Accessibility to Environmentalism for BIPOC Youth in Seattle

Background
- Black, Indigenous and other youth of color (BIPOC) are experiencing nature deficit disorder
- Misconceptions about environmentalism when they are older
- The Greater Seattle Area has an abundance of green spaces, but that does not equate to equitable access

Research Question
In the greater Seattle area, how can we increase accessibility to green spaces and education for BIPOC youth?

Results
GIS Analysis

Results: Continued
Interview Challenges
- Lack of Funding
- Lack of Space
- Safety Concern
- Lack of Environmental Education
- Lack of connection

Solutions and Recommendations
Funding
- Transportation
- For stipends for youth to support themselves

Policy
- Enact environmental education in Washington State Schools
- Open available land

Education
- Youth-led
- Anti-racist programs
- Education about homelessness
- Expanding Outdoor Education

Networking
- Connect with other organizations
- BIPOC Leaders

Implications
- Much of the issues are rooted in our political system and becomes much more complex
- There is a need for more observations of how land usage and populations are connected in Washington
- Abundance of parks are better in certain parts of Seattle, but not everywhere
- Stronger support system for BIPOC youth

Internship and Methods
- I worked with Friends of Lincoln Park (FLiP) Winter 2021 on a 4000+ square foot site to from phase 1 to phase 3 of restoration and led volunteers
- Conducted semi-formal interviews to community organization members from GSP, City of Seattle, Forterra, and others via Zoom
- GIS data was used to observe land usage and demographics of Washington State

Figure 1. West facing, before and after of invasive removal of site in Lincoln Park
Figure 2. Tree Equity Score in Greater Seattle Area based on greenery, race, and income by American Forests
Figure 3. Land park boundaries in Washington State by Washington Geospatial
Figure 4. Washington State (Greater Seattle Area) demographics by American Community Survey
Figure 5. Washington State (Greater Seattle Area) low-income indicated in blue, more than average income in grey by American Community Survey
Figure 6. Overlay of American Forest and American Community Surveys

What does this mean?
- Poorly funded green spaces
- Green spaces are unwelcoming
- Not enough land usage data reported

Figure 2. GIS Analysis
Figure 3. Tree Equity Score in Greater Seattle Area
Figure 4. Washington State (Greater Seattle Area) demographics
Figure 5. Washington State (Greater Seattle Area) low-income indicated in blue, more than average income in grey
Figure 6. Overlay of American Forest and American Community Surveys

Background

Research Question

Results

Solution and Recommendations

Implications

Internship and Methods