



Annual Report 2015

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 20 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, 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.



FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION

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Mayor

Board of Park Commissioners

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Deputy Director
Community Outreach &
Conservatory/Theatre Operations

Chuck Reddinger
Deputy Director
Recreation

Jim Anderson
Director of Children's Zoo

President's Message

To the Honorable Mayor Thomas Henry:

The Board of Park Commissioners is honored to share the 2015 Annual Report with you and the citizens of Fort Wayne. It was a milestone year, with the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo celebrating their 50th birthday and the park system celebrating "110 Years of Family Fun!" But it wasn't all fun and games as extremely cold temperatures prompted the activation of the City's public warming station at the Community Center, and concerns about monitoring the thickness of ice led to closing all of the City's ice skating ponds. A less dangerous alternative, a shallow, portable ice rink in Lakeside Park, was installed in December. Later in the year, flooding and windstorms shut down golf operations in Foster Park, flooded soccer and baseball fields, uprooted trees and tossed limbs throughout our parks. The community rushed in to help with the debris, making cleanup much easier for Parks & Recreation staff.

The positives of 2015 easily surpassed the challenges as the City of Fort Wayne invested \$2 million in Parks & Recreation Department improvements including a new playground at Lions Park, parking improvements at the Community Center, an impressive Purdue basketball court at Jennings Recreation Center, much-needed tennis court resurfacing at Shoaff Park and additional seating at Foellinger Theatre. The Theatre also brought in exciting national acts like ZZ Top, The Doobie Brothers, Tommy James and the Shondells, Willie Nelson and the Steve Miller Band. We can't wait to see the 2016 concert lineup!

As always, on behalf of the commissioners, we are honored to have 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 Message

As we prepare for the future of our Division, a management reorganization was implemented that better aligns our resources to satisfy citizen needs. With the retirement of Perry Ehresman, a dedicated public servant of 43 years, Chuck Reddinger was promoted to Deputy Director of Recreation. Deputy Director Mitch Sheppard now has management oversight of Community Outreach and Theatre/Conservatory Operations. Other key promotions included Patti Davis to Manager of the Community Center and Chantell Davis to Manager of Neighborhood Programs. The new members of our leadership team bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and skills that will only enhance the standard of excellence our community deserves.

Although flooding and windstorms dominated our time and resources during the summer, our positive events and programs offset the setbacks. To commemorate the anniversary of the park system, we celebrated "110 Years of Family Fun" this summer with a free community-wide party that was extremely well attended with over 2,000 guests. As an additional gift to the community, the Parks & Recreation Department planted 110 trees in each council district.

We broke ground on Camp Canine, the City's second dog park, and began Phase One of Franklin School Park, which is a model for neighborhood/public collaboration with the government. Foellinger Theatre continued its increasing success with attendance up 35% and revenues over \$1.7 million. Finally, Taylor's Dream, the state's first boundless playground, was voted one of the 50 best playgrounds in the country by Early Childhood Education Zone.

Our accomplishments would not be possible without the support of Mayor Tom Henry, the City Council, your Board of Park Commissioners, and our devoted Parks & Recreation employees' commitment to excellence.

Al Moll

Executive Director of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation



Highlights of 2015

Exciting News

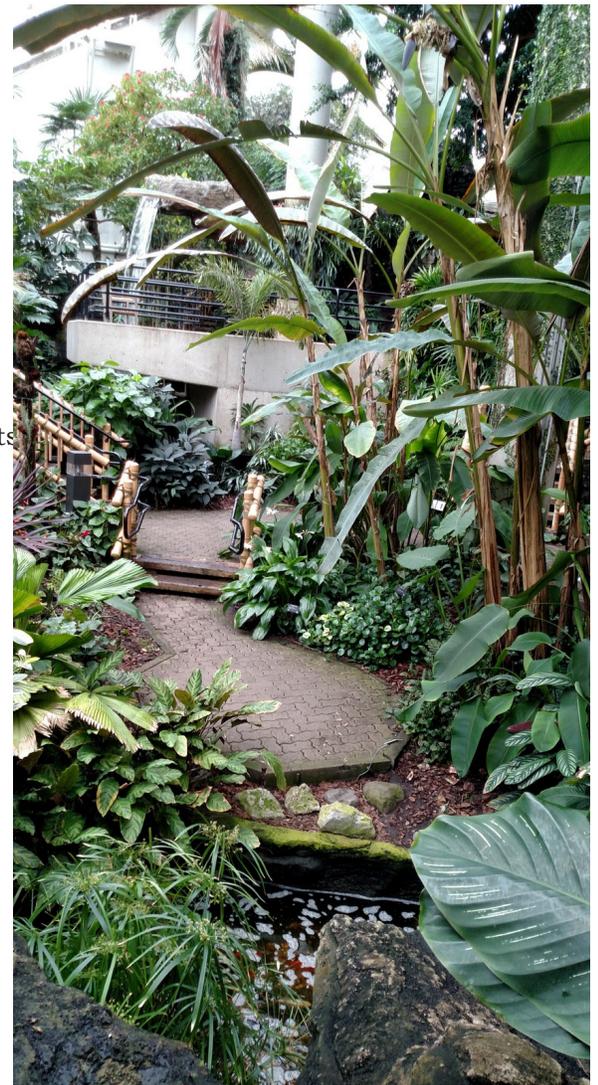
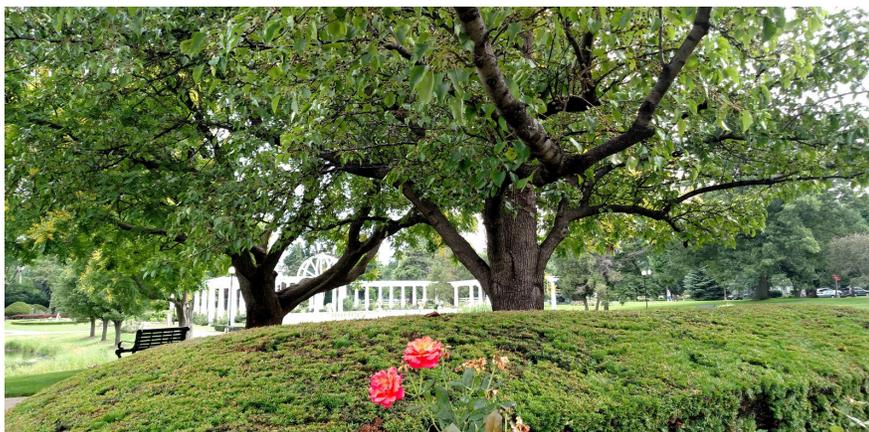
- Foellinger Theatre attendance approached 50,000, up 35%, with revenues over \$1.7 million.
- Camp Canine, the City's second dog park, opened in July.
- The Department celebrated "110 Years of Family Fun" with a free, community party.

