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Paulsboro PRIDE Summer Youth Engagement

Hello Gene,

Welcome to the Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Revitalization Plan Project! This summer we participated in many community engagement activities including attending pop-up events, hosting community conversations, conducting interviews and facilitating a community survey. We are thrilled to present to you a summary of those events, crafted with the collective spirit and enthusiasm that defines Paulsboro PRIDE and Raider RESPECT.

Paulsboro PRIDE Vision Statement

“Moving Paulsboro Forward” By Working Together For the Betterment of the Paulsboro Community Through Neighborhood Revitalization

Rowan University Interns/MBA Fellow Work on Paulsboro Pride Project This Summer



The Paulsboro Pride Neighborhood Revitalization project had two summer interns who worked with the planning team this summer. The interns were both students in Rowan University's Geography, Planning, and Sustainability program. For 8 weeks, the summer interns worked with the project team by attending community outreach events, participating in the community conversations, conducting interviews with residents and stakeholders and working together on a final

capstone project to encompass the work done during the summer of 2024. The students participated in trainings focused on mapping, data collection, data interpretation and community engagement. **Read the interns final project [here!](#)**

Cara Piergiovanni: Cara Piergiovanni is a recent Rowan University graduate with a B.S. in Community and Environmental Planning. Cara previously had some community engagement experience, but this internship allowed her to realize that is where her passion is. She found a lot of power in listening to the needs of the community members, putting their thoughts to paper, and organizing that data. We also met and interacted with community members of all ages in

participatory planning efforts.

Jude Vernamonti: Jude Vernamonti is currently entering his junior year as a Community & Environmental Planning student at Rowan University with a passion for Community Planning and Community outreach. Jude attended community conversations, wrote up formatted notes, helped with community outreach materials, and met with members of the community to learn about Paulsboro and the needs of its citizens.

Rowan University MBA Fellow

Ronald Ngwashi is an MBA & MS Finance Fellow at Rowan University with expertise and passions in positive community change, finance, engineering, and nonprofit management. He has previously completed two positive social impact projects in his Fellowship role, and the feedback from partners has been exceptionally positive and appreciative of the impact his work brought to their organizations. During his time on the Paulsboro Pride Project, Ronald has helped create a synopsis on the history of Paulsboro, conducted research, created surveys, and assisted with the completion of a grant proposal. We are looking forward to Ronald's continued work on this project.



Summer Teen Community Mapping/Neighborhood Conditions Project



Over the 2024 summer, 10 Paulsboro High School students participated in a community mapping project that allowed them to survey and document the current conditions of the community. The students were split into groups, and each assigned an area/block to be surveyed. The students received an orientation with training on how to complete the forms. Each group, at the oversight of their mentor, walked the assigned block, completed a visual inventory of that block, and completed the form identifying any key issues or things to note on that block. At the end of the project, the entire group met together to share their thoughts and insights on what they had seen during their time in the community.

Key things that the teens noted were the following:

- many street lights were dim/out and the streets were very dark at night.
- many sidewalks were in disrepair and need to be repaired
- privately owned vacant lots were not well maintained and had overgrown grass and litter
- many streets were filled with trash and litter
- many streets had potholes and need to be repaired
- many sidewalks were blocked by overgrown grass and other things obstructing the walkway such as cars.
- vacant homes throughout the community were not maintained well
- homes throughout town were filled with trash and debris



We would like to thank the teens who participated in our summer project: Jeffrey, Eric, Dasoni, Chris, Harry, Sanai, Jalah, Taraji and Kristopher. A special thank you to our summer college intern, Anaiah Hill for leading them throughout this project!

Read more about the summer youth project initiatives [here!!!](#)

**Summer Youth Planning Camp
Empowering the Future!**



During the summer of 2024, 8 youth ages 11-14 participated in a summer program that provided junior high school students with a unique opportunity to learn more about the community of Paulsboro, the importance of neighborhood planning, and participate in different projects throughout the community.

