

Join the Matrix Element messenger!



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“I (we) wish to acknowledge this land on which we are meeting here, today. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.”



A SPECIAL REPORT

Canada's Emerging Indigenous Rights Framework: A Critical Analysis

by HAYDEN KING and SHIRI PASTERNAK



TORONTO WATER ATLAS

Tanee S Agrawaal, Nils Bonfils, Reyna Wu, Dash Carrera, Robert Soden

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Website Manager



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

**TORONTO
CLIMATE
OBSERVATORY**



**SCHOOL OF THE
ENVIRONMENT**



UofT
Mapping
Club

HOUSEKEEPING RULES

1. **Safe Space**

- a. This is a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone.
- b. Let's respect each other's ideas and create a supportive environment.

2. **Be Kind**

- a. Kindness and patience go a long way!
- b. Please avoid interrupting or dominating discussions—everyone's voice matters.

3. **Photos and Recording**

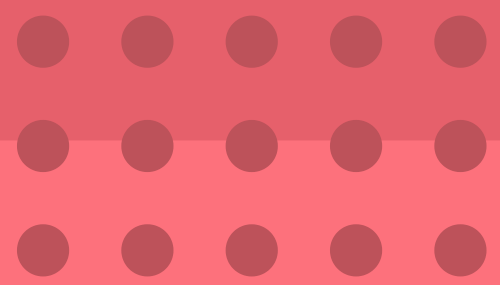
- a. We'll be recording and taking photos as part of the Toronto Water Atlas project, which is both a public resource and a research initiative.
- b. If you'd prefer not to appear in photos, just let us know—no problem at all!

4. **Join the Fun**

- a. We're here to collaborate and explore together.
- b. Feel free to ask questions, share ideas, and enjoy the process!

ATLAS INFO & OVERVIEW



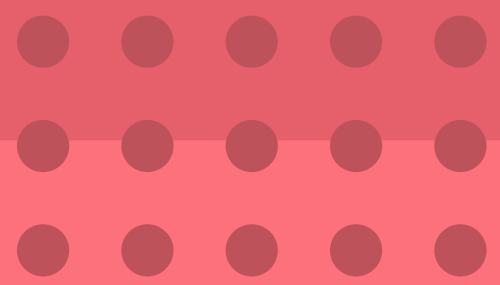


TWA OVERVIEW

We envision the Toronto Water Atlas as a way to re-examine our relationship with water — not simply as a natural resource or a problem to be managed, but as a life-giving source, and a connector of people and of communities.

Our goal is to co-create an imaginative, interactive, and collaborative resource that captures diverse water-related narratives and futures of GTHA, and also shifts the conversation from managing water to living with water—considering it as a shaper of ecosystems, cultures, and communities.

This project is an invitation to **critique, speculate, and create.**



TWA OVERVIEW

In this project, we aim to:

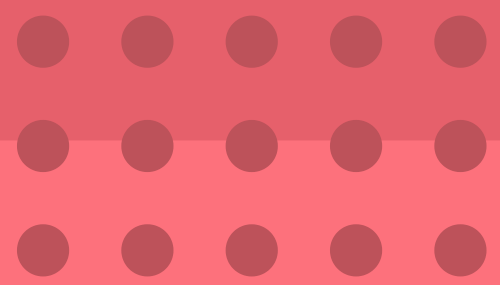
- Highlight a **plurality of perspectives** about the GTHA's relationship with its rivers, creeks, and waterways.
- Build an **alternate collective understanding** of water through an emphasis on **local experiences and knowledges**.
- Reimagine what a future of **living with water** could look like for GTHA.



MOTIVATION

Why are these plural, and diverse perspectives about water important?

- **Water Impacts Everyone, and Everything:** Decisions about water—where it flows, who has access, and how it's managed—are shaped by *socio-political dynamics*.
- **Responding to Climate Change and Urban Resilience:** As climate change drives more frequent and intense storms, our buried waterways resurface as floods. The intensification of flooding and water crises due to climate change *requires alternate strategies informed by a collective and plurality of perspectives*.

