







Raising Expectations: Using Green Infrastructure to Improve Equity in Underserved Communities

New Partners for Smart Growth, Baltimore, MD, Jan 31, 2015

Richard Dolesh, VP for Conservation and Parks, NRPA, Ashburn, VA Robin Corather, Exec Director, Groundwork Cincinnati, OH Brad Buschur, Project Director, Groundwork Lawrence, MA Ignacio Bunster-Ossa, Principal, Wallace Roberts and Todd, Philadelphia, PA Robert Garcia, Founding Director and Counsel, The City Project, Los Angeles, CA



Green Infrastructure & Equitable Redevelopment in Lawrence, Mass. Brad Buschur || Groundwork Lawrence January 31, 2015

Groundwork USA









To bring about the **sustained regeneration**, improvement and management of the physical environment **by developing community-based partnerships** which empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-

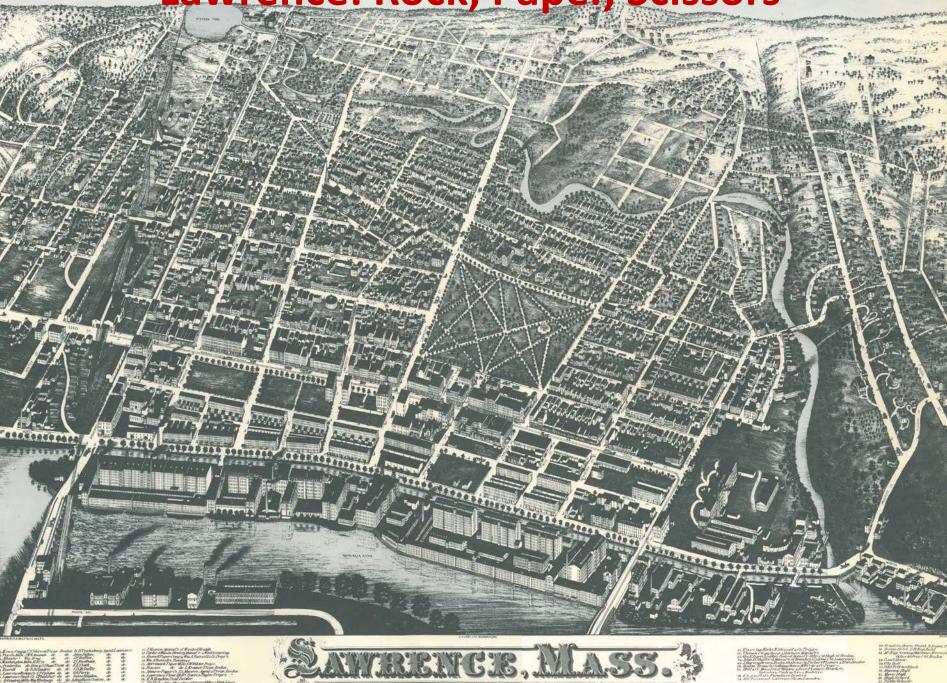
being.

Community Mandate





Lawrence: Rock, Paper, Scissors



About Lawrence / Massachusetts



- Persons below poverty line 29.2% (11.4%)
- Median household income \$32,851 (\$66,866)
- Housing units in multi-unit structures 75.9% (41.7%)
- Share of combined sewers in system 72%



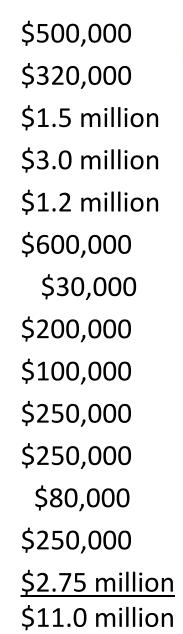
Park / Infrastructure Projects (2001-2014)





2009 - 2014 Park Project Pipeline

Howard Playstead Community Gardens North Common (Phases I, II, III) Spicket River Greenway Oxford Park \bullet **Union Crossing Corridor** ۲ Costello Garden Facella Lot Spicket River Revitalization Gar Park Tattersall Farm • **Registry Lot** The Point Ferrous





2015 – 2019 Park Project Pipeline



•	Kane Lot	\$600,000
•	South Common (Phases I, II)	\$800,000
•	Methuen Rail Trail	\$750 <i>,</i> 000
•	Spicket R. Greenway (Jackson/Newbury)	\$150,000
•	Lawrence Rail Trail	\$2.5 million
•	North Canal Tow Path	\$600,000
•	Costello Garden Expansion	\$30,000
•	Merrimack Riverwalk	<u>\$2.75 million</u>
		\$9.2 million

2009 – 2014 Planning Projects



- North Canal
 - Placemaking Workshops
 - Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel
- Urban Waters
 - Spicket River Baseline Report
 - Spicket River Crew
- Brownfield Assessment Program
 - Lawrence Downtown West Planning Study
 - Regional Public Safety Training Facility
 - Buckley Garage
- Urban Forestry

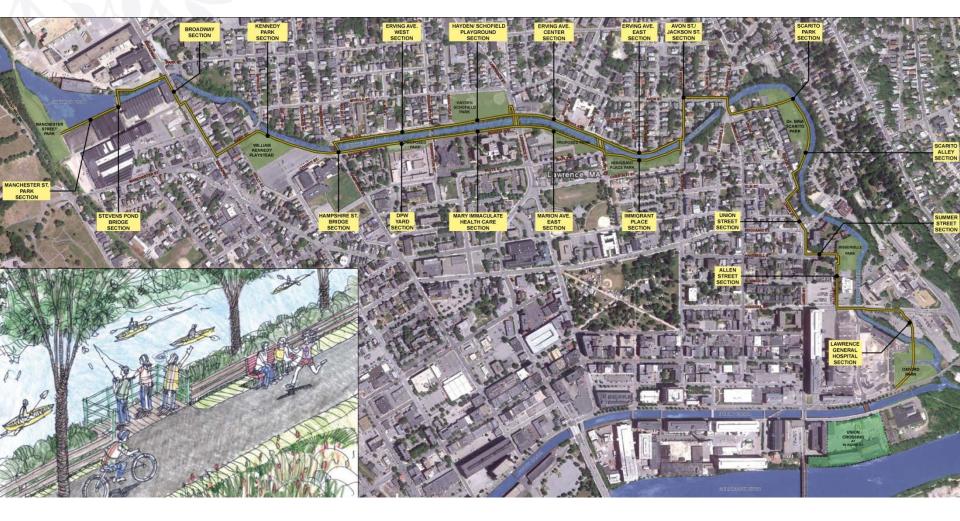
Public- Private Partnership



- Funding: City (CDBG), State (Environmental Bond), Federal (EPA – Brownfields)
- City provides overall strategic guidance, project oversight and fiscal management
- Groundwork provides project management, organizes community outreach, and frequently contracts with consultants (Surveyors, Civil Engineers, Structural Engineers, Geotechnical Engineers, Environmental Engineers, Landscape Architects, Architects, General Contractors)

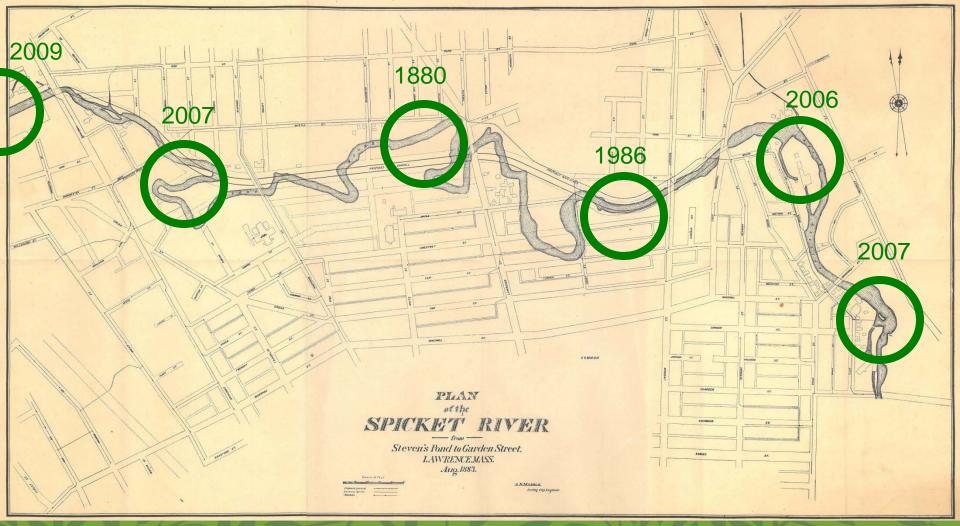
The Spicket River Greenway: A series of riverfront parks





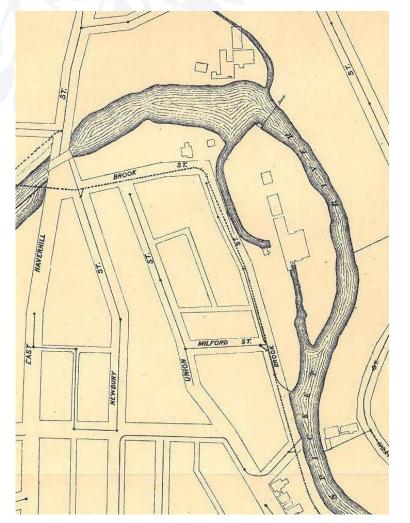
The Spicket River Greenway: A series of riverfront parks





