



Zoning: An Environmental Focus

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Merchant

West End



If you could describe your neighborhood in 1 word, what would it be?

vibrant
energetic
accessible
community
congested
ghetto
colorful
decent
not clean

East Side



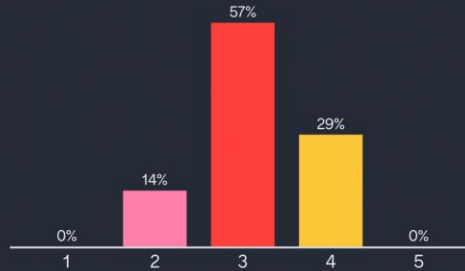
If you could describe your neighborhood in 1 word, what would it be?

accessible
alive
friendly
hilly
upper end
collegiate

West End



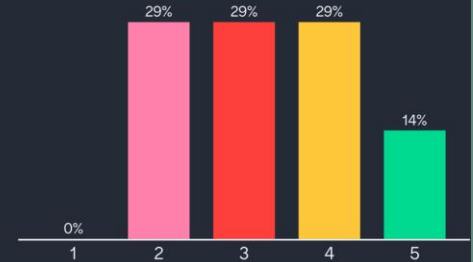
On a scale of 1-5 how green is your neighborhood?



East Side



On a scale of 1-5 how green is your neighborhood?



West End

Do you want more green spaces in your neighborhood?



East Side

Do you want more green spaces in your neighborhood?



West End

In your opinion, what are 2 good things about your neighborhood?

Mentimeter

A word cloud on a dark background. The words are of various sizes and colors. The largest word is 'walkable' in pink. Other prominent words include 'parks' in blue, 'diverse' in green, and 'kind people' in yellow. Smaller words include 'urban greens', 'restaurants', 'animals', 'parks', 'food', 'diverse', 'littles stores near', 'park', 'multicultural', 'historical landmarks', and 'beautiful'.

urban greens
restaurants
walkable
animals parks food diverse
littles stores near park
multicultural historical landmarks
beautiful
kind people

East Side

In your opinion, what are 2 good things about your neighborhood?

A word cloud on a dark background. The words are of various sizes and colors. The largest words are 'walkable' in blue and 'green space' in pink. Other prominent words include 'diverse' in green, 'local park' in blue, 'accesible' in orange, 'people' in yellow, and 'proximity to downtown' in orange.

diverse local park
accesible
walkable
green space
people
proximity to downtown

West End

In your opinion, what are 2 bad things about your neighborhood?

A word cloud on a dark blue background showing responses to the question 'In your opinion, what are 2 bad things about your neighborhood?'. The words are in various colors and sizes, indicating their frequency. The most prominent words are 'noisy' (large blue), 'dirty' (medium pink), 'rats' (medium red), 'homeless people' (medium yellow), and 'careless' (medium orange). Other words include 'loud', 'trash', 'not enough trees', 'littering', 'traffic', and 'sketchy'.

careless
homeless people
loud
dirty rats
noisy trash
not enough trees
littering traffic
sketchy

East Side

In your opinion, what are 2 bad things about your neighborhood? Mentimeter

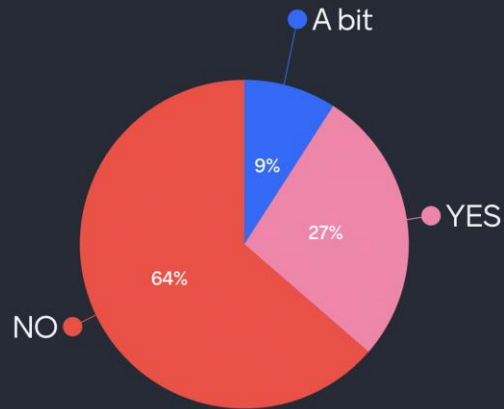
A word cloud on a dark blue background showing responses to the question 'In your opinion, what are 2 bad things about your neighborhood?'. The words are in various colors and sizes. The most prominent words are 'drive too fast' (large pink), 'bad roads' (large blue), and 'potholes' (medium green). Other words include 'roads', 'parking', 'lack of tennis courts', and 'crime'.

potholes
drive too fast
bad roads
roads parking
lack of tennis courts
crime

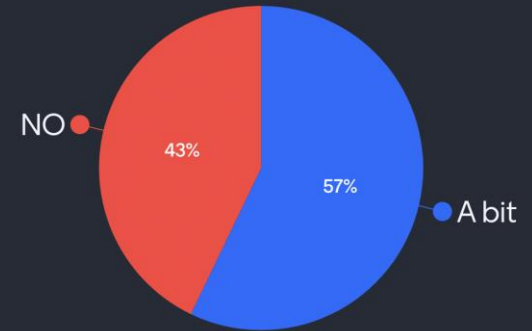
West End

East Side

Do you know what zoning is?



Do you know what zoning is?



HERE'S WHO
WE TALKED TO

So what?

Citizens of Providence know their neighborhood's character, but don't fully know the reasons why their neighborhood is the way it is.

Plan of Action

Our comprehensive webpage would include:

- + What is zoning?

 - + Why is zoning important?

