PS 156 Waverly and LS 392 Brooklyn, NY
We saw these barren asphalt schoolyards and we recognized an amazing opportunity to reinvent them as vibrant city parks.
Photo by: Joe Martinez

About Us

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND™

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

Access to the outdoors is a **fundamental human need and essential to our health and well-being.**

PEOPLE NEED PARKS.

Communities that place a high value on
OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ARE

HEALTHIER

MORE RESLIENT

MORE EQUITABLE

OUR COMMITMENTS

HEALTH

We create opportunities for everyone to experience the physical and mental health benefits nature provides, from close-to-home parks to awe inspiring outdoor experiences.

EQUITY

Everyone needs access to the benefits of nature. Working hand in hand with communities, we are closing the park equity gap by creating parks and protecting land where it's needed most.
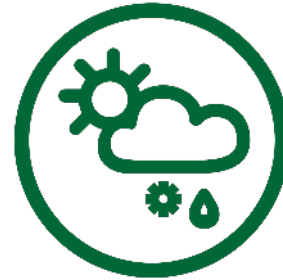
CLIMATE

The parks we create and the lands we protect safeguard people from extreme heat, poor air and water quality, flooding, and sea level rise, making communities more resilient and prepared for change.

COMMUNITY

We work alongside community members and leaders to create, protect and advance the outdoor places and spaces that are essential to everyone's well-being.

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OUR INITIATIVES

LANDS

We work with landowners, partner groups and public agencies to acquire, create access to, and secure public ownership and stewardship of the lands and waters that make our communities great places to live, work, and play.

TRAILS

Working with communities, we are creating and protecting trail systems across the country. Urban, suburban, and rural trails connect people to nature, recreation, schools, workplaces, and their broader neighborhood.

PARKS

Working alongside youth and community members, equitable development entities and builders, we create parks that reflect and serve local communities and connect people to nature and to each other.

SCHOOLYARDS

We work in partnership with students, parents, and communities to redesign and create schoolyards that are open to the public, serving as a hub for community empowerment, improved health and education, and climate resiliency.

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OUR TOOLKIT

ADVOCACY

DATA AND INSIGHT

FUNDING AND LEVERAGE

PUBLIC LAND FOR PUBLIC GOOD

PARK CREATION AND TRANSFORMATION

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND™

10 Minute Walk

- Raises profile of park equity on the public agenda

- Works directly with cities and mayors to advance park equity

- New website including mayors' toolkit launching August 23.

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Our Work in Illinois

Chicago Projects

- Supporting the green and open space goals of Chicago neighborhoods

- Chicago Infrastructure Reuse Network

- Forest Preserves of Cook County Ballot Initiative

- Natural Solutions Tool

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WACA Court

- Located at Ogden and Drake in the North Lawndale neighborhood on Chicago's west side.

- Owned by the West Side Association for Community Action, a 50-year-old non-profit that supports youth development.

- Once an active site for community gatherings, budget cuts led to its current state of disrepair.

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Chicago Infrastructure Reuse Network

VOTE YES

for Clean Air, Clean Water, and Wildlife in Cook County

On Election Day, November 8th, Cook County voters will have the opportunity to vote yes to protect clean water sources, air quality, and wildlife for our residents to enjoy for generations to come.
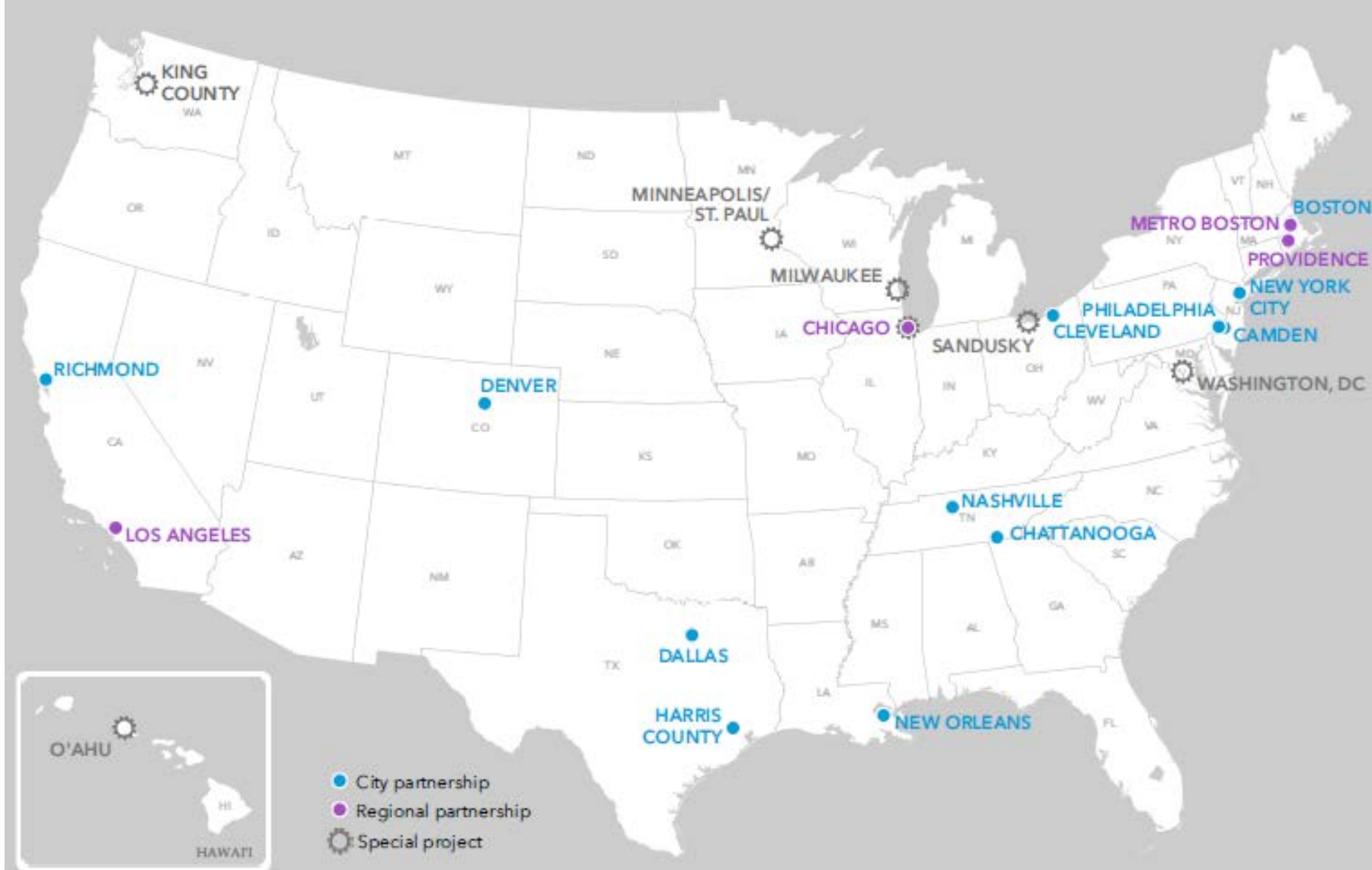
JOIN US