Dr. Nina Scarito Park (2.8 acres) Former Mill / Industrial dry cleaner site









Dr. Nina Scarito Park (2.8 acres) Former Mill / Industrial dry cleaner site





Dr. Nina Scarito Park (2.8 acres) Former Mill / Industrial dry cleaner site











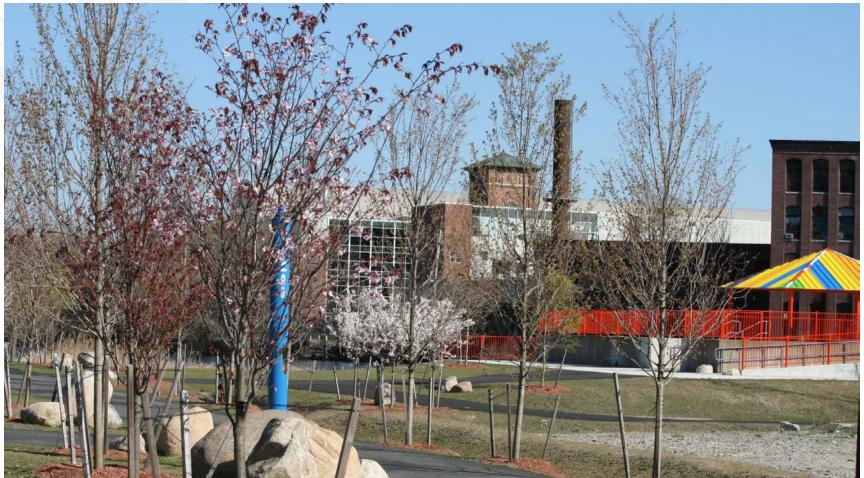










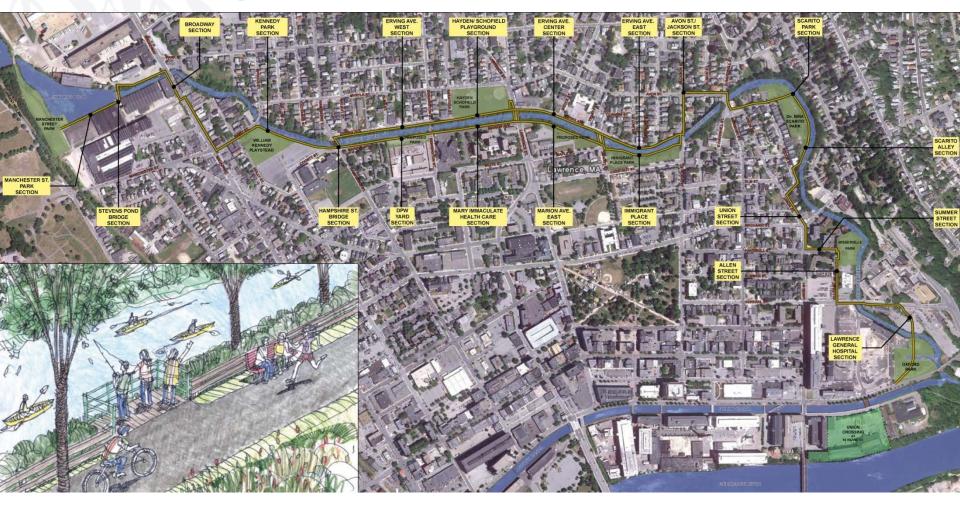






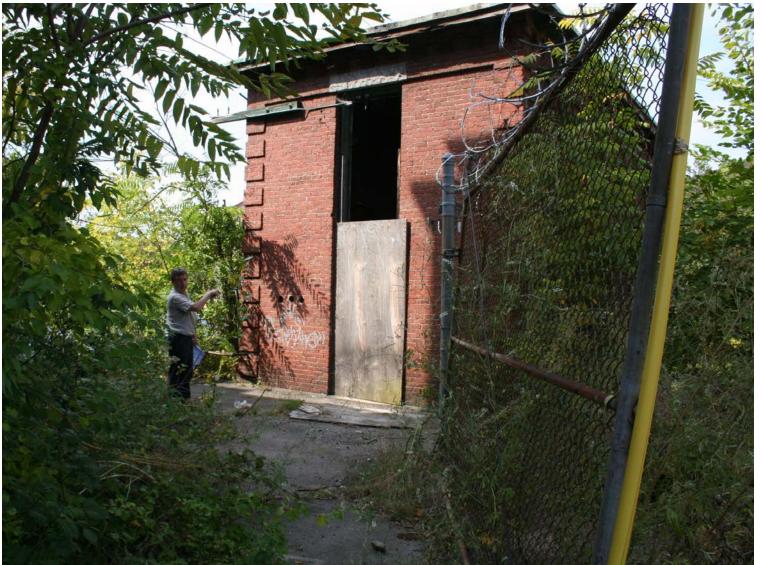
Spicket River Greenway: Connecting the Parks





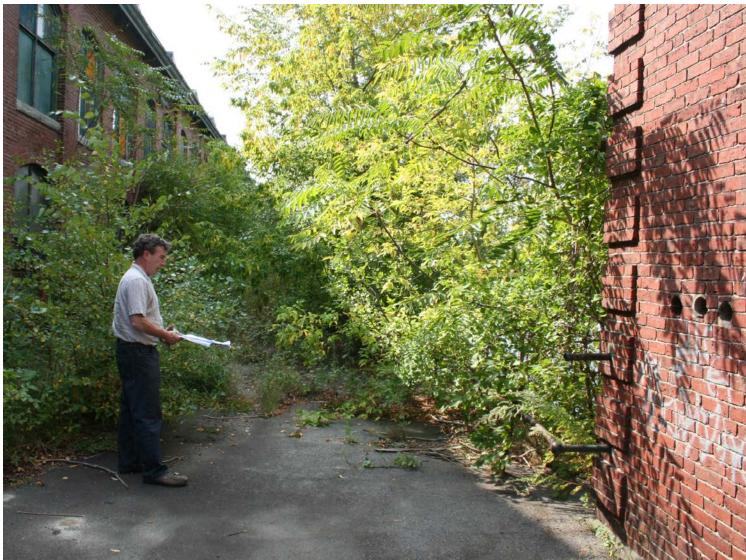
Stevens Pond: Before Greenway





Stevens Pond: Before Greenway





Stevens Pond: After Greenway





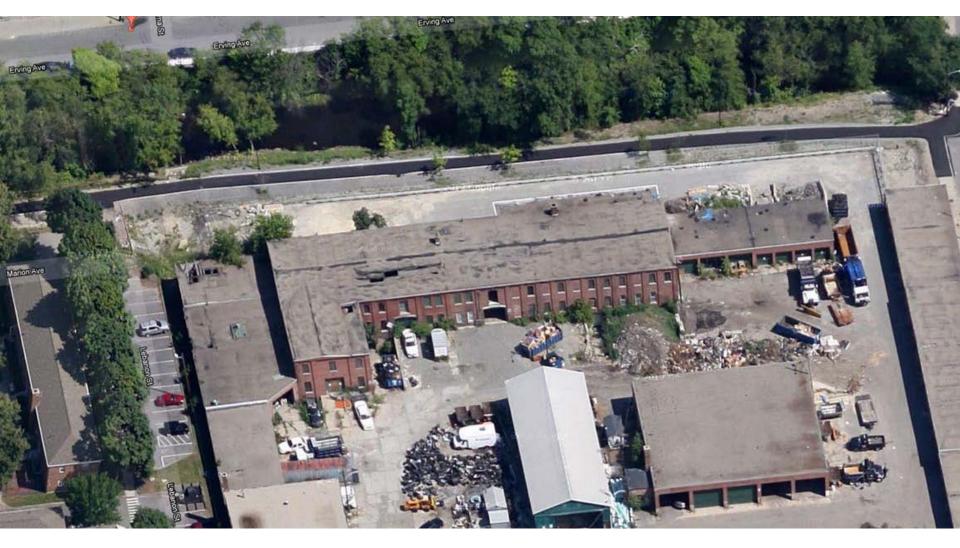
DPW Yard: Before Greenway





DPW Yard: After Greenway





DPW Yard: Before Greenway





DPW Yard: After Greenway





DPW Yard: After Greenway





Erving Avenue: Before Greenway





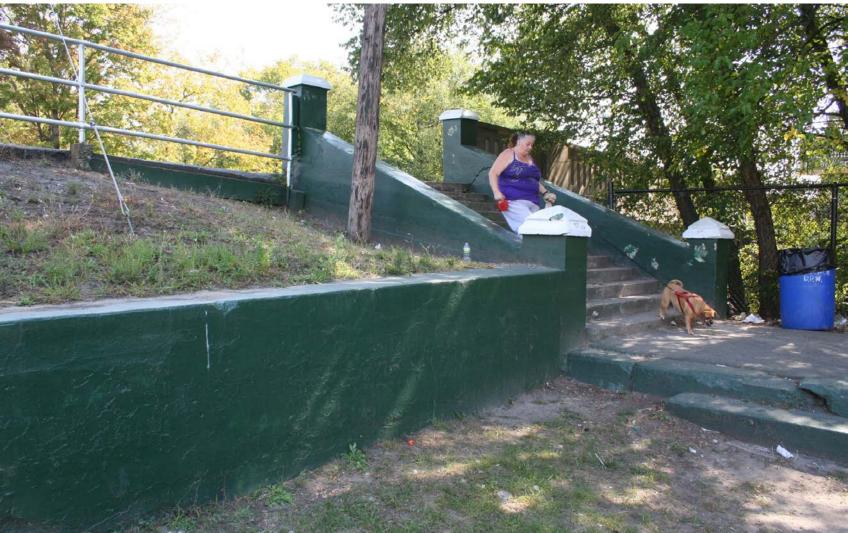
Erving Avenue: After Greenway





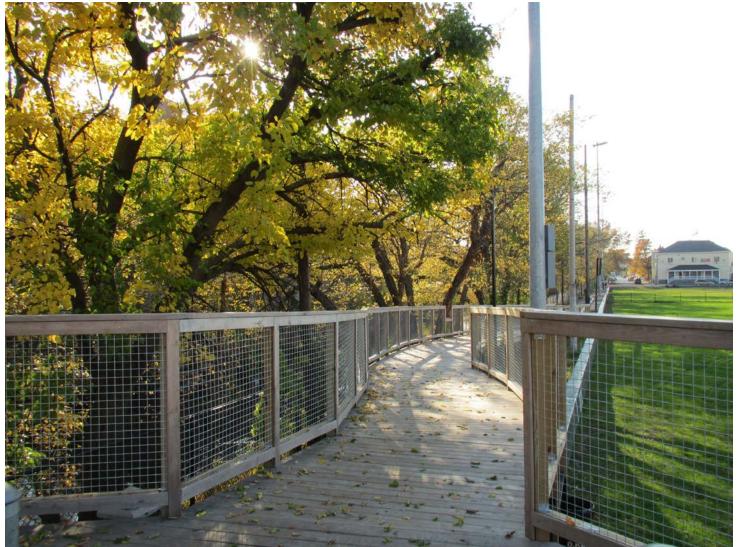
Hayden Schofield Playstead: Before Greenway





