



Presented May 6, 2013

## **Town Council Report: April, 2013 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:**

### *April 19<sup>th</sup> Flood*

- In the largest flood to hit Zionsville since at least 1957, at least 10 of our properties were significantly inundated. To some degree, this is because a large percentage of our donated acreage is in the floodplain and helps serve as valuable flood storage during such events. While that is good for protecting other properties in Town, it means these park sites take the brunt of the flood waters force. Most of the restoration efforts involve clearing numerous logjams and other debris piles off of miles of trails (there is no way the Town can afford to clear all the entire piles across the entirety of the park lands). The paved trails at Elm Street Green, Turkey Foot, and Creekside all held up to the floodwater's fury. The earthen trails at Starkey and at Turkey Foot were all heavily impacted. Along significant sections of the stream side trail at Starkey we lost the entire trail and are having to reroute. We are trying to track staff-hrs and costs, but our main focus is getting features and amenities back online as quickly and completely as feasible.

### *Heritage Trail Park (HTP)*

- In the HTP Phase I construction started the day after the last Council meeting and the future location of the stormwater quality bio-basins were excavated and the new storm sewer outlet piping to take the filtered outflow from the basins was laid. This early start proved to be fortunate because this meant the site had a much larger storage basin then it ever had before (under either public or private ownership). Thus when the April 19th Flood hit, our site stored more water then it ever could have in its pre-construction state. Keeping this water on site meant that less moved downstream than would have otherwise. IN the largest flood since 1957 this became critical. Property damages are bound to occur across Town, but at least this park (and others) helped reduce the number and the magnitude.
- The contractor is metering the onsite stored water out over time and sending it into the storm sewer system at a slow rate so that the system can finish recovering. As such the water holding on our site has slowed construction by about two weeks, but we expect it to pick up again soon (at least, barring further weather delays).

### *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)*

- As many have already heard, the course was heavily flooded, the worst it has seen. Our pro-shop was "hit" for only the second time in the course's entire existence. Our Park/Course staff worked furiously for a two week period and the course reopened for play exactly two weeks after the flood. Several other Town Staff also were instrumental and either assisted with equipment that is not in our park inventory (back-hoe and street sweeper from Street Dept), or donated manpower made feasible by other departments' larger size (e.g. Fire Dept on final few cart checklist points)
- The Pro-shop was not opened to the public at the same time as the course reopening. The building has however been addressed for flood damage and inspected by the Town's Chief Building inspector. Yet to be completed is the re-dry walling of the lower couple of feet of inside walls. And then furniture and fixtures will be placed back in the structure. At the time of our opening most of our cart fleet is running but we are supplementing with a partial-sized rental feet

(for no more a month) as our remaining carts go through the final checklist bullets to full usage status. Current projections are to be back in the building and fully operational by May's end.

### *Other Highlighted Matters*

- The "Pull for Parks" program is in full swing, although we had to cancel a whole Saturday's worth of volunteers due to the floodwaters throughout the target park sites. Some of these will be rescheduled but likely, others cannot be. Sometimes this was due to the volunteers not being able to make it in at a different time and others due to the fact that as the plants mature, we only have a finite time window to get them pulled before they are too mature.
- The Park Board has initiated a significant repair project on the Mulberry Fields Splashpad, targeted to address water supply piping issues that seem to originate from the original construction. While this has caused the Board to place some smaller project components on hold elsewhere in the system as funds are shifted, some ongoing maintenance issues should be eliminated and at least some operational challenges/cost reduced over time. Weather permitting; the pad is projected to operational in time for its traditional opening of Memorial Day Weekend. Even if not, it should definitely be done before the weather turns significantly hot in July.
- The Z'GreenFest, event, held with Park Staff and in cooperation with the Friends of Zion Nature Center and about 20 other partnering entities, attracted about 500 participants. The new set-up location wrapping around the Center itself worked very well.
- We also had a very successful presentation about our entire Park System to the Homeowner's Association Round Table.