PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY FORESTRY

2024 CONFERENCE

Arbor Day Foundation™

Urban Trees and Public Health in Cleveland and the Great Lakes Region

PRESENTED BY:

Mike Piskur

Program Director, GSGP

AGENDA

GSGP and the Great Lakes Region

Estimating co-benefits

Events

Trees and health in Cleveland

Next steps

GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE GOVERNORS & PREMIERS

More than 40 years of collaboration among the region's chief executives:

Illinois Indiana Michigan Minnesota New York
Ohio Ontario Pennsylvania Québec Wisconsin

Growing the region's US$8 trillion economy and protecting the world's greatest freshwater system.

Gretchen Whitmer, Chair, Michigan Governor
Mike DeWine, Vice Chair, Ohio Governor

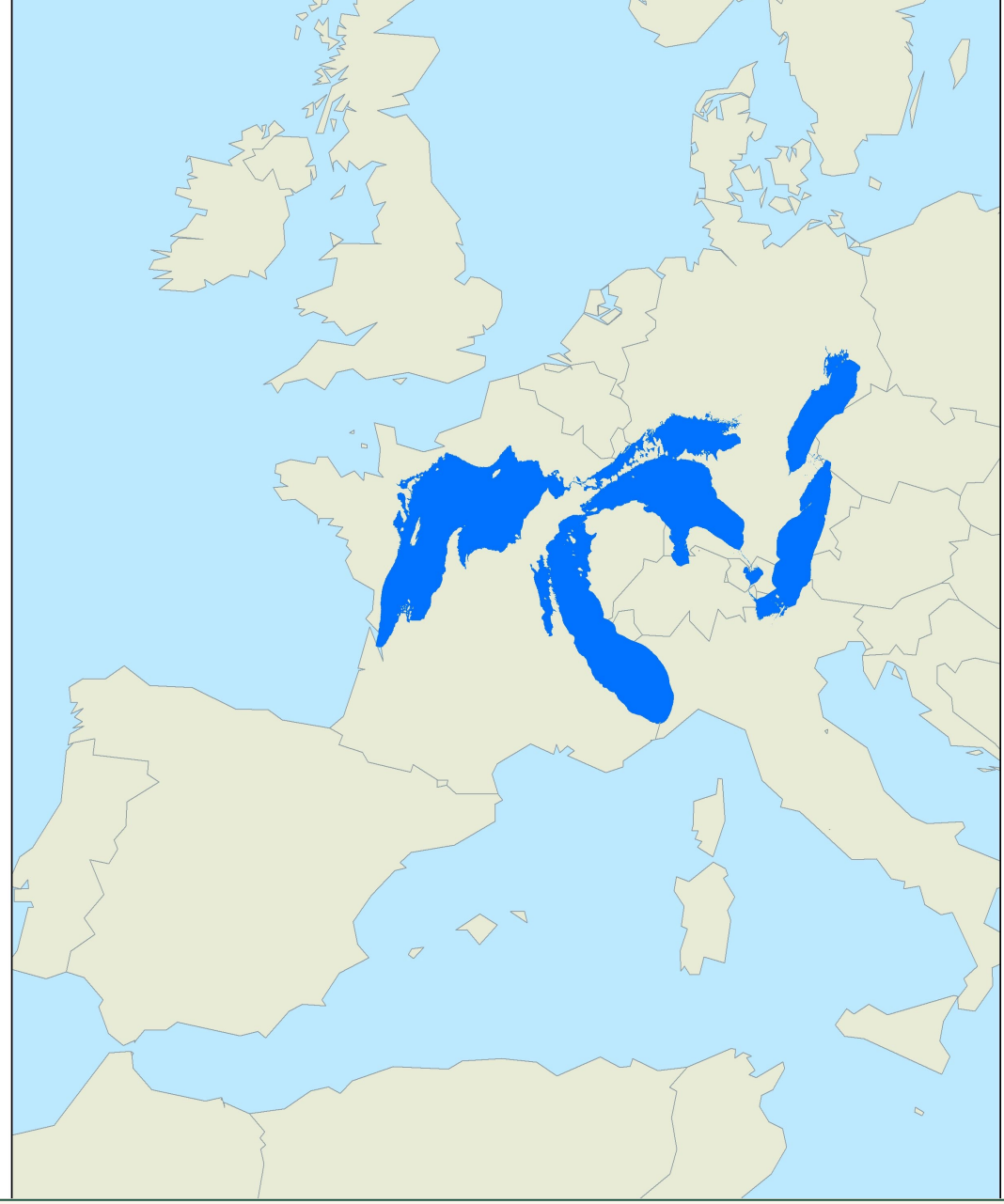
Great Lakes St. Lawrence Region

- Nearly US$8 trillion regional economy. Equivalent to third-largest economy in the world.
- The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River contain about 20% of the world's surface fresh water and 90% of North America’s.
- Population of more than 100 million people
- Major urban centers including Chicago, Toronto, and Detroit

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin
Lake Superior Watershed
Lake Huron-Michigan Watershed
Lake Erie Watershed
Lake Ontario Watershed
St. Lawrence River Watershed
N
W
E
S
0
37.5
75
150 Miles
Ontario
Québec
Minnesota
Wisconsin
Michigan
Illinois
Indiana
Ohio
Pennsylvania
New York
Lake Superior
St. Mary's River
Straits of Mackinac
Lake Michigan
Lake Huron
St. Lawrence River
Lake Ontario
St. Clair River
Lake St. Clair
Niagara River
Detroit River
Lake Erie
Great Lakes Commission

World's Largest Freshwater Ecosystem

- 244,160 square km of surface water
- World's largest inland waterway system, extending 3,800 km
- Eight U.S. States and two Canadian Provinces
- More than 160 U.S. and Canadian Tribes and First Nations



Great Lakes St. Lawrence Trees Initiative

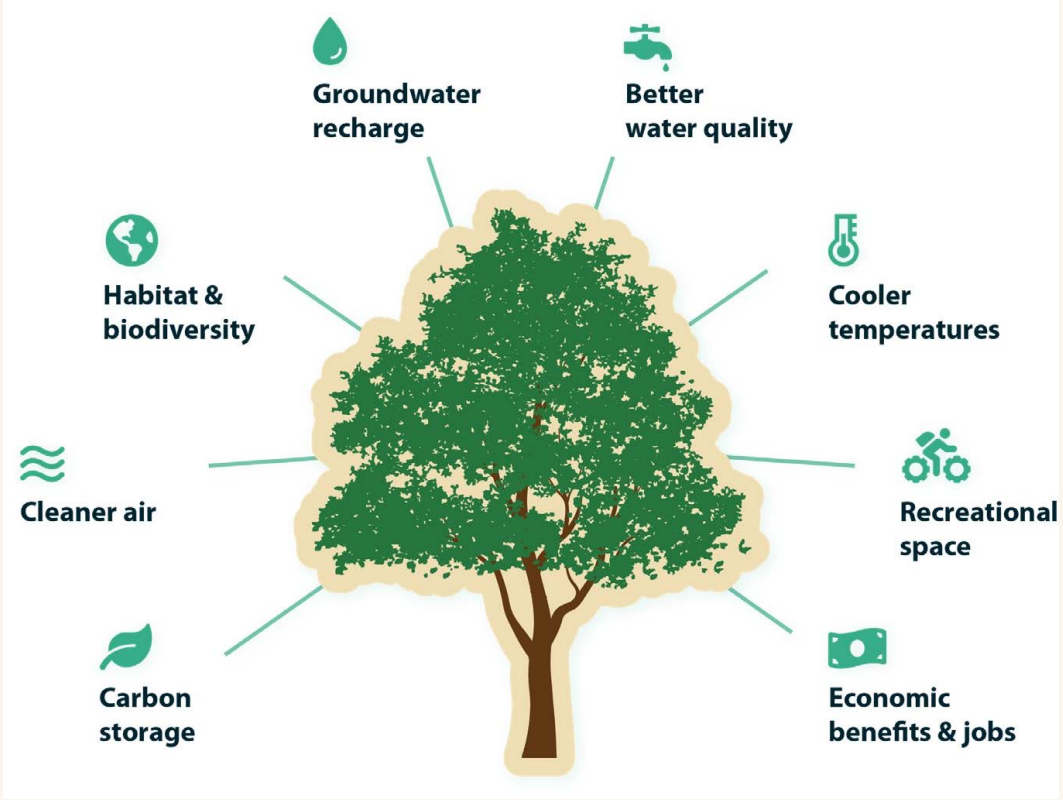
A regional goal to plant 250 million trees by 2033.

- Create the infrastructure needed to support and sustain tree planting that delivers a wide range of benefits now and into the future.
- GSGP is working with the region's eight US States and two Canadian Provinces, federal governments, corporations, cities and other institutions to achieve this goal.

Great Lakes Trees Initiative

Co-benefits

- Ongoing project to estimate reforestation co-benefits and develop a “roadmap to monetization” of outcomes. Included a survey of potential payors.
- Partners include The Nature Conservancy and Quantified Ventures. Supported by the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities and the US Forest Service.



The Nature Conservancy

Quantified Ventures

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

Trees for Public Health

Cleveland Clinic

CLEVELAND TREE COALITION

GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE GOVERNORS & PREMIERS

Partnership with the Cleveland Clinic and the Cleveland Tree Coalition to:

- Plant trees in low-canopy neighborhoods in Cleveland
- Conduct inventory of existing research to estimate tree planting health outcomes
- Estimate health benefits of urban tree planting
- Develop informational resources for patients and local communities
- Supported by the Cleveland Foundation

Trees for Public Health

- Urban trees can be a cost-effective solution to deliver multiple positive outcomes.
- Investment in the planning and management of urban trees can pay dividends for health, the environment, and the economy.
- Reduce surface level temperatures by up to 20°F.
- Absorb ozone, NOx, SOx; intercept particulate matter.

Figure 6: Cleveland, Ohio - Asthma Rates

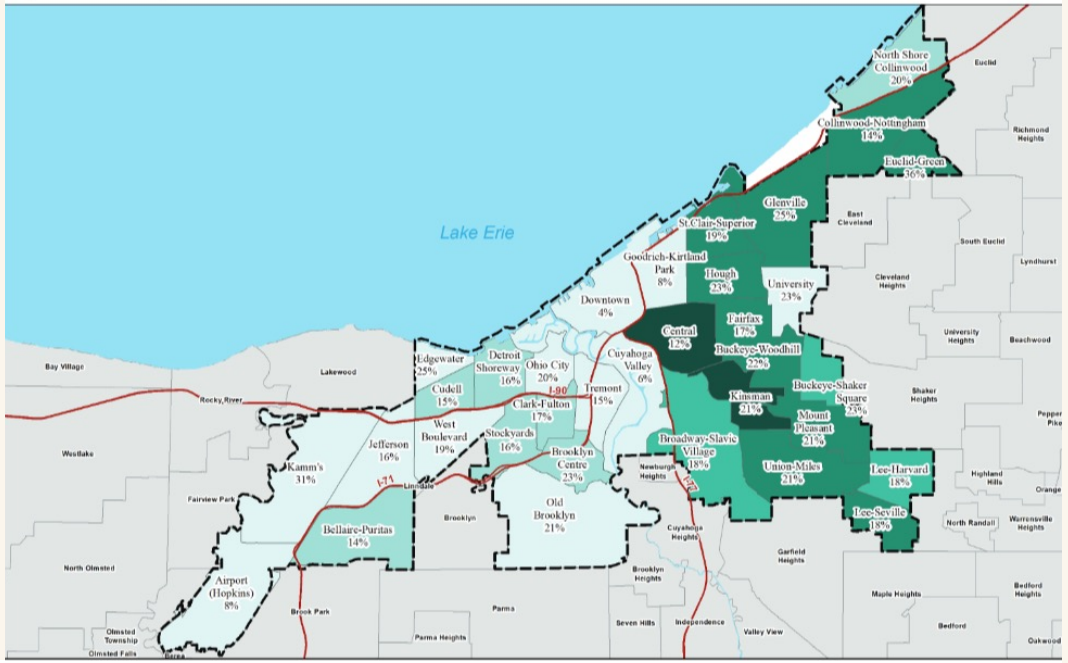


Figure 2: Cleveland, Ohio - Annual Air Quality Benefits

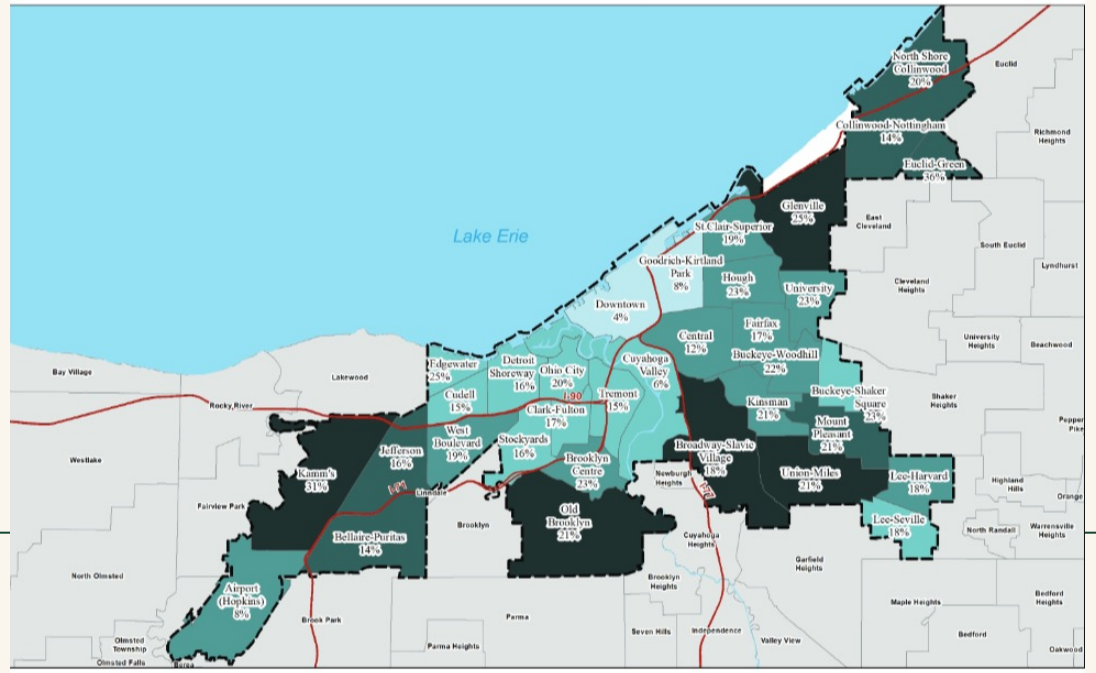
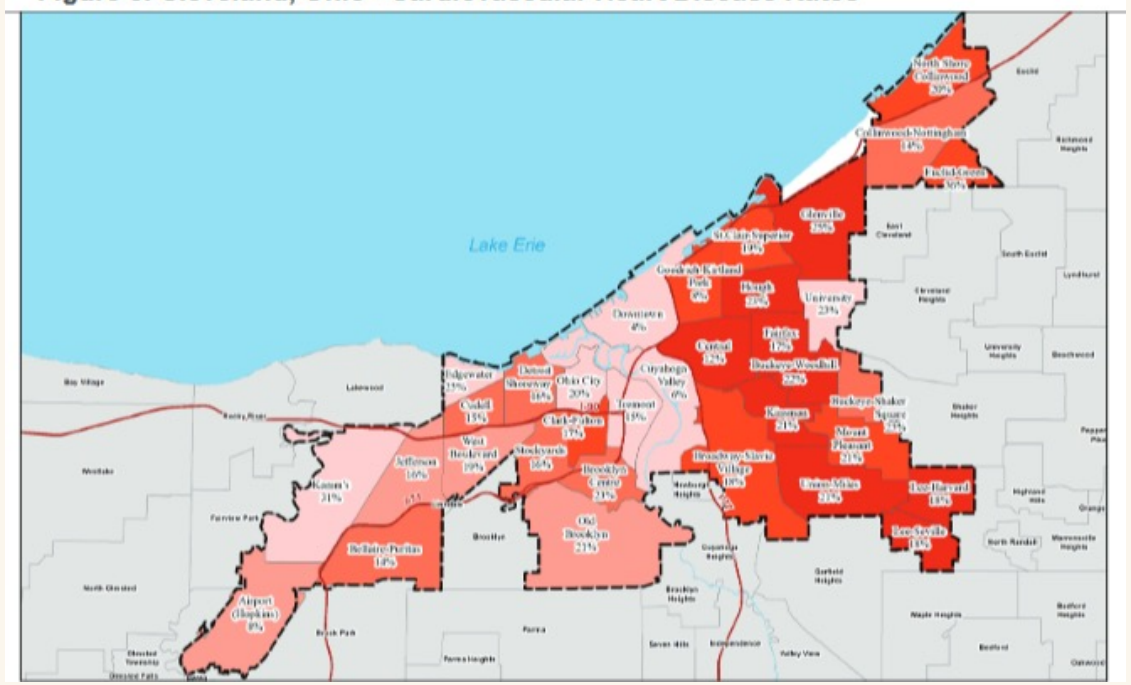


Figure 5: Cleveland, Ohio - Cardiovascular Heart Disease Rates



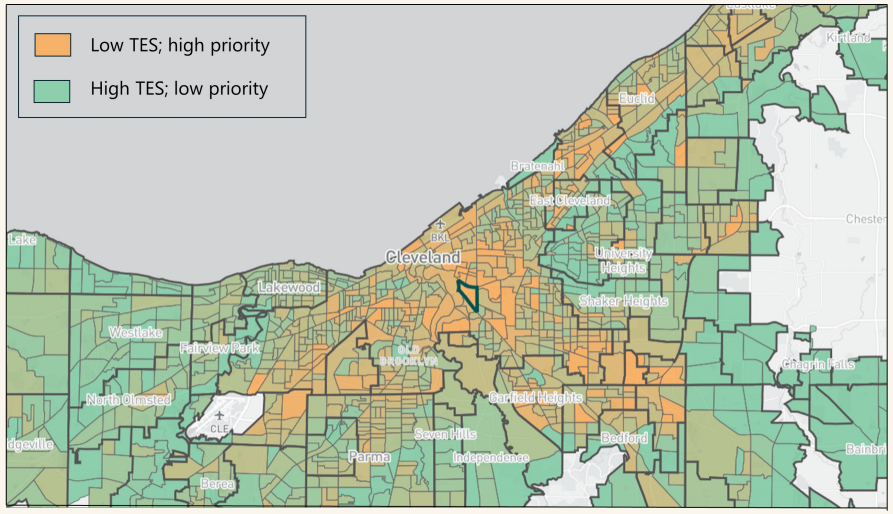


Image Courtesy of *American Forests Tree Equity Score (www.treeequityscore.org)*

St. Clair Superior neighborhood of Cleveland – October 2024

Spend 20-30 minutes a day near trees. Why?

- Improves mental health
- Better heart health
- Boosts brain development
- Helps you breathe better
- Reduces effects of heat & sun
- Delivers a healthier baby
- Heal faster from surgery

Trees for Public Health

Next steps:

- Translate infographic into other languages
- Develop resources for doctors, medical students, and other health professionals
- Expand partnerships to other Great Lakes cities
- Information for specific demographic groups (e.g., children, expectant mothers)
- Engage with other health care partners
- Work to establish trees as critical infrastructure!

Thank you.

Mike Piskur

mpiskur@gsgp.org

Cailyn Andrews

candrews@gsgp.org

greatlakestrees.org