TRUST FOR **PUBLIC LAND**™

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

Voteyesforestpreserves.org

Natural solutions tool overview

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND™

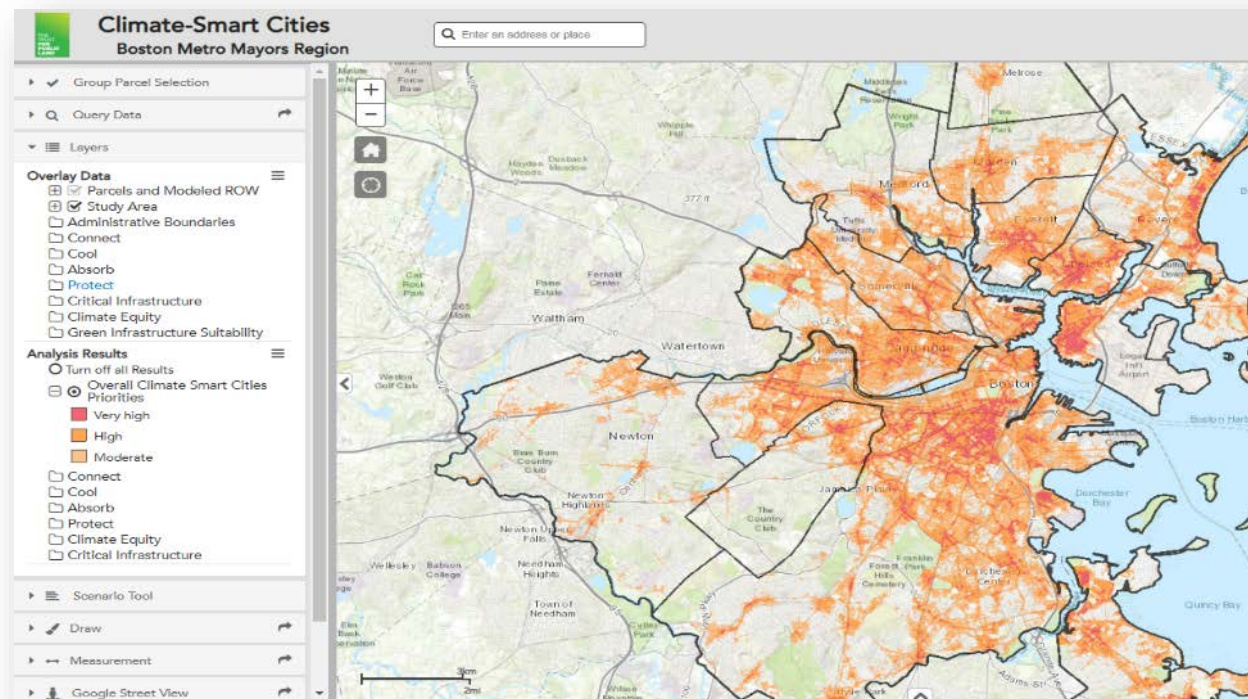Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

Climate Smart Cities

Existing partnerships

What is the Natural Solutions Tool?

Tool functionality

- Overlay data

- Analysis results

- Parcel-level analysis and reports

- Scenario tool

- Query parcels and ROWs

- 10-min walk impact report

Natural Solutions Tool: project workflow

Discover
Connect with stakeholders and communities to understand opportunities and inputs for the tool.

December 2021 - February 2022

Build
With guidance from the Technical Advisory Team of stakeholders, build, review, and refine the analysis results and GIS tool interface.

March 2022 - October 2022

Integrate
Connect with tool users to integrate anlaysis results into decision making processes for communities and government decision makers.

