



Steve McDaniel, Director

- + We kicked off the month and the start of summer with the opening of the Senior Games and press conference. The month was full of great competition, lots of camaraderie, and hopefully good times for everyone.
- + I participated in Community Development's Downtown Plan Advisory Committee to share our thoughts about the update they are working on concerning the Downtown Plan. This will likely be one of several meetings over the next several months.
- + I was able to share our success story of Promenade Park and Riverfront Development with a delegation from the City of Huntington and the WindSwell Foundation. It is always good to share our stories with others.
- + I had an interesting discussion with a representative from Google regarding our Park system. I believe they are looking at ways to collaborate with Fort Wayne to enhance the quality of life. I plan on continuing our discussions.
- + Part of our team met with Luke as part of our quarterly discussions with the Inclusion Institute. They had applied for a grant where we would be a partner with them. Unfortunately, they did not receive the grant, but I believe this gives us the framework to apply for other grants to fulfill the proposed project.
- + Concerts started at the Foellinger Theatre with a performance from the Fort Wayne Area Band, as well as the Little River Band and the Fort Wayne Jazz Orchestra. What a great way to start the season. I look forward to the rest of the season.
- + The team continues to work through Riverfront Phase 2 construction as we coordinate work with AEP, The Eddy, and other adjacent developments.
- + Rob and I met with the James Foundation to learn more about the great work that they do in our community, while we were able to share the same about the Parks and Recreation Department.
- + The new sculpture was unveiled in REA Park as part of the Shout Out program through the city and the Public Art.
- + I represented the department in the Mayor's Neighborhood Walk in Concordia Gardens Addition. These allow citizens to discuss anything that impacts their neighborhoods. The mayor does several of these across the city each year.
- + Chuck and I met with the Friends of the Rivers group to discuss Sweet Breeze and future needs. It gave us a few things to consider, and we will continue to discuss them.
- + Jarin and I, with the help of April McCampbell, recorded our latest episode of the Parks Podcast, where we talk about this season of the Foellinger Theatre. If it is not out now, it will soon be released.
- + I attended the latest meeting of the Park Foundation. I gave them an update on several things happening in the parks and was able to answer their questions. They made mention that they are working through a strategic plan and will have some news to share in the future.
- + Chuck and I met with a property owner who is looking to possibly sell/donate part of their land to our department. This is a continuation of past discussions, and we work through several details.



- ✚ Rhonda and I met with the Controller's Office to discuss the 2027 budget and potential shortfalls. They helped identify areas where we could look for other funding to help with next year's budget. We are asked to turn in our budget near the middle of July.

July

- ✚ We started the month by closing out the Senior Games for 2026 with the annual banquet. This year's games provided great events, good competition among all who played, and wonderful camaraderie. I am already looking forward to next year.
- ✚ Several of the team members, their family, and some board members participated in the department's entry in this year's parade. On July 4th, we celebrated Independence Day along with our country's 250th. Our entry into the parade consisted of walkers; a utility cart; a truck with flowers, music, and bubbles; as well as the Park & Play van. We gave out over 10,000 pieces of candy to those lining the streets. It was a warm day, but we had a great time.
- ✚ The team looked at the design work happening for the Botanical Conservatory's Exploration and Terrace Gardens. This includes new event spaces as well as classroom and possible greenhouse spaces.
- ✚ Jarin and I met with one of the Theatre promoters to discuss future concerts, other opportunities, and what 2027 might look like. We will continue to work on what next year's offers might be.
- ✚ Rhonda and I met with a local non-profit to help them understand what renting the theatre might look like for them about building a concert as a fundraiser.
- ✚ Kansas and 38 Special concerts were this month. At an almost full house, it was a great night for music. There was an opening act which added to the amount of music played that night. All three bands combined played for several hours.
- ✚ We continued our talks with Visit Fort Wayne to make sure that we are a great partner with other organizations and facilities providing opportunities for our residents and tourists visiting Fort Wayne.
- ✚ I had an opportunity to share our Parks and Recreation story with several interns from City Utilities. It was good to hear their views of our department and also give them a glimpse of what it takes to operate all that we do.
- ✚ I met with the Riverfront Programming team to start talking about opportunities in Phase 2 for programming. They were well ahead of me and had several ideas already in the works. I am looking forward to seeing what all is coming for next year.
- ✚ This month we started to wrap up some of our summer programs. We held the closing ceremony for Lifetime Sports Academy, where we had about 1,000 kids participate in golf, tennis, and swimming. We also finished our summer camps and PODS programs where another almost 2,900 kids participated. These are just a few examples of all the fun that was had in Parks.
- ✚ Later in the month, we held a press conference to cut the ribbon on the Shoaff Park Playground. This was one of six new playgrounds this spring. Along with Shoaff, take a moment and visit all of the new playground equipment at Kreager, Bloomingdale, Ronald G. Repka, Hanna Homestead, and Lafayette Parks.



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, Athletic Fields & Courts, Aquatics (Bob Arnold/Northside Park Pools/McMillen Park Pools), Golf (Foster Park/McMillen Park/Shoaff Park), Outdoor Recreation, Campgrounds, Lindenwood, Hurshtown Reservoir, Special Events, Ice Skating, & Travel Service.

Salomon Farm Park

- Farmin' Fun Day Camp began on Monday, June 8, 2026. The first three weeks of camp concluded on Friday, June 26, 2026. Camp staff will take a scheduled one-week break during the week of July 4, with Week 4 resuming on Monday, July 6. Enrollment remains strong. All six weeks of the 4–5-year-old age group are full, with 24 campers enrolled each week. The Farmers in Training (FIT) program for ages 12–14 is also full for the entire summer. Spaces are still available in the 6–11-year-old age group for Weeks 4–6, as well as in the Counselors in Training (CIT) program for ages 15–17 during Weeks 4–6. To maximize enrollment, administrative staff have begun contacting families on the waitlists for the 4–5 and 12–14 age groups. If enrollment in the 6–11 age group does not reach capacity, staff plan to expand the younger and FIT age groups to accommodate additional children from the waitlists.
- The Salomon Farm Park Farmers' Market opened for the 2026 season on Wednesday, June 3. Additional television coverage leading up to opening day helped generate excitement and increase community awareness of the market. Vendors reported a strong first market and provided positive feedback, noting improved attendance compared to previous years. The Farmers' Market is held every Wednesday through September 2 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Visitors can shop for a variety of locally produced goods, including fresh produce, baked goods, honey, maple syrup, and handcrafted artisan products.
- Salomon Farm Park has planted sunflowers in the front field as well as one-quarter of the six-acre field located between the Heritage Barn and the Equipment Barn. The sunflower fields are expected to bloom in September and early October, providing a vibrant seasonal attraction for park visitors and a beautiful backdrop for fall programming and photography.
- Salomon Farm Park's Farmin' Fun Day Camp wrapped up the 2026 summer camp season on Friday, July 24. Overall, the camp season was a success despite a few weather-related challenges. This year, camp administration made several adjustments to maximize enrollment and accommodate more campers. The 6–11-year-old groups were opened to allow campers to return for multiple weeks when space was available due to weeks that were not at full capacity. Additional adjustments were also made to the 12-year-old group and 4–5-year-old group, allowing more campers to move off the waitlist and participate in camp.
- The 2026 Farmin' Fun Day Camp season had strong enrollment overall, particularly among the younger age groups and the Farmers in Training (FIT) program. The 4–5-year-old and FIT programs consistently met or exceeded capacity. Enrollment in the 6–11-year-old program was strongest during the first three weeks before declining later in the season. The Counselor in Training (CIT) program had lower enrollment throughout the summer. Camp administration will review these enrollment trends over the winter and identify opportunities to improve registration and maximize program participation in future seasons.
- Farmin Fun Day Camp Staff cleanup took place Friday, July 24, 2026, after camp ended. Remaining cleanup tasks will resume into the following week. Several counselors were scheduled to assist with River Camp starting the following week.
- The front sunflower field at Salomon Farm Park looks good, with blooms expected in early August. Operations staff will soon share the U-pick opening date with Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Marketing to promote the sunflower field to the public.



- Hannah Basham, Program Coordinator at Salomon Farm Park, concluded her one-year tenure with the Parks Department on Friday, July 31, 2026, as she moved on to a new opportunity. The full-time Program Coordinator position at Salomon Farm Park is now posted on the City of Fort Wayne employment website.

Sweet Breeze

- During June, the Sweet Breeze Princess Tours returned on Saturday, June 20, 2026, with two departures at 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. This year's featured princess was Ariel, who welcomed young guests aboard for a memorable themed experience. While the event continued to be well received by attendees, ticket sales were lower than in 2025. The 11:00 a.m. tour sold 17 tickets, and the 12:00 p.m. tour sold 19 tickets, compared to 38 and 37 tickets during last year's Princess Tours. Staff will evaluate possible factors contributing to the decrease in attendance as planning begins for future themed tours.
- During July, Sweet Breeze offered four community tour options each week, including 45-minute Tuesday tours, 60-minute Thursday evening tours, and two weekend tours on Saturday and Sunday. Thursday evening tours continued to be consistently near capacity. No specialty tours were offered during July due to limited administrative staffing. The Assistant Supervisor of Boating remains vacant and is currently posted on the City of Fort Wayne employment website.

Franke Park Day Camp-June

- In June, Franke Park Day Camp began on Monday, June 8, 2026. The first three weeks of camp concluded on Friday, June 26. Camp staff will take a scheduled one-week break during the week of July 4, with Week 4 resuming on Monday, July 6. Enrollment continues to be strong. The 4–5-year-old age group is sold out for Week 4, with four spaces remaining for Week 5 and five spaces available for Week 6. The 6–11-year-old age group is full for the remainder of the summer. The Counselors in Training (CIT) program is also fully enrolled for all remaining weeks. Openings remain in the Junior Leaders program (age 12), with 12 spaces available for Week 4, six spaces for Week 5, and seven spaces for Week 6. To maximize enrollment, camp administration has begun contacting families on the CIT waitlist. Since the Junior Leaders program did not fill for Week 4, the Staff is converting some of those spaces to accommodate additional campers from the CIT waitlist.
- In July, Franke Park Day Camp wrapped up the 2026 camp season on Friday, July 24. Overall, the camp season was successful, with positive enrollment numbers and no major issues. During the final weeks, camp administration was able to move several CITs off the waitlist and into camp by adjusting staffing and utilizing available capacity in the junior leader program. Franke Park Day Camp maintained strong enrollment throughout the 2026 season. The 6–11-year-old program remained near capacity each week, while the CIT program was at or above capacity throughout the season. Enrollment in the 4–5-year-old program was also strong. Junior Leader enrollment was lower, particularly in Weeks 3–4, allowing camp administration to adjust staffing and move additional CIT participants off the waitlist. End-of-season cleanup was scheduled for Tuesday, July 28, 2026. The Counselor-in-Training potluck celebration was held on Monday, July 27, 2026, at the McMillen Family Pavilion at Franke Park.

 **Johnny Appleseed Campground** – Johnny Appleseed Campground extends its sincere appreciation to Ken Alley and Pamela Charleston for their service as campground hosts. Ken and Pamela completed their final half-Johnny Appleseed Campground extends its sincere appreciation to Ken Alley and Pamela Charleston for their service as campground hosts. Ken and Pamela completed their final half-season in this role. On Sunday, June 28, 2026, Tim and Marsha McDermott assumed the role of campground hosts.



✚ **Hurshtown Reservoir** - Hurshtown Reservoir's annual Kids Fishing Derby was held on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The event was open to children ages 16 and under, with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. Fishing started at 8:00 a.m. and experienced a 30-minute weather delay due to lightning before safely resuming. Awards were presented at 12:00 p.m. The event coincided with an Indiana DNR Free Fishing Day, allowing participants to fish without a fishing license. While participation in the derby was free, the standard \$5 per vehicle park entrance fee applied. A total of 63 young anglers participated, an increase of nine participants over the previous year. Special thanks go to Bubba's 33 for their generous sponsorship of prizes and giveaway items, helping make the event a memorable experience for all who attended.

✚ **River Camp** - River Camp took place from Monday, July 27 through Friday, July 31, 2026. Running daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., it was held at the Riverlodge Pavilion in Shoaff Park. This program was sold out at 40 campers with 2 campers on the waitlist.

✚ **McMillen Park Community Center** – During the reporting period, the McMillen Park Community Center Summer Youth Program continued to provide educational, recreational, and enrichment opportunities for participants. Youth engaged in a variety of activities that promoted physical fitness, teamwork, creativity, and personal growth.

- During July, McMillen Park hosted a one-day USA Volleyball Camp. Participants learned volleyball fundamentals, including serving, passing, setting, hitting, proper hand placement, and teamwork, while being introduced to the sport in a fun and supportive environment.
- The Summer Youth Program served 1,685 youth during July. Nutrition services included 533 breakfasts, 610 lunches, and 855 snacks, helping meet the nutritional needs of participating youth.
- Twenty-eight new youth registered for programming during July, following 105 new registrations in June.
- Facility rentals continued throughout the summer, with two rentals being held during July.

✚ **Community Center**

- Community Center programs continued to attract strong participation. Gymnastics & Dance served 136 participants, while the Lego Challenge welcomed 18 youth. Youth athletic programs included Tennis (40), T-Ball (37), Soccer (19), and Volleyball (14).
- PODS summer camps continued throughout the reporting period, providing educational and recreational programming for youth ages 5–12. Camp highlights included visits from Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control, outdoor education at Lindenwood Nature Preserve, and Zoo Exploration activities that promoted environmental education and hands-on learning.
- Staff coordinated the annual Fun in the Fort program by confirming participating destinations, including the addition of the Dinosaur Fossils Exposed exhibit at the downtown Allen County Public Library.
- On July 1, 2026, the Community Center hosted the 47th Annual Senior Games Awards Ceremony at McMillen Family Pavilion. A total of 195 participants and 26 volunteers attended the event, celebrating another successful year of Senior Games competition.
- The annual Lego Build Night and Lego Challenge were held on July 1 and July 9. Sixteen youth attended the free build event, and 18 competitors participated in the challenge with strong family support and sponsorship from Schmidt-n-Bricks and Hamilton Hunter Builders.
- Adult classes continued to maintain full enrollment, including pottery, stained glass, knitting, Mah Jongg, and Senior Aqua Fit, demonstrating continued community interest in lifelong learning opportunities.



