

Strengthening Community Environmental Health through Duke-HBCU Partnerships



Global Health

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BASS CONNECTIONS

Partnering with Paul Quinn College to identify environmental injustices and community health issues in the Highland Hills neighborhood of south Dallas, Texas

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Identify environmental amenities and disamenities within the Highland Hills neighborhood
- Vision options for revitalization in order to improve environmental well-being
- Enhance community's voice in public decision-making processes
- Understand how successful university partnerships can apply knowledge in service to communities



Paul Quinn College's "We Over Me" community garden takes the place of the school's football field in order to address the deficit of healthy food options in Highland Hills



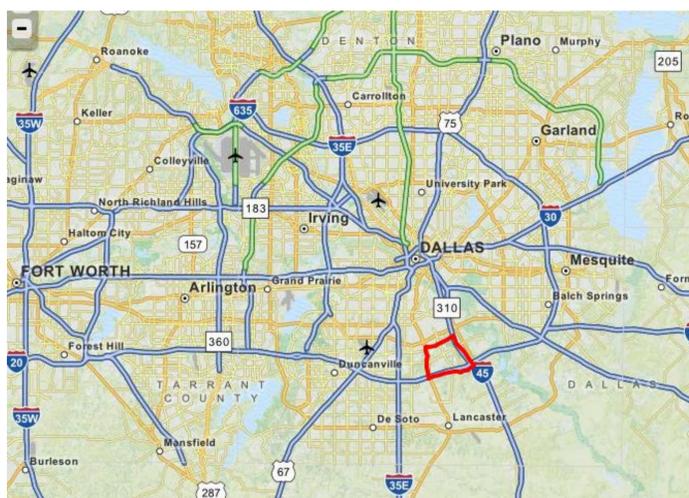
Environmental amenities in Highland Hills

PRELIMINARY DATA

- Focus groups conducted in Fall 2013 identified lack of food options, lack of development and retail, and community reputation as most noted disamenities
- Green space, serenity, college campuses most-identified amenities

KEY QUESTIONS

- What influence does the natural environment have on community well-being?
- How do disproportionate environmental burdens affect a community's economic and social well-being?



The Highland Hills area (outlined) is close to downtown Dallas, but has abundant open space and natural beauty.

METHODOLOGY

- Recruit community partners representing varied interests within and outside of Highland Hills
- PhotoVoice: Give cameras to community partners in order to visually document aspects of their environment and stimulate discussion of captured issues
- Interview community partners about their responses
- Host exhibition of final photo collection and documentary video in order to solicit community feedback and generate public dialogue of neighborhood environmental well-being



Protesting expansion of neighboring landfill