

July 6, 2010
Town Council Report: June, 2010
Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

June Flooding Update

- The first 3 weeks of June resulted in over 10.5 inches of rain at the Zionsville Treatment Plant, a number that already greatly exceed the usual monthly totals. June's final totals were 2 to 3 times the average June amounts. While such land is often beautiful, and less expensive to acquire, one of the challenges of having significant parkland in floodplains and other low areas is the potential for flooding. Elm Street Green (ESG), Turkey Foot Park (TFP), Creekside Park, Starkey Park, the Golf Course, and even some of the portions of the paved Rail Trail where the original railroad was built drastically lower than the surrounding ground level were all significantly inundated with water. Water reached the bottom of the construction trailer at ESG, it flowed across TFP and then across the road itself. A portion of the path along the stream in Starkey Park was washed away and we were in there for a few days after the water receded rerouting that piece of trail away from the stream. The Golf course was sufficiently flooded it was closed for three days. The floodplain parcels did their job however, reducing flow rates and temporarily storing water. The contractors were back in selected spots in ESG pouring concrete two days after the rain event. TFP's new parking area weathered this storm with nothing more than a thin layer of silt over the asphalt. The Creekside Park bank stabilization project (completed this past winter) passed with flying colors through this flood-test and successfully protected its piece of trail. This could be a good test case for the type of work that will likely be done to stabilize the newly exacerbated bank problem along Temple Road.

Park Improvement/Construction Projects Updates

- Elm Street Green Park's development is now officially behind due to all the rain. They have hit it very hard this last week however. Observers can see that the two concrete shelter pads have been poured, as has much of the concrete curbing. Within the next two weeks it's likely the shelters themselves will be erected (weather permitting).
- As of the beginning of July, the DNR's normal global restriction on construction activities in the actual water areas has lifted again for this year. The trail portion from the bridge south to the new parking area passed the contractor's and consultant's proof roll on Friday July 2nd and it will be graveled next week. Expect to see the culvert work go in to cross Cox Creek with the internal park pathway in the next two to three weeks.

Other Highlighted Matters

- Our own Zion Nature Center's highly successful day camps have completed three weeks of sold-out sessions. All sessions have been full since before mid April. The park department's Naturalist and her part-time staff deserve many kudos for their efforts in this popular program.
- The cooperative venture with the Dwight Freney Football Camp organization came off without any major complications at our Mulberry Fields Park on June 8th and 9th, from 1 to 4 pm. We did receive quite a bit of rain on the morning of the second day but it cleared by the time camp started. We recieved many compliments on how well the fields shrugged off the over an inch of rain and how nice they and the park looked in general. We noted a few tweaks to suggest to them if they approach us next year, but nothing major was identified.
- Park Staff attended the recent Mapelawn Farmstead Open House and also their ArchiCamp program. Mapelawn Farmstead Inc is an energetic partner with the Parks Department by protecting and programming the park's farm structures and homestead in the northwest corner of Mulberry Fields Park. Park Staff attended just to observe and to perhaps be on hand if assistance was needed. The programs were well received and well attended.
- The Zionsville Park's Golf Course gross profit numbers for June were \$37,750, within about \$100 from the previous month (even with the three days of flooding that closed the course and the days where the course was significantly wetter (even if not formally closed).