



CITY OF EVANSTON
ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY
INVESTIGATION

Public Workshop #4

October 22, 2025

AGENDA



Today's Meeting

6:00 - 6:15 p.m.	Sign In and Get Refreshments
6:15 - 6:30 p.m.	Brief Project Update Presentation
6:35 - 6:40 p.m.	Introduction to Tonight's Activities
6:40 - 6:45 p.m.	Next Steps
6:45 - 8:00 p.m.	Break for Station Activities

WELCOME!



Who are we?



**Brian
Hurd**



**MaryAnn
Taylor Crate**



**Brett
Weidl**



**Sarah
Lilly**



**Yolanda
Bouchee**



**Marcus
Griswold**



Capacity Building
Redevelopment
Strategies



Public Engagement +
Transportation
Planning



Urban Planning +
Landscape Architecture



Environmental
Justice

EEI OVERVIEW



Environmental Equity

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



EEI OVERVIEW



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 October



ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



October 19, 2024: Pop-up Event #1 - Zombie Scramble

October 25, 2024: Pop-up Event #2 - Trunk or Treat

November 20, 2024: Leadership Committee Meeting #1

December 7, 2024: Pop-up Event #3 - Holiday Tree Lighting

January/February 2025: Focus Group Cluster #2

February 11, 2025: Public Workshop #1

March 4, 2025: Leadership Committee Meeting #2

April 2025: Focus Group Cluster #2

April 30, 2025: Public Workshop #2

June 10, 2025: Leadership Committee Meeting #3

July 16, 2025: Public Workshop #3

July 22, 2025: Virtual Public Workshop

September 24, 2025: Focus Group Cluster #4

September 30, 2025: Leadership Committee Meeting #4



ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

85+
Public Workshop
Attendees



120+
Pop-up Event
Participants

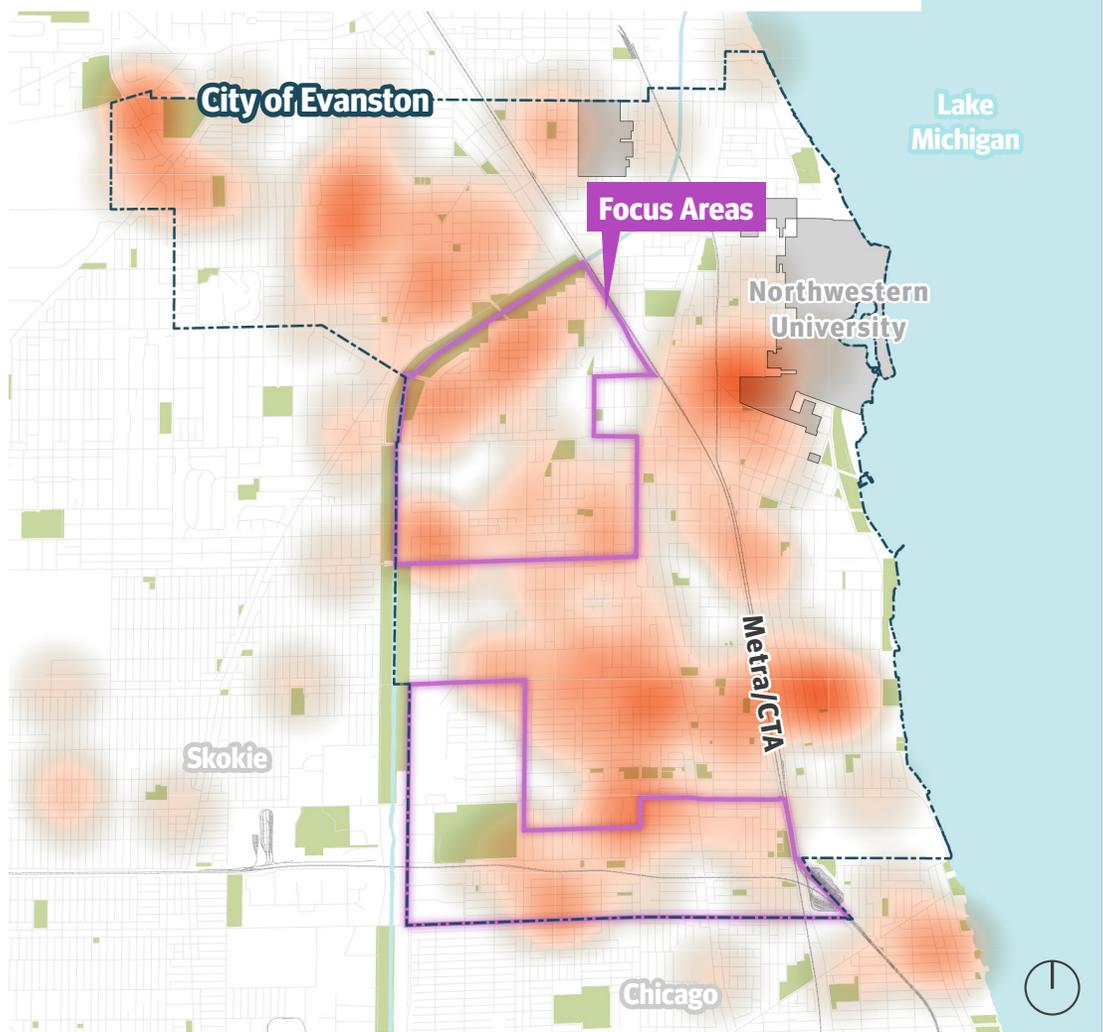


3
Pop-up
Community
Events Attended



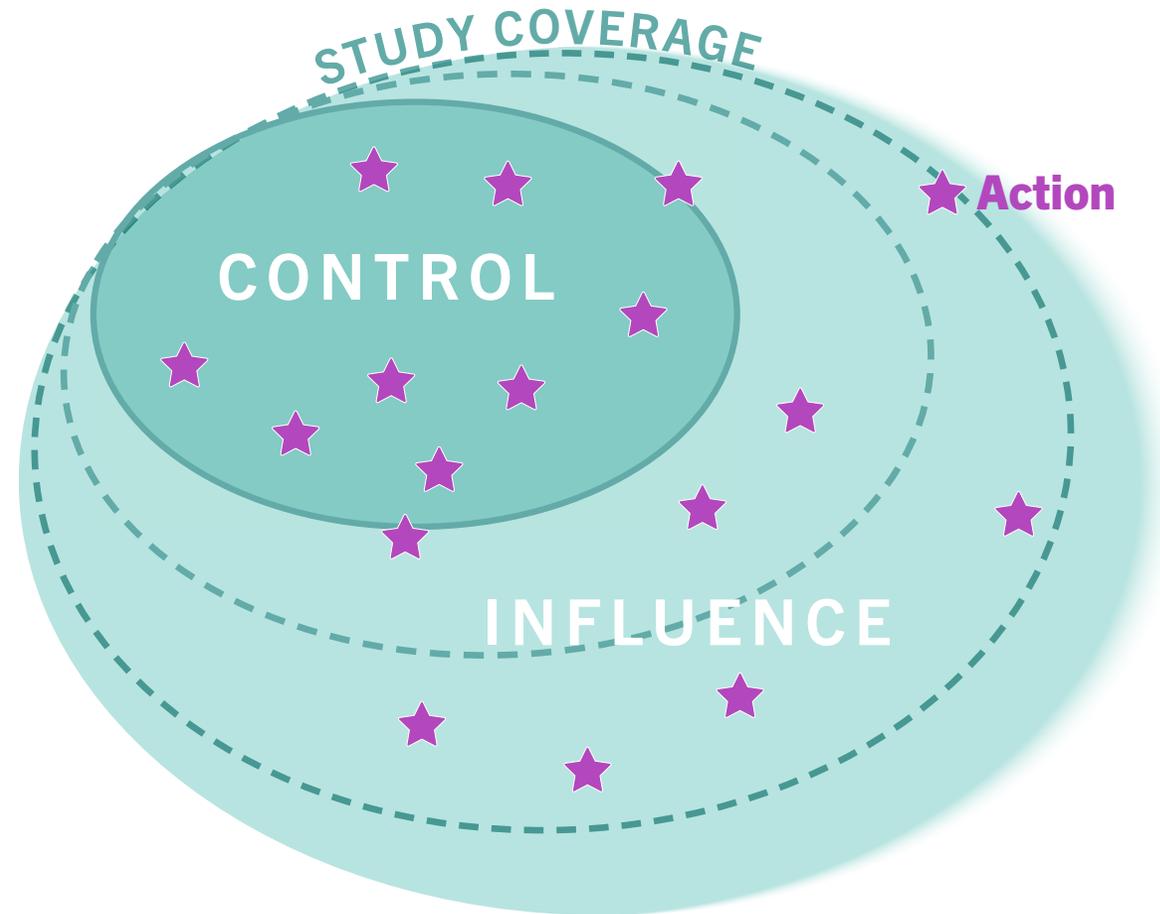
30
Focus Group
Participants

HEATMAP OF PARTICIPANTS HOME ADDRESS



ACTIONS FRAMEWORK

- Actions take the form of projects, policies, and programs
- Change makers have varying levels of control over implementation and outcomes
- Actions vary in scale, complexity, impact, and cost



