



Blackford County  
Community Foundation

# STRONG FOUNDATIONS

*Cultivating, nurturing, and growing legacies*

## NATURAL PLAYSCAPE PLAYGROUND PLAN

How many times do we tell each other that we need to figure out how to get our children outside? To unhook them from their video games?

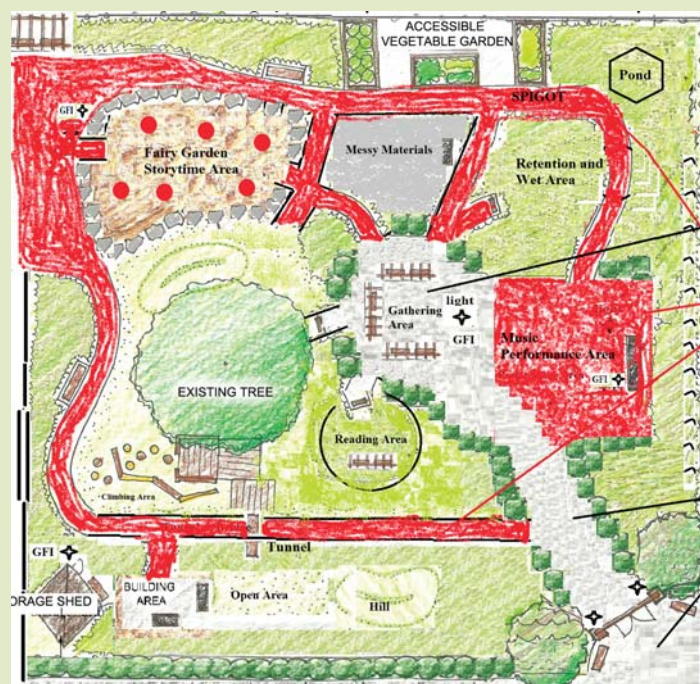
That thought, plus the Blackford Initiative survey results that suggested that the community have more child and family friendly activities, a plot of land at the Hartford City Public Library, and a fund at the Foundation that must be used for early childhood projects, has pulled the three organizations together to plan a nature play area just east of the Library.

Nature play spaces incorporate the landscape into playgrounds that bring nature into daily play in contrast to the usual metal, plastic, and shredded tire playground more typical of our city parks. The current research concerning early childhood learning shows that nature play spaces are especially effective in supporting children's engagement, imagination and cooperative play. The activity stations in the Library's nature play area will also link to literacy activities.

The project has been approved by the Library Board, approved for various city zoning ordinances, and submitted to an architectural firm for final drawings that will be used to procure bids for the heavy construction.

Watch for the announcement of a community meeting in the coming weeks so that you can contribute your ideas for the individual learning stations; volunteer labor for

some construction; or donate additional materials, equipment, or funds.



The preliminary drawing of the nature play area project at the Hartford City Public Library provides for reading areas, music performance, a fairy garden, a vegetable garden, and an area for messy materials.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 6, 2017**  
2017 Postsecondary Scholarship Applications due at Foundation office.

**July 20, 2017**  
Grant Applications due for the last grant cycle of 2017 at Foundation office.

**August 31, 2017**  
2017 W.O.W. Grant Applications due at Foundation office.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remind Blackford County currently enrolled college and vocational school students that scholarships are available from the Foundation. Applicants must have a 2.5 GPA for the spring 2017 semester in order to be eligible. Applications are due July 6 and are available at [www.blackfordcofoundation.org](http://www.blackfordcofoundation.org).

### CONTACT US

121 N. High St.  
P.O. Box 327  
Hartford City, IN 47348  
(765) 348-3411  
[blackfordcofoundation.org](http://blackfordcofoundation.org)



Like us on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/BlackfordCoFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/BlackfordCoFoundation)



# FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDS ANNOUNCED: Your Donations Put to Work

## SPRING 2017 GRANTS



*A new Camp Invention grant will pay part of the fees for about 45 students to attend a weeklong summer camp that encourages science and technology learning through hands-on experiences.*



*The SummerFest Arts Festival will be held again this year on the square in Hartford City thanks in part to a new Foundation grant.*

 The Blackford County Community Foundation awarded \$125,000 in sixteen grants to local nonprofits that are providing services to both senior citizens and youth in our community.

