

DRAFT

Session 1: Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 12:00pm

Session 2: Friday, September 20, 2024, 07:30am



Equity Advisory Group Equity Lens Session

SpoCanopy & NCIF Update

September 2024

| <https://www.myavista.com/ceta>



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Agenda

Topic	Topic Owner
Welcome, introductions overview of the meeting: rules and intent	Amber Lenhart
Partner Shares	Partners
SpoCanopy	TBD
NCIF Update	Ana Matthews And Kristine Meyer
Wrap-up and Adjourn	Dan Blazquez

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Introductions

- Name
- Pronouns
- Organization or community

Hello
my name is

(she/her/hers)

Today's Equity Lens Session - September 2024

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SpoCanopy &
NCIF Update



EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Goals:

1. Review of SpoCanopy
2. Update on NCIF

INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT

INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:	Public Participation Goal:
To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.

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Rules for Engagement



- Encouraged to actively participate in discussions
- Each member will be provided time to speak
- Healthy and civil debate is encouraged
- Members should be open to new ideas and concepts
- Respectful of differing opinions
- Collectively, the group should strive to align varying options (e.g., identify shared goals for different perspectives)

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Partner Shares

- ❑ Upcoming relevant community events or opportunities
- ❑ Pressing issues facing our community or a need someone might be able to address
- ❑ Challenges your organization is facing (especially around equity)



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SpoCanopy

The Lands Council

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THE LANDS COUNCIL



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Our Programs and Community Involvements





RESTORATION

WE INSTALL RIPARIAN BUFFERS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND BENEFIT SURROUNDING WILDLIFE

105,000

TREES

Planted in the last 12 years

The Lands Council plants THOUSANDS of native trees and shrubs each year in riparian (streamside) buffers along degraded tributaries - and we also install beaver dam analogs (BDAs).

WHAT IS A BDA?

- BDAs are "humanmade" beaver dams.
- BDAs promote aquifer storage, create wetlands, and wildlife habitat.
- BDAs improve water quality while trapping sediment, raising the water table, and gradually reconnecting an incised channel with its floodplain.



Did you know? A beaver's front teeth never stop growing. To keep them from getting too long, beavers have to constantly chew on wood.

Poor land use practices including unsustainable agriculture, forestry, grazing, and urban development have degraded water quality in our watersheds. This also causes erosion, sedimentation, riparian buffer loss, wetland destruction, and contaminated stormwater runoff.

To improve water quality in our watersheds, The Lands Council recruits private landowners and implements riparian restoration activities on their properties.



Improving water quality is so key to our mission here at The Lands Council.

We continue to build awareness of Spokane River toxics in economically underprivileged and ethnic communities. As members of the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force, we are working to remove toxic PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) from the river.





EDUCATION

WE ARE COMMITTED TO CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE & LASTING LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

10,054

YOUTH

Taken on STEM Field Trips
Since 2011

Nature is everywhere and yet a lot of us have little opportunity to get outside and experience it. So many of us are becoming increasingly disconnected from the outdoors and lack a true understanding and appreciation for the bountiful forests, water, and wildlife of the Inland Northwest.

PROJECT SUSTAIN

To promote outdoor and environmental education, The Lands Council created Project SUSTAIN.

Project SUSTAIN is an outdoor, place-based, STEM-focused (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) environmental education program designed to restore the connection between youth and nature by enabling students to get outside, practice field science, be physically-active, and become responsible environmental stewards.



We work in local schools to get students outdoors and we educate them on the natural world, water quality, and resource issues.

We believe that instilling care for our environment and stewardship ethics begins with accessible education opportunities for our community members.

We host public events that engage people with our mission: from group walks and hikes in the woods to community Storytelling Nights where people talk about their love of our public lands.

Project SUSTAIN's "3E" model:

We **expose** students to the outdoors, **empower** them with relevant knowledge and skills; and **encourage** them to apply these experiences throughout their lives to become responsible environmental stewards.



SNOW SCHOOL

As part of the Mt. Spokane field experience, students don snowshoes and hike up a hill. They dig snow pits to the ground; identify, mark, and measure snow layers; and take mass and density measurements. This allows them to calculate snow water equivalency - the amount of water that will ultimately recharge our rivers, lakes, and aquifer. We explore the relationship between our mountain snowpack and wildfires and discuss how climate change and local population growth are projected to impact the snowpack. Students also participate in a scavenger hunt focusing on plant and animal adaptations to winter and learn about avalanche awareness and safety by performing a search-and-rescue activity using beacons and probes.





PUBLIC LANDS

WE PROTECT WILD AREAS, WHILE ACTIVELY PROMOTING RESTORATION

★ 6.7 ★
MILLION

Acres of Public Land in Eastern Washington

Washington state is widely regarded as a model for public lands management and conservation in the United States.



Public Lands provide recreation, wildlife habitat, clean water, opportunities to hunt, fish and gather, a sense of connection to nature, and are the economic engines for many communities.



Large areas of forest and wildland are the cornerstone of ecological resilience and provide core habitat that is essential for the long-term survival and recovery of imperiled wildlife.



Conserving and protecting forests and other public lands is increasingly critical for carbon sequestration and habitat protection in the face of a changing climate.



The Inland Northwest has amazing and diverse wildlife habitat and to maintain these ecosystems, such as grizzly bears, wolves, lynx, and salmon. The Lands Council collaborates with conservation groups to restore predator populations, revive salmon populations, and protect wilderness areas.



Our wild public lands offer cherished places to hike, camp, climb, ski, wildlife watch, fish, hunt and otherwise enjoy the Inland Northwest's rich natural heritage.



The Lands Council works with the USFS, USFWS, WDFW, innovative lumber companies, Tribes, and the greater community to restore and revitalize these hugely beneficial systems.



CLIMATE JUSTICE

WE WORK FOR FAIRNESS, EQUITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY:
CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

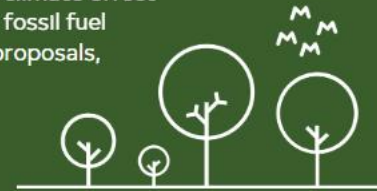
★ 13.9 ★
DEGREES

Difference in Temperature
Between Neighborhoods in
Spokane Due to Canopy Coverage

The Lands Council works with diverse community partners to develop equitable solutions to our region's unique challenges and center the experiences of those most impacted.

Our Climate Justice program focuses on policies related to regional climate change effects and mitigation such as public utility clean energy plans, city and county sustainability ordinances, statewide house bills with climate effect considerations, fossil fuel infrastructure proposals, and more.

Beat the Heat: the air directly below a tree can be as much as 25 degrees cooler.



Spokane has taken steps towards addressing climate change and promoting climate justice. In 2020, the city adopted a Climate Action Plan with goals to *reduce greenhouse gas emissions*, *increase renewable energy usage*, and *improve resilience to climate impacts*. The plan includes strategies such as increasing energy efficiency, promoting sustainable transportation, and engaging with communities to address equity and justice in climate action efforts.

