



2019 Annual Report



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 2019 Parks and Recreation Board consisted of Dave Mecklenburg, President; Maurie Denney, Vice President; Pat Corey, Secretary; and John Ragan. Staff member Carlynn Smith served as the Board's Recording Secretary. Jacque Chosnek served as Board Attorney for the year.

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

Minutes from each of the 2019 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.



Left to right: Dave Mecklenburg, Pat Corey, Maurie Denney, John Ragan

2019 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Parks Board.....	1
Staff.....	3
Vision.....	4
Facilities.....	6
Administration.....	11
Finance and Funding.....	14
Improvements.....	16
Maintenance.....	19
Safety and Security.....	21
Aquatics.....	22
Columbian Park Zoo.....	24
McAllister Recreation Center...	30
Marketing.....	33
Parks Foundation.....	35

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 Samantha Haville





Staff

Administration

Claudine Laufman.....Superintendent
 Jon Miner.....Director of Operations
 Angie Schultz.....Accounting Manager
 Carlynn Smith.....Marketing and Support Services Assistant
 Samantha Haville.....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
 Joey Donnoe.....Maintenance Tech-Aquatics
 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
 John Terhune.....General Maintenance
 Jason Ludlow.....General Maintenance
 Logan Wolfschlag.....General Maintenance
 Taelen Leill.....General Maintenance
 Tom Hession.....General Maintenance
 Diane Leuck.....General Maintenance
 Addisyn Hicks.....General Maintenance

Safety and Security

Tom Rankin.....Safety and Security Director
 Kurt Wolf.....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

Neil Dale.....Zoo Director
 Caitlin Laffery.....Assistant 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

Vision

In February 2019, 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 2023.

GOALS FOR EXCELLENCE

Human Resources

- A Park Board that provides strong leadership and which fosters cooperation between 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 follows adopted plans.

- A consistent set of policies regarding patron use of park property and a fee 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 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 asset management 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 great customer service, and is supported by citizens through public/private partnerships.
- Beneficial government relations through coordination and collaboration with other park departments, other local government agencies, school corporations, and Purdue University in order to reduce duplication of facilities and programs, better coordinate the provision of infrastructure and to share resources, including staff expertise.

Physical Resources and Services

- System-wide improvements that create an inviting, healthy family atmosphere at all parks.
- A well-maintained Columbian Park whose facilities and services are responsive to citizen needs and interests.
- An improved Zoo with a mission to encourage the appreciation of the world's wildlife, to enhance the preservation and conservation of biodiversity, and to inspire educational discovery and exploration in a fun, family-oriented environment for all citizens of the Greater Lafayette Area.
- Fully developed Riverfront 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 neighborhood residents.
- An improved McAllister Center with a mission to provide a safe, fun environment for recreational programs and activities; a recreational facility

that serves all citizens and high quality recreational programming that will enhance health and personal enrichment.

- Programs and classes for all ages, but with the greatest emphasis on children and teens, priced to be self-supporting.



Financial Enhancement Group for Volunteering at Columbian Park

Community Needs/Issues

The highest needs and priorities based on input priorities are as follows:

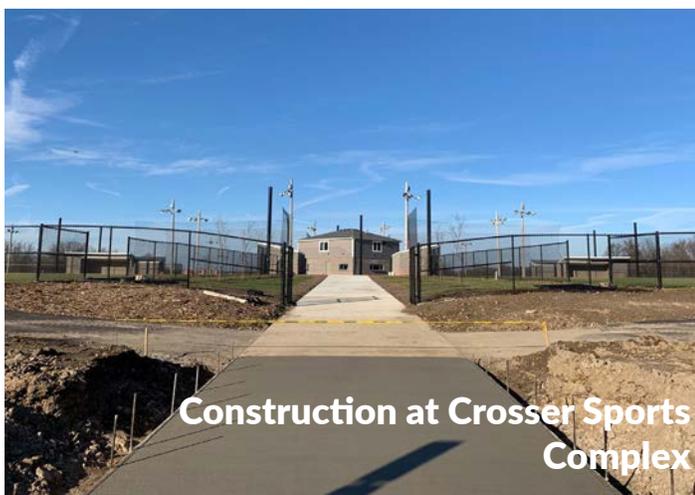
- Loeb Stadium: Completion of construction
- Finish Columbian Park: Zoo, Carousel, Primate and Cats Exhibits, Memorial Island, pedestrian and vehicular circulation
- Tropicanoe Cove: new features and upgrades
- Upgrade playgrounds system wide
- Upgrade tennis and basketball courts system wide
- Land acquisition for future parks on east and south sides
- Special needs playground and playfield
- Trails and trail connections
- Renovations and upgrades to Armstrong and McCaw Parks
- On-going maintenance
- Riverfront development



Artist rendering of Loeb Stadium

Planning and Growth

- A strong commitment to planning that responds to community desires and results in multi-year plans that can be realistically implemented and funded.
- A park system that provides for growth and new facilities commensurate with the growth of the city (including land, facilities, equipment, staff and financial resources).
- A linear park trail system that will connect citizens to every park and the river.



Construction at Crosser Sports Complex

ACTION AND PRIORITY PLAN

2019

1. Loeb Stadium maintenance staff
2. System wide playground replacements
3. Memorial Island
4. Zoo: Carousel, Primates & Cats Exhibits
5. Pedestrian and vehicular circulation
6. Loeb Stadium
7. Zoo: Penguin Exhibit
8. Zoo: Commissary Building
9. Tropicanoe Cove: Mat Racer Slide/Aqua Loop
10. Completion of Crosser Sports Complex

Facilities

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department manages over 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, 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

