



# ANNUAL Lafayette Parks & Recreation REPORT 2011

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# City of Lafayette, Indiana Parks and Recreation Department

## *2011 Annual Report*

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## I. LAFAYETTE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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

The 2011 Parks and Recreation Board consisted of Dawn Patterson, President, Maurie Denney, Victor Klinker, and Dave Mecklenburg. Joseph Bumbleburg served as Secretary to the Board.

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



**Lafayette Board of Parks and Recreation (l to r)**  
Front Row: Maurie Denney, Dawn Patterson  
Back Row: Joe Bumbleburg, Victor Klinker,  
Dave Mecklenburg, Ted Bumbleburg

## II. VISION AND MISSION

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

The mission statement, vision, and goals for long-term excellence were revalidated. New five-year goals and an action plan were adopted through this dynamic process. The plan will guide the planning implementation of activities until 2013.

### MISSION

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

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

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

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

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

### GOALS FOR LONG-TERM EXCELLENCE

#### Human Resources

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

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

### Administration and Operations

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

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

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

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

### Funding and Financial Management

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

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

### Organizational Relationships

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

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

### Physical Resources and Services

*System-wide Improvements* that create an inviting 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, but the greatest emphasis on children and teens, that are priced to be self-supporting.

## Planning and Growth

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

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

## **COMMUNITY NEEDS/ISSUES**

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

- Columbian Park—repair lagoon
- Loeb Stadium—Structure replacement and maintenance building
- Youth and teen programs
- Columbian Park Zoo—finish parking access, classroom space
- New department maintenance facility
- Playground replacement
- Golf Course—clubhouse remodel/maintenance building
- Tropicane Cove—phase 2 addition
- New sports field complex
- More seasonal staff
- New equipment
- Master plans for neighborhood parks
- Future land acquisition for conservation use
- Senior programs
- Hispanic education and programs
- New park site on southeast side of community
- Winter programs
- Berlovitz Woods—new nature center
- Riverfront development
- Trails



Senior citizens play cards at The Center @ Jenks' Rest. The community believes more programming for seniors is needed.

## **ACTION AND PRIORITY PLAN**

### 2010

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

### 2011

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

### 2012

1. Construct renovations on Loeb Stadium
2. Zoo-finish expansion – *in progress*
3. Install accessibility enhancements to SIA Playground in Columbian Park – *Spring 2012*
4. Complete South Tipp Park master plan and complete construction of the park – *Started in 2011*
5. Construct N 9<sup>th</sup> Street Trail Head – *Started in Fall 2011*

2013

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

**III. PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

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

The Department also operates many unique facilities, including an award-winning family aquatic center, innovative playground, dog park, premier baseball stadium, zoo, amusement rides, recreation center, 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.



Tropicanoe Cove continues to be a destination for family fun in Lafayette. The Cove celebrated its 10th year in operation in 2009.

Vinton Pool

3111 Prairie Lane

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

## **COLUMBIAN PARK**

1915 Scott Street

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

The Columbian Park Zoo was opened in 1908 and currently houses over 120 animals. 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 a multimillion dollar expansion which is scheduled to be done within the next few years. In late fall 2011; plans were finalized for the new Zoo Education Building on the southwest side of the current zoo premises. Construction began in December and the building is expected to be completed by early summer 2012.

Loeb Stadium, a 3,500-seat baseball stadium, was built in 1940 and is home field to Lafayette Jefferson High School, the American Legion Post-11 League, and 13-and-older Colt League. The stadium annually hosts the Colt World Series and IHSAA tournaments. The Loeb Stadium Advisory Committee was formed in 2008. They began regular meetings in 2009 and have continued meeting throughout 2010 and 2011 to gather information and plan for the future of Loeb Stadium.

The SIA Playground provides Lafayette kids and families an exciting and adventurous place to play. The innovative playground is fully accessible and includes distinct areas specifically designed for all ages ranging from tots to adults. In 2011, SIA and the Lafayette Parks Department partnered again to increase funds in order to make the SIA playground a more handicap accessible friendly atmosphere. A walk/run was hosted at the SIA Sports Complex on August 27<sup>th</sup> and raised over \$75,000. Renovations are scheduled to begin spring of 2012, before the peak season in the summertime.

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

Columbian Park also features amusement rides with a restored miniature train and other rides enjoyed by smaller children; many of these rides have been in the park for the past decades.

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), and the Boathouse, restored in 1999, which serves as the Parks Administrative Office.

## **COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION CENTER**

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

### Armstrong Park

9th Street & Beck Lane, 26 acres

The park features three lighted youth baseball fields, five lighted tennis courts, lighted basketball courts, restrooms and concession building, multi-age playground, stocked pond, and 2/3 mile paved trail. A picnic shelter was completed in 2010 with new landscaping, tables and two new adult swings. 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, a community aquatic center, which opened in 2003.

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.

CAT Park and Soccer Fields

McCarty Lane, behind Caterpillar, 32 acres

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

Linear Park Trail

Beck Lane & S. 9th Street

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

McCaw Park

Union Street & Creasy Lane, 26 acres

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

Munger Park

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

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

Murdock Park

18th Street & Ferry Street, 30 acres

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

Shamrock Park

Wabash Avenue, 11 acres

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

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

### 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 the building received a new floor in the gymnasium in 2008.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

The Department manages nine smaller parks that serve neighborhoods comprising over 15 acres.

### Arlington Park

1700 Arlington Road, 1 acre

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

### Centennial Park

6th Street & Brown Street, 0.5 acre

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

### Erie and Ferry Street Green space

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. Naming of the park will be announced early in 2012.

### Hanna Park

18th Street & Hanna Street, 2.2 acres

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

### Hedgewood Park

Hedgewood Drive & Beverly Lane, 1 acre

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

### Kennedy Park

Sequoia Drive & Beck Lane, 12 acres

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

Linnwood Park

15th Street & Greenbush Street, 0.5 acres

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

North Darby Park

Darby Lane, 0.8 acres

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

South Tipp Park

3rd Street & Fountain Streets, 0.8 acres

Located next to the Community Family Resource Center (CFRC), this park features a basic multi-age playground and tot playground, basketball court, and picnic shelter. Some safety improvements to the playground were completed in 2003. The park serves youth programs sponsored by CFRC. South Tipp Park is a past recipient of CDBG funds and has been adopted by the Ellsworth-Romig Neighborhood Association and CFRC. A park master plan is in the future for South Tipp Park.

**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.

Lyboult Sports Park

Canal Road, 52 acres

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

McAllister Park

North 9th Street, 350 acres

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

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

Environmental Interpretive Area

North 9th Street & US 52, 44 acres

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

#### IV. ADMINISTRATION

Since May of 2004, Ted Bumbleburg has served as Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. Under his leadership, the Department has continued with planning, public input and inter-departmental cooperation. Ted continues to foster a “team” environment where the administration and staff work together to best serve the leisure needs of Lafayette citizens in accordance with the Department’s Mission.

#### ORGANIZATION

The Department is comprised of the following divisions: Administrative Services, Park Operations, Amusements, Columbian Park Zoo, Lafayette Municipal Golf Course, and McAllister Recreation Center. During 2011, there were 37 full-time positions, 17 part-time and temporary, and approximately 200 seasonal employees.

##### Administrative Services

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

<b>Administrative Services in 2011</b>	
Manager	Angie Schultz (Accounting Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>

##### Park Operations

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

<b>Park Operations in 2011</b>	
Managers	John Cornell (Columbian Park Manager) William “Karl” Hensley (Parks Facilities Manager) Belinda Kiger (Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager) Thomas Rankin (Safety and Security Manager) Cyndi Bodin (Natural Resources Coordinator)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> </ul>

Amusements

This division is responsible for aquatics, amusement rides, and concessions.

