

2018 ANNUAL REPORT





Director's Message

City Leadership

Jon Costas, Mayor
Sharon Swihart, Clerk Treasurer
Bill Oeding, City Administrator
John Seibert, Parks Director

City Council

Robert Cotton
George Douglas
Lenore Hoffman
Trista Hudson
Matt Murphy
Deb Porter
Diana Reed

Board of Directors

President – Mark Hardwick
Christa Emerson
Mitch Peters
Martin Sonnenberg
Tim Warner

Core Values

Boldy Proactive
Creatively Frugal
Honestly Accountable
Respectively Compassionate
Surprisingly Responsive

I am thankful to reflect on and recognize some of the highlights of Valpo Parks in 2018. Projects of note were once again driven by private-public partnerships. In June Samardzija Field was opened through the Park Foundation's "Leaders Giving Back" Campaign in which over \$550,000 in private funds were raised. The renovation of Tower park was recognized by a Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Community Improvement Award and the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association's Exceptional Park Design Award. We are so grateful for our donors and the City Departments who worked as our teammates to make this dream a reality.




In 2018 we also moved into our newly renovated and repurposed Horticulture Center that was previously home to Clifford Stone. Thanks to our innovative and hard-working Horticulture staff who did much of the renovation and greenhouse work in-house. Also appreciate key leadership from Don McGinley and the City Project Management team, City Administrator Bill Oeding, City Engineering, Public Works, and City Utilities Departments. On this site, the ValPAWraiso off leash dog park will be completed after another amazing Valparaiso private-public partnership.

2018 sadly marked the passing of one of Valpo Parks and one of our community's great leaders, Dr. E. Ric Frataccia. "Doc" served on the Valpo Parks Board for 27 years, the longest serving member in the 74- year history of the Board. In doing so, whether he was President of the Board, or the Park representative on the City's Plan Commission, or Park representative on the Park Foundation, he served with selfless integrity, vision, and passion. In his many volunteer community roles, as well as his professional position as school Superintendent, Doc made decisions based upon "what was best for kids and their families." His influence, friendship and legacy will always inspire me and countless others.

As in every year of service, the Parks Department is only as effective as its many partners. We thank Mayor Jon Costas, City Administrator Bill Oeding, Clerk-Treasurer Sharon Swihart, the City Council, the City Leadership team, our Park Foundation, and our partners in the business and nonprofit sectors who worked with us and our department to provide extraordinary support. A special thank you goes to our talented and devoted full-time and part-time staff. It is a privilege to serve with them all.

Many thanks to each of you for your patronage and support in 2018. We look forward to serving you again in 2019!

Sincerely,

John Seibert, Parks Director

PHASE 2 OF TOWER PARK IS COMPLETE LET'S PLAY BALL!

In early summer, the “Leaders Giving Back” campaign helped complete phase two of the renovation of Tower Park with the opening of Samardzija Field. The once agrilme field is now an AstroTurf all weather field that will also accommodate Challenge League play for individuals with special needs. In October 2018 the park was recognized by the Valpo Chamber by receiving a 2018 Community Improvement Award, and in February 2019 Tower Park received the Exceptional Park Design Award from the Indiana Parks and Recreation Association.



MAGICAL MUSIC FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES IS HARMONY TO THE EARS



Magical Music championed by a partnership with Valpo Sunrise Kiwanis, Kiwanis Foundation, Porter County Community Foundation and the Family of Laurel Hahn, Magical Music for Children of All Ages opened on September 11, 2018 at Valpo Parks’ Butterfly Playground. With the support of Valpo Parks and the Valpo Parks Foundation, five musical instruments were installed.

VALPO VELOCITY BIKESHARE & PATHWAYS FIND SPEEDY GROWTH

The Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission launched Valpo Velocity, powered by Zagster, a bike share program, in 2017 with eight stations providing Valparaiso residents and visitors with a convenient, affordable and healthy way to get around town. In 2018, two additional bike stations were installed at Cumberland Crossing and Foundation Meadows Park and will offer a great connection to areas such as the YMCA, Vale Park West Pathway, and Rogers-Lakewood Park.