Awards Recognizing Park Excellence

- Taylor's Dream was voted one of the 50 best playgrounds by Early Childhood Education Zone.
- The Rivergreenway was chosen as #2 in the "Best Trail" category in the "Best of Indiana" contest sponsored by Visit Indiana.
- The Old Fort received an ARCHie award for compatible new construction for the rebuilding of the Blacksmith Shop.
- The non-profit organization KaBOOM! named Fort Wayne a "2015 Playful City USA Community" for the 6th consecutive year.
- City of Fort Wayne named "Tree City USA" for 25th consecutive year.

New Projects and Renovations

- Franklin School Park Phase I Project
- Johnny Appleseed Dog Park Project
- Shoaff Park Tennis and Paving Improvements
- Freimann Square Bench and Lighting Improvements
- McMillen Community Center Concession Improvements
- Lions Park Playground and Pavilion Improvements
- Memorial Park Pavilion 1 Exterior Improvements
- Foellinger Theatre Beam, Seating, Sound and Rigging Improvements
- Lafayette Park Shelter Improvements
- Packard Park Site Improvements
- Solar Power Improvements at McMillen Park Community Center, Franklin School Park and Shoaff Park



Financial Report



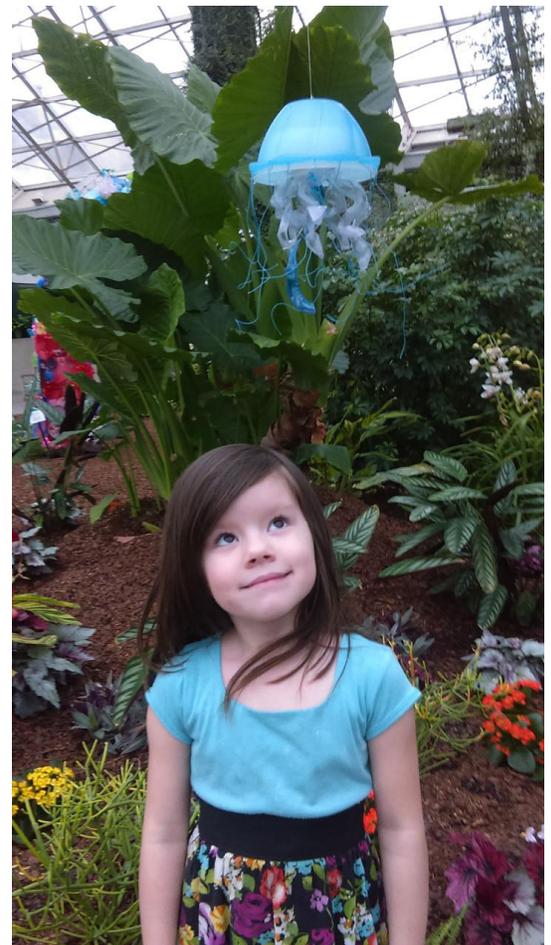
Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Condensed Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2015

REVENUES

Property Taxes	\$ 13,571,554
Other Taxes	1,522,958
Charges for Services	4,430,696
Local Grants and Donations	992,173
Other Revenues	<u>83,451</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 20,600,832</u>

EXPENDITURES

Parks and Recreation General	\$ 17,214,263
Capital Outlays	2,940,590
Debt Service	<u>279,032</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 20,433,885</u>



Children's Zoo

The Children's Zoo is dedicated to recreation, education and wildlife preservation, and with over 600,000 visitors, it is also the #1 tourist attraction in the city of Fort Wayne.

2015 Accomplishments

In 2015, the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo marked its 50th birthday with a community-wide celebration and enjoyed the best-attended season in its history. The zoo continues to gain acclaim as a high-quality family attraction and conservation organization. The zoo's daily work centers around its mission to connect kids and animals, strengthen families, and inspire people to care. The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo is operated by the nonprofit Fort Wayne Zoological Society under a cooperative agreement with the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department.

