

## Steve McDaniel – Director

- ◆ September was a full month of programming which included the Johnny Appleseed Festival, the Salomon Farm Fall Festival, World River Days at Promenade Park, and the FitLot Celebration at the downtown Community Center to name just a few things.
- ◆ Four staff members attended the NRPA's National Conference. These staff members needed CEUs for their certifications. We are looking at several items from the conference to try and implement in the coming year.
- ◆ Several staff members attended the Norther District meeting for the IPRA. In the education session, we learned about an alternative funding method by the State of Indiana for Parks improvements.
- ◆ I attended the Mayor's Press Conference to announce the 2023 City Budget. This meeting kicked off the budget cycle discussions with City Council. Sandra and I presented the Parks and Recreation budget on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Discussion and final passage are scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ We celebrated two employees (Mike Gore & Kaye Callow) who have been with the department for 25 years this year. They were inducted into our Quarter Century Club. We also celebrated one employee (Kathy Pargmann) who has been with the department for 35 years. There is a total of 13 members in the club.
- ◆ We closed out our Theater season with two performances this month. The first was the Philharmonic with music from Jurassic Park. The second was country singer Brett Eldredge. It was a good season. Tim and his staff took on the concession and bar operations besides dealing with all of the performers.
- ◆ I attended the Harvester Neighborhood Association meeting to discuss the REA Magnet property on Pontiac Street. I received some input from the association on how they would like to view the property in the future.
- ◆ Several of the staff members attended a class on Cybersecurity Threats held by the City's computer consultant, Resultant. This started a quarterly computer meeting schedule held by that company.
- ◆ I met with a few staff members from Visit Fort Wayne to discuss how our two organizations can collaborate in the future. Also, I was able to meet with their new CEO Jill Boggs.

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

### ◆ **Salomon Farm Park**

- Old Barn Restoration work began the week of July 11, 2022. This project was scheduled for about 6 weeks of work, weather permitting, and was complete in time for Concert on the Farm on August 21, 2022.
- Sunflower fields and flower fields have been planted. The limited amount of rain in the area in June and July was concerning, sparking discussion of potential irrigation for the future. This had a major

effect on the front field (seen from Dupont Rd.), which was designated for photographers. Due to the lack of rain, the weeds in the field grew much faster than the sunflowers stunting their growth. This field was not as vibrant as in previous years so the decision to mow the field was made in mid-July. The focus was placed on the 6-acre plot by the Heritage Barn, the U-pick fields. With more rain in the area, August and September blooms looked promising. The first quarter of the field had sunflowers blooming in late – early August. U-pick hours remained the same in August. Scheduled U-pick hours were Wednesday through Friday from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm and Saturdays from 11:00 am – 7:00 pm.

- Annual Concert on the Farm took place on Sunday, August 21 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Old Barn. Three new bands were featured at Concert on the Farm this year. Cassie Beer from Rosalind and the Way opened the concert followed by Rogues & Bandits and the headliners were Debutants. Patrons were encouraged to bring their chairs due to limited seating in the Old Barn, gates opened around 3:30 pm and admission was \$5 per person. Food was available for purchase from Shigs In Pit and alcohol beverages were available from Mad Anthony's. Paid attendance was 310 people versus 175 in 2021.
- The Annual Fall Harvest Festival was Friday, September 23, 2022, from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm and Saturday, September 24, 2022, from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. This was a two-day celebration of the history and culture of the American farm. Event admission was free and open to all ages. Traditional activities included: interaction with farm animals, hands-on activities, antique farm equipment demonstration throughout Friday and Saturday, horse-drawn tractor rides, tractor rides, learn to drive a tractor, kids barrel rides, Farmers' Market Saturday only, Antique Tractor Parade Saturday at noon and the Applejack cloggers performances on Saturday. The event sponsor was Fort Financial Federal Credit Union.
  - New additions to the festival in 2022:
    - Hooley Pony Rides – The paddock pasture provided a wonderful space for the kids to circle while on the pony rides as the staff guided.
    - Poplar Gap provided Bluegrass music in the Heritage Barn on Saturday.
    - On Saturday, patrons enjoyed watching dog frisbee demonstrations provided by Summit City Disc Dogs.
    - Sunflower u-pick was available on both days during the festival.
    - Fiber Art vendors joined the Festival with their fiber demonstration and items for sale in the Old Barn.
    - Our double gate system allowed for hands-on interaction with the goats. This was extremely popular on Friday and Saturday.
    - Face painting was available on Saturday.
- The last Salomon Farmers' Market was on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. In 2022 we saw a total attendance of 5,062 which was an increase from the 2021 attendance of 3,508. In 2022 we average 389 people per market.

◆ **Sweet Breeze**

- 39 public tours were conducted for August. The average ridership was 24 in August 2022 compared to 34 public tours in August 2021 with an average ridership of 31.
- 37 public tours were conducted for September. The average ridership was 31 in September 2022 compared to 35 public tours in September 2021. The average ridership in September 2021 was 32.
- One specialty tour was scheduled. The theme was Fall Equinox Tour which was on Thursday, September 22 from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm. This tour included live Irish folk music by Carrie White and Matt Katinsky with cider and donuts. 23 of 28 seats were purchased for this tour at a rate of \$35 per seat.
- Sweet Breeze tours will wrap up with three themed tours scheduled for Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The boat will be pulled and winterized shortly after these tours.

◆ **Johnny Appleseed**

- Johnny Appleseed closed for the annual Johnny Appleseed Festival. The campground closed on Sunday, September 11, 2022, and reopened Wednesday, September 21, 2022.
- The campground will remain open for the first week of November for the Old Fort Cluster Dog Show.

◆ **McMillen Park Community Center**

- In August there was a 47% decrease in youth attendance. The decrease was due to the building being closed for annual clean-up and youth returning to school. Currently, we are offering homework assistance, free play, and Kid's Café. All other programs and services will resume in October. In September, there was a 48% decrease in youth attendance. The decrease is due to youth returning to school and not having transportation from the school to the center.
- To be at the full staff we would need to hire 7 more staff. 5 Seasonal Program Coordinators and 1 part-time maintenance staff. There were no new applicants in August.
- Percinta Hunter was promoted from Coordinator to Supervisor at McMillen Park Community Center.

**Community Youth Centers**

- The Youth Centers were closed from August 1-5, 2022 for their annual shut down. Both Jennings and Weisser supervisors have been doing some extensive cleaning of the buildings to create more space and remove things that have been stored for many years that can no longer be used.
- Fort Wayne Community Schools began August 10<sup>th</sup>- This is the schedule we follow for the Youth program. August is a "regroup" month for the youth. They do various activities and small programs which lead up to our full program beginning on Sept. 6, 2022.
- Supervisors and staff attended the annual Kids Café training at Community Harvest Food Bank on August 8<sup>th</sup>
- Mr. Dmitri and Ms. Davis continue to work on new relationships for more outreach to be brought in. this is especially important now as we are short on staff. Joel Bowerman is currently "stationed" at Weisser park Youth center due to only having one staff there at this time. He does the cooking and also some recreation daily.

- Mr. Ayers, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Chuck met with Mr. Dave Weadock at Jennings on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> to review potential improvements that could be completed by November, for the Wassail and the celebration of the 75yr anniversary of Jennings.
- Each site received new office furniture (desk, file cabinet, chair). The sites had not had new furniture in over 20 years. They have always received “hand me down” items for the building so this was a very much-needed and welcoming purchase.
- We will also start our E-gaming program with each center playing at the center level to begin then tournaments against the other center. They are excited to begin playing on the SWITCH game unit. Mr. Dmitri gave all the supervisors and managers a tutorial on how to work the unit. We will also begin our entrepreneur/skills-building program where the youth learn how to make T-shirts on the Cricut machine.
- On September 30<sup>th</sup> Community Youth Centers partnered with Fort4Fitness for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. The youth and staff participated in the Kid's last mile, where they went out to Parkview field and walk/ran the last mile of a marathon. Each site had been practicing with a specific exercise and short running program to get ready for this event. The youth enjoy being out in the community with all the other youth and participants. At the end of the mile, once they cross the finish line, they receive a medal for completion. It is awesome to see their faces as they complete their task of the last mile.

### **Food Service**

- Assisted Chef Carl during Ivy Tech's culinary program on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:00 PM. The program allowed youth the opportunity to learn kitchen etiquette and safety as well as sample some tasty toppings like sweet potato parfait, acai, citric acid, jam, and the favorite whipped cream all prepared by Chef Carl. Next month we'll be creating our fruit smoothies
- Staff attended Community Harvest Food Bank's Agency Day on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-11:00 AM. We the department in front of around fifty (50) other agencies let them know how Kid's Café works and answer any questions about the program. This was a great way to engage with people and organizations in our community providing exposure and promoting the department
- Kid's Café Meals & Snacks Served September 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022:
  - Jennings – 208 meals / 118 snacks
  - McMillen – 337 meals / 140 snacks
  - Weisser – 553 meals / 580 snacks

### **Community Center**

- A summer volunteer appreciation party was held on August 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm at the Community Center with 53 volunteers in attendance. This party was a very informal potluck party. We provided the shredded chicken sandwiches and drinks and the volunteers brought sides and desserts. This was a great opportunity for staff and volunteers to interact and participate in a variety of fun activities together
- Staff participated and help organize the Senior Information Fair that was held on September 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am-2:00 pm at Turnstone. Approximately 1000 attended.

