



Roosevelt Park Community Assessment

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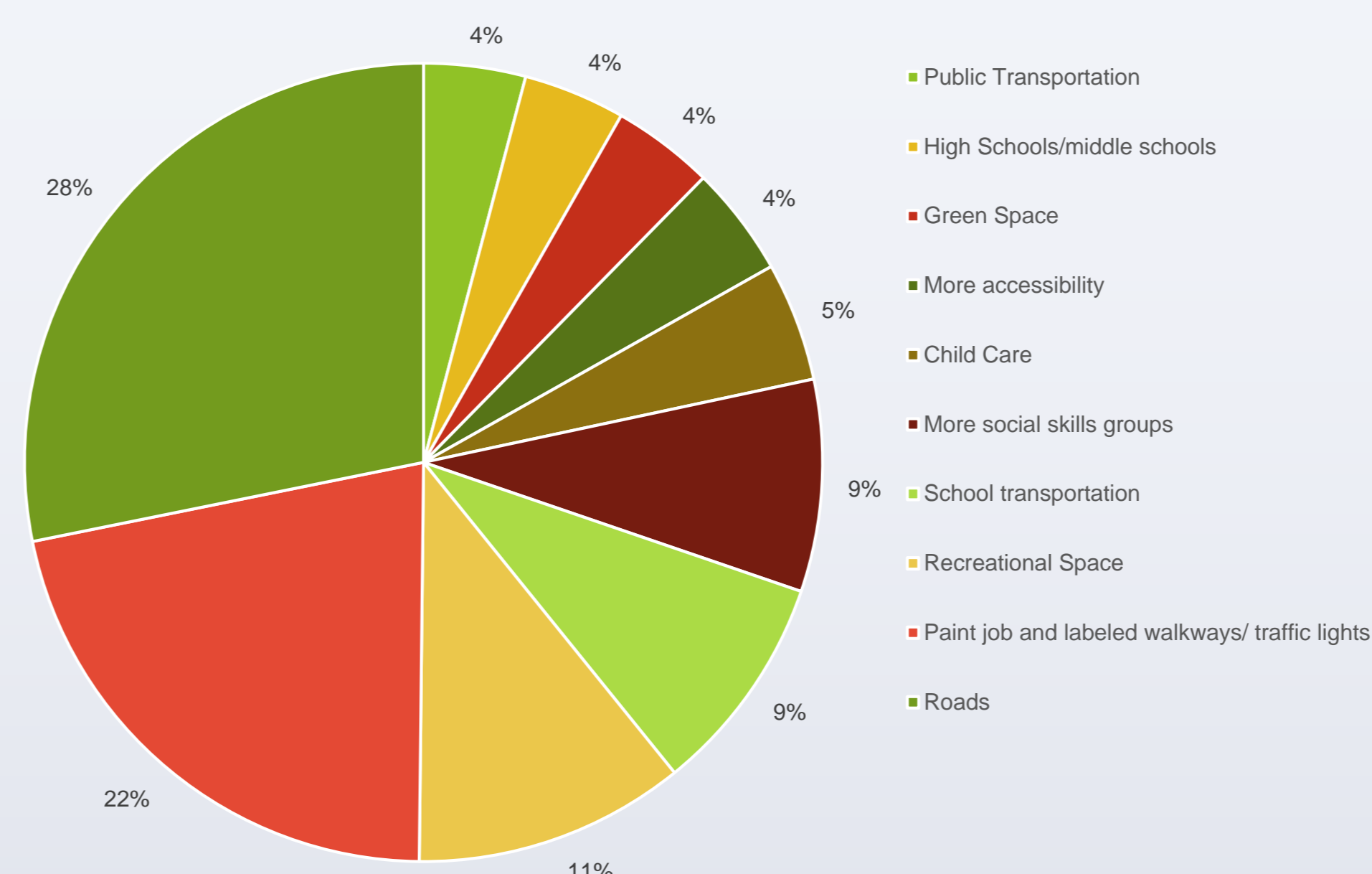
Abstract

