



PARKS ARE AN **ESSENTIAL BUSINESS**



MKSK

TODAY'S **SPEAKERS**



MKSK

Chris Hermann, AICP

Principal

chermann@mkskstudios.com



MKSK

Andrew Overbeck, AICP

Principal

aoverbeck@mkskstudios.com

TODAY'S **AGENDA**

- 1 | LESSONS LEARNED FROM 2020
- 2 | HOW HAVE CITIES RESPONDED?
- 3 | HOW CAN COLUMBUS IMPROVE?
- 4 | WHAT COULD THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?



1 | LESSONS LEARNED FROM 2020



SOCIAL EQUITY, IMPLICIT BIAS AND PUBLIC SPACES



SOCIAL EQUITY: Equal treatment to which all are entitled by virtue of being human.

Source:

Adler, M. (1981). Six Great Ideas.
New York: Collier Books

IMPLICIT BIAS: Refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. These biases, which encompass both favorable and unfavorable assessments, are activated involuntarily and without an individual's awareness or intentional control.

Source:

Kirwan Institute, CNN

SOCIAL EQUITY, IMPLICIT BIAS AND PUBLIC SPACES



Source: theundefeated.com

SOCIAL EQUITY, IMPLICIT BIAS AND PUBLIC SPACES

A portrait of Christian Cooper, a Black man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a grey t-shirt with a rainbow flag design and a blue patterned scarf. He is standing outdoors with green foliage in the background.

CHRISTIAN COOPER
New York Audubon

Source: New York Times

A photograph of a man and a young girl walking a small, light-colored dog on a leash down a paved sidewalk. The man is wearing a dark blue tracksuit and is walking away from the camera. The girl is wearing a light blue sweater and dark pants, also walking away from the camera. The background shows a suburban street with trees, parked cars, and houses.

SOCIAL EQUITY, IMPLICIT BIAS AND PUBLIC SPACES

SHOLA RICHARDS
Los Angeles, California

"Twice a day, I walk my dog Ace around my neighborhood with one, or both, of my girls. I know that doesn't seem noteworthy, but here's something that I must admit:

I would be scared to death to take these walks without my girls and my dog. In fact, in the four years living in my house, I have never taken a walk around my neighborhood alone (and probably never will)...

It's equal parts exhausting and depressing to feel like I can't walk around outside alone, for fear of being targeted."

SOCIAL EQUITY, IMPLICIT BIAS AND PUBLIC SPACES



PUBLIC SPACE IS FOR **PUBLIC DISCOURSE**



Ohio State House | Columbus, OH

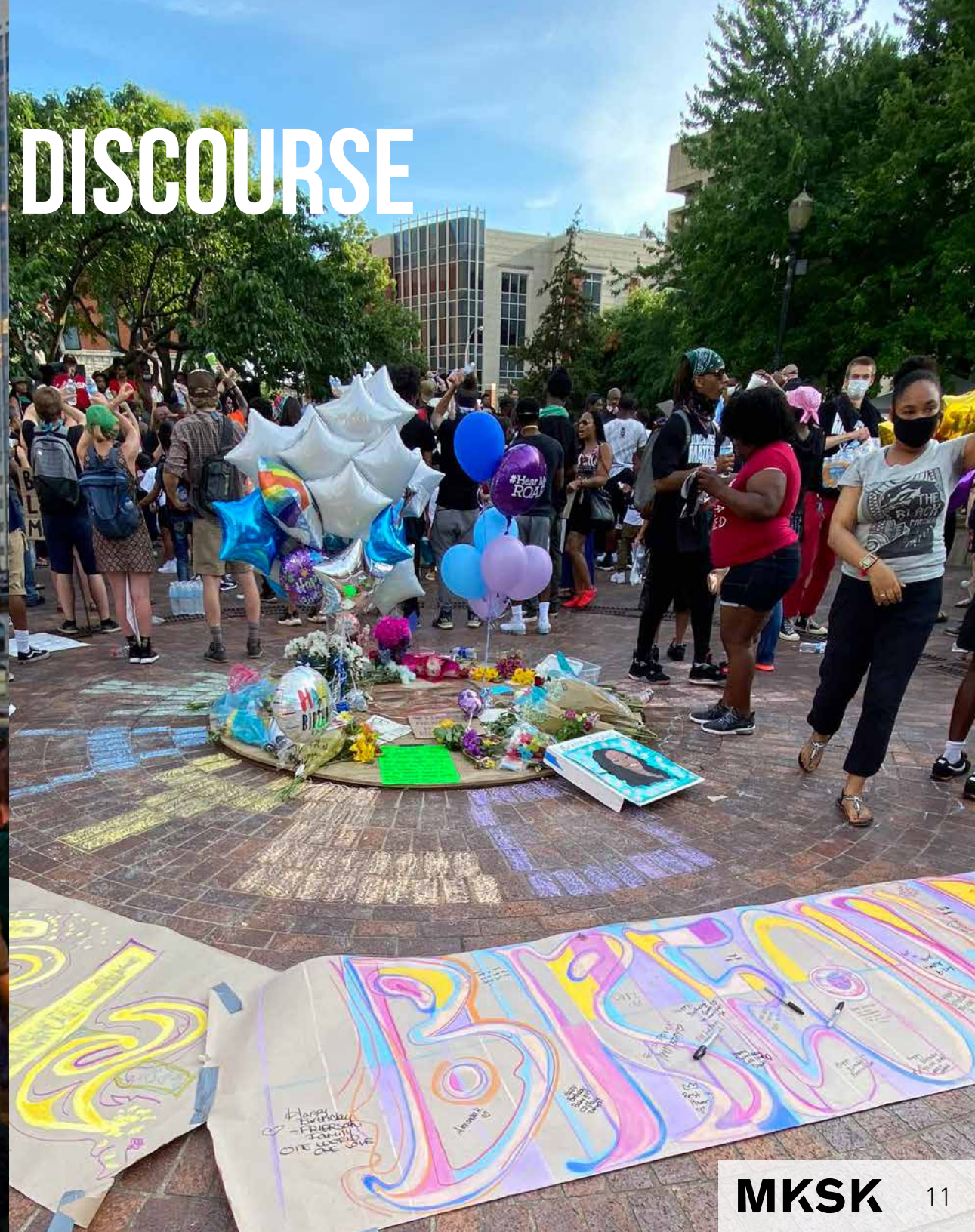
Source: WOSU

PUBLIC SPACE IS FOR PUBLIC DISCOURSE



Jefferson Square | Louisville, KY

Source: WLKY



PUBLIC SPACE IS FOR PUBLIC DISCOURSE



Columbus, OH

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PANDEMIC

181.7 MILLION
WORLDWIDE
CASES

Source: WHO

599,089
DEATHS IN
THE U.S.

Source: WHO

42.6 MILLION
UNEMPLOYMENT
CLAIMS

Source: CNBC

3.5%
GDP DECLINE
IN 2020

Source: Reuters

DISPROPORTIONATE DEATH RATES

AMONG AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION

Proportion of African Americans in Overall Population vs.
Percentage of COVID-19 Deaths (as of May 2020)



Michigan

14% of the population
and 40% of deaths



Wisconsin

7% of the population and
33% of deaths



Ohio

12% of the population
and 20% of deaths

**Underlying health conditions that
increase vulnerability to COVID-19:**

Hypertension & Cardiovascular Disease

Obesity

Diabetes

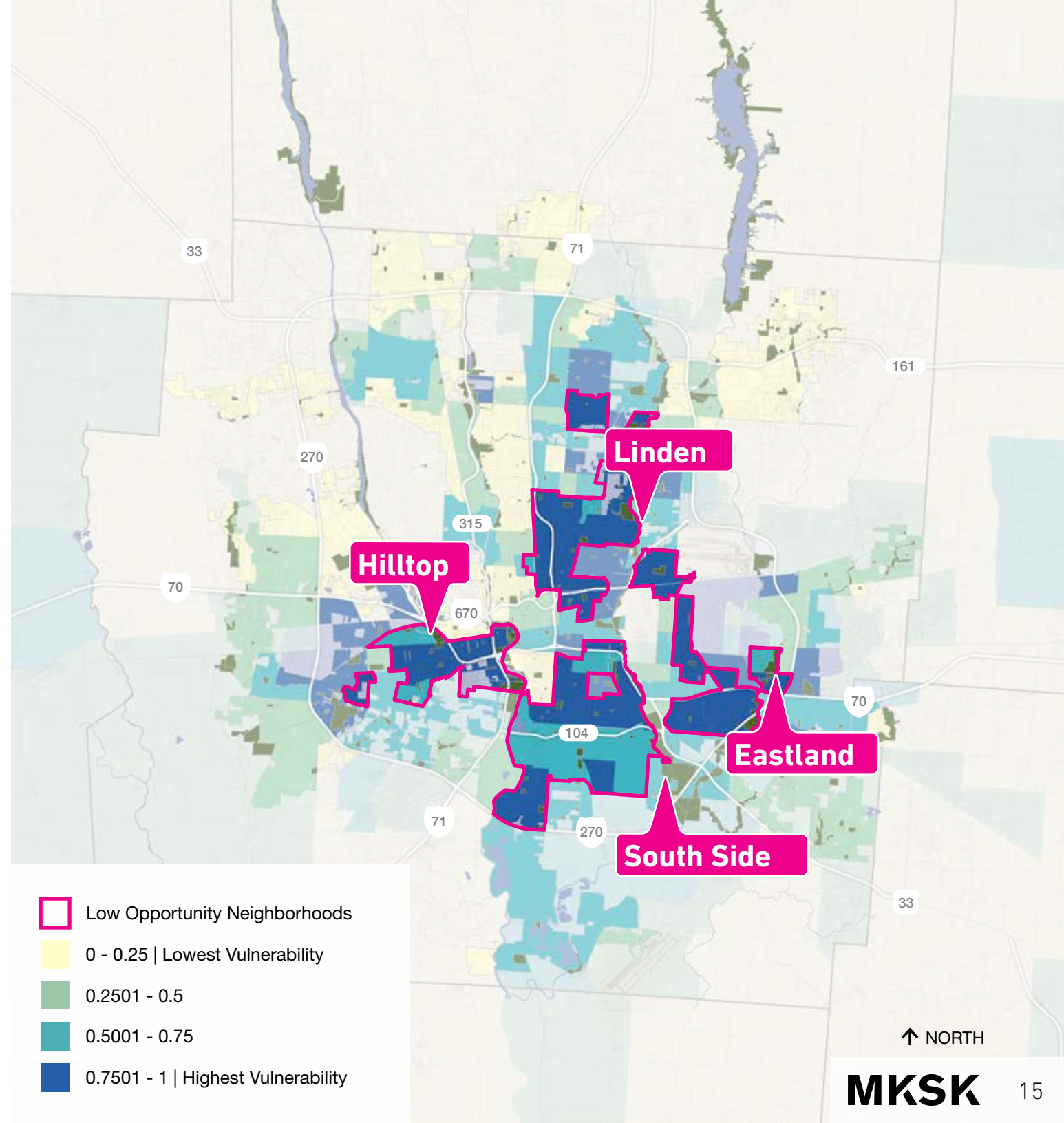
Chronic Lung Disease

LOW OPPORTUNITY NEIGHBORHOODS

Neighborhood tracts categorized as “very low” opportunity.

Life expectancy in the lowest income neighborhoods in Columbus is **26 years lower** than in the highest income neighborhoods.

Source: Kirwan Institute, New York Times



PHYSICAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Natural environment, such as green space (e.g., trees and grass) or weather (e.g., climate change)

Built environment, such as buildings, **sidewalks, bike lanes, and roads**

Worksites, schools, and **recreational settings**

Housing and community design

Exposure to toxic substances and other physical hazards

Physical barriers, especially for people with disabilities

Aesthetic elements (e.g., good lighting, trees, and benches)

HEALTH BENEFITS OF PARKS

“An avalanche of findings over the past 30 years has bolstered with evidence what most of us feel the truth of in our bones... *that nature can soothe, buoy, and restore.*”

Colin Ellard, Neuroscientist
Urban Realities Laboratory
University of Waterloo, Toronto

physical

- Improve immune function
- Speed recovery from injury & illness
- Reduce obesity
- Promote healthier cardiac patterns
- Lower stress
- Increase fitness
- Reduce prevalence of obesity, cancer, diabetes and heart disease

mental

- Improve relaxation & restoration
- Increase neighborhood cohesion
- Promote pro-social behaviors
- Improve cognitive function
- Improve real and perceived safety
- Increase feelings of happiness
- Enhance trust, empathy & altruism

HEALTH BENEFITS OF PARKS



Getting enough physical activity could prevent 1 in 10 premature deaths

Not Getting Enough Physical Activity Costs Money

177 billion dollars in annual health care costs are associated with inadequate physical activity.

Building active and walkable communities can help:

Increase levels of retail economic activity and employment

Increase property values

Support neighborhood revitalization

Reduce health care costs

HEALTH BENEFITS OF PARKS



Benefits for Children

- Reduces risk of depression
- Improves aerobic fitness
- Improves muscular fitness
- Improves bone health

- Promotes favorable body composition
- Improves attention and some measures of academic performance



Benefits for Adults

- Lowers risk of high blood pressure
- Lowers risk of stroke
- Improves aerobic fitness

- Improves mental health
- Improves cognitive function
- Reduces arthritis symptoms
- Prevents weight gain



Benefits for Healthy Aging

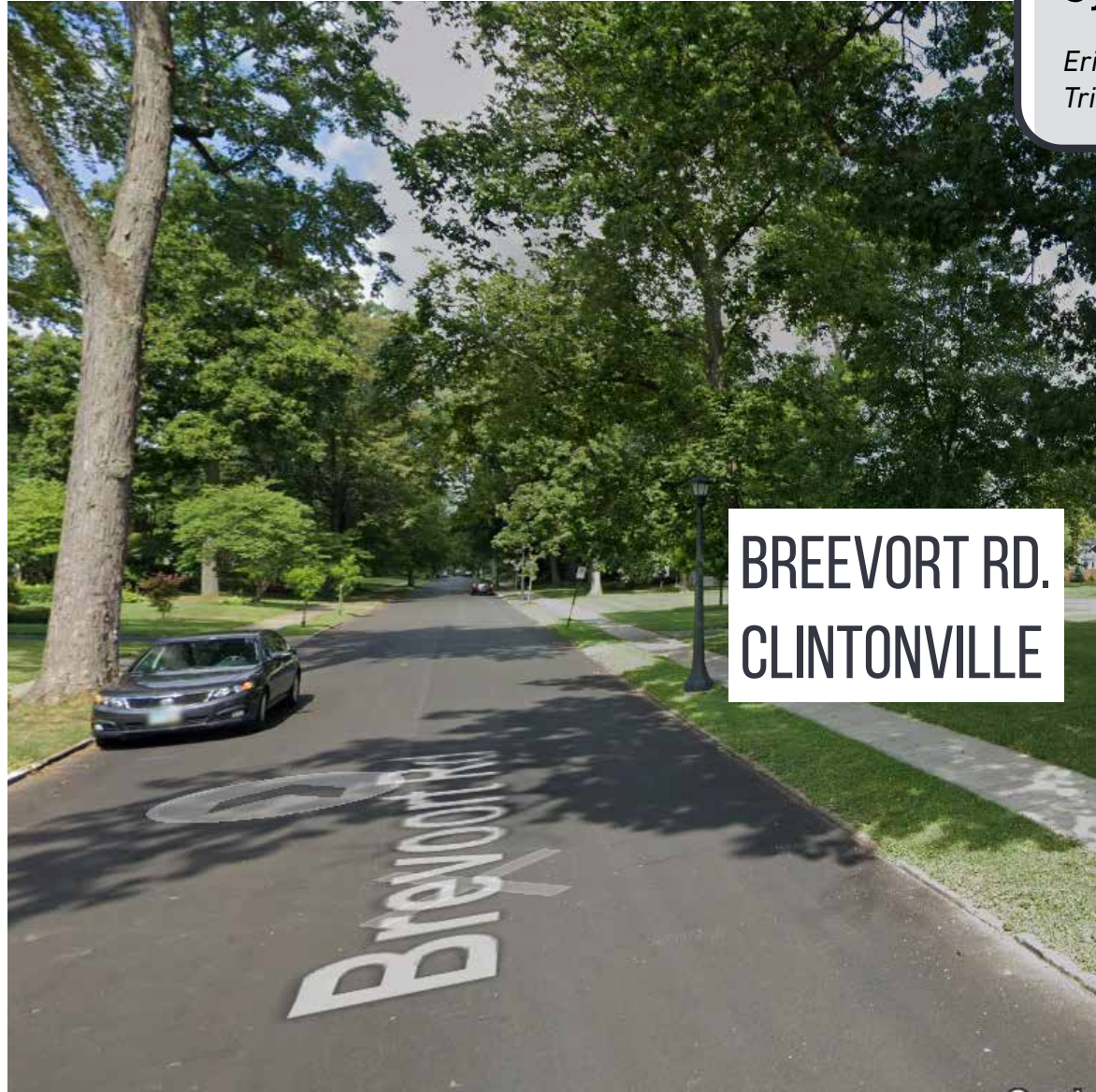
- Improves sleep
- Reduces risk of falling
- Improves balance
- Improves joint mobility

- Extends years of active life
- Helps prevent weak bones and muscle loss
- Delays onset of cognitive decline

IS ACCESS EQUITABLE?



