



CITY OF EVANSTON'S
ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY
INVESTIGATION

Public Workshop #2

April 30, 2025

Today's Meeting

6:00 – 6:05 p.m.	Welcome
6:05 – 6:20 p.m.	Overview Presentation
6:20 – 6:25 p.m.	Introduction to Tonight's Activities
6:25 – 7:45 p.m.	Small Group Activities
7:45 – 8:00 p.m.	Close & Next Steps

Who are we?



**Brian
Hurd**



**Kayla
Allen**



**Brett
Weidl**



**Sarah
Lilly**



**Yolanda
Bouchee**



Capacity Building
Redevelopment Strategies



Public Engagement +
Transportation Planning



Urban Planning +
Landscape Architecture



Environmental
Justice

!! WE'RE INVESTIGATING !!

City of
Evanston
Environmental
Equity

Policies

Practices

Priorities

Perpetuate unequal
burdens or barriers to
opportunities across
Evanston.

Environmental Equity

All people have the same opportunities for health and prosperity without unfair disadvantages from physical, economic, or social structures.

Injustice
[past]



Equity
[future]

Planning Participants

Consultant
Investigation Team

City of Evanston
Planning Staff

Allied Organization Leaders
Leadership Committee

Community Leaders
Focus Groups

Community Members
Public Workshops



Change Makers:

City of Evanston
City Policies + Projects

Organizations
Local Collective Action

Households
Individual Action

Influence
External Entities

!! WE'RE INVESTIGATING !!

City of
Evanston
Environmental
Equity



Ask questions.
Define injustices.

Listen

October to February



Interpret information.
Highlight trends.

Document

February to April



Determine causes.
Explore solutions.

Strategize

April to July



Share findings.
Empower actions.

Empower

July to September



Workshop #1

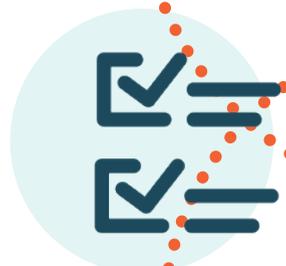
Introduction + Listening
Exploring Environmental Equity



APRIL 30th

Workshop #2

What We Heard + Learned
Experienced Injustice



Workshop #3

Investigation Findings
Causes of Inequities



Workshop #4

Draft Plan
Actions for Equitable Outcomes

Result:

Key Indicators
City Scorecard

Action Items
City Policy + Practices

Action Items
Local Organizations

Action Items
Households

DEFINING THE STUDY

How do you experience...



**Open Space,
Parks, and Trees**



**Streets and
Transportation**



**Housing and
Development**



**Community
Services**

Environmental Equity is: all people have the same opportunities for health and prosperity without unfair disadvantages from physical, economic, or social structures.