<b>Amusements in 2011</b>	
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing with seasonal employment trends, the amusements area hired               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 24 management staff (for varies amusement areas)</li> <li>○ 64 pool lifeguards</li> <li>○ 8 cash office personnel</li> <li>○ 5 amusement rides operators</li> <li>○ 12 concession workers</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The duties within the position were restructured to other managers within the parks' system.</li> </ul>

Columbian Park Zoo

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

<b>Columbian Park Zoo in 2011</b>	
Director	Claudine Laufman (Zoo Director)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jen Zak, Zookeeper, resigned in January. She continues on staff as a part-time employee</li> <li>• Nichole Hartman, Zookeeper, resigned in January</li> <li>• Noah Shields was promoted (from seasonal) to Full-time Zookeeper in late January</li> <li>• Sydney Hoover was hired as a full-time Zookeeper in February</li> <li>• Sydney Hoover, Zookeeper, resigned in October</li> <li>• Brian Cogar, Head Zookeeper, resigned in November</li> </ul>

Lafayette Municipal Golf Course

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

<b>Lafayette Municipal Golf Course in 2011</b>	
Managers	Jason Biddinger (Gold Course Manager) Bob Kowatch (Golf Course Superintendent)
Key Personnel Changes	None

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

### McAllister Recreation Center

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

<b>McAllister Recreation Center in 2011</b>	
Manager	Jon Miner (McAllister Center Manager)
Key Personnel Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dan Watson, General Maintenance, passed away in October</li><li>• John Rodenbeck was hired in December for General Maintenance at McAllister Center</li></ul>

### **STAFF**

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

Twenty staff members hold undergraduate degrees. During 2011, staff members have been certified in many specialties. Five staff members are certified playground inspectors, five are certified pool operators, four are certified pesticide applicators, two are registered technicians, and five are certified park and recreation professionals, and five have received training for chemical immobilization. One staff member is a Certified Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture and serves on the Indiana Arborist Association Executive Board, Sugar Creek Trail Executive Board, Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee, Purdue University Tree Advisory Board, and the Tree Lafayette Executive Board. One staff member serves on the Indiana Regulated Amusement Safety Device Board, and the Tippecanoe County Convention and Visitors Bureau Commission.

### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

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

### **COLLABORATION**

The Department continued to work collaboratively with governmental agencies, local organizations, and area businesses to better serve the citizens of Lafayette. Organizations that the Department worked closely with in 2011 include the American Red Cross, Community Appearance Task Force, Community and Family Resource Center, Downtown Business Center, Friends of the Columbian Park Zoo, Friends of Downtown, Greater Lafayette Commerce, Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette, Greater Lafayette Convention and Visitors Bureau, Hanna Community Center, Indiana Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division and Outdoor Recreation Division, Indiana Urban Forest Council, Lafayette Adult Resource Academy, Lafayette Colt Tournaments, Lafayette School Corporation (LSC), Tree Lafayette, Lafayette Parks Foundation, Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association, Lafayette Volunteer Bureau, Leadership Lafayette, Lyn Treece Boys and Girls Club, Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners, Purdue University, Tippecanoe County Health Department, Tippecanoe County Historical Association, Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation, Tippecanoe County Public Library, Wabash Center, Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, and West Lafayette Parks and Recreation.

The Department maintains reciprocal agreements with LSC for use of sports and educational facilities.

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; College of Engineering EPICS Program; and Career Services.

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

The Columbian Park Zoo has developed partnerships to improve exhibits and enhance the quality of the Zoo's educational programs and special events. Partners for 2011 included: B102.9, Caterpillar, Coca-Cola, J.R. Kelly Company, Friends of Columbian Park Zoo, Pyramid Sign & Design, Mr. & Mrs. Bill DeFouw, Tempest Homes, Kettlehut Construction, Wal-Mart, Pizza Hut, Purdue University, Journal and Courier/LafayetteMomsLikeMe.com, Eli Lilly Corporation, Tempest Homes, Advanced Electric, Cyr Plumbing and Heating, Irving Materials Incorporated, Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, Bison Financial, Monster Mini-Golf, TerraCraft Inc., Sam's Club and WFLI TV-18.

## **COORDINATION WITH OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS**

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

## **PLANNING**

Planning for the future continued to play a significant role during 2011. 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 2011:

- Zoo Education Classroom
- South Tipp Park master plan
- N 9<sup>th</sup> Street Trail Head Park
- Erie and Ferry Street Green Space
- SIA Playground Enhancement

## **FIVE-YEAR MASTER PLAN**

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

While the 1998-2002 Master Plan was "built from the ground up", the 2009-2013 Master Plan was created

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

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

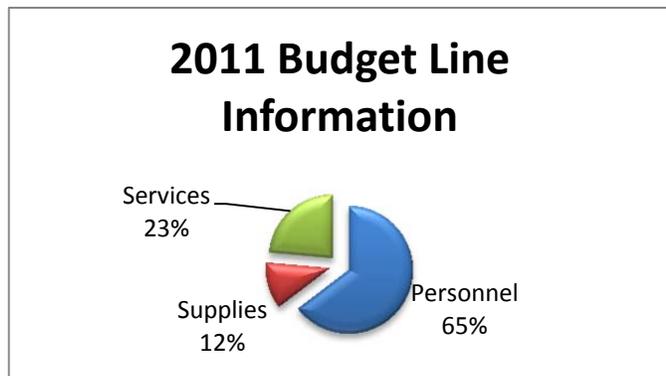
## V. BUDGET, FINANCE, AND FUNDING

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

### GENERAL FUND BUDGET

The 2011 annual general fund appropriation was \$3,438,910.00

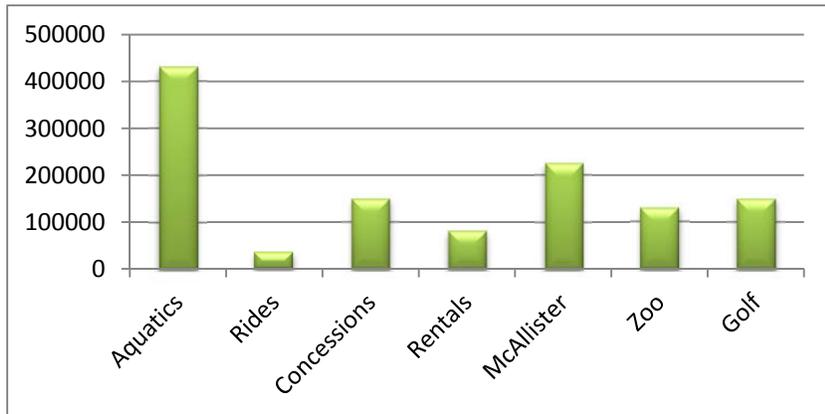
2011 General Fund	
Category	Amount
Personnel Services	\$ 2,222,285.00
Supplies	\$ 406,330.00
Services	\$ 810,295.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,438,910.00</b>



**PROGRAM REVENUE**

Following is an itemization of total revenue generated by the Department in 2011 for programs and services.

2011 Revenue	
Department	Amount
Aquatics	\$ 433,368.00
Rides	\$ 37,009.94
Concessions	\$ 150,785.99
Rentals	\$ 82,526.00
McAllister	\$ 227,250.22
Zoo	\$ 130,969.95
Golf	\$ 150,575.55



**SPONSORSHIPS AND CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Sponsorships and corporate partnership opportunities in 2011 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 thirteenth summer in 2011. The program provides an opportunity for youth to perform various volunteer functions in a supervised setting at a park facility. Each participant is rewarded with a Kids Can Pass for each hour of work. A Kids Can pass can be used for entry to any of the three aquatic facilities, or for \$5 off of any McAllister or Columbian Park Zoo program registration fee. Volunteer opportunities were provided at Columbian Park, Vinton Pool, and Castaway Bay. During the 2011 season, youths participated in Workreation, earning 1,125 passes, with a value of over \$4,288.50 for summer recreation. Workreation participants volunteered over 1,125 hours at park facilities.

