

## Honoring our Veterans



## Special exhibits included the park design

- Flag depository
- Elkhart's Doughboy statue
- Medallions honoring all branches of the service
- A plaque for MIA/POW
- A display of flags for every war a citizen of Elkhart was involved in
- The United States of America flag

### The updated design includes ...

- A reflective sitting wall
- Benches around the perimeter
- Special potting containers
- Coniferous plants for year-round color
- Flowering trees for spring beauty
- Summer blooming shrubbery
- Handicap accessible - ground level with a safe, stable surface
- Electrical and water availability



*The park as it looks today ...*

### What's the history of the park?

- The park was created by Susan K. Green in 1977 to honor veterans on behalf of her sister, Elizabeth Drake. Both were grandchildren of the wife of Richard Oglesby, who was a three term Governor of Illinois, veteran of the Mexican American War, and a Civil War general.
- The site of the park was a dilapidated commercial building on Governor Oglesby Street that was razed to provide the downtown location for the park.
- The lot was then used to create the park and given to the Village of Elkhart. In 2004, the park was refurbished and rededicated.
- Now, in 2016, the park needs updating. We plan to keep the Doughboy statue, plaques, flag depository, and fence at the back of the park.
- We expect the new restoration to last twenty-five to thirty years.

### Looking ahead – How we'll use the renovated Veterans' Park

Everyone in the Village will be encouraged to use the park for special events.

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*We foresee Veterans' events, Village festivals, outdoor movies, potlucks, and music in the renovated park.*

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### A place to reflect and honor

Veterans will use the park to meditate and remember comrades.

Individuals can deposit tattered flags in a proper disposal box.

The park will be decorated with bunting on military days and holidays. The park will also be adorned with flowers during the spring and summer months.

### We need your help!

**Please donate** to this project to provide our Veterans with a place of dignity and repose. Your donation will help us reach our goal and make the updates to our Veterans' Park a reality.

## Our Vision for the Veterans' Park

*Our vision is to improve the existing park to honor veterans, have a public space for congregation, improve the aesthetics of Governor Oglesby Street, and to attract pedestrian traffic to historical sites and local businesses in Elkhart.*

### Working Together

Several groups in Elkhart are working to restore the park:

Needs and Goals (NAG)  
Legion Auxiliary  
American Legion Post #616  
Village of Elkhart Board

A large, color version of the park design is posted at Sandy's Talk of the Town restaurant in Elkhart.

### CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

*Please join us in our efforts!*  
Donations are tax deductible.  
Make your check to: **Veterans' Park Fund**  
In-kind donations of labor and materials are also very much appreciated.

Phone: 217-947-2287  
Email: [elkvetpark@yahoo.com](mailto:elkvetpark@yahoo.com)  
[www.elkhartillinois.us](http://www.elkhartillinois.us)

Send your donation to:  
**Veterans' Park Fund**  
Village of Elkhart  
PO Box 20  
Elkhart, IL 62634



*The Doughboy statue in the current park*

Elkhart's historic Doughboy statue will remain as a central focal point in the restored park.

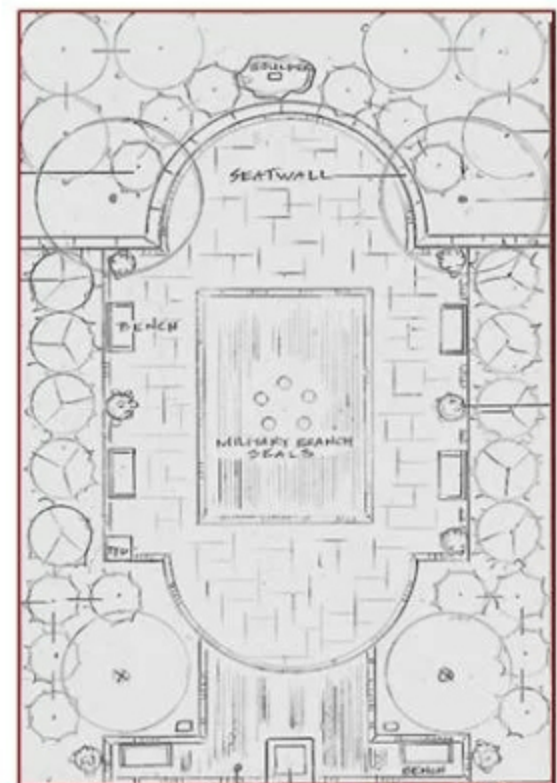
### Our Doughboy

Located in historic downtown Elkhart on Governor Oglesby Street in the current Veterans' Park, this doughboy statue was presented to the Village by the returning veterans of World War I in honor of the men who did not return from that war.

Since then, plaques have been added to the statue with the names of Village veterans from WWII, the Korean War and all veterans killed in action from Elkhart during all past wars.

Damaged by weather and time, the statue will be cleaned and repaired if enough funds are raised for the park restoration project.

Your help is needed! **Donations are tax deductible.** In-kind donations of volunteer help and landscaping materials are also needed and appreciated.



*The design for the restored Veterans' Park in Elkhart, Illinois*

**HELP US  
RESTORE THE  
VETERANS'  
PARK IN  
ELKHART**

*A place to go to reflect and honor our veterans and appreciate the history of Elkhart, Illinois*