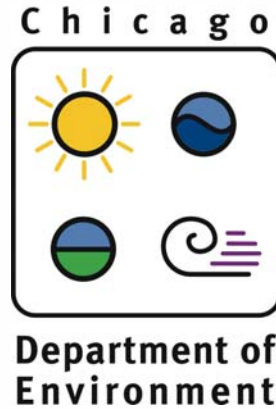


Engaging Chicago's Diverse Communities in the **CHICAGO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**



South Chicago

Commissioned by:



Generously supported by:



Project Overview

Focus:
Identifying
Entryways into
Climate Action



Project Overview: Multiple Communities, One Study



- Bronzeville
- - - North Kenwood-Oakland
- South Chicago



NKO/Bronzeville

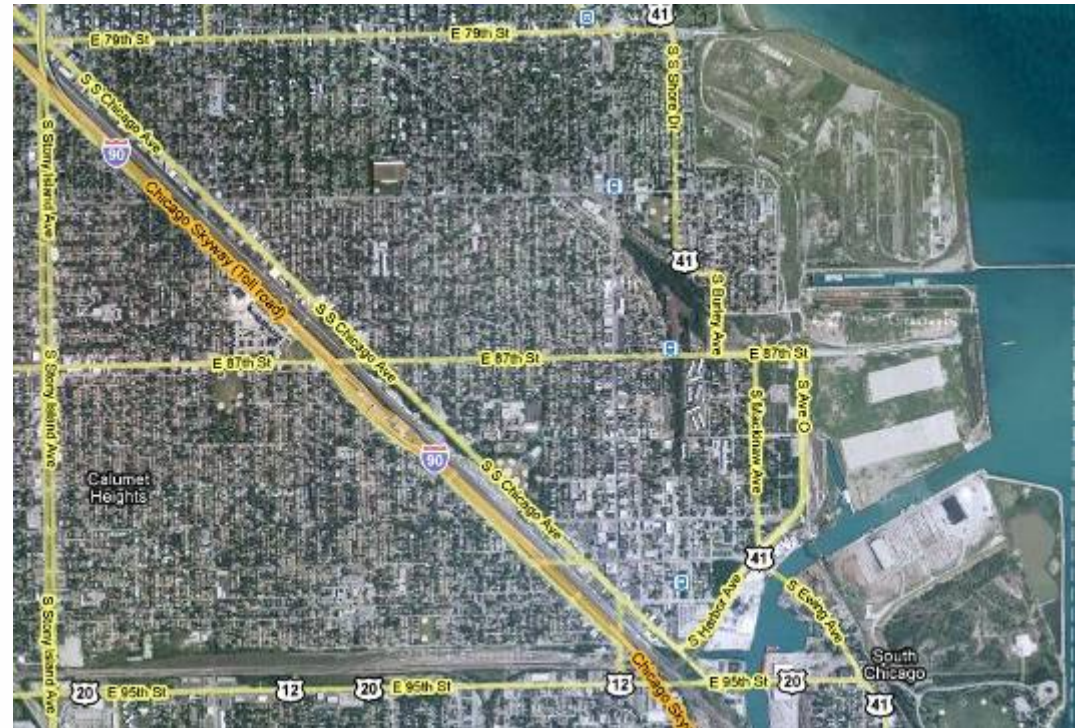
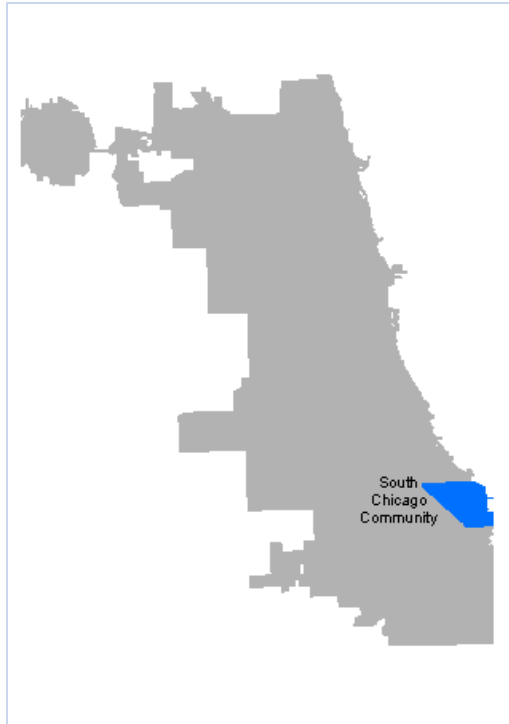


