

Friends of the Parks of Allen County

Annual Report
2019-2020





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Message from the President

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Message from the President

I am very proud to be able to share with you the accomplishments of our last year. Finishing in the middle of a global pandemic, we held our first ever virtual Annual Meeting on June 17, 2020. Alec Johnson, Deputy Director of Planning and Development for the Fort Wayne Parks Department, treated those in attendance to a presentation about the development of Promenade Park.

As we continue to advocate for our great community parks during these unique times, we continue to need your support more than ever. Please consider becoming a member or donating to Friends of the Parks at yeaparks.com.

Sincerely,

Friends of the Parks of Allen County

Edward Welling

President

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This Year's Accomplishments

We fulfilled our mission in 2020 and are looking ahead to 2021:

We are attentive advocates:

The Friends of the Parks continues our keen interest in developments that enhance and impact the parks and public spaces of our community. This year we invested time and contributed expertise to the following developments:

- **The Headwaters Park/Club Soda development** – our board helped drive modifications to this plan to lessen its visual impact on the park.
- **The Wells Street Bridge** – we formally supported the City of Fort Wayne's application to the IDNR Historic Preservation Fund for a grant to restore the Wells Street Bridge.

We Believe in Building:

- **Foster Park Stone Pavilion**: The project will fully and accurately restore the historic stone pavilion in the Foster Park Oak Grove along with landscape improvements, a new paved trail connecting the pavilion with the Foster Park walking loop, bank clearing along the adjacent St. Marys River to increase visibility, and accessibility improvements. We are partnering with Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation on this project.

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We fulfilled our mission in 2020 and are looking ahead to 2021:

We are good partners:

The Friends of the Parks continued our pattern of partnering with others this year:

- **The 18th Great Tree Canopy Comeback** – held on October 26th, included new partners Fort Wayne Trails & Fort Wayne Greenways Trails Department, along with our traditional partners Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation, New Haven Parks & Recreation and Allen County Parks. Over 200 volunteers planted over 150 trees.
- **FWMoA Exhibit** – we are partnering with Fort Wayne Museum of Art & Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation to create an exciting multi-faceted exhibition centered upon the connection between landscape architecture and art.

We want you to learn about Allen County's Cultural Landscapes:

- **Allen County Historic Landscape Report**: watch for updates to our website that will feature easy to use information about the most beloved landscapes in Allen County including Foster Park, McMillen Park, The Kessler Park & Boulevard System, and neighborhoods like West Central and Wildwood Park!

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This Year's Accomplishments

We fulfilled our mission in 2020 and are looking ahead to 2021:

We still love to have fun and raise funds:

- **Croquet Fundraiser** – Although it was postponed due to Covid, plans are still underway for one of the most fun fundraisers in Fort Wayne. Croquet anyone? Stay connected by becoming a member or checking out our website yeaparks.com.

2019-2020 Board Members:

President – Ed Welling

Vice President – Thomas Cain

Treasurer – Faith Van Gilder

Secretary – Barb Clark

Julie Donnell

Carol Cavell

Kirk Moriarty

Connie Haas Zuber

Heidi Koeneman

Laura Weston

Brian Schneider

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Financial Report

Year to date: January 1, 2020-May 31, 2020

Total account balance: \$232,875.54

- **Unrestricted funds:**
 - General operating fund: \$5,346.11
- **Restricted funds:**
 - Foster Park funds: \$179,071.50
 - Education funds: \$18,386.36
 - Great Tree Canopy Comeback fund: \$20,418.31
 - Fundraising: \$9,653.26

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Did you know that the federal Covid relief CARES Act included a few temporary benefits for 2020 to help incentivize giving to nonprofits during this time? Here is a simplified list of deduction incentives:

- For those taxpayers who don't itemize, there is up to a \$300 deduction for charitable giving
- Individuals can deduct gifts up to 100% of their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) this year, up from 60%
- Corporations can deduct up to 25% of their taxable income, up from 10%

2020 has been a difficult year for most of us. Your support is needed now more than ever. Please consider a year end gift to Friends of the Parks of Allen County. All gifts are tax deductible.

You can donate online at yeaparks.com. The donate button is yellow and on the left side of the page.

You can mail your donation to: Friends of the Parks of Allen County
P.O. Box 10152
Fort Wayne, IN 46850-0152