

Newhallville Youth Photovoice Project

July 2019

Project description

Photovoice is a participatory research method in which people can identify, represent and enhance their community by utilizing photography. The purpose of the Newhallville Youth Photovoice Project was to capture the experiences of neighborhood teenagers as a supplementary component of the Newhallville and Dixwell Neighborhood Community Index.

In June 2019, five Newhallville youth photo-researchers, who are introduced on the next page, set out to answer the following questions about their neighborhood:

What do I like most about my community?

What is the best part about being a teenager in Newhallville?

What can be done to make Newhallville a better place for young people?

The remainder of the Index is a compilation of the photographs and narratives thoughtfully crafted by each researcher in an effort to share what life is like as a young person in Newhallville. Our hope is that throughout the following pages you — the reader, the youth advocate, the policymaker, the neighbor — will become better informed about the goals and desires of Newhallville youth.

Meet the photo-researchers



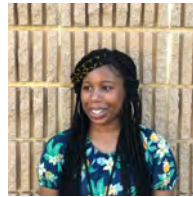
Andre, 15 years old
I am a student at Metropolitan Business Academy and I enjoy playing basketball and listening to music.



Anniya, 14 years old
I like to shop and am interested in cosmetology. When I get older I would like to attend Spelman College or Howard University.



Aden, 14 years old
I am a student at Amistad High school and I love sports.



Asia, 15 years old
I am a sophomore at Common Ground High School. In my free time I enjoy drawing flowers.



Malikia, 19 years old
I am a sophomore at Temple University. I enjoy watching and playing sports.

What do I like most about my community?

“I took a picture of my school because I feel as though my school is a really good school due to how it was ranked 1st in academics just a couple years ago. Therefore if we had better schools kids would have better education.”

-Aden



“I chose Bassett Street Park because it is a place for children to play and have fun. Also a basketball court is there so the teenagers and older people could have fun too. I also have fun playing at Bassett Street Park. I usually spend about an hour or two over there and I get to communicate with my friends and have a good time.”

-Andre



“I like that I am able to go to the various parks and experience wildlife in their natural habitat. I like to relax and take it all in in the beautiful setting. Beaver Pond Park features a football field stadium, a track, and a baseball field, all used by two city high schools. The park also includes lagoons and trails in its nature areas.”

-Asia



“I like that I get to be with my family and spend time with my family and specifically my siblings. My siblings encourage me to do more things outside in the world, and explore. I used to be scared to meet new people and to socialize when I was younger, I was really shy. And now I like socializing with people and they encourage me to do that and to talk more with other people.”

-Anniya



What is the best part about being a teenager in Newhallville?

“My favorite part about being a teen in the Newhallville community is the impact I get to make on the youth of our community, to be the best they can be. I enjoy being someone youth can look up to and inspire to be like.”

-Malikia



“I took a picture of the sky to represent freedom. This is because when I was a child I did not have as much freedom but now that I am a teen I have more freedom. Additionally, when I was younger I would always be under parent supervision. But now that I am a teen there are some activities where I don’t need parent supervision.”

-Aden



“I think the best part of being a teenager is having Harris and Tucker School right down the street from my house. It is a very good resource for me to get a job. For example, in my sophomore year of high school I completed all 100 hours of my community service there. And it is also a great job to have as a teenager if you like kids.”

-Andre



“The best part about being a teenager is socializing with my friends and hanging out with people and meeting other people and becoming friends with them. Usually we hang around Dunkin Donuts. We also hang around Mill Rock Park and meet other people there. I like socializing because some people could be going through rough times and so I like to talk to them about what’s going on with them and to have them confide in me and come to me about anything. I also feel that I can confide in my friends.”

-Anniya



“The best part about being a teenager in Newhallville is the New Haven City bikes because it allows young people like me to rent, ride, and return the bikes. For those who don’t have their own transportation, it is very convenient.”

-Asia



What can be done to make Newhallville a better place for youth?

“I took a picture of the potholes. This is because the potholes are messing up cars in the neighborhood. In addition, my brother was playing around in the street and fell over a pothole which caused him to have a bad knee.”

-Aden



“I believe if we have more people with the heart of Miss Kim from the Harris and Tucker School, Newhallville would be a better community. I say this because Miss Kim motivates the kids in our community to do better. She also gives teens in the community job experience whether it is community service or an actual job. She motivates me to be better and put my fullest potential into what I am doing. Miss Kim also introduces teens to others in the community that can impact or help ones life.”

-Malikia



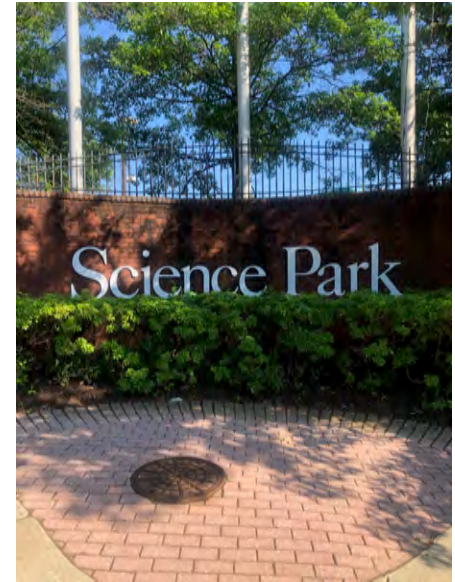
“In my perspective, I chose speed bumps because they would help a lot of pedestrians like myself have a safer walk across the street.”

-Andre



“To make Newhallville a better place for young people is to make more innovation centers like Science Park, tailored for the youth. Science Park is a unique group of office spaces, labs, workrooms and meeting areas designed to support research and development in science and tech.”

-Asia Vilsaint



“I would like to see more people cleaning up after themselves to make Newhallville a better place for the youth. We should encourage the youth not to litter. In my neighborhood there are some elderly people who cannot bend down to pick up the trash in their yards. As young people we should be mindful of the elderly people who live there so they won’t injure themselves by trying to pick up the trash.”

-Anniya



Conclusion

The results of the Newhallville Youth Photovoice Project show that young people in the neighborhood are passionate about

- learning
- giving back to our community
- preserving nature
- caring for the environment
- being leaders
- living in a safe environment and
- having opportunities to learn more about science and technology.

Acknowledgements

The Newhallville and Dixwell Neighborhood Community Index and the Newhallville Youth Photovoice Project would not have been possible without the support of:

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