



**June 19, 2017-July 22, 2020**

**Presented 7/22/20 by Jerry Cash and Cathy Hamilton on behalf of HOPE Initiative, at the behest of the County Commissioners Kim Cronk, Ed Tarantino, and Ed Yanos**

**HOPE Initiative completed a five-month study of the Henry County Memorial Park (February 13-June 19, 2017), presented the results and recommendations to the Commissioners, County Council, the Park Board, the County Solicitor, and the County Auditor, with 250+ people in the audience at the Smith Auditorium (June 19, 2017), and at the Commissioners' request monitored the progress on the agreements made at the June 19, 2017, meeting. This is a summative report of these last three years.**

The men came out to dedicate a new park, established to honor military veterans.





Ensuring that all of Henry County live with Dignity

**Created at the urging of a former New Castle Mayor, HOPE Initiative is a grassroots advocacy organization that has involved itself in a number of projects to positively impact the quality of life in the county.**

- Jump start
  - LiVE: Substance Abuse Coalition—  
Opioids/Meth/Tobacco (vaping, included)
- Pre-schools in county schools
  - Partnering with  
Second Harvest & United Way, “Toddler Boxes”
- Early Learning Coalition
  - Grant-writing for others
- Housing Issues
  - Stellar 2019
- Community Clean-ups

In January, 2017, HOPE was asked by Commissioners and the Park Board to conduct a Memorial Park study and then to “monitor promises” through June, 2020; Jerry Cash and Cathy Hamilton facilitated for HOPE Initiative.

Beginning in June, 2017, Jerry concentrated on three standing committees created during the study, all under the auspice of the Park Board: The non-negotiables, amenities, and marketing committees.

Cathy concentrated on new entities born out of the study: Veterans Museum, Friends of the Park, and the EXPO Center.

One or both were at every board meeting from Nov 2017-June 2020. All HOPE Initiative work was done gratis.

Beginning the study in mid-February, many issues had been addressed by April, 2017. Commissioners were faithful, with two attending all but one meeting. The board was more sporadic.

**VISION: We want a Henry County Memorial Park that, while honoring its history and natural beauty, offers sustainable, maintained, and diverse services to a diverse community, including both residents of the area and visitors to the area.**

**Effective Governance**

- Leadership
- Job descriptions
- Coaching
- Evaluations
- Funding
- Stewardship

**Friends of Memorial Park**

- Form Board, w/training
- Bylaws
- 501-3c
- Create fee structure
- Collect memberships
- Hierarchy & equitable needs list formed

**Year-round, self sufficient events/ activities calendar**

- Comprehensive and shared
- Year-round Events
- Fall
- Winter
- Spring
- Summer

**A viable 4-H Program**

- Organizational chart
- Bylaws
- Curriculum
- Offerings, including AG
- Site Fieldtrips
- Facilities
- Budget
- Comprehensive Calendar



**Inclusive playgrounds**

- Training @ disability and equipment
- Paint Day, April 17-22
- ADA play equipment
- ADA restrooms
- ADA cabins

**Maintenance of park "non-negotiables"**

- Monuments
- Walking trails
- Ponds
- Lakes
- Trees (see nursery)

**Premier Marketing Strategies**

- Signage
- Web redesign
- Comprehensive calendar
- Newsletters
- Membership cards/See FoMP
- Gift shop: Shirts, pens.....

**Thriving Saddle Club**

- Organizational chart
- Bylaws
- Curriculum
- Offerings
- Facilities
- Budget
- Comprehensive Calendar
- Next steps



**Inviting and self-sufficient amenities that draw visitors**

- Campgrounds
- Horse Trails
- Restrooms
- Cabins
- Restaurant
- General Cleanliness

**Perennial Tree Nursery**

- Site location
- Tree source
- Plant
- Nurture
- Replant

**VISION: We want a Henry County Memorial Park that, while honoring its history and natural beauty, offers sustainable, maintained, and diverse services to a diverse community, including both residents of the area and visitors to the area.**

**Effective Governance 1**

- Leadership
- Job descriptions
- Coaching
- Evaluations
- Funding
- Stewardship

In June, 2017, four recommendations were made to the County's elected or appointed leaders.