Community Outreach

- On June 30, 2026, the Supervisor of Community Outreach partnered with volunteers from the Church of the Brethren, Teen Works participants, and youth from Weisser Park Youth Center to reorganize the center's library. The project improved the organization and accessibility of library resources for youth participants.
- The Park & Play summer program continued to experience strong participation during the reporting period. Through July, 2,167 participants attended the program, including 789 participants during the month. Kreager Park and Lakeside Park remained the highest-attended program sites.
- On July 16, 2026, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation partnered with Public Works and the Fort Wayne Police Department to host a Bicycle Safety Training at Weisser Park Youth Center. Fifty-seven youth participated in the program and received bicycle safety education. Free bicycle helmets were provided through support from Public Works, INDOT, and Parkview Trauma Services.

Weisser Park Youth Center

- During the reporting period, 14 new youth registered for the Summer Program, bringing total enrollment to 188 participants.
- Staff continued to provide a variety of recreational, educational, and STEM activities. Youth participated in team-building games, sports, yoga, water activities, creative arts and crafts, and STEM experiments that encouraged problem-solving, creativity, and physical activity.
- Weekly Friday tournaments and challenges continued throughout the reporting period. Youth participated in obstacle course challenges, basketball, Mario Kart, pool, ping pong, and bumper pool tournaments that promoted teamwork and healthy competition.
- Youth participated in sport instruction throughout the reporting period, including three-disc golf sessions, two fishing sessions, one swimming lesson with 15 participants, and five tennis lessons. These activities focused on developing recreational skills, sportsmanship, and confidence.
- The Center for Nonviolence facilitated six FACES Leadership Program sessions that focused on leadership development, emotional awareness, self-control, confidence, and healthy coping strategies. Participants completed program evaluations at the conclusion of the series.
- Erin's House facilitated two grief support sessions that provided youth with opportunities to discuss loss through activities and group discussions. The final session concluded with a celebration recognizing participants' completion of the program.
- Goree Hung Ga Academy provided three martial arts sessions that emphasized strength, agility, coordination, and self-discipline through structured exercises and activities.
- Team READ facilitated three literacy sessions featuring group reading, songs, games, and individual reading activities. Youth also received books to build their personal home libraries.
- On June 26, 2026, twelve youth attended the Safety Village 35th Anniversary celebration, where they participated in fire safety education, interactive activities, games, and community events.
- On July 1, 2026, twenty youths participated in a pontoon boat excursion on Fort Wayne's three rivers, providing an outdoor recreational experience.
- On July 14, 2026, twenty-three youth attended Erin's House Day Camp. Participants engaged in activities designed to promote emotional wellness and healthy coping skills through music, art, and interactive learning experiences.
- On July 16, 2026, fifty-six youth participated in Bicycle Safety Training at Weisser Park Youth Center. Participants received bicycle safety instruction, were fitted for helmets, and each received a bicycle helmet to promote safe riding practices.



Jennings Recreation Center

- During the reporting period, Jennings Recreation Center averaged 61 youth participants per day. Youth continued to participate in educational, recreational, and enrichment activities throughout the summer program.
- Allen County Public Library visited the center weekly to provide literacy activities, crafts, and reading opportunities. The program encouraged a love of reading and fostered positive relationships between youth and teen volunteers.
- Erin's House facilitated grief support sessions that focused on developing healthy coping skills and providing youth with a safe environment to discuss loss and emotions.
- Sankofa Sessions continued each week with members of the Jennings Council and community Elders. Youth participated in activities that promoted life skills, literacy, cultural awareness, and personal development.
- During the reporting period, youth visited the horse stables across the street from the center and participated in carriage rides through the East Central neighborhood. Participants learned about the history of the neighborhood while experiencing a unique community partnership.
- Youth also participated in field trips to Regal Cinemas, North Side Pool, the horse stables, and the Cooper Center for fishing. These experiences provided recreational opportunities while encouraging outdoor learning and community engagement.
- **Miscellaneous-FWCS Partnership**
 - Collaborating with FWCS transportation to transport kids from school to the Youth Centers for the After-School Program.
 - Jennings Center (6) Elementary Schools (3) Middle Schools
 - Weisser Center (9) Elementary Schools
 - McMillen Community Center (5) Elementary Schools

Golf

- Chris Rudolph reported that Foster Golf Course original green #7 is finally growing in and has been push-mowed a couple of times. He stated that this was the green that had to be completely rebuilt after the “Big Dig” was completed
- Chris Rudolph reported that the Shoaff Golf Course deep well pump had gone bad. He stated that this is the sole source provider for irrigation on the golf course. Jason Smith stated that he is in the process of getting a purchase order to replace the pump, motor and piping.
- Gary Whitacre reported that he has been working with staff from the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association to host the fall golf outing at Foster Golf Course. He stated that the association has two fundraising outings a year and that they like to move them around the state.
- Chris Rudolph and Seth Pequignot continue to locate and replace broken or missing irrigation heads at all three golf courses. This is vital to the health and aesthetics of the courses.
- Gary Whitacre reported that the Men’s Senior Golf Association stated that for the first time in six years, the sand bunkers will be in play at Foster Golf Course. Gary stated that this was a huge plus due to Chris Rudolph and Seth Pequignot and their crews.

Aquatics

- Pool season opened on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at both Northside Pool and McMillen Pool.
- Learn to Swim lessons at Northside Pool began the first of four, two-week sessions on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.



- Lifetime Sports Academy swimming lessons at McMillen Pool began Monday, June 1, 2026.
- Daryn Schwartz and Jessica Witt reported on Sunday, June 21, 2026, that the Pools received the first of two unannounced audits by Jeff Ellis & Associates. The aquatics operation received an overall “exceeds” mark which is the top score possible.
- Daryn Schwartz and Jessica Witt reported two additional lifeguard training classes were held to certify the remaining lifeguards who were unable to attend the initial training.
- Daryn Schwartz and Jessica Witt reported that on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, the pools received their second of two unannounced audits by Jeff Ellis & Associates. The aquatics operation once again received an overall “exceeds” mark which is the top score possible.
- Daryn Schwartz and Jessica Witt reported that as part of the audit, lifeguard Kenley Garman was recognized as a “Golden Guard”. This award is given to less than one percent of over 40,000 lifeguards that Jeff Ellis & Associates audits each year. This was the first time a Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department lifeguard has received this award.
- On Friday, July 17th, 2026, Lifetime Sports Academy swimming lessons concluded. Pool staff taught 1,014 lessons this summer.
- On Friday, July 24th, 2026, *Learn to Swim* lessons concluded at Northside Pool. Enrollment this season was 597 compared to 570 in 2025, which represented almost a 5% increase.



Placer AI

- In May 2026, there were approximately 910,000 combined visits to our parks.
- The three highest parks attended were Franke Park (249K), Kreager Park (80K), and Foster Park (77K)
- In June 2026, there were approximately 912,000 combined visits to our parks.
- The three highest attended parks were Franke Park (202k), Kreager Park (95K), and Foster Park (78K).
- Parks not listed in the monthly Placer AI report due to being near sensitive locations include:
 - Indian Village Park
 - Klug Park
 - Miner Playground
 - Ronald G Repka Memorial Park
 - Study Park



Riverfront

- June was a busy month for Riverfront Fort Wayne, filled with regularly scheduled programs such as their Riverfront Social Series, special events including Electric Riverfront, and an increase in rentals with a total of 9 reservations in Promenade Park.
- Riverfront launched Riverfront Social Run Club. This is a recurring program held on Thursday evenings in the Old National Bank Plaza encouraging the community to stop in and participate in a various selection of activities including chalk art, color-by-number mural (promoting Dragon Boats), and yard games.
- Riverfront Social: Sports Club was also introduced to the community in June. Sports Club is held at Headwaters Park on select Tuesday evenings throughout the summer, offering ultimate frisbee, flag football, and kickball. Riverfront Social Run Club continues to be a popular weekly evening program,



held on Thursdays, bringing out an average of 15 people per session, with 325 total members in Riverfront's Strava Club.

- Additional June programming included Fitness Sunday featuring Barre, Yoga, and Pilates in partnership with Discover Yoga and PureMovement Studio, Zumba in the Park in partnership with the Greater Fort Wayne YMCA, Storytime with the Allen County Public Library, River Rangers, and Princess Party on the Sweet Breeze.
- Electric Riverfront was held in June for the second year, bringing the community an evening of free electric dance music performed by local DJs in partnership with Fort Underground Coalition. This event had 3 stages in Promenade Park, 14 DJs, Silent Disco on The Wells Street Bridge, and a vendor market in the Park Foundation Pavilion. Over 2,000 people visited the park, remaining consistent with attendance from the previous year.
- Riverfront rentals increased in June with 9 reservations, including corporate gatherings (YLNI, MedPro, Coldwell Banker, City of Fort Wayne Community Development, Greater Fort Wayne), public community events (River Drums, Art of Living Yoga Celebration), and 2 private rentals.
- June begins the busy Headwaters event season at the Lincoln Pavilion on the East side of Headwaters Park. The festival season kicked off at the West Side Pavilion with Arab Fest. Along with Arab Fest, this year was Middle Waves on the East Side. It was a challenge to run two large separate events in each area of Headwaters Park, but we were able to fight off the weather and work to create a partnership for these events to work well together.
- Following Arab Fest and Middle Waves was the kickoff of German Fest using both the East Side and West Side Pavilion at Headwaters Park. German Fest had another successful year fighting through construction and parking issues.
- Following German Fest was Rib Fest, renting the East Side Pavilion. Although the Duck Street Parking lot was tighter for construction staging, they were able to fit BBQ vendors in the area to provide a great atmosphere for those attending the event.
- Greek Fest was directly after Rib Fest on the East Side.

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.

June 2026 - 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 June 30th, 2026:
 - Program Facility Coordinator – McMillen (1) (Fund 121)
 - Heavy Equipment Operator – Grounds (Fund 121)



- Supervisor V – Facility Maintenance (Fund 121)
- Fleet Mechanic – Golf (Fund 439)
- Manager – Neighborhood Programs (Fund 439)
- The Parks and Recreation Department paid **510** employees (144 full-time and 366 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending May 30th and paid on June 5th. We are at peak summer staffing currently.
- 43 total P-Card statements were processed for June for charges made at the end of April to almost the end of May.
- There was a total of 652 invoices processed during June from 6/1 to 6/30.

Customer Service and Finance

- Kim has been handling all the changes for classes, tickets, tours, etc.
- Front office staff have been doing a great job of providing excellent customer service to all the customers on the phone, in person, and through email. They are also always willing to help other Parks and Recreation locations with any tasks they need completed.
- The front office staff is working hard to cover vacation days and make sure that all work is still completed in a timely and accurate manner.
- Front office staff have been assisting the new part-time golf employee with all deposits and balancing of daily golf reports.
- Helped with planning Fort Wayne Parks entry into the Fourth of July parade
- Steve and Rhonda met with the Controller's office staff to begin discussions on the 2027 budget
- Rhonda attended the first concert of the season, the Fort Wayne Area Community Band, and assisted with logistics
- Rhonda attended the Mayor's Quarterly Department Head meeting

 **Foellinger Theatre Report – Overview:** June marked the successful launch of the 2026 Foellinger Theatre season. Three successful public events demonstrated the effectiveness of offseason investments in staffing, training, facility improvements, and operational planning. Opening performances were executed safely and efficiently while delivering a high-quality experience for patrons, artists, promoters, and community partners.

- **June Highlights**

- Successfully launched the 2026 season with Fort Wayne Area Community Band, Little River Band with Seals & Crofts 2, and Fort Wayne Jazz Orchestra.
- Seasonal staff successfully transitioned from training into live event operations.
- Conducted post-event evaluations after each performance to improve operations.

- **Little River Band Performance Highlights**

- 1,292 paid tickets sold; 177 comps; 1,469 total tickets distributed; 1,235 total attendance (96% attendance rate).
- \$81,856 net ticket sales.
- \$9,006 bars & concessions revenue (AFTER reimbursed expenses).



- Generated \$12,018.80 in distributable profit with Foellinger Theatre receiving a \$6,009.40 profit share through the co-promotion agreement.

- **Free Concert Attendance**

- Fort Wayne Area Community Band, June 9, 2026: 369
- Fort Wayne Jazz Orchestra, June 30, 2026: 136

 Operations & Guest Experience

- Opening events validated many off-season improvements.
- Staff refined Front of House, Guest Services, Box Office, Bars & Concessions, Artist Hospitality, Security, emergency preparedness, and production coordination while improving guest flow through enhanced communications and supervisory oversight.
- Bar sales increased by 43% over last season due to improved placement, new products, and enhanced preparation techniques.

 **Staffing & Leadership** – Management continued coaching seasonal employees on Customer Service, Safety, Accountability, Communication, and Operational Consistency. Early-season evaluations informed staffing adjustments for the busiest portion of the season.

 Facility & Technology

- Completed glow-in-the-dark aisle striping.
- Continued painting, landscaping, maintenance, and cleaning projects.
- Deployed new radios and point-of-sale equipment.
- Enhanced green room and artist dressing rooms.
- Enhanced lawn concessions and patron amenities.

 Looking Ahead

- Execute the busiest month of the 2026 concert season.
- Continue evaluating staffing and guest service performance.
- Complete facility improvements between events.
- Advance future bookings while beginning planning for the 2027 season.

 July 2026 - 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 July 31st, 2026:



- Program Facility Coordinator – McMillen (Fund 121)
- Grounds Equipment Operator – Grounds (Fund 121)
- Relief Person – Facilities (Fund 121)
- Fleet Mechanic – Golf (Fund 439)
- Manager – Neighborhood Programs (Fund 439)
- Program Coordinator – Salomon Farm (Fund 439)
- The Parks and Recreation Department paid 509 employees (145 full-time and 364 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending July 25th and paid on July 31st.
- 46 total P-Card statements were processed for July for charges made at the end of May to almost the end of June.
- There was a total of 774 invoices processed during July from 6/30 to 7/29.
- Summer programs are starting to wind down. Lifetime Sports Academy staff and some of the day camp staff have been separated. We will be separating more staff in the next few weeks.

