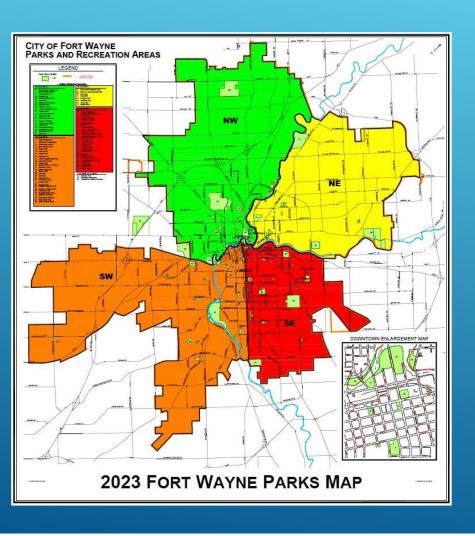
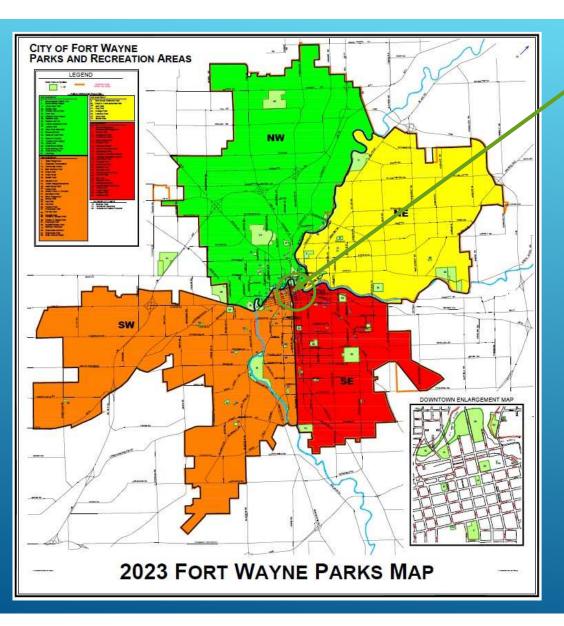
# FORT WAYNE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS



## Parks History and Highlights:

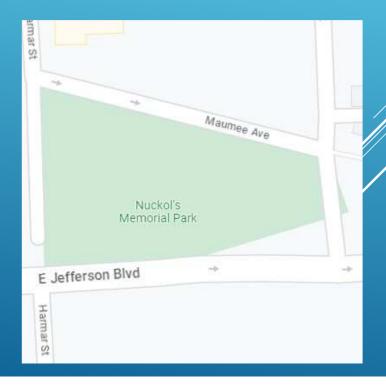
- Nuckols Memorial Park
- Rea Park
- McMillen Park





# NUCKOLS MEMORIAL PARK

Located at the intersection of Jefferson Boulevard, Harmar Street, and Maumee Avenue

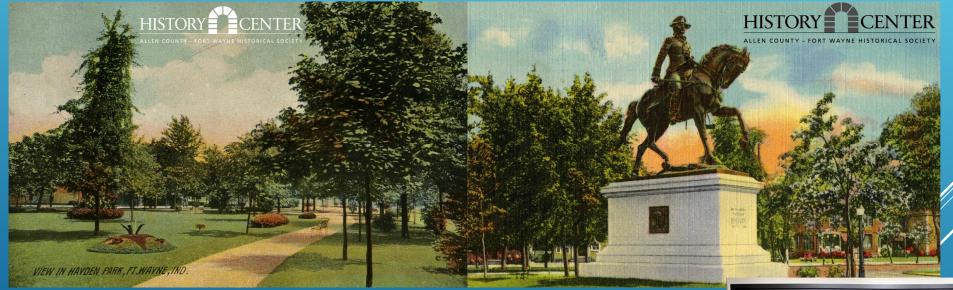


# NUCKOLS MEMORIAL PARK

Since 1876

Size in Acres: 1.09

Nuckols Park was purchased in 1876 from Fred Hayden for \$4500 and was known as Hayden Park until 1986. The famous statue of General Anthony Wayne resided in the park positioned pointing east to welcome travelers from the east. The statue of Anthony Wayne was removed from its granite plinth and relocated to a smaller base at the newly constructed Freimann Square in 1973. The brass plaques of Little Turtle and Tecumseh on either side of the original base were salvaged and now hang in the downtown Allen County Public Library just outside the genealogy department.