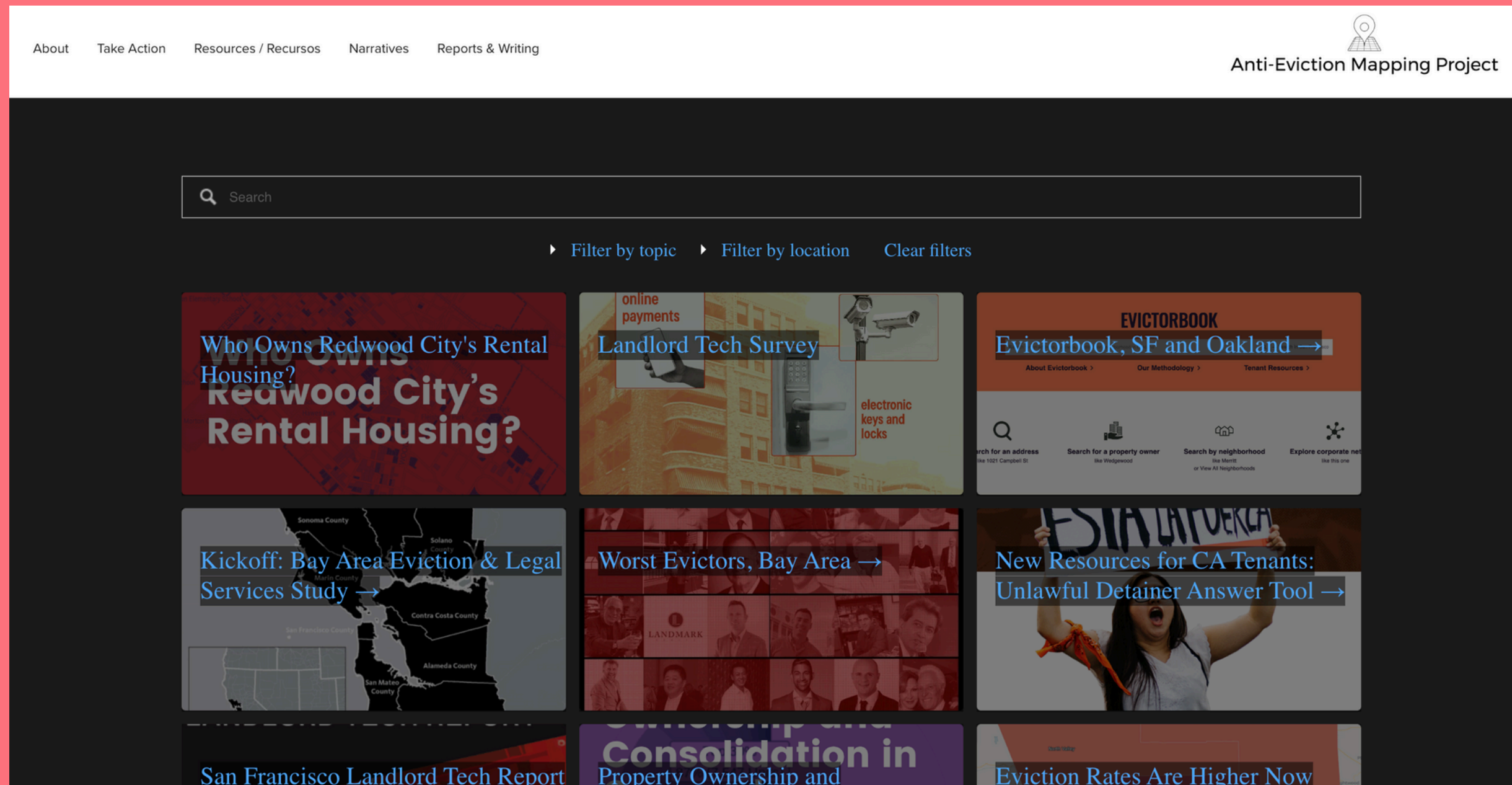


MOTIVATION

Why are these plural, and diverse perspectives about water important?

- **Reimagining Relationships With Water:** Water is deeply intertwined with the our past, and present, yet water is often hidden and forgotten today.
Building an alternate, collective understanding can help us imagine a future of living with water.
- **Alternate Approaches Require Diverse Expertise:** Working towards this alternate approach requires insights from a range of disciplines.

