



# Riverfront

## FORT WAYNE

Always moving.



FORT WAYNE  
PARKS AND  
RECREATION

PHASE 1 PREVIEW





EMOUTFITTERS.COM

Riviera



#paddlewo

Jackson

Jackson



# Today & Tomorrow

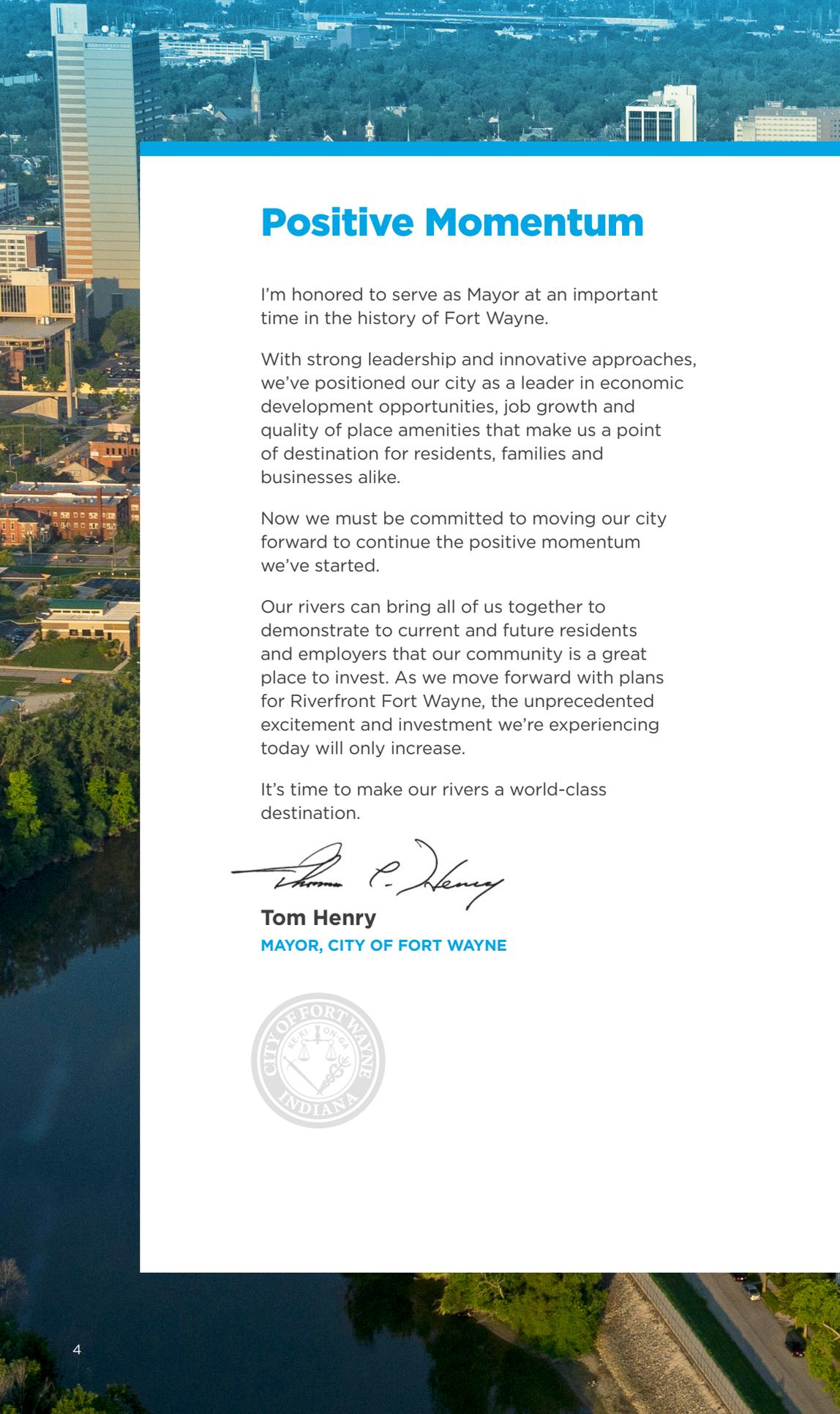
Northeast Indiana's  
three rivers are timeless.

The Maumee, St. Joseph and St. Marys rivers have unified our region for centuries, bringing people together in downtown Fort Wayne for commerce, community and cultural enhancement.

Today, we arrive at the riverbanks with high expectations. An appetite for adventure, or a yearning for solitude. A need to connect with our heritage, or a restless desire to never see the same view twice.

