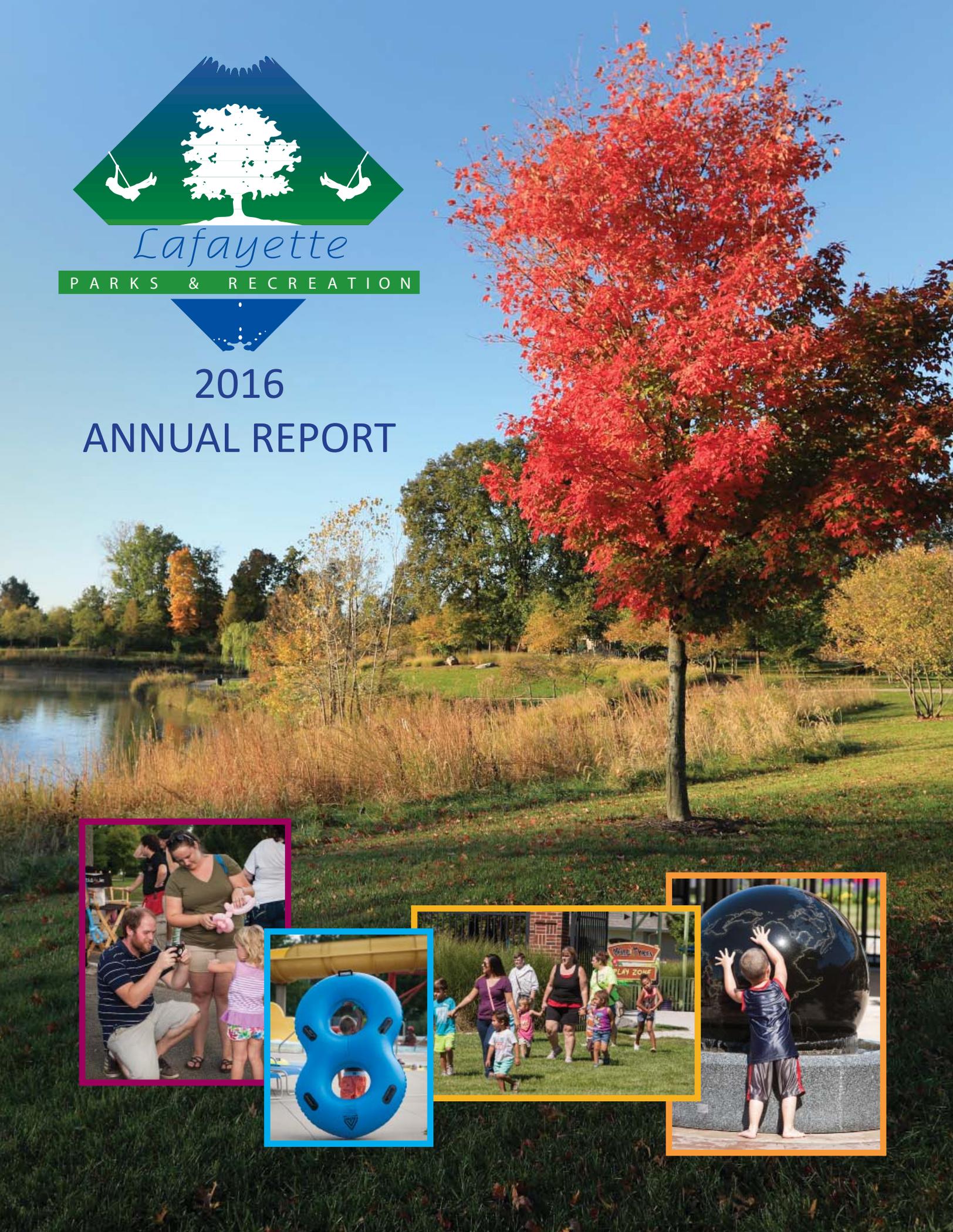


Lafayette

PARKS & RECREATION

2016
ANNUAL REPORT





Staff

Administration

Claudine Laufman.....Superintendent
 Jon Miner.....Director of Operations
 Angie Schultz.....Accounting Manager
 Carlynn Smith.....Marketing and Support Services Assistant
 Lindsey Huffman.....Marketing Assistant

Facilities and Grounds

Mike Perry.....Director of Facilities and Grounds
 Ben Taylor.....Assistant Director of Facilities and Grounds
 Don Staley.....Natural Resources and Recreation Planner
 Chip Gutwein.....Building Construction Supervisor
 Jason Spencer.....Aquatics and Equipment Supervisor
 Brian Gregory.....Grounds and Snow Supervisor
 Quinten Smith.....Landscape Supervisor
 John Rhodes.....Maintenance Tech - Building Construction
 Josh Daugherty.....Maintenance Tech - Building Construction
 Todd Daugherty.....Maintenance Tech - Ride Mechanic
 Ryan Frankowski.....General Maintenance
 Brad Hudspeth.....General Maintenance
 Ebony Shackelford.....General Maintenance
 Fabienne Doyle.....General Maintenance
 Shannon Kirk.....General Maintenance
 Michael Heinz.....General Maintenance
 Kaelin Kolb.....General Maintenance
 Michael Hudnall.....General Maintenance

Safety and Security

Tom Rankin.....Safety and Security Coordinator
 Valerie Berry.....Assistant Safety and Security Coordinator
 Skylar Viray.....Security Officer

McAllister Recreation Center

Chad Aldridge.....Manager
 Emily Butler.....Assistant Manager
 Tyler Wade.....Program Coordinator
 John Rodenbeck.....Maintenance
 Pat Crumley.....Administrative Assistant
 Cameron Laufman.....Part-time Maintenance

Columbian Park Zoo

Dana Rhodes.....Director
 Noah Shields.....Assistant Director
 Amber Frederick.....Education Director
 Courtney Nave.....Assistant Education Director
 Christopher Pullins.....Marketing Manager
 Heather Woody.....Head Zookeeper
 Kaci Schmidt.....Senior Zookeeper
 Jill Livengood.....Senior Zookeeper
 Lisa VanderHoff.....Relief Zookeeper/Accounting Assistant
 Megan Isenbarger.....Relief Zookeeper
 Victoria Roach.....Relief Zookeeper
 Jen Zak.....Registrar
 Bethany Vanfossen.....Accounting and Administrative Assistant
 Jennifer Spence.....Volunteer Coordinator
 Jasmine Peele.....Zoo Educator



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Mayor and City Council

Tony Roswarski.....Mayor
Cindy Murray.....City Clerk
Lauren Ahlersmeyer.....Council Member
Perry Brown.....Council Member
Ronald Campbell.....Council Member
Bob Downing.....Council Member
Lon Heide.....Council Member
Kevin Klinker.....Council Member
Nancy Nargi.....Council Member
Jerry Reynolds.....Council Member
Melissa Williamson.....Council Member

Parks Board

John Ragan.....President
Victor Klinker.....Vice President
Maurie Denney.....Member
Dave Mecklenburg.....Member

Contents

Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation 4

Vision 5

Park and Recreation Facilities 7

Administration 12

Finance and Funding 15

Improvements 17

Safety and Security 20

Maintenance 21

Natural Resources 22

Aquatics 25

Columbian Park Zoo 28

McAllister Recreation Center 33

Admin/Communications 39

Friends of Columbian Park Zoo 43

Parks Foundation 45

Park Board

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 bipartisan members who are appointed by the Mayor to serve staggered four-year terms without compensation.

The 2016 Parks and Recreation Board consisted of John Ragan, President; Victor Klinker, Vice-President; Dave Mecklenburg, Secretary; and Maurie Denney. Jacquie Chosnek served as Board Attorney for the year.

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.

Minutes from each of the 2016 meetings of the Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation can be found in the Parks Administrative offices or on the City of Lafayette’s website.

Art in the Park was held on five dates during the summer on Memorial Island in Columbian Park. The events featured local musicians, art vendors, food trucks, and fun activities for the whole family.



Vision

In February 2014, 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.

GOALS FOR 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 parks 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 to 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 at the zoo
- Maintain existing facilities

ACTION AND PRIORITY PLAN

2016

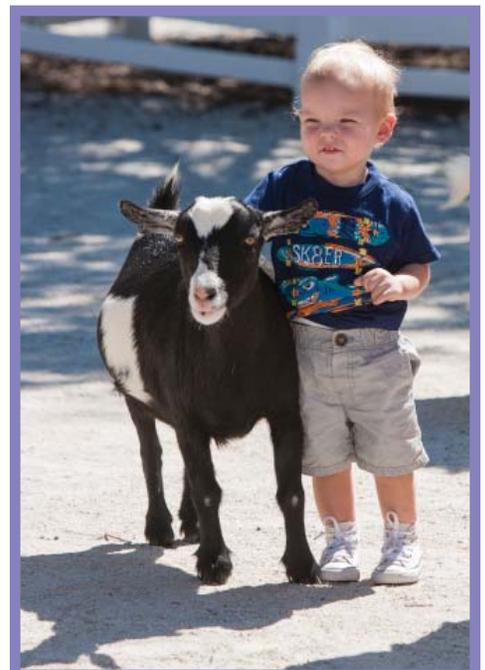
1. Loeb Stadium renovation
2. Implementation of golf course re-use plan
3. Staff training and development
4. Update equipment and facility maintenance plans
5. Identify grants and donors for Loeb Stadium
6. ADA compliance improvements
7. Columbian Park Memorial Island -Identify grants and donors
8. Zoo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



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 enhances 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, 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.



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.

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, concessions deck area, and a modern bathhouse.

Vinton Pool

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 train ride, and various facilities for use to all persons in the community.

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. 2016 was the inaugural season for the Lafayette Aviators. Many updates and renovations were made to Loeb Stadium in preparation for the Prospect League team’s arrival.

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. These rides have been in the park for decades. A train depot was constructed across from the Zoo’s main entrance to serve as a location to load and unload passengers of the Columbian Park Express. A miniature train display with painted backdrops was added on the interior, and the depot was completed 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’ Rest and the Tippecanoe County Council on Aging. 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.

