

Tepe Park Neighborhood 2017-2022 Impact Report



A resident-led initiative for
positive and sustainable change.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



- 3** Executive Summary
- 5** Partners
- 6** Tepe Park Neighborhood Profile
- 7** Tepe Park Map
- 8** Timeline
- 11** Listen
- 15** Align
- 19** Act
- 31** What's Next

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tepe Park Neighborhood began on a journey in 2017 to improve the quality of life for neighbors. Our vision for change was voiced by and is being driven by residents with investments from community partners.

Long periods of disinvestment have led to challenges in our neighborhood. Some examples include a high poverty rate, dilapidated housing stock, and self-reported quality of life and safety concerns by residents.

But Tepe Park is a good neighborhood! Our neighborhood has a wealth of assets, including a unique park and clubhouse, community gardens, historic architecture, businesses, churches, and beautiful trees. And most importantly - our neighbors! Neighbors are our greatest asset. When we are connected, we have the power and ability to create the change we want to see in our neighborhood.

Tepe Park neighbors and community partners have joined together to harness the power of collective impact and focused reinvestment to transform our neighborhood from the inside out. We have already made tremendous progress towards our shared goals! This report celebrates the first five years of impact in our initiative, explains how we are creating positive change together, and shares ways for you to get involved.





PARTNERS

TEPE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE PARTNERS



TEPE PARK NEIGHBORS

Tepe Park's Love Your Neighborhood initiative is a movement of neighbors who are connecting, cooperating, and collaborating to make positive and sustainable change. It is led by a small group of dedicated leaders that exist to amplify the voices of ALL residents in the Tepe Park neighborhood. Our vision is for Tepe Park to be a healthy, safe, vibrant, and welcoming neighborhood that neighbors take pride in calling home.



COMMUNITY ONE

Community One serves as the lead agency for Tepe Park's neighborhood revitalization initiative. Their role is to introduce and guide the process of revitalization. They provide staffing, serve as a neutral convener, support partnership development, measure and report progress, and partner with residents to guide implementation of the plan for change while simultaneously equipping residents to sustain the work into the future.



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

It takes everyone, working together, to bring systemic change to Tepe Park neighborhood and the surrounding areas. This includes neighbors, partners, and stakeholder organizations. Partners are invited to bring their unique missions, programs, and services to the neighborhood to support and advance resident-voiced goals. Partners can include nonprofits, businesses, churches, government, and more.