November 2022 +

Discovery process

Interviews

Public Entities	Organizations + Private Sector
Chicago City Council	Alliance for the Great Lakes
Chicago Dept. of Planning and Development	Arcadis
Chicago Dept. of Public Health	Center for Neighborhood Technology
Chicago Dept. of Transportation	Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Chicago Mayor's Office (Environment & Sustainability)	Chicago Wilderness
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning	Current
Cook County Dept. of Environment and Sustainability	Delta Institute
Cook County Dept. of Planning and Development	Field Museum
Cook County Dept. of Transportation and Highways	Geosyntec
Cook County Emergency Management	GreenPrint Partners
Forest Preserves of Cook County	Metropolitan Planning Council
Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources	NeighborSpace
Lake County Forest Preserves	OAI
Lake County Stormwater Management Commission	Openlands
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District	Right of Ways as Habitat Working Group
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association	The Nature Conservancy
University of Illinois – Urbana Champaign	The Wetlands Initiative
	Walder Foundation

Identified data hubs and resources

Data Hubs (a partial list)	Data Layers and Tools (a partial list)
Chicago Data Portal	Calumet Connect Databook
Chicago Wilderness Hub	Calumet Reinvestment Mapping Tool
CMAP Data Hub	Chicago Health Atlas
Cook Central: Data Hub For Cook County	CNT Urban Flooding Baseline Project
Dupage County Maps & Application Portal	Green Infrastructure Vision 2.3: Ecosystem Service Valuation
Lake County, IL Open Data & Records Hub	Illinois State Water Survey
MWRD Geohub	Lake County Wetland Restoration And Preservation Plan Decision Support Tool
South Suburban Mayors And Managers Association GIS Portal	Productive Landscapes Public Web App
Will County GIS Division	The Chicago Region Stewardship Mapping And Assessment Project
	Tree Equity Working Group and Tree Equity Tool

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What we heard

Major uses of the tool

- Support collaboration across agencies and jurisdictions
- Centralize key datasets and decision-making guidance
- Guide a data-driven and regional approach to planning
- Maximize the ability of capital investments to provide climate, health, equity, and biodiversity outcomes simultaneously
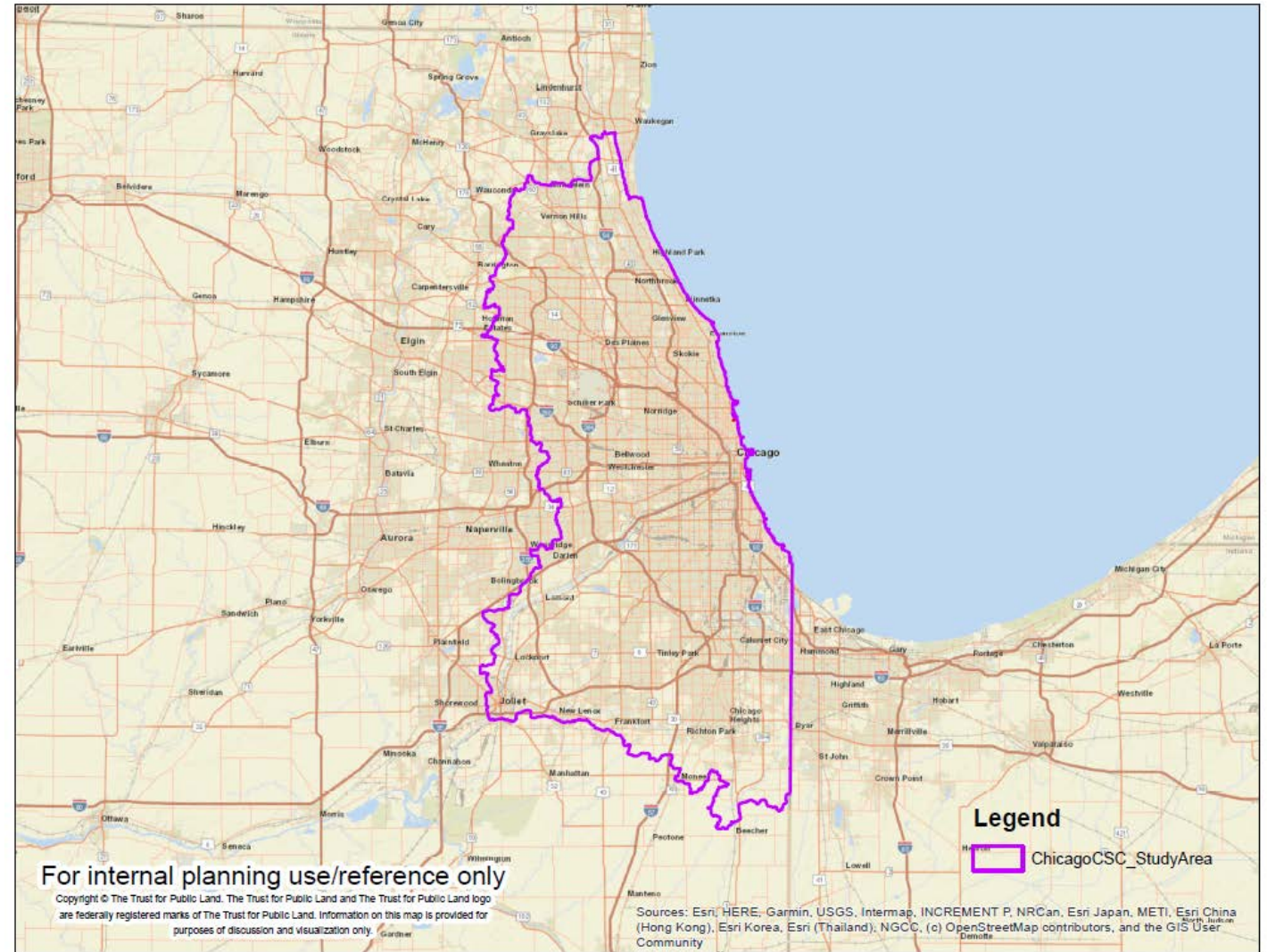
Suggested modifications to the tool

