



Presented Sept. 2, 2014

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

Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)

- For Aug, 2014, our ZGC reported gross operating profits were ~\$42,847. This is down a bit over \$8,000 from the previous month's numbers, but that is often the case each year, as about ½ way through August colleges and local schools start up and our play decreases. Just as a historical note, the highest gross operating profits we've seen for August were ~\$48,130, in 2009 and the lowest gross operating profits we've seen for August were ~\$39,928, in 2010. The average for August over the last six was ~\$44,168

Events/Activities in the Parks

- The first annual Z'PaR Golf Tourney is gearing up for this September 13th. This fundraiser will benefit the Zionsville Parks Department and is spearheaded by the Park Board's Funding Advisory Committee. Posters and entry forms are available at various Zionsville businesses. Similar information is also available through the Town's Facebook and website (plus also news media). Questions can be emailed to z-par@z-par.org. Website info is on the Town's website in the Park News and Events Section. Specific direct link at <http://www.zionsville-in.gov/2014/08/zpar-inaugural-family-golf-tournament-announced-for-9262014>
- The Zionsville Bicycle Challenge is getting underway this week. Although there is still a chance to sign up for this six week program designed to get people back on their bikes and interest new bicyclists in the sport. There will be weekly prizes awarded and T-shirts for completion of the overall goal of 150 Miles in 6 weeks. Weekly fun-rides will highlight several of Zionsville's parks and there is a 400 mile, 6-week goal if any want a more advanced challenge. Definitely designed to be comfortable for beginner bicyclists, the rides will have leaders who discuss safety and proper bike etiquette and at least one of the leaders will ride near the front of the group and another closer to the back. At least 4 of these 6 weekly rides will start in one of our Zionsville parks. There are already over 60 riders who have accepted the challenge and they are roughly equally split between the 150 and 400 mile 6-week goals.
- Again this year in cooperation with the Town's Streets and Stormwater Department and assisted by volunteers, The Parks Department is promoting and hosting the Zionsville Stream Walk and Cleanup (Z'SWAC). For this year's event on Sept 13th at 9:30 am, we plan to move the focus upstream from last year's successful efforts. We will concentrate on the sections of stream from Turkey Foot Park to Elm Street Green. We have already secured permission from the private landowners along this section and the volunteer groups have been contacted. Again information is out in the Town Website in the Parks News and Events portion, as well as various Facebook postings and newspaper articles.
- Mindy Murdock, the Park Naturalist, had 906 visitors to her park programs and/or the Zion Nature Center for the month of August. This is right about the monthly average for last year's attendance.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The Zionsville Board of Park and Recreation is proud to announce to the public that they have been successful in winning a very large \$100,000 grant in the State's very competitive Lake & River Enhancement grant program (LARE). This is the second, large 6-figure grant the department has been awarded in about half as many years (to say nothing of several grants in the \$5,000-\$40,000 range), this project will use bio-engineering techniques to stabilize a large section of eroding stream bank threatening a section of Trail EC-1 at Starkey Park. Unfortunately because of the State's-required construction permits, we can't start this project in time for the vegetative material to "harden-off" for the winter. So, rushing the project's install for fall would leave it prone to flood damage in any spring events in 2015. The project will go out to DNR-list of certified contractors this winter and construction will begin in the low water conditions of late summer as specified by the DNR. Hopefully there won't be significant flooding in early 2015 and we won't have to close temporarily close that section of trail until after the summer/fall grant construction.