



RUSSEVILLE PARK & TREE BOARD



2018 Accomplishment Report

Below is a list of what the Russiaville Park and Tree Board has accomplished or helped to accomplish in 2018.

- Received Tree City USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation for the tenth consecutive year.
- Updated ordinances on Establishing an Advisory Park and Tree Board (2018-01) and Standards for the Planting and Maintenance of Trees (2018-02).
- Installed ADA compliant sidewalk and entrance to the Town Park.
- Acquired excess mulch from the library and spread it on the south side of the Town Park.
- Assisted the Kokomo Howard County Public Library / Russiaville Branch in their celebration of Arbor Day by donating Arbor Day giveaways to the Library.
- At the Town Park: Installed new crossbeams for toddler swings, Installed new mogul slide to replace broken one (was done under warrantee), Painted and reinstalled spring horse in Brady Park.
- Bought, picked up, and installed six swing mats for the big swings at the Town Park. Installation was assisted by neighborhood children and volunteers from two churches. Also purchased and installed rubber rings and mats to cover concrete at park equipment.
- Sponsored and mentored Boy Scout Eagle project for Ben Carter. Project was the installation of two horseshoe courts on the north side of the Community Center.
- Mentored Boy Scout Eagle project for Sean Childers. Project was at the Interurban Station and consisted of the rehabilitation of the west planter, the installation of the wooden train on new track, and the installation of a bench.
- Continued working on the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Work from the grant included marking the trail, then monitoring the cut and laying of the stone base.
- Started to raise money for the completion of the RTP project by coordinating community coin donation boxes, cash donations, and the sale of engraved bricks.
- Used a \$2500 gift from Indiana American Water to design, purchase, and install distinctive “stone” park signs at the Russiaville Town Park, Western Heights Pond, and Community Center Park.
- Planted 60 daffodil bulbs on the north side of the east SR-26 entrance to the town.



RUSSEVILLE PARK & TREE BOARD



- Planted 11 tree seedlings at Western Heights Pond (7 white pine, 1 sugar maple, and 1 red oak from Howard County SWCD and 2 small Norway spruce seedlings from the Arbor Day Foundation)
- Received a \$2,500 Feed a Bee grant (\$5,000 project with in-kind labor) from Bayer CropScience for the development of three pollinator gardens along the recreational trail east of the Community Center. Worked with Purdue Master Gardener association in acquiring and planting. Plantings totaled 240 native flowering plants, 75 native grasses, 22 bushes (4 sumac, 4 ninebark, and 14 black chokeberry), 4 trees (1 basswood and 3 Sugar Tyme crabapples), and over 1100 spring flowering bulbs (mostly crocus).
- Applied for and received a \$7,500 Signage and Artwork grant from the Community Foundation of Howard County (CFHC) for RTP trail amenities.
- Maintained the landscaping around the Jeff Stout Community Center.
- Helped coordinate and worked at the WHS Senior Community Day. Projects included repainting the basketball court lines, spreading mulch in the playgrounds, and staining the wooden train cars.
- Wrote two white papers: Community Foundation of Howard County (3/6/2018) and 2017 Census Bureau Estimates (6/11/2018)



RUSSEVILLE PARK & TREE BOARD



2019 Project Goals and Objectives

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

- Having received the Recreational Trails Program grant and completed the preliminary work, assist the project consultant (Kieser Consulting) in the final construction and closeout process of a recreational trail with a trailhead at the Community Center and access from Lions Street.
- 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 tree species markers, distance markers, interpretive signage, and artwork along the recreational trail. The grant runs until 11/30/2019.

#3: Continue Town Park rehabilitation

- Based on the playground inspection from 2016 and improvements in 2017 and 2018, 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 2020 construction timeframe, seek out community partners for fund raisers and investigate possible grants.

#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.
- Complete the Feed a Bee grant by installing acknowledgement and interpretive signage. The grant runs until 2/28/2019.

#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).



RUSSEVILLE PARK & TREE BOARD



- 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.