



New natural wonders await curious minds at Lilly Nature Center.

LILLY'S YEAR IN REVIEW

What Did I Miss?

The Lilly Nature Center and Celery Bog Nature Area had a full lineup of programs and events in 2022 compared to the previous year. Something about a pandemic. Director Dan Dunten shared some of the accomplishments they achieved and the statistics they gathered.

NEW DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS More local glacier specimens and a close-captioned Geological History video bring light to how our area was formed over 15,000 years ago and radically changed in the past 100 years. Bird photos, nests, wooden replica eggs, and a porcelain bird collection provide educational information about some of the 400+ bird species in Indiana. Birds can eat at additional bird feeders and be seen through the Center's one-way glass viewing area. New tree identification signs and name plates for donor trees are now posted.

2022 STATS It was the inaugural year for Nature Camps at the Center. The wildly successful camp lasted six weeks during the summer, with 50 youths participating each day. Over 300 people attended the Annual Mind BOGgling Event. Wednesdays in the Wild and expertly-guided bird and wildflower identification walks continued all year long.

Staff and volunteers planted over 70 trees and 100 wildflowers in the Nature Area. The Center logged over a thousand volunteer hours; we couldn't have given the unique nature experience to our 8,400 visitors without the help of our wonderful volunteers. This year promises this and more. Don't miss out on exploring West Lafayette's beautiful gem of a park.

Stop worrying about missed opportunities and start looking for new ones.

Leoh Ming Pei

8,400+
visitors

55
volunteers

100+
wildflowers
planted

70+
trees planted

Gale Turco
received Sam
Postlethwait
award



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR PARKS PROGRAMS

Many things are free to do within the WL Parks and Recreation Department. Trail walking, visiting Lilly Nature Center, using playground equipment, playing pick-up basketball, or going to a dog park. However, pay-to-play activities like swimming lessons or camp programs require a financial payment to participate. West Lafayette Parks has a scholarship program to help defer program costs for families in need who qualify for the free and

reduced lunch program or have special circumstances. The 2023 scholarship application can be found by searching scholarship application at westlafayette.in.gov.

Donations fund the scholarship assistance program. If you'd like to make a difference in a child's life through Park activities, please email us at wlparks@westlafayette.in.gov.

STATE OF THE CITY



Mayor John Dennis



The new Chauncey Plaza was christened at Global Fest.

When you are learning how to drive, the trick is to simultaneously keep your eyes on the road ahead, beside, and behind you. But mostly ahead. That's how we doubled our size since 2015 and attracted state-of-the-art businesses here to partner with the expertise and research opportunities of Purdue University while not sacrificing the quality of life, environment, or safety of our legendary college hometown. But at the end of the trip, it's satisfying to see how much ground you've covered. The following recap captures the City's high points from 2022.

QUALITY OF LIFE: More recreational opportunities like parks and trails, more greenspace, good schools, and varied community events contribute to a better quality of life for local citizens. With that in mind, through the guidance of the Parks Five-Year Master Plan, WL will get its first City Park in 20 years. The 28-acre Cason Family Park is now under construction. It will complement the Morris Schoolhouse and outdoor classroom with boat rentals, lawn space for events, and wooded trails throughout. In addition, a second free dog park was installed at Cumberland Park, and the Chauncey Plaza was christened at Global Fest. Be ready to recreate!

ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE: The River Road CSO project was long overdue to curb waste from entering the Wabash River. The next step is to upgrade the Waste Water Treatment Utility and lift station on South River Road. Real environmental gains were realized last year by reducing 32% of waste via recycling, composting, and diverting 15.9 tons of food waste from the landfill to WL's anaerobic digester. An infrastructure investment of \$10.9M built, repaired, or maintained the City's roads and trails for safe and happy travels.

POLICE & FIRE: An underlying factor to the community's attractiveness is how safe one feels on a daily basis. Low crime and safe streets bring a sense of well-being to the

young and old alike. West Lafayette is ranked the 2nd Safest College Town in America for our university's size by Research.com. Our men and women in blue serviced over 25,000 total calls last year. Our new social service and crisis response team fielded 2,637 interactions, making 216 referrals to community-based services last year. NAMI Tippecanoe County awarded WL Lt. Adam Miller the Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year for his fine work.

