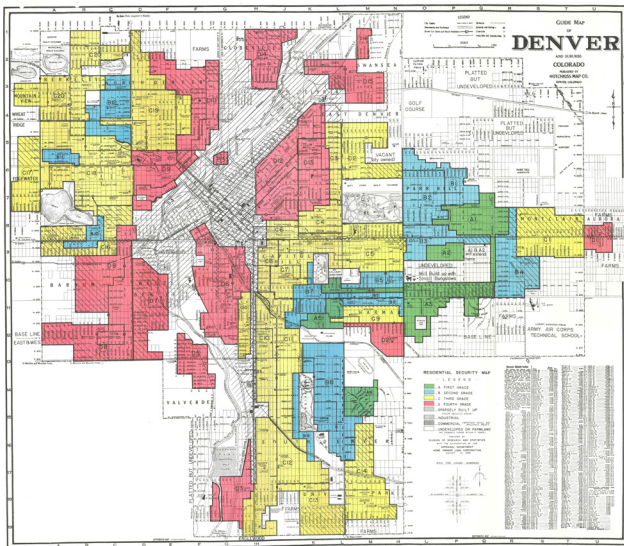


Climate Safe Neighborhoods

Advancing Equitable Resilience Strategies



Groundwork USA and five community-based Groundwork affiliates are embarking on a major project to reduce the heat- and flooding-related risks faced by vulnerable urban populations and advance equity in climate resiliency. The Groundwork organizations will map the historic origins of heat- and flooding-related vulnerability, identify solutions, and advance implementation through community engagement, advocacy, and training and employment programs. Using the “redlining” maps produced by the federal Home Owners’ Loan Corporation and urban heat index and flood risk data, Groundwork Denver, Groundwork Elizabeth (NJ), Groundwork Rhode Island, Groundwork Richmond (CA), and Groundwork RVA (Richmond, VA) will engage and mobilize local stakeholders to impact climate resilience policies, programs, and investment. The project is supported in part by a grant from the Kresge Foundation.



Residential Security Map of Denver, Colorado created in 1938 by Home Owners Loan Corporation. Credit: National Archives and Record Administration



The Woonasquatucket River overflows onto Kinsley Avenue in Providence, RI causing flooding. Credit: Kinsley Avenue Flooding by Jeff Nickerson (2010) (CC BY-SA 2.0)

PHASE I ■ 2018–2019

In year one, the Climate Safe Neighborhoods project is dedicated to collecting, mapping, and interpreting local climate vulnerability data; researching health impacts and mitigation measures; and determining strategies for engaging stakeholders and influencing local policy and practice. Groundwork Milwaukee’s GIS Program Manager will lead the mapping effort, working with NASA DEVELOP and others. Groundwork will start getting out the word about heat risk in urban areas – the nation’s leading cause of weather-related death.

PHASE II ■ 2019–2020

After researching, developing, and prioritizing community-backed climate mitigation measures, the Groundwork organizations will organize and advocate to effect change. Working with stakeholders, they will use data on the historic origins, health impacts of, and solutions to, extreme heat and flooding to advance the integration of environmental justice-focused climate mitigation measures into policies, programs, and investments. Groundwork urban conservation corps programs will incorporate climate resilience measures into their work. Groundwork USA will use the data to advance equitable resilience strategies nationally.

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