



# Fort Wayne

## 100+ Free Things to Do

Looking for free fun in Fort Wayne this summer? We've compiled the list of all the free things you can do this summer!

1. Catch a free outdoor family-friendly film every Wednesday night all summer long at the [Foellinger Theatre Summer Movie Series](#).
2. Bike the [Rivergreenway Trail](#), a 25-mile long linear park that runs along the riverbanks of the St. Joseph, St. Marys and Maumee Rivers. The Rivergreenway traverses the city, connecting to 15 city parks!
3. Browse the newest exhibit at the [Fort Wayne Museum of Art](#) with free admission on Thursdays from 5-8 p.m.
4. Listen to great local music at a [Friday Nites Live](#) concert every Friday of the summer from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m at Jefferson Pointe.
5. - 18. Uncover great local food at 14 [farmers markets](#) open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays! Explore [visitfortwayne.com/farmersmarkets](#) for times.
19. Hear a free concert at [Rock the Plaza](#) on the Downtown Library Campus every Saturday night at 6 p.m.
20. Celebrate the street performer at [Buskerfest](#) on June 24 from 4 - 10 p.m. on Wayne and Calhoun Streets.
21. Explore [Kids Crossing](#), [Taylor's Dream](#) and our 53 other playgrounds.
22. Browse the U.S.'s [largest public genealogy collection](#) at the Allen County Public Library Downtown.
- 23-31. Make a [splash](#) at one of Fort Wayne's 9 Splash Pads: Buckner, Kreager, Shoaff, Memorial, McCormick, Waynedale, Headwaters, Robert E. Meyers or Franklin Park (coming soon).
32. Examine historical documents at the [Karpeles Museum](#).
33. Browse antiques at any one of the local [antique shops](#).
34. Browse the ever-changing exhibits at [Artlink Contemporary Gallery](#).
35. Stroll the sacred at the [Cathedral Museum and Bookstore](#).
36. Catch one of the many events like the parade, bed races, children's fest and more at the week-long [Three Rivers Festival](#) from July 7 - 15.



37. Grab lunch at your favorite local restaurant or food truck and enjoy a free concert and other events at [Lunch on the Plaza](#) at Freimann Square every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
38. Enjoy artwork in a beautiful setting at [Castle Gallery](#) located in the beautiful historic West Central Neighborhood (closed Sundays and Mondays).
39. Explore the [Allen County Public Library](#) - one of the best in the nation! Kids love the downtown branch, complete with reading nooks, aquariums, a toddler play area and free programming all summer long.
40. Soak in the history at the [Old Fort](#); the grounds are open to visitors every day with special programming monthly.
41. Tour the [Little River Wetlands](#) sites to see native plants and animals.
42. Visit the [Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society](#) and hop aboard one of the last operating steam locomotives in the world: Nickel Plate Road No. 765. Open Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 - 4 p.m.
43. Shop the [Paradigm Gallery](#) at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art or join them for 2nd Thursdays (on the second Thursday of every month), a unique experience featuring demonstrations and designer trunk shows from Paradigm Artists. (Free admission, cash bar, light edibles)
44. Go [stargazing](#) with the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society on Saturday nights one hour after sunset and continuing for two hours at Jefferson Township Park.
45. Shop in the sun and throw pennies in the fountain at [Jefferson Pointe](#).
46. Celebrate diversity at the Fort Wayne [Pride Festival](#) on July 21 - 22 at Headwaters Park.
47. Check out the free events like [Jazz Jam](#) (every first Thursday of the month) or just take a tour at Sweetwater Sound, one of the nation's leading musical instrument and sound retailers.
48. Attend one of the Fort Wayne Youtheatre's free [Storybook Theatre](#) shows throughout the summer. Their next performance is June 3 at the PBS Explorer Fair.
49. Roam the [St. Joe Pickle Festival](#) from July 20 - 21.
50. Enjoy shopping and the free indoor play area at [Glenbrook Mall](#).
51. Immerse in the arts culture with 70 live performances of theatre, music and dance on 10 stages, Fort Artisan Arts Fair, hands-on activities, Buskers around the fountain and all day artists markets at the [Taste of the Arts](#) on August 25 and 26 at the Downtown Arts Campus.
52. Delight your taste buds at [BBQ RibFest](#) at Headwaters Park with free admission until 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 15 - Saturday, June 17 and all day Sunday.
53. Browse the fine art at [Orchard Gallery](#).
54. Celebrate Independence Day with free Fourth of July fireworks.
55. Tour the Amish community in [Grabill, Indiana](#).
56. Celebrate Greek culture, cuisine and entertainment at [Greekfest](#) at Headwaters Park June 22 - 25 with free admission after 4 p.m. and all day Sunday.

