

**Louisville Metro Government
Cities Connecting Children to Nature
Implementation Plan**



September 2016

Prepared in Consultation With:
Jefferson County Public Schools
Louisville Metro Mayor's Office
Louisville Metro Parks & Recreation
Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness
Louisville Nature Center
Outdoor Afro
YMCA of Greater Louisville
YouthBuild Louisville

(1) Executive Summary

The following Cities Connecting Children to Nature Implementation Plan, prepared and submitted by Louisville Metro Government agencies and community partners, is the result of genuine community collaboration, forged through regular conference calls, formal stakeholder meetings, one-on-one interactions, and connections through existing networks. Louisville prides itself on collective strength, which has influenced our community's dedication to education, healthcare, economic growth, and more equitable opportunities for all citizens.

Through a multifaceted gap assessment involving input from Metro agencies, hired consultants, public meetings, and community partners, a clear picture of the current state of nature access for Louisville's children has developed: the city's lower income neighborhoods face a multitude of barriers to green space access and rank considerably lower in key health and wellness indicators. Citizens facing such barriers are more likely to view nature as uncomfortable and are less likely to take advantage of nature opportunities in other parts of the city.

The Louisville Implementation Plan includes one key initiative to address these concerns, supported by three interrelated strategies – all of which were identified through rigorous communication and planning with internal and external partners. First and foremost is the expansion of out-of-school time (OST) programming, specifically in terms of nature-based activities. Through the creation of a Core Network Team of OST providers as well as through upcoming grants and training opportunities, this expansion will undergo continual transformation as our local OST Coordinating Council develops its sustainability plan for OST opportunities throughout the community. Aligning the efforts of the Coordinating Council with nature learning opportunities will have a positive impact on the academic success and overall health and wellbeing of our children in greatest need of support.

This expansion of OST programming will be coupled with the incorporation of a capacity-building mechanism in which young adults will have access to temporary green-facing employment opportunities. Experience gathered through this work, combined with other training opportunities at the neighborhood level, will ensure that more young people, especially those of color, serve as stewards to their environment and as leaders in their communities. Furthermore, community agencies will work to align nature-based programming and provide space for collective impact and dialogue through a broader stakeholder network. Finally, all of the above referenced initiatives will be supported by a cohesive branding campaign, building on the existing work of the Louisville Engaging Children Outdoors (ECHO) program.

During the planning phase, Louisville Metro agencies maintained constant communication with nature-based program providers, Jefferson County Public Schools, area non-profits involved in youth employment, other service providers, and community action groups. Major community convenings were held to discuss systemic barriers to nature access and to pull together collective ideas, which shaped this Implementation Plan. Leadership to pull community feedback into a collective response came from the Core Leadership Team in consultation with the National League of Cities and the Children and Nature Network. Survey results, in combination with the collective impact model described above, led to the development of the Plan's key strategies.

This Plan is intended to be a living document, and will be subject to continual revision based on the determination of best practices as well as feedback from all parties involved.

(2) Community Assessment Results

Background

Information utilized to form the Community Assessment stems from a number of sources, including several initiatives undertaken by Metro Parks and other agencies prior to our community's participation in this opportunity. Louisville's early efforts at gauging community attitudes and access to nature help frame the gaps identified in urban Louisville neighborhoods in terms of safe and equitable access to nature.

The 2014 West Louisville Outdoor Recreation Initiative (WLORI) initiated a community survey to assist Metro Parks in assessing attitudes to nature, with the overarching goal of establishing relevant and worthwhile recreational opportunities in West Louisville. Statistically valid results demonstrated that African American respondents, the vast majority of which resided in West Louisville, are less likely than their white counterparts to engage in outdoor activities including fishing, camping, canoeing, hiking, horseback riding, and walking. Biking, canoeing, fishing, archery, and hiking were listed by African Americans as outdoor activities they were most interested in exploring.

In 2015, the Louisville Metro Community Services Department carried out a Community Needs Assessment. Though not specifically focused on nature activities, the assessment did showcase a broad need for additional out-of-school time (OST) programming and youth employment opportunities – both of which inform this project's goal to establish nature-related OST programs as well as a Summer Works youth employment program with a focus on green facing jobs.

A year later, Metro Parks carried out its own Needs Assessment through a non-random survey. Of the 904 respondents, 55 percent indicated that access to nearby nature was sufficient, with twelve percent stating they had little or no access to nature opportunities. However, the results of this assessment are limited as less than two percent of respondents were youth under 18; only 3.5 percent identified as African American – of those, only 1.5 percent lived in neighborhoods targeted by this project's gap assessment. While it is difficult to draw definitive conclusions from such a small sample, it may be noted that half of all respondents from urban neighborhoods expressed that they had little or no access to safe and accessible nature opportunities.

Though the findings of the above referenced assessments do not directly inform the gap analysis to be carried out through this project, some major takeaways have been identified. The WLORI analysis supports the notion that African Americans no less likely than whites desire access to outdoor activities. The Community Services Department assessment identifies a need for increased OST activities as well as support for youth employment opportunities. All of the above showcase that a more systemic and community-wide approach is necessary to better reflect the needs of the community.

Children and Nature Community Assessment – Process

In order to develop a process to reach the greatest number of respondents in the most efficient manner, the Core Leadership Team established a survey development committee featuring representatives from Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), YMCA of Greater Louisville, the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness, and Metro Parks. A local consultant led the development of the survey instrument, which resulted in two documents:

- A Partner Survey to glean what programs exist through identified entities providing nature-related programming.

- A Community Survey to establish trends regarding overall interest in nature opportunities.

A listing of groups and agencies that received one or both of the surveys can be found in the appendix of this document.

In April 2016, the Community Survey was sent to an extensive list of program providers, schools, child care centers, and other agencies that focus on children and education. This survey was administered prior to the closing of the school year in order to reach the greatest amount of children and caregivers. In total, 611 community surveys were collected, featuring a response rate from African Americans of nearly twenty-five percent while youth aged 18 and under had a response rate of thirty percent. Though this survey had a better response rate from target groups, results from identified neighborhoods were not ideal—the lowest rates of responses were found in the Russell and California-Parkland neighborhoods. This is significant because data tracked as part of this project (and explored in greater detail below) exhibits that these neighborhoods possess the greatest levels of inequity across most examined indicators such as income patterns, life expectancy, and health outcomes. More affluent neighborhoods, mostly in northeastern Jefferson County, had a higher response rate; this could be a reflection of skewed responses from those with easy access to online venues and social media.

The Core Leadership Team released the Partner Survey in two rounds – one in May 2016 and another in August 2016. In total, twenty-two responses were returned. Stakeholder meetings in June and August based around the Children and Nature initiative featured an outreach component to promote the survey. Many identified partners, however, neglected to complete the survey as they did not consider their programming nature-related.

As both surveys were being conducted, the Core Leadership Team worked with the Center for Neighborhoods to perform an asset inventory through demographic data collection and mapping. The Center for Neighborhoods reached out to Jefferson County Public Schools, Metro Parks, the Center for Health Equity, and other partners to gather all relevant data pieces. A series of maps was developed to display all information collected such as service providers, schools, green space, and public transportation routes on a neighborhood level, as well as comparative demographic data such as the percentage of youth in each neighborhood. All relevant maps are located in the appendix.

Summary of Findings

The findings that follow stem from the project's original focus on using nature to improve our community's access to health and wellness, education, and green facing jobs. Gap and asset assessments carried out through this project, as showcased through maps and survey findings, led the Core Leadership Team to identify a generally contiguous focus area including West Louisville moving east to Smoketown and south to south-central Louisville. Resources and infrastructure that are conducive to strategy implementation within the three-year timeframe of this project are best focused on this contiguous area.

Results from the general Community Survey led the Core Leadership Team to the following preliminary conclusions:

- Respondents from all neighborhoods indicated a willingness to organize and clean up neighborhood natural spaces, plant trees, and help neighbors gain access to nature.
- Half of all responses stated they find nature every day in their yard; neighborhoods in West Louisville were significantly less likely to follow this trend, as only 25 percent near Park

Duvalle and less than 38 percent in Chickasaw/Shawnee, Old Louisville, and Portland/Russell concurred.

- Less than four percent of all respondents indicated that nature makes them feel uncomfortable, scared, or unwelcome. Twelve percent of respondents in Park Duvalle, however, stated that nature made them feel uncomfortable; six percent reported feeling scared. Similarly, fifteen percent of respondents in Newburg indicated discomfort while nine percent stated they felt unwelcome in nature.
- Sixty-three percent of all respondents stated that time constraints were most likely to keep them from spending time in nature; the second most common reason, with twenty-five percent of respondents, involved not having anyone to go with; nearly fifteen percent indicated that a lack of natural areas near their home and/or health concerns prevented them from enjoying nature. Interestingly, these results were relatively consistent between neighborhoods.

Conclusions drawn from the Partner Survey include:

- Sixty percent of respondents described their nature programming as ‘educational’, thirty percent as ‘recreational’, five percent as a health program, and five percent as ‘other’.
- The overwhelming majority (ninety percent) have programs targeted toward those thirteen years of age or younger, compared with forty percent that serve those nineteen years and older.
- Nature programming activities occur more frequently in the spring and summer months.
- Sixty percent charge fees for summer programming; fifty percent of all respondents stated they provide scholarships for qualified participants.
- Service providers are concentrated heavily in relative proximity to urban neighborhoods.

Demographic asset mapping by the Center for Neighborhoods presented the following findings:

- Greenspace assets are abundant in Jefferson County, though they are not equally distributed; Russell, California, Smoketown, and south-central Louisville greatly lack high quality greenspace in close proximity to residential areas.
- Day care and youth service providers are also abundant, presenting an opportunity for expanded engagement of community partners in the future.
- The “People and Youth Per Square Mile” map indicates that the highest density of youth under eighteen years of age is found in west and south Louisville neighborhoods, reinforcing the goal of targeting these areas for increased access to nature.
- The “Nature Programming & Youth Service Providers” map showcases that programming and services are available near all urban neighborhoods; as earlier referenced, this presents an opportunity to expand engagement.
- Most identified neighborhoods feature higher than average rates of single parent households, reinforcing the notion of time as a barrier to nature access for children.
- Health indicators display that neighborhoods in west and south-central Louisville have a life expectancy at least ten years less on average than their counterparts in eastern Jefferson County.
- General demographic data displays an uneven distribution of racial and ethnic groups, which a high density in West Louisville into Smoketown and the south.

Combined, the above referenced methods for assessing Louisville's strengths and weaknesses regarding access to nature paint a clear picture of the identified areas on which the project should focus.

(3) Implementation Strategies

Primary Strategy

Our primary strategy is to increase nature-related out-of-school time (OST) opportunities for low-income and youth of color within urban neighborhoods identified through the assessment phase. We arrived at this strategy as a result of a combination of local factors. First among these is the collective judgment of agency and service provider representatives participating in our two strategy development sessions. At the end of facilitated discussion across these sessions, improving OST was the overwhelming suggested primary strategy. This collective opinion was formed based on participants' appreciation of the research that indicates increased OST opportunities for youth in low-income neighborhoods improve outcomes for youth related to education attainment, career opportunities, health and wellness, and crime in low-income neighborhoods.

In addition, the gap assessment, particularly the inventory of nature-based program offerings, indicated that there are relatively few service providers offering nature-based OST programming within identified urban areas. Most entities offering nature programming are located outside of these neighborhoods and offer such programs only at their facilities. An exception is the Louisville Engaging Children Outdoors (ECHO) OST component which has only been in existence since 2015 and offers a limited number of outreach programs serving youth from service providers in some, but not all, of the individual neighborhoods comprising the identified area. Data from this program indicated that over a 9-month period through August 2016, 95 unique youth were provided the opportunity to participate in programs and the average dosage per child across that period was 4.1 hours. That being said, the asset inventory identified many data points that indicate great potential to expand nature-related OST in urban areas. These include the relative density of youth service and day care providers (potential partners and/or conduit youth access), schools, and, owing to Louisville's legacy of parks, relatively good access to green space of varying degrees of quality. Based on this information, ample potential exists for expanding nature-based OST in identified neighborhoods, especially when combined with additional strategies.

Elaborating on the description of our primary strategy, we specifically propose to meaningfully expand the OST component of Louisville Metro Parks' existing, but currently geographically limited, initiative focused on equitable engagement of children in nature. Louisville ECHO currently provides a range of outdoor experiences including environmental education/interpretation and adventure-based recreation to youth from participating neighborhood youth service providers. At its most basic level, expansion of the ECHO program involves broadening the initiative to engage additional key OST service providers as partners to increase the number and frequency of nature-related OST opportunities for neighborhood children beyond those currently offered by Louisville Metro Parks alone. In addition, the strategy seeks to improve not just quantity of OST offerings, but also 1) the quality of the OST opportunities provided; 2) the total number of participating children; and 3) the dosage of nature experiences per child. As such, its success is dependent, in part, upon the support and success of our additional strategies including: improvement of capacity at the neighborhood level related to nature access; implementation of branding and outreach strategy to raise awareness and increase participation; and creation of a collaborative framework to bind the network of committed partners moving forward (see discussion below). Our key indicators will be (1) the number of children participating in nature related programs; and (2) the average dosage of nature explore per

participating child. We view these indicators as proxies for a number of other indicators that will contribute to realization of our end results and improve outcomes related to health and wellness, education, and access to green facing career opportunities.

This strategy will be led by staff from the Louisville Metro Parks Department. Specifically overall leadership will be provided by Bennett Knox, Administrator the Metro Parks' Natural Areas Division with staff support from Rebecca Minnick, Natural Areas Division Program Manager, and a part-time initiative coordinator to be hired with grant funds. In the first year, the new relationships will be developed between organizations that have indicated support for the initiative. The diversity of assembled committed organizations - Metro Parks, YMCA, Outdoor Afro Kentucky, The Louisville Nature Center, and the Louisville Department of Public Health and Wellness - speaks to the nature of supportive actions that will be undertaken to advance this strategy. This includes a commitment that, in the first year, the core Louisville ECHO OST program components offered by Metro Parks will align with best practice standards as part of the Building Louisville's Out-of-School Time Coordinated System (BLOCS). Further, over years two and three we will seek to encourage additional nature-related OST service providers participating in initiative to pursue BLOCS program certification as part of the commitment to the initiative. Participating organizations will commit to data collection and sharing necessary to measure indicator progress, but also to support additional complementary strategies.

In terms of equity gains, we begin with an admittedly low documented baseline, as previously mentioned, of 95 youth served with an average dosage of 4.1 hours spent in nature. A projected estimate of gains would be as follows:

- By October 31st, 2017 we estimate that 200 youth will be provided with nature-related OST programming opportunities and a dosage of 10 hours spent in nature;
- By the end of the 36 month implementation phase, 500 youth will participate annually with an average dosage of 15 hours spent in nature.

In five to ten years, we envision providing between 500 and 1,000 children with nature-based OST opportunities that result in an average dosage of 15 hours spent in nature annually. In keeping with oft-stated goal to create substantial opportunities for participating youth to access expanded green facing education and career opportunities, we expect to see a relatively smaller number of participants, perhaps fifty experiencing a very high dosage (e.g., in excess of 30 hours) and showing a real affinity for nature. If our supporting strategies are successful, we believe that over the next five to ten years we will begin to see a substantial number of participants moving into green facing positions associated with organizations participating in the Core Nature Network and broader group of stakeholders.

Additional Strategy 1 (Branding/Community Outreach)

Key to the implementation of our primary strategy is the commitment to a branding and community outreach strategy that engages parents and caregivers in order to drive participation. This involves examining, enhancing, and reconfiguring the existing brand, Louisville ECHO, which, although established to a degree in the minds of existing partners, has little brand awareness in urban communities among parents. We intend to extend this brand beyond Louisville Metro Parks to serve as an umbrella through which partners can coordinate. This strategy involves multiple phases with the first phase being intended to specifically target parents of children in the identified neighborhoods via schools and community service providers to introduce them to the initiative and

the potential benefits to their children, and to promote, and encourage participation in, offered activities.

The strategy obviously relates to the domain of communications and marketing and will require creation of standard marketing materials as well as established communication methods, but it also serves the critical purpose of supporting data analysis and sharing. Our objectives include standardizing data collection among partner service providers to facilitate indicator tracking and creating a communications link for participating parents in order to improve dosage per participant and create pathways for improved and more lasting nature connectivity. Therefore, part of the effort will require obtaining parent contact information and consent to be informed of opportunities from partner organizations.

Activities in year one will focus on: (1) developing the brand; (2) effectively establishing protocols between the modest, yet manageable set of initial partners. In years two and three the strategy will create a Nature Pass program on a broader geographic basis to facilitate, through promotion and incentive programs, the tracking of attendance for nature programs beyond the reach of OST providers –this would include visits to other area facilities such as, but not limited to, Bernheim Forest and the Parklands of Floyds Fork.

This strategy will be led by SteVon Edwards, Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness. It will be supported by individuals from Louisville Metro Parks, including a commitment of a portion of the hours from a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA member.

Additional Strategy 2 (Capacity Building)

Our overall effort is committed to increasing the capacity of individuals who live in identified neighborhoods to create and extend opportunities for access to nature within their neighborhoods. Long-term, we are committed to creating a pipeline from urban neighborhoods that extends from participation in nature-related OST to opportunities in green-facing career, employment, and even volunteer positions across the community. To do so, in the first year we will leverage a \$10,000 Healthiest Cities and Counties grant from Aetna that aligns perfectly with our CCCN strategies in terms of timing and objectives. Our strategy involves identifying young adults and adults to receive initial training to conduct nature-based educational and recreation programming and utilize trained individuals, depending upon their interests and abilities to either assist or lead, on a volunteer basis, OST programs offered by program partners through October 2017. Additionally, we will seek to leverage Metro Louisville's Summer Works program in partnership with YouthBuild Louisville to create paid employment opportunities for a portion of these trained young adults with Louisville Metro Parks. The Aetna opportunity will continue into year two of our implementation horizon and there is potential for a subsequent award that would extend into year three. We are hopeful, but cannot confirm, that the Summer Works opportunity will also continue in years two and three.

The effort will be led by Bennett Knox, Louisville Metro Parks working closely with a strategy leadership team composed of the leaders of the Metro Parks Natural Areas Division, Outdoor Afro, the Louisville Nature Center, and YouthBuild Louisville. We will create training, train the trainer, and job/volunteer opportunities for young adults and adults in the fields of outdoor education and recreation. This will create local capacity for expansion of OST programming opportunities. This strategy supports the domain of action of enhancing places and connectors as it will create a layer of support above the participant level will better connect youth to the existing universe nature-based OST providers. Aside from the work of Outdoor Afro over the past few years, this level of participation is currently not well developed.

Additional Strategy 3 (Nature Network Structure Development)

Our final strategy involves formalizing the relationship between the service providers and other entities participating in this initiative. Based on collective consensus from meetings, we do not seek to create a formal new entity that would compete with existing entities for resources or complicate messaging. Rather, based on feedback from the CCCN team, we seek to document the relationship and commitments of the partner organizations as background activity. This particular strategy clearly supports the domain of action of strengthening partnerships. In year one, it will involve crafting a cooperative agreement between participants that documents the objectives of the effort and outlines partner commitments. Examples of shared commitments include committing to collecting participant data and sharing with the initiative coordinator; and committing to identifying a lead contact and actively participating in regular meetings throughout the implementation plan horizon. All activities will be guided by a Core Leadership Team, implemented by a Core Nature Network, and informed by a broader group of stakeholders – a visual representation of this multi-layered network structure may be found in the appendix.

Interconnections Across Strategies

Our four strategies are very much interconnected and support each other in multiple ways. We discuss these interconnections in the context of our desired end result that children have hope for a better future through connection to nature. Increased OST programming is only a conduit for making that connection and our end result will not be reached unless we have a feedback loop that empowers participants in OST programming to pursue opportunities beyond an individual program opportunity. Therefore, it is critical that we improve the capacity of the community to provide those extended opportunities. Similarly, the ultimate success of OST opportunities to make a positive connection is intricately related to the quality of that opportunity in the eyes of the participants. We believe that a stronger impact can be made when participants are led by and mentored by individuals that they can relate to most directly as role models and that reflect their experiences. Neither increasing OST opportunities nor building neighborhood capacity will be effective lacking an effective community outreach strategy, which can only be effective over time if the community believes in the effectiveness of the activities (OST and capacity building) to meet their needs. Finally, none of the strategies can be successful absent a committed network of partner organizations working toward the same goals.

(4) Accountability Framework

Our 2015 planning proposal described Louisville's commitment to organize the initiative's structure in keeping with the collective impact model; to focus our place-based strategy development in accordance with the principles of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD); and finally, to commit to Results Based Accountability (RBA) as our model of accountability to measure progress in meeting our overall objectives. Based on review of our gap and asset assessments, we can narrow this to apply to the specific geographic area, identified as a zone of urban neighborhoods including West Louisville from the Ohio River, stretching east to the Smoketown neighborhood, thence to south-central Louisville and back to West Louisville (please refer to the Appendix for maps).

We have established as an end result that all children in Louisville will have hope for a better future through access to nature. We have established that our primary basic indicators, likely common with a number of other CCCN participant cities, will be within the Youth Development category of the CCCN draft metrics framework. These include: (1) the number of children participating in nature-related OST programs; and (2) the time spent annually by participants in nature-related OST

programs (dosage). We view these indicators as proxy for other indicators affecting children's health (e.g., physical activity in nature). We have also committed to improve the quality of the Louisville ECHO OST programming within the BLOCS structure through internal and external evaluation. Through this process, within the timeframe of the implementation plan, we will be able to quantify improvements to the program.

In terms of the timing and measuring of outcomes, we have identified a project schedule within the first year that incorporates both main indicator milestones and also the OST program assessment components through BLOCS (YQPI). Our baseline for main indicators will be updated to reflect data through October 2016 so that we start with a complete year of baseline data. Our milestones for measuring outcomes reflect the fact that this is a new data collection system to be adopted by core network members. Thus, we will evaluate the process to determine the quality of the data to ensure accurate reporting. Regarding program assessment via BLOCS, our milestones reflect the establishment of a baseline score for the quality of Louisville ECHO's OST component; the development of an implementation plan for improvement; and follow-up program evaluation for 2017. This evaluation will continue annually for the duration of the implementation plan.

