

# Mapping our World

Exploring Geospatial Technologies for  
Understanding Environmental Change

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UofL Center for GIS

KRC KELI



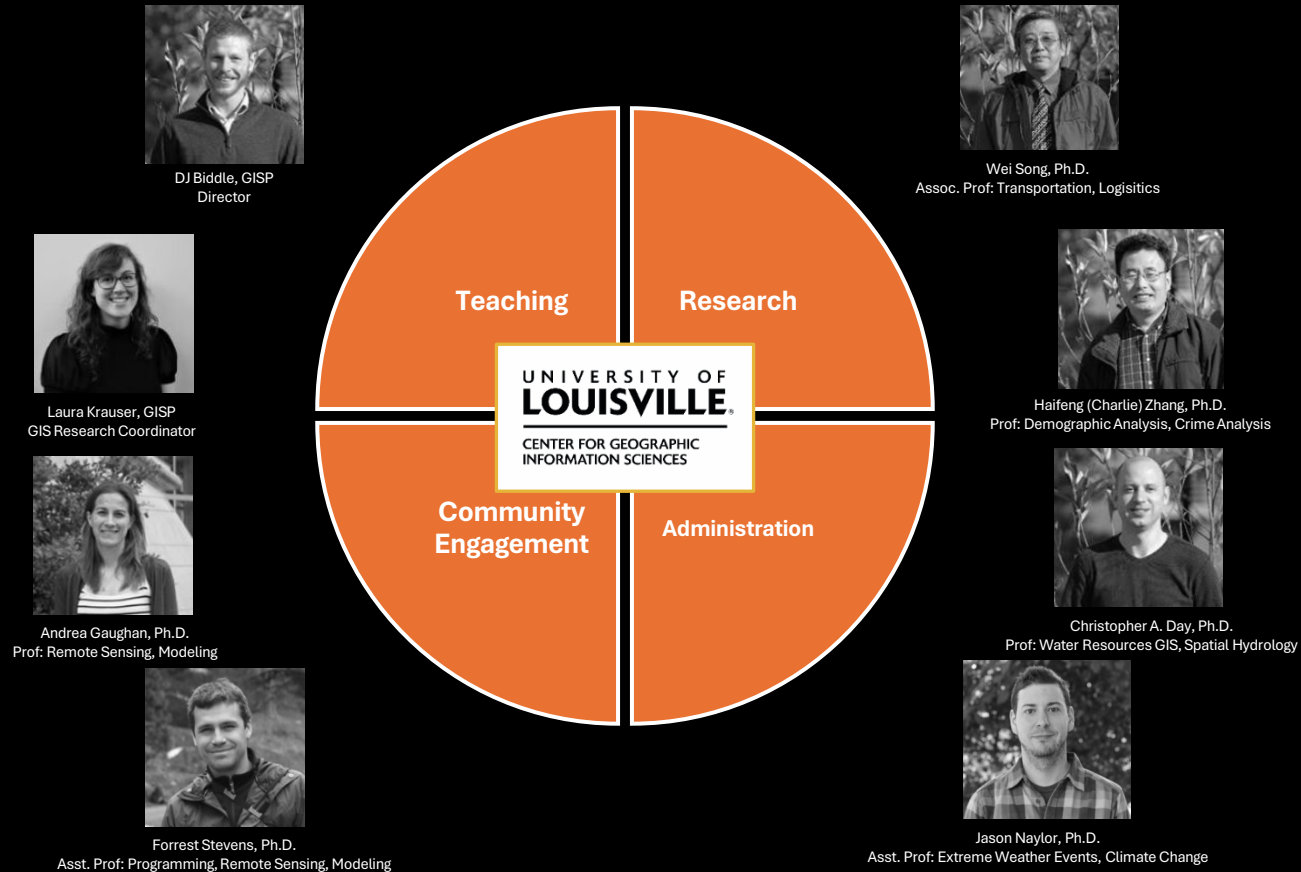
# Our Journey Together

- Introductions
- Understanding Geospatial Technologies
- Real-World Examples
- Q&A

# About Me

- GIS Research Coordinator, UofL Center for GIS (ULCGIS)
- 10 Years in GIS/Mapping
- Teach courses in GIS and geospatial technology
- Lead and support research projects
- Provide technical support to campus GIS users

# ULCGIS Program Overview





# **Audience Poll: Type in the Chat**

**When you hear 'mapping our world,'  
what's the first thing that comes to mind?**



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape, likely agricultural fields, with a semi-transparent grid overlay. The grid consists of small, dark, circular or square markers spaced evenly across the entire image. The colors of the fields are muted greens, browns, and tans. A road or path runs diagonally from the top left towards the center. The overall image has a dark, slightly desaturated tone.

# Understanding Geospatial Technologies



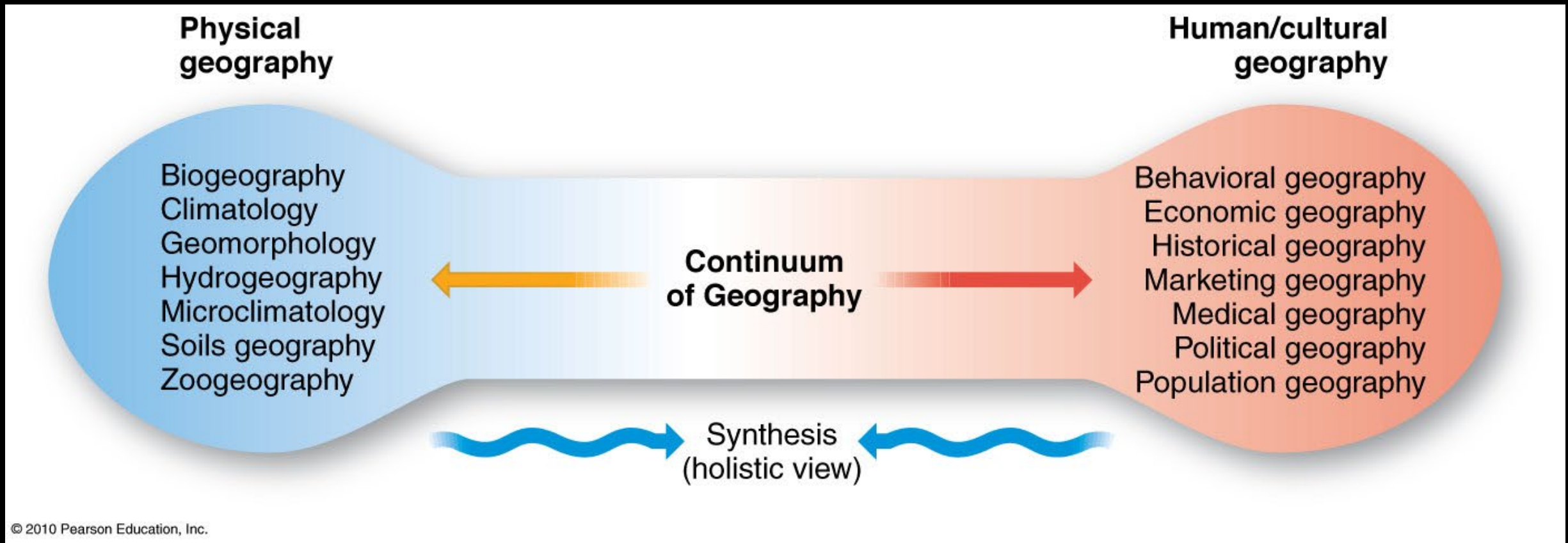
# What is Geography?

Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore both the physical properties of Earth's surface and the human societies spread across it. They also examine how human culture interacts with the natural environment, and the way that locations and places can have an impact on people. Geography seeks to understand where things are found, why they are there, and how they develop and change over time.

- *National Geographic Society*



# Geography is unique!



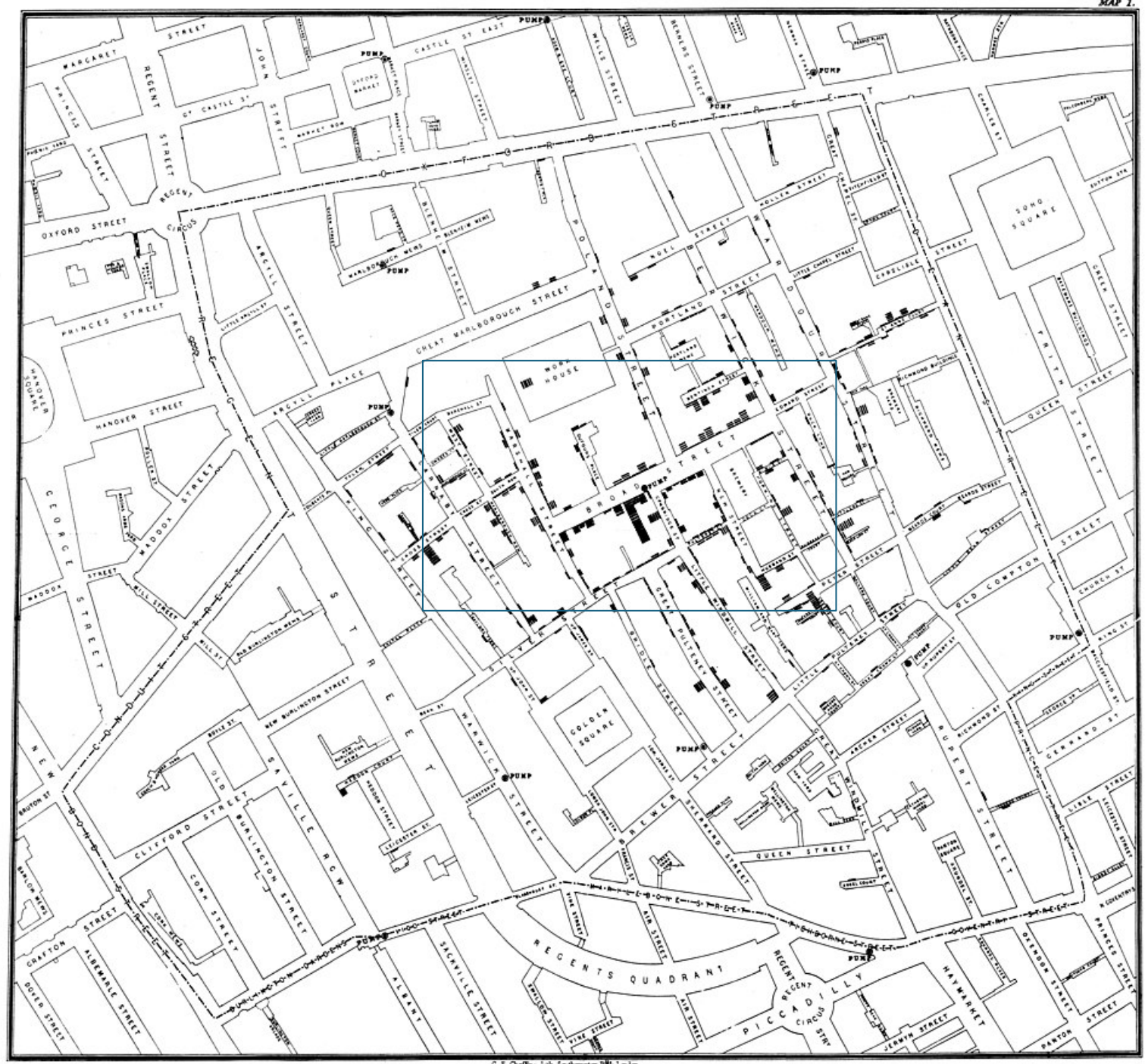
# What is Geospatial Science?

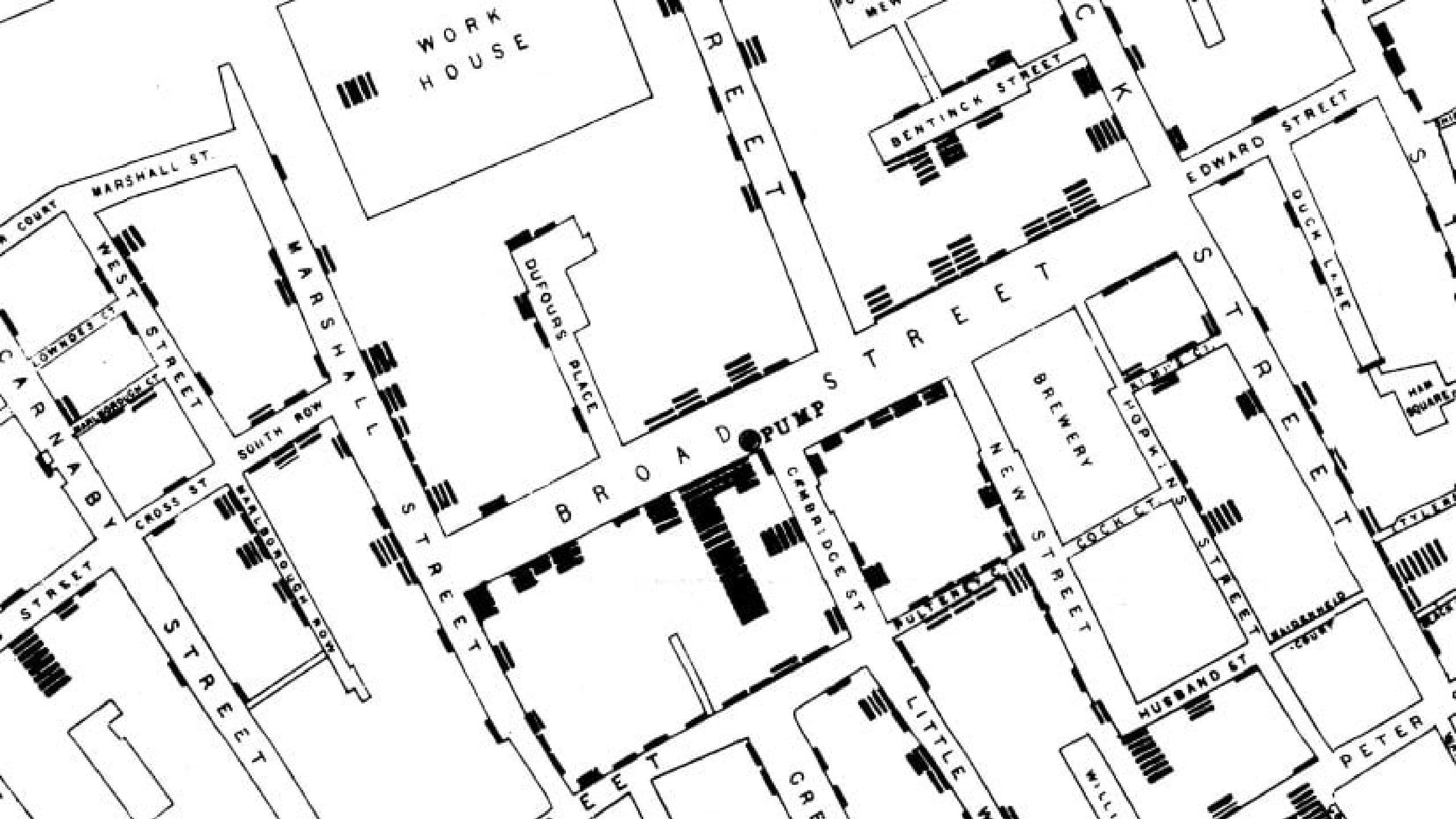
- Geospatial science is the study of phenomena based on their location and spatial relationships.
- It integrates tools and methods to observe, analyze, and model spatial patterns across Earth's surface.
- Core disciplines include: **geography, cartography, GIS, remote sensing, geodesy, and spatial statistics.**



*CHOLERA "TRAMPLES THE VICTOR & THE VANQUISHED BOTH."*







# What is Geospatial Technology?



## GPS/ GNSS

Global navigation satellite system and location services

What is precisely where?



