



RUSSEVILLE PARK & TREE BOARD



2022 Accomplishment Report

Below is a list of what the Russiaville Park and Tree Board has accomplished or helped to accomplish in 2022.

- Received Tree City USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation for the 14th consecutive year. This is for the year 2021.
- Helped to review the ADA Title 2 and Title 6 requirements for the Town.
- Installed six new swing seats with new brackets for the Kids Playground.
- Finalized the Parks and Recreation Five Year plan with approval from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. This enables the Town to apply for additional grants.
- Worked with Russiaville Community Outreach to raise money for Community Foundation Endowments that are focused on Russiaville. The coin donation boxes raised \$149.12 and this was then matched by the RCO for a total of 298.24. Money was put into the Gene Parks fund (50%) and the two Cemetery Funds for New London and Russiaville (50%).
- Installed eight bluebird houses made as part of a 2021 Cub Scout project. Three are at private homes, two at Honey Creek Hills pond, two at Western Heights Pond, and one at Community Center Park.
- Hosted workers from the senior class at Western High School for their community service day. In addition to many community projects coordinated by Park Board members, these students spread mulch in the Town Park playgrounds and removed invasive honeysuckle bushes at Western Heights Pond.
- Assisted the Kokomo Howard County Public Library / Russiaville Branch in their celebration of Arbor Day by supplying giveaways for the children's program and working during a tree giveaway program.
- Added 30 new native plants to the pollinator gardens at CC Park.
- Created an appeal letter for fundraising on the CC Park Playground and Shelter.
- Trimmed trees at CC Park, Western Heights Pond, and Interurban Station.
- Removed dead foliage from the three pollinator beds in the fall.
- Received a pallet of recyclable leaf bags from Howard County Recycling. These were available for free at the Craft Fair and at the Town Hall.
- Made Santa's mailbox available to children.
- Planted nine tree seedlings from Howard County SWCD and Russiaville Library at Western Heights Pond (Norway spruce, white cedar, hackberry) in the spring. In fall planted a tupelo for a senior citizen and a northern catalpa at the Pond.
- Raised over \$9K for the new CC Park Playground and Shelter through a number of donations and fundraisers. This included \$5K from Stouts, \$1380 from basket raffles, \$920



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from the RCO sponsored Rush to Russiaville Craft Fair, ~\$300 from RCO coin donation boxes, and several other donations, brick sales, and fundraisers.

In addition:

- Supported and advised the Town Council on the painting, floor repair, and new sound baffles at the Community Center.



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2023 Project Goals and Objectives

#1: Develop Community Center Park by adding amenities.

- Based on a projected 2023 - 2025 construction timeframe, seek out community partners for fund raisers and investigate possible grants for an accessible inclusive playground.
- Apply for grants and other funding, then design and build an ADA compliant inclusive playground and community pavilion north of the trail head behind the Community Center.

#2: Continue Town Park Playground rehabilitation.

- Contract with a new playground inspection (last done in 2016).
- Based on the playground inspection report continue to upgrade park equipment and remove problem items.

#3: Promote and plan a recycling area of yard waste so that it can be recycled rather than burned or buried.

- Work with the Town Council to see if this can be included as part of the new water treatment plant property.

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

- Meet with representatives of Western Schools and the Russiaville Library to seek out more cooperative efforts with the town.
- Sponsor and mentor any Eagle Project for scouts that pick a project appropriate for the Park & Tree Board.
- Be alert for opportunities for projects such as a pickleball court, dog park, or a volleyball court.

#5: Develop signage and artwork along the trails and community using grant and gift monies.

- Install a caterpillar piece made from old merry go round.

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

- Plant trees along Railroad Street and other places within the town.
- Monitor the health of the town trees.
- Submit an application and receive Tree City USA recognition for 2022

#7: 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.



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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.