Mapping thermal comfort in Edison Eastlake Neighborhood with citizen scientists







Dzyuban, Y.1*, Messerschmidt, M.2, Fischer, H.3, Ellsworth, A.4, Solis, P.5, Vanos, J.1,6, Middel, A.7, Hondula, D.6

¹ School of Sustainability/ Arizona State University, Wrigley Hall, 800 Cady Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281; ² The Nature Conservancy, Arizona/ 7600 N 15th S # 100, Phoenix, AZ 85000; ² Center for Research on Lifelong STEM Learning, Oregon State University, 254 Gilbert Hall Convallis, OR 07333; ⁴

School of Art/ Arizona State University, PO Box 87:1505, Tempe AZ 85287-1505; Knowledge Exchange for Resilience / Arizona State University, Lattle F. Coor Hall, Suite 5548, Tempe, AZ 85287-5302; School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning / Arizona State University, 975 S Myrtle Ave, Tempe, AZ 85281; 7 School of Arts Media and Engineering / Arizona State University, 950 S Forest Mall, Tempe, AZ 85281



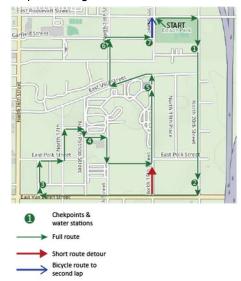


Introduction

The Heat Manners walk was a community effort to establish a baseline for thermal comfort in Edison-Eastlake Neighborhood near downtown Phoenix. At the walk, two dozen volunteer participants provided an assessment of thermal conditions along strategic walking routes and bus stop locations slated for shade and other improvements. The walk was organized by The Nature Conservancy in Arizona in partnership with Museum of Walking, Phoenix Revitalization Corporation, and ASU, and took place in the afternoon of

Edison-Eastlake is a focal point for ASU and CAP LTER research because the neighborhood will undergo significant renovation under a Housing and Urban Development "Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant". Assessing and improving the neighborhood resilience to extreme heat is one factor being considered during this reshaping process. During the Heat Mappers event, volunteers walked a predetermined 3 mile loop, and filled out a field guide questionnaire which asked them to record their thermal comfort and other perceptions at a series of stops. Twelve of the participants wore GPS devices, along with heart rate, air temperature, and ultraviolet radiation exposure monitors. This select group of volunteers also participated in walking interviews. These data will complement ongoing data collection in the neighborhood, including weather information from the six weather stations that CAP researchers recently installed in the area and micrometeorological data taken with a mobile microclimate cart. Combining the environmental, health, and human perception data will allow the project partners to better understand the heat exposure and drivers of thermal (dis)comfort in the neighborhood prior to the reshaping process. We will present the methodology for the Heat Mapper event that we intend to repeat in future years to track progress in meeting community goals related to heat and

Map of the walking route



2. Where do you feel "out of place"?

3. Where do you feel happy, connected, or energized? 4. (Local respondents only) Mark a place on the map where you like to hang out.

This data revealed common locations where people gather, and where their sociospatial perceptions converge and diverge.

At the end of the walk route, there was a tent with a large format map of the

neighborhood in which the route takes place. Respondents were invited from

among all of the participating walkers as well as any resident community members

who pass by the tent. Respondents were given color stickers and asked to mark on

1. Where do you notice something interesting that shows the cultural character of this place? What was it? (e.g. write out the item, mural, people playing, music etc.)



Collected Data



120+ hours of recordings









GPS location Full route GPS data for 12 participants

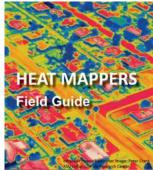
Methodology

The methodology was adapted from the scientific literature and further developed by collaborators from The Nature Conservancy in Arizona. Museum of Walking, Phoenix Revitalization Corporation, and ASU

Participant and volunteer recruitment was completed via public advertising by the Nature Conservancy, Museum of Walking, and ASU. Advertising channels included organizational websites, social media, and in-person announcements at relevant meetings convened by each organization. Students were invited to participate as walkers, runners, bikers, or volunteers (handing out water, snacks, routes, etc.). All participants were required to have health insurance.

The event started with participant registration at 3:30pm at Edison Park and concluded by 6 p.m. There were several tents showcasing organizations with information about urban heat, showcasing scientific equipment, and participant registration.

Map of the walking route

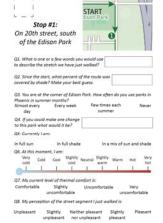


Each participant received a paper "field guide" for the walk before entering the course. The field guide contained a short questionnaire to be completed while on the course at designated check points.

There were 7 check points on the route. At each check point participants responded to 5-7 questions in the field guide, the vast majority of which were closedended. The field guide was also used to collect basic demographic information, risk percentions associated with heat and sun exposure and clothing conditions. A total of 22 walkers participated in the study.

12 participants collected additional data during their walk. The enhanced data collection experience included a wearable GPS tracker (to be used during the walk/ride only), a wrist-worn heart rate monitor, and a wrist-worn UV exposure monitor. Participants opting in for enhanced data collection also completed a longerform open-ended interview during the walk. Those participants had an assigned interviewer walking along asking participants to provide a more detailed perspective on the landscape of the neighborhood and their perceptions and preferences regarding shade, cooling features, aesthetics, and other aspects of the neighborhood that may be shaped by the redevelopment project.

Sample questionnaire page





Discussion

The Heat Mappers walk is the first of its kind citizen science project piloted in Phoenix with the aim to raise awareness to heat and improve thermal comfort in the hottest neighborhoods of the city. Collected data are being used by The Nature Conservancy and partners to establish baseline indicators for thermal comfort and to track changes in thermal comfort as Edison Eastlake neighborhood is transformed under neighborhood redevelopment plans and new Complete Streets policies. These data are also being used by the City of Phoenix to inform the reshaping of the neighborhood to make it

The Heat Mappers project has collaboratively developed and successfully tested the methodology that can be further applied to other neighborhoods in the Valley that face similar issues and can be adapted by other cities nationally and globally tackling extreme heat.