



PARKS & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

December 9, 2021



LOUISVILLE
PARKS
AND RECREATION



OVERARCHING PROJECT GOAL

*Develop an equitable and transparent investment plan for
Louisville Metro Area Parks System*



KEY PRINCIPLES OF THIS WORK

- *Equitable access*
- *Equitable investments*
- *Work led by Louisvillians*
- *Transparent decision making*
- *Coordinate with & convene local community*
- *Work closely with Metro Parks and partners*

AGENDA

Project Updates

- Interviews
- Relationship to Prior Plans & Studies

Initial Research & Mapping

- Access to Parks vs. Access to Green

Shaping the Strategy

- *Community Context*
- *Access + Gaps in the System*
- *Park Conditions + Assets*

Next Steps

- *Deep dive on park data*
- *Getting organized for community engagement*



LOCAL PROJECT TEAM

Local Team Leading and Guiding Project

- *Abdi Farhan, Somali Community of Louisville*
- *Jecorey Arthur, Louisville Metro Council*
- *Deborah Bilitski, Waterfront Park*
- *Margaret Brosko, Metro Parks*
- *Freddie Brown, YMCA*
- *BJ Bunton, JCPS*
- *Emilie Dyer, Americana*
- *Cindi Fowler, Louisville Metro Council*
- *Layla George, Olmsted Parks Conservancy*
- *Steve Haag, Louisville Metro Council*
- *Mark Hohmann, Goodwill Industries of KY*
- *Amos Izerimana, Louisville Metro*
- *Scott Kiefer, Parks Alliance of Louisville*
- *Michael Meeks, Louisville Metro*
- *Lopa Mehrotra, Greater Louisville Project*
- *Brooke Pardue, Parks Alliance of Louisville*
- *Lynn Rippy, Wilderness Louisville/Youth Build*
- *Ricky Santiago, Louisville Metro*
- *Dr. Ted Smith, Envirome Institute/UofL*
- *Cindi Sullivan, TreesLouisville*
- *Keith Talley, Louisville Metro*
- *Nicole Ward, Outdoor Afro – Louisville*
- *Louisville Sports Commission*

INTERVIEWS TO DATE

33 interviews... and counting

METRO GOVERNMENT

- *Parks & Recreation*
- *Chief of Community Building*
- *Office of Management & Budget*
- *Center for Health Equity*
- *Louisville Forward*
- *Office of Community Development*
- *Public Works (Louisville Loop)*
- *Louisville Free Public Library*
- *Metropolitan Sewer District*
- *Air Pollution Control District*
- *Office of Equity*
- *Office for Globalization*

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- *Parks Alliance of Louisville*
- *Olmsted Parks Conservancy*
- *Wilderness Louisville*
- *Trees Louisville*
- *Waterfront Park*
- *21st Century Parks*
- *River Heritage Conservancy*
- *Louisville Sports Commission*
- *Urban Design Studio at University of Louisville*
- *Goodwill Industries*
- *YouthBuild*
- *Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition*
- *Applied Civics*
- *Brightside Foundation*

PRIOR PLANS & STUDIES

METRO-WIDE

- 2020 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan
- 2020 Prepare Louisville: Building a Climate Resilient City
- 2020 Complete Streets Design Guide
- 2018 Plan 2040 Comprehensive Plan
- 2017 Health Equity Report
- 2016 Urban Heat Management Study
- 2015 Racial Equity Toolkit
- 2015 Urban Tree Canopy Assessment
- 2015 JCPS Comprehensive Infrastructure Assessment
- 2013 Sustain Louisville
- 2010 Bike Master Plan
- 2010 Pedestrian Master Plan
- 2009 Public Art Master Plan

PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLANS

- 2017 Naturalization Study
- 2013 Louisville Loop
- 2012 Southwest Greenways
- 2009 Jefferson Memorial Forest
- 2008 21st Century Parks
 - Updated in 2016
- 1994 Olmsted Parks & Parkways

20+

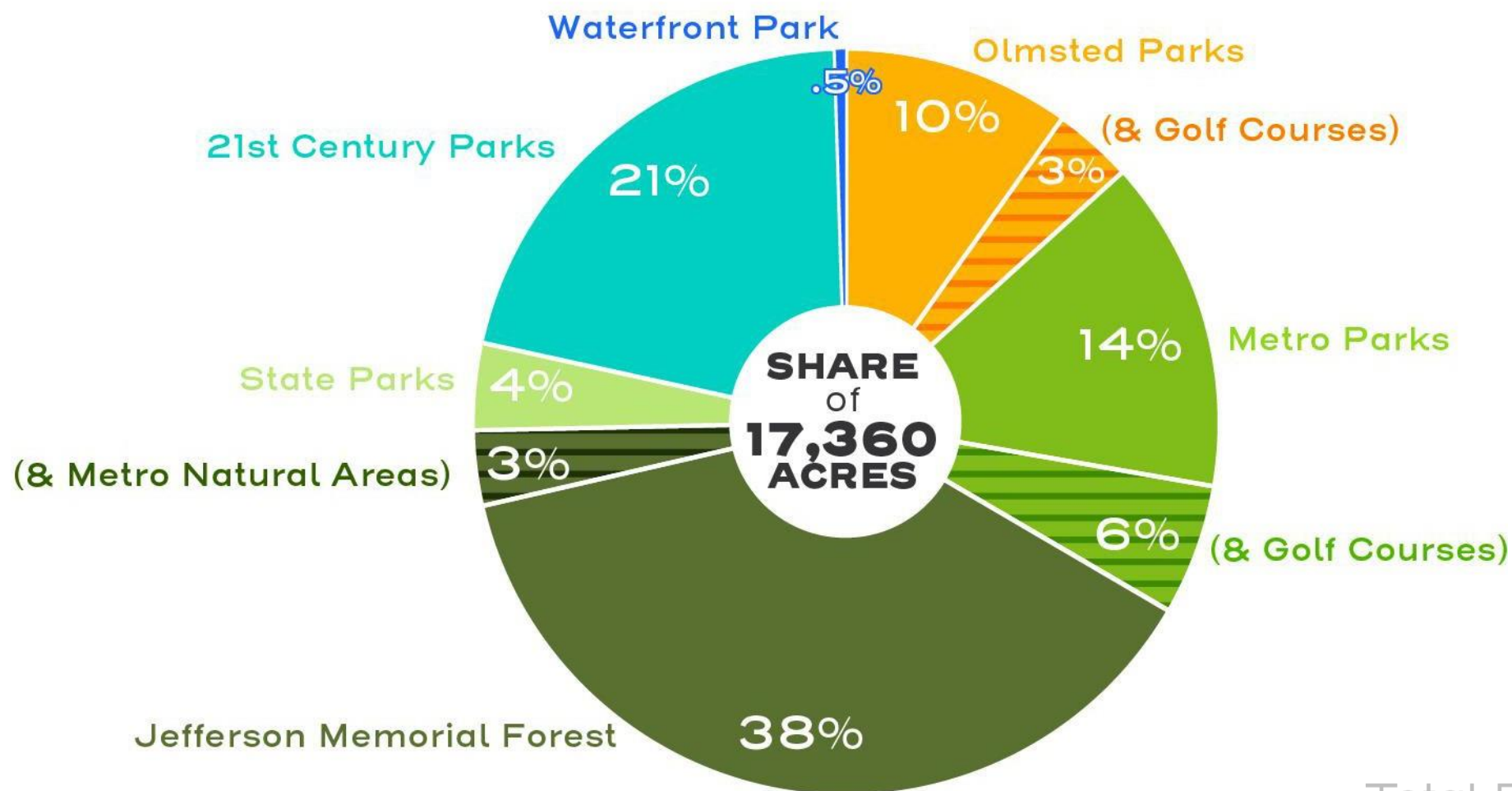
INDIVIDUAL
PARK
MASTER PLANS

36

NEIGHBORHOOD
PLANS

**LOUISVILLE / JEFFERSON COUNTY'S
PARK SYSTEM**

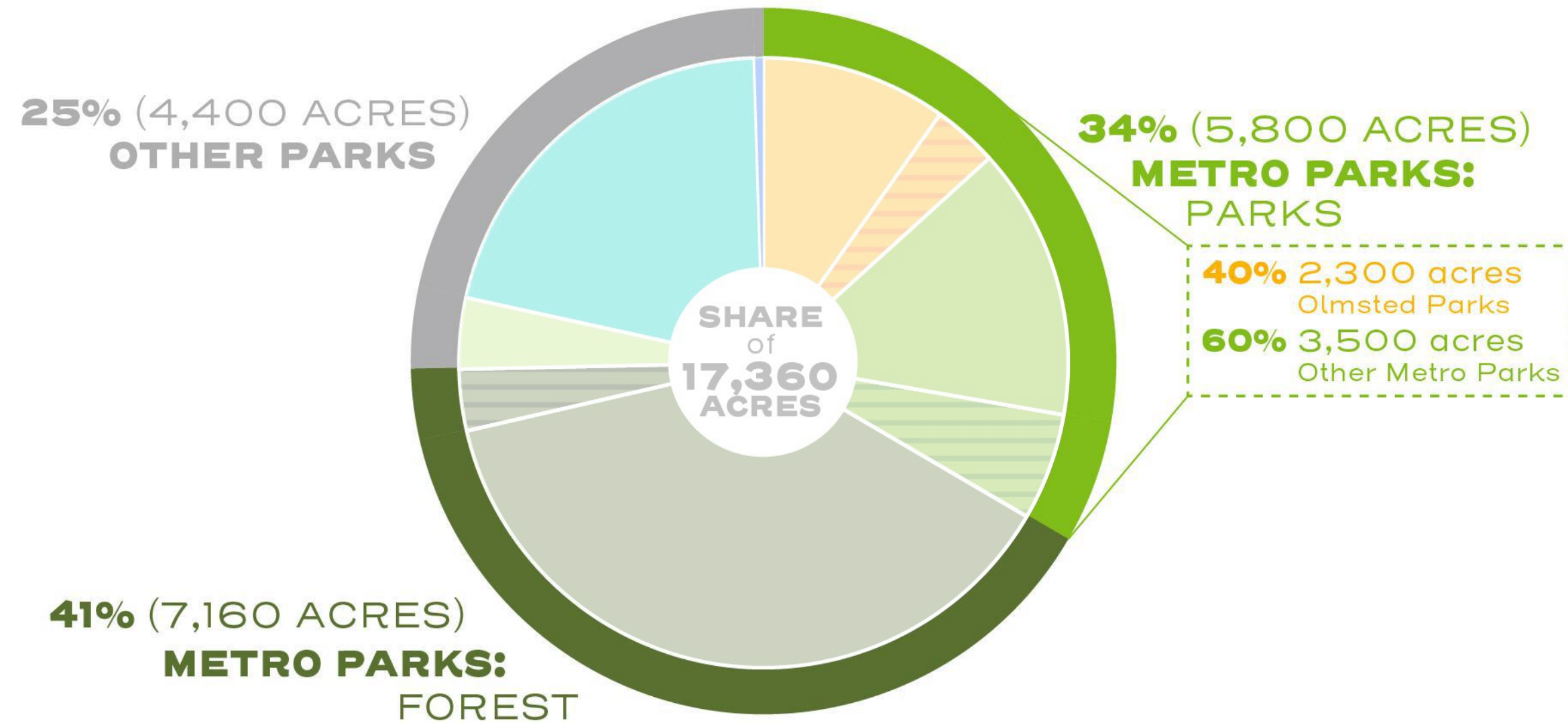
PARKS & OPEN SPACE BY CLASSIFICATION



PLUS:
4,566
additional acres
of Natural Areas
(not in parks or
cemeteries)
and
1,545
additional acres
of Cemeteries
(outside of parks)

