

WeRISE WORKING TO ERADICATE
RACISM IN SCIENCE &
ENGINEERING



Goal: develop and implement a suite of integrated, interdisciplinary, community-engaged, anti-racism training opportunities for civil and environmental engineering undergraduates and faculty to build capacity for solving complex and interconnected challenges of our time

Collaborative Research: Challenging Anti-Black-Racism in Civil and Environmental Engineering Curriculum

Level 3 funded project in the Engaged Student Learning track of the NSF Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Education and Human Resources (IUSE: EHR) program

Community Partnerships



Building curriculum with and within disadvantaged communities for mutual beneficial outcomes through reciprocal engagement

Student Training



Training students on structural racism and community engagement through anti-racist pedagogy and environmental justice

Faculty Training



Training faculty on structural racism and community engagement through anti-racist pedagogy and environmental justice

Environmental Justice



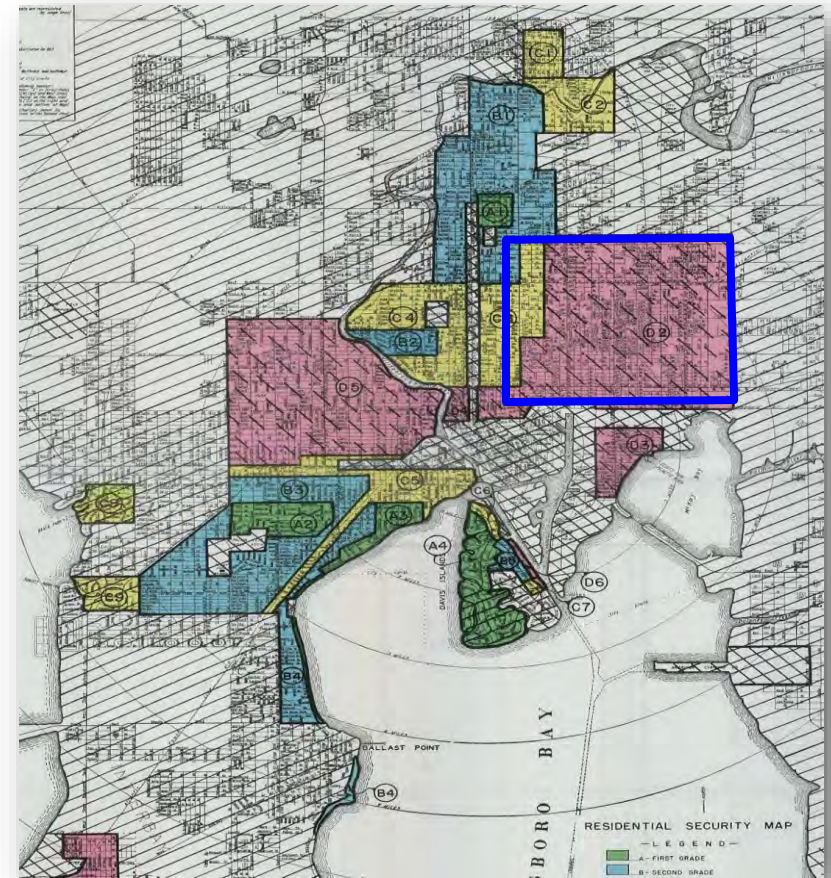
- how race, class, and politics intersect in the unequal distribution of environmental hazards across communities
- how communities of color often experience a disproportionate burden of environmental pollution and its negative health consequences
- how these factors impact — and are impacted by — Federal and State environmental laws and policies



Environmental Justice & Stormwater Ponds in East Tampa



Example of a fenced stormwater pond along 22nd Street across from Middleton High School



HOLC redlining map showing East Tampa marked with a “D” grade for “hazardous” with an “undesirable population”

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City To Re-Study Ponds After Protest

(SEE STORY ON PAGE 2-A)

"We are convinced that the retention pond is not in the best interest in our community. We have spent years maintaining our community. No one will want to live in our area if the city continues to take more and more valuable land for retention ponds."

—Ruby Gatson, East Tampa resident (1985)

Residents Speak Out; City Agrees To Re-Study Retention Pond Plans



From left to right Roberta Lopez and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jolly.

