

# HEALTHI KIDS CASE REPORT

ROCHESTER, NY

Evaluation of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities National Program

December 2009 to December 2013



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## BACKGROUND

### Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities National Program

With the goal of preventing childhood obesity, the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities (HKHC) national program, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), provided grants to 49 community partnerships across the United States (Figure 1). Healthy eating and active living policy, system, and environmental changes were implemented to support healthier communities for children and families. The program placed special emphasis on reaching children at highest risk for obesity on the basis of race, ethnicity, income, or geographic location.<sup>1</sup>

Project Officers from the HKHC National Program Office assisted community partnerships in creating and implementing annual workplans organized by goals, tactics, activities, and benchmarks. Through site visits and monthly conference calls, community partnerships also received guidance on developing and maintaining local partnerships, conducting assessments, implementing strategies, and disseminating and sustaining their local initiatives. Additional opportunities supplemented the one-on-one guidance from Project Officers, including peer engagement through annual conferences and a program website, communications training and support, and specialized technical assistance (e.g., health law and policy).

For more about the national program and grantees, visit [www.healthykidshealthycommunities.org](http://www.healthykidshealthycommunities.org).

**Figure 1: Map of Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities Partnerships**



### Evaluation of Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities

Transtria LLC and Washington University Institute for Public Health received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to evaluate the HKHC national program. They tracked plans, processes, strategies, and results related to active living and healthy eating policy, system, and environmental changes as well as

influences associated with partnership and community capacity and broader social determinants of health. Reported “actions,” or steps taken by community partnerships to advance their goals, tactics, activities, or benchmarks from their workplans, formed community progress reports tracked through the HKHC Community Dashboard program website. This website included various functions, such as social networking, progress reporting, and tools and resources to maintain a steady flow of users over time and increase peer engagement across communities.

In addition to action reporting, evaluators collaborated with community partners to conduct individual and group interviews with partners and community representatives, environmental audits and direct observations in specific project areas (where applicable), and group model building sessions. Data from an online survey, photos, community annual reports, and existing surveillance systems (e.g., U.S. census) supplemented information collected alongside the community partnerships.

For more about the evaluation, visit [www.transtria.com/hkhc](http://www.transtria.com/hkhc).

### Healthi Kids

In December 2009, the Healthi Kids partnership received a four-year, \$360,000 grant as part of the HKHC national program. The partnership focused on increasing access to safe parks and play spaces within five target neighborhoods and access to healthy food throughout Rochester and Monroe County.

The Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency was the lead agency for the Healthi Kids partnership. The partnership and capacity building strategies of partnership included:

- ***Neighborhood Playability Plans:*** To increase access to safe places to play in target neighborhoods, Healthi Kids utilized a community engagement process to assess, recruit and mobilize residents, plan, and implement policy and environmental changes. The Playability Plans centered around commonly identified barriers (e.g., traffic control, safety, equipment, facilities, litter). Neighborhood residents and organizations partnered with the Rochester City School District, Rochester Bureau of Planning and Zoning, and Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth Services to advocate for the desired changes.
- ***Crime Prevention through Environmental Design:*** Perceived and actual crime was a common theme voiced by residents throughout the playability planning process. To equip and mobilize residents, Healthi Kids created neighborhood teams (i.e., Project HOPE, Jefferson Ave, Beechwood, and Project COACH) to participate in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) training. As part of the two-part training, participants created policy and environmental plans similar to the playability plans.

See Appendix A: Healthi Kids Evaluation Logic Model and Appendix B: Partnership and Community Capacity Survey Results for additional information.

Along with partnership and capacity building strategies, the Healthi Kids partnership incorporated assessment and community engagement activities to support the partnership and the healthy eating and active living strategies. The healthy eating and active living strategies of Healthi Kids included:

- ***Parks and Play Spaces:*** Healthi Kids partnered with Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth Services, Rochester City School District, neighborhood organizations, and community residents to implement policy, practice, and environmental changes at parks and play spaces. New and modified play spaces were created as a result of the neighborhood playability plans.
- ***Active Transportation:*** Healthi Kids partnered with Rochester Planning Department to implement policy and environmental changes for the City of Rochester and in target neighborhoods. Several policies were adopted and amended to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety as well as support safe play in high-traffic neighborhoods.
- ***Access to Healthy Food:*** The partnership worked to increase access to healthy food with corner stores and child care nutrition strategies. Advocacy campaigns were conducted for policy change at the city and county levels. Healthi Kids was successful in influencing and advocating for corner store zoning changes. Advocacy for a mandated policy for participation in the Federal Child and Adult Care Food Program enrollment is ongoing.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

Rochester, New York (pop. 210,565) is located along the shores of Lake Ontario in upstate New York. Like other Great Lake cities, declines in manufacturing across the region has resulted in job loss and rising rates of poverty in the city. A region around the declining city center, known as the Crescent neighborhoods, is marked by poverty, high violent crime rates, and trash-strewn, abandoned housing and vacant lots. Recognizing the struggles of the Crescent neighborhoods, the City of Rochester created a Focused Investment Strategy to target four neighborhoods: Marketview Heights, Dewey-Driving Park, Beechwood, and Jefferson Avenue. The Focused Investment Strategy worked to improve neighborhoods in a short timeframe utilizing Community Development Block Grants and related funding. Initially, Healthi Kids targeted these neighborhoods, but expanded to include the Project HOPE and Bridges to Wellness neighborhoods after minimal response and engagement from the Marketview Heights neighborhood (Table 1). The Project HOPE and Bridges to Wellness neighborhoods are both located in the northeast quadrant of Rochester. The Project HOPE neighborhood has the largest population of Latinos in the city.

INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

Neighborhood Safety

Many Rochester children play in the street but community members perceive playing in the street as inappropriate behavior and so report it to the police. In the past, the police department confiscated basketball hoops from kids playing in the street. The partnership sought to generate support for parks and play spaces (e.g., vacant lots, street play) using community engagement initiatives. Crime and safety were cited frequently by all neighborhoods as barriers to being active in the neighborhoods. Rochester Police stated that perceptions of crime and the actual crime rates in neighborhoods are not always equivalent. In addition to perception of crime, residents also noted traffic and proximity to illicit behavior as barriers.

- Project HOPE: The corner Conkey Corner Park and Clifford Avenues is a historically crime-ridden area. Parents are scared to let their children use the park. According to a community partner, the area around the park has been an active drug hub for over 45 years. Treyer Street is a long, narrow street within the Project HOPE neighborhood that has many vacant homes and lots. Children play in the street and vacant

Figure 2: Map of Rochester, New York<sup>9</sup>

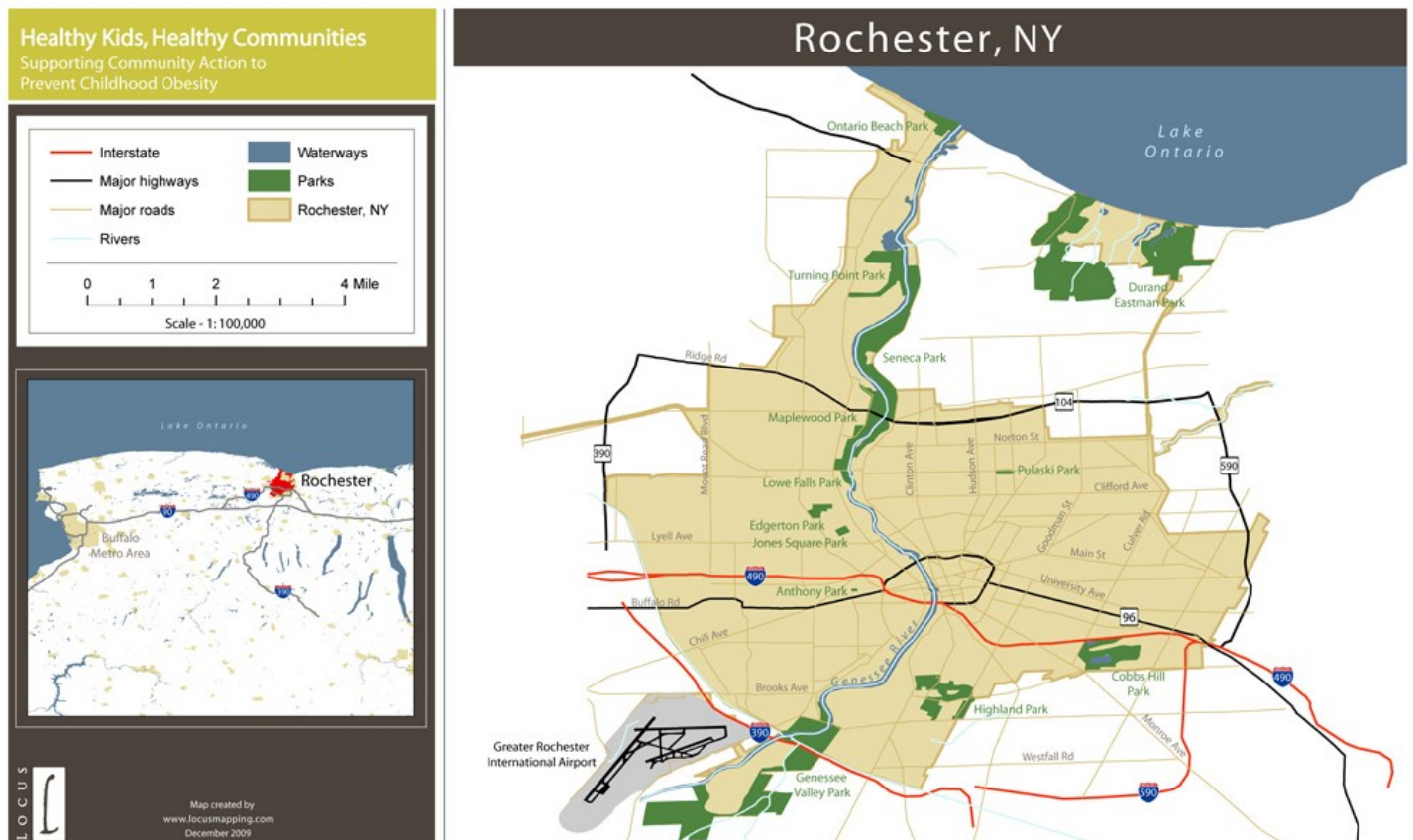


Table 1: Rochester, New York Demographics

	Population	African American	Hispanic / Latino	White	Poverty rate	Per capita income	Median household income
Rochester <sup>3,3</sup>	210,565	41.7%	16.4%	43.7%	31.1%	\$18,267	\$30,367
Crescent Neighborhoods <sup>4</sup>	27,831	51%	26.3%	17.4%	43.2%		\$17,692
Dewey-Driving Park and Marketview Heights (Census Tract 22) <sup>3,5,6</sup>	3,014	50.1%	9.5%	21.6%	38.9%	\$12,636	\$28,288
Beechwood (Census Tract 57 & 58) <sup>3,7</sup>	5,208	59.9%	11.9%	28.5%	34.6%	\$15,524	\$17,948
Jefferson Avenue (Census Tract 27) <sup>3,8</sup>	1,227	91.8%	2.1%	4.5%	41%	\$13,590	\$23,679

lots and are regularly exposed to drug and sex paraphernalia.

- Jefferson Avenue: One neighborhood elementary school, School #4, is situated along a struggling commercial strip. The park around School #4, Jefferson Terrace Park, was considered unsafe and underutilized prior to Healthi Kids involvement. A known drug trafficking location, Rochester City School District did not maintain the play space.
- Dewey-Driving Park: The Dewey-Driving Park neighborhood has a large refugee population, including Burmese, Nepalese, and Somali residents. Because the neighborhood has a high percentage of refugees, there are not as many families with long-standing ties to the neighborhood. Partnership staff believe this influences the attitude toward improving the neighborhood. Neighborhood residents report the presence of drug activity in the neighborhood, often in the places where children commonly play. The drug activity occurs in areas not easily visible. One neighborhood elementary school, School #7, has a playground owned by the school district, but the City of Rochester also has some jurisdiction over the space which makes it more complicated to alter or improve.
- Beechwood: Prior to Healthi Kids involvement, there was a lot of drug dealing and loitering in the neighborhood. When the Playability Plan was put into action, the partners told those who were loitering that the police would be called if they were seen engaging in illegal activity.

### Parks and Play Space

Due to liability and maintenance concerns, the City of Rochester requested neighborhood organizations take responsibility for liability and maintenance for requested renovations to parks and play spaces. Residents were frustrated with the perceived assumption by the city that new spaces would be used for illegal behavior. Residents were also frustrated with the request for organizations to assume maintenance responsibilities because the city was already maintaining the lots.

### HEATHI KIDS PARTNERSHIP

#### Lead Agency and Leadership Teams

The Healthi Kids partnership was formed in 2008 with funding from The Greater Rochester Health Foundation. As part of its strategic commitment to Rochester, Greater Rochester Health Foundation provided support and funding to address childhood obesity. Prompted by a request for proposals focused on childhood obesity, the eventual Healthi Kids Policy Team put together a successful policy and advocacy-based proposal. The funding officially established the partnership and allowed Finger Lakes Health Systems to hire community engagement leadership staff.