A master plan for Memorial Island was developed in 2015. Phase I of renovations was completed in 2015. This included relocating several memorials from around the City onto the island, new landscaping and brick pavers, and electrical and sound upgrades to the amphitheater. The rest of the plan will be implemented over the next few years. New signage, sponsored by the Elks Lafayette Lodge #143, was designed and installed in 2016.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The Department manages seven community parks, one community recreation center, and a linear park trail system. Comprising over 175 acres, these facilities are larger than neighborhood parks 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, picnic shelter, 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, 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.

McCaw Park

Union St & 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 pickleball 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 St, 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 runoff. 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), 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 Shamrock Dog Park, which features three fenced areas for large dogs, an 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 installed in 2008. In 2016, two new treadmills were purchased and rubber flooring was completed in the mezzanine.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

The Department manages ten 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 includes a multi-age playground, picnic shelter, resurfaced and color-coated tennis and basketball court, and open green space and landscaping.

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. Centennial Park serves youth programs sponsored by the YWCA and Lafayette Urban Ministries. The basketball court was resurfaced in 2015.

Hanna Park

18th Street & Hanna Street, 2.2 acres

Located next to the Hanna Community Center, this 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.

Hedgewood Park

Hedgewood Drive & Beverly Lane,

1 acre

Adopted by the Hedgewood Neighborhood Association, this small park is home to a multi-age playground, adult swing, picnic table, park bench, signage, and landscaping. 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 contains a multi-age playground, basketball court, sidewalks and landscaping, and new fencing.

South Tipp Park

3rd Street & Fountain Streets, 0.8 acres

Located next to Bauer Family Resources, this park was completely renovated and dedicated in 2014. This park features a multi-age playground and tot playground, basketball court, rubber surfacing, and a picnic shelter. The park serves youth programs sponsored by Bauer Family Resources. South Tipp Park has been adopted by the Ellsworth-Romig Neighborhood Association and Bauer Family Resources.

Sterling Heights Park

610 Harrington Drive, 1.8 acres

Located in the Sterling Heights neighborhood on the city's south side, construction was completed in spring 2016. This park features a multi-age playground, swings, and a picnic shelter.



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

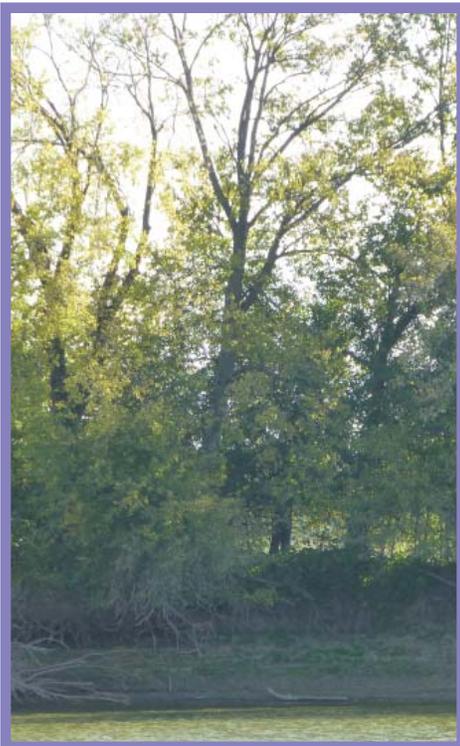
Cooperatively maintained by Lafayette, West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County Parks Departments, the 13-mile trail travels along the Wabash River and Burnett's Creek. Over two miles of the trail cross the Lafayette Riverfront Parks listed below.

Trailhead Park

North 9th Street

350 acres

This park provides a trailhead for the North 9th 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.



Lybault Sports Park

Canal Road

52 acres

This park is a favorite destination for sporting enthusiasts. Amenities include three lighted adult softball 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, which was built in 1971 and is the former home to the Lafayette Golf Course, 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. A pump was installed in 2006 to aid in removing water 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.



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, Aquatics, Columbian Park Zoo, and McAllister Recreation Center. During 2016, there were 35 full-time positions, 11 part-time and temporary, and approximately 200 seasonal employees.

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 Technology. The Engineering Staff reviews all development plans. Purchasing is coordinated with the City's department. Financial accounting is through the City's system.

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.

Park Operations in 2016	
Managers	Jon Miner (Director of Operations) Mike Perry (Director of Facilities and Grounds) Thomas Rankin (Safety and Security Coordinator)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Jewel resigned as Security Officer in February Christina Gilliland was hired for Grounds and Snow Maintenance in February Justin Patterson resigned from Maintenance in March Brad Hudspeth was hired for Grounds Maintenance in March Scott Quillen was hired for Maintenance in April Chad Brown was hired for Maintenance in May Kyle Killin resigned as Security Officer in May Andrew Vandeventer was hired as Security Officer in May Neal Williamson resigned from Maintenance in May Brian Harrison resigned from Maintenance in June Chad Brown resigned from Maintenance in August Anneka Gilliam resigned as Natural Resources and Recreation Planner in August Fabienne Doyle was hired for Landscape Maintenance in August Shannon Kirk was hired for General Maintenance Custodial in October Don Staley was hired as Natural Resources and Recreation Planner in October Todd Daugherty was hired as Ride Mechanic in October Brian Gregory was hired as Grounds and Snow Maintenance Supervisor in October Ebony Shackelford was hired for Grounds Maintenance in October Scott Quillen resigned from Maintenance in October Christina Gilliland was terminated from Maintenance in October Mike Heinz was hired for Landscape Maintenance in November Kaelin Kolb was hired for Landscape Maintenance in November Andrew Vandeventer resigned as Security Officer in November Levi Musson resigned as Security Officer in December

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.

Administrative Services in 2016	
Managers	Angie Schultz (Accounting Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emily Gray resigned as Administrative Assistant in March.

Columbian Park Zoo

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

Columbian Park Zoo in 2016	
Managers	Dana Rhodes (Director)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ron Breeding resigned as Zoo Director in January. Dana Rhodes was promoted as Zoo Director in February. Noah Shields was promoted as Assistant Zoo Director in February. Heather Woody was promoted as Head Zookeeper in February. Jillian Livengood was promoted as Senior Zookeeper in February. Chesala Durnal was promoted as Relief Zookeeper in February. A new Accounting and Administrative Assistant position was created, and Bethany Vanfossen was hired in April. Gabrielle DiMaggio resigned as Relief Zookeeper in June. Megan Isenbarger was promoted to Relief Zookeeper in June. Jasmine Peele was hired as Zoo Educator in July. Logan Judy resigned as Zoo Marketing Manager in July. Christopher Pullins was hired as Zoo Marketing Manager in September. Chesala Durnal resigned as Relief Zookeeper in September. Victoria Roach was hired as Relief Zookeeper in September. A new Volunteer Coordinator position was created, and Jennifer Spence was hired in October. Leanne McEvoy resigned as Senior Zookeeper in October.

McAllister Recreation Center

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

McAllister Recreation Center in 2016	
Managers	Chad Aldridge (Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tyler Wade was hired as Program Coordinator in February.

Aquatics

This division is responsible for aquatics and concessions. Continuing with seasonal employment trends, the aquatics area hired:

- 19 Management staff (for various areas)
- 86 Pool lifeguards
- 11 Cash Office personnel
- 19 Concessions workers



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 five certified playground inspectors, three certified aquatics facility operators, six certified pool operators, two certified pesticide applicators, and twelve certified pesticide technicians. One staff member serves on the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation Board.

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 2016 include:

- 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
- 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
- West Lafayette Parks and Recreation

The Department has developed a positive relationship with Purdue University and frequently works with the following:

- Veterinary School
- Health and Kinesiology
- Restaurant, Hotel, Institutional, and Tourism Management
- Forestry
- Cooperative Extension
- Agronomy
- Landscape Architecture
- Communication
- College of Engineering EPICS Program
- Career Services

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 the following:

- 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
- Lafayette Horseshoe Club
- Lafayette, IN Pickleball Association

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.

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.

Finance and Funding

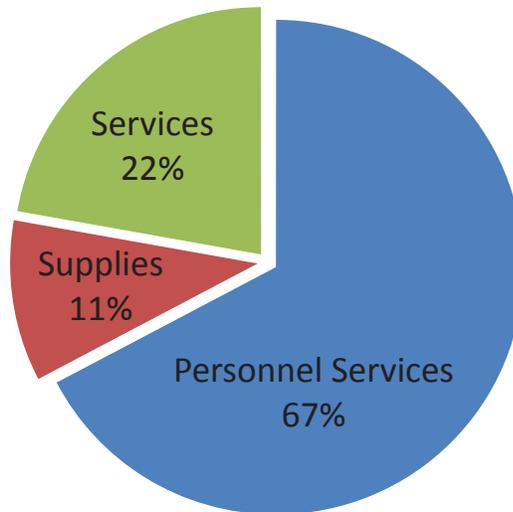
A goal of the Department has been to create a self-sustaining system. This can be achieved through a combination of efficient operation, improved revenue generating activities, and public-private partnerships. The basic elements for attaining an efficient operation include an excellent preventative maintenance 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 Tropicanae Cove. The non-reverting capital fund also provides the Department with the ability to plan for the future.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

The 2016 annual general fund appropriation was \$3,539,478.34.

