



The Story of Greenbelt

A place of contradictions

<https://www.greenbeltreparations.info>

How We Define Reparations

In relation to the work being done by the Greenbelt Reparations Commission approved in 2021

Reparations is a process of repairing and healing from the harms that have been inflicted on African Americans and Native Americans by government laws, policies and practices of sectors that benefited from the injustices such as banks, corporations, insurers, educational institutions, health systems and religious groups.





The Piscataway Indian Nation believe that the harms that have occurred in Greenbelt— the taking of land, the inability to access sacred sites and practice Native religion, the taking of sacred objects and ancestral remains, and the inability to thrive in modern times from residential exclusion and employment discrimination—demand reparation.

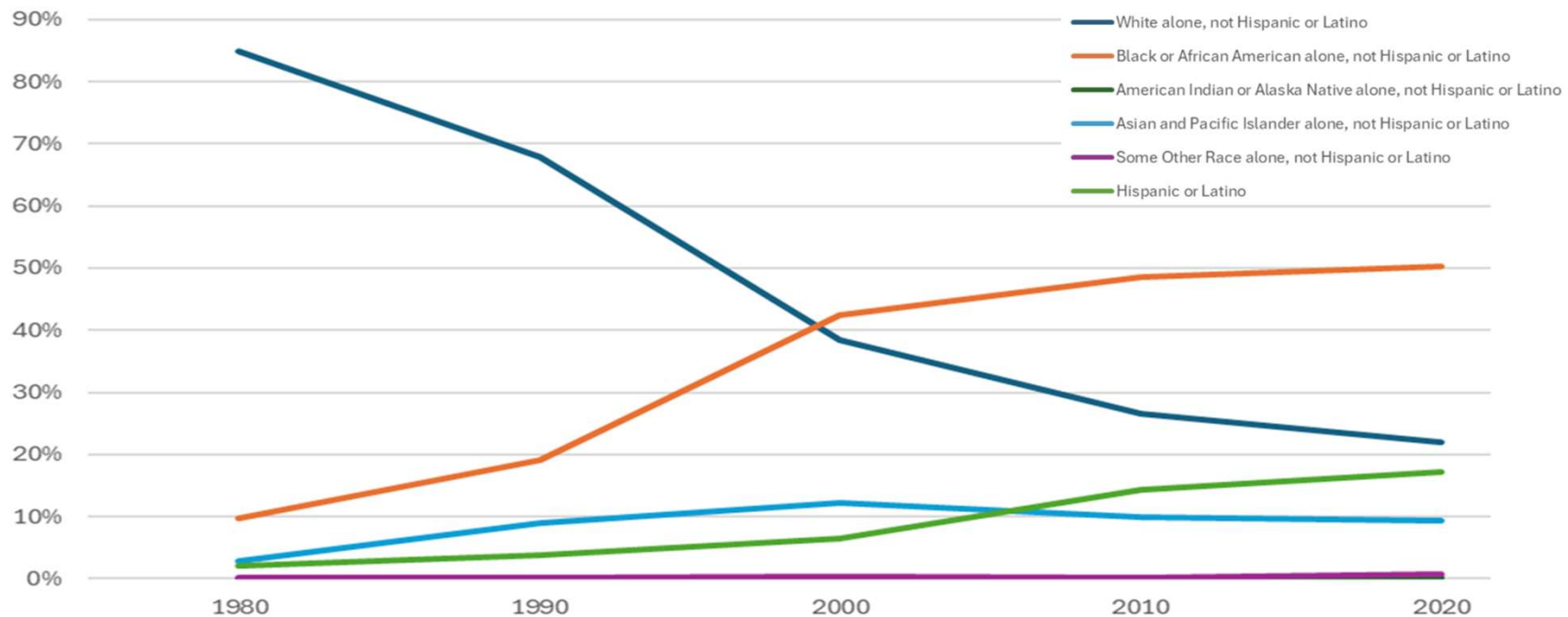
To address these wrongs the Piscataway Indian Nation proposes that reparations include the following components:

- The repatriation of ancestors and sacred objects
- The repatriation of land and protection of sacred sites
- The establishment of indigenous cultural, educational and health centers
- Financial and technical assistance to spur economic development within the Native community
- A formal apology

Demographics

Greenbelt has grown massively from 885 housing units in 1937 to a city of nearly 25,000 residents in 2023, the largest racial groups are now Black/African American (45%), White (21%) and Hispanic/Latino (17%).

