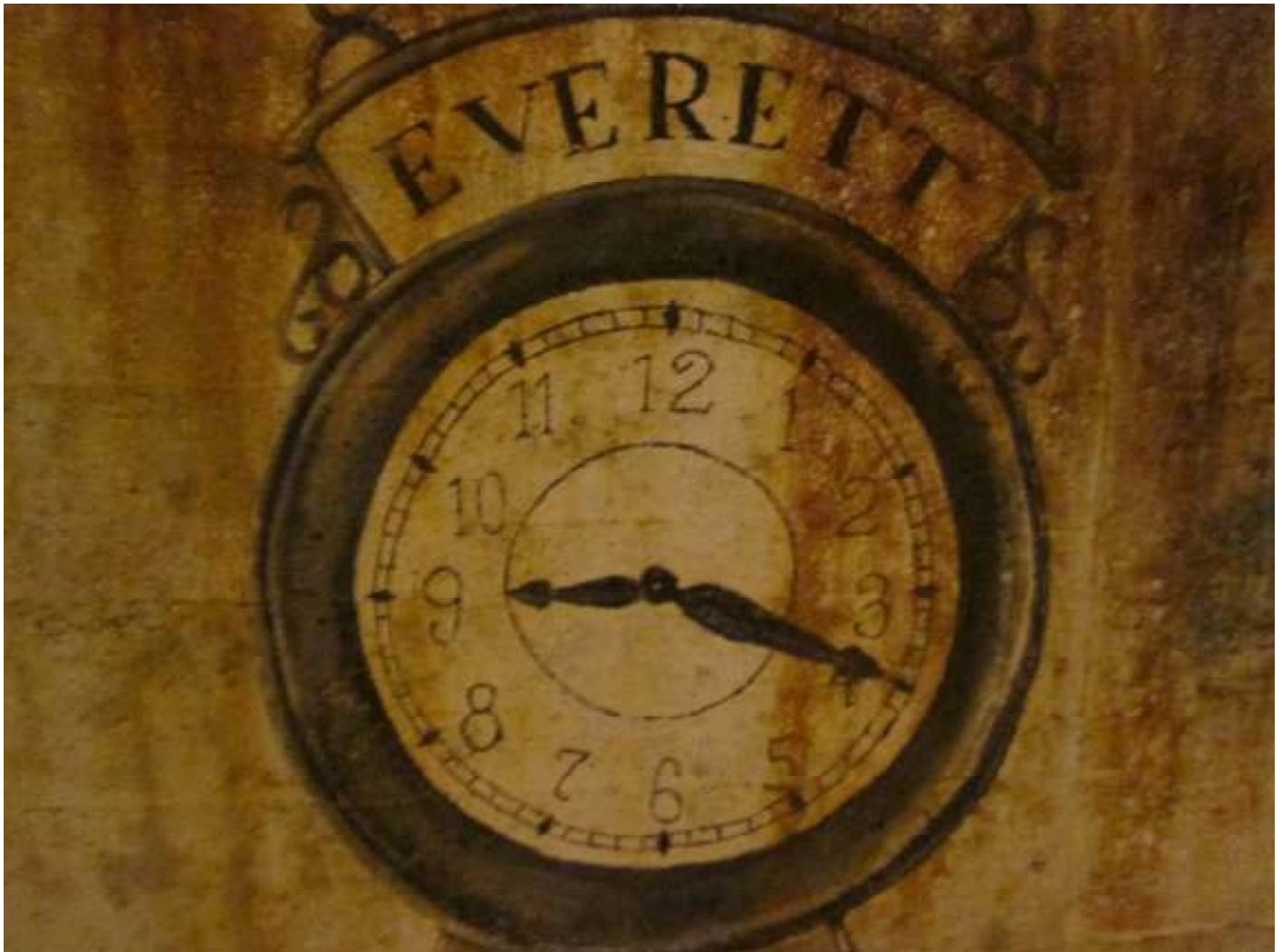


City of Everett
Community Safety Audit
And
Photovoice Project
September 2012



The Everett Community Safety Audit and Photovoice Project

The Everett Community Safety Audit and Photovoice Project is the result of 13 Everett youth working for 3 months with the Everett Police Department (EPD), the Everett Community Health Partnership Substance Abuse Coalition (ECHP-SAC), and Energize Everett (EE) on an intensive Community Safety Audit using the Photovoice technique. The intention of this Audit and Photovoice project was to provide a process to empower the youth of Everett and the community of Everett to share their perceptions of safety with people that make decisions over their daily lives. The process also gave the city's leadership the opportunity to work with the youth throughout the project and respond to the different perceptions of safety through positive change. Through this project, it is our hope that Everett will become a safer and healthier community in which to live.

The desired outcome of the project was to involve youth in identifying and discussing how perceptions of safety and the physical environment affect personal wellbeing and health. The project addressed how perceptions of unsafe environments as well as the promotion of safe and healthy physical environments can affect personal and community emotional wellbeing and healthy behaviors.

The Photovoice project was funded by the Middlesex Community Transformation Grant, a CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) grant aimed at tackling the root causes of chronic illness. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health awarded funds to three Middlesex communities – Cambridge, Everett, and Somerville – to pilot the Photovoice projects this summer.

What is Photo Voice?

Photovoice is a participatory research project, during which youth identify, represent, and enhance their community through a specific photographic technique. The intention of the Photovoice project is to empower the youth of Everett to share their experiences with the people who make decisions about their community. Photovoice research is a method that enables people to identify, represent, and enhance their community. The Goals of Photovoice are to:

- Give “voice” to wide range of stakeholders
- Create visual “data” to inform community discussions
- Reach policy makers, other key stakeholders

The Process

Training

Training was undertaken for Community Safety Team (CST) comprised of youth and the adult project leaders from the EPD, ECHP-SAC and EE. The joint training was designed to build team leadership and to gain a full understanding of the dynamics of the Safety Audit and Photovoice process. A number of workshops were proposed by MAPC and implemented by the Everett project leaders.