From environmental activism, like planting trees in low canopy neighborhoods, to pushing for policy change, people across the Inland Northwest are standing up for clean water, clean food, and clean air. By participating in efforts to decrease global warming and its effects on human health, we can do our part to fight the climate crisis in our beloved Spokane.





SPOCANOPY

WE ARE COMMITTED TO INCREASING OUR URBAN CANOPY

☆ 11 ☆
PERCENT

Average Tree Canopy in
Northeast Spokane - the
Lowest in the City

SpoCanopy's goal is to increase Spokane's urban canopy by planting free street trees in low-income neighborhoods with low canopy coverage and disproportionate environmental disparities, so that all communities have access to the benefits of street trees and green spaces.

☆ 40 ☆
PERCENT

Average Tree Canopy on
the South Hill in Spokane -
the Highest in the City

SINCE 2020



Over **250** volunteers have planted over **400** street trees.



Street trees provide a wide variety of benefits such as **storm water mitigation**, keeping our Spokane River clean, providing habitat for urban wildlife, increasing property values, providing shade, decreasing energy usage, and lowering temperature on the streets, sidewalks, and overall neighborhood.

Our SpoCanopy program has a large focus on environmental justice. We are concentrating efforts in West Central and Northeast Spokane, in areas that have below average canopy cover.

The disparity in tree canopy demonstrates a clear need to work in these neighborhoods to close that canopy gap. On top of that, Northeast Spokane neighborhoods are some of the most ethnically diverse, and the lowest-income in the state.



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SpoCanopy



A community-driven program to equitably increase the urban canopy in Spokane, WA



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Spocanopy



City of Spokane



Spokane County

Cool Canopy



DRAFT Benefits of Urban Trees

Research has linked the presence of urban trees to...



REDUCING RATES
of cardiac disease, strokes, and
asthma due to improved air quality



PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY
including habitat for migrating
birds and pollinators



REDUCING OBESITY LEVELS
by increasing physical activity
including walking and cycling



MANAGING STORMWATER,
keeping pollutants out of waterways,
and reducing urban flooding



COOLING city streets by 2-4° F,
reducing deaths from heat and
cutting energy use



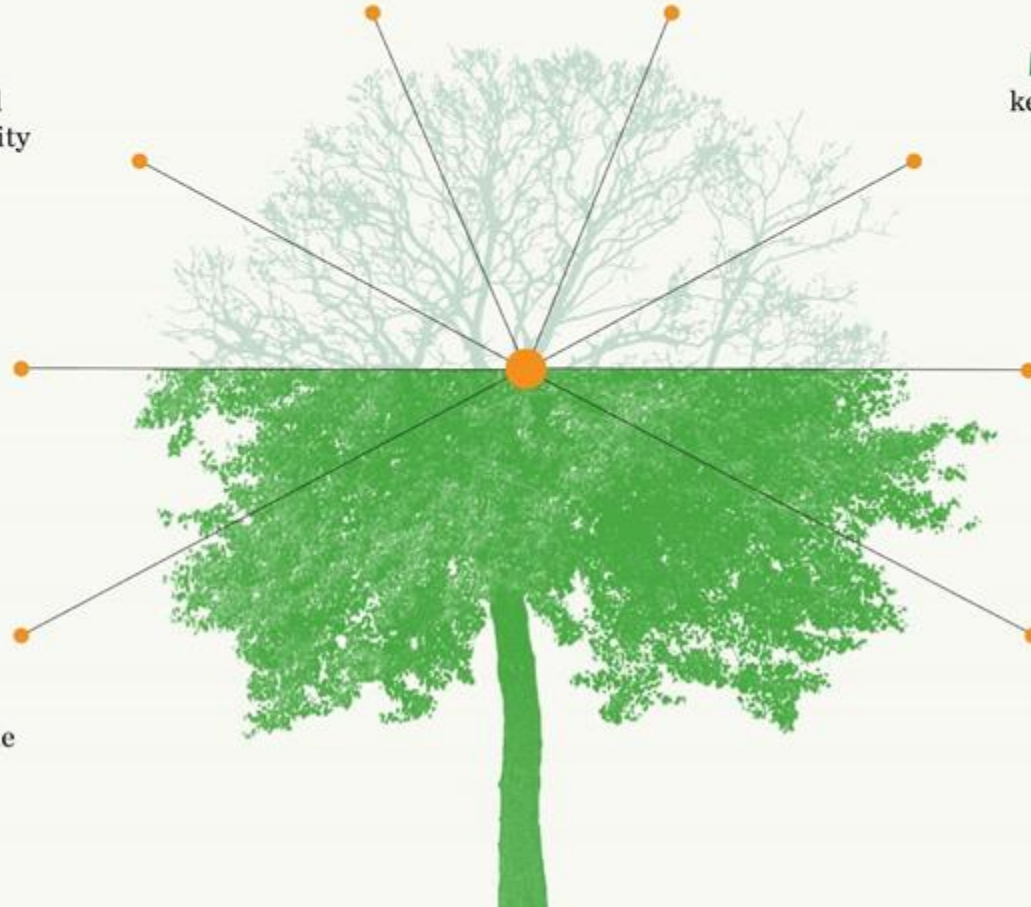
INCREASING
neighborhood property values



FILTERING up to a third of fine
particle pollutants within
300 yards of a tree



REDUCING STRESS by helping
interrupt thought patterns that
lead to anxiety and depression



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TREES & COMMUNITY



Safety: Residents with nearby trees and natural landscapes reported 25% fewer acts of violence.



Value: Having large trees along streets increases a home's value by 12%.



Savings: Trees reduce U.S. residential energy use by an average of 7.2% – an annual savings of \$100 for an average household.

THE SIZE AND POWER OF 100 MILLION TREES

The Size: 3,500 Central Parks

The Impact: 578,000 tons of chemical pollution removed from the air – enough to fill 70,000 Goodyear blimps



A TREE PLANTED TODAY MAKES LIFE BETTER FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.



Healthier Environment

Forests provide 75% of the world's accessible fresh water by removing impurities and preventing erosion.



Healthier Economy

Forests contribute \$33 trillion to the global economy each year.



Healthier Society

¼ of modern medicine is derived from tropical forest plants, including treatments for diseases like cancer, malaria, and rheumatism.



Science

F I N D I N G S

INSIDE

Exploring Tree Planting and Mortality Links . . . 2
Return on Investment 3
Increasing Urban Greenness 4

“Science affects the way we think together.”
Lewis Thomas

Plant a Tree and Save a Life?

The Value of Planting More Trees in Urban Areas



IN SUMMARY

Exposure to urban trees is associated with improved public health outcomes, including healthier infant birth weights, fewer symptoms of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, and decreased cardiovascular mortality. Conversely, tree loss is linked to increased rates of cardiovascular disease and higher mortality. Could this mean that trees save lives?



