

Steve McDaniel, Director

- ✚ Construction moves forward with the Franke Park Renaissance Project. Roadways, parking lots, and building pads are taking shape. Curbing at Goshen has been installed. Underground utilities have started along with the building foundations.
- ✚ Design is progressing for the Brewer Park renovation plans. This will continue for the next few months as we work through cost estimates and designs.
- ✚ This last month, we had several larger events happen within the park system. This includes the Botanical Root Music Festival, the Dragon Boat races, the Concert on the Farm, and several concerts at the theatre.
- ✚ We have received an update to the Foster Park Golf Master Plan design. We have suggested a few tweaks to the design team. They have made those changes and we will be presenting this latest version to the neighborhood group. We will then schedule another public meeting to share with others in the community.
- ✚ I have been in a working group with the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association and an Indiana military and veterans affairs group discussing ways in which we could add programming specifically for veterans. We continue to discuss what this might look like and how best to integrate that into our offerings.
- ✚ We continue to explore options to build a Parks mobile app that would highlight each park's amenities. Currently, we are working on determining the software options along with the best way to make these tasks achievable.
- ✚ We met with the City Utilities team on their work at Foster Park and how it will impact park activities and our patrons in 2024. This will continue to develop over the next few months. On a side (but related) note, our golf team is working on options to maintain 18 holes during this construction window. This could include building a few temporary greens and tees during the construction window for City Utilities.
- ✚ We have worked with the administration to provide cooling centers at a few different times these past weeks as temperatures shot much higher than normal. The Botanical Conservatory has been a staple for us. We recently added Weisser Park Youth Center and a new option. Thanks to the staff at both of these facilities for allowing us to open our doors to the community in these warmer times.
- ✚ I have been in discussions with other city departments about the land adjacent to McKinnie Commons. This is the old bank building just north of the park. It is currently for sale. We have had a dialog with the owner. Hopefully, we can agree on a price. This might give the parks an option to provide ancillary support to programming within this space. We will continue to work with those departments to satisfy our needs.
- ✚ We sponsored an Indiana Parks and Recreation Association northern district meeting at Promenade Park. We had a good turnout for the event. We were able to share our story of the park's design, construction, and programming as well as the private development that has occurred adjacent to the park.
- ✚ Fort Wayne will be the host city for this year's statewide park and recreation convention. This will bring in several hundred park professionals across the state on November 14-16.

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

✚ General

- Staff set up an activity station during Open Streets to promote the Parks and upcoming events. We had various games available including Connect Four, Skee Ball, Sidewalk

Chalk, Jump Ropes, glasses to color, and a spinning wheel for prizes. We used up many “little prizes,” old and new water bottles, and candy for the wheel. Attendance was great, promoted our Park and Play van and many upcoming events.

- Hosted the Indiana Parks and Recreation Northern District meeting on August 29th. There were about 40 people in attendance. Participants heard about Promenade Park, and Riverfront development, watched the Riparian team perform a demonstration, and took a ride on the Sweet Breeze canal boat.
- Participated in the G2 boat house ribbon cutting at Shaoff Park on August 17th.

McMillen Park Community Center

- Our summer program has officially come to an end on August 9th. The summer was filled with many fun games and activities. Many of the games that were played included kickball, baseball, relay races, trivia challenges, basketball, flag football, drawing contests, and handball to name a few. The Center for Non-Violence and the Fort Wayne Dance Collective were two partnerships we had this summer that helped give the children a well-rounded summer of meaningful activities. Overall the summer program was a success.
- The 3:00-7:00 afterschool program is now in full swing, with an average of 17 kids per day. In October we will offer a new STEM program, dance class, arts and crafts, and yoga. Erin’s House and Sisters of the Cloth will also be returning. The E-sports program will be going to Saint Francis, South Side, Snider, and North Side to meet their teams and play with their equipment. Little Kickers Soccer program for ages 4-7 will resume in October as well. The newest installment for our program has been the creation of our new teen lounge. This is a room where the older kids can go and hang out, play pool, or table tennis, play video games, and relax. The children must earn their spot in the room, for example, older kids are responsible for helping the younger kids carry their plates during lunch as well as helping carry equipment when we do activities outside.
- Parents Night participation continues to grow. On August 5, 2023, we hosted another Parents Night Out and saw an increase in participation. We are currently looking for more volunteers to work with the youth. We are reaching out to the Retired Teachers Association in hopes of finding teachers who have worked with youth with special needs.
- We did not have weekday drop-in Pickleball during the time of our youth summer program, but since the summer program has ended we are open to the public in which patrons can come in and enjoy our facility. We had more than 40 pickleball players this month.
- Ms. Dorothy and Ms. Lisa with Cardio Fit and Essential Step have resumed their programs. The ladies are excited to back in the groove of getting fit and line-stepping. Classes are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for 10 weeks.
- MPCC partnered with Friends of the River to assist with supporting our community in having a clean river. This partnership is completed. Youth at MPCC were able to clean 300 sewers.
- MPCC partnered with Parkview and Ayanna Patterson Empower Forward Camp. There were 100 youth in attendance.

Golf

- Gary Whitacre reported that Foster and McMillen Golf Courses have started what he calls Outing Season. There will be an outing at either or both courses every weekend for the next month. He has been working on guidelines for the amount of outings that we will schedule so that the public isn't displaced during the morning hours while they take place.
- Steve McDaniel, Dave Weadock, Gary Whitacre, Bryan Keister and Jason Smith continue to meet and work with the golf course architects. The intent is to address the majority of the public's concerns with the redesign of the Foster Park Golf Course.
- Gary Whitacre stated that all 3 (three) golf courses continue showing a high level of sustained play and range usage. None of the courses have been closed for a full day this season. In the past, each course has averaged at least 4 (four) days closed due to weather.
- Steve McDaniel has asked Bryan Keister to come up with some alternate plans for temporary holes on Foster Golf Course's front nine during the sewer project. The intent is to keep 18 (eighteen) holes open throughout the project.
- Tom Mizzell has been working diligently to keep the golf carts at Shoaff Park Golf Course running. These are the older carts that are still in use until the new carts arrive.

Pools

- Daryn Schwartz, Chuck Reddinger, and Jason Smith met with Risk Management to look for areas of improvement. Daryn and Jason are coordinating with various staff to ensure that the tasks are completed before opening next season.
- Daryn Schwartz reported that Northside and McMillen Pools have closed for the season. He stated that even with the number of challenges faced throughout the season, both pools were closed for only a couple of days.
- Jessica Witt and Daryn Schwartz reported that after conversations towards the end of the season, all key pool staff will be returning next year. This will be a huge head start from the previous season.