Blackford County Schools was awarded \$15,000 for four projects:

- Google Expedition Virtual Reality kit that provides virtual field trips,
- Red Ribbon week activities for Drug Free Week next October
- Science and invention activities for an elementary summer experience called Camp Invention in June, and
- Blackford High School greenhouse project.

Other youth development grants were given to

- Hartford City Public Library to install nature play learning stations on the lot behind the library (\$56,397),
- Montpelier-Harrison Township Public Library for its 2017 summer reading program (\$2,024),
- Blackford County YMCA for helping disadvantaged youth participate in Y programming (\$3,500), and
- Arts Place, Inc., and the Blackford County Arts Center for its MusicWorks program that provides music lessons to many local young people (\$24,000).

Five grants went to projects that provide services to local citizens in need of health or other special services:

- Little Red Door for cancer patient assistance (\$2,000),
- Blackford County Mental Health Association for summer camp fees (\$1,000),
- Blackford County Senior Citizens Center for kitchen equipment and food supplies (\$3,944),
- Good Seed Initiative, Inc., for organic gardening projects for needy families and equipment for community retreats (\$2,474), and
- Blackford United Way for support of its 18 member agencies (\$5,000).

The last three grants went to organizations that are providing community-wide events.

- Tori's Butterfly Garden Foundation, Inc., for the 2017 SummerFest Arts Festival on July 29, 2017 (\$4,000),
- Blackford County Civil War Reenactment Club for its Civil War Days event May 12-14, 2017 (\$5,000), and
- Montpelier Lions Club for upgrading the electrical wiring at the Montpelier Lions Club community building (\$660).



*The sidewalk at the Blackford Youth Soccer Complex was widened and fencing replaced with funds from a 2015 Foundation grant.*

## Grant Impact: Soccer Spectators' Experience Improved

The local crowds attending the events at the Blackford Youth Soccer Complex, just south of Blackford High School, were the beneficiaries of a Foundation grant awarded a year ago. The grant provided funds to double the width of the sidewalk between the concession building and the restroom area to more easily accommodate the 500 to 1500 spectators and players present at any given event. The grant also helped finance a heavier cage fence on the north side of the complex near the 3-foot drop to the parking lot. The original fence was damaged by heavy winds two years ago.

The Foundation continues to award grants to nonprofit organizations that support youth activities in the community. In 2016, 25% of the Foundation's grants went to youth sports and leadership activities.

☞ *"We are in the forever business. . . ."*

Elizabeth Witt, our Office Manager at the Foundation, recently attended the Indiana Philanthropic Alliance's Boot Camp, a seminar designed for Indiana staff new to the world of community foundations. Staff members from around the state participate each year in this learning/networking opportunity that deepens each participant's knowledge of Indiana community foundations' history and functioning.

Here are some features of community foundations that were part of the conference discussion that you too may find intriguing:

Many charitable options are available for donors so that they can be as involved or detached from the actual awarding of grants from their funds as they wish to be. Some donors choose each year which charities they wish to support while others leave the entire choice to the Foundation board.

Charitable choices are, in fact, so numerous that they are entirely dependent on what is in the best financial and philanthropic interests of the donor. Selections vary from donating right now to planning a gift that goes to the Foundation upon the passing of the donor.

The missions of community foundations are ambitious: every foundation helps the donor by providing tax-breaks, by supporting the life of the local community, and by making a donor's dreams of doing good come true. What is more, the means for fulfilling those missions is available for many years into the future. In many cases those dollars are available forever.

We here at the Foundation are in the forever business. So let us help you, forever.

## DONOR SUPPORTS EARTH DAY THROUGH FOUNDATION

We do not always know why a donor may choose to give to the Foundation, but once in a while, our donors do share their stories.

Recently, the Foundation received the gift of a water cooler as a donor's celebration of Earth Day 2017. That donation allows the Foundation to keep several dozen plastic water bottles from winding up in local landfills each month. And, it adds the Foundation's own Act of Green to the international Earth Day's campaign to reach 3 billion individual actions that preserve the environment by the 50th anniversary of Earth Day in 2020.