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Trees as a measure of equity



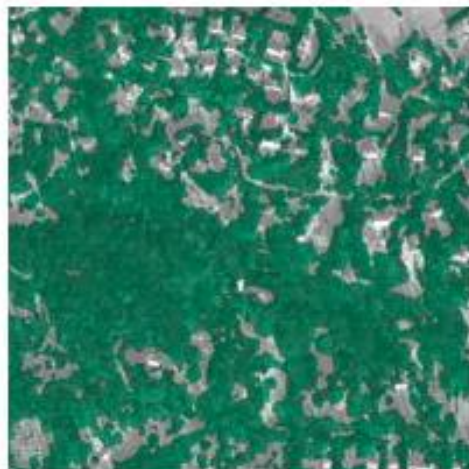
DRAFT Median Income and Canopy Coverage

Baltimore

Median income: \$31K



Median income: \$154K

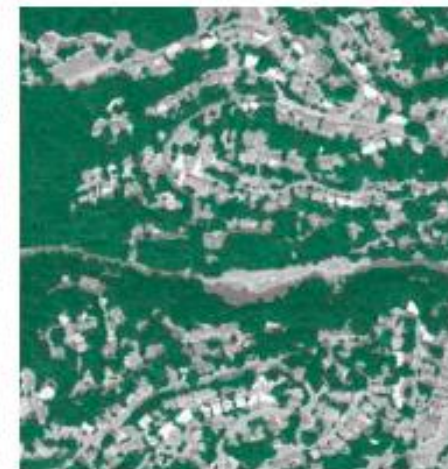


Portland, Ore.

Median income: \$39K



Median income: \$161K

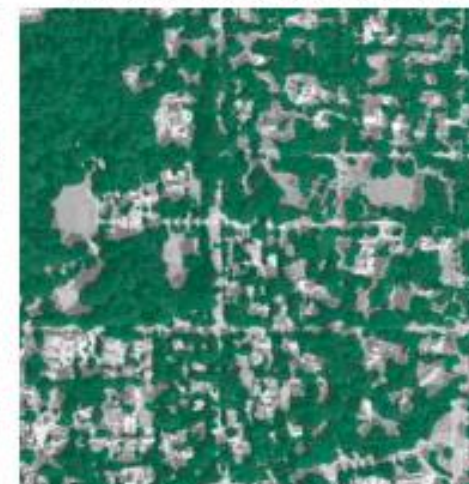


Columbus, Ohio

Median income: \$38K



Median income: \$150K

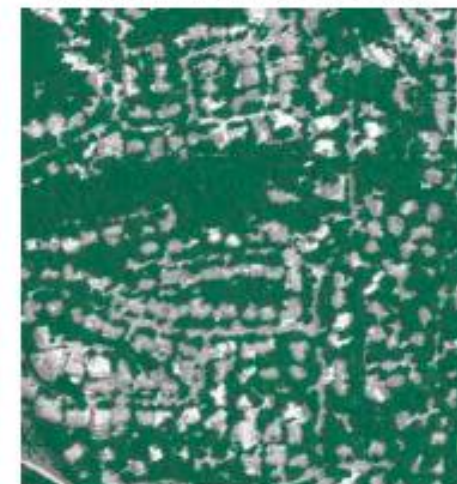


Austin, Texas

Median income: \$59K



Median income: \$185K



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City of Spokane Tree Canopy Cover and Ecosystem Benefits

