

2015



# Annual Report



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# LEADERSHIP

## 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 Weast-Williamson.....Council Member

## Parks Board

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

# STAFF

## Administration

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

## Facilities and Grounds

Mike Perry.....Director of Facilities and Grounds  
 Ben Taylor.....Assistant Director of Facilities and Grounds  
 Anneka Gilliam.....Natural Resources and Recreation Planner  
 Chip Gutwein.....Maintenance  
 John Rhodes.....Maintenance  
 Jason Spencer.....Maintenance  
 Josh Daugherty.....Maintenance  
 Neal Williamson.....Maintenance  
 Ryan Frankowski.....Maintenance  
 Brian Harrison.....Maintenance  
 Quinten Smith.....Maintenance  
 Michael Hudnall.....Maintenance  
 Justin Patterson.....Maintenance

## Safety and Security

Tom Rankin.....Safety and Security Coordinator  
 Valerie Berry.....Assistant Safety and Security Coordinator  
 Chris Jewell.....Security Officer  
 Skylar Viray.....Security Officer  
 Kyle Killin.....Security Officer

## McAllister Recreation Center

Chad Aldridge.....Manager  
 Emily Butler.....Assistant Manager  
 John Rodenbeck.....Maintenance  
 Pat Crumley.....Administrative Assistant  
 Cameron Laufman.....Part-time Maintenance  
 Tyler Wade.....Program Assistant  
 Saige Catron.....Program Assistant  
 Seth Catron.....Program Assistant  
 Colin Miner.....Program Assistant  
 Alia Storm-Justice.....Program Assistant  
 Madison Hainje.....Program Assistant

## Columbian Park Zoo

Ron Breeding.....Director  
 Dana Rhodes.....Assistant Director  
 Amber Frederick.....Education Coordinator  
 Courtney Nave.....Assistant Education Coordinator  
 Logan Judy.....Marketing Manager  
 Heather Woody.....Senior Zookeeper  
 Noah Shields.....Senior Zookeeper  
 Kaci Schmidt.....Senior Zookeeper  
 Leanna McEvoy.....Senior Zookeeper  
 Samantha Schmidt.....Zoo Educator  
 Lisa Vanderhoff.....Relief Zookeeper  
 Jen Zak.....Relief Zookeeper  
 Gabrielle DiMaggio.....Relief Zookeeper  
 Jill Livengood.....Relief Zookeeper



March 14, 2016

Mayor, City Council, Parks Board, and citizens of Lafayette:

The 2015 Lafayette Parks and Recreation Annual Report highlights the accomplishments of the department during the past year. These programs, events, and projects are the result of the continued support from the citizens of Lafayette, along with strong partnerships with other governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and local businesses.

The Department undertook many major projects in 2015. One project was Phase I renovations to Memorial Island, which included relocating several memorials from around the City onto the island, new landscaping and brick pavers, and electrical and sound upgrades to the amphitheater. Another project that was begun in 2015 was construction at Sterling Heights Neighborhood Park. This new park will be completed in Spring 2016 and include a multi-age playground, swings, new landscaping, and a picnic shelter. Finally, continued upgrades were made to Columbian Park Zoo, including a newly renovated kitchen and the all-new EdZOOcation Station presentation area. The kitchen in the Zoo's Animal House was funded by Friends of Columbian Park Zoo, and the funding for the new EdZOOcation Station was generously donated by the Lafayette Kiwanis Club.

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department has a dedicated team of professionals that continues to provide our great City with exceptional programming and services. We will continue to work hard to provide a first-rate parks system for our citizens. We will also remain committed to providing diverse recreation opportunities that will enhance the quality of life for our residents.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claudine Laufman".

Claudine Laufman  
Superintendent

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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

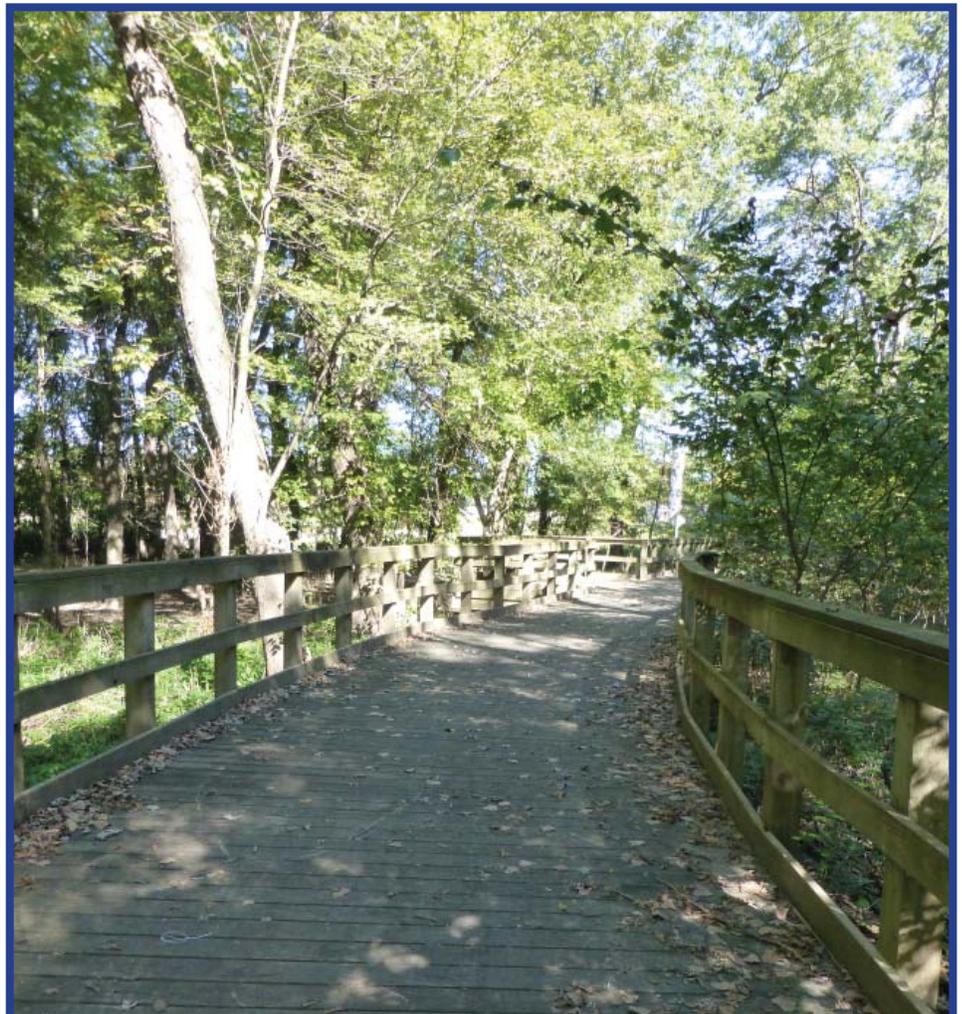
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# Parks Board

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 2015 Parks and Recreation Board consisted of Maurie Denney, President, John Ragan, Vice-President, Victor Klinker, Secretary, and Dave Mecklenburg. 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.



**The trails in McAllister Park provide a beautiful, serene place to take a walk with family and friends.**

# 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 park departments, other local government agencies, school corporations, and Purdue University in order to reduce duplication of facilities and programs, better coordinate the provision of infrastructure, and to share resources, including staff expertise.

### Physical Resources and Services

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

- A well-maintained Columbian Park whose facilities and services are responsive to citizen needs and interests.
- An improved zoo that makes adequate provision for the health and safety of all animals.
- Fully-developed river corridor Parks that maximize their potential and their location next to the Wabash River.
- A system of neighborhood parks that provides age-appropriate recreation and which are maintained in cooperation with neighborhood associations and residents.
- An improved McAllister Recreation Center staffed to provide high-quality customer service.
- Interesting programs and classes for all ages (with the greatest emphasis on children and teens) that are priced to be self-supporting.

### Planning and Growth

- A strong commitment to planning that responds to community desires and results in multi-year plans that can be realistically implemented and funded.
- A park system that provides for growth and new facilities to commensurate with the growth of the city.



The fall colors were just beginning to pop at Armstrong Park in October.

**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**

2014

1. Loeb Stadium Locker Rooms
2. Replace equipment in 2-5 age SIA Playground at Columbian Park
3. Old animal barn roof in Columbian Park
4. Replace basketball court at Centennial Park
5. Replace color coating at Shamrock roller hockey rink
6. Lyboubt Softball field lighting: replace electrical
7. South Tipp Renovation
8. Review and assess existing pro-

grams

9. Staff training and development
10. Review future programming options
11. Identify grants/donors for park development
12. Review maintenance practices
13. Evaluate equipment needs
14. Golf Course Re-use master plan
15. Durkees Run New trail Twyckenham Blvd New trail
16. ADA compliance improvements
17. New trails in conjunction with DPW

2015

1. Sterling Heights Renovation
2. Zoo Expansion
3. Identify grants and donors for Loeb Stadium
4. Identify grants and donors for Columbian Park Zoo
5. Golf Course Site Implementation of golf course re-use plan
6. Review equipment needs
7. Update equipment and facilities plans
8. CAT Expansion
9. Berlowtiz Woods site develop-

ment

10. Move and replace McCaw playground
11. New trails in conjunction with DPW
12. ADA compliance improvements

2016

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

2017

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

2018

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

# Facilities

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

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

## **AQUATIC FACILITIES**

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

### Castaway Bay

Armstrong Park along Beck Lane

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

### Tropicanoe Cove Family Aquatic Center

Columbian Park along Main Street

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

### Vinton Pool

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.



The kids at McAllister Summer Camp enjoy field trips to each of the three aquatic facilities each summer.

