



Parks and Environmental Justice

Roots of the Movement: Warren County, NC

- New rules regarding dumping of waste implemented in late 1970's (Carter Administration)
 - Made dumping waste more expensive
- 1978: Ward Transformer Company dumped oil on street shoulders
 - Oil laced with hazardous chemicals (PCB)
 - One week after reporting at Love Canal
- Contaminated soil/farmland, lakes, groundwater
 - 31000 barrels of oil dumped; 60000 tons of earth contaminated across 240 miles of highway in two weeks

Roots of the Movement: Warren County, NC



- Afton, NC was chosen as the site for the contaminated soil
 - 65% Black, 97th/100 in GDP, 40% homes without indoor plumbing
- 1979: 800+ people protest hearings on the chosen site
 - Three years of litigation, independent scientific review, etc. Follow
- 1982: Landfill moves forward

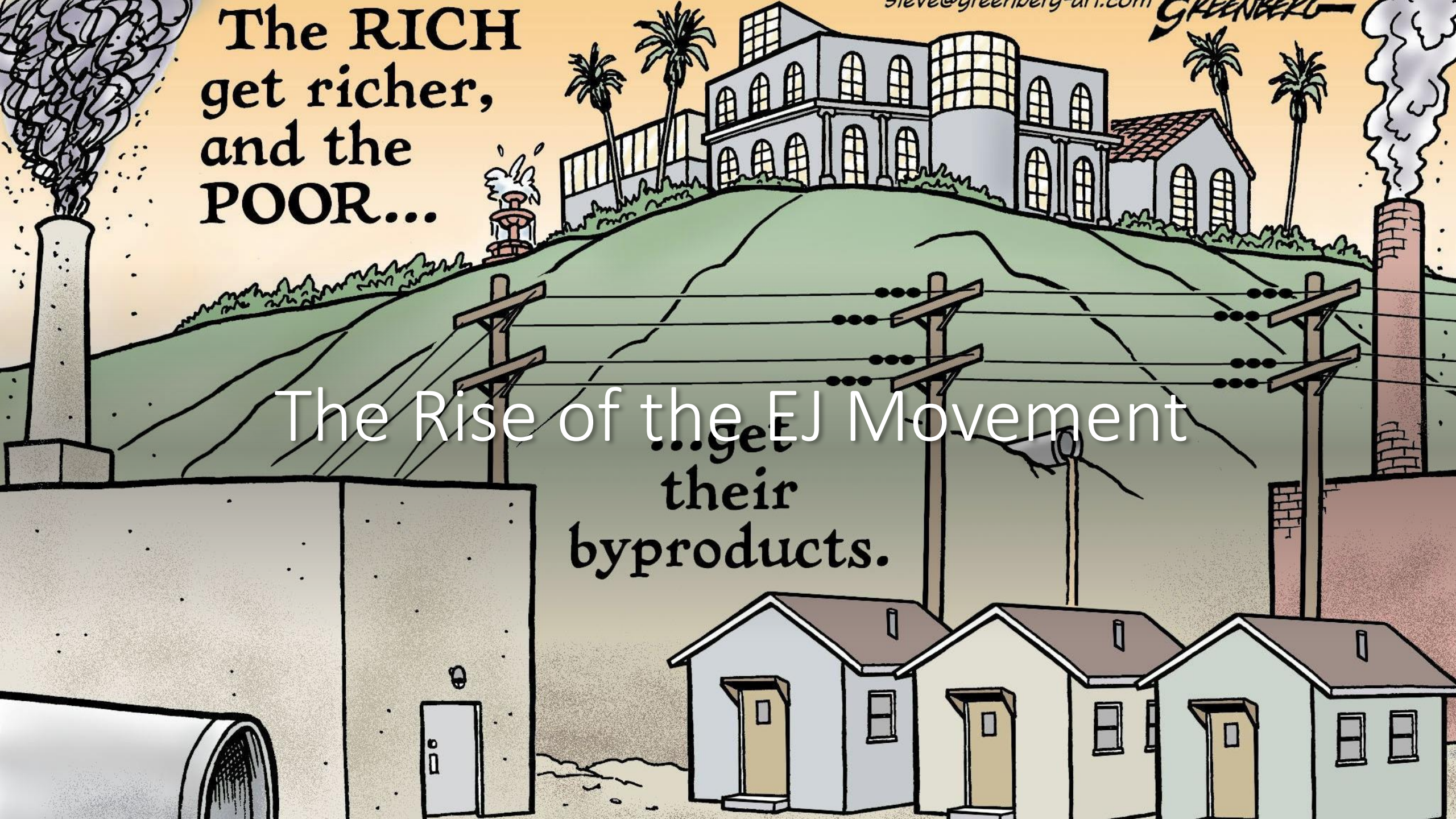
Warren County Landfill Protests



- Led by the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice
- Daily protests/actions for six weeks while soil was delivered
 - 500+ arrests
- Delayed, but did not stop the landfill project

**The RICH
get richer,
and the
POOR...**

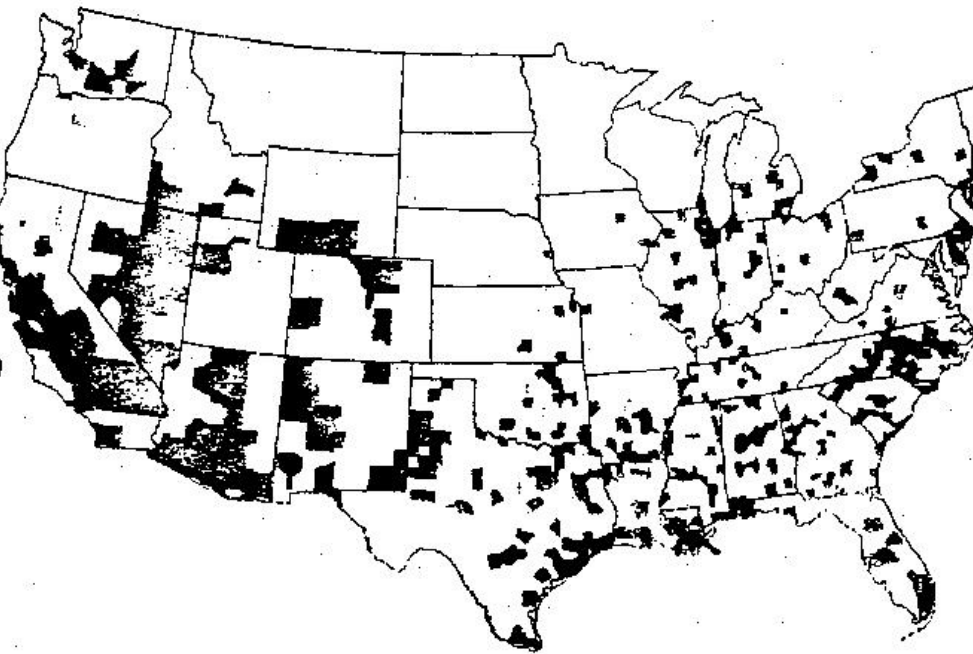
The Rise of the EJ Movement
**...get
their
byproducts.**



TOXIC WASTES AND RACE

In The United States

A National Report on the Racial and Socio-Economic
Characteristics of Communities
with Hazardous Waste Sites



COMMISSION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE
United Church of Christ
©1987