Attendance & Membership

The zoo finished the 2015 season with its best attendance ever at 618,498 guests, which includes 590,649 regular-season visitors and 27,849 attendees at the Wild Zoo Halloween. The previous attendance record was 614,666 guests, set in 2009 when the African Journey exhibit opened. Attendance in 2015 was 13.4% higher than in 2014. Zoo Membership sales reached 14,411 households in 2015, an increase of 8.6% over 2014. A Family Membership with unlimited zoo visits for the season cost \$109.

Animal News

Baby animals are always popular, and the zoo welcomed more than 100 baby animals in 2015. The biggest (literally) baby of the year was Kiango, a male reticulated giraffe born on June 14. Kiango weighed 160 pounds and stood 6'2" tall at birth. Kiango joined the zoo's herd of six giraffes in the African Journey. Though she was born in November 2014, Asmara the Sumatran orangutan was a fan favorite throughout the 2015 season. Zoo guests were able to watch this critically endangered ape learn to climb, play with her mother, Tara, and explore Orangutan Valley all the way up to the exhibit's skylights, more than 30 feet off the floor. Asmara will remain at the zoo with her mother until she is about eight years old. She was one of only two Sumatran orangutans born in United States zoos in 2014. In November, an endangered black-footed penguin chick hatched, the first to hatch since 2012. Other notable births in 2015 include endangered black-bellied leaf turtles; endangered ring-tailed lemurs; and the zoo's first female Javan gibbon baby, which was one of only seven members of this rare species born in zoos worldwide in 2015.

Conservation & Research

The zoo is a conservation leader, providing more than \$90,000 in direct conservation support to organizations in 2015. The Kids4Nature program continued to involve guests in conservation, allowing them to vote among three projects with recycled metal washers distributed at the zoo entrance. In 2015, the zoo launched a plan to integrate conservation messages into all aspects of zoo operations, from education programs to keeper chats. The zoo participates in conservation and management programs for more than 90 rare and endangered animal species. These programs, administered by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), include Species Survival Plans, Taxon Advisory Groups, and the new SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) initiative launched by AZA in 2015. Zoo Veterinarian Kami Fox represented the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo by participating in the Marianas Islands avian conservation program in the South Pacific. The zoo provides financial support to more than 20 conservation organizations in Indiana and around the world.

Construction & Improvements

Construction on Phase 2 of the \$7 million Australian Adventure renovation culminated in the May opening of The Reef (formerly the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium) in June and the long-anticipated opening of Stingray Bay in September. Guest reaction to both exhibits was overwhelmingly positive. Construction on Phase 3 of the renovation, which is scheduled to open in 2016, began in August. The Austra-



lian Adventure Outback and River Ride were closed to the public to allow site work to begin during favorable weather. In January, the zoo was selected by the Australian government to receive Tasmanian devils as part of an ambassador program to build awareness for this species, which is threatened by a contagious cancer epidemic. Significant improvements were made to zoo food service locations. Additional tables and seating were added to the Indonesian Rain Forest carousel area with the construction of a new deck. All new exhibits, renovations, improvements, and capital projects are funded by earned revenue or donations.

Sponsorships, Partnerships & Fundraising

More than 70 local businesses supported the zoo through sponsorships and partnerships in 2015. Kroger continued its Zoo Day promotion, tying it to the zoo's 50th Birthday celebration and resulting in more than \$71,000 in donated funds for the zoo. In 2015, the zoo raised \$4.7 million via fundraising events, capital campaigns, and other gifts, including \$1.8 million in support of the Australian Adventure Capital Campaign. More than 2,200 donations were received with 82% coming from individuals and 18% coming from businesses, foundations, or other organizations. The zoo's three unique fundraising events – Zoobilee, Zoo Brew & Wine Too, and the Drive You Wild Golf Outing – all experienced record fundraising years and combined to net nearly \$500,000 for the zoo.

Publicity & Social Media

With a limited budget, the zoo relies heavily on earned media to gain visibility locally, regionally, and internationally and was successful in leveraging zoo babies, 50th Birthday activities, and exhibit openings for wide media coverage. Travel website TripAdvisor named the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo as the 7th best zoo in the United States and the 20th best zoo in the world, based on a high volume of consistently positive user reviews. The zoo received TripAdvisor's Travelers' Choice Award for the second year in a row. The zoo maintains a strong presence in social media. Engagement across Facebook and Twitter increased, and a zoo Instagram channel launched mid-year grew quickly. The zoo's website kidszoo.org was rebuilt, made responsive, and streamlined in early 2015. The site received 1.6 million pageviews, had 383,780 unique visitors, and had 620,602 visits in 2015.

Education Programs

In 2015, 38,830 people from 575 organizations participated in 1,127 formal zoo education programs, including Summer Safari Day Camp, Zoomobile, and Wild Nights sleepovers. In its second year, ZSI (Zoo Scientific Inquiry) expanded to become one of the zoo's most successful outcome-based educational offerings. ZSI is a nine-week program designed to help 4th grade students improve data collection and inquiry skills to prepare for ISTEP testing. Families4Nature launched as part of a national Nature Play initiative supported by AZA. The project features events and programs which encourage families to play outside.

Events

The zoo's 50th birthday included an entire summer of special events, promotions, and community partnerships. The zoo clearly occupies a special place in the hearts of Fort Wayne residents. An official Birthday Party was held on July 1. Other 50th Birthday activities included celebrity videos, crowd-sourced photos, signs within the zoo, orange paw prints painted on city streets, chalk art, a season-long ad campaign, social media promotions, and more. Wild Zoo Halloween attracted more than 27,000 guests in 2015 and is the largest of all zoo events. Other events included the Zoo-Loo-Au Members' picnic, which serves more than 10,000 members in a single day. Dreamnight, which serves chronically ill children and their families, was offered for the fourth year.

