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Historical Analysis of Muskegon Lake

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Historical Analysis of Muskegon Lake

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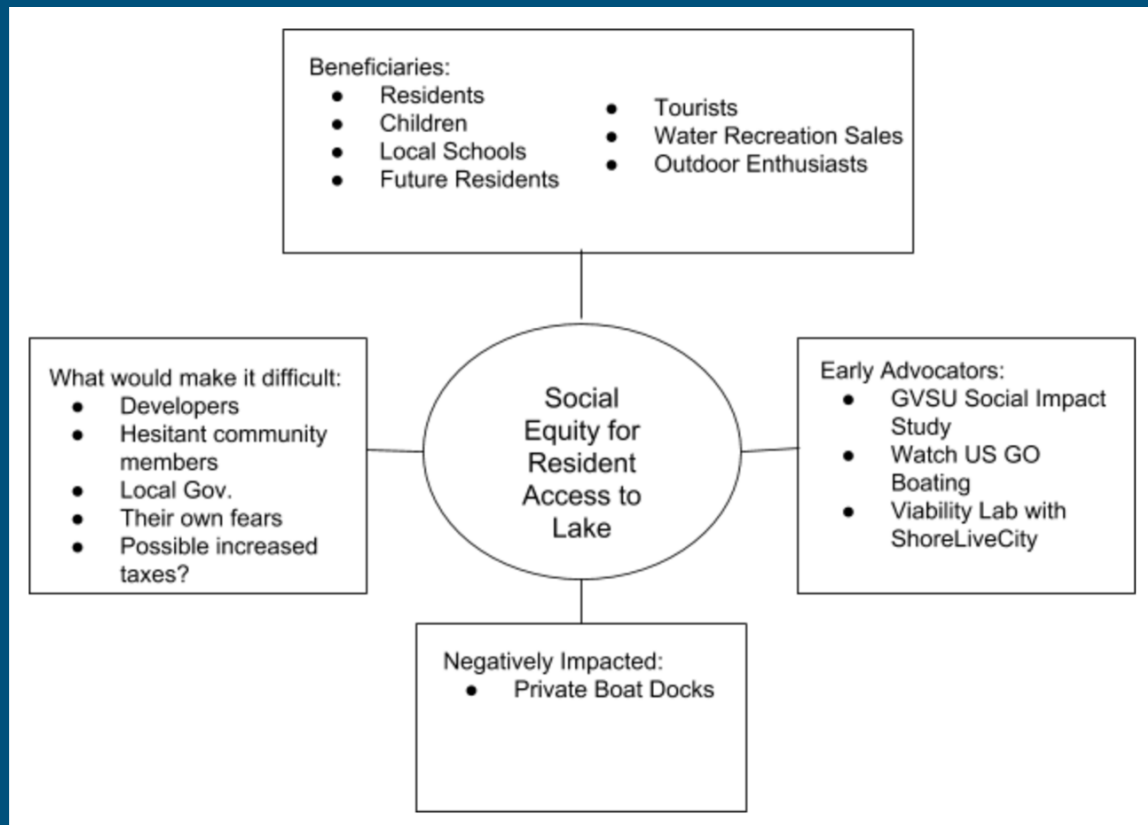


Problem Statement

There continues to be a portion of residents in the Nelson and Nims neighborhoods that are afraid or feel a disconnection with Muskegon Lake, physically and mentally. What throughout the history of Muskegon has caused this reaction?



