

Gray to Green: Increasing health equity in Pittsfield, MA by prioritizing green planning in social and racial justice contexts.

A community process to increase advocacy and change policy to support the built and natural environment in the Morningside and Westside.

We are seeking members for our working group (residents, community organization reps, and others). This is a 5-year program. The working group will meet quarterly, help build framework for the vision of the project, add subject matter expertise or lived experience, and act as a conduit for community advocacy to the City for change. Stipends are provided for members.

What is Gray to Green? To bring the community into a decision-making process that supports a greener, healthier, and more livable environment.

Why Gray to Green? Studies have shown that increased access to green spaces, and more opportunities for physical activity helps people live healthier and happier lives. As a community-driven process, this project will increase community connections and environmental stewardship.

What is the goal of Gray to Green? To work with the community to transform city policy to increase prioritization of improvement projects in the public areas in the Westside and Morningside. Focus on transforming vacant or abandoned land into projects like mini gardens, food forests, parks, and shady areas that provide easier access and more walking paths to parks and the downtown. Got an idea? Let us know!

How can neighborhood residents get involved? There will be many opportunities to get involved—attend a community meeting, join the Steering Committee, or sign up to be trained to conduct Neighborhood Audits (paid). Check out our website at berkshireplanning.org



More Information About This Project:

Who is leading this project? Berkshire Regional Planning Commission in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, 18 degrees, and the City of Pittsfield, along with other organizations, and Westside/Morningside residents. Community involvement is a central piece of this project.

Why Morningside/Westside? Residents within the Morningside/Westside neighborhoods are exposed to more social and environmental conditions, such as violence and pollution, that affect stress and other health outcomes. There are significantly fewer and smaller green spaces and safe opportunities for recreating outside. This project will use the tools of green planning to address these inequities with a racial and environmental justice lens.

Why get involved? Your vision is the most important aspect of this project. You can have a direct impact by getting involved. By participating in this project, you will be able to learn new skills, and be a leader for positive change in your neighborhood!