Watersheds: Southwestern Lake Michigan, Little Calumet River Basin


Current Land Use: Industrial, medium-low density residential

Challenges: Water quality, flooding

Opportunities: Area identified as a "high priority" for revitalization by regional planning authority (NIRPC), population declining, housing vacancies

Background:
Goals to Keep in Mind as You Complete Your Task:

1. Protect or restore freshwater wetlands, natural areas and open space to better manage sediment runoff for water quality and to mitigate flooding due lake level change, heavy precipitation and storms.
2. Identify areas where green infrastructure may be able to help attenuate flooding.
3. Direct new development toward existing developed lands and infrastructure.
Mapping Exercise Process Overview:

1. Identify Protected Lands (parks, designated natural areas, etc.)
2. Identify Developed Lands (residential areas, industrial areas)
3. Identify Land to be Conserved (wetlands, forests, undeveloped open spaces, etc.)
4. Identify Land to be Developed (to accomplish their expressed goals where should these municipalities focus development/redevelopment?)
5. Identify Lands to be Restored or Revitalized
1. Select a color for landuse types, recommended colors:
   - **Green**: currently protected land (existing parks and natural areas)
   - **Blue**: land recommended for conservation (wetlands, forest, flood prone areas, etc.)
   - **Red**: areas for restoration or placing green infrastructure (be sure to designate which)
   - **Black**: currently developed land
   - **Orange**: land recommended for development

2. Use patterns to indicate intensity/importance. Use different patterns (dots, crosshatch, etc.) to show intensity of resource/land use. Establish a legend on your map to track what colors and symbols represent.
Questions?
Report-Out & Conclusions:

- Group 1: conservation around little calumet; incorporating floodplain and restoring US Steel property; green infrastructure overlay
- Group 2: infill in urban areas of Gary, E Chicago, Hammond, areas that lost population, brownfield redevelop, buffer edges in floodplains, including ship canal, terrestrial corridors between water bodies, connect forest and grassland n/s
- Group 3: corridor connections, wanted more information on real open space
- Group 4: ditto, red marks on schools for education and green infrastructure implementation, WWTP in hazard areas – relocate if possible – critical infrastructure identification