Customer Service and Finance

- Kim has been making sure that all the Fall Fun Times are entered into Rec Trac and that the Parks and Recreation App is functioning properly. Fall Fun Times will be released August 5th.
- The Front Office staff have been handling the increase in calls and customers with the business of summer and vacation shortages. Their customer service skills are always top-notch.
- The Front Office staff assisted with the calls and other needed information for the cancellation of David Lee Roth and reschedule of Three Dog Night at the Foellinger Theatre.
- The Front Office Staff have been taking the registrations for Dippin' Dog Swim on Sunday, August 2nd.
- Rhonda and Joyce met with Steve and Chuck to discuss security at Park Pavilions.
- Joyce assisted at the Kansas & .38 Special concert at Foellinger
- Rhonda assisted at both the Kansas & .38 Special concert and the Debutants concerts at Foellinger.
- Rhonda worked with Jarin on July 17th to reschedule the Three Dog Night concert due to the air quality warning. That concert will now be on September 20th. Special thanks to the Marketing Department for all of the items they had to take care of in order to alert the customers that already had tickets and those that may have been planning on coming and then updating all of the graphics for the rescheduled date.
- Rhonda attended the Shoaff Park Playground press conference
- Rhonda submitted the 2027 General Fund and CIP Fund Park Budget
- Rhonda and Jarin met with Project Management to discuss possible upcoming CIP needs/wants at Foellinger Theatre

Foellinger Theatre Report

- July was scheduled to be Foellinger Theatre's busiest and most diverse month of the 2026 season, with six public events spanning national touring concerts, community ensembles, and local arts organizations. Four events were successfully presented, while two were postponed and rescheduled due to extreme heat and



poor air quality. The month required coordinated production, guest services, security, hospitality, ticketing, and facility operations while demonstrating the venue's ability to respond effectively to changing conditions and prioritize the safety of patrons, artists, and staff.

- July validated Foellinger's redesigned bar placement and increased staffing, driving record bars and concessions revenue of \$39,982.12 and a \$48,542.20 financial benefit while proving to promoters that our competitive co-promotion model is profitable, collaborative, and a true partnership.

	Event	Attendance	Paid / Distributed
July 8	New Millennium Jazz Orchestra	362	FREE / 362
July 10	Kansas and 38 Special with Kolby Oakley	2,062	2,195 / 2,341
July 14	Fort Wayne Area Community Band	Postponed & Rescheduled	N/A
July 17	Three Dog Night	Postponed & Rescheduled	N/A
July 24	Debutants & The Hoot	634	516 / 731
July 31	Fort Wayne Children's Choir	1,012	FREE / 1,012

Performance Highlights

New Millennium Jazz Orchestra – July 8 | FREE Community Concert

Attendance: 362, Bars & concessions revenue: \$834.60

The free community concert welcomed 362 patrons and generated \$834.60 in bars and concessions revenue, providing an accessible evening of live local music while supporting secondary venue revenue.

Kansas and 38 Special with Kolby Oakley – July 10 | Co-Pro with Exceptional Artists / Mammoth

Attendance: 2,062 Paid tickets: 2,195 Total distributed: 2,341

The event achieved the highest attendance across both seasons under the current Theatre Manager and produced record bars and concessions revenue of \$39,982.12, with nearly all available inventory sold. Operationally, this performance was supported by the replacement of the venue's bars and the rental of a 40-by-60-foot tent, which fully covered the bar and merchandise area and significantly improved the functionality and presentation of the expanded sales operation, despite no rain occurring during the event. Total ticketing revenue, including facility fees and Ticketmaster rebates, reached \$227,249.48, and merchandise commissions generated \$3,570.30. The event returned \$35,462.34 in profit plus



reimbursement of \$13,079.86 in bars and concessions expenses, for a total financial benefit of **\$48,542.20**.

Fort Wayne Area Community Band – July 14 | FREE Community Concert — Postponed to September 8

Attendance: N/A Paid tickets: N/A Total distributed: N/A

The performance was proactively postponed and rescheduled to September 8 due to extreme heat. The decision prioritized the health and safety of performers, patrons, volunteers, and staff while preserving the opportunity to present the community concert later in the season.

Three Dog Night – July 17 | Postponed to September 20

Attendance: N/A Paid tickets: N/A Total distributed: N/A

The concert was postponed and rescheduled to September 20 because of poor air quality. Venue leadership monitored conditions and prioritized public and occupational health while coordinating the schedule change with the artist, promoter, ticketing partners, staff, and patrons.

Debutants Present: The Hoot w/ special guests Booze Hound Bluegrass – July 24 | Ticketed Event

Attendance: 634 Paid tickets: 516 Total distributed: 731 Bars & concessions revenue: \$5,453.82

The Hoot marked Foellinger Theatre's first collaboration with local band Debutants and featured 52 participants from the band's Hoot music camp. The event welcomed 634 attendees and generated \$5,453.82 in bars and concessions revenue. Although the event experienced an approximate loss of \$920 after expenses, it is considered a strategic success because it established a promising local partnership, created opportunities for future collaborations, and may become an integral part of a proposed Americana, folk, and bluegrass festival—Hoosierbilly—at Foellinger Theatre in a future July.

Fort Wayne Children's Choir – July 31 | FREE Community Concert

Attendance: 1,012 Bars & concessions revenue: \$2,020.07

The free community concert drew 1,012 patrons, the largest attendance among July's completed community events, and generated \$2,020.07 in bars and concessions revenue. The strong turnout demonstrated the value of family-focused community programming at Foellinger Theatre.



Operations & Guest Experience

- The July schedule tested the venue's ability to transition efficiently between community programming and large-scale touring productions. Department leaders continued refining communication, venue-readiness checks, guest flow, security coordination, concessions, and front-of-house coverage based on lessons from the opening month.
- We continued developing the lawn space to enhance the overall patron experience. Picnic tables and additional lighting were added to provide more seating and create a more inviting atmosphere. We also partnered with Park & Play to offer additional yard games and activities, which have been well received by patrons. For Debutants Presents: The Hoot, we welcomed two local food trucks, Ziffles and Carmelita's. The partnership was successful and provided valuable operational lessons that will improve food-truck coordination at future events.



Staffing & Leadership

- Seasonal employees and leaders of the department continue to build consistency throughout the venue's busiest month. Coaching remained focused on customer service, safety, accountability, timely communication, and clear adherence to assigned roles and reporting structures.
- July presented several operational challenges, including extreme heat affecting the Fort Wayne Area Community Band concert, poor air quality affecting Three Dog Night, first-time ticketing procedures for Debutants Presents: The Hoot, and opening doors one hour earlier than usual for Kansas and 38 Special. Staff rose to each occasion and adapted effectively. Navigating these challenges strengthened departmental communication and resulted in the development and implementation of new policies and procedures that will support future events and seasons.



Facility & Technology

- Routine maintenance, cleaning, ground care, production support, and technology oversight continued throughout July to sustain improvements completed before the season and respond quickly to needs identified during live events.
- Planned facility projects include installing a washer and dryer in the backstage area for artists and guests, completing the Spotlight booth renovation after the season, creating a larger gate opening in the lawn area to improve food-truck ingress and egress, repairing the concrete foundation in the bar storage room, and addressing additional facility and deferred-maintenance priorities.

Financial Performance Ticketed Event	Net Ticket Sales	Bars / Concessions	Venue Result / Share
Kansas and 38 Special	\$227,249.48	\$39,982.12	\$48,542.20
Three Dog Night	Postponed	N/A	Pending Sept. 20
Debutants Presents: The Hoot	\$5,160	\$5,453.82	Approx. (\$920)

Steve Schuhmacher – Deputy Director of Park Maintenance,

**Facilities, Technicians, Grounds/Heavy Equipment, Mantrac, Projects, Storeroom,
Administration, Safety Compliance**



June - Facilities

- Pavilion rentals totaled 268 for this month.
- A new Park Person C was hired to fill a vacant position.
- Packard Park's restrooms have been temporarily shut down due to ongoing vandalism.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Martin Luther King, Jr Bridge, McCormick Pavilion,
- Waynedale Playgrounds and Lawton Park Skate Park.
- Greg Reith resigned his position as the Facilities Supervisor, and the parks will work diligently to
- replace him. Good luck, Greg, in your new position; you will be missed. May you have much success.



Maintenance Technician Supervisor: Mike Cremeans

- The summer showcase for the Botanical Conservatory was installed the week of the 22nd. This process included disassembling and storing the outgoing butterfly showcase components, then installing the props for the new show.
- New sewer drains and cleanouts were installed at both McMillen and Franke Parks. These will assist in maintenance and repairs.
- A new grease trap was installed at the Foellinger Theater bar serving area. This was per Board of Health requirements.
- Both grinder pumps at the Shoaff Park drain lift station had to be replaced.
- The electrical H-frame at Reservoir Park's basketball court was rebuilt.
- Exterior renovations and painting are ongoing at the Lawton Park office building.
- A new backflow preventer, concrete pad, and protective cage were installed at McKinney Commons.
- A circular form was excavated and formed up for concrete to be poured at McCormick Park. A contractor then created and installed a sculpture on it.
- There was a total of 30 calls to the on-call person this month. 4 of which were lock issues, 6 were calls from dispatch regarding alarms, and 20 were miscellaneous issues.

Maintenance Technician completed the following:

11: Alarm Maintenance, **24:** Building Maintenance, **4:** Carpentry, **29:** Electrical Repair,
6: HVAC Maintenance, **2:** Key Core Maintenance, **14:** Light Maintenance,
15: Lock Maintenance, **3:** Paint, **15:** Playground Maintenance,
26: Plumbing Maintenance, **28:** Sign Maintenance, **10:** Vandalism

Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment: Rob Schenkel

- Tree limb and debris cleanup continues as needed at various park locations.
- Rivergreenway 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 ran trash routes 7 days a week, ensuring all receptacles in the parks are emptied.
- Parking blocks have been straightened and replaced as needed in various parks.
- Crews are maintaining parks on a 7–10-day rotation, including mowing grass, string trimming around trees and fence lines, blowing off walkways, and spraying weeds.
- Heavy Equipment crews installed a new stone pad at the animal barn at Salomon Park to improve access and provide a more stable surface.
- Stone was added and graded along the berms near the Shoaff Park boardwalk walking path by Heavy Equipment crews to improve stability and enhance their overall appearance.
- New speed bumps were installed at Shoaff Park to improve safety and help reduce vehicle speeds throughout the park.



Main Trac Coordinator: Nicole Roth

- Main Trac Entries: 11,668 for the month, and 246 calls from the 311 Call Center
- We had 24 hours of volunteer work at Hamilton Park.
- Consistently entering time sheets and contracted/sales invoices, and running monthly reports
- 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.
- Spent some time assisting with storm cleanup.
- Overseeing a variety of issues on all sides of Maintenance.
- 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 and Support: Travis Roth - Storeroom and Property:

- Storeroom staff have worked to keep up with the high demand for paper products and cleaning supplies. Multiple large orders are being shipped weekly due to summer programs and pavilion rentals. This demand will remain high for the next few months.
- Signs for various programs and locations have been fabricated in-house as needed.
- Water coolers, trash bags, and nitrile gloves were provided to a local group holding the yearly Juneteenth celebration in the parks.
- Property Transactions:

26 Toyota Pallet Jack	Added Into Inventory	P210
22 RedMax Reciprocator	Scrapped	P210
26 Toro 5910 Mower	Added Into Inventory	P240
16 Stihl Backpack Sprayer	Scrapped	P230
26 Milwaukee 18V Grinder	Added Into Inventory	P252
06 Bobcat Utility Cart	Transferred from Fleet	P252
26 Stihl MS500i Chainsaw	Added Into Inventory	P260
26 Stihl MS661C Chainsaw	Added Into Inventory	P260
27 International M607 chassis	Added Into Inventory	P260
26 Simpson Pressure Washer	Added Into Inventory	R710

- **2026 Vehicle and Equipment Purchase Update:**

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| ✓ Forestry Bucket Truck | Chassis complete |
| ✓ Ford F250 Pickup | Delivered |
| ✓ Toro 5910 Mower | Delivered |

Garage Operations Highlights:

- 201 work orders were scheduled this month, 25 of which were services.



- Tree truck #151 had its engine completely refurbished by Selking International and has been returned to daily service.
- A grapple truck was rented from BEST Rentals to allow forestry to have a backup in case of severe storms. Grounds also used the machine to clean up brush piles at the golf courses.
- The large forestry crane truck was transported to the vendor in Ohio who will install a replacement crane section after a damaged section failed an inspection and took the crane out of service last year.
- The garage mechanics were recognized at a press conference given by the Mayor and Risk Management. The crew were thanked for their focus on safety initiatives related to the expansive garage cleanup that was performed in January and February of this year.
- 4 outdated trucks, surplus golf mowers, and some other surplus items have been listed on the Purple Wave auction site, and bidding will continue until July 7th. At the end of the auction, staff will coordinate the pick-up of these items by customers.
- A Grounds Crew truck was taken to H&H in Hometown to have a damaged hitch plate repaired and a new tailgate fabricated after the original was damaged while dumping material out of the bed.
- A new Toro 5910 was delivered to Lawton Park for grounds, and a new Ford F250 was delivered to the fleet. This truck will replace a 2006 F250 (Truck 19). The utility bed from the old truck will be swapped onto the new chassis.
- The new forestry bucket truck chassis was completed by the International Truck Company. This chassis was then taken to Utility Truck Equipment (UTE) to have the new bucket and body installed. Delivery of the completed truck is expected this fall.
- As the temperatures have fluctuated, repairs to air conditioning systems in park trucks and vehicles has remained high.
- A new deck shell and related parts were purchased from Toro for the golf course's Toro 1200 mowers. This deck will be assembled as a complete unit, allowing mechanics to quickly swap a damaged deck for a new one. This will keep crews mowing with less downtime.
- The Purchasing Department has located a nonprofit organization that may be interested in some old exercise equipment located in the Rea building. These pieces were inherited along with the building and have been stored there since the Parks Dept. took over the property.
- 13 new Kenwood radios were purchased for the theater staff. This order included earpieces and remote microphones as well. This brings the total number of hand-held radios for the theater to 30. This is the number needed for staff to have the required level of communication during events.
- A Motorola radio that was damaged after falling out of a truck was successfully repaired by the Motorola Company and returned to the Parks Dept. via the radio shop.
- A surplus Bobcat utility vehicle was transferred from the Police Department to the Parks Department. This 2006 model is in good shape and will be used by staff to perform repairs and recoveries along the River Greenway and other locations that a shop truck cannot easily access.



