



## NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release:**

Dec. 6, 2016

### **Zion Nature Center receives grant for waste recycling receptacle center**

Zion Nature Center will soon have a triple-sorting receptacle recycling center thanks to a \$2,100 grant from Boone County Solid Waste District (BCSWD). The center, which includes separate bins for cans and bottles, paper and waste, will serve as an actual exhibit in Zion Nature Center. It will also provide educational curriculum, including signage highlighting the benefits of recycling and information about projects and conservation efforts in the Zionsville Parks Department and other local organizations.

The new recycling center, scheduled to arrive in May 2017, will complement the environmentally-friendly practices already in place at Zion Nature Center, including compost bins and a working vermicompost (compost with worms).

“The recycling center will help us streamline our recycling and waste collection,” said Mindy Murdock, Park Naturalist and Zion Nature Center Manager. “By having each bin clearly marked with words and pictures, we plan on reducing the amount of trash we and our visitors throw away by 50%.”

Murdock submitted the application for this competitive grant in September. Projects are eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in grant money with a total of \$15,000 set aside for the grant program. Ten applications were submitted to BCSWD.

“The Parks Department application stood out because it not only met the mission of the District proper disposal/recycling of materials, it brought an education component which is very important to the District,” said Jennifer Lawrence, BCSWD Executive Director.

This is the third grant in five years that the Parks Department has received from BCSWD. Previously, the Park Department was awarded two separate \$5,000 grants for Heritage Trail Park.

The Parks Department has tried using waste recycling receptacle sets in the past, however, staff has seen that park visitors often do not sort recyclables from trash. “This has resulted in increased staffing on our end to sort trash to achieve any meaningful recycling,” said Matt Dickey, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

Local government, non-profits, schools, civic organizations and businesses in Boone County are eligible for BCSWD’s community grants. The grants are intended to help conserve natural resources, decrease dependence on disposal, demonstrate the importance of sustainability and promote improvements in the health and welfare of residents.

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