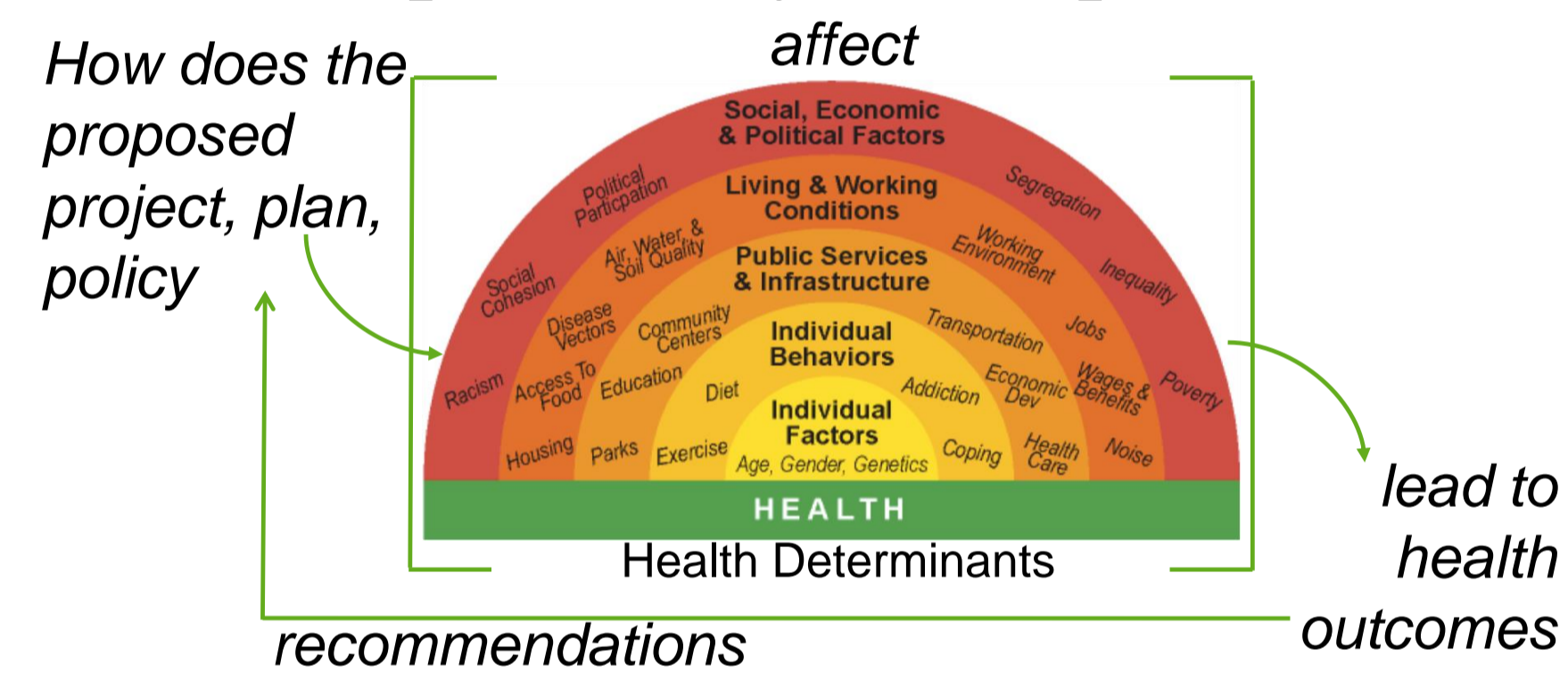




Purpose/Utility of Research

HIA is a process that uses *scientific data, health expertise, and public input* to factor public health considerations into the decision-making process. This HIA process was applied to determine how a proposed green street project in an environmental justice community of concern in Atlanta, GA could potentially affect public health.



Highlights

- Assessed health determinants in environmental, social, and economic sectors to determine the potential health impacts of green infrastructure implementation.



