



Green Residents of Westchester (GROW)

Ecological Commission

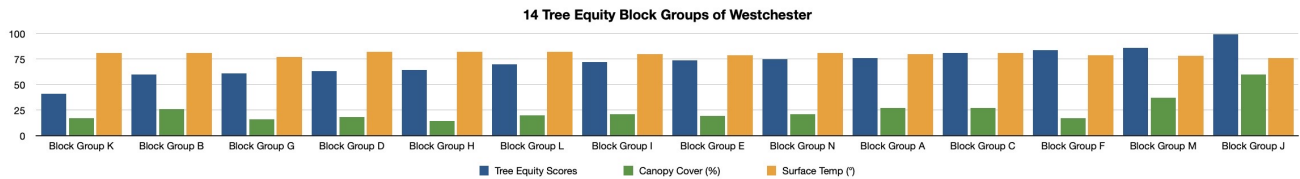
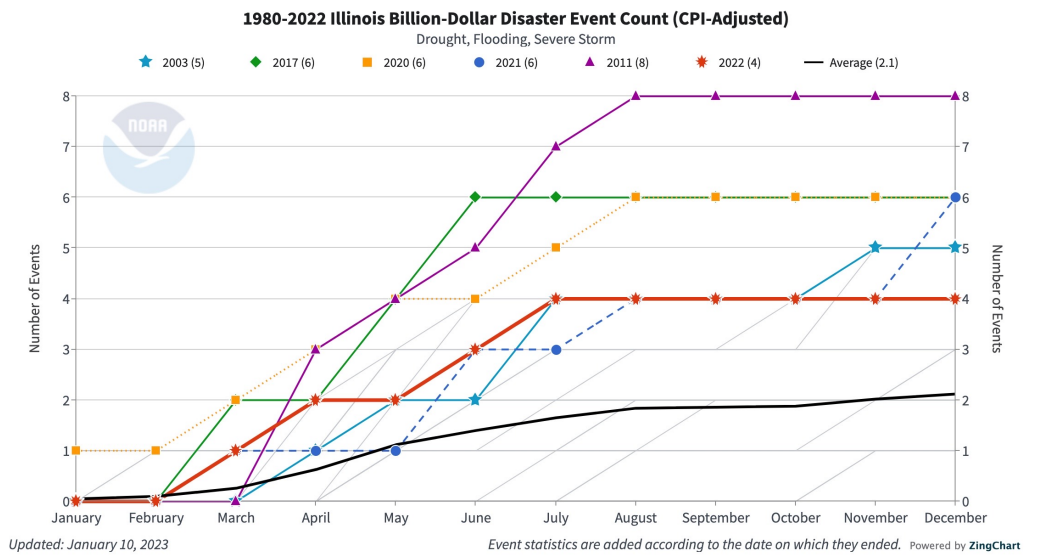
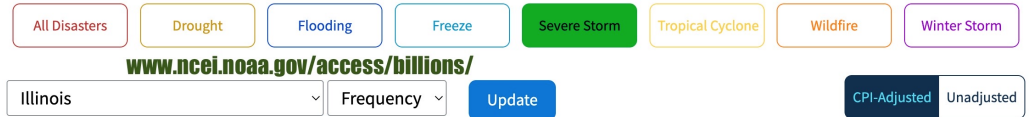
Tree Equity, Heat & Flooding

By: Nicole Molinaro ~ GROW Commissioners

On February 9th Chicago Region Trees Initiative held a Partner Recognition Celebration where I learned that **heat** is a silent killer as well as the #1 weather killer in the US. (<https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-heat-related-deaths>).

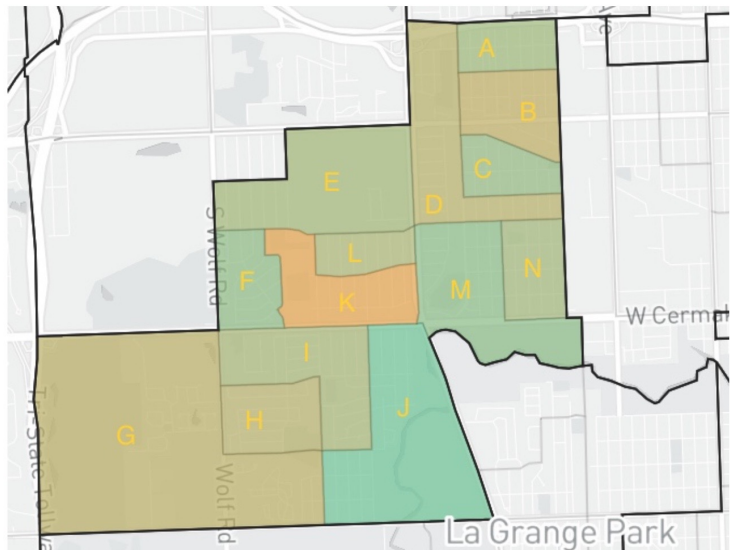
Of the 74 severe storms that occurred in 42 years **almost a quarter were in the last three years**. 47% of severe storms happened within the top 6 years of 2003, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2011 & 2022