601 Beck Lane (Along Armstrong Park)

Opened in July of 2003, Castaway Bay features in-

clude 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

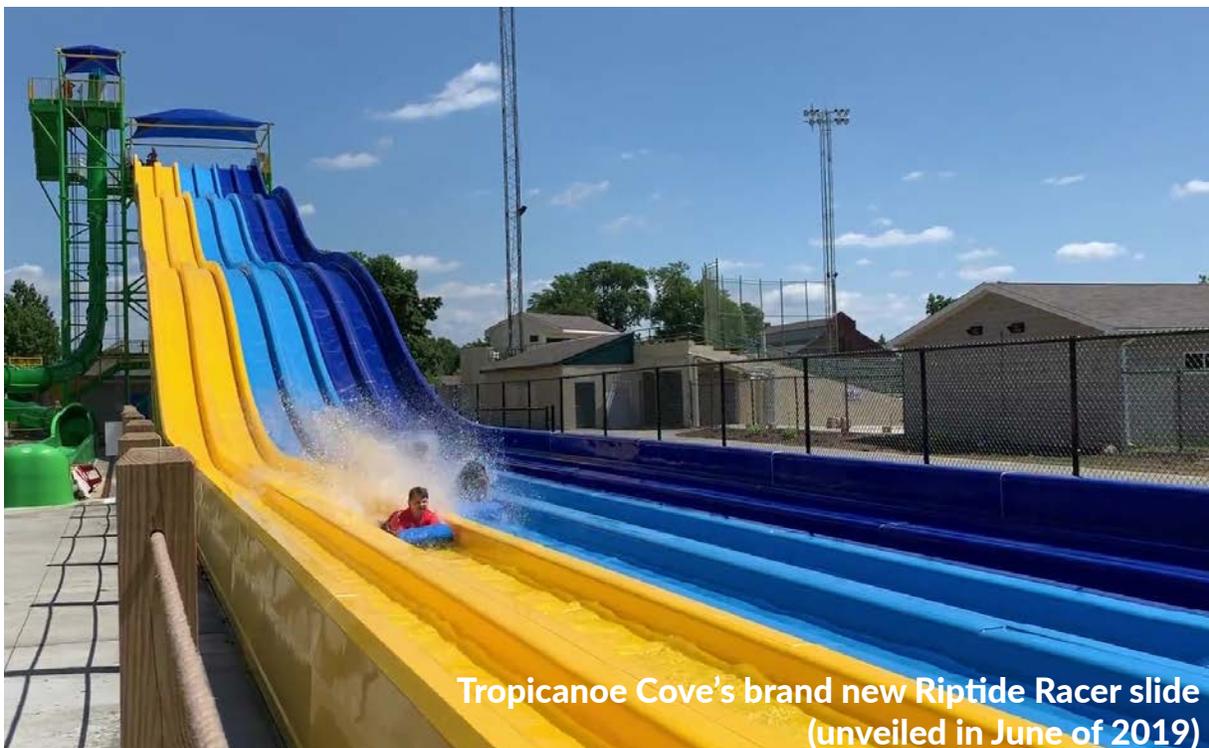
1915 Scott Street (Columbian Park)

Tropicanoe Cove Family Aquatic Center continues the long aquatic tradition in the Park while meeting the leisure needs of today's families. The Cove's features include a large leisure pool with zero-depth entrance, lazy river, water slides, water and sand playgrounds, sand volleyball court, bathhouse, and concession building. In 2019, the Cove debuted two new slides, the Tiki Twist and the Riptide Racer.

Vinton Pool

3111 Prairie Lane

The renovated Vinton Pool serves north-side neighborhoods. Vinton Pool is configured in a Z-shape and features a beach-like entrance with playful water geysers. The pool also has a double splashdown slide and water basketball hoop. Two large 12-foot umbrellas provide shade to visitors on the deck.



Tropicanoe Cove's brand new Riptide Racer slide (unveiled in June of 2019)

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, SIA Playground, Tropicanae Cove Aquatic Facility, Columbian Park Express train ride, and currently undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation, Loeb Stadium.



Columbian Park Zoo was opened in 1908 and currently houses nearly 190 animals, representing over 90 species. The Zoo is still undergoing the implementation of its master plan, which includes the addition of the new Penguin Exhibit, which will be open to the public in the 2020 season.



Loeb Stadium, a 3,500-seat baseball stadium, was built in 1940 and is home field to Lafayette Jefferson High School and the American Legion Post-11 League. 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 is being 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 underway and anticipated substantial completion of the new stadium is early 2021.

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.



Columbian Park also features a restored miniature train and train depot. In 2020, construction will begin on a new carousel and surrounding carousel building. The ride is expected to be completed in late summer 2020.

Facilities in Columbian Park include Rush Pavilion as well as numerous picnic shelters. Rush Pavilion, which was restored in 1990, was originally built in 1890 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. 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, which has also been completed, included new pedestrian walkways stretching from the parking lot to the middle of the island, new landscaping, and the addition of the Rotary Memorial Plaza, sponsored by The Rotary Club of Lafayette. Phase 3, which will begin in 2020, includes a new amphitheater and seating areas with shade structures, sound and electrical improvements, new bridges, and lagoon seawall renovation.

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

Construction began on the new Crosser Sports Complex in fall of 2017. The park includes four lighted softball fields, a press box/concession building, restrooms, paved trail, playground, and parking lot. The complex will be open to the public in spring 2020.

McAllister Recreation Center

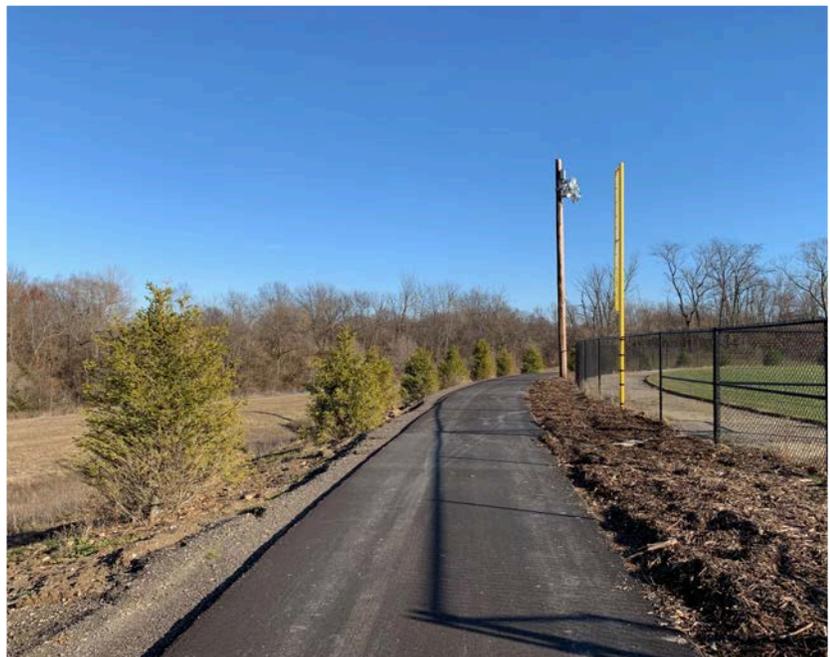
2351 N. 20th Street, 7 acres

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. In 2019, construction began on a brand new playground.

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 largest outdoor pickleball facility in the state of Indiana. Future plans include surfaced trails and woodland restoration.



A paved trail surrounds the new Crosser Sports Complex

Munger Park

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

This 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, a concession building (known as Katy's Cabin), restrooms, 0.9-mile interpretive trail, 18-hole disc golf course, multi-age playground, sledding hill (with snow machine), and a lighted basketball court. Katy's Cabin holds a concession stand for sledders, as well as tube rentals. Future plans include a new master plan for park and amenity enhancements.



Katy's Cabin at Murdock Park

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, basketball courts, 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 neighborhoods and total more than 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. In 2020, Linnwood Park will see major renovations, including all new playground equipment.

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. South Tipp Park features a multi-age playground, 1/2 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, a 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 18-mile trail travels along the Wabash River and Burnett's Creek. Thanks to a \$50,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation, a roughly 1,000 ft. unpaved portion of the trail will be paved in spring of 2020. 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.

Lyboubt Sports Park

Canal Road

52 acres

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

McAllister Park

North 9th Street

350 acres

This park was built in 1971 and is the former home to the Lafayette Golf Course. McAllister Park contains plenty of open green space, a model airplane strip, two disc golf courses, and a portion of the Wabash Heritage Trail. A bike path along North 9th Street connects the city to the park. McAllister Park is named in recognition of the many generous contributions made by A.J. and Dorothy McAllister to the Lafayette Parks 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 and Jon Miner has served as the Director of Operations for Lafayette Parks and Recreation. 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 composed of the following divisions: Administrative Services, Park Operations, Aquatics, Columbian Park Zoo, and McAllister Recreation Center. During 2019, there were 39 full-time positions, 11 part-time and temporary, and approximately 230 seasonal employees.

