

Steve McDaniel, Director

- # We wrapped up the Senior Games this past month. We reached our goal (and then some) of participants with over 525 participating. It was a great 5 weeks of games. Congratulations to all who participated. I hope to see you all next year.
- # I presented an update to the Executive Board of the Fort Wayne Zoological Society of the Franke Park Renaissance Plan. This included the plan along with the current timeline.
- # We held the press conference for two events this month. The first was the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Buckner Park Trail Project. The second was for a celebration of Jennings Center's 75 Anniversary. Later in the day, we held a carnival at Jennings to incorporate the neighborhood and all of the kids. All events were well attended.
- # The city presented its findings from the Compensation Study it has been working on for the last year. A new salary grid was defined and approved. The city also presented four options for implementation and option 3 was discussed as the choice moving forward. We are told that this will be implemented for the August 18th pay period.
- # This month I taped our podcast with both Eden Lamb and Amanda Black discussing boating operations and the Sweet Breeze tours. This is available to be downloaded and listened to.
- # Rick Kinney joins the staff as the new Foellinger Theatre Manager. Rick has a long career in the theatre field having been part of the Embassy & Clyde Theatres as well as owning his venue consulting firm. We are very excited to have Rick join the team.
- # Talking about the Foellinger Theatre, July was a busy month with multiple concerts. This included Hotel California (Eagles tribute), Herman's Hermits, America, Community Band, New Millennium Jazz Orchestra, Welcome Back My Friends: The Return of Emerson Lake and Palmer, the Mavericks, 38th Infantry Division Band, Fort Wayne Children's Choir, and Stayin' Alive.
- # This month we ended our 25th season of the Lifetime Sports Academy at McMillen Park. Students earned 50 sets of golf clubs and 25 tennis racquets. Kids participating in the program included 1,735 golf lessons, 1,116 tennis lessons, and 554 swim lessons. This year we had over 850 children participate in the program. Totals over the 25 years have us reaching 31,360 kids.
- # The Marketing Team is working on a video that we can use for donations. As we look to build our donor base, this video will be one of the tools we will use.
- # The design team working on the Foster Park Golf Master Plan has sent over a revised plan. They are asking for our input before they finalize it. The staff is reviewing it along with the Golf Committee. We hope to share our thoughts and get a revised plan soon.
- # The team working on our Comprehensive Plan had stakeholder meetings this past month. A lot of information was shared by those in attendance and will go towards shaping our plans.
- # Summer programs started in the early part of June. So there are a lot of activities in many of our parks.
- # Senior Games kicked off on June 5th with our opening ceremonies. Over 40 events are planned for the next 5 weeks. Our goal is to have over 500 participants play in the games.
- # Chuck and I met with Police Chief Reed and his commanders regarding large groups of minors in our downtown area causing issues. This spills over into a few of our downtown parks. The Police have set up additional officers to patrol the parks and other locations.
- # Rob, Nate, and I met with the Foellinger Foundation this month. It was a good discussion about our two facilities with the Foellinger name on them, Botanical Conservatory and our Theatre. They have asked for some additional information which we are gathering now.
- # I was the guest speaker on PBS's Primetime talking about Riverfront development and phase 2 plans. It was a lot of graphics showing what is being proposed in the various areas that encompass phase 2.

- # I participated in a biennial wildlife working group at the International Airport. They host this event every other year to help manage wildlife within a 5-mile radius of the airport. This helps them with lowering any possible issues with aircraft and birds.
- # We continue to work on building a Parks and Recreation mobile app. This would be a map-based app that would show you the amenities within each of our parks. It would also have location ability so you can see where those amenities are close to you. (blue dot on the map).
- # Air quality became an issue this month for the first time. There were a few days that impacted our community. We followed the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Allen County Board of Health's recommendations as well as connected with the City's Risk Management Department.
- # We connected with the Fort Wayne chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) on their annual fundraising event. They presented us with a donation check. It's organizations and individuals like this that make our community great. Thank you FWAIA for the donation.
- # I attended the Park Foundation's annual meeting and gave an update on our summer programs and projects. The Foundation's board members had several questions which I answered. As this was their annual meeting, the meeting was open to the public and they had several people in attendance.
- # Towards the end of the month, we opened the newest section of Riverfront with phase 2a between Promenade and Headwater's Parks. This new section is just north of the private development of Riverfront at Promenade. The designers blended the themes of Promenade Park while tying it into Headwaters Park.
- # We held the ground-breaking ceremony for the first phase of Franke Park's Renaissance project. This is the new entrance off of Goshen Road, bridge over the Spy Run Creek, new pavilion, parking, trails, and much more. Work is underway with completion towards the end of 2024.
- # We also had the ribbon cutting ceremony on the newest park of McKinnie Commons on June 28th. This new space is located at the northeast corner of Anthony and McKinnie. The space includes a bandshell, grass area, swings, plaza with seating, landscape planters, and a food truck lane. This will be on our Park & Play route in July.

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**

Jennings Center

- The staff at Jennings took turns leading a variety of enrichment programs for the youth. Daily they would be creative in having the youth do some form of fun math, science, self-care or character-building activity. The community partners came weekly and provided the youth with a variety of fun-filled activities from art projects, to simple snacks and fitness fun as well as digging deep and talking about their inner feelings and how to deal with them.
- Some group activities that the youth loved and became staples in the daily activities were:
 - The children were able to make stress balls. They were given balloons and with a funnel, they were able to put rice into the balloon and this formed the stress ball.
 - The Staff took 24 youths to the Botanical Conservatory, and 24 youths went on the Pontoon boat rides.
 - Ms. Woods had one of her former students come to show the youth Ballet Dance.
- On July 26th we celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Jennings Center. At 10:00 am a press conference with Mayor T. Henry. Children presented a card to the Mayor with their thumbprints and a message about what the Jennings Center meant to them. That same evening from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm we had the Jennings Center 75th Anniversary Celebration it was a great turnout. Everyone

enjoyed themselves with games, carriage rides, face painting, video game trailers, and food. There were more than 300 people in attendance.

- Relando Rencher started Thursday 8/3 as the new Supervisor of Jennings Center.

Weisser Park Center

- On July 19, the youth made kites and flew them and on July 27 they tie-dyed backpacks.
- On July 21, a total of 24 youth went on a pontoon boat ride.
- On July 24 and July 26th, we took 46 youth to the Memorial Park splash pad
- On July 28, we held our End of Summer Program Celebration. The youth enjoyed a day full of fun games and were served chili cheese dogs, meatballs, baked beans, potato chips, ice cream, and cake
- Zynette provided two virtual field trips. The youth enjoyed experiencing the largest aquarium in the United States of America, the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, Georgia, and the largest zoo in the world, The Wilds in Cumberland, Ohio.
- Parkview Healthy Seeds discussed with the youth how important sleep is and the appropriate amount of sleep per night. They also enjoyed a relaxing yoga exercise.
- ACPL leads are youth in an art challenge. On July 17, the youth created negative space art using cardstock, tape, and pastel markers. On July 24, the youth learned how to make different types of paper airplanes and tested to see which design flew the best.
- Purdue CATCH visited on July 18 and discussed with our youth the effects of too much screen time and some alternatives to watching television and computer use.
- On Saturday, July 15, Weisser collaborated with Ten Point Coalition for the 1st Annual Community Live Celebration held at Weisser Park. The celebration is an event to address physical, mental and spiritual well-being within the community.