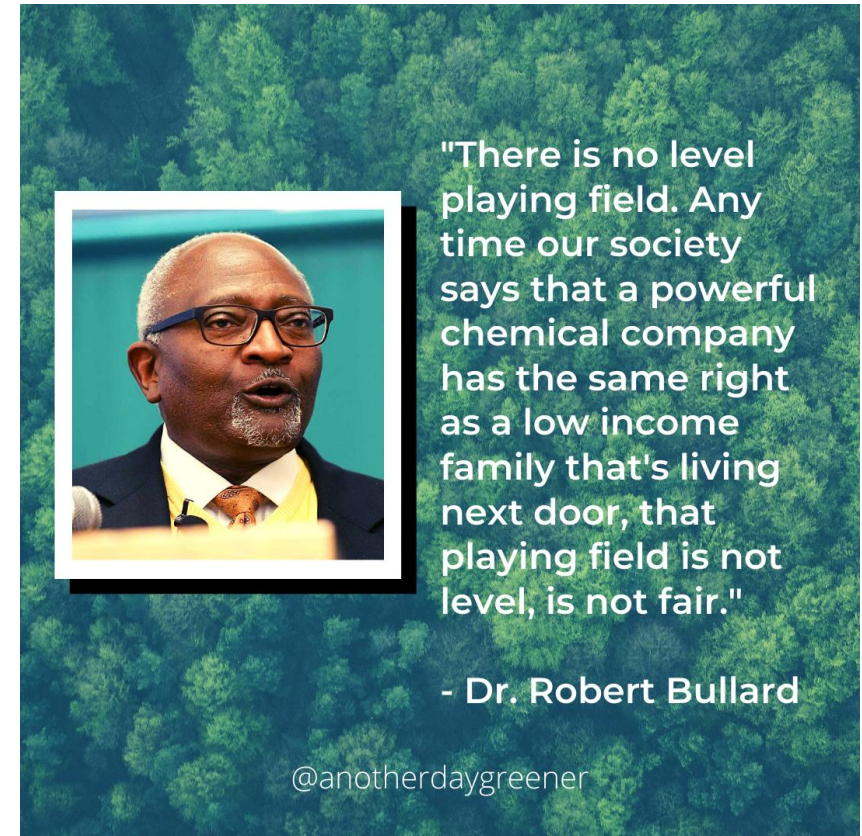
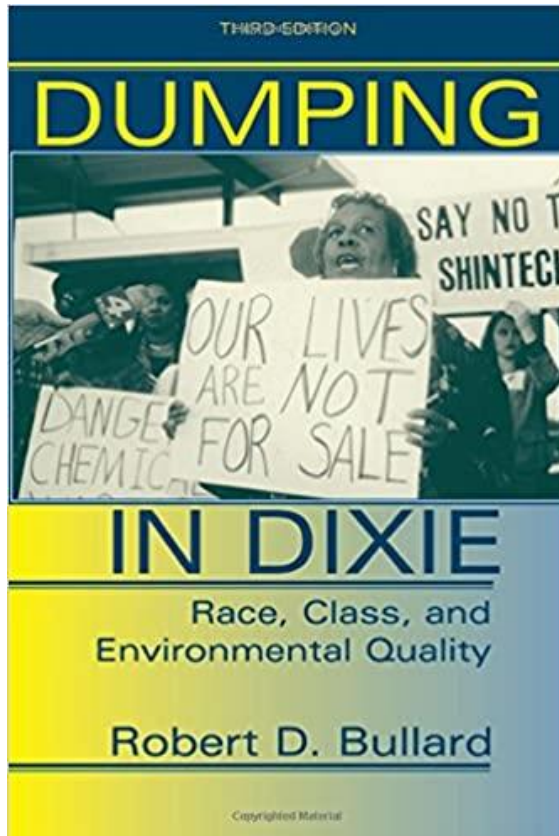
Toxics Wastes & Race

- Prepared by United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice in 1987
- Followed General Accounting Office (GAO) report in 1983
- Updated version of 2007 found continued impacts
- Pointed to policies instituted by the Reagan Administration to reduce monitoring of the environment/waste sites
- 1986 GAO report:
 - “(The EPA) does not know if it has identified 90% of the potentially hazardous wastes or only 10%”

Toxic Wastes and Race: Key Findings

- Race was the most significant demographic variable associated with the location of a commercial hazardous waste facility across the country
- In communities with two or more waste facilities, or one of the 5 largest facilities, POC population was more than 3x the population in other communities (38% vs 12%)
- In communities with one commercial waste facility, POC population is 26% (vs 12% for other communities)
- Class is also a significant predictor, though less so than race

Robert Bullard



Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty: 1987-2007

*Grassroots Struggles to Dismantle
Environmental Racism in the United States*



A Report Prepared for the United
Church of Christ Justice and
Witness Ministries

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March 2007

Toxic Wastes and Race at 20

- Second report conducted in 2007
- Used updated methods drawing from academia
- Found that inequality in exposure was *greater* than in 1987 report

Anti-Toxics movement



- Emerged from the Love Canal/Times Beach, MO relocation
- Recognition that environmental conflicts were not about nature *per se*, but social impact



Anti-Toxics Movement: Times Beach, MO

- 1960's: Hoffman-Taff produces Agent Orange in nearby Verona, MO
 - Toxic byproducts stored on site
- Early 1970's: Richard Bliss hired to spray oil on roads in Times Beach *and* dispose of waste
- Bliss mixes oil and toxic byproducts, sprays them for years in Times Beach



Anti-Toxics Movement: Times Beach, MO

- 1971: Reports of children and animals falling ill
- 1974: CDC ties illness to dioxin



Anti-Toxics Movement

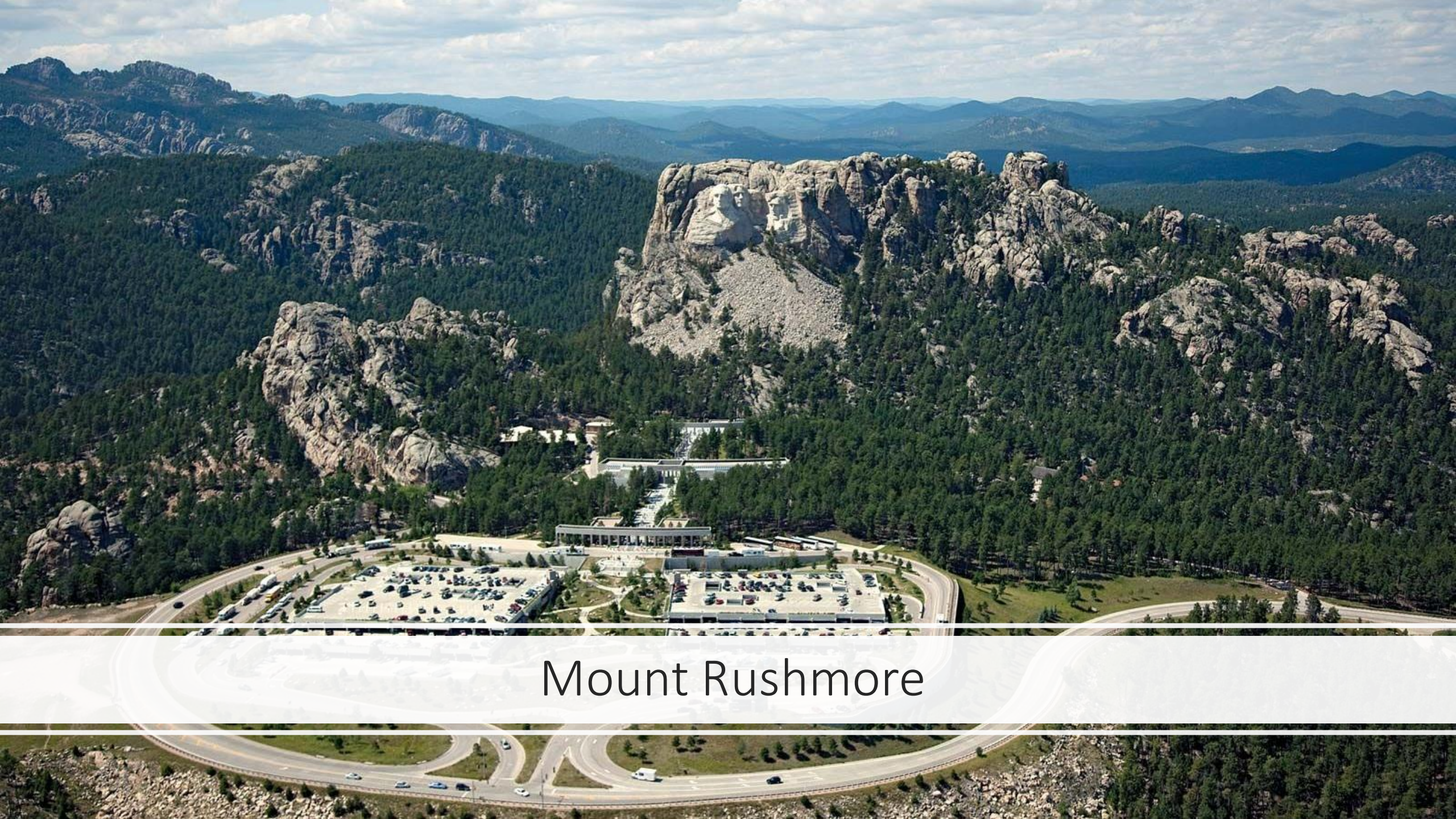
- Nov. 1982: residents learn of potential contamination
- Dec. 1982: historic flooding hits Times Beach
- 1983: EPA buys out residents

