

**Community Concern and Desires:
Analysis of Saratoga Ave. Jones Park TIPS Initiatives
Working Paper 2022-08**

RIT

College of Liberal Arts
**Center for
Public Safety
Initiatives**

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Santosh Pradhan

Research Assistant

Center for Public Safety

Rochester Institute of Technology

sp7994@rit.edu

Irshad Altheimer, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Public Safety Initiatives

ixagcj@rit.edu

Survey

On Thursday, August 25th, 2022, Project TIPS (Trust, Information, Program, and Services) was held in the neighborhood surrounding Jones Park in Rochester, New York. The objective of TIPS is to show support for the neighborhood, investigate community concerns and desires for the neighborhood, and strengthen community-police relationships. This report will summarize the findings from a community survey and includes the various aspects of the neighborhood that the Jones Park community liked, the assessment the community made of their neighborhood, and the initiatives or activities the residents would like implemented within their neighborhood.

Methodology

One component of Project TIPS is a neighborhood survey of residents. The day of the event several volunteers were sent out to administer the survey to seven different streets blocks in the neighborhood. Each volunteer was partnered with one uniformed law enforcement officer and the team went door to door soliciting surveys on selected blocks. Each volunteer was instructed to read a readymade script in order to conduct the survey. For various reasons, not all homes on selected blocks were surveyed. Some residents were not home during the survey administration. Others simply refused to participate. As a result, the findings are not generalizable to the entire Jones Street Park Community. Despite this, resulting analysis should give valuable insight into the attitudes of some of the residents who live there.

Key findings

The survey included questions on resident demographics, community perception of the police, satisfaction with the police, collective efficacy, and community concerns about crime. A total of 23 surveys from 7 different sections in the neighborhood were completed during the day of the event. It is possible that these low participation levels could be explained by the fact that the surveys were administered at 2pm on a traditional workday; meaning those at work would not be represented in the sample.

Demographics

Of the 23 respondents who completed the TIPS survey, African Americans represented the largest group (44%), while 13% reported Asian, and Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Overall, nearly 60% of the respondents identified themselves as being a racial or ethnic minority. A plurality participants reported being 25-44 years of age (39%). This was followed by individuals who reported being 45-64 years of age (31%). Most survey's respondents identified themselves as being female (48%). For a complete list of demographics, see Figure 1-3 below. The top percentages in each category are highlighted in bold.

Figure 1: Sample of Demographics of the 2022 Jones Park TIPS Respondents.

Race/Ethnicity (n=23)	Percentages
Asian	9%
African American	44%
Caucasian	4%
White	13%
Puerto Rican	4%
Missing	26%

Figure 2: Sample Age Group of the 2022 Jones Park Respondents.

Age (n=23)	Percentages
18-24	13%
25-44	39%
45-64	31%
65+	4%
Missing	13%

Figure 3: Sample of Genders Group of the 2022 Jones Park Respondents.

Gender (n=23)	Percentages
Female	48%
Male	39%
Transgender	4%
Missing	9%

Survey Result

Community Concerns

The TIPS survey asked residents whether they believed several types of crime and quality of life problems were of major concern, minor concern, or not at all a concern within their neighborhood. These problems included drug use, theft and burglary, violence, gangs, the sale of drugs, stray animals, speeding and property maintenance concerns.

The primary concern expressed by residents was violence, with nearly 80% of the respondents citing drug use as being a major concern in their neighborhood. Drug selling was also seen as a major concern by nearly one third of all respondents (65.22%). For a complete list of these concerns, see Figure 4.

