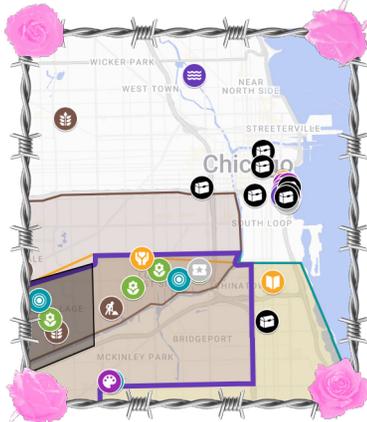


How You Can Disrupt the Prison Cycle with Green Spaces!

Visit your local green space and explore how your surroundings can work for you and in return how you can be there for your community!

- Volunteer your time during clean-up days, market days, and other times the space needs extra hands.
- Be part of a workshop as an attendee and meet new people!
- Explore new ways you can engage your neighbors in something your passionate about within the space (i.e. Clean Ups, Craft Club, Open Mic Night, Collage Club)
 - always ask the land stewards for approval of using their space if holding events/workshops within the area.
- Spend time with friends/family/neighbors in these spaces!
- Create art from the green space; from visual scales to trash art!
 - or even promote your artistic skills to groups/orgs by applying/asking for design or brand look needs (like flyers/logos/etc. !)
- Take the time to ground, meditate, or read a book in the green space.
- If your green space has garden beds, start growing your own food (through applying with the land steward)!

Green spaces can become hubs of self-expression where you can find your intrinsic value and place in the world around you!



Find your local nature based groups/businesses/artists/clubs/etc. local to your neighborhood and across Chicago with Somos Los Urbs In Horto open-access "Community Connection Map"!



Or use our "CTA Nature Guides" to find the most commutable friendly green space near you!

Also available at: <https://somoslosurbs.inhort.wixsite.com/chicago>

Green Spaces can be many things! & mean many things!

From natural environment to the built environment, the world around you can influence the very being we become! From community gardens, private green spaces, vacant lots to community hubs - a green space can be any space that provides you a connection to nature and influence you in ways you've never realized!

Biologically

Its known long term exposure to pollution can cause adverse effects on the living environment depending on particle size and type of chemical. You can even learn new skills and potentially find new jobs. Some community gardens have beds for neighbors and friends to grow your own produce!

Physically

Working in gardens can boost your physical ability and endurance from pulling weeds to lifting pounds of soil. Urban areas commonly have been Red-Lined, a discriminatory practice where services (loans/transport/housing/etc.) are withheld from marginalized neighborhoods to cause environmental remediation after the land has been vacated/used.

Mentally

Green spaces can be safe spaces to ground and meditate. Even becoming educational places to learn outside of a classroom/online through free workshops!



Socially

Most importantly you will find like minded people within these spaces. Make new friends through neighbors and various green space visitors in support of the space.

A rendition of my 22' core capstone project of my dual major cross study of Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation with Environmental Studies.

Focusing my study on utilizing green spaces in disrupting the inevitable effects of Systemic Racism and Environmental Rights at an urban level. Studying the implications marginalized BIPOC communities face when at the forefront of the environmental harm and leading the Environmental Justice movement, what it means to have lived experiences through a larger systemic issue, and understanding how to use surrounding neighborhood environments to disrupt a narrative they did not want to become; a statistic.

Somos Los Urbs In Horto 25'
@wearthecityinagarden

Disrupting The Prison Cycle with Green Spaces

Dedicated to my love for Chicago and hoping for a greener n' brighter future for my homies <3

Flip inside out for special community section by @delalunalibritos

How does being in an urban setting effect these two?

- Urban infrastructure colors like black/gray have been studied to cause unrest, distress, quick temper, and irritability. Urban vacant lots and unkempt spaces can stir similar emotions.
- Urban areas commonly have been Red-Lined, a discriminatory practice where services (loans/transport/housing/etc.) are withheld from marginalized neighborhoods to cause unjust divide of resources, primarily targeting African Americans and Mexican Americans.
- Urban areas subject marginalized neighborhoods to be designated industry grounds or dumping locations, often needing environmental remediation after the land has been vacated/used.



...is your environment causing you unrest?

What is the "Prison Cycle"

The prison cycle is the unfortunate result of being released from incarceration without re-entry support, ultimately being the cause of becoming incarcerated again. This is due to poor rehabilitation programs and re-housing programs to the social impacts from job prosperity, increased poverty levels & social stigma. Along with the unjust systemic oppression against black and Latinos who are 3-5 times more likely to be incarcerated and face longer sentences in the U.S.



What is "Environmental Racism"

Environmental Racism is a systemic issue that ties the infringement of marginalized BIPOC communities who are often at the forefront of environmental harm & disregard.

(The Sentencing Project 2021)

Credits: Tyler Lariviere/Sun-Times
Chicago's General

Green Spaces to Dismantle the Prison Cycle

Mass incarceration, which historically was used to dominate Black communities, has found an added target for their profiteering: immigrants. Politicians, warmongering businessmen, the profiteers of the prisons, and cops triumph in trillions of monies in this market of human beings. From Jim Crow to Juan Crow, mass incarceration is a system of dominating communities into poverty and trauma, turning human beings into commodities.