(5) Timeline

Given a confirmed budget of \$50,000 for year one and the existence of complementary grants (i.e., Aetna, Summer Works) and initiatives (BLOCS), first year tasks can generally be broken down into two phases. The first takes place over a heavily-programmed six months to put in place necessary structures and staffing to accomplish necessary planning and implement new and increased high-quality OST programming over the remainder of the year. A key activity will include quickly initiating soft community outreach prior to launching the branding and community outreach campaign. This is critical in order to develop relationships with local service providers who will be approached as partners in OST programming and potential sources of natural leaders. This front-loaded phase will also be critical as we seek to formalize the relationships between the core nature network members and establish communications and data collection protocols.

The second half of year one is focused on implementation of OST programming and successful collection of indicator data from program activities. With the assistance of the coordinator and VISTA member, community outreach efforts will continue as will regular meeting of the core nature network and broader stakeholder network so that activities in year two and three can be planned.

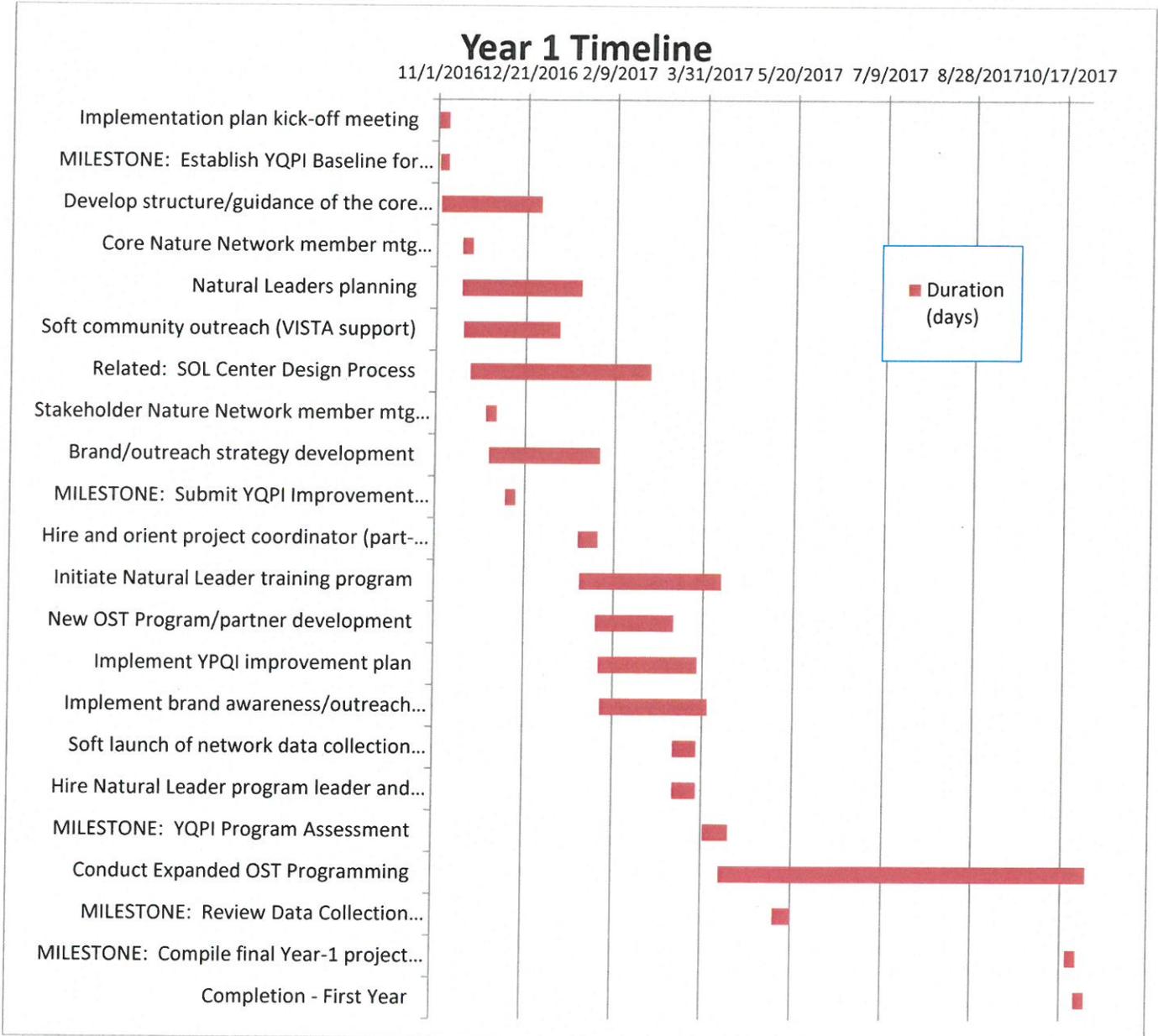
Looking out to years two and three, the related WLORI initiative will be gaining steam with completion of the design of the Shawnee Outdoor Learning Center. This development, along with the resulting awareness that will be generated from the branding and public outreach campaign, is anticipated to generate significant momentum for the overall project and benefit fundraising by Wilderness Louisville, Inc. and Louisville Metro Government to advance the WLORI project as well as generate additional funding support for the various component of Louisville ECHO. We also cannot predict, but are certainly hopeful, that two major components of year one, the Healthiest Cities and Communities Grant and the Summer Works program will continue in years two and three.

In terms of specific activities planned for year two, we anticipate:

- (1) continuing evaluation (via BLOCS) of the Louisville ECHO program and confirming a commitment of one more or our core nature network providers evaluate their nature-related OST program offerings through BLOCS;

(2) exploring (with the broader stakeholder nature network) the feasibility of establishing a nature pass system, including evaluation of how such a system could contribute to collection of indicator data; and

(3) engaging additional service providers who wish to offer nature related OST programming to urban neighborhoods to join the core nature network.



(6) Capacity to Succeed

The Children and Nature initiative is led operationally by Louisville Metro Parks, specifically the Administrator and staff of its Natural Areas Division. Responsibility for implementation resides here primarily because this entity has the organizational capacity and mission orientation that best aligns with the initiative's prime focus on equitable access to nature, and has been the primary entity responsible for local efforts to expand access to nature for low-income communities and communities of color through the West Louisville Outdoor Recreation Initiative (WLORI). As such, the project will benefit from the simple fact that it aligns with work already in progress. This will allow for implementation efficiencies to be realized as the initiative supports existing work.

Reviewing performance during the planning phase, it is readily apparent that the initiative requires a committed owner with, most importantly, a demonstrated long-term commitment to enhancing equitable opportunities for access to nature and an organizational structure that has sufficient capacity through and beyond the initial two to three year implementation horizon. Other partners offer specific expertise required for effective implementation, but are not as well positioned for various reasons, including lack of sufficient capacity or general mission orientation, to oversee the entire project. The planning process was useful in identifying those partners most committed to the initiative, with emphasis on providing verified commitment to support the first year of implementation. These include the YMCA, which has committed staff capacity locally to the complementary Let's Move initiative for the duration of at least two years, and YouthBuild Louisville, which has received a contract for Louisville's Summer Works program and is able to commit at least one year of funding for a program supervisor to conduct OST programming. The Louisville Nature Center and Outdoor Afro are able to support the capacity building strategy through the first year of implementation, thanks to the receipt of the AETNA Healthiest Cities and Counties grant.

In terms of operational structure, the initiative will maintain the Core Leadership Team developed at the inception of this project. The Team consists of Ashley Parrot, Office of the Mayor; SteVon Edwards, Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness; and Bennett Knox, Administrator of the Natural Areas Division. Our Implementation Plan budgets for the hiring of a part-time coordinator responsible for logistics associated with the initiative to facilitate smooth coordination between the Core Leadership Team and partner organizations. In addition, an Americorps VISTA member will assist, on a part-time basis, with activities associated with the branding/community outreach strategy. Finally, staff from the Natural Areas Division's program department will assist with implementation of the primary strategy to increase OST opportunities and will take responsibility for overseeing the capacity building strategy component as the grantee of the Healthiest Cities and Counties award.

Regarding sustainability, this initiative expands the Louisville ECHO program and further complements the West Louisville Outdoor Recreation Initiative, which will create outdoor recreational infrastructure within West Louisville that in turn facilitates expansion of Louisville ECHO. The master plan for the WLORI will be released in September 2016. The current Metro Louisville budget has allocated \$225,000 for detailed design and construction of the WLORI primary component: construction of the Shawnee Outdoor Learning Center (SOL Center) within the Shawnee neighborhood in West Louisville. Additionally, the Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District has committed to allocate \$200,000 towards construction of the center. Louisville Metro has further allocated \$150,000 towards construction of an associated boat ramp to support canoeing, boating, and fishing access along the Ohio River, infrastructure which will ultimately facilitate related OST

programming by SOL Center staff. An additional key community partner, Wilderness Louisville, Inc., advocates for and raises funds annually to sustain Louisville ECHO. The WLORI, through its master plan, is poised to begin raising funds to support completion of the SOL Center and the expansion of Louisville ECHO as proposed herein.

Therefore, it is important to view the targeted strategies outlined above with complementary efforts already underway as wholly interconnected. Taken together, we believe these programs and initiatives demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and further create opportunities for Louisville leaders, including Mayor Greg Fischer and members of his leadership team, to highlight the success of the initiative and generate additional community (and philanthropic) support.

(7) Risks and Challenges

The strategies captured in this Implementation Plan are complex, which inevitably leads to a series of risks and challenges stemming from the difficulty manifested in understanding each component. Community partners within and outside of the proposed Nature Network structure must dedicate themselves to constant communication in order to successfully implement and sustain the strategies proposed above.

In terms of constructing the multilayered Nature Network structure, an associated risk involves a potential lack of buy-in from community partners - no guarantee exists that community agencies will wish to commit time and resources to a wider network with an unclear governance structure. This concern is mitigated, however, by the existing partnerships garnered through the Louisville Engaging Children Outdoors (ECHO) program, which provides access to nature opportunities for area elementary school students. Partnerships formed between Metro Parks and Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), as well as with area conservancies and forest agencies, informed the process for crafting both the ECHO program and the Nature Network structure. The planning process for the Implementation Plan featured the identification of potential Network participants, many of whom already form membership of this project's Core Leadership Team.

A major concern identified through Core Leadership Team meetings and stakeholder discussions suggests that JCPS will be unable to effectively promote nature-related out-of-school time (OST) programs nor will the system easily share data with Network partners – this is not for lack of will but rather speaks to the heavy volume and complexity of the work. The Core Leadership Team has proposed that Mayoral participation may assist in ensuring that promotion and data sharing is more secure, through regular high-level conversations between the Mayor's Office and the JCPS Superintendent; as such meetings already occur, the review of nature-related OST programming and data sharing can serve as an additional agenda item. As well, Network participants will work to ensure anonymity when completing surveys and collecting data by utilizing JCPS ID numbers rather than personal student information – this will lessen the risk of data breaches and will support the dedication of JCPS to confidentiality.

Another challenge involves ensuring that participants provide information that is easily tracked to discern whether nature access affects academics and other identified metrics. Parents and caregivers may not divulge certain information easily, and a concerted effort is necessary to develop data collection tools that are confidential and effective. An AmeriCorps VISTA will be hired to assist in outreach and community meeting attendance to explain the data collection process in a transparent and encouraging manner.

(8) Budget

The following reflects directly-related operational expense items. For simplicity of discussion, it does not include leveraged funds associated with the related WLORI project. In year one, \$27,500 in funding from CCCN will fund the salary and miscellaneous expenses of a part-time program coordinator to assist with logistics associated with network function, overall communications, and data collection and reporting. This represents an ongoing expense across the second and third program years. \$22,500 in mostly one-time expenses is needed for the hiring of a firm to develop the branding and public outreach materials and to cover distribution and promotion expenses. Assuming the potential for additional funding of \$40,000, we have budgeted the cost of a 15-person mini-bus. This expense is important as it will remove an existing bottleneck in terms of transporting youth for OST program opportunities. There are creative ways to avoid this expense, but this equipment would significantly increase the flexibility of the initiative to serve youth efficiently. Remaining budget items are leveraged items associated with conduct of OST programs including YMCA-provided stewardship activities associated with Let's Move (e.g., staffing, supplies) and implementing the training and employment activities associated with the capacity building portion of the grant.

Looking forward to years two and three, our primary budget items are intended to cover growth in the number of participating service providers and youth. A good portion of these funds are anticipated, but not confirmed (i.e., Metro Parks and Wilderness Louisville funding). As described elsewhere, we fully expect that we will be able leverage the CCCN funding to extend fundraising in year 2 and 3. Aetna funding is uncertain - there is a good possibility of funding for year two, but funding for year three (which could be substantial) is dependent upon a competitive grant cycle.

YEAR 1			
Item	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Source
Part-Time Coordinator	\$25,000		CCCN
Branding/Marketing Campaign	\$15,000		CCCN
Promotion Expenses (Printing/promotion)	\$7,500		CCCN
Miscellaneous Coordinator Expenses (e.g., travel, office supplies/equipment)	\$2,500		CCCN
15-passenger mini-bus	-	\$40,000	CCCN
Healthiest and Counties Grant	\$10,000		Louisville Metro Parks
Louisville ECHO OST Program Support (existing operational budget support)	\$42,000		Louisville Metro Parks
Louisville ECHO OST Program Support (grant funding)	\$15,000		Wilderness Louisville, Inc.
YMCA Let's Move coordination	\$35,000		YMCA
Natural Leader supervisor and crew members	\$20,000		Louisville Summer Works
	\$129,500	\$169,000	
YEAR 2			
Healthiest Cities and Counties (2 nd year additional funding)	\$10,000		Aetna – potential award
Louisville Metro Parks (operational budget support – pending council approval)	\$42,000		Louisville Metro Parks
Louisville ECHO OST Program Support	\$50,000		Wilderness Louisville -

			potential
YMCA Let's Move coordination	\$35,000		YMCA
	\$137,000		
YEAR 3			
Healthiest Cities and Counties (competitive grant, max award not yet identified)	??		Aetna –potential award
Louisville Metro Parks (operational budget support – pending Council approval)	\$42,000		Louisville Metro Parks
Louisville ECHO OST Program Support	\$75,000		Wilderness Louisville - potential
	\$117,000+		

(9) Commitment to Shared Learning and Lessons Learned

(A) Describe how the city will assess and document progress, impact, and lessons, including role of any potential local evaluation partner.

Out-of-school time (OST) participation will be documented through the use of confidential data collection. Survey forms will be developed by Nature Network participants and data collected through OST programs will be transmitted to Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) for analysis through a common identifier such as a JCPS identification number. Such analyses will occur annually for the three-year project period and will track academic progress and other identified metrics for participants.

By plugging into the Summer Works structure, the Network gains access to existing assessment tools that will be incorporated into this project's focus, including work-based learning plans that track overall progress of participants in terms of meeting established goals. Similarly, OST programs are regularly assessed by an external evaluator; associated nature-related programming will be subject to this periodic evaluation. Those obtaining BLOCStar status will be subject to two YPQA External Assessments per year. Entities within the Nature Network will be encouraged to participate in BLOCS for assessment purposes and also to encourage further community collaboration.

Other funding opportunities such as the Aetna Healthiest Cities and Counties Grant, which will inform the Summer Works element of this project, will feature evaluation components. The Aetna grant specifically will utilize assessments completed by the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness to document progress, impact, and lessons learned regarding health outcomes.

(B) Provide at least one example of how your team has shared emerging lessons with others in the cohort during the planning phase.

Louisville's development of a two-tiered Nature Network structure overseen by a Core Leadership Team is a unique component that has been shared with others in the cohort during the planning phase. Originally meant to constitute a guiding team for the Implementation Plan process, the Nature Network structure has since become an integral part of the initiative. Through cohort conference calls set up by the National League of Cities and the Children and Nature Network, this idea was shared, especially in connection to the potential development of a Nature Pass which would be modeled on Louisville's successful Cultural Pass program; in short, such passes would provide free access to nature and cultural opportunities for students over the summer months.

(C) Provide at least one example of how you have learned from technical assistance or peer learning opportunities during the planning phase.

Through direct input from the National League of Cities (NLC) and the Children and Nature Network, especially at local stakeholder meetings, the Core Leadership Team was able to develop key project components. Such participation affirmed that the Team was on the right track, and inspired the continual revision and evolution of each strategy. The proposed Nature Network structure was kept as a strategy due to suggestions made by each funding source. Expertise provided by both NLC and the Children and Nature Network presented a logical argument for the development of a general governing body for the overall project, which informed the development of other key strategies.

(D) Describe at least one lesson your city has learned from planning phase that you think would benefit other communities.

Perhaps the most important lesson learned through the planning phase involved the consideration of diverse community voices and how each contributes to the overall planning process. For instance, the June 2016 Stakeholders Meeting featured attendance from both the private and public sector, community non-profits, and neighborhood representatives; the diversity of opinion in the room led to a fruitful discussion on environmental justice that not only informed the planning process, but increased awareness of environmental issues in West Louisville for all meeting participants. Should the Core Leadership Team have developed project components without greater community consultation, many significant issues would not necessarily have been identified.

(E) Provide recommendations or requests for TA supporting during implementation phase.

As the Cities Connecting Children to Nature opportunity is still relatively new, cohort cities have greater responsibility in anticipating what information is necessary to fully develop an Implementation Plan. Lessons learned from the current cohort should inform future funding cycles to establish an exact framework for cities to follow. A suggested list of stakeholders and community participants should be developed based on feedback from and lessons learned by the existing cohort.

APPENDICES

In support of Louisville's Cities Connecting Children to Nature Implementation Plan, the following documents are attached:

- Cover page signed by Mayor Greg Fischer indicating city support of the proposed plan.
- Information sheet with members, titles, and emails for the Core Leadership Team.
- List of links to media items generated during the planning phase.
- Visual representation of Nature Network Structure.
- Project timeline breakdown, which informed the Plan's Gantt Chart.
- List of recipients of Community and Partner Surveys.
- Community Assessment results.
- Relevant maps.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

GREG FISCHER
MAYOR

September 14, 2016

Mr. Andrew Moore
Director, Youth and Young Adult Connections
National League of Cities
660 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Moore:

On behalf of Louisville Metro Government, I would like to express my strong support for Louisville's Cities Connecting Children to Nature Implementation Plan. Through the leadership of the Mayor's Office, Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation and Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness, we have worked closely with dedicated partners across the community to deliver a cohesive plan that includes input from key stakeholders across our city. Our plan is based on transparent dialogue about providing more equitable nature opportunities to all of our children.

The children in nature effort aligns with the Cradle to Career framework, which utilizes a collective community approach to improve access to high quality education for all citizens. Cradle to Career brings community partners together to leverage resources and drive better outcomes along the entire education system – from early childhood development and education to workforce development. Incorporating nature into every child's experience will have a positive impact on their mental and physical wellbeing and will help us reach our goals of preparing more youth for success in education, work and in life.

