

Community Progress Project Guide 1: Take a Community Inventory / *can locate, collect, and organize information about a topic. (CCSSR7)*

What are my community's assets and needs?

This activity guide is adapted from *Metro Joe*, a great project you can do with your class or another group. You can get the entire project online at <http://www.metrojoe.org>.

An inventory is a list of what is in something. This is an inventory of your neighborhood.

Answer these questions based on what you know. You also can walk around the neighborhood to take inventory or make a list of what you notice on your way home from school.

1. What types of homes are in the neighborhood around your school (apartment buildings, row houses, condos, single-family houses)?
2. What other types of buildings are here (religious institutions, schools, police or fire stations, post office, stores, restaurants, etc.)?
3. Write down the names and locations of any businesses in your neighborhood.
4. Are there any parks in your neighborhood? What are their names? Who uses the parks—what ages, when?
5. Are there places where you would be likely to go with your friends? Where? Are there places you would not go? Why not?
6. What and where are safe and attractive places for small children?
7. Are there safe places to walk, such as sidewalks? Are the sidewalks in good condition and clear of obstacles like trash cans? If not, describe the problem(s).
8. Are there safe places to cross the street (painted crosswalks, a crossing guard or wait/walk lights for pedestrians)?
9. How do people who don't have cars get to a grocery store?
10. Are there any public transit stops in your neighborhood? Where are they located (street or intersection)?
11. What kinds of changes have occurred in the neighborhood? For example, are any new buildings being built? If so, what was on the site before the new building? Are there any buildings being torn down?
12. Who lives in the neighborhood? Do you think that people who live in the neighborhood have been there for a long time? Are new people moving in?
13. What times of day are more people outside in the neighborhood?
14. What else do you notice about your neighborhood?

INTERNET LEARNING LINK: To learn more about your neighborhood, go to <http://www.wildonions.org/NeighborhoodsMap.htm> and <http://neighborhoods.chicago.il.us/>.