Greenbelt, Maryland, Demographic Changes 1980-2020



US Census Data taken from National Historical GIS

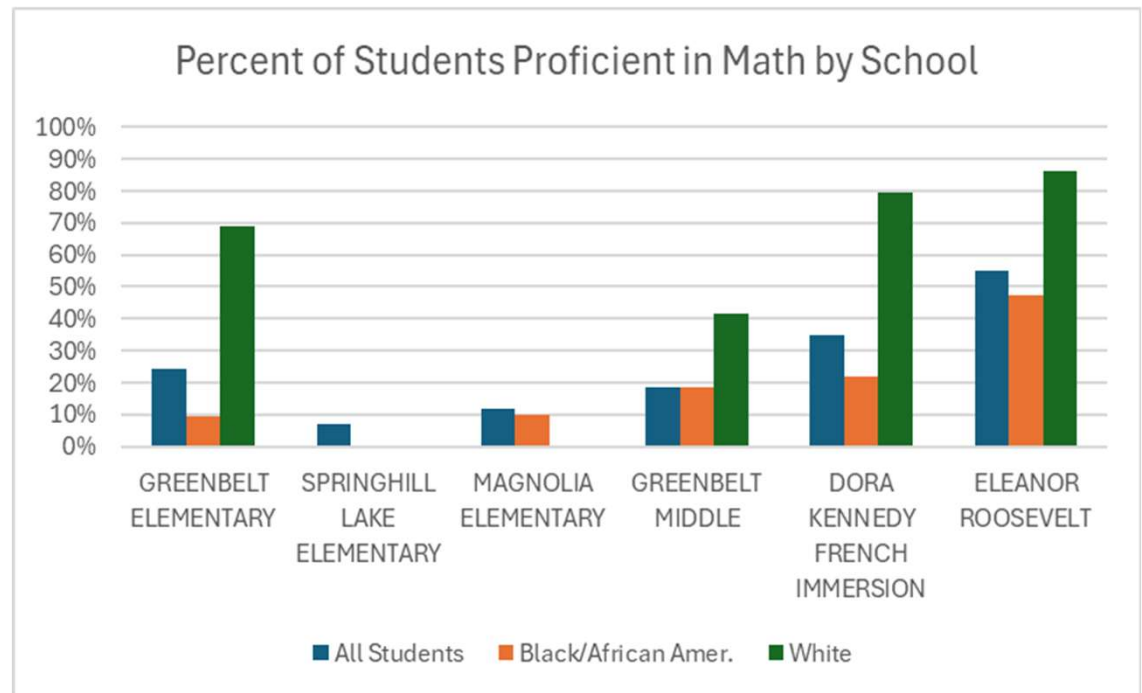
Educational Challenges Examples

Curriculum

- 87% of State History standards do not mention Native American history after 1900
- 27 States make no mention of a single Native American in their K-12 curriculum

Manifesting Destiny: Re/presentations of Indigenous People in K-12, Sheer, Knowles, Soden and Castro, 2015

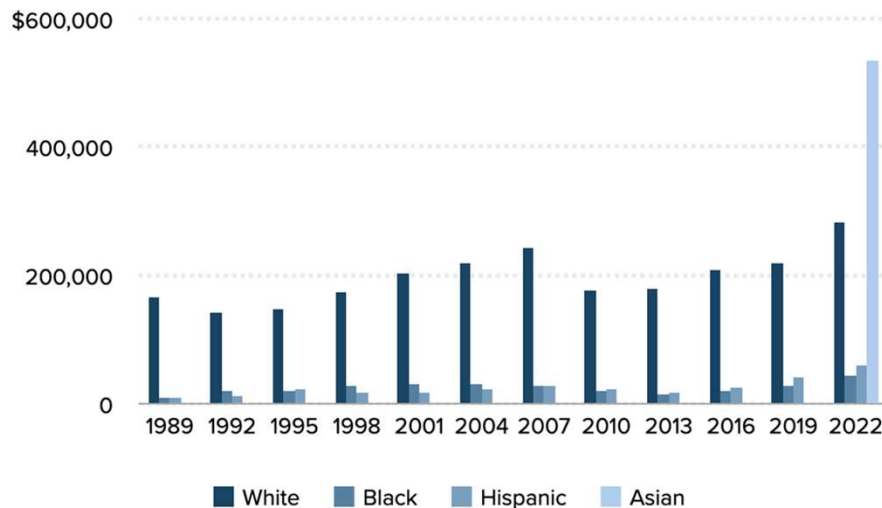
Performance



Data from the 2023 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) published by the Maryland State Department of Education (MDSE)

