UPDATE VISIONING VOICES
SPAKER SERIES
The Eastwood Neighborhood Speaker Series
Event and Workshop Summary

Engaging in Park
Improvements can bring
communities together!

The Eastwood Neighborhood Visioning Voices Event was held in the Palace Theater. A total of 54 residents and community organization members participated in a series of activities that focused on the topic of the value of parks in neighborhoods and ways to improve the impact of parks in supporting healthy neighborhoods.

After a site visit to Eastwood Heights Park and Julie Bush’s presentation, participants socialized over dinner. In the workshop, four groups of 8 to 10 mapped existing park features and uses, brainstormed possible improvements and created a prioritized list of actions and next steps. A handout described the steps of the workshop activities so that participants could use these methods to help with group decision-making and understanding common ground. Evaluation comments indicated that the event met or exceeded expectations and several from Eastwood spoke of their desire to improve Eastwood Heights Park. There were also several comments about the value of gaining ideas from other communities, illustrated by examples that Julie brought from her work in the Philadelphia area. The main themes in the written comments were about the importance of improving parks, strengthening their neighborhoods and gaining new knowledge.

“Reinforced my desire to bring ideas to my neighborhood”
“Surprisingly learned more than expected about knowing a place, the value of personal experience and insights”
“Learning how to get groups to work together”

Event Survey Responses

Upcoming Event: The Near Westside Neighborhood is hosting the next Visioning Voice Event on November 15th at St. Lucy’s Church. The speaker will be Gregory Saville from Safe Growth who will introduce design principles and social factors that contribute to safe neighborhoods. If your neighborhood is interested in becoming a host neighborhood for future events, or would like to suggest topics and/or future speakers please email the Center for Community Design Research at ccdr@esf.edu.

A special thanks to the Speaker Series Organizing Committee, Eastwood neighborhood event volunteers, and community partners who helped with the Eastwood Visioning Voices Speaker Series event:

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