

Increasing Green Space in Downtown Aurora

By: Jensen Coonradt



Personal Connection

- I chose to research the red lined areas in downtown Aurora because I live within 5 minutes of downtown Aurora and often go there with my family
- Through today's challenge, I was shocked to see the disparities in green space between downtown Aurora and the green space in the downtown areas of wealthier cities such as Naperville.



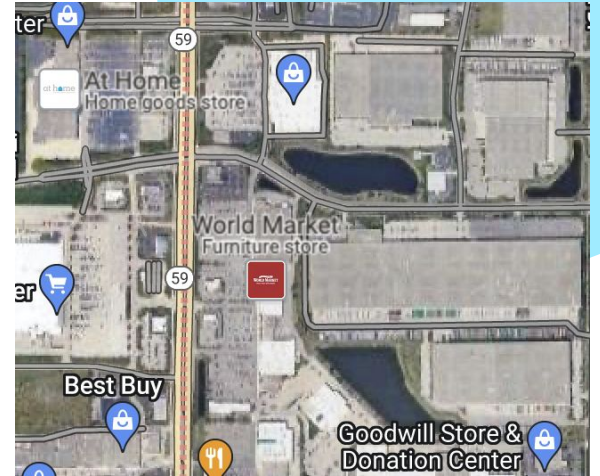
History of Aurora, Illinois

- Joseph McCarty, a pioneer from New York State, traveled west, building his first campsite in 1834 in what is now the site of downtown Aurora
- He thought the location was an ideal place to start a new community
- He, with the help of his brother, started a settlement in what is modern day Aurora
- When, in 1837, a Post Office was established, the village was named Aurora, goddess of dawn.
- Aurora got the nickname “City of Lights” when it was the first city in the United States to use electric lights for publicly lighting the entire city



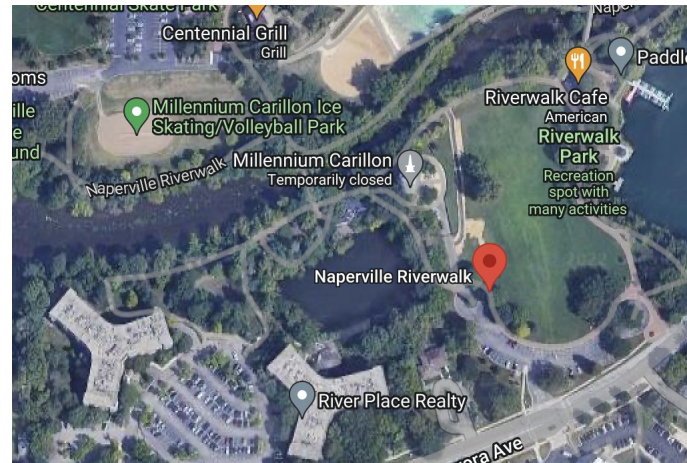
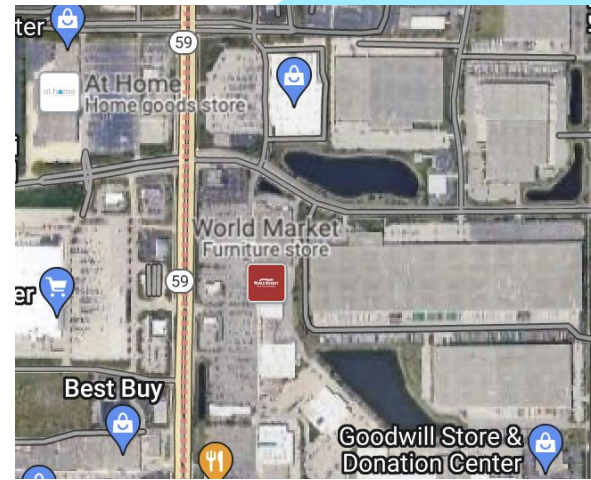
Current Conditions

- The redlined section of Aurora has minimal green space between the many manufacturing centers and warehouses in this area
- There is little tree cover due to a lack of trees



Comparisons to Non-Red Lined Neighborhoods

- The image the top right shows the area near Aurora's downtown whereas the image in the bottom right shows the area near Naperville's downtown area (another nearby city)
- As you can see, downtown Naperville, a non-red lined area, has substantially more green space than its Aurora counterpart