WE DRAW OUR INSPIRATION FROM



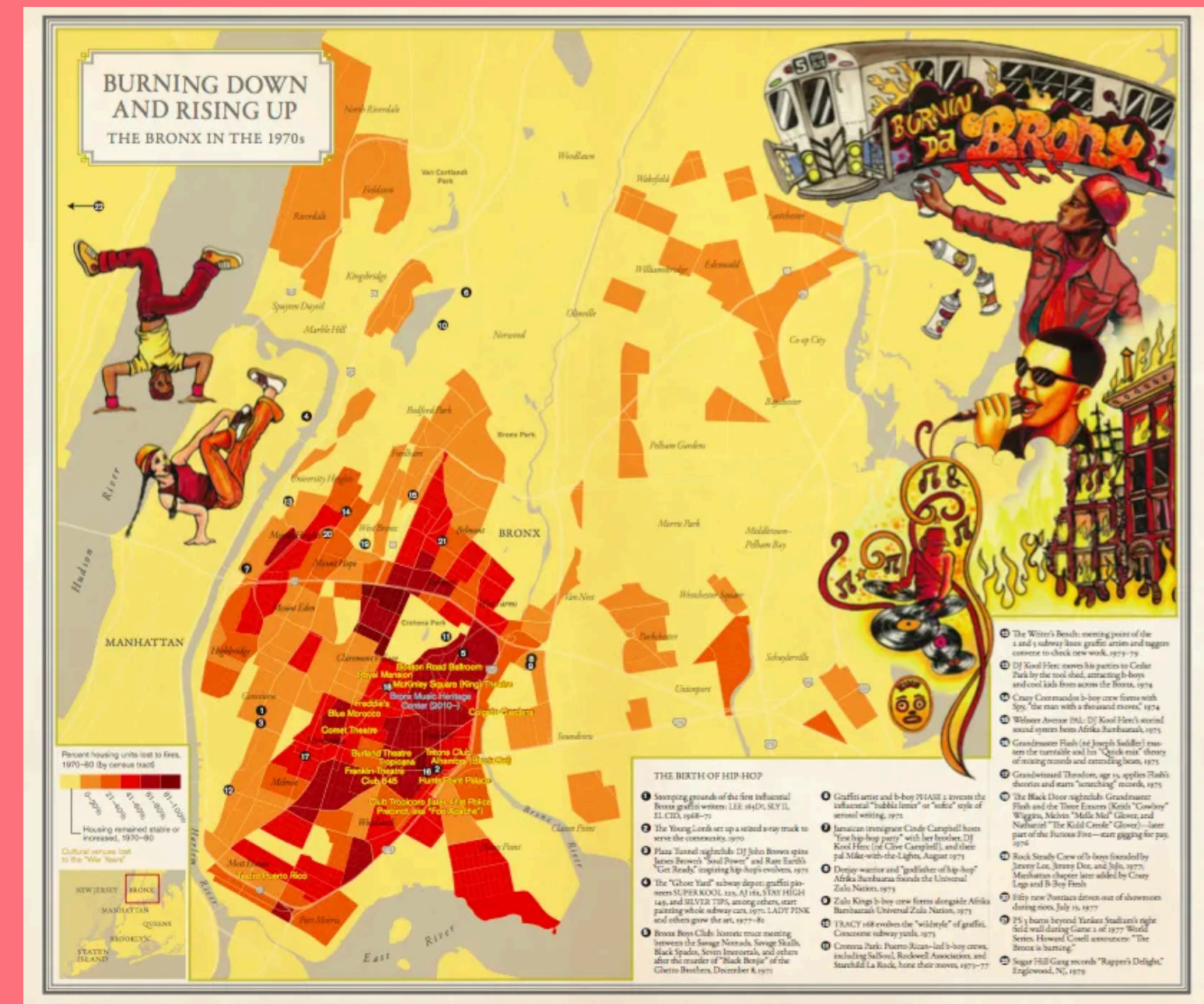