Category	Amount
Personnel Services	\$2,381,192.61
Supplies	\$373,173.12
Services	\$785,112.61
TOTAL	\$3,539,478.34

2016 General Fund

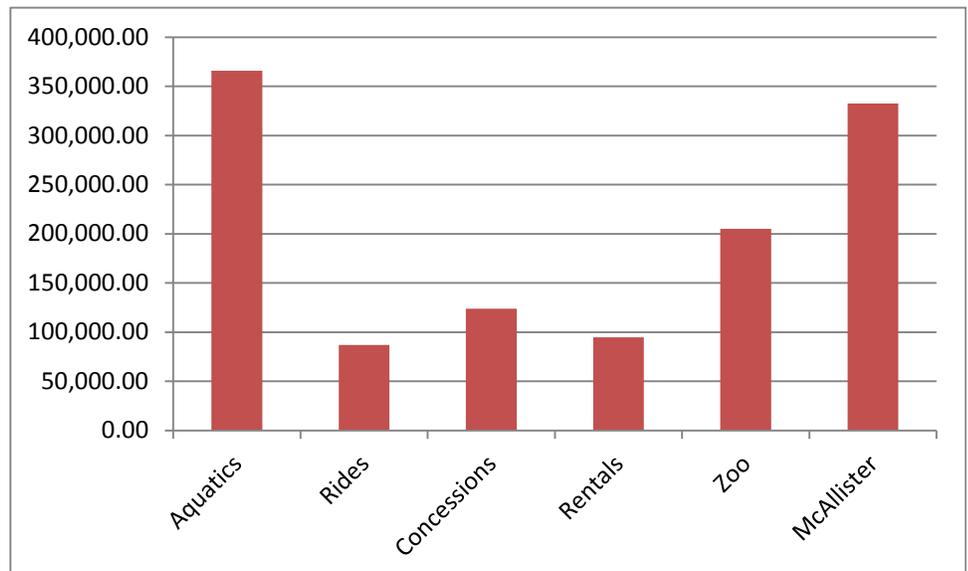


PROGRAM REVENUE

Following is an itemization of total revenue generated by the Department in 2016 for programs and services:

Aquatics	\$366,009.97
Rides	\$87,033.82
Concessions	\$123,916.42
Rentals	\$94,808.00
Zoo	\$204,985.18
McAllister	\$332,680.98
TOTAL	\$1,209,434.37

2016 Revenue



SPONSORSHIPS AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Sponsorships and corporate partnership opportunities in 2016 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 eighteenth summer in 2016. The program provides an opportunity for youth to per-

form 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

2016 Kids Can Fund
Major Sponsors

McAllister Foundation
Scheumann Foundation
Pets & Vets as Partners
Peter Dunn



Improvements

The following improvements were made in the Lafayette Park system during 2016:

ARMSTRONG PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Cleared invasive species from woods along the south side of Castaway Bay
- Invasive species removed along Linear Trail
- Regraded and added new infield mix on Baseball Fields #1 & #3
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs



New infield mix was added on Fields 1 & 3 at Armstrong Park.



CASTAWAY BAY

- Installed new seating deck and new landscape
- Cleared invasive honeysuckle from woods area inside Castaway Bay



The new seating area and landscaping at Castaway Bay.

CAT PARK

- Replaced damaged shade cloth on shade structure

CENTENNIAL PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added

COLUMBIAN PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Replaced eight grills around shelters
- Installed new electrical boxes for large event rental use
- New twin furnaces installed at Jenks' Rest
- Installation of Vietnam Memorial with pavers on Memorial Island
- Interpretative signage on Memorial Island
- Installed new tables and chairs at Rush Pavilion
- Installed limestone path with boulders by SIA Playground
- Repainted fountain in triangle outside zoo entrance and installed new pump
- Installed new landscape outside Loeb Stadium
- Installed new concrete pads, water, sewer and electrical for concessions at Loeb Stadium
- Renovated interior ticket booth area for Loeb Stadium

- Installed new sound system at Loeb Stadium
- Painted interior of Loeb press box and installed new entry doors
- New metal roof on Loeb Maintenance barn, painted exterior of barn
- Painted entire concourse and exterior of Loeb stadium
- Edged and installed new limestone on Loeb stadium warning track
- New entry/exit into Loeb stadium dugouts with new wood steps
- Installed artificial turf outside dugouts of Loeb stadium
- Installed new protective barrier on top of dugout rails
- Created new JV locker room with fresh paint and lockers
- New upholstery on backstop pads
- Installed new chain link fence down 1st and 3rd base lines

COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO

- Installation of new chain link fence outside primate exhibit
- Installed new picnic area with “recycle animals” exhibit
- Install new tree/branches in Birds of Prey exhibit

HEDGEWOOD PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added

HANNA PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Replaced broken play piece
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

LINNWOOD PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Replaced broken play piece
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

LYBOULT SPORTS PARK

- Painted outside of bathrooms
- Installed new landscape and sign at main entrance
- Installed new entry doors into bathrooms
- Electrical repairs

McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Installation of On Demand Fitness components
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

McALLISTER PARK

- Cut down 70 dead Ash Trees
- Invasive species removal at McAllister Park entrance
- Invasive species removal along Wabash Heritage Trail
- Installed 18 permanent disc golf baskets

McCAW PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Installed new tennis nets
- Repaired all chain link fence around tennis courts
- Invasive species removal from retention basin
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

MUNGER PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Installed new entry doors for Munger-Greenbush bathrooms
- Repainted both bathrooms
- Invasive species removal from native prairies and retention basin
- Repairs made to fishing pier
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

MURDOCK PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Invasive species removal from park
- Repainted bathrooms
- Repaired broken split rail fence
- Installed (6) new concrete disc golf tee pads
- Added spring flowering bulbs to sign planting bed
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

SHAMROCK PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Repaired stadium lights around roller hockey court
- Added additional fence to create



All-new Fitness On Demand components were installed in one of the rooms at McAllister in 2016.

- (3) separate large dog sections
- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Twenty-five new trees added to the park as part of IDEM mitigation from US 52 bridge

SOUTH TIPP PARK

- Painted chain link fence

STERLING HEIGHTS

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- New parking lot with split rail fence and landscape installed
- Created new walking entrance to park
- Installed new playground equipment
- Installed new shelter
- Installed new landscape buffer zone around playground
- Cleared out invasive honeysuckle along woods edge

TROPICANOE COVE

- New shade sail cloths over concession area
- Converted mulched landscape bed to river rock, with new plant material
- Installed new Fish slide
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

VINTON NEIGHBORHOOD POOL

- Painted entire pool floor and sides
- Installation of new electrical panel in pump room
- Added planter pots with landscape around pool

- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

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

- Installed boulder and landscape at Abraham Lincoln stop memorial
- Delivered tables to various events throughout the year
- Removal, clean up and fill with soil (80) stumps throughout the City of Lafayette
- Installed soil and sod as part of City Hall renovation project



Sterling Heights Park was completed and opened to the public in spring 2016.

A new tot-sized slide was installed at Tropicanoe Cove in April 2016.



Safety and Security

The primary objective of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department's Safety and Security Program is to maintain an environment throughout our many recreational and natural areas that ensures all of our guests are able to enjoy their experience. To promote safety throughout the many facilities, security staff members patrol all parks, enforce park rules, inspect areas for unsafe conditions and/or behaviors, monitor special events and reservations, and secure all buildings and restrooms. The security staff works closely with the Lafayette Police Department when special circumstances arise.

Park Security staff members participate in many hours of training to gain the necessary skills to perform their jobs effectively. This training addresses a variety of situations and the appropriate actions to take in response to them. Some of the training topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- severe weather alerts
- working with the emotionally disturbed and de-escalation techniques
- CPR
- patrol techniques
- public safety and public health rules of the Lafayette Parks Department
- numerous Lafayette Municipal Codes and Ordinances
- responding to emergency medical situations; EMS radio procedures; first responder check list operation and care of city vehicles

- accident investigation
- dealing with criminal disturbance situations
- sex offenders
- Amber Alert procedures
- pepper spray
- gang recognition
- active shooter training
- investigating and locating lost children

The Department's Safety and Security Program is responsible for several procedures that are performed throughout the year. Some of these tasks include the following:

- Update Material Safety Data Sheets with all of the latest regulations to keep the department in compliance
- Walk through all park property to ensure that OSHA regulations are in compliance
- Update key inventory to stay current with new employees and those who leave
- Update a Confined Space program for Park maintenance employees, including Rescue and Emergency Service Agreement, Hazard Assessment and Identification, and Training and Entry permits
- Inspect fire extinguishers every month
- Clean smoke detectors in each facility twice a year to ensure proper working condition
- Test and clean alarm systems
- Instruct all pool employees on security issues and their responsibilities
- Maintain and update OSHA compliant medical cabinets at

Columbian Park, Central Maintenance, McAllister Center, and the former Municipal Golf Course on a monthly basis.

- Inspect and maintain all AED's on a monthly basis
- Maintain park security throughout the Colt World Series with assistance of uniformed Lafayette Police Officers and Indiana State Excise Police

The Safety and Security staff attended a seminar called Management of Aggressive Behavior for Public Safety Officers. Assistant Director Valerie Berry also attended a seminar on Workplace Supervision.

Finally, 100% 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. Thirteen staff members were CPR/AED/First Aide certified in 2016, and 30 staff members were recertified. Zoo staff members have been trained and certified in the use of pepper spray and have also received Critical Incident Training.



Maintenance

Maintenance services are provided to all parks and facilities utilizing park staff and contracted services. Lafayette Parks maintains 615 acres (not including the old golf course), comprised of the following:

- 31 acres of sports turf
- 208 acres of general turf
- 73.50 acres of landscape beds, wildflowers, wetlands, and no mow areas
- 12.70 acres of retention ponds

The Park system includes the following:

- 71 structures (25 buildings, 12 restroom buildings, 1 barn, 1 amphitheater, 1 stadium, and 30 shelters)
- 42 acres of pavement (27 sports courts, 26 miles of paved trails, and 18 parking lots)
- 15 playgrounds
- 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, Aquatic Facility Operators, Certified Pool Operators, and Certified Pesticide



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to officially open Sterling Heights Neighborhood Park.

Applicators. Maintenance also has members in the following organizations:

- Midwest Regional Turf Foundation
- Professional Grounds Management Association
- Indiana Professional Lawn and Landscape Association

• Sports Field Managers Association

The maintenance area added the following equipment in 2016:

- Six Echo String Trimmers
- Six Echo Handheld Blowers
- Three snow blowers
- One Echo CS310 Chain Saw
- One 72" Root Grappler

COMMUNITY COOPERATION

The Maintenance Division cooperates with many civic and community groups, including these:

- Lafayette Summer Baseball
- Lafayette Aviators
- 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
- Wabash Disc Golf Club
- Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

Natural Resources

The Natural Resources and Recreation Planning Division is responsible for the following:

- Planning, managing, and supervising park landscape projects
- Hiring and managing Park Landscaping Crews (full-time and seasonals)
- Managing the Adopt-a-Spot and Adopt-a-Median programs
- Managing maintenance contracts for ponds and native prairie plantings on Park & City Land
- Managing maintenance contracts for City Land
- Planning and coordinating volunteer groups, special community events, and projects related to natural resources

PARK LANDSCAPING

The Natural Resources Division is responsible for planning and managing park tree planting and landscape projects, city beautification, City Land maintenance, trail maintenance, and park landscape updates and improvements. The Natural Resources and Recreation Planner position falls under the supervision of the Director of Facilities and Grounds and the Assistant Director of Facilities and Grounds. The Natural Resources and Recreation Planner oversees the Landscape Supervisor, Landscape Crews, and Landscape Seasonals.