As this project theme was specifically about safety, the questions that were posed and discussed were:

- What do we mean by safety?
- How do you uncover new information about:
 - Causes – what makes us feel safe and unsafe?
 - Impacts – how does feeling safe and unsafe impact our lives (especially our opportunities to be healthy)?
 - Action steps – what can we do? What can other actors in our community do?

Discussions between youth members and teams leaders were thought provoking and revealing. Topics included youth/teen mindsets, differences in men's and women's perceptions of safety, especially on the topic of sexual harassment, environmental challenges unique to Everett as it relates to health and pollution responsibility. Topics even addressed the nature and outcomes of a diverse population with agreement being reached that all members of our community share responsibility for the issues we face, and that community engagement and empowerment is essential to improving feelings of safety.



The Safety Team was provided with training workshops that included photography, photovoice technique and identifying and contextualizing themes using the SHOWeD method. Youth participants contextual and framed their experiences using photographs and utilized the SHOWeD method as a guide:

- What do you **See** here?
- What's really **Happening** here?
- How does this relate to **Our** lives?
- **Why** does this situation, concern, or strength exist?
- What can we **Do** about it?

Safety Team members then worked on creating and defining a Safety Survey to ask members of the community about their views on safety in the city. Team members also worked on defining a Site Safety Checklist to have a set of defined parameters that defined a safe location.

Finally, personal safety was discussed and plans were outlined for ensuring that no team member worked alone and that a police officer would be in sight of all Team Members in the street.



Data Collection

The Community Safety teams were split into three groups, accompanied by Everett Police Officers and were then taken out into the city to locations of their own choosing. Safety Team members would take photographs, conduct site surveys and personal interviews with citizens they encountered. The Safety Team went out four times for four hour periods throughout the month of August 2012 and then took the cameras home for one weekend break (four days) to take photographs and conduct surveys and audits.

Results

Photo Voice



The Community Safety Team discovered many positive things in the City of Everett that contributed to a feeling of overall safety expressed from the youth and the community. They also noted things that concerned both themselves and the people they spoke with. The CST conducted surveys to look at the built environment and conducted on the spot interviews with community members. In addition to their own experiences, these surveys and interviews directed the team to where they needed to take photos. The team identified eight overall themes that contributed to a feeling of safety or a barrier to safety in Everett. These themes are illustrated through the photos at the exhibit and are discussed below.

The Everett Community Safety Team also created recommendations to address the strengths and barriers to safety in Everett identified during the safety audit. These recommendations are a starting point to an ongoing community conversation about safety in our community and

are also outlined below by theme.

THEMES

“The City Cares”

Description

On our many outings we found examples of how the City of Everett is working to improve the lives of the people who live here and the way that Everett looks. For example we host the farmers market every Wednesday from July to October. It gives people in Everett access to healthy and low cost to food and they even take SNAP benefits. We also provide free lunches to students in the school system who qualify for it and free lunches in the parks in the summer to anyone under the age of 18. Also we are making improvements to Everett Square, Glendale Park, the Libraries and the memorial statue.

- **Recommendations**

- Continue supporting programs already in existence such as the Farmers market and kids summer lunch program.
- Continue the support of local activities for children and adults such as sports teams and local business.
- Continue funding for beautification programs for parks and fields in the city.



“Broken”

Description

As we walked throughout the city and visited different areas, one of the things that were constant was broken items. Some of these broken items were fences, benches, and park equipment that are all in need of attention. These broken items pose a safety hazard as well as keeping people from using the parks and recreation areas we have in our city.



- ***Recommendations***

- Place signs in park and recreation area that post a number as to where to call if there is something broken in a park.
- Regular ongoing maintenance projects for parks and playgrounds.
- Recommend supporting and implementing 311 safety hotline.

“Physical Safety”

Description

There are many places in our city where we question if it is physically safe to be there. In order for people to feel healthy they also need to feel physically safe. It is important for the city to keep recreational areas, including sidewalks and parks in good condition.

- ***Recommendations***

- Fix lighting throughout the city to ensure pedestrian safety at all times.
- Install more lighting on streets and around parks and playgrounds so kids can safely spend time there.
- More organized activities at night so kids are not just wandering the streets.
- City sponsored "Get to know your neighbor" events.
- Proper signage should always be largely displayed to warn public of dangerous conditions.
- City policy to create pathways and structures to assist walking during sidewalk and street construction.



- Create fencing around hazardous material such as electrical boxes and generators.

“Unkempt”

Description

The theme of unkempt expresses an increased need for communication between the residents and city officials about areas that are not as clean as they should be. Some areas in this city are used more often than others and the people who use these areas the most see what is really in need of attention. City officials cannot be everywhere, so it is up to the residents to let the city know of what needs up-keeping.



• ***Recommendations***

- Place signs in park and recreation area that post a number as to where to call if a park is particularly unclean.
- Regular ongoing maintenance projects for parks and playgrounds.
- Recommend supporting and implementing 311 safety hotline.
- Install more open form trash barrels in the city to ensure people will dispose of their trash correctly throughout city and in parks.
- Install doggie bag dispensers at parks in Everett.

“Graffiti”

Description

Graffiti affects many areas in our city. One of the root causes of graffiti in our city that we brainstormed together was that the lack of youth activity after dark has teens and young adults causing trouble or finding their own ways to occupy their time. Everett needs to continue to promote positive ways that youth can express themselves, such as mural opportunities or community events. Putting to good use the graffiti that we refer to as vandalism could be as simple as decorating walls of local businesses upon their permission.

• ***Recommendations***

- Organize artistic graffiti projects in the city to create additional outlets for artistic expression.
- Increase youth leadership and youth representation in city decisions and meetings.



