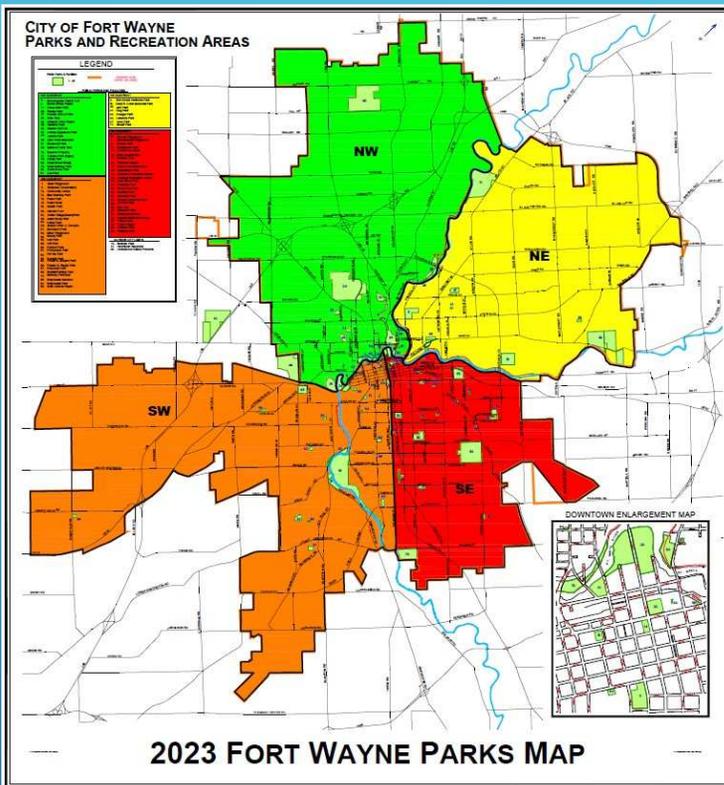


# FORT WAYNE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

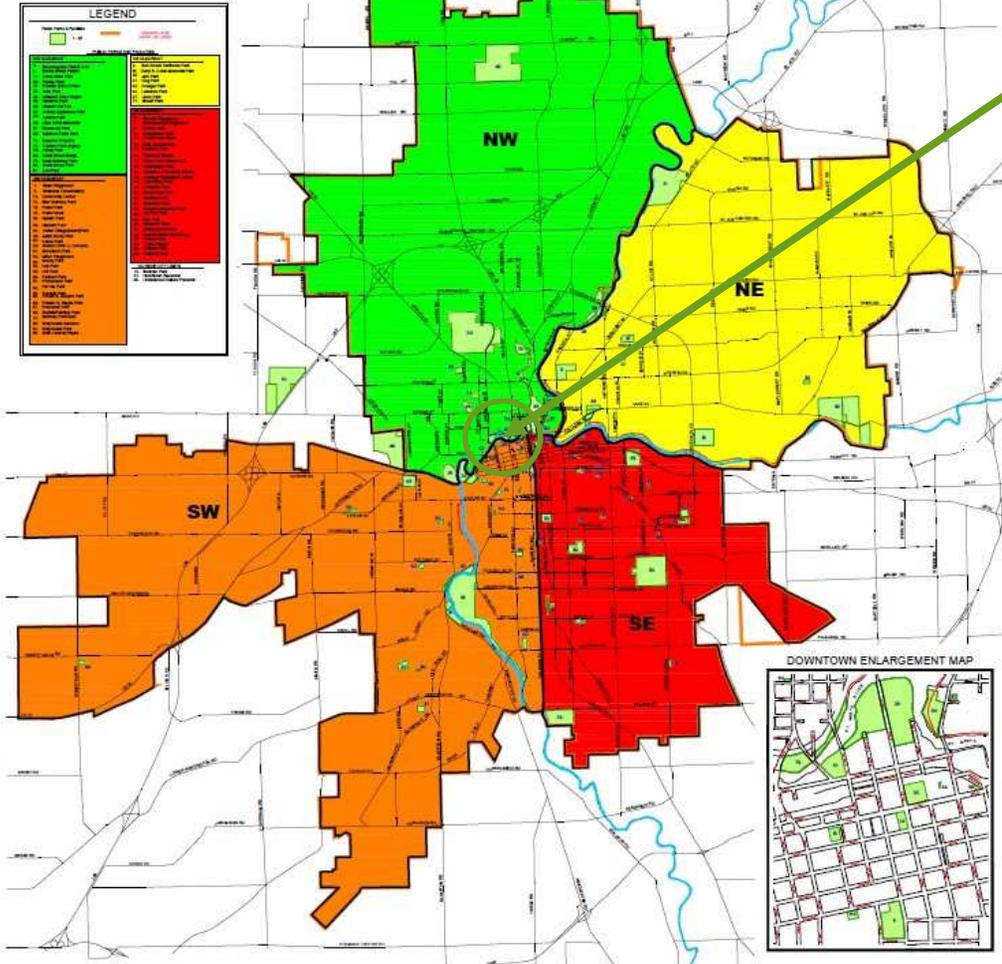


## Parks History and Highlights:

- Bloomingdale Park
- The Wells Street Bridge
- Headwaters Park



**CITY OF FORT WAYNE  
PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS**



**2023 FORT WAYNE PARKS MAP**

## BLOOMINGDALE PARK

Located north of the Saint Marys River  
between Sherman Boulevard and Wells Street

# BLOOMINGDALE PARK

Since 1916

Size in Acres: 11.6

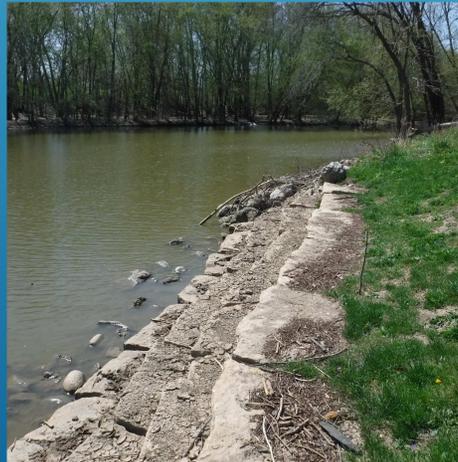
History: The land was acquired in 1916 by the Board of Park Commissioners. The park was named after the Bloomingdale district, which received its name from the broad fields of flowers planted in the early days by a Mr. Jacob Wuersten, who emigrated from Germany.

In 1978 A replacement for the Wells Street Bridge was proposed that would alter the land. Many opposed the new bridge; however it did offer a continuous Rivergreenway park system that would connect the land hopefully in the future by a bike trail. In the 1980's the land was developed and used for recreational purposes. A summer program in the park was developed during the early 1980's.