Salomon Farm Park

- Salomon Farm Park Farmin' Fun Day Camp ran for the entire month of June with each week sold out. Salomon Farm Park Farmin' Fun Day Camp was on break from Monday, July 3, 2023, to Friday, July 7th, 2023. Camp resumed with week 5 on Monday, July 10th, 2023. The Camp was nearly full for the last two weeks of camp.
- Due to day camp, programs and rentals in the Learning Center will start back up in August. Old Barn rentals are still scheduled throughout the summer.
- A dry spring has affected the flower fields at Salomon Farm Park. Similar to last year, the weeds were outgrowing the sunflowers and other flowers. Staff have been working on different ways of controlling the weeds. The specialty flower rows such as Gomphrena, Cosmos, Statics, and more have not gone as planned due to a variety of reasons. This will continue to be a learning year and staff has discussed cutting back on a large variety of flowers and focusing on doing a select few well.
- Frankie and Mickey the Highland mini cows took a break from the Meet and Greet sessions and the kids at Farmin' Fun Day Camp were able to interact with them throughout June and July.
- All fields have been planted with flowers, this includes the front field and the west fields that are quartered by the Heritage Barn and Equipment barn. Salomon staff will be starting the sunflower U-Pick at the end of the month for the front field and then a section of the west field will follow in a couple of weeks. The department recently wrapped one of the concession trailers that use to be used for the pools. This trailer was sitting unused and will now be put to good use with a fresh new look! Staff will be selling out of the trailer this year, which will be a nice visual for patrons trying to navigate where the U-pick is located.

Franke Park Day Camp

- For June 2023 most weeks at Franke Park Day Camp were full. With additional staff added waitlists were dropped to below 10 kids in most age groups. Franke Park Day Camp was on break from Monday, July 3, 2023, to Friday, July 7th, 2023. Camp resumed with week 5 on Monday, July 10th, 2023.
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River Camp

- River Camp is a one-week day camp with a on focus water activities, outdoor games, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, hiking, river clean-up, and much more. Ages are between 8 and 12 years old. This is a small camp maxing out at 40 kids. This camp is housed at Shoaff Park Riverlodge and was held on Monday, July 24th through Friday, July 28th, 2023. This year the kids enjoyed a pontoon ride on the St. Joseph River. The campers also learned canoe and kayak skills on the river throughout the week. River Camp was full with 40 kids for 2023 and 19 kids on the waitlist.

Golf

- Steve McDaniel, Dave Weadock, Gary Whitacre, Bryan Keister and Jason Smith continue to meet and work with the golf course architects. The intent is to address the majority of the public concerns with the redesign of the Foster Park Golf Course.
- 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.
- Gary Whitacre commented that the Little City Golf Tournament was held at McMillen Park Golf Course. The event was a one-day tournament as opposed to two like in the past. Numerous participants commented on how nice the course looked and played.

Aquatics

- Daryn Schwartz reported that several last-minute lifeguard applications were a welcome sight. After hiring and getting the lifeguards trained, Northside and McMillen Pools were able to be open six days a week as they have in the past.
- Daryn Schwartz reported that the long-time Aquatic Supervisor had resigned. The aquatics team at both pools stepped up and took on different roles to keep the pools running for the public to enjoy.
- Jason Smith reported that the main pump at Northside Pool expired causing the pool to be shut down for a day. Thankfully as soon as the new one arrived the department MTs had it installed and running. Ensuring that the pool was open for learn-to-swim lessons and the public the next day.

Lifetime Sports Academy

- Jason Smith reported that the Lifetime Sports Academy is entering its last week of the summer. This will wrap up the 25th anniversary of the program. He also stated that along with the participant and staff shirts commemorating the anniversary, all of the various last-day contests medals had it on them as well.
- Jason Smith reported that three Lifetime Sports Academy golf participants took part in the First Tee Golf Championship at Eagle Creek Golf Course in Indianapolis. This was the first year that any participants had taken part in this event.

Junior Golf

- Dave Scudder reported that the Junior Golf Tour wrapped up with the fun day scramble at Shoaff Golf Course. The two-day Pee Wee Golf Tour Championship will be the culmination for the younger players.
- Daryn Schwartz and Jason Smith continue to get requests for drone videos and photographs for various events and facilities. Jason Smith stated that more areas are starting to be Geo Fenced but not shown on the air maps. This can cause problems when not being allowed to fly in certain areas.

Park and Play

- The program started on June 12 and ended on July 28. The first half of the summer was slower but once people caught onto the program the attendance grew. The locations this year were as follows:
 - Psi Ote Park- Attendance 72 kids
 - Waynedale Park-Attendance 48 kids
 - Klug Park -Attendance 32 kids
 - Jehl Park-Attendance- 39 kids
 - Gren Park-Attendance -24 kids
 - Lakeside Park- Attendance -103 kids
 - Packard (1st half) - 10 kids
 - Cooper (1st half) – 1 kid
 - Mckinnie Commons (2nd half)- 1 kid
 - Kettler Park(2nd half)- 6 kids
 - Pop Up Locations were held at the following parks: Kreager (10 kids), Shoaff (40 kids), and Hamilton (5 kids)
- Adjustments will be made for next year on times and locations.

McKinnie Commons Grand Opening

- The grand opening was held on June 27th. The Mayor and several community leaders, Parks and Recreation and Community Development cut the ribbon for our newest Park. There were games, music, free pizza, snow cones, and cookies. There was an estimated attendance of 200.

Community Center

- The Lego Challenge was held on July 7th from 4-6 pm at the Community Center. This was a fun event for the kids and their adults. There was a standard team challenge (where a parent partners up with a kid), a solo challenge for older youth, and the Family challenge(where kids bring in a custom project from home). We had a total of 32 participants and 324 votes, either in person or using our custom QR code. Which was a success for out-of-town families to utilize for voting purposes.
- Father Daughter Dance was held on June 16th from 6-8 pm. It was a wonderful turnout for the event this year. Your Party Princess came with Princess Belle to take photos and mingle with the guests. We look to bring them back in the future, carriage rides as always along with a new and improved photo booth and setup in the lobby.
- Senior Games: Our goal was 500 and we ended up with 529 participants. our wrap-up meeting is July 27th @ 3. We had great feedback about the banquet. The only complaint was that it lasted too long. We are working on the evaluations now. Full report next month.

Riverfront

- June rentals started with an internal event hosted by the Community Development Office of Fort Wayne with an open house to discuss the Phase II development of Riverfront at Promenade Park.
- The first Saturday of June was one of the yearly community events hosted by Fort4fitness with the Spring Cycle. The day was filled with live music as the race started and finished at Promenade Park. The next big rental was another annual community event of River Drums. This event continues to grow as they use Promenade Park to celebrate the culture and heritage of our Rivers in Fort Wayne. The Park Foundation Pavilion held 4 wedding ceremonies in June along with 2 graduation ceremonies. Corporate events include rentals from Vera Bradley, regional internship gatherings, rotary meetings, and the Swiss Re ribbon cutting for their new downtown office at the lofts at Riverfront. July rentals included 3 wedding ceremonies and 2 corporate events at the Park Foundation Pavilion. "Young at Heart" was held in partnership with 3 Rivers Festival and packed the pavilion for fun games for people over the age of 60 years old. SCAN held its annual board of directors meeting at the Park Foundation Pavilion and then held its annual SCAN Duck Race at the Park. Paul Didier of Coldwell Banker held a client/employee appreciation party and rented the entire Park for a full day of fun activities inside and outside of the Pavilion. Our biggest rental for July at Promenade was the Taylor University picnic held on the Auer Lawn and the Park Foundation Pavilion with over 300 people in attendance.
- Riverfront Programs included our annual Free Family Fishing Day at the park in junction with the Indiana DNR free fishing day.
- Our Dance Promenade concluded in June with an Ecstatic Dance Party on the Auer Lawn.
- The Riverfront River Rangers was held on every Wednesday from June to the end of July averaging at least 50 people in attendance. This free event teaches kids STEM through practical projects and fun activities at Promenade Park.
- Storytime on the Riverfront was held on every Wednesday at the Pavilion Patio in partnership with the Fort Wayne community library and continued to grow from last year with an average of 60 people in attendance each week.
- Our free Sunday events of Yoga on the Riverfront and the Sunday Heritage concert series continued to have great attendance as Yoga was moved outside to the Riverfront steps.
- Our biggest event at Promenade Park for June and July was our Muddy River Concert Series. This event continues to pack the Park every other Wednesday to enjoy live music from local bands. This year we have been able to work the Ted's Snack Bar to include a large footprint for the liquor license and were able to extend it to include the Auer Lawn. Park Patrons can buy drinks and food from the Café and have the ability to carry them throughout the Park during the show. The Muddy River Concert Series kicked off on June 7th with We Are Checkmark and was followed by the local but nationally known blues duo of Left Lane Cruiser. The Distractions and Austin Bridges completed the July shows. The crowds have increased significantly from previous shows to an average of 500 people at the Park for each concert.
- The Festival season at Headwaters Park kicked off in June starting with Arab Fest renting out the Rothschild West Pavilion from June 3rd to the 4th. Following Arab Fest was German Fest renting the Lincoln East Pavilion and the Rothschild West Pavilion from June 7th through the 11th.
- German Fest setup and tear down went smoothly and it was estimated total attendance of 45,000 people selling more beer than in previous years. Following German Fest was Rib Fest from June



15th-18th. Vendors packed the Duck Street parking lot to sell BBQ food along with live music in the Lincoln East Pavilion each night.

- Rib fest was followed by Greek Fest from June 22nd- 25th and included live music and local food from the Fort Wayne Greek Orthodox Church.
- July rentals at Headwaters kicked off with the staple event of the Three Rivers Festival. Three Rivers went kicked off on July 7th with a live concert and finished off on July 15th with the downtown Fireworks. Each night had different live music and events. Vendors were set up on the Rothschild West Pavilion and the East Lawn was home to carnival rides. The event had very few maintenance issues and seemed to work well even with the construction of the Lofts at Headwaters intruding into the Duck Street Parking lot. Junk Food Alley was able to fit almost all vendors into the condensed space and the electrical and water hookups were able to meet the needs of each vendor.
- Pride Fest followed Three Rivers on July 21st and ended on July 22nd. The Pride Board of Director President stated it was their most attended event to date and had no outside issues with the public. The event included live music at Lincoln East Pavilion and family activities and vendors at the Rothschild West Pavilion.
- July concluded with the Ludacris featuring Juvenile and Chingy Concert held by Jake Slater of Electric Promotions. This event brought a large crowd for these Nationally known acts.

McMillen Park Community Center

- Our Youth Summer program started June 5 and operates in two different sessions. The first session began at 9 am-12:30 and 1:30-5 pm. We average 300 kids a day with ages ranging from 5-16. Youth are divided by their age for programming. The age groups are 5yo, 6-7yo, 8-10yo, and 11 and up. Breakfast, lunch, and a snack are provided to youth in the program. FWCS is providing teachers with an enrichment hour and The Center for non-violence is also working with youth on developing behavioral and coping skills.
- In June youth were provided with the opportunity to ride the Sweet Breeze. From all accounts the experience was a pleasant one.
- In July youth participated in the Save the River Program, where kids went into the neighbors and cleaned the sewers.
- Youth also had fun going to the swimming pool which allowed them to have some fun with other kids outside of the summer program. The 5-7-year old's went Tuesday, 8-10 year old's went Wednesday, and 11 and up went Thursday. It was nice to be able to provide kids the opportunity to swim some of them hadn't been swimming all summer.
- McMillen Park Community Center partnered with Parkview to host the Ayanna Patterson Empower Forward Basketball Camp on July 28th. There were over 100 youth in attendance to work with some of the area's best basketball and skills coaches. Our summer program ends on August 9th.

Sandra Odisho – Finance Manager

-  The Parks and Recreation Department paid 460 employees (135 full-time and 325 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending July 29th, 2023, and paid on August 4th, 2023.
-  We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing, or in the process of being hired, as of July 31st, 2023:

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department Staff Reports, Submitted as of August 3, 2023

- Heavy Equipment Operator (Fund 121) – Two open positions
 - Recreation Center Coordinator – Weisser (Fund 121)
 - Supervisor IV – Food Service (Fund 121)
 - Supervisor VI - Neighborhood Programs (Fund 121) – Position offered and started 8/2/23
 - Relief Person – Facilities (Fund 121)
 - Program Facility Coordinator – Education & Interpretation – Botanical Conservatory (Fund 439)
- ✚ As the summer programs wind down, many of our many seasonal positions will be separated from employment. We want to thank all of the seasonal employees who helped to make our summer programs successful!
- ✚ July has been a busy month of ticket sales for both Foellinger Theatre and Sweet Breeze tickets. The Foellinger Theatre had six ticketed shows in July and Sweet Breeze held 41 ticketed tours!
- ✚ Our summer programs are wrapping up. Fall registration begins August 2nd. The Front Office staff entered 162 fee-based fall programs into our RecTrac registration system.
- ✚ Popular fall programs include cooking classes for both kids and adults at Salomon Farm Park, Lindenwood free hikes, adult recreational volleyball and basketball, and fall craft classes.
- ✚ August will continue to be a busy month for pavilion rentals. All the enclosed pavilions are reserved every Saturday and Sunday in August. There are sporadic openings at a few open pavilions. Everyone is trying to get into one last summer party!
- ✚ The Controller's Office announced a 2024 Budget Kickoff Memo in mid-June with various instructions and due dates. The completed 2024 Budget was due July 14th.
- ✚ The 2024 Budget will be introduced to City Council in September with Council Departmental Budget meetings and Budget passage occurring in October.
- ✚ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 421 employees (132 full-time and 289 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending June 17th, 2023, and paid on June 23rd, 2023.
- ✚ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing, or in the process of being hired, as of June 30th, 2023:
- Gardener – Landscape and Horticulture (Fund 121)
 - Heavy Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
 - Working Leader – Grounds (Fund 121)
 - Fleet Mechanic (Fund 121)
 - Relief Person – Facilities (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)
- ✚ The vast majority of our seasonal staff has been hired and is working, with new hires being added very infrequently at this point; roughly 5 new hires a week.
- ✚ We have been very busy in the Front Office! General park question phone calls always increase in the summer so the Front Office staff has spent a lot of time on the phones assisting citizens with their questions, as well as with Sweet Breeze ticket sales, Foellinger Theatre ticket sales, Summer Fun Times registrations, pavilion reservations seekers and much more!
- ✚ The second round of deadlines for the summer athletic programs is July 3rd with those programs beginning July 10th.
- ✚ Summer weather reminds everyone that they want to have summer parties which mean many calls looking to rent one of our 22 reservable pavilions. After getting through a full month of pavilion rentals in June, we are heading for

another full month in July! All of the 22 pavilions are reserved every Saturday and Sunday in July, except for six dates, where there is only one pavilion available on each date.

- ✚ Many of the Front Office staff participated in some of the 44th Annual Senior Games events including the trivia contest, shuffleboard, corn hole, skeeball, and axe throwing contests. What a great opportunity for everyone to be able to participate in each of these events for just \$1 each! The Senior Games started on June 3rd and will run through July 6th.
- ✚ We also have one Front Office staff member on the Dragon Boat team that will be racing during the 4th Annual Dragon Boat Races held on August 4th and 5th.
- ✚ The Controller's Office announced a 2024 Budget Kickoff Memo in mid-June with various instructions and due dates. The completed 2024 Budget is due July 14th. 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: **406** for June. This is up from **279** in May.
- Graffiti was removed from the flowing locations; underneath the Martin Luther King Jr bridge, Hamilton Park's shelter, Lafayette Park's shelter, McCormick Park Pavilion parking lot, Klug Park's playground, Foster Park's playground, and the Lawton Park skate park.
- Franke Park's Pond pavilion received a seating upgrade. This was to replace the aging folding chairs with a style that is constant with other FWPRD rental facilities.
- Relief workers pressure-washed the ceiling and building exterior at the Foster Park Pavilion #1. Kreager Park and the Swinney Park pavilion were also cleaned.
- Mark Stafford was hired as a working leader in the facilities department.

Maintenance Technicians

- Work was completed on the summer showcase for the Botanical Conservatory. This included removing the butterfly lab from the previous showcase and then installing a Brownstone building façade that had been constructed prior.
- The lights at Foster Park's pavilion #1 were upgraded to LED.
- A concrete memorial bench pad was poured and a bench was installed at Memorial Park.
- Foellinger Theater in Franke Park received new upgrades to its concession area. This included a new cooler for drink storage and a new ice machine. The appropriate electrical and plumbing work was completed to get them operational.
- Repairs were made to secure the roof overhang post at Lakeside Park's pavilion #1 after it was damaged from a vehicle impact.
- Window screens were replaced at the Waynedale Park pavilion.
- The women's toilet, toilet paper dispensers, and soap dispensers in both restrooms at PSI-OTE Park all had to be replaced due to vandalism.
- The potable water tank for the Sweet Breeze canal boat had to be removed and repaired to fix a leak.
- Commemorative plaques were installed at the new Fort Wayne Daisy's Women's baseball monument at Memorial Park.
- The drinking fountain at Klug Park has been replaced due to vandalism.

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- The lifeguard chairs at both McMillen Park and Northside Park pools were bolted down to eliminate the risk of the chairs tipping over.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
 - 3 Alarm calls
 - 6 Paint projects
 - 9 Building maintenance repairs
 - 23 Carpentry repairs
 - 27 Electrical repairs
 - 4 HVAC maintenance issues
 - 19 Key core maintenance repairs
 - 18 Light Maintenance
 - 13 Lock maintenance issues
 - 16 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
 - 39 Plumbing maintenance issues
 - 27 Sign replacements
 - 33 Vandalism issues
- There were 69 after-hours calls: 19 code issues: 5 trash calls: 2 alarm calls: 5 door issues: 1 WIFI question: 6 plumbing calls: 3 calls about splash pads: 2 vandalism calls: 3 calls about the homeless: 2 parking issues: 5 electrical issues: 2 appliance calls: 1 lock issue: and 13 miscellaneous calls.
- Shambaugh installed timers on the pumps at the Foster golf course irrigation system.
- Premier Communications began the installation of the updated camera system at the Weisser Community Center.
- Receiving quotes for a window cleaner for Lawton and Northside main office.
- BZW completed the painting of the canopy at the Weisser Community Center.
- Central Indiana Hardware installed new locks in the Rea building for the Riverfront and Promenade staff.
- Infinity glass replaced glass at the McMillen Community Center and the Lawton garage overhead doors.
- Infinity Glass was hired to replace the glass at the McMillen Park Golf Course pro shop.
- T&E completed the culvert replacement at the entrance to Shoaff Park.

Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment

- Mowing crews at 5-day rotation due to the dry weather.
- The athletic field crew are maintaining 3 large soccer fields at Foster West, 1 rugby field at McMillen, and all of the soccer fields at Kreager for daily use.
- The ball diamond crew has been prepping diamonds daily for softball and baseball use.
- Heavy equipment has been busy delivering loads of ball diamond dirt to various softball fields
- Crews delivered trash cans to various events throughout the parks.
- We have also purchased 10 new trash cans and received some from Matt Gratz.
- Heavy Equipment hauled playground mulch to McMillen and Bowser Parks.
- Large ruts at Kettler, Franklin, Northside, Tillman, Turpie, Shoaff, and Foster West were filled in and seeded to restore the turf.
- Heavy equipment has also been assisting the garage by hauling tractors and mowers to and from the golf courses.
- The garbage truck is now running every day including Sundays.
- Seasonal employees along with our parks reliefs cut back overgrown areas along the River Greenway trail system.

Lawton Garage/Operations

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

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- The damaged crane sections from unit 98a have been repaired and are being shipped back to RPM machinery to be installed back on the forestry crane.
- Van 44 (Freightliner Sprinter) is currently being used by the Headwater Maintenance tech. We are getting quotes to install storage shelving in this van.
- Truck 66 (Ford F250) was dropped off at Ford to have the rusty bed repaired so that it can be put back into service.
- Truck 29 (Ford F450) was also transported to Ford to have the leaking oil pan repaired.
- Toro 5910 unit 519 which was at RPM machinery has been shipped to Kenney Machine in Indianapolis to see if they can diagnose the drivability issues.
- The replacement engine for Toro Unit 590 was delivered and the mechanics have removed the damaged engine and are ready to install the new one in the mower.
- A handrail under the MLK bridge was broken by vandals and the small engine mechanic is in the process of welding and repairing the damage so it can be reinstalled.
- The bow thrusters on Sweet Breeze have been problematic and mechanics have spent several days replacing parts and sorting out the issues.
- A new large electric parts washer was installed in the garage after maintenance techs installed new wiring to support the machine.
- The replacement engine for the golf ball picker cart 1149g arrived and is awaiting installation into the cart.
- New diagnostic software for the garage arrived and was added to the inventory. This software was originally slated to be part of the 2023 lease purchases but a last-minute sale allowed us to save 15% which was accomplished by using a P-card with approval from purchasing.
- Other 2023 lease purchases are now on order with several others waiting on final updated quotes.
- 2 new Club Car Carry cabs and a John Deere Gator are in stock and will ship soon with July arrival times.
- Parks is working with Fleet to locate trucks needed for both 2022 and 2023 purchases. Currently, Tom Kelley Ford in Decatur has 4 of the 5 trucks needed for 2023.
- Earlier than usual dry weather has made using the Rain Boy sprinklers at Kreager and Foster West a necessity. Due to this early use and vandalism, multiple units have needed repair and replacement parts from Bauer to keep them operating. A purchase order may be needed as costs continue to increase.

Storeroom and Property:

- Storeroom staff supplied PPE, shirts, and tools to a large number of new seasonal employees on staff in grounds and horticulture.
- Several used batteries that have been stockpiled in the storeroom were recycled at Battery's Plus freeing up shelf space.

Property Transactions:

23 Noregon JPRO Diagnostic Software	P252	Added into Inventory
23 Tommy Lift-Gate For Truck 182	P240	Added into Inventory
23 Honda WX10 Water Pump	P210	Added into Inventory
23 Honda WX10 Water Pump	P240	Added into Inventory
23 Honda WX10 Water Pump	P230	Added into Inventory
90 Taylor Dunn B610 utility cart	Z200	Scrapped
23 Makita XAG04Z Angle Grinder	P252	Added into Inventory
23 Makita XAG04Z Angle Grinder	P250	Added into Inventory
23 Makita XRH04 Hammer Drill	P250	Added into Inventory
23 Stihl FS94R Spin Timmers (3)	P240	Added into Inventory
23 Stihl SR450 Backpack Sprayer	P252-F	Added into Inventory
23 Dewalt 16 Gallon Shop Vacuum	R490	Added into Inventory
23 Manits 7940 Rototiller	P270	Added into Inventory

2022 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:

Toro 7210 Zero Turn Mower (3)	22121156	
Toro Groundsmaster 4000 Mower	22121156	
Ford F750 Chassis	22121101	
Chip Body for Above	21121154	
Ford F150 Pickup		22121105
Ford Transit 250 Van		22121165
Toro Polartrac		22121156

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Ford F150 Pickup	22121105
Ford Transit 250 Van	22121165
Toro Polartrac	22121156

2023 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:

Club Car enclosed cabs (2)	23121187
Replacement Plow for truck 159	23121188
John Deere 835M Gator	23121189
Ventrac 4520z Tractor	23121190
Phillips FRx AEDS (8)	23121191
Trailers (4)	Waiting on updated quotes
John Deere greens mowers	Waiting on updated quotes
John Deere Aercore 800	Waiting on updated quotes
Ford F250 Pick-Ups (4)	On-site at dealer
Motorola Replacement radios	Waiting on updated quotes

Project Administration

- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement – Purchase order received, awaiting project start in July.
- Botanical Conservatory Indoor Lighting – Project work has begun.
- Botanical Conservatory Entrance Sidewalk – Construction starting in early July.

