

Westfield Parks and Recreation Department

Monthly Report

June 11, 2007

The month of May was very productive for the Westfield Parks and Recreation Department. We are now substantially complete with our two park projects at Asa Bales and Quaker Parks. We have a few items that need to be addressed by the contractor, but nothing that prohibits the parks from being used. We have started the splash park and are getting many good comments from the users. We have held the grand reopening of the parks on Thursday, May 31, and had a nice group out to help us celebrate.

Liberty Park has also been substantially completed. There is a need for the construction of a parking lot by the town crews, but everything else has been completed by the contractors. The interpretive sign has been ordered, and should be delivered in the next couple of weeks.

We have had the good fortune of have two individuals assigned to parks maintenance by the Public Works Department and that has helped in starting to work on many projects that need to be completed in the parks to bring them up to the standards that the community expects. We are working on Freedom Trail Park and cleaning up the planting beds and removing stakes from around the trees. We will also be working to improve the turf in the park and make it more durable. We have begun painting shelters, the new shelters have to have the trim painted, and we are repainting the old shelters, we are mulching planting areas, cleaning up brush and trash, mowing and trimming. I have many projects that I would like to see completed this summer.

On the recreation side of the department, we have finished up our first Start Smart session. Baseball has finished, and went very well. We have now begun the soccer sessions. Interest in soccer was very high, and I have added a second class for soccer. We are also working with some outside contractors to provide some summer recreation programs. We will be having Motions, Inc., and Off the Wall Sports providing classes for the youth and families in our community.

We continue to work with Butler, Fairman, and Seufert on the Monon Trail Project. We have completed our public hearing notice and are now determining how best to answer the questions that were raised during that time frame. Our next step will be the appraisal of the properties that we need to purchase and beginning the buying phase of the project. We are continuing to push for the actual construction of the trail to start as soon as possible.

I am still working on the new Master Plan for the department, and the survey is still on the website. We have had a few responses to the survey, but not enough to use for planning. We are trying to find a way to better publicize the survey and how to get more responses.

I am also working with an individual outside the department to establish a foundation that would benefit the Parks and Recreation Department. This would be an opportunity to raise funds that would not go to the Town directly, but would be funneled for special projects and activities. We hope to have this group up and running by the end of the year.

I continue to work with the other departments to better provide services for the community. I am meeting monthly with Public Works, Community Development and the Police to make sure we are doing everything that will improve our parks and the opportunities for the community.

Curt Cooley

Submitted by