

Worthington Comprehensive Plan

Existing Conditions Snapshot

Part 2

July 9, 2025



Contents

This document serves as a high level baseline of existing conditions and trends to inform the creation of Worthington's comprehensive plan. It has been organized into seven topics, and delivered in two parts. Each topic relates to one or more Vision Worthington topic areas. The analysis and takeaways from this report, along with public input will inform the plan’s goals, objectives, and actions.

- 1. Overview
- 2. People
- 3. Places (Land Use and Character)
- 4. Housing
- 5. Transportation and Infrastructure
- 6. Economic Development
- 7. Parks, Natural Resources, and Sustainability

**Included in
Part 1**

**Part 2 (this
document)**

Existing Conditions Snapshot

Transportation

This section of the snapshot looks at the conditions and needs of Worthington's transportation network.



What is a thoroughfare plan?

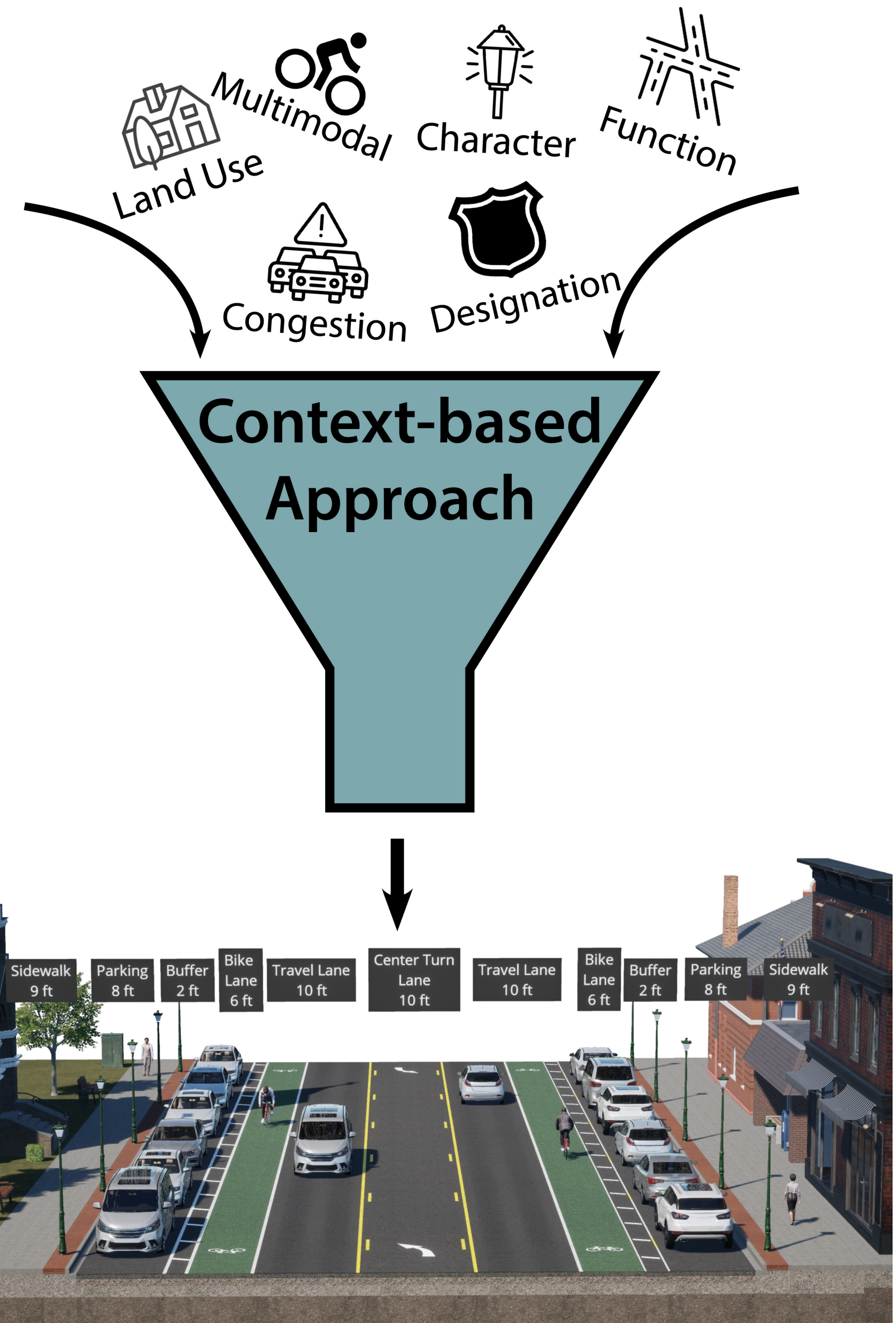
As part of this comprehensive plan update, we are also updating the city's thoroughfare plan.

A thoroughfare plan is a long-term guide for developing and improving a community's transportation network.

It defines road types, their functions, and sets design standards to support growth, mobility, and land use goals.

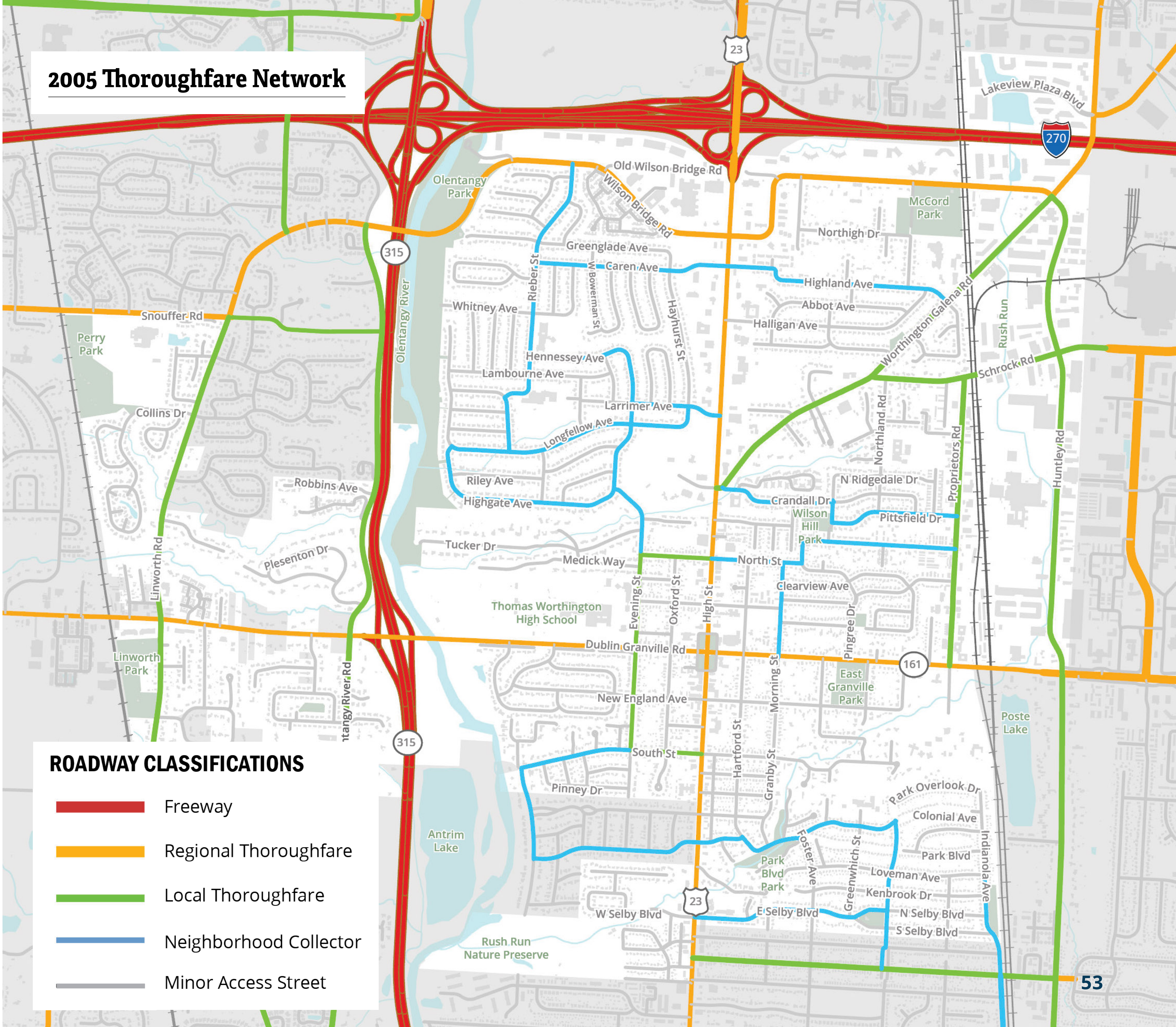
A thoroughfare plan also identifies future connections and ensures transportation is compatible with future development.

The findings of this analysis of Worthington's existing transportation system and its needs will inform the updated thoroughfare plan.



Worthington last updated its thoroughfare plan with the 2005 comprehensive plan.

Worthington's currently adopted thoroughfare plan is from 2005. The plan has four classes of thoroughfare: Freeway, Regional Thoroughfare, Local Thoroughfare, Neighborhood Collector. The 2005 plan also emphasized the need to protect the city's historical and cultural assets by not widening main thoroughfares as well as supporting bicycles and transit as transportation alternatives.