- AARP hosted their COVID-delayed grand opening of the FitLot at the Community Center. Attendees had a chance to

### **Riverfront Monthly Report**

- As Summer begins to conclude at Promenade Park, August has proven how many people come to the Park for Riverfront Programs along with partnered events/programs that utilize the Park during this Month. The August attendance of 12,457 from Events/Programs at Promenade Park was the highest amount of attendance this year. With organizations like Arts United Taste of the Arts and the City of Fort Wayne Street Department's Open Street, the Park was filled with people attending downtown Fort Wayne events. Open Streets included many vendors in the space along with live music from the "School of Rock" in the Sweetwater Bandshell. Taste of the Arts included live music throughout the entire day in the Park Foundation Pavilion and the Sweetwater Bandshell. It also had food trucks on Harrison Street and vendors throughout the Park. Along with other organizations utilizing the Park, Riverfront held its biggest event of River, Set, Go! Featuring the Fort Wayne Dragon Boat Races attracting 4,000 people to the Park. The event was held on a beautiful day and began with the Chinese Friends and Family Cultural elements that kicked off the racing on the St. Mary's River. River, Set, Go! programs included children's activities, food trucks, floating yoga, and live music that concluded with the lighting of the fire pits on the river. August also shows the conclusion of Riverfront Events of the Muddy River Concert Series and River Rangers.
- Riverfront programming began to slow down moving into September with our usual Yoga on the Riverfront and Sunday Heritage Concert Series. The American Legion played once again in the pavilion during the "Be a Tourist in Your Hometown" event hosted by Visit Fort Wayne. Bad weather on September 11<sup>th</sup> played a major factor in a decline of attendees for Promenade Park with most activities being outdoors during this time. We took advantage of the pavilion overhang to create a spot to get out of the rain for great activities. On September 24<sup>th</sup> we hosted "Free Family Fishing Day" at the North side dock. A colder morning did not stop attendees from coming out to this great event held on the DNR no fishing license day. September 24<sup>th</sup> was also the first day of World Rivers Day: Clean Drains Fest with children's activities and Family Movie Night with the playing of "Finding Nemo" on the Auer Lawn. The next day continued World Rivers Day: Clean Drains Fest with a large number of people taking advantage of discounted Sweet Breeze tickets along with live music, vendors, and educational demonstrations in the Park. The event was well attended even with unpredictable weather.
- The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation "Park Paddlers" participated in the Dragon Boat Races and placed 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Riverfront team met with several participating dragon boat teams to get their feedback from the River Set Go event to help plan for improvements next year.

### **Golf Courses**

- Gary Whitacre stated that Foster Park GC hosted the Concordia Invitational which had a total of nineteen (19) teams. That's a minimum of ninety-five (95) players and numerous spectators. Jason Smith stated that numerous coaches and spectators were very complimentary about the condition of the course as well as how organized it was.
- Tom Mizzell, Bryan Keister, and Jason Smith are making progress in continuing to replace all of the bad batteries in the golf carts as they are available. This is making a huge difference in maximizing the revenue for rentals. They will continue until all of the bad batteries have been replaced.
- One of the main irrigation motors at Foster Park GC burned up. The approximate date for rebuilding and replacement is four (4) weeks. Bryan Keister stated that they are still able to water the golf course effectively, it just takes more time.
- Gary Whitacre stated that there has been a large uptick in outings, especially at Foster Park GC. The official number for 2022 and the increase from previous years will be reported at the end of the season. The majority of the outings have already requested dates for 2023.

### **Aquatics**

- Daryn Schwartz reported that Northside and McMillen Pools have closed for the season. He also stated that it was a good season and there were minimal days that the facilities had to close due to staffing issues. Overall the staff was very thin but worked exceptionally hard to insure the safety of the patrons.

### **Lifetime Sports Academy**

- Jason Smith reported that the Lifetime Sports Academy wrapped up the twenty-fourth (24) active years of the program. The program finished with seven hundred and eighty (781) participants registered. This was an increase over 2021. Jason stated that even with the extreme temperatures the kids still came out and participated regularly.

### **City Tennis Tournament**

- Jason Smith stated that the City Tennis Tournament finished on August 4, 2022. He reported that there was a total of one hundred and seven (107) participants that competed in ten (10) different divisions. He also stated that for the first time there were no women's singles or doubles divisions. Women's overall participation has been declining for years. After much discussion over several years, no one seems to be able to figure out a way to grow participation.
- Jason Smith also stated that a new format was implemented for the Singles and Doubles formats this year. The divisions were played on two (2) separate weekends instead of during the week with the rest of the events. He stated that the purpose was to try and attract more players. The results were positive, adding four (4) additional players to the Men's Open Singles as well as bringing back the Open Mixed Doubles. The hope is that in 2022 the dates and format will be in place early enough that players can get the

tournament on their calendars. Jason also stated that there are other changes that he would like to get in place but details need to be worked out.

### General Items

- Several Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Staff attended the Indiana Parks and Recreation Northern District meeting hosted by New Haven Parks and Rec. on September first. Staff got a chance to see how they received funding for their recent improvements including a new playground, outside patio, and pickleball courts.
- In addition to planning fall and winter events, the Staff is working on their 2023 goals, capital projects, and seasonal staffing recruitment strategies.

## Sandra Odisho, CPA – Manager, Finance

- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 262 employees (126 full-time and 136 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending September 24, 2022, and paid on September 30, 2022
- ◆ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing, or in the process of being hired, as of September 30, 2022:
  - Forestry Division (Fund 121) – Three positions
  - Program Manager – Safety & Training (Fund 121)
  - Grounds Equipment Supervisor (Fund 121)
  - Maintenance Tech II (Fund 121)
  - Project Management Technician (Fund 121)
- ◆ The Finance and Support Services Division welcomed two new employees on September 2, 2022, and we have been busy getting them trained in their new positions:
  - Payroll and Accounts Payable Specialist, Tiffany Krizo
  - Front Office Registration Specialist, Maxine King.
- ◆ Pavilion rental is still going strong in September. Almost all the enclosed pavilions were reserved every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in September, and almost all of the open pavilions were reserved every Saturday and Sunday in September
- ◆ Set up an email survey to go to all pavilion renters. In the past pavilion, renters have been given a survey to fill out when picking up their pavilion key codes. Renters now receive this information by email without having to come into the office.
- ◆ Met with Kathy, Marketing Lead, to discuss changes to the Pavilion Rental Refund Policy. The recommended changes will be presented to the Board at the October Board Meeting
- ◆ Added 14 additional boat tours for the Friends of the River event at Promenade Park on September 24th and 25th. These tours were \$5 each and sold out quickly
- ◆ Wrapped up the Foellinger Theatre ticket sales on Friday, September 23rd.

- ◆ The completed 2023 Budget was due in mid-July to the Controller's Office. The 2023 Budget was introduced to City Council in September with Council Departmental Budget meetings and Budget passage occurring in October
- ◆ The Parks and Recreation Department paid 328 employees (125 full-time, 203 regular part-time, and seasonal) for the payroll ending August 13, 2022, and paid on August 19, 2022.
- ◆ We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, or in the process of being filled:
  - Forestry Division (Fund 121) – Four positions
  - Grounds Equipment Operator (Fund 121)
  - Maintenance Tech II (Fund 121)
  - Manager VI - Safety / Operations (Fund 121)
  - Security (Fund 451)
  - Project Management Technician (Fund 121)
- ◆ The Finance and Support Services Division welcomes two new employees:
  - Payroll and Accounts Payable Specialist, Tiffany Krizo. Her first day on the job was September 2, 2022.
  - She comes to us from Petco Stores where she was an Assistant Manager.
  - Front Office Registration Specialist, Maxine King. Her first day on the job was also September 2, 2022.
  - She comes to us from Parkview Hospital where she worked as a Procedure Scheduler.
- ◆ Both of these new employees are great additions to our staff and we are so glad that they joined our Team!
- ◆ We began taking registrations for the Fall Fun Times on August 3rd. There are lots of great fall programs in this brochure! September through November programs is covered in this brochure.
- ◆ Pavilion reservations are still going strong and all of our 21 pavilions were reserved every Saturday, Sunday, and Monday in August.
- ◆ Sweet Breeze ticket sales are still going strong. We are currently selling tickets for tours through the 2nd weekend of October.
- ◆ The Foellinger Theatre ticket sales have been selling well and the concert season is winding down with only a couple of concerts left in September: Jurassic Park in concert with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and Brett Eldredge.
- ◆ The completed 2023 Budget was due in mid-July to the Controller's Office. The 2023 Budget will be introduced to City Council in September with Council Departmental Budget meetings and Budget passage occurring in October.

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

### ◆ Facilities Management

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **279** for September. This is up from **299** in August.



## Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department Staff Reports as presented on Thursday October 13, 2022

- Route workers have begun removing supplies from facilities that have been shut down for the winter. This will continue through October as the 14 summer facilities are winterized.
- Weekly pressure washing was completed at the Promenade Park water rill, concessions trailer for Salomon Park, McCulloch Park's bandstand, McMillen Park's playground equipment, and Foster Park's plastic white fence, close to the golf pro shop.
- Graffiti was removed at the Lawton Park skate park, Promenade Park's playground restrooms, Lakeside Park's pavilion #1 restrooms, McCormick Park's Splash pad restrooms, and Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge.
- The Johnny Appleseed festival set up and tear down went on without a hitch.
- The Lawton Park garage office was remodeled to better accommodate the incoming new manager.
- A new irrigation pump was installed in the Foster Park golf course.
- Repair work on the Community Center Christmas light displays has begun. The installation will take place towards the end of October.
- Weisser Park's shelter had to be completely repainted due to graffiti covering the entire structure.
- The process of turning the water off and winterizing facilities and amenities has begun. This will shut down the non-heated rental facilities, irrigation systems, and drinking fountains.
- Toilet tank lids had to be replaced due to vandalism at PSI-OTE Park's shelter.
- Lights at Foster Park's tennis court were replaced.
- Cabinetry at the Botanical Conservatory was removed to make room for the new interactive space that will be installed.
- A memorial plaque was installed at the base of the "Megaflora" sculpture at the Botanical Conservatory.
- The exterior restroom doors at the Salomon Park learning center and Waynedale Park pavilion restrooms were repainted.
- A new irrigation pump motor was installed at the McMillen Park Lifetime Sports Academies' par 3 golf course.
- Playground repairs continue at several parks as parts and materials become available.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
  - 6 Alarms calls
  - 11 Paint projects
  - 2 Building maintenance repairs
  - 10 Carpentry repairs
  - 34 Electrical repairs
  - 7 HVAC maintenance issues
  - 1 Key core maintenance repairs
  - 20 Light Maintenance
  - 4 Lock maintenance issues
  - 5 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
  - 25 Plumbing maintenance issues
  - 5 Sign replacements
  - 23 Vandalism issues
- There were 55 after-hours calls: 1, key issue: 1 tree issue: 3 lock calls: 23 code problems: 3 trash calls: 1 power issue: 1 water issue: 6 calls about items left in a pavilion: 2 parking problems: 1 alarm call: 1 light issue: 2 water rill problems: 1 call about a fire: and 9 miscellaneous calls.
- Receiving quotes for replacing a light pole that was knocked over by a patron at the downtown Community Center.
- Lan Con electric was hired to install 3 electrical outlets at the Salomon Farm for campers to stay during the Johnny Appleseed festival.
- Getting quotes for a security system at the Ray property
- DME elevator made repairs to the lift at the Foellinger Theater.
- Permits were renewed for three of our four elevators.
- Infinity glass replaced the glass in the barn at the Lawton Complex.
- Schenkel was hired to make repairs to the restrooms at McMillen Pavilion due to a fire.
- VFP continues to do annual fire alarm inspections.
- Arrow fence was hired to fix the fence at the Foster volleyball court that was damaged during the storm

## ◆ **Grounds Maintenance**

- Heavy Equipment has begun the chore of going through 75 years of items to get ready for the big move.
- Heavy equipment started on wood mulch safety surfacing work in some of our playgrounds.
- The team has continued to help the Zoo with hauling animal refuse to Lake avenue.
- The mowing cycle is currently at 7 to 8 days.
- Athletic fields have been watered periodically this month.
- The football fields at Lawton were repainted.
- Foster west soccer is done for the year and the grass has been reseeded.
- The garbage truck is running Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- A water main leak at Franke Park was repaired.
- The new hill by the overflow project at Franke Park was mowed.
- Trash cans and bike racks were delivered and picked up at Lakeside Park for their neighborhood picnic.

## ◆ **Project Administration**

- Botanical Conservatory Window Glass 2022 – Project completed.
- Botanical Conservatory Gift Shop Wall – Project completed.
- Bowser Park Pavilion – The project is scheduled to begin by the first week of October.
- Buckner Park LWCF Grant Project – The project is scheduled to begin in early October.
- Casselwood Park Playground Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project Phase 2 – Work starting end of September.
- Downtown Community Center Carpet Replacement – Project is out to bid.
- Foster Park Pavilion #3 Construction – Project punch list items being completed.
- Foster Park Golf Course – Final plans and cost estimate submitted to Parks.
- Franke Park Playground Drainage Project – Project completed.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress.
- Kreager Park Tennis Backboard and Fence – Project scheduled to begin in October.
- Lakeside Park Courts Lighting – Awaiting approval to begin.
- McMillen Golf Course Cart Paths Phase 2 – Construction has begun.
- McMillen Golf Course Pavilion Improvements – Project completed.
- McMillen and Meyers Park Tuckpointing – Pro shop work has been completed. Meyers Park works to begin in October.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Drawings nearing completion. Permitting in progress.
- Memorial Park Fort Wayne Daisies Monument – Final planning in progress.
- Rea Building Overhead Door – Currently out to bid.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. Additional work is ongoing at Heritage Barn.
- Salomon Farm Entrance – Plans in progress for improvements. Bidding is to occur in early 2023.
- Salomon Farm Garden Fence – Fence construction completed. Awaiting installation of gates.
- Salomon Farm Learning Center Office – Electrical improvements in progress.
- Sheldon Drive Playground – The playground is scheduled for installation in January.
- Shoaff Park Golf Pro Shop Flooring – Planning in progress.
- Various Parks 2022 Paving Projects – Projects completed. Awaiting final change order approval.
- Various Parks 2023 Paving Projects – Planning in progress
- Various Parks Monument Restoration – On going
- Various Parks Site Furnishings – Acquisition and installations in progress.
- Various Sidewalk Improvements – Project completed.
- Various Parks On-Call Engineering Services – The consultant is currently inspecting the pedestrian bridge at Foster Park West.
- Various Parks Pickleball Conversion – Foster, Lakeside, and Hamilton Parks completed. Kettler Park is in progress.

◆ **Other work:**

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

◆ **Storeroom, Property, & Safety**

- 128 work orders were scheduled this month, 16 of which were services.
- A solid waste rental Garbage truck was serviced by the garage techs.
- Riparian Truck #193 is just about finished at the Ford body shop having repairs done to the front end to fix damage from an accident in June of this year.
- A John Deere Gator for Kreager Park is set to be delivered soon.
- The first pieces of equipment from 2022 were delivered to Foster and McMillen golf courses.
- 2 tree trucks had their engines rebuilt and one required new bumper brackets to replace the ones damaged years prior when a log struck the front end.
- We are currently getting a quote from gasoline equipment to replace our old gas and diesel dispensers here at Lawton with basic replacement models. The old ones are obsolete and parts are hard to get.
- Seats for 6 facility route trucks are being recovered with replacement material and with new seat foam added as they have broken down after years of use.

○ **Storeroom and Property:**

- Staff assisted with the unloading of large pallets of potting soil for the greenhouse.
- Storeroom staff assisted with the setup of the Johnny Appleseed Festival by providing materials for the setup crews.
- Staff also helped Salomon Farm by providing tents for their annual Fall Festival.
- Garage and Storeroom staff have worked with Heavy Equipment to find storage locations for items from their barn and absorb some of their service items into the storeroom stock.

○ **Safety:**

- There was no safety committee meeting this month.

◆ **Facilities Management**

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **299** for **August**. This is up from **433** in July.
- Due to continued staff shortages, both relief workers are currently assigned to routes with a working leader covering multiple routes daily.
- Weekly pressure washing was completed at the Promenade Park water rill, Gullidlin Park and Shoaff Park boat ramps, and the docks at Promenade Park and Headwaters Park.
- Graffiti was removed at the Lawton Park skate park, Promenade Park's playground restrooms, Justin Study Park's playground, Reservoir Park's playground, and Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge.
- Route workers pressure-washed the following locations; Memorial Park's splash pad, Waynedale Park's shelter, Buckner Park's shelter, Shoaff Park's splash pad, and Foster Park's pavilion #1.
- New backboard panels were installed at both the Lions Park and Shoaff Park tennis courts to fix the damaged areas.
- Pump #2 in the Shoaff Park lift station was replaced.
- A trailer was converted into a basketball carnival game for the Salomon Park fall festival.
- Repairs were made to the Franke Park day camp building and longhouse following the 2022 season.
- Playground repairs are ongoing throughout several parks.
- An irrigation pump and motor were replaced at Foster Park golf course.

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- New thermostats were installed at the David Heffner pavilion at Franklin Park and Franke Park's pavilion #1.
- New lock cores were built and installed at the newly renovated Foster Park pavilion #3.
- Maintenance techs and contractors worked to repair Kreager Park's ball diamond lights.
- New lights were installed at the Foster Park volleyball court.
- Lakeside Park's pavilion #1 restrooms were re-painted due to vandalism.
- A new injector pump was installed at the Lawton Park greenhouse.
- The Freimann Square fountain pond had to be drained, cleaned, and refilled due to vandalism.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
  - 7 Alarms calls
  - 8 Paint projects
  - 8 Building maintenance repairs
  - 37 Carpentry repairs
  - 43 Electrical repairs
  - 21 HVAC maintenance issues
  - 10 Key core maintenance repairs
  - 35 Light Maintenance
  - 6 Lock maintenance issues
  - 54 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
  - 16 Plumbing maintenance issues
  - 13 Sign replacements
  - 13 Vandalism issues
- to begin by the first of October.
- Buckner Park LWCF Grant Project – The project is scheduled to begin in late September.
- Downtown Community Center Roof Project Phase 2 – Work beginning mid-September.
- Downtown Community Center Carpet Replacement – Planning in progress.
- Foster Park Pavilion #3 Construction – Project completion is planned for mid-September.
- Foster Park Golf Course – Architects submitted a plan for review. Final plans are forthcoming.
- Foster Park Tennis Court Construction Joint Renovation – Project completed.
- Franke Park Playground 5-12-Year-Old Equipment – Project completed.
- Franke Park Playground Drainage Project – Awaiting PO.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress.
- Kreager Park Tennis Backboard and Fence – Project scheduled to begin in September.
- Lakeside Park Courts Lighting – Awaiting approval to begin.
- McMillen Golf Course Cart Paths Phase 2 – Construction planned for October.
- McMillen Golf Course Pavilion Improvements – Construction to begin in September.
- McMillen and Meyers Park Tuckpointing – Pro shop and concrete pier work planned for September.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Drawings nearing completion. Permitting in progress.
- Memorial Park Fort Wayne Daisies Monument – Final planning in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. Additional work is ongoing at Heritage Barn.
- Salomon Farm Entrance – Plans in progress for improvements. Bidding is to occur in early 2023.
- Salomon Farm Garden Fence – Purchase order issued. Scheduled for September.
- Salomon Farm Learning Center Office – Electrical improvements in progress.
- Sheldon Drive Playground – Playground vendor selected.
- Weisser Park Youth Center Lobby Improvements – Project completed.
- Various Parks 2022 Paving Projects – Projects completed. Awaiting final change order approval.
- Various Basketball Courts Improvements – Project completed.
- Various Parks Monument Restoration – On going
- Various Parks Site Furnishings – Acquisition in progress.
- Various Sidewalk Improvements – Projects planned for September.