IS ACCESS **EQUITABLE?**

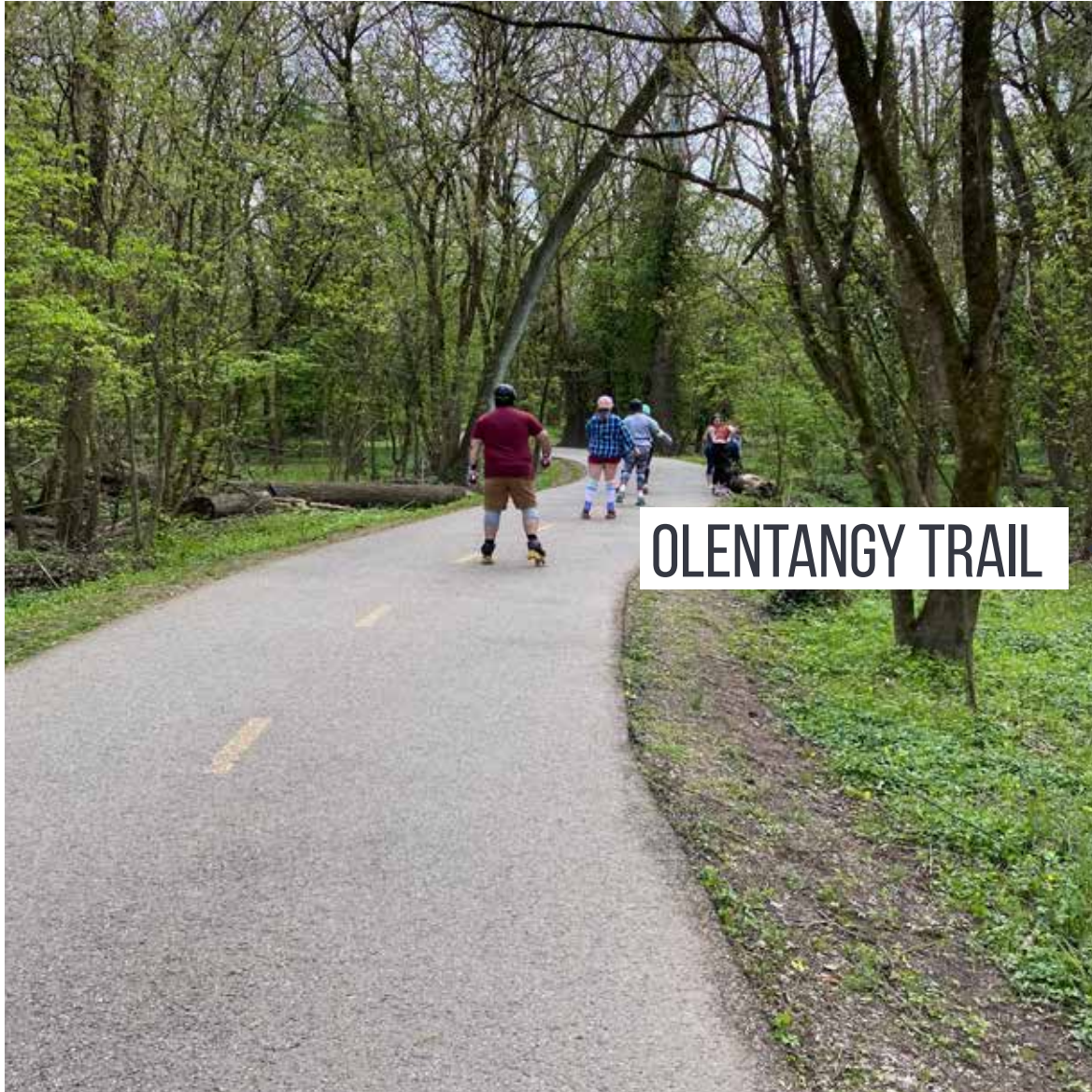


“Living near blighted urban spaces generates recurrent surges in stress and, with them, ‘inflammatory changes and dysregulation of cardiovascular, neurological, and endocrine systems over a lifetime for persons repeatedly exposed.’”

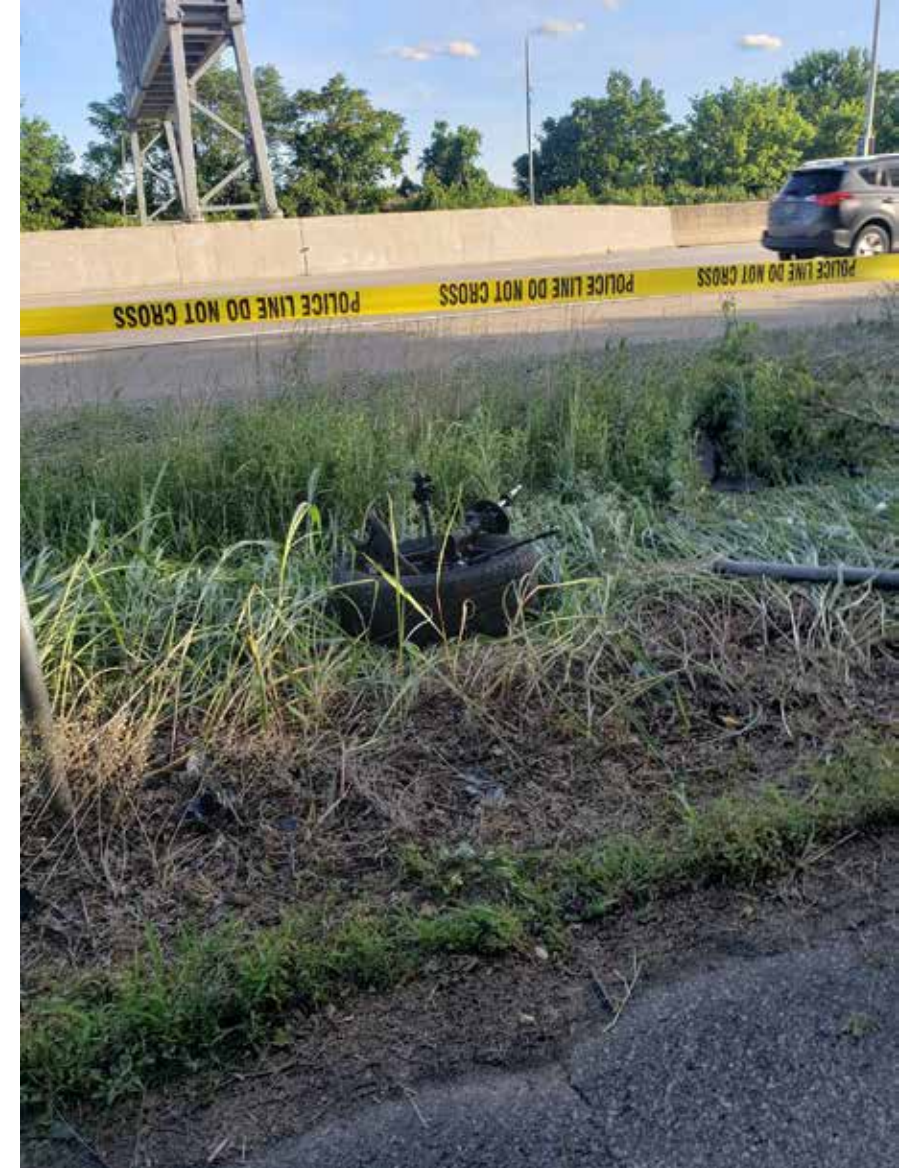
Eric Klinenberg, Palaces for the People referencing Neighborhood Blight, Stress, and Health: A Walking Trial of Urban Greening and Ambulatory Heart Rate (South, Kondo, Cheney, Branas)



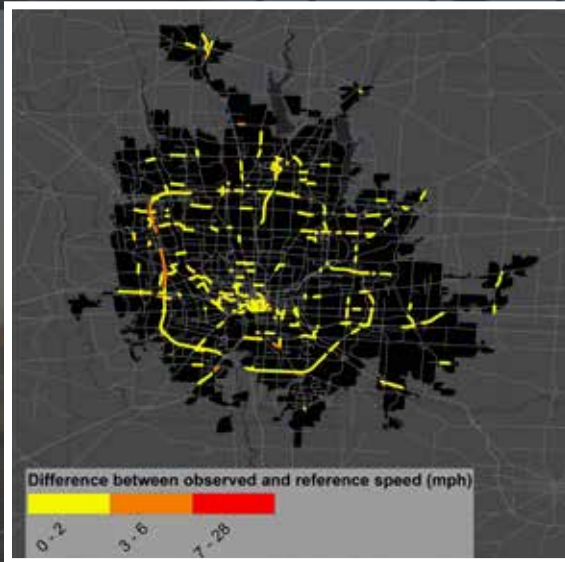
ARE OUR TRAILS **WIDE ENOUGH?**



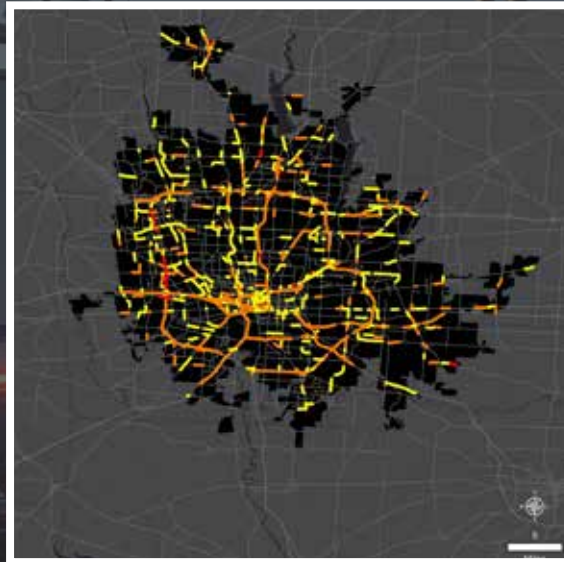
ARE OUR TRAILS **SAFE ENOUGH?**



ARE OUR STREETS SAFE?



Before (2019)



After (2020)

17.8%
SPEEDING ROAD SEGMENTS
3/28 TO 4/19 (2019)



57%
SPEEDING ROAD SEGMENTS
3/28 TO 4/19 (2020)

During the shelter-in-place orders in 2020, state data showed that:

Traffic volumes are lower

Crash rates are higher

Injury and fatality rates are higher

Evidence points to higher rates of speeding

From 2015 to 2019, 74 pedestrians and 4 bicyclists were killed in Columbus.

Source: Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan

DO WE HAVE ENOUGH **BIG PARKS?**



WHETSTONE PARK

DO WE HAVE ENOUGH **BIG PARKS?**



SCIOTO GREENWAY

PAST PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES INFLUENCED URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN

“The urban parks movement, led by Olmsted, was built on the notion that green space was the respiratory apparatus for any urban environment, the prerequisite for expectations of sound collective health.”

- Ginia Bellafante, New York Times

Photo by Jermaine Ee on Unsplash

2 | HOW HAVE CITIES RESPONDED?



HOW HAVE CITIES RESPONDED?



OLENTANGY TRAIL



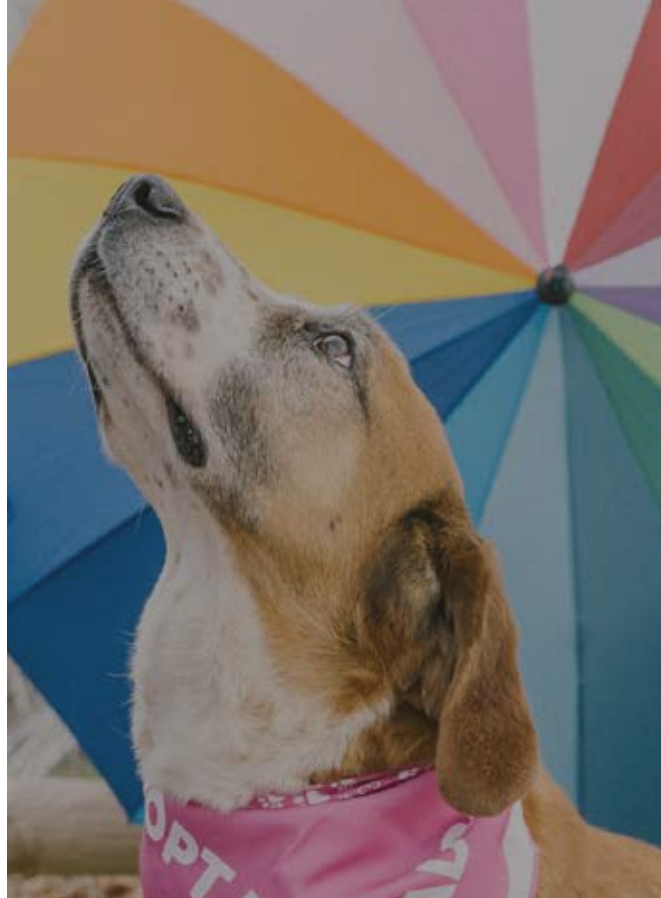
WORKING MORE, GETTING OUTSIDE MORE

20X
INCREASE IN
ZOOM USERS
(REUTERS)

3 HOURS
EXTRA HOURS WORKED
PER DAY BY U.S. WORKERS
(NORDVPN TEAMS)

90%
INCREASE IN DOG
FOSTERING
(HUMANE SOCIETY)

50%
INCREASE IN
BIKE SALES
(APRIL SALES FIGURES, KENT INTERNATIONAL)





WORKING MORE, GETTING OUTSIDE MORE

THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR PARKS IN OHIO

60%

INCREASE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY
METROPARKS VISITORS