**Lafayette Parks Foundation  
2011 Major Contributors**

Corporate Sponsors & Other Partners

Kirby Risk Corporation  
SIA  
DeFouw Family

Phil Kelley Family  
McAllister Foundation  
Wabash National

**VI. SYSTEM-WIDE IMPROVEMENTS**

The following improvements were made in the Lafayette Park system during 2011:

**ARMSTRONG PARK**

- Renovated the infield of field number three
- Installed adult swing on the south side of the pond
- Installed a new irrigation controller from ET WATER that allows remote operation and adjusts the irrigation based on weather conditions
- Repaired fencing on fields one and two

### **CASTAWAY BAY**

- Painted restroom and changing room floors
- Installed a new irrigation controller from ET WATER that allows remote operation and adjusts the irrigation based on weather conditions

### **CAT PARK**

- Aerated fields and seeded for grass growth

### **COLUMBIAN PARK**

- Ran new electric line to ice cream machine at Loeb Concessions, as well as in the restrooms
- Rebuilt Loeb Stadium dugout steps
- Painted the flag pole and foul poles at Loeb Stadium
- Welded all braces on backstop at Loeb Stadium
- Replaced two bull pin frames with new wood at Loeb Stadium
- Replaced Sod in Loeb Stadium
- Painted all trash cans within the park
- Repaired and stained all picnic tables in the shelter areas
- Waterproofed all wood on the picnic shelters
- Removed older tree stumps within the park
- Planted three new trees
- Painted curbs at all park entrances
- Repainted parking lines in all parking lots
- Replaced all handicapped signs in the parking lots
- Painted all water fountains in the park
- Enhanced "deer island" and installed new sod, laid grass seed where needed
- Painted windows on the Jenks' barn
- Ran new electric lines in the Jenks' Rest restroom
- Painted war cannon in Columbian Park
- Installed photo eye on Rush Pavilion exterior lighting
- Had a new roof installed on Rush Pavilion
- Removed rotten railings on Rush Pavilion and Boathouse; sanded and stained older railings and installed new railings
- Had new gutters installed on the Boathouse
- Installed 200 cubic yard engineered wood fiber at SIA Playground

### **COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO**

- Designed, built and installed bubblers for the Otter exhibit
- Redesigned Otter exhibit pool plumbing
- Painted exterior cages
- Installed new gutters on holding building
- Ran new electric lines in the bathrooms

### **ERIE & FERRY STREET GREEN SPACE**

- Created master plan
- Regarded site
- Construction of sidewalks and shelter pads
- Installed new shelter
- Installed amenities: bench, adult swing, drinking fountain, light
- Installed spring rider with safety surface
- Installed block wall

- Installed landscape: trees, shrubs, perennials

#### **HANNA PARK**

- Installed safety surfacing to playgrounds
- Removed and replaced shelter support post
- Removed and installed a new grill

#### **LAFAYETTE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE**

- Remodeled interior of Clubhouse
- Repaired protective beams on south side of driving range
- Removed the spare cart barn

#### **LYBOULT SPORTS PARK**

- Leveled outfield areas on field three due to settling of landfill underneath

#### **McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER**

- Implemented new recreation software, ActiveNet, which also allowed online registration for McAllister camps and programs
- Began the first phase of three phase masonry and tuck-pointing project to the exterior of the center.

#### **McCAW PARK**

- Repaired all of the infield lips
- Installed new disconnect panel and scoreboard circuitry
- Installed a new irrigation controller from ET WATER that allows remote operation and adjusts the irrigation based on weather conditions

#### **MUNGER PARK**

- Added safety surfacing to playground area

#### **RIEHLE PLAZA, PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE & BIG FOUR DEPOT**

- Painted all handrails

#### **SOUTH TIPP PARK**

- Installed safety surfacing to playground
- Removed shelter

#### **TROPICANOE COVE**

- Reconditioned lily pads
- Painted all sand play features
- Painted all exterior doors
- Installed new flow meters
- Installed new recreation software, ActiveNet

### **VINTON NEIGHBORHOOD POOL**

- Replaced broken toilet
- Painted exterior and interior surfaces

## **VII. PARK OPERATIONS**

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

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

### **MAINTENANCE**

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

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

The Maintenance division attended the following conferences in 2011:

- Midwest Regional Turf Foundation's Turf Expo and Field Day
- Athletic Field and Ground Manager's Summer Conference
- P.L.A.N.T.S. 2011 and Green Expo
- J.F. New Wildflower Nursery Workshop and Open House
- Tree Pruning and Safety
- In-house Equipment Safety training
- Turf and Ornamental Seminar
- Green Industry Expo

Certifications include Certified Playground Inspectors, Certified Pool Operators, 30 Hour OSHA training in General Industry Safety and Health, 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.

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 2011, the maintenance area added new equipment including:

- One 250 extended cab pickup truck with a salt spreader and snow plow
- One 250 Crew cab pickup truck with a salt spreader and snow plow
- One John Deere wide area mower
- One Scag z-turn mower

## **COMMUNITY PARKS AND URBAN FORESTRY**

The Urban Forestry Division of the Department is responsible for:

- Park management, planning park projects, natural resource projects, trail development, park landscape maintenance, and city land maintenance
- Designs and implements park and city projects master plans
- Designs and plans tree planting and landscape projects for City and Parks
- Preparing tree planting and maintenance specifications for City and Parks
- Conducting hazard tree evaluation for City and Parks
- Contracting and managing maintenance of urban trees and city landscape areas
- Contracting and managing of city land maintenance
- Review landscape plans for compliance with the City of Lafayette Tree Ordinance for new development in the City
- Advisor and Secretary to the Official Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee
- Advisor and City liaison to the Tree Lafayette non-profit tree group
- Designing and managing City beautification projects
- Events and special projects relating to urban forestry and beautification
- Managing the Natural Resource Coordinator, part-time landscape designer, and interns

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

The Urban Forestry Division assists several groups in citywide beautification and preservation initiatives and events including: Chamber of Commerce Community Task Force, Downtown Business Center, Friends of Downtown, Lafayette Volunteer Bureau, neighborhood associations, park planning committees, Master Gardeners, Jefferson High School Ecology Club, Friends of Downtown, the American Heart Association, Downtown Business Center Beautification Committee, De-trash the Wabash Committee, Tree Lafayette, the Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee, and the Purdue Tree Advisory Board.

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

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

### **Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee**

The Lafayette Tree Committee is the official City tree advisory committee appointed by the Mayor and required by the tree ordinance. This Committee gives the Mayor, City Engineer, and Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager guidance, advice and support on urban forestry issues for the City. The

Committee also helps to formulate policy. The Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager works closely with this committee and is the facilitator and recording secretary of this committee.

The Tree Advisory Committee is taking action to enhance, protect and preserve the City trees. A goal set by the Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee (LTAC), as of 2002 was to start reviewing and re-writing the Tree Ordinance in order to improve the ordinance and to work at creating a better urban forestry management plan for the City of Lafayette currently this is an on-going process. Several amendments to the ordinance have been written and passed. The Committee began reviewing and rewriting the current City tree ordinance to create a stronger ordinance in 2002. In September of 2003 the committee created an amendment that made tree topping illegal on City property; the amendment was approved by City Council in 2004. In 2004 the Committee created an amendment that would require trees to be planted in the public right of way in new development; the amendment was passed by City Council in 2005. The LTAC started an annual Urban Forestry Award Program in 2005. This is a program that awards new development for good tree planting and good design. In 2006 the LTAC wrote an amendment to the Street Tree Ordinance that would require tree contractors who do tree work in the City of Lafayette be licensed by the City. The amendment was passed June 2010 by City Council. The LTAC is currently reviewing the City tree ordinance for out dated sections and to work at updating the ordinance to better suit the needs and protection of the urban forest. In 2008 the Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee organized the Big Tree Register Program. The committee plans to publish the register in the near future.

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

Tree Lafayette is the non-profit tree committee that helps implement tree planting and pruning projects with volunteers on city property. For several years this group has been instrumental in coordinating the City Arbor Day program. This not for profit tree group is an important and valued supplement to the city Urban Forestry program. Their mission is: "Tree Lafayette serves our community by providing the leadership and inspiration to engage the community in the activity of planting trees. We are a source of knowledge and information regarding the value that trees provide to the urban setting. We are committed to urban beautification, a healthy environment, and a sustainable quality of life that the urban forest provides." Tree Lafayette completed a strategic plan in 2008 that has helped the group create better leadership, activity and education toward urban forestry for the community. They created seven strategic committees of focus: Tree Program, Education Program, Marketing, Finance, and Governance. Tree Lafayette plays a main role in the organization of the annual Lafayette Arbor Day event. In 2010 the group worked to establish an Urban Forestry Foundation through the Community Foundation for use in Tippecanoe County. Since 1992 Tree Lafayette has raised \$285,660.00 for urban forestry in Lafayette.

### **Tree Planting**

A total of 306 trees were planted in the community in 2011 By the City and the Tree Lafayette funds. The City planted 55 trees through various new and curb enhancement project. The Tree Lafayette funded the planting of 187 trees to include: Brady Lane for Arbor Day, Main and South St. corridor planting, and several neighborhood projects. The Park Dept. contacted 43 trees planted at Murdock Park and 21 other trees park wide, for a total of 64 plantings. Several trees were planted through City code enforcement in new development. These trees are not included in the City urban forestry budget but make an important contribution to the community forest.

