

# Beyond “Concentrated Poverty”

Better Data Resources for Advancing Place-Based Equity



May 2023

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[metro council.org](https://metro council.org)



# Place is an important dimension of equity

- Residents of high-poverty neighborhoods experience:
  - Higher crime victimization rates
  - More aggressive policing
  - Worse physical health
  - Worse mental health
- Effects are strongest on children
  - Lower scores on tests of letter/word recognition, reading comprehension, and math calculations
  - Lower rates of high school graduation and college attendance
  - Lower economic mobility

**Place-based equity: Where you live shouldn't affect your life chances.**

*“The stories we tell ourselves matter. Narrative plays an important role in defining whose voice gets heard, how issues are framed, and what solutions are developed.”*

*~ Nelima Sitati Munene*

## SHELTERFORCE

THE VOICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



### Speaking Up On Race, Housing, and Opportunity in Minnesota

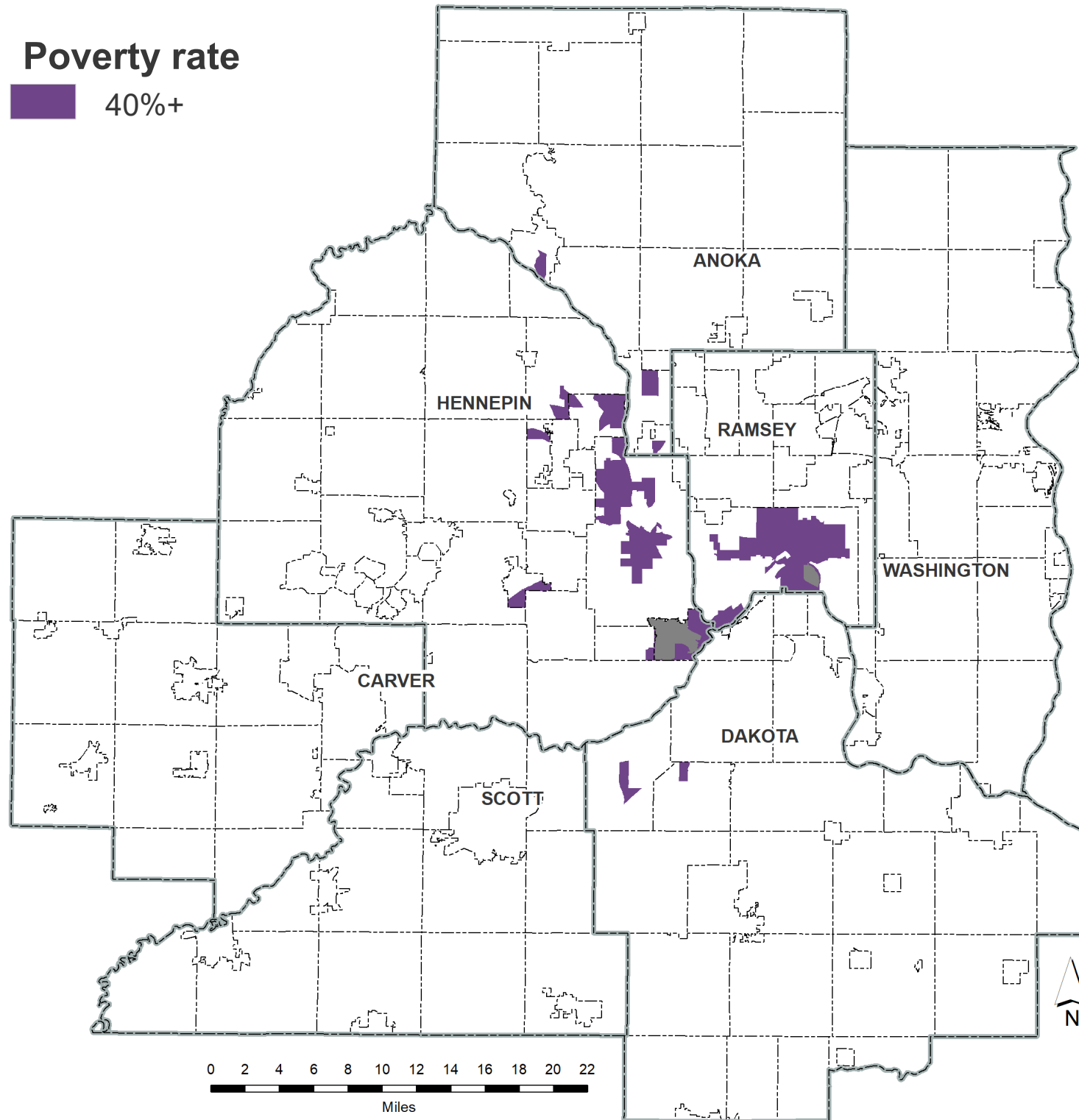
**Housing** Nelima Sitati Munene - January 11, 2019

In the housing world, narrative plays an important role in defining whose voice gets heard, how issues are framed, and what solutions are developed. This is especially true in Minnesota.



## Poverty rate

40%+



# Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs)

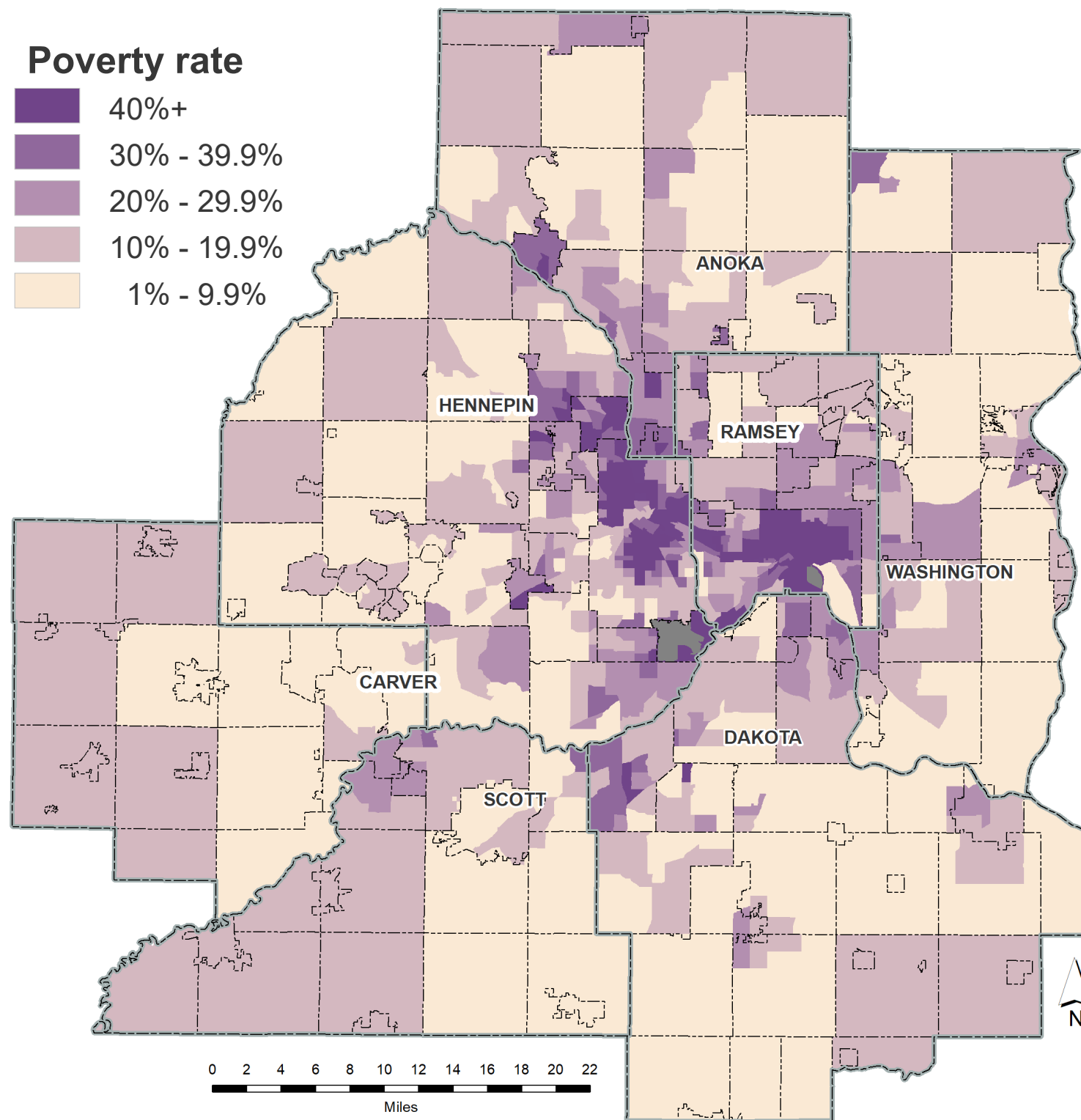
Response to HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

Census tracts where at least 40% of residents are in poverty

*(Poverty = Below 185% of the federal poverty threshold)*







# CP framework narrows scope of region's poverty

If we're trying to influence the lives of *people in poverty*...

***What about the people in poverty who do not live in an ACP (71%)?***

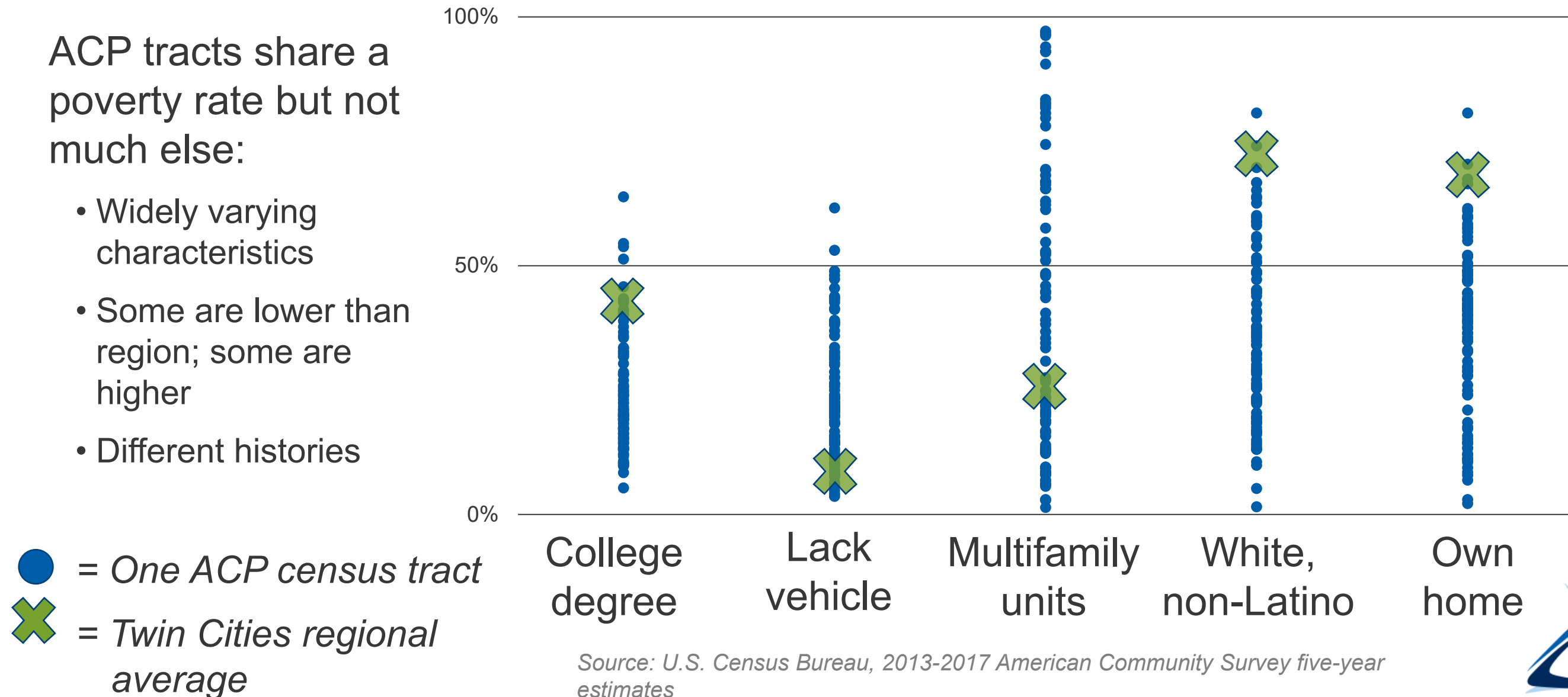
If we're trying to influence *places with high poverty*...