23,500 ACRES
Total Parks & Open Space

PARKS & OPEN SPACE BY CLASSIFICATION



DIGGING INTO DATA ON

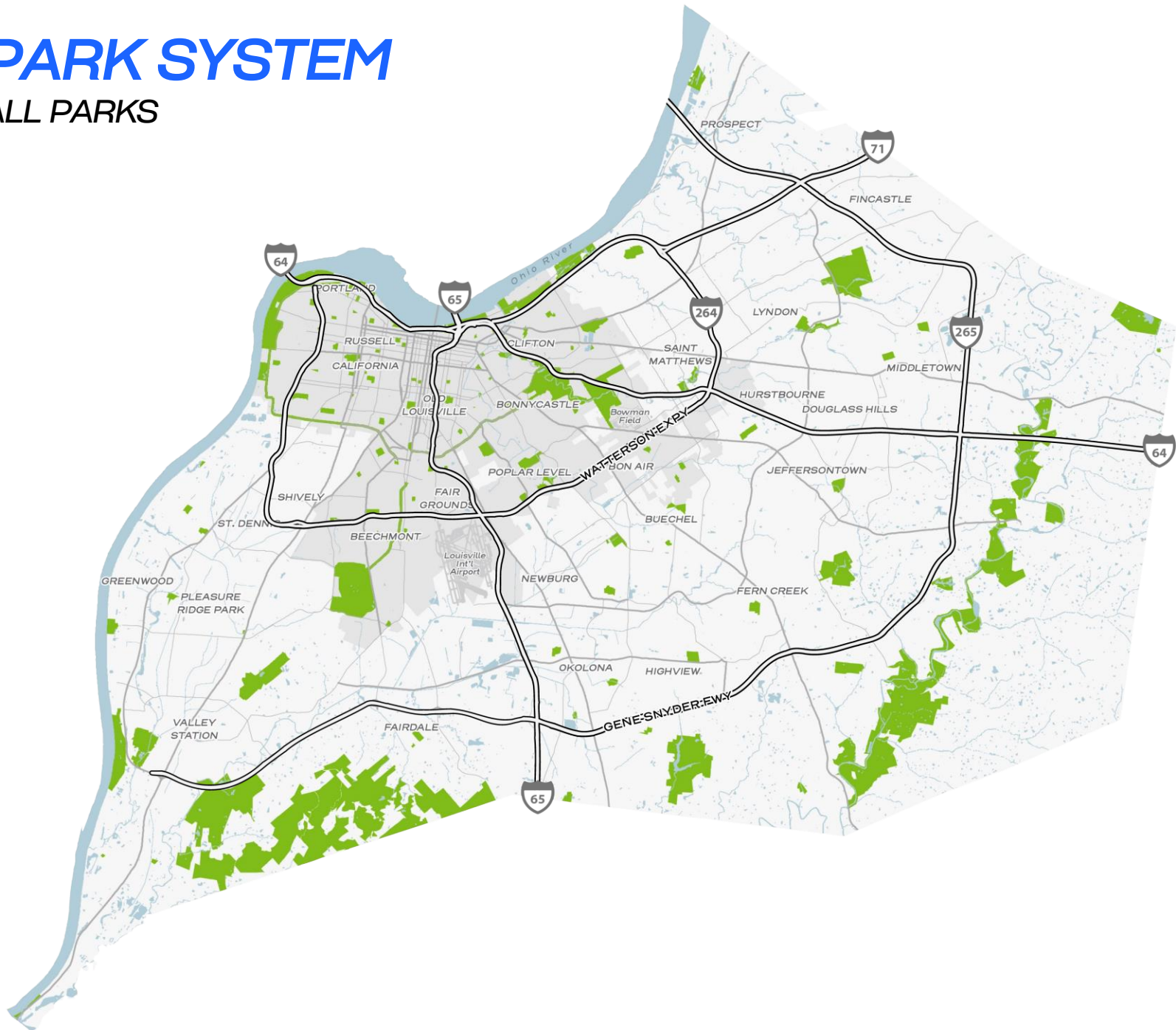
PARKS + REC SITES

LET'S LOOK AT ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE

- *How do we weigh proximity and access to parks versus green space?*
- *What role do schools grounds play?*
- *What about connectivity?*
- *And yards or private green space?*

PARK SYSTEM

ALL PARKS



PARK SYSTEM

LOJIC, INTERFACE STUDIO

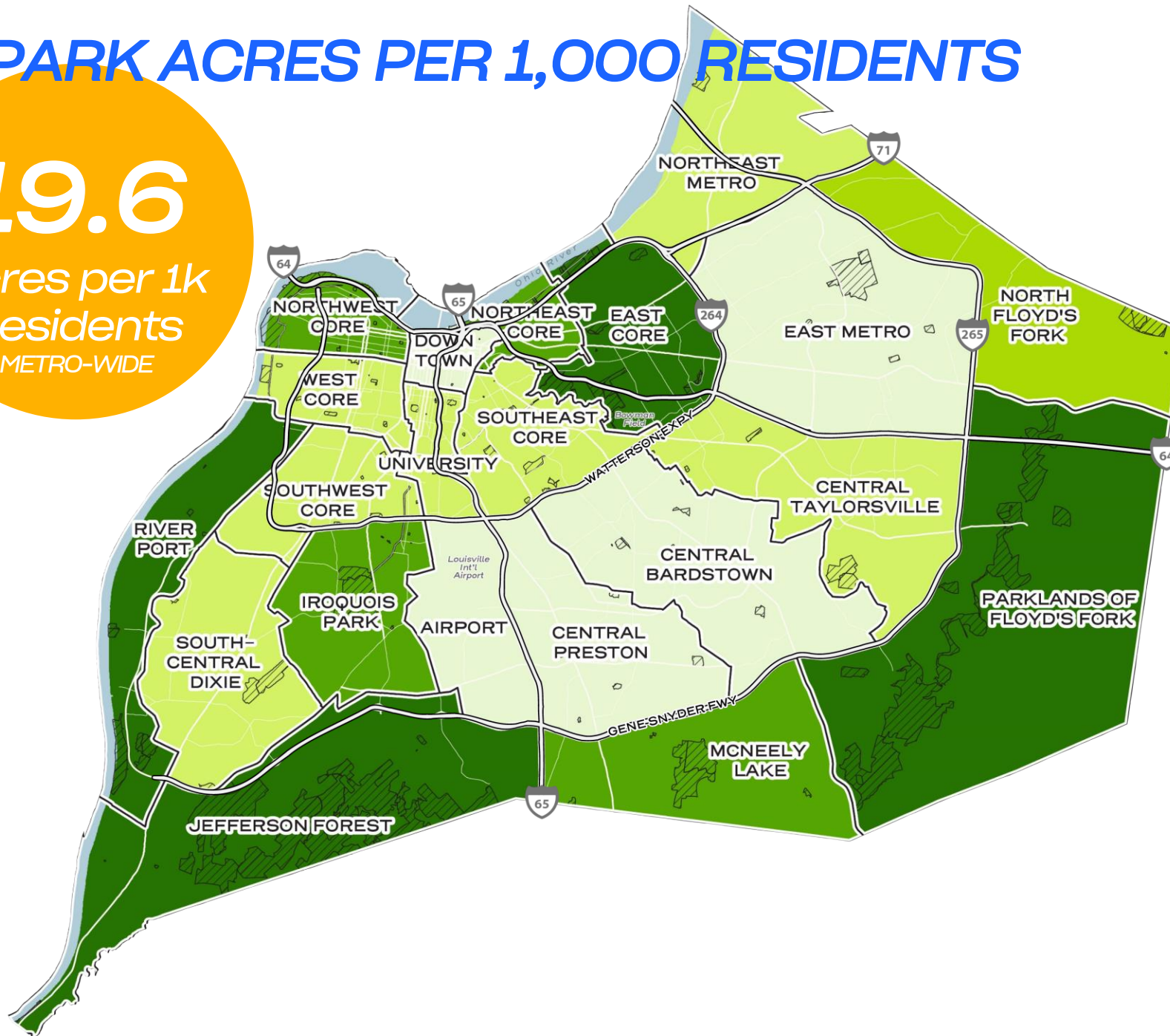
- Highway
- Major Roadway
- Water
- Urban Service Boundary
- Jefferson County
- Metro and Publicly Accessible Parks

