



**2013-2014 Biennial Report**  
**Lafayette Parks & Recreation**  
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# City of Lafayette, Indiana Parks and Recreation Department

## *2013 Annual Report*

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## I. LAFAYETTE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation is the policy making authority for the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department. The Board is composed of four members who are appointed by the Mayor to serve staggered four-year terms without compensation.

The 2013 Parks and Recreation Board consisted of Dave Mecklenburg, President, Maurie Denney, Vice-President, Victor Klinker, and Carlynn Smith; Dawn Patterson resigned from the board in early 2013. Joseph Bumbleburg served as Secretary to the Board. Jason Ramsland served as Assistant Secretary to the Board.

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department and its Board operate under the provision of the "Indiana Parks and Recreation Law", IC 36-10-3, in accordance with City ordinance.

## II. VISION AND MISSION

In March 2009, the Board of Parks and Recreation updated and adopted a 5-year comprehensive master plan for the City's park system. Cornerstone Planning and Design coordinated development of the master plan. Citizens of Lafayette were actively involved throughout the planning process. Issues were determined through community-wide citizen input and research and comparison with national standards.

The mission statement, vision, and goals for long-term excellence were revalidated. New five-year goals and an action plan were adopted through this dynamic process. The plan will guide the implementation of activities until 2013. Cornerstone Planning and Design is currently completing the next five-year plan, which will be available in 2014.

### MISSION

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department maintains quality park and recreation facilities and services, and facilitates leisure opportunities so that all citizens will receive the following benefits:

*Personal Benefits* in the form of physical fitness, relaxation, rest, and revitalization;

*Social Benefits* in the form of stronger and healthier families, ethnic and cultural harmony, reduced anti-social behavior, and enriched lives for persons with disabilities;

*Environmental Benefits* in the form of a green and tree-filled city, habitat for native plants and animals, and open and protected green space;

*Economic Benefits* in the form of more productive and healthier citizens, increased tourism, and contributions to the quality of life sought by business and industry.

### GOALS FOR LONG-TERM EXCELLENCE

#### Human Resources

A *Park Board* that provides strong leadership and which fosters cooperation among itself, the Superintendent, the Mayor, and the City Council.

A qualified, committed *Park Staff* that is motivated and customer oriented, whose skills are competitively compensated, and whose achievements are recognized.

#### Administration and Operations

An *Administration* that provides good management and that follows adopted plans.

A consistent set of *Policies* regarding patron use of park property and a price structure that supports maintenance of facilities and programs without denying access to any citizen.

A *Safety and Security* program that provides safe facilities to attract and impress the public, gives patrons a sense of security, and reduces vandalism.

A park system whose *Appearance* is a source of pride, whose facilities are clean, and whose *Maintenance* is guided by a financially sound preventative maintenance program.

#### Funding and Financial Management

A long-term financial plan that enables careful *Financial Management*; accountability for revenue, spending and public funds; and a capital improvements program.

Adequate long-term *Funding* that includes a consistent level of tax support, creative new funding sources, and partnerships with businesses and private donors, all supported by the effort of an active Parks Foundation.

#### Organizational Relationships

A park system that develops *Community* pride, is user friendly, provides prompt and courteous customer service, and is supported by citizens through public-private partnerships.

Beneficial *Government Relations* through coordination and collaboration with other park departments, other local government agencies, school corporations, and Purdue University in order to reduce duplication of facilities and programs, better coordinate the provision of infrastructure, and to share resources, including staff expertise.

#### Physical Resources and Services

*System-wide Improvements* that create an inviting family atmosphere at all parks.

A well-maintained *Columbian Park* whose facilities and services are responsive to citizen needs and interests.

An improved *Zoo* that makes adequate provision for the health and safety of all animals.

Fully-developed *River Corridor Parks* that maximize their potential and their location next to the Wabash River.

A system of *Neighborhood Parks* that provides age-appropriate recreation and which are maintained in cooperation with neighborhood associations and residents.

An improved *McAllister Recreation Center* staffed to provide high quality customer service.

Interesting *Programs* and classes for all ages (with the greatest emphasis on children and teens) that are priced to be self-supporting.

#### Planning and Growth

A strong commitment to *Planning* that responds to community desires and results in multi-year plans that can be realistically implemented and funded.

A park system that provides for *Growth and New Facilities* commensurate with the growth of the city.

### **COMMUNITY NEEDS/ISSUES**

The issues and community needs identified as a result of the planning process are the basis for the Action Plan through 2013:

- Columbian Park—repair lagoon
- Loeb Stadium—Structure replacement and maintenance building
- Youth and teen programs
- Columbian Park Zoo—finish parking access, classroom space
- New department maintenance facility

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

- Playground replacement
- Golf Course—clubhouse remodel/maintenance building
- Tropicane Cove—phase 2 addition
- New sports field complex
- More seasonal staff
- New equipment
- Master plans for neighborhood parks
- Future land acquisition for conservation use
- Senior programs
- Hispanic education and programs
- New park site on southeast side of community
- Winter programs
- Berlovitz Woods—new nature center
- Riverfront development
- Trails

### **ACTION AND PRIORITY PLAN**

#### 2010

1. Identify/implement self-sustaining maintenance practices – *ongoing*
2. Develop strategy and concept plans for Loeb Stadium – *on going*
3. Develop new programs for youth - *ongoing*
4. Apply for grant for Loeb Stadium - *identifying potential grants*
5. Review opportunities for trail development – *ongoing*

#### 2011

1. Start construction on lagoon repairs – *ongoing*
2. Review opportunities for trail development – *ongoing*
3. Review maintenance needs for golf course – *ongoing*
4. Start construction on new Zoo Education building at Columbian Park Zoo – *completed 2012*

#### 2012

1. Construct renovations on Loeb Stadium
2. Zoo-finish expansion – *in progress*
3. Install accessibility enhancements to SIA Playground in Columbian Park – *completed 2012*
4. Complete South Tipp Park master plan and complete construction of the park – *planning completed, fundraising started*
5. Construct N 9<sup>th</sup> Street Trail Head – *completed 2012*

#### 2013

1. Evaluate and develop new youth programs
2. Five Year Comprehensive Master Plan-*in progress*
3. Finish renovations on Loeb Stadium
4. Zoo-finish expansion
5. Complete Neighborhood Parks Master Plans
6. Replace any outdated playground equipment throughout the City

### **III. PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department manages nearly 700 acres of park land within the City of Lafayette. Providing and preserving parks and open green space enhance the desirability of the community and contributes to the health and wellness of all Lafayette residents.

The Department also operates many unique facilities, including an award-winning family aquatic center, innovative playground, Dog Park, premier baseball stadium, zoo, amusement rides, recreation center, golf course, a linear trail system, and portions of the Wabash Heritage Trail. These facilities serve as an investment in the future well-being of Lafayette residents, contributing to the overall quality of life and viability of the city.

## AQUATIC FACILITIES

The Department manages three family aquatic centers. These outdoor facilities are open during the summer season to serve the aquatic needs of the community.



### Castaway Bay

Armstrong Park along Beck Lane

Opened in July of 2003, Castaway Bay features include a beach-like entry, spray and play areas, geysers, bubble bench, an exuberant play area that can be used for games or exercise, grass area for sunning, open green play space, and a modern bathhouse.

### Tropicanoe Cove Family Aquatic Center

Columbian Park along Main Street

Tropicanoe Cove helps preserve the aquatic tradition in Columbian Park while meeting the leisure needs of today's families. Features include a large leisure pool with zero-depth entrance, lazy river, water slides, water and sand playgrounds, sand volleyball court, bathhouse, and concession building. The multiple pools are serviced by a state-of-the-art water quality system.

### Vinton Pool

3111 Prairie Lane

The renovated Vinton Pool serves north-side neighborhoods. Vinton Pool is configured in a Z-shape and features a beach-like entrance with playful water geysers. The pool also has a double splashdown slide and water basketball hoop. Two large 12-foot umbrellas provide shade to visitors on the deck. Structure improvements include a renovated pool basin and new gutter, filtration, and sanitation systems. The bathhouse was upgraded for accessibility and cosmetic purposes.

## **COLUMBIAN PARK**

1915 Scott Street

The "crown jewel" of the Lafayette Park System, Columbian Park has served the community for over a century. Within Columbian Park, guests can find the Columbian Park Zoo, Loeb Stadium, SIA Playground, Tropicanoe Cove Aquatic Facility, amusement rides, Columbian Park Express, and various facilities for use to all persons in the community.

The Columbian Park Zoo was opened in 1908 and currently houses nearly 190 animals, representing over 90 species. More recently the Zoo was closed from 2004-2007 for renovations and reopened after the completion of several new exhibits. The zoo is still undergoing the implementation of its master plan.

Loeb Stadium, a 3,500-seat baseball stadium, was built in 1940 and is home field to Lafayette Jefferson High School, the American Legion Post-11 League, and 13-and-older Colt League. The stadium annually hosts the Colt World Series and IHSAA tournaments. The Loeb Stadium Advisory Committee was formed in 2008. They began regular meetings in 2009 and have continued meeting since 2010 to gather information and plan for the future of Loeb Stadium.

The SIA Playground provides Lafayette kids and families an exciting and adventurous place to play. The innovative playground is fully accessible and includes distinct areas specifically designed for all ages ranging from tots to adults.

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

Tropicanae Cove Family Aquatic Center continues the long aquatic tradition in the Park while meeting the leisure needs of today's families. The Cove's features include a large leisure pool with zero-depth entrance, lazy river, water slides, water and sand playgrounds, sand volleyball court, bathhouse, and concession building.

Columbian Park also features amusement rides enjoyed by smaller children; many of these rides have been in the park for the past several decades. Construction began on a new train depot located across from the Zoo's main entrance to serve as a location to load and unload the Columbian Park Express Train passengers. A miniature train display is slated to complete this project in April of 2014.

Facilities in Columbian Park include the Rush Pavilion, Jenks' Rest and picnic shelters. Rush Pavilion, which was restored in 1990, was originally built in 1890 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Jenks' Rest is adjacent to the lagoon and houses The Center@Jenks' and the Tippecanoe County Council on Aging and Junior Achievement. There are 18 picnic shelters throughout the park which patrons enjoy throughout the season. Also within the park is Memorial Island (veterans memorial and amphitheater), a new fishing pier, and the Boathouse, restored in 1999, which serves as the Parks Administrative Office.

### **COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION CENTER**

The Department manages seven community parks, one community recreation center, and a linear park trail system. Comprising over 175 acres these facilities are larger in size to better serve all city residents.



#### Armstrong Park

9th Street & Beck Lane, 26 acres

The park features three lighted youth baseball fields, five lighted tennis courts, lighted basketball courts, restrooms and concession building, multi-age playground, stocked pond, and 2/3 mile paved trail. Wildflower Prairie areas and a reforested wood lot will continue to mature and enhance the park setting. Armstrong Park is also home to Castaway Bay.

#### Berlovitz Woods

McCarty Lane & Veterans Memorial Parkway, 20 acres

Berlovitz Woods is currently undeveloped. The 20-acre site is made up of woods and quality wetland. Future development plans include trails, natural interpretive areas, small playground, picnic areas, and parking. Development plans will maintain the natural character of the woods and wetland areas. Volunteers regularly work at the site to remove invasive plant and tree species.

#### CAT Park and Soccer Fields

McCarty Lane, behind Caterpillar, 32 acres

CAT Park and Soccer Fields was developed through a lease between the Department and Caterpillar for use of 32 acres of land south of the facility. CAT Park includes eight irrigated soccer fields of varying sizes, parking, restroom/concession building, and attractive landscaping. Future plans include trails, a playground and a basketball court.

#### Linear Park Trail

Beck Lane & S. 9th Street

The goal of the Linear Park is to link every park and school around the city. The current two-mile segment begins at Powderhouse Lane and ends at 18<sup>th</sup> Street; the Linear Trail links with Armstrong Park. When completed, it will be a 60-mile path.

McCaw Park

Union Street & Creasy Lane, 26 acres

This park was created through a redevelopment project that included a new fire station. The park is partially wooded and has three lighted youth baseball fields, tot and multi-age playgrounds, lighted tennis courts, basketball courts, parking, naturalized areas, and two small shelters with grills. Future plans include surfaced trails, a new playground and woodland restoration.

Munger Park

Greenbush Street, between US 52 & Creasy Lane, 32 acres

The park has a double shelter and grills, two public restroom facilities, playground, 1-mile paved trail, acres of wildflowers, dry detention basin, stocked pond, and fishing pier. Future plans include a new shelter, additional trees, and interpretive signs. Munger Park is an excellent example of sustainable design; mowed turf has been turned into wildflower prairie areas which filter and clean the water run-off. The park and its development were made possible by significant contributions from Cinergy PSI and Thomas and Alice Munger.

Murdock Park

18th Street & Ferry Street, 30 acres

The largest and most forested park within the central city, this park has two shelters, grills, one lighted youth softball field, concession building, restrooms, 0.9-mile interpretive trail, 18-hole disc golf course, multi-age playground, sledding hill (with snow machine, made weather permitting), and a lighted basketball court. Future plans include a new master plan for park and amenity enhancements.

Shamrock Park

Wabash Avenue, 11 acres

Redeveloped with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, this park has a boat launch ramp, shelter, grill, multi-age and tot playgrounds, lighted half-court basketball courts, lighted roller hockey rink, and open play space. The park is also home to the award-winning Shamrock Dog Park, which features two 2-acre fenced areas for large dogs and a 1/3-acre area for smaller dogs, water fountains, and gated entry.

McAllister Recreation Center

2351 N. 20th Street, 7 acres

The center is housed in the former Longlois Elementary School and features a gymnasium, community meeting areas, game rooms, weight and fitness areas, open green space, basketball court, picnic shelter, grill, and multi-age playground. The interior of the building was renovated in 2002, and a new gym floor was laid in 2008.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

The Department manages nine smaller parks that serve smaller neighborhood parks totaling over 15 acres.

Arlington Park

1700 Arlington Road, 1 acre

Located just north of Greenbush Street, this park was completely renovated in 2005. Improvements include a multi-age playground, picnic shelter, resurfaced and color-coated tennis and basketball court, and open green space and landscaping. Renovations were made possible thanks to CDBG funds, Tate & Lyle, Small World Child Care, and the Vinton Neighborhood Association.

Centennial Park

6th Street & Brown Street, 0.5 acre

Site of a historic marker commemorating its downtown neighborhood, this park features a basic multi-age and tot playground, basketball court, and picnic shelter. The basketball court was paved in 2001. Centennial Park serves youth programs sponsored by the YWCA and Lafayette Urban Ministries. A new master plan was finalized. Renovation began in fall 2006, made possible by CDBG, Community Foundation, LUEA and Alcoa. Construction was completed in 2007.

Hanna Park

18th Street & Hanna Street, 2.2 acres

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

Located next to the Hanna Community Center, this park was completely renovated in 2005. The improved Hanna Park includes unique playground equipment for 2-5 and 5-12 year old children, musical chimes, tricycle path, resurfaced basketball court, picnic shelter, and grill. This park has been adopted by the Hanna Neighborhood Association. It serves youth programs sponsored by Hanna Center and Dennis Burton Child Care Center. Improvements have been made possible by CDBG funds, the Community Foundation and the Lilly Grant.

### Hedgewood Park

Hedgewood Drive & Beverly Lane, 1 acre

Adopted by the Hedgewood Neighborhood Association, this small park received a new multi-age playground, adult swing, picnic table, park bench, signage, and landscaping in 2001. Also, the neighborhood association has established a neighborhood watch program for Hedgewood Park to ensure that the park is a safe place to play.

### Kennedy Park

Sequoia Drive & Beck Lane, 12 acres

The largest of the Department's neighborhood parks is adjacent to Miami Elementary School. It has a basic multi-age playground and soccer field. A master plan is in the future for Kennedy Park.

### Linnwood Park

15th Street & Greenbush Street, 0.5 acres

In 2003, Linnwood Park saw many improvements made possible by CDBG funds, LUEA, and the Community Foundation. Linnwood Park amenities include a multi-age playground, basketball court, shelter and picnic area, attractive trees and landscaping, and a historic looking fence.

### North Darby Park

Darby Lane, 0.8 acres

North Darby Park was completely renovated in 2006. The small neighborhood park contains a multi-age playground, basketball court, new sidewalks and landscaping, and new fencing. Funding has been made possible by CDBG grant and Tate & Lyle.

### South Tipp Park

3rd Street & Fountain Streets, 0.8 acres

Located next to Bauer Family Resources, this park features a basic multi-age playground and tot playground, basketball court, and picnic shelter. Improvements were made in 2003. The park serves youth programs sponsored by Bauer Family Resources. South Tipp Park is a past recipient of CDBG funds and has been adopted by the Ellsworth-Romig Neighborhood Association and Bauer Family Resources. A park master plan for South Tipp Park was completed in 2012.

### Stockton Park

Erie & Ferry Street, 0.5 acre

Located at the intersection of Erie and Ferry Streets within the Stockton Crossing Neighborhood, this pocket park was inspired and planned with the help of the invested neighborhoods. The park includes green space, shelter with picnic tables, adult swing, spring-rider for small children, drinking fountain and landscaping.

## **RIVERFRONT PARKS**

The Department manages a complex of parks along the Wabash River comprising over 450 acres.

### Wabash Heritage Trail

Cooperatively maintained by Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County Parks Departments, the 13-mile trail travels along the Wabash River and Burnett's Creek. Over two miles of the trail cross the Lafayette Riverfront Parks listed below.

### Trailhead Park

North 9th Street, 350 acres

This park provides a trailhead for the North 9<sup>th</sup> Street trail and loop, as well as the Wabash Heritage Corridor. There

are 10 parking spaces, three sheltered picnic tables, kiosk and drinking fountain. The Trailhead Park features a five-acre native prairie.

Lyboubt Sports Park  
Canal Road, 52 acres

This park is a favorite destination for sporting enthusiasts. Amenities include three lighted adult baseball fields, sheltered horseshoe courts, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, picnic areas, and a public restroom facility.

McAllister Park  
North 9th Street, 350 acres

This park is home to the Lafayette Municipal Golf Course, which was built in 1971, and is adjacent to the Wabash Heritage Trail and has wildlife and natural viewing areas. The site lies within the flood plain and floods periodically. Flood control improvements were finished in 1999 to minimize the impact of floodwater on the golf course. A pump was installed in 2006 to aid in removing water from the golf course in the event of a flood. McAllister Park is no longer being mowed, resulting in a natural trail system.

Environmental Interpretive Area  
North 9th Street & US 52, 44 acres

Located north of US 52 along the Wabash Heritage Trail, this wooded site is undeveloped and consists largely of high quality wetland.

**IV. ADMINISTRATION**

In December 2013, the leadership of Lafayette Parks and Recreation changed as Mayor Tony Roswarski appointed Claudine Laufman to the position of Superintendent. Laufman has served the citizens of Lafayette at Columbian Park Zoo for a total of 25 years, with the past 14 years as Zoo Director. In addition, Jon Miner, former McAllister Recreation Center Manager, was promoted to the newly created Director of Operations position in December.

**ORGANIZATION**

The Department is comprised of the following divisions: Administrative Services, Park Operations, Amusements, Columbian Park Zoo, Lafayette Municipal Golf Course, and McAllister Recreation Center. During 2013, there were 37 full-time positions, 17 part-time and temporary, and approximately 200 seasonal employees.

Administrative Services

This division is responsible for financial accounting, fiscal planning, purchasing, data and record management, clerical and office services, marketing, public information, and customer service.

<b>Administrative Services in 2013</b>	
Manager	Angie Schultz (Accounting Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lisette Johns resigned.</li> <li>• Mary "Peach" Pfrommer retired after 15 years with Parks and Recreation.</li> </ul>

Park Operations

This division is responsible for park and facility maintenance, trails, urban forestry, natural resources, city beautification, capital development and improvement, risk management, and safety and security.

<b>Park Operations in 2013</b>	
Managers	Jon Miner (Director of Operations) Jim Foster (Columbian Park Manager) Karl Hensley (Parks Facilities and Grounds Manager) Belinda Kiger (Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager)

Lafayette Parks and Recreation

	Cynthia Bodin (Natural Resources Coordinator) Thomas Rankin (Safety and Security Coordinator)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ryan Frankowski was hired in General Maintenance in September.</li> </ul>

Amusements

This division is responsible for aquatics and concessions.

<b>Amusements in 2013</b>	
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing with seasonal employment trends, the amusements area hired               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 22 management staff (for various amusement areas)</li> <li>○ 52 pool lifeguards</li> <li>○ 11 cash office personnel</li> <li>○ 17 concession workers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The duties within the position were restructured to other managers within the parks' system.</li> </ul>

Columbian Park Zoo

This division is responsible for running the Zoo, providing educational programming, amusement rides and raising funds for the renovation process.

<b>Columbian Park Zoo in 2013</b>	
Director	Dana Rhodes (Interim Zoo Director)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaci Schmidt was hired as Zookeeper in February</li> <li>• Leanne McEvoy was hired as Zookeeper in September</li> <li>• Cory Ahlersmeyer was hired as Marketing and Development Coordinator in May.</li> </ul>

Lafayette Municipal Golf Course

This division is responsible for running and maintaining the golf course.

<b>Lafayette Municipal Golf Course in 2013</b>	
Managers	Jason Biddinger (Gold Course Manager) Bob Kowatch (Golf Course Superintendent)
Key Personnel Changes	Golf Course Superintendent position was dissolved in February Golf Course Manager position was dissolved in May

McAllister Recreation Center

This division is responsible for operating McAllister and providing and overseeing a variety of recreational activities for the citizens of Lafayette.

<b>McAllister Recreation Center in 2013</b>	
Manager	Jon Miner (McAllister Center Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jon Miner was promoted to Director of Operations in December</li> </ul>

## **STAFF**

The recent accomplishments of the Department could not have been achieved without the tremendous reservoir of talent within the staff. The organization's philosophy and commitment to training have been instrumental in developing a staff that is dedicated to the Mission and empowered to help achieve it.

Twenty-three staff members hold undergraduate degrees. Several staff members have been certified in many specialties. Three are certified playground inspectors, two are certified aquatics facility operators, two are certified pesticide applicators, one is a certified pesticide technician, and five have received training for chemical immobilization. One staff member is a Certified Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture and serves on the Indiana Arborist Association Executive Board, Sugar Creek Trail Executive Board, Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee, Purdue University Tree Advisory Board, and the Tree Lafayette Executive Board. One staff member serves on the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation Board.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Citizen participation has become a routine and critical element for the continuous improvements within the park system.