***Why the hard cutoff at 40%?***

# CP framework ignores wide variation across areas

ACP tracts share a poverty rate but not much else:

- Widely varying characteristics
- Some are lower than region; some are higher
- Different histories





# CP framework doesn't tell the full story

## Demographic data can't capture lived experience

- Community / culture
- Politics

## If we're looking at place-based equity, what about:

- Buildings/ownership
- Environment and natural features
- Institutions and infrastructure
- Employers

*"In the early days of opportunity mapping... it was standard to simply map race and/or poverty and call low-poverty or predominantly white neighborhoods "opportunity" areas.... Such practices confuse the idea of a geography of opportunity with the geography of people."*

*~ Edward G. Goetz*

## SHELTERFORCE

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Your "Opportunity" Map is Broken. Here Are Some Fixes

Community Development Field Edward G. Goetz - November 16, 2017

If we are truly going to reduce our housing policy objectives to the realm of goals related to "opportunity," I would like to offer some guidelines for its proper use.



# Equity Considerations dataset overview

## Over 300 fields of data for the region's census tracts

- Geographies
- Expanded demographics
- Migration
- Disability status
- Socioeconomic characteristics
- Housing stock, costs/affordability
- Land use
- Environment and climate
- Amenities
- Employment
- Transportation and commuting

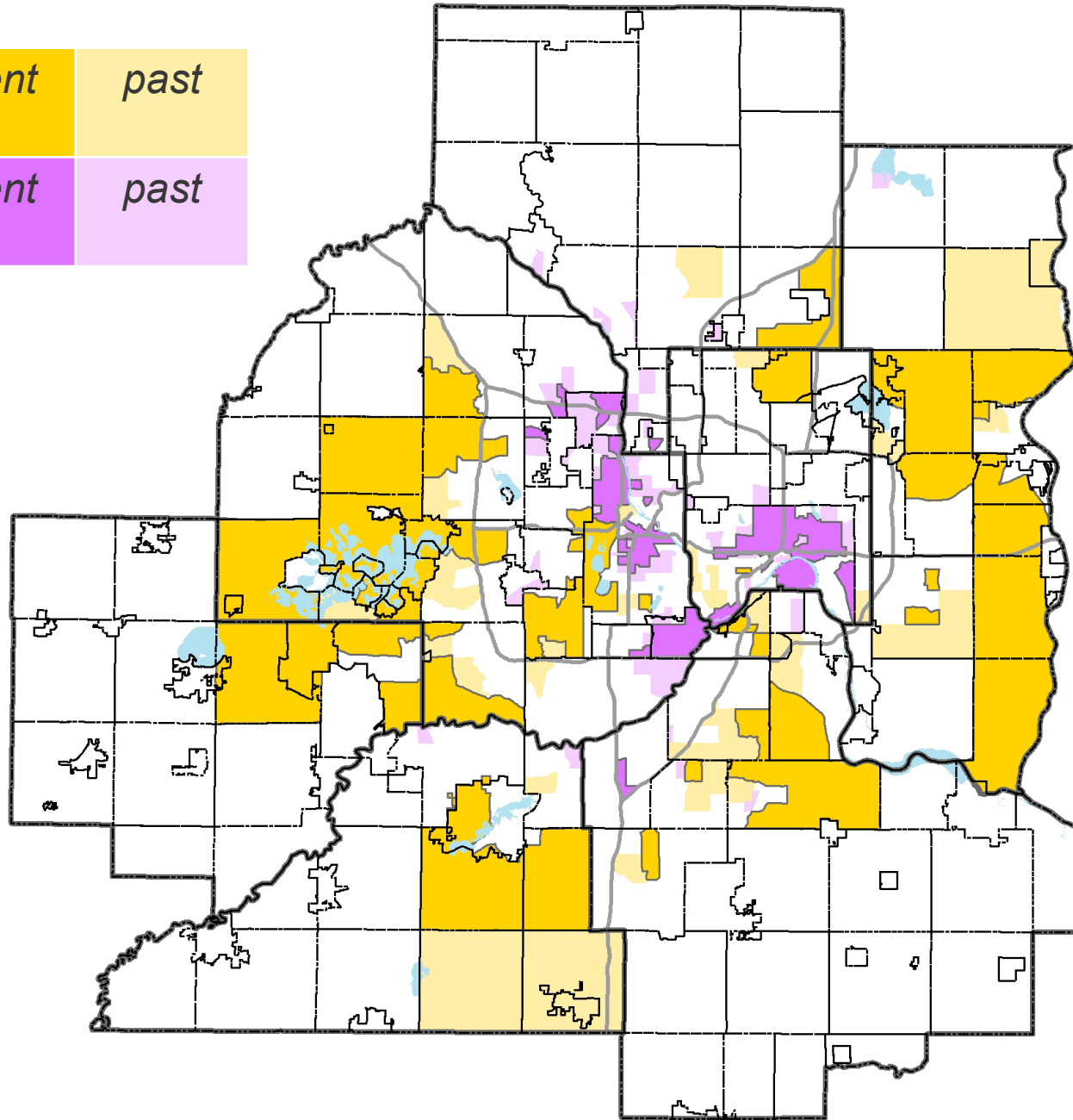
The screenshot shows the Minnesota Geospatial Commons website. The header includes navigation links for Resource, Categories, and Activity Stream, along with the Minnesota Geospatial Commons logo. The main title is 'Equity Considerations for Place-Based Advocacy and Decisions in the Twin Cities Region'. Below the title is a detailed description of the dataset, which provides equity-relevant characteristics for each census tract in the Twin Cities region. It mentions that the dataset was formerly known as the Areas of Concentrated Poverty dataset and has been expanded to include a wider range of data. The description also includes links to the Metro Council website for more background and to the User Guide and Methodology for the dataset. At the bottom, there is a list of available data formats with corresponding download buttons: Esri ArcGIS Server Map Service (two instances), ESRI File Geodatabase, Shapefile, MS Excel File, and Full Metadata Record (with a View button).

[Link to website/resources](#)



# Add parity, refocus on systems' outcomes

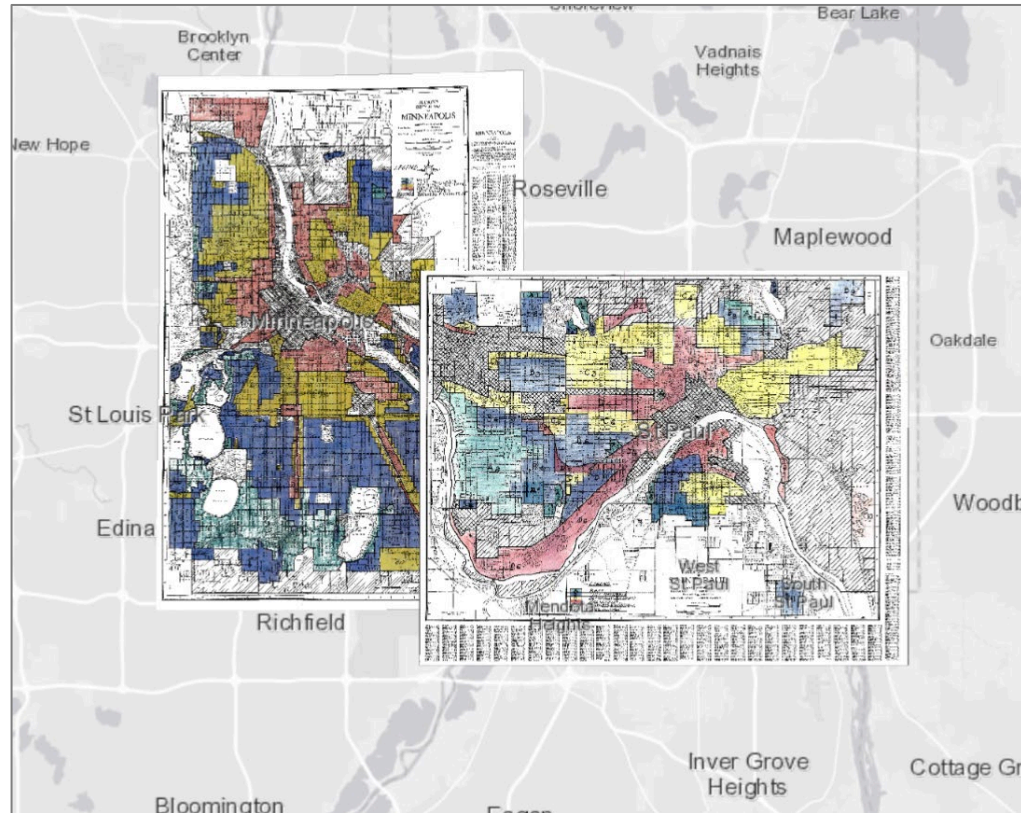
Concentrated Affluence	current	past
Concentrated Poverty	current	past



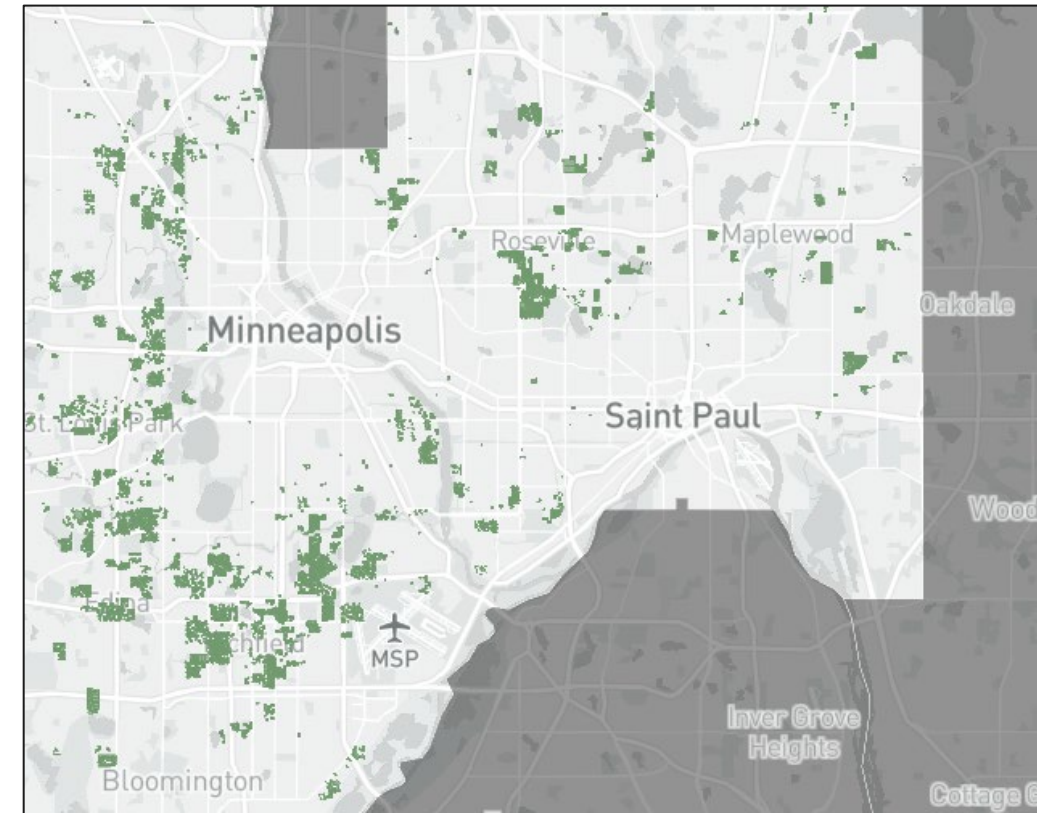
Source: Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).

