Connecting the Little Brook Neighborhood to Lake City Greenways

Prepared by:
Ashraf Amlani
Patricia Atwater
Sara Colling
Erik Friedrichsen
Lindsay Van Nostrand
Tiffany Sin
Jenna Udren
Angela Wood

Community-Oriented Public Health Practice, 2013
University of Washington, School of Public Health
FOREWORD

This report highlights key findings from a month-long community project commissioned by Lake City Greenways, a group of concerned neighbors trying to improve safety for all road users. We have designed our report in a travel guide format to reflect Lake City Greenway’s desire to “get to know Little Brook.” Like many travel guides, this work illustrates the rich culture and hidden treasures within Little Brook. However, unlike other travel books, this work also emphasizes the hopes and desires of the Little Brook community. We hope this work will play a small but significant role in transforming the Little Brook neighborhood into a sought after destination within Lake City and the rest of Seattle.
# Table of Contents

Foreword 2

Executive Summary (Highlights of Little Brook) 5

Destination: Little Brook 9

Little Brook Exploration—Getting Started 10
From An Idea... 10
...To Action 10

How is Transportation Planning a Public Health Concern? 11

Our Community Organizing Guiding Principles 12

Reaching Out To Little Brook Residents 12
Interviews With Key Community Contacts And Business Owners 12
Door to Door Canvassing 13
Connecting with Apartment Managers 14
Meeting Residents in Common Gathering Spaces/Site-Specific Surveys 14

Getting the Relevant Information from Residents 15
Survey Questions 15
Mapping Tools 15

History of the Little Brook Area 16
Little Brook Park 16

Living in Little Brook 17

Doing Business in Little Brook 18

The People of Little Brook 19
# Table of Contents

What We found  
Crime and Road Safety  
Map of Fear and Comfort  
Route Map  
Safety and Human Health  

Public and Private Investment  
Public Agency Investment  
Private Investment  
Effect of Health  

Social Cohesion  
Common Space  
Social Networks  
Observations on Social Tensions  
Social Cohesion and Health  

How to get there (Recommendations)  
Recommendations Related to Crime and Fear  
Recommendations to Improve Traffic Safety  
Recommendations for more Private and Public Investment  
Social Cohesion Recommendations  

How to Connect with Little Brook  
Targeted outreach to specific groups  

Concluding Remarks  
References  
Appendix A: Problem Statement  
Appendix B: Data Collection Tools
Executive Summary (Highlights of Little Brook)

Lake City Greenways asked the Community-Oriented Public Health Practice program at the University of Washington School of Public Health to take an in-depth view of the Little Brook Neighborhood. This North Seattle area is an informal neighborhood of Lake City, itself a Seattle neighborhood with a history of affordable housing and convenient location yet with little walking or biking infrastructure. It is overwhelmingly renter-occupied, but the striking variety of types of housing mirrors the diversity in Little Brook’s population, which is notable for its plethora of languages and cultural linkages to regions across the world.

Seattle Neighborhood Greenways is a community-driven effort to improve the experience of walking, biking, and living in Seattle through the creation of greenways. These greenways offer residents pedestrian-friendly, non-arterial roadways connecting main focal points in a neighborhood. At heart, greenways are all about health and equitable access to resources communities have to offer those who live and work there. Lake City Greenways has had exceptional engagement from committed local residents. However, questions about the small but important area of Little Brook remained, including who lives in Little Brook, how they connect with each other and the rest of Lake City, and their vision of an ideal community. Insufficient physical and social connections within Little Brook and between Little Brook and the greater Lake City community are fundamental issues that need to be understood and addressed. To a large degree, these issues undermine the health of Little Brook residents and the efficacy of Lake City Greenways.

As a cohort of excited Master in Public Health graduate students steeped in all aspects of health, we set out to answer these questions through methods defined by community development theory and our own practical experience. Our outreach efforts included interviews with key contacts within the community, door-to-door canvassing, connecting with apartment managers, and talking with residents in common gathering places. We utilized a short, 5-item questionnaire and mapping tools to understand many aspects of life in Little Brook.

Interviews with key community contacts helped guide our efforts and inform us about community assets, including service providers, organizations, and businesses. A total of 75 businesses were identified in the Little Brook Neighborhood.

Door-to-door canvassing was an effective method of reaching residents in the community. We knocked on approximately 130 doors, conducting 43 conversations with residents through canvassing.
Connecting with apartment managers was also an important step as many of these managers have a vested interest in improving the neighborhood, sometimes live in or near the building, and serve as contact points to the residents in the apartment complexes. We identified over 30 apartment buildings and had conversations with 7 managers. Five of these are open to further involvement in Lake City Greenways efforts.

While few gathering areas exist in the Little Brook Neighborhood, we identified common destinations and used them to reach those who we may have missed in the door-to-door canvassing. We spent time conducting questionnaires at Fred Meyer, Grocery Outlet, 7-11, the lobbies of several apartment buildings, and Little Brook Park.

While the park may be a quiet presence, the brook that is its namesake is a hidden treasure for the community and can help give the neighborhood an identity. The history of the park is an example of community engagement and resilience. Community members organized in order to save the property and the City of Seattle bought Little Brook Park in 1994. When the park became grounds for drug dealers and prostitutes, vocal residents sought to “retake” the park by organizing and increasing their presence in the area.

All of our efforts resulted in over 150 conversations with residents, apartment managers, business owners, and other stakeholders. Our findings are presented in three categories: Crime and Road Safety, Public and Private Investment, and Social Cohesion.

Safety was a ubiquitous topic, with 21 people reporting feeling generally safe in Little Brook while 33 reported feeling unsafe. Others expressed feelings of neutrality, stating “it’s fine,” yet still noted near-accidents or taking caution in certain areas or times of day. Regarding crime, we found more mentions of nuisance behaviors such as drug dealing, drinking, disturbances, etc., than of major crimes such as rape or homicide. We briefly discuss published local data, but limited our analysis due to important caveats regarding perceptions of crime and actual crime statistics. Perceptions of crime and crime statistics are part of the picture, but larger themes of a neighborhood and social context are necessary to fill out the picture of whether an area is safe or unsafe. We encourage a future, open discussion of safety with local police officers and residents of the community. During our outreach efforts, a mapping activity of residents’ fear and comfort regions yielded interesting trends. This activity asked residents to note on a map feelings and opinions related to crime as well as transportation safety.
Many locations surrounding Little Brook Park were noted to be areas of concern, as well as the busy roadways on 30th Ave NE and Lake City Way. Additionally, 33 people stated the neighborhood needs sidewalks and nearly half of all respondents reported poor or lacking conditions for pedestrians.

Public and private investment in the area was another common theme in our outreach into the community. In general, residents expressed feeling neglected by public organizations. They felt little was known about conditions in Little Brook, and littered, cluttered roadways contributed to a sense of the neighborhood being dirty. Many residents noted the convenience of the location; access to stores and buses was mentioned often as positives of the area, yet distinct gaps such as affordable nutritious foods were also noted. Last year’s summer barbecues and movie nights in Little Brook Park, hosted by Seattle Parks and Recreation, as well as perceived increased vigilance from Seattle Police were welcomed enhancements.

The social cohesion of the neighborhood is a crucial aspect of our findings, which we further divide into the issues of common space, social networks, and social tensions. Few common areas exist in Little Brook, though some areas are “common” to a small subset of the community such as community rooms at apartment complexes. Little Brook Park is an attractive common space and was noted as a wonderful asset for the community. A distinct lack of space for teens was noted not just by young people in the neighborhood but recognized by the adults as well. While many people we spoke with talk to their immediate neighbors, many others reported the opposite, and there was little sense of community further than next-door. We did identify seeds of initiative to improve the neighborhood, including people who regularly clean up sections of the area, organize trash pick-ups, and call for infrastructure such as crosswalks and sidewalks. We observed tension in the neighborhood around race, class, and age. These aspects of social cohesion have long been understood to have an impact on health. As with the specific initiatives started by several residents, seeds of an ideal vision for the neighborhood are present. When asked of their ideal vision of Little Brook, the most common answer had to do with community cohesion – neighbors being friends who spend time with each other. Many ideas for community cohesion came directly from residents, including increasing green space, park activities, and community artwork.

Our primary recommendation is centered on developing social cohesion through intentional efforts to develop leadership and gather people for a purpose. We found few examples of informal leadership in the community during our outreach. Developing leadership fosters community buy-in for projects and keeps them going in the long term. A simple idea of connecting apartment managers has many layers of influence, and could be a powerful collective
voice of support for Lake City Greenways’ work. An “intersection repair” would bring people together with a common goal that would directly benefit the efforts of Lake City Greenways.

Our full report contains many additional recommendations and suggestions from the community, including ways to influence crime and fear, traffic safety, public and private investment, and social cohesion. The Little Brook Neighborhood, like many in Seattle, is filled with unique perspectives and opportunity. We hope our outreach into the community provides useful information and fosters as much excitement as we had getting to know this gem of Seattle.

Ashraf Amlani
Patricia Atwater
Sara Colling
Erik Friedrichsen
Lindsay Van Nostrand
Tiffany Sin
Jenna Udren
Angela Wood

*Community-Oriented Public Health Practice, 2013*
*University of Washington, School of Public Health*

Jack Thompson
*Faculty Advisor*

*March 7, 2013*
**DESTINATION: LITTLE BROOK**

Seattle is a city of neighborhoods nested in neighborhoods; many are formal and many more are informal. The Little Brook neighborhood is an informal neighborhood within the Olympic Hills neighborhood of Lake City. Its “boundaries” extend from 135th Avenue NE on the south end to 145th Avenue NE on the north; NE 30th Street on the east, and Lake City Way to the west, with Little Brook Park as the central landmark.

