

July 5, 2011

Town Council Report: June, 2011 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Zionsville Parks Golf Course

- The June 2011 gross profit for ZGC was ~\$40,222. This is up nearly \$6,000 from the May 2011 gross numbers. 2010's June gross was ~\$37,750 so we bested those figure's as well. We did have 3 days of flooding closure from the morning deluge the Town received on Monday June 20th. Our Course rain gauge recorded nearly 4 inches of rain here in Zionsville and perhaps more fell in the watershed to the north and caused water to back up from Eagle Creek onto the course.
- Also in the month of June we hosted 4 special event type golf outings ranging from the Fire Department's Annual Fundraising golf outing with 110 golfers, through groups in the 45 to 55 golfer range, and down to a family reunion-type batch of 30 golfers. All told, course staff numbers report over 200 golfers enjoyed our course from these events alone. Some of these golfers are long-time supporters returning to our course, others are new friends who may well return.

Other Recreation

- The Interpretative Day Camps continue on into July with morning and afternoon opportunities having already been held over two sessions already held in June. By the time the 2011 offerings are completed, children from the grades of K-5th grade will have an enjoyable and enriching experience. The camps have been booked solid for several weeks and the staff, volunteers, and Interpretative Naturalist are to be complemented for their efforts in providing this perennial favorite.
- Also our Nature Center cooperated with the Town's Street and Stormwater Department in the training and certification of 8 new volunteer stream monitors through the training provided by the State's Hooiser Riverwatch Program .
- Our Garden Plots are filled with our last two (of 80) plots being rented in early June. We are ensuring the contractor at Elm Street Green has the proper elevation on the garden plot area out there as the earlier efforts had left that area lower than the level we were allowed by the State's Department of Natural Resources (who controls the type and amount of development/fill that can occur within that floodway).
- As usual, our season for the splashpad at Mulberry Fields Park started Memorial Day weekend (and runs through Labor Day Weekend). It may just be us, but it seems like early activity is even more robust than last year. We seem to be taking more calls as new users find their way to this maturing park.

Other Highlighted Matters

- Also at Mulberry Fields Park, we have been receiving increased number of compliments and other positive comments about the prairie area. These native plants don't really start growing vigorously until mid to late June and the floral changes then can attract comments, but it seems to be more pronounced this year. While there will likely always be a few people who aren't comfortable with anything other than cool-season turf grass throughout our parks, these prairie plants and native wildflowers provide increased habitat for a larger variety of species of birds, butterflies, and other animals. The also increase water infiltration, and slow water as well... thereby improving both our stormwater quality and reducing, or at the very least slowing, the quantity of stormwater runoff. Our thanks to the Town Council for assisting us in this goal by acquiescing to the Park Board's request for a new funding line item for such efforts in 2011's budget. Since this was funded from both reductions in other areas of our past budget and some additional monies from the Town Council, it represents a good partnership towards achieving these valuable goals.