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department Staff Reports, Submitted as of August 3, 2023

- Botanical Conservatory Linkway Roofs/Interior Design – Planning in progress by architect.
- Buckner Park Trail Construction – Construction work completed. Awaiting final permitting tasks with Allen County Planning and DNR.
- Buckner Park Trail As-Built Services – Survey in progress and final drawings are yet to be prepared for Allen County Planning.
- Casselwood Park Playground Replacement – Equipment delivered to Lawton Park. Contractor availability allows for late summer installation.
- Foster Park Golf Course Master Plan – Revised master plan in progress.
- Foster Park Golf Restroom – Renovation in progress with multiple vendors.
- Franklin Park Shade Structures – Installation in progress. Completion by early July.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress.
- Headwaters Park Sidewalks – Bids are due in early June, and the project is set to begin in late July.
- Headwaters Park Pavilion Report – Architect’s work is in progress.
- Jennings Center Kitchen Cabinets & Countertops – Construction is in progress.
- Jennings Center Playground Fence – Project completed.
- Jennings Center – Security system additions in progress.
- Jennings Center Boiler Replacement – Project in progress.
- Kreager Park Tennis Backboard and Fence – Project completed.
- Kreager Park Shelters and Concessions Painting – Project completed.
- Kreager Park Houses Demolition – Project planning in progress including utility disconnects and asbestos testing.
- 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 is to occur in late 2023.
- Memorial Park Fort Wayne Daisies Monument – Project completed.
- Parks System Comprehensive Plan – Project in progress.
- Parks Playground Improvements – Request for Proposal in progress.

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department Staff Reports, Submitted as of August 3, 2023

- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. Additional work is ongoing at Heritage Barn.
- Salomon Farm Entrance – Project completed.
- Salomon Farm North Garden Fence – Bids received. Supplemental requisition in progress.
- Salomon Farm South Field Watering System – Purchase order issued. Material acquisition by the Contractor in progress.
- Salomon Farm Homestead Exterior Improvements – Bids received and in review with staff.
- Sheldon Drive Playground Sidewalks – Right-of-Way sidewalk installed. Installation of additional sidewalks and bench pads in early July.
- Various Parks 2023 Paving Projects – Work completed at Franke, Foster, Salomon, and Weisser Parks. Work to begin at Botanical Conservatory in early August.
- Various Parks 2023 Sidewalk Improvements – The project is in progress.
- Various Parks Pavement Repair, Sealing, and Striping – Kreager Park pavement sealing is in progress. All other park facilities are completed.
- Various Parks Site Furnishings – Acquisition and installations in progress.
- Various Parks On-Call Engineering Services – Review of Little Crow Teepee structure in progress.
- Weisser Center – Security System additions in progress.
- Weisser Park Youth Center Interior Signage – Project completed.

Other work:

- Various Parks: accessed potential and necessary future projects
- Various Parks: updating park site plan bases and building plans.
- Various Parks: underground utility locates were scheduled and performed.
- Various Parks: cost estimates for various projects are being prepared upon request.
- Various Parks: playground inspections are being completed.
- Various Parks: park assessments are being completed.
- Parks Mapping: GIS mapping for parks is ongoing.

Safety

- The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on, 6-27-23. 2 employees were present.
- 2 vehicle crash has been reported for this period.
- 10 employee injury was reported during this period.
- 4 CPR/FA classes were given with 38 employees receiving their certification.
- 5 General Safety Training classes were given to seasonal employees.
- 1 Chainsaw/Chipper Safety class was held for 13 Parks employees and 13 employees from other CoFW departments.

- A janitorial cleaning class was given. 21 employees were trained.
- Narcan uses SOP and training PowerPoint is near completion.
- The review of Parks Safety SOPs continues.

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **136** for April. This is up from **122** in March.

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



✚ Planning Report – July 2023

- The Staff has begun meeting regularly with the Franke Park Renaissance construction team to review project progress and updates. Earthwork continues for the new entrance drive, while concrete pours are scheduled for mid-July.
- Permitting is still in progress for the Spy Run Creek Restoration portion of the project. Staff met with teachers from Amp Lab to discuss a potential project for this year’s studio. We are exploring a project at Spy Run Creek in Franke Park; students may conduct water quality testing and develop public messaging about the restoration projects there.
- An early bid package has been assembled and readied for release in early July for Phase IIB of Riverfront Development. A contract is anticipated to be awarded for work planned on the north side of the floodwall east of Harrison Street, including earthwork, demolition, and utilities. We still await permits for the remainder of the project. Except for a final punch list, construction is complete for Phase IIA of Riverfront Development. This public space, located between Harrison and Calhoun Streets just south of the St. Marys River, serves as a pedestrian link between Promenade Park and Headwaters West.
- Progress continues as we move towards the completion of the Parks Comprehensive Plan. Stakeholder meetings have been scheduled for mid-July.
- We continue to work with project consultant JPR towards the completion of construction documents for Brewer Park Redevelopment. Plans include a rentable open-air pavilion, playgrounds, basketball courts, walking paths, a splash pad, and landscape improvements.
- Significant time was spent planning and executing the summer showcase, ‘Herban Garden’, for the Conservatory. This included prop design and contracting, coordination with artists, and project installation.
- 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- June 2023

- Landscape staff completed annual displays at Foster, Lakeside, Freimann, Community Center, Courthouse, Swinney Letter Bed, and Bluffton Rd. Letterboxed.
- Gardeners assisted in removing the spring Butterfly Show and installing the “An Herban Garden” exhibit during show change at the Botanical Conservatory this month.
- Landscape staff continued clean-ups throughout the parks. Clean-ups include debris and litter removal, pruning/deadheading, pre-emergent application, bed edging, and mulching. Parks in focus included Foster, Lakeside, Lawton, Headwaters, and Martin Luther King Bridge.
- Weed maintenance continued with post-emergent herbicide treatments.
- Landscape staff delivered several pots to Weisser, McMillen, and Jennings Center for the kids to use as

gardens.

- Landscape staff loaded, hauled, and dumped approximately 85 yards of mulch in REA Park. Volunteers from Lincoln Financial spent the day spreading it with the help of one of the Landscape staff on June 26th.
- Irrigation repairs were made at Main Street Medians and Foellinger Theatre.
- Pride Landcare continued mowing all contracted maintenance areas.
- Lawnganics continued with turf fertilization and weed control on all park locations under contract.
- Thirty-six geese were removed and relocated by Wildlife Wranglers LLC from Lakeside Park.
- Five total Memorial Benches were installed in a variety of locations that include Memorial Park, Repka Park, Lakeside Park, Aboite Trails, and the Pufferbelly Trail.
- Interviews for the open Promenade Gardener position were completed in June. Beth Krill from the horticulture seasonal staff was hired to fill the position. Her first official day will begin in July.
- One additional seasonal staff member was hired this month. Seasonal staffing is full at this time.
- Sarah Allen, Ashley Mitchell, Joe Minick, and Beth Krill all received their Registered Technician training and credentials this month through the Indiana State Chemist Office. At this time, all full-time Horticulture staff are now licensed or certified to apply herbicides.
- Landscape staff completed Chainsaw/Chipper training this month.
- Volunteers put in 227.5 hours in the greenhouse.

