

An Asia Pacific Cultural Center Report

The Asia Pacific Cultural Center (APCC) worked in close collaboration with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on a multi-year (2021-2023) project focused on inclusively engaging communities to better understand how Asian American and Pacific Islander residents engage with and benefit from Puget Sound’s natural environment. The project aimed to address the following objectives: (1) enhance knowledge of underrepresented communities’ human wellbeing (HWB) in the Puget Sound region; (2) expand HWB Vital Signs data, information, and messaging; (3) build new community relationships for sustainable

The HWB Vital Signs are social indicators of Puget Sound’s health and recovery. These indicators are monitored by the Puget Sound Partnership, a WA state agency, and its ecosystem recovery partners, including Oregon State University.

long-term collaboration; and (4) create a protocol detailing how the work, if successful, can be sustained with an agency, program, or other durable funding source. In order to accomplish these objectives, APCC and WDFW co-developed the project using a community-based participatory research (CBPR) approach, which emphasizes close collaboration and co-creating knowledge together. The CBPR approach included co-created community workshops (n=166) and the implementation of a HWB survey (n=76). Workshops and surveys were tailored to diverse audiences, including Korean, Thai, and Vietnamese communities. In this short report, we highlight selected findings from this project. The findings outlined in this report are intended to be informative and can be used to help understand the project, potential connections among AAPI residents and Puget Sound’s natural environment, and how Puget Sound’s environment contributes to AAPI residents’ HWB.

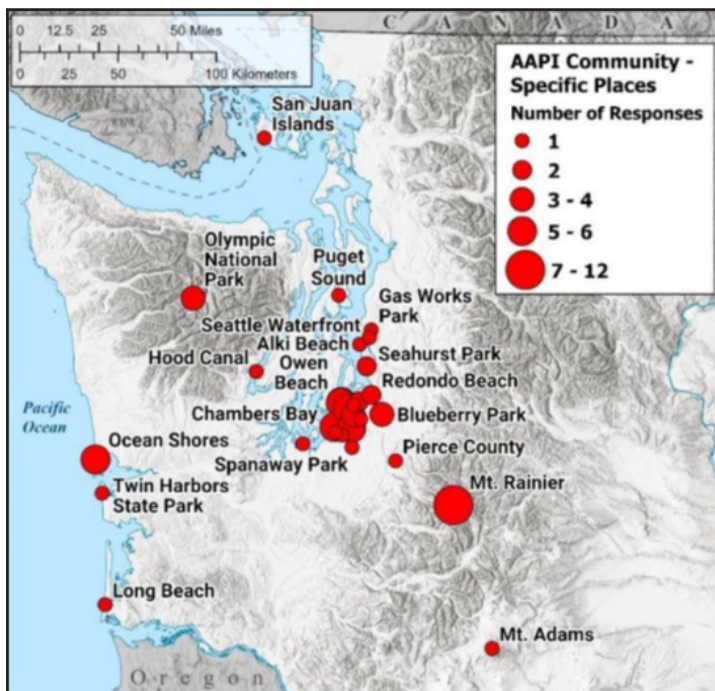


Figure 1. Regional Map of Places that Contribute to Community Members’ Health

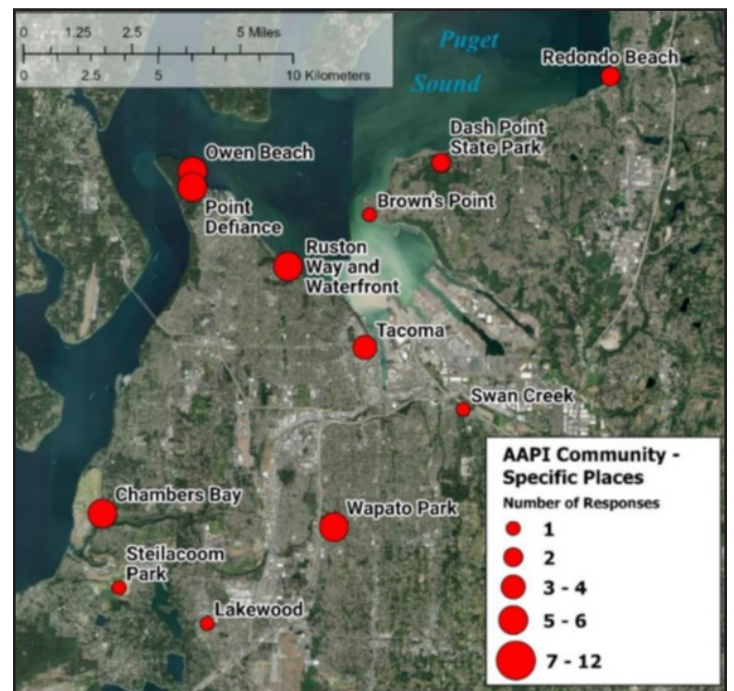


Figure 2. Local Map of Places that Contribute to Community Members’ Health

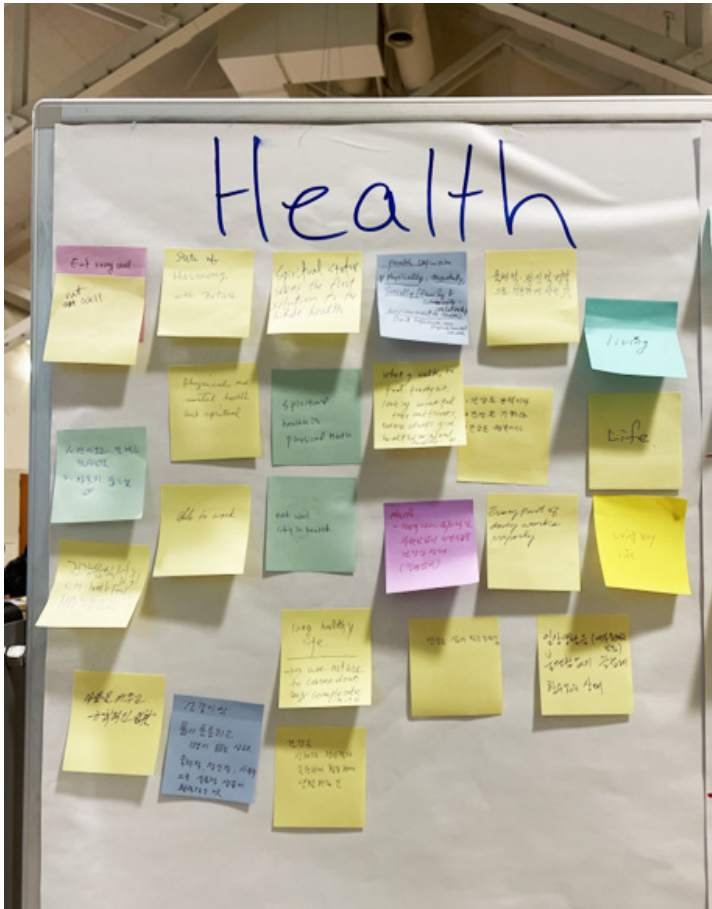


Figure 3. Workshop Response Example (“What is health?”) from Korean Community Workshop

Key project findings include:

- current HWB Vital Signs resonated and were considered relevant among AAPI community participants;
- AAPI community participants identified alternative community dimensions of HWB, including: physical health, plants and trees, place and landscape, and fish and wildlife (including non-consumptive use);
- AAPI community participants’ HWB survey results largely mirrored the results of other HWB surveys with some notable exceptions, including: higher good governance average responses and slightly lower sound stewardship average responses;
- AAPI community participants visited and engaged with nature at numerous natural areas in Puget Sound, including many that are located in the greater Tacoma area (Figure 1-2);
- CBPR approach was effective at more inclusively engaging AAPI community members in HWB monitoring and research; and
- environmental justice should be more comprehensively integrated into HWB monitoring and planning in Puget Sound, including through CBPR.

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