17,360
ACRES
METRO-WIDE

PARK ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

19.6

Acres per 1k
Residents
METRO-WIDE



PARK ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

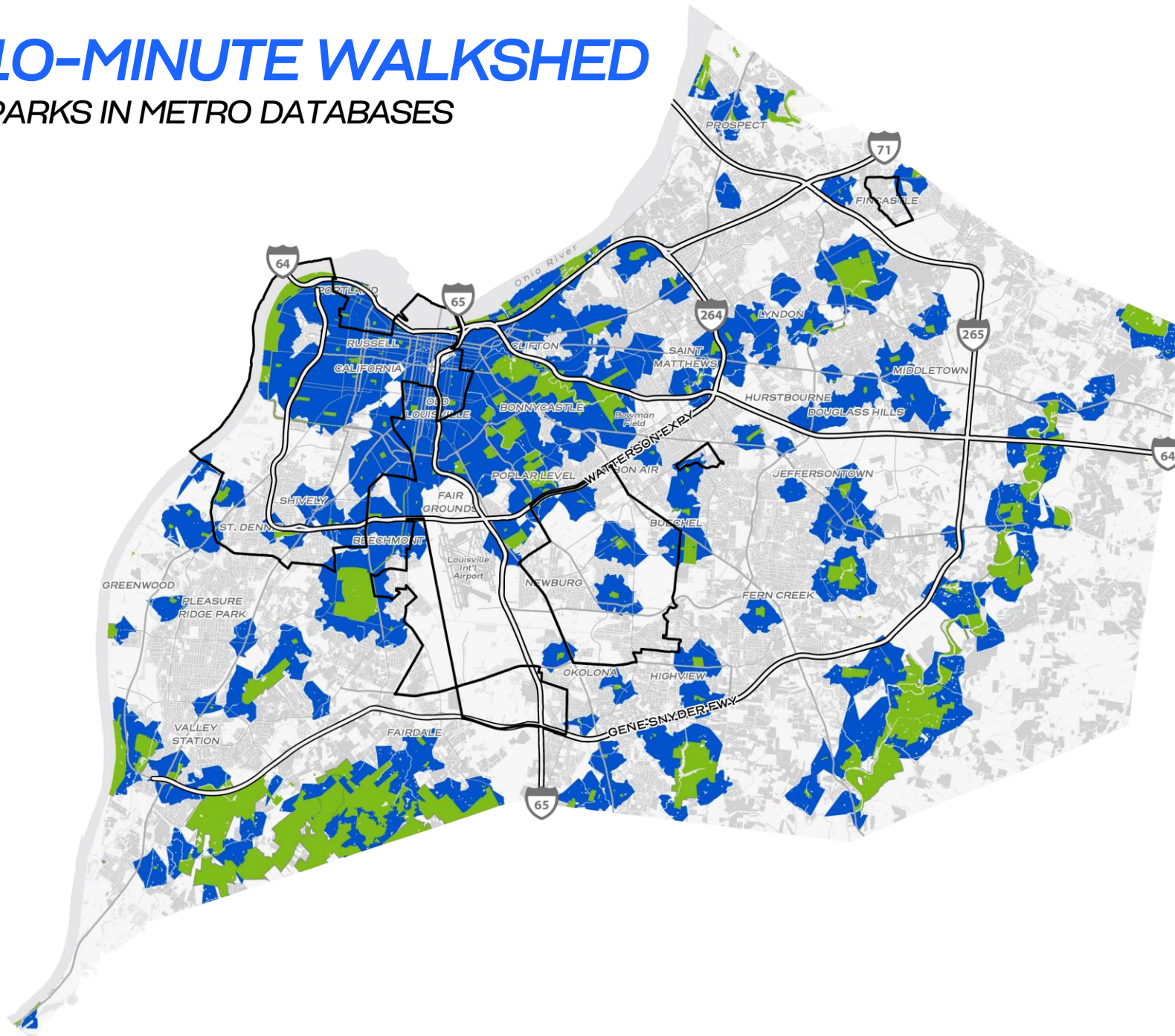
LOJIC, INTERFACE STUDIO



COMMUNITY AREA	ACRES/ 1,000 PPL
Jefferson Forest	314.8
Parklands of Floyds Fork	262.9
Riverport	26.7
East Core	19.5
McNeely Lake	14.0
Northeast Core	13.9
Northwest Core	13.4
Iroquois Park	12.5
North Floyds Fork	5.5
West Core	4.9
Southeast Core	4.4
Northeast Metro	4.1
South-Central Dixie	3.6
Southwest Core	2.6
Central Taylorsville	2.5
University	2.5
East Metro	1.8
Central Preston	1.7
Central Bardstown	1.1
Downtown	0.6
Airport	0.0

10-MINUTE WALKSHED

PARKS IN METRO DATABASES



10-MINUTE WALKSHED

INTERFACE STUDIO

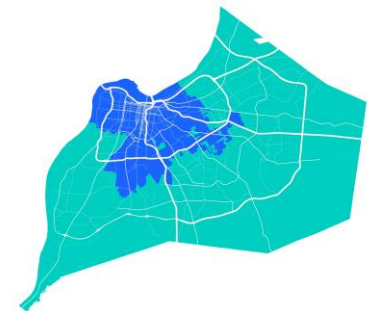
Metro and Publicly Accessible Parks

Includes:

Metro Parks & Parks in Other Municipalities
(excluding sites that are entirely parkways,
greenways, and trails),
Publicly Accessible Natural Areas,
Golf Courses, and
Cemeteries (excluding sites less than one acre)

Areas Within a 10-Minute Walk of Metro Parks

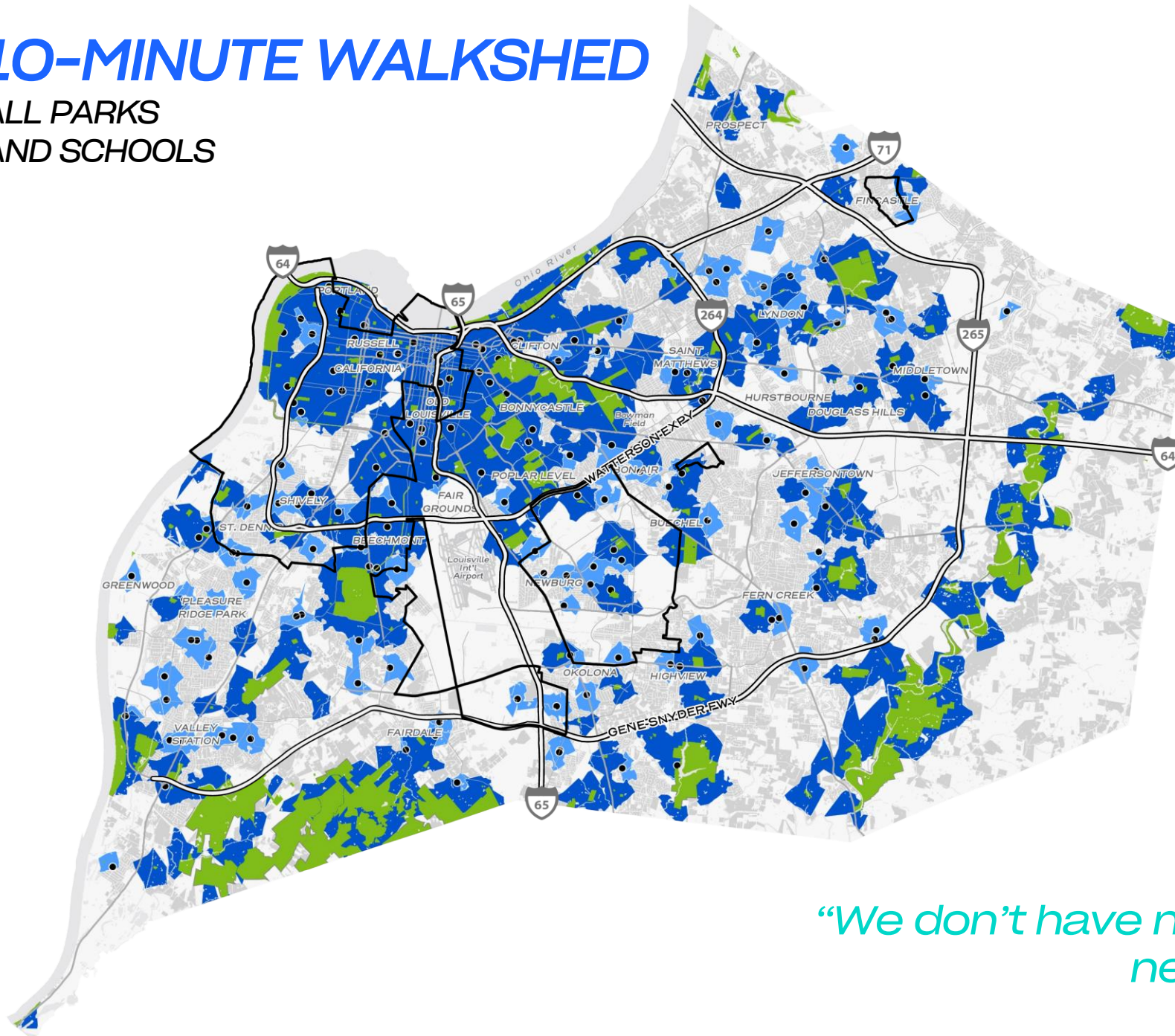
Residential Parcels Further Than a 10-Minute Walk



*In the Urban
Service Boundary,
the majority of
residents are within
a 10-minute walk of
a park.*

10-MINUTE WALKSHED

ALL PARKS
AND SCHOOLS



10-MINUTE WALKSHED

INTERFACE STUDIO

Metro and Publicly Accessible Parks

Includes:

Metro Parks & Parks In Other Municipalities
(excluding sites that are entirely parkways,
greenways, and trails),
Publicly Accessible Natural Areas,
Golf Courses, and
Cemeteries (excluding sites less than one acre)