## **COLLABORATION**

The Department continued to work collaboratively with governmental agencies, local organizations, and area businesses to better serve the citizens of Lafayette. Organizations that the Department worked closely with in 2013 include the American Red Cross, Community Appearance Task Force, Community and Family Resource Center, Downtown Business Center, Friends of the Columbian Park Zoo, Friends of Downtown, Greater Lafayette Commerce, Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette, Greater Lafayette Convention and Visitors Bureau, Hanna Community Center, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division and Outdoor Recreation Division, Indiana Urban Forest Council, Lafayette Adult Resource Academy, Lafayette Colt Tournaments, Lafayette School Corporation (LSC), Tree Lafayette, Lafayette Parks Foundation, Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association, Lafayette Volunteer Bureau, Leadership Lafayette, Lyn Treece Boys and Girls Club, Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners, Purdue University, Tippecanoe County Health Department, Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation, Tippecanoe County Public Library, Wabash Center, Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, and West Lafayette Parks and Recreation.

The Department maintains reciprocal agreements with Lafayette School Corporation and Lafayette Catholic Schools for use of sports and educational facilities. Other sports-related agreements are held with Lafayette Youth Baseball, Greater Lafayette Recreational Soccer Alliance, Greater Lafayette Girls Softball League, Wabash Disc Golf Club, Greater Lafayette Tennis Association, Lafayette Area Softball Association and the Lafayette Horseshoe Club.

Collaborative efforts with the Parks and Recreation Departments from West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources have allowed the four departments to better serve the recreational needs of all residents in the Greater Lafayette community. All four agencies continue to work together to develop a system of parks and recreation spaces along the Wabash River stretching from Prophetstown State Park to Fort Ouiatenon.

The Department has developed a positive relationship with Purdue University and frequently works with the Veterinary School and the departments of Health and Kinesiology; Restaurant, Hotel, Institutional, and Tourism Management; Forestry; Cooperative Extension; Agronomy; Landscape Architecture; Communication, College of Engineering EPICS Program; and Career Services.

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

The McAllister Recreation Center has developed partnerships with several area organizations and individuals to assist with the Departments' quality programs. Some of our partners are: The Lafayette School Corporation; Greater Lafayette Tennis Association Inc.; Lafayette Volunteer Bureau; Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation; Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 347; Lafayette Police Department; Lafayette Fire Department; Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries; Indiana Department of Natural Resources; Cloud Jockeys; Wabash Valley Woodworkers; Purdue University Engineering Education; St. Lawrence/McAllister Neighborhood Association; Monon Neighborhood Association; CityBus; Tippecanoe County Public Library; Tippecanoe County 4-H; Lafayette Jefferson Athletic Department; Dave Howell; Jill Howell; Andy Kennedy; Mark Preston; and the McAllister Foundation.

The Columbian Park Zoo has developed partnerships to improve exhibits and enhance the quality of the Zoo's educational programs and special events. Partners for 2013 included: B102.9, Caterpillar, Coca-Cola, J.R. Kelly Company, Friends of Columbian Park Zoo, Pyramid Sign & Design, Mr. & Mrs. Bill DeFouw, Tempest Homes, The James K. Risk Family Foundation, Kettlehut Construction, Wal-Mart, Pizza Hut, Purdue University, Journal and Courier/LafayetteMomsLikeMe.com, Eli Lilly Corporation, Tempest Homes, Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, Bison Financial, Monster Mini-Golf, Sam's Club and WFLI TV-18.

## COORDINATION WITH OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS

Strong inter-departmental working relations have been established, especially with Human Resources, Street, Fleet Maintenance, Water and Sewer, Engineering, Legal Services, Purchasing, Controller's Office, Community and Redevelopment, Police, Fire, and Information Services. The Engineering Staff reviews all development plans. Purchasing is coordinated with the City's department. Financial accounting is through the City's system.

## PLANNING

Planning for the future continued to play a significant role during 2013. A key element of all planning efforts was involving citizens at every level. This planning will help serve as a sound foundation for the Department's continued success. Projects and plans started or completed during 2013:

- 5 Year Comprehensive master plan
- Columbian Park Train Depot – *Construction in progress*
- South Tipp Park master plan – *Completed master plan*

## FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN

The City of Lafayette Parks and Recreation Board's 2009-2013 Five-Year Comprehensive Master Plan was created by utilizing the Lafayette community's input and involvement. Community involvement occurred in several different facets including public meetings, on-line surveys, meetings with community leaders, meetings with staff, mail-in comments from the local newspaper, e-mail comments, and review of other community planning documents.

While the 1998-2002 Master Plan was "built from the ground up," the 2009-2013 Master Plan was created by reevaluating the goals which were identified in the 1998-2002 and 2003-2008 Master Plans and assessing the priorities of the Lafayette citizens, as well as reviewing how the Lafayette community has changed in the last five years and how it is expected to change in the next ten years. The 2009-2013 Master Plan includes an assessment of the current state of the Board and Department and a review of the history of the past five years. It also includes an evaluation of the actions and accomplishments since the last five year plan was adopted.

Finally, the process included activities that will contribute to the ability to create a sustainable system. The staff reviewed the detailed analysis and inventory of each park and facility within the system. Through field investigation and utilizing geographical system information (GIS) data, maps and spreadsheets were updated. These documents quantify every acre of park land, its physical improvements, the condition of each facility, and features. This data will provide a comprehensive understanding of each facility and its needs. The data contributes to effective planning for future maintenance, staffing, and funding needs for each park and facility. The data can be translated into a maintenance management program and incorporated into a financial management plan. This means the decision makers can be proactive in the future to continue to provide quality facilities. The plan was adopted by the Park Board on March 9, 2009.

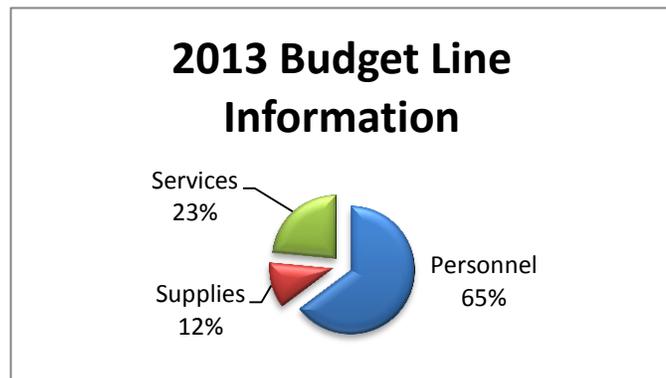
## V. BUDGET, FINANCE, AND FUNDING

A goal of the Department has been to create a self-sustaining system. This can be achieved through a combination of efficient operation, improved revenue generating activities, and public-private partnerships. The basic elements for attaining an efficient operation include an excellent preventative maintenance program and the ability to monitor and track all expenses and revenue. An annual budget is developed for the Department’s general fund, which is supported by property taxes. The non-reverting operating and the non-reverting capital funds are for self-supported services. The general fund provides tax support for basic, fundamental services. The non-reverting operating fund enables the Department to offer a variety of self-supporting programs such as Zoo education, day camps, and Tropicane Cove. The non-reverting capital fund also provides the Department with the ability to plan for the future.

### GENERAL FUND BUDGET

The 2013 annual general fund appropriation was \$3,541,066.70

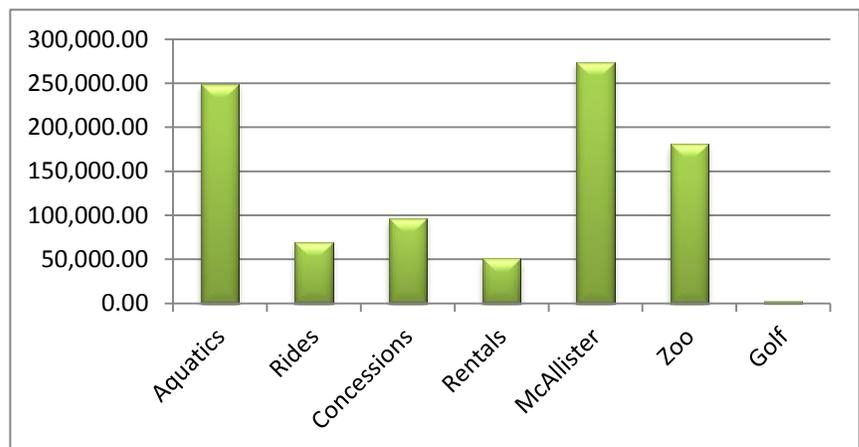
2013 General Fund	
Category	Amount
Personnel Services	\$ 2,232,505.00
Supplies	\$ 404,766.70
Services	\$ 810,295.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,541,066.70</b>



### PROGRAM REVENUE

Following is an itemization of total revenue generated by the Department in 2013 for programs and services.

2013 Revenue	
Department	Amount
Aquatics	\$ 248,910.97
Rides	\$ 68,761.45
Concessions	\$ 96,410.38
Rentals	\$ 51,193.50
McAllister	\$ 273,750.60
Zoo	\$ 181,044.58
Golf	\$ 2,449.30



### SPONSORSHIPS AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Sponsorships and corporate partnership opportunities in 2013 through the Lafayette Parks Foundation provided the Department with added funding. The impact of these programs is highly visible. The Kids Can Scholarship Fund, sponsored by donations from area organizations and individuals, enabled area youth to participate in Parks and Recreation activities at little or no cost.

The Workreation program, linked closely to the Kids Can Scholarship Fund, entered its fifteenth summer in 2013. The program provides an opportunity for youth to perform various volunteer functions in a supervised setting at a park facility. Each participant is rewarded with a Kids Can Pass for each hour of work. A Kids Can pass can be used

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

for entry to any of the three aquatic facilities, or for \$5 off of any McAllister or Columbian Park Zoo program registration fee. Volunteer opportunities were provided at Columbian Park, Vinton Pool, and Castaway Bay.

### **Lafayette Parks Foundation 2013 Major Contributors**

#### Corporate Sponsors & Other Partners

Kirby Risk Corporation	McAllister Foundation
SIA	Wabash National
DeFouw Family	James K and Mary Jo Risk Family Foundation
Olson Family Foundation	Tempest Homes, Inc.

## **VI. SYSTEM-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS**

The following improvements were made in the Lafayette Park system during 2013:

### **COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO**

- Added new storage lean-to in service area to house mulch, gravel and John Deere Gator
- Added new caging in animal house building
- Renovated veterinary room with new cabinets, counters, and medical equipment

### **McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER**

- Installed new doggie bag station
- Refinished the gym floor
- Painted exterior doors and vent covers
- Painted restrooms
- Painted stairs and railings

### **PROJECTS WITHIN THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE (with assistance from the Parks Department)**

- Delivered tables to various events throughout the year

## **VII. PARK OPERATIONS**

The Park Operations Division is responsible for park planning and design, capital improvement projects, parks grounds and facility maintenance, linear trails, urban forestry and natural resources, and city beautification.

The Central Maintenance facility houses outlying park maintenance, urban forestry, natural resources, and landscaping staff. The Columbian Park Maintenance facility houses the Columbian Park maintenance staff.

### **MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance services are provided to all parks and facilities utilizing park staff and contracted services. Lafayette Parks maintains 615 acres (not including the golf course), comprised of 31 acres of sports turf, 208 acres of general turf, and 73.50 acres of landscape beds, wildflowers, wetlands, and no mow areas, as well as 12.70 acres of retention ponds. The Park system has 71 structures, including 25 buildings, 12 restroom buildings, 1 barn, 1 amphitheater, 1 stadium, and 30 shelters. Park property contains 42 acres of pavement, including 27 sports courts, miles of paved trails, and 18 parking lots. Lafayette Parks also has 15 playgrounds, and nearly 1 mile of fence.

Services include turf management, sports field maintenance, playground maintenance, custodial services and trash collection, tree maintenance, snow removal, trail maintenance, landscape and plant bed maintenance, pond maintenance, small equipment and ride maintenance, and custodial services. These services also include routine maintenance and repairs such as electrical, light construction, plumbing, and management of pool water quality.

Certifications include Certified Playground Inspectors, Certified Pool Operators, and Certified Pesticide Applicators. Maintenance also has members in the following organizations: Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Professional Grounds Management Association and the Indiana Professional Lawn and Landscape Association and Sports Field

Managers Association.

The Maintenance Division cooperates with many civic and community groups, including Lafayette Summer Baseball, Downtown Business Center, Greater Lafayette Recreational Soccer Alliance, Lafayette Adult Softball, Greater Lafayette Tennis Association, Lafayette Cloud Jockeys, YWCA, Friends of Downtown, Lafayette Tree Fund, Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners, Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette, Community Corrections, Lafayette School Corporation, and Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

In 2013, the maintenance area added new equipment including:

- One Gator 825i multipurpose vehicle in December

## **COMMUNITY PARKS AND URBAN FORESTRY**

The Urban Forestry Division of the Department is responsible for

- Park management, planning park projects, natural resource projects, trail development, park landscape maintenance, and city land maintenance
- Designing and implementing park and city projects master plans
- Designing and planning tree planting and landscape projects for City and Parks
- Preparing tree planting and maintenance specifications for City and Parks
- Conducting hazard tree evaluation for City and Parks
- Contracting and managing maintenance of urban trees and city landscape areas
- Contracting and managing of city land maintenance
- Designing and managing City beautification projects
- Reviewing landscape plans for City projects
- Advisor and Secretary to the Official Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee
- Advisor and City liaison to the Tree Lafayette non-profit tree group
- Events and special projects relating to urban forestry and beautification
- Managing part-time landscape designer, and interns
- Meeting the Tree City USA Program Guidelines and Report Annually

The Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager manages the City wide urban forestry program, community and neighborhood parks, city land maintenance; advises and assists City departments, neighborhood associations and Tree Lafayette on urban forestry and design issues; provides information and assistance to homeowners with tree and city land questions and concerns; coordinates urban forestry projects with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Forestry Division, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Tree Lafayette; and helps to coordinate Park natural resource projects with the Natural Resource Coordinator.

Three City departments apply funds and coordinate with the Urban Forestry Division involving urban forestry, city master planning, and landscaping projects. The Parks Department coordinates with the City Engineers, Community and Redevelopment department, and the Street Department regarding urban forestry issues. Tree Lafayette also raises funds and supplies volunteers for city street tree planting and pruning projects.

The Memorial Tree Program is housed and managed in the Park Department. Park Department staff will locate where the tree is to be planted within the park system and a memorial plaque is located on the Tree of Life in the Boathouse Administration office.

### **Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee**

The Lafayette Tree Committee is the official City tree advisory committee appointed by the Mayor and required by the tree ordinance. This Committee gives the Mayor, City Engineer, and Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager guidance, advice and support on urban forestry issues for the City. The Committee also helps to formulate policy. The Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager works closely with this committee and is the facilitator and recording secretary of this committee.

The Tree Advisory Committee is taking action to enhance, protect and preserve the City trees. In 2002, the Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee (LTAC) set a goal to start reviewing and re-writing the Tree Ordinance in order to improve the ordinance and to work at creating a better urban forestry management plan for the City of Lafayette. Currently this is an on-going process. Several amendments to the ordinance have been written and passed. The Committee began reviewing and rewriting the current City tree ordinance to create a stronger ordinance in 2002. In September

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

of 2003 the committee created an amendment that made tree topping illegal on City property; the amendment was approved by City Council in 2004. In 2004 the Committee created an amendment that would require trees to be planted in the public right of way in new development; the amendment was passed by City Council in 2005. The LTAC started an annual Urban Forestry Award Program in 2005. This is a program that awards new development for good tree planting and good design. In 2006 the LTAC wrote an amendment to the Street Tree Ordinance that would require tree contractors who do tree work in the City of Lafayette be licensed by the City. The amendment was passed June 2010 by City Council. The LTAC is currently reviewing the City tree ordinance for outdated sections and to work at updating the ordinance to better suit the needs and protection of the urban forest. In 2008 the Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee organized the Big Tree Register Program. The register has been provided on the Park Dept. webpage. This is an ongoing program, and the Committee collects new tree information as reported. A professional tree inventory, conducted in four phases, was started in 2010 by Davey Tree Group. The final phase was completed this year. Over 20,000 sites have been inventoried. The City received several DNR matching grants to complete the tree inventory. A goal has been set to complete an urban forestry management plan within 2 years.

### **Tree Lafayette – Non-profit Tree Group**

Tree Lafayette is the non-profit tree committee that helps implement tree planting and pruning projects with volunteers on city property. For several years this group has been instrumental in coordinating the City Arbor Day program. This not-for-profit tree group is an important and valued supplement to the city Urban Forestry program.

Their mission is the following: “Tree Lafayette serves our community by providing the leadership and inspiration to engage the community in the activity of planting trees. We are a source of knowledge and information regarding the value that trees provide to the urban setting. We are committed to urban beautification, a healthy environment, and a sustainable quality of life that the urban forest provides.”

Tree Lafayette completed a strategic plan in 2008 that has helped the group to create better leadership, activity and education toward urban forestry for the community. They have created five strategic committees of focus: Tree Program, Education, Marketing, Development, and Governance. Since 1993 Tree Lafayette has raised over \$394,000.00 in funds for use toward the Lafayette community forest.

### **Tree City USA**

The City of Lafayette has been a Tree City USA for 21 consecutive years. Sponsored by the National Arbor Day Association, the Tree City USA program is a national program that provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America. Communities achieve Tree City USA status by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day. The City of Lafayette achieves this status by partnering with citizens and Tree Lafayette as well as working with all City departments.

### **Tree Planting**

In 2013, a total of 359 trees were planted in the community as a result of City and Tree Lafayette efforts. The City planted 142 trees through various street and curb enhancement projects. Tree Lafayette funded the planting of 185 trees, including Brady Lane right of way planting for Arbor Day; and right of way plantings at Thompson, S. 6th, South, S. 18th Streets. They planted several trees at various schools. The Park Dept. contracted 32 trees to be planted at various parks throughout the system. Several trees were planted through City code enforcement in new development. These trees are not included in the City urban forestry budget but make an important contribution to the community forest.

#### **Tree Planting Breakdown:**

185	Trees funded by the Tree Lafayette on City and school property.
142	Trees funded at other City owned project sites.
<u>32</u>	<u>Park Department</u>

**359 Total trees planted in the City during 2013**

### **Tree Maintenance**

The Lafayette Tree Ordinance mandates the responsibility to maintain trees in the public parkway to the adjacent homeowner. The Urban Forestry Manager evaluates trees in the right-of-way and issues permits to prune or remove trees as needed. The Lafayette Tree Fund, in coordination with the Urban Forestry Manager, utilized volunteers to prune small/medium trees along City streets as well as plant trees in the public right of way. The Park Department maintains approximately 3,000 park trees. The Urban Forestry Division issues permits to property owners for

contractual large tree pruning in the public right of way. The City contracted out the maintenance of City land, and approximately 4,000 trees are maintained with mulching, watering and pruning through this contract. The Street Department collects tree limbs and brush and performs leaf pick-up, which are utilized in the mulch program.

#### Trees Pruned in City:

300	Trees pruned in the Parks Department
493	Trees pruned by Tree Lafayette (right of way)
400	City of Lafayette
<b>1,193</b>	<b>Total Trees Pruned in City during 2013</b>

#### Hazardous Tree Removals

To ensure public safety, the City of Lafayette budgets annually for the removal of large, hazardous trees in the public right of way and public property by on call basis. The City is removing trees, as per the tree inventory, which were dead and/or critical for removal. The contractor hired for this work is required to work by International Society of Arboriculture Standards as well as ASHTO standards. They are required to have an ISA certified arborist on staff. The Urban Forestry Division issues permits to property owners for tree removal in the public right-of-way. The City Street Department removes hazardous limbs from the streets and right of way during storms, as equipment will allow.

#### Trees Removed:

21	Trees removed by Park Department
127	Trees removed by City of Lafayette
8	Trees removed through City Projects
6	Permits to property owners for tree removal (no cost to City)
<b>162</b>	<b>Total Trees Removed from City during 2013</b>

#### Equipment

The Urban Forestry Division did not purchase large equipment in 2013. Several items for small to medium size tree maintenance were purchased.

#### Arbor Day/Tree City USA

The Arbor Day celebration was held May 5<sup>th</sup> at Jefferson High and Tecumseh Jr. High Schools, where 64 trees were planted on the schools' grounds. This was a joint celebration between the City of Lafayette and the Tree Lafayette. Mayor Tony Roswarski was present to read the Arbor Day proclamation, and the Department of Natural Resources; Davison of Forestry presented the Mayor with the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive Tree City USA Award. Volunteers from the Tree Lafayette, Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee along with over 100 volunteers from various organizations throughout the community were in attendance to help plant the trees and celebrate Arbor Day.



#### Special Projects - Street Tree Inventory

A professional street tree inventory was started in 2010 by Davey Tree Group, professional certified arborists, and continues to be conducted in phases. Over 15,000 right-of-way sites have been inventoried to date. Approximately 75% of the City's street trees have been inventoried. In spring of 2013 the tree inventory will be continued for phase 4 by Davey Tree Group. The City was awarded a DNR matching grant to complete phase 4 in 2013.

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Using environmental and economic benefit information from the i-Tree Streets analysis, it is estimated that the current inventoried population of public trees provides the Lafayette community \$1,034,006 annually in the mitigation of storm water, conservation of energy, air pollution improvement, and property value enhancement. The street tree inventory provides comprehensive information about Lafayette's urban forest resource. The above overview refers to the complete data set which is on file with the Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager or you can view the summaries on the Park Department website.

### **Emerald Ash Borer and Parks Department Management**

The Lafayette Park Department is committed to maintaining healthy trees in the Park system. The emerald ash borer (EAB) was detected in a north side Lafayette neighborhood in June of 2011. The EAB is an exotic insect that attacks ash trees; if not treated the ash trees will die. Ash trees make up approximately 5% of the tree population in the Park system. Park ash trees have been evaluated, and it has been decided they will be removed and replaced gradually as funding allows. Several parks have had ash trees removed in the past two years. Replacements have been or will be made for all ash trees removed.

### **Education**

The Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager continues to work with neighborhood associations to educate on the importance of trees in the neighborhood. This is an on-going effort. As a result these neighborhoods continue to add urban forestry goals to their master plans for their neighborhoods and communicate with the city forester.

The Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee continues its commitment to the creation of an educational/outreach program to educate citizens about Community Forestry and proper care of trees. As part of this program, the Committee created and organized the Big Tree Register not only to acknowledge the large trees in the county but also to help educate about the importance of keeping trees healthy so they can grow large to provide better benefits for a higher quality of life to the community.

The Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager partners with the Purdue University Forestry Department to work with forestry students on special City/Park projects. The manager also lectures to the Arboriculture class about community urban forestry issues each semester at Purdue University.

