MEMO

TO: **Park Board**

FROM: **Greg Vitale, Director of Parks and Recreation**

Date: **February 16, 2016**

Re: **2015: Year In Review**

It is truly amazing to comprehend all that the Munster Parks and Recreation Department was able to accomplish in 2015. The department experienced a key retirement as well as new administrative hires. New programs and upgrades to existing programs were added by the Recreation Department. The Parks Maintenance Department improved the level of the soccer playing surfaces for hundreds of kids and adults by simply reallocating the budget. Centennial Golf Course reduced overtime expenses by $20,000, which allowed for the hiring of additional seasonal employees…and better landscaping conditions. The Clubhouse underwent a much-needed facelift. Community Park construction was finished and the "Disc Golf Park" was completed and appropriately named "River's Edge Disc Golf Park." Also, West Lakes Park Phase III construction commenced, falling under budget enough to allow the remaining work to be started a year earlier than scheduled. Not to mention, the department created its first ever repair and replacement schedule, which impartially guides the department's budgeted capital improvements for 2015 and every year moving forward.

Special thanks are owed to the staff for assisting with the information gathering and to Donna Chant, Office Manager, for putting the report together. A copy is included in the board packet and others will be available at the meeting. The board is invited to ask questions or to make any comments.