The lead agency for Healthi Kids was Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency. Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency had been established in Rochester for over 30 years and was responsible for facilitating childhood obesity efforts in Rochester and the surrounding region. The Healthi Kids partnership worked to build connections within the community and affect policy change to decrease the prevalence of overweight and obese children. Healthi Kids was split into two teams: Breastfeeding Action Team and Healthi Kids Policy Team. All HKHC work was conducted as part of the Healthi Kids Policy Team.

The Healthi Kids Policy Team was originally comprised of over 27 members that included pediatricians, community leaders, and local organizations. The founding members reviewed policies that had local impact and set the original partnership agenda. Healthi Kids worked to impact childhood obesity by focusing on neighborhood health improvements, which included addressing access to healthy eating and active living in target neighborhoods and active transportation policies (see Appendix C for a list of all partners). The partnership created work teams to guide its strategies:

- Policy: a team focused on policy efforts, including universal child care participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- Play-Built Environment Strategy Team (Play-BEST): a team focused on Playability Plans and joint use. Originally the Community Play Action Team, the Healthi Kids work team merged with the adult obesity coalition Healthy Rochester's Community Safety and Built Environment Action team to create a cohesive team effort around the built environment. There were approximately 40 partners on the team including transportation employees, engineers, planners, police officers, and community organizers for residents and block clubs.
- School Action: a team focused on policy and environmental efforts in the school setting (i.e., Rochester's School Modernization Plan).

In addition, throughout the project, various taskforces and work groups were formed to address specific strategies (e.g., Injury Prevention Task Force, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Leadership Team, Long Range Transportation Plan Work Group).

There were three Project Directors for Healthi Kids over the funding period. The original Project Director led the Healthi Kids Policy Team and the Play-BEST Team and, at the start of HKHC funds, was the only full-time staff dedicated to the partnership and policy change agenda. As more staff was added to the partnership, the Project Director transitioned to a leadership and work team management role rather than specific strategy work. Partners noted that the original and subsequent Project Directors were valuable to community engagement efforts because they made residents feel as though the partnership was working with them rather than for them. Moving forward, the Project Director will continue to manage the Healthi Kids project and additional efforts around childhood obesity, healthy eating, and active living.

The Project Coordinator was staffed by one person over the funding period. The Project Coordinator was supported by HKHC funds and her position ended with the ended of the HKHC project. The partnership also supported additional staff to provide strategic leadership and organizational assistance for the project, including communications, scheduling, and maintaining volunteer relationships.



## Organization and Collaboration

Partnership staff noted that Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency as the lead agency for Healthi Kids was key to the success of the partnership because of its history of collaboration and the ability to creatively match goals and partners to achieve success. The lead agency and partnership staff were able to successfully relate the end goals to the immediate work needed from community members and partners.

The partnership maintained flexibility with its workplan and made adjustments based on assessment and shifting strategies to achieve its goals.

### Key Partners

- Rochester Parks and Recreation: Parks and Recreation played a key role in the partnership's strategy to increase access to physical activity including the planning and implementation of the neighborhood Playability Plans and complementary programs/promotions (e.g., Rec on the Move, Play Day).
- Rochester Police Department: Realizing the importance of a strong working relationship with the police department, the partnership reached out to the Rochester Police Department to open the lines of communication. An officer was designated to work directly with partnership staff. This allowed the partnership to have direct communication about the issues and challenges noted by community residents.
- City of Rochester: The City of Rochester's Transportation Specialist was a key champion for the Healthi Kids partnership and its active transportation strategy. The Transportation Specialist played a key role in the planning and adoption of the Complete Streets Policy and Bicycle Master Plan.
- Greater Rochester Health Foundation: Leading the efforts for addressing childhood obesity, the Greater Rochester Health Foundation supported the lead agency and Neighborhood Health Status Improvement projects (e.g. Project HOPE, Bridges to Wellness).
  - Project HOPE: Managed by the Ibero-American Development Corporation and funded by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, Project Healthy Outcomes through Participation, Education, and Empowerment (Project HOPE) was a grassroots neighborhood health improvement project for the North Clinton Avenue neighborhood. Healthi Kids and Project HOPE partnered to address playability in the Project Hope neighborhood.
- School #4 Parent Teacher Organization (PTO): Located in the Jefferson Avenue neighborhood, School #4's PTO was a key partner in the Jefferson Avenue Playability Plan. PTO members formed additional partnerships with local businesses to fund portions of their plan. The PTO helped to engage community residents and school staff to further impact the neighborhood.

## Sustainability

During the final year of funding, the overarching Healthi Kids partnership conducted a strategic planning process with Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency leadership staff. As a result of the planning process, new goals were set for the partnership. Moving forward, Healthi Kids will focus on better school food, safer play areas, food standards at child care centers, in-school physical activity, and policies that support breastfeeding.<sup>10</sup>

### PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

As part of HKHC, grantees were expected to secure a cash and/or in-kind match to equal at least 50% of the RWJF funds over the entire grant period. In addition to the matching funds, the partnership was successful in leveraging additional funds and was a key partner on area organizations' funded grant proposals.

Healthi Kids received a grant from New York State Department of Health to expand its efforts around children's access to healthy food and places to be active. Funded from the Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work, and Play program, the grant allowed Healthi Kids to add staff and resources to focus on school and corner store initiatives.

The Center for Community Health and Monroe County Department of Public Health, in partnership with Healthi Kids and many area organizations, received a Community Transformation Grant. The project, entitled Health Engagement for Action in Rochester's Transformation (HEART) focused on four strategies: active living and healthy eating; healthy and safe physical environments; healthy worksites, schools and communities; and clinical and community-based preventive services. Healthi Kids' efforts and priorities guided the direction of the HEART program, including Crime Prevention through Environmental Design training for city staff and residents to improve park safety, Coordinated School Health Plans, and the creation of a Food Hub to increase access to healthy food.

The Ibero Development Corporation, in collaboration with Healthi Kids, received funding from RWJF Roadmaps to Health program for the Rochester Drug Free Streets Initiative. The initiative focused on restorative justice with young offenders to eliminate drug activity and to allow residents to regain control of their neighborhoods. The initiative targeted the Clifford Avenue and Conkey area.

For additional funding information, see Appendix D: Sources and Amounts of Funding Leveraged.

## COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

In 2011, Healthi Kids conducted a collaboration assessment of the Healthi Kids Policy Team and Action Teams utilizing the Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory tool. Eighty-five percent of Policy and Action Team members participated in the inventory.

### Parks and Play Spaces

The partnership conducted assessments to inform parks and play spaces and school wellness efforts.

#### Joint Use

- A survey was conducted of Rochester City School District playgrounds to determine community access opportunities. The survey found seven schools that were not accessible to the public after hours.
- A focus group was conducted with Rochester City School District staff, City of Rochester Parks and Recreation staff, and community residents to determine barriers to after-hours playground access. Participants indicated safety and lack of adult supervision as the main barriers.

#### Neighborhood Playability

- Healthi Kids hosted neighborhood listening tours to seek input and feedback from residents. As part of the tour, residents were surveyed to identify locations where children currently played and where children could play if changes were made to the environment. The tours were conducted in Beechwood, Jefferson Avenue, Marketview Heights, Dewey/Driving Park, and Project HOPE. The Bridges to Wellness neighborhood was assessed after the Marketview Heights neighborhood declined to create a playability plan.
- The City of Rochester Planning Department created Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps that incorporated density of young children with resident identified locations for play in the target neighborhoods (Beechwood, Jefferson Avenue, Bridges to Wellness, Dewey/Driving Park, Project HOPE).
- Direct observations were conducted at 25 parks and play spaces using the BRAT-Direct Observation (BRAT-DO) tool. The results of the direct observations were shared with the residents leaders' in each target neighborhood to initiate the community engagement and mobilization Playability Plan initiative.
- Environmental audits were conducted at 25 parks and play spaces in the target neighborhoods. Fifteen of the spaces had outdoor playground features. Of the playground features available, 82% were in average/good condition. Seventeen of the play spaces did not have sports or recreation features. In the eight play spaces with sports or recreation features, there were 19 fields/courts, 8 exercise stations or trails/tracks, and 3 water features. All 30 sports and recreation features were listed in average/good condition. All of the play spaces had green spaces, with the majority in average/good condition (See Appendix E: Healthi Kids Parks and Play Spaces Environmental Audit).
- A playability assessment was conducted by a Healthi Kids partner, Fathers of Four, to identify challenges and gaps at the School #4/Jefferson Terrace Park play space. The assessment found that the space was owned by the City of Rochester and prompted the city to incorporate the playground into the its maintenance and improvement schedule.

### Child Care Nutrition Standards

In collaboration with the Early Childhood Development Initiative and the Monroe County Department of Human Services, Healthi Kids piloted a child care initiative to increase voluntary participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The pilot initiative was not successful in enrolling a substantial number of child care centers into the program and prompted the partnership to instead seek a universal, mandated CACFP policy to increase access to healthy food for children in child care centers. The partnership conducted a survey to gather input from home-based non-CACFP participating child care providers regarding their knowledge and attitudes of CACFP and a county requirement to participate in CACFP in order to receive child care subsidy funding. Survey results from 21 participating centers indicated support for a universal CACFP policy.

PLANNING AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Community Engagement

Healthi Kids empowered residents and neighborhood associations to take ownership of their neighborhoods by creating and implementing Playability Plans and subsequent Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) training and plans.

Neighborhood Playability Plans

To increase access to safe places to play in target neighborhoods, Healthi Kids utilized a community engagement process to assess, recruit and mobilize residents, plan, and implement policy and environmental changes. This strategy relied on community engagement to not only identify barriers to active living in the targeted neighborhoods, but to also identify solutions, and implement changes in the neighborhoods.

Key neighborhood residents facilitated meetings to share the results of the listening tours and direct observations with neighborhood residents and organizations. Participants then collaborated to develop a prioritized list of desired changes to improve access to safe play. Healthi Kids and City of Rochester staff created neighborhood-specific Playability Plans based on the resident’s input. Once approved by neighborhood residents, the Playability Plans were published and utilized as engagement and advocacy tools by the neighborhoods. The distribution of the plans prompted additional residents and community partners to engage in the planning and implementation process. The Playability Plans were continually enhanced and modified as communities accomplished goals or identified different areas of interest (see Figures 3 and 4).

The Playability Plans centered around commonly identified barriers (e.g., traffic control, safety, equipment, facilities, litter). Neighborhood residents and organizations partnered with the Rochester City School District, Rochester Bureau of Planning and Zoning, and Rochester Development of Recreation and Youth Services to advocate for the desired changes.

Figure 3: Playability Plan, Pages 1 and 4



Although the planning process was similar for each neighborhood, mobilization and implementation varied across the neighborhoods. Some had little movement after the completion of their plan and some implemented changes well beyond the original plan.

- **Project HOPE:** The Ibero-American Action League Corporation’s Project HOPE project was instrumental in the success of the Project HOPE Playability Plan. Project HOPE’s mission was to empower, encourage participation, and educate residents on community health and personal wealth improvement. The ability to utilize a project with long-standing presence in the neighborhood allowed the neighborhood to accomplish the majority of its plan.
- **Jefferson Avenue:** The efforts of School #4 administration and staff, PTO, and parents were instrumental in the success of the Jefferson Avenue Playability Plan. The neighborhood joined together to focus on the park adjacent to School #4, Jefferson Terrace Park. Participants took ownership in their vision for the Jefferson Avenue neighborhood and were able to implement numerous environmental changes.
- **Dewey-Driving Park:** The Dewey/Driving Park neighborhood struggled to gain momentum around the Playability Plan due to changes in PTO and school administration. Community engagement was limited in the neighborhood, and the loss of a community champion limited the implementation of the plan. The neighborhood had hoped to make changes to play spaces around School #7.
- **Beechwood:** Healthi Kids partnered with Northeast Area Development and the City of Rochester Neighborhood Service Center to focus efforts on improving a play space on Stuntz Street. Although they were unable to make the desired changes on Stuntz Street, residents were able to make positive changes in the neighborhood. These positive steps encouraged the residents to continue working toward changes for the Stuntz Street play space.
- **Bridges to Wellness:** Funded by the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, the Bridges to Wellness community initiative was a key partner to the success of the Bridges to Wellness Playability Plan.

Figure 4: Playability Plan, Pages 2 and 3

**All kids need to play to stay healthy — an hour a day or more of active play is best.**

Most adults remember a childhood filled with outdoor play in their neighborhood. But today, many neighborhoods are not “play friendly.” As a result, too many of our children are inactive. Inactivity can lead to obese or overweight children, putting them at an increased risk for diabetes, heart disease, or stroke. Working together, we can reverse this trend.

*Imagine a playable neighborhood.* That’s just what the Healthi Kids Coalition did with residents of the Project HOPE neighborhood. Here’s how we developed our Playability Plan:

**Identified and analyzed play spaces in the neighborhood.**

We asked residents two (2) questions:

1. Where do children play?
2. Where could children play if we made changes?

From this, we made a list of 8 play spaces (see map on back), including playgrounds, parks, and schoolyards, as well as empty lots and street spaces where kids play.

We assessed all 8 spaces, looking for the good, the bad, and the ugly. We looked for what *could* be great play spaces with some improvements.

**Key Findings: Project HOPE Neighborhood Play Space Appearance/Condition**

- 63% of play spaces are in ‘average’ to ‘poor’ condition.
- 38% of play spaces are ‘somewhat unattractive.’
- More than half of the neighborhood play spaces were littered.
- 88% of those surveyed want to see better facilities available for the neighborhood kids to play.


