

## Steve McDaniel, Director

- ✦ After about a year-long process, the State will be amending the law to include a speed limit for our downtown rivers. This will be an “idle speed only” zone and will be identified with buoys and future signage on the bridges.
- ✦ The team and I participated in discussions with several veteran groups this month to determine the best way to partner on future programming. Their thought is Parks and Recreation programming will help give service members balance to help lower issues they are dealing with.
- ✦ Steve S. and I met with Traffic Engineering to determine the best locations for future electric vehicle charging stations. They are producing a grant application for across the city and Parks is part of that application.
- ✦ The team and I met with a representative of River City Ventures to start the dialog about a future proposal. This first discussion included several questions that will need some more research before moving forward.
- ✦ I joined the staff at the downtown Community Center to celebrate at their annual Volunteer Luncheon. This year’s theme was Marti Graw. There was great attendance honoring those who volunteer at the center.
- ✦ Foster Golf committee met with the design team to discuss survey results and possible changes to the master plan. Currently it is in the golf architect’s hands to work through various scenarios before coming back to us with options.
- ✦ Alcohol, Tabaco Commission (ATC) approved the application for Teds Snack + Bar. It then went to the state for issuing the license. Ted’s is looking to open very soon in Promenade Park.
- ✦ I am part of a group with the city who are looking at the new Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). As ATC sets the standards, the city will need to propose an ordinance for approval. Several factors will go into the ordinance along with how this will impact current vendors, possible locations, and how best to administer.
- ✦ Rob and I met with the Executive Director and a board member of the Mad Anthony Foundation. This was an informal discussion on possible future partnerships. A lot of information was shared on our operations as well as what they might be looking for in the future. We will continue to keep communications open with them.
- ✦ I was the guest on John Perlich’s **Investing in the City of Fort Wayne**’s radio program. I was able to share many things that are going on in the Parks.
- ✦ Daryn Schwartz was my guest this month on the podcast discussing everything about our aquatic facilities, pools, and being a lifeguard. The podcast is available to listen.
- ✦ As the team works on the grand opening for McKinnie Commons, we are starting to look at winter displays to keep the festive mood. Several options are being considered.
- ✦ The Mayor made a big announcement in McMillen Park that will help shape new improvements within our parks and on our streets. The first part is a very significant investment into replacing several playgrounds throughout the city. The second is funding to plant thousands of street trees.

- ✚ The consultant team working on updating our Comprehensive Plan conducted three public meetings where they gathered input from citizens on all aspects of parks and recreation. More stakeholder meetings will be scheduled in the near future.
- ✚ Our concert season is underway with Willie Nelson performing on May 25<sup>th</sup> to a sold-out show. Next up will be Gary Allen and Tracy Lawrence then on to American Pop featuring The Grass Roots, The Buckingham, and The Box Tops.

## **Chuck Reddinger – Deputy Director,** **Salomon Farm Park, Community Centers (Youth/Downtown/McMillen Park), Riverfront, Athletics, Aquatics, Golf, Outdoor Recreation, Special Events, Headwaters Park, and Travel Service**

### **✚ McMillen Community Center**

- Our 3:00-7:00 After-School program came to an end this month. We averaged 32 kids a day with ages ranging from 5-16.
- Kids Korner numbers decreased by 70% this month compared to last month, due to the building being closed for the set-up of the Mother's Day Plant Sale and the nice weather we have had this month. We had 650 patrons visit Kids Korner last month and this month it was less than 150 patrons.
- Our Registrations are up over 100% compared to last month's numbers which were up around 60%. There were almost 200 new registrations. Youth are out of school and summer is almost here, and we are very excited about the youth coming to our Youth Summer Program.
- Here at McMillen our pickleball numbers were down by at least 75% compared to last month due to the outdoor weather being extremely nice and the building being closed for the Mother's Day Plant Sale. We probably had around 100 pickleball players play here this month.
- This month we held our annual Extravaganza for the youth. This event is put on every year at the end of school. In attendance were social service agencies, local camp representatives and a financial institution. Staff provided information regarding programming and registration. Games and hot dogs were also provided

### **✚ Salomon Farm Park**

- Five Learning Center rentals were booked in May 2023 compared to three in May 2022.
- Seventeen Farmin' Fun Day Camp counselors have been hired for camp. Three of the seventeen will be safety counselors. With the additional hires Fort Wayne Parks was able to open up to groups and remove children off the waitlist. A group was added to the 6-11 years and the 4-5 years. The capacity for camp is 145 which is 10 more than last year. Almost all weeks are completely full.
- Farm Camp training week was held on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 through Friday, June 2, 2023. Camp officially starts on Monday, June 5, 2023.

- The Hug Our Highland Meet and Greet sessions went very well. Mickey and Frankie did a wonderful job interacting with the public. All of the participants seemed to walk away extremely happy, with most participants asking for more sessions. Thirty-eight total meet and greet sessions were conducted at \$65 per session, all of these sessions were sold out. Salomon Staff also worked with a local photographer to offer mini photo sessions with the Highlands. Two of the ten sessions sold at \$250 per session. These programs allowed Salomon to bring in revenue to help cover the cost of the cows and it certainly was quick revenue. Due to the success of these programs staff has discussed the need for more staff, especially someone with experience training animals. The baby goats were added to the meet and greet which was a wonderful surprise to all participants. There are over 200 people still on the waitlist for the sessions. Once more sessions can be added staff will work off of the waitlist.
- Sunflowers have been planted in the front field. Light rain in the forecast in May was a concern. The second sunflower field, zinnia field, and specialty flower rows will be planted in early June. The Supervisor, Larry Hicks has been working on irrigation via drip line and weed control for the specialty flower rows. These flowers include: Celosia, Gomphrena, Cosmos, Salvia, Statice, Marigold, a variety of grasses and wildflowers.

#### **Sweet Breeze**

- Opening weekend for Sweet Breeze was Saturday, May 27, 2023 and Sunday, May 28, 2023.
- In 2021 and 2022 only two tours were available each day and then four tours were added as tickets sold on Saturdays and Sundays after opening weekend. This year staff decided to make four tours on Saturday and four tours on Sunday available. Due to the holiday weekend and dockside ticket sales the average ridership was 29 for the 8 tours. Sweet Breeze capacity is 38 passengers.

#### **Hurshtown Reservoir**

- Hurshtown Reservoir opening day was Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

#### **Franke Park Day Camp**

- Franke Park Day Camp hired 22 camp counselors. Camp goal was to hire at least 6 more.
- With additions to staff number groups were added totally 279 available spaces this is 53 more than 2022.
- Farm Camp training week was held on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 through Friday, June 2, 2023. Camp officially starts on Monday, June 5, 2023.

#### **Golf**

- Dave Weadock and Gary Whitacre have been working with the golf course architects to revise the master plan for Foster Golf Course to address the public's concerns about moving the existing greenway path.
- Troy Bates reported that they are starting the project to recoat and restripe the McMillen Golf Course parking lot. This should take approximately 5 (five) days.

- Bryan Keister stated that all 3 (three) golf courses have the irrigation up and running. Foster Park GC is still in manual irrigation mode while a new sustain pump is being built and replaced due to the pump house flood.
- Gary Whitacre stated that all 3 (three) golf courses are showing a high level of sustained play and range use since the weather has been consistently warm and dry.

