



VOICE HEALTHY GREEN SPACE FLOWER POT SUMMARY REPORT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014
 WESSELMAN NATURE SOCIETY



What VOICE is About

VOICE brings together diverse members of our community in facilitator-led group discussions to draw out and capture everyone's ideas for the future. Together, we'll discuss our hopes and dreams for Evansville in a comfortable, open forum that's fun and inspiring, too. The sessions allow respectful conversations to take place, and all voices to be heard, and every opinion to be documented and shared. VOICE will ensure that everyone in our community has the opportunity to take part in creating a desired future. Absolutely everyone.

The VOICE Process

VOICE brought together diverse members of the community to discuss their dreams for Evansville in an open, positive forum. The facilitation was led in such a way that respectful conversations occurred, all voices heard and visions documented, ensuring that the entire community had the opportunity to take part in creating a desired future. Through the facilitated process, we compiled all the visions to look for common themes to build collaborative strategic actions.

A summary and detailed notes from each session are available to the participants and the public via www.evansvillevoice.com.

Once all visions were collected, additional community sessions, referred to as Big Action Meetings (BAM) were held to verify that the information collected truly represents participants' visions and reveal the top themes that were captured from 32 visioning sessions. These top themes are Healthy Green Space, City Core and Experiences.

Any interested citizen and stakeholder are invited to participate in these themed meetings to move forward with further research and planning toward common goals and strategic actions.



- 1. Welcome and Explanation of long-term comprehensive plan and immediate needs/low-hanging fruit**
- 2. Main themes in Healthy Green Space broken into the pre-determined subthemes from previous VOICE sessions:** complete streets, park planning, green space/healthy experiences, community gardens, beautification, bike/walk paths and trails, zoning/ordinances
- 3. Sign up where you will take ownership and/or participate**
- 4. Wrap up/ What's next:** Next VOICE meeting will take place in 6-8 weeks.
Groups are encouraged to meet independently before the next round of VOICE meetings to bring successes, needs, ideas to the next meeting.



Open Discussion Led by Lead Facilitator- Lynn Miller Pease

The group started with one topic and moved to the next, in no particular order.

1. Beautification

- a. Gardens on Main Street that are both flower and food
- b. Flower pots for businesses that build community pride
- c. Litter clean up and increasing usage and knowledge of using recyclable bags
 - i. Larry Samples and Robin Mallery signed up as key people
- d. Main Street beautification
 - i. Areas around the trees on Main St.
 - ii. flower pot decoration contest- maybe in reference to *The Flower Man* book
 - iii. Signature School as a partner?

1. Marcia Dowell and Brian Holtz signed up as key people for this topic

2. Park Planning

- a. Fruit trees near schools and habitat homes
- b. Including milkweed for Monarch butterflies

3. Green Space Experiences

- a. John Scott Foster suggested placing community gardens under this topic

4. Complete Streets

5. Bike/Walk paths & trails

- a. Suggestion: placing complete streets under this topic
 - i. Roberta Heiman signed up as a key person for this topic

6. Community Gardens

- a. 3 schools interested: Evans School, Delaware School, Glenwood Leadership Academy
- b. Brownsfield lots/ City lots
- c. Using community gardens as an education tool
- d. Include wildlife into garden- Milkweed plants for Monarch butterflies
- e. Fruit trees at schools and habitat homes
 - i. John Scott Foster signed up as a key person for this topic

7. Zoning/Ordinances