**Gathered input about play in the neighborhood.**

We spoke with neighborhood families with children ages 2-10. Families told us where their children play, how comfortable they feel about this, and what changes they would like to see. Citywide, we found:

- More than half felt uncomfortable letting their children play outside in the neighborhood. Key reasons were violence, bullies, traffic, and drugs.
- Most families said their children play in their yard. Parks, playgrounds, and/or recreation centers were mentioned by nearly half.
- Families would like to make more use of parks and recreation centers if they felt comfortable with supervision.
- Many areas for improvement were mentioned including:
  - **Traffic control**
  - **Safety**
  - **Equipment**
  - **Facilities**
  - **Cleanup of litter**

**60% of families surveyed say that lack of safe places to play is a serious problem.**

(Greater Rochester Health Foundation 5-2-1-0 Market Research)



**A plan for change.**

Working closely with Project HOPE and Flower, Lill, Radio, Treyer Street (F/L/R/T) Block Clubs, we made a list of changes that will create a more play-friendly neighborhood.

The Project HOPE Playability Team decided to focus on the area from Radio Street to Treyer St. for Phase One. After we improve this area, new areas and recommendations will be selected.

More than 20 residents voted on Phase One priorities to make this area fun and safe for children to play:

**Traffic Control**

- **Speed humps on Treyer St. between Roth St. and N. Clinton Ave.**
- **Speed humps on Flower St. between Lill St. and N. Clinton Ave.**
- **Speed humps on Lill St. between Clifford Ave. and Treyer St.**
- **Speed humps on Radio St. between Lill St. and N. Clinton Ave.**

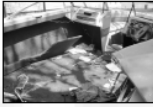



**Safety**

- **Replace damaged fencing at 15 and 29 Treyer St. (to keep people from cutting over to Treyer St. from Flower St.)**





**Equipment**

- **Project HOPE – Kids At Play signs at the corners of: Treyer St. and N. Clinton Ave.; Flower St. and N. Clinton Ave.; Radio St. and N. Clinton Ave.; and Lill St. and Clifford Ave.**
- **Trash Containers at the corners of Treyer St., Flower St., Radio St., and Lill St.**
- **The Trash Containers would be designed with art by the youth in the neighborhood**

**What is ...**

**What can be ...**

**We need your help.**

The next step is to take action to make the changes in our plan. Everyone in the Project HOPE area can help — kids, teens, parents, neighborhood residents, churches, schools, and business owners. Efforts will include meeting with City officials, petitions showing support for changes, being out and about in the neighborhood, and ensuring that improvements are made.

With help, we can transform play spaces around our neighborhood. Each person has a role to play in the changes. By working together, we can all ensure that our kids and their play areas are safe.

Source: Healthi Kids

## Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

Perceived and actual crime was a common theme voiced by residents throughout the playability planning process. To equip and mobilize residents, Healthi Kids created neighborhood teams (i.e., Project HOPE, Jefferson Ave, Beechwood, and Project COACH) to participate in Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) training. As part of the two-part training, participants created policy and environmental plans similar to the Playability Plans. The following are some of the CPTED projects created as a result of the training:



CPTED Training. Photo source: Healthi Kids

- **Project HOPE:** The Project HOPE CPTED team focused on safety and walkability along the El Camino Trail from Conkey Corner Park to the Avenue D Recreation Center. The group worked with local youth to design and decorate new trash cans, requested the installation of lighting, and installed a mural along the El Camino Trail. The group also partnered with the police to install loitering deterrents at neighborhood parks. There were plans to redesign and renovate a park adjacent to the trail.
- **Jefferson Avenue:** The Jefferson Avenue CPTED team focused on scheduling activities and making improvements along a historic trail in the By the Foot Street area. This trail had litter, drug and sex paraphernalia, and other unwanted activity. An artist, not affiliated with the partnership, painted a mural along the trail. The CPTED team had also been working to clean up a field near this trail.

## Planning and Advocacy

Healthi Kids played an active role in policy recommendations and supporting community advocacy for active transportation efforts (e.g., Complete Streets, Long-Range Transportation Plan), joint use, corner store zoning, and child care nutrition standards.

## Rochester School Modernization Program

Healthi Kids worked to increase community access to Rochester City School District's play spaces by establishing formal and informal joint use agreements. As part of this effort, the partnership utilized the Rochester Schools Modernization Program as a platform for community dialogue and advocacy. The City of Rochester and Rochester City School District partnered on a 15-year school modernization plan to make capital improvements to schools; improvements could include school kitchens, cafeterias, and playgrounds. Healthi Kids created a Modernization Plan Action Team comprised of more than 12 stakeholders from the community to provide input and guidance to the school district and city on neighborhood access to schools and to advocate for joint use. The action team identified School #17 to pilot a joint use agreement because of its strong community engagement and school support. Healthi Kids developed design principles, which included public access and use of schools. The design principles were utilized by parents and residents in the community as an advocacy tool for School #17's modernization plan.

Residents, parents, and school staff developed a school plan that included programs, community promotion, transportation, joint use, and security elements. The plan was approved in 2011, and included a first-floor gymnasium with community access and a community kitchen. Healthi Kids pursued additional joint use agreements as a result of School #17's success.

### Zoning

Healthi Kids supported advocacy efforts for the city's proposed corner store re-zoning policy. The partnership conducted neighborhood group meetings to inform residents of the proposed changes and developed an advocacy campaign in support of the changes. The campaign encouraged residents to communicate to decision makers the potential for improved neighborhood health and increased opportunities for physical activity that would result from zoning changes. Over 250 residents participated in the campaign.

### Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Due to limited success with the voluntary enrollment pilot, key child care stakeholders- Greater Rochester Health Foundation, Wegmans Food Markets, and Rochester Business Alliance- formed an advocacy team to guide the efforts around adopting a universal CACFP Policy for Monroe County. With community and stakeholder input on the benefits for children and child care providers and possible unintended consequences to home-based child care providers, the Healthi Kids Policy Team wrote and approved a universal CACFP policy recommendation for Monroe County. The recommended language included a waiver provision for any providers who would be harmed by participating in CACFP (e.g., income would make them ineligible for Child Health Plus insurance). The advocacy team created multiple reports and solicited organizational and governmental support for the policy. In 2011, the CACFP strategy was put on hold due to a County Executive running for U.S. Senate. The County Executive had previously been in support of the policy but was unwilling to move the issue forward in the midst of an election. The team reconvened in 2012 to advocate for the policy again, but Monroe County had yet to proceed with the policy recommendation. The partnership intends to continue advocating for a universal CACFP Policy. A universal CACFP Policy would reach 519 child care providers and 2,076 children in Monroe County.<sup>11</sup>

## PARKS AND PLAY SPACES

Healthi Kids partnered with Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth Services, Rochester City School District, neighborhood organizations, and community residents to support and implement policy, practice, and environmental changes at parks and play spaces. Several of these changes occurred because of the neighborhood Playability Plans.

### Policy, Practice, and Environmental Changes

Parks and Play Spaces policy, practice, and environmental changes included:

- A new City of Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth Services organizational practice was created to track ownership, maintenance, and improvement plans for parks and play spaces.
- Joint use agreements were established to unlock playgrounds for after hours community access at School #44, School #45, and School #17.



Conkey Corner Park. Photo source: Transtria

### Project HOPE

- A new playground and park amenities were installed at Conkey Corner Park in 2010.
- A fence was repaired along Treyer Street.

### Jefferson Avenue

- A new baseball field, picnic tables, benches, and playground repairs were implemented at School #4/ Jefferson Terrace Park. In addition, drug-free zone signage and a camera were installed near the playground.

### Bridges to Wellness

- New playground equipment and a walking route were installed at Pulaski Park.

## Complementary Programs/Promotions

### Rec on the Move

Healthi Kids partnered with Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth Services and Greater Rochester Health Foundation to create Rec on the Move, a mobile recreation vehicle program designed to increase youth access to recreation activities, equipment, and facilities in neighborhood parks and play spaces. The vehicles were created to get children outside to play in a safe and supervised environment. Beginning in the fall of 2010, Rec on the Move vehicles rotated weekly to neighborhoods and parks identified as spaces frequented by area children in the Healthi Kids listening tours. Rochester youth provided input on the equipment purchased by the program. The Rec on the Move van allowed residents to enjoy neighborhood parks that were underused because of safety



Rec on the Move. Photo source: Healthi Kids



concerns.

The original intent for the program and vehicle was to host Open Streets events, but logistically it was easier to use the van at parks and traditional play spaces rather than open streets. Due to the success of the Rec on the Move program, partners suggested expanding the program for Open Street events. To address Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth Services concerns about staff safety and resident pushback on the closing of the streets, Healthi Kids piloted the van at a Project HOPE Play Day to demonstrate the benefits of combining the programs.

### Play Day

Play Day events were held in target neighborhoods. The small-scale Open Streets events were organized by neighborhood residents and required the approval of 65% of residents. The events featured the Rec on the Move van, play equipment, live music, and food on one closed-to-traffic street. Healthi Kids hoped to create a toolkit for neighborhoods to host their own Play Days because of their popularity.

### Play Workers

Several neighborhoods created a Play Worker program to provide supervised and structured activities for children. Play Workers volunteered their time at city parks and play spaces as well as at area schools. At one area school, a men's group, called Fathers of Four was created. The school certified unemployed men as licensed custodians for the school district. After certification, the volunteers ensured the playground was safe at recess and on weekends.

### Clean Sweep Events

Healthi Kids helped coordinate Clean Sweep events to clean up neighborhood open spaces. Community volunteers focused on areas identified in the Playability Plans to continue advancing the community's efforts in improving problem areas.

## Implementation

### Joint Use

As a result of the joint use inventory, focus groups, and Rochester School Modernization Plan advocacy, three of the seven targeted schools unlocked school playgrounds for community access after school and on weekends. The remaining four schools (#25, #30, #43, and #54) did not open access to the community due to continued concerns over safety, lack of supervision, and the likelihood of damaged equipment.

### Project HOPE

Healthi Kids supported the installation of a new playground at Conkey Corner Park. The park and playground at the park were funded by the City of Rochester and Genesee Land Trust. Project HOPE members and community residents assisted with the clean-up and installation of amenities (e.g., trash containers, cameras) at the park. The installation of the playground and renovations to the park reclaimed the space that had been marked by crime. The park also served as a gateway to the El Camino Trail. The fence at 37-39 Treyer Street was repaired by a resident. The repaired fence prevented people from cutting through to buy drugs on Flower Street at a vacant lot with known drug and crime activity.

## Population Impact

School #4/Jefferson Terrace Park was reclaimed by the community and was frequently used by residents, parents, and children. Prior to the improvements, neighborhood residents drove to suburban parks rather than using the local park because of safety concerns.

## Sustainability

Each Playability Plan neighborhood conducted an evaluation of its plan. Participants in the initial planning process conducted the evaluation and were pleased to see the outcomes of their efforts. The original Playability Plans will continue to be implemented with technical assistance from Healthi Kids. The partnership will no longer staff playability planning for new neighborhoods but intends to create a toolkit to offer planning guidance and resources to communities interested in creating a plan.

## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Healthi Kids partnered with Rochester Planning Department to implement policy and environmental changes for the City of Rochester and in target neighborhoods. Several policies were adopted and amended to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety as well as support safe play in high traffic neighborhoods.

### Policy, Practice, and Environmental Changes

Active Transportation policy and environmental changes included:

- A Complete Streets Ordinance was adopted by Rochester City Council in 2011.
- A modified Speed Hump Eligibility Policy was adopted by Rochester City Council in 2011.
- A new City of Rochester organizational practice was implemented to streamline and expedite the application for speed humps.
- A Bicycle Master Plan was adopted by Rochester City Council in 2011.
- A new City of Rochester BoulevArt program was established in 2012 to offer additional traffic calming options to Rochester streets.
- A new Long-Range Transportation Plan for the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region 2035 was adopted by the Genesee Transportation Council.

### Project HOPE

- A new multi-use pedestrian greenway, the El Camino Trail, was built along an old railroad track. The 2.25-mile greenway connected key destinations in the Project HOPE neighborhood (e.g. recreation centers, parks, business districts).
- “Do Not Enter” signage was installed at Treyer Street and North Clinton Avenue.
- A new stop sign was installed at the corner of Treyer and Lill Street.
- Hedges were removed to improve visibility of traffic signage.
- Signage, trash cans, and murals were added along the El Camino Trail and in front of the Avenue D Recreation Center.
- “Kids at Play” and street crossing signage was installed at Conkey Corner Park.

### Beechwood

- Traffic barriers were installed around the playground at School #33 to improve traffic safety.

### Bridges to Wellness

- A stop sign was replaced at the intersection of Wilson and North Street.

See Figure 5: Active Transportation Infographic for additional information.

## Implementation

### Complete Streets

After successfully advocating for the Rochester Bicycle Master Plan, the Healthi Kids Play-BEST team organized an advocacy campaign for a Complete Streets policy. The partnership hosted a workshop for residents and key stakeholders to provide information on the value of Complete Streets and changes that could be made to support more physical activity. Healthi Kids provided speaking points to residents who gave public testimony to City Council in support of Complete Streets. Playability Plan participants stated that a Complete Streets policy would improve active transportation and support better neighborhood play.

