



CDPH

Equity in the Urban Forest & Public Health











Chicago's Urban Forest

Trees are a critical piece of public infrastructure

- Trees provide multiple public health, environmental, social, and economic benefits

Our trees are not equitably distributed

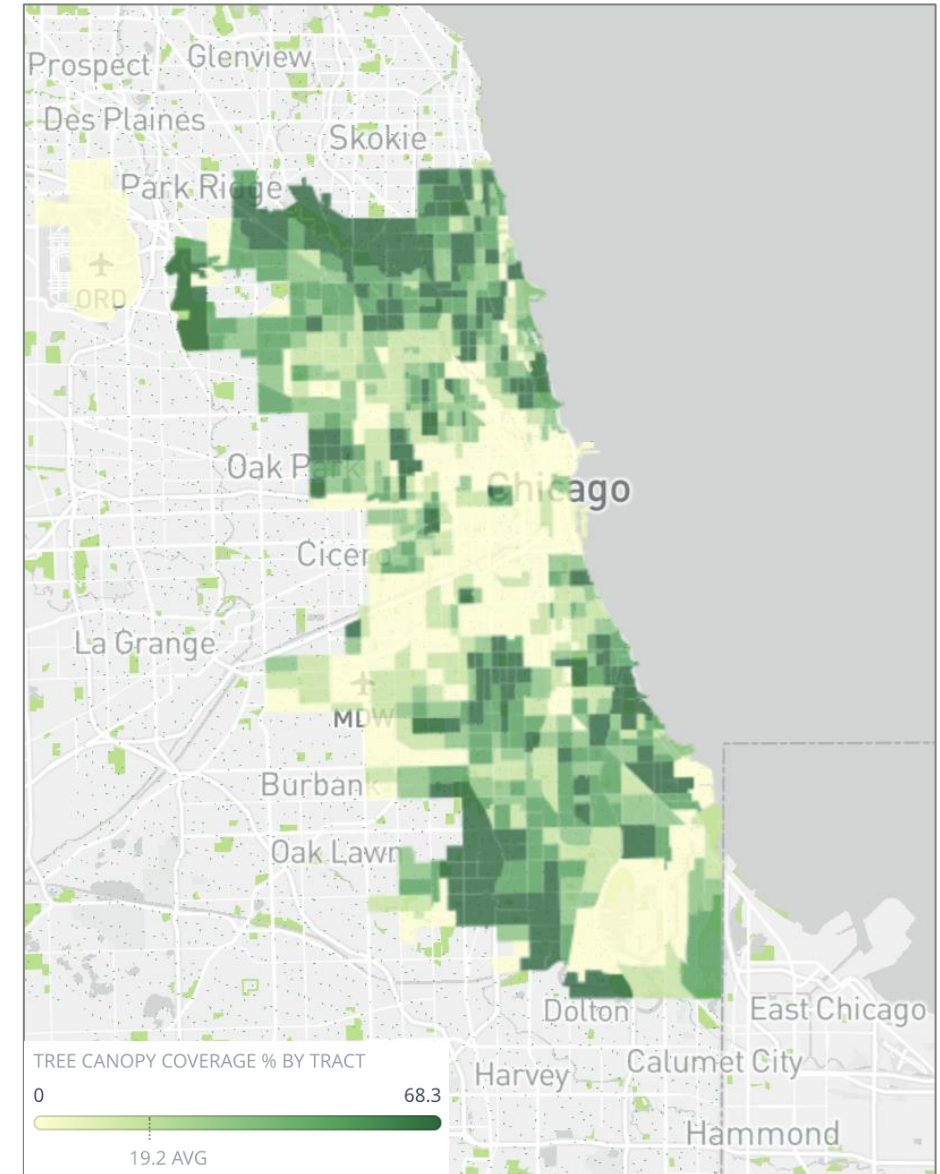
- Redlining, Historically Underfunded, Unjust Practices

