

2018 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 Manager

Facilities and Grounds

Mike Perry.....Director of Facilities and Grounds
 Ben Taylor.....Assistant Director of Facilities and Grounds
 Garret Gaskins.....Project Manager
 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
 Ebony Shackelford.....General Maintenance
 Fabienne Doyle.....General Maintenance
 Michael Heinz.....General Maintenance
 Joey Donnoe.....General Maintenance
 Logan Wolfschlag.....General Maintenance
 Taelen Leill.....General Maintenance
 Tom Hession.....General Maintenance
 Diane Leuck.....General Maintenance

Safety and Security

Tom Rankin.....Safety and Security Director
 Haleigh Simpson.....Assistant Safety & Security Director
 Nick Cutter.....Security Officer
 Zach Santy.....Security Officer
 Ahmani Colston.....Security Officer

McAllister Recreation Center

Chad Aldridge.....Manager
 Emily Butler.....Assistant Manager
 Tyler Wade.....Program Coordinator
 John Rodenbeck.....Maintenance
 Pat Crumley.....Administrative Assistant

Columbian Park Zoo

Dana Rhodes.....Interim Director
 Amber Frederick.....Education Director
 Courtney Nave.....Assistant Education Director
 Heather Woody.....Head Zookeeper
 Kaci Schmidt.....Senior Zookeeper
 Jill Livengood.....Senior Zookeeper
 Lindsay Garagiola.....Senior Zookeeper
 Victoria Roach.....Senior Zookeeper
 Lisa VanderHoff.....Relief Zookeeper/Accounting Assistant
 Megan Isenbarger.....Relief Zookeeper
 Megan Bishoff.....Relief Zookeeper
 Jen Zak.....Registrar
 Bethany Vanfossen....Accounting & Administrative Assistant
 Jennifer Spence.....Volunteer Coordinator
 Jasmine Peele.....Zoo Educator

2018 Annual Report

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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

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

Report compiled by Lindsey Huffman



Park Board

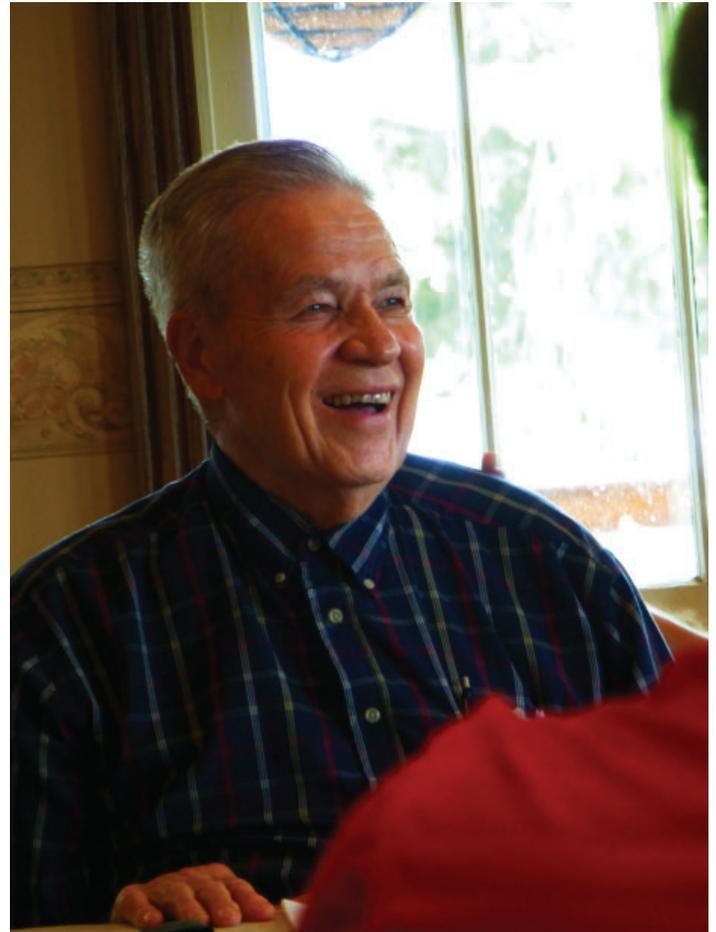
The Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation is the policy making authority for the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department. The Board is composed of four bipartisan members who are appointed by the Mayor to serve staggered four-year terms without compensation.

The 2018 Parks and Recreation Board consisted of Dave Mecklenburg, President; Maurie Denny, Vice President; Victor Klinker, Secretary; and John Ragan. Staff member Carlynn Smith served as the Board's Recording Secretary. Jacque Chosnek served as Board Attorney for the year.

On June 25, 2018, after 41 years of service, Victor Klinker resigned from the Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation. Mayor Tony Roswarski selected Mrs. Pat Corey to join the Board in his place. She was sworn in on August 6, 2018.

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 2018 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.



Victor Klinker resigned from the Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation on June 25, 2018. He served on the Board for 41 years.



Pat Corey was sworn in by Mayor Roswarski on August 6, 2018.

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



Rush Pavilion in November
after the first snow

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.



Boo at the Zoo 2018

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.



Construction at Crosier Sports Complex



Art in the Park

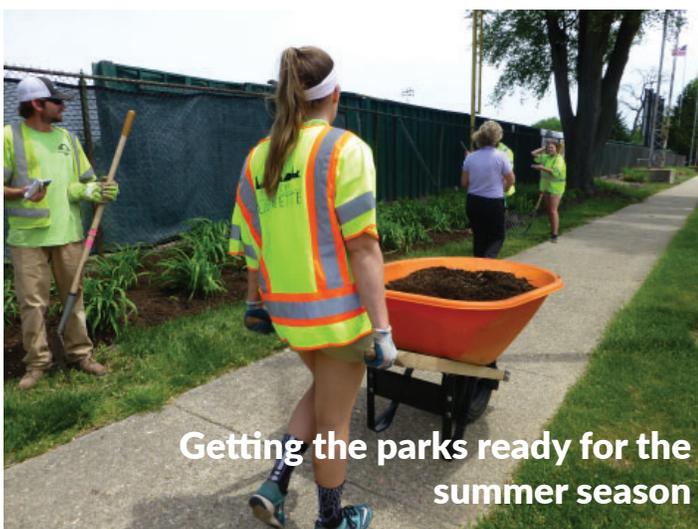
Community Needs/Issues

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 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



Getting the parks ready for the summer season

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.

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.

Tropicanoe Cove Family Aquatic Center

Columbian Park along Main Street

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

Vinton Pool

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, Tropicane 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. The Zoo was closed from 2004-2007 for renovations and reopened after the completion of several new exhibits. The zoo is still undergoing the implementation of its master plan.

Loeb Stadium, a 3,500-seat baseball stadium, was built in 1940 and is home field to Lafayette Jefferson High School, the American Legion Post-11 League, and 13-and-older Colt League. The stadium annually hosts the Colt World Series and IHSAA tournaments. The stadium is also home to the Prospect League’s Lafayette Aviators. In June of 2017, the Department announced plans to raze the current Loeb Stadium at the end of the 2019 playing season to make way for a new stadium. The new stadium will be built on the existing site, and the field orientation will be rotated 180 degrees so that home plate will be near the intersection of Main Street and Wallace Avenue. Construction is expected to conclude in 2020.

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.

Tropicane 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



A dedication ceremony was held for Phase 2 of the Memorial Island renovations in May 2018.

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. These two organizations moved to the new Faith North End Community Center on October 1, 2018. 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) and the Boathouse, restored in 1999, which serves as the Parks Administrative Office.

A master plan for Memorial Island was developed in 2015, with Phase 1 of renovations being completed that year. Phase 2 of renovations began in 2017. This project included new pedestrian walkways stretching from the parking lot to the middle of the island, new landscaping, and the Rotary Memorial Plaza. A dedication ceremony was held for Phase 2 on May 24, 2018. The rest of the plan will be implemented over the next few years.

COMMUNITY PARKS

The Department manages eight community parks, one community recreation center, and a linear park trail system. Comprising over 200 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 site is made up of woods and quality wetland. Future development plans include trails, natural interpretive areas, small playground, picnic areas, and parking. 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 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.

Crosser Sports Complex

2200 Breckenridge Street, 15 acres

In August, the department announced plans for a new softball complex on the south side of Lafayette. Construction began in fall of 2017. The park will include four lighted softball fields,

press box/concessions building, restrooms, and parking. Construction will be completed in spring/summer 2019.

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 installed in the mezzanine.

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. A new state-of-the-art playground with poured-in-place rubber surfacing was installed in 2017. The new 12-court pickleball facility was completed in summer 2018, and a dedication ceremony was held on September 12, 2018. McCaw Park is now home to the the largest outdoor pickleball facility in the state of Indiana. Future plans include surfaced trails and woodland restoration.



The new pickleball facility at McCaw Park 8

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. It is also home to the new Katy's Cabin, which was completed in 2017. The cabin holds a concession stand for sledders, as well as tube rentals. 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.

