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2025 4th Quarter Report
October 1st, 2025, through December 31st, 2025

Park Office Administrative Staff

Budgets

The 2026 budgets and capital requests were submitted and approved by the Mayor, City Controller, and City Council on October 24, 2025.

Events

- Thursday, October 2 Bike the City
- Saturday, October 4 Walk to End Alzheimer's
- Monday, October 6 Chess Club
- Thursday, October 9 Pour & Paint
- Thursday, October 16 Trail Hike at Krueger Memorial Park
- Saturday, October 18 Boo at the Zoo
- Monday, October 20 Chess Club
- Saturday, November 1 Murder Mystery Dinner
- Monday, November 3 Chess Club
- Thursday, November 13 Pour & Paint
- Monday, November 17 Chess Club
- Monday, December 1 Chess Club
- Friday, December 5 Tree Lighting on Franklin & 7th Streets
- Saturday, December 6 Official Lighting of the Festival of Holiday Lights, Festival of
Lights Parade, Kindlmarket, and Chili Challenge

- Thursday, December 11 Pour & Paint
- Monday, December 15 Chess Club

Projects

Fedder's Alley Playground Project – Project Budget	\$5,000,000
• City Council ARPA Funding for Design and Engineering	\$ 260,000
• City Council ARPA Funding for Construction	\$ 750,000
• City Council Approved 2024 Budget	\$ 500,000
• Michigan City Redevelopment Commission	\$ 500,000
• 2024 Health Foundation of Laporte grant 10/01/24	\$ 500,000
○ \$250,000 awarded for long term maintenance fund	

• 2024 Congressman Mrvan Community Project Funds 03/09/24	\$ 1,000,000
• 2024 Duneland Health Council Grant 11/21/24	\$ 50,000
• Private Donations	\$ 2,362
• Mayor's Charitable Gala	\$ 25,000
• MCEDC Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 300,000
• Michigan City Human Rights Commission	\$ 200
TOTAL	\$ 3,887,561

- Professional Service Agreement for design and engineering with Hitchcock Design Group approved by Park Board on 10/24/22
- Professional Service Agreement Amendment 1 approved by Park Board on 12/04/24
- Construction scheduled for 2026/2027

Millennium Plaza Fountain Demolition

- Secured city funding 12/02/25 \$ 160,400
- Proposal for design and engineering will be presented to Park Board in January 2026

North Pointe Pavilion Concession Lease

- One proposal received on 12/17/25
- Proposal is under review.

Singings Sands Trail Phases III-A, C and D

- NIRPC Group II Funds \$8,169,938
- NIRPC READI Grant Funds \$1,324,960
- NIRPC RAISE Grand Funds \$ 822,708
- City Match Funds \$4,787,747
- Construction Scheduled in 2026/2027 \$1,234,523 (15%)

Wings of Wonder Exhibit

- Construction contract awarded to Larson-Danielson 12/17/25

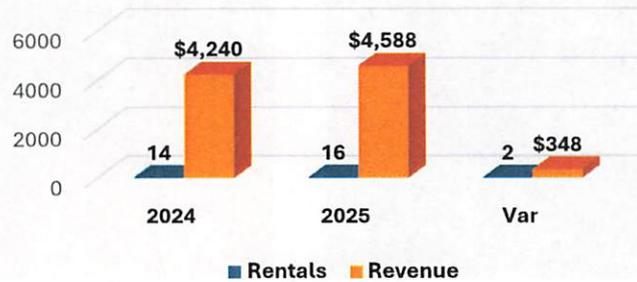
Rentals

- Memorial Hall
In 2024, there were 18 paid rentals and 1 free reservation. In 2025, there were 23 paid rentals and 15 free reservations.



- Senior Center

In 2024, there were 7 paid rentals and 7 free reservations. In 2025, there were 8 paid rentals and 8 free reservations.