TEPE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE

1,900
Residents

700
Homes

60% of neighbors are racial minorities 

60% of neighbors own their home 

40% of neighbors rent their home 

43% of neighbors are living in poverty 

39% of neighbors are employed part-time or full-time 

85% of adults have a high school diploma or higher 

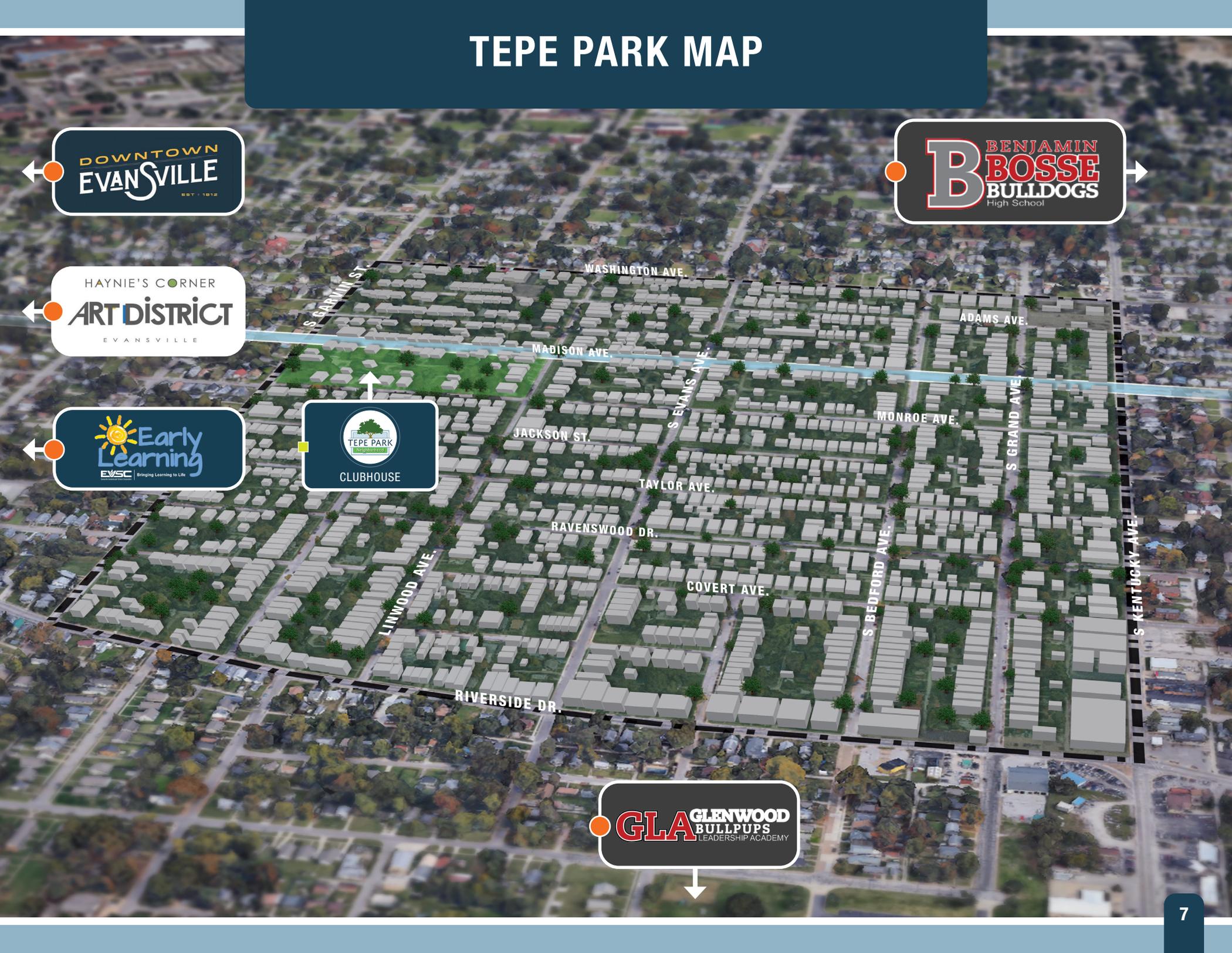
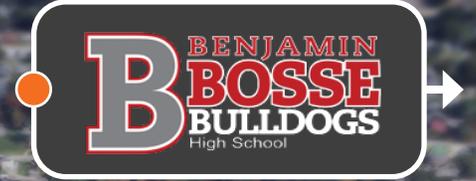
39% of homes are dilapidated or abandoned 



75% of Tepe Park neighbors like or love their neighborhood!

** This data comes from Tepe Park's baseline measurement in 2018 and the ACS 5-year estimate in 2020.*

TEPE PARK MAP



TIMELINE

OUR JOURNEY

These are a few milestone moments since our neighborhood initiative began.



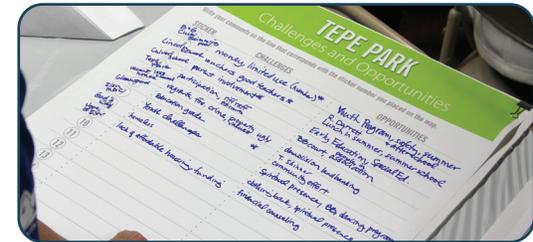
Jan. 2017

Tepe Park Neighborhood and Community One agree to formally partner together.



Mar.-April 2017

Listening and strategic planning begins. The neighborhood vision for change comes to life.



Oct. 2017

Tepe Park Neighborhood's Quality-of-Life Plan was published with 90 strategic action goals.



Mar. 2020

Tepe Park awarded their first Neighborhood Hero - Mariama Wilson with MASK.



July 2020

Neighborhood clubhouse was completely renovated and celebrated with a ribbon cutting.



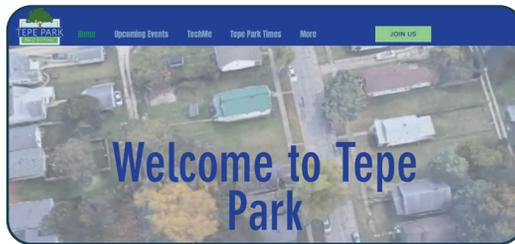
Nov. 2020

Bedford Collab received funding to transform an old tavern in the neighborhood into a shared commercial kitchen.



Oct. 2018

First round of action project funding was awarded to neighbors to create positive change.



2019

Neighborhood website, text messaging system, and Facebook page were developed and activated.



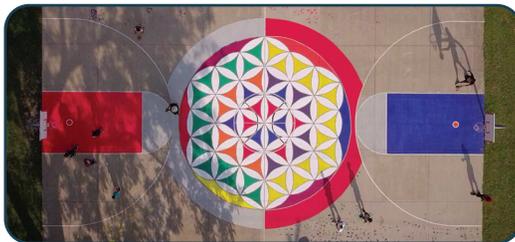
2019

A full year of listening and resident engagement was completed along with a summary report.



Sept. 2021

Since the initiative began, 14 affordable housing units were created with 27 more planned.



Nov. 2021

Tepe Park neighbor, Cord Stith, transformed the neighborhood basketball court with a mural.



Nov. 2022

The 300th Tepe Park neighbor was met by name and added to the resident engagement database.

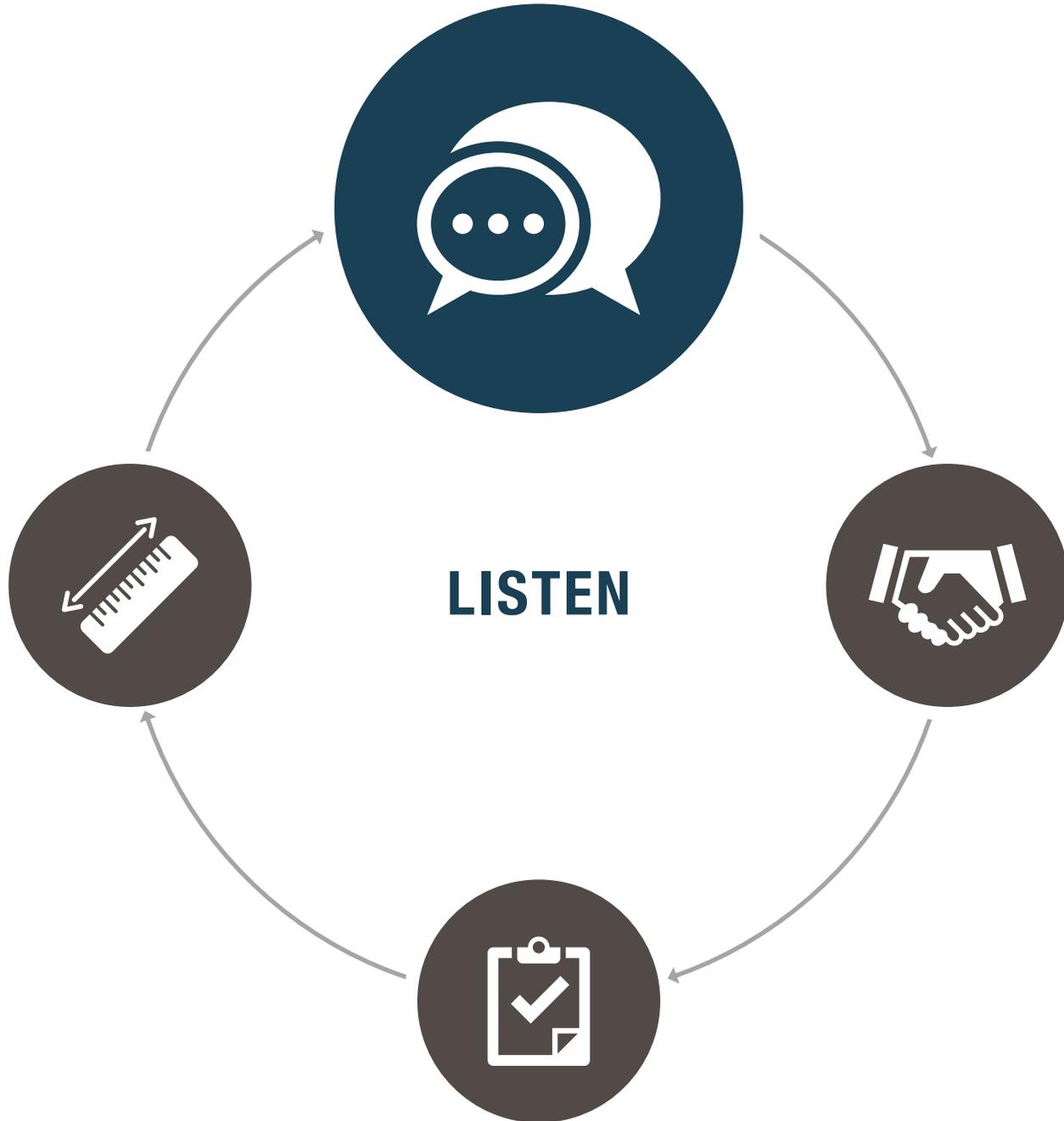
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION PROCESS

REVITALIZE THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Every neighborhood has its own unique assets and challenges. But most people – regardless of where we live – want the same things for our homes, families, and neighborhoods.

The neighborhood revitalization process brings together residents and community stakeholders to create positive and sustainable change in neighborhoods built on the passions and dreams of the neighbors who live there. This is all based on a shared vision that is determined through a collaborative 4-step process:





LISTEN

Listening is the first step in neighborhood revitalization, and it is vital to the overall process. Neighbors are the experts in their neighborhoods. Most neighborhood strengths, challenges, hopes, and dreams can be identified by them because they hold the firsthand knowledge of the community, the vision for the preferred future, and the solutions for real change.

Listening also recognizes the inherent dignity and infinite worth of neighbors. It values them as individuals and as a collective. This is important because neighbors are the greatest asset of any neighborhood!

Resident voice must be at the center of any effective asset-based community development initiative throughout the life of the initiative.



LISTEN BY THE NUMBERS

180 HOURS

Community Vision
and Strategic Planning

52 HOURS

Influencer Interviews

118 HOURS

Pop-Up Experiments

311 HOURS

Leadership and
General Meetings



We want to keep Tepe Park neighbors at the center of the initiative. To do that, we track the number of neighbors we've met and how they are participating in the change process.

320 MET

Have had a conversation
about the initiative and
exchanged contact
information

32 ALIGNED

Have participated in
several neighborhood
initiatives, events,
meetings, programs, etc.

38 CONNECTED

Are regularly participating
in the initiative or are
connected relationally to a
neighborhood leader

20 LEADING

Are actively leading
people or projects to
improve the quality of life
in the neighborhood

LISTEN IN ACTION

COMING TOGETHER TO CLEAN UP

Through the listening process, many Tepe Park neighbors voiced the importance of having a clean and beautiful neighborhood. A Tepe Park neighbor named Tashiya had a specific interest in picking up trash and cleaning up the neighborhood.

Thanks to her leadership, and the partnership of Republic Services, the neighborhood hosted their first ever Dumpster Day in November 2020. Nearly 4,800 lbs of trash were picked up on that single day throughout the neighborhood!

One Tepe Park family needed help removing heavy trash from their front porch. They connected with neighborhood leaders who were happy to pick up their items and take them to the dumpster on this day. This neighbor and her children were thrilled and relieved to have a usable porch again!

Listening to neighbors' desires and specific needs created tangible change through Dumpster Day.





ALIGN

After listening, different priorities emerge. These priorities are documented and published. Alignment comes when all voices within a community are combined and shared.

Alignment shares neighbors' voice and creates the shared vision for change. This vision is used as a map, and partner organizations can participate by joining their vision.

Alignment is crucial because it brings unity and focus to neighborhood efforts, creates a common agenda, and allows for collective impact.



ALIGN BY THE NUMBERS

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

1 Quality of
Life Plan

6 Priority
Areas

90 Strategic
Action Goals

1 Love Your Neighborhood
Plan Created

16 Identified
Priority Projects

COMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND STORYTELLING



Neighborhood SMS



Tepe Park Website



Neighborhood Association Facebook



6 Neighborhood Stories

ALIGNED INVESTMENTS

30+ Stakeholders
Investing Resources
✓ financial ✓ volunteer
✓ programmatic ✓ goods-services

\$15,000

Leadership Development

- ✓ weekly meetings ✓ conferences
- ✓ learning trips ✓ personal coaching
- ✓ development

ALIGN IN ACTION

In 2017, Tepe Park residents voiced a vision for their neighborhood clubhouse to be renovated into a community gathering and learning center. From 2017-2019, neighbors utilized the existing space for gatherings, events, and new resident-led programs as best they could.

Thanks to generous investments from community partners and project management from Community One, the Tepe Park clubhouse was completely renovated into a safe, comfortable, and functional space throughout 2019 and 2020.

The ribbon was cut in September 2020, and the transformed space opened for neighbors to use. Today, the clubhouse operates as a community gathering and learning center, just as they envisioned!

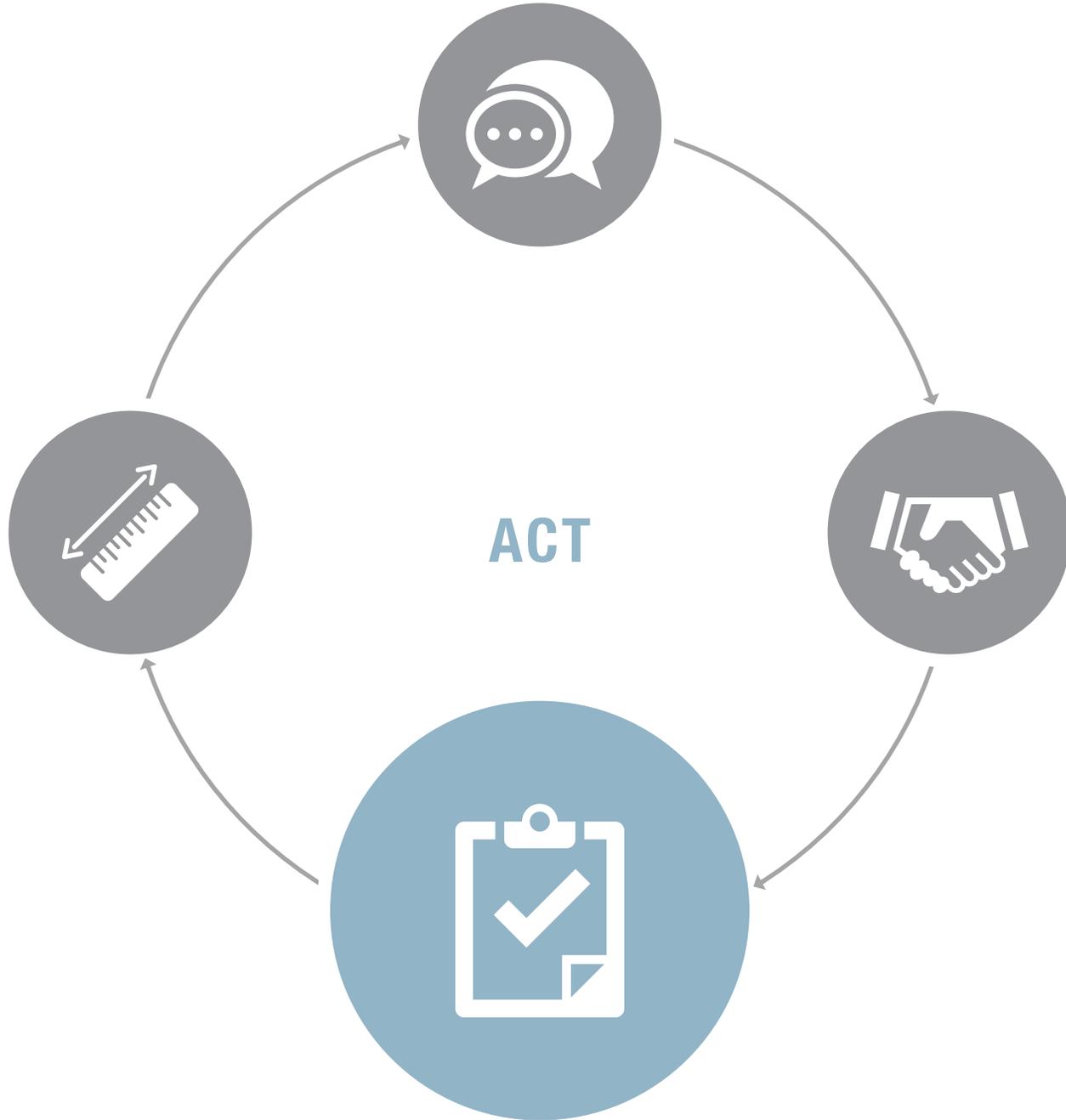
Watch a short video about the impact this project had on Tepe Park neighbors and their neighborhood.



Before



After



ACT

Action is the next step following listening and aligning. And it is critical to progress! Documenting priorities is meaningless unless dreams become reality through tangible action.

Action brings credibility to the initiative and can inspire hope that real change is within reach for residents. Doubt, distrust, apathy, and negativity can happen without action. But with real action, momentum builds within the initiative and attracts engagement from more neighbors and partners.

As action takes place, it is important to celebrate short-term wins while long-term solutions are implemented over extended periods of time.

ACTION IN TEPE PARK IS BEING TAKEN IN THREE MAIN AREAS

LIVABILITY

Enhance the wholistic health and wellbeing of neighborhood residents.

YOUTH & LIFELONG LEARNING

Provide access to a rich array of lifelong learning opportunities for all ages.

NEIGHBORING & COMMUNITY

Build a connected community where every person can thrive in dignity.

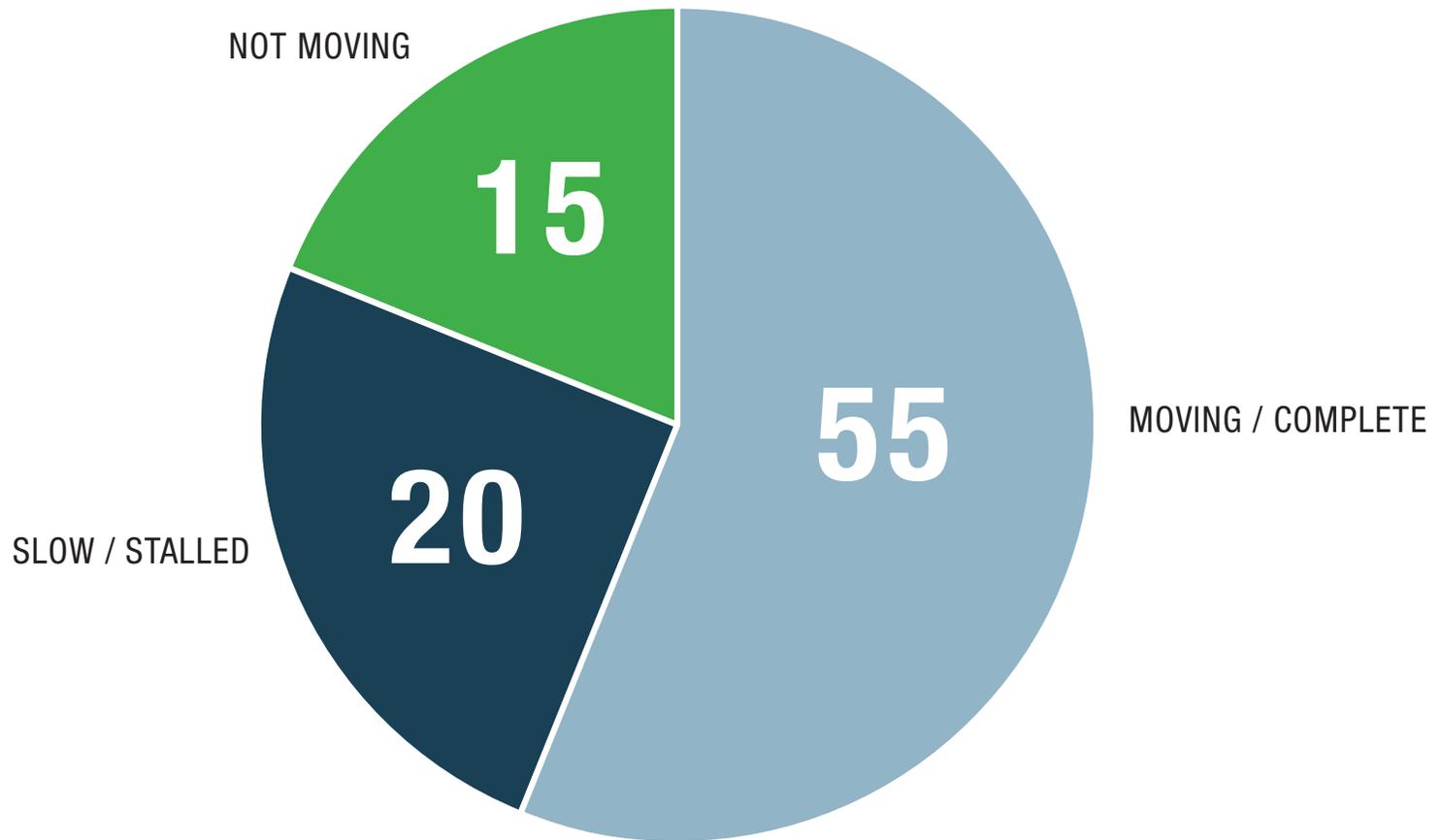


Learn more about Tepe Park's Livability, Youth & Lifelong Learning, and Neighboring & Community goals!



ACT BY THE NUMBERS

QUALITY OF LIFE STRATEGIC ACTION GOALS = 90



ACT LIVABILITY

LIVABILITY

Enhance the wholistic health and wellbeing of neighborhood residents.

HOUSING INVESTMENTS

A Livability goal identified by Tepe Park Neighbors is to **“Build a healthy mix of housing options while repairing and rehabbing existing housing stock.”** To support the neighborhood’s desired goal, three community stakeholders have invested in the neighborhood through their programs.

14 Affordable Housing
Units Built

20+ Major Home Repairs
Have Been Completed
Since 2021

27 Affordable Housing
Units Planned

WHAT’S COMING NEXT?

Investment doesn’t end here! In the next 2 years, more high-quality and affordable housing is coming to Tepe Park. Here is what you can expect:

HABITAT

22 new homes will be built

COMMUNITY ONE

2 existing houses will be rehabbed

MEMORIAL CDC

3 new homes will be built



ACT LIVABILITY

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM

A Livability goal identified by Tepe Park neighbors is to **“Develop an entrepreneurship ecosystem from within that is inclusive of community residents.”** Progress has already been made in this area with a unique resident-led initiative.

BEDFORD COLLAB

Received funding in November 2020 to transform an old tavern in the neighborhood into a shared commercial kitchen. This initiative will:



Return a dilapidated and abandoned commercial property to use



Provide access to entrepreneurial opportunity in the neighborhood



Become a catalyst for economic development and job creation



WHAT'S COMING NEXT? Bedford Collab plans to open by the end of 2023. We hope this is the beginning of many new business developments on the Southside! Are you a foodpreneur who could use access to a shared commercial kitchen? Contact bedfordcollab@gmail.com to learn more.

YOUTH & LIFELONG LEARNING

Provide access to a rich array of lifelong learning opportunities for all ages.

WRAP-AROUND CARE

A Youth & Lifelong Learning goal identified by Tepe Park neighbors is to **“Provide wrap-around services helping youth in the neighborhood discover their passion and develop a unique pathway to success for each youth.”** To support the neighborhood’s desired goal, a nearby nonprofit has invested in Tepe Park through their programs.

28 PROMISED KIDS

Through a partnership with Potter’s Wheel, 28 Tepe Park children have been made a promise. This promise is to ensure they are career, college, and life ready through wrap-around services and continuity of care.

WHAT’S COMING NEXT?

Potter’s Wheel plans to connect with **55 MORE PROMISED KIDS** by Spring of 2024. If you would like support for your kid from cradle to career to ensure they succeed in life, connect to our community partner Potter’s Wheel by visiting their website potterswheelministries.com or stop by their facility.



ACT

YOUTH & LIFELONG LEARNING

MENTORING AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

A Youth & Lifelong Learning goal identified by Tepe Park neighbors is to **“Empower and resource neighborhood youth during their transitional years from late teens to early adulthood by building mentoring relationships.”** Progress has already been made in this area with a resident-led program that operates out of the neighborhood clubhouse and learning center.

#TECHME

We are living in tech-driven times. Our neighbor, Debbie Calhoun, stepped up to start #TechMe right in our own neighborhood to engage youth in the world of technology. This program:



Is resident-envisioned
and resident-led

8

Engaged 8 youth in
weekly summer programming



Won a Celebration of
Leadership Award in 2022

WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

#TechMe will continue to offer technology programming for youth in the neighborhood clubhouse and learning center. Learn more and get connected by visiting tepepark.org/tepetechme.

A community stakeholder, Big Brothers Big Sisters, is actively making matches in Tepe Park. They have 5 Littles in Tepe Park on their waitlist and are looking for Bigs from the neighborhood.



ACT

NEIGHBORING & COMMUNITY

NEIGHBORING & COMMUNITY

Build a connected community where every person can thrive in dignity.

INTERACTIVE ART

A Neighboring & Community goal identified by Tepe Park neighbors is to **“Install interactive art throughout the neighborhood that contributes to overall beautification and promotes connection between neighbors.”** Art is central to neighborhood revitalization because it recognizes our own identity and culture. Progress has already been made in this area because of talented neighborhood artists.



Cord transformed the neighborhood basketball court with interactive art.



Walter painted a mural with a powerful message on the side of his home.



Shannon lit up the side of the clubhouse by creating a 3D digital mural.

WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

We need more art in the neighborhood! In the 2018 baseline measurement, only 30% of Tepe Park residents agreed or strongly agreed that arts and entertainment opportunities meet their needs. Do you see a blank canvas in Tepe Park? Reach out to the Neighborhood Coordinator, Eric Tillman, by contacting (812) 773-7236 to get connected.

ACT

NEIGHBORING & COMMUNITY

NEIGHBORHOOD STORIES

A Neighboring & Community goal identified by Tepe Park neighbors is to **“Create unique neighborhood communication that captures the story of real people and shares the hopes, dreams, and passion of residents within the community.”** Each year we’ve created and shared a video story connected to our initiative.



Crystal's Perspective:
Resident Engagement



The Bedford Collab Project



Cord's Court Mural



Charles and Peter's Tree Project



Perspectives



One Neighbor's Story:
Charles

WHAT'S COMING NEXT?

We will continue to create at least one video story each year. Do you have a Tepe Park story to share? Let us know by contacting the Neighborhood Coordinator Eric Tillman at (812) 773-7236, or come to the next neighborhood meeting at the clubhouse.

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PROJECT BY THE NUMBERS

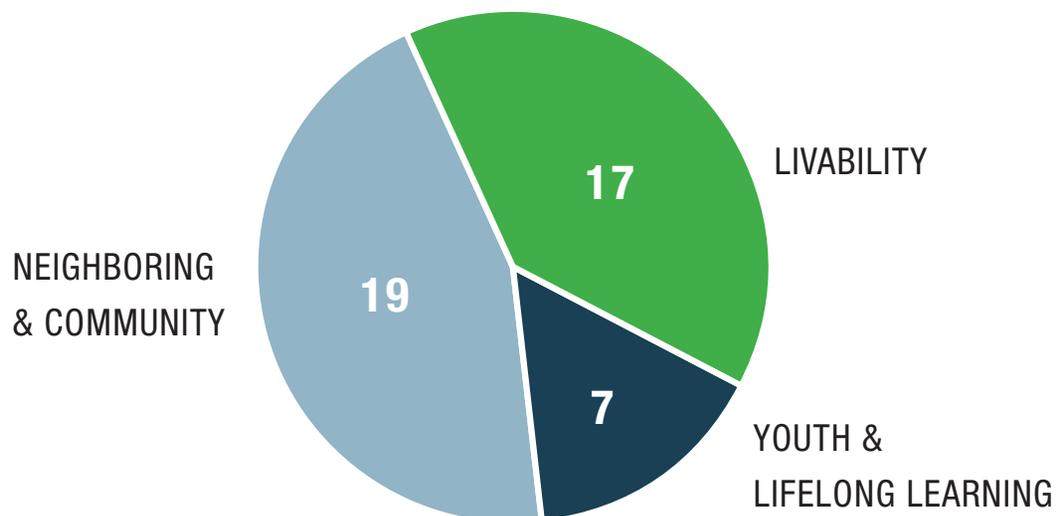
Neighborhood Action Projects are direct investments to neighbors to provide them funding and resourcing to be the change they hope to see in and for their community.

\$38,000

Direct Investment to
Neighbors

43

Projects
Awarded



“We believe in the power of our community and know that everyone has something to contribute.” – *A Tepe Park Neighbor*

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PROJECTS



Martha and Tamika wanted to get to know their neighbors and serve them through little free libraries. Action project funding helped them install one at each of their homes. Their libraries, along with a third one at the clubhouse that was installed by a church small group, created a network of little free libraries throughout the neighborhood.



Roger cares about his neighbors and his community. He was already mowing lawns for people throughout the neighborhood. Action project funding helped him purchase new lawn equipment to build on his good neighboring. Roger also outfitted his personal garage to repair mowers for his neighbors.



DeAndre is a well-known face in Evansville for the Keep Rolling Campaign that honors his father's battle with cancer. Action project funding helped expand his campaign to create more community conversations and increase cancer awareness. It also supported sharing his documentary which benefited his entrepreneurial spirit.



Peter and Charles have a desire to see an urban canopy in the Tepe Park neighborhood. They believe it would increase the quality of life for their neighbors and provide an educational opportunity for neighborhood youth. Action project funding helped them get started by planting 23 trees.

What other youth activities do you think the neighborhood needs? Would you be willing to help start it or volunteer?

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PROJECTS



Tashiya is a resident entrepreneur. She had already started her own cleaning business, but she wanted to see it grow locally. Action project funding supported her marketing efforts by creating business cards and a social media page to ultimately further the growth and expansion of her business.



Mariama started MASK (Mothers Against Senseless Killing) after her own son was struck by a stray bullet. Action project funding helped MASK plant a memorial grove where neighbors can

come and remember their loved ones. It also serves as a visual reminder to the neighborhood of the importance of community and safety.



Jayme is Tepe Park's best connector. She had an idea to support the Neighboring & Community Action Team that she loves being a member of. Action project funding helped Jayme host

a lemonade stand. She donated half of the proceeds to a nonprofit and the other half back to Tepe Park neighborhood to engage more neighbors.

Tamika started teaching Zumba classes in Tepe Park because of the beautiful basketball court mural. She later learned that the neighborhood had voiced a desire to see exercise classes, just like hers, come to the park. Action project funding helped Tamika sustain her class and continue bringing it to Tepe Park.



Kent cares for his surrounding neighbors and demonstrates that through his actions. He frequently helps his neighbors with their lawn care and landscaping. Action project funding helped Kent beautify his own front yard. Even though funding doesn't typically support home improvements, Kent's neighbors wanted to give back to him.

JOIN US

HERE ARE 4 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Do you want to join this incredible movement creating real and lasting change? Here are four ways for you to connect to Love Your Neighborhood Tepe Park.

MEET WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATOR

COME TO A NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

JOIN A NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION TEAM

LEAD A PROJECT OR INITIATIVE WITH A NEIGHBOR

GET STARTED TODAY!

Contact Eric Tillman at
eric.tillman@community1.org
or (812) 773-7236

Come to a neighborhood
meeting on the 3rd Monday
of each month at 6:30 PM





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