

South Valour Asset Map – Key Findings

What we did

On November 25th, 2023, forty residents of South Valour gathered for food, the South Valour Residents Association (SVRA) Annual General Meeting, and an asset mapping event. On February 29th, 2024, twenty Isaac Brock School students participated in a second asset mapping. Asset mapping brings people together to map the places, groups, and organizations that add value to their neighbourhood. These events were suggested by residents and continued SVRA work towards anti-oppressive and grassroots approaches to safety. Asset mapping contributes to a sense of safety by building community relationships and strengths.

It gives SVRA insights and direction on what residents think about the beauty of the neighbourhood, its resources, and the manageable issues that concern residents.

What we mapped

- 1) Neighbourhood lighting
- 2) Informal groups
- 3) Important and enjoyable physical spaces
- 4) Institutions & businesses
- 5) Neighbourhood traffic

What we learned

Four areas are particularly important to residents in South Valour, because they offer key services, are valuable to the neighbourhood, and are used frequently.

1. Isaac Brock School and the Valour Community Centre – Isaac Brock Site
2. Omand's Creek
3. Wall Street between St. Matthews Avenue and Portage Avenue
4. Portage Avenue.

Residents mapped out five broad neighbourhood concerns:

1. Unsafe or missing pedestrian crossings
2. Inconsistent or missing street lighting
3. Food security issues, especially a lack of accessible and affordable food options for youth attending school
4. Cut through traffic going north and south, leading to high-speed traffic and clogging residential streets and back-alleys
5. Litter and garbage, particularly in back lanes and around Omand's Creek. For some this includes concerns around needles



South Valour Asset Map – Next Steps

Asset mapping identified three areas with clear opportunities for action to enhance neighbourhood safety and community belonging. These areas could be improved both through community organizing internally by residents and through external advocacy campaigns.

1. Omand's Creek

Omand's Creek was perceived quite differently by the youth and the adult residents of South Valour. The youth especially highlighted a love of this greenspace and the natural landscape. They acknowledged concerns around litter and garbage in the area but were more concerned with perceived dangerous activities occurring on the train tracks. Older residents highlighted issues of litter, a lack of lighting in the park, and a concern for the wellbeing of the plant life.

2. Isaac Brock School and Community Centre Site

This is the heart of the neighbourhood, especially for the youth. There were concerns around lighting, traffic congestion especially around the school, and unsafe pedestrian crossings. The youth were nearly unanimous in their call for new basketball hoops and courts. There also was a desire for more recreation opportunities, public arts programming, and community gardens.

3. Valour Road

Valour Road plays a central role in the lives of residents. The road has traffic congestion due to both north and southbound traffic, residential street parking, and a bus line all sharing a narrow two-lane residential street. Residents shared unsafe interactions with vehicles at stop signs and crosswalks. Poor sightlines due to parked cars made these interactions more dangerous. Residents also wanted garbage bins at bus stops. Finally, like elsewhere in the neighbourhood there was a lack of lighting.

There are opportunities for community members and organizations to address these concerns. South Valour community groups could work internally to:

1. Clean up litter, garbage, and needles, especially around Omand's Creek
2. Organize more recreation opportunities, arts programming, or community gardens
3. Strengthen food security, for example through community fridges or student discounts at local stores

The asset maps also provide evidence to support advocacy campaigns that cut across neighbourhoods in Winnipeg to address:

1. The lack of safe pedestrian crossings
2. The need for food security especially for inner-city youth.
3. The need for consistent lighting in the neighbourhood
4. The need for increased funding for the Valour Community Centres to improve infrastructure and programming

