



Logansport Parks & Recreation Department 2023 Annual Report

Dykeman Clubhouse Fundraising Closer to Goal

After conducting a local survey of 200 golfers in 2021, it was clear that Dykeman Park Municipal Golf Course needed a new clubhouse. A new clubhouse may serve as a place for year-round play through an indoor golf simulator, provide energy efficient mechanical operations, and be inclusive to all those that enter. The plan is to celebrate the course's 100th anniversary in 2026 in the new clubhouse.

With the 1st million dollars provided by the City Council, the Clubhouse Fundraising



Committee has raised -to date- a total of \$2.8 million, PLUS, \$300,000 from the Cass County Council to replace the cart paths later this year. The goal to build the Dykeman Clubhouse requires funds to be raised totaling at least \$3 million.

Thank you to those of you who have already made a commitment to support this necessary facility. Those who have considered this commitment but have not done so, now is the time to support this project.... something that all citizens of Logansport & Cass County can enjoy for years to come!!

Annual Report 2023

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Spring 2024 Opening for Wright Street Bark Park



Announced this year was the transformation of the former softball field at Muehlhausen Park into Logansport's Wright Street Bark Park. The main focus for the project this year has been to raise enough funds in 2023 to hold a ribbon cutting in the Spring of 2024. The goal was to provide a 1:1 match for a \$35,000

grant from the IHCDA. Through our crowdfunding campaign, we were able to raise those funds! The Wright Street Bark Park is now being constructed to include a 5' black chain link fence, drinking fountains, benches, and a shade sail. We also expect restrooms to be renovated and available for the spring dedication.

Life’s Lessons Revisited in 2023

By Parks Administrator, Janet Fawley

Our personal and professional experiences help us develop and grow, and I wanted to share some of “life’s lessons” that came up in 2023...

Change is a “constant” and people will always resist it.

Logansport isn’t the same community it was 50, 20, or even 10 years ago. It will never be what it once was-good or bad. Change happens before our eyes EVERY DAY. Logansport is a new place to live everyday, because new people become a part of our community everyday. It is the job of public servants like me to take care of and enhance our community resources to accommodate ALL people, not just the ones that have lived here all of their lives or those who have just arrived. So this requires constant “change” to make our parks and our programs relevant to everyone.

We will always have to do a better job, no matter how much better we have been.

My Girl Scout camping experiences taught me a long time ago that I should leave a place in better condition than I found it. And so it is in the parks as well. It’s always hard for my staff to come across vandalism or graffiti, especially when improving the parks is our goal. Consequently, it sometimes makes it feel like a losing battle when even maintaining something in its current state isn’t enough. The answer? We simply have to be even more

tenacious in our efforts to make things better, to leave the Parks in better condition than we found it .

Listening to what people will tell you is sometimes painful.

Our Parks staff and board spent a lot of time going through the results of three different surveys this last year. It was really important for us to read through and listen to every comment, no matter how brutal some criticisms were. Listening to these comments is how we learn and how we grow. This is how we will improve our parks and improve our city.

It is important for us to share our message as often as possible and in as many ways as possible for people to hear that message.

When asked about where people received their information about what is taking place in the parks, it amazed me that there was a significant portion of the population that had no idea what was going on in the parks. We wrote an incredible number of press releases last year ... almost 70 deliberate communications were sent out in 2023. That’s one every 5 days!! We used the newspaper, radio, social media, digital news, brochures, paid advertisements, flyers, and even word of mouth. So, in 2024, we’ll try new ways to get that information in your hands as often, and in as many ways as possible. We hope we’ll find the avenue that is right for you!

People are more likely to share their personal resources with people they believe in, as much as a cause they believe in.

