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## Council Report

February 26, 2010

Riverside Skating Center helped 94 children learn to be better ice skaters through lessons this season. The annual Dare to Bear Skate on February 5<sup>th</sup> was enjoyed by more than 80 daring participants on a scenic but cold and snowy night. The Skating Center remains open through March 7<sup>th</sup>.

With spring approaching, "Wednesdays in the Wild" programs are very popular; presentations scheduled for Lilly Nature Center in March are:

- March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm, "In Their Own Words: Nature Revealed Through the Observations of Lewis & Clark"
- March 17<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 pm, "The Habits and Haunts of Local Salamanders" (bring a flashlight)
- March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1-3 pm, "Planning with POWER (Protecting Our Water & Environmental Resources)"

Also in the Nature Center in March, the Sycamore Audubon Society will present "Hellbender Stories," a talk about this rarely seen large amphibian in Indiana, (March 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 pm), and the West Central Chapter of the Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society will present "Sedges: So What If they Are Not Orchids!" (March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 pm).

In 2009 8,095 visitors (from 26 states and 11 foreign countries) were recorded in the Nature Center. Many thanks to the 36 volunteers (trained as Master Naturalists) who provided 1,463 hours helping everyone enjoy the Nature Center and Celery Bog Nature Area. Volunteers provided 95% of the staffing for the Nature Center.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Basketball Program at Cumberland Elementary School was enjoyed by 95 children this year.

Recreational youth soccer begins in Cumberland Park in March, and the 2009 Adult Recreational Softball Leagues "sign-up" is underway.

The next Park Board meeting will be March 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM in City Hall.

**Parks and Recreation—  
The Benefits Are Endless**

Member of Indiana Park  
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