Stakeholder Map





Problem Analysis

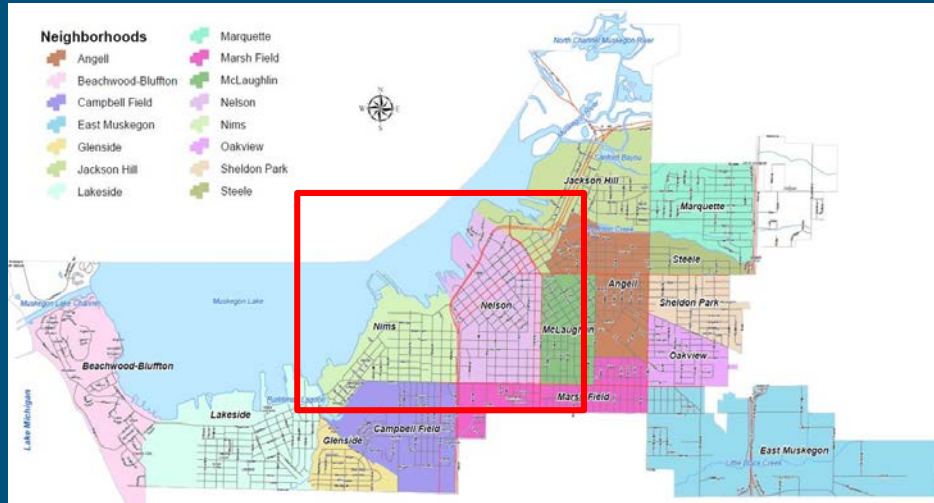
- Residents of the Nelson and Nims neighborhoods have no access to Muskegon Lake, and they are afraid of it.
- What are the barriers that limit their access? How did these barriers come to be?
- The park has no swimming access point, the health club is only for private members, and the public marina is fenced off.



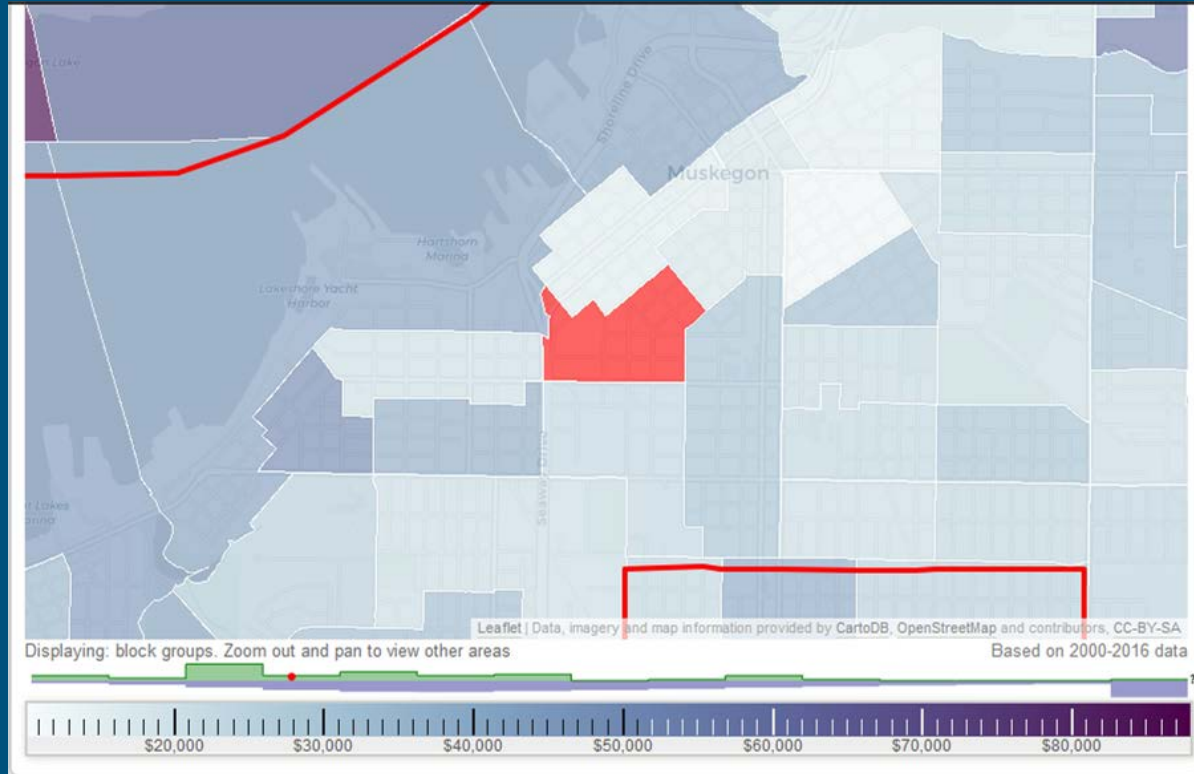
Problem Analysis

- Some residents have no connection to the water because of these barriers.
- There is not enough bottom-top planning coming from the local government.
- No resident involvement in planning causes more feelings of disconnection.
- Generate ideas to how their disconnection can be analyzed.