South Chicago



City-wide

Project Overview: Defining South Chicago



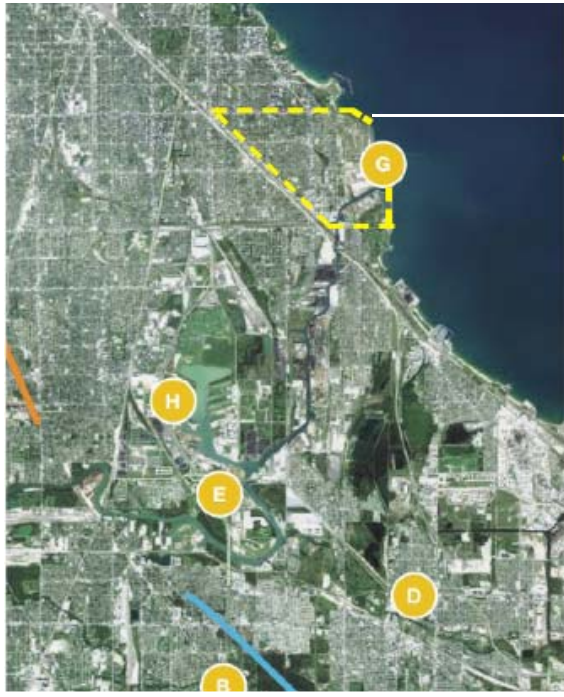
North: 79th Street

South: 95th Avenue

West: South Chicago Avenue

East: Lake Michigan

South Chicago – Calumet Region



South Chicago



Land and Life from the Air

The crossroads of the Calumet region is on full display in this 2003 Landsat satellite image.

A PINHOOK BOG fills a depression left by a giant block of ice when glaciers piled up the range of hills, now forested and known as the Valparaiso Moraine, more than 14,000 years ago.

B SAND RIDGE NATURE CENTER is clearly visible as a bead on the string of trees along Michigan City Road. It sits atop one of the three sand ridges left by receding Lake Michigan.

C GARY-CHICAGO AIRPORT Just north of the airport, ancient sandy ridges alternate in a still visible washboard “dune-and-swale” pattern.

D THE LITTLE CALUMET AND GRAND CALUMET RIVERS, trapped between the sand ridges, meander through pancake flatness in search of Lake Michigan. They meet just south of O’Brien Lock and Dam.

E O’BRIEN LOCK & DAM now serves as a continental divide. Water flows south and west to the Cal-Sag Channel or north through the Calumet River main stem, headed to the Great Lakes and Atlantic.

F CALUMET-SAG CHANNEL The Calumet region is connected to the Illinois Waterway and Mississippi River by this canal.

G U.S. STEEL’S SOUTH WORKS began in 1880 at a site that is today cleared and awaiting redevelopment.

H LAKE CALUMET George Pullman built his factory and company town just west of here in 1882. Other manufacturers followed, attracting workers and their families from around the world.

I INLAND STEEL came to Lake Michigan in 1902, where it would eventually reshape the shoreline into a nearly two-mile-long peninsula.

J U.S. STEEL built a new plant and the city of Gary in 1906 atop the former route of the Grand Calumet River.

K BETHLEHEM STEEL came to Burns Harbor in 1967.

L WEST BEACH Visitors can see the traces of past sand mining here. The struggle to protect the dunes from further encroachment led to the creation of the State Park in 1926 (**M**) and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in 1966.

N MT. BALDY is visible just west of Michigan City. A migrating sand dune, it moves about four feet to the southeast each year.

O DUNES LEARNING CENTER From its forest clearing, this center opens the rich landscape to the next generation of Calumet leaders.