- Same systems that create concentrated poverty also produce concentrated affluence
- Shifts focus from concentrated poverty to these patterns across places

# Make historic data accessible, relevant



- [Home Owners Loan Corporation](#) (HOLC) "grades" as share of census tract area
- Minneapolis and Saint Paul

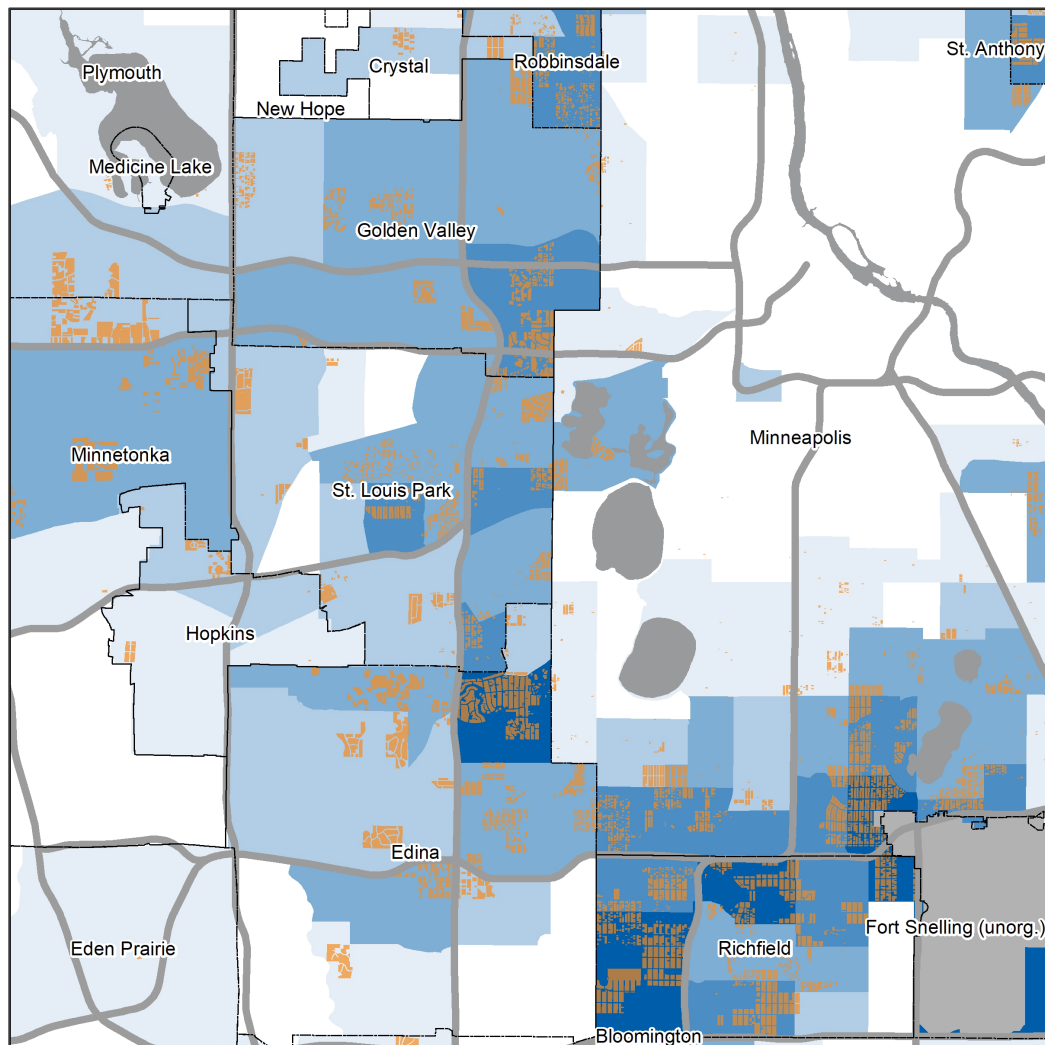
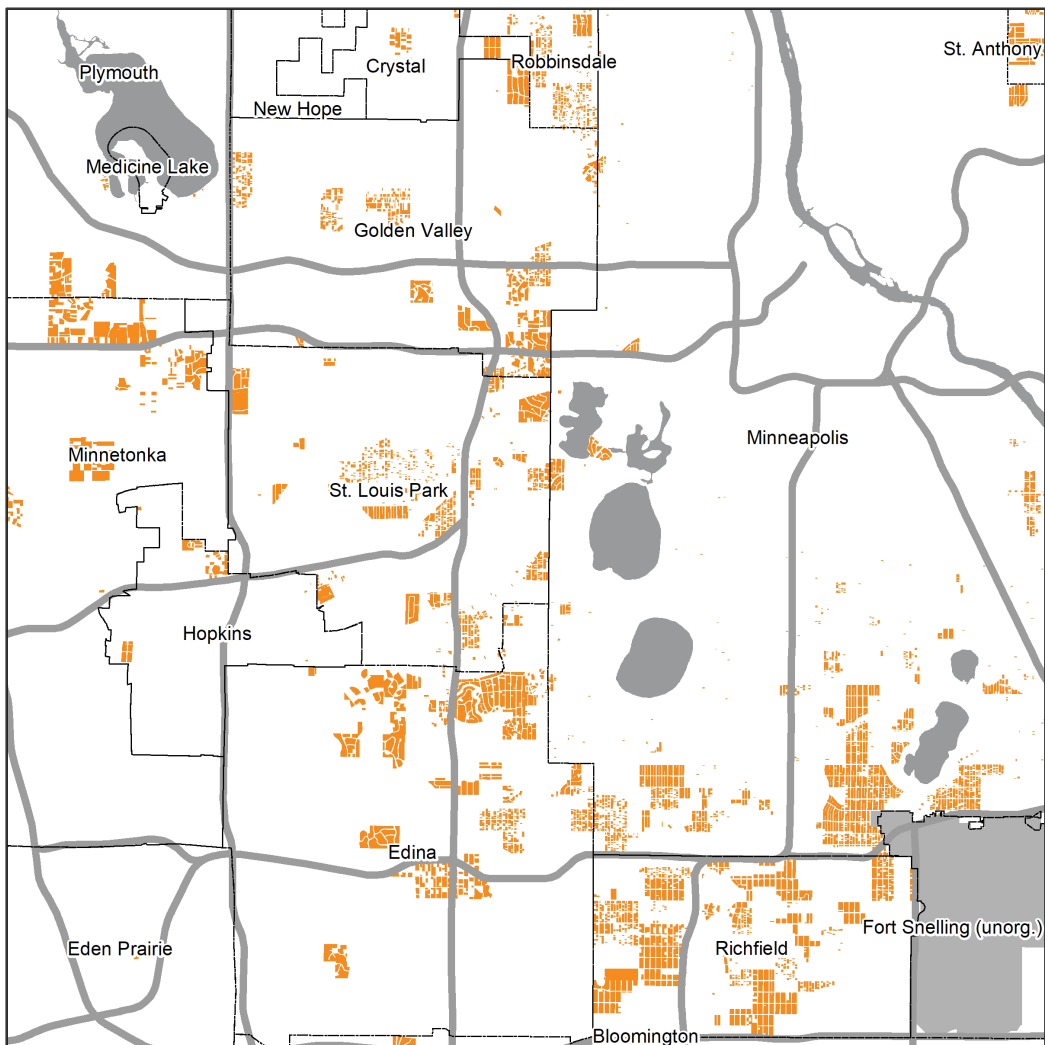


- Racially restrictive covenants ([Mapping Prejudice Project](#))
- Hennepin and Ramsey Counties



# Helping covenant data play nicely with others

## Area covered by covenants



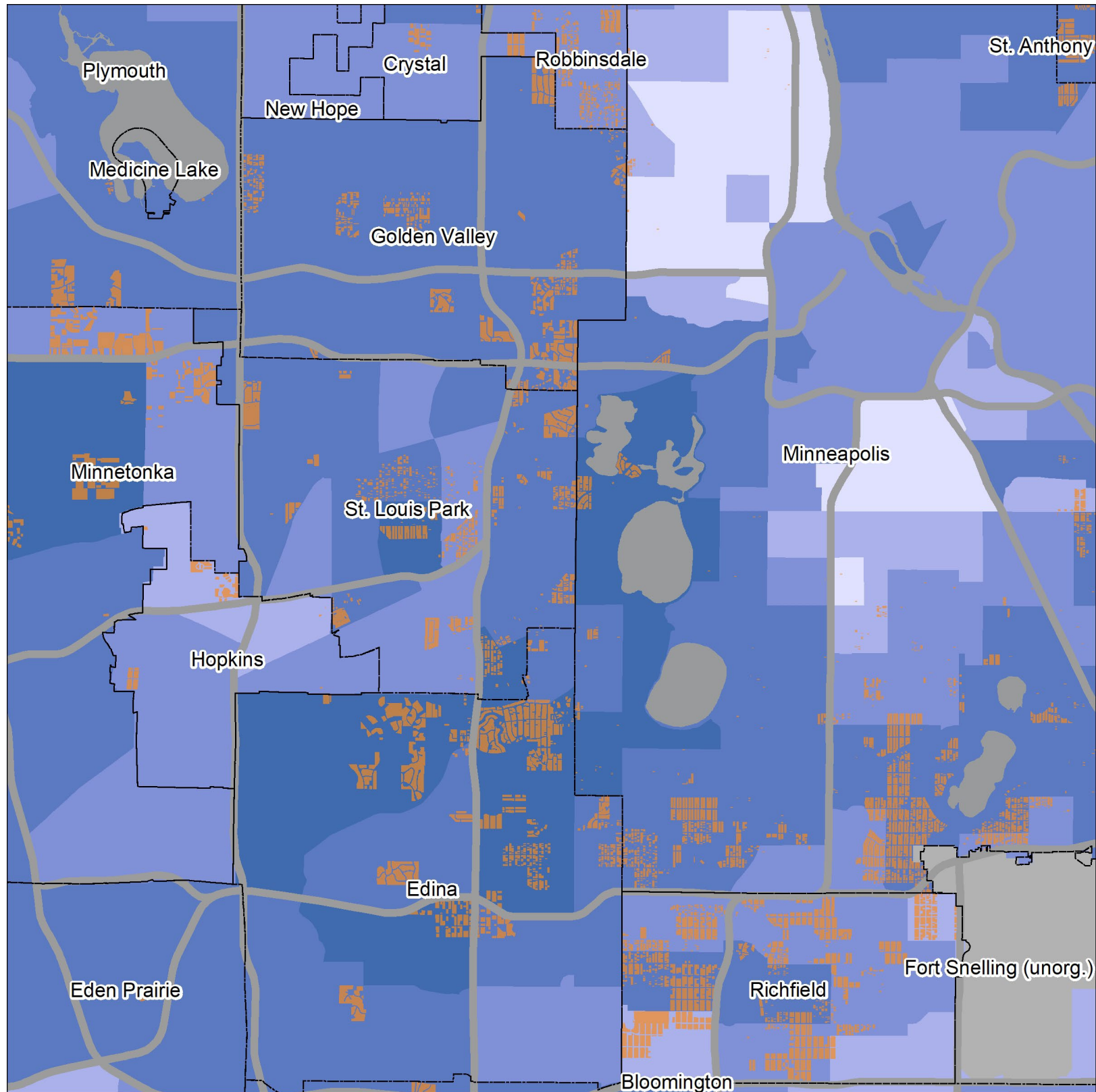
## Percent homes with covenants

50.0% or more
25.0% to 49.9%
10.0% to 24.9%
5.0% to 9.9%
0.1% to 4.9%
None

Metropolitan Council

Source: Ehrman-Solberg, Kevin et al. (2020). *Racial Covenants in Hennepin County*. Retrieved from the Data Repository for the University of Minnesota, <https://doi.org/10.13020/a88t-yb14>. Hereafter cited as “Mapping Prejudice Project.”

Source: Analysis of Mapping Prejudice Project data in Metropolitan Council’s Equity Considerations dataset (2021).