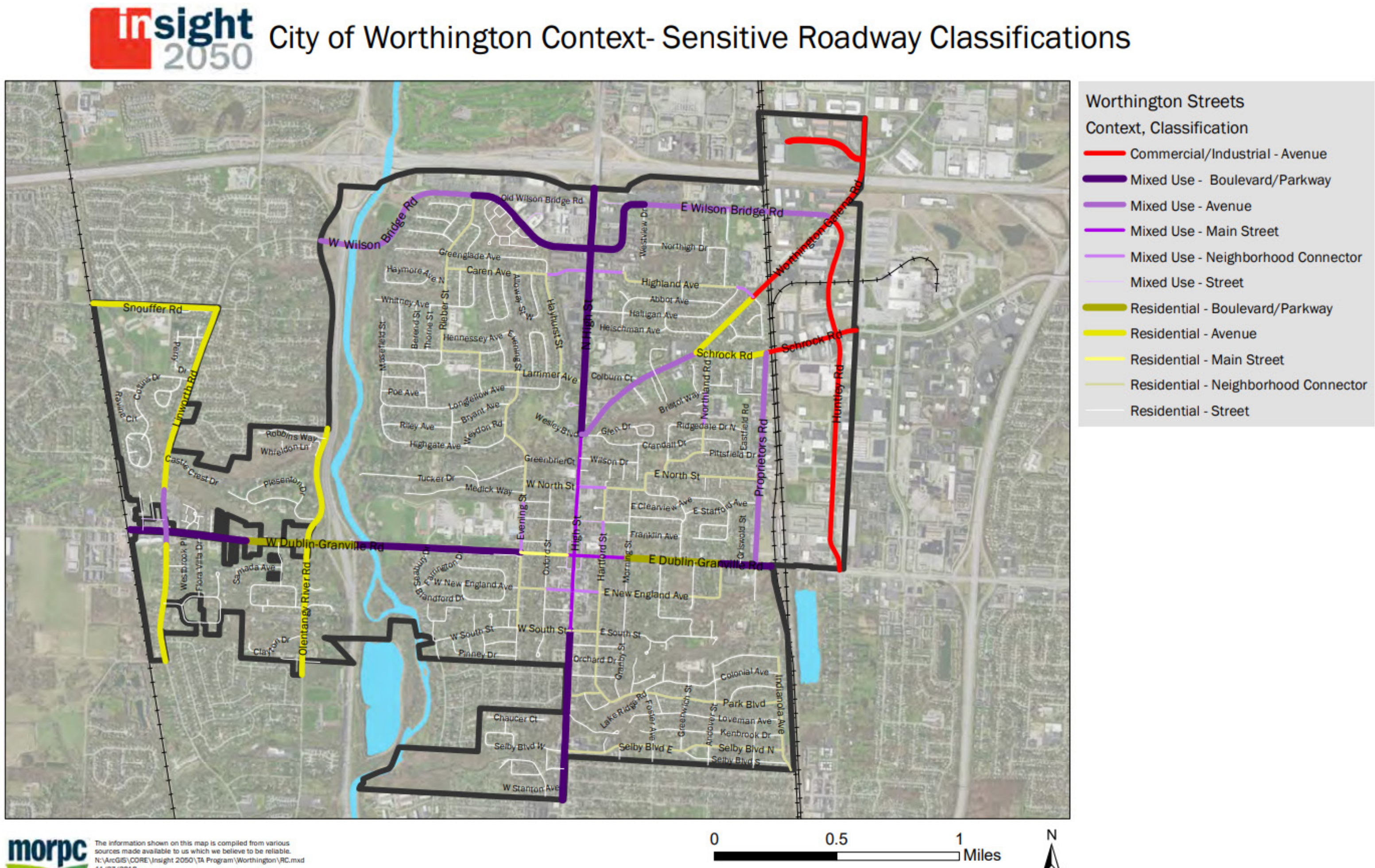
The Insight2050 regional study classified Worthington's roads based on context.

Insight2050 was a regional study released in 2015.

The report identified three contexts in Worthington: Mixed-Use, Commercial/Industrial, Residential. These contexts were then combined with five functional classifications: Avenue, Boulevard, Main Street, Neighborhood Connector, Street.

Distinguishing by context is important as it allows for roadway recommendations aligned with the character and needs of the surrounding neighborhood.

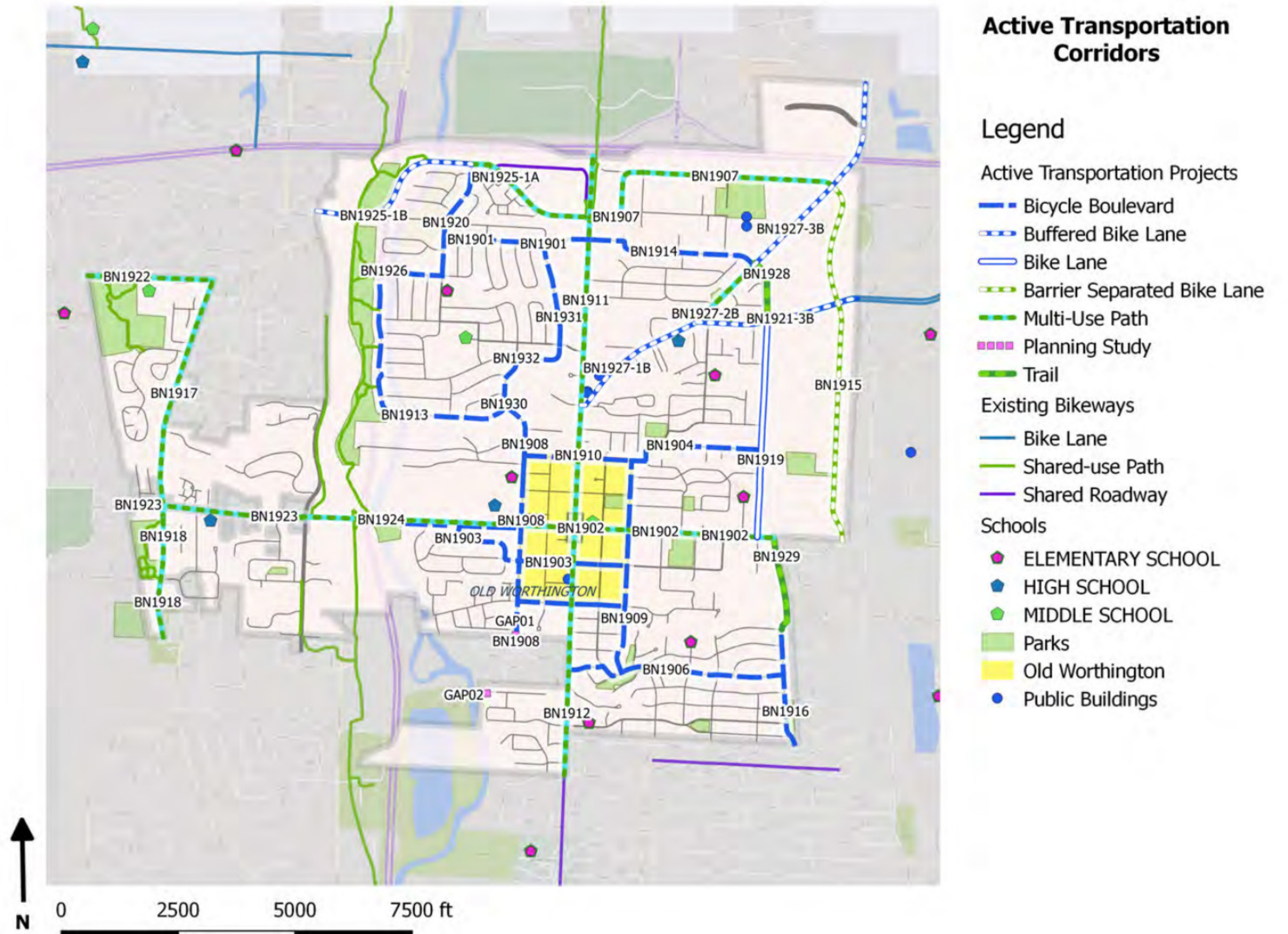
This context classification system was not adopted as the city's thoroughfare plan.



The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan identified potential projects and priorities.

The [2019 Worthington Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan](#) identified active transportation corridors, projects for those corridors, and then prioritized them into three tiers. These projects included on-street bikeways, shared use paths, protected crossings, sidewalk gaps, etc. These projects were also given preliminary cost estimates.

In addition to specific projects, this plan identified tools and best practices for speed management, complete streets, and improved crossings.



Connection to Vision Worthington



Worthington is Connected



Worthington is a Model for Environmental Stewardship

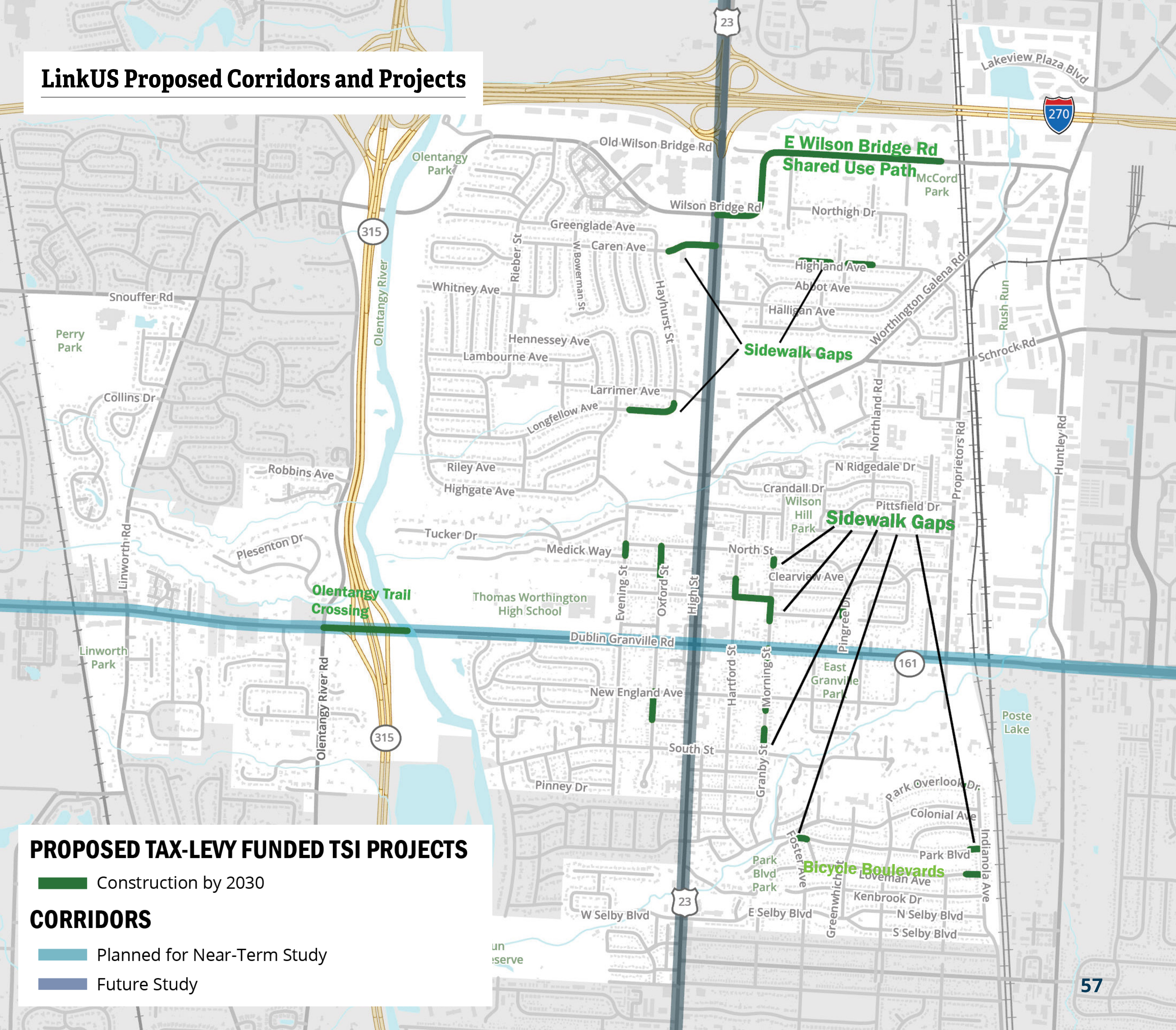
Vision Worthington contains many sentiments that the comprehensive plan's transportation policies should support. Those sentiments (summarized) include:

- Making Worthington the most walkable and bike-friendly suburb in Central Ohio.
- Safely and efficiently integrate bike, public transit and pedestrian mobility.
- Embrace multimodal and high-tech forms of transportation.
- Support sustainable and convenient modes of transportation, including public transportation.

The approval of LinkUS has provided a new opportunity for transit, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure.

In 2024, Central Ohio voters approved a tax levy to fund the LinkUS Initiative. LinkUS includes new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridors as well as Transit-Supportive Infrastructure (TSI) such as sidewalks, bike trails, etc.

