PARKS & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

December 9, 2021

PARKS ALLIANCE OF LOUISVILLE

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
- 1995 Parks & Open Space
  - Updated in 2016
- 1994 Olmsted Parks & Parkways

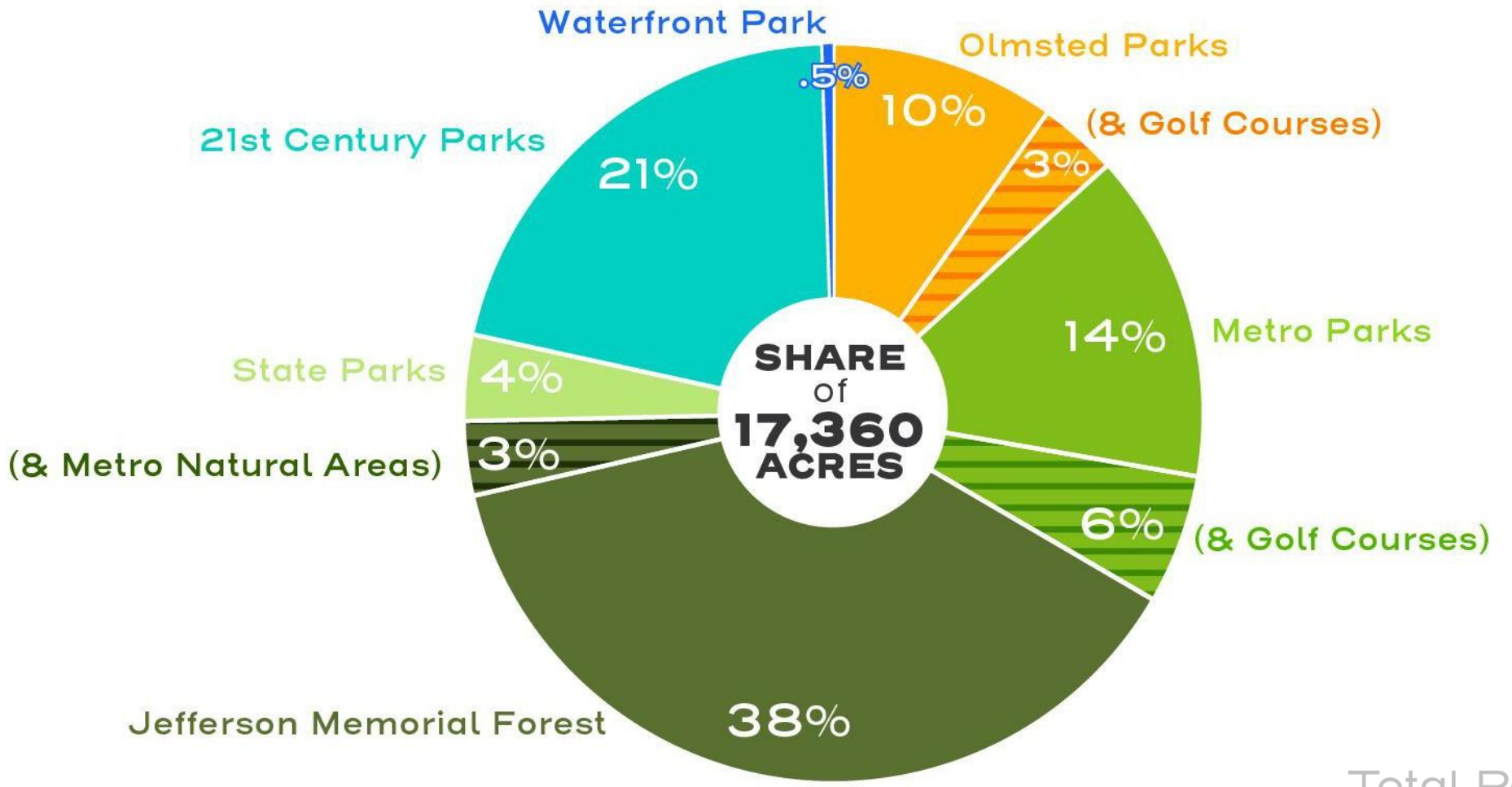
20+
INDIVIDUAL PARK MASTER PLANS

36
NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS

LOUISVILLE / JEFFERSON COUNTY'S

PARK SYSTEM

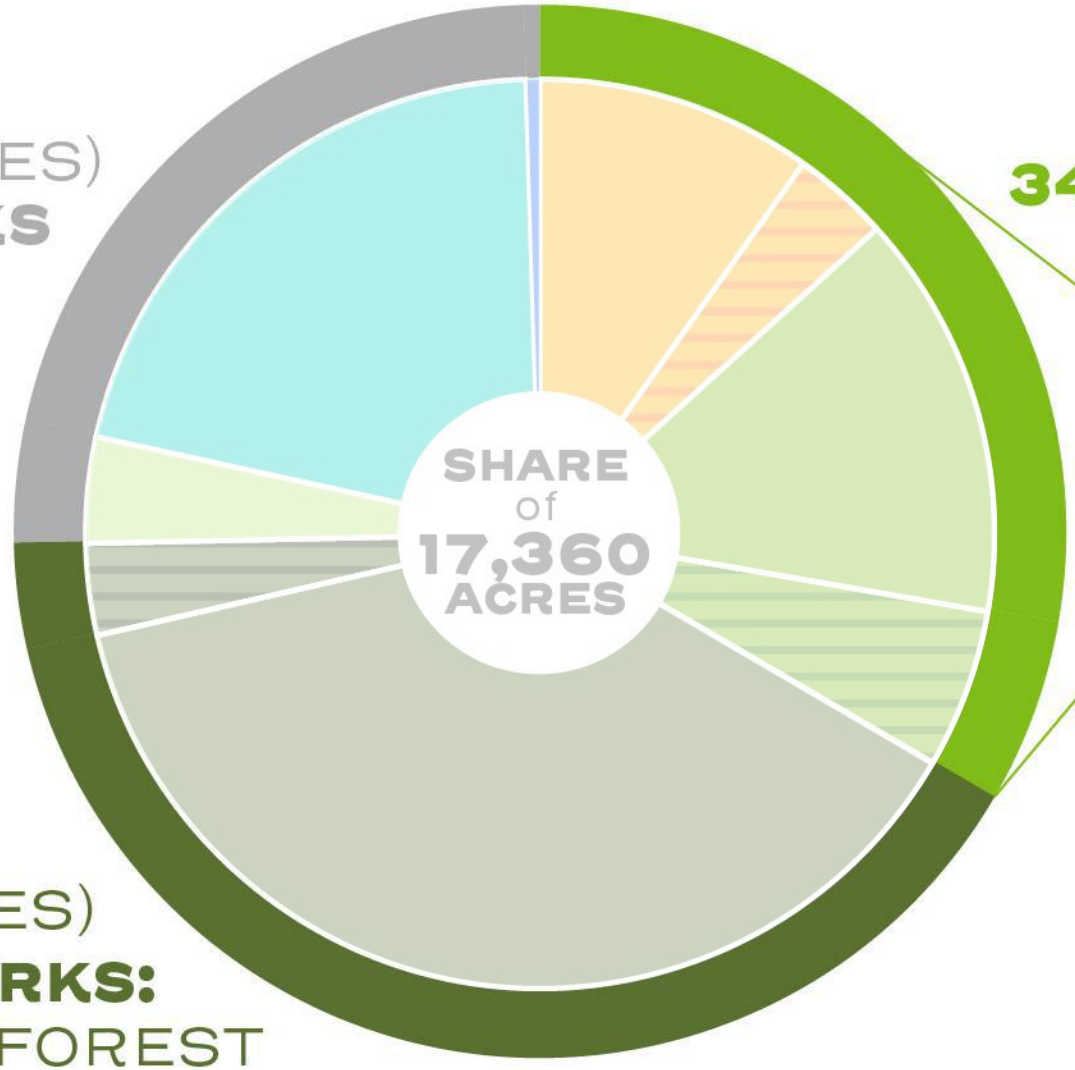
PARKS & OPEN SPACE
BY CLASSIFICATION



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



25% (4,400 ACRES)
OTHER PARKS

34% (5,800 ACRES)
METRO PARKS:
PARKS

40% 2,300 acres
Olmsted Parks
60% 3,500 acres
Other Metro Parks