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 2019	
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"> • Addisyn Hicks was hired as General Maintenance-Construction in January • Mike Heinz resigned in February • Kelly Greene resigned in February • Jason Spencer resigned in March • Joey Donnoe was promoted to Maintenance Tech-Aquatics in April • John Terhune was hired as General Maintenance-Custodian in April • Jason Ludlow was hired as General Maintenance-Grounds in April • Adam Hobson was hired as General Maintenance-Grounds in April and transferred to Street in July • Jonathan Ford was hired for General Maintenance-Grounds in May and resigned in December • Mick Siemers was hired for General Maintenance-Grounds in September and resigned in October • Taelen Leill transferred from Landscape to Mowing 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)
- 95 Pool lifeguards
- 11 Cash Office personnel
- 25 Concessions workers
- 11 Pool grounds employees

Administrative Services

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

Administrative Services in 2019	
Managers	Angie Schultz (Accounting Manager) Samantha Haville (Marketing Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsey Huffman resigned in June • Samantha Haville was hired as Marketing Manager in November

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 2019	
Managers	Chad Aldridge (Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Crumley resigned in December

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 2019	
Managers	Neil Dale (Zoo Director)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dana Rhodes served as the Interim Director in January and early February • Neil Dale was hired as Zoo Director in February • Caitlin Laffery was hired as Assistant Zoo Director in December

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 2019 include:

- American Red Cross
- Community Appearance Task Force
- Community and Family Resource Center
- Downtown Business Center
- Friends of Downtown
- Greater Lafayette Commerce
- Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette
- Greater Lafayette Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Hanna Community Center
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division and Outdoor Recreation Division

- Indiana Urban Forest Council
- Lafayette Adult Resource Academy
- Lafayette Colt Tournaments
- Lafayette School Corporation
- Tree Lafayette
- Lafayette Parks Foundation
- Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association
- Lafayette Volunteer Bureau
- Leadership Lafayette
- Lyn Treece Boys and Girls Club
- Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners
- Purdue University
- Tippecanoe County Health Department
- Tippecanoe County Historical Association
- Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation
- Tippecanoe County Public Library
- Wabash Center
- Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
- West Lafayette Parks and Recreation

The Department maintains reciprocal agreements with Lafayette School Corporation 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 2019-2023 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, online 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 2019-2023 Master Plan was created by reevaluating the goals which were identified in the 2014-2018 Master Plan 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 2019-2023 Master Plan includes an assessment

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.

of the current state of the Board and Department and a review of the history of the past five years. It also includes an evaluation of the actions and accomplishments since the last five year plan was adopted. The 2019-2023 Master Plan was adopted by the Park Board on February 11, 2019.

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 2019 for programs and services:

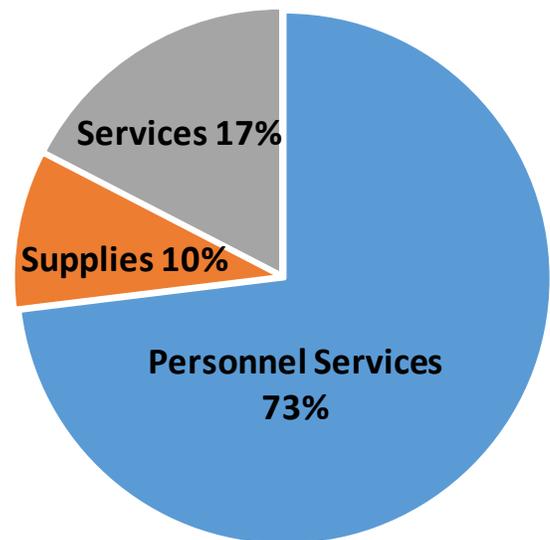
Aquatics	\$509,531.52
Rides	\$73,135.94
Concessions	\$154,658.70
Rentals	\$84,639.00
Zoo	\$222,017.49
McAllister	\$323,793.07
TOTAL	\$1,367,775.72



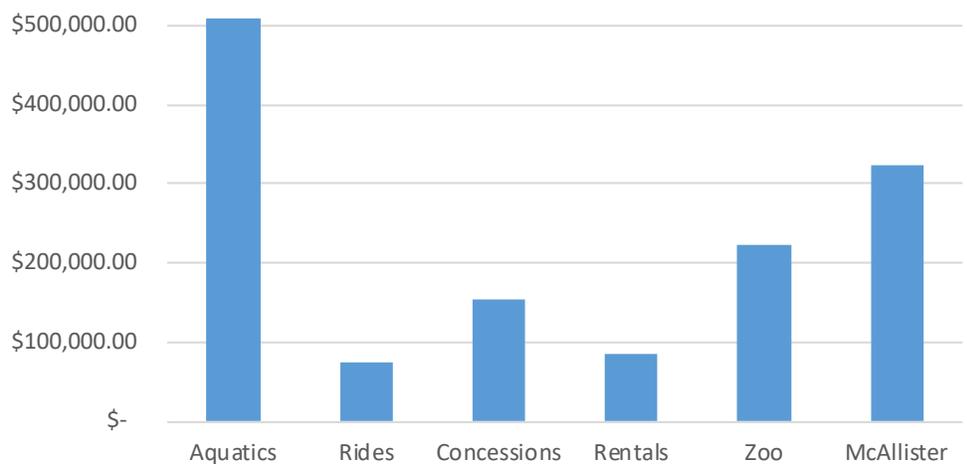
GENERAL FUND BUDGET

The 2019 annual general fund appropriation was \$4,598,800

Category	Amount
Personnel Services	\$3,359,900
Supplies	\$438,500
Services	\$800,400
TOTAL	\$4,598,800



2019 Program Revenue



SPONSORSHIPS AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Sponsorships and corporate partnership opportunities in 2019 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 twentieth summer in 2019. 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
- Payless Supermarkets
- Arni's
- McAllister Foundation
- Market Square Lanes
- Mike Alby's Arrowhead Bowl
- Hoosier Academies
- I.U. Health
- Duke Energy
- Voiture 40/8
- Dave and Tammy Mecklenberg
- Meijer
- Safe Choices
- Walmart
- Target
- Lausch Photography
- Visit Lafayette/West Lafayette Visitors Bureau
- Epicenter Entertainment
- Kona Ice
- Wabash Landing 9
- Big Bounce Company
- Mustang Alley
- Landmark Lanes
- McCutcheon Volunteer Club
- Target
- Sheepdog Coffee Company
- Roasted Toasted Baked
- Playback DJ & Audio LLC
- Civic Theater
- Fife & Drum Core



Summer campers make pizza at Arni's

Improvements

The following improvements were made in the Lafayette Park system during 2019:

ARMSTRONG PARK

- Installed memorial bench
- Installed (5) trees in plaza
- Removed invasive plant species
- Installed limestone pad under swing