## Geographic Information System (GIS)

Modeling out world through layers of data

Where things are and related attributes



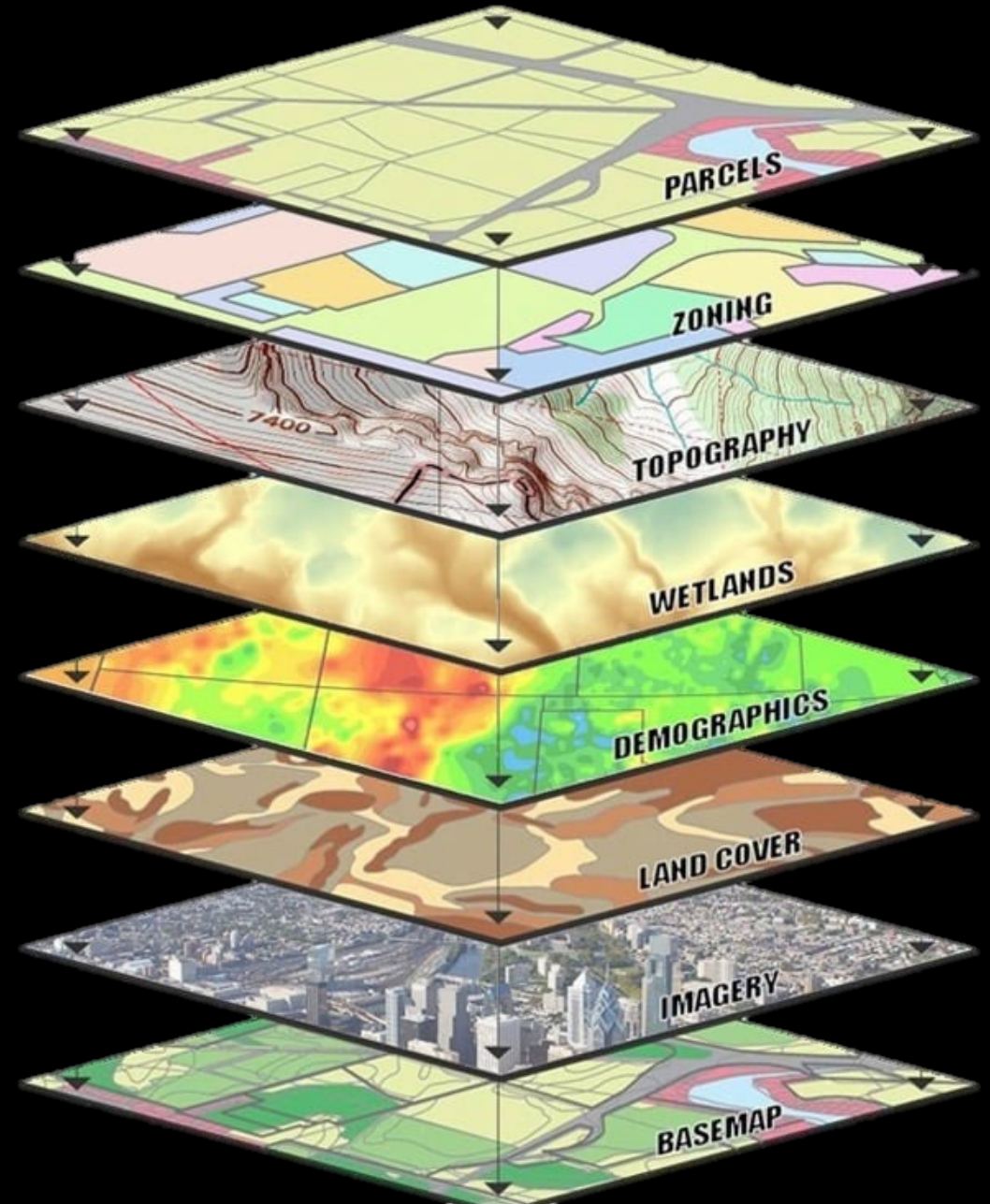
## Remote Sensing

Earth observation and earth monitoring



# GIS

- A GIS is a digital system for capturing, storing, analyzing, and visualizing spatial (location-based) data.
- Combines maps + data + analysis to reveal patterns, trends, and relationships.

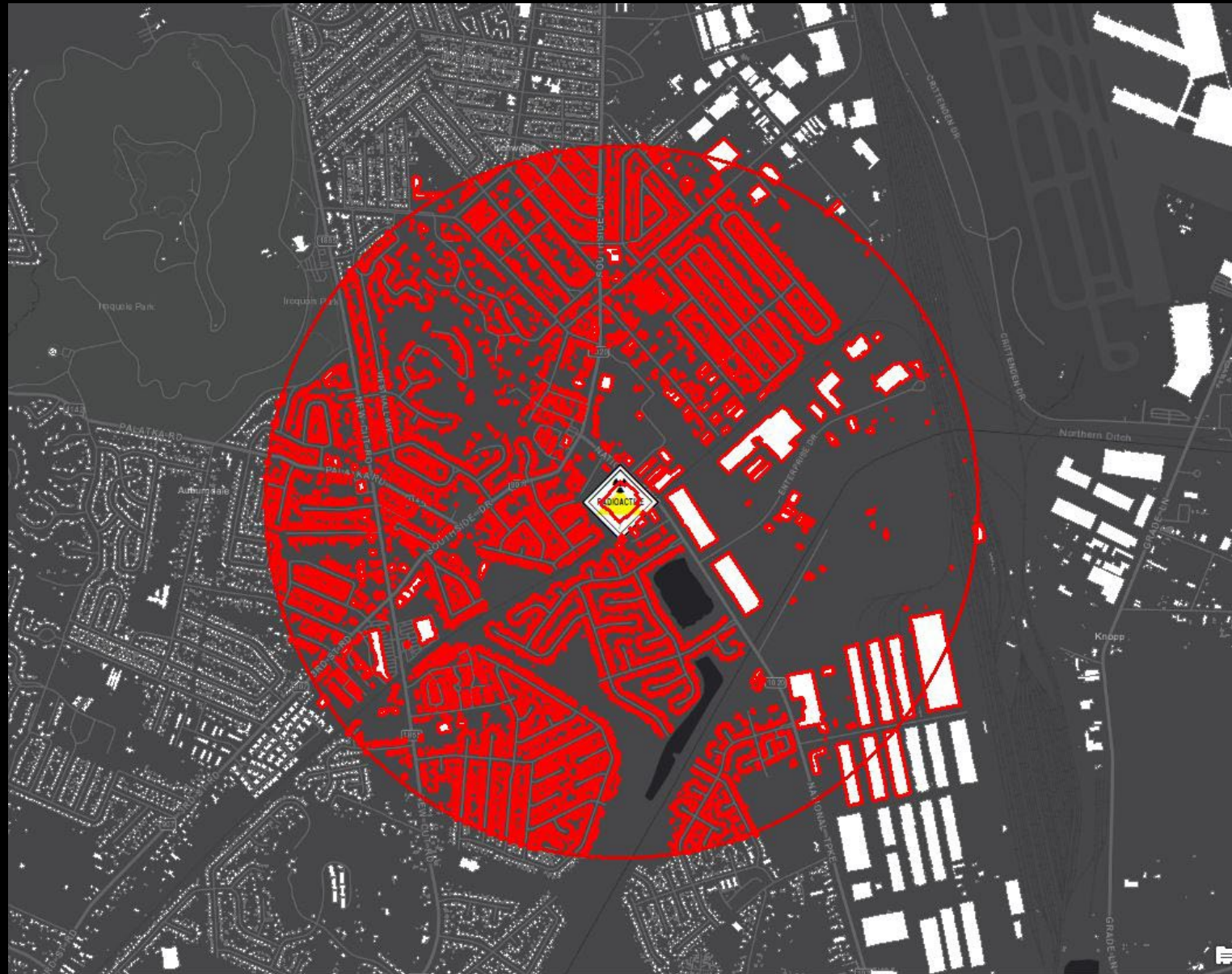


# Querying Data

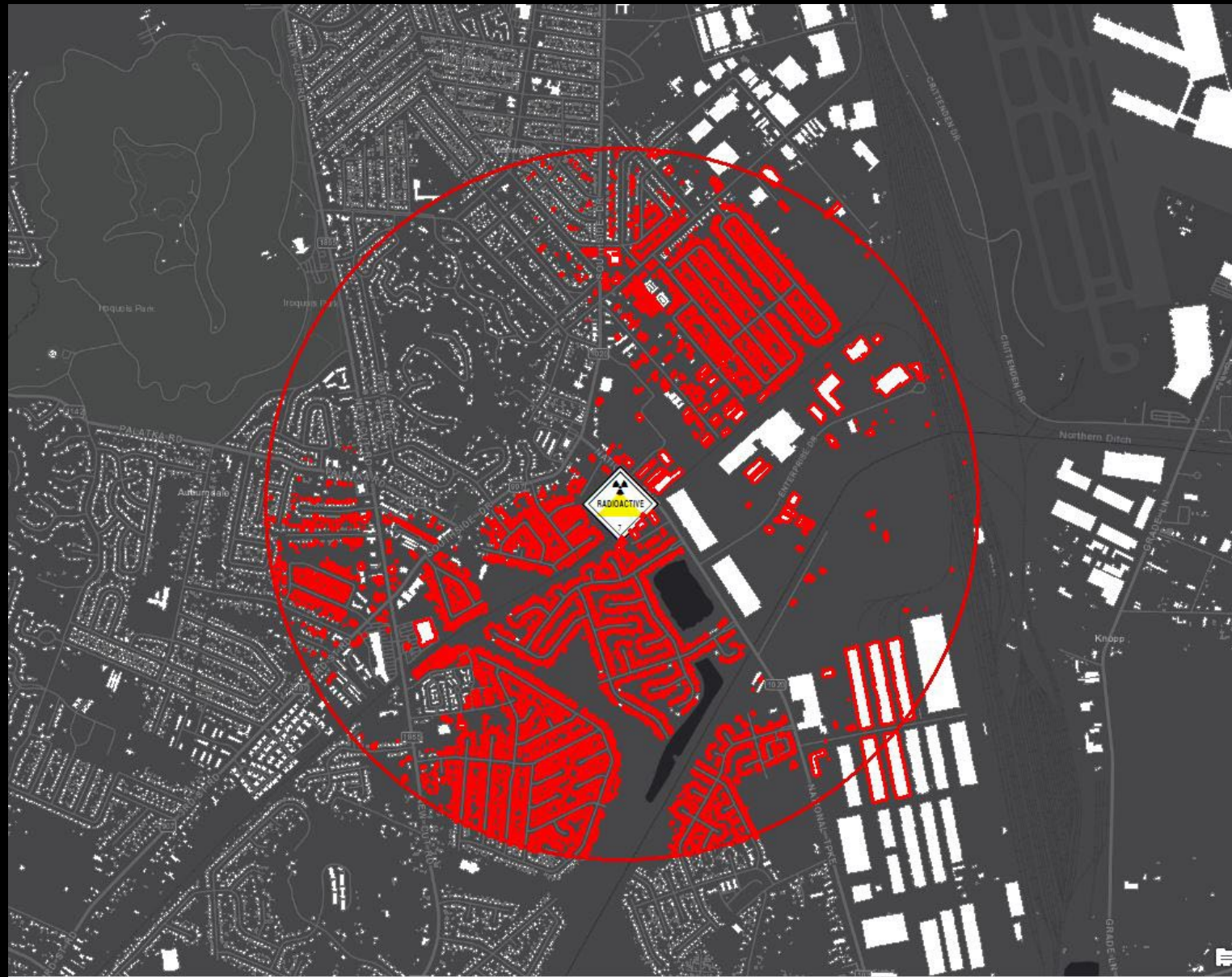
- A dangerous chemical spills from a local factory, threatening the surrounding neighborhoods!
- The chemical spill will affect all residents within one mile of the factory
- But! Because the chemical flows downhill, houses that are on higher ground are safe!
- Who do we need to evacuate?

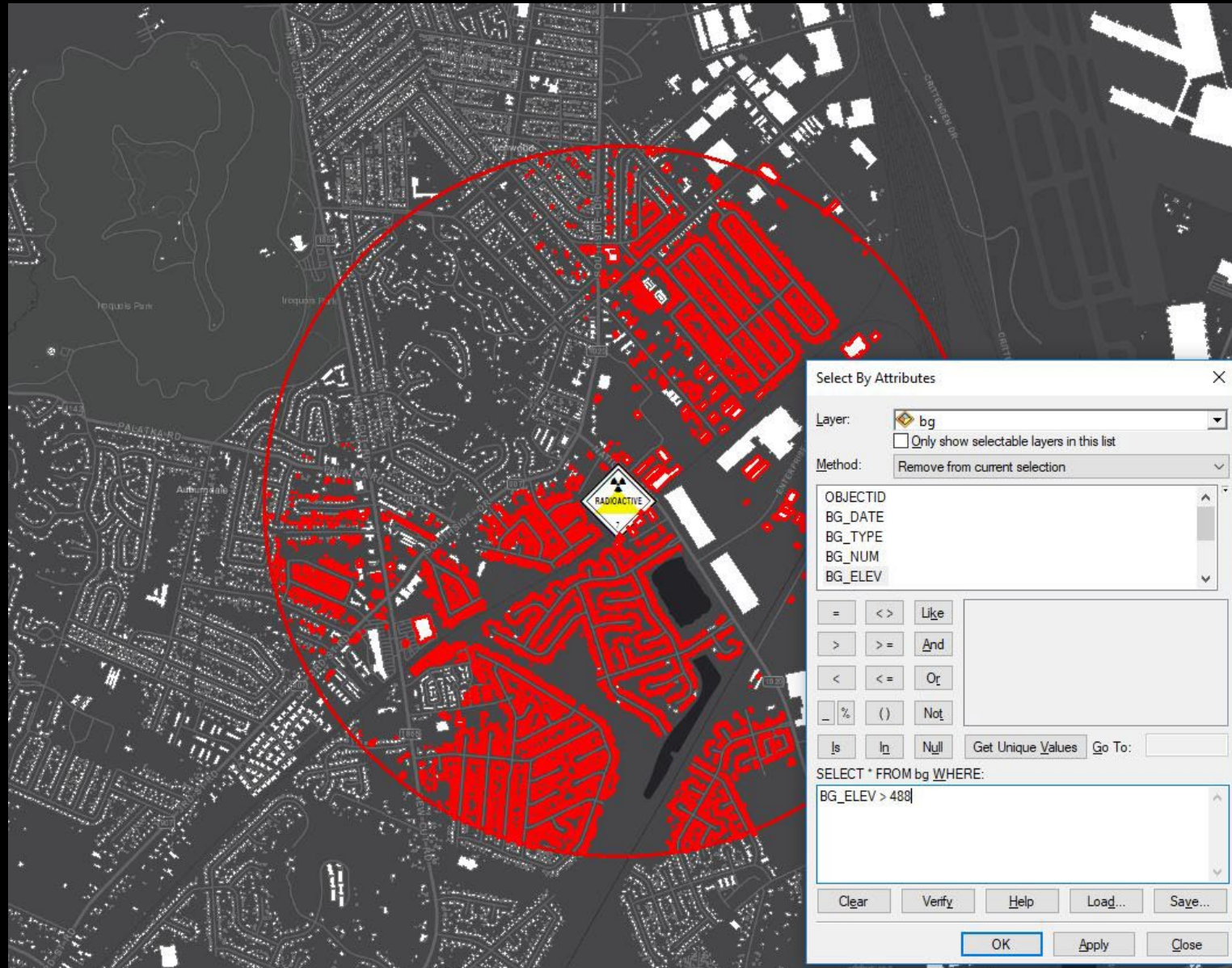














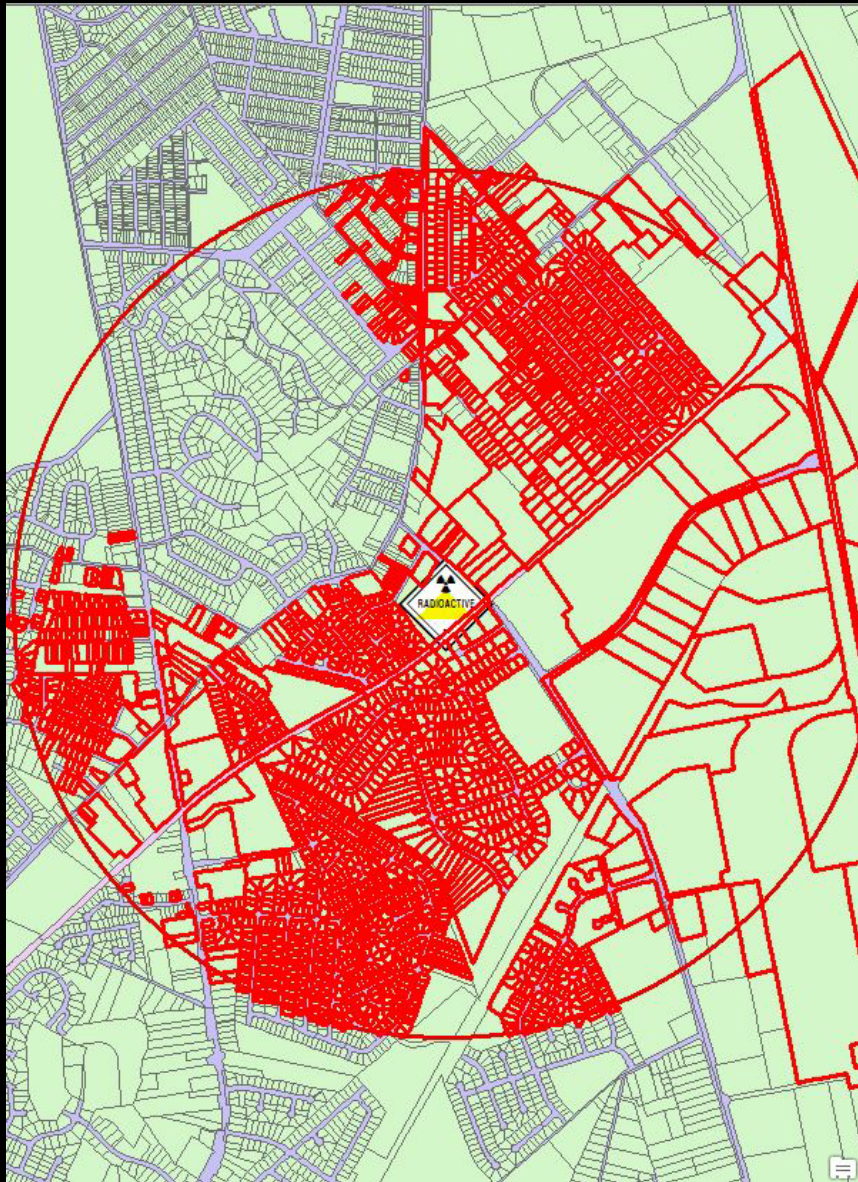
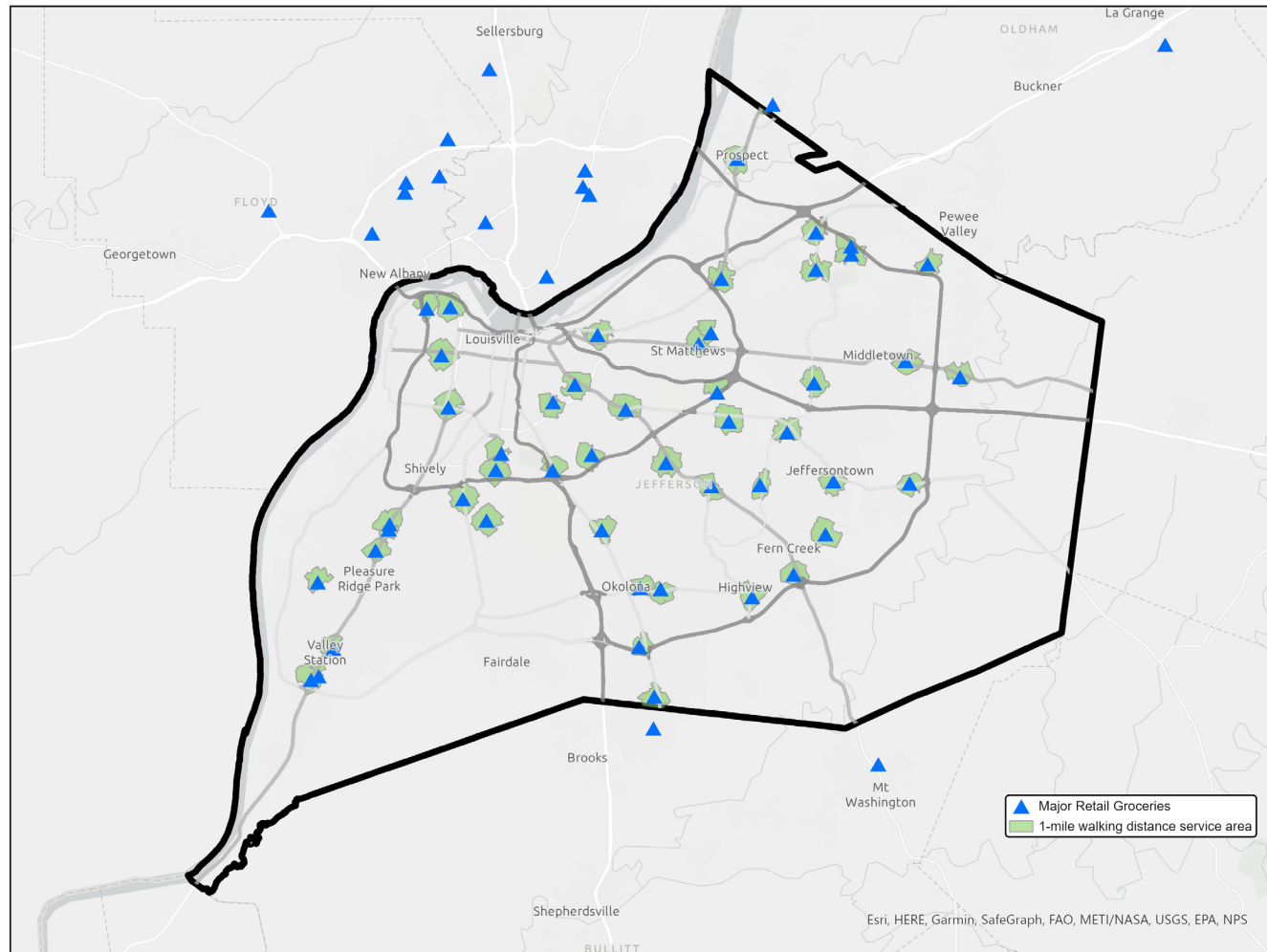


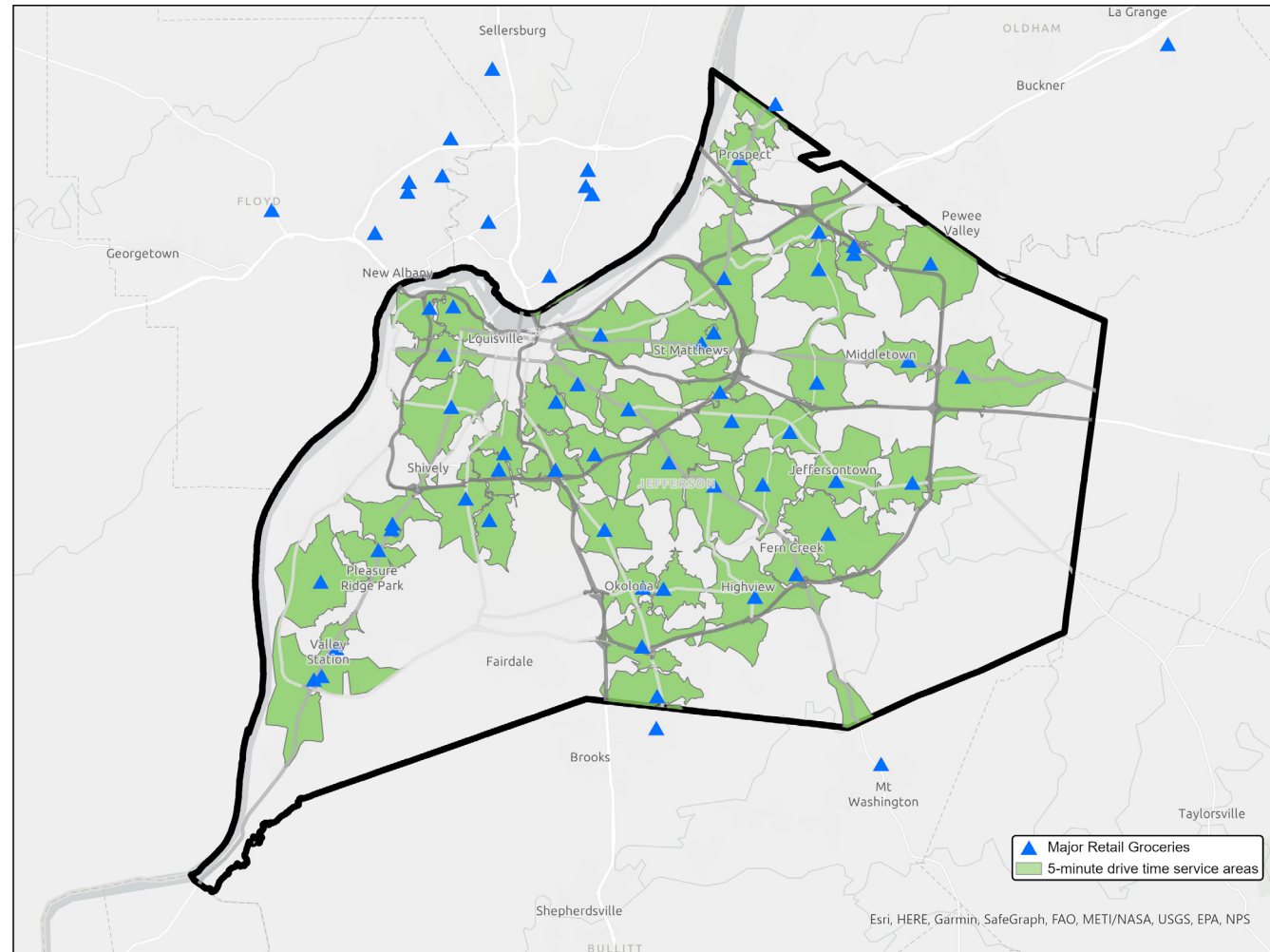
Table		
Parcel		
CUR_FIRSTNAME	CUR_NAME2	CUR_
JOY LESLIE		115 S ARBOR
GHAEB KARIM		6412 SOUTHSI
MARTIN J	GERSTLE KAREN	207 SENECA T
ANDREA		6522 ESTELE A
HUMANE SOCIETY ANIMAL		241 STEEDLY
CHARLES & KIMBERLY		457 BLEEMEL I
BOBBY J & GWENDOLYN		113 S ARBOR
T M T PROPERTIES LLC		11600 TRANOI
THAI	NGUYEN TUYET	7925 TOLLS LI
INVESTMENTS LLC		12016 HUDSOI
AVENUE REALTY LLC		258 EILER AVE
MAYELIN AVILA		6501 SOUTHSI
LLC		9302 FELSMER
CHARLES & KIMBERLY		457 BLEEMEL I
MARK & TERRI L		11600 TRANOI
KEVIN & HONG CHI Q		209 REVOLUTI
GARBAWI MUSTAFA		236 STEEDLY
PROPERTIES LLC		PO BOX 328
STEEDLEY DRIVE LAND TR		PO BOX 95
THANG P	AU KIM P	1110 GLENLAH
KENT ANDREW		1306 MOUNT H
PROPERTIES LLC		1518 PETUNIA
HAI TAN	NGUYEN TAI TAN	244 STEEDLY
INVESTMENTS LLC		1504 CROSSTI
NANCY G		6509 SOUTHSI
PROPERTIES LLC		PO BOX 328
ROBERTO T & MONER MART		6500 SOUTHSI
JOHN R & SHERRY S		9014 ROYAL C
MARIA SALAZAR	PEREZ ALBERT GINARTE	305 E SOUTHS
STEVE & NANCY		14401 BROOK
LAREDO SANCHEZ	MALDONADO YAQUELIN ALMAR	303 E SOUTHS
JAMES R & CONNIE SUE		6500 EVANGE
DAZNIE DE LA ROSA		6525 EVANGE
REALTY LLC		149 E WOODL
INVESTMENTS III LLC		4716 TAYLOR
VICTOR		6502 SOUTHSI
PROPERTIES LLC		PO BOX 328
CHARLES L & PAT L		6504 EVANGE
ALVIS L	PARSONS IVA	307 E SOUTHS
LISA G		4814 ROCKAW
MARY J		111 CAMBRIDG
<Null>	<Null>	<Null>
WAYNE HARDY SPECIAL NE	HARDY RUTH S	301 E SOUTHS
LOUIS R & AURDEY K		100 CAMBRIDG



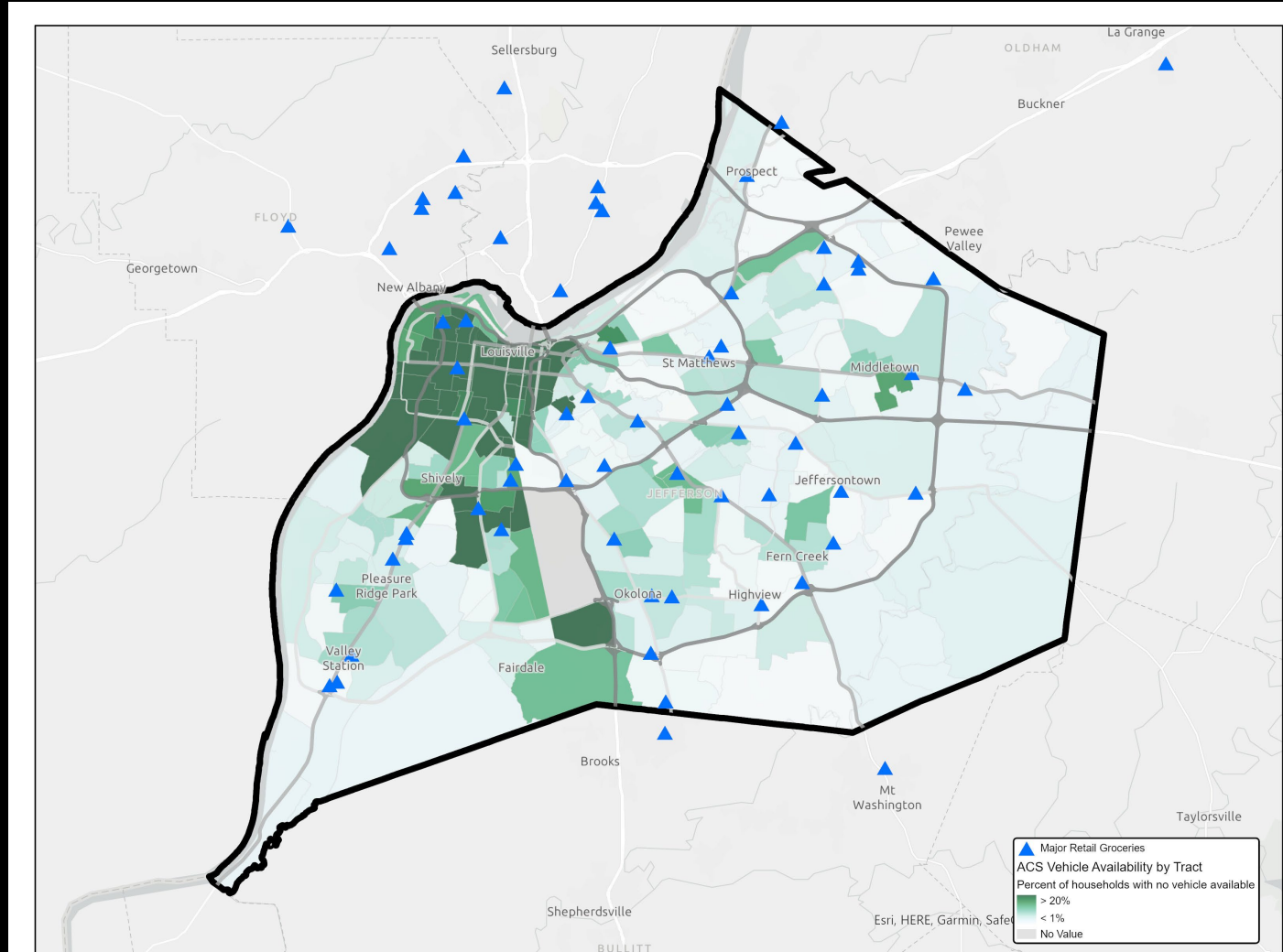
# Other “where” questions...



# Other “where” questions...

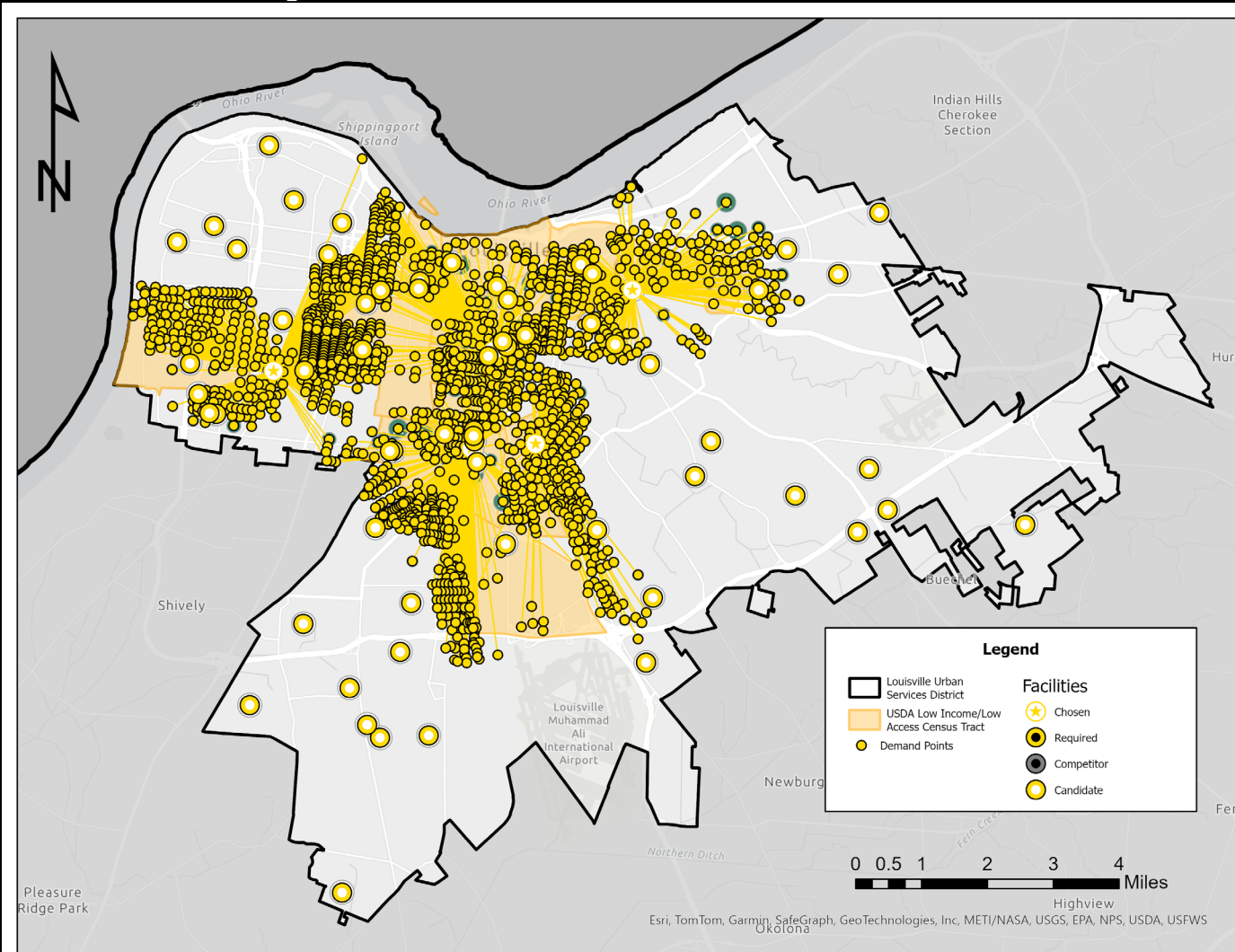


# Other “where” questions...





# Other “where” questions...



# Remote Sensing

- Remote sensing uses satellite or aerial sensors to detect and monitor changes on Earth's surface.
- Provides consistent, large-scale data on land cover, vegetation, water, and more.



Google Earth Timelapse  
Hefei, China  
2000





Google Earth Timeline

Whitesville, West Virginia

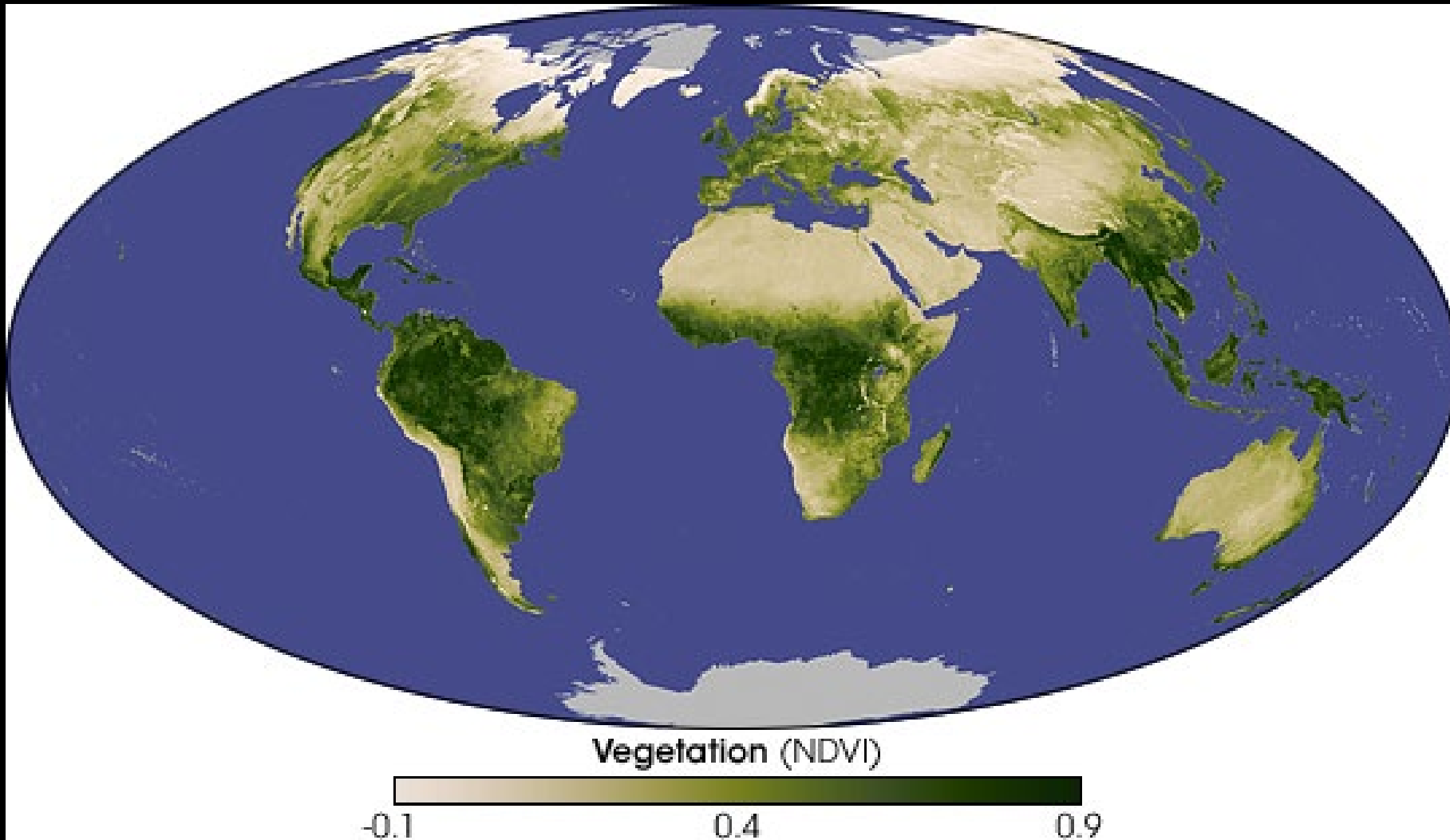
2009





# Remote Sensing







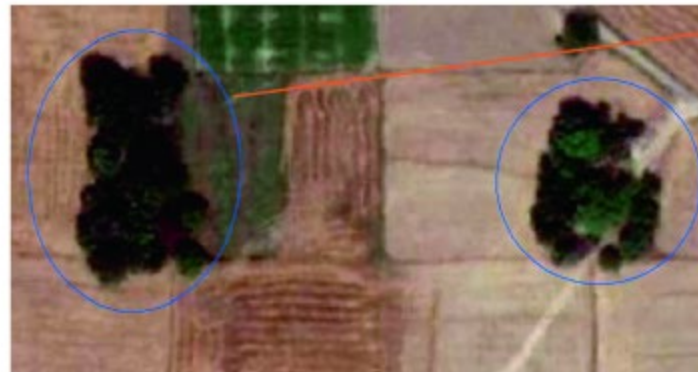
# Drones

- Detailed, on-demand views from low altitude.





Drone Imagery



Satellite Imagery





# Real-World Examples



# Social and Demographic Mapping

- Where are people and what are they like?
- How do environmental hazards disproportionately impact different social groups?

**Step 1: Select State**  
Set the Context**Step 2: Select County**  
Generate a Profile

A mapping tool to help understand the potential impact of disasters to people, businesses, and the economy.

**To set the Community Context (right panel):**

'Select a State' in Step 1 or Draw a Region in the



Map Using the select tool The right panel will update to reflect your chosen state or region.