### **Pools**

- Daryn Schwartz and Jason Smith have been maintaining (chlorinating, cleaning filter baskets, running dolphins) at Northside and McMillen Pools since they have been filled. This will continue until summer seasonal staff take over the responsibility.
- Jenny Barney reported that she is still actively recruiting seasonal pool staff. Her efforts are mainly aimed at lifeguards. This is a nation-wide challenge due to the fact that you have to have competent and mature individuals to ensure the safety of patrons.
- Rob Hines reported that Anthony Wayne Services had awarded the Parks and Recreation Department a grant in the amount of \$13,800.00 for the purchase of 2 (two) new portable pool lifts. These are required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **Community Center**

- The Volunteer Recognition went very well on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Everyone really enjoyed playing singo. The theme was “beads and bling it’s a volunteer thing”. Storming crab donated some of the food and it was delivered cold. Jama and the staff did a great job pulling together and getting it warmed up. The award presentation went very good as well! 74 volunteers and 4 sponsors. This is a luncheon that we have once a year to recognize our volunteers for all the work that they put in to make the community center successful.
  - Mike Voiles won the Edna Berdelman award for the most hours
  - Linda Mullenhour won the Gerri junior award for 2<sup>nd</sup> most hours
  - Sandy Benning won outstanding commitment award and Kim Labenberg won the Carol Clark award. Overall it was a great day to honor our volunteers.

### **Weisser Park Youth Center**

- In May, Weisser had 71 Summer Program registrations which makes a total of 125 Summer Program Registrations. Our daily average attendance for May was 28.1 youth per day.
- This month we wrapped up our core programs and focused on learning and facilitating new group games for our youth. Each day at 3:30pm, 4:00pm and 5:40pm a staff was assigned to facilitate a recreation group game. Our goal was to learn and offer our youth more recreation, a variety of group activities and fun.
- **Parkview Healthy Seeds**-On May 2, the youth reviewed food groups and how they benefit the body and enjoyed a food group relay race. After the discussion and relay, they made a Smile Cake snack using food from each food group. To make their Smile Cake youth used rice cakes, sun butter and seeds, yogurt and berries.
- **End of After-school Program Celebration**-On May 11, the youth enjoyed grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, chips and juice to celebrate their participation in our After-school Program. After the meal, they enjoyed a variety of jumbo yard games, flag football and freeze tag.

### **Park and Play**

- This is a New mobile recreation program in which staff will be present at a variety of parks and events throughout the summer. The goal is to reach a wider audience and provide recreation opportunities to various neighborhoods that we do not do traditional programs. Locations are spread proportionally around the City and will be adjusted as needed for weather, attendance, etc.. The Park and Play staff will be in a branded vehicle and have a wide variety of games, crafts, art project, and more for the children to participate in. Starting on June 12, the schedule for the month of June is:
  - Mondays 9-11:30am Psi Ote Park  
12:30-3pm Waynedale Park
  - Tuesdays 9-11:30am Klug Park  
12:30-3pm Jehl Park
  - Wednesdays 9-11:30am Gren Park  
12:30-3pm Lakeside Park
  - Thursdays 9-11:30am Packard Park  
12:30-3pm Reservoir Park

### **Jennings Center**

- New fencing installed along back of building
- Parking Lot and Alley repaved and restriped.
- Building plans to reopen on June 6<sup>th</sup> for summer programs

## **Riverfront**

- May kicked off at Promenade Park with the continuation of our Be your Own Artist program “Hoop it Up” that was close to reaching its max program capacity. This art program brought people of all ages to the Park Foundation Pavilion on a beautiful Sunday afternoon to build and design their own hula hoops from pvc pipe.
- Our next Sensory Workshop was held on May 12<sup>th</sup> that consisted of people of all ages painting with bubble wrap. These events are designed to meet the needs of people of all ages with sensory needs and is part of our inclusive programming at Promenade Park.
- Yoga on the Riverfront was moved outside this month and will continue to be throughout the Summer as the weather cooperates.
- The Sunday Heritage Concert Series followed Yoga with a new artist to Promenade by the name of Joy Bell. She played original acoustic/folk/pop songs that got the crowd dancing and actively engaged in the performance. As we continue to bring in new and upcoming artist the crowds continue to grow for these events.
- On Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> we held our second annual “Paint with your Pup” event on the Auer Lawn that sold over 50 tickets. This event brought all types of dogs to the Park to participate in painting with treats and were able to take home their artwork created.
- The Promenade Park water rill was opened on the Friday before Memorial Day weekend after passing the local Health Department inspection. The water rill will now be opened until the Fall.
- Headwaters park kicked off the summer event season with two events on May 6<sup>th</sup> with the City of Fort Wayne’s Great American Cleanup Day at the Rothschild Pavilion and then the MS Walk on the East Side Pavilion. The MS Walk kicked off in the morning with over 1,000 people in attendance walking Headwaters Park in support of fundraising for the MS Foundation. The Great American Cleanup started with projects all around Fort Wayne leading to volunteers to congregate for a end of the day celebration with food and drinks on the west side of Headwaters Park. The event was kicked off by a thank you from Mayor Tom Henry and also include games and activities for volunteers.
- The following weekend had Jake Slater’s “Taco’s, Tequila, and Margaritas” event at the East Side pavilion. The weather could not hold off patrons from visiting the park to enjoy great food, dancing and live music to conclude the event. Eco Fest finished off May events at Headwaters Park on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The event included many local vendors ranging from food to local non-profits educating people on sustainability activities that can improve the environment.
- Headwaters rentals went well with little maintenance or cleaning issues in the park.

## **Sandra Odisho – Finance Manager**

- ✚ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 316 employees (134 full-time and 182 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and paid on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

- ✚ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing or in the process of being hired, as of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023:
  - Gardener – Landscape and Horticulture (Fund 121)
  - Heavy Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
  - Working Leader – Grounds (Fund 121)
  - Working Leader – Facilities (Fund 121)
  - Fleet Mechanic (Fund 121)
  - Supervisor VI – Neighborhood Programs (Fund 121)
  - Recreation Center Coordinator – Weisser (Fund 121)
  - Supervisor IV – Food Service (Fund 121)
  - Rental Coordinator – Riverfront (Fund 121)
  - Program Facility Coordinator – Education & Interpretation – Botanical Conservatory (Fund 439)
- ✚ All of our major seasonal hiring events are now complete!
- ✚ We have 291 seasonal employees that have cleared and are working or are ready to start working as of June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We also have an additional 29 who are waiting to be cleared or have upcoming HR appointments.
- ✚ Day Camps are getting ready to begin! Staff is hired in and has completed safety training.
- ✚ Aquatic staff have been hired in and getting ready for opening day at the pools in early June.
- ✚ Summer is HERE! We have been very busy in the Front Office with Sweet Breeze ticket sales, Foellinger Theatre ticket sales, Summer Fun Times registrations, pavilion reservations seekers and more.
- ✚ Summer class registration began May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Popular programs in the Summer Fun Times include swim, t-ball, soccer and tennis lessons for kids.
- ✚ Sweet Breeze ticket sales also began May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There has been a total of 602 Sweet Breeze ticket sold for tours from Memorial Day weekend until the end of July.
- ✚ Staff has continued to be added to both Franke Day Camp and Salomon Farm Day Camp in recent weeks allowing us to contact more kids off the waiting lists and get them registered. The wait lists for both of those programs are minimal.
- ✚ Great weather reminds everyone that they want to have summer parties which means many calls looking to rent one of our 22 reservable pavilions. All of the enclosed pavilions are reserved every Saturday and Sunday in June and July. There is very limited availability for open pavilions during that time period.
- ✚ We are performing preliminary work on the 2024 Budget preparation with the various Deputy Directors.
- ✚ The Controller’s Office will announce a 2024 Budget Kickoff Memo in mid-June with various instructions and due dates. The completed 2024 Budget due in early July. The City Controller will meet with Departments to discuss their Budgets on an “as needed” basis in July; this may also involve some recommended budget changes.
- ✚ The 2024 Budget will be introduced to City Council in September with Council Departmental Budget meetings and Budget passage occurring in October.