Community Planning 101 Workshop: The students participated in a workshop that focused on educating them on the community planning process, the importance of leading a resident-driven plan and why it is important to hear their voices and those of other youth in the community as the Neighborhood Plan is being developed.

Community Projects: Over the summer, the students participated in 4 community-based activities aimed at empowering them to take an active role in their community. The students spent 4 Saturdays during the summer cleaning Buck Street Park and the Baird Ave Recreation area, volunteering at a local church-led event, and worked in the Loudenslager Community Garden picking weeds and planting pumpkin seeds.

Community Walk: The students participated in a community walk throughout the neighborhood. The walk was divided into two days. During the community walk, the planning team spoke with the youth about their visions and wishes for changes throughout the community. The students also had the opportunity to speak with residents about the neighborhood plan and give them information on completing the neighborhood survey.



Visioning Exercise: During the Community Walk, the students identified an area in the community where they wanted to focus their visioning project on. The Paulsboro public basketball courts have been an area that is in need of desperate repair. Cracks line the entire court area, overgrown grass is sprouting throughout the concrete and trash and litter have overrun the area. Seeing that this area is in desperate need of cleanup, the summer youth spent an afternoon cleaning up the trash and litter. The youth then brainstormed creative ways to improve this area, including the adjacent vacant lot that once was the former site of a baseball field. The students envisioned having improved basketball courts within an enclosed space, a community pool and a recreation facility where they can exercise and enjoy multiple activities.





We would like to thank the Summer Planning Camp Participants: Julian, Kayden, Orion, Delsire, Laevion, Habib, Noah and Kahlil. A special thank you to our camp leader Anthony Clarke who worked with our youth this summer!

"Paulsboro Proud" Community Video Project



Over the course of the summer, the Summer Planning Camp Youth filmed short clips of various community members for a video they created titled "**Paulsboro Proud**". Gathering mini-interviews during the summer popup events, sporting activities and local church events, the students filmed both youth and adults asking them the question, "What makes you PROUD to be from Paulsboro". The students conducted over 25 interviews for the video. They then edited the clips and made it into one video. Click on the link to see our residents express why they are Paulsboro Proud!

Community Pop-up Events Throughout the Summer





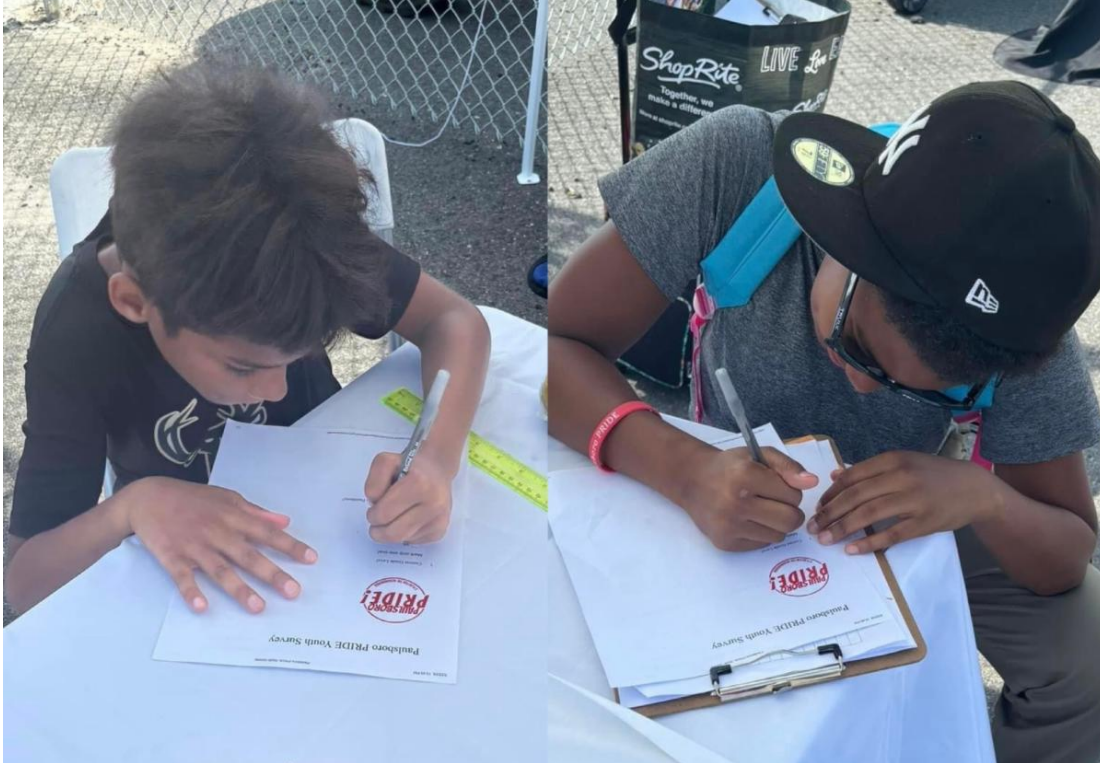
Thank you to our summer youth who attended events throughout the summer months. We appreciate their Paulsboro Pride and are proud to have them apart of the team!

