PARKS & RECREATION

Steve McDaniel, Director

Fort Wayne Board of Park Commissioners

Justin Shurley, President
Cory Miller, Vice-President
Rick Briley, Commissioner
Jenna Jauch, Commissioner

General Information

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains over 2,800 acres of public park land and provides numerous recreation facilities, programs and services for the Fort Wayne community. The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department was created in 1905 when the Indiana General Assembly adopted the Cities and Towns Law IC.

The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department is administered by a four-member bipartisan Board of Park Commissioners; with each commissioner being appointed by the Mayor and serving a four-year term. The Board reviews and approves the annual budget, approves expenditures, holds regular public meetings as required by law and approves the awarding of all contracts.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life in Fort Wayne by providing positive opportunities for leisure time and by being stewards of our parklands, facilities, public trees, and other resources entrusted to our care.

This mission is accomplished through the services provided by the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation divisions of Finance and Support Services, Marketing, Parks, Parks Planning and Development, Recreation Services, Foellinger Theatre and Zoo.

Finance and Support Services Division

The Finance, Support Services and Theatre Division is responsible for the financial accounting, operations and programming of the Foellinger Theatre, program registration, facility reservation, budgeting, purchasing, payroll and administrative functions of the department.

Marketing Division

The Marketing Division is responsible for the public relations, publications, promotions, grant writing, service quality, strategic planning, market research, corporate sponsorship and other marketing/planning functions.

Parks Division

The Parks Division is responsible for operation and maintenance of the park land and facilities, vehicle and machinery operation and upkeep, building repairs and maintenance, construction,and engineering.

Parks Planning and Development Division

The Parks Planning and Development Division is responsible for short- and long-term planning, park and street trees, public gardens and flower beds, park landscaping, operation of the greenhouse, special projects, and riparian. The Division is also responsible for the operations and programming of the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory.

Recreation Services Division

The Recreation Services Division is responsible for most of the recreational programs and facilities operated by the department. Facilities include: three public golf courses, two driving ranges, disc golf courses, tennis centers, tennis courts, pickleball courts, multipurpose athletic fields, basketball courts, ball diamonds, soccer fields, three aquatic centers, splash pads, boat launches, day camps, campground, dog parks, Community Center, Riverfront Park, Skate Park, Lifetime Sports Academy, Salomon Farm, Lindenwood Nature Preserve, and the Hurshtown Reservoir. The Division also manages the McMillen Community Center, three youth centers, and the summer playground program. The Division hosts a number of citywide and cultural events, offers competitive and instructional programs in athletics and outdoor recreation, and art programs, runs a travel program for seniors, families and adventure travelers, and offer classes covering a variety of special interests for preschool through older adult.

Zoo Division

The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo Division is operated under an operating agreement between the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department and the Fort Wayne Zoological Society.

