



City of Hopkins

2009 Annual Report

Partnering with the community to enhance the quality of life

City Hall

2009: Achieving Goals

In 2008, the City Council and staff created three main goals through community feedback to build upon the community's strengths. In 2009, the City focused on implementing these goals and the strategic plan.



Goal 1—Build on the Small Town Feel of Hopkins

A small-town feel is a major part of Hopkins' identity. Surveys have demonstrated that it is also one of the primary reasons people like living in Hopkins. Efforts were made this past year to capitalize on and enhance this important city asset.

A major strategy in achieving this goal was to promote and enhance city events. Adding the Hopkins Arts Festival to the Raspberry Festival and the creation of the Hopkins in Motion event this past September were examples of these efforts.

Photo: The Hopkins in Motion event had great participation in its first year. For more information, see page 5.



Goal 2—Enhance and Promote Smart Urban Design & Walkability

Hopkins has been recognized as a city that encourages smart urban design. This includes the ability to walk to stores and other amenities.

To promote walkability and a healthy lifestyle, the City participated in Hennepin County's "Step To It Challenge" for the first time in 2009. The City also received a grant to install sidewalks on Blake Road and partnered with the Hopkins Rotary Club to create a trail oasis.



In addition, the City continued to plan for future light-rail transit in Hopkins along with future redevelopment projects that will promote smart urban design. The City's effort to be more "green" has not only promoted sustainability in the community—it has saved the City money in these difficult economic times.

*Main photo: Hopkins Rotary Oasis Trailhead
Inset photo: The Hopkins City Council logged the most steps of any Council in the Step To It Challenge.*



Goal 3—Take it to Them

Hopkins has a reputation for strong citizen involvement and engagement. This past year, the City strived to improve communication and engagement through such programs as:

The **Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee (MAC)** to improve communication among diverse groups;

Engaging Raspberry Renters to reach out to the rental population in the City;

The **"Think Hopkins" campaign** to continue marketing the community;

The **Citizens Academy** to educate on all facets of city government; and

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** to better prepare residents in case of emergency.

Photo: 2009 Citizens Academy graduates

To find out more about the City's goals and initiatives, visit www.hopkinsmn.com.

Public Works



Neighborhood volunteers install new play equipment.



Park Improvements Go Further With Volunteer Help

In 2009, the Hopkins Park Board and City Council began a multi-year, city-wide neighborhood park improvement plan at Interlachen Neighborhood Park. Interlachen Park was chosen as its 22-year-old play equipment was the oldest in the city. Following two neighborhood meetings to discuss park needs, work began in July 2009. The \$90,000 project included: new play equipment, warming house rehabilitation, a new picnic shelter, and new outdoor skate lighting. In order to stretch the project budget, neighborhood volunteers installed the play equipment, allowing the purchase of additional play equipment pieces.



Before and after:
A new picnic shelter was installed at Interlachen Park in 2009.



Park Ridge Neighborhood Project Begins

In 2009, the City began a two-year reconstruction project in the Park Ridge Neighborhood. The project includes the complete replacement of all utilities and service lines under the streets. The eastern half of the neighborhood was completed in 2009 and the western half will be constructed in 2010. Blake Road was also resurfaced using a fabric underlayment to extend the life of the pavement.

Planning & Economic Deve



Artist depiction of the Shady Oak station area

Planning Continues For Lightrail Station Areas

In 2009 Hennepin County, in cooperation with four cities along the Southwest LRT line, undertook station area planning to guide the placement of station platforms and the surrounding redevelopment of the station areas. In Hopkins, that involved planning for three station areas: Blake, Downtown and Shady Oak. Each of the station areas is unique and will bring significant redevelopment opportunities. The intent of the planning work is to maximize ridership and the benefits of redevelopment while minimizing any negative impact on existing businesses and residences.

To follow the progress of the SW LRT line, visit southwesttransitway.org.

Blake Road Corridor Plan Complete, Improvements And Collaboration Underway

The Blake Road Corridor Small Area Plan was completed in May 2009, providing a vision for the corridor that focused on three main categories: improving green spaces and connections, identifying redevelopment opportunities, and improving the Blake Road streetscape for pedestrians and bicyclists. The Plan was the culmination of eight months of work with multiple community meetings and other opportunities for input.

In August of 2009 new sidewalks were installed on Blake Road, creating a safe and stable pedestrian path. The sidewalks were funded by Hennepin County's Transit-Oriented Development program, which seeks to better connect housing and jobs to transit. Blake Road offers multiple bus stops and bus lines, and the new sidewalks now allow residents to access those transit options and neighborhood amenities more safely and comfortably.



