A Health Impact Assessment of Park, Trail and Green Space Planning in the West Side of Greenville, South Carolina
The South Carolina Institute of Medicine & Public Health (IMPH)

- **Mission**: To collectively inform policy to improve health and healthcare

- **Purpose**: To serve as a convener to assemble evidence-based information relevant to policy decisions and other actions impacting the health and well-being of all South Carolinians

www.imph.org
Greenville County, SC
# A Vulnerable Community

## Total Population by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>West Side</th>
<th>City of Greenville</th>
<th>County of Greenville</th>
<th>South Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16,583</td>
<td>58,409</td>
<td>451,225</td>
<td>4,625,364</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total Population by Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>West Side</th>
<th>City of Greenville</th>
<th>County of Greenville</th>
<th>South Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
<td>71.2%</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Educational Attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>West Side</th>
<th>City of Greenville</th>
<th>County of Greenville</th>
<th>South Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No High School Degree</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Degree</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s Degree</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or Professional</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Income Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income level below $24,999</th>
<th>West Side</th>
<th>City of Greenville</th>
<th>County of Greenville</th>
<th>South Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61.1%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Vulnerable Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty Level</th>
<th>West Side</th>
<th>City of Greenville</th>
<th>County of Greenville</th>
<th>South Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Households Without Vehicles</th>
<th>West Side</th>
<th>City of Greenville</th>
<th>County of Greenville</th>
<th>South Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Renter-Occupied Housing</th>
<th>West Side</th>
<th>City of Greenville</th>
<th>County of Greenville</th>
<th>South Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>62.3%</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HIA Partners & Goals

- Community Residents, City Councilwomen, Academic Institutions, City of Greenville, County of Greenville and sixteen other organizations (community-based non-profits)

- Beyond the obvious HIA goals:
  - Increase understanding about the relationship between health and the built environment
  - Foster an approach of ‘health in all policies’
  - Increase understanding of and demand for future HIAs
Identified Health Impacts

- Physical Activity (Priority A)
- Social Cohesion/Capital (Priority A)
- Community and Family Economic Stability (Priority A)
- Food Access (Priority A)

- Individual and Community Safety (Priority B)
- Air and Water Quality (Priority B)
Physical Activity Pathway

- New and/or expanded parks, green spaces, and/or trails in Greenville's West Side
  - Increased access to parks, trails and/or green spaces, as well as increased opportunity for community and recreation/sports events (through potential creation of recreational space in park)
  - Increased opportunities for physical activity (for recreation and/or transportation)
  - Increase in possibility for recreational injury
  - Decreased rate of overweight and obese residents
  - Decreased rate of residents with chronic diseases and improved health status for individuals who currently have chronic diseases
New and/or expanded parks, trails and green spaces in Greenville’s West Side

Increased access to parks, trails, and green spaces, as well as increased opportunity for community and recreation/sports events (through potential creation of event and recreational space in park)

Increased social capital/social cohesion

Improved overall mental health and well-being
Community and Family
Economic Stability Pathways

Potential for new and/or expanded parks, trails, and green space in Greenville’s West Side

Potential increase in property values

Increased economic development and stability in the community

Potential increase in property values

Increase in economic stability for home owners

Increased possibility for displacement and gentrification if rent increases

Increased job opportunities

Increased possibility for displacement and gentrification if rent increases

Increased stability of community economy

Increased risk of homelessness
Food Access Pathway

New and/or expanded parks, trails, and green spaces in Greenville’s West Side

Potential development of a community garden and/or farmer’s market

Increased access to healthy, affordable food

Decreased rate of overweight and obese residents

Decreased rate of residents with chronic diseases and improved health status for individuals who currently have chronic diseases
Recommendations: Physical Activity

1) Provide opportunities to walk and bike to and from the potential park

2) Provide opportunities for physical activity at the potential park

3) Provide ample shade at the potential park
Recommendations:
Social Cohesion/Capital

1) Provide opportunities for interaction between community members

2) Provide safe paths and signs to encourage utilization of the potential park

3) Provide opportunities to strengthen the relationship between the potential park and the surrounding community members

4) Provide opportunities to improve the mental health of community residents
Recommendations:
Economic Stability

1) Encourage opportunities to expand on current assets and economic opportunities in the community

2) Provide opportunities for affordable housing
Recommendation: Food Access

1) Provide increased access to healthy and affordable food sources
Recommendations: Safety

1) Provide opportunities to increase safety and the perception of safety to encourage utilization of the potential park, trails, and green space

2) Limit access to the river to decrease risk of drowning

3) Provide opportunities for parking near the potential park that are away from pedestrians and cyclists
Recommendations:
Air and Water Quality

1) Provide opportunities to maintain air and water quality during construction

2) Improve air and water quality in the long term
Impact

- New Partnerships
- Sparked Interest in HIA
- Media Coverage
- Ongoing involvement in West Side planning
- The West Side Park Plan
Thank you!

maya@imph.org
www.imph.org