

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

A Publication of the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department

January 1, 2015

The Role of Parks in Shaping a Successful City

By Janet Fawley, Parks Superintendent

Starting a new job in a new community right at the time annual reports are due, is a challenge. However, the change in leadership provides a new perspective on the qualities and characteristics of the West Lafayette Parks, People, and Programs. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you how the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department (WLPR) is helping to shape the community into this wonderful place we call home.

Parks play a significant role in the economic development of West Lafayette. An example includes the Riverside Skating Center, which helps to bring people downtown to the Wabash Landing and the Levee area. People come for the skating, then they find the other activities like movies, restaurants, hotels, and local shops. Additionally, the West Lafayette trails make our community a better place to live through connectivity. Tourism from Purdue University is a major driver of West Lafayette economy and the Parks also provide additional attractions to visitors while they are here. Our neighborhood parks make the livability of neighborhoods more attractive. Finally, large public events such as Wabash Riverfest, Global Fest, and Art on the Wabash use the parks public spaces and provide opportunities for local vendors to generate additional revenue.



In recent years, Parks have done a better job of helping to create a healthier population. West Lafayette's public space strategies have included access and proximity for residents, i.e., trails are developed along with road improvements: Cumberland Avenue work, Northwestern Avenue, and the Cattail Trail. Playgrounds in neighborhood parks provide activity for children which is safe and close to home. WLPR also partners with local schools and churches to provide places to play: Cumberland School for basketball, Playground Programs in the summer, and spring & summer softball at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament. West Lafayette has transportation availability, walkability and ample lighting. While the Community Gardens at Cumberland Park may not be a "Parks Program," it provides an opportunity for residents

Continued on page 2

Summing up the year of 2014

- * Seven different Purdue classes partnered with the WLPR to:
 - Develop education posters for our outdoor kiosks;
 - Develop and publish an “App” featuring the Celery Bog;
 - Study erosion control measures for Happy Hollow Park and the Celery Bog Nature Area;
 - Finalize a feasibility study for a new trail designed for special needs individuals;
- * The City of West Lafayette moved some of their offices out of City Hall into the Morton Center. WLPR welcomes this additional activity in the Morton Center, yet it is a challenge. This loss of space for classes and rentals has reduced our revenue stream and some activities. One of those losses includes the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association (WALLA) program for seniors. We hope to continue working with this organization to accommodate their needs.
- * The West Lafayette Fire Department provided the Parks Offices and the Morton Center with AED machines. Consequently, all WLPR employees received CPR/AED training.
- * After 21 years as Parks Superintendent, Joe Payne retired from his position. During Joe’s tenure, the trail system was fully developed, the Riverside Skating Rink was constructed and became operational, the Lilly Nature Center and the Celery Bog were purchased and developed, and the Wabash River became the geographical focal point of West Lafayette. These are just a few of Joe’s accomplishments, but his impact will be felt for many years to come! We wish him the best in his retirement!

Continued from page 1

to learn about and grow sustainable food, and then share their knowledge about gardening with others. Finally, the Farmers Market, held at Cumberland Park, provides locally grown foods, which is good for the environment through reduced transportation, as well as healthier food alternatives.

It is also the role of the West Lafayette Parks to lead the way in “Green” infrastructure and technology. When and where we’ve been able to include “Green” processes, we have. At the Lilly Nature Center, we have installed both a rain garden and a test plot of pervious concrete. Both of these demonstration areas show that water can be handled differently. We have also installed parking lot lights, generated by solar cells at the Lilly Nature Center Parking Lot. The Parks have been working with both Purdue students and consulting firms to develop plans that will help reduce erosion at the Celery Bog and Happy Hollow Park. Prairie grasses at the Celery Bog help us to reduce mowing, restore wildlife habitat, and stabilize soil for reduced erosion. As a stakeholder of the Wabash River, WLPR has worked directly with the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) to restore the streambank. We are also leading the way to implement, integrate, and educate the public with the West Lafayette Storm-water Pollution Prevention Plan.

We have many more roles in our community, and we hope that you continue to view us in those more traditional roles. As the future unfolds however, we look to you – the public – to help us integrate these updated roles of economic development, better health, and green infrastructure into the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Community.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The ADA signifies the adoption of a public policy committed to the removal of a broad range of impediments to the integration of people with disabilities into society.

When President Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act--the world's first comprehensive civil rights law for people with disabilities--on July 26, 1990, the event represented an historical benchmark and a milestone in America's commitment to full and equal opportunity for all of its citizens.