**Friends of Memorial Park**

- Form Board, w/training
- Bylaws
- 501-3c
- Create fee structure
- Collect memberships
- Hierarchy & equitable needs list formed
- Fundraise through sales, grants, direct solicitation
- Market the park

**THE EXPO 2**

- \*A viable 4-H Program
- \*A BANQUET Hall for weddings & proms & conferences, Purdue and EXPO offices, classrooms, Technology center, kitchen, and a
- \*MULTI-PURPOSE Building for trade shows, car shows, athletics, 4-H Fair



**Enhance Smith Building, 3**  
including Veterans Museum and Plaza

**Maintenance of park 4**  
"non-negotiables"

- Monuments
- Walking trails
- Ponds
- Lakes
- Perennial Tree Nursery:  
Site location  
Tree source  
Plant-Nurture-  
Replant

**Premier Marketing Strategies 4**

- Year-round, shared, self sufficient events/ activities calendar
- Signage
- Web redesign
- Comprehensive calendar
- Newsletters
- Membership cards/See FoMP
- Gift shop:  
Shirts, pens, mini  
Visitor's Center

**Inviting/self-sufficient amenities that draw visitors 4**

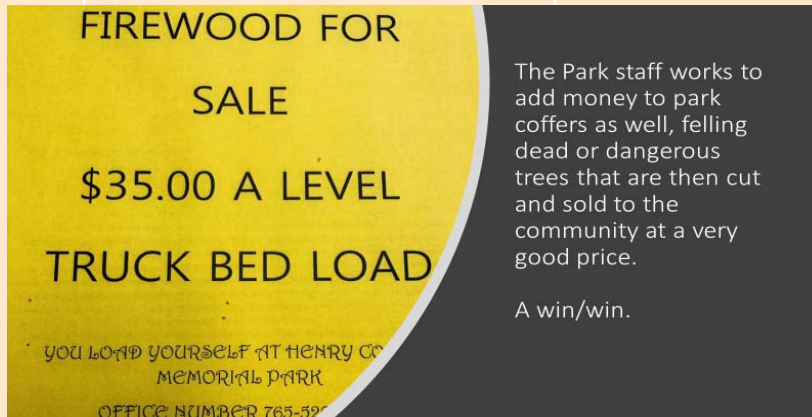
- Campgrounds
- Horse Trails
- Restrooms
- Cabins
- Restaurant
- General Cleanliness
- Inclusive playgrounds
- Training @ disability and equipment
- ADA play equipment, ADA restrooms/cabins



# Funding for the Park

Annual Budget (government)	Golf Course \$ (government)	Direct Donations/ Grants (government)	Special Projects (government)	Commissioners (government)	Friends of the Park (Private non-profit)
@\$430,000 per year	Used for park projects (\$60,000) and to finish the Smith	Occasionally, someone or some entity contributes directly to the park: The Food and Beverage Fund contributed \$500,000 to the park in Aug., 2016.	<p>The park sells firewood and rents space.</p> <p>The Bundy Monument was financed by a Bundy family member.</p>	<p>If an emergency hits the park, AND if the Commissioners' budget allows, the Commissioners have been responsive to needs. Most recently, the Commissioners purchased three lawn mowers for the park, all the current mowers being inoperable.</p>	<p>As an autonomous group, funding for the group is separate from the park's "expected" governmental funds.</p> <p>However, by its by-laws, the group is committed to assisting the park financially as is possible. In three years, as earlier noted, over \$110,000 has been donated to the Friends, cash or in-kind, who has, then, passed the funds on to the park... not counting donated labor</p>

By state regulations, funds coming directly to the park must be approved by commissioners for expenditure and pass through the county auditor.



# The new and improved Smith Building

New ADA  
entry to two  
park offices,  
off 100 N



Auditorium and  
kitchen off parking lot



W.E. Smith Auditorium sports an additional \_\_square footage, new ceiling, windows, kitchen, heating/cooling system, storage area upstairs, and a new exterior.

The Smith Building, built in the WPA era, has served a number of purposes. Named for \_\_\_\_, the building serves the community for family reunions, meetings, wedding showers, indoor 4-H Fair activities,

## Enhance the Smith Building:

Addressed the water issue under the Smith Building (Thank you, Keith Pritchett)

New heating/cooling system

New roof

New exterior, with ADA entry

New storage rooms, two of them

These enhancements were paid for by a Food and Beverage grant (2016) and portions of funding remaining from the sale of the Golf Course.

