

Parks and Recreation Department

Terry Zeller, Superintendent

The Mishawaka Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide range of programs and special events to our “Hometown” community. Over 318 acres of green space are provided for the community to enjoy with opportunities to relax, exercise, and seek entertainment in a variety of areas and at a participation level that fits any lifestyle. We pride ourselves on the level of customer service provided to each and every patron from a call, visit or participation in a program. Our mission was furthered by offering quality programs and events, and by improvement in service delivery in 2012.

The pool and rink completed the year with record attendance and continued diversification in services. Our landscape crew worked with the community in new ways, and our festivals and concerts were well attended throughout the spring and summer. Recreation programs blossomed, providing the youth of our community the opportunity to get healthy, stay healthy and provided them with the necessary tools to enhance their life skills. The parks department staff believes that all generations deserve the opportunity to enhance their lifestyle. Youth sports, adult recreation and senior shape-up are the building blocks of a true "Hometown" community.

Youth sports, adult recreation and senior shape-up are the building blocks of a true "Hometown" community

Working with a budget essentially unchanged from the previous year, the Parks and Recreation Department was able to increase

customer service and program offerings, maintain fee structures, and work smarter to increase revenues. Daily attendance and facility use increased overall, despite very little snow in the spring. The golf course and pool had a banner year in 2012.

Recreation/Athletics

We expanded a very successful day camp program, allowing more children to participate in summer activities at Castle Manor in Merrifield Park. Our Youth Sports programs, inherited from the school system, were refined to provide better equity for participants, and showed higher attendance this year. We improved our working relationship with the School City of Mishawaka which resulted in a higher level of youth programs and facility access. The lack of any appreciable snow caused our revenue to plummet at George Wilson Park, but the days we were open were very busy. The Disc Golf program held steady. Wilson Park brought in over \$25,000 in revenue.

The Mayor’s “Let’s Move Mishawaka” initiative was promoted again this year with an emphasis on youth sports and physical activity programs, and a very successful Zumba class for youth and parents. We will continue to look for ways to bring more young people into park facilities to combat childhood obesity and promote health and wellness. This is a key to creating the next generation of active and involved Mishawaka citizens.

Youth Sports Leagues

British Soccer

Children ages 3-6 and grades 1-6 learned sportsmanship and the basic fundamentals of soccer at an age appropriate level. The session ran the week of August 6th in the mornings and was held at Merrifield Park. Taught by Challenger's international team of soccer experts for the third year in a row, the program saw a 37.5% increase in enrollment.

The Department also manages several programs jointly with Mishawaka School City. These programs include tackle football, flag football, wrestling and basketball.

Youth Tackle Football

This program is intended to teach the importance of teamwork as well as the basic fundamentals of football. It is open to children entering 3rd through 6th grades who reside within the corporate City limits of Mishawaka and attend a School City of Mishawaka School. "Where Champions Begin" is the program's motto. Conditioning began on August 13th with practices being held at Merrifield Park. Games were played at both John Young Middle School and Hums Park.

Youth Flag Football

This program provides children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade the opportunity to play football with minimal physical contact. Practice and games were held at Liberty Elementary School.

Youth Wrestling

The elementary wrestling season began in November. The regular season is six weeks long with weekly Dual Meets and an end of the season tournament. Wrestling teaches the importance of hard work, discipline, dedication and a positive attitude.

Youth Volleyball

The elementary volleyball season is another fine joint effort. Registration was open to 3-6th grade students. Games were played at Mishawaka High School and John Young Middle School.

Youth Basketball

The elementary basketball seasons were successful again. Games were played at Mishawaka High School and John Young Middle School.

Adult Sports Leagues

Softball

The Parks Department hosted men's and co-ed slow pitch in the summer league play. This is a popular event for many of our community's adults allowing for a "big kids" play date. ASA Rules and Umpires govern the league. This league is offered to adults 18 and older.

Sports Summary

	Participants	Revenue
British Soccer	22	
Youth Tackle Football	205	\$11,212.50
Youth Flag Football	113	\$2,767.00
Youth Wrestling	58	\$1,025.00
Youth Volleyball	244	\$4,775.50
Girls Youth Basketball	65	\$1,391.75
Boys Youth Basketball	171	\$4,047.00
Adult Summer Softball	32 Teams	\$15,005.00
Adult Fall Softball	28 Teams	\$9,040.00

Concerts in the Parks

The Parks Department provides relaxing musical entertainment at three of our park locations: Battell Bandshell, Beutter Park, and the Eberhart Deck. We encourage the public to bring a lawn chair, perhaps a light dinner, and to sit back and relax in the summer evening air at the Battell Bandshell and Beutter Park concert series'. Catering to an audience 21 and older, full bar and kitchen service are provided at the Eberhart Deck Concert Series.

