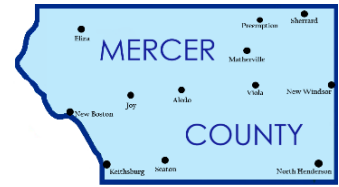




# Mercer County Better Together

Connect. Promote. Educate.



## Celebratory Tour Highlights Countywide Collaboration

Mercer County, IL – September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Over the past year, Mercer County Better Together (MCBT) led a collaborative effort to upgrade parks and recreation facilities across Mercer County. MCBT worked with communities to identify project needs, then secured funding to accomplish these projects. Through a partnership with the Looser-Flake Foundation, eleven projects across nine communities have come to fruition.



"During our planning process, people across the county shared with us a passion for their parks and recreation facilities," said MCBT Executive Director Kyle McEwen. "Residents feel a sense of ownership in these spaces and consider them the heart of 'community'. We're thrilled to play a role in making these projects happen. It's amazing what we can accomplish when we join together."

Leaders from all Mercer County communities were invited to participate in the collaboration, which saw stakeholders insist on sharing resources to make sure all projects were successful. The eleven participating entities brought over 72% in match value and received a total of \$150,000 to help accomplish projects.

Many participants found ways to share costs or resources.

Trustees of the Looser-Flake Foundation offered their appreciation for the collaboration. "I really enjoyed seeing the projects and meeting the people who were involved," said trustee Frank Mitvalsky.

Trustee Peter Benson added, "You're the ones doing the hard work. We're lucky to have the role of supporting your work in building on these great community resources."

For more information on this collaborative effort, contact MCBT by phone at (309) 574-3123 or via email at [kyle@mcbettertogether.org](mailto:kyle@mcbettertogether.org).



11 projects. 9 communities.

# IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

19 SEPTEMBER 2019 • 8:30 AM  
MERCER COUNTY FAMILY YMCA

Mercer County Better Together (MCBT) and the Looser-Flake Foundation have partnered to revitalize parks and recreation facilities across Mercer County. Join the tour to check them out! Enjoy a FREE light breakfast beginning at 8:30am at the YMCA!

**Approximate itinerary:**

8:30-9:00am	Mercer County Family YMCA
9:15-9:25am	Joy Park
9:45-10:00am	Elizo Ball Diamond
10:30-10:50am	Keithsburg Riverside Campground
11:05-11:20am	Sutton Park
11:55am-12:05pm	Lake Matherville
12:30-12:40pm	North Henderson Park
1:00-1:10pm	New Windsor Basketball Courts
1:20-1:30pm	Miles Memorial Park, Viola
1:45-2:00pm	Mercer County Fairgrounds
2:00-2:10pm	Site of Northside Park addition
2:15pm	Return to YMCA

For more info, call (309) 574-3123 or email [kyle@mcbettertogether.org](mailto:kyle@mcbettertogether.org).

