

Neighborhood Strengths & Problems

Learn more and explore survey results at www.VoiceGR.org.

? What is **VoiceGR**?

VoiceGR is an annual, broad-scale, community survey that aims to assess Greater Grand Rapids residents' perceptions and experiences on a variety of topics. Each year, VoiceGR strives to survey a sample of residents with demographic characteristics that match those of the Greater Grand Rapids population. In 2016, 4,639 residents responded to the survey.

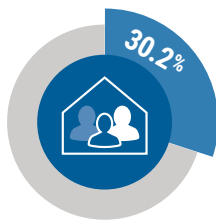
The primary goal of VoiceGR is to provide open, accessible, and objective community data to residents, nonprofits, governments, businesses, and other local decision-makers. In this data brief, we explore the responses to open-ended questions about strengths and problems of neighborhoods.

+ What do you think is the **biggest strength** of your neighborhood?

Community & Cohesion

Responses included references to:

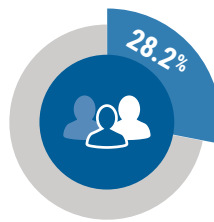
- + Activities
- + Commonality & similarity
- + Sense of community
- + Engagement & connection
- + Family- & children-friendly
- + Pride
- + Familiarity



People

Responses included references to:

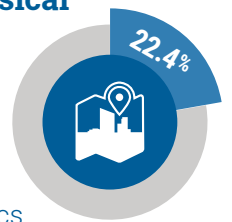
- + The people
- + Positive demeanor
- + Diversity & inclusion
- + Resident stability



Location & Physical Infrastructure

Responses included references to:

- + Beauty & aesthetics
- + Nature & green space
- + Close to downtown
- + Cleanliness
- + Location
- + Parks
- + Rural

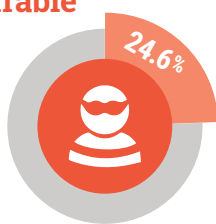


- What do you think is the **biggest problem** in your neighborhood?

Crime & Undesirable Activities

Responses included references to:

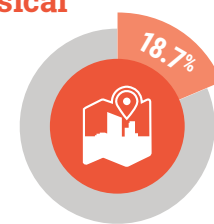
- Crime
- Drugs & alcohol
- Gangs
- Noise
- Road traffic
- Undesirable commerce



Location & Physical Infrastructure

Responses included references to:

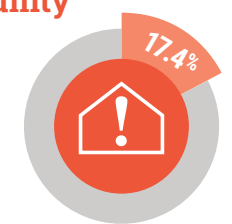
- Bad roads
- Lack of bike lanes
- Poor lighting
- Lack of parking
- Lack of cleanliness/littering
- Property maintenance
- Rural or isolated
- Not walkable



Lack of Community & Cohesion

Responses included references to:

- Lack of activities
- Lack of sense of community
- Lack of connection
- Negative demeanor
- Lack of familiarity
- Not family- or children-friendly
- Political or cultural world views





Community & Cohesion

- 1 Eastgate
- 2 Richmond-Oakleigh
- 3 Garfield Park
- 4 Alger Heights
- 5 Southeast End
- 6 Heritage Hill
- 7 Easttown
- 8 Creston
- 9 Fulton Heights
- 10 Ridgemoor Park



Location & Physical Infrastructure

- 1 Fulton Heights
- 2 Midtown
- 3 Easttown
- 4 Oldtown-Heartside
- 5 Creston
- 6 Eastgate
- 7 Downtown
- 8 Alger Heights
- 9 Belknap Lookout
- 10 East Hills



People

- 1 Baxter
- 2 Southeast Community
- 3 Downtown
- 4 Shawnee Park
- 5 Southeast End
- 6 John Ball Park
- 7 Ridgemoor Park
- 8 Northeast
- 9 Easttown
- 10 Heritage Hill

The data in this brief demonstrate not only that residents of different neighborhoods report different strengths and problems, but also that residents of the *same* neighborhoods have different experiences of their neighborhoods. For example, while many residents of Richmond-Oakleigh identified strengths related to community and cohesion, Richmond-Oakleigh residents also frequently reported problems related to lacking community and cohesion.

Similarly, Midtown residents identified both strengths and problems associated with location and physical infrastructure. In a small percentage of cases, the same resident reported both a strength and a problem that fell into the same category. For example, the same resident could have identified "close to downtown" as a strength and "lack of parking" as a problem.

Sample = 1521 for people who answered the question and also provided an address for geocoding. Neighborhoods with 15 or fewer respondents were excluded. Total sample for this question = 3267. VoiceGR 2016 total sample = 4639.



Lack of Community & Cohesion

- 1 Shawmut Hills
- 2 Richmond-Oakleigh
- 3 Southeast End
- 4 Baxter
- 5 Creston
- 6 Downtown
- 7 North End
- 8 Oldtown-Heartside
- 9 Easttown
- 10 Heritage Hill



Location & Physical Infrastructure

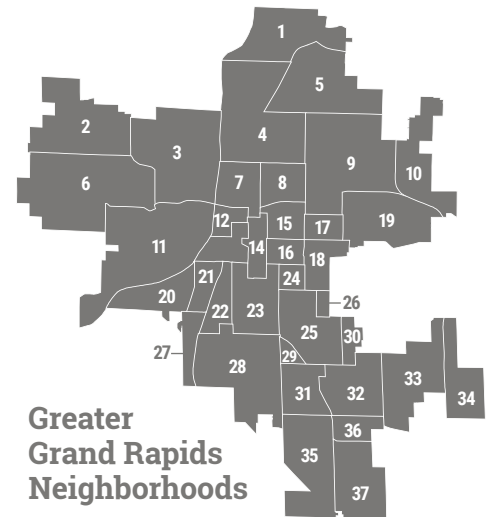
- 1 Highland Park
- 2 Midtown
- 3 Fulton Heights
- 4 East Hills
- 5 Richmond-Oakleigh
- 6 Heritage Hill
- 7 Easttown
- 8 John Ball Park
- 9 Garfield Park
- 10 Baxter



Crime & Undesirable Activities

- 1 Alger Heights
- 2 West Grand
- 3 Southeast End
- 4 Baxter
- 5 Garfield Park
- 6 Northeast
- 7 Southeast Community
- 8 East Hills
- 9 Creston
- 10 Easttown

Sample = 1158 for people who answered the question and also provided an address for geocoding. Neighborhoods with 15 or fewer respondents were excluded. Total sample for this question = 2476. VoiceGR 2016 total sample = 4639.



Greater Grand Rapids Neighborhoods

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 North Park | 20 Black Hills |
| 2 Richmond-Oakleigh | 21 Grandville |
| 3 West Grand | 22 Southwest |
| 4 Creston | 23 Southeast Community |
| 5 North End | 24 Baxter |
| 6 Shawmut Hills | 25 Southeast End |
| 7 Belknap Lookout | 26 Ottawa Hills |
| 8 Highland Park | 27 Roosevelt Park |
| 9 Northeast | 28 Garfield Park |
| 10 Leffingwell-Twin Lakes | 29 Eastern-Burton |
| 11 John Ball Park | 30 Eastgate |
| 12 Downtown | 31 Alger Heights |
| 13 Oldtown-Heartside | 32 Shawnee Park |
| 14 Heritage Hill | 33 Ridgemoor Park |
| 15 Midtown | 34 Lake Eastbrook |
| 16 East Hills | 35 Ken-O-Sha Park |
| 17 Fulton Heights | 36 Shangrai-La |
| 18 Easttown | 37 Millbank |
| 19 Michigan Oaks | |