Rochester City Council unanimously approved the Complete Streets ordinance in 2011. The ordinance, now part of Rochester City Code, called for the city to take the interest of all street users, including bicyclists,

pedestrians, transit users, the disabled, and drivers into account when planning, designing, maintaining, and constructing projects. The ordinance allowed for the widening of streets in cases of redevelopment only when it improved conditions for those on the road without negatively impacting pedestrians. The ordinance did not impact residential streets or new development areas. As part of the policy, the City Engineer was required to present annually to City Council documenting compliance with the Complete Streets policy.

### Speed Hump Policy

Several Playability Plans identified traffic control as a barrier to and priority for safe places to play. To address traffic control, residents requested speed humps on problem streets. The combined requests across the neighborhoods totaled more than all previous requests to the city. Requests were repeatedly denied because they did not meet the speed hump policy's eligibility requirements. Healthi Kids, along with residents and organizations, successfully advocated for less restrictive eligibility requirements for street humps.

### Bicycle Master Plan

The Play Action Team advocated for the Rochester Bike Master Plan and influenced the criteria used to prioritize projects to include consideration for low-income riders. The Bike Master Plan was adopted by Rochester City Council in 2011. While developing the plan, partners and city staff realized the need for a Complete Streets policy to implement and enforce infrastructure changes.

### BoulevArt

Created as an alternative traffic calming measure, the BoulevART program was created in response to resident frustration over the speed hump eligibility requirements. BoulevART was a neighborhood beautification and traffic calming program and was available to areas not eligible for speed humps. After approval of a BoulevArt plan, the City of Rochester funded the first art installation. The city barricaded, cleaned, and painted the streets for approximately \$2,500 per street. Funds for labor and supplies were allocated from the traffic calming and operations budgets.

### Long-Range Transportation Plan

Healthi Kids provided testimony and input during the first round of public involvement on the Long Range Transportation Plan. The following were recommendations from the Healthi Kids Play-BEST team:

- Include a variety of professionals in debates or discussions on any major transportation policies and projects and transition the focus of transportation planning and resources to better align with community health needs and priorities to combat obesity and improve public safety.
- Improve accommodations for senior citizens so they can make better use of transportation.
- Increase routine and preventive maintenance of transportation routes within the plan for active transportation and increase the reliability and efficiency of public transportation.
- Incentivize active transportation on local levels to all age groups and introduce Complete Streets to cities, villages, and towns, and discuss benefits to community members.

As a result of prior input and the work of the Play Action Team, the Genesee Transportation Council considered impact on health and people as principles for transportation planning and plan development.

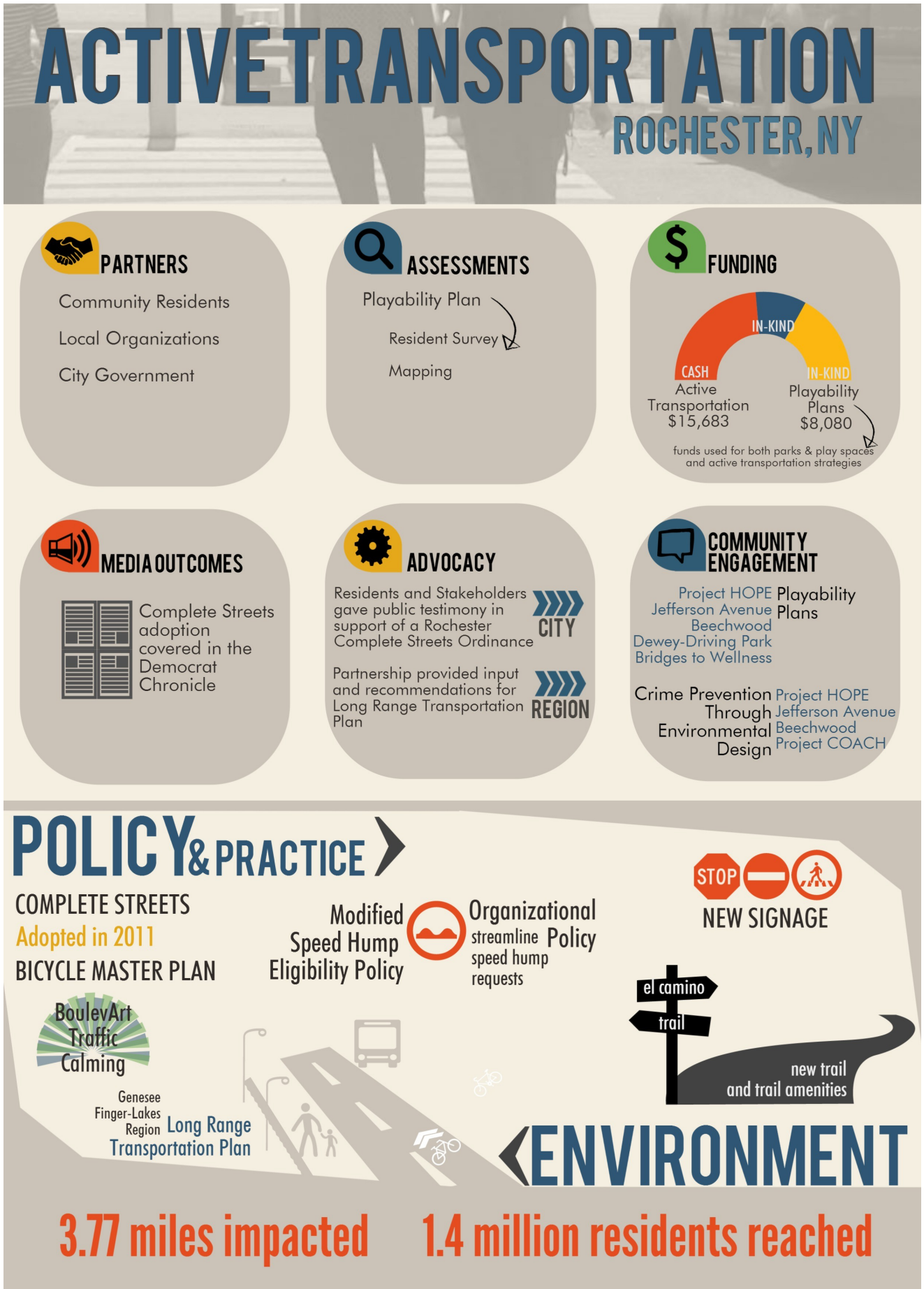
### El Camino Trail

Healthi Kids supported the planning and implementation of the El Camino Trail. The trail was funded by the City of Rochester, Federal Highway Administration, New York State Department of State, New York State Department of Transportation, and Eastman Kodak Company via the Nature Conservancy and Genesee Land Trust.<sup>12</sup>

### **Population Impact**

Since 2011, bicycle parking has been implemented throughout Rochester, and 45 miles of on-street bicycle facilities have been installed. The Complete Streets ordinance was utilized when a planner proposed unmarked six-foot-wide shoulders along an industrial street. The policy prevented the plan from moving forward until the plan was amended to use the shoulders as marked bike lanes.

Figure 5: Active Transportation Infographic



## CORNER STORES

The partnership worked to increase access to healthy food in corner stores with policy and environmental initiatives. Healthi Kids was successful in influencing and advocating for corner store zoning changes and increasing access to healthy food at a Rochester corner store.

### Policy, Practice, and Environmental Changes

Corner Stores policy and environmental changes included:

- An amended corner store zoning code for the City of Rochester was adopted in 2012.
- A corner store, Freedom Market, was remodeled and expanded to increase fresh food availability.

### Implementation

#### Zoning Code

The City of Rochester amended its corner store zoning code in an effort to increase its permitting and enforcement around high impact corner stores (e.g., stores that sell two of the following: lottery tickets, tobacco, and alcohol). The zoning code was amended in 2012. Healthi Kids advocated for amendments to the zoning code because social disorder (e.g., crime, graffiti, litter) influenced resident's perceptions of safety which then influenced physical activity and active transportation around the high impact corner stores. The amended code no longer permitted high impact stores to be built within residential or downtown commercially zoned areas. Existing stores were grandfathered in. As part of the changes, permitted businesses were asked to participate in a Good Neighbor Agreement which outlined the zoning code and emphasized the importance of adherence.

#### Freedom Market

Healthi Kids partnered with Northeast Area Development to pilot a healthy corner store at Freedom Market in the Beechwood neighborhood. Store owners removed tobacco advertisements and added fresh fruit and vegetables. Due to positive feedback and support, Northeast Area Development, in partnership with the City of Rochester, Greater Rochester Health Foundation, Farash Foundation, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Foodlink, and Healthi Kids, expanded and remodeled the store in 2013 to increase the availability of fresh food.

### Lessons Learned and Sustainability

The advocacy campaign improved the partnership's relationship with Rochester Southwest Neighborhood Service Center Administrators, who inspect and issue permits. Healthi Kids hopes to partner with stores that signed Good Neighbor Agreements to implement the agreements.



Freedom Market. Photo Source: Freedom Market Facebook<sup>13</sup>

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## APPENDIX A: HEALTHY KIDS EVALUATION LOGIC MODEL

In the first year of the grant, this evaluation logic model identified healthy eating and active living strategies with associated short-term, intermediate, and long-term community and system changes for a comprehensive evaluation to demonstrate the impact of the strategies to be implemented in the community. This model provided a basis for the evaluation team to collaborate with the Healthi Kids partnership to understand and prioritize opportunities for the evaluation. Because the logic model was created at the outset, it does not necessarily reflect the four years of activities implemented by the partnership (i.e., the workplans were revised on at least an annual basis).

The healthy eating and active living strategies of Healthi Kids partnership included:

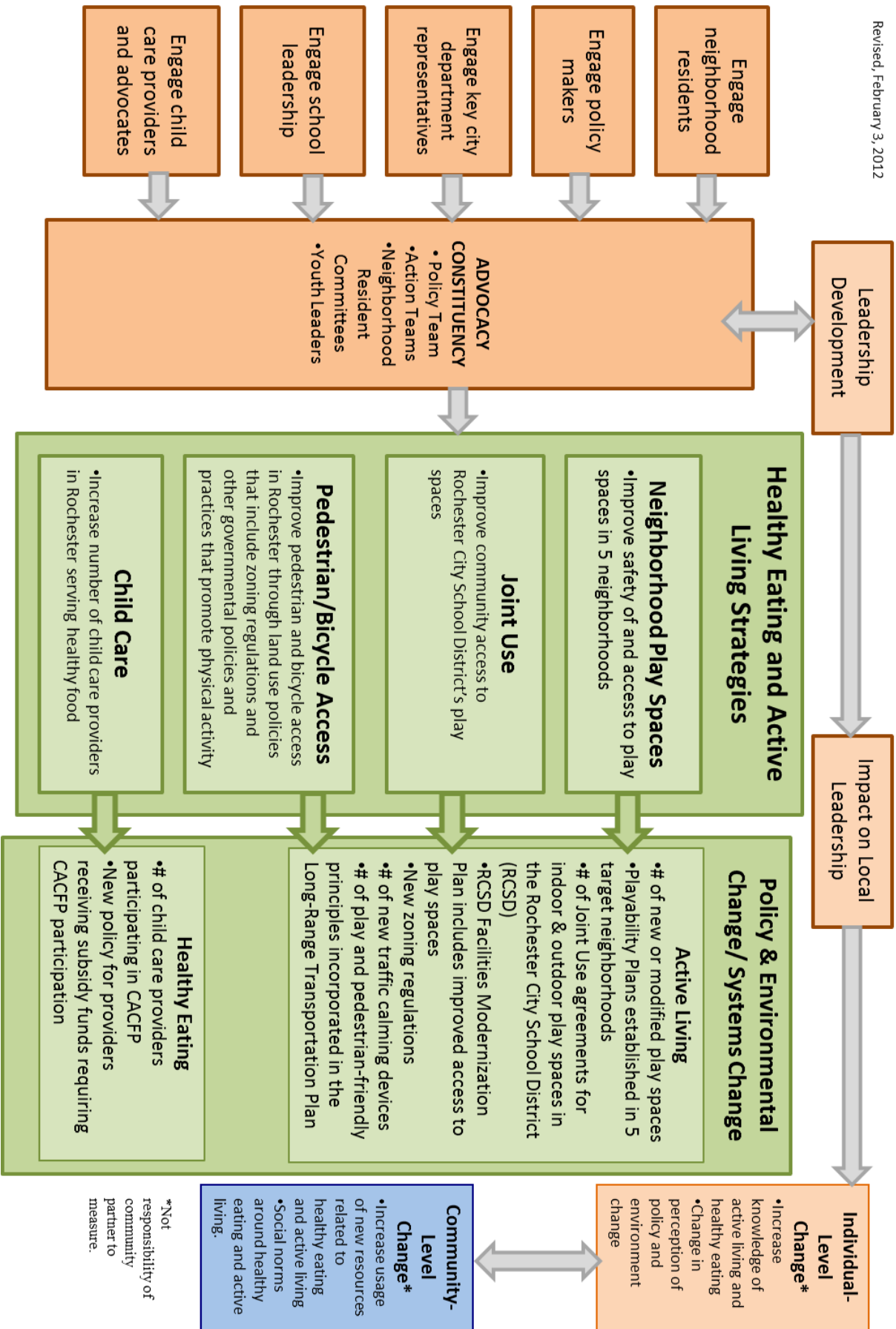
- *Parks and Play Spaces*: Healthi Kids partnered with Rochester Department of Recreation and Youth Services, Rochester City School District, neighborhood organizations, and community residents to implement policy, practice, and environmental changes at parks and play spaces. New and modified play spaces were created as a result of the neighborhood playability plans.
- *Active Transportation*: Healthi Kids partnered with Rochester Planning Department to implement policy and environmental changes for the City of Rochester and in target neighborhoods. Several policies were adopted and amended to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety as well as support safe play in high-traffic neighborhoods.
- *Access to Healthy Food*: The partnership worked to increase access to healthy food with corner stores and child care nutrition standard strategies. Advocacy campaigns were conducted for policy change at the city and county levels. Healthi Kids was successful in influencing and advocating for corner store zoning changes. Advocacy around child care nutrition standards is ongoing.