41% (7,160 ACRES)
METRO PARKS:
FOREST

DIGGING INTO DATA ON

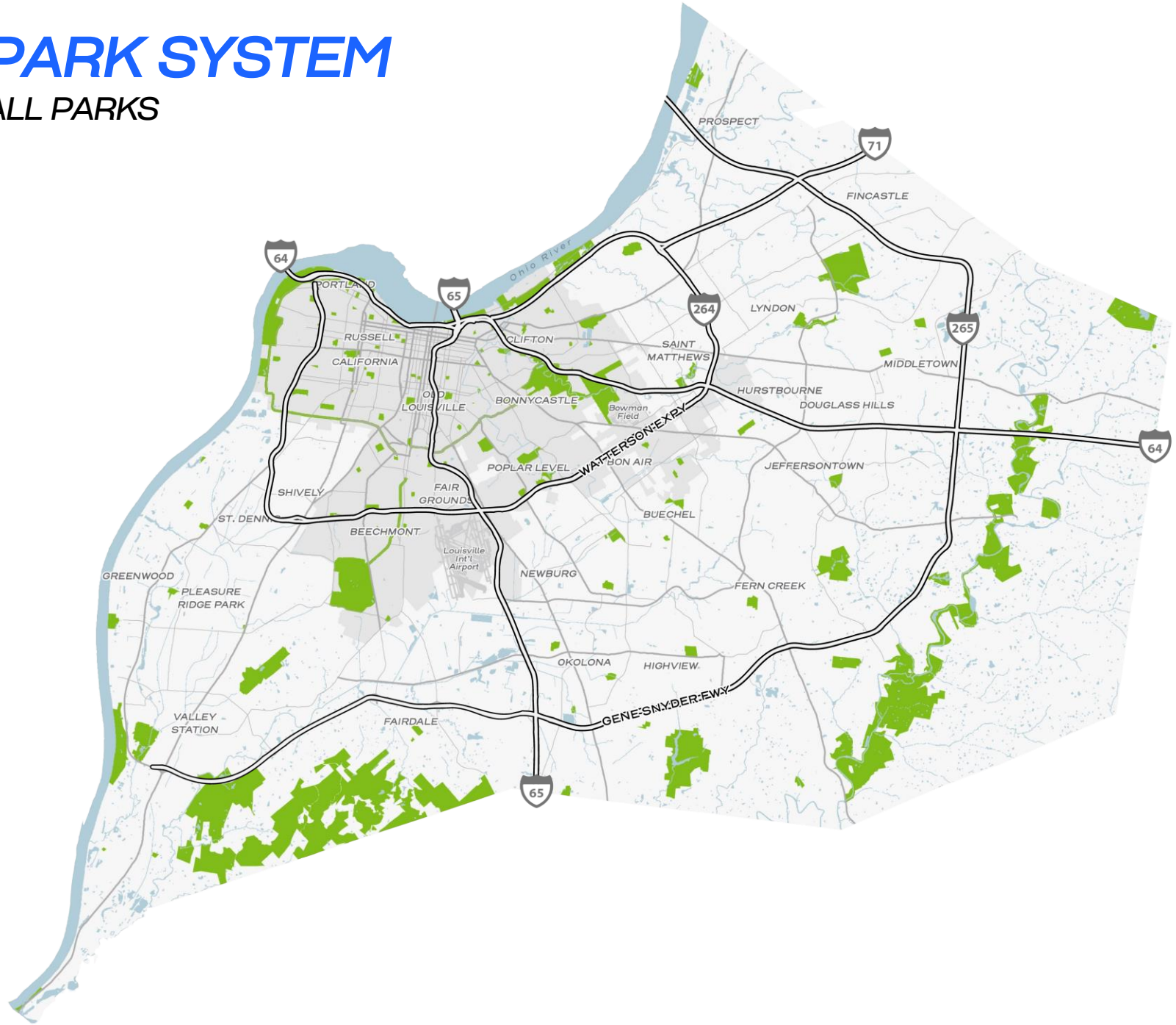
PARKS + REC SITES

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

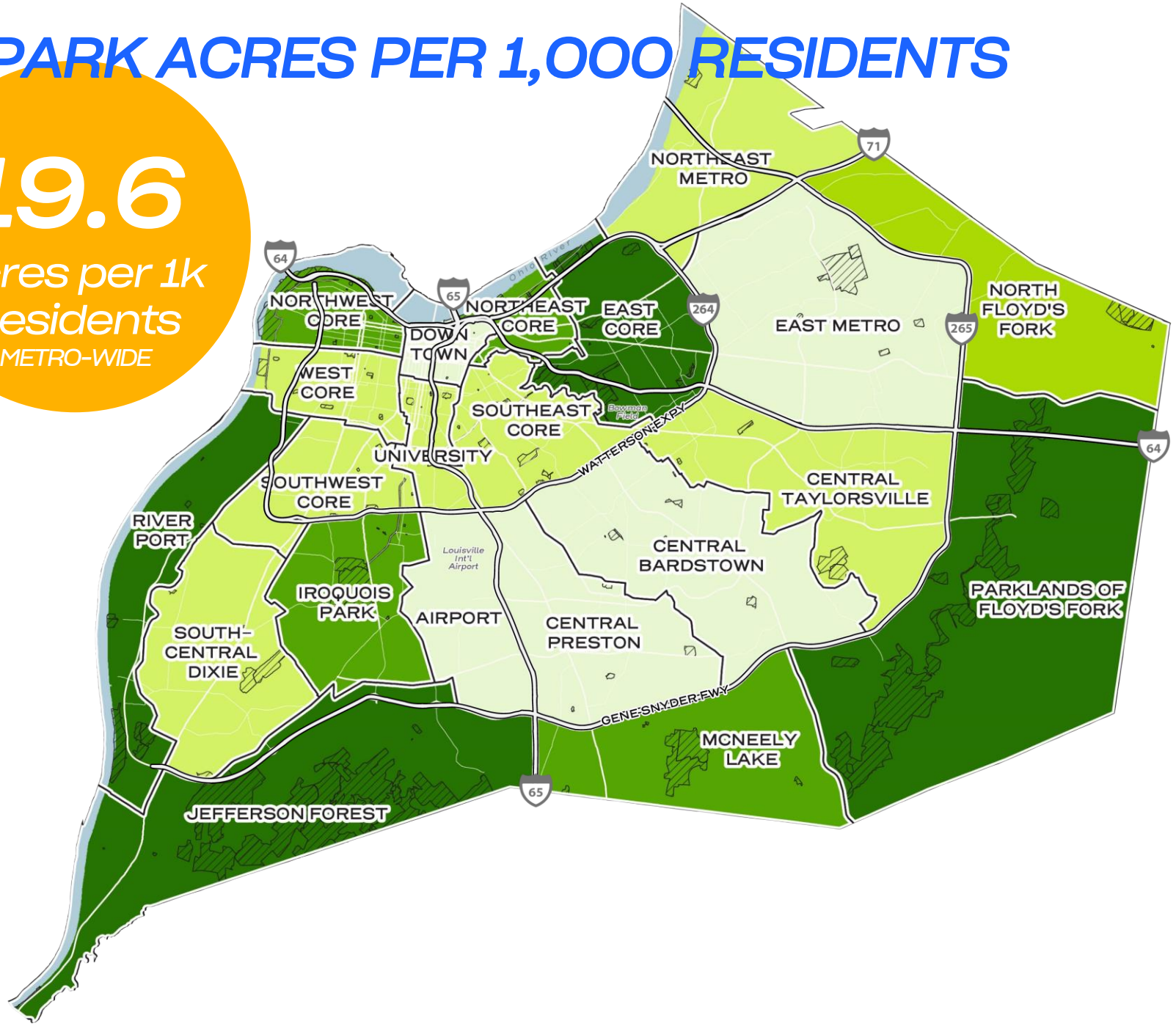
17,360

ACRES

METRO-WIDE

PARK ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

19.6
Acres per 1k Residents
METRO-WIDE



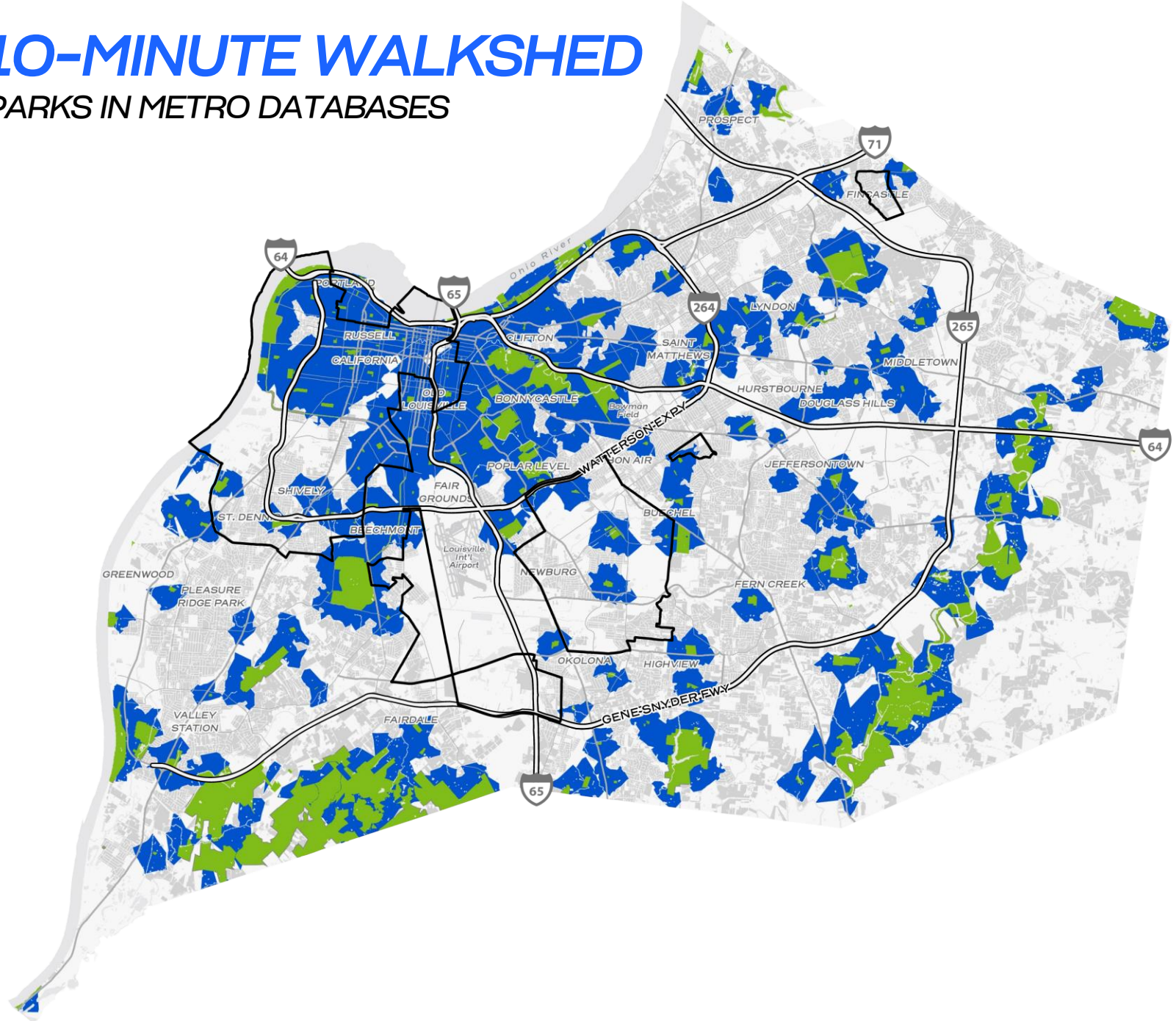
PARK ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS
LOJIC, INTERFACE STUDIO

- < 2 Acres
- 2 to 5 Acres
- 5 to 8 Acres
- 8 to 15 Acres
- > 15 Acres

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

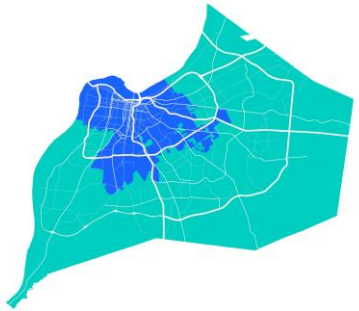
Metro and Publicly Accessible Parks

