



# 2021 Annual Report

## Logansport Parks & Recreation Department

### Preparing For the Future

*By Janet Fawley, Parks Administrator*

It was once said (Mahatma Gandhi) “The future depends on what you do today.” So, the significant work that was done in 2021 has been about building the foundation for the future of the Logansport Parks & Recreation Department.

In the beginning of 2021, it was determined that the Earth Care Castle at Spencer Park was in sub-standard condition, and needed to be removed. In its place? A new type of climbing structure called the Spider-Net Climber, was installed. Since this was the first of its kind in Logansport, the community was slow to accept this “new-fangled contraption”. Consequently, Kyle Smith helped us to create a [playground safety video](#) to help teach the public about “Net Geometry” and other considerations when using **any** playground.

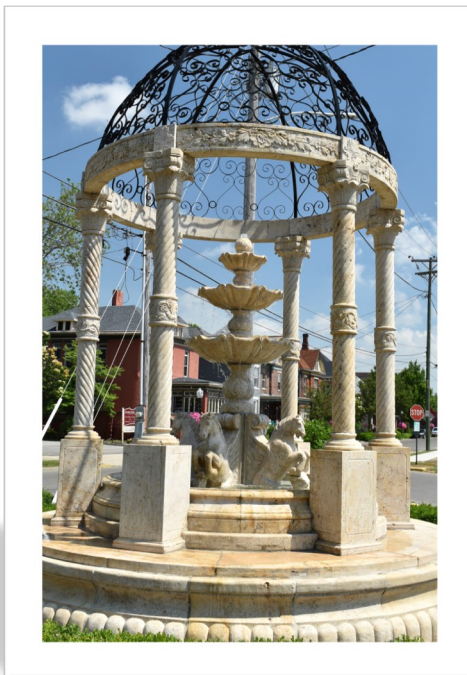
The Riverside Improvement Project has been on hold since the spring of 2020, and was finally given the “green light” in the spring. The project includes 2 basketball courts, 2 pickleball courts, a fitness court, parking, and renovation of the exterior family restroom at McHale Complex. One of the highlights of the project is the Fitness Court from the National

Fitness Campaign, which will be sponsored by Logansport Memorial Hospital and Foundation. When bids came in more than our anticipated budget, the City Council and the Redevelopment Commission, both were willing to share in the additional cost. We are moving forward for completion of the project in May of 2022. More information for a big launch will be announced in the spring.

Dykeman Park Municipal Golf Course was established in 1926 with a nine-hole course layout. Then, the city added an additional 9 holes in 1956, with a new clubhouse built in the sixties. As

we approach the course’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026, it has been determined that it is time to explore the possibility of either fully renovating the current clubhouse, or build a new one. So, the Logansport Parks & Recreation Foundation stepped up and held a golf outing that raised the funds to support that exploration. Now, here at the end of 2021, we have begun to work with KJG Architecture to help us explore our options.

As the 2020-2021 school year ended, the Logansport Community Schools and the Logansport Parks Department began to make plans to



## Did you know Logansport Parks managed....

19

Properties

378

acres of land

13

Full-time Staff

36+/-

Seasonal Staff

\$175,000

raised from  
private sources

build an accessible playground in Fairview Park, adjacent to the school. During the summer, it was determined we would partner to build this playground in the summer/fall of 2022. Then, the Cass County Community Foundation provided a grant of \$20,000 to help us to create and construct this special playground that will be accessible for all children and the adults that take care of them. We are looking forward to utilizing the creative minds and strong hands of the Century Career Center to design and build this one-of-a-kind playground!

Use of Little Turtle Waterway (LTW) for public events was put on hold 2 ½ years ago when construction of the Melbourne Street Stormwater Project began. During this hiatus, The Commons at LTW, a.k.a. the “Urban Park” was born. We anticipate this new park facility will be completed in 2022/2023. Two mini-projects have been completed for “The Commons”: The old Salvation Army Building/Welcome Center was demolished and removed, and the LTW Gateway was relocated to the middle of 4<sup>th</sup> Street. These mini-projects are the “seed” for this expansion to grow into the many features that LTW needs – concessions, a game area, a shelter, more performance space, and restrooms – all a part of the vision for this

addition to LTW. This will make LTW the ideal space for large gatherings and the central focus of Logansport’s downtown.