Continual loss of trees

- Disease, climate change/extreme weather, development, and removal

Many trees are not reaching the mature state that delivers the most benefits

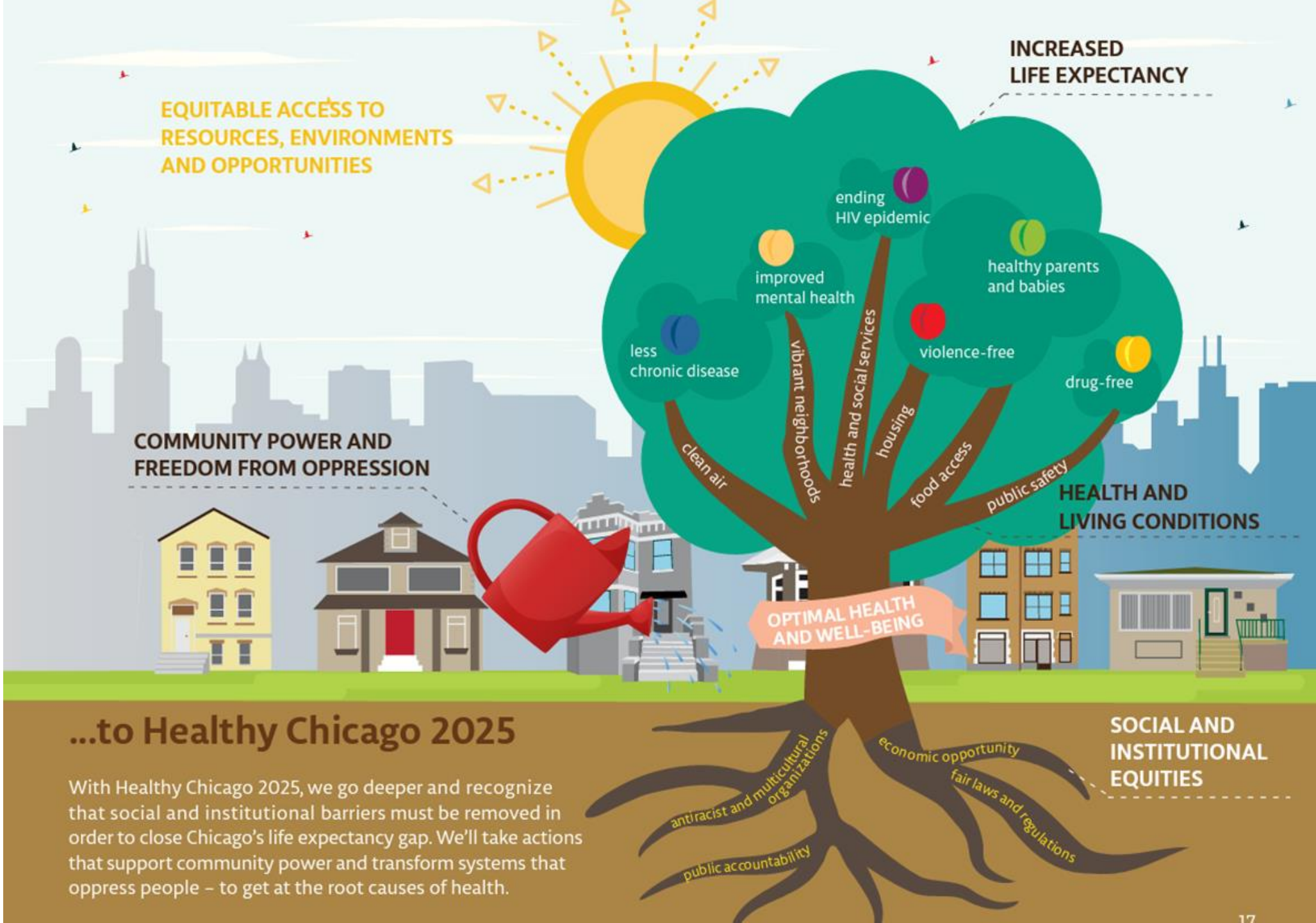
There is a strong, diverse & proactive group of community stakeholders and advocates





HEALTHY CHICAGO 2025 VISION

A city where **all** people and **all** communities have power, are free from oppression and are strengthened by equitable access to resources, **environments** and opportunities that **promote optimal health and well-being.**





Why Trees & Public Health

- CDPH's citywide community health improvement plan, Healthy Chicago 2025, to **close the 10-year life expectancy gap** between black and white Chicagoans by addressing the root causes of health.
- **All** communities should have **equitable access to environments** that promote optimal health and well-being.
- To further the health of neighborhoods, the City of Chicago has adopted a **“health in all policies”** approach to make sure that the government works with communities to shape our social, economic, and physical environments in ways that promote health and racial equity.
- Urban Forestry aligns with **improving neighborhood environments** and is one way to address this vision.
- The **intersection between public health equity & tree equity** meet at the correlation between redlined areas, PM2.5, Asthma, Social Vulnerability, Economic Hardship, Flooding Susceptibility, Surface Temperature, and Traffic and Tree Canopy.



Tree LiDAR Data

Tree data visualization tool **complements on the ground community experience** to prioritize the planting of trees in areas of Chicago where the benefits of trees are most needed.

By looking at tree canopy coverage and overlaying public health indicators with surface temperature, and air quality data, the City is further able to analyze and prioritize tree planting at the census tract level.

Polygon data digitized as trees from LIDAR raw sonar data, originally processed by the University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Laboratory, data provided courtesy of CRTI and funded by the Morton Arboretum, US Forest Service, and American Forests, with additional support provided by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago Field Museum, and the Spatial Analysis Laboratory at the University of Vermont. Cleaned, processed, and aggregated to census tract scale by the Health Regions and Policies Lab.