ACTIONS FRAMEWORK

Open Space, Parks, and Trees



Streets and Transportation



Housing and Development

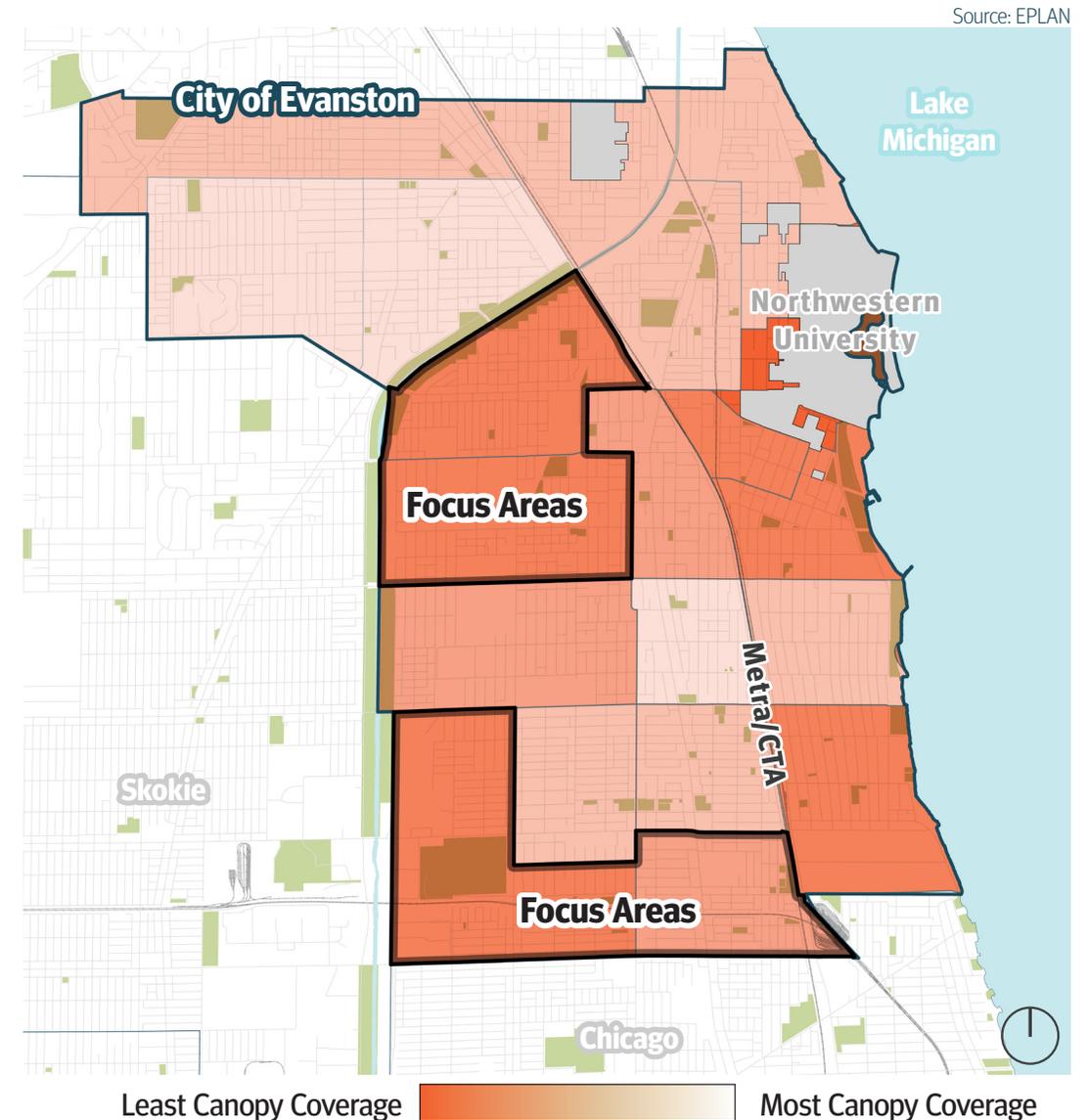


Community Services