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

187	Trees funded by the Tree Lafayette on City property.
55	Trees funded at other City owned project sites.
64	Park Department
N/A	<u>New Development as required by ordinance</u>
<b>306</b>	<b>Total trees planted in the City during 2011</b>

### **Tree Maintenance**

The Lafayette Tree Ordinance mandates the responsibility to maintain trees in the public parkway with the adjacent homeowner. The Urban Forestry Manager evaluates trees in the right-of-way and issues permits to prune or remove trees as needed. The Lafayette Tree Fund, in coordination with the Urban Forestry Manager, utilized volunteers to prune small/medium trees along City Streets as well as plant trees in the

public right of way. The Park Dept. maintains approximately 3,000 park trees. The Urban Forestry Division issues permits to property owners for contractual large tree pruning in the public right-of-way. The City contracted out the maintenance of City land and approximately 4000 trees are maintained with mulching, watering and pruning through this contract. The street Department collected tree limbs and brush and performs leaf pick-up, which was utilized toward the mulch program.

#### **Trees Pruned in City:**

200	Trees pruned in the Parks Department
300	Trees pruned by Tree Lafayette (right of way)
20	City of Lafayette
6	Permits to property owners for tree pruning (no cost to City)
<b>526</b>	<b>Total Trees Pruned in City during 2011</b>

#### **Hazardous Tree Removals**

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

#### **Trees Removed:**

36	Trees removed by Park Department
151	Trees removed by City of Lafayette
20	Trees removed through City Projects
8	Permits to property owners for tree removal (no cost to City)
<b>215</b>	<b>Total Trees Removed from City during 2011</b>

#### **Equipment**

The Urban Forestry Division did not purchase large equipment in 2011. Several items for small to medium size tree maintenance were purchased. The Tree Lafayette purchased another power pruning saw that will be used on City trees as well as safety equipment as well as more safety equipment.

#### **Arbor Day/Tree City USA**

The Arbor Day celebration was held May 7, 2011 at Brady Lane where 57 were planted in the public right of way on this major road. This was a joint celebration between the City of Lafayette and the Tree Lafayette. Mayor Tony Roswarski was present to read the Arbor Day proclamation. The Lafayette Community Parks and Urban Forestry manager represented the DNR to present the Mayor with the seventeenth consecutive Tree City USA award as well as the Growth Award. Volunteers from the Tree Lafayette, Lafayette Tree Advisory Committee along with over 100 volunteers from various organizations throughout the community, were in attendance to help plant the trees and celebrate Arbor Day.



Tree Lafayette - Arbor Day Planting - May 7, 2011

### **Special Projects - Street Tree Inventory**

A professional street tree inventory was begun City-wide in 2011. The inventory will continue to be conducted in phases by Davey Tree Group as the budget allows. Over 10,000 sites have been inventoried to complete twenty neighborhoods as of 2011. In 2012 the tree inventory will be continued for phase three in the spring by Davey Tree Group. Using environmental and economic benefit information (\$71.60 average annual benefit per tree) from the i-Tree Streets analysis conducted on the Phase One inventory, it is estimated that the current inventoried population of public trees provides the Lafayette community \$448,584 annually in the mitigation of storm water, conservation of energy, air pollution improvement, and property value enhancement. The street tree inventory provides comprehensive information about Lafayette's urban forest resource. The above overview refers to the complete data set which is on file with the Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager or you can view the summaries on the Park Department website.

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

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was detected in a north side neighborhood in Lafayette June of 2011. The Lafayette Park Dept. is committed to maintaining healthy trees in the Park system. The EAB is an exotic insect that attacks ash trees. If not treated the ash trees will die. Ash trees make up approximately 7% of the tree population in the Park system. Park ash trees have been evaluated and it has been decided they will be removed and replaced gradually as funding allows. Several parks have had ash trees removed in the past two years. Replacements have been or will be made for all ash trees removed

### **Education**

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

The Community Parks and Urban Forestry Manager has a B.S. in landscape architecture from Purdue University and is a certified arborist as well as a master naturalist. Several arborist conferences/workshops were attended in 2011. Educational information on tree care, pruning, planting was purchased from the International Society of Arboriculture for public use. A more complete City Urban Forestry website is still planned for the future.

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

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

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

### **Certifications and Conferences**

- Master Naturalist Program
- Invasive Specie Workshop
- Indiana Arborist Conference – for Arborist certification
- Indiana Urban Forest Council conference
- Great Lakes Park Institute
- JF New Ecology Workshop

<b>Lafayette Urban Forestry Budget Cost Breakdown - 2011</b>		
<b>Tree Planting</b>		
Lafayette Parks Department	\$	12,450.00
City of Lafayette Projects	\$	12,971.00
Tree Lafayette	\$	29,126.88
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>54,548.87</b>
<b>Tree Maintenance – pruning, fertilizing, water equipment &amp; basic care of trees</b>		
Lafayette Parks Department	\$	18,907.00
City-wide Land	\$	43,912.80
Tree Lafayette	\$	35,298.00
Street Department (limb pick-up and mulch program)	\$	727,344.14
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>825,461.94</b>
<b>Tree Removal</b>		
Lafayette Parks Department	\$	12,496.56
City Department Projects	\$	7,530.00
City of Lafayette	\$	49,782.31
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>69,808.87</b>
<b>Management</b>		
City Forester & % of other Salary	\$	67,856.10
Education		
Park Department/City	\$	410.00
Tree Lafayette	\$	21,150.00
Software Subscription 3 years	\$	5,250.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>94,666.10</b>
<b>Grand Total of Urban Forestry Cost Breakdown</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,044,485.70</b>

## NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Division is responsible for:

- Planning, managing and supervising park landscape maintenance and projects
- Hiring and managing Park Landscaping Crews
- Developing, designing and maintaining Park signage
- Managing the Adopt-A-Spot and Adopt-A-Median programs
- Managing maintenance contracts for ponds and native prairie plantings on Park & City land
- Managing the Adopt-A-Street-Tree Program
- Serving as Advisor and City liaison to the Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette non-profit group
- Serving as Park/City liaison and Newsletter editor to Friends of Downtown non-profit group
- Serving as Advisor and City liaison to the Clean Sweep and DeTrash the Wabash Committees
- Creating and updating Seasonal Employee Manuals for Landscape and Maintenance staff
- Planning and coordinating special community events and projects
- Assisting with City United Way Campaign Events as a representative of the Parks Department
- Working with the Mayor's Youth Council
- Ordering tools and materials needed for landscape maintenance
- Attending educational workshops and programs needed to maintain Pesticide Applicator License

### **Landscaping**

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

Between efforts of Park Staff and Master Gardeners, over 5,000 annual flowers, accent plants and perennial plants were planted in the Parks and other City properties, including Columbian Park, the Lafayette Golf Course, and planters on the pedestrian bridge, the Fire Station at McCaw Park and other small areas that needed a splash of color. A total of 24 hanging baskets were purchased for the Rush Pavilion and the Lafayette Golf Course, and over 600 cubic yards of mulch was purchased and spread, totaling 300 hours of staff time and almost \$4,500. At Columbian Park, tropical plants were installed to enhance the island just outside the changing rooms at Tropicanae Cove; new plantings continue to enhance the Columbian Park Zoo. Due to the effects of the previous summer's drought, Tree Gator bags were dispersed between park trees planted in the last 2 or 3 years, and over 300 staff hours were utilized watering trees and other plant material.

The Natural Resource Coordinator also manages the contracts for the professional maintenance of 25 acres of native prairie and wildflower areas spread throughout several parks including Munger, McCaw, Armstrong and Cat Parks. JF New was contracted to install and help maintain native plantings and natural areas at the above listed parks, including the Lafayette Golf Course. In 2011, additional areas of City land were added to management responsibilities, including the new Bio-Swales located on both sides of Veteran's Memorial Parkway on the south side of Lafayette.

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

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

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

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

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

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

given to the Adopt-a-Spots that meet or exceed guideline standards. In 2011, 16 of 18 Adopt-A-Spots were sponsored.

The Adopt-A-Median Program is a Corporate Sponsorship Program, and the annual fee for sponsorship was reduced to \$500 for each median. The fee is used to help fund the maintenance of the medians, which is performed by a professional landscape contractor, and managed as part of the City Land Maintenance contract. In 2011, 4 of 10 medians were sponsored.

### **Citywide Beautification Projects**

The Natural Resource Coordinator worked with and assisted several committees, groups and organizations including the Chamber of Commerce Community Appearance Task Force, Friends of Downtown, Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners, Clean Sweep and DeTrash the Wabash Committees (which had over 500 volunteer participants), and Tree Lafayette, to help plan and facilitate several community events and programs. Some events including Clean Sweep, DeTrash the Wabash, Arbor Day and the Friends of Downtown Mum Sale, raised over \$1,200 to help the Friends of Downtown fund downtown beautification projects.