PARKS
Dept # 0121
2027 BUDGET COMPARISON

	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ACTUAL THRU 30-Jun-2026	2026 REVISED BUDGET	2027 SUBMITTED	$ INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM REVISED TO 2027	% CHANGE FROM REV TO 2027
5111 WAGES	10,217,185		10,771,581	11,050,667	279,086	
5125 OVERTIME PREMIUM	195,005		177,000	200,500	23,500	
5131 PERF - EMPLOYERS SHARE	928,038		1,000,297	1,029,411	29,114	
5132 FICA	652,391		712,695	732,995	20,300	
5134 LIFE MEDICAL & HEALTH INSURAN	2,130,000		1,950,000	2,145,000	195,000	
5136 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	10,941		11,063	11,252	189	
5137 WORKERS COMP INSURANCE	70,637		73,932	108,106	34,174	
513A PERF - EMPLOYEES/PD BY CITY	252,111		267,937	275,733	7,796	
513R RETIREES HEALTH INSURANCE	108,000		105,000	82,500	(22,500)	
5140 MERIT INCENTIVE POOL	24,523		—	—	—	
5161 WAGE SETTLEMENT/SEVERANCE PAY	7,715		—	—	—	
5180 TOOL ALLOWANCE	6,300		—	—	—	
Total 5100	**$14,602,846**	**$ 7,052,394**	**$ 15,069,505**	**$ 15,636,164**	**$ 566,659**	**3.76%**
5213 COMPUTER SUPPLIES	29,085		24,150	22,650	(1,500)	
5219 OTHER OFFICE SUPPLIES	23,306		24,450	25,950	1,500	
5231 GASOLINE	135,393		151,369	151,369	—	
5232 DIESEL FUEL / FUEL OIL	117,068		122,174	122,174	—	
5233 OIL	12,913		18,000	18,000	—	
5234 TIRES & TUBES	31,470		36,542	36,542	—	
5239 OTHER GARAGE & MOTOR SUPPLIES	25,439		25,187	25,100	(87)	
5241 MEDICAL & SURGICAL SUPPLIES	28,162		27,800	27,800	—	
5243 RECREATION SUPPLIES	167,063		294,162	294,162	—	
5245 LANDSCAPE & GRNHOUSE SUPPLIES	222,199		330,841	330,841	—	
5246 HOUSEHOLD & CLEANING SUPPLIES	113,897		101,136	101,136	—	
5247 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	586		3,150	3,150	—	
5261 BLDG REPAIR & MAINT MATERIALS	238,157		250,841	230,272	(20,569)	
5262 VEHICLE REPAIR PARTS	64,940		90,752	90,000	(752)	
5263 OTHER EQUIPMENT REPAIR PARTS	208,870		232,827	224,500	(8,327)	
5271 GRAVEL	8,003		17,000	17,000	—	
5272 BITUMINOUS MATERIALS	—		500	500	—	
5273 SAND	—		2,000	2,000	—	
5274 SALT	31,340		34,000	34,000	—	
5291 SMALL TOOLS	32,990		32,250	32,250	—	
5293 PAINT	22,136		19,698	19,698	—	
5299 OTHER MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	216,328		257,875	194,197	(63,678)	
Total 5200	**$ 1,729,347**	**$ 1,066,636**	**$ 2,096,705**	**$ 2,003,291**	**$ (93,414)**	**-4.46%**
5312 MEDICAL SERVICES	1,110		3,500	3,500	—	
5314 CONSULTANT SERVICES	2,000		1,000	1,000	—	
5315 APPRAISALS & INSPECTIONS	6,117		850	850	—	
5316 RECREATIONAL SERVICES	143,538		222,600	168,500	(54,100)	
531H BANK SERVICE CHARGES	46,613		37,900	37,900	—	
531K SEMINAR FEES	22,591		24,650	24,650	—	
5321 FREIGHT EXPRESS & DRAYAGE	560		—	—	—	
5322 POSTAGE	66,483		67,850	77,200	9,350	
5324 TRAVEL EXPENSES	18,219		26,100	26,100	—	
5326 MILEAGE	721		2,250	2,250	—	
532C CELL PHONE	11,962		11,160	11,960	800	
5331 PRINTING OTHER THAN OFFC SUPPL	75,632		75,100	75,100	—	
5332 PUBLIC OF LEGAL NOTICES/ADVTER	5,214		13,000	13,000	—	
5333 PHOTOGRAPHY & BLUEPRINTING	38		500	500	—	
5342 LIABILITY INSURANCE	199,807		321,883	279,572	(42,311)	

PARKS
Dept # 0121
2027 BUDGET COMPARISON

	2025 ACTUAL	2026 ACTUAL THRU 30-Jun-2026	2026 REVISED BUDGET	2027 SUBMITTED	$ INCREASE (DECREASE) FROM REVISED TO 2027	% CHANGE FROM REV TO 2027
5351 ELECTRICITY	704,862		732,384	768,215	35,831	
5352 NATURAL GAS	253,819		281,223	281,223	—	
5353 WATER	851,291		767,335	902,096	134,761	
5356 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	67,862		68,000	—	(68,000)	
5361 CONTRACTED BLDG & STRUCT REPAI	264,474		219,700	219,700	—	
5362 CONTRACTED VEHICLE REPAIR	44,748		50,160	50,000	(160)	
5363 CONTRACTED OTHER EQUIPMT REPAI	111,722		103,033	103,033	—	
5365 JANITORIAL & LAUNDRY SERVICE	55,732		99,800	99,792	(8)	
5369 CONTRACTED SERVICE	915,087		990,230	685,622	(304,608)	
5371 BUILDING RENTAL	—		1,000	1,000	—	
5374 OTHER EQUIPMENT RENTAL	31,555		44,935	42,525	(2,410)	
5381 PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL - BONDS	920,000		960,000	995,000	35,000	
5382 PAYMENT OF INTEREST - BONDS	331,100		293,000	285,500	(7,500)	
5391 SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DUES	18,588		24,850	21,200	(3,650)	
5393 TAXES	3,453		8,000	8,000	—	
5399 OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	161,687		108,324	108,324	—	
539A OPERATING TRANSFER OUT	481,382		45,501	45,501	—	
Total 5300	**$ 5,817,968**	**$ 2,729,707**	**$ 5,605,818**	**$ 5,338,813**	**$ (267,005)**	**-4.76%**
Total 5400	**$ —**	**$ —**	**$ —**	**$ —**	**$ —**	**0.00%**
Total	**$22,150,160**	**$ 10,848,737**	**$ 22,772,028**	**$ 22,978,269**	**$ 206,241**	**0.91%**

Parks and Recreation
2027-2031 Capital Improvement Program

FUNDING SOURCE CODE:

TRUST – Trust Funds CASH – Cash on Hand

LIT-ED – Local Income Tax – Economic Development

Item #	Project Title & Description	Funding Source	Expenditure				
			2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
1	**Vehicle Replacements:**	CASH	690,000	690,000	690,000	690,000	690,000
	Garbage packer truck (2027) (1)		223,000	—	—	—	
	1-ton dump truck (2027) (1); (2028) (1); (2029) (1); (2031) (1)		90,000	90,000	90,000	—	90,000
	1/4-ton pickup trucks with lift gate (2027) (2); (2028) (2)		90,000	90,000	—	—	—
	Shop truck with lift gate (2028) (1)		—	75,000	—	—	—
	3/4-ton pickup truck with fuel hauler (2028) (1)		—	48,000	—	—	—
	1/2-Ton pickup truck with lift gate (2028) (1); (2030 (1)		—	45,000	—	45,000	—
	1-ton cargo vans (2029) (2)		—	—	130,000	—	—
	1/2-ton pickup trucks with lift gate (2029) (2)		—	—	90,000	—	—
	1/4-Ton pickup truck with lift gate (2029) (2)		—	—	45,000	—	—
	Grapple truck (2030) (1)		—	—	—	289,000	—
	3/4-ton pickup trucks with lift gate (2030) (2)		—	—	—	96,000	—
	3-Ton dump truck (2031) (1)		—	—	—	—	210,000
	Other Equipment:						
	Zero-turn mowers (2027) (2)		80,000	—	—	—	—
	Mini boom vertical mast lift (2027) (1)		60,000	—	—	—	—
	Mini garbage bed for pickup truck (2027) (1)		53,000	—	—	—	—
	Dump bed for forestry truck #74 (2027) (1)		50,000	—	—	—	—
	Mini excavator (2027) (1)		44,000	—	—	—	—
	Wood chipper (2028) (1)			93,000	—	—	—
	72-inch zero-turn mowers (2028) (2)		—	80,000	—	—	—
	Skid steer loader (2028) (1)		—	77,000	—	—	—
	Stump grinder (2028) (1)		—	56,000	—	—	—
	Equipment trailers (2028) (1); (2029) (1)		—	36,000	36,000	—	—
	Wide area mower (2029) (1); (2031) (1)		—	—	165,000	—	165,000
	Riparian barge (2029) (1)		—	—	70,000	—	—
	Utility cart (2029) (1)		—	—	34,000	—	—
	Utility golf carts with beds (2029) (2)		—	—	30,000	—	—
	Backhoe (2030) (1)		—	—	—	200,000	—
	Ground tractors (2030) (2)		—	—	—	60,000	—
	Wood chippers (2031) (2)		—	—	—	—	175,000
	Mini skid steer loader (2031) (1)		—	—	—	—	50,000
2	ADA Improvements	LIT-ED	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
3	Computer Equipment	LIT-ED	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
4	Office Equipment	LIT-ED	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
5	Betterments & Additions	LIT-ED	465,000	570,000	570,000	590,000	590,000
		TRUST	35,000	—	—	—	—
6	Resurfacing Roads\Parking Lots\Tennis Courts\Basketball Courts	LIT-ED	460,000	570,000	550,000	510,000	510,000
		TRUST	60,000	—	—	—	—
7	Playground Site Equipment-Various Parks	LIT-ED	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
8	Landscaping Parks & Boulevards	LIT-ED	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
9	Various Parks – Park Signage	LIT-ED	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
10	Street Tree (EAB – Emerald Ash Borer Treatment)	LIT-ED	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000

