



WELBY YOUTH

Understanding the Opportunities for
Including Youth in the Planning Process

WELBY YOUTH

Outline

1. Define Youth
2. Youth Demographics
3. Existing Assets for Children
4. Issues and Opportunities
5. Youth Perspective
6. Recommendations – Built Environment
7. Recommendations – Moving Forward





YOUTH WELBY ASSESSMENT

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

"Youth" is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and the awareness of our interdependence as members of a community.

Fostering this period is vital to any healthy community.

YOUTH NEEDS

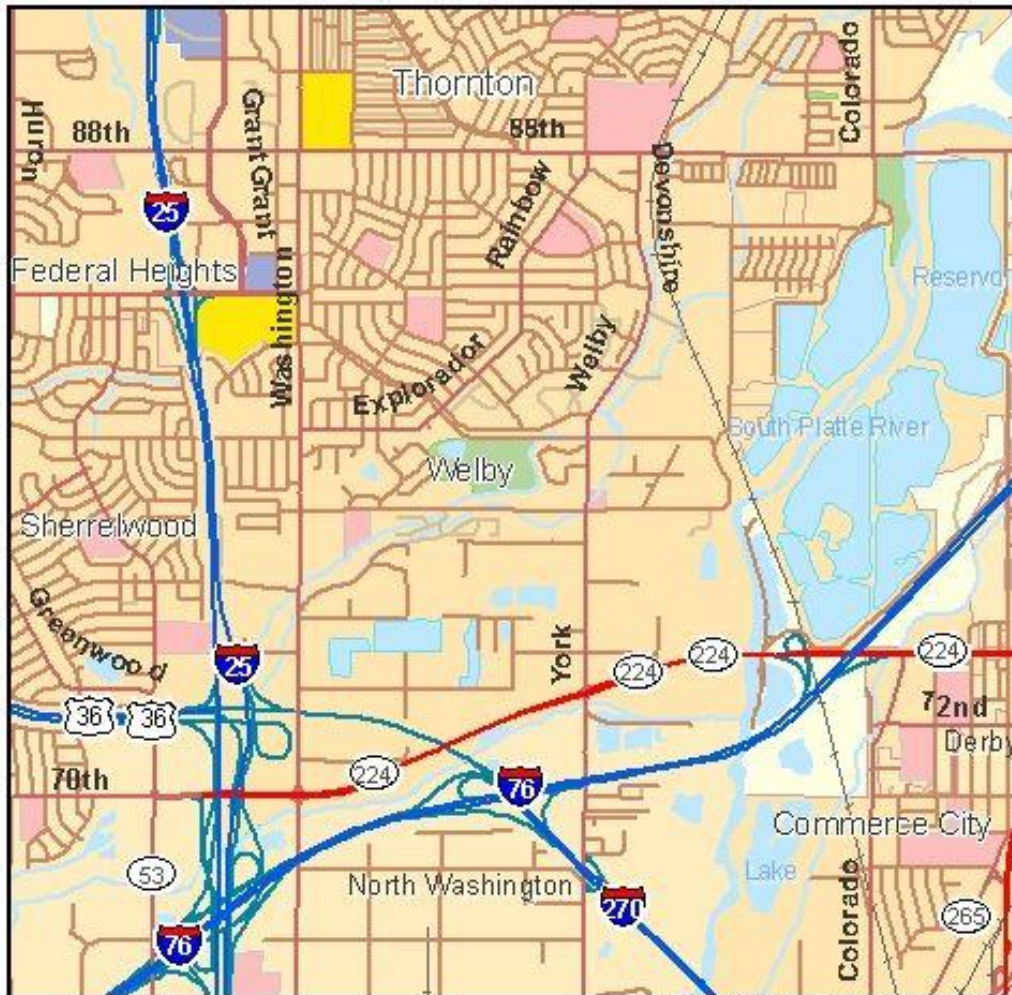


A word cloud of youth needs. The words are arranged in a roughly circular pattern. The largest words are 'safety/security', 'gathering space', and 'accessibility'. Other prominent words include 'recreation', 'role models', 'identity', 'home', 'play space', 'independence', 'nurturing', 'sense of empowerment', 'activities', 'variety', 'responsibility', 'interaction with peers & adults', 'education', 'support', 'creativity', 'FRIENDS', 'TO BE HEARD', 'stimulation', 'supervision', and 'scale appropriate spaces'. The colors of the words vary, including shades of blue, orange, red, and yellow.

recreation
supervision
identity
home
play space
stimulation
sense of empowerment
activities
variety
scale appropriate spaces
education
creativity
recreation
role models
safety/security
independence
TO BE HEARD
nurturing
opportunities to participate
gathering space
responsibility
interaction with peers & adults
support
FRIENDS
accessibility

