



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CALL

August 13, 2008

Ald. Michael Murphy
(414) 286-3763

Ald. Robert Bauman
(414) 286-3774

Merrill Park Courts Channel Positive Energy

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony TODAY at 2:00 p.m.

Alds. Michael Murphy and Bob Bauman will celebrate Merrill Park's newest renovation with a ribbon cutting ceremony **TODAY, August 13, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.** at the park.

The park's two basketball courts, built in 1974, were in severe disrepair; one court was unusable and blighted. Renovation of the courts was completed in early July, two weeks ahead of schedule and under budget. According to Mike Sanders, who directed the project for the Department of Public Works, new grassy areas were added to replace some asphalt and new trees and landscaping will be placed in September.

"This is part of our continuing plan to renovate the park to honor the incredibly diverse group of kids in the community and to hopefully provide positive activities to engage their energy," Ald. Murphy said. As a result of the renovation, the neighborhood's summer youth basketball program saw record enrollment of 108 teens.

Bob Green, leader of the Merrill Park Neighborhood Association said, "We were just so pleased with how diligently Alds. Murphy and Bauman worked on our behalf to help allocate the funds for the court renovation project. They had the foresight to address the issues in the park and make it a useful and positive outlet for youth in our neighborhood."

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Merrill Park/ ADD ONE

The park is important to the west side of Milwaukee, where one of the highest concentrations of young people resides. “Providing activities that are purposeful and channeled is an easy way to deter crime and vandalism in the area. The youth using this park are a large part of our community and it was our responsibility to give them a viable outlet,” Ald. Bauman said.

The park underwent renovations to its tennis courts twelve years ago and this summer the softball field was also updated. The press and public are invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and view the new courts at today’s event.

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