



# Riverfront

**FORT WAYNE**

Always moving.



FORT WAYNE  
PARKS AND  
RECREATION





# Today & Tomorrow

Northeast Indiana's three rivers are timeless.

The Maumee, St. Joseph and St. Marys rivers have unified our region for centuries, bringing people together in downtown Fort Wayne for commerce, community and cultural enhancement.

Today, we arrive at the riverbanks with high expectations. An appetite for adventure, or a yearning for solitude. A need to connect with our heritage, or a restless desire to never see the same view twice.

As we begin the implementation of the Riverfront Fort Wayne master plan, we can make our rivers a powerful, unifying force in our region and a source of pride for generations to come.

## Positive Momentum

I'm honored to serve as Mayor at an important time in the history of Fort Wayne.

With strong leadership and innovative approaches, we've positioned our city as a leader in economic development opportunities, job growth and quality of place amenities that make us a point of destination for residents, families and businesses alike.

Now we must be committed to moving our city forward to continue the positive momentum we've started.

Our rivers can bring all of us together to demonstrate to current and future residents and employers that our community is a great place to invest. As we move forward with plans for Riverfront Fort Wayne, the unprecedented excitement and investment we're experiencing today will only increase.

It's time to make our rivers a world-class destination.



**Tom Henry**  
MAYOR, CITY OF FORT WAYNE



## Phase by Phase

The Board of Park Commissioners has been charged with overseeing Phases I through III of Riverfront Development. The first phase, Promenade Park, is focused on public spaces in a park setting and will open in the summer of 2019. Funding for the \$20 million park came from Regional Cities, the City's Legacy Fund, the Park Foundation, the Community Foundation, private contributions and resources from the previous allocation of funding approved by City Council.

It is our mission to see that the project is welcoming and accessible to the entire region, including people of all abilities and all means. Highlights of Promenade Park include a pavilion, tree canopy trail, amphitheatre, bandshell, dining gardens, promenade, entryway sculpture, water fountain, kids' canal, boating docks and ramps, a children's play area and more.

Riverfront Phases II and III will extend to the east and west of Promenade Park and funding has been approved for the public portion of these phases. The goal is to foster significant private investment along the improved public riverfront space.

While construction commences, we'll continue our proactive programming efforts that are very popular with residents and visitors, helping people see the beauty and uniqueness of our three rivers unlike ever before.



**Al Moll**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FORT WAYNE PARKS & RECREATION



# The Story of Our Rivers

# Residents Asked. Phase 1 Answered.

The plans for Promenade Park are the direct result of public input about what makes our rivers a powerful source of local pride with vibrant character.

## Always moving.

Our three rivers flow. They ramble and they roll; they roam and they rush. They rise. Their sound becomes a rhythm, becomes a beat — a heartbeat.

They breathe life into our community. They breathe commerce. Adventure. And romance.

On these banks, we're at our best — recognizing our past, but creating a new momentum. Forward.

Our rivers brought us here. Today, we're in the middle of a powerful story, and tomorrow looks even better.

In Northeast Indiana and downtown Fort Wayne, we're just like our rivers: *Always moving.*

### MISSION

Riverfront Fort Wayne exists to delight, energize and unite our entire community through moving experiences and extraordinary places.

### VISION

Riverfront Fort Wayne will evolve and develop to become a center of activity and a powerful source of regional pride—nationally recognized for its unique and vibrant character.

### OUR PROMISE

Riverfront Fort Wayne promises every Fort Wayne resident and visitor an always-evolving opportunity to connect with nature, culture and community.

In recent years, residents have explored the rivers' recreational and cultural benefits with pontoon rides, kayak outings, Dragon Boat races, riverfront concerts, walking tours and more.

Now the growing interest in these activities voiced at public input sessions has shaped the two primary objectives of Phase 1 plans.



#### Urban Waterfront Features

Some of the key assets residents want to see on our riverfront are urban waterfront features where they can dine, drink, listen to music and attend events. The Historic Wells Street Bridge currently hosts events, and our plans for Phase 1 development expand urban features on the south bank of the river.



#### Recreation and Exploration

Another critical asset residents want to see on the riverfront is enhanced access to the river for recreation and exploration. Since Fort Wayne Outfitters has already pioneered a successful watersports business at the Old Cass Street Depot on the north bank of the river, Phase 1 will also expand natural developments and river activities in this area.

Together, these plans create an authentic, iconic waterfront experience that is the ultimate destination residents have envisioned.

# Envisioning Tomorrow:

## Phase I-III Developments

Riverfront Fort Wayne is part of a broader blueprint for revitalizing downtown Fort Wayne. Phase I, Promenade Park, and Phases II and III are intended to help position our rivers as part of a larger network of destinations in Fort Wayne, including Parkview Field, downtown museums, The Landing, Headwaters Park and future developments like Headwaters Junction.



## South Bank Urban Waterfront Features

The south bank of the riverfront is designed around social interaction, special occasions and everyday outings. Its urban waterfront features include a variety of indoor and outdoor meeting spaces that range from small and intimate to large and spacious.