In the spring of 2016 the landscape inside Castaway Bay was renovated with new perennials being planted in the landscape beds. After the maintenance team completed the new wood deck, the landscape

team completed the project by adding sand and new perennials around the deck to create a beach-like setting. The landscape crew continued its attack on the invasive species in the small wooded area within Castaway Bay by spraying new growth with brush killer. During the summer, planters inside Castaway Bay were maintained with tropical plants to create a relaxing tropical setting allowing visitors to sit and enjoy the Lafayette weather.

In celebration of Arbor Day, Tree Lafayette selected Columbian Park as the location for their annual tree planting event. The landscape crews worked to auger all the holes and place all the trees next to the holes prior to the event. Hundreds of people worked to plant 83 trees that day. A record number of 35 supervisors led their crews to install

ADOPT-A-SPOT & ADOPT-A-MEDIAN

The Adopt-A-Spot Program is for local businesses, groups or organizations that want to maintain already designed and landscaped areas around the City of Lafayette. Many of these Adopt-a-Spots were created through the Railroad Relocation project. In 2016, twelve of the eighteen Adopt-a-Spots were maintained by the spots' adoptees and their volunteers. Six of the Adopt-a-Spots were open and maintained by the Parks Department's Landscape Crew. The Natural Resources and Recreation Planner conducts monthly inspections of each Adopt-a-Spot site. The Adopt-a-Median Program is a corporate sponsorship program.



New landscaping was added around the newly completed deck area at Castaway Bay.

CITY LAND

In 2016, Brightview was given an extension of the maintenance contract for city land. One of the biggest tasks they completed was mulching all city land plant beds in the early spring. Mowing, weeding, spraying, pruning, and trash removal are also a large part of their services.



Over 3,000 annuals were planted in Columbian Park in May.

all trees in a short period of time. This year's tree planting also saw the 2,500th tree planted by Tree Lafayette.

In May, the Master Gardeners met in Columbian Park for their annual Mother's Day planting. With the landscape crew providing the bed preparation and layout, the Master Gardeners provided the labor to install approximately 3,000 annuals in the interior of Columbian Park. The landscape crew maintains the beds throughout the entire summer deadheading, watering, and fertilizing to keep the flowers looking their best and providing a beautiful "wow factor" for park visitors.

In late spring, the landscape crew began beautifying the new Sterling Heights Neighborhood Park. The maintenance crew finished installing the playground, shelter and split rail fence. The landscape crew installed numerous new trees, shrubs, and perennials. Mulch was added to create a natural barrier between the playground and surrounding houses. To create more turf area for visitors to utilize, a significant amount of invasive honeysuckle was removed. Several

days went into cutting, spraying and removal of truckloads of honeysuckle growing along the woods edge.

Mid-summer brought several improvements to Loeb Stadium. The landscape crew added several new landscape plants to the interior and exterior of Loeb Stadium. Concourse planters were installed with annuals to compliment the newly painted stadium. On the exterior, visitors to the stadium were welcomed with many new trees, shrubs and perennials that were planted.

In late summer, the landscape crew beautified the entrance the Lafayette Parks Administration Building with new landscape on both sides of the entrance. New landscape boulders, perennials, and ornamental grasses were added to provide a splash of color. In fall, hundreds of bulbs were added into the beds to add color to the park entrance next spring.

In 2016, the landscape crews cut down 70 dead ash trees in McAllister Park to help ensure safety of those using the McAllister Park trails.

Under the supervision of the Department, Brightview installed plant material in the downtown planters and hanging baskets. They did weekly watering and fertilization of the plants throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

To continue the beautification of city land property Brightview installed new landscape along Greenbush street, roses along Harrison Street bridge, new trees/shrubs in the Maple Point roundabout, new trees along the outside of Stockton Crossing and new plant material at the LPD training center. As part of the City Hall renovation, Brightview removed old landscape around the building and installed new landscape.



DOWNTOWN PLANTERS

The Department is responsible for maintaining 173 downtown planters and 170 hanging baskets. To enhance the downtown experience and provide a pop of color, the downtown planters undergo a plant change four times a year. Starting in early spring with cabbage and pansies then transitioning to summer annuals consisting of cannas, petunias, and potato vine, visitors to downtown enjoy bright colors as they walk the downtown sidewalks. The summer also brings the addition of 170 hanging baskets located throughout the downtown landscape. In the fall, the summer annuals are replaced with cooler temperature fall annuals like pansies and mums. For winter the planters are adorned



The Parks Department maintains the 173 downtown planters.

with pine, spruce and fir cuttings, faux red berries, red & yellow twig dogwood cuttings, and festive decorative inserts.

POND & NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTINGS

Cardno oversees the annual maintenance of the native prairie plantings within the Lafayette Parks. They seed, spray, remove

invasive species, collect trash, and maintain the general appearance of these areas. In 2016, Cardno worked their way through the native planting areas and removed large amounts of willow that was beginning to spread. ASAP Aquatics oversees the annual maintenance of the three ponds located with Lafayette Parks: Columbian Park, Munger Park and Armstrong Park.



VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Volunteer groups provide a vital service in helping complete projects in the City of Lafayette. Dr. Bill Hoover provides countless hours of work clearing invasive species from Berlowitz Woods. Ron Overton and Dave Banes began volunteering their time working to clear invasive species from McAllister Park. The Lafayette Cloud Jockeys continued their support of the Lafayette Parks Department by mowing their area of McAllister Park and putting together two volunteer days when they cleared invasive species along the Heritage Trail, allowing visitors watching the model airplanes to also enjoy the Wabash River. Wabash Disc Golf continued their years of volunteer support by assisting with mowing of the Wabash Disc Golf course located in McAllister Park. Throughout the summer of 2016, the Natural Resources and Recreation Planner worked with the Trailblazers volunteer group on a weekly basis. The Trailblazers are a group of middle school aged kids from the Lafayette Family YMCA. The group met for three hours once a week at one of the City of Lafayette Parks. The kids would perform park improvement tasks such as bed clean up, trash removal, and weed and invasive species removal. The Natural Resources and Recreation Planner would spend part of the weekly meetings educating the kids on the Parks Department, native plantings, wildlife within the parks, and plant identification.

Aquatics

The Aquatics Division includes all the aquatic facilities and concessions in the parks department. The aquatics division consists of seasonal employees.

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

Over 170 interviews were conducted in February, and season employee paperwork for the hired 133 employees was completed in April. 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. To better prepare our lifeguard staff, the Department had four certified Lifeguard Instructors (LGI's) on staff for the 2016 season. These LGI's can train and certify prospective lifeguards. The department held its second annual Lifeguard Certification Course at Lafayette Jefferson High School in April. The LGI's also implemented a recertification course for the department's lifeguards. During the course of the season, the LGI's certified or recertified 32 lifeguards. In addition, the LGI's helped plan and lead our continuing education in-service training sessions throughout the season to ensure that our lifeguards are the best equipped and trained lifeguards possible.

The LGI's also assisted the McAlister Recreation Center in training

Aquatics Employees

by the numbers in 2016

19

managers

86

certified lifeguards

19

food and beverage associates

11

guest relations associates

9

pool and grounds associates



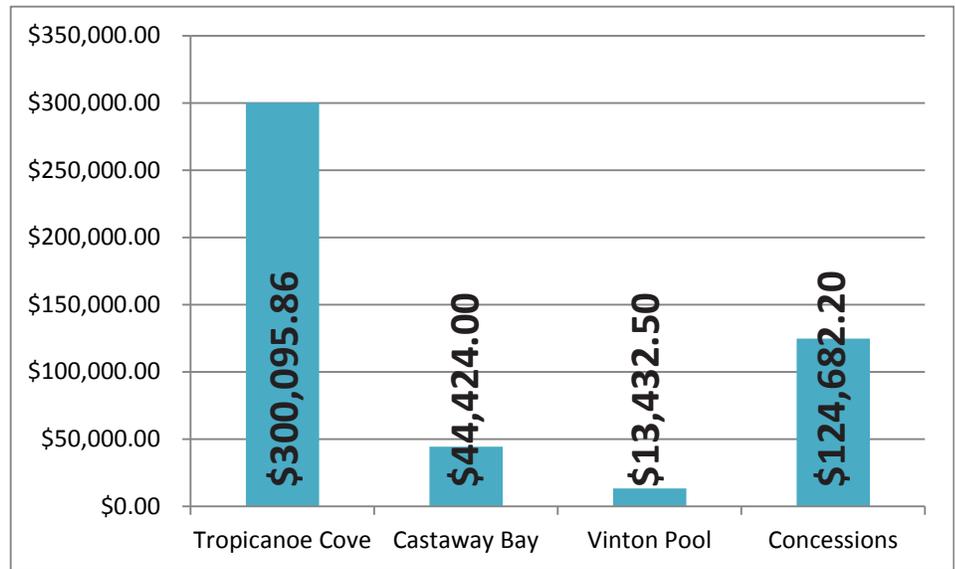
and certifying the camp counseling staff in CPR/First Aid/AED prior to summer camp. In 2016 over 20 counselors were trained and certified by the LGI staff.

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.

Improvements to all three aquatic facilities continued in 2016. At

Tropicanoe Cove, the maintenance staff installed a new fish kiddie slide in April. The fish slide replaced the dolphin slide that was retired after the 2015 season. Also at the Cove, the final installment of new deck furniture was purchased and installed in May. At Castaway Bay, Parks maintenance staff built a new concessions deck area. The installment also includes new landscaping. In June, all three facilities switched to Square for their point-of-sale operating system. The switch provided patrons will more efficient service and the ability to use Apple and Android Pay for admissions and concessions.

