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Cottageville Park: Before and After

Early in 2010, a Community Action Plan for the Blake Road Neighborhood was created. Following the goals outlined in the plan to improve physical space and to create a neighborhood where youth have safe recreational spaces, members of the Blake Road Corridor Collaborative (BRCC) came together to devise a plan to make a few improvements to Cottageville Park.

In the spring of this year, as the winter weather started to improve, Hopkins Public Works Department with the support of the BRCC initiated improvements by installing four additional lights in the park. Soon after, work on the basketball court began. Previously, Cottageville Park had only half of a court with one basketball hoop, making it difficult for a full game of basketball to be played. With the changes, however, the court was expanded to the full size and a surface and lines were added. In addition, a second basketball hoop was installed. Finally, a full game of basketball can be played!

Along with these improvements to the basketball court, a portable bath-
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Before: Cottageville Park had only one hoop with half of a court.



After: The court was expanded to full size and finished with a new surface and lines. A second hoops was also added. Now a full game of basketball can be played!

Discover Blake Road!

About this Section:

Beginning with this issue of the BRCC Newsletter, we will include a "Discover Blake Road" section to highlight various features of the neighborhood. If you have any suggestions for this corner, don't hesitate to let us know and we will try to include them in upcoming issues!

CRUMLEY'S LUNCHBOX

Located on the corner of Blake Road and Excelsior Boulevard, Crumley's Lunchbox offers Blake Road residents and visitors a convenient and friendly place to grab lunch. Open Monday-Friday from 11:00am-2:00pm, Crumley's Lunchbox offers both sandwiches and hot entrees. With newly added seating, customers have the option of dining in or taking out.



Crumley's Lunchbox was acquired earlier this year by owner and chef Connie Blanchard. Since arriving on Blake Road, Connie has been an active supporter of BRCC activi-
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Cottageville Park Improvements *(continued from previous page)*

room, three new garbage bins, and five new picnic tables were brought to the park to create a more useable space. As the last step of the process, soccer field goals were added.

Thanks to the hard work of the City of Hopkins Public Works Department, with director Steve Stadler, the changes to the park brought about by the BRCC were finished in time to host summer programming, including soccer practice for neighborhood youth, and a National Night Out gathering.

While the soccer goals and picnic tables have been taken down and placed in storage for the winter, they will be back out



Pictures (clockwise)
1. Portable bathroom
2. Picnic tables, soccer nets, and basketball court
3. New garbage bins

next summer and ready for use. In the meantime, be sure to stop by and check out the new and improved park!



Summer in Review

It was a busy summer along the Blake Road Corridor with lots of events and activities taking place. Following the changes made to Cottageville Park, members of the BRCC with assistance from Emily Barker of Shepherd of the Hills continued making neighborhood improvements by placing potted flowers in front of businesses in the area. Two garbage bins were also added: one at the corner of Blake and Cambridge and the other near Blake and Oxford.

Throughout the summer, there were also various activities for youth. At 43 Hoops, neighborhood youth joined together to form a BRCC basketball team, while at Cottageville Park, youth put the new goal posts to good use practicing soccer. In addition to these recreational activities, Blake Road youth at Westside Village Apartments gathered for Friday Movie Nights, craft activities, and storytelling.

At the end of the summer, in August, neighbors along the Blake Road Corridor came together as part of the National Night Out event. Overall, it was a very fun and eventful summer. Thank you to everyone who made it possible. We are looking forward to a fun fall and winter and hope that all neighborhood residents, business owners, and BRCC members can join us for future events and activities!

Crumley's *(continued)*

ties. For example, when approached this spring, Connie gladly placed potted flowers provided by the BRCC in front of her shop. Be sure to stop by and check out this this local eatery.

For more information, visit Crumley's website at: www.crumleys.com

New BRCC Staff Member

In October, with the support of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the AmeriCorps program, BRCC welcomed Ann Beuch as a new staff member. During her time with BRCC, Ann will assist with communications and outreach activities. Before starting this position, Ann was a graduate student at the University of

Minnesota studying public policy and social work with a concentration in community organizing. Ann looks forward to getting to know everyone in the Blake Road neighborhood. Ann can be reached at 952-279-0287 or at ann.beuch2@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Indoor soccer practice** at 43 Hoops for youth in grades 5-8 from 4:00-6:00 pm on November 6th, 13th, 21st, and 27th.
- **Friday Night Movies** at Westside Village Apartments on November 12 and 16 at 6:00pm.
- **BRCC Advisory Meeting** on December 15.
- **Add winter materials** to the BRCC flower pots.



A potted flower placed in front of a local business on Blake Road.