- Various Parks On-Call Engineering Services – The consultant is currently inspecting the pedestrian bridge at Foster Park West.
- Various Parks Pickleball Conversion – Foster and Lakeside Parks completed. Hamilton Park is in progress and Kettler Park is scheduled next.

### **Storeroom, Property, & Safety**

- Signs were fabricated for the Johnny Appleseed Festival indicating the dates that the dog park would be closed.
- Storeroom staff assisted in the closing of the pools, camps, and other summer programs by storing away materials from those activities.
- Staff also supported the grand opening of the new Powell Park and provided tools and other supplies for the multiple Day of Caring volunteer groups.
- Property Transactions:
 

Redmax Reciprocator (3)	P210, Loaner
Redmax Spin Trimmer (3)	P210, Loaner
Toro Snow Blower	From P270 to P240, Grounds
Demco Pump Sprayer	Scrapped
Giant K18IT Push Blower	Scrapped
Honda WX10TA Pump	P210, Loaner
Makita XNB0Z Nailer	P250, Repair and Construction
Toro 724 Snow Blower	P270, Conservatory
Toro 1428 Snow Blower	P295, Promenade
Stihl BR600 Blower	P250F, Facilities
Shindawa Spin Trimmer	Scrapped
- 2022 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:
 

Club Car Carry All (2)	22121100
John Deere Gator	22121099
John Deere Hydro 1200 Bunker Rake	Shipped
Lely Towed Spreader	Shipped
Toro Polartac	Req'd
Toro 7210 Zero Turn Mower (3)	Req'd
Toro Groundsmaster 4000 Mower	Req'd
Ford Ranger 4x4 Pickup	22121106
Ford F350 Chassis	22121106
Steel Flatbed for above	22121097
Ford F750 Chassis	22121101
Chip Body for Above	21121154
Ford F150 Pickup	22121106
Heavy Equipment Trailer	22121140
Wide Equipment Trailer (2)	Req'd
Ford F59 Chassis	Deferred to next year
Van Body	Deferred to next year
Toro 4000 Mower	Received
Ford Transit 250 Van	22121165
Ford Transit Connect Van	22121165

#### Garage Operations Highlights:

- 165 work orders were scheduled this month, 20 of which were services.

- One of the volunteer trailers from Kreager was transported to Lawton to verify its condition before being used at Salomon farm.
- Toro unit 586 came in from McMillen golf for a deck repair but multiple leaks and worn parts were replaced to get the unit ready to mow again.
- The Ford tractor from Franke was serviced to get it ready for the Johnny Appleseed festival.
- The first pieces of equipment from the 2022 lease are ready and will be on site from John Deere soon.
- The new riverfront Pontoon was entered into inventory with the trailer to come soon

The Safety Committee met on August 30, with eight members and a guest in attendance.

- There were five treatable personal injuries in this period, for a total of 13 for the year. OSHA recordable incidents total 12 for the year. 16 restricted days this period for current injuries, and the annual total stands at 274 for ten incidents. 43 lost days to date for one broken leg incident. Recorded worker compensation costs to date are \$13,987
- There was one property damage incident during this period and a total of 6 for the year. Total damages for the year are estimated at \$23,426.
- A class on detailed operation and maintenance of chainsaws for storm response was held at the end of August.
- Ken conducted a worker protection standard class for Horticulture.

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



### ◆ Planning Report – September 2022

- Permit drawings have been submitted to agencies for the Franke Park Renaissance: Phase I project, and construction drawings continue to move toward completion. It is anticipated that bidding will take place in October.
- Progress continues to be made on concrete walks and earthwork at the Riverfront Development: Phase IIA site. The placement of boulders continued concrete work, and some planting installation will take place in the coming weeks.
- Design Development estimates were completed by Hagerman for Riverfront Development: Phase IIB. The internal team is working through funding, potential donation targets, and value engineering to keep the project on target. The design team continues to work towards permit drawing/application submittal. Regular meetings are also taking place between the design team and private development teams for adjacent parcels.
- The Planning staff continues to meet with Designing Local, our consultant for the DNR Master Plan. The consultant team was in town to visit parks and meet with various staff in September. The plan is scheduled to be completed in January 2023.
- A design was completed for a paver installation project around the Sons of Glory Monument at Memorial Park. Bids were received late in the month; work is expected to be completed no later than May of 2023.
- The Anthony Wayne Monument (Freimann Square) and General Foster Monument (Swinney East) were both cleaned and waxed by Conservation of Sculpture and Objects Studios as part of their regular maintenance program.
- Landscape improvements were completed by Burley Landscape at Lakeside Park. Climbing roses were

removed from the columns at the arbors, while landscape beds were reduced. Yew hedges were planted in select areas with fewer new climbing roses being planted and new sod laid.

- Staff reviewed landscape drawings and made suggestions for changes to the McKinnie Commons project. This project, wholly led and managed by Community Development, has recently come under the purview of Parks as we will be taking over maintenance upon its completion.
- Progress continues toward the Master plan design for Moody Park. It is anticipated that this design will be completed this fall. Similarly, we continue to move towards design for Hanna Homestead; community input has been gathered and summarized, with design beginning soon.
- Staff met regularly with Conservatory management to discuss various agreements, staff training, marketing, showcase, and facility operations. In addition, the ongoing capital and operational project list were reviewed and updated, with several projects taking incremental steps forward towards bidding and completion; of note is an upcoming interior lighting project that will improve both safety and user experience.

#### ◆ **Horticulture and Landscape Report- September 2022**

- Landscape staff continued to apply post-emergent herbicides as needed.
- Turf restoration began on the Auer Lawn at Promenade Park.
- Landscape staff continued to remove downed limbs throughout the Park system.
- A new landscape consisting of shrubs and perennials was installed around the Pond Memorial in Memorial Park.
- Landscape staff spent time mulching Camp Canine/Johnny Appleseed, Shoaff Park, and Indian Village Park.
- Three wood duck boxes were installed in the wetland at Thomas Nature Sanctuary.
- Landscape staff began mowing Powell Park weekly.
- Gardeners completed their designs for their spring 2022 annual displays.
- All trees planted as part of the 2021 Park Tree contract were checked for health. Dead ones were noted and turned in to last year's contractor, Shade Trees Unlimited, who will be replacing them this fall as part of the warranty.
- CL&S was contracted to clear honeysuckle by using a forestry mower along the St. Mary's riverbank adjacent to the Foster West Soccer fields. The area is much improved and views have been opened up across the river to see the new Pavilion in Foster Park.
- Heartland Restoration was awarded a contract to install a native plant pollinator buffer around the pond at the Thomas Nature Sanctuary.
- Lawnscape continued with its annual mow maintenance contract.
- Lawnganics continued with their annual turf fertilization and weed control contract.
- The 2022 SCFVA wrapped up the year with the City-Wide Blue Ribbon Show held on September 10 at McMillen Community Center. There were 27 volunteers and 8 employees who judged the shows at 52 schools. The Blue Ribbon Show had 271 entries from 184 students representing 48 schools.

#### ◆ **Riparian Management Report- September 2022**

- Guldin boat ramp and surrounding rip rap were cleared, washed, and maintained. Bloomingdale river access points cleared. Woody debris and litter were cleared multiple times from Guldin, Headwaters, and Promenade docks.
- Removed several deadheads along the St Marys River, St Joseph, and Maumee River. Approximately 800 pounds of general debris/litter were removed from all three rivers in the Downtown area. Several chairs and scooters were removed at Promenade's south dock.



- Cleared Headwaters' viewshed by removing 1.66 tons of fallen tree debris.
- Assisted landscape gardeners with foliar treatments along the river's edge at Promenade. Applied seasonal foliar treatment to control Japanese knotweed along Maumee River and Junk Ditch.
- Began planning and coordination for an end-of-season haul of Sweet Breeze. Continued maintenance support for the operation of Sweet Breeze and coordinated departments, minor repairs, refueling, and pump outs.
- Actively recruiting organizations for volunteer clean-ups.

### ◆ **Forestry Report- September 2022**

- Summer storm cleanup is about 90% complete. Ongoing cleanup efforts are focused on the parks and golf courses. We anticipate releasing contracted storm response crews before the end of October.
- Our in-house crew continues focusing on high-priority service requests. Examples of these requests include tree pruning to resolve sight obstructions at street intersections, removal of limbs touching homes, and the removal of large dead limbs.
- In total, forestry received 139, 311 Call Center service requests during September. Each of these calls was inspected and necessary work was inventoried and prioritized. Crews completed 91 this month. Currently, there are 101 outstanding tree-related issues awaiting resolution.
- During September, contract and in-house crews completed 120 tree removals and removed broken/hanging tree limbs from 158 locations.
- 8 tree damage appraisals were completed this month resulting in \$4,200 in total damages.