Riverfront

- The annual Indiana Physical Therapy 5k was held on the 12th with a large crowd and race participants. This event is becoming more popular each year that Promenade Park hosts this event and Indiana Physical Therapy stated they are excited to host the event at Promenade next year.
- Wessler Engineering hosted a conference party for engineers from all across the country to attend a national conference held at the Fort Wayne Convention Center.
- On August 25th the Auer Lawn hosted its first ever K-pop event as the Fort Wayne Korean Festival held auditions for a local K-pop band to perform at their event.
- The last two rentals at Promenade were the Taste of the Arts event and the PBS Iconic America Sound Walk. Taste of the Arts rented the entire park for live music, vendors, and art exhibits and finished the evening with fire dancers on the Riverfront dock to finish off their community event.
- In August our Riverfront Programs at Promenade Park started with our annual Fort Wayne Dragon Boat event held on August 4th and 5th. For this year we moved the event to be a two-day event starting with the opening ceremonies on August 4th. The night

kicked off with live music from the Chinese Friends and Family Association and the local band We Are Checkmark. The evening concluded with the Chinese Friends and Family Association ceremonial awakening of the Dragon dance along with the lighting of the fire pits on the St. Mary's River. The races began on the morning of August 5th and were kicked off with the Mayor and Steve McDaniel dotting the eye of the dragon to symbolize the start of the races. Along with the races we had local food trucks, Family activities inside the pavilion, and the athlete's village on the Auer Lawn. We had around 5,000 people in attendance over the 2 days of the Fort Wayne Dragon Boat races. Our partnerships with the Chinese Friends and Family Association helped grow this event and focus on cultural elements of the event along with celebrating the grand opening of Promenade Park. Team registration improved this year and we hope to capitalize on this growth to make this event economically sustainable for the future. We also included more in-kind sponsorships along with corporate sponsors to help fund the event. Overall, we hope changing the concept and event time along with stronger partnerships will help grow the event for the future.

- Storytime on the Riverfront had its final program on the first Wednesday of the month. This year the attendance has continued to grow and are already planning next season in partnership with the Allen County Public Library.
- The Muddy River Concert Series concluded its 2023 season with its two biggest shows from local bands Hubie Ashcraft and the Debutants. Both of these shows filled the park and created a great atmosphere for these free public concerts along with providing extra business to Ted's Snack Bar.
- Yoga on the Riverfront was held on its hottest day yet on the 2nd Sunday of the month outside and was followed by the Sunday Heritage Concert Series. As we move into the Fall Yoga will be moved back inside the Pavilion.
- A new Riverfront Program for August was the Dance Promenade: Latin Dance Party. This event was held inside the Pavilion and the place was packed with people dancing to Latin music with some small lessons to help people learn dance moves. Tickets were sold at \$5 apiece and were close to selling out for the event.
- Headwaters Park began to settle down after the busy Summer Festival season with just two events in August. The first event was Fiesta Fort Wayne held on August 12th. This event had local Hispanic food and music at the Lincoln Financial Pavilion and had close to 3,000 people in attendance. The next event was the Wings, Beer, and Bourbon Festival held on August 19th. The event was well attended and both events took care of the Park and had no issues outside of the festival. Events will conclude at Headwaters Park in September with only a few more one-day events as we look to begin to build the Ice Rink for our Winter at Headwaters Park.
- Parks and Recreation staff continue to meet to prepare for the upcoming skating season.

Community Center

- A volunteer picnic was held on August 24th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Dave Hefner Pavilion. The Community Center provided Ham and everyone brought side dishes. Approximately 40 volunteers showed up and most brought something to share. Good time to eat, chat, and get to know each other.
- Divine Mercy Funeral Home committed to sponsoring October's luncheon.

- Fort Financial is going to be a gold sponsor for Santa's workshop

Weisser Park Youth Center

- We added 88 registrations this month making a total of 104 youth registered for our After-school Program. The daily average attendance for August was 34 youth per day. The highest number to attend this month in one day is 44 youth.
- On August 23rd and 24th, Weisser served the community as a Cooling Center. We did not have any participants on the first day. On the second day, we had a mother and her son. The mother ended up registering her son for our After-school Program and he has been attending daily.

Salomon Farm Park



- The flower U-Pick operation is open with operating hours on Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. – to 7:00 p.m., Fridays from 4:00 p.m. – to 7:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- The front field was in peak bloom toward the end of July or early August. Unfortunately, due to a lack of rain, the weeds in this field stunted the growth of the sunflowers. Sunflowers were small in size but were pickable. The U-pick opened on Saturday, July 29, 2023. This field stayed open for picking until Saturday, August 5, 2023, which generated revenue of \$3,776.00. The Staff was pleased with this outcome despite the weed and weather issues.
- The front field was mowed shortly after Saturday, August 5, 2023, and the U-pick operation and newly wrapped concession trailer moved to the west field.
- Blooms should continue through the beginning of October. Overall sales through Wednesday, August 30, 2023, was \$8,895.00 which is \$336 more than overall sales in 2022. Staff is anticipating an increase in sales in September as patrons start focusing on fall activities.
- New to the Salomon staff was Nick Ventruella. Nick brings flower farm experience and will be helping with the sunflower and flower field operation.
- Dinner in the Flower Fields has been announced. Two separate dinners will be held in September in partnership with Mad Anthony's / Shigs In Pit Catering. Details for this new event:
 - Dine amongst the blooms while enjoying a farm-focused dinner. In partnership with Mad Anthony's Catering, patrons will enjoy a 4-course meal, adult beverages, soft music, flowers, and conversation. Each participant will be able to take home a bouquet. Dinners will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, and Thursday, September 28, 2023. The fee is \$70 per person which includes a glass of wine or beer.
 - The guests will be surrounded by dahlias, sunflowers, and zinnias.
 - Current enrollment is 36 for Saturday, September 16, and 14 for Thursday, September 28. The minimum requirement to run this program is 25.
- Annual Concert on the Farm was held on Sunday, August 20, 2023, from 1:45 – 7:00 p.m. Bands that played this year included: Rosalind & The Way, The Legendary Train Hoppers, Debutants, and The Hubie Ashcraft Band. Mad Anthony / Shig In Pit served

barbeque and adult beverages, while Whip N Chill served ice cream and desserts. It was a hot day with many patrons taking their seats under trees to enjoy the shade. Admission was \$5 per person and attendance was 700. This was an increase of 390 from the 2022.

Sweet Breeze

- In August, Sweet Breeze scheduled two new specialty tours. All tours ran above the minimum registration.
 - Friday, August 11, 2023, was the River Ecology tour: Beat the heat and expand your knowledge of river ecology on this morning tour led by guest speaker Betsy Yankowiak from the Anthony Wayne Scout Reserve. Donations collected during the tour will help fund a Scouts eco-project at the reserve! 9 am – 10:30 am. \$35/person. 23 total tickets were sold.
 - Friday, August 18, 2023, was the Wine Tasting Tour: What could be more indulgent than the combination of wine, chocolate, a warm summer evening, a sunset, and a boat cruise? Invite a friend or two and treat yourselves to this special tour! Sample four different wines from Indianapolis-based Easley Winery along with chocolate pairings from Fort Wayne’s own DeBrand Fine Chocolates. 7:30 pm – 9 pm. \$60/person (all inclusive). 29 total tickets were sold.
- Due to low pre-sales for the general public tours on Saturdays and Sundays in August and with school returning to session, the tour schedule was reduced from 4 tours on Saturday and 4 on Sunday to 2 tours per day on both days. This schedule will be followed for the rest of the year unless there is a spike in sales.
- Thursday, August 31, 2023, was the last scheduled general public night tour for the season.