As our region embarks on Phase 1 of the Riverfront Fort Wayne master plan, we can make our rivers a powerful, unifying force in our region and a source of pride for generations to come.





# Positive Momentum

I'm honored to serve as Mayor at an important time in the history of Fort Wayne.

With strong leadership and innovative approaches, we've positioned our city as a leader in economic development opportunities, job growth and quality of place amenities that make us a point of destination for residents, families and businesses alike.

Now we must be committed to moving our city forward to continue the positive momentum we've started.

Our rivers can bring all of us together to demonstrate to current and future residents and employers that our community is a great place to invest. As we move forward with plans for Riverfront Fort Wayne, the unprecedented excitement and investment we're experiencing today will only increase.

It's time to make our rivers a world-class destination.



**Tom Henry**

**MAYOR, CITY OF FORT WAYNE**



## Phase by Phase

As Executive Director of Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation, I'm looking forward to being part of an effort that will transform our community and region.

Since Phase 1 of the Riverfront Fort Wayne master plan is focused on public spaces in a park setting, the Board of Park Commissioners and I have been given the charge to oversee the build out of these initial projects. Development will occur along the south and north banks of the St. Marys River between Harrison Street and the Historic Wells Street Bridge. It is our mission to see that the Riverfront project is welcoming and accessible to people of all abilities and all means in our region. Construction could start in mid-to-late 2017 with completion in late 2018.

The construction investment will not exceed \$20 million with potential funding sources coming from Regional Cities, the City's Legacy Fund, private contributions and resources from the previous allocation of funding approved by City Council. After these initial public spaces are complete, we anticipate private investment will occur to continue growth in areas surrounding the riverfront park.

In the meantime, we'll continue our proactive programming efforts that are very popular with residents and visitors, helping people see the beauty and uniqueness of our three rivers unlike ever before.



**Al Moll**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FORT WAYNE PARKS & RECREATION**



FORT WAYNE  
PARKS AND  
RECREATION



# The Story of Our Rivers



## Always moving.

Our three rivers flow. They ramble and they roll; they roam and they rush. They rise. Their sound becomes a rhythm, becomes a beat — a heartbeat.

They breathe life into our community. They breathe commerce. Adventure. And romance.

On these banks, we're at our best — recognizing our past, but creating a new momentum. Forward.

Our rivers brought us here. Today, we're in the middle of a powerful story, and tomorrow looks even better.

In Northeast Indiana and downtown Fort Wayne, we're just like our rivers: *Always moving.*

### MISSION

Riverfront Fort Wayne exists to delight, energize and unite our entire community through moving experiences and extraordinary places.

### VISION

Riverfront Fort Wayne will evolve and develop to become a center of activity and a powerful source of regional pride—nationally recognized for its unique and vibrant character.

### OUR PROMISE

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

# Residents Asked. Phase 1 Answered.

Riverfront Fort Wayne's Phase 1 plans are the direct result of public input about what makes our rivers a powerful source of local pride with vibrant character.

In recent years, residents have explored the rivers' recreational and cultural benefits with pontoon rides, kayak outings, Dragon Boat races, riverfront concerts, walking tours and more.

Now the growing interest in these activities voiced at public input sessions has shaped the two primary objectives of Phase 1 plans.



## Urban Waterfront Features

Some of the key assets residents want to see on our riverfront are urban waterfront features where they can dine, drink, listen to music and attend events. The Historic Wells Street Bridge currently hosts events, and our plans for Phase 1 development expand urban features on the south bank of the river.



## Recreation and Exploration

Another critical asset residents want to see on the riverfront is enhanced access to the river for recreation and exploration. Since Fort Wayne Outfitters has already pioneered a successful watersports business at the Old Cass Street Depot on the north bank of the river, Phase 1 will also expand natural developments and river activities in this area.

Together, these plans create an authentic, iconic waterfront experience that is the ultimate destination residents have envisioned.

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD

MLK BRIDGE

HEADWATERS PARK

**NORTH ANCHOR RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT**

NORTH BANK

HARRISON STREET BRIDGE

HISTORIC WELLS STREET BRIDGE

SOUTH BANK

SUPERIOR LOFTS

THE LANDING

FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART

RANDALL LOFTS

ANTHONY WAYNE BUILDING

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS

BERRY ST. PEDESTRIAN LINK

ASH BROKERAGE

WAYNE ST. PEDESTRIAN LINK

SKYLINE TOWER

AEP PLAZA

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DOWNTOWN EVENT CENTER

GRAND WAYNE CONVENTION CENTER

JEFFERSON BLVD.

