It was once said (Mahatma Gandhi) “The future depends on what you do today.” So the significant work that has been done during 2017 has been about building the foundation for the future of the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department.

The Parks Department and the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Foundation proudly raised enough funds with the help of the City of West Lafayette to take possession and move the Morris Schoolhouse, to the destination where it will be preserved for future generations. The land it has been moved to, was given to the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Foundation by the Lynn Cason Family—where “Cason Family Park” will be established, and the Morris Schoolhouse will be featured.

The West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department also completed the Five-Year System Master Plan that identified our need for more trails, more technology in our parks, an off-leash dog park, and finally, a study to determine our feasibility for building & operating a Recreation/Aquatics Center. This study was initiated in October of 2017.

Other highlights of 2017 were the completion of the Kingston Trail in front of the Happy Hollow Elementary School, four more “Little Free Libraries” stationed in the parks, a very successful Naturalization Ceremony and Global Fest, improvements to the playground at Paula Woods Park, and improvements to the Farmer’s Market, which include electricity and a new piece of public art, The Rooster.

Several new projects are on the horizon for the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department. Many are made possible with the help of the West Lafayette Redevelopment Commission and the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Foundation. These include a new playground for Happy Hollow Park, new displays at the Lilly Nature Center, and work with the Public Arts Team for public art at the entrances of Happy Hollow Park.

15 Properties
464 acres of land
18 Full-time Staff
56+/- Part-time Staff
$45,000 raised in grants
One of the most important roles of the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Foundation (WLPRF) is to assist with raising funds for the most important projects of the West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Department (WLPRD). In 2017, those projects have included the move and restoration of the Morris Schoolhouse, and purchasing new playground equipment for the Happy Hollow Park. Sue Eiler has spearheaded the Morris Schoolhouse fundraising through grants, and the sales of commemorative bricks that will eventually be incorporated into the walkway leading to the schoolhouse. Sue Lasater has lead our efforts for the Happy Hollow playground equipment through grant writing, and a letter writing campaign.

To provide support to our fundraising efforts, we have also established a website, https://wlparks.org/, that will promote our organization and our projects, but will also provide a means for people to donate to our projects online. Our new promotional tabletop display, also helps us tell our story at large community gatherings.

Finally, the WLPRF has worked with the WLPRD to complete the acceptance of the land that Lynn Cason and his family have donated to surround the Morris Schoolhouse. Public planning for this 13.6 acres will take place in 2018, and will provide Cason Family Park the framework for a wonderful community recreational space in the City of West Lafayette.
Safe, Clean & Green Parks

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 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.
- Inspect, maintain, and repair trails throughout the City.
- Winter time snow removal.
- Remove trash throughout year.
- Mow, clean, remove, and maintain all vegetation (grass, brush, flowers, trees & stumps).
- 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:

- Farmers Market storage improvements in the market shed at Cumberland Park.
- Assembled & installed 6 new ADA picnic tables throughout the parks
- Installed trail counters throughout the trails in the parks.
- Installed the Sam Broccolo memorial bench along the third base side of the south Arni Cohen field.
- Installed New playground equipment at Paula R. Woods Park.
- Replaced the Plexiglas fronts on kiosks along trails & at Arni Cohen Softball Fields.
- Worked with the street dept. to clear drainage pipes along the Wabash Heritage Trail in Happy Hollow Park.

Additional Projects BY CONTRACTORS:

- Replaced the pool deck liner with new materials.
- Installed of 5 new drinking fountains in various parks.
- Constructed the Kingston Trail in front of the Happy Hollow Elementary School.
- Repaired trail asphalt at Trailhead Park on Kalberer Road, Happy Hollow Park and on the Wabash Heritage Trail behind Wastewater Recovery Site.
- Resurfaced the restroom floors at the Lilly Nature Center & the Happy Hollow Park.
- Demolished the concrete beams and removed the debris in park’s storage area.
- Resealed approximately 8 miles of trail.
- Completed construction of the Happy Hollow Park Stream Restoration, including new trees planted. (more work to come in 2018)

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<td>Picnic shelters</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adopt-A-Spots</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>miles of paved trails</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallons of Gas used</td>
<td>7819</td>
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<tr>
<td>miles driven</td>
<td>93,304</td>
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Sports Programs Are More Than Something To Do

1404 Swim lessons
85 played winter basketball
36/12 Co-ed/Mens Softball teams
45+/- Senior Softball Players
196 Playground Program Participants
272 tennis lessons
Cultural Arts at the Morton Community Center

The cultural hub of the City of West Lafayette is clearly the Morton Community Center (MCC). If you glance through our program publications which are published three times each year, you’ll discover that MCC Director Bess Witcosky has assembled a wonderful collection of program activities for all ages. They include yoga (in all its varieties), Tai Chi, photography, art classes for many different mediums, dance classes for all skills and variations, piano and guitar lessons, as well as the many different camps offered to youth during the summer months. Several special events provided the community a view into the accomplishments of our participants:

**Spring Arts Celebration** showcased Art students of all ages and levels that have been studying at Morton with Jeannette Rehmel. The Morton Youth Actor’s Troupe performed *Moe on the Go* featuring favorites Piggie, Elephant, Pigeon and Duckling. Then they performed Maurice Sendak’s award-winning, *Where the Wild Things Are*.