We look forward to continuing this work in conjunction with the National League of Cities and the Children and Nature Network to ensure that all children have affordable and convenient access to nature opportunities in their neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Greg Fischer
Mayor

Louisville Cities Connecting Children to Nature Initiative

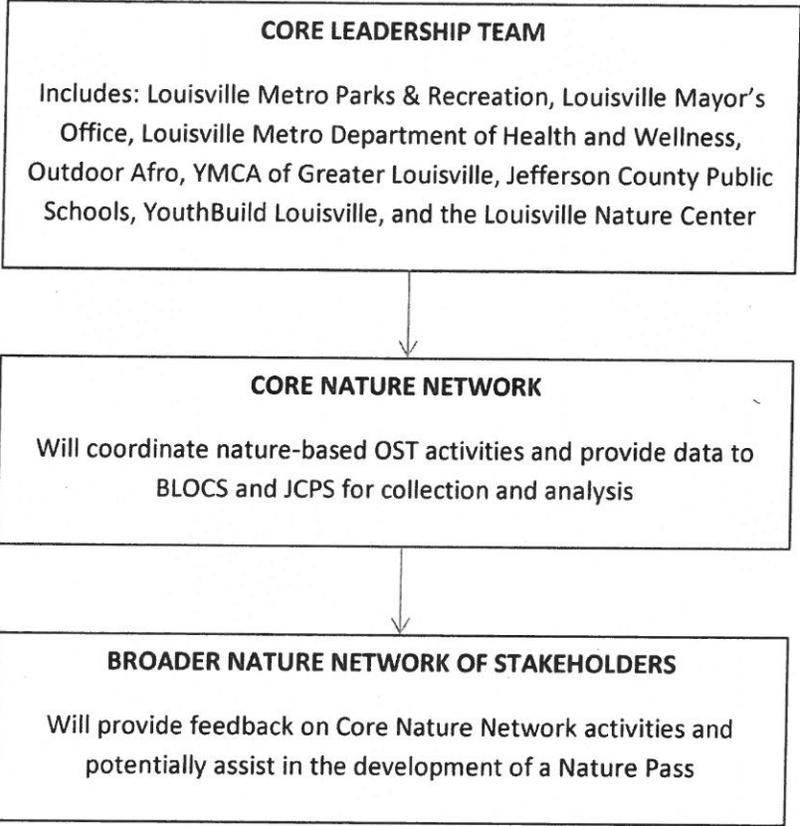
Core Leadership Team

Name	Title	Office	Email
Marigny Bostock	Community Coordinator, Let's Move! Outside	YMCA of Greater Louisville	mbostock@ymcalouisville.org
Krista Drescher Burke	Community Data Specialist and Program Evaluator	Jefferson County Public Schools	krista.drescher-burke@jefferson.kyschools.us
SteVon Edwards	Programs Analyst	Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness	stevon.edwards@louisvilleky.gov
Bennett Knox	Parks Administrator	Louisville Metro Parks Natural Areas Division	bennett.knox@louisvilleky.gov
Kathy Morris	Director	Louisville Nature Center	kmorris@louisvillnaturecenter.org
Ashley Parrott	Senior Policy & Development Advisor	Louisville Metro Mayor's Office	ashley.parrott@louisvilleky.gov
Lynn Rippy	Executive Director	YouthBuild Louisville	lrippy@yblky.org

Louisville Cities Connecting Children to Nature Initiative
Links to Media Items Generated During Planning Phase

- Information on Richard Louv’s presentation “Cultivating the Rich Nature Life” at Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest on July 16, 2016: <https://louisvilleky.gov/events/day-richard-louv-children-and-nature-cultivating-nature-rich-life>
- Videos associated with the “Children and Nature: Building a Nature-Rich Life” at Bernheim on July 17, 2016: <https://vimeopro.com/humankind/children-and-nature-building-a-nature-rich-life/video/179088575>
- WFPL Interview with Richard Louv on Connections between Children and Nature (in anticipation of his presentation at Bernheim): <http://wfpl.org/richard-louv-rebuilding-connections-kids-nature/>
- CitiesSpeak article on planning cohort selection: <https://citiesspeak.org/2016/02/05/nlc-and-children-nature-network-choose-seven-cities-for-planning-cohort/>

**Louisville Cities Connecting Children to Nature Implementation Plan
Network Structure**



Project Timeline Breakdown			
Start Date	End Date	Description	Duration (days)
11/1/2016	11/7/2016	Implementation plan kick-off meeting	6
11/2/2016	11/7/2016	MILESTONE: Establish YQPI Baseline for Louisville ECHO	5
11/3/2016	12/29/2016	Develop structure/guidance of the core Nature Network	56
11/15/2016	11/21/2016	Core Nature Network member mtg (monthly)	6
11/15/2016	1/21/2017	Natural Leaders planning	67
11/16/2016	1/9/2017	Soft community outreach (VISTA support)	54
11/20/2016	3/1/2017	Related: SOL Center Design Process	101
11/29/2016	12/5/2016	Stakeholder Nature Network member mtg (quarterly)	6
12/1/2016	2/1/2017	Brand/outreach strategy development	62
12/10/2016	12/16/2016	MILESTONE: Submit YQPI Improvement Plan for Louisville ECHO	6
1/20/2017	1/31/2017	Hire and orient project coordinator (part-time)	11
1/21/2017	4/10/2017	Initiate Natural Leader training program	79
1/30/2017	3/15/2017	New OST Program/partner development	44
2/1/2017	3/28/2017	Implement YQPI improvement plan	55
2/2/2017	4/3/2017	Implement brand awareness/outreach campaign	60
3/15/2017	3/28/2017	Soft launch of network data collection Process	13
3/15/2017	3/28/2017	Hire Natural Leader program leader and staff	13
4/1/2017	4/15/2017	MILESTONE: YQPI Program Assessment	14
4/10/2017	10/31/2017	Conduct Expanded OST Programming	204
5/10/2017	5/20/2017	MILESTONE: Review Data Collection Process	10
10/20/2017	10/26/2017	MILESTONE: Compile final Year-1 project indicator data	6
10/25/2017	10/31/2017	Completion - First Year	6

Partner Surveys were sent to the following agencies in May and August 2016:

- Americana Community Center
- Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana
- Blackacre Nature Preserve
- BLOCS Participants
- Boy Scouts
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Farmington Historic Plantation
- Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, Inc.
- Jefferson County Public Schools
- Locust Grove
- Louisville Grows
- Louisville Nature Center
- Louisville Science Center
- Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation
- Louisville Metro Parks Community Centers
- Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)
- Office of Youth Development Partners
- Olmsted Park Conservancy
- Parklands of Floyds Fork; 21st Century Parks
- Riverside: The Farnsley-Moreman Landing
- Metro United Way
- YouthBuild Louisville
- Louisville Zoo

Community Surveys were distributed through the following sources in April 2016:

- Americana Community Center
- Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kentuckiana
- Blackacre Nature Preserve
- Black Media Collaborative
- BLOCS Participants
- Boy Scouts
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Brooklawn/Uspiritus

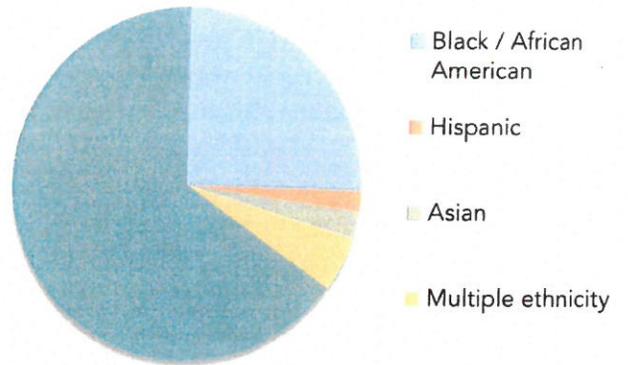
- Cabbage Patch Settlement House
- Catholic Charities
- Chickasaw Federation
- Explore Kentucky Initiative
- Family Scholar House
- Farmington Historic Plantation
- Frazier History Museum
- Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, Inc.
- Jefferson County Public Schools
- Kentuckians for the Commonwealth – Jefferson County
- Kentucky Refugee Ministries
- Kentucky Science Center
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Locust Grove
- Louisville Free Public Library
- Louisville Grows
- Louisville Nature Center
- Louisville Science Center
- Louisville Sustainability Council
- Louisville Water Company
- Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation
- Louisville Metro Parks Community Centers
- Maryhurst Alternative School
- Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD)
- Office of Youth Development Partners
- Olmsted Park Conservancy
- Parklands of Floyds Fork; 21st Century Parks
- Riverside: The Farnsley-Moreman Landing
- Metro United Way
- West End School
- West Louisville Math and Science Academy
- Wilderness Louisville
- YMCA of Greater Louisville
- YouthBuild Louisville
- Louisville Zoo
- Parochial and Private Schools

Louisville

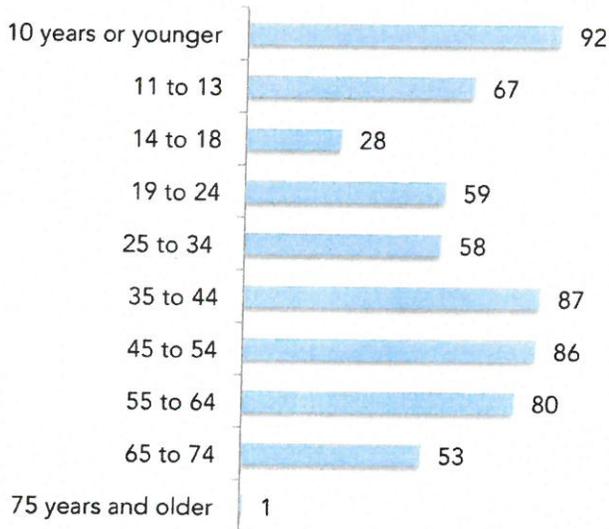
2016 Children in Nature Survey Results

611 Surveys Collected From:
376 Females / 235 Males

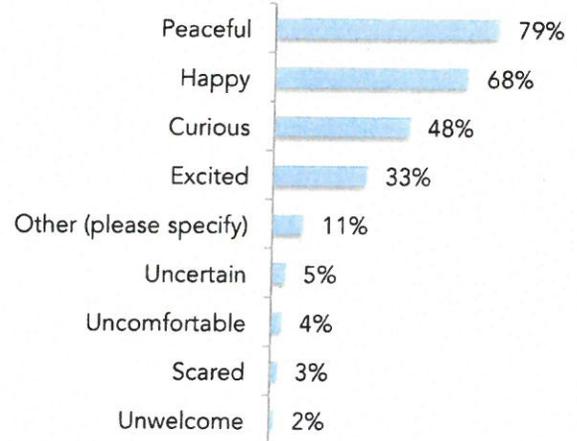
Survey Respondents Race



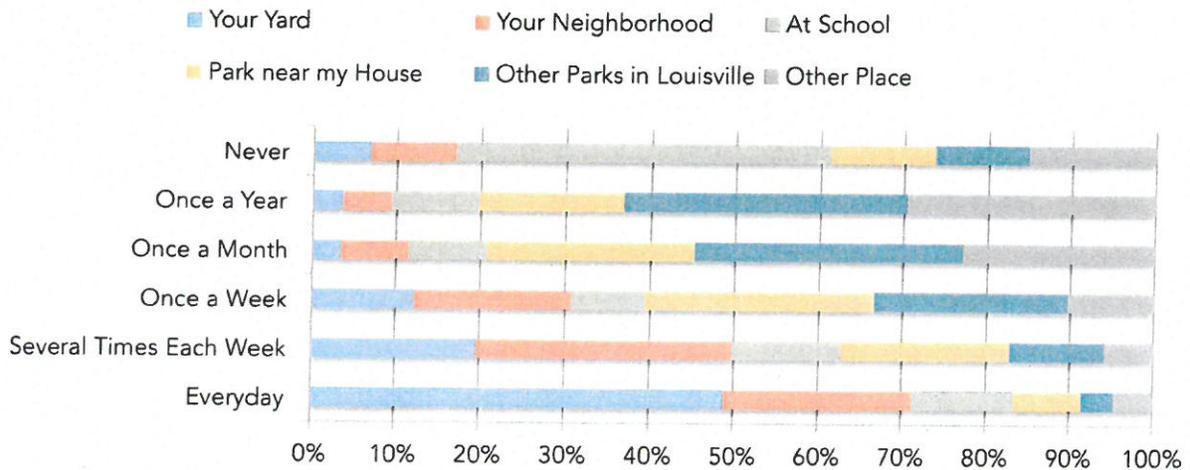
Respondent Age



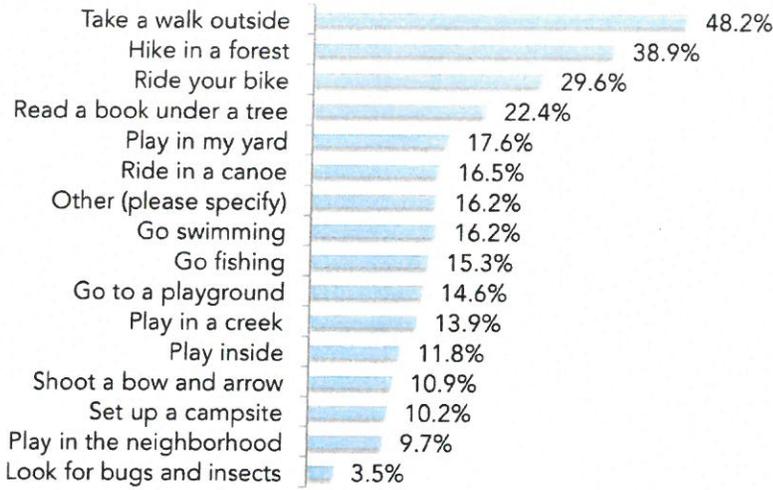
When you are in nature, how do you feel?



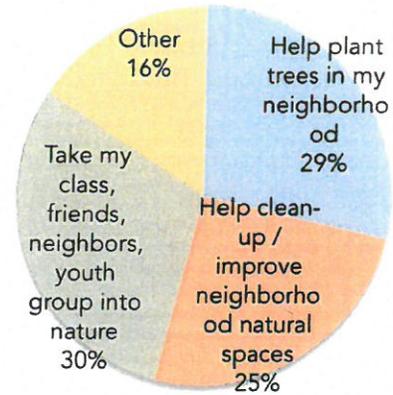
Where do you like to go to find nature and how often do you go?



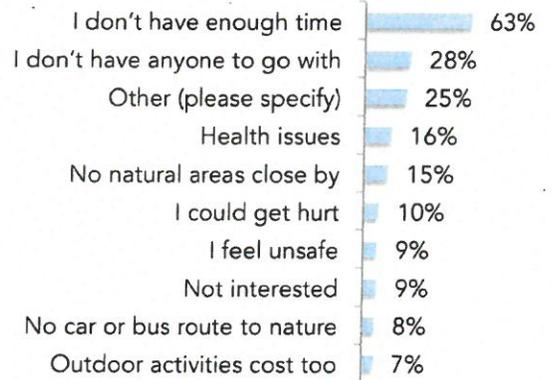
If you had a free afternoon, what would you like to do?



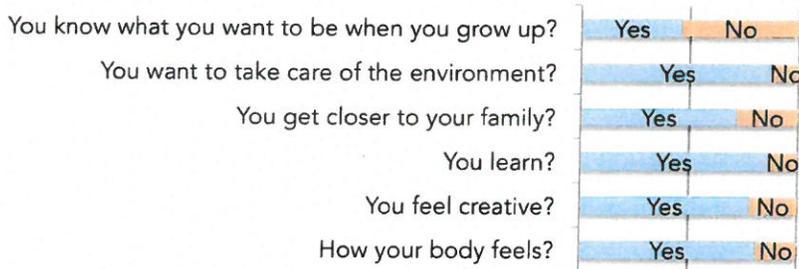
How can YOU help to get more people into nature in your neighborhood?
N=723



What are the 3 main reasons you do not spend more time in nature?



Does Being in Nature Help....



If you could tell the Mayor one thing about Louisville and Nature, What would it be?

Outside Community Centers Grass Animals Trails Air Care
 Sidewalks Love Jefferson Memorial Forest Trees
 Play Nature Environment Parks Offer
 Louisville Wonderful Clean Bugs Place
 Bike Paths Neighborhood Trash Litter Good Work

Prepared for Metro Louisville by McNary & Associates, LLC. www.mcnaryandassociates.com

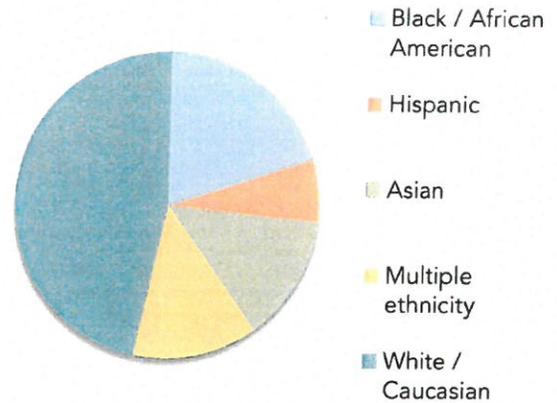


South Central Louisville

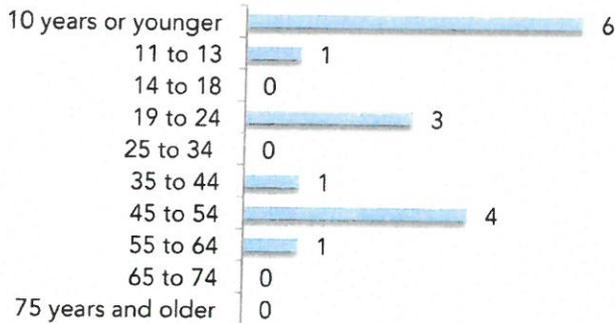
2016 Children in Nature Survey Results

16 Surveys Collected From:
9 Females / 6 Males
40219- 27% / 40215 - 20% / Other - 53%

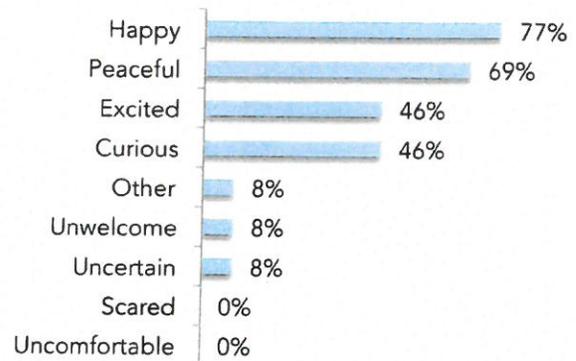
Survey Respondents Race



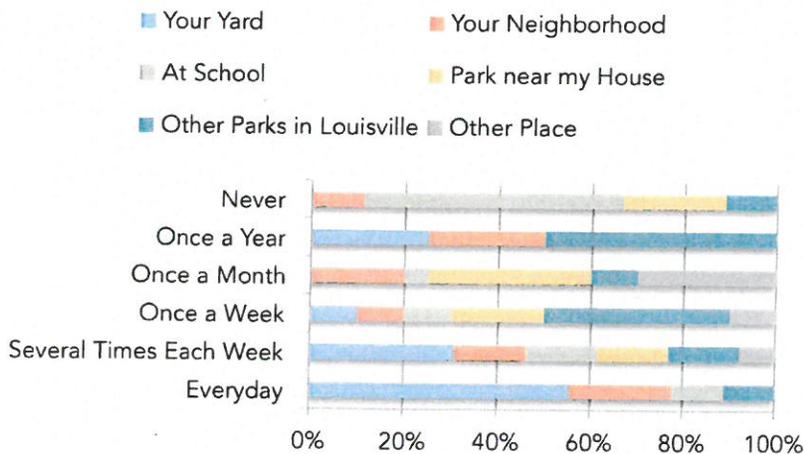
Respondent Age



When you are in nature, how do you feel?



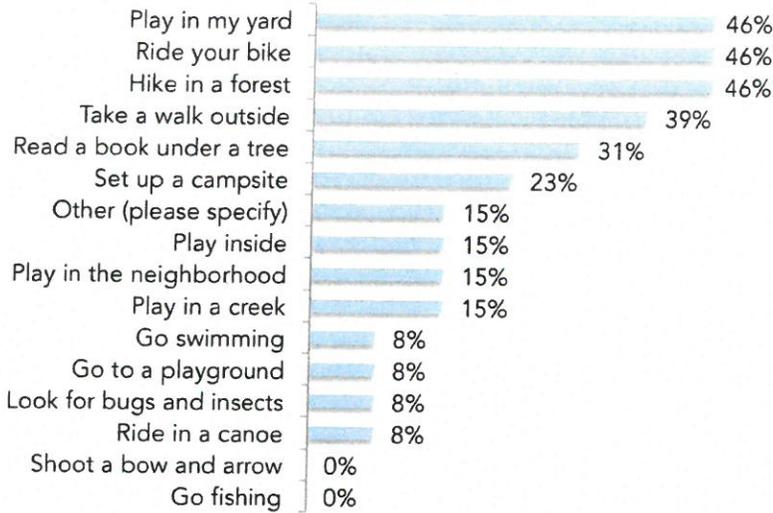
Where do you like to go to find nature and how often do you go?



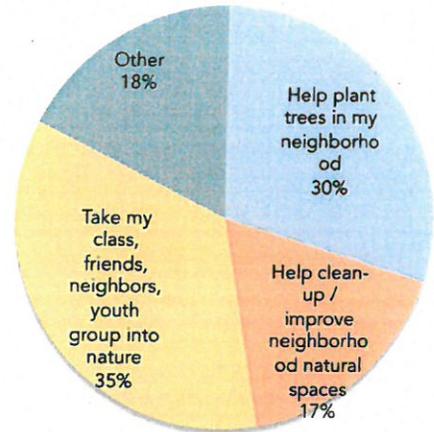
Parks I go to:

- Newburg Park
- Shively
- Beckley River Road Park
- Douglas Hills
- Middletown
- Waterfront Park/River
- Iroquois Park
- Jefferson Mem. Forest
- Cherokee Park
- Greenwood Boat dock & levee
- Zoo
- Iroquis
- McNeely Park

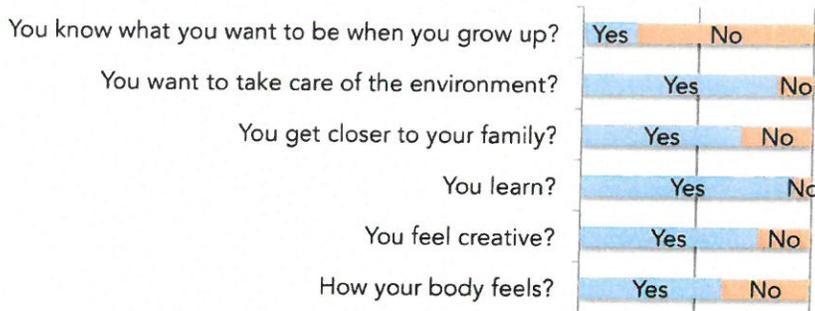
If you had a free afternoon, what would you like to do?



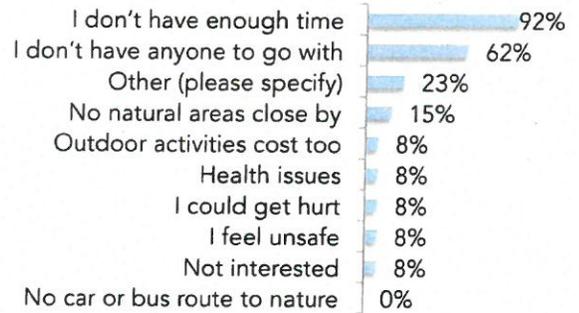
How can YOU help to get more people into nature in your neighborhood?



Does Being in Nature Help....



What are the 3 main reasons you do not spend more time in nature?



If you could tell the Mayor one thing about Louisville and Nature, What would it be?

- If everyone would help clean up the environment and take care of plants
- Cut down on litter. Nature is a beautiful place
- That a lot of the area parks in the lower income neighborhoods need new equipment and updated. And the grass needs to stay cut.
- That the park systems in Louisville are fantastic. I love his plans for the future.
- I think we could use more natural areas, such as Jefferson Memorial Forest, Bernheim, etc
- Good park system, lets get it to those who can't get it
- More in city budget for parks
- Take less privileged children on more nature field trips.
- More neighborhood playground could help the kids stay out instead of playing computer games.
- I would ask if I can help you.