34%

INCREASE IN GREAT PARKS OF
HAMILTON COUNTY VISITORS

83%

INCREASE IN GREAT PARKS OF
HAMILTON COUNTY TRAIL USERS

INCREASING PEDESTRIAN SPACE



TRAVEL LANE CONVERSION: MILAN

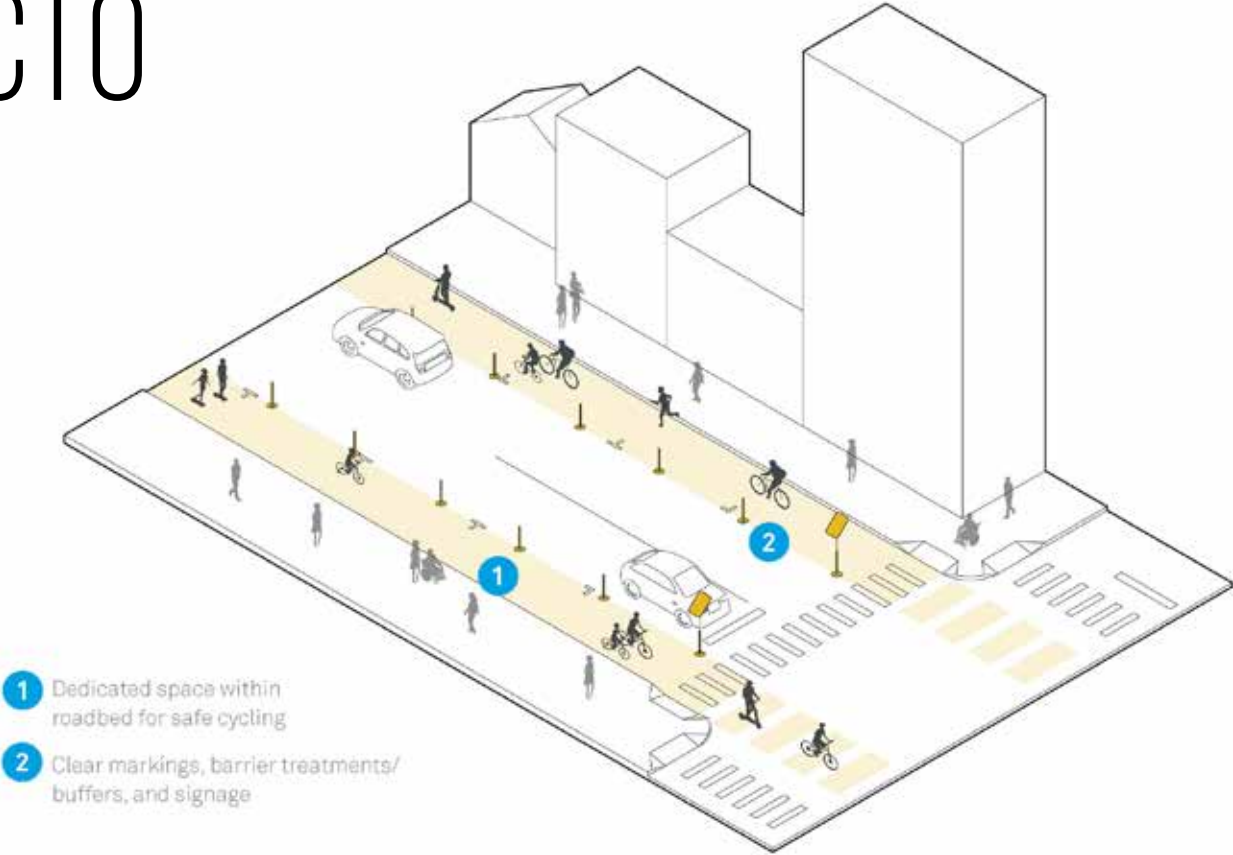
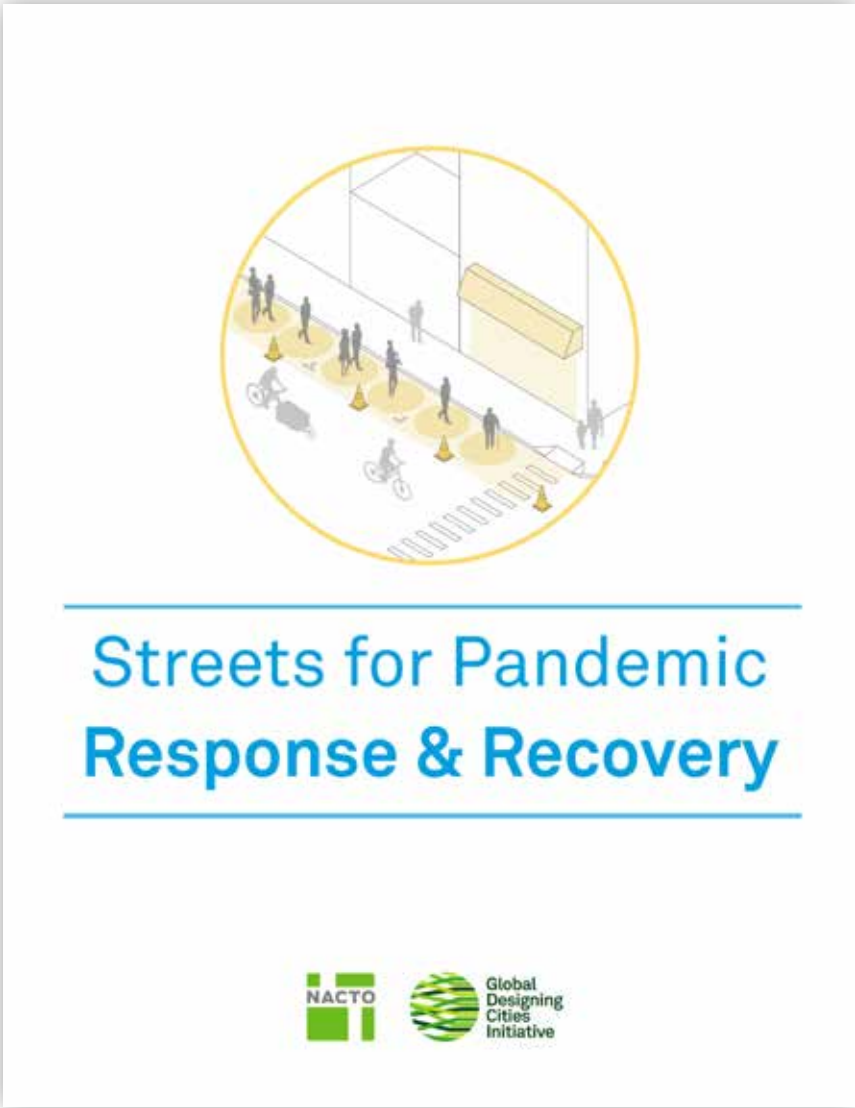
After lockdown, Milan rolls out plan to open more streets to cyclists and pedestrians

The Strade Aperte plan, translated as “Open Roads,” is one of the world’s most dramatic examples of how city planners around the world, after COVID-19 lockdowns, are redesigning city streets to be friendlier to pedestrians and cyclists.

Source: Anna Kusme, PRI



DESIGN GUIDELINES: NACTO



- 1 Dedicated space within roadbed for safe cycling
- 2 Clear markings, barrier treatments/ buffers, and signage

Provide space for essential workers and others to bike and roll safely while maintaining sufficient physical distance from others.

CONTEXT

- Multilane streets, streets with wide lanes where demand is high
- Streets that provide access to hospitals and other essential services; connector routes to parks and other open spaces

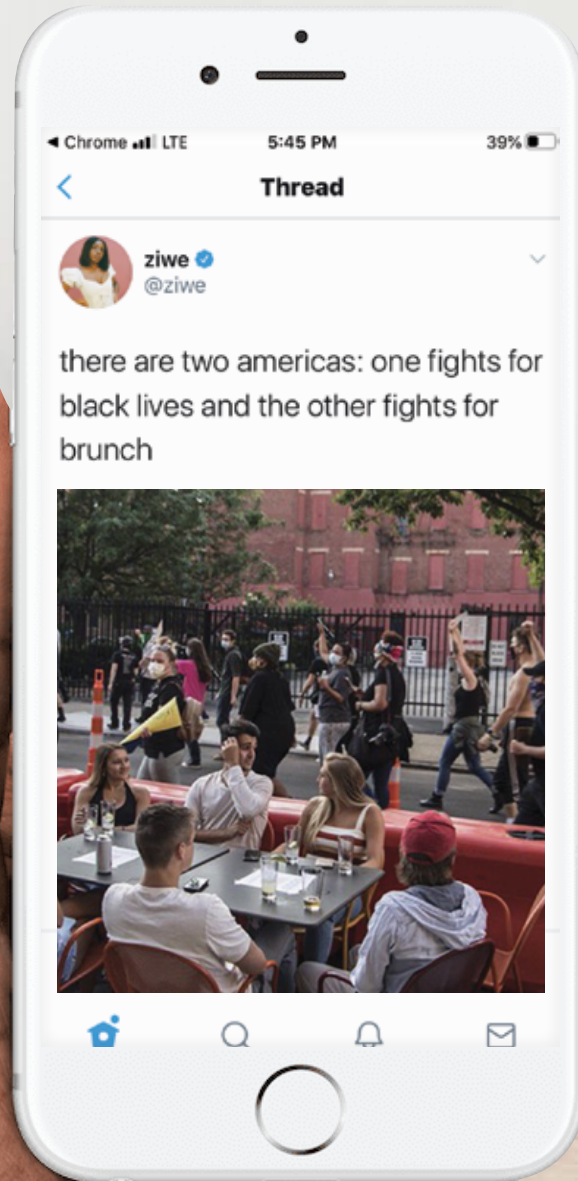
KEY STEPS

- Convert curbside parking or motor vehicle lane to bike lane. Optional: convert adjacent vehicle lane to parking
- Designate start of lane with a barrier and sign, positioned so as not to block cyclists
- Use reflective barriers such as traffic cones, flexible posts, bollards, plastic barriers, freestanding delineators, or traffic barrels

TIMELINE: Days to plan, hours to implement

DURATION: Days to months

TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURES: CRITICISM



OAKLAND: SLOW STREETS



The City of Oakland Slow Streets Program is intended to support safe physical activity by creating more space for physical distancing for all Oaklanders.

All Slow Streets with and without soft closure barriers are Closed to Through Traffic so that people can more comfortably use these low-traffic streets for physically distant walking, wheelchair rolling, jogging, and biking all across the City.

As of 6/5/2020, the City has installed over 20 miles of slow streets along 19 corridors.

Source:
<https://www.oaklandca.gov/projects/oakland-slow-streets>



OAKLAND: ESSENTIAL PLACES

The Essential Places initiative is an evolution of Slow Streets driven by community feedback and advocacy, especially from East Oakland residents and community groups.

While the Oakland Slow Streets program overall continues to receive overwhelming support among community survey respondents, those responding to surveys are more likely to be white, have high incomes and live in North Oakland.

Any potential installation of new Slow Streets would be the result of extensive community engagement in low income communities and communities of color.

Source:

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/projects/oakland-slow-streets>



3 | HOW CAN COLUMBUS IMPROVE?



TPL PARKSCORE

Columbus TPL Parkscore Scorecard

52 **National Rank for Columbus**
Out of 100 Most Populated Cities

48.6 **Total Points (Weighed)**
Out of 100 Max

Acreage

60 **Total Points for Acreage**
Out of 100 Max

75 **Points for Median Park Size (7.7 Acres)**
Out of 100 Max

45 **Points for Parkland as Percent of City Area (8.8%)**
Out of 100 Max

Services & Investment

50 **Total Points for Investment**
Out of 100 Max

50 **Points for Spending Per Capita (\$100.60)**
Out of 100 Max

Access

40 **Total Points for Access**
Out of 100 Max

59% **Percent of Columbus residents within a 10-minute walk from a Park**

Amenities

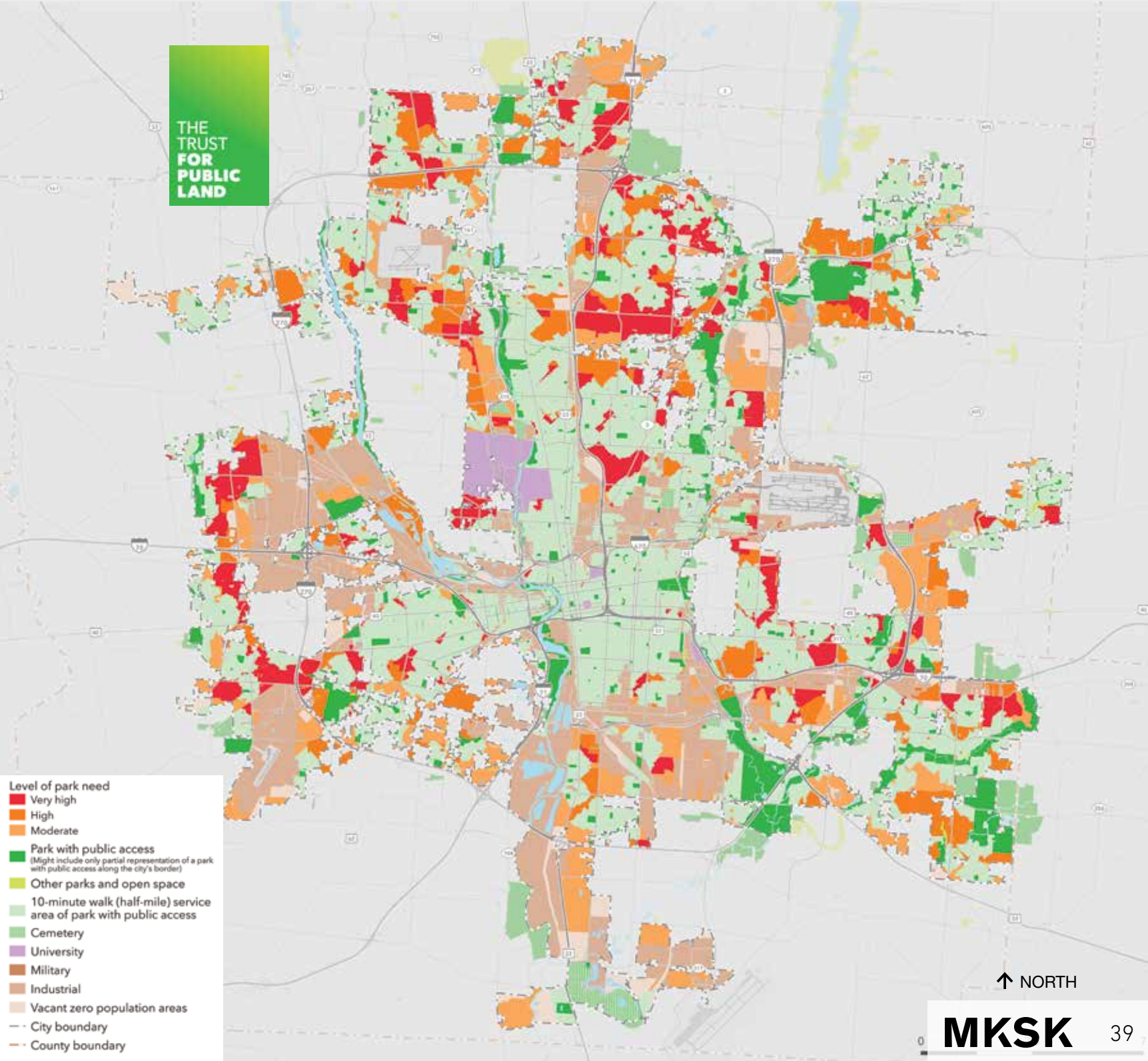
45 **Total Points for Amenities**
Out of 100 Max

50 **Points for Playgrounds per 10,000 Residents (2.9 Playgrounds/10,000 Res.)**
Out of 100 Max

42.5 **Points for Com. Centers per 10,000 Residents (0.7 Centers/10,000 Res.)**
Out of 100 Max

About ParkScore Scoring

195 **Total Raw Score**
Each city can earn a maximum of 400 points, which is then normalized to a scale out of 100.



COLUMBUS RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

LAND PLAN METHODOLOGY

The park and trail access analysis focuses on identifying how many residents are within a 10-minute walk of a CRPD park or trail. The analysis consisted of the following steps:

1

Existing Facilities

1. **Identified CRPD facilities** with public access.
2. **Geolocated and mapped park access** points for publicly-accessible parks.
3. **Geolocated trailheads** and created 0.25-mile trail intervals in all CRPD trails.
4. **Created 10-minute walksheds** from access points for parks, trailheads, and trails.
5. **Calculated populations within a 10-minute walkshed** of existing parks and trails, and identified “underserved” areas (those outside of the walkshed).

2

Partner Impact

6. **Looked at partners also serving City of Columbus residents** (public schools, other jurisdictions, and Metro Parks), identifying facilities within a quarter-mile of the City of Columbus boundary and geolocating public access points.
7. **Created 10-minute walkshed from partner access points**, and calculated impact of these facilities on the percentage of population within a 10-minute walk of a park or trail.

3

Potential Facilities

8. **Identified “properties of interest” for potential acquisition** within City of Columbus boundaries and geolocated potential access points.
9. **Using regional data, identified planned and potential trail connections**, geolocating potential trailheads and access points.
10. **Created 10-minute walksheds** from access points for potential/planned parks, trailheads, and trails
11. **Calculated the impact of potential trails and “properties of interest”** on population within a 10-minute walk from a park or trail.

EXISTING ACCESS

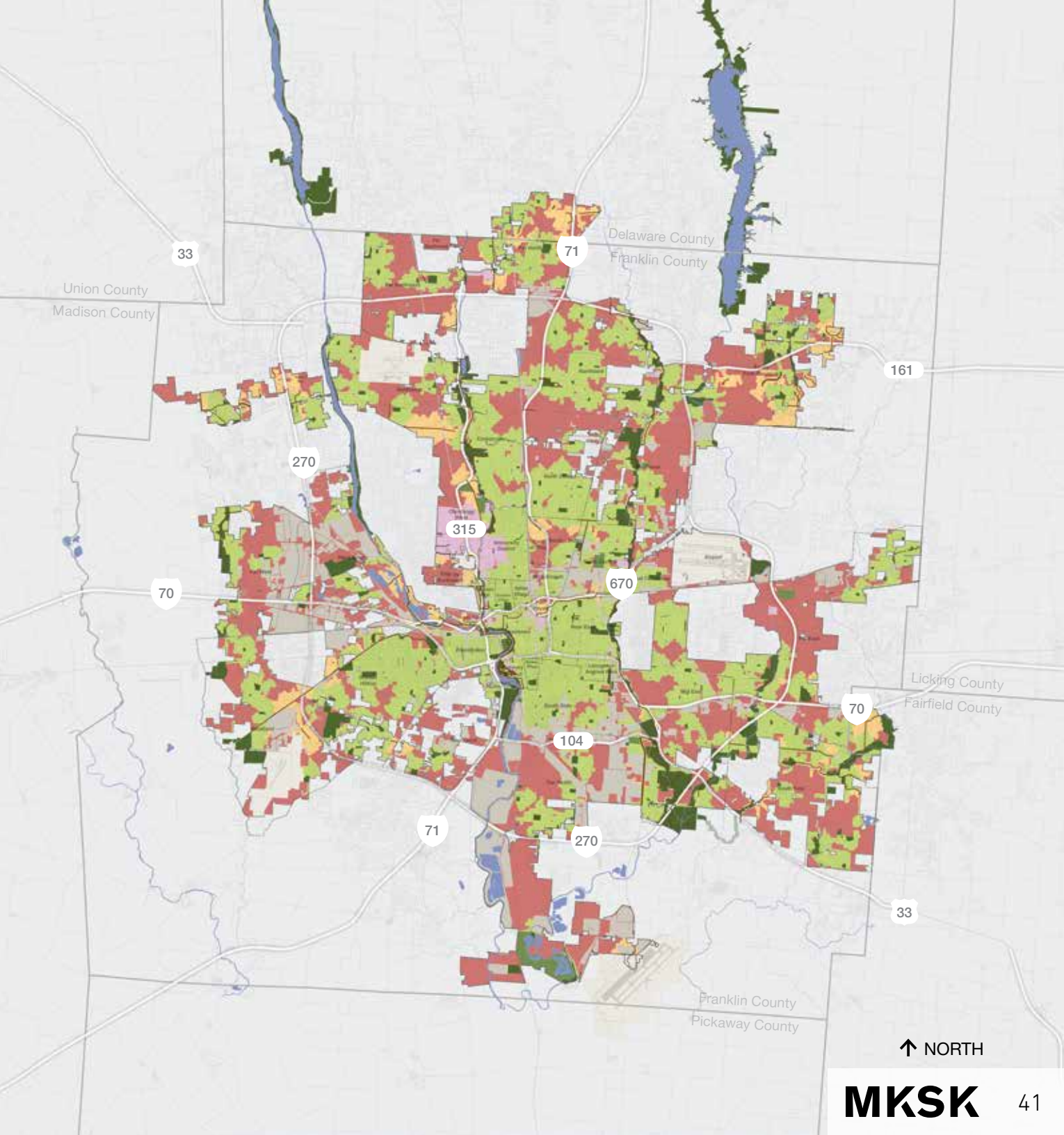
Walkshed Analysis: Existing (2018)