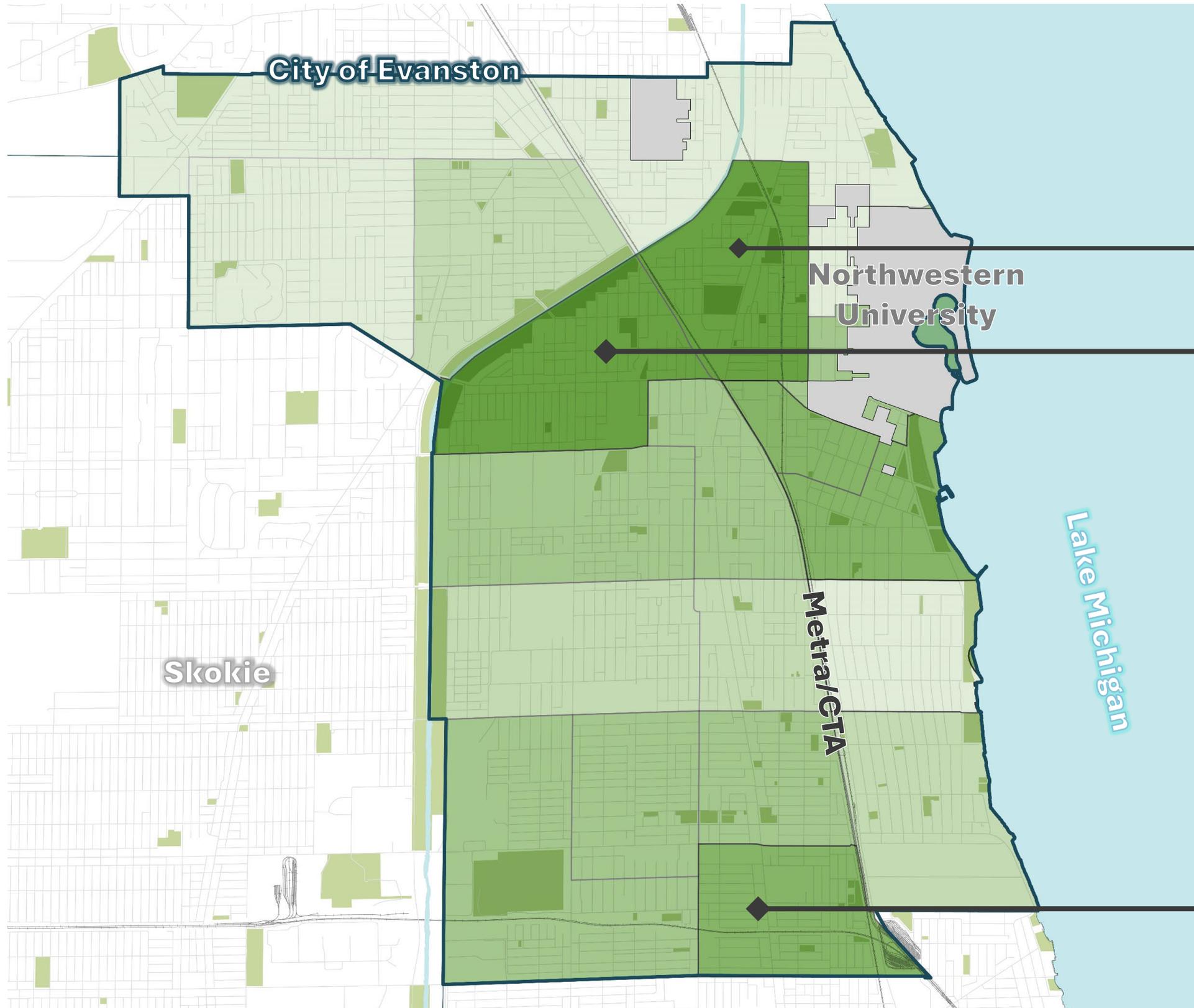
Environmental Equity is: all people have the same opportunities for health and prosperity without unfair disadvantages from physical, economic, or social structures.

We see systemic disadvantage when people:

- **Earn less money (lower incomes)**
- **Live racially segregated**
- **Have shorter life expectancy**

Where do these disadvantages exist in Evanston?

