Rainier Beach
Neighborhood Report Card
[Phase 1]

Spring 2016

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What is a Report Card?

> Instrument for summarizing and reporting progress toward specific goals

> Accessible tool for communication

> Tool to highlight areas that need improvement and direct a "call-to-action"

Why a Report Card for Rainier Beach?

> Further **spread awareness and update** Rainier Beach residents and community groups of progress

> Promote **better accessibility, safety, and perception** of the neighborhood

> Provide a **comprehensive** and evidence-based **assessment** of the neighborhood's social and physical attributes

Neighborhood Background

> Culturally, racially, and ethnically diverse

> Development of Pearls

> Good levels of resident engagement

> Many positive changes over the years led by community

> Residents have noticed some changes, **but not all**

Key:
- Data Collection Sites
- State RB Boundaries
- RBAC RB Boundaries

Framework: THRIVE Toolkit for Health and Resiliency in Vulnerable Environments
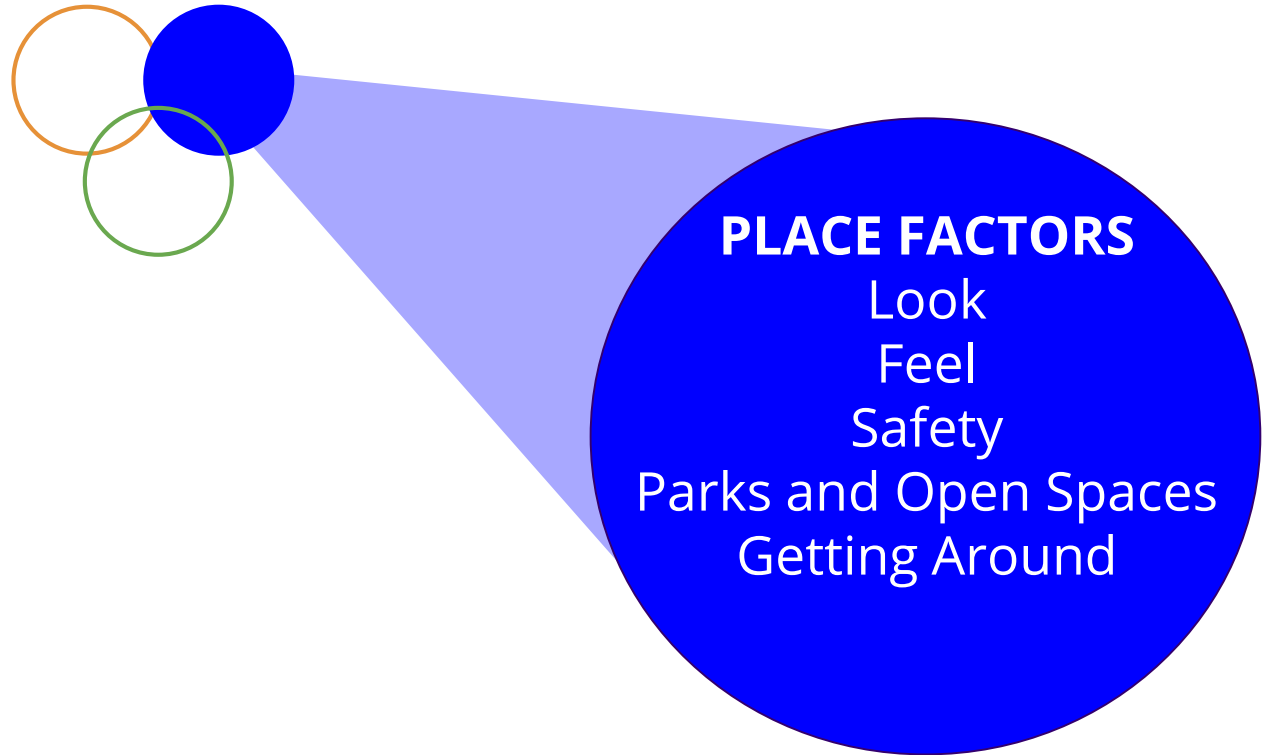
Emphasis on neighborhood health and safety

(The Prevention Institute)

Report card Phase 1 focus: **Health, Safety and Place**

Report Card Overview

PLACE FACTORS
Look
Feel
Safety
Parks and Open Spaces
Getting Around

FACTOR ⇨ **INDICATORS** ⇨ **MEASURES** ⇨ **SCORE** ⇨ **GRADE**

Methodology

Step 1: Scoring RB to a Comparison Group

City of Seattle average
> 5 pts if RB better, 3 if same, 1 if worse

Control Site
> 5 pts if RB better, 3 if same, 1 if worse

Trend over time (3 or 5 years)
> 5 pts if RB trend improving, 3 if stabilizing, 1 if worsening

Progress towards a Goal or Professional Standard
> 5 pts if RB made at least 80% progress towards a goal, 4 pts 60%-79%,, 3 pts 40%-59%, 2 pts 20%-39%, 1 pt less than 20% progress

Methodology

Step 2: Total Score / Possible Score **= Percentage**

Step 3: Grading System

A = 80-100%, Excellent
B = 60-79%, Very good
C = 40-59%, Good. Goal is to have a grade of C or higher.
D = 20-39%, Needs improvement
F = less than 20%, Needs extreme improvement

OVERALL SCORE: 69% = B = VERY GOOD

Look	Feel	Safety	Parks & Open Spaces	Getting Around
50% **C** Good	60% **B** Very Good	67% **B** Very Good	100% **A** Excellent	68% **B** Very Good

Look

50% C = Good

> Prominent physical characteristics of a neighborhood
> Clean, inviting look fosters community engagement
> Appearances affect perceptions of safety

INDICATORS

1. **Maintenance of Public and Open Spaces**
   a. broken equipment
   b. litter
2. **Number of Vacant or Dilapidated Buildings**
3. **Art in Public and Open Spaces**

Data sources and Comparison Group
> Primary observations (2016), RB Use/User Study (UW 2015)
> Observations collected from 5 RB and 5 matched control sites

Findings

Indicator	Rainier Beach	Control Sites	Score
Number of Broken Equipment	1	3	**3**
Number of Grocery Bags of Litter	19	12	**1**
Number of Vacant or Dilapidated Buildings	7	3	**1**
Number of Public Art Pieces	27	13	**5**
		Total Score / Possible Score	**10**/20
		Percentage	**50%**

Public art is a major asset in Rainier Beach
Areas needing improvement include litter management and making use of vacant/dilapidated buildings in "pearls"

Feel   60% B = Very Good

> Response a place elicits
> Person's relationship to physical & social environment
> Safety -> Interactions & Participation -> Health & Safety
> Positive feelings contribute to trust and cohesion

INDICATORS

Feeling...
1. **Safe in the day**
2. **Safe at night**
3. **People care about the community**
4. **People are willing to help each other out**
5. **A responsibility to my neighborhood**
6. **At home**

Data Sources and Comparison Group
> ABSPY/GMU (2014), RBAC/UW (2015, 2016) and primary data (2016)
> Collected from 5 RB and 5 matched control sites

Findings

Indicator	Rainier Beach % agree/strongly agree	Control Sites % agree/strongly agree	Score
I feel safe - day	87%	82%	3
I feel safe - night	43%	49%	3
People care	72%	76%	3
People help others	68%	73%	3
Feel responsibility	65%	80%	3
Feel at home	82%	87%	3
Total Score / Possible Score			**18** / 30
Percentage			**60%**

All indicators were **similar** between RB and control sites.
A literature review found day rates of safety in day were similar to other places in U.S.
However, **night safety was significantly lower** in RB and controls

Safety   67% B = Very Good

Safer neighborhood -> less crime and injuries -> fosters cohesion, trust and growth

INDICATORS

1. Crime statistics (person and property)
> Rates/per population and 5-year trend

2. Progress towards 2014 CPTED recommendations
> Improving lighting & visibility in 5 RB hotspots

3. School climate and feelings of safety (MS+HS)
> Rates and 3-year trend

4. School proficiency and graduation rates (MS+HS)
> Rates and 5-year trend

Data Sources
Seattle Police Department (2009-2015), Seattle Public Schools (2009-2015), Seattle Neighborhood Group (2016)
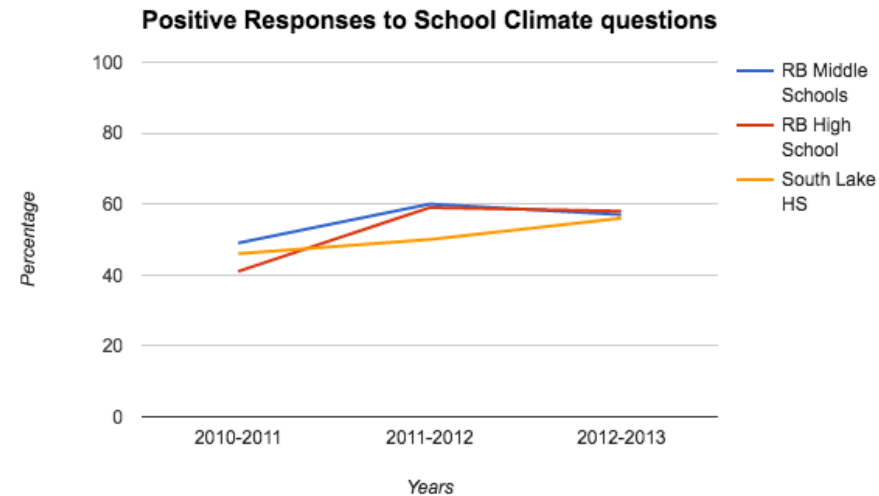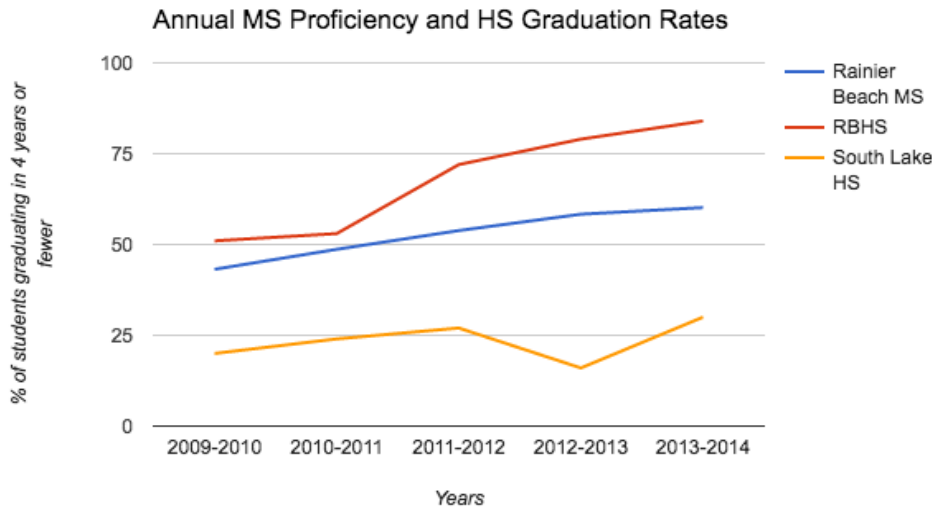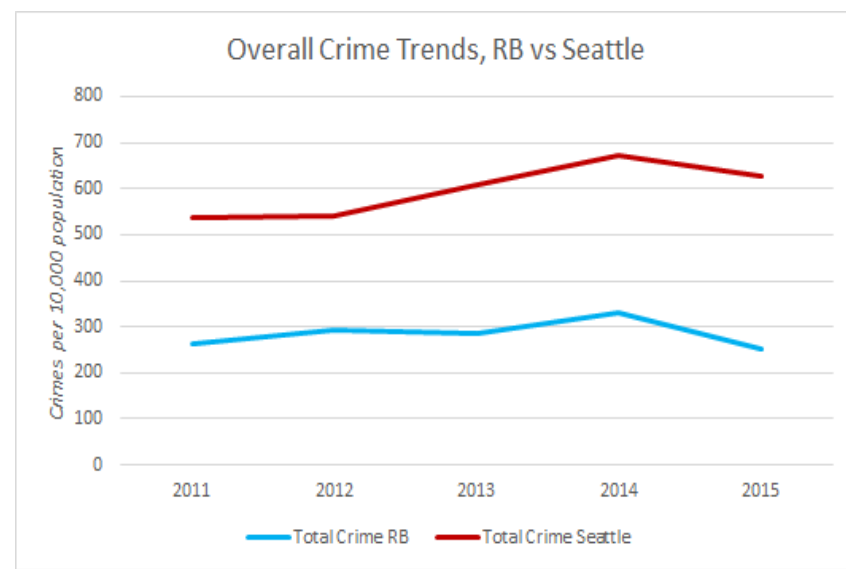
Findings