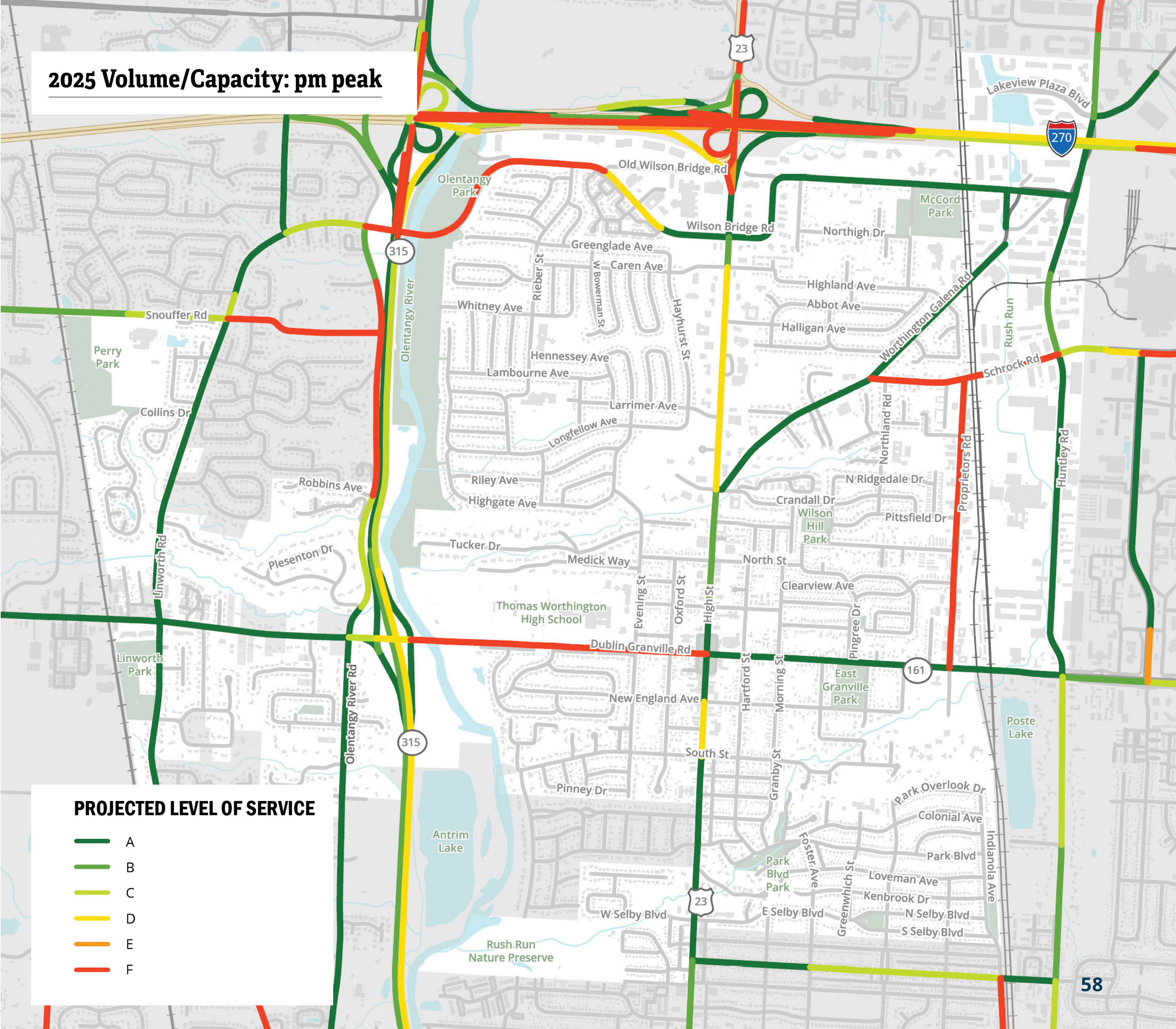
In Worthington, SR-161 and High Street are candidates for future rapid transit corridors and several tax-levy funded projects are already underway.



Most of the roadways in Worthington are operating at an acceptable level of service in 2025.

The MORPC traffic forecasting model was used to forecast future peak level of service (LOS) in 2025 and 2050. Level of service is a qualitative measure describing how well a roadway accommodates traffic. The PM peak was chosen as it represents the worst case scenario for congestion.

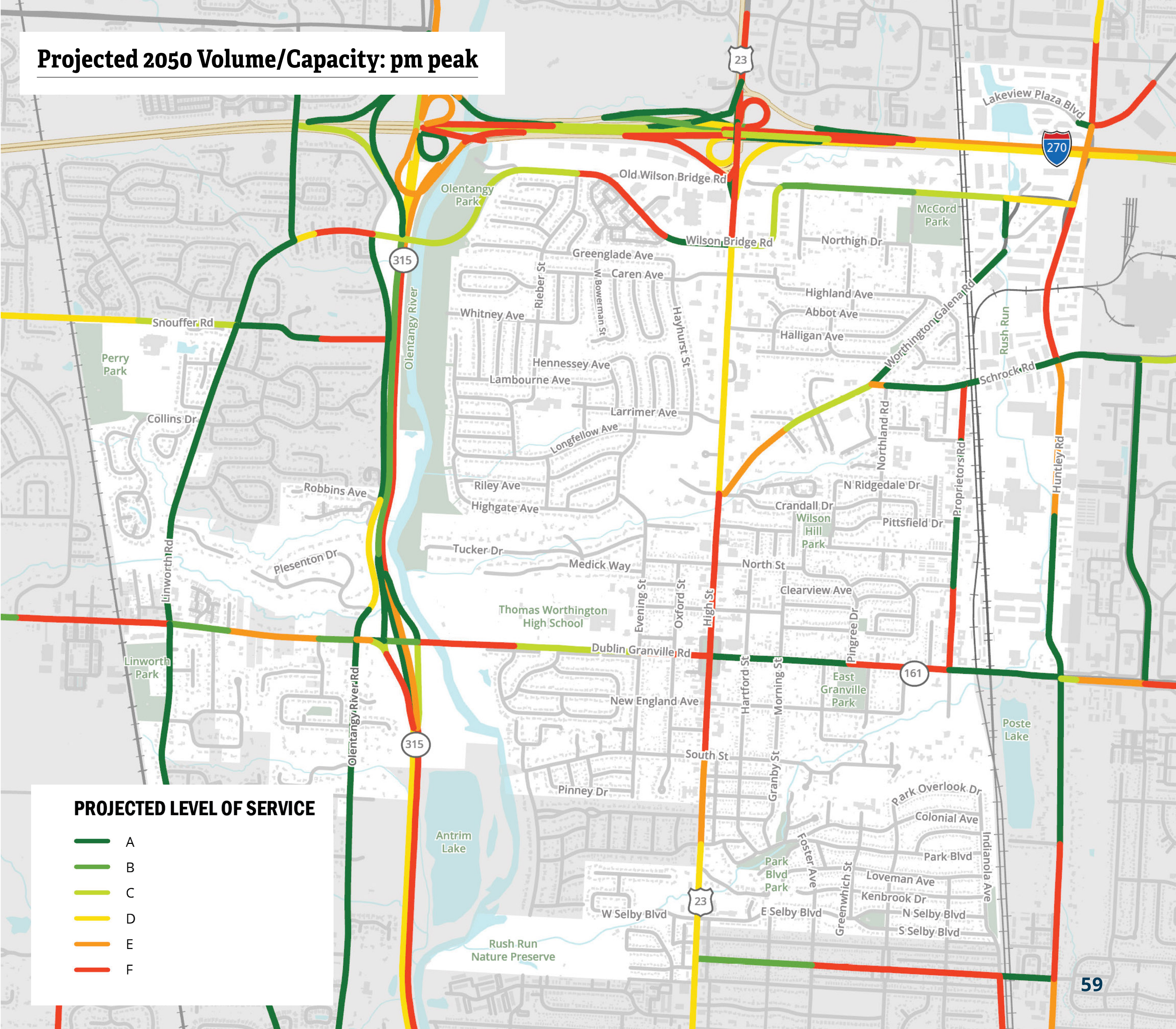
In Ohio, a rating of "D" or better is considered an acceptable level of service, however, operating at "E" and "F" during peak commuting hours can also be acceptable. There are some notable roads with an F rating including W Dublin-Granville Road, Proprietors Road, Schrock Road, and Wilson Bridge Road.



Projected 2050 traffic forecasts show an increase in congestion.

Several roadway segments went from operating below capacity (LOS C-A) in 2025 to operating near or above capacity (LOS D-F) in 2050. These segments include High Street, Huntley Road, E Dublin-Granville Road, W Dublin-Granville Road East of SR-315, and Wilson Bridge Road.

Despite increases in traffic congestion on several roadways, many roadways continue to operate at an acceptable level of service. Roadways operating below capacity, especially in 2050 PM peak projections, could be an opportunity for a [road diet](#).