WELBY MAP

This is the coverage area for the Aerial Photo Map



Source/Copyright: ESRI StreetMap Pro

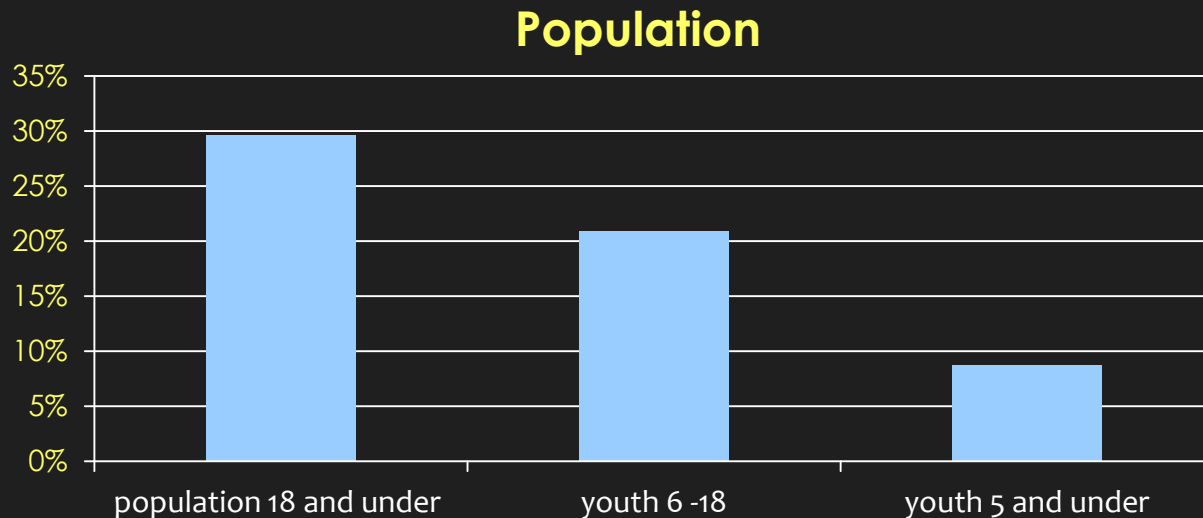
YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

Welby Population: 14,846

Population 18 and under: 29.6%

Youth 6-18: 20.9%

Youth 5 and under: 8.7%



EXISTING ASSETS FOR YOUTH

- Rotella Park
- Baseball Fields
- Playground
- Platte River Trail Head Access



ISSUE: GATHERING SPACES

- No indoor recreation center
- No movie theater
- Access to Rotella Park is hidden
- Few youth centered activities
- No community center
- Few spaces to interact with adults and peers



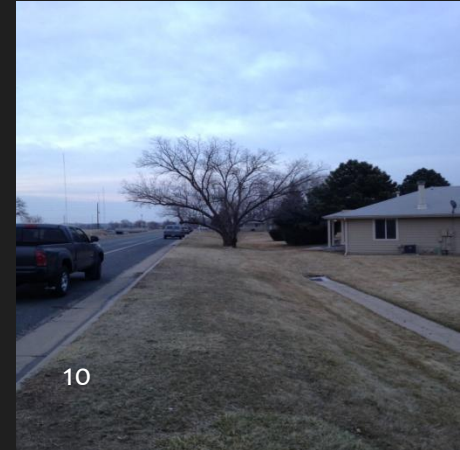
ISSUE: ACCESSIBILITY

- Transit stops not visible
- Inadequate sidewalks
- Crosswalks are sparse
- No bike lanes
- Accessibility for physically disabled citizens is not accounted for at parks



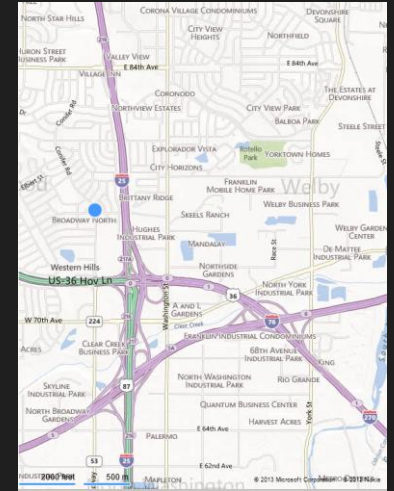
ISSUE: SAFETY

- Neighborhood lighting is non-existent
- Narrow sidewalks adjacent to schools
- Park by Assumption Church is poorly lit
- Access to Trail Head at 78th and Steele is isolated
- Poor community surveillance



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

- Students from Global Leadership Academy give thoughts on assets and needs in the community.





YOUTH PERSPECTIVE - PROCESS

- Mental Mapping
 - Drawing a map of your community identifying places that are specific to your day to day activities
- Defining Community
 - Explanation of what makes a strong community and how the built environment can have an impact.
- Public Space Image Comparison
 - Using images of existing public spaces to gauge what types of spaces are desirable.
- Welby Experience
 - Stories of life growing up around Welby.