## 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.

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

Loeb Stadium, a 3,500-seat baseball stadium, was built in 1940 and is home field to Lafayette Jefferson High School, the American Legion Post-11 League, and 13-and-older Colt League. The stadium annually hosts the Colt World Series and IHSAA tournaments. The Lafayette Aviators, a Prospect League team, will begin calling Loeb Stadium home in 2016.

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



**Phase I of renovations was completed on Memorial Island in 2015. The Gold Star Families memorial was dedicated on Memorial Day.**

entrance, lazy river, water slides, water and sand playgrounds, sand volleyball court, bathhouse, and concession building.

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

Facilities in Columbian Park include the Rush Pavilion, Jenks’ Rest and picnic shelters. Rush Pavilion, which was restored in 1990, was originally built in 1890 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Jenks’

Rest is adjacent to the lagoon and houses The Center@Jenks’ and the Tippecanoe County Council on Aging and Junior Achievement. There are 18 picnic shelters throughout the park which patrons enjoy throughout the season. Also within the park is Memorial Island (veterans memorial and amphitheater), a new fishing pier, and the Boat-house, restored in 1999, which serves as the Parks Administrative Office.

A master plan for Memorial Island was developed in 2015. Phase I of renovations was completed in 2015. This included relocating several memorials from around the City onto the island, new landscaping and brick pavers, and electrical and sound upgrades to the amphitheater. The rest of the plan will be implemented over the next few years.

## COMMUNITY PARKS

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

### Armstrong Park

9th Street & Beck Lane

26 acres

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

### Berlovitz Woods

McCarty Lane & Veterans Memorial Parkway

20 acres

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

### CAT Park and Soccer Fields

McCarty Lane, behind Caterpillar

32 acres

CAT Park and Soccer Fields was developed through a lease between the Department and Caterpillar for use of 32 acres of land south of the facility. CAT Park includes eight irrigated soccer fields of varying siz-

es, parking, restroom/concession building, and attractive landscaping. Future plans include trails, a playground and a basketball court.

### Linear Park Trail

Beck Lane & S. 9th Street

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

### McCaw Park

Union Street & Creasy Lane

26 acres

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

### Munger Park

Greenbush Street, between US 52 & Creasy Lane

32 acres

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

### Murdock Park

18th Street & Ferry Street

30 acres

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

### Shamrock Park

Wabash Avenue

11 acres

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

### McAllister Recreation Center

2351 N. 20th Street

7 acres

The center is housed in the former Longlois Elementary School and features a gymnasium, community meeting areas, game rooms, weight and fitness areas, open green space, basketball court, picnic shelter, grill, and multi-age playground. The interior of the building was renovated in 2002, and a new gym floor was installed in 2008. Mirrors were added to the fitness areas in 2015.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

The Department manages nine smaller parks that serve smaller neighborhood parks totaling over 15 acres. Construction on a tenth park was started in 2015.

### 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 Neigh-

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

### Kennedy Park

Sequoia Drive & Beck Lane

12 acres

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

### Linnwood Park

15th Street & Greenbush Street

0.5 acres

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

### North Darby Park

Darby Lane

0.8 acres

North Darby Park contains a multi-age playground, basketball court, sidewalks and landscaping, and new fencing.

### South Tipp Park

3rd Street & Fountain Streets

0.8 acres

Located next to Bauer Family Resources, this park was completed renovated and dedicated in 2014. This park features a multi-age playground and tot playground, basketball court, rubber surfacing, and

a picnic shelter. The park serves youth programs sponsored by Bauer Family Resources. South Tipp Park has been adopted by the Ellsworth-Romig Neighborhood Association and Bauer Family Resources.

### Sterling Heights Park

610 Harrington Drive

1.8 acres

Located in the Sterling Heights neighborhood on the city's south side, construction on this new park began in fall 2015. When completed, this park will feature a multi-age playground, swings, and a picnic shelter.



**Construction at Sterling Heights Park began in 2015.**

### 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 Cor-

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

### Lyboubt Sports Park

Canal Road

52 acres

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

### McAllister Park

North 9th Street

350 acres

This park, 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.

## Fast Facts

# 3

aquatic facilities

# 7

community parks

# 5

riverfront parks

# 10

neighborhood parks



A beautiful elm tree stands in McAllister Park, just outside the Parks Department's Central Maintenance office.

# 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 2015, there were 32 full-time positions, 17 part-time and temporary, and approximately 165 seasonal employees.

## Fast Facts

**165**  
seasonal employees

**32**  
full-time employees

**17**  
part-time and temporary 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 2015	
Managers	Angie Schultz (Accounting Manager) Alexandra DeWitt (Support Services Coordinator)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alexandra DeWitt resigned as Support Services Coordinator in June.</li> <li>Lindsey Huffman was hired as Marketing Assistant in September.</li> <li>Emily Gray was hired as Administrative Assistant in September.</li> </ul>

## Park Operations

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

Park Operations in 2015	
Managers	Jon Miner (Director of Operations) Mike Perry (Director of Facilities and Grounds) Thomas Rankin (Safety and Security Coordinator)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karl Hensley resigned as Parks Facilities and Grounds Manager in January.</li> <li>Belinda Kiger retired as Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager in February.</li> <li>Kyle Killin was hired as Security Guard in May.</li> <li>Ben Taylor was hired as Assistant Director of Facilities and Grounds in May.</li> <li>Anneka Gilliam as hired as Natural Resource and Park Planner in June.</li> <li>Jim Foster resigned as Columbian Park Manager in July.</li> <li>Neal Williamson was hired for Facilities and Grounds in August.</li> <li>Josh Daugherty was hired for Facilities and Grounds in August.</li> <li>Dean Landes was hired for Facilities and Grounds in October.</li> <li>Brian Harrison was hired as Ride Mechanic in October.</li> <li>Don Mundy resigned in November.</li> <li>John Cummings resigned as Landscape Foreman in December.</li> <li>Dean Landes resigned in December.</li> </ul>

Aquatics

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

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

Columbian Park Zoo

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

Columbian Park Zoo in 2015	
Managers	Dana Rhodes (Interim Director) Ron Breeding (Director)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ron Breeding was hired as Zoo Director in June.</li> <li>• Hillary Henry resigned as Marketing Manager in August.</li> <li>• Logan Judy was hired as Marketing Manager in October.</li> </ul>

McAllister Recreation Center

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

McAllister Recreation Center in 2015	
Managers	Chad Aldridge (Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily Butler was hired as Assistant Manager in January.</li> <li>• Colin Miner was hired as Program Assistant in September.</li> <li>• Aliah Storm-Justice was hired as Program Assistant in September.</li> <li>• Madison Hainje was hired as Program Assistant in September.</li> <li>• Kevin Noe resigned as Assistant Manager in December.</li> </ul>

**PLANNING**

Planning for the future continued to play a significant role during 2015. A key element of all planning efforts was involving citizens at every level. This planning will help serve as a sound foundation for the Department’s continued success. Projects and plans started or completed during 2015:

- Sterling Heights neighborhood park - construction started
- Memorial Island master plan - developed, and Phase I completed



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

**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.

## COLLABORATION

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

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

Golf Club, Greater Lafayette Tennis Association, Lafayette Area Softball Association and the Lafayette Horseshoe Club.

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

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

The Columbian Park Zoo has developed partnerships to improve exhibits and enhance the quality of the Zoo's educational programs and special events. Partners involved in Zoo improvements for 2015 included: Lafayette Kiwanis Club, Adele Needham, Kettelhut Construction, Purdue University and Friends of Columbian Park Zoo. Partners that contributed to the Zoo via IN-KIND donations and services included: Aquasystems, HotBox Pizza, Pepsi-Cola, Arni's Restaurant, Jimmy Johns, PFCU, Awards Unlimited, Journal & Courier, Sam's Club, Best Western, Lafayette Printing,

Shoe Carnival, Bison Financial, Mammaw's Sweet Shoppe, Stacked Pickle, Chuck E. Cheese's, Marriott, Trent Johnson, Dog N Suds, Midwest Rentals, Tri-N-Run, Fleet Feet, the National Group, Triple XXX, Fresh City Market, Niki Johnson Photography, University Spirit, Frito Lay, Once Upon a Child, WASK radio group, WLFI TV 18, and Zachary Confections. Partners in conservation included Purdue University, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, WREC, IL/IN Sea Grant, TippCo Water Quality, Tri Kappa, Mesker Park Zoo, and Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

The McAllister Recreation Center has developed partnerships with several area organizations and individuals to assist with the Departments' quality programs. Some of our partners are: The Lafayette School Corporation; Greater Lafayette Tennis Association Inc.; Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation; Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 347; Lafayette Noon Optimus Club; Lafayette Police Department; Lafayette Fire Department; Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries; Indiana Department of Natural Resources; Wabash Disc Golf Club; Purdue University Engineering Education; Purdue University Athletic Department; St. Lawrence/McAllister Neighborhood Association; CityBus; Arni's; Kona Ice; Goodrich Quality Theaters; Tropicanoe Cove; Vinton Pool; The Columbian Park Zoo; West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Dept.; Bricks For Kidz; Tippecanoe County Public Library; Lafayette Jefferson Athletic Department; Dave Howell; Jill Howell; Brian Moore; Peyton Stovall; and the McAllister Foundation.

# THANK YOU!

**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 newspa-

per, e-mail comments, and review of other community planning documents.