- Expanded modeling boundary
- Adjust the modeling objectives to align with local priorities
- Additional stakeholders to engage

CHICAGO CALUMET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

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Modeling boundary

Expanded to the North and West to accommodate

- MWRD sewershed areas

- Flood-prone communities to the West

- Lakefront watersheds

- Key tributaries and subwatersheds surrounding the Des Plaines River corridor

For internal planning use/reference only

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Legend

▭ ChicagoCSC_StudyArea

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

CHICAGO CALUMET RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

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Modeling objectives

- **Healthy communities**: Address existing environmental conditions, such as urban heat islands and air pollution, which cause or exacerbate human health inequities.

- **Equitable**: Guide investments to areas of the greatest need, including economically disconnected and Black and Brown communities where individuals disproportionately suffer from environmental stressors and are denied environmental benefits.

- **Connected**: Use trails and greenways to connect people between residential areas, parks, and natural areas.

- **Resilient water systems**: Promote the natural absorption of rainfall to increase resiliency, improve water quality, and reduce community flooding.

- **Natural**: Protect or restore living landscapes to expand biodiversity and support communities of native species, especially those that are threatened and endangered.

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WATERSHED COUNCIL

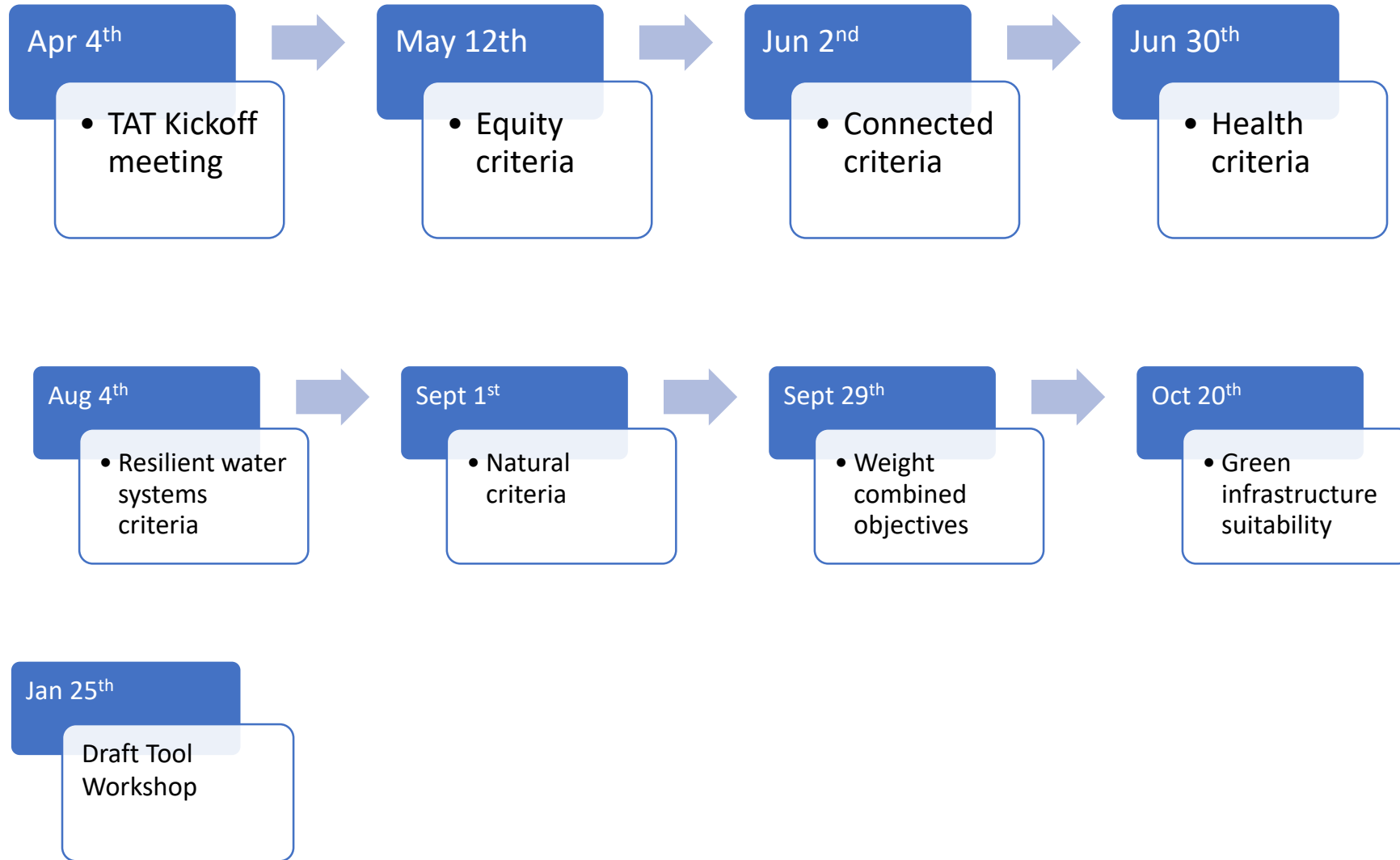TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Technical Advisory Team (TAT)

Purpose: Provide expert review and advice regarding design, data input, rationale, outcomes, and mapping.

Responsibilities:

- *Identify* most appropriate criteria.

- *Recommend* best available data sources.

- *Verify* the completeness and appropriateness of model criteria.