Areas Within a 10-Minute Walk of Metro Parks

● Schools

Additional Areas Within a 10-Minute Walk of Schools

Residential Parcels Further Than a 10-Minute Walk

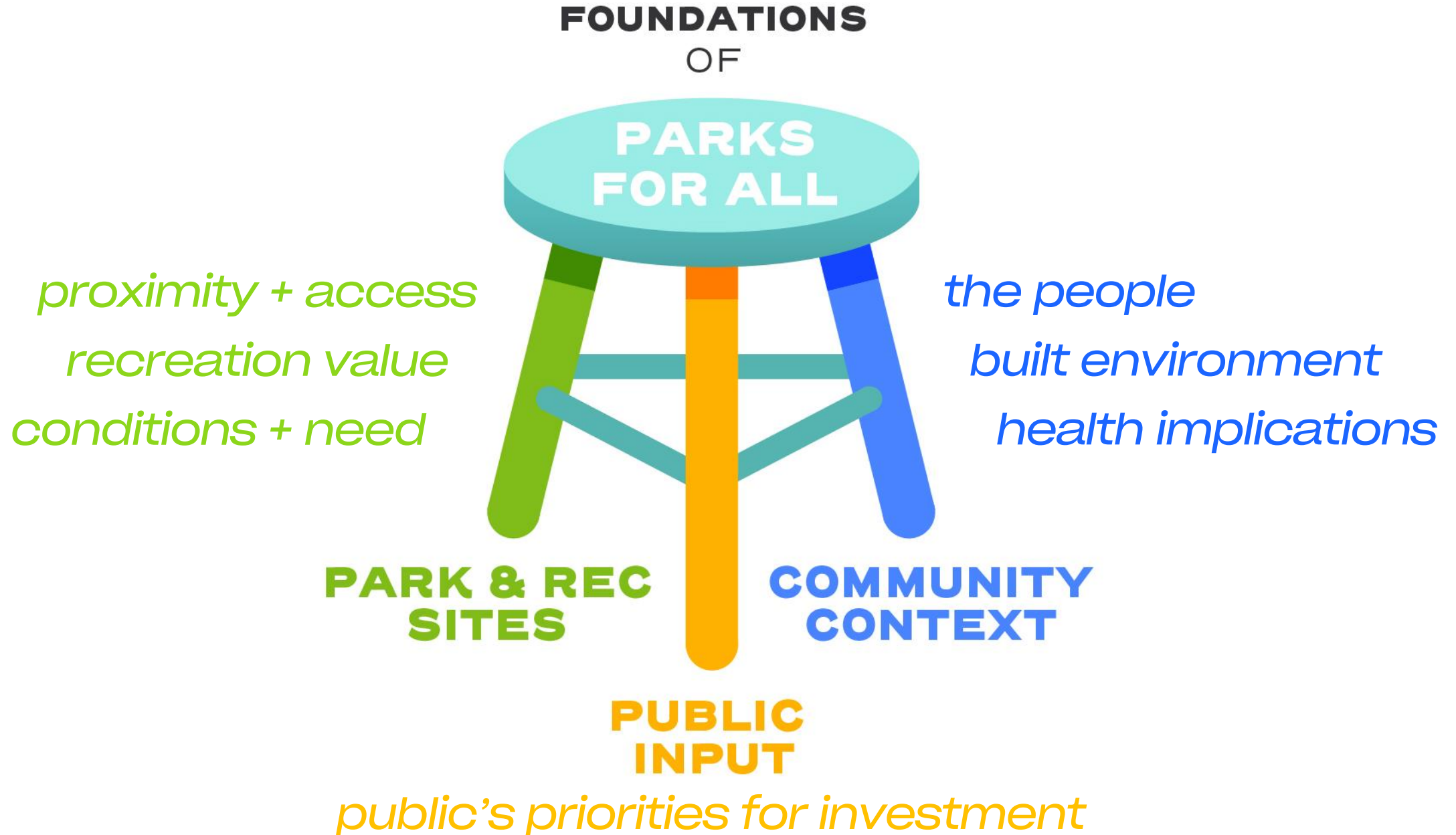
“We don’t have neighborhood schools, but all neighborhoods have schools.”
- local civic leader

SHAPING THE **STRATEGY**

We will need to determine which datasets will shape Louisville's Equitable Park Investment Strategy.

- Which data points should inform where and how to invest in existing parks?*
- Which data points should inform where to create new parks?*
- Which datasets should inform how to improve access to parks?*
- And how should Parks for All strike a balance between these different types of investments?*

THREE TYPES OF DATA SHAPE THE STRATEGY



CUSTOMIZING THE **STRATEGY**

It's important to customize the datasets that will shape Louisville's Equitable Park Investment Strategy.

- *Data availability varies*
- *Local context, issues, and priorities vary*
- *Opportunity to refine and improve the methodology*

LEARNING ABOUT LOUISVILLE METRO'S

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

*UNDERSTANDING DIVERSITY & DISCREPANCIES ACROSS THE
METRO AREA*



FIRST, FOCUS ON PEOPLE

- *Population Density*
- *Race & Ethnicity*
- *Foreign Born Population*
- *Population Change*
- *Children 18 & Younger*
- *Adults 65 & Older*
- *Household Income*
- *Poverty*
- *Educational Attainment*
- *Homeowners*
- *Minority Homeowners*
- *Renters*
- *R/ECAP Areas*

