

Town of Munster
Department of Parks and Recreation
Board Report
September 17, 2024

DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATION

Community Estates Park: A grading plan went through a few revisions and was shared with the developer for them to complete. SEH will verify elevation points once the grading work is completed by the developer.

Frank Hammond Park track: Perm-a-seal painted the track lines on Friday, September 6th even with people using the track while the painting was occurring.

Heritage Park volunteer meeting: Staff met with several volunteer groups including the Munster Historical Society, Munster Garden Club, the Friends of Monarchs group, and Lake County Master Gardeners about developing a plan to improve Heritage Park for when the groups are able to donate their time and effort. Some coordination will need to occur, but a long-term plan is necessary for what the Town wants to see at the park, especially as it pertains to flora. The Town would like to see a diagram outlining which group is responsible for what to ensure work done today is not taken out the following day by a different group. This is a good example for hiring a consultant to create a master plan the majority of the park. When future volunteers approach the Town willing to give of their time and talents a collective goal can be achieved.

Pro Shop project: Progress continues on the new Pro Shop and Cart Storage Garage. Our big wait is for NIPSCO to connect the gas and electric lines to the building. They've given not to exceed dates of September 18th for gas and the 26th for electric. We are starting to see the finish line for when the general contractor has completed their work. After the general contractor is finished, there are many things that the Town will need to complete to make the facility operational. This includes landscaping, irrigation, fiber optics/networking equipment/cabling, moving golf operations over, having Indigo coordinate their IT needs, installing appliances, etc. At this point, it looks like the move will take place this fall. A ribbon cutting ceremony may not be done until spring when the weather is nicer. As part of moving operations over, the existing building has to be drained as it will no longer have heat. This also requires drainage of the fire suppression system and all plumbing lines as the building will officially be closed.

Landfill generator: Clarke-Energy has submitted shop drawings for the replacement gas-to-energy generator at the landfill. We are meeting with them as the planning occurs ahead of that work.

Methane collection system: Staff has been working with Cabeno Environmental to make improvements to the methane collection system to ensure all areas of the landfill have vacuum to the system.

Rogue soccer field use: Midwest Wings Soccer Club, who has three soccer fields at Beech Park has informed us that they have had conflicts with a group of younger adults who has been

routinely using the soccer fields and moving their soccer goals. We have shared this with the Police Dept. so they are informed and told Bill Dekker, as President of Midwest Wings to call the police when it occurs. This is after they tried speaking to the group and were told they didn't care about any permits. Longer stakes have been installed on the goals for the Wings.

Bridges over Ditches project: This is the pathway bridge project over Hart Ditch and Cady Marsh Ditch to connect Munster to Highland. Request for Proposals were sought by the Town Manager and were due Friday, September 13th. A staff committee will review and grade the professional services proposals and make a recommendation to the Town Council to award the work. This is required by the State since this project is funded with grant money. It is anticipated the project will be bid out in early 2025 with construction ending in fall 2025.

Playground updates: We have been trying to secure updated playground proposals for Briar Creek and Cobblestones Park. We hope to bring these to the Board for award in the next month or two.

Monon Trail: The Monon Trail north of Ridge Road was recently reopened by NICTD all the way to the Little Calumet River trail in Hammond.

Master Plan approval: The Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources reviewed the final draft of the Parks and Recreation five-year master plan and approved it as meeting the minimum requirement for local master plans. That letter is attached to this report.

Disc Golf course request: The Red Roc Disc Golf Club, who calls our disc golf course home and frequently volunteers to make the course better sent a letter with numerous requests for the park department (attached to this report). They have asked for the following to continue to invest in the site: a. restrooms for all genders, b. lockable storage for maintenance equipment, c. expansion of the course to add three holes east of Hohman Ave. on Town of Munster property. Most of the site is within the levee where nothing can be built. Porta potties will be considered for the future. There might be room for a storage container if it can be camouflaged by trees and bushes and be outside the levee.

West Lakes Park: Staff will be meeting with cricket representatives and Councilor Jonathan Peterson about the need for restrooms/storage rooms at West Lakes Park. I informed them that such a facility was highlighted in the master plan.