BY PATTY ALLEN
Sentinel Staff Writer

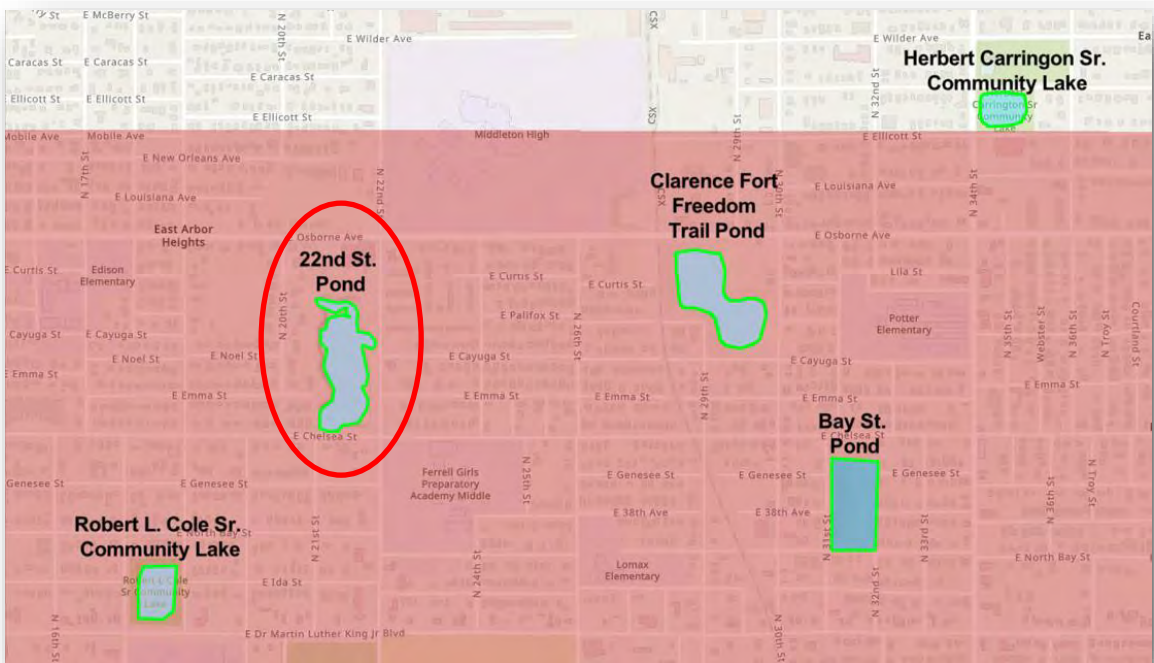
The residents living in the vicinity of N. 32nd St., E. Paris, and E. Henry were united in their opposition to the city's proposed plans to build a retention pond behind their homes.

This stand left Bob Wallace, the city's Deputy Director of Public Works, with only one course of action — to go back and study the area and determine if there is an alternative way to prevent street flooding between N. 43rd and Henry.