- Help *ensure* that defensible science is used for all models and assumptions.

- *Review* input data and model results for accuracy and currency.

- Weight the model outputs to *create* "priority" results

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Schedule

Apr 4th
- TAT Kickoff meeting

→

May 12th
- Equity criteria

→

Jun 2nd
- Connected criteria

→

Jun 30th
- Health criteria

Aug 4th
- Resilient water systems criteria

→

Sept 1st
- Natural criteria

→

Sept 29th
- Weight combined objectives

→

Oct 20th
- Green infrastructure suitability

Jan 25th

Draft Tool Workshop

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Q&A

Followed by live tool demo

Natural solutions tool

Preliminary modeling results for Chicago-Calumet River Watershed region

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Equitable

- Minority communities
- Linguistic isolation
- Less than HS Education
- Over 64
- Under 5
- Unemployment

- Disability
- Disinvested communities
- Life expectancy
- Renter burden

Education
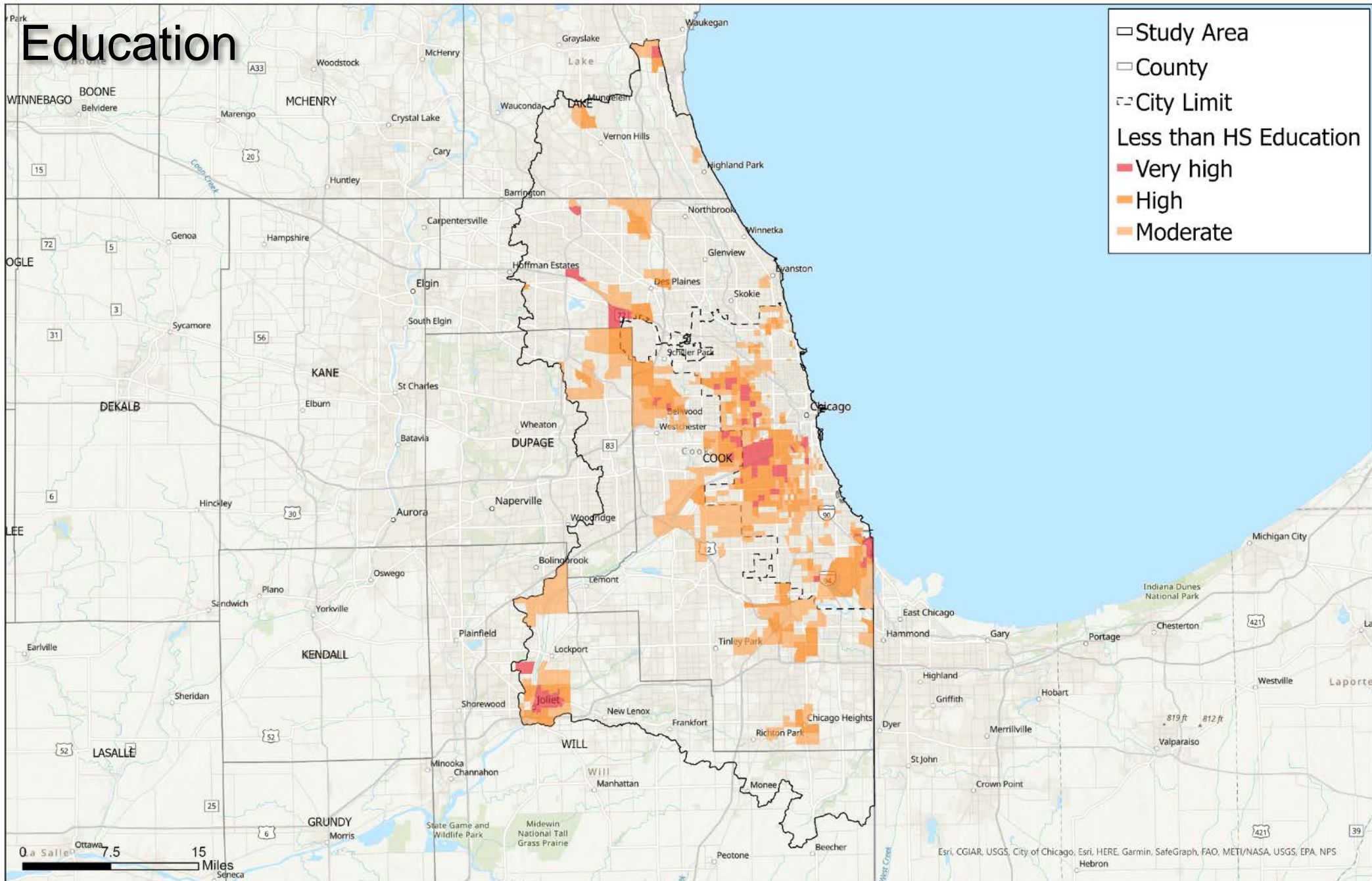
Data:
EPA

Observations:
Correlations

Disinvested Communities

Data:
CMAP

Observations:
Different patterns

Legend:
Study Area
County
City Limit
Disinvested Community
Very high
High
Moderate