Beutter Park – 6:30 pm <i>Sponsored by BudLight</i>	Battell Park – 7:00 pm
June 7 Alligator Blackbird June 14 King Pao June 28 Top Secret July 5 Everyday People July 12 The Kameleons July 19 VanDyke Review July 26 Full Circle August 2 Potential Rain Date August 9 Alligator Blackbird August 16 Last Call August 23 Ground Control August 30 On the Rocks	June 4 Mike Smith Highlife June 11 Michiana Concert Band June 18 Billy Nicks Trio June 25 The Valleyaires July 2 Ron Wiggins Quartet July 9 Michiana Concert Band July 16 Everyday People July 23 Acoustic Justice July 30 Da Bears August 6 Gene Van Trio with Vince DelPrete & Jim Bollero August 13 Michiana Concert Band August 20 The Pat Heiden Quartet
Eberhart Deck – 8:00 pm	Beutter Park Family Movie Night <i>Sponsored by MBA, Andy Beutter, Farm Bureau Insurance, IP Solutions, Inc. and Active Health</i>
August 10 Ron Wiggins Quartet August 17 Billy Nicks Trio August 24 Mike Vaszari, Blu-Jazz Quartet	July 20 The Parent Trap, 1961 Release
Battell Park Family Movie Night	
September 5 Panama Lady, starring Allan Lane	

Special Events

Our Festivals continued to be amazingly popular in 2012, and offered a mix of small and large events from our Daddy-Daughter Dance to the three day Summerfest in Merrifield and Crawford Parks. This year saw the second annual Renaissance Festival in late August, which covered Kamm Island with family-oriented activities and entertainment and was very interactive for kids that attended. Attendance doubled this year, and we expect an even greater event in 2013. A total of 11 special events were hosted or directly organized by our department, and this part of our mission is the most publicly visible of any that we undertake each year. In addition to special events, our summer concert series, held both downtown and at the golf course, has continued to be well attended and a welcome addition to the list of great things to do in Mishawaka.

Daddy-Daughter Dance

The 11th annual dance was once again a huge success. The Battell Center gym hosted the event held on February 24th. The night was full of fun and dancing. Each little girl received a special gift and photo to commemorate the event, along with fun stuff like

temporary tattoos, silly bands, specialty items and suckers. This year's theme was "The Red Carpet". Approximately 198 "stars" and their male escorts attended. This event generated \$2,250.00 in revenue.

Arbor Day Celebration

Mishawaka Parks and Mishawaka Electric teamed up with students at Hums School to celebrate Arbor Day in Hums Park by planting 6 Red Bud trees. Children received their own tree, snacks, and an activity packet.

Rockin' By the River Day Camp at Castle Manor

The Parks Department's 2nd year of day camp provided 10 weeks of fun-filled activities. The program is available to children 6-12 years. Each week had a different theme. The program provided enjoyment for 35 campers including drop-ins. Campers experienced plenty of summer fun and activities in our very own Castle Manor. The program generated \$16,087.00 in revenue.

Mary Gibbard Pool Grand Reopening

A special day was planned for the reopening of Mary Gibbard Pool held on June 1st. The luau theme (and a children's Bounce House!) beckoned the community to a welcoming and fun atmosphere. Code Enforcement, D.A.R.E., and Chick-fil-A hosted booths and a drawing for a free season pool pass was held.

Summerfest

Merrifield & Crawford Parks hosted this day and evening of fun-filled activities for the community. Festivities started in the early morning with the 5K Run and Fun Walk, and the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast. Food vendors and Arts and Crafts were also available beginning at 9:00 a.m. for everyone to enjoy. Games and Kids Activities opened at 10:00 a.m. In 2012, a beverage garden was added to the event.

July 4th Celebration

Mishawaka Parks with the help of a generous sponsor was able to provide an amazing fireworks display for over 3,000 people at Beutter Park. By having the event on July 5th, we were able to provide musical entertainment via our Beutter Park Concert Series, as well as a beverage garden.

Kamm Island Fest

The Mishawaka Business Association's annual fundraiser, Kamm Island Fest, was greeted with great weather on Wednesday, July 18th from 5-9 PM. A steady flow of committed attendees came out to support the cause. The event is an evening of food, drink and friends in downtown Mishawaka. The event features "Taste of Mishawaka",

hosted by 10 local restaurants. Live musical entertainment and an art festival showcasing 15 local artists' original art rounded out the event.

Summer & Harvest Dances

2011 featured our first Harvest Dance and was held at the conclusion of our Battell Bandshell Concert Series. It was so well attended and enjoyed that we added a Summer Dance in 2012. The Summer Dance was held June 13 and the Harvest Dance was held August 27. Each dance was open to all ages with a section for persons 21 and older. Beverages and snacks were provided in a "bistro" type setting. Entertainment for both dances was provided by EP Unplugged.