Staff Development and Training

DATE	DEPT	EMPLOYEE	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
10/03/25	Maintenance	PatRick Voltz	Safety	MCM 5 Post Construction Training modules 1 - 5
10/03/25	Maintenance	PatRick Voltz	Safety	MCM 5 Good Housekeeping & Pollution Prevention modules 1-6
11/05/25	Maintenance	Chris Kaufman	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/05/25	Maintenance	PatRick Voltz	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/05/25	Zoo	Elizabeth Emerick	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/05/25	Zoo	Briana Stantz	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/05/25	Zoo	Megan Steinhauser	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/05/25	Zoo	Jessica Hart	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/05/25	Zoo	Melissa Moore	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
10/03/25	Admin	Shannon Eason	Safety	MCM 5 Post Construction Training modules 1, 2 & 5
10/03/25	Admin	Shannon Eason	Safety	MCM 5 Good Housekeeping & Pollution Prevention modules 1-6
11/19/25	Senior Center	Laura Steele	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/19/25	Senior Center	Laura Garbacik	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/19/25	Golf	Andrew Harrell	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/19/25	Golf	Paul Cornwell	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/19/25	Zoo	Shawne Sheldon	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/19/25	Zoo	Courtney Studniarz	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/19/25	Zoo	Jamie Huss	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/19/25	Zoo	Becky Dipert	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/19/25	Zoo	Dave Dipert	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/19/25	Zoo	Tracy George	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/19/25	Zoo	Amber Bogue	Safety	AED/CPR/First Aid Training - Tia Free - Fire training center
11/18, 11/19	Golf	Mike Moore	Professional Development	Toro NSN Lynx Training Level 1- Kenney Machinery

Recreation Department

Murder Mystery Party

Murder Mystery Dinner	2024	2025
Attendance	51	33
Revenue	\$3,524	\$1,007
Expenses	\$4,188	\$1,899
Total	(\$664)	(\$892)



Pour and Paint

Pour and Paint Attendance	2024	2025
November	N/A	16

In Q4, the October session did not sell enough tickets to have the event and did not schedule one in December to assist the Human Rights Commission with their painting event fundraiser.

Craft Corner

Craft Corner Attendance	2024	2025
October	N/A	27
November	N/A	35
December	N/A	22

Training

- Microsoft Copilot Training
- IPRA Conference

Committees

- Michigan City Area School Pillars Team
- Pillar Sub-Committee (Youth Sports)
- Michigan City Area Schools Ambassadors Program
- Coalition of Michigan City Youth's Leaders
- LCCVB Advisory Board
- YMCA Elston Branch Advisory Board
- BROS – youth mentoring group leader
- MC Juneteenth Celebration Committee

Social Involvement

- Michigan City High School Boys Basketball Coach

Innovation

- Automating Washington Park parking payments

Park Maintenance

Personnel

- 12 full-time employees
- 9 seasonal employees at the start; ended with 5 seasonal employees

Training

- Laporte County Leadership
- CPR/AED training

Events

- Assisted in setting up the Franklin Street "Trunk or Treat"
- Prepped designated area and restrooms for "Boo at the Zoo"
- Setup for Festival of Lights event at Washington Park and 7th Street Plaza

City Departments

- Picnic table delivery and removal for a program with the Fire Department
- Picnic table delivery and removal for a program with the Police Department
- Aided the Street Department with plowing city streets and alleys three times in Q4
- Aided with 7th Street Plaza for city tree removal
- Snow removal for Santa House setup and placement. Also helped get power into the Santa House.
- Participated in the Battle of the Mayers competition, helping Mayor Angie win against LaPorte's Mayor. The friendly competition was to raise funds in the Salvation Army bell-ringing Christmas fundraiser.