The West Lafayette Fire Department responded to nearly 3,000 calls of every variety last year. Concerns about carcinogens and space constraints at Fire Station #2 prompted a feasibility study. Recommendations to relocate the station next to the Police Station will be discussed at public outreach meetings in February.

DEVELOPMENT: We are grateful for the new enterprise investing in our community. Big names like SkyWater Technology (who are making \$1.82B capital outlay with 750 new high-paying jobs), Rolls Royce, and Inari Expansion were among the top development projects of 2022. We continue to see growth in the high-tech micro-computing, aviation, and agriculture sectors because of the dynamic relationship between town and gown. Six new housing developments are on the rise to accommodate the housing needs of students and residents, and Ascension St. Vincent broke ground for an eight-bed micro-hospital in the Discovery Park neighborhood. In all, over \$3B has been publically and privately invested (not including Provenance's potential) since the start of the State Street Redevelopment Project in 2016.

We covered a lot of distance last year, but the journey is still ongoing. Be on the lookout for future improvements in the Levee, Village, and Discovery Park. Thank you to my staff, volunteers, and citizens who have contributed to making West Lafayette a great place to work, live, and play.

WEST LAFAYETTE MOVES

Stay on top of the City's several concurrent construction initiatives by frequently visiting wlmoves.com. It's a one-stop resource to find information about current projects, maps, closures, detours, and timelines or to sign up for alerts via text or email. The site is continually revised to give you the most up-to-date news. Supply-chain issues and concrete shortages delayed some progress, but the spring construction season looks bright, and the end is in sight.

ONGOING PROJECTS

SALISBURY STREET REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT: Starting Phase II this March, the project aims to build a continuous north-south multi-modal trail system across the City for pedestrians/bicyclists. The new trail gives travelers a safe lane to get to schools, parks, neighborhoods, businesses, and municipal destinations. The closure affects N. Salisbury Street from Sagamore Parkway West to Cumberland Avenue. Project completion is slated for October 2023.

YEAGER ROAD REVITALIZATION PROJECT: Construction resumes in March on Yeager Road between Sagamore Parkway and Cumberland Ave to bring a new trail, sidewalks, and stormwater improvements. The revitalized road and trails provide better connectivity to West Lafayette's upgraded parks and Wellness Center. Look for project completion this summer.

CHERRY LANE REALIGNMENT PROJECT: Accommodation for Purdue's new Pete Dye Clubhouse requires a road alignment to accommodate the facility. Lane restrictions continue between Northwestern Avenue and McCormick Road and will wrap up by September 2023. The joint project with Purdue includes a new roundabout, more lighting, new stormwater infrastructure, and a multi-use trail.

RIVER ROAD CSO: The new 1,000-foot underground water storage tank under N. River Road is designed to prevent stormwater and wastewater pollution from entering the Wabash River during high rain events. Storage and diversion to the Wastewater Treatment Facility will result in a cleaner Wabash River. North River Road between DeHart Street and Happy Hollow Road will stay closed until Fall 2023 to complete the sizeable project.

LINDBERG ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT: Lindberg between Northwestern Avenue and Salisbury Street will undergo a complete road rebuild, including new stormwater infrastructure, curbs, pavement, street lighting, and a new 10-foot wide multi-use asphalt trail. The joint project with Purdue is scheduled for completion in December 2023.

SAGAMORE TRAIL PROJECT: Construction begins this spring to connect the existing paved Nighthawk Trail at Soldiers Home Road to Sagamore Parkway and the Wabash Heritage Trail.



New dog park at Cumberland Park

MORE FUN FOR FIDO

West Lafayette's second free dog park opened at Cumberland Park in December. Really, there are two parks, nearly an acre each. One will be open while the other rests to control the mud or reestablish grass. Dogs can play unleashed with other canines (4 months or older) while inside but must be leashed while entering or exiting the park.

B.Y.O.B. Patrons must observe all dog park rules, especially bringing your own bag and cleaning up after your pet. Doggy etiquette concerning good behavior, no digging, having up-to-date vaccinations, etc. are on the City website under Dog Park. Please view the rules before visiting so all pups can enjoy the space from dawn to dusk.



SPRING CLEANUP

Are your leaves still hanging around? Spring leaf collections will be from March 20 – April 28 to tackle last year's leftovers. Check westlafayette.in.gov/leaves for updates.

You can also sign up for Street & Sanitation reminders on the website or scan the QR Code. Let us help you get a new start on a beautiful yard.