# Areas with covenants tend to have higher % white

Area covered by covenants

Percent white, non-Latino

90.0% or more

75.0% to 89.9%

50.0% to 74.9%

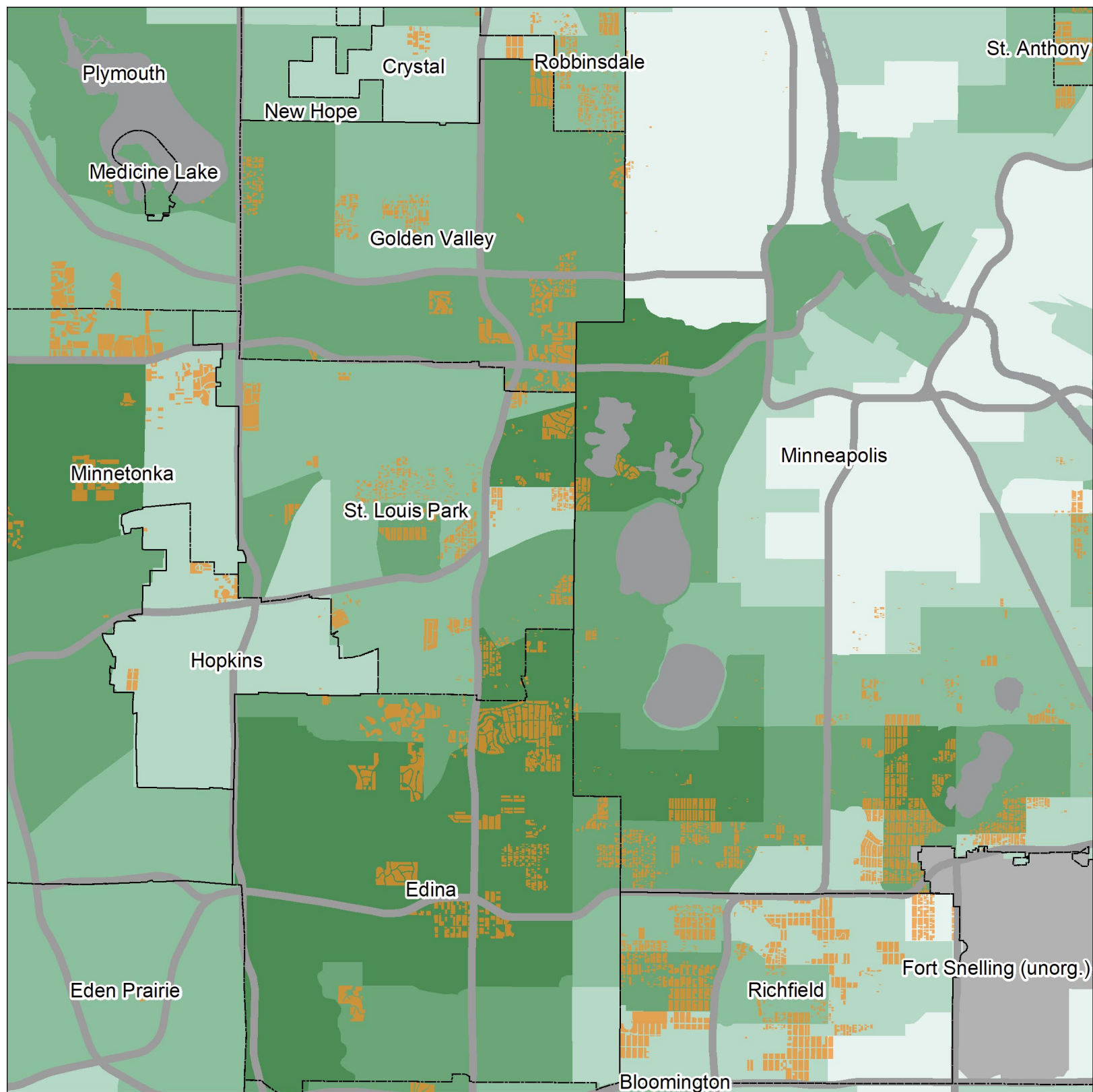
25.0% to 49.9%

Under 25%

Source: Analysis of Mapping Prejudice Project data and U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).







# Areas with covenants tend to have higher % affluent

Area covered by covenants

## Percent affluent

66.7% or more

50.0% to 66.6%

33.4% to 49.9%

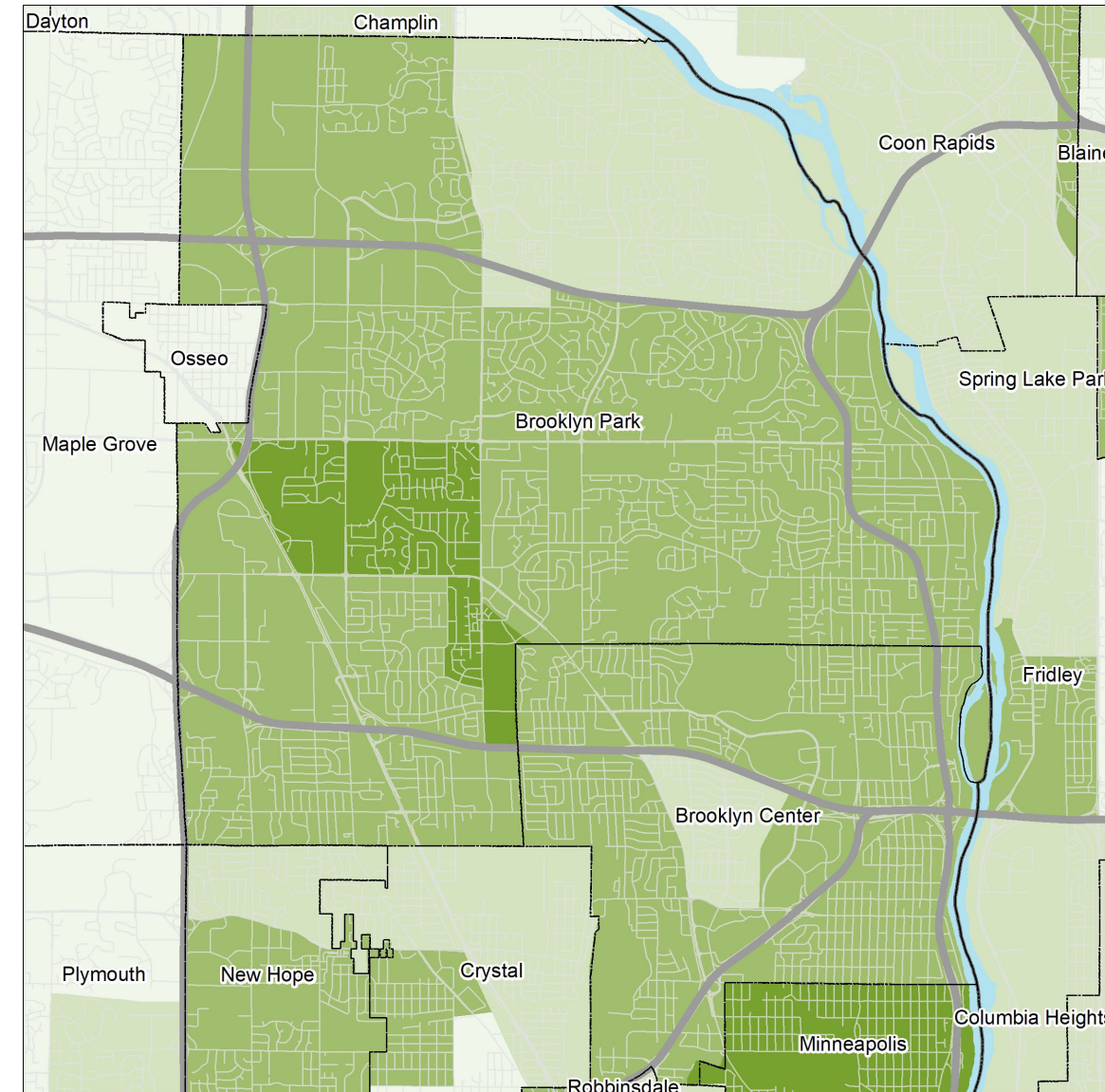
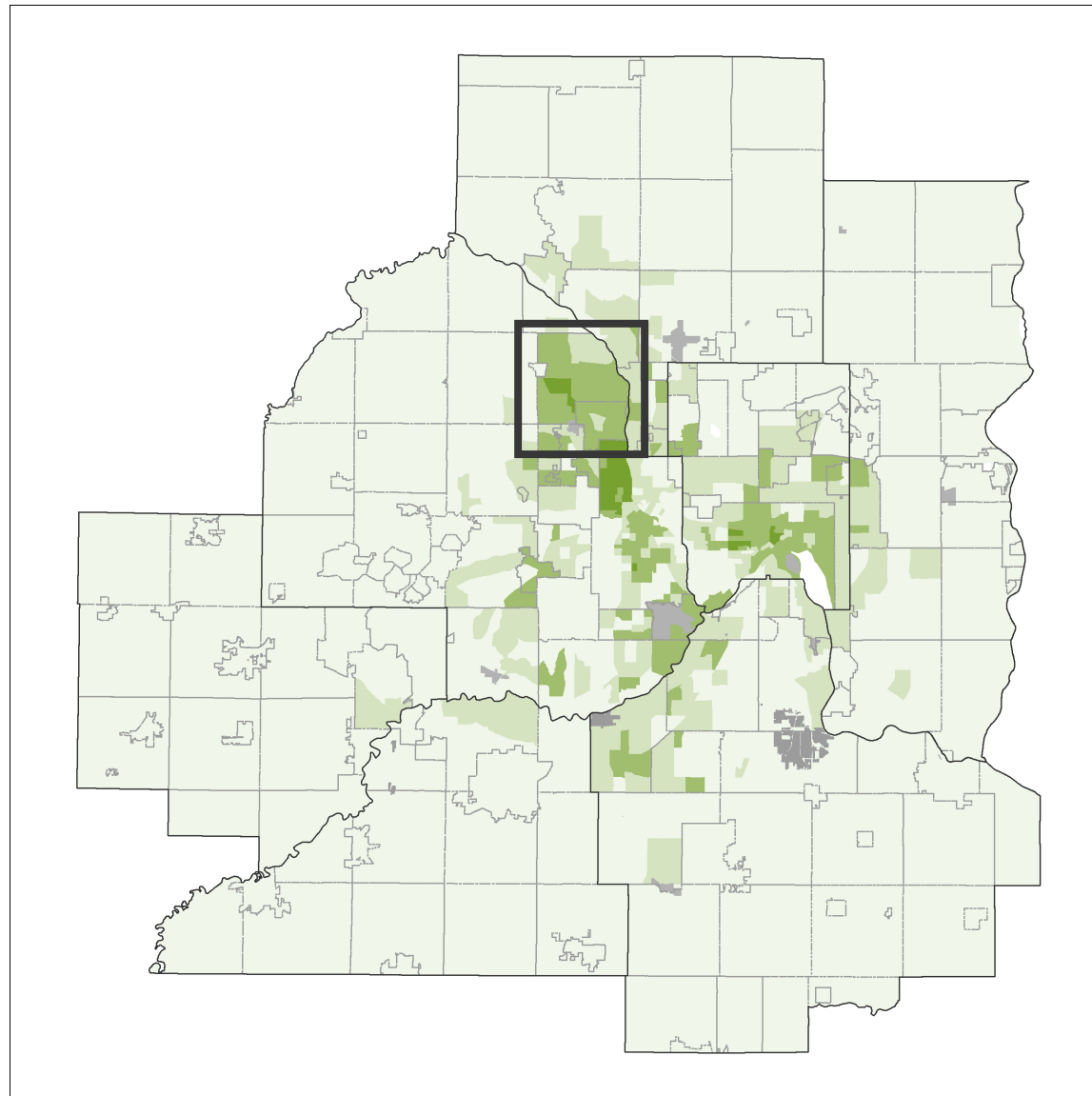
20.0% to 33.3%

Under 20%

Source: Analysis of Mapping Prejudice Project data and U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).