The Street Tree Program provides citizens with trees to plant in the right-of-way, the area between the sidewalk and street. These trees are purchased by the Department and delivered by Park staff; this program is funded by the Parks Urban Forestry division. In 2011, seven (7) street trees were distributed to property owners to enhance the urban forest in our community.

### **Shamrock Dog Park**

The Natural Resource Coordinator works closely with the Dog Park Association of Greater Lafayette. Once again, Columbian Park was host to 'Bark for the Arc' at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Hike With Your Hound' in partnership with the Arc of Tippecanoe County. There were over 35 vendors and over \$1,300 in donations for game and contest prizes and \$1,345 was raised to benefit the Arc of Tippecanoe County, which is committed to all individuals with developmental disabilities realizing their goals of learning, living, working and playing in their community.

In 2011, four (4) Dog-Park-For-A-Day events were held at Shamrock Dog Park, which included partnering with the Wildcat Valle Animal Clinic to host several low-cost shot clinics, and a significant amount of dog and cat food supplies were collected for the Pet Food Pantry at the 2011 Howl-O-Ween DPFAD. Dog Park hours, rules, events and membership information can be obtained by the public on the Dog Park Association website at [www.dogparkinlafayette.org](http://www.dogparkinlafayette.org)

### **Park Signage**

Important updates were made to all Park Rule signs to reflect the City Code regarding firearms. Verbiage was changed from *"Leave weapons, firearms... at home"* to *"Please adhere to Lafayette Municipal Code #11.07.010"*, which states:

- *"No person shall shoot, fire, or discharge any firearms of any description, guns, air pistols or other mechanical devices that shoot or throw shot, bullets, stones or other missiles within the city, including parks, except that this section shall not prohibit any officer of the law from discharging a firearm in the performance of such officer's duty, nor apply to any citizen when lawfully defending such citizen's person or property from physical injury.*
- *It is unlawful for any except those person listed above excluded, by any means to explode, set off, or discharge any fireworks shell, shot or cartridge within any park."*

Updates were made to admission and information signs at the pools. Several signs were refurbished and updated, and several signs needed new polycarbonate panels.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

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

Park Security staff has received many hours of training. This training included Severe Weather Training, dealing with the Emotionally Disturbed, Conflict Management, Homeland Security issues, CPR, and Patrol Techniques. Security staff received additional training on Public Safety and Public Health Rules of the Lafayette Parks Department, General Park Courtesy Guidelines, and numerous Lafayette Municipal Codes and Ordinances. Training was also given on Emergency Medical Situations, Operation and Care for City Vehicles, Accident Investigation, Police Radio Signals and 10 Codes, Dealing with Criminal Disturbance Situations, De-escalation Techniques, Known Sex Offenders, Locating Lost Children, First Responder Check List, Amber Alert Procedures, Pepper Spray and Gang Recognition Training.

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

The Key Inventory continues to be updated to stay current with new employees and employees that have moved on. A Confined Space program was updated once again for Park Maintenance employees. This program includes: Rescue and Emergency Service Agreement, Hazard Assessment and Identification, and Training and Entry permits. Park facilities were updated with proper fire extinguishers, tested and certified for the year 2011. The fire extinguishers were inspected every month by the Safety and Security Coordinator. The smoke detectors in each facility are placed in a maintenance plan to be cleaned twice a year to ensure proper working condition. Alarm systems were tested and cleaned. All pool employees were instructed on security issues, and what their responsibilities are.

Ninety-eight percent of 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. One adult and one child AED is now on site at McAllister Center. The remaining 3 AED's have been updated with the 30:2 compression to breath software and are now maintained and inspected by Rankin on a monthly basis.

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

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

The 2011 Colt World Series was very busy but uneventful from a security stand point. With the assistance of uniformed Lafayette Police Officers and Indiana State Excise Police there were no security issues.

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

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

### **AMUSEMENTS DIVISION (includes Aquatics, Rides, and Concessions)**

The hours of operation for the amusements were changed in 2010; these hours continued to be an effective schedule for the 2011 season and will continue in the future.

A benefit of the changed hours was that the Water Walking calendar's operation dates were extended until September (usually ending in August, when the pool starts back-to-school hours).

### **AMUSEMENT'S SEASONAL EMPLOYEES**

The Amusement Division had 60% of its staff return in 2011. The average salary was \$9.23 per employee.

## **AQUATICS**

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

### Tropicanae Cove

Tropicanae Cove was in operation for 80 days during the 2011 season. Attendance for the 2011 season was 80,356 with an average daily attendance of 1,004.45 persons. The highest day attendance for Tropicanae Cove was 2,669 on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The weather during the summer included 54 sunny days, 13 stormy days, and 17 cloudy days. There were 27 days with temperature above 90 degrees, and 40 days with temperature between 80 and 90 degrees.

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

Season Passes continued to be a popular item with 653 passes sold during the 2011 season. The Cove hosted 48 Birthday Parties and 12 Private Rentals during the 2011 season.

Tropicanae Cove remained dedicated to serving the leisure needs of the community. Non-profit groups took advantage of reduced admission prices available to them at the facility. Thanks to the Kids Can Scholarship Fund administered by the Lafayette Parks Foundation, 1,125 passes were handed out to Workreation participants. Over \$4,288.50 of scholarship money was given out to children in 2011 for admissions to the Cove and other programs offered through the Workreation program by the Department.

The water walking program continued in 2011 with two classes being offered in the morning and two classes in the evening. 141 water walking season passes were sold in 2011. Free water walking to all city employees was continued in 2011; 24 employees took advantage of the program. Late in the season, due to good weather and interest from Water Walkers, classes were extended until September (usually ending in August, when the pool starts back-to-school hours).

Tropicanae Cove continued the special events in added in 2010, they included: Sun Safety Day, Food for Fun, Father's Day Fun, Grandparent's Day, Military Appreciation, Boy Scout Day, Girl Scout Day, Mom's Day, BFF Day (Best Friends Forever), School Supply Splash, Tot Time and Season Pass Holder Appreciation Days.

### Castaway Bay and Vinton Pool

Total attendance at Castaway Bay was 15,187 for 70 operational days with an average daily attendance of 216.96 people. Season Passes continued to be a big hit with 422 passes being sold during the 2011 season. Workreation was offered at the pool on Thursday mornings.

Swimming lessons through the Swim America program continued in 2011 with four sessions being offered in the morning and three sessions being offered in the evening. "Miracle Swimming", swim lessons for adults was continued; this program was designed to help non-swimming adults learn to be in control in the water, shallow and deep, and to prevent panic around water.

Total attendance at Vinton Pool was 10,176 for 69 operational days with an average daily attendance of 147.48 people. Vinton was quite popular with local day camps, attracting over 3,000 visitors. Workreation was offered at the pool on Tuesday mornings. 54 season passes were sold during the 2011 season.

**Castaway Bay and Vinton Neighborhood Pool 2011 Attendance Figures**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Operational Days</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Castaway Bay	70	15,187
Vinton Pool	69	10,176
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25,363</b>

**CONCESSIONS AND MERCHANDISE**

Swimming brings on a hearty appetite, but you won't go hungry at the Cove Café. The 2011 Cove Café menu included Arni's Pizza 7" and 14", Breadsticks, Salads, Hot Dogs, Nachos, Pretzels, Popcorn, Cotton Candy, Otis Spunkmeyer Cookies, Snickers, AirHeads, M&M's, Dippin' Dots, Hawaii Shaved Ice, Choco Taco, and Ice Cream Sandwiches.

Coca-Cola continued to be our beverage supplier in 2011.

Big Squirts remained the top selling merchandise item in 2011. Rocky Mountain Sunscreen and Huggies Little Swimmers were our other big sellers in 2011.

New in 2011, Castaway Bay and Vinton Neighborhood Pool started selling select concessions at their sites. Sales included drinks and candy, which may expand in the future.

**AMUSEMENT RIDES**

A total of 34,427 rides were given this year. The Columbian Park Train remained the most popular attraction with 24,619 riders. The Amusement Rides were part of the Schools on Safari package offered during the month of May to local schools and daycare centers.