## **Steve Schuhmacher – Deputy Director, Facilities, Grounds, Projects Administration, Safety Compliance, Storeroom, Fleet & Mechanical Operations**

### ✚ **Facilities Maintenance**

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **279** for May. This is up from: **136** in April.
- Graffiti was removed from the following locations; underneath the Martin Luther King Jr bridge, Franke Park’s center restroom, McCulloch Park’s bandstand, Promenade Park’s playground restroom building, and Memorial Park pavilion.

- Lafayette shelter, and Kettler outdoor seating area were completely repainted due to extreme amounts of vandalism.
- Relief workers wrapped up pressure washing and edging all splash pads in preparation of Memorial Day weekend.
- The 2023 summer rental season began April 29th. This increased the rental facilities from the 8 year-round facilities to 21 (15 enclosed pavilions and 6 open air shelters).

## **Maintenance Technicians**

- Playground repairs are ongoing at multiple locations.
- Upgrades to the Memorial Park ball diamond were completed. This included painting the scorers building and replacing fascia, upgrading the lighting to LED, and replacing worn bleacher seats. This work was completed in preparation of the dedication ceremony to unveil the Fort Wayne Daisy's monument.
- All splash pad pre-season work was completed for both Northside and McMillen Park pools as well as the splash pads at Buckner, Franklin, McCormick, Memorial, Meyer, Shoaff, and Waynedale Parks.
- Repairs were completed on the Lawton Park ball diamond lights.
- Pre-season work was completed for the Promenade Park water rill.

Tennis nets were replaced at Swinney, and Shoaff Parks and the Pickle ball nets were adjusted at Lakeside, Hamilton, Shoaff, and Lions Parks to prep for the 2023 season

## **Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment**

- The athletic field crew has had to mow athletic fields every other day to keep up with the grass.
- We are currently mowing ball diamond outfields 2-3 times a week and dog parks weekly.
- The ball diamond crew has remained busy with rentals every day of the week.
- We have been adding infield dirt to many fields to help with puddles that might form from rain events.
- Heavy Equipment repaired washouts and potholes at the Franke Theatre overflow lot, the BMX back parking lot, and the drive leading to that lot.
- The community gardens on Bluffton Road were mowed with a brush-cutting mower and then tilled to prepare the plots for planting.
- Playground mulch was delivered to Bowser and McMillen for volunteer groups.
- The garbage truck is running Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sundays.

## **Lawton Garage/Operations** - Garage Operations Highlights:

- 161 work orders were scheduled this month, 40 of which were services.
- Mike Heckley retired from the Parks Department. Mike worked in many different areas for the parks during his 12 years here.
- A spare Ford F250 has been located at the city fleet garage that can be transferred to the Parks Dept. for our use in the future.
- 2 small flatbed trailers were delivered from Bridge manufacturing. One will be assigned to grounds, the other to the golf courses.
- Toro mower #590 suffered catastrophic engine damage and will require a replacement motor. Kenny Machine is ordering a replacement engine for the department.
- The transmission for truck 93 came back rebuilt from the transmission shop and can be installed back into the truck.
- A new large electric parts washer was delivered from NAPA to replace the garage's aging natural gas-powered unit that had required multiple repairs this year.
- A Freightliner Sprinter 3500 van is in the process of getting new exhaust installed and a hood and bumper have been ordered for another Sprinter van to improve its appearance.

- 2 new Club Car Carry All 550 gasoline golf carts were delivered from the 2022 lease for horticulture. Hitches were also ordered for some of the existing golf carts.
- A new pressure washer was delivered that is going to be stationed at the REA building to be used to wash boats and other equipment.

## **Project Administration**

- Buckner Park Trail Construction – Paving, picnic shelter, benches installation, finish grading and seeding completed.
- Casselwood Park Playground Replacement – Equipment delivered to Lawton Park. Contractor availability allows for late summer installation.
- Foster Park Golf Course Master Plan – Purchase order issued to Hills Forrest Smith for a revised master plan.
- Foster Park Golf Restroom – Renovation in progress with multiple vendors.
- Franklin Park Shade Structures – Purchase order issued, awaiting installation date.
- Jennings Center Kitchen Cabinets & Countertops – Purchase order issued, awaiting contractor material acquisition.
- Jennings Center Playground Fence – Installation is in progress.
- Kreager Park Shelters and Concessions Painting – Work is in progress.
- Lakeside Park Courts Lighting – Project completed.
- Lakeside Park Sunken Gardens Wall Repair – Project completed.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof – Design report in progress.
- McMillen Park Community Center Reception Area – Contractor material acquisition in progress.
- McMillen Park Tennis Courts Resurfacing – Project set to begin in early August.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Drawings provided to staff for review. Bidding date to be determined.
- Memorial Park Fort Wayne Daisies Monument – Project in progress.
- Parks System Comprehensive Plan – Project in progress.
- Parks Playground Improvements – Request for Proposal in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. Additional work ongoing at Heritage Barn.
- Salomon Farm Entrance – Trail connection sections planned for early June.
- Weisser Park Youth Center Interior Signage – Project in progress.

## **Safety**

- The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on, 5-30-23. 2 employees and 1 guest were present.
- 1 vehicle crash has been reported for this time period.
- 3 employee injury was reported this time period.
- 4 CPR/FA classes were given with 42 employees receiving their certification.
- 3 General Safety Training classes were given for seasonal employees.
- 1 Self-Defense class was held at Promenade for 19 employees. More classes are planned.
- A janitorial cleaning class and chainsaw safety class are being organized.
- Narcan use SOP and training session is being developed.
- The review of Parks Safety SOP's continues.

**Alec Johnson – Deputy Director,** Planning & Development, Forestry, Landscape, &

**Planning Report – May 2023**

Earthwork has begun at Franke Park as part of the Franke Renaissance project. Coordination continues between Parks and Michael Kinder & Sons (CmC).

Details continue to be determined for Riverfront Development: Phase IIB. However, comments have yet to be received from permitting agencies, so completion of construction documents is not yet possible. Bid packages are being assembled by Hagerman for potential bidding this summer. Staff continues to collaborate with Community Development in the completion of Riverfront Development: Phase IIA. Construction continues, and is anticipated to be complete by June.

Public meetings were held for the Parks Comprehensive Plan the last week of May. Project consultants visited the city, toured all parks, and met with staff as the plan moves forward.

Construction was completed on the St. Marys Streambank Stabilization: Phase II project. Staff completed a punch-list walk through with the project consultant and contractor mid-May; items were completed and the site was de-mobilized (see photo below).

Staff visited Landscape Forms site furnishings company in Kalamazoo, MI along with Community Development staff and JPR, a consultant on a couple of our projects. We were able to see new project development and manufacturing processes, along with an overview of the company’s philosophy.

Staff spent some time discussing invasive species with city council representatives. This meeting was prompted by letters sent to council by neighborhood groups regarding a request for a ban on the sale of these plants.

The landscape renovation at Riverlodge in Shoaff Park was completed.

Staff took part in Visit FW’s Tourism Master Plan workshops.

Planning for the East Central Docks continues; staff met with ERI to regroup on project details and move the design project forward.

Staff continued discussions regarding the 2024 budget.

Staff met regularly with Conservatory management to discuss various agreements, staff training, marketing, showcase, and facility operations. Progress continues to be made on the various capital projects within the facility that were discovered through the facility assessment and internal discussions.



**Horticulture and Landscape Report- May 2023**

Landscape staff removed spring bulbs at Lakeside, Courthouse Green, and Freimann Square. Lakeside Park and Foster Park began planting annual flower displays. Freimann, Courthouse Green, Community Center, Swinney Letterbed, and Bluffton Road Letterbed will begin annual installation the beginning of June.

Landscape staff began their post-emergent herbicide treatments to landscape and tree beds across the parks system.

Fountains at Freimann Square, the Courthouse, Lakeside, and Foster are on and being maintained now. The Japanese Garden Fountain will be installed in June.