Sandra Odisho – Finance Manager

-  The Parks and Recreation Department paid 304 employees (136 full-time and 168 regular part-time and seasonal) for the payroll ending August 26th, 2023, and paid on September 1st, 2023.
-  We currently have the following permanent full-time positions open, posted, interviewing, or in the process of being hired, as of August 31, 2023:
 - Heavy Equipment Operator (Fund 121) – Two open positions
 - Recreation Center Coordinator – Weisser (Fund 121)
 - Supervisor IV – Food Service (Fund 121)
 - Relief Person – Facilities (Fund 121)
 - Program Facility Coordinator – Education & Interpretation – Botanical Conservatory (Fund 439)

- ✚ There have been a lot of seasonal separations this month from day camp and summer recreational employees; whereas seasonal hiring has been infrequent this month with only four seasonal hires in August.
- ✚ We want to thank all of the seasonal employees who helped make our summer programs successful!
- ✚ Baker Tilly Compensation Study changes went into effect on the payroll ending August 12th, 2023. These changes were approved by the City Council on July 11th, 2023 on Special Ordinance S-73-23 to address employee attraction and retention challenges across the City. Jobs were reclassified using a new grading level system and employees were also given longevity increases for their years of service.
- ✚ Sweet Breeze and Foellinger Theatre ticket sales helped to keep the front office staff busy in August. September 16th is the last show at the Theatre and October 15th is the last Sweet Breeze tour.
- ✚ Popular fall programs include cooking classes for both kids and adults at Salomon Farm Park, Lindenwood free hikes, adult recreational volleyball and basketball, and fall craft classes. We have a new event called Dinner in the Flower Field at Salomon Farm Park that has been a very popular program. All of these popular programs are filling up fast!
- ✚ Pavilion rentals were strong in August. Those rentals have been the first to experience the new text alert system by receiving their pavilion codes by text. This is something that has been requested by these customers and one of the main reasons we looked into it and implemented it.
- ✚ In August we added the ability to send text alerts to our customers. This will be a process as each customer has to “opt-in” to the texting feature. We are currently sending out weekly emails to customers who have rented pavilions coming up informing them of this service and encouraging them to opt-in for text alerts so that they can receive their pavilion entry codes through text. Our goal is to get a significant number of our households to opt into this service so that we can send texts regarding class cancellation changes and cancellations, dog and golf course membership renewal reminders, and concert/event announcements in addition to using pavilion entry codes.
- ✚ The Controller’s Office announced a 2024 Budget Kickoff Memo in mid-June with various instructions and due dates. The completed 2024 Budget was due July 14th.
 - The 2024 Budget will be introduced to City Council in September with Council Departmental Budget meetings and Budget passage occurring in October.

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

✚ **Facilities Maintenance**

- Pavilion rentals totaled: **278** for August. This is down from **396** in July.
- Graffiti was removed from the flowing locations; underneath the Rev., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. bridge, Bloomingdale Parks Rivergreenway, Lafayette Park’s shelter, Foster Park’s pavilion #3, Justin Study Park playground, McCulloch Park’s band shell, and the Lawton Park skate park.

- Relief workers pressure-washed the shelter at Bowser Park in preparation for the 100-year celebration. Mid-season maintenance was also performed at Waynedale Park and Lions Park to pressure wash the shelters.
- Relief workers, working leaders, and seasonal workers assisted the grounds department in spraying and spin-trimming weeds throughout multiple parks.



Maintenance Technicians

- Repairs were made to the boardwalk at Repka Park.
- New sump pumps were installed at Freimann Square.
- Electrical repairs needed to be completed at Freimann Square due to the main service being severed.
- Concrete pads were poured at Buckner Park along the new trail for two new bike racks to be installed.
- The pools shut down for the season at the beginning of the month. End-of-season tasks have been completed.
- Work began on constructing new outdoor dining tables for Salomon Park's upcoming events.
- The backboards at McMillen Park's tennis court were re-painted.
- New identifier signs were installed on each barn at Salomon Park.
- The Maintenance Technicians completed the following:
 - 20 Alarm calls
 - 8 Paint projects
 - 8 Building maintenance repairs
 - 24 Carpentry repairs
 - 47 Electrical repairs
 - 5 HVAC maintenance issues
 - 12 Key core maintenance repairs
 - 6 Light Maintenance
 - 7 Lock maintenance issues
 - 21 Playground maintenance replacement or repairs
 - 40 Plumbing maintenance issues
 - 10 Sign replacements
 - 30 Vandalism issues



Grounds Maintenance/Heavy Equipment

- The athletic field crew has had to water fields this month periodically when it has not rained, but we have not had to resort to daily watering.
- The ball diamond crew has remained busy with league rentals for both softball and kickball moving into the fall season.
- Heavy Equipment's major job this month was the removal of the Castlewood playground. The excavation went well and will assist with future playground removals in the months to come. This is along with assisting the garage by hauling tractors and mowers to and from the golf courses, removing debris piles from the gardens, and assisting the grounds with various daily jobs.
- The garbage truck is running every day including Sundays.
- Extra cans were placed at McMillen and Reservoir for special events along with barricades at both locations.

Manager of Facilities, Trades and Grounds

- There were 68 after-hours calls: 37 code issues, 4 plumbing, 7 electrical, 3 cleaning, 1 parking, 2 door, 1 playground, 1 vehicle, 2 for soccer fields, 1 set up, and 5 miscellaneous.

- VFP completed the inspections on the kitchen hoods at McMillen Community Center, Weisser Community Center, Reservoir Copper Center, Jennings Community Center, and the Downtown Community Center.
- Infinity Glass was hired to replace glass in a door at the Downtown Community Center, due to vandalism.
- Allied Mechanical cleaned the air condition units at the Foellinger Theater.
- Jack Laurie was hired to clean the carpets at the Northside main office.
- Premiere Communications installed a new camera system at the Jennings Center.
- Shambaugh was hired to repair lights at the Foellinger Theatre that were a safety issue.
- AEP installed two meters at the Johnny Appleseed park in preparation for the festival.
- Arab Pest Control was hired to take care of several issues within the parks due to bees and wasps.
- T&E completed the removal of the truck dock and small concrete wall at the Lawton complex.



Main Trac Coordinator

- Main Trac Entries: 7715 for the month.
- We have had 55, 311 calls this month.
- Busy entering time sheets and gas tickets.
- Running monthly reports for Chucks Recreation Staff.
- 12 volunteer hours were reported for this month.
- The Citizen Match Tree Program is continuing.



Main Trac Coordinator

- **Main Trac Entries: 9,960** for the month.
- We have had 169, 311 calls this month.
- Busy entering timesheets, gas tickets, and contracted invoices.
- Running monthly reports for Chucks Recreation Staff.
- 471.5 volunteer hours were reported for this month. They worked in the greenhouse as well as helped Riparian and Landscape. Volunteers also helped with putting mulch around Swinney Tennis Center and Tillman Park.
- Nicole has been working with many different people to see if it is possible to get out of the dark ages on how hours are put into the main track. Nicole has looked into GIS, Survey 123, and our Main trac system, trying to find the best one.



