28: Fort Wayne, New Haven youth sports centers to be complementary, not competitive | Government | fwbusiness.com](#)

Adams Radio Group, Neighborhood infrastructure projects receive approval at City Council
<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/05/28/neighborhood-infrastructure-projects-receive-approval-at-city-council/>

WANE, City and fire union ink new deal to end two-year saga
<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-fire-union-ink-new-deal-to-end-two-year-saga/>

WANE, Potential impact on local governments with gas tax holiday
<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/whats-the-local-statewide-price-of-indianas-gas-tax-holiday/>

WANE, Possible flooding risk was overlooked in quarry discussions
<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/as-bza-shoots-down-quarry-one-major-issue-was-largely-overlooked-in-opposition-movement/>

Ind. Cap. Chronicle, Governor eyes property tax breaks for seniors and assessment changes
<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/2026/05/27/braun-eyes-property-tax-breaks-for-seniors-assessment-changes/>

WFFT, Lawton Park – DORA
https://www.wfft.com/news/lawton-skate-park-added-to-fort-waynes-dora-raising-safety-concerns/article_242f1a2d-b29b-4363-b90b-fed65fa7e363.html

Foster, McMillen and Shoaff Golf Courses are open

First Start Time: *9:00 a.m. weather permitting

Foster-3900 Old Mill Road, McMillen-3900 Hessen Cassel Road, Shoaff-6401 St. Joe Road

First tee time will be moved to *8:00 a.m. beginning on Saturday, April 18 weather permitting. Cart conditions for each course and driving ranges at Shoaff and McMillen will be determined day-to-day. Please call the clubhouse to inquire and follow FortWayneParksGolf on Facebook for course conditions and range announcements.

Color in Motion

April 21 to June 21, public hours

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

Live butterflies will land at the Botanical Conservatory and bring with them an array of natural beauty and wonder. Watch in awe, their wings in flight, as they flash with color pigments and refracted light. Observe exotic butterflies emerging from their chrysalides right before your eyes! An epic display of multicolored flowers and foliage elevates this annual spring exhibit. Sponsored by the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Fort Wayne Park Foundation, “In memory of Jo Ann and William Wyatt,” O’Rourke-Schof Family Foundation, 21Alive and 97.3 WMEE.

COLOR IN MOTION



Live Butterfly Exhibit

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Julie Wall: Grounded in Light

April 21 to June 21, public hours

Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

Every star in the sky has a flower on the ground... This sentiment—echoed through poetry, literature, art and mythology for hundreds of years—resonates deeply with Julie Wall. She is drawn to the idea of an inherent interconnectedness within the universe, a network of links that bind us to our surroundings. To her, the seemingly infinite stars above are reflected in the immeasurable flowers below, forming a quiet cosmic balance. Wall has been making prints for nearly 20 years and has been an artist for even longer. The opportunity to share her work and process brings her immense joy and offers her a sense of balance in her own life.

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 (<https://bit.ly/RFWStravaClub>) 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!

Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails Season Kick-Off

The 2026 season for Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails will begin on Tuesday, April 28 at 6:00 p.m. at Promenade Park. This kick-off event includes a free Trails Celebration Party hosted by Fort Wayne Trails from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. TEDS Snack + Bar will be open with drinks for purchase and Fort Wayne Trails will have light snacks on hand.

Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails will take place during the same weeks this year.

Date and locations for the next 4 Trek the Trails bicycle rides:

- 6/23: Shoaff Park, 6401 St. Joe Rd.

Locations for the next 4 Tread the Trails for walkers, runners and wheelchairs:

- 6/11: Jack R. Harris Park, N. Main St., Grabill
- 6/25: Shoaff Park, 6401 St. Joe Rd

Trek the Trails is presented by the City of Fort Wayne and Fort Wayne Trails Inc. and proudly sponsored by Northeastern REMC, UAW Local #2209, VS Engineering, and Old Fort Bicycle. More info:

<https://fwtrails.org/trek-the-trails/>.



FREE SUMMER FUN

Park & Play



Mobile Recreation

June 1-July 31

8 park locations
Days and times vary



LIFETIME SPORTS ACADEMY

FREE Tennis, Golf, Swimming
Lessons and Lunch for ages 7-17

June 1-July 17 at McMillen Park
Scan QR code for details.



Community Youth Centers

Jennings • Weisser • McMillen

June 1-July 31 Mon-Fri, 9 am-12:30 pm and 1-4:30 pm

Free all-day summer fun for ages 5-17. Lunch and snacks included!

McKinnie Commons

May 29, 5-7 pm, Kick Off

June 12, 6:30 pm, Free Concert

July 31, 1-4 pm, Summer Celebration

August 14, 6:30 pm, Free Concert



fortwayneparks.org • 427-6000





47TH ANNUAL

40 FUN AND CHALLENGING
SPORTS AND GAME EVENTS
FOR MEN AND WOMEN AGES 50+

50+

SENIOR GAMES

JUNE 1 – JULY 1 FORT WAYNE, IN

Get complete details at
bit.ly/FWSeniorGames
Community Center, 233 W. Main St. or 427-6460

Archery Axe Throwing Basketball Biking Billiards Bocce Bowling Checkers Cornhole Darts
Disc Golf Golf Horseshoes Miniature Golf Paper Airplane Flying Pickleball Shuffleboard
Skee Ball Softball Throwing/Hitting Table Tennis Timed Walk Trivia Bingo Wii Bowling AND MORE!

 *Celebrating America's 250th Birthday!*

Sponsored by:
Absolute Angels Indiana Donor Network Parkview Heart Institute WANE 15



Lakeside
Rose
Garden
Tour



FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION

SATURDAY • JUNE 13
10:00-11:30am • FREE
1401 Lake Ave.

Lakeside Gardener, Sarah Colter, will share a brief history of the park and delve into topics such as annual and bulb planting, basic rose care and what it takes to manage and maintain the gardens.



Salomon Farmers' Market

Wednesdays, 4-7 pm

June 3 - September 2

Salomon Farm Park, 817 W. Dupont Rd.

**Fresh Produce • Baked Goods • Honey
Homemade Pies • Artisan Goods**



FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION



Sweet Breeze

Saturday Specialty Tour

Princess
Party

Saturday
JUNE 20
11am & 12pm



Sweet Breeze
CANAL BOAT
Ridesweetbreeze.org



Riverfront
FORT WAYNE



FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION





FATHER'S DAY in the **GARDEN**

June 20 & 21
Saturday 10 am-5 pm • Sunday 12-4 pm
at the Botanical Conservatory

Dads admitted FREE!
live butterflies garden displays potted plant

Sunday 12-3 pm
Lawn Games
The Eric Mathews Band
Beer & Delectables
available for purchase from
Hop River Brewing Company
and The Spicy Bird

ICAN Indiana Center for Autism Network
FOELLINGER FREIMANN
BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY
THE SPICY BIRD HOT CHICKEN
96.3XKE FORT WAYNE'S CLASSIC ROCK
HOP RIVER BREWING COMPANY



Pueblo Garden

FOELLINGER FREIMANN
BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY
1100 S. Calhoun St.
Fort Wayne, IN

Garden Exhibit
**June 27
thru
Nov 15**

f X i BConservatoryFW



The Foellinger Theatre Season is on track for a great summer of music and fun! Check out the flyer and purchase tickets at <https://foellingertheatre.org> or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or X.



Foellinger Theatre