NFL/Pepsi Punt, Pass & Kick Competition

Fifty boys and girls aged 6-15 participated September 29th in this free event. As boys and girls competed, their athletic skills were put to the test. Each participant received a certificate. First, second and third place winners in each boy/girl age category were awarded place ribbons. In addition, the top boy and girl winner from each of the five age categories was eligible to participate in the Sectional Competition also hosted by Mishawaka Parks for the 7th year. Thirty-two out of forty-one qualifying youths competed October 13th for the chance to move on to the Team Championships in Indianapolis. Kristina Lynch of Granger participated at both the Local and Sectional Competitions held by Mishawaka Parks. We are pleased to announce that she took first place at Nationals in Atlanta, Georgia on January 13th earning the right to be called a two-time National Champion! Kristina's winning distance was 328-feet 1-inch for girls ages 12-13. We are so proud of her!

Michiana Renaissance Fest

Mishawaka Parks and Entertaining History, Inc. teamed up to bring our community an educational and entertaining way to share the love of history. Kamm Island was the perfect setting for the festival, allowing parts of the island to be designated as "period" camps. These camps consisted of the Vikings (793-1000), the Renaissance (1500-1600), the Pirates (1650-1720 AD), and Fairytale. Children were encouraged to partake in a special journey, the Kids Quest, and, once completed, take their place as a princess or a knight in the Kingdom of Kamm Island. Adults were able to quench their thirst at a pub and guests were able to dine on "period" foods for a nominal charge. This was the second year of the Fair and attendance increased by 50% with approximately 1,700 patrons, including children 5 and under, veterans, and invited guests at no charge. Food donations were also accepted, which defrayed the cost of admission for attendees. Over 735 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected and given to the Penn Township Food Pantry. The Board of Parks & Recreation also was presented with a donation in of \$1,000.00 from Entertaining History, Inc. as the result of the success of the event.

Winterfest

The 6th Annual Winter Festival, entitled, “Winterfest in Our Hometown” was held December 8th in Merrifield Park. The setting this year was like a small village. Patrons could stop and watch an outdoor movie, warm themselves by a fire, enjoy refreshments and hot cocoa, visit a live nativity with petting zoo, watch ice sculpting, go on a hayride, ice skate, buy a Christmas tree from the RES, and have a picture taken with Santa. Approximately 2,000 people attended our kick off to winter.

George Wilson Park

The “Tubing Hill” may be the most appreciated winter activity with participants flying down the snowy hills with the winter wind and snow in their face. Take a break, sit by the fireplace and enjoy our warming room with a cup of hot coco and a snack. The whole family can enjoy this winter activity it is just “plain old fashion fun” so the next time it snows, bundle up and head for the hills, George Wilson Hills, that is. Tubing is a great activity at a low cost for civic groups, school field trips, and church groups.

Wilson Hill Tube Admissions	\$6,343
Non Reverting Tube Admission	\$4,650
Tube Rental, General	\$4,668
Non Reverting Tube Rental	\$4,668
Total Revenue	\$20,329

George Wilson is not only home to fun winter activity but also features a nationally ranked 18-hole Disc Golf Course to be enjoyed when the weather warms. The basics of disc golf are similar to those of traditional golf. Both require participants to use “drivers” and “putters”. The course is open for play from 10:00 a.m. until dusk, however the park does not close until 10:00 p.m.

Wilson Disc Admissions	\$25,243
Wilson Hill Disc Sales	\$2,537
Non Reverting Disc Sales	\$198
Wilson Hill Disc Bag Sales	\$14
Total Revenue	\$27,992

A Special Thanks...

We would like to thank our many sponsors for supporting Mishawaka Parks and our events. Some of our sponsors provided funding, some services. Without our sponsors, many of our programs would not be as successful as they are. A special thanks to:

- CVS
- Kona Ice
- Taper Lock Credit Union
- United Beverage
- MBA
- Andy Beutter, Farm Bureau Insurance
- IP Solutions, Inc.

- Active Health
- Phillips Photography
- Chick-fil-A
- The RES

Merrifield Pool and Ice Rink

Merrifield Pool had the highest attendance ever this year, serving over 18,000 residents generating its highest yearly revenue at \$86,153.00. This growth occurred as we continued to trim operating costs while still providing the highest standards of health and safety for pool users. The Ice Rink faced a difficult operating season with the snow and cold, but still managed daily attendance that was in line with previous years. Successful events such as the Notre Dame ‘Practice on the Pond’ and Winterfest also had higher attendance than last year.