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

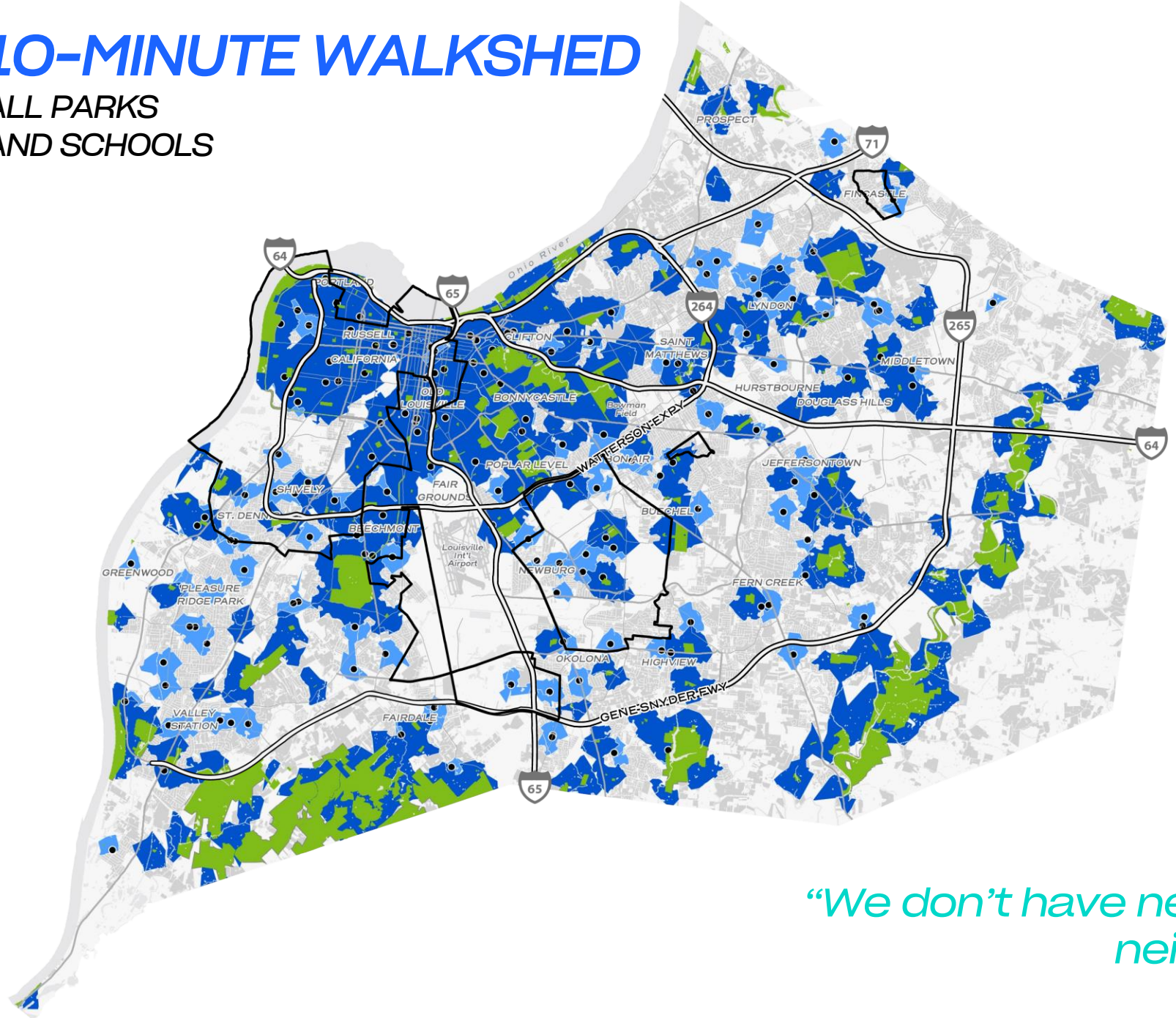
Residential Parcels Further Than a 10-Minute Walk



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

proximity + access

recreation value

conditions + need

the people

built environment

health implications

public's priorities for investment

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

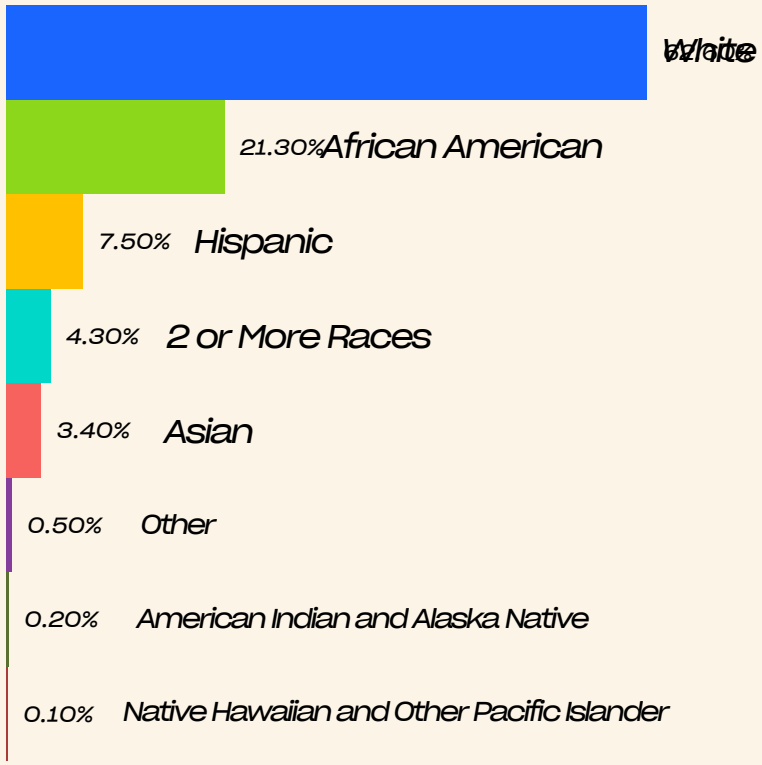
- *Population Density*
- *Race & Ethnicity*
- *Foreign Born Population*
- *Population Change*
- *Children 18 & Younger*
- *Adults 65 & Older*
- *Household Income*
- *Poverty*
- *Educational Attainment*
- *Homeowners*
- *Minority Homeowners*
- *Renters*
- *R/ECAP Areas*