Project Administration: Dave Weadock

- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Design – Bidding 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 – Construction planned for September/October 2026.
- Buckner Park Stream Crossing – Planning ongoing through the Landscape Division.
- Community Center Classroom Renovation – Planning in progress.
- Community Center Front Desk Renovation – Planning in progress.
- Daryl B. Cobin Park Sidewalk Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Foellinger Theatre Spotlight Bay Improvements – Project completed.
- Foellinger Theatre Step Lighting – Step tread treatment is in progress.
- Foellinger Theatre Ticket Office Windows Replacement – Project completed.
- Foster Park Golf Course Practice Facility Topographic Survey – Work is ongoing.
- 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.
- Foster Park Golf Course Clubhouse Restrooms Design – Planning in progress.
- Gren Park Picnic Shelter – Shelter has been ordered. Bidding for installation planned for June/July.
- Hanna Homestead Park Playground Equipment – Drainage installation planned for early July.
- Hanna Homestead Park Redevelopment – Approvals in progress.
- Hanna Homestead Playground Border – Project completed.
- Headwaters Park Bridge Railing Renovation – Work is ongoing.
- Johnny Appleseed Campground Paving Projects – Installation of new paving and renovations to existing paving planned for September/October.
- Johnny Appleseed Parnell Bridge Boardwalk Repairs – Bidding in progress.
- Kettler Park New Sidewalk to Tennis Courts – Planning in progress.
- Kreager Park Tennis Courts Recoating – Project planned to begin after spring high school season. Completion by end of July.
- Lafayette Park New Sidewalks – Project completed.
- Lafayette Park Playground Equipment – Equipment is installed. Turf surfacing is ongoing. Vendor replacing damage swing bag.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof Skylights Replacement – Work is ongoing.
- Lawton Park Pedestrian Bridge Structural Engineering Report – Engineer is in initial stages of bridge review.
- Lawton Park Barn Exterior Renovation – Planning in progress
- Lindenwood Nature Preserve Wood Railing Replacement – Work scheduling in progress.
- Lions Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts Recoating – Work is planned for late July through early August.
- McCulloch Park Sidewalks Replacement – Planning in progress.
- 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 the Aquatic season.
- Memorial Park Monument Sign Repairs – Project completed.
- Memorial Park Drinking Fountain Replacement – Scheduling trades for installation.
- Multiple Park Locations Playground Communication Panels – Construction planned to begin in July/August.
- Multiple Park Locations Pavement Repairs and Striping – Awaiting schedules from multiple vendors.
- Bob Arnold/Northside Park Psi-Ote Upper Pavilion Awning Replacement – Order has been placed, and new awnings were installed in May/June.
- Bob Arnold/Northside Park Trail Topographic Survey – Awaiting schedule from surveyor.
- Psi-Ote Park Playground Equipment Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Salomon Farm Animal Barn Renovation – Contractor to begin work in July.
- Salomon Farm Old Barn Gutters Replacement – Planning is in progress.
- Salomon Farm Barns Exterior Painting – Bidding in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rear Parking Lot Lighting – Planning is in progress.
- Shoaff Park Playground Equipment – Playground is open. Final punch list items and site restoration are ongoing.
- Swinney Park Log Cabin Chinking Repairs – Scheduling in progress with contractor.
- Various Parks Playgrounds Dry Wells Installation – Work planned for early July.
- Various Park Pavilions Exterior Painting – Work is ongoing.
- 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 – Bids are due mid-July.
- Various Parks Park Identification Signage Additions – Installation planned for early July.
- Waynedale Park Fitness Equipment Replacement – Planning in progress
- Weisser Park Tennis Courts Fencing Replacement – Planning is in progress.

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.
- 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
- Various Parks: updating park site plan bases and building plans.



Safety: Tony DeVido

- The Safety Committee meeting of the Parks & Recreation Department was held on 6/30, with six employees and 1 guest in attendance.
- A 4-vehicle crash was reported for this time, and 2 employee injuries were reported during this time period.
- 2 CPR/FA classes were held. 15 employees were certified, and I participated in the city-wide Safety Review Council meeting.
- 3 employees received SOAR/CPR training.
- The biennial AED inspections continue.
- SDS book collection and digitization continue.
- I conducted a first aid class for Karen Schrock (Community Center) and the Pods at Lion's Park.
- I participated in the Safety Review Council's Safety Circuit as a presenter.
- Began compiling active shooter assessments for Parks buildings and updating written Emergency Action Plans.

July

Facilities Supervisor Jesse Sayre

- Pavilion rentals totaled 311 for this month.
- Relief workers pressure washed the splash pads at Kreager Park, Buckner Park, and Shoaff Park.
- Playground equipment was pressure washed at Summit Street Play Lot, Study Park, and McCulloch Park.
- Broken paper towel and soap dispensers were replaced at Brewer Park, Swinney Park, McMillen Park, and McCormick Park.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations: Martin Luther King, Jr Bridge and Lawton Park Skate Park. McKinnie Commons, Packard Park playground, Bloomingdale Park playground, Franke Park pedestrian bridge, Brewer Park shelter, Study Park playground, and Moody Park playground.
- Facilities staff prepared the Shoaff Park shelter and playground for the dedication ceremony.
- Spin Trimming and application of weed treatment was completed at various athletic courts throughout the park system.

Maintenance Technician Supervisor: Mike Cremeans

- A hydrant leak was repaired at Johnny Appleseed Campground.
- The Rockhill Park pavilion received cosmetic updates and concrete reinforcement to the pillars.
- New sewer clean-outs were installed at Franke Park and McMillen Park.
- Electrical panels and high voltage cabinets were repainted, and new warning stickers were applied at McMillen Park, Kreager Park, and Camp Allen Park.
- Playground repairs have restarted with the filing of additional inspection reports.
- Heritage signs have been replaced at Lions Park, Franke Park, and the Little Turtle Memorial Park.
- There was a total of 39 calls to the on-call people this month. **12** of which were lock issues, **10** were calls from dispatch regarding alarms, and **17** were miscellaneous issues.



Maintenance Technician completed the following:

11: Alarm Key Core Maintenance, **1:** Light Maintenance,
7: Lock Maintenance, **4:** Paint, **6:** Playground Maintenance,
24: Plumbing Maintenance, **0:** Sign Maintenance, **2:** Vandalism
Maintenance, **14:** Building Maintenance, **7:** Carpentry, **19:** Electrical Repair,
2: HVAC Maintenance, **2:** Vandalism

Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment: Rob Schenkel

- Tree limb and debris cleanup continues as needed at various park locations.
- Rivergreenway 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 run trash routes 7 days a week, ensuring all receptacles in the parks are emptied.
- Crews are maintaining parks on a 7–10-day rotation, including mowing grass, string trimming around trees and fence lines, blowing off walkways, and spraying weeds.
- Stone was added and graded along the berms near Johnny Appleseed Park, McCormick Park, and Lawton Park by Heavy Equipment crews to improve stability and enhance the overall appearance.
- Safety mulch (FIBAR) was added to Bass Park and Franke Park playgrounds to improve safety and enhance their overall appearance.
- Crews installed new drainage tile at the Franke Park playground to eliminate water from backing up into the playground, improving drainage and reducing standing water.
- Heavy Equipment crews removed old benches from the Botanical Conservatory patio area to prepare for the installation of new benches.

Main Trac Coordinator: Nicole Roth

- Main Trac Entries: 6,843 for the month.
- We have had 105, 311 calls this month.
- We had 40 hours of volunteer work at Promenade Park.
- Busy entering time sheets and contracted/sales invoices.
- Running monthly reports for Recreation Staff.
- Citizen Match Tree Program is officially over for the season.

Superintendent: Mike Gore

- Approve and record invoices for various materials that are being used in our grounds, maintenance, and facilities departments.
- Spent some time assisting with storm cleanup.
- Oversaw a variety of issues on all sides of Maintenance.



- Worked with the team to hire Jesse Sayre as the Supervisor of the facilities team.
- 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 and Support: Travis Roth - Storeroom and Property:

- Storeroom staff has continued to support summer programs with daily supplies. This includes the pools, golf courses, day camps, Lindenwood, the Foellinger Outdoor Theatre, and Park and Play.
- Minibus #120 was loaned to city utilities for site tours, and van #143 was used by the youth centers for some additional field trips.
- The Botanical Conservatory Day camp program has concluded for the season, and the storeroom loaner van used by that program was returned to Lawton.
- Property Transactions:

24 RedMax Reciprocator	Scrapped	P210
07 Ford F150 Pickup	Sent To Auction	P210
11 Erskine Snow Blower	Scrapped	P240
82 John Deere Tractor	Sent To Auction	P240
26 Ford F250 Pickup	Added Into Inventory	P250F
95 Chevy Flatbed	Sent To Auction	P250
11 Ford F150 Pickup	Sent To Auction	P260
Various Toro mowers	Sent To Auction	R211
04 Ford F150 Pickup	Sent To Auction	R530
Wabash Van Trailer	Added Into Inventory	R710

- **2026 Vehicle and Equipment Purchase Update:**

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| ✓ Forestry Bucket Truck | Chassis complete |
| ✓ Ford F250 Pickup | Delivered |
| ✓ Toro 5910 Mower | Delivered |

Garage Operations Highlights:

- 128 work orders were scheduled this month, 11 of which were services.
- Crane truck #150 had a new boom section installed at a vendor in Ohio, and once it passes the required yearly OSHA safety inspection, it will be returned to Lawton and put back into service.
- A new Ford F250 pickup truck was delivered from Ford for the facilities crew. A lift gate from a 2024 model (truck #1527) was installed on the new truck, and the service body from truck #19 (2006 model) will be installed onto that same 2024 chassis. This will allow the last 2006 F250 to be removed from service and sent to auction.
- A 3-ton dump truck from grounds suffered damage to the rear brakes and oil pan after running over an object. The quote from Selking International to perform the repair was too expensive, so garage mechanics performed the repair in-house.



- New “float” style fuel gauges were installed on the above-ground gas tanks at Kreager Park. These will allow employees to quickly see fuel levels to allow more efficient ordering. Similar gauges are being installed at Shoaff Golf as well. These levels are also set up in the Fuel Lock software to allow the computer program to monitor fuel levels virtually.
- 4 outdated trucks, surplus golf mowers, and some other surplus items sold at a Purple Wave auction on July 7th. All items have been removed by the buyers, and the auction brought in a total of \$12,747.50 to be used on new equipment.
- Several vehicles suffered minor accidents this month, but luckily most did not have repairable damage to the Park’s vehicle.
- The 4-door John Deere Gator from Salomon Farm Park and the Steel Green sprayer from grounds were transported to TruLand equipment to have their first services performed by the dealer.
- Multiple golf carts and utility vehicles were supplied to the Mayor’s office for the 4th of July parade. The garage mechanics also wired up a system on a flatbed truck to allow bubble machines to operate during the parade.
- 2 older Ford 150s had computer reprogramming performed on them as part of a Ford recall. The Bob Thomas mobile tech was able to do the work on-site at Lawton Park. He also checked several vehicles for backup camera recalls as well.
- 6 new fire pit rings were fabricated for the Johnny Appleseed campground.
- A heavy equipment dump truck came into the shop for major wiring issues on the rear lights and automatic tarp. Corrosion in the harness was discovered, resulting in most of the light harness and tarp wiring being replaced. The air conditioning system on this truck was also repaired during this process.
- The Toro 1200 pull-behind mower decks at the golf courses have continued to require constant maintenance to keep them operational. Each mower deck has 3 roller kits, and the bearings for these rollers are high-wear items that need regular replacement. The garage is now stocking replacement rollers and bearings, but these parts are expensive and require several man-hours each to replace them.
- The city’s fleet department transferred a 53’ semi-trailer to the Parks Department to be used for Headwaters for the summer storage of the ice rink components.

Project Administration: Dave Weadock

- Botanical Conservatory Gallery Corridor Design – Planning is in progress.
- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement – Construction planned to start late August.
- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Construction – Approvals in progress. Work planned for Fall 2026.
- Botanical Conservatory South Linkway Design – Design work completed.
- Buckner Park Stream Crossing – Planning ongoing through the Landscape Division.
- Community Center Classroom Renovation – Planning in progress.
- Community Center Front Desk Renovation – Planning in progress.
- Daryl B. Cobin Park Sidewalk Replacement – Project is currently out to bid.
- Foellinger Theatre Step Lighting – Project completed.