LOWER INCOME



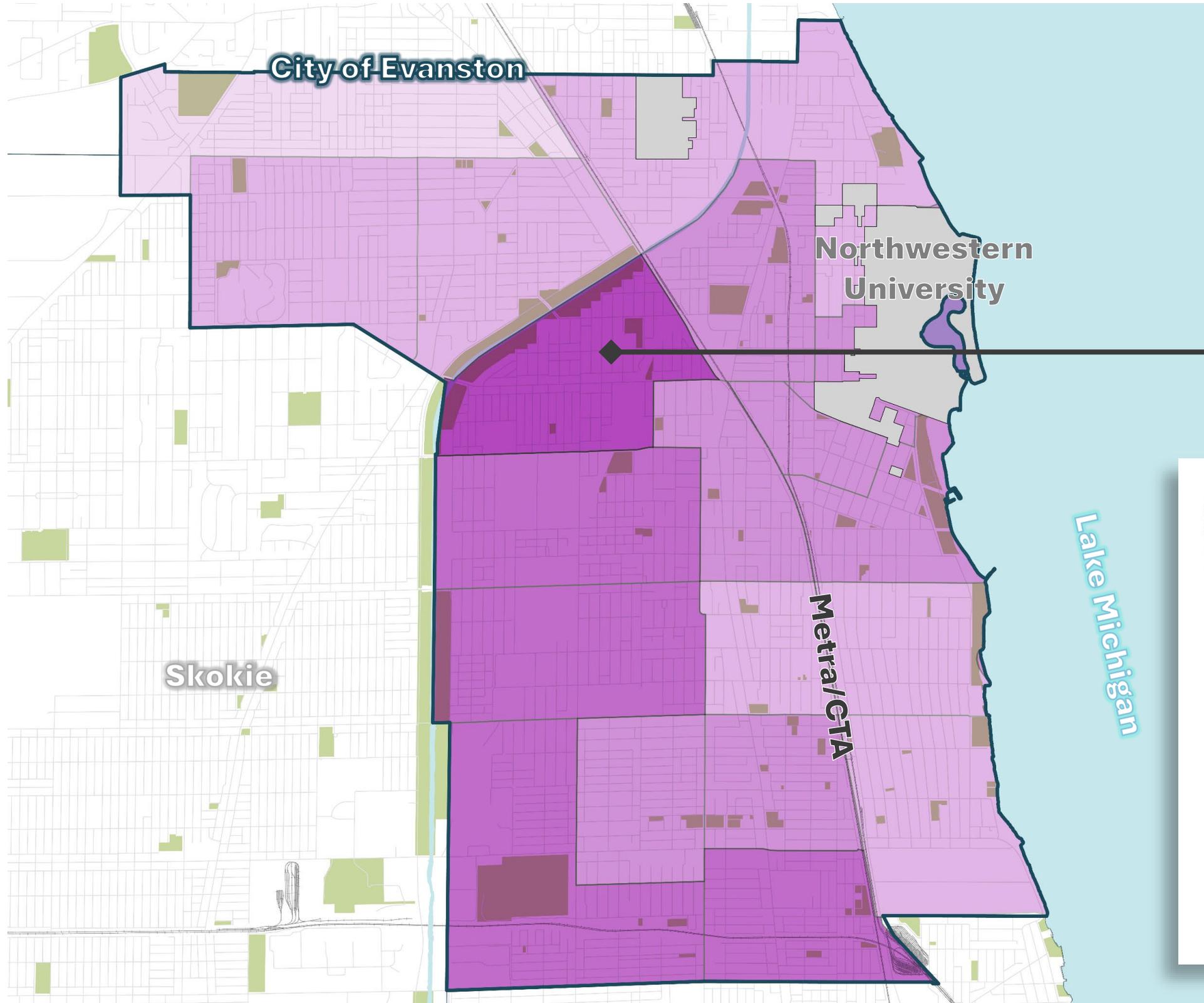
Data skewed by student population

Lowest household income

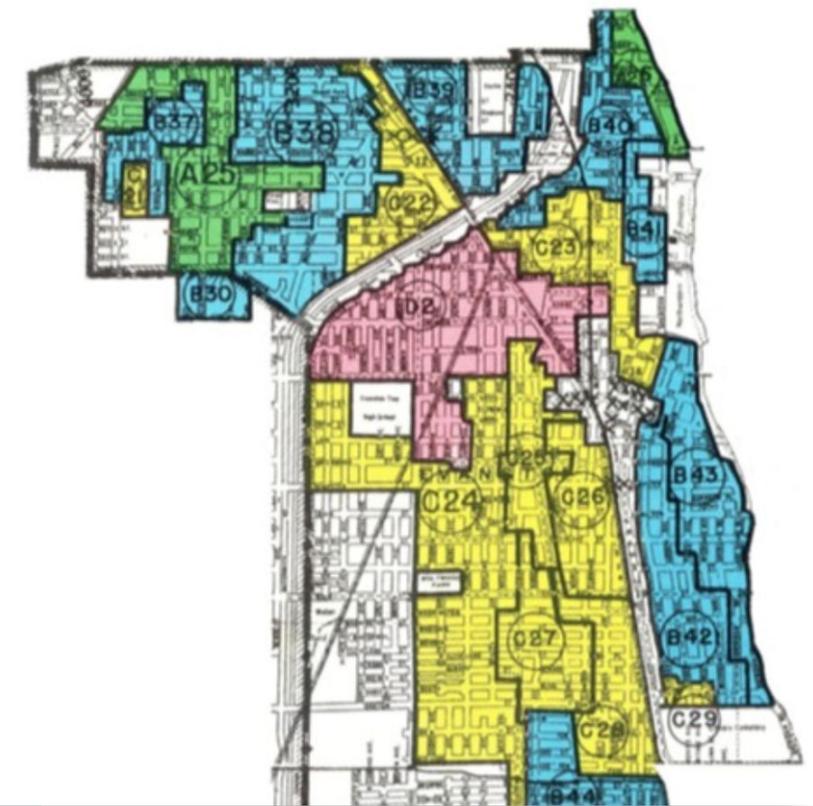
Lowest household income

Source: Census ACS Median Household Income