**To generate County Profile (tabs):**

'Select a County' in Step 2. Census tract information is included in maps on County Profiles.

**Responsive Legend**

Census Datasets (states, counties, census tracts)

**Community Resilience Estimates****Predominant Category of Social Vulnerability (SV) - Tracts (CRE 2022)****Predominant category**

- Estimated population with 3+ components of SV
- Estimated population with 1-2 components of SV
- Estimated population with 0 components of SV
- No one group predominant or Population is 0

**Reference Layer Legend**

(Overlays from other data sources)

Active Hurricanes, Cyclones and Typhoons (Source: NOAA)

**Forecast Position**

Classify by Wind Speed



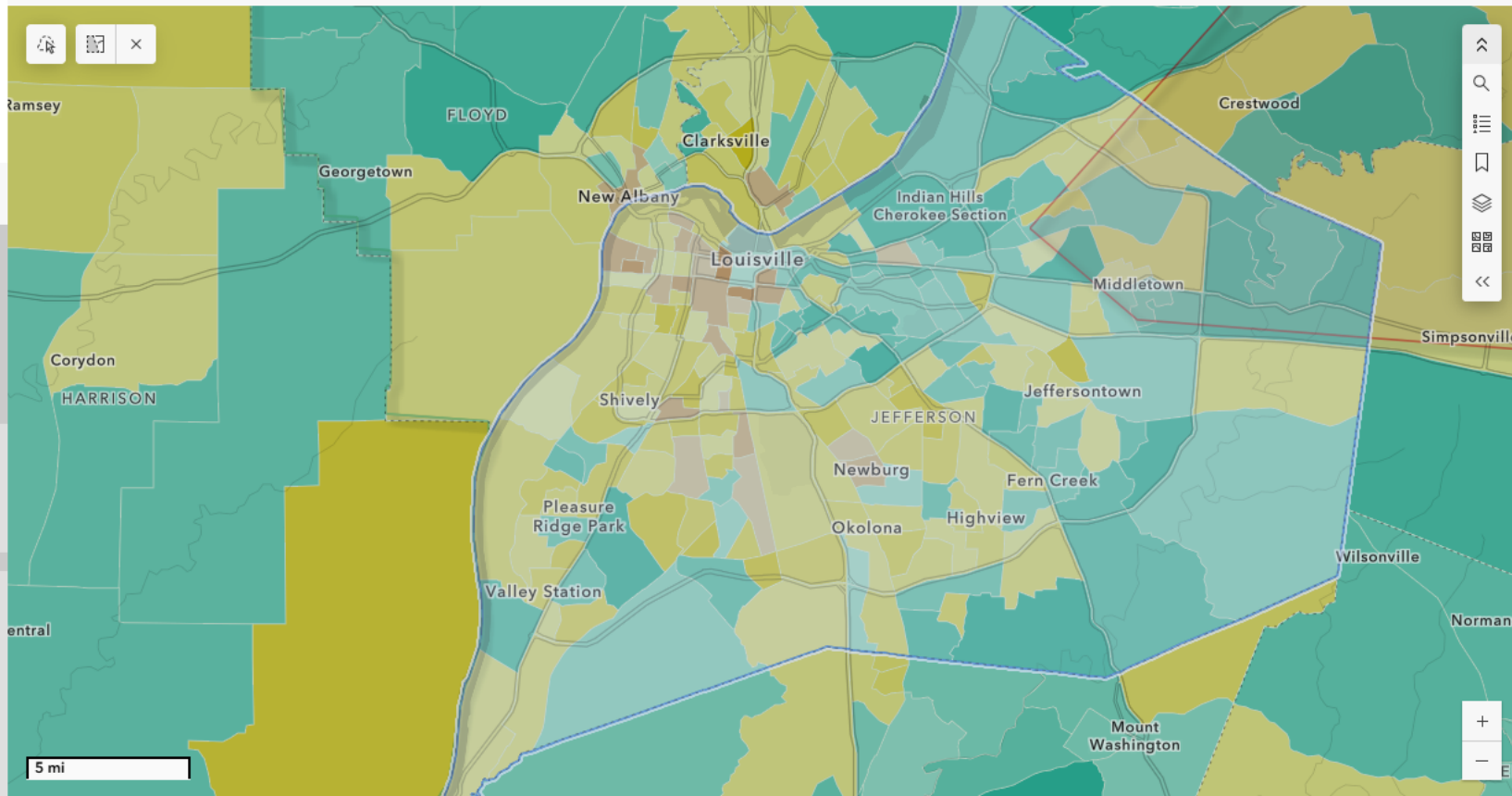
Category 5



Category 4

**Interactive Map: Explore Census Bureau and Emergency Response Reference Datasets**

Select Thematic & Reference Layers to view by clicking Layers icon in map then turning layers on & off | Expand the map by clicking in the upper right corner



Commonwealth of Kentucky, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS | U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2018-2022 5-year estimates, | US EPA, ... Powered by Esri

[American Community Survey](#) 2018-2022, [Community Resilience Estimates](#) 2022, [County Business Patterns](#) 2022, & [Nonemployer Statistics](#) 2022

**Community Context**

USA Totals shown until state and/or region is selected

**Selected Region Contains: 1 Counties**

Jefferson County

Kentucky

**Households**

327.2K

**Population**

779.2K

Population with 3+ Components of Social Vulnerability  
Community Resilience Estimates 2022

**20.89%**

[Explore CRE](#)

**Household Characteristics**

ACS 2018-2022 5-Year Estimates

Below Poverty:

**43.3K**

or 13.2%

Without Vehicle:

**29.5K**

or 9.0%

1+ Disability:

**84.3K**

or 25.8%

With Broadband:

**291.4K**

or 89.1%

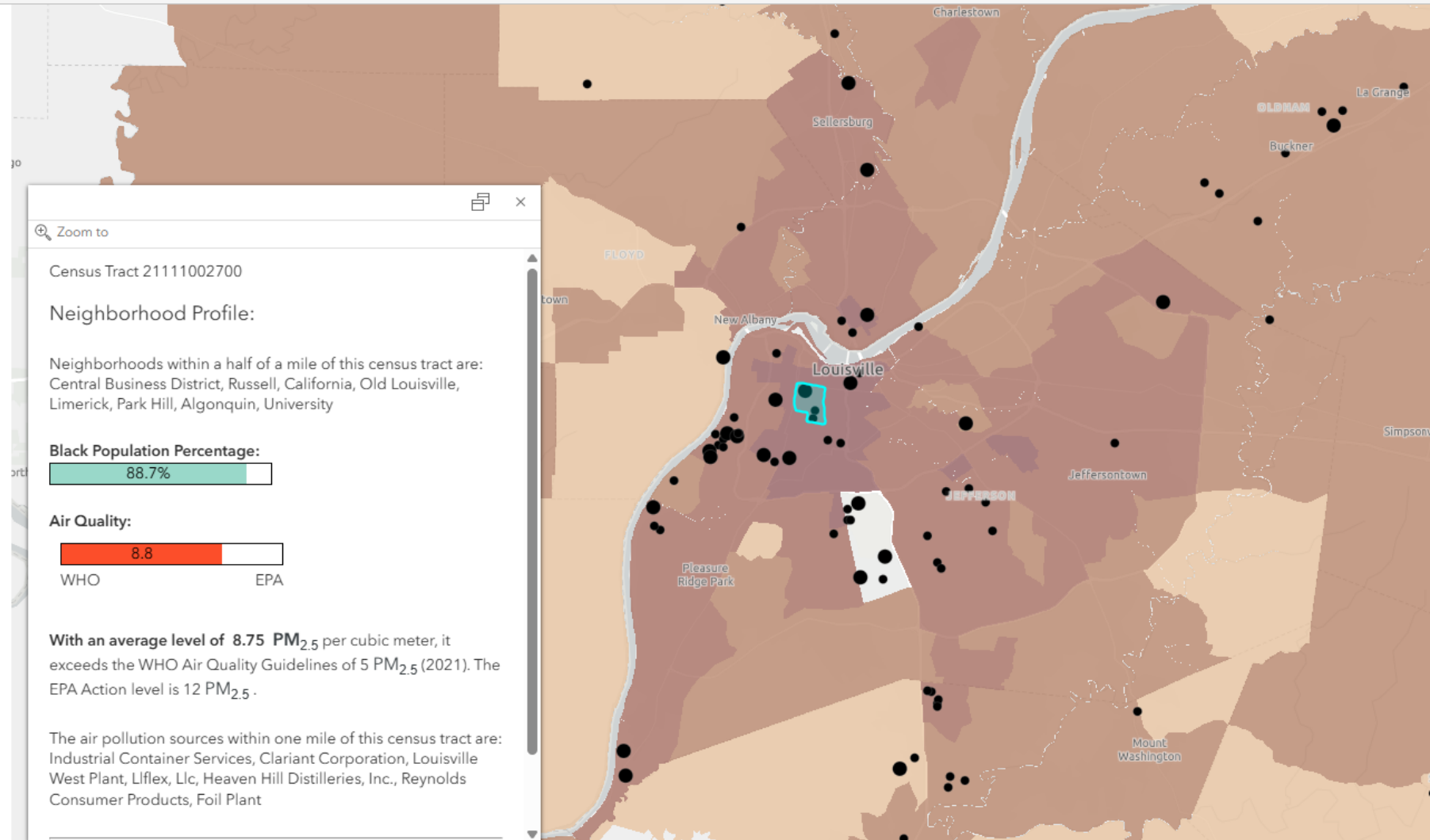
[View DP02, DP04, B22010, B17017 data at data.census.gov for](#)

[MoE & more](#) | [MOE Methodology for Aggregation](#)

[The Map](#)[Data Sources:](#)[Demographics](#)[Particulate Pollution](#)[Emissions Sources](#)[Neighborhoods](#)[Credits](#)

Welcome to our interactive web map exploring the relationship between air quality and racial demographics in Louisville.

**This map provides data for each census tract in Louisville, providing average Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) levels affecting different communities, focusing on the black population.**





# Physical and Environmental Mapping

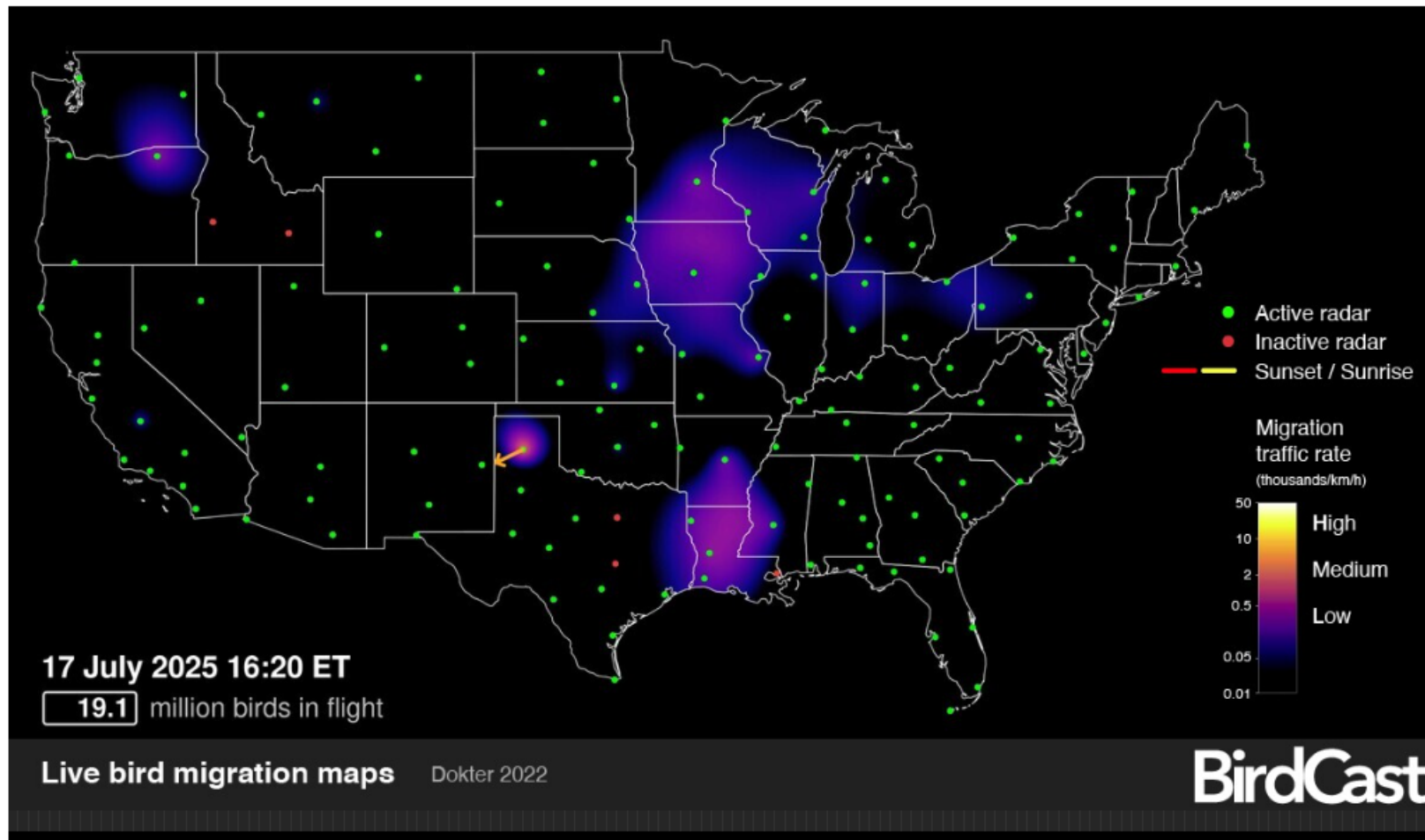
- Species habitat mapping/modeling
- Land cover change analysis
- Natural hazards vulnerability
- Climate change monitoring

[Home](#) > [Migration tools](#)

## Live bird migration maps

Select a date:

2025/07/16





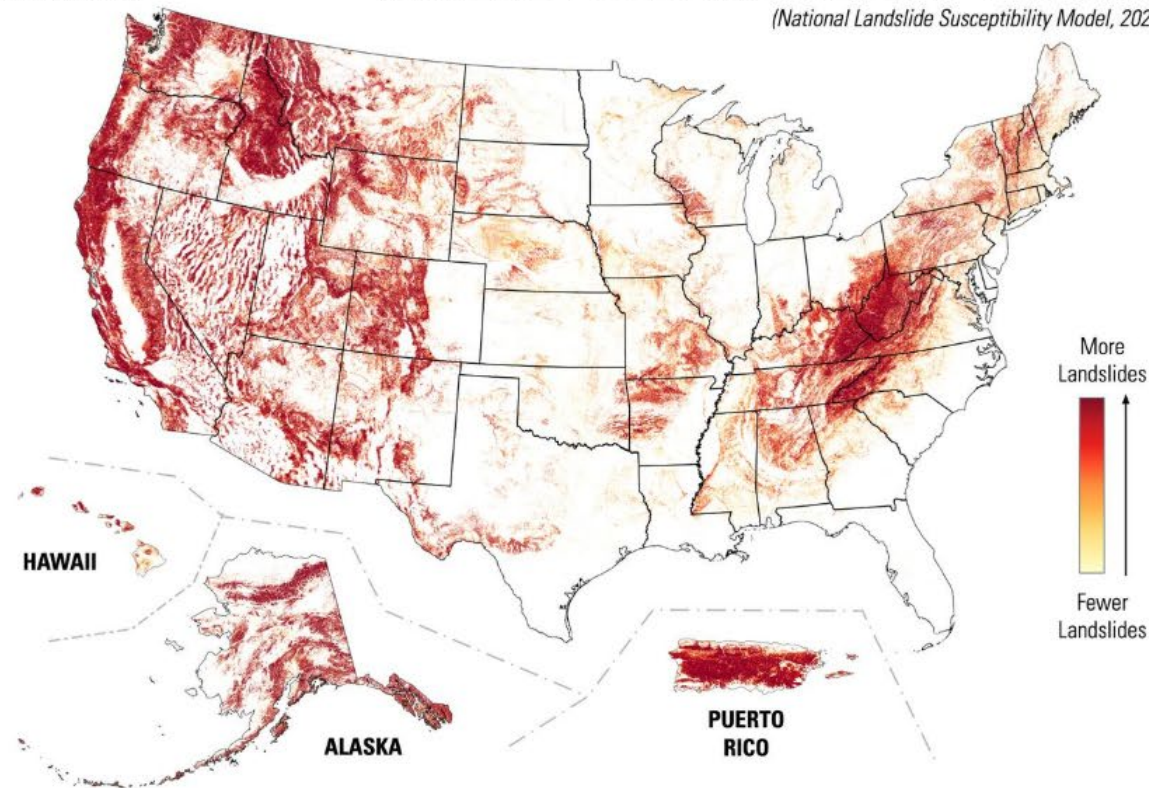
## Where Do Landslides Occur?

By [Communications and Publishing](#) SEPTEMBER 10, 2024



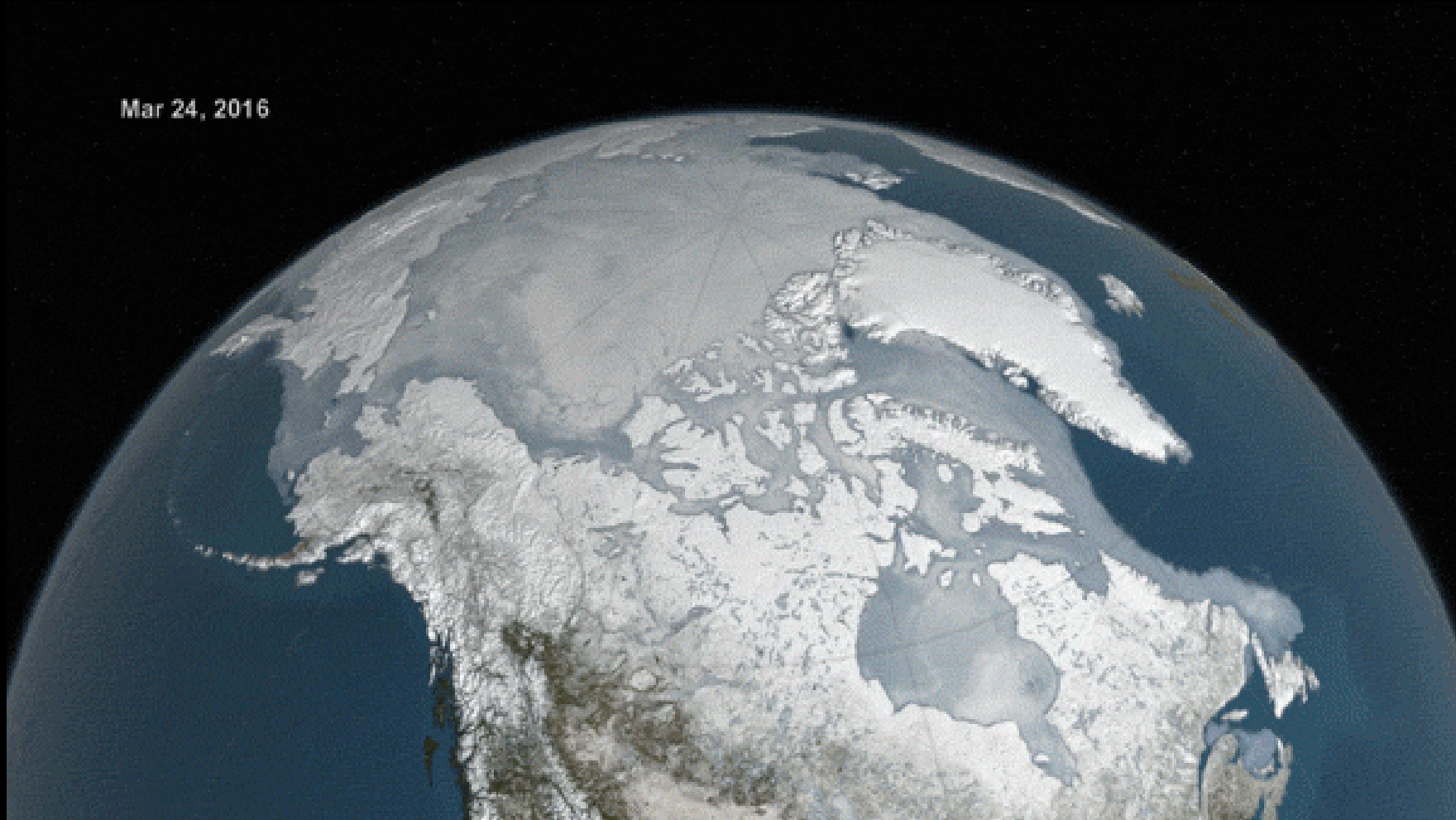
# WHERE DO LANDSLIDES OCCUR?

*(National Landslide Susceptibility Model, 2024)*

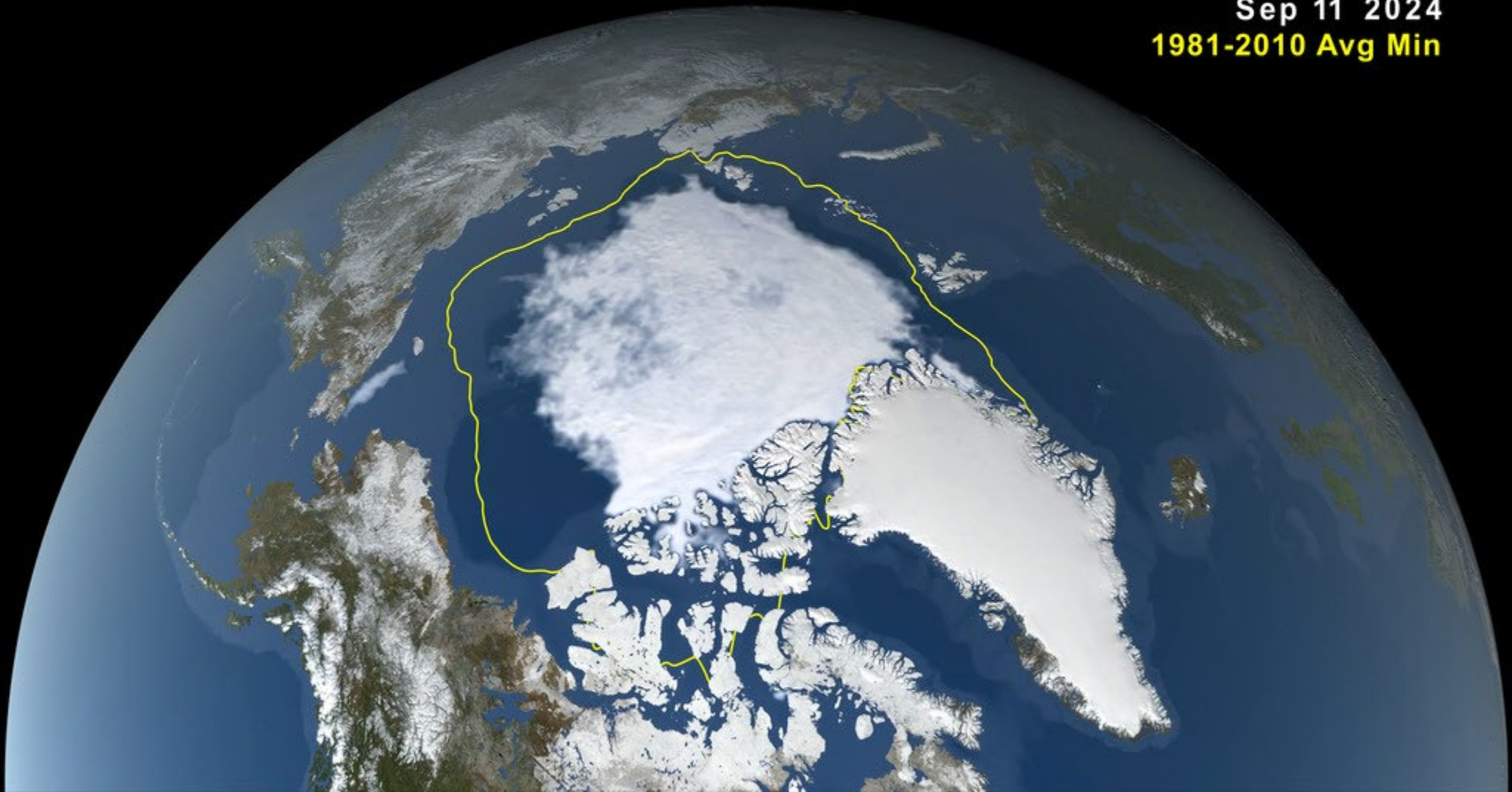




Mar 24, 2016



Sep 11 2024  
1981-2010 Avg Min





Contents

Legend

Help

All

Explore Partner Datasets



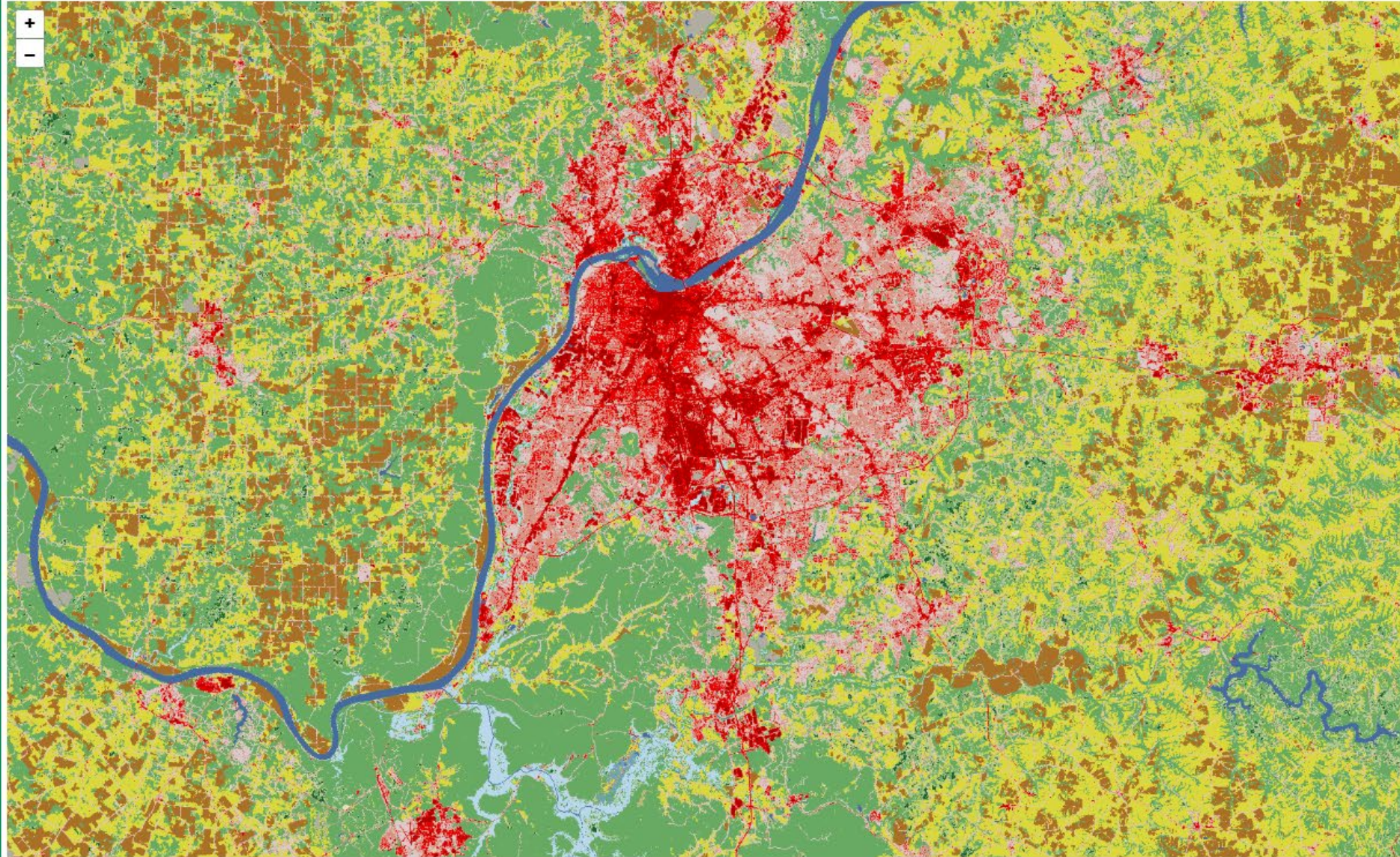
Dataset (Double click to open)

- Annual NLCD
  - Fractional Impervious Surface
  - Impervious Descriptor
  - Land Cover
  - Land Cover Change
  - Land Cover Confidence
  - Spectral Change Day of Year
  - Tree Canopy
- Annual NLCD Summary Products
- NLCD Tree Canopy
- Legacy NLCD