Residents within Walkshed: 64.5%

Residents Outside Walkshed: 35.5%

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Industrial Land Uses | CRPD Trails: Existing |
| Airports | CRPD Trails - 10-Minute Walksheds |
| College & University Campus | Areas outside 10-Minute Walksheds |
| Cemetery | Properties of Interest (POI) |
| CRPD Parks with Public Access | POI - 10-Minute Walksheds |
| Other CRPD Parks/Easements | CRPD Trails: Potential |
| CRPD Parks - 10-Minute Walksheds | Potential CRPD Trails - 10-Minute Walksheds |

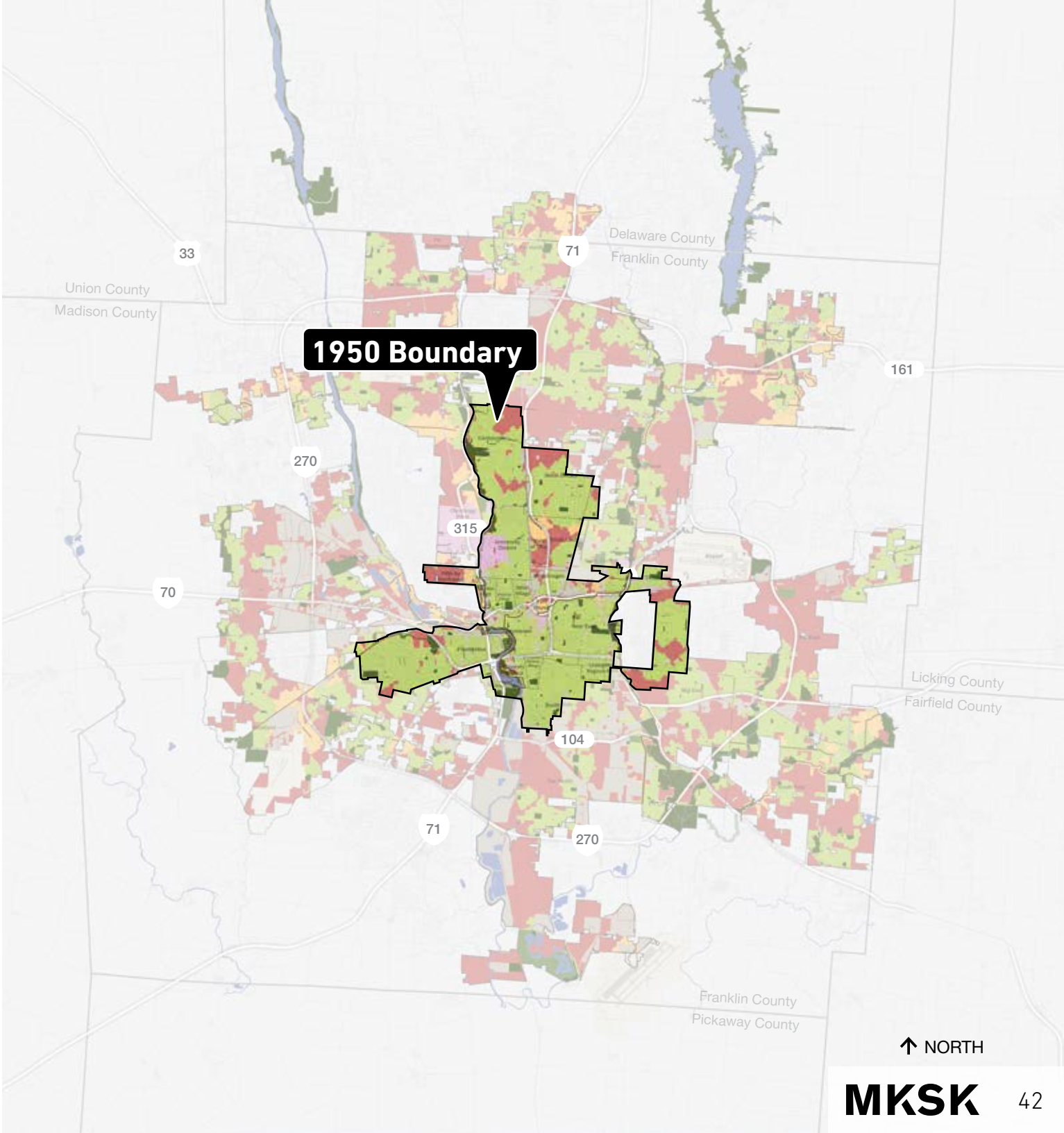


EXISTING ACCESS

Walkshed Analysis: Existing (2018)

1950 Corporate Boundary

- Industrial Land Uses
- Airports
- College & University Campus
- Cemetery
- CRPD Parks with Public Access
- Other CRPD Parks/Easements
- CRPD Parks - 10-Minute Walksheds
- CRPD Trails: Existing
- CRPD Trails - 10-Minute Walksheds
- Areas outside 10-Minute Walksheds
- Properties of Interest (POI)
- POI - 10-Minute Walksheds
- CRPD Trails: Potential
- Potential CRPD Trails - 10-Minute Walksheds



↑ NORTH

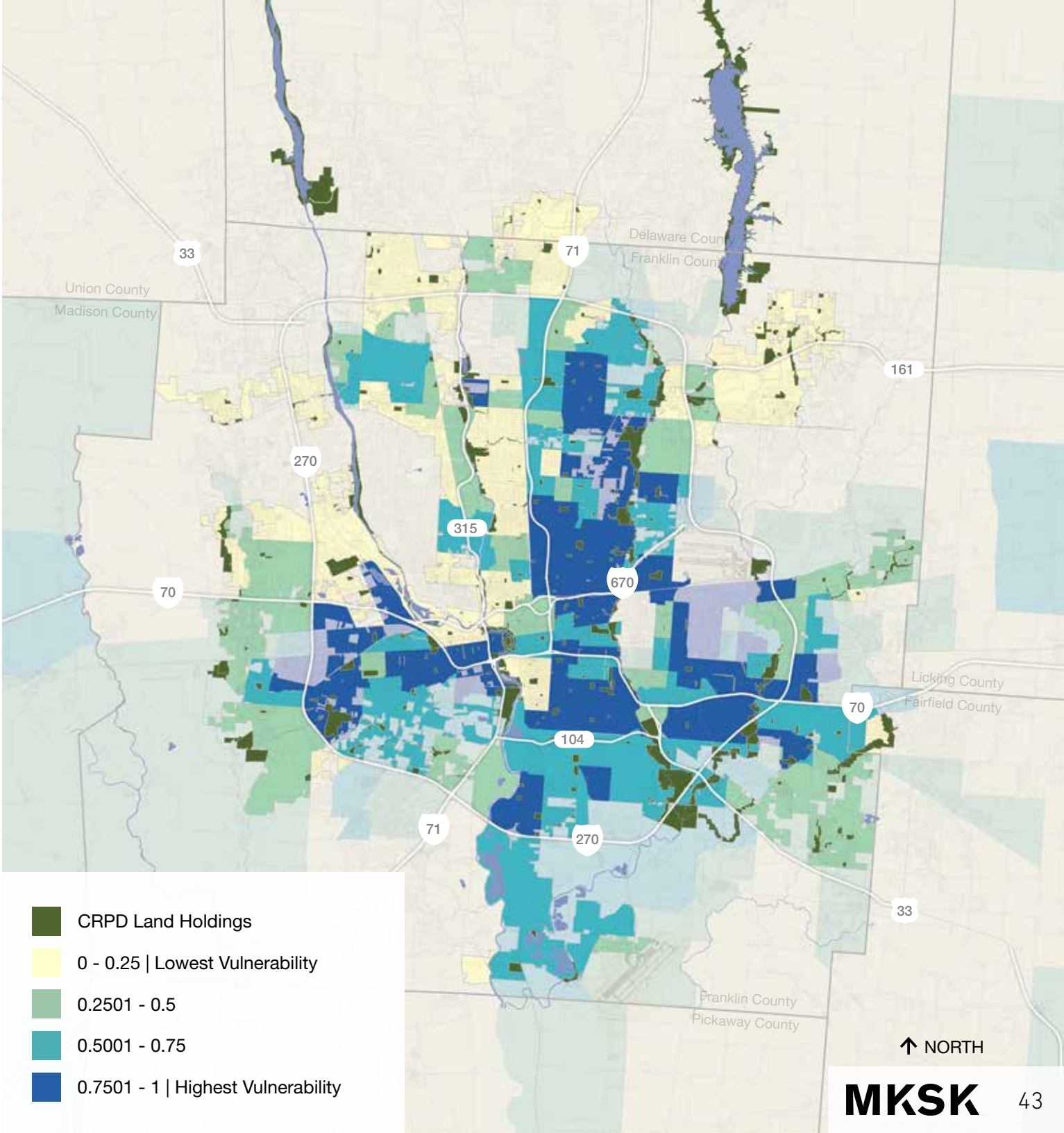
SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

Social Vulnerability Index

The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) was created by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) using U.S. Census data to determine the social vulnerability of every census tract.

The list below ranks planning areas from least vulnerable to most vulnerable, according to the average SVI of census tracts within their respective boundaries:

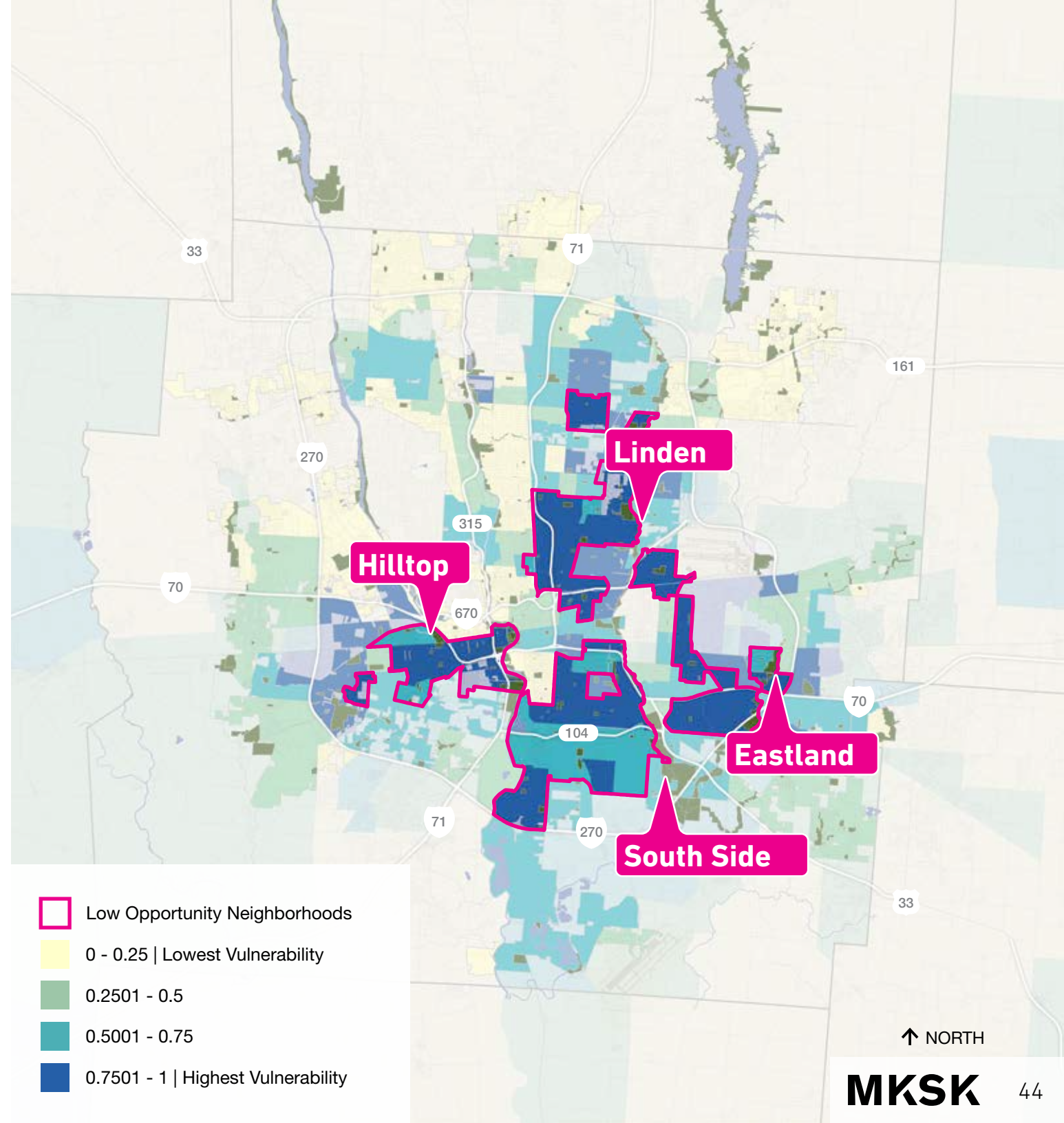
- 1. Southeast Planning Area | Average SVI of 0.63 (Highest Vulnerability)
- 2. Southwest Planning Area | Average SVI of 0.55
- 3. Central Planning Area | Average SVI of 0.54
- 4. In-Town Planning Area | Average SVI of 0.51
- 5. Northeast Planning Area | Average SVI of 0.44
- 6. Northwest Planning Area | Average SVI of 0.21 (Lowest Vulnerability)



LOW OPPORTUNITY NEIGHBORHOODS

Neighborhood tracts categorized
as “very low” opportunity.

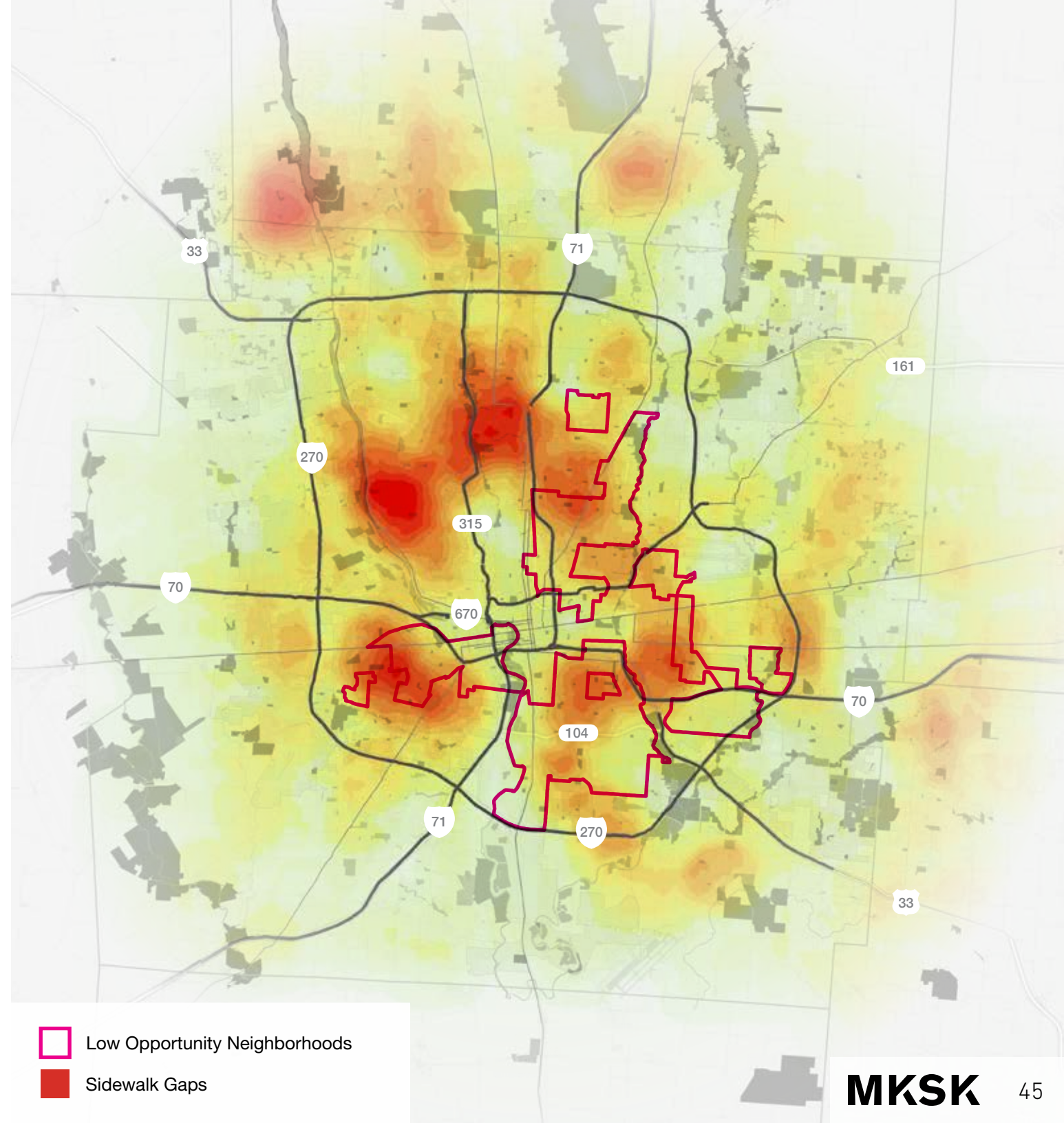
Source: kirwan institute 2019



SIDEWALK GAPS

Density of areas with streets with out sidewalks.