**Getting to Little Brook is Easy!**

**Bus numbers**
- 41*
- 65
- 72*
- 306
- 308
- 309
- 312
- 330
- 372
- 522

* With a short walk

**Bike along the Burke Gilman Trail and then head East!**
LITTLE BROOK EXPLORATION—GETTING STARTED

FROM AN IDEA...

Lake City Greenways began in August 2012 when devoted residents came together to make their streets more walkable, bikeable and sociable. Within a few months, they had over 75 local residents engaged in their efforts. Soon thereafter, the City of Seattle selected their proposed 27th Ave Greenway as one of its 25 citywide priority routes.

The leaders of Lake City Greenways are no strangers to community engagement, but they couldn’t help but notice that Little Brook—the area with likely the most need for pedestrian and bike safety within Lake City—was the least represented in their planning. Far too often, the part of the community that is just “too hard to reach” is left in the dark as the rest of the community progresses. Therefore Lake City Greenways made it a goal to seek input from Little Brook residents and incorporate the Little Brook neighborhood into their planning.

...TO ACTION

Lake City Greenways drew on their connection to the University of Washington. They called on our class of Master of Public Health students in the Community-Oriented Public Health Practice program to complete a community-organizing project in Little Brook.

In the span of one month, we were tasked to find out:

- Who lives in Little Brook?
- How do they connect with each other and the rest of Lake City?
- What is their vision for an ideal neighborhood?
How is Transportation Planning a Public Health Concern?

The spaces where people live, work, and play on a daily basis are commonly called the “built environment.” [2] Five elements of built environment are strongly associated with community and individual health: housing, transportation, food, parks & green spaces, and squalor.[3] Figure 1 illustrates how transportation planning influences a variety of health outcomes, from motor vehicle accident injuries to diabetes to asthma. [4 5 6 7 8]

Health problems from transportation-generated air pollution cost the US between 40 to 64 billion dollars per year. [9]
OUR COMMUNITY ORGANIZING GUIDING PRINCIPLES

To guide our community development project, we identified commonalities and best practices from various community organizing frameworks; specifically Saul Alinsky, John Mcknight, Meredith Minkler, and Jim Diers. The following is our synthesis of how their work best relates to our project:

- Conduct a stakeholder analysis.
- Know the neighbors assets, both tangible (health clinics, parks, community-based organizations) and intangible (neighbor networks, resident density, communication outlets).
- Know the patterns of the neighborhood (who interacts with whom?; where do they get information?; where do they gather, what time of day?).
- Bring together these stakeholders, assets and connections on an action they choose collectively.
- Share the story far and wide both formally (local blogs and newspapers) and informally (organization/building newsletters, conversations with neighbors).
- Dig deep and then dig some more for the root causes to the social issues you are seeking to redress.

REACHING OUT TO LITTLE BROOK RESIDENTS

Our first task was to reflect on what we already knew about Little Brook and community organizing to develop a purpose statement, problem statement, and guiding questions that would ground our work (Appendix A). To answer these questions, we began talking with key community contacts to identify ways to reach Little Brook residents. Our methods for reaching residents fell into three categories: door-to-door canvassing, connecting with apartment managers, and meeting residents in common gathering spaces.

Total Individual Student Trips to Little Brook: **64**

INTERVIEWS WITH KEY COMMUNITY CONTACTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS

Lake City Greenways referred us to several service providers and active residents in the Little Brook neighborhood. We interviewed these individuals and the people they referred us to, to guide our outreach efforts.

We also identified a total of 75 businesses operating in the Little Brook neighborhood. We attempted to contact business owners in person but found that they were either not at the business when we visited or were too busy to answer our questions. We interviewed business owners over the phone, and were able to talk to eight of the forty-three businesses that we contacted.
Door to Door Canvassing

Our initial investigation of Little Brook showed that the neighborhood has only a few common gathering spaces. For this reason, we decided that canvassing single-family homes and multi-unit structures would be a good approach for reaching a large number of Little Brook residents. Canvassing activities began on Sundays at noon, when people were most likely to be home.

This map shows how many people we talked to on each street.

43 conversations
130 doors knocked

Purpose Statement
We should redress inequities and focus on reaching people who are currently not at the table.

Problem Statement
Insufficient physical and social connections within Lake City’s Little Brook neighborhood and between Little Brook and the greater community undermine the health of Little Brook residents and the efficacy of Lake City Greenways.

Guiding Questions
Connections
Who is the Little Brook community and how do they connect with one another and with areas outside of Little Brook?

Perceptions
What are Little Brook residents’ perceptions of community assets, needs, and potential?
Connecting with Apartment Managers

The Little Brook neighborhood is one of the densest in Seattle. Apartment buildings offer the opportunity to connect with multiple people through one contact, the apartment manager. Starting at the Chameleon Apartments on 135th and ending at Jackson Park House on 145th, we methodically rang call boxes and called posted phone numbers for a chance to get invited in and begin conversations with managers. We took note of apartment complexes without on-site managers for door-to-door canvassing.

- We contacted managers at 30 apartment buildings.
- We had conversations with 7 managers.
- 5 managers were open to more contact.

Meeting Residents in Common Gathering Spaces/Site-Specific Surveys

Surveying at common gathering spaces in the neighborhood opened up the possibility of reaching residents who may have been missed in the door-to-door canvass.

We interviewed residents at two retail outlets: Fred Meyer (two occasions) and Grocery Outlet. We were also able to stand in the lobby and talk to residents at the invitation of three apartment managers.

We even hosted a small community gathering in Little Brook Park on a windy Friday afternoon! Flyers for this event were dropped off at residences on 30th Ave and five apartment complexes.

Why Apartment Managers?

1. They likely have a vested interest in improving neighborhood livability to attract residents.

2. They often live in the building and have valuable insight into the building residents’ patterns, networks, and communication needs.

3. They are potential leaders in communicating and connecting with their residents.

Apartment managers mostly communicate with their residents through flyers, so we asked them to post flyers in their common areas or drop off flyers at resident doors for a community event in Little Brook Park.
Getting the Relevant Information from Residents

Survey Questions
Using our problem statement and guiding questions, we developed a series of questions to ask our key community contacts. (Appendix B-IA) After testing these questions on four key informants, we honed the list to five questions that we could ask Little Brook Residents. (Appendix B-IB) Similarly, we adapted the key informant questions for interviews with business owners in this neighborhood. (Appendix B-IC) Rather than adhering strictly to the language and order of these questions, we used this tool to guide conversations with Little Brook residents and wrote down their responses. We analyzed these responses to identify key themes and report these in the subsequent sections. [10]

Mapping Tools
We adapted a map tool used to document fear and perceptions in Los Angeles. [11] We presented people with a map of the Little Brook neighborhood and asked if they lived on the map. (Appendix B-IIA) Little Brook residents were asked to identify areas of the neighborhood where they felt the most, somewhat, or least comfortable. Interviewers made note of the residents’ reasons for feeling uncomfortable in certain areas. Areas of overlap, where many people feel fearful or unsafe, indicate a place that needs special attention. In addition, we asked people to identify common destinations that they visit in the neighborhood as well as the routes and modes of transportation they use to get there. (Appendix B-IIIB)
**History of the Little Brook Area**

*Little Brook Park*

Little Brook Park earns its name from a hidden treasure: the creek that flows along the western edge of the property. The park features a playground for toddlers and kids, picnic tables, and green open space for all. Despite its quiet presence, this “Last Open Space in Lake City” shares a history of community organizing: hundreds of neighbors signed petitions asking the City to find a way to save the property and the “trees which furnish habitat to songbirds and other wildlife.” The City bought Little Brook Park in late 1994 with funds from the Regional Conservation Futures Bond Program, which earmarked it a Critical Space.[12]

Several years ago, the park took center stage when local citizens and small groups sought to “retake” control of the park from drug dealers and prostitutes. According to The Stranger, the park was notorious for drug and other illegal activities occurring on or near the grounds. Resident Jack Nelson took on the role of park ranger and advocate for increased presence in the area – both by neighbors and police. [13]
**Living in Little Brook**

Little Brook features a vast range of housing options: town homes, detached single-unit homes, semi-detached dwellings (e.g., duplexes), apartments, condominiums, and deck access apartments. Single-unit homes make up the majority of residences along 30th Avenue and 135th Street, and the density of multi-unit structures increases as one heads east towards Lake City Way or north towards 145th Street. Our multi-pronged approach allowed us to gather the viewpoints of owners and tenants residing in all the different housing structures. Little Brook offers residents the convenience of having a Seattle address without the Seattle price tag. The region contains a large Seattle Housing Authority property, Jackson House Park and Village for the elderly and families. Little Brook also contains other private-market properties that take Section-8 housing vouchers or provide a supportive living environment for the elderly or disabled. Many people identified the low cost of housing as a positive factor of the area. Others, particularly homeowners, either associate low-cost housing with crime and squalor, or would prefer to see costs rise so that property values increase.

Over one third of the Little Brook residents we interviewed noted that the neighborhood provided convenient access to retail outlets, buses, and other common destinations.

- 8% of housing is vacant (about the same as citywide)
- ~7% of occupied housing is owner-occupied, compared to about 48% citywide
- ~93% of occupied housing is renter-occupied, compared to about 52% citywide

- 2010 US Census data for tract 1, block group 4
Doing Business in Little Brook

We identified 75 businesses operating in Little Brook. While the overwhelming majority of businesses belong to the transportation and warehousing sector, there are a small number of retail and food outlets, business offices and service providers. Many businesses have been operating in Little Brook for decades—the average duration in the neighborhood was about 30 years, with one auto shop in the area since 1923. However, despite their long-term presence in the neighborhood, business owners did not identify a source for getting information about the neighborhood. Mirroring the residential sample, business owners cited convenience as the leading attribute for being located in Little Brook.