### ◆ **Planning Report - Positive progress continues to be made on the Franke Park Renaissance: Phase I project. The team continues to move through construction documents, permitting, estimating, and detailing for the entirety of the project.**

- Riverfront Development: Phase IIA construction continues; progress has been made with concrete flatwork and earthwork, but little else as the site is still occupied by the developer to the north.
- The design and construction management teams continue to work towards permit and construction documents and estimating for Riverfront Development: Phase IIB. It is anticipated that we will have project estimates at the end of September.
- The Staff has been working with the Landscape and Horticulture Divisions to determine ways in which to increase efficiency and set realistic goals and expectations for our crews. This work is necessary to maintain morale among employees and to be able to meet minimum maintenance requirements in the parks- the addition of park space and reduction in seasonal staff over the past few years has put a strain on the division.
- City Utilities has shared design options for necessary sewer work at Foster Park; we continue to collaborate with them on this design and in determining impacts to the park and golf course.
- Four chess tables were purchased and installed at Freimann Square. In partnership with taking A Stan, FortChess, Purdue Extension, and Three Rivers Chess Club, we applied (but unfortunately missed out on) an AARP grant for the project. Regardless, we moved forward and completed the project; an event is being planned by these groups for early October to celebrate the installation.
- Chad attended the Indiana annual CISMA (cooperative invasive species management area) conference in Trafalgar, IN. Efforts have been made to start a formal CISMA in Allen County in the past but to no avail. However, there has recently been a renewed effort; we hope to see further cooperation soon.
- Designs were completed for both the Shoaff Park Riverlodge and Jennings Center Parking Lot landscape projects. Bids for these projects are due in September, with construction anticipated no later than May 2023.
- Staff met regularly with Conservatory management to discuss various agreements, staff training, marketing, showcase, and facility operations.



### ◆ **Horticulture and Landscape Report**

- With the steady rains this year, landscape staff continues to apply post-emergent herbicides to control continual weed growth.
- Landscape staff spent several days assisting Forestry crews by removing brush piles in the right of ways across the city due to storm damage. Landscape staff also spent time in the parks removing limbs from storms.
- Landscape staff loaded and hauled approximately 275 yards of mulch for volunteer projects this month. Memorial Park had two different events, one part of the day of caring. Volunteers also helped spread mulch at Reservoir park this month.
- Flower and vegetable judging began in the schools for the SCFVA.
- Trees and brush were cleared by Sycamore Tree Service off the pond dam at the Thomas Nature Sanctuary. This will help improve the longevity of the dam and is part of a larger project that will improve pollinator habitat around the pond.
- Repairs were made to the retaining wall at Taylor's Dream in Kreager Park. Sunflower Landscaping began repairing the wall last year, completing it this summer.
- CL&S Landscaping mowed the brush down with a forestry mower on the hillside at Reservoir Park.
- With assistance from Community Corrections, the main street median day lily beds were dead-headed and cleaned up before the Art in the Park festival.
- Great Tree Canopy Comeback will be modified again this year. The event will take place on October 22. Foster Park will focus on removing honeysuckle from the existing woodland along the river. Volunteers will be helping us mulch around young trees at Memorial Park.
- Five seasonal staff finished their season with us this month. We are actively looking for help to carry us through to the end of the year.
- Lawnscape continued with the annual mow maintenance contract.
- Lawnganics continued with their fertilization and weed control contract to specific turf areas in the parks.
- SCFVA Judges and Chairpersons meetings were held at the Botanical Conservatory to prepare for the upcoming Flower, Plant, and Vegetable Shows. To make up for a shortage of judges several gardeners were trained to assist.

### ◆ **Riparian Management Report- August 2022**

- Guldin boat ramp and surrounding rip rap were cleared, washed, and maintained. Bloomingdale river access points were washed.
- Woody debris and litter were cleared multiple times from Guldin, Headwaters, and Promenade docks.
- Removed several deadheads along the St Marys River and Maumee River. Approximately 1000 pounds of trash, motorized scooters, lawn furniture, barrels, bikes, and other general debris were removed from all three rivers in the Downtown area.
- Successfully participated in River, Set, Go! with the launching/hauling of fire pits and stage sections.
- Continued maintenance support for the operation of Sweet Breeze and coordinated departments, minor repairs, refueling, and pump outs.
- Participated in Day of Caring with Lippert volunteers with the clearing of Old Fort/Headwaters viewshed and litter removal along the Rivergreenway. The task was completed with 30 volunteers and 3 hours of work.
- Participated in the Purdue Community Engagement Fair for volunteer recruitment.

### ◆ **Forestry Report- August 2022**

- Many of Forestry's day-to-day operations have been interrupted by severe weather events during June, July, and August. The streets of Fort Wayne were essentially cleared of storm debris by mid-August and contract crews were beginning to clean up storm debris from within the parks while the in-house crew was addressing

time-sensitive service requests. Another round of severe weather on Monday 8/29 shifted our focus back to obstructed roadways and damaged street trees.

- So far, summer storms have resulted in the removal of 301 publicly owned trees. 53 additional trees, impacted to the extent that removal is warranted, have been identified and will be scheduled for removal. This includes trees within the parks. Pending a thorough inspection of the parks and 311 Call Center tickets coming in daily, this number is expected to grow.
- During August, contract and in-house crews completed 109 tree removals and removed broken/hanging tree limbs from 159 locations.
- Responded to 279, Fort Wayne 311 Call Center tickets requesting service. Our total 311 ticket count for the year has exceeded the total annual ticket counts for any of the reviewable years.
- Inspected Johnny Appleseed Park and campground for tree issues that must be resolved before the Johnny Appleseed Festival. This work will begin during the first week of September, weather permitting.
- A brief break from storm response allowed us to work on scheduling the 2022 fall tree planting. So far, 267 planting sites have been identified. We anticipate planting about 400 trees this fall and hope to complete the planning/scheduling process before the end of September.

#### ◆ **Botanical Conservatory Report – August 2022**

- ‘Paris: City of Light & Love’ at the Botanical Conservatory continued to delight visitors. The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received events in August 2022 including Local Food Week (July 29 – August 7) where an interactive Food Scavenger Hunt was offered to visitors, A Night in Paris (August 5), and the return of private special events after a July hiatus. Staff is gearing up for Be A Tourist (September 11), Fall Bonsai Show (September 17), Pumpkin Path Display installation (October 3), Botanical Brew (October 7), Rocky Horror Picture Show (October 15), and Garden Trick or Treat (October 29). There are two part-time staff openings for the Weekend/Evening Receptionist position.

#### ◆ **Conservatory KPIs**

- Conservatory Shop revenue continues to increase year-over-year due to a more compelling strategy for obtaining and displaying merchandise. Rental & Catering revenue continues to increase as the special event industry rebounds from the impacts of COVID-19. It should be noted that the Botanical Roots Summer Concert Series did not occur in 2022, but did occur in 2021 and is reflected in the attendance & admissions revenue numbers; when removed, August Botanical Conservatory attendance shows an 11.26% increase to 2021. The Botanical Roots Concert Series is currently being reworked by Program Staff for a future reboot but was canceled in 2022 due to waning attendance in the face of increased competition.

##### **Attendance**

August 2021: 4,267 visitors

August 2022: 3,963 visitors

A decrease of 304 or -7.12% to 2021

##### **YTD Comparisons**

2021 Attendance: 47,131 visitors

2022 Attendance: 56,449 visitors

An increase of 9,318 or +19.77% to 2021

##### **Admissions Revenue**

August Admissions 2021: \$15,374.00

August Admissions 2022: \$14,471.00

A decrease of \$903.00 or -5.87% to 2021

##### **YTD Comparisons**

2021 Admissions Revenue: \$149,612.00

2022 Admissions Revenue: \$218,414.70

An increase of \$68,802.70 or +45.99% to 2021

**Membership Revenue**

August 2021: \$2,672.00

August 2022: \$2,760.00

An increase of \$88.00 or +3.29% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Membership Revenue: \$41,723.00

2022 Membership Revenue: \$49,293.00

An increase of \$7,570.00 or +18.14% to 2021

**Conservatory Shop Revenue**

August 2021: \$14,342.26

August 2022: \$15,004.82

An increase of \$662.56 or +4.62% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Gift Shop Revenue: \$134,830.46

2022 Gift Shop Revenue: \$162,831.81

An increase of \$28,001.35 or +20.77% to 2021

**Rental & Catering Fee Revenue**

August 2021: \$6,338.00

August 2022: \$8,802.50

An increase of \$2,464.50 or +38.88% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Rental Revenue: \$40,799.67

2022 Rental Revenue: \$62,440.38

An increase of \$21,640.71 or +53.04% to 2021

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

August 2021: \$16,039.17

August 2022: \$3,893.29

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Other Revenue: \$311,320.20

2022 Other Revenue: \$369,860.91

**Conservatory Total Revenue**

August 2021: \$54,765.43

August 2022: \$44,934.61

A decrease of \$9,830.82 or -17.95% to 2021

**YTD Comparisons**

2021 Total Revenue: \$678,285.33

2022 Total Revenue: \$862,840.80

An increase of \$184,555.47 or +27.21% to 2021

◆ **Conservatory Business Development**

- The Conservatory was awarded \$4,500 support for the 2022 ‘Paris: City of Light & Love’ exhibit by the Edward M. Wilson Foundation. Old National Bank and Beacon Federal Credit Union Foundation both declined support for the 2022 Happy Smallidays exhibit, citing a lack of available resources.
- The partnership of PBS Fort Wayne for the 2022 Garden Trick or Treat will include the October benefit of the month admissions program and event promotions for their Kids Club. The wrap-up promotional

reports were sent to the media for sponsorships of the following 2022 events: 96.3 XKE for Father's Day in the Garden; ABC21 for Emergence: Live Butterfly Exhibit, Father's Day in the Garden, and Mother's Day in the Garden; WANE 15 for Jazzworks; and 89.1 WBOI for Jazzworks. Promotional and complimentary tickets and fliers were sent to Fort Wayne Metals, WANE 15, and 89.1 WBOI for their sponsorships of the 2022 Botanical Brew.

- Botanical Conservatory donations in August 2022 totaled \$570 in memorial gifts: \$120 for Janet Hansen (designated for the annual butterfly exhibit), and \$450 for Conservatory volunteer Jo Ann Wyatt: \$100 from Terri Hartley, \$100 from PNC Private Bank, \$200 from David and Susan Thoms, and \$50 from Julie Palmer and the Frey family.