Five trees were planted in the plaza at Armstrong Park

CASTAWAY BAY

- Replaced all signage
- Painted sand filters
- Completed pool repairs

CENTRAL MAINTENANCE:

- Organized shops
- Built new shelving unit in landscape bay and work table in mowing bay
- Revamped benches in front of office

COLUMBIAN PARK

- Replaced several playground pieces: Side-by-Side slide, Typhoon slide, ladder assembly, Big-

go swings, lookout panel, trolleys on teen cluster, Sky carousel

- Removed monument rock in triangle (discovered time capsule from 1930's)
- Aided in the demolition of Loeb Stadium and salvaged equipment
- Installed memorial benches in Tropicane Cove and Memorial Island
- Added new landscape beds around lagoon sidewalk ramp and steps near Jenks Rest
- Installed (2) sweetgum trees as part of Tree of Life Program
- Installed new changing tables in outer park restrooms
- Replaced nearly 50 railroad ties along train tracks

COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO

- Painted restrooms
- Leveled brick pavers
- Painted Zoo Director office

CROSSER SPORTS COMPLEX

- Installed wall-mounted bottle filler fountain (pedestal bottle filler to be installed in Spring 2020) donated by The Rotary Club of Lafayette Daybreak with assistance from SIA Foundation, Inc.
- Installed new playground and fibar playground surfacing
- Installed main park sign with block base
- Completed grading/seeding
- Planted (85) trees for Arbor Day
- Installed bleachers
- Installed irrigation system
- Completed (4) fields and concession building
- Installed (13) trees along the main field entrance and between other fields
- Installed 12' wide asphalt trail around perimeter of softball fields
- Installed (12) donated saplings on north side of fields



Crews continued working on Crosser Sports Complex, which will be dedicated in spring 2020

HANNA PARK

- Replaced top section of playground spinner bowl

LINNWOOD PARK

- Re-roofed shelter
- Installed drinking fountain

LYBOULT SPORTS PARK

- Repainted horseshoe scoreboards
- Painted
- Replaced drinking fountain

McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER

- Installed new flooring in restrooms
- Landscaped new areas and installed pollinator garden sign
- Demolished old playground
- Started 8,600 sq. ft playground installation in December and continuing into 2020



Construction began on the new McAllister Recreation Center Playground

McALLISTER PARK

- Installed second disc golf course
- Received Duke Grant (\$50,000) to install asphalt trail section of Wabash Heritage Trail in 2020

McCAW PARK

- Installed field drainage tile
- Repaired fence
- Installed (4) trees in parking lot islands, (1) by concession stand
- Renovated landscape bed by restroom building

MUNGER PARK

- Installed memorial bench
- Added extra heaters to bathrooms
- Installed (2) trees along trail

MURDOCK PARK

- Demolished softball field for City Water Works Department 3 million gallon tank for booster station
- Pressure washed "Cardinal Court" basketball court
- Removed invasive plant species
- Installed black gum tree as part of Tree of Life Program

SHAMROCK PARK

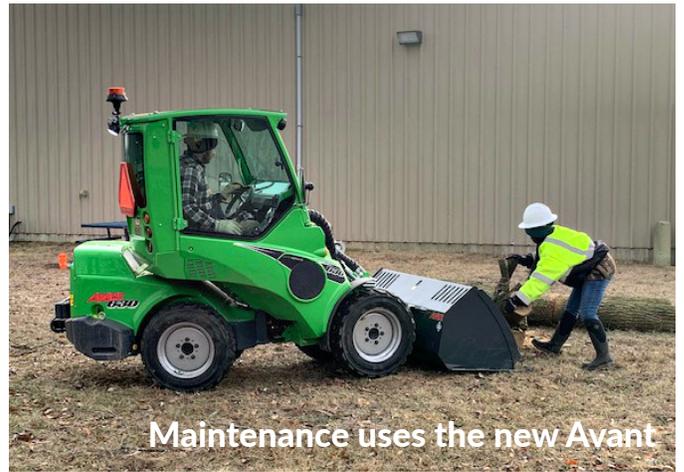
- Installed new bottle filler/dog waterer
- Installed memorial bench
- Installed bulletin board kiosk by roller hockey court

TROPICANOE COVE

- Added and painted new concession window
- Removed and replaced partitions and fixtures for flooring installation in family restrooms and changing areas
- Installed new Tiki Twist and Riptide Racer slides
- Painted original slides & water feature
- Updated irrigation system
- Rebuilt turbines
- Purchased new chairs
- Replaced storm-damaged funbrella and pathway light
- Painted Lazy River
- Installed new changing tables
- Painted sand filters
- Completed new landscaping including patron barriers around Tiki Twist, Riptide Racer, lazy river, Mechanical Room and pump house

VINTON NEIGHBORHOOD POOL

- Installed new ladder
- Installed new LED lights in bathroom and pump house



- Painted pool

OTHER PROJECTS

In addition to the improvements listed above, the Maintenance Division also:

- Cleaned, painted, and assessed all park signage
- Continue working on stump removal throughout the City of Lafayette
- Maintained City of Lafayette land contract
- Maintained weed control for downtown area
- Removed 36 dead or storm damaged trees in all parks and along trails



Guests lined up to try out the new Tiki Twist Slide at Tropicanoe Cove

Maintenance

Maintenance services are provided to all parks and facilities utilizing park staff and contracted services. Lafayette Parks maintains over 700 acres (not including the golf course), comprising areas such as:

- 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)
- 28 miles of paved trails
- 18 parking lots
- 15 playgrounds
- Nearly 1 mile of fence

Services include turf management, sports field maintenance, playground installation and maintenance, custodial services and trash collection, tree maintenance, snow removal, trail maintenance, landscape and plant bed maintenance, pond maintenance, aquatics maintenance, small equipment and ride maintenance. 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 cooperated with many civic and community groups in 2019, 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, Wabash Disc Golf Club and Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

In 2019, the maintenance area added new equipment including:

- Confined space rescuer, safety harnesses
- Rappelling gear for new slides
- New John Deere mower
- Cargo van for construction crew with built-in shelving units
- Vehicles obtained from other departments (4)
- Gator wrap (flower design)
- 3 wheelbarrows
- 3 echo blowers
- 3 echo string trimmers
- New articulating front end loader machine

CITY LAND

In 2019, Brightview was awarded the maintenance contract for city land. 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.



LITTER-FREE LAFAYETTE

In April 2019, Lafayette Parks & Recreation launched the exciting “Litter-Free Lafayette” campaign through a newly designed Adopt-A-Spot program and brand new Adopt-A-Trail and Sponsor-A-Street programs. These programs allow individuals, groups, and businesses to showcase their civic mindedness as well as contribute to the overall beautification of the Greater Lafayette community.

The maintenance team constructed and installed signs for streets, spots, and trails.

On August 3rd, the Parks Department invited sponsors and adopters to an appreciation event at Loeb Stadium. Promotional materials were distributed.

Sponsors and Adopters at end of 2019:

- Street Sponsors: 13 participants/17 sponsorships
- Spot Adopters: 7 participants/7 spots
- Trail Adopters: 2 participants/2 trails

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 PROGRAM

Two shade trees were donated to the parks in 2018 through the Tree of Life Memorial Program. These trees were planted in the spring of 2019 by the picnic shelters in Columbian Park. A third tree, donated in 2019, was planted by Katy’s Cabin in Murdock Park in late fall of 2019. 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.