Equity - Overall
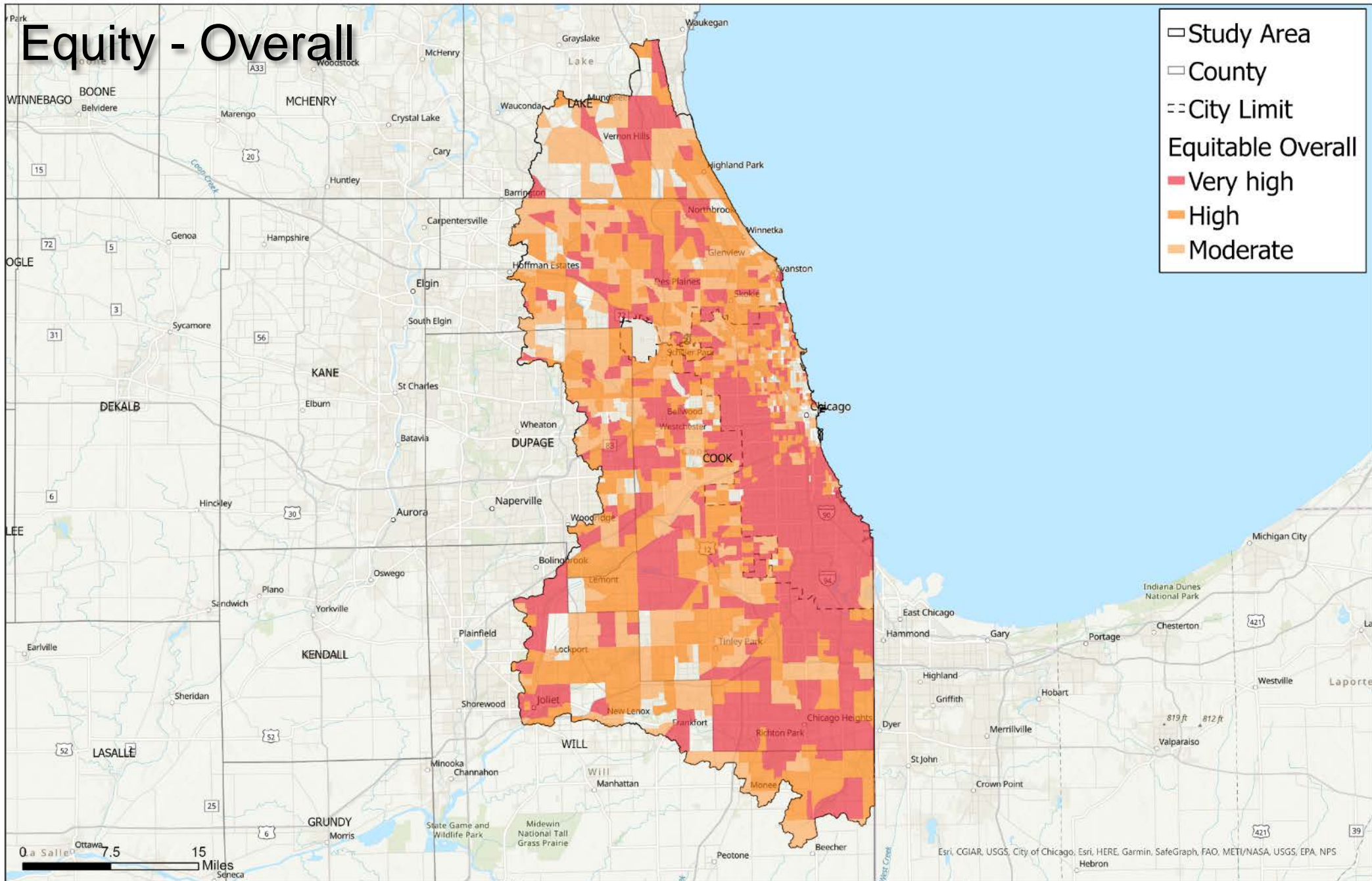
Healthy Communities

- Heat island
- Canopy cover
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Obesity
- COPD
- Stroke