- Boys and Girls Club needs increased advertisement and more activities to attract more youth to the site.

“Road Rage”

Description

Road rage pertains to things that make the roads unsafe to vehicles. It also pertains to the pedestrians feeling of safety while walking. Everett is populated with about 40,000 people and this fills our roads with many cars making driving and walking a difficult task. Aside from this fact our city has sidewalks on almost every street to try to ensure the safety of our pedestrians.



• Recommendations

- Create better street sign maintenance programs.
- Create pedestrian and bike advisory committee and include youth as members of the committee.
- Create bike lanes on main roads in the city.
- Increase parking enforcement to assist with safe driving by addressing the “corner” law and other violations.
- Install speed bumps/rumble strips in thickly settled neighborhoods.

“Pollution”

Description

The question on everyone’s mind is if parts of the city is polluted then are we safe? Everett has access to water that is polluted at times and power plants and other industries that are within our city limits that could affect our health. We should all make ourselves aware of the effects these industries have had and will have on us in the future.

• Recommendations

- Install more open form trash barrels in the city to ensure people will dispose of their trash correctly throughout city and in parks.
- Keep the community informed and involved in issues that affect our health like power plants and other industries.



“Alcohol and Drugs”

Description

Alcohol and drug use in Everett is a serious public health issue. The city of Everett is doing a lot to help prevent alcohol and drug abuse in our community. For example we have prescription drug drop boxes, health education programs in our schools, prevention youth groups, and alcohol compliance checks to reduce underage access. Increasing promotion of these initiatives to access different age groups in our community might help reduce the substance abuse problem in our community.

- **Recommendations**

- Continue and expand enforcement of tobacco and alcohol I.D. checking in local businesses.
- Educating local business owners of the ordinances already in place in Everett that prohibit sales of alcohol to minors and access to drug paraphernalia
- Promote and expand teen and adult alcohol and drug prevention programs already present in schools and local activities.



Safety Survey

The Community Safety Team conducted 17 Person to Person Surveys. 13 of 17 (76%) of the interviewees stated they thought Everett was overall a safe community. 8 of 17 (47%) were concerned with walking alone at night. 8 of 17 thought that street lighting was an issue that needs to be addressed. 7 of 17 (41%) thought that there was a strong or growing sense of community in the city.

The full survey results are in Appendix A

Site Safety Audits

The CST performed Physical Environment Checklists at 8 locations. The results of the site surveys vary from location to location but reflect a typical urban environment. Several of the sites had lighting issues or graffiti issues. Several other locations needed maintenance and repairs. Overall it is noted that every location has some issues that needed to be addressed.

In conversations within CST the topic of responsibility for these conditions drew varied opinions. Final consensus were that while the city does need to do more to maintain and repair parks and playgrounds, it was also decided that the city needs the assistance of the public to take better care of these locations and report issues to the proper authorities.

The full results are in Appendix B



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In their own words...

“I liked that it gave youth a voice and gave us the power to shine a light on the unflattering areas of our city.”

“It was fun and gave us an opportunity to give our opinions on issues.”

“...not only is it reaching out to other people in the community but it gives you the photographer a different outlook on your own community and may allow you to see or notice things you have never noticed before.”

“I liked being able to be the person behind the lens capturing images that I believed were safe and unsafe to the people in the community in Everett and I can't wait to see the reactions of people when we present our project..”

“I like the goal of it all, to make a difference in the community we live in, spread awareness, and make money! Lol...”



Thank You

The Everett Community Safety Team would like to recognize the following people and organizations that provided valuable input on this project

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Officer Patrick Johnston; Everett Police Department

Everett Community Safety Audit

APPENDIX A

Everett Community Safety Audit
Person to Person Survey

| Lived in Everett | Safe city? Why or why not? | Biggest safety concern | When do you feel safe? Unsafe? | Do you feel safe walking around Everett? | Sense of community | Crime | Trash | Lighting | Age |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|-------|
| Couple months | Yes, quiet and safe | None | Safe: Pearl St. area | Not at night or alone | | Shooting on Main St. | Not bad, better than Boston | Mostly good | 21-30 |
| 4 Years | No but nice people | | Safe: At home Unsafe: On the streets | Never | A lot of people know each other | | | Lots of lights | 21-30 |
| 2 Years | Yes, police do their job | None | Feel safe everywhere | Safe at any time | | None | A lot of pollution | Bad lighting | 21-30 |
| 11 Years | Not anymore, too many gangs and drugs | Violence, the parks | Safe: Their street Unsafe: Downtown, Norwood St. Walgreens | Won't let their kids walk alone | No sense of community | Big issue | | Decent lighting | 51-60 |
| 20+ Years | Yes, lived here a long time | Drugs | Safe: House | Feel safe everywhere | Growin sense of community | Cops do a good job of keeping crime down | A lot of trash | City needs more lights | 41-50 |
| 20 years | Safer than it used to be | Not enough places for kids to go | Safe: House, work Unsafe: Dark Alleys | Yes | More then before; depends on the place | Depends on the place | Can be better | Stronger lights, more | 41-50 |
| 31 Years | Safe with his cop friends | Gangs, people from out of the city, people hanging around alleys | | Feels safe | Strong sense of community | Like any other city | They do a good job of picking up trash | Lighting will help eliminate the crime | 51-60 |