- Made recommendations to mitigate the potential adverse health impacts and promote the potential health benefits of the green street project.
- Increased community and stakeholder engagement and buy-in.
- Demonstrated HIA as an approach for integrating and weighing trade-offs in community decision-making.
- Offers a model of interagency collaboration at the local, state, and federal levels.



Application & Translation

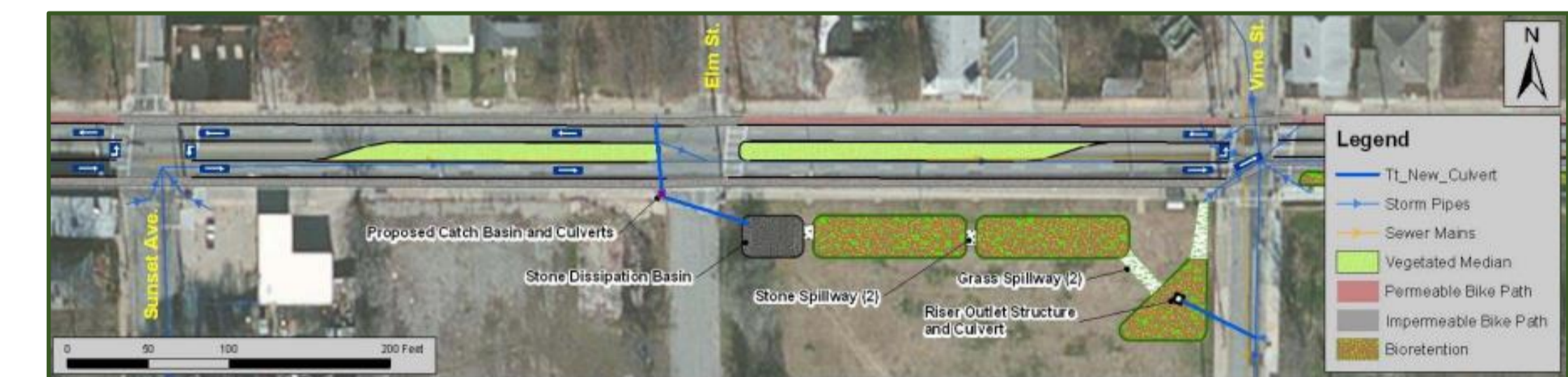
The HIA raised awareness and promoted the consideration of public health in a decision outside traditional health-related fields. HIA findings and recommendations were communicated to the City of Atlanta, the community, and other stakeholders to inform implementation of the green street project. The City of Atlanta has agreed to expand the length of the green street to maximize its predicted health benefits. Work is also underway on a second HIA to evaluate expansion of green infrastructure in the Proctor Creek watershed, as recommended by this HIA.

Green infrastructure is being considered by communities across the U.S. This HIA demonstrates that the potential public health benefits of green infrastructure reach beyond just stormwater management and can help inform these community decisions. This research has also been communicated to the National Prevention Council, Institute of Medicine, and others to promote HIA as an approach for integrating health into policy making.



Intended End Users

This HIA is intended for use by the decision-makers tasked with implementing the proposed green street project (i.e. the City of Atlanta), affected community members, and other stakeholders.



As a case study, this research demonstrates how HIA can be used to inform community decision-making and promote healthy and sustainable communities.

Lessons Learned

- HIA can provide state and local decision-makers with the scientific data, health expertise, and public input they need to factor public health considerations into the development of non-health plans, policies, projects, and programs.
- Using the HIA process highlighted the importance of collaboration at the local, state, regional, and federal levels to address community needs.
- The HIA field of practice can inform SHC research by identifying what decisions communities are facing and how health, economic, and environmental information is brought to the decision-making process.

Connection to SHC Portfolio

- This research project demonstrates the utility of HIA as a tool to inform and empower communities to include human health, socio-economic, environmental, and ecological factors in their decisions to promote health, sustainability, and equity.
- In general, engaging with the HIA community of practice provides a network for disseminating ORD tools, models, data, and guidance and raising awareness of sustainable alternatives.

