



Annual Report 2018

Board of Park Commissioners

Our Mission

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains over 2,800 acres of park land in 86 individual parks and currently manages 21 pavilions, 20 shelters, 5 recreation centers, 4 day camp facilities, 3 aquatic centers, 9 splash pads, 3 golf courses, 2 driving ranges, 3 disc golf courses, 2 dog parks, a botanical conservatory, an outdoor theater, a zoo and a greenhouse. Additional recreational sites include 57 playgrounds, 45 basketball courts, 60 tennis courts, 15 pickleball courts, 38 ball diamonds, 20 soccer fields, 2 futsal courts, 8 multipurpose athletic fields, 4 boat launches, 48 miles of trails which include Rivergreenway, park paths and mountain bike trails, 14 ponds and lakes, a campground, a nature preserve, a BMX track, historic facilities and monuments and a 1930s era working farm. Along with hundreds of activities and program opportunities, the Parks and Recreation Department provides free or low cost special events for citizens of our community.

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



705 East State Blvd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805
260.427.6000
www.fortwayneparks.org



Thomas Henry
Mayor

Board of Park Commissioners

Richard Samek
President

Pamela Kelly, M.D.
Vice-President

William Zielke
Commissioner

Justin P. Shurley
Commissioner

Administrative Staff

Steve McDaniel
Executive Director

Jim Anderson
Director of Children's Zoo

Chuck Reddinger
Deputy Director Recreation

Steve Schuhmacher
Deputy Director Park Maintenance

Mitch Sheppard
Deputy Director
Community Outreach &
Conservatory/Theatre Operations

Alec Johnson
Deputy Director
Planning and Development

Mark Becker
Deputy Director
Riverfront Development

Sandra Odisho
Manager Finance

Kathy Pargmann
Manager Lead of Marketing

Board of Park Commissioners

President's Message

To the Honorable Mayor Thomas Henry:

It is my privilege to present the Board of Park Commissioners' 2018 Annual Report. This year, we have been watching the incredible progress of Promenade Park, the first phase of Riverfront Fort Wayne development. The Board is thrilled to see the Parks and Recreation Department working tirelessly on Promenade's final touches, and we cannot wait to be part of the party in June when this important downtown Fort Wayne destination is unveiled.

As we prepare for the opening of our 87th park, we want to commend the staff and volunteers of the Parks and Recreation Department for another fantastic year, as many other important milestones and achievements took place in 2018.

New facilities, including the DaMarcus Beasley Futsal Courts at Packard Park, the expansion of the Salomon Farm Park Learning Center, and new outdoor fitness equipment at Kreager Park have created enhanced opportunities for programming in our parks for citizens of all ages to enjoy.

The Partner Officer Program and Community Unity events at our youth centers continue to build vital relationships between law enforcement and our neighborhoods. We are proud to be part of the city's larger efforts to make our streets safer for everyone.

This year, we said farewell to Al Moll, who served the city well in his time as Parks and Recreation Director, and is now enjoying his well-deserved retirement. We have been very pleased to see Steve McDaniel capably fill the Director role and he continues to lead this hard-working team to many successes, with more to come. Looking forward, we eagerly anticipate the results of the Franke Park Master Plan and the Foster Pavilion renovation project, along with the many projects planned for 2019.

On behalf of the commissioners, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Fort Wayne. We continue our commitment to the stewardship of our park system.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Samek
President of the Board of Park Commissioners



Director's Report

2018 was a year with many changes and major achievements. This report will provide details about this year's successful work of the Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers.

I also want to commend our Youth Centers and the Partner Officer Program, which was launched in January. This mentor program between local law enforcement and the youth who attend the Weisser, Jennings and Cooper Centers has been very successful in building bridges between law enforcement and our neighborhoods. We are already seeing real results from this initiative, and we are preparing to expand this program to more neighborhoods in the future.



In March, I was honored to be named director of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation. Having spent my entire professional career in this department, I know I am just one part of an amazing team, and we are all excited about continuing the parks system mission of enhancing the quality of life for our fellow citizens.

We were thrilled to welcome DaMarcus Beasley back to his hometown to open the new Futsal Courts at Packard Park on June 28. The Beasley Courts offer more Fort Wayne youth a chance to enjoy soccer, and this location has become a fun, unique way to serve residents while also fulfilling our mission of providing healthy activities.

In July, we introduced the new outdoor fitness area at Kreager Park, which has been very popular with park visitors. The durable and versatile equipment is free to use and the community has really taken to it. We love being the first to provide facilities to fellow Fort Wayne citizens, and this is another facility we think will become an example to other cities and towns who want to promote fitness in their communities.

In August, we celebrated the expansion of the Wolf Family Learning Center at Salomon Farm Park. The Learning Center added more than 5,000 square feet to a smaller existing facility, including a new learning kitchen, and now offers many new recreational opportunities to this popular park.

Several large playground projects were completed in 2018 at Hamilton, Lions, Kreager, Johnny Appleseed, Camp Allen, and Buckner Parks. Projects ranged from a small individual climber replacement to the installation of a completely new playground site. We had many local groups sponsor these parks, and we want to thank them for their support in bringing these new areas to local children.

We are very excited about the progress on Promenade Park, which is Phase I of Riverfront Fort Wayne. The grand opening of the park is June 21, which will be a great time for the community to see the work that has been done and to start enjoying this amazing space. Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the many amenities within this downtown park, including the Parkview Tree Canopy Trail, Sweetwater Bandshell, the Ambassador Enterprises Amphitheatre, the Journal Gazette Foundation Dining Gardens, Old National Bank Plaza, PNC Playground and more. Promenade Park is designed to be a destination for Fort Wayne citizens and visitors from across the region who want to see the fantastic growth of our city. As more and more people are finding how exciting our riverfront spaces can be, this project will greatly enhance that experience for everyone.

None of these milestones and accomplishments would be possible without the support of Mayor Tom Henry, City Council, the Board of Park Commissioners, the Park Foundation, our donors, and our volunteers, and I thank them for this support. Likewise, I want to personally thank our devoted Parks and Recreation staff for upholding our commitment to excellence in everything we do for our parks and its citizens.

Steve McDaniel

Director, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation

Board of Park Commissioners

Highlights of 2018

Awards Recognizing Park Excellence

- Community Unity-Neighborhood Family Fun Nights was recognized at the 2018 Summit on Out-of-School Learning as this program was one of five finalists in the Out-of-School Champions Showcase. Community Unity is a partnership between the Fort Wayne Police Department, Fort Wayne United and the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department.
- Aquatic Safety Staff received the 2018 Platinum International Aquatics Safety Award for consistently and exceeding the criteria for aquatic safety. This award is presented by Jeff Ellis & Associates.
- Franke Park Day Camp received the First Place Fort Wayne Reader's Choice Award in the Camps category in the Fort Wayne Newspaper's 2018 Reader's Choice Awards.
- Memorial Park's Memorial Grove was given the 100 Cities/100 Memorials Award. The honor was a collaborative effort with the Allen County Council of Veteran's Organizations and the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department.
- The City of Fort Wayne was named "Tree City USA" for the 28th consecutive year and received a Growth Award for the 12th year from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

New Projects and Renovations

- Foellinger Theatre Performer Area Improvements Project
- Various Parks Paving Improvements (Salomon, Reservoir, Memorial)
- Various Parks Playground Improvements (Camp Allen, Kreager, Hamilton, Lions, Johnny Appleseed)
- Ivan Lebamoff Reservoir Park Pond Improvements
- Ivan Lebamoff Reservoir Park Parking Lot Improvements
- Salomon Farm Learning Center Expansion Project
- Packard Park Futsall Court Improvements
- Shoaff Park Restroom/Shelter Building
- Franke Park Harris Road Police Canine Training Facility
- Buckner Park Playground Safety Surfacing Improvement





COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NIGHT
Door Prizes • Youth Activities • Light Meal

"The Internet & Human Trafficking"
Part 3: Digital Abuse is Not Love
third in a 3-part series presented by
Cathie Bledsoe, ICAC Task Force Educator, Indiana State Police

FREE!
You don't want to miss this!

THURSDAY | APRIL
6-8 PM | 18

present by Cooper Community Center at
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH • 207 E. DEWALD



Brought to you in part by
Community Foundation of
Greater Fort Wayne and the
following:



For more information, please call (260) 427-5966.