Everett Community Safety Audit
Person to Person Survey

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|------------------|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| 4 Years | Yes, police always around | Children | Safe: Lynde Street Park Unsafe: No where | Safe all the time | | Not much, never witnessed | Horrible | | 30 |
| 4 Years | Yes | Enough police | Fire department, Broadway | Yes | Sense of community | | Need to clean more | Not enough lighting | 41-50 |
| 50 Years | Yes | Dealing with people going in the Skating Rink alley | Yes | Not by themselves | Lack of community- Before everyone | People not doing the right thing | Can be improved | Lighting could be better | 41-50 |
| 38 Years | Safer than it was- "Less hoodlum activity" | Gangs | Safe: House Unsafe: Broadway and Ferry | Yes | Getting better | Going down | Gone down | Always an issue | 31-40 |
| 26 Years | No there's violence | Bullying at schools | Safe: House Unsafe: The streets at night | During the day, not at night or by themselves | | | | | 21-30 |
| 4 Years | Yes, walks around and doesn't feel threatened | Trees are overgrown | Safe: Chelsea Street | All the time, always has his dog | Some very arrogant people | Haven't witnessed any | A lot of trash in front of his house | Great lighting, motion sensor at | 66 |
| 15 Years | Good community, family | Big trucks going too fast | Safe: House Unsafe: Best Buy and | Not at night or alone | Sense of community | Crime everywhere | Too many cars, trash | Very good | 51-60 |
| 39 Years | Yes | None | Safe: House Unsafe: Walgreens | During the day | | There is violence | Alright | Good | 31-40 |

Everett Community Safety Audit
Person to Person Survey

| Lived in Everett | Safe city? Why or why not? | Biggest safety concern | When do you feel safe? Unsafe? | Do you feel safe walking around Everett? | Sense of community | Crime | Trash | Lighting | Age |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|-------|----------|-------|
| 3 Years | Yes, never seen violence | Security | Unsafe: Main Street | All the time | | Not so bad | | | 31-40 |
| 20 Years | Not now | Crime | Safe: House | At night, by themselves | Conjested | Drugs, drunk people at the end of Otis | | Too dark | 31-40 |

Everett Community Safety Audit

APPENDIX B

Everett Community Safety Audit
Physical Environment Checklist

| Location Name | Main Street/Appleton | Sacramonie Park | Beautification Way | Skating rink alley | Lynde Street Park | Madeline English School | Meadows Park | Baldwin Park |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Date | 7/25/2012 | 7/25/2012 | 7/25/2012 | 7/25/2012 | 7/25/2012 | 7/25/2012 | 7/25/2012 | 7/25/2012 |
| Trashcans | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Trash on Ground | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| What kind of trash | Bottles, Paper | | Bottles, needles, cigarettes, | Bottles, cups, cans, wrappers | Cans, bags, graffiti, wrappers, cigarettes | Bottles, blunt rappers | Cigarette packages | Small wrappers, bottles |
| Lights | No | | | No | | | | |
| Working Lights | No | Yes | No | No | No | Some | No | Don't know |
| Front of Store | No | | Yes | | | | | |
| Parking lot | No | | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | |
| Playground | No | | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes |
| Across the Street | No | | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | |
| Other | No | Around the park | No lighting in the alley, bad lighting | No lights | Lighting not good | Walking area | | |
| Equipment | | | | | | | | |
| Swings/Playsets | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Basketball court | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Tennis court | No | No | | | No | No | No | No |
| Fence around equipment | No | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Open space for activities | No | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Benches/Seating | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other | Swings are damaged, damaged border on playground | Baseball fields | | | Sprinkler | Hop scotch, four square | | Sprinklers |
| Condition | In bad condition | Spray paint | | | Old, broken swings, graffiti | Broken bridge on playground, graffiti, trash | Clean because of the school nearby | Graffiti;rusty |
| Signs | | | | | No | | | |
| What do they say? | Can't read the sign | Stop signs, children crossing | | | | Park closes at 9, police take notice | Park closes at 9 pm | No dogs, no loitering, police take notice |
| Sidewalk | | | | | | | | |
| Both sides of the road | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Continuous | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Obstruction | Yes | No | Yes | No | | No | Yes | No |
| Condition | Cracked | Sidewalks end, no ramps | Cracked, weeds | New | | Cracks and lifted areas | Well kept | Written on |
| Curb | No | No | Yes | Yes | | Yes | No | Yes |
| Crosswalks | Half | No | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Yes | No |
| If not, where (Street) | | Tylston Street | | | | | | Baldwin Street |
| Obstructions at crosswalk | No | | No | No | | No | | |
| Other | | | Excessive amount of trash, a lot of weeds | Graffiti, need lighting | Broken equipment, no signs, unkept, | A lot of trash and graffiti | Lots of kids, on the stairs kids drink and use drugs | |

Everett Community Safety Audit

APPENDIX C

Everett Community Safety Audit

Photo Narratives

These narratives accompany the pictures attached.

Br 1 Twisted

The playgrounds and areas around our schools in Everett mean a lot to our community. This is where our children spend 10 months of the year for 6 hours a day. This photo was taken behind the Madeline English Elementary School. It shows a broken, twisted fence that is right in the pathway of children playing in the school yard. This relates to our lives because kids who are playing in the school yard can run into the twisted fragments of the fence and be injured by them. This problem has occurred because the upkeep around the school yard has been neglected by city officials. This problem needs to be quickly addressed considering school resumed session on August 29, 2012 and the fence was found broken on July 25, 2012.

Br 2 Take a Seat

This photo was taken at Lynde Street Park in Everett on the playground. This table is simply missing a seat and seems to be a quick fix, yet it has been broken for a considerable amount of time according to a recent survey of a mother who frequents the park with her children. This seat takes away from the physical safety of children and parents alike because parents might not have somewhere to sit and watch their children play in the park. When a person in the community sees something like this at a park or around the city that is completely broken or severely unkempt, there should be a known number to call in order to report an issue like this and then have it fixed in a timely fashion.

Br 3 Jungle Junk

Many people in the City of Everett view Lynde Street Park as an eyesore and an abandoned playground. However, to the children and parents alike in this area of the city, this park is somewhere for the children to go and hang out and burn off some energy. It is really hard to have fun at a park, however, that is unkempt like this one is. We believe that this situation exists because after the rotary there is mostly industry so parks do not need to be

kept up for some reason. This is a horrible reality because Lynde Street Park is in fact the only playground and park on that side of Everett and it is so severely unkempt. The park is not really visible from lower Broadway but to the children that frequent that park, this is not a park that they feel proud of.