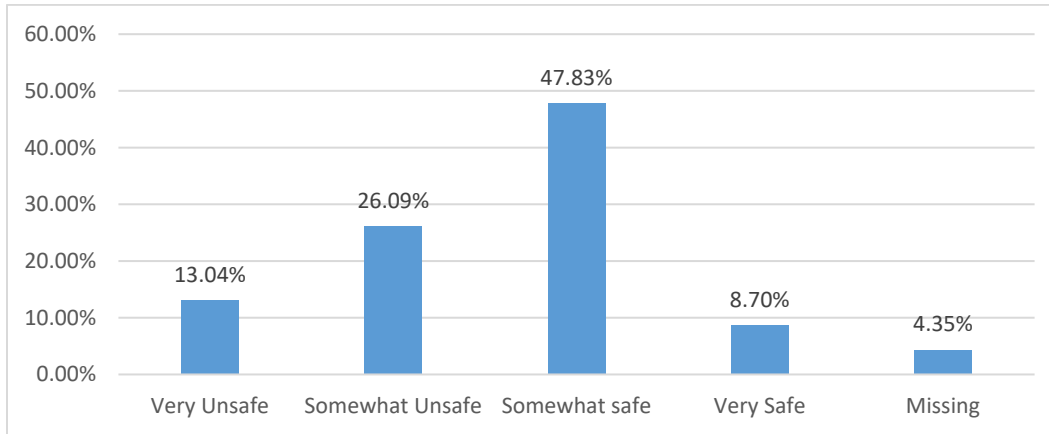
Figure 4: Neighborhood Concerns of the 2022 Jones Park TIPS Respondents

Concerns	Not at All	Minor Concern	Major Concern	Missing
Drug use	21.74%	13.04%	60.87%	4.35%
Theft/Burglary	26.09%	13.04%	56.52%	4.35%
Violence	13.04%	4.35%	78.26%	4.35%
Gangs	26.09%	26.09%	43.48%	4.35%
Drug Selling	21.74%	8.70%	65.22%	4.35%
Stray Animals	17.39%	47.83%	26.09%	8.70%
Speeding	34.74%	4.35%	52.17%	8.74%
Property Maintenance	43.48%	17.39%	21.74%	17.39

Safety

When asked how safe they felt in their neighborhood, 56.53% of the respondents stated that they either felt somewhat or very safe. 40% of the respondents reported feeling somewhat or very unsafe in their neighborhoods (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Perceived Safety of the 2022 Jones Park TIPS Respondents.



Relationships with the Police

Among other questions, the survey included a section related to residents and their feelings towards and relationship with the police. Residents were asked to respond on how much they agreed or disagreed with statements related to this theme. Residents were asked to respond with either strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. Statements included, “I trust the police to do what is best for the community,” and “The police here generally treat people with dignity and respect.” When asked if they trust the police to do what’s best for the community, over 56.5% of the respondents answered with either agree (17.4%) or strongly agree (39.1%), while 34.8% disagreed. Residents were also asked if they knew any officers who worked in their neighborhood. Most of respondents (52.1%) answered that they did not. In addition, 35% of respondents strongly disagree or disagree with the fairness question. Although not a majority, this is a considerable proportion of the respondents surveyed. For a complete list of responses from this section, see Figure 6.

Figure 6: How much do you agree or disagree with these statements?

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Missing
RPD works hard to address issues of crime	4.4%	34.9%	39.1%	13.0%	8.7%
RPD officers listen to what you have to say.	4.4%	17.4%	47.8%	21.7%	8.7%
I trust the police to do what is best for the community.	4.4%	30.4%	39.1%	17.4%	8.7%
Police officers in my community are generally fair in the way they enforce the law.	4.4%	30.4%	47.8%	8.7%	8.7%
Police here generally treat people with dignity and respect.	4.4%	21.7%	47.8%	17.4%	8.7%
Police work with the community to solve problems	0%	26%	43.5%	13%	17.5%
I know the police officers that work in my neighborhood.	21.7%	30.4%	26%	8.7%	13.2

In addition to this section, two questions were asked to gauge how comfortable residents felt with the police. When asked if they felt comfortable reporting issues or suspicious behavior to police, 78.27% of the respondents answered yes or sometimes, whereas 21.74% responded no.

