



# RUSSEVILLE PARK & TREE BOARD



## 2017 Accomplishment Report

Below is a list of what the Russiaville Park and Tree Board has accomplished or helped to accomplish in 2017.

- Finalized a Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021 that was approved by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Preparation included open meetings and a community survey. Having this plan approved opens additional grant opportunities for the Town.
- Received a Recreational Trails Program grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for the construction of a trail behind the Jeff Stout Community Center. The grant is for ~\$120K while the project budget is ~\$150K. Preliminary work such as the Project Consultant selection, the Archeological Survey, the Category Exclusion submission, and the Stakeholders Meeting have been completed.
- Upgraded the Town Park by removing the white climbing structure and replacing it with a new ADA compliant climbing structure. Worked towards a more CPSC compliant park (e.g. improving setbacks, reducing the number of swings per bay, etc.)
- Spread new mulch at Town Park and Brady Park. This was done as part of WHS Senior Community Day.
- Bought and spread more stone at the Community Center Circle. Repaired the Circle after the car drove through it.
- Put window tinting at the Jeff Stout Community Center as a result of a community cash donation.
- Maintained the landscaping around the Jeff Stout Community Center.
- Supported the Kokomo Howard County Public Library / Russiaville Branch in their grant application and fund raising for a Nature Explore outdoor classroom at the library.
- Assisted the Kokomo Howard County Public Library / Russiaville Branch in their celebration of Arbor Day.
- Planted one tree at the Community Center; this was a bur oak replacing a tulip tree that had blown over. Planted two red maples at the Town Hall to replace the two old maples that had to be removed a couple years ago.
- Helped edit an ordinance on Park Rules.
- Planted 300 daffodil bulbs on the north side of the east SR-26 entrance to the town.



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- Received an end of year cash donation of \$2,500 from the Indiana American Water Company.
- Applied for a \$2,500 Feed a Bee grant from Bayer CropScience for the development of three pollinator gardens along the recreational trail. This grant is in review.

Improvements for which the Board was not actively involved.

- A new pavilion in the Town Park
- New ADA striping and signage
- New bike rack at Main Street Christian Church



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## 2018 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 bidding, 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 (holdover from 2017) and start developing a plan for the Kokomo to Russiaville Trail.

### #2: Continue Town Park rehabilitation

- Based on the playground inspection from 2016 and improvements in 2017, continue to upgrade park equipment and remove problem items.

### #3: Develop a plan and funding for a new ADA compliant playground and pavilion at the Community Center Park serving both youth and seniors.

- Based on a projected 2019 construction timeframe, seek out community partners for fund raisers, investigate and apply for grants.

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

- Plant trees along Railroad Street. This is contingent upon approval of the land use agreement with Norfolk Southern (holdover from the 2016 and 2017 plans).

### #5: Work with community partners to increase quality of life efforts in the Town

- Meet with the Howard County Recycling District to investigate and 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.

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.