

# LYNDHURST ES COMMUNITY SUMMARY

The Baltimore City Planning Department is currently in the INSPIRE planning process for Lyndhurst Elementary School. This plan will ultimately determine recommendations and budgeting priorities for short and long-term improvements in the ¼ to ½ mile area surrounding Lyndhurst Elementary.

Beginning in early October of 2015, planning staff have been working with area residents to better understand their neighborhood experiences, concerns, and needs. We have engaged with members of the surrounding communities, including parents, students, and staff of Rognel Heights. The following is a summary of what we have heard from residents through our different means of engagement. Throughout this engagement phase, we were able to collect information from 137 residents and stakeholders.

## MEANS OF ENGAGEMENT:

### 1st INSPIRE workshop (19 participants)

On October 11, 2014 we held the first INSPIRE workshop for Lyndhurst at the New Covenant Worship Center. Participants learned about the INSPIRE process and collaboratively examined the existing conditions of the area surrounding the school, specifically identifying **strengths**, **weaknesses**, and **opportunities**. A diverse group of attendees participated including representatives from the school, community organizations, faith-based organizations and city agencies.

### Parent/Resident Survey (33 participants)

We administered a survey to the parent and resident communities of Lyndhurst and Rognel Heights Elementary Schools. We surveyed parents and residents at pick-up and drop-off times, as well as community association meetings. The survey was also available online for any interested community member to take.

### Student Workshops (41 participants)

We facilitated student workshops at Lyndhurst Elementary (January 21st) and Rognel Heights Elementary (March 25th) where we encouraged a classroom of older elementary students to share their knowledge of the neighborhood through a series of activities. We focused specifically on identifying student walking routes, neighborhood uses, and neighborhood spaces and activities that are assets or challenges to the community.

### Stakeholder Interviews (10)

In addition to our other methods of outreach, we interviewed school staff and resident leaders to get a better understanding of the area's existing conditions and needs.

### 2nd Workshop (34)

On January 28, 2015 we held a second INSPIRE workshop at Lyndhurst Elementary where residents discussed preliminary recommendations with representatives from numerous city agencies.



## Here are some major themes we identified: **STRENGTHS**, **WEAKNESSES**, **OPPORTUNITIES**

### **COMMUNITY**

Strong community leaders  
Churches: Mt. Olive, St. Bernadine, New Covenant WC  
Friendly neighborhood with long-time resident families  
Edmondson Village Library  
Lack of art and cultural programs and public art  
Lack of afterschool activities and spaces for kids  
Study Hall at Churches for Students  
Survey youth and students for activities  
Neighborhood Leadership Academy  
501 C-4  
Civic Works  
Market Edmondson Village to young families

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Red Line on Edmondson Ave. - Light Rail Transit Line  
Poor walkability for children and seniors  
Dangerous intersection at Edmondson and Lyndhurst  
Add parking at Edgewood Lyndhurst Rec Center  
Have Lyndhurst ES 5th graders conduct walkability tours

### **PUBLIC SAFETY/NUISANCES**

Litter - junk food packaging  
Perception of crime  
Targeted sanitation enforcement  
More trash cans

### **HOUSING**

Home Ownership (well-kept houses)  
Absentee landlords & loss of owner occupants  
Blighted vacant houses and overgrown weeds  
Engage Healthy Neighborhoods  
Provide resources for home owners (e.g. Facade Improvement Grants)  
Senior Repairs Program  
Establish 501 C-3/501 C-4 or Land Trust to purchase vacant housing  
Help renters transition to homeownership

### **RECREATION & OPEN SPACE**

Athletic fields in parks  
Edgewood Lyndhurst Rec Center is not well linked to the community  
Rec Center programs do not attract users  
No safe place to ride dirt bikes  
Engage youth, especially ages 11 to 18, in uniformed, organized and supervised sports  
Additional Programs at Rec Center based on survey of residents preferences  
Create motorbike course to deter use of Edmondson Avenue

### **COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Giant Grocery Stores  
Poor appearance and mix of stores at Edmondson Village Shopping Center  
Edmondson Village Corner Stores  
Revitalization of Edmondson Village Shopping Center  
Farmers Market in the area  
Target improvements at corner stores  
Red Line Business Sustainment