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 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, a picnic shelter, and a Little Free Library. 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.

Lyboult Sports Park

Canal Road

52 acres

This park is a favorite destination for sporting en-

thusiasts. 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 2018, 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 2018	
Managers	Jon Miner (Director of Operations) Mike Perry (Director of Facilities and Grounds) Thomas Rankin (Safety and Security Director)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Staley resigned as Natural Resources and Recreation Planner in March • Logan Wolfschlag was hired for Landscape Maintenance in April • Quintin Oller resigned as Security Officer in May • Garrett Gaskins was hired as Project Manager in May • Nick Cutter was hired as Security Officer in July • Taelen Leill was hired for Landscape Maintenance in April • Shannon Kirk resigned from General Maintenance in July • Zach Santy was hired as Security Officer in September • Tom Hession was hired for Custodial Maintenance in October • Ahmani Colston was hired as Security Officer in November • Skyler Viray resigned as Assistant Safety and Security Director in December • Haleigh Simpson was promoted to Interim Assistant Safety and Security Director in December • Kaelin Kolb resigned from General Maintenance in December

Aquatics

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

- 20 Management staff (for various areas)
- 86 Pool lifeguards
- 16 Cash Office personnel
- 28 Concessions workers

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 2018	
Managers	Angie Schultz (Accounting Manager) Lindsey Huffman (Marketing Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Pullins was promoted to Marketing Manager in January, and resigned in April Lindsey Huffman was promoted to Marketing Manager in August

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 2018	
Managers	Chad Aldridge (Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

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 2018	
Managers	Dana Rhodes (Interim Director)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Pullins transferred to Administrative Services in January Dana Rhodes resigned as Zoo Director in March (after a training period with new director) Kecia Beltz was hired as Zoo Director in February Victoria Roach as promoted to Senior Zookeeper in March Megan Bishoff was promoted to Relief Zookeeper in April Noah Shields resigned as Assistant Zoo Director in October Kecia Beltz resigned as Zoo Director in October Dana Rhodes served as Interim Zoo Director for November and December

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 three certified playground inspectors, three certified aquatics facility operators, nine certified pool operators, three Category 3A certified pesticide applicators, three Category 3B certified pesticide applicators, eighteen certified pesticide technicians, and one certified arborist. 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 2018 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 For-

estry 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 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

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

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

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 Quiatenon.

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.

Finance and Funding

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

PROGRAM REVENUE

Following is an itemization of total revenue generated by the Department in 2018 for programs and services:

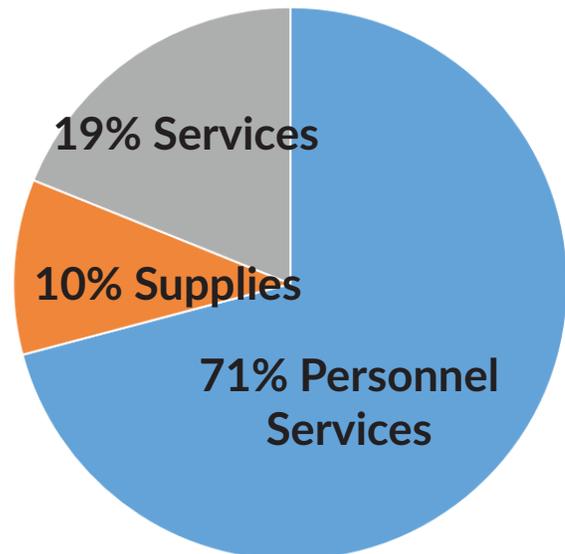
Aquatics	\$409,063.00
Rides	\$80,686.16
Concessions	\$131,745.51
Rentals	\$95,143.00
Zoo	\$231,071.44
McAllister	\$327,653.75
TOTAL	\$1,275,362.86



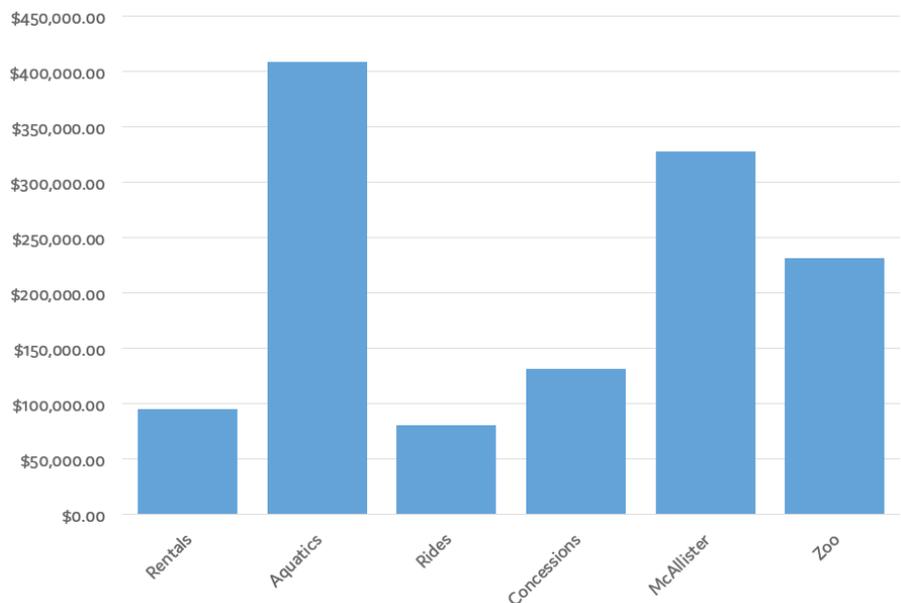
GENERAL FUND BUDGET

The 2018 annual general fund appropriation was \$4,282,110.52

Category	Amount
Personnel Services	\$3,034,671.13
Supplies	\$438,692.15
Services	\$808,747.24
TOTAL	\$4,282,110.52



2018 Program Revenue



SPONSORSHIPS AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Sponsorships and corporate partnership opportunities in 2018 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 nineteenth summer in 2018. The program provides an opportunity for youth to perform various volunteer functions in a supervised setting at a park facility. Each participant is rewarded with a Kids Can Pass for each hour of work. A Kids Can Pass can be used for admission to any of the aquatic facilities, amusement rides, or registration fees for McAllister Center or Columbian Park Zoo programs.

MCALLISTER RECREATION CENTER PARTNERSHIPS

The McAllister Recreation Center has developed partnerships with several area organizations and individuals who assist with the Departments' 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 Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Purdue University Engineering Education
- Lafayette Breakfast Optimist Club
- City Bus
- St. Lawrence/McAllister Neighborhood Association
- Dave and Jill Howell
- Payless Supermarkets
- Market Square Lanes
- McAllister Foundation
- Mustang Alley
- Mike Alby's Arrowhead Bowl
- Hoosier Academies
- I.U. Health
- Duke Energy
- Voiture 40/8
- Dave and Tammy Mecklenberg
- Meijer
- Flour Mill Bakery and Cafe
- Safe Choices
- Daybreak Rotary
- Tippecanoe Tornadoes
- Walmart
- Target
- Lausch Photography
- Visit Lafayette/West Lafayette Visitors Bureau
- Epic Entertainment
- Fresh City Market
- L Kora
- VCA Animal Hospital
- Kona Ice
- MedExpress Urgent Care
- Wabash Landing 9
- All Fired Up
- Big Bounce Company
- Arnis
- Landmark Lanes
- Schreckengast Reality Group
- McCutcheon Volunteer Club

Improvements

The following improvements were made in the Lafayette Park system during 2018:

ARMSTRONG PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Cleared invasive species from woods inside of the Park
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs
- Chain link fence repairs around all baseball fields
- Painted parking lot closure gate and trash can posts
- Installed screen protection for LED scoreboards
- Painted all foul poles and scoreboard posts
- Installed new message center for baseball
- Removal of (4) dead trees

CASTAWAY BAY

- Painted splash pad
- Painted interior of bathroom floors
- Painted doors and gutters on building
- Repainted Big Squirt
- Installed new irrigation controller
- Added privacy screen to fence around pool
- Cleaned and waxed pool gutters
- Replaced drain covers in pool
- Installed landscape plants at pool entrance

CAT PARK

- Painted entrance gates and trash can posts
- Installed new "Park Closed Signs on gates"
- Painted interior of bathrooms

CENTENNIAL PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Power washed all concrete sidewalks

COLUMBIAN PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Replaced 3 grill around shelters
- Painted fountain in triangle outside zoo entrance
- Painted "Columbian Park" sign
- Installed playground equipment in pre-school section of SIA Playground
- Painted archways, adult swing frames, bike racks



Picnic Shelter at Armstrong Park

and stair railings around SIA Playground

- Repaired 40' of storm damaged privacy fence around maintenance facility
- Removed 3 storm damaged trees and stumps
- Removed 3 spruce trees at Tropicane Cove drop off location; added landscape
- Added boulder wall along Crescent Drive
- Repaired bathroom partitions at Jenk's Rest
- Replaced 54 train ties, added 30 ton of stone along train track
- Installed 3,700 annual flowers

COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Seeded wallaby exhibit
- Repaired monkey holding area
- Painted farm tractor
- Installed new branches in primate exhibit
- Installed new gravel along walk paths
- Installed 3 new countertops and sinks in holding building
- Painted zoo bathrooms
- Painted inside boat tank and boats
- Replaced boat tank filtration pump
- Replaced brake line on all train cars
- Replaced all train engine wiring, added fuse block



**Construction continued at Crosser Sports Complex throughout 2018.
The park will be completed in 2019.**

CROSSER SPORTS COMPLEX

- Continued construction on new 4 field softball complex
- Installed gate at end of Powder House Lane
- Installed 51 trees as part of Arbor Day
- Cleared invasive material from entrance woods area
- Installed bollards in parking lot
- Removed 7 dead trees
- Seeded non-playing areas of Crosser Sports Complex

HEDGEWOOD PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added

HANNA PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Removed little library – vandalism
- Removed dead landscape plant material
- Replaced broken spinner bowl playground equipment

LINNWOOD PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Installed drinking fountain
- Installed little library
- Removed tire swing play piece

LYBOULT SPORTS PARK

- Installed 3 new scoreboards and protective screens
- Repaired all chain link fences around softball fields

- Painted all foul and scoreboard post
- Replaced drinking fountain
- Painted bathrooms
- Added LED lights to bathrooms
- Installed new H-frame to electrical panel
- Cleared invasive plants along west side of field
- Installed message center for softball fields

McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs
- Installed new landscape across back of building
- Removed 4 trees because of storm damage
- Painted outside trim purple
- Installed new concrete walk outside of gym, replaced bad sections of walk along 20th street
- Installed new security cameras
- Removed broken teeter totter play piece
- Installed new LED lighting in storage rooms

McALLISTER PARK

- Volunteers removed invasive species removal at McAllister Park entrance
- Volunteers removed invasive species removal along Wabash Heritage Trail
- Widen mowing paths around all trails and exposed more usable green space
- Painted entrance gates
- Painting inside clubhouse
- Removed 3 storm damaged trees
- Disc golf started installation of new 18 hole south course
- Installed new signage for Cloud Jockeys

McCAW PARK

- Invasive species removal from retention basin and woods area
- Cut down 7 dead trees
- Installed 1 new drinking fountain by playground
- Installed soccer “rebounder” post and net
- Installed 3 benches around playground
- Converted tennis courts and basketball court to 12 Pickleball Courts
- Cut down 10’ fence surrounding Pickleball Courts to 6’ tall
- Installed concrete sidewalk around Pickleball Court
- Installed new landscape around Pickleball Court
- Replaced 12 bleacher boards at baseball fields
- Installed 3 new scoreboards and protective screens for baseball fields
- Repaired drywall and painted inside of pressbox
- Painted inside of restrooms
- Painted all foul and scoreboard posts

MUNGER PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Invasive species removal from native prairies and retention basin
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs
- Painted interior of both restrooms

- Installed new ventilation fans in both restrooms
- Removed 2 dead trees

MURDOCK PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Invasive species removal from park
- Repaired broken split rail fence
- Installed 6 new concrete disc golf tee pads
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs
- Painted parking lot swing gates
- Removed 4 storm damaged trees
- Painted inside of bathrooms
- Painted shelters
- Power washed basketball court
- Installed LED lights in bathroom
- Installed French drainage on softball field
- Repaired storm-damaged roof on press box

SHAMROCK PARK

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Repaired stadium lights around roller hockey court
- Reseeded 1 section of dog park
- Repaired 10,000 sq. ft of turf damage from vandalism

The new pickleball facility at McCaw Park





Tropicanoe Cove

SOUTH TIPP PARK

- Dormant pruning of trees

STERLING HEIGHTS

- Playground Safety Mulch added
- Removed 2 dead trees
- Added stone to entrance walkway

TROPICANOE COVE

- Replaced chemical feed lines
- Replaced 2 drain covers
- Installed 6 emergency exit and back up lights in bathhouse
- Installed new doors on acid room of pump house
- Painted all doors
- Painted inside of family changing rooms
- Added new vinyl fence and landscape by mechanical room
- Rebuilt lazy river propulsion pump
- Removed 3 remaining pumps for rebuild
- Painted guard room
- Repair and painting of 3 slides
- Painted the entry archway at main gate
- Replaced broken section of white vinyl fence outside locker rooms
- Repaired irrigation system

VINTON NEIGHBORHOOD POOL

- Painted entire pool floor and sides
- Concrete repairs made to pool deck
- Two new ladders installed on deep end of pool
- Replace pool drain covers
- New LED lights installed in bathroom
- Painted doors, soffit and fascia
- Painted inside of guardroom
- Added outdoor speakers
- Added privacy windscreen to fence
- Cleaned and waxed pool gutters

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

- Delivered tables to various events throughout the year
- Removal of invasive species along railroad, south of Big 4 Depot
- Augured 75 holes for volunteer tree installation thru ough city
- Removed large tree stump from city hall raised bed location
- Removed 60 stumps, added soil and seeded throughout Lafayette Parks

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
- gang recognition
- active shooter training
- investigating and locating lost children



The Safety and Security team trains all staff members in CPR.

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 and annually
- 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 Department's Safety and Security Team filed 433 Incident Reports in 2018 including graffiti/vandalism, medical calls, missing children, and unsecure property. The Security Team also issued 89 trespass warnings with the assistance of Lafayette Police Department and detected 20 trespass warning violations who were then arrested.

Our Safety and Security Team has also begun implementation of a new record keeping system which will allow us to track throughout the year many different safety and security related activities including the number of missing children, medical calls, and arrests happening in each park throughout the City of Lafayette. The goal of this system is to track which parks have the largest volume of calls and reports in order to direct our patrols to ensure efficiency. This system will also allow us to illustrate the issues at each particular park and when the issues are taking place over time.

Maintenance

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

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

The Park system has:

- 71 structures (including 25 buildings, 12 restroom buildings, 1 barn, 1 amphitheater, 1 stadium, and 30 shelters)
- 42 acres of pavement (including 27 sports courts)
- 26 miles of paved trails
- 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 Applicators. Maintenance also has members in the following organizations:

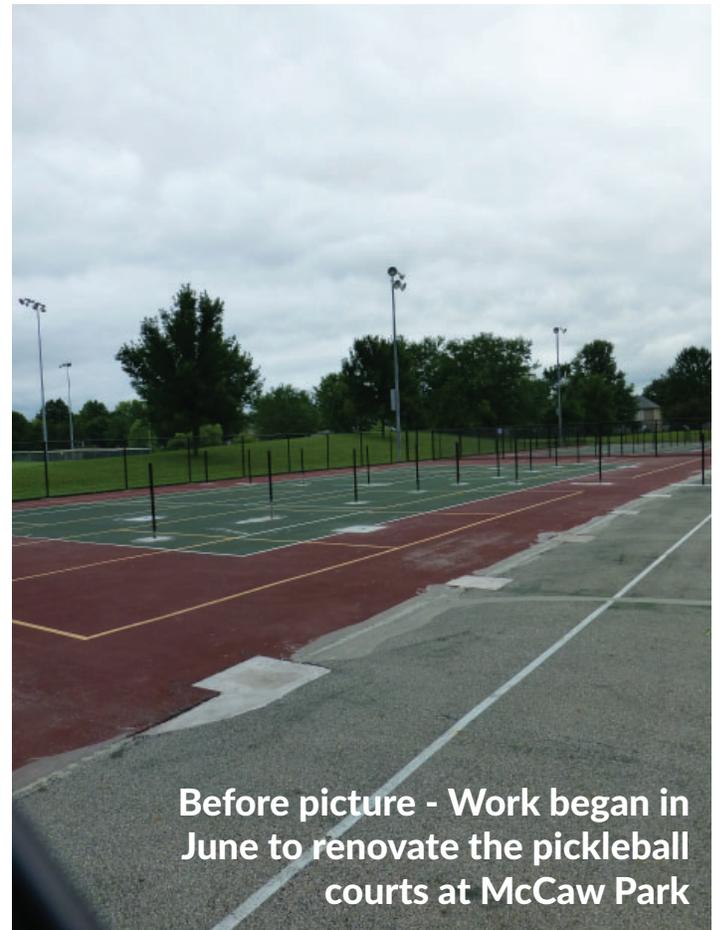
- Midwest Regional Turf Foundation
- Professional Grounds Management Association
- Indiana Professional Lawn and Landscape Association
- Sports Field Managers Association

The Maintenance Division cooperates with many

civic and community groups, including 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, Lafayette Indiana Pickleball Association, Lafayette Indiana Pickleball Association, Wabash Disc Golf Club and Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

In 2018, the maintenance area added new equipment including:

- Two John Deere mowers
- Installed new motor in Hustler Mower and Gator



Before picture - Work began in June to renovate the pickleball courts at McCaw Park

Natural Resources

The Natural Resources Division is responsible for the following:

- Planning, managing, and supervising park landscape projects
- Hiring and managing Park Landscaping Crews (full-time and seasonal)
- 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, landscape projects, city beautification, City Land maintenance, trail maintenance, and park landscape updates and improvements. The Natural Resources Division falls under the direct supervision of the Project Manager, which reports to the Director of Facilities and Grounds and the Assistant Director of Facilities and Grounds. The Project Manager provides oversight of the Landscape Supervisor, Landscape Crews, and Landscape Seasonals on all park maintenance throughout the year.