- Foster Park Golf Course Clubhouse Restrooms Design – Planning in progress.
- Foster Park Golf Course Practice Facility Architectural Services – Initial planning is in progress.
- Foster Park Golf Course Practice Facility Permitting Services – Research and review of existing conditions is ongoing.
- Foster Park Golf Course Practice Facility Topographic Survey – Work is ongoing.
- Foster Park Golf Course Trail Fence – Bidding is in progress.
- Gren Park Picnic Shelter – Construction planned for late Summer 2026.
- Hamilton Park Trail Lighting – Planning is in progress.
- Hanna Homestead Park Playground Equipment – Project completed.
- Headwaters Park Bridge Railing Renovation – Punch list items in by contractor in progress.
- Johnny Appleseed Campground Paving Projects – Installation of new paving and renovations to existing paving planned for September/October.
- Johnny Appleseed Parnell Bridge Boardwalk Repairs – Work planned for late summer.
- Kettler Park New Sidewalk to Tennis Courts – Bidding is in progress.
- Kreager Park Tennis Courts Recoating – Project is completed.
- Lafayette Park Playground Equipment – Equipment is installed. Turf surfacing is ongoing. Vendor is replacing damaged swing bay.
- Lawton Park Barn Exterior Renovation – Bidding is in progress.
- Lawton Park Barn Roof Replacement – Scheduling in progress.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof Skylights Replacement – Punch list items are being completed by the contractor.
- Lawton Park Pedestrian Bridge Structural Engineering Report – Engineering study is in progress.
- Lindenwood Nature Preserve Wood Railing Replacement – Work planned for late summer.
- Lions Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts Recoating – Work is in progress.
- McCulloch Park Monument Cleaning – Work scheduled for September 2026.
- McCulloch Park Sidewalks Replacement – Bidding is in progress.
- McMillen Park Basketball Courts Paving – Bidding in progress. Work planned for Fall 2026.
- McMillen Park Community Center Front Entrance Paving – Work planned for Labor Day week.
- McMillen Park Community Center Security Cameras Upgrade – Project completed.
- McMillen Park Community Center Shingle Roof Replacement – Bids received. Construction planned for the week of Labor Day 2026.
- McMillen Park Pool Deck Construction – Work planned to begin mid-August after swim season.
- McMillen Park Pool Deck Engineering Design – Design is completed. Engineer to remain engaged in project through construction.
- McMillen Park Pool Slides Reconditioning – Awaiting approvals. Work planned for Fall 2026.
- Memorial Park Drinking Fountain Replacement – Project completed.
- Multiple Park Locations Pavement Repairs and Striping – Work is in progress.



- Multiple Park Locations Playground Communication Panels – Construction planned to begin in August.
- Northside Park Pool Slides Reconditioning – Awaiting approvals. Work planned for Fall 2026.
- Northside Park Psi-Ote Upper Pavilion Awning Replacement – Project completed.
- Northside Park Trail Topographic Survey – Work is in progress.
- Psi-Ote Park Playground Equipment Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Roosevelt Park Trail Lighting – AEP coordination and planning is in progress.
- Salomon Farm Animal Barn Renovation – Contractor to begin work in August.
- Salomon Farm Barns Exterior Painting – Purchase order procurement in progress.
- Salomon Farm Old Barn Gutters Replacement – Planning is in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rear Parking Lot Lighting – Planning is in progress.
- Shoaff Park Driving Range Drainage – Planning in progress, construction planned for Fall 2026.
- Shoaff Park Playground Equipment – Playground is open. Final punch list items and site restoration is ongoing.
- Swinney Park Log Cabin Chinking Repairs – Work scheduled for August.
- Various Park Pavilions Exterior Painting – Work is ongoing.
- Various Parks Park Identification Signage Additions – Project completed.
- Various Parks Paving Projects 2026 - Pond pavilion paving planned for late summer or early fall.
- Various Parks Playgrounds Dry Wells Installation – Project completed.
- Various Parks Sidewalks Replacement – Purchase order procurement in progress.
- Waynedale Park Fitness Equipment Replacement – Planning in progress
- Weisser Park Tennis Courts Fencing Replacement – Planning is in progress.

Other work:

- PAS Division GIS training sessions in progress with staff
- Preparing GIS content for 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 being completed.
- Various Parks: planning projects for 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
- Various Parks: updating park site plan bases and building plans.



Safety: Tony DeVido

- Parks & Rec. Safety Committee meeting was held on 7/28. 4 employees and 1 guest were present.
- 1 vehicle crash was reported for this time period.



- 2 employee injuries were reported this time period.
- 1 CPR/FA class was held. 2 employees were certified.
- I participated in the city-wide Safety Review Council meeting.
- 2 employees received SOAR training.
- The biennial AED inspections continue.
- SDS book collection and digitization continue.
- Completed active shooter assessments for Parks buildings and updated written Emergency Action Plans.
- Updated the Extreme Weather SOP to include high air pollution information.
- Conducted 30 individual worksite inspections.

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

- ✚ Riverfront Phase IIB construction continues. Earthwork and trail installation have begun at the Wedge site. Terraced seating for the amphitheater at the north lawn area is underway. Staff continue to coordinate construction activities with adjacent developments at the old Schaab Metals building, More Brewing, relocated Depot, and the Eddy.
- ✚ Staff and members of Wildwood Park Community Association reviewed the final chapter of the Wildwood Park and Rockhill Park Historic Landscape Study and Guidelines and provided comments to Heritage Landscapes.
- ✚ Staff submitted documents for Council approval of the design contract with Anderson + Bohlander for Hanna Homestead Park masterplan. Project kickoff is anticipated in late July.
- ✚ Staff met with Right of Way and the Department of Planning Services to investigate the possibility of vacating old right of way within Gren Park.
- ✚ Staff is drafting construction documents for Wells Street Park improvements.
- ✚ Staff met with City Utilities to review the sanitary sewer lift station being upgraded at Jehl Park.
- ✚ Staff is coordinating with City Utilities regarding the proposed storm sewer alignment in Swinney Park along W. Jefferson Blvd.
- ✚ Staff attended a quarterly meeting with the Inclusion Institute.
- ✚ Merritt Chase presented refined conceptual plans with 3-D graphics of the proposed buildings.



- ✚ We assisted with and celebrated the dedication of the new sculpture installation at Rea Park. This work was completed by Argentinian artist Sasha Primo and was made possible through the Public Art Commission's Shout Out program.
- ✚ Staff completed sculpture inspections for several pieces located in the Parks. This was in concert with other inspections being carried out through the PAC's Collection Management Committee.
- ✚ Staff attended the West Rudisill Neighborhood Association's annual meeting and spoke to attendees about the Foster Park Entrance Project.

✚ **Horticulture and Landscape Report- June 2026**

27 Volunteers worked 173 hours in the greenhouse. We had our first High School volunteer.

68 plants were supplied for the Conservatory Plant Swap, and 400 assorted herbs for Father's Day at the Conservatory. Approximately 1,800 plants were provided for the "Pueblo" showcase.

We provided 274 plants for the Botanical Conservatory's Gift Shop.

We introduced beneficial nematodes to the west range to help alleviate our fungus gnat and thrip insect infestation. Fungus gnats and thrips dwell in the ground, and the beneficial nematodes will combat them. This nematode application is before our poinsettias are planted, which are particularly susceptible to these insect pests.

Downtown and City team staff assisted in removing the spring Butterfly Show and installing the "Pueblo Garden: Styles of the Southwest" summer exhibit during the show change at the Botanical Conservatory this month.

The Lakeside Park team focused on completing their annual flower plantings, watering and maintaining the annual flowers, litter pickup, mowing, spin trimming, edging beds and sidewalks, weeding, limb removal, and vacuuming/maintaining the water feature. They also made pest control applications to roses, performed general rose maintenance, mulched beds, and trimmed the Yew hedges.

The Foster Park team focused on completing their annual flower plantings, watering and maintaining the annual flowers, litter pickup, blowing pathways and the tennis courts, limb pickup, water feature cleaning and maintenance, weeding, edging, mulching, and post-emergent herbicide treatments. The team also worked on cleaning up the Daylily Garden.

The Downtown Team continued to pick litter daily at Freimann Square, the Courthouse Green, Main Street Medians, Community Center, and Meyers Park. Maintenance of the fountain at Freimann Square also continues daily as well. The team finished their annual flower plantings and began maintaining the flower beds. Weed control that included post emergent herbicide treatments and hand weeding was performed at Bloomingdale, Community Center, Courthouse Green, Freimann, Guldin, Headwaters, Lawton Skate Park, Meyers Park, MLK Bridge, Promenade, and the Water Filtration landscape. Some tree pruning was done at Headwaters, as well as pruning of shrubs and trees encroaching on the water rill at



Promenade. Additionally, pruning was done on the Lilacs at Meyers Park. Irrigation systems continued to be dialed in at Freimann, Main Street Medians, Courthouse Green, Community Center, Meyers Park, Promenade, Headwaters, and Riverfront IIA.

The City Team continued to mow Bob Arnold/Northside Park and Lawton office weekly. Much of their time was spent on weed control. Post-emergent herbicide applications and/or hand weeding were completed at Brewer, Cobin, Foellinger, Foster West, Foster South Floodwall, Franke, Indian Village Park and Boulevard, Jehl, Jennings Center, Lawton, McMillen, Bob Arnold/Northside Park, Rea Park, Reservoir, Salomon, Shoaff, Swinney, and Vesey Greenway. Limb pickup was done throughout the park system. Irrigation systems continued to be dialed in at the Bob Arnold/Northside Park office and pool, Foellinger Theatre, Swinney Letterbed, and McKinnie Commons. The team added some decorative stones to the landscape at the Theatre to help prevent erosion and improve aesthetics, pruned trees at REA park, and mulched trees at Cobin Park.

The City and Downtown teams delivered over 200 yards of mulch to McMillen, Jehl, and McCulloch Parks. The mulch was spread in these parks over 3 days by a group of 54 volunteers from the St. Francis – Catholic Heart Work Camp. On their 4th day, volunteers helped pull weeds and perform other general landscape maintenance tasks in Headwaters.

The TeenWorks volunteer group helped pull weeds and perform a range of general landscape maintenance tasks at Headwaters for a morning.

On Saturday, June 13th, Sarah Colter hosted a “Rose Garden Tour” at Lakeside Park. She taught approximately 15 attendees how the Lakeside Gardeners care for their roses. Topics included pests, diseases, fertilizers, pruning, and over-wintering.

CL&S mowed brush along the riverbanks of Riverfront Phase IIB to allow for better views of the river.

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 Pool continued 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- June 2026

Cleared the Old Fort, Spy Run, Tecumseh, and Columbia bridges of a total of 55,659 pounds (27.83 tons) of woody debris.

Removed 10 bags of litter and a variety of debris from the riverbanks.

Added additional stone at the Shoaff Park dock pathway.

Washed down the Promenade Park dock on the south and north sides.



The TeenWorks summer program began with 12 students and 1 adult. Honeysuckles were removed at Foster, totaling 3.11 tons. The group also assisted with Show Change, picked litter at Foster Park soccer fields and Old Fort, pulled weeds at Headwaters East and West, and pulled weeds at the Community Garden.

Hosted a volunteer event at Foster with 54 students and 8 adults for 4.5 hours, totaling 1.63 tons of removed honeysuckle, 279 volunteer work hours, and approximately \$10,083 of labor value.

Attended the Safety Circuit Training at the PSA for one day.

Extended the Headwaters Park dock for Dragon Boat season practices and cleared the viewshed next to the dock for boat clearance. Removed approx. .60 tons of debris.

Forestry Report- June 2026

The 2026 Emerald Ash Borer treatment is complete. Davey Resource Group treated 383 ash trees in June.

Citizen Match Tree Planting Program applications continued rolling in. In total, we received 105 applications for 210 trees. The deadline to submit applications was July 1st.

Staff completed this year's annual street tree windshield inspection. This inspection intends to identify trees that have declined to the extent that they warrant removal. Most of the 581 compromised trees identified through this inspection are expected to be scheduled for removal during the winter months of 2027. Our parks will be inspected in September.

In June, Forestry crews completed 58 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 44 trees in June. 27 of these were storm-related.

Crews responded to and cleared 144 storm-related broken/fallen/hanging limbs. 21 of these were private trees that had fallen into the roadway.

Completed 6 tree damage appraisals for trees that had been struck by vehicles. These appraisals resulted in \$3,100.00 in damages to City-owned trees.

Responded to and closed 268, 311 Call Center requests for service this month. This was a 90% increase from June of last year.

Botanical Conservatory Report – June 2026

In June 2026, the Botanical Conservatory welcomed guests through the final weeks of Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit while preparing for the opening of Pueblo Garden: Styles of the Southwest. As one of the Botanical Conservatory's most anticipated annual exhibits, Color in Motion continued to bring visitors into close contact with live butterflies and seasonal plantings before closing on June 21. On June 27, Pueblo Garden opened in the Showcase House, inviting guests into a warm, immersive garden inspired



by the landscapes, horticultural traditions, and design influences of the American Southwest. With adobe-inspired structures, regionally appropriate plantings, and thoughtful interpretation, the exhibit set the stage for a vibrant summer and fall season at the Botanical Conservatory; sponsored by: English Bonger Mitchell Foundation, Fort Wayne Park Foundation, and Majic 95.1.

The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events and programs throughout June, including Back to Our Roots concerts during Thursday \$1 Nights, Desert Sound Relaxation, the Spring Plant Swap, Breakfast with Butterflies, Father's Day in the Garden, National Pollinators Week, youth field trips, and the start of Camp ACTiVenture. The month also included further preparation for the Grow it! School Plant Program, continued volunteer support during Color in Motion, and the opening of Jeremy Stroup's Touching Grass art display. Staff are now preparing for upcoming summer events and programs, including Jazzworks! with Ty Causey on Independence Day, continued Back to Our Roots performances, the Daylily Show & Sale, Iris Sale, Desert Sound Relaxation, the Jeremy Stroup artist reception, and additional pre-registered programs throughout July.

There are currently two staffing vacancies for (1) Seasonal Maintenance (applicant selected and submitted to Human Resources for review) and (1) Barista, Café Flora (accepting applications).

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

June 2026 reflected a softer attendance month for the Botanical Conservatory, with monthly attendance reaching 10,988 visitors, a decrease of 2,744 guests or 19.98% compared to June 2025. Year-to-date attendance now stands at 65,830 visitors, down 7,462 guests or 10.18% from the same period last year. While visitation remains behind 2025 year-to-date, June still represented an active transition month with the final weeks of Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit, the start of summer programming, and preparation for the opening of Pueblo Garden: Style of the Southwest.

Admissions revenue followed the attendance trend, finishing June at \$36,797.00, a decrease of \$3,676.00 or 9.08% compared to June 2025. Year-to-date admissions revenue now stands at \$234,016.00, down \$26,828.00 or 10.29% from 2025. Membership revenue, however, performed strongly for the month, increasing 67.56% to \$6,373.80, though year-to-date membership revenue remains 6.31% below the prior year.

Several earned revenue areas helped offset the softer attendance and admissions performance. Conservatory Shop revenue increased 6.17% in June to \$27,773.14 and remains 6.73% ahead of year-to-date. Café Flora contributed \$11,179.70 in June and \$71,057.91 year-to-date, continuing to strengthen the Botanical Conservatory's guest experience and earned-revenue portfolio. Rental and catering revenue declined 22.15% for the month and remains 33.12% below last year's year-to-date.

Overall, total revenue for June finished at \$92,691.15, an increase of \$12,016.32 or 14.89% compared to June 2025. Year-to-date total revenue now stands at \$1,015,764.99, up \$59,435.98 or 6.22% over 2025. Despite lower attendance and admissions revenue, the Botanical Conservatory's overall financial position remains ahead of last year due to stronger performance in several earned and contributed revenue areas.

Attendance

June 2025:	13,732 visitors
June 2026:	10,988 visitors



A decrease of 2,744 or -19.98% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Attendance: 73,292 visitors

2026 Attendance: 65,830 visitors

A decrease of 7,462 or -10.18% to 2025

Admissions Revenue

June 2025: \$40,473.00

June 2026: \$36,797.00

A decrease of \$3,676.00 or -9.08% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Admissions Revenue: \$260,844.00

2026 Admissions Revenue: \$234,016.00

A decrease of \$26,828.00 or -10.29% to 2025

Membership Revenue

June 2025: \$3,804.00

June 2026: \$6,373.80

An increase of \$2,569.80 or +67.56% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Membership Revenue: \$62,835.00

2026 Membership Revenue: \$58,871.80

A decrease of \$3,963.20 or -6.31% to 2025

Conservatory Shop Revenue

June 2025: \$26,159.63

June 2026: \$27,773.14

An increase of \$1,613.51 or +6.17% to 2025

YTD Comparisons

2025 Gift Shop Revenue: \$174,827.87

2026 Gift Shop Revenue: \$186,601.09

An increase of \$11,773.22 or +6.73% to 2025

Café Flora Revenue

June 2026: \$11,179.70

YTD 2026: \$71,057.91

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

June 2025: \$8,227.50

June 2026: \$6,405.50

A decrease of \$1,822.00 or -22.15% to 2025



YTD Comparisons

2025 Rental Revenue:	\$47,390.00
2026 Rental Revenue:	\$31,695.50
A decrease of \$15,694.50 or -33.12% to 2025	

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

June 2025:	\$605.70
June 2026:	\$4,162.01

YTD Comparisons

2025 Other Revenue:	\$410,432.14
2026 Other Revenue:	\$433,522.69

Conservatory Total Revenue

June 2025:	\$80,674.83
June 2026:	\$92,691.15
An increase of \$12,016.32 or +14.89% to 2025	

YTD Comparisons

2025 Total Revenue:	\$956,329.01
2026 Total Revenue:	\$1,015,764.99
An increase of \$59,435.98 or +6.22% to 2025	

 Botanical Conservatory Business Development

Staff are beginning prospecting and research/documentation of higher-level donors who may support Botanical Conservatory projects. Staff is researching the cost of donor wealth management software for review and possible purchase (The software will help identify high wealth donors.)

Staff is drafting information for a pdf update of Botanical Conservatory projects and plans to be sent to current higher level donors and foundations. These updates will be sent quarterly, the first update will be sent July 2026 to current donors for programs/news covering Q1 and Q2 2026 and a preview of July-September 2026.

Staff submitted final media reports to Majic 95.1 and 21 Alive for the 2026 Mother's Day in the Garden and to Majic 95.1 and FOX55 for the 2026 Mother's Day Plant Sale, These reports will enable us to approach media for continuing support of upcoming special events and exhibits.

Staff coordinated details with media and corporate sponsors for their participation at Father's Day in the Garden and Jazzworks!

Staff submitted final reports to the Wilson Foundation and the O'Rourke-Schof Family Foundation for support of the 2025-2026 Fern's Fairylight Express Exhibit. These reports will enable us to approach these foundations for continuing support of upcoming special events and exhibits.

Staff coordinated information for the Summer 2026 Member ENews – it was sent June 15th. This issue includes a new section that lists updates about Botanical Conservatory projects/news for that quarter.



Staff recorded the information for the Botanical Conservatory phone message for the Pueblo Garden: Styles of the Southwest and the July special events.

Conservatory Public Programs - Events

Back to Our Roots (June 4, 11, 17, & 25)

Transitioning from regional to local music, the Botanical Conservatory revamped its summer music focus to feature newly emerging artists during Thursday \$1 Nights from June through August. Performances are taking place within the outdoor Prado Garden, an intimate space for guests to come together for an unplugged community gathering. With the third week peaking at 85, there's been an average of 65 guests throughout each performance. Each evening was also accompanied by a local artisan featured in conjunction with the performing artist.

- On June 4, Ethan William Bowers performed Americana, alt-country, and originals on guitar. Jessie Doyle drew caricatures for guests.
- On June 11, Matt Kempf performed rock and folk on guitar. Nature's Mercantile sold iced tea.
- On June 18, Teresa Long performed blues, jazz, rock, folk, and originals on guitar. Lauri Makes Macaroons and sells a variety of macaroons.
- On June 25, Jessie Mae performed alternative, folk, and originals on guitar and keyboard, with a special guest appearance of her daughter. Bar None sold mixed, non-alcoholic beverages.

Father's Day in the Garden (June 20 & 21)

Celebrating its 5th year, the Botanical Conservatory welcomed fathers and father figures with free admission and a complimentary herb during Father's Day weekend. Outdoor yard games were also available for families to engage in friendly competition. On Sunday only, this weekend event was capped with a musical performance by the Eric Mathews Band in addition to local brew from Hop River Brewing Company and the Spicy Bird food truck. New for 2026, Indiana Canine Assistance Network (ICAN) joined the festivities. There was a total of 498 guests for Sunday's 3-hour highlight with the overall event welcoming 1,104 guests, which was down 24.8% from 2025. Weather likely influenced attendance in addition to the Fort Wayne Zoo also offering an event.

Education

- Desert Sound Relaxation (June 3)

The Botanical Conservatory hosted a new wellness program that promotes deep relaxation through the soothing vibrations of singing bowls, gongs, chimes, and other specialized instruments. A total of 8 people registered with many of them being at the last minute. With class consensus, the group ended up moving outdoors to the Exploration Garden due to unexpected conditions in the Desert House. Participants gave helpful feedback with positive responses to the outdoor experience. Coming up on July 22nd, it's not too late to register for a second program that will be held in the new Pueblo Garden: Styles of the Southwest showcase exhibit.

- Spring Plant Swap (June 6)

This popular, semi-annual Plant Swap included 29 participants who braved the rain to bring plants and plant starts from their own collection to swap. The Botanical Conservatory and Lawton Park Greenhouse



supplemented the event by contributing plants, which delighted guests as everyone left with more plants than they arrived with! Hosted by Conservatory Volunteer Denise Lock, this free program continues to receive outstanding feedback.

- Breakfast with Butterflies (June 7 & 14)

This repeat program offered an enjoyable morning for families, couples, and friends to create memories with an exclusive opportunity to visit the gardens and enjoy the butterflies of Color in Motion. The first breakfast on June 7th met the limit of 48 pre-registered participants, while the second breakfast on June 14th received 38 registrations at 79% capacity. Again, Classic Café catered the breakfast, and guests received their own butterfly kit to take home. Guests were also welcomed to do a special keepsake craft as part of their experience. Overall, the program is filled at 90%, and it continues to receive high praise.

- National Pollinators Week (June 23-28)

Throughout the week, the Botanical Conservatory celebrated pollinators with a free giveaway of mixed wildflower seeds. The observation beehive was reinstalled for the season, giving visitors a close-up view of pollinators in action.

- Camp ACTiVenture (June 8-July 24)

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

- Grow it! School Plant Program

This month focused on preparation for the upcoming Phase II of the program. Staff are working on updating the School Chairperson's Handbook and the Judge's Training Manual while also coordinating Volunteer Judges for School Plant Shows that are taking place from August through September. All Volunteer Judges will attend a required training meeting coming up on July 30th, at either 10 am or 6 pm. Please consider volunteering as a plant judge for the school shows and/or September's Annual Blue-Ribbon Show, which will celebrate the program's 100th Anniversary Year!

Youth Field Trips

The Botanical Conservatory hosted student groups with 490 visitors compared to 598 visitors in June of 2025. This year saw increased participation in educational programming, with 17% of students taking part in additional activities compared to the 0% participation rate last June. It is also the time of year when area day camps are scheduling group visits.

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 was introduced complementing a weekly rotation of unique and exotic butterfly species. With the live butterfly exhibit in its 23rd year, high attendance numbers were 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. A reception was held on June 14th, giving the public a chance to meet Wall and speak with her about her work.

Pueblo Garden: Style of the Southwest (June 27-November 15)

This one-of-a-kind showcase exhibit has quickly become a top favorite of Conservatory guests. Inspired by the landscapes and gardening traditions of the American Southwest, Pueblo Garden: Styles of the Southwest celebrates the resourcefulness, beauty, and enduring influence of Pueblo-inspired design in a breathtaking seasonal display. The exhibit also features adobe-inspired structures and information on pueblo gardening techniques. This beautiful blend of heritage, artistry, and horticulture is at the Botanical Conservatory from summer through fall.

Jeremy Stroup: Touching Grass (June 27-November 15)

Jeremy Stroup's exhibition *Touching Grass* celebrates nature, memory, and the sensory experiences that connect us to the world around us. Developed through Stroup's daily art practice, the exhibition encourages viewers to step away from screens and reconnect with the textures, colors, and beauty of the outdoors. A public artist reception will be held on July 26, from 1–3 pm.

Volunteers/Staff

June was another busy month that greatly benefited from volunteer support, particularly during Color in Motion. Throughout the 9-week season of this year's live butterfly exhibit, 49 different volunteers trained as Butterfly Attendants and scheduled 312 different shifts in the entry and exit vestibules of the butterfly display tent. That happens to be 95% of the full schedule, consisting of 328 shifts total! Of those 49 volunteers, 36 were returning while 13 were brand new Butterfly Attendants in 2026. Also, a new, talented volunteer, Teresa Long, sang and played guitar for guests during a lovely Saturday afternoon of Color in Motion.

At the Front Desk, 6 volunteers covered 28 shifts, and a new volunteer shadowed with the intent to begin training at the Front Desk. In the Gift Shop, 8 volunteers covered 42 shifts. As for the gardens, 3 dedicated volunteers maintained their weekly grooming shifts. Volunteers with Easterseals also returned to tidy indoor and outdoor pathways. In addition, a team of 4 volunteers from Element removed rock from the Exploration Pond in preparation for a new bog garden. Supporting special events, 4 volunteers offered crucial support during Father's Day in the Garden. Six volunteers were greatly appreciated for their assistance during Breakfast with Butterflies, especially 2 who volunteered for both sessions.

Upcoming

Thru November 15: Pueblo Garden: Style of the Southwest, public hours

Thru November 15: Touching Grass: Art Display by Jeremy Stroup, public hours

July 1: OPEN 10 am-5 pm

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



July 2-30: Back to Our Roots, Thursday \$1 Nights 6:30-7:30
July 6-24: Camp ACTiVenture, pre-registered program
July 7-28: T'ai Chi for Relaxation, pre-registered
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

August 6-27: Back to Our Roots, Thursday \$1 Nights 6:30-7:30
August 10 – September 7: Grow it! School Plant Shows

September 5: Fall Plant Swap, pre-registered
September 13: Be a Tourist in Your Hometown, 12-4 pm
September 11 & 12: Grow it! City-Wide Blue-Ribbon Show & Registration
September 28: Installation of the Pumpkin Path Display

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

Horticulture staff worked to remove additional weeds in an open bed in the Exploration Garden, formerly covered in invasive wintercreeper. After removal of the weeds, staff tilled the large bed and then applied a locally sourced prairiegrass seed mix, which also includes native wildflowers. The prairiegrass meadow will create an attractive backdrop for weddings while also providing food and habitat for native animals. Horticulture staff have been diligently working on weeding and pruning to get the outdoor garden spaces spruced up and ready for Jazzworks! and for the upcoming Independence Day Parade.

Botanical Conservatory staff and Lawton staff worked closely together earlier in the month to transform the Showcase House into a slice from the Upland Southwest with the installation of Pueblo Garden. The garden features an 'adobe' wall with doors to create an immersive experience as guests enter the Showcase House. In addition to thematically appropriate annual plantings, the Showcase features plants native to the Southwest, which add authenticity to the garden and provide the added sensory benefit with their appealing fragrances.

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

Staff provided broad support for a busy June events calendar, including Back to Our Roots concerts on Thursday evenings, Father's Day in the Garden, Breakfast with Butterflies, group visits, and the start of Camp ACTiVenture. These events required consistent coordination across setup, guest support, cleaning, and building readiness throughout the month.

Staff worked collaboratively on the breakdown and storage of Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit materials before assisting with the installation of the new Pueblo Garden: Style of the Southwest showcase exhibit. Following installation, staff completed cleanup and reset work to ensure the Showcase House and surrounding areas were prepared and ready for guests.

Exterior cleaning and ground support also continued in June. Staff power-washed the arbor and pavers in the former Sales Garden area, as well as the lattice area near the outdoor restrooms. The indoor beehive



display was also installed for the season, with staff working alongside Southwest Honey to prepare and build the 2026 display.

Recruitment continues for the open seasonal maintenance position. In the interim, staff have worked with horticulture team members to provide cross-training on basic cleaning procedures, helping support building needs while the position remains vacant.

Allied Mechanical continued addressing mechanical issues throughout the month, including breaker concerns with the Carrier chiller, with parts ordered to complete repairs. Allied also repaired a fan motor, contactors, and a fan blade on the Trane chiller. They were additionally called out to repair and replace a failed digital thermometer on a mixing valve unit connected to the water heater after a significant leak occurred. Approval has also been given for Allied Mechanical to replace AC2 on the roof, as the unit has aged out; this work is expected to be completed in early July.

Teusch Electric was called out to evaluate a breaker and amp draw issue on a refrigeration unit in Café Flora. It was determined that the unit had internal issues and would require service under the manufacturer's warranty.



Guests enjoy a relaxing evening in The Prado Garden as part of June - August, live, local music Thursday Nights 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Back to Our Roots



The Eric Mathews Band performs during Father's Day in the Garden



Participants take in the soothing vibrations from Sound Relaxation



Blue Morpho twins find each other during Breakfast with Butterflies



Day Campers pose together for Week 3 of Camp ACTiVenture



Day Campers being greeted at the start of their Youth Field Trip



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



A memorable entrance to Pueblo Garden: Styles of the SW



Artist Reception to meet Julie Wall during her art display in the Gallery Hall



Volunteer, Theresa Long, performs in the Showcase House



A Volunteer & Staff Member tending to the upper Mediterranean Beds

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager, Lead of Marketing

June Bullet Points

www.RiverfrontFW.org had 12,088 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: 34,990 Event Counts:165,675

- ✚ Marketing team assisted with the Senior Games kick-off press conference on June 1st.
- ✚ Conducting Customer Service Training for various Recreation Teams in June.
- ✚ 48 projects produced, including banners, signs, imprints, passes, tickets, postcards, social posts, web graphics, and more, in preparation for summer programs.
- ✚ Senior Games photography and show wrap-up video produced.
- ✚ Ordered tents, table coverings, various signs, and more for the Theatre.
- ✚ Confirmed media sponsors for Fall Fun Times.
- ✚ Working on Winter program sponsorship packets.
- ✚ Submitted four IPRA Award nominations.
- ✚ Appeared on Walk in the Park to promote Foellinger concerts.
- ✚ Social media promotions for: Senior Games Kick-off, Sweet Breeze Tours, Bus Trips, Park & Play, Parks Podcast, and more.
- ✚ Arranged for 19 media interviews with selected staff promoting June and summer events.
- ✚ June Media Mentions: 99.
- ✚ Social Media Totals for June:

FB Followers	115,711
FB Viewers	521,482
X (formerly Twitter) Followers	13,887
Instagram Followers	32,796

July Bullet Points

- ✚ www.RiverfrontFW.org had 14,477 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: 31,437 Event Counts:145,260
- ✚ Marketing team supported Dragon Boat Races by creating graphics for signs, stickers, tattoos and



more, updating websites, creating social media posts, and taking 100's of photos and lots of videos and providing marketing support on-site for the event.t

- ✚ 36 projects produced including banners, signs, imprints, passes, tickets, postcards, social posts, web graphics and more in preparation for July programs.
- ✚ Fall Fun Times focus. The brochure is being released on August 5th.
- ✚ Submitted grant for Lifetime Sports Academy.
- ✚ Working on updates to the Youth Scholarship processes. Will be presenting information in the near future on this.
- ✚ Participating in IPRA Awards Committee meetings.
- ✚ Social media promotions for: Foellinger Theatre, Shoaff Park Playground, Sweet Breeze tours, weather closures, LSA and more.
- ✚ Arranged for 9 media interviews with selected staff promoting July and summer events.
- ✚ July Media Mentions: 69 and Social Media Totals for July:

FB Followers	116,692
FB Viewers	585,421
X (formerly Twitter) Followers	13,888
Instagram Followers	33,455

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

Foster/McMillen/Shoaff

- ✚ **June** - The 2026 golf season is now in full stride. Early extremely wet conditions have normalized, and cart and driving range usage are the rule rather than the exception. Enough rain has been falling so as not to tax the watering systems too much, and until a recent hot spell at the end of June stretching into early July, temperatures have been moderate. Maintenance continues on the irrigation and drainage systems, but all is marginally well.
- ✚ Here are the revenue numbers through June:

<u>JUNE</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAFF</u>
2025 REVENUE	\$74,814.75	\$55,946	\$ 99,622



FORT WAYNE PARKS AND RECREATION

Staff Reports Submitted August 2026

2026 REVENUE	\$65,862.75	\$68,103	\$118,481
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YTD 2025	\$180,475.25	\$145,935	\$263,195.75
YTD 2026	\$150,671.25	\$169,351.50	\$271,726

ROUNDS 2025	7,721	7,355	11,312
ROUNDS 2026	5,706	7,239	11,315

- ✚ The condition of the greens at Foster (from last year's heat/irrigation issues) continues to lead to a decline in play there. All the greens have been aerified, top-dressed, and seeded, and the corner has been turned, leading to recovery. The fairways, which were disseminated along with the greens last year, have bounced back tremendously, and the greens will as well.
- ✚ The new green at Foster (old hole #7, which has been closed for the last 2+ years) has been seeded and growing for a month now. The reconstructed hole is starting to take shape nicely and could be in play by this fall. When the hole reopens, we will switch the nines back to the original routing (probably at the start of the 2027 season).
- ✚ Equipment acquisition and maintenance continue to merit concern. Grounds have several mowers being repaired and other equipment being serviced to maintain and continue to improve the facilities. Maintenance is an ongoing process, but having the right equipment available is paramount. Golf carts have been good so far. A quote is being acquired to possibly replace as many as 15 2015-model-year carts at the end of the season as we continue to modernize and increase the golf cart fleet.
- ✚ With all aspects of course conditions turning the corner and improving, the golf program will continue to get better and increase revenue.
- ✚ **July** - The 2026 golf season is moving along nicely. Revenue is up over last season, and the condition of the courses continues to improve, both from an aesthetic and an infrastructure perspective. Here are the revenue numbers through July:

<u>JULY</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAF</u>
2025 REVENUE	\$67,160.25	\$57,574.75	\$109,925.25
2026 REVENUE	\$64,562.50	\$71,433.50	\$116,500.50
YTD 2025	\$247,457.50	\$203,579.75	\$373,121
YTD 2026	\$215,233.75	\$240,785	\$388,226.50

- ✚ All of the bunkers at Foster Park have been reworked, edged and expanded, and new sand added. They are in better shape than they have been in years. The old 7th hole, which has been out of play for the last two years, should re-open around Labor Day. The new green is filling in nicely and continues to improve. There are still a couple of greens that are struggling to recover from last year. These are being evaluated and as the fall growing season starts, aggressive maintenance steps will be taken.



- ✚ One of the things that the Deep Rock Tunnel project altered on the course was the walking path along the east (Hartman Road) side of the course. A cleanout was placed about 50 yards off of the tee, causing the path to curve in towards the course. This created a potentially unsafe situation due to the proximity of the path to the tee, and the tendency of golfers to miss right. To mitigate the problem, 150 feet of 8' high fencing will be placed along the inside of the walking path. This installation will take place later this month, and will allow the hole to re-open with minimal danger to path users. Vegetation will be placed to maximize the appearance of the fencing.
- ✚ A quote for golf carts is being acquired. We currently use 26-2016 model year carts in our fleet, and hope to have these replaced by next spring. At that point, our cart fleet will be all 2022 and newer model year carts, with the majority being 2024 and newer. This has already led to far fewer breakdowns and decreased maintenance on carts.
- ✚ Our contracted golf instructor, Kim Moore, recently won the USGA Adaptive Golf Championship in Rockville, Maryland. It was the third time Kim has won this event. The final round was covered on the Golf Channel, and when Kim's bio was shown on the screen, it listed Shoaff Park as her home golf course. Congratulations to Kim, and nice exposure for the course!
- ✚ The golf courses are on the cusp of a great renaissance, and it is an exciting time both for golf and for the city golf courses.

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



- ✚ Parks & Rec, FWPD, and the Greenways Department had two sessions of Bike Safety Training this summer:

June 24th at Shoaff Park (14 attendees) and July 16th at Weisser Park (57 attendees). We gave free bike helmets to the attendees.
- ✚ We will open bids for the Vann Family Crossing (pedestrian bridge for the Pufferbelly Trail) over Coliseum Boulevard on August 27th, with construction beginning in October.
- ✚ We'll have our Open Streets event on 8/16 from Noon – 4 p.m. with over 130 free activities. We close 20 blocks of Calhoun from The Landing to Pontiac to vehicular traffic and open it up for bike and pedestrian travel. We had over 7,000 attendees last year. Please join us!
- ✚ Biweekly *Trek the Trails* bike rides and *Tread the Trails* walk/runs are going well this summer. The events continue until the end of September.



- ✚ The Poka-Bache Connector Task Force did not receive the \$6 million Federal BUILD grant to engineer the remaining 30 miles of the trail.
- ✚ The Diebold Road Trail from North Clinton to the roundabout by Meijer's was recently completed as part of a road widening project.
- ✚ Illinois Road Trail is progressing slowly. The trail is part of a road improvement project. The contractor is working on one section of roadway and trail at a time, starting from the west end at Getz. They have been working on the trail between Getz and Ansley and will start working on the section between Ansley and Thomas/Apple Glen in the next month.
- ✚ The Stellhorn Road Trail between Northwood Plaza and Eicher Drive is complete except for the east end in front of Subway and Pizza Hut.
- ✚ We are starting land acquisition for the NE Trail, Phase 1, and the Stellhorn Road Trail between Maplecrest and Wheelock. We will also begin land acquisition soon for the Lake Avenue Trail between Coliseum Boulevard and Reed Road.
- ✚ We have 127 Greenway Ranger volunteers and 51 Adopt-a-Greenway groups who help with maintenance along the trails. Fort Wayne Trails will deploy volunteers soon for maintenance projects along the trails.
- ✚ Trail counts in the second quarter are 8% higher than the second quarter of 2025. If you remove the three trail counters along the Maumee Pathway, which were closed for long periods of time this spring due to flooding, then the trail counts are up 13%.

National / State / Division News and Media Coverage:



NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION





[Parks Recreation Magazine • August 2026](#)

Legacy Built on the Power of Parks and Recreation - August is National Make-A-Will Month, making it the perfect time to create or update your estate plan and protect what matters most.

Leaving a legacy can fuel The Power Of:

- ☀️ Becoming part of Stewards for the Future
- ☀️ Safe, welcoming spaces for all
- ☀️ Climate-ready parks built to last
- ☀️ Health and well-being in our community

This month, make a plan that reflects your values and one that will help grow our impact for generations to come by including a legacy gift to the Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department.

NRPA Magazine – [Parks Recreation Magazine • July 2026](#)

July is National Parks & Recreation Month:
Parks Make Life Better! The Power of Play, Connection, Nature,
Well-Being, Community, & Belonging

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

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

[IPRA Profile Spring 2026. REV6.15.26 \(3\)](#) (See **Steve McDaniel** on page 9, and the notice of **IPRA** Annual Conference **in Fort Wayne**)

[Fort Wayne Monthly Savor - August 2026](#) - Hometown Hero – Martin Sorge -
<https://pastryartsmag.com/podcast/martin-sorge/> [Fort Wayne Monthly July 2026 /](#)

[Fort Wayne magazine June 2026 | FortWayne.com](#) (turn pages from right to left, by hovering your mouse over the top OR bottom right of the page, and clicking over the top OR bottom of the right page)

WANE, Fort Wayne warns against powered bikes on trails
<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-warns-against-powered-bikes-on-trails/>

WBOI, Local music industry recognized as a driver for economic growth
<https://www.wboi.org/arts-culture/2026-08-07/local-music-industry-recognized-as-a-driver-for-economic-growth>

WOWO, Campaign ads launched across Allen County for potential casino
<https://wowo.com/campagin-ads-launched-across-allen-county-for-potential-casino/>



WELT, Investing in the City of Fort Wayne program with Fort Wayne FC's Scott Sproat as guest

<https://soundcloud.com/mayorfw/fort-wayne-fc>

WPTA, City hosts opioid convening

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/07/29/city-fort-wayne-hosts-opioid-settlement-funds-community-convening/>

WBOI, Fort Wayne is a Purple Heart City

<https://www.wboi.org/government/2026-08-05/fort-wayne-is-now-a-purple-heart-city>

Adams Radio Group, Infrastructure projects approved at City Council

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/08/06/city-council-approves-1-million-for-neighborhood-infrastructure-projects/>

WANE, Dance Promenade event

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/dance-promenade-partner-fundamentals-workshop/>

WANE, Google applies for more land

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/google-data-center-developer-applies-for-more-land-public-hearing-to-be-held/>

WPTA, Loo concerns

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/08/05/fort-wayne-280k-outdoor-restroom-faces-safety-code-violation-concerns/>

WOWO, New garden at Conservatory

<https://wowo.com/new-incredible-discovery-garden-opens-friday-at-fort-wayne-botanical-conservatory/>

Around FW, Neighborhood infrastructure projects receive approval at City Council

<https://aroundfortwayne.com/news/2026/08/05/neighborhood-infrastructure-projects-receive-approval-at-city-council-2/>

Around FW, Open Streets announces list of activities

<https://aroundfortwayne.com/news/2026/08/04/open-streets-fort-wayne-announces-list-of-activities-20260816/>

Input FW, Public art in neighborhoods

<https://inputfortwayne.com/how-public-art-is-showing-up-in-fort-waynes-neighborhoods/>

FW Bus Weekly, Mayor Tucker named a founding mayor for America the Entrepreneurial



https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/government/article_6ebfb63b-dde3-4a5e-b265-d198cc4f4391.html

WANE, Fort Wayne recognized as a Purple Heart City

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-recognized-as-a-purple-heart-city/>

WPTA, National Night Out – FWPDP records largest turnout

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/08/05/fwpdp-records-largest-turnout-national-night-out-hands-out-700-backpacks/>

WPTA, Public comment on Flock continues

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/08/05/community-members-share-opinions-potential-renewal-flock-safety-camera-contract/>

WOWO, Ron Turpin on homeless resource center and Loo

<https://wowo.com/commissioners-corner-part-2-homeless-resource-center-280k-bathroom/>

WANE, City welcomes input on downtown plan

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/city-of-fort-wayne-welcomes-input-on-10-year-plan-for-downtown/>