<b>Columbian Park Amusement Rides 2011 Ride totals</b>	
<b>Attraction</b>	<b>Number of Rides</b>
Train	24,619
Helicopter	3,218
Horse & Buggy	2,481
Small Boats	2,832
WaterWars	1,277
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,427</b>

**COLUMBIAN PARK ZOO**

The Zoo opened for the season on April 23 and continued to operate daily through October 9, when the zoo closed for the winter. The gift shop operated daily from April 23 through mid-September and then remained open only on the days with nice weather until the season ended. The gift shop did reopen for a few days at the end of October while Boo at the Zoo special event was taking place. Gross earnings in the gift shop for the 2011 season were just over \$54,000.00. This was a 17% decrease in gross revenue from the previous year. Such a significant decrease in gift shop revenue is primarily attributed to the Webkinz special event that was held the previous year and the extreme hot weather that was encountered in 2011.

The Zoo continued to collaborate with Parks Staff, Parks Foundation Board members, and Friends of Columbian Park Zoo Board members to make progress with the master plan project and continued improvements at the Zoo. Plans for the new Education Building, sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Bill DeFouw in collaboration with Tempest Homes, were finalized in late fall. The former North American cougar exhibit (originally constructed to house snow leopards), EdZooation classroom (constructed in 1996), and several small enclosures that were attached to the Main Animal House building were razed in early fall to make way for the new construction. Infrastructure for the new site was installed after demolition and the building foundation was poured in early December. Building construction is expected to be completed by early summer 2012.

The summer months proved to be very hot with a record number of days with temperatures exceeding 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The warmer temps caused staff to spend much more time attempting to cool animals off and likely caused attendance to the zoo to drop slightly.

In early August, the zoo experienced the death of "Gage", the two-toed sloth. Gage was a very popular animal ambassador and very much loved by the community, since his acquisition in 2004. He had some on-going health issues that finally culminated with his death. The zoo intends to seek a replacement for Gage as soon as possible.



Also in August, a bronze otter sculpture commissioned in late 2010 was finally completed and installed. The new life-size piece, sponsored through the generosity of the Risk Family Foundation, features two otters swimming amongst logs, rocks, crayfish, and bluegill. This interesting sculpture was designed and installed by Rick and Rita Hadley, local bronze sculptors and owners of Moments in Bronze, Otterbein, Indiana.

September proved to be both a sad and exciting month. The zoo received notification that the owner of one of the Galapagos tortoises on loan to Columbian Park Zoo would like to end the loan agreement. He indicated that the tortoise would need to return to his facility for breeding purposes. A zoo staff member and volunteer drove the tortoise to Central Florida for return. In exchange, the tortoise owner donated four hatchling black pond turtles and four hatchling yellow-spotted Amazon River turtles to the zoo's animal collection. The yellow-spotted Amazon river turtles are classified as "Threatened" under the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). It is hoped that these turtles will mature and be used in future education programs.

In late October, FOCPZ, in collaboration with Zoo Staff, hosted the annual Boo at the Zoo event. This year's event encountered some inclement weather and heavy rains caused the cancellation of the first evening of the event. The second night of the event also saw showers and blustery winds, but over 600 participants braved the weather and attended the event. The last night of the event saw clear skies and as a result, a few thousand patrons experienced a night of family fun.

### Partnerships

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

### Animal News

A few new animals were acquired in 2011. The zoo added two male emus, domestic chickens, two female Major Mitchell's cockatoos, a Virginia opossum, and four Egyptian fruit bats. 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, 15 goat kids were born during the months of June and July. One of the kids developed a serious health condition and was subsequently euthanized by the zoo's veterinarian. Several were retained to increase our herd size and the remaining kids were declared as surplus.

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

### Education

The Zoo's education program continued to be an excellent community service. Outreach programs performed included school visits, animal encounters, ZooMobiles, mini-zoo visits, day camps, and special presentations. Gross revenue was approximately \$74,000 and is the greatest amount of revenue achieved for the Education Department to date.

### Volunteer Program

The Junior Zookeeper Program continued to be a success for the area's youth and 33 teenagers enjoyed a variety of educational field trips including an overnight trip to the Cincinnati Zoo in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Volunteer and Internship programs continued to expand with volunteers donating 14,597 hours of their time to the Zoo. Of this total, 5,583 hours were contributed by interns and 2,512 hours were contributed by Junior Zookeepers. 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. Purdue University continues to be a tremendous resource for student engagement at the zoo with volunteers from 28 different departments logging hours in a variety of capacities.

### **Columbian Park Zoo 2011 Participation**

- 24,635 individuals of all ages participated in the Zoo's educational programs
- Education Department generated \$74,437 in income (13% increase from 2010 income)
- Volunteers logged a grand total of 14,597 hours at Columbian Park Zoo. Volunteers assisted with education programs, animal care and special services.
- 104,506 visitors meandered through the Wallaby Walk-about exhibit, while 59,574 and 59,538 visitors strolled through the Butterfly Garden Party and Family Farm exhibits, respectively

### Awards and Recognition

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

## **McALLISTER RECREATION CENTER**

2011 was an outstanding year for the McAllister Recreation Center and the community that we serve. In our ninth full year of operations after our 2002 renovation the McAllister Recreation Center continues to see program participation numbers grow. 2011 saw record participation in nearly every program and activity. The McAllister staff continues to work to create new and exciting opportunities for the community to enjoy our first rate community recreation center.

The Center continues to offer outstanding programs for the youth of our city and surrounding communities. Youth and adults are afforded the opportunity to participate in programs such as: Basketball, Volleyball, Flag Football, Sporties for Shorties series, Day camp programs, Yoga, Weight and Fitness training and Youth Dance. These programs continued to be improved upon and expanded on a continual basis. The center staff continues to look for new and innovative programming for the Greater Lafayette Community. The Center also continues to provide opportunities for city employees and their families to improve their wellness by utilizing the McAllister Fitness Center and by participating in wellness courses such as yoga.

### Activenet

In January of 2011 the McAllister staff began using Activenet, a new recreation management system. Activenet has allowed the McAllister staff to become more efficient in our daily operations and also

reduce the amount of duplication of processes. The software also allows McAllister to reduce the amount of paper materials used in our office on a daily basis. Activenet also offers new and exciting ways of marketing and distributing program materials, relying in large part on email and internet marketing, this has drastically reduce the amount spent on postage annually. In May of 2011, McAllister launched the online registration component of Activenet. This component brings program registration to every citizen's desktop.

### Fitness Programming

The McAllister Recreation Center offers a variety of fitness programs to adults in the Greater Lafayette Community. Many individuals participated in weekly yoga or jazzercise classes. Classes in each of these programs are offered for beginners, advanced and seniors. The Center also houses a full weight and fitness area that can be utilized by adults at an affordable cost. Free weights, weight machines and a variety of cardio equipment help keep the community in shape throughout the year. In 2011 5,372 daily fitness passes were sold. The McAllister Recreation Center also provides the opportunity for city employees and their families to use the McAllister fitness areas at no cost. The fitness center saw 1390 employee workouts in 2011.

### McAllister Camps

2011 was a record setting year for the McAllister Summer Camp. The camp, which accounts for approximately 90 percent of overall camp revenue, generated \$150,177.50 in revenue in 2011. In 2011, there were 58 operational days of Summer Camp, as opposed to 61 in 2010. Overall daily attendance during Summer Camp increased from 134 children/day in 2010 to 142 per day in 2011, representing a 6.0 percent increase in daily attendance. Children who attend camps at the McAllister Recreation Center are given opportunities to improve their esteem, as well and their social and athletic development. The McAllister Center has been fortunate to have a high rate of retention in both staff as well as program participants. This consistency has allowed the McAllister Center to experience attendance growth in each of the last eight years.

In addition to record attendance and revenue during the 2011 McAllister Summer Camp, other camp programs throughout the year experienced similar success. These include Spring Break Camp, Fall Break Camp, and Holiday Camp. All of these camp programs were at maximum participation levels. Children who participate in the McAllister camp programs are given a unique opportunity to have an enjoyable and rewarding experience in a fun and safe environment. Participants enjoy a wide range of activities including games, crafts, enrichment activities, field trips, swimming, social interaction, and songs, just to name a few. Some of the field trips enjoyed by campers in 2011 included bowling, movies, swimming, community parks visits, gymnastics, and the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair. The following pictures show examples of some of the children in action:



Photos taken by McAllister Recreation staff during 2011 Camps

### Junior Counselor Program

For the second consecutive year McAllister has offered a Junior Counselor program for youth ages 13-15. These youth work with our summer counseling staff assisting with summer camp. The youth participate in leading, planning and assisting in supervision of our summer campers. 8 youth participated in 2011 and we anticipate that number increasing on a yearly basis. The goal of the program is to begin the process of teaching the participants the processes and responsibilities of a camp counselor at McAllister Recreation Center. At the end of the summer the Junior Counselor's participate in an end of the summer reward field trip. The last two summers this trip has been to King's Island in Mason, Ohio.