Riparian Management Report- June 2023

- The idle Speed zone buoy was deployed on June 8th in three locations along the Saint Marys River.
- Headwaters, Guldin, Shoaff, and Promenade docks were kept clean and maintained.
- Completed two volunteer events: one group of 10 people removed .5 tons of honeysuckle in the Brookview neighborhood and one group of 10 removed litter around Lawton and Headwaters Parks. The total was 40 volunteer hours for June. The volunteers were also given a short presentation on water quality and invasive species.
- Large woody debris was removed along the Saint Marys River totaling approximately 10 tons. Litter and man-made debris were removed from the river along Saint Marys, Saint Joseph, and Maumee total of approximately 1.5 tons.
- Continued coordination and assistance with the operation of Sweet Breeze. The boat was pulled out of the river briefly to assess the malfunctioning bow thruster. Maintenance and repair continue without interfering with the tour schedule.
- Seasonals completed chainsaw training on June 15th.

Forestry Report- June 2023

- This year's Emerald Ash Borer treatment is complete. In total, 289 trees were treated throughout the City.
- Scheduling of the 2023 Fall Tree Planting Project is well underway. So far, 418 planting sites have been selected. Most of these sites were requested through the Citizen Match Tree Planting Program. The deadline for submitting Citizen Match applications is July 1st. This fall we will be partnering with Community Development on an initiative to plant 100 street trees in the Harvester Neighborhood with the goals of reducing noise pollution, improving community health concerns, and enhancing neighborhood character.
- In June, the Forestry crews completed 155 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.

- 46 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. So far, 13 of our 52 pruning sections have been inspected resulting in 199 high-priority candidates for removal being identified. 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.



- It's common for Fort Wayne to experience storms during the summer months. On Sunday, June 25, a cold front brought with it wind gusts of more than 50 mph that resulted in considerable damage to trees throughout the City. Forestry crews responded to 66 storm-related fallen/hanging limbs and 14 total tree failures.
- Seven vehicle damage appraisals were conducted this month totaling \$5,350.00 in city tree damage.
- Forestry staff responded to and resolved 153, 311 call center tickets this month.
- The 20th annual Color in Motion: Live Butterfly Exhibit wrapped up on June 25 and made way for a Showchange into the Summer/Fall exhibit, An Herban Garden (opened July 1). The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received programs/events in June 2023 including 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), and National Pollinators Week (June 20-24). Staff are gearing up for Daylily Show (July 8), Jazzworks! (July 15), Iris Sale (July 23), Local Food Week (July 28 – August 6), and ROOTS Music Fest (August 4 & 5).
- Two Weekend/Evening Receptionists, Brandon Holt, and Lauren Heimann, have been hired and cleared. Program Facility Coordinator – Education & Interpretation remains vacant and is temporarily on hold until the end of Camp ACTIVenture.

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

- June 2023 wrapped up the second quarter with impressive strides in attendance (up 27.57%), membership (up 27.81%), rentals (up 34.98%), and Conservatory Shop revenue (up 22.99%). These increases are attributable to increased enthusiasm for the Botanical Conservatory due to compelling exhibit themes and enhanced marketing efforts.

Attendance

June 2022:	10,052 visitors
June 2023:	11,944 visitors

An increase of 1,892 or +18.82% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Attendance:	46,884 visitors
2023 Attendance:	59,809 visitors

An increase of 12,925 or +27.57% to 2022

Admissions Revenue

June 2022:	\$34,019.00
June 2023:	\$48,801.00

An increase of \$14,782.00 or +43.45% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Admissions Revenue: \$178,771.00
2023 Admissions Revenue: \$225,784.00
An increase of \$47,013.00 or +26.30% to 2022

Membership Revenue

June 2022: \$7,032.50
June 2023: \$7,100.00
An increase of \$67.50 or +0.96% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Membership Revenue: \$42,574.00
2023 Membership Revenue: \$54,413.06
An increase of \$11,839.06 or +27.81% to 2022

Conservatory Shop Revenue

June 2022: \$24,427.97
June 2023: \$32,805.84
An increase of \$8,377.87 or +34.30% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Gift Shop Revenue: \$131,373.59
2023 Gift Shop Revenue: \$161,581.46
An increase of \$30,207.87 or +22.99% to 2022

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

June 2022: \$9,264.00
June 2023: \$9,540.00
An increase of \$276 or +2.98% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Rental Revenue: \$41,227.88
2023 Rental Revenue: \$55,647.50
An increase of \$14,419.62 or +34.98% to 2022

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

June 2022: \$1,302.97
June 2023: \$2,581.15

YTD Comparisons

2022 Other Revenue: \$364,395.15
2023 Other Revenue: \$337,255.29

Conservatory Total Revenue

June 2022: \$76,046.44
June 2023: \$100,827.99
An increase of \$24,781.55 or +32.59% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Total Revenue: \$758,341.62

2023 Total Revenue: \$834,681.31

An increase of \$76,339.69 or +10.07% to 2022

Botanical Conservatory Business Development

- Staff submitted final media reports to US 93.3 for the 2023 Great Train Connection; to Majic 95.1 and Fox 55 for the 2023 Bunny Tales in the Garden; and to 96.3 XKE for the 2023 Father's Day in the Garden. These reports will enable us to approach these media for continuing support of the 2024 special events.
- Promotional tickets were distributed to WANE 15 for the 2023 An Herban Garden Exhibit; WANE 15 and 89.1 WBOI for the Jazzworks! concert; and 96.3 XKE for the ROOTS Music Fest. Approved promotional spots by WANE 15 and 89.1 WBOI for the 2023 Jazzworks concert.
- Provided information and photos for promos of the An Herban Garden Exhibit by WANE 15; approved the promotional spot. Sent updated information and promotional materials on ROOTS Music Fest bands to 96.3 XKE.
- Conservatory donations in June 2023 totaled \$600: \$500 in memorials for Linda Pickermann ~ \$50 from Saundra Wannemacher, \$100 from Edith Wannemacher, and \$250 from Ann. M. Carter, \$50 from Karla Barnhart, 50 from Star Homes by Delagrange & Richhart, Inc.; and a \$100 general donation from Linda Gaff.
- **Events - Conservatory Public Programs:** Father's Day in the Garden (June 17 & 18)
During this 2-day event, fathers were admitted free to the Botanical Conservatory. Fathers and their families were also invited to take home a complimentary basil plant. In addition, guests were able to purchase food and beverage from Mad Anthony/Shigs in Pit /Catering. Attendance for both days combined was 946.



*Complimentary basil plants
in the Tropical House*

- **Education**

- **Spring Plant Swap (June 3)**

- A total of 36 people pre-registered while 23 attended. Offering the opportunity to swap and learn about seasonal plants, this annual spring program continues to
- be enjoyed by guests that are both returning and new.

- **Breakfast with Butterflies (June 4 & 11)**

Given the demand for Breakfast with Butterflies last year, two programs were held in 2023 being the second year! With a max enrollment set at 48, 50 participants were permitted to enroll in the first session while 7 were waitlisted for the program. The second session was much the same with 49 enrolled and 7 waitlisted. Participants were offered exclusive access to the butterfly tent and gardens before opening to the public. They were also offered the opportunity to do a craft and take with them a take-home gift.



Participants enjoying a leisurely “Breakfast with Butterflies”

- **National Pollinators Week (June 20-24)**

The Botanical Conservatory celebrated pollinators while highlighting its butterfly exhibit and honey bee observation hive. A table with handouts and free pollinator plants was also on display and offered to guests throughout the week. This included a quiz highlighting five different pollinators – bee, beetle, butterfly, fly, and hummingbird. In all, 104 plants were distributed.

Camp ACTiVenture Weeks 1-3 (June 11-30)

This traveling, adventure-based day camp is unlike any program in Northeast Indiana! New in 2022, Camp ACTiVenture guides campers through active, adventurous experiences that teach new skills, foster community, and develop a sense of accomplishment. The Botanical Conservatory is a home base where staff are serving 12 campers per week over 6 weeks. Shown, are campers doing ziplining and bouldering; these adventure activities alternate every other week with 3 Soaring and 3 Reaching Weeks.