We are very grateful for the phenomenal support provided by the community for the Logansport Parks De-



partment in 2021. Both corporate donations and gate donations for Christmas In the Park were exceptional. The Parks Foundation’s golf outing surpassed our expectations. The grants received by the Cass County Community Foundation will make our work in the future much easier. The contribution by McCord’s Do-It-Best Center for the Old Carousel Pavilion has made its costly renovation possible for our department. Tyson Foods also contributed not only the materials but the labor to renovate the concession stand at Riverside Park. For each of these 2 contributions, we have renamed the pavilion, The McCord Pavilion, and the Tyson Foods Concession Stand. We hope to do more of this in the future.

Many more things have been accomplished that will be listed within each of our services in the following pages. These accomplishments are only possible with the hard work and dedication by each of our staff members in Administration, Maintenance, Program, and, finally, the Logansport Parks & Recreation Board. I am extremely proud of each of these exceptional people!!



## Out On the Links....

<b>19,000</b> rounds of golf played	<b>201</b> Season tickets purchased	<b>16%</b> Revenue Increase Over 2020	<b>18</b> golf outings in 2021	<b>22</b> Women in Woman's League	<b>51</b> Junior Golfers
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The 2021 golf season was an extremely busy year for Dykeman Park Municipal Golf Course. We held our 1<sup>st</sup> ever Logansport Parks & Recreation Foundation Golf Outing to benefit the Dykeman Park Clubhouse. It was a tremendous success with almost 30 teams and over \$12,000 raised to kickoff our efforts on the clubhouse project. We look forward to the 2022 outing and what the future brings for the clubhouse.



One of the positive results of the pandemic was that people found they could be outside to play golf,

and so we saw an increase in golfing during the 2020 season. Then in 2021, we saw even more of an increase due to the great weather!

The condition of the course was exceptional in 2021 due to an increase in staffing and getting projects done. Those projects included rebuilding 2 bunkers and the installation of new irrigation software, upgrading irrigation boxes and heads where needed. In addition, the maintenance barn was updated with an equipment lift, a new roof, improved insulation and a new heater in the cold storage part of the barn.

We look forward to more outings, more people involved in golf, and exploring our options with the Dykeman Clubhouse. 2022 promises to allow Dykeman Park Municipal Golf Course to grow and continue to improve Logansport's economic development and quality of life.

## Special Projects Rely on Logansport Parks Foundation

Logansport Parks & Recreation Foundation has been quietly working in the background to help the Logansport Parks with grants and donations. In 2021, the Parks Foundation has accepted grants from the Cass County Community Foundation for the purchase of a wire-free portable sound system, a new display for Christmas In the Park, and finally, a grant for the future playground at Fairview Park. In addition, the Parks Foundation held its first Golf Outing to help fund the marketing study for a new clubhouse at Dykeman Park Municipal Golf Course.

As we look to a new year, the Logansport Parks & Recreation Foundation is organizing to improve our ability to solicit & accept donations from the public. Upcoming projects include the continuation of Christmas In The Park, funding a marketing study of a new Dykeman Clubhouse, and raising funds for both a dog park at Muehlhausen Park, and a new playground at Fairview Park. By scanning the QR Code below, an online donation can be made. OR, feel free to make donations by mail.

*Scan to Support Parks Projects*





## Recreation Department: Having Fun in '21!

**301**

Rentals of Community  
rooms, shelters and Pool

**4,916**

Cars visited the  
2021 Christmas In the Park

**16**

Performances for  
Summer Sundown  
Music Series

**\$14,000**

paid for July 4th  
fireworks show

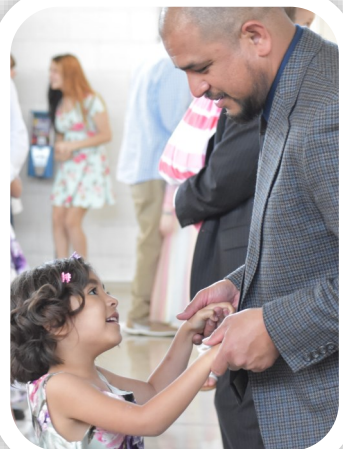
### Penguin Waddle

In 2020, the "Penguin Waddle" was created to provide a family-friendly activity that would get the whole family moving. The intention is for this event to be self-led, and not a race. Once completed, participants were able to enjoy a campfire. Participants were also able to write their New Year's wishes on a floating lantern that was sent skyward. It really was a beautiful sight. In 2020, we had 83 participants & in 2021, we had 55. We tweaked our traffic challenges, and this year's event was much more controlled. We were grateful to have help from our volunteers and staff.

