

Work to begin soon on Community Shelter

AFTER A YEAR OF PLANNING, DISCUSSIONS and input among neighbors, the Cottage Home Community Shelter is ready to begin construction this fall.

“It’s like an old fashioned barn-raising,” said Julie L. Rhodes, chair of the Cottage Home Community Space Committee. “We’ll need all hands on deck from our residents and businesses to make our beautiful shelter design a reality.”

Voted by neighbors as the first priority of the community space, the community shelter will serve as a permanent location for neighborhood meetings, gatherings, movie nights and many other activities. It will serve the neighborhood, but is also expected to be made available for individuals who don’t have the home or yard space for birthday parties or family gatherings.

“Cottage Home has chosen a unique and beautiful design for our shelter,” said Cottage Home President Maribeth Bailey. “It will be exciting to see how we can engage our residents and businesses in creating a real community asset.”

Cottage Home will be building the shelter along with volunteers from Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, the primary funder on the project to date.

Over the course of the coming year, the plan for the five lots that run along the 700 block of Highland includes – in addition to the shelter – community gardens, a children’s garden and storytelling area, a turf area, a small woodland, several walkways and trails, sculpture, and many prairie and meadow areas of intentional and ornamental plantings.

Earlier this year at the neighborhood strategic planning retreat, there was consensus that five lots donated to Cottage Home in the 1980s would become a multi-generational, multi-use intentional community space. It was



▲ Cottage Home residents chose the shelter as the first priority for the new neighborhood park.

NEXT PAGE: Site plan for the Cottage Home Community Space.

agreed that a densely populated, urban area such as Cottage Home could greatly benefit from the preservation of the space instead of residential development.

Workdays are set for Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24-25, and three Saturdays, Nov. 1, 8 and 15. While it may seem

like a large commitment, the committee is asking that each resident commit to two workdays in an effort to provide a base of about 20 volunteers for each event.

“This is a true community project where Cottage Home residents have conceived the idea and planned the designs,” Rhodes said. “Now it is time to bring all the creativity, talent and muscle that we have to bear to build this community space for use by many generations to come.”

For more information or to volunteer, contact Rhodes at jrhodes4@indy.rr.com or 631-2220. ■



Cottage Home Neighborhood

Park Concept

July 17, 2008



0 15' 30' 60'

LEGEND

- Sculpture/Feature
- Decorative Fence
- Rain Barrel
- Brick/Stone Walk
- Brick Pavers
- Mulch Path/Mulch
- Community Garden Plot
- Boulder Seatwall
- Bench
- Picnic Table
- Chairs
- Bulletin Board
- Gourd Arbor
- Market Tent
- Vine Hut
- Covered Sandbox
- Special Perennials
- Prairie/Meadow
- Mowed Turf
- Shrub
- Lavender Hedge
- Evergreen Tree
- Ornamental Tree/ Fruit Tree
- Shade Tree