Parks

- Tiger teeth removal from the park exits

- Winterized all parks
- Light repairs at the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument near the entrance of Washington Park
- Put the pickleball equipment up for the winter
- Began leaf removal from all parks. Leaves started dropping late this year, leading to being covered with early snowfall.
- Installation of all Christmas lighting and displays in Washington Park
- Installation of all Christmas lighting, displays, Santa House, and photo op boards on 7th and Franklin Street

Special Projects

- Painted the inside of both restrooms in lot 1
- Worked with MCAS and had students come out to help decorate trees for the Festival of Lights
- Built two new Christmas displays in-house
- Built two new photo op boards to be located downtown for Christmas

Equipment

- Salt box installation on one of the park's dump trucks. Prepped and used way too early this year.
- Towed three damaged trucks from the back of the shop to add to the scrap pile at Central Maintenance
- Prepped plows for the season. Started plowing on November 10th and has been on and off for remainder of quarter.
- Two major plow repairs after the first big storm of the season

SAND REMOVAL (per hour)	Q4 2024	Q4 2025	VAR	COMMENTS
Clean up and removal	241	50	(191)	Switched over to snow clean up early this year and it continued until the end of year.
Beach Mats (set up/take down)	76	44	25	Bigger push to complete in Q3.
Winter Berm (fall)	35	187	152	Warm weather throughout Q3; waited until Q4 to start.
Level Berm (spring)	0	0	0	
Beach sanitizing	28	37	9	Warm weather early in Q4, leading to more visitors on beach, requiring more clean up.
TOTAL	380	318	(5)	
SNOW REMOVAL/SALTING	Q4 2024	Q4 2025	VAR	COMMENTS
snow removal/salting	0	441	441	First plowing was Nov 10th and has continued through entire quarter.

TRAILS UPKEEP (clearing, snow removal, inspection) - Labor Hours	Q4 2024	Q4 2025	VAR	COMMENTS
Bismarck Hill	32	8	(24)	Late leaf fall, followed by early snowfall.
Gardena Park	0	24	24	Increased hours due to walking path edging.
Hansen Park	2	0	(2)	Leaves did not fall until snowfall.
Karwick Nature Park	0	0	0	
Memorial Hall	40	24	(16)	Couldn't continue working on leaves after snowfall.
Ruby Woods	48	11	(37)	Late leaf fall, followed by early snowfall.
Patriot Park	0	0	0	
Singing Sands main to Oak Hills (added 3rd qtr. 2025)	0	6	6	
Singing Sands Peanut Bridge	36	6	(30)	New stand-up blower has saved significant time.
Singing Sands Waste Inc.	24	6	(18)	New stand-up blower has saved significant time.
Singing Sands Co Line to Amtrak	16	2	(14)	New stand-up blower has saved significant time.
Winding Creek Cove	20	6	(14)	New stand-up blower has saved significant time.
TOTAL	218	93	(125)	

YEAR 2025	Q4 2024	Q4 2025	VAR	COMMENTS
BANQUET TABLES Delivered/Picked Up	0	0	0	
BARRICADES Setup/Remove	25	15	(10)	Better job of getting ahead in Q3.
BOLLARD Replacement/Installation	0	0	0	
GARBAGE CANS Delivered/Picked Up	65	82	17	Within average for off season repairs / repaint.
GARBAGE Collect and Dispose of (yards)	210	90	(120)	Hard drop in visitors due to early snowfall.
ICE RINK Labor Hours	0	0	0	
MOVIE SCREEN Setup/Remove	1	1	0	
PICNIC TABLES Delivered/Picked Up	45	112	67	Increased due to aiding police and fire with community events and city programs on 7th ST. Also removed tables from farmers market.
RISERS Delivered/Picked Up	0	0	0	
SNOW FENCE Installation/Removal (linear feet)	0	0	0	
TENT Installation (10' x 20')	0	0	0	
MOWING (per hour)	Q4 2024	Q4 2025	VAR	COMMENTS
Adams Park	10	4	(6)	
Canada Park	0	3	3	
Carroll Avenue & Michigan Blvd	0	4	4	
City Hall (began in 2012)	8	4	(4)	
Emily Street (began in 2023)	0	7	7	
Gardena Park	0	28	28	
Hansen Park	0	4	4	
Henry Lake (began in 2023)	6	0	(6)	
Joe Hawkins Memorial Park	0	3	3	
Krueger Memorial Park	0	3	3	
Millennium Plaza and Old Lighthouse Museum	10	2	(8)	
Oak Hills Park	0	2	2	
Pullman Park	12	6	(6)	
Ridgeland Park	0	2	2	
Ruby Woods	0	0	0	
Tall Timbers	0	0	0	
Walker Street Park	0	4	4	
Washington Park	34	25	(9)	
Water Tower Park	0	3	3	
Westcott Park (began in 2012)	0	0	0	
Winding Creek Cove	0	3	3	
TOTAL	80	107	27	Parks with better soil grew later into the season until we got a hard switch to winter.

