EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

PARKS & RECREATION Where Adventures Begin!

City of East Chicago
Hope & Progress
INDIANA

FIREWORKS EXTRAVAGANZA

Let's celebrate Independence Day remotely! Step outside your home around **9:30 p.m. Saturday, July 3** and look to the sky in recognition of this special day.

For best viewing, look to these spots:

- ★ Carrie Gosch School
- ★ Central High School
- ★ East Chicago Fire Station on Michigan
- ★ Joseph L. Block Middle School
- ★ Kosciuzko Park

Mayor Anthony Copeland wishes everyone a Happy Independence Day!

INFO: Please visit **www.eastchicago.com** for updates!



ENJOY NATURE'S BEAUTY AND AMAZING ART

Have you noticed: East Chicago is in the green. Our trees are leafing. Our bushes are flowering.

I encourage all residents to make a resolution to enjoy the contemplative green spaces as well as the recreation and fitness opportunities afforded at each city park as often as they can.

It's incredible when you think about it – 20 unique green spaces that beckon us to explore and enjoy with an open invitation to come back.

News this summer: the final tree sculpture is scheduled for completion while we continue adding "Art in the Parks" with the Phase II expansion. The sculptures crafted from dead and dying ash trees are a focal point from residents and visitors alike.

As your mayor, I embrace the notion that our country's most progressive cities emphasize the arts. Wherever our children look, I want them to see the beauty of nature and the sculptures we are placing strategically with nature's bounty.

Monarchs with Light is my new favorite. These real-life butterflies light up weather maps in the fall when they migrate south in numbers thanks to preservation efforts.

We are also beautifying other spaces like the roundabouts and the Kenny Lofton Baseball Complex, home of East Chicago Harbor Little League for the last 52 years.

New ball fields at the complex that bear his name were Kenny's gift to the children of East Chicago. The mural – just completed by the very talented Marco Salazar – is our gift to him. Thank you, Kenny!

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago



PARK TRAILS & AMENITIES







In addition to regional and city-based trails, the local park scene boasts new playground and exercise equipment as well as volleyball courts, baseball and softball fields, cypress gardens and beautiful artwork . [Steve Segura photos]

GREENWAY LINKS CITY TO CHICAGO AND MICHIGAN

Brush is being cleared on the south side of Kosciuszko Park in preparation for the next expansion of recreational greenspace in East Chicago.

The city is working in concert with other Lake Michigan communities to create the regional Marquette Greenway — an uninterrupted series of trails from Chicago to the Michigan state line created expressly for walkers and bicyclists.

Engineering Manager William Allen said the first leg in East Chicago will be completed in 2022 at a cost of $1.15 million. The city will shoulder about $850,000 of the cost while a $250,000 grant will pay the rest.

That first leg will connect with the Hammond trail at White Oak just south of Kosciuszko Park and include a half mile of paved trail, parking, sidewalk and drainage.

Parks and Recreation Director Vanessa Hernandez-Orange said the city is eagerly anticipating the benefits of being part of the regional project.

“Our city-based trails at Washington, Riley, Roxana, Marktown, Tod, Kosciuszko and Sunny Side parks are stand-alone walking and bicycle paths,” she said. “When the Marquette Greenway is complete, our residents will be able to start in East Chicago and follow the lake to downtown Chicago and to our neighbors in Michigan.”



MACARTHUR GOLF COURSE







MacArthur amenities include a miniature golf course with some nice challenges for all ages and a world-class batting cage with various speeds for beginners or accomplished baseball players. Both have nominal fees. [Steve Segura photos]

BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS AFTER UPGRADES

As the city moves to the next phase of pandemic recovery — from closed to cautious — the nets are back on the hoops, while batting cages are being prepared to chuck out balls to eager players looking to perfect their swing later this month.

At the same time, thousands of dimpled orbs are taking flight at MacArthur's golf course and driving range. The hope: balls will stay on the ground at the mini-golf when the retooled course reopens later this year boasting a host of new challenges.

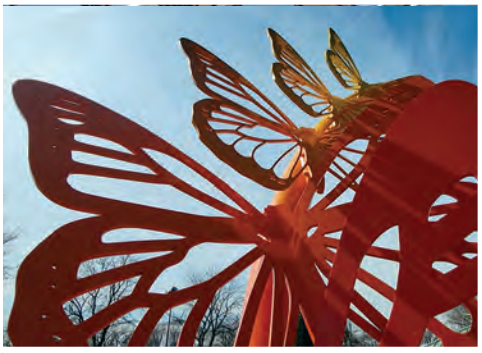
That's not all that's new at MacArthur. Parks and Recreation Director Vanessa Hernandez-Orange said the city took advantage of the pandemic to complete upgrades at the batting cages and construction of a new gazebo, which is available for rental as the perfect setting for your next event – or wedding.

The new and improved amenities at MacArthur provide family activities that complement the ever-popular nine-hole golf course.

