

ANT 2410 Cultural Anthropology  
Global Citizenship Program  
Spring 2012

Dr. Antoinette Jackson

Cultural Anthropology Results

Team 1 - Osborne and 28<sup>th</sup> Pond

Team 2 - Ragan Park

# Osborne & 28<sup>th</sup> Initial Stormwater Bus Tour January 20



Photos: Margaret Allsopp

# Ragan Park Initial Stormwater Bus Tour January 20



Photos:  
Margaret  
Allsopp

# Osborne & 28<sup>th</sup> Observation March 23



Photos courtesy of Dr. Maya Trotz & Anton Dapcic

Cultural Anthropology Results  
Osborne & 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Observation March 23

# Observations of Residents

- Unusual for water to be in pond
  - Usually very dry and unattractive
  - It had rained the day before
  - Two weeks prior to our visit, construction workers flattened the area and deepened the pond, turning it into a large pond.
- People are very upset that the pond has not been fixed
- Children do not go near the pond.
  - They do use the dry area for dirt bike riding
- One long-term resident shared that the pond used to be used for baptizing people nearby.

# What Residents Want

- A park with a gazebo to rest and have gatherings
- A walkway or running track so they can take walks with or without animals
- The pond should have fish
  - This could be a minor source of food for those who enjoy fishing
- An aesthetically pleasing pond area like the other retention ponds in the area
- Barbeque grills
- Area to exercise (i.e., pull up bars)
- A park for children to play
- They want an appealing place to congregate and talk but they also want the area to host functions.
- A group of young men who lived and worked nearby the pond were very eager to have a bigger better gazebo than the one at the recently renovated Herbert D. Carrington, Sr. Community Lake.

# Observations of USF Students

- Big clumps of dirt and broken concrete pipes both in the water and outside the pond.
- One side of pond had clay-like dirt while the other side had sandy dirt
  - Water was lower on the side with sandy dirt
- The water did not have any odor, but it was very dirty
- Garbage around the area but residents said that littering was not a problem in the area around the pond.
- The pond looked totally different than what both the anthropology students and Anton (the engineering student) had expected.
  - Anton was surprised that the water had not drained out from the outlets long ago and been absorbed into the soil.
- Pond is near railroad tracks – dangerous
- Abundance of churches in neighborhood



# Suggestions/Ideas of USF students:

- create a side walk
- build a bridge
- have an area be a wet pond and another be a dry space
- put benches
- area where the community can have a cook out and place for outings, get togethers
- plant a wall of trees that covers a fence to separate the community from the rail road track
- Add more trash cans

Cultural Anthropology Results  
Ragan Park  
Observation March 21

# Concerns of Park Users

- Take trees out of the field where they play football
  - The trees obstruct full use of the field for sports
- Restrooms
  - Currently, there are no open restroom and people resort to going behind the community center.
- Add a basketball court
  - But do not encroach on the open field.
- BBQ grill
  - Until recently, there was a grill at the park but patrons did not know what happened to it. People use the grills for the many gatherings, including birthday parties that are held at the park. Most parties take place on the weekend.
- Clean trash out of the pond
  - When the water level drops, the trash becomes visible. A litter pickup crew was suggested.
- Recreational Fishing in pond
  - Individuals recalled a time when they were able to fish in the pond. They asked if this was possible to include in future development plans.

# Concerns of Park Users cont.

- Lighting
  - More lighting around the perimeter of the park would be useful for exercisers and those who are concerned with safety.
- Take out sand around the playground
  - Parents and children said that the sand was hard to clean off of the kids. One suggestion is to replace the sand with rubber.
- Add more shady areas
  - Park patrons asked for the addition of shady areas such as another gazebo. Some individuals use the park strictly to seek refuge from the sun.
- Add more picnic tables
  - Some interviewees suggested providing a few more picnic tables. They said these would come in handy for everyday users and for larger parties.
- More concerned with making park *practical* not *beautiful*
  - In general, the people with whom we spoke asked for practical amendments to the park as apposed to beautification plans such as planting flowers.

# Why People Come to the Park

- To hang out
- I've come here my whole life
- To get some shade
- Get a drink of water
- Charge cell phone (if they are working)
- Play football
- Kids play on playground
- Parties (mainly for kids)
- Hang out at night
- To walk through the park
- Said that it gets packed on Saturdays
- To play kickball, football, baseball in the open field

# Observations of Park Users:

- Kids playing on playground
- Kids on bikes
- Young men sitting in shade on picnic benches
- Two men charging their phones under the gazebo
- People drinking, smoking cigarettes
- People were very excited to speak about their attachment to the park
- Many people sought out shade
- More people began to arrive around 5pm

# Park User Comments on Water

- Water around the community and Ragan Park smells bad
- Flooding problems
- Used to swim in the pond but cannot now because it is unsanitary
- One individual suggested to put a dock in the pond so that kids can feed the ducks without getting dirty
- Don't need flowers around the pond because people will pull them