Indigenous Sovereignty: Mount Rushmore Timeline

- 1868: Treaty at Fort Laramie guaranteed Sioux tribes land in Black Hills
- 1877: Land is expropriated by the US (gold)
 - Timber, minerals, gold extracted to this day
 - Sioux displaced to Pine Ridge Reservation
- 1927: Mount Rushmore sculpted
- 1980: Supreme Court rules land was unlawfully stolen
 - Awarded \$102M in compensation; worth over \$1B today
 - Sioux have never collected the money, voluntarily
 - Payment is invalid because the land was not for sale; accepting restitution would be equivalent to selling the land



Pine Ridge Reservation



Mount Rushmore

Black Hills National Forest



Labor Movement

- Self-determination in the workplace
- Unionization and protection of worker's health
- Environmental hazards faced in the workplace
- Pictured: Cesar E. Chavez (DDT strikes in the 1980s)





Environmental Conditions in Detroit (1970s)

- 1973 study: 10% of Detroit Children between 1 – 5 had abnormal amounts of lead in their blood
 - 80,000 faced a ‘high risk of being lead poisoned’
 - Neighborhoods in question were majority African-American
- Separate study found that life expectancy for African-American Men had fallen from 64 years in 1960 to 61.4 years in 1970
 - Rose for other racial groups



Automakers and Pollution in Detroit

- Investments by the federal government supporting suburbs, highway development
 - Redlining, white flight, etc.
- Mass production of cars led to environmental degradation
 - Ex. Rouge River catching fire in 1969
- Auto jobs were also a source of stable employment, including for African-Americans



Workplace Conditions

- Pictured: Douglas Fraser (left), president of the United Auto Workers
- 1980: Declared a 'war' on workplace cancer
- Cancer rates are elevated for industrial workers, including auto factory workers
- Campaign built on the legacy of Love Island and Cancer Alley
- UAW donated to the first Earth Day
- Locals in Detroit formed the Downriver Anti-Pollution League

1976 Working for
Environmental and
Economic Justice and
Jobs National Action
Conference in Black
Lake, Michigan



Deindustrialization

- Tensions between need for protection and jobs
- Corporations threatened to leave if stricter regulations were put in place
- Deindustrialization had already begun in Detroit
 - Wayne County manufacturing jobs fell by 235,000 between 1950 – 1970
- Unions began to push for greater democratic control of the economy
 - WWII style planning to ensure
- Failure of these efforts and economic downturns placed increased pressure on the UAW (jobs or the environment)

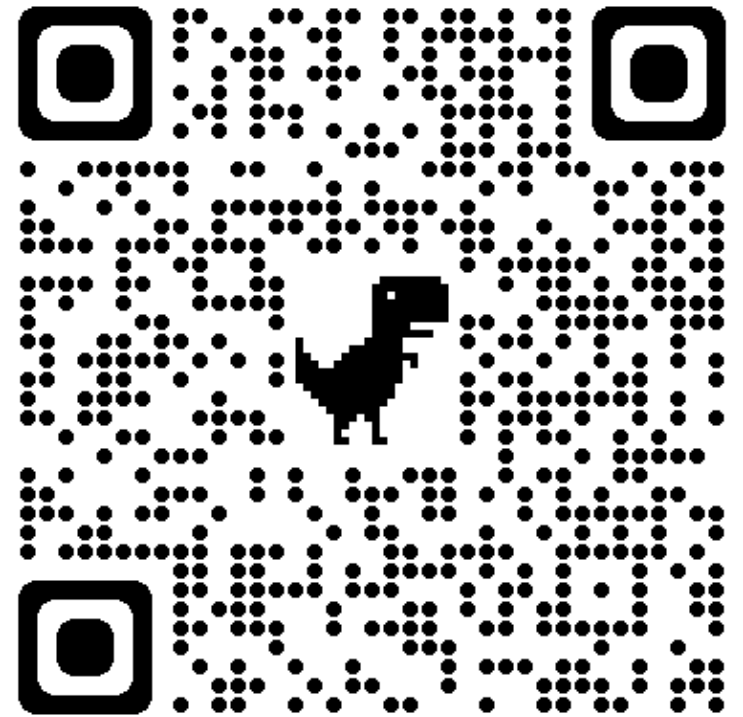


First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit

- Held in 1991
- 300 Black, Latinx, Native, and Asian delegates
- All 50 states + Canada, Mexico, South/Central America
- 'Not in anyone's backyard'

Principles of Environmental Justice (EJ)

- EJ mandates the right to ethical balanced, and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things
- EJ demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation
- EJ affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources





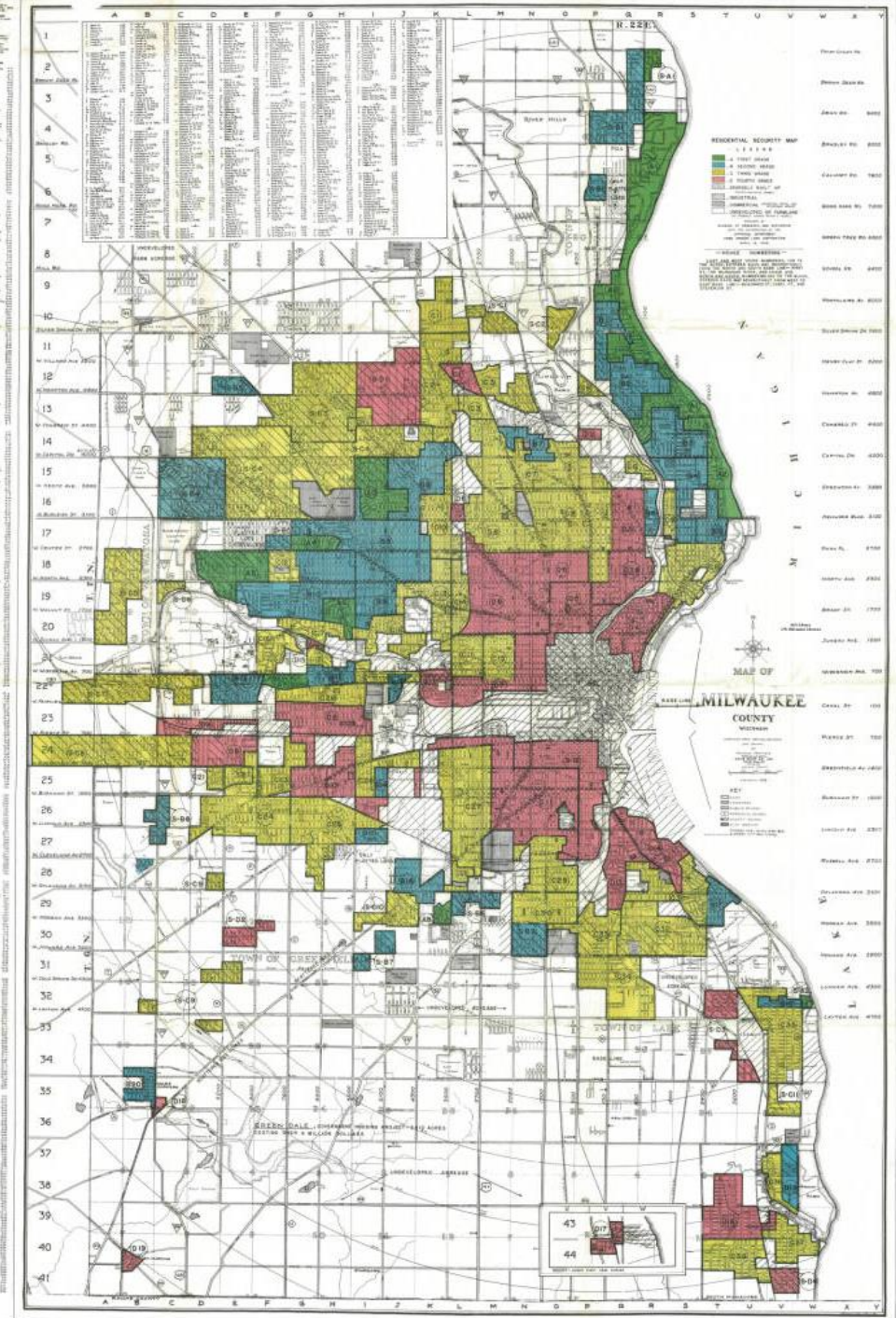
Enter the EPA

- 1992: Office of Environmental Equity founded (H.W. Bush)
 - Renamed the Office of Environmental Justice in 1994 (Clinton)
- 1993: National Environmental Justice Advisory Council formed
 - <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council>
- 1994: Executive Order 12898
 - Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice
 - 'Develop strategies on how to identify and **address the disproportionately adverse human health and environmental effects of programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations**'

Redlining

- 1934: National Housing Act
 - Part of The New Deal
 - Designed to stop massive foreclosures during Great Depression





Redlining

- Appraisals by government-owned Home Owners' Loan Corporation
 - 1935: Asked to create maps of 239 cities
 - Neighborhoods graded from A – D
 - 'Best', 'Desirable', 'Declining', 'Hazardous'
 - Codified patterns of racial segregation and disparities in access to credit
- Maps became self-fulfilling prophecies, as 'hazardous' neighborhoods were starved of investment and began to deteriorate in other ways

White Flight & Racial Covenants

- As cities deteriorated, those with means moved to the suburbs
- **White flight:** racialized pattern of migration to the suburbs
- Racial covenants: explicit restriction of homebuying based on race
 - Typically targeted African-Americans
 - Rose to prominence post-New Deal

**Attention
White Home
Buyers!**

**The Largest Restricted White
Community in Washington**

Invites your attention
to the decision of

The U. S. Supreme Court

—that negroes cannot buy
in a restricted white section

**Buy or Rent
in the section known as**

**Eckington High View
Bloomingdale Edgewood**

For further information apply to:

Executive Committee of

Bloomingdale Owners	North Capitol Citizens'
P. W. Pritchett, Chairman	Association
2651 North Capitol St.	Henry Gilligan, President
	2304 1st St. N.W.
W. T. Richardson, Secy.	Jesse W. Morgan, Secy.
78 S St. N.W.	47 Seaton St. N.W.

End of Segregation?

- Fair Housing Act of 1968 (Title VIII of 1968 Civil Rights Act) ended redlining/racial covenants
- Blockbusting: warning homeowners of coming demographic change
 - Homeowners sell their homes at a cheaper price
- Renewed white flight



Would you panic if a Negro moved next door?

"I'm broad-minded," said one homeowner when Negroes moved into his block. But a short time later he panicked—and sold his house at a loss.

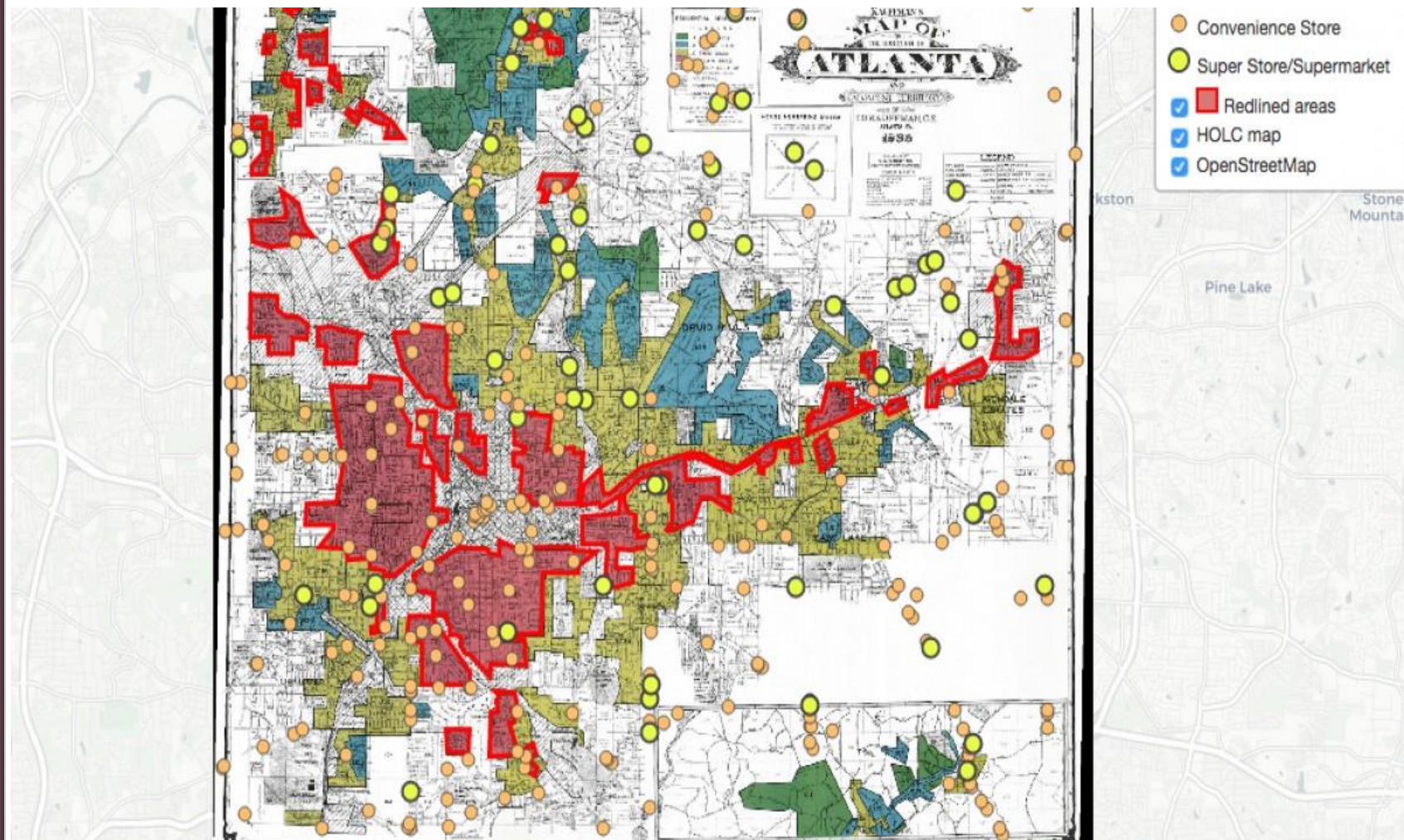
out the whites. And how one speculator brags that he could "bust" your block in no time at all.

In this week's Post, you'll read how speculators decide which blocks are "ripe" for racial change. How they use vicious tactics to force

The Saturday Evening
POST
July 14-21 issue.
A Curtis Magazine

Legacy of Redlining: Retail

- Urban retail hit a low point in the 1980's
 - A result of blockbusting and white flight in the 60s and 70s
- Supermarket redlining
 - When supermarkets are disinclined to locate stores in inner cities or low-income neighborhoods and/or relocate stores to the suburbs
 - Typically a direct result of reduced income levels/property values



Context:
Food Access
and Housing

Historically Redlined Neighborhoods Are More Likely to Lack Green Space Today: Study

A new study finds historically redlined neighborhoods are more likely to have a paucity of greenspace today compared to other neighborhoods. The study by researchers at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco, demonstrates the lasting effects of redlining, a racist mortgage appraisal practice of the 1930s that established and exacerbated racial residential segregation in the United States. Results appear in *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

In the 1930s, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) assigned risk grades to neighborhoods across the country based on racial demographics and other factors. "Hazardous" areas—often those whose residents included people of color—were outlined in red on HOLC maps. In the decades since, redlined neighborhoods experienced lower levels of private and public investment and have remained segregated.