### Youth Basketball

In 2011, the McAllister youth basketball program had 383 total participants. 205 children (20 teams) participated in the spring league, and 178 children (18 teams) participated in the fall league. Overall participation numbers once again held steady at or near the maximum number of 180 children. Participants are split into teams according to two age groups (6-8 year olds and 9-11 year olds), and are coached by parent volunteers. Teams practice one day a week for one hour, and play games on Saturdays. In addition to coaching, volunteers also operate the scoreboard, while McAllister staff officiate games.

### Youth Flag Football

McAllister Center is home to the Little Broncho Flag Football program. This program, offered in partnership with Lafayette Jefferson High School, allows children between the ages of 6-9 the opportunity to participate in a recreation based flag football league. Children learn the basics of the game during the one hour practice each week, and get to put those skills to the test during the Sunday afternoon game. Children are split into teams based upon age, with 6-7 year olds making up one league, and 8-9 year olds making up the other. Parent volunteers coach the teams, and games are officiated by high school football players from Jefferson High School. A McAllister Center representative manages the program, along with a member of the Jefferson High School football coaching staff. In 2011 176 children participated in the youth flag football program.

### Adult Volleyball

The 2011 volleyball season not only saw the same loyal following from previous teams but some new faces as well.

The 1<sup>st</sup> session held from January to March had eight teams fighting for the league championship. The Court Jesters re-established their historical dominance of the McAllister League by winning the spring and fall titles in 2011.

### Special Events

In 2011 the McAllister Center offered three special programs for children of all ages to enjoy. The Center offered its summer bowling; kid's fishing day and the spring egg hunt to kids from the greater Lafayette area.

The 13<sup>h</sup> annual Super Summer Community Bowling was held during the months of June and July. Children ages 3-17 were treated to free bowling from noon-3 at Market Square Lanes, Star Lanes and Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl. In all, over 2000 games were bowled during the six week program.

The Spring Egg Hunt drew over 100 children this year to the McAllister Center. With the help of student volunteers and donations from Purdue University, children participated in events such as the egg hunt, face painting and egg coloring.

In June, the McAllister Center held The Kid's Fishing Day at Munger Park. Over 100 children tested their fishing skills during the event. Volunteers from the Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries and Indiana Department of Natural Resources were on hand to assist the children and provided everyone with snacks and lunch.

### Sporties for Shorties

The McAllister Center offered children ages 4 and 5 an opportunity to familiarize themselves with sports. The Sporties for Shorties T-Ball, Soccer, Basketball and Flag Football are programs designed to patiently introduce the basic fundamentals of sports to them through fun and exciting drills. The program ends with the children participating in their first game. Each sport had 25 energetic athletes participate this year.

### Volunteers

Every year the McAllister Center is fortunate to have a number of volunteers to help with its many programs. Without the selfless contribution of parents and community volunteers, the Center would not be able to offer the variety of programs and special event held each year. In 2011, 264 individuals volunteered as coaches, referees, and scoreboard operators and at McAllister Special events such as the Summer Bowling, Spring Egg Hunt, and Kid's Fishing Tournament. The staff at the McAllister Center appreciates each of the volunteer's dedication and contribution.

### Grants and Partnerships

In 2011 the McAllister Recreation Center was fortunate to receive several grants for the McAllister summer camp scholarship fund. \$1,500 was awarded by the Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation, \$1000 was awarded by the Fraternal Order of Eagles, \$5000 from the McAlister Foundation and the Tippecanoe Tigers 4H club donated \$100 to the scholarship fund. These grants assisted 9 children in attending the McAllister summer camp at a reduced cost to their families. These children combined attended 84 weeks of camp. Over 100 children participated in various programs in 2010 with the assistance of our scholarship fund.

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.; Jamie West and West Active Dance; Lafayette Volunteer Bureau; Lafayette Kiwanis Foundation; Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie No. 347; Lafayette Police Department; Lafayette Fire Department; Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries; Indiana Department of Natural Resources; Cloud Jockeys; Wabash Valley Woodworkers; Purdue University Engineering Education; St. Lawrence/McAllister Neighborhood Association; Monon Neighborhood Association; CityBus; Tippecanoe County Public Library; Tippecanoe County 4-H; Lafayette Jefferson Athletic Department; Dave Howell; Jill Howell; Andy Kennedy; Mark Preston; and the McAllister Foundation.

<b>2011 McAllister Recreation Center Participation Report</b>		
<b>Core Service Programs</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Participant Hours</b>
Super Summer Community Bowl	2,013 games	1,800
Kid's Fishing Tournament	100	400
McAllister Spring Egg Hunt	104	104
<b>Elective Service Programs</b>		
Adult Volleyball	160	1,280
Flag Football	176	2,288
Sporties for Shorties		
Baseball	25	100
Basketball	25	100
Football	25	100
Soccer	25	100
Youth Co-ed Basketball	383	6,894
McAllister Camp Programs		
Fall Break Camp	42	672
Holiday Break Camp	64	4,608
Spring Break Camp	44	1,760
Summer Camp	142 (Average/Day)	65,984
West Active Yoga Dance	105	210
Yoga	783	3,915
Recreation Center Passes	109	
Daily Fitness Passes	5,372	
Monthly Fitness Passes	30	
6-month Fitness Passes	4	
Year Fitness Passes	1	
Employee Fitness	1,390	
<b>Facilitated Service Programs</b>		
Hershey Cross Country/Track	137	2,740
Instructional Tennis	250	500

## LAFAYETTE GOLF COURSE

Built in the early 1970's, the Lafayette Golf Course, also known as McAllister Park, is located on 155 acres alongside the Wabash River. The golf course is an 18-hole, par 72 layout and is the perfect course to test golfers of all abilities. This course is unique in that it has 18 elevated greens. The facility also has a large driving range, practice green, snack shop (*The Caddyshack*), and a Pro Shop which carries a wide range of golf products.

The staff is dedicated to continually improving the Lafayette Golf Course and facility in order to make it a relaxed, pleasurable, and affordable place to play. We are continually looking for new ways to promote the game of golf, generate new interest among juniors, families, and beginning golfers of all ages.

### A Look Back at 2011

Total rounds played at the Lafayette Municipal Golf Course were 7,543 with total revenue of \$162,505.56. Totals were down again in 2011 due to a season ending flood which occurred on May 27<sup>th</sup>. As in 2010, damage caused by this flood and the persistent heat and humidity which ensued in its wake, the golf course remained closed until September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

This summer was comparable to past summers of 1998, 2003, 2004, and 2010 in which the golf course was closed a majority of the season due to flooding. In 2011, the Wabash River overflowed its banks and affected the golf course when it crested not once, but twice, during the flood event. Due to this flood, a total of 14 outings, school events, and camps had to be cancelled. The total revenue impact of this flood was approximately \$300,000 and 13,000 rounds.

The course continued its season pass policy for 2011 season pass holders. The golf course was closed for a total of 111 days in 2011. According to our pass policy, our 2011 season pass holders will receive a discount of 75% off their 2012 season pass. The discount policy is:

Number of Days Closed	Percent Discount for 2011 Pass
0-27	0%
28-62	25%
63-90	50%
91-118	75%
119+	100%

Senior golfers, pass holders and non-pass holders, participated in 2 Senior Scramble Tournaments during the season on April 13th and October 12th. Each team was randomly selected based on average 18-hole score or handicap. Each tournament consisted of 10-15 4-player teams. This tournament series will continue in 2012.

#### Local School Use

Lafayette Golf Course is home to a total of 3 high school teams and 3 junior high school golf teams. These teams were relocated to other area courses during the time the course was closed. These teams will return in 2012.

#### Junior Golf

In 2010, the Lafayette Golf Course was forced to cancel the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lafayette Junior City Tournament. In 2011 we were able to relocate the event to Battleground Golf Course (for a 1 day event) to avoid yet another cancellation. The 7<sup>th</sup> annual tournament will return to Lafayette Golf Course in 2012.

Lafayette Golf Course was forced to cancel our annual junior golf camp in 2011 due to flood damage. This camp is designed for juniors just getting started in golf and also helps "fine tune" junior golfers who have experience in the game. Topics include swing fundamentals, chipping, putting, rules & etiquette. Junior camps, as well as a number of other junior programs are being scheduled for 2012.