Indicators	Rainier Beach	Control / Goal	Score
Crime rates person per 10,000	59.99	53.35	3
Crime rates property per 10,000	224.31	543.18	5
Crime - person - 2010-2015 trend	Improving (decreasing)		5
Crime - property - 2010-2015 trend	Stabilizing (no change)		3
CPTED Progress towards goal	42%	100%	3
Middle School Climate rates	48%	52%	3
RB High School Climate rates	47%	54%	3
SL High School Climate rates	45%	87%	1
Middle School Climate 2010-13 trend	Stabilizing (no change)		3
RB High School Climate 2010-13 trend	Stabilizing (no change)		3
SL High School Climate 2010-13 trend	Stabilizing (no change)		3

Indicators	Rainier Beach	Control / Goal	Average Score
Middle School Proficiency Rates	53%	71%	1
RB High School Graduation Rates	68%	74%	3
SL High School Graduation Rates	22%	32%	3
Middle School Proficiency 2009-14 trend	Improving (increasing)		5
RB High School Graduation 2009-14 trend	Improving (increasing)		5
SL High School Graduation 2009-14 trend	Improving (increasing)		5
	Total Score / Possible Score		**57**/ 85
	Percentage		**67%**

All measures across time were either **stabilizing or improving**. Need to improve overall **lower rates of school climate** (all) and **Middle School proficiency.**

Yearly Trends

Overall Crime Trends, RB vs Seattle

Annual MS Proficiency and HS Graduation Rates

Positive Responses to School Climate questions

Improvements in both student performance and crime rates
School climate rates are stablizing but low.

Parks and Open Spaces   100% A = Excellent

> Availability and accessibility to safe, clean and natural areas
> Places to exercise, play, refresh their minds, and interact with their neighbors
> Engage in recreational and social activities with one another that can create strong social bonds and foster a sense of community

INDICATORS

1. **Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents**
2. **Percent of residences within ½ to ¼ mile of a park**
3. **Percent of residences within 1 mile of a community center that provides opportunities for indoor activity or recreation**

Data Sources and Comparison Groups

> About Seattle - Land Use Statistics (2010), Department of Parks and Recreation Goals Development Plan (2011), Healthy Living Assessment (2011)
> RB comparison made with Seattle and Parks and Recreation goals

Findings

Indicator	Rainier Beach	Seattle	Goal	Score (compared to Seattle Average)	Score (compared to Goal)
Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents	18.1	9.1	10.0	**5**	**5**
% residents within ½ to ¼ mile of park	100%	85%	100%	**5**	**5**
% residents within 1 mile of community center	94%	N/A	100%	**N/A**	**5**
				Total Score / Possible Score	**25**/25
				Percentage	**100%**

Rainier Beach **outperformed** City of Seattle and Parks and Recreation goals in all indicators.

