HISTORY OF MEMORIAL PARK

Memorial Park was first dedicated and renamed from Centerville Memorial Park to Veteran's Memorial Park on Memorial Day 1967. The park originally started in 1946 and with a sudden flash of community interest in 1947, the park land was bought from Arvin Neumann and Mrs. Eleanor Jost. On November 9, 1947 sixty men with trucks, plows, and a tractor gathered at the park to climax the season's work by planting 300 sumac trees, 150 elm, and several scores of evergreens. Everything was donated, trees, shrubs, time, and even the noon lunch for the men.

The project was originally planned as a rural youth project by the Centerville Farm Bureau with the purpose of "doing something for our rural youth." The park was deeded to the Town of Centerville after landscaping was done in 1947, and a seven man park commission consisting of Herman Lutze, Albert Jacobi, R.C. Pippert, Karl Omsted, Wilbert Casper, Clarence Witte, and Walter Pagelow was appointed.

The park commission made improvements in the following years of building a grandstand in 1949, baseball dugouts in 1950, and the grandstand was enclosed in 1957. In 1959, with the incorporation of the Village of Cleveland, Memorial Park was turned over to the village.

Centerville Farm Bureau member, Wally Freis, suggested a monument with the name of the park. A committee was formed to study this suggestion. The committee appointed included three farm bureau members, Wally Freis, Walter Klessig, and Albert Jacobi, and three members of the Chamber of Commerce, William Rutherford, Clarence Witte, and Peter Yankunas.

In 1976 the Cleveland Lion Clubs has plans to build a shelter, and the village has future plans for park development including tennis courts.