Br 4 Just Trying To Hang Around

All kids try to do these days is just hang around, but it seems that the idea of hanging around is being tampered with. In this photo, taken at Baldwin Street Playground, one of the two money bars there are to play with has been broken and a lone padlock has taken its place. This padlock creates a sense of uneasiness for the children who play at this park because it shows that the play sets are slowly being destroyed and someday there may not be a playground someday. This photo relates to our lives because it shows how probably a group of teenagers will do anything if it means tampering with someone else's happiness, even a small child's.

Br5 Bench Warmer

This photo is an example of the one of many broken park equipment in Everett. This photo was taken at the meadows park and is of a bench with no back and missing wood where you are supposed to be able to sit on. This shows bad representation of Everett and shows that city workers leave things to fix for last minute instead of fixing things right when they are broken. We should have signs with a number to call to allow the city to know what needs repairs.

DA 2 & D3 Hide & Go Drink

We all know that drinking under the age of 21 is illegal. But we also all know that it is not going to stop anyone under the age of 21 from doing it. As you walk along the streets of any city or walk in and around their parks, you are bound to see at least one thing related to alcohol and public drinking. This pictures were taken in public places such as outside of the ice skating rink and in one of the parks in the city. There is no way to control underage and public drinking because no matter how much of an effort you put in it is not going to stop people. But one thing that the city can do is place more trash and recycling barrels around the city, even on side streets. Not only would this prevent the alcohol bottles all over the streets but it would also just improve the look of the city with any type of trash that might be found on the street.

DA1 High nice to meet you

The image captured is of dime bags that usually contain drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, and other illegal substances. Throughout our whole project we encountered many empty dime bags and also many empty alcohol bottles. This is an unsafe nature to our community because not only are drugs illegal but we are seeing more and more of our youth participating in drug abuse and alcohol abuse. Now a lot of the time a lot of convenient stores and liquor stores don't card properly and allow children under 18 to purchase blunt wraps, and children under 21 to have alcohol in their possession. It is unsafe for anybody to participate in drugs and is also unsafe for people who are sober and have to encounter these influenced drug and alcohol abusers on the streets because they are not in their right state of mind and could harm or frighten innocent people. Through our surveys a lot of people we interviewed felt unsafe due to sketchy characters at night that they are convinced were under the influence of some sort.

Gr1 Watch your mouth

When you walk around Everett you would expect to see comforting things that make you feel safe and welcome. However, a lot of the time you see graffiti that is meaningless and carry all sorts of profanity. This situation is not good for the community because it displays bad examples for the youth of the community and is an uneasy visual for others to see. The graffiti around Everett is on playgrounds, houses, cars, sidewalks, businesses and etc. This is a disrespectful act of individual's property and can make these individuals feel discomfort and the feeling of being unwelcome.

Gr2 Sight for sore eyes

This picture is another representation of Graffiti in Everett and how the vandalism it displays is bad representation of Everett. This specific graffiti is located at a fairly new dog walking park called 7 acres park. 7 acres is a beautiful park but located right near it is a series of run down abandoned buildings. The abandonment of the buildings allowed it to be an easier target for graffiti artists to tag and use it as their own canvas. This takes away from the beauty of the newly added dog walking park.

GR 3 At Least We Tried

The Meadows park is a cute little park located in the back of Saint Anthony's school located on Tufts Ave. The parks seems to be pretty well kept up when just passing by. But when you actually enter the park you find some things that are noticeably wrong. For instance, in this picture you can see that a simple sign just stating the time that the park closes someone

graffitied on the sign. This was the only noticeable thing wrong with the park. Everything else seems to be in good condition.

Gr 4 Northern Strand Community Trail

The Northern Strand Community Trail is a recreational trail connecting Everett and Lynn and is nearly 10 miles long. It was built by volunteers from Bike to the Sea. The grand opening of this trail was in June 2012 and it was a huge event for Everett and surrounding communities. As you can see in this picture however, the sign marking the beginning of the trail was later vandalized in July of 2012, nearly one month after the grand opening. This vandalism makes the trail feel less welcoming, and this should not be the case with such a beautiful infrastructure in our city and at our disposal.

Gr 5 Good try!

This is an alley-way right in-between the gas station, located on the corner of Ferry Street and Broadway, and the Walgreens' parking lot. Ironically most police officers call this spot, "beautification way". This wall mural could have such a meaning in the community, but we felt as if this was a project that they just gave up on. A lot of times in the city, things could have so much potential, but since it just gets to be a hassle people give up on it. If we could clean this ally-way up and keep up with the wall mural, this could be a nice "short-cut" that people could walk through to get to the other side, but since there is drug paraphernalia and glass alcohol bottles, people would just rather walk all the way around.

PS 1 Don't Get Tangled Up

This photo was captured down in the village near the railroad tracks. These overhanging wires cause a big safety concern to not only the pedestrians walking underneath them, but to the people leaving in the surrounding neighborhood who could have their electricity jeopardized at anytime. The city of Everett, however, is not the one to blame for this incident. Mass Electric is that company that gives Everett their electricity and is supposed to provide the upkeep of the wires and other things. If you see a problem such as this arise in your neighborhood, do not be afraid to call and report it to either the city or to Mass Electric directly.

PS2 Electric Slide A/B

These two photos show electrical equipment that is highly dangerous to people but yet there is nothing protecting it from the reach of the individuals that pass by it. This electrical equipment is located right along side of the Everett Recreational Center and although it has a warning label on it, it obviously does no justice because there is graffiti written all over it. If this Electrical box

was secured by a fence people would not be going near it. This could become a danger to children who play at the recreation center and also to any of the public.

