



Presented Oct. 8, 2014

Town Council Report for September 2014 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)

- The ZGC reported gross operating profits for September were ~\$29,746. While this is down ~\$13,100 from the previous month, such a drop in the fall play level is normal. In fact, this past September is actually our third highest ever, with number one and number two logging in at only a bit higher, with ~\$30,329 and ~\$30,269 in 2013 and 2009, respectively. The lowest reported gross operating profits for September have been ~\$22,964 in 2011 and our average for the month over the last six years is ~\$28,208

Events/Activities in the Parks

- *Zionsville Bicycle Challenge*: This event has generated a great deal of interest for a first-time activity. The six week program was designed to get people back on their bikes and interest new bicyclists in the sport and is going strong with a bit more than 85 total participants (75 of who are logging miles each and every week). Participants are challenged to complete an overall goal of 150 Miles in 6 weeks if they are a new or beginning rider. And a 400 mile, 6-week goal was available if any experienced bicyclists wanted a more advanced challenge. Of the Team Zionsville cyclists, 20 are working towards the 400-mile goal and 24 classified themselves as new or beginning cyclists and are working towards the 150-mile goal. Taken together, at only the halfway point in the 6-week time span, participating riders from Team Zionsville and the AgroCyclist Club have logged over **13,135 miles** and Team Zionsville has 7,929 miles of that 3-week total!
- *Zion Nature Center (ZNC)*: According to data from Mindy Murdock, the Park Naturalist, there were 622 visitors to the ZNC and/or her environmental programs for the month of September. 600 of those 622 visitors/program-encounters occurred at the Zion Nature Center itself. This includes two groups of third grade students from Union Elementary for a total of 127 visitors from that school in September alone. As some may be aware, for well over a decade, the Park Department's Zion Nature Center has provided environmental education programming for 1000's Zionsville schools' students at no charge to the school system.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The Park Department staff and Park Board staffed a booth during the Lions Club's Fall Festival. The number one group of comments/questions received by the public concerned when will there be increased opportunities for multipurpose pathways of both an internal connection type as well as those that connect Zionsville "to the outside world". When a commenter got down to specific trails, by far the number one mention was extending the Rail-Trail to Whitestown (or at least to our common border with our nearby neighbor to the west). There were also a few mentions of extending the Rail-Trail south to 96th street. The only specific, non-park/non-Rail Trail mentions were a couple in support of a side-path in from the western portion of Town along Oak Street (similar to the new trail in from 421 on the east side). There were also a few dog-park mentions.
- The Park Department's Director and Park Naturalist toured the Creekside Tech Parks acreage with the Planning and Economic Development Director and members of State and Federal regulatory agencies. Also in attendance were a few of the Town's paid consultants.
- The Park Department initiated its first quarterly E-Newsletter this past month. And catalyzed the initiation of the Town's new Instagram account. Also, primarily through the involvement of our new Park Naturalist, Parks has a greatly increased the content upon, and usage of, the Town's Facebook feed. There has been a corresponding jump in new followers.