2016 Aquatics Revenue Breakdown



Tropicanoe Cove

Tropicanoe Cove was in operation for 79 days during the 2016 season. The pools were closed for five days due to weather. Attendance for the 2016 season was 61,119, with an average daily attendance of 773.6 persons (a 14% increase over 2015). The highest day attendance for Tropicanoe Cove was 1,578 on June 16.

Temperatures for the 2016 season

were right at historical averages for the Lafayette area. The historical average temperature for the summer months in Lafayette is 84 degrees; the average temperature in 2016 was 83.9 degrees. There were 11 days with a temperature over 90 degrees.

Season Passes continued to be a popular item with 377 passes sold during the 2016 season. The Cove

hosted 31 Birthday Parties during the 2016 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, 542 passes were handed out to Workrecreation participants.

The water walking program continued in 2016 with two classes being offered in the morning and two classes in the evening. 67 water walking season passes were sold in 2016, and a total of 3,211 people participated in the program.

Tropicanoe Cove continued special events including: Father's Day Fun, Grandparent's Day, Military Appreciation, Mom's Day, and BFF Day (Best Friends Forever).



Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool

Total attendance at Castaway Bay was 14,138 for 68 operational days with an average daily attendance of 207.9 people. This is a 30% increase over 2015. Season Passes continued to be a big hit with 179 passes

being sold during the 2016 season. Swimming lessons through the Swim America program continued in 2016 with four sessions being offered in the morning and three sessions being offered in the evening.

Total attendance at Vinton Pool was 8,170 for 63 operational days with an average daily attendance of 131.8 people, a 21% increase over 2015. Only 23 Vinton season passes were sold during the 2016 season.



Concessions

Swimming brings on a hearty appetite, but you won't go hungry at the Cove Cafe. The 2016 Cove Cafe menu included Arni's Pizza 7" and 14", breadsticks, salads, hot dogs, nachos, pretzels, popcorn, cookies, walking tacos, ICEE products, a variety of ice cream novelties, fruit smoothies, French fries, and chicken strips. IttyBitz ice cream (five flavor choices were available) was the top seller at the Cove Cafe in 2016, followed by hot pretzels, hot dogs, and fruit smoothies.

- Hot Pretzels 2,811 sold
- Hot Dogs 1,897 sold
- Chicken Strips 1,146 sold
- Smoothies 1,673 sold
- Arni's Pizza 1,363 sold
- Itty Bittz 6,243 sold
- Bottled Water 2,775 sold

Lafayette Parks Department was in the final year of a three year agreement with PepsiCo to be the exclusive beverage provider for the Lafayette Parks Department. Pepsi continued to be a popular beverage choice among patrons for 2016.

Pool	Total Attendance	Average Daily Attendance	Increase over 2015
Tropicanoe Cove	61,119	773.6	14%
Castaway Bay	14,138	207.9	30%
Vinton Pool	8,170	131.8	21%

Columbian Park Zoo

The Columbian Park Zoo's operating season in 2016 was from April 23rd through October 15th. Estimated attendance (based on numbers of people visiting our three walk-through exhibits) continues to grow overall:

- The Wallaby Walkabout: 127,515 visitors, up from 121,497 in 2015.
- The Family Farm: 120,021 visitors, up from 110,303 in 2015.
- The Butterfly Garden Party Exhibit: 63,041 experienced a decrease from 77,670 in 2015. This decline may have possibly been due to faulty patron clicker counters.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Several Zoo staff members had the opportunity to attend a variety of professional development seminars and classes over the course of the year.

The Zoo's San Diego Zoo Global Academy training program subscription was renewed for five full-time employees. This program is a specialized online system of seminars and courses for individuals working in the Zoo field. Topics range from animal care, education, interpretation, customer service, safety, management, communication, marketing, and much more.

In February, Noah Shields and Heather Woody attended a week-long session of "Managing for Suc-

cess: Organizational Development," the 2nd part of a two-part course put on by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums in Wheeling, WV. This school is designed for Zoo managers and covers a variety of topics such as leadership, team building, strategic planning, and many other skills essential to running a successful organization.

On March 16, Senior Zookeeper Leanne McEvoy attended an OSHA Compliance and Workplace Safety Seminar.

In September, Noah Shields attended the American Association of Zoo Keepers national conference at the Memphis Zoo in Tennessee. This conference provides attendees

with an invaluable opportunity to learn of current zoo trends and to network with other like members within the zoo field.

On October 3rd and 4th, Noah Shields and Heather Woody attended a leadership Skillpath Seminar titled, "How to Excel at Managing and Supervising People".

October 18th, Zoo staff presented information updating progress on the three Eastern hellbenders being housed for future release back into the wild. Other partners involved with the hellbender project include Purdue University, Mesker Park Zoo, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Newport Aquarium, and the Indiana and Ohio Departments of Natural Resources.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- On May 26th, a PBS show called The Weekly Special came and filmed Zoo Education Coordinator, Amber Frederick talking about the Zoo and its history as well as some footage of the Zoo and animals. This Emmy award-winning statewide program highlights the people, places, and history across Indiana and selected the Columbian Park Zoo to be a part of the show for the Lafayette area.
- On June 15, Jason Mercado from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service presented a plaque to the Zoo staff in recognition of the Zoo's contributions to migratory birds.
- In August, Noah Shields and Amber Frederick co-authored an article that was accepted and published in the International Zoo Educators Association Journal. The article was written about an education program developed and implemented by Zoo staff in 2015 for all 6th graders in the Lafayette School Corporation. This program taught students about the declining Eastern hellbender (giant salamander) and how their actions can affect water quality and habitat conservation.
- In September, Noah Shields' paper entitled "Conservation from Scratch" was accepted and presented at the American Association of Zoo Keepers national conference at the Memphis Zoo. He also received an Animal Welfare Certification.
- The Zoo received a *Journal & Courier* Reader's Choice award for "Best Birthday Party Venue" in November.



Zoo Education Coordinator Amber Frederick appeared on the PBS Show "The Weekly Special" in 2016.

ZOO EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Education Department significantly expanded the on-grounds interpretation programs during the Zoo's peak season, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. These interpretive opportunities served to diversify and enhance the visitor experience. Several times throughout the day, Educators provided stations scattered around Zoo grounds for patrons to have a more engaging, personal experience with Zoo staff and a variety of Animal Ambassadors. Other educational topics and activities also included informal science activities, animal artifacts, and conservation topics such as the importance of pollinators.

The Lafayette Kiwanis EdZOOcation Station was the location of a newly designed live stage show entitled, "Snakes Alive" that highlighted several of the Zoo's snake residents that are typically off-exhibit. This show was quite popular, and would often draw 40-50 visitors at a time to get a close-up look and a chance to meet some of these Animal Ambassadors.

Zoo animal care staff also joined in the interpretive fun and presented a daily Otter Keeper Chat that included a fish feeding demonstration with the Zoo's three North American river otters. Information about the otters and their adapta-



tions was discussed, and keepers engaged with the public in an informal question and answer session. Hellbender Education Program: Two Zoo staff members, Noah Shields and Jasmine Peele, conducted an education program with a focus on hellbender conservation and how kids can affect river water quality from their own homes. This was the 2nd year for this program and was presented to all 6th graders in the Lafayette School Corporation from November 15-17.



FUN FACTS:

- The Education Department gross revenue was \$103,672.22 for all programs, including birthday parties, classes, camps, off-site presentations, tours, and more. This is a nearly 12% increase over 2015!
- The number of people served by the Columbian Park Zoo's Education programs for 2016 was 43,363, an increase of approximately 5000 individuals from the previous year.
- The number of education programs performed in 2016 was 2208, which was an increase of 228 programs from 2015!
- We hit our record number of birthday parties performed at a whopping 106 parties for the year!

VOLUNTEERS/INTERNS

VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS:

A big change with our volunteer program for 2016 was the complete revamping and rebranding of our Junior Zookeeper program, designed for teens aged 14-17 years. This program was re-named the "Zoo Teen" program, and was re-structured in such a way to expand upon not just zookeeping skills, but other transferable job skills such as customer service, time management, professional conduct, leadership and more. This year's Zoo Teen program was a great start in creating informed and passionate leaders in the area of conservation and wildlife education. Teens gained skills interacting with the public on a daily basis, engaging in public speaking, working

one-on-one with animal care and education staff, and getting some hands-on experience with many of the Zoo's animals.

Our adult volunteer and intern programs continue to thrive. Volunteers gained valuable experience and knowledge about how the Zoo works, and what a career in the Zoo field entails. The contribution that volunteers and interns make on an annual basis by helping out Zoo staff is tremendous and an invaluable resource.

FUN FACTS:

- The total number of volunteer hours contributed by Zoo Teens, Interns, Adult volunteers, Volunteer Groups, Community Ser-

GIFT SHOP & AMUSEMENT RIDES

The Zoo Gift Shop and Columbian Park Express train operated daily during the Zoo's open season from April 23 through October 15. Wild Tykes Kiddie Rides were in operation for a shorter season from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Overall sales in the Gift Shop for the 2016 season were a total of \$174,154.64. This was an over 15% increase in sales over 2015.

The total revenue for just the train and kiddie rides was \$75,378.50, an approximate 2.4% increase from 2015. Gift Shop staff sold a total of 32,753 train tickets and 4,430 group train tickets, adding up to a total of 37,183 train rides given. There were also a total of 2047 riders in the Wild Tykes Kiddie rides area, consisting of the Helicopter ride, Horse & Buggy Ride and the Boat ride. Overall, 39,282 riders rode the train and kiddie rides in 2016, a 3.6% increase over 2015.

vice and Special Event Volunteers in 2016 was 12,127 hours carried out by 1176 people.

- Boo at the Zoo alone had a total of 798 volunteers working 2,232 hours helping set-up, run the event and clean-up.
- We had a total of 34 Zoo Teens, ages 14-17 years that contributed a total of 2,614 hours over the course of the season.

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

2016 Hot Topics:

Each year, the Zoo's Conservation Committee selects local and global "hot topics" in which to educate the public. These messages are woven into education programs and themed events throughout the year to make it a fun, interactive way to learn and discover how to make an impact. Two hot topics were a continuation from 2015: Help the Hellbenders, and Using Sustainable Palm Oil. A new topic was also introduced this year, focusing on the importance of pollinators and conserving/creating pollinator habitat.