Lawton Garage/Operations

- 211 work orders were scheduled this month, 25 of which were services.
- Chris Poppele worked with the Street Dept. to attend CDL classes offered by the city.
- Truck 184 and Truck 29 were finished up at Ford and returned to Lawton Park.
- Truck 66 is still at Ford waiting on repairs to the truck bed.
- Gasoline Equipment installed a new mixed gas tank to replace the rusting 50-gallon mixed gas tank at the Lawton fuel island.
- Toro unit #519 was delivered from Kenny Machine after being repaired and has been put back into service.

- A Massey Ferguson tractor from Kreager was sent to Plevna Implement for repair. A rental tractor from More’s Farms store is being used to maintain ball diamonds.
- Various Ventrac repair parts including belts and blades were purchased and added to the storeroom to cover future maintenance and repairs.
- A Ford Transit 250 van from the 2022 equipment lease is at the Fleet Dept. and will be moved to the Parks once their paperwork is finished. The other outstanding 2022 Fords (F150, F750) are still open orders but don’t have build dates yet.
- Nowak finished yearly fire extinguisher inspections and recharges for 2023.
- The forestry crane being rebuilt at RPM Machinery is almost complete. Crews are waiting on a backordered cable that will arrive sometime in October.
 - 8 Philipps FRx AEDs were delivered to replace 8-2000 and 2003 FR2 models. The locations for these new units are to be determined.
 - A new dump trailer was delivered for the forestry crew.
 - Mechanics have been working with the zoo on the upcoming removal of the sky ride pump following a massive leak and pump failure.
 - Truck 93 is getting its rebuilt transmission installed with truck 95 to be next in line for the same repair.
 - The unleaded gas pump at Lawton was damaged and had to be repaired by Gasoline Equipment.
 - The Parks Dept. Zamboni was brought to Lawton to be serviced so it is ready for the winter ice skating season.
 - A quote was received to add auxiliary hydraulics and controls to the older backhoe to allow it to use a grapple bucket to extend the capabilities of the machine.

✚ Storeroom and Property:

- Storeroom staff supported the Lawton end-of-summer cookout and picnic.
- Multiple signs were fabricated for the upcoming Salomon Fall Festival.
- 15 passenger vans were utilized for the Mayor’s office and Community Development to transport visitors.
- Supplies were provided for Open Streets and the Salomon concert in the park.

2023 Vehicle Lease Purchase Update:

Club Car enclosed cabs (2)	Delivered
Replacement Plow for truck 159	23121188
John Deere 835M Gator	Delivered
Ventrac 4520z Tractor	Delivered
Phillips FRx AEDS (8)	Delivered
Dump Trailer	Delivered
Tilt Trailer	23121209
Equipment Trailers (2)	23121217
John Deere greens mowers	23121200
John Deere Aercore 800	23121213
Ford F250 Pick-Ups (4)	P.O. Submitted
Motorola Replacement radios	Waiting on updated quotes
Toro Dingo loader	23121211

Superintendent

- Approve and record invoices for various materials used and applied in grounds, maintenance, and facilities departments.
- Overseeing a variety of issues on all sides of Maintenance.
- Going back over inspections of the Parks and doing new ones.
- Working on 2023 Playground inspections follow-up.
- Working on River Greenway inspections.
- Working with supervisor staff to remind them of work that needs to be completed.
- Working on monthly MMR reports for IDEM at the spray parks, and finishing the summer paperwork as well.

Project Administration

- Botanical Conservatory Roof Glass Replacement, and Botanical Conservatory Entrance Sidewalk – Project completed. Botanical Conservatory Linkway Roofs/Interior Design – Bids are due August 31st. Botanical Conservatory Tropical Paths – Planning in progress. Buckner Park Trail Construction – Project completed.
- Buckner Park Trail As-Built Services – Survey in progress and final drawings are yet to be prepared for Allen County Planning.
- Casselwood Park Playground Replacement – Installation is in progress. Completion is planned by Labor Day weekend.
- Foster Park Golf Course Master Plan – Revised master plan submitted by architects. Staff review in progress. Foster Park Golf Restroom – Project completed.
- Franklin Park Shade Structures – Project completed.
- Headwaters Park Fountain – Project planning in progress. Headwaters Park Sidewalks – Project completed. Headwaters Park Pavilion Report – The Architect's work is in progress.
- Jennings Center Kitchen Cabinets & Countertops – Project completed.
- Jennings Center – Security system additions in progress, and Boiler Boiler Replacement – Project in progress.
- Kreager Park Houses Demolition – Project set to begin in early September.
- Lawton Park Maintenance Building Roof – Design report in progress.
- McMillen Park Community Center Reception Area – Project completed. McMillen Park Reception Signage – Signage in fabrication, installation in September. McMillen Park Tennis Courts Resurfacing – Project completed.
- Mechanic St. Bridge Engineering – Drawings provided to staff for review. Bidding to occur in late 2023.
- Parks System Comprehensive Plan – Project in progress.

- Parks Playground Improvements – Proposals received August 24th. Staff review in progress.
- Salomon Farm Rental Barn – Painting completed. Additional work is ongoing at Heritage Barn. Salomon Farm North Garden Fence – Work planned for late September. Salomon Farm South Field Watering System – Work is set to begin in early September. Salomon Farm Homestead Exterior Improvements – Work is set to begin in early September.
- Sheldon Park Signage – Park identification sign fabrication and installation are in progress.
- Various Parks 2023 Paving Projects – Project completed. Various Parks 2023 Sidewalk Improvements – Project completed. Various Parks Site Furnishings – Acquisitions and installations in progress, and Various Parks On-Call Engineering Services – Structural plans in progress for Little Crow Teepee.
- Weisser Park Center – Security System additions in progress.

Other work:

- Various Parks: accessed potential and necessary future projects
 - Various Parks: Planning projects for next season's budget
 - 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: Park assessments are being completed.

Safety

- The Parks & Rec. Safety Committee met on, 8-29-23. 3 employees and 2 guests were present.
- 1 vehicle crash has been reported for this period.
- 3 employee injury was reported during this period.
- 6 Narcan Use training sessions were given and Narcan distribution has begun.
- Emergency Action Plan training refresher is underway along with/ updates to emergency evacuation maps.
- The CPSI certification class was completed, awaiting exam results.
- The review of Parks Safety SOPs continues.

Alec Johnson, Deputy Director, Planning & Development, Forestry,

 **BOTANICAL**
CONSERVATORY
Landscape, Riparian and

Planning Report – August 2023

Construction continues at Franke Park for the Franke Renaissance project. Foundation work has begun on the pavilion while paving preparation work continues on the entrance drive. All permits

have been secured for the project, and everything is currently on schedule. Staff currently meets with the construction and design team on a bi-weekly basis.

Riverfront Development Phase IIB design and permitting continues; we hope to submit final drawings in reply to permitting agencies' comments soon. Groundbreaking for non-permitted work previously released as an early bid package is tentatively scheduled for September.

An additional method for the public to provide input towards our Comprehensive Plan, called Social Pinpoint, was made live in August. We continue to gather input and work with the consultant team towards the formation of this plan.

Brewer Park Redevelopment plans have reached a 30% completion; staff met with the design team to review the layout, materials, and project estimate. Value engineering will take place in September as we move towards the completion of design development drawings within the project budget.

Four proposals were received for the Packard Park Redevelopment project; staff will review these proposals and make a recommendation for a contract in September.