Merrifield Pool saw the highest attendance ever this year, serving over 18,000 residents

2012 Merrifield Pool Statistics

	May/June	July	August	Total
Concession	\$6,029	\$5,972	\$1,527	\$13,528
Vending	\$250	\$514	\$1,326	\$2,090
Admission	\$7,470	\$10,029	\$3,176	\$20,675
Pool Passes	\$16,325	\$6,759	\$1,407	\$24,491
Swim Lessons	\$2,350	\$50	\$0	\$2,400
NR-Pool Passes	\$4,180	\$1,288	\$241	\$5,709
NR-Admissions	\$3,049	\$3,560	\$768	\$7,377
Pool Rental	\$0	\$0	\$8,190	\$8,190
Pool Lockers	\$790	\$700	\$200	\$1,690
Total	\$40,443	\$28,873	\$16,835	\$86,153
Attendance	7,491	8,530	2,222	18,243
Total Seasonal Employee Hours Worked = 12,033				
Total Employee Seasonal Cost = \$91,339				

There were ninety-six participants in the swim program at Merrifield. The Mom/Dad & Me program was offered for one session only and the class was full. Mike Bergin instructed the class and we had many great comments about how the class was instructed.

- Merrifield Pool opened on June 2nd. Daily hours are 12-4 p.m. and 6-9p.m. The pool was open 72 out of 73 possible days with 69 consecutive days. The Pool closed on August 13th. Lap swim was extended through August 18th.
- Had the highest attendance total in the last seventeen years. The third-highest in the last twenty-two years. The top six pool attendance totals are the following: 1991 – 26,412, 1995 – 19,644, 2012 – 18,243, 1990 – 18,224, 1993 – 17,154, & 2011 – 17,131. On average, about 254 people attended Merrifield Pool Daily.

- Had the highest all time revenue at \$86,153. The average daily revenue was at \$1,196.
- Over 3,500 ID's were issued.
- Chemical costs for the pool season were \$18,943.
- No major injuries to the public or employees.

Historical Merrifield Pool Statistics

Year	Days Open	Revenue	Average Daily Revenue	Seasonal Employee Cost	Seasonal Hours Worked	Attendance
2003	59	\$56,449	\$956	NA	NA	10,878
2004	66	\$44,909	\$680	NA	NA	8,497
2005	68	\$63,751	\$937	NA	NA	15,300
2006	63	\$64,095	\$1,017	NA	NA	14,506
2007	69	\$80,917	\$1,172	NA	NA	16,071
2008	70	\$74,477	\$1,064	\$78,082	10,838	15,889
2009*	78	\$69,269	\$888	\$84,980	11,107	14,968
2010	77	\$78,430	\$1,018	\$91,306	12,099	16,409
2011	66	\$83,176	\$1,260	\$90,264	11,568	17,131
2012	72	\$86,153	\$1,196	\$91,339	12,033	18,243
NA – data not available						
* minimum wage increased to \$7.25 per hour on July 24 th						

2012 Mary Gibbard Pool Statistics

	June	July	August	Total
Admission	\$1,035	\$1,277	\$421	\$2,733
Vending	\$150	\$350	\$120	\$620
Pool ID's	\$647	\$585	\$168	\$1,400
Swim Lessons	\$325	\$0	\$0	\$325
NR-Pool Passes	\$308	\$392	\$103	\$803
NR-Pool ID's	\$118	\$110	\$32	\$260
Pool Rental	\$405	\$1,020	\$240	\$1,665
Total	\$2,988	\$3,734	\$1,084	\$7,806
Attendance	1,211	1,192	362	2,765
Total Seasonal Employee Hours Worked = 2,302.50				
Total Employee Seasonal Cost = \$18,356				

- There were thirteen participants in the swim program at Mary Gibbard for 2012.
- Mary Gibbard pool opened on June 2nd. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday hours were 11a.m. – 6p.m., and Wednesday and Sunday hours

were 6 – 9p.m. The pool closed on August 18th. The pool was open 75 out of 78 possible days.

- Slide was open. Met Federal Guidelines (Graeme Baker Pool Drain Requirements).
- Increased hours worked by 967.5 compared to 2010.
- Temporary passes were introduced to Mary Gibbard Pool. A patron could purchase a temporary pass and then would have five days to make it a five year pass at the Merrifield Complex. Two-hundred and sixty passes were issued. One-hundred passes were turned into the Merrifield Complex so five year passes could be issued.
- Chemical costs for the pool season were \$6,650.
- Pool was rented for 44.5 hours. Forty-five dollars for the first hour and thirty for each hour after. Had to turn away some pool rental due to lack of lifeguard availability.
- No major injuries to the public or employees.

