***Urban Greenspace Design Competition***

You have taken your skills from college and pursued a career in urban design and environmental policy with the goal of increasing equity across neighborhoods and promoting environmental justice. As a young professional, you enter this ‘competition’ for a bid to win money from a national foundation to develop greenspace that will promote equity and environmental justice and mitigate the impacts of climate change with approval from the city council of your selected city. This activity/assignment is that bid.

The activity is split into two parts - Part 1 is your ideas for change to make the city more equitable in turns of greenspace, Part 2 is your description and ‘bid’ to the national foundation and your mayor/city council to describe the impact your plan would have on the city’s neighborhoods.

\*You can work in groups of 2-4 if you would like, or solo if you choose.

**Part 1: The City & the Plan**

1. Choose a city to focus on. You actually did this last week!
2. Look up a historic map of HOLC categorizations of this city: [**https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=5/39.1/-94.58**](https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=5/39.1/-94.58)

Remember to read about red-lining in more detail here: <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=12/44.938/-93.213&mapview=graded&text=intro>

1. With the HOLC map open, in a different window, open a current Google Map of this city. *Identify a current-day neighborhood* that was in existence during HOLC categorization where you will base your plans, with the goals in increasing equity in greenspace access in your city.
2. Use Google Maps, and Google Maps street view to compare tree cover in Green-line and Red-lined areas. Save images that you think will help your bid to the foundation and the city council.
3. Now the creative part: Design your enhanced greenspace that centers equity and access for a neighborhood historically impacted by red-lining practices. Your design should aim to enhance:
   1. Property values for home and business owners
   2. Access to greenspace for recreation, physical, and mental health for people of all ages and abilities
   3. Accessibility for people of all ages and abilities
   4. MInimize negative impacts on commercial properties (ie - don’t block driveways or existing business or houses)
   5. Utilizes local, climate-adapted plant species that will not require expensive upkeep

**Part 2: Promoting your ideas to a broader audience**

In this part, you will submit a slideshow (or recording) describing your plan that will be evaluated by (1) community/neighborhood members of all ages and abilities, (2) a national foundation promoting urban access to greenspaces and (3) city council members & the mayor. Each of these groups are different and have different expertises and interests - some may be more interested in equity, budgets and cost savings to the city, and recreation/access. You will need to write clearly in a way that reaches all these audiences effectively.

Once your Design plan (Part 1) is completed, Create a slide-based presentation that includes:

1. A title which includes the name of the city and names of collaborators (group members)
2. A short description on why you chose the city and neighborhood (1-2 sentences)
3. Short history of red-lining and historical inequities (highway construction, development, proximity to industry) of the neighborhood you selected. Hypothesized differences in canopy cover, impervious surfaces, and land surface temperature in this neighborhood compared to other neighborhoods.
4. Short description of the anticipated impacts of climate change on this city, and role of vegetation/trees/greenspace in your neighborhood.
5. Description of your design and plans.
   1. How your design maximizes the items described in Part 1, section 5a-e
   2. How you plan to engage the community for help in making plans to optimize usefulness to the community
6. Estimated budget for the project and timeline.

The presentation should be ~10 minutes total, and cover all the topics above. Sell your ideas in a convincing, effective way!

**Part 3: Serving as a the Review Panel**

These will be posted to a shared Google Drive folder and everyone will review each others, and make notes on what works and what needs improvement. You must add comments on 3-4 other projects for full ‘reviewing’ credit.