

**Community Concerns and Desires:
Analysis of Thomas P. Ryan Center TIPS Initiatives
Working Paper 2022-10**

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Surveys

On Thursday, May 26th, 2022, Project TIPS (Trust, Information, Program, and Services) took place in the neighborhood surrounding Thomas P. Ryan Center 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 Thomas P. Ryan Center 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 Projects TIPS is a neighborhood survey of the residents. The day of the event several volunteers were sent out to administer the survey to eighteen 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 Thomas P. Ryan Center 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 79 surveys from 13 different sections in the neighborhood were completed during the day of the event. It is possible that these low participation levels on both days 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 79 respondents who took the TIPS survey, African Americans represented the largest group (58.2%), while 7.6% reported Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Overall, nearly 82% of the respondents identified themselves as being a racial or ethnic minority. A plurality of participants reported being 44-64 years of age (33%). This was closely followed by individuals who reported being either 25-44 years of age (29%) or 65 and older (27%). Most of the survey respondents identified themselves as being female (58%). For a complete list of sample demographics, see Figure 1. The top percentages in each category are highlighted in bold.

Figure 1: Sample Demographics of the 2022 Thomas P. Ryan Center Park TIPS Respondents.

| Row Labels | Percentages |
|------------------|-------------|
| African American | 58% |
| Hispanic | 18% |
| White | 12% |
| Missing (999) | 6 % |
| Other | 6% |

Figure 2: Sample of Age Group of the 2022 Thomas P. Ryan Center Park TIPS Respondents.

| Age | Percentages |
|---------|-------------|
| 18-24 | 5% |
| 25-44 | 29% |
| 45-64 | 33% |
| 65+ | 27% |
| Missing | 6% |

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

| Gender | Percentages |
|---------------|-------------|
| Female | 59% |
| Male | 37% |
| Missing (999) | 4% |

Survey Results

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, drug selling, stray animals, speeding, and property maintenance concerns.

The primary concern expressed by residents was speeding, with nearly 52% of the respondents citing speeding as being a major concern in their neighborhood. Theft and burglary was also seen as a major concern by nearly half of all respondents (40.5%). For a complete list of these concerns, see Figure 4.

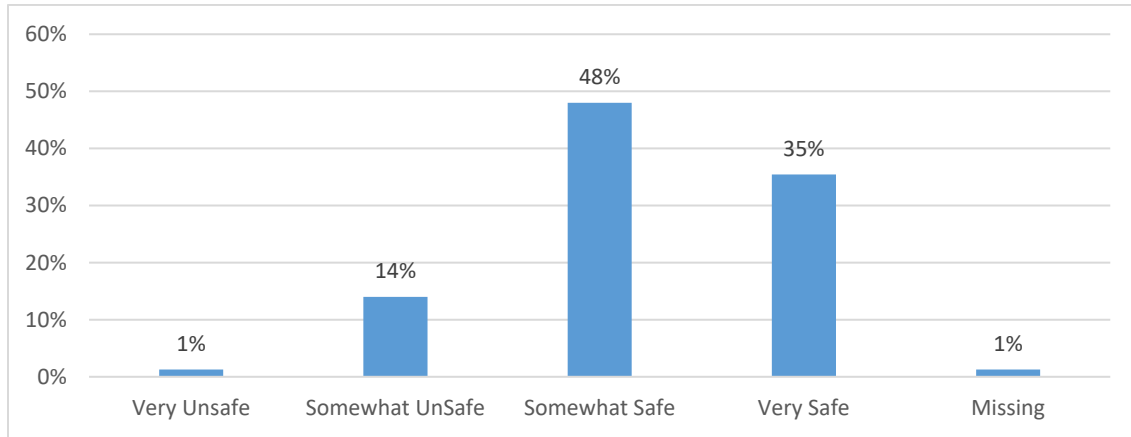
Figure 4: Neighborhood Concerns of the 2022 Thomas Ryan Center Park TIPS Respondents.

| Concerns | Not at All | Minor Concern | Major Concern | Missing |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Drug use | 32.9% | 29.1% | 37.9% | 0% |
| Theft/Burglary | 30.4% | 27.9% | 40.5% | 1.3% |
| Violence | 24.1% | 24.1% | 32.9% | 1.3% |
| Gangs | 45.6% | 18.9% | 32.9% | 2.5% |
| Drug Selling | 44.3% | 16.5% | 37.9% | 1.3% |
| Stray Animals | 39.2% | 29.1% | 29.1% | 2.5% |
| Speeding | 17.7% | 29.1% | 51.9% | 1.3% |
| Property Maintenance | 43.0% | 34.1% | 17.7% | 5.1% |

