

# NORTHEAST AREA MASTER PLAN, WYANDOTTE COUNTY/KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

## Assets and Challenges of the Northeast Area

*A Graphic Summary of Resident and Stakeholder Feedback from Community Meeting 1*





# What are your favorite parts of the community?

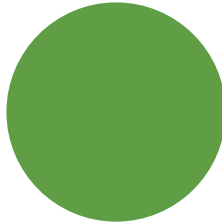
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Big 11 Lake



Sumner Academy



Parkwood Swimming Pool



Ms R's Cafe



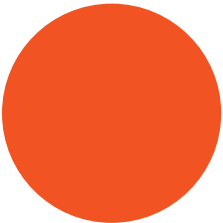
Klamm Park



Wilson's Pizza & Grill



Good News Church



Old Quindaro Museum



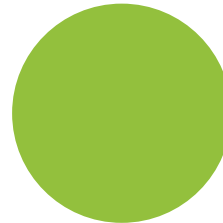
Gates Bar-B-Q



Boston Daniels Park



Big 11 Park



John Brown statue



Mark Twain Elementary



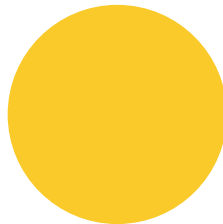
Bethel Baptist Church



Douglass Elementary



Indian Springs site



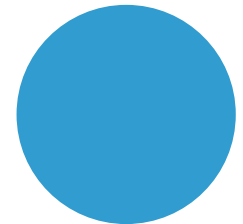
My house



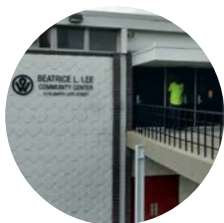
J's Fish & Chicken



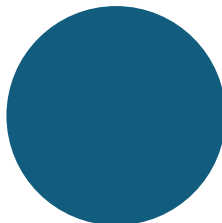
Parkwood Park



Juniper Gardens Training Farm



Beatrice L. Lee Community Center



Adrien Roberson Athletic Field



Bertram Caruthers Elementary



Eighth Street Baptist Church



Northeast Junior High Place



Quindaro Ruins (Quindaro Town Site)

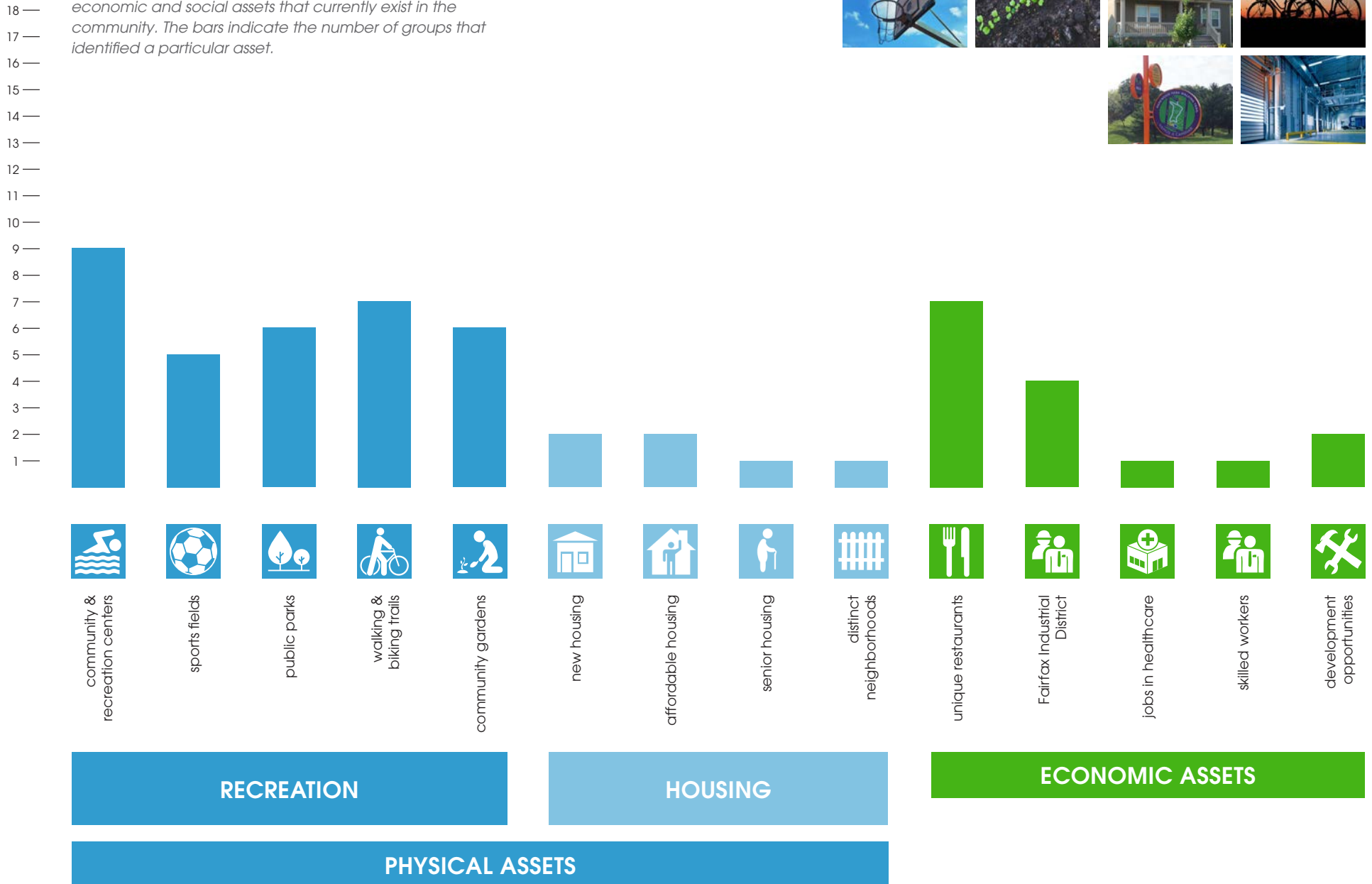
At Community Meeting 1, residents and stakeholders of the Northeast Area mapped some of their favorite places in the community. The images above reflect just some of their favorite places to play, eat, worship, socialize and relax.