20.7%

Tree Canopy Cover

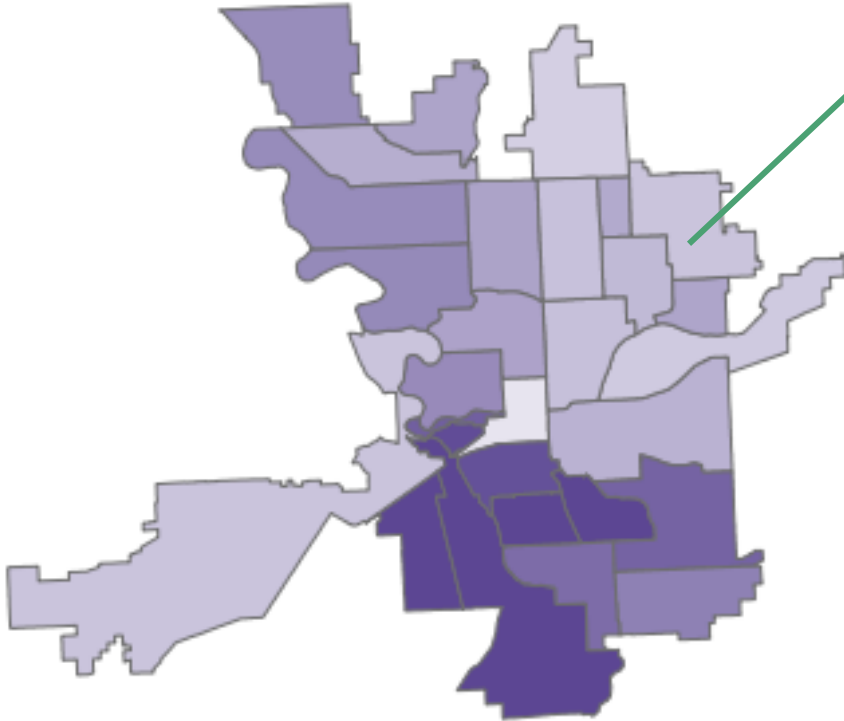
\$5.77M

Estimated Annual Ecosystem Benefits

\$44.39M

Additional Lifetime Stored Carbon Value

City of Spokane Tree Canopy Cover by Neighborhood for 2020



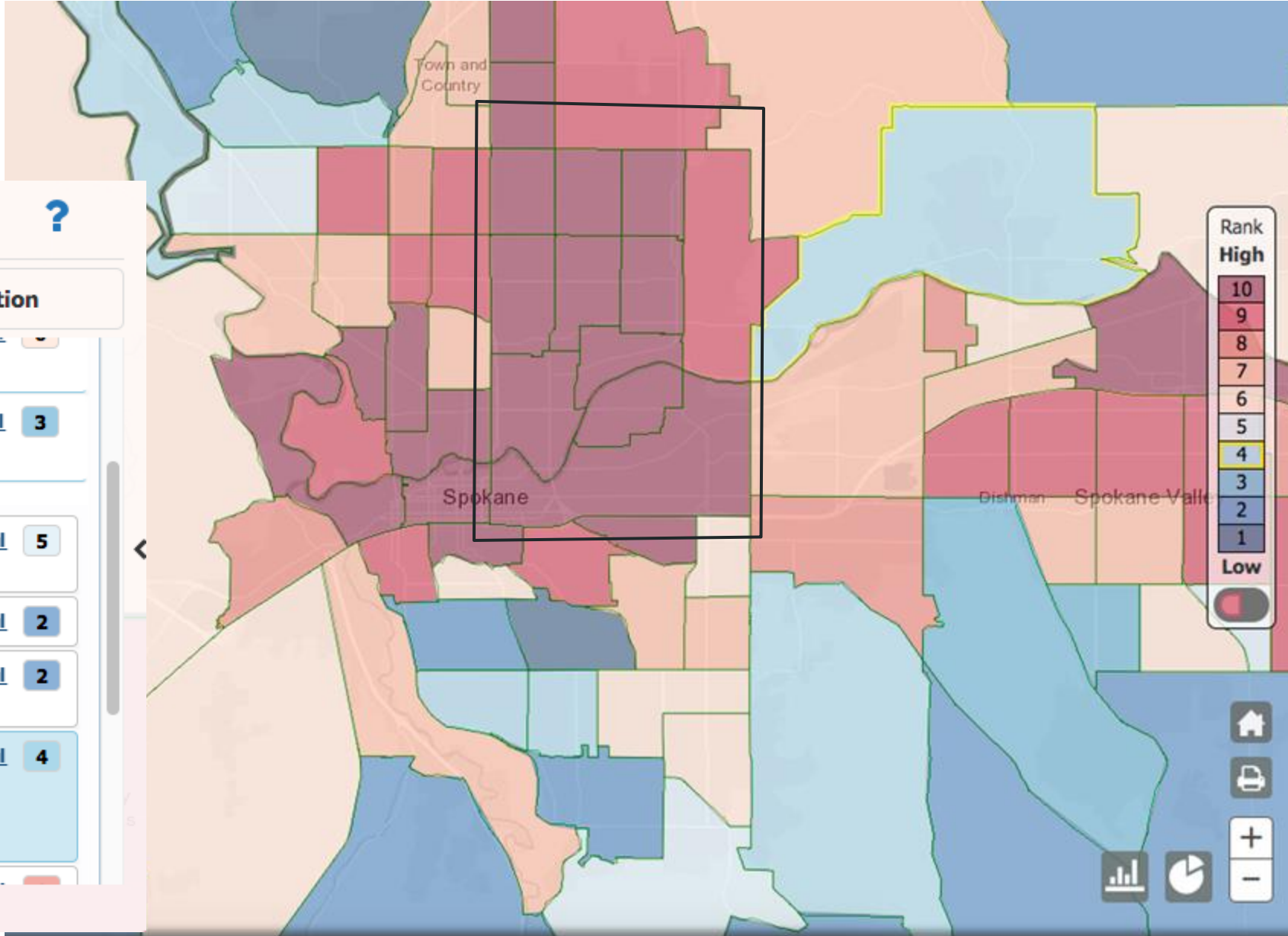
*Shading Indicates Degree of Canopy Cover

Council District	Tree Canopy Cover	Annual Ecosystem Benefits	Additional Lifetime Stored Carbon Value
1	13.9%	\$1,096,950	\$8,400,000
Bemiss	14.9%	\$89,344	\$7,000,000
Chief Garry Park	12.1%	\$154,804	\$1,300,000
East Central	16.1%	\$237,490	\$1,200,000
Hillyard	13.1%	\$147,897	\$1,300,000
Logan	13.9%	\$104,247	\$5,000,000
Minnehaha	18.4%	\$64,770	\$5,000,000
Nevada Heights	13.7%	\$113,010	\$1,000,000
Shiloh Hills	11.2%	\$147,762	\$1,300,000
Whitman	17.5%	\$37,626	\$3,000,000
2	20.8%	\$1,463,666	\$8,570,899
Browne's Addition	32.9%	\$38,037	\$339,659
Cliff-Cannon	32.2%	\$150,442	\$765,035
Comstock	27.7%	\$188,719	\$959,696
Grandview / Thorpe	43.9%	\$330,971	\$2,955,475
Latah / Hangman	35.7%	\$837,879	\$7,482,019
Lincoln Heights	29.1%	\$366,627	\$3,273,880
Manito / Cannon Hill	38.5%	\$164,385	\$1,467,918
Peaceful Valley	29.9%	\$30,106	\$268,850
Riverside	7.8%	\$32,325	\$288,653
Rockwood	38.1%	\$190,115	\$1,697,682
Southgate	24.4%	\$227,425	\$2,030,840
West Hills	13.2%	\$650,781	\$5,811,305
3	20.8%	\$1,463,666	\$8,570,899
Audubon / Downriver	23.0%	\$217,060	\$1,103,815
Balboa / South Indian Trail	16.9%	\$121,596	\$618,355
Emerson / Garfield	18.7%	\$127,882	\$649,740
Five Mile Prairie	18.6%	\$109,400	\$556,336
North Hill	18.8%	\$150,346	\$764,553
North Indian Trail	22.4%	\$293,484	\$2,620,740
Northwest	22.6%	\$311,640	\$1,584,789
West Central	22.7%	\$132,258	\$672,565
Total	20.7%	\$5,768,428	\$44,399,583



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Population living in poverty



Go Back to Topic Selection

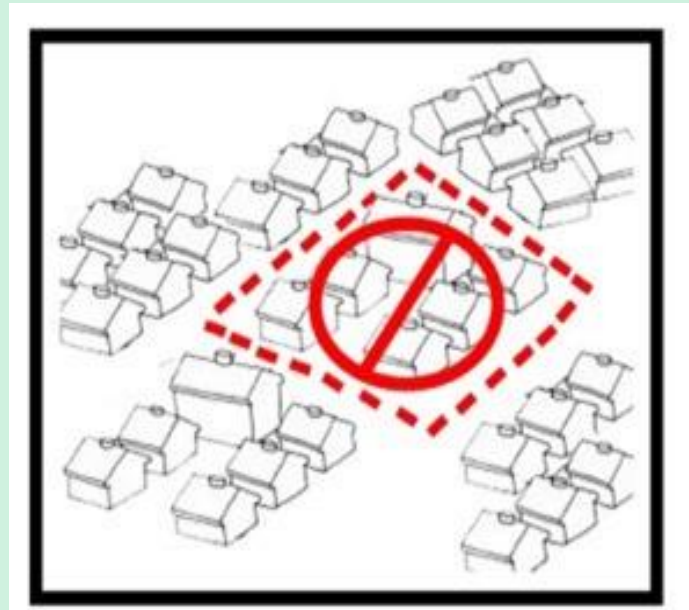
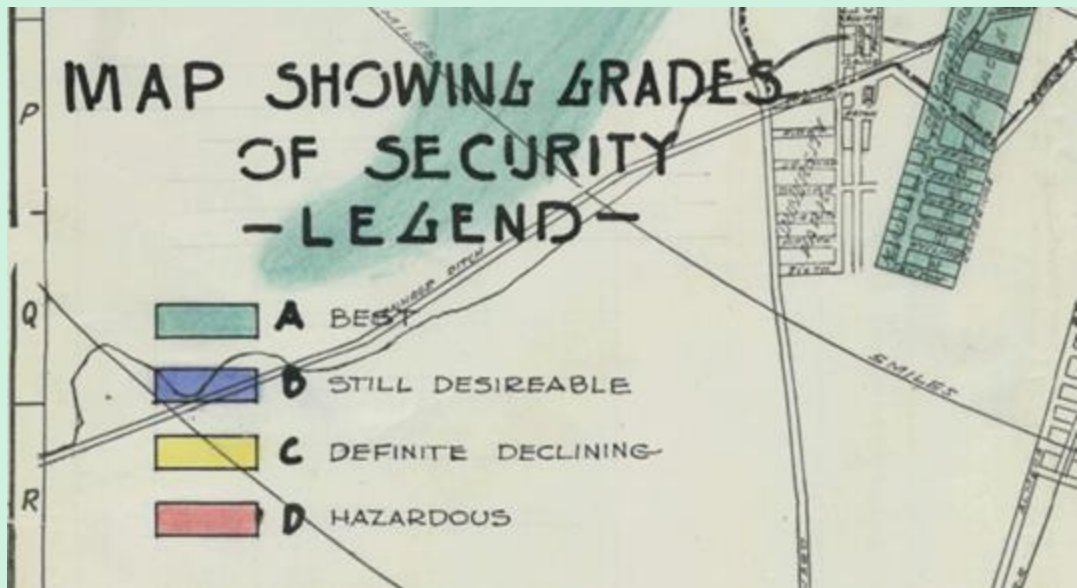
- Environmental Effects
- Socioeconomic Factors **3**
- ACS:Limited English (LEP) (%) **5**
- No High School Diploma (%) **2**
- People of Color (Race/Ethnicity) **2**
- Population Living in Poverty <=185% of Federal Poverty Level (%) **4****