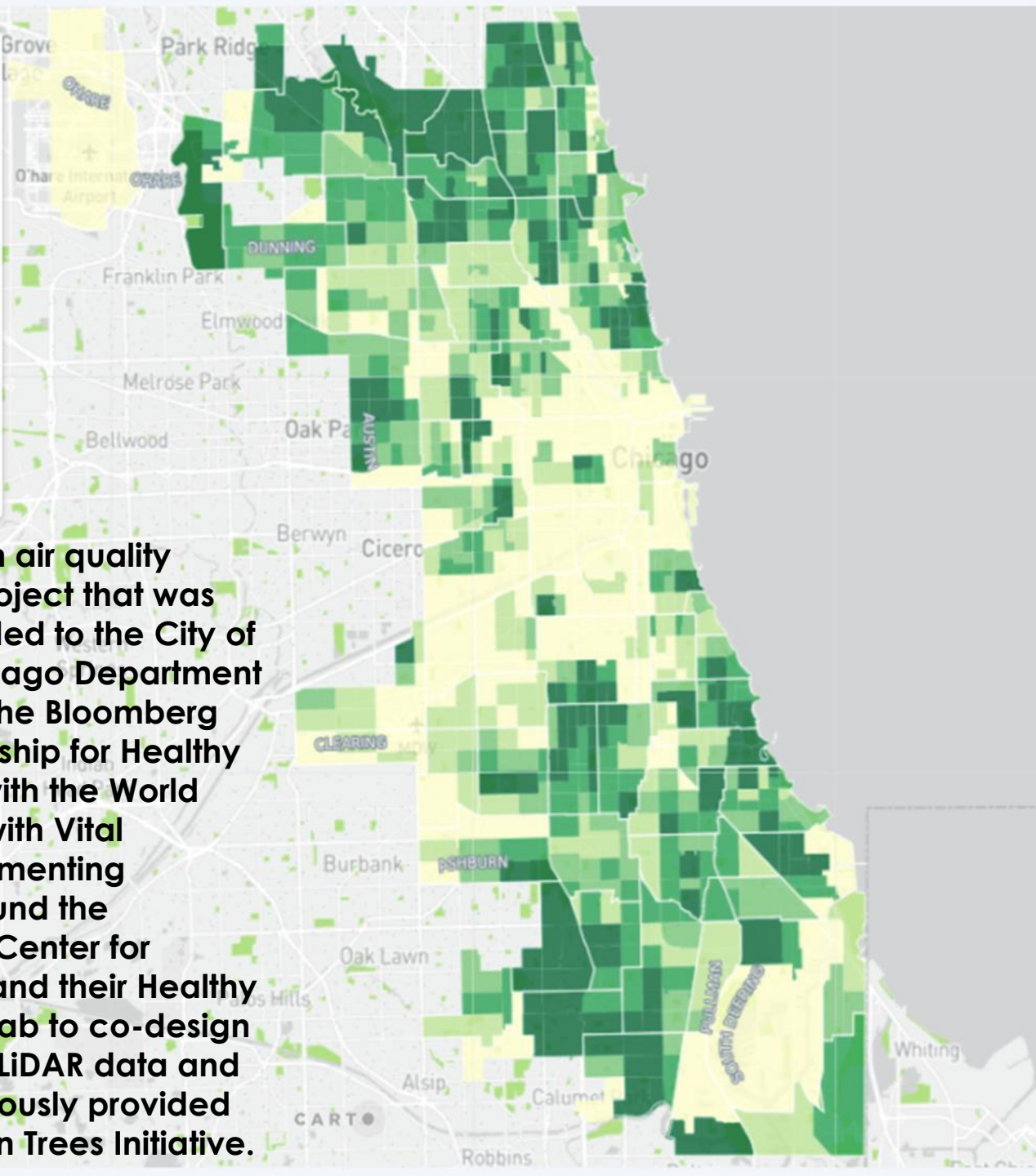
- City Owned Property
- Community Areas
- Wards
- Tree Canopy Coverage

TREE CANOPY COVERAGE % BY TRACT

0 68.3

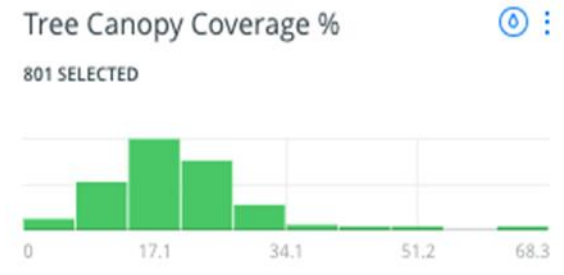
19.2 AVG

- Summer PM 2.5
- Surface Temperature
- Traffic Volume
- Social Vulnerability Index