Camp ACTiVenture - Soaring Week 1 & Reaching Week 2

- **Exhibits & Displays**

Color in Motion (April 25-June 25)

The year 2023 hosted the Annual Live Butterfly Exhibit in its 20th season at the Botanical Conservatory! This showcase exhibit is among the most popular and is much anticipated by guests. It is also a popular field trip and group visit destination where guests are provided the opportunity to interact with exotic butterfly species. *Over 9 weeks, attendance was 26,811, which is up 8.93% to 2022!*



Scarlet Mormon Butterfly Resting on Water Lily

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 County. Artwork is for sale in support of the Botanical Conservatory at shop.botanicalconservatory.org. Scan the QR code!



Volunteers/Staff

Throughout June, approximately 34 volunteers filled 100 of the 136 shifts in the Butterfly Tent. At the Front Desk, 8 volunteers covered 37 shifts, while in the Gift Shop, 11 volunteers filled 43 shifts. Several volunteers also assisted with Breakfast with Butterflies and with the prop preparations for the next showcase exhibit.

Upcoming

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

June 12-July 28: Camp ACTiVenture Weeks 4-6, pre-registered program

July 8: Daylily Show, included with admission

July 8: Book Signing- Bevin Cohen, Grow Great Vegetables in IN

July 8: Grow What You Eat, a free program in correlation with book signing

July 15: Jazzworks!, outdoor concert event

July 23: Iris Sale, included with admission

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

July 26-August 6: Local Food Week, Incredible Edible Food Hunt



*Butterfly Attendant
Assisting Guests*

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

Simplex completed the installation of the fire system and will make the final adjustments in early July.

LA Electric has achieved substantial completion on the Interior Garden Lighting Project. Only two light fixtures remain to be installed and are currently on order from the manufacturer.

Terrace Garden lighting was repainted, as needed, and bulbs were replaced, as needed.

Allied Mechanical installed the new Carrier Air Compressor and any plumbing/electrical that needed to be replaced. They successfully disassembled the Dunham-Bush. Visitors should notice more comfortable temperatures in the Botanical Conservatory Showcase House and Magnolia Room.

O'Neil's Glass made replacements for Conjure Coffee windows that were fogged due to seal failures.

Southwest Honey installed the Observation Hive Display in the Tropical Linkway.

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

Staff identified Lontrel specialty herbicide as a product that could effectively reduce thistle pressure around the property. Two successful applications of Lontrel have proven it to be effective.

Pride Landcare continued its service at the Botanical Conservatory, including edging. Lawnganics has been applying organic fertilization. The turf at the Botanical Conservatory is looking greener and healthier.

Pfister Irrigation successfully repaired and replaced irrigation valves; the outdoor irrigation system is fully operational.

Botanical Conservatory and Lawton Park Gardeners/Maintenance executed successful Showchanges from Color in Motion Live Butterfly Exhibit to An Herban Garden, which will run through November 12.

Annual planting in the front landscape at the Botanical Conservatory has been completed and features millet, pentas, petunia, begonia, and coleus to add visual interest in the area around *Megaflora*.



The Earthen Berms featuring invasive *Euonymus fortunei* have been pruned back heavily to allow for roof access and a more structured appearance to the Botanical Conservatory Calhoun Street landscape.

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

- ✦ www.RiverfrontFW.org had 6,197 hits to the site in **July**, and the Promenade Park link had 7,912 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 838 hits in July.
- ✦ The following Evaluation Reports were completed: Preschool Summer I, Creative Construction, Adult Special Interest Summer I, Botanical Conservatory Workshops, Dog Park, Salomon Summer Classes, and Salomon Farm Camp.
- ✦ Marketing Team planned and assisted with three press conferences/photo ops in July:
 - Buckner (July 10)
 - LSA/Photo Op (July 21)
 - Jennings Center 75th Celebration (July 26)
- ✦ Completed 32 Design projects.
- ✦ Prepared Senior Games Photo Show for the closing ceremonies.
- ✦ Revamped Salomon and Community Center rental brochures.
- ✦ Designed a SCFVA poster.
- ✦ Completed various tasks related to the Fall Fun Times.
- ✦ Assisted with completing a grant for Conservatory and Theatre projects.
- ✦ Completed donation drive video shoot with Contractor.
- ✦ Submitted grants for Sensory Room.
- ✦ Completed and submitted four IPRA award nominations.
- ✦ Produced five videos for social media.
- ✦ Main social media promotion for Park & Play, Fort Wayne Dragon Boats, Jennings 75th, Concerts, and LSA.
- ✦ www.RiverfrontFW.org had 7,878 hits to the site in **June**, and the Promenade Park link had 7,202 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information There were 1,830 hits in June.
- ✦ Customer Service Training is being conducted for various teams.

- ✚ The Dog Park survey was distributed to members on June 13. The survey will be closed on July 17.
- ✚ Various marketing tasks were completed regarding the new Herban Garden Showcase (runs July 1-November 12) at the Botanical Conservatory.
- ✚ Marketing Team planned and assisted with six press conferences in June:
 - ✓ The Fort Wayne Daisies Women's Professional Baseball Team Monument Unveiled in Memorial Park (June 3)
 - ✓ The 44th Annual Senior Games (June 5)
 - ✓ Teds Snack + Bar (June 21)
 - ✓ The Riverfront at Promenade Park Apartments 124 W Superior Street- Riverfront Phase II A (June 27)
 - ✓ Franke Renaissance Ground Breaking (June 28)
 - ✓ McKinnie Commons Grand Opening (June 28)
- ✚ Completed 44 Design projects.
- ✚ Senior Games photography. Took over 1,100 photos.
- ✚ Started various tasks related to the Fall Fun Times.
- ✚ Botanical Brew poster/graphics.
- ✚ Salomon Farm concession trailer wrap.
- ✚ Submitted Forestry grant.
- ✚ Submitted LSA grant.
- ✚ Completed report for PNC Playground.
- ✚ Confirmed media sponsorships for Fall Fun Times.
- ✚ Produced seven videos for social media.
- ✚ Main social media promotion for Park & Play, Pools, Job-focused posts, Sweet Breeze Specialty Tours, Golf Specials, and Golf Instruction.
- ✚ **Media Mentions, including television, radio, newspaper, and websites:**
May 90 June 77 July 54

✚ Web Statistics:

	<u>Users:</u>	<u>Hits:</u>	<u>Month:</u>
	63,147	184,299	May
	68,145	190,612	June
	55,525	150,482	July
<u>Social Media Totals for the months of:</u>			
		May	June
			July
FB Followers		83,945	81,997
FB Reach		406,277	395,178
 Twitter Followers		13,647	13,638
 Instagram Followers		23,542	23,846
			24,361

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

✚ Golf nationally is seeing a big upswing, and the Parks courses continue to do extremely well. The weather has been very cooperative this year, with lost days to rain/wet conditions being very low. Overall, the courses year to date are showing a 32% revenue increase over last year. Here is the breakdown per course:

<u>JULY</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAFF</u>
2022 REVENUE	64,303.25	36,288.50	84,753.25
2023 REVENUE	87,122.50	52,511.00	100,736.75
YTD 2022	204,671.50	124,919.50	277,301.75
YTD 2023	279,361.00	169,239.00	350,111.75

✚ Even with these promising numbers, we could still do more. The cart situation has been relatively stable this year, but still much of the season we have been down carts due to maintenance issues (especially at Shoaff Park). We are expecting delivery of 17 carts this year, but the anticipated delivery date remains October so not much difference will be made this season.