Historical Mary Gibbard Pool Statistics

Year	Days Open	Revenue	Daily Revenue	Seasonal Employee Cost	Attendance
2003	59	\$5,859	\$99	NA	2,786
2004	67	\$5,058	\$75	NA	2,243
2005	61	\$6,475	\$106	NA	2,876
2006	66	\$5,893	\$89	NA	4,006
2007	72	\$6,019	\$83	\$29,500	3,442
2008	73	\$5,365	\$73	\$30,405	2,971
2009*	63	\$5,154	\$82	\$13,860	1,842
2010	54	\$4,967	\$92	\$10,953	1,605
2011	Pool Closed for the season				
2012	75	\$7,806	\$104	\$18,356	2,765
NA – data not available					
* minimum wage increased to \$7.25 per hour on July 24 th					

Merrifield Complex Ice Rink

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Total</u>
Concession	\$945	\$164	\$29	\$289	\$1,428
Vending	\$250	\$328	\$280	\$0	\$858
Admission	\$2,452	\$585	\$50	\$1,350	\$4,438
Photo ID's	\$2,510	\$590	\$0	\$1,551	\$4,651
Rink Passes	\$65	\$0	\$0	\$295	\$360
Rink Rental	\$1,615	\$1,742	\$4,262	\$1,201*	\$8,821
Birthdays	\$90	\$90	\$0	\$0	\$180
Skate Rental	\$1,371	\$417	\$25	\$1,040	\$2,853
Skate Lessons	\$527	\$247	\$0	\$17	\$792
Sharpening	\$51	\$33	\$0	\$47	\$131
NR-Admissions	\$10	\$5.50	\$0	\$40	\$55
NR-ID / Passes	\$438	\$103	\$0	\$292	\$833
NR-Sk Rental	\$1,371	\$417	\$25	\$1,040	\$2,853
NR-Rink-Rental	\$190	\$205	\$60	\$141*	\$596
Total	\$11,885	\$4,928	\$4,732	\$7,305	\$28,851
Attendance	1,970	711	20	3,950	6,651

Total Seasonal Employee Hours Worked = 2,023

Total Employee Seasonal Cost = \$15,852

*Rink Rental in September for a Ball Room Dance.

- There were forty-nine participants in the skating lesson program for 2012.
- Notre Dame practiced (The Practice on the Pond) at the complex on January 16th and over four-hundred people attended the open practice. Real Country and WSBT talk radio attended the event and gave away door prizes. People seemed pleased to have the opportunity to meet and take pictures with the players.
- The Annual “Winterfest in our Hometown” on Dec 8th was a huge success. Over 2,500 people attended the event. The event included free admission, picture with Santa, free food, hayride, outside movie, live nativity, a bonfire, and door prizes. The whole Merrifield Park was incorporated into the event.
- Weather conditions were poor for February; it was very warm and rainy. The Ice Rink closed on March 5th due to warm temperatures and rain. The Ice Rink reopened on December 8th. The late opening was caused by the extremely warm temperatures. The Ice Rink was available for usage 78 out of 89 possible days.
- Two Birthday party packages were held at the rink.
- This season IYHL had \$3,752.50 of rink rental compared to \$9,167.50 in 2011. The IYHL only rented the rink 4.5 hours a week due to the lack of traveling teams. Total rink rental revenue decreased by \$5,594.75.

- Total revenue increased by \$464.50 compared to 2011. The total revenue changed little due to the decrease of rink rental revenue and the increase of public skate revenue.
- Attendance increased by 3,332 compared to last year.
- Seasonal employee expense increased by \$2,822 compared to last year.

Year	Days Open	Revenue	Average Daily Revenue	Seasonal Employee Cost	Seasonal Hours Worked	Attendance
2003	87	\$33,914	\$389	NA	NA	7,509
2004	83	\$35,262	\$424	NA	NA	5,724
2005	92	\$33,252	\$361	NA	NA	4,962
2006	91	\$38,387	\$421	NA	NA	5,643
2007	95	\$43,327	\$456	NA	NA	5,539
2008	95	\$44,917	\$472	\$21,832	3,352	4,843
2009	88	\$30,699	\$348	\$19,212	2,642	3,787
2010	93	\$38,902	\$418	\$17,092	2,194	4,719
2011	87	\$28,386	\$326	\$13,029	1,629	3,319
2012	78	\$28,851	\$369	\$15,582	2,023	6,651

Battell Community Center

The Battell Center continued its tradition of offering a multitude of classes and performances. An increased focus on room rental has resulted in new art classes, and additional yoga classes. Our membership has increased for the fitness room, and we have started a partnership with the Civic Theatre to offer space for youth acting and performance classes. In 2012, a new \$30,000 sound and light package was installed for the auditorium, which now offers the best technical surroundings for the price of any venue in the region.

Following is an attendance report for activities, classes, and programs listed by category. This report depicts patron attendance at Battell Community Center for recordable activities. The report also represents the attendance that was reported by the renter/instructor/Battell staff.