75 Little Brook Businesses

Little Brook businesses by North American Industry Classification category. [14]
The People of Little Brook

Little Brook Park is located in Census Tract 1, Block Group 4.1. The total population for this Block Group was 1,492 at the 2010 Census. The Census Block Group to the east is less populated but is otherwise similar to the Little Brook area.

Age

Our assessment of participant age was observational only. We estimate that 67% of people we talked to were adults. Children and teens were under-represented, in part because we focused attention on their parents when we encountered them in public. Older adults were overrepresented, perhaps because they were more likely to be in the neighborhood, and not away at work.

Gender

The gender breakdown of the people we spoke with roughly mirrors the population of Little Brook. We spoke with slightly more women than are represented in the community.

Race/ethnicity

People of color and people of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity make up the majority of Little Brook. According to 2010 Census data, the population immediately around Little Brook Park is 42% White, 27% African-American, 11% Asian, and 18% identify as Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Because the single family homes that line 30th were easier to access (as opposed to closed-off apartment complexes), and the majority of residents of these homes were white, our sample may be skewed by our focus on dwellings that were accessible.

In comparison, the block groups to the west and north of Little Brook Park have far fewer African-American and Hispanic or Latino individuals and families. Overall, within Lake City (as represented by zip code 98125) roughly 67% are White, 8% are Black or African-American, 15% are Asian, and 8% identify as Hispanic or Latino. [15]

Quick Demographics

Age

US Census:
- Residents under 18 years: 23%
- Residents 20-49 years: 60%
- Residents over 50 years: 18%

Our observation:
- Residents under 18 years: 0.07%
- Residents 20-49 years: 67%
- Residents over 50 years: 25%
- Missing information: 8%

Gender

US Census:
- 50% of residents are female

Our observations:
- 54% of residents are female

Race & Ethnicity

US Census:
- 42% of residents are White
- 58% are people of color (not Hispanic)

Our observations:
- 53% of residents are White
- 47% of residents are people of color

2010 US Census data is for King County Census Tract 1, Block group 4.

Our observations are based on the appearance of the individual at the time of the interview.
Immigrant and Foreign Language Speaker Status
Although in some cases we weren’t able to pinpoint a resident’s country of origin, we were able to capture region. Of those with a noticeable accent, those that spoke in another language, and those who identified themselves as being an immigrant, the majority of people were from East African countries (10). We also spoke with a number of residents (5) from Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries. We interviewed a smattering of people from other regions, including Southeast Asia, the Middle East, China, Japan, and Eastern Europe.

What we found
After we collected some background and history of Little Brook, we stepped into the field with our conversation questions, mapping surveys, and plans for reaching people. Talking to strangers can be nerve-racking at first, but people’s openness and patience with our unusual inquiries made us feel welcome.

Our position as outsiders has its benefits and drawbacks. As a benefit, we may have been more welcomed because we were new faces (with an eager student look about us). As a drawback, as it is in most face-to-face surveying, people may have held back on voicing their concerns in order to pacify us as surveyors.
Below are our findings based on over 150 conversations with residents, apartment managers, business owners and other stakeholders. What we found fell into three categories outlined one-by-one below: Crime and Road Safety, Public and Private Investment, and Social Cohesion. We will end with recommendations based on each of these three categories.

**CRIME AND ROAD SAFETY**

Safety was one of the most ubiquitous topics among residents, businesses and key community contacts. Safety concerns fell under two distinct categories: crime-related safety and transportation safety.

21 people reported feeling generally safe in Little Brook, while 33 reported feeling unsafe.

Some who said it was safe or “fine” also reported near-accidents or taking precautions for the safety of themselves or others.

For example, one respondent said, “it’s fine,” but later mentioned he won’t let his girlfriend walk alone at night because there are areas that aren’t well-lit and she doesn’t feel safe. He hasn’t witnessed any crime himself but people sometimes yell and he would rather pick her up than have her walk through the neighborhood at night.

One frequent bike rider told us, "It's good here," but later mentioned "You have to be careful because people drive like a bat out of hell. There are kids around, and people don't know. We need sidewalks, and to slow down cars. People aren't looking, and don't expect bikes." He himself reports nearly being hit by a car while bicycling at least once recently.

It’s good to keep in mind that people’s survey responses may not fully represent their daily realities.

**Crime-Related Safety**

While we heard answers across the spectrum, including many people who do generally feel safe, our overall finding around crime-related safety is that people don’t feel safe at night but that crime is improving in the area. Most of the neighborhood crime problems seem to stem from drug and alcohol-related issues.
Drug dealing, prostitution, theft and general nuisance behaviors (such as yelling) came up far more often than major crimes such as rape or homicide. In this section, we will cover: perceptions of crime based on our conversations; local crime data from the Seattle Police Department; and our “fear and comfort” mapping activity results.

**Perceptions of crime**

**Nuisance behavior**

11 people mentioned others engaging in nuisance behavior such as drinking or yelling.

Something important to note is that while some individuals told us about specific nuisance behaviors such as catcalls, most discussed a general perception of nuisance behavior.

**Hear of or personally experience crime**

32 people mentioned crime in the neighborhood.

8 residents told stories of being personally affected by crime in the neighborhood.

The quotes to the right illustrate the various reasons people feel uncomfortable, particularly at night.

**Improvements in crime**

We also heard about general improvements in crime over the years. Both resident perception and data suggest a decrease.

The Seattle Police Department has increased vigilance in the area in recent years, and the total number of crimes for North Precinct, Beat L1 decreased from 2008 to 2010. [16]

Local Crime Data comparing the perceptions of crime and improvement to actual crime statistics for the neighborhood was more complicated than we expected. Crime data carries significant caveats because they are based on reported crime. Therefore, if a neighborhood is becoming more empowered to report crime to the police than before, their
crime rates will look like they’re on the rise even if neighborhood’s actual crime hasn’t changed. With that in mind, we collected data from a couple sources:

A Block Watch Police Officer provided us with numbers that compare burglaries and car prowls from January 1- February 20, 2013 to the same time period in 2012. (Terrie Johnston, oral communication, February 2013)

Burglaries: 14 in January, 2013 compared to 20 in January, 2012

The graph below is from the Seattle Police Department’s Lincoln Beat, which incorporates the Little Brook neighborhood. It demonstrates the trends of total major crimes from 2008-2012.

Looking at total major crime or even numbers of crime in general, does not provide a complete picture of safety in a neighborhood. The overall social context must be taken into account to gain a more accurate picture. Factors that are unaccounted for in crime numbers include the fact that areas with higher populations tend to have higher rates of reporting crime, and that many crimes may be underreported due to unwillingness or fear of contacting police. Crime data is one aspect, the residents’ perceptions of safe and unsafe areas represented in the Fear and Comfort Map is another aspect, and a third aspect is the interpretation from police patrolling the area. Please refer to our recommendations for connecting with police to gain a more in depth understanding of safety in Little Brook.
This Fear and Comfort Map illustrates input from Little Brook residents regarding perceptions of safe and unsafe sections of roadway in the neighborhood. Individual responses were analyzed, resulting in a "score" for each road segment. The range is from 1-4.5.

Thickness of line corresponds to frequency of road section mentioned by participants.

Pushpin represents the location of Little Brook Park.
Transportation Safety

The Little Brook neighborhood leaves much to be desired in terms of pedestrian and bike safety. Residents cited a range of issues prohibiting their pedestrian and bike safety including driving behaviors; especially speed and general disregard for pedestrians, as well as structural issues such as lack of sidewalks, crosswalks and stop signs, multiple potholes, and need for street lighting.

In this section, we outline the number of people we talked to who care about walking/biking, offer examples of both driving and structural barriers to walking/biking safety, and we illustrate the roads most traveled on our Route Map.

Our sense is that mitigating some of these structural and behavioral safety issues would increase the number of Little Brook residents who walk and bike.

10 people mentioned walking or biking recreationally.

Without being prompted, 8 people said they walk as their primary mode of transportation.

7 people mentioned riding a bike (we saw many kids’ bikes next to apartment complexes).

Some business-owners, however, are less enthused about pedestrian/bike infrastructure:

“The city is not auto-oriented anymore. The focus is on bike trails and medical family leave. We business owners get driven crazy by that stuff—regulations. We need to keep traffic moving on Lake City Way. If it gets backed up, people will take side streets. I don't want to see them go overboard on bike paths, because the majority of us are using vehicles, and bicyclists don't pay taxes!”

**33 people (1/3 of respondents) said the neighborhood needs sidewalks.**

**40 out of 97 respondents reported poor or lacking conditions for pedestrians.**

**Vehicle Safety.** There are all types of vehicles in the Little Brook neighborhood. The multitude, magnitude, and speed of the vehicles combined with the lack of pedestrian/bike infrastructure culminate in a series of risks for Little Brook residents.
20 people said cars drive recklessly or too quickly in Little Brook, with another 5 citing cars or drivers as otherwise making conditions dangerous for people.

2 major accidents (that we know of) occurred just within the duration of our fieldwork. (One on Lake City way, between 135th and 137th and the other on 137th and 32nd – where the school bus stops).

CARS. We heard from residents that traffic has increased since the tolls began on the 520 bridge. Significantly more cars are taking Lake City Way. Cars also take shortcuts through 135th to get up to 145th. Many people drive fast through the neighborhood.

TOW TRUCKS. There is a tow truck business on Lake City Way and the tow trucks take 32nd to return to their lot. One resident noted feeling like she’s in the way when she’s walking and the tow trucks come through fast.

CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES. The construction of the large apartment building between 32nd and Lake City Way draws in construction vehicles and equipment in the street. One resident said she doesn’t take her kids to Little Brook Park because of the construction.

METRO BUSES. The Little Brook neighborhood has 13 different Metro bus stops and one metro stopover zone. This brings large Metro buses in from Lake City Way and 30th.

SCHOOL BUSES. School buses carrying elementary school children have to make ad hoc/unmarked stops within the neighborhood. Pictured below is the stop on 32nd and 140th.