As the bikeshare program expands, so too has the pathways around town. In 2018, the US 30 project extending 4.5 miles, from State Road 49 to Hayes Leonard Road included decorative lighting, wide pedestrian pathways, a pedestrian-friendly crosswalk at Washington Street, gateway enhancements announcing arrival in Valparaiso, wayfinding signs, as well as enhancements to landscaping and overpasses. With the inclusion of US 30, Valpo has more than 22 miles of dedicated pathways for non-motorized transportation.



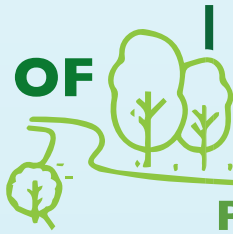
By The Numbers



667 ACRES
OF PARKLAND



23 MILES
OF
PATHWAYS



14



CHILDREN'S
PLAYGROUNDS

FLOWERS PLANTED



180
FLATS
OF SPRING
PANSIES



900
FLATS
OF SUMMER
ANNUALS



500
MUMS



70
TREES

36 FULL-TIME
STAFF

23 SEASONAL
EMPLOYEES

28,080
ROUNDS OF GOLF



1,056
PARK RENTALS



482 DAY
TRIP
ATTENDEES



2,232
YOUTH SPORT
PLAYERS

240,000 CENTRAL PARK
PLAZA VISITORS

23 ADULT
SPORT
TEAMS



41,649
ICE SKATERS



2,373 SPECIAL
EVENT
PARTICIPANTS



10,000 FACEBOOK LIKES



3,159
VALPO VELOCITY
TRIPS

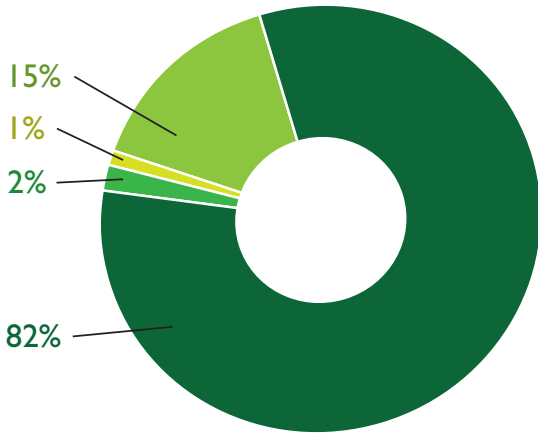
1,500 DAY CAMPERS



668
PRESCHOOL
STUDENTS

Park Financials

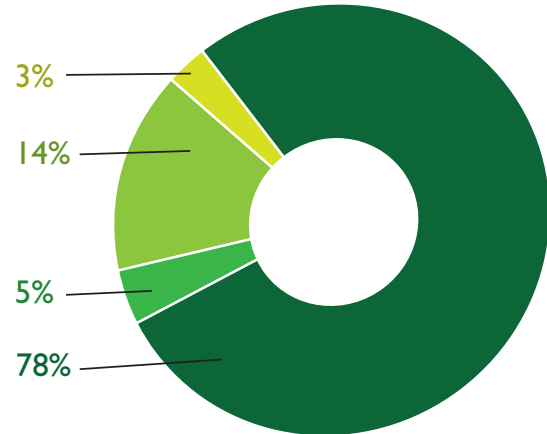
General Fund Revenue



- Taxes
- Miscellaneous (NRO Transfer)
- Park Receipts
- Miscellaneous

Total General Fund Revenue \$3,334,106

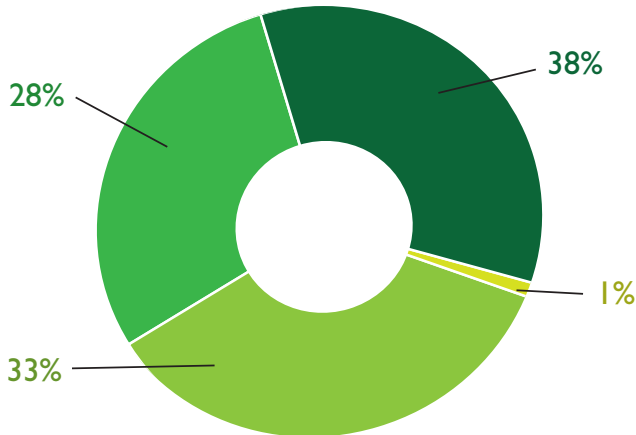
General Fund Expenses



- Personnel Services
- Other Services/Charges
- Supplies
- Capital Outlays

Total General Fund Expenses \$3,051,930

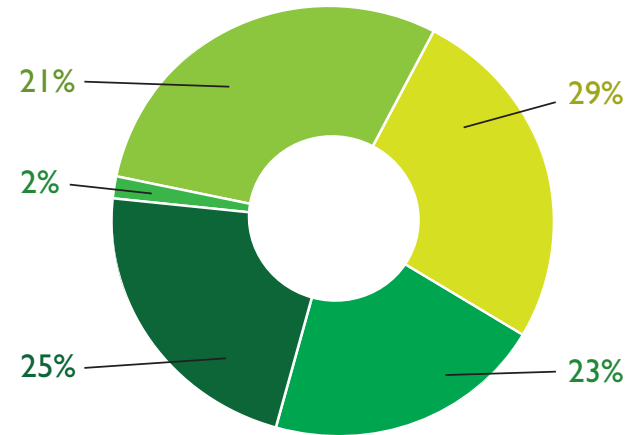
Non-Reverting Revenue



- Recreation Programs
- Central Park Plaza
- Golf
- Rogers-Lakewood Park

Total Non-Reverting \$2,240,712

Non-Reverting Operating Expense



- Recreational Programs
- Central Park Plaza
- Rogers-Lakewood Park
- Golf
- Transfer to General Fund

Total Non-Reverting Operating Expenses: \$2,201,419

VALPO PARKS — FAMILY OF BRANDS





Thank you Sponsors

MAJOR SPONSORS

- | | | | |
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| Blue Sky Financial Partners | Franklin House | Regional Federal Credit Union | Von Tobel Lumber & Hardware |
