Opening Our Schools Up to Our Communities

Shared Stories Through Community Mapping and Engagement

Craig Talmage, Ph.D. • Holly L. Figueroa • Eric Trevan • Wendy Wolfersteig, Ph.D.
Shared use (also termed joint use)
- “Opening school buildings and grounds during non-school hours for community use” (Young et al., 2014, p. 1586).

Why?
- Ample indoor and outdoor recreational and gathering spaces for meeting, exercising, and lifelong learning.
- Can help empower communities to improve their health and well-being.

Who?
- Community members and organizations
The Community
Recruitment
Survey via Paper Questionnaires
   - 233 adults
Focus Groups (x3)
   - 13 adults & 10 youth
Community Mapping Sessions (x2)
   - 39 adults
Stakeholder Interviews
Literature Review
Community Mapping
Framework of Analysis:
Community Enrichment Model
Community Enrichment Model

Pathways

- Person
- Enrichment
- Event
- Association
- Community

Barriers

- Person
- Enrichment
- Event
- Association
- Community
Pathways

Recreational, Educational, and Meeting Access

Nutritional Knowledge and Healthy Eating

Physical Activity

Community Empowerment

Social Cohesion
Physical Activity
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**March 2015**

Faye Gray Recreation Center

**Recreational, Educational, and Meeting Access**
Nutritional Knowledge and Healthy Eating
Social Cohesion
Barriers

- Insecurity, Unsafty, and Crime
- Insufficient Supervision or Coordination During Off-Hours
- Liability, Maintenance, and Operating Costs
- Inadequate Communication Channels Between Districts, Schools, and Communities
General concerns:

- Vandalism
- Stealing pipes
- Drugs
- Graffiti
- Weapons
- Assault/person-to-person crime

Minimal Concerns:

- Security
- Rules/regulations
- Lighting
- Design
- Contact person(s)
Insufficient Supervision or Coordination During Off-Hours

- Unlikely to use without **structured activities**
  - Prefer parks to schools for unstructured use
  - Might use high school tracks or gyms if available

- Kids will not be allowed to go play at schools without **sufficient supervision**

- With both in place (safety, supervision, lighting, etc.):
  - Likely positive impact on youth physical activity levels
  - Impact on adults activity levels is dependent on simultaneous structured youth/adult activities
  - Likely will not impact healthy eating or nutritional knowledge
Liability, Maintenance, and Operating Costs

Cost
- District/schools vs. community groups
- Parks experience
- Other districts experience

Maintenance
- District and school staff

Equipment
- Technology updates to promote more usage

Staffing
- Custodians/Activity supervisors
- Security
Gatekeepers

- Specific coordinator and/or point of contact
- Clear reservation process for spaces
- Clear rules and policies for facility use
Questions?

For questions or additional information, please contact:

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You Made It! Now Go Play!

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