Layers

- Overlays
  - ☒ Land Cover (2024)
  - ☒ Legacy Land Cover 2016 AK Land Cover
- Boundaries
  - ☐ National Atlas States
  - ☐ US Counties
- Base Layers
  - ☒ ESRI World Imagery

All Annual NLCD Land Cover (2024)





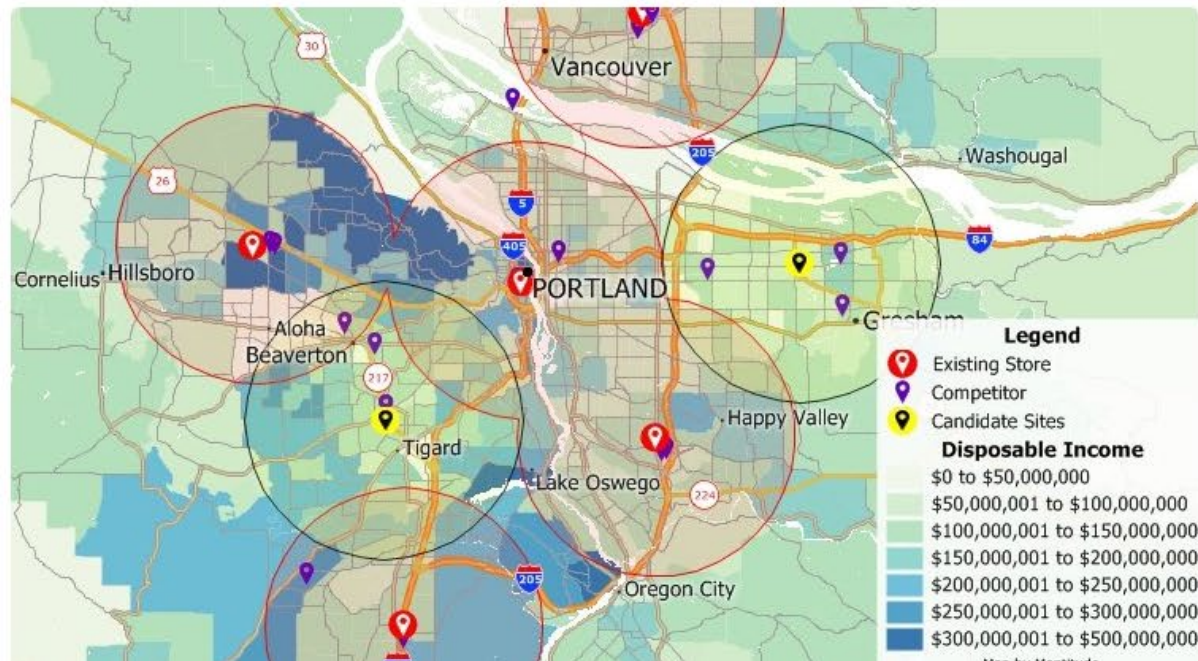
# Logistics and Transportation

- How can we minimize transportation costs?
- What is the best route for the UPS truck?
- What percentage of the population is within a one hour drive of a trauma center?
- Do we need a new TARC route due to population growth?

## GIS in Retail Site Selection Process

The retail site location process is not simply a matter of identifying available properties. It requires a series of analytical steps that GIS software is ideally suited to help answer:

- What amenities, attractions, and services are in the surrounding area
- What is the demographic profile of the market area in terms of education, employment, and buying power
- What competitive or complementary retail is in the immediate area
- Are there better locations available in the market area such as within a 15-minute drive time ring
- How accessible is the site from major roads and population centers



# Journalism and Storytelling

- Story Maps convey place-based narratives about a topic or idea
- Mashups of maps, text, and multimedia in an interactive web applications
- Effective and engaging communication in a web browser
- <https://storymaps.esri.com>



# Rising waters

Mapping the impact of  
Brazil's historic flooding

Esri's StoryMaps team

May 17, 2024

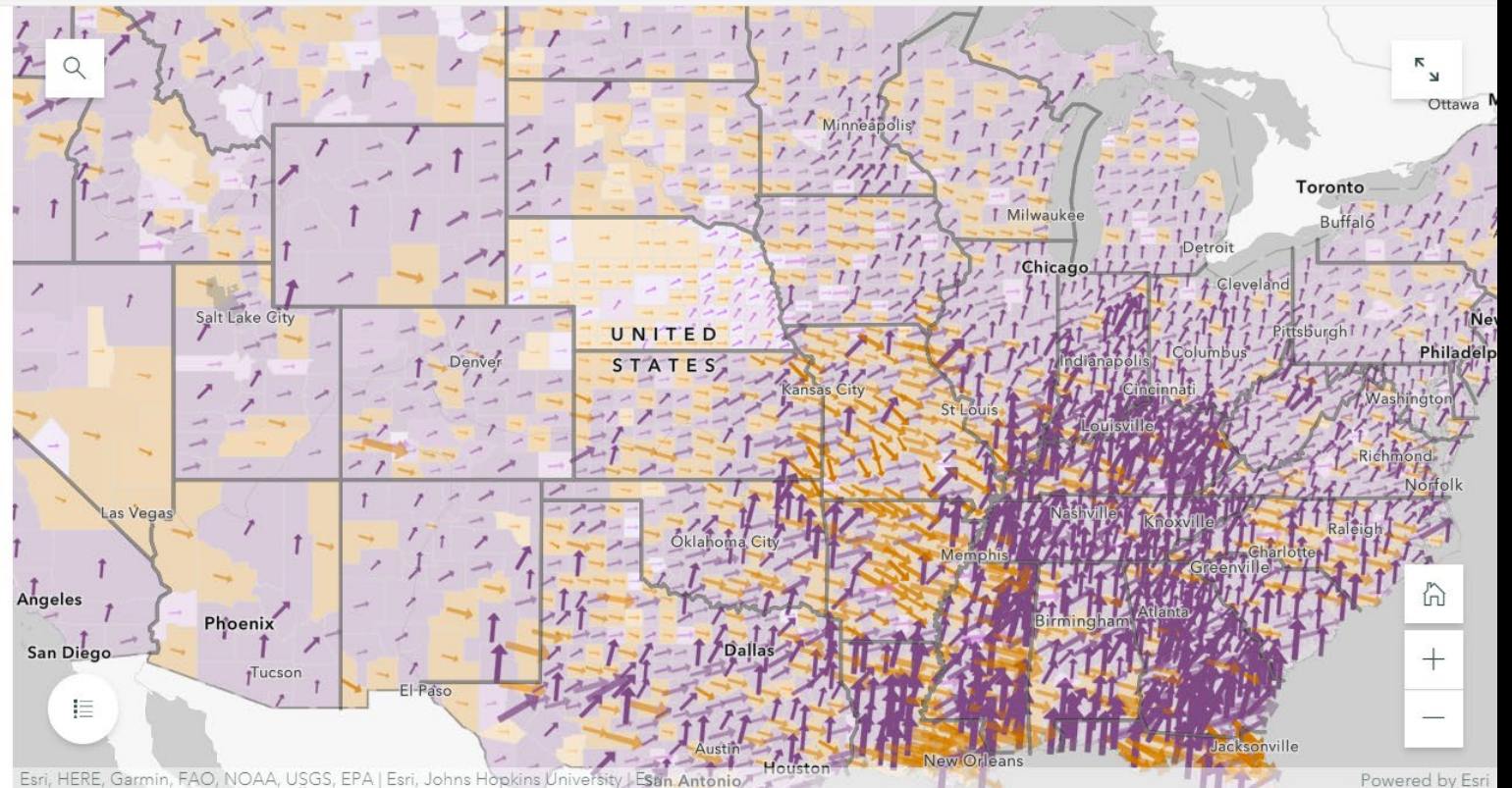




## About This Map

To help policy makers, business leaders and the public understand COVID-19 trends, Charlie Frye, Chief Cartographer at Esri, analyzes the week to week changes in active cases. By shifting focus from the highly variable daily changes in active case counts to a weekly perspective, we can see weekly trends emerge. The maps below show data through August 22, 2021.

This arrow map builds on a simple question most people want to know: are things getting better, or worse, in my





An aerial photograph of a city grid, likely Louisville, Kentucky, showing a dense pattern of streets and buildings. A semi-transparent dark grey overlay is applied to the entire image. The text 'Tree Equity Score' is written in white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

# Tree Equity Score





[National Map](#)

[Local Analyzers](#) ▾



# About Tree Equity Score

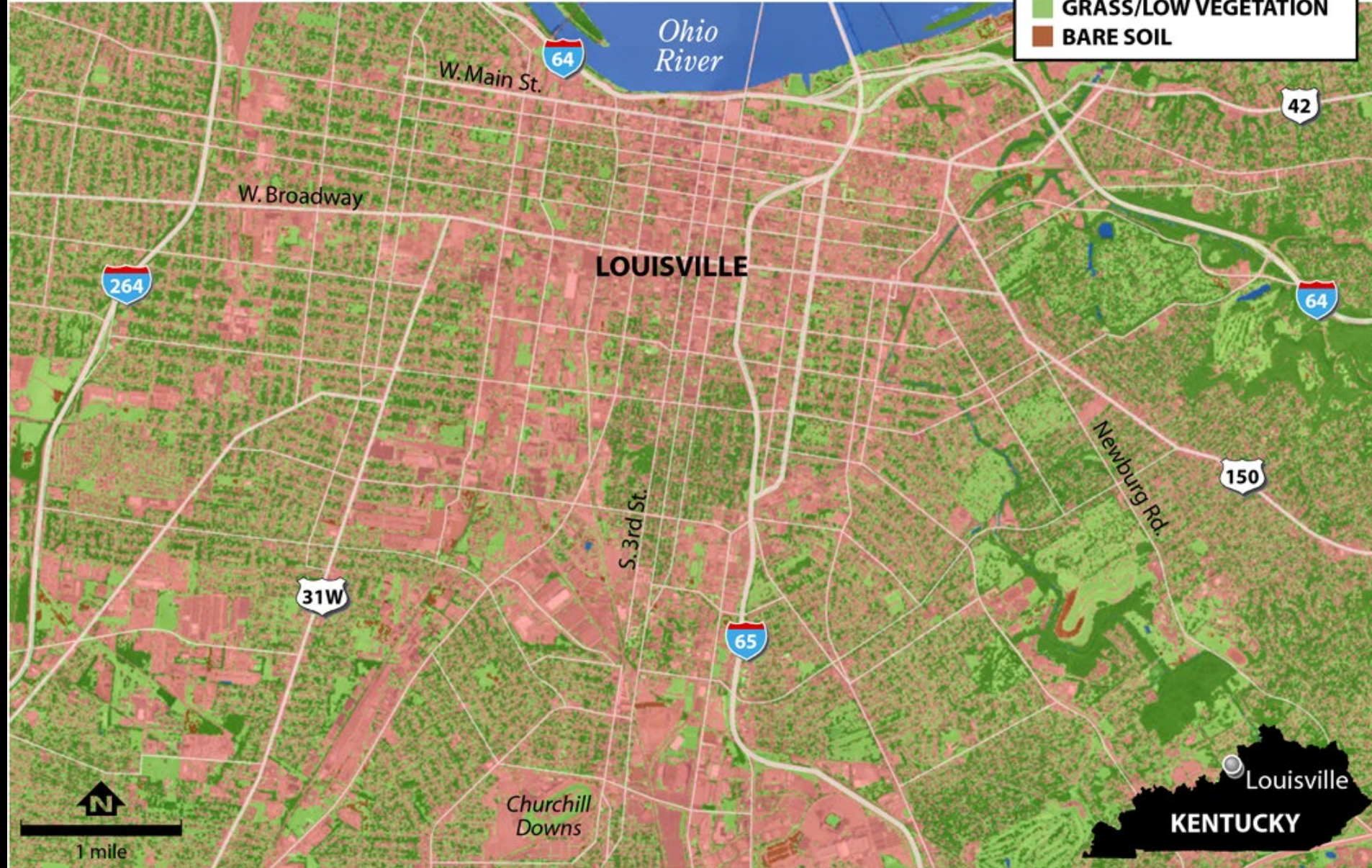
We believe data belongs to everyone.

OUR GOAL IS THAT URBAN COMMUNITIES HAVE THE  
RESOURCES TO GET HEALTHY TREES TO THOSE WHO  
NEED THEM THE MOST.



# Louisville's Changing Tree Cover

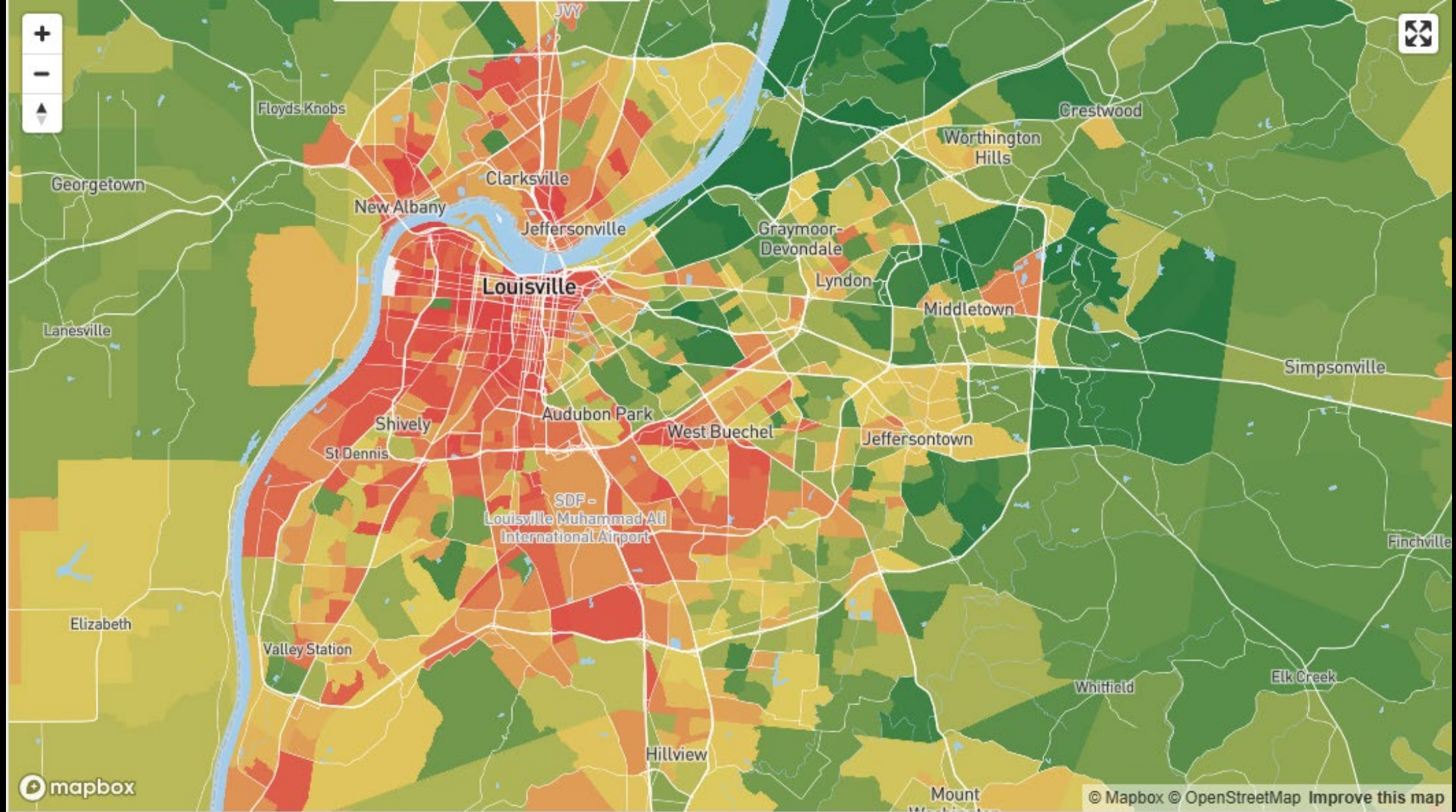
Much of downtown Louisville is largely devoid of tree cover, leaving it vulnerable to the heat island effect as the sun heats up the buildings, streets and parking lots.