### Daddy Daughter Dance

We did not want to cancel this cherished tradition so we postponed it until COVID restrictions eased. Traditionally held in February, this event is open

to girls between the ages of 5-12 years, and their dad, uncle, grandpa, or guardian. Tickets always sell quickly and the girls love having a special event just for them. We went digital this year with each couple receiving a digital photo by Rich Voorhees Studio, Inc. We sold 161 tickets.



### Socially Distanced Easter Egg Hunt

Our Easter egg hunt looked a little different this year. With COVID restrictions in mind we held a socially distanced Easter Egg Hunt. We had 30 eggs sponsored by 20 sponsors. Eggs were distributed through Riverside, Spencer, Huston, Fairview, and Muelhausen Parks. Each egg held a slip of paper, and there was a limit of one prize per household. Prizes were not revealed until the participant claimed it at the Parks office. The public seemed to enjoy the hunt and all prizes were claimed. Many thanks to our many sponsors!

### Breakfast With Santa

Our first Breakfast With Santa was held at the McHale Complex at Riverside Park Saturday,

December 18, 2021. We are grateful to McDonald's of Logansport for sponsoring our inaugural event. Breakfast included pancakes, pastries, juice, and milk. Attendees were invited to eat, have their digital photo taken with Santa, hear a story read by Mrs. Claus, complete a craft, and play games. Students from Logansport High School Student Council volunteered, and Steve and Bonnie Lawson played Mr. and Mrs. Claus.



## It's About People....

112

"Swim Safe"  
Lessons @ MAC

6,012

Smiles Visited  
the MAC

4.5

Paved trails used by walkers,  
bikers, & runners

31

Lessons Taught to Future  
"Serena Williams" @  
LHS Tennis Courts

## Swimming for Life

The Muehlhausen Aquatic Center (MAC) was full of life during the summer of 2021. During open swims, MAC had 6,012 visits by people who came to swim and cool off, be with their family and friends, or just enjoy the sunshine. Led by Pool Manager Brigid Strickling and Assistant Manager, Melanie Karmel, they led lifeguards to have a very successful summer with very few accidents. In addition, the pool staff provided 112 swim lessons, which was up 23 lessons from 2020.



The public was invited to 2 very special events at Muehlhausen Aquatic Center. In July, we held our first "Dive-In Movie". Families were able to enjoy "The Sandlot" while lounging in water, eating popcorn, and shivering just a little! Then, after all the swimming for people was done, the last day

went to the dogs...our 2<sup>nd</sup> "Doggy Days of Summer" was held. Both events were programs that pool patrons may look forward to once again in 2022!

*"I believe in today  
and the work I am doing,  
in tomorrow  
and the work I hope to do,  
and the sure reward  
which the future holds."*

## Quality facilities and programs...

<b>13</b> Picnic shelters	<b>10</b> Playgrounds	<b>30</b> Rockin' & Rollin' Swings	<b>4,314</b> Gallons of Gas Used	<b>44,000</b> miles driven
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## Safe, Clean & Green

The work of maintaining and improving the Parks in the City of Logansport falls upon the Parks Maintenance Crew, led by Maintenance Superintendent, Kevin Price. 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.
- Winter time snow removal.
- Remove trash throughout the year.
- Mow, clean, remove, maintain all vegetation, and athletic fields.
- Inspect, maintain, repair trails at LTW, Huston Park, & Riverside Park
- Install and maintain basketball and volleyball courts and nets.
- Clean and maintain restrooms/plumbing.
- Clean and maintain all pavilions.

### PROJECTS COMPLETED

#### BY PARKS STAFF:

##### All Parks

- Built and installed new message centers (kiosks) at every pavilion
- Cleaned up and placed new trash cans throughout parks

##### Muehlhausen Park

- Renewed the Muehlhausen Aquatic Center landscaping

- Constructed pool stairs inside Muehlhausen Aquatic Center
- Created cornhole courts

##### Little Turtle Waterway

- Fully restored western LTW Trail following closure for bridge project
- Cleaned off and enlarged parking at the LTW mid-trailhead, near the public access site.
- Worked closely with LMU to restore the park to its former beauty.

