Anthropology 1030: Introduction to Archaeology

Project Based Research Assignments #3 - Ethnoarchaeology

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**Site Location 1:** Gateway Water Park – Salt Lake City (see Exhibit A)

**Initial Observations:**

I chose this site as I felt it would have a large amount of visitors, however the refuse yield was low, possibly because of frequent garbage collection by facility employees which was observed during the second visit.

The following observations were noted (see supportive mapping, end of document):

1) *Observation Area Measurement:* Approximately 200 ft x 175 ft

2) *Total Number of People:* Approximately 100 at a time as new people came, others left

3) *Sex Ratio:* Generally there were more females than males, aprox: 60/40 (males present were mostly a part of larger observing family clusters or young boys in water area. Single mothers, or groups of moms and shopping teen girls were most prevalent

4) *Activities:* Lounging in family clusters to monitor children playing in water fountain, groups eating packed in lunch items or ice cream; kids and adults playing in water fountain; teens and adults from singles to groups of two or more passing through with shopping sacks from local stores

5) *Waste:* 32 oz paperboard cup with lid and straw detached; small cluster of napkins; paper from straw; little pieces of paper with no distinguishing marks or recognizable use

6) *Abundance:* Some participants showed signs of affluence in clothing styles, hand bags and shopping bag items, however these generally did not stay long and passed through the site. Those that appear to have been at the site for a while (e.g. families/parents
watching kids play in water) seemed to be dressed more casual or in less expensive clothes

7) **Cultural Aspects**: Various culture/ethic groups were present, though predominately Caucasian, followed by Hispanic, Asian and African

**Follow Up Observations & Site Analysis Conclusion:**

Re-visited the site after dusk, more people were present than before, generally performing the same activities. An employee was observed removing garbage and refreshing containers.

**Observation Inference of Artifacts (see supportive mapping, end of document):**

1) *Observation Area Measurement:* Approximately 200 ft x 175 ft

2) *Total Number of People:* Given the appearance of a park and a central point of a trading or commerce district, it can be assumed that hundreds of people may occupy the space

3) *Sex Ratio:* Could not be determined from refuse, however stores as the site would suggest a higher ratio of females would frequent the area

4) *Activities:* Limited refuse would only convey eating and drinking was present. Traces of chlorinated water would suggest an area of water entertainment that required chlorine for general safety of public health. Store suggest an area frequented for trade and commerce

5) *Waste:* Limited refuse would only convey eating and drinking was present.

6) *Abundance:* Limited refuse presented no conclusion, however surround stores convey affluent shoppers

7) **Cultural Aspects:** Limited refuse made this not determinable
Site Location 2: Pioneer Park – Salt Lake City (see Exhibit B)

Initial Observations:

I chose this second site as the first site did not yield a volume of refuse. However this site yielded fewer participants. I noted only one mother and child present at the playground. Most present appeared to be transient, having few belongings or material wealth. Despite the large scale cluster of garbage containers present, the park is yielding more refuse than the first site.

The following observations were noted (see supportive mapping, end of document):

1) Observation Area Measurement: Approximately 330 ft x 270 ft

2) Total Number of People: Approximately 25

3) Sex Ratio: Generally there were more males than females, approximately: 90/10 (only three females were observed, the mother with child and two women, each interacting within a separate cluster of men

4) Activities: One group consisting of three males and one female were lounging in chairs eating and talking; Second group of males standing and talking with a single female; individual men were observed sleeping under trees at various locations; Mother with stroller and child were observed in the playground area

5) Waste: 32 oz cup lid with straw inserted; cluster and individual napkins; gum packet; white plastic bag with food containers inside; partly full Power Aid bottle and empty juice bottle; piece of bread; little pieces of paper with no distinguishing marks or recognizable use

6) Abundance: All participants had the appearance of a lower standard of living; only the mother/child observed would suggest nearby residence; all others appeared to be transient in nature with used clothing styles, back packs, garbage sacks with items in them, blankets and their physical appearance was more weathered and not well groomed
7) Cultural Aspects: Various culture/ethnic groups were present, though predominately Caucasian, followed by African and Hispanic (mother with child).

Follow Up Observations & Site Analysis:
Re-visited the site after dusk, fewer people were present than before, generally performing the same activities; mother and child were gone and only two individuals were still sleeping.

Observation Inference of Artifacts (see supportive mapping, end of document):

1) Observation Area Measurement: Approximately 330 ft x 270 ft

2) Total Number of People: Approximately 16

3) Sex Ratio: Could not be determined from refuse

4) Activities: Refuse would convey eating and drinking was present; earlier observation of blankets and other bags of belonging may suggest overnight stay by occupants; impression of compressed grass would suggest human several hours of occupation of an area – suggesting sleeping or multiple people sitting in conversation

5) Waste: Refuse would mostly convey eating and drinking were present, however two business cards were found at the edge of the park on the sidewalk. Could a trade or request for commerce occurred? Uneaten and eaten bananas were found, cookies and wrapper, plus an apple just cup with foil lid was found during second observation.

6) Abundance: Refuse provides no conclusion other than consumption of common foods e.g. juice cup and cookie bag from nearby cafeteria, browned small bananas (not common to affluent food markets)

7) Cultural Aspects: Not determinable by refuse
Exhibit A: Gateway Site

Little pieces of paper with no distinguishing marks or recognizable use.

32 oz paperboard cup with lid and straw detached; small cluster of napkins; paper from straw.

Main area of people eating, lounging and children playing in water.
Blanket, clothing in middle of sidewalk, move under playground by dusk

Sandwich or fries wrapper? Other little pieces of paper with no distinguishing marks or recognizable use

White plastic bag with food containers inside

Napkins, plastic cups, cigarette buds

Cookie wrapper, uneaten cookie near by

Bottle of liquor, Power Aid, juice bottle

Two different business cards

Bananas, paper bag, 32 oz cup lid with straw inserted

Apple juice container, gum packet, Mt Olympus Dixie