The 2014-2018 Master Plan was created by reevaluating the goals which were identified in the 2009-2013 and assessing the priorities of the Lafayette citizens, as well as reviewing how the Lafayette community has changed in the last five years and how it is expected to

change in the next ten years. The 2014-2018 Master Plan includes an assessment of the current state of the Board and Department and a review of the history of the past five years. It also includes an evaluation of the actions and accomplishments since the last five year plan was adopted. The 2014-2018 Master Plan was adopted by the Park Board on February 10, 2014.

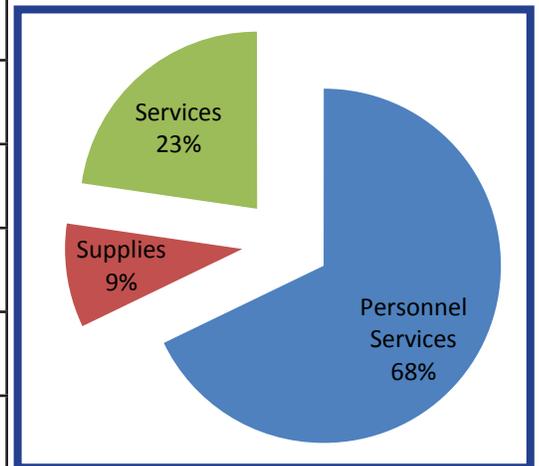
# Finance and Funding

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

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

The 2015 annual general fund appropriation was \$3,641,965.00

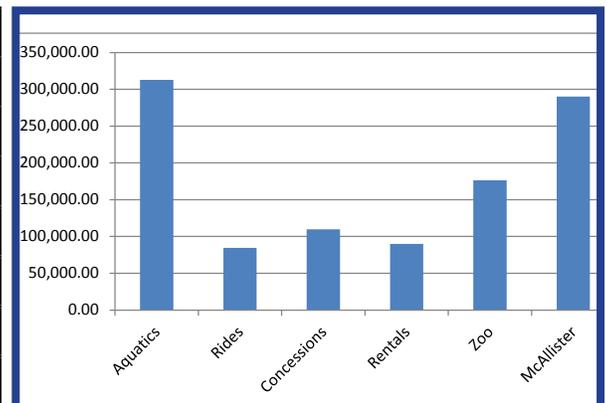
<b>2015 General Fund</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Personnel Services	\$2,304,743.30
Supplies	\$321,357.11
Services	\$771,345.44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,397,445.52</b>



**PROGRAM REVENUE**

Following is an itemization of total revenue generated by the Department in 2015 for programs and services:

<b>2015 Revenue</b>	
Aquatics	\$312,903.17
Rides	\$84,498.13
Concessions	\$109,739.73
Rentals	\$90,073.00
Zoo	\$176,409.92
McAllister	\$290,180.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,063,180.59</b>



## SPONSORSHIPS AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Sponsorships and corporate partnership opportunities in 2015 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 seventeenth summer in 2015. The program provides an opportunity for youth to per-

form various volunteer functions in a supervised setting at a park facility. Each participant is rewarded with a Kids Can Pass for each hour of work. A Kids Can Pass can be used for admission to any of the aquatic facilities, amusement rides, or registration fees for McAllister Center or Columbian Park Zoo programs.



## Lafayette Parks Foundation

2015 Kids Can Fund  
Major Sponsors

- Scheumann Foundation
- Sue and Bill Davis
- The Mitchell Agency
- Sally Watlington
- Mulhaupt's



Other Kids Can Fund Sponsors included:

- Jack and Cheryl Coffin
- Jerry and Connie Erlich
- James and Mary Beth Buescher
- William and Margaret Rowe
- Ronald and Lynnetta Wunsch
- Carol Casey
- Don and Lois Stein
- Stacy Muinzer
- Dr. Lawrence Preo
- Maurice and Mary Jane Denney
- Thomas B. and Susan Freeman
- Roger W. Pattison
- Timothy P. Broden
- Roland and Janis K. Ditto
- Thomas and Winifred Adler
- James and Sue Ciccarella
- Donald and Victoria Teder
- Donald and Diana Hallenbeck
- Dennis and Mary Blind
- Gregg Theobald
- Loren Schroeder Farms
- J. Edward and Nancy Wagoner
- Dave and Rita Buckles
- Donald Gustafson



**Kids help clean up the parks and aquatic facilities in exchange for free admission to the pools.**

- Chosnek Law PC
- William and Anita Krug
- Terry and Sally Timmons
- George and Helen Allyn
- Douglas Cooper and Karen Hirsh-Cooper
- Terry and Maryann Lucterhand
- Richard and Marilyn Roberts
- James and Susan Auckley
- Joseph Seaman
- Donna W. Avolt
- Arva C Karberg
- Liz Solberg
- Joseph and Linda Bota

# Improvements

The following improvements were made in the Lafayette Park system during 2015:

## **ARMSTRONG PARK**

- Playground safety mulch added
- Cleared invasive species from pond edge
- Resurfaced and striped basketball court
- Irrigation repair on softball field
- Repaired pond fountain pumps
- Replaced fountain electrical cable damaged by critters
- Constructed fountain electrical cable housing
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

## **CASTAWAY BAY**

- Complete landscape renovation inside pool area and bathhouse entrance
- Clearing of invasive honeysuckle from woods area inside Castaway Bay
- Added computerized automated water quality control systems

## **CAT PARK**

- Installation of new Irrigation controller
- Repainted front entrance gates

## **CENTENNIAL PARK**

- Resurfaced and striped basketball court

## **COLUMBIAN PARK**

- Completion of Memorial Island monument relocation, paver sidewalk, landscape and turf
- Painted exterior Rush Pavilion and stained deck/railings
- Painted exterior of Boathouse
- Replaced bridge components in

## **SIA playground**

- Repainted inside of concessions
- Installed a/c unit in concessions
- Installed metal roofing on ceiling of walkway outside of concessions
- Installed bird deterrents on all shelters
- Installed new landscape under zoo sign at Park and Wallace
- Stained exterior side of LOEB fence
- Installed new stone on path leading to "Deer Island"
- Installed new wiring for wifi service
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

## **COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO**

- Installation of new concrete planters thru out zoo
- Installed new kitchen
- Made wooden benches for Kiwanis EdZOOcation Station
- Installed new sand filters for otter exhibit

## **HEDGEWOOD PARK**

- Removal of invasive honeysuckle from entire park

## **HANNA PARK**

- Replaced broken play piece
- Playground safety mulch added
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

## **LINNWOOD PARK**

- Playground safety mulch added
- Installation of daylily perennials to front entrance
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

## **LYBOULT SPORTS PARK**

- Painted inside of bathrooms

- Installed new fence on North side of horseshoe courts

## **McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER**

- Installation of (10) rooftop HVAC units
- Installation of snack vending machine
- Relocated 15' Norway Spruce
- Installation of "CHILD SAFE" sign
- Replaced flagpole halyard
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

## **McALLISTER PARK**

- Painted both bathrooms
- Replaced all kitchen cabinets
- Replaced all flooring inside kitchen
- Replaced paneling on inside kitchen walls
- Pruned tree branched over walking trails

## **McCAW PARK**

- Painted lines for (8) total Pickleball courts
- Installed Pickleball storage cabinet and sign
- Stained information kiosk
- Repaired tennis court lighting timer
- Installed new landscape around tennis courts
- Repaired drinking fountain
- Repaired all chain link fence around tennis courts
- Replaced Baseball Field lighting electrical panel
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

## **MUNGER PARK**

- Playground safety mulch added
- Installed adult fitness structure
- Removed all remaining plant ma-

material for new landscape install in 2017

- Cleared invasive species from pond edge and retention basin
- Constructed fountain electrical cable housing
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

#### **MURDOCK PARK**

- Cleared invasive species from park
- Repaired broken split rail fence
- Repaired irrigation system at Softball Field
- Installed new roof on Softball Concession building
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

#### **SHAMROCK PARK**

- Resurfaced roller hockey court
- Installed slap shot wall around roller hockey court
- Repaired stadium lights around roller hockey court
- Renovated lawn area in Dog Section #1
- Installed new concrete pad for Dog Park Association trailer
- Installed new entrance gate support

#### **SOUTH TIPP PARK**

- Added striping to basketball court

#### **STERLING HEIGHTS**

- Removed existing swings
- Created new walking entrance to park
- Installed new playground equipment
- Installed new shelter
- Installed new landscape buffer zone around playground
- Cleared out invasive honeysuckle along woods edge

#### **TROPICANOE COVE**

- Converted mulched landscape



**The roller hockey court at Shamrock Park received new surfacing, repairs to stadium lights, and a brand new slap shot wall in 2015.**

bed to river rock, with new plant material

- Painted interior walls of bathrooms
- Added computerized automated water quality control systems
- Replaced rope barrier around pool
- Installed rope barrier and post around slides
- Installed rope barrier and post to separate concessions from pool area
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs

#### **VINTON NEIGHBORHOOD POOL**

- Painted pool walls, floors and gutter drain grates
- Converted turf area to landscape with rope barrier
- Added computerized automated water quality control systems
- Replaced sand in pool filter
- Renovated concession area and lifeguard room
- Installed (2) exterior water faucets

- Added planter pots with landscape around pool
- Dormant pruning of trees and shrubs
- Concession service area improvements

#### **PROJECTS WITHIN THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE**

(with assistance from the Parks Department)

- Delivered tables to various events throughout the year
- Removal, clean up and fill with soil (87) stumps



**The brand new Sterling Heights Park will be completed in 2016. Our staff installed new playground equipment, built a shelter, and installed new landscaping in 2015.**

# Safety and Security

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

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

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

- sex offenders
- Amber Alert procedures
- pepper spray
- gang recognition
- active shooter training
- investigating and locating lost children

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

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

- Maintain park security throughout the Colt World Series with assistance of uniformed Lafayette Police Officers and Indiana State Excise Police

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

Finally, 100% of full-time park staff has been trained and certified in CPR, AED, Blood Borne Pathogens and First Aid. Tom Rankin is the instructor and is certified through the American Red Cross. Thirteen staff members were CPR/AED/First Aide certified in 2015, and 30 staff members were recertified. Zoo staff members have been trained and certified in the use of pepper spray and have also received Critical Incident Training.