Hayden Schofield Playstead: After Greenway





Hayden Schofield Playstead: After Greenway (Causeway)





The Greenway at Immigrant Place Park





The Greenway at Immigrant Place Park





The Greenway at Immigrant Place Park

























The Ferrous Site (5.4 acres) Confluence of the three water bodies CHANGING LIVES





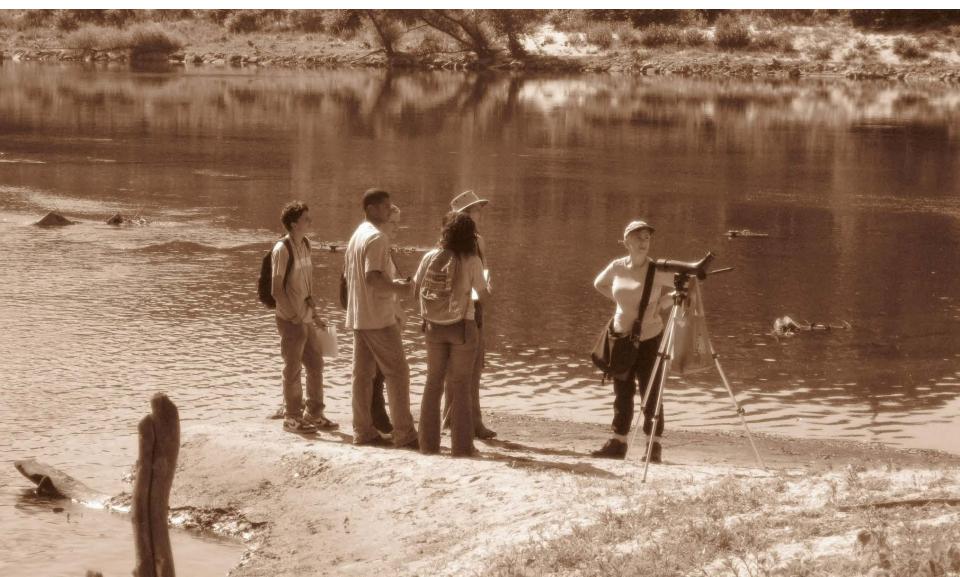
Urban Environmental Education





Urban Environmental Education





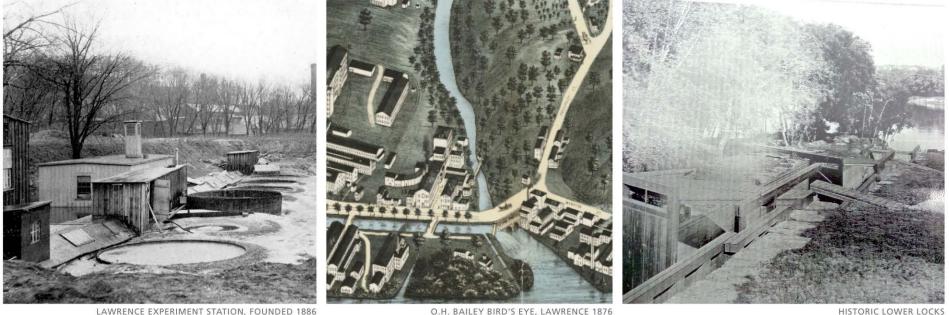
Urban Ecology





Urban Waters Heritage: Canal, Locks, Sanitation innovation, CSO

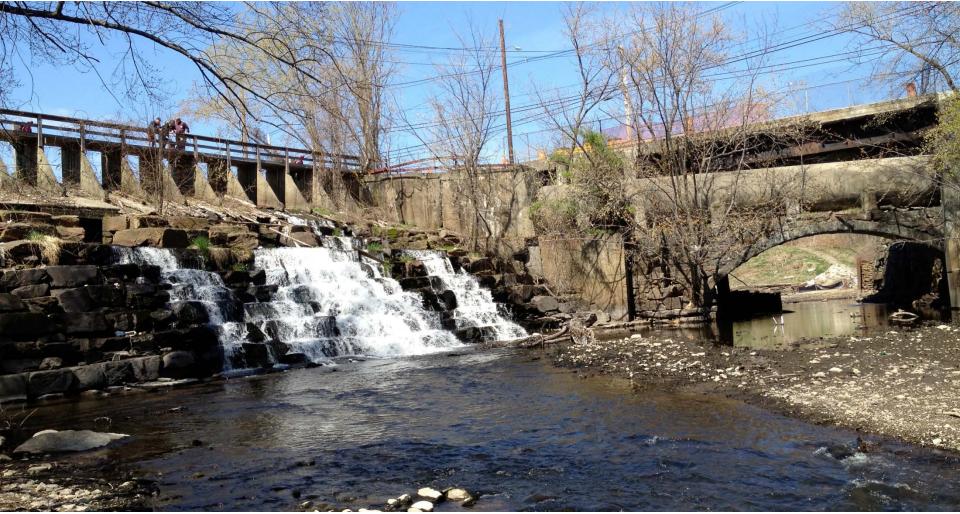




LAWRENCE EXPERIMENT STATION, FOUNDED 1886

Scenic Waterfront





Existing conditions





EXISTING

Vegetation strategy





Site Plan









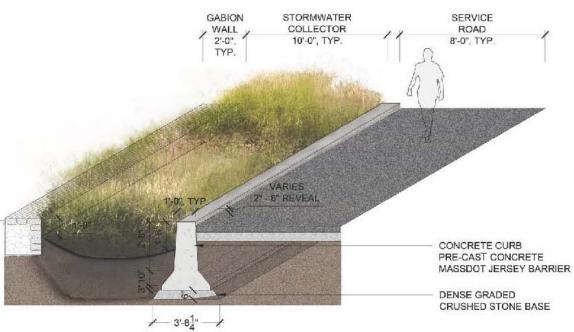


Green Infrastructure: Swale and rain garden









Green Infrastructure: Porous paving and bridge at rain garden









Community Engagement





Community Engagement





Brad Buschur Groundwork Lawrence

bbuschur@groundworklawrence.org (978) 974-0770







New Partners for Smart Growth

Raising Expectations -Using **Green Infrastructure to Advance Social Equity Robin Corather Groundwork** Cincinnati

Mill Creek Healthy People/ Healthy River Strategy

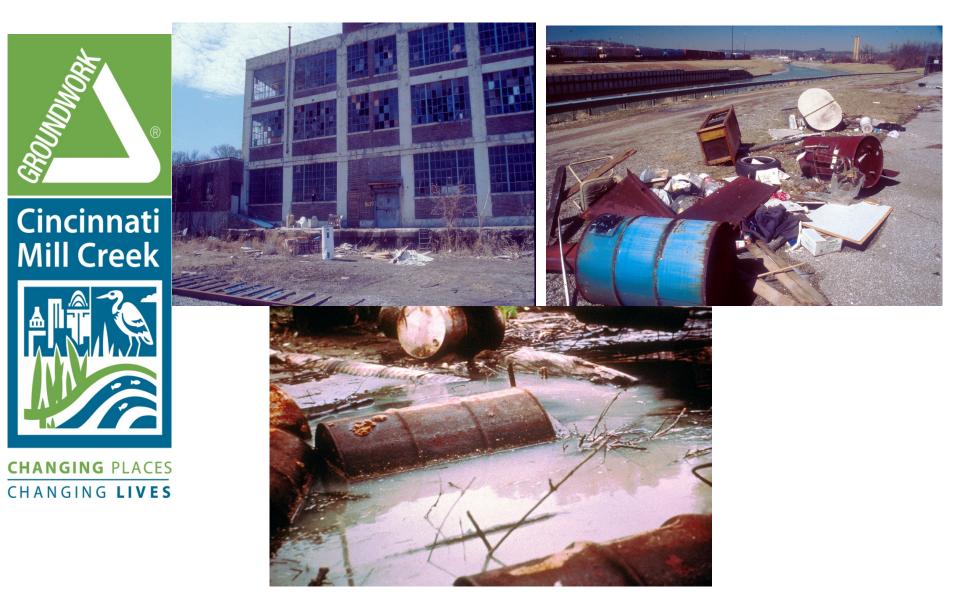


www.groundworkcincinnati.org

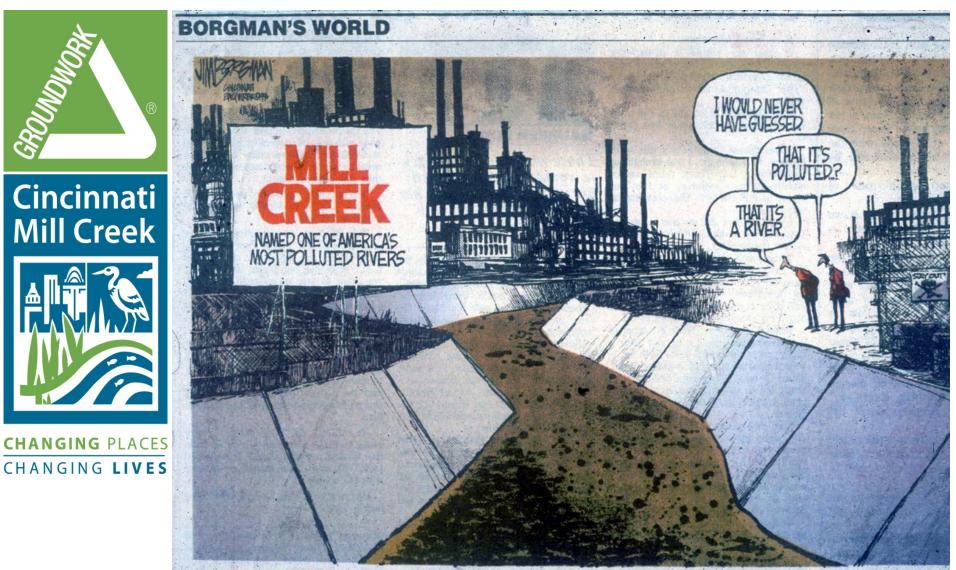
20 Years Ago....



