

# ReGreen Springfield

## PURCH Population Health Clerkship 2022

### Presenters:

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# Summary

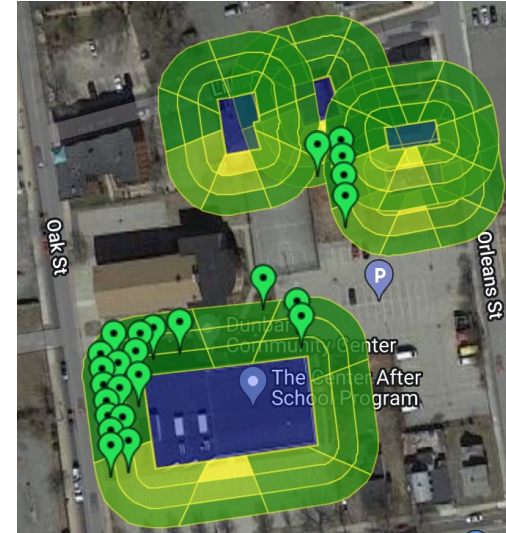
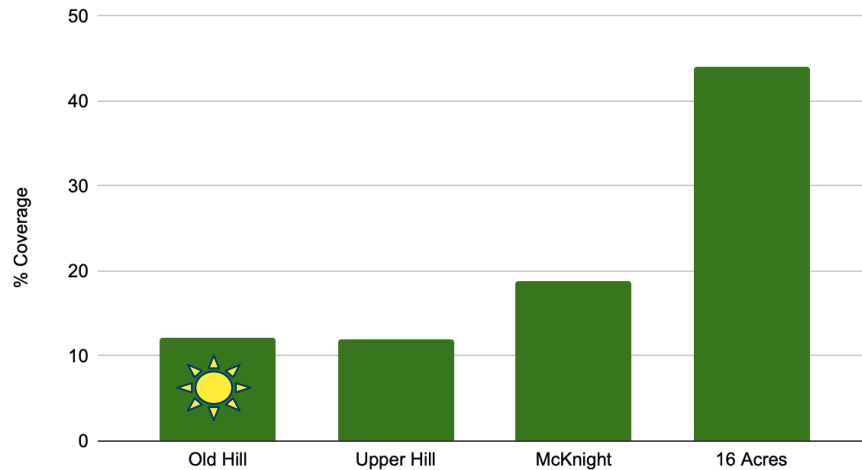
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- **Who are we?** A group of medical and physician assistant students.
- **Where are we?** We worked in the Old Hill Neighborhood of Springfield (US census block 250138018001) with ReGreen Springfield.
- **Goal:** Support urban forestry efforts to increase tree coverage in select neighborhoods of Springfield and eliminate environmental inequities by quantifying the health and environmental benefits that trees provide to the community.
- **Why addressing this issue is important?**
  - Springfield residents face a disproportionately high chronic disease burden
  - Environmental inequity leads to health disparities
  - Trees provide many health, financial, and environmental benefits to communities
  - Trees are planted for free through MA's Greening the Gateway Cities Program (GGCP)

# Experiential Learning

**How?** Part of our project focused on quantifying the benefits of planting additional trees around the Dunbar Community Center, located in Old Hill.

Springfield Neighborhood Tree Canopy Comparison



# Advocacy Pitch

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## Results:

Over 25 years, adding 25 trees around the community center would:

- ★ Provide a total of **\$14,746** in overall benefits
- ★ Remove **383 pounds** of pollution
- ★ Reduce atmospheric CO2 by **124,460 pounds**
- ★ Conserve **22,605.8 Kilowatt-hours** of electricity

## Advocacy:

- ★ Our project illustrates the direct **monetary and environmental benefits** to the community center population
- ★ Old Hill falls well below the recommended **national average of 40-60% canopy coverage**
- ★ Planting more trees throughout Springfield neighborhoods will help clean our air, lower energy bills, and **improve health**

# Call to Action

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Spread the word to anyone living in Springfield: they can get a tree on their property **for free!**

Contact the Senate Committee on Ways and Means to support this legislation: **An Act Establishing the Municipal Reforestation Program H.905/S.504**

*This Program sets up a structure to provide funding for municipalities throughout the Commonwealth to create a robust urban tree canopy cover in strategic locations, especially in treeless neighborhoods.*

## **GOALS OF THE LEGISLATION**

- Strengthen **climate resilience** against heat waves and floods
- Include trees and green infrastructure in **transportation projects**
- Expand urban forests in **environmental justice** neighborhoods
- Provide **equitable funding** for rural and urban communities to expand tree canopy cover
- Increase resources to **maintain the health** of newly planted and existing trees
- **Set a target** of 60 percent tree canopy cover for our cities and towns



# Acknowledgments

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**Community Preceptor:** David Bloniarz, ReGreen Springfield

**UMMS-Baystate Faculty Preceptor:** Jason Cross, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

**PURCH PHC Organizers & Facilitators:** Lisa Clinton, Dr. Sarah McAdoo



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