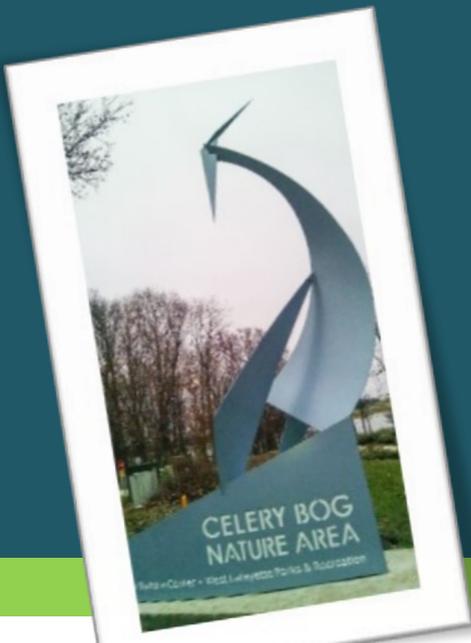


# 2016 Annual Report

## West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department



### Community Connections

By Janet Fawley, Parks Superintendent

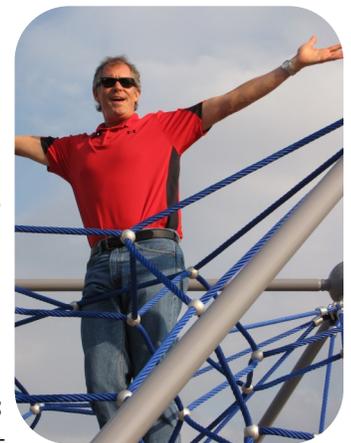
Connections – new, old, young, young at heart, human, financial, physical, real or perceived – all are an everyday part of what happens in the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department. Through these connections, many goals have been achieved in 2016.

The West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department began the year of 2016 requesting the public make a connection with us to complete our survey so they could share their opinions, ideas, and concerns. Their feedback has provided vital information that will direct our plans for the future of the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department.

After three years of closure, the Parks Depart-

ment opened the trail connection from Salisbury and Grant Streets into Happy Hollow Park. Trail users may now use the Happy Hollow Ravine Footpath – a boardwalk through the ravine that gives the community an easier path to hike.

The West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department worked diligently with the Lafayette Kiwanis Club to build a new playground at Cumberland Park. By the end of October, through the many



### Parks Rely on Foundation for Special Projects

West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Foundation has been quietly working in the background to help the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department with grants and donations of land. In 2016, the Parks Foundation accepted grants from the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette for a new slab roller in the pottery studio of Morton Center, Pop Goes Purdue! With the Public Arts Team, new audio-visual equipment for the Lilly Nature Center classroom, and for the relocation of Morris Schoolhouse.

**Make donations for  
Parks projects to:  
West Lafayette Parks  
and Recreation Foundation  
P.O. Box 2391  
West Lafayette IN 47996**

As we look to a new year, we are organizing ourselves to improve our ability to solicit & accept donations from the public. Upcoming projects include Morris Schoolhouse, the playground at Happy Hollow Park, and an outdoor classroom at the Celery Bog Nature Area. We will be creating an online donation process to make it as easy as possible to accept donations. Until then, please feel free to make donations by mail.

# Did you know West Lafayette Parks managed....

15

Properties

450

acres of land

18

Full-time Staff

56+/-

Part-time Staff

\$40,613

raised in grants

connections which were made, this playground was fully installed and open to the youth of our community. We are extremely grateful to the Lafayette Kiwanis Club for their tenacity and generosity in completing this project!



deck gives trail users and nature enthusiasts an additional opportunity to connect with nature, one of our premiere goals.

West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department also connected to other Indiana Parks Departments last summer to utilize the Google Trekker, which will give trail users a street level view of all West Lafayette trails. We're looking forward to the announcement that Google has those digital images ready for public viewing sometime in 2017.

## IMPROVEMENTS @ CELERY BOG NATURE AREA

- \* Wood boardwalks on wet trails
- \* Directional signage on US 231 towards Nature Area
- \* Educational brochure
- \* Prezi presentation on the history of the property
- \* Conducted a prescribed burn to encourage new growth
- \* Installed new audio-visual equipment in the LNC classroom
- \* Designed and planted a new wildflower garden

Our connections with the Roy Whistler Foundation helped our LNC Director, Dan Dunten to plan, construct and dedicate a new observation deck at the Celery Bog Nature Area. Complete with interpretive signs, this new fully accessible

Our connections with Wabash River Enhancement Corporation and the Boiler Green Initiative, helped us to install a new rain garden at Morton Community Center's parking lot. This rain garden now takes in the water from the parking lot and cleans it before it settles into the ground water!

Assisting our citizens to connect with a healthy lifestyle has been a goal of the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Board. With this goal in mind, the Parks Board established a new policy in which all parks are smoke-free! We hope in 2017 that park users will embrace this new policy for the benefit of all.