Population
2,741,193

Trees
1,710,860



Community

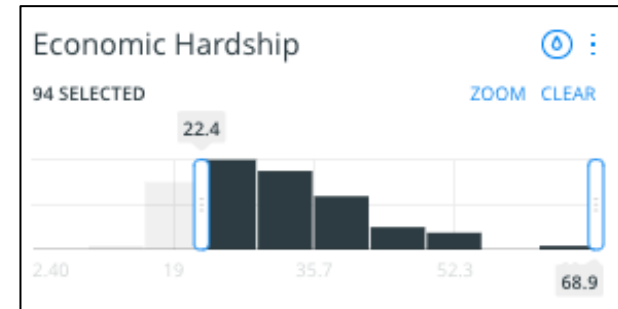
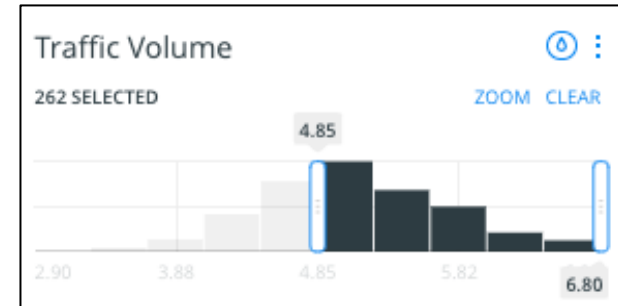
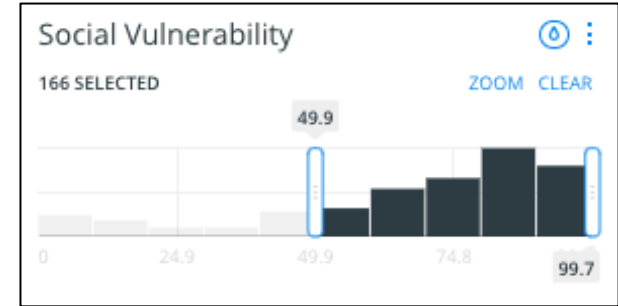
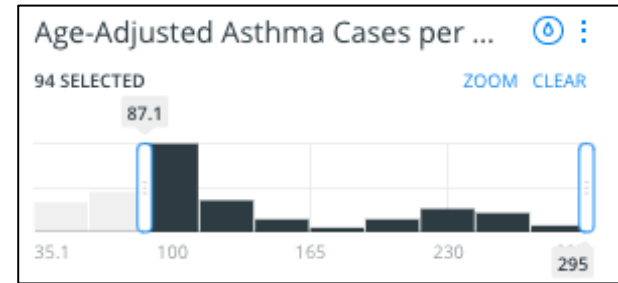
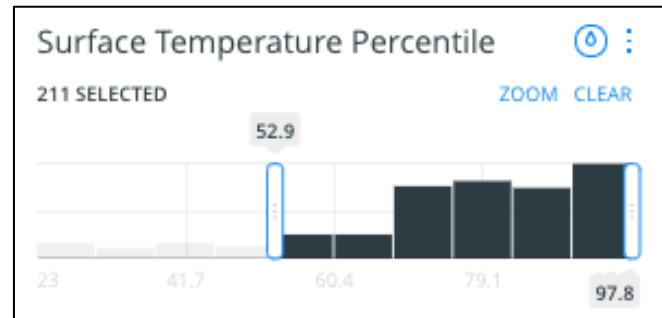
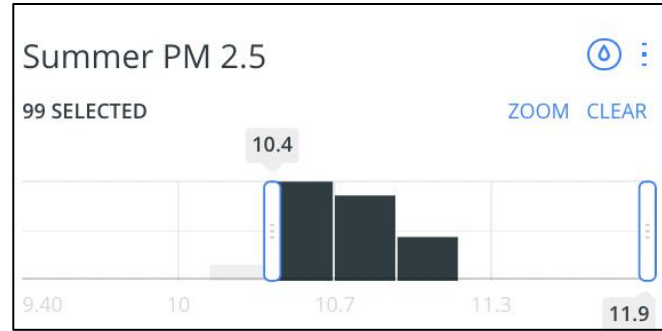
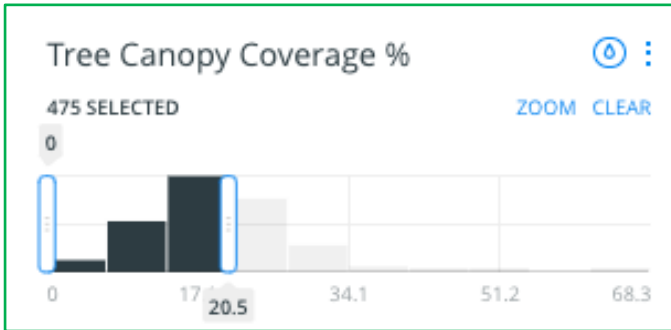
ALL SELECTED