We, i.e., the Parks Staff, the Parks Board, and the Parks Foundation Board—have been working together to fund a new bark park at Muehlhausen Park and a improvements for the Dykeman Park Golf Course. I know people are very interested in seeing these things happen in our community, and so they have donated their personal funds to see them happen. Without the leadership within our staff and boards, these donations would not happen. I am very grateful to have these people in my professional circle Dean Vietti, Kelly Smith, Kara Yax, Kevin Price, Dave Smith, Mike McCord, Sam Tocco, Jason Crittendon, Ammon Tuitavuki, Lynne Ness, Kyle Smith, Kailin Bauman, Phillip Stephenson, Jake McCord, & Rachel Theodore. I would also like to mention a special group of people who are also working on getting commitments for the Clubhouse project - Brad Rozzi, Chad Higgins, Michael Bowditch, Tammy Helvie, Chuck LaDow, & Brannon Meagher. I thank each of them for their leadership and their time for making our parks better now and into the future!!!

Happy New Year and may 2024 be a prosperous and successful year for the Logansport Parks!



New Software Benefits Dykeman Park Golf Course

In January of 2023, Dykeman Park Golf Course began integrating a new online tee time system and along with a new website provided by TeeSnap Inc. TeeSnap has been beneficial to the operations of the course in several ways:

- **Better Operations Management:** Integrated systems can offer insights into booking patterns popular items being purchased, and allowing staff to answer customer questions via email and text.
- **Improved Efficiency:** Online bookings streamline the reservation process reducing phone call volumes and allowing staff to focus on other tasks.
- **Enhanced Customer Experience:** Users appreciate the convenience of booking tee times online. The website has provided us a platform to keep our players up to date on course activities.
- **Marketing & Communication:** a well-designed website serves as a marketing tool, showcasing the course’s amenities, events and promotions.

TeeSnap has been an integral tool used to increase Dykeman Park Golf Course’s online presence and to create a seamless “check-in” experience for players and employees as well.



39 Youth participated in the 2023 Junior Golf Program.

2023 Golf Operating Fund

| NR golf Operating Fund Revenue | Rounds | Group Totals |
|--|--------|-----------------------|
| Course Revenue | 21,973 | \$ 491,587.77 |
| Clubhouse Revenue | | 106,383.49 |
| Sales Taxes collected | | 16,873.38 |
| NR golf Operating Fund Total Revenue | | \$ 623,470.76 |
| NR Golf Operating Fund Expenses | | |
| Personal Services | | \$ 287,106.00 |
| Clubhouse & Operating Supplies | | 147,213.00 |
| Other Services | | 62,877.00 |
| Capital Outlay | | 52,345.00 |
| NR Golf Operating Fund Total Expenses | | \$ 549, 541.00 |



Pete Lundy works with a student at the 2023 Junior Golf Clinic at Dykeman Park Municipal Golf Course



Spencer Parks' Historic Shelter To Be Stabilized



The arches of the Lower Spencer Shelter (as pictured above) are a significant architectural feature of this shelter.

In May 2023, the Logansport Parks Board met to discuss the condition and actions required to be taken at the lower shelter of Spencer Park. It was made known by a report provided by KJG Architecture that snow and wind loads cannot be safely supported by the current structure. The board decided that in order to maintain public safety that the shelter should be closed for public use. Upon the shelter's closure, the board has worked on getting the pavilion stabilized while also keeping the structure as historically accurate as possible. The goal is to have the shelter tentatively back open in the Spring of 2024.

7th Annual Christmas In The Park



For the seventh year, the Logansport Parks and Recreation Department and the Logansport Parks and Recreation Foundation offered a holiday light display at Spencer Park. Starting in July, the Logansport Parks Department began to get donations from sponsors. Christmas in the Park opened to the public on November 24th and ended following the New Year's

weekend. Homeowners on Broadway Boulevard were encouraged to decorate their homes this year due to vehicles using Broadway to enter Christmas in the Park.

New additions included Santa on a Redline Equipment Tractor, a new specialty tree, a new USA flag, and several displays created by the



Century Career Center Welding students. A record 6,800 vehicles went through the Spencer Park Display! Looking forward to an even bigger & brighter display in 2024!!!