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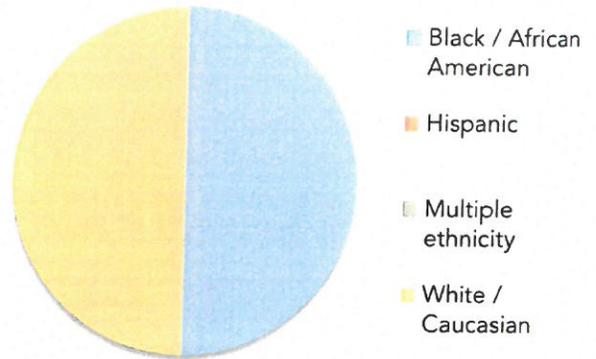


Downtown / Old Louisville

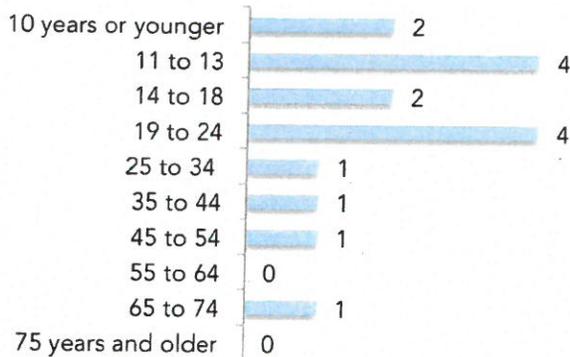
2016 Children in Nature Survey Results

18 Surveys Collected From:
 9 Females / 9 Males
 40208- 44% / 40203 - 28% / Other - 28%

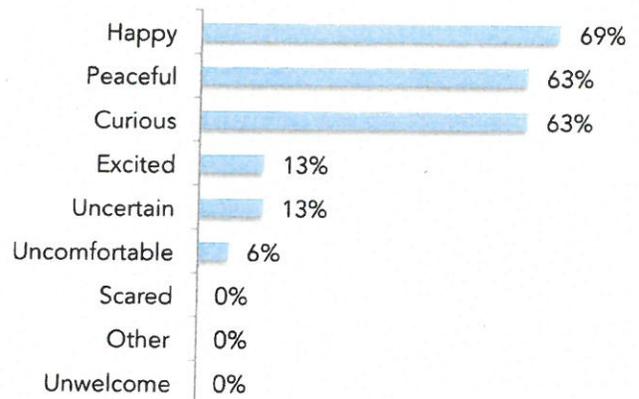
Survey Respondents Race



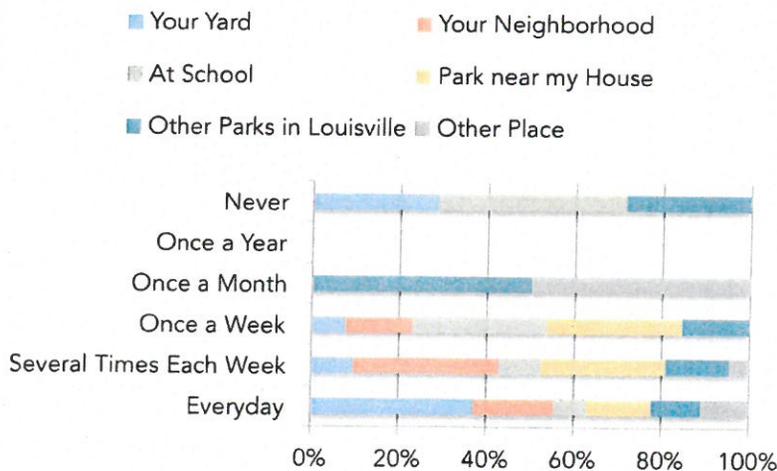
Respondent Age



When you are in nature, how do you feel?



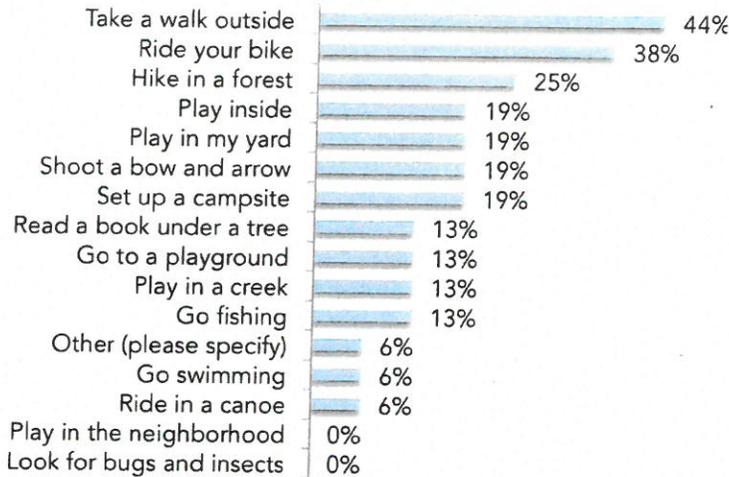
Where do you like to go to find nature and how often do you go?



Parks I go to:

- Seneca Park
- Jefferson Mem. Forest
- Waterfront
- Shawnee
- Central Park
- Cherokee Park
- Bernheim Forest
- Waverly Park
- Shelby Park
- McNeely Lake
- Quail Chase Golf Course
- Louisville Soccer Park
- Thurman Hutchins

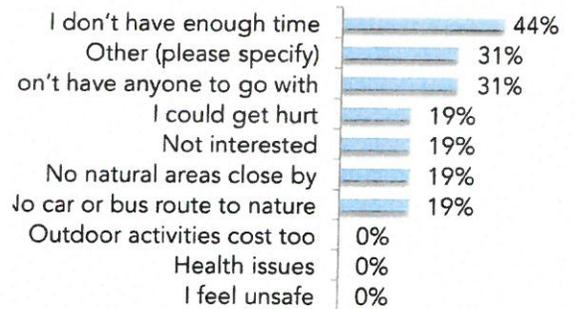
If you had a free afternoon, what would you like to do?



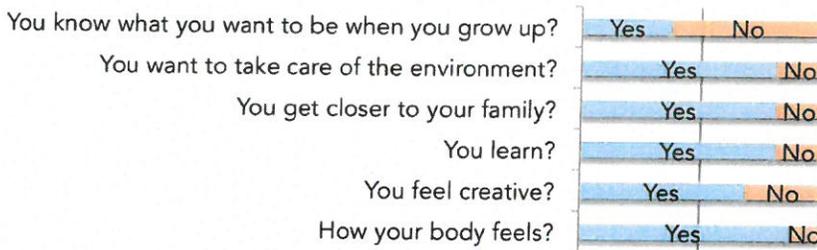
How can YOU help to get more people into nature in your neighborhood?



What are the 3 main reasons you do not spend more time in nature?



Does Being in Nature Help....



If you could tell the Mayor one thing about Louisville and Nature, What would it be?

- To take care of it as you would your house
- We need to help Earth
- Louisville has great nature areas but there needs to be more advertising for the natural areas
- I have really enjoyed the parks; they are well-kept. Good job
- The grass in the parks needs to be cut.
- We need more trees - I feel that it is incredibly important to address the heat island issue and we need to place our focus on this right now.
- Plant more trees, invest in parks, build bike paths and lanes
- Keep the investment up.

Prepared for Metro Louisville by McNary & Associates, LLC. www.mcnaryandassociates.com

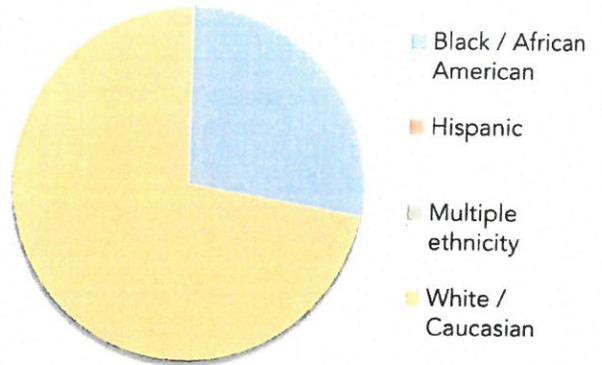


Pleasure Ridge Park

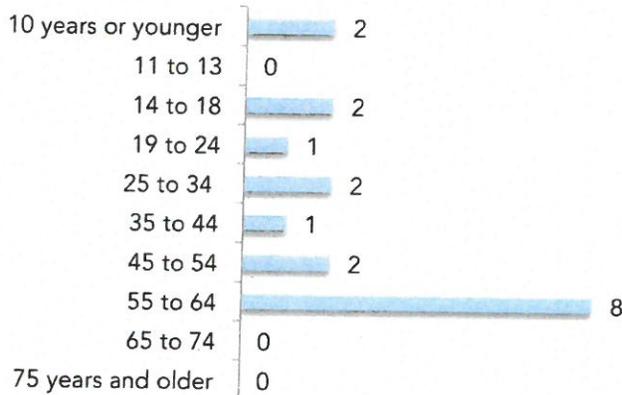
2016 Children in Nature Survey Results

18 Surveys Collected From:
 14 Females / 4 Males
 40258 – 83% / 40219 – 6% / 40216 – 6%
 / 40214 – 6%

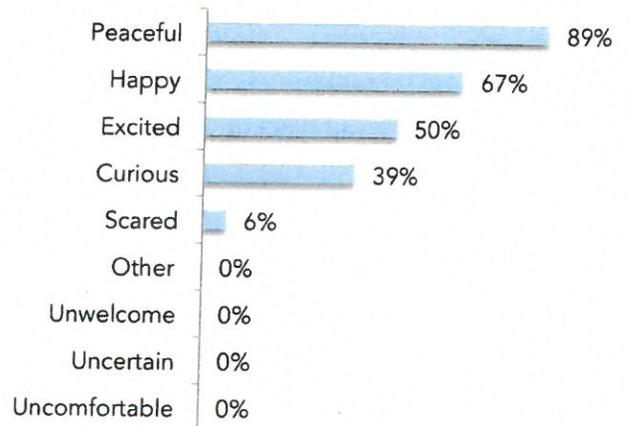
Survey Respondents Race



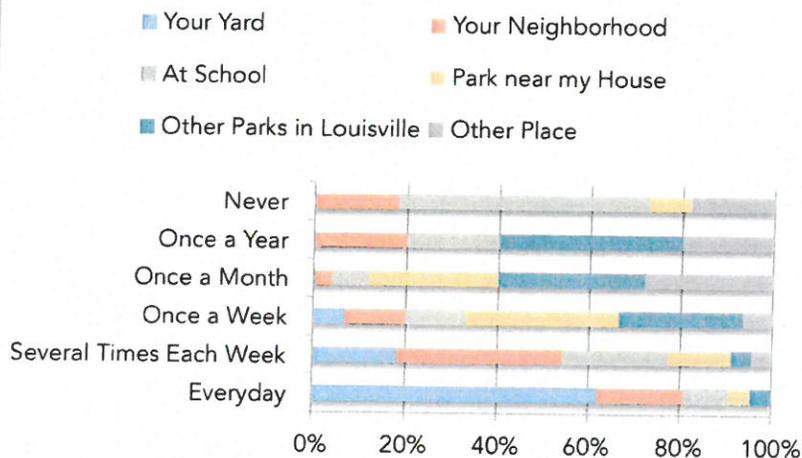
Respondent Age



When you are in nature, how do you feel?



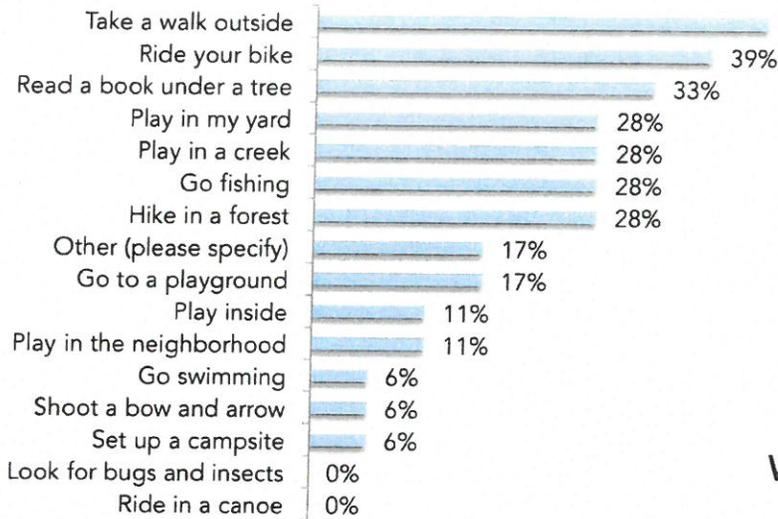
Where do you like to go to find nature and how often do you go?



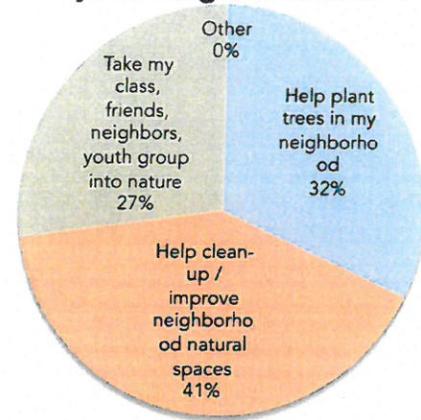
Parks I go to:

- Waterfront Park
- Central Park
- Riverview Park
- Seneca Park
- Chicasaw Park
- Shawnee Park
- Tyler Park
- Jefferson Mem. Forest
- Bernheim Forest
- Black Forest
- Otter Creek
- Shively Park
- Greenwood Park
- Iroquois Park
- School

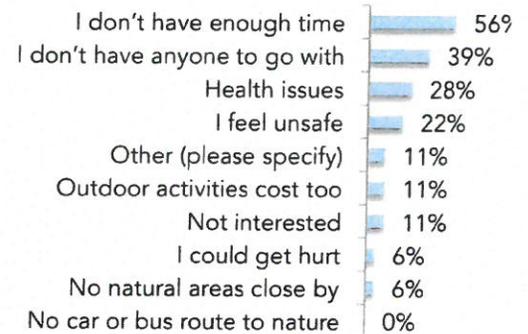
If you had a free afternoon, what would you like to do?



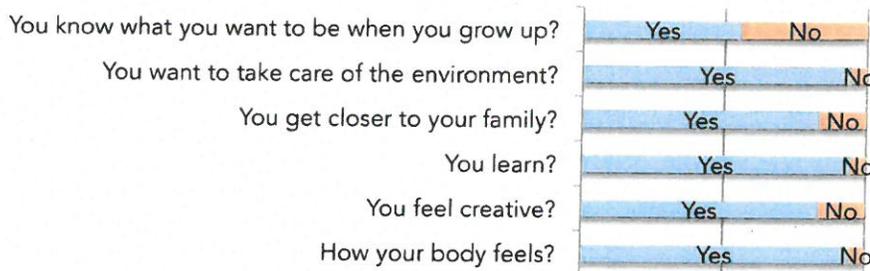
How can YOU help to get more people into nature in your neighborhood?



What are the 3 main reasons you do not spend more time in nature?



Does Being in Nature Help....



If you could tell the Mayor one thing about Louisville and Nature, What would it be?

- Make nature a bigger part of education
- I love the parks, we need to start a clean up group
- It's awesome! And deserves more funding!
- There's a lot of neat and interesting things to learn and teach my almost two year old.
- We need to attack graffiti by immediately covering even the smallest areas.
- Make the parks in the west end area more safe. Put a police station in it.
- Keep up maintenance on park areas in southwest Louisville.
- Please maintain the parks better. Mow the grass along the parkways that lead to the parks more frequently.
- I believe Louisville does a good job of promoting our parks. I would like programs in schools educating children about preserving our natural settings.
- The Portland neighborhood needs more nature & nicer parks for our kids

"Spread nature all over Louisville to get inspired"

Prepared for Metro Louisville by McNary & Associates, LLC. www.mcnaryandassociates.com

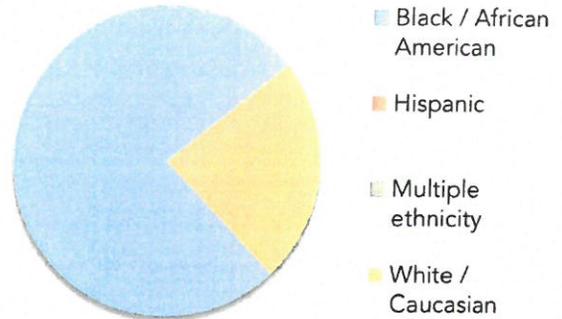


Portland / Russell

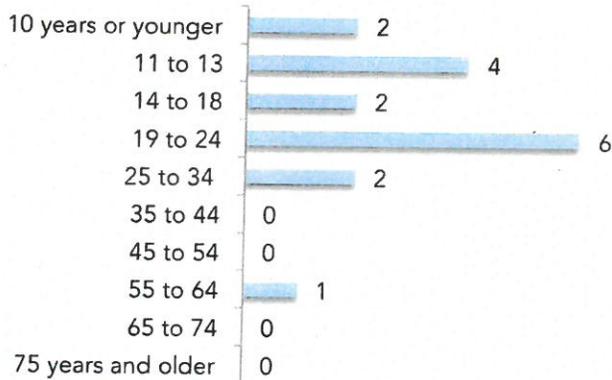
2016 Children in Nature Survey Results

17 Surveys Collected From:
 10 Females / 7 Males
 40212 – 88% / 40203 – 12%

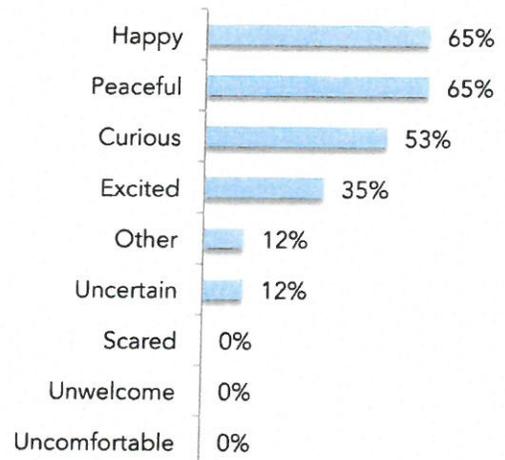
Survey Respondents Race



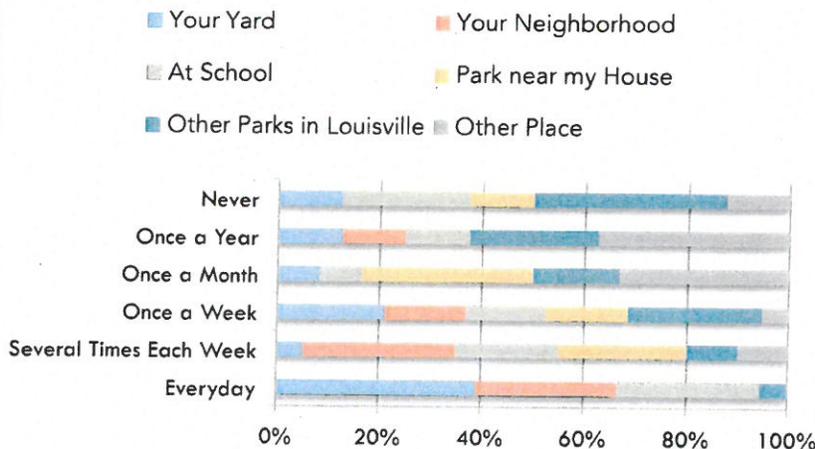
Respondent Age



When you are in nature, how do you feel?



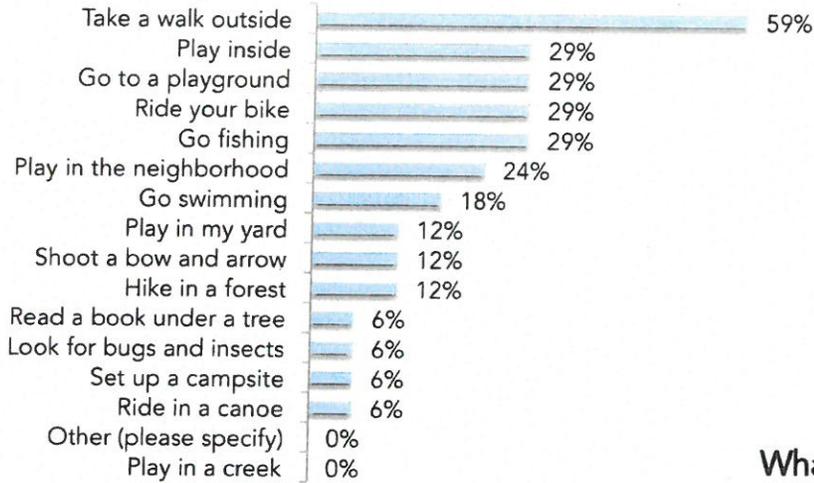
Where do you like to go to find nature and how often do you go?



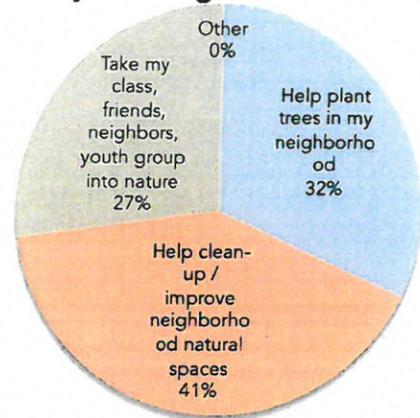
Parks I go to:

- Central Park
- Chickasaw
- Waterfront Park
- Shawnee Park
- Cherokee Park
- Louisville Zoo
- Down by the rivers
- All Parks

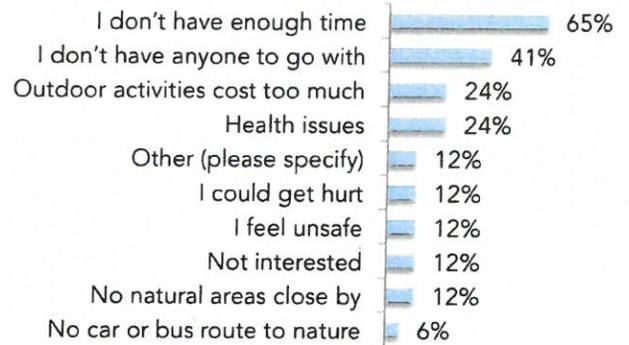
If you had a free afternoon, what would you like to do?



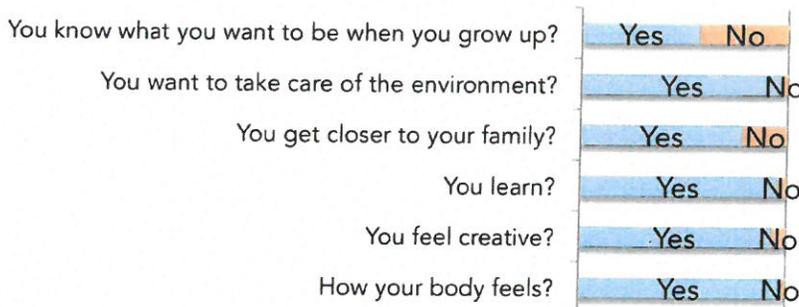
How can YOU help to get more people into nature in your neighborhood?



