



RECLAIMING POP'S PLAYGROUND

Originally dedicated to neighborhood soldiers who had fallen during WWII, the Black, Coyle & McBride playground was well used by the community for generations. It was host to family movie nights and eventually became known as 'Pop's' after the local playground caretaker. 'Pop' acted as grandfather, mentor, enforcer of rules and distributor of playground equipment. In the years of divestment following Pops death, this playground began to show signs of wear and became home to illegal activity. In 2000, the playground was officially closed though this did not stop either the degeneration or the continued use. NKCDC, with the help of community partners has organized around this playground in an effort to reclaim it for our families. Illegal activities have been successfully forced out. May 2006 saw a major cleanup, trees installed around the perimeter, repainted playground equipment, basketball court lines, backboards, and the recreation building. This year long effort and community commitment has resulted in the reclamation of the playground and a renewed commitment by the recreation department to officially reopen the facility.

Thanks to partners and supporters: *East Kensington Neighbors Association, Friends of Pops, The Wachovia Foundation and The City Department of Recreation.*