Parks and Recreation
2027-2031 Capital Improvement Program

FUNDING SOURCE CODE:

TRUST – Trust Funds CASH – Cash on Hand

LIT-ED – Local Income Tax – Economic Development

Item #	Project Title & Description	Funding Source	Expenditure				
			2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
11	Street Tree Planting	LIT-ED	100,000	160,000	180,000	200,000	200,000
		TRUST	40,000	—	—	—	—
12	Street Tree Planting (Citizen Request Match)	TRUST	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
13	Park Tree Planting (Canopy Recovery & Emerald Ash Borer)	LIT-ED	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
14	Botanical Conservatory – Roof Glass Replacement	LIT-ED	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
15	Various Parks – Shelter/Pavilion Renovations	LIT-ED	40,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
		TRUST	20,000	—	—	—	—
16	Various Parks – Site Furnishing Replacement	LIT-ED	40,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
		TRUST	10,000	—	—	—	—
17	Various Parks – Energy Conservation	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
18	Various Bridge Improvements	LIT-ED	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
19	Various Parks Security Improvements	LIT-ED	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
20	Neighborhood Park Master Plan Implementations	LIT-ED	650,000	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
21	Land Acquisition	LIT-ED	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
22	Monument Restoration	LIT-ED	—	100,000	—	100,000	—
23	Neighborhood Facilities – Improvements and Renovations	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
24	Recreation Facilities – Improvements and Renovations	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
25	Headwaters Park Various Maintenance Improvements	LIT-ED	100,000	50,000	100,000	50,000	100,000
26	Salomon Farm Park– Various Maintenance Improvements	LIT-ED	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
27	Foster Park Golf Course Improvements	LIT-ED	250,000	300,000	350,000	300,000	350,000
28	Botanical Conservatory - Various Improvements	LIT-ED	245,000	345,000	345,000	345,000	345,000
29	Miscellaneous Vehicle/Equipment Parts	LIT-ED	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
30	Master Lease Payment	LIT-ED	820,000	820,000	820,000	820,000	820,000
Subtotals			**2026**	**2027**	**2028**	**2029**	**2030**
	CASH (Cash on Hand)	CASH	690,000	690,000	690,000	690,000	690,000
	LIT-ED (Local Income Tax – Economic Development)	LIT-ED	4,300,000	4,965,000	4,965,000	4,965,000	4,965,000
	TRUST (Parks Trust Fund)	TRUST	200,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
TOTAL			**5,190,000**	**5,690,000**	**5,690,000**	**5,690,000**	**5,690,000**