New auditorium ceiling

New doors and locks, connected to keypad security system

New windows

New screen and new window coverings (Thank you John Pidgeon of Draper Shade)

New full-service kitchen, serving inside the auditorium and outside in good weather

New Superintendent's Office and redesign of Secretary's Office

Two redesigned restrooms, both ADA compliant

Veterans Museum

Friends of the Park Gift Shop and Information Center



**We want a Henry County Memorial Park that, while honoring its history and natural beauty, offers sustainable, maintained, and diverse services to a diverse community, including both residents of the area and visitors to the area.**

**NON-NEGOTIABLES**

- Monuments
- Walking trails
- Ponds
- Lakes
- Perennial Tree Nursery:
  - Site location
  - Tree source
  - Plant- Nurture- Replant



**MARKETING**

- Signage
- Web redesign, other social media
- Comprehensive calendar
- Newsletters
- Membership cards/See FoMP
- Gift shop: Shirts, pens, mini Visitor's Center
- Veterans' Museum



**AMENITIES**

- Enhance Smith Building, including Veterans Museum, Campgrounds
- Horse Trails, Restrooms, Restaurant
- General Cleanliness
- Inclusive playgrounds
- Training @ disability and equipment
- ADA play equipment, ADA restrooms/cabins



**Only park employees are compensated for the work done by these committees who report to the Park Board.  
By 2017 agreement, the superintendent serves on every one of the committees.**

Non-Negotiables Committee  
Superintendent and Co-Facilitator lead  
park staff and lots of volunteers

Those things in the park that literally define the  
park: Trees, trails, ponds, lakes, and  
monuments



Under the guidance of one of Indiana's most known trail gurus, Jeff Ray, trails have been reopened in the park. Jerry Cash has created signage for many of the trails.

In one case, a trail was transformed into a hard surface trail, the one that runs along the TRAIL TALES and the seep.

This work was financed by Golf Course monies, completed by volunteers and the County Garage crew.

Working cooperatively, a local carpenter brings joy to our small park visitors. A park employee bored seventeen post holes, Alan built, and Dennis and Jerry helped him install. Friends of the Library funded materials, the Library provided the BIG book (thank you, Lynn Thomas), Huffer gave gift cards to first-comers (thanks, Lianne Nickey), HOPE Initiative donated umbrella strollers to early small visitors. (HOPE continues to buy the books for this project; a new book is installed four times per year.)



## TRAIL TALES

Seventeen stands built by local artist/carpenter Alan Leduc travel toward the playground, displaying a large children's book. (FYI: Average length of a pre-schooler book is seventeen pages.)

Our small visitors read a fun and informative book on their way to other park pleasures. Walking/reading/fresh air: A winning combination!



Our ponds suffer algae, and dredging is beyond expensive.  
What to do?





Volunteers tackle algae in the smaller pond, using barley bales & onion bags...a Jim Ward suggestion; he convinced Jerry Cash and Dennis Hamilton that it would work. It did.





# MONUMENTS IN THE STATE'S LARGEST MEMORIAL PARK TWENTY-ONE, CURRENTLY

**Working on the Four Wars Monument—that honors veterans of WW I, WW II, Korea, and Vietnam—has become more complicated. New stone is needed.**

**Years ago, volunteers planted a flower for every name written on the stone...and they have multiplied, gotten stronger.**