Personnel

Volunteers and interns donated nearly 38,000 hours to the zoo in 2015, providing keeper support, program assistance, and guest service. This represents an 8% increase over 2014. Jim McGowin retired in 2015 after serving as operations supervisor since the zoo opened in 1965. Doug Wood, Regional President of PNC Bank, and Tom Ackmann, Vice President of SYM Financial Advisors, joined the zoo's Board of Directors in 2015. The Board continues to offer invaluable advice and oversight on the zoo's entire operation.

Community Service

The zoo is a self-supporting, non-profit organization, and relies heavily on community support to succeed. To give back to the community, the zoo annually provides more than 14,000 free zoo admission tickets to 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; Dreamnight, an event for chronically ill children and their families; and free admission for armed forces members on Military Day. The zoo continues to provide superior animal care, exemplary guest service, and an outstanding experience for visitors while serving the community since 1965.

Recreation

The Recreation Division provides high quality recreational services and opportunities to area citizens.



2015 Accomplishments

The Community Center on Main Street served as an official Warming Center for twelve nights through March 5. Overnight attendance ranged from 18-40 people, and food was provided through donations, Community Harvest Food Bank, community groups and individuals. The Fort Wayne Police Department and the Rescue Mission provided additional staff to assist with supervision. On June 25, Mayor Tom Henry and social service partners signed a memorandum of understanding for a winter weather emergency shelter plan in the City of Fort Wayne. In this agreement, the Community Center will serve as a daytime warming or cooling station, while other agencies will provide food, transportation and overnight accommodations.

Travel Services had 1,374 travelers on their 34 trips in 2015. Most trips were day trips to places like Ann Arbor, Chicago and Naperville. Mackinac Island was the most popular trip with 132 travelers.

Salomon Farm had a great season with increased participation in many special events. The barn was rented nearly every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from May through the end of October. The Fiber Arts Celebration in May included live music, herd dog demonstrations, vendors and other activities. It was a cool, rainy weekend with more than 400 in attendance. The Fall Harvest Festival was held on September 18 and 19 and more than 3,200 attended. The petting zoo was added as a new feature to the event and other activities included wagon rides, hands-on activities, oat and wheat threshing, a farmers' market, music and an antique tractor parade. Christmas on the Farm, December 5, had a record attendance of 4,000 people. More than thirty volunteers assisted with the event. Activities included wagon rides from the DeKalb Horseman's Association, live music, free hot chocolate and an appearance from Father Christmas. Twenty vendors participated in the Salomon Farmers' Market that ran on Wednesdays during the summer and fall. It was another great year for Farm Camp. There were 678 registrations for the six, one-week sessions, with all sessions full. A small office and Internet services were installed at the Learning Center. This allowed staff better communication with the rest of the Department, including access to registration information.

Record rains in June had a negative effect on much of the golf operation, hurting revenue and the Junior and PeeWee Tours. Many events, outings and league dates were cancelled or re-scheduled. Foster Park Golf Course suffered severe flood and storm damage. Dozens of trees were uprooted or damaged. Three different flooding events damaged acres of turf on fairways, greens and tees. Crews spent weeks seeding and bringing the course back to playing condition. The course re-opened on September 25. The new FootGolf Facility at the Mad Anthony III's in McMillen Park opened in May. School groups, soccer teams, families and birthday party's utilize this new activity. In addition, FootGolf is a new event for the Senior Games.

The McMillen Park Community Center celebrated their first anniversary in June. The event featured entertainment, games, community organization displays, music and refreshments. The free, eight-week summer

youth program served nearly 800 children with an average daily attendance of 300. The activities included basketball, volleyball, soccer, crafts and table games, with breakfast, lunch, and a snack served as well. Project Reads began October 12 at the Center and twenty volunteers were matched with twenty students, kindergarten through third grade. The program ran on Wednesday afternoons for one hour. On November 23, the McMillen Park Community Center served 120 youth at their annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

Summer supervised playground sites included Hamilton, Lafayette, Lakeside, Memorial and Packard Parks. Youth Center Summer Programs were held at McMillen, Weisser, Jennings and Cooper Centers. Carnivals, field trips, swimming lessons, arts and crafts and games created summer fun for kids of all ages. Parkview LiVe, Respect for Law, Fort Wayne Community Schools Free Lunch and Snack Program, Fitness Fun, OrganWise and Jump for Life all contributed to keeping children healthy and active during the summer. The annual "Juneteenth" and "Harambee" festivals brought thousands of visitors into Weisser Park.

The Community Center on Main Street hosted several popular downtown events such as the Winterval, Halloween Haunt and Santa's Workshop, attracting thousands of visitors. Over 350 people participated in the Senior Games this year.

The Pre-School Youth program had strong participation. Soccer was the most popular, with nearly 500 participants, followed by T-ball and gymnastics. Thematic and specialty classes were also very popular with 439 participants.

The 69th Annual Franke Park Day Camp Big Pow Wow was held on August 4. Mayor Henry opened the program, welcoming hundreds of campers, parents, and grandparents to the ceremony. Franke Park Day Camp had 1,386 registrations and filled all of its six, one-week sessions during the summer.