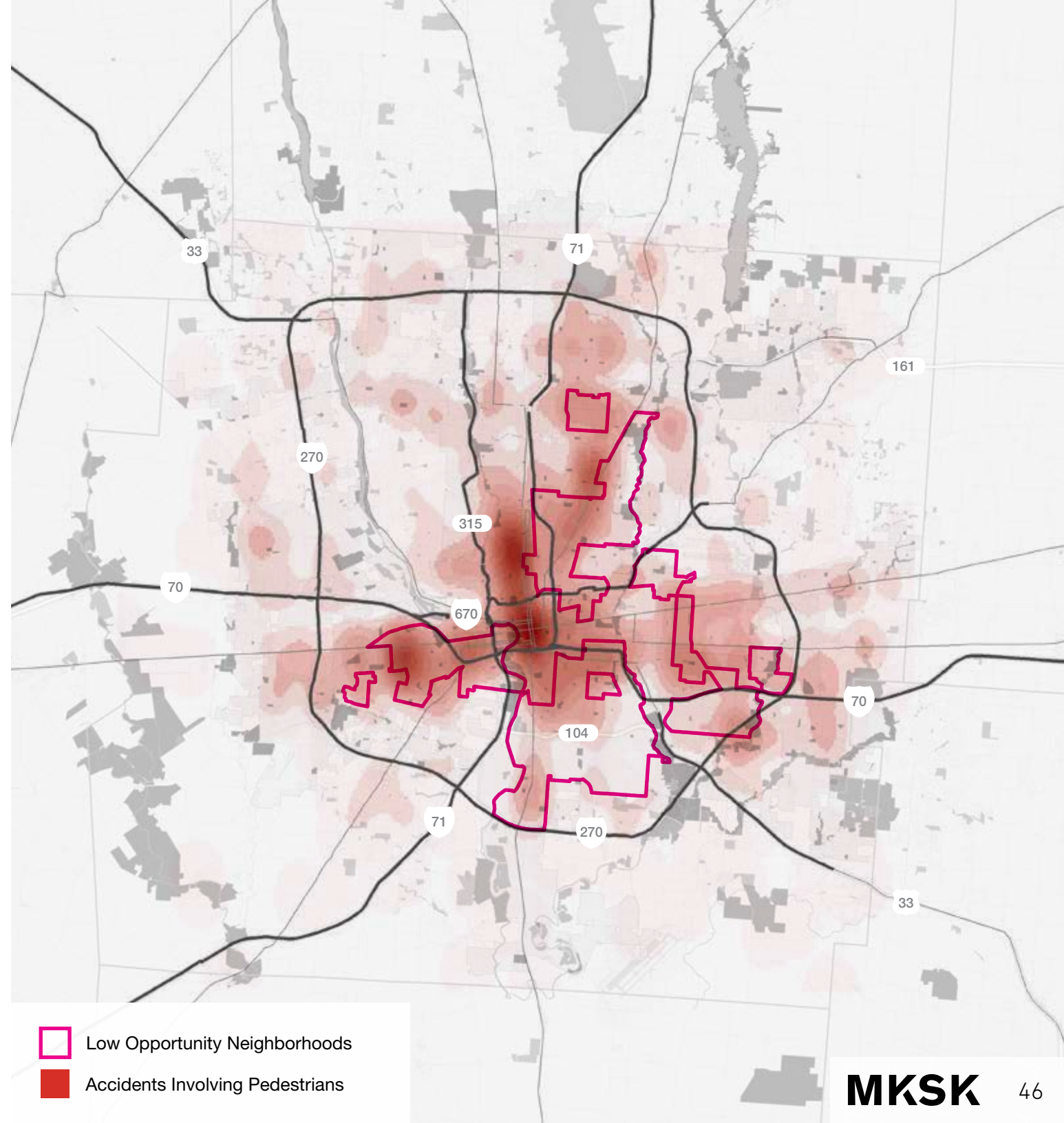
Source: MORPC



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Accidents involving pedestrians.
2015-2019

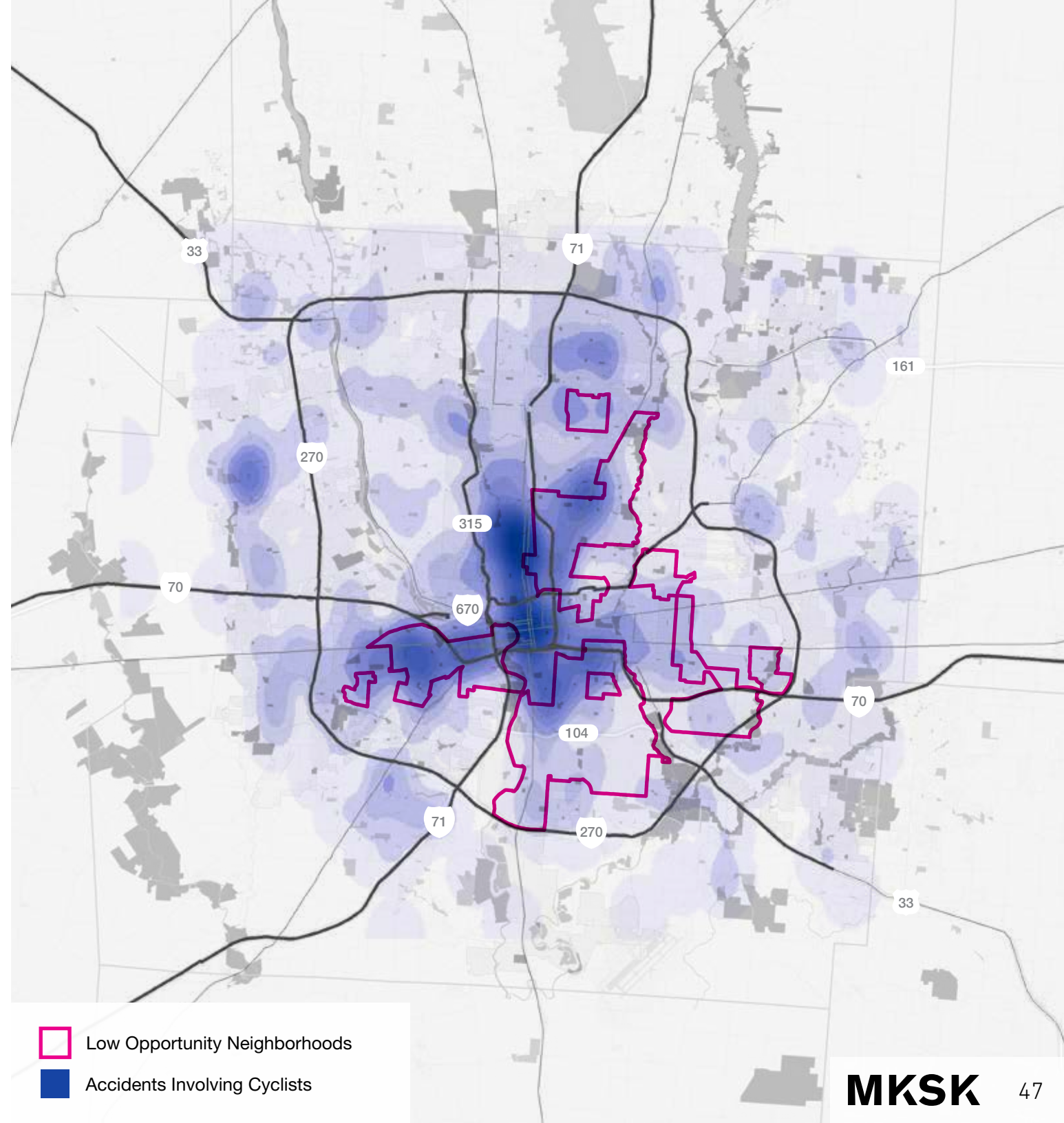
Source: ODOT



BIKE SAFETY

Heat map of accidents involving cyclists. 2015-2019

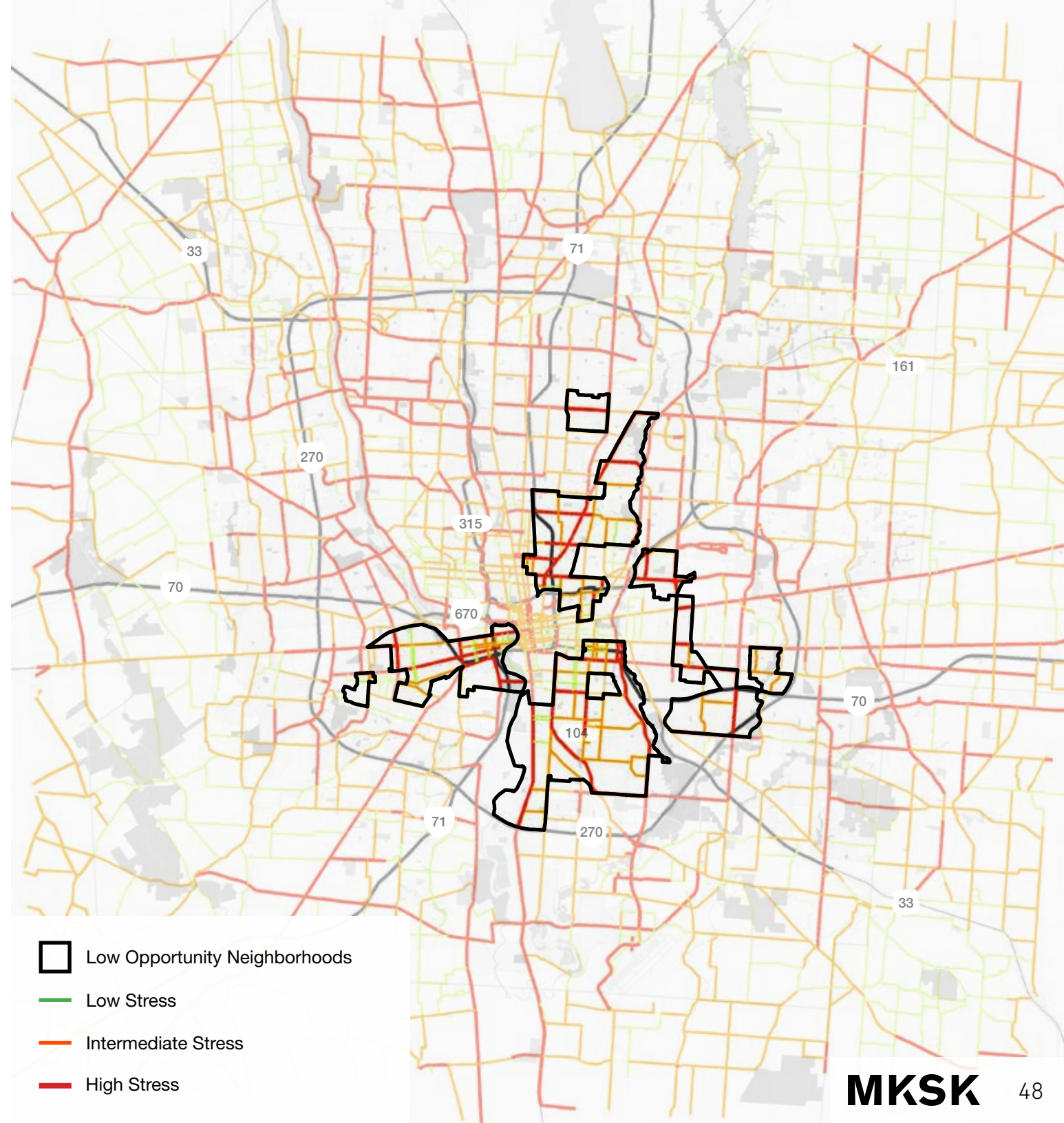
Source: ODOT



BIKE COMFORT

Roadway level of stress rating for cyclists.

Source: MORPC



NEIGHBORHOOD BIKEWAYS

35 miles of low-stress neighborhood bikeways

Five neighborhoods:

- Clintonville
- Hilltop
- Near East
- North Linden
- Southside



NEIGHBORHOOD BIKEWAYS: CLINTONVILLE



VISION ZERO

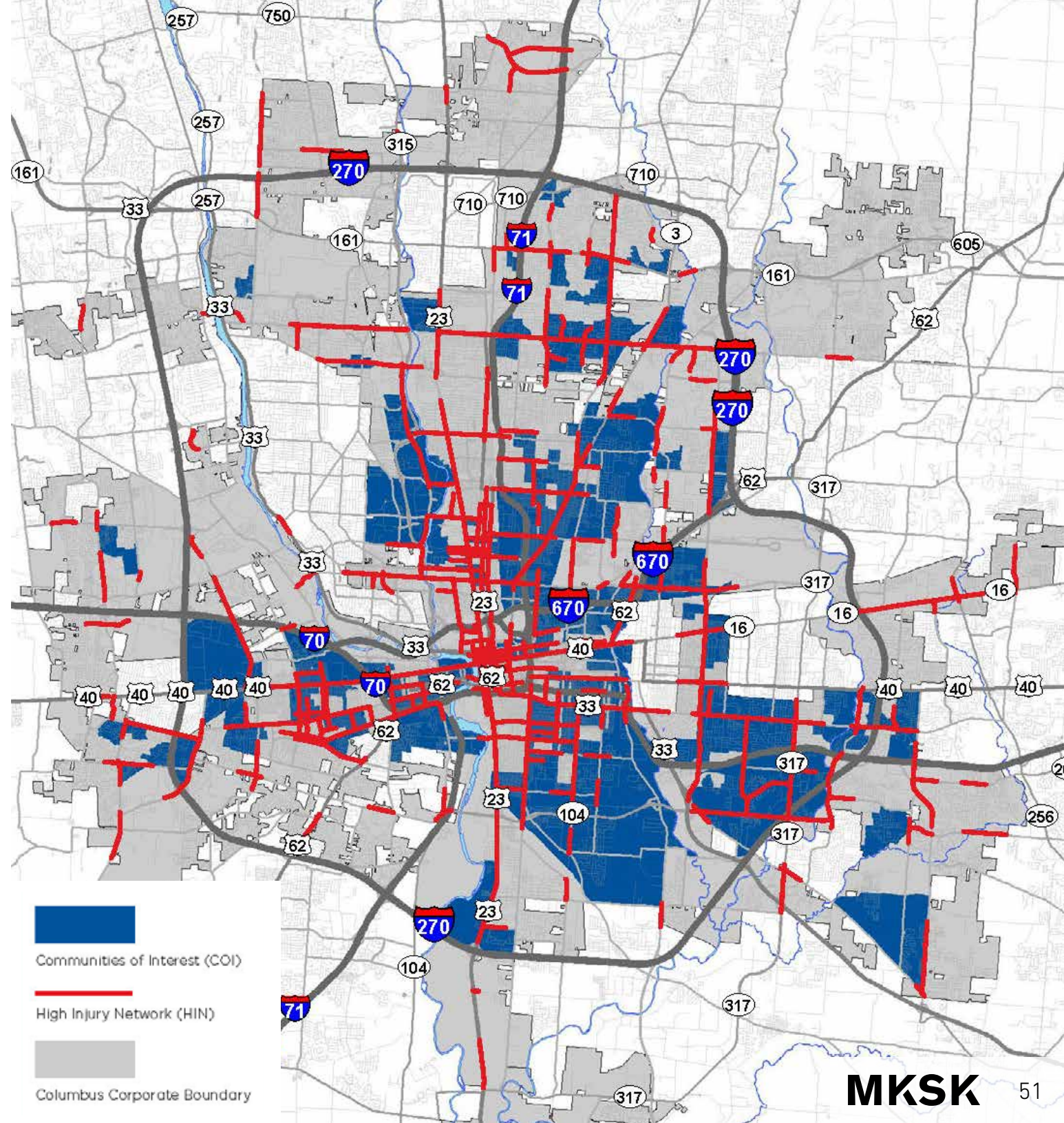
The City of Columbus recently conducted a Vision Zero Columbus initiative, part of a global initiative to eliminate all roadway deaths and severe injuries, while ensuring safe, equitable mobility for all.