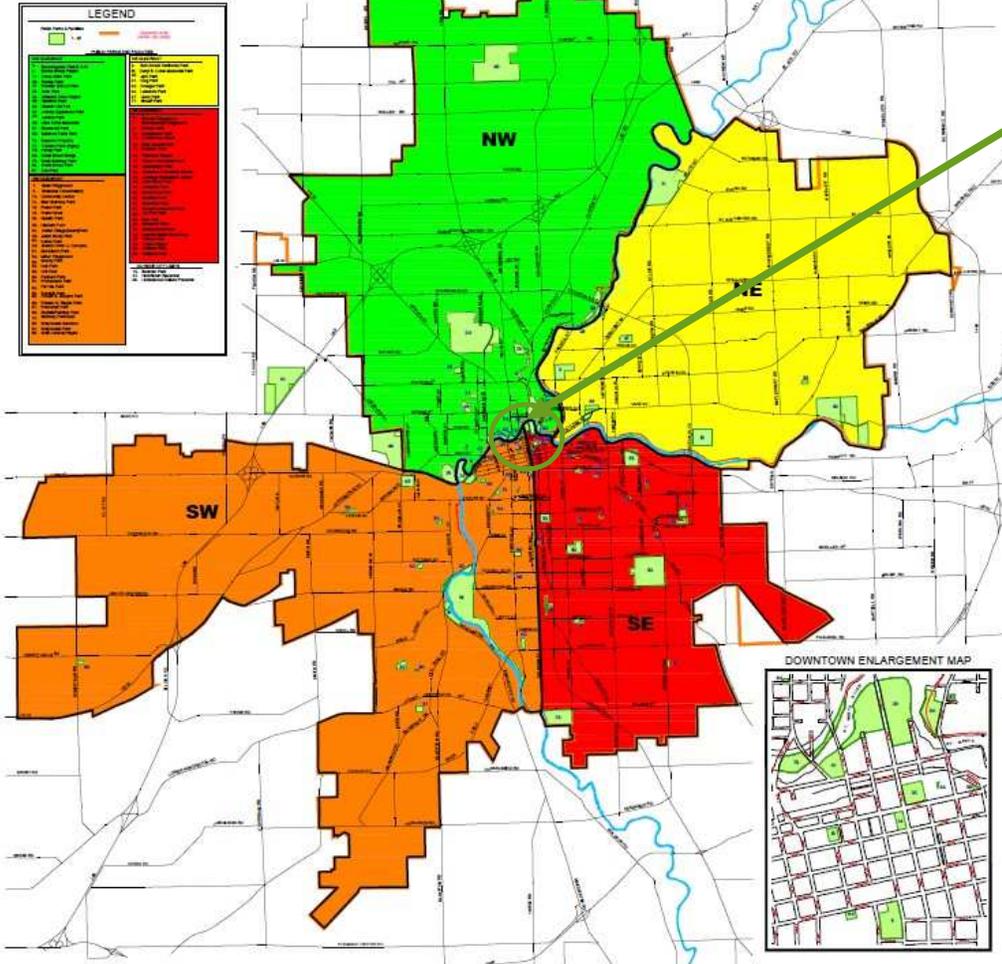


## BLOOMINGDALE PARK TODAY

The main feature of this park is the rivergreenway trail, which passes through the park, along the Saint Marys River. This is a very active trail used by many to traverse the city. The park is home to a children's playground, a basketball court, and acres of natural open space. This park also has several good locations for fishing due to the construction of river bank stabilization areas with rock out-croppings along the river.



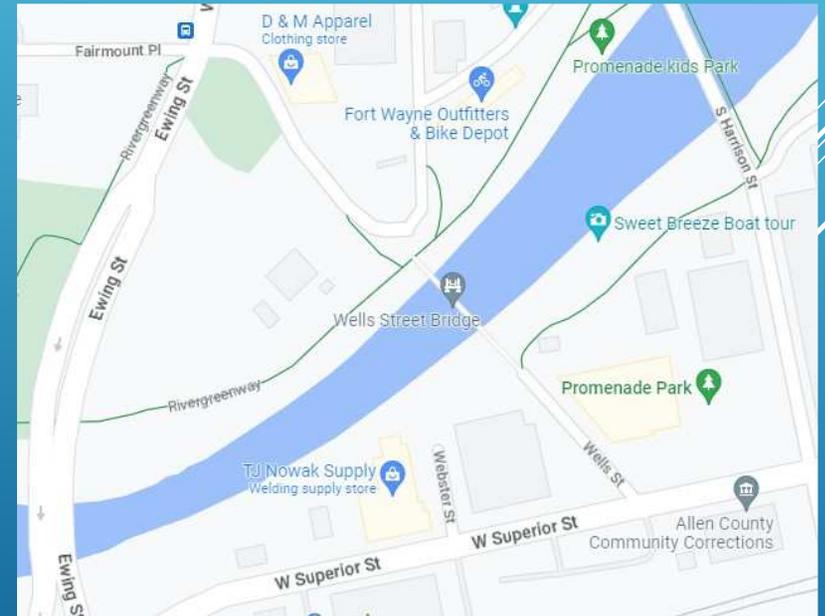
**CITY OF FORT WAYNE  
PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS**



**2023 FORT WAYNE PARKS MAP**

# HISTORIC WELLS STREET BRIDGE

Located over the Saint Marys River between the Ewing Street Bridge and the Harrison Street Bridge



# HISTORIC WELLS STREET BRIDGE

Since 1884

Size: 23' wide x 180' long

History: In 1803, Secretary of War, Henry Dearborn gave instructions to Captain William Wells to designate a track or path from Fort Wayne north to Chicago. The purpose of the bridle path was to establish a direct link with the newly created US outpost known as Fort Dearborn. Captain Wells and Chief Little Turtle set out for Fort Dearborn along an old Indian trail which proceeded north out of the city. Once opened, the path became known as the Dearborn Trail and later, Wells Street.