THE HARRISON

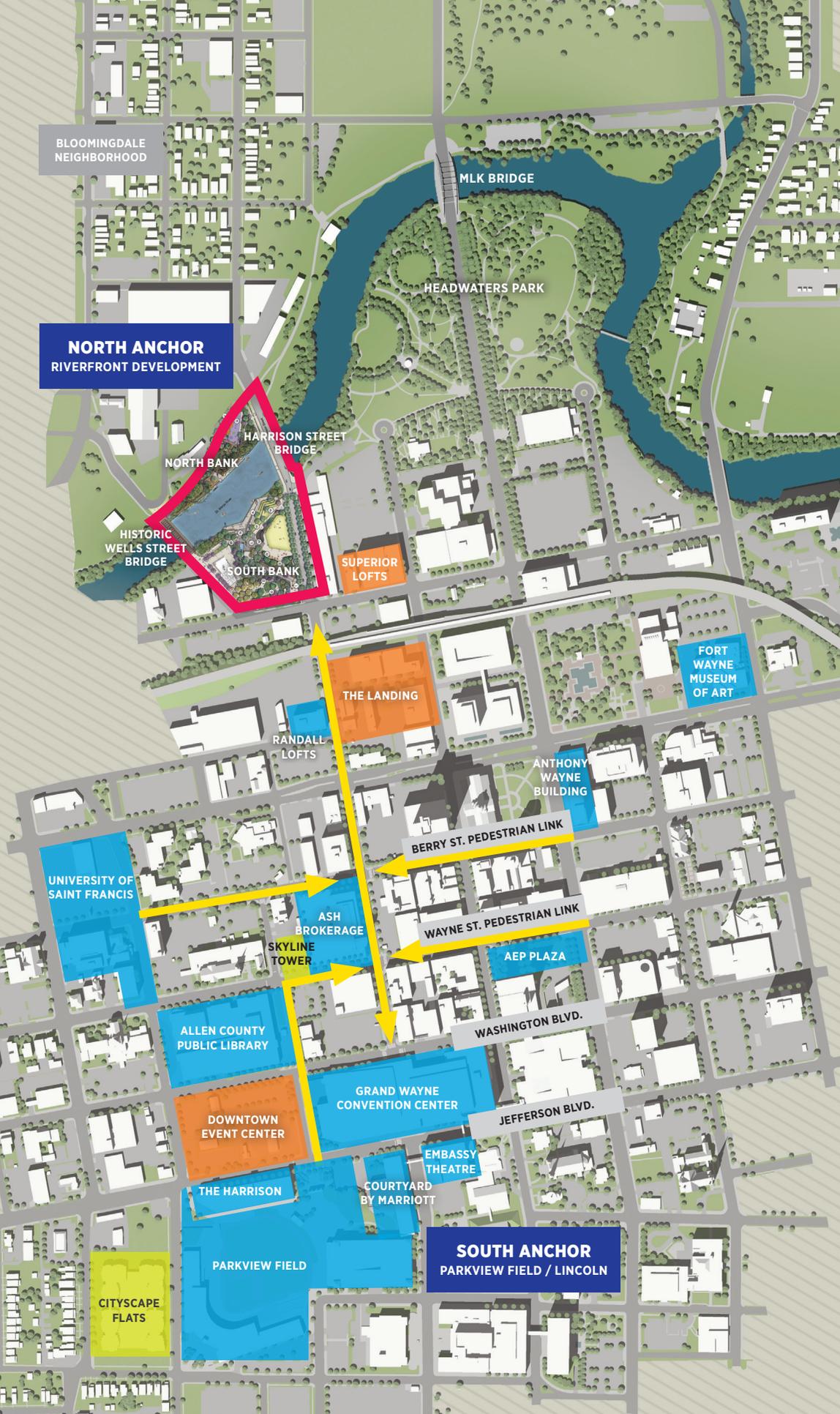
EMBASSY THEATRE

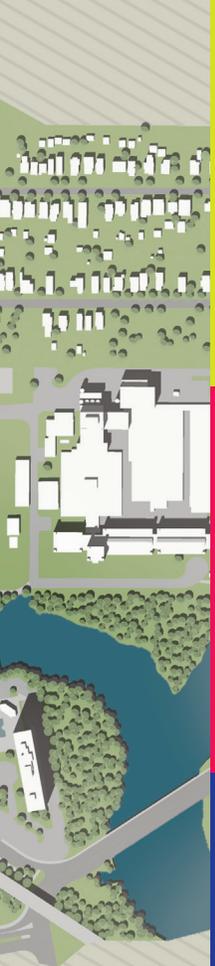
COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