Right now, the cars are the priority.

Cars are always speeding; I have a problem with my hip so it’s dangerous to get to Walgreens and 7-11.

There are drag races down 30th and 32nd Ave. There is really fast traffic across 143rd, especially off of Lake City Way.

People don’t know where to park or walk. There is a lack of territoriality, signs, markers, and crosswalks. This leads to disorderly parking.

Sidewalks are "dangerous as hell," overgrown, and broken up. It is dangerous to walk at night due to high speeds. I often see evidence of car wrecks (broken lights, pieces of cars, etc.).

Tried in the past to put a crosswalk in at 137th and 30th but there’s a bus stop, so it wasn’t allowed.
STRUCTURAL SAFETY. The bus stop photos above clearly demonstrate the lack of regard for pedestrians, even when those pedestrians are elementary school children. Our own experience walking the streets of Little Brook and our conversations with residents about transportation made the structural safety issues obvious.

LACK OF SIDEWALKS AND CROSSWALKS. Residents saw the need for sidewalks on every street in the neighborhood, but 30th and 32nd were referenced the most. People mentioned their own desire for sidewalks as well as the particular need for kids, seniors, and wheelchair users. The need for crosswalks on 30th was also mentioned – particularly to get to the metro bus stops.

POTHOLES. There are potholes scattered about the neighborhood, but the pothole on 140th and 32nd (shown in the bus stop pictures above) is startlingly deep. The potholes on 30th also got many mentions. Potholes are not only damaging to cars, but they are very dangerous for unsuspecting bike riders. They also pose risks to pedestrians when cars and bikes are swerving out of their way to avoid potholes, as well as people in wheelchairs who are forced to weave around potholes.

HAPHAZARD PARKING. Drivers and walkers alike noted the lack of order when it comes to parking. Cars mostly park in gravel on the shoulder of the road and with no curb as an anchor; they end up at all different angles. We also noticed that a few cars appeared abandoned.

BETTER LIGHTING. Both 30th, particularly where the bus stops are, and 32nd need better lighting for safety.

UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS. Residents asked for stop signs, especially on the school bus stop intersection (140th and 32nd) which right now just has yield signs and a blind corner.

Pictured right: A memorial on our notorious school bus stop intersection.
Some neighborhood destinations we heard were Fred Meyer (16+ mentions), Lake City Library, Bartell Drugs, Grocery Outlet, Elliott Bay Brewery, a Thai restaurant, Little Brook Park, Money Tree, Starbucks, Walgreens, KFC, Eritrean church at 15th & 125th, farmers market, a yoga studio, and Bank of America.

This Route Map illustrates the aggregate of 29 drawn routes by residents of the Little Brook Neighborhood.

Thickness of the lines corresponds to frequency of road section mentioned by participants.

Pushpin represents the location of Little Brook Park.

Modes of transport mentioned

Walk – 14
Bike – 3
Drive – 13
Bus – 5
Safety and Human Health

Perceptions of safety – both in terms of crime and road safety – influence a person’s level of physical activity. The “availability and accessibility of attractive stairwells, bicycle paths, walking paths, exercise facilities, and swimming pools, as well as the overall aesthetics and perceived safety of an environment, may play a role in determining the type and amount of physical activity people engage in.” [17]

According to area health planning data from Public Health Seattle & King County (which includes Little Brook and other regions of North Seattle):

- 11% of residents reported not having any physical activity in the last 30 days [18]
- 31% of adults age 18+ and 78% of students in grades 8, 10 & 12 are not meeting the recommended level of physical activity (150 min per week) [19 20]
- 16% of adults age 18+ reported no leisure physical activity [21]

Physical activity reduces the risk of developing diabetes, high blood pressure, and colon cancer. It reduces blood pressure in people who already have high blood pressure, helps to control weight and maintains healthy bones, muscles and joints. Physical activity also reduces feelings of depression and anxiety and promotes psychological wellbeing. [22]

Residents are likely aware of the long-term health benefits of walking and biking, but when they are facing the immediate risks of crime and traffic, it’s understandable that they would be less inclined to get outside. Physical infrastructure changes – many of which the residents themselves ask for – are necessary to improve the crime and traffic safety and in turn the health of residents in Little Brook.
Public and Private Investment

Many community members expressed feelings of frustration at being ignored by public agencies and private entities.

The corner by my apartment complex (the corner of 32nd and 137th) had a pile of rubble and rocks for my first year living in the area. Cars had to drive on the other side of the road to avoid damage to their undercarriages. That made it that much more difficult for pedestrians, who have enough other problems with which to contend.

Public Agency Investment

Residents in Little Brook expressed feeling neglected by public organizations. Many have lived in other parts of Seattle and know that the conditions in Little Brook are unlike that of other neighborhoods. Some pointed to the potholes as evidence of neglect by SDOT while others felt that the City of Seattle could do a better job of enforcing the law. One resident complained that Seattle Public Utilities and Puget Sound Energy never inform them of when they will be digging up the road outside their house.

People throw things away on the street; the neighborhood is filled with cars that don’t work; the city doesn’t pay any attention to any areas north of 125th St. If his house wasn’t under water, we’d move out.

However, over the past year, the City of Seattle’s Parks and Recreation Department has been working hard to build a sense of community. They’ve organized summer barbecues and movie nights in

It’s about time somebody paid attention to this neighborhood! I’m an old lady with A LOT of complaints! – Little Brook resident

Litter is a huge issue for the people of Little Brook. The vast majority (49) described the neighborhood as dirty, while only 4 thought that it was clean.
Little Brook Park. Seattle Police Department has also increased vigilance in the area. In addition to Seattle Parks and Rec, residents also appreciate the bus service in the neighborhood:

*There’s a lot of bus accessibility to other parts of Seattle: on the stretch between 125th and 145, a person can catch buses to Shoreline, Bothell, U District, Northgate, Sand Point, downtown, etc. It seems as though the city has put forth effort to accommodate the commuters.*

Some residents showed their commitment to the neighborhood and were civically engaged. They reported calling the appropriate authorities when shopping carts or furniture ended up on their street corners, while others reported abandoned cars to parking enforcement. However, for the most part, many residents were unaware of their power/responsibility in reporting these neighborhood conditions.

**Private Sector Investment**

While many residents were appreciative of living a convenient distance away from big box stores such as Fred Meyer and Walgreens, others be-moaned the lack of access to fresh produce and affordable nutritious foods. Residents disclosed that they commuted to other parts of the city to get access to these resources, such as Trader Joe’s in the University District and other resources in South Seattle/Rainier Valley area. They expressed their desire for a closer farmer’s market or grocery store.

*Over half of the 75 businesses located in the region represent the transportation and construction sectors.*

Residents and key community contacts expressed the lack of venues for young people to interact. We identified 9 restaurants in the area (3 of which are fast food joints) and the only options for recreation/entertainment are a gym and a Billiard place. Several business owners also expressed the need for greater capital investment in the region.
From a nearby business: **The area can be cleaned up a little. There is a need for greater capital investments, especially in terms of businesses that promote commerce-related activity, such as restaurants. It would be nice to have places nearby to have business lunches.**

### Effect on Human Health

Air quality has a profound effect on respiratory health. Little Brook’s proximity to busy streets means that outdoor air likely contains pollutants from car exhausts. Lake City Way alone sees an average daily load of over 44,000 vehicles. In addition, the presence of transportation and construction related businesses increases the likelihood of exposure to paint fumes, other industrial chemicals, cigarette smoke, and dust from construction activities.

Poor housing conditions may also expose individuals to mold or stagnant air. High density of homes, weather conditions and neighborhood noise levels can prevent people from opening windows to ventilate their homes. Buildup of fine particulate matter from cooking, pets, other sources, can aggravate allergies, asthma or other respiratory conditions. [23]

### Social Cohesion

Social cohesion describes a sense of belonging. Our “social cohesion” findings fell within a few broad categories outlined below: common space, social networks, social tensions and kids/pets.

#### Common Space

We were on the lookout for common spaces that could serve as community gathering places. Besides Little Brook Park, we found no other informal gathering spaces within the neighborhood. We did discover the following private spaces:

- **Jackson Park House.** The Seattle Housing Authority’s Jackson Park House has a community room where they already hold lively nutrition classes, exercise classes, and community meetings. Their staff is welcoming to community groups.
• **Jackson Park Village.** Adjacent to Jackson Park House, Jackson Park Village has a playground and central patio – a great party space.

• **Chameleon Apartments.** They rent out their community room for $25.

• **Remington Place.** Remington Place has both a large “living room” space and many active residents who would likely attend a meeting.

While these are important options for spaces to gather (and potential meeting places for Lake City Greenways), they are all within apartment buildings and therefore require formal rather than spontaneous interaction.

Little Brook Park is an attractive common space for neighbors to gather and a wonderful asset for the community, but conditions have to be just right. In our 64 person-trips to the neighborhood, we didn’t see people using the park if it was raining or too cold (understandably). People also told us they avoid the park after dark.

We heard more than once that teens in particular need a place to be. In one of our conversations with a teen she noted she likes to hang out with friends at Little Brook Park or "around" like outside or on the sidewalks. “There are no indoor places really. Some people go to the library to hang out but not really.”

Adult residents notice this as well: “There should be a community center that teens can go to so that they don’t have to just hang around on the streets.”

---

**Social Networks**

Neighbors. Many people we spoke with talk to their immediate neighbors, but not others in the neighborhood. About as many people (1/4 of respondents) said they do not talk to their immediate neighbors as say they do. Many people also rely on their neighbors for information about the community. Getting information from neighbors may seem minor but it reflects trust and openness. It also points to word of mouth as an effective outreach strategy.