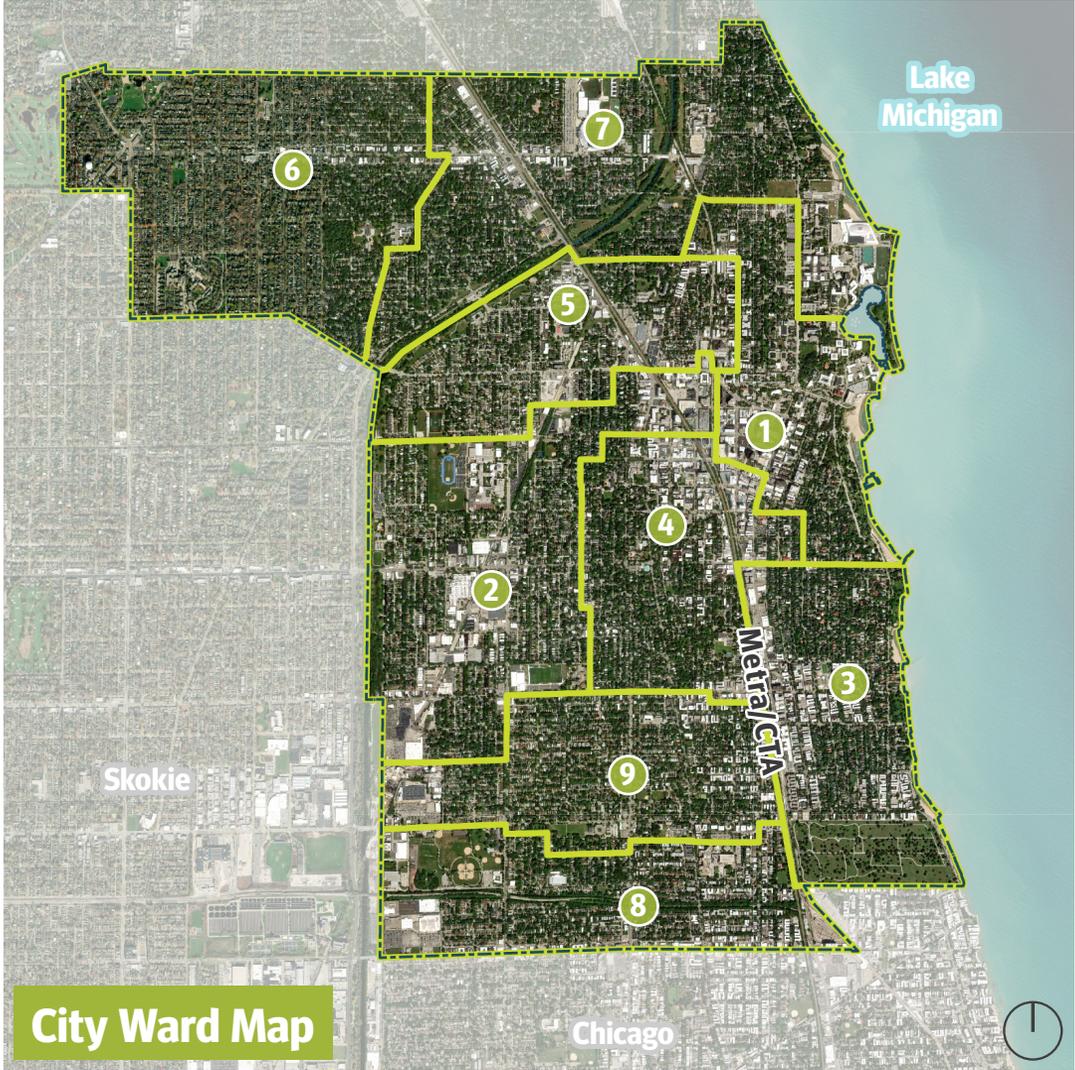
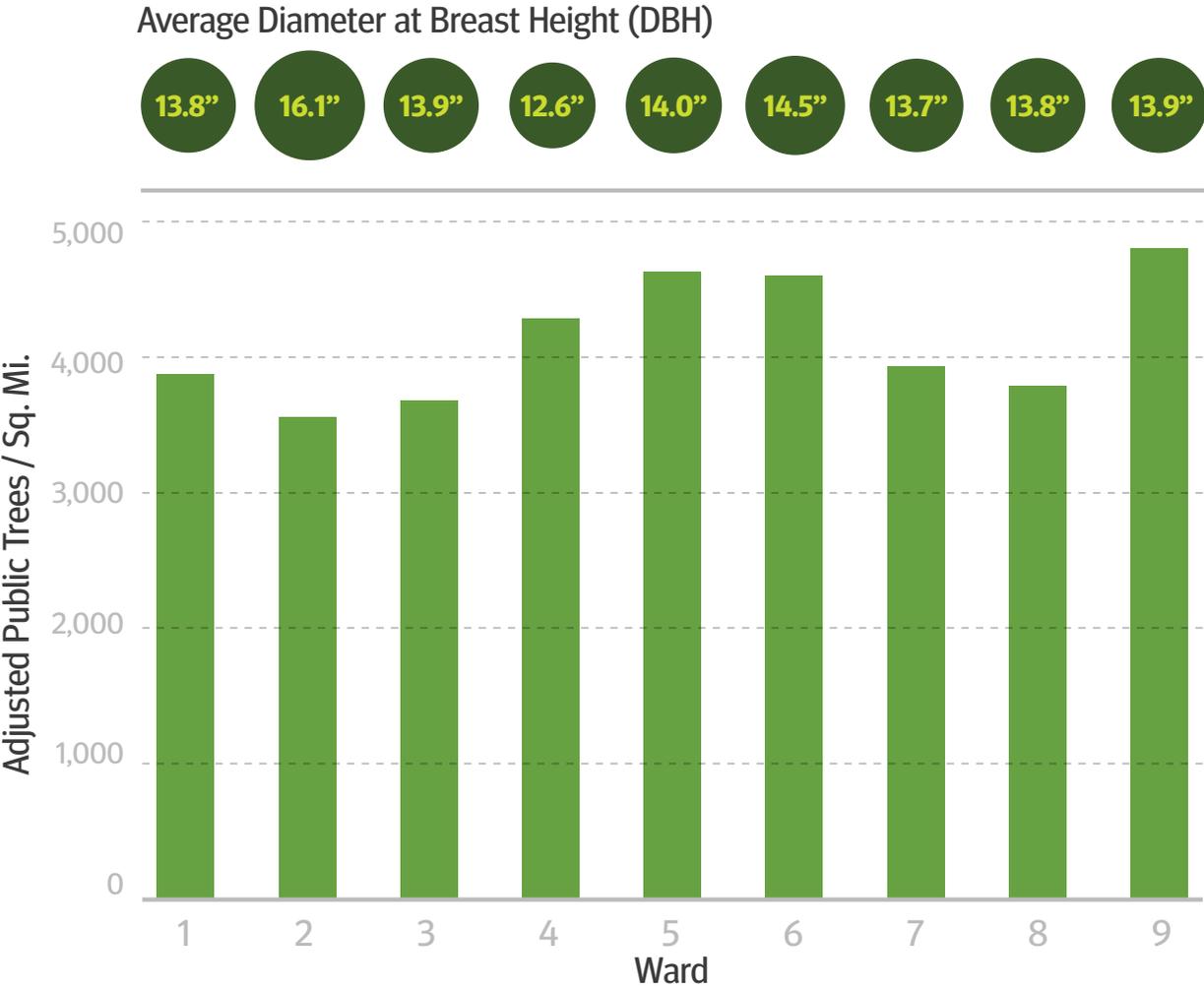
EXAMPLE: TREE CANOPY