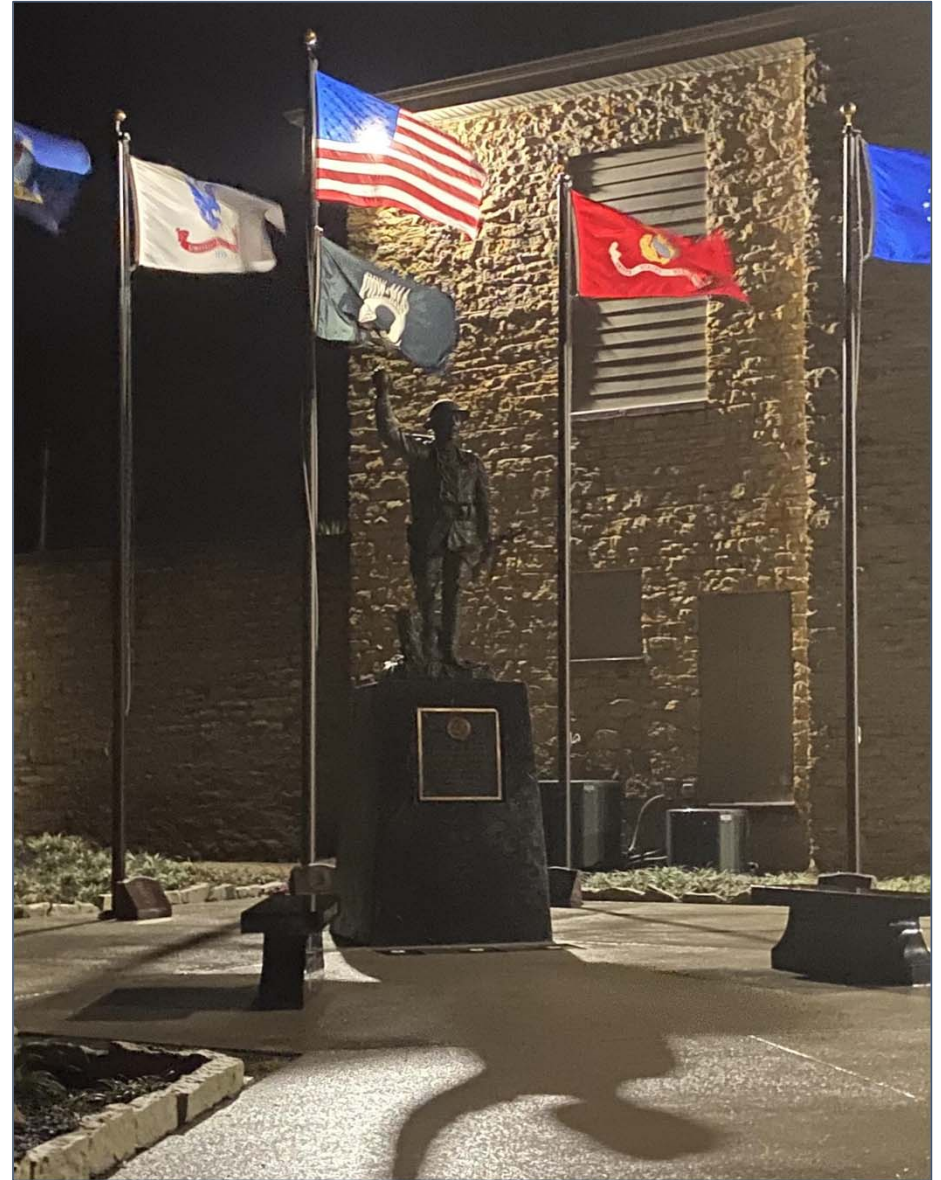


The Flag Plaza, dedicated November 11, 2018, featuring the WW I Doughboy, gifted to the Park in 1929 by the local chapter of War Mothers honoring their “boys.”

By all viable accounts, the plaza has become a most visited site in the park, with visitors able to visit at all hours and able to walk near the famous monument to appreciate the artwork that it is. Three hundred, twenty + people came out for the dedication.



The Doughboy is surrounded by military flags, honor benches, and bricks identifying veterans who have served the United States of America.





# Honoring all those who gave...and those who gave all.

Honor bricks are sold and installed by a military veteran and lifetime member of Friends of the Park. Profit from this sale helps repair, replace, or buy new monuments.



A niece of General Omar Bundy financed a long-overdue monument to this WW II hero; the monument is in sight of the canon General Bundy and his men captured.





# The Global War on Terror Monument

To be installed within the next year







Honoring those Left  
Behind

## The Lower Level of the Smith Building An “Indoor” Monument

**The Veterans Museum, a 501c3 non-profit**, is leased and supervised by a fifteen-member board, with twelve board members being military veterans.

It is a non-profit with two purposes:

Honor the military service of veterans, past and present, and be a draw for visitors to the park.

- Small, but unique collection
- Viewing room for documentaries/films
- Space for veterans and civilians to reflect
- Docents will guide folk through museum
- Open Thursday and Sunday afternoons, initially, 1-4

**Friends of the Park Gift Shop and Information Center is located** adjacent to the Veterans Museum.

Agreed to in June, 2017, as an “indoor monument” to veterans and as an additional draw to the park, the Veterans Museum benefitted by a sound-reduction ceiling, paid for by Golf Course sale monies. The artistry of Retired Lieutenant Ed Tarantino and Arts Park pioneer Steve Weidert brought the walls to life with their professionally designed murals, work given gratis. The Museum Board is now in process of readying the venue for the public.



