

Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. Collection

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Summary Information

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| Repository | James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library |
| Creator | Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. |
| Title | Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. Collection |
| Date | 1985-2011 |
| Extent | 2.25 Linear feet |
| Language | English |

History

Elliot Park is one of the oldest neighborhood communities in Minneapolis. It began around the time the city was founded in 1856. Sections of Elliot Park along 8th Street were platted for the building of houses, stores and churches. Its proximity to the industries that were built up around St. Anthony Falls made it popular for Swedish immigrants who were drawn to this area.

The 1870's and 1880's saw important developments in the neighborhood. Cottage hospital opened on 6th Street and this established Elliot Park as one of the leading medical neighborhoods in the city. An early public school, Madison school was also established in the neighborhood.

In 1883 the neighborhood gained its most prominent landmark when Dr. Joseph Elliot, an area physician, donated his farmland to the city which became Elliot Park. The park became an amenity that drew residents and it became a fashionable area to live in. Mansions were built along Park Avenue. Rising land values and population density growth caused many stone and brick apartment buildings to be built in Elliot Park including the Roselle and Rappahannock buildings. A commercial district developed along Chicago Avenue.

After 1920, population growth began to slow and decline set in during the Depression of the 1930's. The abundance of high-density housing made Elliot Park a haven for working class and low-income residents. Many of the stately mansions of the 1890's were converted to multi-family dwellings. The rapid expansion of the Twin Cities suburban areas in the 1950's and 1960's came at the expense of inner-city neighborhoods and also meant that new roadways had to be built to transport people efficiently throughout the area. Residential sectors at the eastern and southern edges of Elliot Park were gutted for freeways 94 and 35W. Freeway construction in the 1960's also displaced numerous area businesses, substantially changing the neighborhood's character. Between 1950 and 1970 the population of Elliot Park had dropped by 54% and the neighborhood was home to an increasingly transient population.

By the 1970's Elliot Park had become one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city, beset with economic and social problems as 53% of the community lived below the poverty line. The housing stock deteriorated due to inadequate maintenance and real estate speculators who did not re-invest in their buildings. Poor health was widespread as was chemical dependency and the high incidence of infant mortality.

However, dedicated neighborhood residents organized to address these problems and turn their neighborhood around. In 1976, Elliot Park residents established Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. (EPNI) to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood. Their mission was to conserve the existing housing stock and participate in any decision-making that would substantially affect the neighborhood's future. They sought to promote neighborhood revitalization and the delivery of needed services for residents of every age and economic situation.

Since the creation of EPNI, housing has been modernized, historic buildings have been recognized and preserved, small businesses have been promoted and Neighborhood Revitalization programs have been used to bring in more owner-occupied housing.

Description of Collection

Two boxes. Box one contains materials on Community Gardens; Community Programs and Partnerships; Elliot Park Life Stories and History; Events; Neighborhood Revitalization Program and Public Relations Materials. Box two contains materials restricted until 2022 from annual meetings and the afterschool program and a VHS video from the life stores project. Special Collections has a VHS player in the reading room.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Elliot Park Neighborhood (Minneapolis, Minn.)

Community Gardens

Collection Inventory

| Community Gardens | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------------|
| Greening 1985-1987 | Box 1 | Folder 1 |
| Gardens 1999-2006 | Box 1 | Folder 2-8 |
| Green Coordinator | Box 1 | Folder 9 |
| Minneapolis Garden Policy | Box 1 | Folder 10 |
| Community Programs and Partnerships (Non-NRP) | | |
| After School Program (ASP) | Box 1 | Folder 11-18 |
| Elliot Park Life Stores and Histories | | |
| 1517 Portland - house/site history | Box 1 | Folder 48 |
| Life Stories Project | Box 1 | Folder 49 |
| Neighborhood Histories | Box 1 | Folder 50 |
| Events | | |
| Annual Meetings | Box 1 | Folder 51 |

National Night Out

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|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| National Night Out | Box 1 | Folder 52-53 |
| Spring Clean Up | Box 1 | Folder 54 |
| Summer Music Series | Box 1 | Folder 55 |
| Neighborhood Revitalization Program | Box 1 | Folder 56-57 |
| Contents | | |
| Elliot Park NRP First Step Neighborhood Implementation Plan | | |
| EPN (Elliot Park Neighborhood) NRP Phase I Participation Agreement | | |
| EPN NRP Phase I Strategic Plan | | |
| EPN NRP Phase I Other Strategies | | |
| EPN Phase I Accomplishments | | |
| EPN Phase I Review | | |
| NRP Phase II Planning Process | | |
| EPNI NPR Phase II Participation Agreement | | |
| NRP Phase II Action Plan | | |
| City of Mpls, Planning Department Report on Capital Impact of Approved NRP Plans 1993-1996 | | |
| PR Materials: brochures, annual reports, sample event Flyers and promotional cards | Box 1 | Folder 58 |
| Restricted Files and Media | | |
| Access Restriction | | |

Restricted Files and Media

No access allowed to materials from Annual Meetings and After School Program until January 11, 2022.

Box

Restricted files from Annual Meetings and After School Program.

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VHS Tape of Life Stories Project

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