- Map on the right shows average percentage canopy cover per census tract, helpful to understand larger geographic disparities
- To understand this issue in more depth, we need to investigate **public vs. private trees**



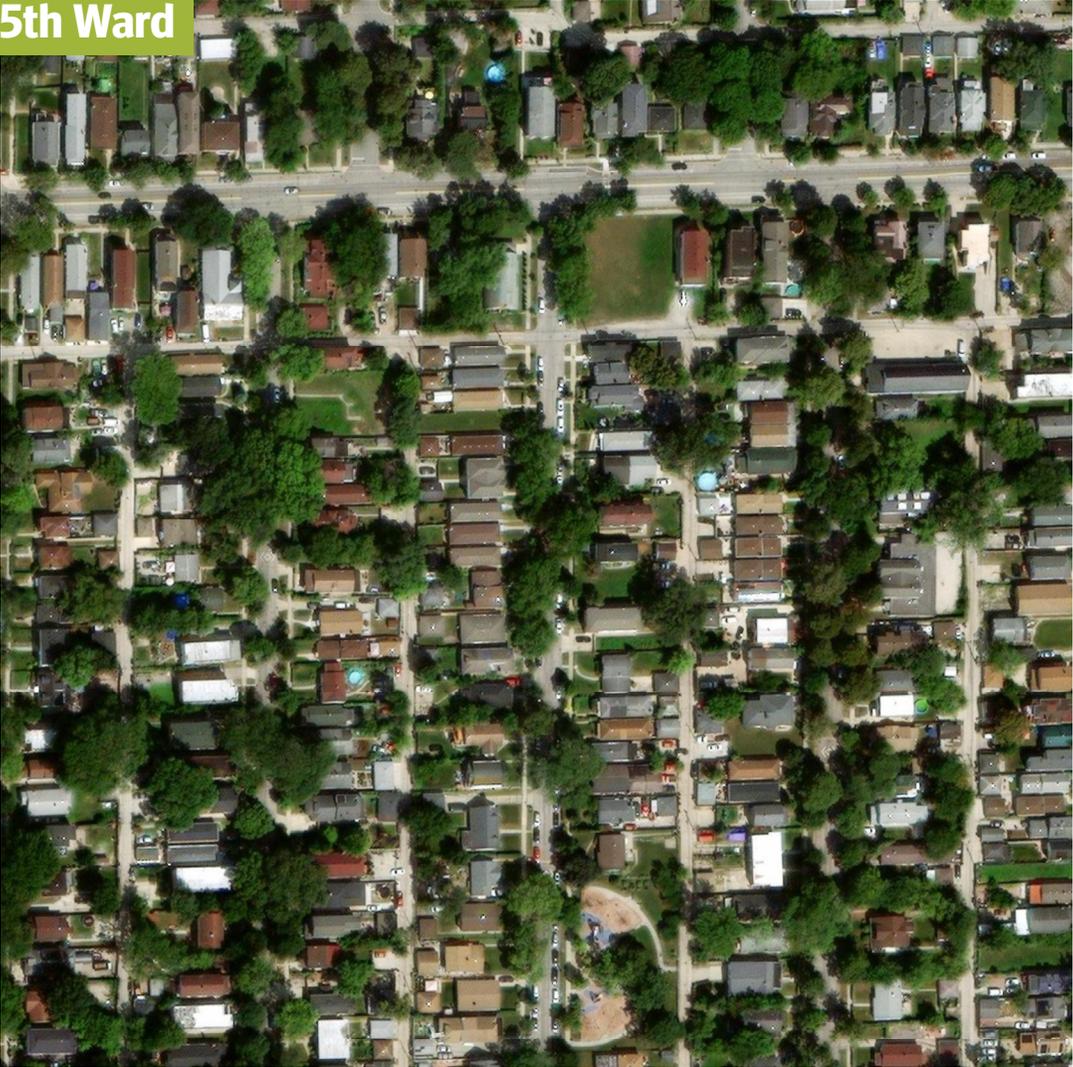
EXAMPLE: TREE CANOPY

PUBLIC TREE DISTRIBUTION AND HEALTH BY WARD

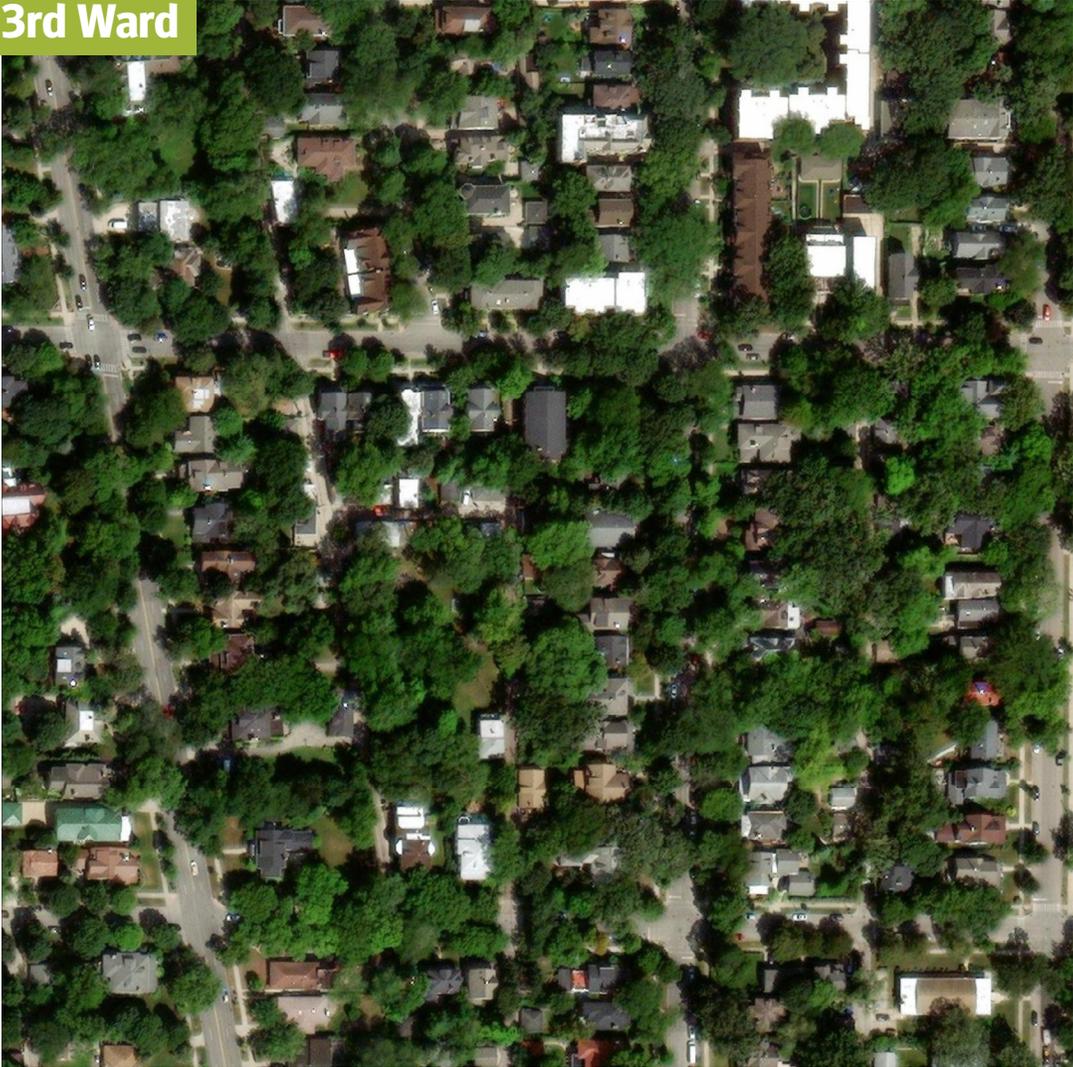