LEAVES (per hour)	Q4 2024	Q4 2025	VAR	COMMENTS
Adams Park	0	0	0	
Canada Park	4	4	0	
City Hall (began in 2012)	10	1	(9)	City Hall maintenance pile was smaller this year.
Emily Street	0	0	0	
Gardena Park	94	34	(60)	Later start on leaves due to weather/snowfall.
Hansen Park	32	4	(28)	
Henry Lake	0	0	0	
Jernegan's Hill	0	0	0	
Joe Hawkins Memorial Park	10	8	(2)	
Krueger Memorial Park	123	32	(91)	
Millennium Plaza and Old Lighthouse Museum	20	0	(20)	
Oak Hills Park	42	7	(35)	
Patriot Park	0	0	0	
Ridgeland Park	0	0	0	
Ruby Woods	4	0	(4)	
Tall Timbers	12	7	(5)	
Walker Street Park	16	6	(10)	
Washington Park	16	12	(4)	
Water Tower Park	164	10	(154)	
Westcott Park (began in 2012)	9	4	(5)	
Winding Creek Cove	556	2	(554)	
TOTAL	1112	131	(981)	Later start on leaves due to weather than covered in snow. This applies for all areas of leaves.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS (per hour)	4th 2024	Q4 2025	VAR	COMMENTS
Repairs - Labor Hours	106	242	136	Additional work at 7th St. Plaza. Two photo-op boards and two Xmas displays were made in-house.
Installation - Labor Hours	1,100	960	(140)	Earlier start in Q3 due to better planning.
Electric Installation - Labor Hours	12	10	(2)	Worked on electrical improvements all summer. There is less work to hook up displays now.
Breakdown - Labor Hours	0	0	0	
TOTAL	1,218	1212	(6)	

Golf Pro Shop

General Updates

- Dangerous tree removal from both courses with grant funding received through the Michigan City Tree Board
 - North Course – 14 trees
 - South Course – 39 trees
- Cleaned and winterized both pro shops

Financial Report

4th Quarter

REVENUE	2024	2025	Var	Var %
4th Quarter	\$169,778	\$89,391	(80,387)	-47%
EXPENSE	2024	2025	Var	Var %
01 Personal Services	\$151,431	\$159,500	8,070	5%
02 Supplies	\$62,139	\$57,209	(4,930)	-8%
03 Services	\$40,959	\$207,747	166,788	407%
Total Expense	\$254,529	\$424,456	169,927	67%
NET	(\$84,751)	(\$335,065)	(250,314)	295%

OUTINGS	2024	2025	Var	Var %
North Course Players	0	0	0	0%
North Course Revenue	\$0	\$0	0	0%
South Course Players	256	120	(136)	-53%
South Course Revenue	\$8,615	\$4,275	(\$4,340)	-50%
Total Players	256	120	(136)	-53%
Total Revenue	\$8,615	\$4,275	(\$4,340)	-50%

2024 data is not verifiable due to issues in the POS system. For comparison, 2023 to 2025 variances shown in the reports below.