# Community Assets: Physical & Economic

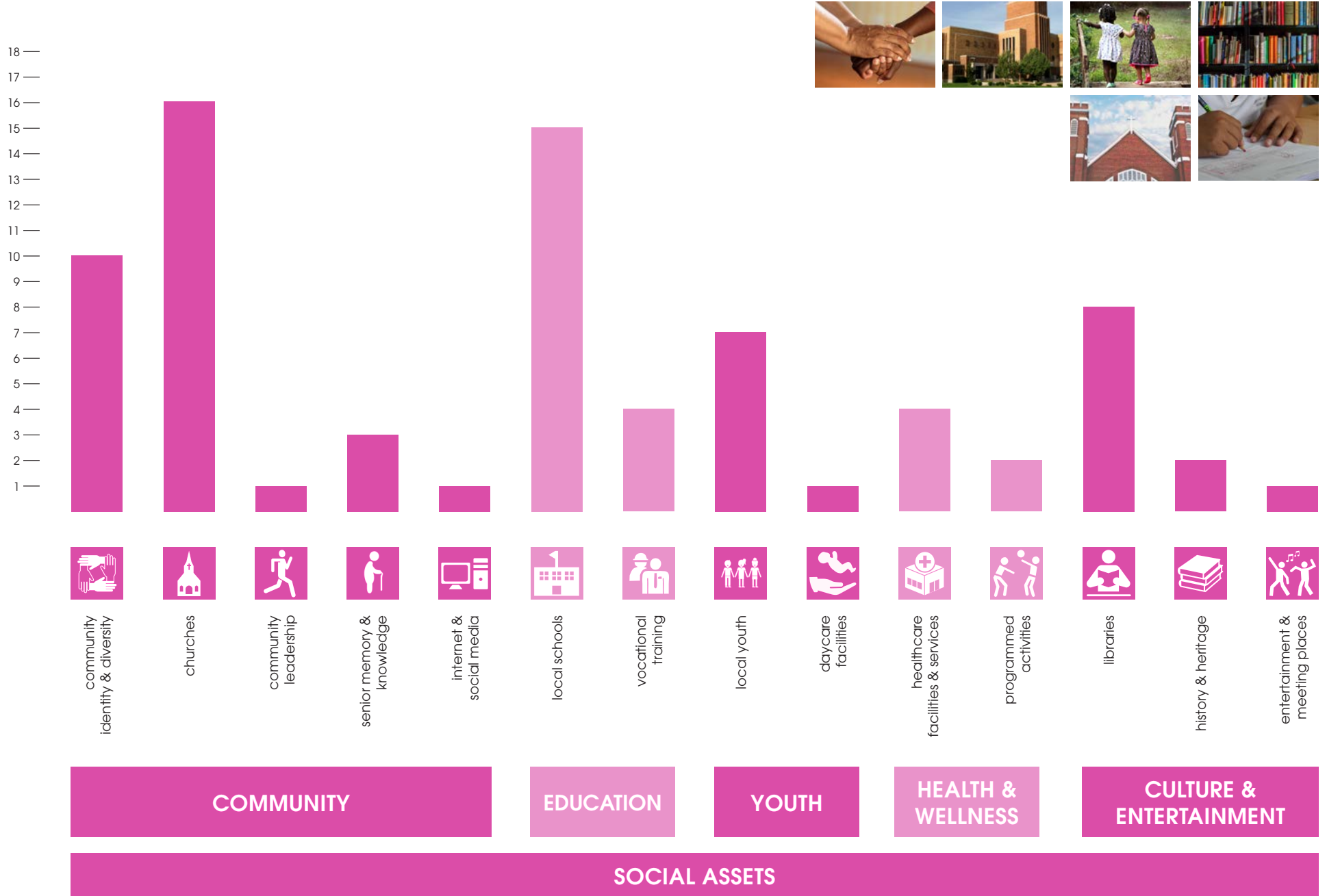
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At Community Meeting 1, Northeast Area residents and stakeholders worked in groups to identify physical, economic and social assets that currently exist in the community. The bars indicate the number of groups that identified a particular asset.