- Researched examined the Roosevelt Park neighborhood in Grand Rapids, MI, to determine two things; one, would a physical or programmatic intervention help the community, and two, if so, what kind of intervention would be the most helpful? The research focuses on strengths and improvements the community identified as a need. This research draws from direct observation and in-depth interviews from officials and residents in the community. Surveys and interviews were gathered to identify the top 10 needs in the community for a possible intervention. Also identified during canvassing was the most significant area/event in the Roosevelt community. Research project will discuss these topics outlined above and discuss the community and suggested interventions during the community development project. Based on surveys and canvassing, researchers concluded that marketing and advertising for the farmers' market that addresses the fresh food shortage in the area, was a need in the community that partnership interventions were highly desired. The poster presentation will discuss the methodology to increase resident input in a large community development project occurring in Grand Rapids, MI, and how students at a local university can assist in ensuring these voices are heard.

Literature Review

Farmer's markets are a great way to help support your area. Buying at a farmers' market allows for the best food, new ideas, and staying involved in the area (Lowery, 2016). Food from a farmer's market is from the local farms and gardens of the people in the area. So, when you purchase from a farmer's market, it is farm to home with no middle man. It also means that you will know where your food came from. Farmers markets are local vendors only and do not sell food from large corporations (Landis, 2011). This gives the local farms a chance to show and sell their own foods to their own community. The food from farmers markets are always in season so this means that they taste fresh to their truest flavors. They are also healthier because they are naturally grown. This means little to no pesticides, non-GMOs, and no prepackaged foods (Landis, 2011). Foods are not stored or preserved in any way. Without the added ingredients, the foods are healthier and more satisfying to the consumer (Lowery, 2016). A farmer's market is a great way to connect within communities. This allows people to make friends and get advice about certain foods directly from the seller (Alia, 2014). A market like this is also a great place to discover new recipes. Farmer's markets support the community by supporting the people that live and work there (Alia, 2014).

Top 10 Needs in Community



Results

The results we found after looking over all of the data was the top ten needs for the community which is the table above. We broke the data down into categories of data we received from surveys, research, and observations. We were not surprised with the finding that 60% of the community that was over the age of 18, who would have been expected to graduate, did not have a high school diploma. We also found in our research that the community was 53% youth. During our observations, our group ran into an issue of people in the community being afraid to talk to us for surveys. After more research, we found out that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), had recently been in the neighborhood and had scared the residents in the community (Personal communication, Herbert, 2018).

Methods

During this research process we used a few methods of gathering data. We created our own surveys and canvassed the Roosevelt Park, Grand Rapids, neighborhood. This gathered information about what the community believed they needed. While in the community canvassing, we did our own observations of resources in the community. We also used census data to have background on populations in the community but also education and socioeconomic status of residents. During this process we also used the Ferris State database to do research on how farmer's markets could positively or negatively affect a community.

Conclusion

After researching and assessing the area we concluded that the community is in need of significant help with truck routes going through the community creating unsafe crossing areas for the predominantly youth population. With the time allotted for this class project, we could not address the roads but partnered up with the local neighborhood association to promote a farmer's market for the community that will be opening in June 2018. This was not a need that made it into our top ten needs for the community, but was found to be needed by others. According to Mayor Bliss and Tony Baker, a Grand Rapids School Board member, the truck route is in the process of being given back to the community.

References

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Alia, K., Freedman, D., Brandt, H., & Browne, T. (2014). Identifying Emergent Social Networks at a Federally Qualified Health Center-Based Farmers' Market. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 53(3-4), 335-345.