CART RENTAL	2023	2025	Var	Var %
North Course Rentals	460	567	107	23%
North Course Revenue	\$4,453	\$6,491	2,038	46%
South Course Rentals	1,324	1,971	647	49%
South Course Revenue	\$19,546	\$28,496	8,950	46%
Total Rentals	1,784	2,538	754	42%
Total Revenue	\$24,000	\$34,987	10,987	46%

CONCESSIONS	2023	2025	Var	Var %
Food/Beverage	\$2,674	\$3,316	642	24%
Alcohol	\$3,462	\$4,215	753	22%
Total Concessions	\$6,136	\$7,531	1,395	23%

MERCHANDISE	2023	2025	Var	Var %
Gross Sales	\$5,672	\$5,789	117	2%
COGS	\$4,734	\$5,199	465	10%
Net Profit	\$938	\$590	(348)	-37%

ROUNDS	2023	2025	Var	Var %
North Course Rounds	663	796	133	20%
North Course Revenue	\$5,068	\$12,559	7,491	148%
South Course Rounds	1997	2208	211	11%
South Course Revenue	\$15,553	\$30,106	14,553	94%
Total Rounds	2,660	3,004	344	13%
Total Revenue	\$20,621	\$42,665	22,044	107%

Golf Maintenance

Course Maintenance

- Halted leaf removal early on both courses due to snow and will be completed in the spring

South Course (Oct)	
Maintenance type	Amount/week
Mowed Greens	5
Mowed Tees & Collars	2
Mow Fairways	3
Mow Rough	3
Rake Bunkers	1
Change Cup Locations	2

North Course (Oct)	
Maintenance type	Amount/week
Mowed Greens	5
Mowed Tees & Collars	1
Mow Fairways	3
Mow Rough	2
Rake Bunkers	1
Change Cup Locations	1

South Course (Nov)	
Maintenance type	Amount/week
Mowed Greens	3
Mowed Tees & Collars	1
Mow Fairways	2
Mow Rough	n/a
Rake Bunkers	n/a
Change Cup Locations	2

North Course (Nov)	
Maintenance type	Amount/week
Mowed Greens	3
Mowed Tees & Collars	1
Mow Fairways	2
Mow Rough	n/a
Rake Bunkers	n/a
Change Cup Locations	1

Training

- Greens Superintendent, Mychal Moore, completed the Toro NSN Lynx level 1 Central Control Software Training on November 18th and 19th at Kenney Machinery in Indianapolis, IN.

Special Projects

- North Course tees were aerified and seeded on October 16th
- Homer Tree Service removed dead and damaged trees from both golf courses on December 15th
- Liebold Irrigation completed the satellite upgrade for both courses on October 9th. The project included replacing 23 satellites (17 on the South Course and 6 on the North Course) and installing a new central computer located in the maintenance building. The project took a total of 3 days.

Winterization

- The Water Department shut the water off on November 13th to the North Course clubhouse, North Course pump station, and the South Course comfort station located on hole #6. Blown out the water lines and added RV antifreeze to the fixtures at all locations to keep from freezing during the winter.

Weather

RAIN FALL (in inches)	2024	2025	Var	Var %
October	2.40	3.40	1.00	24%
November	3.50	1.90	-1.60	-14%
December	2.10	0.75	-1.35	-61%
Total	8.00	5.95	-2.05	-26%

Irrigation

- Winterized South Course irrigation on November 20th
- Winterized North Course irrigation on November 14th
- Winterized both North and South Course's pump stations on December 1st

IRRIGATION (in gallons)	2024	2025	Var	Var %
North Course	771,422	1,182,000	410,578	16%
South Course	1,025,000	2,800,000	1,775,000	31%
Total	1,796,422	3,982,000	2,185,578	26%

Golf Courses Closing Dates

- North Course closed for the season on November 2nd
- South Course closed for the season on December 2nd

Senior Center

Personnel

- One Full-Time Director
- Two Part-Time Assistant Directors

Membership

4th Quarter	2024	2025	VAR	VAR %
Members				
Men	497	470	(27)	-5%
Women	1,065	1,002	(63)	-6%
Other	0	0	0	0%
Total Members	1,562	1,472	(90)	-6%
New Members	48	48	0	0%
Volunteer Hours				
Senior Center	2,083	*2,138	55	3%
Attendance				
Events	4,447	*1,427	(3,020)	-68%
Day Trips	0	39	39	100%

* Our numbers for 4th quarter are lower than they would normally be due to no database access for all of Oct, Nov & ½ of Dec.