Wealth

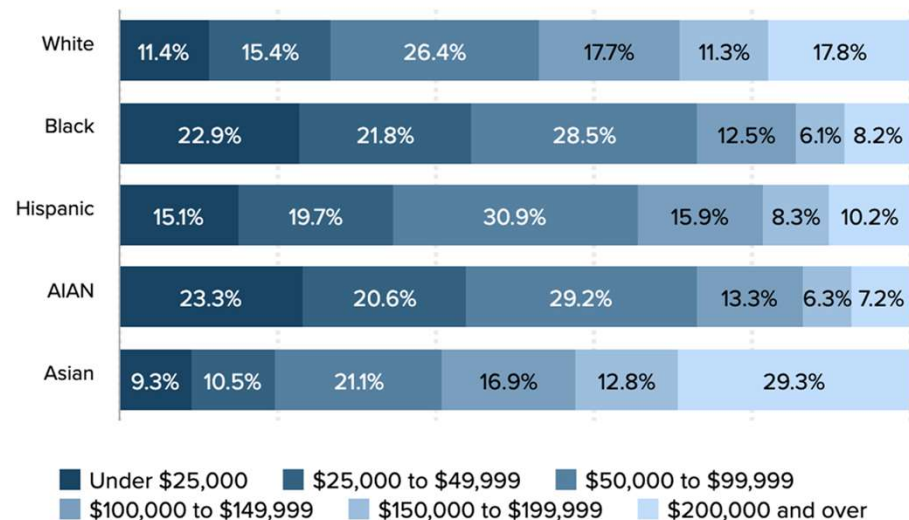
Median family net worth by race and ethnicity, selected years from 1989 to 2022



- Wealth Disparities are stark and persistent reflecting a history of exploitation and exclusion

- Black and AIAN (American Indian/Alaskan Native) households are more likely to have the lowest annual incomes

Share of households within given income range by race and ethnicity, 2024



Data From Economic Policy Institute "Racial and ethnic disparities in the United States" Report 2025



The Piscataway Indian Nation

Presentation by Adam Greene

*Emissary of the Great Tayac of the Piscataway Indian Nation
to the Indigenous European People in the Western Hemisphere*

The Piscataway Nation is a confederacy of tribes loyal to the Tayac, or Emperor. Its territory has been occupied by Indigenous people for at least 15,000 years and encompasses the entire state of Maryland, all of Washington, D.C., and parts of PA and VA. The Nacotchtank are the band of the Piscataway Confederacy on whose lands the City of Greenbelt now stands.

The Piscataway and their confederated tribes were decimated by disease, assimilation, coerced conversion and colonists' regional wars. The Piscataway and their confederated tribes were also displaced from their lands by colonists, settlers, and the African ancestors who were subjugated to chattel enslavement by European governments and brought to Piscataway land as forced labor. For these reasons the Indigenous People of Maryland have been disenfranchised, preventing them from full participation in the local social, economic and political spheres of what is now Maryland. This disenfranchisement continues to this day.

Reparations to the Piscataway Indian Nation are reparations for the benefit of all Indigenous people.

In the words of Araf Apache, Principal Emissary of the Piscataway Indian Nation:

“We are all Indigenous to some area of Mother Earth.”

Indigenous reparations are not just a restoration to Maryland's Indigenous community, but rather an investment in all of the residents of the City of Greenbelt who now share the future destiny of the Piscataway people.