Camp Canine, the City's second dog park, opened in Johnny Appleseed Park on July 30. Nearly 100 memberships were sold after the opening. A total of 538 dog park passes were sold in 2015. The Parks & Recreation Department entered into a partnership with Animal Care & Control, giving owners of newly adopted dogs a 50% discount on dog park memberships.

LSA celebrated its eighteenth year in 2015. It was well attended with over 1,200 registered participants. Fifty-two kids earned golf clubs and ninety-seven earned tennis rackets. Eighteen swimmers and two divers competed in the City Swim and Dive Meet. Participants had an extra special treat when professional golfer Amanda Blumenhurst hosted a clinic in support of the program.



Administration & Marketing

The Administration and Marketing Division encompasses the various administrative, marketing, public relations and development activities of the Department.

2015 Accomplishments

The Administrative & Marketing Division continued to utilize technology in 2015 to improve customer service and to communicate accurately and consistently. Our seasonal staff is provided training that stresses positive interactions with customers. Program evaluations and user surveys were distributed to access all of the programs offered by the Department. A total of 4,892 evaluations were analyzed and reported back to staff. Our overall Department Customer Service Rating based on this information was 93%. Complaint processing continues to be a priority. In 2015, 95% of complaints filed were processed within one business day.

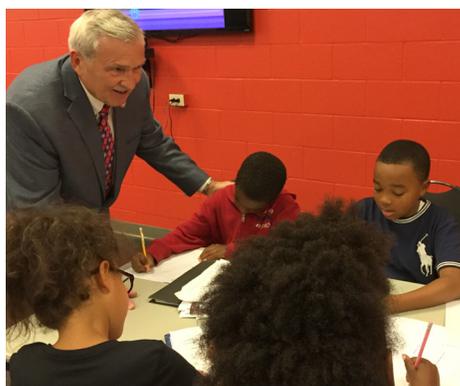
Continuously new Customer Service features were added to the six main Department websites including the development of 33 new web pages, redesigning existing pages as needed, adding additional photos throughout to market our department, utilizing flip book technology, updating pages so a mobile version of Joomla could be turned on for www.fortwayneparks.org, adding special events and major programs to the City Web Calendar as well as making continual updates to keep content fresh.

The total web hits for 2015 reached over a million (1,073,439). The number of hits has been steadily growing, up 328,723 hits yearly from 2010. The new monthly total average was 89,453 for 2015, up from 75,493 hits in 2014. Social media interaction increased, with the Facebook page receiving over 7,000 “Likes” and over 4,000 followers on Twitter.

Additional marketing efforts in 2015 included: 54 print and accompanying web ads; 106 fliers/posters; 4 Fun Times; 25 brochures; tickets and passes for 22 events; 11 displays for pavilions, Lindenwood Nature Preserve and Salomon Farm; signs/banners for 22 events; 24 invitations, cards and postcards; tickets or passes for 22 events; as well as coupons, certificates, photo shows and promotional giveaways.

The following news conferences were held in 2015:

- Foellinger Theatre Concert and Movie Series Announced (April)
- City Celebrates Arbor Day with Hoosier ReLEAF (April)
- 37th Annual Senior Games: It’s Time to Get in the Games (June)
- Mayor Celebrates City Being Named “Playful City USA” for Sixth Time (June)
- Lifetime Sports Academy Presents Awards (July)
- Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Celebrating “110 Years of Family Fun” (July)
- Camp Canine Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting (July)
- Project READS: Volunteers Needed for New Literacy Program Site at McMillen Park Community Center (September)
- Investing in our Future: Commitment to Maintain and Improve Parks (October)



- Mayor Henry Leads Groundbreaking Ceremony for Franklin School Park (October)
- Purdue Cardinal Community Hoops & MHS Donate Basketball Court to Jennings Recreation Center (November)

Donations and Grants

Generous residents, foundations and businesses shared donations with the Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department again this year. Projects, events, facilities and programs are all supported to make our park system the best it can be!

During 2015, many corporations and individuals donated to help the Parks & Recreation Department celebrate its 110th anniversary. Close to 2,000 residents enjoyed a party and entertainment at Headwaters Park. Did you know that the Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department is older than the Indiana State Park system? Created in 1905 by the Indiana State legislature, Fort Wayne Parks have been an important part of the quality of life for the city. Civic leaders through the years have been trendsetters with an understanding of what the public needs.

Included in a list of leaders that recognize the importance of a fabulous park system are our partners at the Fort Wayne Park Foundation. Their annual donations support numerous parks and facilities, including Salomon Farm, Buckner Park, Lindenwood Nature Preserve, Allen County Courthouse Green, the Botanical Conservatory, Foellinger Theatre and much more. They also provide funds to maintain programming and special events, including the 110th anniversary party, Lifetime Sports Academy at McMillen Park and Kids Crossing at Lawton Park.

Volunteers are also critical to the smooth operation of this large park system. Groups come out and clean up parks and individuals donate their time at large facilities including the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, the Community Center and Foellinger Theatre. Many thanks to all the citizens who give of their time and treasure.

Another important area of donations is for memorial gifts, which are given in memory of friends and family members. Often a memorial tree or bench is purchased at specific parks, or memorial gifts go to facilities for their continuing operations. These gifts are a wonderful way to remember loved ones.

Youth activities and scholarships receive private and corporate support, including the Lifetime Sports Academy, arts & culture activities at the youth centers, Junior/Pee-Wee Golf and First Tee programming at the schools. Thanks to Northern Indiana Power & Service Company and Parkview Hospitals, youth scholarships are provided to children meeting federal income guidelines.