METRO-WIDE DASHBOARD

783,000

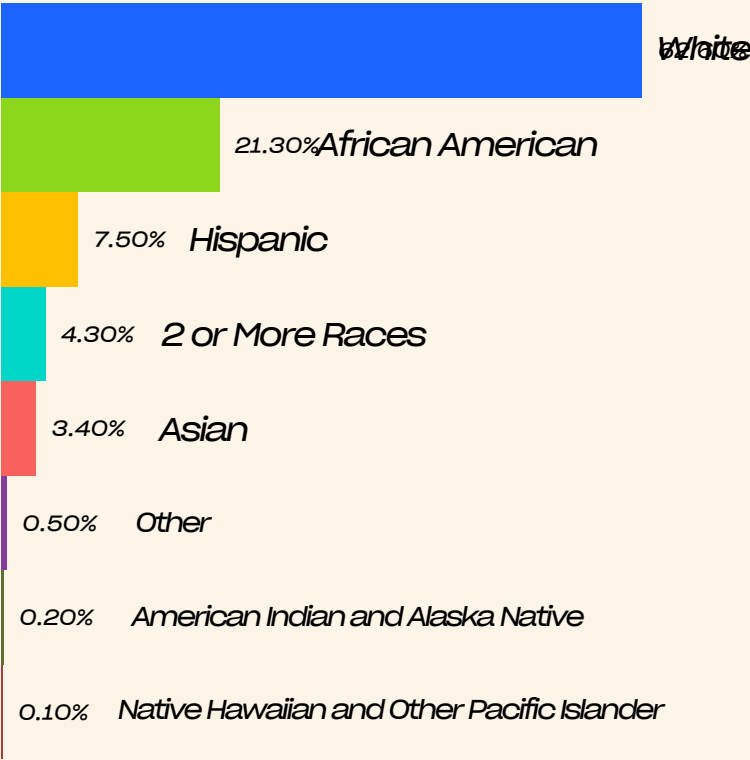
RESIDENTS
2020 U.S. CENSUS

170,000+

YOUTH UNDER 18
2019 ACS

120,000+

RESIDENTS 65 & OLDER
2019 ACS



345,000

HOUSING UNITS
2019 ACS

67%

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES
2019 ACS

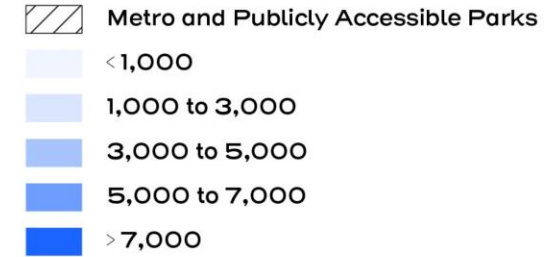
\$56,000

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME
2019 ACS

POPULATION DENSITY

POPULATION DENSITY PER SQUARE MILE

2019 ACS, U.S. CENSUS



Census Tracts where 50%+ residents are POC

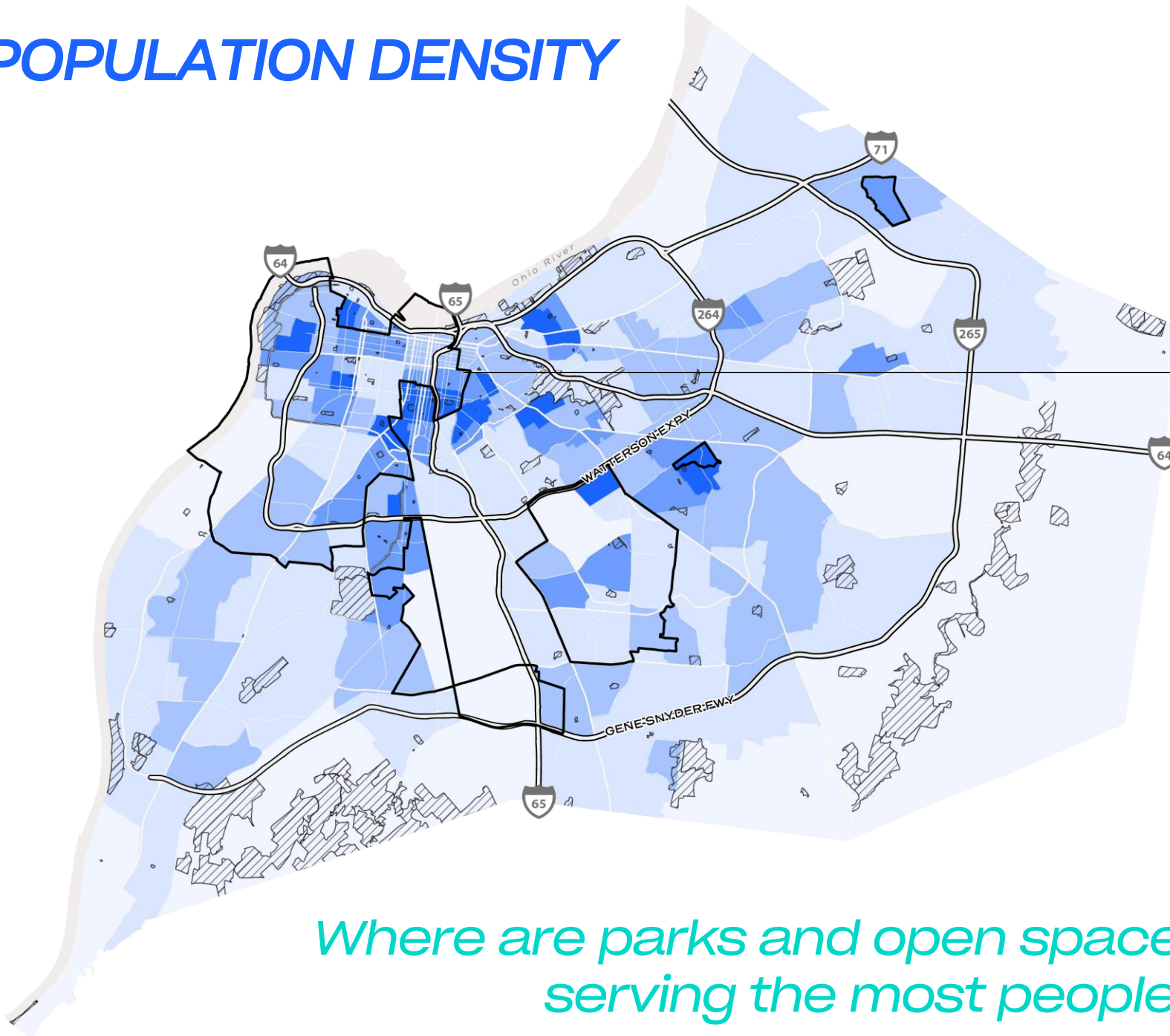
2,000

AVERAGE
POPULATION
DENSITY PER
SQUARE MILE
METRO-WIDE

4,600

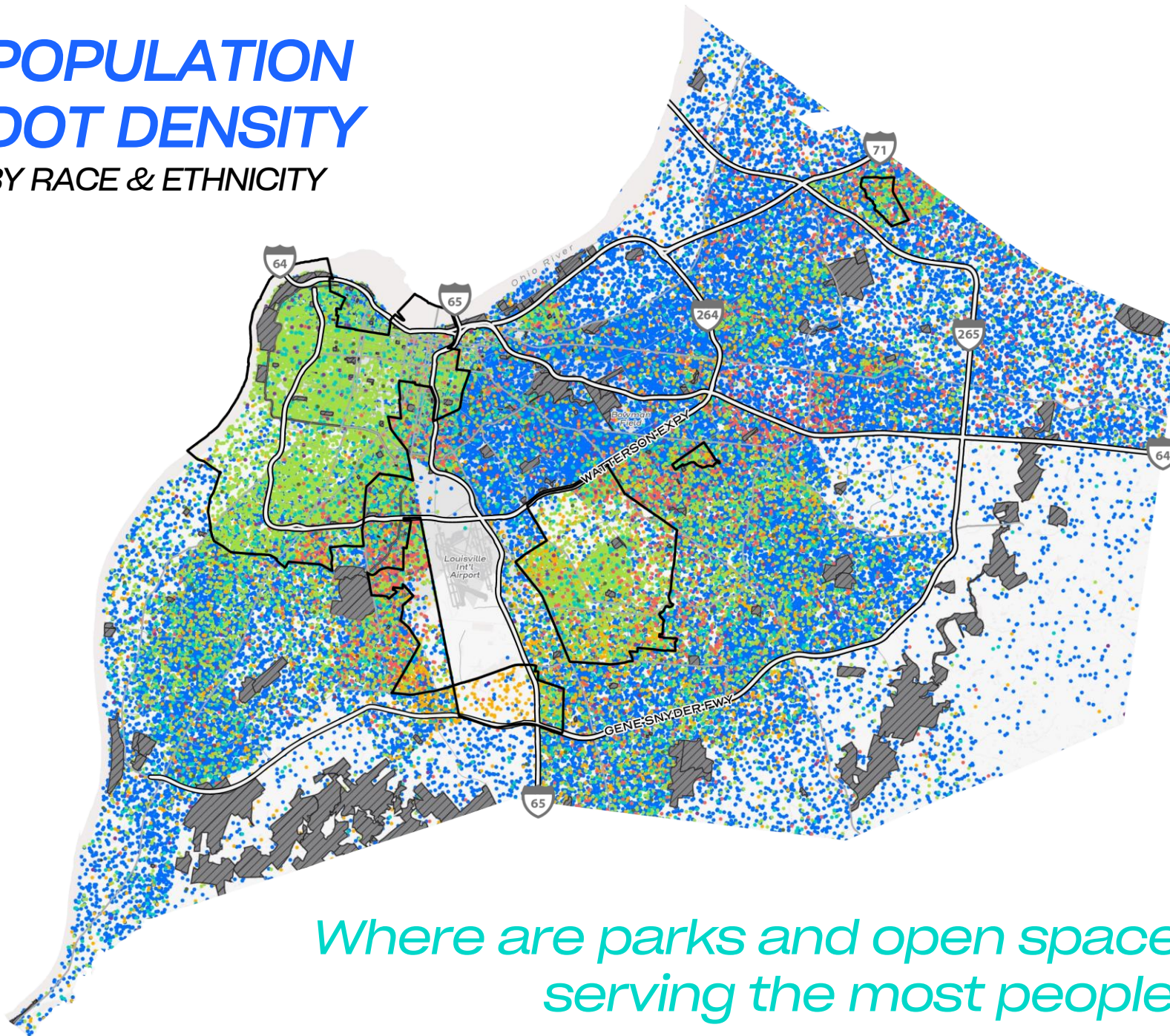
MAJORITY MINORITY
AREAS

Where are parks and open spaces
serving the most people?



POPULATION DOT DENSITY

BY RACE & ETHNICITY



RACE & ETHNICITY

2020 U.S. CENSUS

- White
- African American
- Hispanic
- Two or More Races
- Asian
- Other
- American Indian and Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander

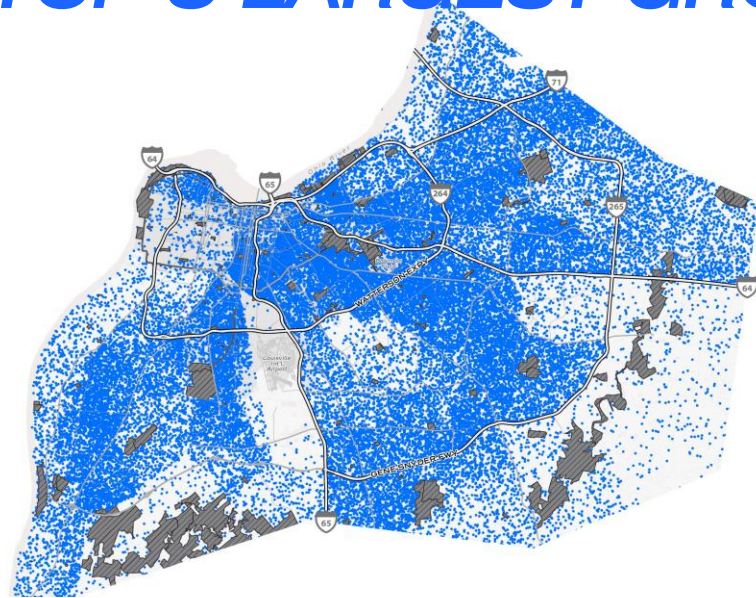
1 Dot = 10 Residents

37%

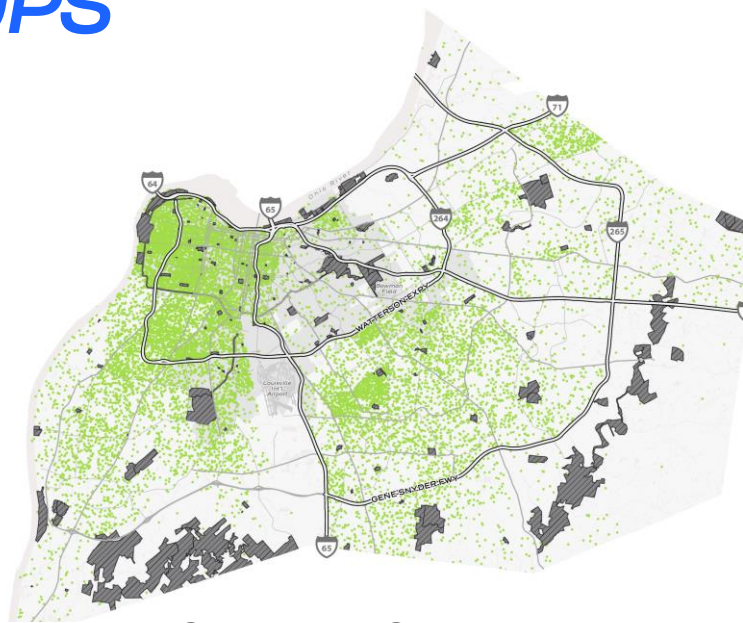
OF POPULATION
IDENTIFIES AS
MINORITY
METRO-WIDE