Getting Around   68% B = Very Good

> Prevalence, convenience, and quality of various forms of transportation
> Ease of getting around -> more opportunities & social interaction -> improved health and safety
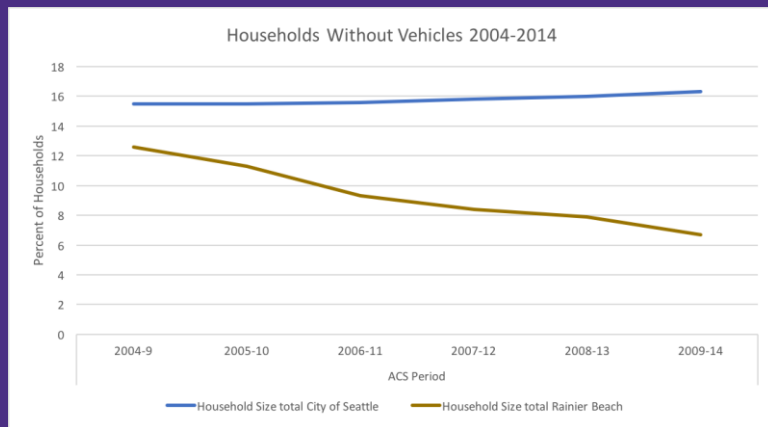
INDICATORS

1. **Percentage of households without vehicles**
2. **Walk Score** (closeness to amenities, block length, intersection density)
3. **Percentage of roadways with complete sidewalks**
4. **Transit Score** (frequency, type, distance to the nearest stop)
5. **Bike Score** (bike lanes, hills, and destinations + connectivity, bike shares)

Data Sources and Comparison Groups:
WalkScore (2016), SDOT (2008), Census (2009-2014)
Comparisons with Seattle, and trends 2009-2014

Findings

Households Without Vehicles 2004-2014

Indicator	Rainier Beach	Seattle	Score
% of zero vehicle households	Improving (decreasing)		5
Walk Score	61	73	1
Percentage of roadways with complete sidewalks	81%	70%	5
Transit Score	53	57	3
Bike Score	51	63	3
Total Score / Possible Score			**17**/25
Percentage			**68%**

More cars for residents makes getting around more manageable.

Transit and bike scores are similar.

Walk score was low, but complete sidewalks was high

Overall Score: 69% = B = VERY GOOD

Look	Feel	Safety	Parks & Open Spaces	Getting Around
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Strengths and Limitations

Strengths
- Used multiple forms of data, emphasis on public data
- Used strict criteria for selecting indicators and data
- Captured yearly changes for some indicators
- Considered statistical & substantive differences when scoring
- Used holistic & comprehensive approach

Limitations
- Used older data for some indicators
- Primary data collection: smaller sample size and less observation visits
- Some variation in RB neighborhood boundaries
- Some variability between RB and control sites

Recommendations

1) Promoting Rainier Beach's unique identity

> Actively promote and leverage **neighborhood assets**:

- **Public art** reflects diversity neighborhood values
- **Parks and Open Spaces** benefits health and safety
- **Accessible sidewalks** for **walking routes** to connect place, culture and history

Photo: Andrew Cha

Recommendations

2) Addressing Feelings of Safety

> Recognize **feelings of safety** may be harder to change even as crime rates decrease:
>> – Continuing efforts to increase **guardianship** with a specific focus on **night safety** and **youth**
>> – Continue to prioritize **student/youth safety in/outside schools**
>> – Continue to make progress on **CPTED** recommendations
>> – Continue to **raise awareness** of positive changes

Recommendations

3) Managing Neighborhood Perceptions

> **"Look" impacts neighborhood feel and safety:**
>
> – Continue to **prioritize maintenance** of public and open spaces
>
> – Focus on setting **community norms and expectations** on litter through community events
>
> – Continue to actively **engage place-managers** with a focus on dilapidated buildings/homes in pearls

Acknowledgements

>**Rainier Beach and South Seattle residents**

>**Rainier Beach Action Coalition**
   –Patrice Thomas, Gregory Davis

>**A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth partners**

>**UW Department of Sociology**

Look out for Report Card [Phase 2] Summer 2016!