Street and park tree replacements will always be important, as Fort Wayne residents appreciate the urban canopy these trees create and their benefits to the city. Donations continue to be given as we replace the loss of one-fourth of the city's trees from the Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

If you are interested in making a donation to the Parks & Recreation Department, information is available online at www.fortwayneparks.org or by calling Sarah Nichter at 260-427-6024.



Board of Park Commissioners

Foellinger Outdoor Theatre

Thousands of spectators came out to “Listen to the Music” at Foellinger Theatre for the 2015 concert season. Attendance increased by 35% this year, nearing 50,000, with over \$1.7 million dollars in revenue! Pacific Coast Concerts brought in a large variety of national acts including ZZ Top, The Beach Boys and The Temptations, the Steve Miller Band, The Doobie Brothers and Willie Nelson, with little financial risk to the Theatre. All the best tribute bands made an appearance as well, such as Hotel California, Stayin’ Alive and The Hit Men, made up of former stars of the Four Seasons. Soft N’ Heavy, touted as one of rock’s most powerful new bands, and Sounds of Touch, the best in “Old School,” rounded out the entertainment with the most affordable ticket prices in town. Free concerts were a hit too, with close to 6,000 in attendance. The Fort Wayne Area Community Band approached a record, with over 800 patrons enjoying the August concert featuring local vocalist Tom Didier. Other free concerts included The Fort Wayne Youth Symphony and Concert Orchestra, the Wisla Folk Ensemble from Plock, Poland, the Fort Wayne Children’s Choir, The United States Navy Cruisers Ensemble and the United States Army Field Band and Soldiers’ Chorus.

Attendance for our free movie series doubled. Adults and children enjoyed hits like “Frozen,” “Annie,” “Paddington,” “Big Hero 6,” and “The Boxtrolls.”

We extend our appreciation to our wonderful corporate sponsors who donated funds to help us make our concert and movie season the best it can be. Season sponsor Lincoln Financial Foundation was joined by Sweetwater Sound, MedPartners and Old National Bank as our primary corporate partners. We would not have the attendance success we enjoy if not for our media sponsors including Fun 101.7 WLDE, PBS 39 WFWA, Whatzup and 97.3 WMEE. Holiday Inn-IPFW & Coliseum as our official lodging sponsor was also indispensable!

Botanical Conservatory

The Botanical Conservatory provided a peaceful respite and entertaining diversion in 2015 to Fort Wayne families and to those visiting our city. Our special events included Re:Create - Upcycle Art, Winterval, Easter in the Garden, Mother’s Day in the Garden, Family Fun Day, Jazzworks, The Botanical Roots Concert Series, Pumpkin Zone, The Pumpkin Path, Rocky Horror Picture Show, Saturdays with Santa and Live Reindeer and the Holiday Kick-Off Party.

The 2015 Showcase exhibits for the Conservatory included:

- Changing Tides—The Conservatory invited internationally-known artist Sayaka Ganz to install an

imaginative seascape in the midst of our lush Showcase Garden using recycled materials.

- The Pollinator’s Garden—During the 13th annual live butterfly exhibit, visitors had the opportunity to learn more about pollinators and why humans depend on them. Visitors were also encouraged to plant flowers for pollinators, to make sure our environment remains healthy.
- Egyptian Pleasure Garden-- By the time of Ancient Egypt’s New Kingdom period, the nation’s wealth allowed for pleasure gardens at the homes of the richest citizens. A pond with colorful fish and lotus flowers, shade trees, palms and flower beds provided a cool retreat. Fruit trees and grape vines added to the banquet table, while papyrus clustered at the water’s edge. Visitors to our summer-to-fall garden were invited to relax in the shade and admire a distant view of the pyramids.
- A Northwoods Christmas--Imagine the warm and rustic charm of a Northwoods cabin during the holidays: fragrant drapes of garland, ornaments crafted from twigs and cones, and displays of family heirlooms. The rural feel of the setting suggested more moose and bear than human population, but the celebration was heartfelt and cozy in the midst of the big woods.



Park Maintenance

2015 Accomplishments

The Park Maintenance Division completed a great 2015 year. We provided exemplary services to care for our facilities and park lands. With the help of thousands of hours of volunteer time, along with our staff, the various facilities in our system were up to our community's high standards. These facilities include: pavilions, shelters, recreation centers, gardens, athletic fields, diamonds and courts, street and park trees, splash pads, swimming pools and more.

There were challenges this year. Record breaking rains arrived in the spring, which softened our soils and made tree roots vulnerable when a storm on June 27th blew through the area. More trees were up-rooted due to the conditions than any time during my tenor. Our crews responded alongside contracted crews to clean up our community. The process took about six weeks and several hundred thousand dollars.

We began developing Phase I of Franklin School Park, previously home to Franklin School, located on St. Mary's Ave. The first phase is scheduled to be completed by mid-2016. We also completed construction on Camp Canine, the city's second dog park, located in Johnny Appleseed Park. We received a grant to help fund several projects using solar energy. This is a new venture for the Department and we will be monitoring its successes to possibly do more projects like this in the future. Several other projects were completed this year, including improvements at Foellinger Theatre, Shoaff Park tennis courts, Lions Park playground and lighting and parking control projects at the Community Center, to name just a few.

The accomplishments that follow in this report are made possible by the support of the administration, the citizens of our community, volunteers and the talented staff of the Park Maintenance Division.

