

NWONA Surveys Garfield Elementary School Students

June 16, 2010

Two classrooms at Garfield Elementary School did studies in the neighborhoods surrounding the school. They did a number of Walk-a-bouts in which they chronicled with photos and drawings what they discovered.

Kendra and Robin visited the class and Kendra surveyed the students about what they learned. The findings are below.

Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the students live in the neighborhood.

Approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of students walk or bike to school.

Over $\frac{1}{2}$ of students walk with their families in the neighborhood

What did you find when you walked on the sidewalks?

- Negative graffiti
- Uneven surfaces
- Not all neighborhoods have sidewalks
- People let their dogs do business on sidewalks
- No sidewalks in areas, mud instead

How would it be for a person with a wheel chair to use the sidewalks?

- Risky
- A parent with a child with a wheel chair commented that the south west neighborhood had many sidewalks but no ramps and so they had to use the street.
- Sidewalks are overgrown
- Storm water drains were overflowing after a big rain

What did you learn from walking in the Garfield Nature Trail?

- There needs to be more definition between creek and path
- There are two trees down in the path
- A hand rail was broken but has been fixed now

What ideas do you have for the Pocket Park on the corner of Madison and Thomas?

- Include plastic bags for dog poop scooping
- Two students want a pond
- A fine for vandals
- A playground
- Two students for a skate park—the creek slope is tempting now
- Benches
- Two for picnic tables
- Trash cans
- Trees
- Swings

What do you grow in your school garden?

- Broccoli, cauliflower, peas, rhubarb, kohlrabi, raspberries, tomatoes, pumpkin, lettuce, potatoes, radishes, peppers, cucumbers, calendula.

How do you manage the garden?

- During the school year students care and water
- They have made pies from fruit
- They have rain barrels and water with gallon jugs
- In the summer, students and the neighbors care for and water the garden
- They have a sign on the barrels to feel free to water and harvest and they provide plastic bags for people to fill with food
- They originally thought they would contribute food to the food bank, but there are enough people in the neighborhood who need the food.

What other concerns do you have about the neighborhood?

- Graffiti
- Garbage and graffiti on trail between Jefferson St. and Sunrise Park
- One student has to carry her cello on a cart in the neighborhood and there is so much brush along the sidewalk that she cannot maneuver.