The first months of the year were spent preparing for the weather to break in the spring. The landscape crew spent their time cutting down ornamental grasses at all of the park properties. In February, the landscape crew performed crown reduction pruning of the crabapples at the Mayor's Youth Council Adopt-A-Spot. To increase safety along Heritage Trail the landscape crew spent several days removing honeysuckle and other invasive species growing close to the trail.

In March, the landscape crew was able to bush hog the "Grow Don't Mow Areas" at Trailhead, CAT, McCaw, and Munger Parks. Crews removed the landscape at the McAllister Rec Center and graded out the areas to ready them for future planting. Crews also assisted the zoo staff in cutting and hanging large branches for the gibbon exhibit.

In April, the landscape crew split and transplanted grasses and moved them to the new landscape by the reservoir at CP, a cost effective way to fill



Arbor Day tree planting at Crosser Sports Complex

in gaps allowing other plants time to mature. In a continuing effort to remove invasive species the landscape crew spent several days working along the fence and in the woods by Castaway Bay. In our continued support of the zoo staff the landscape crew reseeded the wallaby exhibit and installed new crushed lime in the Family Farm exhibit. Tree Lafayette selected Crosser Sports Complex as the location for their annual Arbor Day tree planting event on April 28. Parks Department staff augured all planting holes prior to the event and provided tools, tents, tables, chairs, water truck, and trash pickup during the event. Dozens of people worked to plant 50 trees that will shade and beautify Crosser Sports Complex.

The landscape crew prepared planting beds for the Master Gardeners' annual Mother's Day planting in early May at Columbian Park. The volunteers and the landscape crew installed 2,750 annual flowers at Columbian Park, and assisted Tippecanoe County Veterans Council President Tim Hilton planting

annual flowers on Memorial Island. The landscape crew prepared 25 planters at the John T. Myers Pedestrian Bridge where Master Gardeners installed annual flowers. The division also provided 600 annual flowers that lifeguards planted in pots at Tropicanoe Cove, Castaway Bay, and Vinton Pool. In total, over 3,800 annual flowers were installed and maintained throughout the entire summer to provide a beautiful “wow factor” for park visitors.

Under the direction of the Project Manager, the landscape crew began defining bed edges to make the park landscapes more attractive and expanded beds around trees. With the aid of summer seasonal employees, the landscape crew spread 1,000 cubic yards (14 semi loads) of mulch throughout the parks and along trails. Their efforts reduced weed growth and minimized mowing damage to trees and shrubs.

An Invasive removal project was completed along the riverfront between the Marq building and the Wabash River. The majority of the maintenance division in the parks department spent three days removing several invasive species and dead trees. Once the area was cleared the landscape crew spent time throughout the year ensuring that the area remained free of invasive species.

In September, a new Pickleball Court at McCaw Park gave the landscape crew a perfect opportunity to add additional landscape beds around the court area. The design created two separate planting beds and utilized shrubs, grasses, and perennials to create year-round seasonal interest. Specific plants were selected to tolerate the poorly drained soils and potential errant foot traffic from park patrons. Due to security concerns the landscape crew removed two spruce trees at McAllister Rec Center and three spruce trees from Columbian Park adjacent to the Green Shelter. The space at McAllister was returned to turf. Once the trees were removed from the Green Shelter area, new plants were installed creating a more attractive and security-friendly entrance to Tropicanoe Cove. Members of the landscape crew also spent time removing the stump from the planter at the entrance to City Hall. This cleared the way for Tree Lafayette to plant their 3,000th tree.



The landscape crew began October grading approximately five acres at Crosser Sports Complex and then seeding and strawing the area. In addition to seeding at Crosser, the landscape crew installed the new landscape at McAllister Recreation Center. Over 600 perennials and shrubs were installed to beautify the Center and create a pollinator garden. The installation of the pollinator garden is an effort to support the City’s commitment to the Mayor’s Monarch Challenge by incorporating a number of plants essential for the survival of the Monarch Butterfly.

In November and December crews spent time planting and prepping for the winter. A new bed containing over 80 perennials and shrubs, along with a white picket fence was installed by the mechanical room at Tropicanoe Cove. Over 100 plants were added to the revamped Adopt-A-Spot at Erie and Union Street creating a low maintenance spot for a future adopter. Crews assisted Wabash Disc Golf volunteers by removing over 30 loads of debris from McAllister Park in an effort to create another 18-hole disc golf course. Crews also wrapped all pots in preparation for winter and spent time adding holiday decorations to the Lafayette Parks Department Administration Building and Rush Pavilion.

CITY LAND

In 2018, Brightview was awarded the maintenance contract for city land. One of the biggest tasks they completed was mulching all city land plant beds in the early spring. This contract is responsible for the 170 hanging baskets downtown and roughly 5,000 seasonal plantings and winter interest designs in all the 80 downtown planters and City Hall landscape beds. Mowing, weeding, spraying, pruning, and trash removal were also performed throughout the year along with several plant replacements.

ADOPT-A-SPOT

The Adopt-A-Spot Program is for local businesses, groups and/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 2018, nine of the 18 Adopt-A-Spots were maintained by the spots' adoptees and their volunteers. The nine unadopted Adopt-A-Spots were maintained by the Parks Department's Landscape Crew. An effort to revamp the program and add more adoption opportunities began in the fall of 2018 with the unveiling of a new program in the spring of 2019.



VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Volunteer groups provide a vital service in helping complete projects in the City of Lafayette. Dr. Bill Hoover provided countless hours of work clearing invasive plants and performing timber stand improvement at Berlovitz Woods. He also advised Purdue Forestry students who assessed the site and made recommendations for its management. Ron Overton and Dave Baner continued volunteering to clear invasive plants from North Ninth Street Trailhead Park and the Wabash Heritage Trail. The Lafayette Cloud Jockeys continued their support of the Lafayette Parks Department by mowing and clearing invasive plants around their airstrip at McAllister Park. Wabash Disc Golf Club continued

POND AND NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTINGS

Lafayette Parks Department oversaw the annual maintenance of the native prairie plantings within the Lafayette Parks. They routinely sprayed, removed invasive species, collected trash, and maintained the general appearance of these areas. ASAP Aquatics oversaw the annual maintenance of the three ponds located within Lafayette Parks: Columbian Park, Munger Park and Armstrong Park.



Tree of Life memorial in the Park Administrative Office

TREE OF LIFE PROGRAM

Two shade trees were donated to the parks in 2018 through the Tree of Life Memorial Program. Through the generosity of donors, trees will be planted in the spring of 2019 by the picnic shelters in Columbian Park. Honorees were recognized by having their names engraved on individual leaves on the Tree of Life memorial located at the Parks Department administrative office in Columbian Park.

their years of volunteer support by assisting with mowing of the disc golf course located at McAllister Park, and providing maintenance recommendations for the course at Murdock Park woods. They also continued clearing invasive species to create a new course in McAllister Park. In May, the Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners and the Tippecanoe County Veteran's Council planted flowers at Columbian Park. Volunteer groups from Rossville School Corporation sent approximately 50 students to volunteer sprucing up Columbian Park in April and Alpha Pi Omega volunteered their services to help spruce up Armstrong Park.

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 185 interviews were conducted in February, and season employee paperwork for the hired 137 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 two certified Lifeguard Instructors (LGIs) on staff for the 2018 season. These LGI's can train and certify prospective lifeguards. The department held its fourth annual Lifeguard Certification Course at Lafayette Jefferson High School in April. The LGIs also implemented a recertification course for the department's lifeguards. During the course of the season, the LGIs certified or recertified 26 lifeguards. In addition, the LGIs 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 LGIs also assisted the McAllister Recreation Center in training and certifying the camp counseling staff in CPR/First Aid/AED prior to summer camp. In 2018 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 fo-



cus 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 2018. All three facilities received fresh paint, both in the buildings and in the actual pools. At Tropicanae Cove, the banana peel slide and toucan chutes were cleaned and gelcoat paint was applied to all three slides. In addition the banana peel slide was inspected and repaired in May of 2018. A new conveyor oven was purchased for the concession stand as well. At Castaway Bay, the restroom floors and walls were painted and the first installment of new deck chairs were purchased. At Vinton, the bathroom floors and walls were repainted. The guard office was also repainted. Two new umbrellas were purchased and the first installment of new deck chairs were purchased.