20 Years Ago....



Most Endangered Urban River in North America



Community Engagement Visioning, Planning & Design



Mill Creek Watershed Greenway Master Plan



CHANGING PLACES



Community Implementation & Stewardship





ECOLOGICAL REGENERATION



Laughing Brook Public Art, Education, and Green Infrastructure



Laughing Brook Constructed Wetland



Transformation of Derelict Property



Green Infrastructure





GROUNDINOS

Cincinnati

Mill Creek

Mill Creek Greenway Trail



Bike Safety and Repair Workshops



Freedom Trees & Edible Forest Gardens

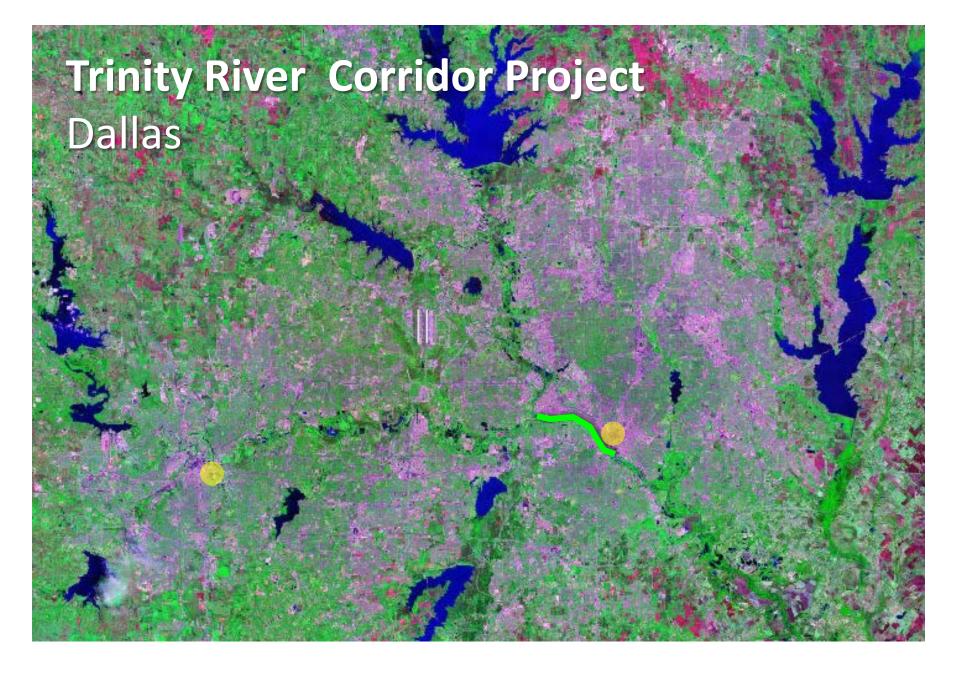


Capacity Building - Green Team Youth Employment & Environmental Education



Green Careers and Pathways







10% OF THE U.S. POPULATION SUFFER FROM ASTHMA

ABOUT 64,000 PEOPLE A YEAR DIE FROM PM EXPOSURE—MORE THAN DIE FROM AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS.

Source: Howard Frumkin, Lawrence Frank, Richard Jackson: "Urban Sprawl and Public Health"

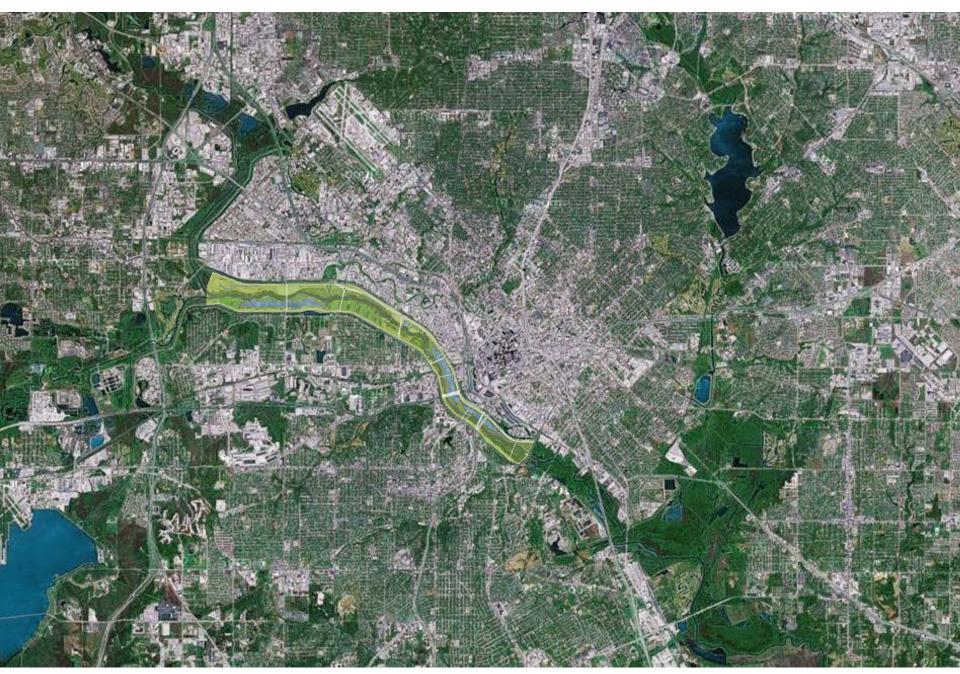
http://www.flickr.com/photos/unspecific/193481842/

About 300,000 people die preventable deaths each year as a result of being obese..

For diabetics, walking just 2 hours per week can reduce their death rate by 40%



Tittp://www.flickr.com/photos/combinedmedia/













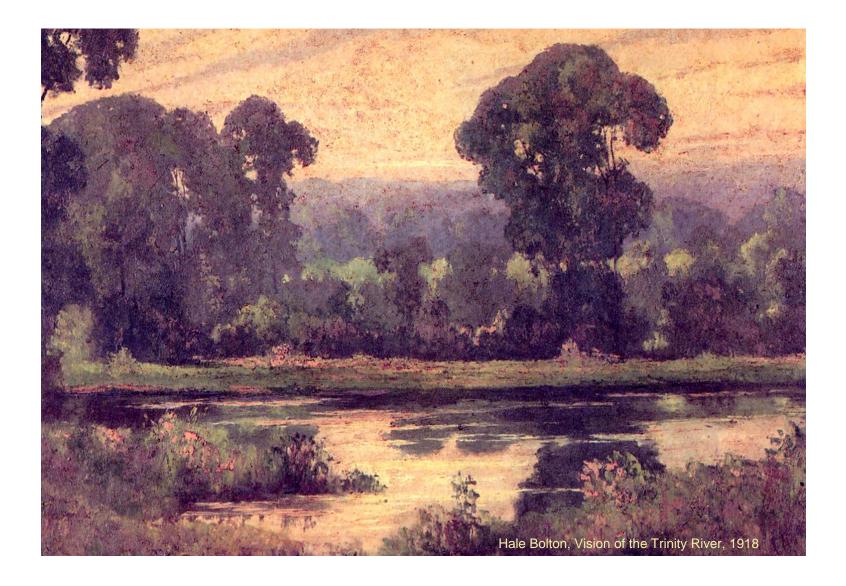


19,000 trees at maturity will sequester about 380 tons of CO2

-- the equivalent of about 750,000 miles travelled in an automobile

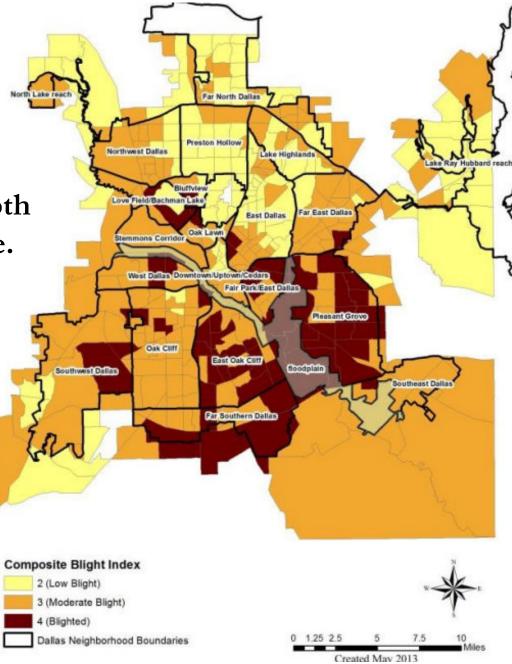
http://www.flickr.com/photos/50872211@N05/





A New Map of Blight in Dallas Highlights the Depth of the North-South Divide.

