Rat Investigations

Name

INTRO



Due to their adaptations, rats thrive in cities. Humans play a big part in helping rats thrive. Rats love to eat leftover food and even dog poop! When humans don't put leftovers and waste in trash cans, they are feeding rats.

Humans also live in cities and sharing space with rats can cause problems. One of the biggest problems is disease. Rats can carry diseases that make humans sick.

Since moving into their home on Rodent Road, the Rattisons have been seeing rats in the alley and on the sidewalk. Read about the Rattison family's experience with rats around their block. After reading their story, look through the evidence to find out why there are so many rats!

STORY

The Rattisons live next door to a restaurant called Dig-in Diner. The restaurant creates lots of food waste that they put in the dumpsters in the alley. The dumpsters are left open all the time. They have seen a rat eating a whole cheeseburger next to the dumpsters!

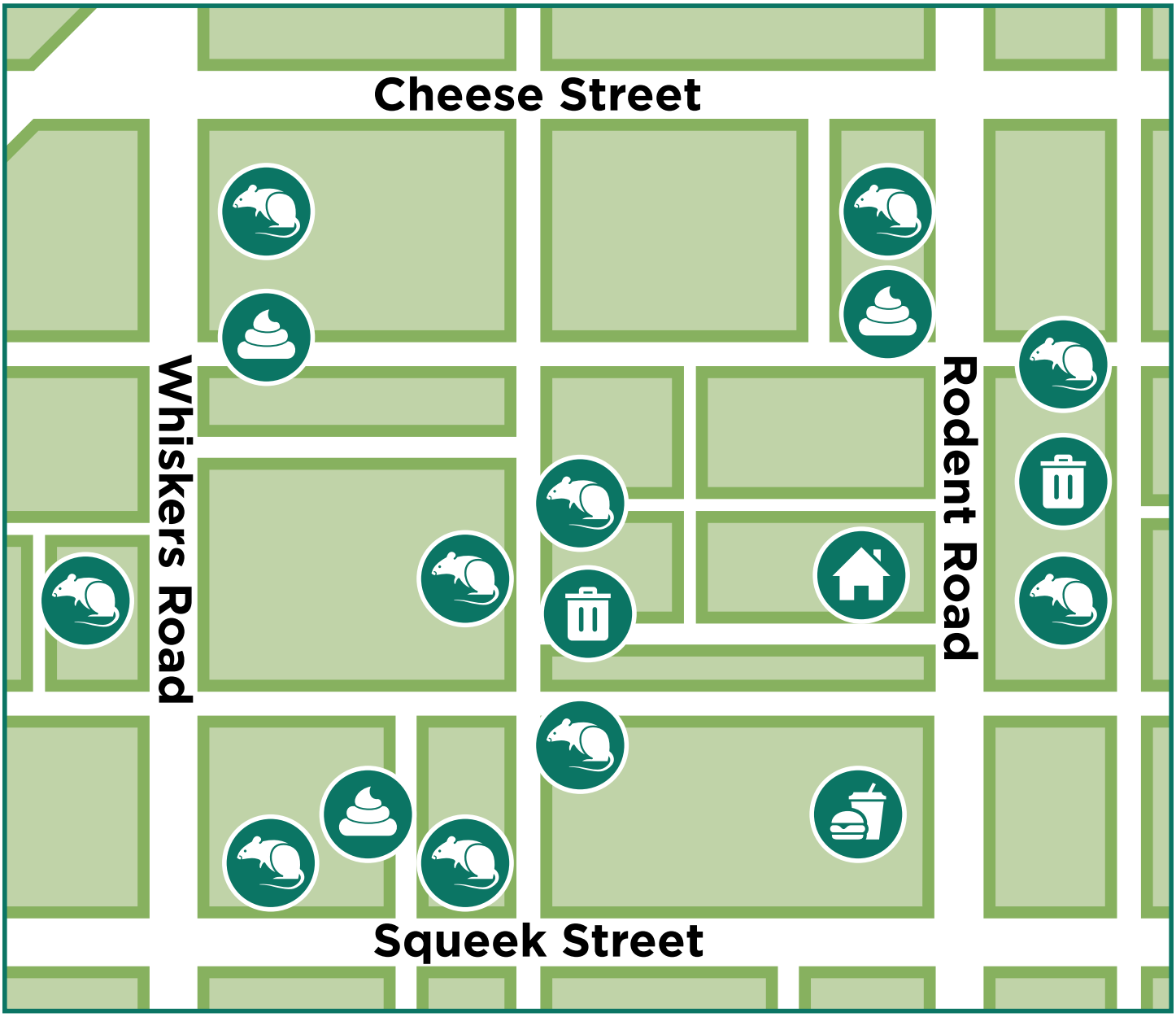
The Rattisons noticed that their neighbors never pick up after their dog. They are starting to see dog poop on the sidewalk every day. Rats love to snack on dog poop. Yuck!

They have seen lots of trash on the sidewalks. They saw a rat taking a nap inside of a chip bag the other day!

Most houses on their block have fences. Some of them have small gaps or holes at the bottom. It's a perfect space for a rat to squeeze in!

Rat Investigations

Examine the pictures and map and record your observations.



Map Key

- Dig-in Diner
- Trash
- Rat Sighting
- The Rattisons' Home
- Dog Poop

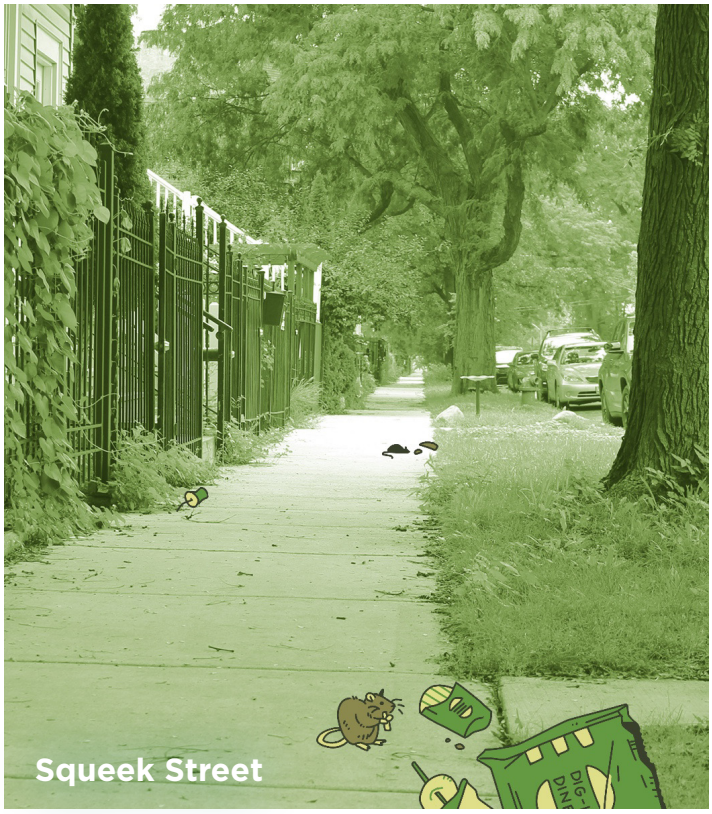
LINCOLN PARK ZOO
FOR WILDLIFE. FOR ALL.

Rat Investigations









Rat Investigations

1. According to the map, how many rats were seen in the Rattisons' neighborhood?

2. Based on the pictures, what area has the most rats? Why?

3. Which area had the least number of rats? Why?

3. How can the Rattisons reduce the number of rats in their neighborhood? List three things they could do:

   1.

   2.

   3.