



Presented April 8, 2013

Town Council Report: March, 2013 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:

Heritage Trail Park (HTP)

- In the HTP Phase I bidding process, the low bidder was Brandt Construction, Inc. (of eight total bidders). Their earthwork sub-contractor is very eager to get moving and, barring any unexpected road blocks, plans to start the initial earthwork the same week as the Town Council meeting. Weather permitting uninterrupted construction conditions, they expect to complete the bulk of the project by mid-summer (with perhaps a bit of fall planting when the heat moderates).
- We would like to have as many of the Town Council, Park Board, Department-heads, and other interested parties as possible gather for a short groundbreaking ceremony. We are looking at mid-to-late April or perhaps the first weekend in May before the construction gets too far along.

Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)

- As expected, the unseasonably cool weather did not permit the planned March 15th opening of the course. As such, we were able to be open for parts of four days total in this past month. Our gross operating profit for March was therefore very low, at ~\$2,087. To put it in perspective, we had another month of very poor weather back in March of 2011 and only generated ~\$2,594 that year. 2009 and 2010 represent more normal March temperatures and precipitation so their figures of ~\$11,959 and ~\$11,289 could be considered as more normal March numbers.

Other Highlighted Matters

- The educational environmental festival and bazaar, Z'GreenFest, will again be held at the Zion Nature Center in cooperation with the Friends of Zion Nature Center and about 20 other partnering entities. The festival is scheduled for Sunday, April 21st from 2pm to 5pm, with a backup location of Town Hall if the event needs to be held inside due to inclement weather.
- Another year of the "Pull for Parks" program is gearing up. You'll recall this is the partnership program with various Church groups, Scout Troops, and other citizen organizations to help reduce the occurrence of the nonnative plant, Garlic Mustard, in our parks. This plant is a common and widely spreading invasive on all types of private and public lands. This introduced plant crowds out and kills native plants especially certain early spring wildflowers. Also, at least one species of butterfly has reports of its population being reduced due to the toxicity of the garlic mustard to the life cycle of the insect and other insects may be affected as well. This year we have 5-6 groups already committed (slightly more than last year). Normally we run the program throughout April but we may be extending it into May if some groups wish because of the late start of spring.
- We are preparing a small grant application for two small trail amenity upgrades. This particular grant is capped at \$2,000 and they only have \$20,000 total to award. Competition will likely be fierce. Oftentimes such smaller grants take nearly as much effort to prepare their application as the ones that generate much larger rewards. However this application's preparation requirements look to be more in line with the reduced reward, and we wanted to give it a try. We won't hear until June or July, which is roughly the same time we should hear about the other two larger grant applications we have pending in other programs.