##### Live United Day

- The Riverside Park concession stand, now called the Tyson Foods Concession Stand,
- painting the Riverside restroom;
- Added playground safety surfacing to Bishop & Patriot Parks Playgrounds;



- Revised the roof structure of the Dykeman Maintenance Barn to accommodate a new equipment lift.

##### Spencer Park

- 2020 Christmas In the Park dismantled;
- Removed Earth Care Castle for new Spider Net Climber
- Rehab'd shuffleboard court at Spencer Park
- Installed a new drinking fountain at the Lower Shelter at Spencer Park
- 2021 Christmas In the Park assembled



## Quality facilities (continued)...



### Riverside Park

- McHale Complex kitchen was “gutted” and fully renovated including new appliances
- Rebuilt flowerbed structures in front of McHale Complex
- Created cornhole courts at Riverside Park
- Completed the restoration of the Old Carousel Pavilion, now called the McCord Pavilion



### Provided program support for the following events:

- Transported, set-up, and returned mobile stage for seven different events in 2021
- Logansport Parks & Recreation Foundation Golf Outing
- July 4<sup>th</sup>
- Logan’s Landing Events(city birthday & Taste of Cass County)
- Art on the Avenue
- Summer Sundown Music Series
- Chamber Networking Event at Spencer Park
- Carousel Fun Day

- Live United Day
- Breakfast With Santa
- Penguin Waddle
- Christmas In the Park

### PROJECTS COMPLETED BY CONTRACTORS:

- LMU Gateway removed in January; moved to 4<sup>th</sup> St in November
- LTW Trail under 3<sup>rd</sup> St bridge renovated along with 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge Project
- 4 sets of cornhole boards fabricated by MR Louthain
- Flooring installed in McHale Kitchen and exit hallway
- Spider Net Climber at Spencer Playground North Installed
- Cole Fountain repaired and operational
- LMU removed light poles at former skate park for Riverside Improvement Project
- Concrete work completed for sidewalk to new Spencer Playground
- Concrete work completed for ADA drinking fountain at Spencer’s lower shelter
- Welcome Center demolished and removed
- Restoration of LTW lawn following Melbourne Ave Stormwater Project (More to come)
- Donation boxes for CITP fabricated by Tyson



# Staff Experiences

An important part of providing great parks is making sure staff members are provided opportunities for growth. It is also a form of recognition for their dedicated service to the community.

- All staff participated in a staff retreat in February.
- Maintenance Staff participated in Indiana Parks & Recreation Maintenance Expo in Avon IN.
- Tim Noel, long-time maintenance employee was recognized for 45 years of service to the City of Logansport.
- The City of Logansport provided Harassment Training and Cyber Security Training to all appropriate staff members.
- Two staff members left for new opportunities: Maintenance Superintendent, Shane Walker and Recreation Director, Danielle Terhune.
- Janet Fawley participated in the Indiana Trails Gathering in Richmond in September.
- Kevin Price and Janet Fawley attended Indiana Parks & Recreation Association's State Conference in Muncie in November.

## Parks Board Members

Dave Smith	_____	President
Mike McCord	_____	Vice President & School Board Representative
Ammon Tuitivuki	_____	Secretary
Sam Tocco	_____	Member
Steven Rohde	_____	Member

## Parks & Recreation Staff

Janet Fawley	_____	Parks Administrator
Kara Yax	_____	Recreation Director
Kelly Smith	_____	Administrative Assistant
Kevin Price	_____	Maintenance Superintendent
Tim Noel	_____	Maintenance Assistant
Matt Franklin	_____	Maintenance Assistant
Ethan Jones	_____	Maintenance Assistant
Terry DeWitt	_____	Maintenance Assistant
Dan Schroder	_____	Maintenance Assistant
Brigid Strickling	_____	Pool Manager (Seasonal) Assistant Pool Manager
Melanie Karmel	_____	(Seasonal)

## Dykeman Golf Course Staff

Dean Vietti	_____	Golf Course Manager
Jim Hiatt	_____	Assistant Superintendent
George Elpers	_____	Maintenance Assistant
John Clark	_____	Maintenance Assistant

## Contact Us

**Logansport Parks &  
Recreation  
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