

Be Wild. Be Wonderful.



2021 Community Partner

Wardensville

J. Allen Hawkins Community Park



What Public Health Problem Was Addressed?

According to the County Health Rankings 27% of Hardy County residents report no leisure-time physical activity and 33% of residents have inadequate access to locations for physical activity in their community. Wardensville, located within Hardy County, is a small town with a population of 271 residents. Their community has a large percentage of older residents who enjoy walking for physical activity and were in need of low cost opportunities to walk safely within the town. The J. Allen Hawkins Community Park project aims to address the need for more low cost/no cost physical activity opportunities for the community as well as creating a walking tour map of our downtown area that highlights our local history and directs walkers to local art installations.

What Approach Did They Take?

J. Allen Hawkins Community Park was identified as an area needing improvement through Communication discussions with community members and stakeholders about what the community would like to see and what were viable options given time, funding, and volunteers. The Town of Wardensville worked with We are fortunate to work with the Capon Post 2102 VFW, Wardensville Development Authority, and Wardensville Scout Pack 81 to help install the cardio hill and make improvements to the trail at J. Allen Hawkins Community Park. The Town was also able to secure funding through the REAP grant from WV DEP to install Recycled Tire Playground equipment to enhance the trail.



What Were The Results?

Improvements were made to the J. Allen Hawkins Community Park trail, a 1 1/2 mile trail, that included a "Cardio Hill" incline that added 467.5' of trail. Signs were created and added to mark the new trail enhancements and two recycled climbing structures were added adjacent to the walking trail to provide climbing opportunities to the community.

Wardensville also created a Be Active Walking Map of the downtown and community park. The maps have been placed at the Farmer's Market, Visitor's Center, and area businesses for community members to utilize.

Park patrons have been talking positively about the improvements to the park and inquiring about additional plan for improvements. Getting these conversations started has provide a wonderful transition to visualizing potential future projects for Wardensville.

What's Next?

The Town of Wardensville plans to continue to seek funding opportunities to improve the community park and offer physical activity opportunities to their community members. They are planning to create a park use plan, add a Disc Golf Course, explore adding a GAGA Pit, and in the long-range, access the 30+ acres across Waites Run for additional outdoor physical activity opportunities.

The Town Council is committed to continue to work with our partners to receive input and feed back on ways to improve park through holding community input meetings and other forms of communications with residents.



For more information, contact:

Betsy Orndoff-Sayers

Phone: 304-490-9383

Email: betsy@wardensville.com



www.activewv.org