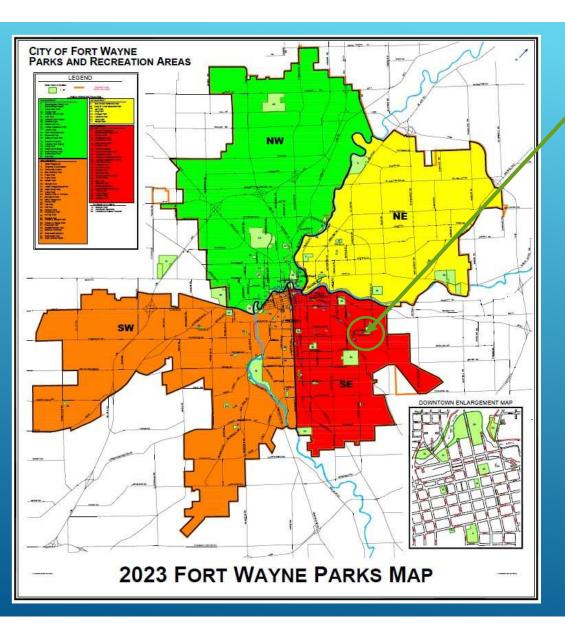
## NUCKOLS MEMORIAL PARK TODAY

Now, the park features a memorial of its namesake, John Nuckols, the first African-American city councilman. Councilman Nuckols served on the Fort Wayne City Council for 23 years from 1959 to 1982. The park also features a beautiful brick monument dedicated toward Unity in the East Central areas.



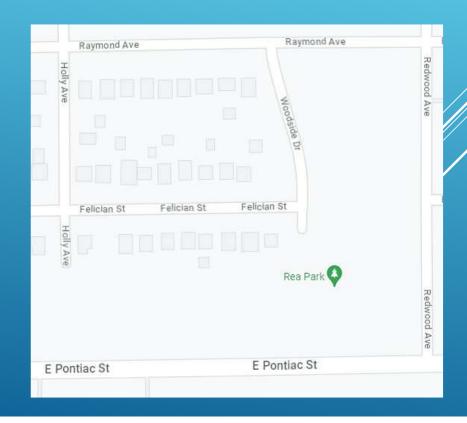






# REA PARK

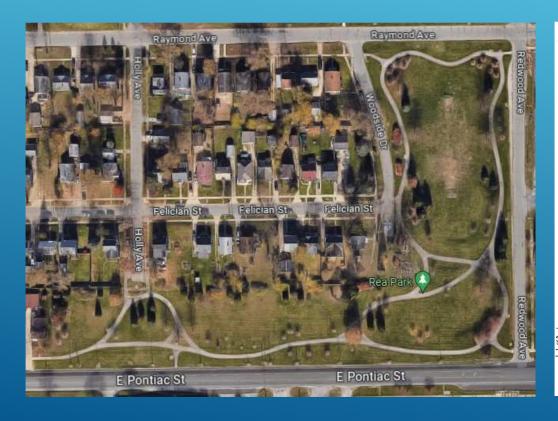
Located between Raymond Avenue and Pontiac Street bordered by Holly Avenue and Redwood Avenue

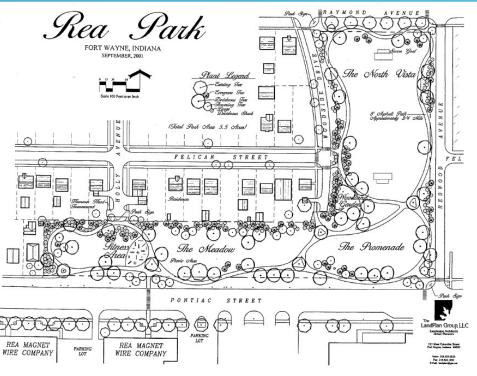


Since 2002

REA PARK Size: 5.5 Acres

Rea Park, which is directly south of <u>McCormick Park</u>, consists of over 5 acres of natural open space and vegetation. The park features a soccer field for visitors to enjoy as well as a paved half-mile walking path for the fitness oriented.