Landscape staff continues with spring clean-ups throughout the parks. Clean-ups include debris and litter removal, pruning/deadheading, pre-emergent application, bed edging, and mulching. Foster gardens staff spent much of the month edging and mulching landscape beds.

Lakeside staff installed 43 new roses into existing rose beds. They also transplanted numerous others in an effort to better organize, maintain, and improve aesthetics and health of the rose gardens.

Landscape staff focused on the Foellinger Theatre, Northside Pool, McMillen Pool, and Hurshtown Reservoir before their opening days.

Landscape crews focused on cleaning up and mulching areas of Memorial Park before Memorial Day.

Landscape staff did some turf repair across the parks in early May.

Landscape staff spent time in May palletizing and removing pavers, bricks, and boulders that had previously been stored at Lawton to the new yard at the REA building.

Landscape staff assisted in plant and equipment delivery during the week leading up to the McMillen Plant Sale.

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

Landscape staff completed and turned in their 2023 bulb designs so fall bulbs can be ordered. Bulb displays are designed and installed at Freimann Square, Courthouse Green, Downtown Community Center, Lakeside Park, and Foster Park.

Joe Minick was hired for the Foster Gardener Helper Position. He began work on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Jacqui Carroll retired from the Promenade Gardener position. The position was posted in May and interviews will begin in June.

As part of their contract, Pfister Sprinkler Systems began making necessary spring repairs to irrigation systems in Foster Park, Promenade Park, Lakeside Park, Northside Pool, Northside Main Office, Freimann Square, Courthouse Green, Downtown Community Center, and Meyers Park. These systems were all turned on at the end of May due to dry weather. Main Street Medians and the Foellinger Theatre are still undergoing repairs with irrigation scheduled to be on the beginning of June for both of them.

Per contract, Pride Landcare removed old shrub beds from the perimeter of the Cobin Park parking lot. Turf has been restored in these areas, with tree plantings on the way this fall.

Landscape staff has begun watering the turf periodically due to the dry spell in late May. Heartland Restoration Services began work as part of their Ecosystem Maintenance contract, making visits to the Thomas Nature Sanctuary pond, Reservoir Park rain garden, and Lakeside Park native plant pond buffer.

Pride Landcare and Mow Baby Mow continued mowing all contracted maintenance areas.

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

Volunteers worked 530.5 hours in the greenhouse.

The greenhouse provided approximately 17,800 plants/containers for the Mother's Day Plant Sale and approximately 2090 were returned after the sale.

### **Riparian Management Report- May 2023**

Sweet Breeze was successfully launched on May 9th at Guldlin boat ramp. Sweet Breeze was inspected for passenger-for-hire and cleared for the season.

Assisted with training videos for future Sweet Breeze crew training process.

Idle Speed zone buoy planning continues with DNR with the expected start date June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Headwaters, Guldin, Shoaff and Promenade docks were kept clean and maintained.

Completed two volunteer events removing honeysuckle at Brookview neighborhood and Guldlin Park. One private group of four volunteers and Canterbury Middle School with 150 students, totaling 316 man hours and estimated 7 tons honeysuckle/invasives removed.

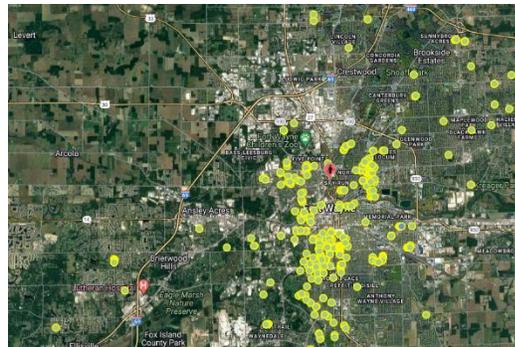
Removed 3.04 tons of honeysuckle within construction zone at Headwaters Park.

### **Forestry Report- May 2023**

Much of May was spent preparing The Inflation Reduction Act Grant application. If awarded, the Accelerated Canopy Enhancement (ACE) project will remove and replace over 4,000 trees and provide necessary care for over 25,000 other trees in disadvantaged communities in Fort Wayne. The project will be facilitated and directed by the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department (FWPRD) and fund 2 positions in the City of Fort Wayne; all other services will be provided on a contractual basis. Expected accomplishments include improved temperature regulation, air quality, aesthetics, and resilience to climate change; reduction in stormwater runoff and ambient noise in the affected area; and it promotes greater mental and physical well-being of residents and greater ecological balance. The total requested grant amount is more than \$14 million.

This year's spring tree planting is complete. The bulk of this planting is funded through the Southwest Area Partnership. The planting locations were prioritized to benefit elementary schools and students in the 4<sup>th</sup> district.

This year's Emerald Ash Borer treatment is scheduled and expected to be completed in the coming weeks. In total, 289 trees will be treated throughout the City.



In May, Forestry crews completed 51 out-of-cycle tree maintenance requests. Examples of these requests include tree limb elevation to facilitate large vehicles, removal of limbs touching homes, clearing street lighting and signage, and removal of dead limbs. We anticipate these becoming more common as the routine maintenance cycle timeframe extends.

36 high-priority trees were removed by in-house crews this month. We have begun our annual level 3 tree risk assessment of trees throughout Fort Wayne. This inspection will take most of the summer and is expected to result in more than 1,000 trees being identified as candidates for removal.

Forestry crews responded to 21 storm-related fallen/hanging limbs.  
Forestry staff responded to and resolved 92, 311 call center tickets this month.

**Botanical Conservatory Report – May 2023**

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit has welcomed enthusiastic visitors ready to learn about life-cycles and enjoy the beauty of exotic butterflies! Field trips were in full-swing in May, reflecting a full return of field trips post-COVID-19 with a 71.4% increase from field trip attendance observed in 2022. The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events in May 2023 including a record shattering Mother’s Day Plant Sale (May 11-14), Mother’s Day in the Garden (May 13-14), Spring Bonsai Show (May 20), Iris Show (May 28), 36 scheduled field trips (May 1-31), and the start of indoor/outdoor facility event rentals (May 27). Staff are gearing up for Spring Plant Swap (June 3), Breakfast with Butterflies (June 4 & 11), Camp ACTIVenture (June 12 – July 28), Father’s Day in the Garden (June 17-18), National Pollinators Week (June 20-24), and An Herban Garden Showcase Exhibit (opening July 1).

A Camp ACTIVenture Assistant Supervisor, Brittany Croy, has been on-boarded. Seasonal Gardener Benjamin High and Seasonal Maintenance Emma Amos have begun their seasons. Vacancies include Program Facility Coordinator – Education & Interpretation (temporarily on-hold) and Weekend/Evening Receptionist (interviewing).

**Botanical Conservatory KPIs**

May 2023 continued the year with impressive strides in attendance (up 29.95%), membership (up 34%), rentals (up 44.25%), and Conservatory Shop revenue (up 18.42%). Rental sales slowed in May 2023 due to availability of dates, as the remaining inventory for 2023 is sparse and inventory for 2024 is becoming quite competitive; interest in 2025 rentals has begun and is expected to pick-up as the year continues.

Mother’s Plant Sale revenue was up over \$10,000 and 11% to 2022 and beat its aggressive and unprecedented \$100,000 goal by grossing \$105,393,40, contributing heavily to the ‘Other Revenue’ column in May 2023 and shattering the all-time Mother’s Day Plant Sale record.