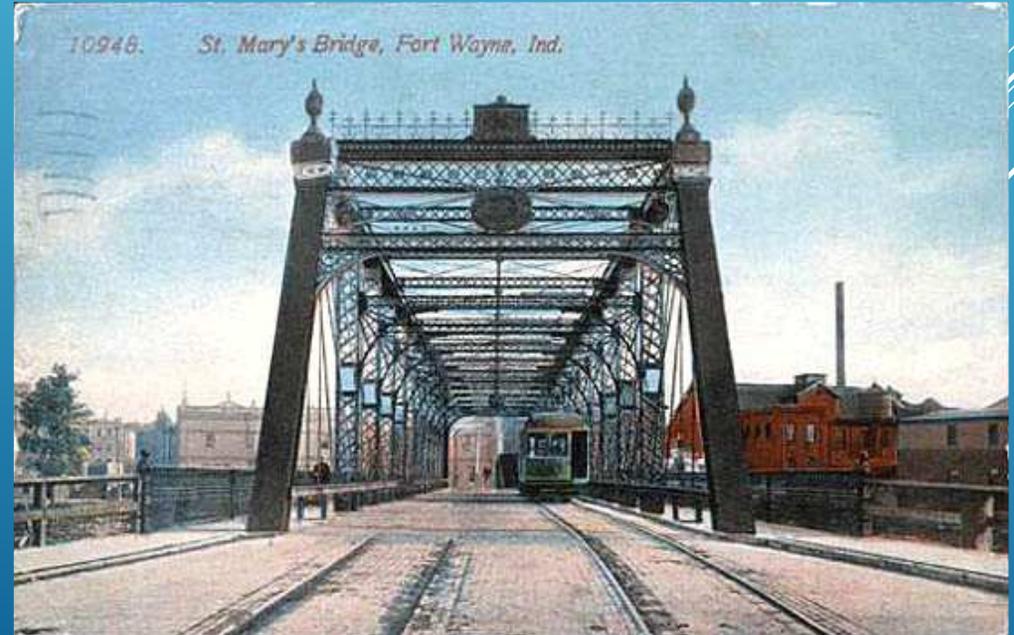
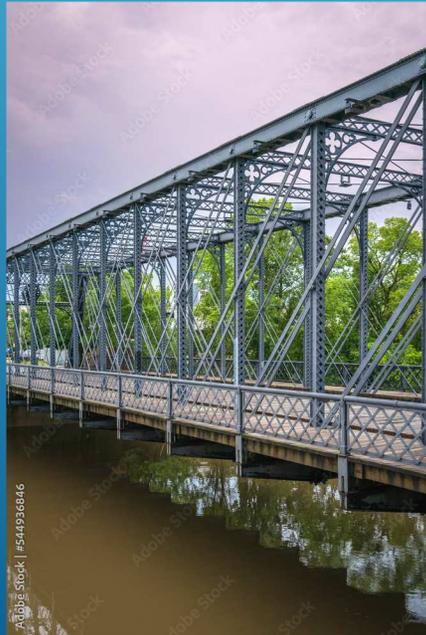
This massively increased opportunities for transportation and industry in Fort Wayne and thus led to significant growth in the city.

Because of the growth, development and the volume of trade along Wells Street it made necessary the construction of the Wells Street Bridge with an opening date of 1884. The bridge was the first iron bridge to be constructed over the city's rivers.



## HISTORIC WELLS STREET BRIDGE

This bridge is one of the most important historic bridges in Indiana. It is one of the only surviving examples of a 19th Century Whipple Truss bridge designed to carry heavy traffic in a major city. This bridge was built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, one of the most prolific bridge builders of the pre-1900 period. The bridge was used for vehicular traffic until the construction of the nearby Ewing Street bridge rerouted traffic in 1982. At that time the ownership of the bridge was transferred from the county to the City of Fort Wayne, who today has incorporated it as its own park. It is maintained by the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department.



