

HENRY COUNTY EXPO CENTER

THE PROJECT HISTORY:

Henry County Memorial Park, located in the center of Henry County, has been an icon since 1920. It is the largest War Memorial Park in Indiana. The park offers a variety of events and activity space to the community and travelers passing through. The park has always appealed to both young and old.

In early 2017 a series of community meetings were held, facilitated by Hope Initiative, to seek community input about our historic park. The focus of the meetings centered around two key questions: "What is great about our park?" and "What would make a park even better?" These meetings brought awareness to the fact that an upgraded 4-H facility was critically needed. Originally built in the 1940's, the open pole-barn style facilities have become outdated and unsafe. Soil bore sample results identified the location in which the current facility resides as not suitable for new construction.

The planning process for a new 4-H facility quickly determined that the needs of the park and of the community far surpassed that of just a fairground facility. Therefore, the plan for the Expo Center was developed, focusing on the importance of investing in the future of our youth, supporting the needs of a larger community, and targeting economic growth for our county.

THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

In spring of 2018, a third party consultant conducted a feasibility study. Several members of the New Castle and Henry County communities were interviewed. In May, 2018, a 25-year lease for the 60 acres of land was signed, with an option for fifty more years. In 2019, the five acres for the EXPO buildings were prepped for construction, electrical infrastructure was installed, and a secondary road was cut. Construction of the smaller building has begun. Next? Filling of the calendar of events!



An artistic rendition of the Center showing proportion.

Our mission is simple

"The Henry County Expo Center will provide an environment to promote healthy living, learning, and growth."

THE PLAN:

The Expo Center will not only provide an updated all-inclusive 4-H facility; it will be a venue capable of supporting a multitude of events simultaneously:

- Large scale event space, banquet/reception area, along with training and classroom style learning environments.
- State-of-the-art audio/visual capabilities in all meeting spaces.

The economic impact this facility will bring to New Castle and Henry County communities is more than promising.

The vision of this facility is to foster community collaboration, with organizations offering critical programs supporting the needs and activities our community deserves and expects. A focus has been placed on the importance of educational outreach, health and wellness teaching, and recreational/event space opportunities. In addition to supporting our community, the Expo Center will bring large scale events appealing to patrons far beyond Henry County.

A contract has been signed to build Phase I of construction, the Banquet Hall/Office /Classes Complex.

THE FACILITY FEATURES:

This facility will be a two-building complex, featuring trade show and major event flexible space. 77,000+ total square feet, 58,000+ rentable

Multipurpose Expo Building – 55,000 square feet

- Athletic event/tournament space
- Trade shows
- Community events
- Job Fairs/Health Fairs
- Livestock shows

Banquet Hall – 11,200 square feet

- Seating for 500 people at tables, 700 in theater style
- Company meetings/Conferences
- Indoor/Outdoor weddings and receptions
- Dance Floor/Platform/Stage area
- Full service kitchen

Training/Classroom Center – 1,600+ square feet

- Workshops/Conferences
- Meetings
- Training