**Attendance**

May 2022:	12,406 visitors
May 2023:	12,593 visitors

An increase of 187 or +1.51% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Attendance:	36,832 visitors
2023 Attendance:	47,865 visitors

An increase of 11,033 or +29.95% to 2022

**Admissions Revenue**

May 2022:	\$38,522.00
May 2023:	\$48,075.00

An increase of \$9,553.00 or +24.80% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Admissions Revenue: \$144,752.00  
2023 Admissions Revenue: \$176,983.00  
An increase of \$32,231.00 or +22.27% to 2022

**Membership Revenue**

May 2022: \$7,162.00  
May 2023: \$8,633.00  
An increase of \$1,471.00 or +20.54% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Membership Revenue: \$35,532.00  
2023 Membership Revenue: \$47,628.06  
An increase of \$12,096.06 or +34.04% to 2022

**Conservatory Shop Revenue**

May 2022: \$28,177.13  
May 2023: \$33,368.23  
An increase of \$5,191.10 or +18.42% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Gift Shop Revenue: \$106,945.62  
2023 Gift Shop Revenue: \$128,775.62  
An increase of \$21,830.00 or +20.41% to 2022

**Rental & Catering Fee Revenue**

May 2022: \$13,017.50  
May 2023: \$6,910.00  
A decrease of \$6,107.50 or -46.92% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Rental Revenue: \$31,963.88  
2023 Rental Revenue: \$46,107.50  
An increase of \$14,143.62 or +44.25% to 2022

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

May 2022: \$103,377.85  
May 2023: \$110,993.87

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Other Revenue: \$363,101.68  
2023 Other Revenue: \$334,299.14

**Conservatory Total Revenue**

May 2022: \$190,256.48  
May 2023: \$207,980.10

An increase of \$17,723.62 or +9.32% to 2022

**YTD Comparisons**

2022 Total Revenue: \$682,295.18

2023 Total Revenue: \$733,793.32

An increase of \$51,498.14 or +7.55% to 2022

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

Staff submitted a grant for \$3,150 support of the 2023 “An Herban Garden” Exhibit to the Mirro Family Foundation.

Staff submitted a grant for \$4,500 support of the 2023 “Timeless Tradition” exhibit to the Wilson Foundation.

Waste Management Foundation declined support for the 2023 “An Herban Garden” exhibit, citing limited resources.

The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation declined a request to submit a proposal for the 2023 “An Herban Garden” exhibit as they only sponsor direct food assistance to underserved populations. *They think the exhibit is a great idea however!*

Staff submitted final grant reports to the Howard P. Arnold Foundation and Magee-O’Connor Foundation for their support of the 2023 California Dreamin’ Showcase exhibit. These reports will enable us to apply for future exhibit funding from the foundations for support of the 2024 “Botanical Speedway” exhibit.

Staff submitted a final grant report to the Wilson Foundation for their support of the 2022 “Paris: City of Light and Love” exhibit. This report enabled us to apply for funding of the 2023 “Timeless Tradition” holiday exhibit.

Staff submitted a final grant report to the M. E. Raker Foundation for their support of the 2022 “Paris: City of Light and Love” exhibit. This report enables us to apply for funding of the 2023 “Timeless Tradition” holiday exhibit.

Staff submitted a final grant report to the Barbara Bradley Baekgaard Family Foundation for their support of the 2022 “Paris: City of Light and Love” exhibit. This report enables us to apply for future funding of the 2024 “Raise a Glass!” exhibit.

Conservatory donations in April 2023 and May 2023 totaled \$2,403.25 ~ \$30 from Amber Bowers for the butterfly exhibit; \$5 from Katie and Jerod Witte as a general donation; \$25 from Kathleen and Michael Habeeb as a general donation; \$153.25 from anonymous donors via the donation box; \$435 in memorials for Caes Gruesbeck ~ \$100 from PHP, \$25 from Scott and Betsy Gubin, \$100 from Kosene and Kosene-c/o Angela Guinn; \$25 from Julie and Randy Crouch, \$50 from Linda Kimmel and Family; \$30 from Jeff and Jen Burns; \$25 from Penny Baughan, \$20 from Barb Meinert, \$20 from Mary Czech, \$40 from Arly and Jennifer Durand and \$1,755 in memorials for Conservatory volunteer Linda Pickerman and in support of the butterfly exhibit ~ \$500 from the Pickerman Family Fund, \$150 from University of Michigan

Athletic Medicine Staff, c/o Elizabeth Remke, \$175 from Ellen Schroeder, \$500 from Lutheran/TRMA Network LLC, \$200 from Linda Graves, and \$230 from Windsor Woods Home Owners Association.

### Conservatory Public Programs

#### **Events**

##### Mother's Day Plant Sale (May 12-14)

The Mother's Day Plant Sale continues to be a beloved community fundraiser in support of the Botanical Conservatory.

Held at the McMillen Community Center, the 2023 Plant Sale was staffed by up to 135 volunteers in addition to Conservatory, Greenhouse, and McMillen staff pulling their weight and working together. Everyone's hard work certainly shows considering the success of this year's sale with layout and logistical changes to further improve the customer experience.



*Shopping at the Mother's Day Plant Sale*

##### Mother's Day in the Garden (May 13 & 14)

Mothers enjoyed free entry to the gardens during Mother's Day weekend. The first 800 mothers also received a free geranium to celebrate their day! In all, the Botanical Conservatory hosted 2,276 guests during this two-day event, far exceeding 1,600 guests in 2022.

#### **Education**

##### National Public Gardens Week (May 16-20)

To celebrate National Public Gardens Week, guests were treated to free Marigold seeds packaged by volunteers with an educational insert. The free seeds were well received as guests gladly helped themselves while engaging with staff and volunteers and happily sharing about the visitor experience.

##### T'ai Chi Tuesdays (April 25-May 30)

Sandy Gebhard concluded this session of T'ai Chi instruction with 23 participants. She has committed to a 4-week session in August and 6-week session beginning the last week of September. T'ai Chi continues to be a sustainable pre-registered program offered year-round at the Botanical Conservatory.

#### **Exhibits & Displays**

##### Color in Motion (April 25-June 25)

The current showcase exhibit is among the most popular and is much anticipated by guests at the return of spring! This year's live butterfly exhibit highlights 14 exotic butterfly species amongst a backdrop of aquatic plants. Roughly 50 volunteers directly support this exhibit as Butterfly Attendants. Conservatory staff anticipate high attendance numbers over the course of the 9 weeks.

##### Landscape Architecture and Art by Ramon F. Miller (April 25-August 13)

Hailing from sister city Gera, Germany, landscape architect and artist, Ramon F. Miller gives his perspective on *randomness* with modern day photographs that celebrate the abstract beauty of nature. Presented in partnership with Fort Wayne Sister Cities and Friends of the Parks of Allen



*Gentle interaction with Blue Morpho butterfly*

County. Artwork is for sale in support of the Botanical Conservatory at [shop.botanicalconservatory.org](http://shop.botanicalconservatory.org).

#### Spring Bonsai Show (May 20)

The Bonsai Club put on quite a display for the 584 guests in attendance. In addition to accent plants, many exhibitors also added accent rocks for this show that routinely has a steady stream of visitors. The club will return come fall for the next Bonsai Show!

#### Iris Flower Show (May 28)

The Iris Show boasted its beauty for 269 guests in attendance. Several categories were judged including bearded, beardless, and mixed arrangements. The flowers were both visual and olfactory to the senses. Coming up, is the Iris Sale on July 23!

#### **Volunteers/Staff**

In May of 2023, 8 volunteers covered 32 shifts at the Front Desk while 10 volunteers covered 35 shifts in the Gift Shop. The Mother's Day Plant Sale was supported by a total of 120 volunteers and at least 12 non-Conservatory, city employees who were recruited. The Butterfly Tent continues to be staffed by a majority of volunteers; more than 40 in all. With upcoming summer break, Anthis students completed their semester with a total of 132.25 hours and a core of 5 students, although 9 students participated throughout the semester.