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Quick history: What is **redlining**?

Systemic denial of services and resources to certain communities and neighborhoods either by direct removal, denial of resources or sudden increase of prices.



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Baltimore

Share of tree canopy

1% 83

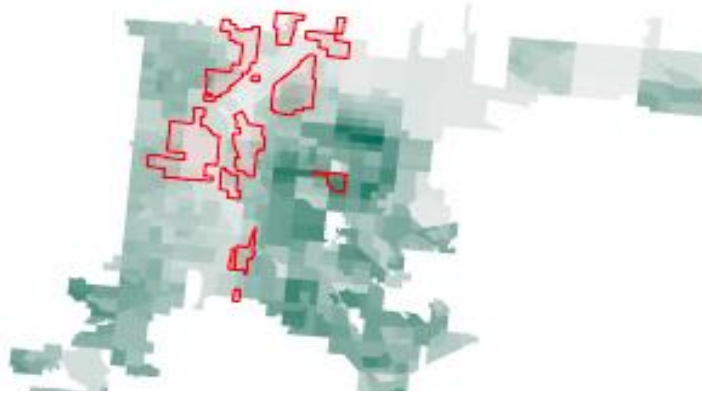


3 miles

Denver

Share of tree canopy

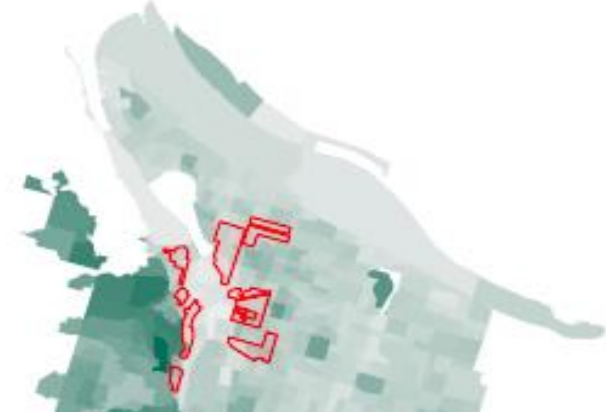
1% 37



Portland, Ore.

Share of tree canopy

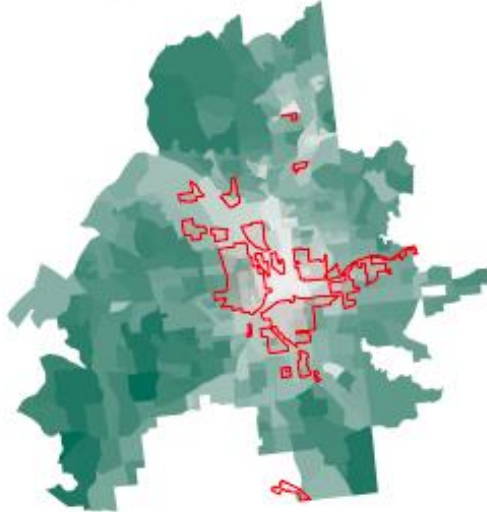
2% 81



Atlanta

Share of tree canopy

7% 81



3 miles

Charlotte, N.C.