Conservation Events:

Free events took place throughout the Zoo's open season to provide visitors opportunities to learn about the hot topics and engage in fun, exploratory activities and games highlighting conservation messaging.

May 14th, Migratory Bird Day:

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service celebrated their centennial of the Migratory Bird Act, enacted to protect migratory species of birds. The Zoo's event had many activities and games themed around birds such as "EGGsporation Station" and "What's Your Wingspan" to highlight the wonderful characteristics of birds and how to help protect them at home. Over 150 visitors attended stations scattered throughout the Zoo and in the DeFouw Education Center.

June 5, World Oceans Day:

This annual event is a visitor favorite, and had an estimated 150 peo-

ple in attendance. Educators set up stations around the Zoo to illustrate the importance of our oceans, and how we can help to keep them healthy.

June 25, Pollinator Palooza:

This new event for 2016 celebrated the importance of pollinators such as bees, bats and butterflies. The Zoo partnered with two local businesses for specific activities related to this event. Rural King donated over \$700 in equipment and merchandise to construct a "Make BEE-lieve" area in the Family Farm. This interactive display was a mock apiary, with bee-keeping supplies, a dress-up area and fun facts about bees and their important role in the ecosystem. Kids also got to make bee houses out of lumber generously donated by Von Tobel Lumber & Hardware.

August 27th, Help the Hellbender Day:

Approximately 200-250 visitors attended this 2nd annual hellbender event to celebrate the Eastern hellbender and learn about how to maintain healthy rivers. Several community partners joined in the fun: Purdue University, Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality, and the Wabash River Enhancement Corp.

Zoo Conservation Contributions:

The Zoo was able to contribute to both local and global conservation in 2016. Making a direct impact locally, several Zoo staff members and interns assisted the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation with

their annual Wabash River sampling blitz on April 8th. This event sends volunteers out into the river and its tributaries to get a snapshot of the water quality at that time.

The Zoo also collected conservation donations from visitors in the Zoo Gift Shop on behalf of a not-for-profit organization called the "Pollinator Partnership", dedicated exclusively to the protection and promotion of pollinators and their habitat. The generous donations of the public allowed us to send a total amount of \$5640.20 towards this global conservation effort.



ANIMAL COLLECTION

Several new animals for the Zoo's collection were acquired in 2016. Casper the domestic cat was a new addition to the Zoo Administrative office. This friendly kitty has become a favorite of the Zoo staff and serves as an office greeter and Education Animal Ambassador. The Zoo also received a new male Bennett's wallaby named "Big Boy" from Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida. He has joined the rest of the wallaby group on exhibit, and likely will be helping increase our wallaby numbers for 2017. The Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, Wisconsin, donated five female black-tailed prairie dogs to boost numbers in our outdoor exhibit. The Zoo also received 13 different animals including a variety of snakes, small mammals, lizards and two small spotted genets from "Animalia", an educational facility in Indiana that closed its doors

near the end of 2016. Two beloved Animal Ambassadors were deaccessioned in 2016. Julius Squeezer, a large boa constrictor and favorite of many Zoo program participants, passed away. Susie the sloth went back home to the Naples Zoo in Florida in September. She was on temporary loan to the Columbian Park Zoo, and is missed by many Zoo visitors. A going-away party was held in her honor on September 10th, and members of the community came to say good-bye, get their pictures taken, and sign a bon voyage card for Susie.

FUN FACT: The Zoo purchased a total of 2315 butterfly chrysalides to keep the Butterfly Garden Party Exhibit stocked for the season. The average cost per chrysalis is \$3.30 each.



IMPROVEMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS



Several new additions and improvements were made to Zoo grounds in 2016:

A new picnic area was installed next to the Zoo Gift Shop highlighting animal sculptures made from recycled materials designed and constructed by artist Dale Teachout. These an-

imals were part of a larger display entitled "The Zoo" at the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette during the summer of 2015, and afterwards were generously donated to the Zoo by the artist.

In August, the Parks Department maintenance staff installed a brand new chain link fence around the outdoor primate exhibits attached to the Animal House building.

Two sets of heavy duty trash and recyclable receptacles were added to Zoo grounds in front of the wallaby exhibit and in the new Zoo picnic area.

Two sections of sidewalk outside the Wallaby Walkabout entrance were replaced due to heaving over time creating a tripping hazard.

The Zoo entered into a partnership with a local pet store, Pet Supplies Plus, to host a holiday enrichment drive benefitting the Zoo's animal residents. A tree and drop-box were set-up at the store for customers to purchase items and donate them to the Zoo. The Zoo received a variety of items such as toys, treats, bedding and other pet supplies to enrich the animals' lives.

McAllister 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 Recreation 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.

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, and Insanity classes.

FITNESS ON DEMAND

Fitness on Demand, a group fitness room, was added to the Center in late 2016 to be open for the general public in 2017. Fitness on Demand is a smart fitness kiosk that provides world-class fitness programming by schedule or on-demand. Browse hundreds of fitness classes – sorted by type, difficulty level, or length to find the perfect class to fit your schedule or goals. Classes include Boot Camp, Insanity, Pilates, P90X, Step Aerobics, Yoga, and so much more! This program is free to all



city employees and dependents on the City insurance plan (ages 16 and older). For non-city employees, the cost is \$2 per session.

WEIGHTS AND FITNESS

McAllister’s free weights, machine weights, and cardio equipment were used in abundance. In 2016, two new Matrix T3 treadmills were purchased, a water dispenser was added upstairs with recyclable paper cups, the rubber flooring was completed in the mezzanine and all weight bench padding were reupholstered in the free weight area. There were 3,257 daily fitness passes, 10 monthly passes and 2 yearly passes sold in 2016. In all, \$6,649.00 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 2016 a total of 2,744 employees and their families took advantage of the

fitness areas. This was 294 more people than last year. The McAllister Center also played host to the City sponsored Wellness fair which included flu shots. Many employees and their families participated in City sponsored Yoga, Zumba, and Insanity classes which were offered for beginners, advanced students and seniors.

Weights and Fitness

by the numbers in 2016

3,257

daily passes sold

2,744

employee/family workouts

WALKING PROGRAMS

The McAllister Recreation Center continued to offer the Walking Toward Wellness and Tails on Trails Summer Wellness Series for the third year in a row. Having a solid brand for these events would help with promotions, so Kara Bishop came up with two great logos for each program, and we reached out to some local business for sponsorships.



Walking Toward Wellness was a free 10-week long series held every Tuesday from May 26-August 4 at various parks throughout Lafayette promoting healthy lifestyles for community members. There was one special event held downtown Lafayette. This was a walking tour of the history of Lafayette, hosted by Ashley Gregory from the Visit Lafayette/West Lafayette Visitor's Bureau. A total of 38 people participated during the 9 days (one event rained out), for an average of 4 participants per walk. \$850 in sponsorship money was raised from Unity Lafayette Cancer Care, Meijer and Tri-N-Run. With this money, flyers were created for marketing, food and beverage purchase for each event and creation and publication of a "Journal of Success." This journal included maps of trails and distances at each park and a log in the back for walkers to track their fitness journey. A speaker was present at each event to present a health topic of their choice. The speakers for this 2016 were Tara Hulseley from IU Health, Travis Butts from Tri-N-Run, Jeff Maurer from Fresh City Market, Megan Terry from IU Health, Tim Gavin from Purdue University, Lynn Nelson – Physical Therapist from IU Health and Dr. Seymour – an IU Health Surgeon.



Tails on Trails was a 4-week long series held every Thursday in the month of October at various parks in Lafayette. The final event on October 27 was a Halloween event in hopes attendees would dress their dogs up for a costume contest. A total of 33 participants and 26 dogs attended this four event-program, for an average of 8 people and 6 dogs per event. \$300 in sponsorships money was raised from VCA Animal Hospital and Pets and Vets as Partners. This money was used for flyers, marketing, food and beverage for attendees, dog toys and treats and prizes for our costume contest winners. The costume contest winner received the grand prize of a doggy bed with treats and toys inside. A volunteer photographer was on hand to take "family photos" at the last event.



CAMPS

Spring Break Camp

Spring Break Camp was held from March 21-25 and had 43 registrations. An average of 37 kids per day attended camp. The campers went on two field trips, one to the movies and one to Landmark Lanes. Other activities included playing outside, playing gym games and board games, reading, and doing arts and crafts.

Fall Break Camp

Fall Break Camp was held on October 28 & 31. There was a total of 37 registrants with a daily attendance average of 36. Campers took a trip to Exploration Acres. The second day was Halloween, so the kids dressed up in their costumes and trick-or-treated throughout the building with staff handing out candy and prizes in different rooms. The Lafayette Jeff Robotics Club gave a demonstration and let the kids try out the robots.

Holiday Camp

Holiday Camp was held December 21-January 4 for a total of 9 days. There was a total of 43 registrations and an average of 27 campers per day. Campers went on two field trips; one trip was to the movies and the other to Landmark Lanes. Due to the abnormally warm weather, campers were able to play outside and test out the new Gaga Pit.

In total, camps grossed \$261,839.98 in revenue in 2016 and surpassed our goal of \$216,000.00.

Summer Camp

Summer is a very busy time for the McAllister Recreation Center. The Center holds one of the largest day camps in Tippecanoe County. In order to maximize enrollment potential, a participant limit was set at 40 per week for each age group. Keeping accurate and current record of weekly enrollment allowed us to enroll 344 kids throughout various weeks.

Campers enjoyed a variety of activities in 2016. 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 2016 included community park visits, a visit to the Jeff Planetarium, two movie theater trips, a trip to Arni's, and bowling at Landmark Lanes.

The one thing that no camper wanted to miss this year was carnival day. At carnival day the campers get to enjoy 3 different bounce obstacles, a dunk tank,



carnival games, a cotton candy machine, Kona Ice and pizza from Arni's.

The center has been fortunate to have a high rate of retention in both staff and campers. We had 20 returning counselors from 2015 and hired 30 total counselors, including 2 who were previous Junior Counselors. This familiarity allows staff, parents and campers a smooth transition from summer to summer. The Center also added an additional position to help with maintenance and landscaping during the summer.