#### **Upcoming**

April 25-June 25: "Color in Motion" Live Butterfly Exhibit

April 25-August 13: Art Exhibit Ramon F. Miller: Landscape Architecture & Art

June 3: Spring Plant Swap, pre-registered program

June 4 & 11: Breakfast with Butterflies, pre-registered program

June 12-July 28: Camp ACTIVenture pre-registered program

June 17 & 18: Father's Day in the Garden event

June 20-24: National Pollinators Week, drop-in program

June 26-30: Showchange Week

July 1-November 12: "An Herban Garden" Summer/Fall Showcase Exhibit

#### Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

Central Indiana Hardware completed the installation of new entry doors and an ADA opener for the main entry; LA Electric made the final electrical connection for the ADA opener, making them fully operational.

Mutton Party & Tent Rental erected the 30'x45' special event tent on the Terrace Garden.

Vandalism has been on the uptick in downtown Fort Wayne, unfortunately impacting the Botanical Conservatory when an individual broke three panes of glass in the Desert House.

## Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

- + [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) had 6,091 hits to the site this month and the Promenade Park link had 4,612 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and the marketing team is working with the Riverfront team on rental strategies for weekday daytime use. There were 1,683 hits in May.
- + Customer Service Training is being conducted for various teams and will continue into June.
- + The Summer Fun Times was released on May 3. The Marketing Team worked diligently on numerous tasks prior to and after the release.
- + Completed 58 Design projects.
- + Completed work for our new program-Park & Play including graphics, flyer, t-shirt, van wrap, banners and a new web link.
- + Created marketing materials for Theatre including postcards, e-news pieces, ads, flyers, posters, social media and web promotions.
- + Received \$13,800 for two new pool lifts for disabled swimmers.
- + Working on an Urban Forestry grant.
- + Submitted application for Foundation grant for the Sensory room at the Community Center.
- + Sent May Donation Drive (digital only).
- + Produced a podcast “Cool in the Pool” with Daryn to highlight our pool operation.
- + Produced six videos for social media.
- + Produced two “Walk in the Park” segments on Riverfront events.
- + **Media Mentions, including television, radio, newspaper and websites:**

**March 54**

**April 79**

**May 90**

+ **Web Statistics:**

<u>Users:</u>	<u>Hits:</u>	<u>Month:</u>
48,683	145,004	March
51,475	148,440	April
63,147	184,299	May

**Social Media Totals for the months of:**

	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>
FB Followers	78,105	79,705	83,945

	FB Reach	224,415	352,033	406,277
	Twitter Followers	13,686	13,668	13,647
	Instagram Follower	21,712	23,263	23,542

## Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

As is not uncommon in Indiana, we seem to have bypassed spring and gone straight to summer. Opposite of last season, 2023 so far has been hotter and drier than one year ago. This has been very good for activity levels.

This is reflected in the revenue numbers to date. Activity levels continue to increase:

<u>MAY</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAF</u>
2022 REVENUE	\$ 48,181	\$ 27,944	\$ 70,468.75
<b>2023 REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 69,201.75</b>	<b>\$ 42,608</b>	<b>\$ 94,716.50</b>
YTD 2022	\$ 78,114.50	\$ 47,709.50	\$101,961.25
<b>YTD 2023</b>	<b>\$107,793.25</b>	<b>\$ 68,161.75</b>	<b>\$145,448.50</b>

The weather has exposed some issues which are being addressed. Course irrigation is fully utilized in hot, dry weather. As is usual, there have been some issues at Foster with broken pipes/heads and an ongoing issue with the pump house. These are being addressed as the situations arise, and are being dealt with. This requires some significant expenditures.

Carts are being managed, but the serviceability and age of the carts continue to be less than ideal. The impending arrival of 33 carts that are currently on order will help the situation, but will not alleviate it completely. We are still looking towards expanding the cart fleet by some 22 carts in the future.

The addition of contracted golf instructors has been a tremendous improvement. Both of the instructors have been busy, and the public is being very well served.

The golf course architecture firm of Hills Forrest Smith will be on sight Monday, June 5 for further development of the master plan for the golf course. The planning stage for this project continues to progress, and the potential for a revitalized, modern golf course with a great practice facility can become a reality. This addition would drastically change the Parks Department's golf offerings for the better and would be a tremendous revenue source for years to come.

The activity level at the golf courses continues to rise. During peak times, the courses are utilizing existing staff as starters to group players and increase the flow of play. The golf courses are doing great, and activity should continue to increase.

## Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



FW PUBLIC WORKS  
**Greenways  
& Trails**  
*In Your Neighborhood*

- ✚ I will attend City Council on June 6<sup>th</sup> for approval of construction contracts with API Construction for both the Liberty Mills Rd Trail and the Summit Park Trail. I will also be asking for approval of a contract with Engineering Resources for the design of a pedestrian bridge over Coliseum Boulevard for the Pufferbelly Trail.
- ✚ The Hanna Street Trail construction from Pettit to Decatur Road is 75% complete.
- ✚ We continue working on the right of way for several trail projects: Covington, Wheelock, Pufferbelly, Illinois Rd, Hanna, Diebold, and the Fishing Line.
- ✚ The Governor announced Round 4 of Next Level Trails in the amount of \$30 million. The City will be pursuing one or two grant requests. Grant applications are due August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ✚ We will be spending a great deal of time in June, July, and August planning the Open Streets event set for August 20<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor will have a news conference to announce Open Streets on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.
- ✚ We had around 80 participants at 4 locations for Bike to Work Day.
- ✚ Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails are both off to a good start with the first month completed.
- ✚ We hired a contractor to install new bollards on the Pufferbelly Trail.
- ✚ The Street Department has struggled to get the mowing done along many of our trails this year due to staff shortages and a wet April/early May.
- ✚ Our two interns are helping with event planning and minor maintenance.
- ✚ The City is hosting the Renaissance Car Show on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. at the Renaissance YMCA. This is our third year at the show. Dawn has been tasked with leading a planning committee to organize and execute the car show.

## Division News and Media Coverage:



WANE, City Council eyes Getz Rd. development

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-city-council-eyes-getz-road-development/>

WANE, Police connect with the community at Coffee with a Cop

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/police-connect-with-community-over-cold-brew-through-coffee-with-a-cop-event/>

PBS 39, PrimeTime program with feature on The League's Inclusion Institute and Leadership Academy

<https://video.wfwa.org/video/inclusion-institute-leadership-academy-blgmdp/>

WANE, City Utilities says water quality improving, system flush next step

## **What's Happening at the Botanical Conservatory in June**

*Fort Wayne, Ind.* –The Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory at 1100 South Calhoun Street presents the following events and programs this month.

### ***Featuring:***

#### **Father's Day in the Garden**

##### **Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18, public hours**

Treat Dad and Granddad to a special outing at the Botanical Conservatory where they get in free on Father's Day weekend. While the family is entertained by live butterflies and beautiful garden displays, fathers can enjoy the visit with a beverage and snack available for purchase from Mad Anthony Brewing Company and Shigs in Pit (10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and 12:00-3:30 p.m. on Sunday). The first 300 fathers to visit will receive a free plant! Sponsored by: 96.3 XKE.

#### **National Pollinator Week**

##### **Tuesday-Saturday, June 20-24, public hours**

Join us as we celebrate National Pollinator Week at the Botanical Conservatory! Get a thrill out of the Conservatory's Live Butterfly Exhibit and Observation Bee Hive, both having returned for another season. In addition, explore the amazing world of pollinators and learn the importance of pollinators in our world. Regular Conservatory admission applies.

#### **Color in Motion: Butterfly Exhibit**

##### **Now until-June 25, Public hours**

Live butterflies have landed at the Botanical Conservatory bringing with them an array of natural beauty and wonder. Watch in awe, their wings in flight, as they flash with color pigments and refracted light. Observe exotic butterflies emerging from their chrysalides right before your eyes! An epic display of multicolored flowers and foliage elevates this annual spring exhibit. Sponsored by English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation, The Waterfield Foundation, "In memory of Jo Ann and William Wyatt," 97.3 WMEE and 21Alive.