About equal numbers of people (8 and 9 respondents) said they don’t know anyone in the neighborhood, as mentioned that they do have friends there. People report high turnover, but we only had 3 people report that being new to the neighborhood was why they don’t talk to or know their neighbors.

Recognizing people and saying "hi" was common, reported by 16 people.

"My community is limited to this building."—Jackson Park House resident
The Community Manager at Remington Place Senior Apartments mentions that Remington Place is “its own little city.” Residents know each other well but they don’t mingle much with neighbors outside of the complex.

**INFORMATION.** When asked about where residents get information about the neighborhood, the most common response was “I don’t.” However, the most commonly reported sources were newspapers, and the most common source relevant to the immediate area was neighbors.

**LANGUAGE.** Language serves both as a barrier and a unifier. Among foreign language speakers, some find that they are separated from the community by their language ability, while others are drawn closer into their primary language groups.

*Many Ethiopians live in the same apartment buildings and connect to each other.*

*Big events are Ethiopian New Year (taking place September 1st this year) and birthday parties at people’s homes.*

—*Little Brook resident, Ethiopian teen*

*My neighbors and I say hello, but I’m uncomfortable with my English so I don’t talk to many people. There aren’t many other Taiwanese people in the neighborhood.*

—*Little Brook resident, Taiwanese man*

*I don’t think there are a lot of friendships within the building, but the Mexican families do know each other. They have parties in the Rec Room with lots of food and music. I’m sort of jealous of that!*

—*Chameleon Apartments resident, white woman*

**BUSINESS OWNERS.** Business owners did not describe themselves as sources of information for the community, and for the most part would like to remain that way. Similar to the residential sample, most business owners do not have a source of information about the neighborhood. One mentioned that he spoke with other business owners occasionally, while another mentioned that he sometimes got information from the Lake City Chamber of Commerce. Three owners mentioned that they were part of the Lake City Chamber of Commerce either now or in the past.
CURRENT LEADERS. We had a hard time finding current leaders besides the people already referred to us. We found a few “formal” leaders such as Sarah Waugh who runs the Youth Tutoring Center at Jackson Park House, and Marcia Johnson and Lisa Uemoto who are Community Builders for the Seattle Housing Authority. These leaders could be great connectors for the Seattle Housing Authority residents. However finding formal or informal leadership within non-Seattle Housing Authority residents proved less fruitful. We sought out group membership as outlets for potential “formal” leadership, but almost no residents we spoke with belonged to a group within their neighborhood, or even knew of any. We also had little success in seeking “informal” leadership. It could be the case that “informal” leaders go unrecognized by their peers, but we still see leadership, both formal and informal, as an area of growth within Little Brook.

POTENTIAL LEADERS. We did however identify potential leaders within Little Brook. We will be providing Lake City Greenways with an annotated contact list in addition to this report. The first group of leaders is apartment managers. A few in particular were intrigued by the idea of the neighborhood improvements that Lake City Greenways could bring. Another is residents taking initiative. We identified six people trying to remedy neighborhood problems themselves, by calling the city to pick up trash or make street improvements, or by picking up trash themselves. A handful of people - 7 - reported being current or past members of local organizations, and 8 mentioned personally taking action to change something in the neighborhood.

Specific initiative to improve neighborhood

- One person contacts the City to pick up big pieces of trash (mattresses, couches, etc.).
- One person regularly cleans up the bus stop across the street from his home on 30th Ave.
- Three people (on different streets) want to start a neighborhood watch.
- One person organizes trash clean-ups of the neighborhood during the summer.
- One person called the city to try to get a crosswalk put in at 137th and 30th.
- One person called the city about putting sidewalks in on 140th and making it a one-way street.

OBSERVATIONS ON NEUTRALITY. When asked what it was like to live in Little Brook, many residents said “it’s fine” or “it’s quiet” or other neutral terms. However, later in the conversation they mentioned something about their routine behavior that made us wonder if things were really “fine.”

This neighborhood is rich in immigrant families, who may consider the conditions in this neighborhood to be much better than life in the countries they emigrated from. Unfamiliarity with civic engagement processes, or lack of trust in public authorities may be barriers in being able to access public institutions that could bring change. Additionally, limited English proficiency may make it difficult to file complaints or understand their civic responsibilities.
The median income in the neighborhood is much lower than its surrounding regions and the rest of Seattle. Residents may be working multiple jobs or too busy to be bothered by the neighborhood condition. Those living in poorly maintained rental units may be grateful for the cheap rent and are unlikely to report their landlord’s neglect of the property to the authorities. What this means for Lake City Greenways is that getting people involved will probably have to involve increasing a sense of discrepancy between how things are and how they could be. Including information in outreach materials about health and safety, and comparisons with other Seattle neighborhoods could be helpful.

Observations on Social Tensions

We sensed some tensions within the neighborhood around race, class and age. Perceptions of crime are often imbalanced with actual crime. “Otherness” of people of different races, classes or ages can exacerbate a feeling of unease in the neighborhood. For example, we would hear ambiguous terms such as “creepy people,” “unsavory characters,” and more benign terms such as “the renters” or “the teenagers.” Sometimes these terms are just plain descriptive of what people see, though other times they can be a proxy for tension around people who are different. Hearing things such as “I’d like to get rid of the projects” or that we need to improve the “type” of people living here shows a divide and lack of trust between some individuals.

- 17 respondents said that people in Little Brook are “good,” “friendly” or “nice.”
- 15 respondents felt that people in the neighborhood are dangerous and not to be trusted.

Kids and Pets. We noticed that there are many children in the neighborhood, and that they bring people together, whether it’s at the bus stop or playground. Capitalizing on the kids and pets in the neighborhood could offer unique opportunities for physical activity and community engagement.

- Participants in our interviews mentioned children 33 times.
- Similarly, dogs are a unifying factor. Dogs were mentioned 16 times in our interviews.

“Dogs! I meet more people in the area because I’m out with [my dog]. He has buddies in the neighborhood. That seems to be the one thing that draws people out to walking around in the neighborhood. If I’m out without him, people will stop and ask me where he is.”
Social Cohesion and Health

Aspects of the social cohesion of neighborhoods and cities have long been understood to affect health. Characteristics of a neighborhood such as socioeconomic status, racial/ethnic composition, patterns of residences, and family disruption were noted by Wandersman and Nation fifteen years ago as influential on the social organization and psychological stress of individuals in the neighborhood. [24] Mental health can largely be affected and influenced by social cohesion of communities.

A Vision for Little Brook
What is your ideal vision for the neighborhood? When asked this question, the most common answer had to do with community cohesion:

Neighbors would be friends and would spend time telling stories to each other.
Public spaces and activities where people could congregate, day or night.
People would know each other better and not be afraid.
Knowing more neighbors, more people to talk to.
People would greet one another.
More places to play.
More pride.

Community cohesion visions from residents

Community cohesion ideas from residents

More green!
Community events.
Lot more green grass.
I'd like there to be a big park.
Star gazing party at LB Park.
Rock climbing walls in every park!
A mural and neighborhood brand or logo.
Interactive spaces for people, more color and artwork.

Tear down the vacant house across the street and put in a green space.
I love the giraffe statue, which seems as close to a neighborhood emblem as we'll get.
There's a little stream that comes out at one point, add some benches and it could be a park.
A word cloud of responses to our vision question. The size of the word represents the number of times it was used by residents in their responses.
This network of social connections sheds light on leadership in the community and can be used to guide future outreach. The following sections describe suggestions for improvements regarding crime and fear; traffic safety; private and public investment; social cohesion; and outreach strategies.
Recommendations related to crime and fear

Residents’ comments about crime reflect both a need to both address actual threats to physical safety, and also perceived danger. The general feeling that the neighborhood has “shady” activity will prevent people from engaging in outdoor activities, and will inhibit connections across the neighborhood. According to the Broken Window Theory, signs of maintained upkeep in public spaces can actually beget increased safety. [25] As we know, greenways can be part of this effort, reducing crime by providing better sightlines and more “eyes on the street.” [26]

Connecting community members with local police on an individual level could give residents access to good crime-related information, encourage them to report incidents, and also increase the sense that their community matters to the City. Seeing neighbors engage with police may also build trust and momentum for working toward safety together.

Invite the Seattle Police Department North Precinct to host its annual Precinct Picnic at Little Brook Park. These community events are held so “you and your family can chow down on free food and ice cream while talking to Community Police Team Officers and Crime Prevention Coordinators about crime in your neighborhood.”[27] Local businesses can participate by donating items to a raffle. The park offers a great opportunity to reach out across the community, because so many people walk by every day. Even those who do not choose to engage in the festivities themselves would be likely to see or hear of the friendly police and neighbor presence in the park. If community members decide to engage their legislators about safety and transportation issues, it could be a big benefit to have SPD officers and staff familiar with the area, its residents, and their concern for their community. Lake City Greenways volunteers could initiate the invitation, and provide information at the event about Greenways efforts for both Little Brook residents and SPD officers.

Photo from the Seattle Police Foundation website. Learn more at http://seattlepolicefoundation.org/picnics-at-the-precincts/
Organize SPD “Living Room Conversations,” in which community members gather neighbors for a conversation in their home, and invite an officer to discuss safety and crime prevention with them. Having a local officer who works to patrol the same streets where the residents live is important in creating an effective relationship with law enforcement, and the relaxed setting encourages open dialogue. Seattle Police have attended Living Room Conversations in both single-family homes as well as in the community rooms of apartment buildings. Other safety professionals, such as firefighters and medical personnel, could be included as well.

**Recommendations to improve traffic safety**

While some residents were concerned about potholes and rough road surfaces throughout the entire neighborhood, particularly those who live on 30th Ave., most had specific ideas about their street segment or intersection. Several residents cited problems with the width of their street, while others talked about the need for better lighting, curbs, shoulders and stop signs. We have a few additional recommendations to improve traffic safety:

A ROUNDABOUT (32nd Avenue NE on NE 140th Street).
Constructing a roundabout (a.k.a., traffic circle) is an obvious choice for this hazardous intersection.