# HISTORIC WELLS STREET BRIDGE

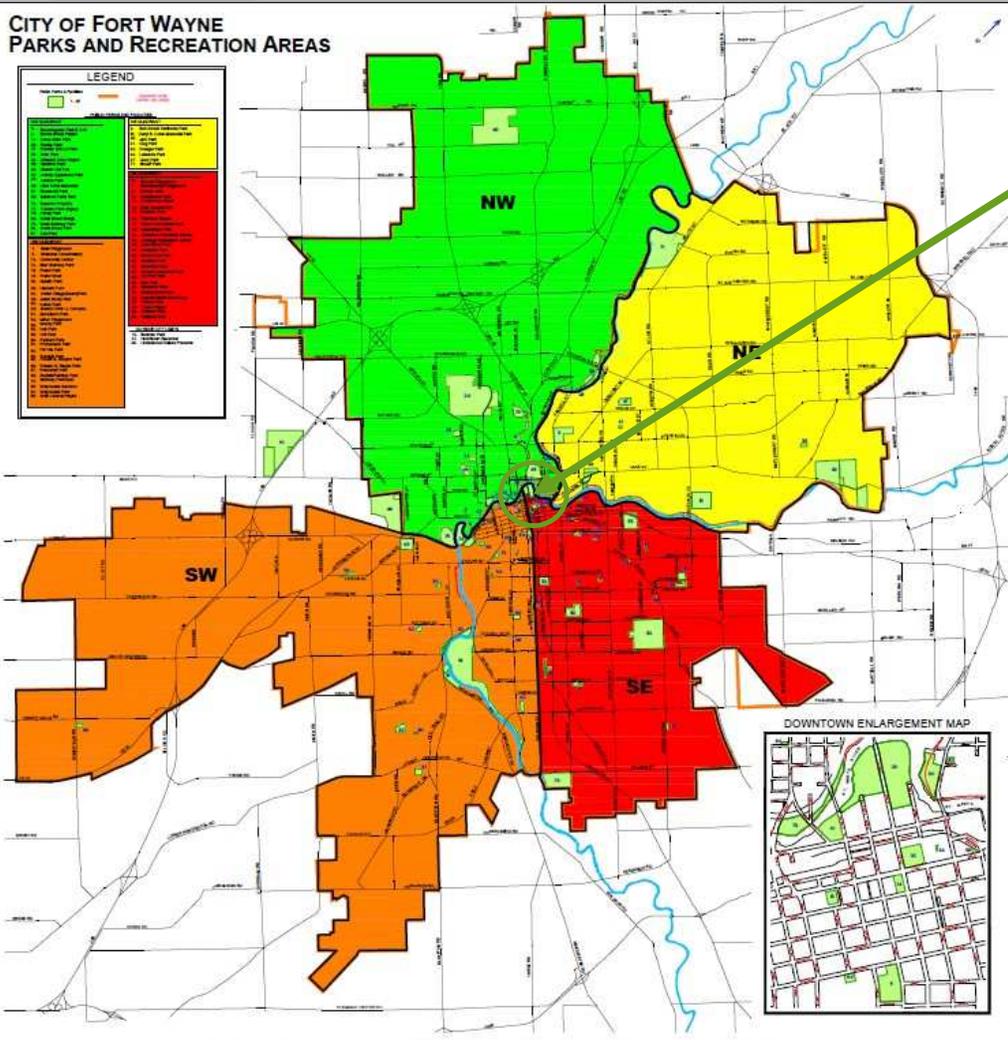
In 2017, in association with the construction of the Promenade Park project, the bridge received significant updates, including resurfacing the wood decking along the walkways, restoration of the decorative features, and installation of new color-changing lighting. This led to a repurposing of the use for the bridge. With the success of Promenade Park, more people are coming to the bridge every year for events such as weddings, musical performances, and even such public events as the St. Patrick's Day "Greening The River". The bridge can also be rented by anyone on an hourly basis for various types of activities. This can be done through the Parks Department's website.



