Rainier Beach
Neighborhood Report Card
[Phase 1]

Spring 2016

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Instructor: ManChui Leung
What is a Report Card?

> Instrument for summarizing and reporting progress toward specific goals

> Accessible tool for communication

> Tool to highlight areas that need improvement and direct a “call-to-action”
Why a Report Card for Rainier Beach?

- Further **spread awareness and update** Rainier Beach residents and community groups of progress

- Promote **better accessibility, safety, and perception** of the neighborhood

- Provide a **comprehensive** and evidence-based **assessment** of the neighborhood’s social and physical attributes
Neighborhood Background

> Culturally, racially, and ethnically diverse

> Development of Pearls

> Good levels of resident engagement

> Many positive changes over the years led by community

> Residents have noticed some changes, but not all
Framework: THRIVE  Toolkit for Health and Resiliency in Vulnerable Environments

Emphasis on neighborhood health and safety

Report card Phase 1 focus: **Health, Safety and Place**
Report Card Overview

PLACE FACTORS
- Look
- Feel
- Safety
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Getting Around

FACTOR ⟷ INDICATORS ⟷ MEASURES ⟷ SCORE ⟷ GRADE
Methodology

Step 1: Scoring RB to a Comparison Group

City of Seattle average
  >  5 pts if RB better, 3 if same, 1 if worse

Control Site
  >  5 pts if RB better, 3 if same, 1 if worse

Trend over time (3 or 5 years)
  >  5 pts if RB trend improving, 3 if stabilizing, 1 if worsening

Progress towards a Goal or Professional Standard
  >  5 pts if RB made at least 80% progress towards a goal, 4 pts 60%-79%, 3 pts 40%-59%, 2 pts 20%-39%, 1 pt less than 20% progress
Methodology

Step 2: Total Score / Possible Score = Percentage

Step 3: Grading System

A = 80-100%, Excellent
B = 60-79%, Very good
C = 40-59%, Good. Goal is to have a grade of C or higher.
D = 20-39%, Needs improvement
F = less than 20%, Needs extreme improvement
OVERALL SCORE: 69% = B = VERY GOOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Look</th>
<th>Feel</th>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Parks &amp; Open Spaces</th>
<th>Getting Around</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50% C Good</td>
<td>60% B Very Good</td>
<td>67% B Very Good</td>
<td>100% A Excellent</td>
<td>68% B Very Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Look

50% C = Good

> Prominent physical characteristics of a neighborhood
> Clean, inviting look fosters community engagement
> Appearances affect perceptions of safety

**INDICATORS**

1. Maintenance of Public and Open Spaces
   a. broken equipment
   b. litter
2. Number of Vacant or Dilapidated Buildings
3. Art in Public and Open Spaces

Data sources and Comparison Group
> Primary observations (2016), RB Use/User Study (UW 2015)
> Observations collected from 5 RB and 5 matched control sites
Public art is a major asset in Rainier Beach
Areas needing improvement include litter management and making use of vacant/dilapidated buildings in “pearls”
Feel

60%  B = Very Good

- Response a place elicits
- Person’s relationship to physical & social environment
- Safety -> Interactions & Participation -> Health & Safety
- Positive feelings contribute to trust and cohesion

INDICATORS

Feeling...
1. Safe in the day
2. Safe at night
3. People care about the community
4. People are willing to help each other out
5. A responsibility to my neighborhood
6. At home

Data Sources and Comparison Group
- ABSPY/GMU (2014), RBAC/UW (2015, 2016) and primary data (2016)
- Collected from 5 RB and 5 matched control sites
### Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rainier Beach</th>
<th>Control Sites</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I feel safe - day</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel safe - night</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People care</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People help others</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel responsibility</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel at home</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Score / Possible Score</strong></td>
<td><strong>18 / 30</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All indicators were **similar** between RB and control sites. A literature review found day rates of safety in day were similar to other places in U.S. However, **night safety was significantly lower** in RB and controls.
Safety

67% B = Very Good

Safer neighborhood -> less crime and injuries -> fosters cohesion, trust and growth

