



To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Mark Heintz – Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: October 6, 2020
Re: Park hours

I've begun the process of gathering information to formulate a recommendation on hours for operation of parks within the Town of Munster. While I'm not prepared to make a recommendation yet, I've found some information that I think you may find helpful as we prepare a recommendation to help defend a decision once it is made.

For comparison, I surveyed 14 communities in Lake County and the majority operate their parks from dawn to dusk.

Cedar Lake	5am-8pm
Crown Point	6am-10pm
Dyer	dawn to dusk
Griffith	parks with shelters are open until 10pm, others are dawn to dusk
Hammond	dawn to dusk
Highland	5am-10:30pm
Hobart	dawn to dusk
Lake County	7am-sunset
Lake Station	dawn to dusk
Lowell	dawn to dusk
Merrillville	dawn to dusk
Munster	dawn to dusk (bike trails 6am-8pm Nov. 1-Mar.31; 5:30am-10:30pm April 1-Oct. 31)
Schererville	dawn to dusk
St. John	currently 6am-11pm but in the process of changing to dawn to dusk
Whiting	7am – 6:30pm (used to be open to 10pm)

Additionally, our neighbors in Illinois, Village of Lynwood and Lan-Oak Park District (Lansing) open their parks from dawn to dusk.

I also compared to parks that were similar 'destination parks' on par with Centennial Park in Munster.

Wicker Park, Highland	dawn to dusk (after hours events require security)
Lakefront Park, Whiting	7am-6:30pm (used to be open to 10pm)
Central Park Plaza, Valpo	dawn-10pm

Bulldog Park, Crown Point	6am-10pm
Millennium Park, Chicago	8am-9pm
Maggie Daley Park, Chicago	6am-9pm
Promenade Park, Fort Wayne	6am-11pm
Riverwalk, Naperville	Sunrise-midnight, (west section closes at 10pm)
Central Park, Mishawaka	7am-10pm

It's important to take into account the development of Centennial Park was always planned to be a 'destination park' that acted as an economic tool for the entire Town and more specifically, neighboring development like Centennial Village. The park and neighboring development was planned to be intermingled where a visitor might not recognize where the park ends and commercial/retail/residential property begins. This blended development concept was support for the ultimate Centennial Village/Centennial Park as we're seeing coming to fruition for the Town. Collectively, this area acts as a highly desired destination where people want to live, eat and play.

At this point we are still formulating a recommendation but will bring that forth to you after additional research, review and discussion with Town staff.