The program analyzed data and engaged the public to understand the locations, severity, and types of crashes throughout the city.

The City analyzed crash data over the past 4 years to identify a “High Injury Network” – streets with a history of crashes involving fatalities, serious injuries, and vulnerable roadway users (i.e. pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists).

The city adopted an action plan this spring to improve safety throughout the network.

<https://vision-zero-columbus.hub.arcgis.com/>

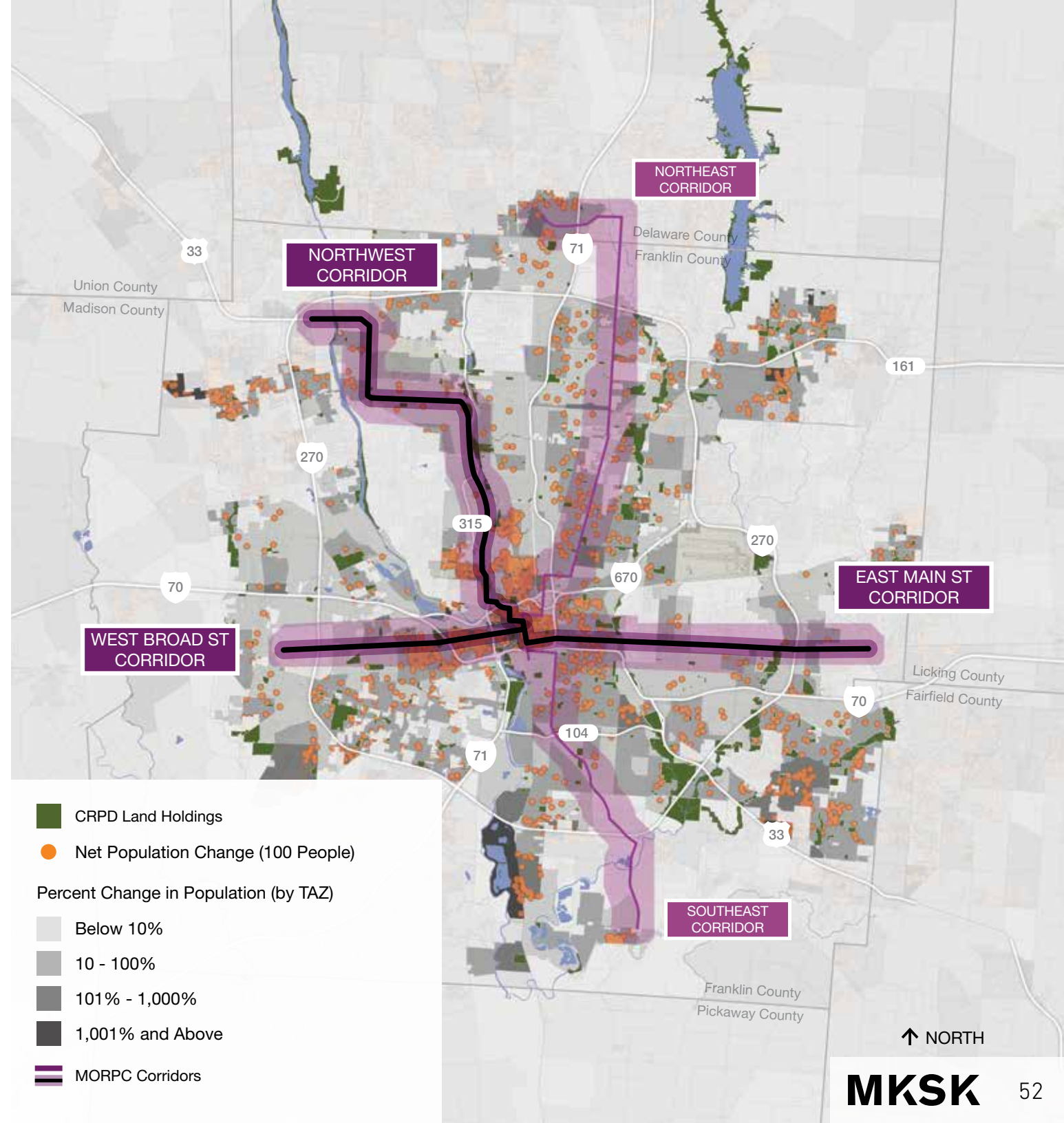


MORPC CORRIDORS

The City of Columbus is partnering with COTA, MORPC and other funding partners to advance the first of these corridors – the Northwest Corridor to create an implementation strategy for a complete multi-modal transportation system in the corridor. This will:

- **Promote a balanced, complete, safe, and integrated transportation system** that meets the needs for all travel modes
- **Address the connection** between multi-modal transportation demands and changing land use patterns
- **Prioritize pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and vehicular** transportation improvements for implementation

This project is intended to also serve as a precedent for other corridor efforts, with an emphasis on connecting people to jobs and opportunity and providing equitable transportation investments throughout the city.



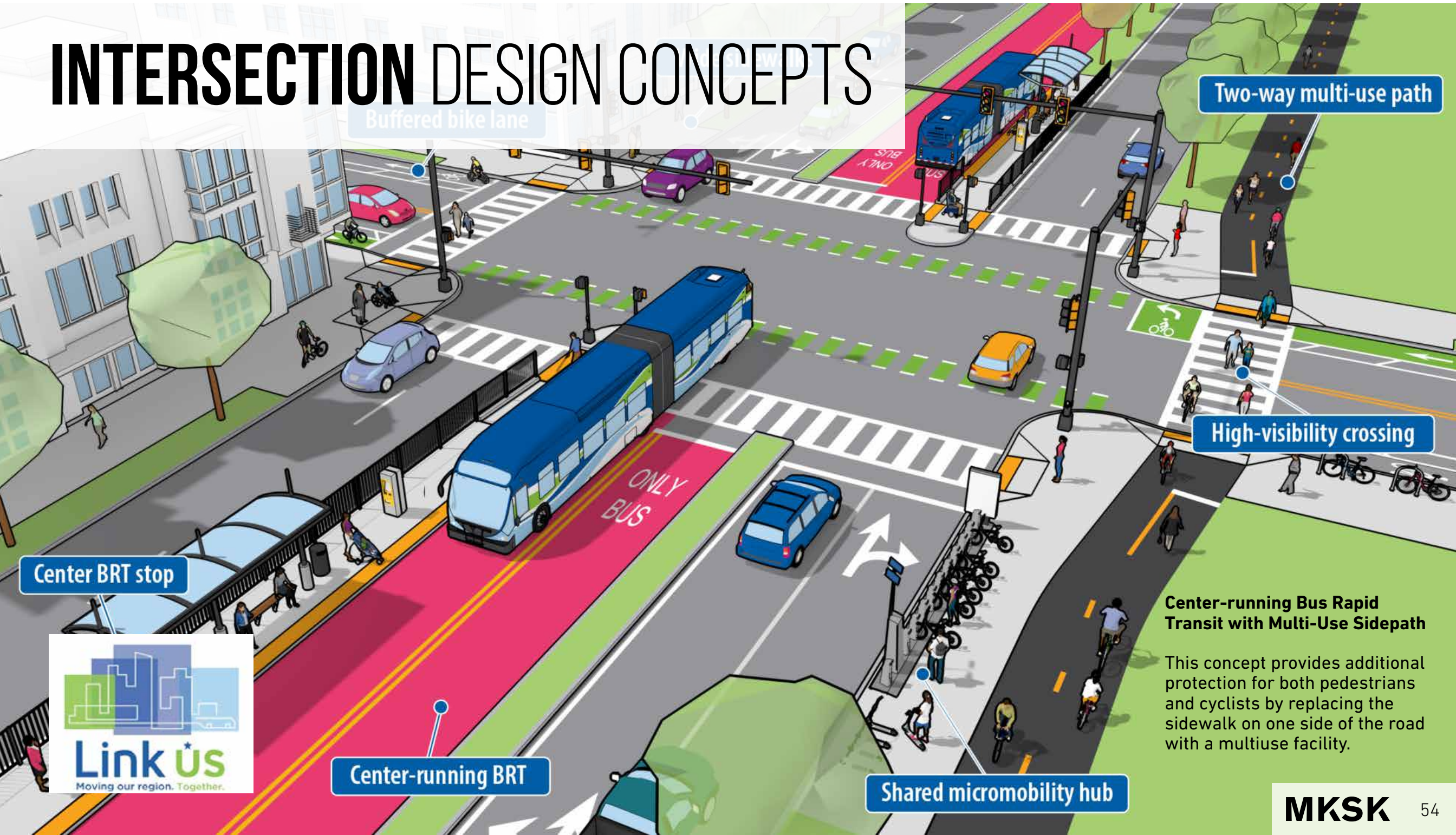
LINKUS: NORTHWEST CORRIDOR

NORTHWEST CORRIDOR MOBILITY STUDY

PHASE 1 SUMMARY REPORT



INTERSECTION DESIGN CONCEPTS



Buffered bike lane

Two-way multi-use path

High-visibility crossing

Center BRT stop

Center-running BRT

Shared micromobility hub

Center-running Bus Rapid Transit with Multi-Use Sidepath

This concept provides additional protection for both pedestrians and cyclists by replacing the sidewalk on one side of the road with a multiuse facility.



BUILDING TRANSIT SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS



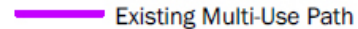
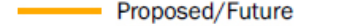
4 | WHAT COULD THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?



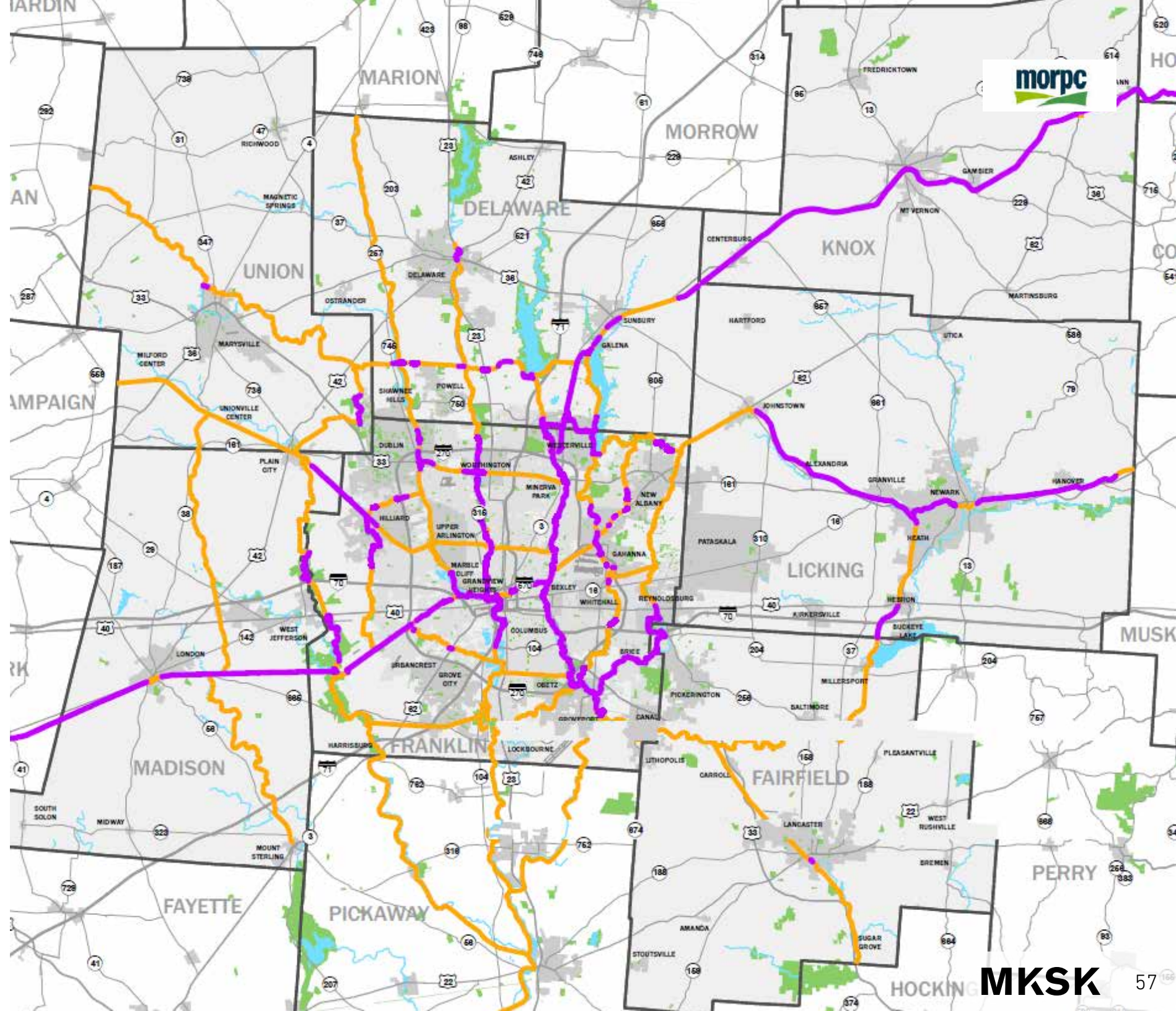
CENTRAL OHIO GREENWAYS VISION

11.6M
TRAIL MILES
TRAVELED IN 2017

500
TRAIL MILES
PLANNED

Regional Trail of Significance
 Existing Multi-Use Path
 Proposed/Future

733 Total Miles
 233 Existing Multi-use Path
 500 Proposed/Future



CRPD LAND PLAN

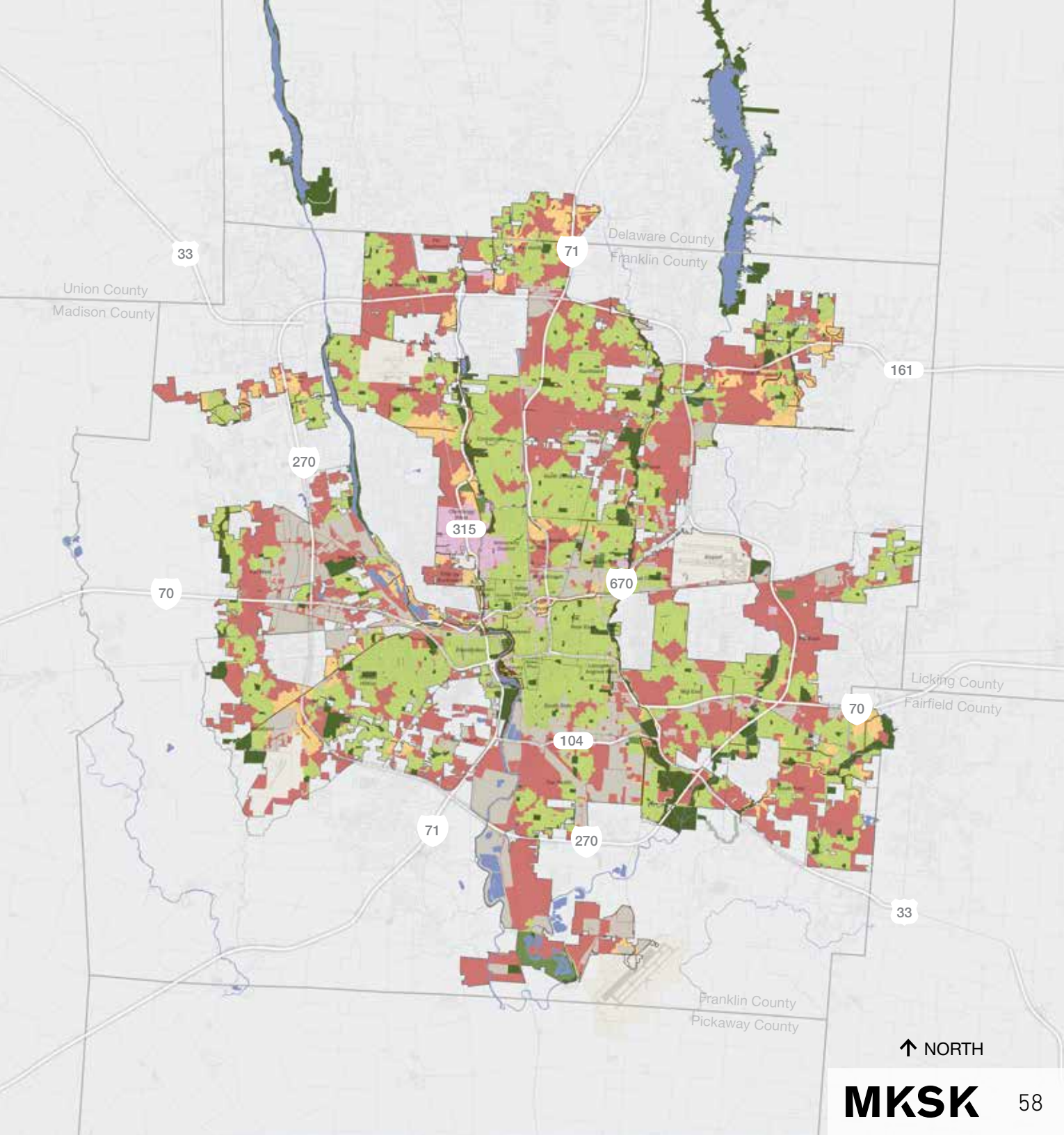
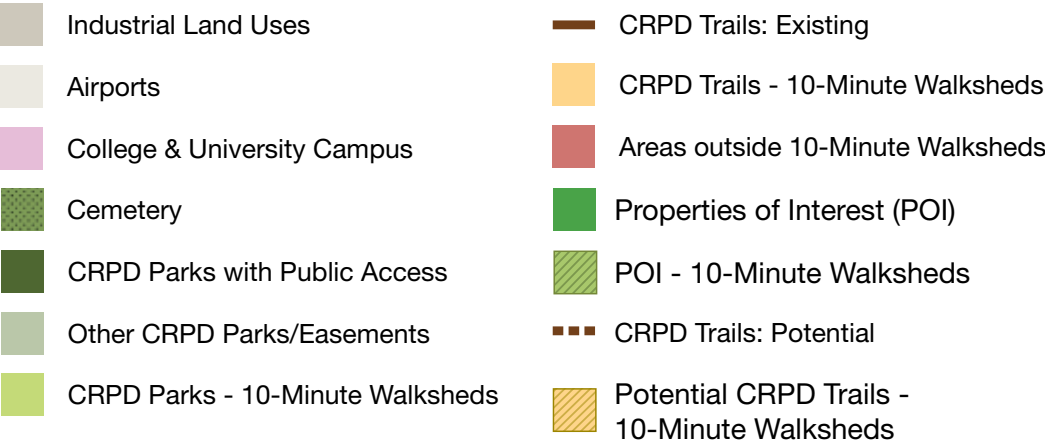
EXISTING ACCESS