57. Take the kids out to [eat for free](#) at one of the many restaurants where kids eat free.
58. Visit the breathtaking [Allen County Courthouse](#) (cell phones and cameras not admitted). Group tours available by appointment Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or you can take the [self-guided tour](#).
59. Explore southwest Fort Wayne on the 18 miles of hilly [Aboite Trails](#).
60. Walk through [Lindenwood Cemetery](#) and visit the graves of many of Fort Wayne's founders
61. Take a trip to the [Grabill Country Fair](#) from September 7 - 9, a country-style fair that highlights the area's Amish Heritage with food, crafts, kids events and much more!
62. Enjoy a [free](#) concert courtesy of Living Fort Wayne on May 31, June 21 and August 2 at 6 p.m. at Headwaters Park West.
63. Venture through the stacks at the [Hyde Brothers](#).
64. Browse modern art at [Wunderkammer](#) (open 1 - 8 p.m. Thursday - Sunday).
65. Attend [Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown](#) on Sunday, September 10 from 12 - 5 p.m. (held annually on the Sunday after Labor Day) with free admission to a dozen museums and attractions.
66. Grab a bike or take off on foot and tour the [Sculpture With Purpose around Downtown!](#)
67. Enjoy the [Indiana Native Tree Walk](#) on the IPFW Campus.
68. Visit [Parkview Field](#) - it is open as a public park on days when there are no games or events!
69. Pique your interest with classic cars, swap meets, parades or antiques at the [Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival](#) in Downtown Auburn from August 29 - September 3.
70. Walk or run the historic 5.5 mile [Towpath Trail](#), weaving through beautiful neighborhoods, scenic marshlands and near areas of commerce. This trail connects to both the Rivergreenway and Aboite Trails.
71. Take your pooch to [Pawster Park](#).
72. Pick up a [Downtown Walking Tour map](#) and explore the modern heart of Fort Wayne.
73. Visit [Northside Galleries](#) to see fine art from local, national and international artists in 2 and 3 dimensions (closed Saturday and Sunday).
74. Experience historical Fort Wayne with the [Downtown Historic Walking Tour](#).
75. Visit the [Lindenwood Nature Preserve](#) and hike all of their beautiful trails: the Trillium Trail, the Oak Paradise Trail, the Trail of Reflection and the Maple Spur Trail (they're all a mile or less!).
76. Pick up a map and hit the [ARCH Heritage Trail](#).
77. Grab your skateboard or skates and show off your skills at [Lawton's Skatepark](#).

78. Visit [Creative Women](#) of the World to learn about Fort Wayne's global impact on women in poverty and shop their fine artisan products.

79. Celebrate the Fourth of July at the [Fort Wayne Philharmonic Patriotic Pops](#) concert on July 1 at Parkview Field.

80. Play frisbee golf at [Swinney](#) and [Shoaff](#) Parks.

81. Tour the [History Center](#) during free admission times on Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (during the Farmers' Market).

82. Peruse the [five galleries](#) at the University of Saint Francis: the Weatherhead Gallery, the Goldfish Gallery, the Artist Spotlight Gallery, the Lupke Gallery and the Rolland Gallery.

83-85. Surround yourself with beauty in Fort Wayne's [public gardens](#) at Lakeside Garden, Foster Gardens, Freimann Gardens and many other small parks around the city.

86. Enjoy local fine art alongside your morning coffee at [Old Crown Coffee Roasters](#), [Mocha Lounge](#), [Firefly Coffee House](#) and [Fortezza Coffee](#).

87. Tour the [Hamilton Sculpture Garden](#), a tribute garden to Emerine Hamilton, near the banks of the St. Mary's River in Headwaters Park.

88. Play at [Salomon Farm Park](#) and run the 1.65-mile loop around the park and the Parkview YMCA.

89. Enjoy a free concert from the [Fort Wayne Area Community Band](#) at the Foellinger Theater on June 13, July 11 and August 8 at 7:30 p.m.

90. Explore the 13 miles long [Pufferbelly rail-to-trail](#), a trail located on a former railroad right of way.

91-100. Stop at the [Visitors Center](#) and get maps to tour the ten historic districts in Fort Wayne: Williams-Woodland Park, Columbia Avenue, Forest Park Boulevard, Foster Park Neighborhood, Illsley Place-West Rudisill, Indian Village, Lafayette Place, Oakdale, Shawnee Place and Wildwood Park.

101. Complement your Williams-Woodland Park Historic District Tour with the Historic Beltline Tour, which you can also pick up from the [Visitors Center](#).

102. Enjoy cutting-edge artists performances at the [Fringe Festival](#) at Wunderkammer in August.

103. Grab food from your favorite food trucks throughout the summer from [Fort Wayne Food Trucks!](#)

104. Browse the [Covington Art Fair](#) at the Covington Plaza on June 24 - 25, a community event featuring fine arts.

105. Take a [tour](#) of some of Fort Wayne's great companies like DeBrand Fine Chocolates or Three Rivers Distilling Company!

106. Discover Fort Wayne from our [riverfront](#) with a variety of boat tour options! (for a nominal price)

107. Round off your summer by celebrating one of Fort Wayne's favorite historical figures at the [Johnny Appleseed](#) Festival on September 16 - 17.

108. Stop by the [Fort Wayne Visitors Center](#) for more ideas of fun things to do this summer!