

The top 10 environmental concerns of Easton residents

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By [Rudy Miller | For lehighvalleylive.com](#)

Easton residents love to walk around their city and want to feel safe while doing it.

That's the top environmental concern they named through a [survey](#) and at focus groups conducted by Easton's [Nuture Nature Center](#).

The nonprofit center's [two-year](#) Easton Matters project is coming to a close, according to the center's science director, Kate Semmens. She said residents love "their neighbors and walkability and trees."

"They really like the sense of community in Easton," she said at a city council meeting last month.

More than 80 people came to a project [wrap-up meeting](#) in April, she said. A final report will come out in the late summer, she said.

Residents suggested some traffic lights be changed to prevent cars from coming in either direction and allow only pedestrians to cross. Easton Mayor Sal Panto said the city needs PennDOT permission to do that. The only place with pedestrian-only crossing is in Centre Square.

He said the city has invested \$150,000 in a street sweeping program to combat litter.

"I'm just happy when I see drugs and crime are down to No. 5," Panto said of the survey. "Hopefully in a few years it's down to No. 10."

The Nuture Nature Center opened in 2007 after massive floods in 2004, 2005 and 2006 raised questions about the impact of the environment on Easton. It hosts environmental education programs for children.

"We'll be taking the findings from this study and figuring out how we can program better about topics people really want," said Rachel Hogan Carr, the center's executive director.

The center has 21 field trips booked for children's groups in July.

"The space is really hopping with kids from all over," Hogan Carr said.

TOP 10 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- 1. Walkability / pedestrian safety / sidewalks
- 2. Trash cans / litter / recycling / compost
- 3. Traffic

- 4. Water quality
- 5. Crime / drugs
- 6. Vacant properties / blight
- 7. Code enforcement
- 8. Economic development / revitalization
- 9. Neighborhood pride
- 10. Safety / more visible police

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