Collective Efficacy

Collective efficacy is defined as social cohesion between neighbors and willingness to intervene on behalf of the common good. This has been linked to increased levels of informal social control and reductions in neighborhood violence. Residential stability, indicated by high rates of homeownership, has also been shown to help maintain social networks and informal social control, as people’s investment in their homes carries over towards investment into community at large. The survey asked the following two questions in order to measure residential stability and homeownership. The questions were, “How many years have you lived in this neighborhood?” and, “Do you own or rent your home?” The average tenure in the neighborhood was eight to ten years. The vast majority of the respondents (60.87%) answered that they rent their home, while nearly (30%) stated that they own rent their property. An additional 8% reported that they were staying with a friend or family or missing. For a complete list of response from this section, see figure 7-8.

Figure 7: 2022 Jones Park Respondents’ Years in the Neighborhood.

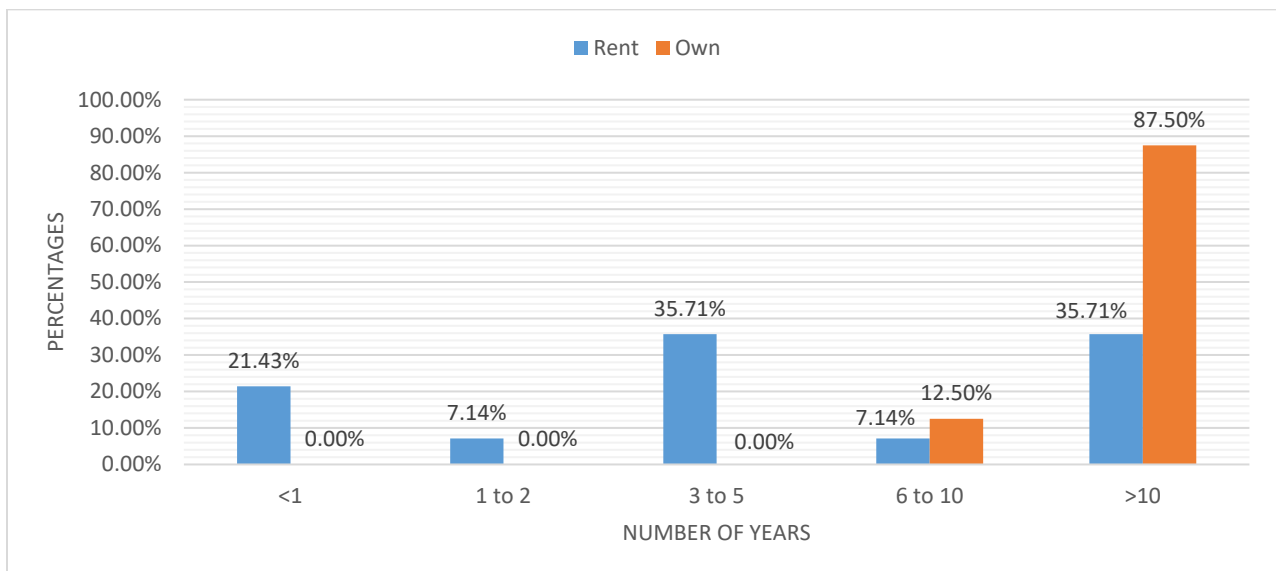
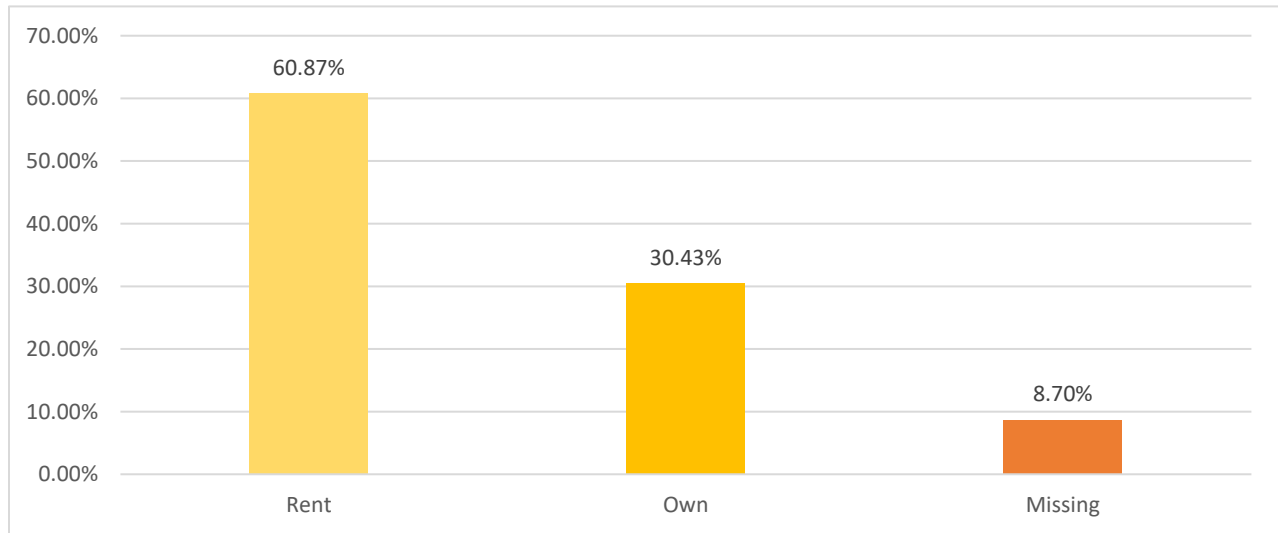


