



RUSSIAVILLE PARK & TREE BOARD

2024 Accomplishment Report

Below is a list of what the Russiaville Park and Tree Board has accomplished or helped to accomplish in 2024

- Raised close to \$81K in cash for the new CC Park Playground and Shelter through a number of donations and fundraisers. This included a \$50K from the Howard County Commissioners, \$5K from Community First Bank, and many other donations, brick sales, and fundraisers. This also includes many kids' donations for \$50 each. In addition many in-kind pledges were made. The multi-year total raised / pledged is now ~\$318K.
- Held a public meeting on the inclusive playground project on April 2. A description of the project was made and comments were received.
- Received the results of a painted turtle project at Western Heights Pond by a masters student at IU Kokomo.
- Organized and ran a Kids Helping Build the Playground fundraiser to build community buy-in.
- Received Tree City USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation for the 16th consecutive year. This is for the year 2023.
- 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 at which 49 Sugar Maple, 66 Serviceberry, and 17 River Birch were distributed.
- Hosted workers from the senior class at Western High School for their community service day.
- 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.
- Helped coordinate the repair of a vandalized picnic table at the Town Park.
- Met with Dave Kieser and the DNR to coordinate the Inclusive Playground Grant application. Town Council approved property deed restrictions. Hosted IDNR team for a site inspection.
- Staffed a table at the Rush to Russiaville Craft Fair to accept donations, hand out leaf mulch bags, and explain the new playground project.
- Purchased and installed a Happy Hollow playhouse to replace the "Keebler Elf" playhouse in Brady Park.
- Purchased one of two red oak trees planted outside of Softball 1 field by the Lions Club.
- Removed the green ash tree in Brady Park (infected with ash borer)
- Planted Norway spruce at the pond and a red maple at the sidewalk project on South Union.



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- Made Santa's mailbox available to children during Winterfest.



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2025 Project Goals and Objectives

#1: Develop Community Center Park by adding amenities.

- Based on a projected 2025 - 2027 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 is 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 2024

#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.