**CITY OF FORT WAYNE  
PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS**

**LEGEND**

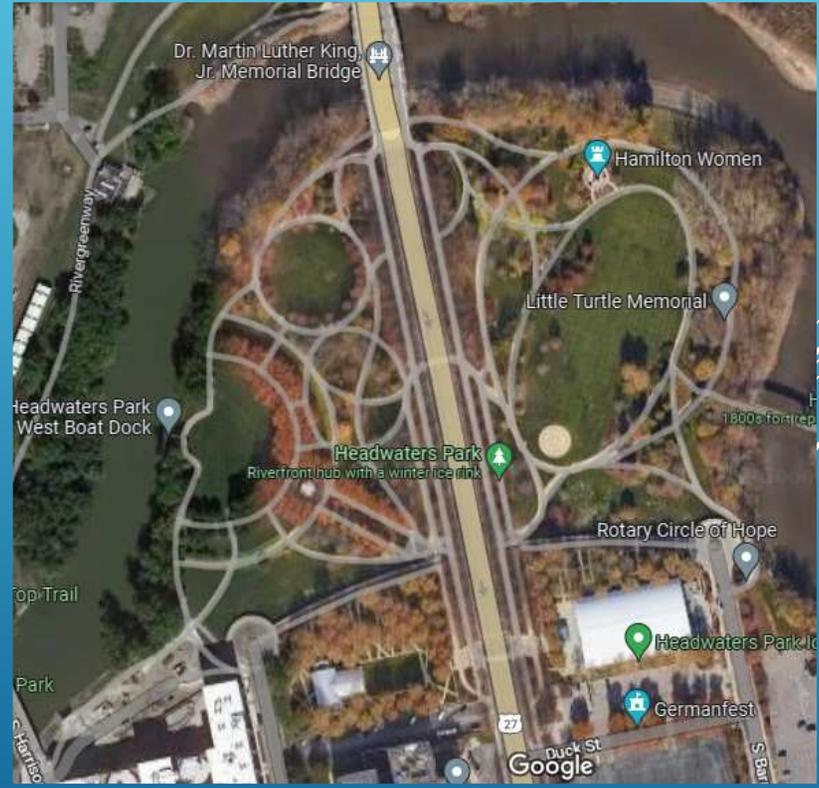
	Headwaters Park
	Clinton Street Park
	Clinton Street Park
	Clinton Street Park



**2023 FORT WAYNE PARKS MAP**

# HEADWATERS PARK

Located south of the Saint Mary's River on both sides of downtown Clinton Street between Fourth and Superior Streets.



# HEADWATERS PARK

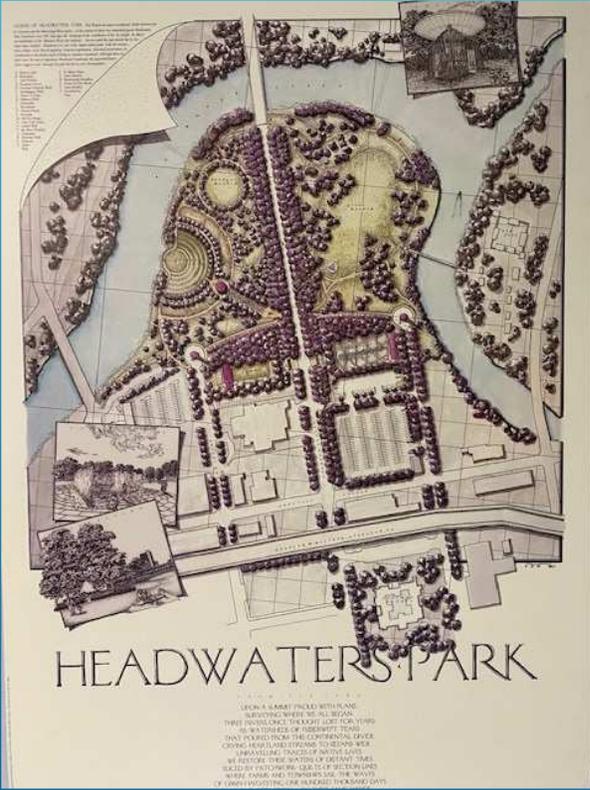
Located in “The Great Bend” or “The Thumb” of the Saint Mary’s River, Headwaters Park was created as a means of flood control in the city. The project has come to serve as a model for flood control across the country. Prior to its construction, the area was occupied by business and would regularly flood, causing catastrophic damages to the area. In 1981, Mayor Win Moses called for the construction of the park, not knowing then, that less than one year later, in 1982 the area would experience one of the largest flooding events the city has seen. This has since been referred to as “The Great Flood” and drew national attention, including a visit from then-President Ronald Reagan, who helped with some sandbagging.