Museum Board members have assembled new display cases, endeavoring to make a museum visit an even more memorable event than its soft opening was on November 11, 2018.





The Henry County Veterans Museum enjoys huge support in the community, folks anxious for it to open to the public.



Board Members and Friends assemble display cases. Thank you, Retired Lt Colonel Ed Tarantino and Staff Sargeant Steve Peckinpaugh, for service then...and now.



Some Museum Board members and Friends of the Park grab a break after hours of arranging display cases at the Museum.



Amenities Committee  
Superintendent and Co-Facilitator  
lead park staff and lots of volunteers

*Amenities=Anything that makes people in  
the park feel safer and/or more welcome*



## Restoring Yesterday

Volunteers financed  
and rebuilt the  
bridge along the  
smaller pond

Grant, Jeff, Jerry,  
Jim, and a boatload  
of Career Center  
welding students

(Grant Cash is a Tri-Hi student who spent a good bit of time at the park during spring and summer 2020.)





The park staff was busy this spring/summer painting current playground equipment, giving the children access to a colorful, clean play area. What memories that slide has made!



## Latest amenity: Repairing the tennis and basketball courts

The basketball and tennis courts' surfaces had become so bad that people were not using them.

Park Board members Michelle Bryant and Rita Fisher secured bids for getting the courts cleaned up. It would cost approximately \$10,000 to get the surface cleaned up and striped and to get new backboards and nets.

The Park Board & Commissioners agreed \$4000 could come from the Golf Course monies. Wearing their Friends of the Park "hats," Cathy Hamilton wrote a grant to HCCF for \$6000, and Jerry Cash lobbied for the project in HCCF interview. HCCF granted the request. Fred Hopkin's company did the cleaning and sealing. Dennis Hamilton and Jerry Cash laid out the striping, and Fred painted those stripes gratis.

The Superintendent Harrison ordered the backboards and nets. Jerry and park employees Gary and Bryan installed the backboards. Had a plan. Worked the plan.



Now, let's get some basketball and tennis players. 😊



# Signage and printed materials sure help a visitor.

Amenities



First, volunteers, working with the Park Board's Non-Negotiables Committee, raised funds to rebuild a park bridge that had become dangerous to walk on; then volunteers, enlisting the help of local Career Center welding students, rebuilt the bridge. Then volunteers created a replica of the sign that had originally graced that old bridge...and installed it.



Initiated by the Saddle Club in winter of 2018, three non-profits residing in the park and an adjacent private business designed, fundraised, and installed a new information sign near County Road 100 and State Road 3. This was the first collaborative act of all the entities that inhabit Henry County Memorial Park.



## Board's Amenities Committee gets "A little help from our Friends" of the Park

**In 2019, REMC granted a Friends of the Park request for new grills, seventeen of them...and then took out the old ones and installed the new ones. Yeah! REMC!**



**Also in 2020, Henry County Community Foundation granted a Friends' request to finance some new ADA playground equipment. What a joy to watch children play. Yeah rah! HCCF!**



# A collaborative effort

- Volunteers, including linemen from Duke Energy, have re-roofed shelters, all that amateurs can do. The remaining six are too steep and require professional roofers to complete the task. The Board's non-negotiables committee is seeking professional roofers to finish the job.
- There is very little cost involved; the metal roofing was salvaged by then-Commissioner Butch Baker and a detail of inmates who removed the metal from the former annex: Recycling at its finest.





Shelters have been easier to deal with than cabins.



- Several shelters yet need to become ADA compliant, making the entry to the shelters accessible to those using walkers and/or wheelchairs.
- The three park cabins need care. Several local contractors have offered free labor in rehabilitating the cabins. It is on the list....

Jeff Ray and Jerry Cash clear brush from a hillside above the seep so natural vegetation can flourish.

---



Bringing young adults into the park, not to play, rather to rebuild, is a step to ensuring love for the park generations out.