What are the 3 main reasons you do not spend more time in nature?



Does Being in Nature Help....



If you could tell the Mayor one thing about Louisville and Nature, What would it be?

- That nature is good for you because it helps you breath
- Make a water park
- I love it
- Offer more amenities
- The Portland neighborhood needs more nature & nicer parks for our kids
- Thank you for the beautiful parks Louisville does have but the parks in our neighborhood need work
- Its the best way for kids to learn, not only are they exploring and learning but they getting good exercise
- Need more playing areas and make them safe
- I see a positive change, but we still have more work to do.

"It's a good place to get inspired"

Prepared for Metro Louisville by McNary & Associates, LLC. www.mcnaryandassociates.com

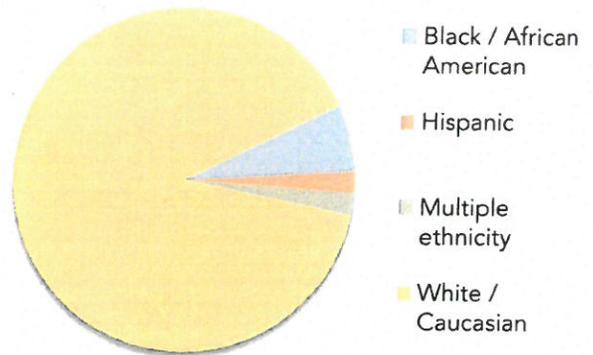


Butchertown / Clifton / Crescent Hill

2016 Children in Nature Survey Results

54 Surveys Collected From:
34 Females / 20 Males
40206 – 96% / 40207 – 2% / 40205 – 2%

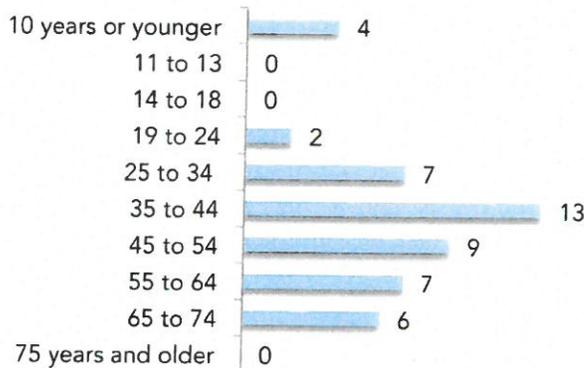
Survey Respondents Race



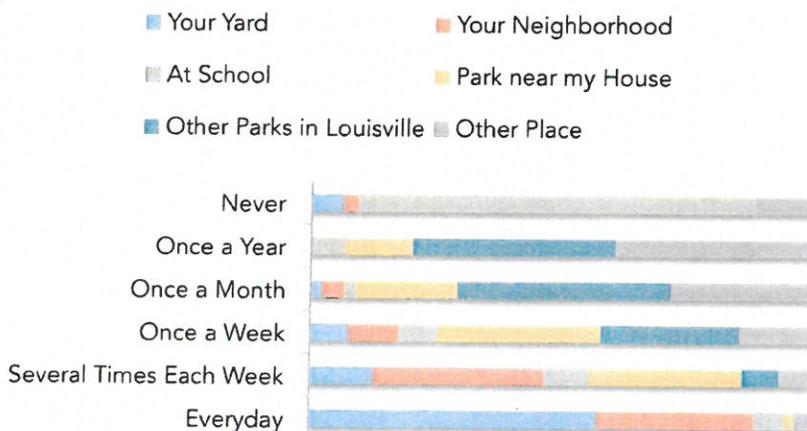
When you are in nature, how do you feel?



Respondent Age



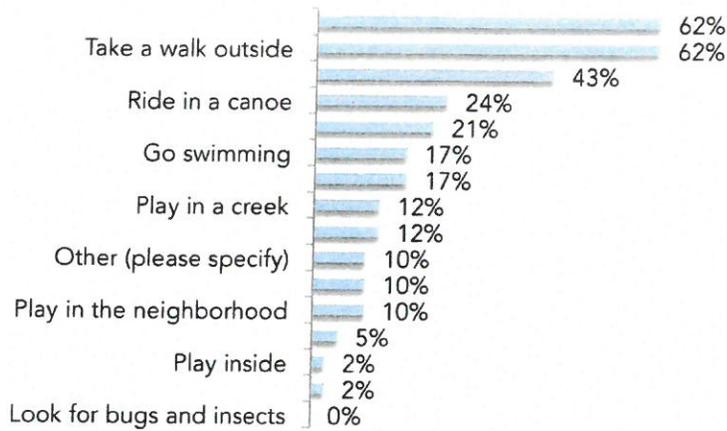
Where do you like to go to find nature and how often do you go?



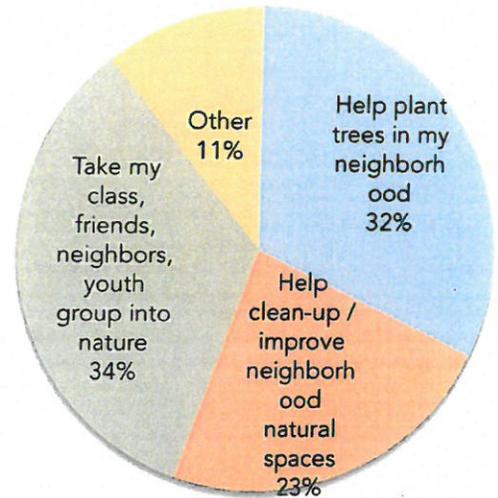
Parks I go to:

- Algonquin
- Waterfront
- Shively Park
- Central Park
- Shawnee Park
- Victory Park
- Falls of the Ohio Park
- Chickasaw Park
- In a grassy field by my house

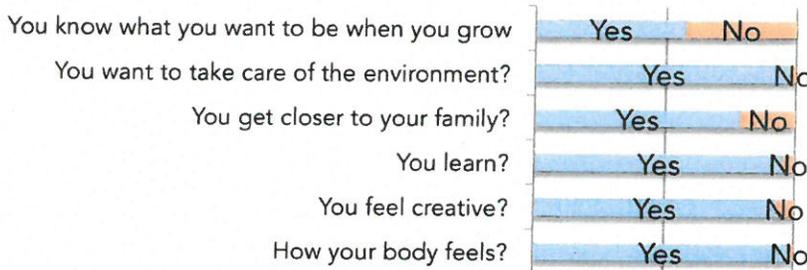
If you had a free afternoon, what would you like to do?



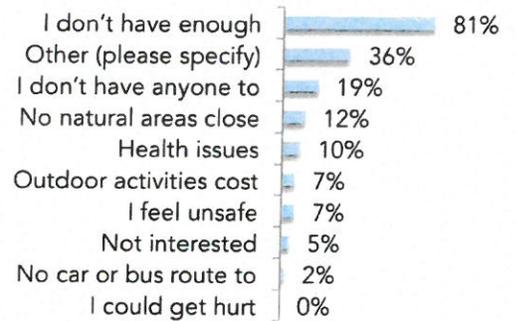
How can YOU help to get more people into nature in your neighborhood?
N=42



Does Being in Nature Help....



What are the 3 main reasons you do not spend more time in nature?



If you could tell the Mayor one thing about Louisville and Nature, What would it be?

- In prioritizing tree-planting, please prioritize low-income neighborhoods first.
- More bike paths, sidewalks and trees
- Maintaining, replanting, and creating more urban tree boxes/natural medians
- I love our parks system.
- Bury our overhead utility lines
- I try to make my yard a safe haven for birds, honey bees, other pollinators, a resident possum. Have veg. garden & flower garden. Don't have golf course lawn. I think Louisville has the best park system in the country.
- Louisville needs more events in natural settings, focusing on nature, and providing transportation from TARC Trolley

"The nature in Louisville is delightful"

Prepared for Metro Louisville by McNary & Associates, LLC. www.mcnaryandassociates.com

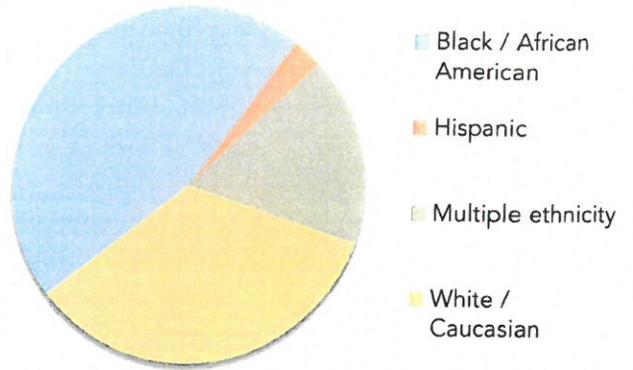


Buechel / Newburg

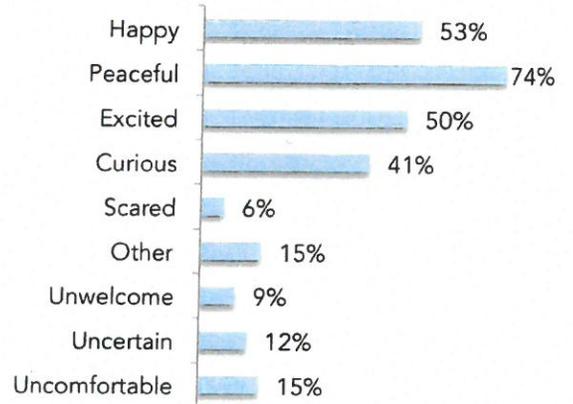
2016 Children in Nature Survey Results

35 Surveys Collected From:
 26 Females / 9 Males
 40218 - 57% / 40219 - 20% / 40213 - 9%

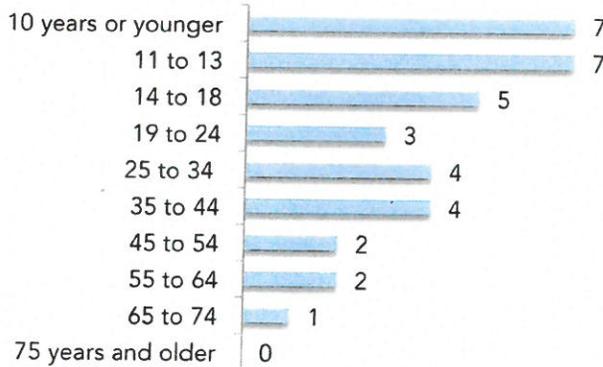
Survey Respondents Race



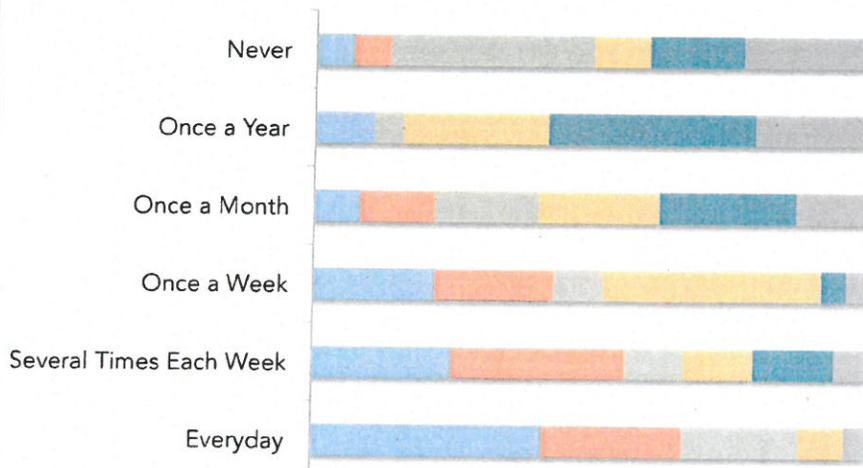
When you are in nature, how do you feel?



Respondent Age



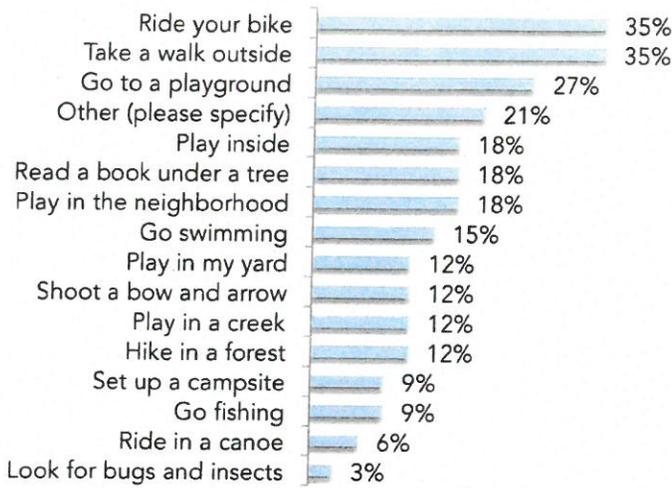
Where do you like to go to find nature and how often do you go?



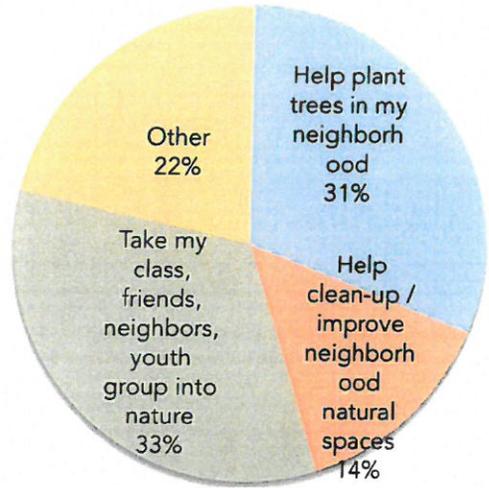
Parks I go to:

- Iroquois
- Red River Gorge
- Newburg
- Seneca
- Shively
- Louisville Zoo
- Petersburg
- the lake / dog park
- Broad Run
- Cherokee

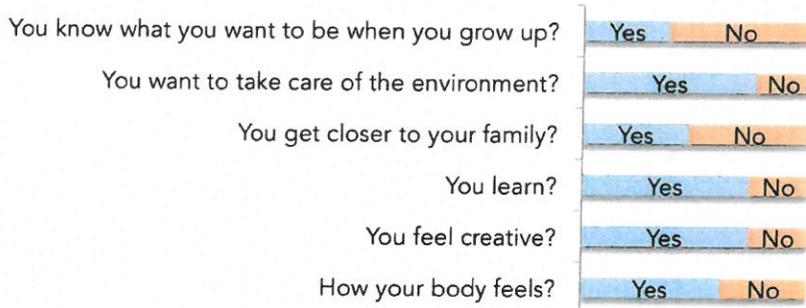
If you had a free afternoon, what would you like to do?



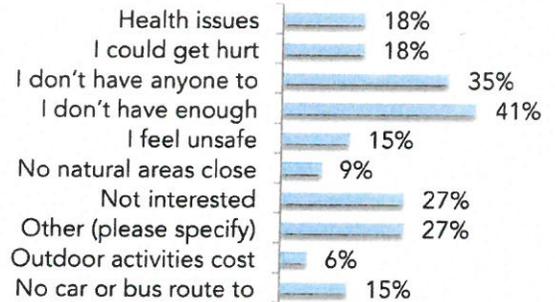
How can YOU help to get more people into nature in your neighborhood? N=46



Does Being in Nature Help....



What are the 3 main reasons you do not spend more time in nature?



If you could tell the Mayor one thing about Louisville and Nature, What would it be?

- Make more hiking trails in Louisville - Louisville's nature is beautiful - We need more trees!
- Have more parks and ways for people to get to them.
- I like playing outside and spending time at parks
- Advertise Nature places within the Louisville area. I have a child who loves the outdoors but I don't know what nature communities are available within our community.
- We need more parks with handicap accessible equipment and then more police presence to keep it family and child friendly.
- More money should go to our parks. McNeely Lake is close to me, but I'm afraid I'm going to get shot or witness a drug deal every time I go. So I don't go as often as I should/want too
- We need to stop littering and make more of an effort to clean up the litter we already have.

"Go out into it"

Prepared for Metro Louisville by McNary & Associates, LLC. www.mcnaryandassociates.com

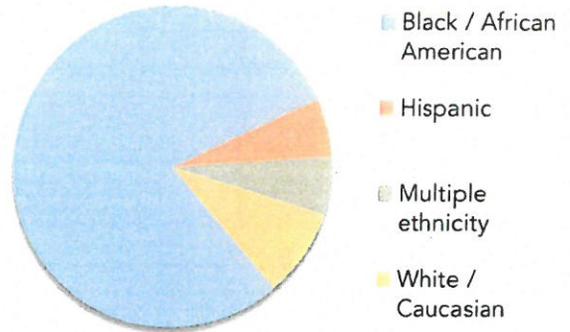


Algonquin / Park Hill / Park Duvalle

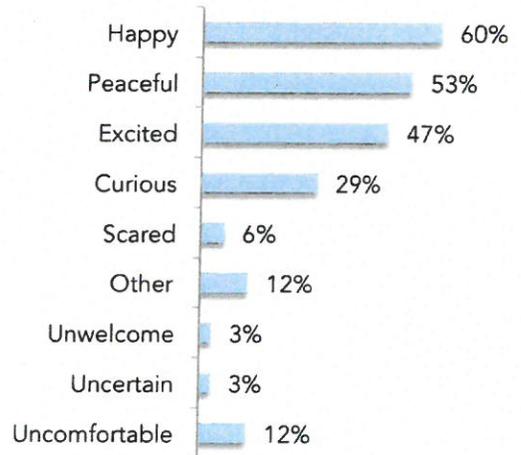
2016 Children in Nature Survey Results

34 Surveys Collected From:
15 Females / 19 Males
40211 – 68% / 40210 – 12% / Other – 20%

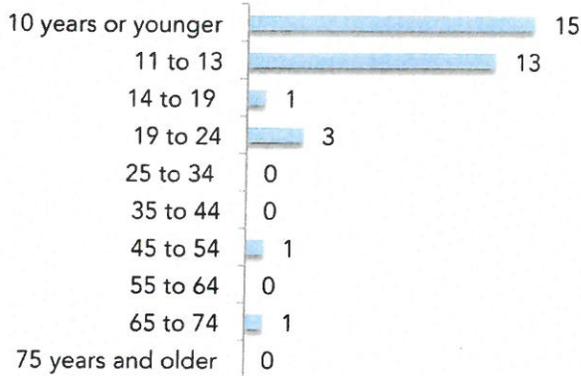
Survey Respondents Race



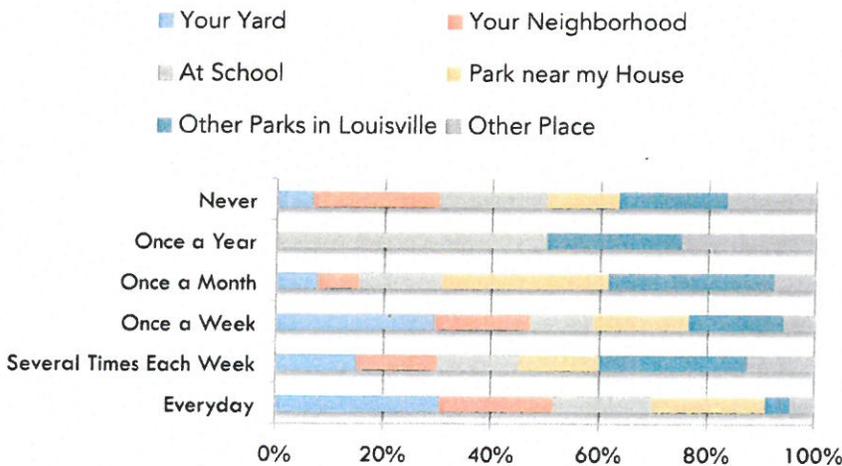
When you are in nature, how do you feel?



Respondent Age



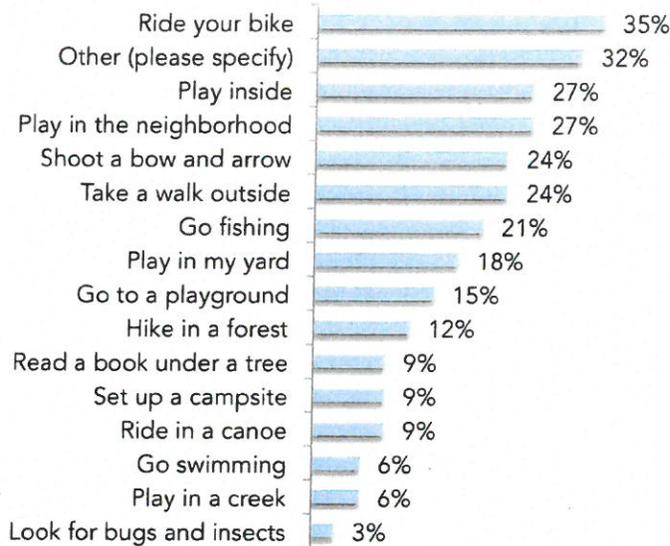
Where do you like to go to find nature and how often do you go?



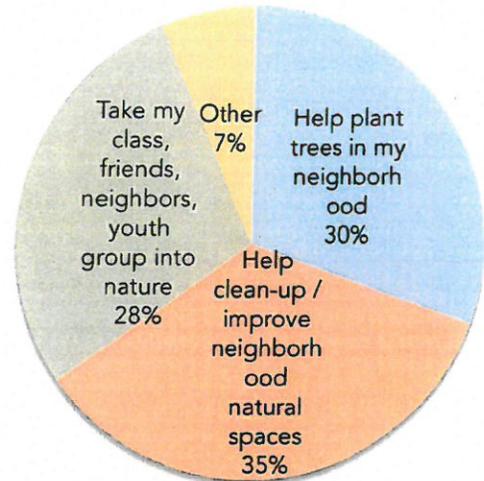
Parks I go to:

- Algonquin
- Waterfront
- Shively Park
- Central Park
- Shawnee Park
- Victory Park
- Falls of the Ohio Park
- Chickasaw Park

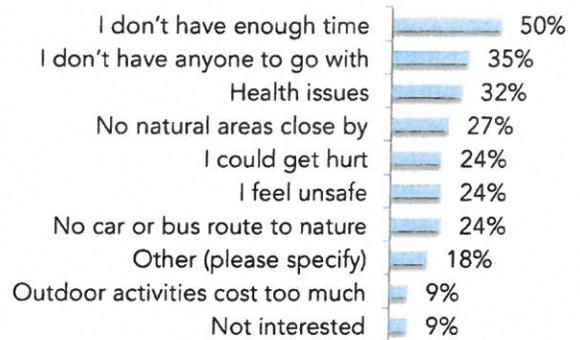
If you had a free afternoon, what would you like to do?



