



Presented February 4, 2013

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

Recent Flooding

- While not as significant a volume as some floods in the last few years, Starkey Park's earthen trail along the stream bank did sustain considerable damage in a particular zone. Stream bank erosion caused the loss of an average of 15-20 feet of bank-depth back from the stream along an arc of about 150 feet and also destroying about 50 feet of the streamside trail. We waded in to do inspections and the section was closed off with rerouting detour signs placed back from the break, pretty much before any of the general public had been down to see the area. Our staff had a reroute cut and that portion of the pathway walkable within 24 hrs of the closure (an estimated 28-36 hours from the damage itself). This has been, and will likely continue to be, a challenging area as the hydraulics of a sandbar off property along the opposite shore and the stream's curvature interact with the existing soils and the impact of the nearby earthen trail.
- Downstream of this area, is the location of a multi-tree logjam. We have engaged DNR's technical experts about prospective approaches to this. A site visit is being scheduled based upon their availability.

Supplemental Funding Efforts

- Prior to, and independent of, the above issues, but perhaps eventually bearing upon them; The Parks Department had been already in the process of applying for a \$10,000 matching reimbursement grant (so as is usual with most grants, we would have to spend at least \$20,000 in value to get a reimbursement of the \$10,000 in grant funds). This application is to the DNR's Lake & River Enhancement Program LARE and if awarded could assist with smaller items like the mentioned logjam.
- Similar to the grant mentioned above, we had been exploring the potential with DNR for their fiscal involvement in a 2014 LARE grant for stream bank stabilization assistance at Starkey Park. There will be many hoops for this to become a reality (if the State does decide to assist) so we had started late last year for the once-a-year application process. The smaller 2013 logjam grant app had been intended to help us "get a foot in the door" with the program and DNR meetings are being scheduled for this spring. Very preliminary at this time but wanted it know we are making the attempt.
- Independent of those two funding efforts, by the week of the Town Council meeting, the Park Board will have applied for a \$25,000 matching reimbursement grant to the National Wildlife Federations 5-Star Urban Waters program. If funded, this will hit on a variety of types of items the Park Board has been completing throughout the system, but based upon the particular goals these organizations want to support, we will be able to do more of them and in certain key watershed features. The Park Department has built a cooperative coalition for this application comprised of the Town (Parks and Streets/Stormwater), the Zionsville Community School System (High School), Zionsville Lions Club (Leos), USGS, and the Upper White River Watershed Alliance. We will not hear the results of the application until midsummer.

- The previously mentioned non-native removal along the Rail Trail that had been plugged into the 2013 Urban Forestry (UF) Grant, should begin the week of Town Council meeting, weather permitting. Because of the type of work being done and potential cost savings, this was always intended to be winter 2012-2013 work.
- The Street Department is expanding the Street Tree inventory areas beyond just reproducing the original 1997 study. This potential was planned for in our original UF Grant application and will allow increased reimbursements to come back to the Town. We were merely waiting till the end of the first part of the study to determine if the end of the year budgets allowed the Town our match.

Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)

- While the Park Department golf course is closed, we traditionally have an “early bird” discount on the season passes so as to generate a bit of cash flow until the course opens in mid-March. So in January, we have generated nearly \$6,000 gross revenues from January’s pass sales. While our best seller” is usually the individual yearly pass at the Seniors level, we have a variety of season-long passes available including single and couple passes (with or without additional family members) in both “adult” and seniors” pricing; student passes; cart passes, etc. The discount period ends Feb 15th, but we will usually have a few more trickle in beyond that.

Park 5-Year Master Plan Process

- The Park Board will have met the weekend before the Town Council meeting to work on specific tasks and timelines to fulfill the goals they have been deriving from the public input this past fall and summer. Draft submission to the DNR (which need not be complete in every particular) has been made and DNR acknowledges receipt. Any comments DNR may have will be folded in to the Board level adjustments and combined with the mapping work (being prepared by the Town Engineers and others) for the final submission in mid-April.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The increased usage of our park facilities appears to be continuing in 2013 and as one example the Lincoln Park Gazebo is completely booked for June’s Saturday’s already. You may recall from previous reports that during the wedding “season” that gazebo is booked an average of at least once each and every weekend. Those fees are collected and can assist with programming features or other recreational improvements out there.
- Once again this year the Ground Hog 7 event is using the Town’s Pathway and Park System, primarily the Rail Trail, for the projected 450 participants (already 400 preregistered).