- The Career Center brought out its portable welding equipment and its amazing welding class to add to the effort in rebuilding the bridge leading to the seep, pond, and playground.
- These students now have a vested interest in the park; their fingerprints are on it. Their work fascinated the adults on hand. (Right, Jim?)
- And they spent time with adult volunteers, mentors, and philanthropists. Good stuff.





# Marketing Committee

Superintendent and Co-Facilitator  
lead park staff and lots of volunteers

Get the word out in multiple ways that  
we have a bonafide asset in  
Henry County's Memorial Park

# Marketing begins with Walking the Talk

along with actions and suggestions below

## The Park Board and Staff

- Web
  - Facebook
- } Career Center Students?
- Park Board protocols during board meetings
  - Board/community affiliations
  - Staff face-to-face encounters
  - Year-round calendar on-line, planning regularly, collaboratively-planned events
  - Consistency in park care

## Friends of the Park and the Media

- Tri-fold at Gift Shop
- Networking
- Activities @ the park
- **Career Center** is willing to handle all media for park
- **Courier Times & Middletown Journal**
  - Articles about the park
  - Covering Board Meetings

What funding is reflected in the annual budget for marketing the park?



The EXPO Center responded to the need to replace the five 4-H barns, while meeting other county needs discovered in the five-month study.

A 501c3 non-profit organization, The EXPO is governed by a board of nine people (can move to fifteen members), who signed a twenty-five year lease in May of 2018, for sixty acres in the “South 90,” with Commissioners Butch Baker, Kim Cronk, and Ed Yanos. The lease has a renewable clause.

The EXPO is the second entity to enjoy a park lease with the Commissioners; the Saddle Club had the first lease in the park, 2010.



Folks came out to celebrate the EXPO “Dirt Move” —August, 2019



**Changing up from usual photo ops, students from every school system in Henry County participated in the “turning the soil,” joining the entire EXPO Board and representatives from County Council, Commissioners, and Park Board Members: The arrival of this business to Memorial Park is an “economic game changer” for the county, a future to be inherited by the students present on this day and their peers.**

# The EXPO Center: A sixty-acre complex on the “South 90”

## Then (June, 2017)

- Every County Council Member, every Commissioner, and every Park Board Member, after lengthy study, individual meetings, and ultimately discussion on June 19, voted for the EXPO to move forward.
- They knew the EXPO would replace the five barns now mainly used by 4-H.
- They knew the multi-purpose building would also be used for other purposes.
- They knew the complex would also include a banquet center w/offices, classrooms, and full kitchen.
- They knew \$1.216 million would go to the project from a county maintenance bond secured to purchase voting machines and then to address park needs; other needed funding for the EXPO raised privately (donations, grants, private loans).

## Now (As of July, 2020)

- The EXPO Board and the County Commissioners signed a lease in May of 2018, for a twenty-five year lease, renewable for fifty more.
- EXPO Board has raised an additional \$1.7 million in cash-and-kind and continues to fundraise; the project is 80%+ private funding.
- The land has been readied for construction, a second entry road has been created, electrical infrastructure is in place, water infrastructure has been secured. These pieces are paid for/donated.
- The five-acre complex is under contract with Modoc’s Authentic Builders to begin construction this summer on the Banquet Center, with the multi-purpose building coming afterward. Completion of the Banquet Hall phase is expected in early spring, 2021.
- Construction has begun on rebuilding Phillips Shelter, around the bend from Cardinal Field, not on Cardinal Field
- Planning continues for an inclusive playground to be located south of the Multi-Purpose building, along with a new Saunders Shelter.
- A calendar is being created now for filling the two buildings with events upon completion
- Plans are in play to hire a professional director by spring, at latest
- Additional campsites and trails will be created
- The EXPO assumes responsibility for upkeep of grounds with completion of the build.

## How will it look?

The smaller building is stick built and holds offices, classrooms, and a conference room/banquet center. Purdue Extension offices are housed here, parent organization of 4-H.

The larger building, a steel pole barn, will house everything now done in the five barns during the 4-H Fair.

The connecting structure is a kitchen that serves both facilities.

When not used by 4-H, the facility has a myriad of possibilities.

The facility is on five acres of land; fifty-five acres will continue to be park space with trails, campsites, shelters.





## Some surprises....

- The Road and the dirt move (prepping the site) cost \$1.2 million.
- It took five months for the EXPO lease to be approved by the commissioners. The building and land will always belong to the county citizens via the commissioners; the EXPO Board lease has that board authorized to manage the EXPO for twenty-five years, with an option to renew.
- It took over five months to get all the permits needed to start construction....Many State employees work from home because of COVID, slowing efficiency, it was explained.

