



MISHAWAKA COMMUNICATOR



A LETTER FROM MAYOR DAVE WOOD



A Miracle in the Making: Breaking Ground on Mishawaka Miracle Park

In late September of 2025, Mishawaka celebrated a milestone unlike any other in our history. At Normain Park, we broke ground on the Mishawaka Miracle League Park, a place built on a simple, powerful idea: **every child and every family deserves a place to play, to belong, and to be celebrated.**

Surrounded by city leaders, partners, donors, builders, neighbors, and—most importantly—the children and families who inspired this project, we didn’t just turn dirt; we turned a page in Mishawaka’s story. Together, we took the first steps toward building something that will bless this community for generations.

Together we didn’t just turn dirt—we turned a page in our city’s—

—history. We broke ground on the Mishawaka Miracle Park, a place built on a simple but powerful idea: every child and every family deserves a place to play, to belong, and to be celebrated.

To our partners, donors, designers, builders, advocates, neighbors, and especially to the kids and families who inspired this project — thank you. You dreamed big with us. And here we were, shoulder to shoulder, ready to build something that will bless this community for generations.

As far as we are aware, this Miracle League Field will be the first of its kind in Indiana. That’s not just a bragging right; it’s a responsibility. We are setting a standard for what inclusivity in recreation can be — right here in the Princess City.

At the heart of the project is the Miracle League Field, a custom surface that lets children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities play baseball safely and joyfully. But we didn’t stop at a diamond. This park will include a universally accessible playground, splash pad, restrooms, Sona Arch, softball field, pavilions and—

(Continued on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS



October 10
Monster Dash & Dance
Ball Band Biergarten



October 17
Boos & Brews Fest
Ball Band Biergarten



October 25
Table or Treat
Mishawaka Riverwalk



October 31
Citywide Trick or Treating
5PM - 7 PM



November 7
Flannel Formal
Ball Band Biergarten



November 11
City Hall Closed
Veteran’s Day

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood (*continued*)

sensory areas — every detail saying the same thing: you are welcome here, not just to visit, but to thrive.

Miracle League baseball is famous for its buddy system—pairing a player with a volunteer so everyone moves, laughs, and competes together. What a beautiful picture of community: nobody sits the inning out; everybody gets to bat; everyone crosses home plate. At Miracle Park, that spirit carries through every element of the design: let's do this together.

This project reflects what we call The Mishawaka Way — Public Safety is our top priority. We hire the best, plan for the worst, and serve with pride. We are also committed to improving quality of life for our residents. Parks are not extras; they are essential. They strengthen families, connect neighborhoods, and lift the human spirit.

We have touched nearly every one of Mishawaka's 29 parks with meaningful improvements over the past 20 years, making each one its own unique destination. These parks are all stabilizing forces in the neighborhoods they serve, offering facilities for safe physical activity, family and community gatherings and events. Indeed, serving as town squares of sorts in their neighborhoods. They stabilize property values and help make Mishawaka a desirable place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

This park, Historic Normain Park, is the epitome of a Mishawaka neighborhood park. It sits in a historic neighborhood built specifically for veterans returning home from battle following World War II. It strikes me that those Mishawaka veterans fought for freedom for all. And their park will soon allow freedom for people of all abilities to participate in activities like America's pass time, Baseball.

Some might ask, "Why invest so much in a single park?" Here's my answer: because a city is measured not only by roads and buildings, but by how it welcomes. Because families who have spent years navigating barriers deserve a day off from fighting for access. And because in Mishawaka, we do not apologize for building excellence—we insist on it. And to be very honest, the City could not have taken on such a project without friends like Dick Pfeil and many other donors and friends who have given so generously to make this project a reality. In fact, over \$3 million in private contributions have made this project and dream possible.

In late September, before the first shovel hits the ground, I invited all of us to imagine what's coming:

- The first pitch of the first Miracle League game.
- A player's first hit, with parents cheering through tears.
- A buddy high-fiving their teammate as the whole park erupts in joy.
- Summers filled with kids laughing as they play in an inclusive splash-pad and playground, and neighbors making new friends as they walk around the park trail

That picture isn't a dream. It's a plan—and it starts right there, right now at Normain Park.

To every child who plays here: you belong on this field. Thank you for showing us what perseverance looks like and reminding us that ability comes in many forms.

To every family who gathers here: you are seen, you are valued, and you are welcome. Thank you for keeping inclusivity at the forefront of discussion and planning.

To every volunteer and neighbor: thank you for making Mishawaka stronger, kinder, and more connected and compassionate.

And to every donor: Thank you for investing your treasure in a legacy that will outlast us all.

May this Miracle Park be a place of hope, healing, and celebration. May friendships take root here, confidence grow here, and the sound of cheering never fade.

Your Mayor,
David A. Wood



Affordable, Dependable, and Sustainable Mishawaka Utilities – The Mishawaka Way

Mishawaka Utilities has long been recognized for providing some of the most affordable utility rates in the State of Indiana. This is not by accident—it is the product of careful planning, sound financial stewardship, and a deep commitment to our residents.