EXAMPLE: TREE CANOPY

5th Ward



3rd Ward



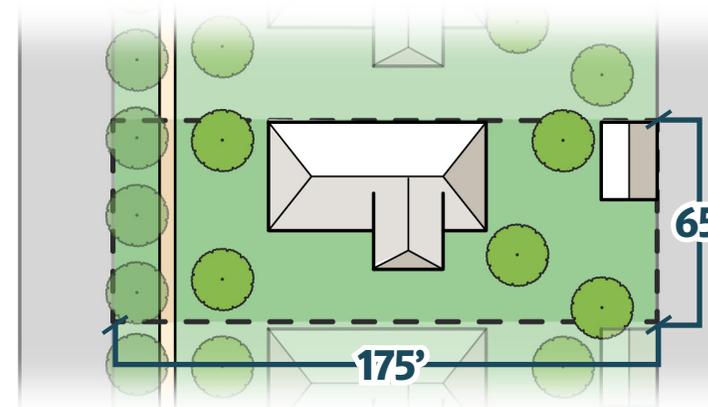
Aerial images are at the same scale

EXAMPLE: TREE CANOPY

- Trees located on private property make up about 70% of Evanston's urban forest
- Today, the **5th Ward has the lowest average lot size** among all wards, which means less space for private property owners to plant trees

