



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

### ***Park Programming***

- *Environmental Education and Recreational Programming:* Our regular programming in this area saw a total of 757 participants, with 316 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 134 of this previously reported number of drops-ins were able to receive this added benefit to their visit. This total of 757 represents an increase of about 250 visitors in the numbers from the previous month. Such monthly fluctuations are not unusual, due to seasonal programming variations, actual weather on the weekends, etc... but we feel this was a pretty good month. 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. Registration for these at the center started the first weekend in March
- *Zionsville Parks Garden Plot Rental Program:* As has been the tradition for over 20 years, the garden plot rental program for 2018 will kick off the Thursday after the March Park Board meeting (so 8 AM at Town Hall on March 15<sup>th</sup>). We expect many may be excited to see the new Town Hall for the first time. Plots will be \$25 for each 20’ by 20’ space and will again be available at two locations, Elm Street Green (with ~30 plots) and Heritage Trail Park (with ~35 plots). The nominal fee includes provision of water onsite as long as we aren’t under drought restrictions. We also spring-till each of the overall plot areas one time prior to opening them up for planting. Since gardeners run the risk of a hard frost through May 15<sup>th</sup> that is our traditional target date for opening the plots to planting, but obviously this is weather dependent. And we use local farmers (and their specialized equipment) for our plowing and sometimes rainfall back them up on their own fields (which of course logically take their priorities).

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

- *Maintenance- Winter Tree-work:* The stormy weather and saturated ground has allowed wind to push down a couple of trees in Starkey Park and Turkey Foot Park. Our park maintenance staff was abler to handle these trees in house, including a larger one in Starkey that had happened to hang up on others. Obviously safety is paramount and we take them on a case by case basis but it would be safe to see that as our staff gains experience and training we are expanding our internal operations of this type... at least as time away from other priorities allow. While our staff was out on sire for those few trees we also trimmed up a few other trees in the nearby areas of those two parks as well.

Additionally we took advantage of some contract working being done by the Lion Club in tree trimming and were able to save some funds by having some nearby “park” trees trimmed out of our budget as the contracted crew was in the area.