

Fairgrounds News

Arena Revitalization Project

The latest project at the Fairgrounds is the Arena Revitalization Project! This project will outfit both arenas at the facility in order to allow for Rodeos, Horse Pulls, Tractor Pulls, Racing events and Demo Derbys in the future! Many organizations that use our facility would greatly benefit from these arenas being in operational condition such as our local Purdue Extension, Crawford County Youth Expo, FFA, IN High School Rodeo Association, etc. Each of these programs impact a large amount of not only our community's youth, but the youth of surrounding communities as well. Our facility is the only one of its kind in our area and once a resource such as this is open to the public, the possibilities of benefits are endless.

Our county (Crawford County, IN), as a whole, has a population of approximately 10,900 people; the town in which our facility is located (Marengo, IN) has a population of approximately 800 people. We are an agriculturally based community in which many students participate in programs such as 4H, FFA, rodeo, and other agricultural programs- all of which would benefit from these arenas once they are newly renovated. Not only will this benefit the previously mentioned programs, but it will also stimulate the local economy by bringing in viewers for various events such as rodeos, horse pulls, tractor pulls, racing, private events, etc. These arenas are the only public arenas in the county, therefore the need for them to be in working condition is greatly felt by our citizens and those in our region who would attend these events.

Just two decades ago, these arenas were flourishing parts of our community and were used by many different organizations; however, these arenas have fallen into disrepair. Many of the youth in our area have never known these arenas to be in a usable condition and have only seen them as an eyesore to our community.

We anticipate that multiple public organizations will utilize the arenas such as the IN High School Rodeo Association, Purdue Extension, Crawford Youth Expo, and the local FFA chapter along with local government organizations for fundraising opportunities, events, and leisure. We expect to see this impact within months after

receiving funding. Giving opportunities to not only our county but to surrounding counties as well, is a benchmark of success in our eyes. After the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen the greater need for a local outdoor recreational space for our citizens to connect in-person, learn new skills, and become involved in local programs.

We also look forward to the community-connection opportunities these arenas will provide to us as a Parks Board as well. We will be working with our only local radio station- WBRO- to broadcast the events that take place (this station is based out of our main building and provides sound systems, entertainment and assistance at events). Our parks manager is also practiced in graphic design and has worked with many local businesses in the past in order to provide design and marketing services which she plans to utilize for the benefit of our facility events as well. Along with our “in-house” assistance, we are blessed to have heavily involved groups who utilize our facilities year-around with volunteers who are prepared to assist us in all efforts to revitalize our arenas by offering their knowledge as well as their time to complete this project.

On behalf of the Crawford County Parks Board, we would like to show our sincere appreciation for your time and consideration towards our project! We are so fortunate to have a supportive community around us and in order to make this project a reality, we need YOUR help!

At this [LINK](#) you will find opportunities for how you can be a part of this landmark project within our community! We are grateful for any and all assistance you are able to provide and we look forward to connecting with you soon!