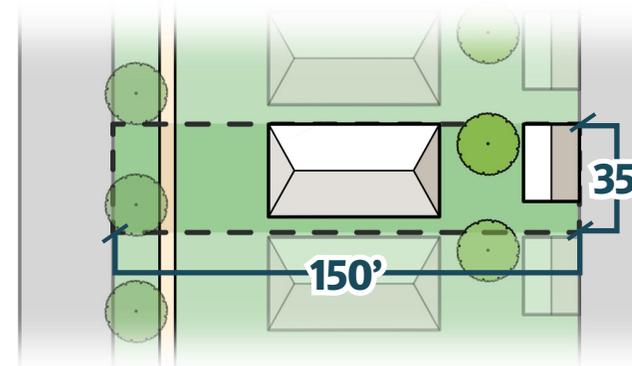
Typical Lot Sizes

3rd Ward



Roughly 73% of this lot is open space

5th Ward



Roughly 57% of this lot is open space

EXAMPLE: TREE CANOPY

DRAFT ACTIONS

OS.1

Develop an outreach program to inform property owners about the benefits of healthy trees on their property and parkway, especially for those eligible for street trees.



OS.2

Provide targeted technical assistance to property owners whose lots could support tree planting to help them choose an appropriate species, planting site, and to develop a tree maintenance plan.



EXAMPLE: TREE CANOPY

DRAFT ACTIONS

OS.3

Continue to prioritize public tree planting in areas with higher urban heat island effect and higher air pollution.



OS.6

Work with commercial and industrial property owners to identify potential green infrastructure for their sites and explore ways to increase tree canopy cover through the zoning code.



IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK



Change Maker



Who should lead this action? City, allied organizations, or households/individuals?

Potential Implementation Partners



What other groups or organizations can help implement this action?

Alignment



Are there existing plans, studies, or initiatives that reinforce this action?

Timeframe



Could this action be completed in the short-term (0-4 years), mid-term (5-9 years), or long-term (10+ years)? Or is it an ongoing effort without a completion date?

Metrics



What data can be tracked to measure progress toward this action?

TONIGHT'S ACTIVITY!

Community Services

Servicios Comunitarios

Instructions: Review the following draft actions. Then, use the dots to indicate your top priority actions and use the post-it notes to share anything you'd add or change.

DRAFT ACTIONS	PRIORITY
OS.1 Develop an outreach program to inform property owners about the benefits of healthy trees on their property and parkway, especially for those eligible for street trees.	Please add/drop/draw this as a priority for you.
OS.2 Provide targeted technical assistance to property owners whose lots could support tree planting to help them choose an appropriate species, planting site, and to develop a tree maintenance plan.	Please add/drop/draw this as a priority for you.
OS.3 Continue to prioritize public tree planting in areas with higher urban heat island effect and higher air pollution.	Please add/drop/draw this as a priority for you.
OS.4 Continue to build capacity among local community groups for sustainable care and maintenance of Evanston's open spaces and natural resources.	Please add/drop/draw this as a priority for you.
OS.5 Develop sustainable funding mechanisms to improve and maintain park facilities.	Please add/drop/draw this as a priority for you.
OS.6 Work with commercial and industrial property owners to identify potential green infrastructure for their sites and explore ways to increase tree canopy cover through the zoning code.	Please add/drop/draw this as a priority for you.
OS.7 Improve access to Evanston's beaches, especially for residents of the Focus Areas, youth, older adults, and people with disabilities.	Please add/drop/draw this as a priority for you.
OS.8 Pilot a green schoolyards project at a public school in the Focus Areas.	Please add/drop/draw this as a priority for you.
OS.9 Designate the identified Focus Areas as "Green Zones" to prioritize climate or environmental sustainability investments in those areas.	Please add/drop/draw this as a priority for you.
OS.10 Explore implementation of the Evanston Policy Racial Equity Scorecard for new policies and develop a tool to measure the environmental justice implications of all Capital Improvement Plan projects.	Please add/drop/draw this as a priority for you.





Are we missing anything? Is there anything you'd change?
Use the post-it notes to share your comments or thoughts below.

TOPIC

YOUR TOP 3 PRIORITIES!



WHAT ACTIONS DO YOU THINK WILL HAVE THE MOST IMPACT ON EQUITY & LIVABILITY FOR ALL EVANSTONIANS?

YOUR FEEDBACK!

Technical assistance is a great idea

What about adding more diverse park amenities?

TONIGHT'S ACTIVITY!

COMMUNITY COLLAGE

Use the materials at the station to show us:

What does *equity* mean in Evanston?

What values, characteristics, or qualities would a more equitable Evanston look like?

EQUITY

SHOW US WHAT EQUITY LOOKS LIKE TO YOU!

→ INSERT VISION HERE!



AFFORDABLE!

THANK YOU!