The West Side Environmental Justice Project

Addressing issues in the Rose Park Community of North West Salt Lake City
As part of the Stakeholder meetings, participants were asked to respond to basic demographic questions inquiring about his or her age, race/ethnicity, language spoken, education and income. Due to a minor change in the demographic information form during the execution of Stakeholder meetings, information regarding sex was only available for some participants and has, thus, been omitted from the findings of this study. The following charts illustrate the characteristics of 67 participants as broken down by the aforementioned categories.
Demographics

Race & Ethnicity

The “Other” category was made to include those responses displaying low frequency, such as Thai, Brazilian, African American or those identifying as “mixed-race.”

- White
- Latino(a)/Hispanic
- Pacific Islander
- Other

Similarly, the category “Pacific Islander” was made to include those identifying as either Tongan, Samoan, or Pacific Islander.
Demographics

Languages Spoken

Those identifying as “bilingual” spoke English and Spanish, Somali, or Tongan.

The “other” category includes those that speak Thai, Portuguese, or are trilingual.
Demographics

Levels of Education

- No Diploma
- H.S. Diploma
- Some College
- Bachelor’s
- Master’s
- Ph.D.
- No Response

Frequency
Issues Identified by Residents:

Stakeholder meeting attendees were asked to identify environmental issues they feel are pertinent to their community; in addition, they suggest possible solutions to such issues and the entities that should be involved in their resolution. The subsequent slides review the concerns commonly-noted by residents in the Rose Park area.

Although responses varied widely, it was possible to arrange them into more general categories which better-represent the priority issues identified at Stakeholder meetings. The following chart illustrates how many of fifty respondents identified *air quality, water, litter/trash,* and *pests* as problematic in Rose Park. Each of these categories will be further described.
Most Commonly Named Issues - General Categories

- Air Quality
- Litter/Trash
- Water
- Pests

Number of Responses

Friday, April 26, 2013
Air Quality Issues:

Near by refineries and vehicle emissions are frequently noted as contributors to air quality issues in the Rose Park area. Also noted were bad smells associated with smoking and standing water.

Proposed Solutions: Tighter emissions standards for local industry, programs that promote less driving, and education about air quality issues.

Involvement: State and local governments, local businesses and schools, and community residents.
Litter & Trash:

In addition to general littering throughout town, residents commonly mentioned old cars and furniture cluttering yards in their communities. Many noted the improper disposal of batteries, electronics, medication, and other hazardous waste materials in the area.

Proposed Solutions: educate residents about the proper disposal of the aforementioned waste materials, impose ordinances and citations for unkept yards, and install more receptacles for trash and recycling around town.

Involvement: this requires the joint effort of residents and city and community officials.
Water Issues:

While some residents noted concern about water quality, most comments tended toward issues of standing water and cleanliness of the Jordan River. Many believe that gutter and drainage systems are in disrepair and contributing to other issues like bad smells and pests in the area. Respondents also expressed the need to establish river cleanup programs.

**Proposed Solutions:** many residents believe it is up to the city to execute drainage system repair as a means to minimize issues associated with standing water. Also, residents should be encouraged to become involved in riverside cleanup programs and education about water contamination issues.
Pests:

Pests were frequently cited as an environmental concern in the area and standing water is thought to contribute largely to the problem. Mosquitos represent the most commonly noted pest and many believe poor drainage systems are partly to blame

**Proposed Solutions:** Solutions to this problem seemed more difficult to define. Although drainage system repair and city/river cleanup were mentioned as potential fixes, respondents more commonly noted the parties that should be involved in the resolution of this environmental concern: city programs, community council, and residents.
Other Concerns:

Finally, it is worth acknowledging some of the other concerns that were brought to our attention at the Stakeholder meetings. Although these issues were mentioned less frequently, they represent important concerns of Rose Park Area Residents.

**Food Quality/Access:** 20 percent of respondents expressed concern about their access to quality food and produce locally.

**Noise Pollution:** Noise pollution was also mentioned frequently and associated with vehicular traffic nearby freeways in Rose Park.

**Public Transportation:** Residents note public transportation as both a problem and a solution on the West side. With fewer bus routes in the Rose Park area, residents are forced to commute on their own; however, increased bus routes might alleviate other concerns (air quality, access to food, etc.).