CivicSpark

Ariadna Hernandez graduated from University of the Pacific in 2014 with a B.S. degree in Environmental Science. She is interested in climate change, wildlife, botany, forestry, and agriculture. After CivicSpark, Ariadna plans to continue her career in climate change, specifically on its effects to wildlife, and hopes to eventually return to school for a Master's degree.

Ariadna Hernandez, Sacramento City District 6 Councilmember Eric Guerra, CivicSpark member Emily Potter, and STF Community Engagement Manager Matthew Van Donsel.

NeighorWoods Helping Neighborhoods
Urban Heat Island Project
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Project Overview

The UHI project is a collaboration between the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) and the Sacramento Tree Foundation (STF). This project supports STF’s NeighborWoods program, which is funded through a Cap and Trade grant distributed by CalFire. The UHI project focused on assisting STF in the promotion of the NeighborWoods program within South Sacramento, specifically in the zip codes 95823, 95824, and 95828 (on the map: yellow, blue, and red respectively). STF will concentrate its efforts on 17 census tracts within this area that are designated as disadvantaged communities (DACs) by CalEnviroScreen 2.0.

Benefits of Trees to DACs

- Reduce asthma
- Absorbs CO2
- Higher property values
- Increase physical activity

Clean Air
Stress relief
Aesthetic look
Shade

Project Benefits

- Happier residents
- More engaged students
- Increase neighbor interaction
- Reduce crime
- Decrease in utility costs

Community Profiles

Important indicators from socio-demographic data that had a potential connection with tree canopy were selected for the census tracts.

This data was compiled into a profile for the 17 target tracts, as well as for the other 26 DACs in Sacramento. Maps were also created to display key indicators.

Project Deliverables

These profiles and maps will assist organizations applying for Cap and Trade funding to understand the communities they will work with.

Right to Left: CivicSpark member Ariadna Hernandez, Sacramento City District 6 Councilmember Eric Guerra, CivicSpark member Emily Potter, and STF Community Engagement Manager Matthew Van Donsel.

Members collected socio-demographic information for the 17 census tracts from the American Community Survey. Community information, including churches, schools, community centers, and health data were also collected. A list of community organizations for the area was created, and members, along with a STF staff member, meet with these groups to introduce the program and request their collaboration and support. Currently, a NeighborWoods Month event is being planned for the end of October.