



URBAN WATERS
LEARNING NETWORK

Leading with Equity

— Darryl Haddock & Jennifer Arnold —

May 22, 2020

For flooding resiliency & investments in water infrastructure

Equity is both an outcome and a process.

As an **outcome**, everyone has what they need to thrive, and race and socioeconomic status do not determine your success.

As a **process**, people who are most impacted by structural problems are actively engaged in coming up with solutions.



Why focus on race?

Race is the strongest predictor of access to water infrastructure and flooding resilience

Dig Deep & U.S. Water Alliance, 2019
CNT, 2018


Without an intentional focus on anti-racism, reductions in inequities on the basis of income, disability status, etc., often intensify racial disparities.

Race and economic status are deeply intertwined

Economic status is also a strong predictor of access to water infrastructure & resilience to flooding

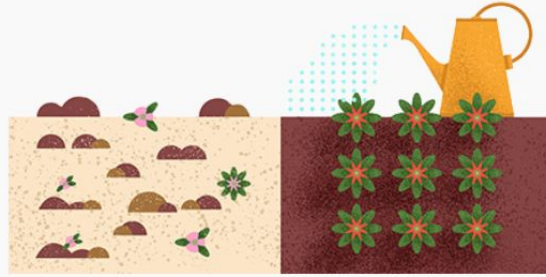
Dig Deep & U.S. Water Alliance, 2019
Colorlines, 2018

Because of the history of racist policies in this country, people of color are disproportionately impacted by poverty.



Racism refers to a system of advantage based on race.

Institutionalized racism refers to the structures (policies, practices) that disproportionately benefit white people to the detriment of people of color.



A Gardener's Tale by Dr. Camara Jones, US Center for Disease Control and Prevention

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Our goals for dialogue about race and equity

- Call out racist policies, norms and practices
- Build relationships and understanding to make change happen
- Mobilize resources and opportunities to address structural problems and implicit bias
- Achieve self-determination for people of color, especially black and indigenous groups who have been most impacted by structural racism

Some examples

Flooding resiliency
Water infrastructure



Photo Credit Anthropocene Alliance

Atlanta Flooding 2009



Photo Credit goes to Chattahoochee River
Keeper & Atlanta Journal Constitution

Atlanta Flooding 2009



**Photo Credit goes to Atlanta Journal
Constitution**

Atlanta Flooding 2009



**Photo Credit goes to Tony Torrance Proctor Creek
Stewardship Council**

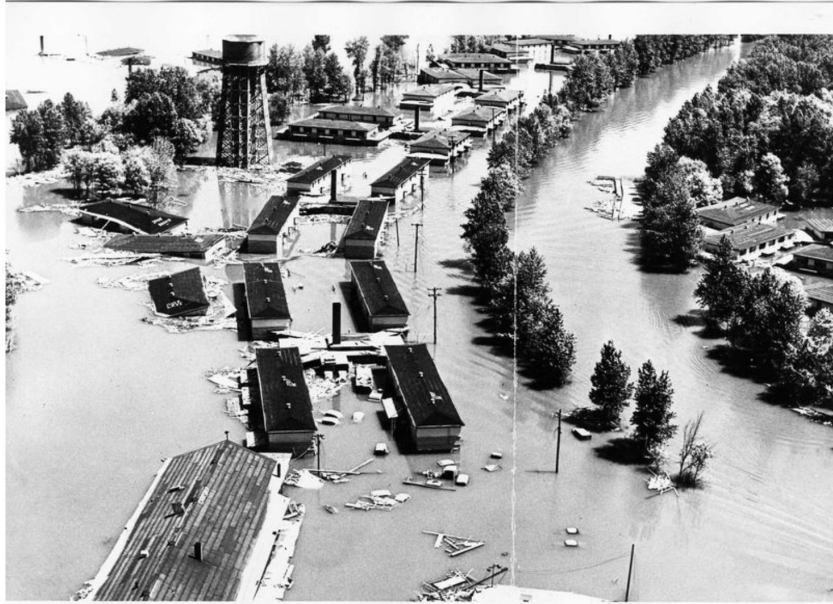


An example from the readings - Camden, New Jersey



An example from the readings - Vanport, Oregon

A 1948 flood washed away the WWII housing project Vanport—but its history still informs Portland's diversity



Aerial view of flooded area. Oregon Historical Society, Neg. 67585. (Oregon Historical Society)



Vanport City Vacation School, August 1943. Oregon Historical Society, Neg. OrHi 78867. (The Oregonian)

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Bringing this home

Where to start and how to
keep it going

The first step is the hardest.

Every step after that is the most challenging.

Do your own internal work.

Build relationships and accountability with people most impacted.

Be brave and humble, and keep going.

Practice mindfulness and self care.

A short horizontal bar with a teal segment on the left and an orange segment on the right.

Thank you! It takes ALL OF US to move this work forward!

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