LAKE VIEW	34
WEST TOWN	31
LOGAN SQUARE	27
AUSTIN	24
LINCOLN PARK	20
OTHER	665

SEARCH IN 77 CATEGORIES

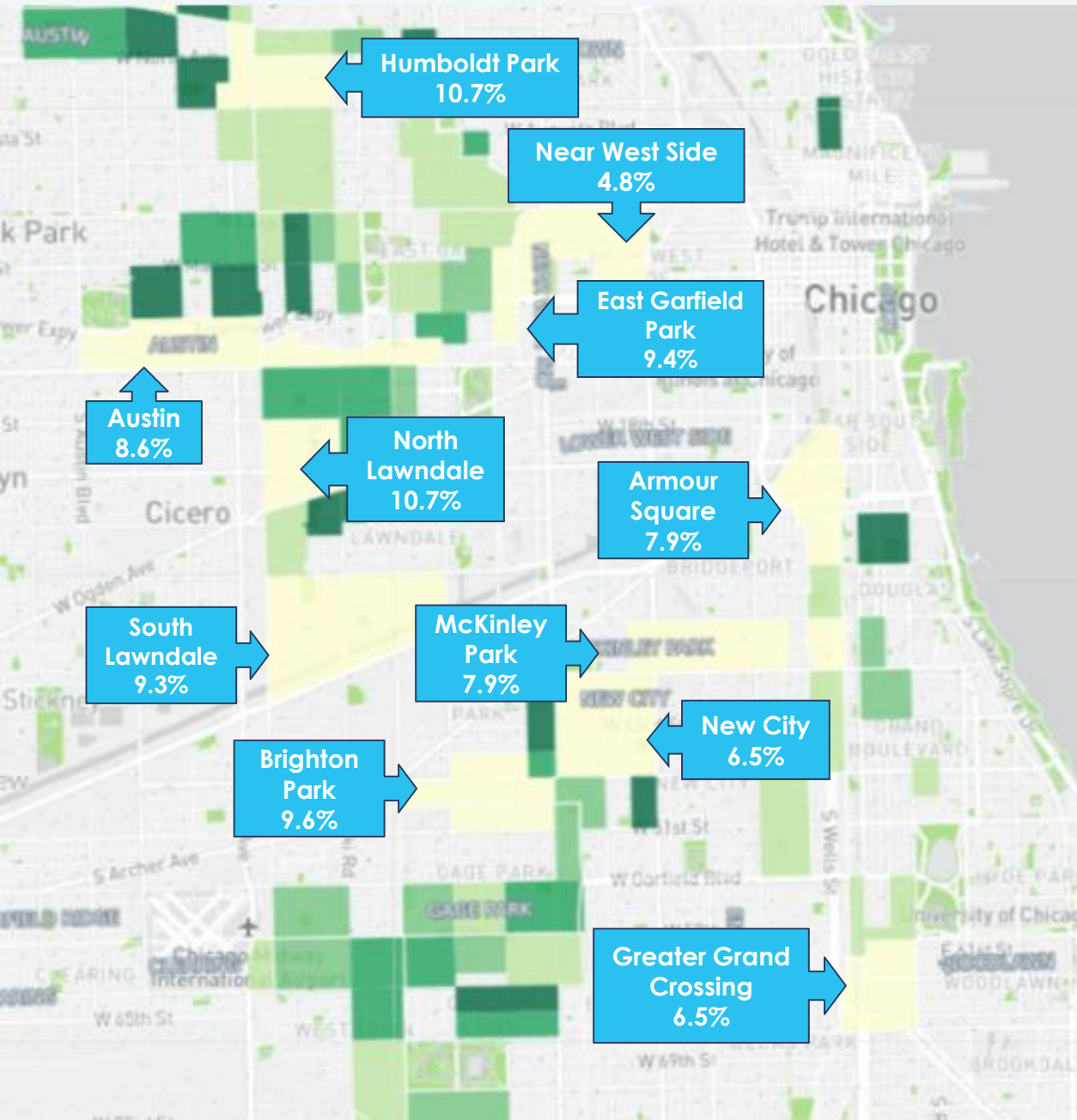
This tool was part of an air quality surveillance 3-year project that was applied by and awarded to the City of Chicago and the Chicago Department of Public Health from the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Partnership for Healthy Cities, in partnership with the World Health Organization, with Vital Strategies as an implementing technical partner, to fund the University of Chicago Center for Spatial Data Science and their Healthy Regions and Policies Lab to co-design its development. Tree LiDAR data and advisement was graciously provided by the Chicago Region Trees Initiative.