Staff continues to coordinate with Utilities staff regarding upcoming impacts to Foster Park. Golf and Recreation staff recently reviewed project drawings and are working towards an operation and restoration plan during and post-construction.

We continue to work with ERI towards the completion of construction documents for the East Central Maintenance Docks. We anticipate applying for permits later this year, with potential for construction in late 2024 or 2025.

We have engaged with staff and students at AmpLab on a water quality-based project in Spy Run Creek in Franke Park. Students are conducting water testing, learning about the threats and opportunities with water quality, and developing a PSA discussing the current and potential future state of our watershed.

Staff met regularly with Conservatory management to discuss various agreements, staff training, marketing, showcase, and facility operations. Progress continues to be made on the various capital projects within the facility that were discovered through the facility assessment and internal discussions.

Horticulture and Landscape Report- August 2023

Landscape staff continues to apply post-emergent herbicides to control weed growth.

Landscape staff loaded and hauled approximately 275 yards (approximately 70 loads) of mulch for volunteer projects this month. On August 12, staff assisted Pine Hills church in spreading 165 yards of mulch in the Swinney Tennis Center area. On August 23rd, staff assisted 120 Manchester students in spreading 110 yards of mulch in Tillman Park. Landscape staff spent multiple days in both parks prepping beds and pruning trees before mulch was applied.

Downtown staff spent much of their time weeding annual, perennial, and shrub beds. Spot herbicide treatments were made as well.

Cleanups continued at Headwaters Park. Staff spent multiple days opening up a sidewalk that was overgrown with shrubs.

Landscape staff spent time at Lindenwood Nature Preserve widening the path to allow for trucks to access a water pump that required repair.

Landscape staff spent time doing bed cleanups and weeding at Franke, Foellinger Theatre, Rudisill Park, and the golf clubhouse at Shoaff.

Lakeside Park spent time mulching and treating roses for pests along with their normal seasonal maintenance duties.

Foster Park worked on a turf improvement project and mulching on top of their general maintenance duties.

Flower and vegetable judging began in the schools for the SCFVA.

Great Tree Canopy Comeback will take place on October 21st. We will be planting 50 trees in Rockhill Park and also removing honeysuckle and other invasive shrubs in Headwaters Park along the river.

Landscape staff attended Narcan training.

CL&S Landscaping mowed brush creeping out into North Washington Road, bordering Noll Park, with a forestry mower.

Pride Landcare and Mow Baby Mow continued mowing all contracted maintenance areas.

Lawnganics continued with turf fertilization and weed control on all park locations under contract.

Volunteers worked 191 hours in the greenhouse in August.

The final deliveries of Poinsettias and Pot Mums arrived for the Botanical Conservatory Showcase displays. Because of the heat potting of the mums was delayed a week.

Riparian Management Report- August 2023

Successfully coordinated and participated in Day of Caring. Hosted 70 volunteers at Headwaters Park West. A short presentation of water quality and local invasive species was presented to volunteers before working. Volunteers cleared more than 66,000 sq. ft. of honeysuckle. Volunteer work totaled 210 volunteer hours, approximately \$6,678 of work, and approximately 4 tons of honeysuckle removed.

Old Fort Bridge was cleared of debris along with several deadheads along the St Marys River. Approximately 4 tons of deadhead debris was removed.

Continued to assist with planning of future private dock at East Central Park.

Continued development of safety protocols including man overboard, general boat safety, and riparian-specific chainsaw training. Continued coordinating with both the Fire Department and Police Department on approved protocols and operations for emergencies.

Completed the river events for River Set Go. Installed, assembled, and hauled dock sections to extend Promenade's south dock for dragon boat practices and races. Installed, staged, and hauled fire pits for the evening's festivities.

Continued coordination and assistance with the operation of Sweet Breeze.

Participated in the IPRA's Northern District meeting at Promenade by providing a demonstration of the work capabilities of the work barge.

Forestry Report- August 2023

Scheduling of the 2023 Fall Tree Planting Project is complete. Following the Board of Park Commissioners and City Council approval, this year's planting is expected to result in 997 new trees finding homes throughout Fort Wayne. These new trees are expected to offer considerable environmental and immeasurable community health benefits over the next 50 years.

Our level one tree risk assessment (windshield inspection) of the nearly 50,00 trees located along 1,300 miles of roadway continues. We hope to complete this inspection before October 1st. So far, 36 of the 52 pruning sections have been completed and 483 have been identified as high priority candidates for removal.

The Forestry team has implemented an ongoing and progressive training program called the Tree Care Academy. Required courses are job-specific and become more advanced as staff members grow in expertise. Initial coursework includes Ground Operation 1: Fundamentals, Ground

Operations 2: Chipper Specialist, and Electrical Hazard Awareness. Successful completion of a course includes an exam as well as the demonstration of proficiency.

During August, Forestry crews completed 37 out-of-cycle tree maintenance requests. Examples of these requests include tree limb elevation to accommodate the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles, removal of limbs touching homes, clearing street lighting and signage, and removal of dead limbs.

18 high-priority trees were removed by in-house crews this month. These removals were determined necessary within a very short timeframe based on the findings of a more thorough tree risk assessment. Tree risk assessments consider the likelihood of failure, the likelihood of impacting a target, and the likely consequences of the tree failure.

It's common for Fort Wayne to experience storms during the summer months. This month Forestry crews responded to 98 storm-related fallen/hanging limbs and 31 trees impacted to the extent that required removal. 8 of these were privately owned trees that were removed from the roadway. We hope to see the weather stabilize in the coming months, allowing crews more time to address other requests for service.

Forestry staff responded to and resolved 188, 311 Call Center requests for service this month.

Botanical Conservatory Report – August 2023

An Herban Garden (opened July 1) emanates a sense of community for Botanical Conservatory visitors with bountiful herbs & vegetables, vibrant public art, urban scenery, and interactive opportunities for all ages. The Botanical Conservatory hosted several well-received programs/events in August 2023 including ROOTS Music Fest (August 4 & 5), Daniel Dienelt: *Learning to Draw My Judgement* (opened August 15), and Sister City Taizhou Photography and Youth Drawing Exchange Display (opened August 22). Staff are gearing up for Fall Plant Swap (September 2), Be A Tourist in Your Hometown (September 11), Fall Bonsai Show (September 16), Pumpkin Path Installation (October 2), and Botanical Brew (October 6), in addition to several pre-registered classes and workshops.

After a candidate search, the Botanical was fortunate to rehire Kelsey Foster Gerig in the Program Facility Coordinator – Education and Interpretation position and began work on August 29.

Botanical Conservatory KPIs

Overall, August 2023 metrics surpassed August 2022, which was previously the largest August on record for revenue and attendance. Improvements in key metrics were achieved Attendance (up 26.44%), Admissions Revenue (up 67.88%), and Membership Revenue (up 33.34%). August through September trend as the lowest-traffic months for the Botanical Conservatory, except for a higher rental event engagement, allowing for staff to gear up for a very busy holiday season!