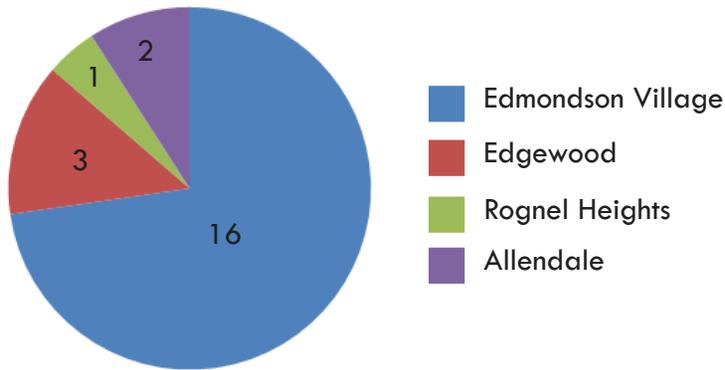


# COMMUNITY

In our conversations with residents and throughout the survey responses, community members consistently expressed the desire for more positive activities and safe spaces for youth. They were adamant about the need to have afterschool activities such as youth sports leagues and tutoring in order to reinforce and supplement kids' education and development occurring at school.

Lyndhurst Elementary is surrounded by strong neighborhoods with families who have owned their homes for multiple generations. The social networks of these neighborhoods make them special. Residents frequently shared their appreciation for how their neighbors look out for one another and keep the neighborhood clean and safe.

Where survey respondents live:



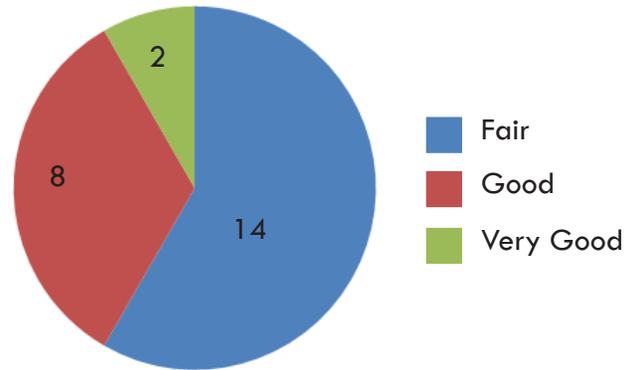
“Add more activities for the kids after school.”

- 1) More after school program
- 2) More summer programs
- 3) More things for our children to do all year round”

“We have nice neighbors. We all get along and look out for each other.”

“Family. Most of my neighbors homes were passed down from generations. Grandparents, great grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles, cousins occupy most of the homes. Everyone knows everyone else.”

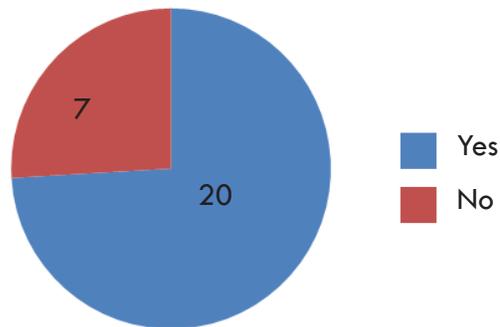
How would you rate your neighborhood as a place to raise children?



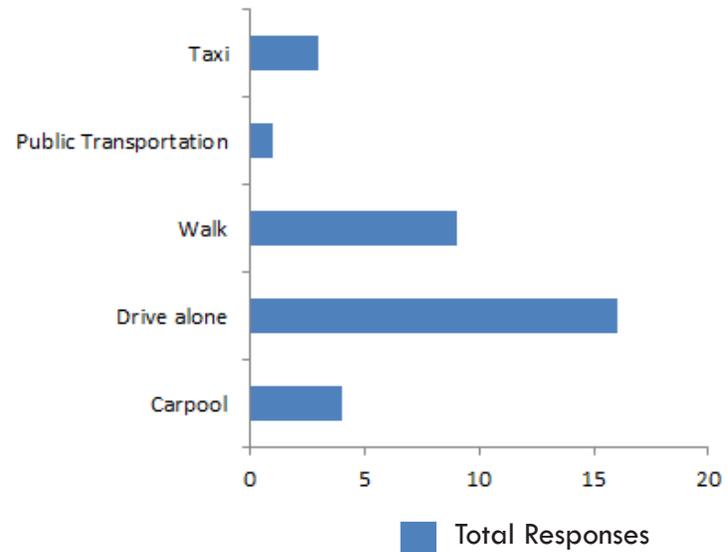
# TRANSPORTATION

Out of the residents we surveyed, there was a low percentage of people who used public transportation and a high percentage of people who used a personal or household vehicle as primary means of transportation.