Indicators



Tree Canopy Coverage by Neighborhood

(citywide average is 16%)



Community Tree Equity

Highest social vulnerability

+

Worst flooding susceptibility

+

Most severe economic hardship

+

Highest traffic volumes

+

Most age-adjusted asthma cases

+

Highest surface temperatures

+

Lowest tree canopy coverage

=

Priority communities for equity tree planting, maintenance, community engagement & job training

Equitable Expansion of Trees Through: Community Partners, Education, Planting, Maintenance, Modernizing Information Technology, Contracting, & Policies



The screenshot shows the Chicago Office of the Mayor website. At the top left is the Chicago logo (a blue square and a red star) and the word "CHICAGO". To the right is an "Accessibility" section with a search bar. Below the logo is a navigation menu with "I WANT TO", "PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES", "GOVERNMENT", and "ABOUT". On the right of the menu is a "TRANSLATE" button. The main header area is blue with the text "Office of the Mayor". Below this is another navigation menu with "Press Room", "Highlights", "Partnerships", and "Chicago Wards". A breadcrumb trail reads: "Home / Departments / Office of the Mayor / Press Room / Press Releases / Mayor Lightfoot Announces Historic Investment in Tree Equity in Recently Passed Budget". The date "November 4, 2021" is displayed. The main headline is "Mayor Lightfoot Announces Historic Investment in Tree Equity in Recently Passed Budget". The sub-headline is "\$46 million out of the \$188 million in environmental justice and climate action budget will go to planting and maintaining 75,000 trees over 5 years". Below the sub-headline is the contact information: "Mayor's Press Office 312.744.3334" and a link to "Download this Press Release". At the bottom is a short paragraph of text: "CHICAGO - Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot highlighted a historic expansion and reorientation of the city's tree-planting operations, funded by \$46 million in city funding. As part of the Mayor's new tree equity strategy, the city will plant 75,000 trees across the city over the next 5 years. This represents a doubling in tree planting over the previous year. The tree equity strategy will prioritize the planting of trees in historically marginalized and underserved communities, equitably conveying ecosystem benefits to communities disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis. This effort will help meet the City's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement, environmental justice, and equity."

- **Prioritize** planting trees in historically marginalized and underserved communities, equitably conveying ecosystem benefits to communities disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis.
- This effort will help meet the City's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement, environmental justice, and equity.



Tree Equity Strategy

1 Plant trees where they are most needed

Use data and community to ID where trees are most needed for improving health and equity outcomes and work with community partners to locate and prioritize specific sites to plant new trees using a modified use of the 311 mobile app

- **Tree Equity Working Group**

2 Increase stewardship of public trees

Create a robust training model for community partners for tree care and education

- **Community Tree Ambassadors**

3 Engage communities on the benefits of trees

Roll out community designed campaign to engage residents about the value of trees in their communities through their storytelling

- **Our Roots Chicago**

Community Tree Equity Working Group

American Forests
Blacks in Green
Bloomberg Associates
Chicago Parks Department
City of Chicago Department of
Public Health
City of Chicago Department of
Streets and Sanitation Bureau of
Forestry
City of Chicago Mayor's Office
City of Chicago Sustainability
Office
Chicago Muslims Green Team
Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Chicago Wilderness
Coalition for a Better Chinese
American Community

Galewood Neighbors, Inc.
I Am Able Center
Illinois Environmental Council
Imani Village
Latinos Progresando
Lincoln Park Zoo
LUCHA
Metropolitan Water Reclamation
District of Greater Chicago
Mi Villita Neighbors
Nordson Green Earth Foundation
North Lawndale Greening
Committee
North Lawndale Community
Coordinating Council's Greening
Open Space Water Soil and
Sustainability (NLCCC/GROWSS)

Openlands
Rush University Medical Center
Save Your Ash
Stone Temple Missionary Baptist
Church
The Climate Reality Project
Chicago Metro Chapter
The Nature Conservancy
The Nature, Culture, and Human
Health
The Partnership for Healthy Cities
The Southwest Collective
The Student Conservation
Association
The Trust for Public Land
US Forest Service
Walder Foundation

