

ACTUALIZING EQUITY:



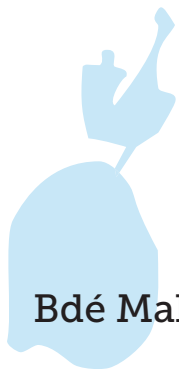
Race, Class, and The Outdoors

Due to under-resourced infrastructure and limited choices in where to live, work, and play, people of color, indigenous people, immigrants, and low-income communities are disproportionately barred from accessing natural amenities. Simultaneously, those amenities that do exist in our communities have been systematically disinvested from for decades. This is a reality that community power has been changing through reimagining relationships with the environment and organizing to improve parks in without gentrifying them.



“This the Dakota homeland...50,000 generations of real people lived here and they did many things but there is one thing they did not do: they did not forget their relationship to the land and all living things in relation to that land...Dakota people hunted and their children played right where the pavement runs through. Their families were here in 1500 when French trappers first portaged and then river-wandered from the northern lakes to the southern prairie and oak savannah.” - Susan Raffo

How can we honor the unceded Dakota land we stand on while also trying to build power in communities of color through cultivating literal ownership or a sense of ownership—of land, homes, businesses, and natural spaces?

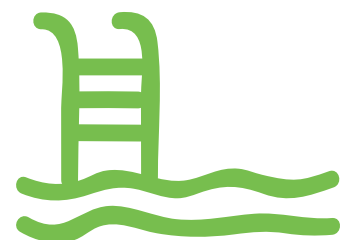


2018

Bdé Maká Ská

The continued colonization of Indigenous Land occurs in part through the ongoing erasure of Native people, not only through physical violence, but also by the purposeful forgetting of history. In 2018, community organizers in Minneapolis won the fight to restore the Dakota name, Bde Maka Ska, to the city's most popular lake. In the process, the campaign also complicated the history of John C. Calhoun, a proponent of slavery and genocide. Restoring Bde Maka Ska honors Dakota history, their right to the land, and continued resilience.

Because racism and white supremacy shape public spaces, outdoor recreation is not always simple or fun for Black communities. Historically, public swimming pools were segregated legally with the help of police and officials or through violence. The few public pools available to Black people were small and poorly maintained. That history shapes the relationship between Black communities and swimming—58% of Black people do not know how to swim, and Black children drown in swimming pools 5.5 times more than white children.

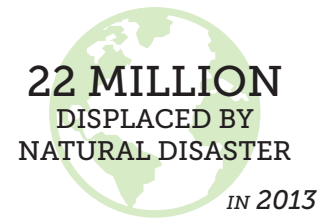


50%

MORE SPENT ON
POLICING THAN
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Equitable outdoor access for BIPOC folks means more than just providing park space. BIPOC folks must feel safe in order to feel investment in and ownership of these spaces. Minneapolis Parks spend \$6 million on the Parks Police, \$2 million more than they do on youth development and childcare. When, in 2015, BIPOC folks are 69% of those arrested despite making up only 33% of the general population, the investment in policing in parks makes these outdoor spaces less welcoming and more dangerous for BIPOC communities.

Shifting weather patterns due to climate change increase the frequency of severe weather events, with great impact on human life. In 2013, 22 million people were displaced by natural disasters—that is three times as many people as were displaced by war. As climate change intensifies, more displacement is inevitable, and the brunt of its impact falls on low wealth, BIPOC communities across the globe.



RESOURCES

Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED)

Working in collaboration with grassroots communities, policy makers and researchers, CEED conducts research and provides community education on important energy, environment, and development issues. We strategically work to build a deeper body of climate and energy research/analysis that fundamentally addresses racial and class justice; Provide energy and climate policy technical assistance based on CEED research to support the environmental justice movement; and Promote strategies for cross learning and sharing of information around environmental justice energy and and climate issues.

- <http://www.ceed.org/> •

Frogtown Farm

Frogtown Farm was founded in 2013 from a community-led initiative to secure 13 acres of green space in the diverse and vibrant neighborhood of Frogtown. In partnership with the Trust for Public Land, the City of St. Paul and the Wilder Foundation, Frogtown Park & Farm was created as a natural area, a recreation area and an urban demonstration farm.

- <http://www.frogtownfarm.org> •

Parks & Power

The work of our campaign, supported by Hope Community Inc., is to build power with low wealth communities in the Minneapolis Parks through popular education and local political action. Our foundational political value is Racial Justice. We work on the ground with people and also at the policy level. Our aim is to bring the policies to the people and the people's policies to the seat of power. The Minneapolis Park Board is a tangible entry point into local political life.

- <https://www.facebook.com/pg/parksandpower/> •

The Major Taylor Bicycling Club of Minnesota

The Major Taylor Bicycling Club of Minnesota, established in 1999, is a nonprofit, recreational club that promotes safe and fun cycling geared towards the African-American communities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, although all are welcome to join us. We achieve this through group riding events for cyclists of all ages and levels. The Club also seeks to educate the public about its namesake—legendary cyclist Major Taylor—who in 1899 became the first African-American world cycling champion.

- <http://www.majortaylorminnesota.org/> •

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