**24th Annual Mor’Danc’n Dance Recital** gives the MCC dancers the opportunity to showcase their dancing skills and abilities. While the youngest dancers (3-5 years of age) need their parents with them on stage to perform their duet of dance, the more skilled dancers are the definition of beauty and grace. Both bring tears of joy to a person’s heart.

MCC’s 3-Week Theatre Camp, directed by Susan Kisinger, performed *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* on the MCC Multi-purpose Room stage.

**The Family Fun Day**, in which we partnered with the West Lafayette Public Library, was a very successful with over 1,000 people in attendance. This event is an opportunity for families to experience a sampling of the programs offered at both locations.

The highlight of the year was the **22nd Annual Global Fest Celebration**. The many hours of planning which included Purdue Convocations, provided a wonderful day of international foods, dance, art, and music. The Greater Lafayette community was also treated to an awe-inspiring opportunity to see 100 people become citizens of the United States of America thanks to the people of the White Horse Christian Center.

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>248</strong></th>
<th><strong>23</strong></th>
<th><strong>12,638</strong></th>
<th><strong>3,649</strong></th>
<th><strong>1,000+</strong></th>
<th><strong>1,261</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Camp Participants</td>
<td>Played Fall volleyball</td>
<td>Smiles @ skating rink</td>
<td>Morton Center Registrations</td>
<td>“Family Fun Day” participants</td>
<td>Summer class participants</td>
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Lilly Nature Center Director, Dan Dunten would tell you that the volunteers of the Lilly Nature Center are the heart and soul of the activities that take place at the Lilly Nature Center (LNC) and the Celery Bog Nature Area (CBNA). Volunteers provided many hours of service that includes the following community programs and activities which focused on nature and our environment:

- **Mind BOGgling Family Nature Celebration** focused this year on birds. A speaker with live wild birds was there for the whole family to enjoy. Even the rainy weather couldn’t keep people away.
- **Nature Play Days** were organized with the help of Zonda Bryant to provide four nature sessions for youth. These were held at Tapawingo Park, Celery Bog Nature Area, Cumberland Park and Happy Hollow Park.
- **Wednesdays in the Wild** 43 weekly educational sessions about nature and our environment.
- **Daily shifts of staffing the front desk** at the Lilly Nature Center provides a routine source of information to the public about the LNC and the CBNA.

During the spring of 2017, we coordinated with the local Cooperative Extension Educator to plan a day-long training for parks maintenance staff throughout the State of Indiana. The workshop focused on maintenance and care of trees, shrubs, perennials, native plantings, and turf. The LNC Classroom was full of caring professionals from all over.

Volunteers have taken on their biggest task yet – creating and installing new educational displays in the Lilly Nature Center. Through this process, they have discovered who it is that visits the LNC, what kind of displays other nature facilities provide, what resources are available at Purdue University, and what are some of the skills and talents in our community. Through this discovery process, they have determined how best to feature the four ecosystems of the Celery Bog Nature Area. Their work will come together in these new displays in 2018.

| Volunteers Focus on Nature & Our Environment | 2,265 hours volunteered valued @ $50,000 | 225 Junior Nature Club Members | 663 people @ Wednesdays in the Wild | 43 Wednesdays in the Wild | 7246 people visited the Lilly Nature Ctr. | 2500 # Birdseed Consumed |
Networking & Learning Opportunities

- Bob Cheever participated in the Indiana Arborist annual convention to receive needed CEU’s to maintain his Arborist certification.
- The Indiana Park and Recreation Association’s annual conference was attended by Pennie, Chris, Kevin, Bess, Dan & Jan. Board members Karen Springer and Linda Eales also participated.
- Dan served on the planning committee for the IPRA State Conference.
- Jan, Jon, & Dan planned and executed a maintenance staff team meeting “Safe Clean and Green” - giving maintenance staff the chance to build the team and discuss upcoming changes and improvements to their roles and responsibilities.
- Jon Munn and Tom James attended Playground Maintenance technician training.
- Nick Rawles attended chemical applicator training.
- Bess Witcosky served as co-chair of Leadership Lafayette’s Volunteer Expo. Bess also graduated from Leadership Lafayette in May.
- Pool/Rink Manager Kevin Noe, completed his course work and passed the test to become a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP).
- Assistant Superintendent Pennie Ainsworth & Recreation Director Chris Foley attended the National Park and Recreation Association Conference in New Orleans in September.
- Superintendent Janet Fawley received a scholarship to attend the Athletic Business Conference in Orlando.
- Long-time Board member and Tree Friend Board member John MacDonald passed away in December. He will be missed.