The Dallas Observer, July 12, 2013



Ignacio F. Bunster-Ossa, FASLA

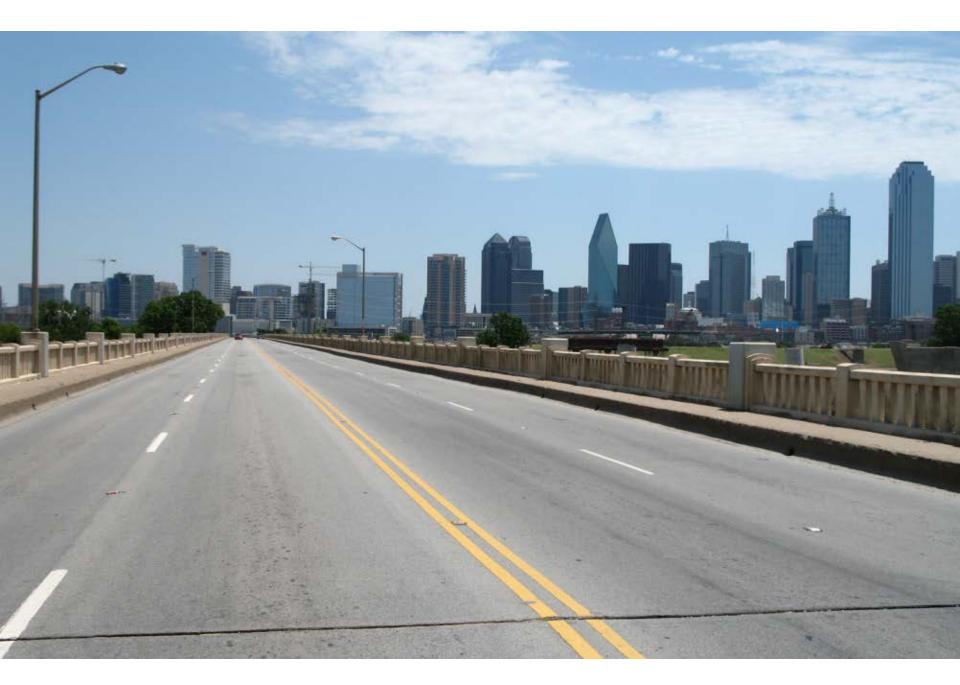


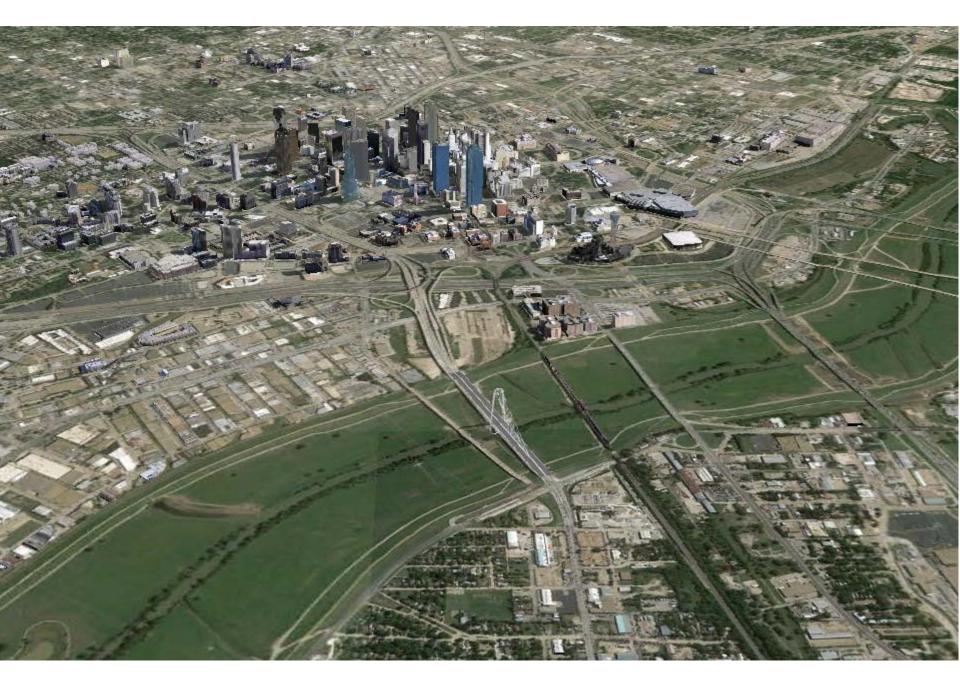


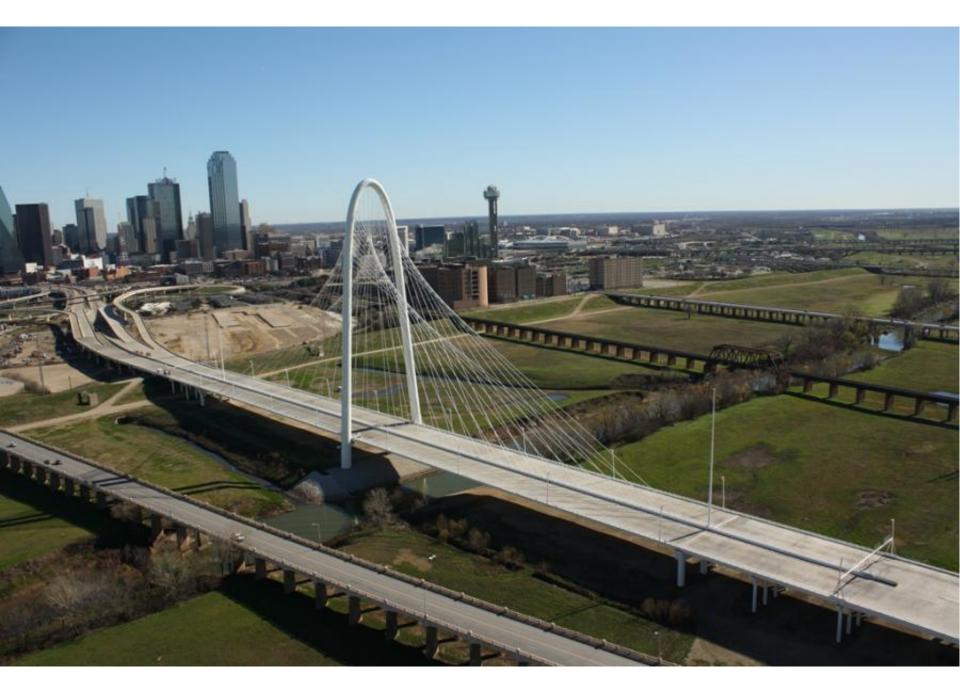
The park trail system will accommodate multiple users and events