This is the notorious intersection referenced previously (and pictured below) with a perfect storm of risks:

- The street jogs, limiting order and visibility;
- The only traffic control measures are two yield signs;
- The parked cars block visibility;
- Its position between a large hill and the Lake City Way thoroughfare leads to excessive car speeds;
- The undifferentiated side-street like appearance hides how heavily used it is by cars and people on foot;
- The school buses drop children off here;
- A memorial shows evidence of past traffic deaths;
- A major accident occurred here during our field work;
- There’s a very deep pothole right in the center.

---

From residents:

We need sidewalks or continuation of sidewalks. Sidewalks start and stop along different properties.

Change out the existing streetlights for LED lights that are brighter.

Fix the potholes, lighting and sidewalks.

Need sidewalks, needs more traffic-related like "no parking."

More sidewalks, especially on the side streets like 32nd. People zoom right through 32nd and 140th – no one ever stops ever for anything. I’ve almost been hit. Should put in a roundabout!
A roundabout would mitigate these risks by slowing cars down and directing them in more predictable patterns, in turn reducing collisions and pedestrian danger.

In addition to local residents, potential champions for a roundabout could be the school bus drivers who park at the nearby school bus lot. They could sign a letter saying, “I’m a school bus driver. My job is to keep kids safe. Dropping off children at this intersection isn’t safe. It needs a roundabout.”

This intersection could be the crucial link — physically and socially, between the greenway on 27th Ave and Little Brook Park. Few residents currently report a preference for one connecting street (from 27th and 32nd) over another. Slowing the traffic on 140th would make it a default choice. However, some report that 140th is steeper than other parallel streets, and is therefore not a good option, especially for wheelchair users. Regardless of which cross street Lake City Greenways selects for the greenway connector, getting some traffic control over this intersection would make the route safer, and could be used to support way-finding. See Social Cohesion recommendations for more on “Intersection Repair.”

Use creative signage to solidify connections. Signs connecting the greenway, park, and traffic circle to each other would encourage preferential use of the route from 27th across the selected connector street to the park on 32nd, as well as other destinations in and beyond Little Brook. They would highlight these neighborhood assets, and could serve as an art canvas reflecting the cultural and ethnic diversity of the neighborhood. Lake City Greenways could include funding for artistic signs in their grant applications for the greenway, and provide technical support for Little Brook residents in applying for grants to repair the intersection at 140th and 32nd.

**Recommendations for More Private And Public Investment**

*Increase Private Investment*

We found that businesses, for the most part, do not play an active role in the betterment of the Little Brook neighborhood. Yet businesses have a stake in the neighborhood condition. Showing that a business is invested in the local community is a good public relations strategy. We came up with a few different ideas that would allow businesses to support the community, without too many demands on their time and resources. Any community group can approach a business for sponsorship or donations. Lake City Greenways is especially well-suited for this because it comprises of individuals that reside all over Lake City.
Sponsor community events
Larger businesses on Lake City Way, including Bartell’s, Fred Meyer and Grocery Outlet could be convinced to sponsor some of the different types of community events listed in the next section. Community events allow local businesses to show that they care about the community they operate in, as well as offer advertising opportunities to attract new customers.

Monetary donations for a community initiative
It is not uncommon for businesses to support their local community by donating a portion of their sales on a given day towards a community initiative. Alternatively, businesses could promote a neighborhood initiative and ask customers if they wished to donate any funds towards the initiative. Many of the businesses along Lake City Way attract customers from areas outside of Little Brook. Donations from these customers serve as an opportunity to redistribute wealth to a region that has a high proportion of lower-income individuals. One idea is to ask the Pierre family, which has been in Lake City for a long time, to provide matching funds for sidewalk creation on top of a grant (e.g., the Neighborhood Street Fund).

Donating goods or services for community initiatives
Businesses could donate particular goods towards community projects. For instance, Grocery Outlet could donate ripe fruits and vegetables for community picnics – they would normally throw these out! Nearby coffee shops or bakeries can also provide baked goods for community gatherings. Businesses that want to show community members that their staff and friendly and welcoming may agree to provide staff volunteers to help out at community events (as banks often do for fundraisers).

Partnerships
Our findings show that in some cases, businesses are just as annoyed with neighborhood nuisances as are residents. Concerned neighbors that are working on addressing a neighborhood issue may want to consider approaching a business to ask for their cooperation in addressing a common issue. For instance, the presence of trash and drug paraphernalia in the immediate vicinity of a business may be unattractive to potential customers and an eyesore for local residents. In such cases, asking the business to partner with local litter clean-up crew by providing staff, supplies, or surveillance presents a win-win situation.

Beneficiaries
Corporate donations and sponsorships tend to benefit the entire neighborhood as a whole. In addition to bringing in revenue for community initiatives, they also bring outside attention to local issues. Local events or campaigns that are supported by larger business entities are also more likely to draw the attention of media and government decision-makers. This is good
because a change in physical infrastructure will require political will.

Considerations or challenges

While it is important to engage local businesses, it is equally important not to overwhelm them with demands. Business owners may be interested in expanding their customer base, but their primary interest is in running a profitable business that meets the needs of their existing clientele. Any efforts that draw financial or human resources away from this primary objective will likely be considered burdensome.

Make sure there is a good fit between the community’s need and what the business is willing to offer. The community may want matching funds to build a sidewalk but the business may be willing to only provide funds for road improvements.

INCREASE PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Little Brook residents can work with a variety of public agencies to improve the neighborhood conditions. Here we identify specific projects and agencies that residents can collaborate with.

Neighborhood Cleanliness

The accumulation of trash on residential streets is not simply an aesthetics issue; decaying garbage on streets attracts rats and other disease carrying creatures. Some Little Brook residents (Squeaky Wheelers) engage in regular street cleanup activities through the Adopt-a-Street program and are aware of particular intersections or streets that see the greatest accumulation of litter. To reduce street and sidewalk litter, Seattle Public Utilities places public litter or recycling cans throughout Seattle in business districts and neighborhoods with high pedestrian traffic. We recommend that the Squeaky Wheelers request Seattle Public Utilities install public litter cans throughout Little Brook. Public litter cans at Metro bus stops around Little Brook would certainly encourage pedestrians and bus-users to throw their trash in the cans rather than on the street.

Permanent Park Structures

Little Brook Park is an under-appreciated gem in this neighborhood. While the park provides much needed open green space in a high-density residential area, we came up with a number of ideas through which the park can further build community and foster relationship amongst people.
The City of Seattle’s Small Sparks Fund and the Awesome Foundation provide grants of up to $1,000 for creative projects that improve communities.[29 30]

**Install a community bulletin board or kiosk**

Residents often told us that they don’t have a source of information about their neighborhood. Combined with the weak social network, this makes outreach by Lake City Greenways—and anyone else who wants to hear from Little Brook residents—a difficult job. Investing in supporting the organizing efforts of local groups like the Squeaky Wheelers to foster a stronger social and leadership structure would serve both the community and Lake City Greenways. A simple bulletin board could be a powerful place to start.

Currently, the City advertises community meetings by posting announcements on a pole (pictured left).[31] A bulletin board or kiosk would provide residents with a space to share ongoing activities in the community. In addition to announcements about community meetings or gatherings, residents could post notes about community groups they were interested in starting, such as a dog walking group, street clean-up crew, or carpool groups for grocery shopping or church.

**Re-start Block-Watches**

Lake City Greenways is in a good position to get the ball rolling by connecting apartment managers and active individuals from among their contacts (including the Squeaky Wheelers). A short-term effort to hold a couple initial meetings could have long lasting effects for the community in crime reduction and social cohesion, as well as providing Lake City Greenways with a network of community leader partners for future outreach efforts.

**Create Community Dialogue Projects**

We came across a number of different activities in public spaces that promote interactions between strangers. The simplest example included a giant community chalkboard, as in Charlottesville, Virginia, where people could draw or write messages on a blank wall. [32] Like many interactive art displays, this
public billboard transcends the boundaries of language. It also allows residents to choose how they wish to engage with their neighbors—as observers or participants in these activities.

**Educational Displays**

Little Brook Park came into existence because citizens demanded that the City protect the land that supports a variety of wildlife and flora. Educational displays that portray the history of the park and highlight the wildlife and natural environment that the park supports may instill a sense of pride and history in the community. In combination with the appropriate community building strategy, it may empower residents interested in environmental conservation, gardening or landscaping to come together and improve greenery around Little Brook.

**Reclaiming Public Spaces**

Little Brook offers few opportunities for teens and young adults to engage in any leisure or physical activities. Putting up a basketball hoop in the neighborhood could redress this. A basketball court offers a gathering space for youth who wish to play sports while simultaneously drawing out individuals and families as spectators. Unlike other sports fields, a basketball court requires little maintenance after the initial installation of the structures.

In the event that no suitable spaces are available to do this, we recommend that residents work with the City to identify land parcels that can be bought for public space. The City has done this before with the Columbia City revitalization and there is legal precedent for such actions. Seattle Neighborhood Group’s Youth Violence Prevention Community Matching Fund might be a possible revenue stream for this project. King County’s Youth Sports Facilities Grants Program is another option.

**Infrastructure Development**

It would be reckless to ignore Little Brook’s need for continuous sidewalks and better street lighting. Little Brook residents will need to generate political will and finances to make this vision a reality. The next section addresses how to create political will. Funding sources include: the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board’s Urban Sidewalk Program, the Neighborhood Street Fund, and the Neighborhood Street and Parks Fund.

For additional funding streams, refer to Washington State Department of Transportation’s funding sources for pedestrian and bicycle facilities at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/otherfunding.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/bike/otherfunding.htm).

