



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Zionsville Parks & Recreation awarded Indiana Lake and River Enhancement grant for Eagle Creek**

*One of only three projects to receive maximum grant award of \$100,000*

Zionsville Parks & Recreation Department has been named a recipient of one of 33 Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) program grants from the Indiana Department of Nature Resources (DNR) Division of Fish & Wildlife. These grants, awarded to 25 Indiana counties and totaling \$1,296,000, fund biological and engineering projects to help with the care of Indiana's water bodies.

This grant will be used for streambank stabilization of 780 feet of Eagle Creek in Starkey Park. The project will reduce sediment in the stream, protect the stream from erosion and enhance in-stream habitat. Several habitat enhancements will be made including: soil geolifts, j-hooks, installation of rootwads, bio-engineered mats and planting of live-stakes.

Only two other projects received the top grant award of \$100,000 and only four other projects received more than \$60,000.

"This grant will have tremendous impact in helping us reduce sediment and erosion in Eagle Creek," said Matt Dickey, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. "Over time, sediment entering Eagle Creek Reservoir causes it to age more quickly and can ultimately result in a more intensive dredging project."

Since 2009, Zionsville Parks & Recreation Department has received more than half a million in grant funds, including two previous LARE grants. In 2013, the department received a \$32,000 LARE grant to fund a study to identify the rate of sediment erosion. This study identified four sites that delivered an estimated 900 tons of sediment per year – equivalent to 45 dump truck loads. In 2014, the department received a \$100,000 grant for 200 feet of streambank stabilization in Starkey Park, just downstream from the current project location.

Because the LARE grant is an 80/20 grant, the Parks Department will provide a 20% match. "This is an especially great grant program because we get a bigger bang for taxpayer's dollars," Dickey said. "The Parks Department and the Town has always tried to maximize the impact of tax dollars by subsidizing those funds with grants wherever feasible."

The Department will next begin engineering work to identify the treatment design and refine cost estimates on the project. The department expects construction to begin at low water conditions in August or September of next year and to be completed by September 2018.

The goal of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's LARE program is to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife and to insure the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes and streams. To accomplish this, the LARE program provides financial assistance on qualifying projects.

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