1.	Community Events and Functions	5,625
2.	Leisure Time Activities and Sports	9,665
3.	Art and Music	1,142
4.	Adult Dance Classes	1,192
5.	Exercise Classes	7,006
6.	Kids Classes	239
7.	Let's Move Mishawaka	986
8.	Special Events and Seminars	743
9.	Room / Gym Rentals	2,978
10.	Auditorium Show Attendance	2,815
	TOTAL BUILDING ATTENDANCE	32,391

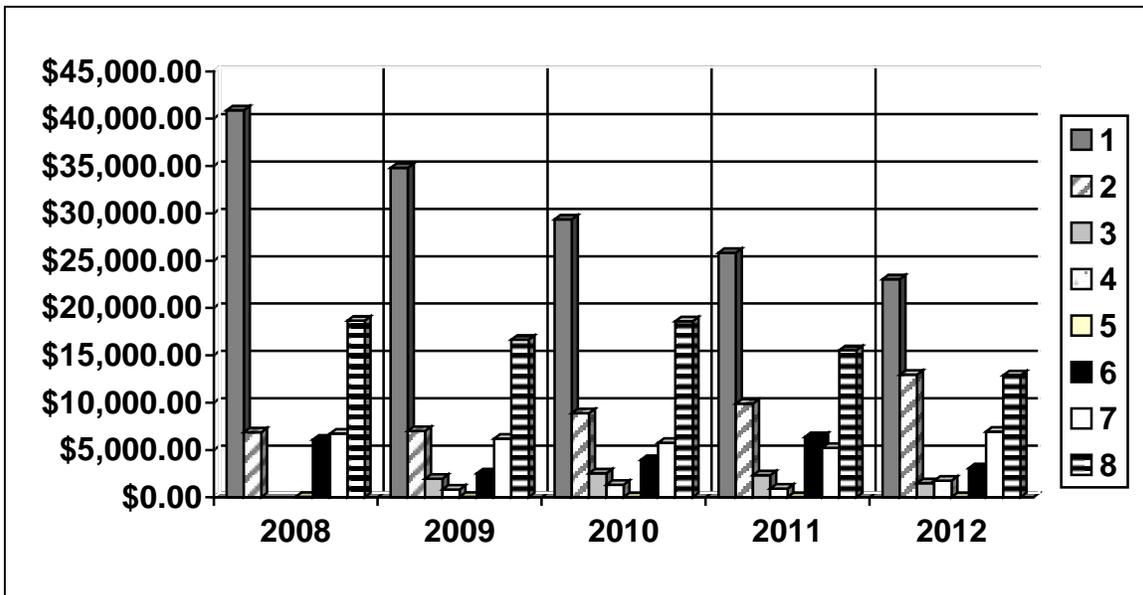
2012 - Year End Revenue's collected for Battell Center are as follows:

Park General:

1.	Class fees collected	\$ 23,031.00
2.	Room Rentals	\$ 12,959.68
3.	Non-Reverting – Auditorium	\$ 1,482.88
4.	Non-Reverting – Gym	\$ 1,774.07
5.	Headliner Subscriptions	\$ 12.00
6.	Recreation Fees	\$ 3065.00 ⁽¹⁾
7.	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 6935.64 ⁽²⁾
8.	Gift Account Revenue	\$12,894.03
	SUBTOTAL	\$46,195.27
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$59,089.30

⁽¹⁾ includes 1-day bus trips

⁽²⁾ includes bazaar, newsletter advertising, overtime, softball sponsors, vendor sales,)



2012-Gift Account

General Gift Account	\$ 11,022.31
Euchre Club	\$ 838.07
McCarthy Gift Account	\$ 423.21
Prast Gift Account	\$ 65.00
Halloween Gift Account	\$ 45.99

Golf Course Operations

This past year showed that with great weather, the Golf operation is still the best value in Michiana, with a record for rounds played and revenue collected. A new bridge re-decking project has started this winter and will give golfers a sound and attractive passage over the St. Joseph River during their round. Our daily use and solid league participation proved that our golfers continue to value the course as a vital part of their recreational lifestyle. The continued promotion of junior golf at Eberhart resulted in sustained student participation, and we are focused on increasing this part of our mission for golf in 2013, along with greater promotion of all special events and outings.

2012 was a record year at the Golf Course with over \$511,000 in total revenue taken in. That figure does not include annual pass fees, but it does mark the first time we've gone over \$500,000 in revenue at the course. We had an excellent year in cart revenue due to the lack of restricted days. A record of \$173,000 was generated by cart rentals. A strong year in our food and beverage operation took in over \$76,000 in sales, also a record.

We saw our weekly league number grow to 13 this year, with another that came once a month. Those leagues provided roughly 350-400 golfers per week over about 20 weeks. Roughly 7500 rounds were played by our league participants, close to 25% of our total rounds of 32,000. Those rounds were fairly equally split, with about 60% by annual pass holders and 40% by those paying a greens fee. Over 10,000 rounds were played by annual pass holders which accounted for approximately another \$70,000 worth of revenue.