#### **Ramon F. Miller: Landscape Architecture & Art**

##### **April 25-August 13, public hours**

Outdoor landscapes are continually being influenced by the work of nature such as through movement of trees, reflections in water, dark shadows from clouds or shimmering light on a dewy morning. To the human eye, these random transformative effects are wildly emphasized as part of an intentional landscape. Inspired by the joy and happiness of the natural world, landscape architects have long embraced *randomness*. Hailing from sister city Gera, Germany, landscape architect and artist, Ramon F. Miller gives his perspective on *randomness* with modern day photographs that celebrate the abstract beauty of nature. This never-before-seen collection on display at the Botanical Conservatory emphasizes change and a lack of control with light and shadow effects in the moment. Presented in partnership with Friends of the Parks of Allen County.

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/water-quality-improving-system-flush-next-step-says-fort-wayne-official/>

WANE, FWPD river patrol prepares for first season

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fwpd-river-patrol-prepares-for-first-season/>

WANE, Fort Wayne Daisies monument unveiled at Memorial Park

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-daisies-monument-unveiled-at-memorial-park/>

WANE, Southeast farm market now open Fridays into November

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/southeast-side-farm-market-now-open-fridays-into-november/>

WANE, Living Local 15 program – Animal Care and Control featured

<https://www.wane.com/lifestyle/living-local-15/full-episode-june-1-2023/>

WANE; Judge: Funding, staffing plans needed for new jail

<https://www.wane.com/news/judge-funding-staffing-and-design-plans-needed-for-new-jail/>

WPTA, Opening of city pools delayed due to lifeguard shortage

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/06/01/northside-mcmillen-pool-openings-delayed-due-lifeguard-shortage/>

Adams Radio Group, City pools opening

<https://1039waynefm.com/northside-and-mcmillen-pools-opening-soon/>

### ***Also Happening:***

#### **\$1 Thursdays**

**Thursdays, 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

The Conservatory admission is just \$1 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Thursday. Plus, Civic Center Garage parking is validated for free.

## **Celebrate Active Lifestyles, Friendly Competitions for Ages 50-plus**

### *At the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Senior Games*

**WHO:** Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Director Steve McDaniel, Fort Wayne Deputy Mayor Karl Bandemer, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Community Center Manager Mary Wagner-Stockman, and additional public officials.

**WHAT:** Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation kicks off the 2023 Senior Games with a ceremonial proclamation and torch lighting followed by a pre-event dart match between Director McDaniel and Deputy Mayor Bandemer.

Prior to the ceremony the Community Center will host a health fair from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Local health and wellness vendors will offer information, fun games, and giveaways. Also at 9:00a.m. a continental breakfast will be served for those who are pre-registered.

**WHEN:** Games will run from June 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to July 6, 2023 – Dinner/Awards

**WHERE:** Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Community Center, 233 West Main Street

City TV, Mayor Henry's City Beat program – Topics include FWFD's new recruit class; \$22M coming to the city; Roosevelt Reserves; Neighborhood Improvement Grants; and Foster Park Pavilion 3  
<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=N9LRxSax1bPa8hJH>

WPTA Insight program, United Front feature  
<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/05/22/fort-wayne-uniteds-united-front/>

WPTA, City planning projects following \$22M in local income tax supplemental distribution from State of Indiana  
<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/05/25/city-plans-projects-tax-funding-increase/>

WPTA, Sweet Breeze season kickoff open house  
<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/05/09/sweet-breeze-river-tours-return-may-summer-season/>

WOWO, Mayor Henry announces plan to invest in vital projects to continue to move Fort Wayne forward in a positive direction  
<https://www.wowo.com/mayor-henry-announces-plan-to-invest-in-vital-projects-to-continue-to-move-fort-wayne-forward-in-a-positive-direction/>

WOWO, Roosevelt Reserves groundbreaking  
<https://www.wowo.com/single-family-housing-to-begin-construction/>

Adams Radio Group, Mayor Henry recognizes 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ukrainian genocide  
<https://1039waynefm.com/mayor-henry-recognizes-90th-anniversary-of-ukrainian-genocide/>

### **What's Happening at the Riverfront**

#### **Muddy River Concert Series**

**Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., June 7, 21**

Enjoy live local music from We Are Checkmark on June 7, and Left Lane Cruiser on June 21.

#### **River Rangers**

**Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m., June 7-July 26**

***Auer Lawn, Promenade Park, 202 W. Superior Street***

River Rangers (ages 5-12) are invited to an hour of fascinating outdoor learning of STEM on every Wednesday in June and July. Topics of exploration include weather, experiments with slime, Lego building and boat making in June. Each program is free, however, space is limited to 30 children, so pre-registration is required. See the full list of River Rangers options in the Summer Fun Times, available at [www.FortWayneParks.org](http://www.FortWayneParks.org). To register, please email your child's name(s) and the class title to [Hannah.webb@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:Hannah.webb@cityoffortwayne.org). Registration deadlines are the Monday prior to each date.

#### **Yoga on the Riverfront**

**Sunday, June 11, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

***Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street***

This free, relaxing one-hour flow yoga class is for all skill levels and led by owner of Discover Yoga, Chelsea Vona. Bring your own yoga mat to Promenade Park or borrow one for the class.

#### **Sunday Heritage Concert Series: 40's Radio Show**

**Sunday, June 11, 2:00-3:00 p.m.**

***Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street***

Be transported to the heydays of big band sounds by the American Legion Band of Fort Wayne. Concerts are free and open to all ages. Seating will be on a first come first served basis.

WANE, \$22M in tax funding to boost Fort Wayne projects

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/22m-tax-funding-to-boost-fort-wayne-projects/>

WANE, Trail etiquette in Fort Wayne – City Greenways and Trails featured – Dawn Ritchie

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/trail-tips-what-to-know-about-trail-etiquette-in-fort-wayne/>

WANE, Parks Open Houses/Survey

<https://www.wane.com/video/fort-wayne-parks-survey/8678997/>

WFFT, Parks and Rec – Splash pads opening soon

[https://www.wfft.com/news/nine-area-splash-pads-opening-saturday/article\\_80ca0008-fb2b-11ed-a865-933caec72995.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/nine-area-splash-pads-opening-saturday/article_80ca0008-fb2b-11ed-a865-933caec72995.html)

WBOI, Allen Co. Jail inmate population down

<https://www.wboi.org/news/2023-05-25/allen-county-jail-inmate-population-down>

WELT Radio, 'Investing in the City of Fort Wayne' program with **Parks Director Steve McDaniel** as guest

<https://soundcloud.com/mayorfw/fort-wayne-parks-and-recreation>

Input FW, Pillars of Hope and Justice to be unveiled

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/PlacesofNEI-PillarsofHopeandJustice.aspx>

Input FW, What is social isolation and how is it impacting Fort Wayne residents

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/features/AARP-socialisolation.aspx>

Input FW, NIIC and Electric Works announce partnership

<https://www.inputfortwayne.com/news/NIIC-ElectricWorks.aspx>

WFFT, City Council aims for more representation on local boards

<https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-city-council-aims-for-more-representation-on-local->

WANE, FWPD honors officers and citizens at awards ceremony

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-police-department-honors-officers-citizens-alike-at-awards-ceremony/>

WANE, Tall grass and weed program returns

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-waynes-tall-grass-weed-program-returns-neighborhood-code-looking-at-harsher-penalties-for-repeat-offenders/>

WANE, Fort Wayne ranks in top 10 for most square footage for \$1,500

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/heres-how-much-apartment-space-1500-buys-in-the-top-us-cities-report/>

### **Storytime at the Park**

**Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30 a.m., June 7-August 2**

***Park Foundation Pavilion Patio Promenade Park, 202 W. Superior Street***

Join the Allen County Public Library and Riverfront Fort Wayne on Wednesday mornings for fresh air, sunshine and children's literature at Promenade Park. Most dates will be held under the awning of the Park Foundation Pavilion. No pre-registration is required.