Grounds and Improvements

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 consisted of a Supervisor, two Project Technicians and one Engineering Intern.

This year brought many projects to this department from large to small. Some of the major projects for the year were:

- Franklin School Park Phase I Project
- Johnny Appleseed Dog Park Project
- Shoaff Park Tennis and Paving Improvements
- Freimann Square Bench & Lighting Improvements
- Community Center Parking Gate & Lighting Improvements

The Park Maintenance Division maintains Fort Wayne city parks, facilities and properties. Operations include beautification, facility & grounds maintenance, horticulture, land improvement, forestry, natural resources, land stewardship and risk management.



Board of Park Commissioners

- Lions Park Playground and Pavilion Improvements
- Conservatory Glass Improvements
- McMillen Community Center Concession Improvements
- Various Parks ADA Bleacher Improvements
- Memorial Park Pavilion 1 Exterior Improvements
- Northside Paving Improvements
- Foellinger Theatre Beam, Seating, Sound & Rigging Improvements
- Lafayette Park Shelter Improvements
- Packard Park Site Improvements
- Jennings Purdue Cardinal Hoops Project
- Solar Power Improvements at McMillen Park Community Center, Franklin School Park & Shoaff Park

The goal of the Facilities Staff is to provide “outstanding custodial services” to each park as required. The Facilities Section consists of one Supervisor, eight Park Person C’s, two Relief Persons and one Working Leader that deal with a multitude of tasks 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 as usual in 2015 with just over 2,047 pavilion rentals.

Heavy Equipment Operations used over 300 ton of bulk salt and Grounds Operations applied 14 ton of bagged salt on drives, lots and internal walks and entrances at various park locations, pavilions and centers and performed 2,862 hours of related snow removal tasks at various park, facility locations and Rivergreenway paths.

Grounds crews performed 8,118 hours of mowing related duties, 303 hours of litter pick up, 269 hours cleaning up limbs, performed 766 hours of trash removal services and performed 2,281 hours of combined tasks related to the maintenance of general turf areas. They also performed 1,814 hours trimming overgrowth and undergrowth along the Rivergreenway, splitting wood, and removing stumps in various parks.

Project Coordination/Supervisor included overseeing annual maintenance contracts for HVAC, boilers and management of contract services for: alarm systems, filter replacement, electrical, plumbing, painting, roofs, and fence repairs, supervising two part time utility people, and also oversee the seven Maintenance

Technicians for in-house repairs.

The Maintenance Technicians had 2,074 work orders/requests for the year: a total of 80 alarm repairs, 33 appliance repairs, 72 bench repairs, 122 building repairs, 330 carpentry projects, 462 electrical repairs, 154 HVAC calls, 83 lock/key repairs, 369 Maintenance Technician general repairs, 79 play equipment repairs, 200 plumbing repairs, 44 sign repairs and 46 vandalism repairs.

Forestry

This was the first full year back to the normal schedule of pruning and removing trees throughout the city in the Forestry Department. On April 24, the City partnered with Hoosier ReLeaf and The Boys and Girls Club to celebrate Arbor Day. The event was a great success with over 250 in attendance including Mayor Tom Henry, Senator Dennis Kruse, Senator Liz Brown, and guest speaker Tom Womick. The Forestry Department reached a couple of milestones in 2015. The Arbor Day Foundation named the City of Fort Wayne a Tree City USA for the 25th year in a row. Also, the City was awarded the Sterling Growth Award for ten consecutive years of growth in the field of Arboriculture.

The year did not stay calm for long. The June 27th storm caused the Forestry crews to discontinue normal operations in order to clean up the debris. They responded to over 600 tickets from 3-1-1 for the month of June, 400 of those due to the storm. The Forestry crews worked about 200 hours of overtime just in the months of June and July.

Over the entire year, Forestry answered over 2,000 tickets and had an overall satisfaction rate of 99% on our 3-1-1 Performance Scorecard. We also received over \$20,000 in grants for tree planting.

The following are some statistics from the Forestry Division in 2015: 1,147 trees were marked for removal; 6,600 trees were pruned throughout the city, a large increase from 2014; Mudrack Tree Experts were contracted to prune 3,300 street trees; Wright Tree Service removed a total of 631 stumps throughout the city; the Street Tree Planting program planted a total of 1,284 trees; 1,700 piles of limbs and 300 trees were removed due to storm damage; and 20 trees were removed due to vehicular accidents.

Landscape and Horticulture

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation has a proud tradition of exceptional development and maintenance of landscape and horticultural displays throughout the park system. From stunning annual beds at Freimann Square, Courthouse Green, Foster Park, Swinney Park, Foellinger-Freimann Theater in Franke Park and Lakeside Park to pastoral parklands with open vistas and mature tree canopies. It is always our goal to maintain this tradition of care, with avail-

able funding allocated for that purpose.

In 2015, the Lawton Park Greenhouse staff and volunteers produced 43,417 plants of 300 different varieties for floral displays in the parks throughout Fort Wayne. Botanical Conservatory Showcase plant production for the six floral changes were: Winter Show 1,368 pots, Spring Show 1,451 pots of bulbs, Butterfly Show 1,789 pots of annual flowers, 2nd Summer Show 1,451, Fall Mum Show 3,794 pots, Holiday Show 3,180 pots of poinsettias.