RACIALLY SEGREGATED



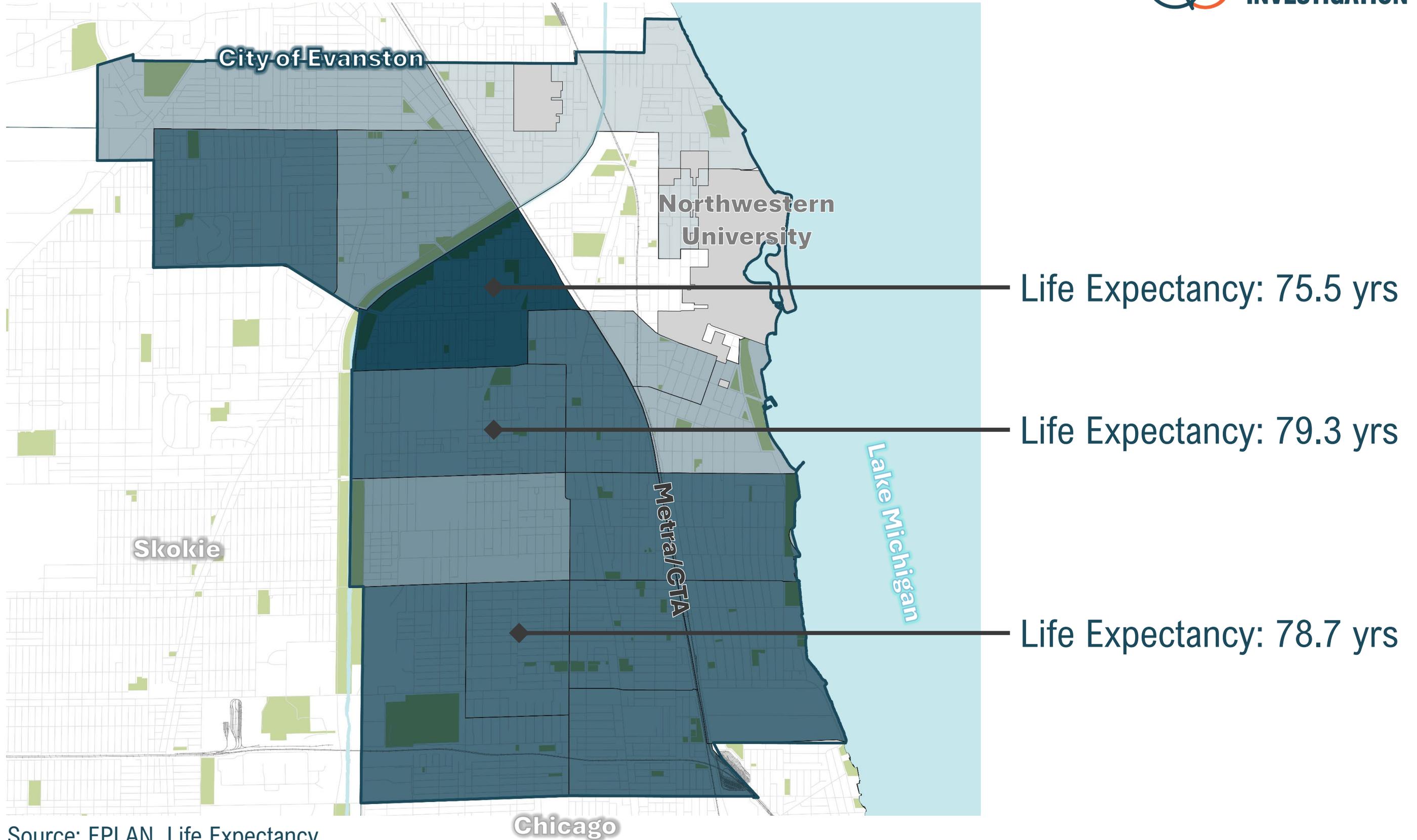
Most racially segregated



1935 HOLC Map

Source: Envision Evanston 2045 Preliminary Findings, Concentration of White Residents