Share of tree canopy

4% 80



3 miles

Buffalo

Share of tree canopy

4% 54

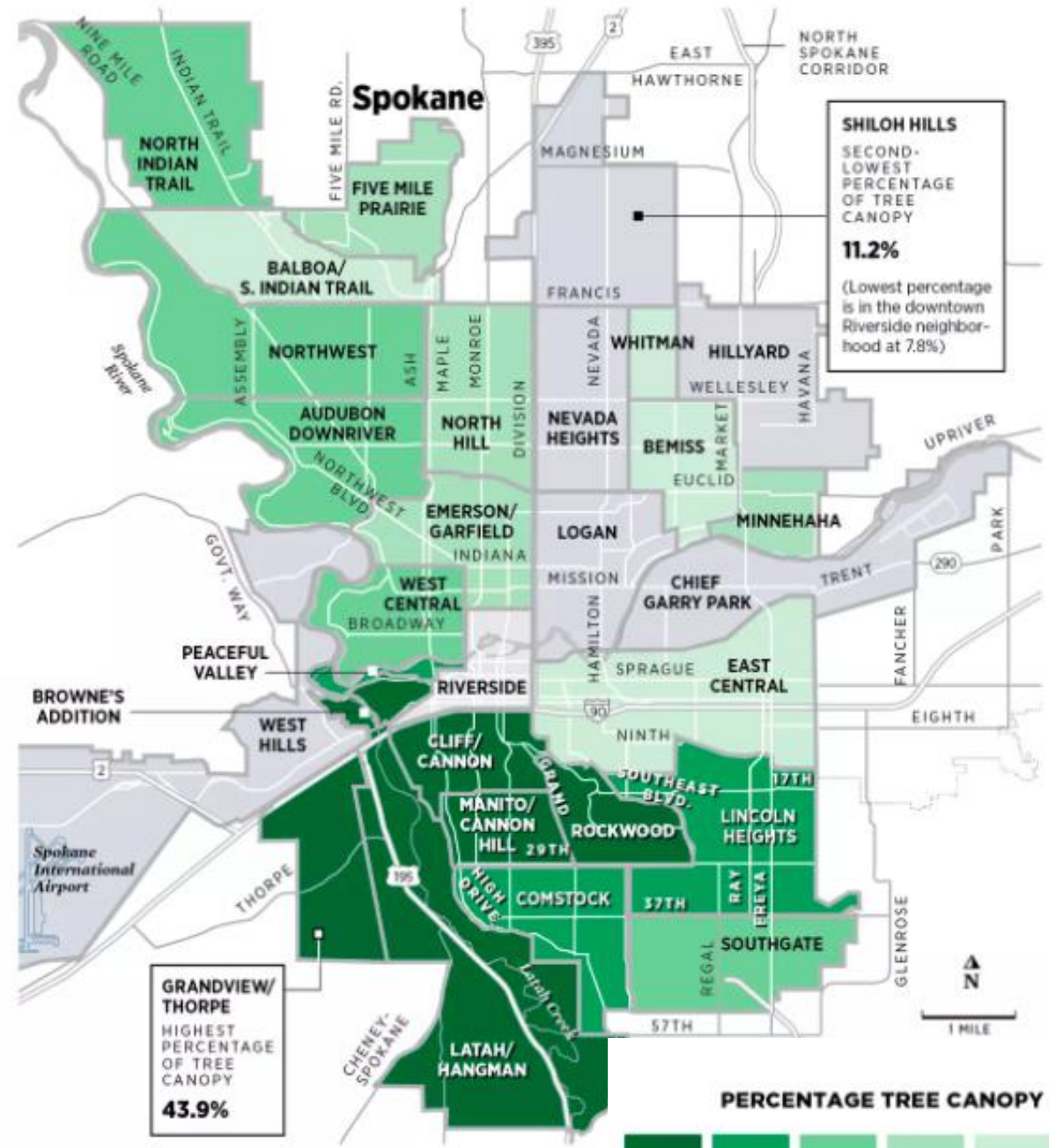
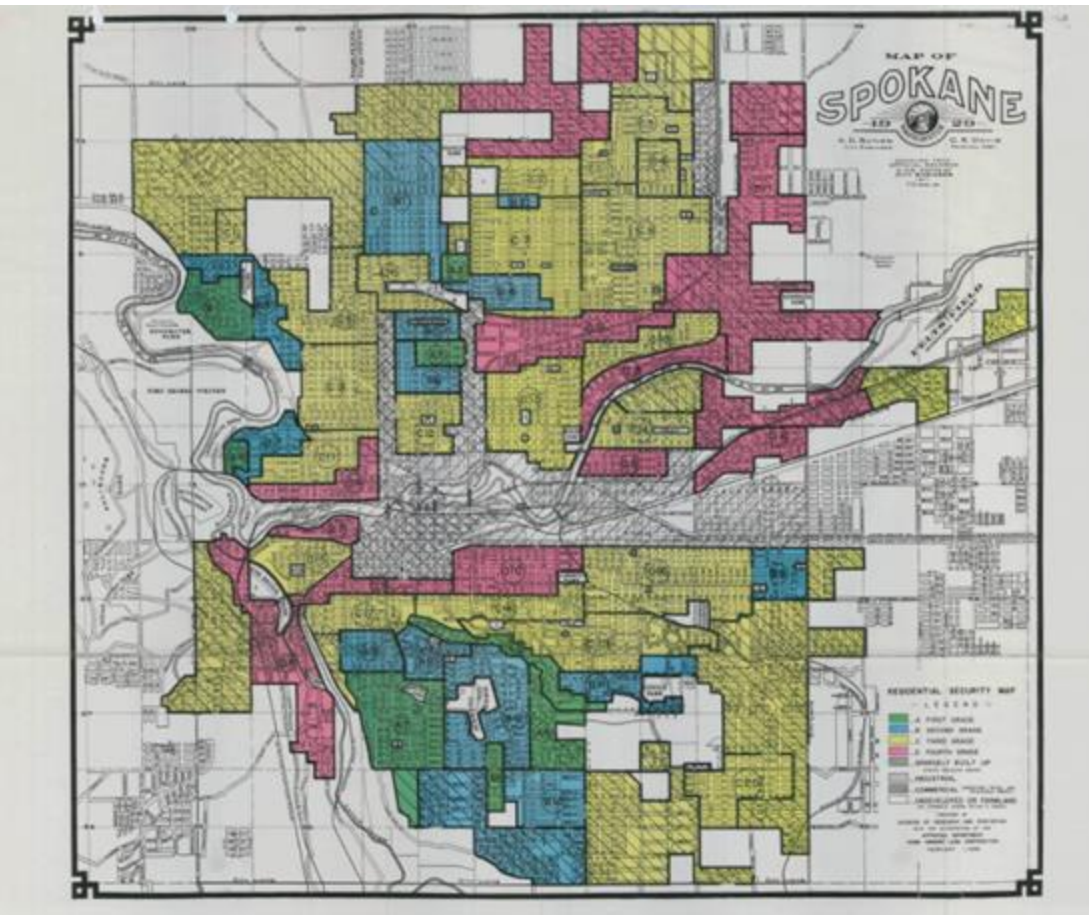