Tree of Life Memorial in the Park Administrative Office

VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Volunteers and volunteer groups provide a vital service in helping complete projects in the City of Lafayette. Volunteers primarily assist with landscaping, litter pick-up, clearing of invasive species and/or special projects.

- Groups: 345 volunteers contributed 773.5 hours of work
- Individual: 3 volunteers contributed 102.5 hours of work



Volunteers from Jeff High School’s Class of 1969 work at Munger Park

Safety and Security

The primary objective of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department's Safety and Security Program is to maintain a safe and family friendly environment for all park patrons. 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:

- CPR & First Aid
- Parks Department Rules and Regulations
- Lafayette Municipal Codes and Ordinances
- City of Lafayette Employee Handbook
- Evaluating park equipment for safety
- How to manage patron or employee accidents or injuries
- Directing and assisting in medical emergencies
- Dealing with criminal disturbance situations
- Parks property lock down procedures
- Amber Alert procedures and investigations
- Investigating and locating lost or missing children
- Sex Offender recognition
- Gang activity and gang recognition
- Active shooter training
- Patrol techniques

The Safety and Security team has updated the Lafayette Parks Department Emergency Action Plan and Safety and Security Training Manual. The Safety and Security Team has also updated and streamlined the Incident Report tracking system. This allows the department to track many different safety and security related activities such as missing children, med-

ical calls, and arrests occurring in parks 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 patrols and ensure efficiency. This system will also allow the Safety and Security team to illustrate the issues at each individual park as well as take a look at when issues are taking place over time.

The Safety and Security staff generated 326 Incident Reports in 2019 in response to security related calls. Fifty-three Trespass Warnings were issued with the assistance of the Lafayette Police Department. Of those Warnings issued, 12 resulted in custodial arrests.

In 2019, three part-time Park Security officers left to pursue jobs elsewhere in law enforcement. We gained 3 new officers: Brock Owens and Robert Burnell are full time Purdue students; Capt. Kurt Wolf of the Lafayette Police Department retired after serving 35 years and is now the Assistant Director of the Lafayette Parks Safety and Security team.



The Safety and Security team trains all staff members in CPR

Aquatics



The Aquatics Division includes all the aquatic facilities and concessions in the parks department. The aquatics division consists of approximately 160 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 aquatic patrons and to increase employee retention for future years.

All Aquatics Division employees went through extensive training prior to the beginning of the season. These training sessions focused on all aspects of the aquatic facilities. To better prepare the lifeguard staff, the Department had five certified Lifeguard Instructors (LGI's) on staff for the 2019 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 LGI's also implemented a recertification course for the department's lifeguards. During the course of the season, the LGI's certified and/or recertified 35 lifeguards. In addition, the LGI's helped plan and lead continuing education in-service training sessions throughout the season to ensure that lifeguards are equipped and trained as best as possible.

The LGI's also assisted the McAllister Recreation Center in training and certifying the camp counseling staff in CPR/First Aid/AED prior to summer camp. In 2019, 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 aquatic patrons were met in a timely and friendly manner. As a result of the renewed focus on customer service and training, the Aquatics Division staff performed at a high level throughout the summer.

In 2019, construction was completed on a six-lane Mat Racer slide and an Aqua Loop Body Slide. The newest additions to Tropicanoe Cove opened to the public on June 7, 2019, and were formally dedicated on the 20th anniversary of the opening of Tropicanoe Cove on June 19, 2019. After a public naming contest, the Mat-Racer slide was named the Riptide Racer. The Riptide Racer gives patrons an opportunity to race down the slide at speeds of up to 27 miles per hour. The slide was hugely popular with all age groups in 2019. The Aqua Loop slide, which was named the Tiki Twist, drops guests from a 54 foot high launch tube. Patrons drop through a loop at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour before coming to a rest in a flume at the end of the ride. The Tiki Twist provides thrills for those swimmers who are tall enough and brave enough to ride!

Improvements were made to all three aquatic facilities in 2019. At Tropicanoe Cove, the slide towers of the banana peel slide and toucan chutes were professionally cleaned and painted. Two of the three lazy river pumps and the banana peel slide pump were rebuilt prior to the 2019 season. New flooring was installed in the restrooms at Tropicanoe Cove and additional deck chairs and concession furniture were purchased. At Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool, new deck chairs were purchased and the interior office and bathroom walls were painted.

Tropicanoe Cove

During the 2019 season, Tropicanoe Cove was in operation for 80 days and closed for 5 days due to inclement weather. Attendance in 2019 was record-breaking. The Cove had 82,446 guests, for an average daily attendance of 1,030 persons, both of which were record highs in the 21 year history of Tropicanoe Cove. In 21 seasons, the Cove has now had over 1.4 million guests. The highest attended day in 2019 was Saturday, August 10. Attendance for that day was 2,991 guests. In 2019, 158 Season passes were sold to Tropicanoe Cove.

Temperatures for the 2019 season were slightly lower than the historical average of 84 degrees. Average temperatures for the summer were 83.6 degrees. There were 17 days where the temperature reached at least 90 degrees with a season high of 94 degrees reached on July 10, 19, and 20. Tropicanoe Cove remained dedicated to serving the leisure needs of the community. Non-profit groups took advantage of reduced admission prices avail-

able to them at the facility. Thanks to the Kids Can Scholarship Fund administered by the Lafayette Parks Foundation, 262 passes were handed out to Workrecreation participants.

The water walking program continued in 2019 with two classes being offered in the morning and two classes in the evening. Forty-eight water walking season passes were sold in 2019, and 2,066 people participated in the program.

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

Concessions

In 2019, the Cove Café began making its 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 was the top seller at the Cove Café in 2019, followed by nachos, hot pretzels, fruit smoothies, French fries, pizza, hot dogs, and funnel cake fries.

Each item sold totals:

- Soda Beverages 13,481 sold
- Hot Pretzels 4,815 sold
- Hot Dogs 2,174 sold
- Chicken Strips 551 sold
- Smoothies 2,227 sold
- Pizza 1,232 sold
- French Fries 2,918 sold
- Nachos 2,804 sold
- Funnel Cake Fries 2,462 sold
- Bottled Water 3,492 sold
- Frozen Yogurt 866 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 the 2019 season.

Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool

Total attendance at Castaway Bay was 13,119 for 68 operational days with an average daily attendance of 192.9 (a 7% increase over 2018). Season passes continue to be popular at Castaway Bay with 166 sold during the 2019 season.

Swimming lessons through the Swim America program continued in 2019 with four sessions being offered in the morning and three sessions offered in the evening.

Total attendance at Vinton Pool was 9,691 for 62 operational days with an average daily attendance of 156.3 people. This was the 4th best attended season at Vinton Pool in the last 17 seasons, and the best since 2011.