METRO-WIDE DASHBOARD

783,000
RESIDENTS
2020 U.S. CENSUS

170,000+
YOUTH UNDER 18
2019 ACS

120,000+
RESIDENTS 65 & OLDER
2019 ACS

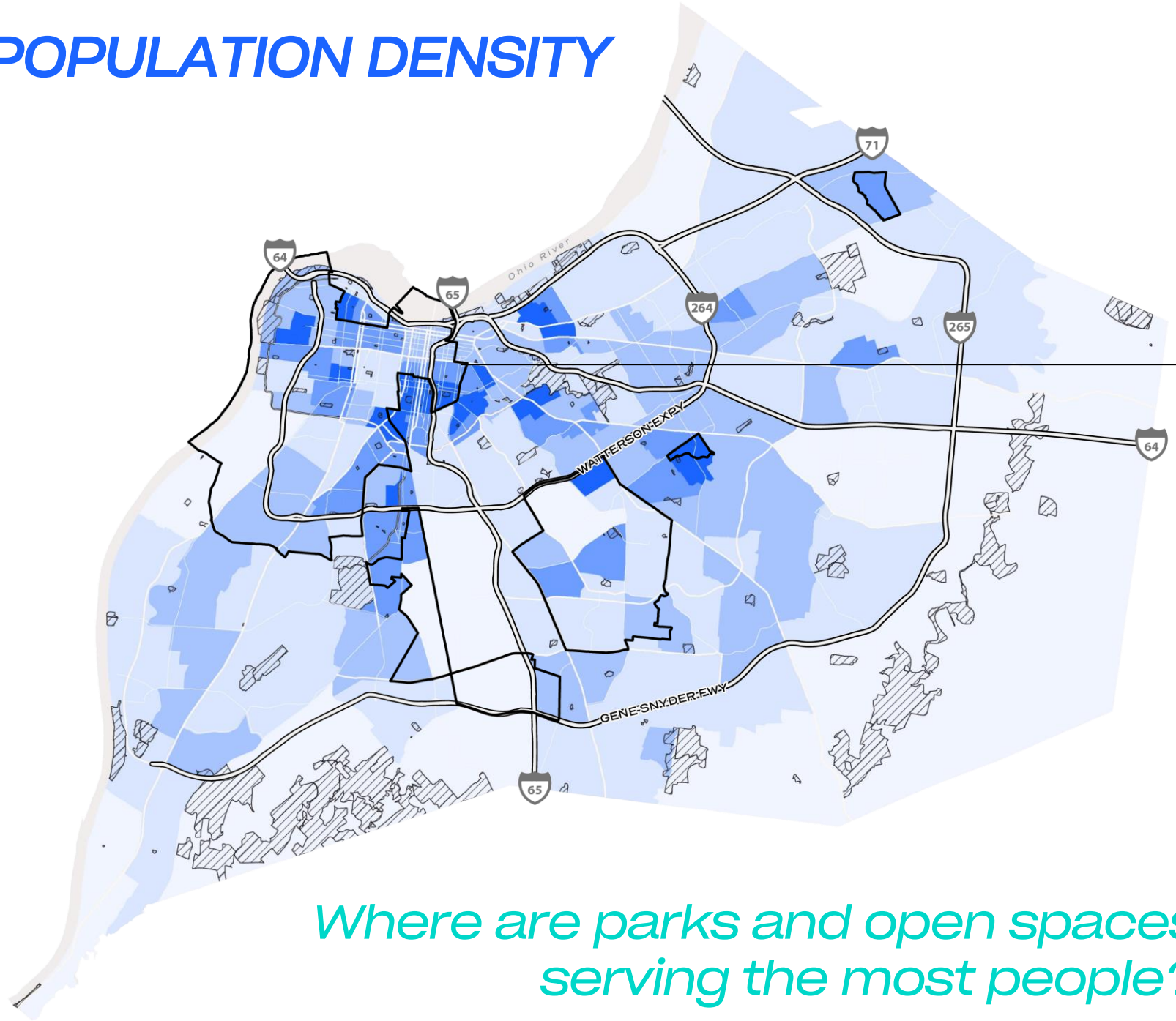


345,000
HOUSING UNITS
2019 ACS

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

- Metro and Publicly Accessible Parks
- <1,000
- 1,000 to 3,000
- 3,000 to 5,000
- 5,000 to 7,000
- >7,000