**SOUTH ANCHOR PARKVIEW FIELD / LINCOLN**

PARKVIEW FIELD

CITYSCAPE FLATS





 COMPLETED

 IN PROCESS

 PROPOSED

Phase 1 of Riverfront Fort Wayne is part of a broader blueprint for revitalizing downtown Fort Wayne. This new world-class park is intended to help position our rivers as part of a larger network of destinations in Fort Wayne, including Parkview Field, downtown museums, The Landing, Headwaters Park and future developments like Headwaters Junction.

# Envisioning Tomorrow: Phase 1 Developments



# South Bank

## Urban Waterfront Features

The south bank of the riverfront is designed around social interaction, special occasions and everyday outings. Its urban waterfront features include a variety of indoor and outdoor meeting spaces that range from small and intimate to large and spacious.



- 1 Promenade plaza**
- 2 Compass pavilion**
- 3 Superior Street gardens**
- 4 Entry plaza with signage**
- 5 Urban bioswale**
- 6 Educational water feature**
- 7 Urban streetscape**
- 8 Urban riverfront terraces**
- 9 Interactive sculpture**



# North Bank

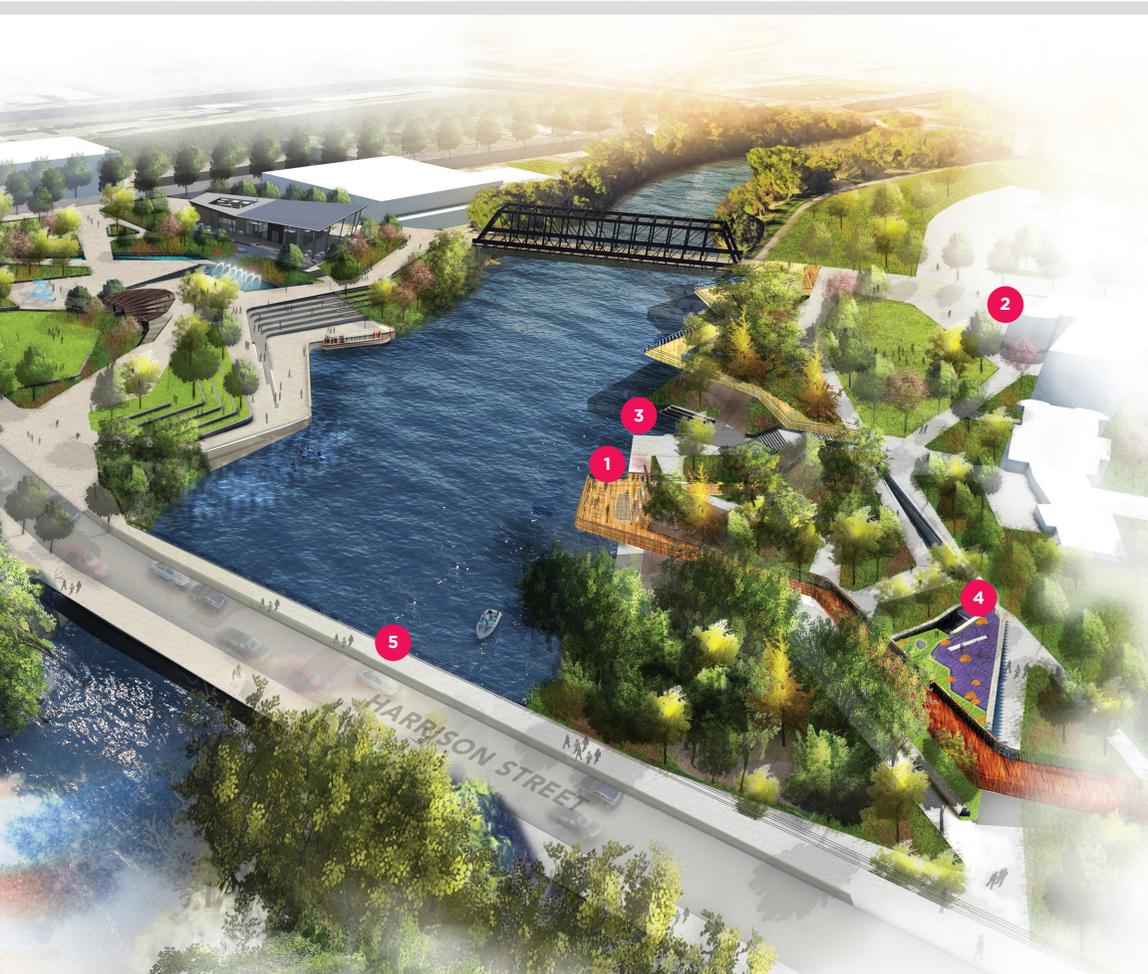
## Recreation and Exploration

The tree-lined north bank of the river leverages the Rivergreenway trail system with enhancements on the Harrison Street Bridge to expand the river's recreation and exploration opportunities. It builds on this bank's role as a center of outdoor activities.