APPENDIX A: HEALTHY KIDS EVALUATION LOGIC MODEL, cont.

Rochester, NY HKHC Logic Model

Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency

Revised, February 3, 2012





## APPENDIX B: PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY SURVEY RESULTS

## Partnership and Community Capacity Survey

To enhance understanding of the capacity of each community partnership, an online survey was conducted with project staff and key partners involved with the Healthi Kids partnership during the final year of the grant. Partnership capacity involves the ability of communities to identify, mobilize, and address social and public health problems.<sup>1-3</sup>

*Methods*

Modeled after earlier work from the Prevention Research Centers and the Evaluation of Active Living by Design<sup>4</sup>, an 82-item partnership capacity survey solicited perspectives of the members of the Healthi Kids partnership on the structure and function of the partnership. The survey questions assisted evaluators in identifying characteristics of the partnership, its leadership, and its relationship to the broader community.

Questions addressed respondents' understanding of Healthi Kids in the following areas: structure and function of the partnership, leadership, partnership structure, relationship with partners, partner capacity, political influence of partnership, and perceptions of community members. Participants completed the survey online and rated each item using a 4-point Likert-type scale (strongly agree to strongly disagree). Responses were used to reflect partnership structure (e.g., new partners, committees) and function (e.g., processes for decision making, leadership in the community). The partnership survey topics included the following: the partnership's goals are clearly defined, partners have input into decisions made by the partnership, the leadership thinks it is important to involve the community, the partnership has access to enough space to conduct daily tasks, and the partnership faces opposition in the community it serves. The survey was open between September 2013 and December 2013 and was translated into Spanish to increase respondent participation in predominantly Hispanic/Latino communities.

To assess validity of the survey, evaluators used SPSS to perform factor analysis, using principal component analysis with Varimax with Kaiser Normalization (Eigenvalue >1). Evaluators identified 15 components or factors with a range of 1-11 items loading onto each factor, using a value of 0.4 as a minimum threshold for factor loadings for each latent construct (i.e., component or factor) in the rotated component matrix.

Survey data were imported into a database, where items were queried and grouped into the constructs identified through factor analysis. Responses to statements within each construct were summarized using weighted averages. Evaluators excluded sites with ten or fewer respondents from individual site analyses but included them in the final cross-site analysis.

*Findings*

## Structure and Function of the Partnership (n=5 items)

A total of 12 individuals responded from Healthi Kids partnership. Of the sample, 8 were female (67%) and 3 were male (25%). Respondents were between the ages of 18-25 (1, or 8%), 26-45 (2, or 17%), 46-65 (5, or 42%), or 66 and over (3, or 25%). Survey participants were also asked to provide information about race and ethnicity. Respondents identified with one or more from the following race and ethnicity categories: African American, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, White, Other race, Hispanic or Latino, Not Hispanic or Latino, Ethnicity unknown/unsure, or Refuse to provide information about race or ethnicity. Of the 14 responses, 36% were White, 21% were African American, and 43% were Hispanic or Latino. No other races or ethnicities were identified.

Respondents were asked to identify their role(s) in the partnership or community. Of the 13 identified roles, one was representative of the Community Partnership Lead (8%) and six were Community Partnership Partners (46%). Four respondents self-identified as a Community Leaders (31%), and two as Community Members (15%). Individuals participating in the survey also identified their organizational affiliation. Twenty-five percent of respondents (n=3) indicated affiliation to a university or health/evaluation organization, and an additional 25% (n=3) claimed affiliation to health care organizations. Two respondents (17%) self-identified with other types of organizations not listed as response options. The remaining four respondents affiliated to a faith- or community-based organization (1, or 8%), a neighborhood organization (1, or 8%), an advocacy organization (1, or 8%), and local government agency (city, county) (1, or 8%). No respondents associated to

**APPENDIX B: PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY SURVEY RESULTS, cont.**

schools/school district, or child care or after-school organizations.

**Leadership (n=8 items)**

All responses showed agreement or strong agreement (100% total) to statements suggesting that the partnership had an established group of core leaders who had the skills to help the partnership achieve its goals. Responses also indicated that participants in the survey felt the core leadership is organized and retains the skills to help the partnership and its initiatives succeed. All respondents strongly agreed or agreed (94%) that leaders worked to motivate others, worked with diverse groups, showed compassion, and strived to follow through on initiative promises. Most (75% agree/strongly agree) responses to the survey indicated that at least one member of the leadership team lived in the community, though 17% of respondents were not sure, and 8% disagreed. When asked if they agreed with statements suggesting that at least one member of the leadership team retained a respected role in the community, 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.

**Partnership Structure (n=24 items)**

Half of the respondents generally felt that the partnership adequately provided the necessary in-kind space, equipment and supplies for partners to conduct business and meetings related to partnership initiatives (50% agree/strongly agree). The other half of respondents (50%) felt unsure provision of space and equipment was sufficient. Most (61%) agreed that the partnership has processes in place for dealing with conflict, organizing meetings, and structuring goals, although 30% responded "I don't know", indicating a lack of familiarity in this area, and 6% felt these processes were not established. Partnership members (leadership and partners) were generally perceived by respondents to be involved in other communities and with various community groups, bridging the gaps between neighboring areas and helping communities work together (83% agree/strongly agree), though 6% did not know and 2% did not agree.

The majority (65%) of respondents indicated agreement with statements about the partnership's effectiveness in seeking learning opportunities, developing the partnership, and planning for sustainability; however, 13% of responses disagreed, and 13% were not aware of partnership activities specific to development and sustainability.

**Relationship with Partners (n=4 items)**

Eighty-three percent of responses to statements about leadership and partner relationships were positive (agree/strongly agree), indicating that the majority of respondents felt the partners and leadership trusted and worked to support each other.

**Partner Capacity (n=18 items)**

Most responses (84% agree/strongly agree) indicated that respondents felt partners possess the skills and abilities to communicate with diverse groups of people and engage decision makers (e.g., public officials, community leaders). However, only 64% of individuals responding to the survey felt that partners were dedicated to the initiative, interested in enhancing a sense of community, and motivated to create change, while 19% disagreed, and 6% were not sure.

**Political Influence of Partnership (n=2 items)**

In general respondents felt that the leadership is visible within the community, with 88% of responses supporting statements that the leadership is known by community members and works directly with public officials to promote partnership initiatives. Only four percent of respondents disagreed about the leadership's role with community members and public officials.

**Perceptions of Community and Community Members (n=22 items)**

Statements suggesting that the community was a good place to live, with community members who share the same goals and values, help each other, and are trustworthy were supported by 75% of survey responses, while 8% of respondents disagreed and 8% indicated a lack of knowledge about these community attributes. Respondents also strongly supported suggestions that community members help their neighbors, but may

**APPENDIX B: PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY SURVEY RESULTS, cont.**

take advantage of others if given the opportunity (85% agree/strongly agree). In contrast, respondents were less convinced that community members would intervene on behalf of another individual in their community in cases of disrespect, disruptive behavior, or harmful behavior. While 61% agreed or strongly agreed, 14% disagreed/strongly disagreed. Seventeen percent of responses indicated that some respondents did not know how community members would act in these situations.

Most survey participants (66%) felt community members were aware of the partnership's initiatives and activities, though 8% disagreed and 17% were not sure. The majority of respondents agreed (67%) that the partnership equally divides resources among different community groups in need (e.g., racial/ethnic minorities, lower-income). Seventeen percent were not sure.

Overall, respondents agreed or strongly agreed that partners and members of the community maintained active involvement in partnership decisions and activities (88%), and also agreed that partners and residents have the opportunity to function in leadership roles and participate in the group decision-making process (78%).

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## Partnership and Community Capacity Survey Respondent Summary

Community Partnership

**Rochester**

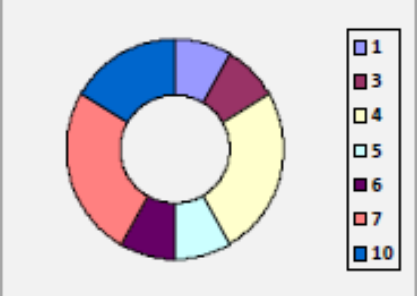
Respondents (n= 12 )

Respondent Characteristics

Gender		Identified Race/Ethnicity				Identified Role	
Female	8	American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	Hispanic or Latino	6	Community Partnership Lead	1
Male	3	Asian	0	Not Hispanic or Latino	0	Community Partnership Partner	6
No response	1	White	5	Don't know/ Unsure ethnicity	0	Community Leader	4
Age Range		African American/ Black Pacific Islander/ Native Hawaiian	3	Refused to identify ethnicity	0	Community Member	2
18-25	1		0	Other ethnicity	0	Public Official	0
26-45	2		0		0	Other role	0
46-65	5		0		0		0
66+	3		0		0		0
No response	1		0		0		0

Type of Affiliated Organization

Faith- or Community Based Organization	1	8.3%	(1)
School (district, elementary, middle, high)	0	0.0%	(2)
Local Government Agency (city, county)	1	8.3%	(3)
University or Research/Evaluation Organization	3	25.0%	(4)
Neighborhood Organization	1	8.3%	(5)
Advocacy Organization	1	8.3%	(6)
Health Care Organization	3	25.0%	(7)
Child Care or Afterschool Organization	0	0.0%	(8)
Other	2	16.7%	(10)
No response	0	0.0%	(999)



Partnership and Community Capacity Data

Provision of required space and equipment			
Participants provided level of agreement to statements indicating the community partnership provided adequate space, equipment, and supplies to conduct business and meetings.			
Strongly agree	13.89%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	36.11%	I don't know	50.00%
Disagree	0.00%	No response	0.00%
Partner skills and communication			
Participants provided level of agreement to statements supporting partner skills and ability to communicate with and engage multiple types of people (e.g., public officials, community leaders).			
Strongly agree	18.18%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	65.91%	I don't know	6.06%
Disagree	1.52%	No response	8.33%

APPENDIX B: PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY SURVEY RESULTS, cont.

Community Partnership

Community and community members			
Participants provided level of agreement to statements suggesting the communities are good places to live, and that community members are helpful, can be trusted, and share the same goals or values.			
Strongly agree	6.82%	Strongly disagree	1.52%
Agree	68.18%	I don't know	8.33%
Disagree	6.06%	No response	9.09%
Partner and community involvement			
Participants provided level of agreement to statements indicating partners and the community were actively involved in partnership activities, meetings, and decisions.			
Strongly agree	21.67%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	66.67%	I don't know	10.00%
Disagree	1.67%	No response	0.00%
Partner and partnership development			
Participants provided level of agreement to statements suggesting the partnership and its partners seek ways learn, develop, and enhance sustainability.			
Strongly agree	1.67%	Strongly disagree	3.33%
Agree	63.33%	I don't know	13.33%
Disagree	10.00%	No response	8.33%
Partnership structure, organization, and goals			
Participants provided level of agreement to statements suggesting partnership has processes in place related to structure, meeting organization, and goals.			
Strongly agree	18.06%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	43.06%	I don't know	30.56%
Disagree	5.56%	No response	2.78%
Relationship between partners and leadership			
Participants provided level of agreement to statements indicating the leadership and partners trust and support each other.			
Strongly agree	29.17%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	54.17%	I don't know	10.42%
Disagree	4.17%	No response	2.08%
Community members intervene			
Participants provided level of agreement to statements indicating that community members can be counted on intervene in instances where someone is disrespectful, disruptive, or harmful to another community member.			
Strongly agree	11.11%	Strongly disagree	2.78%
Agree	50.00%	I don't know	16.67%
Disagree	11.11%	No response	8.33%
Leadership motivation			

APPENDIX B: PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY SURVEY RESULTS, cont.

