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ECE 410 051W [32385]

Mini Ecological Study Part I

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2:30 pm

Community Centers

Compass Center

There aren't as many community centers in my neighborhood as I once thought. However, one community center that I'm familiar with is the Compass Center. It's an after school program I used to attend when I was in elementary school, but it was named Rangel After School Center when I attended. This after school program is located in the center of an apartment complex. In fact, the center is on the ground floor of a building with apartments above it. This center also doubles as a senior center, but I'm not sure where in the building the senior center is located.

Connected to the center is an apartment building and daycare center. This after school center runs from 3:00pm to 6:00pm on weekdays. In this center, the services provided are food, homework support, and fun activities for the children to do. The placement of this after school center is very convenient because it is located in the middle of an apartment complex which means students can reach home quickly and/or independently depending on their age. Also, this after school

center is less than ten minutes away from the nearest school. Therefore, students can travel on foot from school to after school.

Police Athletic League (PAL)

This after school center opened about ten years ago and has been dedicated to creating a strong community between children, strengthening skills in academics and social-emotional skills, and providing a safe place for students to stay after school. This center is located at the end of the Polo Grounds Tower apartment complex and is right across the street from the nearest school, Arthur Tappan School. Students can independently walk directly from school to PAL and to home if they live in the nearby apartments. The building is very large and brightly colored green, yellow, and blue. Since this PAL is much larger than the Compass Center, I believe there are many more students of many ages enrolled in this program. Free food and homework services are provided for the students attending the program.

Madison Square Boys and Girls Club

The Madison Square Boys and Girls Club is an after school center located on the corner Bradhurst avenue on 155 street. This center provides free food, homework support, and fun activities for students to do after school. This community center is open five days a week and is a short walking distance from the nearest school, Arthur Tappan School. Since the building is very large, many students are able to enroll and enjoy after school activities in a larger space. Madison Square Boys and Girls Club's goal is to ensure children have a safe place to spend their time when school is finished for the day.

Schools

Arthur Tappan School (P.S./M.S. 46)

This school is an elementary school and middle school combined. There is also a preschool building located on school property. Grades range from preschool to eighth grade. This school is in between Polo Grounds Towers and The Colonial Apartments. This will be a 5-10 minute walk for students coming and going from the school. The entrance of the school leads to a main road on Frederick Douglass Blvd. There is also a bus stop in front of the school and a train station a five minute walk away from the school. The school has a perfect location because many forms of transportation are accessible. The school offers free breakfast and lunch throughout the school year and free meals throughout the summer.



Prince Hall Colonial Day Care

This daycare center is attached to the same building as Compass Center. This daycare center is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am-2:30pm. This daycare center is for children aged two to four years old. There are two classrooms in this daycare, one classroom for the two year olds and another classroom for the three and four year olds. Both classrooms have a door that connects to the outside yard. The outside yard is a playground that is fenced and very small. There are climbing structures and a slide. The daycare is near a street for easy drop off and pick up. Free meals are provided for the students and there is a kitchen where staff prepares meals.

Parks

Rucker Park

This park nearly takes over the entire street on Frederick Douglass Boulevard. This park is not only extremely long, but it is extremely wide. The park is designed for toddlers and older children as there are two sets of swings and play structures that are different sizes. Besides being a playground, there is a basketball court and baseball field connected to it. The park has a sprinkler that runs during the summer and early fall. There is also a public restroom near the end of the park. During the summer and fall seasons, games are usually held with large crowds. Food, drinks, and souvenirs are usually sold during these events. Also, there are community events held where free food is served and anyone is welcomed to join.

Churches

Bethany Baptist Church

The closest church in my neighborhood is the Bethany Baptist Church. It is located in between two apartment buildings and is a relatively small church. There isn't a sign with the listed services the church provides outside of the building, so I'm unsure of the official services. However, I assume that it provides food, shelter, and guidance for visitors.