Financial Report



Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation
Condensed Financial Report
for the year ending December 31, 2018

REVENUES

Property Taxes	\$ 15,025,215
Other Taxes	1,637,131
Charges for Services	4,912,799
Local Grants and Donations	4,474,729
Other Revenues	<u>191,821</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 26,241,695</u>

EXPENDITURES

Parks and Recreation General	\$ 18,744,713
Capital Outlays	7,197,378
Debt Service	<u>339,133</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 26,281,224</u>

Recreation

Providing positive opportunities for leisure time, twelve months a year, for citizens of all ages.



2018 Accomplishments

Rick Hemsoth, Manager of Golf Operations/PGA professional has decided to retire at the end of 2018 after 37 years of service to the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department. We want to thank him for his tireless dedication to growing the game of golf and teaching thousands of people how to play.

The Lifetime Sports Academy celebrated its twenty-first season and continued to provide free tennis, swimming and golf lessons to more than 1,000 youth ages 8 to 18 years old for seven weeks in McMillen Park. On July 17 we held the first annual "Play Golf with LSA Kids" event. Some of the birdie and eagle club kids were chosen to play nine holes on the McMillen course with elected and appointed officials.

The grand opening for the new Beasley Courts was held on June 28 in Packard Park. DaMarcus Beasley, representatives from Indiana Soccer, Homestead High School Soccer Team, Mayor Tom Henry, and Parks and Recreation Director Steve McDaniel participated in the ceremonial "First Kick." Several free clinics were scheduled on Beasley Courts between July 7 and August 8 to promote the sport of futsal.

The Aquatics division received the Ellis and Associates Platinum Award for the 2018 season. Ellis and Associates is the risk management and training agency that the aquatic division utilizes. They perform at least two unannounced audits each season which include video observation of staff, simulated rescues, and review of associated paperwork. Ellis has over 600 clients, including major waterparks like Disney, Kings Island, and Schlitterbahn resorts. Only the top 16% of their clients earn the Platinum Award each year.

The Senior Games were held from June 4-22 with 473 participants and 3,400 individual event registrations for the 34 events. The opening breakfast hosted 175 attendees plus vendors, sponsors and staff. 279 guests plus sponsors and staff attended the awards banquet. Some of the events with the largest registrations were Putt-Putt (159), Cornhole (145), Euchre (140) and Pickleball-Doubles (120).

The Community Center hosted the Longest Day event on June 21. It featured a group participation activity with the "World's Largest Jigsaw Puzzle." 42 people worked on the puzzle with 40,320 puzzle pieces.

Fort Wayne celebrated the beginning of the holidays with the tenth annual Santa's Workshop on November 21. This event is part of the Night of Lights event in downtown Fort Wayne, and about 1,755 guests attended. American Senior Communities provided 800 individual cartons of milk and Park Place Assisted Living provided 1,100 cookies.

The Pre-School Youth Summer programs were down significantly this summer. The staff felt a variety of factors contributed to this decline including outside competition, frequency of classes (two times per week), increasing demand for more competitive programs (vs instructional), and staffing challenges.

On October 20, the Community Center hosted the eighth annual Halloween Haunt (a Fright Night event). Several kids' games and activities were held. This year's attendance was estimated at 650 people.

Franke Park Day Camp increased its weekly enrollment by 33 for a total of 1,934 campers in 2018. 230 people attended the Big Pow Wow on July 31. There was lower attendance than normal due to rain showers.

On September 14 and 15, the Fall Harvest Festival was held at Salomon Farm Park. Activities included animals, crafts, oat/wheat threshing, corn husking/shredding, wagon rides, antique farm equipment, a farmers' market and an antique tractor parade. The attendance was estimated to be 1,875 people.

Farmin' Fun Day Camp was very successful once again as 960 children learned about soil, plants, animals and the source of our food. This year, our campers were able to continue the cycle of farm-to-table education in our NEW teaching kitchen.

The travel program hosted 38 trips with 2,058 travelers in 2018. 28 of the excursions were one day local trips, and 10 were extended multi day trips. Trips included destinations such as Chicago Cubs games, Shopping in Chicago, Mackinac Island, and the U.S. Airforce museum. New this year was an extended trip to New York City that was sold out.

Several members of the Recreation staff participated in the IPRA Annual Convention in Fort Wayne from January 30 - February 1 at the Grand Wayne Center. Kellie Adkins, Manager of Outdoor Recreation and Eden Lamb, Outdoor Recreation Supervisor, delivered a presentation on Salomon Farm. Patti Davis, Community Center Manager, presented information about the Community Center's "Unwind Your Mind" program, and the McMillen Community Center hosted an Off-Site Tour. The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Food Service Program received the IPRA's Inclusive Community Service Program Award, and the Community Center's "Unwind Your Mind" received the IPRA Inclusive Program Award.

Winterval was held on January 27 and was a great success. The overall attendance was 2,500 people and new events included winter hiking at Lindenwood and large inflatables, including a 50-foot inflatable toboggan run. There were over 10 different groups that held events throughout the day. We presented the most ice blocks ever with 29, and had several media outlets highlighting the activities before and after the event. More than 650 people attended the Winter Carnival at the Community Center.

Jason Smith passed the FAA Part 107 exam to obtain a drone pilot certification. This will allow the department to conduct important data gathering at parks and facilities, including new photography and video opportunities.



Marketing & Development

Spreading the word about our programs and facilities, while nurturing partnerships with area donors and organizations.



2018 Accomplishments

The Marketing Team continued to utilize technology in 2018 to improve customer service and to communicate accurately and consistently. Recreational staff members are provided training that stresses positive interactions with customers. Program evaluations and user surveys were distributed to assess all of the programs offered by the Department. A total of 4,460 evaluations received in 2018 were analyzed and reported back to staff. Our overall Department Customer Service Rating is 93%. Complaint processing continues to be a priority. In 2018, 92% of complaints were processed within one business day. Continuous new Customer Service features were added to the five main Department web sites, including the development of over 17 new web links created to enhance visitor experience. Digital content also required: redesigning existing links as needed, adding additional photos throughout to market our department, continuing to add content to all three calendars, making major updates four times a year coinciding with the release of the quarterly Fun Times as well as making continual updates to keep content fresh.

The total web hits for 2018 reached over a million for the fourth year (1,158,197). The number of yearly hits has been steadily growing, up 413,481 hits from 2010. Starting in 2018, Riverfront statistics are now included in the total web hits. Since 2014, the Foellinger Theatre web link has been the most popular. In the past year, 117,530 Foellinger Theatre web hits were recorded.

The Department maintains 13 individual Facebook pages and an Instagram and Twitter presence with over 50,000 followers. Monthly e-newsletters are distributed for Riverfront, Operation Fight for a Fitter Fort and the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department.

Riverfront Marketing is being coordinated through the Mayor's office. The Marketing Team has an active role in assisting with these efforts.

The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department participated in the IPRA Annual Conference in Fort Wayne from January 30-February 1 at the Grand Wayne Center. Four Department staff members were designated as team leads and assisted with the Conference in numerous ways. The Conference was very successful and may be hosted by Fort Wayne again in the near future.

The following news conferences were held in 2018:

- Foellinger Theatre Concert and Movie Series Announced (March)
- City Celebrates Arbor Day (April)
- Mayor's Day of Service (April)
- It's Time to Get in the Games: Senior Games (June)
- Packard Futsal Courts Grand Opening (June)
- Disc Golf Opening Throw at Tillman Park (July)
- Kreager Park Outdoor Fitness Announcement (July)
- Lifetime Sports Academy Presents Awards (July)
- Franke Park Day Camp Big Pow Wow (July)
- Salomon Farm Wolf Family Learning Center Expansion (August)

- Park Foundation Promenade Steps Campaign (August)
- Promenade Park Construction Site Media Tours (October)
- Veterans Day Memorial Grove Rededication and WWI Plaque Unveiling (Nov)
- 2018 Parks and Recreation Improvements (December)

Additional marketing efforts in 2018 included: 70 print and accompanying web ads; 181 flyers; 35 posters; 4 Fun Times program catalogs; 21 postcard mailers; 29 brochures; tickets and passes for 17 events; 9 seasonal kiosk displays for various facilities; signs/banners for 17 events; 22 event invitations and notecards; 55 electronic sign/social media slides and web graphics; 3 e-newsletters; 8 certificates; 9 event programs; and a number of coupons, props, calendars, promotional swag, t-shirt designs, activity/coloring books and a photo show.

Sponsorships, Donations and Grants

Foundations and Individuals generously supported Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation again throughout 2018. Successful programs, improvements and amenities were made possible because of the commitment from the citizens of Fort Wayne toward our parks and programs.