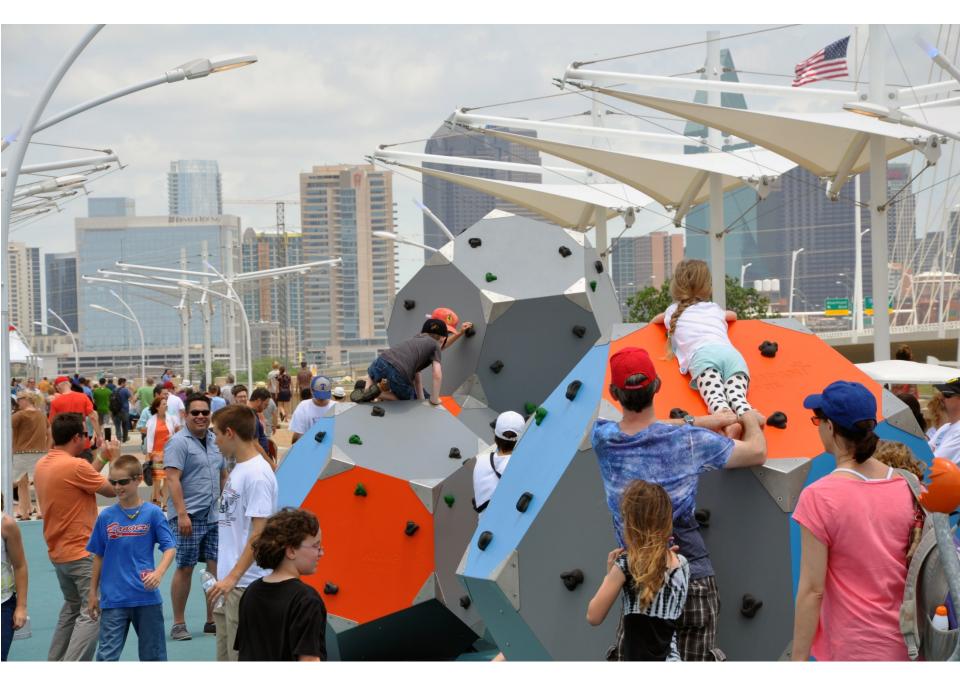






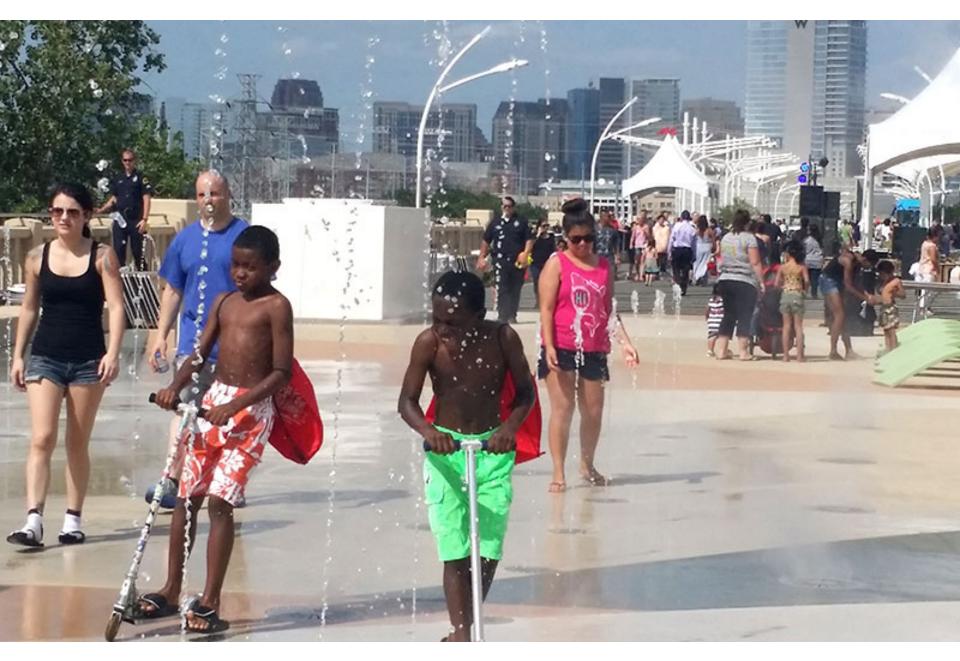






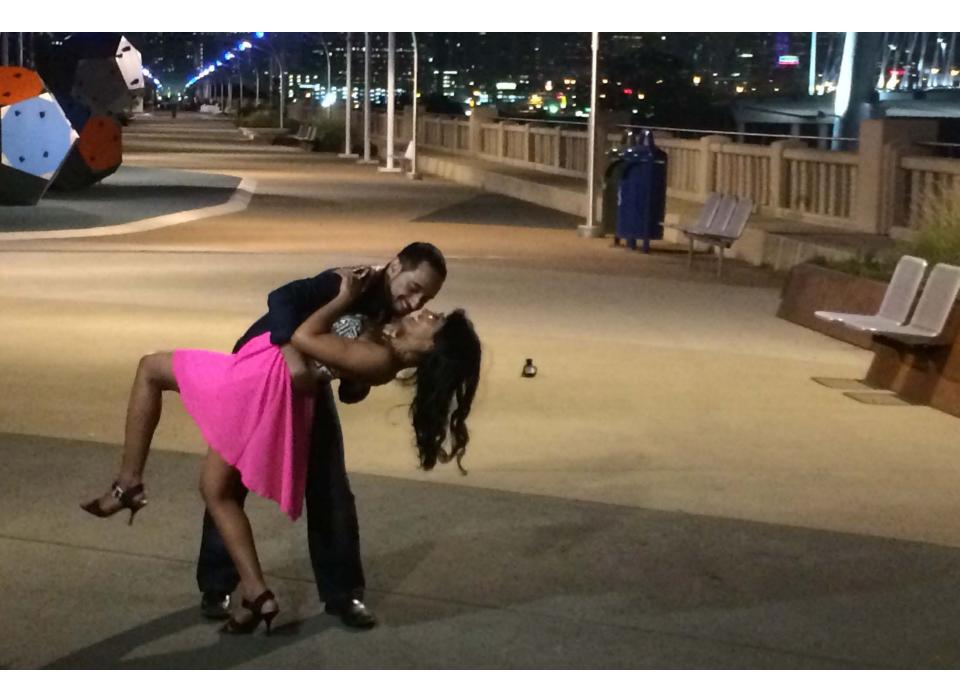










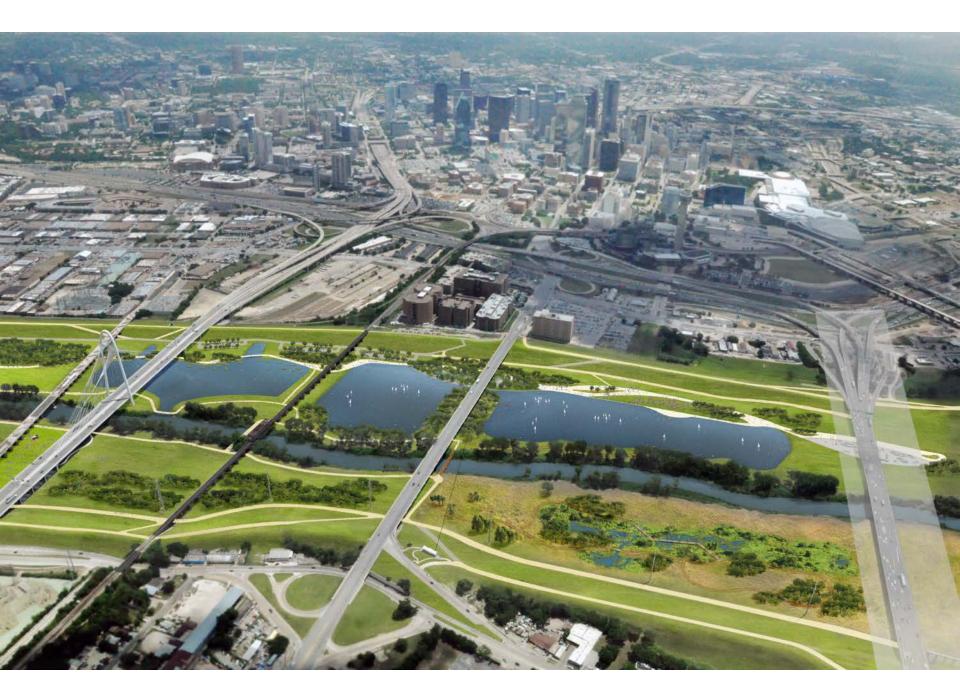




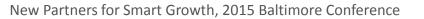


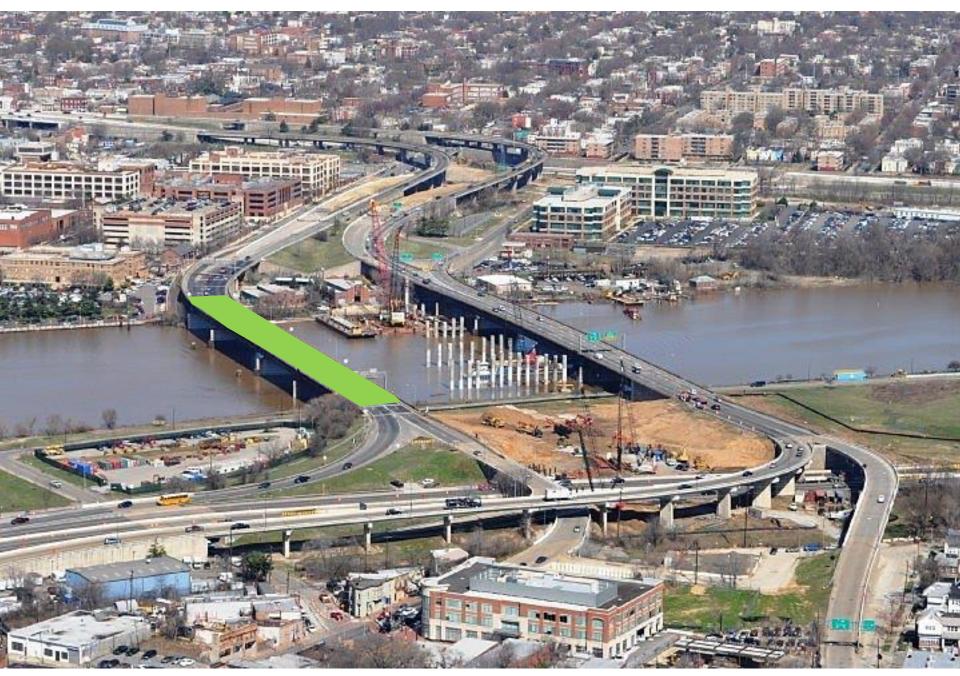
Social equity must involve opportunities for learning.

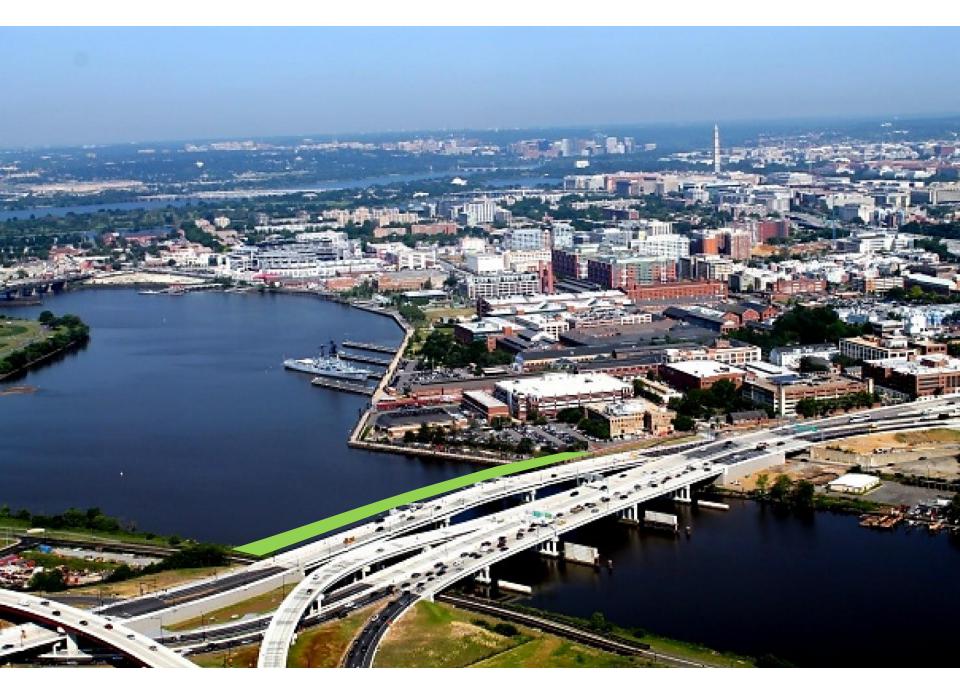
"Research shows that the summer break takes a toll on learning. Either kids aren't doing much of it at home or they don't have access to education programs or activities."- See more at: http://education.kera.org/tag/continental-avenuepedestrian-bridge/#sthash.pnGSwjR6.dpuf

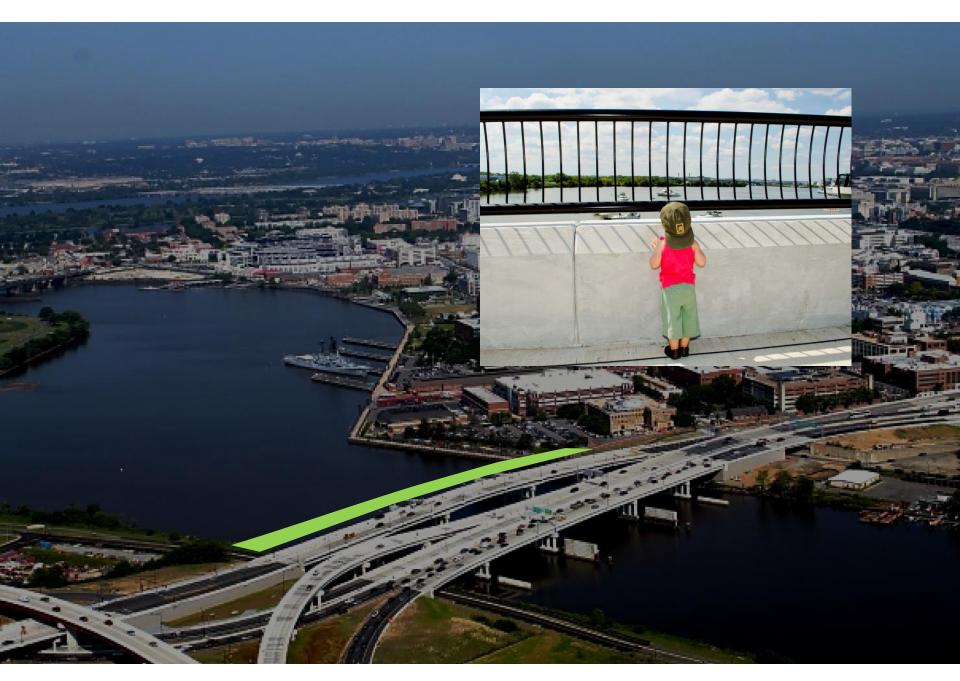


Anacostia Bridge Park Washington, DG ••









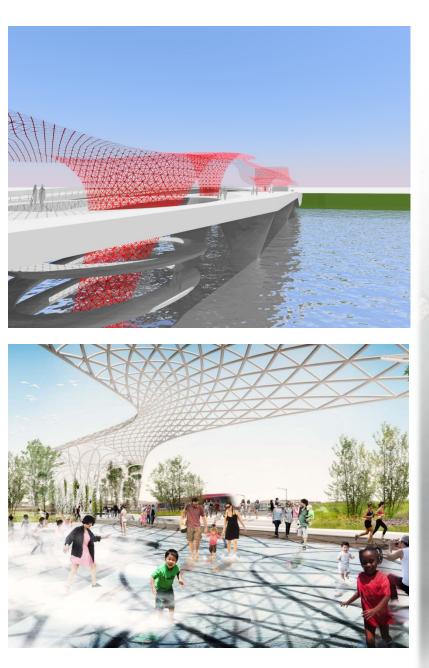


FREDERICK DOUGLASS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

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ET'S GO PLAY

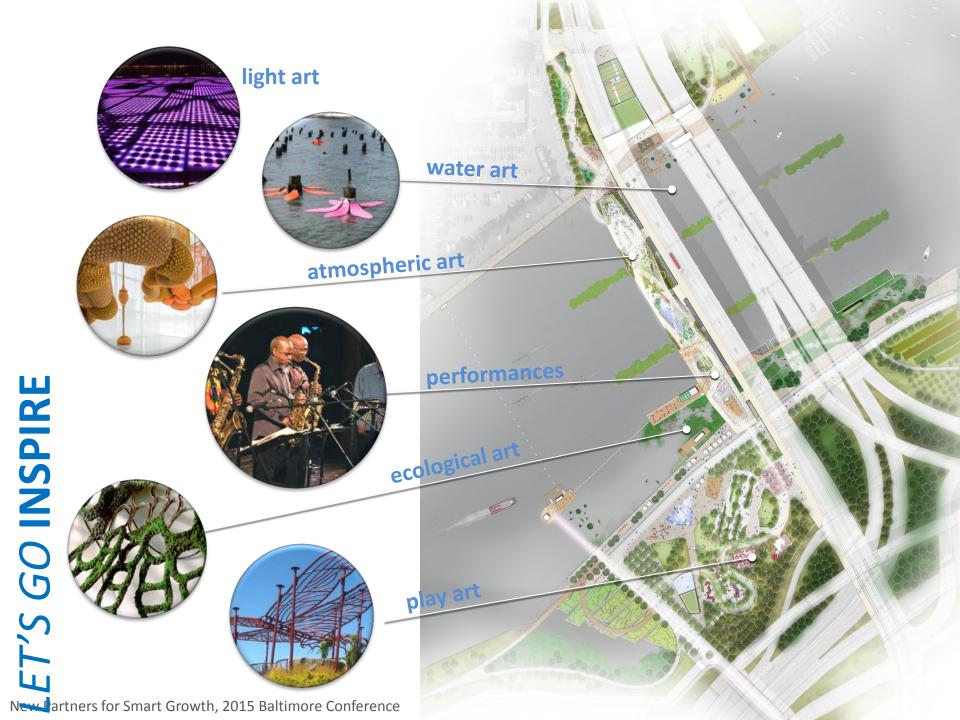




After jumping on a trampoline for 10 minutes, a 150-pound adult burns around 42 calories.

http://www.livestrong.com/article/294387-how-many-calories-burned-for-New Partners for Smart Growth, 2015 Baltimore Conference









RESTORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL VITALITY OF A LOST ECOLOGY.



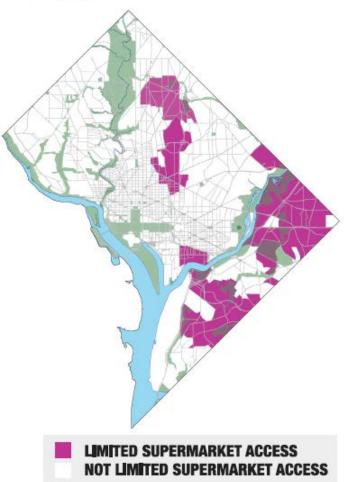


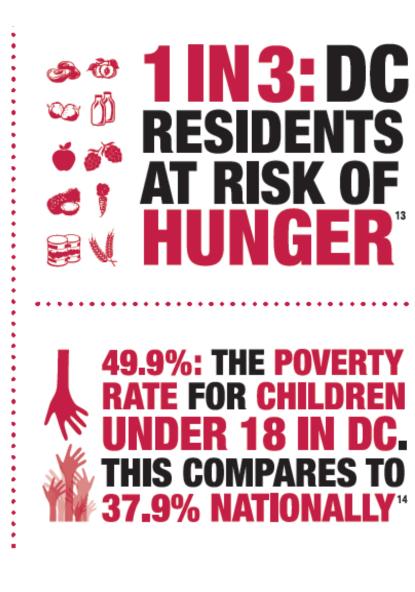
New Partners for Smart Growth, 2015 Baltimore Conference





AREAS OF DC WITH LIMITED SUPERMARKET ACCESS (2011)"





WARD 8 1: 23,016 (supermarkets to pop)

DC 1: 14,029 (supermarkets to pop) WARD 8 71.5% obese or overweight 18.3% with diabetes

DC 5% obese or overweight 8% with diabetes

New Partners for Smart Growth, 2015 Baltimore Conference







"ÎN

New Partners for Smart Growth, 2015 Baltimore Conference







Raising Expectations:

Using Green Infrastructure to Advance Equity in Underserved Communities

Robert Garcia, JD Founding Director and Counsel, The City Project Assistant Professor, Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science



Goals

•Create multibenefit green and blue projects for health and recreation, economic vitality, "one water" management, climate resiliency,

- •Analyze park and health disparities
- •Promote community engagement and empowerment
- •Use civil rights tools
- •Provide equitable funding, public and private
- •Recommend next steps
- •Tell a story









We heard from the community. Too many children, especially children of color, don't have access to parks where they can run free, breathe fresh air, experience nature, and learn about their environment.

This is an issue of social justice.

Because it's not enough to have this awesome natural wonder within your sight—you have to be able to access it.

President Barack Obama San Gabriel Mountains National Monument October 10, 2014





GREEN JUSTICE





Bringing the San Gabriel Mountains Closer to the People

By Robert Garcia | on February 9, 2012

Public access and recreational opportunities help address health challenges. Studies show that recreational access to public lands translates to youth activity and lower youth obesity.

Parks also play an important role in supporting local economies.

White House Statement San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

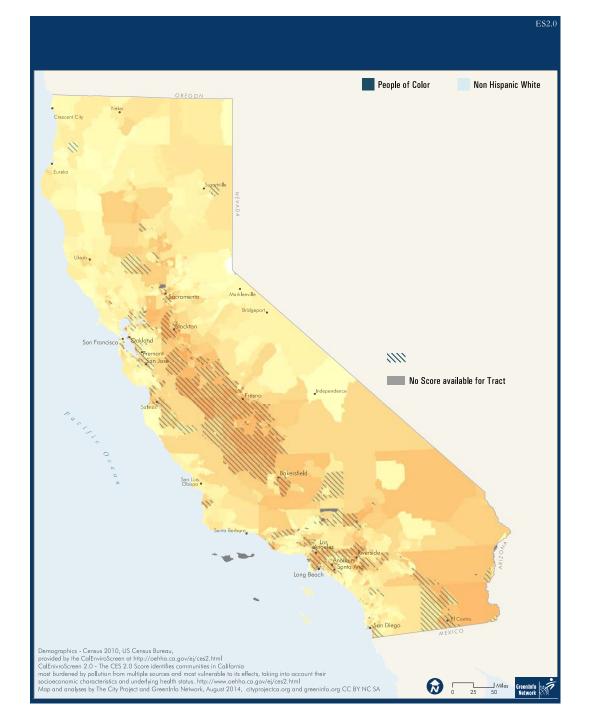
















"The City Project's work on park access is one of the two leading areas in environmental justice."

Leslie Fields, Sierra Club









"The president not only displayed compassion and understanding of environmental justice but was fundamentally motivated by the issues when he declared the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

The City Project, thanks for your work to make the case for environmental justice and the San Gabriel National Monument a reality."

Daniel Rossman, chair San Gabriel Mountains Forever coalition





The values at stake

Fun, health, and human development

Conservation values including climate action

Economic vitality: create jobs, avoid displacement

Art, culture, spiritual, and Native American values

Equal justice, democracy, and livability for all

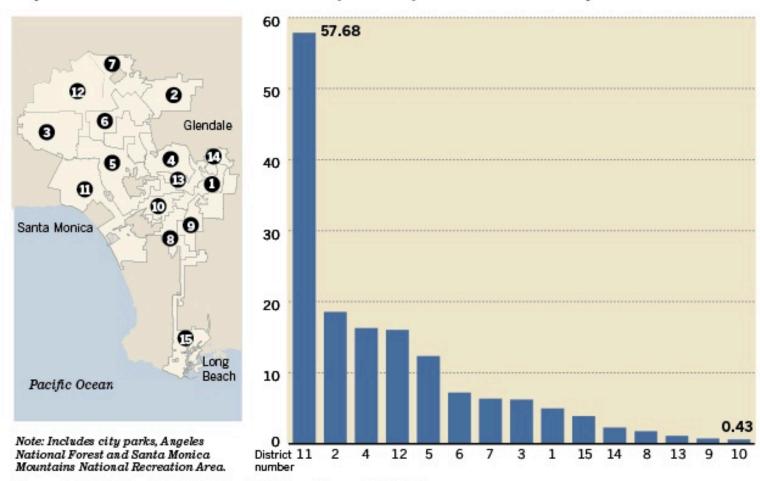
"Ultimately, we can appeal to the values that we strive to achieve as a community and democracy and emphasize the inherent democratic nature of public spaces."



Los Angeles parkland

City Council districts

The amount of park acreage available to L.A. residents varies widely from one part of the city to another. Nationally, some park planners recommend six to 10 acres of parks per 1,000 residents.



Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, by council district

Source: The City Project: "Healthy Parks, Schools and Communities," 2006



Los Angeles Times



Two Legal Frameworks for Reviewing Title VI Claims



- Disparate Treatment Discrimination
 - Similarly situated persons treated differently based on their race, color, or national origin
 - Action was, at least in part, based on race, color, or national origin
- Disparate Impact Discrimination
 - Policy or practice that is neutral on its face, but has a disproportionate adverse impact on persons of a particular protected class







 \bigcirc

"Simple justice requires that public funds, to which all taxpayers of all races contribute, not be spent in any fashion which encourages, entrenches, subsidizes, or results in racial discrimination."

President John F. Kennedy, message to Congress on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964



"We do not have to be lawyers to understand, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you'"

Senator Hubert Humphrey, Senate Debate on Civil Rights Act of 1964





Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 @ 50







President's **Executive Order 12898** on Environmental Justice and Health @ 20







Civil rights compliance and equity plan in positive terms

Applies to recipients of federal funding

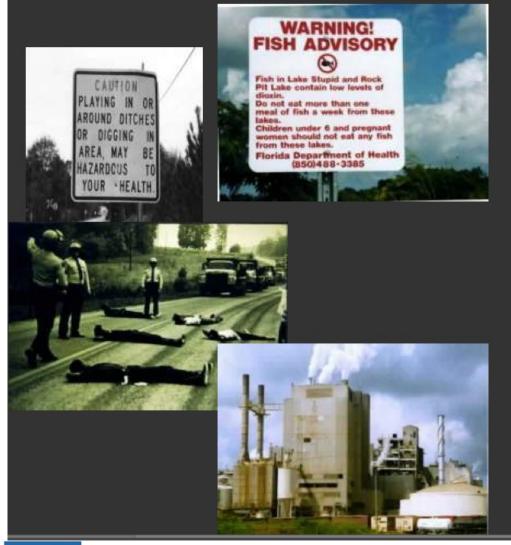
- 1. What do you **plan** to do
- 2. Analyze the **burdens and benefits** on all people
- 3. Analyze the **alternatives**

4. Include **people of color and low-income people** in the planning process

5. **Implement** a plan to distribute the benefits and burdens fairly and avoid discrimination



Environmental Justice Principle



Environmental justice embraces the principle that all people and communities are entitled to equal protection of our environmental, health, employment, education, housing, transportation, and civil rights laws





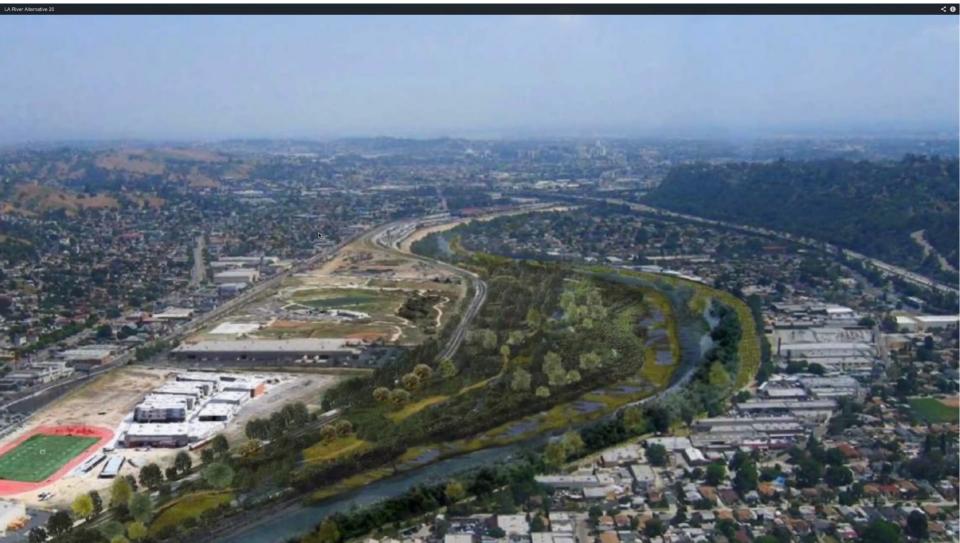














"A heroic monument" and "a symbol of hope."

Los Angeles Times Magazine





The City Project "organized a civil rights challenge that claimed the project was the result of discriminatory land-use policies that had long deprived minority neighborhoods of parks."

Los Angeles Times Front Page





Los Angeles State Historic Park "is not here because of the vision of politicians, or some design or plan. This park is here because of the struggle and agitation by the community. The community stopped the industrial warehouses to create the park in the most park poor city in the nation."

Senator Kevin de Léon





Structural obstacles to fund health justice

The more committed to the environment, the less likely a foundation will fund social justice

15% of enviro dollars benefited marginalized communities

Only 11% to advancing social justice

Public and nonprofit expenditures are most strongly associated with race and ethnicity. Black and Latino communities suffer from lower expenditure levels by both

Nonprofits must implement compliance and equity plans





The pillars of new liberalism

Reduce taxes

Reduce government services

Eliminate the social safety net

Privatize services

Deregulation

Let the market decide









It takes a movement

The Civil Rights Movement

The Environmental Justice Movement

The Health Justice Movement



Civil rights lawyers in and out of court

Courageous Courts

Brown v Board of Education 1954, Hernandez v Texas 1954

The Movement in the Streets March on Washington 1963, Selma 1965

Legislation Civil Rights Act 1964

The President LBJ broke filibuster

Implementation by agencies and attorneys Title VI funding

Right to vote 1964 mandate for civil rights; 2008 election







Using Civil Rights Tools to Address Health Disparities

Michael Rodriguez, MD, MPH; Marc Brenman; Marianne Engelman Lado, JD; and Robert García, JD



Policy Report The City Project





Robert Garcia Founding Director and Counsel Community Faculty, Charles Drew University rgarcia@cityprojectca.org

Donations are tax deductible!



This work is supported in part by

Gilbert Foundation

NIH-NIMHD grant U54MD007598 (formerly U54RR026138)

CDU-AXIS, Grant# U54MD007598 from NIMHD

California Endowment

Kresge Foundation



Human health includes a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely alleviating chronic diseases including obesity and diabetes. World Health Organization.

Social determinants of health: where people live, learn, play, pray, and age.





Fun, health, and human development: Children who are physically fit tend to do better academically, and parks can create community and drive out vandalism and crime.





Conservation values: Clean air, water, and land, complete green streets with transit, biking, hiking, and safe routes to schools, saving habitat, and climate justice.





Economic values: Jobs and apprenticeships for youth, diversification of government contracts, gentrification and displacement as greening makes communities more desirable and expensive.





Art, culture, spiritual, and Native American values.





Equal justice, democracy, and livability for all. "Ultimately, we can appeal to the values that we strive to achieve as a community and democracy and emphasize the inherent democratic nature of public spaces."





Unjustified Discriminatory Impacts

1. Are there numerical disparities?

Data collection and analysis, anecdotal evidence, statistical studies, GIS mapping. demographics

2. Are the disparities justified by business necessity?

3. Are there less discriminatory alternatives to accomplish similar goals?





Intentional Discrimination

Circumstantial evidence of intent

- 1. **Numerical impact** is the starting point for analysis.
- 2. Is there a history of discrimination?
- 3. Are there departures from substantive values?
- 4. Are there departures from normal procedures?
- 5. Is there a pattern of discrimination?
- 6. Do decision makers know the harm they will cause