Fairview Playground

At the start of the year, the Fairview Playground was opened after being constructed in 2022. However, the Grand entrance work done by Galbreath Industrial still needed to be installed. Chimes were also painted by the LHS art students to display at the park. By April everything was completed, and an official ribbon cutting took place in May. Thank you to the Cass County Community Foundation for their help with the grand entrance!



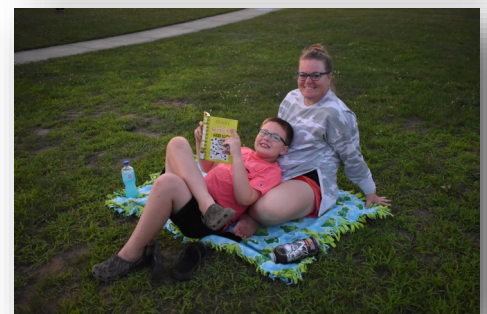
Fairview Park Shelters



Once completing the remodeling of Fairview Park, a pavilion was constructed. During the 2023 spring semester, Century Career Center students in the Building Trade classes, constructed the ICON structure. Work began after spring break and was finished just prior to the end of the school year. The project was

funded by the City of Logansport, the Logansport Community School Corporation, and Security Federal Savings Bank. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 26th to recognize and thank the people/organizations that helped to make the Security Federal Savings Bank Community Pavilion possible.

| Facility Rental Report | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 |
| McHale Community Complex | 94 | 108 |
| McCord Pavilion | 19 | 23 |
| Dykeman Park Pavilion | 31 | 18 |
| Fairview Pavilions(2) | 14 | 15 |
| Little Turtle Waterway | 3 | 3 |
| Huston Park—McNary Family Shelter | 31 | 60 |
| Spencer Park Shelters(7) | 44 | 27 |
| Penman Building | 30 | 37 |
| Muehlhausen Shelter | 30 | 29 |
| Totals | 296 | 320 |



Logansport Parks Depend Upon Parks Maintenance Crew

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 parks the best possible. Without their dedication & tireless efforts, many community events would suffer.

This list is a small sampling of the work that is regularly performed by the Parks Maintenance Crew year round:

- ◆ Inspect all playgrounds for necessary repairs & maintenance
- ◆ Turf management which includes mulching leaves, application of fertilizer & herbicide, roll ground as well as mowing & weed whipping in appropriate parks
- ◆ Repair & replace vandalized equipment & facilities
- ◆ Clean restrooms & pavilions daily; remove trash
- ◆ Snow removal
- ◆ Enhance landscaping through use of flowerbeds
- ◆ Install and maintain basketball, volleyball, and pickleball courts and nets
- ◆ Trim, cut and remove fallen trees & limbs; stumps removed as necessary
- ◆ Clean, weed, & till horseshoe pits & volleyball courts @ Riverside, & Spencer Parks

| Maintenance by the Month 2023 | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| January | Dismantle Christmas In The Park |
| February | Complete renovation of McHale Restrooms |
| March | Install Fairview Playground's Grand Entrance and boulder recognitions; Completely stripped and waxed McHale Complex Floors; |
| April | Outdoor restrooms & drinking fountains prepared for mid-month opening; Repaired water leak at Riverside Park by installing new water line |
| May | Added Engineered Wood Fiber(EWF) to playgrounds to maintain safety standards; Getting Muehlhausen Aquatic Center showerhouse, pool & splashpad ready for summer use; |
| June | Open Muehlhausen Aquatic Center |
| July | Preparing for and clean up from July 4th Festivities Eradicate invasive vegetation (trees, bushes, weeds) to keep native species healthy & thriving |
| August | Utilized Logansport High School Co-op Program to hire Arturo Cortes to assist with automotive & small engine repairs; Repaired water leak at Spencer Park by patching old water line |
| September | Shut down Muehlhausen Aquatic Center facilities for season Began demolition of Muehlhausen softball field for the construction of Wright Street Bark Park |
| October | Annual closure of restrooms and drinking fountains Leaf season begins—mulching leaves and blowing leaves from trails and sidewalks |
| November | Set up Christmas In the Park at Spencer Park; Worked with Century Career Center Students to fabricate new displays for Christmas In the Park |
| December | Continued construction of Wright Street Bark Park @ Muehlhausen Park, including concrete work and removal of old fencing; |