## Fast Facts

108

daily door checks by security staff

60

criminal trespass warnings issued in 2015

170

officer incident reports in 2015

# Maintenance

Maintenance services are provided to all parks and facilities utilizing park staff and contracted services. Lafayette Parks maintains 615 acres, comprised of 31 acres of sports turf, 208 acres of general turf, and 73.50 acres of landscape beds, wildflowers, wetlands, and no mow areas, as well as 12.70 acres of retention ponds. The Park system has 71 structures, including 25 buildings, 12 restroom buildings, 1 barn, 1 amphitheater, 1 stadium, and 30 shelters. Park property contains 42 acres of pavement, including 27 sports courts, 23.3 miles of paved trails, and 18 parking lots. Lafayette Parks also has 15 playgrounds, and nearly 1 mile of fence.

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

Staff 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 and the Indiana Professional Lawn and

Landscape Association and Sports Field Managers Association.

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

In 2015, the maintenance area added new equipment including:

- Two Echo gas powered hedge trimmers
- One Hustler Super 104" mower

## Fast Facts

# 31

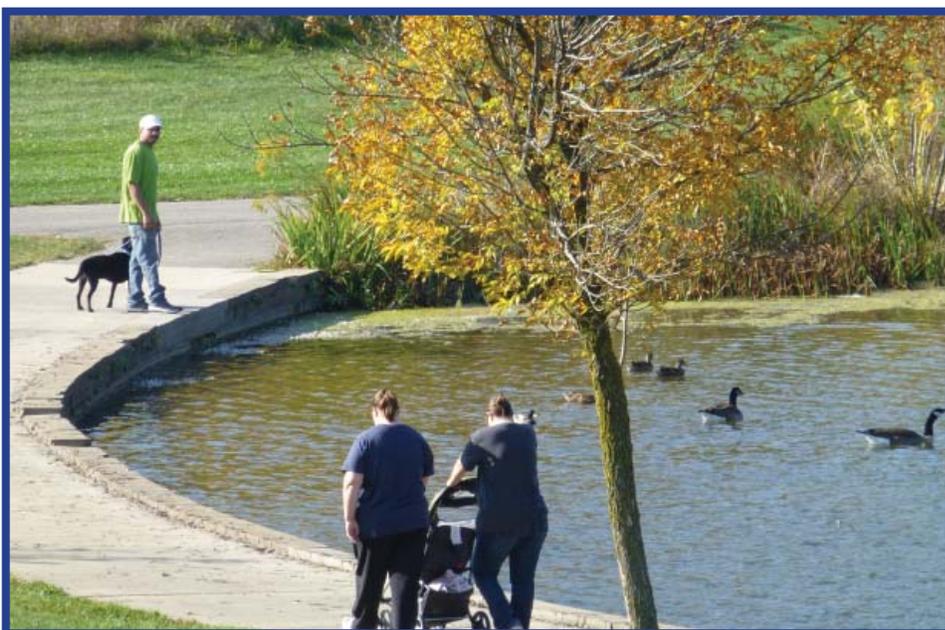
acres of sports turf maintained by the Parks Department

# 73.5

acres of landscaped beds, wildflowers, wetlands, and no-mow areas

# 1

mile of fencing maintained by the Department



Many Lafayette citizens utilize the walking paths in Munger Park on a daily basis.

# Natural Resources



**New annual and perennial plantings were added to Tropicane Cove in 2015.**

## **NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION PLANNING**

The Natural Resources and Recreation Planning Division is responsible for

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

## **PARK LANDSCAPING**

The Natural Resources and Recreation Planner is responsible for planning and managing park tree planting and landscape projects, City beautification, City land maintenance, trail maintenance, and park landscape updates and improvements. The Natural Resources and Recreation Planning division no longer includes the Urban Forester position. This position has been moved to the Department of Engineering. Leanne Wells is the new Urban Forester and Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Lafayette. The Natural Resources and Recreation Planner position has been retained by the Parks Department. The Natural Resources and Recreation Planner oversees the Landscape Supervisor, landscape crews, and landscape seasonal employees.

In the early spring of 2015, the planting on the interior and exterior of Castaway Bay was updated. In the small wooded area within Castaway Bay, all the invasive species were removed with the help of volunteer groups. In late spring, work was done to renovate Memorial Island at Columbian Park. Undesirable volunteer trees were removed, erosion damage along the edge of the island was repaired, four monuments plus a canon were relocated on to the island, and three flag poles and a gold star monument were added. Also, new plant beds, plant material, pavers, and sod were installed. Memorial Island was completed and opened to the public on Memorial Day of 2015.

Throughout the summer of 2015, many landscape beds around the parks and pools were updated with new plant material. Ornamental grasses were added to the large rock bed at Vinton Pool, perennials were added along the outside of Loeb Stadium for the Colt World Series, and perennials and annuals were added to the Tropicane Cove sign by the Scott Street parking lot and to the sign outside the entry to the Cove.



**Perennial plantings were installed outside of Loeb Stadium.**

Also during the summer of 2015, work was done in and around Munger Playground in preparation for new planting, which will take place in the spring of 2016. Poison ivy and tangled groundcover around the playground were removed by the landscape crew. The Trailblazers, a summer youth volunteer group from the YMCA, helped remove large weeds and overgrown perennials along the outside of the playground. Almost all plant beds surrounding Munger playground are currently empty and waiting for new plant material to be installed.



**The Trailblazers from the YMCA helped remove weeds and overgrown perennials at Munger Park.**



**New perennial plantings were installed by IU Health volunteers at McCaw Park.**

On October 7, 2015, the Natural Resources and Recreation Planner and the Landscape Supervisor installed perennials around the newly constructed Edzoocation Station Stage at the Columbian Park Zoo. The Lafayette Kiwanis Club sponsored the stage construction and the dedication ceremony was held on October 8, 2015.

On September 18, 2015, a large volunteer effort took place at McCaw Park. New pickleball courts were added to the existing tennis courts at McCaw and were sponsored by IU Health. IU Health volunteers spent their annual "Day of Service" at McCaw installing new plant beds near and around the courts. The volunteers planted new perennials that were laid out by the Natural Resources and Recreation Planner. The volunteers also put down mulch on the new plant beds and on existing tree rings.



**New perennial plantings were installed by IU Health volunteers at McCaw Park.**



**The EdZOocation Station received new perennials in 2015.**

The construction of a new City of Lafayette park started in late October, 2015, in the Sterling Heights neighborhood, off of 9th Street, just south of Veteran's Memorial Parkway. The park sits behind a group of homes, up against a large wooded area. A play structure, swing set, two free standing play pieces, and a shelter were constructed within the park. Landscape beds with ornamental grasses, perennials, and three Elm trees were laid out around the playground. Fibar was installed within the playground area. Construction will be continued into early 2016.

Decorative winter greenery was installed at Rush Pavilion and at the Boathouse on December 4, 2015. The four corner planters on Rush were filled with pine and fir cuttings along with faux red berries, red twig dogwood cuttings, and glittery curly-que decorations. The long planters leading up to the Boathouse were also decorated with pine and fir cuttings. Faux red berries, large pine cones, and plastic candy canes were also added to the planters.

**CITY LAND**

In 2015, Brickman held the maintenance contract for City Land. One of the biggest tasks they completed was mulching all City Land plant beds in the early spring. Mowing, weeding, spraying, pruning, and trash removal is also a large part of their services. The Natural Resources and Recreation Planner worked closely with Brickman throughout 2015 on the downtown planters. Brickman installed plant material specified by the Natural Resources and Recreation Planner in the downtown planters and hanging baskets. They did weekly water-

ing and fertilization of the plants throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

**DOWNTOWN PLANTERS**

**SUMMER** - The summer annuals for the downtown planters were installed later than usual in 2015 due to position transitions within the Facilities and Grounds Division. Summer annuals were hand-picked at Bennett's Greenhouse on June 29th, 2015 by the Natural Resources and Recreation Planner. Three different plant combinations were used in the existing 39 planters. The hanging baskets were designed by Bennett's. Planters and hanging baskets were installed and maintained by Brickman.

**FALL** - The fall annuals were installed on October 3rd, 2015 by Brickman. Mums, pansies, and ornamental cabbage were used in various combinations for the existing thirty-nine planters. All annuals were hand-picked by the Natural Resources and Recreation Planner.



**Winter greenery was added to the flower beds outside the Boathouse at Columbian Park for the holiday season.**

**WINTER** - The winter greenery for the downtown planters were installed throughout the second week of December, 2015. Brickman was paid to install greenery in 31 of



**Mums, pansies, and ornamental cabbages were installed around the city in October.**

the existing planters. The eight 48" planters around the courthouse were installed by the Natural Resources and Recreation Planner and a seasonal landscape employee. The eight planters around the courthouse were filled with pine and fir cuttings, faux red berries, red twig dogwood cuttings, and festive decorative inserts.

**LANDSCAPE CREWS**

Throughout the summer of 2015, there was one full time Landscape Crew Leader and six landscape seasonals. Three of the landscape seasonals worked alongside the crew leader each day. The other three landscape seasonals worked at Columbian Park each day. The Natural Resources and Recreation Planner directed both crews. In mid-August, four of the landscape seasonals ended their employment and returned to their classes. Two landscape seasonals extended their employment and worked at Columbian Park between their classes.