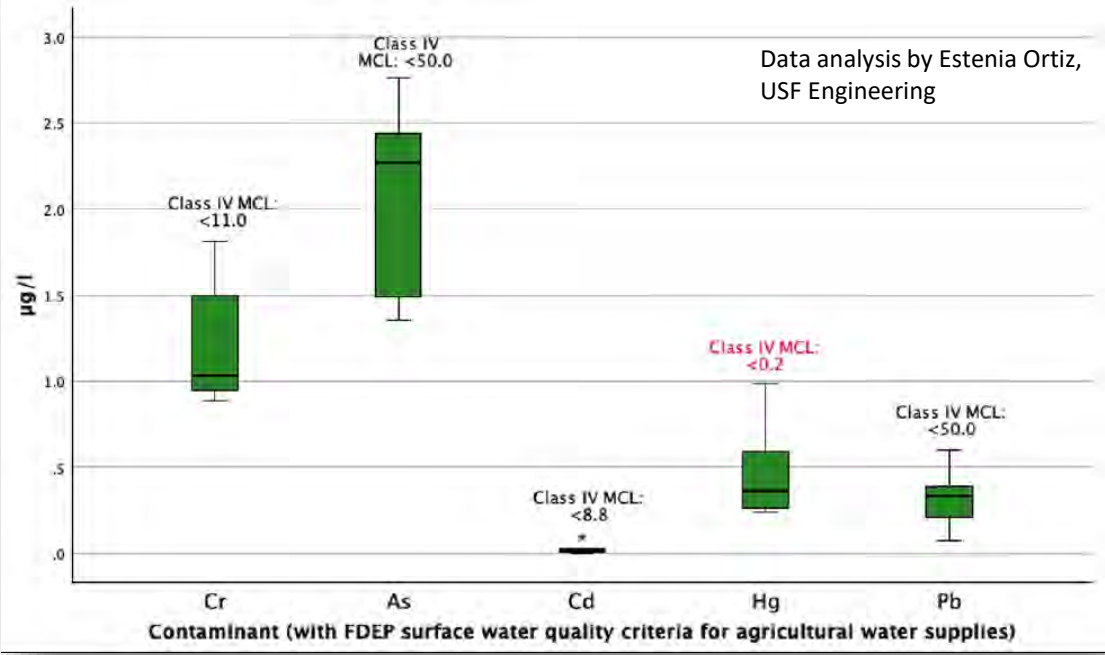


From left to right Bob Wallace and Mike Burwell.





Oral History w/ Lela
 Lela Washington 1/20
 a 5th grade in E Tampa
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 - she knocked over when neighbors
 - she got - his tag it
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 neighbors
 piece of the safety & police are present
 she wants to see a security more rural when
 choose -> 2011/12





“We didn't have a park when I moved in this area. It was a cow pasture, and we went before City Council, and they gave us a park.”

“There is a lot of mobility in East Tampa that wasn't here in the beginning. It has been fun seeing the changes and I'm hoping to see more changes like the center that they are going to build for the seniors on 34th.”

–Betty Bell, President of the Jazzy Seniors



Environmental Justice Film Festival & Oral History Book

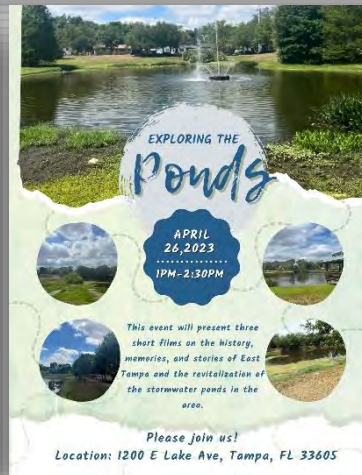
- Students presented their videos on stormwater ponds (past, present, & future) with the Jazzy Seniors and other community stakeholders
- A video about the WeRISE project and Jazzy Senior collaboration was produced
- A book documenting the oral histories of the seniors was published and distributed



East Tampa - Jazzy Seniors

Photo compilation of an oral history

WeRISE.info
ISBN 978-0-9790189-6-1



Pre- and Post-Assessment of Students

Community

Pre-Assessment Themes

“Community refers to the group one identifies themselves as belonging to. It can coalesce because of a shared location, interest, or any other commonality.”

“Community is a sense of belonging and trust among a large group of people, often living in the same area, but not always, especially since the internet has helped people across the globe find a sense of community with one another.”

“Community is a group of people who know and love each other, take care of each other, and share something together (neighborhood/ apartment building, garden, book club, history, etc.)”

Post-Assessment Themes

“A community is not a homogenous entity, there are many individuals with different interests, priorities, and goals that have to be balanced and considered.”

“Community can be defined in many ways, as the groups that make up a physical space or as a group that shares a common interest, identity or belief.”

“Communities can hold very different desires and beliefs about their circumstances than outsiders may see fit”

Racism

Pre-Assessment Themes

“Racism is discrimination prejudice/hate against a person or racial group based on the color of their skin, the language they speak, or the culture they practice.”

“A societal view that sees one race as “less than” the other, and therefore diminishes that race's position in society. This may be conscious or unconscious, but it marginalizes communities of color by creating a disadvantage for them in society.”

“Preferential treatment of individuals of a certain race, whether purposeful or implicit.”

Post-Assessment Themes

“I think it has helped me check my privilege in many ways. I've been able to even better understand the racist structures that govern our country.”

“Racism impacts people's health and wellbeing because of issues like environmental racism placing a disproportionate amount of toxic waste facilities in communities of color because the majority white population didn't want them.”

“Structural disenfranchisement of individuals and communities of color as a result of colonial ideals of “race” deeply imbedded in the American psyche.”

Working to Eradicate Racism in Science and Engineering

Connect your curriculum

LEARN MORE



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Watch on YouTube

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