

History of Eagledale Little League

Kids on the far outskirts of Indianapolis, what we know today as the area around West 30th Street and Lafayette Road, were looking for something to occupy their attention in the summer of 1958. A group of their parents asked if their kids could join forces with the players of All American Little League which had fields a bit further to the east. Those kids were welcomed and spent the summer playing ball and getting dirty (and what kid doesn't enjoy that?). They had such a good time that the parents decided to incorporate as Eagledale Little League in 1959 and were given permission to build fields on property adjacent to the Zayre discount store on Lafayette Road; everything further out was farmland and likely to be needed for other development for some time.

But unfortunately, development did ensue in just a few years and Eagledale Little League was forced to relocate. Some privately owned land at 5111 West 34th Street became available on a loan basis to be used for youth sports. Baseball fields and concessions flourished every summer as kids learned the skills necessary to play baseball together as a team and to get along. This lasted until 1968 when the owners had again made other arrangements for the land and Eagledale Little League had to move.

Eagledale Little League began the 1969 season in newly constructed facilities in its current home in 6-8 acres of Gustafson Park with the main building housing storage, concessions and rest rooms at 5700 West 30th Street. Baseball diamonds, backstops and, later softball fields were constructed and have become a summer home to generations of boys and girls from age 4 through 16 of all skill levels and abilities.

Now, as then, the season begins with a parade down West 30th Street from and a display of the various colorfully uniformed teams and ends with tournament play which could include fulfill the dreams of players to compete in the Little League World Series.