

Why Celebrate?

Did you know that the East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center is the only Minneapolis Park Building that was funded and designed almost entirely through the efforts of the neighborhood organization and the people of the community?

At the June, 2005 EPIC meeting, Linda Leonard, after searching unsuccessfully for facilities for youth programs, suggested that we imagine all we could do if we had a Community Center in “Cockroach Park” (former slang for East Phillips Park). After laughing at the notion that the Park Board, the City or anyone else would build anything for the 7,000± youth in this challenged neighborhood, the meeting attendees started a list of possible uses. Interest grew, then excitement and finally a commitment to work to get a Community Center in East Phillips Park.

The first dollars are the hardest to come by in big dreams like this. The community voted to use East Phillips NRP money that was saved by thwarting an attempted take-over of EPIC by the troubled Board President at the time. His followers pulled EPIC’s 501(c)3 and resigned, leaving the few remaining Board members with a demoralizing mess. The thought of a new Community Center helped pull them together. They reconstituted the EPIC board and pressed on. With neighborhood support, they saved \$180,000 and thousands of volunteer hours of lobbying, letter writing and battling some of the powers of that day, they leveraged a total of \$5.5 million, laying the financial groundwork for what is now one of the busiest and best parks in the system.

It is filled with people enjoying soccer, baseball and basketball, pottery, dance, Zumba, the computer labs and many more activities and programs. It is a total hub of activity. Should we celebrate and honor all who helped and still do? Of Course – it’s a No Brainer! **Come join us to remember and celebrate this community triumph, this beautiful spring and this indomitable neighborhood!**

East Phillips SummerFest

It’s time to

CELEBRATE

in

East Phillips Park Sunday, June 23rd

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Minneapolis Park and Recreation

in Partnership with

The East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) and

Neighborhood artists, vendors & friends invite you and your family to a PARTY in the PARK



For Your Calendar: *

*To get involved in EPIC and East Phillips,
Join us on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30PM*

EPIC’s East Phillips Community Gardeners meet Saturday June 8th & July 13th at 9:00 AM in the Garden at 2428 17th Ave. S.

EPIC Board of Directors meets: Saturday, June 1st & July 6th At 10:00 AM at 2433 Bloomington Ave

EPIC General Membership meets: Thursday, June 13th & July 11th At 6:30 PM At the Community Center

The East Phillips Park Cultural & Community Center is located at 2307 17th Ave. S., Mpls. 55404

Don’t forget SummerFest starting at 1:00 PM Sunday, June 23rd –

See you THERE! 2307 17th Ave. S.