Greg Beilfuss - Chief Planner
IDNR – State Parks: Community Grants and Trails
402 W. Washington St., W298
Indianapolis, IN 42204-2782
(317) 232-4071

August 21st, 2024

Dan Repay
Munster Park Board
1005 Ridge Road
Munster, IN 46321

Dear Dan,

The DNR Division of State Parks planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2025-2030 Munster Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. This letter certifies that your community **is eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants through this office in the 2025 grant year.** A new plan will be due on November 15th, 2030 at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you contact our grant section chief as soon as possible about future grant applications. The grants staff can assist in your grant application process. They can be reached by phone at: (317) 232-1295 or by e-mail at: nsimmons@dnr.IN.gov.

We support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of State Parks. If you require further information regarding planning, do not hesitate to call me at: (317) 232-4071 or by e-mail at: gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov.

Sincerely,

Greg Beilfuss
Chief Planner - IDNR Division of State Parks, Community Grants and Trails

ECC – Catherine Puckett, HWC Engr.

River's Edge Disc Golf Course: Community Investment Opportunity

Requester: Brian Cummings & The RedRoc Disc Golf Club

Date: 08/8/2024

Topic: River's Edge Disc Golf Course

Address: 9 River Dr, Munster, IN 46321

Summary -

River's Edge disc golf course has become one of the top trafficked parks in Munster. Red Roc Disc Golf Club Members have volunteered their time and effort, using their own tools, to maintain this park in collaboration with the Munster Parks Department. We feel that this collaboration of effort has driven the success of this community park and the Club would like to collaborate further to improve the park and increase the accessibility for the community.

Demand: Estimated at

- Disc Golf Leagues
 - Months: March to October
 - Days: Monday, Thursday, and Friday
 - People: Attendance 20-30/event, 60-90/week, 3,000 Annually
- Casual Disc Golf Rounds
 - Udisc is a player tracker and statistics shows ~120 players log a round per month.
 - In 2024 402 unique players have logged 1,845 rounds on Udisc..
 - This is only a small % of the usage of the course as most players play without digitally recording their score but it highlights engagement with the park.
- Tournaments
 - Monthly March - November
 - 100 Participants per event + Volunteers.
 - Events include available divisions for children, women, and men.

Request: Funds, Materials, Construction

1. Restroom access for all genders
 - a. Today there is no access to public restrooms which creates challenges for women and children to use the restroom. Each round of disc golf in tournaments or leagues can require 2-3 hours to complete. This today would require a person to relieve themselves in the woods, or risk disqualification if they are forced to leave the park to find an available restroom.
2. Lockable Storage for Disc Golf Equipment and course maintenance equipment
 - a. Disc Golf Equipment:
 - i. Baskets, Safe storage of Lost and Found
 - b. Building and Landscaping material:
 - i. Lumber, concrete repair, fencing
 - c. Landscaping tools:
 - i. Trimmers, clippers, chainsaws, mower
3. Expansion of Course to include 3 additional holes
 - a. Designs are to be submitted separately.

RECREATION

The Fall Recreation Guide is out and program registration is in full swing.

Superintendent attended IPRA Webinar: Marketing is Everybody's Business – An integrated approach to agency's success.

Superintendent attended the Munster CIVIC Foundation meeting regarding 2025 sponsorship. It was agreed to have 8 concerts (including the NWI Symphony).

Recreation Supervisor attended a 'Bike League' Webinar. Conversation included creating an elementary-aged cycling club in the future.

Recreation Staff attended a 'Light the Night' meeting. Park department will oversee acquiring food vendors, a Christmas character and securing a bounce house.

Superintendent reached out to Lion's Club and Needle Artisans for their 2025 Social Center reservations. Reservations for 2025 open to the public on November 1st.

Tennis started September 9th with 34 enrolled in youth and adult classes. 4 staff members are alternating shifts. Last month, 4 participants set up a customized adult drill and play class.

Fall Soccer games started on September 14th. 34 teams were formed in 4 age groups with 68 volunteer coaches.

The Pennsy Bike ride on-site registration surged due to the fabulous weather that evening. Between our registration and Schererville's, there were over 120 in attendance.

Planning for Pumpkins, Witches and Hayrides is in full force. New this year is the addition of on-stage games, Halloween Egg Hunt and laser tag.

Movie in the Park will be hosting a Friday the 13th special, featuring 'Hocus Pocus' on 9/13.

Cash for Clutter is full at 91 vendors with 1 food vendor. Project Loose Change will be on-site at the end of the event to collect items people do not wish to take back home.