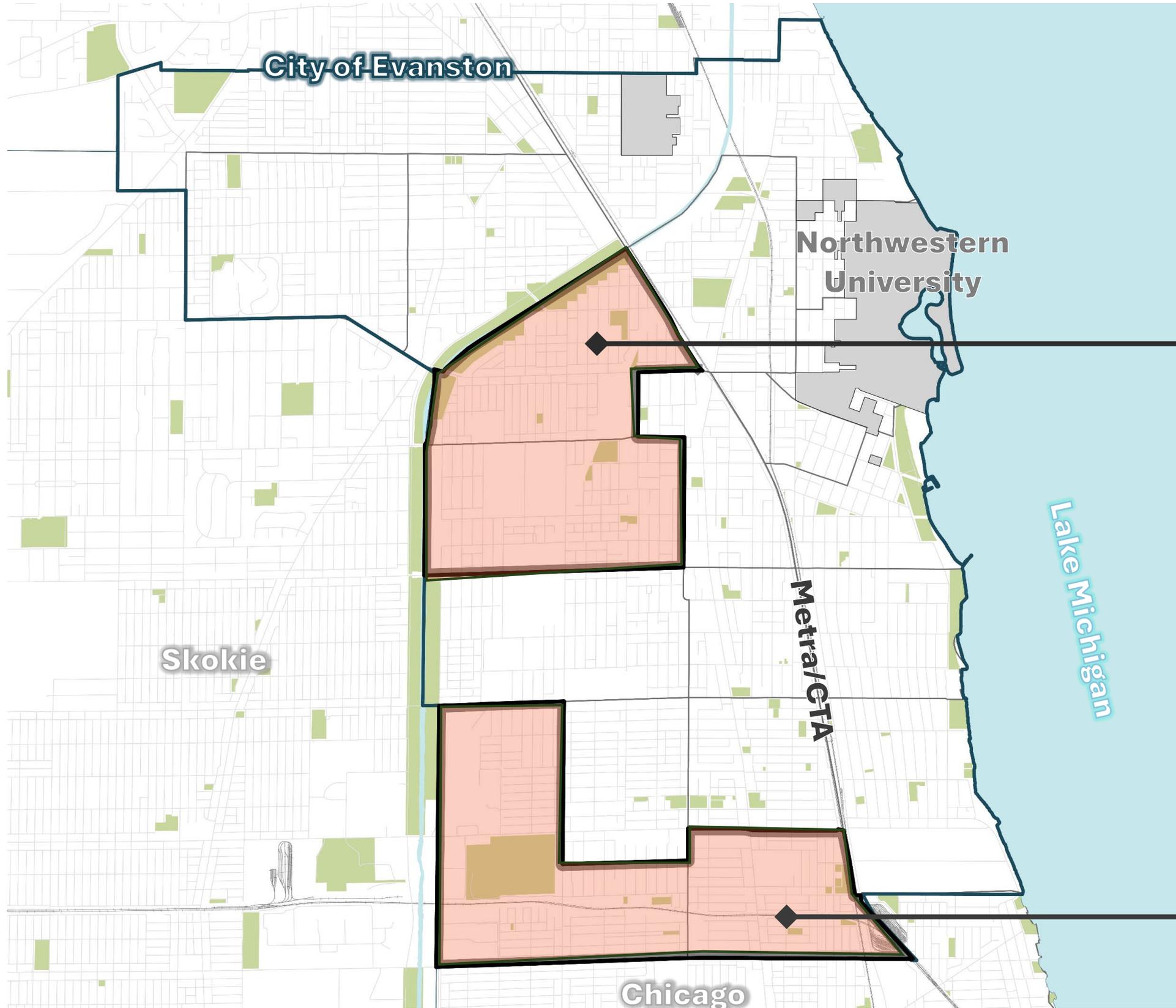
LOWER LIFE EXPECTANCY



Source: EPLAN, Life Expectancy

Chicago

DRAFT FOCUS AREAS



Based on this data, we see systemic disadvantages in these Focus Areas:

Focus Area

Focus Area

Small Group Activities

- Start at the table you're currently seated at
- Group facilitator will report out key findings
- 20 minutes per topic

Open Space, Parks, and Trees



Streets and Transportation



Housing



Community Services



Small Group Activities

- Then, as a group, **brainstorm potential actions** that could address the themes
- **Write down your ideas or share them out loud** and your facilitator will document them

Please remember...

- Allow everyone a chance to speak
- Respect each other's emotions
- Respect each other's opinions
- No need for consensus

"We need to figure out a way to have better street lighting for people, while also being environmentally friendly."

Encourage neighbors to start block clubs or other community organizations

Reallocate investments to focus area neighborhoods to address issues

"Create non-punitive landlord programs to ensure they're maintaining their properties and are held accountable."

NEXT STEPS

Take action:

- Continue the conversation.
- Take note of inequities.
- Come back!

Sign Up for Updates:



Workshop #1

Introduction + Listening
Exploring Environmental Equity

APRIL 30th

Workshop #2

What We Heard + Learned
Experienced Injustice



SUMMER '25

Workshop #3

Investigation Findings
Causes of Inequities



Workshop #4

Draft Plan
Actions for Equitable Outcomes