# Detailed demographics: Percent African American



Percent Black/  
African American

25.0% or more

10.0% to 24.9%

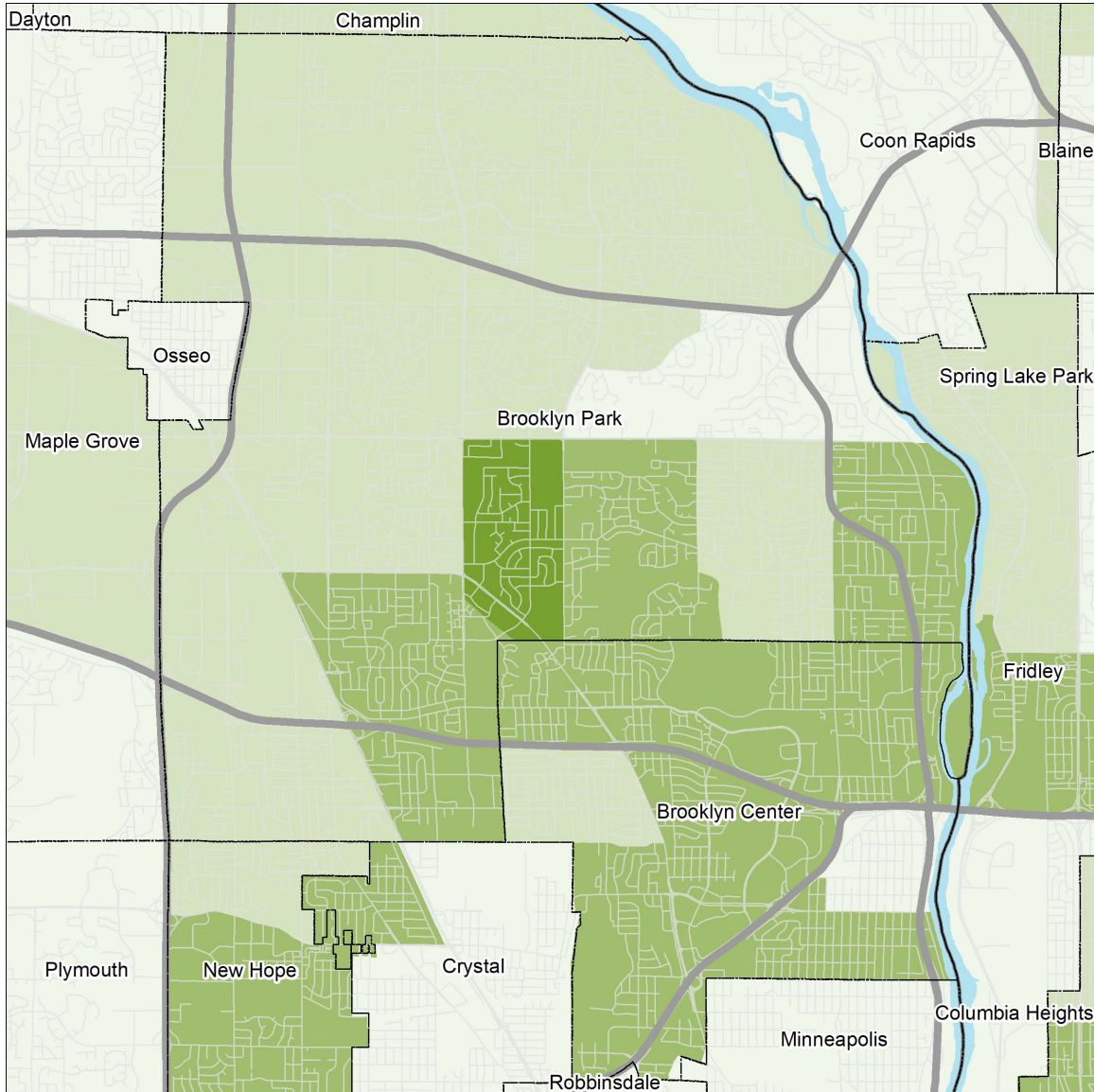
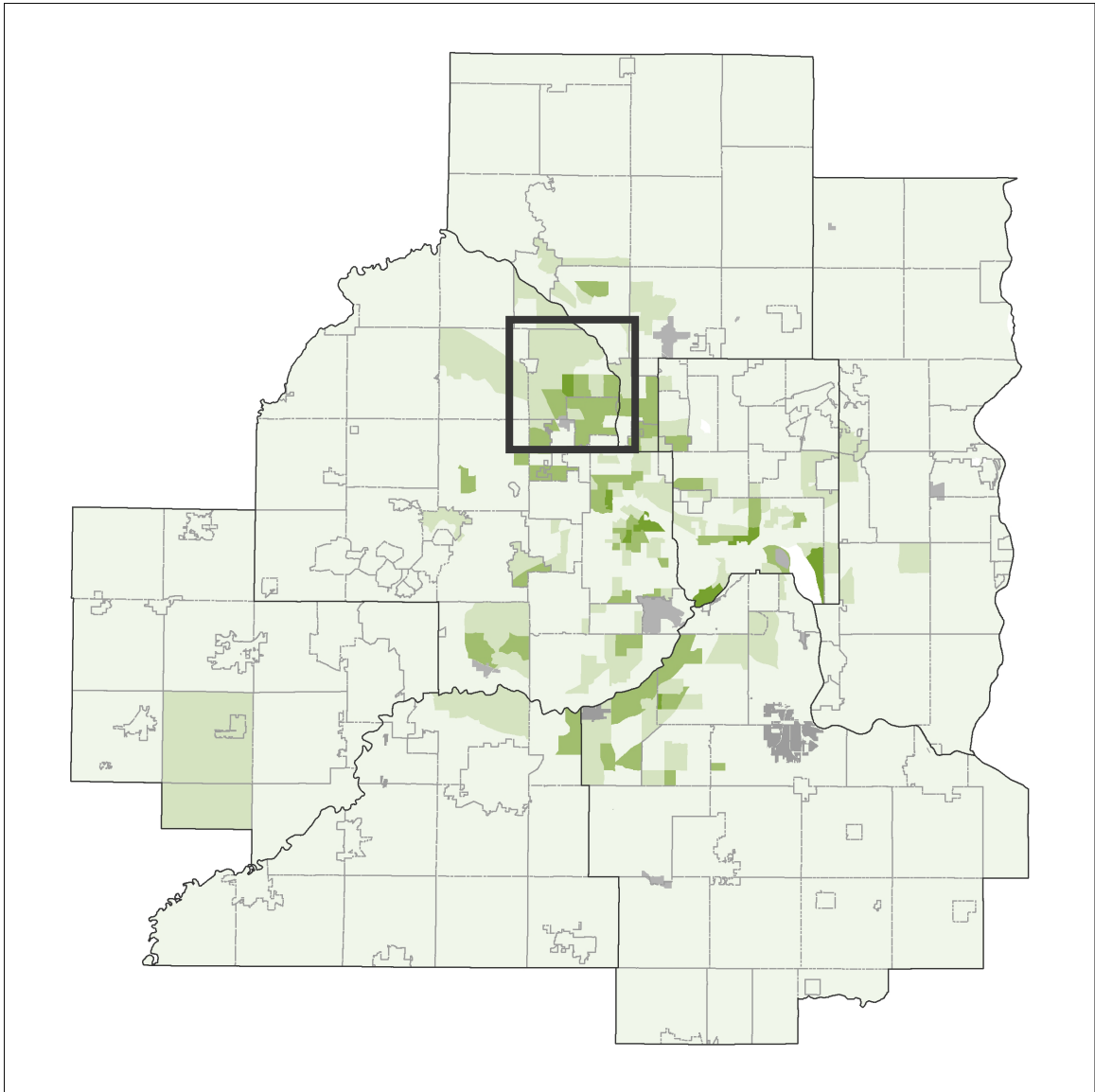
5.0% to 9.9%

Less than 5.0%

Source: Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).



# Detailed demographics: Percent sub-Saharan African



Percent sub-Saharan African

25.0% or more

10.0% to 24.9%

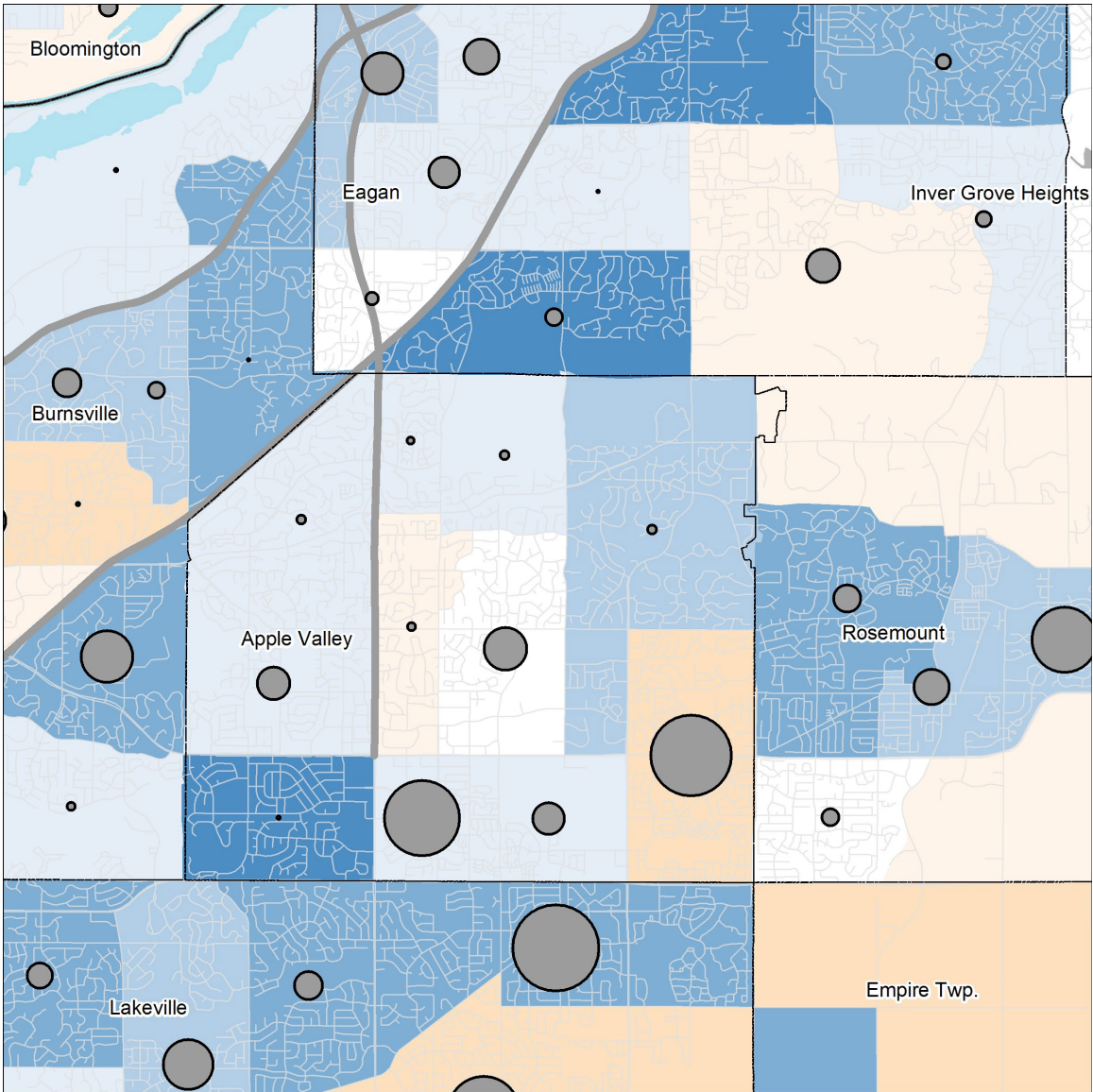
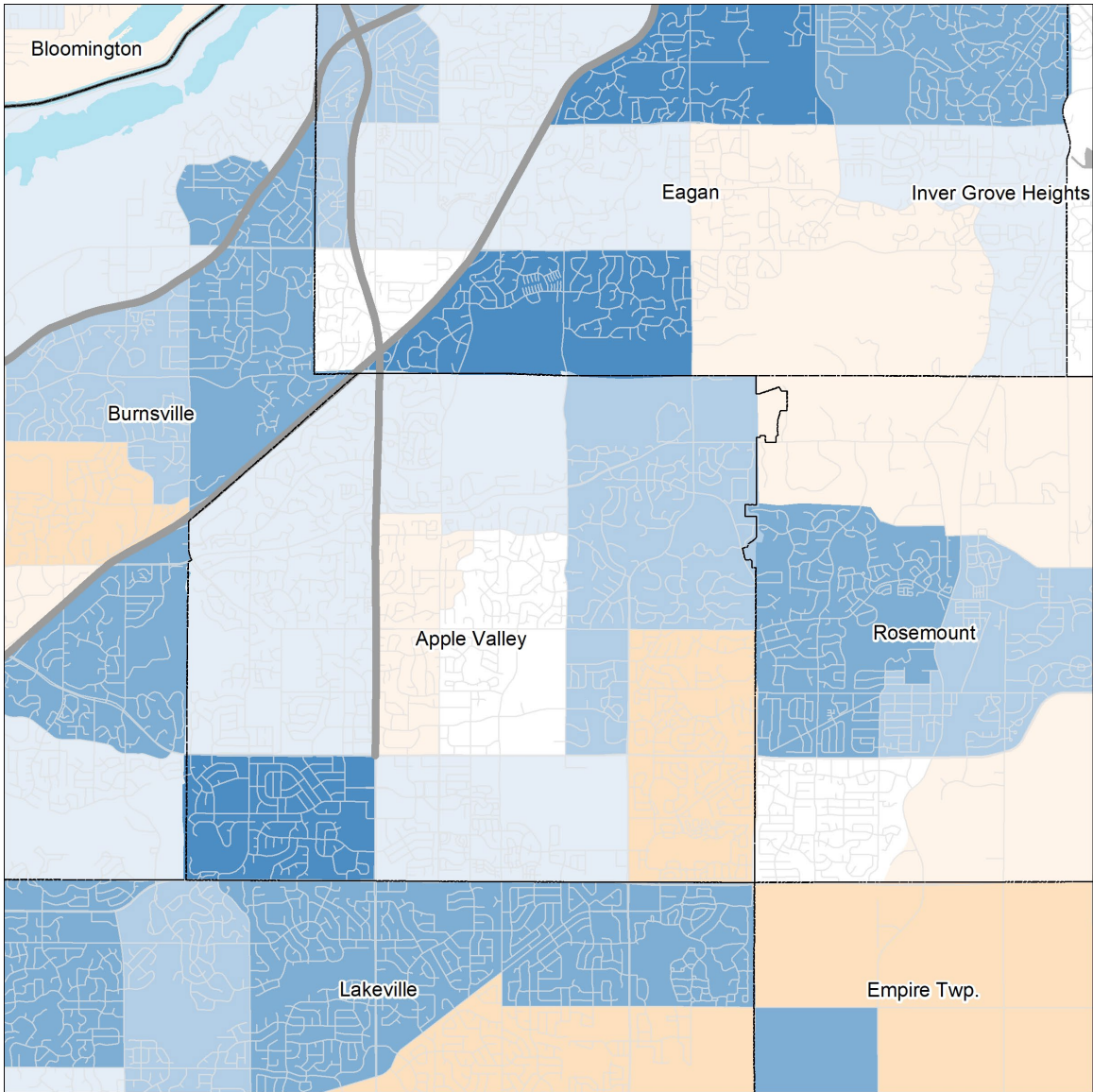
5.0% to 9.9%