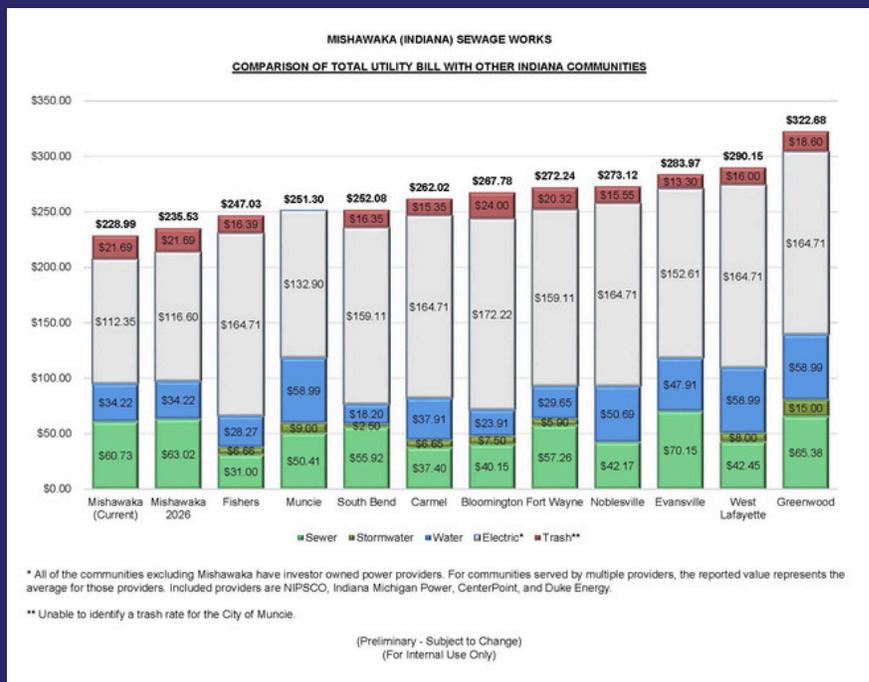
Our water, sewer/wastewater, electric, and trash services are not only affordable but also highly dependable and sustainable. Even with the proposed increase in wastewater rates of 3.75% annually over the next five years, Mishawaka will continue to remain among the most affordable utility providers in the state. This is by design, and it is central to what we call The Mishawaka Way: planning prudently, managing responsibly, and always putting our citizens first.

Affordable, sustainable utilities matter because they are at the foundation of what makes Mishawaka such a livable city. We are proud to be one of the very few communities in Indiana where affordability is matched by our number one priority public safety and quality of life focus which are second to none. Our crime rate has declined in 13 of the last 14 years. Families here not only enjoy low utility costs but also the security of safe neighborhoods. We are also committed to improving quality of life for our residents. Parks are not extras; they are essential. They strengthen families, connect neighborhoods, and lift the human spirit.

We have touched nearly every one of Mishawaka’s 29 parks with meaningful improvements over the past 20 years, making each one it’s own unique destination. These parks are all stabilizing forces in the neighborhoods they serve, offering facilities for safe physical activity, family and community gatherings and events, Indeed, serving as town squares of sorts in their neighborhoods.

Add to that a strong educational foundation—whether through the School City of Mishawaka, Penn-Harris-Madison, or our excellent private and parochial schools—and you see why Mishawaka stands apart. We are not simply managing a utility; we are nurturing a community where families can thrive.

The goal is clear: keep Mishawaka affordable, dependable, and sustainable. Continue delivering utilities and city services at a level that ensures Mishawaka remains one of the best places to live, work, and raise a family. That is our promise. That is The Mishawaka Way.



PRESENTED BY MISHAWAKA PARKS & HOP STATION

BOOS & BREWS HAUNTED BREWFEST

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
IRONWORKS PLAZA
6PM - 9PM



A NIGHT OF 21+ FUN WITH OUR
FAVORITE BREWERIES,
LIVE DJ, ARTISAN MARKET,
FOOD TRUCKS
& MORE!!

**\$35-GENERAL
ADMISSION**
\$10-DD ADMISSION
WRISTBAND REQUIRED FOR UNLIMITED
SAMPLING, MUST BE 21+ TO ENTER
ALL TICKETS AVAILABLE ON PARKS AND REC
WEBSITE!





Table or Treat

Come trick-or-treat with us and 80+ local businesses along the Mishawaka Riverwalk. Registration is not required to attend as a trick or treater.

Date: October 25th

Time: 5:00-7:00 pm

Location: Mishawaka Riverwalk

Ages: All are welcome

Cost to Attend: Free

Businesses interested in hosting a table and passing out candy may register at <https://mishawaka.recdesk.com/Community/Program/Detail?programId=863>.

SEND QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS TO COMMUNICATOR_FEEDBACK@MISHAWAKA.IN.GOV

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