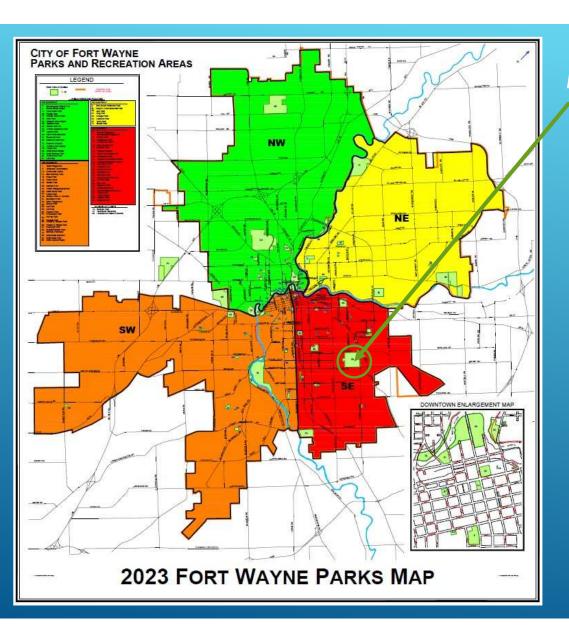


#### **REA PARK**

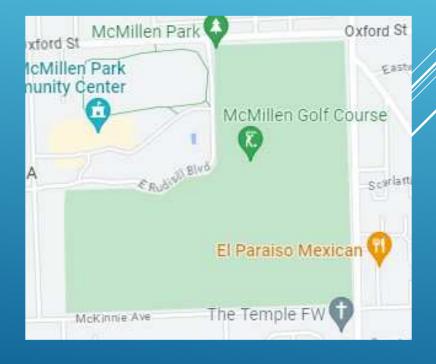
### History

In 2002 the Rea Magnet Wire Company donated several unused blocks of land near its facility on Pontiac Street to the Board of Park Commissioners for the purposes of development of a park. The intention of the park was to provide an opportunity for employees and area residents to picnic, walk the paths or just enjoy being outside. At the same time, the Vann Family Foundation donated funds for the purpose of the construction of the 5.5 acre park. Construction was completed in 2003. Two plaques were erected in the park acknowledging the generous donation from Rea and the Vann family.





3900 Hessen Cassel and Oxford Street

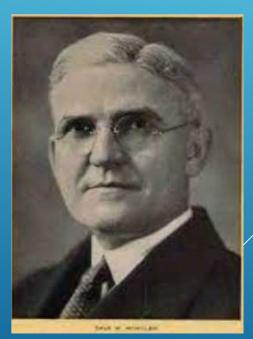


MCMILLEN PARK Since 1937

Size in Acres: 168.2

In 1937, former founder and owner of Decatur company Central Soya, Dale W. McMillen donated 74 acres of farm land to the Board of Park Commissioners for the purpose of creating a recreational park. Then in 1951, the McMillen Foundation purchased and donated approximately 40 more acres of agricultural fields adjacent to the northeast section of the park. This increased the size of the park to 114 acres. In 1957, the McMillen Foundation again donated an additional 50 acres, bringing the park acreage to 164. Following this addition, it was quickly decided that this parcel would be used to construct a golf course.





Dale McMillen

A 1956 aerial view of McMillen Park, shows the neighborhood park with open fields and wooded grove. By 1957, the park boasted eight baseball fields, a popular square dancing facility, children's play area, a swimming pool, a pavilion, an ice rink, two model airplane fields, and picnic areas nestled within the woodland. Vehicular drives provided access into the park from each of the adjacent streets with a large linear parking lot in the center of the park. The southeast quadrant of the park was acquired in 1957 and was characterized by open farm fields with a central farmstead cluster. This area was later developed into the golf course.

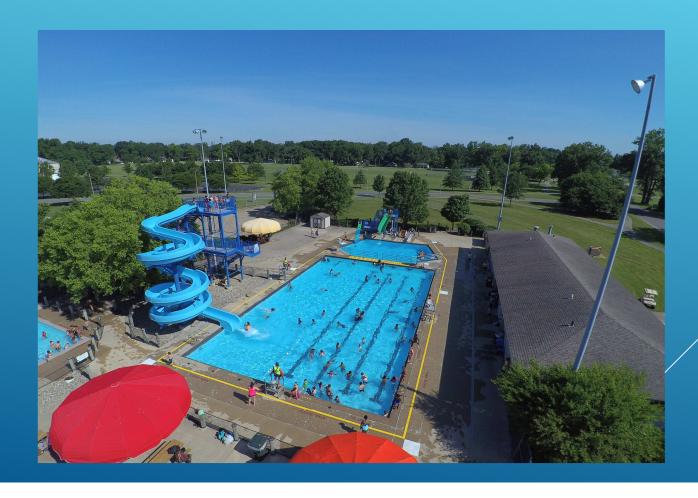


In 1948, construction began on a public swimming pool, which the Superintendent of Parks had been hoping to construct since 1931, five years before the park was even established. For a total cost of \$105,000, the new pool was completed and dedicated in August 1949. However, due to a citywide polio epidemic, the pool did not open for public use until the following summer. Technological advances in the filtration systems used at the new pool made it one of the finest public swimming facilities in the Midwest.