Attendance

August 2022: 3,967 visitors

August 2023: 5,016 visitors

An increase of 1,049 or +26.44% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Attendance: 56,151 visitors

2023 Attendance: 70,262 visitors

An increase of 14,111 or +25.13% to 2022

Admissions Revenue

August 2022: \$14,585.00

August 2023: \$24,484.65

An increase of \$9,899.65 or +67.88% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Admissions Revenue: \$218,531.70

2023 Admissions Revenue: \$275,344.33

An increase of \$56,812.63 or +26.00% to 2022

Membership Revenue

August 2022: \$2,760.00

August 2023: \$3,680.20

An increase of \$920.20 or +33.34% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Membership Revenue: \$49,293.00

2023 Membership Revenue: \$63,491.26

An increase of \$14,198.26 or +28.80% to 2022

Conservatory Shop Revenue

August 2022: \$15,004.82

August 2023: \$15,066.21

An increase of \$61.39 or +0.41% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Gift Shop Revenue: \$162,821.21

2023 Gift Shop Revenue: \$193,899.55

An increase of \$31,078.34 or +19.09% to 2022

Rental & Catering Fee Revenue

August 2022: \$9,675.00

August 2023: \$8,277.50

A decrease of \$1,397.50 or -14.44% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Rental Revenue: \$63,312.88

2023 Rental Revenue: \$69,066.00

An increase of \$5,753.12 or +9.09% to 2022

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

August 2022: \$6,782.29

August 2023: \$2,480.73

YTD Comparisons


2022 Other Revenue: \$369,754.51
2023 Other Revenue: \$341,156.20

Conservatory Total Revenue

August 2022: \$48,807.11
August 2023: \$53,989.29
A decrease of \$5,182.18 or +10.62% to 2022

YTD Comparisons

2022 Total Revenue: \$863,713.30
2023 Total Revenue: \$942,957.34
An increase of \$79,244.04 or +9.17% to 2022

 Botanical Conservatory Business Development

Staff submitted a grant for \$1,000,000 capital support for the Botanical Conservatory and Foellinger Theatre to the Foellinger Foundation at the foundation’s request. Projects proposed to the Foellinger Foundation for funding included a master plan and drawings for the Botanical Conservatory’s Atrium/Gallery, Terrace Garden, and Exploration Garden, as well as a new freight elevator. These projects were selected by staff review.

Staff submitted final media reports to Majic 95.1 and Fox 55 for the 2023 Mother’s Day Plant Sale; to Majic 95.1 and 21Alive for the 2023 Mother’s Day in the Garden; to WBOI 89.1 and WANE 15 for the 2023 Jazzworks! concert; to WANE 15 and 103.9 Wayne FM for the 2023 California Dreamin’ Exhibit and to 21 Alive and WMEE 97.3 for the 2023 Color in Motion Butterflies Exhibit. These reports will enable the Botanical Conservatory to approach these media for continuing support of the 2024 special events and Showcase Garden exhibits.

Staff submitted a final grant report to the Ian and Mimi Rolland Foundation for their support of the 2023 “Color in Motion” Live Butterfly Exhibit. This report enables the Botanical Conservatory to apply for funding for the 2024 butterfly exhibit.

Botanical Conservatory donations in July 2023 totaled \$50: \$50 as a memorial for Conservatory volunteer Linda Pickermann from the Arlington Ohio Women’s Thursday Night Bunco Group.

 Conservatory Public Programs: Events

Botanical ROOTS Music Fest (August 4 & 5)

A revamped 2-day approach to this event was greatly enjoyed by those who attended and particularly by members who took advantage of a favored benefit. Eleven bands played in all, four on Friday and seven on Saturday. Four of the five headliners were national and regional acts with the fifth being local talent that performs regionally. Genres included reggae (Lazo & Exodus), zydeco (CJ Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band), blues (Mississippi Heat), Americana (Debutants), and folk (Grace Theisen Band, featuring The Rebel Eves). A total of 1,068 guests came out for this summer’s Botanical ROOTS Music Fest whereas Friday saw significant attendance with 689 guests, and Saturday’s drizzling afternoon and rain-soaked evening made out for 348 guests. The event ended with a memorable evening of dancing in the rain, which fortunately, the sound provider, Rider Productions was prepared to maintain the show schedule regardless of challenging circumstances!

Mad Anthony Brewing Company returned as a favorite food and beverage vendor. Media, XKE, and WRSW acted as emcees throughout the event.



Night & day musical entertainment during the Botanical ROOTS Music Fest

Education

Local Food Week – Incredible Edible Food Hunt (July 28-August 6)

In partnership with the Northeast Indiana Local Food Network, the Botanical Conservatory celebrated Local Food Week with an emphasis on food-producing plants that can be found when visiting the gardens. Two different food hunts were offered; one for kids to creatively draw and complete a fun maze matching fruits with their respective juices, and the other for adults and older youth challenging them to locate a variety of plants with an emphasis on the importance of pollinators for food. An estimated 610 people participated in the activity.

Returning instructor Sandy Gebhard presented a 4-week morning T'ai Chi course throughout August. A total of 13 participants enjoyed the course with outdoor sessions included.

Exhibits & Displays

An Herban Garden (July 1-November 12)

The Botanical Conservatory's latest summer/fall showcase exhibit is one of a kind with a mix of friendly views and visitors alike. All are invited to get hands-on while planting a seed and using their senses to interact with many different features where herbs and beautiful flowers are flourishing in peak season. There is even an alleyway inviting guests to leave their mark! To more immediately foster growing opportunities, there is also a Plant Quest activity, interpretative signage, and complimentary herb plants as part of the featured cityscape.



A beautiful season in the Botanical Conservatory's own Herban Garden

Relearning to Draw My Judgement by Daniel Dienelt (August 22-November 12)

The current art exhibit is on display in the main gallery hall with works utilizing mostly paint, ink, and photography while mixing in accent media such as beeswax and plaster. On August 25, an Artist Reception was hosted for Daniel Dienelt whose artwork revolves around skateboarding in an urban setting and the freedoms found while learning to navigate life with the challenges of hearing loss. His artwork is available for purchase at shop.botanicalconservatory.org.

Volunteers/Staff

At the Front Desk, 8 volunteers covered 38 shifts, while in the Gift Shop, 11 volunteers filled 40 shifts. During the Botanical ROOTS Music Fest, 11 volunteers were greatly appreciated at the Front Desk, in the Gift Shop, at the hand-stamping station, wrist-banding station, as gate security, photographers, and as a vendor and guest assistant. The SWAT Garden Team was maintained with one of the Conservatory's newest volunteers.

Upcoming

Sept. 2: Fall Plant Swap

September 5-26: T'ai Chi in September, pre-registered

September 5-26: Bones for Life®, pre-registered

Sept. 9: SCFVA Blue Ribbon Show

Sept. 10: Be a Tourist in Your Hometown

Sept. 14: Kokedama- Art of Making Moss Balls, pre-registered

Sept. 16: Fall Bonsai Show

September 26-October 31: T'ai Chi Tuesdays, pre-registered

Sept. 30: Foraging Wild Edibles, pre-registered

Thru November 12: Art Exhibit Daniel Dienelt- *Learning to Draw My Judgement*

Thru November 12: "An Herban Garden" Summer/Fall Showcase Exhibit

Botanical Conservatory Facility and Maintenance

Homeland security completed an annual inspection, and the Botanical Conservatory passed without issue.