Results:

- Heavy focus on restaurants and retail spaces
- Safety concerns related to local bars
- Negative reaction to Rotella Park
- Need for more recreation space
- Reactions to public transportation & walkability



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE - **DEFINING A**

COMMUNITY

Our Community...

Has:

- People – 14,846
- Park
- Places to run
- Grocery Store – Carniceria
- Church
- Library
- Fast food

Wants:

- Communication
- Creative Businesses
- Soccer Fields and Bathrooms
- Movie Theater
- Amphitheater
- Mall
- Sidewalks - Not Safe
- Places to Dance! – Youth Activities
- Healthy Places to eat

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE – PUBLIC SPACE IMAGE COMPARISON

Process:

The students were shown a variety of images of public spaces; some heavily utilized, some not.

Based on the images, the students discussed ideas of what they would like to see in Welby.



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE – PUBLIC SPACE IMAGE COMPARISON

Student Ideas for Welby:

- Ice Rink – with convertible spaces in summer months
- Fountain – where people can gather
- Improved sidewalks
- Tree lined streets
- Farmer's market
- Skate park
- Urban garden



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE - RESULTS

Rotella Park “The Dirty Lake Park”

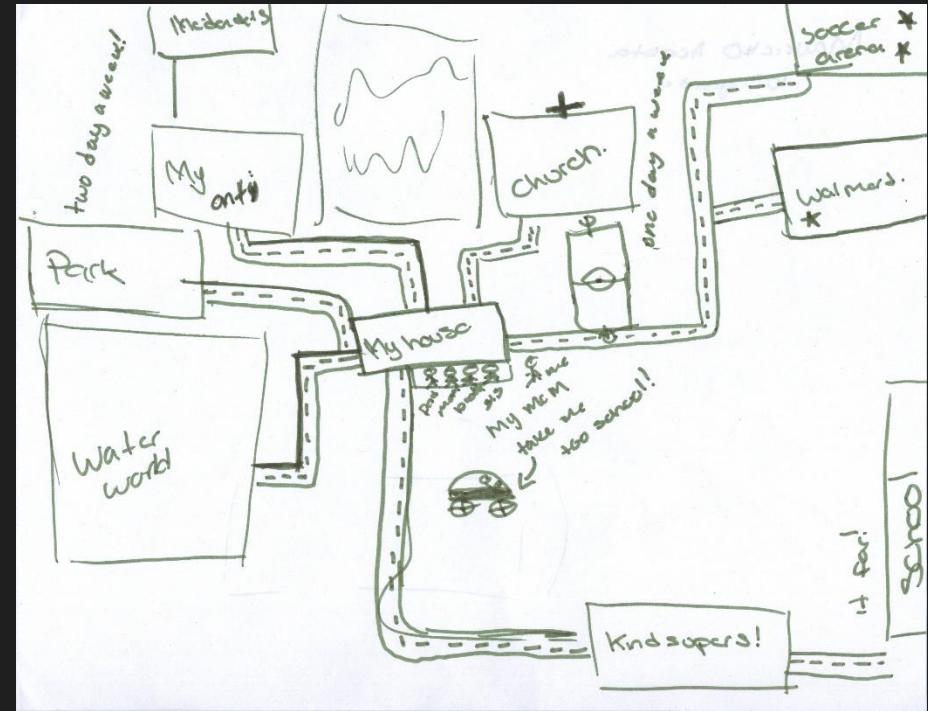
Desires:

- Soccer field
- Better access
- Permanent restrooms
- Clean the lake



Recreation Space

- Overwhelming desire for more soccer facilities
- Desire for recreation center
- Summer sports leagues
- Desire for indoor soccer arena





YOUTH PERSPECTIVE – WELBY EXPERIENCE

Process:

- Students wrote narratives about their experience using the RTD bus system
- Gage youth likes and dislikes about Welby
- Students indicated favorite places in Welby

Results – Room For Improvement

- RTD bus system – confusing & scary
 - “it was scary and doesn’t make you feel safe”
 - “never will ride RTD again”
- York St. – too narrow
- 78th. Ave – messy
- Washington St. – crowded
- Few art activities
- Add more restaurants around Skyview Campus
- Emerson Street is a hang out



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE - **BUILT**
ENVIRONMENT

Recommendations:

- Shuttle to parks and recreation spaces
- Farmer's market / public market
- Widen and increase the number of sidewalks
- Look for creative ways to increase pedestrian safety.
- Focus on investing in existing parks and public space to maximize use.



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE – MOVING FORWARD

Recommendations:

- Involve a range of students within Welby's borders.
- Encourage a parent and child public forum.
- Utilize schools in the area to attract parents to meetings.
- Focus on involving the Hispanic population.
- Analyze statistics showing the benefit of youth returning to communities as young adults.