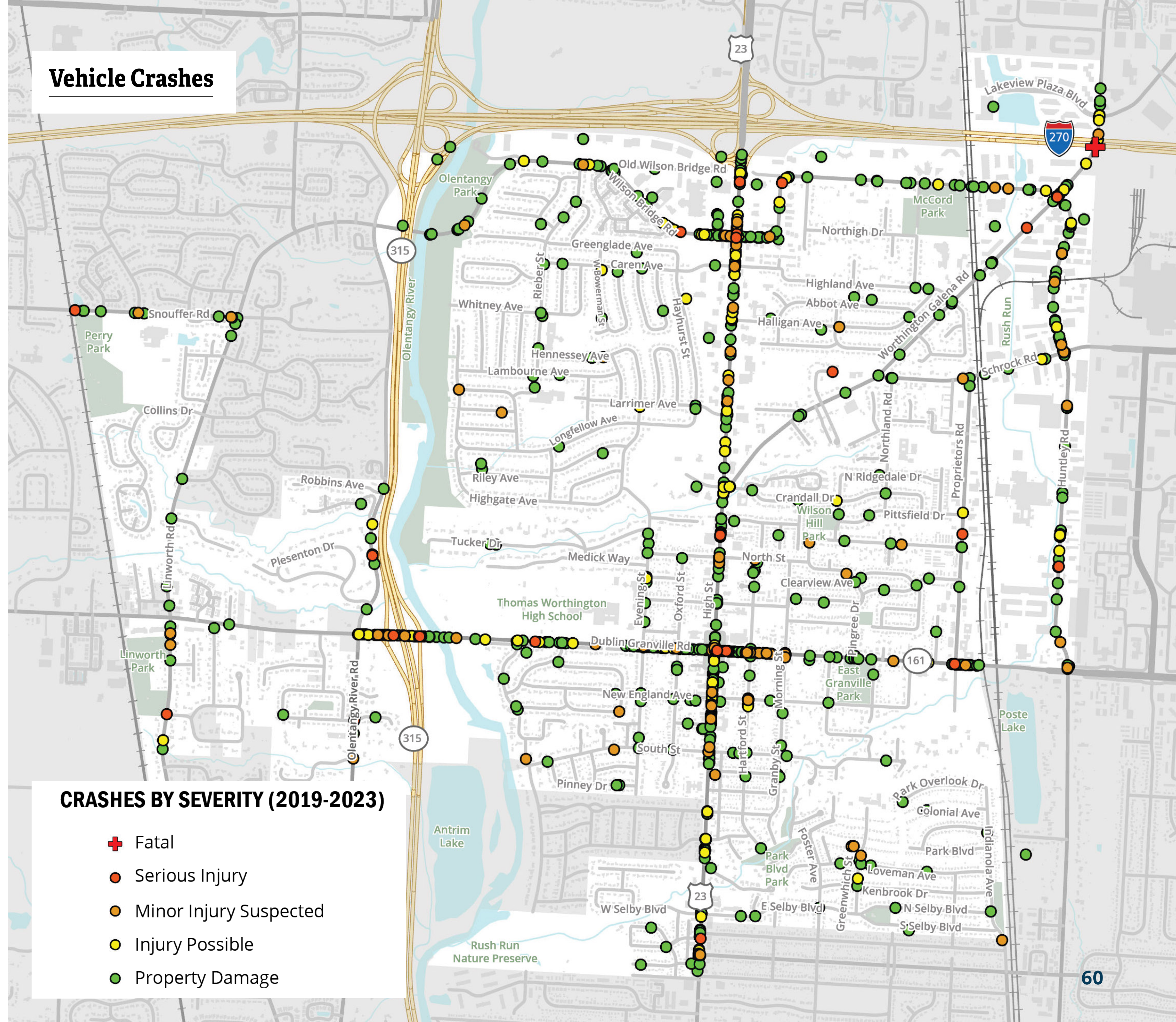


The majority of vehicle crashes occur at major intersections.

A large concentration of crashes occur along High Street, Dublin-Granville Road (SR-161), and Wilson Bridge Road.

Key intersections include:

- High Street & Dublin-Granville Road
- High Street & Wilson Bridge Road
- Dublin-Granville Road & SR-315
- Wilson Bridge Road & Worthington Galena Road/Huntley Road
- Schrock Road & Huntley Road



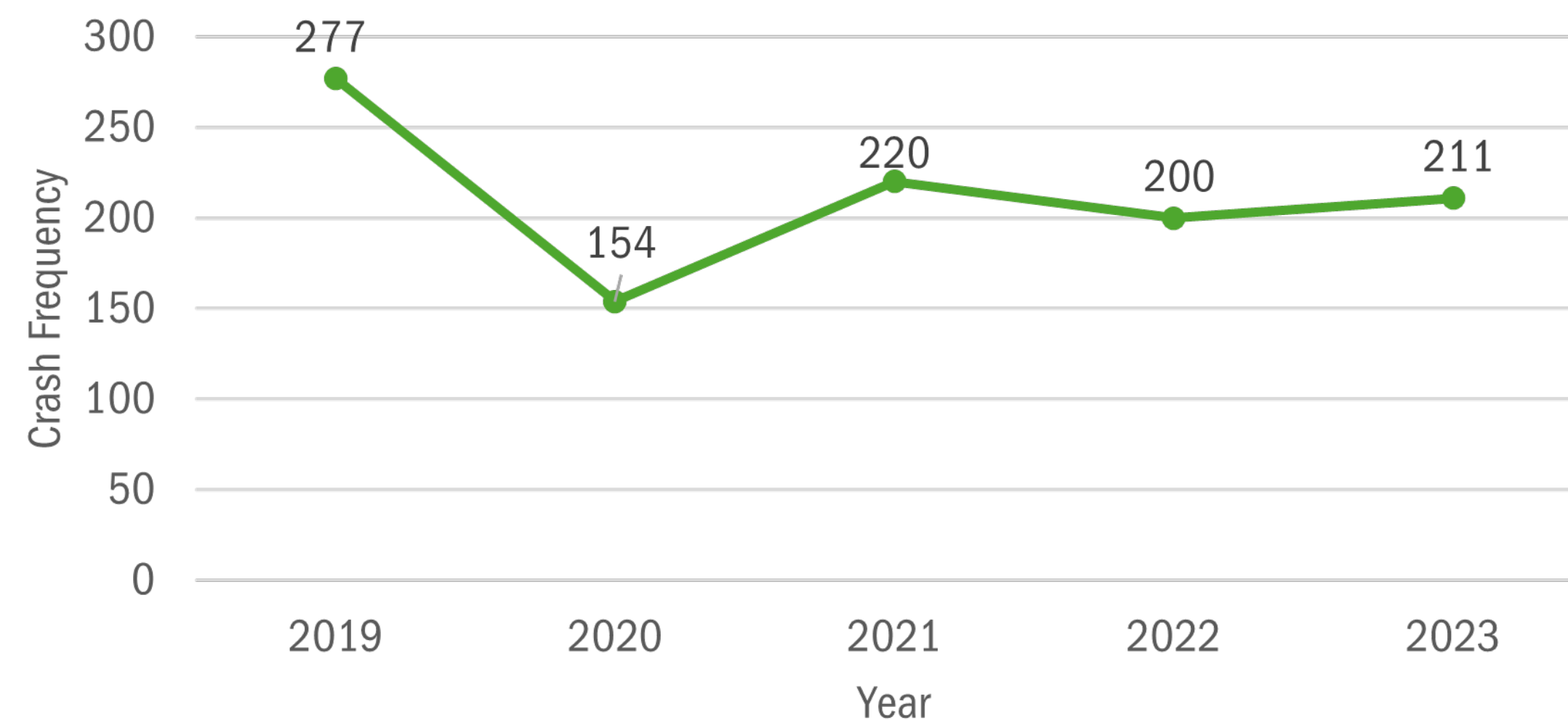
The total number of crashes have reduced from pre-pandemic levels, however, fatal and serious injury crashes have seen an uptick in recent years.

A large concentration of crashes occur along High Street, Dublin-Granville Road (SR-161), and Wilson Bridge Road.

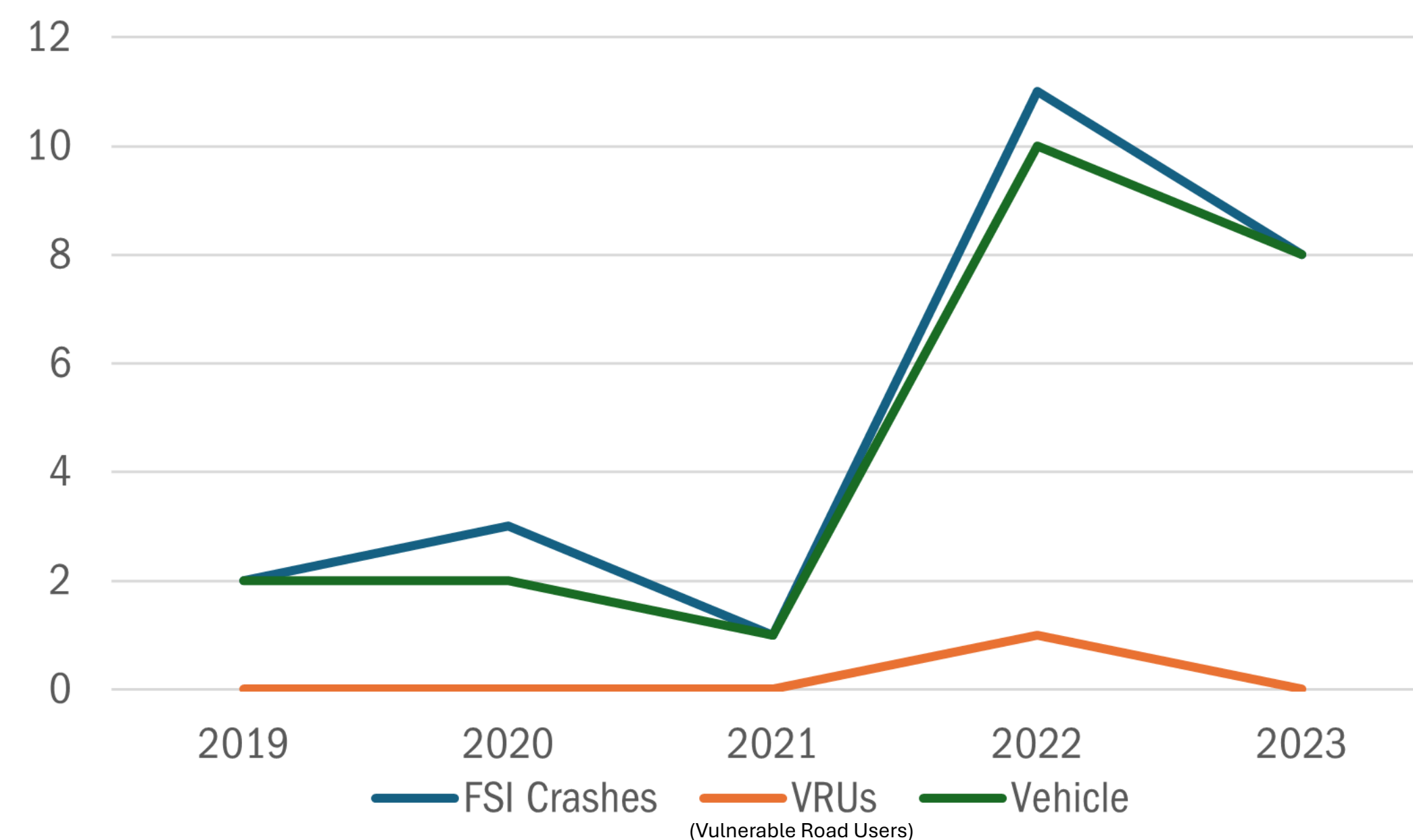
Key intersections include:

- High Street & Dublin-Granville Road
- High Street & Wilson Bridge Road
- Dublin-Granville Road & SR-315
- Wilson Bridge Road & Worthington Galena Road/Huntley Road
- Schrock Road & Huntley Road

Citywide Crashes (2019 - 2023)