- 1 Elevated boardwalk**
- 2 Surrounding buildings**
- 3 Boating docks and ramps**
- 4 Children's play area**
- 5 Harrison Street Bridge expansion**







### **FACES OF THE FORT**

In 2016, community artists challenged people of all ages and abilities to see our rivers in a different way. They led public painting sessions in which residents helped paint faces on more than 200 beach balls. Then the beach balls were hung from the bridges in downtown Fort Wayne, and a few special, oversized beach balls were installed on the rivers in a floating display.

### **MIDDLE WAVES**

Northeast Indiana's first destination music festival lit up the banks of the St. Marys River for a wildly successful inaugural year in September 2016. The festival was headlined by three-time GRAMMY winners, The Flaming Lips, and it featured three stages with more than 30 national and local performances, plus free pontoon rides, kayak trips, food and art vendors, pop-up performances and more.

### **RIVER CLEANUPS**

The Friends of the Parks of Allen County have rallied volunteers to clean up and beautify our downtown rivers with the "Revealing Our Rivers" initiative, which started in 2014. The City of Fort Wayne has also hosted the Great American Cleanup for the past 20 years, encouraging citizens to demonstrate civic pride by cleaning littered roadsides, parks, trails and river ways.



# Today: Programming and Events

Our rivers are already a popular regional destination. Riverfront Fort Wayne hosts a series of regular, diverse programs and events to help residents enjoy and explore our rivers right now.



## STORYTIME ON THE BRIDGE

Kids of all ages have gathered for weekly summer songs, stories, rhymes and more on the Historic Wells Street Bridge overlooking the Phase 1 development area. These gatherings have helped families engage with the rivers in new ways.

## NATURE WALKS

Whether it's bike rides, early bird nature tours or just leisurely strolls, residents have enjoyed regular, hour-long tours along the banks of the St. Marys River guided by Fort Wayne Trails.

## WATER QUALITY EVENTS

Riverfront Fort Wayne has hosted Riverfront Education public information sessions to teach residents about the quality of water in our three rivers. At these sessions, community leaders have shared what is being done to improve the rivers' water quality, and guests have been invited to share their ideas.



**THERE'S MORE TO COME!** This is only the beginning. With more investment in our rivers and greater access to public spaces, Riverfront Fort Wayne can expand its offerings, and the possibilities are endless.



## Summary

**Our rivers help our region tell a powerful story — one that reminds us of our past, gets us excited about our future and engages us in action to bring our plans to fruition.**

In addition to creating an iconic public space, one of the primary objectives of public expenditures on Riverfront Fort Wayne is to drive private investment in land development downtown.

Phase 1 improvements will involve public and private dollars coming together to create a new regional destination. The city's expenditures will be complemented by funds from the Regional Cities Initiative, the Community Foundation and other private entities, including corporations, institutions and individuals.

Funding the initial riverfront improvements is a means to attract private investment on parcels surrounding public land and open space. In this way, some of the items identified by the community during the master planning process, such as restaurants, shops and urban housing, can be realized. The goal is for this to be the first of many phases of investment in and along our rivers for years to come.

**With your support, we can take action on Phase 1 of the Riverfront Fort Wayne master plan, making years of plans and ideas a reality.**

The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, Inc. has been an important partner in helping raise funds for this transformational riverfront park which will become a reality in the near future.

We appreciate the visionary donors to the Community Foundation who have contributed to this exciting public/private collaboration. If you would like to invest in making Riverfront Fort Wayne a world-class destination, you can join these donors with your own tax-deductible contribution.

Send your donation to:

Fort Wayne Park Foundation  
P.O. Box 13201  
Fort Wayne, IN 46867



RENDERING OF PROMENADE ON SOUTH SIDE OF ST. MARYS RIVER WITH COMPASS PAVILION IN BACKGROUND.





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**RIVERFRONTFW.ORG**

Proudly part of Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation.

