SURF SUSTAINABLE REMEDIATION FORUM

An Unintended Consequence: Green Gentrification

The U.S. EPA's *E.O. 13985 Equity Action Plan* provides the "foundation on which to build meaningful engagement with underserved communities [and] achieve more equitable and just outcomes, including pollution reductions in communities with environmental justice concerns…" The *World Bank Group Climate Change Action Plan 2021–2025: Supporting Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development* recommends an approach centered on people "…to ensure that gains and losses from the transition to a low-carbon, resilient economy are shared equitably." Here, the World Bank Group acknowledges that improved equity is not inevitable. Environmental remediation, wetlands restoration, and other environmental improvements (e.g., addition of green space or a park) tend to increase property values and attract wealthier residents. When performed in underserved communities without integrating

strategies that focus on anti-displacement measures and access, the unintended consequence of green gentrification emerges. “Dive In!” provides some resources to help explain this concept and demonstrate how green gentrification exacerbates pre-existing social and economic inequalities in cities.

Dive In! Learn About Green Gentrification... And Strategies to Minimize It

A quick search on the Internet and you’ll find yourself swimming in publications about green gentrification. Below is a sampling. Obviously, this list is not exhaustive; the intent here is to provide readers with more information about the complexities and challenges associated with green gentrification and how to address it.

- “Green Gentrification in European and North American Cities”
  Anguelovski I., et al.; *Nat Commun*. 13(1): 3816; July 2022
- *Green Gentrification: Urban Sustainability and the Struggle for Environmental Justice*
  Gould, K.A. and Lewis, T.L.; 192 pages; 2016
- “Understanding Climate Gentrification and Shifting Landscapes of Protection and Vulnerability in Green Resilient Philadelphia”
  Shokry, G., et al.; *Urban Climate*, Vol. 31; March 2020
- *Greening without Gentrification: Learning from Parks-Related Anti-Displacement Strategies Nationwide*
  Rigolon A. and Christensen J.; 5 pages; 2019

- “Commentary: How to Prevent City Climate Action from Becoming ‘Green Gentrification’”
  M. Hart, et al.; *Insights*, World Resources Institute; December 12, 2019
- *Healthy Development Without Displacement: Realizing the Vision of Healthy Communities for All*
  Aboelata, M.J., et al.; Prevention Institute; August 2017

Did You Know? Student Projects Tackle Shoreline Erosion and PFAS Treatment (Among Others)

Congratulations to the winners of the U.S. EPA’s annual People, Prosperity, and the Planet (P3) Student Design Competition! In total, the EPA awarded nearly $400,000 in funding to 16 student teams for their research and innovative solutions to address environmental and public health challenges. A few of the winning designs are listed below; for a full list and links to detailed project information, click here.

- Making extreme-event-stable shorelines with hyacinth
- Designing, fabricating, and testing a point-of-use drinking water treatment system targeting PFAS contamination
- Developing the Chemical Health Risk Identification System (CHRIS) for drinking water sources
- Enhancing the anion-exchange capacity of biochar for PFAS stabilization in soil
- Providing open source, networked sensors for lead monitoring

Upcoming Events

SURF Technical Initiative: Environmental Justice Kickoff Call

August 4, 2022

2 PM - 3 PM ET

If interested, email Kyle Waldron (click here).

Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series: Mitigating Urban Heat Threats Through A Community-Driven Framework

August 10, 2022

1 PM - 2:15 PM ET

For more information or a webinar participation link, click here.