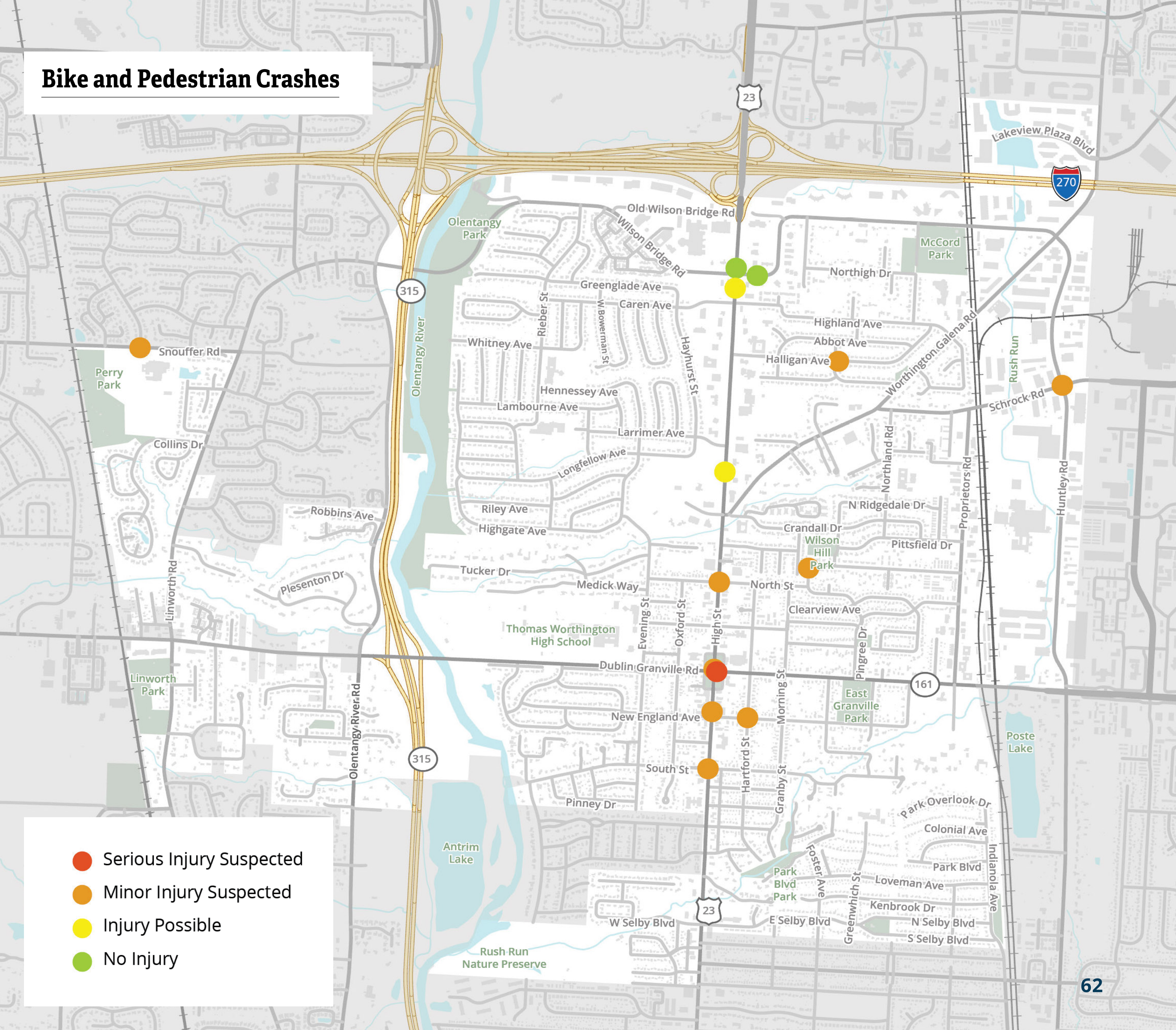


Citywide Fatal & Serious Injury Crashes (2019 - 2023)



Bike and pedestrian crashes occurred most frequently at intersections.

From 2019 - 2023 there were a total of 15 bike and pedestrian crashes, with minor injuries reported in most cases and no fatalities.

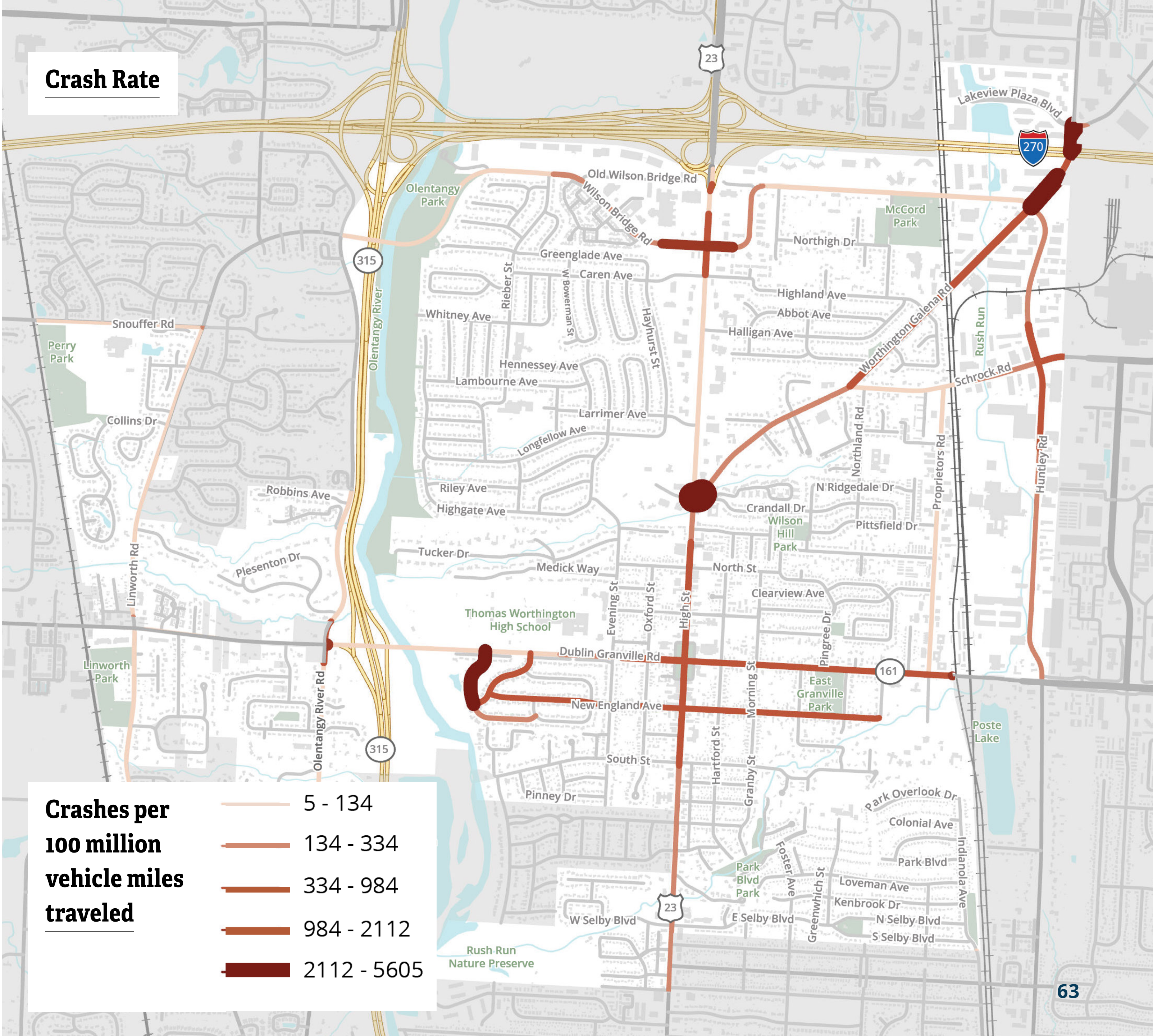


There are several crash hot spots.

Crash rate is a metric that represents the number of crashes on a roadway per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. Roadways with a high crash rate represent roadways that have a higher number of crashes than what would be expected based on the amount of traffic and the length of that roadway.

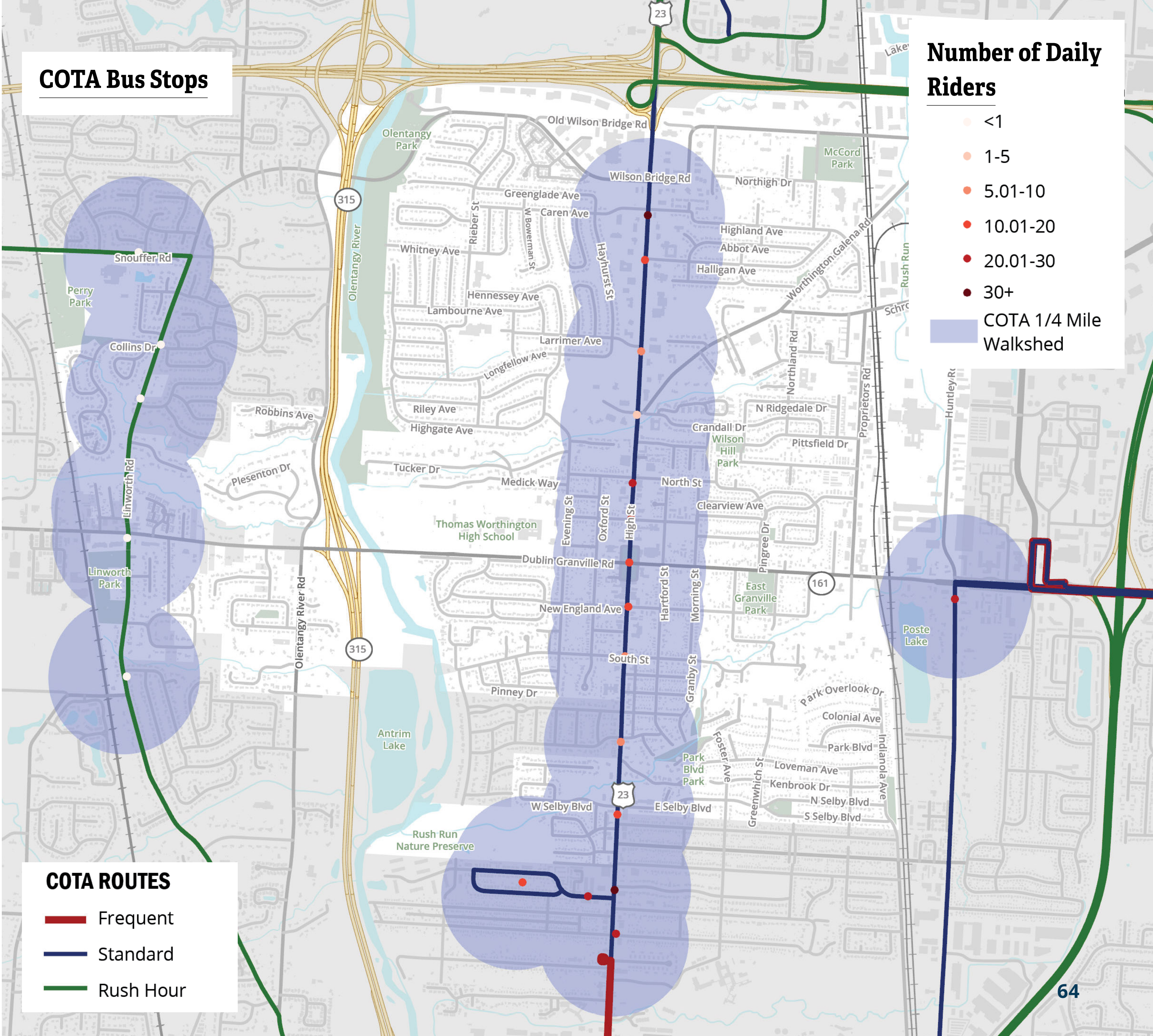
Notable hotspots include:

- Intersection of High Street & Worthington-Galena Road
- Worthington Galena Road at I-270
- Wilson Bridge Road
- Seabury Drive



COTA primarily provides service along High Street in Worthington.

Service in Worthington is not currently provided on any East-West connectors such as Dublin-Granville Road/SR-161. While all residential areas are within acceptable biking distance, many are located more than 1/4 mile from transit stops, reducing overall walkability for those that either need to or choose to use transit and are not comfortable biking.