Census Tracts where 50%+ residents are POC

2,000

AVERAGE POPULATION DENSITY PER SQUARE MILE METRO-WIDE

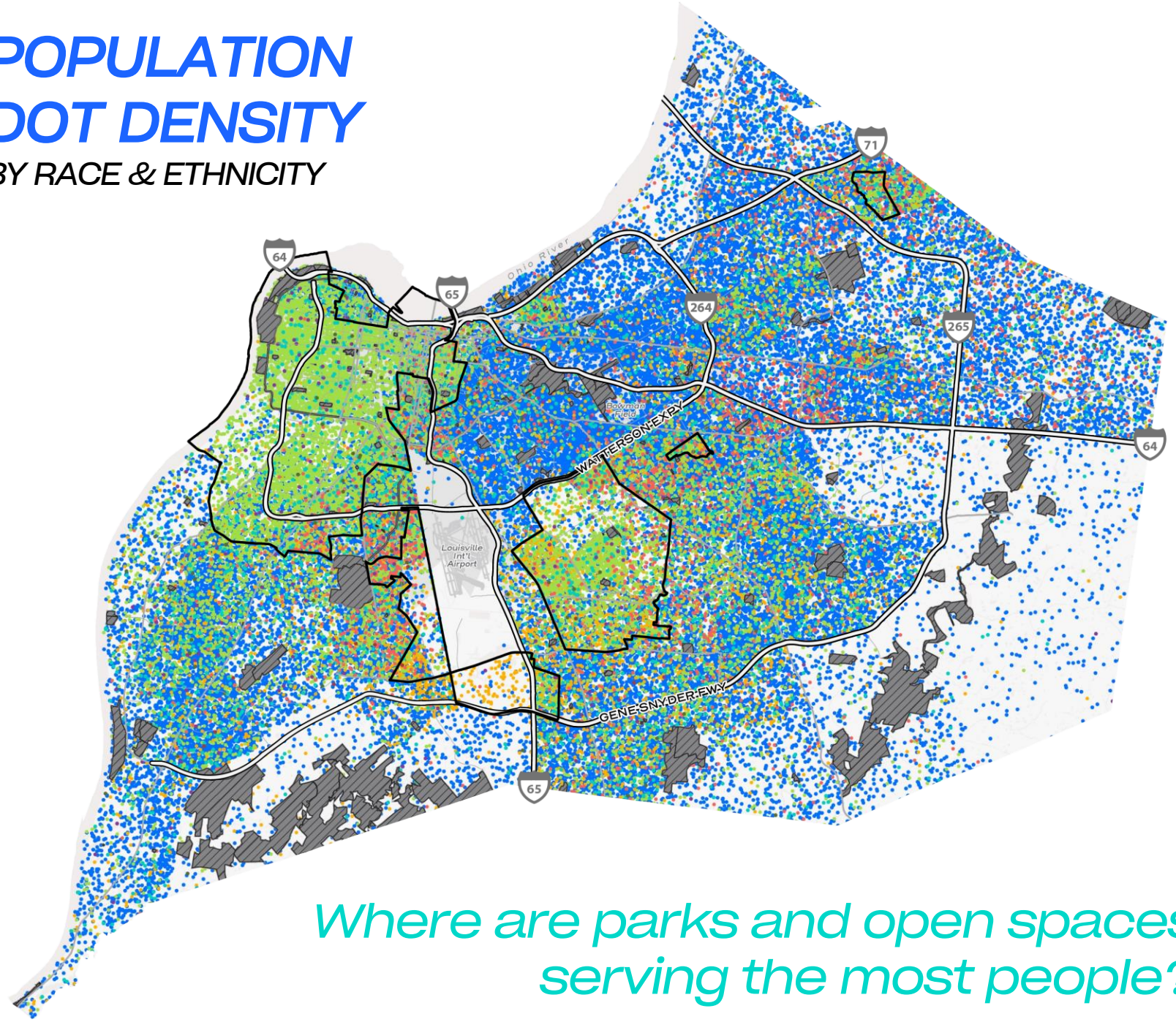
4,600

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

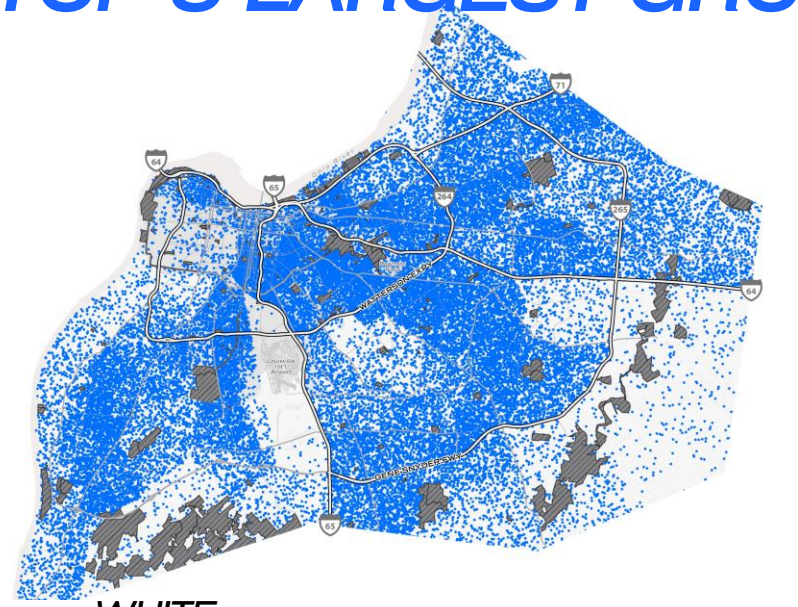
37%

OF POPULATION IDENTIFIES AS MINORITY

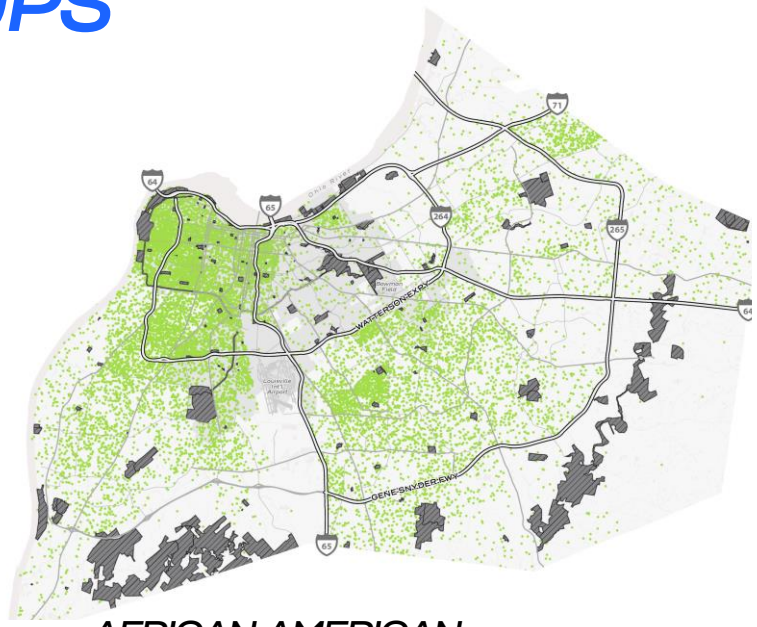
METRO-WIDE

Where are parks and open spaces serving the most people?