#### ◆ **Education - Conservatory Public Programs**

- Local Food Week (July 29-August 7):
  - The Botanical Conservatory offered a food scavenger hunt throughout Local Food Week in partnership with the Indiana Local Food Network. In addition, there was a scheduled educational lecture by the Indiana Association of Soil and Water. Parkview's Youth Wellbeing Team also hosted a trivia game and the opportunity to write thank-you notes to local growers and producers. A total of 1,641 guests visited throughout the week and were invited to participate in provided educational activities.
- Bee the Change- Desert Living (August 4):
  - This drop-in program on the first \$1-nights had approximately 27 adults and 27 children in attendance this August. With the assistance of a volunteer, Karen Martin, a positive message and related activity was emphasized in correlation with the Desert Garden.
- A Night in Paris- Garden Opening (August 5):
  - A total of 45 pre-registered participants and 12 guests of the artist attended this themed garden opening. It was hosted within a romantic setting where live music was provided by harpist, Anne Lewellen. Guests could also enjoy Parisian-inspired paintings and meet the artist, Susan Taylor Suraci. French-inspired hors d'oeuvres were served along with specially made Macarons and signature cocktails that were an absolute hit to top off the perfect date night. There was even an engagement toward the end!
- Summer Tai Chi (August 8-30):
  - This 4-week series had 16 pre-registered participants. Classes were held outdoors with returning instructor, Sandy Gebhard. They were well enjoyed during quiet summer mornings in the Terrace Garden.
- Yoga in the Garden (August 13):
  - This pre-registered program was canceled having not met a minimum registration requirement.
  - Youth Field Trips:
    - There was just 1 onsite youth group visit totaling 20 children this month. Due to summer programs ending and school starting, this slower month is in line with past years. There were no onsite youth group visits in 2021 or 2020. In 2019, 2 groups brought 39 students. In 2018, one group brought 36 students.
- **Exhibits & Displays - Paris Dream of 2018 (July 2-November 13):**
  - This art display features paintings by the artist, Susan Taylor Suraci who is exhibiting Parisian-inspired artwork during the garden exhibit "Paris: City of Light & Love." Her paintings are for sale and on display until the end of the exhibit. An opportunity to meet the artist was offered during a garden opening event "A Night in Paris" in August.

- Paris: City of Light & Love (July 2-November 13):
- This year's summer/fall showcase exhibit at the Botanical Conservatory is a stunning imitation of a visit to Paris! Visitors can not get enough of the familiar scenes and floral hues adorning a public square, café, floral shop, and even a view of the Eiffel Tower. In addition to these fun features and more, this exhibit will introduce chrysanthemums come fall.
- **Volunteers/Staff** - Engagement Coordinator, Kim Hartman attended the PFW Community Engagement Fair and interacted with approximately 65 students as a volunteer recruitment effort. Regarding seasonal opportunities, the staff is currently recruiting for the SCFVA Blue Ribbon Show, Pumpkin Path installation, Garden Trick-or-Treat event, and holiday decorating to come to the next show change. Program staff is also putting forth the effort to train new volunteers at the Front Desk.
- **Upcoming**
  - September 1: Bee the Change \$1 Night drop-in program
  - September 3: Fall Plant Swap pre-registered program
  - September 10: Autumn Leaf Macramé pre-registered program
  - September 11: Be A Tourist in Your Hometown event
  - September 14-Oct. 12: Yoga in the Garden pre-registered series
  - September 17: Fall Bonsai Show
  - September 17: Plein Air in Paris pre-registered program
- Conservatory Facility and Maintenance
  - A room divider was installed in the Magnolia Room, replacing the badly worn pipe and drape to enhance maintainability and guest experience.
  - Repairs were completed to the air handler unit in the Desert House. Allied Mechanical had a new turbine fan built and reinstalled all parts to return the unit to full operation.
  - Conserv and Allied continue to make progress on the upgrades being made to the HVAC controls and mechanical components.
  - O'Neil's glass has started the replacement of the contracted glazing repairs for 2022 with anticipated completion in September.
- Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture
  - Bulbs for the outdoor beds have been ordered and confirmed. The order consists of a mix of tulips and daffodils with varying bloom times to have an extended show of color in the spring. Bulbs will be planted throughout the outdoor beds in October.
  - The irrigation system along Harrison Street has been modified with MP rotator nozzles to water more efficiently and expand coverage to water the linden mound outside the Exploration Garden. This area currently has no irrigation, but will now have irrigation coverage with the new system modifications.
  - Two rounds of beneficial insects have been released throughout the Botanical Conservatory in August to combat scale, mealybugs, whitefly, and spider mites. A noticeable difference in pest pressure can already be seen in many parts of the Botanical Conservatory.
  - Supplies have been acquired to make repairs to the uneven pavers throughout the Tropical House and Exploration Garden. Pavers will be lifted and additional crushed limestone and sand will be added to create a level walking surface for visitors.
  - The Mediterranean beds within the Showcase House have received a significant overhaul. Removing



some of the overgrown rosemary has created space for new plant species such as Conebushes, Kangaroo Paws, Pride of Madeira, Protea, and Statice. These plants will add interest to this space while also increasing the diversity of the Botanical Conservatory's permanent collection.



*Local Food Week hands-on activity engaging with Conservatory guests*



*Guests enjoying a "Night in Paris" Garden Opening Summer 2022*



**Courtyard view in the "Paris: City of Light & Love" garden exhibit**



*Botanical Conservatory Booth at PFW's Engagement Fair*



## Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

- ◆ The Parks Promenade link has received over 3,699 hits and [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) has 4,081 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and received over 1,274 hits in **September**.
- ◆ Attended NRPA in Phoenix, Arizona September 19-23. Will compile a list of take-aways and continue with on-line training.
- ◆ Completed reports for Weisser Youth (Summer), Weisser Parents (Summer), River Camp, River Rangers, and Adult Special Interest (Summer).
- ◆ 51 Design projects completed (flyers, brochures, signs, social media posts, a pop-up table tent, table covers, invitations, tickets, and more)
- ◆ The Winter Fun Times copy deadline was September 23. Started on the layout.
- ◆ Continue working on the READI grant presentation.
- ◆ Continue working on ARPA funding.
- ◆ Complete the SIA grant for Cooper Center.
- ◆ Social media promotions for Salomon Farm U-Pick, FitLot Fiesta, and Sweet Breeze Specialty Tour Fall Equinox.
- ◆ The Parks Promenade link has received over 4,765 hits and [www.RiverfrontFW.org](http://www.RiverfrontFW.org) has 7,147 hits to the site this month. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information and received over 1,377 hits in **August**.
- ◆ The Recruitment video was finalized and ready for a spring roll out.
- ◆ The Marketing Team completed various marketing tasks for River, Set, and Go including working with the media, and Chief photographers on-site, and developing various marketing pieces.
- ◆ 51 Design projects completed (sponsor tickets, billboards, displays, e-receipt flyers, brochures, flyers, and more)
- ◆ Completed Botanical Conservatory Showcase promo/ads for 2023.

- ◆ Submitted initial READI Application, working on supplemental materials.
- ◆ Working on the final grant agreement for the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrition Reduction Program for Spy Run Creek.
- ◆ Assisted with documentation for ARPA fund requests.
- ◆ On-site pictures/video for Salomon Farm Flower fields/Flower Arranging.
- ◆ Two podcasts released-“Improving & Protecting Shoreline of our Rivers” with Kaye C. Jones and “Outdoor Fall Activities” with Eden Lamb.
- ◆ Media Mentions: June 76      July 60      August 84      September 76
- ◆ Social Media Totals for **August:** and **September**

<b>Web Statistics:</b>	<b><u>Users:</u></b>	<b><u>Hits:</u></b>	<b><u>Month:</u></b>
	58,258	167,663	June
	62,617	183,268	July
	47,344	130,356	August
	33,452	102,665	September

Social Media Totals for the months of:

	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
FB Followers	71,692	72,552	73,347	74,610
FB Reach	277,670	218,426	414,695	286,579
 Twitter Followers	13,377	13,405	13,483	13,562
 Instagram Follower	20,548	20,611	20,825	21,026

## Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

- ◆ The golf courses are about to wrap up a very successful year. Through the end of September, two courses have already exceeded their total year revenue total from 2021, and the third will easily pass their total. Certainly, alcohol sales have helped in being able to do this, but play continues to increase year over year.
- ◆ Below are the year-over-year comparisons for September, as well as year-to-date totals:

<b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>FOSTER</u></b>	<b><u>MCMILLEN</u></b>	<b><u>SHOAF</u></b>
2021 REVENUE	\$42,243.25	\$24,699.00	\$48,810.00
<b>2022 REVENUE</b>	<b>\$45,203.75</b>	<b>\$27,855.00</b>	<b>\$54,913.75</b>
YTD 2021	\$295,526.75	\$173,135.00	\$378.731
<b>YTD 2022</b>	<b>\$311,811.25</b>	<b>\$189,482.50</b>	<b>\$413,518.75</b>



- ◆ Shoaff Park will close for the year after the play on Sunday, October 30. Foster and McMillen Park will remain open through Veteran's Day, Friday, November 11. If the weather is favorable, we will stay open through that weekend.
- ◆ Carts continue to be the main concern moving forward. The size, age, and reliability of the fleet have cost us a lot of play by not having enough safe, functioning carts at peak times. The reliability and safety of the fleet have improved incrementally with the purchase of several new batteries but is still not optimal. After the season, all carts will be gone through and upgraded to the extent that they can be for use next year.
- ◆ We received a quote for 15 new carts for the Board's approval. These carts are quoted without trading in any carts, which would theoretically increase the fleet size by 15. Depending on budget and supply issues, we may ask to purchase a similar amount of carts in the spring timeframe to further bolster the fleet in terms of both size and reliability.
- ◆ Alcohol sales went well. All staff 21 years of age and over are required to be trained and receive their license to serve. No problems with the sales were reported, and the response from the public has been good. Currently, we deal with one distributor, Aalco. The addition of another distributor (Five Star) would be good, as their product line is complementary to what we have. The barrier to bringing them in is how we must procure checks from the city. Logistically, this is not feasible. Both companies offer some form of Electronic Funds Transfer. If we were allowed by the city to utilize this option, we could stock products from both distributors.
- ◆ 2022 is turning out to be a great golf season, and golf is trending up.