**ADOPT-A-SPOTS AND ADOPT-A-MEDIANS**

The Adopt-A-Spot Program is for local businesses, groups or organizations that want to sponsor existing designed and landscaped areas around the City of Lafayette. Many of these Adopt-A-Spots were cre-



**Brickman held the contract for city land in 2015. They provided landscaping services such as mowing, weeding, spraying, pruning, trash removal, and installing plant material in city land beds and downtown planters.**

ated through the Railroad Relocation project. In 2015, twelve of the eighteen Adopt-a-Spots were maintained by the spots' adoptees and their volunteers. Six of the Adopt-a-Spots were open and maintained by the Parks Department's Landscape Crew. The Natural Resources and Recreation Planner conducts regular inspections of each Adopt-A-Spot site. The Adopt-A-Median Program is a corporate sponsorship program.

**PONDS AND NATIVE PRAIRIE PLANTINGS**

Cardno: Engineering and Environmental Services oversees the annual maintenance of the ponds and native prairie plantings within the parks and City land. They seed, spray and remove invasive species,

collect trash, and upkeep the general appearance of these areas. In 2015, Cardno worked their way through the native planting areas and removed large amounts of willow that was beginning to spread.

**VOLUNTEER GROUPS**

Throughout the summer of 2015, the Natural Resources and Recreation Planner worked with the Trailblazers volunteer group on a weekly basis. The Trailblazers were a group of middle school aged kids from the Lafayette Family YMCA. The group would meet for about three hours once a week at one of the City of Lafayette Parks. The kids would perform park improvement tasks such as bed clean up, trash removal, and weed and invasive species removal. The Natural Resources and Recreation

Planner would spend part of the weekly meetings educating the kids on the Parks Department, native plantings, wildlife within the parks, and plant identification.

On September 18, the Parks Department hosted an IU Health Volunteer group at McCaw Park. As part of IU Health's "Annual Day of Service", they sponsored the addition of pickleball courts to the existing tennis and basketball courts at McCaw. The Natural Resources and Recreation Planner lead them in installing, mulching, and watering new plant beds.



**The Trailblazers group provided volunteer services in our parks on a weekly basis during the summer of 2015.**

# Aquatics



**Kids love to swim at Vinton Pool.**

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

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.

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 5 certified Lifeguard Instructors (LGI's) on staff for the 2015 sea-

son. These LGI's can train and certify prospective lifeguards. The LGI's helped develop and institute Lafayette Parks first lifeguard course in 2015. The course was held at Lafayette Jefferson High School in April and certified 15 lifeguards, 12 of which were hired by the Lafayette Parks Department. The LGI's also implemented a recertification course for the department's lifeguards. The lifeguard staff was put through extensive pre-season in-service training to make sure that all Department lifeguards had the skills to provide a safe swimming experience for all patrons. The in-service sessions for our lifeguard staff continued throughout the season to make sure that the Department continues to meet the highest possible standards for lifeguards. A total of 20 in-service training sessions, six pre-season and 14 in-season, took place in 2015. The in-service sessions were led by the aquatics management staff, and covered river back-boarding, submerged drowning victims, zero depth rescues, passive spinal injuries, CPR and CPR rescue breathing, two person removals and entries.

The guest relations and food and beverage staff were provided with extensive customer service and food preparation training to make sure that the needs of our aquatic patrons were met in a timely and friendly fashion. As a result of the renewed focus on customer service and training, the Aquatics Division staff performed at a high level throughout the summer and our lifeguard staff was the best trained and equipped staff possible.

Improvements to all three aquatic facilities continued in 2015. At Tropicanoe Cove, the second installment of new deck and concession furniture was purchased. This furniture added a splash of color to the deck of the Cove and to the concession area. The third and final installment of deck furniture will be added in 2016. New lily pads were added to the Gator Walk attraction for 2015, and the overall look of Tropicanoe Cove was enhanced by improved landscaping. New pool controllers were added at all three aquatic facilities. These controllers allow the aquatic staff to monitor water quality efficiently and further insure our patrons are swimming in safe, clean water.

At Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool, flowers and landscaping were added for our patrons to enjoy at each facility, deck chairs were replaced, and improvements were made to the exterior landscape of each facility. Each facility also received fresh coats of paint, and complete new vibrant color scheme was added at Vinton Pool.

# Tropicanoe Cove

Tropicanoe Cove was in operation for 77 days during the 2015 season. The Cove was closed due to weather for nine days. Attendance for the 2015 season was 53,394, with an average daily attendance of 693.4 persons (a 24% increase over 2014). The highest day attendance for Tropicanoe Cove was 2,257 on August 15, 2015.

The weather during the summer included 44 sunny days and 36 stormy/rainy days. Temperatures for the 2015 season were again below historical averages for Lafayette area for the third straight summer. The historical average temperature for the summer months in Lafayette



**Tropicanoe Cove as seen from above. New deck and concession furniture was added in 2015, and more improvements will continue in 2016.**

## Fast Facts

# +24%

increase in Tropicanoe Cove attendance from 2014

# +28%

increase in Castway Bay attendance from 2014

# +31%

increase in Vinton Pool attendance from 2014

is 84 degrees; the average temperature in 2015 was 80.8 degrees. The historical average temperature for the month of July in Lafayette is 86 degrees and the average high temperature for July 2015 was 81.4 degrees. There were 4 days with a temperature over 90 degrees, 16 days with a temperature between 85-89 degrees, 38 days with a temperature between 80-84 degrees and 26 days with a temperature between 70-79 degrees.

Season Passes continued to be a popular item with 298 passes sold during the 2015 season. The Cove hosted 24 Birthday Parties and 14 Private Rentals during the 2015 season.

Tropicanoe Cove remained dedicated to serving the leisure needs of the community. Non-profit groups took advantage of reduced admission prices available to them at the facility. Thanks to the Kids Can Schol-

arship Fund administered by the Lafayette Parks Foundation, 728 passes were handed out to Workreation participants. Over \$3,588 of scholarship money was given out to children in 2015 for admissions to the Cove and other programs offered through the Workreation program by the Department.

The water walking program continued in 2015 with two classes being offered in the morning and two classes in the evening. 45 water walking season passes were sold in 2015. Free water walking to all city employees was continued in 2015.

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

# Castway Bay and Vinton Pool

Total attendance at Castaway Bay was 9,838 for 64 operational days with an average daily attendance of 153.7 people. This is a 28% increase over 2014. Season Passes continued to be a big hit with 157 passes being sold during the 2015 season.

Swimming lessons through the Swim America program continued in 2015 with four sessions being of-

fered in the morning and three sessions being offered in the evening.

Total attendance at Vinton Pool was 6,735 for 62 operational days with an average daily attendance of 108.6 people, a 31% increase over 2014. Vinton was popular with local day camps, attracting over 2,400 visitors. 27 season passes were sold during the 2015 season.



Vinton Pool continues to be a popular place to cool off in the summertime on Lafayette's north side.

## Fast Facts

53,394

Tropicanoe Cove attendance in 2015

9,838

Castway Bay attendance in 2015

6,735

Vinton Pool attendance in 2015

## Concessions and Merchandise

Swimming brings on a hearty appetite, but you won't go hungry at the Cove Cafe. The 2015 Cove Cafe menu included Arni's Pizza 7" and 14", breadsticks, salads, hot dogs, nachos, pretzels, popcorn, cookies, walking tacos, ICEE products, and a variety of ice cream novelties. Several new items were offered in 2015 including fruit smoothies, French fries, and chicken strips. IttyBitz ice cream (five flavor choices were available) was the top seller at the Cove Cafe in 2015, followed by hot pretzels, and fruit smoothies.

A hot dog cart was purchased and operated at Castaway Bay for the summer, bringing Hot Dogs and Nachos to the patrons at the Bay. 446 hot dogs were sold in 2015, along with 440 bags of chips.

Vinton Pool concession sales included 310 orders of nachos, 327 bags of chips, and 267 Ring Pops.

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 in 2015. Pepsi continued to be a popular beverage choice among patrons for 2015.

Several merchandise items were sold for the 2015 season including glitter tattoos, sunglasses, goggles and sand and beach toys. Big squirts remained the number one merchandise seller (419 total sold at all three pools) followed closely by glitter tattoos (261 total) and goggles (188 total).

# Columbian Park Zoo

The Zoo opened for the season on April 18, 2015 and continued to operate daily through October 9, when the zoo closed for the winter.

## Fast Facts

36,399

riders on the Columbian Park Express in 2015

333

riders on the Helicopter Ride in 2015

571

riders on the Horse & Buggy Ride in 2015

604

riders on the Small Boats Ride in 2015

## RIDES

The Zoo acquired operations of the amusements rides in late 2011. The Columbian Park Express Train ride was up and running this season after an extensive engine overhaul in 2014, and it operated on the same schedule as the gift shop in 2015. The Wild Tykes Kiddie Rides operated on a slightly different schedule, which was primarily Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

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

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

## GIFT SHOP

The gift shop operated daily from April 18 through October 9 when the season ended. The gift shop also re-opened for a few days at the end of October while the Boo at the Zoo special event was taking place.

Gross earnings in the gift shop for the 2015 season were just over \$151,000. This was a nearly 15% increase in gross revenue from the previous year. Rides sales were approximately \$73,600, which is an increase of about 37% from 2014. This increase in revenue is directly attributed to the Columbian Park Zoo Express train being fully functional for the entire season, after the previous year's breakdown at the end of July.

## MASTER PLAN PROGRESS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

A completely renovated commissary in the animal house was sponsored by the Friends of Columbian Park Zoo in 2015. All new cabinets, countertops and appliances provided much needed updates to a room where the animal diets are prepared daily.