Green spaces are powerful tools against repression when they unapologetically humanize life on the street. Gardens are a place to eat a great meal, a place of beautiful neighborhood people who teach each other, and a place where possibilities grow and fill our hearts with DIGNITY / DIGNIDAD.

It is a belief among the Western Apache that power lives in places. We are all looking for a way to resist repression. Ask yourself where? Which intersection? Where better than a garden to sow seeds of liberation?



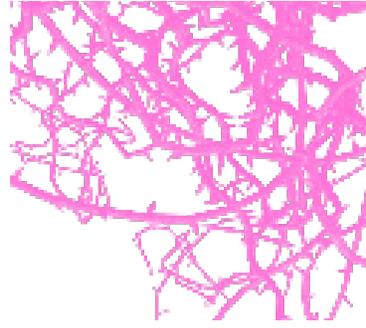
How can we address climate change when our comrades are thrown into detention or unmarked vans? Lower fossil fuel emissions when the State's violent engines are constantly running? It's corny but the first step is believing that a better world is possible. And that we are worth it.

The problem is still Mass

Incarceration

After the Civil Rights Movement, the U.S. started the largest prison building project in the history of the world ("Mass Incarceration"). Private companies and politicians both profit off people in bondage, creating a system that demands large sentences and to lock up immigrants for years at a time. Organizing with folks inside the carceral system is a key way to preserve human dignity, open communication, and build a People's Movement.

Ruth Wilson Gilmore Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California Ruth Wilson Gilmore (2007)



Until we are all free, people outside the system must be loud, loud enough for folks inside to hear, for the jailers to know that people are watching.

Build Community with Folks on the Inside

It's a hard task to organize with folks who are so heavily surveilled. Physical letters are opened, then photo-copied and screened for key words. Packages, even books, are often discarded. In immigration detention, it is sometimes impossible to reach comrades, friends, and family.

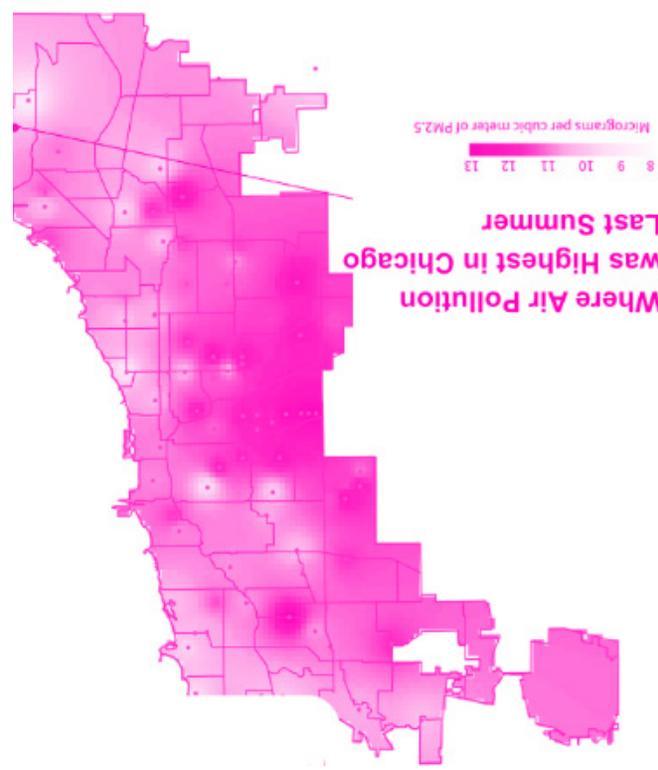
DO: Be persistent and demand to get in touch with your comrade.

DONT: Say or send anything that could get your letter rejected.

Pollution Hotspots were BUILT and must be DISMANTLED
The South and West Side Communities of Chicago have worse health outcomes because of a larger industrial footprint, fewer parks, and less tree cover. There are summer days when you see and feel the smog. It's why leaving the city, breathing cleaner air, people often realize just how dirty is the air we breathe. This map shows where people are most affected.

Bergin, Dillon, and Karen Wong, "this is Really Concerning": Chicago Air Quality Sensors Show Disparities across the City - and Unexplained Spikes in Pollution," MuckRock, 30 Nov. 2022, www.muckrock.com/news/articles/2022/nov/30/chicago-air-pollution-data/

Where Air Pollution was Highest in Chicago Last Summer



COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT SECTION

This section of the zine is reserved as an outlet for local community organizations/clubs/ artists/ etc. to share their initiatives, data, mission of their nature-based cause in and or around Chicago.

This zines special edition was curated by Libros de La Luna @delalunalibritos - a local non-profit bookshop in Brighton Park, Chicago by their lead Nate Haeflin.

Visit their location to experience local art displays, community events, kids reading to music classes and so much more at 4591 S. Archer Ave !

25'

Disrupting The Prison Cycle with Green Spaces

A closer study of pollution hot spots and crime by @delalunalibritos



Special Community Section Supported by @wearethecityinagarden