Public art provides connections to our hearts and souls. This year, the West Lafayette Public Arts Team dedicated the "Heron" at the entrance to the Celery Bog Nature Area. This origami-like structure created by Jeff Laramore of Indianapolis brought together our love for nature, and this unique way to express that love. Our community looks forward to more of these structures in West Lafayette parks.



Finally, saving our connections to the past took on a new life for the citizens of West Lafayette. The grassroots movement to save the Old Morris Schoolhouse at the corner of Cumberland and US 231 became important to our future. Citizens have committed to this project by donating time, talents, and resources. Through this process, 13.5 acres of land to be donated by Lynn Cason will become a new park, to which Morris Schoolhouse will be relocated. Plans for the park will center around the Schoolhouse, as well as achieve some of the needs identified in our Master Plan.

# Quality facilities and programs...

<b>14</b> Picnic shelters	<b>13</b> Playgrounds	<b>27</b> Adopt-A-Spots	<b>28</b> miles of paved trails	<b>7,200</b> Gallons of Gas used	<b>80,566</b> miles driven
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## Safe, 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, Jon Munn. Our maintenance crew takes a great deal of pride in every park's appearance. They work extremely hard to make the West Lafayette'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.
- Winter time snow removal.
- Remove trash throughout the year.
- Mow, clean, remove, maintain all vegetation, and athletic fields.
- Inspect, maintain, repair trails throughout the City.
- Install and maintain basketball and volleyball courts and nets.
- Clean and maintain restrooms/plumbing.
- Clean and maintain all pavilions.

### PROJECTS COMPLETED BY PARKS STAFF:

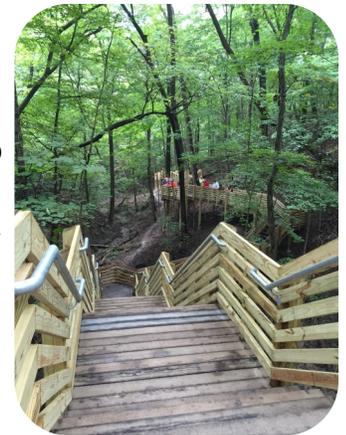


- Picked up the Google Trekker equipment and spent 3 full days mapping images of the trail systems, public art installations and the Wabash River.
- Installed five Little Free Libraries
- Helped maintain Morton Center classrooms
- Provided support to the West Lafayette Farmers Market.

- Installed new water fountain purchased by Lafayette Rotary Club at Tommy Johnston Park.
- Regarding the Kiwanis Playground, provided support to contractors installing the large pieces; provided support to volunteers who added playground safety surfacing; Installed the swing set, individual play pieces, benches and signs.

### PROJECTS COMPLETED BY CONTRACTORS:

- Completed the Happy Hollow Ravine Footpath from Salisbury/Grant St. entrance into Happy Hollow Park, including handrails on the boardwalk.
- Resealed approximately two miles of trail from Lindberg Rd. to Pickett Park
- Resurfaced diving boards for WL Municipal Swimming Pool
- Master Gardeners that oversee the Community Garden completed ADA compliance issues.
- Installed Farmers Market upgrades including electricity, lighting, new shrubs and trees,
- Completed installation of drinking fountains at Cumberland Park North and South restrooms.
- Completed interior painting at the Riverside Skating Center.
- Completed concrete replacement at pool entryway.



# It's About People...

1704

Swim lessons

84

played winter  
basketball

31/12

Co-ed/Mens  
Softball teams

45 Senior

Softball Players

197

Playground Program  
Participants

300

tennis lessons

## Winter



The Riverside Skating Center has been led by our new Skating Rink/Pool Manager, Kevin Noe. Kevin has

been new to this position, and has been learning while doing. Kevin has continued the best-loved programs of “Skate With Santa” and “Dare to Bear”. Students have also enjoyed the opportunities to learn to skate through workshops and lessons. The winter of 2016 provided very little cold weather to keep ice frozen, and unfortunately caused an early closure. Looking forward to 2017 weather keeping the ice intact!

The Director of the Morton Center, Bess Witcosky has also done an amazing job of coming up with new classes for the community:

- Dance Fit with Van Stokes
- Intro to Metal Smithing with Julie Bunch
- NICHES Workshops
- Spanish Language for Adults
- Guitar Classes and Private Lessons
- One Size Fits All Comedy Improv

Basketball for 2nd and 3rd graders is very popular, and has grown in its participation. Every Saturday morning during the winter months at Cumberland School, these kids get a chance to play basketball for fun!

## Spring

Adult Softball is the heart of our spring and summer for Co-ed teams, Mens teams, and even Senior teams. Coordinated by Assistant Superintendent Pennie Ainsworth, many community members count on this program for their healthy lifestyle. We're especially appreciative for the extra resources provided by the family of Arni Cohen to make our fields as great as they can be!

The highlight of the spring is the annual Mor'Danc'n Recital at Loeb Playhouse. Dancers, instructors, and parents work all year for this special evening of dance, costumes, music and fun. LaVerne Mikhail brings it all together to create wonderful memories for all!