Urban Forestry education and information can also be obtained by the public on the Lafayette Tree Fund's website [www.treelafayette.org](http://www.treelafayette.org)

### **Certifications and Conferences**

- Invasive Species Workshop
- Indiana Arborist Conference
- Indiana Urban Forest Council conference
- Great Lakes Park Institute
- JF New Ecology Workshop
- Indiana Parks & Recreation Trails Workshop

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Natural Resources Division is responsible for

- Planning, managing and supervising park landscape maintenance and projects
- Hiring and managing Park Landscaping Crews
- Developing, designing, ordering, and maintaining Park signage
- Managing the Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-Median programs
- Managing maintenance contracts for ponds and native prairie plantings on Park & City land
- Managing the Adopt-A-Street-Tree Program
- Creating and updating Seasonal Employee Manuals for Landscape and Maintenance staff
- Planning and coordinating special community events and projects related to natural resources

### **Landscaping**

The Natural Resource Coordinator assists the Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager in planning and managing park tree planting and landscape projects, city beautification, city land maintenance, preparing tree planting and maintenance specifications for park plantings and the Citywide Street Tree delivery program and trail maintenance. The Natural Resource Coordinator has a B.A. in Natural Resources/Outdoor Recreation Management

from Ball State University and has been with the Lafayette Parks since 1984. The Natural Resource staff is responsible for maintenance of 73.50 acres of landscape beds, wetlands, and no-mow areas, in addition to maintenance of Park trees, trails and the Shamrock Dog Park.

Between efforts of Park Staff and Master Gardeners, over 6,875 annual flowers, accent plants and perennial plants were planted in the Parks and other City properties, including Columbian Park, the planters on the pedestrian bridge, the Fire Station at McCaw Park, the Mayor's Youth Council Adopt-A-Spot, and other small areas that needed a splash of color. At Columbian Park, tropical plants were installed to enhance the island just outside the changing rooms at Tropicanoe Cove. Due to the effects of the previous summer's drought, Tree Gator bags were dispersed between park trees planted in the last 2 or 3 years, and over 300 staff hours were utilized watering trees and other plant material.

A six foot tall wooden privacy fence was installed around the Maintenance Compound at Columbian Park. A fresh new landscape of perennials, including butterfly bushes, shrub roses, was planted, and whimsical animal sculptures provided by the Mayors Youth Council transformed the sight of a working maintenance building into an inviting place to sit and relax while waiting for the Columbian Park Train to come by on its next stop.

2013 brought about the formation of a new environmental group, called R.I.P.I.T., "Removal of Invasive Plants In Tippecanoe." This new Committee formed 3 main sub-committees; 1) Assessment & Planning, meant to determine where in the County we need the most work to eradicate invasive plants; 2) Volunteer Coordination, meant to set up a cohesive list of all of the potential volunteer opportunities and groups that would be available, and help with scheduling some of these groups; and 3) Education and Outreach, meant to help educate the local plant retailers, commercial landscape people and general public about the seriousness of invasive plants and how to identify and eradicate them. The RIPIT group is still in its infancy and trying to find its footing but made progress in 2013 with workdays at Ross Hills Park. It set up a plan for Murdock Park to take place in 2014 that will be fantastic for the public outreach faction of the group, as the main focus of the project is to eradicate the Amur bush honeysuckle on the very publically visible Ferry Street slope at Murdock Park and to use live stakes of dogwood, willows, buttonbush and ninebark shrubs to stabilize the soil, and then hydro-seeded with woodland wildflowers.

The Natural Resource Coordinator also manages the contracts for the professional maintenance of 25 acres of native prairie and wildflower areas spread throughout several parks including Munger, McCaw, Armstrong and Cat Parks, as well as the Linear Trail behind Armstrong Park, and the Rain Garden along the Munger-Creasy Trail. Cardno JFNew was contracted to install and help maintain native plantings and natural areas at the above listed parks.



The management of the City Bio-Swales along Veteran's Memorial Parkway, Concord Road, and Maple Point Drive was turned over to the Waste Water Department in 2013, with continued support and advice from Park staff and Cardno JFNew.

The sloped banks and pond edges at both Munger and Armstrong Parks, over-seeded with wild flower in 2010, serve as an alternative method using native vegetation to control, discourage and reduce nuisance waterfowl, especially Canada Geese. The fifth annual "Goose Round Up" was completed in late June at Columbian Park, resulting in the relocation of a significantly smaller quantity of Canada Geese to a Fish and Wildlife Preserve in another part of the state, indicating that the relocation program is effective and humane to eradicate these nuisance animals from the Parks. The round-up can only occur during a brief window of time when the geese have molted and their flight feathers have not yet grown in, rendering them flightless. As the Lafayette Golf Course was permanently closed due to repeated flooding incidents, this facility was not included in the Canada Goose Relocation Program.

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There are 12.70 acres of retention ponds in 3 of Lafayette's larger parks. A "Clean Lake Maintenance Program" includes biweekly visits to each site to inspect for nuisance aquatic vegetation, with treatment as necessary. Applications of lake dye are made to help control algae growth between treatments.

A significant number of non-native and invasive plants were eradicated along the Wabash Heritage Trail, the Murdock Park Urban Forest Trail, and in several natural areas at McCaw, Munger, and Murdock Parks. SIA Toyota Logistics Company held another work day to eradicate invasive honeysuckle in the woods at Armstrong Park, making it possible to mow these areas and keep the invasive plants under control. The Purdue Krannert Master's Program held a large work day at Columbian Park.

### **Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-Median Programs**

The City Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-Median Programs are managed by the Park Department.

The Adopt-A-Spot Program is for local businesses, groups or organizations that want to work in the already designed and landscaped areas found around the City. Many of these Adopt-A-Spots were created through the Railroad Relocation project. There is a one-time fee of \$100 to have the graphics on the Adopt-A-Spot sign changed to reflect the name of the organization that has chosen to sponsor and maintain the site. The Natural Resource Coordinator works closely with the sponsoring groups. Monthly inspections of Adopt-A-Spot sites are conducted and award certificates are given to the Adopt-a-Spots that meet or exceed guideline standards. In 2013, 15 of 18 Adopt-A-Spots were sponsored. Garden Art completely revamped their site by tearing out the old rug juniper shrubs and other worn out plants, brought in soil amendment, and planted sustainable, native wildflowers. Below are a few pictures of their company workday.



The Adopt-A-Median Program is a Corporate Sponsorship Program, and the annual fee for sponsorship was reduced to \$500 for each median. The fee is used to help fund the maintenance of the medians, which is performed by a professional landscape contractor, and managed as part of the City Land Maintenance contract.

### **Citywide Beautification Projects**

The Natural Resource Coordinator worked with and assisted several committees, groups and organizations including Friends of Downtown, Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners, Clean Sweep and De-Trash the Wabash Committees (which had over 500 volunteer participants), and Tree Lafayette, to help plan and facilitate several community events and programs. Some events including Clean Sweep, De-Trash the Wabash, and Arbor Day.



The Street Tree Program provides citizens with trees to plant in the right-of-way, the area between the sidewalk and street. These trees are purchased by the Department and delivered by Park staff; this program is funded by the Parks Urban Forestry division. In 2013, five street trees were distributed to property owners to enhance the urban forest throughout community.

### Shamrock Dog Park

The Natural Resource Coordinator works closely with the Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette. Once again, Columbian Park was host to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Hike With Your Hound' in partnership with the YWCA of Greater Lafayette, reintroducing the 'Canines Against Cancer Dog Walk' after several years in hiatus. Over 30 vendors participated and more than \$2,200 was raised to benefit the Lafayette YWCA Breast Cancer Awareness Program. An additional \$600 was raised toward the eventual purchase of lights and security cameras for the Dog Park.

In August 2013, the Dog Park Association in partnership with the Lafayette Parks Department held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual POOCH PLUNGE, a 2-evening event to help raise money for the Dog Park Association and capital improvements at the Dog Park. This event was a huge success and over \$2000 was raised for the Dog Park Association.



Two Dog-Park-For-A-Day events were held at Shamrock Dog Park in 2013, the first in April and the second in June for the Summer Solstice. Both events included participation by the Wildcat Valley Animal Clinic hosting low-cost shot clinics. Loving Heart Animal Rescue also participated and had a person at the events to do low-cost micro-chipping of dogs. The Dog Park Association is a serious advocate for these services, as well as promoting low-cost spay and neuter services, as these not only help to reduce the over-population of animals in our community but also to help make sure that animals using our Dog Park, other parks, and all other areas in our community are properly "vetted," assuring healthier dogs and helping to prevent the spread of disease. Dog Park hours, rules, events and membership information can be obtained by the public on the Dog Park Association website at [www.dogparkinlafayette.org](http://www.dogparkinlafayette.org)

Over 66,000 Dog Waste Disposal bags were installed in the dispensaries located in the majority of Lafayette Parks, preventing many cases where dog waste would otherwise be left on the ground.

### Park Signage

Updates were made to all Park Rule signs to reflect changes in contact information, hours and different regulations; additionally, several signs needed new polycarbonate panels. Tropicane Cove signage suffered some damage in 2013, and several signs were replaced with a new and more durable sign material. North Ninth Street Trailhead Park, a new park in our expanding park system, received a new sandblasted redwood entry sign.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Department's Safety and Security Program ensures the public's full enjoyment of the City's recreational and natural areas. Security staff patrols parks to promote safety, education, and proper use of parks. Security staff enforces park rules, inspects for unsafe conditions and behaviors, monitors events and reservations, patrols grounds

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and buildings, and building lock ups. The security staff works closely with the Lafayette Police Department.

Park Security staffs have received many hours of training. Topics covered include severe weather training, dealing with individuals with mental health impairments, conflict management, Homeland Security issues, CPR, and patrol techniques. Security staff received additional training on public safety and public health rules of the Lafayette Parks Department, general park courtesy guidelines, and numerous Lafayette Municipal Codes and ordinances. Training was also given on emergency medical situations, operation and care for city vehicles, accident investigation, police radio signals, and 10 codes, dealing with criminal disturbance situations, de-escalation techniques, known sex offenders, locating lost children, first responder check list, Amber Alert procedures, pepper spray and gang recognition training, and active shooter training.

The Material Safety Data Sheets were updated with all of the latest regulations to keep the department in compliance. The department did a complete walk through of all park property to ensure that OSHA regulations were in compliance.

The Key Inventory continues to be updated to stay current with new employees and employees who have separated their employ. A confined space program has also been reviewed and is current for Park Maintenance employees. The confined space program includes the following: rescue and emergency service agreement, hazard assessment and identification, and training and entry permits.

Park facilities were updated with proper fire extinguishers, tested and certified for the year 2013. The fire extinguishers were inspected every month by the Safety and Security Coordinator. The smoke detectors in each facility were included in a preventative maintenance plan to be cleaned twice a year to ensure proper working condition. Alarm systems were tested and cleaned. All pool employees were instructed on security issues and accountability.

All full-time staff have been trained and certified in CPR, AED, Blood Borne Pathogens and First Aid. Our Safety and Security Coordinator is the instructor and is a certified instructor through the American Red Cross.

OSHA compliant medical cabinets are being maintained at Columbian Park, Central Maintenance, McAllister Center and the Municipal Golf Course. These are updated on a monthly basis.

The Zoo staff members have been trained and certified in the use of Pepper Spray. They have also received Critical Incident Training.

The 2013 Colt World Series was very busy but uneventful from a security stand point. With the assistance of uniformed Lafayette Police Officers and Indiana State Excise Police, there were no security issues.

## **VIII. RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

The Department strives to provide a variety of recreational facilities and activities for the citizens of our city. The Department has responsibility for amusements (aquatics, rides, and concessions), zoo, golf, McAllister Recreation Center, and general recreation.

### **AMUSEMENTS DIVISION**

The Amusement Division includes all the aquatic facilities in the parks department and concessions at Tropicanae Cove. The amusement division consists of seasonal employees in aquatics, pools & grounds, concessions and the Tropicanae Cove Cash Office.

#### **AQUATICS**

The Department operates three aquatic facilities: Tropicanae Cove, Castaway Bay, and Vinton Pool.

#### **Tropicanae Cove**

Tropicanae Cove was in operation for 82 days during the 2013 season. The 2013 Season was unseasonably cool

and wet. The adverse weather affected all operations of Tropicanoe Cove. Revenue for 2013 was down 27% from 2012, and attendance also experienced a sharp decline. The park staff is confident that 2014 will show a rebound in all facets of the aquatic operations at Tropicanoe Cove.

Tropicanoe Cove continued to live up to its family aquatic center name by appealing to people throughout their lifespan. The Cove provides an atmosphere that encourages parents and grandparents to join their children at the aquatic center.

Tropicanoe Cove remained dedicated to serving the leisure needs of the community. Non-profit groups took advantage of reduced admission prices available to them at the facility. Thanks to the Kids Can Scholarship Fund administered by the Lafayette Parks Foundation, children of the Greater Lafayette Community were able to attend all three aquatic facilities and enjoy the recreation services that the Lafayette Parks Department offers.

The water walking program continued in 2013 with two classes being offered in the morning and two classes in the evening. The water walking program was also adversely affected by the unseasonably cool weather.

Tropicanoe Cove continued special events including: Food for Fun, Father's Day Fun, Grandparent's Day, Military Appreciation, Boy Scout Day, Girl Scout Day, Mom's Day, BFF Day (Best Friends Forever), School Supply Splash, Tot Time and Season Pass Holder Appreciation Days.

### **Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool**

Castaway Bay was in operation for 74 days in 2013. Castaway Bay experienced sharp declines and revenue and attendance during the 2013 season. Workreation was offered at the pool on Thursday mornings.

Swimming lessons through the Swim America program continued in 2013 with four sessions being offered in the morning and three sessions being offered in the evening. "Miracle Swimming", swim lessons for adults was continued; this program was designed to help non-swimming adults learn to be in control in the water, shallow and deep, and to prevent panic around water.

Vinton Pool was in operation for 74 days in 2013. Vinton was quite popular with local day camps, attracting over 3,000 visitors. Workreation was offered at the pool on Tuesday mornings.

### **CONCESSIONS AND MERCHANDISE**

The 2013 Cove Café menu included Arni's Pizza 7" and 14", Breadsticks, Salads, Hot Dogs, Nachos, Pretzels, Popcorn, Cotton Candy, Otis Spunkmeyer Cookies, Snickers, AirHeads, M&M's, Dippin' Dots, Hawaii Shaved Ice, Choco Taco, and Ice Cream Sandwiches.

Coca-Cola continued to be our beverage supplier in 2013.

Big Squirts remained the top selling merchandise item in 2013. Rocky Mountain Sunscreen and Huggies Little Swimmers were our other big sellers in 2013.

Castaway Bay and Vinton Neighborhood Pool continued selling select concessions at their sites. Sales included drinks and candy, but may expand in the future.

### **COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO**

The Zoo opened for the season on April 20th and continued to operate daily through October 13, when the zoo closed for the winter. Many changes took place this year and included the Zoo assuming the operation of the historic amusement rides in Columbian Park and the completion of The Bill and Donna DeFouw Education Center.

#### **Gift Shop and Amusement Rides**

The gift shop operated daily from April 20th through mid-September and then remained open only on the days with nice weather until the season ended. The gift shop did re-open for a few days at the end of October while the Boo at the Zoo special event was taking place.



Newly renovated Helicopters ride

The Zoo acquired operations of the amusements rides in late 2011. The Columbian Park Express Train ride operated on the same seasonal schedule as the gift shop in 2013, which pleased many visitors. The Kiddie Rides operated on a slightly different schedule, which was primarily Memorial Day through Labor Day. There were a few days past Labor Day in which the Kiddie Rides operated.

Gross earnings in the gift shop for the 2013 season were just over \$143,000. This was a 27% increase in gross revenue from the previous year. Such a significant increase in gift shop revenue is primarily attributed to the sale of amusement ride tickets that were now being sold in the Zoo's gift shop. Previously, ride tickets were sold from the Tropicane Cove location.

In addition to the actual sales of the Columbian Park amusement ride tickets (\$60,202) in 2013, a portion of the increase in gross earnings in the gift shop could be attributed to the additional general merchandise that was purchased along with ride tickets.

The amusement rides consist of the following historical rides that have been located in Columbian Park since the 1960s:

- Horse & Buggy
- Kiddie Boats
- Helicopters
- Iron Horse Train



Columbian Park Amusement Rides 2013 Rider Totals	
Attraction	Number of Rides
Train	33,788
Helicopter	754
Horse & Buggy	933
Small Boats	979
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,454</b>

In the summer of 2013, construction began on the new Columbian Park Train Depot sponsored by the Jim Risk Family Foundation. The Train Depot located across from the Zoo's main entrance was designed by KJG Architecture and constructed by Kettelhut Construction. This depot will function as the new location for loading and unloading the Columbian Park Express Train.

The interior of the depot will house the creative efforts a local group of model train hobbyist. A life-like miniature train display, capturing the feel of the Greater Lafayette area and surrounding countryside, will complement the depot structure. Backdrops for the display will be painted by Victor Collins, owner of Madmen Creative Group. The Columbian Park Train Depot is slated to be completed in April 2014, and is guaranteed to be a popular addition to Columbian Park and the community as a whole.

Partnerships were developed with Mike Raisor Ford Collision Center, Bill DeFouw Collision Center, and MadMen Creative graphics design company to update the three kiddie rides. Mike Raisor Ford Collision Center made minor body repairs to the Kiddie Boats and added a fresh coat of paint to each boat, utilizing a "jungle khaki" color palette. In addition, they refurbished one of the old Turnpike cars, upholstered the seat, and added a fresh coat of paint. Columbian Park Maintenance Staff mounted the car to a small concrete pad within the Wild Tykes Play Zone which will be developed into a future family photo opportunity. Mike Raisor Ford Collision Center was able to transform the drab brown, white, and black Horse & Buggy rider components into very brightly colored, whimsical equines. Victor Collins, owner of MadMen Creative, donated countless hours to the project assisting with site layout as well as color selections for the area. Victor and staff also worked their magic to convert the Helicopter "cars" into vibrantly colored animals that attracted visitors of all ages. The rider cars were transformed into a variety of animals which included a tiger, red-eye tree frog, clown fish and even a blue and gold macaw. Many Zoo and Park visitors positively commented on the renovated area and addition of landscaping.

**Master Plan Progress and Capital Improvements**

A new and improved veterinary exam room was created in an existing room of the Zoo Animal House. Funding for this renovation project was provided by the Jim Risk Family Foundation. All new cabinetry, countertops, sink, flooring, paint, and blinds were installed to transform the room into an updated space for the Zoo’s veterinarian to perform animal exams and surgeries. An updated portable x-ray machine was purchased by the Friends of Columbian Park Zoo for taking needed radiographs of zoo animals.

New Animal House caging built by Corners Limited, Inc. was also purchased by Friends of Columbian Park Zoo. Most of the interior animal cages housing species such as spider monkeys, Egyptian fruit bats, lesser anteaters, and misc. small mammals and birds were replaced.

In collaboration with the Park Maintenance Department, a new lean-to structure was built in the Zoo’s service area. This covered lean-to was constructed to house the Zoo’s John Deere Gator that was purchased through the Friends of the Zoo, as well as various types of gravel, sand and mulch for use on Zoo grounds.



Above, left: Outside view of the Bill and Donna DeFouw Education Center, right: animal ambassador holding area  
 Below, Left to right: Ocean education classroom, bathroom, Savannah education classroom



**Animal Collection**

A few new animals were acquired in 2013. Fourteen different species of marine life were added to a 265 saltwater aquarium in the Bill and Donna DeFouw Education Building lobby. Of the animals born or hatched, we had two Bennett’s wallabies and eight domestic chickens of various breeds. Other species added to the collection were a bearded dragon, two uromastix lizards, a ball python, six Jackson’s chameleons, an Eastern gray tree frog, two White’s tree frogs, and an emperor scorpion. Most of these animals were obtained as loans, donations, or purchases from other zoos or from private individuals.

In addition, a male Nigerian Dwarf goat (owned by Columbian Park Zoo but on loan elsewhere) was brought to the Zoo to provide stud service for our herd of goats in the Family Farm. As a result, 17 goat kids were born during the

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

months of April and May. Six young does were retained to increase our herd size and the remaining kids were declared as surplus.

Also in 2013, the Zoo de-acquisitioned several animals through death, loan, donation or sale. These animals included a few animal ambassadors and a few animals from our general exhibit collection. Animal ambassadors who were de-acquisitioned due to death include the following: "Peggy Sue" the North American porcupine, "Indy" the Eastern indigo snake, "Antoinette" the lesser anteater, and "Charlotte" the Vietnamese pot-bellied pig. Animals that were de-acquisitioned from the general exhibit collection include twelve Nigerian dwarf goats, ten domestic chickens, and three Bennett's wallabies.

### **Partnerships**

Columbian Park Zoo staff continued their partnership with Purdue University. Students from the Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Department, Animal Science Department, School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Veterinary Technology Program participated in several academic projects at the zoo while completing their coursework. Our long-time Purdue association with the EPICS (Engineering Projects In Community Service) continued working on several on-going projects and explored new project ideas.

One project nearing completion is an automated fish feeder to enhance feeding opportunities for the North American river otters. Zoo staff also collaborated with Friends of Columbian Park Zoo (FOCPZ) to continue the tradition of family fun with such events as the Zoo Run Run and Boo at the Zoo. This year's events were no different, and a record number of participants participated in both events. Over 900 hundred runners joined the fun of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual run and nearly 4,500 individuals attended this year's Boo event.

### **Education**

The Zoo's education program continued to be an excellent community service. Outreach programs performed included school visits, animal encounters, ZooMobiles, mini-zoo visits, day camps, and special presentations. Gross revenue was approximately \$96,000, which is a 22% increase over last year's income. It is the greatest amount of revenue achieved for the Education Department to date.

### **Volunteer Program**

The Junior Zookeeper Program continued to be a success for the area's youth. A group of 34 teenagers, ages 14-17 years, were selected to participate in the 2013 Junior Zookeeper Program. These students contributed over 2,788 hours of their time during the busy summer season assisting the Zoo Staff with a myriad of tasks. In addition, they enjoyed a variety of educational field trips including an overnight trip to the Columbus Zoo in Ohio.

The Volunteer and Internship programs continued to thrive with volunteers donating 16,863 hours of their time to the Zoo in the areas of Animal Care, Education, Landscaping, and Marketing. Of this total, over 6,800 hours were contributed by interns alone. The remaining hours were contributed by Community Service Workers, Purdue University students, Ivy Tech students, and a variety of volunteer groups from local community organizations. Over 3,224 volunteer hours were contributed by volunteers to help make the annual Friends of the Zoo sponsored Boo at the Zoo Halloween event a huge success. Purdue University continues to be a tremendous resource for student engagement at the Zoo with volunteers from many different departments logging hours in a variety of capacities.

### **Columbian Park Zoo 2013 Participation**

- 37,305 individuals of all ages participated in the Zoo's educational programs
- Education Department generated \$96,000 in income (22% increase from 2012 income)
- Volunteers logged a grand total of 16,863 hours at Columbian Park Zoo. Volunteers assisted with education programs, animal care and special services.
- 113,377 visitors meandered through the Wallaby Walk-about exhibit, while 79,475 and 100,809 visitors strolled through the Butterfly Garden Party and Family Farm exhibits, respectively

### **Awards and Recognition**

The zoo was the recipient of two "2013 Reader's Choice Awards", for "Best Kids Venue" and "Best Birthday Party Venue", sponsored by the Journal & Courier newspaper. These awards are determined by a reader's poll conducted by the newspaper. The awards were presented during a ceremony held in early November.

