

**Summer  
2014**

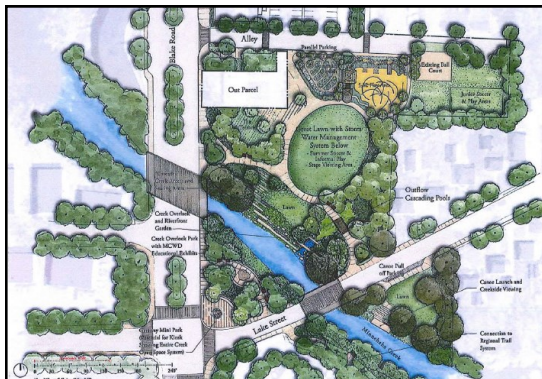


## Development Projects on Blake Road

Below are a few updates about projects on Blake Road.

### Cottageville Park

In May of this year, the City of Hopkins and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District hosted an open house for the community to provide information and to finalize the plans for the expansion of the park. Following this meeting, both the Hopkins City Council and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Board approved the final design plans and authorized bidding for the project. If all goes as planned, phase one of the construction of the park will begin in August of this year. This first phase includes grading as well as creating walking paths, the playground area, and a community garden. Stay tuned for updates and photos as the project progresses!



Cottageville Park Master Plan



Blake Road Corridor

### Blake Road Corridor Study

Earlier this year, a Technical Advisory Committee (which includes representatives from Hennepin County, Hopkins, St. Louis Park, Edina, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Council, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and the Three Rivers Park District) began a study to look at improvements needed to make Blake Road easier to use for all types of transportation including walking and biking. The study is set to be completed by the end of the year 2014. A number of community meetings will be held as part of this process to gather input from residents and community members. The first of these meetings is scheduled for June 25, 2014 at 6:00pm at Eisenhower Community Center. After the study is completed, it will be used

*(Continued on page 2)*

- Inside this Issue:
- Development Projects on Blake Road
- Entrepreneur Class Graduation
- Summer on Blake Road
- Upcoming Events

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## Plan It! Entrepreneur Class Graduation

This spring, the Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) and the Blake Road Corridor Collaborative (BRCC) partnered to offer the *Plan It! An Entrepreneur's Guide to Success* class at Eisenhower Community Center.

Through this class, participants gain a strong understanding of managing a small business and complete business and financial plans. Topics of the course include: marketing; credit and financing; financial planning; customers and competition; management and operations; and more.

Participants of this class met ten times and have ten hours of individual consultation with the instructor. As graduates of the program, class participants also have access to on-going support from NDC such as: low-cost accounting services, pro bono legal services, joint marketing initiatives, and eligibility to apply for loans.

It was a very successful inaugural class and everyone looks forward to the possible business ventures that may emerge. Congratulations to the graduates!

# Summer on Blake Road

Don't miss out on these opportunities!

## Free Lunch for Youth

Hopkins Schools are providing free, healthy lunches for youth at several locations around Hopkins this summer. Two of these sites are conveniently located on Blake Road!

This opportunity is open to everyone 0-18 years old with no registration or ID required. Adults who accompany youth can purchase lunch for \$2.

Find the food truck each day Monday to Friday until August 15 at 43 Hoops (1002 2nd St. NE) from 11:55am-12:25pm and at Oakes Park (900 Lake St. NE) from 12:30pm-1:00pm.

Other opportunities for lunch include at Eisenhower Elementary Cafeteria, Alice Smith Elementary Cafeteria, Katherine Curren Cafeteria, and Valley Park. Eisenhower and Alice Smith Cafeterias offer breakfast as well!

## Free Recreational Activities for Youth

Also in Oakes Park this summer, Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services is offering free recreational activities for youth.

The Playground Program is available for youth ages 6-12 each weekday afternoon Monday through Friday from 1:00-4:00pm. This program includes physical activities, arts & crafts, and visitors from the Hopkins Fire and Police Departments. Youth can attend the entire time or drop-in whenever possible. This program will conclude with an end-of-the-season carnival on July 22. To register, call (952) 939-8203.



*Hopkins Schools Food Truck*

For younger kids, the Tiny Tots program is available for children age 3 and the Summer Adventure Club for children ages 4 and 5. Both of these programs take place in Oakes Park on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. With these programs, children can join in games, arts & crafts, and storytelling. Tiny Tots takes place from 9:00-9:45am and the Summer Adventure Club from 10:00-11:15am. To register, call (952) 939-8203.

## Cottageville Park Neighborhood Garden

For the past three summers, community members have been joining together to plant, tend to, and enjoy the harvest from the neighborhood garden in Cottageville Park. With construction of the park set to begin in August, planting a garden in the ground was not possible this summer. However, members of the garden group have carried on with a container garden that can be moved once construction begins. For more information on the garden, contact (952) 279-0287. Also, look for the garden next year in its new, permanent location in the north end of the expanded park!

# Development Projects on Blake Road (continued)

to apply for funding. The hope is to have construction completed in time for the opening of the Southwest LRT which, if built, would open in 2019. Improvements to Blake Road could include sidewalks, bike lanes, better crossings, and others. Be sure to join the community meetings to provide input on what you would like to see happen!

## Southwest Light-Rail Transit

Planning for the Southwest LRT has entered the municipal consent phase. As part of the process, all cities along the line as well as Hennepin County are asked to provide their approval for the preliminary design plans. Hopkins City Council was the first to take a vote and gave their approval at the City Council meeting on June 16. The deadline

for cities and the county to take a vote is July 14, 2014.

## Oxford Village

Project for Pride in Living has proposed an apartment building with 51 units to be built on property they currently own on Oxford Street (on the southeast corner of Oxford and Blake). The project has been given the name Oxford Village and would contain units with one, two, and three bedrooms. It is expected that rents would range from \$675 to \$940 per month. Households with income at 50% of the area median income (or \$42,000 annually for a family of four) would be eligible to rent. The project must still receive funding and approval to be finalized. Stay tuned for updates!

## Upcoming Events:

- **The Hopkins Raspberry Festival:** This festival takes place on July 12-20 with a variety of events and activities including Family Day (with a Celebration of Community) on Saturday, July 19; Parade Day on Sunday, July 20; and more! For more information, visit [www.raspberrycapital.com](http://www.raspberrycapital.com).
- **National Night Out:** This year National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 5 with celebrations in neighborhoods across the city. Gather with your neighbors and join in the fun! Stay tuned for more information.

For more information on these events and activities, visit the website [www.blakeroad.org](http://www.blakeroad.org) or send an email to: [blakeroad55343@gmail.com](mailto:blakeroad55343@gmail.com).