Less than 5.0%

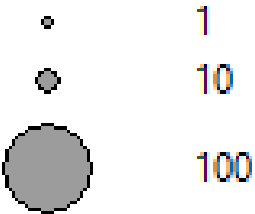
Source: Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).



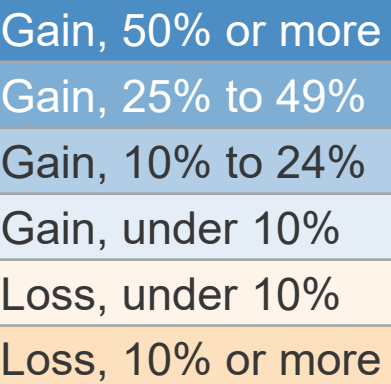
# Patterns: Rent change and residential construction



Change in housing units, 2010-2019

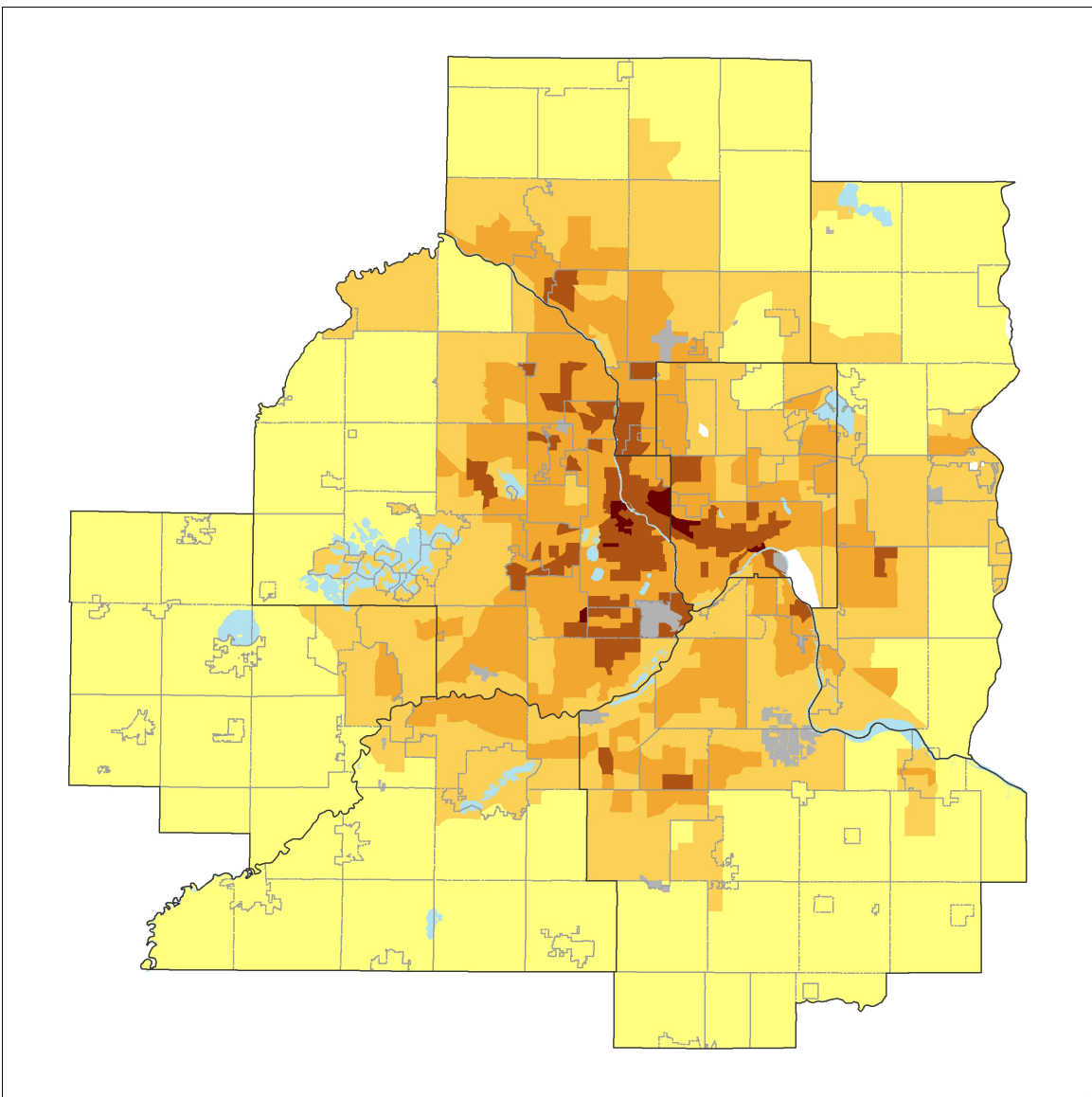
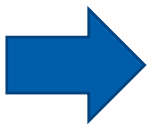
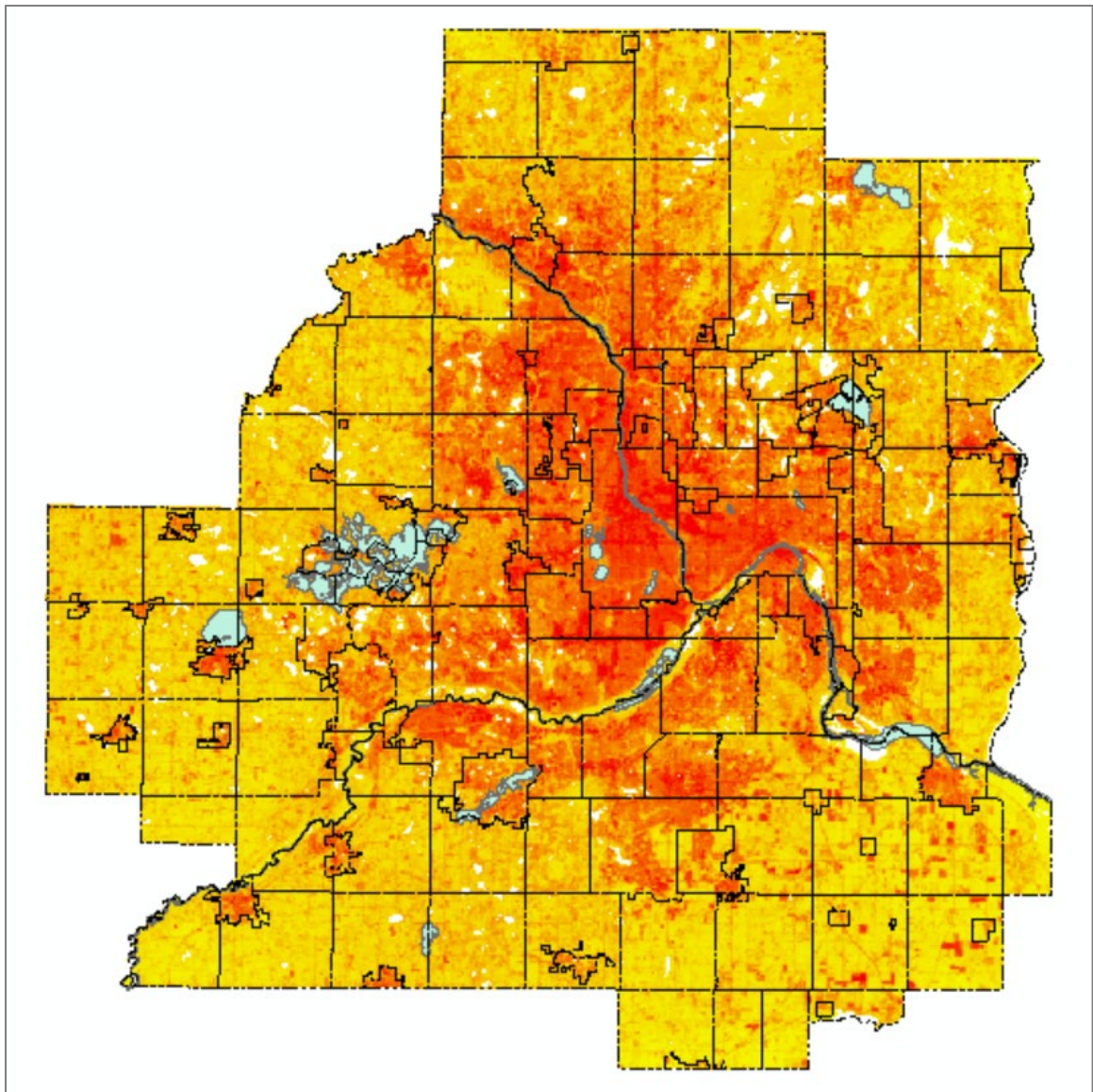


Change in gross rent, 2010-2014 period to 2015-2019 period



Source: Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).