Tropicanoe Cove

Tropicanoe Cove was in operation for 75 days during the 2018 season. The Cove was closed for twelve days due to weather. Attendance for the 2018 season was the highest since the 2012 season with 65,209 guests, with an average daily attendance of 869.5 persons (a 13.5% increase over 2017). The highest day attendance for Tropicanoe Cove was 2,339 on August 18.

Temperatures for the 2018 season were slightly higher than historical averages for the Lafayette area. The historical average temperature for the summer months in Lafayette is 84 degrees; the average temperature in 2018 was 84.5 degrees. There were 17 days with a temperature over 90 degrees with a season high temperature of 96 degrees on May 28 (Memorial Day).

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, 288 passes were handed out to Workreation participants.

The water walking program continued in 2018 with two classes being offered in the morning and two classes in the evening. 93 water walking season passes were sold in 2018, and a total of 3,473 people participated in the program.

Aqua Zumba classes with instructor Janey Vanliew were offered once again at Tropicanoe Cove during June and July of 2018. 207 patrons participated in the class over the course of the summer.

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

Concessions

Swimming brings on a hearty appetite, but you won't go hungry at the Cove Cafe. In 2018 Cove Café began making our own Cove Pizzas. The menu also included 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 2018, followed by Nachos, hot pretzels, fruit smoothies, French fries, pizza, hot dogs, and funnel cake fries.

- Hot Pretzels 2,719 sold
- Hot Dogs 1,766 sold
- Chicken Strips 672 sold
- Smoothies 2,490 sold
- Pizza 2,260 sold
- Itty Bittz 6,141 sold
- French Fries 2,351 sold
- Nachos 3,207 sold
- Funnel Cake Fries 1,186 sold
- Bottled Water 3,092 sold

Lafayette Parks Department was in the second 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 2018.

Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool

Total attendance at Castaway Bay was 11,887 for 66 operational days with an average daily attendance of 180.8 people (a 3% decrease from 2017). Season Passes continued to be a big hit with 273 passes being sold during the 2018 season.

Swimming lessons through the Swim America program continued in 2018 with four sessions being offered in the morning and three sessions being offered in the evening.

Total attendance at Vinton Pool was 9,583 for 59 operational days with an average daily attendance of 162.4 people, a 17% increase over 2017. This was the highest attendance at Vinton Pool since 2011.



Columbian Park Zoo

The Columbian Park Zoo's operating season in 2018 was from April 21st through October 13th. Estimated attendance based on numbers of people visiting our three walk-through exhibits was slightly decreased from 2017 numbers overall:

- The Wallaby Walkabout: 123,416, down 7.8% from 133,910 in 2017
- The Family Farm: 118,699 visitors, down 5% from 124,981 in 2017
- The Butterfly Garden Party Exhibit: 60,017 visitors, down 20% from 75,539 in 2017

STAFF 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 on-line system of seminars and courses for individuals working in the Zoo field. Online topics range from animal care, education, interpretation, customer service, safety, management, communication, marketing, and much more.

During the Park's off-season, several staff members took trips to visit neighboring zoos for behind-the-scenes sneak peeks at their operations. These types of excursions are great ways to make professional connections, gain insights and problem-solve future exhibit designs. Different staff members from the Zoo, Park Maintenance and Park Admin were able to travel to the following locations in February:

- Brookfield Zoo: Kaci Schmidt, Jill Livengood, Victoria Roach, Todd Daugherty and Fabienne Doyle
- Miller Park Zoo: Heather Woody, Lindsay Garagiola, Jen Zak, Bethany Vanfossen, Jasmine Peele, Ebony Shackelford, and Ben Pucka
- Louisville Zoo: Noah Shields, Courtney Nave, Lisa VanderHoff, Megan Isenbarger, Jennifer



Spence, Mike Heinz, and Carlynn Smith

On January 31, Kaci Schmidt, Jill Livengood, Lindsay Garagiola and Victoria Roach attended a lecture on "Primate Medicine" sponsored by the Purdue Exotics Club. The presenter was Dr. Alejandro Morales, DVM, a wildlife veterinarian from the AR-CAS Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association in Guatemala. This lecture was part of the Purdue Veterinary Medicine Department's International Programs series.

On February 26, Zookeepers Kaci Schmidt and Jill Livengood attended a presentation by Dr. Jan Ramer from The Wilds about Conservation Medicine and The Gorilla Doctors. The Gorilla Doctors is a team of veterinary professionals dedicated to the care and conservation of mountain gorillas in various parts of Africa.

Senior Zookeeper, Lindsay Garagiola represented the Zoo by attending a 4 week OSHA training

ZOO EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Two new show themes debuted at the Kiwanis EdZOOcation Station in 2018. “The Creepy Crawly Spectacular” taught viewers the benefits of bugs in a fun, pun-filled interactive mock award show. Also new this year was “Three Cheers for Enrichment” which spotlighted the important role environmental enrichment plays in zoo animal well-being. Audience members were treated to enrichment demonstrations after playing an interactive game to relate enrichment needs to their own personal experience.

FUN FACTS: The Education Department gross revenue was \$121,068.87 for all programs, including birthday parties, classes, camps, off-site presentations, tours, and more. This is a nearly 11% increase over 2017!

The number of people served by the Columbian Park Zoo’s Education programs for 2018 was 43,567, a decrease of 10,105 individuals or nearly 18% from the previous year. This is largely due to fewer participant in the free on-grounds interpretive programs which is consistent with lower overall Zoo attendance in 2018.

The number of education programs performed in 2018 was 2,462, which was a slight decrease of 64 programs, or 2% from 2017.

The Education Department served over 13,329 individuals with the on-grounds interpretation opportunities that are free to Zoo visitors such as animal encounters, stage shows, conservation events, and keeper demonstrations!

course to increase staff awareness on workplace safety and regulations.

In July, Assistant Zoo Director, Noah Shields and Senior Zookeeper, Victoria Roach participated in a kayaking trip down the Blue River in Southern Indiana as part of the AZA conference. This river is the native home to Eastern hellbenders, a giant salamander species endangered in Indiana. The Columbian Park Zoo continues to partner with Purdue University in housing some of these hell-

benders to prepare for future release into the wild. As part of this conservation project, staff members were able to go into the field to view native habitat, learn more about the ongoing efforts to conserve this species and its environment, and help release some animals back into their native habitat.

In September, Head Zookeeper, Heather Woody and Senior Zookeeper, Lindsay Garagiola travelled to the Scovill Zoo in Decatur, Illinois to receive penguin husbandry training from the Zoo’s penguin keepers. This valuable in-depth training in specialized animal care and exhibit maintenance will help prepare Columbian Park Zoo staff for the arrival of a group of African penguins in 2019. Additional training sessions at other facilities are scheduled for February of 2019.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

In April, Columbian Park Zoo received the 2018 “Special” Award from Special Parents Special Kids, Inc.



VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

The Zoo Teen program continued to thrive with a total of 35 participants ages 14-17. Participants are set up in a tiered system and gain additional skills and opportunities as they progress through the program. Teens learn valuable skills interacting with the public, engaging in public speaking, working one-on-one with animal care and education staff, and getting hands-on experience with many of the Zoo's animals. Our Zoo Teens contributed over 3058 hours of time serving as Zoo Ambassadors during the summer season.

Our adult volunteer and intern programs also 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.

New for 2018: The Zoo added a new software program for volunteer management called Volgistics. An iPad was purchased for volunteers to sign in/out for each shift and manage their schedules. Zoo staff will be able to use the software as a communication tool as well as track volunteer hours and run reports. This customized digital volunteer system will take the Zoo's volunteer program to the next level of professionalism and organization.

FUN FACTS: The total number of volunteer hours contributed by Zoo Teens, Interns, Adult Volunteers, Volunteer Groups, Community Service and Special Event Volunteers in 2018 was over 12,848 hours carried out by 1010 people!

Boo at the Zoo alone had a total of 684 volunteers working 1888 hours helping set-up, run the event and clean-up.



One of our interns teaching a group of campers about wildlife

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

2018 Hot Topic: Each year, the Zoo's Conservation Committee selects a local &/or global "hot topic" in which to educate the public. Conservation 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. The hot topic for 2018 was Single Use Plastics: how to avoid their use and how they have a long-term negative affect the environment.



Earth Day Activities

Conservation Events

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

April 14 - Purdue University Midwest Regional Climate Control Change Conference: Zoo staff talked about the impact of climate change on wildlife and how zoos are engaging their visitors to affect change.

April 22 - Earth Day: The Zoo celebrated Earth Day on the opening weekend of the season for 2018. Some activities for Zoo visitors included a habitat matching game, animal encounters, a recycling sorting game, and a craft for participants to pledge to follow a conservation initiative at home.