PS3 Stumped

This photo is at Hale St Park in Everett which is a very nicely set up park. However, this tree stump is slanted and randomly placed in the middle of the grass where kids play and run around. This becomes a safety hazard to people using the park because someone could get really hurt. The photographer of this picture took this photo due to the fact she actually did trip over this abandoned tree stump. How we figure it to be is the city had enough motivation to cut the tree down, why not finish? We do not need any injuries in parks that we call welcoming and enjoyable.

PS4 Watch out below

These photos display unsafe attributes Everett has to offer. The first picture shown shows a sign that says "DANGER FALLING BRICK" although this is a warning to people in the community it is also a safety hazard. Individuals walking through Everett should not be in danger of a construction sight so close to their homes where bricks could possibly fall on them. The second picture is of a fire hydrant that is old and rusted and also hidden by outgrown weeds. This becomes a safety hazard to people because the photographer of this picture lives in the same area the picture was taken and has stated that this hidden fire hydrant is the only fire hydrant in this general area which is located right next to construction sights and nuclear power plants. These nuclear plants and construction sites are located directly next to neighbor hoods in Everett which could highly affect the families living in that area.

PS5 One of these things just doesn't belong

In this photo you see innocent children playing at a local Everett park called the Meadows Park. These children are enjoying themselves riding there bikes and being active and releasing their energy. However, there is yet again another construction site but this time its located right in the same vicinity of the park where children play day to day. This could be a danger to the youth because they could get hurt on the equipment because we all know children have adventurous minds, and even if the equipment is not used by construction workers during park hours kids can get seriously hurt by just merely using their imaginations.

PS6 Rough Patch

This photo shows a huge hole in the street. This could become a safety hazard to all drivers and possibly even pedestrians. A lot of Everett's streets should be repaved and fixed due to damage

of cars, car accidents, and possibly injured pedestrians. This hole could cause someone driving to get a flat tire, cause them to swerve causing a car accident or possibly an accident including a pedestrian. Let alone the issues this hole causes for traffic, it could also cause danger for pedestrians. I was personally with the photographer of this picture when I fell into the hole crossing the street and twisted my ankle. This rough patch causes an inconvenience for drivers and walkers!

PS7 Genie in a bottle

A broken bottle can represent a lot through issues of safety. This representation shows that public drinking either through minors or adults have been taking place on the streets. This is unsafe because we know it could be minors drinking which leads you to want to answer the question how are they getting the alcohol? And also what if these minors consume too much alcohol for their own good and can get alcohol poisoning and also can make bad decisions due to being under the influence. As for adults it is also scary to know some adults can be consuming alcohol publicly because of the danger the adult under the influence can cause. Along with the deeper aspects of this broken bottle, there is also the notable fact that it is broken glass and can injure anyone walking around or near the bottle

SAN 1 What's Lurking in the Dark

Walking through the streets of Everett, especially at night, does not seem like it is that big of a deal when you're with a group of people. However, alone and walking through our streets at night could in fact pose threats to people in the community. Some side streets are quite dark at night and it is unclear as to who or what might be lurking in the shadows. I personally do not feel safe walking these streets at night because of the people that are out at night, but I feel as though it is all a matter of a personal view that someone has of another person.

SAN 2 & 3 Lights Out!

Walking around any city at night can be a risky and dangerous decision for anyone to make. Especially when the city does not provide the proper lighting for people who have no choice but to walk alone at night. The problem that Everett has it not that there are not enough lights, but that most of the lights in the city do not work. When you are walking down the street, you will notice that at least one street light on each street in the city does not work. That could cause a serious situation for someone who may be walking alone down a dark street by themselves and the lights on the street do not work. The picture of the broken street light is the perfect example of this. Wires are hanging out of the lights so obviously that light does not

work. That light is in the walking park behind the Maddie English school which is a dangerous area to be in when there are no lights.

P1 Has enough been done?

The City of Everett has already taken major strides towards fighting pollution in our city. One of these ways was the installation of brand new, state of the art trash compactors that run on solar power. However, it seems even the installation of brand new barrels every few blocks on the main streets still is not motivating people to dispose of their trash appropriately. An idea on stopping the trash that does not make it into the barrels in our city could be to host city wide clean up days every so often to ensure that the trash is cleaned up and possibly motivate people to do their part.

P2 and P3 Has Enough Been Done?

City officials have also taken strides towards cleaning up our city's air that we breathe every day. The smoke stacks down near the Everett/Charlestown line are in much better condition, environmentally, then they were years ago. These smoke stacks have been converted to add cooling towers which now run off of the water right out of the Mystic River rather than oil and coal that was originally burned in order to cool the smoke stacks. The implementation of these new cooling towers has taken tons of hazardous pollutants out of the air and making the air a little cleaner. The smoke stacks are of course still a bit of an eyesore, but there really is no where else to put them, considering they have stood longer than most of the houses resided in now in Everett. As long as our city officials continue to keep our city's air safe by keeping tabs on the running of the smoke stacks, then our city can only continue to get cleaner as time goes on.

P4 & P5 Beautification Way, How ironic....

The city tries to put a lot of projects in place to improve the look and feel of the community. One project that was put into place a while ago is called Beautification Way. This is the street that runs parallel to Walgreens, Rent-A-Center, and Family Dollar. This was supposed to be a mural and walk way for a quick cut through and to look nice. But, the project started off strong with the mural being done and then seems to have become quickly neglected. Now beautification way is full of trash, broken bottles, drug paraphernalia and over grown weeds. This pictures clearly depicts the amount of trash that is left in this what was supposed to be beautiful walkway.