In addition, Columbian Park Zoo was nominated for Purdue University's first Exemplary Community Partner Award. According to Purdue University, "The award was established to recognize local organizations that provide opportunities for Purdue students to enhance their educational experience through volunteer and service-learning

activities.” A total of 10 not-for-profit organizations were nominated and the winner was selected by a diverse panel comprised of individuals affiliated with Purdue University. While the Columbian Park Zoo was not selected as the inaugural recipient, Zoo representatives attended a formal breakfast and were recognized in the company of Community leaders and dignitaries.

## **McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER**

2013 was an outstanding year for the McAllister Recreation Center and the community that we serve. In our 11th year of operations, after our 2002 renovation, the center continues to see program numbers grow. 2013 saw nearly record participation in every program and activity. The McAllister staff continue to work to create new and exciting opportunities for the community to enjoy our first rate recreation center.

The center continues to offer outstanding programs for the youth of our city and surrounding communities. Youth and adults are afforded the opportunity to participate in programs such as basketball, volleyball, flag football, day camp programs, Sporties for Shorties series, yoga, weight and fitness, and youth dance. These programs continue to be improved upon and expanded on a continual basis. In 2013, the center added a Zumba class and will continue to look for new and innovative programming for the Greater Lafayette Community. The Center also continues to provide opportunities for city employees and their families to improve their wellness by utilizing the weights and fitness area and participating in city sponsored wellness activities.

### **Fitness Programming**

The McAllister Recreation Center offers a variety of fitness programs to adults in the Greater Lafayette Community. Many individuals participate in weekly yoga, which is offered for beginners, advanced students and seniors. A new Zumba class was added in 2013 which saw a number of individuals. Free weights, machine weights and a number of cardio equipment help keep the community in shape throughout the year. In 2013, 4664 daily fitness passes were sold. The center provides the opportunity for city employees and their families to use the fitness areas at no cost. In 2013, 1524 employees and their families took advantage of the fitness areas.

### **McAllister Camps**

In 2013, the McAllister Recreation Center set yet another record for the summer camp. The camp, which generates approximately 90 percent of overall camp revenue, accounted for \$201,960.00 in 2013. This represents an increase from the \$181,215.00 in 2012. There were 58 operational days of Summer Camp, with an average daily attendance of 166.37 children. This year McAllister Recreation Center was able to grant 103 weeks of camp assistance to families in need. Children who attend camps at McAllister Recreation Center are given opportunities to improve their self-esteem, as well as their social and motor skills. The center has been fortunate to have a high rate of retention in both staff and campers. This consistency has allowed the center to experience attendance growth in each of the last ten years.

In addition to record attendance and revenue during the 2013 Summer Camp, other camp programs throughout the year experienced similar success. These include Spring Break, Fall Break, and Holiday camp. All of these camp programs were at maximum participation levels in 2013. Children who participate in the McAllister camp programs are given a unique opportunity to have an enjoyable and rewarding experience in a fun and safe environment. Participants enjoy a wide range of activities including games, crafts, enrichment activities, field trips, swimming, social interaction, guest speakers and demonstrations, and song and dance, just to name a few. Some of the field trips enjoyed by campers in 2013 included bowling, movies, swimming, community park visits, and gymnastics.

### **Junior Counselor Program**

For the fourth year the McAllister Center has offered a Junior Counselor Program for ages 13-15. These youth work with our summer counseling staff assisting with summer camp. The participants are used to helping clean, plan and assist in the supervision of the summer activities. The goal of the program is to teach the participants the processes and responsibilities of being a camp counselor. Twenty-one teens participated in 2013 (11 girls, 10 boys). At the end of each summer, the Junior Counselors are rewarded with a field trip. Last summer they took a trip to Chicago where they went to the Shedd Aquarium, had some time at the Navy Pier, did some shopping in the Water Tower Mall, and ate lunch at the famous Ed Debevic's.

### **Youth Basketball**

The McAllister youth basketball program had a total of 370 total participants in 2013. 190 children (18 teams) participated in the spring league and 180 children (16 teams) participated in the fall league. Once again, the number

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

of participants was at the maximum for number of available openings. There are two age groups (6-8 year olds and 9-11 year olds). Teams that are coached by parent volunteers hold practice once a week and play their games on Saturdays. In addition to coaching, volunteers operate the scoreboard while McAllister staff officiate the games. Approximately 1,256 volunteer hours were given to the youth basketball program in 2013.

### **Youth Flag Football**

This program, offered in partnership with Lafayette Jefferson High School, allows children between the ages of 6 and 9 the opportunity to participate in a recreation based flag football league. Children learn fundamentals of the game during a one hour practice and put those skills to the test during the game on Sunday. Children are split into two leagues based on age, with 6 and 7 year olds making up the college league and 8 and 9 year olds making up the pro league. In 2013 we had 28 parent volunteer coaches. Our games were officiated by 36 different Jefferson High School football players. In all, volunteers contributed 536 hours for the youth flag football program. There were 129 participants in the flag football program in 2013.

### **Sporties for Shorties**

The McAllister Center offered children ages 4 and 5 an opportunity to familiarize themselves with sports through the Sporties for Shorties program. The program was designed to introduce the participants to the fundamentals of soccer, T-ball, flag football and basketball through fun and exciting drills. Each program ends with the children participating in their first live game! Each sport had 25 energetic athletes participate in 2013. Due to an increase in volunteers, we were able to take a few more participants for basketball, flag football and soccer.

### **Adult Volleyball**

The 2013 volleyball season not only saw the same loyal following from the previous teams but also a few new teams as well. The first session, held from January to March, included 8 teams, and the second session, held from October to December, included 8 teams as well. The Court Jesters won both the spring and fall leagues for the second year in a row.

### **Special Events**

2013 brought two special programs for children of all ages to enjoy. The Center offered summer bowling and kids' fishing day to kids from the greater Lafayette area.

The 14th annual Summer Community Bowling was held from noon to 3 on 6 days during June and July at Market Square Lanes, Star Lanes and Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl. In all over 1800 games and approximately 600 children bowled during the 6 day program.

In June, the McAllister Center held The Kids' Fishing Day at Munger Park. Over 100 children tested their skills during the event. The McAllister Center partnered with volunteers from the Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for this event. Everyone that participated was provided with snack and a hot dog lunch.

### **Volunteers**

Every year the McAllister Center is fortunate to have a number of volunteers to help with its many programs. Without the selfless contributions of parents and community volunteers, the Center would not be able to offer the variety of programs and special events held each year. In 2013, 300 individuals volunteered as coaches, referees, and scoreboard operators. The Staff at the McAllister Recreation Center appreciates each of the volunteer's dedication and contribution.

### **Grants and Partnerships**

In 2013 the McAllister Recreation Center was fortunate to receive several grants for the McAllister Summer Camp Scholarship Fund. A total of \$7,000 was granted to the McAllister Center from the Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Tippecanoe Tigers 4-H Club and the McAllister Foundation. These grants assisted several children in attending camps and programs at a reduced cost to their families. A total of 103 weeks for summer camp were provided with these scholarship funds.

The McAllister Recreation Center has developed partnerships with several area organizations and individuals to assist with their quality programs. These are some of our partners:

The Lafayette School Corporation	Jamie West and West Active Dance
Greater Lafayette Tennis Association Inc.	Lafayette Volunteer Bureau
Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation	Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 347
Lafayette Police Department	Lafayette Fire Department
Indiana Dept. of Natural Recourses	Purdue University Engineering Education
Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries	CityBus
St. Lawrence/McAllister Neighborhood Association	Monon Neighborhood Association
Tippecanoe Co. Public Library	Tippecanoe Co. 4-H
Lafayette Jefferson Athletic Dept.	Dave and Jill Howell
McAllister Foundation	

2013 McAllister Recreation Center		
Core Service Programs	Participants	Participant Hours
Summer Community Bowling	1850 games	1800
Kid's Fishing Tournament	114	456
Elective Service Programs		
Adult Volleyball	160	1280
Flag Football	129	1806
Sporties for Shorties		
Baseball	25	100
Basketball	29	116
Football	25	100
Soccer	28	112
Youth Co-ed Basketball	360	6,480
McAllister Camp Programs		
Spring Break Camp	41	3,280
Summer Camp	166 (daily average)	77,024
Fall Break Camp	32	448
Holiday Camp	65	4,550
West Active Dance	125	250
Yoga	816	4,080
Recreation Center Passes	77	
Daily Fitness Passes	4,664	
Monthly Fitness Passes	4	
Six Month Fitness Passes	2	
Yearly Fitness Passes	2	
Employee Fitness Passes	1,524	
Facilitated Service Programs		
Hershey Cross Country/Track	84	1,680
Tennis	250	500

## LAFAYETTE GOLF COURSE

In January of 2013, the Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation made the decision to close the Lafayette Municipal Golf Course. The golf course began winding down its operations and a portion of the equipment was transferred to the Lafayette Parks Foundation at that time. The Municipal Golf Course driving range operated until April of 2013. During the course of the year, citizens used the former golf course for walking trails. The City of Lafayette and Wabash River Enhancement Corporation will study the future use of the property in 2014.

## **IX. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

The focus of Administrative Services includes technological improvement and support, special events planning, media relations, sales and rentals, fund development, and public information.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

The Department upgraded several office work stations, printers and software solutions in 2013. With the cooperation of the City Information Technology Department, we will continue to upgrade computer workstations, software, and printers to provide the Parks staff with tools necessary to perform and produce quality work.

To go along the widespread use of social networking, the Department continued using social media websites including Facebook and Twitter. Pages for Columbian Park Zoo, Tropicanae Cove, McAllister Recreation Center, and Lafayette Golf Course were all used to share information and update users.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Marketing and promotional activities for 2013 included many exciting projects.

#### Aquatics

In 2013, the Department continued with special events/days; a few were sponsored by local businesses:

Free Water Walking proved to be a success once again; the free days were Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:15-7:00 p.m. and 7:00-7:45 p.m., Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00 a.m. and 8:00-9:00 a.m., and Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

June 26<sup>th</sup> was "Food For Fun." Pool patrons were given a discounted rate for bringing in non-perishable food items. All the donated food was then given to the Lafayette Urban Ministries (LUM).

Later in the summer, and also to prepare for the upcoming school year, Tropicanae Cove hosted "School Supply Splash." On August 7<sup>th</sup>, pool patrons were given a discounted rate for donating school supplies.

#### McAllister Recreation Center

2013 brought two special programs for children of all ages to enjoy. The Center offered summer bowling and kids' fishing day to children from the greater Lafayette area.

The 14th annual Summer Community Bowling was held during the months of June and July from noon to 3 at Market Square Lanes, Star Lanes and Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl. In all over 1800 games and approximately 600 children bowled during the 6 day program.

In June, the McAllister Center held The Kid's Fishing Day at Munger Park. Over 100 children tested their skills during the event. The McAllister Center partnered with volunteers from the Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for this event. Everyone that participated was provided with snack and a hot dog lunch.

#### Other

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Hike with Your Hound was held on Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at Columbian Park; the Lafayette Parks Department teamed up with the YWCA of Greater Lafayette to reintroduce the "Canines Against Cancer Dog Walk". The event was designed for people with dogs to come out and enjoy the physical activity that both they and their dogs can attain just by walking around in the park. Over 30 vendors participated and more than \$2,200 was raised to benefit the Lafayette YWCA Breast Cancer Awareness Program. An additional \$600 was raised toward the eventual purchase of lights and Security Cameras for the Dog Park. The event was capped off with contests; Best Trick, Best Costume, Biggest Smile, and Dog/Owner Look-A-Like.

In August 2013, the Dog Park Association in partnership with the Lafayette Parks Department and the Lafayette Police Department held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual POOCH PLUNGE, a 2-evening event to help raise money for the LPD K-9

Program. This event was a huge success, with more than 200 dogs participating and over \$2,000 raised for the K-9 Program.

### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

WLFI News Channel 18 continued to be a strong supporter of the Lafayette Parks Department. TV-18 hosted Zoo staff in-studio on multiple occasions to cover special events as well as visiting Parks Department ribbon cuttings, construction projects and Parks Board meetings.

The department continued to garner excellent coverage from the *Journal and Courier*. In addition to covering special events, the *Journal and Courier* routinely “stopped by” city parks and helped advocate for a robust Parks Department and trail system.

The Department continued its relationship with B102.9 FM, which broadcasted live from Tropicanae Cove each Wednesday during Family Nights in the summer. The B102.9 Morning Show also continued featuring the Zoo Education Department each month for “Zoo Day.” On the second Friday of each month, the Zoo Education staff visited the station with a variety of Animal Ambassadors. Artistic Media Partners was the radio sponsor for both the Zoo Run and Boo at the Zoo in 2014. WBAA was present at several Department events and ceremonies in 2014. Staff members also did numerous interviews with stations for the announcement of news items.

In 2014, the Parks Department adopted a new social media usage strategy to engage with key publics in the Greater Lafayette area and beyond. In addition to expanding the scope of the Parks and Recreation Facebook and Twitter pages, the Columbian Park Zoo expanded and revitalized its social media presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

### **SALES AND RENTALS**

Sales and rentals continued to be a major part of Administrative Services in 2013. Direct staff involvement in this process resulted in more corporate rentals and greater public exposure. More than 1,000 groups rented park facilities for events such as picnics, weddings, receptions and family reunions. Ongoing customer awareness and training for all park support staff provides citizens with the utmost in services each time they visit a park facility.



### **FUND DEVELOPMENT**

Fund development initiatives are coordinated through Administrative Services. The Kids Can Scholarship Fund is funded through private donations; a yearly mailing is sent out to solicit funds for the Scholarship. Grant applications were submitted by the marketing staff to various organizations for support of the Kids Can Fund.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The Program & Facilities Guide was printed and distributed in early 2013. Updated printings of the Tropicanae Cove rate card were completed during the summer of 2013. The Zoo Summer Camp Brochure was updated and printed in 2013. Many of the publications are also posted through the City of Lafayette’s website.

## X. FRIENDS OF COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO

The Friends of the Columbian Park Zoo (FOCPZ) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Indiana. FOCPZ is comprised of local citizens committed to securing sufficient funding in order to ensure the quality of life of zoo animals through education and conservation and to create, promote and maintain awareness of the zoo for all in the Greater Lafayette area.

In addition to promoting memberships, offering animal sponsorships, and selling engraved brick pavers, FOCPZ coordinates two fundraising events each year, including the Zoo Run-Run and Boo-at-the-Zoo. Proceeds from these events support new and expanded exhibits as well as educational programs and the purchase of zoo animals.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Zoo Run-Run was held on Saturday, July 20th. This 5K run/walk brought over 900 participants to the zoo and was the largest to date, raising more than \$17,500. Bison Financial provided the traditional pancake breakfast and children participated in the free kid's run. While the weather took a turn for the worse post-race, it did not dampen the spirits of the attendants.



Boo at the Zoo 2013 was a success despite the cold temperatures. This year Boo at the Zoo raised over \$18,000. Boo at the Zoo is a “spooktacular” experience for the community and featured a nightly kids’ costume contest, fun games, encounters with Animal Ambassadors, photo keepsake opportunities, and the Enchanted Train Ride. Special entertainment included the Purdue Marching Band, the Purdue Gold Duster Dance Team, face painters and clowns. In just three days, nearly 4,500 people attended Boo at the Zoo 2013!

### Friends of Columbian Park Zoo 2013 Board Members and Staff:

- Robyn Oldfather, Purdue University: President
- Mike Perry, Lawn and Shrub, Vice President
- Jaime Williams, Regions Bank: Treasurer
- Kier Crites, IU Arnett Health: Secretary
- Kara Bishop, Journal and Courier
- Douglas Keith, Purdue University, Building Construction Management
- Steve Knecht, Vonderheide and Knecht
- Tanya Foster, Purdue University Athletic Department
- Anne Pfenninger, Von Tobel Corporation
- Emily Truett, Purdue Federal Credit Union
- Rebecca Shane, Kirby Risk
- Tom Melichar, Oerlikon Fairfield
- Cameron Hopman, WLF1 Meteorologist
- Matt Swisher, All Star Security
- Cory Ahlersmeyer, Marketing and Development Coordinator

### Donations

The Friends of Columbian Park Zoo received the following major contributions during 2013:

- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| • Anonymous             | \$ 5,000.00 |
| • Bob Rohrman Subaru    | \$ 2,000.00 |
| • Bison Financial Group | \$ 1,500.00 |
| • Bob Rohrman Motors    | \$ 1,000.00 |

• Girl Scouts Daisy Troop 1719	\$ 1,000.00
• Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation Inc.	\$ 1,000.00
• Lawn & Shrub, Inc.	\$ 750.00
• Franciscan Alliance	\$ 500.00
• Harrison College	\$ 500.00
• Lafayette Breakfast Optimist Club	\$ 500.00
• Regions Bank	\$ 500.00
• TBIRD Engineering and Survey	\$ 500.00
• Tipmont REMC	\$ 500.00
• Tri N Run	\$ 500.00
• Wal-Mart Foundation	\$ 500.00

In kind donations to Friends of Columbian Park Zoo, valued at \$500 and above:

- Bison Financial Group
- Frito Lay, Inc.
- Journal & Courier
- Purdue Throckmorton Farm
- SDI Incorporated
- WASK Radio Group
- Zachary Confections
- Coca-Cola
- Caterpillar
- Time-keepers Productions

Other donations to Friends of Columbian Park Zoo:

- 18 businesses and/or individuals donated funds in the amount of \$250 each
- 13 businesses and/or individuals donated funds in the amount of \$100 each

## **XI. PARKS FOUNDATION**

The Lafayette Parks Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Indiana. The purpose of the Foundation is to establish and maintain an endowment fund for the benefit of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department, encourage individuals and organizations to make financial contributions to support the Department, and in other ways support the Department.

The Parks Foundation received the following major contributions during 2013:

- \$19,050 from the Olson Family Foundation for the purchase of a Kid Whizzard snow making machine
- \$50,000 from the Risk Corporation
- \$8,379 from the Risk Family Foundation for support of the Art in the Park special event series

# City of Lafayette, Indiana Parks and Recreation Department

## *2014 Annual Report*

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## I. LAFAYETTE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation is the policy making authority for the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department. The Board is composed of four members who are appointed by the Mayor to serve staggered four-year terms without compensation.

The 2014 Parks and Recreation Board consisted of Maurie Denney, President, Carlynn Smith, John Ragan, Vice-President, Victor Klinker, Secretary pro tem, and Dave Mecklenburg; Carlynn Smith resigned from the board in July and John Ragan was appointed by Mayor Roswarski to the vacant Board seat. John Ragan was also elected as the new Vice President. In February, Joseph Bumbleburg resigned as Secretary and the Board appointed Jason Ramsland as Board Attorney. The Ball-Eggleston firm resigned their services from the Board in April and Victor Klinker was elected as Board Secretary pro tem.

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department and its Board operate under the provision of the "Indiana Parks and Recreation Law", IC 36-10-3, in accordance with City ordinance.

## II. VISION AND MISSION

In February, the Board of Parks and Recreation updated and adopted a 5-year comprehensive master plan for the City's park system. Cornerstone Planning and Design coordinated development of the master plan. Citizens of Lafayette were actively involved throughout the planning process. Issues were determined through community-wide citizen input and research and comparison with national standards.

The mission statement, vision, and goals for long-term excellence were revalidated. New five-year goals and an action plan were adopted through this dynamic process. The plan will guide the implementation of activities until 2018.

### MISSION

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department maintains quality park and recreation facilities and services, and facilitates leisure opportunities so that all citizens will receive the following benefits:

*Personal Benefits* in the form of physical fitness, relaxation, rest, and revitalization;

*Social Benefits* in the form of stronger and healthier families, ethnic and cultural harmony, reduced anti-social behavior, and enriched lives for persons with disabilities;

*Environmental Benefits* in the form of a green and tree-filled city, habitat for native plants and animals, and open and protected green space;

*Economic Benefits* in the form of more productive and healthier citizens, increased tourism, and contributions to the quality of life sought by business and industry.

### GOALS FOR LONG-TERM EXCELLENCE

#### Human Resources

A *Park Board* that provides strong leadership and which fosters cooperation among itself, the Superintendent, the Mayor, and the City Council.

A qualified, committed *Park Staff* that is motivated and customer oriented, whose skills are competitively compensated, and whose achievements are recognized.

#### Administration and Operations

An *Administration* that provides good management and that follows adopted plans.

A consistent set of *Policies* regarding patron use of park property and a price structure that supports

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

maintenance of facilities and programs without denying access to any citizen.

A *Safety and Security* program that provides safe facilities to attract and impress the public, gives patrons a sense of security, and reduces vandalism.

A park system whose *Appearance* is a source of pride, whose facilities are clean, and whose *Maintenance* is guided by a financially sound preventative maintenance program.

## Funding and Financial Management

A long-term financial plan that enables careful *Financial Management*; accountability for revenue, spending and public funds; and a capital improvements program.

Adequate long-term *Funding* that includes a consistent level of tax support, creative new funding sources, and partnerships with businesses and private donors, all supported by the effort of an active Parks Foundation.

## Organizational Relationships

A park system that develops *Community* pride, is user friendly, provides prompt and courteous customer service, and is supported by citizens through public-private partnerships.

Beneficial *Government Relations* through coordination and collaboration with other park departments, other local government agencies, school corporations, and Purdue University in order to reduce duplication of facilities and programs, better coordinate the provision of infrastructure, and to share resources, including staff expertise.

## Physical Resources and Services

*System-wide Improvements* that create an inviting family atmosphere at all parks.

A well-maintained *Columbian Park* whose facilities and services are responsive to citizen needs and interests.

An improved *Zoo* that makes adequate provision for the health and safety of all animals.

Fully-developed *River Corridor Parks* that maximize their potential and their location next to the Wabash River.

A system of *Neighborhood Parks* that provides age-appropriate recreation and which are maintained in cooperation with neighborhood associations and residents.

An improved *McAllister Recreation Center* staffed to provide high quality customer service.

Interesting *Programs* and classes for all ages (with the greatest emphasis on children and teens) that are priced to be self-supporting.

## Planning and Growth

A strong commitment to *Planning* that responds to community desires and results in multi-year plans that can be realistically implemented and funded.

A park system that provides for *Growth and New Facilities* commensurate with the growth of the city.