Safety

When asked how safe they felt in their neighborhood, 83.5% of respondents stated they either felt somewhat safe or very safe. Notably, 15% of respondents reported feeling very somewhat unsafe or very unsafe in their neighborhood (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Perceived Safety of the 2022 Thomas P. Ryan Center 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, 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 78% of the respondents answered with either agree (60.7%) or strongly agree (17.7%), while only 12% disagreed. Residents were also asked if they knew any officers who worked in their neighborhood. Again, most respondents (67.1%) answered that they did not. In addition, 8.8% 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 | 5.0% | 10.1% | 60.7% | 15.2% | 8.7% |
| RPD officers listen to what you have to say. | 6.3% | 6.3% | 63.2% | 13.9% | 9.8% |
| I trust the police to do what is best for the community. | 6.3% | 6.3% | 60.7% | 17.7% | 9% |
| Police officers in my community are generally fair in the way they enforce the law. | 2.5% | 6.3% | 63.2% | 13.9% | 14.1% |
| Police here generally treat people with dignity and respect. | 1.3% | 7.6% | 62.0% | 19.0% | 10.1% |
| Police work with the community to solve problems | 3.8% | 12.7% | 58.2% | 8.9% | 16.4% |
| I know the police officers that work in my neighborhood. | 32.9% | 34.2% | 20.3% | 3.8% | 8.8% |

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, 92.4% of respondents answered yes or sometimes, whereas 7.5% 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 (48%) answered that they own their home, while nearly (43%) stated that they rent their property. An additional 9% reported that they were staying with a friend or family. For a complete list of response from this section, see Figures 7-8.

Figure 7: 2022 Thomas Ryan Center Park Respondents Homeownership in the Neighborhood.

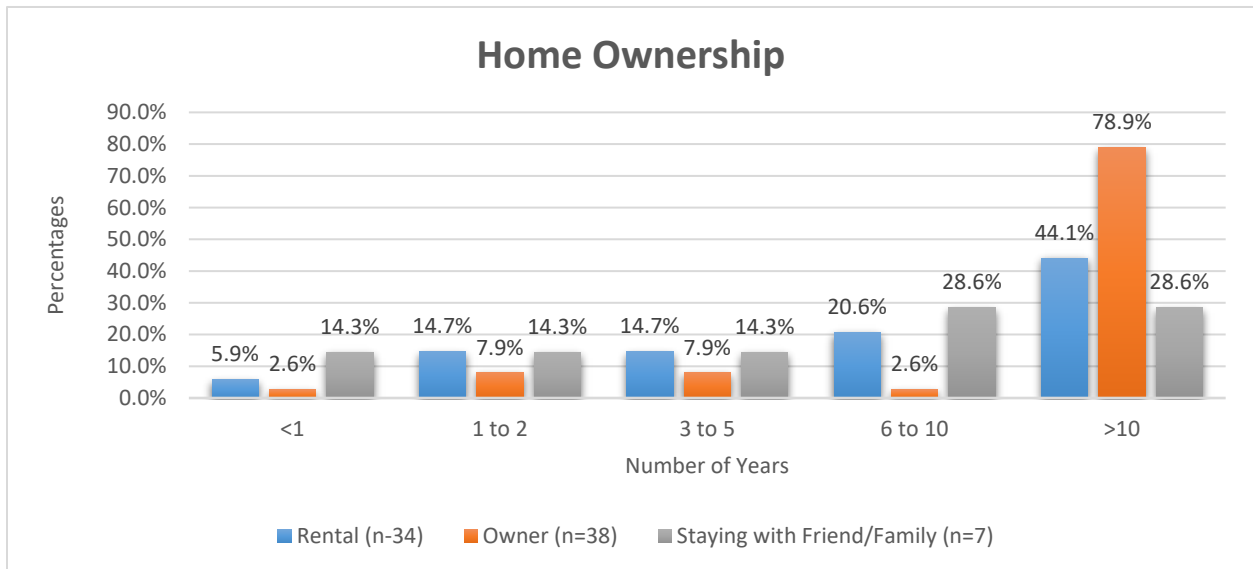
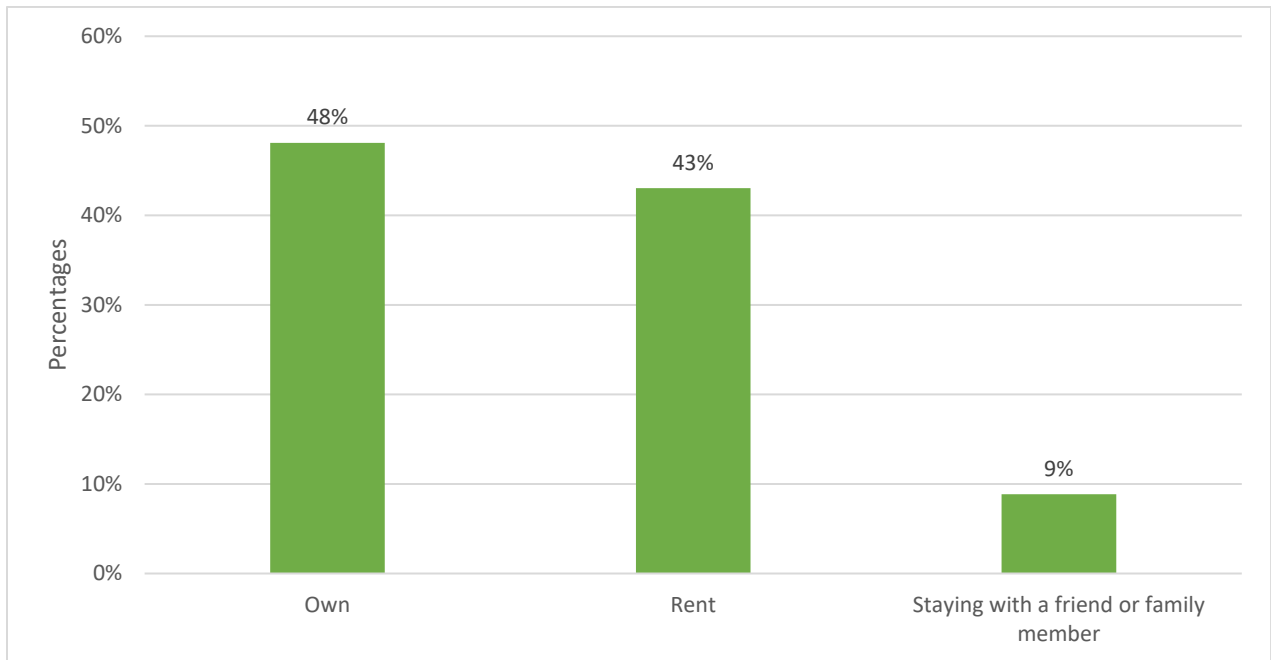


