

March 7, 2011
Town Council Report: February, 2011
Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Flood Event

- Zionsville's Sanitation Department reports February precipitation as an unusually high 5.9 inches that unfortunately culminated with a 2.3 inch event peaking Feb. 28th. This came down quickly and on already saturated ground. Many of our parks are situated in floodplains, serving as valuable resources in the absorption of both the floodwaters' volume and force. The downside of this benefit is often they take the brunt of such events with literally tons of sediment and debris moving across and/or being deposited within the parks, to say nothing of the force of the water itself.

The golf course clubhouse and course were flood damaged. Creekside, Starkey, Elm Street Green, and Turkey Foot Parks all also received damage. Some more significantly than others. We are assessing the various damage points and addressing with staff as we can complete one repair and move to the next. In the case of the more recent installations, applicable contractors have been informed and are participating in repair discussions.

As one additional note Creekside's stream bank stabilization installed in the fall of 2009 appears to have done its job with only minor scouring. Our more recent work of stream bank stabilization at the TF parking lot was not yet fully established (similar to the Temple Road stabilization). The bank was for the most part protected, but some of the protective materials were partially dislodged.

Zionsville Parks Golf Course

- Season passes continue to sell as the staff prepares for the mid-March opening. The end of the year budget figures have been provided and verified by the Clerk-Treasurer's Office. According to that information, the 2010 net profit for the golf course came in at \$54,153.97. This brings the starting 2011 starting total on the golf course fund to \$135,521.49. This is the fund from which golf course monies flow in and out as the course operates, but they are continuing onward towards the goal of funding an irrigation system. The staff deserves a big thank you for their efforts out there.

Other Highlighted Matters

- After negotiations with the Park Department beginning back in late summer of 2010, Indianapolis Power and Light (IPL) has agreed in principle to donate \$15,000 to the department for the planting of a prairie meadow at Starkey Park in the easement there after their periodic trimming efforts in 2011. This should be a win-win for both entities. After successful establishment, the prairie-meadow should reduce the extent and impact of any future trimming requirements on IPL, and additionally it will take an area of the park and introduce a new type of habitat there that should greatly diversify the species onsite.
- In addition to the ongoing programming and work on the upcoming Z'GreenFest, the Friends of Zion Nature Center, our Park Interpretative Naturalist, and other citizen volunteers and staff held a fundraising event open to the community on the afternoon of March 5th at Town Hall. Hoping to make this a yearly item, they planned it as a fun filled activity-fest with several programs. Thanks to all who contributed to the efforts.
- Our two full-time Park Technicians have both attended lengthy course work and passed the State's testing on the core section of the State's Chemical Applicators requirements. This allows them both to join our Assistant Superintendent for Maintenance Services, Al Smith, as a Certified Technician. From there the State allows concentration in eight areas. Al has passed the test to add the "Ornamentals" section to his certification. And Rick Hypes, one of our Park Techs has successfully completed the course and the test for the "Turf" concentration and will be able to add that to his newly acquired certification. Many of these courses are only offered once a year but our intent is to swap out and cross-train the staff, providing assistance in their maintenance efforts in these areas. For example, Jeff Bennington, our other Park Tech, will likely take the ornamental section next year so he can add that to his new Certified Technician level.