

Location: City of San Francisco Recreations and Parks Department

Issue: Community Recreation Councils

Methodology: Facilitated Meetings/ Facilitation Training

Davenport Institute: 2012 Public Engagement Grant Recipient

The City of San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) administers more than 220 neighborhood parks and playgrounds with over 4,000 acres of recreational and open spaces. The size of the department and its scope of oversight can make public engagement challenging.

Working to develop a more engaged and collaborative relationship with the community, the RPD created seven-member Community Recreation Councils in each of RPD's 34 Rec Centers. These councils are representative of the diverse cross-section of each community.

As the department sought to expand the Community Recreation Council (CRC) approach to program planning they turned to the Davenport Institute for both training and support in preparing the CRCs to engage the wider community in a strategic visioning and action-planning process.

Davenport Institute Public Engagement Grant funds were used to conduct a pilot project for a large-scale community engagement at one center that could be used as a model at the remaining 33 Rec Centers and provide training to RPD personnel and CRC members on large-group process planning and facilitation.