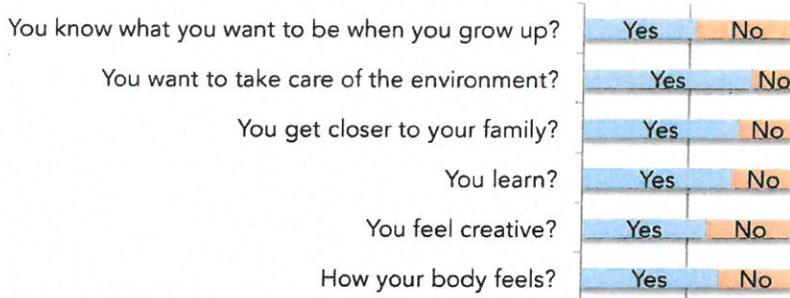
How can YOU help to get more people into nature in your neighborhood?
N=46



What are the 3 main reasons you do not spend more time in nature?



Does Being in Nature Help....



If you could tell the Mayor one thing about Louisville and Nature, What would it be?

- Some of the parks need new equipment and to be cleaned up
- It's good for kids to spend time in nature
- The Louisville parks are great - Preserve and expand
- Nature is good for your health
- More community centers
- It is amazing what nature created/how we just got to take care of the neighborhood.
- We need more parks by homes.
- I would love it if there were over night camps for families free of charge with nature hikes and discussion about to feed the earth so we all can live off it.

"I go to a grassy field by my house"

Prepared for Metro Louisville by McNary & Associates, LLC. www.mcnaryandassociates.com

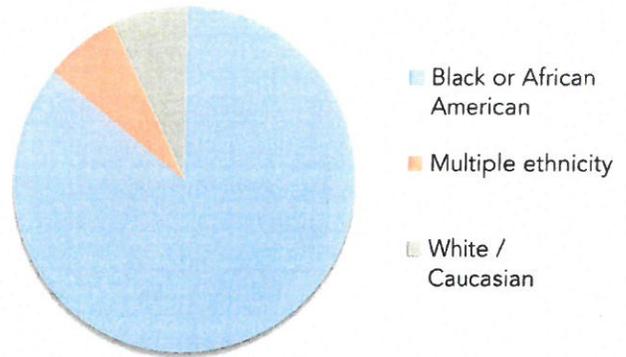


Chickasaw / Shawnee

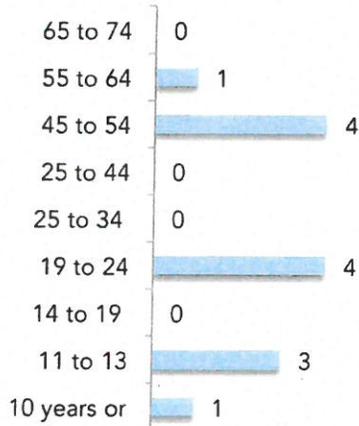
2016 Children in Nature Survey Results

14 Surveys Collected From:
 11 Females / 3 Males
 40212 - 57% / 40211 - 29% / Other - 14%

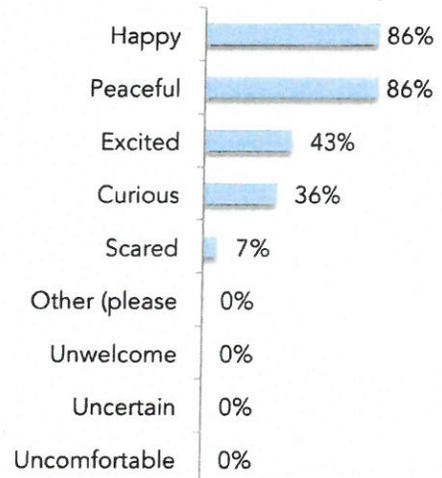
Survey Respondents Race



Respondent Age

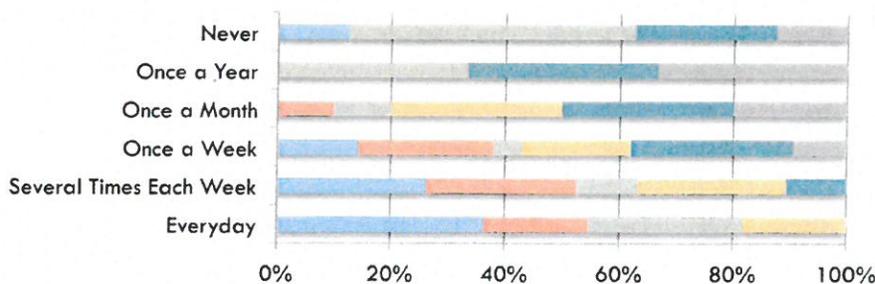


When you are in nature, how do you feel?



Where do you like to go to find nature and how often do you go?

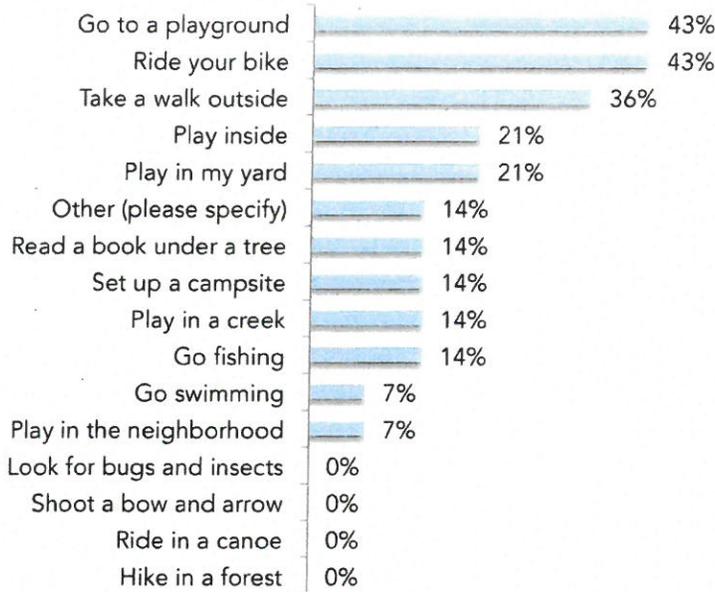
- Your Yard
- Your Neighborhood
- At School
- Park near my House
- Other Parks in Louisville
- Other Place



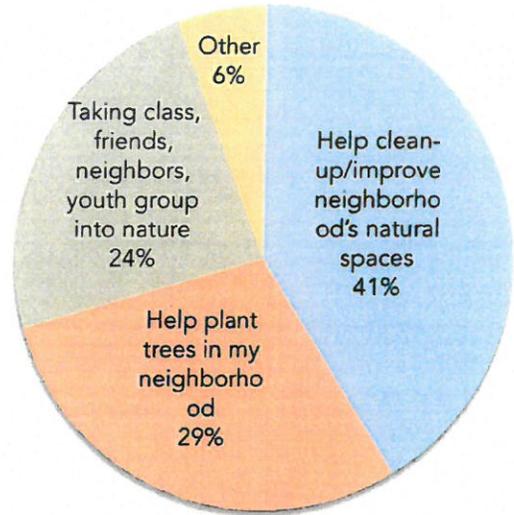
Parks I go to:

- Waterfront Park
- Shively Park
- Central Park
- Shawnee Park
- Driving down a country road

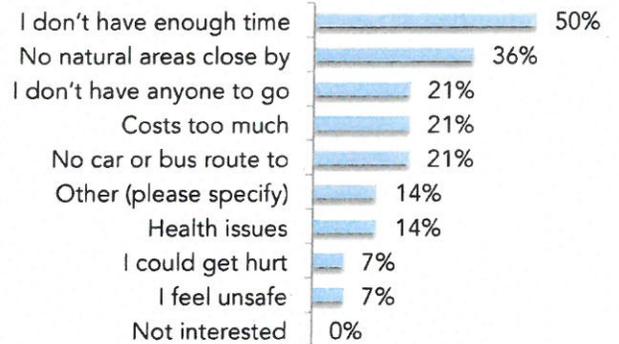
If you had a free afternoon, what would you like to do?



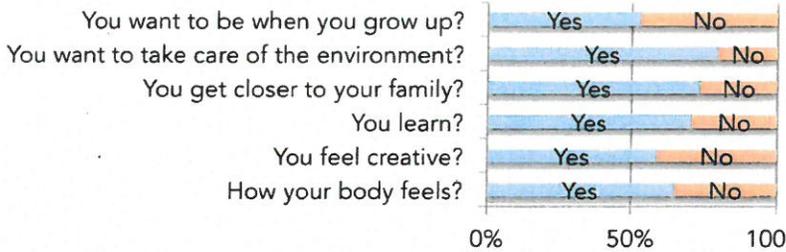
How can YOU help to get more people into nature in your neighborhood?



What are the 3 main reasons you do not spend more time in nature?



Does being in nature help...



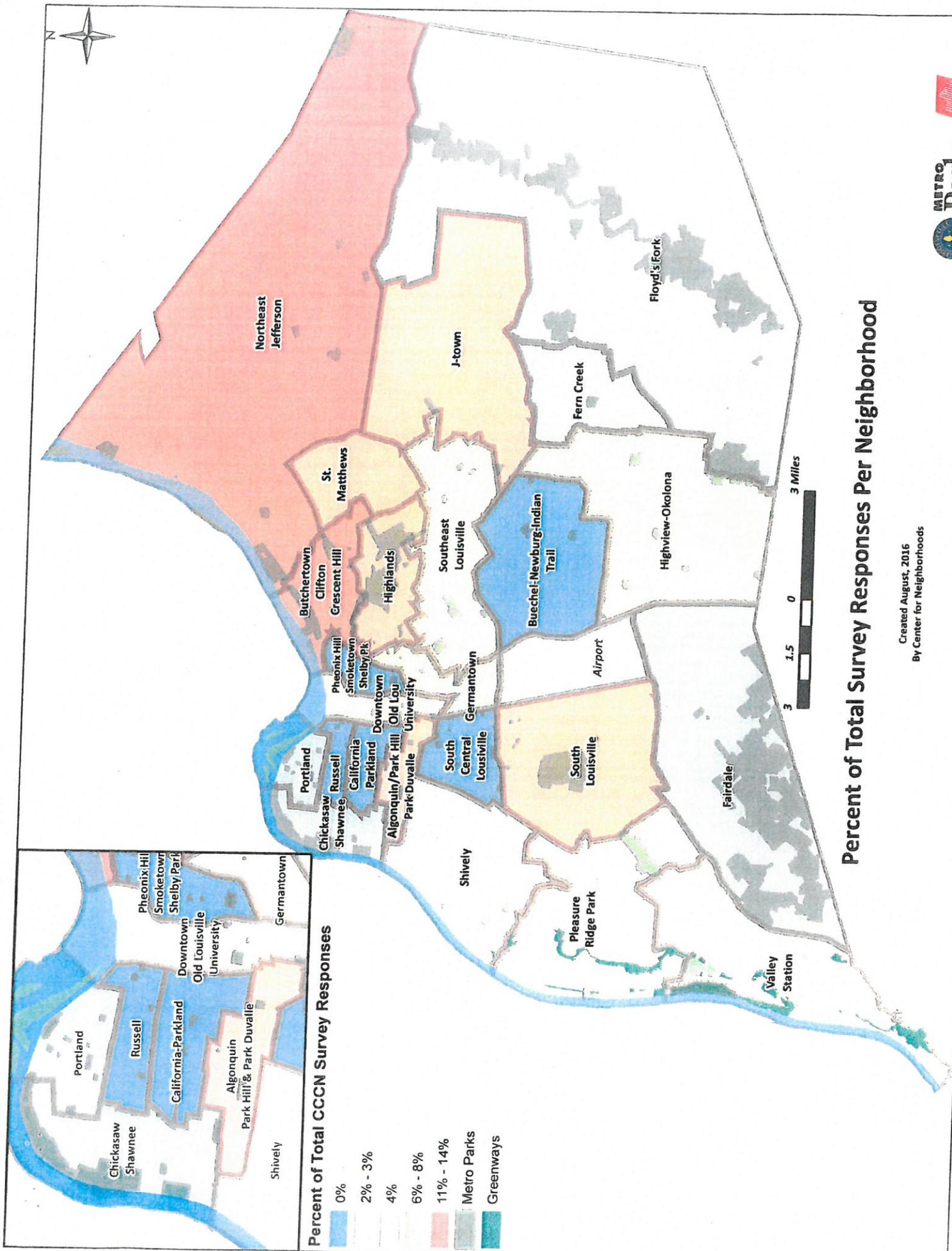
If you could tell the Mayor one thing about Louisville and Nature, What would it be?

- That they are wonderful.
- Keep Louisville full of free mature trees.
- Events for the kids to participate more often in.
- We need more nature areas.
- More pools.
- Cut the grass more near the interstates and plant more flowers.
- Keep everything clean and don't build in the wooded areas that are left.
- That the trees hanging along Broadway that are obstacles need to be evenly cut and trimmed back.

"Willing to volunteer for various activities."

Prepared for Metro Louisville by McNary & Associates, LLC. www.mcnyandassociates.com

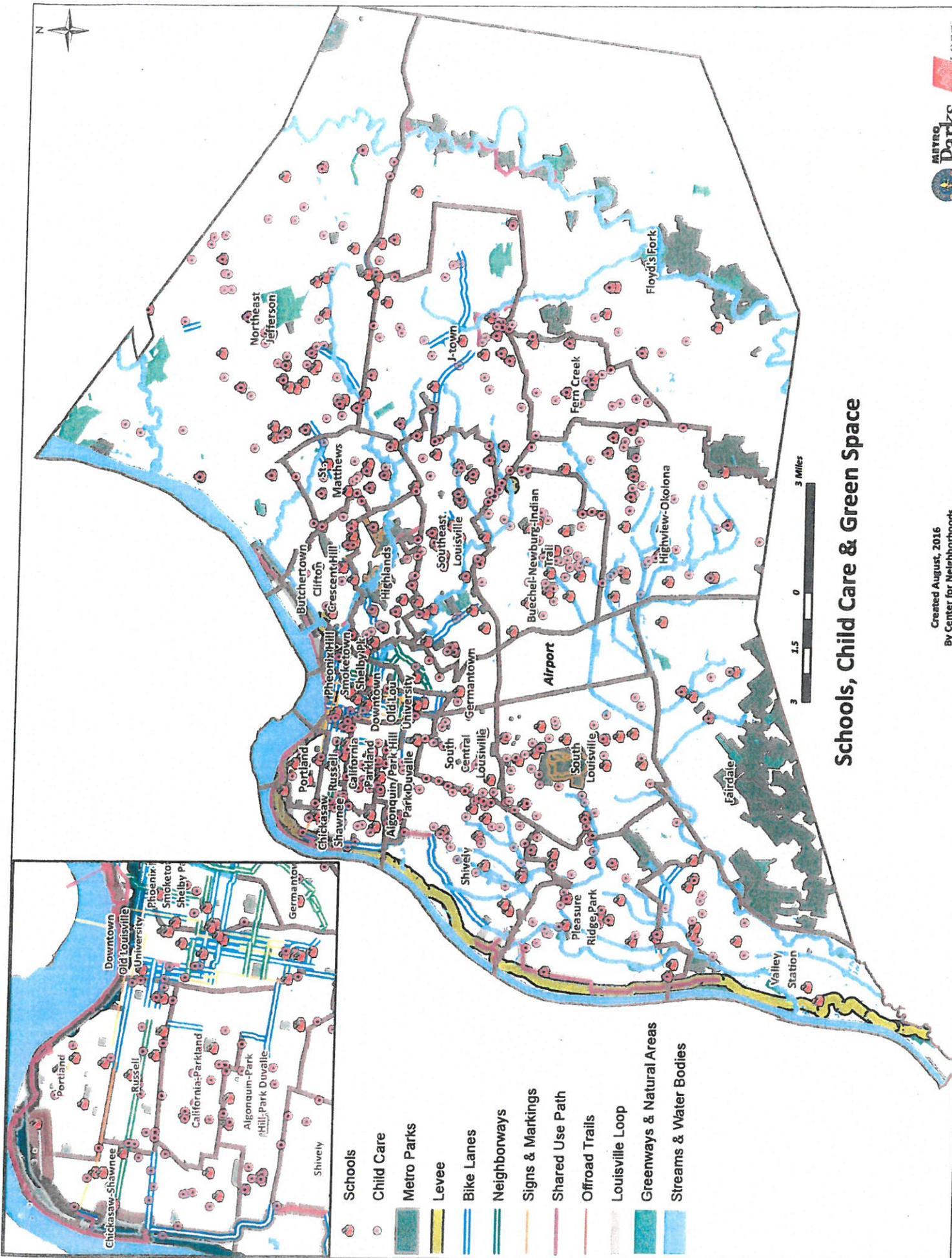




Percent of Total Survey Responses Per Neighborhood

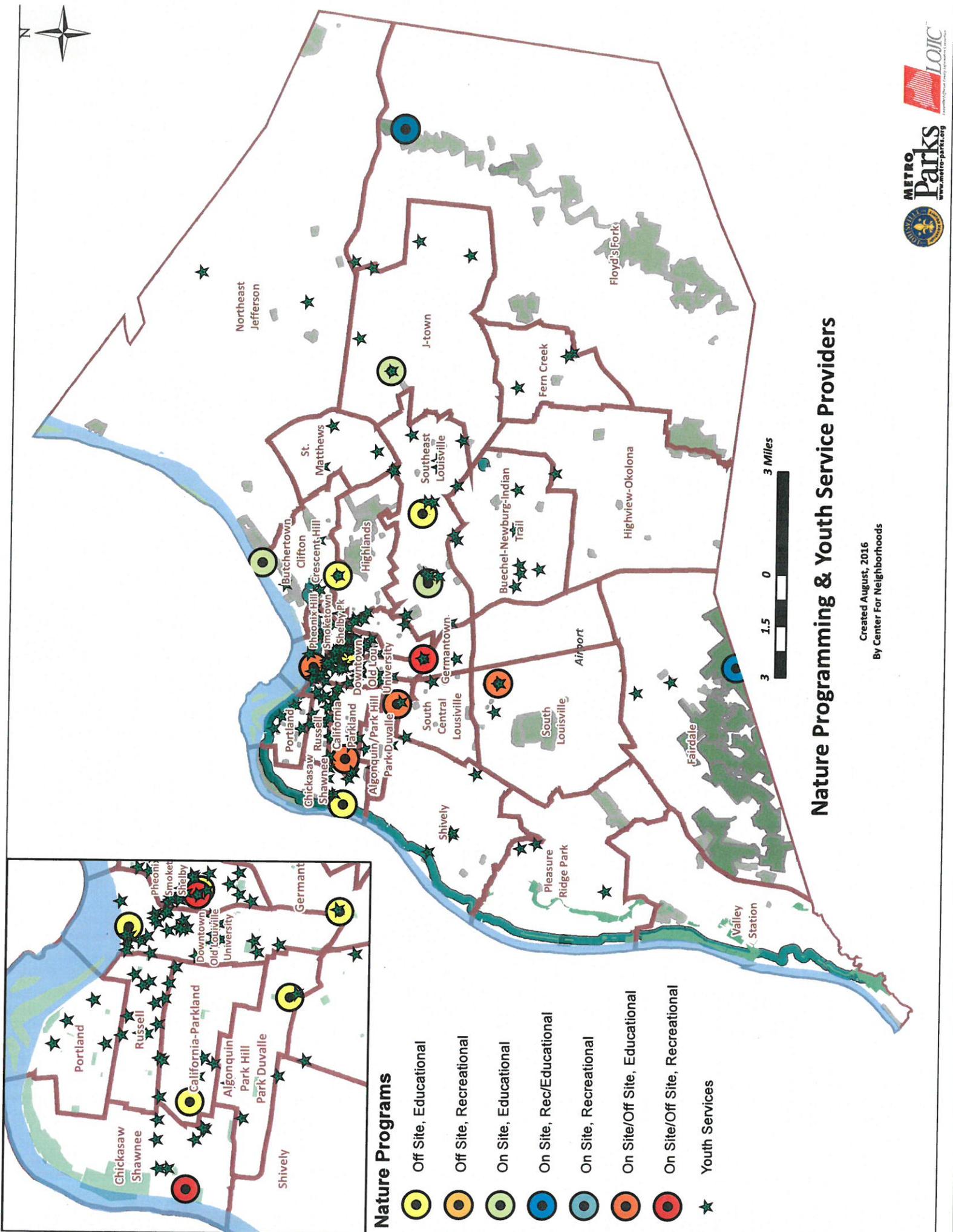
Created August, 2016
By Center for Neighborhoods





