

What's happening on Blake Road?

A number of changes are occurring along Blake Road. Below are a few updates on what is happening.

- **Cottageville Park Expansion:** In April 2011, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District removed five buildings on the corner of Lake Street and Blake Road. While the land sits empty, the City of Hopkins plans to develop it in 2012 as an extension of Cottageville Park. Look for information about upcoming opportunities to share your thoughts and ideas about what should be included in the expanded park.
- **Neighborhood Garden:** Last summer the first Cottageville Park Neighborhood Garden was established. Neighbors and youth came together to grow a variety of vegetables and plants in a collectively gardened garden. All those involved had a great time. Planting for the second season is taking place this May. Any interested resident is invited to join!
- **Cold Storage Site:** In September 2011, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District purchased the Cold Storage site located



Cottageville Park Neighborhood Garden

at 325 Blake Road N. After the lease of the current tenant expires in three years, the District plans to remove the building as part of its plans to restore the health of the creek and to sell the remaining land to be redeveloped.

- **Southwest Light-Rail Transit:** Plans for the construction of the SW LRT are continuing to move forward. In the fall of 2011, the project entered Preliminary Engineering. If the project continues to move ahead with the current timeline, construction would begin in 2015 and the line would open in 2018. As planning continues, community input is needed. For updates and information, visit www.southwesttransitway.org.

Discover Blake Road! – Cottageville Park

By Kiarra Scott

There are many things to do at Cottageville Park. The location of the park is behind 437 Blake Road North (or some people know it as across the street from Wendy's). There is equipment that kids can play on like swings, sliding poles, and slides. There are baby swings too. There is a neighborhood garden for both grown-ups and kids. We have many plants like sunflowers, squash, cucumbers, flowers, okra, beets, carrots, onions, tomatillos, tomatoes, lettuce, and beans. Many people have helped out like Ann, Lisa, Emily, Deb, Debra, and a lot of kids including myself. There are many ways to help by watering, planting, and weeding, and we invite anybody to join that wants to help. Other than the park equipment, there is a wide open space for football games or just running around. We even have soccer



Cottageville Park

goals if you would like to play, and we have a basketball court. There are a lot of friendly kids that will let you play in activities and games like ships across the ocean, color, hot lava tag, and many more. The most popular game for me is hot lava tag, so if you want, you can join us.

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History of Blake Road

With the expansion of Cottageville Park, the redevelopment of the Cold Storage site, and the expected construction of the Southwest LRT, significant development projects are coming to Blake Road. A look back at the history of the area shows how such changes have shaped the neighborhood over the years.

In the early part of the 1900s, much of the area around Blake Road (which used to be called Monk Ave) was rural, undeveloped, or industrial. Jasperson's dairy farm was on the east side and Jasperson's Creamery and a company that produced farm equipment called Massey Harris Company was on the west.

By 1957, Cottageville Park, the houses around it, and Merchants Refrigeration (Cold Storage) were built where Jasperson's dairy farm had been. A number of businesses were established on the west side south of the railroad including Skelly, the first service station in Hopkins, and Ronny's Cafe.

In 1965, the city of Hopkins decided to redraft the zoning map from single to multiple family dwellings. This dramatically increased the number of apartment buildings in Hopkins, including along Blake Road.

In 1988, County Road 18 was converted into Highway 169. With the construction of the highway, Excelsior Boulevard, which had run from Blake Road directly to downtown Hopkins,

was divided and rerouted to bypass the downtown area. The former section in downtown Hopkins became Mainstreet, and is no longer directly connected to Blake Road.

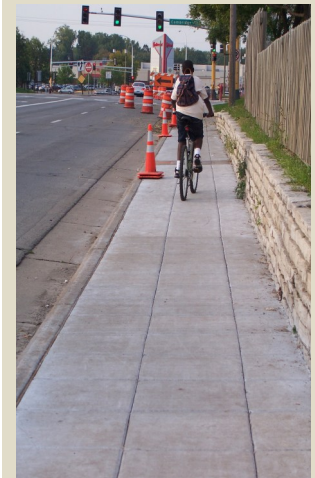
In 2001, a medium-density home project called Parkside was built on 2nd Street NE on land that used to be one of the parking lots of the company Alliant Techsystems Inc. A similar project called Regency later took place on the remaining lots.

In 2009, sidewalks were installed along the east side of Blake Road, and in 2010, amenities such as an expanded basketball court and additional lighting were added to Cottageville Park. In early 2011, two apartment buildings, two homes, and an office building that sat on properties at Lake Street and Blake Road were torn down as part of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's regional plan to improve the health of the creek.

Looking to the future, with three development projects on the horizon, the shape of the Blake Road neighborhood is likely to be impacted.

What do you hope to see happen? What's your vision for the future of the Blake Road neighborhood?

** Information for this article comes from the book Hopkins, Minnesota: Through the Years (2002) by the Hopkins Historical Society and edited by Beverly O. Ewing and from the website <http://www.historicaerials.com/>.*



Sidewalk along Blake Road added in 2009.

Upcoming Events:

- **Open to Business:** Free advice will be provided to business owners and potential owners at the Depot Coffee House from 1-3pm on the fourth Monday of each month in 2012.
- **Cottageville Park Neighborhood Garden** activities will occur throughout the summer. Join the mailing list by sending an email to blakeroad55343@gmail.com.
- **Celebrate the 100th birthday of Hopkins Library** on June 3 from 1-3pm at the Hopkins Library.
- **Free summer activities for youth ages 3-12** will take place at Oakes Park from June 11 to July 24.
- **Free lunch** will be offered for youth at 43 Hoops from June 18 to August 17, Mon-Fri, from 11am-1pm. Parents may join for \$2.

For more information on these events and activities, visit the website www.blakeroad.org or send an email to: blakeroad55343@gmail.com.

Resource Corner



Employment services are now being offered at ICA including: resume and letter writing, familiarization with job search tools, job application assistance, interviewing techniques, and post-placement support. Contact:

Kerri K. Simafranca · 952-279-0286 · kerri@icafoodshelf.org



The Hopkins **Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP)** aims to enhance communication and understanding between law enforcement officers and multicultural residents of Hopkins.

The **JCPP Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC)** provides advice, suggestions, and assistance to the Police Department and facilitates two-way communication between police and the community. MAC meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6-8pm. *Committee membership is open to anyone interested in applying.*

For more information contact Mercy Das-Sulc at 952-548-6428.



West Suburban Teen Clinic serves young people ages 12-23, their parents, and the general community in Western and Southern Hennepin County and all of Carver and Scott Counties. No- or low-cost services include:

- Basic medical care
- Mental health counseling
- NEW dental services
- Reproductive health care
- Health education for parents and teens
- NEW asthma care

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