

Rainier Beach Neighborhood Scorecard

Background for Neighbors Acting to Build Resilience and Sustainability (NABRS)

Sustainable Seattle has long been a leader in establishing regional indicators—measures—of sustainability. (See our regional indicator commons at www.b-sustainable.org). Sustainable Seattle launched a pilot effort, NABRS, in the spring of 2009 to establish neighborhood-level indicators of sustainability. The indicators in this Scorecard were selected as relevant and actionable at the neighborhood level by a diverse set of government, non-profit, and community leaders. The information on this Scorecard represents the best available research from King County, the City of Seattle, and various non-profit organizations.

This Scorecard establishes a baseline sustainability assessment in the neighborhood of Rainier Beach. The other neighborhood in this pilot effort is north Green Lake. As part of the NABRS project, Sustainable Seattle is collaborating with several local Neighborhood Partners to implement a local action project in each neighborhood (see page 5). It is Sustainable Seattle's hope that the Scorecard is used by residents, community organizations, and local government to address local conditions and improve neighborhood-scale sustainability. A shorter version of this Scorecard is available at www.sustainableseattle.org.

There are many challenges to collecting information at a neighborhood scale including defining neighborhood boundaries. The Rainier Beach Neighborhood in this project is loosely defined as census tracts 118 & 119 (north of S. 116th St. to Kenyon St. and east of Renton Ave S. to Lake Washington).

Natural Environment

Measure	Description	Closest Approximation of Rainier Beach Neighborhood	Seattle/ King County Comparison	Data Source
Habitat Quality	<i>Acres of Habitat</i> - 10.0% of public land in census tracts 118 & 119 were defined as habitat compared with 11.5% in Seattle overall during the Seattle Public Lands Habitat Survey in 1999.	10.0% Habitat	11.5% Habitat (Seattle)	1
	<i>Invasive and Nuisance Species</i> - 20.7% of public land habitat in census tracts 118 & 119 had greater than 50% coverage by invasive species compared with 3.3% in Seattle overall during the Seattle Public Lands Habitat Survey in 1999.	20.7% Invasive Species	3.3% Invasive Species (Seattle)	1
Impervious Surfaces	<i>Impervious Surfaces</i> – 59.9% of the land area in census tracts 118 & 119 was defined as impervious surface compared with 66.9% of the land area overall in Seattle in 2007. The analysis included building footprints, transportation elements such as roadways, sidewalks and driveways, and other measures.	59.9% Impervious Surface	66.9% Impervious Surface (Seattle)	2
Habitat Quantity	<i>Residential Habitat Visual Assessment*</i> - The average score in a visual assessment of habitat quality and diversity in census tracts 118 & 119 was 2.0 out of 5 in 2009 (a score of 0 provides no habitat and 5 provided excellent habitat).	2.0 Score* (0-5 scale)	Score Not Available	3
	<i>Tree Canopy</i> - 24.6% of all land in Community Reporting Area 4.1 was identified as covered by tree canopy compared with 22.9% for Seattle overall using a Quickbird satellite imagery analysis in 2007. The City of Seattle has a stated goal of 30% tree canopy by 2030.	24.6% Tree Canopy	22.9% Tree Canopy (Seattle)	4
Pollution in Neighborhoods	<i>Pollution in Neighborhoods</i> - Over 90,000 estimated vehicle miles were driven within census tracts 118 & 119 during an average weekday in 2006. Vehicle travel contributes significantly to air pollution.	90,623 Miles Traveled	Miles Traveled Not Available	5

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Built Environment

Measure	Description	Closest Approximation of Rainier Beach Neighborhood	Seattle/ King County Comparison	Data Source
Walkability	<i>Walkability</i> - Rainier Beach received a score of 44 out of 100 using Walkscore.com's definition of walkability and neighborhood boundary and compares to a score of 72 for Seattle overall in 2009 (A score of 0 was not walkable and 100 was extremely pedestrian friendly. It was calculated considering the number of amenities within 1 mile of a point in the center of the neighborhood).	44 Walkscore	72 Walkscore (Seattle)	6
Neighborhood Gathering Places (emerging)	<i>Neighborhood Gathering Places*</i> -33 parks, community centers. Coffee shops and other places where neighbors can play, meet, and organize themselves for projects and activities were identified by residents in census tracts 118 & 119 through an online survey in 2009.	33 Gathering Places*	Gathering Places Not Available	7
Index of Household Resource Consumption	<i>Water</i> -The average Seattle Public Utilities residential customer use 94 gallons of water per day in 2008.	Average Gallons of Water Not Available	94 Gallons of Water (Seattle)	8
	<i>Carbon Emissions</i> -The average household in census tracts 118 & 119 produced an estimated 5.7 tons of transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions in 2009. Estimates were based on demographics, travel behavior, land use, transit proximity, regional location, and several other variables. These estimates compared to 5.1 tons of GHG emissions for the average Seattle household.	5.7 Tons of GHG Emissions	5.1 Tons of GHG Emissions (Seattle)	9
	<i>Electrical Energy Use</i> - According to a 5% sample of household electrical utility data, the average single-family household in zip code 98118 consumed 31 kilowatt hours per day in 2009, compared to a 26 kilowatt hours per day overall average in Seattle.	31 KWh/day	26 KWh/day (Seattle)	10
	<i>Consumer Environmental Behavior Survey*</i> -In a survey about yard care and environmental purchasing behaviors in census tracts 118 & 119, residents identified many positive behaviors. 50.0% reported that they buy food directly from farms and 78.6% had replaced an incandescent light bulb with an energy-efficient compact florescent bulb.	50.0% Buy Food Directly from Farms*	Not Available (King County produces a similar but incomparable report)	11
	<i>Household Waste</i> -The average single-family household in census tracts 118 & 119 produced 31.9 gallons of waste per week in 2009 based on average waste container size compared with 31.5 gallons in Seattle overall.	31.9 Average Gallons/ week	31.5 Average Gallons/ week (Seattle)	12
Access and Use of Alternative Transportation	<i>Transit Access Route Data</i> - Residents in census tracts 118 & 119 had access to an average of 1099 transit trips per weekday in spring 2009.	1099 Trips/weekday	Not Available	13
	<i>Bike Access</i> - Residents in census tracts 118 & 119 had to travel an average of .65 miles to reach a bicycle route in 2008 compared with .57 miles for the average Seattle resident.	.65 Miles to Bike Route	.57 Miles to Bike Route (Seattle)	14
	<i>Transit Usage</i> - The average trips taken by bus (counted using bus boarding) in census tracts 118 & 119 per 1000 residents during one service period in 2009 was 584 compared with 536 in Seattle overall.	584 Average Trips in One Service Period	536 Average Trips in One Service Period (Seattle)	15
	<i>Bike Usage</i> - 0.5% of residents in census tracts 118 & 119 commute to work by bicycle according to the 2000 census compared to 1.9% in Seattle overall.	0.5% Commute by Bicycle	1.9% Commute by Bicycle (Seattle)	16
	<i>Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) data</i> -65.3% of residents in census tracts 118 & 119 commute to work by driving alone according to the 2000 census compared to 56.5% in Seattle overall.	65.3% Commute by Car	56.5% Commute by Car (Seattle)	17
Food Production	<i>Private Residential Food Gardens*</i> - 8.0% of a random sample of single-family lots in census tracts 118 & 119 were visually assessed to have food gardens in May 2009.	8.0% Grow Food*	Not Available	18
	<i>Public Food Gardens</i> -There was one P-patch within ¼ mile of the census tract 118 & 119 boundaries for every 14,658 residents in 2009 compared with 8,285 residents for every p-patch in Seattle overall.	14,658 Residents near a P-Patch	8,285 Residents near a P-Patch (Seattle)	19

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Social Environment

Measure	What's Happening	Closest Approximation of Rainier Beach Neighborhood	Seattle/ King County Comparison	Data Source
Housing	<i>Housing Rental Affordability by Neighborhood</i> —The average rent in Spring 2008 in the Rainier Valley area was \$702 compared with \$1,082 for the city of Seattle. This rent is affordable to a low income family which can afford \$838 a month.	\$702 Average Rent	\$1,082 Average Rent (Seattle)	20
	<i>Housing Ownership Affordability by Neighborhood</i> —The median sales price for single-family and townhomes sold between January and June 2008 in the Southeast/Rainier Valley area was \$391,000 compared with \$469,000 for the city of Seattle. The Rainier Beach average is higher than the \$249,500 that a household making a median income can afford.	\$391,000 Median Price	\$469,000 Median Price (Seattle)	20
Health Insurance	<i>Adults without Health Insurance</i> — According to 2004-2008 combined data, 16.6% of adults (age 18-64) were without health insurance in zip code 98118 compared with 13.8% overall in King County.	16.6% Without Health Insurance	13.8% Without Health Insurance (King)	21
Strength and Diversity of Neighborhood Economy (emerging)	<i>Access to Basic Goods*</i> —There were 3.81 stores that sell basic goods such as groceries, banks, post offices, and hardware stores, etc, per 1000 residents in census tracts 118 & 119 in 2009. Stores were inventoried using internet searches.	3.81 Stores*	Not Available	22
Arts	<i>Arts</i> —There was one public art installation from the City of Seattle Fine Arts and Seattle Parks and Recreation Collections within census tract 118 & 119 boundaries in 2009 for every 2,932 residents compared with 1,610 residents for every public art installation in Seattle overall.	2,932 Residents per Public Art Installation	1,610 Residents per Public Art Installation (Seattle)	23
People in Poverty	<i>Income</i> —11.2% of adults had incomes below the federal poverty level in census tracts 118 & 119 in 2000 compared with 8.4% in King County overall.	11.2% Incomes below Poverty Level	8.4% Incomes below Poverty Level (King)	24
	<i>Free/Reduced Lunch Program</i> — 67.2% of students who lived in Community Reporting Area 4.1 participated in the Free or reduced lunch program in 2007 compared with 38.3% in Seattle schools overall. This measure is based on where students live rather than specific school data since many students do not attend schools in their neighborhoods.	67.2% In Free/Reduced Lunch Program	38.3% In Free/Reduced Lunch Program (Seattle)	25