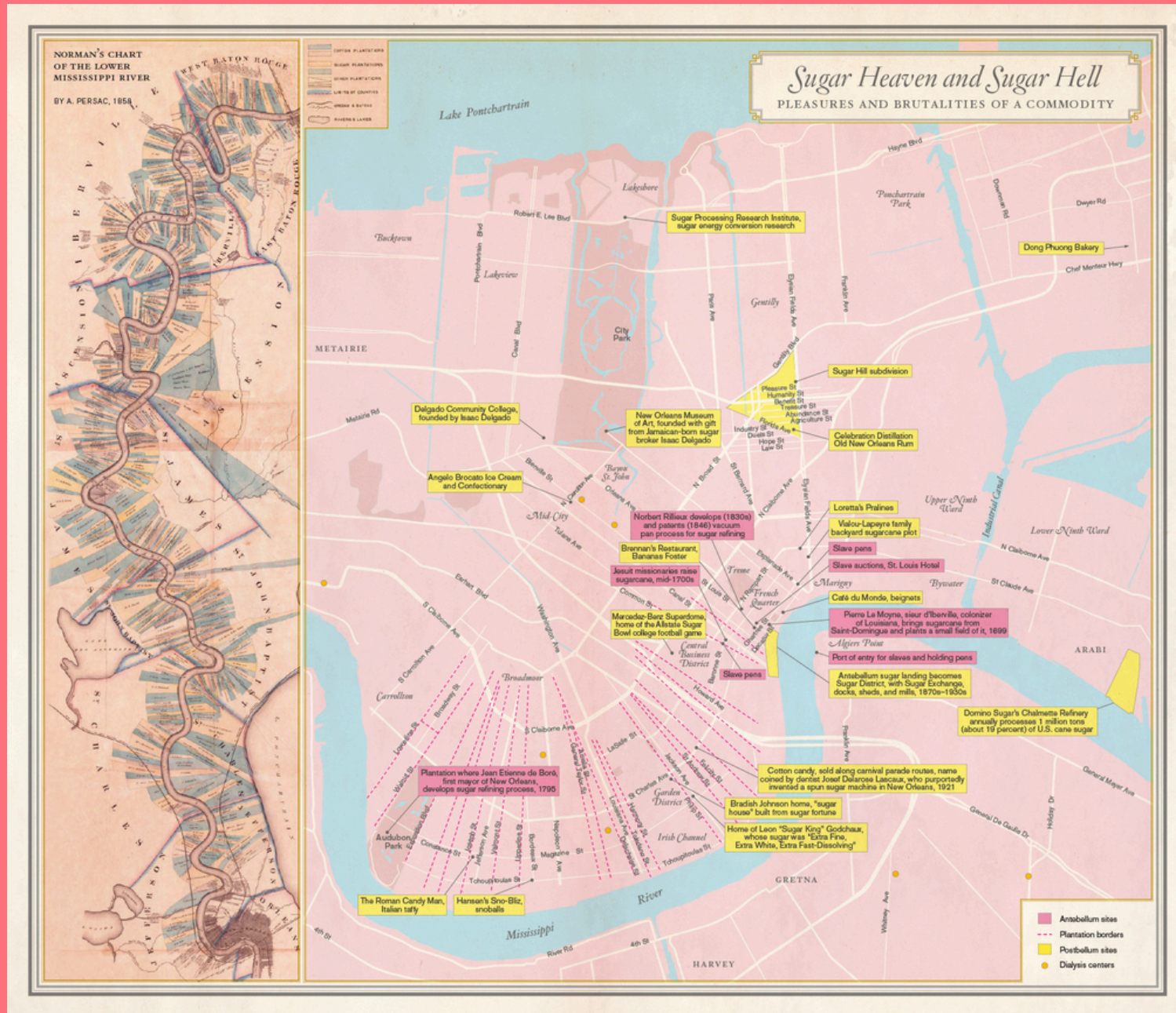
Anti-Eviction Mapping Project