Nelson and Nims Neighborhoods (study area)

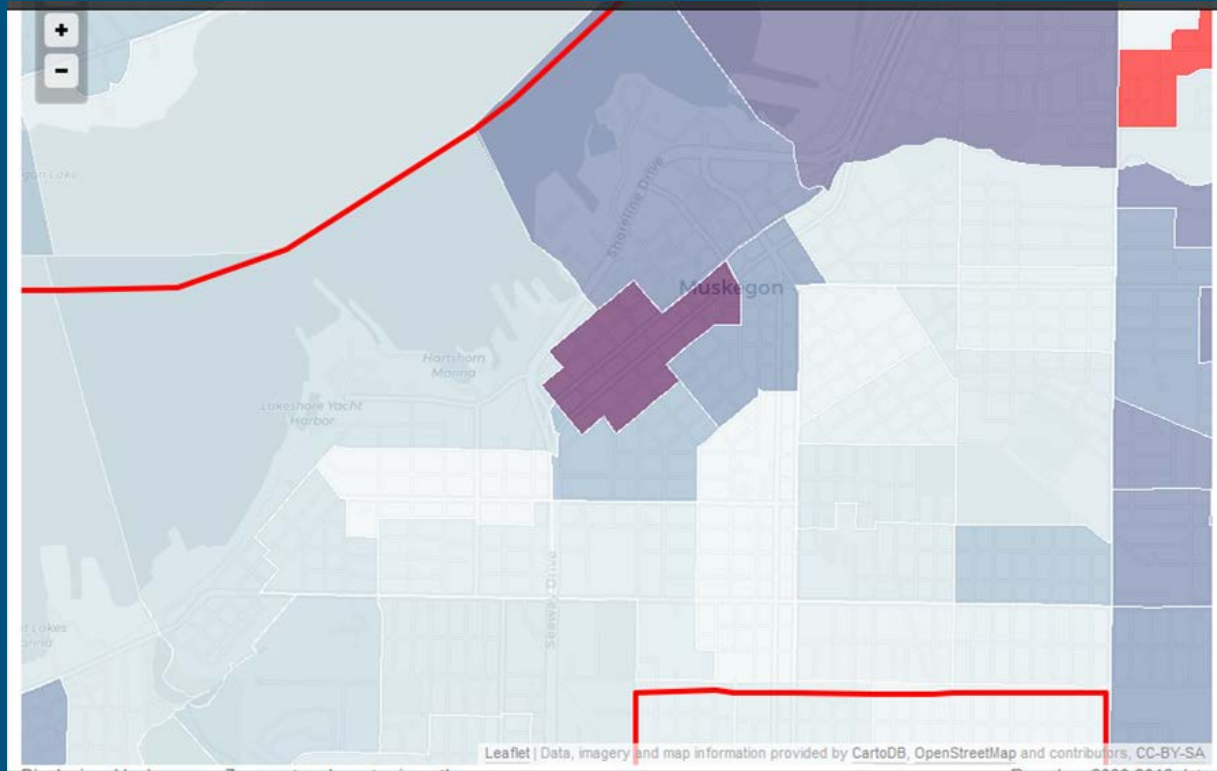


Demographic Analysis



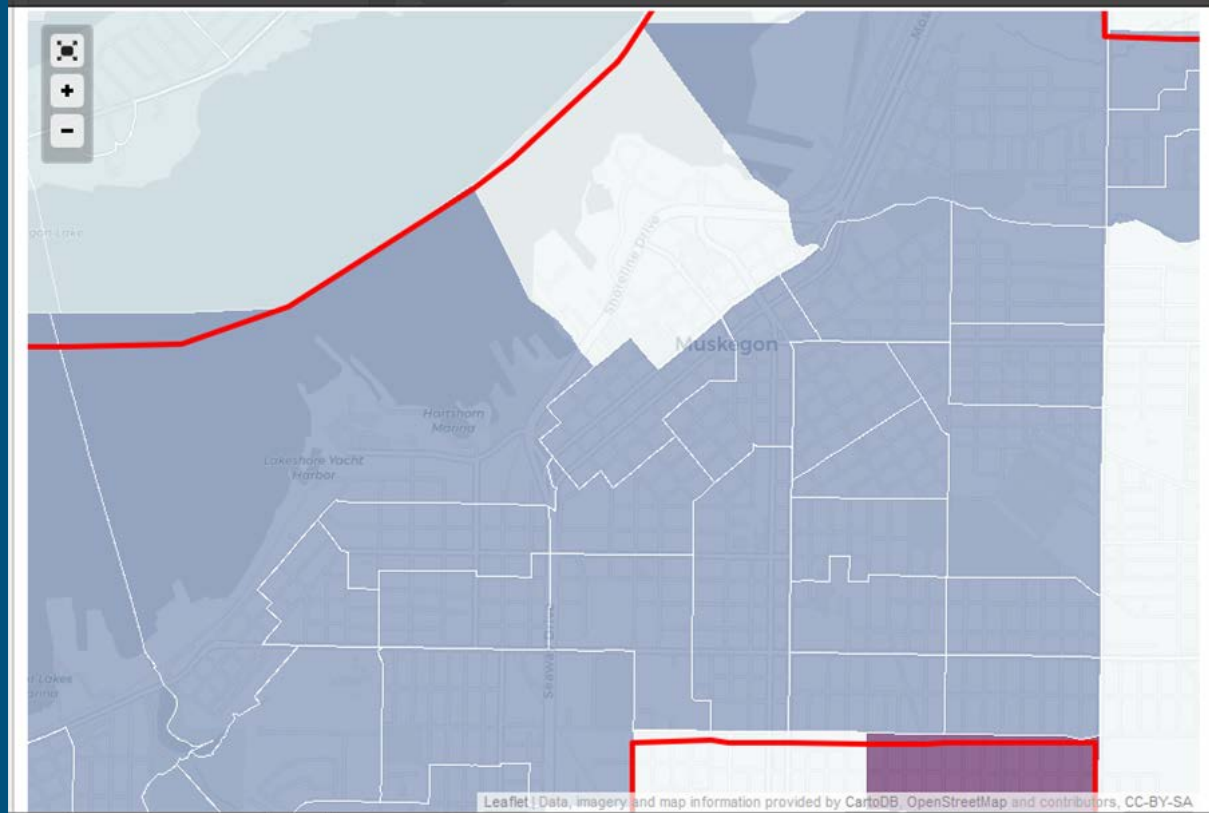