WFFT, FWPD honors officers

[https://www.wfft.com/news/fwpd-honors-officers-on-national-police-week/article\\_23827810-f38f-11ed-a190-1b2dacc4728a.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/fwpd-honors-officers-on-national-police-week/article_23827810-f38f-11ed-a190-1b2dacc4728a.html)

WFFT, Public opinions wanted for Pontiac Street Market's future

[https://www.wfft.com/community/public-opinions-wanted-for-pontiac-street-markets-future/article\\_3ba638ae-f359-11ed-aaae-876ac643ca2b.html](https://www.wfft.com/community/public-opinions-wanted-for-pontiac-street-markets-future/article_3ba638ae-f359-11ed-aaae-876ac643ca2b.html)

WFFT, Artists wanted to create murals for the Clean Drains Fort Wayne effort

[https://www.wfft.com/community/artists-wanted-to-create-murals-for-the-clean-drains-be-river-smart-initiative/article\\_7dd65d42-f356-11ed-8122-0fc6c05ed45d.html](https://www.wfft.com/community/artists-wanted-to-create-murals-for-the-clean-drains-be-river-smart-initiative/article_7dd65d42-f356-11ed-8122-0fc6c05ed45d.html)

WFFT, Tall grass and weed program begins

[https://www.wfft.com/news/tall-grass-weed-program-begins-today/article\\_f5e63f6c-f32b-11ed-bf89-9ba959b49fb2.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/tall-grass-weed-program-begins-today/article_f5e63f6c-f32b-11ed-bf89-9ba959b49fb2.html)

Adams Radio Group, Tall grass/weed program gets underway

<https://1039waynefm.com/tall-grass-weed-program-gets-underway-2/>

WOWO, City's tall grass and weed program underway

<https://www.wowo.com/no-more-than-nine-inches-tall-grass-weed-program-begins/>

WOWO, Public invited to Pontiac Street Market engagement open house

<https://www.wowo.com/public-invited-to-pontiac-street-market-engagement-open-house/>

WPTA, Clean Drains FW seeks artists for murals

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/05/16/clean-drains-fort-wayne-seeks-artists-murals/>

WPTA, FWHA plans to use federal grant on city's southeast side

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/05/16/fort-wayne-housing-authority-plan-use-federal-grant-city-s-southeast-side/> PBS 39, PrimeTime program with Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission featured  
<https://video.wfwa.org/video/northeast-indiana-strategic-development-commission-wgprly/>

WANE, Paint with your Pup at Promenade Park

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/paint-with-your-pup-at-promenade-park-2/>

WANE, Great American Cleanup – homeless encampments

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/did-the-great-american-cleanup-displace-the-homeless-in-fort-wayne/>

WFFT, McMillen Park's Mother Day's Plant Sale

[https://www.wfft.com/news/mothers-day-plant-sale-sees-growing-crowds-ahead-of-sunday-holiday/article\\_932ff512-f1e0-11ed-a648-1f0227a67980.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/mothers-day-plant-sale-sees-growing-crowds-ahead-of-sunday-holiday/article_932ff512-f1e0-11ed-a648-1f0227a67980.html)

The Mayor Tom Henry Podcast with Public Works Director Shan Gunawardena as guest

<https://soundcloud.com/user-202170298/episode-96-public-works>

Adams Radio Group, Mayor Henry part of Visit Fort Wayne celebrity event

<https://1039waynefm.com/celebrity-takeover-heads-to-the-fort-wayne-visitors-center/>

WANE, Sweet Breeze tours to start later this month

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/sweet-breeze-canal-boat-river-tours-begin-in-late-may/>

WFFT, Great American Cleanup recap

[https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-joins-great-american-cleanup/article\\_5d472c7c-ed58-11ed-b5ae-93dad2346711.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-joins-great-american-cleanup/article_5d472c7c-ed58-11ed-b5ae-93dad2346711.html)

City TV, Council update program with Tom Didier interviewing Mike Nutter with TinCaps

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=XJppWDSnUQ5L>

WANE, Apartments planned in southeast Fort Wayne

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/apartments-planned-on-fort-waynes-southeast-side/>

WPTA, Mad Ants leaving Fort Wayne

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/05/08/mad-ants-leave-fort-wayne-noblesville/>

WPTA, MLK III to visit Fort Wayne for MLK monument dedication

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/05/11/martin-luther-king-iii-visit-fort-wayne-mlk-monument-dedication/>

WANE, FWACC looks at chickens at PFW and complaint from possible dog owner during meeting

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fwacc-looks-at-chickens-at-pfw-complaint-from-possible-dog-owner-during-meeting/>

WANE, Plan for future of 18 Fort Wayne neighborhoods adopted

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/plan-for-the-future-of-18-fort-wayne-neighborhoods-adopted/>

WFFT, Local Salvation Army announces leadership change

[https://www.wfft.com/news/salvation-army-allen-county-corps-leadership-change-coming-in-june/article\\_d410c782-ef38-11ed-912c-331d60bfcdc4.html](https://www.wfft.com/news/salvation-army-allen-county-corps-leadership-change-coming-in-june/article_d410c782-ef38-11ed-912c-331d60bfcdc4.html)



## Brushes up, Clean Drain Artists!

*Year 3 Celebrates Successes by Painting the Town to Protect Our Rivers*

Clean Drains Fort Wayne seeks artists to create murals as part of its nationally recognized *Be River SmART* initiative, which uses art to educate the community about river pollution. The initiative was created by City Utilities and Friends of the Rivers, a grassroots non-profit which serves to increase the value and importance of Fort Wayne's three rivers. In the past two years, over 70 storm drains have been decorated with creative murals to remind the community that only rain belongs in the drain.

Clean Drains Fort Wayne invites artists to apply by **June 4** to paint murals at select locations throughout July and August. Artists will be provided with the supplies they need to install the mural, including paint, brushes, tape, a safety vest, instructions for installation and a stipend for their work.

Additionally, Friends of the Rivers is proud to announce **paid apprenticeships** offered in August and September. A limited number of artists will be chosen to work alongside a local muralist on a to-be-announced building in Fort Wayne, IN. This project will celebrate our rivers and continue the “Only Rain in the Drain” educational initiative.



## Clean Drains by the Numbers

Just last year, the Clean Drains initiative ...

- resulted in the collection of **8,272 lbs. of trash.**
- reached students & families at **23 schools.**
- provided nearly **1,000 storm drains** with “Only Rain in the Drain” markers.

### **Dates to Remember :**

**Application Deadline:** Drain Art – June 4, 2023

**Apprentice Application** – June 14, 2023

**Selected Artists Notified:** June 2023

**Painting of Storm Drains:** July – August 2023 (depending on drain’s location)

## Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails

Locations for the next 3 Tread the Trails for walkers, runners, and wheelchairs:

- 6/15: Indian Trails Park, 10313 Aboite Center Rd, park in the southwestern-most lot
- 6/29: Rockhill Park, across from 1474 Catalpa St.
- 7/13: Moser Park, 601 W. Main St., New Haven

The full schedule of Trek the Trail bike rides: <http://www.fortwayneparks.org/trails/news-events.html>

Trek the Trails is sponsored by Freedom Cycle Co, Trek Bikes Fort Wayne, VS Engineering, UAW Local #2209, and Three Rivers Velo Sport.

Tread the Trails is presented by the City of Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne Running Club, Fort Wayne Trails, and the City of New Haven.

The Fort Wayne Area Trails Network consists of 134 miles of trails, with 100 miles inside City limits. Most of the trails in City limits are planned, designed, constructed, and maintained by the City of Fort Wayne, under the leadership of Mayor Tom Henry.