SOURCE:cartotronics.com

PAUL HORN / InsideClimate News







**TREE EQUITY SCORE**

National Explorer

Search for a location

1 Find your score

Layers

Tree Equity Score

TREE CANOPY

Tree canopy cover

Tree canopy gap

PRIORITY INDICATORS

Priority index

People in poverty

People of color

Children and seniors

Unemployment

Linguistic isolation

Health burden index

Heat disparity

OTHER

Redlining

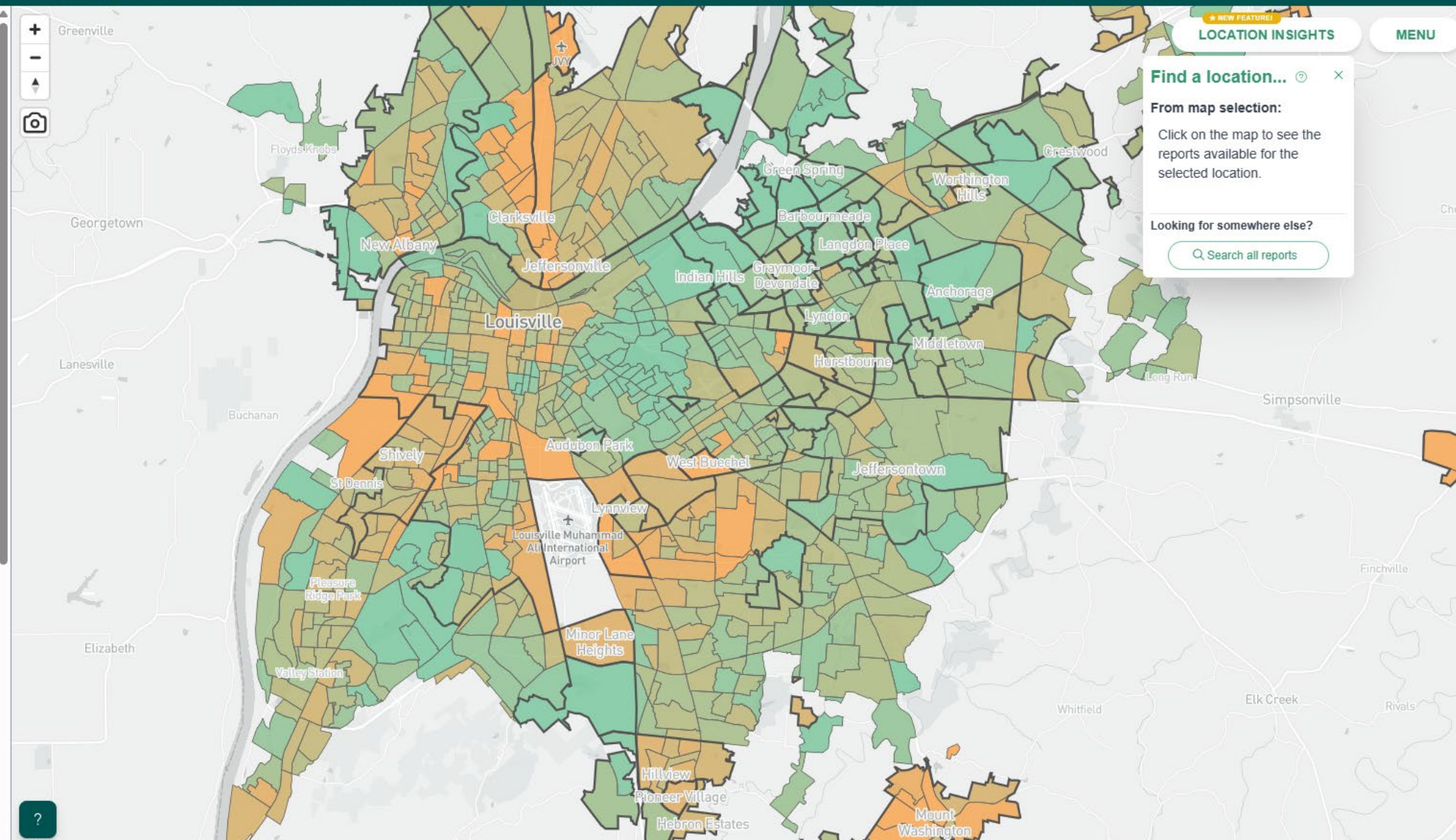
> Shade

BASE MAP

Default

Satellite

<70 100



NEW FEATURE!

LOCATION INSIGHTS

MENU

Find a location...

From map selection:

Click on the map to see the reports available for the selected location.

Looking for somewhere else?

Search all reports



Search for a location

Census Block Group 211110003002

Population 836 (7)

Louisville, KY

KY Congressional District 3

71

### Tree Equity Score <sup>(?)</sup>


Ranked 240th of 251 block groups in Louisville

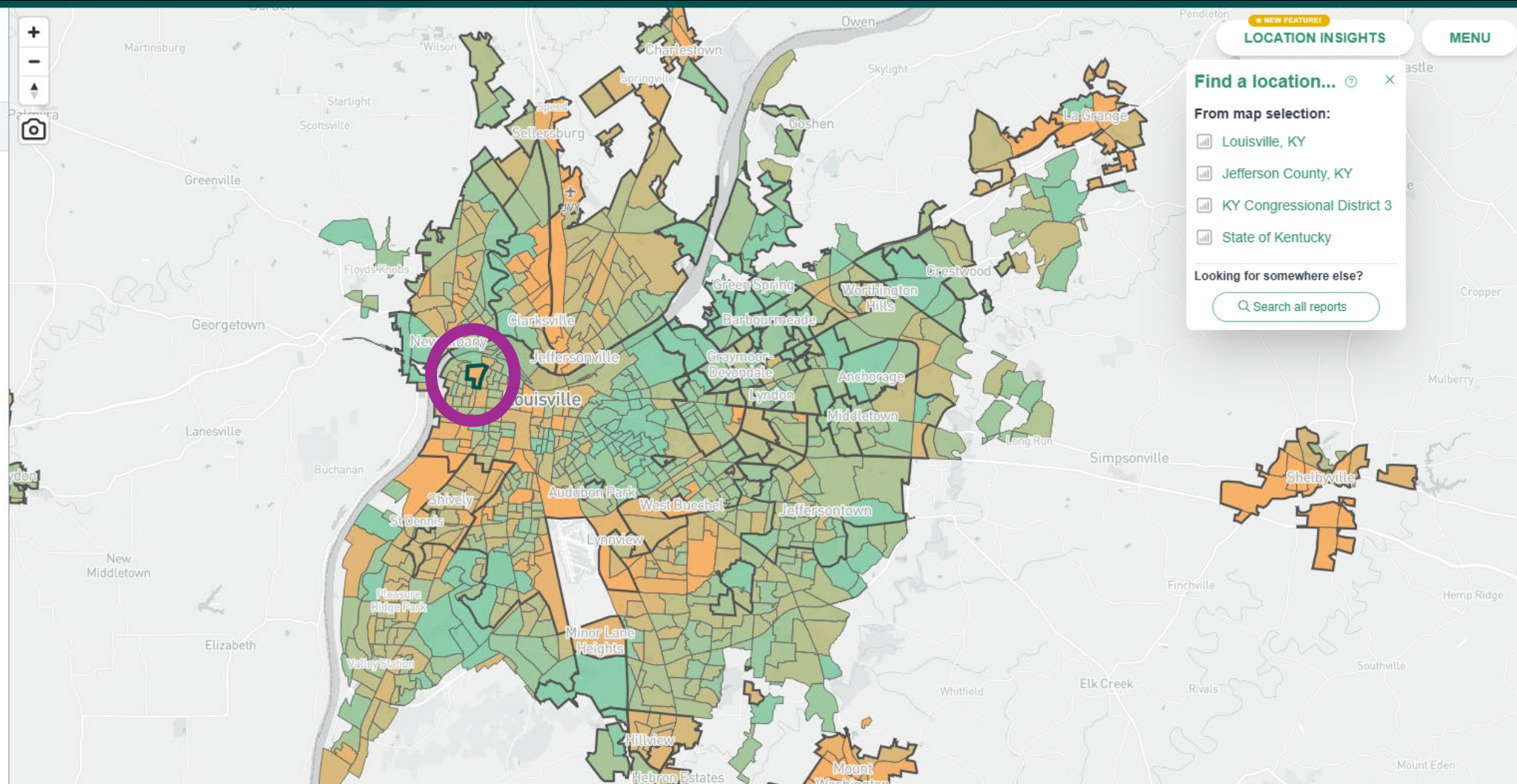
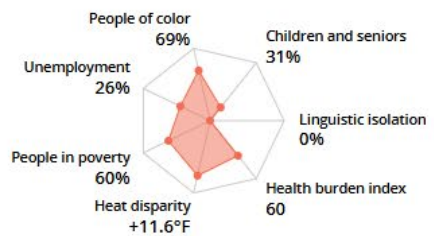
Priority **HIGH** 

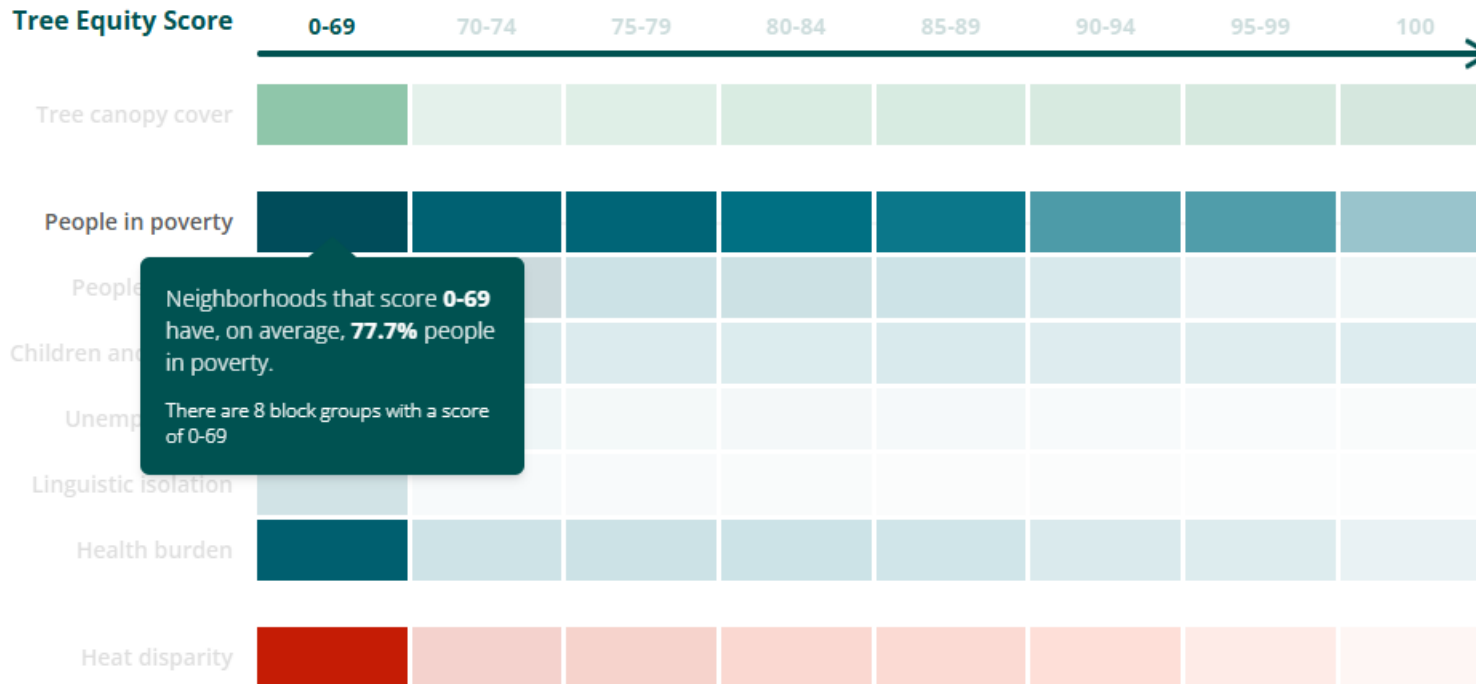
Current Canopy Cover 23% 

Canopy Cover Goal: 50% (?)

### Score indicators

Priority index 





Neighborhoods that score **0-69** have, on average, **77.7%** people in poverty.

There are 8 block groups with a score of 0-69

LOUISVILLE, KY

## Tree Equity Score Breakdown

Hover to explore the characteristics of neighborhoods with similar Tree Equity Scores.

### HOW TO READ IT

Neighborhoods are grouped from lowest to highest Tree Equity Scores, left to right. Darker colors represent higher values. Hover to gather data. Move vertically to get data for a single score range. Move horizontally to compare data across scores.



# Infinite Uses for GIS and Geospatial Tools

There are literally thousands of ways to use GIS to answer questions, create new knowledge, and help people understand their world a little better!

**Questions? Comments?**



# Thank you!

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<https://www.ulcgis.org>

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INFORMATION SCIENCES