

Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title and purpose of this initiative: Mowing along Highway NC-54 and Town Properties.

Department: Public Works

What are the racial and equity impacts?

Town properties including parks and other green spaces have a significant impact on quality of life, and maintenance of those green spaces is important to enjoyment of them.

Westwood Cemetery, included in this contract, is important as a place to pay respects for many people of color in Carrboro, and being well maintained is key in fulfilling that purpose. Baldwin Park is a property included in this contract that is within the racially diverse Lloyd-Broad neighborhood.

Maintaining those green spaces accessible to historically underserved demographics is a vital aspect of ensuring that that town resource is being provided equitably to Carrboro's residents.

Who is or will experience community burden?

The following individuals may experience burden:

- Community members with disabilities that are unable to access the properties serviced in the contract.
- Community members may experience noise and other disturbances during mowing.
- Contractor may be burdened due to time involved in providing the mowing service.
- Town staff may be burdened due to time involved in managing the contract.

Who is or will experience community benefit?

The following individuals may benefit:

- Community members who use Town properties serviced by the contract.
- Community members in the neighborhood and surrounding areas benefit from a healthier, more aesthetically pleasing environment.
- Motor vehicle users and pedestrians due to improved visibility in the right-of-way.

What are the root causes of inequity?

Institutional policies, both intentional and unintentional, have created inequities for Black and other marginalized communities (for example, people with disabilities and refugee populations) in employment, housing, generational wealth, and health outcomes, and can include shorter lifespan and higher susceptibility to cardiovascular and pulmonary disease caused by exposure to airborne particulates. These inequities will only be exacerbated by continued business-as-usual fossil fuel use and its associated greenhouse gas emissions and climate disruption.

What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?

Unintended consequences of the mowing may include temporary disruptions on Town properties during mowing, noise and other disturbances from mowing may temporarily affect individuals' quality of life or generate a negative perception of the operation.

How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences?

The Town will monitor feedback from patrons and daily use patterns to identify any currently unforeseen burdens or inequities and address those with corrective measures as needed. Furthermore, Greenscape will be piloting some smaller pieces of electric landscaping equipment for use as part of this contract which should have a much lesser impact on community members with respect to air pollution and noise than their gasoline-powered equivalents.