# EXPO Center

Phase I—The banquet hall, offices, classrooms, board room, and kitchen

- ❖ Weddings,
- ❖ conferences,
- ❖ meetings in the board room,
- ❖ proms,
- ❖ class reunions,
- ❖ tech training,
- ❖ smaller concerts
- ❖ large family reunions,
- ❖ education forums



## Phase II—The Multi-Purpose Building (Need a better name😊)

- Home to Henry County 4-H Fair, will hold everything now done in the five historic 4-H barns
- Host trade shows, athletic events (pickle ball, traveling basketball/volleyball), gymnastic competitions, wrestling clinics, wedding fairs, larger concerts, indoor car shows, vehicle auctions, and other.....

## Phase III—The Inclusive Park south of the multi-purpose building

- ADA inclusive play area
- Sanders Shelter rebuilt near the playground, with ADA amenities
- Campgrounds created on other EXPO space
- Construct cabins for rent



**EXPO Board  
Members put Muscle  
behind the Dream**

**In May, 2020, EXPO Volunteers came out to work the land, clearing the area of barriers to the new construction about to begin. Yep, Tony Wright cut that big tree down, Steve Weidert worked tirelessly to free large branches that had been cut and then were bound again by grass growing it back to the earth, and JR Martin moved trees to eventual burn pyres.**

**These folk, giving time, talent, and treasure, represent many others working to bring the EXPO vision to life.**



The Calendar Counts.....

2021

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wk 1					IVY Tech Graduation?		July 4 <sup>th</sup> Concert			"Power of Poverty? Conference		Christmas concert
Wk 2					Graduation?	Park's 100 <sup>th</sup> B-day	4-H Fair				Veterans' Ball	
Wk 3		Valentine Dance on Feb 14		EDC annual mtg?		HCCF Annual mtg Juneteenth	4-H Fair			Octoberfest		Seasonal Revelry
Wk 4											Cattle Show	

2022

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wk 1					Graduation?		July 4 <sup>th</sup> Concert			Education conference		Christmas concert
Wk 2	Wedding Fair	Valentine dance			Graduation?		4-H Fair				Veterans' Ball	
Wk 3	Documen-tary		EDC annual mtg?			HCCF Annual mtg Juneteenth	4-H Fair			Octoberfest		Seasonal Revelry
Wk 4											Cattle Show	

2023

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wk 1							July 4 <sup>th</sup> Concert	Class of 1968?		Education conference		Christmas concert
Wk 2	Wedding Fair	Valentine Dance					4-H Fair				Veterans' Ball	
Wk 3	Documen-tary		EDC annual mtg?			HCCF Annual mtg Juneteenth	4-H Fair			Octoberfest		Seasonal Revelry
Wk 4											Cattle Show	

# Unfinished Business

A study of alternative ways of governing Memorial Park

Whether this study is ever conducted or not, we recommend that those saying they “love the park” and want to be on the board should

- 1) attend a board meeting or two before applying, and
- 2) should attend a short course on boardsmanship, offered by the county commissioners.

Boardsmanship speaks to legal responsibilities, ethical responsibilities, and practical responsibilities of anyone truly serving Memorial Park...or any other county board for that matter.

Leadership does matter.



**VISION: “We want a Henry County Memorial Park that, while honoring its history and natural beauty, offers sustainable, maintained, and diverse services to a diverse community, including both residents of the area and visitors to the area.”**



- **Form Board, w/training**
- **Bylaws**
- **501c3 Non-profit**
- **Create fee structure**
- **Collect memberships**
- **Hierarchy & equitable needs list formed w/Park Board/Supt**
- **Fundraise through sales, grants, direct solicitation**
- **Market the park**

Over \$110,000 donated to Park through Friends of the Park efforts, not including donated labor.