**Friends of Columbian Park Zoo sponsored the renovated commissary in the Animal House.**



**Max Huffman enjoyed the Horse & Buggy Ride in 2015.**

A brand-new EdZOOcation Station presentation area located next to the I.U. Arnett Family Farm was constructed by Kettelhut Construction. This presentation area, generously sponsored by the Lafayette Kiwanis Club, was completed and dedicated in September 2015. The area includes a raised presentation platform, shade awning, mobile storage carts and bench seating. The EdZOOcation Station will be used

by the Zoo's Education Department for a variety animal presentations and public engagement opportunities during the Zoo's open season. This area was also used as a photo station for Boo at the Zoo attendees in October 2015.

The Zoo also added 17 commercial-grade planters in two different sizes to enhance the beauty and color across Zoo grounds, and to improve the look of the main entrance and fountain plaza. These planters were funded by a sponsorship from Adele Needham, in honor of her mother.



**The Lafayette Kiwanis Club sponsored the brand new EdZOOcation Station. It was dedicated in September. The space will be used by the Zoo's education staff for a variety of public engagement opportunities.**

## Fast Facts

6

Bennett's wallabies  
born in 2015

20

Nigerian Dwarf goat  
kids born in 2015

3

Eastern hellbenders were  
added to the Zoo's collection  
in 2015

1

Mexican red-kneed tarantula  
was added to the Zoo's collection  
in 2015

### ANIMAL COLLECTION

A few new animals were acquired in 2015. Six Bennett's wallabies were born on-site. Other species added to the collection were a laughing kookaburra, French lop rabbit, three Eastern hellbenders, two sugar gliders, two domestic ferrets, 2 domestic rats, a Mexican red-kneed tarantula, and a red rat snake. Most of these animals were obtained as loans, donations, or purchases from other zoos or from private individuals.

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

death, loan, donation or sale. These animals included a few animal ambassadors and a few animals from our general exhibit collection. Animal ambassadors that were deaccessioned include the following: a domestic ferret, a domestic rat, a Jackson's chameleon, a leopard gecko, a bearded dragon, a prairie dog, a chinchilla, a corn snake, and a domestic cat. Animals that were de-acquisitioned from the general exhibit collection include 20 Nigerian dwarf goats, four Bennett's wallabies, three cockatoos, and a Southern tamandua.



**Twenty goat kids were born at Columbian Park Zoo in 2015.**

Also in 2015, the Zoo deaccessioned several animals through

## PARTNERSHIPS

Columbian Park Zoo staff continued their partnership with Purdue University. Students from the Animal Science Department, School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Veterinary Technology Program participated in several academic projects at the Zoo while completing their coursework. The Purdue EP-ICS group (Engineering Projects In Community Service) also continued working on several projects and explored new project ideas for 2016.

Zoo staff also collaborated with Friends of Columbian Park Zoo (FO-CPZ) to continue the tradition of family fun with such community events as the Zoo Run Run and Boo at the Zoo. This year's events were no different and a record number of participants participated in both events. Over 800 hundred runners joined the fun of the 13th annual run and a record-setting 7000+ individuals attended this year's Boo event due to the warmer temperatures.

The Zoo embarked on an important conservation partnership with Purdue University and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to house three juvenile hellbender salamanders. The Zoo's role is to house and maintain these endangered hellbenders in preparation



**Zeke, a white-handed gibbon, celebrated his birthday with a fun conservation event.**

for them to be released by Purdue into the wild. On August 29, 2015, the Zoo held a Help the Hellbender Day event to promote hellbender awareness and stress the importance of healthy rivers. Other organizations such as the WREC, IL/IN Sea Grant, TippCo Water Quality, and the Purdue Environmental Educators also participated in the event. Tri Kappa sponsored a hellbender education program conducted by Zoo staff in all Lafayette 6th grade classes.

Zoo staff also held a Birthday Party event for Zeke, the white-handed gibbon, on May 2. Mammaw's Sweet Shoppe donated 300 cupcakes to help celebrate with the public. Zoo patrons learned about how choosing palm-oil free products helps preserve forested areas in Asia where gibbons are found in the wild. They also got to sing "Happy Birthday to Zeke" and observe him enjoying his cake and presents.

A "round up your dollar" conservation effort was also executed in the Zoo gift shop for the first time. This successful venture raised more than \$800 from Zoo visitors towards gibbon conservation in the wild.



**Columbian Park Zoo is now home to three Eastern hellbender salamanders.**

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The Zoo was the recipient of two "2015 Reader's Choice Awards", for "Best Kids Venue" and "Best Birthday Party Venue", sponsored by the Journal & Courier newspaper. These awards are determined by a reader's poll conducted by the newspaper. The awards were presented during a ceremony held in early November.

Columbian Park Zoo was also awarded with a 2015 Certificate of Excellence from Tripadvisor.com, with a 4.5 out of 5 overall rating.



**Education Coordinator Amber Frederick and Zoo Director Ron Breeding accepted two Reader's Choice Awards from the Journal and Courier.**

## EDUCATION

The Zoo's education program continued to be an excellent community service. Outreach and on-site programs performed included school visits, animal encounters, ZooMobiles, mini-zoo visits, day camps, birthday parties and special presentations. Gross revenue was nearly \$93,000 which is a 4.6% slight decrease compared to last year's record income, however overall participation in education programs and events saw an increase of over 14%.

## Fast Facts

# 38,017

participants in 2015 Zoo educational programs

# +14%

increase in participation in Zoo education programs from 2014

# 14,109.70

volunteer hours logged at the Zoo in 2015

# 121,497

visitors to the Wallaby Walk-about Exhibit in 2015

# 110,303

visitors to the Family Farm Exhibit in 2015

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Junior Zookeeper Program continued to be a success for the area's youth. A group of 30 teenagers, ages 14-17 years, were selected to participate in the 2015 Junior Zookeeper Program. These students contributed over 2600 hours of their time during the busy summer season assisting the Zoo Staff with a myriad of tasks. In addition, they enjoyed a variety of educational field trips including an overnight trip to the Louisville Zoo in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Volunteer and Internship programs continued to thrive with volunteers donating 14,110 hours of their time to the Zoo in the areas

of Animal Care, Education, Landscaping, and Marketing. Of this total, 4700 hours were contributed by interns alone. The remaining hours were contributed by community service workers, Purdue University students, Ivy Tech students, and a variety of volunteer groups from local community organizations. Approximately 3,417 volunteer hours were contributed by volunteers to help make the annual Friends of the Zoo sponsored "Boo at the Zoo" Halloween event a huge success. Purdue University continues to be a tremendous resource for student engagement at the Zoo with volunteers from many different departments logging hours in a variety of capacities.

## SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

The Columbian Park Zoo has developed partnerships to improve exhibits and enhance the quality of the Zoo's educational programs and special events.

Partners involved in Zoo improvements for 2015 included:

- |                               |                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lafayette Kiwanis Club        | Adele Needham           |
| Kettelhut Construction        | Purdue University EPICS |
| Friends of Columbian Park Zoo |                         |

Partners that contributed to the Zoo via IN-KIND donations and services included:

- |                   |                          |                |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Aquasystems       | HotBox Pizza             | Pepsi-Cola     |
| Arni's Restaurant | Jimmy Johns              | PFCU           |
| Awards Unlimited  | Journal & Courier        | Sam's Club     |
| Best Western      | Lafayette Printing       | Shoe Carnival  |
| Bison Financial   | Mammaw's Sweet Shoppe    | Stacked Pickle |
| Chuck E. Cheese's | Marriott                 | Trent Johnson  |
| Dog N Suds        | Midwest Rentals          | Tri-N-Run      |
| Fleet Feet        | the National Group       | Triple XXX     |
| Fresh City Market | Niki Johnson Photography | Frito Lay      |
| University Spirit | Once Upon a Child        | WLFI TV 18     |
| WASK radio group  | Zachary Confections      |                |

Partners in conservation included:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Purdue University    | Indiana Department of Natural Resources |
| WREC                 | IL/IN Sea Grant                         |
| TippCo Water Quality | Tri Kappa                               |
| Mesker Park Zoo      | Fort Wayne Children's Zoo               |

## STAFF TRAINING

Senior Zookeepers Heather Woody and Noah Shields attended a week-long course titled “Managing for Success: Organizational Development” put on by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in February of 2015. This course provides students with an in-depth overview of managing a Zoo organization as well as standards for AZA accreditation and how to achieve them.

Zoo Director Ron Breeding attended a 2-day seminar run by Safe Capture International that teaches the necessary information and skills required for chemical immobilization of dangerous Zoo animals.

Seven Zoo staff members maintained membership to the San Diego Zoo Global Academy online training website that allows individuals to participate in hundreds of work-related webinars and courses on topics including the following: OSHA regulations and safety, education, interpretation, conservation, customer service, team building, and animal care topics such as nutrition, handling, health and well-being, and behavior.



Warmer than usual temperatures attracted over 7,000 people to Boo at the Zoo.



Over 800 runners and walkers participated in this year's Zoo Run Run 5K race. The course winds in and out of Columbian Park and its surrounding neighborhoods. The race benefits Friends of Columbian Park Zoo.