Moving out? Students, particularly, are on the move in the spring. The City accepts ONE large item in addition to the trash toter each week. Dumpsters are an excellent solution for removing excessive waste. Dumpsters come in three sizes (15, 20, and 30-yard) and are available to residents that receive City sanitation services and dwell in buildings no larger than four units. The rental period equals seven calendar days or one dumpster load, whichever comes first. You fill it; the City removes it. See westlafayette.in.gov/dumpsterrental for all the details please.

Residents of newly-built homes are eligible for free trash and recycling toters. Please contact the Street and Sanitation Department at **765-775-5242** to choose a 48 or 96-gallon size toter!

The trash won't empty by clicking on the trash icon. You will have to physically take it out. Jon Carter

RETHINKING THE RINK

Twenty years ago, there was an overwhelming consensus that Greater Lafayette needed an outdoor ice skating rink, a fun recreational activity during the cold winter months. Through a two-year campaign, the community raised funds to build the Riverside Skating Center at Tapawingo Park. *The Lafayette Leader* reported that it opened on November 29, 2002, under the management of Sue Mattern (Parks Director) and former professional Canadian hockey player Jon-Roy Owens. The 70 x 120-foot oval skating rink includes a pavilion with refreshments, lockers, public restrooms, and a skate rental shop. Weather permitting, the ice rink is used from late November through March. During the off-season, it hosts pickleball games, bike polo matches, Lafayette Roller Derby Club, and Riverfest activities.

Future plans are percolating to roof the rink to shield it from the sun and rain that melt the ice. Another idea is to expand the skating area by placing a skating trail alongside the existing sidewalk in Tapawingo Park. Think *Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates*.

Do you have any suggestions for possible programming?

Please let us know by calling the WL Parks and Recreation at **765-775-5110** or email Parks Superintendent Kathy Lozano at **klozano@westlafayette.in.gov**.

Let's keep our small but mighty rink recreationally relevant for the coming decades.



Set along the scenic banks of the Wabash River, the ice-skating rink has been home to kids of all ages since 2002.

Think your sport is hard? Mine is on one of the most slippery surfaces on earth, and I have knives on my feet. unattributed

FIRE STARTERS



Knowing possible fire starters can keep you safe while enjoying the outdoors. Fire Chief Jeff Need and the National Fire Protection Association share timely safety tips.

GRILLS Use only outdoors and at least three feet away from children, pets, homes, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Check the gas hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Always open your gas grill lid before lighting it, and never leave your grill unattended. Please don't add a flammable fluid to a hot charcoal grill; let coals cool completely before disposing. Keeping grills clean prevents flaming mignons.

FIRE PITS Always have a hose, bucket of water, or shovel and dirt/sand nearby when using a firepit. Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids on firepits, chimineas, or campfires. Be sure children, pets, and structures are safe from fire. Campfires, where allowed, must be 25 feet away from any burnable material and clear from dry leaves/sticks and overhanging low branches/shrubs. Call the Fire Department if you cannot quickly extinguish a fire.

SMOKE ALARMS Working smoke alarms are the ultimate non-fire starter. Be sure to replace your batteries twice a year (suggested when we're changing the clock spring and fall) if you don't own a 10-year battery-life unit. Please install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area throughout the home, and in the basement. Roughly three of five fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms.

CHIMNEYS Have your chimney and venting system cleaned and inspected yearly by a qualified professional. Chimney cleaning prevents fires, is more energy efficient and clears carbon monoxide gases that can be fatal.



HISTORY IN THE MAKING

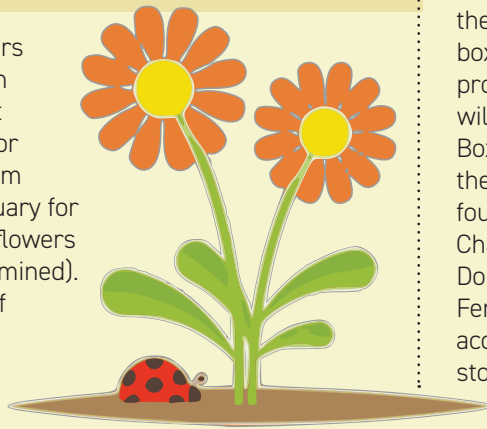
If you live in Historic New Chauncey Neighborhood and are making improvements to the exterior of your home, be sure to file a Certificate of Appropriateness with the Historic Preservation Commission. Many projects, such as shingle or roofing replacement, fencing replacement, and handrail updates, simply require a staff sign-off. Larger projects may require a full commission review. Questions? Please email hpc@westlafayette.in.gov or call a staff member at **765-775-5160** for answers.