## **COMMUNITY NEEDS/ISSUES**

The issues and community needs identified as a result of the planning process are the basis for the Action Plan through 2018:

- Fixing and upgrading Loeb Stadium
- Increase programming for youth and teenagers
- More bike and walking trails
- Continue renovations on zoo

- Maintain existing facilities

**ACTION AND PRIORITY PLAN**

2014

1. Loeb Stadium Locker Rooms
2. Replace equipment in 2-5 age SIA Playground at Columbian Park
3. Old animal barn roof in Columbian Park
4. Replace basketball court at Centennial Park
5. Replace color coating at Shamrock roller hockey rink
6. Lyboubt Softball field lighting: replace electrical
7. South Tipp Renovation
8. Review and assess existing programs
9. Staff training and development
10. Review future programming options
11. Identify grants/donors for park development
12. Review maintenance practices
13. Evaluate equipment needs
14. Golf Course Re-use master plan
15. Durkees Run New trail Twyckenham Blvd New trail
16. ADA compliance improvements
17. New trails in conjunction with DPW



2015

1. Sterling Heights Renovation
2. Zoo Expansion
3. Identify grants and donors for Loeb Stadium
4. Identify grants and donors for Columbian Park Zoo
5. Golf Course Site Implementation of golf course re-use plan
6. Review equipment needs
7. Update equipment and facilities plans
8. CAT Expansion
9. Berlowtiz Woods site development
10. Move and replace McCaw playground
11. New trails in conjunction with DPW
12. ADA compliance improvements



2016

1. Loeb Stadium renovation
2. Implementation of golf course re-use plan
3. Staff training and development
4. Update equipment and facility maintenance plans
5. Identify grants and donors for Loeb Stadium
6. ADA compliance improvements
7. Columbian Park Memorial Island -Identify grants and donors
8. Zoo expansion
9. New trails in conjunction with DPW

2017

1. Columbian Park Memorial Island and lagoon renovation
2. Finish Zoo expansion
3. Add 2nd slide at Tropicanoe Cove
4. Loeb Stadium Construction Major Renovation, new turf
5. Establish maintenance fund for Loeb Stadium
6. ADA compliance improvements
7. Update equipment and facility maintenance plans
8. Staff training and development
9. New trails in conjunction with DPW

2018

1. Five Year Comprehensive Master Plan
2. Review equipment and facility maintenance plans
3. Establish Zoo maintenance fund
4. Staff training and development
5. New trails in conjunction with DPW
6. ADA compliance improvements

### **III. PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department manages nearly 700 acres of park land within the City of Lafayette. Providing and preserving parks and open green space enhance the desirability of the community and contributes to the health and wellness of all Lafayette residents.

The Department also operates many unique facilities, including an award-winning family aquatic center, innovative playground, Dog Park, premier baseball stadium, zoo, amusement rides, recreation center, golf course, a linear trail system, and portions of the Wabash Heritage Trail. These facilities serve as an investment in the future well-being of Lafayette residents, contributing to the overall quality of life and viability of the city.

#### **AQUATIC FACILITIES**

The Department manages three family aquatic centers. These outdoor facilities are open during the summer season to serve the aquatic needs of the community.



#### Castaway Bay

Armstrong Park along Beck Lane

Opened in July of 2003, Castaway Bay features include a beach-like entry, spray and play areas, geysers, bubble bench, an exuberant play area that can be used for games or exercise, grass area for sunning, open green play space, and a modern bathhouse.

#### Tropicanoe Cove Family Aquatic Center

Columbian Park along Main Street

Tropicanoe Cove helps preserve the aquatic tradition in Columbian Park while meeting the leisure needs of today's families. Features include a large leisure pool with zero-depth entrance, lazy river, water slides, water and sand playgrounds, sand volleyball court, bathhouse, and concession building. The multiple pools are serviced by a state-of-the-art water quality system.

#### Vinton Pool

3111 Prairie Lane

The renovated Vinton Pool serves north-side neighborhoods. Vinton Pool is configured in a Z-shape and features a beach-like entrance with playful water geysers. The pool also has a double splashdown slide and water basketball hoop. Two large 12-foot umbrellas provide shade to visitors on the deck. Structure improvements include a renovated pool basin and new gutter, filtration, and sanitation systems. The bathhouse was upgraded for accessibility and cosmetic purposes.

**COLUMBIAN PARK**

1915 Scott Street

The “crown jewel” of the Lafayette Park System, Columbian Park has served the community for over a century. Within Columbian Park, guests can find the Columbian Park Zoo, Loeb Stadium, SIA Playground, Tropicanoe Cove Aquatic Facility, amusement rides, Columbian Park Express, and various facilities for use to all persons in the community.

The Columbian Park Zoo was opened in 1908 and currently houses nearly 190 animals, representing over 90 species. More recently the Zoo was closed from 2004-2007 for renovations and reopened after the completion of several new exhibits. The zoo is still undergoing the implementation of its master plan.

Loeb Stadium, a 3,500-seat baseball stadium, was built in 1940 and is home field to Lafayette Jefferson High School, the American Legion Post-11 League, and 13-and-older Colt League. The stadium annually hosts the Colt World Series and IHSAA tournaments. The Loeb Stadium Advisory Committee was formed in 2008. They began regular meetings in 2009 and have continued meeting since 2010 to gather information and plan for the future of Loeb Stadium.

The SIA Playground provides Lafayette kids and families an exciting and adventurous place to play. The innovative playground is fully accessible and includes distinct areas specifically designed for all ages ranging from tots to adults.

Tropicanoe Cove Family Aquatic Center continues the long aquatic tradition in the Park while meeting the leisure needs of today’s families. The Cove’s features include a large leisure pool with zero-depth entrance, lazy river, water slides, water and sand playgrounds, sand volleyball court, bathhouse, and concession building.

Columbian Park also features amusement rides with a restored miniature train and other rides enjoyed by smaller children; many of these rides have been in the park for the past decades. Construction began on a new train depot located across from the Zoo’s main entrance to serve as a location to load and unload the Columbian Park Express Train. A miniature train display with painted backdrops was added on the interior, and the depot was completed in time for the Zoo’s spring opening in April of 2014.

Facilities in Columbian Park include the Rush Pavilion, Jenks’ Rest and picnic shelters. Rush Pavilion, which was restored in 1990, was originally built in 1890 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Jenks’ Rest is adjacent to the lagoon and houses The Center@Jenks’ and the Tippecanoe County Council on Aging and Junior Achievement. There are 18 picnic shelters throughout the park which patrons enjoy throughout the season. Also within the park is Memorial Island (veterans memorial and amphitheater), a new fishing pier, and the Boathouse, restored in 1999, which serves as the Parks Administrative Office.

**COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION CENTER**

The Department manages seven community parks, one community recreation center, and a linear park trail system. Comprising over 175 acres these facilities are larger in size to better serve all city residents.

Armstrong Park

9th Street &amp; Beck Lane, 26 acres

The park features three lighted youth baseball fields, five lighted tennis courts, lighted basketball courts, restrooms and concession building, multi-age playground, stocked pond, and 2/3 mile paved trail. Wildflower Prairie areas and a reforested wood lot will continue to mature and enhance the park setting. Armstrong Park is also home to Castaway Bay.

Berlovitz Woods

McCarty Lane &amp; Veterans Memorial Parkway, 20 acres

Berlovitz Woods is currently undeveloped. The 20-acre site is made up of woods and quality wetland. Future development plans include trails, natural interpretive areas, small playground, picnic areas, and parking. Development plans will maintain the natural character of the woods and wetland areas. Volunteers regularly work at the site to remove invasive plant and tree species.

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

### CAT Park and Soccer Fields

McCarty Lane, behind Caterpillar, 32 acres

CAT Park and Soccer Fields was developed through a lease between the Department and Caterpillar for use of 32 acres of land south of the facility. CAT Park includes eight irrigated soccer fields of varying sizes, parking, restroom/concession building, and attractive landscaping. Future plans include trails, a playground and a basketball court.

### Linear Park Trail

Beck Lane & S. 9th Street

The goal of the Linear Park is to link every park and school around the city. The current two-mile segment begins at Powderhouse Lane and ends at 18<sup>th</sup> Street; the Linear Trail links with Armstrong Park. When completed, it will be a 60-mile path.

### McCaw Park

Union Street & Creasy Lane, 26 acres

This park was created through a redevelopment project that included a new fire station. The park is partially wooded and has three lighted youth baseball fields, tot and multi-age playgrounds, lighted tennis courts, basketball courts, parking, naturalized areas, and two small shelters with grills. Future plans include surfaced trails, a new playground and woodland restoration.

### Munger Park

Greenbush Street, between US 52 & Creasy Lane, 32 acres

The park has a double shelter and grills, two public restroom facilities, playground, 1-mile paved trail, acres of wildflowers, dry detention basin, stocked pond, and fishing pier. Future plans include a new shelter, additional trees, and interpretive signs. Munger Park is an excellent example of sustainable design; mowed turf has been turned into wildflower prairie areas which filter and clean the water run-off. The park and its development were made possible by significant contributions from Cinergy PSI and Thomas and Alice Munger.

### Murdock Park

18th Street & Ferry Street, 30 acres

The largest and most forested park within the central city, this park has two shelters, grills, one lighted youth softball field, concession building, restrooms, 0.9-mile interpretive trail, 18-hole disc golf course, multi-age playground, sledding hill (with snow machine, made weather permitting), and a lighted basketball court. Future plans include a new master plan for park and amenity enhancements.

### Shamrock Park

Wabash Avenue, 11 acres

Redeveloped with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, this park has a boat launch ramp, shelter, grill, multi-age and tot playgrounds, lighted half-court basketball courts, lighted roller hockey rink, and open play space. The park is also home to the award-winning Shamrock Dog Park, which features two 2-acre fenced areas for large dogs and a 1/3-acre area for smaller dogs, water fountains, and gated entry.

### McAllister Recreation Center

2351 N. 20th Street, 7 acres

The center is housed in the former Longlois Elementary School and features a gymnasium, community meeting areas, game rooms, weight and fitness areas, open green space, basketball court, picnic shelter, grill, and multi-age playground. The interior of the building was renovated in 2002, and a new gym floor was laid in 2008.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

The Department manages nine smaller parks that serve smaller neighborhood parks totaling over 15 acres.

### Arlington Park

1700 Arlington Road, 1 acre

Located just north of Greenbush Street, this park was completely renovated in 2005. Improvements include a multi-age playground, picnic shelter, resurfaced and color-coated tennis and basketball court, and open green space and landscaping. Renovations were made possible thanks to CDBG funds, Tate & Lyle, Small World Child Care, and the Vinton Neighborhood Association.

### Centennial Park

6th Street & Brown Street, 0.5 acre

Site of a historic marker commemorating its downtown neighborhood, this park features a basic multi-age and tot playground, basketball court, and picnic shelter. The basketball court was paved in 2001. Centennial Park serves youth programs sponsored by the YWCA and Lafayette Urban Ministries. A new master plan was finalized. Renovation began in fall 2006, made possible by CDBG, Community Foundation, LUEA and Alcoa. Construction was completed in 2007.

### Hanna Park

18th Street & Hanna Street, 2.2 acres

Located next to the Hanna Community Center, this park was completely renovated in 2005. The improved Hanna Park includes unique playground equipment for 2-5 and 5-12 year old children, musical chimes, tricycle path, resurfaced basketball court, picnic shelter, and grill. This park has been adopted by the Hanna Neighborhood Association. It serves youth programs sponsored by Hanna Center and Dennis Burton Child Care Center. Improvements have been made possible by CDBG funds, the Community Foundation and the Lilly Grant.



### Hedgewood Park

Hedgewood Drive & Beverly Lane, 1 acre

Adopted by the Hedgewood Neighborhood Association, this small park received a new multi-age playground, adult swing, picnic table, park bench, signage, and landscaping in 2001. Also, the neighborhood association has established a neighborhood watch program for Hedgewood Park to ensure that the park is a safe place to play.

### Kennedy Park

Sequoia Drive & Beck Lane, 12 acres

The largest of the Department's neighborhood parks is adjacent to Miami Elementary School. It has a basic multi-age playground and soccer field. A master plan is in the future for Kennedy Park.

### Linnwood Park

15th Street & Greenbush Street, 0.5 acres

In 2003, Linnwood Park saw many improvements made possible by CDBG funds, LUEA, and the Community

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

Foundation. Linnwood Park amenities include a multi-age playground, basketball court, shelter and picnic area, attractive trees and landscaping, and a historic looking fence.

### North Darby Park

Darby Lane, 0.8 acres

North Darby Park was completely renovated in 2006. The small neighborhood park contains a multi-age playground, basketball court, new sidewalks and landscaping, and new fencing. Funding has been made possible by CDBG grant and Tate & Lyle.

### South Tipp Park

3rd Street & Fountain Streets, 0.8 acres

Located next to Bauer Family Resources, this park features a basic multi-age playground and tot playground, basketball court, and picnic shelter. Improvements were made in 2003. The park serves youth programs sponsored by Bauer Family Resources. South Tipp Park is a past recipient of CDBG funds and has been adopted by the Ellsworth-Romig Neighborhood Association and Bauer Family Resources. A park master plan for South Tipp Park was completed in 2012.



### Stockton Park

Erie & Ferry Street, 0.5 acre

Located at the intersection of Erie and Ferry Streets within the Stockton Crossing Neighborhood, this pocket park was inspired and planned with the help of the invested neighborhoods. The park includes green space, shelter with picnic tables, adult swing, spring-rider for small children, drinking fountain and landscaping.

## **RIVERFRONT PARKS**

The Department manages a complex of parks along the Wabash River comprising over 450 acres.



### Wabash Heritage Trail

Cooperatively maintained by Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County Parks Departments, the 13-mile trail travels along the Wabash River and Burnett's Creek. Over two miles of the trail cross the Lafayette Riverfront Parks listed below.

Trailhead Park

North 9th Street, 350 acres

This park provides a trailhead for the North 9<sup>th</sup> Street trail and loop, as well as the Wabash Heritage Corridor. There are 10 parking spaces, three sheltered picnic tables, kiosk and drinking fountain. The Trailhead Park features a five-acre native prairie.

Lyboult Sports Park

Canal Road, 52 acres

This park is a favorite destination for sporting enthusiasts. Amenities include three lighted adult baseball fields, sheltered horseshoe courts, basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, picnic areas, and a public restroom facility.

McAllister Park

North 9th Street, 350 acres

This park is home to the Lafayette Municipal Golf Course, which was built in 1971, and is adjacent to the Wabash Heritage Trail and has wildlife and natural viewing areas. The site lies within the flood plain and floods periodically. Flood control improvements were finished in 1999 to minimize the impact of floodwater on the golf course. A pump was installed in 2006 to aid in removing water from the golf course in the event of a flood.

McAllister Park is no longer being mowed, resulting in a natural trail system.

Environmental Interpretive Area

North 9th Street & US 52, 44 acres

Located north of US 52 along the Wabash Heritage Trail, this wooded site is undeveloped and consists largely of high quality wetland.

**IV. ADMINISTRATION**

Since December of 2013, Claudine Laufman has served as Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. Jon Miner has served as the Director of Operations for Lafayette Parks and Recreation since December of 2013. Under their leadership, the Parks administration and staff team have worked together to best serve the leisure needs of Lafayette citizens in accordance with the Department’s Mission.

**ORGANIZATION**

The Department is comprised of the following divisions: Administrative Services, Park Operations, Amusements, Columbian Park Zoo, Lafayette Municipal Golf Course, and McAllister Recreation Center. During 2014, there were 32 full-time positions, 17 part-time and temporary, and approximately 165 seasonal employees.

Administrative Services

This division is responsible for financial accounting, fiscal planning, purchasing, data and record management, clerical and office services, marketing, public information, and customer service.

<b>Administrative Services in 2014</b>	
Managers	Angie Schultz (Accounting Manager) Alexandra DeWitt (Support Services Coordinator)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alexandra DeWitt hired as Support Services Coordinator in January.</li> <li>• Austin Jennings hired as Marketing and Support Services Assistant in February.</li> <li>• Austin Jennings separated employment in June.</li> <li>• Carlynn Smith hired as Marketing and Support Services Assistant in July.</li> </ul>

Lafayette Parks and Recreation

Park Operations

This division is responsible for park and facility maintenance, trails, urban forestry, natural resources, city beautification, capital development and improvement, risk management, and safety and security.

<b>Park Operations in 2014</b>	
Managers	Jon Miner (Director of Operations) Mike Perry (Director of Facilities and Grounds) Jim Foster (Columbian Park Manager) Karl Hensley (Parks Facilities and Grounds Manager) Belinda Kiger (Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager) Cynthia Bodin (Natural Resources Coordinator) Thomas Rankin (Safety and Security Coordinator)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mike Perry was hired in as Director of Facilities and Grounds in August.</li><li>• Karl Hensley assumed a new role in a General Maintenance capacity in January 2014</li></ul>

Amusements

This division is responsible for aquatics and concessions.

<b>Amusements in 2014</b>	
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuing with seasonal employment trends, the amusements area hired<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 18 management staff (for various amusement areas)</li><li>○ 66 pool lifeguards</li><li>○ 6 cash office personnel</li><li>○ 17 concession workers</li></ul></li><li>• The duties within the position were restructured to other managers within the parks' system.</li></ul>

Columbian Park Zoo

This division is responsible for running the Zoo, providing educational programming, operating amusement rides and raising funds for the renovation process.

<b>Columbian Park Zoo in 2014</b>	
Director	Dana Rhodes (Interim Zoo Director)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cory Ahlersmeyer, Marketing and Development Director, resigned in September 2014</li></ul>

McAllister Recreation Center

This division is responsible for operating McAllister and providing and overseeing a variety of recreational activities for the citizens of Lafayette.

<b>McAllister Recreation Center in 2014</b>	
Manager	Chad Aldridge (McAllister Center Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chad Aldridge was promoted to McAllister Center Manager in February</li> <li>• Addie Dobson was hired as an Assistant Manager in May</li> <li>• Addie Dobson resigned her position in November</li> </ul>

## **STAFF**

The recent accomplishments of the Department could not have been achieved without the tremendous reservoir of talent within the staff. The organization's philosophy and commitment to training have been instrumental in developing a staff that is dedicated to the Mission and empowered to help achieve it.

Twenty-three staff members hold undergraduate degrees. Several staff members have been certified in many specialties. We have one certified playground inspector, two are certified aquatics facility operators, eight certified pool operators, two certified pesticide applicators, and two certified pesticide technicians. One staff member is a Certified Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture and serves on the Indiana Arborist Association Executive Board, Sugar Creek Trail Executive Board, Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee, Purdue University Tree Advisory Board, and the Tree Lafayette Executive Board. One staff member serves on the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation Board.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Citizen participation has become a routine and critical element for the continuous improvements within the park system.

## **COLLABORATION**

The Department continued to work collaboratively with governmental agencies, local organizations, and area businesses to better serve the citizens of Lafayette. Organizations that the Department worked closely with in 2013 include the American Red Cross, Community Appearance Task Force, Community and Family Resource Center, Downtown Business Center, Friends of Columbian Park Zoo, Friends of Downtown, Greater Lafayette Commerce, Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette, Greater Lafayette Convention and Visitors Bureau, Hanna Community Center, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division and Outdoor Recreation Division, Indiana Urban Forest Council, Lafayette Adult Resource Academy, Lafayette Colt Tournaments, Lafayette School Corporation (LSC), Tree Lafayette, Lafayette Parks Foundation, Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association, Lafayette Volunteer Bureau, Leadership Lafayette, Lyn Treece Boys and Girls Club, Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners, Purdue University, Tippecanoe County Health Department, Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation, Tippecanoe County Public Library, Wabash Center, Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, and West Lafayette Parks and Recreation.

The Department maintains reciprocal agreements with Lafayette School Corporation and Lafayette Catholic Schools for use of sports and educational facilities. Other sports-related agreements are held with Lafayette Youth Baseball, Greater Lafayette Recreational Soccer Alliance, Greater Lafayette Girls Softball League, Wabash Disc Golf Club, Greater Lafayette Tennis Association, Lafayette Area Softball Association and the Lafayette Horseshoe Club.

Collaborative efforts with the Parks and Recreation Departments from West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources have allowed the four departments to better serve the recreational needs of all residents in the Greater Lafayette community. All four agencies continue to work together to develop a system of parks and recreation spaces along the Wabash River stretching from Prophetstown State Park to Fort Ouiatenon.

The Department has developed a positive relationship with Purdue University and frequently works with the Veterinary School and the departments of Health and Kinesiology; Restaurant, Hotel, Institutional, and Tourism Management; Forestry; Cooperative Extension; Agronomy; Landscape Architecture; Communication, College of Engineering EPICS Program; and Career Services.

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

The McAllister Recreation Center has developed partnerships with several area organizations and individuals to assist with the Departments' quality programs. Some of our partners are: The Lafayette School Corporation; Greater Lafayette Tennis Association Inc.; Lafayette Volunteer Bureau; Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation; Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 347; Lafayette Police Department; Lafayette Fire Department; Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries; Indiana Department of Natural Resources; Cloud Jockeys; Wabash Valley Woodworkers; Purdue University Engineering Education; St. Lawrence/McAllister Neighborhood Association; Monon Neighborhood Association; CityBus; Tippecanoe County Public Library; Tippecanoe County 4-H; Lafayette Jefferson Athletic Department; Dave Howell; Jill Howell; Andy Kennedy; Mark Preston; and the McAllister Foundation.

The Columbian Park Zoo has developed partnerships to improve exhibits and enhance the quality of the Zoo's educational programs and special events. Partners for 2013 included: B102.9, Caterpillar, Coca-Cola, J.R. Kelly Company, Friends of Columbian Park Zoo, Pyramid Sign & Design, Mr. & Mrs. Bill DeFouw, Tempest Homes, The James K. Risk Family Foundation, Kettlehut Construction, Wal-Mart, Pizza Hut, Purdue University, Journal and Courier/LafayetteMomsLikeMe.com, Eli Lilly Corporation, Tempest Homes, Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, Bison Financial, Monster Mini-Golf, Sam's Club and WFLI TV-18.

### **COORDINATION WITH OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS**

Strong inter-departmental working relations have been established, especially with Human Resources, Street, Fleet Maintenance, Water and Sewer, Engineering, Legal Services, Purchasing, Controller's Office, Community and Redevelopment, Police, Fire, and Information Services. The Engineering Staff reviews all development plans. Purchasing is coordinated with the City's department. Financial accounting is through the City's system.

### **PLANNING**

Planning for the future continued to play a significant role during 2014. A key element of all planning efforts was involving citizens at every level. This planning will help serve as a sound foundation for the Department's continued success. Projects and plans started or completed during 2014:

- 5 Year Comprehensive master plan – *Adopted*
- Columbian Park Train Depot – *Construction completed*
- South Tipp Park master plan – *Completed master plan*

### **FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN**

The City of Lafayette Parks and Recreation Board's 2014-2018 Five-Year Comprehensive Master Plan was created by utilizing the Lafayette community's input and involvement. Community involvement occurred in several different facets including public meetings, on-line surveys, meetings with community leaders, meetings with staff, mail-in comments from the local newspaper, e-mail comments, and review of other community planning documents.