Walkshed Analysis: Existing (2018)



Residents within Walkshed: 64.5%

Residents Outside Walkshed: 35.5%



POTENTIAL ACCESS

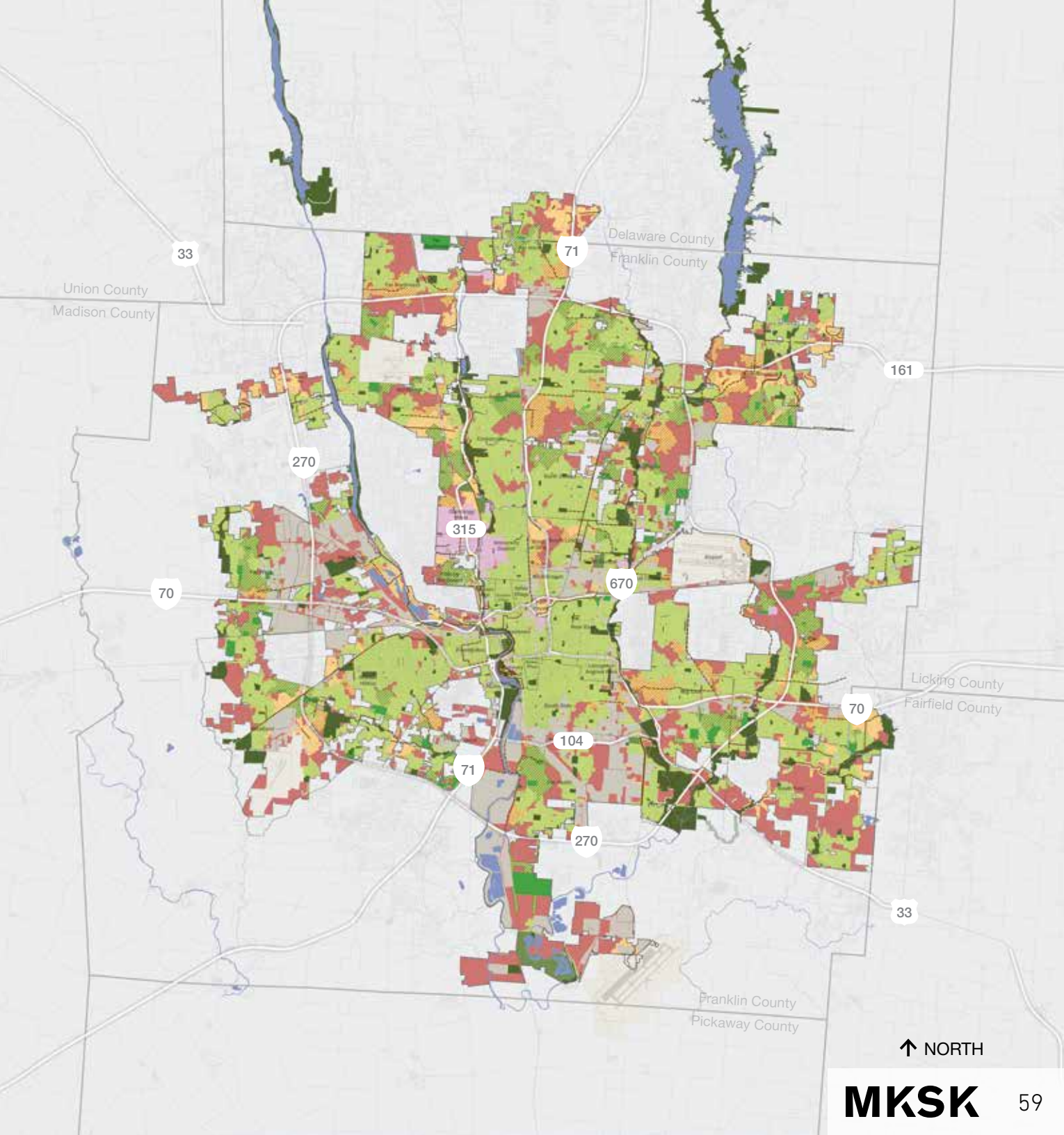
Walkshed Analysis: Potential with
Properties of Interest & Trails (2023)



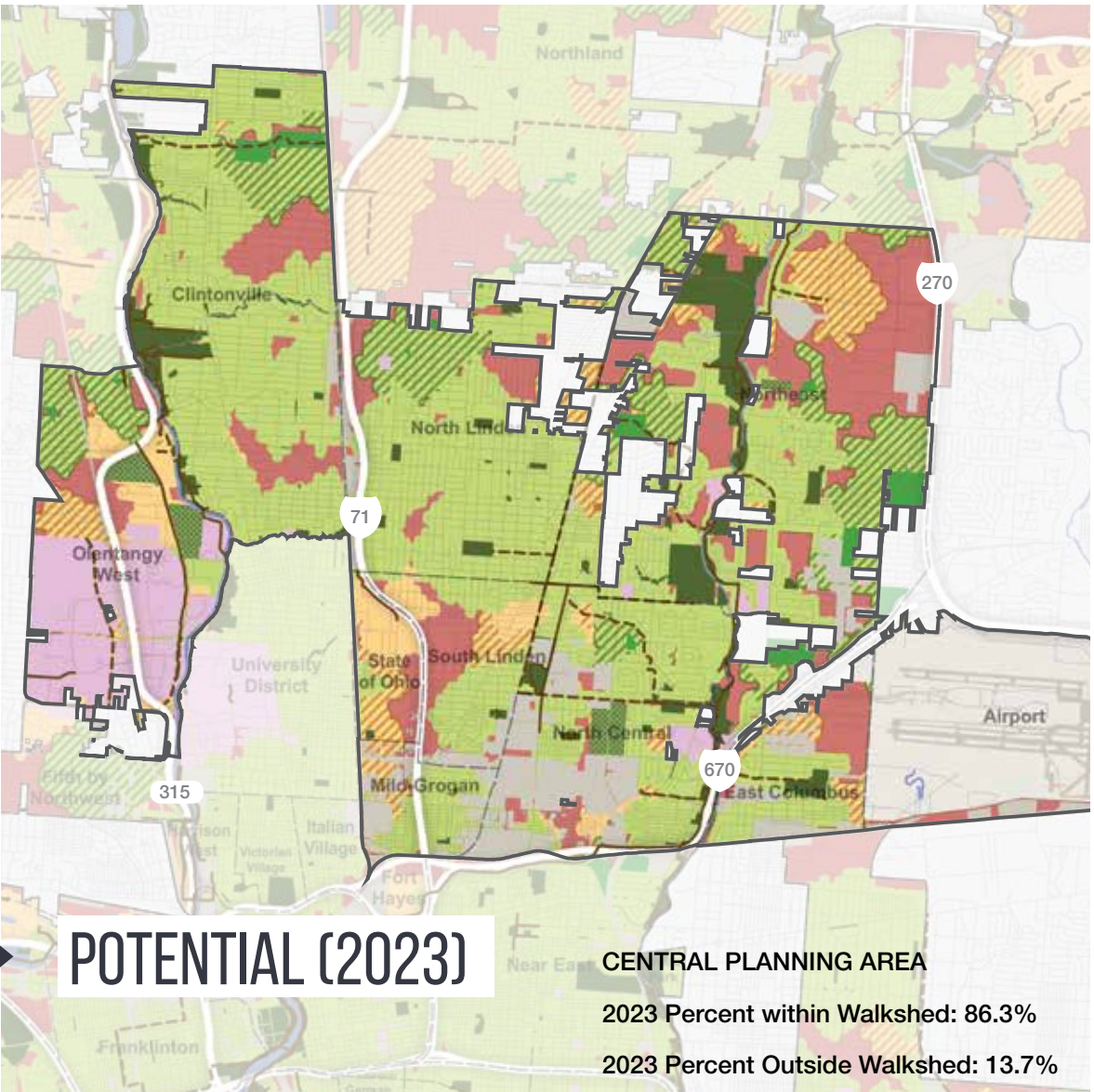
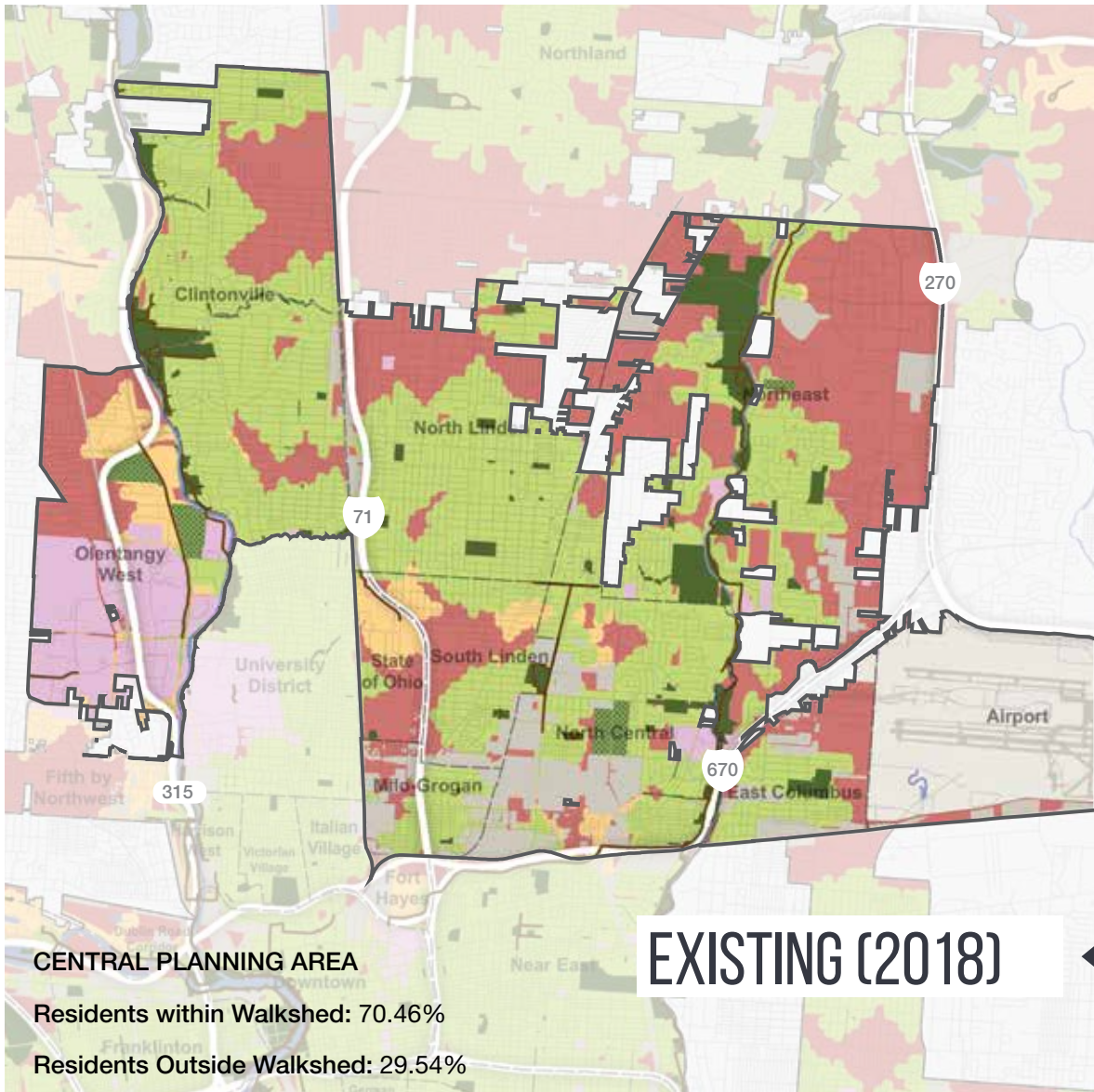
2023 Percent within Walkshed: 79%
2023 Percent Outside Walkshed: 21%

POI Acres: 2,263 Acres
Potential Trail Miles: 96 Miles
POI & Pot. Trail Impact: +14.5%

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Industrial Land Uses | CRPD Trails: Existing |
| Airports | CRPD Trails - 10-Minute Walksheds |
| College & University Campus | Areas outside 10-Minute Walksheds |
| Cemetery | Properties of Interest (POI) |
| CRPD Parks with Public Access | POI - 10-Minute Walksheds |
| Other CRPD Parks/Easements | CRPD Trails: Potential |
| CRPD Parks - 10-Minute Walksheds | Potential CRPD Trails - 10-Minute Walksheds |



EXISTING VS. POTENTIAL ACCESS



RAPID 5: REDEFINING OUR REGION



PROJECT FUNDERS

Platinum:

Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS) Foundation
City of Columbus
The Columbus Foundation
The Ohio State University
Thrive Companies

Gold:

City of Dublin
COTA
Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Nationwide Realty Investors and Capital Square, Ltd



Silver:

AEP	CDDC
CASTO	Corna Kokosing
City of Bexley	ENGIE
City of Gahanna	Franklin County
City of Grove City	Engineer
City of Hilliard	M/I Homes
City of New Albany	Nationwide
City of Obetz	One Columbus
City of Reynoldsburg	
City of Upper Arlington	
City of Westerville	
City of Whitehall	
City of Worthington	

INTRODUCTION

Our greenways and waterways are the future of connection between environment, recreation, and Central Ohio's communities. **The RAPID Project aims to create a vision for one regional park network.**



THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF OUR OPEN SPACE SYSTEM



146 Miles

Blueways and
Riparian Corridors



38,300 Acres

Parks and
Greenspace



143 Miles

Trails and
Connections



315 Miles

On-street Bike/PED
Facilities

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

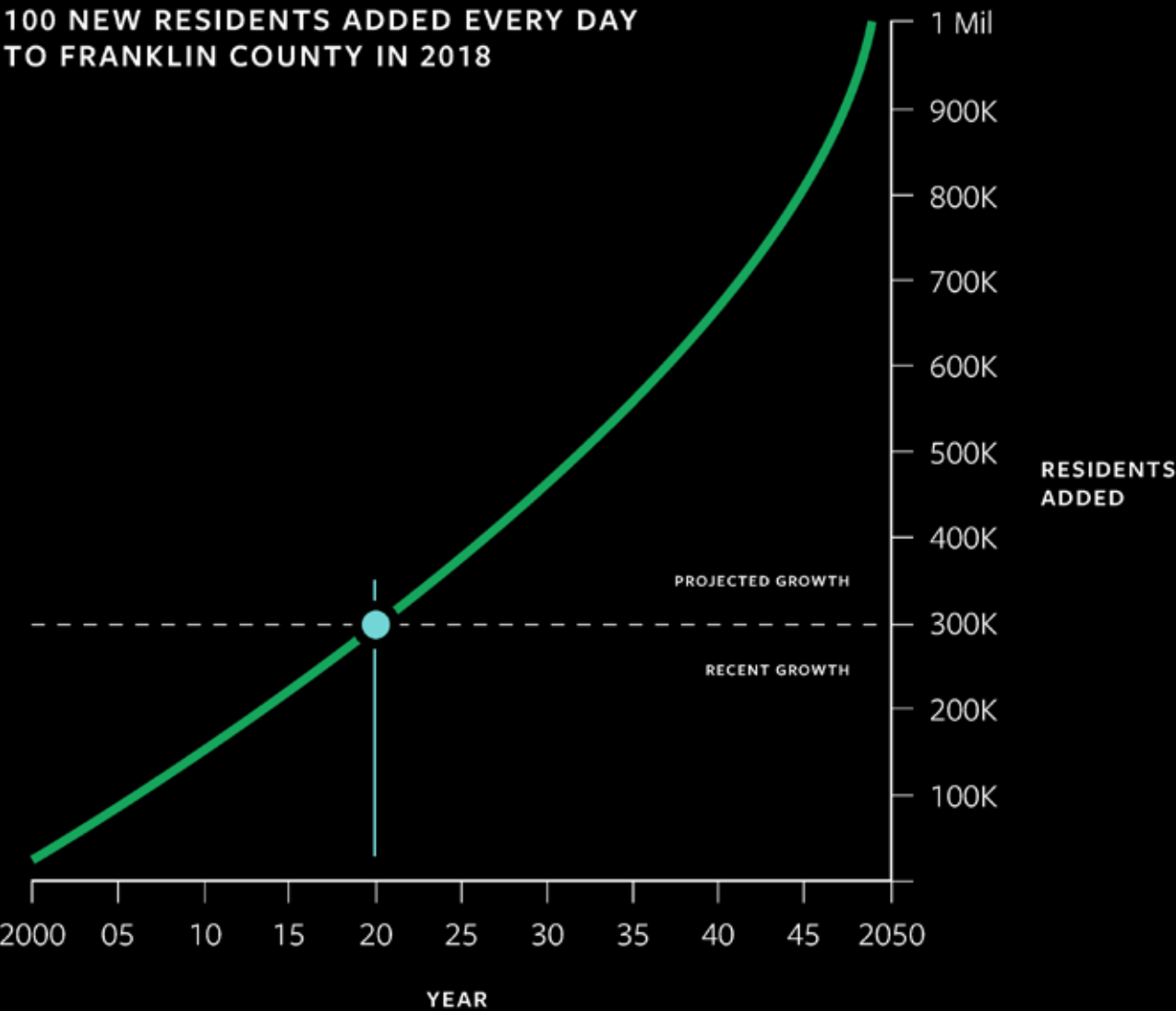


100 New Residents added every day to Franklin County in 2018

30,000 Residents added to Franklin County in 2018 alone

695,000 Additional Residents expected by 2050

100 NEW RESIDENTS ADDED EVERY DAY TO FRANKLIN COUNTY IN 2018



BENEFITS IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY



Health & Wellness



Mobility Choice



Environmental
Stewardship



Economic Vitality



Social Equity



PEOPLE & PLACES IMPACTED



Schools & Students



Businesses & Employees



Residents &
Neighborhoods

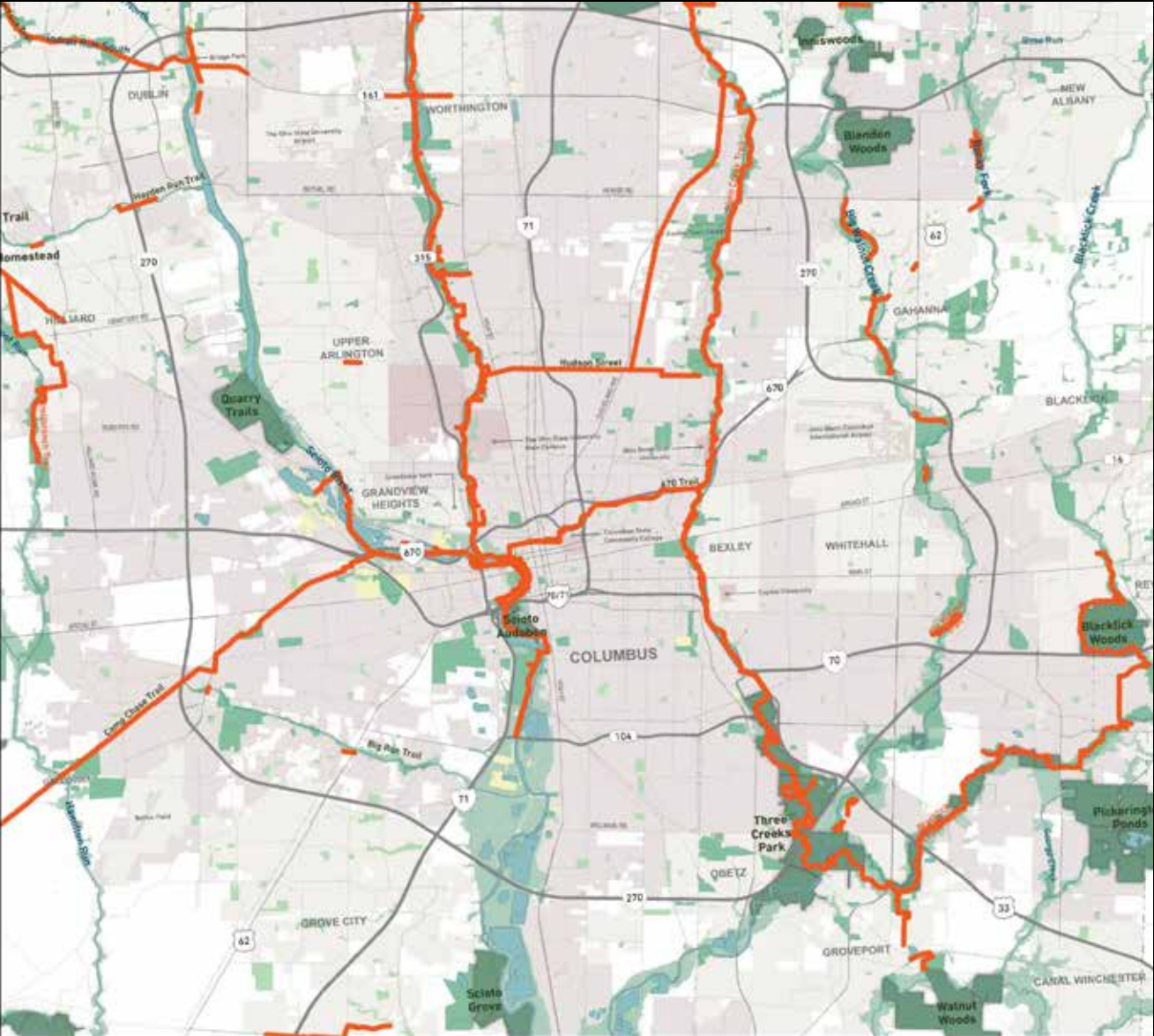


Cultural Institutions



Marginalized
Communities

OUR SYSTEM TODAY



275 schools within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail



524k jobs within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail



840k residents within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail

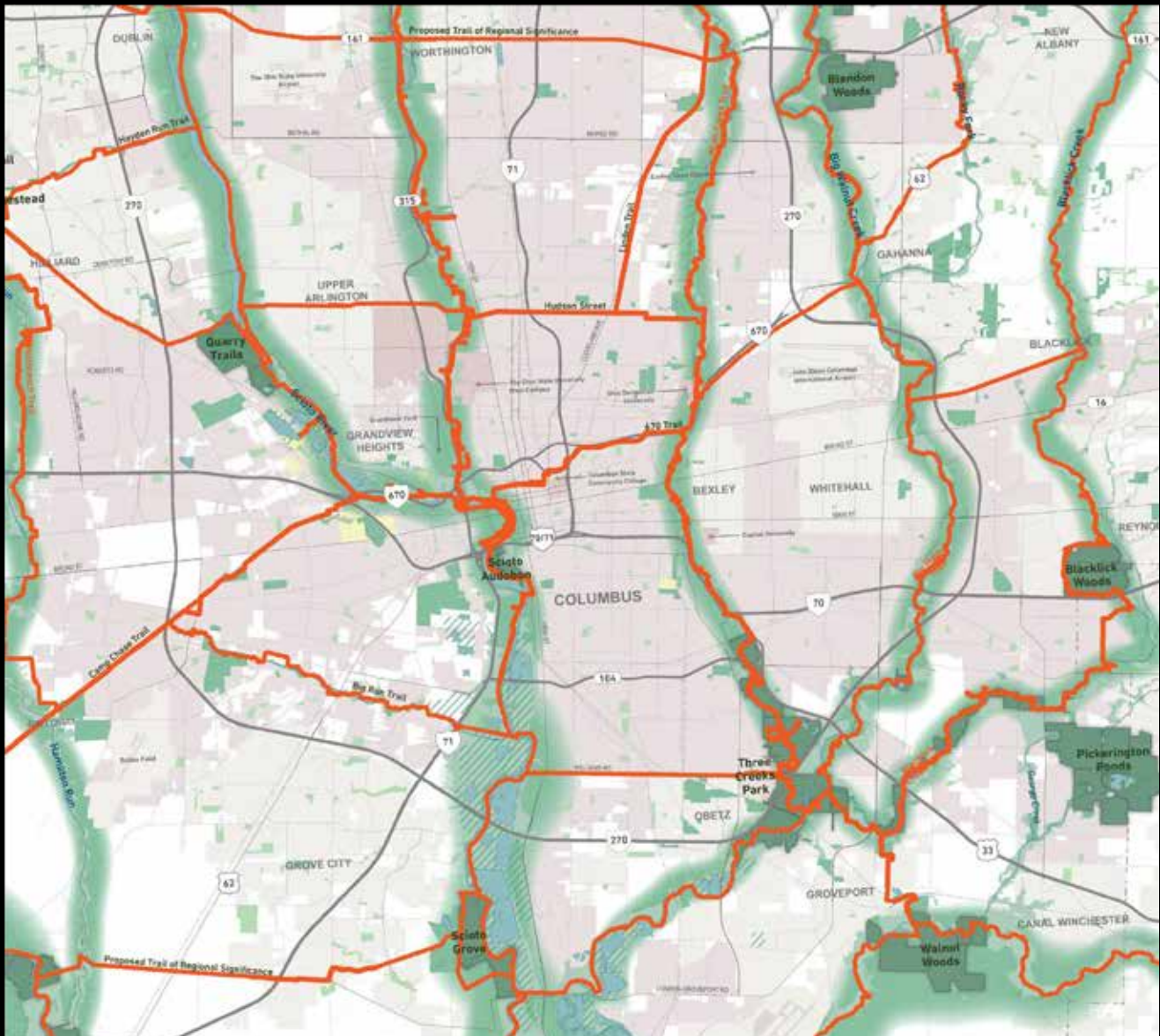


500 activity centers within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail



less than 60% of very low opportunity neighborhoods within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail

OUR SYSTEM TOMORROW



320 Schools within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail
45 (16%) more than today



660k jobs within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail
135k (26%) more than today



1.108m residents within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail
268k (32%) more than today

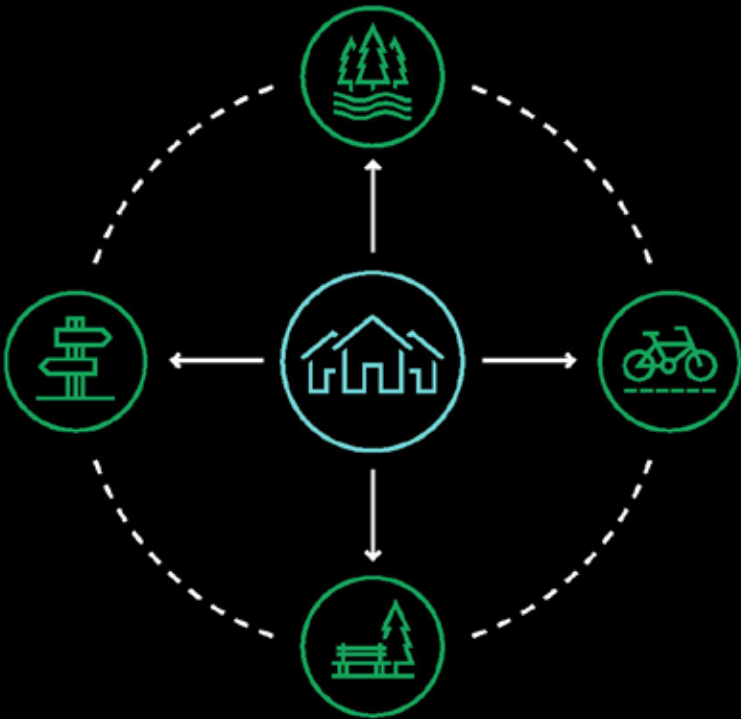


590 activity centers within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail
90 (18%) more than today



more than 77% of very low opportunity neighborhoods within 1/4 mile of existing park or trail
28% more than today

OUR SYSTEM TOMORROW



Every Franklin County resident
will be within 1.5 miles of a park
or greenway

JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21



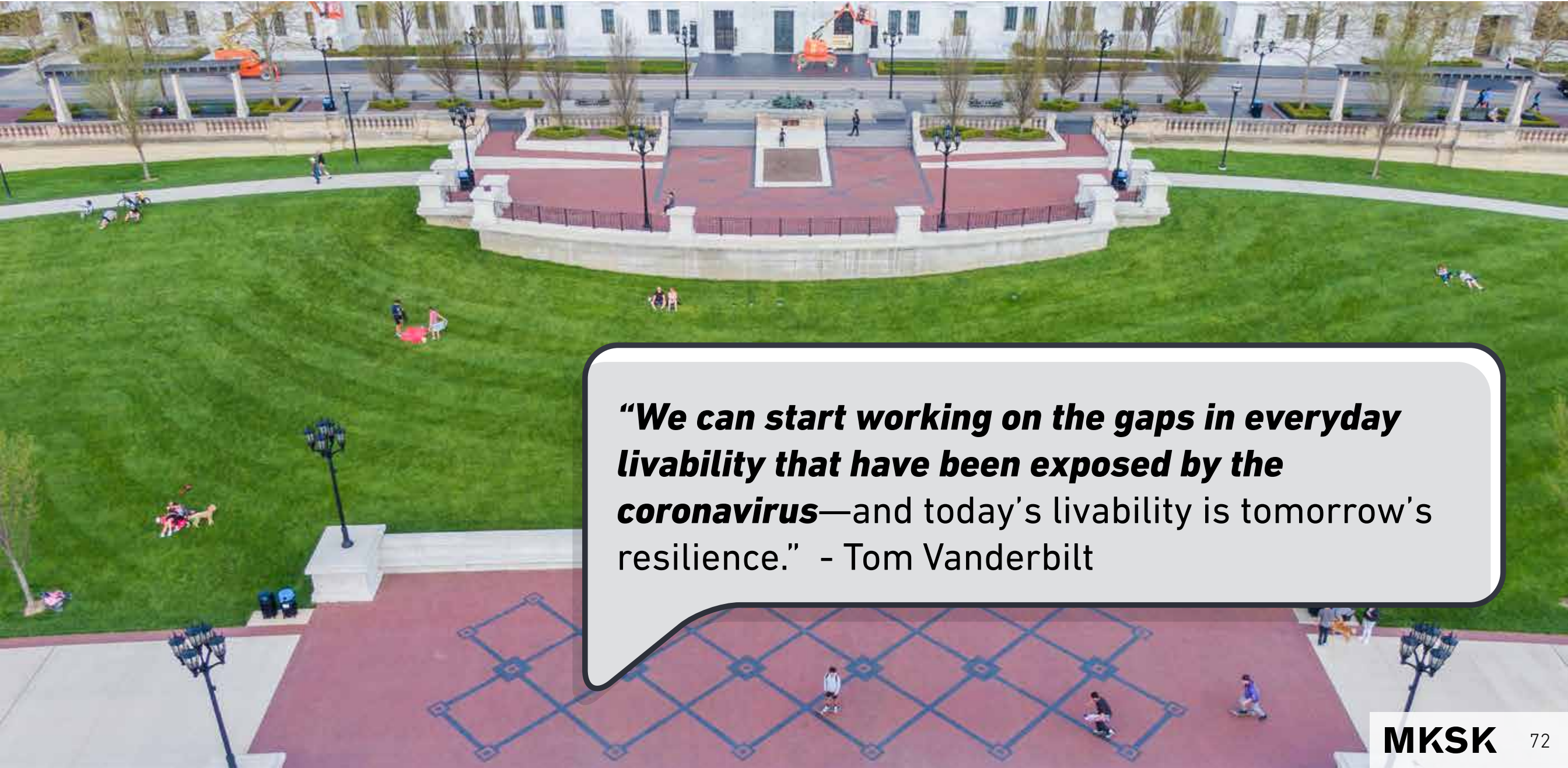
Rapid 5: The Power of Parks and Waterways

Networking & Registration
Cocktails and Networking 4:30 pm

Program
Program 5:00 pm

REGISTER at
<https://columbusmetroclub.org/>

PARKS ARE AN **ESSENTIAL BUSINESS**



“We can start working on the gaps in everyday livability that have been exposed by the **coronavirus**—and today’s livability is tomorrow’s resilience.” - Tom Vanderbilt



Q & A