Adams Radio Group, Neighborhood infrastructure projects approved at City Council

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/07/22/99913/>

Adams Radio Group, City Utilities announces AARP grant for wetlands project

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/07/22/99904/>

WPTA, City launches no interest loan program for roof replacements

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/07/21/fort-wayne-launches-no-interest-loan-program-roof-replacements/>

WPTA, FWPDP launches Engage page to answer questions on Flock

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/07/21/fwpdp-launches-webpage-answering-questions-flock-cameras/>

WANE, Discontent over Lutheran Park listing leads City Council comments

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/public-discontent-over-lutheran-park-listing-leads-city-council-comments/>

Ind. Cap. Chronicle, Distributions underway to repay local governments for gas tax suspension

<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/2026/07/21/distributions-underway-to-repay-local-governments-for-gas-tax-suspension/>



Ind. Cap. Chronicle, Finalists for state utility regulator spot released

<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/briefs/finalists-for-state-utility-regulator-spot-released/>

WANE, City moves forward with revitalization plans for three corridors

<https://www.wane.com/news/fort-wayne-moves-forward-with-revitalization-plans-for-three-corridors/>

PBS 39, The 260 program – Public art featured

<https://www.pbs.org/video/janus-motorcycles-womens-funds-no-matter-what-art-this-way-murals-kpirbl/>

WBOI, County fire district update

<https://www.wboi.org/public-safety/2026-07-10/allen-county-fire-and-ems-district-finalized-begins-operation-in-january>

WPTA, Amazon may bring drone delivery to Fort Wayne

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/07/10/amazon-may-bring-drone-delivery-fort-wayne-after-plans-filed-storage-launch-capabilities/>

Adams Radio Group, Mayor Tucker Announces Grants to 21 Non-Profit Programs

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/07/10/mayor-tucker-announces-grants-to-21-non-profit-programs/>

FW Bus Weekly, Vann Family Crossing update

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_0a984277-25ac-4ee1-8657-4b2ace5d46f3.html

WANE, Council delays decision on Google task force

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-holds-data-center-task-force-decision/>

WANE, Restoring hope – Neighbors clean up after weekend shooting

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/restoring-hope-neighbors-clean-up-after-weekend-shooting/>

Input FW, Fort Wayne bets big on the future of its music economy

<https://inputfortwayne.com/fort-wayne-bets-big-on-the-future-of-its-music-economy/>

WPTA, Mayor on recent violence in Fort Wayne

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/07/06/senseless-acts-violence-mayor-tucker-addresses-rash-shootings-fort-wayne/>

WANE, FWPD: Enhanced downtown patrols on July 4th paid off

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fwpd-enhanced-downtown-patrols-on-4th-paid-off/>



WPTA, 4th of July parade

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/07/04/watch-4th-july-parade-marches-through-downtown-fort-wayne/>

WPTA, Walk in the Park – Foellinger Theatre season

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/07/02/walk-park-foellinger-theatre-season/>

FW Bus Weekly, 4th of July parade

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_2a292335-f244-4a6a-a4a7-50d74e233db9.html

WANE, 4th of July parade

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-waynes-inaugural-fourth-of-july-parade-ignites-community/>

WANE, Local leaders, including Mayor Tucker, remember former Kendallville Mayor SuzAnne Handshoe

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/local-leaders-remember-former-kendallville-mayor-suzanne-handshoe/>

WANE, Do it Best/True Value announcement

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/do-it-best-announces-hardware-wholesalers-move-to-fort-wayne/>

WPTA, Second 2026 application window for Fort Wayne opioid settlement funds now open

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/07/01/second-2026-application-window-fort-wayne-opioid-settlement-funds-now-open/>

City TV, News Around Town program with features from recent City-led news conferences

<https://acpl.viebit.com/watch?hash=dlk0g4ZfaUoGf91I>

FW Bus Weekly, Open Streets event coming in August

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_c94e63eb-070a-469b-98a2-4b0e2ba99b1e.html

WFYI, Governor says long-term road funding solutions needed

[As state issues \\$84M in infrastructure grants, Braun says long-term road funding solutions needed](#)

WANE, a community activist, calls for action against gun violence

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/community-calls-for-action-against-gun-violence/>

WPTA, Pastor reacts to shooting on Oliver St.

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/07/06/church-pastor-reacts-deadly-shooting-fort-wayne-that-left-several-hurt/>



WPTA, Community activist hosts meeting after violent holiday weekend

<https://www.21alivenews.com/video/2026/07/06/community-activist-hosts-meeting-after-violent-holiday-weekend/>

FW Bus Weekly, Fort Wayne Metals changes ownership; Scott Glaze announces Glaze Development Group

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/latest/article_c08ea9cd-2700-46fd-b0a9-c9592d401284.html

WPTA, Law banning homeless encampments takes effect; shelter director warns of capacity crisis

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/07/01/new-indiana-law-banning-homeless-encampments-takes-effect-shelter-director-warns-capacity-crisis/>

WPTA, Woman shares experience of living near the Google data center

[Woman shares experience living near Fort Wayne data center](#)

WANE, FWACC holds cat adoption sale as shelter nears capacity

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-animal-care-and-control-holds-cat-adoption-sale-as-shelter-nears-capacity/>

Input FW, Can proximity solve a transportation problem

<https://inputfortwayne.com/can-proximity-solve-a-transportation-problem/>

Adams Radio Group, CU's water quality report

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/07/01/city-utilities-look-out-for-the-2025-water-quality-report/>

FW Bus Weekly, E. Central welcomes newest mural

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_a1a42579-99f6-4073-895d-b5c629f70224.html

Ind. Cap. Chronicle, Governor directs state to reimburse local governments for gas tax holiday revenue

<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/2026/06/30/governor-directs-state-to-reimburse-local-governments-for-gas-tax-holiday-revenue/>

WOWO, Commissioner Turpin on Anchor Resource Center

<https://wowo.com/commissioner-ron-turpin-pushes-back-on-mayor-tucker-over-homeless-resource-center/>

WPTA, Safety Village feature [Fort Wayne Safety Village marks 35th anniversary](#)

WELT, Investing in the City of Fort Wayne program – Dept. of Neighborhoods featured

<https://soundcloud.com/mayorfw/fort-wayne-neighborhoods-2>



WANE, FWFD offers tips to stay safe during hot weather

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fwfd-beating-heat-exhaustion-stroke-during-extreme-temps/>

WANE, Foellinger Theatre hosing free concert

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/foellinger-theatre-hosting-free-concert/>

WANE, Mary Ann Mings – Positively Fort Wayne feature

<https://www.wane.com/news/positively-fort-wayne/unsung-hero-mary-ann-mings-is-a-good-tornado/>

FW Bus Weekly, Whitley County putting moratorium on data centers

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_dcc6b88f-0e38-42fc-8da1-aa828531af65.html

WPTA, W. Central Fire District acquires ambulance

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/30/west-central-fire-protection-district-acquires-new-fiscally-responsible-ambulance-allen-county/>

WPTA, Bluffton Road Bridge ribbon cutting

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/17/fort-wayne-holds-ribbon-cutting-open-bluffton-road-bridge/>

WPTA, Fort Wayne deploys new technology to help with cardiac arrest and other life-threatening emergencies

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/18/fort-wayne-deploys-new-defibrillator-heart-monitor-technology-help-with-cardiac-arrest-other-life-threatening-emergencies/>

WPTA, Surack hopes to move forward with \$250M racetrack in DeKalb Co. despite land acquisition challenge

https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/18/chuck-surack-hopes-move-forward-with-250m-racetrack-dekalb-co-despite-land-acquisition-challenge/?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=organicclicks&tbref=hp

Indiana Capital Chronicle, IEDC on track to close out READI 1.0; award 2.0 arts grants

<https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/briefs/iedc-on-track-to-close-out-readi-1-0-award-2-0-arts-grants/>

WBOI, Debate over Flock cameras continues

<https://www.wboi.org/public-safety/2026-06-17/debate-about-flock-camera-systems-continue-ahead-of-fort-wayne-council-vote-on-contract-renewal>

WPTA, City leader address Fort Wayne council members on Google resolutions and highlights misinformation

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/15/city-leader-addresses-fort-wayne-council-members-google-data-center-resolutions-highlights-misinformation/>

WPTA, FWPD on curfew rules

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/15/fort-wayne-police-remind-families-indianas-curfew-rules/>



Adams Radio Group, New sculpture in Rea Park

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/06/16/new-sculpture-unveiled-in-harvester-neighborhoods-rea-park/>

Adams Radio Group, Free bike safety training

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/06/16/how-students-can-get-free-bicycle-safety-training/>

FW Bus Weekly, New artwork planned for downtown this summer

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_b7fac0fb-4ab1-462c-96fc-d8ad2d86a15a.html

WANE, Allen Co Sheriff's Dept details Flock camera policies as Huntertown councilman raises concerns

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/allen-county-sheriffs-department-details-flock-camera-policies-as-huntertown-councilman-raises-concerns/>

Input FW, Downtown's expansion brings services and community to Wells Street and Broadway businesses

[Downtown Fort Wayne's expansion brings services and community to Wells Street and Broadway businesses – Input Fort Wayne](#)

WANE, Foellinger Theatre presents free and ticketed summer concerts

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/foellinger-theatre-presents-free-and-ticketed-summer-concerts/>

WPTA, City Council votes to push off voting on Anchor until Sept.

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/10/fort-wayne-city-council-votes-push-off-voting-homeless-resource-center-funding/>

WPTA, Trail user raises concerns about trash and encampments

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/09/fort-wayne-rivergreenway-trail-users-raise-concerns-about-trash-encampments/>

WANE, City Clerk exploring more flexible downtown parking rules

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-exploring-more-flexible-downtown-parking-rules/>

WPTA, Park and Play through Parks and Rec underway

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2026/06/09/fort-wayne-parks-recreations-park-play-program-underway-summer/>

WANE, FWPD explains protocol following video of man kicked out of Arab Fest

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fwpd-explains-protocol-following-viral-video-of-man-kicked-out-of-arab-fest/>

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https://www.wfft.com/news/city-council-delays-vote-on-funding-proposed-low-barrier-shelter/article_abd903ec-eaff-4961-8617-120f0f83ab36.html



WBOI, Language Access Lab to use opioid settlement funds to expand recovery access

<https://www.wboi.org/government/2026-06-09/language-access-lab-uses-opioid-settlement-funds-to-expand-recovery-access>

Adams Radio Group, Waynedale plan reaches milestone

<https://www.1039waynefm.com/2026/06/11/waynedale-2040-neighborhood-plan-reaches-milestone/>

FW Bus Weekly, N'hood engagement grants announced

https://www.fwbusiness.com/news/article_649bb60f-1c68-4843-b6fd-31aec5ff0caa.html

**FOELLINGER
FREIMANN**

**BOTANICAL
CONSERVATORY**
Always in Season

**Member
News**

Summer 2026

**Pueblo Garden:
Styles of the Southwest Exhibit**

June 27 ~ November 15

Journey into the heart of the Southwest's botanical heritage this summer and fall. Delight your senses with earthy aromas, vibrant hues and soothing sounds that transport you to a land where tradition meets contemporary design. Encounter adobe-inspired structures, and Pueblo gardening techniques, showcasing the resourcefulness and wisdom of indigenous communities. Immerse yourself in a breathtaking botanical display where Southwest culture comes to life through the timeless beauty of Pueblo style. Sponsored by the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Fort Wayne Park Foundation and O'Rourke-Schof Family Foundation.



Keeping You in The Know!

2026 Improvements

- Grand Opening of the Desert House with species from the Great Basin, Mohave, Chihuahuan and Sonoran deserts of North America and arid-loving species from Africa, Australia, Mexico, and South America (March 2026).
- Remodeling of the linkway between the Tropical House and Desert House (Fall 2026).
- Developing a Master Plan for the Terrace and Exploration Gardens with landscape architect firm Merritt Chase (presently through 2026).

Expect more exciting news soon!



Garden Spotlight

by Gilbert Young, Horticulture Supervisor

Summer in the Southwest

Garden guests will be transported out of Indiana with the sights, sounds, and fragrances of the Southwest this summer. The theme we've selected for this summer's showcase garden is Pueblo Garden: Styles of the Southwest. Adobe elements throughout the Showcase House will provide structure and will be the backdrop for an array of bright, colorful, and fragrant flowers with an intermingling of cacti and succulents as one would expect to see in the Desert Southwest.

Various edible plants will also be on display to educate Botanical Conservatory guests of the various methods of gardening and watering in the harsh and arid Western climate. This garden should provide ideas and inspiration for those visiting on ways to enhance and improve their own gardens here in Northeast Indiana.

A significant number of young native Southwest plants were acquired earlier this year and have been growing larger at the Lawton Park Greenhouse in preparation for this summer's Showcase garden. Some of these plants include Mojave sage, Palmer's Penstemon, chocolate flower, and sagebrush. At the conclusion of Pueblo Garden, these Southwest native perennials and shrubs will be permanently planted in the Desert House to add even more color, texture, and interest.

For those looking for a quick staycation this summer, Pueblo Garden will give you a taste of the Southwest without leaving town.





Thanks for your support!

Please join us for these Fall 2026 events!

Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown | September 13, 12-4 pm
Pumpkin Path Display | September 29-October 25, public hours
Botanical Brew | October 2, 5-10 pm
Fall Bonsai Show | October 3, 10 am-5 pm
Rocky Horror Picture Show | October 17, 7-11 pm
Garden Trick-or-Treat | October 24, 12-3 pm
Veteran's Day in the Garden | November 11, 10 am-5 pm
"Silver Bells" Exhibit | November 21-January 3, 2027, public hours

**Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory is
Always in Season**

Mission

Provides an inspired garden setting
for horticultural, educational,
and guest experiences.

Vision

Regionally recognized destination
for excellence in horticultural,
educational, and guest experiences.



August 13.....Maleena Felger
August 20.....Catfish Dave P
August 27.....Tuesday Atlas



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



Ninja Kidz LIVE

Date

September 4

Time

6:30 pm

On-Sale

May 22 at 10 am



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