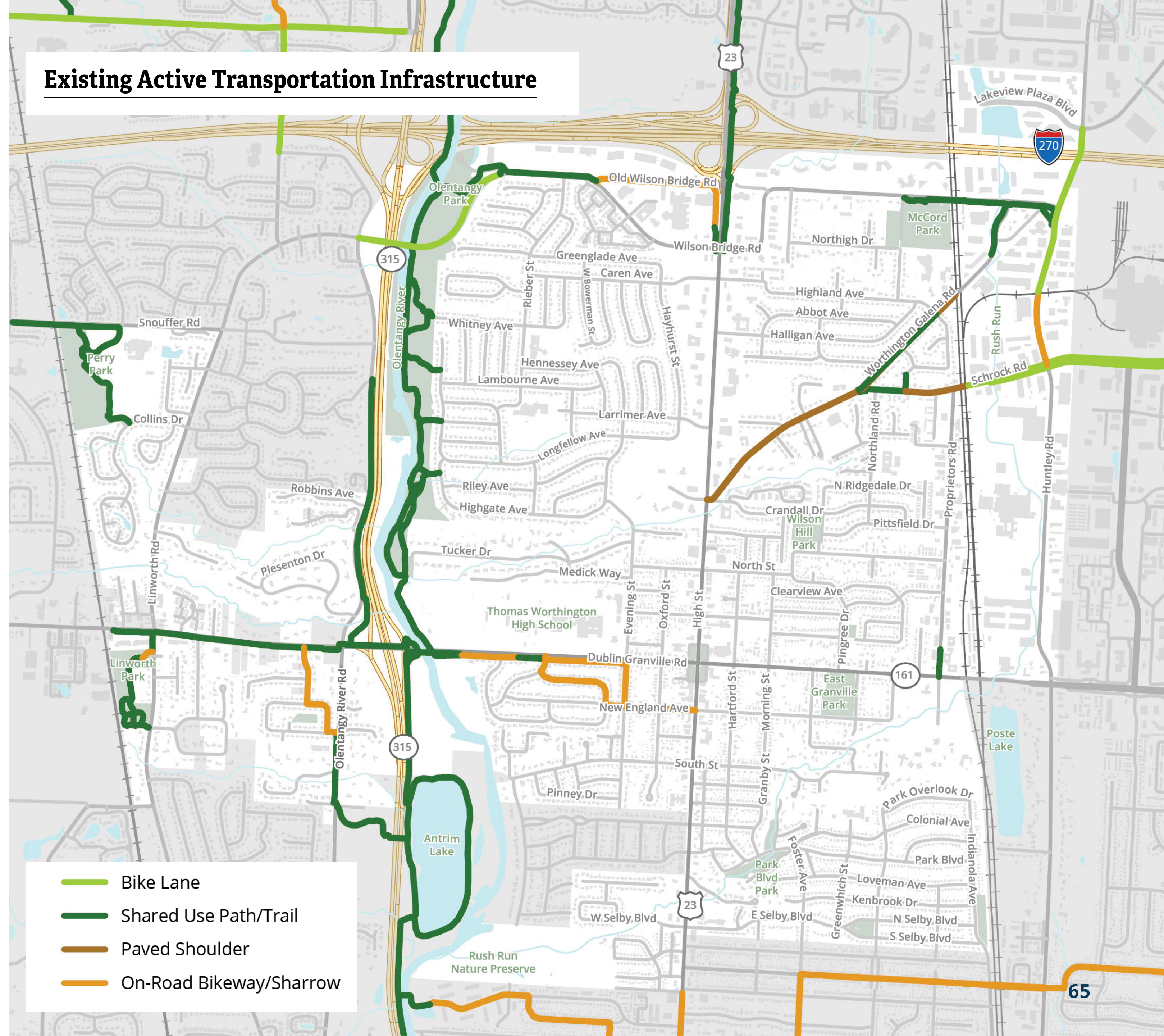


Worthington is connected to the region through the Olentangy Trail, but lacks protected on-road bicycle facilities.

The Olentangy Trail runs from just North of Worthington all the way to Downtown Columbus.

While Worthington has on-road bikeways (sharrows), there are not many protected bikeways in the City.

Protected bikeways reduce travel stress for those who may have less biking experience and for young riders.



Sidewalks are well-established but there are gaps.

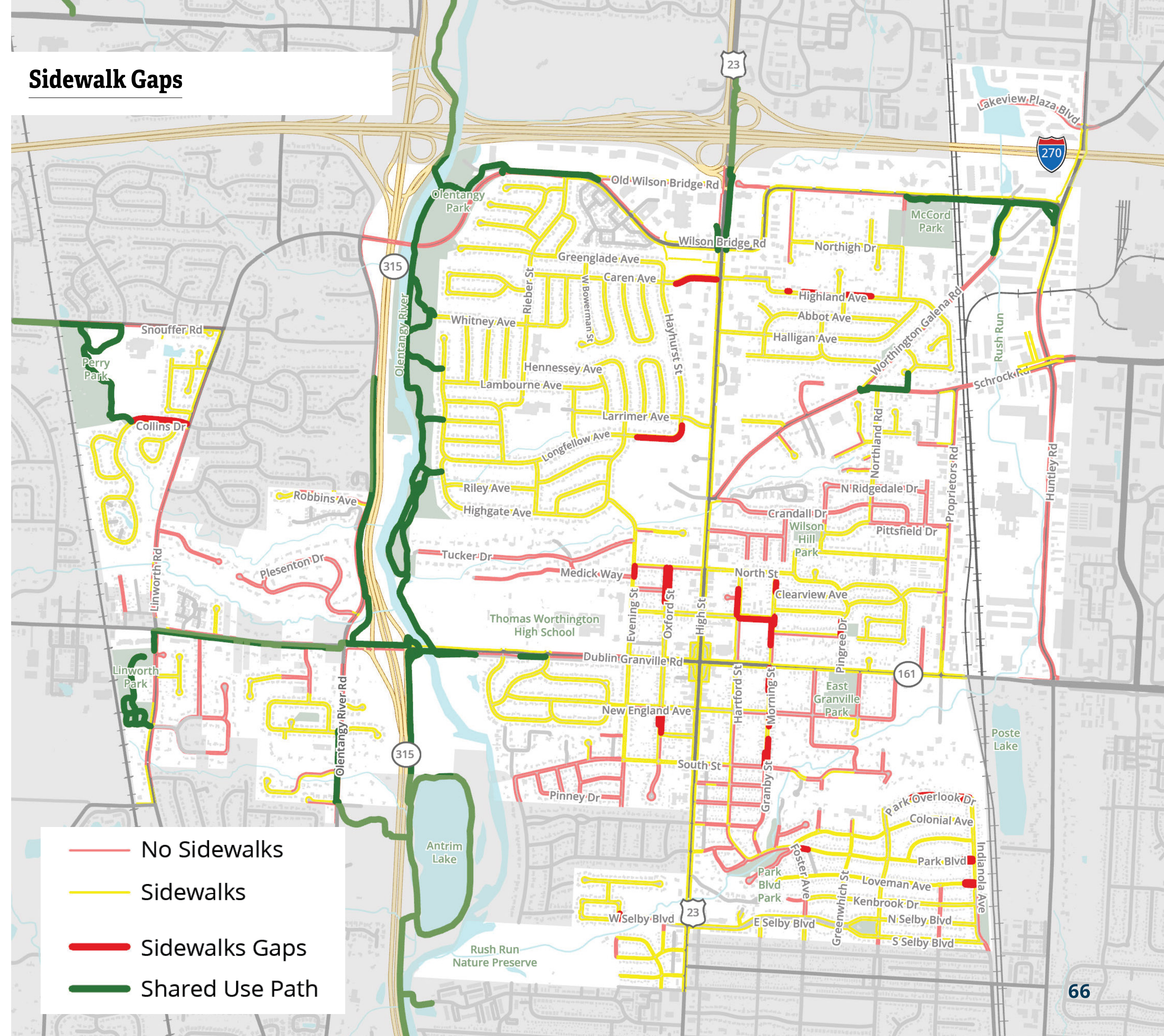
The locations identified as “sidewalk gaps” are where there are portions of sidewalk missing between completed sections of sidewalk. This does not include roadways missing sidewalks on one side of the street with complete sidewalks on the other side. However, there are notable areas that lack sidewalks entirely including:

- Huntley Road, an important workforce corridor
- Linworth Road

There may be opportunities to add both sidewalks and protected bike facilities where they currently do not exist through road diets and complete street policies.

EXISTING CONDITIONS SNAPSHOT

Sidewalk Gaps



Existing Conditions Snapshot

Economic Profile

This section of the snapshot looks at the city's economic development opportunities.



Connection to Vision Worthington



Worthington's economy is balanced and resilient.

Vision Worthington contains many sentiments that the comprehensive plan's economic development policies should support. Those sentiments (summarized) include:

As a community, we...

- Attract employers that offer residents stable, good-paying jobs, while diversifying the city's revenue base.
- Incubate innovative solutions through community and business collaboration and partnership.
- Follow a comprehensive, long-term strategy that leads to timely and consistent decisions related to development.

The largest employment sector in Worthington is healthcare-related services. However, professional technical services drove recent job growth.

The number of jobs increased by 11% over the past decade (from 2012 to 2022), while the region’s job growth was 18%. Worthington has approximately 15,000 jobs, up from 13,500.