Figure 8: 2022 Jones Park Respondent's Homeownership in the Neighborhood.



Research has shown that homeowners are less likely to move and more likely to establish long-term presence in a community than renters. This can lead to greater levels of neighborhood stability. A crosstab analysis of these two questions was run to determine the relationship between homeowner and length of time living in the neighborhood. The analysis found that 21.43% of respondents reported that the length of time they rented their home was less than a year. Additionally, of the population which reported that they owned their home, more than 87% of them had lived in the community for at least 10 years (see Figure 9 for complete chart).

Figure 9: 2022 Jones Park TIPS Crosstabs: Housing and Neighborhood Tenure.

Number of Years	Rent	Own	Staying with Friend/Family
<1	21.43%	0.00%	0.00%
1 to 2	7.14%	0.00%	0.00%
3 to 5	35.71%	0.00%	50.00%
6 to 10	7.14%	12.50%	50.00%
>10	35.71%	87.50%	0.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

While existing research suggests that presence of homeowners can provide greater stability to the neighborhood, it is important to note that (42.8%) of the renters in the Jones Park community have lived in the area for 6 or more years. These renters may also provide some means of stability as they have invested considerable time in their community.

Social cohesion is an important part of neighborhood life as it can influence the community's willingness to intervene and assist neighbors. The TIPS survey measured social cohesion in the Jones Park community by asking residents a series of questions related to this concept (see Figure 10 for complete list).

Figure 10: 2022 Jones Park Respondent's Social Cohesion.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Missing
People around here are willing to help their neighbors.	17.39%	43.48%	30.43%	8.70%	0%
People in this neighborhood share the same values.	8.70%	47.83%	17.39%	17.39%	8.69%
I could count on my neighbors to intervene if a fight broke out in front of my house.	8.70%	39.13%	30.43%	21.74%	0

Conclusion

The Jones Park residents listed violence as their primary concern for the neighborhood. The majority of residents had positive attitudes toward the police. Most respondents stated that they either felt somewhat safe or very safe (56.53%). An additional 78% answered yes or sometimes when asked if they felt comfortable reporting issues or suspicious behavior to the police. A peaceful neighborhood with a friendly community can contribute to feelings of comfort within the community among residents, leading to more instances of inter-resident interaction. Future interventions to address the concerns expressed by the Jones Park Community residents should pay close attention to the addition of traffic safety measures, such as installing an additional one-way street and stop signs.