3 miles

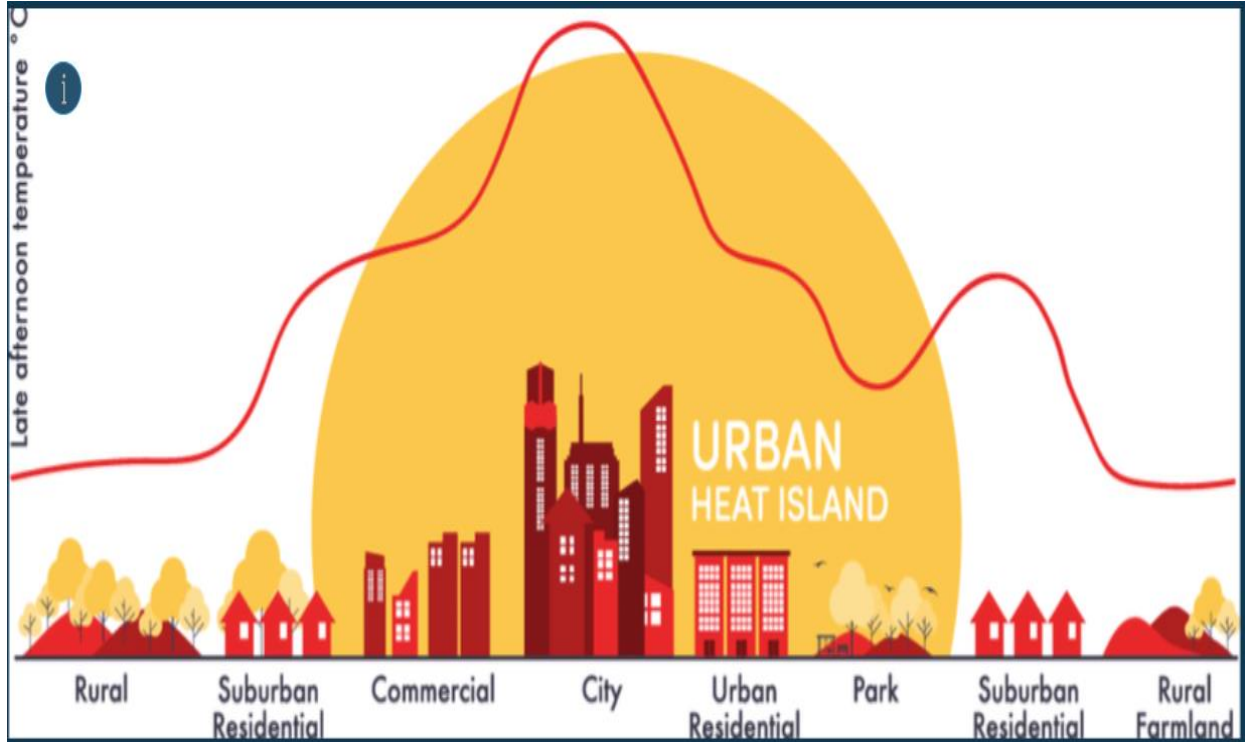
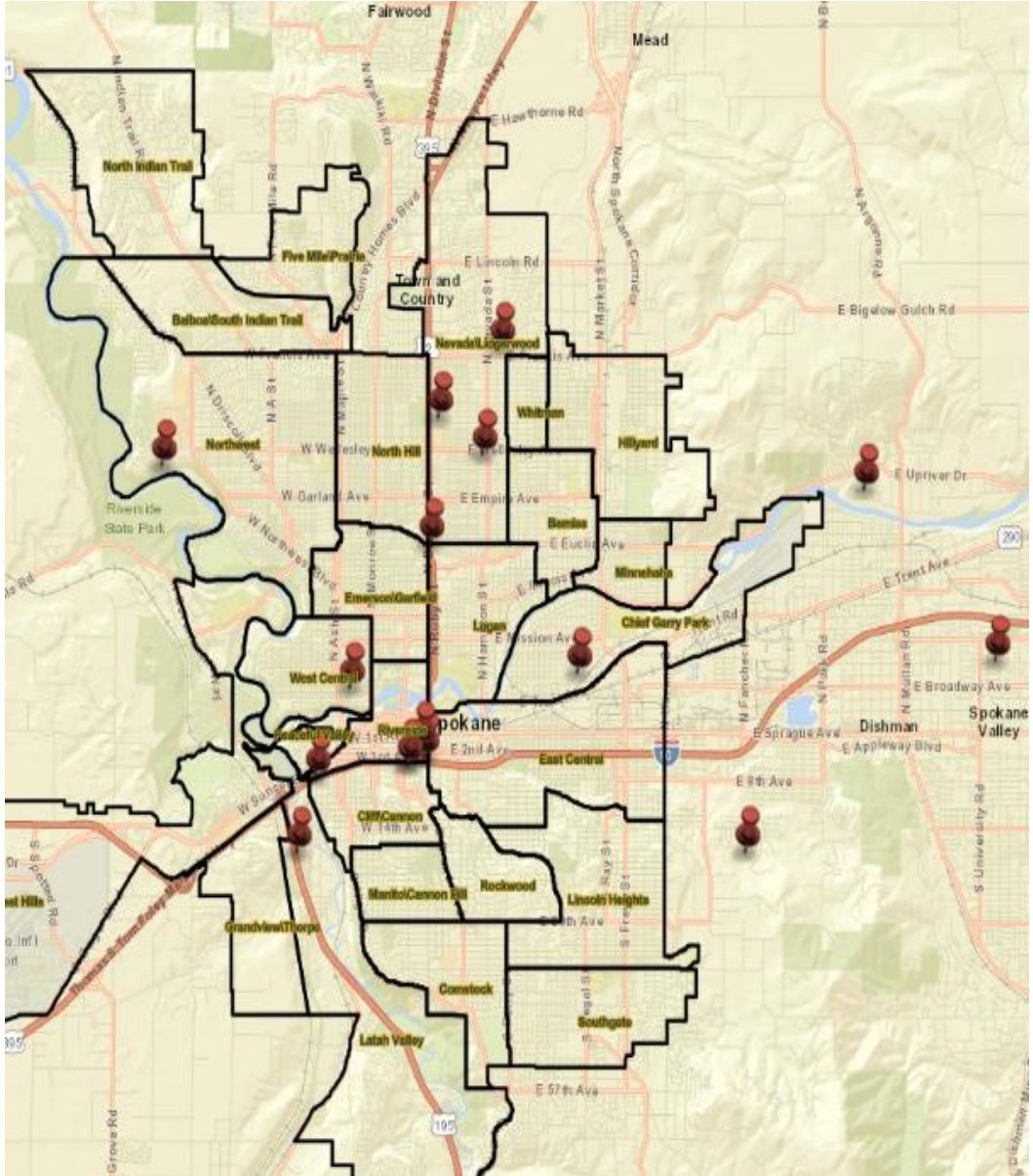
Sources: American Forests (share of tree canopy), Mapping Inequality (redlining boundaries).



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Red pins on the map depict 15 of Spokane County's 19 confirmed heat-related deaths during the 2021 Heat Dome, others occurred within the county, but outside of the image extent or lacked a location in the release from the Medical Examiner.



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SpoCanopy's goal is to equitably increase urban canopy by planting street trees in low canopy, low-income neighborhoods



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SpoCanopy – Expo Forest



50 years ago, Expo '74 planners built Riverfront Park, planting trees for future generations to appreciate. Today, any mature tree you see in Riverfront Park was a part of the planting effort 50 years ago.



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SpoCanopy Expo-Forest



Before Expo '74



After Expo '74

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SpoCanopy Expo-Forest



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SpoCanopy Expo-Forest



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Any guesses on how many trees we planted?

782!!!



- 421 Ponderosa Pine (plus an undetermined amount of Rocky Mountain Juniper) seedlings
- 70 Ponderosa Pines (larger stock)
- 70 Western Larch
- 40 Austrian Pine
- 36 Autumn Brilliance Apple Serviceberry
- 35 Espresso Kentucky Coffee tree
- 35 Harvest Gold Linden
- 20 Forest Green Italian Oak
- 20 Honey Locust
- 12 English Oak
- 10 Norway Maple
- 8 Douglas Fir
- 3 Emerald Sunshine Elms
- 2 Eastern Redbuds



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Let's continue the SpoCanopy Expo Forest!



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How to get involved

- **Donate** to keep this program growing!
- **Volunteer** and plant trees
 - October 18th – SpoCanopy
 - October 19th – Cool Canopy
- **Share** this opportunity with community members, put us in touch with people that may want to plant.
- **Contact Us:** LandsCouncil.org
jbrant@landscouncil.org
aparrish@landscouncil.org



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Named Communities Investment Fund (NCIF) Update

