

# Winstanley/Industry Park Neighborhood Organization

*Pulling together - the  
Winstanley/Industry  
Park Neighborhood  
Organization  
and ESLARP*

The Winstanley/Industry Park Neighborhood Organization (WIPNO) was established in September of 1991 to help residents take actions **to enhance the quality of life** within the Winstanley/Industrial Park neighborhood. Starting small with trash pickup days, the membership and planning capacity of this organization grew, tapping into various sources of funding and manpower, including the University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign. The students and faculty of ESLARP were invited to concentrate their design and planning efforts in the WIPNO neighborhood - a move that met with immediate success.

Participatory organization and planning allowed college and area high school students to develop their professional identities as planners and designers for **socially responsive community development**. WIPNO's constructive community organizing, planning, and development activities helped it evolve into one of the city's largest and most influential community organizations. Residents, **actively committed to improving conditions in their neighborhood**, have earned the organization its well deserved reputation for getting things done.



*Illinois Avenue  
Playground:  
working together,  
playing together*



In the Spring of 1993, over fifty children and adults from WIPNO and the Concerned Citizens of Precinct 19 constructed a playground on the corner of 26th and Illinois with the help of the University of Illinois. Residents were able to **acquire the site, solicit donations from businesses, and design the playground itself**. Student designers consulted area experts in playground fun --the children-- before proceeding with the construction of a double-dutch platform, sandbox, benches, and the planting of trees, shrubs, and flowers.

Williams Park was another vacant and unused park at the corner of 28th and Ridge until summer of 1993. With the help of students and faculty from Urbana-Champaign, a group of East St. Louis High School students cleared the park, built a shelter, and erected blockades to keep kids safe from cars.

