



Presented June 4, 2018
Town Council Report for May 2018
Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Park Programming

- *Zionsville Parks Golf Course:* The gross revenues for this past month were our highest ever total for this particular timespan at ~\$45,471. This was up from the previous cold and rainy month's totals of \$13,230. In this, our 10th full season of operation, 2017's ~\$21,094 had been our lowest numbers for for this month. Our average for this month over our seasons of operation is ~\$37,427.
- Also golf course related, the consultant is nearing completion on the bidding packet for the irrigation upgrades. This consultant is well known in golf course irrigation design (even internationally) and does not represent any particular product lines and in fact, does not sell or is not affiliated with any irrigation product line,. Thereby preventing a potential conflict of interest issue. This will be a competitive full formal bid with advertisements according to State law. The consultant recommended a fall project after play slows and the course would likely be dry and firm (and out of the normal flooding season)
- *Environmental Education and Recreational Programming:* Our regular programming in this area (including those programs more traditionally "recreational" in nature such as dog walks, etc.) saw a total of 655. This was down about 27% from last month's numbers. And, 293 of that total represent "drop-in visitors" at our Nature Center (unconnected to any particular program). When we have visitors who just pop in, our staff often give a short, impromptu "mini-program", and 79 of this previously reported number of drops-ins were able to receive this added benefit to their visit. While this 655 total does represent a decrease of a bit over 390 visitors in comparison to the total from the previous month, fully 260 of last month's figures were from one source, the Zionsville Middles School's participation in our Pull for Parks program. So when one factors that out, there was only a bit over a 130 visitor swing from month to month... Something that could easily be variations in individual programs, or even weather.

Other Highlighted Parks Matters

- *Duke Energy Foundation Grant:* Our Park Naturalist, Mindy Murdock was able to win a \$4,897 grant from this generous donor. This grant will be used for the Nature Play Days and also to create Traveling Teacher Trunks, stocked with a variety of hands-on materials and nature artifacts, to be made available to educators for a nominal rental fee.
- *Maintenance Highlights- Mowing Contract:* As many on the Town Council are aware, much of our mowing is contracted. With so many mowing companies in competition with each other in the area, it just isn't cost effective for us to maintain a full-size mowing fleet and the staff to operate such. Although, we do maintain two mowers for smaller, more complex, or more crucial areas within our system. But every three years we throw the contract open again. This year the competition was fierce and the previous contractor placed the same bid with which they won three years ago... and ended up being in what appeared to be third place. So bids were so competitive for the same work as three years ago that we got two bidders at lower prices. However within less than a week of the mowing starting, the low bidder balked, saying he had miscalculated a particular park. His new number for that site not only bumped him back to 4th, it became the highest of outliers for that park. While perhaps he could have bene forced to perform based upon his signing of documents... we reached out instead to the #2 quote. This company fortunately still had openings in its mowing schedule and were able to start us with only a week's delay. Even though we walk all bidders through our system, this firm is now learning the fine points of our parks. We solicited 9 quotes, 6 participated.