Healthy Parks, Healthy Residents: How Environmental Advocacy Can Ensure Both?

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mParks Conference & Trade Show
Welcome and Objectives

• Identify problems in the physical environment
• Share national successes on environmental advocacy
• Provide methods to work with residents on advocacy efforts
William C. Sterling State Park, Monroe
Research of Air Pollution

“Exposure to high concentrations of pollutants during exercise resulted in decline in cardiovascular functions”
Common Conditions in Society Associated with Pollutants

- Asthma
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular disease
Adverse Environments
Assessing Michigan

• **Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)**
  - It contains information about more than 650 toxic chemicals that are being used, manufactured, treated, transported, or released into the environment, and includes information about waste management and pollution prevention activities.
Recent Problems in Southeast Michigan

- Uranium in the Detroit River
- Chromium-6 on I-696
Additional Data to Consider

• Vulnerabilities
  • Poverty
  • Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients

• Selected sites
  • Parks
  • Campgrounds
Delray Community Center, Detroit
"Exposure to high concentrations of pollutants during exercise resulted in decline in cardiovascular functions"
Measuring Pollution Vulnerability in California

- **CalEnviroScreen**
  - Identifies California communities that are most affected by many sources of pollution, and where people are often especially vulnerable to pollution’s effects.

- **Indicators**
  - Traffic
  - Pesticides
  - Water bodies
  - Low birth weight
  - Poverty
  - Linguistic isolation
WE ACT 30th Anniversary (2018)
Ladder of Citizen Participation

1. Manipulation
2. Therapy
3. Informing
4. Consultation
5. Placation
6. Partnership
7. Delegated Power
8. Citizen Control

- Nonparticipation
- Tokenism
- Citizen Power
Attending/Hosting Community Meetings

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak

~James 1:19
Actions in Michigan

• [Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition](#)
• [The Sierra Club](#)
• Contact members of the State of Michigan [Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#)
• Speak with our residents!