



Connecting People to Parks in King County

A Transit-to-parks GIS Analysis

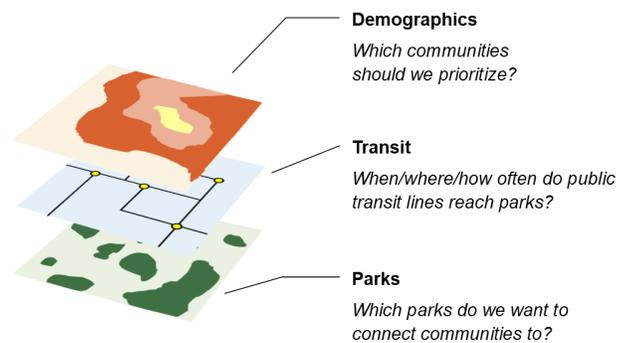
Everyone, regardless of race, gender, age, ability, immigration status, income and zip code should have access to the outdoors.

Nearby nature should be readily accessible across the region, yet 850,000 King County residents (41 percent) are unable to enjoy the numerous benefits associated with nearby access to parks and open space.

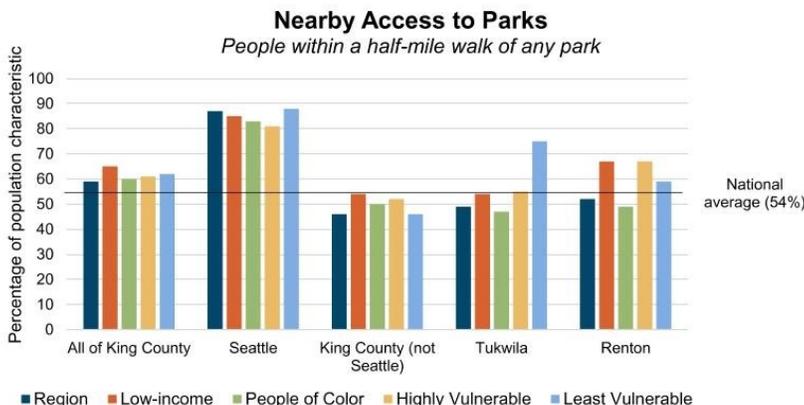
As King County grows in population, density and diversity, public transportation provides one opportunity to increase access to parks.

Using equity as the driver, we ask: How well does King County's public transit system connect its residents to high-quality public parks?