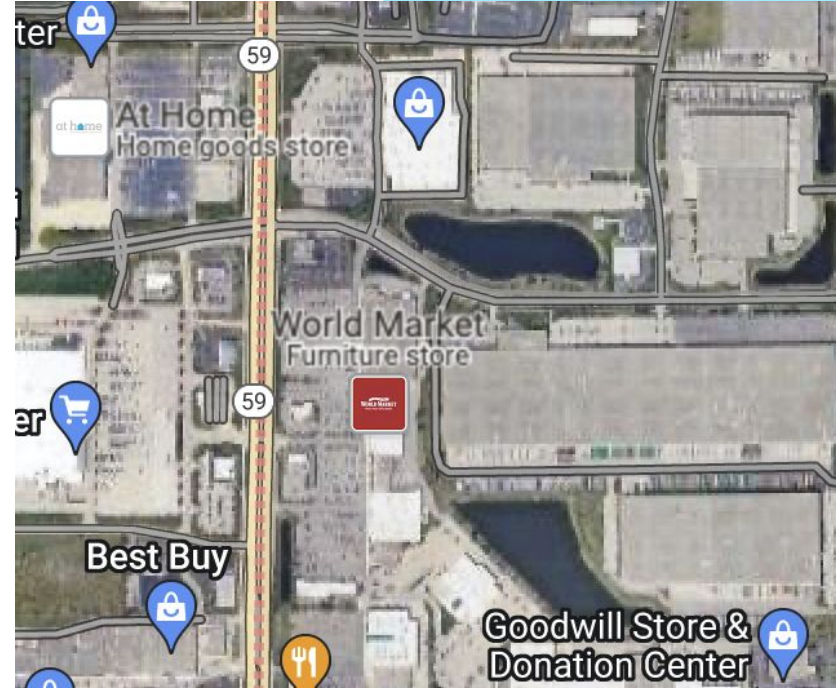
Why Is Green Space Important?

Green space has been shown to benefit residents both physically and mentally and increase property values within an area as people want to live near green spaces.



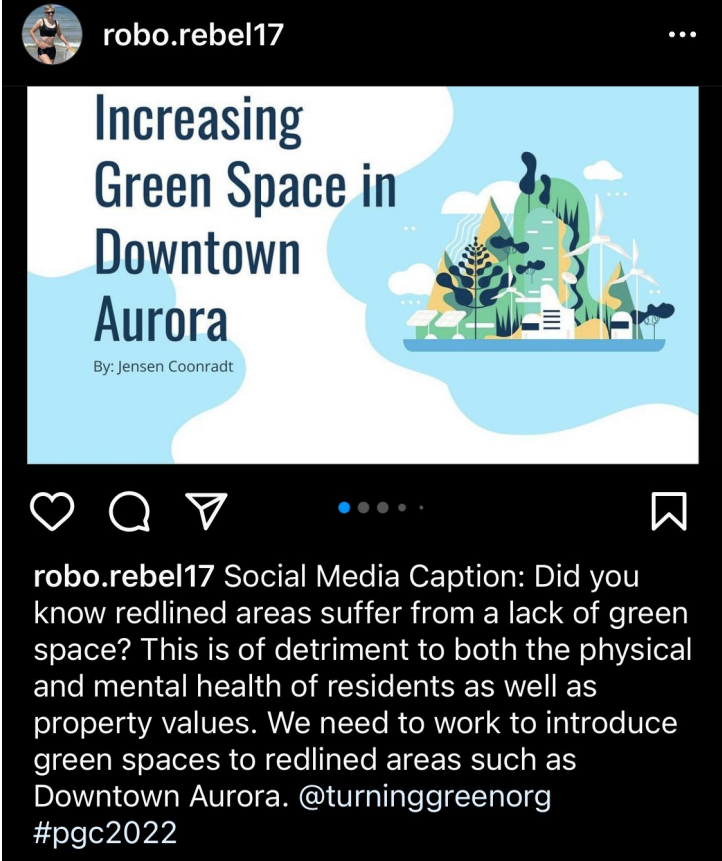
How To Add Additional Green Space?

- Could grow plant-life on top of buildings improving their insulation and adding more plant-life to the area
- Could grow trees in the small patches of grass between buildings, increasing tree cover
- In the concrete public spaces shown, could have areas of grass within them for people to sit on and socialize at



Social Media Post

Social Media Caption: Did you know redlined areas suffer from a lack of green space? This is of detriment to both the physical and mental health of residents as well as property values. We need to work to introduce green spaces to redlined areas such as Downtown Aurora. @TurningGreenOrg #PGC2022



The image shows a screenshot of a social media post from the user 'robo.rebel17'. The post features a graphic with the title 'Increasing Green Space in Downtown Aurora' and a credit to 'By: Jensen Coonradt'. The graphic includes illustrations of trees, wind turbines, and a car. Below the graphic are icons for heart, comment, share, and bookmark, along with a progress indicator. The caption text is repeated below the graphic.

robo.rebel17

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