



RUSSEVILLE PARK & TREE BOARD



2020 Accomplishment Report

Below is a list of what the Russiaville Park and Tree Board has accomplished or helped to accomplish in 2020.

- Received Tree City USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation for the twelfth consecutive year.
- Replaced a broken plastic climber in Brady Park with commercial grade equipment. Used remaining appropriations from 2019 and new monies from 2020 for purchase and installation.
- Removed the broken merry go round from Town Park and replaced with a new safer unit.
- Renewed the mulch in the Town Park playground area. Mulch was donated by Hollingsworth Lumber and the spreading was done by Russiaville Babe Ruth league teams.
- Installed disc golf course baskets and tee areas at Community Center Park. The labor for the basket installation and tee marking were donated.
- Wrote two trail resolutions that were adopted by the Town Council: A Proclamation of Support for the Building of the Cloverleaf Trail and Establishment of the Around the Town Trail.
- Donated Arbor Day giveaways to the Library for their Arbor Day celebration (celebration later cancelled due to COVID).
- Continued to raise money (~\$3000) from a GoFundMe account, community coin donation boxes, cash donations, and the sale of engraved bricks. This money earmarked for the merry go round, benches, trees, and landscaping in the roundabout.
- Worked with Russiaville Community Outreach to raise money for local Community Foundation Endowments. The coin boxes raised ~\$160 and this was then matched by the RCO. Money was donated into the Gene Parks fund (50%) and the two Cemetery Funds for New London and Russiaville (50%).
- Planted small tree seedlings at Western Heights Pond (6 Norway spruce from Arbor Day Foundation).
- Brought the bowing retention wall at Western Heights Pond to the attention of the Council. It was reinforced with rip rap to stabilize.
- Planted three black chokeberry bushes at the Community Center Park to replace three that had died. These are part of the pollinator garden planting.
- Used some of the remaining \$7,500 Signage and Artwork grant from the Community Foundation of Howard County (CFHC) to
 - Design and install interpretive signage (3) and pollinator garden signs (3) along the Russiaville Recreational Trail at Community Center Park.



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- Create and install the Iron Wheel Sculpture in the Recreational Trail roundabout to honor Russiaville's farming heritage.
- Lay the foundation for the abstract crane sculpture that will be in the natural pollinator garden at Community Center Park
- Held a work day on 10/1 to trim trees and spread mulch at Community Center Park.
- Weeded the three pollinator gardens (spring) and the Interurban planter (summer). Trimmed small trees at Interurban and Western Heights Pond.
- Arranged for the three ash trees in the park to be treated for emerald ash borer.

In addition:

- The Lions Club completed a Lions Memorial Project at the Lions Club with a lion sculpture along with Lions and Scout information.
- There were two BSA Eagle projects at the Lions Club: a landscaping refurbishment and a scout display case.
- The Recreational Trail was sealed by Crenshaw.



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2021 Project Goals and Objectives

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

- Develop the Around the Town virtual trail and continue working on the Cloverleaf Trail from Kokomo to Frankfort.

#2: Develop signage and artwork along the trails using the Community Foundation of Howard County (CFHC) grant and gift monies

- Install abstract piece of art along the Recreational Trail.
- Submit the final grant report to the CFHC.
- Complete the roundabout upgrade by the Iron Wheel Sculpture by installing personalized pavers and a bench.
- Install a caterpillar piece made from old merry go round

#3: Continue Town Park Playground rehabilitation

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

#4: Develop Community Center Park by adding amenities

- Finish the Disc Golf course by creating the golf course layout map and creating a press release.
- 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 Recreational Trail.
- Plant trees along Railroad Street.
- Monitor the health of the town trees.
- Submit an application for Tree City USA for 2020

#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 trails and the acquisition and distribution of recyclable leaf and yard waste bags).
- Meet with representatives of Western Schools and the Russiaville Library to seek out more cooperative efforts with the town.



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- Sponsor and mentor any Eagle Project for scouts that pick a project appropriate to the Park & Tree Board.
- Be alert for opportunities for projects such as a pickleball court, a volleyball court, or a dog park.

#7: Write up a new Five Year Parks and Recreations plan for the IDNR. This requires much community input. The current plan expires in 2021 and included a community public meeting, a community survey, and a town council public meeting.

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.