Fort Wayne Park Foundation continues their generous support of multiple facilities, programs and now the new Promenade Park Pavilion that will be open this summer.

Don & Virginia Wolf, Chuck & Lisa Surak (Sweetwater), Edward Wilson Foundation, English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Mary C. and Perry F. Spencer Foundation and Dekko Foundation made possible the improvements to the Salomon Farm Park's historic homestead. The facility should be open this summer.

After more than 20 years of free programming and free earned sports equipment, the Lifetime Sports Academy is still going strong thanks to the financial gifts from numerous individuals and foundations including The Tom and Marg Jehl Family, The Journal Gazette Foundation, The English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, the Auer Foundation and the Park Foundation.

Youth scholarships and free youth programs would not be possible without support from the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, Lincoln Financial Foundation, 3 Rivers Credit Union Foundation, M.E. Raker Foundation and NIPSCO.

Numerous businesses, foundations and individuals contribute for programming at the Community Center, the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, the McMillen Recreation facility and the Foellinger Theatre. Also, our trees, roses, landscapes and playgrounds are improved thanks to contributions and memorials from numerous individuals. In total we received \$1,282,109 from contributors to these projects in 2018.

Finally, we are so grateful for all the support we have received over the years, but especially during 2018 when we received \$3,192,620 from the Park Foundation, Regional Cities and other business and personal pledges to make our new park possible. Promenade Park will open in the summer of 2019.

The total donations and reimbursements for 2018 was \$4,474,729. As the Parks and Recreation system grows with more parks and programs, we rely more than ever on the kindness and generosity of citizens and foundations. We thank everyone who has continued to support our parks this year!

Fun Times

- Spring 2018
March-May
- Mother's Day
Plant Sale
- Trips & Tours
- Fiber Arts
Celebration
- Sports & Fitness
- Riverfront Fun
- Classes &
Workshops
- "Fairy Tales"
Exhibit
- Pre-School/Youth
Activities
- Summer
Day Camps
- Trek the Trails
Bike Rides
- Senior Programs
- Spring Fun
for All Ages

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department
www.fortwayneparks.org



Lifetime Sports Academy 2018

June 4 - July 20
McMillen Park
Ages 7-18

TENNIS

SWIMMING

GOLF

LIFETIME SPORTS ACADEMY

FORT WAYNE PARKS AND RECREATION
fortwayneparks.org

Park Maintenance

We are stewards of our parklands, facilities, public trees and other resources entrusted to our care.



2018 Accomplishments

2018 brought some major changes in the Park Maintenance Division. David Weadock was hired as the Supervisor of Project Administration section. Greg Kreager was also hired in as a Project Coordinator for the project administration section. Dennis Hamilton was moved up to Manager of Facilities and Grounds. Mike Cremeans was hired in as Supervisor of Facilities and Trades. We also hired four new people in the facilities crew as well as one Maintenance Technician. With all these changes, it was a year of learning each other as well as our new responsibilities.

The following reports are the accomplishments for Projects, Facilities, Trades, Grounds, and Safety, for 2018:

Project Administration Section

The Project Administration Section is responsible for design, engineering, technical assistance, cost estimating, project management, and project inspection either directly or through the procurement of consulting Architects, Engineers or Landscape Architects.

The staff also assists with short and long range planning, implementation of special projects and assignments, graphic presentation production and administers most of the Department's capital improvement projects. The staff consists of a Supervisor, two Project Technicians and one Engineering Intern.

This year brought many projects to this department from large to small.

Project administration completed the following projects in 2018:

- Buckner Park: Chemical Feed Sensor Switch Replacement
- Buckner Park: Playground Safety Surface Replacement
- Botanical Conservatory: Showcase Playground installation
- Foster Park West: West Side of Bridge Pathway Replacement
- Franke Park: Storm Line Upgrades
- Franke Park: Tot Playground Additions and Replacements
- Franke Park: Foellinger Theatre Performer Area Remodeling
- Franke Park: Longhouse Loft Interior re-design and build
- Franke Park: Harris Road New Police Canine Training Facility
- Franke Park: Pavilion #1 New HVAC Architectural and Engineering Design
- Franke Park: Pavilion #1 Parking Lot Island Plantings
- Freimann Square Plaza: LED Lighting Modifications
- Ivan Lebamoff Reservoir Park: Sidewalk and Seawall Reconstruction
- Johnny Appleseed: ADA Pier Pathway Addition
- Johnny Appleseed: Campground Site Drainage Additions
- Johnny Appleseed: New Playground
- Lawton Park: Trestle Bridge Log Removal
- Lawton Park: Main Office Roof Replacement
- Lindenwood: Solar Parking Lot Lighting Relocation from Salomon Farm

- McMillen: Community Center Roof Replacement
- McMillen Park: Community Center Volleyball Equipment
- McMillen Park: New Monument Sign
- Memorial Park: Wayfinding Entry Sign
- Old Fort/ Headwaters: St. Marys River Bank Stabilization
- Packard Park: Ball Diamond Fencing Replacement
- Packard Park: Bleacher Pad Construction
- Packard Park: Futsal Court Project
- Packard Park: Kitchen and Restroom Renovation
- Riverfront: Riparian Service Boat Purchase
- Salomon Farm Park: Learning Center Addition
- Shoaff Park: Picnic Table Additions and Replacement
- Shoaff Park: Monument Sign Lighting Addition
- Shoaff Park: Splash Pad Restroom Shelter
- Spy Run Trail: Spy Run Shelter
- Study Park: Safety Surfacing Replacement
- Various Parks: Downtown Containerized Floral Displays
- Various Parks: 2017 Paving Projects
- Various Parks: Master Plan Update
- Various Parks: Bench Additions and Replacements
- Various Parks: 2017 Bond Playground Projects
- Various Parks: 2018 Paving Projects
- West Central: New Park Entrance Sign

Facilities and Trades

The goal of the Facilities/Trades and Grounds Staff is to provide “outstanding services” to each park as required. The Facilities/Trades section consists of one Supervisor, one Working Leader, eight Park Person C’s, two Relief Persons, seven Maintenance Technicians and two Utility Seasonal employees. These employees deal with a multitude of tasks.

The Facilities side deals with things such as cleaning and arranging setups for rental pavilions, cleaning public restroom facilities, picking up and disposing of litter from all park sites, weed and vegetation control at buildings, walks, drives, courts, sports fields, play areas, etc. Facilities also assist the Grounds Management Division in winter with snow removal at our rental pavilions, and many of our other facilities throughout the department. The Facility Staff were busy in 2018 with 2,329 pavilion rentals. This is up 137 rentals from 2017. The Trades side deals with repairs throughout the Parks Department. In 2018 the Maintenance Technicians had 2,825 work orders/requests for the year, with a total of 269 alarm repairs, 63 appliance repairs, 129 building repairs, 342 carpentry projects, 518 light repairs, 416 electrical repairs, 95 HVAC calls, 268 lock/key repairs, 191 play equipment repairs, 292 plumbing repairs, 95 sign repairs, and 147 vandalism repairs.

The Facilities and Trades Manager also is in charge of overseeing annual maintenance contracts for HVAC, boilers and management of contract services for: alarm systems, filter replacement, electrical, plumbing, painting, roofs and fence repairs, as well as helping cover the 263 afterhours calls.

The Grounds section consists of one Supervisor, three Heavy Equipment Operators, three Working Leaders, twelve Grounds Team Members and six



Board of Park Commissioners

Relief Persons. The Grounds employees also deal with a multitude of tasks.

Heavy Equipment operations used over 200 tons of bulk salt and Grounds operations applied over seven tons of bagged salt on drives, lots and internal walks and entrances at various park locations, pavilions and centers. Grounds operations also performed 2042.95 hours of related snow removal tasks at various park and facility locations and Rivergreenway path.

Heavy Equipment operations performed 974 hours of excavation tasks and projects. They were related to various types of tile and drain work, irrigation, water line and sewer line repairs, and minor excavating, grading and concrete projects. They also performed 2,626.75 hours of tasks and projects related to hauling and spreading stone, filling holes, grading lots, drives and boat launches. This work was completed at Salomon Farm, Lawton Park, Franke Park, East Central Park, Hurshtown Reservoir, Weisser Park, Foellinger Theater, Johnny Appleseed Park, Shoaff Park and Guldlin Park. Heavy Equipment and Grounds operations performed a combined 4,006.5 hours of hauling and debris removal tasks which included hauling various products such as wood chips, Fibar mulch for playgrounds, ball diamond materials, stone, sand, topsoil, compost, debris piles and zoo refuse.

