

May 3, 2010
Town Council Report: April, 2010
Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Acquisition Update

- The Goodwin Property Acquisition was completed on April 24th. Within the next week we have had the garden plot parking lot constructed and the plot area cultivated and the plots staked out for their users. Water service is scheduled for the week of the council meeting, so based on that timetable we will be almost two weeks ahead of our traditional opening. Plots filled in record time this year.
- After our closing, The Goodwin Family met and decided to offer as a donation to the Park Dept. an additional piece of property. This would be a quitclaim on a section of the Rail Corridor immediately to the west of, and adjacent to, the parcel that was just purchased. It is about 1 1/4 acres and nearly 800 feet long and would make for a logical future extension of the trail on the way to reaching the Town's boundary. Some of us were aware of their quit-claim title to the property but were waiting to show them what good neighbors parks were. They apparently see multiple advantages already. A condition is that this transfer not cost them any additional moneys. Discussion at the May Park Board Meeting, a title search and environmental assessment are being considered for the next steps.

Park Improvement/Construction Projects Updates

- The Turkey Foot Park is in the middle of its DNR-permit mandated hiatus (due to potential bat migration and fish breeding). As a reminder, this Town trail project must be virtually entirely located within the wooded floodplain within the park. Considerable effort was expended to route the trail around significant trees and jurisdictional wetlands. The State requires that impacted trees of a certain size be mitigated at a multiplier effect. So for the trees of this protected size class we were forced to remove, we will be planting several times more in replacement stock. The culvert across the Cox Creek Tributary should ship by May 12th and be delivered in mid-May. Construction activities will pick up again the end of May and early June. Completion timeline is still on schedule for early fall.
- The Official Elm Street Green Groundbreaking Ceremony is scheduled at 1:15pm May 8th. We hope to see you all there.
- Elm Street Green Park's development is proceeding apace. I would be happy to tour any of you through the site, perhaps after the May 8th ceremony.
- Creekside Nature Park has been receiving a small facelift this last month with work on colonies of the nonnative invasive plant called Garlic Mustard. On April 19th, forty scouts spent about 40 "scout-hours" of effort in the targeted areas of the park. 15 large Garbage bags were removed (almost a pickup truck load). Another effort is scheduled for the morning of May 8th, this time with the Village Residents Association.
- A third Garlic Mustard pull was cancelled by the volunteers due to the all day rain that weekend.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The Zionsville Park Department Nature Center's annual event, Z'GreenFest, went well again this year (on April 18th from 1 to 4pm). The weather was sunny if a bit cool and windy. Official numbers have yet to be announced by the Nature Center Staff but two of our supporting volunteers reported around 500 visitors. The Park Board had a booth among many other booths, and many people stopped by to "Talk Parks".
- A new set of cooperative Recreational Programs have begun this Spring. Rugby and Lacrosse are both playing some, if not most, of their events at Mulberry Fields Park. By all accounts that reach us they absolutely love the quality of the fields.
- The Zionsville Parks Golf Course numbers for April are looking good but are not yet completely tabulated since the period ended just yesterday evening.
- The 1st quarter fiscal tabulation reports were turned in on the new town forms. While it is early in the year and much of our activities pick up in the summer, we are currently anticipating coming in under projections by the end of 2011.