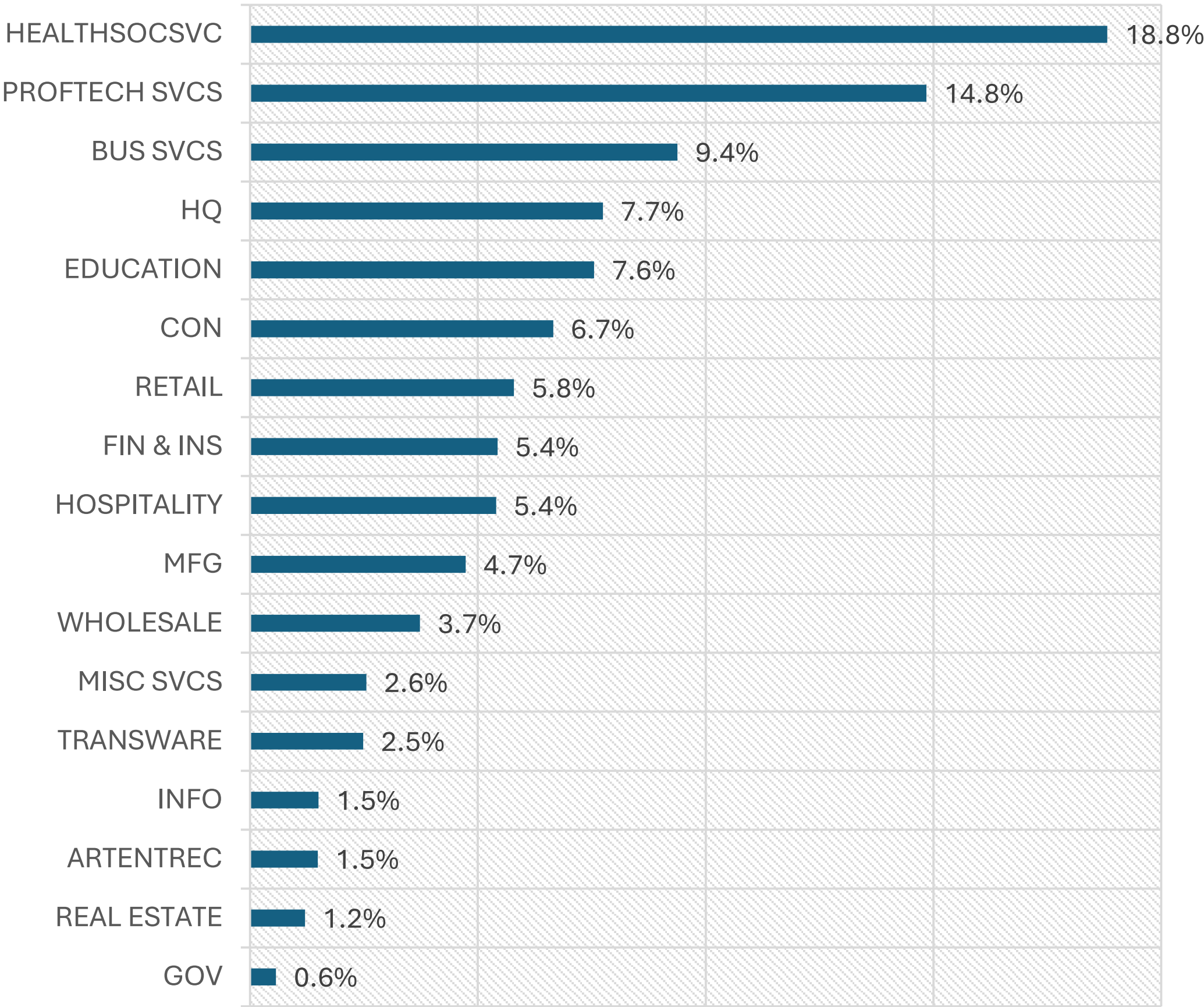
Worthington has a higher concentration of jobs than the region Within several sectors:

- Healthcare Social Services: 18.8% to 12.6% in the region
- Professional Technical Services: 14.8% to 6.9% in the region
- Headquarters 7.7% to 4.1% in the region

Worthington’s job growth offset its losses (from 2012 to 2022)

- Professional technical services have been the primary driver of job growth, adding more than 600 jobs or a 39% increase
- Construction was the sector with the highest growth rate, adding 287 jobs or a 41% increase
- Financial services lost 288 jobs or a 27% decrease, and wholesale trade lost 346 jobs or a 39% decrease

Key Industries in Worthington, % of jobs (2022)



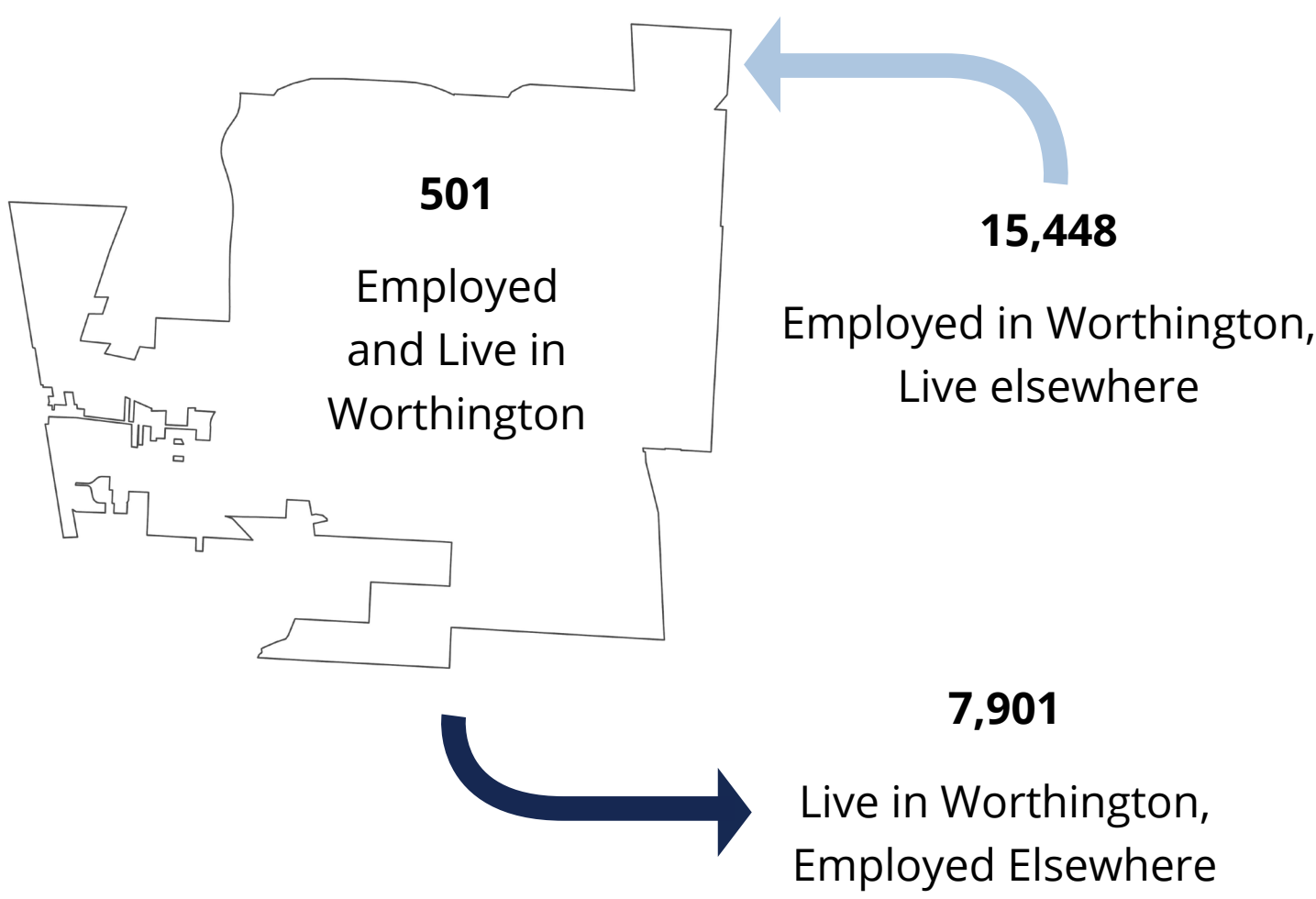
Source: Ninigret Partners analysis of ontheMap.gov data (2022 most recent available)

Note: This data uses primary jobs

Most people who live in Worthington work elsewhere.

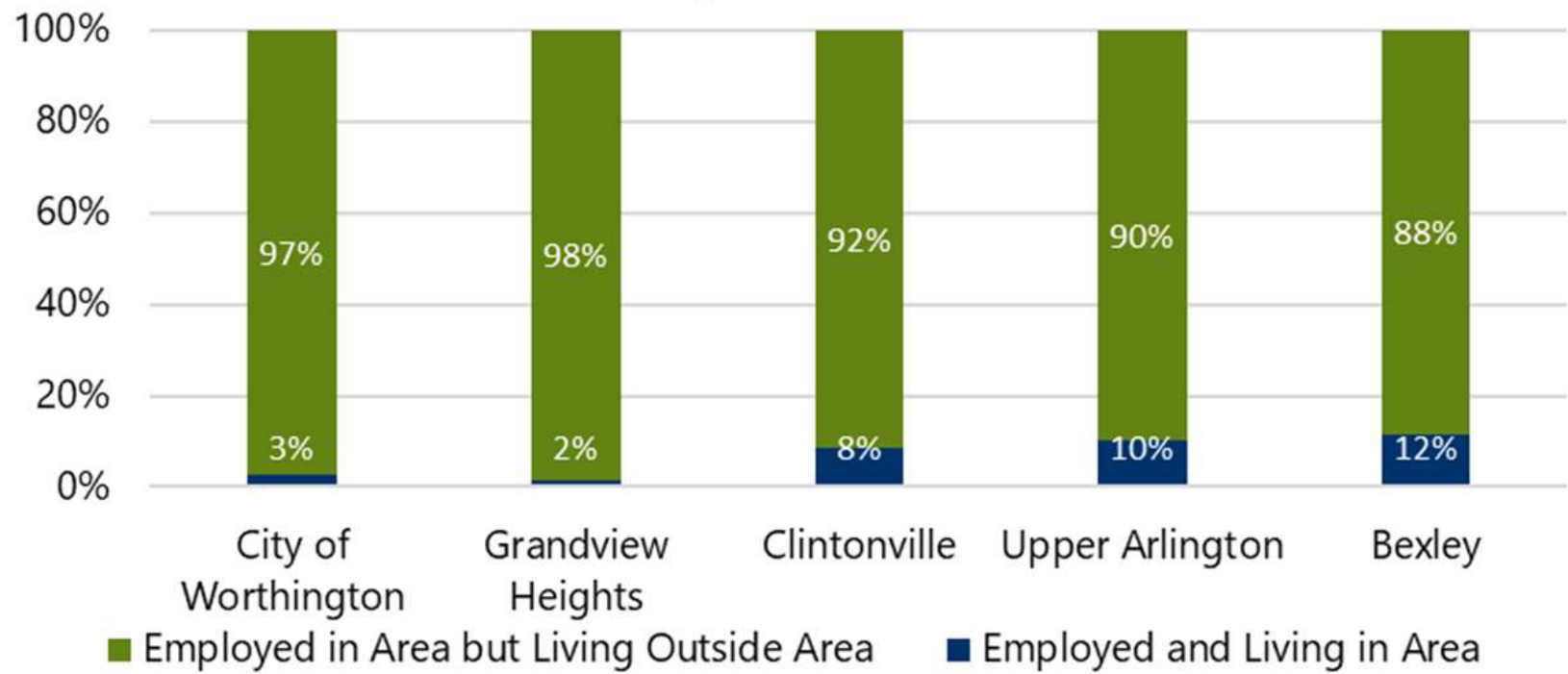
- Approximately 97% of jobs in Worthington are filled by people living outside of the city.
- Approximately 3% of residents live and work in the city.
- Both of these statistics have remained consistent between 2021 and 2022 despite recent increases in both the people living and working in the area.

Inflow/outflow of workers (2022)



Source: 2022 Census
OnTheMap

Inflow/outflow of workers compared



Source: Data above as reported in the 2024 Housing Assessment

Worthington's employment needs are met primarily by non-residents.