New sidewalks on Blake Rd provide a safer path for pedestrians.

2009 also saw the creation of the Blake Road Community Collaborative, a group mobilized to increase community engagement through outreach. A Community Action Plan focused on safety, neighborhood improvements, and youth activities in the Corridor was developed and will be finalized in 2010. The Blake Road Community Collaborative, funded by Local Initiatives Support Corporation, is lead by local social service providers Resource West and Intercongregation Communities Association and includes representatives from the Hopkins Police and Planning and Economic Departments.

Excelsior Crossings Phase 2 Complete

In 2009, the second phase of the three-building Cargill campus was completed and occupied with Cargill groups including Cargill Salt and Cargill Global Financial Services. By the end of 2009 there were approximately 2,000 employees on campus. The third building will be finished and ready for occupancy by April 2010. Total capacity of the campus will be 3,300 employees.

Excelsior Crossings received numerous awards and certifications in 2009 including LEED Gold for building sustainability, measured in five green design categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality.



Excelsior Crossings, November 2009



Hopkins Minnetonka Recreation provided free face painting at the event.

Hopkins In Motion Gets City On The Move

The first annual Hopkins In Motion community event was held on September 12, 2009. Hundreds of people attended the event aimed at fostering an active lifestyle and celebrating the walkable, bikeable design of Hopkins.

The event featured numerous activities. Bouja was prepared by the Hopkins Farmers Market, the Hopkins Historical Society offered guided historic walks and the Hopkins Activity Center organized passport walks for prizes. In the downtown park, The YMCA sponsored Zumba and Drums Alive! and Manny Rubio provided Latin dance instruction. Mouldy Figs Jazz Band led a community parade and provided a concert following the parade.

Three Rivers Park District provided information at the The Depot Coffee House and Freewheel Bike checked incoming bikes for maintenance and safety issues. Hopkins Minnetonka Recreation distributed information and provided free face painting, and Hoigaards demonstrated Nordic Walking Poles.

Mark your calendar for Hopkins In Motion on September 11, 2010.



Council members Rick Brausen and Kristi Halverson share conversation with a young tenant of Hopkins Plaza.

Engaging Raspberry Renters Program Kicks Off

As a result of a 2009 City goal of reaching out to the rental community, Engaging Raspberry Renters was developed. Engaging Raspberry Renters is a project aimed at making Hopkins renters aware of what the community has to offer, with the goal of increased involvement and stronger community ties.

In 2009 the project focused on Hopkins Plaza Apartments. Events held there included an introduction to Hopkins parks and trails, a get-to-know your Hopkins City Council cookout, and Earth Day and National Night Out events.

Police

Hopkins Officer Recognized By National Memorial Fund

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) selected Officer Stacy Lynn Lakotas of the Hopkins Police Department as its Officer of the Month for February 2009. Each year 12 officers from around the country are recognized for their service. Officer Lakotas is the first officer from Hopkins to receive this recognition.



Stacy Lakotas

Officer Lakotas was nominated for her work to help the families of fallen officers in the metro area as well as her personal service to the community as a police officer.

Located in the nation's capital, the NLEOMF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of America's law enforcement officers. The NLEOMF Officer of the Month Program recognizes federal, state and local officers who distinguish themselves through exemplary law enforcement service and devotion to duty.

Officer Lakotas was mentioned in several national publications following the announcement in February of 2009. She is expected to journey to Washington, DC on May 15, 2010, to be recognized during the National Peace Officer Memorial Service.



Members of the JCPP

Department Receives National Award

The Police Department received the prestigious International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Civil Rights Award on October 7, 2009. The award recognizes the City's law enforcement efforts in protecting and promoting civil and human rights, as a part of the four-city Joint Community Police Partnership in Hennepin County.

The Joint Community Police Partnership (JCPP) was recognized specifically for its on-going success in building bridges between the community and police through specific multicultural training, hiring, and outreach programs.

The JCPP was formed in 2004 by Hennepin County; Hopkins joined the program in 2005. Tsehai Wodajo serves as Hopkins' Community Liaison and implements the program in Hopkins. The JCPP's three key strategies for enhancing relationships are:

- Increasing community members' knowledge and understanding of police procedures and laws
- Improving police officers' knowledge and understanding of diverse cultural communities
- Providing more opportunities for positive interaction and two-way communication between police officers and community members

Several methods are used to employ these strategies in Hopkins. A multicultural cadet has been hired in an effort to diversify the workforce. Training in cultural competency and language classes are offered to police officers. This training is in addition to their standard department training. New Americans are invited to the Police Department for educational events, such as the regularly held New American's Academies and Teen Academies. Partnerships are also formed at neighborhood meetings where face-to-face exchanges between community members and their law enforcement team take place regularly.