The Tulip Tree Gift Shop sold 2,200 plants and 353 plants were sold at the Home & Garden Show. Plants grown for the Mother's Day Plant Sale included 595 different varieties; 10,462 were sold at the sale. Plants not purchased were sold at the Gift Shop and Sales Garden throughout the summer.

The School Children's Flower & Vegetable Association (SCFVA) sold 3,579 packets of seed and 18,614 plants were delivered to 62 schools. There were 318 plant, cut flower and vegetable entries from 207 students representing 52 schools at the City-Wide Blue Ribbon Show in September.

The Great Tree Canopy Comeback was once again a success. Through volunteer efforts and our partnership with Friends of the Parks, a total of 180 trees were planted: 60 at Franke Park, 40 at Memorial Park, 45 at Johnny Appleseed Park's Camp Canine and 35 at Lakeside Park. Several other parks benefited from tree plantings as well. A total of 120 trees were planted throughout several parks as part of our replacement program. Nearly 1,500 shrubs, grasses, and perennials were planted throughout the season.

Volunteer groups made great contributions to our efforts this year. One particular success story continues to take place at the Little Turtle Memorial. In May, neighborhood residents and individuals from the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma planted 105 perennials and grasses, removed undesirable plant material and mulched the site. In December, a local Boy Scout volunteered and organized the installation of a privacy fence on the site as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Safety and 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 1,849 lines of high usage and critical repair parts and materials. A total of 6,551 transactions were completed, with a value of \$195,088. Approximately 1,244 automotive and preventive maintenance work orders were completed on equipment and vehicles in

the department. A 2015 Harvester 4300 bucket truck with a 55' Versalift tower was procured for the Tree Division. A new VeeBox salt spreader was received for Heavy Equipment. McMillen and Weisser Centers received new automated external defibrillators. Maintenance actions included the conversion of two pickup trucks to flatbed trucks, trying to keep older 580D mowers operational and rebuilding a spare engine for the zoo train. Due to the fact that our fleet mechanics hold commercial driver's licenses, they operated crane and boom trucks during the June storm clean up.

Safety and Operations trained over 385 employees and volunteers in General Safety, First Aid, Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation and Automatic External Defibrillation, Stormwater Pollution Prevention, Bloodborne Pathogens and various equipment operation classes. For the first time, approximately 70 Foellinger Theater volunteers received safety training. The Department passed the annual stormwater pollution prevention inspection of our maintenance facilities and pools by the City of Fort Wayne Regulatory Compliance manager.



Sponsorships & Grants

Grants, sponsorships and gifts of \$3,000 or more:

NAME	DONATION	PROJECT
Homestead Restoration Campaign	\$147,450.00	Salomon Farm
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$147,411.41	Botanical Conservatory
Ind. Assoc. for Comm. Economic Development	\$58,732.50	Solar Energy project
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$53,658.00	Freimann Square
AWS Foundation	\$50,000.00	Botanical Conservatory
Kreager Endowment	\$41,586.50	Kreager Park
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$27,563.00	Lifetime Sports Academy
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$25,663.00	Parks Unrestricted
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$25,069.00	Lindenwood Nature Preserve
Auer Foundation	\$25,000.00	Lifetime Sports Academy - Kids Play Free
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$24,501.00	Buckner Park
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$17,109.00	Salomon Farm
City of Fort Wayne Community Development	\$16,891.48	Brownfield grant
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$16,132.00	Courthouse Green
Downtown Improvement District	\$15,934.26	Downtown Planters
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne	\$15,000.00	Youth Center Arts & Culture
English Bonter Mitchell	\$15,000.00	Lifetime Sports Academy
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne	\$13,246.00	Lifetime Sports Academy - Kids Play Free
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne	\$12,568.00	Lifetime Sports Academy - Kids Play Free
Journal Gazette Foundation	\$12,500.00	Lifetime Sports Academy
Department of Natural Resources	\$12,500.00	Street Tree grant
Lincoln Financial Foundation	\$12,000.00	Foellinger Theatre
Old National Bancorp.	\$12,000.00	Foellinger Theatre - season sponsor
Sweetwater Sound, Inc.	\$12,000.00	Foellinger Theatre - season
United States Tennis Association	\$12,000.00	Shoaff Tennis Court renovation
Department of Natural Resources	\$11,014.40	Spy Run Creek renovation & planning
National Recreation & Park Association	\$10,000.00	Youth Centers Healthy Living
Purdue Sports Properties	\$10,000.00	Jennings Center Basketball Court
MedPartners	\$8,000.00	Foellinger Theatre sponsor
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$7,384.00	Foellinger Theatre
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne	\$5,880.00	Botanical Conservatory
Parkview Health	\$5,000.00	Youth Scholarships
National Recreation & Park Association	\$5,000.00	Youth Center Healthy Living
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$5,000.00	110th Anniversary Celebration
Park Foundation	\$5,000.00	Great Tree Canopy
Wilson Foundation	\$5,000.00	Botanical Conservatory
Fort Wayne Park Foundation	\$4,696.00	Kids Crossing
Wilson Foundation	\$4,500.00	Botanical Conservatory
Fort Wayne Metals	\$4,400.00	Botanical Conservatory
Pepsi-Cola Bottlers	\$3,500.00	Junior & Pee Wee Golf
Department of Natural Resources	\$3,122.60	Spy Run Creek Renovation & Planning
2015 Contributions:	\$992,173.00	

(For a complete list of 2015 grants and gifts, please visit our website at www.fortwayneparks.org.)



FORT WAYNE
PARKS AND
RECREATION

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