---

**Eminent Domain**

The power to take private property for public use by a state, municipality, or private person or corporation authorized to exercise functions of public character, following the payment of just compensation to the owner of that property.
Civic Engagement

Increasing public investment in Little Brook will require political will and attention. However, immigrants and low-income individuals may not be aware of their rights as a citizen, or may have limited time or abilities to figure out these strategies on their own. The following ideas attempt to address this.

Awareness Campaign

Active Little Brook residents could collaborate with Seattle Neighborhood Group to offer free workshops educating community members on their civic rights, including how to report crimes, nuisance behaviors, illegal dumping and abandoned cars. These workshops could be held in the community, in apartment complexes or with small groups (of at least three individuals) in houses. Seattle Neighborhood Group also offers brochures in different languages and is able to provide on-site translators for these workshops. Alternatively, the awareness campaign could simply involve delivering multi-lingual flyers to all Little Brook residents.

Legislative Actions

The community may have many ideas on how to improve walkability: demanding more sidewalks in the neighborhood, painting lines on the street so they appear to be narrower so cars are forced to slow down, putting stop signs on particular streets, or making one-way streets. Once the community has agreed upon a particular action, residents can create a brief message asking their local elected official to pursue this course of action. These messages can be printed on postcards or letters along with images from the neighborhood that show the current conditions. Community members can deliver these to other residents using the outreach strategies outlined below, and ask that they mail them to the offices of their elected officials. Community members should also be encouraged to call the toll free number and leave messages for their legislators.

To heat things up even more, community members should reach out to local media outlets to see if they are interested in reporting on this issue. Stories of neighborhood neglect and inequity may be especially interesting to the press in the time leading up to local elections. Inviting reporters to a community event, or a walking tour with local residents can also be enticing. Lake City Greenways can support these legislative actions by providing guidance for community members as well as providing leadership and advocacy training.
Social Cohesion Recommendations

Developing Leadership

...gets community buy-in, keeps projects going in the long term and more work gets done!

CONNECT APARTMENT MANAGERS TO EACH OTHER. This idea came from the Apartment Manager at Hidden Creek. We asked each Apartment Manager we had contact with afterward, and they were all interested at some level in connecting to each other.

Connecting Apartment Managers could take shape in varying levels of commitment, from regular meetings to an email listserv. We recommended at least starting with a face-to-face meeting so that managers can express their visions for the neighborhood and for their group.

We think their collective voice could be extremely powerful in supporting Lake City Greenways as well as other efforts they choose to collaborate on (such as a neighborhood watch).

Hidden Creek staff could potentially take the lead on this. There is great energy and drive to improve conditions for residents. Apartment managers who said there were interested are listed in the annotated contact list.

KEEP DOING WHAT YOU’RE DOING. The model of Seattle Greenways, and the practices of Lake City Greenways, already value community ownership and accept new ideas. Listening to the connections Greenways already has in the neighborhood (i.e., the Squeaky Wheelers) and seeking out new ideas (i.e., this UW project), demonstrates these values.

See our outreach section for more on how to develop leadership within this community.

Gathering people for a purpose

...come for the goals, stay for the community.

INTERSECTION REPAIR. Above, we recommended a roundabout on 32nd and 140th to improve traffic safety. To increase community cohesion, the next step is holistic “Intersection Repair.” An Intersection Repair project takes the form of whatever the community members envision.

Perhaps the parents waiting on this corner would like benches. Protective curbs and signage could be natural additions. Street murals have been extremely successful in engaging citizens in envisioning a more beautiful and inclusive place, and can be a great way to keep people involved, by repainting (and even redesigning) the mural each year. Once this conversation got started (and what a great conversation starter!), even more creative and exciting ideas would probably emerge.
“Intersection Repair accomplishes a number of things — it builds community, creates beauty, slows down traffic and encourages other neighborhood projects.” [33 34]

Repairing the intersection at 140th and 32nd is an incredible opportunity for building connections, both physical and social. We believe that one of the most unifying features in this neighborhood is the kids! This dangerous intersection already brings together residents of all different cultural backgrounds, languages, and socioeconomic statuses at school bus drop-off time. The parents waiting on the side of the road are obvious stakeholders, and their families surely would have enthusiasm and creativity to contribute to the effort to making this not only a safe intersection, but a welcoming one that celebrates the people who gather there every day.

**EXTRA INTERSECTION IDEAS.** Both the initial work and the opening of the renewed community intersection would be cause for celebration, which could be marked with a street festival. Lake City Greenways could even organize a kid’s parade from the greenway on 27th to the new community hub, “taking back” not only the intersection, but the whole stretch of road; connecting Little Brook residents to each other and to more distant neighbors from 30th to 27th. Asking people to create costumes and/or small floats (for instance on wagons or bikes) that represent “my community” would highlight the diverse ethnicities and perspectives of Little Brook. The Youth Tutoring Center at Jackson Park could be a great place to do outreach for this event and involvement in the repair — perhaps staff (see contact list) could even help organize some of the parade prep with the kids.

*Capitalize on individual talents. Local artists could design the street mural. Musicians could play at community events. Tech savvy folks could create the blog.*
SIGN UP TO SLOW DOWN. Organize a community event where people create personalized signs to put up around the neighborhood asking cars to slow down.

MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD. This is similar to what Lake City Greenways has done in the past where residents record the needs and assets of their community on a map (either digitally using www.openstreetmap.org) or by hand. The map is solid support for a grant and legislative push.

*Just plain gathering people!*  
...“why have a meeting when you can have a party?”—Seattle Organizer Jim Diers

START A FLEA MARKET. Make Little Brook a destination by organizing a flea market (like Fremont or Georgetown). This would be an opportunity for neighbors to sell their items (food, crafts, etc.), showcase their skills, and generate income. This idea came from the community itself!

FOOD TRUCKS. The front of Little Brook Park would be a great place to park a food truck. They often attract people from all over town, and create a new energy in the neighborhood. Foods that represent local cultural cuisine – such as Mexican, Ethiopian, Vietnamese – would be a bonus.

MONTHLY PARK EVENTS. The City’s Parks & Rec events seemed to be gaining visibility and momentum. Why not keep that up? Groups could organize a family friendly monthly community event in the park (i.e., First Friday Fiestas, Ethiopian New Year, Fourth of July, etc.). The events could end with star gazing – a community member’s idea!

JACKSON PARK VILLAGE EVENTS. Jackson Park Village has a great blacktop space that’s just asking for a BBQ or potluck.

SHUT DOWN THE STREETS! 32nd would be an attractive, central location for a block party. Better yet, shut down the perimeter of Little Brook for a Ciclovia – where kids, bikes, walkers and wheelchairs get the street to themselves!

Where do we find youth to get involved? A few ideas...

- **Youth Tutoring Program at Jackson Place.** Many of the program’s youth go to Nathan Hale High School and Exstein Middle School.

- **Senior Capstone.** High School Seniors in the Seattle Public Schools are required to do a capstone project to graduate. Planning an event, running a neighborhood blog, or organizing a neighborhood clean-up could be great projects.
• Internships. Local youth could be hired as interns with Department of Neighborhoods to continue successful neighborhood BBQs and movie nights of previous years.

• Juvenile Detention. Some youth in juvenile detention are required to do community service. King County may have opportunities for partnership.

• North Seattle Family Center. The computer lab at the North Seattle Family Center has open hours for youth.

**HOW TO CONNECT WITH LITTLE BROOK**

Social connections in Little Brook appear to be strongest at the individual household level, and weaker at more extended levels (see network map at the beginning of this section). However, friendliness and greetings were reported frequently in our conversations with community members. Community organizing could strengthen relationships between casual acquaintances such as dog walkers, parents who meet the school buses at 140th and 32nd, and people with similar language or ethnic characteristics in apartment complexes.

**Outreach to the broadest spectrum of the community**

Opportunities could include the Seafair Parade, which brings out a wide range of people and families, or events surrounding the Pierre site redevelopments, which have high visibility in the community.

**CREATE A LITTLE BROOK BLOG.** Many people mentioned getting news online, but a number also mentioned that the Lake City Live blog was uninteresting or irrelevant. Many feel they don’t have a source of information for their neighborhood. Creating a blog would help catalyze an identity for Little Brook. The target audience would be informal leaders; people who are already looking for information, and would respond to event announcements on the blog by showing up and possibly even getting others involved via word of mouth. Many people in the neighborhood may not have access to the Internet at home or even work, so the Lake City computing center could be a key partner in this. Staff could help engage teens in submitting information for the blog, or even writing their own posts. Seattle Police could also be a resource for the blog, to help get out accurate and timely information about crime rates and traffic incidences.

---

**Word on the Street**

**Languages we encountered**

- Spanish
- Amharic
- Tigrinya
- Somali
- Mandarin
- Arabic
- Russian
- Romanian
- Tagalog
- Hindi
Targeted Outreach to Specific Groups

Cultural/Ethnic Groups

Translation and interpreter services should be planned for all outreach efforts in Little Brook. We encountered quite a few people with whom we had trouble communicating sufficiently using English only. Seattle Parks and Recreation can provide translation services when advertising events at the park.

Ethiopian and Eritrean — consider discussing the desire to improve the neighborhood with the religious leaders at the Ethiopian and Eritrean churches that Little Brook residents attend. While the church itself is outside of Little Brook, it seemed to present a stronger tie than any we encountered in the neighborhood itself. At least a couple people indicated that they only attend social events organized through the church.

Somali — we did not hear any mentions of a mosque, but we do recommend contacting the leadership at Idris Mosque in Northgate, to ask whether there are attendees from Little Brook. Whenever food is part of the program, it may be necessary to have it provided by a trusted religious group or establishment, or to invite people to come prepare their own food on site as part of the activities. To reach Somali residents directly, the SHA building on 37th would be a good place to start.