Rear parking lot work was completed to repave failing asphalt and add parking spaces. Light bollards in the rear parking lot were also repainted. in conjunction with the parking lot repaving project. The circle drive on Calhoun Street was similarly repaved and allows for increased ADA accessibility after the completion of a new sidewalk with ADA ramps.

An ADA door audit was performed; many ADA opener switches were replaced to ensure the full function of the doors.

Botanical Conservatory Landscape and Horticulture

Spring Bulbs have been ordered for the outdoor annual beds. The bulbs for the entrance beds will be in hues of red, pink, and white. The bulbs were selected to highlight awareness of Parkinson's Disease. Tulip and daffodil bulb mixes were selected to provide color from late March through mid-May. Other bulb mixes of various colors were selected for the remaining annual beds. The bulbs will be planted in late October to mid-November.

Bulbs have been ordered for the Winter Showcase Garden—Botanical Speedway. A variety of tulips, daffodils, and hyacinth bulbs will be chilled and forced this fall and early winter at the Lawton Greenhouse in preparation for an early bloom at the Botanical Conservatory.

Additional turfgrass treatments were applied this month including fertilizer and herbicides. A significant reduction in yellow nutsedge has been observed for the year as consistent treatments have been applied throughout the season.

Anthis students will be returning this fall to volunteer at the Conservatory. This next group of students will mark the third semester Anthis students have volunteered weekly at the Conservatory. Their efforts have been invaluable for the Conservatory and have aided in completing several large projects. This fall they will assist in planting mums, planting bulbs, completing additional work in the Desert House, and other tasks as needed.

Additional treatments have been applied throughout the Conservatory to tackle insect/arachnid pests. Beneficial insects were purchased and released early in the month, with subsequent treatments with systemic insecticides on all the cycads and citrus in the Tropical House and several plants within the Atrium. The systemic insecticides will target insect pests feeding on the leaves of the plants while leaving the beneficial insects unharmed. The systemic insecticide was applied using a soil drench method to reduce off-site drift and minimize insecticide exposure to staff and the visiting public without any reduction in efficacy.

Kathryn Pargmann – Manager Lead of Marketing

✚ www.RiverfrontFW.org had 5,970 hits to the site this month and the Promenade Park link had 4,385 hits. The Rental link continues to be a popular source of information. A total of 1,149 hits in August.



- ✚ Assisted with a total website redesign for the Botanical Conservatory. It is live now.
- ✚ Completed 72 Design projects.
- ✚ Riverfront September/October event promo pieces completed.
- ✚ Salomon Farm rental, U-Pick, and Harvest Festival promo pieces completed.
- ✚ Conservatory flyers, newsletters, tickets, and sign slides for fall complete.
- ✚ Assisted with completing grants for playgrounds, Foellinger Theatre, and the Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory.
- ✚ Finalized Donation video and submitted to local media as a PSA.
- ✚ Began working on sponsorships for Winterval.
- ✚ Organized the Bowser Park Press Conference on August 16.

- Main social media promotions were formulated for the Fort Wayne Dragon Boat Festival and Races, Bowser Park, Walk in the Park segments, and the Parks Comprehensive Plan.
- A Disc Golf Podcast has been released
- Social Media Total Mentions, including television, radio, newspaper, and websites:**
June 77 July 54 August 102

Web Statistics:

	<u>Users:</u>	<u>Hits:</u>	<u>Month:</u>
	68,145	190,612	June
	55,525	150,482	July
	50,952	141,648	August

Social Media Totals for the months of:

	June	July	August
FB Followers	81,997	83,100	83,909
FB Reach	395,178	289,573	308,487
 Twitter Followers	13,638	13,686	13,718
 Instagram Followers	23,846	24,361	24,525

Gary Whitacre – Manager, Golf Operations

As the 2023 golf season begins to slow down post-Labor Day, an extremely successful season is being wrapped up. The weather has not been a detriment to play at all, as few if any days have been lost. Through the end of August, revenue totals at all 3 golf courses have already exceeded the totals from the entirety of 2022. Here are the year-over-year totals through August:

<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>FOSTER</u>	<u>MCMILLEN</u>	<u>SHOAF</u>
2022 REVENUE	61,936	36,708	81,303.25
2023 REVENUE	78,797	51,343.50	96,740
YTD 2022	266,607.50	161,627.50	358.605
YTD 2023	358,178.75	220,582.50	446,851.75

For the most part, we have been successful in accomplishing what can be accomplished in the current situation. The cart fleet has been nursed through the season fairly well, and we are expecting the delivery of 17 new carts before year's end, and 16 more next spring. These carts should put us on more solid ground moving forward, but will still fall short of where we need to be.

The lack of functional carts at peak times is still costing us revenue. All three of the courses are running out of available carts much more often than they should. The new carts anticipated will help

out somewhat, but replacing and expanding on the aging fleet is still ongoing. Even when the new carts arrive, we will still be at least 20 carts short of what is thought to be optimal.

✚ The Foster Park project planning continues, and a crucial point in time is about to occur. City Utilities is going to begin the part of the Big Dig project that will affect the golf course this fall and into the winter. As information becomes available, the golf staff is making contingency plans to try and keep the golf course playable in some form. Already, outings are not being scheduled for next season because of the probability of the full golf course not being available.

✚ We are also working with the golf course architects to see if there is a way to begin shaping the new driving range concurrently with the work that will be going on at the east end of the golf course. Anything that can be coordinated with the Big Dig project will dramatically minimize the downtime so that the course can be up and running at full speed as quickly as possible.

✚ With that being said, in 2024 at least, Foster Park will not see the revenue numbers it did this year because of disruption to play from the City Utilities project.

✚ Golf continues to grow, and the numbers reflect that. The revenue from the city courses is up over 30% from a very good year 2022. The ceiling will continue to be raised if the Foster Park renovation project comes to fruition.

[Dawn Ritchie – Greenway & Trails Manager](#)



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

✚ The Hanna Street Trail: We are working on a grant to fund the rest of the 6-Mile Creek Trail in the City limits from the intersection of Tillman Rd/Lemar Dr to the intersection of Adams Center Rd/Seiler Rd. We are pursuing engineering, right of way, and construction funding from the U.S. DOT's Neighborhood Access & Equity program. The grant is due on 9/28. If successful, we will be able to link the Rivergreenway in Tillman Park to the Rivergreenway at Maplecrest Rd, forming a 23-mile loop in our network and connecting neighborhoods in SE Fort Wayne to many destinations.

✚ We recently had a public meeting with 24 attendees, who all support the project.

✚ We had a very successful Open Streets event on August 20th.

✚ The City will be hosting the DNR's Trails Advisory Board on September 7th. We'll showcase the horse trails under construction; Promenade Park; the Urban Trail; Riverfront Phase 2; and water trails; and then they'll have their quarterly meeting at Promenade Park at 3 p.m. I will also be providing a presentation on the proposed 81-mile

✚ Poka-Bache Connector from Pokagon State Park to Ouabache State Park.

✚ We will start working on our fall tree-planting plan. We generally spend about \$5,000-\$10,000 per year planting trees along the trails. We also mark dead trees along some of the trails in September for removal in the winter.