Most residents in the Nelson-Nims Neighborhood make under 30k a year

Demographic Analysis



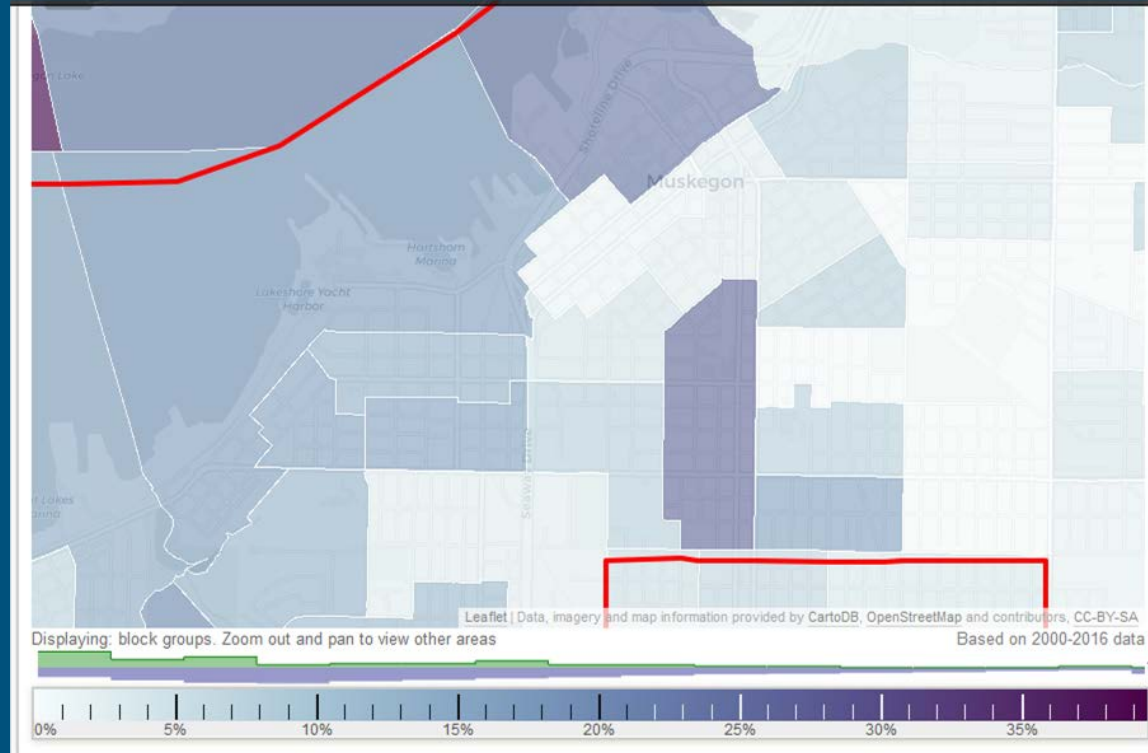
Cost of living is high in these neighborhoods