P 6 AND P 7 One Things Leads to Another

We grouped these pictures together despite the fact that they seemingly have nothing to do with one another. The photo of the trash littering the opening to the storm drain actually has a negative effect on the health of our city. This trash that seems like it is just unnecessary litter is actually polluting the rivers and streams that run into the harbor. The other photo is of Island End River on the Chelsea/Everett line and this where all of the water from the storm drain around our city ends up. This rivers water is so filled with bacteria that a person could become physically sick just by coming in contact with the water. This is a demanding reminder that trash and dog waste and extra fertilizer left in our city streets begin to have a negative affect on not only the look of our city, but the well being of our community.

P 8, 9, Rain, rain go away

These pictures are of flooded areas in Everett after a good rain fall. This water is highly polluted because of Everett past and the build up of this polluted water is not good for our living because the ground is uneven causing water to maintain its stability in massive puddles causing flooding in the streets, homes and etc. The over flooded areas also are a danger to drivers and affect how the individuals safety behind the wheel are.

RR 1,2,3,4 Sign me up

These photos are of all signs in Everett that are either old or faded, have graffiti on them, and are hidden by trees. This comes as a safety hazard to drivers and pedestrians. It comes as a safety hazard because drivers can misread or get distracted by the graffiti on the signs and also there is a speed limit sign that is hidden by the trees. The speed limit sign can cause drivers to not know the correct speed and go faster than they are supposed to. This could cause car accidents and also cause them to endanger a pedestrian walking or trying to cross the street. The sign that has an arrow point no left turn is also a deeper confusion for the public. The sign is located at the Madeline English School and below it the arrows on the ground are pointing out to exit that way and from the street there are arrows pointing in to enter in through that way. The arrows are mismatched and confusing for people entering and exiting the school which is unsafe to drivers, children leaving school, and any other pedestrian. They need to fix the signs and arrows on the pavement to ensure safety of the school zone and people surrounding it. Also the faded DO NOT ENTER sign is located in the same place. However the sign is completely faded and with proper sunlight hitting it makes it impossible for people to see especially when the arrows and signs mentioned above are incorrect.

RR 5 Step on a Crack...

These collections of photos were taken down on lower Broadway where a considerable amount of construction work is being done. Construction is being done on the road, on

telephone poles, and on sidewalks, but at what cost? The cost is that sidewalks have become uninhabitable and walking is a challenge. For an able-bodied person, it's not all that tough, besides the fact that there are rocks and broken cement, but for a citizen with any sort of handicap, walking down the street is a treacherous feat. While this construction is taking place, city officials should ensure that pedestrians have a safe place to walk and are out of harm's way.

RR 6 , 7 The Blind Side

Parking in this city is a real challenge for anyone who lives or works here. In a city that is only 4 square miles, we host a population of 42,101 people. This includes so many vehicles that congest our streets everyday, between the households that have two, three, or even four cars, to the people who just drive through our city to get to Route 1 or Interstate 93 or even Boston. Parking poses to be one of the biggest pains for Everett residents because quickly running into the convenience store or picking up your order at Everett House of Pizza could cause a 10 minute search for a LEGAL parking space. In these two photos you see a huge SUV parked illegally as the driver runs into a store in Glendale Square. This vehicle poses a safety hazard to any other drivers in the process of turning from Ferry Street onto Broadway, or even pedestrians. The second photo we have is of a brand new parking spot painted on Main Street, not by the city, but by a shop owner who wanted one extra spot outside of his business. This "new spot" is now in violation because it is not the necessary 10 feet away from the intersection. This poses trouble for anyone pulling off of the side street onto Main Street because the driver cannot clearly see if there is any oncoming traffic. Since the photo was taken, the city has removed the parking space, but it has not stopped people from illegally parking there.

RR 8 Behind a Rolling Ball Comes a Running Child.

Everyone in the city has seen these Slow Children at Play signs paved onto the cement around schools and playgrounds, but does anyone really follow the rules? Upon taking this photo, I stepped out from behind a mini-van parked on the crosswalk across Baldwin Ave. outside of the park, and I was almost hit by a car speeding around the corner blindly. This concerned me and I wanted to be sure and capture this photo and add my story to it because it is scary to think that a child could be hit who might not be paying as much attention as I was as I stepped off the curb?

CC1 The Apple of My Eye

This picture is from the farmer's market. It's showing all of the fresh vegetables and fruits. This gives a chance to the community to get together with a positive kick with it also! All

of the food that the farmer's market offers is fresh and healthy. People can get together and get informed with a healthy lifestyle Wednesday afternoon during the summer.

CC2 The Butterfly Effect

As you walk or drive along the streets of Everett you never really get a chance to notice the nature that is around you when you are always in a rush. But when you actually get a chance to look, you can see all of the beauty that is around you. This picture is a prime example of the beauty that no one ever takes the opportunity to look at. This picture was taken while we were walking around the island near Dairy Maid and Dunkin' Donut's when you first come into the city off of Route One.

CC 3 Welcome to Everett

This sign is located on Broadway, near dairy maid, where people of the community love to walk around and just relax. This area is kept up and gives a good vibe towards people. This picture shows how sometimes there are rough patches, but the community can come together and make Everett a better place. Everett should come off as this picture does, because we have such a strong community and offers so much to the people.

CC 4 Showing Our Appreciation

This memorial statue capturing the Spanish American War is a long standing symbol of the city of Everett's appreciation to the soldiers who fight for our country. This statue is named "The Hiker" and has stood in the city for many years. This is one of the many symbols that Everett has to truly show their appreciation to the men and women in uniform who risk their lives for us day in and day out. It gives the City of Everett a sense of pride to know that we are a community who have banded together in such a way.

CC5 Showing Our Appreciation 2

This picture captures the bittersweet appreciation Everett has for our military heroes. This image shows our military veterans that we as a city truly care about the veterans and what they have done and do for our country. Everett is really big on appreciation of the soldiers and the people who fight for us and our country. This sign is a very positive attribute our city has, however I do believe that Everett should have more positive attributes to add on to it because so far most of the negatives overcome the positives.