Community Partnership

Participants provided level of agreement to statements suggesting the leadership is motivated to help others, work with diverse groups, shows compassion, and follows through.			
Strongly agree	33.33%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	60.42%	I don't know	2.08%
Disagree	2.08%	No response	2.08%

Community member and partner participation

Participants provided level of agreement to statements indicating that community members and partners have opportunities to serve in leadership roles and participate in group decision-making.			
Strongly agree	27.78%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	50.00%	I don't know	16.67%
Disagree	5.56%	No response	0.00%

Involvement in other communities

Participants provided level of agreement to statements suggesting leadership and partners are involved in other communities and various community groups, and help communities work together.			
Strongly agree	29.17%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	54.17%	I don't know	6.25%
Disagree	2.08%	No response	8.33%

Community member willingness to assist

Participants provided level of agreement to statements suggesting most community members help neighbors and solve community problems. It also suggested some community members may take advantage of others.			
Strongly agree	18.75%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	66.67%	I don't know	6.25%
Disagree	0.00%	No response	8.33%

Core leadership and leadership skills

Participants provided level of agreement to statements suggesting the community partnership has a core leadership group organizing efforts, and that leaders have the skills to help the partnership achieve its goals.			
Strongly agree	37.50%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	62.50%	I don't know	0.00%
Disagree	0.00%	No response	0.00%

Partner motivation

Participants provided level of agreement to statements indicating that partners won't give up in their efforts to create change and increase sense of community through the partnership.			
Strongly agree	8.33%	Strongly disagree	5.56%
Agree	55.56%	I don't know	5.56%
Disagree	13.89%	No response	11.11%

Visibility of leadership

Participants provided level of agreement to statements suggesting the leadership is known in the community and works with public officials.			
Strongly agree	25.00%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	62.50%	I don't know	0.00%
Disagree	4.17%	No response	8.33%

APPENDIX B: PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY SURVEY RESULTS, cont.

Community Partnership

Leadership lives in the community			
Participants provided level of agreement to a statement indicating that at least one member of the leadership resides within the community.			
Strongly agree	33.33%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	41.67%	I don't know	16.67%
Disagree	8.33%	No response	0.00%
Leadership has a respected role in the community			
Participants provided level of agreement to a statement that suggests at least one member of the leadership team has a respected role in the community.			
Strongly agree	58.33%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	41.67%	I don't know	0.00%
Disagree	0.00%	No response	0.00%
Community partnership initiatives are known			
Participants provided level of agreement to a statement suggesting that community members are aware of the partnership's initiatives and activities.			
Strongly agree	8.33%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	58.33%	I don't know	16.67%
Disagree	8.33%	No response	8.33%
Division of resources			
Participants provided level of agreement to a statements suggesting that resources are equally divided among different community groups (e.g., racial/ethnic, lower income).			
Strongly agree	8.33%	Strongly disagree	0.00%
Agree	58.33%	I don't know	0.00%
Disagree	16.67%	No response	16.67%

APPENDIX C: PARTNER LIST

Healthi Kids	
Organization/Institution	Partner
Business/Industry/ Commercial	Generations Child Care Wegmens Food Markets Xerox Corporation
Civic Organizations	Action for a Better Community Foodlink Ibero-American Action League Project HOPE The Children's Institute Prosper Rochester, Inc.
College/University	Rochester Institute of Technology University of Rochester Medical Center Center for Community Health Department of Pediatrics Golisano Children's Hospital University of Rochester Campus Dining Services
Community Residents	Rochester Residents
Government	City of Rochester Department of Environmental Services Department of Planning Department of Recreation and Youth Services Police Department Rochester Joint Schools Construction Board Youth Services Bureau Genesee Transportation Council Monroe County Department of Health and Human Services Physical Activity & Nutrition Task Force Town of Penfield Department of Recreation
Foundation	Greater Rochester Health Foundation Project COACH Rochester Area Community Foundation New York State Early Childhood Development Initiative
Other Community-Based Organizations	AARP Boys' and Girls' Club of Rochester AlterNation The Strong- National Museum of Play North East Area Development YMCA of Greater Rochester
Policy/Advocacy Organization	Children's Defense Fund Freedom School Empire Justice Center Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency The Children's Agenda
Schools	NEAD CDF Freedom School Rochester City School District Fathers of Four Parent Council



APPENDIX D: SOURCES AND AMOUNTS OF FUNDING LEVERAGED

Sources of Revenue			
Community Partnership	Rochester		
Resource source	Year	Amount	Status
<b>Local government</b>			
Matching funds	2010		Annual total \$6,000.00
		\$5,000.00	Accrued
		\$1,000.00	Accrued
Sum of revenue generated by resource source		\$6,000.00	
<b>State government</b>			
Matching funds	2011		Annual total \$4,540.00
		\$4,540.00	Accrued
	2012		Annual total \$28,875.00
		\$17,000.00	Accrued
		\$11,875.00	Accrued
	2013		Annual total \$24,210.00
		\$19,710.00	Accrued
		\$4,500.00	Accrued
Sum of revenue generated by resource source		\$57,625.00	
<b>National government</b>			
Matching funds	2013		Annual total \$11,250.00
		\$11,250.00	Accrued
Sum of revenue generated by resource source		\$11,250.00	
<b>Foundation</b>			
HKHC funds	2009		Annual total \$85,742.00
		\$1,103.00	Accrued
		\$54,575.00	Accrued
		\$9,187.00	Accrued
		\$1,293.00	Accrued
		\$7,269.00	Accrued
		\$11,615.00	Accrued

APPENDIX D: SOURCES AND AMOUNTS OF FUNDING LEVERAGED, cont.

Community Partnership	Rochester		
Resource source		Amount	Status
		\$700.00	Accrued
	2010		Annual total \$85,754.00
		\$9,188.00	Accrued
		\$3,721.00	Accrued
		\$568.00	Accrued
		\$1,285.00	Accrued
		\$68,907.00	Accrued
		\$2,085.00	Accrued
	2011		Annual total \$97,202.00
		\$10,221.00	Accrued
		\$71,415.00	Accrued
		\$4,777.00	Accrued
		\$2,450.00	Accrued
		\$1,750.00	Accrued
		\$6,589.00	Accrued
	2012		Annual total \$96,432.00
		\$1,157.00	Accrued
		\$6,783.00	Accrued
		\$2,099.00	Accrued
		\$10,332.00	Accrued
		\$74,061.00	Accrued
		\$2,000.00	Accrued
	Other		
	2010		Annual total \$181,500.00
		\$181,500.00	Accrued
	2012		Annual total \$225,000.00
		\$225,000.00	Accrued
Sum of revenue generated by resource source		\$771,630.00	
Non-profit organization	Year		
Matching funds			
	2010		Annual total \$43,026.00
		\$17,326.00	Accrued

APPENDIX D: SOURCES AND AMOUNTS OF FUNDING LEVERAGED, cont.

Community Partnership	Rochester	
Resource source	Amount	Status
	\$20,700.00	Accrued
	\$5,000.00	Accrued
2011		Annual total
	\$15,000.00	Accrued
	\$18,134.00	Accrued
2012		Annual total
	\$17,000.00	Accrued
	\$10,700.00	Accrued
	\$4,500.00	Accrued
2013		Annual total
	\$33,510.00	Accrued
Sum of revenue generated by resource source	\$141,870.00	
School	Year	
Matching funds		
2010		Annual total
	\$13,580.00	Accrued
2011		Annual total
	\$13,830.00	Accrued
Sum of revenue generated by resource source	\$27,410.00	
Grand Total		\$1,015,785.00



# **Healthi Kids**

## **2013 Environmental Audit Parks and Play Spaces**

### **Summary Report**

Prepared by Transtria LLC



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## **Background**

Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities (HKHC) is a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) whose primary goal is to implement healthy eating and active living policy, system, and environmental change initiatives that can support healthier communities for children and families across the United States. HKHC places special emphasis on reaching children who are at highest risk for obesity on the basis of race/ethnicity, income, and/or geographic location. For more information about HKHC, please visit [www.healthykidshealthycommunities.org](http://www.healthykidshealthycommunities.org).

Located in Rochester, New York, the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency was selected to lead the local HKHC partnership, Healthi Kids. Healthi Kids has chosen to focus its work on parks and play spaces, Complete Streets, childcare nutrition standards, corner stores, and crime prevention through environmental design.

Transtria LLC, a public health evaluation and research consulting firm located in St. Louis, Missouri, is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to lead the evaluation and dissemination activities from April 2010 to March 2014. For more information about the evaluation, please visit [www.transtria.com/hkhc](http://www.transtria.com/hkhc). A supplementary enhanced evaluation component focuses on six cross-site HKHC strategies, including: parks and play spaces, street design, farmers' markets, corner stores, physical activity standards in childcare settings, and nutrition standards in childcare settings. Communities are trained to use two main methods as part of the enhanced evaluation, direct observation and environmental audits. Tools and training are provided by Transtria staff (see [www.transtria.com/hkhc](http://www.transtria.com/hkhc)).

In order to better understand the impact of their work in parks and play spaces, representatives of Healthi Kids chose to participate in the enhanced evaluation data collection activities. Healthi Kids completed their enhanced evaluation activities for parks and play spaces using the environmental audit method. This report summarizes the findings from this evaluation tool and provides a summary of parks and play spaces in five Rochester neighborhoods: Bridges to Wellness, Beechwood, Jefferson Avenue, Dewey/Driving Park, and Project HOPE.

## **Methods**

The Parks and Play Spaces Environmental Audit Tool was used to collect data (see appendix B). This tool and protocol were adapted from the Physical Activity Resource Assessment and the BTG-COMP Park Observation Form 2012. An Evaluation Officer from Transtria LLC trained members of Rochester's community partnership on proper data collection methods using the tool.

Environmental audits assess the presence or absence of different features as well as the quality or condition of the physical environment. This tool captures the setting, accessibility, vending machines, signage, barriers to entry, playground features (swings/slides/monkey bars/sandboxes/ground games), sports and recreation features (fields/courts/pools/tracks/trails), aesthetic features and amenities, trash and vandalism.

The audit tool was completed for each of the 25 play spaces in five Rochester neighborhoods: Jefferson Avenue (n=5), Bridges to Wellness (n=5), Beechwood (n=5), Project HOPE (n=5), and Dewey-Driving Park (n=5). Data collection was completed in April 2013. Transtria staff performed data entry and validation. Double data entry was performed to ensure accuracy of data; percent agreement was 99.99% and all errors were fixed.

## **Results across all Parks**

### *Setting and accessibility*

Twenty-two of the twenty-five play spaces were solely outdoor spaces, while the other three were a combination of indoor and outdoor space. Eleven (44%) were adjacent to a school. Thirteen (52%) of the play spaces had a parking area on-site, ten of which were lighted, and all but one play space (96%) had on-street parking adjacent. Fifteen (60%) of the play spaces were accessible by wheelchair or stroller. Five (20%) of the play spaces had bicycle parking and only one (4%) had bike features on the street adjacent to it (marked lanes, bike signage, etc.). Eleven (44%) of the parks were accessible via crosswalk or had a public transit stop next to it. Five (20%) of the play spaces had restrooms and four (16%) had showers or locker rooms.

### *Vending machines*

Two (8%) of the audited play spaces had vending machines that served water, juice, skim milk, sports drinks, and sugar sweetened beverages. These same play spaces also had food vending machines serving chips/pretzels, granola bars, nuts/trail mix, and candy.

### *Signage and barriers to entry*

Ten (40%) of the audited spaces had signage indicating the park or play space name. Three (12%) of the play spaces had an entry fee. Three (12%) of the parks had a physical barrier or locked fence, and eleven (44%) had a gate or fence partially restricting access.

### *Playground features*

Fifteen (60%) of the spaces had outdoor playground features. There were no sandboxes or marked hopscotch areas at any of the play spaces. Eleven of the playground areas had foam/rubber ground areas, three had mulch or woodchips, and one had grass. Forty-one (82%) of the fifty playground features were in average/good condition, while nine were in poor condition.



Playground Features	Quantity	
	Average/Good Condition	Poor Condition
Toddler Swings	3	1
Youth Swings	6	2
Slides	10	2
Monkey/Climbing Bars	11	1
Other Climbing Features	11	1
Four-Square Courts	0	2
<i>Total Number of Features:</i>	41	9

*Sports and recreation features*

Seventeen (68%) of the play spaces did not have sports or recreation features. Eight play spaces had sports or recreation features: 19 fields or courts; 8 exercise stations, trails or tracks; and 3 water features. All thirty sports and recreation features were listed in average/good condition.

Sports and Recreation Features	Quantity
Soccer Field	1
Football Field	1
Baseball Field	3
Multi-use Field	7
Basketball Court	3
Tennis Court	2
Multi-use Court	2
Pool	1
Wading Pool/Spray Ground	2
Exercise Stations	5
Running /Walking Track	1
Trail	2

*Aesthetic features and amenities*

All of the play spaces had green spaces, the majority (88%) in average/good condition and three in poor condition. None of the play spaces had water features or drinking fountains. There were 79 aesthetic features in the parks and play spaces, the majority (93.7%) in average/good condition and five in poor condition.

Aesthetic Features	Quantity	
	Average/Good Condition	Poor Condition
Green Spaces	22	3
Shelters	1	0
Benches	11	0
Picnic Tables	5	1
Trash Containers	12	1
Grills/Fire Pits	4	0
Shade Trees	12	0
Other Garden Features	4	0
Other Features	3	0
<i>Total Aesthetic Features</i>	74	5

*Trash and vandalism*

The majority (54%) of the parks had a little/some garbage and vandalism. The Dewey/Driving Park neighborhood had the most overall trash and vandalism, while Bridges to Wellness had the least trash and vandalism. Very few parks had a lot of any type of trash or vandalism, but the vacant lot at Argo Park and Driving Park Avenue had a lot of every type of trash and vandalism. School #34 in the Dewey/Driving Park neighborhood was the only play space without any trash or vandalism. Of the types of trash, sex paraphernalia was the rarest, with 88% of the play spaces having none.