Programs and Events

Oct 2	North Shore Health Free Blood Pressure Checks
Oct 2	The South Shore Seniors Investment Club monthly meeting.
Oct 3-5	ACBL Bridge Tournament. Over 100 people in attendance
Oct 6	Hearing Evaluations (free)
Oct 8, 15, 22, 29	"Life Memories Matter" autobiography writing class. 7 attendees
Oct 9	Trivia Challenge. 13 teams vied for bragging rights.
Oct 14	Advisory Board Meeting
Oct 15	French Club
Oct 15	39 members took a bus trip through First Travel to Blue Gate Theatre to see "The Rise & Fall of Miss Fannie's Biscuits"
Oct 23	Newsletter monthly meeting.
Oct 23	Soup Day! We sold out of 5 stock pots of creamy chicken noodle.
Oct 27	Popcorn & A Movie- 6 attendees
Oct 28	Coffee with the Mayor- 16 members attended
Oct 28	Monthly Card Making with Jamie- 15 attendees
Oct 31	Halloween Party featuring live music from Blue Sky Music- 30 attendees enjoyed light hors d'oeuvres and dancing.
Nov 3	Hearing Evaluations (free)
Nov 5, 12, 19	"Life Memories Matter" autobiography writing class- 7 attendees
Nov 6	North Shore Health Free Blood Pressure Checks
Nov 6	The South Shore Seniors Investment Club monthly meeting
Nov 13	Thanksgiving Dinner held for members- 141 tickets sold
Nov 18	Advisory Board Meeting
Nov 19	Soup Day sells out again this time of Creamy & Cheesy Broccoli
Nov 19	French Club
Nov 24	Popcorn & A Movie had a small attendance.

Nov 25	Coffee with the Mayor- 15 members attended
Nov 25	Monthly Card Making with Jamie- approximately 13 attendees
Nov 26	Our monthly group of volunteers for the newsletter met.
Dec 1	Hearing Evaluations (free)
Dec 2, 18	Massage Therapy- licensed massage therapist offers members a 10-minute massage for \$10.
Dec 4	The South Shore Seniors Investment Club monthly meeting
Dec 9	The Senior Center Advisory Board monthly meeting
Dec 10	Red Hat Society held their annual Christmas Party- 36 attendees
Dec 11	North Shore Health Free Blood Pressure Checks
Dec 12	Over 100 members gathered to celebrate Christmas enjoying a potluck meal and gift exchange with live music provided by our own member Steve Kowalczyk on accordion.
Dec 16	Soup Day- Chicken & Drop Dumpling and Creamy Chicken & Noodle.
Dec 16, 23	A new class, "Chair Zumba" offered in the afternoons- 6 attendees
Dec 17	French Club Meeting
Dec 23	Newsletter monthly meeting.
Dec 29	Popcorn & A Movie- 5-6 attendees
Dec 30	Monthly Card Making with Jamie- 16 attendees

Marketing Report

- Press releases

Challenges

- Encouraging existing members to take advantage of the events offered to give them the most enjoyment out of their membership

2026 Goals

- Continue to add exciting programs that will encourage seniors to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle
- Maintain the number of facility rentals to provide continuous, reliable funding using the non-reverting fund for building maintenance
- Continue to provide marketing support to the Parks & Recreation Department
- Focus on educational opportunities for the seniors
- Focus on technology for seniors
- Continue pursuing remodeling/updating efforts for the MC Senior Center

Washington Park Zoo

Education

- The director attended a Michigan City Community Enrichment Corporation meeting to present projects that have taken place since our last report, and those planned for the next year. We received a \$100,000 check for the 2026 endowment fund.
- All staff members successfully completed CPR and First-Aid training
- The director renewed her professional memberships to the AZA and ZAA

Special Events

October:

- Boo at the Zoo went as planned on October 18th, and spirits stayed high! Attendance was lower than in past year due to the forecast and other trunk-or-treat options in the community. We are so thankful to the local businesses, clubs, and organizations that sponsor our candy stations and help create lasting memories for all our guests.
- Marsh Elementary second grade showed wonderful generosity by collecting and donating pumpkins from Coulter's Pumpkin Patch for our animals! This fun experience gave the students a chance to give back to the community and learn how to repurpose in a meaningful way.
- An incredible crew of Old Navy employees volunteered and helped prep the tropical bird house during the winter. We are grateful for their continued support, time, and hard work.
- Scout Troop #929 volunteered to take down our Halloween displays this season as part of their badge requirements. We deeply appreciate their teamwork and willingness to help.

November:

- Holiday light displays were set on the perimeter fence alongside Lakeshore Drive so we could participate in the Washington Park holiday lights event

December:

- Staff decorated our float entry in the Michigan City Snowflake Parade. We had planned to participate in the LaPorte Santa Parade as well, but the event was cancelled due to the weather.



Kids enjoying the Boo at the Zoo experience by dressing up and trick-or-treating around the zoo



Second grade students from Marsh Elementary donating pumpkins collected from Coulter's Pumpkin Patch the animals



Group of Old Navy Employees helping with winterizing the tropical bird house



Zoo's Float entry for the 2025 Snowflake Parade, held on Saturday, December 6th, 2025

Attendance

Month	2024	2025	Variance
October	6437	6416	(21)
November	1103	909	(194)
December	159	0	(159)
Total	7699	7325	(374)

Capital Improvements and General Updates

October:

- GAF granted \$5,000 for exhibit improvements

- Annual winterization projects began, including leaf removal and water line blowouts
- Field trip reservations continued throughout October and remained available until November

November:

- The maintenance crew installed water faucets in the capybara and alligator yards, a long-awaited project. The successful installation will save our keepers time during daily care and eliminate the need to run hoses across public walkways.
- The retail manager attended annual gift shows in Tennessee and Baltimore to leverage wholesale bulk purchasing for the 2026 season
- The director attended the Michigan City Exchange Club meeting to deliver an update on recent accomplishments and upcoming initiatives
- The Michiana Bird Society decided to dissolve its club due to declining membership. Nevertheless, the society generously contributed its remaining charter funds to the zoo's upper aviary improvement project.

December:

- Installation of recycled fire hose door flaps onto the access doors for animals who have outdoor winter access to hopefully save heating costs
- The Wings of Wonder renovation project bid awarded by the Park Board to Larson-Danielson
- Seven trees were removed from the grounds under the city-wide forestry program
- Staff started to disassemble reusable supplies of the Wings of Wonder exhibit
- Furnace issue repaired in the Jungle Building by Stephany Heating
- Installation of four new tires on the van, donated by De Vires Tire Company
- Closed for the season on December 5th, 2025
- We received a \$95,000 grant from the Otto and Margaret Zack Charitable Trust, helping with various projects, like upgrading Diet Kitchen backup generator, enhancements of exhibits, and purchasing of animal care supplies

Animal Acquisitions/Dispositions

October:

Acquired	Peacock	Stray Animal Intake
Acquired	Tortoise	Donation
Acquired	Ferret	Donation

November:

Death	Chicken	Cancer Mass
Death	Chicken	Egg Bound Complications
Death	Axolotl	Inconclusive
Death	Mexican Alligator Lizard	Advance Age Failure

December:

Death	Ferret	Adrenal Carcinoma
Death	Cockatiel	Fatty Liver Disease