One Cooperative Safety Effort Complete, Another Begun

AEDs Placed In All City Buildings

In 2009 the Fire Department completed its effort to place Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) in all City buildings. The Department solicited donations from business and civic organizations to purchase AEDs. It was due to the partnership with these organizations that the Department was able to complete this project.



City Hall's AED

Fire, Police, And School District Team Up For Emergency Preparedness

The Hopkins Fire Department, along with the Hopkins Police Department, worked with the Hopkins School District in acquiring a Emergency Preparedness Grant to look at fire and safety assessments and threat assessments for the Hopkins schools. The Police and Fire Departments have gone through the schools and looked at better ways that the district can prepare for a disaster. In 2010 the City of Hopkins will continue to have meetings, table top scenarios and a large scale drill that involves Police, Fire, and City staff, as well as school district personnel.

The dollar loss was in excess of \$2 million.



Fire Causes Major Damage At Suburban Square

In May, a major fire took place at 4 Suburban Square. At approximately 11 am on May 26, the Hopkins Police and Fire Departments received a call for a fire at TNT. First responders arrived to find heavy smoke and fire visible from the building. Eight other departments with 18 pieces of apparatus and 75 firefighters helped control the fire. Because of previous work and training with the other departments, everyone cooperated smoothly and there were no injuries. The dollar loss was in excess of \$2 million. The building has been rebuilt and is now equipped with an Automatic Sprinkler System.



Members of the Community Emergency Response Team

CERT Team Grows To 75

Another 25 people were trained as part of the Community Emergency Response Team in 2009. A CERT Team is a group of citizens that are interested in helping out in case of a disaster in the city. The CERT will be available to assist emergency responders with assessing damage in their neighborhood and then assist by doing rescues, assessing hazards, and rendering basic medical care. Since 2007, a total of 75 people have been trained. Another class will be given in the spring of 2010.

Recreation

New Youth Programs Reach New Crowds

Youth recreation programs garnered strong participation numbers in 2009. Several new programs were offered to attract different youth populations, including:

Kid's Corner Summer Camp

A highly active day program called Kid's Corner was offered in the summer at Williston Fitness Center. This 11-week program was designed to meet the summer child care needs of local families and served children entering grades 1–5. The group participated in weekly field trips, sporting activities, arts & crafts, ice skating and much more. Its popularity made it one of the top five revenue generating programs offered by the department last year.



Knee Highs Soccer

This 4-week introductory soccer program was offered for 3–5 year olds. All three sessions filled quickly with a total of 90 participants. The weekly program taught the basic soccer skills of passing, dribbling and shooting through small-sided games and activities.

Rec-Tivity

This free program for ages 11–16 was held at the UBAH Academy on weekday afternoons for five weeks during the summer. Rec-Tivity provided participants open gym space and supervised activities. The Hopkins School District served free lunches prior to the program in the school's cafeteria. The program had over 100 registrants and averaged 25 participants daily.



A new play area will add to the fun at Shady Oak Beach.

Hopkins Receives Grant For Shady Oak Beach Play Area

In December, the Hennepin County Youth Sports Program awarded a grant of \$187,500 to the City for development of a new Shady Oak Beach Community Play Area. This project was one of 18 projects approved for funding out of 38 projects submitted.

Construction of the play area will begin in fall 2010 and open for use in June of 2011. This project includes a partnership with the City of Minnetonka to provide a destination playground for children 2–12 years of age that will be available for use from spring to fall annually.



Hopkins resident and artist Shawn McNulty presents Festival artist David Royce with an Award of Merit



Friends Of The HCA Host First Annual Hopkins Arts Festival

On July 10–11, 2009, forty artist booths lined Mainstreet for the first Hopkins Arts Festival, presented in cooperation with the Hopkins Raspberry Festival. Free musical entertainment took place on two stages and family activities were provided by Stages Theatre Company. Over 50 volunteers ensured that this first Arts Festival was a success for both artists and attendees. The event drew artists from throughout Minnesota as well as Florida, Texas, Virginia and South Carolina. Attendance was strong, especially on Saturday when an estimated 2,500 people visited the Festival. The Friends of the Hopkins Center for the Arts are hard at work to make the 2010 Hopkins Arts Festival bigger and better!