

Burnside Church Revitalization Plan

Summary of Pop-up

National Night Out

Date: August 5th, 2025

Time: 5 – 7:30 PM

Location: Town Green Park

Total Number of People Engaged: 45

Key Themes:

Recurring themes in bold

- What amenities or enhancements would you like to see in Bicentennial Square Park?
 - **Playground**
 - **Youth activity facilities (youth center, sports, PAL, cheerleading)**
 - Bus stop
 - Bathroom/water fountain
 - Canoe/kayak landing
 - Destination events
 - Splash Park
 - Pavilion
 - Parking
 - Open space
 - Keep memorial
 - Blue lights
 - Connection to Hockanum Trail
 - Pollinator garden
 - Mini golf park
- In one word, how would you describe the study area today?
 - Need museum
 - Vacancies
 - River
 - Mills
 - Historic

- Multi-faith
- Dead Main Street
- Heart of East Hartford
- Reading
- Thinking about the Burnside corridor, what is one improvement you would like to see?
 - **YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, youth recreation facility**
 - **Uses that bring more foot traffic**
 - Improvements to the Scotland St and Burnside Street intersection (there is a lot of traffic and pedestrians there during school drop-off and pick-up)
 - Hot dog/hamburger restaurant
 - Senior center (existing is far from center of town/low accessibility)
 - Canoe/kayak area, landing near river
 - Full service restaurant (brunch after church)
 - Cameras/blue light safety phones
 - Places for artists to live/work/sell products
 - Reuse of St. Rose Church (potential comms center)
 - Reuse of Mills Buildings – restaurants, events space
 - Reuse of former grocery store
 - Walk/bike loop to connect destinations (pavers, painted road markings)

Notes:

- A majority of visitors to table wanted to see more public amenities (particularly youth facilities,) with a minority discussing commercial development and jobs. This is likely due to the family and youth theme of the event.
- Some residents were confused by the name of the plan and plan area, initially thinking it was to redevelop a church named Burnside.
- Several residents recommended engaging the church communities in the area for feedback on the plan.

Pictures:

