

Environmental Issues in My Neighborhood

Lavona Brown

There are several environmental problems in my neighborhood, such as flooding in the nearby park and the accumulation of trash and bugs as a result.

Our community park is in an area that floods every time it rains. In fact, a housing project in our area was closed and torn down because of flooding. Water stands about two feet on the basketball court and soccer field after every rain. If the sun doesn't come out soon after the rain, the areas are left with the smell of stagnated water. The water

flows down stream and settles in the park.

As a result of the flooding, we get trash such as cans and bottles flowing downstream to our circle drive. Then the mosquitoes and gnats swarm causing illnesses, especially for the children who play outside often. Therefore, the parents often have to keep their children inside.

The people who live in my neighborhood need to band together to protest these conditions. During the twelve years that I have lived in this neighborhood, I haven't seen much concern about

these conditions from city officials. Nor have I heard of any plans to improve the area. Something needs to be done. For a start, my neighbors and I need to go to city council meetings and sit there until the members of the council recognize us.

Before the next council meeting, I will talk to as many neighbors as I can to get them involved in a solution to our problem. Next, I will circulate a petition that addresses our concerns: the flooding, the trash, and the insects. Also, I will get as many people together as I can to attend council meetings until our concerns are addressed.

Our neighborhood is a mixture of at least three ethnic groups, but we are all working together to help solve our problems. United we stand, and divided we fall. If we work together, we will accomplish what we set out to do.



Lavona Brown is a student at the Fort Smith Adult Education Center in Fort Smith, AR, where she is studying for her GED. She is very active in her church and her community. In addition, she is involved with her extended family of nieces and nephews.

Your Neighborhood

Describe an environmental problem in your neighborhood. Write an essay that:

- describes the problem
- discusses solutions
- identifies possible challenges