## Results by Neighborhood

### Jefferson Avenue

The Jefferson Avenue neighborhood was audited at the following five play spaces: Troup Street Park, Van Auker Street Apartments Playground, School #4, Flint Street Recreation Center, and Violetta Street- Street Play.

Play Space	Playground Features	Sports and Recreation Features	Aesthetic Features and Amenities	Vending Machines
Troup Street Park	x	x	x	
Van Auker Street Apartments Playground	x		x	
School #4	x	x	x	
Flint Street Recreation Center	x	x	x	
Violetta Street-Street Play			x	

#### *Setting and accessibility*

All five play spaces were located outdoors. Four (80%) of the play spaces were multi-feature, publically accessible parks and one (20%) was a publically accessible space (Violetta Street Play). Two (40%) were adjacent to a school.

All play spaces had on-street parking available and two (40%) play spaces had lighted, parking area on-site. All of the play spaces were accessible by wheelchair or stroller. None of the play spaces had bicycle features on the street adjacent to it (marked lanes, bike signage, etc.) and one of the play spaces had bicycle parking. The majority (60%) of the play spaces were located next to a public transit stop. One of the spaces was accessible via crosswalk and one play space had access to restrooms and showers/locker rooms.



#### *Vending machines*

None of the play spaces in the Jefferson Avenue neighborhood had vending machines for beverages or food.

#### *Signage and barriers to entry*

Two (40%) of the audited spaces had signage indicating the park or play space name. None of the play spaces had an entry fee. None of the parks had a physical barrier or locked fence, but four (80%) had a gate or fence partially restricting access.

### *Playground features*

The majority (80%) of the play spaces had playground features. In the four play spaces with playground features, the following features were noted:

- Two play spaces had toddler swings.
- Two play spaces had youth swings.
- Four play spaces had outdoor slides.
- Four spaces had monkey/climbing bars.
- Four spaces had multiple other climbing features.

There were no sandboxes, four-square courts, or marked hopscotch areas. There was one play space with three other unspecified play areas. All playground features were in average/good condition and all had lighting. Two of the play spaces had foam/rubber ground areas and two had woodchip/mulch areas for the playgrounds.

Playground Features	Total Across Neighborhood
Toddler Swings	4
Youth Swings	8
Slides	17
Monkey/Climbing Bars	13
Other Climbing Feature	33

### *Sports and recreation features*

Three (60%) of the play spaces in the Jefferson Avenue area had sports and recreation features. There were no soccer fields, football fields, baseball fields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, multi-use courts, or skateboard areas in the audited play spaces. One play space had an outdoor walking/running track and a two-way trail with wood chips/mulch. All sports and recreation features were in average/good condition with lighting, with exception of the trail, for which lighting was not recorded.

Sports and Recreation Features	Total Across Neighborhood
Multi-use Field	3
Basketball Court	1
Pool	1
Wading Pool/Spray Ground	1
Exercise Stations	3
Running /Walking Track	1
Trail	1

### *Aesthetic features and amenities*

All of the play spaces had aesthetic features and/or amenities. The majority (60-80%) had benches, trash containers, and picnic tables. One play space had a grill/fire pit and one had other garden features. All of the play spaces had green spaces and shade trees. All of the aesthetic features and amenities in Jefferson Avenue were in average/good condition.

*Trash and vandalism*

All of the play spaces had evidence of a little/some trash and/or vandalism. The majority (60-80%) had a little/some garbage, evidence of alcohol/drug use, and graffiti/tagging present. The only play space without garbage or evidence of alcohol/drug use was the Van Auker Apartments Playground. Sex paraphernalia was only found in a little/some quantities at Troup Street Park. All of the play spaces had a little/some glass present.

**Bridges to Wellness**

The Bridges to Wellness neighborhood was audited at the following five play spaces: North Street Victory Garden, School #36, Gantt Community Center, Wilkins Street-Street Play, and Pulaski Park.

Play Space	Playground Features	Sports and Recreation Features	Aesthetic Features and Amenities	Vending Machines
Victory Garden/North Street			x	
School #36	x	x	x	
Gantt Community Center	x	x	x	
Wilkins Street-Street Play			x	
Pulaski Park		x	x	

*Setting and accessibility*

Four (80%) of the five play spaces were solely outdoor spaces, and the other was both and indoor and outdoor space. One play space was adjacent to a school. Two (40%) of the play spaces had a parking area on-site, both of which were lighted, and four (80%) of the play spaces had on-street parking available. Four (80%) of the play spaces were accessible by wheelchair or stroller. One of the play spaces had bicycle parking, and none had bike features on the street adjacent to it (marked lanes, bike signage, etc.).



One of the spaces was accessible via crosswalk, and four (80%) had a public transit stop next to them. One of the spaces had access to restrooms and showers/locker rooms.

*Vending machines*

None of the play spaces in the Bridges to Wellness area had vending machines for beverages or food.

### *Signage and barriers to entry*

Three (60%) of the audited spaces had signage indicating the park or play space name. None of the play spaces had an entry fee. One of the parks had a physical barrier or locked fence, and three (60%) had a gate or fence partially restricting access.

### *Playground features*

Two (40%) of the spaces had playground features. In these spaces, the following features were noted:

- Two play spaces had slides.
- Two play spaces had monkey bars and a rock wall.
- One play space had a spray park.

There were no toddler swings, youth swings, sandboxes, four-square courts, or marked hopscotch areas at the audited play spaces. Two of the play spaces had foam or rubber surface area for the playground, while one had mulch/woodchips. All of the playground features were in average/good condition, and one play space had lighting at every feature, the other did not.

Playground Features	Total Across Neighborhood
Slides	9
Monkey/Climbing Bars	3
Other Climbing Feature (Rock walls)	2

### *Sports and recreation features*

Three (60%) of the play spaces had sports and recreation features. One of the play spaces had two outdoor baseball fields, three had a multi-use field, one had a basketball court, one had a tennis court, and one had a multi-use court. One play space had two exercise stations. One play space had a two-way trail. There was no soccer field, football field, volleyball court, pool, wading pool/spray park, skateboard feature, and walking/running track. All sports and recreation features in this neighborhood were outdoors, had lighting, and were in average/good condition.

Sports and Recreation Features	Total Across Neighborhood
Baseball Field	2
Multi-use Field	3
Basketball Court	1
Tennis Court	1
Multi-use Court	1
Exercise Stations	2
Trail	1

### *Aesthetic features and amenities*

All of the play spaces in this neighborhood had green spaces, four in average/good condition and one in poor condition. One play space had a shelter, three had benches, one had picnic

tables, two had trash containers, one had a grill/fire pit, and four had shade trees, all in average/good condition. Two had additional features, a walkway and dog waste stations, respectively.

*Trash and vandalism*

Four (80%) of the play stations had a little/some garbage, and one had a lot. The majority (60-80%) had no glass, graffiti/tagging, or evidence of alcohol or other drug use. None of the play spaces had sex paraphernalia present.

**Beechwood**

The Beechwood neighborhood was assessed at the following five play spaces: School #33, Webster Park (Iroquois Street), Bay Street and Goodman Street (garden space), Grand Avenue Park, and Ackerman Street (large lot).

Play Space	Playground Features	Sports and Recreation Features	Aesthetic Features and Amenities	Vending Machines
School #33	x	x	x	x
Webster Park (Iroquois Street)	x	x	x	x
Bay Street and Goodman Street			x	
Grand Avenue Park	x		x	
Ackerman Street			x	

*Setting and accessibility*

Three (60%) of the five play spaces were solely outdoor spaces, and the other two (40%) were both indoor and outdoor spaces. One was adjacent to a school.



Two (40%) of the play spaces had a parking area on-site, both of which were lighted. All of the play spaces had on-street parking available and were accessible by wheelchair or stroller.

Two (40%) of the play spaces had bicycle parking, and one (20%) had bike features on the street adjacent to it (marked lanes, bike signage, etc.). Four (80%) of the spaces were accessible via crosswalk, and three (60%) had a public transit stop next to them. Two (40%) of the spaces had access to restrooms and showers/locker rooms.

*Vending machines*

Two (40%) of the audited play spaces had vending machines that served water, juice, skim milk, sports drinks, and sugar sweetened beverages. These same play spaces also had food vending machines that served chips/pretzels, granola bars, nuts/trail mix, and candy.

### *Signage and barriers to entry*

Two (40%) of the audited spaces had signage indicating the park or play space name. None of the play spaces had an entry fee. Two (40%) of the parks had a physical barrier or locked fence, and two (40%) had a gate or fence partially restricting access.

### *Playground features*

Three (60%) of the spaces had playground features. In these play spaces, the following features were noted:

- One of the play spaces had toddler and youth swings.
- Two play spaces had slides.
- Two play spaces had a set of monkey/climbing bars.

There were no sandboxes, four-square courts, or marked hopscotch areas in any of the audited play spaces. Two of the playgrounds had foam/rubber ground, and one had grass. All playground features had lighting.

Playground Features	Total Across neighborhood	
	Average/Good Condition	Poor Condition
Toddler Swings	0	2
Youth Swings	0	2
Slides	1	1
Monkey/Climbing Bars	2	0

### *Sports and recreation features*

Two (40%) of the play spaces had sports and recreation features. In the audited spaces the following features were noted:

- One of the play spaces had an indoor soccer field, football field, baseball field, and multi-use field. This same play space had an indoor basketball court, tennis court, and multi-use court.
- One play space had one outdoor wading pool with lighting.

There were no skateboarding features, exercise stations, walking or running tracks, or trails in these play spaces. All sports and recreation features were in average/good condition.

### *Aesthetic features and amenities*

Four (80%) of the play spaces had green spaces in average/good condition, and one had green spaces in poor condition. Three of the play spaces had benches, trash containers, and shade trees in average/good condition. One of the play spaces had picnic tables in poor condition and grills/fire pits in average/good condition. None of the play spaces had water features, drinking fountains, or shelters.



*Trash and vandalism*

Two (40%) of the play spaces had no garbage, two (40%) had very little/some, and one (20%) had a lot. Three (60%) play spaces had no glass present, and two (40%) had very little/some. One (20%) of the play spaces had no graffiti/tagging, and four (80%) had a little/some. Two of the play spaces had no evidence of alcohol or other drug use, and three (60%) had a little/some evidence. Only one play space had a little/some sex paraphernalia present, the others (80%) had none.

**Project HOPE**

In the Project HOPE neighborhood, the following five play spaces were audited: Corner Flower/Lill Street, Flower and Roth Street, Clifford Avenue and Conkey Park, School #8, and Don Samuel Torres Park.

Play Space	Playground Features	Sports and Recreation Features	Aesthetic Features and Amenities	Vending Machines
Corner Flower/Lill Street			x	
Flower and Roth Street			x	
Clifford Avenue and Conkey Park	x		x	
School #8	x		x	
Don Samuel Torres Park	x		x	

*Setting and accessibility*

All of the five play spaces were solely outdoor spaces and two (40%) were adjacent to a school. Two (40%) of the play spaces had a parking area on-site, one of which was lighted. All of the play spaces had on-street parking available and none were accessible by wheelchair or stroller. None of the play spaces had bicycle parking or bike features on the street adjacent to it (marked lanes, bike signage, etc.). Four (80%) of the spaces were accessible via crosswalk, and none had a public transit stop next to them. One play space had access to restrooms.



*Vending machines*

There were no vending machines for beverages or food at any of the play spaces.

### *Signage and barriers to entry*

Three (60%) of the audited spaces had signage indicating the park or play space name. One (20%) of the play spaces had an entry fee. None of the parks had a physical barrier or locked fence, or a gate or fence partially restricting access.

### *Playground features*

Three (60%) of the spaces had playground features. In the spaces, the following features were noted:

- One of the play spaces had four youth swings.
- One play space had a slide.
- One play space had two sets of monkey bars, and three play spaces had another type of climbing feature.

All playground features were in average/good condition and had lighting present. Two play spaces had foam/rubber ground areas at the playground.

Playground Features	Total Across Neighborhood
Youth Swings	4
Slides	1
Monkey/Climbing Bars	2
Other Climbing Feature	4

### *Sports and recreation features*

There were no sports and recreation features at any of the play spaces in the Project HOPE neighborhood.

### *Aesthetic features and amenities*

All five of the play spaces had green spaces. None of the play spaces had water features, drinking fountains, or shelters. One of the play spaces had benches, one play space had picnic tables, and one had grills/fire pits. Two play spaces had trash containers. All of the aesthetic features and amenities were in average/good condition.

### *Trash and vandalism*

All five of the play spaces had a little/some garbage. One of the play spaces had no glass, one had no graffiti, and four (80%) had a little/some glass present and a little/some graffiti. Four (80%) play spaces had no evidence of alcohol or other drug use, and one had a little/some evidence. None of the play spaces had sex paraphernalia.

**Dewey/Driving Park**

The Dewey/Driving Park neighborhood was assessed at the following five play spaces: School #34/Holmes Street, Mason Street-Street Play, School #7, Argo and Driving Park Avenue, and Tacoma Park.