Grounds crews performed 14,009 hours of mowing, weed eating, and blowing off hard surfaces. We maintained nearly 1,000 acres of park grounds on a 7 to 9 day mowing cycle. We performed 704.63 hours of litter pick up in parks; 915.1 hours of limb cleanup in parks; 1,597.19 hours of trash removal services, 4,095.43 hours of combined tasks related to the maintenance of general turf areas, athletics fields, and ball diamond maintenance including spraying, fertilizing, hydro mulching, seeding, watering, mowing, aerating, working and lining ball diamonds and athletic fields including layout and set up of athletic fields per event scheduling, applied over 26,000 pounds of fertilizer to small parks, larger general park areas and athletic fields, applied 80 gallons of non-selective herbicide mixed in 3,335 gallons of water to 180 acres of park grounds at various sites and applied 18.87 gallons of selective broadleaf herbicide in 1,610 gallons of water to 40 acres of athletic fields and general park areas at selected sites; performed 2,046 hours related to tasks involving trimming overgrowth along the Rivergreenway, clearing under growth along the Rivergreenway, splitting wood at Franke Maintenance Dump and stump removal at various parks.

Our combined efforts also provide the transport and hauling services of equipment to and from all golf courses each winter and spring and on an as-needed basis for mainte-

nance and repair services. Crews performed 361.75 hours of transportation duties. We also transport and haul equipment to and from the Johnny Appleseed Campground, Hurshtown Reservoir, Lindenwood Nature Preserve, and Salomon Farm. We also provide support services for a number of events, programs, facilities and activities such as Mac Day, Johnny Appleseed Festival, and Christmas on the Farm (Salomon Farm), and the Day Camp Big Pow Wow. 3,788.35 hours were spent repairing, maintaining, and servicing equipment including 16 foot large area mowers, 60 and 72 inch zero turn mowers, chainsaws, spin trimmers, push mowers, and related parts. The setup, repair and general maintenance of our portable irrigation systems came out to 186.39 hours.

Projects completed in 2018:

Koehlinger Kruse was contracted to monitor and /or repair alarms at Botanical Conservatory, Franke Theater, Lawton Maintenance, Lawton Greenhouse, McMillen Community Center, and McMillen Golf Clubhouse. In addition, Koehlinger Kruse expanded the fire system at Salomon Farm Heritage and equipment barns. They also installed an upgraded camera system at Lawton Park.

VFP Fire Systems were able to complete the annual inspections for the Community Center, McMillen Community Center and the Weisser Recreation Center.

Allied Mechanical completed all the Parks Department back flow preventer inspections as well as made repairs to HVAC systems at Botanical Conservatory, Foellinger Theater, Community Center, Foster Golf Maintenance Barn, Franke Day Camp, Franke Pavilion 1, Sears Pavilion, Johnny Appleseed restroom building, Lakeside Pavilion 1 and 2, as well as Lawton Garage, Greenhouse and the Maintenance Office. Allied was also responsible for the Parks Preventative Maintenance schedule and making necessary repairs to P-tac units at the Bob Arnold Northside Parks Main office.

American Elevator was hired to do the monthly and yearly elevator inspections.

Hometown Pest Control was hired to spray for insects in our facilities as well as remove nests in the parks trees.

Dan Shaw was hired to remove and install the shade canopies at Shoaff, Jennings Center, and Buckner Park. Dan was also hired to repair the poured in place material at our playgrounds on an as-needed basis.

Extra-Clean was hired to clean the department main office.

Central Indiana Hardware installed two windows at Cooper Center.

Residential Electrical Services (RES) performed the following work: lighting upgrade at Johnny Appleseed wood barn, lighting upgrades and new service at Packard Park, replaced rusted and damage conduit at Botanical Conservatory, repaired the damaged meter base at Lawton Park, installed ADA power for door at Botanical Conservatory, updated and installed lighting at Kreager Park ball diamonds and tennis courts, and moved McCormick splash pad controls to the inside of the building.

Premier replaced locks with card swipe systems at two dog parks.

Miracle Contracting repaired the ball fence at Memorial Park, epoxied the floor at Weisser Center, and repaired the roof at Botanical Conservatory.

In house labor replaced the lift station pump at Shoaff Park, and upgraded the lighting at Shoaff Conklin Pavilion, McMillen and Memorial Pavilions.

S & E Construction replaced the roof at Lawton Office, poured cement pad at Northside splash pad for bike share program, made repairs to wood siding and Salomon Farm, repaired the fence at Casselwood Park, and installed new counter tops and cabinets at McCormick and McMillen Pavilions.

Safety & Operations Support

The Safety and Operations Support Section provides logistical and safety support for the various divisions of the Parks and Recreation Department. Major functions include storeroom operations and inventory control, automotive and equipment repair, property accounting and control, risk management, safety training and logistical support of department programs and functions.

Our stock inventory items included approximately 2064 lines of high usage and critical repair parts and supplies. 7065 transactions were completed, with a total value of \$144,958. End of year stock value was \$143,317. Approximately 1553 automotive and preventive maintenance work orders were completed on equipment and vehicles in the department.

Significant new vehicle/equipment purchases for the year were: one John Deere gator, four Ford 1 ton dump trucks, a Isuzu 14 foot box truck, a Ford service truck, a Ford flatbed truck, a Landstar six passenger cart, two electric maintenance carts, a service boat, a Ford Transit van and a Ford Transit Connect minivan.

Safety and Operations presented training for General Safety, First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automatic External Defibrillation, Stormwater Pollution Prevention,

Bloodborne Pathogens, vehicle driver awareness, chainsaw safety and various equipment operation classes. In July, the Department passed the annual Stormwater pollution prevention inspection of our maintenance facilities and pools by the City of Fort Wayne Regulatory Compliance manager.

Forty-four employee injury incidents were recorded. Most prevalent injury was lacerations/punctures - all minor. Seasonal employees accounted for 16 injuries. 26 injuries required medical treatment, of which 17 were OSHA-recordable. Nine incidents tallied 104 restricted days. There were no lost workdays for the year! Total worker compensation costs for the year to date are \$14,084. (Last year was over \$90,000!)

Thirty-five vehicle/equipment/property damage incidents were recorded of which 11 were preventable. Related damage costs totaled \$2,836.

Storeroom continued to produce many signs for department functions. Materials and supplies were ordered and delivered in support of numerous recreational programs and park wide projects.

Planning

Park planning is important as it defines, quantifies, and visually represents our best intentions as stewards of the parks. There are many park users, advocates and stakeholders who propose improvements and projects, thus we must be prepared to respond and react based on established goals. The planning report below highlights much of the coordination necessary to best serve the interests of the public and our park system.

Following a complete review of the Riparian Management Plan, current and future goals and objectives were laid out for the riparian maintenance supervisor and team. This included an intensive discussion of the recommendations found in the 2016 plan, on-site reviews of the riparian corridor (including completed, on-going and future projects), and prioritization of maintenance objectives and potential projects. With the pieces in place for the department to dig in on riparian management, this is and will remain a main priority so that we may ensure responsible stewardship of our resources.

Planning for the maintenance and operations of Promenade Park has been on-going since summer; the duties and responsibilities of each division, along with planning for anticipated park uses has been the focus of the work.

Phase II and III design for Riverfront was begun; David Rubin Land Collective was awarded the contract, and Parks has been coordinating with various departments and stake-

Board of Park Commissioners



holders in the early stages of design. Public space design within the phase II/III boundaries will be a focus in 2019.

Resulting from the formation of the Memorial Park Task Force, a report outlining the recommendations for improvements in the park was completed. Efforts to implement these improvements will continue in 2019.

A new plaque commemorating the restoration of Memorial Grove was unveiled at Memorial Park on Veterans' Day. This project was the result of collaboration between the Memorial Park Task Force and the Warrior Breed Motorcycle Club.



Several parks are affected by the Deep-Rock Tunnel Project throughout the city; coordination with City Utilities in regards to this project has been ongoing. These efforts will continue over the next several years as the project is completed.

A consultant was selected and design work has begun for the Franke Park Master Plan. We are working with Ratio Architects to complete the plan in spring 2019.

A new letter bed was completed at Reservoir Park following demolition of the old 'La Rez' sign. The new letter bed was installed using grass pavers and a heart-shaped shrub hedge.



The restoration of the Colonel Foster monument in Swinney Park was completed.

Landscape and Horticulture

The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation has a proud tradition of exceptional development and maintenance of landscape and horticultural displays throughout the system. From stunning annual beds at Freimann Square, Courthouse Green, Foster Park, Swinney Park, Foellinger Theatre in Franke Park, and Lakeside Park – to pastoral park lands with open vistas and mature tree canopies. It is always our goal to maintain this tradition of care, with available funding allocated for that purpose.



In 2018, the Lawton Park Greenhouse staff and volunteers produced 37,831 plants of 293 different varieties for floral displays in the parks throughout Fort Wayne. Botanical Conservatory Showcase plant production for the six floral changes were: Winter Show - 1,562 pots, Spring Show - 3,334 pots of bulbs and spring-flowering plants, Butterfly Show - 1,364 pots of annual flowers, 2nd Summer Show including Mums for the fall display - 4,347, and the Holiday Show - 4,490 pots of poinsettias, Dusty Miller and ferns.

The Tulip Tree Gift Shop and Sales sold 3,884 plants, while 901 plants were sold at the Home & Garden Show. 20,600 plants of 657 different varieties were grown for the Mother's Day Plant Sale; 19,500 were sold at the sale. The few remaining plants were sold at the Conservatory Gift Shop and Sales Garden and used for herb and vegetable pots at McMillen Community Center, Jennings Center and Weisser Center.

The School Children's Flower & Vegetable Association (SCFVA) sold 992 packets of seed and 17,819 plants were delivered to 60 schools. There were 350 plant, cut flower and vegetable entries from 211 students representing 47 schools at the City-Wide Blue Ribbon Show in September.

This year's tree plantings were a success again, planting a total of 205 trees in the parks alone. The Great Tree Canopy Comeback (GTCC), supported through volunteer efforts and our partnership with Friends of the Parks, accounted for 105 of these trees. This event has been extremely successful over the past 15 years, where approximately 2,500 trees have been planted to help restore the canopy. While trees continue to be planted with this program, the focus has shifted slightly to include the removal of the invasive shrub Honeysuckle that has invaded our parklands. This year, GTCC volunteers cleared this invasive species from an area in Vesey Park. Trees will be planted in this space that was opened up from clearing as part of a future GTCC event. Quantities and locations of GTCC trees included 50 at Franke Park, 40 at Study Park, and 15 at Vesey Park. Thirteen other parks properties—Seiling Park, Pawster Park, Moody Park, Reservoir Park, Shoaff Park, Lawton Place Blvd, Memorial Park, Bloomingdale Park, Foster Park, Lawton Park, Swinney Park, Miner Park, and Franklin Park—had a total of 100 trees planted as part of our replacement program.

Some of this year's landscape projects included renovations at Franke Park, Kreager Park, Salomon Farm Park, and Reservoir Park. An assortment of trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials were installed to improve the aesthetics in these areas.

Once again, volunteer groups made great contributions to our efforts this year. Approximately 715 volunteers spent almost 2,100 hours helping us spread mulch. These groups were able to spread approximately 700 yards of mulch in parks such as Memorial, Foster West, Swinney, McCulloch, Tillman, Kreager, and McMillen.

Forestry

Whether in our parks or along our streets, trees are an integral part of our city's character and infrastructure. Forestry strives to provide welcoming, safe and functioning public spaces. A healthy urban canopy maximizes the environmental, social, and economic benefits that trees provide.

Spring started with an Arbor Day celebration on April 27. In observation of Arbor Day, the City partnered with Fort Wayne Newspapers, the Smith Academy for Excellence, the Downtown Improvement District and Trees Indiana to encourage students to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. This year we also established a new partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the School Children's Flower & Vegetable Association (SCFVA). Through this partnership, we were able to distribute over 3,000 seedling trees to third graders throughout our city. The Arbor Day Foundation recognized the City of Fort Wayne's commitment to our urban canopy by naming us a

Tree City for the 28th year in a row. We also received the Growth Award for the 13th consecutive year. The Growth Award highlights innovative programs and projects as well as increased commitment of resources for urban forestry.

Forestry contracted the removal of 881 stumps in 2018. We are currently able to contract the removal of stumps soon after the tree removal is complete. This improved service demonstrates our commitment to providing great customer service to the citizens of Fort Wayne. Forestry crews pruned 6,080 trees during 2018.

A level 1 tree inspection was completed for all trees located along our city streets. Through this inspection, 541 trees were identified as candidates for removal. Nearly all of these trees were removed in 2018. Forestry crews also removed 210 trees from the parks.

This year's tree planting was a success. The Parks Department planted 1,002 trees in our parks and along our streets. Public Works continued to demonstrate their commitment to our urban canopy by including 200 new trees in their projects on E. State Blvd., Maysville Rd. and N. Anthony Blvd.

One employee successfully completed the International Society of Arboriculture Certification exam. Forestry views continuing education as a key component to providing our residents with consistently improved service and is committed to providing additional opportunities moving forward. Greg Miller has been promoted to fill the vacated Forestry Supervisor position.

Storms were not a significant issue for forestry this year. Crews removed 304 limbs/hanging limbs from the right of way and an additional 40 from the parks in 2018. 88 vehicle damaged trees were inspected between May and December of this year; damages totaled \$35,199.66.

Forestry responded to 946 Citizen 311 tickets in 2018 and received an average response grade of 99%.

Board of Park Commissioners

Community Outreach & Conservatory/Theatre Operations

Creating opportunities for play and enrichment for area youth and providing horticultural education and musical entertainment to our community.

2018 Accomplishments

Community Outreach

The McMillen Park Community Center entered its fifth year of operations, and continues to grow and flourish. The facility serves as a safe haven for youth as well as a civic center and a hub for community activity. In 2018, 313 groups, organizations, and individuals hosted social and sporting events at the center. 56 community meetings were held and 20,119 individuals participated in adult sports and fitness programming. The core business of afterschool recreation continues to grow. Individual participation for the youth After School program totaled 43,145 in 2018.

Following are some highlights from the McMillen After School program:

161 dancers from the Center performed in Fort Wayne Youththeatre's Harriet Tubman production; 6 shows were held during the weekend of February 2nd—4 shows at the Auer Building Arts Lab and two performances at Wayne High School for area elementary schools.

The Sweetwater Music Academy program completed its second session with a mixture of returning and new students. Guitar was popular again with an average of 12 students per session. The keyboard class is a combination of piano and voice students learning the basics of keyboarding while being accompanied by voice students.

Students from Lil Lady Bugs and HER Rite of Passage program prepared a meal of pasta, green beans, corn and rolls for the Mother/Daughter Dinner ending their session with a bang! Youth invited their mothers to enjoy some of the dishes they learned to prepare in their programs.

The 5th Annual Community Extravaganza took place on May 19. Over 1,000 community residents attended the event. Also present at the event were over 30 community agencies and small businesses that showcased what they had to offer to our guests. There was entertainment, games, soccer, basketball, and great prizes, food and candy were given to participants.

The end of June concluded McMillen's first ever volleyball program. The partnership with Scott Haddix, coach of the University of St. Francis' Women's Volleyball team was amazing. The program ran for six weeks with the basic rules and skills of the game being taught. The children learned a great deal from Scott and an 8th grader even earned a scholarship to attend a camp at the University of Saint Francis next summer!

The McMillen Center Hallow Fest event took place on October 25, with over 700 youth and adults in attendance. Of those present, 100 won a prize for participating in vendor tables, costume contests and a raffle. There were 38 community organizations hosting vendor tables at the event. All organizations



gave out candy or other items to the youth and adults who visited them.

The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the students of the After School Program and their parents went extremely well, as over 120 youth and parents attended the event. Thanks to the Steve Harvey morning radio show the Center was able to provide each family in the After-School Program with a turkey. The Center also gave needy families in the area a turkey as well. In total, 100 turkeys were donated.

The Food Service Division continued to provide a valuable service to our area youth at nine summer sites and four year-round locations. In 2018, 56,814 meals and 39,484 snacks were served. Food and fun was provided for 21 community events as well. The Food Service program is a partnership between Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, Community Harvest Food Bank and Fort Wayne Community Schools.

Our Summer Playground Program consists of various activities such as enrichment, which is keeping the brain engaged with simple and fun activities based on math, science, spelling and social studies. Arts and crafts are also a part of the daily fun along with small and large group activities including structured (learning) and non-structured (free play) activities. 2018 Metrics: 656 registered in the program, 7,592 youth signed in and 15,799 meals were served (breakfast, lunch & snack).

Community Youth Centers – Cooper Community Center, Jennings Recreation Center, and Weisser Park Youth Center are open year round. They are a safe haven for children and families in the afterschool and evening hours. During the school year, we offer homework help as one of our many programs. The staff assists the students with homework and they are able to utilize the computer lab if needed. If they do not have homework, they have quiet reading time. The Character Building Program is a life skills program to help each child build positive self-esteem, respect for others, personal growth and development, social etiquette in a variety of settings, and become a positive asset and role model in the community. Arts & crafts are very popular among the students. We offer a basketball program for all ages as well as dance, freedom of expressions (poetry and drumming) and health, nutrition and fitness. Keeping the children safe, active and engaged is a daily practice. 2018 Metrics: 956 new registrations, 33,612 youth signed in & 44,676 meals were served (breakfast, lunch & snack). Fitness and nutrition is a daily component in both the centers and our playground program. Partnering with Parkview and their Healthy Seeds program, we are introducing the youth to new fruits and veggies as well as keeping them active with daily exercise.

Community Unity – In 2018, we held six Community Unity Night event dates, two at each Community Youth Center. This program focuses on safety within the communities surrounding our facilities as well as safety in the City of Fort Wayne. With the assistance of the Fort Wayne Police Department, the Community Youth Centers were able to host very successful events giving the community information about topics they desired to better understand, such as the opioid crisis, internet bullying and how to keep safe and how the County Prosecutor's office works. Youth center participants and their families as well as the wider community were invited to participate in fun & games, including a type of show & tell for officers to show off their K-9 dog partners and their SWAT vehicles.



Board of Park Commissioners



Partner Officer Program – The Parks and Recreation Department worked with FWPD and hired officers (one for each center) who committed to being with the kids after school 2-3 days per week. We have nearly completed one full year of the program and have seen a significant change (for the better) in the youth concerning their attitude toward officers and even their parents' views changed in some cases.

Special Community Events -- As a critical part of our safety efforts, we focus on educating and including families. If we don't consider the community as a whole, efforts to change hearts and minds toward a healthier and safer environment will not be as successful. As a result, we have regular events that are promoted within the centers, through our Fun Times, our web site and also via social media. These events include the Back to School Bash, Harvest Fest, Holiday Dinner, Toys for Tots Holiday Party, Wassail Celebration, Kwanzaa Celebration, Black History Bowl, Cooper Tree Lighting

Recognition/graduation ceremonies for students at the Community Youth Centers were great events in 2018. The youth that joined us at the annual Etiquette dinner increased from 60 in 2017 to 76 in 2018.

Our community events and programs were even more successful thanks to media sponsors B86.9, WANE TV 15 and Fort Wayne's NBC.

Botanical Conservatory

The Botanical Conservatory had an amazing year in 2018, topping even last year's record-breaking attendance and revenues. Attendance of over 100,000 visitors had not been achieved since 1987, but this year we did it, welcoming 101,552 guests this year. In addition, the Conservatory Gift Shop broke the \$100,000 mark, which had not happened since 2003. Admission revenues showed an increase of almost 25% over 2017, and membership revenues increased more than 22%. We attribute this year's growth to a number of factors.

Our four Showcase exhibits were quite successful. From the "Fairy Tales" playground this winter, to the live "Bugs!" and butterflies display this spring, children and parents were thrilled by their visits. The summer collaborative, "Art of the Garden," brought in more art-lovers and younger adults than we had anticipated, while our "Victorian Christmas" attracted a large but more predictable crowd. Casual visitors spent more time, invited friends, and made repeat visits to the Conservatory. We also noticed an increase of photographers using our gardens as spectacular backdrops for their shoots.

Public events and programs also proved to be more popular than expected. "Once Upon a Tale" attracted almost 1,000 people on a February Saturday, while April's "Easter in the Garden" topped the list at over 2,700 attendees. A new event, "Bug Day," drew well over 600 participants, and "Mother's Day in the Garden" almost doubled its attendance, to over 1,000. Even our Holiday Member Party was big, as over 325 joined us for carolers and crafts, and the \$1 Night program that featured free chocolate attracted over 200 guests.

Of course, revenue increases are attached to our attendance, but the Gift Shop also had other helpful bumps. Butterfly kit sales, more reliable this year due to scheduled assembly times, continued to expand. Our Home & Garden Show booth netted over \$5,000 in just a few days. Plus, the addition of



uniform t-shirts for volunteers and bags of soil and do-it-yourself seed packets for customers helped the Mother's Day Plant Sale reach a new high this year, surpassing our goal and our most recent record.

In 2018, the Conservatory received generous funding from several foundations for its Showcase Garden exhibits, including the Arnold Foundation, Auer Foundation, Edward M. and Mary McCrea Wilson Foundation, English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation, Magee-O'Connor Foundation, M. E. Raker Foundation, and the PNC Charitable Trusts. Final funding for the Botanical Connections project was secured with a capital gift from the Grand Wayne Center.

Corporate support for the Botanical Roots concerts was provided by Fort Wayne Metals and Mad Anthony Brewing.

Thanks must be given to the media sponsors who promoted our shows and events throughout 2018. They include Majic 95.1 WAJI, WMEE, PBS39, Fun 101.7 WLDE, ABC21, Fort Wayne's CW, WANE TV 15 and ALT 99.5.

Success like this is the satisfying result of dedicated and imaginative staff, a highly supportive volunteer group, media base, and department, an economic upswing, and a renewed interest in all that Fort Wayne and its downtown have to offer.

Foellinger Theatre

2018 was 'Some Kind of Wonderful' under the stars in Franke Park. While Grand Funk Railroad was a highlight for many, our season was so much more than one concert.

We continued to offer a summer full of great acts to our classic rock fans such as Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone, Little River Band, and The Guess Who. All of the acts presented as in house promotions by Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation loved their time in the venue and city. In fact, The Guess Who released a special Foellinger Theatre video of footage intended for another video entirely. The groups are overwhelmingly happy because of the support of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation who has allowed us to hire and retain a highly qualified and experienced team of seasonal employees.

Our high-caliber, affordable tribute acts continue to be enjoyed by many throughout the summer. We promoted the following house-produced tribute bands: 'Let's Hang on' (Frankie Valli), Arrival from Sweden (ABBA), Stayin' Alive (Bee- Gees), Full Moon Fever (Tom Petty), and Hotel California: A Salute to the Eagles.

We self-promoted two specialty concerts. The Lettermen made a return trip along with their fan club convention for

the second consecutive year. Also we presented Gaelic Storm, a band comprised mainly of Irish citizens, to a small but lively and appreciative crowd.

We continue to honor our original benefactor's wish of providing an informal, open-air community gathering and performing area by offering three Fort Wayne Area Community Band concerts, a Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Symphony and Concert Orchestra concert, a huge Fort Wayne Children's Choir event celebrating the end of their summer camp annually, and at least one other concert chosen from local big bands, brass ensembles, and choirs. All of these community concerts are presented free to the public at a starting time agreeable to the audience.

We continued our family movie series with six movies. It included the entire Despicable Me / Minions series, Finding Nemo, and Finding Dory. It was hard not to see life-sized minions on hand for movie night. Evil villain Gru even made an appearance.

Pacific Coast Concerts continued to promote several concerts in 2018 including Pat Benatar, Willie Nelson, Ted Nugent, Alice Cooper, and REO Speedwagon.

The theatre made great strides in attracting a younger audience this season with the late season addition of Modest Mouse. The band drew 2,263 fans through the gates, the best attendance of any concert the Parks and Recreation Department has presented on its own for many seasons. Certainly, it was the best non-classic rock entry we have ever presented.

Don Hall's Guest House Hotel and Conference Center was our official hotel in 2018. We are most appreciative of the assistance provided by Bud and Tim Hall and their entire family of employees across many functions at the theatre.

We also appreciate our Old National partners for providing support to the Foellinger Theatre 2018 summer season! The Fort Wayne Civic Theater was also a sponsor in 2018. Finally, our season could not be as successful without our media partners: Fun 101.7, ABC 21, Fort Wayne's NBC, WMEE, PBS 39, Fort Wayne's CW, WLYV 104.3 and What-zup!



Board of Park Commissioners

Riverfront

Riverfront Fort Wayne promises every Fort Wayne resident and visitor an always evolving opportunity to connect with nature, culture and community.