Outings continued with several that were at capacity such as the BK Club, D'Amicis, and the Marine Corp League, and others that struggled to reach numbers they have had in the past. For the most part, it was a successful year for outings, as we brought in a few new ones that more than offset the ones we lost.

We had over 90 kids for the South Bend Junior Tour stop at Eberhart on July 2nd, in spite of the extreme heat that day. The Garbage Open participation on July 18th was minimal due to the Heat Advisory that day. A nice session for juniors was held in the middle of June before the heat wave hit, with 12 kids participating.

The Mishawaka Metro Tournament had a good turnout and the participants enjoyed playing for a healthy purse thanks to sponsorship of the event by our friends at Indiana Beer. This year's champion was Loren Crosbie, who also won the event in 2006 and 2008. With the economy looking like it is going to continue to move forward and hopes

for better things on the horizon, we will be doing our best to recover of the sponsorship dollars that were hard to secure the past few years.

Eberhart is home to both the Mishawaka and Marian girls and boys golf teams. We had over 1,000 rounds played by the high school teams during the year. We're glad to do our part to help kids play the game and hopefully become participants for life. It would certainly enhance our golf program, as well as make it easier to accommodate the demand, if we had another venue besides Eberhart. A practice facility or a practice facility with a limited number of holes could be an option.

Other ideas to enhance the golf operation include remodeling the clubhouse and installing cart paths around the course. These are major expenditures require further thought and planning. There is no doubt that both would be very beneficial to our operation.

As always, hope for an early spring and a quick start to 2013, but whatever hand we are dealt we'll do our best to provide a great golfing experience for our customers at Eberhart.

Golf Course Maintenance

The weather of 2012 played a major role in the success and challenges at Eberhart-Petro Golf Course. The absence of spring floodwaters and virtually no course closings allowed our patrons to amass approximately 32,000 rounds of golf. These rounds, however, came at a price paid by the golf turf itself. High temperatures and very low precipitation, while good for golfing, made things extremely tough for the health of the course. Our crew worked diligently to provide the best experience possible while striving to keep our turf, trees and other features maintained to their full potential. Eberhart's closing date of December 16 concluded a year of records broken and weather related lessons learned.



Listed below is a time-line of weather and events in 2012:

- The winter of 2011-2012 was relatively mild. Higher than average temperatures and lower than normal snow accumulation allowed early cleanup of the course. The ever dreaded flooding events that normally plague Eberhart did not occur, ensuring a full 18 holes of dry turf to be open for play on our starting date.
- The golf course opened March 13th with sunshine and temperatures in the mid 60's.

- Unseasonably high temperatures and low precipitation totals in the months of March and April brought an unusual “flush” of growth to our turf. Growth regulating pesticides and extra mowing efforts were needed to slow this down. Again, the absence of flooding allowed the use of the entire course prompting a successful season.
- The months of May and June brought very high temperatures and little rainfall requiring above average use of irrigation and implementation of turf “venting” procedures to keep grass from serious decline. With the increased load on our irrigation, repairs and maintenance to sprinkler heads and satellites was stepped up to optimize the use of our system.
- July and August, while having little but sufficient rainfall, had very extreme temperature events. The first week alone had an average of over 97 degrees including three days in excess of 100 degrees. Additional fungicide and other turf care pesticide applications were needed as well as carefully timed sprinkling to deter disease formation and keep our turf alive. High temperatures and humidity did take a toll on some areas of turf surrounding our greens and portions of our fairways.
- The fall months were ideal for maintaining the course as well as for golfing. Lower temperatures gave our turf and patrons a needed break. These lower temperatures along with small amounts of precipitation provided crew members the ability to perform additional maintenance tasks that more inclement weather would not allow. They were able to maximize their work potential during normal working hours. Therefore, when December came, the course was sufficiently ready for the arrival of winter.

Landscape Division

Our efforts in improving the beauty of our open spaces and facilities were realized in the many additions to the grounds of our parks this year by the Landscape Division. Continued work on the Rock Garden at Battell Park has sprouted an effort by the Mishawaka Garden Club to adopt the amenity as their major fundraiser recipient in 2012 and 2013. Many areas of the parks were improved with perennials and shrubs, and hundreds of tulip bulbs were planted throughout the parks.

2012 Landscaping Highlights

- Re-planted the Azalea and Rhododendron bed at the northeast corner of Shiojiri Niwa.
- Re-seeded the event lawn at Beutter Park.
- Put down 20 tons of stone at the Riverwalk entrance node at Wilson Blvd. and Forest Ave.
- Received a donation of 400 daylily plants that were then planted at the Police Department.
- Planted 4100 bulbs at various locations around the city.
- Planted 420 perennials in flower beds in downtown Mishawaka.
- Planted 4 Memorial trees at various parks.