The pool has been maintained in its original condition since its construction and has received several upgrades including two large water slides, a wading pool fountain, diving boards, shade structures, and upgrades to the pool house building.



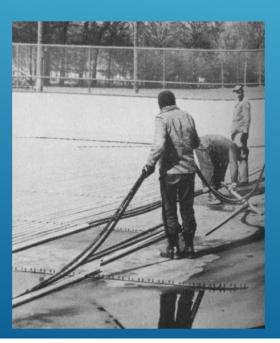
One of the first public buildings constructed in the park was the McMillen Park Pavilion. Originally built as an open-air pavilion with two fireplaces, overhead doors were later installed to protect the interior of the building. The pavilion has restroom facilities, a kitchen, and space to accommodate up to 256 people.





In 1956 McMillen Park continued to expand with the construction of an artificial outdoor ice skating rink. Believed to be Indiana's first artificial ice rink, the McMillen Foundation contributed over \$100,000 towards the construction of the new feature. The ice rink was also unique in its dual purpose for year-round use by functioning as tennis courts in the summer. The hard, flat surface under the ice served as tennis courts in warmer months, and was then transformed into an ice rink by laying pipes on top of the tennis court surface to control the temperature of the ice. This project also included the construction of a warming shelter building with a fireplace in it to help warm skaters that use the facility. This building is still retained today as part of the current community center facility.







Since its inception, the ice rink has undergone tremendous changes. After the success of the outdoor ice rink, demand came to enclose the rink to allow for year-round skating. In 1969 a new facility was constructed with a 200-foot ice hockey rink and an 85-foot studio rink. Then again in 1999, another large addition was made to the building, adding a professional-grade ice rink with bleacher seating capable of accommodating up to 1,000 spectators. At the time, the \$4.5 million project was the largest single project in the Parks Department's history.







### MCMILLEN PARK Community Center

Unfortunately, the success of the new addition was short-lived. In the mid-2000's competition from the construction of a new ice skating facility in the city caused demand to wane for the McMillen rink. In 2012 the Board of Park Commissioners was forced to make a difficult decision and close the ice facility for good. However, after a very thorough public survey, the building was re-commissioned as a community center for the neighborhood's youth. After an extensive remodel project, the building re-opened in June of 2014. This project converted the ice rink spaces into athletic court spaces. The original rink area is now a multi-purpose area for tennis, pickleball, and a running track. The newer addition was converted to multiple basketball courts.



#### MCMILLEN PARK GOLF COURSE

In 1963 the McMillen Park golf course opened. The course consists of 18 holes, in a par 65 layout. There is also a driving range, a pitching and chipping area, and a large practice putting green. Serving the golf course is a full service clubhouse and pro shop with a concession bar.









## MCMILLEN PARK GOLF COURSE - Mad Anthony III's & FootGolf Course

This course consists of a unique design of a nine hole par 3 golf course and a nine-hole course designed for FootGolf. FootGolf combines soccer and golf into a fun and fast-growing new sport. There is a tee box, a green, bunkers, hazards and 9 holes of play. The main differences are the cups, which are 21 inches in diameter, shorter holes, and the lack of equipment needed.





#### MCMILLEN PARK GOLF COURSE – Lifetime Sport Academy

#### FREE TENNIS, GOLF AND SWIMMING LESSONS!

McMillen Park is also home to the Lifetime Sports Academy. The Academy is open to boys and girls ages 7-18 and offers free group lessons in golf, tennis and swimming. Group lessons focus on skill development, training, and participation and are taught by certified coaches and highly trained professionals and volunteers. The program operates Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. during the summer months of June 6 through July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Lifetime Sports Academy is funded by the Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department and it is offered FREE to area youth.



# Lifetime SPORTS ACADEMY

25 Years
of FREE summer fun!

June 6-July 22, 2023 McMillen Park Ages 7-18



McMillen Park is truly one of the city's most valuable assets, providing extensive recreational opportunities to the community. It not only provides golf, a pool, and the community center, the park also has fantastic facilities for basketball, baseball, football, rugby, tennis, trails, and a large playground.













# MUCH MORE TO COME...