Since 1999  
Size in Acres: 30.0



# HEADWATERS PARK

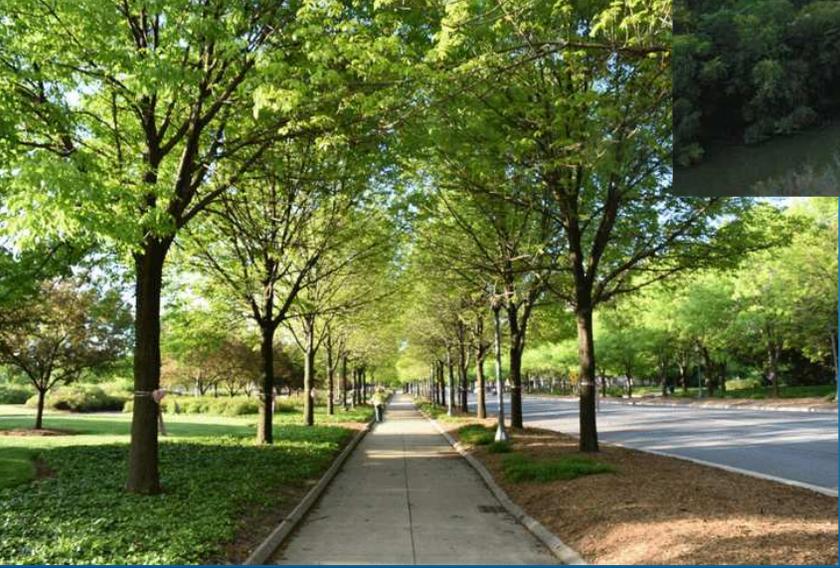
After the flood of '82, the disaster spurred the city leaders to finally commit to building a solution to the flooding problem. Though it took over a decade to plan, fund, and complete, the city commissioned local architect and former city planner under Mayor Ivan Lebamoff Eric R. Kuhne to design a flood control plan that would provide for a beautiful park and a premier festival center. Kuhne designed a master plan and the project was divided into four phases. Construction began in the spring of 1994 with the final phase completed and dedicated in October of 1999. The total cost for the project was just under \$16.9 million.



