

Community Snapshot

Newark Environmental Commission - Post-meeting survey
Filled out by Commissioners Wynnie-Fred Hinds and Christopher Watson

Major challenges:

With river programming in general

- Not enough means of involving communities with the advocacy associated with cleanup
- Help community programs take advantage of the park space, and champion the river at those events
- Lots of environmental and quality of life work done in Newark - should tie the river into that as a means of bringing in more voices to river work

With community participation

- There are lots of opportunities for civic engagement always in Newark - hard to get to all of them
- People hosting events should be aware of other relevant events happening when picking a date
- Importance to have community involved as partners in the project, especially because they (we) are the end-users

Venues and groups:

- Venues: depends a lot on the target audience - local churches and City Hall are common, but don't draw everyone
- Groups: leverage the networks of United Vailsburg Service Organization, the Newark Environmental Commission, Ironbound Community Corporation, and Newark's Sustainability Office
- Can pass out information through Newark Public Schools

Key local communication tools:

- Donna Kirkland sends out a great amount of information to the community.
- Generally television, social media, newspapers, etc.

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Examples of successful community outreach:

"When I was with the Newark Water Group, we got a lot of participation from the public because it was such an important topic for people. We went out and educated the community and stakeholders about the issues and spoke out at practically every community event or meeting we could. We always made sure to bring educational materials with us and put the information in a language people could relate to."