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

## **Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager**

- ◆ Neil and Dawn attended the State Trails Gathering on 9/29 in Zionsville. This was sponsored by the Indiana Parks & Recreation Association and the Greenways Foundation of Indiana.
- ◆ We had another Trot the Trails event on 10/1 along the Towpath Trail in SW Fort Wayne. We had 30 horses attend. The horse owners were thankful. Trail users commented that it's fun to see the horses on the trail. This will likely be our final event since equestrian trails will be constructed in 2023.
- ◆ We have the Great Tree Canopy Comeback on 10/22. We'll be planting over 70 trees along the Towpath Trail between Covington and Smith Roads and removing invasive Bradford Pear trees.
- ◆ The Hanna St Trail from Rudisill to Pettit is 90% complete.
- ◆ Lake Ave Trail from Hobson to Coliseum is 99% complete. The Contractor is working on the punchlist.
- ◆ The Fishing Line Trail from Ludwig to Cook is 98% complete. The Contractor is working on the punchlist.

- ◆ We continue to work on the right-of-way acquisition for the Pufferbelly Trail, Covington Rd Trail, and Liberty Mills Rd Trail – all to be constructed in 2023.
- ◆ We only have three Trek the Trails rides left and two biweekly walks/runs for Tread the Trails. The last ride of the year on 10/25 is our popular night ride on the Rivergreenway.
- ◆ Dawn attended a webinar on new federal funding sources for trails under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. There's about 70% additional funding, including some funding for maintenance. The Federal Government's focus is on connectivity, collaboration, and equitable access.
- ◆ The Poka-Bache Coalition and Mayor will be holding a news conference (date TBD) in October to announce the results of the economic impact study of the 81-mile Poka-Bache Connector from Pokagon State Park to Ouabache State Park.
- ◆ The City's Open Streets event on August 7<sup>th</sup> from Noon – 4 p.m. was a great success.
- ◆ We decided not to pursue a Regional Economic Acceleration & Development Initiative (READI) grant for a pedestrian bridge over Coliseum Boulevard, because there is not enough federal funding available to help with the project's construction. The READI grant would have only provided 20% of the funds for the \$9 million project. Fortunately, we do have enough federal funding to begin the engineering in 2023. We will continue to look at other federal funding opportunities for the construction of the bridge in 2026 or 2027.
- ◆ City Council supports the creation of the Poka-Bache Task Force through an interlocal agreement with four counties and seven towns/cities to oversee the development and promotion of the 81-mile Poka-Bache Connector Trail from Pokagon State Park to Ouabache State Park. Once the Inter-Local Agreement is in final form, the Mayor will sign it.
- ◆ I will be attending the State Trails Gathering on 9/29 in Zionsville. This is sponsored by the IPRA and the Greenways Foundation of Indiana.
- ◆ We have another Trot the Trails event on 10/1 along the Towpath Trail in SW Fort Wayne. This may be our final event since equestrian trails will be constructed in 2023.
- ◆ We had the pre-construction meeting for the Hanna Street Trail: Pettit Ave to Decatur Road. Materials are on order. The contractor hopes to begin construction in early October once the materials arrive. They will get the pipe work and stone done this year with paving in early spring.
- ◆ The Hanna St Trail from Rusidill to Pettit is 85% complete.

- ◆ Lake Ave Trail from Hobson to Coliseum is 99% complete.
- ◆ The Fishing Line Trail from Ludwig to Cook is 97% complete.
- ◆ We continue to work on the right-of-way acquisition for the Pufferbelly Trail, Covington Rd Trail, and Liberty Mills Rd Trail – all to be constructed in 2023.
- ◆ We still have two months of weekly bike rides for Trek the Trails and biweekly walks/runs for Tread the Trails. Both events will continue through late October.

## Division News and Media Coverage:



### ◆ COVID Safety

Mayor Tom Henry today announced that masks will no longer be required at the City of Fort Wayne- owned facilities effective March 1. Masks will continue to be recommended.

#### **\$1 Thursday Nights**

**Thursday, October 13, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

***Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street***

Catch a glimpse of a day in *Paris: City of Light & Love* in the showcase garden along with the Tropical and Desert gardens in the Conservatory. Admission is just \$1 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Thursday. Plus, Civic Center Garage parking is validated for free.

#### **Raven Scavenger Hunt**

**Saturday, October 15, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street**

Join the third annual Raven Scavenger Hunt as part of the Downtown Improvement District's Fright Night. Keep your eyes peeled for Ravens in disguise throughout the park. Snap a picture of any raven that you find but leave them in the hiding spots for others to find. Raven hunters who find all of the ravens and show their pictures to the staff at the blue Riverfront Fort Wayne tent will be entered into a drawing to win a prize package. All ages are welcome and admission is free. Follow Riverfront Fort Wayne on social media for updates.

## **Fort Wayne Parks Celebrates 30 New Outdoor Pickleball Courts**

*Fastest-growing sport in America now available in eight local parks*

Fort Wayne, Ind – Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Director Steve McDaniel was joined by Fort Wayne Pickleball Inc. president Tim Heffron, local picklers, park officials, and Staff to celebrate the addition of 30 new pickleball courts to the parks this summer.

The \$180,881.00 project resurfaced and converted courts at Foster Park, Lakeside Park, Hamilton Park, and Kettler Park. Tillman Park tennis courts were also restriped to accommodate pickleball.

Additional amenities include new lighting at Foster Park, and new fencing at Hamilton Park with new lighting to come for Lakeside Park in 2023. With these 30 new courts, there are now a total of 36 outdoor courts and six indoor courts at eight parks throughout the city.

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Director Steve McDaniel observes “by making more room in our parks for pickleball, we are responding to increasing local interest and preparing for the nearly 40 percent increase this sport has gained across the country in the last two years.” He continues, “According to the USA Pickleball Association, this sport is seeing steady serious players in ages 55 and above, casual players under age 55, and a quickly-growing segment under age 24. We want to be prepared to facilitate the phenomenal increase in this growing recreational sport.”

**Pickleball Court locations are:**

Foster Park – 6 Courts	Hamilton Park – 6 Courts	Kettler Park – 4 Courts
Lakeside Park – 6 Courts	Lions Park – 5 Courts	Tillman Park – 8 Courts
McMillen Park Community Center – 6 Indoor Courts	Waynedale Park – 1 Court	

For more information about getting involved in this sport, visit [www.fwpickleball.com](http://www.fwpickleball.com) or [www.usapa.org](http://www.usapa.org).

**Sweet Breeze Specialty Tour: Kids Pirate Ship Tour**

**Saturday, October 15, 6:00 p.m. (45 minutes)**

**South Dock, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street**

Navigate Fort Wayne’s rivers on the Sweet Breeze Kids Pirate Ship Tour and have your fill of sweet Halloween treats. The first mate will also oversee your skills to make a Kraken Craft. Costumes are encouraged on this fully accessible Fright Night cruise. Tickets are \$17 per person. Reservations can be made online at [www.RideSweetBreeze.org](http://www.RideSweetBreeze.org), in person at the Parks and Recreation Offices (705 East State Blvd.), or by phone at 260-427-6000 during normal business hours.

**Sweet Breeze Specialty Tour: Haunted Boat Tour      Saturday, October 15, 7:30 p.m. (90 minutes) South Dock, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street**

Travel Fort Wayne’s rivers on the Sweet Breeze Haunted Boat Tour, if you dare. This fully accessible age 21 and above Fright Night cruise provides an opportunity to thrill local ghost stories with a hit of Halloween candy and a cash bar. Tickets are \$46 per person. Reservations can be made online at [www.RideSweetBreeze.org](http://www.RideSweetBreeze.org), in person at the Parks and Recreation Offices (705 East State Blvd.), or by phone at 260-427-6000 during normal business hours.

**Rocky Horror Picture Show**

**Saturday, October 15, doors open at 7:00 p.m., Movie starts at 9:15 p.m.**

**Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street**

It is the Conservatory’s 14th season celebrating the time warp at the Botanical Conservatory! Weather permitting, this cult classic movie is shown on the outdoor Terrace Garden as part of the Downtown Improvement District’s Fright Night. Lawn chairs are welcome and encouraged. Food and beverage will be available for purchase from Mad Anthony Brewing Company. No outside food or beverage is permitted. Please do not bring rice or confetti during this participatory movie event. This film is rated R with content not suitable for younger audiences. Attendees age 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Admission: \$10 for all ages. Sponsored by ALT 99.5 FM and 102.3 FM and Mad Anthony Brewing Company.

WANE, Sheriff candidates to debate

<https://www.wane.com/news/your-local-election-hq/allen-county-sheriff-candidates-agree-to-debate-on-wane-com/>

WANE, Parks adds pickleball courts

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/fort-wayne-adds-30-new-pickleball-courts-to-community-parks/>

WANE, FWPD welcomes a new therapy dog to the force

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/photos-fwpd-welcomes-new-therapy-dog-to-the-force/>

**Sweet Breeze Specialty Tour: Fall Colors Brunch    Saturday, October 16, 11:00 a.m. (90 minutes)**

**South Dock, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street**

Reserve your seat on the Sweet Breeze Canal Boat for a Sunday Fall Colors Brunch. This ninety-minute specialty tour will feature a continental brunch and the acoustic sounds of the musical duo LaDean. This fully accessible tour provides an opportunity to learn something new about Fort Wayne through its riverfront while you savor the beauty of fall foliage. Tickets are \$35 per person. Reservations can be made online at [www.RideSweetBreeze.org](http://www.RideSweetBreeze.org), in person at the Parks and Recreation Offices (705 East State Blvd.), or by phone at 260-427-6000 during normal business hours. This will be the final tour of the season.

Adams Radio Group, All In Allen update

<https://1039waynefm.com/public-hearing-scheduled-for-all-in-allen-comprehensive-plan-adoption/>

WOWO, Citywide fire drill Wednesday

<https://www.wowo.com/city-wide-fire-drill-returns-wednesday-morning-across-fort-wayne/>

WOWO, Nelson Peters on Pat Miller Program discussing jail

<https://www.wowo.com/allen-county-commissioner-nelson-peters/>

WOWO, City's residential accessibility modifications program set to open

<https://www.wowo.com/citys-residential-accessibility-modifications-program-set-to-open-october-11/>

WBOI, Fort Wayne's Public Art Commission unveils new mural downtown

<https://www.wboi.org/news/2022-10-06/fort-waynes-public-art-commission-unveils-new-mural-downtown>

**The Great Tree Canopy Comeback – call for volunteers**

**Saturday, October 22, 10:0 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

***Four sites in Allen County: Memorial Park (Washington Blvd. and Maumee Avenue) and Foster Park (3900 Old Mill Road) in Fort Wayne, Werling Park (Werling Road) in New Haven, and the Wabash and Erie Canal Towpath Trail (near 5500 block of Glendale Road) in Fort Wayne***

Local citizens are encouraged to join Friends of the Parks of Allen County along with area parks and trails departments for the twenty-first annual Great Tree Canopy Comeback event. The scope of this year's project is to maintain young trees by adding mulch and removing invasive species as well as planting new trees. Work will be completed in teams and will vary by location. Volunteers of all ages are critical to the success of the event and are encouraged to sign up and help sustain forest regeneration in local parks. Positions needed include Courier/Cutter, Mulcher, and Planter. Volunteers who can help at any of the sites as needed are also highly valued. Please contact Friends of the Parks in advance by downloading/returning the signup form at

[https://www.fortwayneparks.org/images/2022\\_Registration\\_Flyer.pdf](https://www.fortwayneparks.org/images/2022_Registration_Flyer.pdf) or by emailing [FotPoAC@gmail.com](mailto:FotPoAC@gmail.com).

**Handmade Homemade Sale  
817 West Dupont Road**

**Sunday, October 16, Noon -5:00 p.m.    Salomon Farm Park,**  
Time to start your holiday shopping! This special sale features products

that are grown locally or made by hand. Farmers, bakers, crafters, and artisans will be selling their handmade/homemade goods in the Wolf Family Learning Center and Old Barn. Free admission.

**Fort Wayne Splash Pads and Promenade Water Rill to close at the end of the day, October 9 Daily, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.**

***Nine locations around the city of Fort Wayne***

Buckner Park (6114 Bass Road), Franklin School Park (1903 Saint Marys Avenue), Kreager Park/Taylor's Dream (7225 North River Road), McCormick Park (2300 Raymond Avenue), Memorial Park (2301 Maumee Avenue), Promenade Park (202 W. Superior Street), Robert E. Meyers Park (Inside North Gate of Parkview Field on Jefferson Blvd.), Shoaff Park (6401 St. Joe Road) and Waynedale Park (2900 Koons Street).

**Tread the Trails**

**Thursday, October 13, 6:00 p.m.**

***Indian Trails Park, 10313 Aboite Center Road***

*Tread the Trails* is for individuals of all skill levels; runners, walkers, and wheelchair users are invited to participate. All *Tread the Trails* events are five kilometers in distance, with the option for a longer or shorter experience if the participant chooses. All should be prepared with water. Individuals participate at their own risk. *Tread the Trails* takes place every other Thursday. *Tread the Trails* is organized by Fort Wayne Public Works and Fort Wayne Trails in partnership with the Fort Wayne Running Club and the City of New Haven. For a complete list of locations and dates, visit:

<http://www.fortwayneparks.org/trails/news-events.html>

**Pumpkin Path Display**

**Until October 30, public hours**

Enjoy fall surroundings in the outdoor Exploration Garden decorated in its seasonal best. As part of this interactive display, you are invited to join in a scavenger hunt and see discover what there is to see! You are also welcome to pose with festive photo ops along the way. Included with regular Conservatory admission. Sponsored by Majic 95.1 WAJI and Classic Hits 101.7.

WPTA, Councilwoman Chambers on the importance of health screenings

<https://www.wpta21.com/video/2022/09/07/video-highlights-push-minorities-get-routine-cancer-screenings/>

WPTA, EACS superintendent on proposed jail location

<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/09/07/eacs-superintendent-gives-failing-grade-proposed-southeast-side-jail/>

WANE, City partners with Trine for trail crossing study

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/city-partners-with-trine-university-for-trail-crossing-study/>

WANE, New apartments planned

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/new-apartments-planned-off-washington-center-road-and-fernwood-avenue/>

WANE, Mural celebrates diversity

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/mural-celebrates-diversity-in-the-summit-city/>

WANE, Allen County Health Commissioner Dr. Gutwein gives new COVID booster a thumbs up

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/new-covid-booster-gets-thumbs-up-from-gutwein/>

**Bee the Change/\$1 Thursday Nights**

**Thursday, September 1, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

***Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street***

On the first Thursday of the month, a special *Bee the Change* activity will offer a positive reflection of self-worth and the potential for positive impact in the community beginning at 5:30 p.m. The September



*Bee the Change* theme is “Urban Farming for Good”. No registration is required. While at the Conservatory, catch a glimpse of a day in *Paris: City of Light & Love* in the showcase garden along with the Tropical and Desert gardens in the Conservatory. Admission is just \$1 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Thursday. Plus, Civic Center Garage parking is validated for free.

City TV, FWFD’s 94<sup>th</sup> recruit class graduation ceremony

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=wDcxq8Gn0bDT>

WANE, Fort Wayne among best cities for new college graduates

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/best-cities-for-new-college-graduates-in-2022/>

WANE, Visit Fort Wayne feature

<https://www.wane.com/lifestyle/living-local-15/stay-up-to-date-and-explore-with-visit-fort-wayne/>

WANE, EACS board objects to the proposed new jail site

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/east-allen-county-schools-objects-to-proposed-new-jail-site/>

WPTA, Section of E. Wayne St. closed for work to protect Maumee River

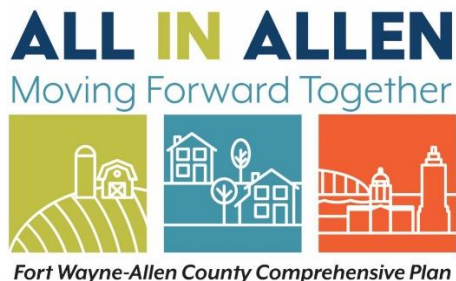
<https://www.wpta21.com/2022/09/06/new-construction-project-protect-maumee-river-shuts-down-part-e-wayne-street/>

### **Paris: City of Light & Love    Until November 13, public hours**

Paris, France has long exuded romance through its iconic cityscape, art, architecture, and famous riverbanks. Over time, a secluded atmosphere of cafes, lush landscapes, and carefree glamour have come to define Parisian style. Catch a glimpse of a day in Paris through familiar scenes and playful hues adorning a public square in the Botanical Conservatory’s summer and fall exhibit. It’s bursting with light and love. Included with regular admission. Sponsored by the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, M.E. Raker Foundation, Majic 95.1m WAJI, Classic Hits 101.7, and WANE15.

### **Susie Taylor Suraci: Paris Dream of 2018    Until November 13, public hours**

Enjoy works of art by local and regional artists on display at the Botanical Conservatory. Susie Taylor Suraci originally hails from the Washington D.C. metro area. She is a 1982 graduate from the University of Maryland with a B.A. in Studio Art and a longtime Fort Wayne resident. Suraci is an active member of Artlink and an exhibitor at The Castle Gallery. She is also a recipient of an Indiana Arts Commission grant. In 2018, Suraci realized a lifelong dream of visiting Paris where she stayed mostly in the charming Montmartre neighborhood that was home to many 19<sup>th</sup>-century Impressionist artists. The resulting artwork is on display now through November 13 at the Botanical Conservatory.



## **Public Hearing Scheduled for All In Allen Comprehensive Plan Adoption**

It has been over two years since the All In Allen Comprehensive Plan project kicked off in February 2020. The Community has united to share in the planning process through over 3,000 points of engagement; including online and in-person community and organization outreach, public meetings, and more. Thousands of voices contributed to the All In Allen Plan, we thank you for your participation!

The All In Allen Team is excited to announce that Allen County and the City of Fort Wayne will conduct a joint Plan Commission Public Hearing on the All In Allen Comprehensive Plan. At the hearing, a summary of the final draft plan will be presented and the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback before the plan moves on to final adoption.

### **Joint Plan Commission Public Hearing**

Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022; beginning at 6:00 PM

Omni Room (Room 045)

Citizens Square, 200 East Berry Street

The All In Allen Comprehensive Plan is a blueprint to guide land use decision-making and includes Goals, Strategies, and Action Steps for primary topic areas of housing, transportation, parks, and more for the Community. The plan will be used by area leaders to make decisions and policies that will shape the Community for years to come.

### **The All In Allen Adoption Draft is Available to View Online!**

The adoption draft of the Plan is available on the All In Allen website at [\*\*www.AllInAllen.org\*\*](http://www.AllInAllen.org). Printed versions of the plan are also available for review in the City of Fort Wayne Community Development and the Allen County Department of Planning Services offices in Citizens Square.

[\*\*View the Plan Here\*\*](#)