*Where are parks and open spaces
serving the most people?*

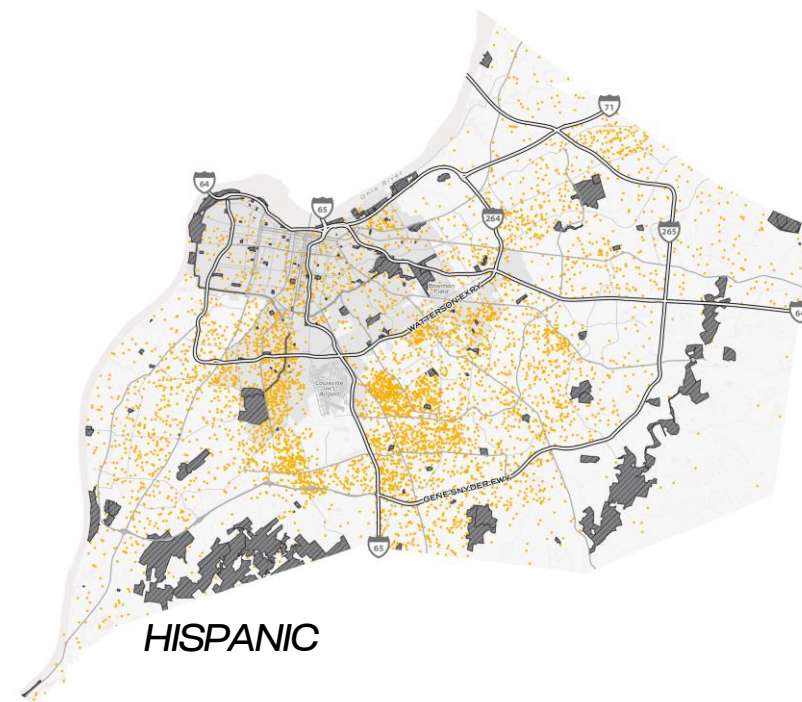
TOP 5 LARGEST GROUPS



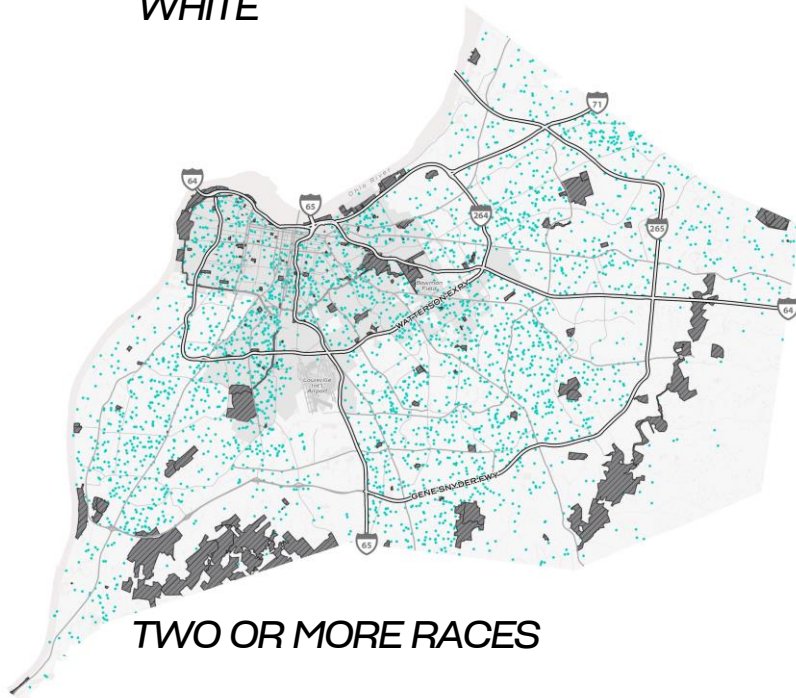
WHITE



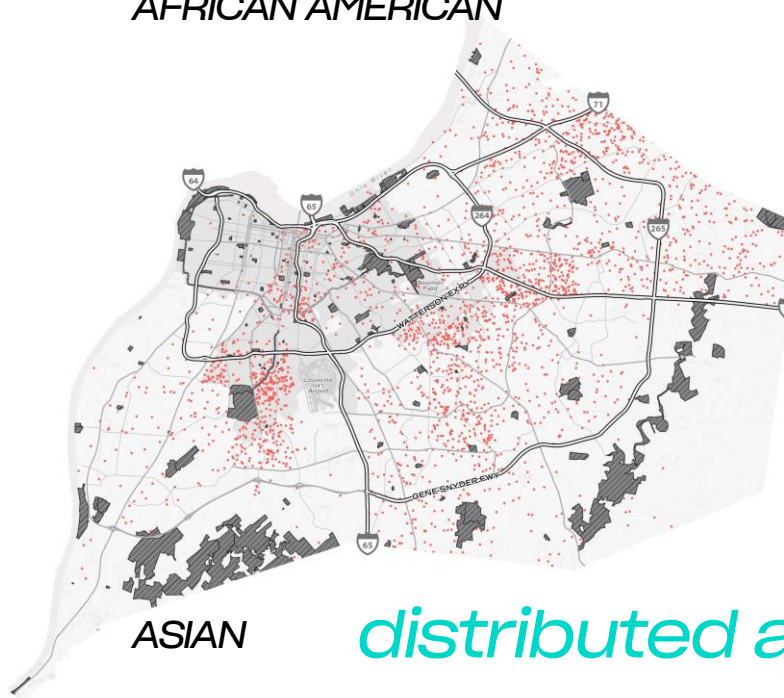
AFRICAN AMERICAN



HISPANIC



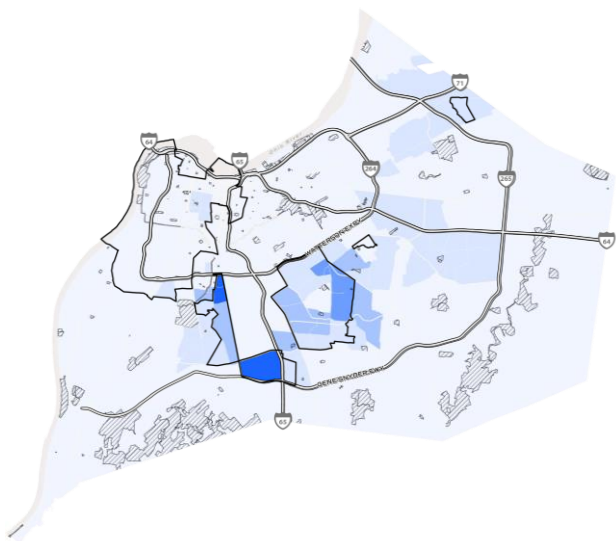
TWO OR MORE RACES



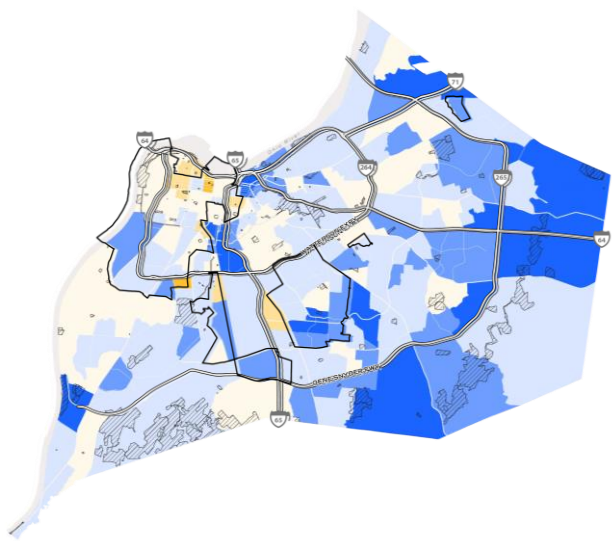
ASIAN

How is the population
distributed across the metro area?

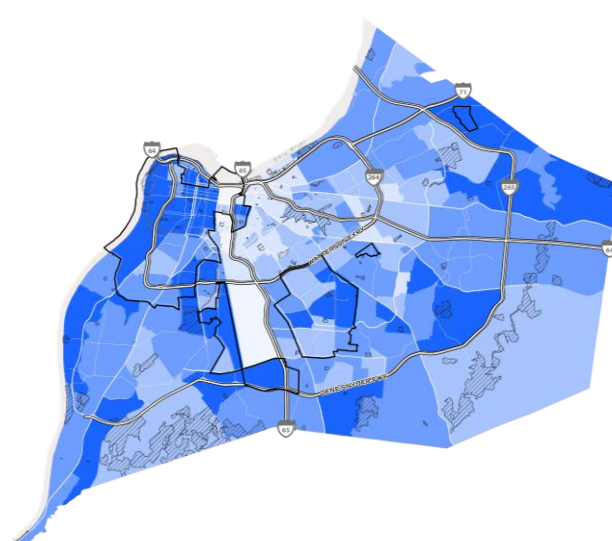
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA



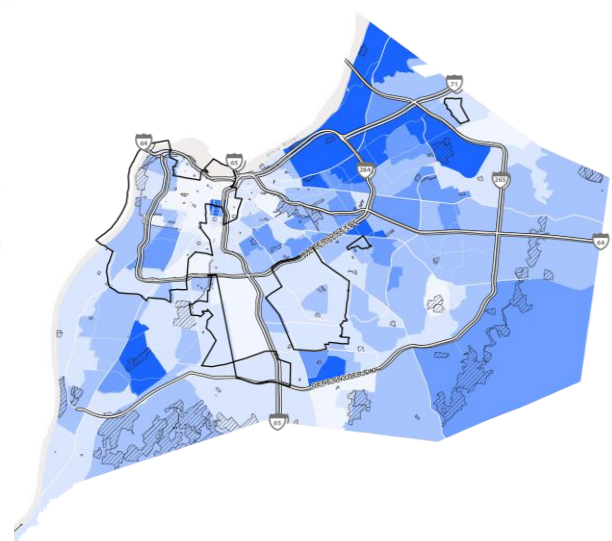
Foreign Born Population



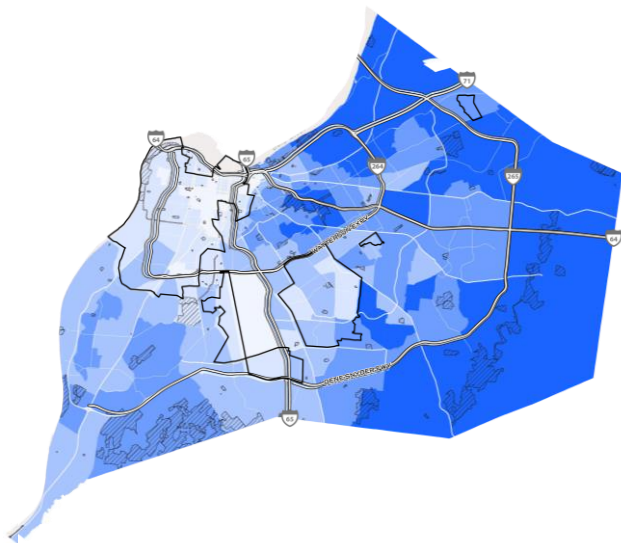
Population Change



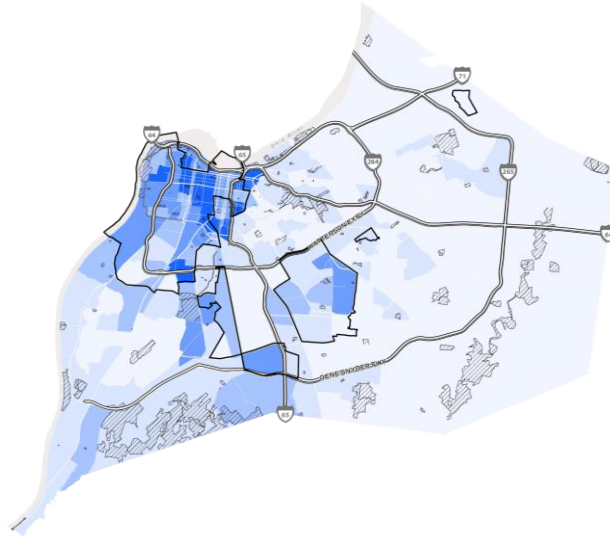
Population Under 18



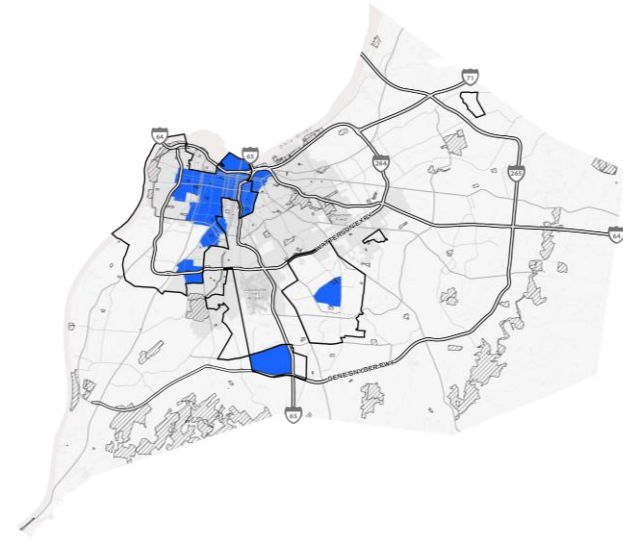
Population Over 65



Median HH Income



Poverty Rates

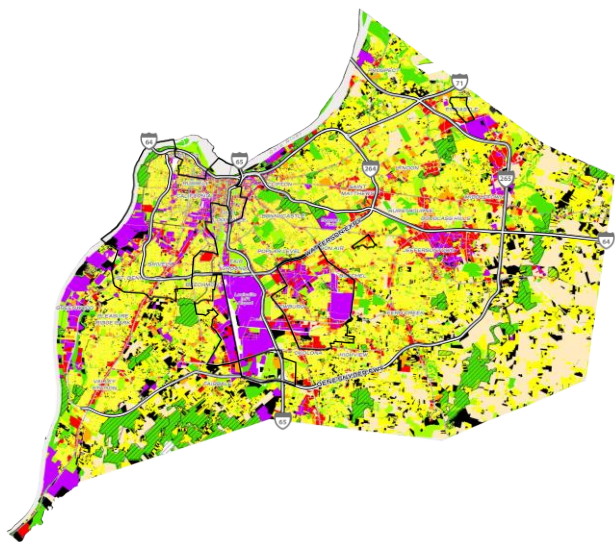


Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty

THEN, CONSIDER THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- *Land Use*
- *Impervious Surfaces*
- *Average Temperatures*
- *Tree Canopy*
- *Flood Risk*