State Street traffic box wrap designed by Al Knight.

SPRING FEVER

Wondering what flowers to plant in your garden this spring? Check out westlafayette.in.gov for West Lafayette in Bloom order forms this February for bright and affordable flowers (colors yet to be determined). We will offer a fiesta of flowers to brighten up your spring!



WRAP IT UP

Colorful traffic boxes are popping up throughout the City, transforming otherwise plain rectangular boxes into appealing nature scenes or thought-provoking artwork. The Redevelopment Commission will hold its third Call for Artists for Traffic Signal Boxes in 2023. Currently, nine wrapped boxes adorn the streets. Artist Dwayne Daehler designed the four along Salisbury Street. The remaining ones in Chauncey Village were designed by Albert Scharpou, Doris Kemler, Kim Burke, Al Knight, and Kenya Ferrand-Ott. Artists were awarded \$250 for each accepted submission. The next time you're at a traffic stop, take a minute to enjoy the view.

FAIR IS FAIR

It is not okay to discriminate. If you feel you have been discriminated against in any housing-related activity (buying/selling/loans/renting) because of race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender orientation), familial status, or disability, please reach out to our local and state organizations committed to fair housing.

The Development Department, WL Human Relations Commission, and Indiana Civil Rights Commission provide mediation to try to find equitable solutions for housing discrimination. Please get in touch with them for assistance and to learn more.

● development@westlafayette.in.gov

● westlafayette.in.gov/hrc

● in.gov/icrc/

CITY NEWS



NEW HIRES

Ethan Fortner
Community Development
Manager | Development

Sinem Zimmerman
Accounts Payable
Specialist | Finance

Justin Balog
Probationary Patrol Officer
West Lafayette Police

Jason Nelson
Payroll Specialist
Finance

Mary "Kathy" Batz
Accounts Receivable
Specialist | Finance

Halee Griffey
Climate Resiliency and
Sustainability Officer
Water Recovery
Resource Facility

RETIREMENTS

Cindy Marion
Property & Evidence
Manager
32 years of service
West Lafayette Police

Kevin Flynn
Lieutenant of Patrol
28 years of service
West Lafayette Police

John Dennis • Mayor
765/775-5100
mayor@westlafayette.in.gov

Sana Booker • Clerk
765/775-5150
clerk@westlafayette.in.gov

westlafayette.in.gov

Sonya L. Margerum City Hall
222 N. Chauncey Ave.
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Committed to Going Greener



A Tree City USA

Land Acknowledgement

The City of West Lafayette, and the Wabash River, are located on the ancestral lands of the Bodewadmik (Potawatomi), Lenape (Delaware), Myaamia (Miami), Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Peoria, Kaskaskia, and Shawnee People, who were removed unjustly, and that we in this community are the beneficiaries of that removal. We honor them as we live, work, and play here in the Wabash Valley. Indigenous peoples have inhabited Indiana since time immemorial. According to the 2020 US Census there are over 50,000 Native Americans living in the state today.

LET'S GO EVENT CALENDAR

RX/OTC Take Back

2nd Thursday 11:30 - 1:30
March 9 • April 13 • May 11
West Lafayette Police Station

City Offices Closed

Good Friday • April 7
Memorial Day • Monday • May 29

Riverside Skating Center

(Weather Permitting)
Call for hours 765-743-7465
Tapawingo Park

West Lafayette Farmers Market

Opens May 3
Wednesdays • May – October
3:30 - 7 pm
Cumberland Park

Purdue Spring Fest

Saturday • April 15
10 am - 6 pm
Memorial Mall
ag.purdue.edu

Purdue Bug Bowl

Saturday • April 15
10 am - 6 pm
Smith Hall & Memorial Mall
extension.entm.purdue.edu

Purdue Grand Prix

Saturday • April 22
Grand Prix Track
1500 McCormick Rd.
purduegrandprix.org

Round the Fountain Art Fair

Saturday • May 27
9 am - 4:30 pm
Downtown Lafayette

Taste of Tippecanoe

Saturday • June 17
Downtown Lafayette
tasteoftippecanoe.org

Warm Weather Welcome