The 2014-2018 Master Plan was created by reevaluating the goals which were identified in the 2009-2013 and assessing the priorities of the Lafayette citizens, as well as reviewing how the Lafayette community has changed in the last five years and how it is expected to change in the next ten years. The 2014-2018 Master Plan includes an assessment of the current state of the Board and Department and a review of the history of the past five years. It also includes an evaluation of the actions and accomplishments since the last five year plan was adopted. The 2014-2018 Master Plan was adopted by the Park Board on February 10, 2014.

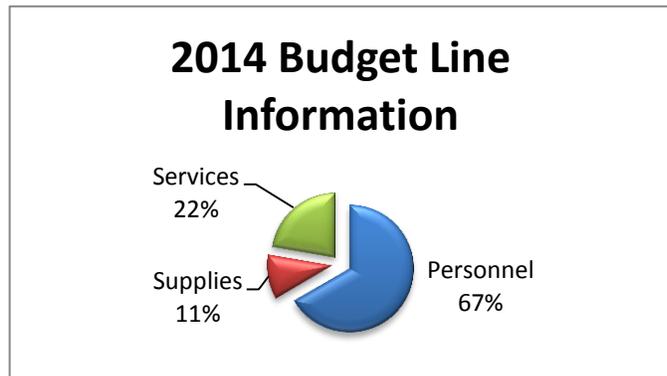
## **V. BUDGET, FINANCE, AND FUNDING**

A goal of the Department has been to create a self-sustaining system. This can be achieved through a combination of efficient operation, improved revenue generating activities, and public-private partnerships. The basic elements for attaining an efficient operation include an excellent preventative maintenance program and the ability to monitor and track all expenses and revenue. An annual budget is developed for the Department's general fund, which is supported by property taxes. The non-reverting operating and the non-reverting capital funds are for self-supported services. The general fund provides tax support for basic, fundamental services. The non-reverting operating fund enables the Department to offer a variety of self-supporting programs such as Zoo education, day camps, and Tropicanoe Cove. The non-reverting capital fund also provides the Department with the ability to plan for the future.

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

The 2014 annual general fund appropriation was \$3,641,965.00.

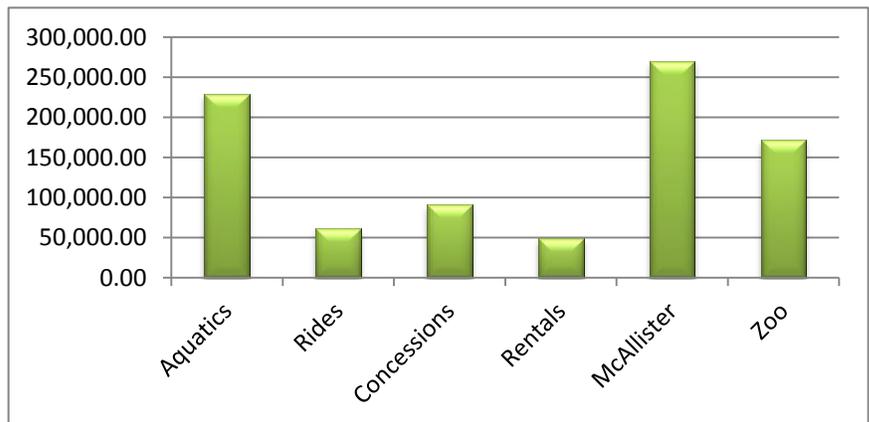
2014 General Fund	
Category	Amount
Personnel Services	\$ 2,425,850.00
Supplies	\$ 401,300.00
Services	\$ 812,815.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,641,965.00</b>



**PROGRAM REVENUE**

Following is an itemization of total revenue generated by the Department in 2014 for programs and services.

2014 Revenue	
Department	Amount
Aquatics	\$ 229,424.70
Rides	\$ 61,580.00
Concessions	\$ 90,926.23
Rentals	\$ 48,719.00
McAllister	\$ 269,652.40
Zoo	\$ 172,254.30



**SPONSORSHIPS AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Sponsorships and corporate partnership opportunities in 2014 through the Lafayette Parks Foundation provided the Department with added funding. The impact of these programs is highly visible. The Kids Can Scholarship Fund, sponsored by donations from area organizations and individuals, enabled area youth to participate in Parks and Recreation activities at little or no cost.

The Workrecreation program, linked closely to the Kids Can Scholarship Fund, entered its sixteenth summer in 2014. The program provides an opportunity for youth to perform various volunteer functions in a supervised setting at a park facility. Each participant is rewarded with a Kids Can Pass for each hour of work. A Kids Can Pass can be used for admission to any of the aquatic facilities, amusement rides, or registration fees for McAllister Center or Columbian Park Zoo programs.

**Lafayette Parks Foundation  
2014 Major Contributors**

Corporate Sponsors & Other Partners

Kirby Risk Corporation  
SIA

James K and Mary Jo Risk Family Foundation  
Olson Family Foundation

## **VI. SYSTEM-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS**

The following improvements were made in the Lafayette Park system during 2014:

### **ARMSTRONG PARK**

- Playground Safety Mulched added
- Cleared invasive species from pond edge

### **CAT PARK**

- Removed invasive species from designative native prairie

### **COLUMBIAN PARK**

- Overgrown shrubs and trees were removed along the bank of the lagoon on Memorial Island
- Installed sod on shore of lagoon at Memorial Island
- Installed new landscape around Rush Pavilion
- Installed ceiling and decorative wood in storage closet of Rush Pavilion
- Born learning signage added to walk around SIA playground
- Replaced play structure component in SIA playground
- Added planter pots with annual flower in various location within the park
- Installed new landscape in front of Loeb Stadium
- Reconstruction of Loeb Stadium signage wall following storm damage
- Painted concrete bleacher section of Loeb Stadium
- Changed out all paper towel holders with electric hand dryers in park restrooms
- Removed Water Wars amusement game
- Built new deck overlooking lagoon near the Jenks' Rest
- Installed projector at Jenks' Rest
- Built a new security fence around the maintenance shop
- Made a "locker room" in the maintenance shop
- Painted and repaired picnic tables at all shelters
- Added new "universally accessible" playground equipment to the SIA Playground, replacing old equipment and other additions for the new equipment
- Installed new path/walkway on deer island near the Orange Shelter
- Updated park signage
- Added 9 new wrought iron benches and 2 trash receptacles at new train depot building.
- Added signage at train depot.

### **COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO**

- Installed new transmission and engine in Iron Horse Train
- Added a 2014 Dodge Grand Caravan to the Zoo fleet (donated by Friends of Columbian Park Zoo)
- Purchased a commercial grade washing machine for Zoo animal house
- Added more veterinary equipment: hydraulic stainless steel surgical table, mobile LED surgical light, ophthalmic kit, ISO machine stand, and other diagnostic tools
- Added an 8 foot wrought-iron bench and trash receptacle to Zoo grounds
- Added signage to DeFouw Education Building
- Added 3 interactive stations for interpretation/engagement with patrons in the Family Farm

### **HANNA PARK**

- Born learning signage was added to interior sidewalk

### **LINWOOD PARK**

- Playground Safety Mulch added

### **McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER**

- Put in new doggie bag station
- Refinished the gym floor
- Painted exterior doors and vent covers

- Painted restrooms
- Painted stairs and railings
- Replaced the roof on the Annex building (Longlois Room).
- Refinished the gym floor
- Patched and sealed and number of areas on main roof
- Replaced old and damaged white boards in selected rooms
- Steam cleaned main hall tile and grout

#### **McCAW PARK**

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Removed invasive species from retention basin

#### **MUNGER PARK**

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Heated bathrooms on Greenbush side
- Cleared invasive species trees from retention basin, fence line and pond edge

#### **MURDOCK PARK**

- Heated bathrooms

#### **SHAMROCK PARK**

- Playground Safety Mulch added

#### **SOUTH TIPP PARK**

- Re-design and renovation of entire park
  - Added new playground components
  - Installation of rubber safety surface around playground components
  - Installation of basketball court
  - Installation of adult fitness stations

#### **TROPICANOE COVE**

- Converted mulched landscape bed to river rock, with new plant material
- Added planter pots with annual flowers

#### **PROJECTS WITHIN THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE (with assistance from the Parks Department)**

- Delivered tables to various events throughout the year

## **VII. PARK OPERATIONS**

The Park Operations Division is responsible for park planning and design, capital improvement projects, parks grounds and facility maintenance, linear trails, urban forestry and natural resources, and city beautification.

The Central Maintenance facility houses outlying park maintenance, urban forestry, natural resources, and landscaping staff. The Columbian Park Maintenance facility houses the Columbian Park maintenance staff.

### **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The Department's Safety and Security Program ensures the public's full enjoyment of the City's recreational and natural areas. Security staff members patrol parks to promote safety, education, and proper use of parks. Security staff enforce park rules, inspect for unsafe conditions and behaviors, monitor events and reservations, patrol grounds and buildings, and lock buildings. The security staff works closely with the Lafayette Police Department.

Park Security staff has received many hours of training. This training included severe weather training, working with the emotionally disturbed, conflict management, Homeland Security issues, CPR, and patrol techniques. Security staff received additional training on public safety and public health rules of the Lafayette Parks Department, general

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

park courtesy guidelines, and numerous Lafayette Municipal Codes and Ordinances. Training also included responding to emergency medical situations, operation and care of city vehicles, accident investigation, EMS radio procedures, dealing with criminal disturbance situations, de-escalation techniques, sex offenders, investigating and locating lost children, first responder check list, Amber Alert procedures, pepper spray, gang recognition, and active shooter training.

The Material Safety Data Sheets were updated with all of the latest regulations to keep the department in compliance. The department did a complete walk through of all park property to ensure that OSHA regulations were in compliance.

The Key Inventory continues to be updated to stay current with new employees and employees who have moved on. A Confined Space program was updated once again for Park maintenance employees. This program includes Rescue and Emergency Service Agreement, Hazard Assessment and Identification, and Training and Entry permits. Park facilities were updated with proper fire extinguishers, which were tested and certified for 2014. The fire extinguishers were inspected every month by the Safety and Security staff. The smoke detectors in each facility are placed in a maintenance plan to be cleaned twice a year to ensure proper working condition. Alarm systems were tested and cleaned. All pool employees were instructed on security issues and what their responsibilities are.

One hundred percent of full-time park staff has been trained and certified in CPR, AED, Blood Borne Pathogens and First Aid. Tom Rankin is the instructor and is certified through the American Red Cross. AEDs that were installed at various public areas within the Parks Department during 2013 areas include one adult and one child AED at McAllister Recreation Center, the Columbian Park Zoo gift shop, all three pools (Tropicanoe Cove, Castaway Bay and Vinton Neighborhood Pool), Loeb Stadium at Columbian Park, Jenks' Rest, and the Parks' Administrative office. All AEDs are maintained and inspected by Tom Rankin on a monthly basis.

OSHA compliant medical cabinets are being maintained at Columbian Park, Central Maintenance, McAllister Center, and the former Municipal Golf Course. These are updated on a monthly basis.

The Zoo staff members have been trained and certified in the use of pepper spray. They have also received Critical Incident Training.

The 2014 Colt World Series was busy but uneventful from a security stand point. With the assistance of uniformed Lafayette Police Officers and Indiana State Excise Police, there were no security issues.

## **MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance services are provided to all parks and facilities utilizing park staff and contracted services. Lafayette Parks maintains 615 acres (not including the golf course), comprised of 31 acres of sports turf, 208 acres of general turf, and 73.50 acres of landscape beds, wildflowers, wetlands, and no mow areas, as well as 12.70 acres of retention ponds. The Park system has 71 structures, including 25 buildings, 12 restroom buildings, 1 barn, 1 amphitheater, 1 stadium, and 30 shelters. Park property contains 42 acres of pavement, including 27 sports courts, miles of paved trails, and 18 parking lots. Lafayette Parks also has 15 playgrounds, and nearly 1 mile of fence.

Services include turf management, sports field maintenance, playground maintenance, custodial services and trash collection, tree maintenance, snow removal, trail maintenance, landscape and plant bed maintenance, pond maintenance, small equipment and ride maintenance, and custodial services. These services also include routine maintenance and repairs such as electrical, light construction, plumbing, and management of pool water quality.

Certifications include Certified Playground Inspectors, Certified Pool Operators, Aquatic Facility Operators, and Certified Pesticide Applicators. Maintenance also has members in the following organizations: Midwest Regional Turf Foundation, Professional Grounds Management Association and the Indiana Professional Lawn and Landscape Association and Sports Field Managers Association.

The Maintenance Division cooperates with many civic and community groups, including Lafayette Summer Baseball, Downtown Business Center, Greater Lafayette Recreational Soccer Alliance, Lafayette Adult Softball, Greater Lafayette Tennis Association, Lafayette Cloud Jockeys, YWCA, Friends of Downtown, Lafayette Tree Fund, Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners, Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette, Community Corrections, Lafayette School Corporation, and Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

In 2014, the maintenance area added new equipment including:

- One Gator 825i multipurpose vehicle in December
- One Z-Master sprayer/fertilizer vehicle in December
- One vibratory plate compactor

## **COMMUNITY PARKS AND CITY URBAN FORESTRY**

The Urban Forestry Division of the Department is responsible for:

- Park management, planning park projects, natural resource projects, trail development, park landscape maintenance, and city land maintenance
- Designs and implements park and city projects master plans
- Designs and plans tree planting and landscape projects for City and Parks
- Preparing tree planting and maintenance specifications for City and Parks
- Conducting hazard tree evaluation for City and Parks
- Contracting and managing maintenance of urban trees and city landscape areas
- Contracting and managing of city land maintenance
- Designing and managing City beautification projects
- Review landscape plans for City projects as needed
- Advisor and Secretary to the Official Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee
- Advisor and City liaison to the Tree Lafayette non-profit tree group
- Events and special projects relating to urban forestry and beautification
- Manages part-time landscape designer, and interns
- Meeting the Tree City USA Program Guidelines and Report Annually

The Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager manages the City wide urban forestry program, community and neighborhood parks, city land maintenance, advises and assists City departments, neighborhood associations and Tree Lafayette on urban forestry and design issues and provides information and assistance to homeowners with tree and city land questions and concerns, coordinates urban forestry projects with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Forestry Division, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Tree Lafayette and, helps to coordinate Park natural resource projects with the Natural Resource Coordinator

Three City departments apply funds and coordinates with the Urban Forestry Division involving urban forestry, city master planning, and landscaping projects. The Parks Department coordinates with the City Engineers, Community and Redevelopment Development Department, and the Street Department regarding urban forestry issues. The Tree Lafayette also raises funds and supplies volunteers for city street tree planting and pruning projects.

The Memorial Tree Program is housed and managed in the Park Department. Park Department staff will locate where the tree is to be planted within the park system and a memorial plaque is located on the Tree of Life in the Boathouse Administration office.

### **Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee**

The Lafayette Tree Committee is the official City tree advisory committee appointed by the Mayor and required by the tree ordinance. This Committee gives the Mayor, City Engineer, and Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager guidance, advice and support on urban forestry issues for the City. The Committee also helps to formulate policy. The Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager works closely with this committee and is the facilitator and recording secretary of this committee.

The Tree Advisory Committee is taking action to enhance, protect and preserve the City trees. A goal set by the Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee (LTAC), as of 2002 was to start reviewing and re-writing the Tree Ordinance in order to improve the ordinance and to work at creating a better urban forestry management plan for the City of Lafayette currently this is an on-going process. Several amendments to the ordinance have been written and passed. The Committee began reviewing and rewriting the current City tree ordinance to create a stronger ordinance

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in 2002. In September of 2003 the committee created an amendment that made tree topping illegal on City property; the amendment was approved by City Council in 2004. In 2004 the Committee created an amendment that would require trees to be planted in the public right of way in new development; the amendment was passed by City Council in 2005. The LTAC started an annual Urban Forestry Award Program in 2005. This is a program that awards new development for good tree planting and good design. In 2006 the LTAC wrote an amendment to the Street Tree Ordinance that would require tree contractors who do tree work in the City of Lafayette be licensed by the City. The amendment was passed June 2010 by City Council. The LTAC is currently reviewing the City tree ordinance for out dated sections and to work at updating the ordinance to better suit the needs and protection of the urban forest. In 2008 the Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee organized the Big Tree Register Program. The register has been provided on the Park Dept. webpage. This is an ongoing program and the Committee collects new tree information as reported. A professional tree inventory was started in 2010 by Davey Tree Group, conducted in four phases. The final phase was completed this year. Over 20,000 sites have been inventoried. The City received several DNR matching grants to complete the City street tree inventory. It is a goal to create an urban forestry management plan that is best suited to the City of Lafayette in 2015. The City/Park Dept. in partnership with Tree Lafayette obtained a DNR, Urban Forestry grant to hire a professional tree inventory conducted for the Lafayette City parks in 2015. This inventory will be installed into the TreeKeeper tree inventory program with the City street trees and be maintained by the City.

### **Tree Lafayette – Non-Profit Tree Group**

Tree Lafayette is the non-profit tree committee that helps implement tree planting and pruning projects with volunteers on city property. For several years this group has been instrumental in coordinating the City Arbor Day program. This not for profit tree group is an important and valued supplement to the city Urban Forestry program. Their mission is: "Tree Lafayette serves our community by providing the leadership and inspiration to engage the community in the activity of planting trees. We are a source of knowledge and information regarding the value that trees provide to the urban setting. We are committed to urban beautification, a healthy environment, and a sustainable quality of life that the urban forest provides."

Tree Lafayette completed a strategic plan in 2008 that has helped the group to create better leadership, activity and education toward urban forestry for the community. They have created five strategic committees of focus: Tree Program, Education, Marketing, Development, and Governance. Since 1993 Tree Lafayette has raised over \$432,000.00 in funds for use toward the Lafayette community forest.

### **Tree City USA**

The City of Lafayette has been a Tree City USA for 22 consecutive years. The Tree City USA program is a national program, sponsored by the National Arbor Day Association that provides the framework for community forestry management for cities and towns across America. Communities achieve Tree City USA status by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day. The City of Lafayette achieves this status by partnering with citizens, Tree Lafayette and working with all City departments.

### **Tree Plantings**

A total of 327 trees were planted in the community in 2014 by the City and Tree Lafayette funds. The City planted 147 trees through various street and curb enhancement projects. The Tree Lafayette funded the planting of 170 trees to include: Glen Acres School for Arbor Day, Mill Creek subdivision, Centennial Neighborhood and several trees at various schools through their education program. The Park Dept. Contracted 4 years planted at Murdock Park and staff and volunteers planted 6 trees at Subaru South Tipp Park. Several trees were planted through city code enforcement in new development. These trees are not included in the City urban forestry budget but make an important contribution to the community forest.

**Tree Planting Breakdown:**

170 Trees funded by the Tree Lafayette on City and school property.

147 Trees funded other City owned project sites.

10 Park Department**327 Total trees planted in the City during 2014****Tree Maintenance**

The Lafayette Tree Ordinance mandates the responsibility to maintain trees in the public parkway with the adjacent homeowner. The Urban Forestry Manager evaluates trees in the right-of-way and issues permits to prune or remove trees as needed. The Lafayette Tree Fund, in coordination with the Urban Forestry Manager, utilized volunteers to prune small/medium trees along City Streets as well as plant trees in the public right of way. The Park Dept. maintains approximately 3,000 park trees. 123 ash trees were treated for emerald ash borer in several city parks. The Urban Forestry Division manages approximately 15,000 trees in the public right of way. Property owners are issued permits for maintaining trees in the right of way. The City will take care of emergency maintenance of trees. The City contracted out the maintenance of City land and approximately 4000 trees are maintained with mulching, watering and pruning through this contract. The street Department collected tree limbs and brush and performs leaf pick-up, which was utilized toward the mulch program.

**Trees Pruned in City:**

200 Trees pruned in the Park Dept.

731 Tree pruned by Tree Lafayette (right of way)

170 City of Lafayette by contractor

200 City Land Maintenance**1,301 Total Trees Pruned in City during 2014****Hazardous Tree Removals**

To ensure public safety, the City of Lafayette budgets annually for the removal of large hazardous trees in the public right of way and public property by on call basis. The City is removing trees that are dead and/or critical for removal as per the tree inventory. The contractor hired for this work is required to work by International Society of Arboriculture Standards as well as ASHTO standards. They are required to have an ISA certified arborist on staff. The Urban Forestry Division issues permits to property owners for tree removal in the public right-of-way. The City Street Dept. removes hazardous limbs from the streets and right of way during storms, as equipment will allow.

**Trees Removed:**

21 Trees removed by Park Dept.

218 Trees removed by City of Lafayette

4 Trees removed through City projects

10 Permits to property owners for tree removal (no cost to City)**253 Total Trees Removed from City during 2014****Staff Time and Labor**

The portion of the Urban Forestry Manager's salary that is directly associated with urban forestry is recorded on the breakdown of expenditures under management. A percentage of the Park Department's Natural Resource Coordinator's salary is also allotted on the cost breakdown. The Zoning Inspector in the Engineer's Department, along with the Urban Forestry Manager reviews new development planting plans for compliance with the ordinance. A percentage of the Street Dept. workers' salaries are included in the budget as well as tree removal implemented within the Street Dept. and the mulch program. The St. Dept. and all other labor costs are included in the maintenance and planting figures.

**Education**

The Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager continues to work with neighborhood associations to educate them on the importance of trees in the neighborhood. This is an on-going effort. As a result these neighborhoods continue to add urban forestry goals to their master plans for their neighborhoods and communicate with the city

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

forester. Tree Lafayette group works with neighborhoods to conduct group tree plantings within the neighborhoods. This provides an educational opportunity to teach about planting and the care of trees as well as beautifying the neighborhoods.

The Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager has a B.S. in landscape architecture from Purdue University and is a certified arborist. Several arborist conferences/workshops were attended in 2014. Educational information on tree care, pruning, planting was purchased from the International Society of Arboriculture for public use.

The Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee continues to commit to the creation of an educational/outreach program to educate citizens about Community Forestry and proper care of trees. As part of this program, the Committee created and organized the Big Tree Register not only to acknowledge the large trees in the country but to help educate about the importance of keeping trees healthy so they can grow large so to provide better benefits for a higher quality of life to the community.

Urban Forestry education and information can also be obtained by the public on the Tree Lafayette's website [www.treelafayette.org](http://www.treelafayette.org). Tree Lafayette has created an educational program about trees which is presented to schools throughout the community on an on-going basis. The program, geared to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, features the Lorax. A tree planting demonstration is done on site with the students.