## Fast Facts

800+

participants in 2015 Zoo Run Run 5K race

7,000+

attendees at the 2015 Boo at the Zoo event

300

number of cupcakes donated by Mammaw's Sweet Shoppe to help celebrate Zeke's birthday

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- (11) 28" diameter and (6) 36" diameter commercial concrete planters
- 1 metal decorative trash receptacle, and 3 metal decorative recycled material receptacles
- EdZooation Station presentation platform with shade awning, mobile carts and bench seating
- Kitchen cabinets, solid-surface countertop, stainless steel sink & faucet, dishwasher, and 18 cu ft. refrigerator for the Animal House kitchen



# McAllister Center

The McAllister Recreation Center (MRC) 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 MRC offers a number of diverse programs for all ages. Youth and adults are afforded the opportunity to participate in programs such as: basketball, volleyball, flag football, day camp programs, Sporties for Shorties series, yoga, weight and fitness, and youth dance. These programs continue to be improved upon and expanded on a continual basis.

In 2015, the center added a yoga instructor and evening yoga classes, DNR sponsored Family Fishing Day, a holiday “drop and shop” program, and a spring and fall running series.



**Three yoga instructors offered classes at MRC in 2015.**



**New mirrors were added to the free weight area in 2015.**

## FITNESS PROGRAMMING

The McAllister Recreation Center continued to offer a variety of fitness programs to adults in the Greater Lafayette Community. In 2015, a running program was offered in the spring and fall to individuals who wanted to increase their personal fitness through running. This program was a nice addition for those individuals who wanted to build upon the Walking Towards Wellness events by learning the basics to proper running techniques. A total of 7 participants signed up for this event in 2015. McAllister’s yoga and Zumba classes were well attended in 2015.

McAllister’s free weights, machine weights and cardio equipment were heavily used in 2015. New mirrors in the free weight area and

new rubber flooring in half of the cardio area were well-received by patrons. There were 3,989 daily fitness passes, 7 monthly passes and 3 yearly passes sold in 2015. In all, \$8,624.00 was generated through weight and fitness revenue. In addition to the paid fitness passes, the MRC provided the opportunity for City employees and their families to use the fitness areas at no cost. In 2015, a total of 2,450 employees and their families took advantage of the fitness areas. This was 1,061 more people than last year. The McAllister Center also played host to the City sponsored Wellness fair which included flu shots. Many employees and their families participated in City-sponsored Yoga, Zumba, PiYo, and Insanity classes which were offered for beginners, advanced students and seniors.

## Fast Facts

**3,989**

daily fitness passes sold in 2015

**2,450**

City of Lafayette employee and family members that used McAllister in 2015

**+76%**

increase in City employee usage over 2014

## CAMPS

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

Summer time is a very busy time for the MRC. The Center holds one of the biggest day camps in Tippecanoe County. The 2015 summer camp accounted for \$209,755.02 in gross revenue. We surpassed our yearly goal of \$209,000.00 even though we had to cancel 5 days of camp due to the local school corporations having extend the school year due to snow days.

In years past, we capped our registration numbers at the first 220 registrants. In 2015, we decided we would cap individual group numbers instead of total camp registrants. That breaks down to 40 campers/age group (age groups of 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12 year old age groups). As a result, we registered 40 campers for each age group which increased our registration totals to 280. This small change in strategy allowed us to keep our numbers consistent throughout the summer which helped us achieve our camp revenue goal.

Once again, the Purdue Women in Engineering held 12 days of exciting and educational programming for the summer camp. Some of the field trips enjoyed by campers in 2015 included bowling, movies, swimming, community park visits, and gymnastics. The one thing that no camper wanted to miss this year was carnival day. At carnival day the campers get to enjoy three



**Kids at McAllister Summer Camp enjoy a variety of activities. Visits to pools, parks, bowling alleys, and other locations are included in the fun!**

## Fast Facts

# \$209,755.02

McAllister Summer Camp  
revenue in 2015

# 163

average daily attendance  
by kids at McAllister  
Summer Camp

# 159

week of camp assistance  
given to families in need

different bounce obstacles, a dunk tank were they can take their shot at dropping their favorite counselor in some ice cold water, carnival games, Kona Ice and pizza from Arni's. The center has been fortunate to have a high rate of retention in both staff and campers. This familiarity allows staff, parents and campers a smooth transition from summer to summer. There were 55 operational day of Summer Camp, with an average daily attendance of 163 children. This year McAllister Recreation Center was able to grant 159 weeks of camp assistance to families in need.

In addition to the high attendance and revenue set during the 2015 Summer Camp, other camp programs throughout the year experienced similar success. These include Spring Break, Fall Break, and Holiday camp.

## JUNIOR COUNSELOR PROGRAM

2015 was the sixth year the MRC has offered a Junior Counselor Program for kids 13-15 years of age. There are two main objectives to the program. The first objective is for the Junior Counselors to gain experience applying, gathering references and interviewing for a real job. The second is to teach the participants the processes and responsibilities of being a camp counselor. These youth worked with our summer counseling staff assisting in all aspects of the summer camp. For example, the Junior Counselors had to develop and administer an activity for their group. Twenty-three teens participated in 2015 (10 girls, 13 boys). At the end of the summer, the Junior Counselors were rewarded with a field trip to King's Island Amusement Park for the day.



**The Sporties for Shorties program introduces kids to the fun of sports.**

## SPORTIES FOR SHORTIES

The MRC offered children ages 4 and 5 an opportunity to familiarize themselves with sports through the Sporties for Shorties program. The program was designed to introduce the basic fundamentals of soccer, t-ball, flag football and basketball to them through fun and exciting drills. Each program ends with the children receiving their first team jersey and participating in their first game. Together, there were 95 energetic athletes participate in 2015.

## YOUTH BASKETBALL

The goals of the youth basketball program are to provide the participants with the basic fundamentals of the sport and an understanding of teamwork.

The McAllister youth basketball program had a total of 392 total participants in 2015. A total of 202 children (18 teams) participated in the winter league and 190 children (18 teams) participated in the fall league. The program numbers once again were at the maximum for number of children participating. The McAllister staff added an additional two teams in the winter league in an attempt to allow everyone to participate. There are two age groups (6-8 year olds and 9-11 year olds). Teams that are coached by parent volunteers hold practice once a week and play their games on Saturdays.

108 volunteers either coached and operated the scoreboard. McAllister staff members officiated all of the games. Approximately 1,284 volunteer hours were given to the youth basketball program in 2015.

## ADULT VOLLEYBALL

Teams play a seven-week schedule culminating in a two-week tournament at the end. The 2015 volleyball winter season saw slight decline in which only six teams participated. The "Court Jesters" won the winter championship. The fall session saw eight teams battling for the championship T-shirts. The "Will Work for Set" won the winter session by beating the defending champions "Court Jesters" in straight sets. The winning team receives a championship T-shirt with their team name on it.



**The McAllister Youth Basketball program was expanded in 2015 to allow for more participants.**

## YOUTH FLAG FOOTBALL

This program, offered in partnership with Lafayette Jefferson High School, allows children between the ages of 6-11 years, the opportunity to participate in a recreation-based flag football league. Children learn basic fundamentals of the game during practice, and put those skills to the test during the game on Sunday. To allow for the participants to have greater retention of fundamentals and plays, practices were held one hour before the game on Sundays.

In year's past, children have been split into leagues based on age, 6-7 year olds and 8-9 year olds. This past year the McAllister Center added an additional age group (10-11 year olds). In 2015, we had 24 parent volunteer coaches. Thirty different Jefferson High School football players served as volunteer officials at the games. In all, volunteers contributed 426 hours for the youth flag football program. There were 137 participants in the flag football program.

This year the participants in the league were invited to attend the Lafayette Jeff vs Logansport football game where they were given free admission and were announced prior to the start of the game.



**The Spring Egg Hunt was a great success. It included a visit from the McAllister Bunny.**

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

The 16th annual Summer Community Bowling program was held during the months of June and July from noon to 3 p.m. at Market Square Lanes, Star Lanes, and Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl. In all, over 1200 games and approximately 700 children bowled during the six days the program was held.

In June, the McAllister Center again partnered with volunteers from the Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to host the Kid's Fishing Day at Munger Park. Children of all ages were able to go to Munger Park and test their angler skills. This year, 95 children participated. Since this program was a "catch and release" program, a hotdog lunch was provided for all who showed up. The McAllister Center provided free popcorn.

2015 saw the revival of the Spring Egg Hunt at McAllister. A total of 59 children attended the egg hunt

this year. Not only did they get eggs filled with candy and prizes, but they were able to color their own egg, say hello to Lafayette's Mayor Roswarski and Dare Officer John Townsend, and take a picture with the McAllister Bunny.

### **NEW PROGRAMS**

The McAllister staff is committed to offering the highest quality of programming for the Greater Lafayette Community. There were a number of new and exciting programs offered to the public in 2015. Many of these programs were well-received and attended.

The Spring Into Fitness running series was offered to promote healthy living and exercise through the sport of running. The goal of this 10 week program was to focus on the basics of running, develop fundamentals and confidence, and help avoid common injuries from poor technique. Participants received training plan for weekly runs and non-meeting days, an athlete work

out system used to track their efforts and share with the trainer, and friendship and support of other runners. This program used a number of the Lafayette Parks trails and counted as a Wellness Event for City of Lafayette employees.

The McAllister Center developed a partnership with the DNR to promote their GoFishIN in the City program. Go FishIN in the City is Indiana DNR's new 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 years of age and under can fish at the designated site (Munger Park in 2015) without a license. In addition to the Free Fishing Day, McAllister, along with the DNR, held a Family Fishing Workshop at the Center. Four staff members attended the DNR Crew Capitan's workshop. It was an 8 hour course followed by fishing practice at Mungar Park. Twelve people total attended the class. By becoming a Crew Capitan, anyone of the 4 staff members can use fishing equipment free of charge from the DNR.