Personal Environment

Measure	What's Happening	Closest Approximation of Rainier Beach Neighborhood	Seattle/ King County Comparison	Data Source
Neighborhood Involvement in Local Decision-Making	<i>Voter Turnout</i> – 29.7% of registered voters in census tracts 118 & 119 voted in the last five general elections (2004-2008) compared with 67.2% in King County overall.	29.7% Registered Voters who Voted	67.2% Registered Voters who Voted (King)	26
Community Inclusivity (emerging)	<i>Community Inclusivity Survey*</i> — Findings show 92.9% of residents in census tracts 118 & 119 'agreed strongly' or 'agreed somewhat' that "People in the neighborhood are welcoming of households of diverse cultures, backgrounds, sexual orientations and family configurations".	92.9% Welcome Diverse Backgrounds*	Not Available	27
Social Richness	<i>Neighborhood Diversity</i> —72.6% of residents in census tracts 118 & 119 identified as belonging to a racial demographic other than white in 2000 compared with 24.3% for King County overall.	72.6% Non-White Ethnicity	24.3% Non-White Ethnicity (King)	28

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	<i>Involvement in Community-Building*</i> — Findings showed that 32.3% of survey respondents did not participate in community building organizations in census tracts 118 & 119 in 2009. (emerging).	32.3% Not Involved in Community-Building Organizations*	Not Available	29
	<i>Social Cohesion Metric</i> — The average social cohesion score for adults in Seattle was 37.8 (on a scale 10-50) in 2007 compared to 38.5 for King County overall according to the 2008 Communities Count report (a score of 10 identified low social cohesion and 50 represents high social cohesion).	37.8 Score (Seattle)	38.5 Score (King)	30
Education	<i>On-time High School Graduation Rate</i> — 50.7% of students who live in Community Reporting Area 4.1 graduated on time in 2007 compared with 61.5% in Seattle Schools overall. This measure was based on where students live rather than specific school data since many students do not attend schools in their neighborhoods.	50.7% Graduated	61.5% Graduated (Seattle)	31
Safety	<i>Major crimes</i> —There were 62 major crimes per 1000 residents in census tracts 118 & 119 in 2007 compared with 67 major crimes per 1000 residents in Seattle overall.	62 Major Crimes	67 Major Crimes (Seattle)	32
	<i>Pedestrian Collisions</i> —There were 3.5 documented bicycle or pedestrian collisions in census tracts 118 & 119 from 2001-2004 per 1000 residents compared with 5.5 collisions per 1000 residents in Seattle overall.	3.5 Collisions	5.5 Collisions (Seattle)	33
Personal Health-- Physical Activity	<i>Physical Activity</i> — According to 2004-2008 combined data, 19.8% of adults (age 18-64) reported no physical activity in the past month in zip code 98118 compared with 14.9% overall in King County.	19.8% Report No Physical Activity	14.9% Report No Physical Activity (King)	34

Note: There are many challenges to collecting accurate neighborhood-level data. The data included in this Scorecard comes from a variety of sources using different geographic boundaries and may not accurately represent conditions in the neighborhood across different definitions.

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- * *Sustainable Seattle NABRS Project Team. 2009. Sustainable Seattle developed these metrics and related figures. As emerging indicators, it is hoped there will be improved data for the future.*

Approximate Rainier Beach Geographic Definitions:

- a. Census Tracts 118 & 119: Roughly north of S. 116th St. to Kenyon St. and east of Renton Ave S. to Lake Washington
- b. Zip Code 98118
- c. Community Planning Area 4.1: Roughly north of S. 116th St. to Kenyon St. and east of Renton Ave S. to Lake Washington
- d. Rainier Valley area: I-5 to Lake Washington & S. 116th St. to S. Judkins St.
- e. Southeast/Rainier Valley area: MLK Jr. Wy. S. to Lake Washington & S. 116th St. to S. Judkins St.
- f. Walkscore Neighborhood: Roughly north of S. 116th St. to Kenyon St. and east of Renton Ave S. to Lake Washington

Neighborhood Action Project

Efficient Energy Outreach Program (EEOP)

The Efficient Energy Outreach Program (EEOP) is a young adult (ages 14-19) development project where energy efficiency audits are undertaken. EEOP creates safe times/spaces for young adults of the Rainier Valley to learn about the green economy and develop mutually beneficial relationships with local merchants.

Young adults attending Rainier Beach and Cleveland High Schools and local businesses are the targets for the Efficient Energy Outreach Program. The goals of the program are to:

1. Engage young adults to initiate discussions with local business about available energy conservation opportunities and funding;
2. Navigate language and trust barriers that may have precluded previous participation in available energy conservation programs;
3. Improve social cohesion between young adults and business owners in the Rainier Valley.



The program was developed at the end of the summer in 2009 and is expected to continue through the spring of 2010. Several scorecard indicators were identified in the development of this project to address community needs including involvement in Community Building Activities, Carbon Emissions, and Electrical Energy Use.

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