

AN AUGUST MEMORY!

RITTER PARK DEDICATION – AUGUST 15, 2009

The Nicholas and Bertha Ritter family lived at 1218 E. Oak Street in New Albany, IN. It was a teeming neighborhood with “shot gun” house on long narrow lots, corner groceries, taverns, and the Ritter Bakery. Cardinal Ritter was born there in 1892.

Many years later, but prior to 2000, the city of New Albany cleared 17 old residences from a three-acre site across Oak Street from the former Ritter Birthplace. Bounded by Oak Street, 13th Street, Culbertson Avenue, and S. Ellen Jones School, a \$1.5 million project created a community green space.

Phase II of the project, which cost about \$304,000, included the addition of a playground and canopies.

According to a story in *The New Albany Tribune* dated February 12, 2002, on the night of February 9, 2002, a fire set by vandals severely damaged the playground. Damage was estimated at \$40,000.



Seven years later, on August 15, 2009, the three-acre green space was designated RITTER PARK. On July 24, 2014, a RITTER PARK sign was unveiled by David Hock, Chairperson of the *Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation, Inc.*, and Virginia Ritter Lipps, a niece of Cardinal Ritter. (Photo above, courtesy News & Tribune)

In spring of 2024, the Parks and Recreation Department erected a new sign reflecting the graphic design theme used at other community park locations. (Photo above)

Ray Day 8/2026

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