CENTERING COMMUNITIES IN LAND USE PLANNING
SEEDING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ON PUBLIC LAND.

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Outline

TODAY'S DISCUSSION

1. Community Resilience
2. Environmental Justice Pathways
3. Land: The Solution Beneath Our Feet
4. Bright Spots That Center Our Communities
   a. Englewood Nature Trail
   b. Space to Grow
   c. Green Era
5. Shifting Mindsets
Community Resilience

What is Community Resilience?
Community resilience is the ability to prepare for hazards, adapt to changing conditions, and withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions.

Why is it important?
We live in a world with increasing, unpredictable, and unprecedented disruptions.

Who is responsible for creating resilience?
This is an "all hands on deck" moment. We all need to respond. Some have greater power and thus greater responsibility to respond.
**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**Representation**
- Impacted communities are represented in the decision-making process

**Process**
- Planning processes and decision-making are fair, transparent, accessible, and provide opportunities for impacted communities to participate

**Distribution**
- Environmental benefits and impacts are distributed equitably and/or mitigated so that no one community bears a disproportionate burden

**WHAT IS EJ? -> FAIR TREATMENT, MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT!**
Land: The Solution Beneath Our Feet

Local Healthy Food for Locals
Community Engagement
Economic & Resource Development
Environmental Improvement

Addressing multiple challenges necessitates considering multiple benefits!!!
Bright Spots That Center Our Communities:
Space to Grow

Space to Grow is a cross-sectoral program that transforms Chicago schoolyards into beautiful and multifunctional spaces - engaging community members in developing the schoolyard design.

MULTIPLE BENEFITS

- Engages Communities
- Addresses Stormwater Management
- Improves Neighborhood Flood Mitigation
- Boosts Physical Activity and Wellness
- Supports Learning
Englewood Line Trail

The Englewood Nature Trail will be a 1.7 mile park that transforms a vacated rail corridor into a naturalized space for residents to enjoy and use to connect with nature. The trail act as a safe access corridor connecting local farms and businesses.

MULTIPLE BENEFITS

- Engages Communities
- Strengthens Local Food Access
- Expands Employment in the Neighborhood
- Includes Recreation
- Improves Transportation Options
Green Era Chicago

Green Era is a 9-acre brownfield site transformed into an agriculture campus and anaerobic digester that processes food waste into renewable energy and fertile compost. Green Era will bring jobs, fresh food and renewable energy to Chicago’s South Side.

MULTIPLE BENEFITS

- Engages Communities
- Creates Renewable Energy
- Provides Waste Management
- Enhances Local Food Production
- Creates Jobs, Training and Education Programs
Shifting Mindsets

STRATEGIES FOR DECISION-MAKERS

ADDRESS EMERGING CHALLENGES.
Be Responsive, Adaptive, Collaborative, Question Existing Norms That Prevent Response.

NAME IT TO TAME IT.
Be explicit in naming issues such as racial inequity, food insecurity, wealth gaps, gentrification, etc.

INCLUDE COMMUNITY INPUT AT EVERY STAGE
Defining the Issues, Planning and Design, Implementation, Evaluation

SEEK TO MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY BENEFITS.
Environmental Economic Social Health...

EMBODY BEING TRANSSPARENT, ACCESSIBLE, ACCOUNTABLE.
Policies, Procedures, Processes, Distribution of Benefits and Burdens

AMPLIFY ECONOMIC EQUITY.
Contracts, Services, Goods, etc...
Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.

Jane Jacobs
Author: The Death and Life of Great American Cities
Land is the basis of freedom, justice, and equality.

Malcolm X
Civil Rights Movement Leader