



Presented December 10, 2018
Town Council Report for November 2018
Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Park Programming

- *Zionsville Parks Golf Course:* The gross revenues for this past month were ~\$2,962. Our highest gross profits recorded for this month was in 2009 with a total of ~\$10,533. But this seems to be a major outlier, as our next highest is only in the mid-\$7,000's. Our lowest gross profits ever recorded for this occurred in 2014 at ~\$1,445. And our average for this same month throughout our 10 seasons of operation is ~\$5,309.

While this certainly wasn't our lowest November ever, it was a bit over two thousand below the average. If we adjust the average for 2009's extremely high outlier, this last month is about \$1,500 under. Much of this is due to the cold/wet turn November took through its last half. In addition, even though we were open during the irrigation project and offering nine holes of play (via repeating a hole) and we had been promoting such in the month or two leading up to the irrigation project's start; we were finding that between both the weather and the irrigation project's closing one hole at a time...golf play had significantly dropped. As an example, in an early November cold(ish) week, over 5 consecutive days, four had only a single golfer. So the decision was made to close the course two weeks earlier than the Thanksgiving weekend date for which we usually plan.

- *Environmental Education and Recreational Programming:* Our regular programming in this area (including those programs more traditionally viewed as "recreational" in nature such as dog walks, birthday parties, etc.) saw a total of 802 participants/visitors. Of additional note, 431 of this month's totals represent "drop-in visitors" at our Nature Center (unconnected to any particular program). And of that last number, 80 received one of our "canned" programs we have ready for impromptu drop-ins.

Other Highlighted Parks Matters

Several Key Park System Upgrade Projects:

- The golf course irrigation piping-portion is nearly complete. Well drilling will follow as ground freezes enough to take the equipment load of drilling equipment without too much rutting. Then connections can be made.
 - Late fall is the most appropriate time for tree pruning and planting (after leaf drop and dormancy). Budget normally allows 10-12 trees be planted each year and perhaps twice that many pruned or cut (between both our budget and our regular maint. workload). This fall (alone) we dropped some normal projects and shifted funds to cover trimming/dropping on over 50 trees (many are ashes recently killed by the borer).
 - Similarly also is the planting of 45+ trees (primarily in 3 parks... Mulberry Fields, Elm Street Green, and Heritage Trail Park. Both these last two projects were long scheduled for Nov/Dec and are underway now.
- *Boone County Solid Waste District Recycling Grant:* Zionsville Parks and Recreation has received a notice of award on a \$5,000 grant towards a project utilizing recycled materials. This grant is a program that we have utilized 2-3 times previously, when we have had a competitive project matching up well with their giving guidelines. This 2019 project will cost an estimated \$7,000 in materials, purchasing recycled plastic lumber strong enough to build our own picnic tables as a test case. Two of these tables will go in various park locations, but five of them have been identified as replacing the aging, and already often-refurbished, wood tables behind the Zions Nature Center. So Mindy Murdock, our Park Naturalist offered to prepare a grant application this year targeted to this table project. The price per table material cost breaks down to level that is in the range of what we would purchase such tables. And while many recycled tables (and certainly wood tables) do not have the life span that we should get from this product, we have proven examples of this particular design of table lasting in good condition for over 25 years.