



City of Reidsville Press Release – Release Date July 11, 2017

Grant Helps City of Reidsville Install Crosswalk on Recreational Campus

Second grant to build playground at Lake Reidsville

Reidsville residents and visitors to the City are the beneficiaries of two Duke Power grants distributed by the Rockingham Community Foundation.

Following a coal ash spill in 2014 in Rockingham County, Duke Power provided two \$250,000 allotments to benefit recipients in the county. The maximum amount of each grant that could be received was \$25,000, and the projects were to focus on economic development.

The City of Reidsville has received two \$25,000 grants.

The first grant, awarded in 2015, went to establish a safe walkway between the new Reidsville Center for Active Retirement Enterprises (RCARE) and the City’s Recreation Center down the street on Washington Avenue. That walkway was recently completed.

According to Reidsville Assistant City Manager Tom Wiggins, This combination sidewalk and crosswalk project is part of a larger vision of improving pedestrian connectivity and safety in the Old School Neighborhood area. He noted that the grant helped to bridge a funding gap and raised the priority level of the project.

In the future, the City plans to construct an urban trail and natural trail improvements to connect the surrounding City facilities, such as the Teen Center and Lowe’s ball fields on Sprinkle Street with the Recreation Center and RCARE on Washington Avenue. The result is a “campus-like” environment connecting all of the facilities.

“This is money well spent because both projects not only provide recreational opportunities for our citizens but also enhance community appearance and public safety,” Wiggins said. “The ultimate goal is to facilitate more physically active lifestyles that demonstrate Reidsville’s strong commitment to recreation, health and wellness.”

The second project funded by a \$25,000 grant, awarded this year, is currently under way, according to Reidsville’s Parks & Recreation Superintendent Fred Thompson.



Currently there is only minimal playground equipment at Lake Reidsville Park located off Waterworks Road. The park and its camping area, which draws visitors from near and far, helps bring revenue to Reidsville, its restaurants and stores.

“The previous main playground apparatus was removed to make room for a more participant friendly one,” Thompson explained. “An overall plan has been developed to enhance the utilization of these facilities to spur economic development that includes installation of a new playground, construction of new trails and various structured activities for the visitors to Lake Reidsville.”

Mayor Jay Donecker commends City staff for going after these grant opportunities.

“As a 2017 designated Playful City, we continue to look for ways to improve Reidsville’s recreational offerings and enhance our quality of life here,” Mayor Donecker said. “These grants help us to raise the bar even higher for our residents and visitors.”