Created August, 2016
By Center for Neighborhoods



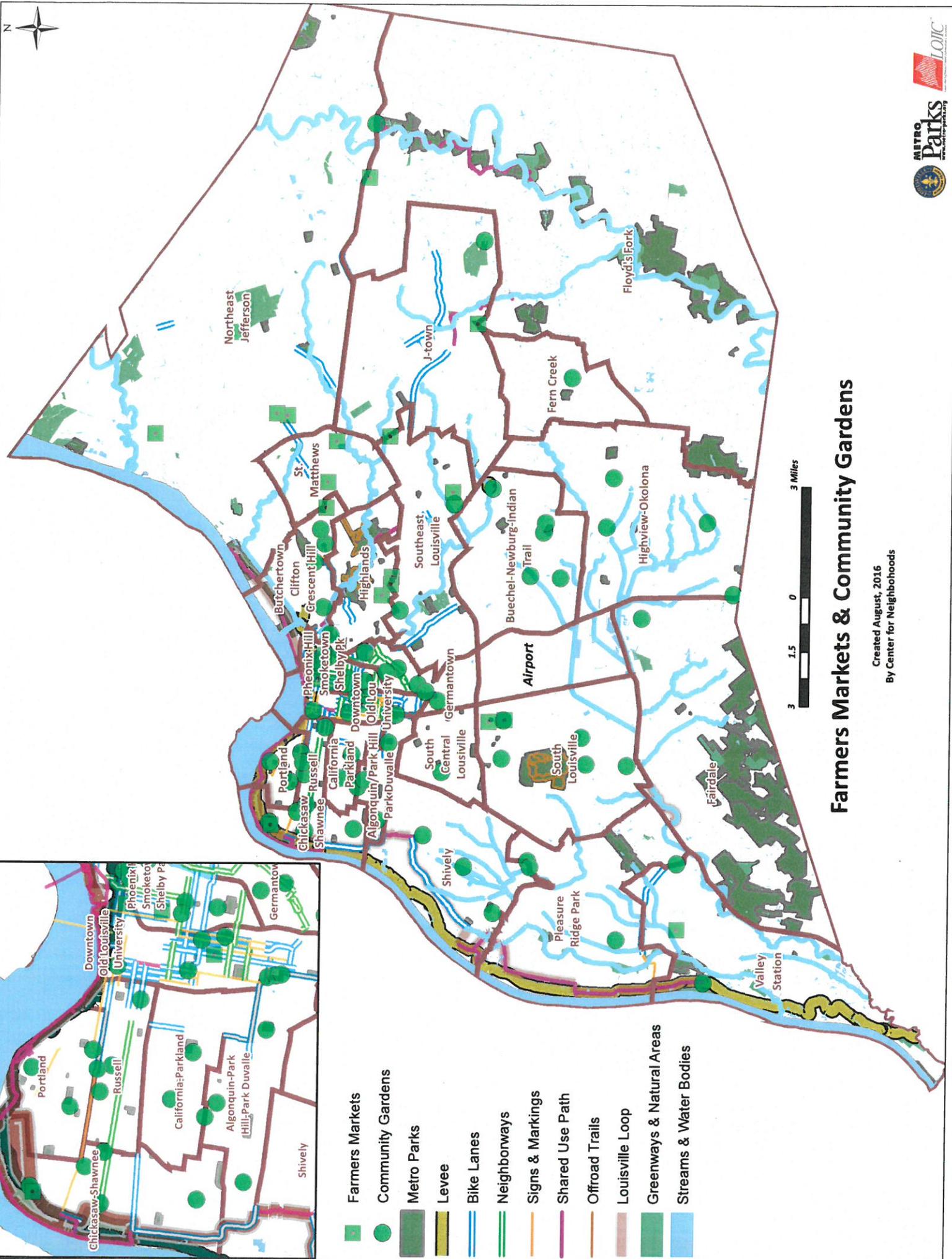


Nature Programs

- Off Site, Educational
- Off Site, Recreational
- On Site, Educational
- On Site, Rec/Educational
- On Site, Recreational
- On Site/Off Site, Educational
- On Site/Off Site, Recreational
- Youth Services

Nature Programming & Youth Service Providers

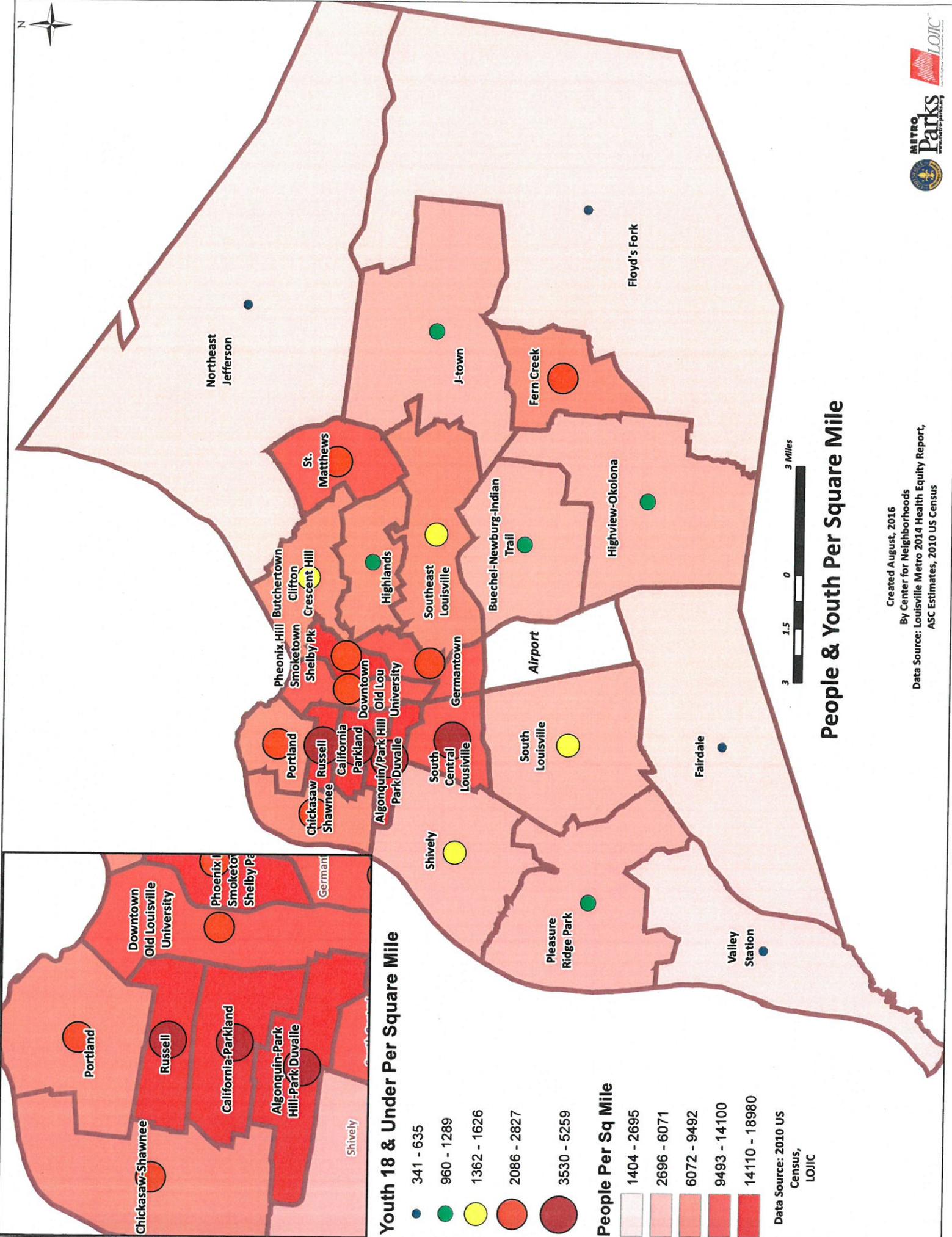
Created August, 2016
By Center For Neighborhoods



Farmers Markets & Community Gardens

Created August, 2016
By Center for Neighborhoods

-  Farmers Markets
-  Community Gardens
-  Metro Parks
-  Levee
-  Bike Lanes
-  Neighborways
-  Signs & Markings
-  Shared Use Path
-  Offroad Trails
-  Louisville Loop
-  Greenways & Natural Areas
-  Streams & Water Bodies



Youth 18 & Under Per Square Mile

- 341 - 635
- 960 - 1289
- 1362 - 1626
- 2086 - 2827
- 3530 - 5259

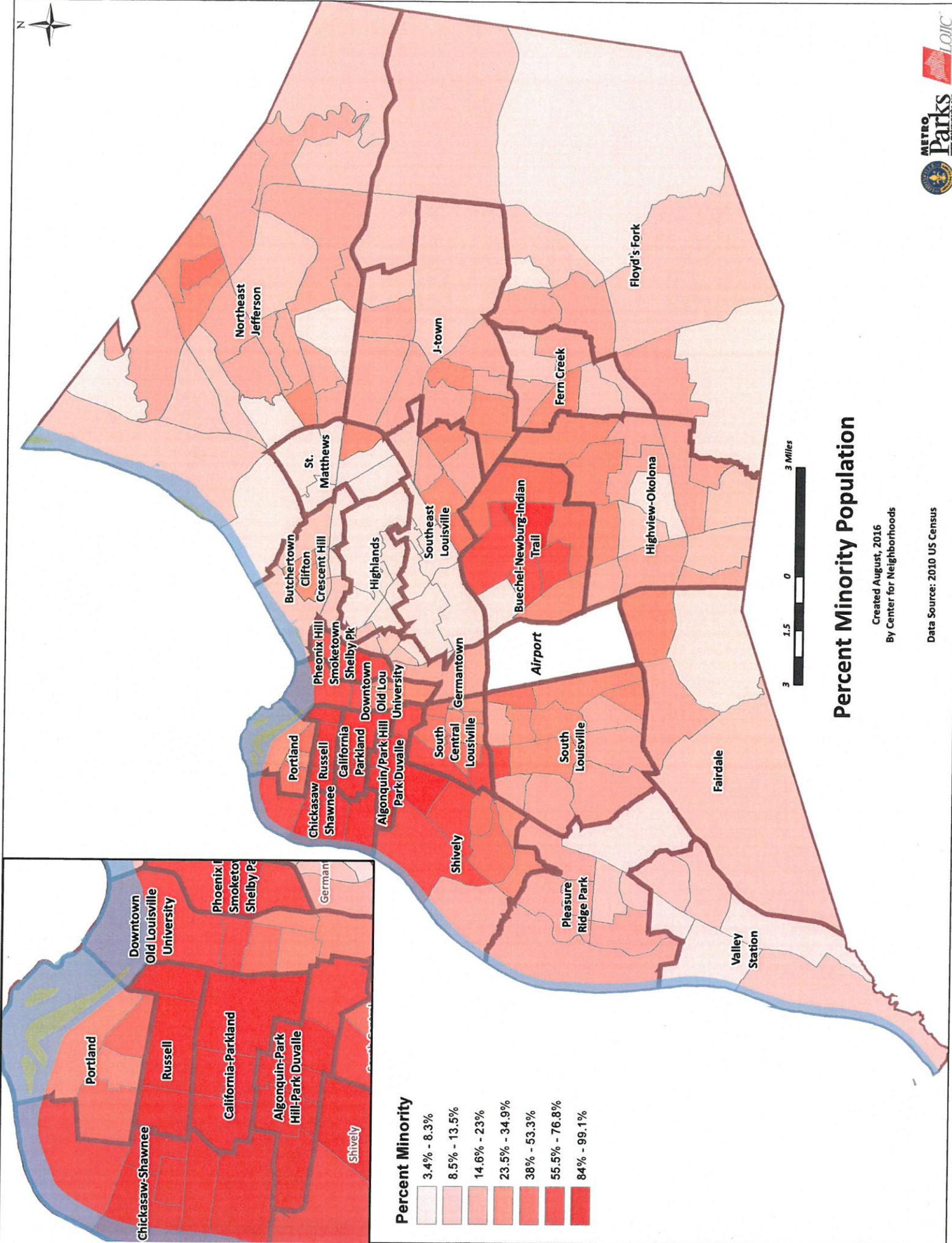
People Per Sq Mile

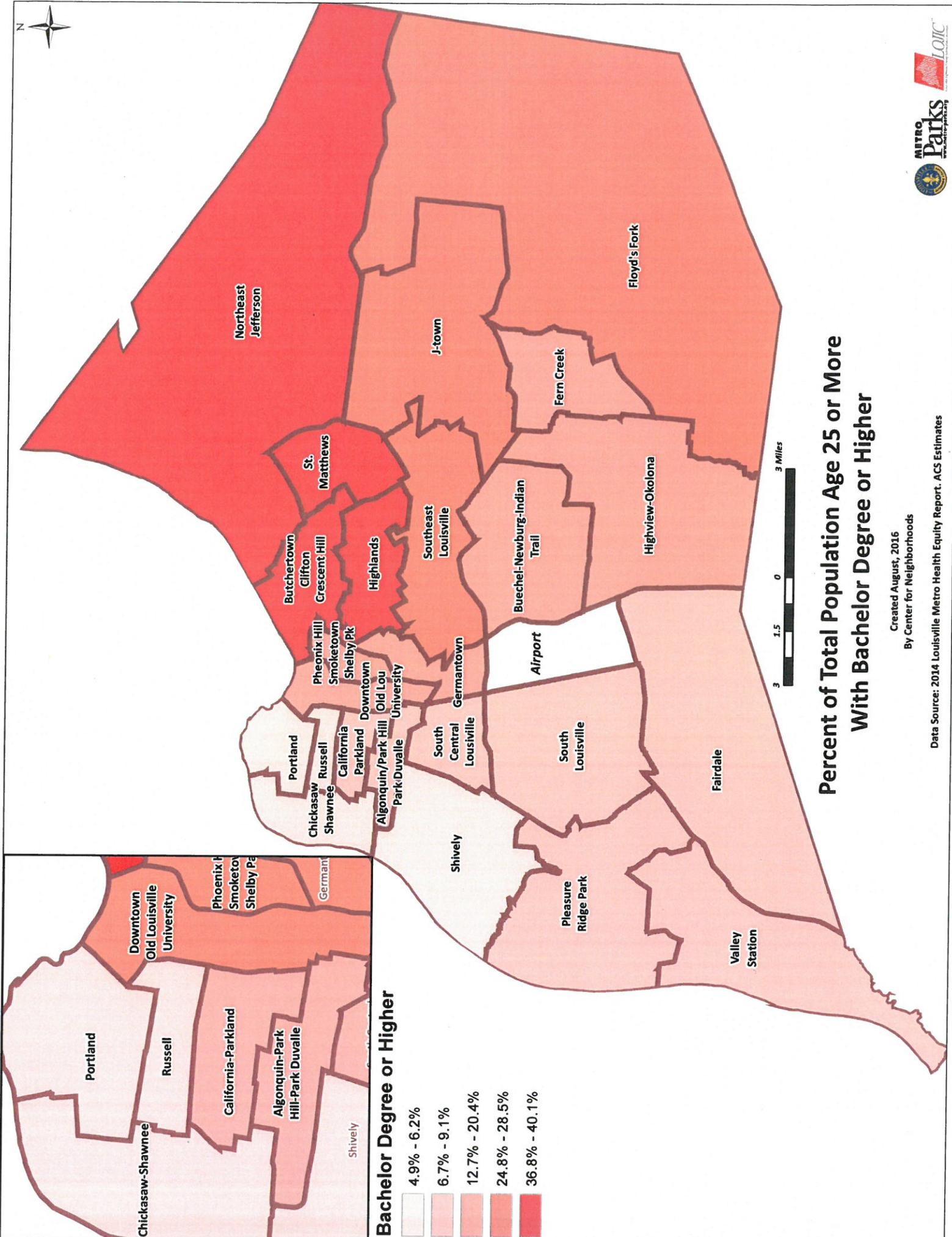
- 1404 - 2695
- 2696 - 6071
- 6072 - 9492
- 9493 - 14100
- 14110 - 18980

Data Source: 2010 US Census, LOJIC



People & Youth Per Square Mile





Bachelor Degree or Higher

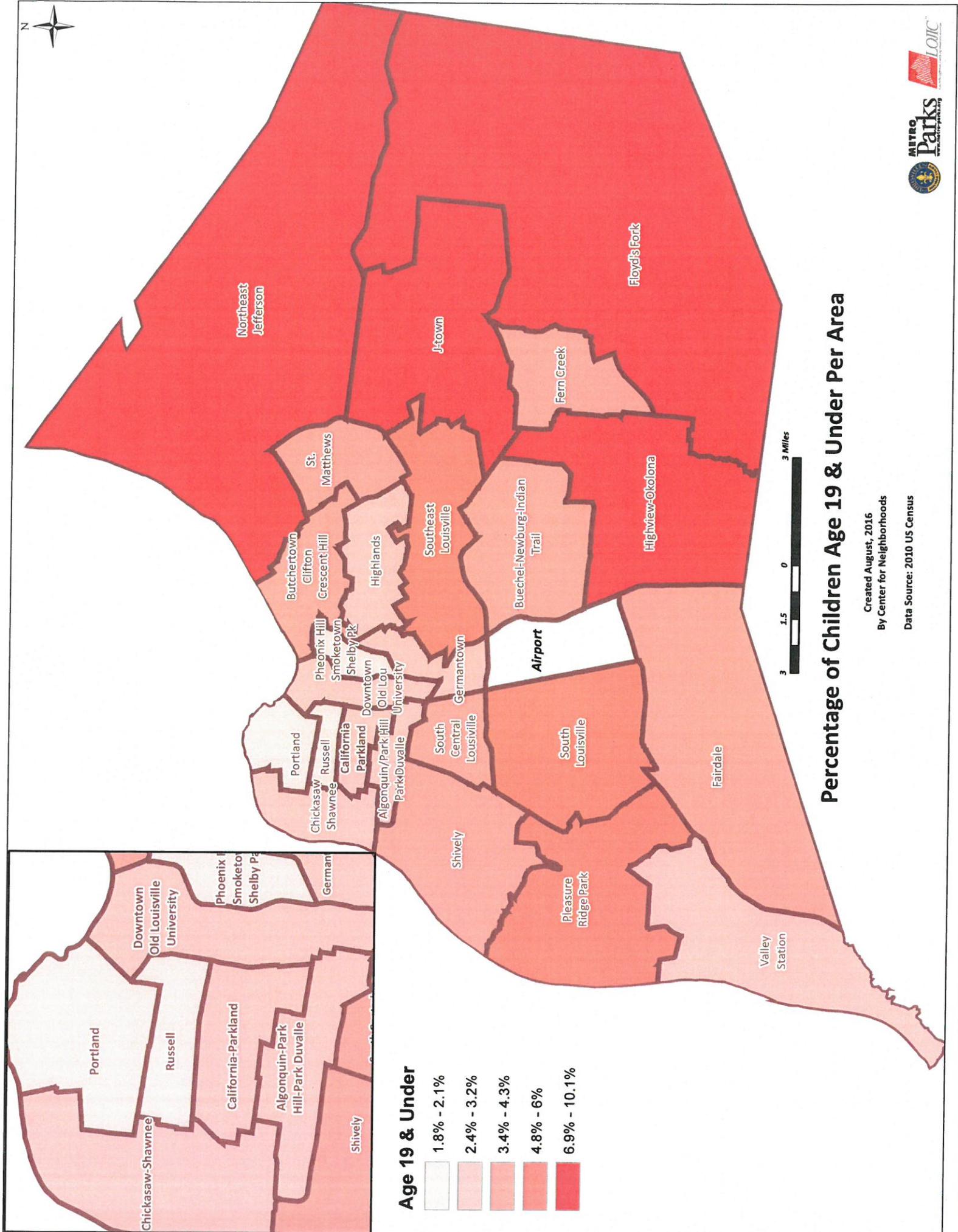
- 4.9% - 6.2%
- 6.7% - 9.1%
- 12.7% - 20.4%
- 24.8% - 28.5%
- 36.8% - 40.1%



**Percent of Total Population Age 25 or More
With Bachelor Degree or Higher**

Created August, 2016
 By Center for Neighborhoods
 Data Source: 2014 Louisville Metro Health Equity Report. ACS Estimates