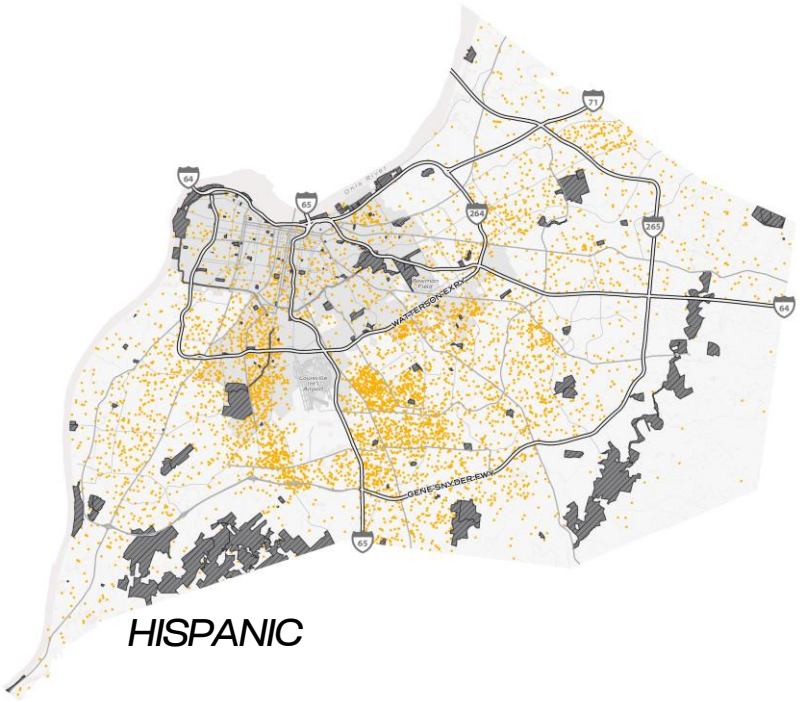
TOP 5 LARGEST GROUPS



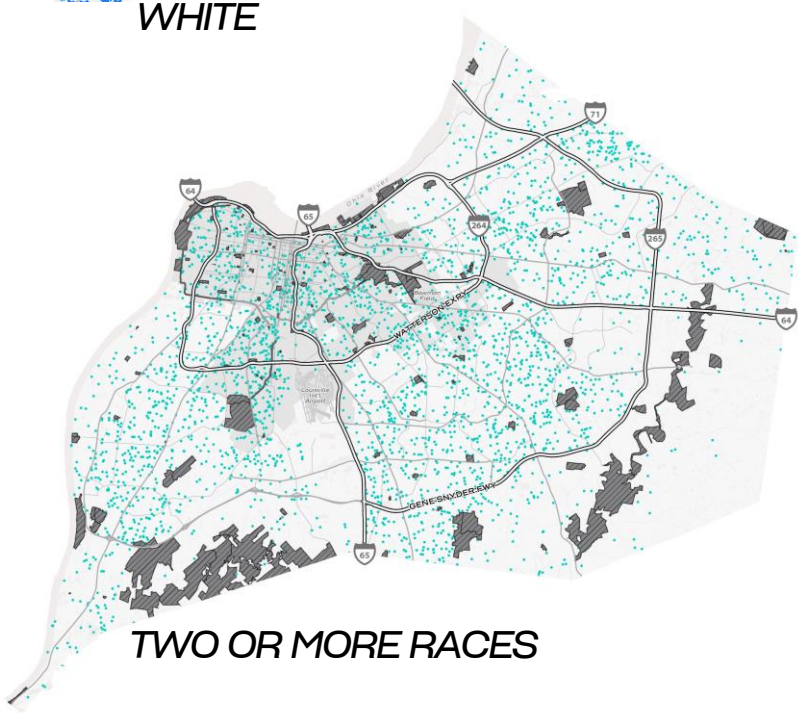
WHITE



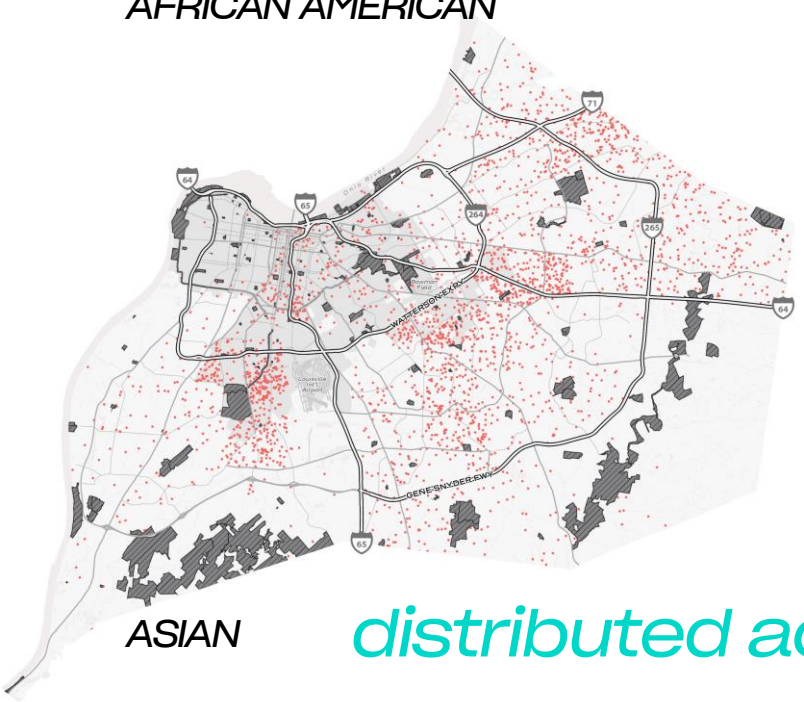
AFRICAN AMERICAN



HISPANIC



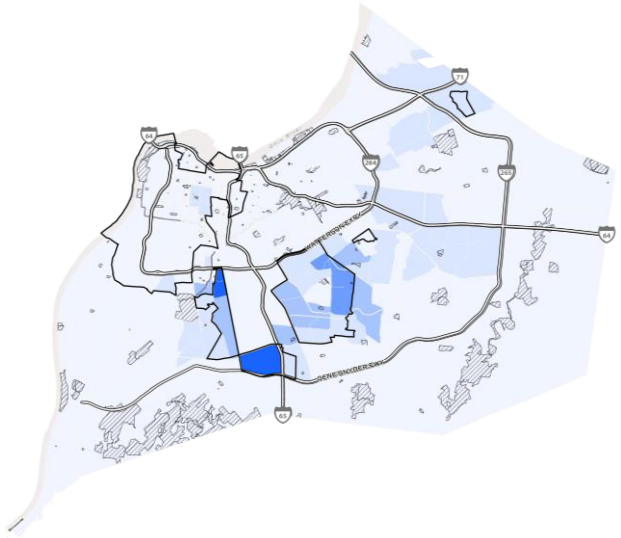
TWO OR MORE RACES



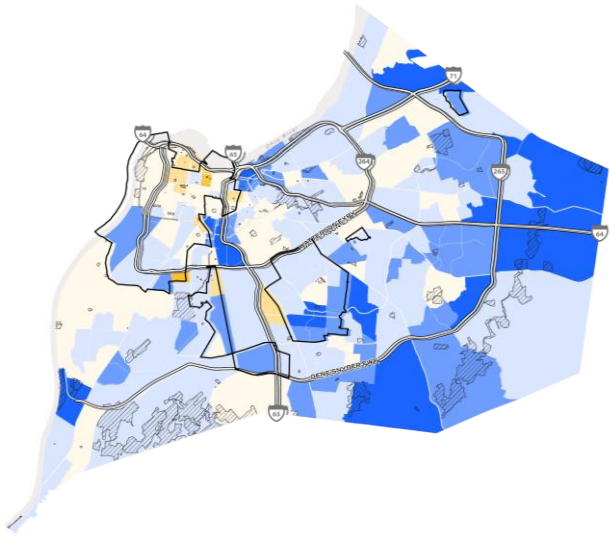
ASIAN

How is the population distributed across the metro area?

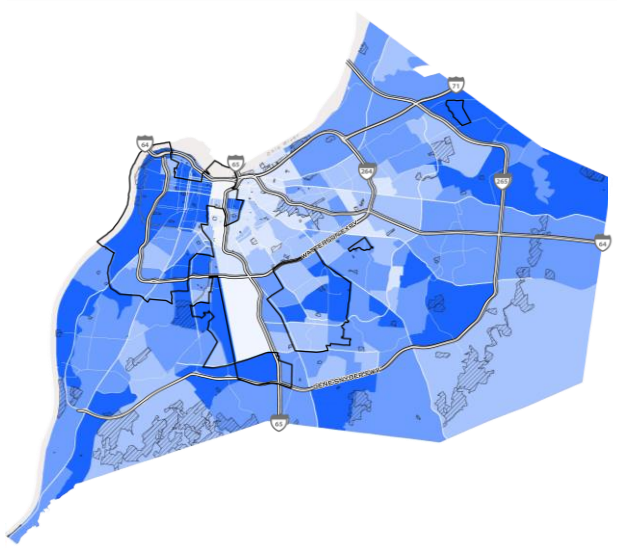
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA



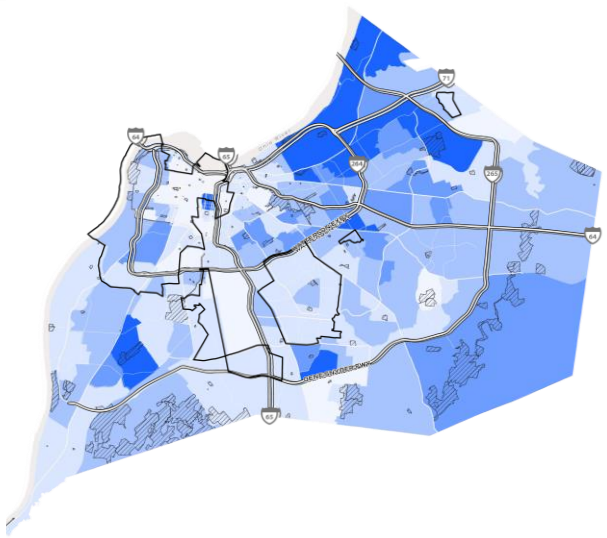
Foreign Born Population



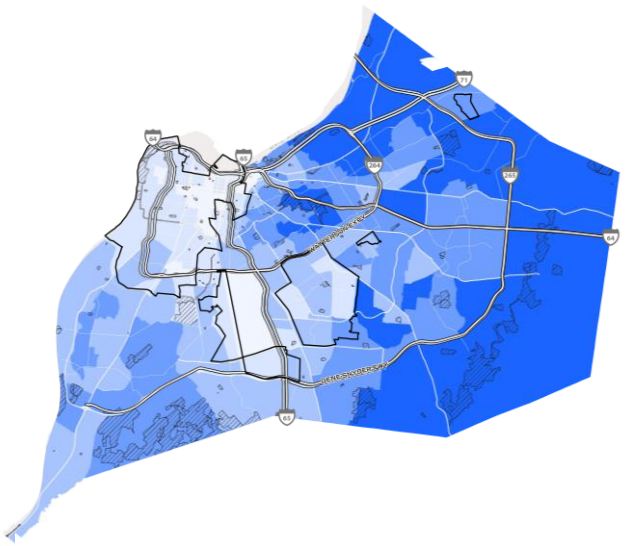
Population Change



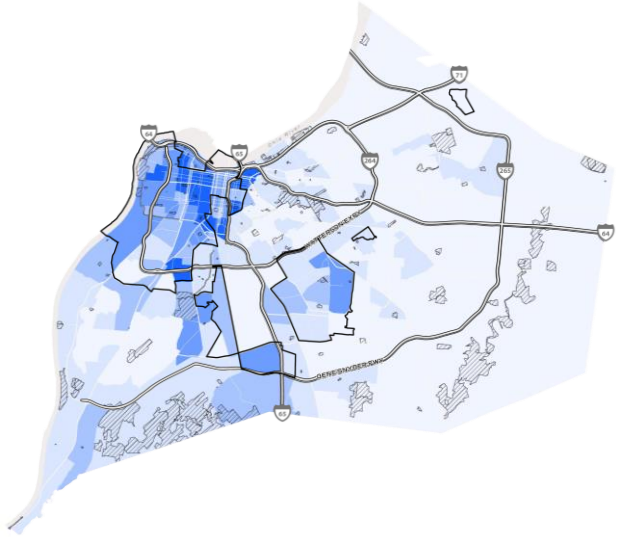
Population Under 18



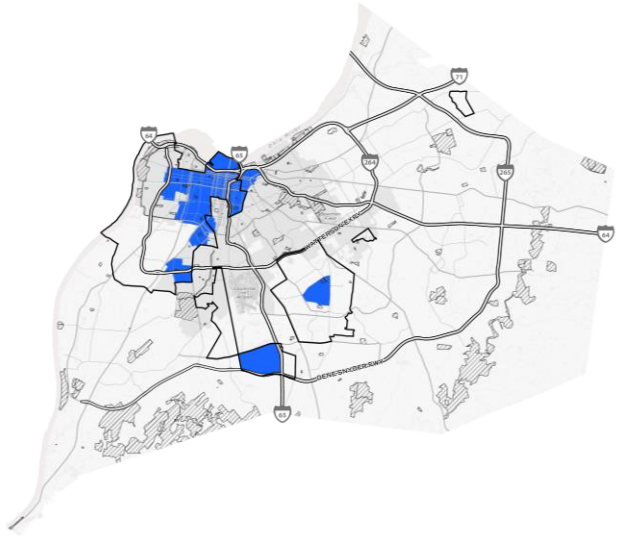
Population Over 65



Median HH Income



Poverty Rates

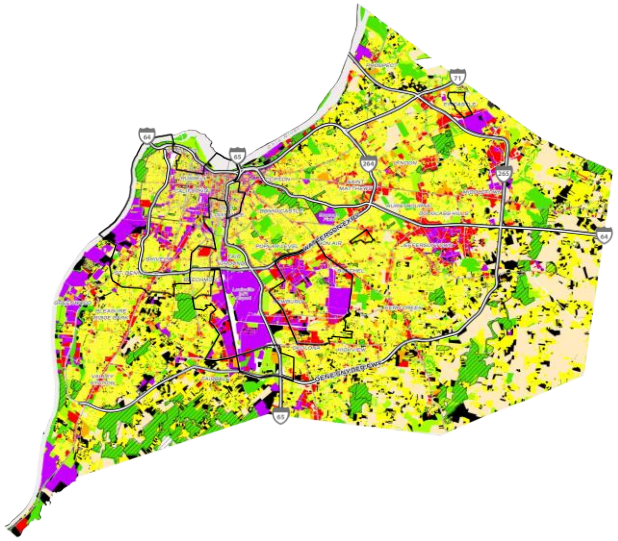


Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty

THEN, CONSIDER THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

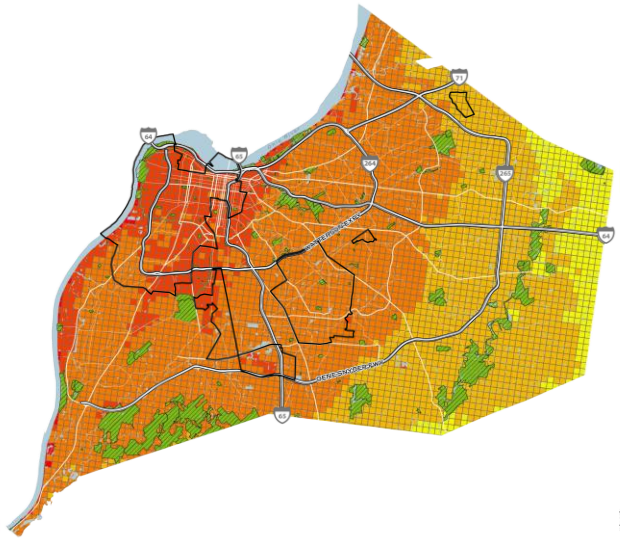
- Land Use
- Impervious Surfaces
- Average Temperatures
- Tree Canopy
- Flood Risk

BUILT ENVIRONMENT DATA



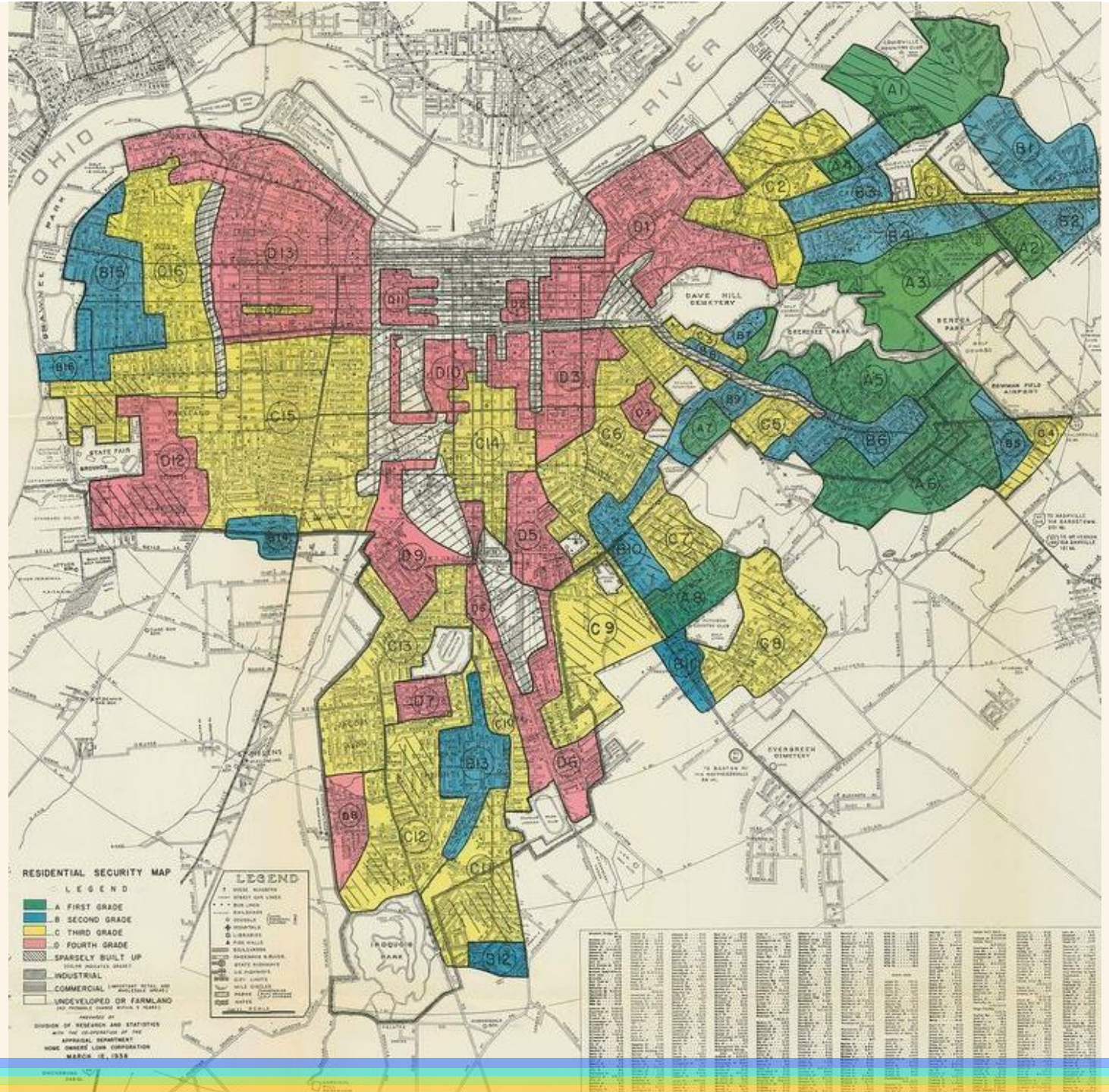
Land Use

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."

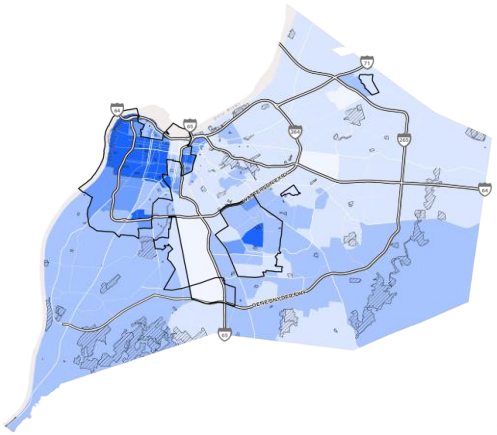
- parks advocate

Ohio River
65
71
264
265
64
WATTERSON EXPY
GENE SNYDER FWY
Bowman Field
Louisville Int'l Airport

AS WELL AS THE HEALTH + WELLNESS IMPLICATIONS

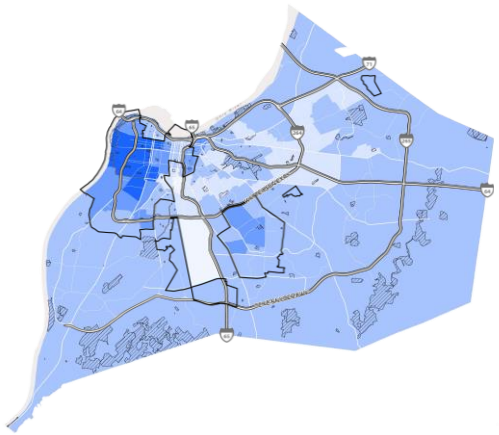
- Asthma
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Depression
- Violent Crime