Columbian Park Zoo

The Columbian Park Zoo's 2019 operating season was April 20 through October 12. Estimated attendance based on the number of people visiting the three walk-through exhibits was slightly increased from 2018 numbers:

- The Wallaby Walkabout: 123,649, up .02% from 123,416 in 2018
- The Family Farm: 118,191 visitors, down .04% from 118,699 in 2018
- The Butterfly Garden Party Exhibit: 69,394 visitors, up 15.6% from 60,017 in 2018

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.



Zoo staff visited the Indianapolis Zoo in November 2019

During the off-season, several staff members took trips to neighboring zoos for behind-the-scenes sneak peeks at their operations. These types of excursions are a great way to make professional connections, gain insights, and problem-solve future exhibit designs.

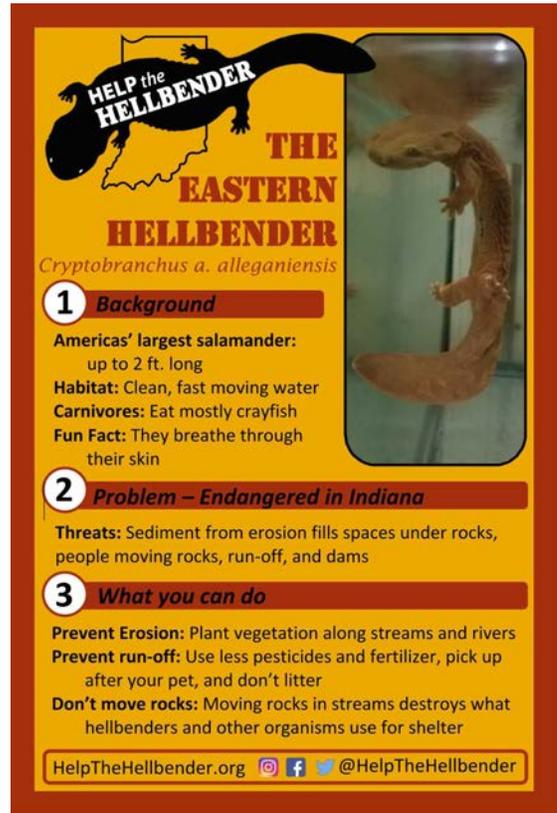
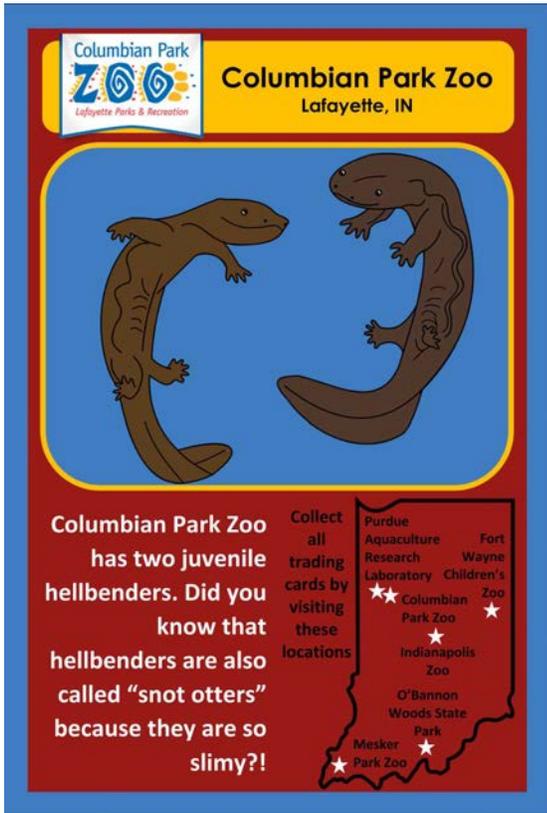
Different staff members from the Zoo were able to travel to the following locations in 2019:

- Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- Indianapolis Zoo
- Toledo Zoo
- Scovill Zoo
- John Ball Zoo

In February 2019, Kaci Schmidt and Jen Zak attended training through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Senior Zookeepers Lindsay Garagiola and Victoria Roach represented the Zoo by attending the Indiana Hellbender Partnership spring meeting in May 2019 at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo as well as the fall meeting in November 2019 at Purdue University.

In July, Senior Zookeeper Lindsay Garagiola and educator Jasmine Peele participated in an excursion to the Blue River in Southern Indiana. This river is the native home to Eastern hellbenders, a giant salamander species that is endangered in Indiana. The Columbian Park Zoo continues to partner with Purdue University in housing hellbenders to prepare for future release into the wild. Also in attendance were representatives from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Mesker Park Zoo, Indianapolis Zoo, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, and Purdue University. As part of this conservation project, staff members were able to release forty hellbenders back into their native habitat.



Above: Purdue University Hellbender partnership trading cards utilized during educational on-grounds chats

ZOO EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Two new show themes debuted at the Kiwanis EdZOOcation Station in 2019. "The Zoo Dunit Mystery Show" taught viewers the problem with single use plastics in a humorous show framed around catching a polluter. Also new this year was "Family Feud: Reptile Edition," which aimed to change visitor attitudes about an under-appreciated group of animals in an interactive game show format.

The Education Department gross revenue was \$111,062.70 for all programs, including birthday parties, classes, camps, off-site presentations, tours, and more. This is a decrease from 2018 of 8.3%.

The number of people served by the Columbian Park Zoo's Education programs for 2019 was 45,196, a nearly 4% increase over the previous year. This is largely due to favorable summer weather conditions, resulting in fewer weather-related cancellations of the free on-grounds programs and higher overall attendance. The number of education programs performed in 2019 was 2,414, which is a slight decrease over 2018 (less than 2%).

The Education Department served over 17,834 individuals with the on-grounds interpretation opportunities that are free to Zoo visitors such as animal encounters, stage shows, conservation events, and keeper demonstrations. This is a nearly 34% increase of 2018 numbers!

VOLUNTEERS & INTERNS

The Zoo Teen program continued to thrive with a total of 32 participants ages 14-17 years old. Participants are set up in a tiered system and gain additional skills and opportunities as they progress through the program. Teens learn valuable skills while 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. In 2019, Zoo Teens contributed over 2,991 hours of time serving as Zoo Ambassadors during the summer season.

The 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.

The 2019 season included 12 interns who contributed a total of 3,421 hours of volunteer time at the Zoo as well as 56 adult volunteers contributing 2,079 hours of volunteer time. 85 participants in volunteer groups also assisted the Zoo at various times throughout the year, contributing 299 hours of volunteer time. The Zoo also hosted 10 community service workers to provide 509 hours of service at the Zoo.

Zoo Run Run 2019 included 64 volunteers donating 256 hours of volunteer time. Boo at the Zoo totaled 393 volunteers who provided 1,318 hours of volunteer time.

FUN FACTS: The total number of volunteer hours contributed by Zoo Teens, Interns, Adult Volunteers, Volunteer Groups, Community Service, and Special Event Volunteers in 2019 was over 10,873 hours carried out by 652 people!



CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

2019 Hot Topic: Each year, the Zoo's Conservation Committee selects a local and/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 2019 was Single Use Plastics: how to avoid their use and how they have a long-term negative effect 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 that highlighted conservation messaging.