There were 58 operational days of Summer Camp, with an average daily attendance of 187 children and 76,864 total participation hours. This year McAllister Recreation Center was able to grant 139 weeks of camp assistance to families in need for a total of \$8,785.



SPORTS PROGRAMS



Youth Basketball

The youth basketball program goals are to provide all participants with the basic fundamentals of the sport and a sense of what it means to be part of a team. This program is offered for boys and girls ages 6-11. It is held twice per year, with seasons in the winter and fall. Teams are coached by parent volunteers who hold practice once a week and play their games on Saturdays.

The winter youth basketball program had a total of 187 participants split into 18 teams. Once again, the program enrollment numbers hit the capacity. The McAllister staff added 7 additional players off of the wait list and went over the 180 participant capacity to accommodate all who were interested. We had 50 volunteers who either coached or operated the scoreboard for a total contribution of 648 volunteer hours.

The fall youth basketball season had a total of 167 participants with 18 teams. We had 45 volunteers who either coached or operated the scoreboard for a contribution of 628 volunteer hours.

Adult Volleyball

The adult volleyball program is offered twice per year, with seasons in the winter and fall.

The winter session saw a slight decline in number with only six teams participating, out of a possible eight, in a seven week schedule culminating in a 2 week tournament at the end. The winning team received a championship T-shirt with their team name on it in the color of their choice. The 'Court Jesters' won the winter championship.

The fall session also saw a slight decline in number with only six teams participating. The 'Court Jesters' again were the fall champions.

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 basketball, t-ball, soccer, and flag football to young children through fun and exciting drills. The program ends with the participants receiving their first team jersey and participating in their first live game.

Participation Numbers:

Basketball: 22
T-Ball: 20
Soccer: 22
Flag Football: 18

Youth Flag Football

This program, offered in partnership with Lafayette Jefferson High School, allows participants between the ages of 6 and 11 the opportunity to participate in a recreation-based flag football league for six weeks. Participants learn basic fundamentals of the game during a one hour practice and put those skills to use during the game on Sunday. To allow for the participants to have greater retention of fundamentals and plays, practices are held 1 hour before the game on Sundays. Children are split into two leagues based on age, a 6-7 year old league, and an 8-9 year old league. Due to low turn-out, the 10-11 year old league was cancelled. In 2016 we had 20 parent volunteer coaches. Twenty different Jefferson High School football players served as volunteer officials at the games. In all, volunteers contributed 580 hours for the youth flag football program. There were 85 participants in the flag football program.



SPECIAL EVENTS

The McAllister Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, March 19. Over 75 children attended the egg hunt. Not only did they get eggs filled with candy but they were able to say hello to Lafayette's Mayor Tony Roswarski and Dare Officer John Townsend, take a picture with the McAllister Bunny, color their own eggs and play games to win prizes. Volunteers from Purdue University came and stuffed eggs prior to the event and helped with activities and prizes at the event. Gigi's Cupcakes donated two dozen cupcakes and Kona Ice donated all their earnings to the Park's Kids Can Fund for McAllister Summer Camp assistance.

The McAllister Center developed a partnership with the DNR to promote their GoFishIN in the City program in 2015. Go FishIN in the City is Indiana DNR's urban fishing program. This program provides opportunities for the public who live in heavily populated urban ar-

reas to go fishing. The Indiana DNR will intensively stock catchable size channel catfish and rainbow trout throughout the year in small city lakes and ponds where people go to fish. Anyone 17 and under can fish at the designated site (Munger Park in 2016) without a license on this day. In addition to the free fishing day, McAllister, along with the DNR, held a Family Fishing Workshop at the Center again on May 21, 2016. A total of 12 people attended the fishing day.

In June, the McAllister Center again partnered with volunteers from the Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries and the Indiana DNR 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 approximately 100 kids and adults participated in the event. 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!

The 16th annual Summer Community Bowling was held during the months of June and July from noon to 3 at Market Square Lanes, Landmark Lanes, and Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl. In all, over 1000 games were played and approximately 500 children bowled during the 6 days the program was held.

McAllister held an annual drop and shop program on December 16. The program allows for parents to drop the children off to finish the rest of their holiday shopping or let their kids blow off some pent up energy. The program ran from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. The children played games, did a special holiday craft, watched a movie and ate some pizza. Twenty-four children attended the program in 2016. We received \$250 sponsorship for the event from MedExpress out of Greenwood, Indiana, which was used for food and beverage and crafts.

RENTALS

This year, the McAllister Recreation Center added three ongoing rentals:

Safe Choices is an Alcohol and Drug Education Course in Lafayette. Beginning in January 2016, Safe Choices began renting Rooms 103 & 104 from us for an entire weekend once a month.

Hoosier Academies is a tuition-free, statewide public charter school that uses the k12 on-

line curriculum. In February 2016, Hoosier Academies began renting rooms to administer ISTEP testing. They rent anywhere from 2-5 rooms per session and have around 4 sessions per year.

The Tippecanoe Tornados, is a non-profit, homeschool high school volleyball program. They held practice every Tuesday and Thursday night from 5:00-7:00 p.m. and hosted 3 home games with other homeschool teams in the area in late summer. The team consisted of about 12 girls and was coached by parents.

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 2016, approximately 178 individuals volunteered as coach-

es, referees, scoreboard operators, guest speaker, program facilitators, and educators. In total, 1720 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.

PARTNERSHIPS

The McAllister Recreation Center has developed partnerships with several area organizations and individuals who assist with the Department's quality programs.

- The Lafayette School Corporation/Jefferson H.S.
- Jamie West and West Active Dance
- Greater Lafayette Tennis Association Inc.
- The United Way of Greater Lafayette
- Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation
- Lafayette Fire Department
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Purdue University Engineering Education
- Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries
- St. Lawrence/McAllister Neighborhood Association
- Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette
- Visit Lafayette/West Lafayette Visitors Bureau
- Purdue University Exercise Science
- Petsburgh Pet Care
- Payless Supermarkets
- Dave and Jill Howell
- McAllister Foundation
- Market Square Lanes
- Mike Alby's Arrowhead Bowl
- Star Lanes
- I.U. Health
- Paws Support Network
- Lafayette Noon Optimus Club
- Voiture 40&8
- Meijer
- Safe Choices
- Hoosier Academies
- Tippecanoe Tornadoes
- Three Little Yogis
- Tri-N-Run
- Fresh City Market
- Pets and Vets as Partners
- VCA Animal Hospital
- MedExpress Urgent Care
- CityBus

GRANTS

In 2016 the McAllister Recreation Center was fortunate to receive several grants for the Parks Department Kids Can Fund. These grants, a total of \$11,000.00, were granted to the McAllister Center from a number of organizations to help customers offset the cost of camps and programs. Community leaders such as the Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the McAllister Foundation graciously gave. These grants assisted several children in attending camps and programs at a reduced cost to their families. A total of 138 weeks for summer camp were provided with these funds. The Lafayette Voiture 40&8 gave \$500 for program assistance in late 2016. Along with money donations, IU Health graciously donated a Gaga Pit and two buddy benches to McAllister.



Admin/Communications

November 2016 marked two years since the creation of the Communications Department for the City of Lafayette. The Communications Department develops and cultivates a communications and marketing component for the City that not only supports the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department's communications needs, but also provides comprehensive awareness, education and transparency for our residents and visitors.

TASKS

The City Communications Department provides the following support for the Parks Department:

- Covered Lafayette Parks and Recreation events as well as awareness support for local business announcements
- Media notices and press releases
- Supported and developed communications and marketing strategies
- Media outreach and public relations

- Presentation design/development and event planning
- Graphic design and photography
- Coordinated press conferences, ribbon cuttings/dedication ceremonies
- Economic, workforce and talent development outreach
- Industry support initiatives
- Helped secure sponsorships for special events
- Partnered with the Lafayette Aviators and helped generate a logo design campaign
- Organized special events, secured entertainment, vendors, and logistics

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Department has developed a comprehensive social media strategy for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to help cultivate a positive/supportive environment for Parks initiatives. Posts follow a strategic audience profiling and analytics data strategy.

- Facebook posts reach an average of 1,000-5,000 people depending on content
- Our snow-making post was our highest reaching post on Facebook in 2016, reaching 27,900 people

- If you combine all of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation social media platforms we reached 37,893 this past year
- Posts consistently reach more than 700 people on Facebook every day
- Facebook posts reach a total of 45 cities other than Lafayette, Indiana
- 85% of our fans on Facebook are women between the ages of 35-44
- Tweets average 22,359 impressions on Twitter each month



Facebook Fans as of 12/31/16:

- Art in the Park 2,048 fans (increase of 373 since January 2016)
- Columbian Park Zoo 10,154 fans (increase of 1,599 since January 2016) - hit over 10,000 followers during the month of October.
- Parks and Recreation 4,064 fans (increase of 743 since January 2016)



Twitter Followers as of 12/31/16

- Art in the Park 431 followers (increase of 208 since January 2016)
- Columbian Park Zoo 1,008 followers (increase of 287 since January 2016)
- Parks and Recreation 3,050 followers (increase of 545 since January 2016)



Instagram Followers as of 12/31/16

- Art in the Park 370 followers (increase of 277 since January 2016)
- Columbian Park Zoo 1,070 followers (increase of 515 since January 2016)
- McAllister Recreation Center 88 followers (we started an Instagram account in May)
- Parks and Recreation 402 followers (increase of 320 since January 2016)

ART IN THE PARK

For the third year in a row, the Department held the Art in the Park summer festival series. Art in the Park took place from 6-8 pm on the following dates: June 7, June 21, July 12, July 26 and August 9. Activities were held on Memorial Island in historic Columbian Park. These family-friendly events were free and open to the public.

Art in the Park showcased a variety of local and regional fine arts and crafts vendors, as well as live entertainment, food vendors and creative art engagement. Each event had a different theme.

The themes featured included the

following:

- June 7: Celebration Night (featured popular, high energy, local classic rock band Radio)
- June 21: Global Night (featured Clave Caribe and Zelaya a Mariachi Band)
- July 12: Midsummer Night (featured local, contemporary musician Jeff Anderson and his students from McGuire Music and Sound)
- July 26: Jazz Night (featured jazz from the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra)
- August 9: Back to School Night (featured interactive, kid-focused magicians and popular music by the up-beat Conrad

Bone Band). We also had seven nonprofits participate in our Back to School Night.