## Summer

We are very fortunate to be able to work with the West Lafayette Community School Corporation to offer sports camps in the summer and other sports throughout the off-season. Chris Foley, our Recreation Director, works directly with varsity high school coaches to develop these programs. Sports camps give children the chance to work with their respective coaches on fundamentals in a fun environment. Camps were offered in basketball, football, volleyball & soccer. We are very proud of our sports activities which take place year round.

Our swimming pool, next to the Happy Hollow Elementary School has provided swimming lessons, and other activities for 50 years. Activities

<b>296</b> Sports Camp Participants	<b>20</b> Played Fall volleyball	<b>12,638</b> Smiles @ skating rink	<b>3746</b> Morton Center Registrations	<b>169</b> "A Day In the Park" At Prophetstown	<b>1324</b> Summer class participants
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## Summer(cont'd)

include swim lessons for all ages and abilities, party rentals at the pool, daily lap swimming, and of course, our regular open swim. Swim lessons



and attendance were both up in 2016, which tells us how important our pool is to the community in the summer. In addition, this last summer, Purdue Athletics needed our swimming pool throughout September, and we were able to help their swimmers be prepared for their fall competition.

169 people attended "A Day in the Park with Morton" at Prophetstown and enjoyed free admission into the state park, art supplies, art instruction and performances. This event was made possible by a generous grant from the Indiana Arts Commission.

This 21st year of Global Fest looked more like a street fair than previous events. Global Fest was designed to celebrate the diverse cultures that make up West Lafayette. We appreciate the support for this event from our major sponsors - Vectren Foundation, Purdue Federal Credit Union,

and Wessler Engineering. Our Department would not be able to provide this free family event without these and other great sponsors. The Naturalization Ceremony for 2017 will be held in a new location, White Horse Christian Center, located on Cumberland Avenue, has agreed to allow us the use of their facility.

The City of West Lafayette along with the Parks Department worked with Purdue to install 3 additional Zagster bike share stations. They are located at Tapawingo Park, Brown Street & River Road, and the West Lafayette Public Library.



## Fall

2016 saw record breaking attendance for Family Fun Day with over 700 people participating. Special performances along with Morton instructors gave instruction and information on Tai Chi, Belly Dance, Art, Chess, and much more! Attendees also enjoyed free snacks, music, magic, crafts and books from co-host the West Lafayette Public Library.

<b>2,265</b> hours volunteered valued @ \$50,000	<b>252</b> Junior Nature Club Members	<b>780</b> people @ Wednesdays in the Wild	<b>250</b> pollinators planted	<b>6</b> "You Are Here" Signs at Celery Bog	<b>2500 #</b> Birdseed Consumed
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....At the Celery Bog

## Contact Us

West Lafayette  
Parks & Recreation  
Department Service  
Center

1101 Kalberer Rd.  
West Lafayette IN  
47906

765-775-5110

[wlparcs@wl.in.gov](mailto:wlparcs@wl.in.gov)

[www.wl.in.gov/parks](http://www.wl.in.gov/parks)

## 2016 Parks & Recreation Board

Karen Springer.....President  
Linda Eales.....Vice President  
Jeff Love..... Secretary  
John MacDonald..... Member  
Pat Flannelly.....Member  
Andy Gutwein.....Parks Board Attorney

## 2016 Parks & Recreation Staff

Janet Fawley.....Superintendent  
Pennie Ainsworth.....Assistant Superintendent  
Chris Foley.....Recreation Director  
Bess Witcosky.....Morton Center Director  
Marianne Gaio.....Morton Center Administrative Assistant  
Cheryl Kolb.....Parks Administrative Assistant  
Parks Office Staff.....Tammy Wagner & Sonja Wood  
Dan Dunten.....Lilly Nature Center Director  
Kevin Noe.....Pool & Ice Rink Manager  
Jon Munn.....Parks Director  
Maintenance Staff..... Bob Cheever, Phillip Gutierrez, John Heitmiller,  
Thomas James, Caleb Pavey, Nick Rawles, Eric Reifel, Ken VanderHoff

## Staff Experiences

An important part of keeping up to date with trends and new procedures is continuing education. The Parks Staff took advantage of the following opportunities in 2016:

- Key staff attended Indiana Parks & Recreation Association State Conference in Bloomington during January, 2016.
- Janet Fawley completed INDOT “Employee in Responsible Charge” Training.
- Jon Munn & Bess Witcosky attended & passed Ivy Tech 6 Sigma/Leadership Training at GE Aviation in January, 2016.
- Janet Fawley & Pennie Ainsworth attended “Nature Grounds” & “Outdoor Fitness Parks.”
- Janet Fawley attended INDOT Title VI Training.
- Maintenance Staff participated in safety seminar focusing on tree trimming safety with MBAH Insurance Representatives..
- Kevin Noe received his Certified Pool Operator Certificate in the spring of 2016.
- Janet Fawley completed Leadership Lafayette in May.
- Key staff attended the National Congress of the National Recreation & Parks Association in St. Louis Missouri during October of 2016.