- Depression
- Mental health
- Physical health
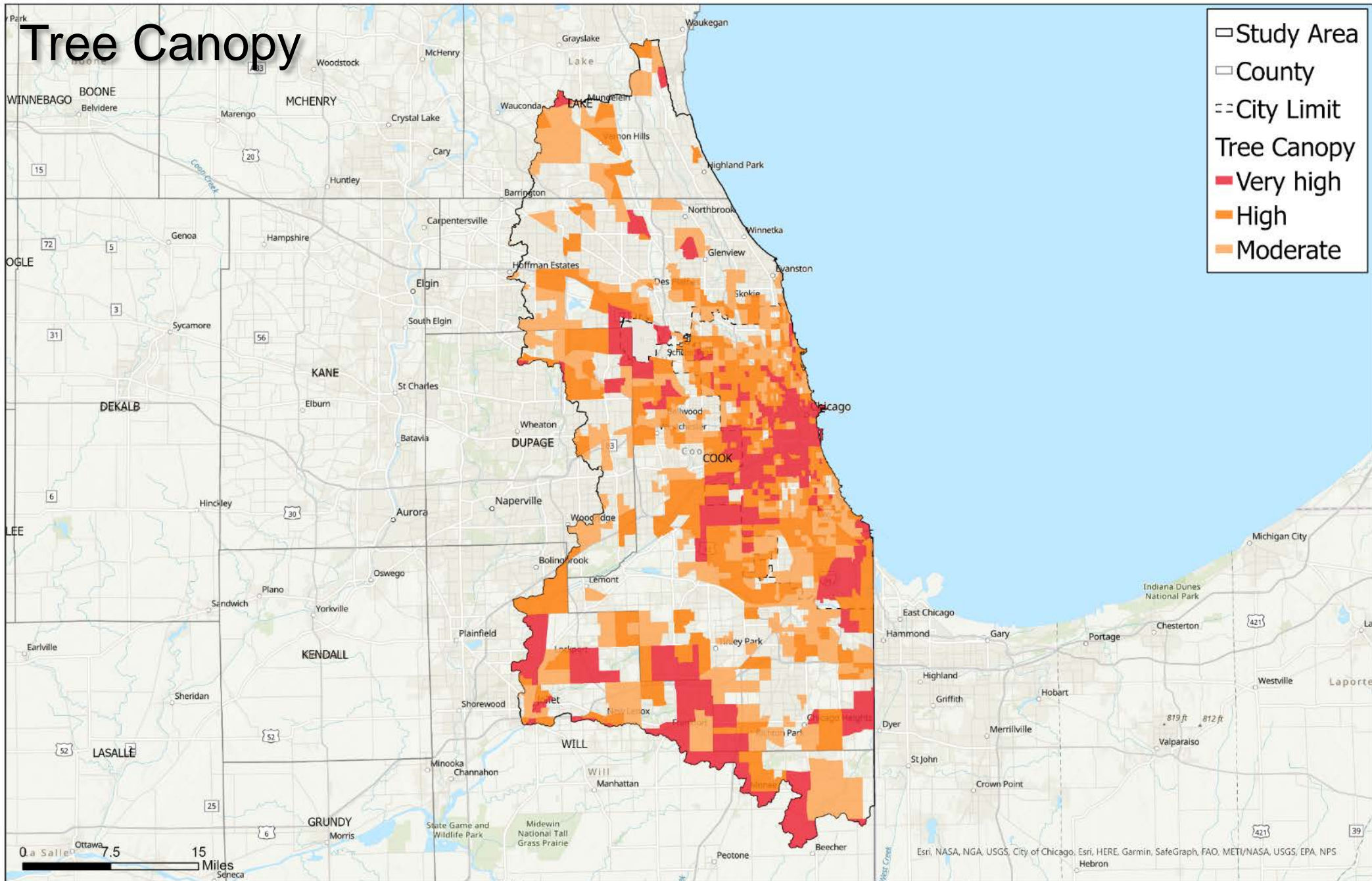- Heart Disease
- PM 2.5
- Ozone
- Diesel particular matter

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WATERSHED COUNCIL

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Heat Island
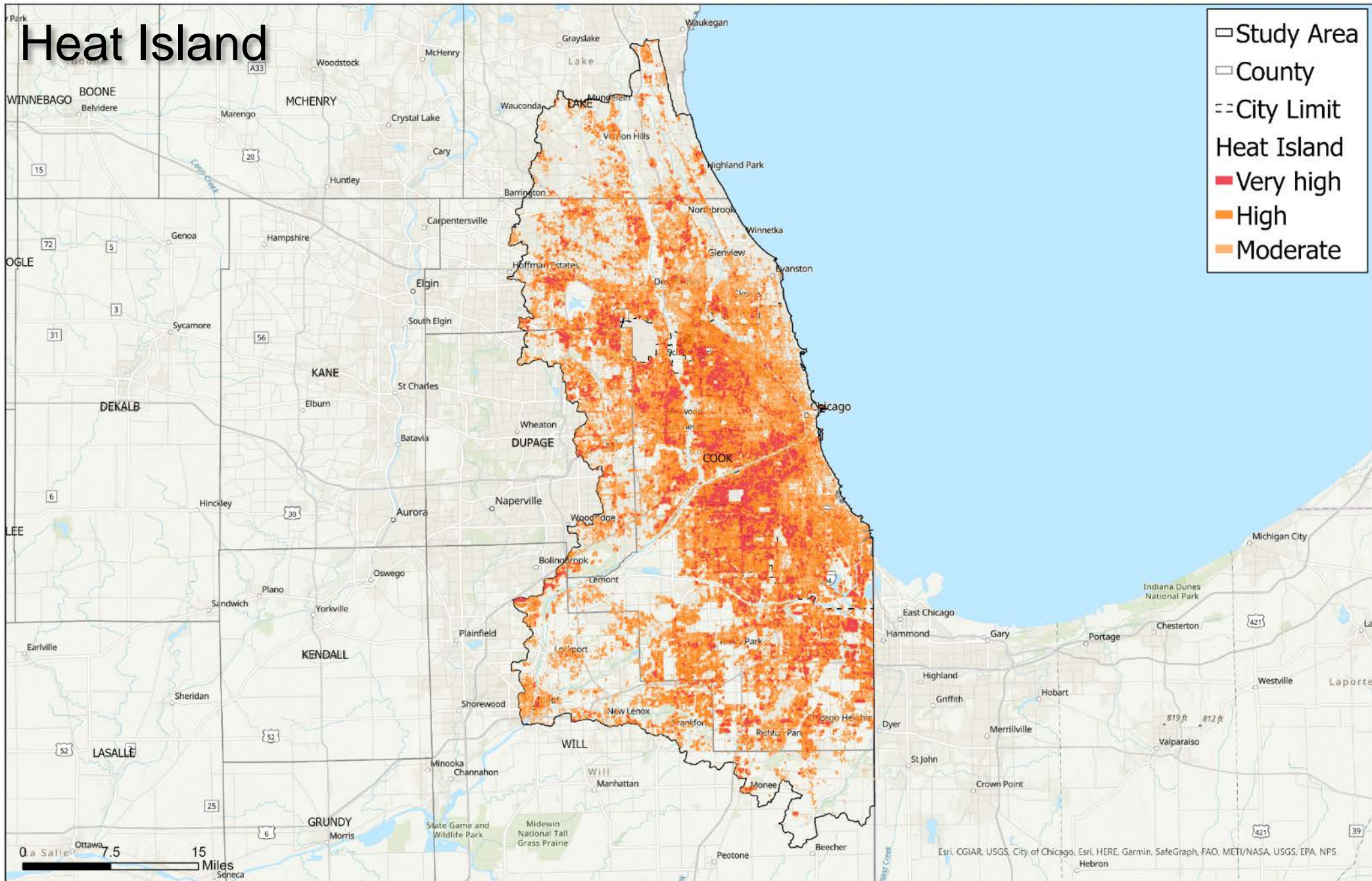
Data:
Landsat

