

<http://www.journalgazette.net/article/20141010/LOCAL/310109914/1002/LOCAL>

# journalgazette.net

The Journal Gazette, 800 W. Main St., Fort Wayne IN

## Five-year plan for city trees approved

### Parks board also OKs stewardship policy

Dave Gong | The Journal Gazette

Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation has a new plan for adding to, improving and maintaining the city's trees.

During its meeting Thursday, the Fort Wayne Board of Parks Commissioners approved a five-year plan called Shading Our City: Urban Forest Management Plan.

The plan is a joint endeavor that Chad Tinkel, superintendent of urban forestry and city arborist, said involves engineering resources from downtown Fort Wayne, the city landscape architect and the Department of Community Development.

"We all have to work together in the long run," Tinkel said. "So we wanted input from the different divisions."

The plan focuses on four components: maintaining and protecting existing trees; planting more and diversifying the species of trees throughout the city; monitoring and documenting trees that are planted and removed; and sustainability and management.

The city lost about 17,000 trees since the emerald ash borer – a beetle native to Asia that kills ash trees – was introduced to Indiana in 2004.

Since then, Tinkel said, the parks department has replaced about 10,000 trees.

Surviving ash trees have been treated for protection against the emerald ash borer, Tinkel said. About 97 percent of the treated trees treated are flourishing, he said.

Information about the plan will be available soon at [www.fortwayneparks.org](http://www.fortwayneparks.org), Tinkel said.

In other business, plans for the site of the soon-to-be-demolished Franklin School are progressing, as well, parks director Al Moll said Thursday.

A park featuring a heated pavilion, an area for outdoor events, a splash pad for children and plenty of green space is planned for the area.

All of the ideas for the park and its features are purely conceptual at this time, Moll said, because the department still has to determine the overall cost of the project.

Parks and Recreation has about \$400,000 to put toward the park.

"Hopefully, we can break ground on this in 2015, at least with the dollars we have," Moll said. "And we'll determine other funding sources as we move forward."

The board also approved the Stewardship of Public Land policy, which governs the sale of park-owned land for private use.

dgong@jg.net

© Copyright 2014 The Journal Gazette. All rights reserved. Neither this material nor its presentation may be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.