Visitors Bureau Helps Restore Trail Signage



A grant request was approved by the Cass County Visitors Bureau to replace interpretive signage on the Eel River Run Trail at Riverside Park & Stonewall Parks and a third sign at the Heritage Park Fountain. Visitors looking for information about these locations will be able to discover more about the Cass County Dentzel Carousel in Riverside Park and the artist that created the "Orange Grasses" at Stonewall Park. The Heritage Park Fountain sign shares a new Rich Voorhees photograph along with the vital information of this historic fountain.

Recreation Programs-A Community Collaboration

2023 was a year of growth and community collaboration. Our focus was on creating new events while being careful not to replicate events hosted by other organizations. Park in a Box grew dramatically with most events hosting over 100 people. We added spring and fall break dates. We tried several new events including: Galentine’s Day (a day for gals to celebrate their favorite gal), Puzzle Palooza, Star Party, Howl at the Moon, Mini Gingerbread House Competition, and a Calendar Planning Event. We added additional art classes, and Yoga in the Park. Our Earth Day event

was well received with increased community collaborations. We changed our July 4th event by adding carnival games, water soaker fight, and a later starting time. We advertised our swimming lessons, Jr. Golf Camp, and Tennis lessons earlier this year. We worked on our 5-year Master Plan. Some staff members attended the Indiana Parks and Recreations Association Conference, and I completed the Chamber of Commerce/ Purdue Extension Leadership Academy. 2023 was an amazing year!

*By Recreation Director,
Kara Yax*



| 2023 Annual Program Participation | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Program | Participation |
| Earth Day | 100 +/- |
| Daddy / Daughter Dance | 162 dads & daughters |
| Tennis Lessons | 32 |
| Junior Golf Camp | 39 |
| Yoga In the Park | 5 |
| Art Classes | 16 |
| Mother-Son Nerf War | 76 mothers & sons |
| Howl at the Moon | 300+/- |
| Breakfast With Santa | 112 |
| July 4th Festivities | 2000+/- |
| Park-In-a Box: Spring Break | 100+/- |
| Summer | 800 +/- |
| Fall Break | 100+/- |





2023 Logansport Parks & Recreation Board

President: Dave Smith

Vice President: Jason Crittendon

Secretary: Ammon Tuitavuki

Member: Sam Tocco

School Board Representative: Mike McCord

Mission Statement

Logansport Parks and Recreation is committed to improving the quality of life for Loganland residents by preserving land, facilities, the environment and our natural heritage, and by creating significant opportunities for recreation, conservation, relaxation, and education for now and future generations.



2023 Park Staff

Janet E. Fawley.....Parks Administrator
 Dean Vietti.....Golf Course Manager & Pro
 Kevin Price.....Maintenance Superintendent
 Kelly Smith.....Administrative Assistant
 Kara Yax.....Recreation Director
 Hannah Bushaw & Claire Kitchel.....MAC Pool Managers
 Matt Franklin, Alex Sprinkle, Dan Schroder, Ryan Hall,
 Anastascia Barringer, George Conrad.....Parks Maintenance
 Jim Hiatt, John Clark, George Elpers.....Golf Maintenance
 Kylee Langley, Arturo CortesCentury Career Center Students

For questions or comments, contact:

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| 2023 Pool Activity | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Participants | Revenue |
| Open Swim | 5,985 | \$ 13,204.00 |
| Season Passes | 26 | \$ 1,550.00 |
| Swim/Specialty Classes | 105 | \$ 3,675.00 |
| Pool Rentals | 24 | \$ 3,330.00 |
| Total | | \$21,759.00 |
| Days Opened | 51 Days Open 9 Days Closed Early 2 Days Closed | |