Eric R. Kuhne

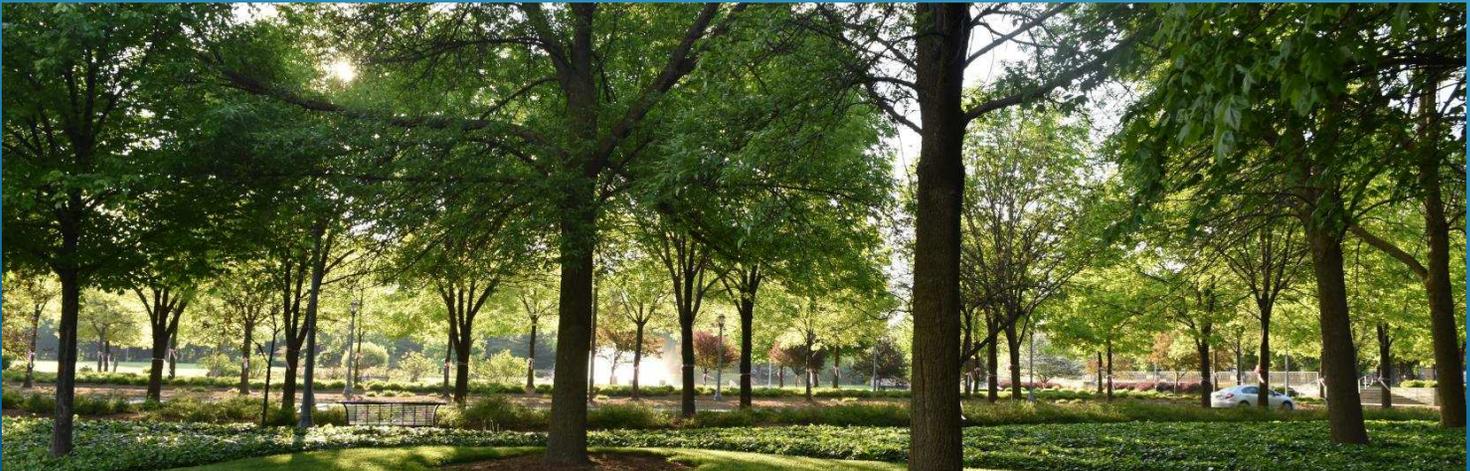
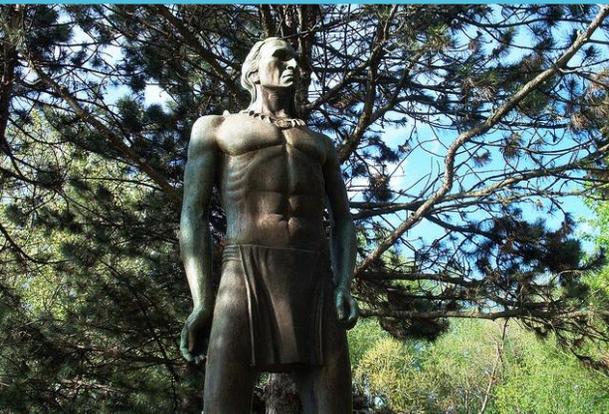
# HEADWATERS PARK TODAY

Today Headwaters Park not only achieves the flood control goals that it was created for, but also provides an abundance of landscape beauty and entertainment value to anyone who visits the park.



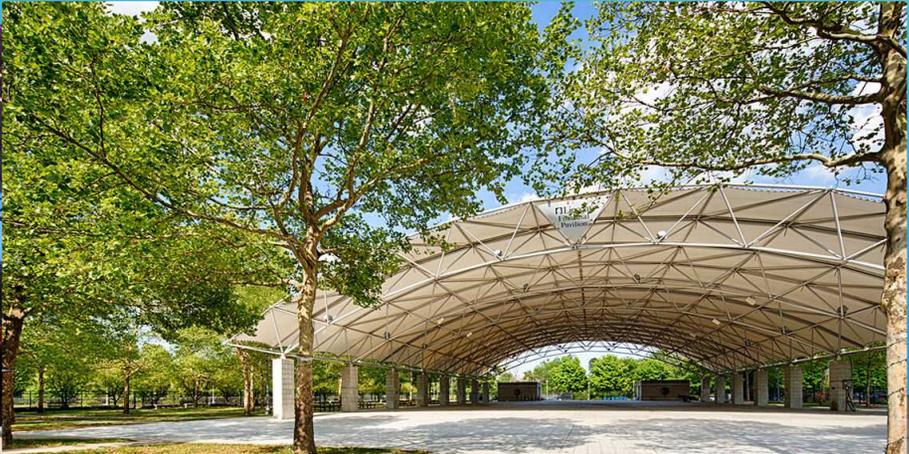
Ray Steup Photography

Strolling through the park, visitors are not only overtaken by the beautiful landscaping and pathway network, but are surprised by various historic monuments that can't be seen from the street. These include the Hamilton Sisters Sculpture Garden Monument and the Chief Little Turtle Monument, among others.



# HEADWATERS PARK PAVILIONS

The park has two pavilions, the Lincoln Pavilion and the Rothschild Pavilion. Both can be rented for events and activities. The park is also host to numerous festivals throughout the summer. Festivals range in size and activities including such events as the Three Rivers Festival, Germanfest, and other cultural celebrations. Finally, in the winter, the Lincoln Pavilion is converted to a public skating arena where anyone can come and skate under the shelter. There is always something to see or do in Headwaters Park and it truly is a gem of our city.



MUCH MORE TO COME...