CC6 Tree of Peace

This photo captures Everett's own recognition of the men and women in uniform who have died trying to make a difference in our lives and fought for what they knew was right. This plaque will always be there to allow us to remember and never forget the men and women in uniform. More positive representations should be displayed in Everett to show positive outcomes.

CC7 Yummy in my tummy

This photo shows that Everett has a big heart for the youth of the community in making sure they are fed healthy meals everyday. Although this is only for the summer, it allows children without their parent or with their parents to be guaranteed a healthy lunch and breakfast Monday thru Friday. It is a really good summer addition, and I've witnessed families being able to picnic and enjoy each others company at the park. It is also very helpful to the kids who's parents work and aren't able to be with their children, because their children can go to a choice of parks in Everett for a healthy nutritious meal.

CC8 Like father like son

This Kodak moment is of a father and a son at the Meadows Park playing and enjoying each others company. It is good to know that families still enjoy being outdoors and feel safe enough during the day to go about and play with their children and keep them active. It's a good thing to know that the parks are being used for the right reasons and not just the wrong ones. During the day the playgrounds and parks are children and their parent's fun, but at night it turns into teenagers drinking spots or their canvases to graffiti on. It just goes to show that the oldest of our youth (teens) need more places to hang out and to express their personalities.

UN1 Broken Road

As you drive down the streets of Everett you will see a wide variety of people walking down the streets. For the people who frequently walk to their destinations, they can find shortcuts to them. Some of these shortcuts may be little side streets, a quick walk through an alley or maybe even walking down a main street. Some of the less used side streets are man-made. They are gravel roads that would lead you behind buildings along main streets or sections of the city. I personally would not feel comfortable walking down these gravel side streets at night by myself because you never know what goes on back there. For bikers though the path may be a convenient bike path to avoid all of the hustle and bustle that goes on on the main streets.

UN2 The Grass is Greener on the Other Side

This picture is near the village area, next to the condos. It used to be an area to take dogs, but now even dogs stay far away from this area. The grass is so high and there is everything you can think of inside. If we clean this area up and fixed the fence with a little mowing, it would be the nice area it used to be for dogs and other pets to walk around. It's the little things that count!

UN3 Not all it's cracked up to be

This image was captured at Appleton Park in Everett and is located by the playground area. This is a very dangerous sidewalk/walkway that can come as a safety hazard to anyone who is at the park. Children playing can easily fall and hurt themselves as well as any adult. This outcome could lead to serious injuries and possibly a serious issue for the city of Everett if someone does get seriously hurt there. There is no way around this path and it should be fixed to ensure the safety of all people in the community who use the parks.

UN4 Read in between the lines

A lot of Everett's signs are damaged in some ways that make it hard for people to understand or read. This may come as a distraction and miscommunication to individuals trying to obey what the sign could or could not mean. As well as it being a problem to people trying to obey the proper meaning of the poorly represented signs, it just makes Everett look uncared for. The city having signs that are so old that the lettering has fallen off just offers the representation that Everett doesn't care to fix the problems it has. We want to look like a community that cares and not like one that doesn't.



Br 1 Twisted.jpg



Br 2 Take a Seat.jpg



Br 3 Jungle Junk.jpg



br 4 Just Trying To Hang Around.jpg



br 5 Bench Warmer.jpg



cc 1 Apple of my Eye.jpg



cc 2 Butterfly Effect.jpg



cc 3 Welcome to Everett.jpg



cc 4 The Hiker.jpg



cc 5 Showing our Appreciation.jpg



cc 6.jpg



cc 7 Yummy in my Tummy.jpg



cc 8 Like Father Like Son.jpg



DA 1 High Nice to meet you.jpg



DA 2 Hide and Go Drink 1.jpg



DA 3 Hide and Go Drink 2.jpg



gr 1 Watch your Mouth.jpg



gr 5 Good Project Gone Bad.jpg



P 4 beautification wsay , how ironic.jpg



P 7 One thing leads to another 2.jpg



gr 2 Sight for Sore Eyes.jpg



P 1 Has enough been done.jpg



P 5 Beautification way 2.jpg



P 8A Rain Rain 1.jpg



gr 3 At Least We Tried.jpg



P 2Smokeless stacks 1.jpg



P 5 Beautification way 2.jpg



P 8B rain 2.jpg



gr 4 How long does it take.jpg



P 3 smokless stacks 2.jpg



P 6 one thing leads to another 1.jpg



P 9 rain 3.jpg



ps 1 Dont Get Tangled Up.jpg



ps 2A Electric Slide 1.jpg



PS 2B Electric Slide 2.jpg



ps 3 Stumped.jpg



ps 4A Watch Out Below.jpg



PS 4b Where's the Fire Hydrant.jpg



ps 5 One of things just doesnt belong.jpg



ps 6 Rough Patch.jpg



ps 7 Genie in a Bottle.jpg



RR 1 Sign Me up 1.jpg



RR 2 Sign me Up 2.jpg



RR 3 Sign me up 3.jpg



RR 4 Sign me up 4.jpg



RR 5A Step on a Crack 1.jpg



RR 5B Step on a Crack 2.jpg



RR 5C Step on a Crack 3.jpg



RR 5D Step on a crack 4.jpg



RR 6 Blind Side 1.jpg



RR 7Blind Side 2.jpg



RR 8 Behind a rolling ball.jpg



SAN 1Lurking in the Shadows.jpg



SAN 2 Lights Out.jpg



SAN3 Lights Out.jpg



un 1 Broken Road.jpg



un 2 The Grass is Greener on the Other Side.jpg



un 3 Not all it's cracked up to be.jpg



un 4 Read Bewtween the Lines.jpg

The Everett Community Safety Audit
and
Photovoice Project
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