

Thanks to the public support from the Friends of the Parks, Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation is well on its way to restoring a beloved historic picnic pavilion at Foster Park. This project is innovative and transformative:

The run down 1930's era stone pavilion on the banks of St. Marys River was built as a quiet and lovely place to picnic – under the shade of huge oak trees and near the river – a place to view wildlife and enjoy the solitude of nature. With restoration and forest management to make the pavilion more visible from Foster West and also from the east side of Foster Park, we have a historic feature that is extremely unique to the area. While many CCC-era pavilions are still standing in northern Indiana, none have the unique features of outdoor fire pits, a shake roof and open vistas of the river. The original structure will be used, and the department will maintain its original design. However, rotted timbers and roofing, as well as windows and flooring will be replaced in the style of the original design.

Physical improvements - By transforming unused area of a major park in a densely populated urban area, we will be providing more recreational opportunities for community and park users. By making this area of Foster Park a destination for extended use, we also create a close-to-home experience for users of this regional park. By upgrading the recreational infrastructure to this popular park, we will be providing a significantly enhanced experience for a crowded area of Fort Wayne.

- **Connectivity/Accessibility:** provide trail connections from Waynedale Trails on the west side of Winchester Road through the Foster West, connecting new woodland trail on the east side of the river to the Greenway and Fort Wayne Trails throughout Fort Wayne (making more pedestrian/cyclist-friendly).
- **New features:** create a connection through the woods of Foster Park with a path overlooking the river, where nature lovers can view birds and more.
- **Renovate:** and improve the 1930's CCC-era picnic pavilion, restoring fire pits, making the structure (that had fallen into disrepair decades ago) sound with a new roof, structural integrity
- **Remove Invasives:** significant undergrowth isolates this picnic sites. Therefore invasive species and specific trees will be removed to create a vista view of the St. Marys River.