In 2011, Lafayette Golf Course, in conjunction with Battleground GC and local golf coaches and volunteers hosted the inaugural Chief Bender Junior Golf Camp. This camp was designed to introduce youth to the game of golf. It was held on Sunday afternoons in June and July. The camp hosted approximately 80 boys and girls ranging in age from 8-14. This camp is being planned again for 2012.

The Central Indiana Junior Golf Association (CIJGA) was unable to host their annual junior tournament at the golf course in 2011, due to flood damage. The CIJGA will plan another tournament with us in 2012.

#### Family Tee Program

Our family tee program continued in 2011 for its 4<sup>th</sup> straight year. These are a special set of tees installed to remove the intimidation factor of a regulation golf course. These tees are perfect for beginning juniors as well as adults and even experienced players. Players may choose their own par for this course between 72, 67 and 54 depending on their age and skill level. The entire length of these tees is 2,365

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

yards with hole distances of 60 – 198 yards. These tees are placed to remove typical course obstacles such as ponds, bunkers, and out of bounds.

### Birthday Club

Lafayette Golf Course continued its popular Birthday Club promotion in 2011. By year's end, over 400 golfers had signed up for the program. The Birthday Club is an email promotion in which the participant receives a free 18-hole round of golf during the month of his or her birthday (or half-birthday for dates in November-March).

### Hole Sponsors

The Lafayette Golf Course would like to thank the following 2011 Hole Sponsors:

- Lafayette Bank & Trust
- T-Bird Design
- Jeffery Yocum, OD
- Life Smiles Dentistry
- Central Indiana Glass
- Pyramid Signs
- Lafayette Limo
- ReMax of Lafayette – Dick & Kathy Ketterer
- Tri-Tech Construction
- Dave & Nancy Schultz and Family
- John Hatter, Attorney at Law
- Lafayette Glass
- Dale's Southside Liquor
- Purdue Federal Credit Union
- Griffith Group
- Von Tobel Lumber & Hardware
- Tom's Parkside Deli

## **IX. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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

### **TECHNOLOGY**

The Department upgraded several office work stations, printers and software solutions in 2011. With the cooperation of the City Information Technology Department, we will continue to upgrade computer workstations, software, and printers to provide the Parks staff with tools necessary to perform and produce quality work.

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

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Marketing and promotional activities for 2011 included many exciting projects.

#### Aquatics

In 2011, the Department continued with special events/days; a few were sponsored by local businesses:

The Department partnered with Lake Dermatology to support sun safety day at Tropicanae Cove. On June 23<sup>rd</sup> staff members from Lake Dermatology had a booth devoted to sun safety, preventative tactics to avoid skin damage and free screenings for skin care.

Free Water Walking proved to be a success once again; the free days were Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:15-7:00pm and 7:00-7:45pm, Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00am and 8:00-9:00am, and Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-9:00am. All participants at each free session were given the opportunity to win great prizes and enjoy a healthy snack.

On June 17<sup>th</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup>, the Department partnered with LafayetteMomsLikeMe.com for Tot Time. Tropicanoe Cove opened an hour early and parents with children under 48" were able to use the facility without the normal swimming crowd. LafayetteMomsLikeMe.com also partnered for Mom's Day on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

June 28<sup>th</sup> was "Food For Fun" where pool patrons were given a discounted rate by bringing in non-perishable food items. All the donated food was then given to the Lafayette Urban Ministries (LUM).

Later in the summer, and also to prepare for the upcoming school year, Tropicanoe Cove hosted "School Supply Splash". On August 9<sup>th</sup>, pool patrons were given a discounted rate by donating school supplies. All the donated supplies were given to Crawfordsville High School.

### McAllister Recreation Center

In 2011 the McAllister Center offered three special programs for children of all ages to enjoy. McAllister offered its summer bowling; kid's fishing day and the spring egg hunt to kids from the greater Lafayette area.

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Super Summer Community Bowling was held during the months of June and July. Children ages 3-17 were treated to free bowling from noon-3 at Market Square Lanes, Star Lanes and Mike Aulby's Arrowhead Bowl. In all, over 2,000 games were bowled during the six week program.

The Spring Egg Hunt drew over 100 children this year to the McAllister Center. With the help of student volunteers and donations from Purdue University, children participated in events such as the egg hunt, face painting and egg coloring.

In June, the McAllister Center held the Kid's Fishing Day at Munger Park. Over 100 children tested their fishing skills during the event. Volunteers from the Mid-North Chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries and Indiana Department of Natural Resources were on hand to assist the children and provided everyone with snacks and lunch.

### Other

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Hike with Your Hound was held on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at Columbian Park; 2011 proceeds benefited Bark for the ARC. The event was designed for people with dogs to come out and enjoy the physical activity that both they and their dogs can attain just by walking around in the park. A variety of local businesses also joined in to pass out vital information on pet health and care. The event was capped off with contests; Best Trick, Best Costume, Biggest Smile, and Dog/Owner Look-A-Like.

### **MEDIA COVERAGE**

Media relations continued to be very positive and remain crucial in helping inform the community about facilities, programs, and services provided by Lafayette Parks and Recreation. The Department continued to receive excellent news coverage in 2011 thanks to our marketing and public information initiatives. The local newspaper (Journal and Courier) provided over 600 exposures in the form of articles, editorials, public notices, letters to the editor, photos, and other news items about the Department. Staff articles were also published in trade publications, while several staff members made presentations at local, state, and national conferences. Events as well as Zoo programs were regularly published in the Just Kidding monthly newsletter.

Additional exposure was received through coverage by WLFI News Channel 18. Many staff members were interviewed by TV-18 staff members at the Department's various events and public meetings throughout the year. News cameras were present at each of our ribbon cutting and dedication ceremonies, most Park Board meetings, and at other special events during 2011.

## Lafayette Parks and Recreation

The Department continued its relationship with B102.9 FM, which broadcasted live from Tropicanoe Cove each Wednesday during Family Nights in the summer. B102.9 also did a live remote during Hike with Your Hound in August. The B102.9 Morning Show continued featuring the Zoo Education Department each month for "Zoo Day". On the second Friday of each month, the Zoo Education staff visited the station with a variety of Animal Ambassadors. Artistic Media Partners was the radio sponsor for both the Zoo Run Run and Boo at the Zoo in 2011. WBAA was present at several Department events and ceremonies in 2011. Staff members also did numerous interviews with stations for the announcement of news items.

Late in the year, an ad was placed in the Journal and Courier to promote pre-season sales of Aquatic passes. Also an ad was put in the "celebrations section" of the Journal and Courier to encourage people to call about rental facilities for weddings, showers, graduation parties, etc.

Two outside events (related to the Parks Department) that got media attention were the fundraising cancer luncheon for Daniel Watson, McAllister Center, and the Columbian Park maintenance workers who rafted down the Wabash River. WLFI News Channel 18 and the Journal and Courier were present and reported for a couple days on the guys rafting trip; WLFI came to the luncheon.

### **SALES AND RENTALS**

Sales and rentals continued to be a big part of Administrative Services in 2011. Direct staff involvement in this process resulted in more corporate rentals and greater public exposure. More than 1,000 groups rented park facilities for events such as picnics, weddings, receptions and family reunions. Ongoing customer awareness and training for all park support staff provides citizens with the utmost in services each time they visit a park facility.

### **FUND DEVELOPMENT**

Fund development initiatives are coordinated through Administrative Services. The Kids Can Scholarship Fund is funded through private donations; a yearly mailing is sent out to solicit funds for the Scholarship. Grant applications were submitted by the marketing staff to various organizations for support of the Kids Can Fund. The Kids Can Scholarship Fund received a grant for \$5,000 in 2011.

#### Public Information

The Program & Facilities Guide was printed and distributed in early 2011. Updated printings of the Tropicanoe Cove rate card were completed during the summer of 2011. The Zoo Summer Camp Brochure was updated and printed in 2011. Many of the publications are now posted through the Coty of Lafayette's website.

### **XI. PARKS FOUNDATION**

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

The Parks Foundation received the following major contributions during 2011:

- \$150,000 from the DeFouw Family for the Zoo Education Classroom
- \$75,000 from SIA for accessible playground equipment at the playground in Columbian Park
- \$65,000 from Wabash National for the Columbian Park Zoo otter exhibit
- \$5,000 from Kirby Risk Corporation for Zoo Capital Fund
- \$5,000 from the McAllister Foundation for McAllister Scholarship



