

1. Village Park

LOCATION: Maplewood Avenue and Memorial Drive. Vehicle and pedestrian entrance off of Maplewood Avenue; a pedestrian entrance off of Bennett Place; a pedestrian entrance off Maplewood Avenue across from PNC Bank lot (see Figure 4).

BLOCK: 33
LOT(S): 64 and 65
ACREAGE: 13.134 + 5.702 = 18.836 (19.32)
FUNDED/UNFUNDED: Unfunded
FACILITIES: 1 Little League field
1 T-ball/minor league field
1 softball field
1 basketball court
2 tennis courts
1 play structure for tots
1 play structure for older children, plus swings
1 dirt mountain lake
pavilion
gazebo
picnic grove
bicycle circuit
ice-skating rink

IRRIGATION & MAINTENANCE:

The Little League field is irrigated. The softball and T-ball fields are not. Generally, the fields are well maintained. However, without irrigation and constant use, the outfield of the softball field suffers from wear and tear. The remainder of the park is well maintained.



FUNCTION:

Village Park provides a variety of active recreational facilities serving the community, as indicated above. The regulation Little League field has 60-foot baselines, a pitching distance of 46 feet, and an outfield fence 200 feet from home plate. The field also has two permanent dugouts, an electric scoreboard, a batting cage, a storage shed, a permanent outfield fence, and two bleachers. The playing surface is irrigated.

The T-ball/minor league field includes bleachers and two team benches. The softball field has a 40-foot pitching distance and features two team benches, two bleachers, one bench facing the field, and three picnic tables along the third-base line. The park also has a basketball court and two tennis courts, as well as a play structure for children ages 2-5 and a play structure for children ages 5-12, with swing sets for children of varying ages. These facilities are in generally good condition and are well maintained. However, the area beyond the outfield fence of the Little League field is poorly drained and the dugouts have a tendency to flood.

Furthermore, Village Park has a “dirt mountain” (the result of piling dredged spoils from Brainerd Lake), known as Cranbury Hill, which is utilized informally by residents for climbing, biking, sledding, etc. There is a bicycle circuit



behind the dirt mountain. A designated rectangular field area is flooded in late fall to provide a regulation ice-skating rink, which is generally in existence from December through March, depending on the weather.

In addition, the park offers a picnic grove including outdoor barbecue grills; a pavilion (also including barbecue grills), a water fountain, water faucet, electrical box/outlet and picnic tables. The gazebo also provides an electric outlet. The pavilion and gazebo can be reserved by residents or groups for private parties or outings.

Brainerd Lake lies along the south side of Village Park. There are benches and picnic tables along the riverbank, as well as a floating dock which can be used for fishing or to launch boats. An informal walking path is provided along the lakefront.

Village Park is the venue for Cranbury’s July 4th fireworks celebration (actually celebrated on July 5th), as well as summer concerts and movies.

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