Formed in March of 2017, Friends of the Park has taken its mission of serving the Henry County Memorial Park seriously: Successfully written five grants to Henry County Community Foundation or REMC and sold park calendars, park teeshirts, collected membership fees, and made direct solicitations that brought the following to the Park in three years—

- ✓ Grant for ADA playground equipment
- ✓ Grant to repair tennis and basketball courts and to purchase backboards
- ✓ Grant to purchase nets for basketball and tennis
- ✓ Grant to assist with the Flag Plaza(Thank you HCCF for these grants.)
- ✓ Grant to purchase baby swings, nets (Thank you, HCCF TASC)
- ✓ Grant for seventeen new grills for north side of the park (Thank you REMC)
- Solicited funding for Museum display cases (Thank you HCCF and private donors)
- Solicited FUNDING from nearly 200 donors to install the Flag Plaza and to purchase/install the Global War on Terror Monument—especially appreciate Members Steve Peckinpaugh, Kevin Brown, private donors.
- Provided funding for materials for bridge rebuild
- Joined Friends of the Library, HOPE Initiative, Early Learning, & Huffer to build TRAIL TALES.
- Organized volunteer work details in 2017, 18, and 19
- Assisted Board Member Gerri Williams in 2019 Christmas event
- Participated, at Board Member Landon Dean’s request, in superintendent interviews, along with Healthy Communities, EXPO Center, Saddle Club, HOPE Initiative, Ed Tarantino, and Chad Malicoat.
- Hosted BIG SALE &organized booths for July, 2019, July 4 event
- Worked with other non-profits on 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration
- Currently planning a Smith Building “Kitchen Shower”
- Will open a “Park Gift Shop” later this summer, profits going to park



The Lower Level of the Smith Building is home to the new park gift shop and information center, hosted by members/volunteers of Friends of the Park.

**Friends of the Park Gift Shop and Information Center is located** adjacent to the Veterans Museum.

Friends will operate with volunteers, selling park-related merchandise, coffee/water, with all profit going to benefit the park.

The group will offer information about the park in general: Trails, camp sites, monuments...

The group will also supervise a mini-Visitors' Center, making information available to museum visitors regarding other sites worth visiting in Henry County: The Henry County Historical Museum, the Wilbur Wright Museum, the Hoosier Gym, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, the Saddle Club, the EXPO, the Motorsport Park, the Golf Course. Yes, you can sign up after this meeting to volunteer in the gift shop. 😊





## Volunteers

The truth about volunteers is they CAN quit; the beauty of volunteers is they don't. They may take a break, but they are faithful to projects —to people—they believe in.

In the last three years, volunteers have shown up to re-roof park shelters, to clear gardens, to mow, to clean, to paint, to install grills, to battle algae, to help ready the park for summer visitors, to close parts of the park for winter, to build bridges, to clear trails, to build trails, to make signs, to plant tree nurseries, they showed to decorate for the holidays, to read to children, to write grants, to beg funds, to donate time, talent, and treasure.

HOPE Initiative has fulfilled its commitments.  
Other leaders will, of course, continue the work.

- The Memorial Park Board will continue to caretake and enhance the park, north of County Road 100 N, addressing park-wide electrical issues, restoring the beloved “Big Shelter,” restoring historic cabins, creating programming to bring more people into the park.  
Landon Dean, Board President, [thenights338@gmail.com](mailto:thenights338@gmail.com)
- The EXPO Center Board will continue the building project, constructing the center, creating campsites, trails, programming, all with the ultimate goal of sustaining a constructive space for young people.  
JR Martin, Board President, [jrmartin7250@gmail.com](mailto:jrmartin7250@gmail.com)
- The Veterans Museum is currently organizing the museum proper and the viewing room, anticipating opening this year to the public, offering education and reflection opportunities.  
Ed Hill, Board President, [edhill@cinergymetro.net](mailto:edhill@cinergymetro.net)
- The Saddle Club has been busy, working with equestrians seeking outdoor venues. The nationally known organization will continue to grow and bring people to Henry County for excellent horse shows.  
Rebecca Baker, Board President, [hcsaddle@gmail.com](mailto:hcsaddle@gmail.com)
- The Friends of the Park invites every citizen to join its membership and become an active partner to all entities inside the park, raising funds and providing labor through its membership. Holly Thompson Adkins, Sonya Conley, Nancy Dietz, Cathy Hamilton, Rick and Shelia Holder, Lindsey Posey, Lynn Thomas, Board, [lynnthomas316@gmail.com](mailto:lynnthomas316@gmail.com) and [cathy@cathyhamiltonassociates.com](mailto:cathy@cathyhamiltonassociates.com)