



RUSSEVILLE PARK & TREE BOARD



2021 Accomplishment Report

Below is a list of what the Russiaville Park and Tree Board has accomplished or helped to accomplish in 2021.

- Received Tree City USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation for the 13th consecutive year. This is for the year 2020.
- Completed the disc golf course at Community Center Park in cooperation with Tommy Ray.
- Assisted the Kokomo Howard County Public Library / Russiaville Branch in their celebration of Arbor Day by:
 - Donating (using gift monies) Arbor Day giveaways to the Library for children's activities. This donation was actually done in 2020 but the celebration was cancelled that year. There were take home activity packs for the children along with a virtual story time called "Trees are Treemendous" that had 138 views.
 - Donating (using gift monies) 100 red oak and 100 tulip trees to the library. The library then used other gift monies to buy 42 pollinator plant seedlings. These were used at an Arbor Day (4/30/21) Tree and Plant Giveaway at the Library. The library also opened their Seed Exchange at this celebration. All leftover trees and plants were given away at the Kokomo Farmers Market. There were 64 people at the Library Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom (21 of whom used the Seed Exchange) and nearly 200 people visited the booth at the Farmers Market for information, trees and plants.
- Finished the Arts and Signage Grant from the Community Foundation and submitted the final report. As part of this project:
 - Purchased and installed several plaques.
 - Installed the abstract crane sculpture "Cecaahkwa Ciipaya" / "Crane Soul" in the Community Center Park in honor of Russiaville's Miami heritage. This is in addition to the "Iron Wheels" sculpture that was installed in 2020.
 - Hosted a Dedication of Sculptures on October 10 to formally dedicate both sculptures. Among the speakers at the dedication was Mayor Tyler Moore of Kokomo, whose 4X great-grandfather Jean Baptiste de Richardville was the namesake of Russiaville. Approximately 40 people attended the dedication.
- Redid the "Clean up Checklist" for the Community Center.
- Planted four tree seedlings from Howard County SWCD at Western Heights Pond (black cherry, red oak, sugar maple, white pine).
- Planted a donated dogwood in the Town Park to replace an old redbud that was removed.
- Worked with Russiaville Community Outreach to raise money for Community Foundation Endowments that are focused on Russiaville. The coin boxes raised \$165.50 and this was



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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%).

- Hosted workers from the senior class at Western High School. In addition to many community projects coordinated by Park Board members, these students spread mulch in the Town Park playgrounds, spread mulch around trees in Community Center Park, picked bagworms, and edged the pollinator gardens.
- Completed a parks and recreation survey. Tallied the 117 responses in a database. Held public meetings on a five year plan. Wrote up the draft five year plan and submitted to the IDNR.
- Raised \$3700 from brick sales and donations for the completion of the roundabout project / Iron Wheels landscaping.
- Installed a memorial walk and two benches at the trail roundabout.
- Received two free 6' benches from Howard County Solid Waste. These were made from recycled bottle caps and placed at the trailer park school bus pickup area.
- Sorted bottle caps and brought to Green Tree Plastics for six 4' benches (shopping center, Main Street Church, two at United Methodist Church) , one adult picnic table (IGA), and one children picnic table (Brady Park). Jackson Rounds delivered the caps and picked up the items.
- Held a "Keep the Light Shining" fundraiser for a new picnic area and playground. It, along with some WHS fundraisers, raised \$1753 for this new project.
- Installed solar lights on the two park sculptures and some of the park signage.
- Installed rubber rings around playground swing uprights.
- Received a pallet of recyclable leaf bags from Howard County Recycling.
- Completed a hog raffle that raised \$1964 for the Community Center Park shelter and playground project.
- Accepted eight bluebird houses from a Cub Scout project. Three were given out for installation and five have yet to be installed.
- Started selling memorial pavers for the playground / shelter project. Made \$300.
- Made Santa's mailbox available to children. Received over 20 letters to Santa and \$105 in donations.

In addition:

- Seth and Stephanie Stucker planted a row of white cedar on the east of their property making a nice row of trees along part of the Russiaville Walking Trail.
- A new ADA water fountain was purchased using funds from the county and installed in the Town Park



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2022 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 a caterpillar piece made from old merry go round.

#3: 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.

#4: Develop 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 - 2023 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 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 2021

#6: 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 to the Park & Tree Board.
- Be alert for opportunities for projects such as a pickleball court, a volleyball court, or a dog park.

#7: Complete a new Five Year Parks and Recreations plan for the IDNR.

- Rework the draft plan and have it accepted before 4/15/2022.

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.