# Community Assets: Social

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COMMUNITY

EDUCATION

YOUTH

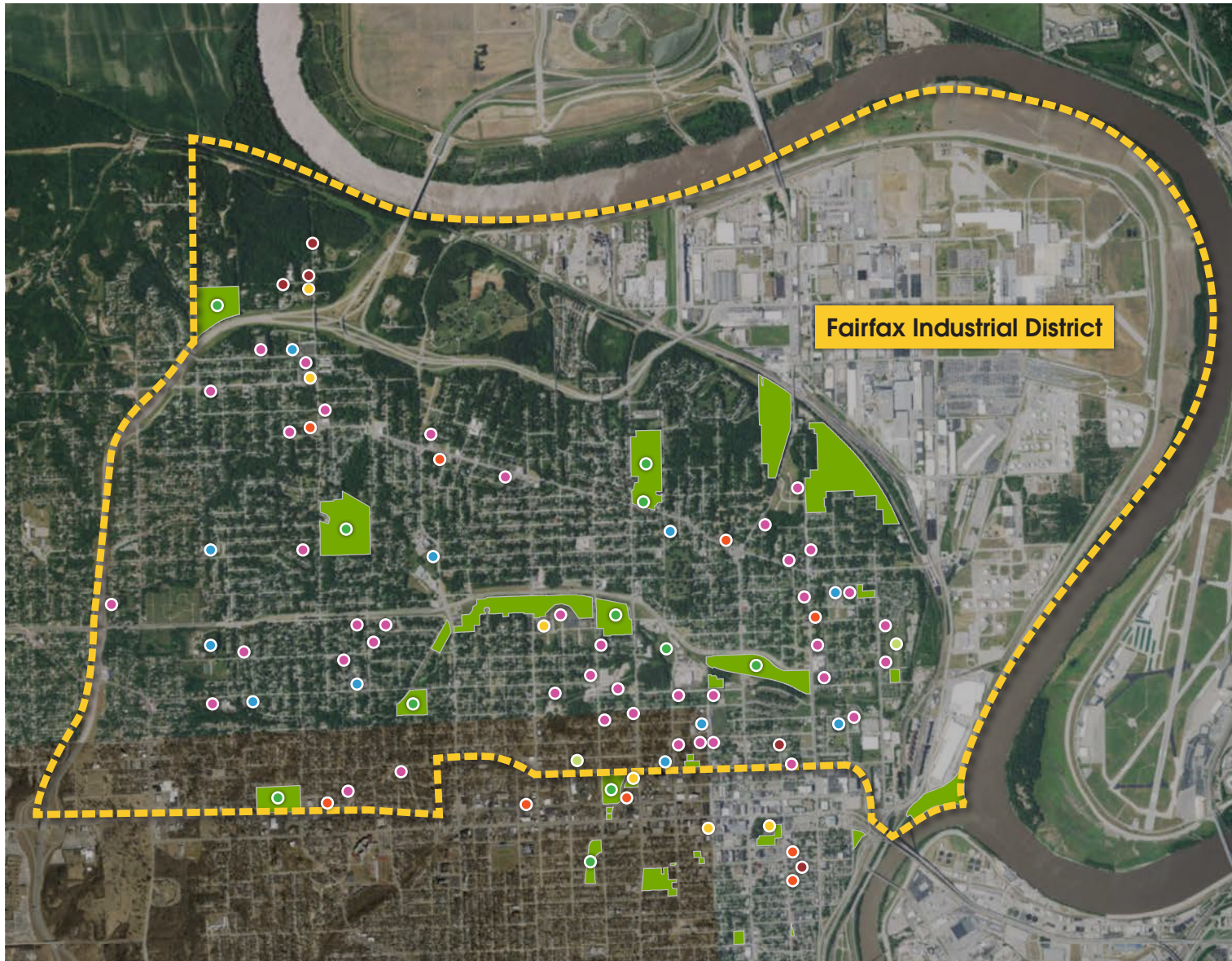
HEALTH & WELLNESS

CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

SOCIAL ASSETS

# Community Assets Mapped

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- **Churches**
- **Schools & Daycares**
- **Restaurants**
  - Big Grill & More
  - City Fish & More Restaurant
  - Dorothy D's
  - Gates Bar-B-Q
  - J's Fish & Chicken
  - Kansas City Cupcake Co. Cafe
  - Mad Jack's Fresh Fish
  - Ms R's Cafe
  - Wilson's Pizza
- **Parks and Recreation Facilities**
  - Adrian Roberson Athletic Field
  - Big 11 Lake
  - Heathwood Park
  - Jersey Creek Trail
  - Kensington Park
  - Klamm Park
  - Parkwood Park
  - Parkwood Pool
  - Quindaro Park
  - Waterway Park
  - Westheight Park
- **Community Gardens**
  - Juniper Gardens Training Farm
  - Strugglers Hill Neighborhood Garden
- **Historic Assets**
  - John Brown statue
  - Quindaro Ruins (Quindaro Town Site)
  - Old Quindaro Museum
  - Turtle Hill
  - Strawberry Hill
- **Community Facilities**
  - 8th Street YMCA
  - Beatrice L. Lee Community Center
  - Boys and Girls Club
  - Breidenthal Youth and Family Community Center
  - KCK Public Library
  - Quindaro Community Center
  - Vernon Multi Purpose Center

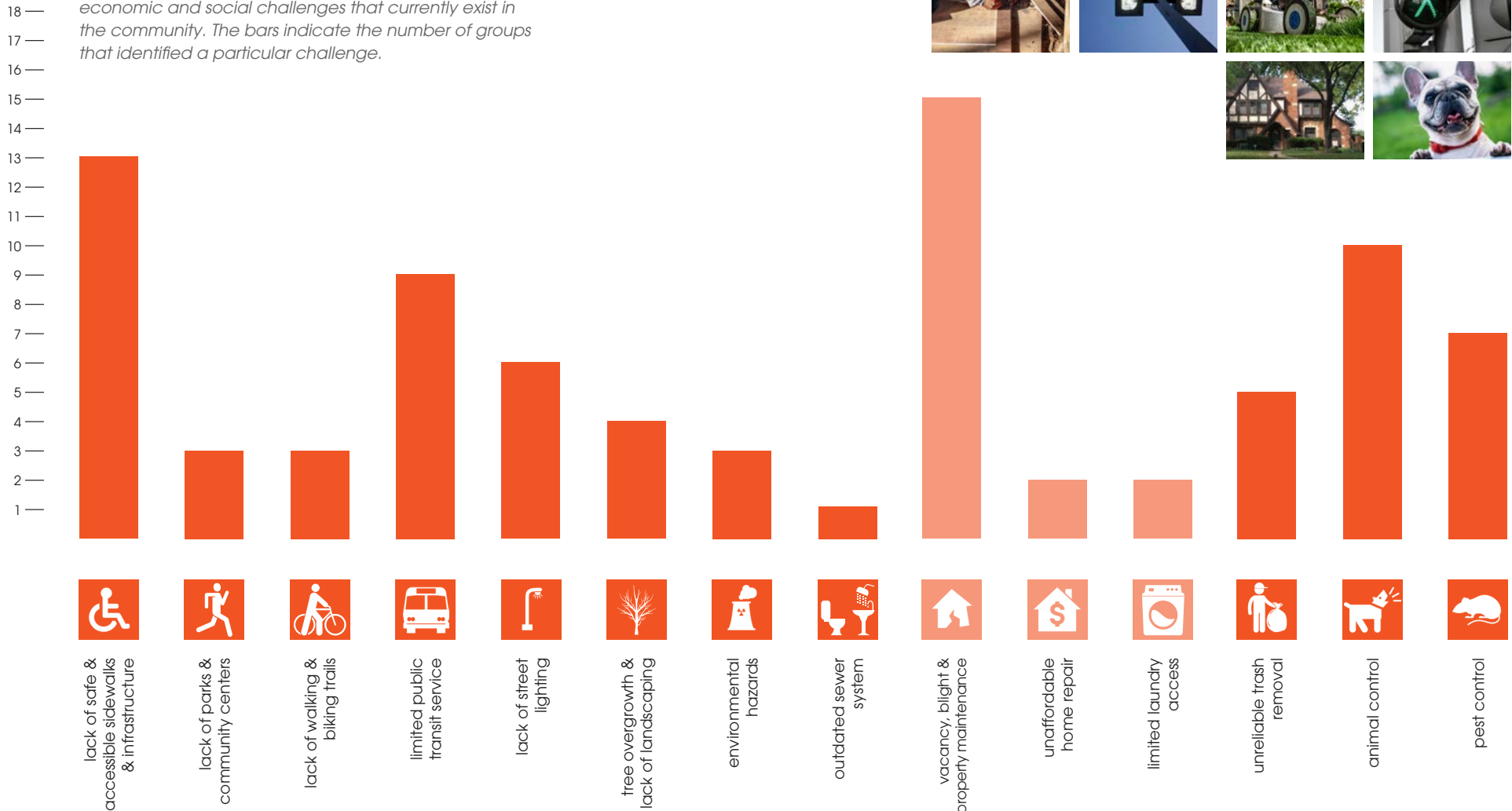
At Community Meeting 1, Northeast Area residents and stakeholders worked in groups to identify assets that currently exist in the community. The map above illustrates places that the community views as assets to the Northeast Area.



# Community Challenges: Physical

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At Community Meeting 1, Northeast Area residents and stakeholders worked in groups to identify physical, economic and social challenges that currently exist in the community. The bars indicate the number of groups that identified a particular challenge.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