Observations:
Finer scale

Tree Canopy

Data:
CRTI

Observations:
Opportunity

Legend:
- Study Area
- County
- City Limit

Tree Canopy
- Very high
- High
- Moderate

Healthy Communities - Overall
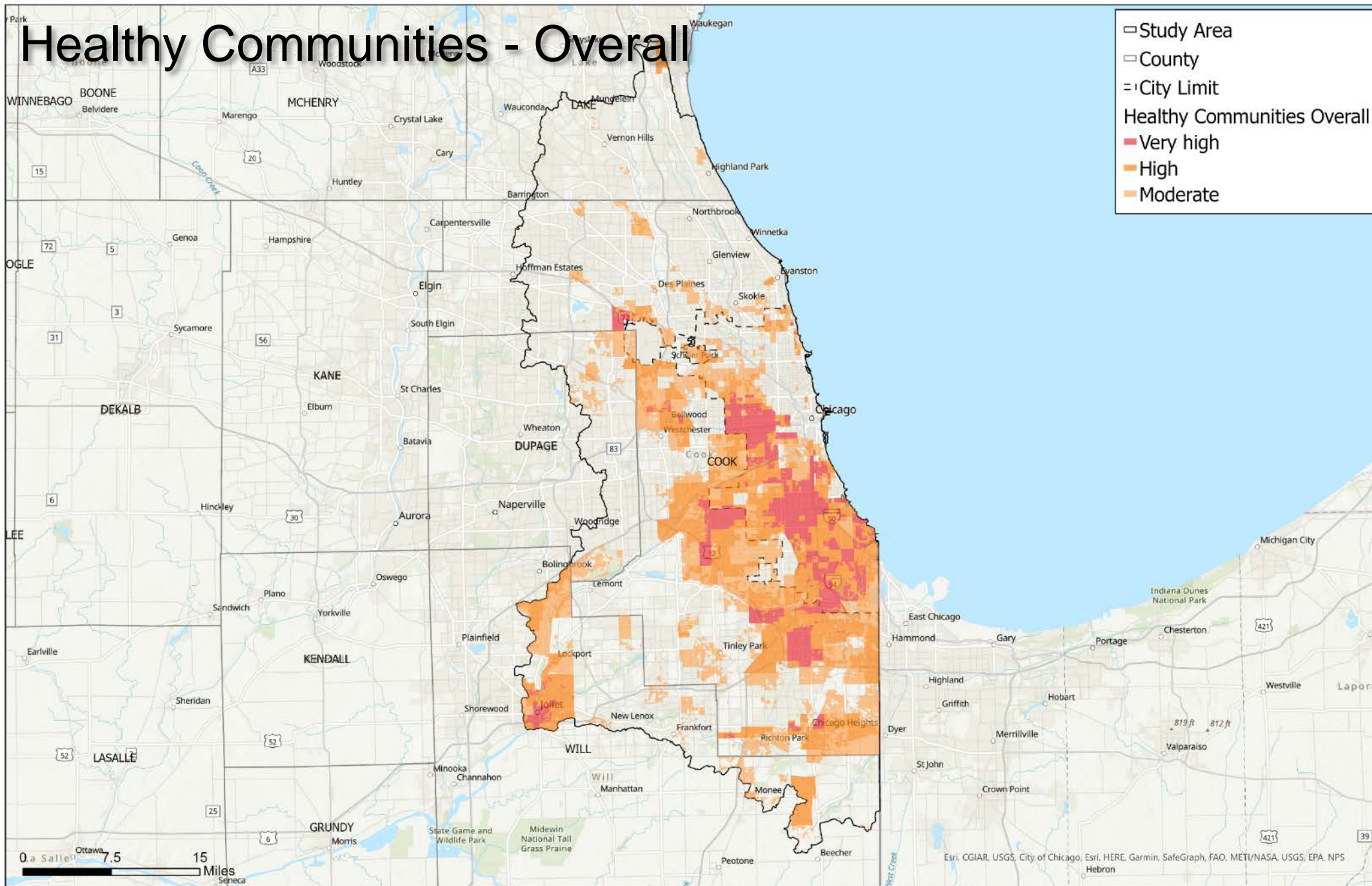
Our questions for you

1. What are the biggest challenges you face locally in deploying nature-based solutions? And in what ways are you using parks, land conservation, and restoration to deliver climate, health, and equity benefits?

2. What kind of data and tools are you using to guide nature-based solutions?

3. For those that are in the project geography, how could you envision using this tool?

4. Based on what you heard today, are we missing anything important?

5. Do you see value in expanding this tool to your geography?

CHICAGO CALUMET RIVER
WATERSHED COUNCIL

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit that works to connect everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors. As a leader in equitable access to the outdoors, TPL works with communities to create parks and protect public land where it is needed most.

Since 1972, TPL has protected more than 3 million acres of public land, created more than 5,000 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places, raised $84 billion in public funding for parks and public lands, and connected more than 9 million people to the outdoors.

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

Caroline O'Boyle
AVP, Illinois State Director
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