Latino/a — according to the census, there is a substantial Hispanic population in Little Brook, and we encountered a number of people who spoke Spanish with very limited English. When doing outreach, it would be great to have a Spanish-speaker participate. To reach Latino/a residents in Little Brook, we recommend working through the management of the Chameleon Apartments to get in touch with Latino parents in the building, who sometimes have gatherings in the common room.

Russian/Eastern European — We encountered Russian-speaking residents at the park (with grandkids) and at Hidden Creek Apartments. While friendly, we had limited success in communication because of our language barrier. At least two apartment owners we contacted were also Russian-speakers, and spoke with us in English. While neither were enthusiastic about community involvement, they were willing to talk to us, and perhaps could be persuaded to reach out to other Russian-speakers in the neighborhood for a worthy cause (like something for kids!).

Organizing opportunities for community volunteers to get educated in “cultural competency” and social justice activism would ensure that outreach and connection efforts for Lake City Greenways have the greatest chance of success in this diverse neighborhood.
PARENTS — Little Brook is full of kids! Even people who didn’t have children themselves mentioned to us that the area could be safer for kids. Parents and grandparents have an extremely strong stake in the safety of the neighborhood, from crime to road quality, and especially outdoor play areas. We saw children’s bikes in many of the apartment complexes, yet there is nowhere to ride close by except for the tiny park. Lake City Greenways and Little Brook residents could leverage this interest to get people involved. It would be a great way to make linkages across cultural groups. The Jackson Park tutoring center could be a key outreach partner for this effort. Spending time in Little Brook Park and waiting for the school bus at 140th and 32nd would also be great ways to talk to people concerned about kids. The Lake City Family Center and Library are also heavily used by Little Brook families, and could potentially help with outreach. Local service organizations like the Lions and Elks were mentioned as having connections with nearby schools, so may also be interested in projects focused on improving safety for youth.

Events hosted by Lake City Greenways should include childcare, or at least provide activities and facilities for kids, so that families (and especially single moms) can attend and feel welcome. While connections between adults in this area may be limited, it appears that the kids already have lots of friends within Little Brook, and frequently play together at the park, Jackson Park Village playground, and interact at the tutoring and computing centers. Bring parents together with each other and build upon the ties their kids already have across the neighborhood.

SENIORS — Little Brook includes multiple apartment complexes that are fully or predominantly senior housing, including Senior Housing Assistance Group’s Victoria Park, GenCare’s Remington Place, and Seattle Housing Authority’s Jackson Park House. Many seniors we spoke with have been in the neighborhood for many years and have specific concerns that are very relevant to Greenways’ efforts to help people get outside. Senior housing buildings seemed to have stronger internal communities than other apartment complexes, with events postings, common rooms, and social organizations. For these reasons, seniors might be particularly good folks to get on board early with outreach efforts in Little Brook. Seniors may share many of the same concerns about mobility in the neighborhood as people with disabilities, so outreach to these groups could also effectively overlap. The Squeaky Wheelers would be a great asset in reaching out and discussing these concerns.

APARTMENT MANAGERS — Building staff can be key point people in outreach efforts. They have a stake in maintaining a safe and attractive neighborhood. Nearly all we spoke with were willing to post fliers in their buildings about our events, and some even delivered one to each unit. Given the density of households and the dearth of public posting places, this is an invaluable resource in reaching people where they are, and who may be otherwise hard to contact.
HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS — These populations may have different priorities and attitudes toward Lake City Greenway’s work and the neighborhood in general. When communicating with homeowners, we recommend keeping in mind:

- Homeowners may be more likely to connect to the 27th Ave Greenway because of proximity. Also, more homeowners said that they walked in the neighborhood for pleasure.

- Homeowners often identified more with other homeowners and residents near 130th than in the denser area toward Lake City Way. Many would prefer more single-family homes to apartment or rental developments.

- Any improvements to the built environment can be marketed as tools to boost property values to homeowners (though repaving 30th won’t be ideal without traffic calming and traffic slowing measures).

- Homeowners may be more sensitive about city expenditures because they pay property taxes.

- Personal responsibility messages may resonate especially well with some homeowners.

- Many homeowners drive as their primary mode of transportation, so road repairs are important.

- Homeowners in our sample were more likely to be white and more likely to be older

INDIVIDUAL BLOCKS OR BUILDINGS — The geographic scale of Little Brook is tiny. Many of the concerns people mentioned were essentially in their own front yards. Get specific about improvements — which pothole you’re going to fix — and you may have good turnout from those who live within eyesight of the issue. A couple of these small scale organizing projects would build trust and could be linked together into a broader community improvement effort, or something further afield, like the greenway on 27th.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

We hope we were able to offer you a window into the Little Brook neighborhood. Considering we couldn't resist including all of our thoughts and ideas in this report, we encourage you to pick and choose based on what inspires you and your neighbors to action. As you can see, the ideas flow once you start asking, so we, and the Little Brook neighborhood, appreciate you asking.
References

8. APHA. At The Intersection Of Public Health And Transportation. 2008:1–16.
APPENDIX A: PROBLEM STATEMENT

Problem statement

Insufficient physical and social connections within Lake City’s Little Brook neighborhood and between Little Brook and the greater community undermine the health of Little Brook residents and the efficacy of Lake City Greenways.

Purpose statement

We should redress inequities and focus on reaching people who aren’t currently at the table.

Guiding Questions

A. Who is the Little Brook community and how do they connect with one another and with areas outside of Little Brook?
   1. How do residents connect with one another?
   2. How are residents connected with one another?
   3. Who is the Little Brook community? (Demographics)
   4. Who are informal and formal leaders?
   5. What are motivators and barriers to community engagement?
   6. What are travel patterns and modes of movement for residents of Little Brook?

KEYWORDS: Connections, descriptives, current

B. What are Little Brook residents’ perceptions of community assets, needs and possibilities/potential?
   1. What community health and well-being concerns do people have?
   2. What are residents’ perceptions of current and future community resources?
   3. How do residents envision a vibrant/ideal Little Brook?

KEYWORDS: Perceptions, future, aspirational
APPENDIX B: DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

For all data collection tools, interviewers were asked to make observational notes about the demographics of the individual being interviewed. This included:

- Gender
- Age (Child, Teen, Adult, Older Adult)
- Race/ethnicity (White or person of color, specific race/ethnicity if participant volunteers info)
- English language abilities (native or ESL)

1. Survey or Interview Questions

   A. Key Informants
   1. Who is the Little Brook community? (Demographics)
   2. What do you think is the best way to reach the different communities in Little Brook?
   3. Who are informal and formal leaders? Who do people go to if there are problems and whose opinion do they respect?
   4. How are residents connected with one another? (language, culture, hobbies)
   5. Where do residents interact with each other? (place)
   6. Where do people frequently go? What modes of transportation do they use?
   7. What community resources (social services, libraries, parks, community center, etc.) do residents use now?
   8. What community resources do you think they would like to use?
   9. What community health and well-being concerns do people have?
   10. What are some reasons that motivate people to engage or to participate in community events? What are some reasons that they would chose not to participate?
   11. What is your vision for an ideal Little Brook?
   12. How do you see yourself supporting us/working with us in this project?
   13. Who else do you suggest that we get in contact with?
   14. Do you consider yourself part of the Little Brook community? If so, how can we connect with people in your network?

   B. Little Brook Residents
   1. What is it like to live in Little Brook? Describe Little Brook in three words.
      A. What is your favorite thing about it?
      B. Do you think needs to be improved?
   2. Where do you get information about what’s happening in the neighborhood?
      A. Do you talk to your neighbors to get information?
B. Do you get local information from a newspaper or blog?
C. (prompt for how connected they feel to their neighbors)
3. Can you think of people or groups that are active in the neighborhood?
   A. Do you belong to any organizations or groups? If so, which ones?
4. What is your ideal vision for this neighborhood?
5. Who else do you think we should talk to? Would you be interested in staying involved in this project or hearing more about it later on?

C. Business Owners
1. How long have you owned this business?
   A. How long have you been located here?
2. Who do you think lives in the buildings around your business?
3. What is it like to own a business in Little Brook?
   A. What are your favorite things about this neighborhood?
   B. What needs improvement about this neighborhood?
4. Do people get information about the neighborhood from your business?
   A. If no, would you like to be a source of information for the neighborhood (E.g. putting up flyers, getting emails or word of mouth communication to customers)
   B. Where do you get info about this neighborhood?
5. Do you know anyone who lives around here?
   A. Who is influential in this neighborhood?
   B. Who really cares about this community?
6. Are you involved in any groups or organizations related to your business?
   A. Do you know of any other businesses that are part of groups and organizations?
7. What is your vision for this neighborhood?
   A. What are the biggest obstacles to realizing this vision?
8. Who else should we talk to?

2. Mapping Tools
   A. Fear and Comfort Map Tool Instructions
   1. Show the individual the map of Little Brook and ask if they reside somewhere on the map.
   2. Ask Little Brook residents to use the black marker to mark on the map a box around what they think is their neighborhood and where they reside.
   3. Ask residents to use the green highlighter to indicate roads where they feel comfortable walking.
   4. Ask residents to use the yellow highlighter to indicate roads where they feel somewhat but not completely comfortable.
5. Ask residents to use the pink highlighter to indicate roads where they feel uncomfortable, unsafe or afraid.
6. Encourage residents to share why they chose to use a particular color for a given area. Find out if they feel unsafe because of a lack of infrastructure or other reasons (crime, drug-dealing, prostitution, etc.) Make note of these details on the back of the map.

B. Routes Map Tool Instructions
1. Show the individual the map of Little Brook neighborhood.
2. Ask residents to mark on the map any destinations they visit.
3. Ask residents to mark the common routes they take to get to these destinations.
4. Ask residents what mode of transportation they use to get to these destinations.

For both map tools, note the following details on the back of the map:
- Your initials
- Your location
- Date