



EVANSVILLE PARKS FOUNDATION

Newsletter – Fall 2026

10th Annual Music in the Park

We just completed our 10th year of hosting Music in the Park in many city parks across Evansville. This year we featured Franklin Street Library Park, Akin Park, Garvin Park, Igleheart Park, Vann Park and Wesselman Park. With the help of our corporate sponsors, we raised more than \$15,000. This money will be used to help support ongoing projects and improvements in our parks along with supporting other local non-profits who provide outreach and programming for our youth.

We would like to extend a special thank you to our Music in the Park sponsors for 2026 –

Diamond Valley Federal Credit Union
Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library
Berger Wren Group at Baird

Amcor

ARC Construction

Banterra Bank

Evansville Department of Parks & Recreation

Garmon Construction

IBEW Local 16

Kemper CPA Group

Koch Foundation

Mesker Family Trust



TRANSFORMING OUR PARKS



Indiana's largest splash pad opened on September 20 at Igleheart Park on Evansville's north side.

Monies raised from a spring fundraiser were used to provide the shade structures, park benches and Red Bud trees featured throughout this project. The Splash Park features multiple interactive water elements that can be enjoyed by children of all ages.

The next phase of this project will be to raise money to install a new playground on this site. Visit our website to learn more and to make your donation today.

Save the Dates

Mark your calendar now for these upcoming dates

Capital Campaign Kick Off –
Igleheart Park Playground Project
November 2026

Spring Grant Cycle 2027
Grant cycle opens January 1
Grant cycle closes March 1
Grant recipients awarded April 14

Garden Party
Igleheart Gardens
Thursday, April 29, 2027

Music in the Park 2027
park locations TBD
June 10
June 24
July 8
July 22
August 5
August 19

Fall Grant Cycle 2027
Grant cycle opens June 1
Grant cycle closes August 1
Grant recipients awarded
September 8

Evansville 812 Day Event
August 12, 2027
location TBD

A letter from our Board President, Chris Piekos:

I'm very happy with the progress the Evansville Parks Foundation has made so far in 2026!

In April, we held a successful Garden Party, raising funds to support enhancements at Igleheart Park, including umbrellas, benches, trees, and other amenities.

We are also very close to completing our initiative to replace the signs in every Evansville park. We currently have just four park signs still available for sponsorship at \$3,750 each:
Available Park Signs

- Olmstead
- Anthony Oates
- West Side Nut Club
- Casselberry

We are continuing our efforts to enhance Igleheart Park as well. Our next major initiative is to raise funds for a new playground at Igleheart Park. We are excited about this next project and the impact it will have on families and children in our community.

If you would like to sponsor a park sign or donate to the Igleheart Playground project, please contact us at evansvilleparksfoundation@gmail.com or visit the Evansville Parks Foundation website.

Thank you for your continued support of Evansville's parks!

Regards,
Chris Piekos
President
Evansville Parks Foundation



In early 2026 we started a capital campaign to replace all 42 city park signs. With the help of many community members and corporations, we were able to raise more than \$150,000 to replace many of the signs and add beautiful landscaping to each one. At the time of this newsletter's release, we still have a few signs available for sponsorship.



Congratulations to the recipients of our 2026 Fall grant cycle. Watch for the next grant cycle coming next spring!

🌳 Congrats to Jacobsville Area Community Corporation for your grant to help humanely disperse geese around the lake at Garvin Park. JACC plans to implement a humane goose-deterrence and walkway-cleanliness pilot at Garvin Park Lake. Funding will purchase a floating Gander Disbander system to discourage geese from congregating around the lake and provide volunteers with equipment to remove goose droppings and other debris from heavily used sidewalks.

🌳 Congrats to Howell Par 3, Miniature Golf, and Shelter for their grant to replace park style benches that are located at each tee box on Howell Par 3 nine-hole golf course and the Howell Miniature Golf Course. The benches would be used by the players or the those watching the players. Currently, there are park benches that are beyond their length of life and need to be replaced



Attendees had a great time at the first annual Garden Party at Igleheart Gardens. Next year's event will be held on Thursday, April 29. Auction proceeds will benefit the new playground structure at Igleheart Park on North First Avenue. Tickets for this event will go on sale in early 2027.

The Evansville Parks Foundation, Inc is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to improving, protecting, and revitalizing Evansville's parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities for everyone.

www.evansvilleparksfoundation.org
Contact us: evansvilleparksfoundation@gmail.com