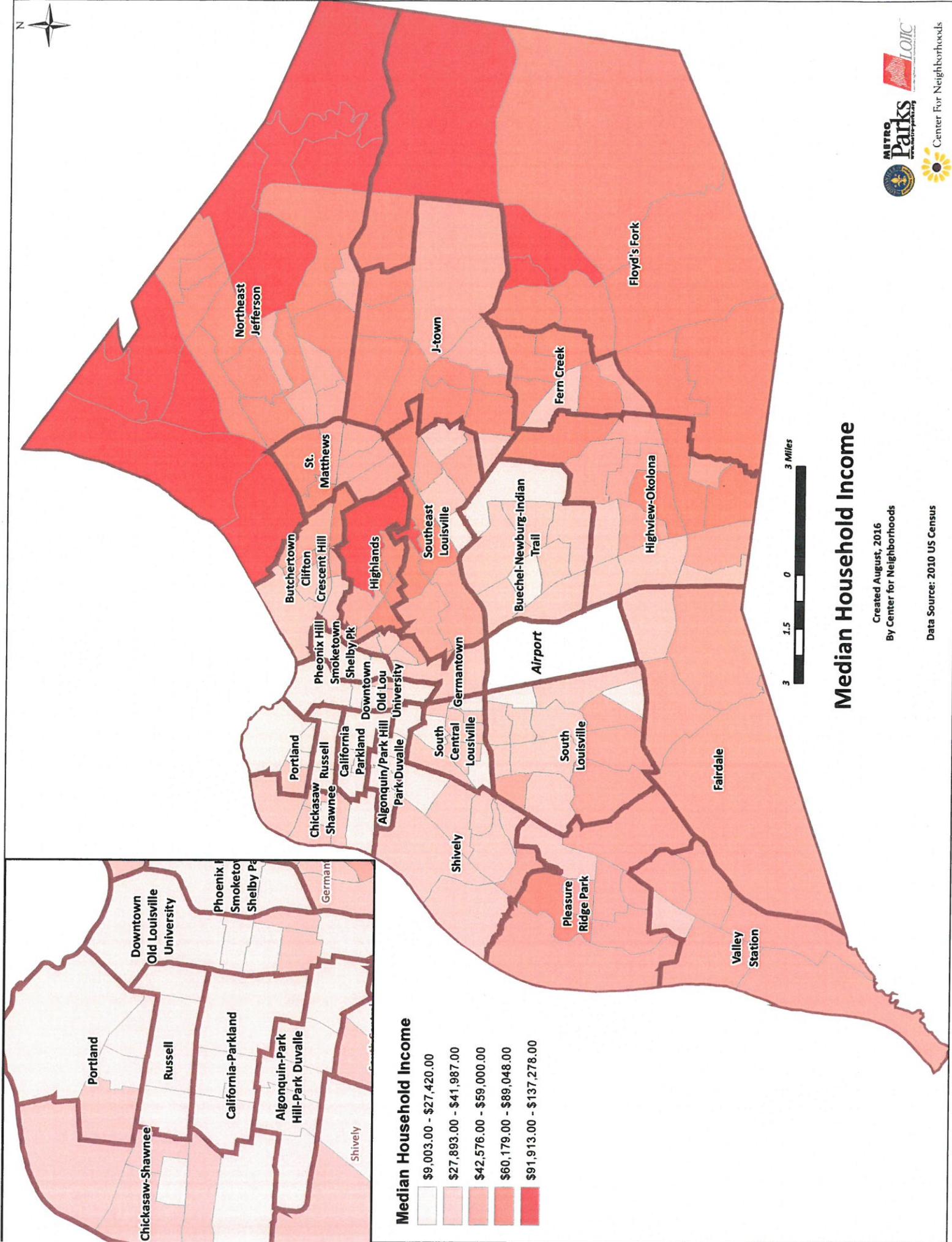


Percentage of Children Age 19 & Under Per Area



Created August, 2016
 By Center for Neighborhoods
 Data Source: 2010 US Census



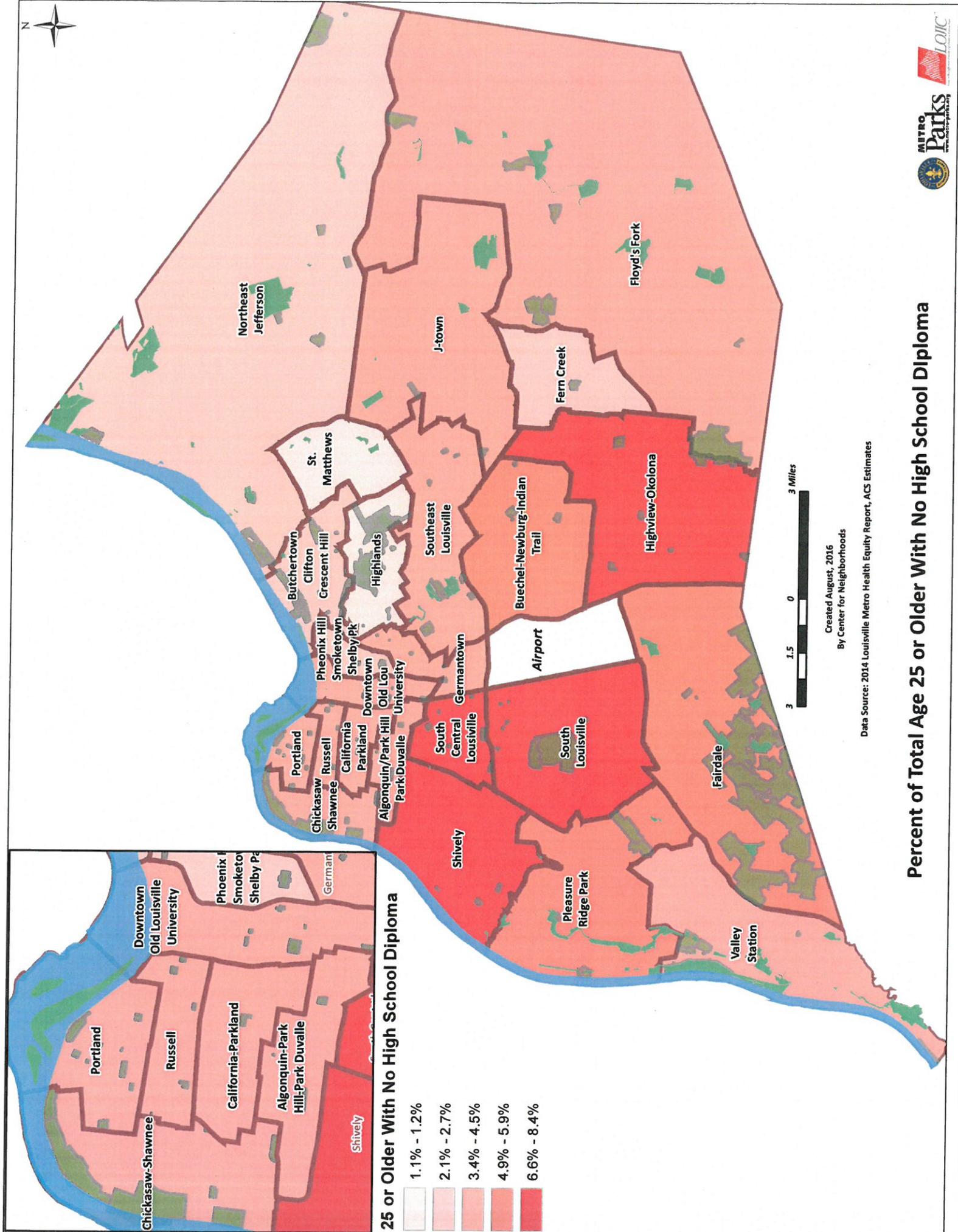


Median Household Income

Created August, 2016
By Center for Neighborhoods

Data Source: 2010 US Census

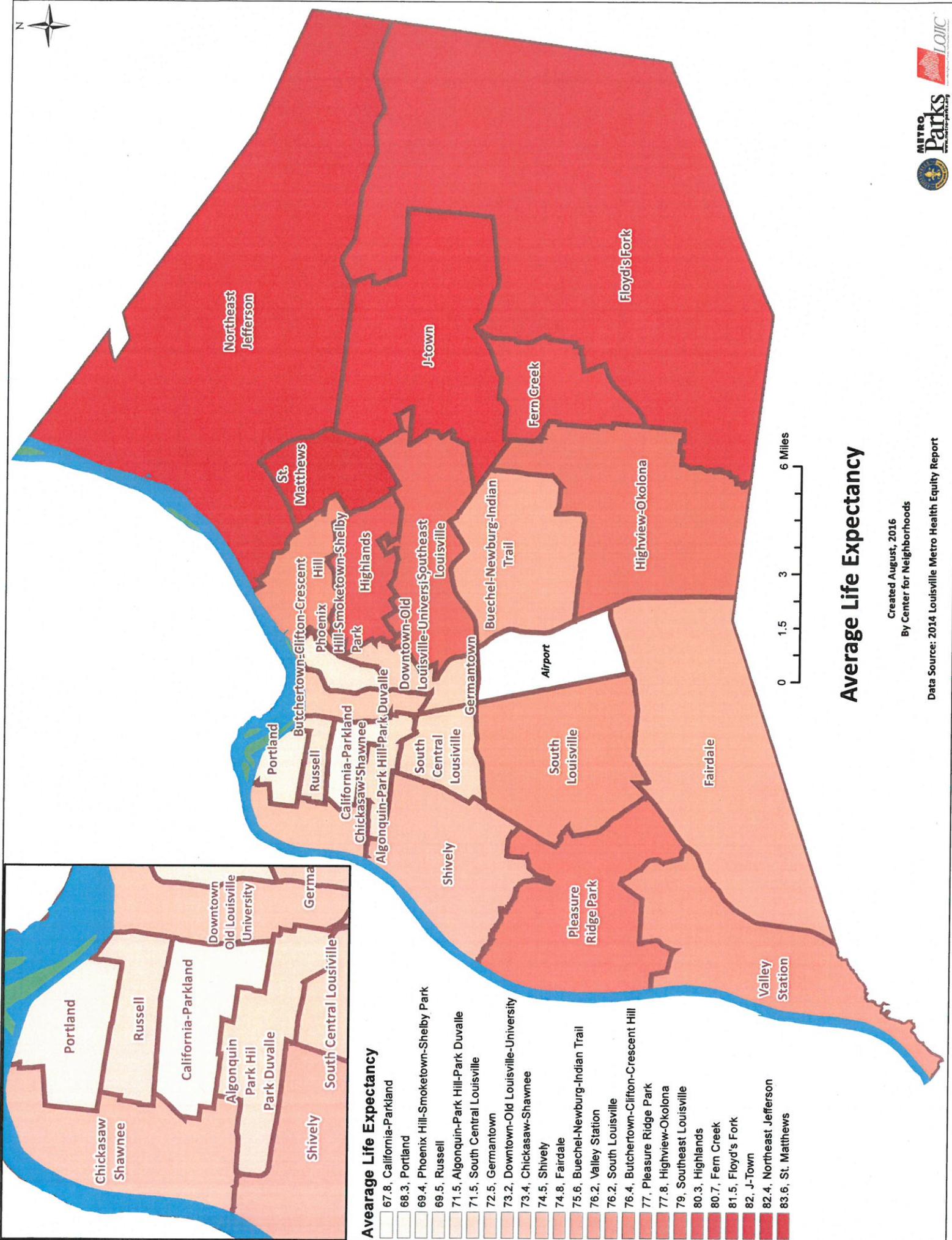




Created August, 2016
 By Center for Neighborhoods
 Data Source: 2014 Louisville Metro Health Equity Report, ACS Estimates

Percent of Total Age 25 or Older With No High School Diploma





Average Life Expectancy

- 67.8, California-Parkland
- 68.3, Portland
- 69.4, Phoenix Hill-Smoketown-Shelby Park
- 69.5, Russell
- 71.5, Algonquin-Park Hill-Park Duvalle
- 71.5, South Central Louisville
- 72.5, Germantown
- 73.2, Downtown-Old Louisville-University
- 73.4, Chickasaw-Shawnee
- 74.5, Shively
- 74.8, Fairdale
- 75.6, Buechel-Newburg-Indian Trail
- 76.2, Valley Station
- 76.2, South Louisville
- 76.4, Butchertown-Clifton-Crescent Hill
- 77, Pleasure Ridge Park
- 77.8, Highview-Okolona
- 79, Southeast Louisville
- 80.3, Highlands
- 80.7, Fern Creek
- 81.5, Floyd's Fork
- 82, J-Town
- 82.4, Northeast Jefferson
- 83.6, St. Matthews

Average Life Expectancy

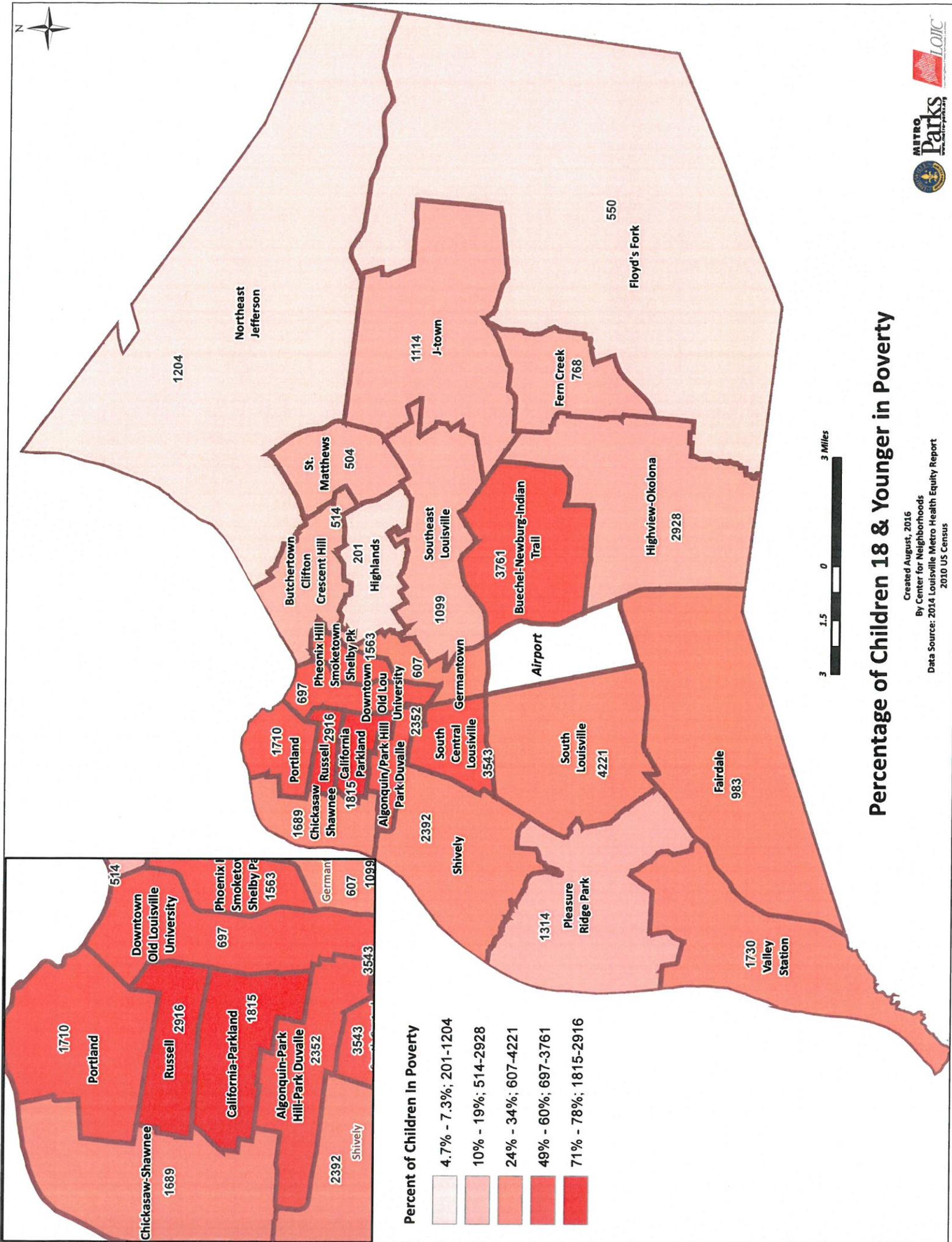


Created August, 2016

By Center for Neighborhoods

Data Source: 2014 Louisville Metro Health Equity Report

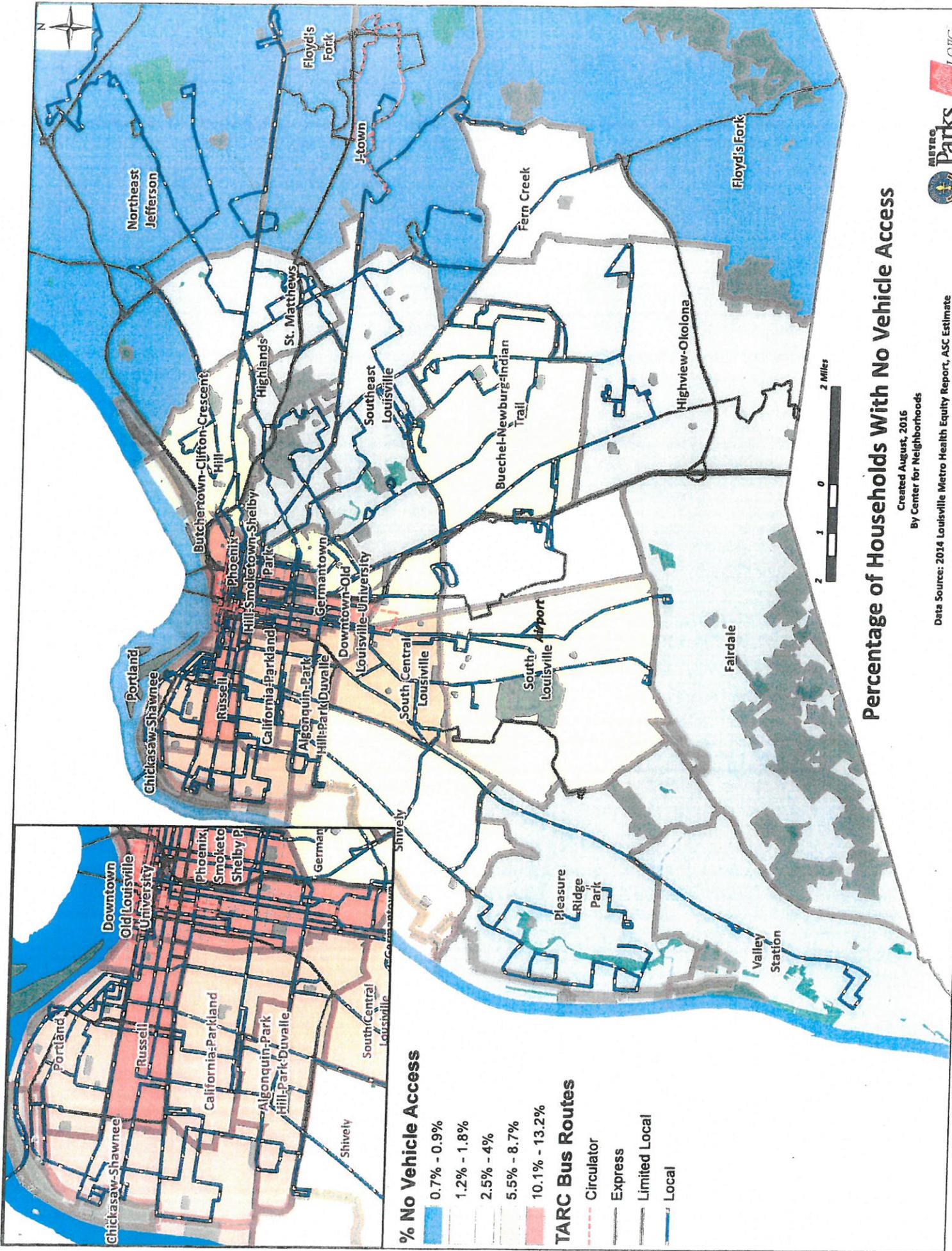




Percentage of Children 18 & Younger in Poverty

Created August, 2016
 By Center for Neighborhoods
 Data Source: 2014 Louisville Metro Health Equity Report
 2010 US Census





% No Vehicle Access

- 0.7% - 0.9%
- 1.2% - 1.8%
- 2.5% - 4%
- 5.5% - 8.7%
- 10.1% - 13.2%

TARC Bus Routes

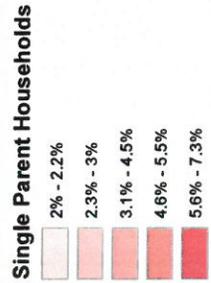
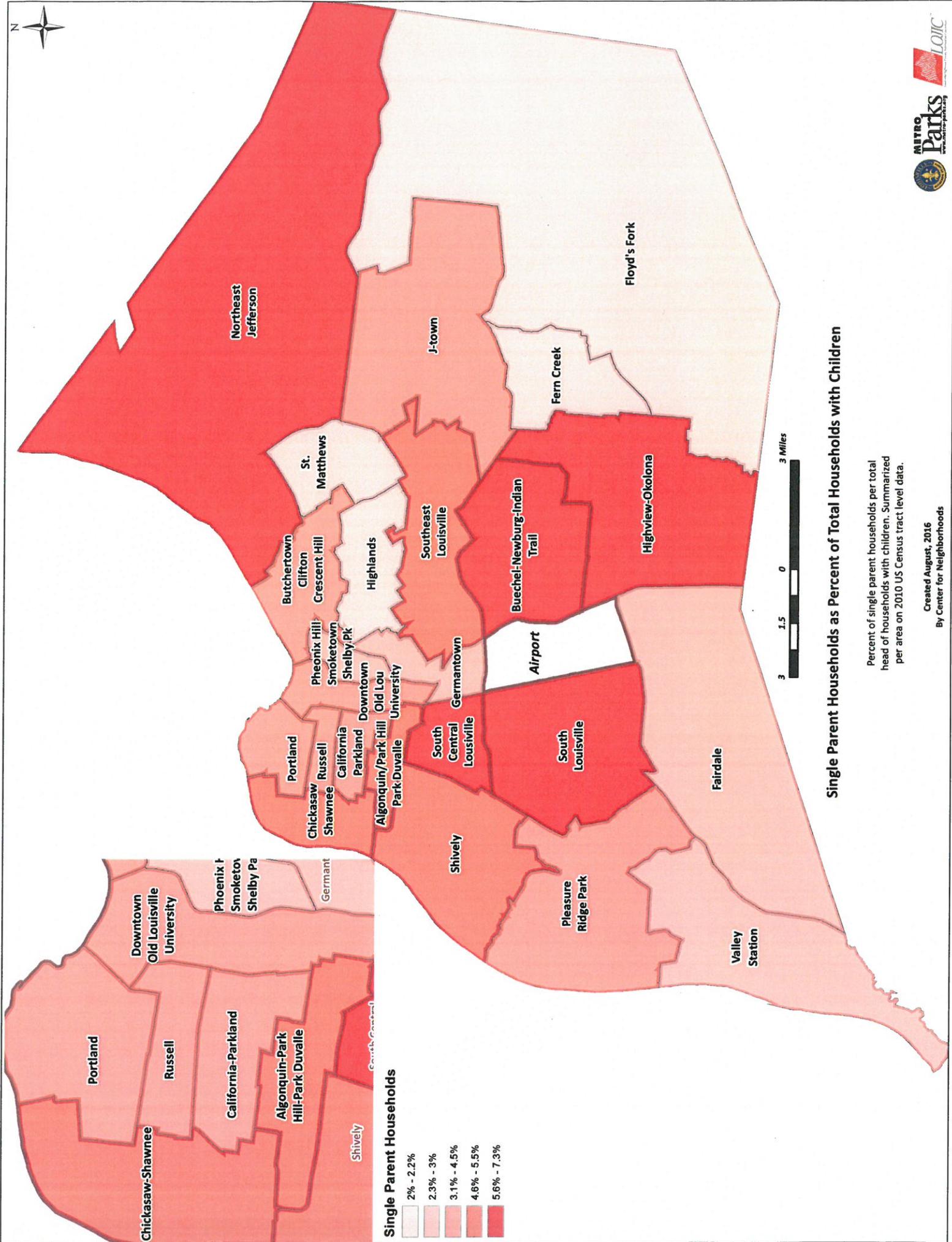
- Circulator
- Express
- Limited Local
- Local

Percentage of Households With No Vehicle Access

Created August, 2016
By Center for Neighborhoods

Data Source: 2014 Louisville Metro Health Equity Report, ASC Estimate





Single Parent Households as Percent of Total Households with Children

Percent of single parent households per total head of households with children. Summarized per area on 2010 US Census tract level data.