2018 Accomplishments

Riverfront Development went into high gear in 2018 as construction of Promenade Park dominated the initiative. David Rubin Land Collective's work to plan and design phases 2-3 has been concurrent with construction of phase 1 in Promenade Park. This has positioned us to advance construction of phase 2 soon after Promenade is finished and open. We are grateful to City Council for the adoption of the income tax increase to fully fund phases 2-3. It is tremendously helpful to have all the resources already dedicated to pay for the next phase of this important chapter in Fort Wayne's development.

Riverfront also received a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation in 2018. This grant combined funds from several smaller organizations, and we are very thankful for the Foundation's continued support.

Programs

River Camp was held July 30 through August 3. Thirty campers spent time on the rivers in canoes, dragon boats and a pontoon boat. They learned about various aspects of the rivers system including recreation, history and ecology.

Winter Cozy was held on January 27. Winter Cozy is Riverfront's contribution to Winterval, and it is a 21 and over event (the only adults-only event during Winterval). The theme of the event was the Danish term "hygge" which refers to a specific type of coziness one gets during the winter by engaging in certain activities. There was R&B music by Ty Cozy, an adult-sized bounce house, and ice carvings. There were 217 in attendance, which is more than double than last year. In addition, a group from Illinois and Philadelphia were in attendance.

Riverfront presented over 200 programs and events between June and September. There were expanded pontoon boat tour opportunities, as well as a new robust schedule of paddle socials. We continued to offer the Riverfront Film Series, Intro to Dragon Boat classes, expanded birdwatching, Star Parties, Intro to Canoe and Kayak classes, and tours on the Sweet Breeze canal boat. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Dragon Boat Races in June due to unsafe river conditions (high water) from heavy rains the week prior. This was especially disappointing as we had added quite a few new features including a Spicy Ramen Eating Contest, Drummer's Parade, enhanced staging area, and an improved Steersman Auction. We were unable to reschedule due to scheduling conflicts and permitting restrictions.

We offered all teams and sponsors full credit towards 2019 races and will be able to reuse most materials.

Planning and Maintenance

Construction of the bank stabilization project at Old Fort and Headwaters Park was completed. Maintenance and monitoring of this project will continue for several years to ensure project success.

A construction contract for the Spy Run Creek Streambank Restoration Project was awarded early in the year; permitting hurdles have kept the construction

of the project from moving forward, but we anticipate completion in 2019.

Designs were completed and a construction contract awarded for the Bloomingdale Park Riverbank Restoration Project. Construction is scheduled to be completed by late spring of 2019.

The design for a new floating dock at Guldlin Park was completed. Installation will be completed in spring 2019.

Following a complete review of the Riparian Management Plan, current and future goals and objectives were laid out for the riparian maintenance supervisor and team. This included an intensive discussion of the recommendations found in the 2016 plan, on-site reviews of the riparian corridor (including completed, on-going and future projects), and prioritization of maintenance objectives and potential projects. With the pieces in place for the department to dig in on riparian management, this is and will remain a main priority so that we may ensure responsible stewardship of our resources.

Planning for the maintenance and operations of Promenade Park has been on-going since summer; the duties and responsibilities of each division, along with planning for anticipated park uses has been the focus of the work.

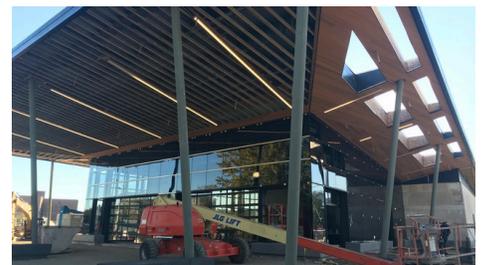
Phase II and III design for Riverfront was begun; David Rubin Land Collective was awarded the contract, and Parks has been coordinating with various departments and stakeholders in the early stages of design. Public space design within the phase II/III boundaries will be a focus in 2019.

This was the first full calendar year for the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department to staff and implement the Riparian Management Plan. The work will improve the riverine environment and usability of the local rivers for our patrons. This includes addressing the rivers' waters as well as stewardship of the adjacent land along the riverbanks.

Dan Wire was hired as our Riparian Supervisor. His duties include working towards the goals and objectives of the city's Riparian Management Plan, coordinating volunteer efforts and contributing to the programming efforts along the rivers.

There were 33 volunteer outings specifically targeting removal and stump treatment of the invasive Asian Bush Honeysuckle and Tree of Heaven. Over 15 tons of these invasives were removed from Bloomingdale Park East alone. Also removed on a smaller scale were Buckthorn, Canada Thistle, Autumn Olive and Black Locust. This effort totaled 997 volunteers with 3,370 man hours worked, totaling \$50,550.00 of volunteer labor. Riparian staff completed additional projects in Headwaters Park, Guldlin Park, Swinney Park, Lawton Park and East Central Park.

The work barge was used to remove over 10 tons of logs which were creating navigational hazards from the rivers. In addition, coordinating with a private contractor and Public Works, several major navigational hazards behind bridges were removed within the downtown area. Future teaming with Public Works in 2019, adding their barge that was delivered last October, will greatly increase number and sites from which dangerous logs will be removed. The smaller service boat has been used to keep Headwaters dock clean, remove log jams from locations inaccessible to the work barge, and general trash removal from the waterways.



Children's Zoo

Connecting kids and animals,
strengthening families,
inspiring people to care.



2018 Accomplishments

The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo exists to connect kids and animals, strengthen families, and inspire people to care. We seek to touch as many people as possible with this mission. Due to a wet, cool summer, 2018 attendance was down from 2017's record attendance of 623,000, but numerous improvements positively affected the guest experience and the impact of our mission.

Attendance & Membership

During the 2018 regular season, the Zoo hosted 561,778 guests and marked a season attendance in the top 5 of all time. Wild Zoo Halloween was plagued with rain and blustery winds and attendance wasn't as strong as hoped with 22,990 guests. When you combine these two activities we had total attendance of 584,768.

Zoo membership sales reached 14,967 households in 2018, on track with 2017. A Family Membership with unlimited zoo visits for the season was priced at \$119.

Animal News

In June 2018, the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo underwent the comprehensive 3-day AZA Accreditation inspection, with the zoo passing and receiving accreditation for another 5 years. The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo was the thirteenth zoo in the nation to become accredited.

It was a year of significant births at the Zoo with a female Swamp Monkey; female Debrazza's Monkey; a female Golden White-eye Bird (first time breeding and part of the conservation program in Mariana Islands); male and female Prevost's Squirrels; two female Sitatunga calves; a female Wattled Crane chick marked the first successful chick of this species at the Zoo; four White Storks; and one male Wrinkled Hornbill, the second successful chick at Fort Wayne Children's Zoo and the ONLY wrinkled hornbill produced in North American Zoos in 2018.

A couple new animals now make Fort Wayne home including a new female Canada lynx, Frisco, with the hopes for future breeding, and a Green Jungle fowl, a new bird species to our Indonesian Rainforest Dome.

We revamped our diving program to meet and exceed all OSHA commercial diving standards. Our team has updated dive training, protocols and the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo Diving Manual.

Joe Smith, Director of Animal Programs, was asked to speak about orangutan medicine, nutrition and reproduction at the first China National Orangutan Workshop in fall 2018 in Nanjing, China.

The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo also hosted an Indonesian veterinarian for one month to provide professional development in orangutan husbandry, nutrition and medicine.

Conservation & Research

The Zoo is a conservation leader, providing nearly \$284,000 in direct conservation support to organizations in 2018. This marked a 13% increase over our record 2017 amount. The Zoo is committed to conservation locally and worldwide. The Kids for Nature program continued to involve guests in conservation, allowing them to vote between three projects – African lions, Javan gibbons or migratory song birds – with recycled metal washers distributed at the zoo entrance. The new Fort Wayne Children's Zoo Animal Welfare and Conservation Grant was launched and awarded nearly \$16,000 to three regional recipients.

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo veterinarian, Dr. Kami Fox, represented the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo by participating in the Mariana Islands avian conservation program in the South Pacific. The Zoo provides financial support to more than 37 conservation organizations in Indiana and around the world.

Construction & Improvements

All summer long, guests were able to see the zoo's next major improvement under construction. Right inside the front gate, a construction fence separated guests from the \$4 million project to renovate Monkey Island and build a new North American River Otter exhibit. These new exhibits will be completed April 2019.