| Brandy's Lock & Key | General Insurance Services | RH Mechanicals, Inc. | Wings Etc. |
| Burger King (South Valpo) | Growing Kids | Running Vines | Zao Island |
| Centers for Pain Control
and Vein Care | Little Caesars | Shelemey Law Office | |
| | Meridian Title | Stack's Bar & Grill | |

IN KIND SPONSORS

- | | | | |
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| Burke Costanza & Carberry | Fluid Coffee Bar | Pines Village | Valparaiso Family Dentistry |
| CCS | Golden Living | Pizza Hut | Valpo Chamber |
| Centier Bank | Hamana | Residences at Coffee Creek | Valpo Rotary Club |
| City of Valparaiso Public Works | Henzie's Bakery | Rittenhouse | VNA |
| Crown Trophy | Indiana Furniture | Sandberg's Service Center | Walgreens |
| CVS | Journey Senior Living | Sebo's | |

ValPAWraiso DOG PARK



What's Next

Coming fall of 2019!

Valpo Parks Foundation unleashes the paw-sibilities! ValPAWraiso Dog Park is an off-leash dog park expected to open fall 2019.

The scope of construction includes separate turf areas for large and small dogs featuring mature stands of trees, double gate system for pet safety entering and exiting the park off-leash, two signature pavilions for shaded seating and conversation, a restroom facility with paw washing station, fencing, hydration station for dogs, and donor archway, and Paw Print Plaza. Construction is expected to begin this summer and will be substantially completed this fall.



“ We could not accomplish these types of projects without the vision and generosity of our public private partnerships. It is our privilege to work on this project for those that desire to show their love of dogs and the animal community. ”

PARKS DIRECTOR, JOHN SEIBERT

For more information, or to contribute to this project, please contact Lisa Kusbel at lkusbel@valpo.us or call (219) 462-5144.



www.ValpoParksFoundation.org

Parks Staff



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ValpoParks.org



/ValpoParks

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