

Harlan Community Projects

Community Park Improvements Project Description:

The Harlan Community Park is in the heart of the Harlan community and is a place where residents and visitors gather for recreational activities and events such as the Harlan Days festival. A recent survey shows strong support for investment into the park, particularly for an enhanced playground, walking trails, and improvements to the baseball league experience. The proposed Harlan Park Improvement Project includes an accessible playground just north of the existing sport courts and existing playground, bleacher upgrade improvements throughout the baseball diamonds, and an asphalt road connecting the east and west drives which can also be used as a walking path.

The park improvements would allow for more people to enjoy, as a community, the amenities that the Harlan Community Park has to offer. These improvements would not only enhance the Harlan Community Park but would allow the necessary maintenance and upkeep of a community asset.

Impacts:

- Enhanced opportunities for park and recreation in East Allen County which is currently underserved.
- Improved accessibility and safety for pedestrians with the addition of the road connecting east and west drives, new bleachers, and an accessible playground.
- Enhanced space for community events.
- Increased opportunity for civic connection.

Readiness:

- Red Flag Survey: No significant environmental issues.
- Park is Owned by the Harlan Community Association (a 501c4)

Budget: \$530,000

Possible Funding Partners:

Allen County Commissioners
AWS Foundation

Downtown Planning and Streetscape Enhancement Local Match:

The Harlan Area Revitalization Task Force (HART) is a group of community volunteers that have been meeting as a result of the development of the Harlan Strategic Investment Plan. They are in the process of obtaining non-profit status and are working toward the betterment of the community in a number of ways. One way is in regard to the enhancement of their downtown. As part of the *East Allen Rural Revival Regional Development Plan*, HART is interested in developing an Indiana Main Street organization, appealing to the State of Indiana to reduce traffic speeds through town, developing a downtown streetscape plan and applying to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for funding toward a streetscape enhancement project.

This work would all be separate from Stellar funding. The reason for this is that Harlan is an Unincorporated Census Designated Place and therefore any application for funding would fall under Allen County. Allen County has other applications under development which preclude additional funding requests under the Stellar Designation for CBG funds. This approach however, will still enable Harlan to apply for funding through the normal Office of Community and Rural Affairs Main Street funding opportunity. Funds being requested from the Allen County Commissioners would be to cover planning and 20% local match costs for streetscape construction. In addition, the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council will assist in the development and administration of the project.

Budget: \$120,000 Allen County Commissioners + \$530,000 Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs = \$650,000

Possible Funding Partners:

Allen County Commissioners

NIRCC (In-Kind)

Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs