

Compass 2015 data How the Park Neighborhoods compare to the rest of city



The 2015 data are in. It's time to see how the Park Neighborhoods compares to the rest of Milwaukee. The boundaries of the Park Neighborhoods are the same as the City Planning Area of the Historic South Side (east to Kinnickinnic, west to 27th Street, South to Cleveland, north to Becher.

Crime data

In 2014 the Park Neighborhoods had 18 percent fewer indexed crimes than the rest of Milwaukee. It is almost exactly the same for 2015. Indexed crimes include homicides, assaults, burglaries, arson, criminal damage, locked vehicle crimes, robberies, sex offenses, and thefts. In 2015, the Park Neighborhoods had 58.42 index crimes per 1000 residents. The City of Milwaukee overall had 75.53 index crimes per 1000 residents.

The Park Neighborhoods are considerably safer than other areas of Milwaukee

Demographics

Five percent of the total population of Milwaukee live in the Park Neighborhoods. The Park Neighborhoods' demographics stand out from the rest of the city in these ways:

- The Park Neighborhoods have 3½ times more Hispanics (of any race) than the City of Milwaukee.
- The Park Neighborhoods have nearly 3 times the number of American Indians and Alaska natives than the rest of Milwaukee.
- The Park Neighborhoods have just under 6 percent African Americans compared to over 39 percent citywide.
- The Park Neighborhoods have 27 percent European Americans compared to 37 percent citywide.
- The Park Neighborhoods have a significantly younger population than the rest of Milwaukee.
- Residents of the Park Neighborhoods are significantly more likely to live in family households than non-family households.

Properties

Property sales and values are improved over previous years, but still considerably under the Milwaukee averages.

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Why the perception of the Park Neighborhoods remains so negative January misreporting!



On January 5, Channel 4 reporter Rebecca Klopf appeared live in front of the Speedway Gas Station at 10th and Lincoln. She reported an incident in which one man was killed and several young people were taken away by police. "The people at this gas station tell me this isn't the best neighborhood," she began. "It's well known for drugs and prostitution and the employees say they are often afraid here."

The other side of the story

The truth is that this block is in the center of the Park Neighborhoods which has consistently had a crime rate significantly below the rest of the City of Milwaukee.

As more details of this story emerged, it was revealed that the man in his forties who was killed was from New Berlin, probably shopping in the neighborhood. It was also revealed that he knew the other people and the young man who shot him (were they also from New Berlin?). Additional information revealed that it was the man in his forties who was the aggressor and had threatened the others with a gun. A struggle ensued and the man was accidentally shot.

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Compass data (continued from back page)

- Assessed values of Park Neighborhoods' residential properties are on average \$47,000 lower than in the rest of Milwaukee. The average assessed value of a residential property in the Park Neighborhoods is just over \$74,000. Citywide the assessed value is just under \$122,000.
- Owner-occupied rates are just about the same—over 50 percent.
- The Park Neighborhoods have fewer vacant commercial properties than citywide.
- While the Park Neighborhoods sold less than half the number of single family homes than were sold citywide, they sold more than twice as many duplexes and multi-family homes than citywide
- The price of single family homes, duplexes, and multi-family homes sold for less than half of those sold citywide.

What does all this mean?

The Park Neighborhoods offer good property buys in a relatively safe environment. But is this the common perception of this area citywide? No. Urban Anthropology's biannual survey demonstrated that opinions on this neighborhood remain low across the city. To get some insight into why this faulty perception remains, read the article in the right-hand column.

Misreporting (continued from back page)

The incident that began as a murder in this neighborhood "well known for drugs and prostitution" turned out to be self-defense when a man from the suburbs threatened others with a gun.

Just blocks away

At almost the same time as this story was becoming front page news, several Latino residents at the corner of 8th and Hayes (3 blocks from the shooting) saved lives as they rescued passengers from a burning car that had just been in an accident. While this story appeared once on late night news, it was almost entirely ignored while the print and TV focus remained on the shooting on 10th and Lincoln that ended up being an act of self-defense when a suburban man threatened several people with a gun.

New project for UrbAn: City-wide museums

In 2006 UrbAn opened the Old South Side Settlement Museum. This is one of the only neighborhood settlement museums in the country. The museum tells the story of the main cultural groups that have contributed to the rich history of Milwaukee's Old South Side. We recently turned over the operation of the museum to the Southside Organizing Committee.

We are beginning a new project to start museums in other neighborhoods in the city.

UrbAn staff is currently meeting with elected officials and also reaching out to other museums to see if it is possible to

fund sustainability grants for these museums and we will be meeting with funding agencies to urge them to support start-up costs. We will be offering our assistance to neighborhood groups interested in having their own museums.

As part of our efforts to develop neighborhood museums, we will work with the University of Wisconsin Extension for Urban Agriculture to provide plants and flowers to enhance the look of the museums and the surrounding area.

The images below represent possibilities in color scheme and design of new museums.



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