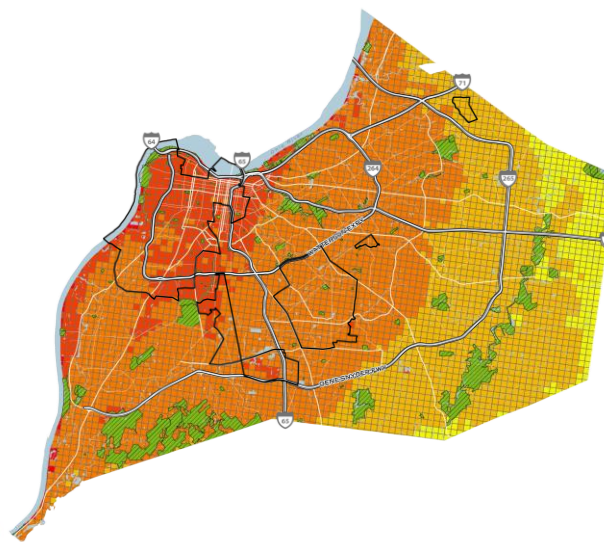
BUILT ENVIRONMENT DATA



Land Use



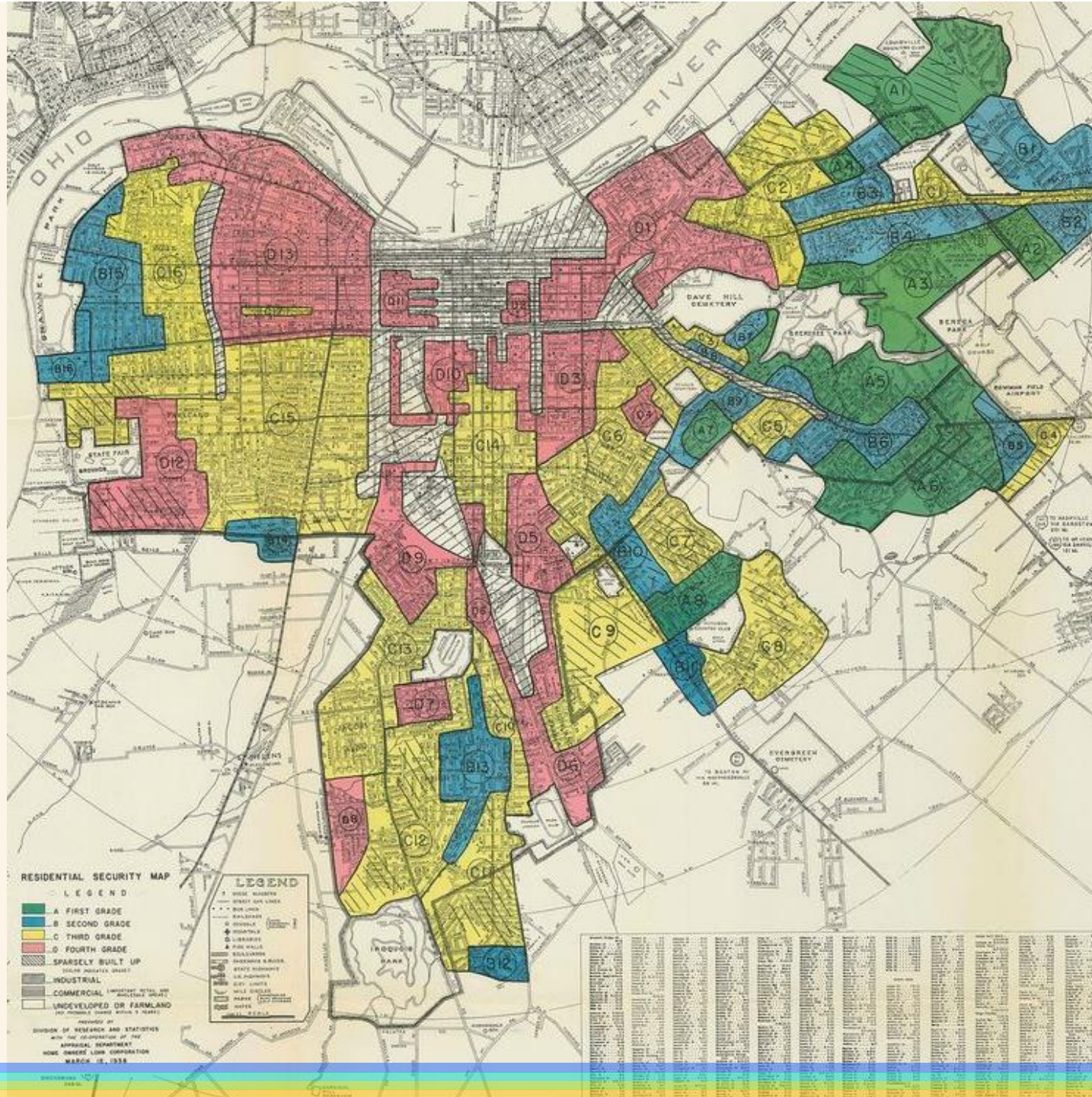
Impervious Surfaces



Average Temperatures



Tree Canopy



“In redlined communities, air quality is worse, there are fewer trees, it’s hotter.

The pressure on parks is greater there than elsewhere from a social as well as environmental perspective...

Everything happens in parks - parties, stormwater, trees.”

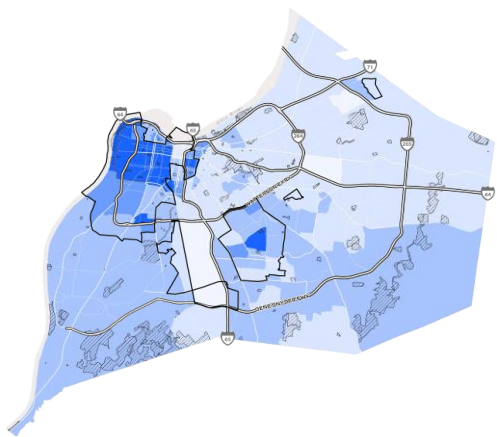
- parks advocate



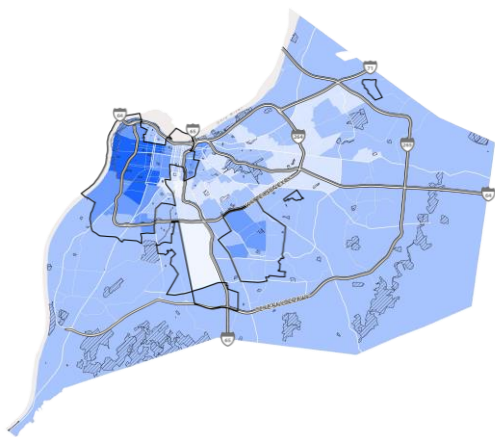
AS WELL AS THE HEALTH + WELLNESS IMPLICATIONS