April 21st, Earth Day "EGG-stravaganza": The Zoo celebrated Earth Day on the opening weekend of the season for 2019, which coincided this year with the Easter holiday. In addition, ideal weather conditions, led to very high Zoo attendance and therefore, unprecedented conservation event participation. It is estimated that in excess of 500 people participated in at least one component of the event, including a seed planting station that was funded and staffed by community partner Tate & Lyle. It is estimated that more than 2,000 people attended this event. Other activities for Zoo

visitors included an Easter-egg themed scavenger hunt, animal encounters, a recycling sorting game, and a craft for participants to pledge to follow a conservation initiative at home.

June 1st, World Oceans Day: This annual event is a visitor favorite, and had an estimated 200 people in attendance. Educators set up stations around the Zoo to illustrate the importance of oceans and ways in which to 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 the world's oceans.



World Oceans Day

Community partners for World Oceans Day included Tate & Lyle, TCPWQ, Help the Hellbenders, IN/IL Sea Grant, Lafayette RENEW, WREC, Indiana State Parks, and Wallenius Wilhelmsen Solutions

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:

In 2019, the Zoo collected donations from the public for select conservation initiatives. These donations were collected in the Zoo Gift Shop as well as at donation drop boxes at the Zoo entrance and in the Family Farm. Generous donations from the public allowed the Zoo to collect a total amount of \$5,008.17. These donations will be used to assist in global conservation efforts, specifically butterfly conservation and Australian wildfire relief.



Zoo Gift Shop

GIFT SHOP & AMUSEMENT RIDES

The Zoo Gift Shop and Columbian Park Express train operated daily during the Zoo's open season from April 20 - October 12. Wild Tykes Kiddie Rides were in operation for a shorter season, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. 2019 was the final year of operation for the rides, which will be replaced with a new carousel in 2020!

Overall gross sales in the Gift Shop for the 2019 season was \$178,717.09. This was a 1% decrease in sales over the previous year, which totaled \$180,340.36.

Overall, 31,294 guests rode the train and kiddie rides in 2019, which is an 8.6% decrease from 2018. Goat feeder sales for 2019 totaled \$8,965.75.



ANIMAL COLLECTION

A variety of new animals joined the Zoo's collection in 2019. Eighteen baby Nigerian dwarf goats were born during the month of June. Many of these babies were then placed with appropriate owners locally in the fall. Several animals were also added to the Zoo's Education Ambassador collection including two eastern screech owls and a Congo African grey parrot named Branson. Harvey, a two-toed sloth, returned to the Zoo after being on loan to the Indianapolis Zoo for a special sloth exhibit.

Three Egyptian fruit bats were transferred to Moody Gardens Park in Galveston, Texas and one of the North American river otters found a new home at ZooAmerica in Hershey, Pennsylvania. May, a Lar Gibbon and resident of the Zoo since 1994, passed away at the age of 26.

FUN FACT: The Zoo purchased nearly 2000 butterfly chrysalides to keep the Butterfly Garden Party Exhibit stocked for the season!



New Animal Ambassador Branson, the Congo African grey parrot

OTHER ZOO IMPROVEMENTS

Several new additions and improvements were made at the Zoo in 2019:

- New signs were installed in the Family Farm
- New signs were installed on a portion of the prairie dog exhibit
- Students from the Purdue University EPICS program constructed and installed a new donation box in the Family Farm
- Zoo staff replaced sod in the prairie dog and wallaby exhibits
- A new copier/scanner was purchased for the Defouw Education Center
- Construction began on the new penguin exhibit, which is set for completion in early 2020



Holiday donation station at Buckles Feed Depot

PARTNERSHIPS

The Zoo entered into a partnership for a third 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The 17th annual Zoo Run Run 5K Run/Walk held on July 20, 2019 was a success with 490 registered runners plus an additional 52 participants in the Children's Fun Run.



Boo at the Zoo 2019 took place October 23-25 from 6-8:30pm. Families enjoyed the multitude of games, activities, rides, and live entertainment. Some of the entertainment included the Purdue University Big Bass Drum, balloon artists and face painters, inflatable games, and jugglers. Purdue Pete and Ace the Aviator judged the costume contest each night of the event. New for 2019: Themed nights throughout the event were a big success. The 2019 themes included Superheroes, Sports, and Galactic Heroes and Villains. There were nearly 5,100 attendees, with a net profit of around \$30,000.



Boo at the Zoo visitors during "Galactic Heroes and Villains" night

Many In-kind donations and services were also provided to assist with special events:

- \$1000: Albanese Candy, Freckles Graphics, Journal & Courier, National Group, Neuhoff Media, and Zachary Confections, Fleet Feet Sports, Hearing Solutions of Indiana, SIA, Mary Lou Donuts
- \$750: Azzip Pizza, Pepsi, Lafayette Aviators, Frito Lay, Texas Roadhouse
- \$500 Arni's Restaurants, Tempest Homes
- \$250: Art of Framing, Aqua Systems, Awards Unlimited, Kettlehut Construction, Meijer, Orange Theory Fitness
- \$200: Fox's Pizza Den, IU Health, Throckmorton Farms, Unity Healthcare

See page 35 for a complete list of monetary contributions made to the Lafayette Parks Foundation for Boo at the Zoo.



The Columbian Park Zoo participated in the "Very Merry Main Street" Christmas Parade in downtown Lafayette. The theme for the Zoo float was "2020 - Year of the Penguin."

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, which ensures 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.

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, the Sporties for Shorties series, yoga, weight and fitness, and youth dance. These programs continue to expand and improve annually.

McAllister continues to provide opportunities for city employees and their families to improve their wellness by utilizing the weights and fitness area, Fitness on Demand, and participating in city sponsored wellness activities such as the annual City Wellness Fair.

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 (5 days)

- 47 registrants
- 41 average daily attendance

Summer Camp

- 56 operational days
- 166 average daily attendance
- 35 counselors and 1 head counselor



Fall Break Camp

Junior Counselor Program

- Ages 13-14 years
- 18 participants

Fall Break Camp (6 days)

- 49 registrants
- 25 average daily attendance

Winter Break Camp (8 days)

- 61 registrants
- 31 average daily attendance

In total, camps grossed \$262,771 in revenue in 2019.



Spring Break Camp



Youth Basketball

PROGRAMS

Children who participate in our programs are introduced to the fundamentals of each sport and a sense of what it means to be part of a team.

Youth Basketball (Winter)

- Boys and girls ages 6-8 and 9-11 years
- 188 participants on 18 teams
- 60 parent volunteer coaches and scoreboard operators

Youth Flag Football (Fall)

- In partnership with Lafayette Jefferson High School and held at Edgelea Elementary
- 57 participants in two age groups: 6-8 or 9-11 years
- 8 parent volunteer coaches and 8 Lafayette Jeff football player volunteer officials

Youth Basketball (Fall)

- Boys and girls ages 6-8 and 9-11 years
- 132 participants on 14 teams
- 42 parent volunteer coaches and scoreboard operators

Adult Volleyball

- 3 teams
- 9 weeks of play

Sporties for Shorties (basketball, t-ball, soccer, flag football)

- Ages 4-5 years
- 21 basketball; 21 t-ball; 10 soccer; 20 flag football participants

FITNESS PROGRAMMING

McAllister's free weights, machine weights, and cardio equipment have been used in abundance. In 2019, there were 3,109 daily fitness passes, 35 monthly passes (up 4 from 2018), 0 six month pass (down 1 from 2018) and 1 yearly pass (down 2 from 2018) sold. A total of 5 youth passes were sold in 2019. In all, \$7,209.00 was generated through weight and fitness revenue, an increase of \$444.00. In addition to the paid fitness passes, the Center provided the opportunity for city employees and their families to use the fitness areas at no cost. Fitness on Demand classes could also be scheduled in a private workout room. In 2019, a total of 1,764 employees and their families took advantage of the fitness areas. This was 457 less people than last year.