September Rentals:

Social Center	11
Weddings	2
Shelter	12

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF COMPLETED PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	R	NR	REVENUE	EXPENSE	VARIANCE
Adult Drill and Play – Customized	4	0	\$260.00	\$119.25	\$140.75
Munster Pool	19,198		\$261,196.05	\$268,779.77	-\$7,583.72
Pennsy Bike Ride	17	30	\$470.00	\$75.00	\$395.00
Wado-Ki Karate	15	5	\$395.00	\$20.00	\$375.00
South Shore Arts Summer Partnership	1	0	\$40.00	\$10.00	\$30.00
TOTAL:	37	19,233	\$262,361.05	\$269,004.02	-\$6,642.97

PARK MAINTENANCE

In addition to daily trash pickup, bathroom cleaning, Social Center set up, gas plant monitoring/maintenance and leachate pump operation/recording, the following tasks were completed

Flagstone edging was completed in front of the Kaske house, and six yards of mulch was spread there and along the west edge of the driveway.

The Kaske house porch was pressure washed and two coats of Cabot clear water sealer were applied.

All the shrub beds at the Monon Trail Head were cleaned up and mulched.

A broken baby swing was replaced at Beech Park.

Staff set up for the movie in the park.

Two irrigation valves were replaced at both the softball fields and the babe ruth fields.

Daves Tree Service removed five large trees at Beech Park, Five at Twin Creek Park and ground ten stumps throughout town.

One of the two benches at Grove Park was removed because of a rotted leg post. Another matching pair will be ordered and installed on the same concrete pads.

All soccer fields were laid out and goals were placed. MPR and MSC fields will now be repainted weekly.

One of three new trucks was picked up. This truck will be listed as unit #146 on the equipment list. Units 142 and 144 are trade ins and should be ready next week.

Staff met with Calumet Painting for quotes on replacing wood and repainting the pergola at the Monon Trail Head, and to remove rotted wood and re-stain the rafter tails on the Centennial Park entertainment stage. Korellis Roofing will be submitting a quote to wrap the rafter tails in aluminum once they have been sealed.

CENTENNIAL MAINTENANCE

New concession equipment has been ordered for the Centennial Park pro shop.

Multiple irrigation breaks were repaired by our staff and Thomas Irrigation was also brought in to help so pro shop construction wouldn't be delayed. Staff is looking into a pressure reduction valve to be installed at the irrigation pump outlet after it splits off to the golf course, hopefully reducing broken irrigation lines.

New irrigation control boxes have been purchased. Staff are waiting on the pedestals for installation.

Trimmed trees and Shrubs and installed Great American Rail-Trail signs along the Pennsy Greenway.

A damaged slide was removed at Centennial Park and the opening on the structure was temporarily secured. The replacement slide, along with other repair parts, are ordered. It will be three more weeks before the slide ships.

Replaced several handrail boards and missing bolts on the Pennsy trestle bridge.

Jenbacher Engine Production

	<u>Run Hours</u>	<u>MWh</u>	<u>Methane</u>
6/12/24	63,185	44,625	15,237,400
7/9/24	63,272	44,662	15,238,200
8/12/24	63,630	44,850	16,230,509
9/12/24	63,916	45,001	16,580,293

CENTENNIAL GOLF

<u>August</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Member Rounds	693	703
Public Rounds	1,944	1,599
Green Fees	\$17,266	\$28,183
Range Fees	\$8050	\$6,630
Cart Fees	\$12,676	\$9,760

Pro shop

Golf season is beginning to wind down and Centennial Park golf course has had an exciting year. Staff met many new members and new clients throughout the season.

Upcoming, the course will be hosting the first annual Revenge Day golf outing October 12th and the Hasse Construction Golf Outing on September 27th.

New membership rates have started in preparation for the 2025 season.

Grounds

With only .45 inches of rain since August 19, the golf course is firm and fast. It's very dry and rain is not expected in the next 10 days.

With the dry conditions, daily routines have been modified. Mowing the rough has stopped and the mowing of tees and fairways has been limited.

Tee and fairway aeration will begin in the next week. It may have to wait another week because of the drought conditions. Greens will be done on the traditional 1st Tuesday in October.

As the season comes to an end, the maintenance crew will be downsized. Three seasonal workers will be let go in a couple of weeks.

Fall projects include seeding the back side of the range tee by the new cart garage. Most likely there will clean up projects as construction finishes up. The wild areas will be mowed one more time.

An air compressor has been ordered for the last week of October to blow out the sprinkler system. The park will also be done during this time.