- *Asthma*
- *Obesity*
- *Diabetes*
- *Depression*
- *Violent Crime*

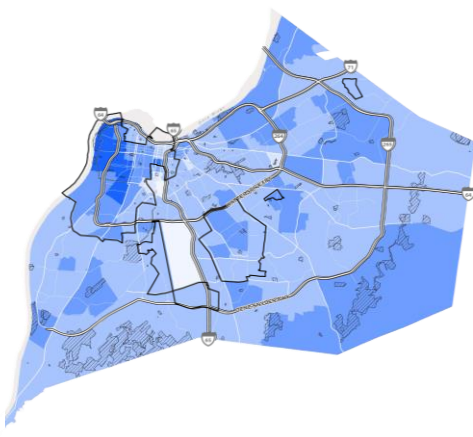
HEALTH & WELLNESS INDICATORS



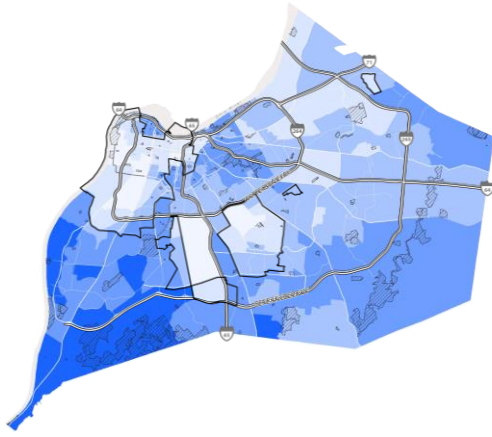
Asthma Rates



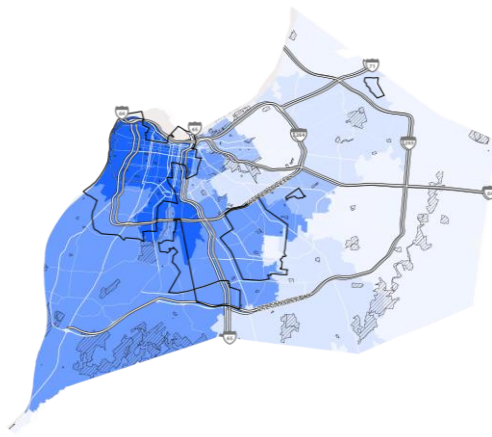
Obesity Rates



Diabetes Rates



Depression Rates



Violent Crime Rates

11%

OF RESIDENTS
METRO-WIDE

37%

OF RESIDENTS
METRO-WIDE

41%
MAJORITY
MINORITY
AREAS

15%

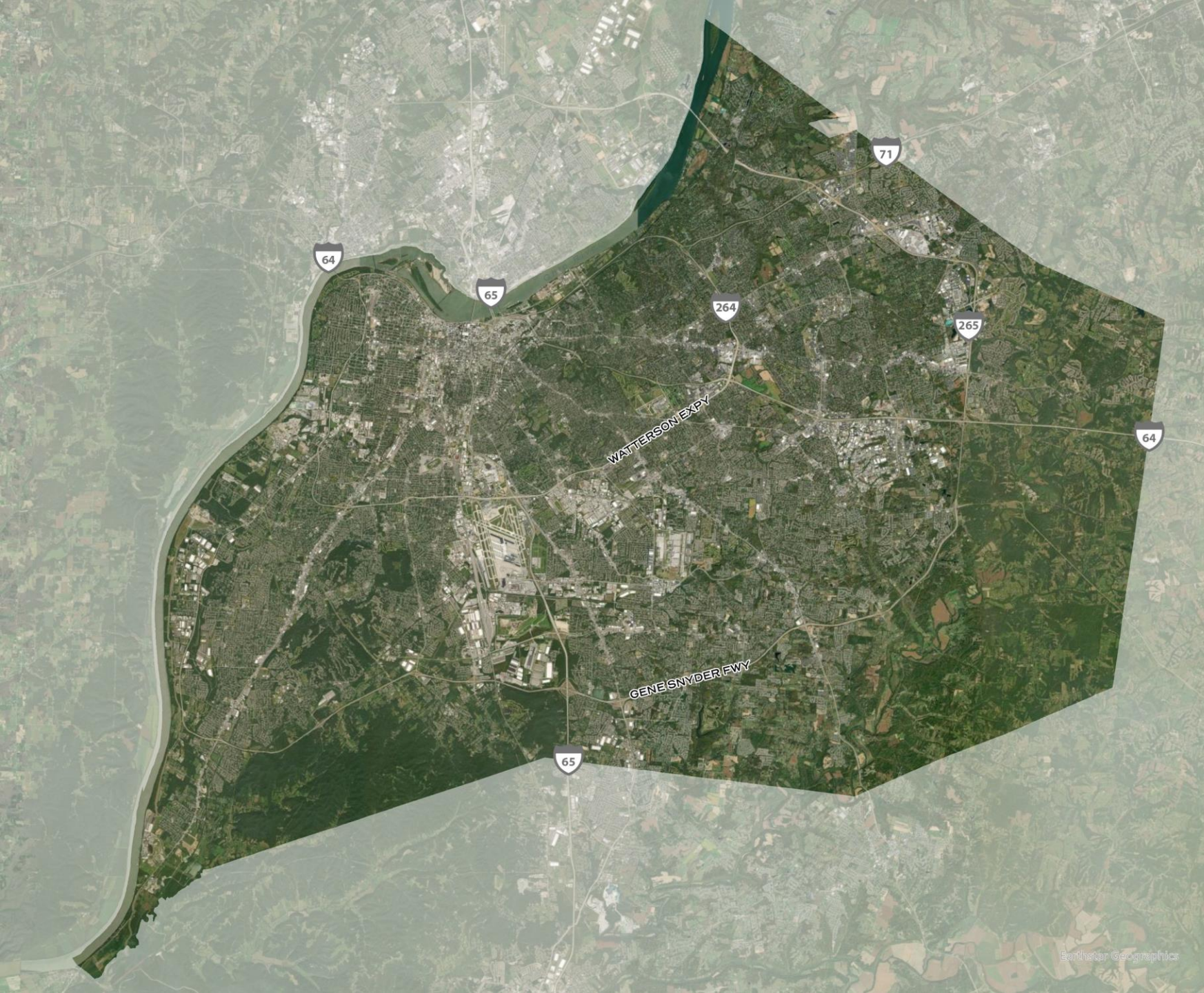
OF RESIDENTS
METRO-WIDE

24%

OF RESIDENTS
METRO-WIDE

<1%

OF VIOLENT CRIME
OCCURRED IN PARKS
METRO-WIDE
2019-21



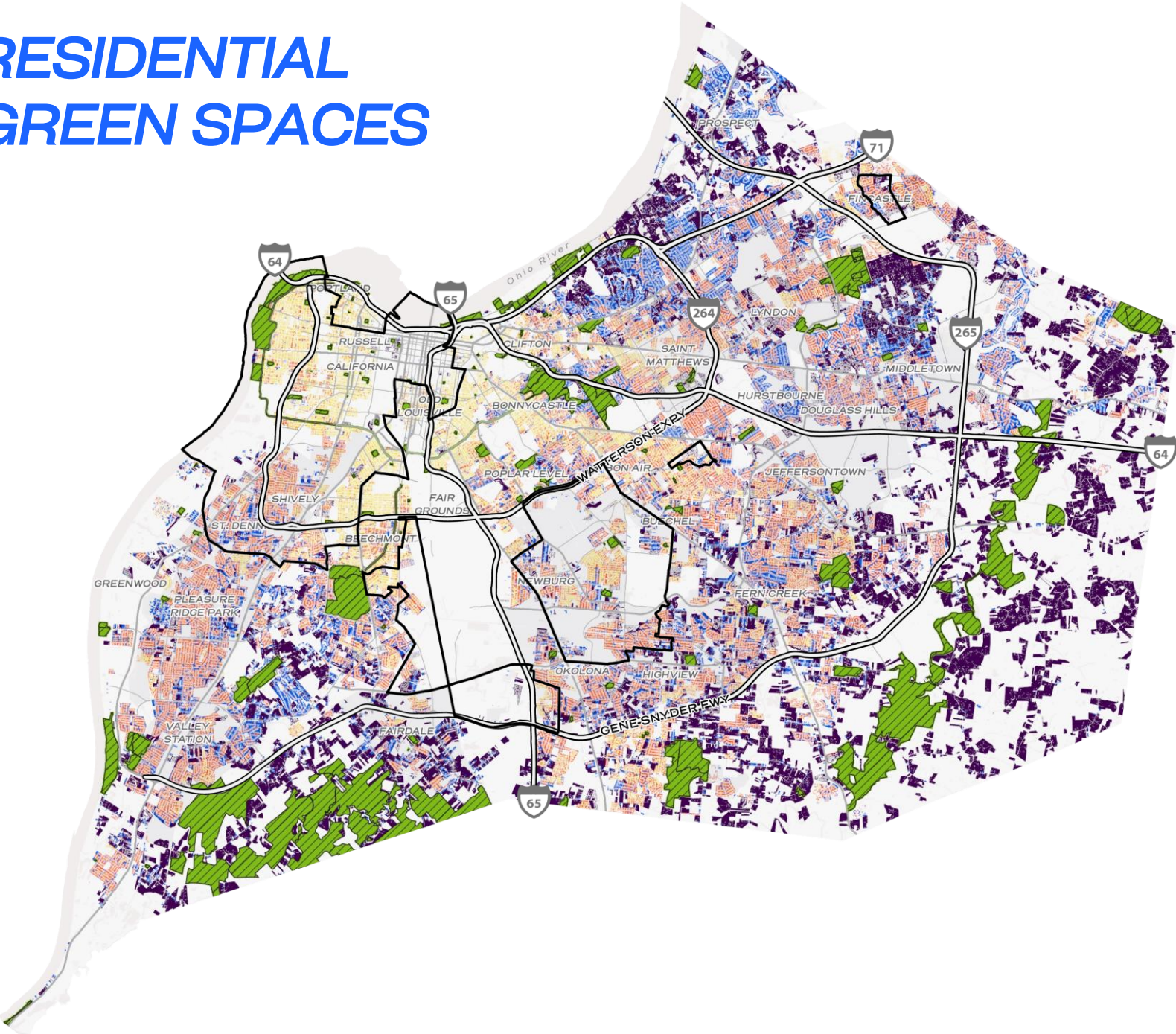
*We can't just think
about **park** access...*

*We need to think
more broadly about
access to **green
space**...*

RESIDENTIAL GREEN SPACES

RESIDENTIAL YARD SPACE IN
SQUARE FEET (SQFT)
INTERFACE STUDIO

- Metro and Publicly Accessible Parks
- < 5,000
- 5,000 - 10,000
- 10,000 - 43,560
- > 43,560 (1 Acre)



NEXT WE'LL TACKLE PARK CONDITIONS + RECREATION VALUE

- *How much investment has each park + rec site received over time?*
- *What is the condition of each park/community center?*
- *What about the assets at each site?*
 - *Which age groups do they serve?*
 - *And how well, based on their condition?*

RATING PARK CONDITION + RECREATION VALUE

Metro Parks recently cataloged every amenity in every park, including:

Baseball Fields

Basketball Courts

Batting Cages

Bike Parking

Dog Parks

Drinking Fountains

Grills

Lockers

Multi-purpose Fields

Picnic Areas

Playgrounds

Skating Rinks

Spray Grounds

Tennis Courts

Volleyball Courts

And more...



NEXT STEP:

Rate amenities on:

- Ages served*
- Condition*
- Place in life cycle*
- Safety*
- Obsolescence /Up to Modern Standards*

RATING PARK CONDITION + RECREATION VALUE

EXAMPLE PARK

PROS RECREATION VALUE SCORE

	* appropriate for this age group											not appropriate for this age			
FACILITIES and AMENITIES	2-5 years	6-8 years	9-12 years	13- 15 years	16- 18 years	19- 30 years	31- 45 years	46- 60 years	61- 70 years	71- 75 years	76 + years	# of Age Groups Covered	AGE GROUP SCORE (Count number of age groups covered, anything 5+ gets a 5)	CONDITION SCORE (1-5, 5 is best)	OVERALL SCORE (Age Group Score multiplied by Condition Score; park total is summed)
Adventure Playground	*	*	*									3	3	3	9
Amphitheater		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	10	5	3	15
Arboretum						*	*	*	*	*	*	6	5	3	15
Food Trucks (area for them)					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	7	5	4	20
Cabin/ Overnight Accommodations						*	*	*	*	*	*	6	5	2	10
Climbing Boulders		*	*	*	*	*						5	5	3	15
Community / Activity Center	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5	3	15
Disc Golf			*	*	*	*	*	*				6	5	1	5
Dog Park / Area / Café			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9	5	1	5
Green Event Lawn	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	11	5	5	25
Farmers Market					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	7	5	4	20
Community Gardens						*	*	*	*	*	*	6	5	5	25
Multi-Purpose Field(s)		*	*	*	*	*	*					6	5	2	10
Natural Areas		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	10	5	5	25
Picnic Areas / Shade Structures					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	7	5	2	10
Play Areas	*	*	*									3	3	1	3
Sand Volleyball					*	*	*	*				4	4	2	8
Rental Shelters						*	*	*	*	*	*	6	5	3	15
Walking Paths / Trails					*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5	2	10
Water Features (Splash Pad)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*				8	5	5	25
Water Recreation Spray Ground	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		10	5	4	20
Wi-Fi Accessible			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9	5	2	10
TOTAL SCORE															315

RATING PARK CONDITION + RECREATION VALUE

We'll also be working with Metro Park to understand the following about each park + community center:

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- *Is the park inviting?*
- *Is it well designed?*
- *Is it easy to maintain?*
- *Is there appropriate signage?*

CANDIDATE FOR INVESTMENT

- *Not a Candidate*
- *Quick Win*
- *Basic Upgrade*
- *Partial Makeover*
- *Transformation*

COST ESTIMATES

- *Total cost to fix what's there*
- *Total replacement cost*
- *Cost of a complete transformation*

NEXT STEPS

- *Dec 16: Metro Council Update*
- *December through April: Park Data Deep Dive*
- *March: Launch community engagement*

THANK YOU!