INDICATORS

1. Crime statistics (person and property)
   > Rates/per population and 5-year trend

2. Progress towards 2014 CPTED recommendations
   > Improving lighting & visibility in 5 RB hotspots

3. School climate and feelings of safety (MS+HS)
   > Rates and 3-year trend

4. School proficiency and graduation rates (MS+HS)
   > Rates and 5-year trend

Data Sources
## Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Rainier Beach</th>
<th>Control / Goal</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime rates person per 10,000</td>
<td>59.99</td>
<td>53.35</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime rates property per 10,000</td>
<td>224.31</td>
<td>543.18</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime - person - 2010-2015 trend</td>
<td>Improving (decreasing)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime - property - 2010-2015 trend</td>
<td>Stabilizing (no change)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPTED Progress towards goal</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Climate rates</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB High School Climate rates</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL High School Climate rates</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Climate 2010-13 trend</td>
<td>Stabilizing (no change)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB High School Climate 2010-13 trend</td>
<td>Stabilizing (no change)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL High School Climate 2010-13 trend</td>
<td>Stabilizing (no change)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Rainier Beach</td>
<td>Control / Goal</td>
<td>Average Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Proficiency Rates</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB High School Graduation Rates</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL High School Graduation Rates</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School Proficiency 2009-14 trend</td>
<td>Improving (increasing)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB High School Graduation 2009-14 trend</td>
<td>Improving (increasing)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL High School Graduation 2009-14 trend</td>
<td>Improving (increasing)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Score / Possible Score</strong></td>
<td><strong>57/ 85</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage</strong></td>
<td><strong>67%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

All measures across time were either **stabilizing or improving**. Need to improve overall **lower rates of school climate** (all) and **Middle School proficiency**.
Improvements in both student performance and crime rates.

School climate rates are stabilizing but low.
Parks and Open Spaces  100% A = Excellent

> Availability and accessibility to safe, clean and natural areas
> Places to exercise, play, refresh their minds, and interact with their neighbors
> Engage in recreational and social activities with one another that can create strong social bonds and foster a sense of community

**INDICATORS**

1. Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents
2. Percent of residences within ½ to ¼ mile of a park
3. Percent of residences within 1 mile of a community center that provides opportunities for indoor activity or recreation

**Data Sources and Comparison Groups**

> RB comparison made with Seattle and Parks and Recreation goals
## Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rainier Beach</th>
<th>Seattle</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Score (compared to Seattle Average)</th>
<th>Score (compared to Goal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% residents within ½ to ¼ mile of park</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% residents within 1 mile of community center</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Total Score / Possible Score** | 25/25 |
| **Percentage**                  | 100%  |

Rainier Beach **outperformed** City of Seattle and Parks and Recreation goals in all indicators.
Getting Around

- Prevalence, convenience, and quality of various forms of transportation
- Ease of getting around -> more opportunities & social interaction -> improved health and safety

**INDICATORS**

1. Percentage of households without vehicles
2. Walk Score (closeness to amenities, block length, intersection density)
3. Percentage of roadways with complete sidewalks
4. Transit Score (frequency, type, distance to the nearest stop)
5. Bike Score (bike lanes, hills, and destinations + connectivity, bike shares)

**Data Sources and Comparison Groups:**
Comparisons with Seattle, and trends 2009-2014

68% B = Very Good
## Findings

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<th>Seattle</th>
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<tr>
<td>% of zero vehicle households</td>
<td>Improving (decreasing)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk Score</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of roadways with complete sidewalks</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit Score</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Score</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Score / Possible Score** 17/25

**Percentage** 68%

More cars for residents makes getting around more manageable. Transit and bike scores are similar. Walk score was low, but complete sidewalks was high.
## Overall Score: 69% = B = VERY GOOD

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</tbody>
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Strengths and Limitations

Strengths
– Used multiple forms of data, emphasis on public data
– Used strict criteria for selecting indicators and data
– Captured yearly changes for some indicators
– Considered statistical & substantive differences when scoring
– Used holistic & comprehensive approach

Limitations
– Used older data for some indicators
– Primary data collection: smaller sample size and less observation visits
– Some variation in RB neighborhood boundaries
– Some variability between RB and control sites
Recommendations

1) Promoting Rainier Beach’s unique identity

> Actively promote and leverage neighborhood assets:

  - **Public art** reflects diversity neighborhood values
  - **Parks and Open Spaces** benefits health and safety
  - **Accessible sidewalks** for walking routes to connect place, culture and history
Recommendations

2) Addressing Feelings of Safety

> Recognize **feelings of safety** may be harder to change even as crime rates decrease:
  – Continuing efforts to increase **guardianship** with a specific focus on **night safety** and **youth**
  – Continue to prioritize **student/youth safety in/ outside schools**
  – Continue to make progress on **CPTED recommendations**
  – Continue to **raise awareness** of positive changes
Recommendations

3) Managing Neighborhood Perceptions

> “Look” impacts neighborhood feel and safety:
  – Continue to prioritize maintenance of public and open spaces
  – Focus on setting community norms and expectations on litter through community events
  – Continue to actively engage place-managers with a focus on dilapidated buildings/homes in pearls
Acknowledgements

> Rainier Beach and South Seattle residents

> Rainier Beach Action Coalition
   – Patrice Thomas, Gregory Davis

> A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth partners

> UW Department of Sociology

Look out for Report Card [Phase 2] Summer 2016!