Division News and Media Coverage:



WFFT, City Council approves \$11M spending bill

https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-city-council-approves-11m-spending-bill/article_ccf73b1e-51e6-11ee-9f0d-47efb1c0a8c2.html

WANE, Fort Wayne to add new RV camping to Johnny Appleseed Park

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/fort-wayne-to-add-new-rv-camping-to-johnny-appleseed-park/>

WANE, Compromise leads to passage of extra funds at City Council

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/it-was-kind-a-fun-city-compromises-to-allocate-extra-funds/>

WANE, Olde Canal Hotel planned off W. Jefferson Blvd.

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/olde-canal-hotel-overlooking-a-valley-planned-off-west-jefferson-boulevard/>

WANE, Jail status hearing postponed

<https://www.wane.com/news/local-news/jail-status-hearing-postponed-allen-county-council-president-deposed-in-ongoing-lawsuit/>

WPTA, New brewery planned for downtown riverfront

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/09/12/new-brewery-planned-downtowns-riverfront/>

WPTA, Feature on Foellinger Theatre

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/09/01/walk-park-foellinger-theatre/>

Rollin' at the River Comedy Show

Friday, September 15, 7:00– 9:00 p.m.

Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

Riverfront Fort Wayne in partnership with The Maumee, Mary, and Joseph Comedy Festival will host an entertaining night that will have you rollin' with laughter! Our headlining comedian is Jamarcus "JT" Turner, who originally hails from Fort Wayne. Stop by Teds Snack + Bar beforehand to grab a drink to bring to the show. This show is designed for ages 18 and above. Tickets are \$20 in advance and available online at www.fortwayneparks.org or by phone at 260-427-6000. Material is at the discretion of the comedian and does not reflect the views of Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation.

WPTA, Parks and Recreation receives \$1M grant

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/09/08/fort-wayne-parks-rec-receives-1m-grant/>

WANE, County Council sets public hearing on jail financing

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/county-council-sets-public-hearing-on-allen-county-jail-financing-for-sept-20/>

WPTA, Feature on Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/09/07/walk-park-trek-trails-tread-trails/>

WOWO, Foellinger Foundation to give \$1M to Parks and Recreation

<https://wowo.com/foellinger-foundation-to-give-1-million-to-fort-wayne-parks-and-recreation/>

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back with Fort Wayne Philharmonic

Saturday, September 16, 7:30 p.m. Foellinger Theatre, 3411 Sherman Blvd.

The battle for the galaxy intensifies in the fifth episode of the Star Wars saga. Imperial Forces launch an all-out attack on the Rebel Alliance and Darth Vader captures Han Solo and Princess Leia. Luke Skywalker learns the ways of the Force from Jedi Master Yoda, and Luke and Darth Vader join in a life-and-death duel. Experience it all projected on the big screen as the Fort Wayne Philharmonic performs John Williams' epic score live to picture! Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com or in person at the Parks and Recreation Department, 705 East State Blvd. during regular office hours or at the Foellinger Theatre Box Office from 6:00 –10:00 p. m. on concert days.

WFFT, Award for The Landing's streetscape

https://www.wfft.com/news/the-landing-streetscape-awarded-inasla-2023-merit-award/article_0481bb76-4da1-11ee-b3bd-6fdacc2e2253.html

WFFT, Parks and Recreation announces September/October dates for free adult vaccines

https://www.wfft.com/news/fort-wayne-parks-and-recreation-announce-september-and-october-dates-for-free-adult-vaccines/article_0cf2a372-4ccc-11ee-9121-4bfc3caad2df.html

Sweet Breeze Specialty: Johnny Appleseed Tours

Saturday, September 16, 1:00 p.m. (90 minutes), 2:45 p.m. (45 minutes)

Sunday, September 17, 1:00 p.m. (90 minutes), 2:45 p.m. (45 minutes)

South Dock, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

In celebration of the Johnny Appleseed Festival, docents on this weekend's general public tours will tell the story of John Chapman's life history, and serve apple cider. This fully accessible tour provides an opportunity to learn something new about Fort Wayne through its riverfront. Choose 90-minute or 45-minute cruise options. Tickets are \$35 per person for a 90-minute cruise, and \$25 per person for a 45-minute cruise. Reservations can be made online at 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.

WANE, Founding Father Gen. Anthony Wayne's legacy is getting a second look at Ohio's Wayne National Forest

<https://www.wane.com/top-stories/founding-father-gen-anthony-waynes-legacy-is-getting-a-second-look-at-ohios-wayne-national-forest/>

WPTA, Feature on historic sites in Fort Wayne and Allen County

<https://www.21alivenews.com/2023/09/01/linda-likes-it-visit-fort-waynes-allen-county-historic-sites-pass/>

Sensory Expo

Sunday, September 17, 1:00–5:00 p.m.

Park Foundation Pavilion, Promenade Park, 202 West Superior Street

Learn about sensory processing disorders, connect with local organizations that offer sensory and adaptive services, play with sensory toys, and meet therapy dogs at this free community event. It's open to all ages.

Vaccination Clinic & Health Fair

Free Vaccines Shingles, Pneumonia, COVID, flu, etc. Ages 18+ /
ID and insurance card required **Assessments** **Food**
Transportation **Games/Prizes**

Community Center Vaccine Clinic

October 2, 10 am-1 pm

233 W. Main St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

McMillen Park Community Center

Vaccine Clinic & Health Fair

October 26, 9 am - Noon

3901 Abbot Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

WFFT, Veo riders respond to city ending partnership

https://www.wfft.com/news/veo-riders-in-fort-wayne-respond-to-city-ending-partnership-with-the-shared-mobility-company/article_8de55f2a-36c8-11ee-963a-b77e5e537057.html

An Herban Garden Showcase Exhibit - Until November 12, 2023, public hours
Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 1100 South Calhoun Street

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

City TV, 'News Around Town' with features on the **Jennings Center 75th** anniversary and the completion of a major stormwater project in the Blackhawk neighborhood

<https://acpl.viebit.com/player.php?hash=q27pUg5wlz0vEokW>

Trek the Trails and Tread the Trails

The full schedule of Trek the Trail bike rides: <http://www.fortwayneparks.org/trails/news-events.html>

Trek the Trails is sponsored by Freedom Cycle Co, Trek Bikes Fort Wayne, VS Engineering, UAW Local #2209, and Three Rivers Velo Sport. Tread the Trails is presented by the City of Fort Wayne, the Fort Wayne Running Club, Fort Wayne Trails, and the City of New Haven. The Fort Wayne Area Trails Network consists of 134 miles of trails, with 100 miles inside City limits. Most of the trails in City limits are planned, designed, constructed, and maintained by the City of Fort Wayne, under the leadership of Mayor Tom Henry.

For more information, call the City of Fort Wayne Greenways & Trails Office at 260-427-6228 or Fort Wayne Trails, Inc. at 260-969-0079. Follow the City of Fort Wayne, FW Parks and Recreation, and Fort

Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department Staff Reports, submitted 9/14/2023

Wayne Trails for weather-related updates! Accessibility options are available - please contact either the phone number above or email Greenways@CityofFortWayne.org for more information.

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

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

9/19 & **9/21** Cookie Cottage - 620 W Washington Center Rd. 8.2 mi / **5k**

9/26 @ 7 PM N. River Rd. Trailhead (Night Ride) 8.5 mi