

History of the Montpelier Municipal Park (1100 South Platt St.)

In 1956 the Montpelier Athletic Boosters purchase the property from the Lloyd Clark family where the park and football are located (a total of 24 acres) with the 5 additional acres covering the swimming pool and pool parking lot purchased by the Village of Montpelier. The Boosters then waged a \$45,000 fund campaign to raise money for the new recreation park. After working on the property for 2 years the Boosters deeded the park property to the Village in May 1958. Two bond issues totaling \$90,000 were voted on by the citizens of Montpelier in support of constructing a swimming pool. Work began on the pool and on June 15, 1958 the pool opened to the public.

In January 1958 Village Council authorized the creation of a recreation board which would organize and supervise the operation of the pool, playground, and park programs. The five board members each serve 5 year terms, with one term expiring annually. Two Board members are appointed by the Board of Education and three are appointed by the Mayor with approval from Village Council. Board members serve without pay.

The first meeting of the Parks & Recreation Board was held in February 1958 with the following Board members: Robert J. Bemis, Myrtle Cook, Warren Fisher, Howard Wilson, and Robert C. Winzeler, Jr. Current Board members are Jennifer Schlosser, Darold Moore, Brent Saneholtz, Angela Hillard, Matthew Reid.

The pool structure stayed basically the same from 1958-1988. Many people remember dances and sunbathing on the roof of the bath house. In 1988, however, the shallow end of the pool was expanded and the filtration of the pool was rehabilitated. In 1997 a Natureworks grant helped the Village install a 150' waterslide at the pool. A concession stand and concrete patio were also added in 1998.

The park has changed quite a bit over the years as the needs of the community have changed. Initial goals were to install a pavilion (built by the Lions Club) and playground equipment. Installing baseball fields was also a top priority. Today the park includes a concession stand & restrooms, 5 baseball & softball diamonds, 2 basketball courts, 1 tennis court, batting cages, sand volleyball courts, the swimming pool, ADA accessible playground equipment, a pavilion, historic tree grove (created in 1995), and a children's garden.

From its creation, the community supported the park with tax levies that were renewed every 5 years. In 1997 & 2011 the community voted on two permanent tax levies to support park projects. These levies have allowed for more stability and more growth with park projects, including plans for a splashpad in 2019.

OTHER PARKS

Main Street Park

309 East Main Street

The Main Street Park is a greenspace park that features lawn, flower gardens, trees, park benches, and picnic tables. The park is on the site of the former high school. This park was formed in 2006. The Montpelier Rotary built and donated a pavilion in 2012.

Town Hall

211 North Jonesville Street

The island garden at Town Hall was created in 1995 in honor of Montpelier's Sesquicentennial. At the time, it featured plants that would have been growing in 1845 and All-American Selections from 1995. The garden has since been redesigned into a Victorian-style bedding garden to compliment the 1892 Town Hall architecture. In 2019 the landscape around the building was refurbished using modern cultivars of plants that would have been available to gardeners in 1892.

Patriot Point Minipark

Northeast corner of Main and Jonesville Streets

This minipark is a colorful mix of annuals and shrubs with a vintage clock and a park bench. In 2017 a monument was dedicated to honor the parents of those in the service, spouses of deceased war veterans, and the families of those service men and women who are currently deployed. In 2018 a mural was added to the wall behind the park depicting the homecoming of a service person.

Robert A. Storrer Municipal Park

300 South Platt Street (physical address)

Purchased in 2006 and dedicated in November 2011. This park is located on the former site of the Robert A. Storrer Elementary School. In 2013 playground equipment was added to the site that made possible by donations from the community. In 2015 the Montpelier Ministerial Association completed construction of a pavilion at the site. In 2019 ADA accessible restrooms were completed adjoining the pavilion.

Downtown Alleys

Downtown Montpelier

Created in 2004, the three alleys (Brickyard Bistro, Main Street Station, Shady Lane) provide an attractive passageway for patrons to park in the municipal parking lot on Madison Street and walk to the businesses on Main Street. Each alley has its own theme and is complete with plantings, seating, and even a water feature.