WE DRAW OUR INSPIRATION FROM



The Treaty Map

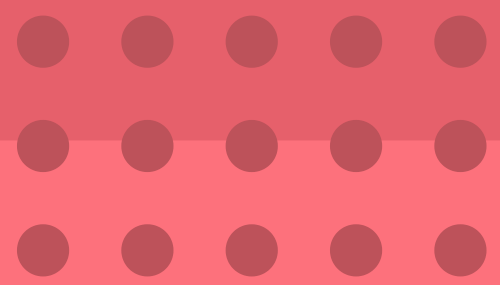
WE DRAW OUR INSPIRATION FROM



Rebecca Solnit's Atlases

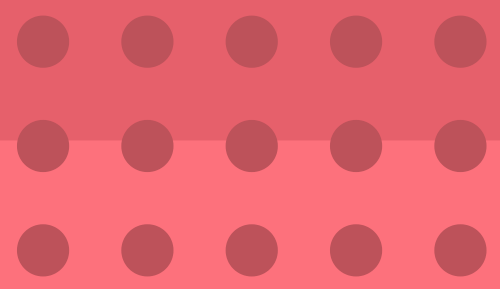
TORONTO WATER ATLAS





OVERARCHING PLAN

- **Workshops (Monthly):** Engage with the broader group, interact with guest speakers, and brainstorm through design activities. Structured time to advance your project and move closer to your final Atlas contribution.
- **Coworking Mapathons (Bi-weekly):** Semi-structured sessions for learning new skills. Hands-on time to apply skills, work with datasets, and develop story maps.
- **Timeline:**
 - **~6-Month Creation Phase:** Develop and produce your story maps or contributions. Use this time to create your story maps.
 - First Exhibition (Late Summer 2025)
 - Future opportunities for additional public and digital exhibitions.



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

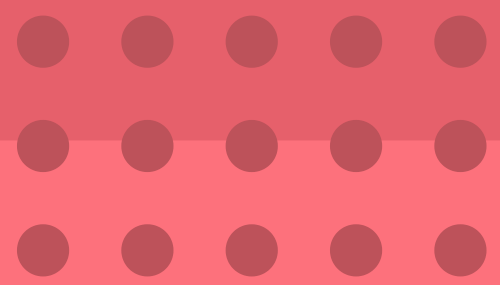
- **How You Will Create:**
 - a. Form or join a group
 - b. Choose a topic or an idea
 - c. Research and refine, including your datasets
 - d. Create a story map
- **Contribution Guidelines:**
 - a. Align with the themes of the Atlas - refer to themes on the website (torontowateratlas.github.io)
 - b. Tell a clear story
 - c. Visualize it using a map-based visualization (pretty open to the kind of media/data/representation you want to do here!)



HOW WE WILL SUPPORT YOU

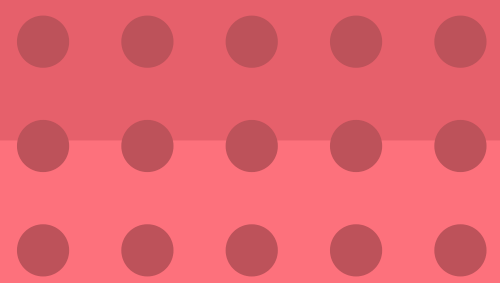
**We might also join your team if our ideas align!*

- **Skill Building and Technical Support:**
 - Map and Data-related tutorials.
 - Assistance with data integration, mapping, and storytelling techniques.
- **Opportunities for Collaboration and Feedback:**
 - Regular brainstorming and ideation sessions.
 - Interaction with a diverse group of people from various backgrounds and with varying expertise, to refine your ideas (Art-Science Collaboration).
- **Public-Facing Platforms for Your Work:**
 - Your contribution will be featured in the Atlas, hosted online as a public resource.
 - Showcase opportunities at exhibitions.



TECH STACK

1. **Tools and Platforms:** OpenStreetMap (OSM), Mapbox, QGI, Python, etc.
2. **Tutorials** will focus on a variety of tools, starting with OSM. Second tutorial: QGIS (*tentative*)
 - a. **Open to contributions:** If you'd like to lead or co-lead a tutorial, let us know!
 - b.
3. **Data and Formats**
 - a. You can expect to work with both qualitative and quantitative formats of datasets.
4. **Hosting**
 - a. Final project outputs will be deployed on GitHub or the project website.
 - b. Consider web-friendly formats such as interactive maps, text, visuals, videos, or dynamic content.
5. **Flexibility and Collaboration**
 - a. We're open to new tools and workflows—bring your ideas to the table!
 - b. Collaboration is key; we'll share resources and guidance as we build together.



FAQ

1. How many projects can I work on?

You can contribute to as many projects as you'd like, but we encourage you to avoid overcommitting. Focus on quality over quantity!

2. What is the minimum commitment required?

To ensure meaningful contributions, we ask participants to attend **at least one workshop** and **one coworking mapathon**. (We will switch event locations!)

3. Can I work on a project alone?

While we encourage working in groups to foster collaboration and diverse perspectives, you are welcome to work individually if you're passionate about an idea that doesn't align with anything else.



QUESTIONS?



LET'S GET STARTED!



BRAINSTORMING

PREPARE YOUR ELEVATOR PITCH

1. What concept or chapter do you want to contribute in the Water Atlas?
2. Why is it important for the Water Atlas?
3. What format or medium do you envision using?
4. What type of skills or perspectives do you want in a team?





ICE BREAKER

- You pair up for 2 mins
- Rotate after each round
- Briefly introduce yourself!
- Specify three keywords for your atlas idea

Be as specific, and quick as you can!



ELEVATOR PITCHES

ELEVATOR PITCHES

1-MIN PITCHES

1. What concept or chapter do you want to contribute in the Water Atlas?
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OPEN FLOOR

Walk around, talk and find potential group-mates (3-5 per group)



BRAINSTORM

1. What shared theme or vision connects your ideas?
2. What are the strengths or perspectives each member brings to the group?
3. What initial steps will you take to develop your Atlas page?





WALK & EXPLORE

TADDLE CREEK, PHILOSOPHER'S WALK



Watercolour painting of Taddle Creek in 1861. University College, Toronto is in the background.

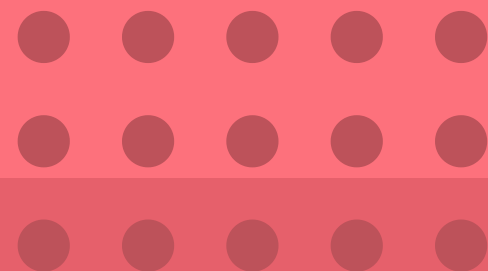


Taddle Creek, dammed to create McCaul's Pond, on the University of Toronto campus.

ACTIVITY DEFINITION

GROUP - PHOTOS, RECORD

1. What do you see in this location that might hint at the creek's presence?
2. What role do you imagine Taddle Creek played in the lives of people who lived here in the past?
3. Why do you think Taddle Creek was buried? How does this reflect broader urban priorities of its time?
4. If this creek were visible, what would change about your interaction with this site? What emotions or experiences might the sight and sound of water evoke here?



GO! WANDER!

Start a new recording now!



Please please please bring the recorders back in the same conditions. Do not lose or misplace them!

Join the Matrix Element messenger before you leave!

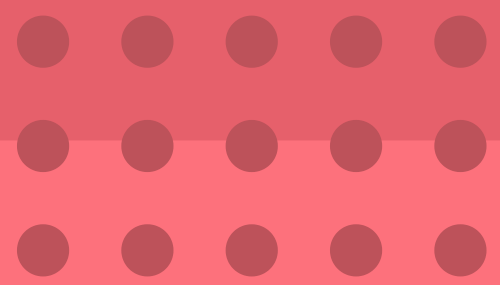


Please be back by 4:25 PM!



REFLECT





REFLECTION

- What themes or stories about water (e.g., hidden histories, urban planning, or environmental justice) came to mind during the walk? How might these themes connect to your project idea for the Water Atlas?
- Is there a specific story, space, moment or perspective from the walk that could serve as a focal point for your work?
- Feel free to **sketch/draw a map** viz if that helps!



NEXT STEPS

- **Next Steps**

- Slides and Resources: We'll share today's slides and resources with everyone.
- Develop Your Project:
 - Continue engaging with your teammates or refining your project idea individually.
 - Before the next workshop, you should develop a project description (we can send you a format over email!)

- **Next Meetup**

- Coworking Mapathon: Tuesday, February 4th 6–9 PM (**hybrid**)
- RSVP: Look out for a poll to confirm your in-person attendance for so we can plan the space accordingly.



USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

- TWA Resources: <https://github.com/TorontoWaterAtlas/atlas-resources>
- TWA Community Discussions: <https://github.com/TorontoWaterAtlas/atlas-community/discussions>
- TWA Community Repository: <https://github.com/TorontoWaterAtlas/atlas-community>
- Join the Matrix Element Messenger: <https://matrix.to/#/%23torontowateratlas:matrix.org>
- Website: <https://torontowateratlas.github.io/>
- Email: torontowateratlas@gmail.com

The background is a solid pink color. In the top-left corner, there are several overlapping, wavy, light pink lines. In the top-right corner, there is a 2x4 grid of small, dark pink dots. In the bottom-right corner, there is a 3x5 grid of small, dark pink dots.

THANK YOU!