✚ The new carts (when they arrive) will go to Foster Park, and their remaining 2015 model-year carts will go to Shoaff. These will replace carts dating back to 2002 and will be a HUGE upgrade. As we continue to expand the cart fleet (15 more carts are scheduled for a spring 2024 delivery), we will get closer to our goal of having 50 carts at Foster, and 30 each at Shoaff and McMillen. The concern will then shift to storing those carts, especially at Shoaff. Their current fleet of 24 carts sits outside, exposed to the elements 24/7. This is certainly less than ideal, especially since the chargers are exposed also.

✚ The Foster Park golf course renovation master plan continues to move forward. A new rendering was received and is being analyzed by the Parks Department. The new drawing stays within the footprint of the existing golf course, but includes a new full-sized driving range and short game area as well as many improvements in playability and irrigation/drainage. We are preparing notes to share with the architects to “tweak” the new drawing before sharing it with the public.

- ✚ With the advent of August, we do lose some seasonal staff going back to school. That said, the number of seasonal employees remaining to finish out the year is good, and we still have many strong applicants that we could tap into should the need for additional help become necessary. We are doing our best to stay within the budgeted numbers for help, but this is somewhat difficult because of the high volume of play, the wage increases for the seasonal employees, and the taking on additional responsibilities by eliminating the volunteer workers at Foster Park.
- ✚ The remainder of the year looks good, with several outings scheduled for August/September. We have consciously NOT filled up with outings to remain available to the public. There is every reason to believe the uptick in golf activity will continue, and golf activity will continue to remain strong.

Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager



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

- ✚ The Hanna Street Trail construction from Pettit to Decatur Road is complete.
- ✚ The Hanna Street Trail from Decatur Road to Burns Boulevard will be bid in August. Once this section is completed in the spring of 2024, the trail will be completed from Wallace Street to Tillman Park and Southtown Centre. We will finish the final phase from Wallace to Berry in 2025.
- ✚ The Liberty Mills Road Trail construction and the Summit Park Trail construction along Ludwig Road will commence in September or October.
- ✚ The City submitted a \$1 million grant request to the DNR on 8/1 for the Next Level Trails program for the Illinois Road Trail from Rockhill Park to Getz Road (2 miles). Awards will be announced in December. The County applied for the Union Chapel Road Trail from west of Auburn Road to the Pufferbelly Trail.
- ✚ We will now begin working on a grant to fund the rest of the 6-Mile Creek Trail in the City limits from the intersection of Tillman Rd/Lemar Dr to the intersection of Adams Center Rd/Seiler Rd. We are pursuing engineering, right of way, and construction funding from the U.S. DOT's Neighborhood Access & Equity program. The grant is due on 9/28. If successful, we will be able to link the Rivergreenway in Tillman Park to the Rivergreenway at Maplecrest Rd, forming a significant loop in our network and connecting neighborhoods in SE Fort Wayne to many destinations.
- ✚ Open Streets will be held on August 20th from Noon – 4 p.m. We have over 100 activity providers who will be stationed along a 2-mile stretch of Calhoun Street from The Landing to Pontiac Street. We close down Calhoun to vehicular traffic and let people on foot or bike take over the street for 4 hours. We have this event to celebrate our commitment to active transportation and to provide a terrific community engagement opportunity with local businesses, non-profits, and City and County services/programs. Visit <https://www.cityoffortwayne.org/open-streets.html> to learn more. We have a 3-minute video that gives you a taste of what Open Streets looks like.

- ✦ The City is updating the *Bike Fort Wayne* and *Walk Fort Wayne* Plans and creating one Active Transportation Document. In June, we collected 1,218 responses to an Active Transportation survey. We are currently analyzing the responses to help guide our plan.
- ✦ The City will be hosting the DNR's Trails Advisory Board on September 7th. We'll showcase the horse trails under construction; Promenade Park; the Urban Trail; Riverfront Phase 2; water trails; and then they'll have their quarterly meeting at Promenade Park at 3 p.m. I will also be providing a presentation on the proposed 81-mile Poka-Bache Connector from Pokagon State Park to Ouabache State Park.

Division News and Media Coverage:

Salomon Farm Park U-pick Flowers

Wednesday and Friday, 4:00-7:00 p.m. and Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Salomon Farm Park, 817 West Dupont Road

U-Pick flower fields are available beginning Saturday, July 29, and continuing on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays while flowers are blooming. Prices vary per type; \$2 per sunflower and \$1 per other stem. The front field closest to Dupont Road will open first. Follow the signs and look for the "red barn" trailer for supplies and checkout.



One of my favorite projects is underway as we recently broke ground on phase one of the **Franke Park Renaissance Master Plan**. The groundbreaking follows five years of planning and fundraising with an Advisory Group of major park stakeholders and robust public input.

Phase one will include the following highlights:

- New winding, tree-lined entrance from Goshen Road**
- New bridge over Spy Run Creek**
- New enclosed, state-of-the-art, rentable pavilion with a capacity for 400 people with parking**
- Paved multi-use trail, thoughtful vehicular circulation, and connection to residential neighborhoods in the SW corner of the park**
- Improvements to the mountain bike and hiking trails**

It's great that we're able to begin work on this vital effort. Residents and visitors will be able to have a lasting and meaningful experience at our largest park as we build a world-class enhancement for the public to enjoy. One of the things that makes Fort Wayne a city like no other is our Parks and Recreation Department.

Coinciding with the Franke Park Renaissance will be the continuation (phase two) of the Spy Run Creek Streambank Restoration with design and construction support from the INDR and funding support from the Great Lakes Commission through their Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program, provided by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture—Natural Resources Conservation Service under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Phase one of the Franke Park Renaissance Master Plan is expected to be complete by the end of 2024. Have a great week, Mayor Henry



**An Herban Garden Showcase Exhibit
Until November 12, 2023, public hours**

Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

Digest the community impact of urban gardening and see herbs that flourish, mushrooms that thrive, and rooftops that grow. Forage some more to discover dynamic graffiti art and container gardens accompanying uptown views from your local stoop. It's a beautiful season in the neighborhood at the Botanical Conservatory's herban garden. Sponsored by: the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Waterfield Foundation, and WANE 15. The Conservatory will be open on Tuesday, July 4.

Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails

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

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.

For more information, call the City of Fort Wayne Greenways & Trails Office at 260-427-6228 or Fort Wayne Trails, Inc. at 260-969-0079. Follow the City of Fort Wayne, FW Parks and Recreation, and Fort Wayne Trails for weather-related updates! Accessibility options are available - please contact either the phone number above or email Greenways@CityofFortWayne.org for more information.

Please note – dates listed in black below are for bicycles ONLY and dates in **blue** are for walkers/runners/wheelchairs ONLY.

8/10	N. River Rd. Trailhead - 7000 N. River Rd.	10 mi / 5k
8/15	Parkview Family YMCA Trailhead - 10001 Dawson's Creek Blvd. (Park in the southern-most lot)	7.1 mi
8/22 & 8/24	Turnstone - 3320 N Clinton St. (Park in Lot C)	8.4 mi / 5k
8/29	Haley Elementary School - 2201 Maplecrest Rd.	7.6 mi
9/5 & 9/7	Buckner Pk. - 6114 Bass Rd.	7.3 mi / 5k
9/12	The Plex North - 1807 E California Rd.	8.6 mi
9/19 & 9/21	Cookie Cottage - 620 W Washington Center Rd.	8.2 mi / 5k
9/26 @ PM	7 N. River Rd. Trailhead (Night Ride)	8.5 mi

Salomon Farmers' Market
Wednesdays, 4-7 pm
June 7 - September 6, 2023
Salomon Farm Park, 817 W. Dupont Rd.

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

Tractor Rides
 June 7, July 5, Aug 2, Sept 6
 (\$5/person, age 2 & under FREE)

Celebrating our 19th Season!

**FORT WAYNE
 PARKS AND
 RECREATION**