- Planted 47 trees, 34 shrubs and over 600 perennials at various locations.
- Received \$2,401.50 from the DuPont Corporation as a settlement for damage to Arborvitae at Rose Park from their products.
- The Teahouse entrance gate and shed at Shiojiri Niwa received a new Cedar shake roof. The teahouse benches were taken out and new benches were installed, and new supports were put under the red bridge.

2012 Arbor Day Celebration held at Hums Park

Each year Arbor Day is celebrated by a neighborhood school, the City, and the Mishawaka Parks and Recreation Department. In 2012 Arbor Day was celebrated on April 24th with students from Hums Elementary School. Children, teachers, parents and Park staff all pitched in to plant 6 Redbud trees. The importance of recognizing trees as a vital resource was emphasized. The children performed various skits sharing their views on the value of trees to our community. All children received their own tree, snacks and a rain gauge. Over 700 trees were given away to every 5th grade student in the city. The event was funded entirely by the Mishawaka Utilities Electric Department.



Volunteers

Volunteers are an important resource for the city of Mishawaka. The work performed by the various individuals and groups is a great benefit to the community. Volunteers who helped make 2012 a banner year include, but are not limited to:

- For the 15th consecutive year, Bethel College Students spent an entire day working in the parks. This year they concentrated on cleaning the raceway at Beutter Park and mulching at Kate's Garden.
- Ms. Karen Gradeless and her 5th grade class from Beiger Elementary School came to Battell Park and Merrifield Pool to clean up the flower beds and plant annuals.
- The Japanese/American Friendship club held their annual spring clean-up at Shiojiri Niwa.
- The Mishawaka Historical Society planted annual flowers at the Ball Band Memorial.
- Summer of Service group members mulched flower and plant beds at Shiojiri Niwa, Merrifield Pool and City Hall.

- Rotary Club members adopted Henry Frank Park. They mulched the trees along the roadway and stained the pavilion. They also donated money to replace the roof and to build a deck on the north side of the pavilion
- The Bethel College Baseball team spent an afternoon cutting down volunteer trees growing on the banks next to the Riverwalk at Central Park.
- Boy Scout Kyle Mullins did his Eagle Scout project at the Battell Park Rock Garden. He led a group of scouts who removed all of the old overgrown evergreen shrubs and then added soil to the beds.
- The St. Joseph Valley Master Gardeners continued with the care and maintenance of Kate's Garden. They planted many perennials and shrubs throughout the garden, oversaw other volunteer groups, and provided the community with many learning sessions throughout the year.

Tree City USA

For the 22nd consecutive year the City of Mishawaka received the Tree City USA Award. A plaque was presented to the City during the Arbor Day Celebration in April at Hums Park. The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters have established the standards which must be met by a community in order to be a recipient of the Tree City USA award. These standards make sure that all qualifying communities have a viable tree management plan and program in place.

The four standards which have been met for the past 22 years are that Mishawaka maintains:

- A Tree Board or Department
- A Tree Care Ordinance
- A Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2.00 per capita.
- An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation.

2013 Goals

- Pass the International Society of Arboriculture testing and become a Certified Arborist.
- Create a new white memorial garden at Eberhart-Petro Golf Course.
- Improve the plant beds in front of the Ironworks and Historic Downtown signs and plant those beds with flowering plants.
- Replace shrubs and perennials in many parks that died from the record heat wave and drought of 2012.

Capital Improvement Projects

Park Facilities were a focus of 2012, with a comprehensive renovation to Central Park in the works for the coming years. This renovation will elevate the park to its rightful place as a major piece of the Riverwalk, and compliment the work being done adjacent to the

park by the Center for Hospice. Master Plans are being drafted for the Merrifield Complex to completely update the facility in the next few years. These projects constitute the start of an overall master plan for park renovations that will result in improvements to many parks in the coming years.

Park Board

The City's Board of Parks and Recreation has continued its dedication and devotion to the city park patrons as well as our agency. Creating a more streamlined meeting process, assigning committees focused on specific areas of the organization, and maintaining a high profile at special events has served this department well in 2012. The Board's continued passion and drive to meet the needs and desires of the community is proven through the continued growth of recreational programs offered each year. Through their guidance, recreation and special events will continue to evolve for people of all ages now and well into the future. The Park Board will continue their ongoing oversight ensuring that all facilities and parks are beautiful, clean and safe for all to enjoy. Members of the Mishawaka Park Board are:

Reg Wagle, President
John Coppens, Jr., Vice President
Carolyn Teeter, Secretary
Ellen West
Michael Bergin
Robert "Doc" Shriner