Meets monthly since August 2021



Community Partners



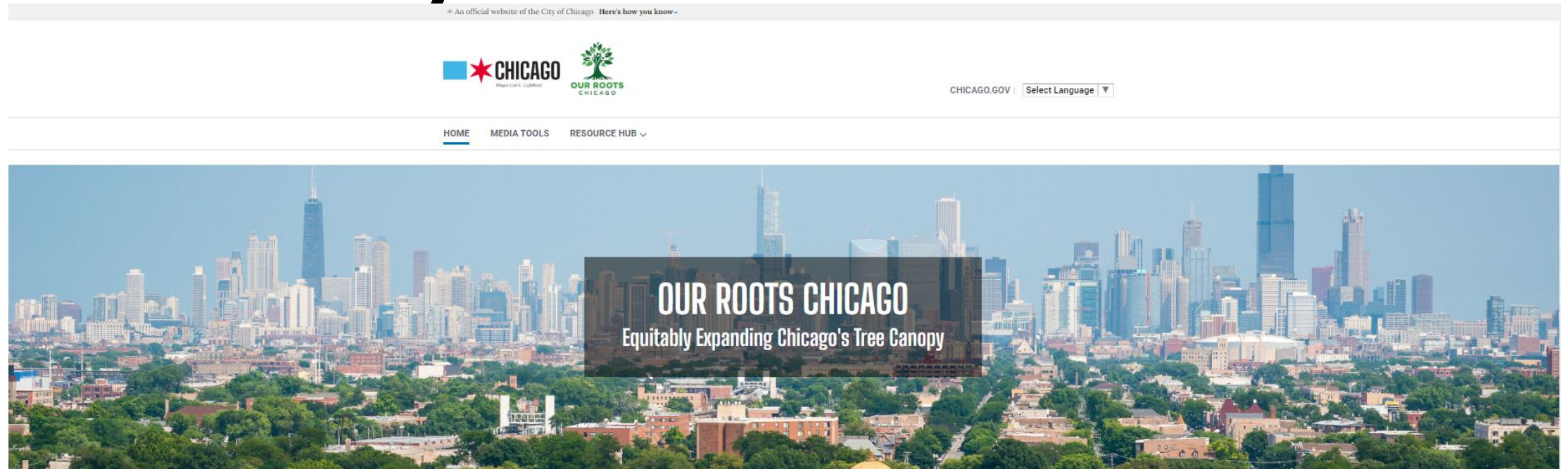
★ Community Led Logo Design



Our Roots Chicago Kickoff: Arbor Day



Community-Driven Content: Website



PURPOSE



Chicago continues to work toward creating resilient and sustainable communities across the city. Joining 96 cities around the world, the City of Chicago has updated its Climate Action Plan to reflect the bold action needed to protect and strengthen communities-locally and globally.

With historic investments coming in 2022, Chicago is ready to strengthen partnerships and programs across the city to expand access to green space, reduce carbon emissions, and connect residents to meaningful resources and services.

One of the ways we are carrying out our Climate Action Plan here in Chicago is through Our Roots Chicago project. Our goal is to expand the tree canopy in Chicago through an equitable approach to every neighborhood in Chicago leaving no neighborhood behind.

Community-Driven Content: Tools

MEDIA TOOLS

Let's Talk About Trees!

Tree Break and Tree Removal: ...

Trees Increase Value: ...

Trees are High Maintenance and Costly to Maintain: ...

Planting more trees will disrupt our natural ecosystem: ...

Trees can damage your home and property: ...

Now that you know the facts, find more information on how you can request a free parkway tree by visiting chicago.gov/OurRoots

FAQ One-Sheet:

Let's Talk About Trees!

Languages:

English | Arabic | Chinese

Polish | Spanish

Date: 5/4/2022

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

PLANT A TREE. Together we can create a sustainable future.

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.*

*restrictions apply

Social Media:

Plant a tree

Languages:

English | Arabic | Chinese

Polish | Spanish

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

Do it for HYDE PARK. Plant a tree and help our community grow.

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.*

*restrictions apply

Available on the chicago.gov/OurRoots app.

Social Media:

Do it for (your community)

Find the graphic for your community:

"Do it for..." Social Media Community package (.zip)

Date: 4/28/2022

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

Planting trees helps our communities grow.

- improve air quality
- increase property value
- Save money on air conditioning
- Reduce flooding
- improve health and wellbeing

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.*

*restrictions apply

Social Media:

Planting trees help our community grow

Languages:

English | Arabic | Chinese

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

It begins with one tree. Plant a tree, make a positive impact.

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.*

*restrictions apply

Available on the chicago.gov/OurRoots app.

Social Media:

It begins with one tree

Languages:

English | Arabic | Chinese

Polish | Spanish

Updated: 5/6/2022

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

More healthy trees means healthier communities.

Planting trees improves air quality, provides shade and cool air, and reduces stress.

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.*

*restrictions apply

Social Media:

Our Roots Chicago

Languages:

English | Arabic | Chinese

Polish | Spanish

LET'S TALK ABOUT TREES!

Setting the record straight on what I've heard about trees.

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

Available on the chicago.gov/OurRoots app.

Social Media:

Let's Talk About Trees!

Languages:

- English

Date: 4/27/2022

I've heard... Trees create plumbing issues.

What actually happens... Tree roots do not break underground pipes, but rather, broken drain pipes can attract tree roots seeking moisture.

Did you know that tree roots only go down 2-3 feet?

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

Available on the chicago.gov/OurRoots app.

Social Media:

I've Heard... Trees Create Plumbing Issues

Languages:

- English

Date: 4/27/2022

I've heard... Trees increase crime.

Actually... There are no scientific studies that prove that trees increase crime. Studies actually show that tree lined streets have lower crime rates.

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

Available on the chicago.gov/OurRoots app.