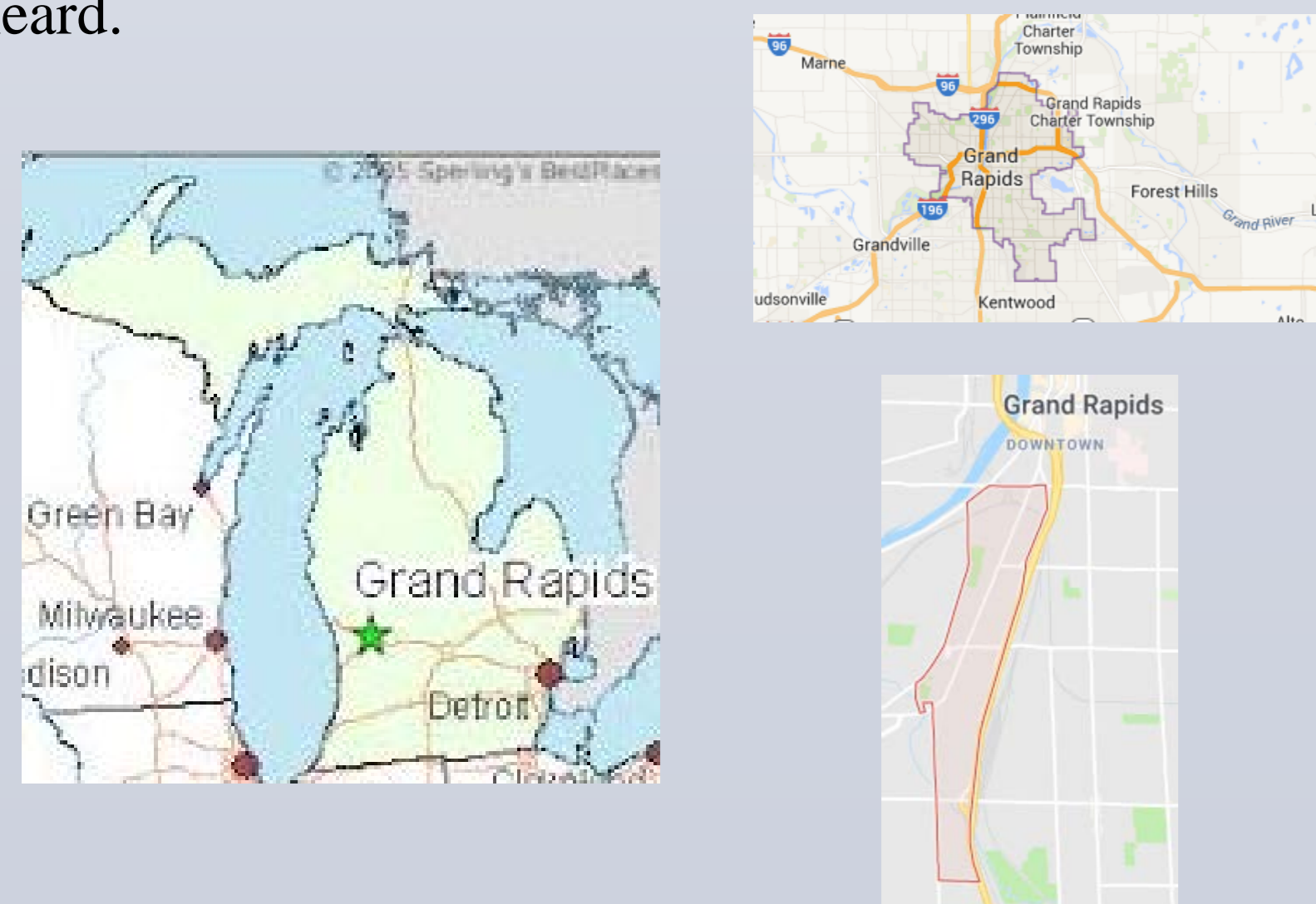
Herbert, H., 2018. Personal Communication. Community Impact Coordinator; the Edge Urban Fellowship.

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Social Work

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Community Partner