The McAllister Center also played host to the City sponsored Wellness fair which included flu shots and vendors. A total of 40 vendors participated in the City Wellness Fair this past year.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Father Daughter Dance

McAllister held its second annual Father Daughter Dance on February 16, 2019. There were 131 girls and 89 fathers figures in attendance. The evening featured dancing and carriage rides as well as crafts and refreshments. Each couple had a professional photo taken and each girl received a goodie bag.



Father Daughter Dance

Spring Celebration

Over 450 participants attended the McAllister Spring Celebration, held on Saturday, April 13, 2019. Activities included egg hunts, face painting, balloon animals, blow-up obstacle course, games and prizes! Lafayette's Dare Officer John Townsend and a Lafayette Fire Truck from Station 6 were on hand for the event.

Spring Celebration sponsors include:

- \$500: Lafayette Caterpillar
- \$100: Meijer and Market Square Lanes
- \$30: Target
- \$25: Sam's Club and Walmart \$100

Monies from the sponsorships helped keep the cost down for this FREE, community event.

Family Learn to Fish Workshop

McAllister, in partnership with the DNR, held a Family Learn to Fish Workshop at the Armstrong Park on May 18, 2019. Over 25 people signed up for the event.

Kids' Fishing Day

In June, the McAllister partnered with volunteers from the Lafayette Breakfast Optimist Club and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to host Kids' Fishing Day at Munger Park. This year approximately 117 kids and adults participated in the event, which was a "catch and release" program.

Summer Community Bowling

The 22nd annual Summer Community Bowling program was held in June and July at Market Square Lanes, Mustang Alley, and Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl. In all, over 657 games were played and approximately 312 children bowled during the 6 days the program was held.

Drop and Shop

McAllister held its annual Drop and Shop event on Friday, December 13. Kids were dropped off from 5:30-9:00pm while parents finished up their holiday shopping. Eighteen children played games, did a special holiday craft, watched a movie and ate pizza.

Donuts with Santa

In 2019, McAllister celebrated the 3rd year of the Donuts with Santa event. This family event was hosted on Saturday, December 21 from 9-11am. Children came to and eat donuts, make crafts, play games and get a picture with Santa. There was a fee of \$10 per family. Sixty families, consisting of 248 individuals, attended the event.

VOLUNTEERS

Every year the McAllister Recreation Center is fortunate to have a number of volunteers to help with its many programs. In total, 168 individuals contributed 1,587 volunteer hours to the center and its programs.

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2019, the McAllister Recreation Center received several grants for the Parks Department Kid's Can Fund. A total of \$10,000 was received from community leaders such as Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation and the McAllister Foundation. These grants assisted several children in attending camps and programs at a reduced cost to their families.



Kids' Fishing Day

Marketing

In 2019, the Lafayette Parks and Recreation marketing team provided the following support:

- Created and distributed media notices and press releases
- Supported and developed communications and marketing strategies
- Conducted media outreach and public relations support
- Designed/developed presentations and event planning
- Managed graphic design and photography
- Coordinated press conferences, ribbon cuttings/dedication ceremonies
- Helped secure sponsorships for special events
- Organized special events, secured entertainment, vendors, and logistics

The Department continued its relationship with Neuhoff Media/B102.9 FM, which broadcast live from Tropicane 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 2019.



Zoo staff appearing on B102.9 to promote Opening Day



Facebook Fans as of 12/31/19:

- Parks and Recreation 7,921 fans (up 2,109 from 2018)
- Columbian Park Zoo 14,572 fans (up 2,153 from 2018)
- Art in the Park 3,104 fans (up 490 from 2018)



Twitter Followers as of 12/31/19:

- Parks and Recreation 3,743 followers (up 113 from 2018)
- Columbian Park Zoo 1,533 followers (up 91 from 2018)



Instagram Followers as of 12/31/19:

- Parks and Recreation 1,318 followers (up 325 from 2018)
- Columbian Park Zoo 1,528 followers (up 199 from 2018)
- McAllister Recreation Center 477 followers (up 87 from 2018)
- Art in the Park 920 followers (up 114 from 2018)

PUBLIC INFORMATION

The annual “Fun Guide” was printed by The National Group and distributed beginning in March.

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

ART IN THE PARK

For the sixth 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 4, June 25, and August 6. Due to inclement weather, a fourth event in the series, scheduled for July 16, was canceled and unable to be rescheduled. The June dates were held in the evening at Columbian Park on Memorial Island and the August event was held in the evening at Armstrong Park. These family-friendly events were free and open to the public.

Attendance averaged 600 per event.

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.



Art in the Park

The themes featured included the following:

- June 4: Celebration Night featured live music from Scott Greeson and Trouble with Monday
- June 25: Jazz Night featured live music by The Danny Weiss Quartet
- August 6: Carnival Night featured the Cincinnati Circus Company, who wowed the crowd with jugglery and stilt walking



Art in the Park

SALES AND RENTALS

In 2019, park facilities were rented for a variety of events such as picnics, weddings, receptions and family reunions.

The breakdown for rentals in 2019 is as follows:

- 656 shelter reservations
- 93 five-hour Rush Pavilion rentals
- 8 full-day Rush Pavilion rentals
- 75 five-hour Jenks' Rest rentals
- 9 full-day Jenks' Rest rentals
- 12 five-hour Clubhouse rentals
- 3 full-day Clubhouse rentals
- 5 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 2019:

\$100,000

John Scheumann
The Scheumann Foundation, Inc.

\$51,000

Kirby Risk Corporation

\$15,001-\$25,000

Lafayette Kiwanis Club

\$5,001-\$15,000

James K. and Mary Jo Risk Family Foundation

\$3,001-\$5,000

The McAllister Foundation

\$1,001-\$3,000

Kappa Kappa Kappa
Lafayette Girls Softball League
Rohrman Auto Group
Southwire
Wabash Center Inc.

\$501-\$1,000

J.R. Kelly Company
Robert and Shirley Scott
SIA retiree donations
Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc.



Litter-Free Lafayette sign for Street Sponsor Kirby Risk

\$250-\$500

American Family Insurance Adsit Agency
DeFouw Automotive
Dogwood Kennel LLC
Jason Phillips
Kettelhut Construction, Inc.
Lafayette Noon Optimist
Louis and Sally Fenoglio
Mecko's Heating and Cooling
National Christian Foundation
Snyder & Lehnen
Staley Credit Union
Tempest Homes
Wabash Valley Exteriors
Walmart
Walt's Other Pub



Softball field at Crosser Sports Complex

