

Grand River Revitalization & Restoration Project

1.4 GRR Access Activity



Estimated Time

1-2, 60-minute class periods

Summary

This activity is designed to engage students in thinking about how communities are connected, and about who has access to the Grand River.

Students will work in small groups (2-4) to evaluate the different methods of transportation available to get from Grand Rapids neighborhoods to the proposed Grand River Revitalization site. Each group should use the **1.4a GRR Access Student Handout**.

Each small group contributes their data to a class summary chart on a whiteboard at the front of the room to allow them to compare different neighborhoods. There are over 30 neighborhoods in Grand Rapids, which can be found on the Johnson Center at Grand Valley State University's Community Research Institute (CRI) website, accessible at: <https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Departments/Community-Development/Neighborhood-Lookup-Map> or go directly to the neighborhood layer of the map at: <https://data.johnsoncenter.org/community-insight/reports/community-profiles?defaultLocation=48&locationType=107>

Students will need access to the Internet to do this activity. If they do not have access, you could, as a whole class, compare two or three neighborhoods to discover what barriers to access there might be in general.

As you conclude this activity, have students reflect about why some communities have more or less access to the Grand River and what might be done to improve access for all.

Online Resources Used

- Community Research Institute Website: <https://data.johnsoncenter.org/community-insight/reports/community-profiles?defaultLocation=48&locationType=4>
 - Select different map layers to print maps of all the neighborhoods in Grand Rapids.
- Experience GR <https://www.experiencegr.com/things-to-do/outdoors/road-biking/>
 - Map of official street bikeways.
- The Rapids <https://www.ridetherapid.org/schedules-maps>
 - Schedule and maps
- Google Maps: <https://maps.google.com/>