### HIGHLIGHTS



- |                                       |                                                         |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Old National Bank Plaza      | <b>8</b> Ambassador Enterprises Amphitheatre            |
| <b>2</b> Park Foundation Pavilion     | <b>9</b> Convergence Sculpture                          |
| <b>3</b> Betsy Chapman Family Gardens | <b>10</b> Sweetwater Bandshell                          |
| <b>4</b> Entry Plaza                  | <b>11</b> The Journal Gazette Foundation Dining Gardens |
| <b>5</b> Little Creek Bioswale        | <b>12</b> Doermer Kids' Canal                           |



## North Bank Recreation and Exploration

The tree-lined north bank of the river leverages the Rivergreenway trail system and expands on the river's recreation and exploration opportunities. It builds on this bank's role as a center of outdoor activities.

### HIGHLIGHTS



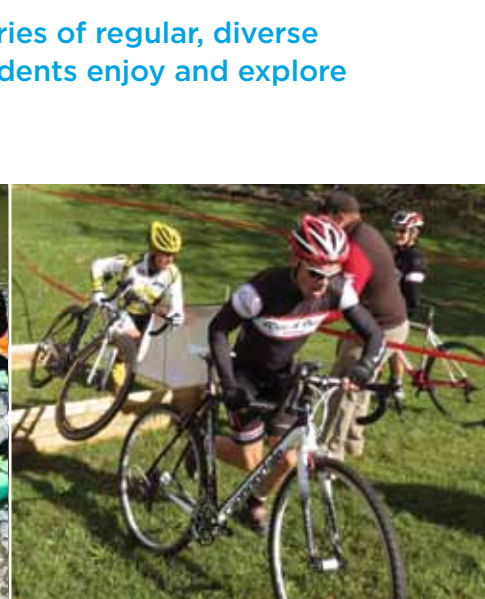
- 1** Parkview Tree Canopy Trail
- 2** Boating Docks and Ramps
- 3** PNC Playground





# Today: Programming and Events

Our rivers are already a popular regional destination. Riverfront Fort Wayne hosts a series of regular, diverse programs and events to help residents enjoy and explore our rivers right now.



## HISTORIC BOAT TOURS

Scenic pontoon boat tours were scheduled twice a week spring, summer and fall, offering residents the most beautiful way to observe our city and the changing seasons—from the river. An expert guide entertained each group with a different river-related history lesson about our City's heritage. Topics included Canals & Crossroads, Riverscapes, Wells and Turtle and Glorious Gate.

## RIVERFRONT FORT WAYNE FILM SERIES

Free movies were shown on giant screens in Lawton, Headwaters and Johnny Appleseed Parks over the summer. Families brought blankets, lawn chairs and snacks, unplugged, and enjoyed some good old fashioned fun in the park. The Film Series was so popular, it will be expanded in 2018 and a boat-in movie will be added in 2019.

## RIVER CLEANUPS

Citizens ask how they can help us keep our rivers clean, safe and beautiful. Volunteer groups, organized by our Riverfront Riparian Supervisor, gather Saturday mornings at Guldin Park for riverfront cleanups. Clearing invasive honeysuckle is vital and it's an easy family-friendly activity.

The City of Fort Wayne and Allen County government purchased a river barge to clear logs and debris from the river. The barge may also be used to assist with bank stabilization and invasive plant removal projects.

## STORYTIME ON THE BRIDGE

Kids of all ages have gathered for weekly summer songs, stories, rhymes and more on the Historic Wells Street Bridge overlooking the Phase 1 development area. These gatherings have helped families engage with the rivers in new ways.

## NATURE WALKS

Whether it's bike rides, early bird nature tours or just leisurely strolls, residents have enjoyed regular, hour-long tours along the banks of the St. Marys River. Almost 500 residents also enjoyed Riverfront tours during Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown.

## WATER QUALITY EVENTS

Riverfront Fort Wayne has hosted the Riverfront Education series about the quality of water in our rivers and future plans for Riverfront development. The educational series will continue with fresh topics at Hop River Brewing Company, a new business near the St. Marys River. Weekend tours hosted by City Utilities at the Water Filtration Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant were popular as well.



**THERE'S MORE TO COME!** This is only the beginning. With more investment in our rivers and greater access to public spaces, Riverfront Fort Wayne can expand its offerings, and the possibilities are endless.



PARK FOUNDATION PAVILION

# Summary

Our rivers help our region tell a powerful story — one that reminds us of our past, gets us excited about our future and engages us in action to bring our plans to fruition.



PARKVIEW TREE CANOPY TRAIL



PNC PLAYGROUND



SWEETWATER BANDSHELL

The Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, Inc. and Fort Wayne Park Foundation have been important partners in helping raise funds for this transformational riverfront park which will become a reality in the near future.

We appreciate the visionary donors who have contributed to this exciting public/private collaboration. If you would like to invest in making Riverfront Fort Wayne a world-class destination, you can join these donors with your own tax-deductible contribution.

Send your donation to:

Fort Wayne Park Foundation  
P.O. Box 13201  
Fort Wayne, IN 46867



FORT WAYNE PARK  
FOUNDATION

RENDERING OF PROMENADE ON SOUTH SIDE OF ST. MARYS RIVER WITH PARK FOUNDATION PAVILION IN BACKGROUND.







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