Part of the Monkey Island project includes: new guest pathways and curbs from the train station all the way around to the zoo entrance, new service entrances to penguin and sea lion service areas, a new pathway to zoo administrative office, and renovation of the main central service area. All of this work completes the multi-phase project which began in 2016 with dredging of the central zoo pond, installation of new water mains, and construction of new guest paths.

Additional projects in 2018 included:

- New Wells Administrative Building brought into code compliance and utilized for offices for the Animal Department, a dedicated incubation room, and a relocated zoo library.
- New Aquatic Quarantine built and brought online in the warehouse behind the Wells Administrative Building.
- Kopje rockwork repairs started to address cracks and leaks throughout the structures. Work will continue into 2019.
- Sea lion life support system completely upgraded to include new pumps, ozone disinfection, and chlorine/pH automated controls.
- New giraffe exhibit barrier.
- Alligator exhibit renovated to include a new sandy beach and improve visibility of the animals.
- Silvery-cheeked hornbill exhibit rebuilt in The Village of Africa.

In autumn 2018, construction commenced on east parking renovation and Zoo Education Center renovation, both of which will be completed spring 2019.

The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo remains committed to maintaining exemplary facilities, for both exhibits and support services.



Board of Park Commissioners

Fundraising

The zoo was fortunate to receive 2,483 gifts totaling \$4.2 million in philanthropic support during 2018. These gifts were provided by individuals, businesses, foundations, and other organizations across our community. Additionally, the zoo reached its goal of raising \$6.5 million for the Journey to the Heart of the Zoo project, which includes major renovations to Monkey Island, a new larger North American river otter exhibit, and additional improvements to our pond, pathways, and parking.

Of the total raised, more than \$725,000 was received through more than 800 gifts toward our on-grounds sponsorship programs and special fundraising events such as Zoobilee, Zoofari, and MaskZOOrade.

Our Adopt-an-Animal program saw tremendous growth in 2018. This program provides zoo fans the opportunity to symbolically adopt one of our amazing zoo animals. More than 242 animals were adopted, resulting in a 44% increase in funds raised.

The Zoo's Legacy Society, which is made up of individuals who plan to provide a gift to the zoo through their will, also grew in 2018. These special gifts will ensure that the zoo will remain a place for families to enjoy for generations to come.

Communications

With a limited budget, the Zoo has moved advertising dollars in the past two years from traditional television and radio to digital advertising including social media. We also rely heavily on earned media to gain visibility locally, regionally, and internationally and we were successful in leveraging zoo babies this past season. We had our youngest giraffe calf, Thabisa, make the viral rounds with her spring escapades. Videos of Thabisa have been viewed nearly 3.5 million times and have been highlighted on sites across the globe including Good Morning America; Today, ABC News; Fox News, AOL, MSN, CNN, Sports Center, AP, USA Today and local TV stations coast to coast.

The zoo maintains a strong presence in social media. Facebook followers are up 6% with engagement up 1.1%, Instagram followers up 25.6% with impressions up 77.8%, and Twitter followers up 6.2% and impressions up 25.7% over 2017 numbers. Growing social media has been a focus for the communications team over the past two years.

Education Program

In 2018, over 22,000 people from 443 organizations participated in 805 formal zoo education programs, including Summer Safari Day Camp, Zoomobile, and Wild Nights sleepovers.

Fourteen all new Zoomobile programs were introduced for the 2017-2018 school year focusing on inquiry based learning.

Events

Zoo interns hosted twelve seasonal events at the Zoo, from birthday parties for our donkeys and kangaroos to the ever popular Ice Day, a guest favorite. The most popular events were world conservation days for species including vaquita, giraffe, sharks, oceans and orangutans. More than 50,000 guests participated in these events. The Zoo Comes Alive after Five, evening hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day grew in popularity with guests attendance up double digit from 2016.

Personnel

Employees are hired for the zoo season at an annual Summer Job Fair. New employees are welcomed and trained to perform their job duties through area orientations, position-specific trainings, and New Employee Receptions with the Executive Director. Volunteers and interns donated 41,150 hours to the zoo in 2018, providing keeper support, program assistance, and guest service.

Community Service

The zoo is a self-supporting, non-profit organization, so it relies heavily on community support to succeed. To give back to the community, the zoo annually provides nearly 14,000 free zoo admission tickets to 125 local agencies serving disadvantaged children and families; free Zoomobile programs for Allen County third grade students; scholarship programs for college students and program attendees; ticket donations to charitable auctions; Dream-night, an event for chronically ill children and their families; and free admission for armed forces members on Military Appreciation Day.

The zoo continues to provide superior animal care, exemplary guest service, and an outstanding experience for visitors while serving the community since 1965. In this record-breaking year at the zoo, it was again made clear: All employees are an important part of the mission and success of the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

Sponsorships & Grants

Grants, sponsorships and gifts of \$5,000.00 or more:

NAME	DONATION	PROJECT
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$1,900,000.00	Riverfront reimbursement
Northeast Indiana Development Authority	1,292,620.00	Riverfront Development
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	131,148.00	Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory
Land and Water Conservation Fund	128,094.10	Shoaff Park Restrooms
USDA Forest Services	94,920.00	Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
Land and Water Conservation Fund	64,523.40	Shoaff Park Restrooms
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	56,722.00	Freimann Square
English Bonter Mitchell Foundation	50,000.00	Salomon Homestead
Kreager Endowment	46,645.05	Kreager Park Improvements
Northern Indiana Public Service Company	35,000.00	Historic Old Fort
Edward M. Wilson Foundation	30,000.00	Salomon Farm Homestead
Ducks Unlimited	30,000.00	Spy Run Creek Bank Stabilization
Edward M. Wilson Foundation	30,000.00	Salomon Farm Homestead
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	29,143.00	Lifetime Sports Academy
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	26,511.00	Lindenwood Nature Preserve
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	25,901.00	Buckner Park Trust
Auer Foundation	25,000.00	Lifetime Sports Academy-Kids Play Free
Warrior Breed Motorcycle Club	21,000.00	Memorial Park Monument
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	20,553.00	Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory
Parkview Health	20,000.00	Riverfront - Dragon Boats
Indiana Soccer Association	20,000.00	Futsal Courts
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	18,088.00	Salomon Farm Park
Estate of Carol Ann Brown	17,198.21	Parks Unrestricted Trust
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	17,036.00	Court House Green Trust
English Bonter Mitchell Foundation	15,000.00	Lifetime Sports Academy
Community Foundation of Greater Ft. Wayne	15,000.00	Neighborhood Youth Centers FWPD Mentors
Sweetwater Sound	15,000.00	Salomon Farm Homestead
Thomas & Margaret Jehl Family Trust	13,841.00	Lifetime Sports Academy - Kids Play Free
Downtown Ft. Wayne Econ. Improvement	13,680.12	Downtown Planters Trust
Journal Gazette Foundation	12,500.00	Lifetime Sports Academy
Auer Foundation	10,000.00	Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory
Steel Dynamics, Inc	10,000.00	Riverfront - Dragon Boats
Community Foundation of Greater Ft. Wayne	10,000.00	Riverfront Development
Park Foundation	10,000.00	Youth Scholarships
Auer Foundation	10,000.00	Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory
M.E. Raker Foundation	10,000.00	Neighborhood Youth Centers FWPD Mentors
Old National Bancorp	10,000.00	Foellinger Theatre Summer Series sponsor
Indiana Department of Natural Resources	9,010.46	Spy Run Creek Bank Stabilization
Estate of Carol Ann Brown	8,600.00	Community Center
Estate of Carol Ann Brown	8,600.00	Shoaff Park
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	7,823.00	Foellinger Theater
Don and Virginia Wolf	6,000.00	Salomon Farm Homestead
Magee-O'Connor Foundation	5,000.00	Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory
Three Rivers Credit Union Foundation	5,000.00	Neighborhood Youth Centers FWPD Mentors
Hefner Foundation	5,000.00	Riverfront Development
Ian & Mimi Rolland Family Foundation	5,000.00	Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory
Lincoln National Life Insurance	5,000.00	Dragon Boats
Parkview Health	5,000.00	Junior Golf
Magee-O'Connor Foundation	5,000.00	Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory
3 Rivers Credit Union	5,000.00	Neighborhood Youth Centers FWPD Mentors

Total 2018 Contributions: \$4,474,729.00

(For a complete list of 2018 grants and gifts, please visit our website at www.fortwayneparks.org.)



FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation
705 East State Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

(260)427-6000

www.fortwayneparks.org