We averaged a total of 540 people per night and we doubled in vendor participation.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- American Mortgage
- City of Lafayette
- DeFouw Automotive
- Duke Energy
- Farmers Insurance
- First Financial Bank
- Lafayette Life Foundation
- Old National Bank
- James K. Risk Family Foundation
- Wabash National

\$16,700 raised to support Art in the Park this year

IN-KIND SPONSORS

- Artistic Media Partners
- Richelle in Handbasket



SURVEY RESULTS

Two surveys were conducted on how we can enhance or improve the Art in the Park series for next year. The following groups returned surveys:

- 66 participants
- 23 vendors

Findings:

- 70% of participants heard about the Art in the Park series from our social media sites (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- 70% of participants enjoyed the variety of music the most.
- Nearly 70% of all vendors who participated in the survey in-

dicated they liked the theme nights this year.

Throughout both surveys, we received responses that indicated it would be helpful to extend the hours of Art in the Park per offering. However, having one to two events per year that were heavily marketed would be more effective. Overall in both surveys the responses were very positive. This past year we made several artist connections and built vital relationships with the local arts, entertainment and business community whose support will continue to help build this program.

PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

- 2,700 total participants for all five nights averaging 540 people per night
- 30 Art Vendors
- 8 food vendors

- 12 live entertainment (music, face painting, balloon art, etc.)
- 7 nonprofits
- 4 sponsors who participated as a vendor
- 12 total sponsors who supported Art in the Park

June 7, 2016: Celebration Night

- 1000 participants
- 18 art vendors
- 6 food vendors
- 4 live entertainment vendors
- 1 Media sponsor



June 21, 2016: Global Night

- 600 participants
- 21 art vendors
- 7 food vendors
- 5 live entertainment vendors
- 1 sponsor who participated as a vendor
- 1 media sponsor

July 12, 2016: Midsummer Night with Jeff Anderson

- 300 participants
- 14 art vendors
- 3 food vendors
- 15+ live entertainment (Jeff Anderson brought his students to perform throughout the night)
- 1 sponsor who participated as a vendor
- 1 media sponsor



July 26, 2016: Jazz Night

- 400 participants
- 27 art vendors
- 6 food vendors
- 2 sponsors who participated as a vendor
- 1 media sponsor

August 9, 2016: Back to School Night

- 400 participants
- 25 art vendors
- 4 food vendors
- 1 sponsor who participated as a vendor
- 1 media sponsor
- 7 nonprofits who participated as a vendor



MEDIA COVERAGE

WFLI 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 visited Parks Department ribbon cuttings, construction projects and Parks Board meetings.

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

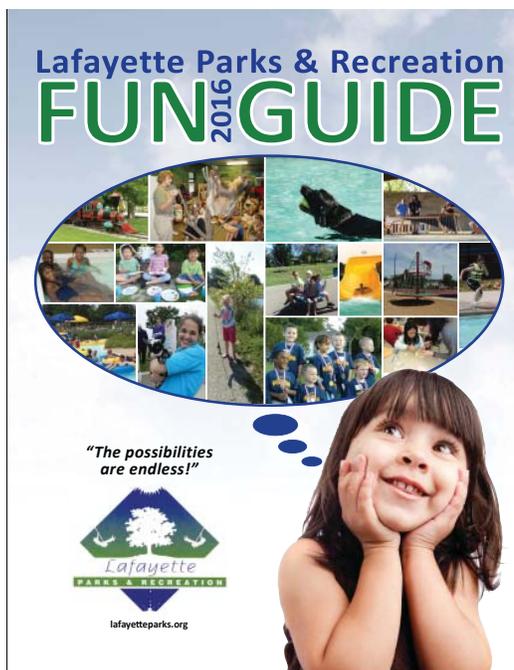
The Department continued its relationship with B102.9 FM, which broadcasted live from Tropicanae Cove each Wednesday during Family Nights in the summer. The B102.9

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. Schurz Communications was the radio sponsor for both the Zoo Run and Boo at the Zoo in 2016. The Department also partnered with Artistic Media Radio in 2016. In exchange for Castaway Bay passes to give away on the air, the department received free PSA advertisements each month (April - October) and a monthly on-air interview on WAZY. WBAA was present at several Department events and ceremonies in 2016. Staff members also did numerous interviews with stations for the announcement of news items.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The annual Program and Facilities Guide was overhauled in 2016 and re-branded as the “Fun Guide”. It was printed by Instant Copy and distributed beginning in February.

Past copies of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Annual Report were compiled and added to the City’s website.



SALES AND RENTALS

Sales and rentals continued to be a major part of Admin/Communications Services in 2016. Direct staff involvement in this process resulted in more corporate rentals and greater public exposure. In 2016, over 900 groups rented park facilities for events such as picnics, weddings, receptions and family reunions.

The breakdown for rentals in 2016 is as follows:

- 662 shelter reservations
- 111 five-hour Rush Pavilion rentals
- 5 full-day Rush Pavilion rentals
- 83 five-hour Jenks’ Rest rentals
- 12 full-day Jenks’ Rest rentals
- 13 five-hour Clubhouse rentals
- 4 full-day Clubhouse rentals
- 10 Memorial Island rentals

In addition, there were numerous uses for City Wellness and park events such as Art in the Park (not documented in the above numbers). McAllister Park and the Clubhouse are becoming a popular place to hold fundraisers and 5K races.

Ongoing customer awareness and training for all park support staff provides citizens with the utmost in services each time they visit a park facility.

Friends of 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 FOCPZ memberships and selling engraved brick pavers, the board coordinates two major fundraising events on

an annual basis: The Zoo Run Run, and Boo at the Zoo. Proceeds from these events support new and expanded Zoo exhibits, the purchase of new Zoo animals, and other projects and improvements for the Zoo's education department and animal care.

In 2016, FOCPZ supported the Zoo by purchasing the following items:

- High-quality window shades for both classrooms in the DeFouw Education Center
- A portable wireless sound system to use for Educational chats and shows on Zoo grounds

- A laptop to use for volunteer recruitment set-ups and presentations off-site
- Veterinary equipment, such as a centrifuge for processing lab samples
- Brand new games and activity kits for use in many of the Education Department's camps and classes
- New bookshelves located in the two DeFouw Education Center classrooms
- A new animal-themed graphic wrap designed and installed by Madmen Graphics, Inc. for the Zoo's cargo van

SPECIAL EVENTS

The 14th annual Zoo Run Run 5K Run/Walk held on July 16th was again a success with 836 runners registered and 768 actual participants. Net profit for this FOCPZ-sponsored event was \$13,919.44. Bison Financial contributed by providing their traditional pancake breakfast to race participants, volunteers, and supporters.

On July 23rd, Friends of Columbian Park Zoo joined up with the Lafayette Aviators baseball team to host a FOCPZ Aviators Night fundraiser. A portion of each advanced game ticket purchased online with the code "Zoo" was donated back to the Friends. Zoo Teen, Lucy Li, got to throw out the first pitch, and Zoo Educators set-up a mini-zoo outside for attendees to enjoy. Unfortunately, the heat was excessive that day, and the fundraiser made \$188,



but it was a fun way to partner with the Lafayette Aviators in Columbian Park to provide an entertaining family experience.

Boo at the Zoo 2016 took place on October 26th-28th from 6:30PM-9:00 PM. Despite having to cancel the event on the first night due to adverse weather conditions, the remaining event days were a resounding success, and many

families enjoyed the multitude of games, activities, rides and live entertainment. Some of the special entertainment included the Purdue's Drumline, Big Bass Drum and Auxiliaries, the "A League Entertainment" dance group, magicians, balloon artists and face painters. There were over 4500 attendees participating, with a net profit of \$27,289.41.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The Friends of Columbian Park Zoo received the following major monetary contributions, through either general donations or event sponsorships, totaling \$16,250.66:

- \$1500: Wal-Mart Foundation
- \$1000: Cochnower's Pest Control, Shirley Scott, Tri Kappa, Inc.
- \$750: Southridge Commons
- \$500: Kettelhut Construction, Inc., MedExpress Urgent Care, MED Institute, Inc., National Christian Foundation Indiana,

Samantha Shinbaum, and Unity Healthcare, LLC

- \$300-499: 5 donors
- \$250: 20 donors
- \$100-\$249: 8 donors
- \$1-\$99: 11 donors

Many In-kind donations and services were also provided to assist with special events, totaling nearly \$24,000:

- \$1000+: Another Broken Egg Café, Bison Financial, HotBox

Pizza, Journal & Courier, the National Group, New Face Photography, Texas Roadhouse, WASK Radio Group, and Zachary Confections

- \$750: University Spirit
- \$500: Chik-fil-a, Fleet Feet Sports, Frito Lay, Hampton/Hilton, Jimmy Johns, and Tri N Run
- \$250-\$499: 10 contributors
- \$100: 5 contributors



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PARK 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 2016:

- \$200 from American Mortgage Service for Art in the Park
- \$100 from Defouw Chevrolet for Art in the Park
- \$5,000 from Duke Energy Foundation for Art in the Park
- \$200 from Isch Insurance for Art in the Park
- \$300 from First Financial Bank for Art in the Park
- \$2,500 from Lafayette Life Foundation, Inc. for Art in the Park
- \$500 from Old National Bancorp for Art in the Park
- \$500 from Wabash National Corporation for Art in the Park
- \$1,000 from the Scheumann Foundation for the Kids Can Scholarship Fund
- \$50,000 from Kirby Risk, Inc.
- \$126,600 from The McAllister Foundation
- \$9,000 from The McAllister Foundation
- \$1,000 from IU Health
- \$2,860 from Lafayette Rotary Club FDN, Inc.
- \$2,860 from Daybreak Rotary
- \$500 from Unity Healthcare
- \$500,000 from Westport Homes Inc.
- \$10,790 from the James K. and Mary Jo Risk Family Foundation, Inc.
- Property donation from Crest Management, Inc.
- Property donation from Scheumann Properties, LLC
- Property donation from Timberstone Development, LLC
- Property donation from Tippecanoe Development II, LLC