Play Space	Playground Features	Sports and Recreation Features	Aesthetic Features and Amenities	Vending Machines
School #34	x		x	
Mason Street-Street Play			x	
School #7	x		x	
Argo Park and Driving Park Avenue			x	
Tacoma Park	x		x	

*Setting and accessibility*

All five play spaces were solely outdoor spaces. Three (60%) was adjacent to a school. All five play spaces had a parking area on-site, three of which were lighted. All play spaces had on-street parking available but only one (20%) was accessible by wheelchair or stroller. One (20%) of the play spaces had bicycle parking but none had bike features on the street adjacent to it (marked lanes, bike signage, etc.). One of the spaces was accessible via crosswalk, and one had a public transit stop next to it. None of the spaces had access to restrooms.



*Vending machines*

None of the play spaces in Dewey/Driving Park had vending machines for beverages or food.

*Signage and barriers to entry*

None of the audited spaces had signage indicating the park or play space name. One (20%) of the play spaces had an entry fee. None of the parks had a physical barrier or locked fence, but two (40%) had a gate or fence partially restricting access.

### *Playground features*

Three (60%) of the spaces had playground features. In these play spaces, the following features were noted:

- One of the play spaces had toddler swings, and three had youth swings.
- Three play spaces had slides, monkey/climbing bars, and another type of climbing feature.
- One of the play spaces had four-square courts.

Three of the playgrounds had foam/rubber ground as the surface area for the playground. All of the features in average/good condition had lighting, and those in poor condition did not.

Playground Features	Total Across neighborhood	
	Average/Good Condition	Poor Condition
Toddler Swings	4	0
Youth Swings	8	4
Slides	4	1
Monkey/Climbing Bars	3	1
Other Climbing Feature	2	1
Four-Square Courts	0	2

### *Sports and recreation features*

None of the play spaces in Dewey/Driving Park had sports and recreation features.

### *Aesthetic features and amenities*

Four (80%) of the play spaces had green spaces in average/good condition, and one (20%) had green spaces in poor condition. Two (40%) of the play spaces had trash containers, one in poor condition and one in average/good condition.

### *Trash and vandalism*

One of the play spaces had no garbage, two (40%) had a little/some, and two (40%) had a lot of garbage. Two (40%) of the play spaces had no glass present and no graffiti, two had a little/some glass and graffiti, and one had a lot of glass and graffiti. There were four (80%) play spaces that had no evidence of alcohol or other drug use, or sex paraphernalia, and one (20%) that had a lot of evidence of alcohol or other drug use, and sex paraphernalia.

## Appendix A: Tables

Table 1: Playground Features

Neighborhood	Toddler Swings	Youth Swings	Slides	Monkey or Climbing Bars	Other Climbing Feature	Four-Square	Other Play Equipment	Surface of Play Area	Comments from Auditor
Jefferson Avenue	x	x	x	x	x			Foam/rubber, mulch	<b>Troup Street Park:</b> Need drug and alcohol free zone signage <b>Van Auker Street Apartments Playground:</b> No loitering sign-property and surveillance guarding property. <b>School #4:</b> Foam flooring needs repair, dangerous for kids to play here. <b>Flint Street Recreation Center:</b> Gate to the pool is dangerous, small children can get through the gate and drown; environmental hazard: no cover on the pool, water is brown with lots of garbage.
Bridges to Wellness		x	x	x	x		x	Foam/rubber, mulch	<b>Victory Garden/North Street:</b> Would like to see simple play equipment (i.e. swings, jungle gyms). <b>Gantt Community Center:</b> Community center currently under construction; will re-open in fall. Eight kids playing kickball, two toddler play space. Restricted access. <b>Wilkins Street-Street Play:</b> Poor street lighting, very dark at night. Public urination next to garages. Litter and dumping is big issue. RGE has tons of litter at substation.
Beechwood	x	x	x	x				Foam/rubber, grass	<b>School #33:</b> Corner pieces of foam missing in play area. <b>Webster Park (Iroquois Street):</b> Play equipment needs paint and water spray park on the side of park.
Project HOPE		x	x	x	x			Foam/rubber	<b>Clifford Avenue and Conkey Park:</b> One child playing with parent. <b>School #8:</b> Six kids playing with no adults present; ages 3-10 years old. <b>Don Samuel Torres Park:</b> Adult male sitting on play equipment smoking drugs.
Dewey/Driving Park	x	x	x	x	x	x		Foam/rubber	<b>School #34:</b> Two teenagers swinging, nice playground, excellent condition, much nicer area. <b>Mason Street-Street Play:</b> Poor neighborhood; immigrants present outside with kids, not playing. Boy 12 years old smoking marijuana on street, no kids playing outside, vacant, dangerous house on the corner. <b>School #7:</b> No kids. <b>Argo Park and Driving Park Avenue:</b> Unsafe play space; lots of vacant homes in the area with new housing being built. No adult supervision; kids playing (not nice); poor neighborhood. <b>Tacoma Park:</b> Five kids playing on the playground; kids not nice; using bad language with a loud voice; no adult supervision with the kids.

\* The following play spaces did not have playgrounds: Violetta Street- Street Play, Victory Garden/North Street, Wilkins Street-Street Play, Pulaski Park, Bay Street and Goodman Street, Ackerman Street, Corner Flower/Lill Street, Flower and Roth Street, Mason Street-Street Play, and Argo Park and Driving Park Avenue.

**Table 2: Sports and Recreation Features**

Neighborhood	Soccer Field	Football Field	Baseball Field	Multi-use Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Multi-use Court	Pool	Wading Pool/Spray Ground	Exercise Stations	Running/Walking Track	Trail
Jefferson Avenue				X	X			X	X	X	X	X
Bridges to Wellness			X	X	X	X	X			X		X
Beechwood	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			

\*The following neighborhoods did not have sports and recreation features: Project Hope, Dewey Driving Park

**Table 3: Park Characteristics**

Park Characteristics	Jefferson Avenue	Bridges to Wellness	Beechwood	Project HOPE	Dewey/Driving Park
<b>Setting</b>					
Single-feature publically accessible park					X
Multi-feature publically accessible park	X	X	X	X	X
Publically accessible green space	X	X	X	X	X
Outdoor setting	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Accessibility</b>					
Parking area on-site	X	X	X	X	X
Lighted parking area	X	X	X	X	X
On-street parking next to play space	X	X	X	X	X
Sidewalk on street leading to entrance	X	X	X	X	X
Wheelchair or stroller can easily enter space	X	X	X		X
Bike parking available	X	X	X		X
Bike lane, sharrow, or bike signage on street adjacent to play space			X		
Restroom	X	X	X	X	
Public Transit Stop adjacent to play space	X	X	X		X
<b>Signage and Barriers to Entry</b>					
Signage that indicates the park or play space name	X	X	X	X	
Gate/fence partially restricting access to play space	X	X	X		X
Locked fence around perimeter preventing access		X	X		

**Table 4: Aesthetic Features and Amenities**

Neighborhood	Green Space	Shelters	Benches	Picnic Tables	Trash Containers	Grills/Fire pits	Shade Trees	Other Features
Jefferson Avenue	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Bridges to Wellness	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Walkway, Dog waste stations
Beechwood	x		x	x	x	x	x	
Project Hope	x		x	x	x	x		
Dewey Driving Park	x				x			

## **Appendix B: Parks and Play Spaces Environmental Audit Tool**



**Parks and Play Spaces Environmental Audit Tool**

Play space ID (*Transtria use only*): \_\_\_\_\_

"Play spaces" may refer to parks as well as other play spaces (e.g., playgrounds, pools, greenways).

Play space name: \_\_\_\_\_

Community partnership: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours of operation: Open \_\_\_\_\_ Close \_\_\_\_\_

Weather conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

No posted hours

Start time: \_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_ ○ AM ○ PM

Size of play space (acres): \_\_\_\_\_

End time: \_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_ ○ AM ○ PM

Auditor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Auditor name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A: Setting, accessibility, vending machines, signage and barriers to entry**

Setting			Accessibility (cont.)		
1. What type of park or play space is this? ( <i>Select only one.</i> )			13. Is there a shower/locker room on-site?		
1.a. Single-feature publically accessible park			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.b. Multi-feature publically accessible park			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.c. Publically accessible green space (i.e., no features such as sports fields or jungle gyms)			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.d. Other publically accessible space (e.g., street with temporary play equipment)			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the play space adjacent to a school? <i>(If yes, print school name):</i>			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. What is the setting of the play space? ( <i>Circle one.</i> )			14. Are there vending machines that sell beverages? ( <i>If no, skip to Question 15</i> )		
Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor and Outdoor	14.a. Water (no additives)		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			14.b. 100% Juice		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			14.c. Skim milk		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			14.d. Sports or energy drinks		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			14.e. Diet soda		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			14.f. Sugar sweetened beverages (e.g., soda, fruit punch)		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is there a parking area on-site? <i>(If no, skip to Question 4)</i>			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.a. Is the parking area lighted?			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is there on-street parking next to the play space?			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is there a sidewalk on the street leading to the entrance?			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.a. Is sidewalk/pedestrian lighting present?			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Can a wheelchair or stroller easily enter into the play space? (No curbs or other barriers)			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Is there bicycle parking?			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Is there a bike lane, sharrow, or bike signage on the street(s) adjacent to the play space?			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Is there a bus/transit stop on a street adjacent to the play space?			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Are there crosswalks present at all of the intersections next to the play space?			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Is there a restroom/portable toilet?			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			15. Are there vending machines that sell food items? ( <i>If no, skip to Question 16</i> )		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			15.a. Chips/crackers/pretzels (baked, low-fat)		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			15.b. Granola bars/cereal bars		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			15.c. Nuts/trail mix		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			15.d. Reduced fat cookies or baked goods		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			15.e. Candy, chips, cookies, snack cakes (sugar, salt, or fat)		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<b>Signage and barriers to entry</b>		
			16. Is there signage that indicates the park or play space name?		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			17. Is there an entrance fee?		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			18. Is there a gate/fence partially restricting access to the play space?		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
			19. Is there a locked fence around the perimeter or other physical barrier that prevents access?		
			<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Comments?**

**Section B: Playground features**

For the following items, please take note and document each feature by condition and whether or not there is lighting.	Number of features by condition								Number of features with lighting*	
	Poor				Average/Good				Tally	Total
	Tally		Total		Tally		Total			
	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	Outdoor Only	
20. Check if no playground features are present in the play space. <input type="checkbox"/> No playground features <i>(Skip to Section C.)</i> <i>(Leave the items below blank if there are no playground features present.)</i>										
<b>Swings/slides/monkey bars/sandboxes/ground games</b>										
21. Swings, toddler										
22. Swings, youth										
23. Slides										
24. Monkey bars/climbing bars										
25. Other climbing feature Specify:										
26. Sandboxes										
27. Marked four-square courts										
28. Marked hopscotch areas										
29a. Other play areas Specify:										
29b. Other play areas Specify:										

\*Do not tally the number of lights. Tally the number of playground features with lighting present.

30. What is the surface for the playground *(check all that apply)*?
- Foam/rubber
  - Woodchip/mulch
  - Sand
  - Grass or dirt
  - Paved spaces (concrete or asphalt)
  - Other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments?**

Section C: Sports and recreation features

For the following items, please take note and document each feature by condition and whether or not there is lighting.	Number of features by condition								Number of features with lighting*	
	Poor				Average/Good				Tally	Total
	Tally		Total		Tally		Total			
	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor	Outdoor Only	
31. Check if no sports or recreation features are present in the play space. <input type="checkbox"/> No sports or recreation features ( <i>Skip to Section D.</i> ) (Leave the items below blank if there are no sports or recreation features present.)										
<b>Fields/Courts/Pool/Tracks/Trails</b>										
32. Fields, soccer only										
33. Fields, football only										
34. Fields, baseball only										
35. Fields, multi-use										
36a. Other fields Specify:										
36b. Other fields Specify:										
37. Courts, basketball only										
38. Courts, tennis only										
39. Courts, volleyball only										
40. Courts, multi-use										
41a. Other courts Specify:										
41b. Other courts Specify:										
42. Pools (> 3ft deep)										
43. Wading pools/spray grounds (≤ 3ft deep)										
44. Skateboarding features (e.g., ramps, etc.)										
45. Exercise stations with signage										
46. Running/walking tracks										
47. Trails ( <i>If no trails, skip Questions 47a and 50 below.</i> )										
47a. Two-way traffic on trails?										
48. Other features Specify:										
49. Other features Specify:										

\*Do not tally the number of lights. Tally the number of sports/recreation features with lighting present.

50. What is the surface for the trails (*choose one*)?

- Asphalt/concrete
- Wood chips/mulch
- Gravel
- Dirt or grass
- Other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments?

**Section D: Aesthetic features and amenities (outdoor play spaces only)**

For each aesthetic feature and amenity below, document the presence and condition.	Condition of feature or majority of features?		
	Poor	Average/Good	Not present
51. Green space			
52. Beach			
53. Decorative water fountains			
54. Drinking fountains			
55. Shelters			
56. Benches			
57. Picnic tables			
58. Trash containers			
59. Grills/fire pits			
60. Fruit and vegetable gardens			
61. Shade trees			
62. Other gardens and plants			
63. Other features Specify:			

**Section E: Trash and vandalism (outdoor play spaces only)**

Indicate the amount of the following types of trash or vandalism.	None	A little/Some	A lot
64. Garbage/litter			
65. Broken glass			
66. Graffiti/tagging			
67. Evidence of alcohol or other drug use			
68. Sex paraphernalia			

**Comments?**

**Please be sure to complete end time for the data collection at the beginning of this form.**