"The community has been watching the construction on improvements they have been requesting," Hernandez-Orange said. "The parks connect our neighbors and neighborhoods. Our residents can't wait to get in there and try everything out. Neither can we."



ART IN THE PARK







Park sculptures include Monarchs with Light at Kosciusko (top), the Monarch Colorful Butterfly at Sunnyside (bottom left) as well as the I Love My City interactive heart (middle) and Hands around Globe (right) at Tod Pak. [Steve Segura photos]

PARK SCULPTURES COMPLEMENT NATURE'S BEAUTY

Ask residents about East Chicago parks and they will talk about their serenity and natural beauty. Others will talk about the colorful amenities that make outdoor play inevitable. Today, they are talking about the sizzle — the pops of unique art that wow.

The newest public offering is Monarchs with Light sculpture at Kosciusko Park, a nod to the eastern flight path of the magical butterflies that pass through East Chicago during their migration to Mexico.

"This sculpture was born out of the idea of the city's Monarch Festival," Mayor Anthony Copeland said. "It projects beauty both during the day and night."

Art in the Park began several years ago with sculptures rented from the Chicago Art Company. That was followed by a decision to keep dying ash trees a few years longer by allowing national sculptors to use the remaining tree trunks as a blank canvas for their next work of art. Three years after the project began, there is a plan to complete the trees this year.

These works of art will not be the last.

"Our children can look at what they see in our parks that someone created and it can inspire them," Copeland said. "These works of art are for our children – and adults alike. You're never too old to dream."



WASHINGTON PARK GREENHOUSE







The greenhouse will offer tours this summer, but they are limited to five people at a time. Masks required. Residents also may purchase flowers, herbs, plants and trees during the plant sale – while supplies last. [Steve Segura photos]

EAST CHICAGO GREENHOUSE IS CITY'S HIDDEN GEM

Whether it's the lettuces and tomatoes growing tall in their watery habitat or pallets of flowers prepped and waiting to beautify a summer porch, the greenhouses at Washington Park are a hub for residents.

Parks and Recreation Director Vanessa Hernandez-Orange said there is a bright next chapter for the greenhouses, which are nearly 90 years old.

"Until Mayor Copeland, most of us thought the greenhouses would be torn down," Hernandez-Orange said. "He looked at that recommendation and decided to give them new life. That decision is providing fresh produce for our residents and a beautiful place to wander among the plants no matter what the season. We are fortunate to have something so special."

By the end of 2018, the city had spent $400,000 to restore the greenhouses and launch a sustainable produce program based on a Ball State model that is managed under the watchful eye of the Parks and Recreation Department. Their companions: an army of lake perch that provide fertilizer for the plants to grow.

"The fresh produce has been a blessing," she said of the only municipal hydroponic greenhouse. "Without vegetables provided free-of-charge, many East Chicago residents would be forced to go without."

EAST CHICAGO PARKS

In the city that measures about 16 square miles, more than 150 acres has been dedicated to parks from its earliest days. East Chicago was blessed with founders who understood the value of greenspace amid the hustle and bustle of industry and city blocks crammed with small lots and big families.

BLOCK STADIUM
144th and Parrish Avenue

CALLAHAN PARK
138th and Alder Street

EDWARD VALVE PLAYGROUND
143rd and Homerlee Avenue

JACKSON MEMORIAL (CAREY) PARK
140th and Carey Street

JEORSE PARK BEACH
3301 Aldis Avenue

KENNY LOFTON BASEBALL COMPLEX
144th and Elm Street

KENNEDY-JONES PARK
149th and Kennedy

KOSCIUSZKO PARK
151st and Indianapolis

LINEAR PARK
Guthrie Street

MACARTHUR GOLF COURSE
139th and Indianapolis

MARKTOWN PARK
Broad Street and Pine Avenue

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK
4802 Melville Avenue

NUNEZ PARK
136th Elm Street

RILEY PARK
Chicago and Grasselli avenues

ROXANA PLAYGROUND
Roxana Drive and White Oak

SMITH PARK
140th and Alexander Avenue

SUNNYSIDE PARK
141st and Grace Street

TOD PARK
140th and Indianapolis

VETERAN'S PARK
4525 Indianapolis Boulevard

WASHINGTON PARK
142nd and Parrish Avenue

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HOME DECORATING CONTEST

Here are the contest rules ...

- ★ Participation is open to all East Chicago residents.
- ★ Display American-colored themes, flags, banners, bunting, etc.
- ★ Entry form must be received by 3 p.m. Tuesday, **JUNE 22** at Parks and Recreation, 1615 E. 142nd St.
- ★ House must be decorated by Friday, **JUNE 25**.
- ★ Judging will be Tuesday, **JUNE 29** and Wednesday, **JUNE 30**.
- ★ Winners will be announced **JULY 2**.

HOW TO ENTER: Complete an entry form at **www.eastchicago.com** or register at the Park & Recreation Office. Participants can pick up a special poster at the Parks & Recreation Department that shows your home is part of the contest.

QUESTIONS? Call Parks & Recreation at (219) 391-8474.