A map of New York City illustrates the overlap between historically redlined neighborhoods and areas lacking green space



Redlining and Green Space

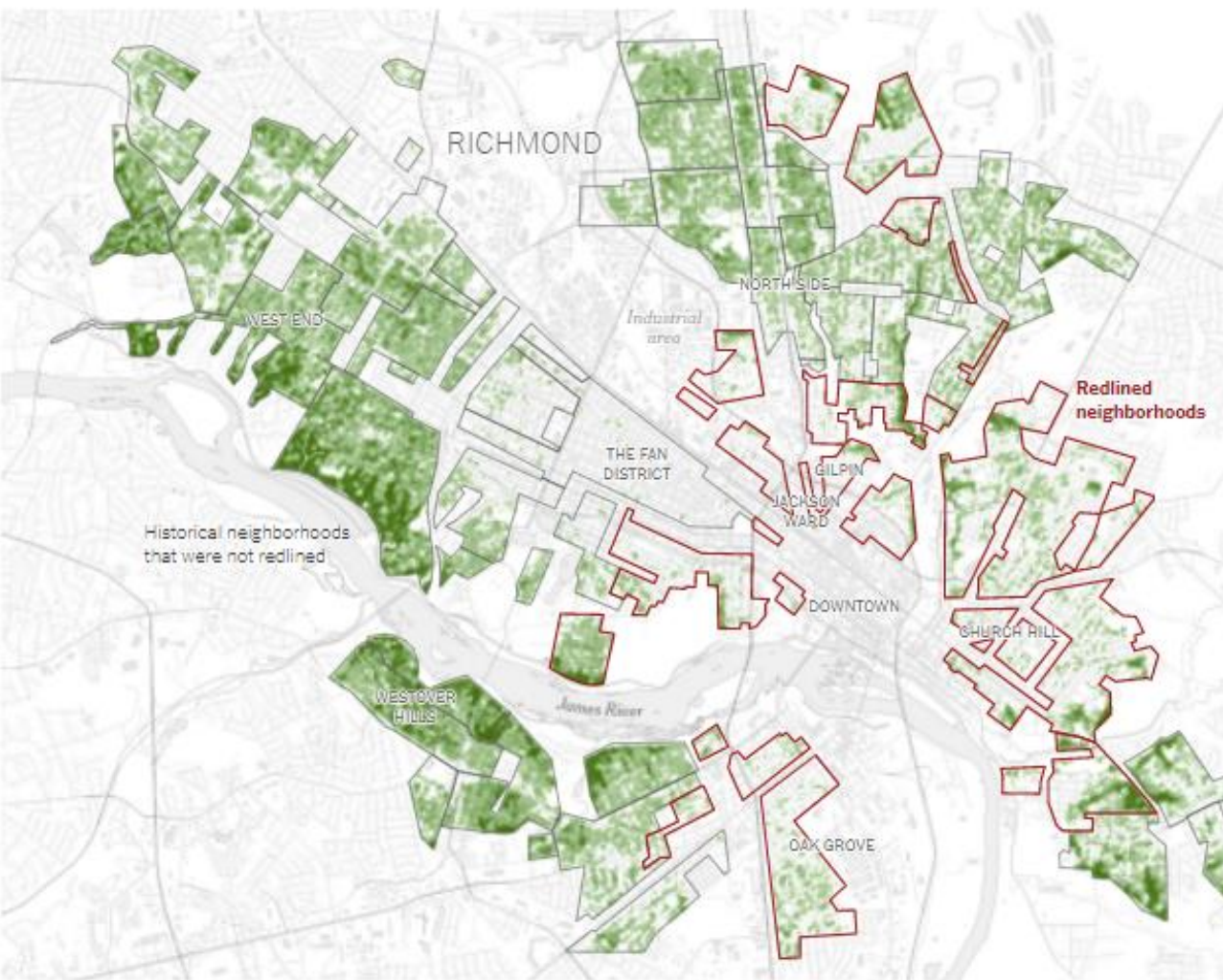


Redlining and Green Space

- Localities are reliant on property taxes for funding
- Funds go to providing public services
 - Schools
 - Mental health services
 - Parks
 - Etc...
- A self-fulfilling prophecy
 - Vacant/blighted lots -> Reduced property values-> reduced property taxes -> decreased ability to deal with blighted lots -> more blighted lots

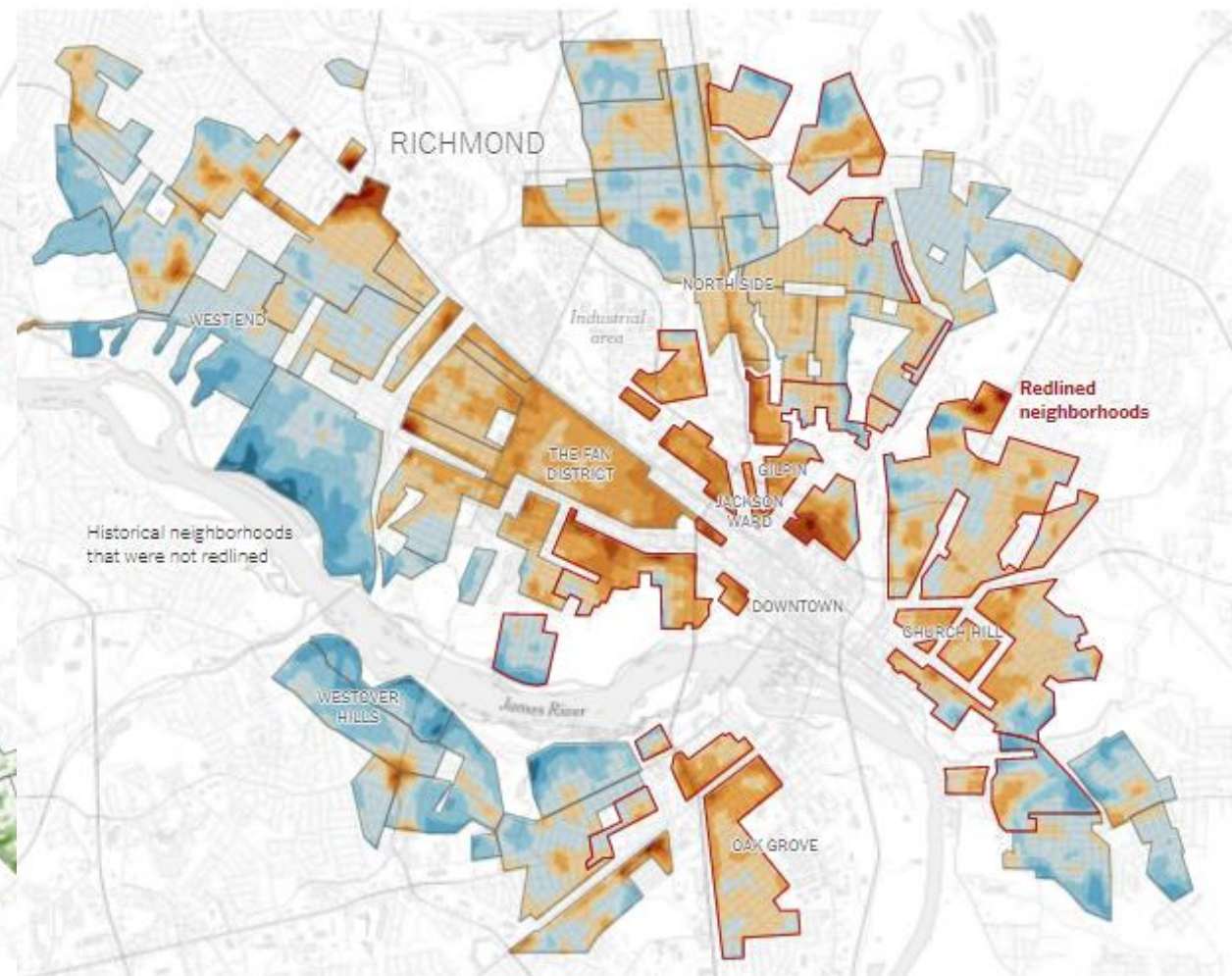
Formerly redlined areas have less **tree cover** today than areas that weren't redlined.

0% Percentage tree cover 100%



That adds up to **higher summer temperatures** compared to the city average.

Cooler Summer temperature Hotter



Environmental Gentrification

What is environmental gentrification?





Chicago 606









REPORTS

Displacement Pressure in Context: Examining Recent Housing Market Changes Near The 606

January 15, 2020



Image source: Flickr Creative Commons / Matthew Wilder

The 606 and Gentrification

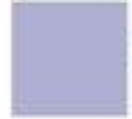
MARKET TYPE



HIGH-COST

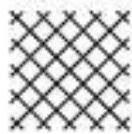


MODERATE-COST



LOWER-COST

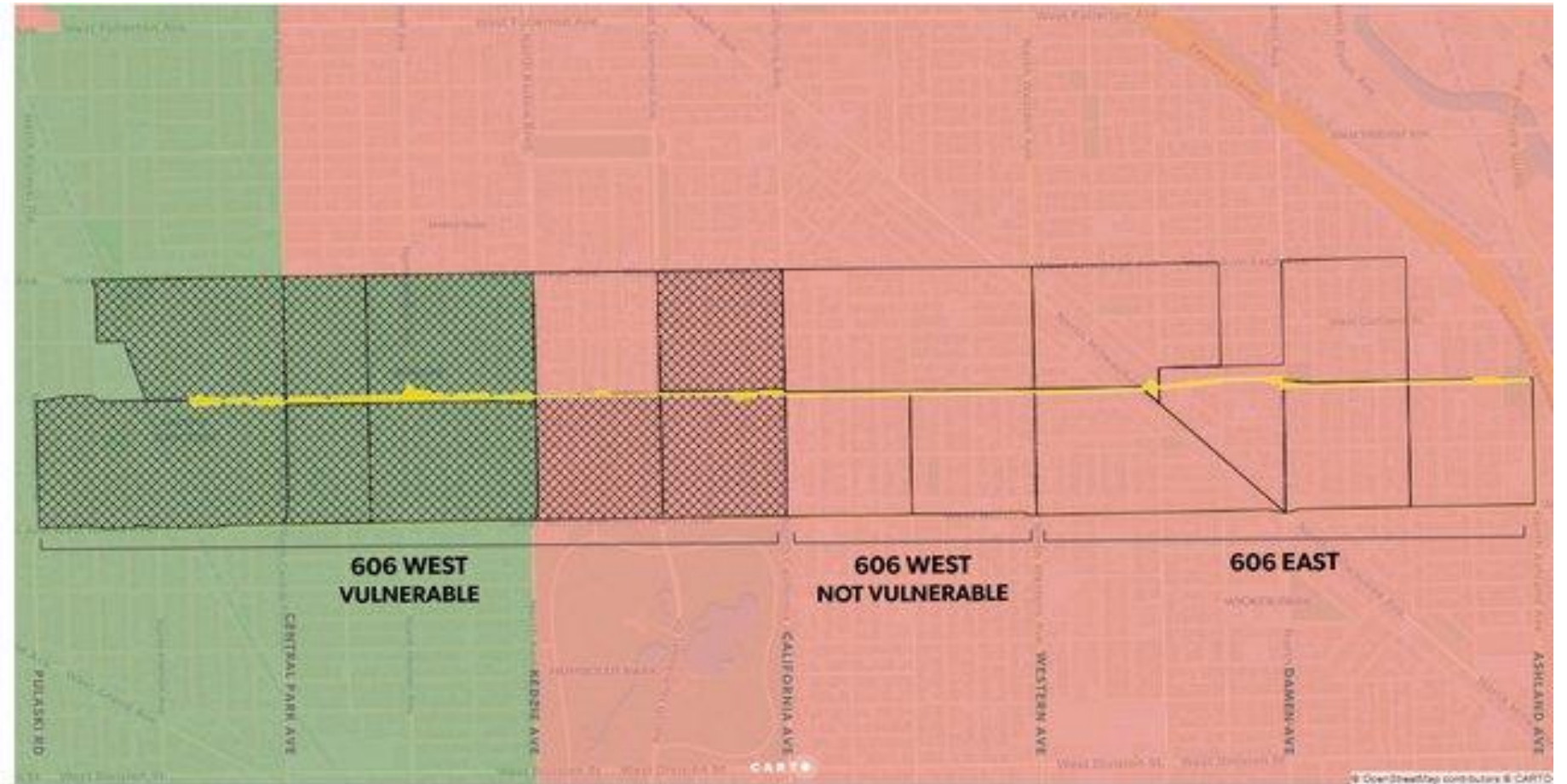
VULNERABLE TRACTS WITH RISING PRICES



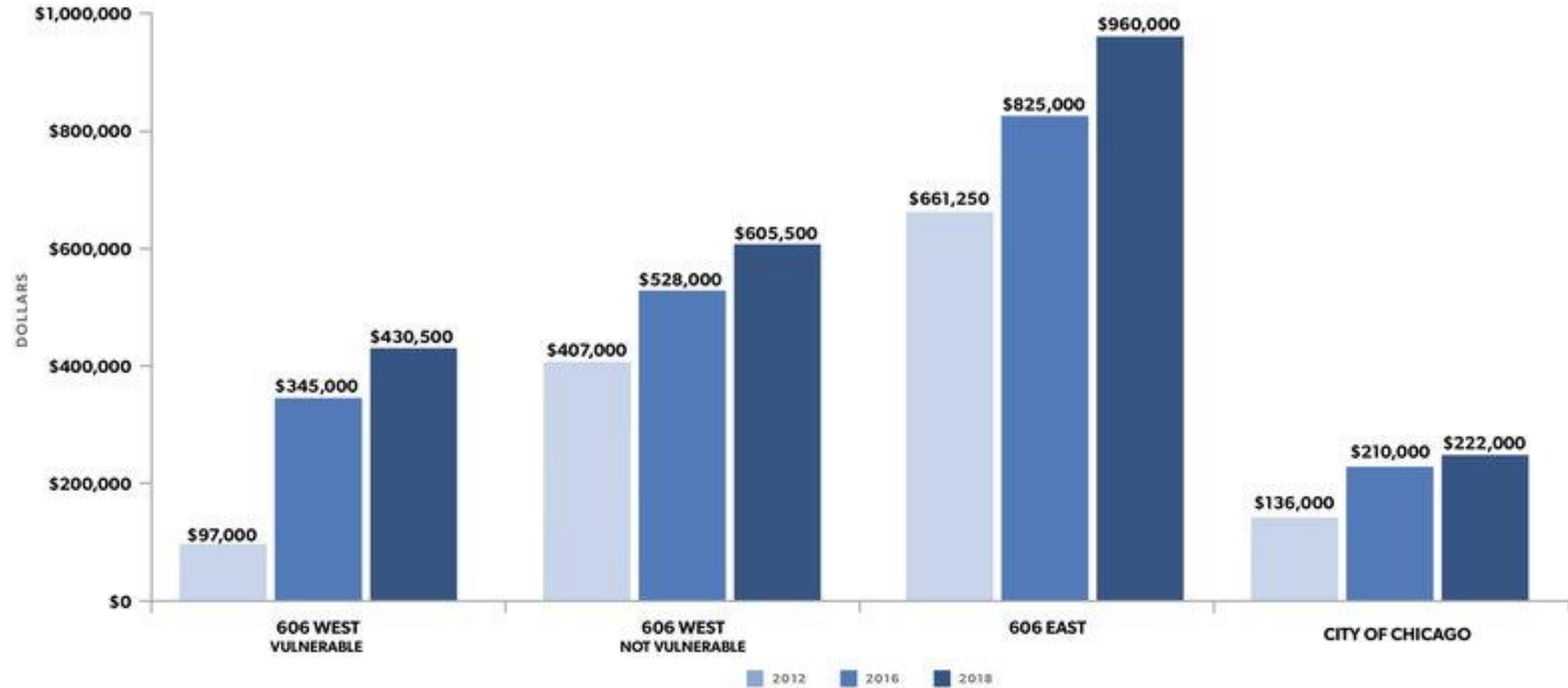
606 ADJACENT TRACTS



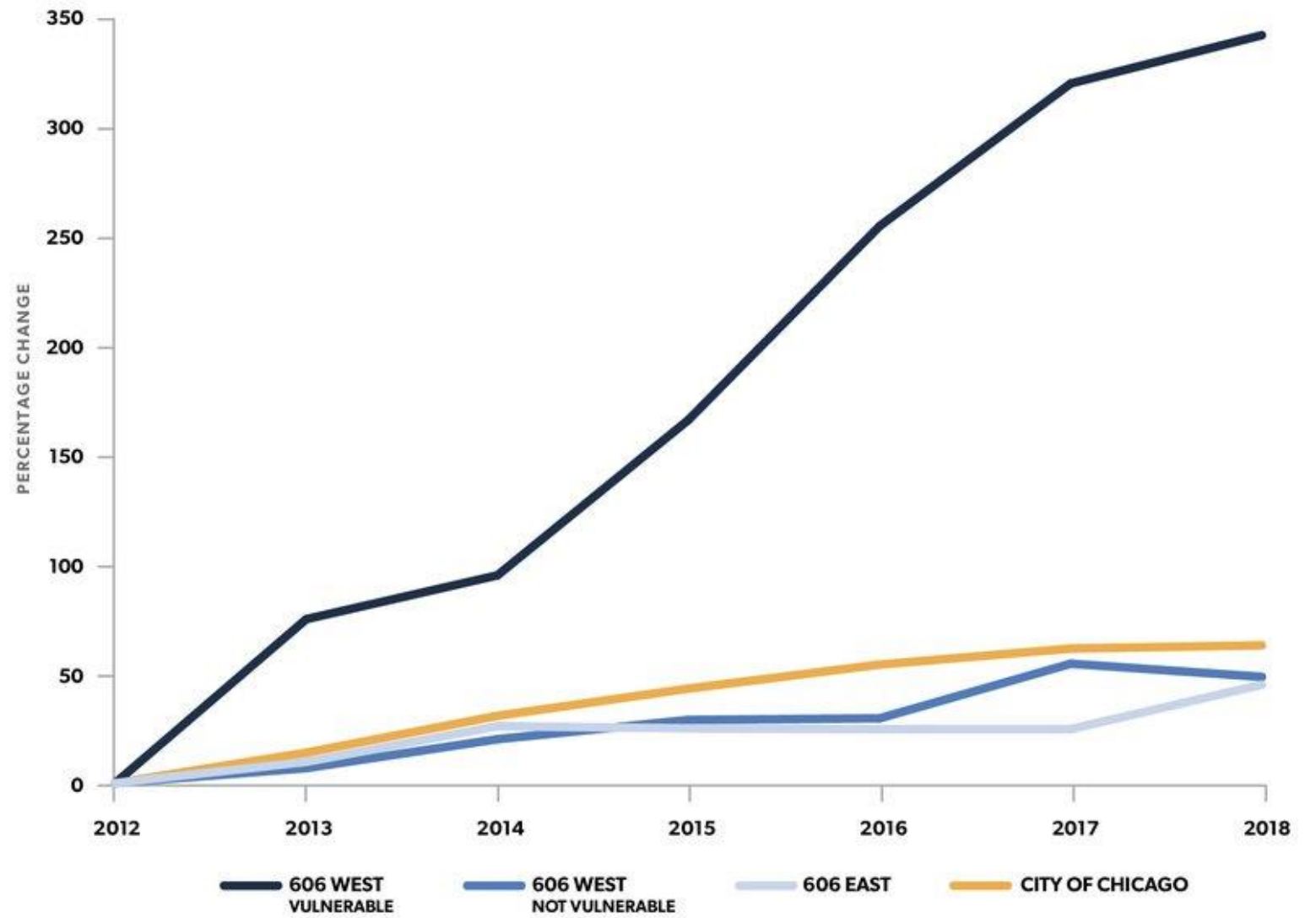
606 TRAIL



The 606 and Gentrification



The 606 and Gentrification



The background is a solid dark blue. It features a large, semi-transparent light blue circle on the right side, which is partially cut off by the edge of the frame. Additionally, there are vertical and horizontal bands of a slightly different shade of blue, creating a layered, geometric effect.

So what do we do?



RESEARCH REPORT

Investing in Equitable Urban Park Systems

Emerging Funding Strategies and Tools

Investing in Equitable Park Systems

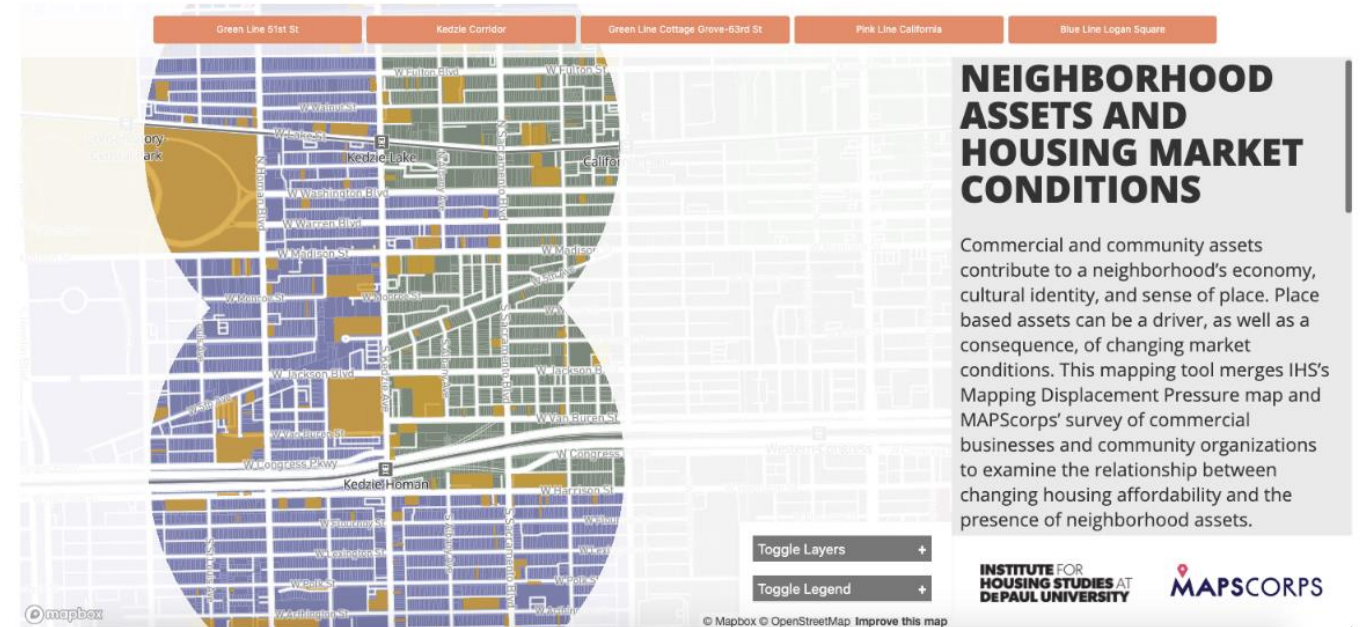
Engaging with Local Communities

- Result of a public-private partnership
- Heavy engagement with the community
- Provides a roadmap for thinking about community development
 - Up and coming neighborhood vs. divested community
- 'Just green enough'

REPORTS

Understanding Displacement Pressure for Community Assets: Results from the Connect Chicago Innovation Program

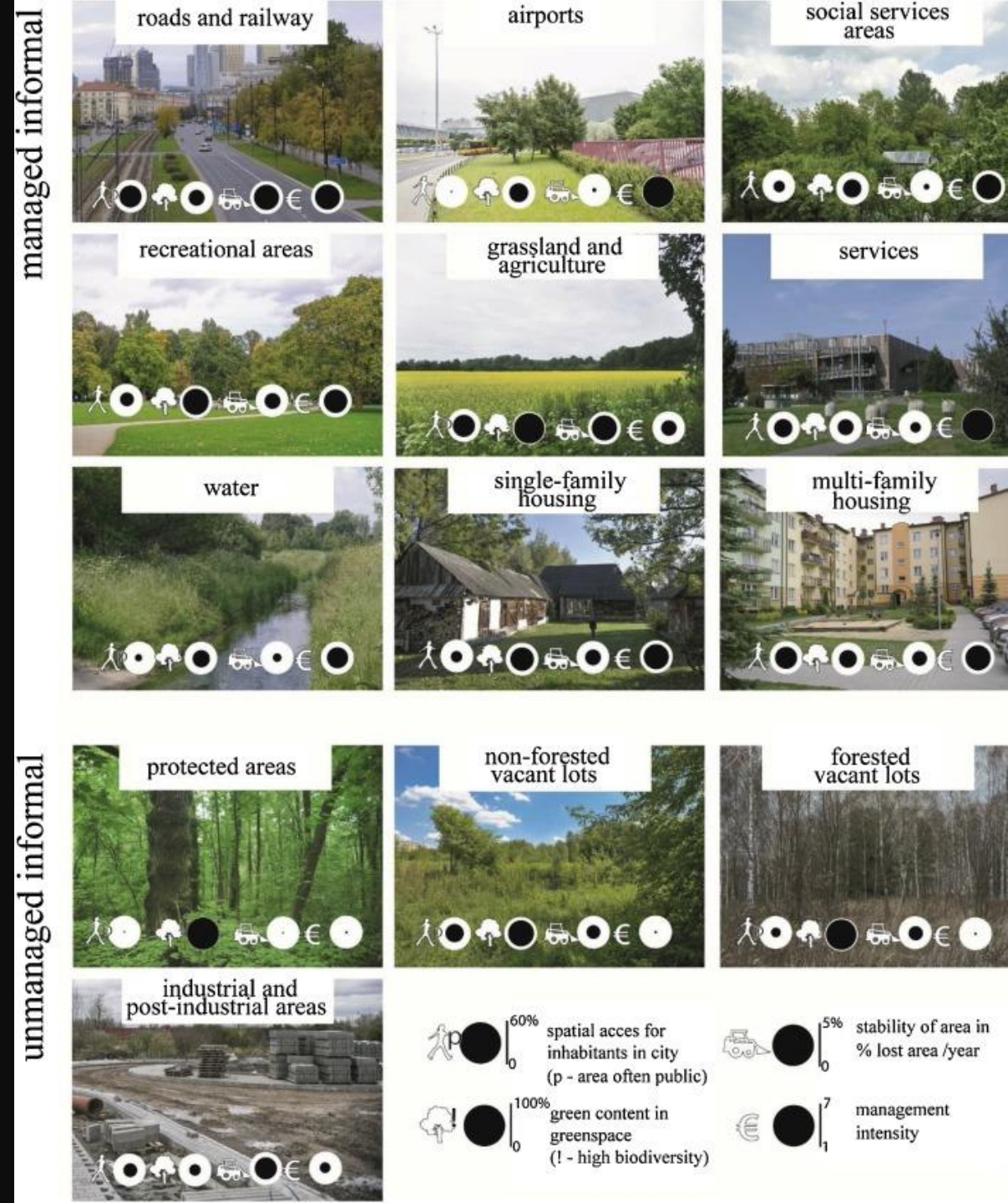
July 13, 2020



The displacement of vulnerable populations and community institutions has been an ongoing issue in cities for decades and has only grown in significance in recent years. In Chicago, displacement pressures can come from multiple directions. In some neighborhoods, increased demand for housing has led to rising rents and the loss of affordable housing which in turn puts increased pressure on long-time residents, particularly those with lower incomes. In other parts of the city, a history of segregation and disinvestment has led to deteriorating housing stock and long-term population loss as middle- and moderate-income households leave neighborhoods.

Informal Green Space

- Spaces not designed for recreational use
- Pros: tend to resist gentrification; provide some of the same benefits
- Cons: doesn't provide the benefit of recreational activity
- Consider the hierarchy of needs



"We've seen real improvement:" City of Milwaukee working to eliminate 'food deserts'

By Jenna Sachs | Published June 22, 2017 | FOX 6 Now Milwaukee

Eliminating food deserts

Eliminating food deserts

MILWAUKEE – Several grocery stores have opened in the area over the last year, including Fresh Thyme, Sendik's and Meijer. While many people have several options when it comes to buying groceries, there are others that still have very few.

A new Cermak Fresh Market recently opened in June on S. 1st Street in Milwaukee. District 12 Alderman, Jose Perez, said it's an opening neighbors in the area have been waiting for.

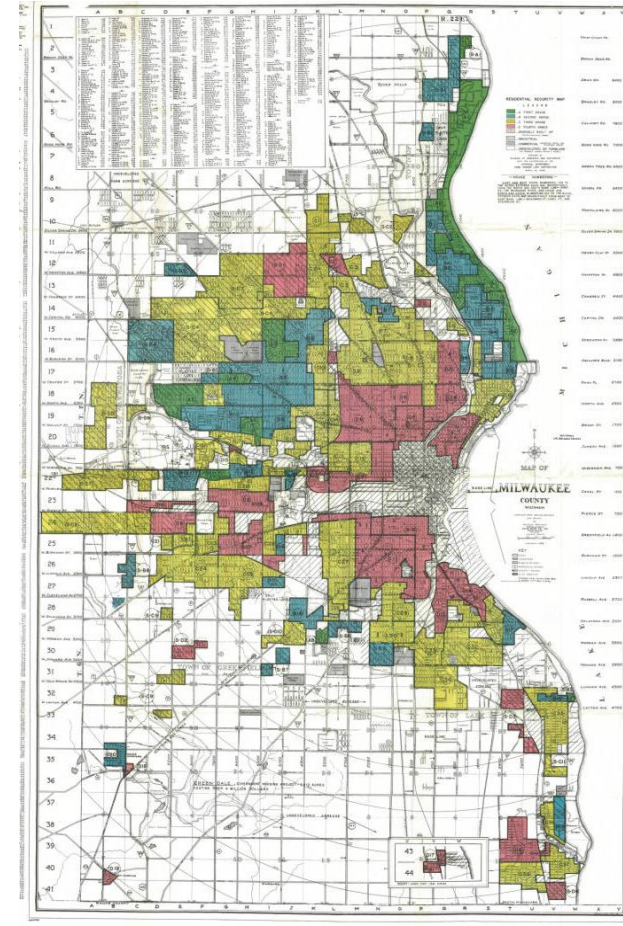
Engaging with Local Communities

Milwaukee Residents Worry Gentrification is Changing Neighborhoods For the Worse

BY [JUAN MIGUEL MARTINEZ](#) - NOVEMBER 3, 2021



Photo from Wikimedia Commons



Engaging with Local Communities

- Research indicates that impact studies are effective in generating financial support
- Helps identify sectors to target for preservation (e.g. BIPOC small businesses)

The economic benefits of Huron-Clinton Metroparks



Photo credit: Photo courtesy of Huron-Clinton Metroparks

Public park and trail systems are a valuable component of healthy communities. The Trust for Public Land conducted a study of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks in Southeast Michigan and found that parks and trails generate over \$90 million in economic benefits each year. They improve community health, reduce stormwater runoff, attract visitors, enhance property values, and boost economic development. To learn more about all these economics benefits, read the [full report](#) or [fact sheet](#).

What is the “Master Plan”?

- Thinking about how a park system fits into the region’s broader development plans
- Partnerships across departments
- What are the possible equity needs?
 - Affordable housing
 - Job training
 - Etc.



Anti-Displacement Strategies

- Wide array of strategies used to maintain affordable housing within existing structures:
 - Rent control
 - Demolition freezes
 - Foreclosure assistance
 - Property tax freezes
 - "Empowerment" workshops
 - Job creation for local residents

