

Coffee with the Mayor

Ser 52 (26-03) 2026 Parks

There is a City Ordinance, Ord 80-7, on the books establishing a Department of Public Parks. The Ordinance reads:

- (A) There is hereby established the Department of Public Parks for the City of Linton under the provisions of I.C. 36-10-4.
- (B) This section be in full force and effect from the date of its passage and approval by the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Linton, Indiana.

This ordinance was passed on 13 March 1980. To my knowledge no one was ever assigned to this department. It may have been active at one time, but I could find nothing recent on what was accomplished. The establishment of a Parks Department makes sense but also not sure, once established, what the focus was.

The obvious need of establishing a department, in my opinion as I wasn't involved in 1980, was oversight of Humphery's Park. This park is an asset for the community and is utilized on a regular basis. It has seen some configuration changes over the years and has been under the auspices of the Park Board for some time. Last year saw the addition of the Evan Witty Memorial Park located by the water tower north of town. The dog park is located within this park. It is my understanding the dog park has been well utilized since opening. There is a plan to have a formal dedication of the Evan Witty park this Spring, date yet to be determined.

Whether it's widely known or not, the city, in addition to these two parks, owns almost 600 acres of heavily wooded areas north of town. This area includes the Conservation Club, Sunset Campground and the former Moose Park, with other areas utilized by the soccer club, MX bike course and Buckcreek Muzzleloaders Club. Much of this area was heavily damaged by the tornado in May. The devastation can be seen when driving north on Park Road to road 300N. Dealing with the devastation and oversight of the cleanup would require a dedicated position. I felt it was appropriate to establish a Park Manager position to oversee this and other park areas as part of the established Parks Department. The city council approved the salary for this position last Fall and recently approved the person selected for this position.

This position will interface with the Park Board in continuing to make Humphrey's Park and the Evan Witty Park a successful attraction for the community. In addition to the cleanup, the person will oversee the contracted logging operations and work to make the additional areas accessible for outdoor recreation.