May 18 - Endangered Species Day: Zoo staff honored endangered species and their conservation by offering crafts and activities free to the public. Attendees were able to participate in an endangered species survival game, make a giraffe finger puppet, and create a paper "snake chain" as a pledge to take action and help save endangered species. Participants were also able to partake in a Bon Voyage party for Boxie, the Galapagos tortoise who was transferred to another facility to be housed with other Galaps of her sub-species. Approximately 50 individuals took part in the festivities.



Boxie the Galapagos tortoise enjoying her going away treats

June 22 - World Oceans Day: This annual event is a visitor favorite, and had an estimated 150 people in attendance. Educators set up stations around the Zoo to illustrate the importance of our oceans and ways we can help at home to keep them healthy. Staff incorporated the Single Use Plastics hot topic heavily throughout activities to raise awareness of how to reduce use and avoid items eventually ending up in our world's oceans.

Month of July - Plastic Free July was a joint initiative of the Conservation Committee and the Education Department that featured weekly goals for

Zoo staff and volunteers to reduce their personal consumption of single-use plastic items.

Zoo Conservation Contributions:

The Zoo collected conservation donations from the public for the third year in the Zoo Gift Shop on behalf of the IUCN organization (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources). The IUCN provides organizations with the knowledge and tools to enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together. The generous donations of the public allowed us to contribute a total amount of \$5121.12 towards this global conservation effort, specifically gibbon conservation!

GIFT SHOP & AMUSEMENT RIDES

The Zoo Gift Shop and Columbian Park Express train operated daily during the Zoo's open season from April 21st through October 13th. Wild Tykes Kiddie Rides were in operation for a shorter season from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

An upgrade to Comcash Cloud for the Gift Shop's POS was made at the beginning of the season.

Overall gross sales in the Gift Shop for the 2018 season were a total of \$180,340.36. This was an over 7% decrease in sales over the previous year at around \$195,269.

The total revenue for just the train and kiddie rides was \$74,858, an approximately 12% decrease from 2017. Gift Shop staff sold a total of 33,371 train tickets and a total of 875 tickets for the Wild Tykes Kiddie rides, consisting of the Helicopter ride, Horse & Buggy Ride and the Boat ride. Overall, 34,246 riders rode the train and kiddie rides in 2018, a 23% decrease from 2017.



ANIMAL COLLECTION

A variety of new animals joined the Zoo's collection in 2018. Nineteen baby Nigerian dwarf goats were born during the month of May. Many of these babies were then placed with appropriate owners locally in the fall. Ten little domestic chickens were hatched by our resident chickens out on Zoo grounds, and they provided great entertainment for the Zoo patrons over the summer. A Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, "Rosie" also joined the rest of the animals in the Family Farm.

Over 25 marine fish and corals were added to the Zoo's marine tank in the DeFouw Education Center lobby, enhancing the overall look and health of the tank. Several animals were also added to the Zoo's Education Ambassador collection: 2 black-tailed prairie dogs, 2 degu, some small snakes, a laughing kookaburra named, "Alice Kooker", and two domestic rabbits, "Carrots" and "Obi Bun Kenobi".

A total of eight prairie dogs were donated to the Zoo by the Little Rock Zoo to go in the outside Americas exhibit. In addition, two young female Galapagos tortoises, "Daphne" and "Baltra" were loaned by the Gladys Porter Zoo in Texas. These girls took the place of "Boxie", the Galapagos tortoise that was transferred to be with other animals from her sub-species.

The two original Eastern hellbenders received from Purdue University were transferred to another zoo for breeding opportunities. We received two 2.5

year old hellbenders in their place to raise until they are ready for release back into the wild.

We lost several additional Zoo residents in 2018 due to health issues or placement elsewhere: "Soolai", an African gray parrot and a favorite Education Ambassador, died in January of 2018. In May, one of the Zoo's long-time beloved residents, "Zeke" the white-handed gibbon, succumbed to cancer. He was approximately 50 years old and was a staff favorite. Other animals no longer at the Zoo are the following: Pierce the North American porcupine, a domestic rabbit, a kinkajou, 2 Bennett's wallabies and a Juliana pig named, "Samson".

FUN FACT: The Zoo purchased a total of 1988 butterfly chrysalides to keep the Butterfly Garden Party Exhibit stocked for the season! The average cost per chrysalis is \$3.82 each, totaling \$7593.58 spent on butterflies for the 2018 season.



Soolai

OTHER ZOO IMPROVEMENTS

Several new additions and improvements were made at the Zoo in 2018:

- Jon's Body Shop donated their services to repaint the tractor outside the Family Farm, which is a visitor favorite!
- Additional electrical outlets were installed in the DeFouw Education Center and the animal house building in March.
- A new metal door was placed on the gibbon summer holding enclosure by Haley's Lock, Safe & Key.
- A new play structure made from recycled plastic was constructed and installed by Caterpillar staff in the Family Farm exhibit lot.
- Countertops and sinks were replaced and re-configured in the Australia/Americas holding building.
- The prairie dog exhibit glass was completely replaced in the fall.
- Two new Active Panels were installed in the DeFouw Education Center classrooms for Education interactive use. This funding was provided by Gary and JoAnn Branson.
- A new laser fiche scanner was purchased for archiving Zoo documents.
- One of the Education Dept. mini-vans received a facelift with a new wrap.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Zoo hosted a new partnership with the Tippecanoe Arts Federation (TAF) in the fall. TAF was able to utilize the DeFouw Education Center classrooms for weekly classes in a series focused on animal art.

Several high school students from Lafayette's Sister City, Ota, Japan made a visit to the Zoo on August 9th. They were hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and participated in a goodwill tour at the Zoo with the Zoo's Education staff during their visit.

Purdue student Shannon Flannigan submitted a service learning grant on behalf of the Zoo in the amount of \$655. This money was used specifically to construct creative enrichments for the Zoo's resident gibbons.

The Zoo entered into a partnership for a second year with a local business, Buckles Feed Depot & Pet Supply to host a holiday enrichment drive benefiting 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.



During the months of October and November, the Zoo hosted students from the Greater Lafayette Art Museum's "Pets and Portraits" class. Participating children came to the Zoo once weekly to develop their artistic skills at the DeFouw Education Center.

The Columbian Park Zoo continued to participate in the Hellbender Conservation project in partnership with Purdue University, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Mesker Park Zoo and the Indianapolis Zoo. The Help the Hellbender initiative continues to grow, with several more organizations participating at the spring partner meeting: the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and O'Bannon Woods State Park.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The 16th annual Zoo Run 5K Run/Walk held on July 21st was again a success with 588 runners registered and 534 actual participants. Net profit for this Parks Foundation-sponsored event was around \$7500.

Boo at the Zoo 2018 took place on October 24-26 from 6:30-9:00 PM. Unfortunately, due to weather conditions, the Friday night event was cancelled. Many families still enjoyed the multitude of games, activities, rides and live entertainment. Some of the entertainment included the Purdue's Drumlins, Big Bass Drum and Auxiliaries, magicians, balloon artists and face painters. New for 2018: Two large inflatables were rented from Big Bounce Inflatables and were a HUGE hit with all ages. There were nearly 2900 attendees participating, with a net profit of around \$18,700.00.

Zoo staff also held a couple of in-house workshops for staff and volunteers to come together to build new and exciting enrichment items for the animal collection. These sessions took place on January 26 and September 19.

The Lafayette Parks Foundation received the following monetary contributions through event sponsorships, totaling \$10,500:

- \$5000: Tempest Homes
- \$1000+: Tri Kappa
- \$750: SIA
- \$500+: 2 donors
- \$200+: 11 donors

Many In-kind donations and services were also provided to assist with special events, a value totaling \$23,685:

- \$1000+: Albanese Candy, Azzip Pizza, Chuck E. Cheese's, Freckles Graphics, Journal & Courier, Lafayette Aviators, the National Group, Texas Roadhouse, WASK Radio Group, and Zachary Confections
- \$500: 9 contributors
- \$200+: 8 contributors

McAllister Recreation Center

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

The McAllister center offers a number of diverse programs for all ages. Youth and adults are afforded the opportunity to participate in programs such as: basketball, volleyball, flag football, day camp programs, Sporties for Shorties series, yoga, Zumba, 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.

CAMPS

Children who attend any one of the four camps at McAllister Recreation Center are given opportunities to improve their self-esteem, as well as their social and motor skills. They are given a unique opportunity to have an enjoyable and rewarding experience in a fun and safe environment. Participants enjoy a wide range of activities including games, crafts, enrichment activities, field trips, swimming, social interaction, guest speakers and demonstrations, and song and dance, just to name a few.