## Does your household own a vehicle?



## How do you get around? (For work, school, social activities, worship, etc)



# TRANSPORTATION cont'd



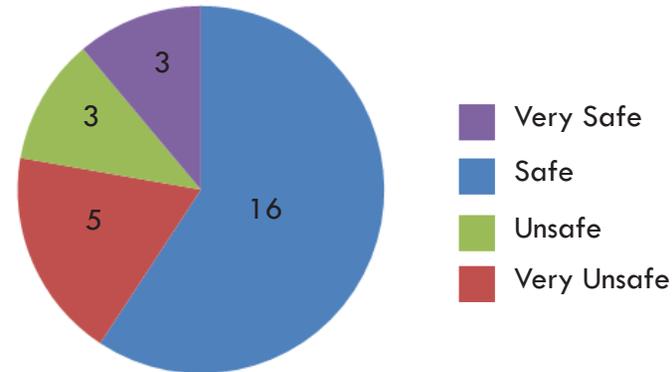
This map shows school routes taken by 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders of Lyndhurst Elementary and Rognel Heights Elementary Schools. Some of the major routes are on Walnut Avenue, Wicklow Road, Gelston Drive, Wildwood Parkway and Edmondson Avenue.



## SAFETY

Throughout the engagement phase, residents of the Lyndhurst Elementary area characterized their home neighborhood as safe. The majority of survey respondents noted that they felt safe while walking around in their neighborhood. However, for those who mentioned safety as a neighborhood issue, the major concern was young people loitering and engaging in inappropriate behavior. Residents felt that more activities and opportunities in the area for young people would help dissuade and prevent youth, especially, young men from drugs and fighting.

How safe do you feel walking around in your neighborhood?



“Feeling unsafe lately due to the large group of teenagers loitering around on corners.”

“In my street - all of the surrounding area - there is a lot of activity and crime and young persons who are sometimes very disorderly. They fight.”

“Younger people hang out at corners of Harlem, Edgewood, and Dennison Streets.”

“I feel that we need to feel safe on our street by getting jobs for young men, training, school and education.”



## RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

Between the two student workshops we held with 3rd - 5th graders, one at Lyndhurst Elementary School and Rognel Heights Elementary School, a common theme in the answers to questions had to do with recreation and open space. Of the 37 students who completed our worksheet, over 50% stated that some type of play space is their favorite place in the neighborhood.

The results from the parent and resident surveys echoed many of the sentiments of the student responses regarding recreation and open space.

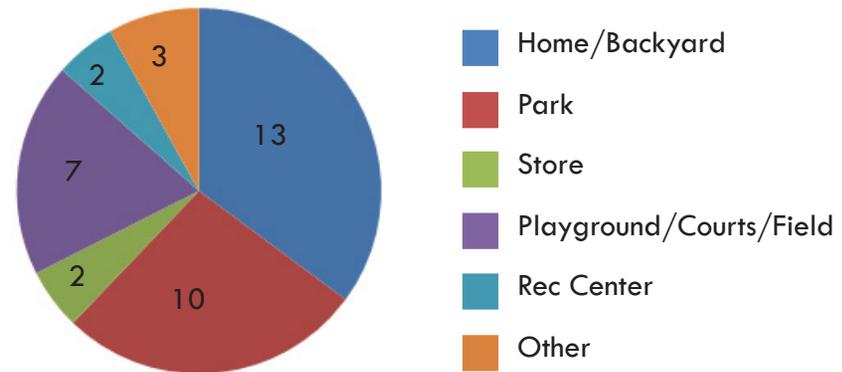
“Having access to participate in the rec activities for low income students too in the summer”

“I would like to see more things for our seniors and young persons in this area”

“More places for the kids to play, like a rec, etc.”

“Activities that children want to participate in

Students' favorite place in the neighborhood:



If students could add one more thing to their neighborhood it would be:

