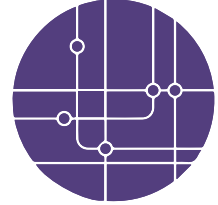


## ACTUALIZING EQUITY:

# The Geography of Wellness

*Wellness is not evenly distributed. Invisibilized policies and practices determine which neighborhoods are home to pollution and which are environmentally and economically healthy. The burden of inequitable land use policies and regulations falls largely on neighborhoods with people of color, indigenous, immigrant, and under-resourced communities, reinforcing environmental harm and poverty and furthering the wellness divide.*



**~9%**  
OF LAKE HARRIET  
RESIDENTS ARE  
BIPOC

A history of redlining and racial covenants has created deep residential segregation in the Twin Cities. After the 1910 introduction of racial covenants that prohibited homeowners from selling, leasing, or transferring homes to black people, previously growing black communities in Minneapolis neighborhoods like Nokomis and Northeast vanished. This legacy of racial discrimination continues today—Minneapolis is 35% Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), yet neighborhoods like Phillips have over 80% BIPOC residents, compared to only 9% near Lake Harriet. Moreover, only 25% of African-American families own their homes, compared to 78% of white families.

Low-wealth, Black, Indigenous, and POC neighborhoods in the Twin Cities are home to 5 times more polluted sites than the average neighborhood, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. In North Minneapolis, the combination of interstates, railways, and industry have led to 310% higher rate of cancer deaths and 884% high rates of asthma deaths compared to similar populations farther from pollution.

**5x**  
MORE POLLUTED  
SITES



The very architecture of cities can be hostile toward poor people and people experiencing homelessness. For example, Metro Transit's light rail stations have places to lean but not to sit, and the windowsills of many buildings are lined with spikes, even at ground level. While these features may seem innocuous, they send a clear message: you are not welcome.

Parks provide both environmental benefits and health benefits—when people live close to parks, they report more happiness and eased depression. While 96% of Twin Cities residents live within ½ mile of a park, we must fight to ensure parks are accessible for all. 20 years after the Americans with Disabilities Act, Saint Paul is investing \$150,000 to make their parks ADA compliant. Wellness that is not accessible is not wellness.



# **RESOURCES**

## **West Side Community Organization Equitable Development Scorecard**

The Equitable Development Scorecard outlines the West Side's priorities, goals, and values. This draft was published June 22, 2018. The community will score each development proposal, to ensure that it aligns with the West Side's vision for affordable housing, local jobs, and a healthy, safe, and equitable neighborhood. Community values and priorities will be reflected in this document. Community engagement regarding this draft is ongoing. Please review the scorecard draft and provide feedback through the website or email bahiehh@wsco.org.

- [https://www.wsco.org/equitable\\_development\\_scorecard](https://www.wsco.org/equitable_development_scorecard) •

## **Transformative Equitable Development Series**

The Alliance's Transformative Equitable Development for Healthy Communities series created space for community leaders and practitioners to share their experiences and intentionally strategize on the ways in which we can anchor community-led, transformative equitable development in our region. The resources generated by the series highlight many existing assets in communities as well as many opportunities to build stronger together in our future. Through these tools and stories, we demonstrate how transformative equitable development can create better outcomes for low-wealth communities and communities of color.

- <http://thealliancetc.org/our-work/transformative-equitable-development/> •

## **Mapping Prejudice**

Structural barriers stopped many people who were not white from buying property and building wealth for most of the last century. Mapping Prejudice was created to shed new light on the racial covenants, which did the work of Jim Crow in northern cities like Minneapolis. This history has been willfully forgotten. Mapping Prejudice's database and map of racial covenants aims to be a powerful community resource that serves as a foundation for productive community conversations and fact-based policy making.

- <https://www.mappingprejudice.org/> •

## **Tamales y Bicicletas**

tamales y bicicletas is a latino-led sustainable transportation, local foods access, and youth development organization based in south minneapolis. The mission of the organization is to develop healthy latino and immigrant communities through bikes, local & organic foods, cultural empowerment, and environmental justice.

- <http://tamalesybicicletas.weebly.com> •

## **Minneapolis Green Zones**

The Minneapolis Green Zones Initiative is place-based policy work to promote health and economic well-being in North Minneapolis and Phillips, communities that are overburdened by pollution. By partnering with community to design strategies and target resources, the initiative aims to create transformative, lasting change. The key strategies identified to create economic development include green jobs, air quality, housing quality and affordability, soil and water contamination clean up, greening through vegetation and clean energy, and healthy food access.

- <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/policies/green-zones> •

## **NACDI American Indian Community Blueprint**

This document reflects a community collaboration to renew and revitalize the Indigenous business corridor along East Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis. Founded in 2007, Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI) is approaching its second decade with a renewed commitment to the Indigenous values that helped our people persevere despite centuries of hardship. NACDI's work founded on the belief that all American Indian people have a place, purpose and a future strengthened by sustainable community development. NACDI initiates projects that benefit the Native community, often in partnership with other Indigenous-led organizations.

- <https://www.nacdi.org/projects> •

### **Monica Bravo**

West Side Community Organization  
[monica@wsco.org](mailto:monica@wsco.org)

### **Jim Erkel**

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy  
[jerkel@mncenter.org](mailto:jerkel@mncenter.org)

### **Jose Luis Villaseñor**

Tamales y Bicicletas  
[joseluis@tamalesybicicletas.org](mailto:joseluis@tamalesybicicletas.org)

### **Rick Cardenas**

[rcardenas5279@msn.com](mailto:rcardenas5279@msn.com)

[HTTPS://GOO.GL/RCA46X](https://goo.gl/RCA46X)  
FOR SOURCES



OR SCAN FOR  
SOURCES