Spring Break Camp

Spring Break Camp was held from March 26-30 and had 45 registrations. An average of 39 kids per day at camp attended, which is a decrease 8 participants from last year. The campers went on

FITNESS PROGRAMMING

McAllister's free weights, machine weights and cardio equipment were used in abundance. In 2018, there were 2881 daily fitness passes, 31 monthly passes (4 down from our total in 2017), 1 six month pass (same as 2017) and 3 yearly passes (1 up from 2017) sold in 2018. A total of 10 youth passes were sold in 2018. In all, \$19,174.65 was generated through weight and fitness revenue, an increase of \$1829.65.

In addition to the paid fitness passes, the Center provides the opportunity for city employees and their families to use the fitness areas at no cost. Fitness On Demand classes can also be scheduled in a private workout room. In 2018 a total of 2221 employees and their families took advantage of the fitness areas. This was 851 less people than last year. The McAllister Center also played host to the City sponsored Wellness fair which included flu shots.

one field trip to Children's Museum in Indianapolis. We took 43 kids and 7 counselors on an Imperial bus and toured for about 3 hours. Throughout the other days, the kids played outside, gym games, played board games, read and had arts and crafts.

Summer Camp

Summertime 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. Staff members kept a record of enrollment numbers for individual age groups in order to make sure each week was at capacity. Keeping accurate and current record of weekly enrollment allowed us to enroll 10,254 kids throughout various weeks this summer, which was 658 more than last year. This small change in strategy allowed us to keep our numbers consistent throughout the summer which helped us surpass revenue goal. Due to the increase last year in registrations, 35 counselors were hired. We



added and addition position of Head Counselor to help with experience and knowledge throughout the Summer Camp program.

Once again the Purdue Women in Engineering held exciting and educational programming for the summer camp. Some of the field trips enjoyed by campers in 2018 included community park visits, two movie theater trips to see Incredible 2 and Christopher Robin, a trip to Arni's where the kids could create their own pizzas, and bowling at Market Square Lanes. The campers went swimming twice a week, once to Vinton Pool and the other to Tropicanoe Cove. 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 that included 2 obstacle courses and a football toss, 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 21 returning counselors from 2017 and hired 36 total counselors, including 2 who were previous Junior Counselors. This familiarity allows staff, parents and campers a smooth transition from summer to summer. There were 56 operational day of Summer Camp, with an average daily attendance of 183 children and 82,032 total participation hours. This year McAllister Recreation Center was able to grant 141 weeks of camp assistance to families in need for a total of \$7,550.00.

Junior Counselor Program

2018 was the ninth year the McAllister Center has offered a Junior Counselor Program for ages 13-15. There are two main objectives to the program. The first objective is for the Junior Counselors to gain experience applying, gathering references and interviewing for a real job. The second is to teach the participants the processes and responsibilities

of being a camp counselor. These youth worked with our summer counseling staff assisting in all aspects of the summer camp and were required to work at least 8 of the 12 weeks of camp. Each Junior Counselors had an opportunity to participate in Volunteering for the West Minster Village in West Lafayette. This gives them experience in other job settings. Twenty (20) teens participated in 2018 (11 returners, 8 new). At the end of each summer, the Junior Counselors are rewarded with a field trip. In 2018, they took a trip to Indianapolis where they went to Castleton Mall for Shopping, Dave and Busters for lunch and games, tour of Lucas Oil Stadium and finally to an Indians Baseball game to end the night.

Fall Break Camp

Fall Break Camp was held on October 22-26, 29 to accommodate both LSC and TSC Fall Breaks. There were a total of 41 registrants with a daily attendance average of 20 kids. Campers got to go see Goosebumps 2 at Wabash Landing 9. The weather was pretty chilly, so we spent most of the week indoors playing fall games and making fall themed crafts.

Holiday Camp

Holiday Camp was held December 26-28, 31, January 2-4, 7 for a total of eight days. There were a total of 66 registrations and with an average of 30.8 campers per day. Campers went on two major excursions. One trip was to the movies to see Ralph Breaks the Internet and the other to Market Square Lanes to go bowling. Due to the cold weather, campers stayed inside for all of camp as temperatures were negatives most days.

**In total, camps grossed \$255,220.24 in revenue in 2018.



PROGRAMS

Youth Basketball

Winter – January 20-March 17

The youth basketball program goals are to provide all participants with the basic fundamental of the sport and a sense of what it means to be part of a team. This program is offered for boys and girls age 6-11. The winter youth basketball program had a total of 179 participants split into 18 teams. The program numbers were once again at the maximum for the number of children participating. There are two age groups (6-8 year olds and 9-11 year olds). Teams are coached by parent volunteers who hold practice once a week and play their games on Saturdays. We had over 60 volunteers who either coached or operated the scoreboard during this season for a contribution of 650 hours given. McAllister staff members officiated all of the games.

Adult Volleyball

Winter – January–March

This session saw a slight increase in numbers with eight out of a possible eight teams, in a seven week schedule culminating in a 2 week tournament at the end. The winning team received a championship long sleeve T-shirt with their team name on it and the color of their choice. The ‘Setsy and We Know It’ won the winter championship.

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 players who were signed up played in the 8-9 year old league. In 2018 we had 11 parent volunteer coaches. 6 different Jefferson High School football players served as volunteer officials at the games. In all, volunteers contributed 204 hours for the youth flag football program. There were 60 Participants in the flag football

program. Games were held at Edgelea Elementary School.

Youth Basketball

Fall - October 20-December 15

The youth basketball program goals are the same as the winter, to provide the participants with basic fundamental of the sport and a sense of what it means to be part of a team. The fall youth basketball program had a slight decline in numbers with a total of 137 participants with 14 teams. There were two age groups (6-8 year olds and 9-11 year olds). Teams were coached by parent volunteers who held practice once a week and played their games on Saturdays. We had 36 volunteers who either coached or operated the scoreboard during this season for a contribution of 576 hours given. McAllister staff members officiated all of the games.

Adult Volleyball

Fall – October–December

The fall session was a big loss. With the Northend Community Center opening up, the Faith volleyball leagues now run year round. Which has made for some of our regular teams to stay with Faith year round instead of coming to our facility during their league’s down time.



Sporties for Shorties - Basketball

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 to them through fun and exciting drills. The program ends with the participants receiving their first team jersey, Trophy and participating in their first live game! There were 25 total participants in 2018, same as the previous year.

Sporties for Shorties - T-Ball

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 baseball to them through fun and exciting drills. The program ends with the participants receiving their first team jersey and participating in their first live game! There were 21 total participants in 2018, three down from the previous year.

Sporties for Shorties Soccer

The McAllister Center offered children ages 4 and 5 an opportunity to familiarize themselves with sports through the Sporties for Shorties program. The program was designed to patiently introduce the basic fundamentals of soccer to them through fun and exciting drills. The program ends with the participants receiving their first team jersey and participating in their first live game! There were 11 total participants in 2018, five down from the previous year.

Sporties for Shorties Flag Football

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 football to them through fun and exciting drills. The program ends with the participants receiving their first team jersey and participating in their first live game! There were 15 total participants in 2018, one up from the previous year.

RENTALS

This year, the McAllister Recreation Center continued ongoing rentals:

Safe Choices is an Alcohol and Drug Education Course in Lafayette. Since January 2016 Safe Choices has been renting Rooms 103 & 104 from us for an entire weekend once a month and will continue to do so into 2019.

Hoosier Academy is a tuition-free, statewide public charter school that uses the k12 online curriculum. Hoosier Academies offers two types of programs: blended learning and virtual. In February 2016, Hoosier Academy began renting rooms to administer ISTEP testing. They rent anywhere from 2-5 rooms per session and have around 4 sessions per year at McAllister. In 2018, they rented 2-5 room for 4 sessions. They have already secured more rental space for 2019.

Tippecanoe Lacrosse Association is the local lacrosse group that used our field out back from April-May for practices from 5:30-7:30 p.m. They plan to rent the same space for the 2019 spring as well.

West Active is a local dance company that has been renting rooms from McAllister for years. Jamie West continued to do so in 2018, renting from January-May and August-December on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4-7pm. She will continue to rent in 2019 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the same months.

Amalgamated Transit Union (City Bus) rented a room the first Tuesday of every month during 2018.

More-Than-More is a group who meets biweekly to discuss community events.

SPECIAL EVENTS

McAllister held its inaugural Father Daughter Dance on February 17, 2018. Out of 99 Registrations, 89 showed up for the event. Epicenter Entertainment was the DJ for the event, Enchanted Evening Carriage Company gave horse drawn carriage rides around McAllister Center, and Ed Lausch of Lausch Photographer took professional photos of all the couples. All girls received gift bags upon arrival.



Father Daughter Dance

The McAllister Spring Celebration was held on Saturday, April 7 from 11:00am–3:00pm. After last year's success of hosting the "Spring Celebration" we hoped it would be another Fantastic turn out. Unfortunately the weather made us move the event inside. We hosted over 350 people for egg hunts, face painting, balloon animals, blow-up obstacle course, games and prizes! They also got to say hello to Lafayette's Mayor Tony Roswarski and Dare Officer John Townsend. L Kora was on site to sell food to participants. A DJ from Epic Center Entertainment was on site to play music, make announcements and give out prizes! The Spring Celebration had 6 total Sponsors (MedExpress \$500, Meijer \$100, Target \$100, Arni's \$100, Schrecken-



Spring Celebration

gast Reality Group \$100, and Walmart \$25). These Sponsors helped keep the cost down for this FREE event. Also 22 Volunteers from different organizations at Purdue University help at this event.

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 that live in heavily populated urban areas 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 for people to go fish. Anyone 17 and under can fish at the designated site (Armstrong Park in 2018) without a license on this day. In addition to the free fishing day, McAllister, along with the DNR, held a Family Learn to Fish Workshop at the Armstrong Park on May 19, 2018. Twenty-seven people signed up and were ready for the event, 3 more than last year.



Kids' Fishing Day

In June, the McAllister Center partnered with volunteers from the Lafayette Breakfast Optimist Club and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to host the Kid's Fishing Day at Munger Park. Children of all ages were able to go to Munger Park and test their angler skills. This year approximately 84 kids and adults participated in the event, which is significantly higher than last year's numbers of 24. 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 21st annual Summer Community Bowling was held during the months of June and July from noon to 3 at Market Square Lanes, Mustang Alley and Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl. In all, over 650 games were played and approximately 300 children bowled during the 6 days the program was held.

McAllister held an annual drop and shop program on Friday, December 14. 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. 19 children attended the program in 2018.

Donuts with Santa 2018 marked the second year of this Program. This family-friendly event was hosted on Saturday, December 15 from 9-11AM for children to come and eat donuts, make crafts, play games and get a picture with Santa. There was a fee of \$5 per family. A total of 72 families attended the event, 218 people signing up in person and 37 signing up online. Flour Mill Bakery and Cafe provided 29 dozen donuts at 30% off. Dave and Tammy Mecklenberg were generous enough to play the part of Santa and Mrs. Claus and Ed Lausch, of Lausch photography, took photos at the event and provided one free photo per family. McCutcheon Volunteer Club had 29 students come and help decorate for this event. And Another 8 Volunteers signing up to via the United Way Volunteer portal.



STAFF CHANGES

During the summer of 2018, McAllister hired a new seasonal position "Marketing Assistant" to help with social media, flyers, etc. throughout the summer. Niall Thuennes was the second incumbent of this. We intend to hire seasonal administrative assistant for the summer of 2019.

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 2018, approximately 176 individuals volunteered as coaches, referees, scoreboard operators, guest speaker, program facilitators, and educators. In total, 1,653 volunteer hours were gifted to the McAllister Recreation Center and its programs. The Staff at the McAllister Recreation Center appreciates each of the volunteer's dedication and contribution.

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2018 the McAllister Recreation Center was fortunate to receive several grants for the Parks Department Kid's Can Fund. These grants, a total of \$10,000.00 dollars, were granted to the McAllister Center from a number of organizations to help assist customer offset the cost of camps and programs. Community leaders such as the Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation 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 141 weeks for summer camp were provided with these funds for a total amount of \$7,550.00. The Lafayette Breakfast Optimist Club purchased Cane Fishing Poles for the Kids Fishing day. Spring Celebration had 6 different Sponsors for a total of \$925. Flour Mill Bakery and Café gave a 30% discount on Donuts for our Donuts with Santa Event.

Marketing

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation marketing team provides the following support for the 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
- Organized special events, secured entertainment, vendors, and logistics



Facebook Fans as of 12/31/18:

- Art in the Park 2,614 fans (increase of 339 since January 2018)
- Columbian Park Zoo 12,419 fans (increase of 996 since January 2018)
- Parks and Recreation 5,812 fans (increase of 940 since January 2018)



Twitter Followers as of 12/31/18:

- Art in the Park 596 followers (increase of 52 since January 2018)
- Columbian Park Zoo 1,442 followers (increase of 187 since January 2018)
- Parks and Recreation 3,630 followers (increase of 159 since January 2018)



Instagram Followers as of 12/31/18:

- Art in the Park 806 followers (increase of 210 since January 2018)
- Columbian Park Zoo 1,329 followers (increase of 107 since January 2018)
- McAllister Recreation Center 390 followers (increase of 148 since January 2018)
- Parks and Recreation 993 followers (increase of 437 since January 2018)



Mayor Roswarski speaking at the dedication ceremony for the pickleball courts in September

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The annual “Fun Guide” was printed by Haywood Printing Company and distributed beginning in February.

The City’s website was continuously updated during the course of the year to ensure that correct information was always available to our citizens.



Art in the Park

ART IN THE PARK

For the fifth year in a row, the Department held the Art in the Park summer festival series. Art in the Park took place on the following dates: June 5, June 26, July 17 and August 7. The June and July dates were held from 6:00-9:00 pm in Columbian Park on Memorial Island and the August event was held from 6:00-9:00 pm at Armstrong 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 5: Decades Night (Epicenter Entertainment provided DJ services for the event, playing music from a variety of decades)
- June 26: Wild West Night (featured local country artist Scott Greeson)
- July 17: Latin Night (featured local Latin band Clave Caribe)
- August 6: Carnival Day (featured the Cincinnati Circus Company)

We averaged over 700 people per event.

MEDIA COVERAGE

WLFI News Channel 18 continued to be a strong supporter of the Lafayette Parks Department. TV-18 covered special events and stories as well as visited Parks Department ribbon cuttings, construction projects and Parks Board meetings. Star City Broadcasting was present at many Parks events as well.

Big stories included the following:

- Bond announcement and projects being funded
- New water slides coming to Tropicanae Cove
- Opening of new pickleball facility at McCaw Park
- Little Free Libraries

The Department continued its relationship with Neuhoff Media/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." Neuhoff also served as radio sponsor for both the Zoo Run and Boo at the Zoo in 2018.

SALES AND RENTALS

In 2018, over 933 groups rented park facilities for events such as picnics, weddings, receptions and family reunions.

The breakdown for rentals in 2018 is as follows:

- 623 shelter reservations
- 89 five-hour Rush Pavilion rentals
- 8 full-day Rush Pavilion rentals
- 84 five-hour Jenks' Rest rentals
- 7 full-day Jenks' Rest rentals
- 8 five-hour Clubhouse rentals
- 0 full-day Clubhouse rentals
- 18 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).

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

Parks Foundation

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

The Parks Foundation received the following major contributions during 2018:

- \$75,000 from Crosser Family Foundation for Crosser Sports Complex
- \$500 from National Christian Foundation for the Columbian Park Zoo
- \$500 from MedExpress Urgent Care for the McAllister Recreation Center Spring Celebration
- \$9,570 from Lafayette Daybreak Rotary for Hydration Stations for McCaw Park
- \$200,000 from the Stein Family for the Penguin Exhibit at the Columbian Park Zoo
- \$100.00 from KBS Real Estate LLC for the McAllister Recreation Center Spring Celebration
- \$250 from Fast Eddies Lube & Wash for a Zoo Teen sponsorship at Columbian Park Zoo
- \$500 from Lafayette Noon Optimist for a Zoo Teen sponsorship at Columbian Park Zoo
- \$460,000 from the Spartan Trail Foundation for Crosser Sports Complex and the Columbian Park Zoo
- \$5,000 from Elks Lodge 143 for benches for Memorial Island
- \$1,000 from Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation for McAllister Recreation Center scholarships
- \$1,500 from Kappa Kappa Kappa for Zoo Teen sponsorship at Columbian Park Zoo
- \$1,000 from Southwire for Zoo Teen sponsorship at Columbian Park Zoo
- \$100,000 from Gary & Joanne Branson for Columbian Park Zoo
- \$59,000 from The McAllister Foundation for McAllister Recreation Center playground and McAllister scholarships
- \$500 from Kettelhut for Zoo Run Run sponsorship
- \$750 from SIA for Zoo Run Run sponsorship
- \$250 from Purdue Federal Credit Union for Zoo Run Run sponsorship
- \$300 from Mary Pantaleo for a Tree of Life sponsorship
- \$500 from Maurice Denney for Boo at the Zoo
- \$5,000 from the Scheumann Foundation for Boo at the Zoo
- \$250 from JR Kelly Company for Boo at the Zoo
- \$500 from First Merchants for Boo at the Zoo
- \$250 from Franklin Pests for Boo at the Zoo
- \$300 from Pierce Ferriter for a Tree of Life sponsorship
- \$500 from Old National Bank for Zoo Run Run
- \$250 from Kettelhut for Boo at the Zoo
- \$1,250 from Tippecanoe Arts Federation for Art in the Park
- \$1,000 from Shirley Scott for Columbian Park Zoo
- \$300 from SIA for Boo at the Zoo
- \$17,000 from James K. and Mary Risk Family Trust for Art in the Park and other projects
- \$225 from SIA retire donations
- \$500 from Walmart for Walmart volunteer donations



Artist Rendering of Columbian Park Zoo Penguin Exhibit