"We here at the Foundation will help you donate to the causes that move you. We have a whole array of tools to help."

---Dave Bowman, Executive Director



## W.O.W. CORNER

*"Believing all women are worthy, W.O.W. strives to combine our gifts and talents to benefit the women and children of Blackford County."*

### Submit Your Group's W.O.W. Grant Application Before August 31

☞ W.O.W. exists to provide funding for local projects that specifically benefit women and children who are at risk in this community. Those many annual \$25 donations add up so that this group of donors can support projects that could not be easily supported by each individual donor.

So this year, once again, the application for the available \$500 grants is now posted online at the Foundation website [www.blackfordcofoundation.org/women-of-worth/w-o-w-grant-application/](http://www.blackfordcofoundation.org/women-of-worth/w-o-w-grant-application/)

Applications are due August 31 at the Foundation office. Award winners will be determined at the W.O.W. Annual Fall Meeting on October 29.

### For a membership donation of \$25, you can . . .

- Provide grants to local women and children
- Experience the satisfaction of helping others in Blackford County
- Enjoy fellowship with women in our community at the Fall Luncheon

## Save the Date

**2017 W.O.W. Fall Luncheon**

**Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Lake Placid Conference Center**



## Blackford County Community Foundation


121 N. High St.

P.O. Box 327

Hartford City, IN 47348

NON PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HARTFORD CITY, IN 47348  
PERMIT NO. 34  
Address service requested

## HERE'S WHAT YOUR DONATIONS ARE DOING FOR YOUTH THIS SUMMER

 Each year the Blackford County Community Foundation supports a wide variety of youth activities throughout this community. This support stems from Foundation grant funds awarded to the sponsoring nonprofit organization. Here is a list of some that are already inviting participants. Pass the word.

### Childrens Activities Blackford County Summer 2017

Sponsored by the Blackford County Community Foundation

#### Safety Town

Southside Elementary School  
1515 S. Monroe Street, Hartford City, IN 47348

Ages: 4-6 Phone: 765.702.9499  
Dates: June 5-8 Email: N/A  
Contact Name: Amanda Wolfe

#### YMCA Summer Day Camp

Blackford Junior High School  
820 W VanCleve Street, Hartford City, IN 47348

Ages: 5-10 Phone: 765.348.9622  
Dates: June 5-July 31 Email: dbustos@muncieymca.org  
Contact Name: Dave Bustos

#### Art Classes

Blackford County Arts Center  
107 W Washington Street, Hartford City, IN 47348

Ages: 6+ Phone: 765.348.4154  
Dates: Begin June 19 Email: amyday@artsland.org  
Contact Name: Amy Day

#### Summer Reading Program

Hartford City Public Library  
314 N High Street, Hartford City, IN 47348

Ages: 0-12 Phone: 765.348.1720  
Dates: Begin May 29 Email: N/A  
Contact Name: HCPL Children's Department

#### Youth Soccer Camp

Blackford Youth Soccer Complex  
2392 N State Road 3, Hartford City, IN 47348

Ages: 4-14 Phone: 765.499.1100  
Dates: June 19-June 23 Email: freddie1h@yahoo.com  
Contact Name: Fred Hoffman

#### Camp Invention

Northside Elementary School  
400 E. McDonald Street, Hartford City, IN 47348

Grades: K-5 Phone: 765.728.2402 ext 4107  
Dates: June 5-9 Email: kredford@blackfordschools.org  
Contact Name: Kylee Redford

#### Summer Reading Program

Montpelier Public Library  
301 S Main Street, Montpelier, IN 47359

Ages: 0-12 Phone: 765.728.5969  
Dates: May 20-July 1 Email: CDLLadyBug@hotmail.com  
Contact Name: Cathy Leas

#### Art Camp

Blackford County Arts Center  
107 W Washington Street, Hartford City, IN 47348

Grades: K-8 Phone: 765.348.4154  
Dates: June 12-15 Email: amyday@artsland.org  
Contact Name: Amy Day