Loudenslager Elementary Students- Community Planning Day!



Gateway's Paulsboro PRIDE Neighborhood Revitalization Program is quickly accelerating with the help of Paulsboro residents, including enthusiastic and imaginative elementary school students. On June 2nd, the Paulsboro Pride Team spent the afternoon at Loudenslager Elementary School. The 4th grade students took the time to provide feedback about their community and what they'd like to see in Paulsboro's future. They each shared something they love about Paulsboro, as well as what their "DREAM" community would look like. Many students wanted to see a new community pool, more local eateries, new parks and basketball courts, and more programs and activities within the community for youth. Thank you to Mrs. Lang for welcoming us into her classroom!

Youth Engagement Survey- We Want to Hear From Our Youth!



The Paulsboro Pride Neighborhood Plan team summer college interns created a youth **survey** using questions provided from Success Measures. To date, over 60 youth have participated in the youth survey. Key things that youth would like to see in their community include: More local parks, a splash pad, graduation for 8th grade, dance groups, recreation center, fun activities for high schoolers, summer employment opportunities, cooking classes, community basketball tournament, community pool, more clean-up days, pep rallies and summer field trips. The survey is still live and we encourage additional youth to complete it. We would like to hear from as many youth as possible!! Click on the link below!

[Take the Youth Survey!](#)

Empowering our Youth to be the Next Generation of Community Leaders- Join Our Youth Planning Council!!

Inviting all teens to join us for an engaging day discussing the future of the community. All teens residing in Paulsboro are welcome to attend. More details to be announced soon!

THE FUTURE OF PAULSBORO

TALKING TEENS!



PREPARE FOR AN INSPIRING DAY WITH ENGAGING DISCUSSIONS, OPINIONS AND CREATIVITY

WE'LL TALK ABOUT:

GOALS

CHANGE

MONEY

DATE & TIME:

SAT SEPT 28TH

AGE 13 - 17

FREE ADMISSIONS

START FROM 3 PM - 6 PM
LOCATION : TBD

(SNACK & DRINK INCLUDED)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT REALLYGREATSITE.COM

The Paulsboro Pride Neighborhood Plan represents a crucial step forward in shaping the future of our community. With the support of the Regional Foundation and the NJ Department of Community Affairs NRTC Program, Gateway Community Action Partnership and Interface Studio will be working with Paulsboro neighbors on a comprehensive neighborhood plan for the community. The neighborhood plan will help to guide improvements and investments to make the community a better place to live, work and play. The plan is community driven and resident-led and includes what the residents would like to see in their neighborhood.

Please contact Kyana Evans at PaulsboroPride@gatewaycap.org if you are interested in learning more! We also have created a new Facebook page. Please like/follow and share with your friends and neighbors!

Gateway Community Action Partnership

110 Cohansey Street
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
Phone: (856) 451-6330

Take Our Community
Survey!



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