Parks Work Towards Accessibility

The City of West Lafayette is covered under ADA, Title I - Employment, and Title II - Programs, Services and Activities. The ADA requires the City to make all its programs, services and activities readily accessible and useable by qualified persons with a disability when the programs, services and activities are viewed in their entirety. The Self Evaluation and Transition Plan are cornerstones to documenting and ensuring the City's effort to create and maintain inclusion as mandated by the ADA.

During Calendar Year 2014, the ADA Consultants of Indiana completed its self-evaluation of our programs, services, and activities throughout the city's parks. In addition, we were able to purchase compliant picnic tables for Happy Hollow Park shelters. At the Lilly Nature Center, the LOOP special hearing assistance device was installed in the meeting room to aid individuals with hearing problems. In 2015, we will complete the job of installing charcoal grills that were ordered/delivered in 2014.



<https://www.facebook.com/westlafayetteparks>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Morton-Community-Center>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lilly-Nature-Center>

Keeping Parks Clean & Green



The work of maintaining and improving the Parks in the City of West Lafayette falls upon the Parks Maintenance Crew, led by Parks Director, Lee Booth. Our maintenance crew takes a great deal of pride in every park's appearance. They work extremely hard to make the city's parks & trails the best possible.

The list below is a small sampling of the work that is regularly performed by the Parks Maintenance Crew:

- Inspect, maintain, and repair playgrounds regularly.
- Winter time snow removal.
- Remove trash throughout year.
- Mow, clean, remove, and maintain all vegetation (grass, brush, flowers, trees & stumps).
- Inspect, maintain, and repair trails throughout the City.
- Install and maintain basketball & volleyball courts and nets.
- Clean and maintain restrooms and all plumbing.
- Clean and maintain all pavilions.

Additional Projects

BY PARK STAFF:

- Staff locker units and a bike rack at the pool were repaired, then painted.
- A new climbing net was installed on the Apollo play structure located in Peck-Trachtman Park.
- The playgrounds in Happy Hollow, University Farms, and Peck-Trachtman Parks were topped off with additional surfacing material.
- More shell racks were installed at the boathouse to handle additional rentals.
- Installed additional mirrors in the Morton dance studio.
- Installed new gutters on the restroom building in Happy Hollow Park.
- Installed railing on the back vehicle/pedestrian bridge in Happy Hollow Park.

BY CONTRACTORS:

- The second phase of siding was installed on the Park Office Facility on Kalberer Rd. by Kincaid Construction.
- New stairs and boardwalk (Kincaid Const.) with an additional bridge (Simon Const.) were installed on the Salisbury Ravine footpath.
- A new shade structure was installed by the Farmers Market (Simon Construction).
- Some extensive erosion issues were repaired along the Wabash Heritage Trail in Happy Hollow to Dehart Road section by Milestone Construction.
- Various sections of asphalt trail were crack sealed and seal coated.

**West
Lafayette
Parks and
Recreation**

**By the
Numbers**

2014

13 Park Properties	450 Acres of land managed
12 Playgrounds	14 Picnic Shelters
11,165 Rentals (shelters & classrooms)	1,501 "swim safe" memories through instruction at the Happy Hollow Pool
7,207 Gallons of gasoline used	80,614 staff miles driven to provide quality facilities & programs
1,044 Classes offered	5,110 Happier & healthier people through Morton Center classes
2,600 Hours donated at the Lilly Nature Center by dedicated volunteers	339 pairs of ice skates available for rent
46 Wednesdays In The Wild educational presentations	12,039 smiles at the Riverside Skating Rink
2,500 Pounds of birdseed consumed by birds & other wildlife at Lilly Nature Center	27 Miles of paved trails utilized by bikers, walkers, & runners

2014 Parks & Recreation Board

Pat Flannelly , President
Karen Springer, Vice President
Aimee Jacobsen, Secretary
John MacDonald
Jeff Love
Andy Gutwein, Parks Board Attorney

2014 Parks & Recreation Staff

Janet Fawley, Superintendent
Pennie Ainsworth, Assistant Superintendent
Chris Foley, Recreation Director
Dan Dunten, Stewardship Director
Lee Booth Parks Director
Maintenance Staff: Bob Cheever, Phillip Gutierrez, John Heitmiller,
Thomas James, Caleb Pavey, Nick Rawles, Ken VanderHoff, Brad Young
Sue Mattern, Pool & Ice Rink Manager
Bess Witcosky, Morton Center Director
Marianne Gaio, Morton Center Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Kolb, Parks Administrative Assistant
Parks Office Staff: Tammy Wagner & Sonja Wood

West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department
1101 Kalberer Rd.
West Lafayette IN 47906

Contact Us

West Lafayette
Parks &
Recreation
Department

1101 Kalberer Rd.

West Lafayette IN
47906

765-775-5110

www.wl.in.gov/parks

PLACE
STAMP
HERE