“We are all in the same canoe together now”
- Chief Mark Tayac



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR GREENBELT

A Report of Historical Harms
and Contemporary Impacts



21 Oct 2025

HOUSING

UN SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

1930s - 1940s - Embedded Housing Discrimination

- 1935 - the Resettlement Division was taking steps to address employment inequalities including a quota for African American workers
- 1936 - plans to construct 250 homes specifically for African American tenants near Greenbelt later discarded
- 1937 - Town charter is issued and Greenbelters begin to move in
- 1940 - Census recognized 14 African Americans living on farms in Greenbelt, but not the town of Greenbelt

1950-1970s - Expansion and Integration

- No express statements with an intent to prevent African Americans from moving in
- 1963-1965 - issue of race and fair housing was added to the City Council's agenda nine times and the Human Relations Advisory Board was created
- 1963 - Public meeting held by the Greenbelt Citizens for Fair Housing Committee
 - Residents apprehensions: reductions to property values that might result from the arrival of African Americans; appeals to Greenbelters who "love their community" and don't want to see it degenerate Community insights show the issue might be almost evenly divided, with sixteen interviewees responding that they would not mind if Black residents
- Black homeowners remained absent from GHI throughout the 1960s and a significant minority thereafter



HOUSING

UN SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Impact Analysis

Demography and Policy in GHI vs. Franklin Park (Springhill Lake)

- GHI Demographic Changes
 - 1980-2020: maintained a White majority population with an incremental but minimal rise in Black/African American residents throughout the 40-year period.
- Franklin Park / Springhill Lake Demographic Changes
 - 1980 - 2020: continual decline of White residents as a percentage of total population in Franklin Park, changing from 77 percent in 1980 to 3 percent in 2020

Year	Percentage White Alone*		Percentage Black Alone*	
	GHI	Franklin Park	GHI	Franklin Park
1980	98%	77%	1%	17%
1990	95%	51%	1%	34%
2000	90%	12%	3%	62%
2010	85%	3%	5%	59%
2020	75%	3%	9%	55%



EDUCATION

UN SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Ethno-historiography

Dual School System & Housing Policy as School Policy

Dual School System - schools were segregated, formalized in 1924 by Maryland legislature

- 1866 - The federally-funded Freedmen's Bureau built the first school for African American children in Bladensburg in (6 miles south of Greenbelt).
- 1903 - African American residents of Lakeland built a school 3 miles Southwest of Greenbelt and added another in 1925 and in 1928
- 1937 - White students (94) began attending a central school within the town's limits 1954
- 1960 - Brown v Board Ruling; "freedom of choice" transfers begin

Housing Policy is School Policy

- 1963 - Greenbelt Citizens for Fair Housing begin to raise issues about diversity and integration 1964 - Greenbelt JHS enrolled 863 students, of whom 36 were African Americans (earliest data) 1970 - New busing integration plans met with calls for "neighborhood schooling"
 - Up to the early 1970s, about 78,000 of the 162,000 students (48.1%) were bused.
New plan reassigned 33,000 students to new schools.
 - Black students (20%) made up 60% of new bused students.
- January 1973 - Integration went into effect in Prince George's County



EDUCATION

UN SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Impact Analysis

Greenbelt Elementary 2024			
Race	%of Student Body	Subject Proficiency	
		English	Math
White	13.2%	61.5%	78.9%
Asian	6%	53.8%	61.5%
Hispanic/Latino	16%	9.5%	36.6%
Black	57.6%	8.1%	31.8%

Greenbelt Middle School 2024			
Race	%of Student Body	Subject Proficiency	
		English	Math
Hispanic/Latino	55%	7.8%	20.3%
Black	39%	7.5%	23.6%

Rather than achieve racial integration or equitable improvements in quality education, PGCPs is more segregated, serving a population of 91.4% that is Black and Hispanic.

- Greenbelt elementary and middle schools show inequity
- Eleanor Roosevelt data shows improvements in proficiencies across race but lacks disaggregation of data for the competitive Science and Technology Program.

Greenbelt Middle School 2024			
Race	%of Student Body	Subject Proficiency	
		English	Math
White	5%	51.7%	78%
Asian	5%	60%	81.5%
Hispanic/Latino	38%	9.1%	31.7%
Black	48.8%	17.3%	43.8%



Questions?
Please write your questions down on
an index card

[Www.GreenbeltReparations.Info](http://www.GreenbeltReparations.Info)



<https://www.greenbeltreparations.info>

Bio-break & Move to Discussion Groups

www.GreenbeltReparations.Info



<https://www.greenbeltreparations.info>

Report Out Discussion Groups:

Housing, Education, Transportation, Public Safety
Recreation, and Indigenous Redress,

www.GreenbeltReparations.info



<https://www.greenbeltreparations.info>

Thank you for attending!

[Www.GreenbeltReparations.Info](http://www.GreenbeltReparations.Info)



<https://www.greenbeltreparations.info>