The Historic Harm, Inequities & Water Affordability: Race, Rates & Infrastructure

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All About Water: Equity and Affordability
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Law v. Equity

- **Definition of equity**
- **1a:** justice according to natural law
- **3c:** a body of legal doctrines and rules developed to enlarge, supplement, or override a narrow rigid system of law
Words that start with “R”

• **Restitution:** an equitable remedy with two elements
  - A benefit has been conferred
  - It would be unjust to retain it

• **Reparations:**
  - **1a:** a repairing or keeping in repair
  - **2a:** the act of making amends, offering expiation, or giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury
Race, rates and Infrastructure
Race, Rates & Infrastructure

- Structural Racism: The inter-institutional dynamics that produce and reproduce racially disparate outcomes over time
- Structural racism requires a bureaucracy, administration and infrastructure to operate
- Water infrastructure can be used as a metaphor to understand the dynamics of structural racism in a region over time
- Rate structures: Oppression manifested through the bureaucratic administration of a public assert
Regionalism: Growth 1920-2004
Added to DWSD, 1950–1959
Berkley
Sterling Heights
Westland
Birmingham
Clawson
Hazel Park
Madison Heights
Beverly Hills
Canton
Centerline
Huron Township
Added to DWSD, 1960—1969

- Farmington
- Plymouth Township
- Fraser
- Pontiac
- Utica
- Van Buren Township
- Belleville
- Bloomfield
- Northville Township
- Troy
- Auburn Hills
- Novi
- City of Northville
- Shelby Township
- Clinton Township
- City of Flint
- City of Flushing
- Keego Harbor
- Sumpter Township
- Rockwood
- Ash Township
- Village of Carleton
## Added to DWSD, 1970—1979

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Township/City</th>
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<tr>
<td>West Bloomfield Twp</td>
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Where is opportunity?

- Mapping Opportunity
- Defining Opportunity
  - Housing
  - Employment
  - Schooling
  - Health
  - Transportation
  - Food security
  - Living environment
Segregation wealth & opportunity
Spatial Racism in S.E. Michigan


Legend:
- High Opportunity
- Very High Opportunity
- Moderate Opportunity
- Low Opportunity
- Very Low Opportunity

Source: Neighborhood Opportunity Analysis by the Kirwan Institute and the U.S. Census Bureau
Author: The Kirwan Institute, The Ohio State University
Date: July 18th, 2008
Note: Opportunity Analysis based on assessment of 10 neighborhood-based indicators of opportunity. Please review report for full list of indicators.
Race, rates and infrastructure

- Municipal distress in cities like Detroit and Flint are grounded in a history of **spatial-structural racism**
- **Spatial-structural racism** lies at the heart of water quality issues and water un-affordability in Flint, Detroit and Toledo
- **Strategic racism** and Emergency Management lie at the heart of the Flint Water Crises, water shutoffs, the theft of DWSD and the creation of the GLWA
- Only the intentional use of a racial equity frame can lead to sustainable change
Action in equity

- **Equity**: justice according to natural law
- **Restitution**: an equitable remedy with two elements
  - A benefit has been conferred
  - It would be unjust to retain it
- **Reparations**:
  - 1a: a *repairing* or keeping in *repair*
  - 2a: the act of making amends, offering expiation, or giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury
- **Race, Rates & Infrastructure**