McAllister held a "Drop and Shop" program in the middle of December. The program allows for parents to drop the children off to finish the rest of their holiday shopping or have a break from their kids. The program was from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The children played games, did a special holiday craft, watched a movie and ate some pizza. Seventeen children attended the program in 2015.

Cheryl Eberle was added as a new yoga instructor. Cheryl held two programs in the evening this winter and plans on adding an additional class for children in the spring of 2016.

### **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 2015, 213 individuals volunteered 2,069 hours as coaches, referees, scoreboard operators, guest speaker, program facilitators, and educators. The Staff at the McAllister Recreation Center appreciates each of the volunteer's dedication and contribution.



**“Will Work for Set” won the Fall 2015 Adult Volleyball championship.**

### **GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

In 2015 the McAllister Recreation Center was fortunate to receive several grants for the McAllister Summer Camp Scholarship Fund. A total of \$12,020.00 dollars were granted to the McAllister Center from a number of organizations such as the Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation, Lafayette Noon Optimus Club, Fraternal order of the Eagles, the Coffee Boys and the McAllister Foundation. These grants assisted several children in attending camps and programs at a reduced cost to their families. A total of 159 weeks for summer camp and 2 program fees were provided with these scholarship funds.

The McAllister Recreation Center has developed partnerships with several area organizations and individuals to assist with the Depart-

ments' quality programs.

- McAllister Center partnerships:
- 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
  - Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries
  - CityBus
  - St. Lawrence/McAllister Neighborhood Association
  - Monon Neighborhood Association
  - Tippecanoe Co. Public Library

- Tippecanoe Co. 4-H
- Payless Supermarkets
- Dave and Jill Howell
- McAllister Foundation
- Market Square Lanes
- Mike Alby's Arrowhead Bowl
- Star Lanes
- Purdue University Com 353 class
- Bricks 4 Kidz
- Ivy Tech State College
- I.U. Health
- Club Newtowne
- Fleet Feet Sports
- Complete Nutrition
- SIA
- Lafayette Noon Optimus Club
- Purdue Veterinary Medicine
- Nature's Pharm
- Pet Smart
- Tractor Supply Co.
- Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette
- Purdue University Printing Press
- Meijer

# Administrative Services

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

## TECHNOLOGY

The Department upgraded several office work stations, printers and software solutions in 2015. With the cooperation of the City Information Technology Department, we will continue to upgrade computer workstations, software, and printers to provide the Parks staff with tools necessary to perform and produce quality work.

To go along the widespread use of social networking, the Department continued using social media websites including Facebook and Twitter. Pages for Lafayette Parks and recreation, Columbian Park Zoo, Art in the Park, and Final Friday Movie Night were all used to share information and update users. The Final Friday Movie Night pages were deleted in November of 2015. An Instagram account was started for the Department in late 2015.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Marketing and promotional activities for 2015 included many exciting projects.

### Aquatics

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

### Art in the Park

Lafayette Parks and Recreation hosted the 2nd Annual Art in the Park summer art and music series in 2015. This family friendly event took place on Memorial Island, in Lafayette's historic Columbian Park. Art in the Park was celebrated every Wednesday, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Memorial Day until Labor Day. Ten dates were scheduled in 2015, but two were cancelled due to inclement weather. Total attendance for the series was 1,023 people (average of 127 participants per event).

Local artists and food vendors set up booths on Memorial Island, and a band performed on the stage at each event. This event series was free and open to the public. We thank the James K. Risk Family for their generous sponsorship that made Art in the Park such a success.

Artist Booths Featured in 2015: custom-made jewelry, handcrafted flatware products, wood art, pottery, clothing, metal sculptures, oil paintings, on-site portraits, stained glass, and photography.

Bands Featured in 2015: The Danny Weiss Trio, Fergus Daly Band, Shiny Penny, Jazz Quartet, Popular Ego, The Snyders, and Smoke Flavored Wood.

Food Vendors Featured in 2015: L Kora Food Truck, The Pink Walrus, 517 Coffee, Smokey Meat Sweats BBQ, Coldstone Creamery, and Ben's Pretzels.

The Art in the Park Facebook page ended the year with 1,659 likes and an average review of 4.9 out of 5 stars. [www.facebook.com/artin-theparklafayette](http://www.facebook.com/artin-theparklafayette)



**Art in the Park offered families a great opportunity to create their own custom works of art!**

The Art in the Park Twitter page ended the year with 193 followers. <https://twitter.com/artintheparklaf>

#### Final Friday Movie Night

Lafayette Parks and Recreation hosted the 2nd Annual Final Friday children's art education and outdoor movie series in 2015. This family friendly event took place on Memorial Island, in Lafayette's historic Columbian Park.

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

Educational Art Collaborations in 2015: Tippecanoe Arts Federation's Instrument Petting Zoo, Civic Theatre Improvisational Games, Crafts with Lala Gallery & Studio, and Bike Rodeo with Bicycle Lafayette.

Movies Featured in 2015: The Jungle Book, Homeward Bound, A Bug's Life, and Robin Hood.

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

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

#### Pooch Plunge

In August 2015, the Dog Park Association in partnership with the La-

fayette Parks Department and the Lafayette Police Department held the 3rd Annual POOCH PLUNGE, a 2-evening event to help raise money for the LPD K-9 Program.

#### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

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

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

The Department continued its relationship with B102.9 FM, which broadcasted live from Tropicanae Cove each Wednesday during Family Nights in the summer. The B102.9 Morning Show also continued featuring the Zoo Education Department each month for "Zoo Day." On the second Friday of each month, the Zoo Education staff visited the station with a variety of Animal Ambassadors. Schurz Communications was the radio sponsor for both the Zoo Run and Boo at the Zoo in 2015. WBAA was present at several Department events and ceremonies in 2015. Staff members also did numerous interviews with stations for the announcement of news items.

#### **SALES AND RENTALS**

Sales and rentals continued to be a major part of Administrative Services in 2015. Direct staff involvement in this process resulted in

more corporate rentals and greater public exposure. In 2015, 939 groups rented park facilities for events such as picnics, weddings, receptions and family reunions.

The breakdown for rentals in 2015 is as follows:

- 695 shelter reservations
- 120 five-hour Rush Pavilion rentals
- 6 full-day Rush Pavilion rentals
- 97 five-hour Jenks's Rest rentals
- 10 full-day Jenks' Rest rentals
- 3 five-hour Clubhouse rentals
- 2 full-day Clubhouse rentals
- 6 Memorial Island rentals

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

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

#### **FUND DEVELOPMENT**

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

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The Program and Facilities Guide was printed and distributed in June 2015.

# FOCPZ

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

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

The 13th annual Zoo Run-Run was held on Saturday, July 18. This 5K run/walk brought over 800 participants to the zoo and raised more than \$12,000. Bison Financial provided the traditional pancake breakfast and children participated in the free kid's run.

With the assistance of unseasonably warm weather, Boo at the Zoo 2015 was a record-setting suc-

cess! This event raised more than \$40,000 and more than 7,000 people attended over three days. Boo at the Zoo is a "hauntingly friendly" experience for the community and featured a nightly kids' costume contest, fun games and activities, encounters with Animal Ambassadors, photo opportunities, and the Enchanted Train Ride. Special entertainment included the Purdue Marching Band, the Purdue Gold Duster Dance Team, face painters, balloon twisters, and a magician.

## Friends of Columbian Park Zoo 2015 Board Members:

- Robyn Jakes, Purdue University, Materials Engineering: President
- Matt Swisher, Retired Business Owner: Vice President
- Sabrina Neal, Ruoff Home Mortgage: Treasurer
- Cesar Vazquez, Kirby Risk: Secretary
- Emily Blue, Purdue University, Marketing and Media
- Mike Bowsher, Home Instead Senior Care
- Tanya Foster: Purdue University, Athletic Academic Services
- Krista Henery, WLFI-News 18
- Douglas Keith, Purdue University, Construction Management Technology

- Steven Knecht, Vonderheide & Knecht
- Tom Melichar, Oerlikon Fairfield Manufacturing
- Aimee Ness, Keller Williams Realty
- Nathan Pritts, Time Keepers Productions
- Terry Schmitt, Retired
- Andy Switzer, ARKOR Architects & Engineers
- Jaime Williams, Lafayette Bank & Trust

## Donations

The Friends of Columbian Park Zoo received the following major monetary contributions during 2015:

- \$5,000 from Anonymous
- \$1,500 from Tri Kappa
- \$1,000 from Ruoff Home Mortgage
- \$500 from Alorica, Inc.
- \$500 from Caterpillar, Inc.
- \$500 from Climb Lafayette
- \$500 from Cook Medical
- \$500 from Kettelhut Construction Inc.

The Friends of Columbian Park Zoo received the following donations, valued at \$300 and above:

- Gregory and Jo Ann Brooks
- Maurice Denney
- Vonderheide and Knecht

Other donations to Friends of Columbian Park Zoo:

- 11 businesses and/or individuals donated funds in the amount of \$250 each
- 12 businesses and/or individuals donated funds in the amount of \$100-\$249
- 4 businesses and/or individuals donated funds in the amount of \$1-\$100



**Mayor Roswarski and Representative Klinker served pancakes at the Zoo Run Run.**

# 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 2015:

- \$7,500 from Bill and Jane Bremer for the Shamrock Park roller hockey rink
- \$1,000 from Sean Scott for the Shamrock Park roller hockey rink
- \$1,000 from the Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette for a bench at Shamrock Park
- \$5,000 from IU Health for pickleball courts at McCaw Park

The Parks Foundation, in collaboration with Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc., successfully secured donations totaling \$125,000 to initiate and complete Phase I renovations of Memorial Island.

**Total fund development for the year: \$159,349.90**



Report compiled by: Lindsey Huffman