



Presented November 6, 2017
Town Council Report for October 2017
Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Park Programming

- *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC):* The gross revenues for October 2017 were our highest ever for this month at ~\$29,058 over our nine seasons of our Park operations out at the course. And this past month was just under our number one and two Septembers which were in the low \$30,000's. Over our 9 full seasons of operation, our next three highest gross numbers for the month were all in the \$17,000's. So when the weather cooperates, October can be fairly consistent and generate figures above the monthly average. 2009 was our *lowest* season for this month with a gross of just ~\$12,565. Our average gross revenue for this month over 9 full seasons of operation has been ~\$15,746. As always we cannot do more than estimate our net monthly income until after the claims are paid and the updated reports from the Dept. of Finance and Public Records.
- *Environmental Education and Recreational Programming:* Our Park Naturalist, Mindy Murdock had a very successful month. The regular programming in this area saw a total of nearly 1500 participants (1493). As can often be the case, some of these this month were at least partially recreational in nature (e.g. Tails on the Trails walk, Halloween Dog Walk, Spooky Night out) and of course many were of our usual, traditional environmental education nature. The Nature Center itself also had 512 independent "Walk-in" Visitors (independent to any programs). For 187 of those, our Park Naturalist and/or our PT-staff were still able to give short, impromptu programs.
- *Statewide Award:* We are so excited that Park Naturalist Mindy Murdock received important recognition from her professional peers in the State. Mindy's educational session's submissions were selected to be part of the Environmental Education Association of Indiana's (EEAI) annual conference. But as she was there to present at the two-day educational conference, she had a surprise waiting for her. Based upon her work representing Zionsville Parks and Recreation in the statewide Association, Mindy had been awarded the Joe Wright Recognition of Excellence Award from her professional peers around the State. As soon as was appropriate, Parks Department developed and distributed a press release. And the news was also highlighted in the Town's electronic media (Facebook, etc). As the Park Superintendent has stated, "*Great to see the rest of the State catching up on what we here already know Mindy... What a dedicated and skillful naturalist you are!*"

Other Highlighted Parks Matters

- The Park Department's own staff borrowed the Street/Stormwater Dept.'s backhoe and put in place a major drainage rework on the crushed aggregate trails at the Zion Nature Sanctuary. This type of trail surface can have ongoing maintenance challenges especial those related to water running down or across the surface. A significant length of 6-inch drainage pipe was placed alongside and then under a cross trail and a new trail rip-rapped side ditch and outlet were contoured. Also new aggregate surfacing was brought into the supplement ad to a degree replace the material the rainwater had washed away. It took a couple days' worth of staff hours and that can often put us behind in other areas. But it also saved us a few thousand dollars in contractual fees.
- The 5-Year Master Plan process for the entire community park system is underway! Over the next 6 months, this process will identify the public's desires and goals for Park and Recreation facilities and programming. It also offers numerous opportunities for elected officials and other critical community stakeholders input. This will all be merged with professional park planner's feasibility knowledge and submitted to the Zionsville Board of Park and Recreation (as required by State Law) to plot the next 5 years or so of Park Department efforts. While there will be potential to comment at each of the monthly Park Board meetings, the first of three specific Park Plan Public Input Meetings will start at 6 PM and be held in the St. Vincent Community Room of the Town Hall (Room 207 on the second floor, 1000 West Oak St). There will be two other general public input meetings at the same location and both at 6 PM (Dec 14th and March 21st).