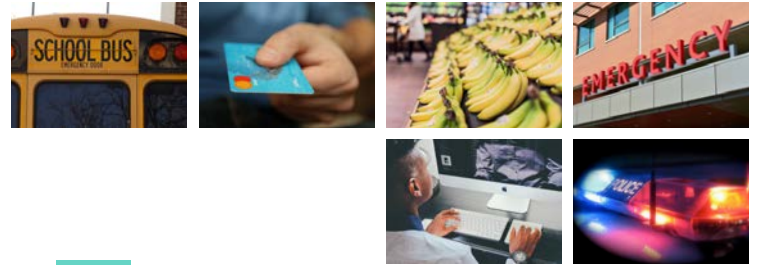
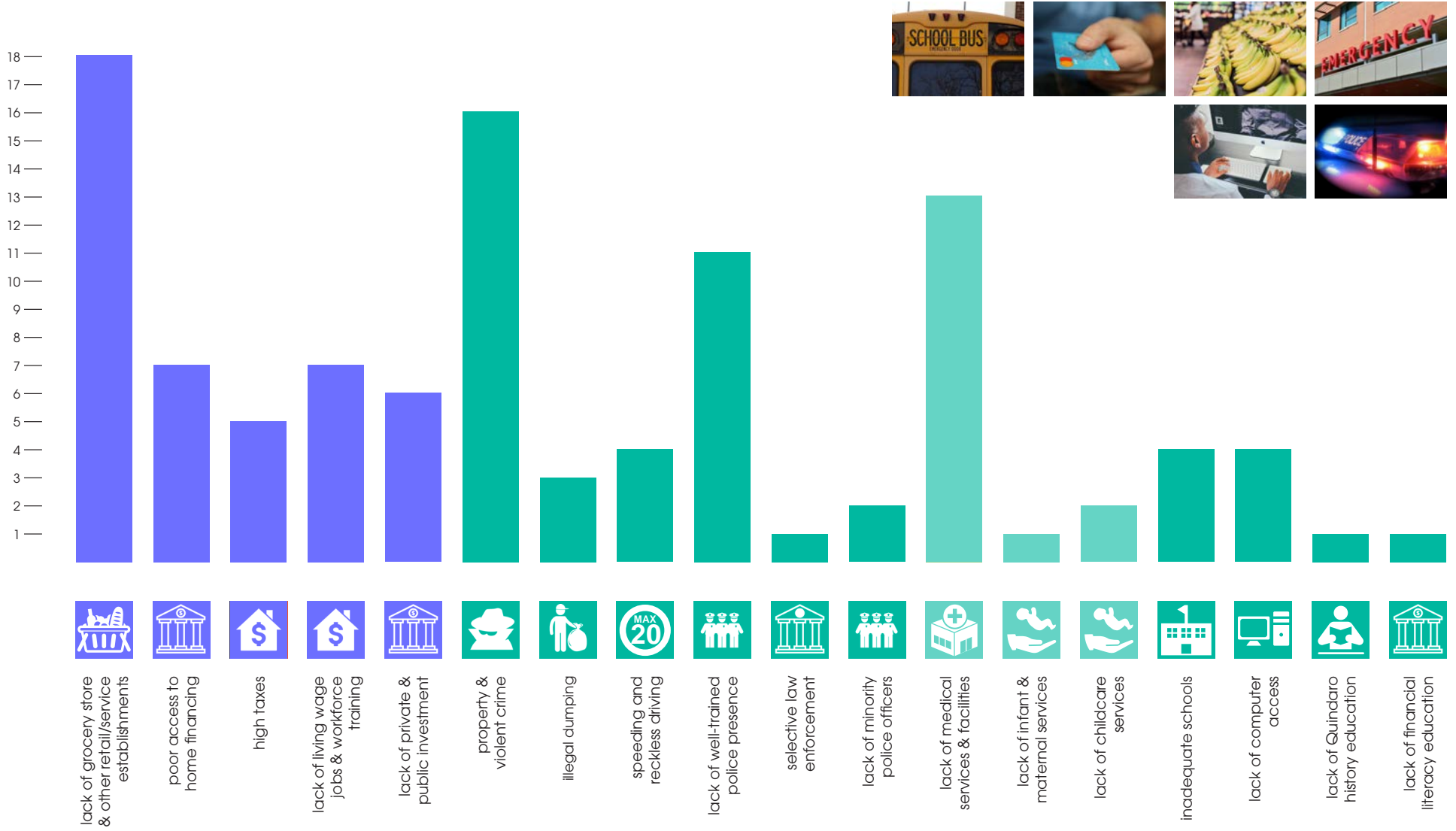
## HOUSING

## PUBLIC SERVICES

## PHYSICAL CHALLENGES

# Community Challenges: Economic & Social

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## ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

## CRIME & LAW ENFORCEMENT

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

## EDUCATION

## SOCIAL CHALLENGES



# Community Challenges

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At Community Meeting 1, Northeast Area residents and stakeholders worked in groups to storyboard physical, economic and social challenges that currently exist in the community. The following is a summary of the current challenges that residents and stakeholders reported.

## PHYSICAL CHALLENGES



Poor **sidewalk** conditions are a barrier to the safe travel of children, senior residents and people with disabilities. In certain areas, many residents have no other option but to walk in roadways.



Existing parks and infrastructure do not incorporate universal design principles to ensure **accessibility** for persons of all ages and abilities. Seniors and residents with disabilities are especially impacted by limited accessibility.



**Community centers** in the Northeast Area need updating, are underused and lack programming. The community's pool, play areas, programmed activities and senior centers need to be expanded.



The local **bike and walk trail** system is limited and has few connections.



Existing **transit service** does not effectively connect residents to jobs, healthcare facilities or shopping destinations. Low-income and senior residents who are unable or cannot afford to drive are especially impacted by the limited connectivity of alternative transportation options.



Existing **street lighting**, which keeps streets safe after dusk, is limited.