Social Media:

I've Heard... Trees Increase Crime

Languages:

- English

Date: 4/27/2022

I've heard... Trees are dangerous for homes. They can damage property.

The facts are... Trees can lower your air conditioning costs by providing shade and lowering air temperature. Trees can block cold winds in the winter lowering your heating costs. Trees that aren't properly maintained may have weaker limbs. The City will trim your parkway tree at no cost to you. Visit 311.chicago.gov to request service.

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

Available on the chicago.gov/OurRoots app.

Social Media:

I've Heard... Trees Are Dangerous For Homes

Languages:

- English

Date: 4/27/2022

I've heard... Planting more trees will disrupt our natural ecosystem.

The fact is... Trees provide oxygen, improve air quality, help keep soil in place, and absorb water which prevents flooding. Trees also absorb carbon and attract a lot of wildlife such as birds that feed on insects like mosquitoes.

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

Available on the chicago.gov/OurRoots app.

Social Media:

I've Heard... Planting More Trees Will Disrupt Our Natural Ecosystem

Languages:

- English

Date: 4/27/2022

OUR ROOTS CHICAGO

It begins with one tree. Plant a tree, make a positive impact.

Call 3-1-1 to request a free parkway tree in front of your home.*

*restrictions apply

Available on the chicago.gov/OurRoots mobile app.

Available on the chicago.gov/OurRoots app.

Social Media:

It Begins With One Tree

Languages:

- English

Date: 4/27/2022



Date: _____

311 Service Request Number: _____

A New Tree Is Coming Soon! A tree planting site(s) has been approved in the public parkway in front of your home/business. The complete tree planting service (site prep, planting, mulching, and 2 years of maintenance) is being provided free of charge as part of the city's **Our Roots Chicago** program.

Our Roots Chicago has the goal of planting 75,000 parkway trees across Chicago by 2026. More healthy trees means healthier communities. Making these investments today will provide benefits to Chicago's neighborhoods for years to come.

TREES DO:

- Improve air quality
- Reduce flooding
- Increase property values
- Provide shade
- Save money on air conditioning
- Lower stress levels

TREES DO NOT:

- Break underground pipes; broken drain pipes can attract tree roots seeking moisture
- Increase crime; tree lined streets have lower crime rates!
- Cause danger or damage property (if properly maintained)

For more info on **Our Roots Chicago**, please visit Chicago.Gov/OurRoots

If you do not want a tree planted, or if you want to request a particular species, please call 311 within 60 days to cancel/modify the service request (number included above).





Community-Driven Content: Myths



WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT TREES

I've heard that...

Trees break and crack sidewalks and create plumbing issues



Tree roots do not break pipes; rather, broken pipes attract tree roots due to moisture in the pipes.

Did you know that tree roots only go down 2-3 feet?

Trees increase crime



Trees are high maintenance and costly to maintain



Planting more trees will disrupt our natural ecosystem



Trees are dangerous for homes. They can damage property





Train the Trainers: Class





Train the Trainers: Field

Tree Ambassadors Training

Created for CBOs to increase parkway tree planting through a modified CHI311 mobile app entry to speed planting in priority neighborhoods while they engaging residents on the benefits of trees.

TRAINED TO:

- Survey based on City Landscape Ordinance to submit potential tree planting sites in their communities on behalf of residents that agree to a free City tree planting warranted for 2 years.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN TREE EDUCATION:

- They develop their own culturally relevant tree care and education materials with the help of either the City and/or Conservation Partners if needed (e.g., marketing, workshops, conversations, storytelling to residents, etc.)

TREE AMBASSADORS ARE NOT TRAINED TO:

- Plant, Mulch, Trim, ID Trees Species, Study Plant Biophysiology, Soil, or ID Pathogens

Community Tree Ambassadors in Little Village

VECINOS DE LA VILLITA

ESTA PRIMAVERA

!Te invitamos a plantar arboles!

!AYUDALOS!

COMO ELLOS LO HACEN CON NOSOTROS:



En Chicago el alcantarillado, tuberías de agua y gas son profundas.
No se preocupe, las raíces de los árboles NO rompen
las líneas de alcantarillado de su casa

Info: mi.villita.org@gmail.com

2856 S. Millard Ave., Basement, Chicago, IL. 60623

 <https://www.facebook.com/mi.villita.90>

 [@VillitaMi](https://twitter.com/VillitaMi)

 <https://www.instagram.com/mivillitamicomunidad/>

 (312) 772-5284

★ Community Tree Ambassadors





Community Tree Ambassadors





Future Community Tree



The logo for 'OUR ROOTS CHICAGO' is centered on the slide. It features a stylized tree where the trunk and branches are formed by silhouettes of people holding hands. The leaves are represented by green circles. Below the tree, the words 'OUR ROOTS' are written in a large, bold, green sans-serif font, and 'CHICAGO' is written below it in a smaller, green sans-serif font.

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