



RUSSEVILLE PARK & TREE BOARD



2023 Accomplishment Report

Below is a list of what the Russiaville Park and Tree Board has accomplished or helped to accomplish in 2023

- Raised over \$123K for the new CC Park Playground and Shelter through a number of donations and fundraisers. This included a \$100K grant pledge from the Community Foundation of Howard County, a \$5K grant from Solidarity Credit Union, and many other donations, brick sales, and fundraisers. The multi-year total raised / pledged is now ~\$142K.
- Received an economic commitment from the Russiaville Redevelopment Commission (TIF Board) to build a picnic shelter in Community Center Park.
- Received Tree City USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation for the 15th consecutive year. This is for the year 2022.
- Installed a new toddler swing in Brady Park, replacing an old wood structure.
- Removed two large ash tree from Town Park and replaced with four new tree (service berry, sugar maple, and two red oaks). Watered the trees using watering bags for the summer / fall.
- Sponsored an Eagle Project of Josh Connolly for installation of a GaGa Pit in Russiaville Town Park. The estimated cost of over \$3K was raised by the scout and installation was done by the scouts.
- Worked with Town Council and Marshal to develop and install new park rules signage.
- Approved Park & Tree Board Vision and Mission Statements.
- Installed a new basketball rim and net in the Town Park.
- Allowed a graduate student from IU Kokomo to do painted turtle research at Western Heights Pond.
- 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, dug four holes for new trees, and cleared brush along the western property line of the library.
- Cohosted a talk at the Lions Club regarding recycling from director Mikki Jeffers.
- Purchased six new tables for the Town Park Shelter.
- Installed a better security camera for the Park.
- Replaced the damaged bubble panel on the climbing structure in the Park.
- Worked with Russiaville Community Outreach to raise money for Community Foundation Endowments that are focused on Russiaville. The coin donation boxes raised \$107.42 and this was then matched by the RCO for a total of 214.84. Money was put into the Gene



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Parks fund (50%) and the two Cemetery Funds for New London and Russiaville (25% each).

- 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 44 Elderberry and 45 Northern Red Oak were distributed.
- Assisted Clinton Central Schools by loaning a tree watering bag to the school for summer watering of a tree planted by the high school environmental club (pin oak).
- Assisted the Lions Club and the Russiaville Girls Softball League in the planting and watering of six maples around the perimeter of Softball Field #2 (two red's and four freeman's).
- Assisted the Russiaville Tourist Club and Russiaville Friends Church in the planting and watering of a Tulip Poplar (the state tree) behind the church.
- Assisted the Russiaville Library in the planting of a serviceberry tree.
- Planted trees at the pond: three Norway spruce, three northern pecan, two shellbark hickories, and a yellowwood.
- 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 during Winterfest.
- Staffed a table at the Rush to Russiaville Craft Fair to accept donations, hand out leaf mulch bags, and explain the new playground project.

In addition:

- There were two other BSA Eagle projects in town; an American flag disposal fire pit (Lions Club) and a community garden at the Town Hall (Town Council).



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2024 Project Goals and Objectives

#1: Develop Community Center Park by adding amenities.

- Based on a projected 2024 - 2026 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 2023

#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.