

**Waterloo Thanks Community for Veterans Park Contributions**

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Waterloo, IN – The Town of Waterloo surpassed the fundraising goal for building a new Veterans Memorial Park. Because the goal was met by the May 1 deadline, the Waterloo Park Board is eligible to receive matching funds up to $48,750 by using the [CreatINg Places](https://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTkwMzE1LjMyNTEwMjEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTkwMzE1LjMyNTEwMjEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNzM2MTQxMyZlbWFpbGlkPXZlcm9uaWNhQHBhdHJvbmljaXR5LmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9dmVyb25pY2FAcGF0cm9uaWNpdHkuY29tJmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&102&&&http://www.in.gov/myihcda/2602.htm)' program offered by the [I**ndiana Housing and Community Development Authority**](https://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTkwMzE1LjMyNTEwMjEmbWVzc2FnZWlkPU1EQi1QUkQtQlVMLTIwMTkwMzE1LjMyNTEwMjEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmlhbD0xNzM2MTQxMyZlbWFpbGlkPXZlcm9uaWNhQHBhdHJvbmljaXR5LmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9dmVyb25pY2FAcGF0cm9uaWNpdHkuY29tJmZsPSZleHRyYT1NdWx0aXZhcmlhdGVJZD0mJiY=&&&103&&&https://admin.govdelivery.com/abe/bulletins/1207831/www.in.gov/ihcda) (IHCDA). Utilizing the matching funds with the crowd funding platform enabled the Town to generate excitement and public support for the project.

“We’re incredibly grateful for everyone’s support, donations came in even after we made the goal!” says Town Manager Tena Woenker. “We can’t wait to start digging the pond and building the sledding hill. Those are the first steps of park construction and we hope to be building it in the next few months.”

The money raised will be used to activate a vacant lot by constructing the first phase of Waterloo’s Veterans Memorial Park which includes a stocked fishing pond, sledding hill, walking trail, landscaping, benches and fenced dog play area. The project is generating more support than expected. This week the local Girl Scout troop offered to sponsor another bench in the park and maany aoffers have come for helping with the memorial in Phase 2. Park Board members are encouraged that this park will be a popular site for recreation.

At the conclusion of the campaign, the Town had raised $62,686 toward the $48,750 goal, far exceeding expectations. More than 100 people, foundations and businesses contributed to the cause including the top donations, as follows:

$10,000 from American Legion Post 97, Auburn

$10,000 from Anonymous

$5,000 from Charleston Metals, Inc

$5,000 from Horizon Bank

$5,000 from Olive B. Cole Foundation

$5,000 from People’s Charitable Foundation

$5,000 from RP Wakefield

$2,000 from Covington Box & Containers

$2,000 from Nucor Building Systems

$2,156 from Waterloo Town Council

$1,500 from Stephen Liebbe

$1,000 from Casey’s General Store

$1,000 from employees at Eaton, Auburn

$1,000 from NIPSCO

$1,000 from Dr. Larry Payne

$ 566 from Loyal Order of Moose, Auburn

$ 500 from New Hope Christian Center

$ 500 from Community Foundation DeKalb County

$ 500 from Hartman Auto Body

$ 500 from William Hubartt

$ 500 from Dwight and Lena Zerkle

Public participation and has been instrumental in determining the goals and direction of the Waterloo Parks Department, as well as identifying recreational needs of residents. This first phase of the park will be quickly available to residents and the layout of the pond and hill will determine where the Phase 2 parts of the park will be located.

Waterloo received approval from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for the Town’s 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and hopes to apply to the IDNR for the next stage of funding in 2020 for a veterans memorial sculpture, connecting the park with another trail to the Auburn-Waterloo Bikeway, adding more landscaping, benches, parking, and possibly a pavilion or splash pad.

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