### Certifications and Conferences

- Indiana Arborist Conference – for Arborist Certification
- Indiana Urban Forest Council Annual Conference
- Indiana Urban Forest Council Winter Conference
- DNR Invasive Species Seminar

### Arbor Day/Tree City USA

The Arbor Day celebration was held May 3rd at Glen Acres where 60 trees were planted on school to start an arboretum. 30 large shrubs were planted as well along the Greenbush/Munger Trail behind the school. This is a project to help educate the importance of planting the right plant material in the right place. There are Duke Energy transmission power lines along this trail. This was a joint celebration between the City of Lafayette, Duke Energy and Tree Lafayette. Mayor Tony Roswarski was present to read the Arbor Day proclamation. The DNR; Davison of Forestry was present to present the Mayor with the 22nd consecutive Tree City USA award. Volunteers from the Tree Lafayette, Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee along with over 100 volunteers from various organizations throughout the community, were in attendance to help plant the trees and celebrate Arbor Day.



Arbor Day Celebration 2014

### Emerald Ash Borer Park Department Management

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was detected in a north side neighborhood in Lafayette June of 2011 and continues to spread throughout the city. The Lafayette Park Dept. is committed to maintaining healthy trees in the Park system.

The EAB is an exotic insect that attacks ash trees. If not treated the ash trees will die. Ash trees make up approximately 5% of the tree population in the Park system. Park ash trees have been evaluated and it has been decided that some ash trees will be removed and replaced gradually as funding allows and in parks with a higher percentage of ash trees the healthy ash will be treated so to save the large amounts of canopy loss. The Park Dept. has treated ash trees in areas such as CAT and Armstrong Park, where most of the parking lot trees are ash. Several parks have had ash trees removed in the past two years. Replacements have been or will be made for all ash trees removed.

#### Lafayette Urban Forestry Budget Cost Breakdown – 2014

##### Tree Planting

Lafayette Parks Department	\$ 1,299.25
City of Lafayette Projects	\$ 42,071.00
Tree Lafayette	\$ 46,251.14
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 89,621.39</b>

##### Tree Maintenance – pruning, fertilizing, water equipment & basic care of trees

Lafayette Parks Department	\$ 14,378.00
City-wide Land	\$ 22,420.00
Tree Lafayette	\$ 3,350.00
Street Department (limb pick-up and mulch program)	\$ 762,637.81
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 860,005.12</b>

##### Tree Removal

Lafayette Parks Department	\$ 16,629.03
City Department Projects	\$ 1,745.40
City of Lafayette	\$ 51,867.80
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 77,259.66</b>

##### Management

Urban Forestry Dedicated Salaries	\$ 72,009.66
Education	
Parks	\$ 574.00
Tree Lafayette	\$ 423.97
Tree Inventory Software Subscription	\$ 5,250.00
Tree Lafayette Marketing	\$ 3,699.86
Volunteer Time (3,350.5 hrsX\$14)	\$ 46,907.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 128,864.49</b>

**Grand Total of Urban Forestry Cost Breakdown** **\$ 1,148,733.20**

#### NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Division is responsible for

- Planning, managing and supervising park landscape maintenance and projects
- Hiring and managing Park Landscaping Crews
- Developing, designing, ordering, and maintaining Park signage
- Managing the Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-Median programs
- Managing maintenance contracts for ponds and native prairie plantings on Park & City land
- Managing the Adopt-A-Street-Tree Program
- Creating and updating Seasonal Employee Manuals for Landscape and Maintenance staff
- Planning and coordinating special community events and projects related to natural resources

## Landscaping

The Natural Resource Coordinator assists the Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager in planning and managing park tree planting and landscape projects, city beautification, city land maintenance, preparing tree planting and maintenance specifications for park plantings and the Citywide Street Tree delivery program and trail maintenance. The Natural Resource Coordinator has a B.A. in Natural Resources/Outdoor Recreation Management from Ball State University and has been with the Lafayette Parks since 1984. The Natural Resource staff is responsible for maintenance of 73.50 acres of landscape beds, wetlands, and no-mow areas, in addition to maintenance of Park trees, trails and the Shamrock Dog Park.

Between efforts of Park Staff and Master Gardeners, over 6,875 annual flowers, accent plants and perennial plants were planted in the Parks and other City properties, including Columbian Park, the planters on the pedestrian bridge, the Fire Station at McCaw Park, the Mayor's Youth Council Adopt-A-Spot, and other small areas that needed a splash of color. At Columbian Park, tropical plants were installed to enhance the island just outside the changing rooms at Tropicane Cove. Due to the effects of the previous summer's drought, Tree Gator bags were dispersed between park trees planted in the last 2 or 3 years, and over 300 staff hours were utilized watering trees and other plant material.

A six foot tall wooden privacy fence was installed around the Maintenance Compound at Columbian Park. A fresh new landscape of perennials, including butterfly bushes, shrub roses, was planted, and whimsical animal sculptures provided by the Mayors Youth Council transformed the sight of a working maintenance building into an inviting place to sit and relax while waiting for the Columbian Park Train to come by on its next stop.

The Natural Resource Coordinator also manages the contracts for the professional maintenance of 25 acres of native prairie and wildflower areas spread throughout several parks including Munger, McCaw, Armstrong and Cat Parks, as well as the Linear Trail behind Armstrong Park, and the Rain Garden along the Munger-Creasy Trail. Cardno JFNew was contracted to install and help maintain native plantings and natural areas at the above listed parks.



The sloped banks and pond edges at both Munger and Armstrong Parks, over-seeded with wild flower in 2010, serve as an alternative method using native vegetation to control, discourage and reduce nuisance waterfowl, especially Canada Geese. The fifth annual "Goose Round Up" was completed in late June at Columbian Park, resulting in the relocation of a significantly smaller quantity of Canada Geese to a Fish and Wildlife Preserve in another part of the state, indicating that the relocation program is effective and humane to eradicate these nuisance animals from the Parks. The round-up can only occur during a brief window of time when the geese have molted and their flight feathers have not yet grown in, rendering them flightless. As the Lafayette Golf Course was permanently closed due to repeated flooding incidents, this facility was not included in the Canada Goose Relocation Program.

There are 12.70 acres of retention ponds in 3 of Lafayette's larger parks. A "Clean Lake Maintenance Program" includes biweekly visits to each site to inspect for nuisance aquatic vegetation, with treatment as necessary. Applications of lake dye are made to help control algae growth between treatments.

A significant number of non-native and invasive plants were eradicated along the Wabash Heritage Trail, the Murdock Park Urban Forest Trail, and in several natural areas at McCaw, Munger, and Murdock Parks. SIA Toyota Logistics Company held another work day to eradicate invasive honeysuckle in the woods at Armstrong Park, making it possible to mow these areas and keep the invasive plants under control. The Purdue Krannert Master's Program held a large work day at Columbian Park.

### **Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-Median Programs**

The City Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-Median Programs are managed by the Parks Department.

The Adopt-A-Spot Program is for local businesses, groups or organizations that want to work in the already designed and landscaped areas found around the City. Many of these Adopt-A-Spots were created through the Railroad Relocation project. There is a one-time fee of \$100 to have the graphics on the Adopt-A-Spot sign changed to reflect the name of the organization that has chosen to sponsor and maintain the site. The Natural Resource Coordinator works closely with the sponsoring groups. Monthly inspections of Adopt-A-Spot sites are conducted and award certificates are given to the Adopt-a-Spots that meet or exceed guideline standards.

The Adopt-A-Median Program is a Corporate Sponsorship Program, and the annual fee for sponsorship was reduced to \$500 for each median. The fee is used to help fund the maintenance of the medians, which is performed by a professional landscape contractor, and managed as part of the City Land Maintenance contract.

### **Citywide Beautification Projects**

The Natural Resource Coordinator worked with and assisted several committees, groups and organizations including Friends of Downtown, Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners, Clean Sweep and De-Trash the Wabash Committees (which had over 500 volunteer participants), and Tree Lafayette, to help plan and facilitate several community events and programs. Some events including Clean Sweep, De-Trash the Wabash, and Arbor Day.

The Street Tree Program provides citizens with trees to plant in the right-of-way, the area between the sidewalk and street. These trees are purchased by the Department and delivered by Park staff; this program is funded by the Parks Urban Forestry division.

### **Shamrock Dog Park**

In August 2014, the Dog Park Association in partnership with the Lafayette Parks Department held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual POOCH PLUNGE, a 2-evening event to help raise money for the Dog Park Association and capital improvements at the Dog Park.

### **Park Signage**

Updates were made to all Park Rule signs to reflect changes in contact information, hours and regulations.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The Department's Safety and Security Program ensures the public's full enjoyment of the City's recreational and natural areas. Security staff patrols parks to promote safety, education, and proper use of parks. Security staff enforces park rules, inspects for unsafe conditions and behaviors, monitors events and reservations, patrols grounds and buildings, and building lock ups. The security staff works closely with the Lafayette Police Department.

Park Security staffs have received many hours of training. Topics covered include severe weather training, dealing with individuals with mental health impairments, conflict management, Homeland Security issues, CPR, and patrol techniques. Security staff received additional training on public safety and public health rules of the Lafayette Parks Department, general park courtesy guidelines, and numerous Lafayette Municipal Codes and ordinances. Training was also given on emergency medical situations, operation and care for city vehicles, accident investigation, police radio signals, and 10 codes, dealing with criminal disturbance situations, de-escalation techniques, known sex offenders, locating lost children, first responder check list, Amber Alert procedures, pepper spray and gang recognition training, and active shooter training.

The Material Safety Data Sheets were updated with all of the latest regulations to keep the department in compliance. The department did a complete walk through of all park property to ensure that OSHA regulations were in compliance.

The Key Inventory continues to be updated to stay current with new employees and employees who have separated their employ. A confined space program has also been reviewed and is current for Park Maintenance employees. The confined space program includes the following: rescue and emergency service agreement, hazard assessment and identification, and training and entry permits.

Park facilities were updated with proper fire extinguishers, tested and certified for the year 2013. The fire extinguishers were inspected every month by the Safety and Security Coordinator. The smoke detectors in each

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

facility were included in a preventative maintenance plan to be cleaned twice a year to ensure proper working condition. Alarm systems were tested and cleaned. All pool employees were instructed on security issues and accountability.

All full-time staff have been trained and certified in CPR, AED, Blood Borne Pathogens and First Aid. Our Safety and Security Coordinator is the instructor and is a certified instructor through the American Red Cross.

OSHA compliant medical cabinets are being maintained at Columbian Park, Central Maintenance, McAllister Center and the Municipal Golf Course. These are updated on a monthly basis.

The Zoo staff members have been trained and certified in the use of Pepper Spray. They have also received Critical Incident Training.

The 2013 Colt World Series was very busy but uneventful from a security stand point. With the assistance of uniformed Lafayette Police Officers and Indiana State Excise Police, there were no security issues.

## **VIII. RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

The Department strives to provide a variety of recreational facilities and activities for the citizens of our city. The Department has responsibility for amusements (aquatics, rides, and concessions), zoo, golf, McAllister Recreation Center, and general recreation.

### **AQUATICS DIVISION**

The Aquatics Division includes all the aquatic facilities in the parks department and concessions at Tropicanae Cove. The amusement division consists of seasonal employees. The Aquatics Division was restructured prior to the 2014 season to provide a more efficient and streamlined operation. 13 positions were eliminated and 5 new positions were created.

The department had three primary goals for the Aquatics Division in 2014. These goals were improved customer service, improved staff training and improvements to appearance at all three aquatic facilities. The driving factor in all three goals was to improve the overall experience for our aquatic patrons, and to increase employee retention for future years.

All Aquatics Division employees went through extensive training prior to the beginning of the season. These training sessions focused on all aspects of our aquatic facilities. The lifeguard staff was put through extensive pre-season in-service training to make sure that all Department lifeguards had the skills to provide a safe swimming experience for all patrons. The in-service sessions for our lifeguard staff continued throughout the season to make sure that the Department continues to meet the highest possible standards for lifeguards. A total of 14 in-service training sessions, 6 pre-season and 8 in-season, took place in 2014. These in-services covered river back-boarding, submerged drowning victims, zero depth rescues, passive spinal injuries, CPR and CPR rescue breathing, 2 person removals and entries. The guest relations and food and beverage staff were provided with extensive customer service and food preparation training to make sure that the needs of our aquatic patrons were met in a timely and friendly fashion. As a result of the renewed focus on customer service and training, the Aquatics Division staff performed at a high level throughout the summer and our lifeguard staff was the best trained and equipped staff possible.

Many improvements were made at all three aquatic facilities. At Tropicanae Cove, the first installment of new deck and concession furniture was purchased for the 2014 season. This furniture added a splash of color to the deck of the Cove and to the concession area. The second installment will be added in 2015, with a possible third installment being added in 2016. New lockers replaced the original lockers at Tropicanae Cove and patrons could be sure that their valuables were safe while they enjoyed the banana peel slide and other attractions that the Cove. Four of the blue FUNbrellas at the Cove were replaced with yellow FUNbrellas to add even more lively colors for our patrons. Landscaping was improved overall at the Cove, with river rock replacing some grassy areas inside of the pool. New landscaping was also installed outside of the locker rooms at Tropicanae Cove and colorful flower arrangements were added to the deck. More landscaping improvements will take place in 2015 – 2016. New water tubes adorned with the Tropicanae Cove logo were purchased in 2014 for our patrons to enjoy as well.

At Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool, flowers and landscaping were added for our patrons to enjoy at each facility, deck chairs were replaced, and improvements were made to the exterior landscape of each facility. Additional landscaping and facility improvements are planned for Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool in 2015.

## AQUATICS

The Department operates three aquatic facilities: Tropicanoe Cove, Castaway Bay, and Vinton Pool.



### Tropicanoe Cove

Tropicanoe Cove was in operation for 80 days during the 2014 season. Attendance for the 2014 season was 44,555 with an average daily attendance of 556.5 persons. The highest day attendance for Tropicanoe Cove was 1,440 on July 11th, 2014. The weather during the summer included 47 sunny days and 24 stormy/rainy days. Temperatures for the 2014 season were below historical averages for Lafayette area. The historical average temperature for the summer months in Lafayette is 84 degrees; the average temperature in 2014 was 80.8 degrees. The historical average temperature for the month of July in Lafayette is 86 degrees and the average high temperature for July 2014 was 78.8 degrees. There were 0 days with a temperature over 90 degrees, 20 days with a temperature between 85-89 degrees, 30 days with a temperature between 80-84 degrees and 29 days with a temperature between 70-79 degrees.

Season Passes continued to be a popular item with 445 passes sold during the 2014 season. The Cove hosted 40 Birthday Parties and 10 Private Rentals during the 2014 season.

Tropicanoe Cove remained dedicated to serving the leisure needs of the community. Non-profit groups took advantage of reduced admission prices available to them at the facility. Thanks to the Kids Can Scholarship Fund administered by the Lafayette Parks Foundation, 690 passes were handed out to Workreation participants. Over \$4,140 of scholarship money was given out to children in 2014 for admissions to the Cove and other programs offered through the Workreation program by the Department.

The water walking program continued in 2014 with two classes being offered in the morning and two classes in the evening. 138 water walking season passes were sold in 2014. Free water walking to all city employees was continued in 2014; 29 employees took advantage of the program.

Tropicanoe Cove continued special events including: Food for Fun, Father's Day Fun, Grandparent's Day, Military Appreciation, Boy Scout Day, Girl Scout Day, Mom's Day, BFF Day (Best Friends Forever), School Supply Splash, Tot Time and Season Pass Holder Appreciation Days.

### Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool

Total attendance at Castaway Bay was 8,235 for 69 operational days with an average daily attendance of 119.3 people. Season Passes continued to be a big hit with 129 passes being sold during the 2014 season.

Swimming lessons through the Swim America program continued in 2014 with four sessions being offered in the morning and three sessions being offered in the evening.

Total attendance at Vinton Pool was 5,630 for 68 operational days with an average daily attendance of 82.8 people. Vinton was quite popular with local day camps, attracting over 2,400 visitors. 41 season passes were sold during the 2014 season.

#### **Castaway Bay and Vinton Neighborhood Pool 2014 Attendance Figures**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Operational Days</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Castaway Bay	69	8,235
Vinton Pool	68	5,630
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13,865</b>

## **CONCESSIONS AND MERCHANDISE**

Swimming brings on a hearty appetite, but you won't go hungry at the Cove Café. The 2014 Cove Café menu included Arni's Pizza 7" and 14", Breadsticks, Salads, Hot Dogs, Nachos, Pretzels, Popcorn, , Cookies, Walking Tacos, ICEE products, Dippin' Dots, and a variety of ice cream novelties.

The Department began a three year agreement with PepsiCo to be the exclusive beverage provider for the Lafayette Parks Department in 2014. The addition of Pepsi as the beverage provider proved to be popular amongst aquatics guest as beverage sales increased in 2014.

Several merchandise items were added for the 2014 season including glitter tattoos, sunglasses, goggles and sand and beach toys. Big squirts remained the number one merchandise seller followed closely by glitter tattoos and goggles. The addition of merchandise proved to be very popular among aquatics patrons.

## **COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO**

The Zoo opened for the season on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and continued to operate daily through October 10th, when the zoo closed for the winter.

### **Gift Shop and Amusement Rides**

The gift shop operated daily from April 19th through mid-September and then remained open only on the days with nice weather until the season ended. The gift shop did re-open for a few days at the end of October while the Boo at the Zoo special event was taking place.

The Zoo acquired operations of the amusements rides in late 2011. The Columbian Park Express Train ride operated on the same seasonal schedule as the gift shop in 2014, which pleased many visitors. The Kiddie Rides operated on a slightly different schedule, which was primarily Memorial Day through Labor Day. The Columbian Park Express Train broke down at the end of July 2014 and was out of commission for the remainder of the 2014 summer season. The train received a complete overhaul with replacement of the transmission, engine, air compressor, and other parts to get it back in running condition for Boo at the Zoo.

The amusement rides consist of the following historical rides that have been located in Columbian Park since the 1960's:

- Horse & Buggy
- Kiddie Boats
- Helicopters
- Iron Horse Train



In the summer of 2013, construction began on the new Columbian Park Train Depot sponsored by the Jim Risk Family Foundation. The Train Depot, located across from the Zoo's main entrance, was designed by KJG Architecture and constructed by Kettelhut Construction. The interior of the Depot houses the creative efforts of Bob Gallippi, Charles Tuttle, Will Jordan, Carl Griffin, Jim Lewis, Garry Smith, Tim Kerkhoff, Larry Swanson, Ted Luce, Ron Burkhardt, David Randolph in the form of a life-like miniature train display, capturing the feel of the Greater Lafayette area and surrounding countryside. Backdrops for the display were painted by Victor Collins, of MadMen Creative. The Depot was completed in April 2014, and has proven to be a very popular addition to Columbian Park and the community as a whole.

Gross earnings in the gift shop for the 2014 season were just over \$133,000. This was an approximate 7% decrease in gross revenue from the previous year. Rides sales were approximately \$53,700, which is a decrease of about 10%. This decrease in revenue is directly attributed to the breakdown of the Columbian Park Zoo Express train in July. Prior to the train breakdown, gift shop sales were up over 40% compared to 2013 numbers. This initial increase in sales was attributed to the addition of the new Train Depot. The overall number of riders declined due to the train mechanical issues, but the kiddie rides all increased slightly.

<b>Columbian Park Amusement Rides 2014 Rider Totals</b>	
<b>Attraction</b>	<b>Number of Rides</b>
Train	27,478
Helicopter	829
Horse & Buggy	975
Small Boats	979
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,268</b>

### **Master Plan Progress and Capital Improvements**

A new and improved veterinary exam room sponsored by the Jim Risk Family Foundation was created in an existing room of the Zoo Animal House in 2013. Modernized veterinary equipment including a stainless steel hydraulic surgical table, mobile LED surgical light and other diagnostic tools such as an ophthalmic kit were also added to the veterinary room in 2014.



### **Animal Collection**

A few new animals were acquired in 2014. Four Bennett's wallabies were born on-site. Other species added to the collection were a Southern three-banded armadillo, a Patagonian cavy, 3 fire-bellied toads, 2 pacman frogs, 2 tomato frogs, and an African pygmy hedgehog. Most of these animals were obtained as loans, donations, or purchases from other zoos or from private individuals.

In addition, a male Nigerian Dwarf goat (owned by Columbian Park Zoo but on loan elsewhere) was brought to the Zoo to provide stud service for our herd of goats in the Family Farm. As a result, 20 goat kids were born during the months of April and May. Three young does were retained to increase our herd size and the remaining kids were declared as surplus.

Also in 2014, the Zoo deaccessioned several animals through death, loan, donation or sale. These animals included a few animal ambassadors and a few animals from our general exhibit collection. Animal ambassadors who were deaccessioned due to death include the following: "Paka" the fennec fox, "Junior" the Eastern indigo snake, "Beefcake" the domestic rabbit, "Darla" the Bennett's wallaby, "Java" the Nigerian dwarf goat, and "Jester" the laughing kookaburra. Animals that were de-acquisitioned from the general exhibit collection include 20 Nigerian dwarf goats, and six Bennett's wallabies.

### **Partnerships**

Columbian Park Zoo staff continued their partnership with Purdue University. Students from the Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Department, Animal Science Department, School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Veterinary Technology Program participated in several academic projects at the zoo while completing their coursework. Our long-time Purdue association with the EPICS (Engineering Projects In Community Service)

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

continued working on several on-going projects and explored new project ideas. One project to be delivered in spring of 2014 is an automated fish feeder to enhance feeding opportunities for the North American river otters. Zoo staff also collaborated with Friends of Columbian Park Zoo (FOCPZ) to continue the tradition of family fun with such events as the Zoo Run Run and Boo at the Zoo. This year's events were no different and a record number of participants participated in both events. Over 800 hundred runners joined the fun of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual run and over 5600 individuals attended this year's Boo event. In May 2014, the Zoo hosted McCutcheon High School's Robotics team and held a special event called "Robotics Day at the Zoo". Zoo attendees participated in many engineering activities such as "driving" a robot built with **LEGO®** bricks.

### **Education**

The Zoo's education program continued to be an excellent community service. Outreach and on-site programs performed included school visits, animal encounters, ZooMobiles, mini-zoo visits, day camps, birthday parties and special presentations. Gross revenue was nearly \$97,400, which is a 1.42% increase over last year's income. It is the greatest amount of revenue achieved for the Education Department to date.

### **Volunteer Program**

The Junior Zookeeper Program continued to be a success for the area's youth. A group of 30 teenagers, ages 14-17 years, were selected to participate in the 2014 Junior Zookeeper Program. These students contributed over 2500 hours of their time during the busy summer season assisting the Zoo Staff with a myriad of tasks. In addition, they enjoyed a variety of educational field trips including an overnight trip to the Toledo Zoo in Ohio.

The Volunteer and Internship programs continued to thrive with volunteers donating 15,573 hours of their time to the Zoo in the areas of Animal Care, Education, Landscaping, and Marketing. Of this total, nearly 5800 hours were contributed by interns alone. The remaining hours were contributed by Community Service Workers, Purdue University students, Ivy Tech students, and a variety of volunteer groups from local community organizations. Approximately 3,461 volunteer hours were contributed by volunteers to help make the annual Friends of the Zoo sponsored Boo at the Zoo Halloween event a huge success. Purdue University continues to be a tremendous resource for student engagement at the Zoo with volunteers from many different departments logging hours in a variety of capacities.

### **Columbian Park Zoo 2014 Participation**

- 33,233 individuals of all ages participated in the Zoo's educational programs
- Education Department generated \$97,372.89 in income (1.4% increase from 2013 income)
- Volunteers logged a grand total of 15,573.84 hours at Columbian Park Zoo. Volunteers assisted with education programs, animal care and special services.
- 113,743 visitors meandered through the Wallaby Walk-about exhibit, while 66,903 and 108,011 visitors strolled through the Butterfly Garden Party and Family Farm exhibits, respectively

### **Awards and Recognition**

The Zoo was the recipient of two "2014 Reader's Choice Awards", for "Best Kids Venue" and "Best Birthday Party Venue", sponsored by the Journal & Courier newspaper. These awards are determined by a reader's poll conducted by the newspaper. The awards were presented during a ceremony held in early November.

### **McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER**

The McAllister Recreation Center provides a broad spectrum of leisure opportunities to meet the needs of all segments of the greater Lafayette community. This includes group and individual programming to promote a high quality of life and ensure that all patrons receive personal, social, environmental, and economic benefits. The McAllister Staff is committed to creating new and exciting recreation opportunities for the community to enjoy at our recreation center.

The McAllister center offers a number of diverse programs for all ages. Youth and adults are afforded the opportunity to participate in programs such as: basketball, volleyball, flag football, day camp programs, Sporties for Shorties series, yoga, weight and fitness, and youth dance. These programs continue to be improved upon and expanded on a continual basis. In 2014, the center added a boot camp fitness class, a walking to wellness program, Tails on the Trails program, a Wellness event for older adults and the Brick 4 Kidz program. The Center also continues to provide opportunities for city employees and their families to improve their wellness by utilizing the weights and fitness area

and participating in city sponsored wellness activities such as the annual City Wellness Fair, Yoga, Zumba, PiYo and Insanity classes.

### **Fitness Programming**

The McAllister Recreation Center continued to offer a variety of fitness programs to adults in the Greater Lafayette Community. In 2014, a high intensity Boot Camp class was offered to individuals who wanted to push their endurance boundaries. This program was a nice addition to McAllister's yoga and Zumba classes. McAllister's free weights, machine weights and cardio equipment were used in abundance. There were 3,870 daily fitness passes, 5 monthly passes and 3 yearly passes sold in 2014. In all, \$8,284.00 was generated through weight and fitness revenue. In addition to the paid fitness passes, the Center provided the opportunity for city employees and their families to use the fitness areas at no cost. In 2014 a total of 1,389 employees and their families took advantage of the fitness areas. The McAllister Center also played host to four City sponsored wellness activities in 2014. Many employees and their families participated in the Yoga, Zumba, PiYo, and Insanity classes which were offered for beginners, advanced students and seniors.

### **Camps**

Summer time is a very busy time for the McAllister Recreation Center. The Center holds one of the biggest day camps in Tippecanoe County. The summer camp accounted for \$197,691.00 in revenue in 2014. Even though we surpassed our yearly goal of \$193,500.00, the total camp revenue was down from 2013 by 6.67%. Last year the McAllister Center adjusted the summer camp fee to be more in-line with the market and make sure the summer camp was not undervalued. We also had to cancel 5 days of camp due to the local school corporations having to make up snow days. This was a significant loss in revenue for summer camp. As a result we experienced the before mentioned decrease in camp revenue and a slight drop in daily participation.

Children who attend any one of the four camps at McAllister Recreation Center are given opportunities to improve their self-esteem, as well as their social and motor skills. They are given a unique opportunity to have an enjoyable and rewarding experience a fun and safe environment. Participants enjoy a wide range of activities including games, crafts, enrichment activities, field trips, swimming, social interaction, guest speakers and demonstrations, and song and dance, just to name a few. Once again the Purdue Women in Engineering held 12 days of exciting and educational programming for the summer camp. Some of the field trips enjoyed by campers in 2014 included bowling, movies, swimming, community park visits, and gymnastics. The center has been fortunate to have a high rate of retention in both staff and campers. This familiarity allows staff, parents and campers a smooth transition from summer to summer. There were 53 operational day of Summer Camp, with an average daily attendance of 159 children. This year McAllister Recreation Center was able to grant 129 weeks of camp assistance to families in need.

In addition to the high attendance and revenue set during the 2014 Summer Camp, other camp programs throughout the year experienced similar success. These include Spring Break, Fall Break, and Holiday camp.

### **Junior Counselor Program**

2014 was the fifth year the McAllister Center has offered a Junior Counselor Program for ages 13-15. There are two main objectives to the program. The first objective is for the Junior Counselors to gain experience applying, gathering references and interviewing for a real job. The second is to teach the participants the processes and responsibilities of being a camp counselor. These youth worked with our summer counseling staff assisting in all aspects of the summer camp. For example, the Junior Counselors had to develop and administer an activity for their group. Twenty-four teens participated in 2014 (9 girls, 15 boys). At the end of each summer, the Junior Counselors are rewarded with a field trip. Last summer they took a trip to Cincinnati where they attended a Cincinnati Reds game and had lunch on a river boat while taking a scenic tour down the Ohio River.

### **Youth Basketball**

The McAllister youth basketball program had a total of 368 total participants in 2014. The youth basketball program goals are to provide the participants with basic fundamental of the sport and a sense of what it means to be part of a team. 180 children (16 teams) participated in the spring league and 188 children (18 teams) participated in the fall league. The program numbers once again were at the maximum for number of children participating. There are two

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

age groups (6-8 year olds and 9-11 year olds). Teams that are coached by parent volunteers hold practice once a week and play their games on Saturdays. A number of volunteers coached and operated the scoreboard. McAllister staff members officiated all of the games. Approximately 1,092 volunteer hours were given to the youth basketball program in 2014.

### **Youth Flag Football**

This program, offered in partnership with Lafayette Jefferson High School, allows children between the ages of 6 and 9 the opportunity to participate in a recreation based flag football league. Children learn basic fundamentals of the game during a one hour practice, and put those skills to the test during the game on Sunday. To allow for the participants to have greater retention of fundamentals and plays, practices were held 1 hour before the game on Sundays. Children are split into two leagues based on age, with 6 and 7 year olds making up the college league and 8 and 9 year olds making up the pro league. In 2014 we had 17 parent volunteer coaches. Thirty-six different Jefferson High School football players served as volunteer officiators at the games. In all, volunteers contributed 486 hours for the youth flag football program. There were 114 Participants in the flag football program in 2014.

### **Sporties for Shorties**

The McAllister Center offered children ages 4 and 5 an opportunity to familiarize themselves with sports through the Sporties for Shorties program. The program was designed to patiently introduce the basic fundamentals of soccer, T-ball, Flag Football and Basketball to them through fun and exciting drills. Each program ends with the children receiving their first team jersey and participating in their first live game! Together, there were 99 energetic athletes participate in 2014. The McAllister staff decided to open up a second sessions for Sportiest basketball due to the high demand.



### **Adult Volleyball**

The 2014 volleyball season not only saw the same loyal following from the previous teams but a few new teams as well. Teams play a seven week schedule culminating in a 2 week tournament at the end. The 'Some Spike it Hot' team won the winter championship while the 'Court Jesters' took back the title in during the Fall League. Both the winter session, held from January to March, and the fall session, held from October to December, saw 8 teams participate.

### **Special events**

Once again the McAllister Recreation Center offered its summer bowling and kid's fishing day to kids from the greater Lafayette area.

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Summer Community Bowling was held during the months of June and July from noon to 3 at Market Square Lanes, Star Lanes and Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl. In all over 1400 games and approximately 724 children bowled during the 6 day program.

In June, the McAllister Center partnered with volunteers from the Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to host the Kid's Fishing Day at Munger Park. Children of all ages were able to go to Munger Park and test their angler skills. This year 75 children participated. Since this program was a "catch and release" program, a hotdog lunch was provided for all who showed up. The McAllister Center even threw in some free popcorn!

## **New Programs**

There were a number of new and exciting programs offered to the public in 2014. Many of these programs were well received and attended. The McAllister staff is committed to offering the highest quality of programming for the Greater Lafayette Community.

The Tails on the Trails walking series was designed to promote healthy living and exercise by introducing participants to the Lafayette Parks and Recreation trails system. Participants and their pets visited three different parks over the course of three consecutive Thursdays in the fall. Participants received a bag that included donations from area sponsors were offered free pet micro-chipping, and directed to walk the trail with their furry companion. The Almost Home Animal Shelter was on-site with a number of animals who were up for adoption as well. This program was free and open to the public, and also counted as a Wellness Event for City of Lafayette employees.

The Walking Toward Wellness series was another exciting program which was started in 2014. The Walking Toward Wellness Series was developed to promote the benefits of sustained exercise on personal wellness. Over the course of twelve weeks, participants were introduced to some of the many parks and trail systems the Parks Department has to offer. During these weekly events, guest speakers would educate participants on many different health aspects that could contribute to their all-around wellness. After each brief lecture, participants were encouraged to walk a designated course and distance. Snacks and a water bottle were given out at each event to everyone who participated. This program was free and open to the public. It also counted as a Wellness Event for City of Lafayette employees.

The McAllister Centered partnered with the Bricks 4 Kidz organization to bring a new and exciting program to the Center in 2014. The Brick 4 Kidz program was designed and created by teachers, architects and engineering professionals. Their hands-on curriculum introduces children age 3–13+ to concepts of engineering, architecture and mechanics using **LEGO®** bricks. Lessons from Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Language Arts, and Social Studies (S.T.E.M.) are integrated and discussed. Themes such as Transportation, Space, Inventions and Machines, Robotics and more provide variety and ensure a high level of interest and enthusiasm amongst participants. The Center played host to thirty-eight children who participated in the 3, one week classes which started in July and ran through August.

In partnership with the COM 353 class at Purdue University, the McAllister Center offered an Adult Wellness fair to the public. The fair focused on how older adults could keep physical and mentally fit through activities such as yoga and disc golf and the importance of getting their blood pressure and hearing checked on a regular basis. The McAllister Center is excited about developing this event further for 2015.

## **Volunteers**

Every year the McAllister Center is fortunate to have a number of volunteers to help with its many programs. Without the selfless contributions of parents and community volunteers, the Center would not be able to offer the variety of programs and special events held each year. In 2014, 342 individuals volunteered as coaches, referees, scoreboard operators, guest speaker, program facilitators, and educators. In total, 2501 volunteer hours were gifted to the McAllister Recreation Center and its programs. The Staff at the McAllister Recreation Center appreciates each of the volunteer's dedication and contribution.

## **Grants and Partnerships**

In 2014 the McAllister Recreation Center was fortunate to receive several grants for the McAllister Summer Camp Scholarship Fund. A total of 9,700 dollars were granted to the McAllister Center from the Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation, Lafayette Fire Fighter's Union and the McAllister Foundation. These grants assisted several children in attending camps and programs at a reduced cost to their families. A total of 129 weeks for summer camp and 4 program fees were provided with these scholarship funds.

The McAllister Recreation Center has developed partnerships with several area organizations and individuals to assist with the Departments' quality programs.

Lafayette Parks and Recreation

McAllister Center partnerships:

The Lafayette School Corporation/Jefferson H.S.

Greater Lafayette Tennis Association Inc.

Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation

Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)

Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries

St. Lawrence/McAllister Neighborhood Association

Tippecanoe Co. Public Library

Payless Supermarkets

McAllister foundation

Mike Alby's Arrowhead Bowl

Purdue University Com 353 class

Ivy Tech State College

Club Newton

Complete Nutrition

Purdue University Bands & Orchestras

Nature's Pharm

Tractor Supply Co.

Purdue University Printing Press

Jamie West and West Active Dance

The United Way of Greater Lafayette

Lafayette Fire Department

Purdue University Engineering Education

CityBus

Monon Neighborhood Association

Tippecanoe Co. 4-H

Dave and Jill Howell

Market Square Lanes

Star Lanes

Bricks 4 Kidz

I.U. Health

Fleet Feet Sports

SIA

Purdue Veterinary Medicine

Pet Smart

Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette

Meijer

<b>2014 McAllister Recreation Center Participation Report</b>		
<b>Core Service Programs</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Participant Hours</b>
Summer Community Bowling	724	1448 games
Kid's Fishing Tournament	75	225
<b>Elective Service Programs</b>		
Adult Volleyball	160	1280
Flag Football	114	1596
Sporties for Shorties		
Baseball	25	100
Basketball	35	140
Football	23	92
Soccer	16	64
Youth Co-ed Basketball	368	6624
McAllister Camp Programs		
Spring Break Camp	51	1785
Summer Camp	159 (average/day)	67,576
Fall Break Camp	30	420
Holiday Camp	57	2,793
West Active Dance	150	6,300
Yoga	256	7,936
Walking Towards Wellness	78	
Tails on the Trail	106	
Adult Wellness Fair	8	
Recreation Center Passes	45	
Daily Fitness Passes	3870	
Monthly Fitness Passes	5	
Six Month Fitness Passes	0	
Yearly Fitness Passes	3	
Employee Fitness Passes	1389	
<b>Facilitated Service Programs</b>		
Bricks 4 Kidz	38	760
Hershey Cross Country/Track	72	1440
Tennis	DNR	

## **IX. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

The focus of Administrative Services includes technological improvement and support, special events planning, media relations, sales and rentals, fund development, and public information.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

The Department upgraded several office work stations, printers and software solutions in 2014. With the cooperation of the City Information Technology Department, we will continue to upgrade computer workstations, software, and printers to provide the Parks staff with tools necessary to perform and produce quality work.

To go along the widespread use of social networking, the Department continued using social media websites including Facebook and Twitter. Pages for Columbian Park Zoo, Tropicane Cove, McAllister Recreation Center, and Art in the Park were all used to share information and update users.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Marketing and promotional activities for 2014 included many exciting projects.

### Aquatics

In 2014, the Department continued with special events/days; a few were sponsored by local businesses:

Free Water Walking proved to be a success once again; the free days were Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:15-7:00 p.m. and 7:00-7:45 p.m., Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00-8:00 a.m. and 8:00-9:00 a.m., and Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

### McAllister Recreation Center

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### Art in the Park



Lafayette Parks and Recreation hosted the inaugural Art in the Park summer art and music series in 2014. This family friendly event took place on Memorial Island, in Lafayette's historic Columbian Park. Art in the Park was celebrated every other Wednesday, from 6:30-8:30p.m. Memorial Day until Labor Day. Local artists and food vendors set up booths on Memorial Island, and a band performed on the stage at each event. This event series was free and open to the public. We thank the James K. Risk Family for their generous sponsorship that made Art in the Park's inaugural year such a success.

Artist Booths Featured in 2014: Flame-worked glass, pottery, clothing, handcrafted jewelry, metal sculptures, oil paintings, on-site portraits, stained glass, and photography.

Bands Featured in 2014: The Danny Weiss Trio, City Lites, Fergus Daly Band, Clave Caribe, James Moon and the Third Floor Invention, Zimdiana, Popular Ego, and The Prannies.

Food Vendors Featured in 2014: L Kora Food Truck, The Pink Walrus, Cold Stone Creamery, Ben's Pretzels, Kona Ice, Cissy's Nuts, Smokey Meat Sweats BBQ.

Collaborations in 2014: MatchBOX Coworking Studio (Temo Morales designed promotional poster), Our Motivation for Change (poster distribution), MadMen Creative (printed promotional materials), Instant Copy (printed large event posters).

The Art in the Park Facebook page ended the year with 1,254 likes and an average review of 4.9 out of 5 stars. [www.facebook.com/artintheparklafayette](http://www.facebook.com/artintheparklafayette)

The Art in the Park Twitter page ended the year with 107 followers. <https://twitter.com/artintheparklaf>



### Final Friday Movie Night



Lafayette Parks and Recreation hosted the inaugural Final Friday children’s art education and outdoor movie series in 2014. This family-friendly event took place on Memorial Island, in Lafayette’s historic Columbian Park.

Final Friday was held on the last Fridays of May, June, July and August from 6:30-9:30p.m. A children’s art project and entertainment were featured between 6:30-8:00p.m. Beginning at 8:15pm, a movie was shown on the Memorial Island stage. Concessions were available for purchase. This event series was free and open to the public. We thank the James K. Risk Family for their generous sponsorship during Final Friday’s inaugural year.

Educational Art Collaborations in 2014: Tippecanoe Arts Federation’s Instrument Petting Zoo, Purdue Galleries’ Mobile ArtCart, Purdue Theatre, Bicycle Lafayette, Lala Gallery & Studio.

Movies Featured in 2014: Finding Nemo, Honey I Shrunk the Kids, Peter Pan, The Jungle Book.

Final Friday was featured on the Art in the Park Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/artintheparklafayette](http://www.facebook.com/artintheparklafayette)

Final Friday was featured on the Art in the Park Twitter page. <https://twitter.com/artintheparklaf>



### Pooch Plunge

In August 2014, the Dog Park Association in partnership with the Lafayette Parks Department and the Lafayette Police Department held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual POOCH PLUNGE, a 2-evening event to help raise money for the LPD K-9 Program.



### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

WLFI News Channel 18 continued to be a strong supporter of the Lafayette Parks Department. TV-18 hosted Zoo staff in-studio on multiple occasions to cover special events as well as visiting Parks Department ribbon cuttings, construction projects and Parks Board meetings.

The department continued to garner excellent coverage from the *Journal and Courier*. In addition to covering special events, the *Journal and Courier* routinely “stopped by” city parks and helped advocate for a robust Parks Department and trail system.

The Department continued its relationship with B102.9 FM, which broadcasted live from Tropicanoe Cove each Wednesday during Family Nights in the summer. The B102.9 Morning Show also continued featuring the Zoo Education Department each month for “Zoo Day.” On the second Friday of each month, the Zoo Education staff visited the station with a variety of Animal Ambassadors. Schurz Communications was the radio sponsor for both the Zoo Run and Boo at the Zoo in 2014. WBAA was present at several Department events and ceremonies in 2014. Staff members also did numerous interviews with stations for the announcement of news items.

### **SALES AND RENTALS**

Sales and rentals continued to be a major part of Administrative Services in 2014. Direct staff involvement in this process resulted in more corporate rentals and greater public exposure. More than 1,000 groups rented park facilities for events such as picnics, weddings, receptions and family reunions. Ongoing customer awareness and training for all park support staff provides citizens with the utmost in services each time they visit a park facility.

### **FUND DEVELOPMENT**

Fund development initiatives are coordinated through Administrative Services. The Kids Can Scholarship Fund is funded through private donations; a yearly mailing is sent out to solicit funds for the Scholarship. Grant applications were submitted by the marketing staff to various organizations for support of the Kids Can Fund.

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The Program & Facilities Guide was printed and distributed in early 2014.

## **X. FRIENDS OF COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO**

Friends of the Columbian Park Zoo (FOCPZ) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Indiana. FOCPZ is comprised of local citizens committed to securing sufficient funding in order to ensure the quality of life of zoo animals through education and conservation and to create, promote and maintain awareness of the zoo for all in the Greater Lafayette area.

In addition to promoting memberships, offering animal sponsorships, and selling engraved brick pavers, FOCMZ coordinates two fundraising events each year, including the Zoo Run-Run and Boo-at-the-Zoo. Proceeds from these events support new and expanded exhibits as well as educational programs and the purchase of zoo animals.

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Zoo Run-Run was held on Saturday, July 19th. This 5K run/walk brought over 800 participants to the zoo and raised more than \$12,600. Bison Financial provided the traditional pancake breakfast and children participated in the free kid's run.



Boo at the Zoo 2014 was a success despite the cold temperatures. This year Boo at the Zoo raised nearly \$30,000. Boo at the Zoo is a “spooktacular” experience for the community and featured a nightly kids’ costume contest, fun games, encounters with Animal Ambassadors, photo keepsake opportunities, and the Enchanted Train Ride. Special entertainment included the Purdue Marching Band, the Purdue Gold Duster Dance Team, face painters and clowns. In just three days, over 5600 people attended Boo at the Zoo 2014!



**Friends of Columbian Park Zoo 2014 Board Members:**

- Robyn Oldfather, Purdue University, Materials Engineering: President
- Matt Swisher, All-Star Security: Vice President
- Emily Truett, Purdue Federal Credit Union: Secretary
- Jaime Williams, Lafayette Bank & Trust: Treasurer
- Douglas Keith, Purdue University, Building Construction Management
- Steve Knecht, Vonderheide and Knecht
- Tanya Foster, Purdue University, Athletic Department
- Tom Melichar, Oerlikon Fairfield
- Cameron Hopman, WLFM Meteorologist
- Nathan Pritts, Time Keepers Productions
- Sabrina Neal, Ruoff Home Mortgage
- Mike Bowsher, Home Instead Senior Care
- Aimee Ness, Keller Williams Realty
- Cesar Vazquez, Kirby Risk
- Terry Schmitt, City of Lafayette Deputy Controller, retired

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

### Donations

The Friends of Columbian Park Zoo received the following major contributions during 2014:

- Adele Needham \$ 8,240.28
- Anonymous \$ 5,000.00
- Tri Kappa \$ 1,250.00
- Walmart Foundation \$ 1,250.00
- KEJ Foundation \$ 1,000.00
- Tipmont REMC \$ 750.00
- Kettelhut Construction \$ 500.00
- Unity Healthcare \$ 500.00
- Cook Medical \$ 500.00

In kind donations to Friends of Columbian Park Zoo, valued at \$500 and above:

- Bison Financial Group
- WASK Radio Group
- Lafayette Journal & Courier
- Frito Lay, Inc.
- Purdue Throckmorton Farm
- SDI Incorporated
- University Spirit
- Zachary Confections
- Time-keepers Productions

Other donations to Friends of Columbian Park Zoo:

- 19 businesses and/or individuals donated funds in the amount of \$250 each
- 15 businesses and/or individuals donated funds in the amount of \$100 each

## XI. PARKS FOUNDATION

The Lafayette Parks Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Indiana. The purpose of the Foundation is to establish and maintain an endowment fund for the benefit of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department, encourage individuals and organizations to make financial contributions to support the Department, and in other ways support the Department.

The Parks Foundation received the following major contributions during 2014:

- \$13,250 from the Risk Family Foundation (\$5,250 for 2015 Art in the Park/Final Fridays sponsorship and \$8,000 for benches and planters for Rush Pavilion)
- \$50,000 from the Risk Family to be used for a "future" project
- \$10,000 from the SIA Foundation for the repairs to the train engine that have already been completed
- \$19,950 from Rick Olson (Kettelhut, Inc.) for a small structure at the top of the Murdock sledding hill that can accommodate equipment rentals and concession sales

Total fund development for the year: \$101,440.28