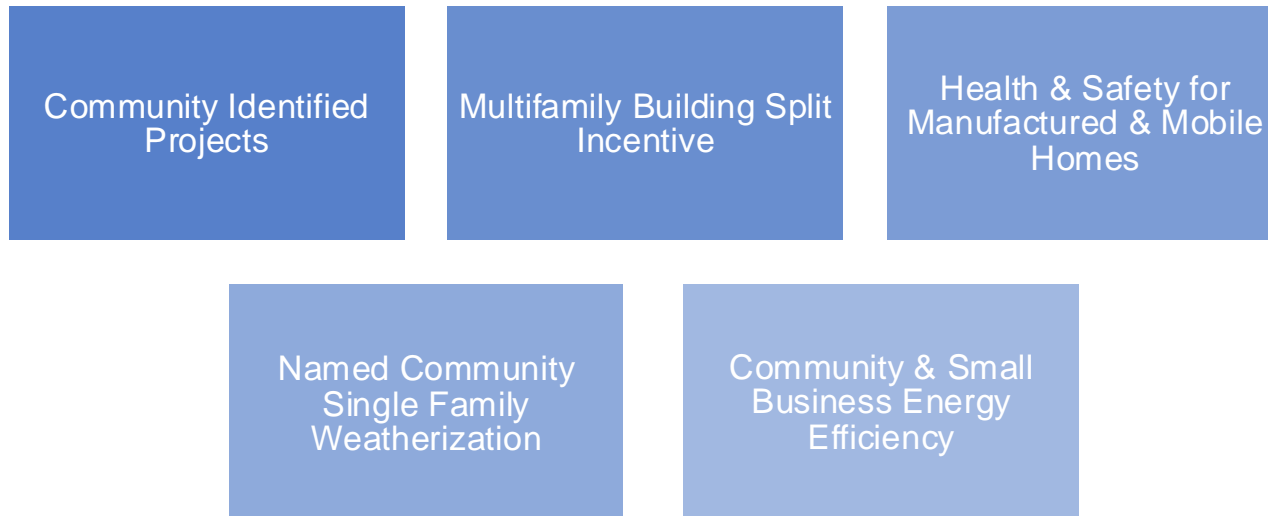
Ana Mathews - Avista Senior Energy Efficiency Program Mgr.

Kristine Meyer - Community Invest & Foundation Mgr.

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Named Communities Investment Fund

- Specific Action dedicated to the equitable distribution of energy and non-energy benefits and reduction in burdens to Named Communities
- Funding is limited to 1% or approximately \$5M of electric revenues, annually



40% or up to \$2M
Supplement and support **energy efficiency** efforts targeted to Named Communities

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EAG NCIF Prioritization

Rank	Initiatives
1	Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency (and EE awareness/education) for schools, community centers, and other places where Named Communities spend time
1	Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for Spokane Tribe partners
2	Improve energy efficiency in multi-family and mobile home communities
3	Increase tree canopy and shade in Named Communities (consider tradeoffs with solar)
3	Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for Named Communities
4	Increase awareness of and engagement in energy efficiency programs while also meeting whole-house needs through community-based partnerships and referrals to services
5	Set aside funds to match for energy efficiency grant applications for community organizations and tribal partners (could have higher feasibility)
6	Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing (consider including with other initiatives)

DRAFT for NCIF Consideration

Equity

- Affordability
- Access to Clean Energy
- Community Development
- Energy Security
- Environmental
- Public Health

Customer Benefit Indicators

- (1) Participation in Company Programs
- (2) Number of households with a High Energy Burden (>6%)
- (3) Availability of Methods/Modes of Outreach and Communication
- (4) Transportation Electrification
- (5) Named Community Clean Energy
- (6) Investments in Named Communities
- (7) Energy Availability
- (8) Energy Generation Location
- (9) Residential arrearages and disconnects for nonpayment
- (10) Outdoor Air Quality
- (11) Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- (12) Employee Diversity
- (13) Supplier Diversity
- (14) Indoor Air Quality

Implementation Plan Specific Actions

- Community Identified Project
- Multifamily Building Split Incentive
- Health & Safety for manufactured and mobile home
- Single Family Weatherization
- Community Energy Assistance
- Small Business Energy Assistance

Company Programs

Equity Advisory Group Initiatives

- Energy Efficiency in Named Communities
- (1) Improved awareness and energy efficiency for Spokane Tribe, multi-family and manufactured homes
 - (2) Increased Tree Canopy
 - (3) Increased access to products and appliances
 - (4) Increased awareness and engagement in EE programs
 - (5) Matching funds for EE grant applications
 - (6) Improved EE for those without stable housing

Community Identified EE Projects

and Non-Energy Benefits

DRAFT Investments in Named Communities, Inception through August 2024

Energy Efficiency

Residential Homes

Affordable housing window replacement

SNAP Pine Villa affordable housing

Heat Pumps for low-income homeownership program

Window and slider replacement at affordable housing

Replacement of HVAC housing for urban poor

Lighting Upgrades

Rural School District and Church

Nonprofit owned and operated ice arena

Food Bank

Homeless Shelter

Workforce Development

Community Action Agency Workforce Development Training

Health & Safety for Manufactured Homes

KW Energy duct sealing

Weatherization improvements at manufactured/mobile home parks

Buildings

Nonprofit energy efficiency upgrades Education Building

Spokane Tribe Audits

Corner laundry for unhoused individuals

Programs

Multi-Family – deep retrofits

Community & Resiliency

Resiliency

Spokane County Community Center

Rural community Town Hall & Community Center

Rural town water supply

Community Projects

Tree Plotter software subscription

Air conditioner distribution by community action and aging & long-term care organizations

Medical Equipment battery backup pilot

Clean air in school educational project

Tree Planting in Spokane County

Workforce Development

Job training program for women

Workforce and non-profit career development for unhoused individuals

Outreach & Engagement

Projects for multi-lingual and planning for underserved customer engagement

Combined

Window replacement for church

Renovation of Food Bank serving rural community

Mini-splits for community center in Whitman County

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NCIF for Rural Food Banks



[Energy efficiency upgrade transforms rural foodbank \(myavista.com\)](https://myavista.com)

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Community & Energy Efficiency NCIF Stories online

- [Avista helps Lands Council plant hundreds of trees in Spokane | Avista Connections \(myavista.com\)](#)
- [Spokane mother finds stability and homeownership with community support \(myavista.com\)](#)
- [Say goodbye to leaky ductwork | Avista Connections \(myavista.com\)](#)
- [From homeless to hopeful \(myavista.com\)](#)

New story shared each month!



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NCIF for Affordable Housing & Energy

- Non-profit committed to affordable homeownership for those in need
- House placement in homeowners' cooperative, resident owned community
- Rebate package
- Benefits to home buyer in reduced home costs and high efficiency home



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NCIF for Rural Community Resilience



Water during critical events



Community Center Solar

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Thank you~

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Thank you!

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Equity Advisory Group
Equity Lens Session
SpoCanopy & NCIF Update

September 2024 | <https://www.myavista.com/ceta>



Avista Clean Energy
Future Newsletter:

Click Here 

Sign up for our quarterly CEIP newsletter

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Next EAG Equity Lens Session Meetings

Afternoon: 12pm – 1:30pm

Wednesday, October 23rd







Friday, October 25th

Morning: 7:30am to 9:00am

Amber Lenhart
amber@sip-nw.org
509.475.9575

Dan Blazquez
Dan.Blazquez@avistacorp.com
509.495.7685

Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) Resources

<i>Resource Link</i>	<i>Description</i>
Washington's Clean Energy Future	Avista page for CETA related activities 
Clean Energy Transformation Act	Clean Energy Transformation Act - 
Chapter 19.405 RCW 	Laws and Regulations: Revised Code of Washington Investor-owned utilities
Chapter 480-100 WAC 	Laws and Regulations: Washington Administrative Code Investor-owned utilities
WA Energy Strategy 	Washington State Energy Strategy
CETA Overview 	CETA overview and interim assessment