



RUSSEVILLE PARK & TREE BOARD



2019 Accomplishment Report

Below is a list of what the Russiaville Park and Tree Board has accomplished or helped to accomplish in 2019.

- Received Tree City USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation for the eleventh consecutive year.
- Arranged the planting of two trees at Russiaville Town Park (Northern Red Oak and River Birch).
- Assisted the Kokomo Howard County Public Library / Russiaville Branch in their celebration of Arbor Day by donating Arbor Day giveaways to the Library. About twelve children participated in the program
- Installed a new perimeter fence for Brady Park.
- Sponsored and mentored a Boy Scout Eagle project for Caleb Woolace. Project was the installation of four bat houses: two at Western Heights Pond, one at Community Center Park, and one at the Interurban Station.
- Finished the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) trail using a grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and town monies. Worked with baseball and softball leagues on this project.
- Worked with American Health Network for a Grand opening of the trail on September 29th. Included a ribbon cutting and “walk with a doc”. Attendance was over 40 people.
- Continued to raise money (\$700) for the completion of the RTP project by coordinating community coin donation boxes, cash donations, and the sale of engraved bricks.
- Planted tree saplings at Western Heights Pond (10 white pine, 1 bur oak, 1 black chokeberry, 1 ninebark from Howard County SWCD).
- Used part of the \$7,500 Signage and Artwork grant from the Community Foundation of Howard County (CFHC) to
 - Install plant and tree species markers in town properties, mainly at Community Center Park.
 - Work with the Russiaville Library branch to create original distance markers for the walking trail. This artwork project day included 24 kids and 7 adults.
- Worked with the Town Council to make the Community Center more affordable to rent which made it more financially feasible.
- Maintained the landscaping around the Jeff Stout Community Center.
- Helped coordinate and worked at the WHS Senior Community Day. Projects included spreading mulch in the playgrounds and planting saplings.
- Completed the “Feed a Bee” grant by
 - Purchasing Pollinator Habitat signage.



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- Assisting the Library in a pollinator display and activities.
- Submitting final grant reports to Bayer Crop Science.



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2020 Project Goals and Objectives

#1: Develop more recreational walking and biking opportunities within the Town

- Develop a better plan for the “Around the Town” virtual trail and start developing a plan for the Kokomo to Russiaville Trail (holdover from 2017 plan).

#2: Develop RTP signage and artwork using the CFHC grant

- Install artwork along the recreational trail. The grant end date was extended from 11/30/2019.

#3: Continue Town Park rehabilitation

- Based on the playground inspection from 2016 and subsequent improvements continue to upgrade park equipment and remove problem items.

#4: Develop the Community Center Park by adding amenities

- Apply for grants and other funding, then design and build an ADA compliant community pavilion north of the trail head behind the Community Center.
- Based on a projected 2021 - 2022 construction timeframe, seek out community partners for fund raisers and investigate possible grants for an accessible playground.

#5: Complete additional tree and flower planting around the Town

- Plant trees on the west side of the Ball League property along the RTP trail.
- Plant trees along Railroad Street. This is contingent upon approval of the land use agreement with Norfolk Southern (holdover from the 2016 plan).
- Monitor the health of the town trees.

#6: Continue to work with community partners to increase quality of life efforts in the Town

- Meet with the Howard County Recycling District to continue or initiate possible projects (e.g. the acquisition of benches made from recycled materials for the recreational trail and the acquisition and distribution of recyclable leaf and yard waste bags).
- Meet with representatives of Western Schools to seek out opportunities for more cooperative efforts with the town.
- Sponsor and mentor any Eagle Project for scouts that pick a project appropriate to the Park & Tree Board.

The costs for these projects can be supplied from multiple sources: appropriations, gifts, grants, Gene Parks Fund, as well as volunteer labor and private donations.