# Example: Heat wave temperatures



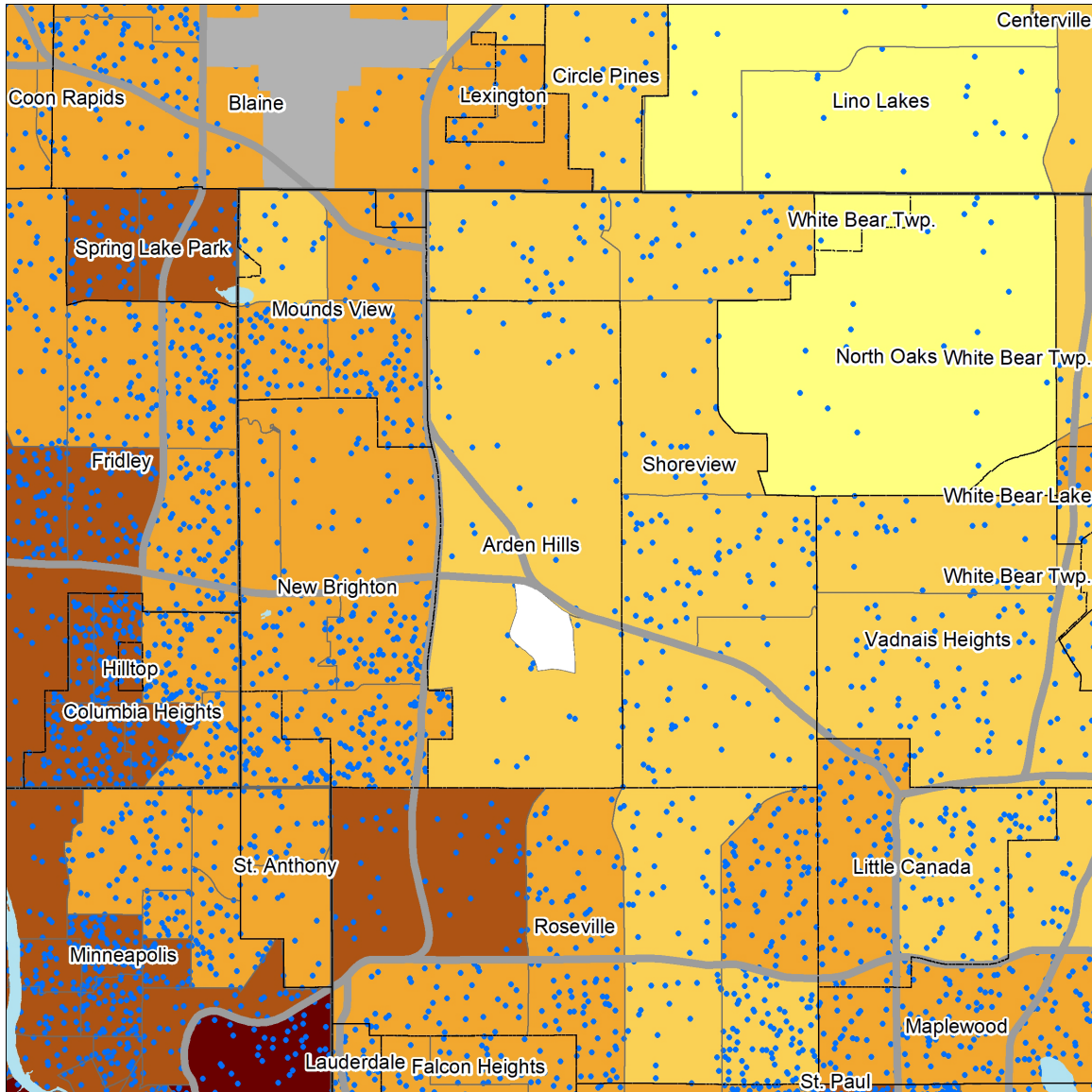
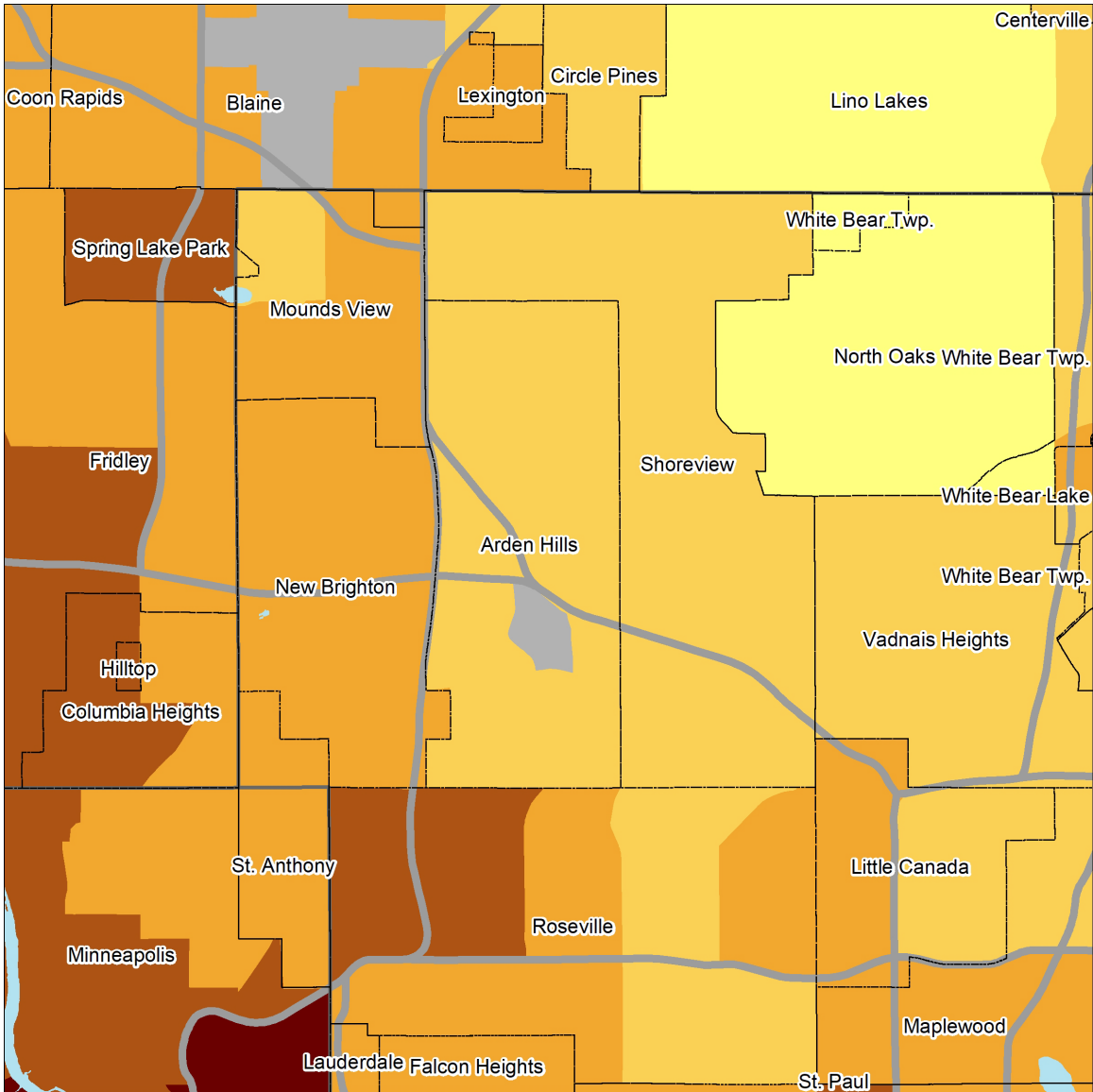
Temperature  
in degrees  
Fahrenheit

- 100 or more
- 95.0 to 99.9
- 90.0 to 94.9
- 85.0 to 89.9
- Under 85.0

Source: Analysis of  
Metropolitan  
Council's Land  
Surface  
Temperature data  
in Metropolitan  
Council's Equity  
Considerations  
dataset (2021).



