



Presented February 5, 2018  
**Town Council Report for January 2018**  
**Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:**

### ***Park Programming***

- *Environmental Education and Recreational Programming:* Our regular programming in this area saw a total of 506 participants, with 318 of that total representing “drop-in visitors” at our Nature Center (unconnected to any particular program). When we have visitors who just swing by our staff often give a short, impromptu “mini-program”, and 158 of this previously reported number of drops-ins were able to receive this added benefit to their visit. This total of 506 represents an increase of slightly over 100 visitors in the numbers from the previous month. These 506 visitors is still lower than in many more “normal” months, but that is not at all unusual in January as the temperatures plummet and citizens are just taking a breather from their own busy holiday schedules. As an additional note Park Naturalist, Mindy Murdock has already advertised our 2018 Day Camps to both the mailing list of last year’s participants and the wider list of those subscribing to our “*Park Places*” our own, long-running Park Department E-Newsletter
- *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC):* There were no significant gross revenues for January as the course is closed until a mid-to-late March opening (weather permitting). However, Season Passes are now on sale, and as is the tradition those acquiring theirs before Feb 15<sup>th</sup> receive a 10% discount. The passes’ costs vary depending on a variety of factors such as if it’s for a person, couple, or family; whether those individuals want a cart pass, etc. Interested golfers can contact Course Manager Scott Barson at [SBarson@zionsville-in.gov](mailto:SBarson@zionsville-in.gov) for more details.

### ***Other Highlighted Parks Matters***

- *Maintenance- Winter Tree-work:* As previously reported, and just like across 1000’s of public and private acres throughout our State; the Emerald Ash borer has killed 100’s trees in the Park Department’s areas of control. Some of these off the existing trails are left to go their natural way. But along the Rail Trails and other locations, we are dropping or partially dropping the tops of numerous trees. We leave the biomass to return to the forest nutrients and to provide wildlife habitats and food sources as they do so. In some cases this is contracted work as they are sometimes too challenging for our staff to handle safely. However in January, park staff dropped some smaller trees, cleared small areas of invasives, along with other cleanup efforts.
- *Maintenance- Snow Removal:* Per longstanding policy the Park Department has worked diligently on the trails within parks or immediately alongside parks. And per the “new” Town Council Ordinance passed a few years ago... on those portions along public Rights of ways where the Park Department is the adjacent “Owner”, we have cleared that portion after each snow event in accordance with the Ordinance. In fact we have exceeded the Town Council Ordinance by clearing more width than required. On other, Non-Park Department Pathways, we have continued voluntary clearing as our limited staff, equipment, and budgetary resources allow. Per established and approved policy we roll on those trails when there is a 3-inch accumulation and in all but a few cases will not incur overtime staff costs to plow (so wait until normal business hours). We have rolled twice in January when those conditions were met. The first time we did get through of all of our Ordinance-mandated responsibilities but not all the way through the “voluntary” trail mileage. The second accumulation event, our staff got all the way through the ordinance-related clearing and all the Park Board’s prioritization listing before it melted.