Mapping Transit-to-parks Equity



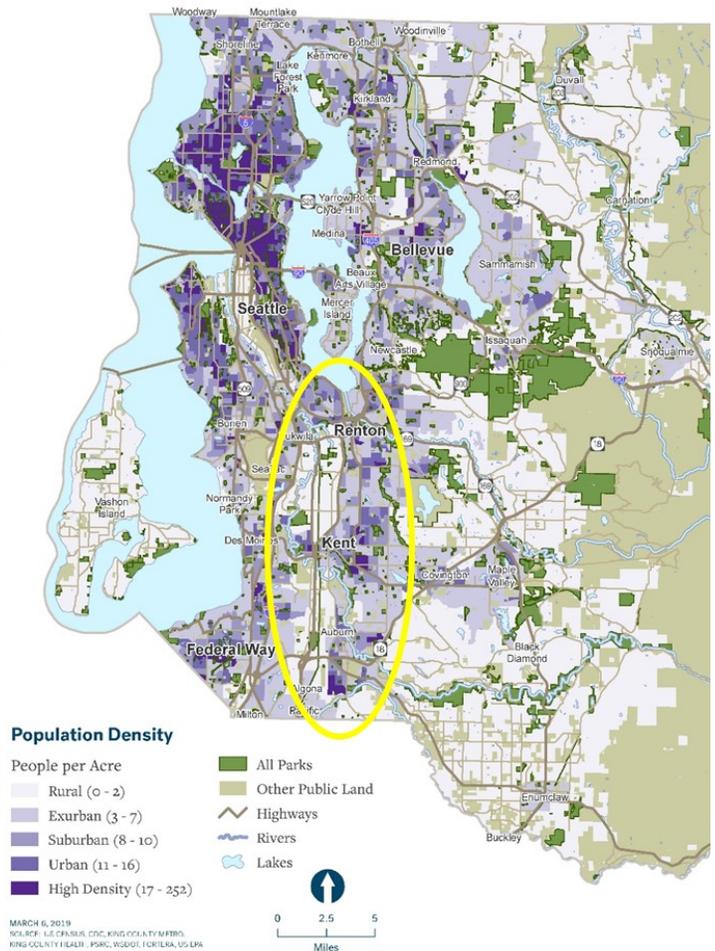
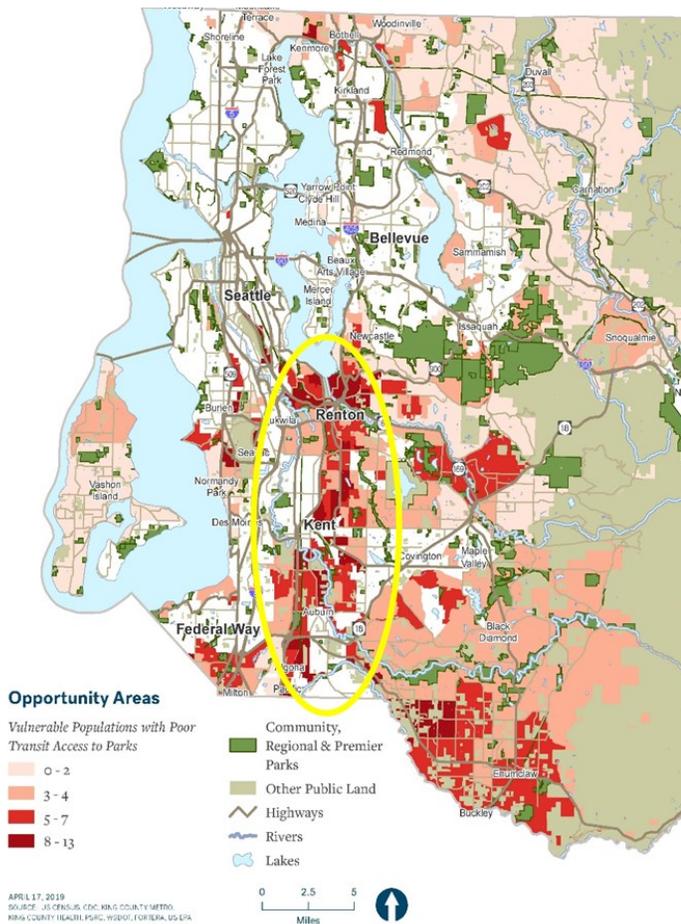
We seek to identify and prioritize investment in Opportunity Areas, where the highest concentrations of vulnerable populations also have poor transit access to parks.



Vulnerable populations: Groups that exhibit high numbers of health, environmental and sociodemographic vulnerabilities

Poor transit access to parks: Unable to reach two Community or Regional parks, including one high-quality park, within 45 minutes from doorstep to park

Opportunity Areas with potential for the greatest impact are concentrated along Highway 167 from Renton southward



Major Findings

- In south King County where many residents are people of color and many communities face greater income and health burdens than most Seattleites, residents also have poorer access to parks
- In Tukwila and Renton, less than half of residents who live in majority-people of color neighborhoods have nearby access to a park
- Despite 92 percent of residents who face the most vulnerabilities living within two miles of a Community or Regional park, only 76 percent have good transit-to-parks access
- Opportunity Areas circled above present the greatest opportunity for investment due to their high concentrations of vulnerable populations and poor transit access to parks

Next Steps

- Use findings to inform local policies and investments
- Conduct comprehensive parks needs assessment to inventory park quality and identify high-need areas
- Adjust transit routes to stop at high-quality parks, especially in Opportunity Areas
- Pilot innovative transit solutions to increase access to parks
- Educate the public about existing transit-to-parks routes
- Engage community members on park and transit needs and priorities