# Example: Heat wave temperatures + BIPOC residents



Temperature  
in degrees  
Fahrenheit

- 100 or more
- 95.0 to 99.9
- 90.0 to 94.9
- 85.0 to 89.9
- Under 85.0

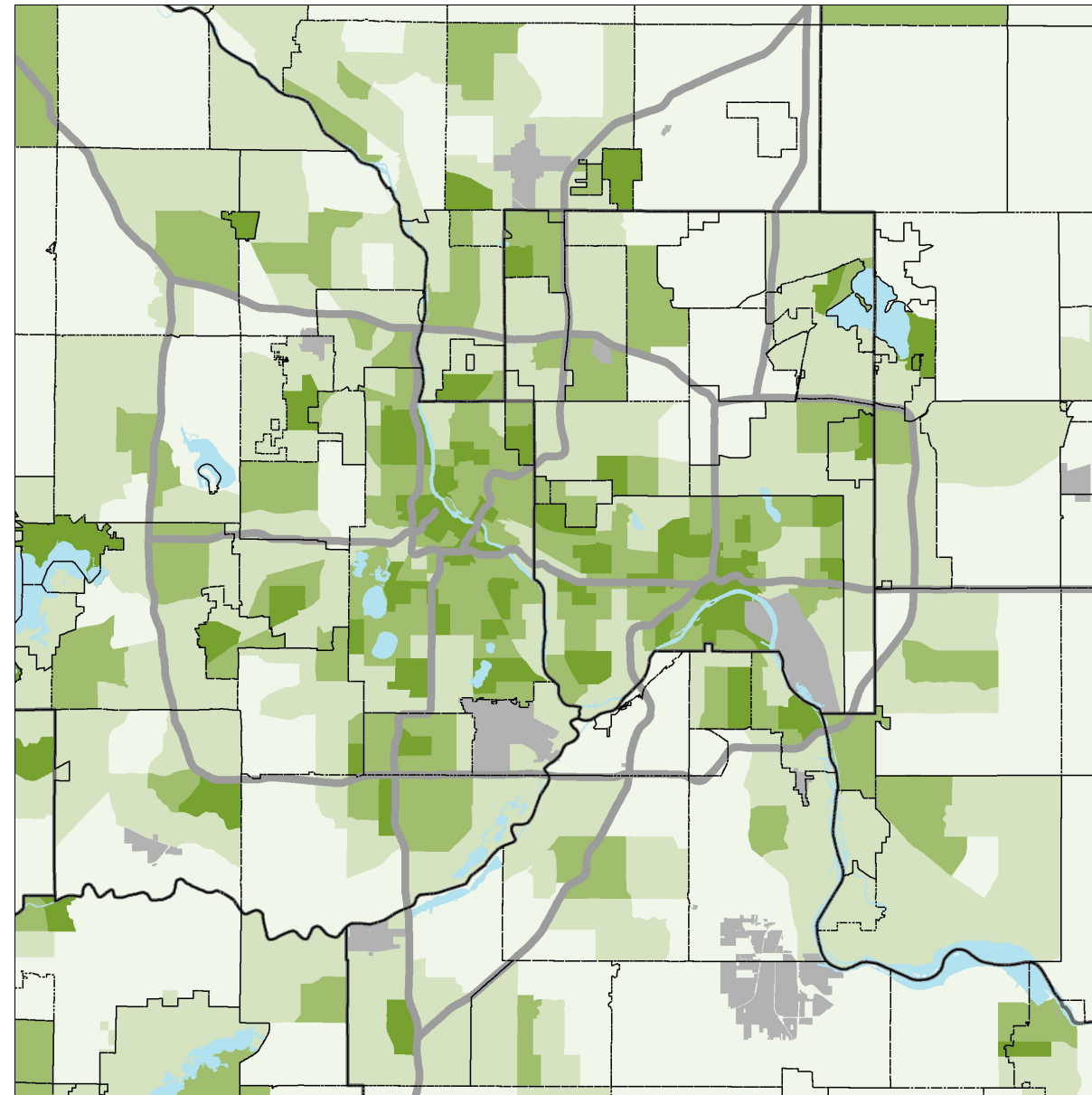
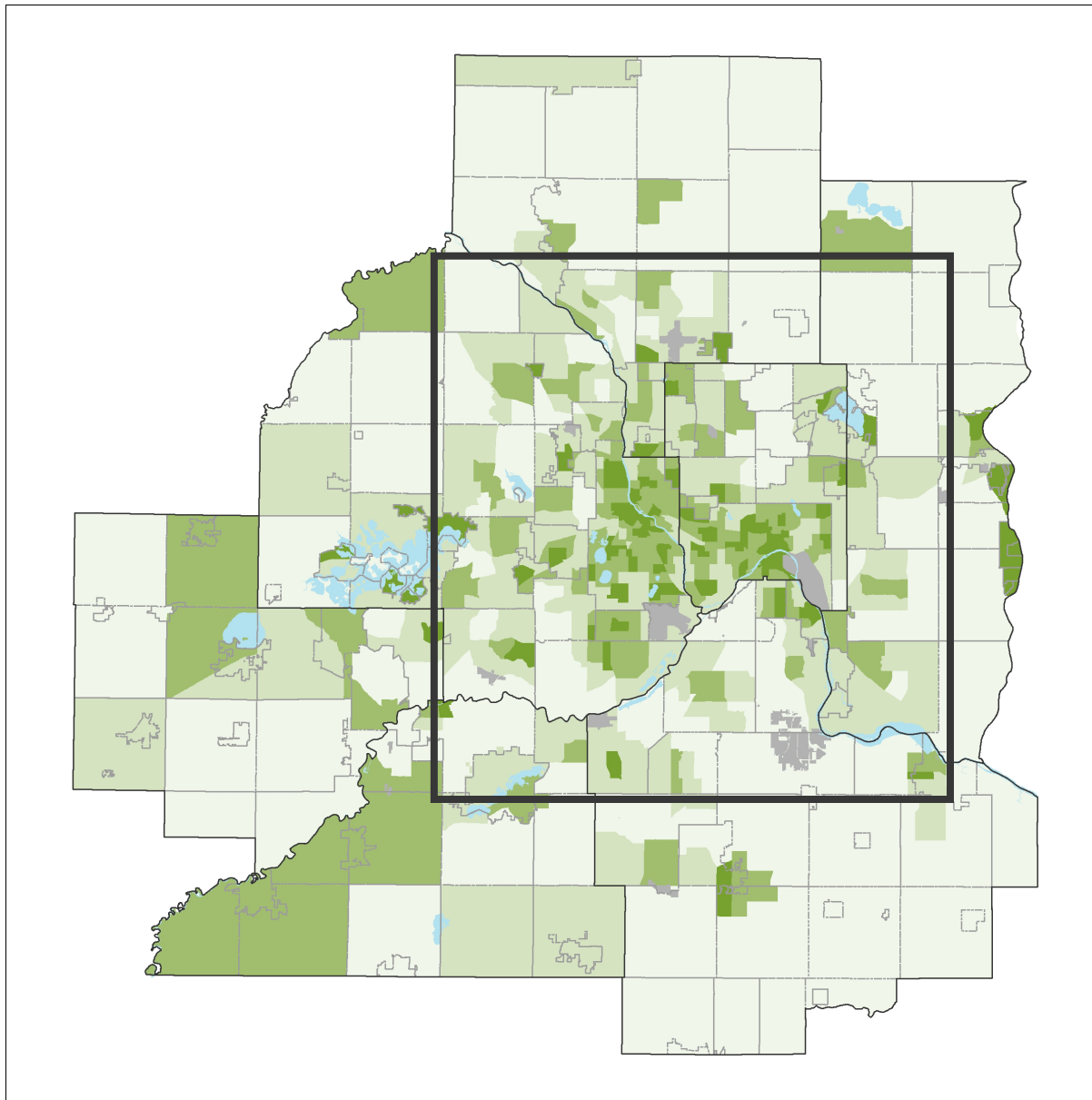
Number of  
BIPOC residents  
■ = 25 BIPOC  
residents

Metropolitan Council

Source: Analysis of Metropolitan Council's Land Surface Temperature data and U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates (2015-2019) in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).



# Amenities: Proximity to libraries



The average tract resident lives this far from the closest library:

Less than 0.5 miles

0.50-0.99 miles

1.00-1.99 miles

2+ miles

Source: Analysis of Metropolitan Council's landmark data in Metropolitan Council's Equity Considerations dataset (2021).

# Data resources available outside the Twin Cities region

- [Evictions](#)
- [Land parcels](#) (?)
- [Pollution sources](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Housing affordability](#)
- [EJSCREEN](#) (EPA)

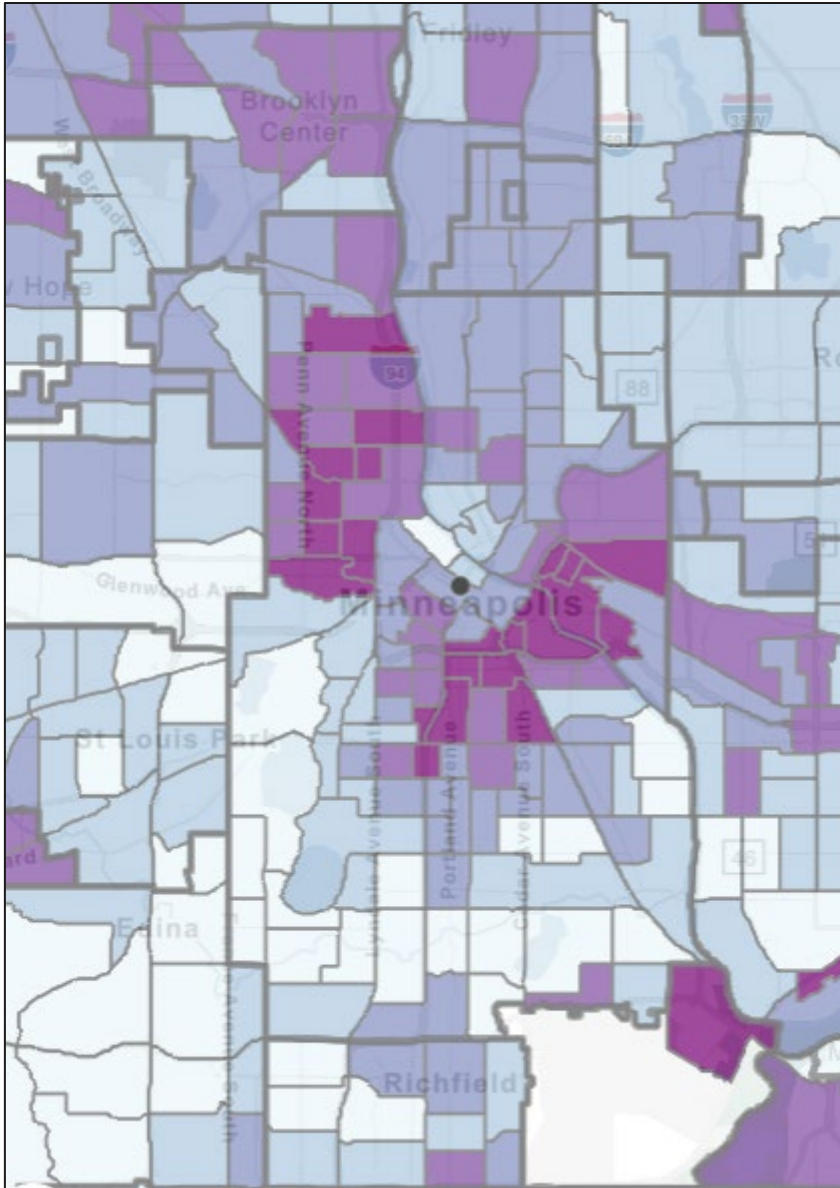
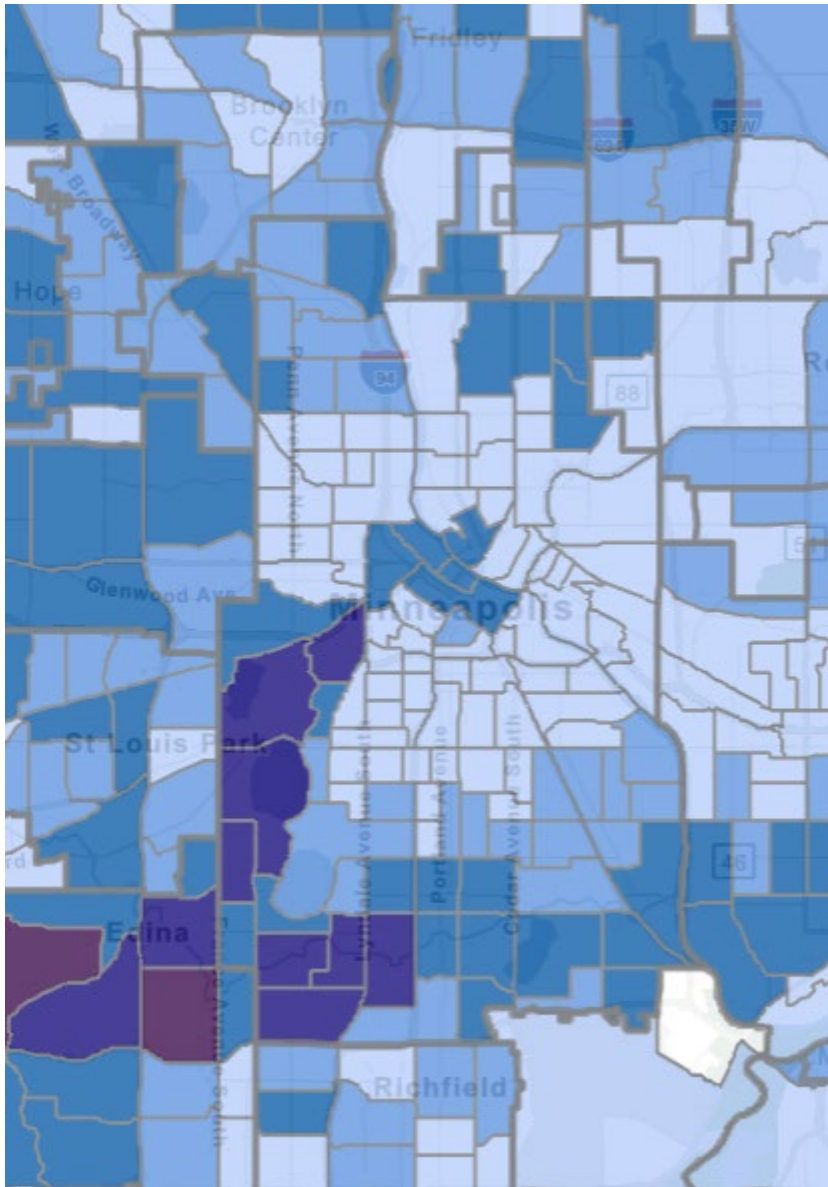
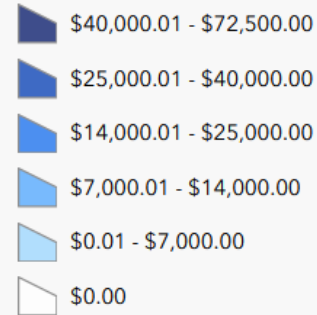
# Coming soon: Investments data

**DRAFT**

**Single-family loans  
(via HMDA)**

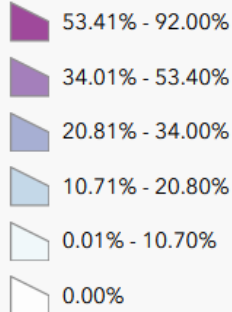
**All Originations Loan Amount Per Business**

Total Loan Amount Per Business



**Poverty Rate, 185% (2016-2020)**

Percent of Population at 0-185% of Poverty Threshold





# Thanks!



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