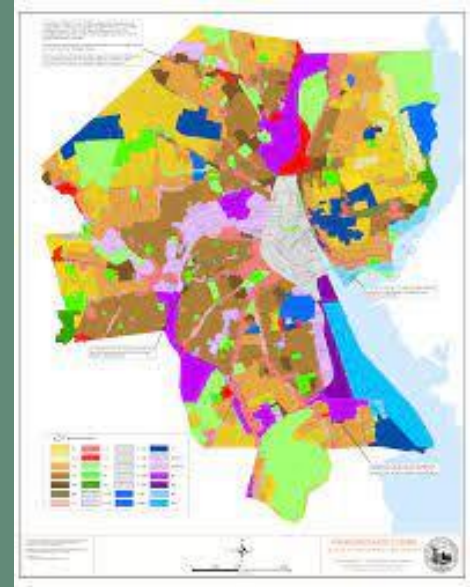
 - + How is zoning related to environmental justice?

 - + How can you become involved in zoning decisions?

 - + FAQ about zoning
-

01. What is zoning?

A method of urban planning in which a municipality or other tier of government divides land into areas called zones, each of which has a set of regulations for new development that differs from other zones.



Who makes these decisions?

City Plan Commission

Reviews proposed developments to make sure they align with the City's Comprehensive Plan

Zoning Board of Review

Reviews requests for 'variances' from the existing zoning code (one example that's on the agenda for next week's ZBR meeting is a McDonalds on Broad St asking for a variance to allow for a drive through)

City Council Committee on Ordinances

Reviews all requested changes to the zoning code

The whole City Council

Approves the comprehensive plan, approves the Zoning code, approves all zoning changes

02.

Why is zoning important?



**“Zoning...the tool of shaping the
character of a city, it’s neighborhood,
and its environment”**

Safety & Health of a Community

Residents don't live near things that are:

- + Loud
- + Dangerous
- + Polluters
- + Lower their property values



Zoning decisions in Providence

Tangible examples of what zoning looks like in Providence

01. Highway/port

Toxic Air

02. Residential Living

Single, Multi, Mixed-Use

03. Lot designation

Parking allowed,
impervious surface

04. Nearest supermarket, park etc.

Commercial use integration in
neighborhoods, access, etc.



When zoning is done well, it connects communities. It meets the needs of as many residents as it can.

03.

How is zoning related to environmental justice?

“Who is the public that zoning is intended to protect?”



Environmental Racism

- Precedent of intentionally putting pollutants in BIPOC communities
 - ◆ Or pushed to other neighborhoods near industrial zones (Lippitt Hill -> South Side)
- Decision making on city ordinances
 - ◆ Municipality's current and future needs and goals are.
- No community input
- Disproportionate burden



Zoning decides:

Undesirables

Sewer Treatment, Energy
Plants, Hazard Waste

High-use Highways

Gas Stations, Fast Food,
Liquor Stores

Yes, I want that

Recreational Spaces (Parks,
gyms, courts)

Supermarkets (with healthy
food)

Open Space

Healthy Schools

**The environments we live in
have been created by a history
of racism.**

**Who is the public, zoning
intends to protect?**

04.

How can you get involved in zoning decisions?

A step by step guide to becoming involved in a confusing, often boring, and widely unknown topic



How to get involved

City's CP

The comprehensive plan which charts a vision for how the City should develop in the next 10-15 years and is the foundation for the Zoning ordinance

Join/create a group

Existing: [LINK](#)
Starting: [LINK](#)

Stay up to date

Remember the entities involved in zoning are:

- City Plan commission
- Zoning board of review
- City Council
- Committee on Ordinances
- The City Council

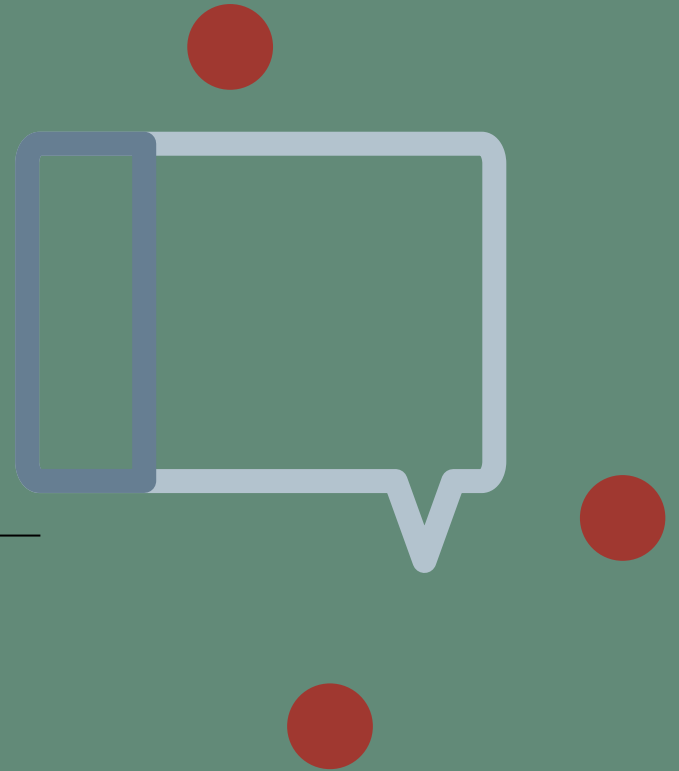
Public hearings

Providence Open Meetings portal! Register your email to receive meeting agendas when they are announced.

05.

Frequently asked questions

A space to further clarify zoning decisions



FAQ

- + Under what circumstances are zones changed?
 - + What zones have received changes so far?
 - + Who and how requests these changes?
 - + How do I read a zoning map?
 - + Where can I find a schedule public hearings?
-

Thank you

Works Cited

https://www.lehman.edu/academics/eggs/documents/2002_JLME_Maantay.pdf

http://www.ced.berkeley.edu/downloads/pubs/faculty/hutson_2008_enviro-health.pdf