HEALTH & WELLNESS INDICATORS



Asthma Rates

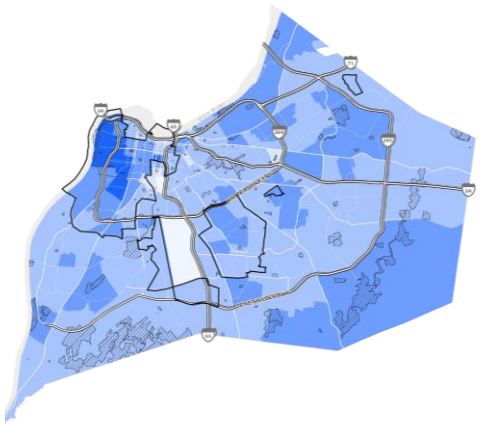
11%
OF RESIDENTS METRO-WIDE



Obesity Rates

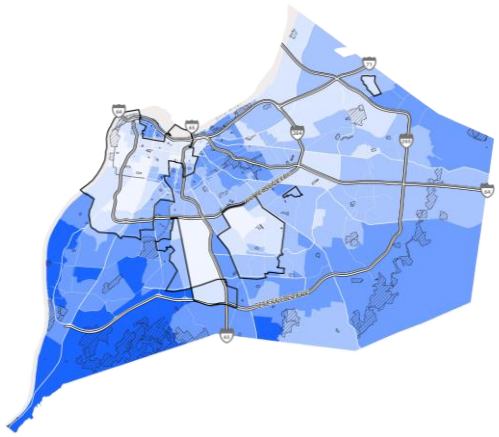
37%
OF RESIDENTS METRO-WIDE

41%
MAJORITY MINORITY AREAS



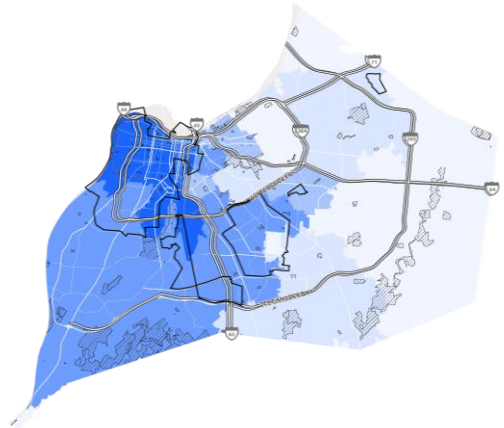
Diabetes Rates

15%
OF RESIDENTS METRO-WIDE



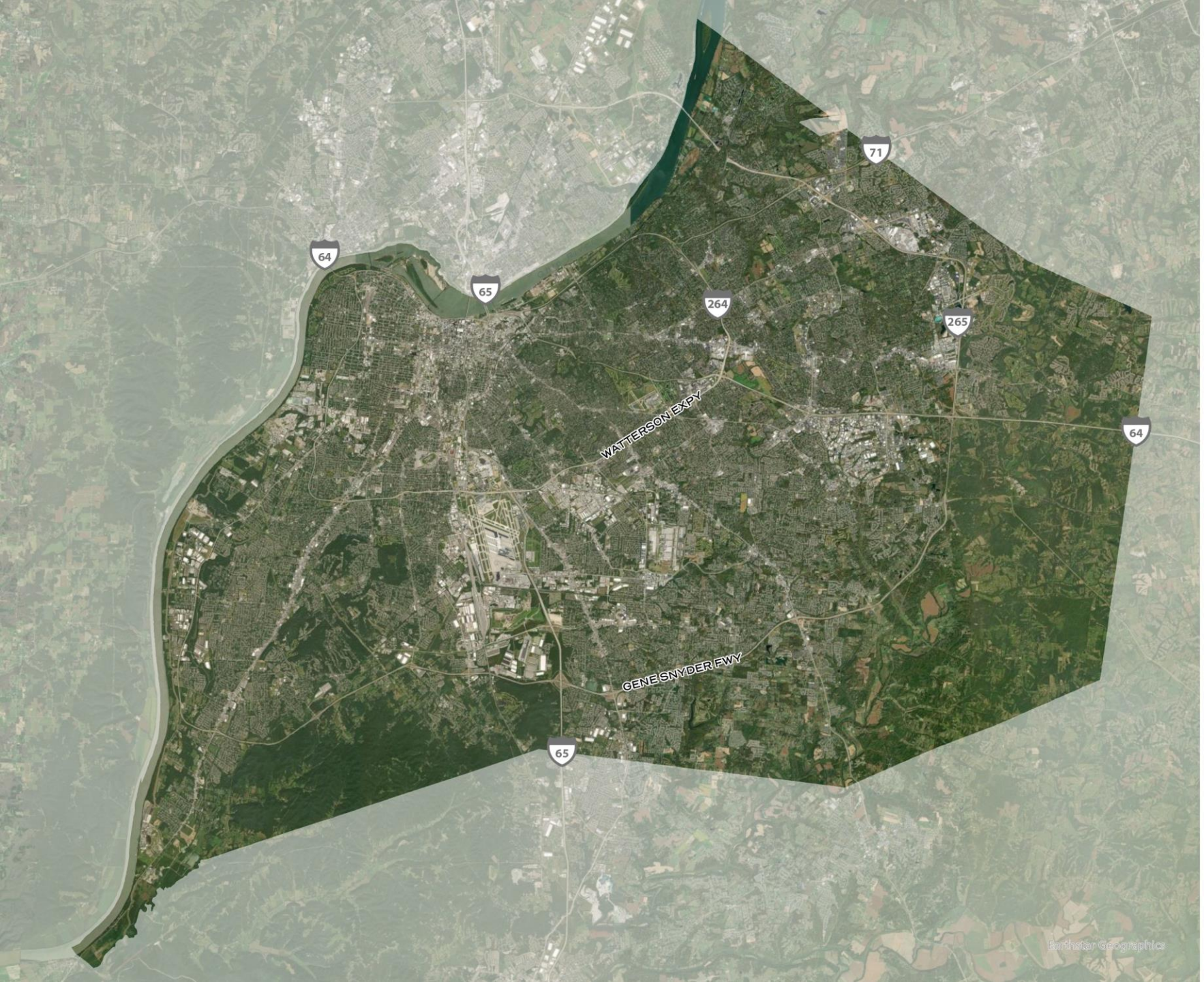
Depression Rates

24%
OF RESIDENTS METRO-WIDE



Violent Crime Rates

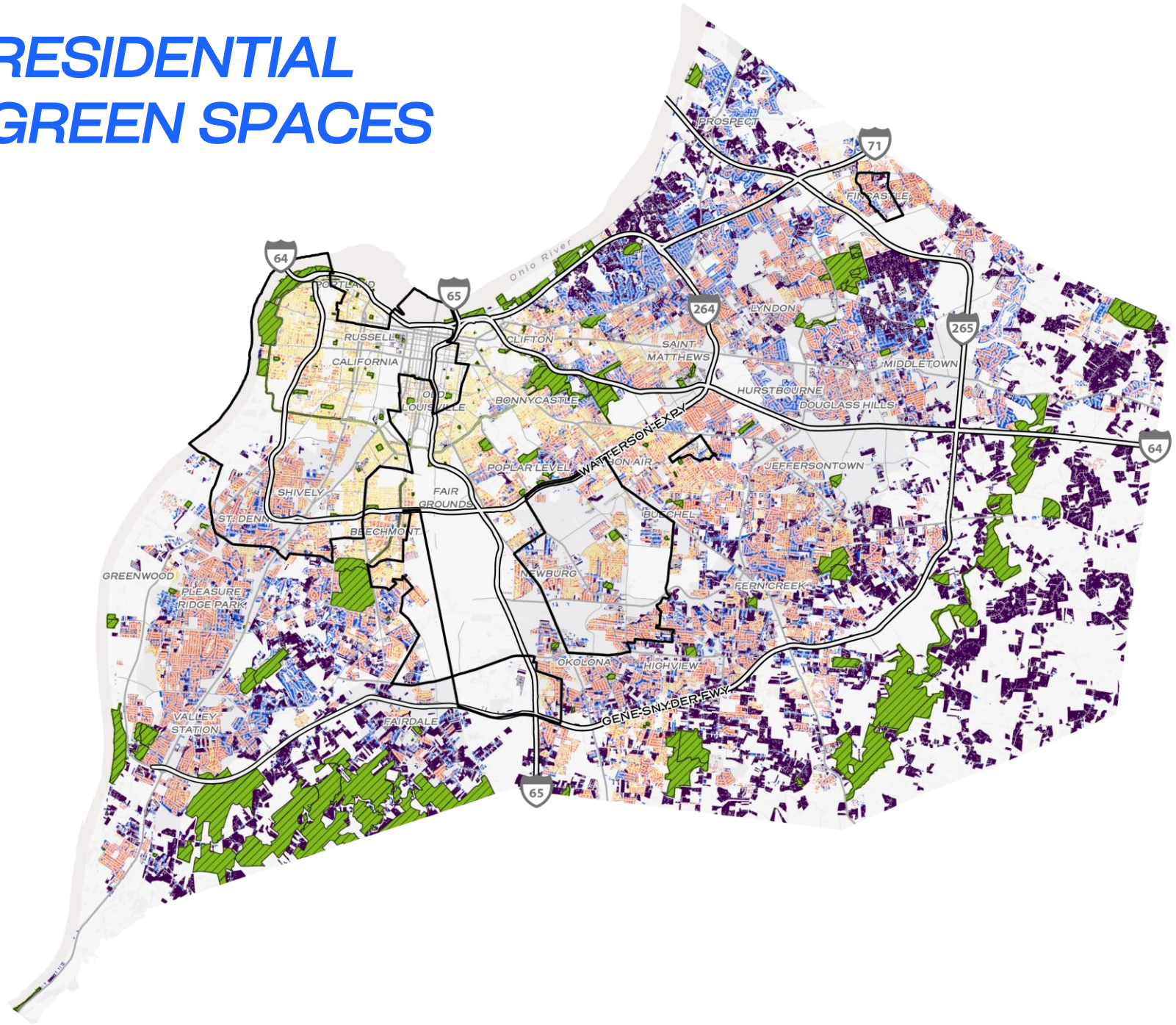
<1%
OF VIOLENT CRIME OCCURRED IN PARKS METRO-WIDE 2019-21



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

* appropiate for this age group not appropiate 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!