Little has been invested in landscaping and other **beautification** treatments in the Northeast Area. Tree overgrowth lends to the area's blighted conditions.

**Utility companies** frequently damage public and private property to make improvements to service infrastructure but do not properly repair damages. Additionally, the overgrowth of trees near to electric lines frequently causes outages.



**Environmental hazards** in the Northeast Area, including poor air quality and brownfields, put resident health at risk.



An **outdated sewer system** combines both stormwater and sewage, which results in overflow into local waterways during times of heavy rainfall.



**Blight** is a central challenge to the Northeast Area. Currently, the high number of vacant lots and structures are not properly maintained. Broken windows lead to general blight of the Northeast Area.

Some residents view weak **code enforcement** as a contributing factor to neighborhood blight. Others feel that code enforcement is often too aggressive and unfairly targeted.



Low-income residents and seniors, in particular, cannot afford to make the **home repairs** necessary to comply with local building regulations.



A common lack of in-home **laundry** combined with a lack of laundromats in the community makes doing laundry difficult for some residents.

Existing housing and infrastructure does not incorporate **sustainable design** or technology.



**Trash collection** in the Northeast Area is reported to be unreliable. Litter is also an ongoing problem.



Residents report that **stray dogs** and farm animals are frequent nuisances in the Northeast Area. Animal owners frequently fail to leash their pets and pick up animal waste.



Rodent and **pest infestation** is a common problem across the Northeast Area.

## ECONOMIC CHALLENGES



The Northeast Area does not have a full-service **grocery store** that sells fresh produce and healthy food items. Additional dollar stores and auto-oriented retail and service establishments are considered to be undesirable.

In general, relatively few **businesses** are located in the Northeast Area, making it difficult for residents to access goods and services. Notable retail and service gaps include laundry facilities, restaurants, banks, coffee shops, bakeries, hardware stores and movie theaters. While residents report a lack of entrepreneurship, they also do not see enough community support of existing local businesses.



Access to **financing** and credit is a barrier to homeownership in the Northeast Area. Residents do not have access to grants, subsidies or other resources to offset the high cost of purchasing.

**Low home prices**, high repair costs and a lack of comparables are barriers to homeownership and rehabilitation in the Northeast Area.

Residents struggle to afford paying relatively **high taxes** in the Northeast Area.

# Community Challenges

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Residents of the Northeast Area do not have adequate access to high-quality **jobs** that provide living wages. Poverty is widespread and existing jobs only maintain the low-income status of many residents.



Economic development efforts within Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, focus on areas to the west and not the **entire county**, which exacerbates poor economic conditions in the Northeast Area.

As a whole, the community is lacking in the **capital** required for local investment.

## SOCIAL CHALLENGES



High levels of **crime** are a major problem in the Northeast Area. Vandalism, burglary, speeding, violence and drug use are everyday threats to the health and safety of Northeast Area residents. Young adults are often unable to exit an ongoing cycle of violence.



**Illegal dumping** is a commonly reported problem in the Northeast Area.



Speeding and **reckless driving** are ongoing issues in the community that threaten the safety of residents.



The police force lacks **community trust** in the Northeast Area. Residents feel that police patrolling and relationship building with the community do not go far enough. Residents also feel that the police department does not properly protect the anonymity of people who report crime.



Residents feel that the law is not **equally enforced** across the county.



Local police and fire departments are lacking in **diversity**.



The Northeast Area lacks the **healthcare facilities** needed to provide adequate care to residents. Patients must travel outside the community area to access dentists, medical clinics, hospitals and urgent care facilities.



Few **maternal and infant services** and parent education classes are available to local families.

The Northeast Area does not have adequate options for affordable **childcare**.



**Local schools** are in need of improvement to facilities, staffing, resources and curriculum. Residents also feel that school affairs frequently lack transparency.

The community lacks **educational opportunities** to help youth and adults to motivate and advance themselves. Residents have poor access to technical training programs and facilities.

The Northeast Area does not have enough **after-school programs** for youth and teens to keep them safe and engaged. Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs should be expanded.

Families with children have few opportunities for **entertainment** and family activities.



Internet and **computer access** and education currently limited in the community. There are few places that offer free WIFI or charging stations.



Not enough has been done to preserve and promote the historic legacy of the **Quindaro Ruins** (Quindaro Town Site).



Northeast Area residents have poor access to **financial literacy** education resources.