Figure 8: 2022 Thomas Ryan Center Park Respondents Years in the Neighborhood (n=79)



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 5.9% of respondents reported that the length of time they rented their home was less than a year. Additionally, of the small population which reported that they owned their home, half of them had lived in the community for at least 10 years (see Figure 9 for complete chart).

Figure 9: 2022 Thomas Ryan Center Park TIPS Crosstabs: Housing and Neighborhood Tenure.

| Years in the neighborhood | Rent (n=34) | Owner (n=38) | Staying with Friend/Family (n=7) |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| <1 | 5.9% | 2.6% | 14.3% |
| 1 to 2 | 14.7% | 7.9% | 14.3% |
| 3 to 5 | 14.7% | 7.9% | 14.3% |
| 6 to 10 | 20.6% | 2.6% | 28.6% |
| >10 | 44.1% | 78.9% | 28.6% |
| Total | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

While existing research suggests that presence of homeowners can provide greater stability to the neighborhood, it is important to note that more than half (64.7%) of the renters in the Thomas Ryan Center 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 Thomas Ryan Center community by asking residents a series of questions related to this concept (see Figure 10 for complete list).

Table 10: 2022 Thomas Ryan Center Park Respondent’s Social Cohesion

| | Strongly Agree (n=11) | Agree (n=18) | Disagree (n=3) | Strongly Disagree (n=3) | Missing (n=2) |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| People around here are willing to help their neighbors. | 22% | 56% | 15% | 6% | 1% |
| People in this neighborhood share the same values. | 13% | 46% | 31% | 4% | 6% |
| I could count on my neighbors to intervene if a fight broke out in front of my house. | 8% | 38% | 33% | 18% | 3% |

Conclusion

The Thomas Ryan Center Park residents listed Theft and Burglary as their primary concerns for the neighborhood. Many residents refused to answer when asked about suggestions and concerns in the community. However, the majority of residents had positive attitudes toward the police. Most respondents stated that they either felt somewhat safe or very safe (83.54%). 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 Thomas Ryan Center Community residents should pay close attention to the addition of traffic safety measures, such as installing an additional one-way street and stop signs.