Demographic Analysis




Crime is not specific to these neighborhoods it is even throughout the city

Demographic Analysis



Bachelor Degree
Holders



1810 -1820: French Canadian Fur Traders including, Jean Baptiste Recollect established posts around Muskegon Lake.

1874: Muskegon Lake is boom with the logging and lumber industry, by 1880 47 sawmills surrounded the lake

Late 1800's: Lumber Industry came to an end in the late 19th century

1900's : Many companies like Campbell and the Central Paper Mill were attracted to the area to industrialize the lake. This caused the economy to rise

1960's: Factories are closed up and abandoned, further placing a barrier between residents and the water

1985: Muskegon Lake was designated as an Area of Concern by the EPA

1987: A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was created for Muskegon Lake

2002: A RAP update is public with completed actions

2004: The Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership involves stakeholders in the creation of restoration targets habitat, water quality, and natural resource issues.

2006: The Ruddiman Creek Act cleanup is completed, 90,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment is removed

2011: First beneficial use impairment (BUI) is removed from the lake, restriction on dredging

2012: Great Lakes Legacy Act project is completed in which 43,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment was removed from the Division Street Outfall. 60 acre cap is placed over the area to contain any remaining pollution

2013: two BUI are removed, restriction on fish and wildlife consumption and restriction on drinking water consumption

2015: BUI removed, Beach Closing

Muskegon Lake 1874



Image 1

Historic Muskegon Lake during it's thriving lumber industrial era

Downtown Muskegon during the mid 1900s



Image 2

Access for Nelson-Nims Neighborhoods to the lake have historically been blocked.



Old Barriers to the Lake

- During the late 1800s numerous sawmills and lumber supporting industries were located at Muskegon during this era.
 - Contributing to decreasing the environmental quality of the lake. People felt as if the water was too dirty to be in.
 - Industry blocked off access to the lake within downtown limits.



New Barriers to the Lake

- Thoughts about lake safety is still an issue.
- A highway cuts off the neighborhoods with no safe crosswalks.
- A gated public marina sits across from the neighborhood making the public feel they cannot enjoy it.
- A former YMCA, once open to the public, is now a private recreation center further keeping the community away from the water.
- Lack of local gov. Finding a way to have public interaction.



Proposed Solution

Lack of education limits the mindsets of the Nelson-Nims residents. Changing their opinions by educating them will lead to the lake being more accepted.

Eco-Education Building



Image 3

Myrick Park Wis Corps Eco-Center (La Crosse, WI)

La Crosse River Marsh



Image 4

Myrick Park Center



Image 5



Image 6

Closing Words



Image 7



Sources

<https://www.worldmapsonline.com/historicalmaps/MI-Muskegon-1874.htm> (Image 1)

<http://www.actorscolony.com/DTM.htm> (Image 2)

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<http://wisconsinwetlands.org/updates/protecting-the-la-crosse-river-marsh/> (Image 4)

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Demographic Information: <http://www.city-data.com/>