Cross-Section of the Region

Bedrock layers of Silurian dolomite, millions of years in the making, appear at Thornton Quarry and the aptly named Stony Island on Chicago’s South Side. Above the bedrock, the landscape testifies to the more recent activity of glaciation, as shown in this generalized profile. The mile-high glacier piled unsorted rubble, sand, and clay into long hills called moraines, which mark the glacier’s last advance. Melting ice formed an ancestral Lake Michigan, whose shoreline receded in several distinct stages. The three most prominent are marked by three sandy beach ridges that rise gently above the otherwise flat, clay bottom of the ancestral lake.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: This report was produced by Chicago Wilderness with the support and partnership of the National and County Geographic Foundation. Project Director: Mark J. Beavers, Chicago State University. Cartography: Jason Eiler, Chicago State University. Data Sources: Project layer constructed from the Census Bureau’s Tiger Line data set (used to derive and create “road” data layer). Map produced using ArcGIS 9.3.1. Maps Made: Physiographic Regions, Indiana Statewide, Indiana, PHYSIOGRAPHY, ESRI, IN (unpublished), 2003, 2005; Physiographic Division of Indiana, Statistical Report 03, Indiana Department of Business, 2004; data from ESRI (not shown) showing physiographic regions in Illinois; data originally from USGS Report of Investigation 709 by Cooper et al., 1976. Photo layer obtained by copying image data and georeferencing from the Geographic Content National Inventory (USGS National Map Accuracy Standard for USGS Calumet-Indian Moraines at 1:125,000 scale, available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1998/001/>). Other layers: geology (center for Northland and Technology and Geoscience, State with Kentucky NE, Kansas Protected Lands, Grand Lakes International National and Midwest Missouri Natural Region, MI (Michigan Land Use Data) Indiana Biodiversity Institute), State Infrastructure (State GIS and Data Management National Infrastructure Program 2002/12/2), Counties (State GIS), Environmental Protection Agency Toxic Release Inventory Reporting Facilities, Hazardous Materials sites provided by Field Station (Hazardous Waste Sites “Inventory”), State “Inventory” data, voluntary environmental projects from the Pinhook Bog Geologic Program (1986 to 1995) and the State Remediation Program (1986 to 2001), Illinois EPA’s Site Remediation Program Database, updated from 2004 to 2005, Indiana “Inventory” sites, participants in Indiana Biodiversity Program, Indiana Historical Authority Library, 2000; Bethel, Wayne (USA) National Program, 2000; Landscape TM (www.USGS.gov/130020011), Map Overview, 1990, State Park, 06/05/2002; Beach Ridge, updated from Indianapolis map of Moraine, J. Sisk’s Geologic Age, Geologic Profile, Derived from the work of Albert Soper, Valparaiso University.

Participatory Action Research

The **Field**
Museum

Chicago



Department of
Environment



NORTHWESTERN
UNIVERSITY

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Healthy Southeast Chicago



Research was designed and conducted collaboratively, in English and Spanish.

Research Team:

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- Northwestern University's Science of Networks in Communities (SONIC) Research Lab
- Centro Comunitario Juan Diego
- Healthy Southeast Chicago
- City of Chicago Department of Environment

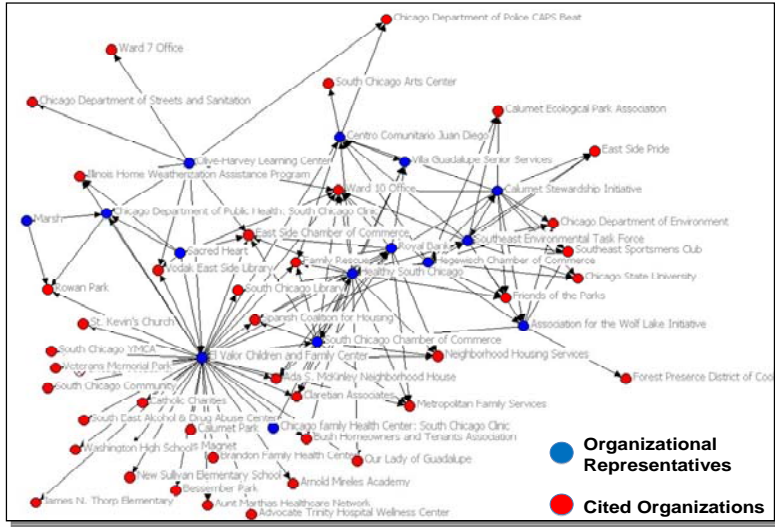
Centro Comunitario Juan Diego



El Pueblo Unido...



Research Methods



Findings: Community Overview

Community heritage is a source of pride in South Chicago.

The community derives its identity from an interwoven history of heavy industrialization and ecological richness, accompanied by immigration, activism, and subsequent deindustrialization.



Findings: Climate Change Awareness & Interest

In South Chicago and the Southeast Side overall, where environmental issues have long been integral to community life, there is significant awareness and interest in concepts of “climate change.”



Findings: Climate Change Awareness & Interest

Green Development: Opportunity or Barrier?



Despite an interest in “going green,” there is a general suspicion about green initiatives and climate change mitigation efforts, grounded primarily in fears of gentrification and displacement and skepticism of of large-scale initiatives.

Findings: Climate Change Awareness and Interest

Community Comparison

South Chicago

General awareness of and interest in climate change

Climate change is a personal and community issue

Strong history of linking environmental and community issues



North Kenwood-Oakland/ Bronzeville

Overall, general awareness, less interest

Climate change is a distant issue for many groups/residents

Viewed negatively by some as a governmental/mayoral initiative

But some real activists around this issue



Findings: Environmentally Friendly Practices

South Chicago residents are already engaged in a number of conservation practices, such as recycling, reusing materials in art projects, and growing food in the backyard.

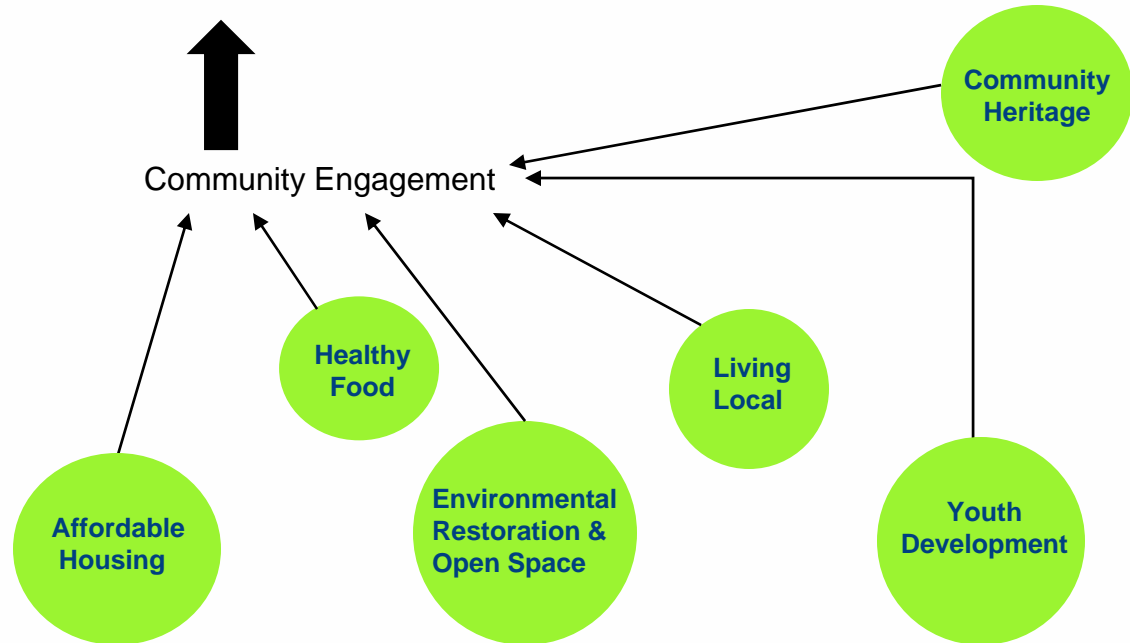


Findings: Community Concerns: Springboards for Climate Action

Standard
community
concerns also
identified in
South Chicago:

Employment
Economic
development
Cost savings
Health
Transportation

CREATIVE ENTRY WAYS INTO CLIMATE ACTION



Community Concerns: Affordable Housing



Community Concerns : Healthy Food



Community Concerns : Environmental Restoration & Open Space



Community Concerns : Youth Development

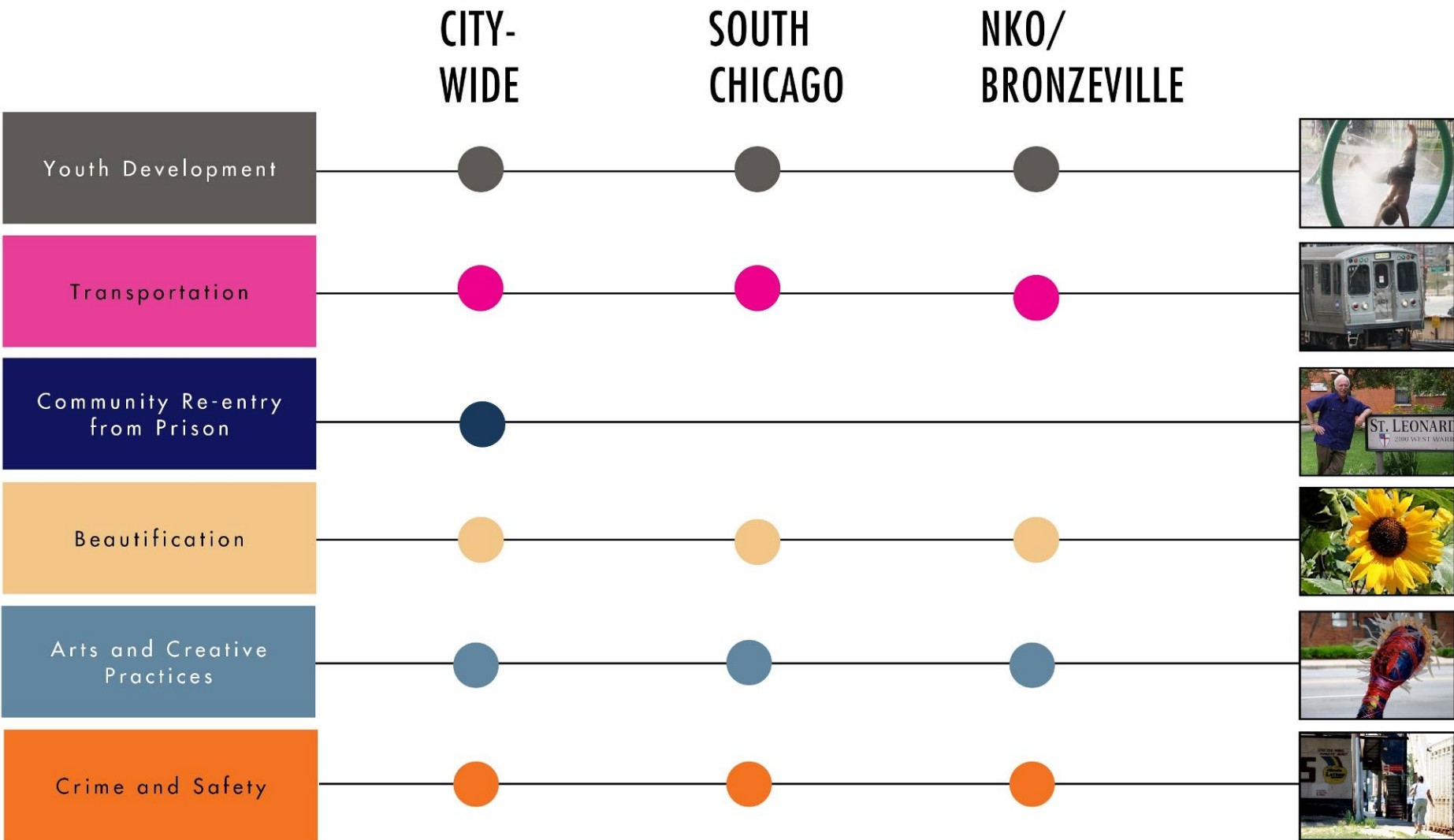


Community Concerns : Community Heritage



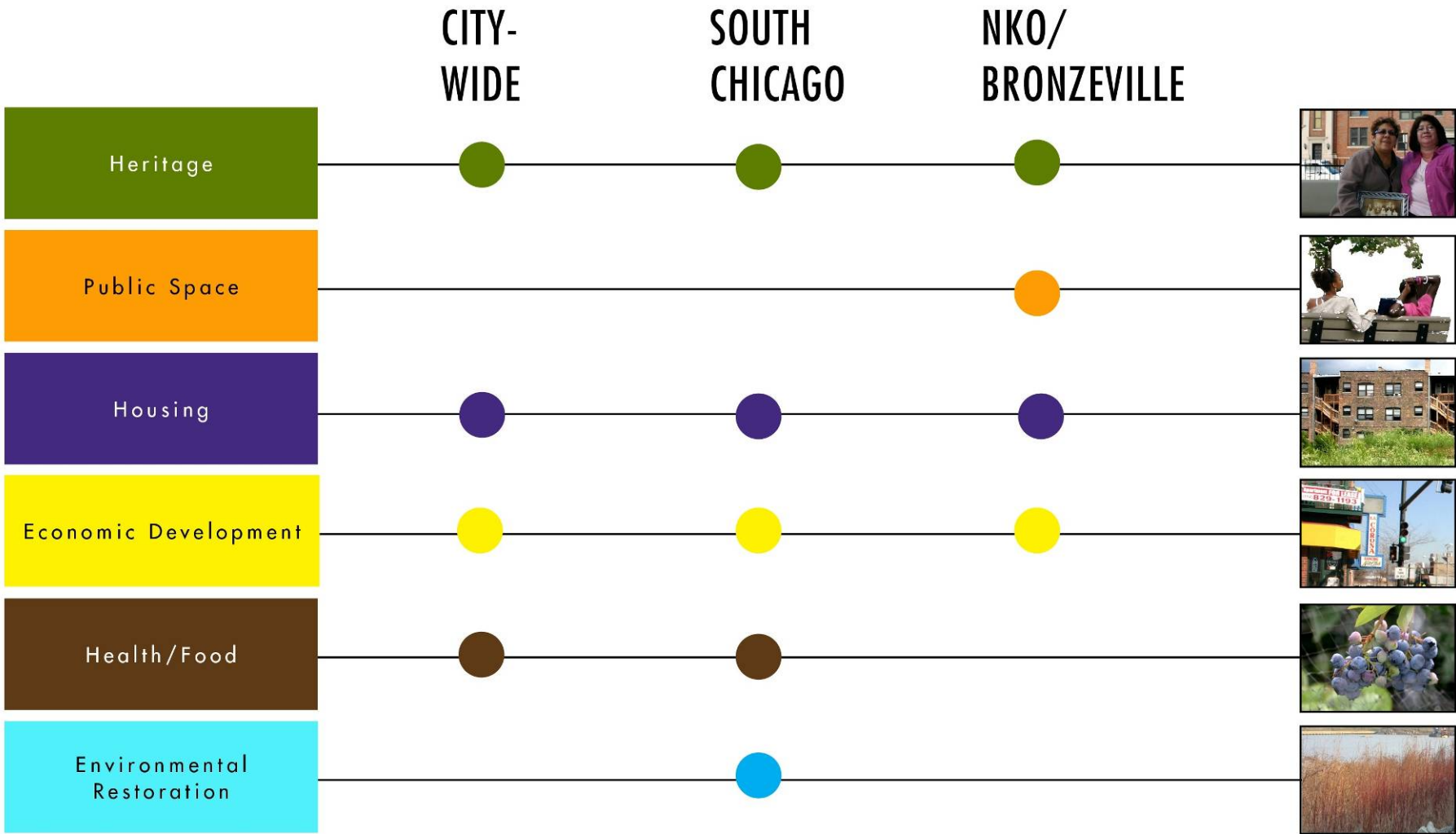
Community Concerns: Springboards for Climate Action

In Comparative Perspective



Community Concerns: Springboards for Climate Action

In Comparative Perspective



Community Concerns: Springboards for Climate Action

Comparative Example: Heritage

**South Chicago:
Community
Heritage**



**NKO/Bronzeville:
African-American
Heritage**



**City-wide (to date):
Cultural Heritage**



Findings: Community Organizations as Change Agents

Community organizations are implementing CCAP strategies, by serving as distribution sites for resources and linking climate action to community concerns through creative programming.



Findings: Communication and Dissemination

Building trust and communicating by word-of-mouth are particularly important strategies for communication and dissemination.

Trust is built through

- shared cultural heritage
- language
- connecting mitigation efforts to community concerns.



Overall Recommendations – City-wide:

Build the capacity of communities to take ownership of the CCAP and lead local climate action campaigns



I. Work through trusted organizations and existing networks

II. Tailor climate action campaigns to local concerns

III. Build on existing practices, programs, values

IV. Make climate change feel local and personal

V. Communicate through existing networks and popular mediums



Recommendations – South Chicago

Build on South Chicago's strengths including the creative programs already in progress, extensive organizational collaboration, and existing mitigation/adaptation practices.



- **Promote** recycling initiatives
- **Grow** community gardens into central hubs for climate action and community engagement
- **Facilitate** the creation of a green jobs network
- **Expand** work around energy efficiency in existing buildings and raise its visibility
- **Support** Web development as a communications strategy

Overall Recommendations – South Chicago (cont.)



Work with the following organizations as a starting point for establishing a community-based Climate Change Action Coalition in South Chicago (listed here in alphabetical order):

10th Ward Alderman's Office

Bush Homeowners and Tenants Association

Calumet Stewardship Initiative

Centro Comunitario Juan Diego

Claretian Associates

El Valor

Germano-Millgate Community Committee

Healthy Southeast Chicago

South Chicago Library

South Chicago Chamber of Commerce

Southeast Environmental Task Force

Southeast Chicago Historical Society



Global Warming is on our hands.