Canopy trees and understory friends like shrubs, herbaceous and ground covers help mitigate heat and severity of storms. As a Tree City USA and recent recipient of the 2022-24 Urban & Community Forestry Grant, it's not a matter of "if" your parkway will get a tree it is **when** your parkway will.



	Tree Equity Scores	Canopy Cover (%)	Surface Temp (°)
Block Group K	41	17	81
Block Group B	60	26	81
Block Group G	61	16	77
Block Group D	63	18	82
Block Group H	64	14	82
Block Group L	70	20	82
Block Group I	72	21	80
Block Group E	74	19	79
Block Group N	75	21	81
Block Group A	76	27	80
Block Group C	81	27	81
Block Group F	84	17	79
Block Group M	86	37	78
Block Group J	100	60	76

Municipality Tree Equity Score Map



Westchester has committed to planting diverse natives on public property whether through the Tree Replacement Program or our 50/50 program. Utilizing the 50/50 program allows the resident to pick the tree they want on the parkway which helps the village to plant more trees within the year. We can do more as residents to mitigate heat islands and help infiltrate water by planting with a permaculture plan that includes diverse “guilds” on our private property. Land conservation and restoration of a monoculture of grass is environmental justice work. Planting tree friends can reduce stress on our water and sewer pipes by holding water at ground level to share with larger trees when in need. Trees will always find a water source and increasing capacity by planting native friends with tap roots decreases the likelihood roots will seek out your pipes.

The Tree Equity Score includes Priority Indicators like Surface Temp, Health Risk Index, % of People in Poverty, % of Seniors (65+), % of Children (0-17), % People of Color & % of Unemployment. As you can see surface temp increases with lack of canopy coverage and lower TE score. Block Group K is last at 14th with a TE score of 41, which begins at Canterbury and Mandel Ave and includes HighRidge Park, Intermediate School, St. Joseph property, Single and 2-3 Family residences and some Restricted Businesses along Cermak to Mannheim. An almost 20 point Tree Equity difference from Block Group B which means that if your parkway doesn’t have a tree, and you live in one of these areas, it will soon and planting tree friends on your property contributes to overall community health and mitigation of heat and flooding. Collectively we can make a difference together not only for Westchester but for all of Proviso. Not sure where to start? GROW Ecological Commission is a resident led public body to help provide information to any environmental questions you may have. We generally meet the first Thursday of the month and our next meeting is March 2nd at 6:30pm.

Possible Parkway Tree Options 2023

	Growth Form	Mature Height	Mature Width	Flower Color	Fall Color	Misc
Shingle Oak	Single Trunk	40 feet	40 feet	Yellowish catkin	Russet Orange	Butterfly Host, Loved by Birds
Ironwood	Single Trunk/ Shrubby/ Clump	42 feet	20 feet	Yellowish catkin	Yellow	
Quaking Aspen	Single Trunk/ Shrubby/ Clump/ Colonizing/ Spreading	30 feet	15 feet	Yellowish catkin	Yellow	Butterfly Host, Soil Stabilizer, Loved by Birds
Tulip Tree	Single Trunk	60 feet	40 feet	Cream	Yellow	
Chinquapin Oak	Single Trunk	50 feet	50 feet	Yellowish catkin	Orange Yellow	Butterfly Host, Loved by Birds
White Oak	Single Trunk	50 feet	50 feet	Yellowish catkin	Red Purple	Butterfly Host, Loved by Birds
Osage-orange	Single Trunk/ Shrubby/ Thorns	20-40 feet	20-40 feet	Greenish Yellow Males wither away, Females non-edible fruit	Yellow Green	Small Mammal Host