This level of commuting is not unusual for the region

In part, this is driven by the jobs available in Worthington rather than the industries the residents work in:

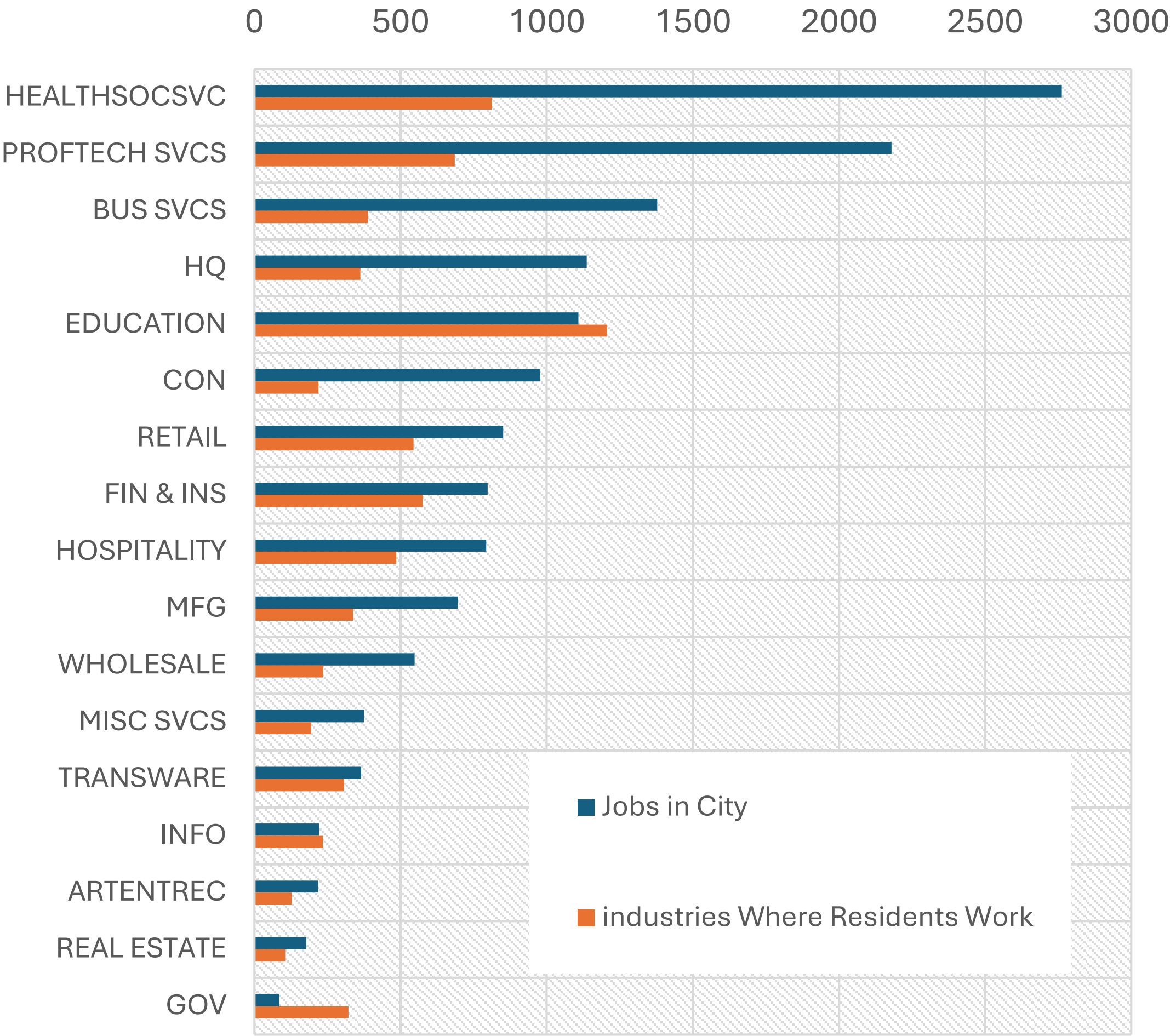
- For example, more Worthington residents work in more government-related jobs than are available in the city
- By contrast, more Worthington jobs are available in healthcare than residents who work in that industry

19% of residents work from home compared to 17% across the region (ACS 2023)

Approximately 10% of Worthington's residents are self-employed compared to 8% across the region (ACS 2023)

The city is conducting a Land Use Fiscal Analysis that will help expand upon this information.

Worthington Sectors / Resident Industry Differences

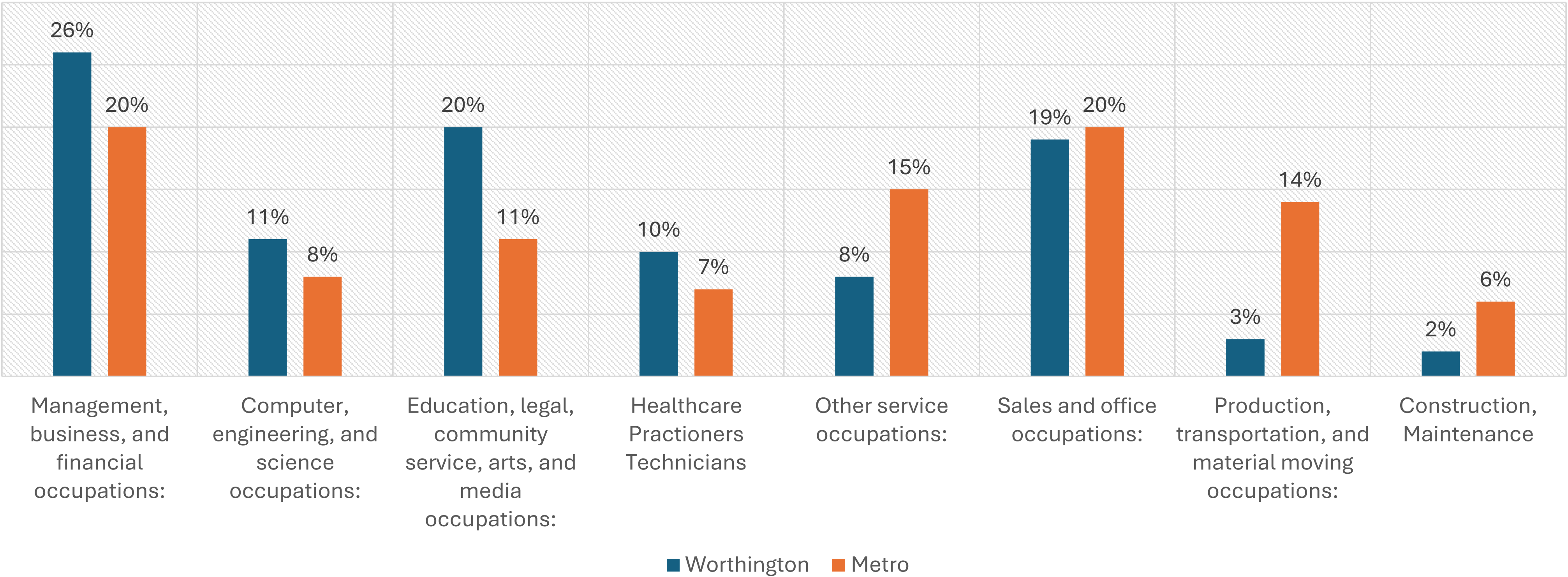


Source: Ninigret Partners analysis of ontheMap.gov data (2022 most recent available)

Note: This data uses primary jobs

Worthington residents have a more “white collar” occupational profile compared to the region.

Resident Occupations, 2023 (ACS 5-year estimate)



Source: Ninigret Partners analysis of ACS 5-year Occupational data (Table S2401)

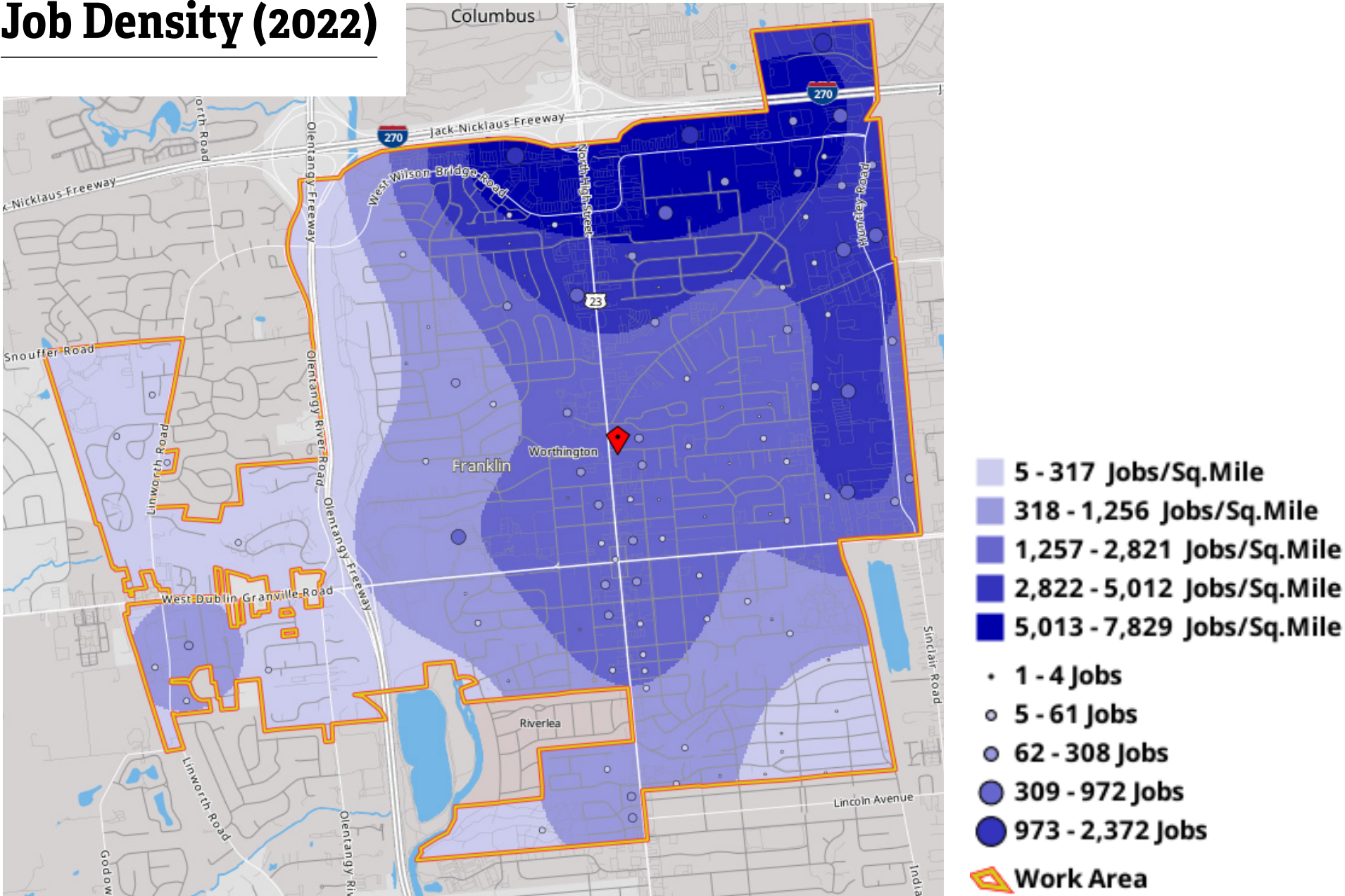
Worthington has fairly high job density compared to the region

- The concentration of office-based jobs is the key driver
- Given the “land-locked” nature of Worthington, job density is important
- Also important is having high-quality jobs.

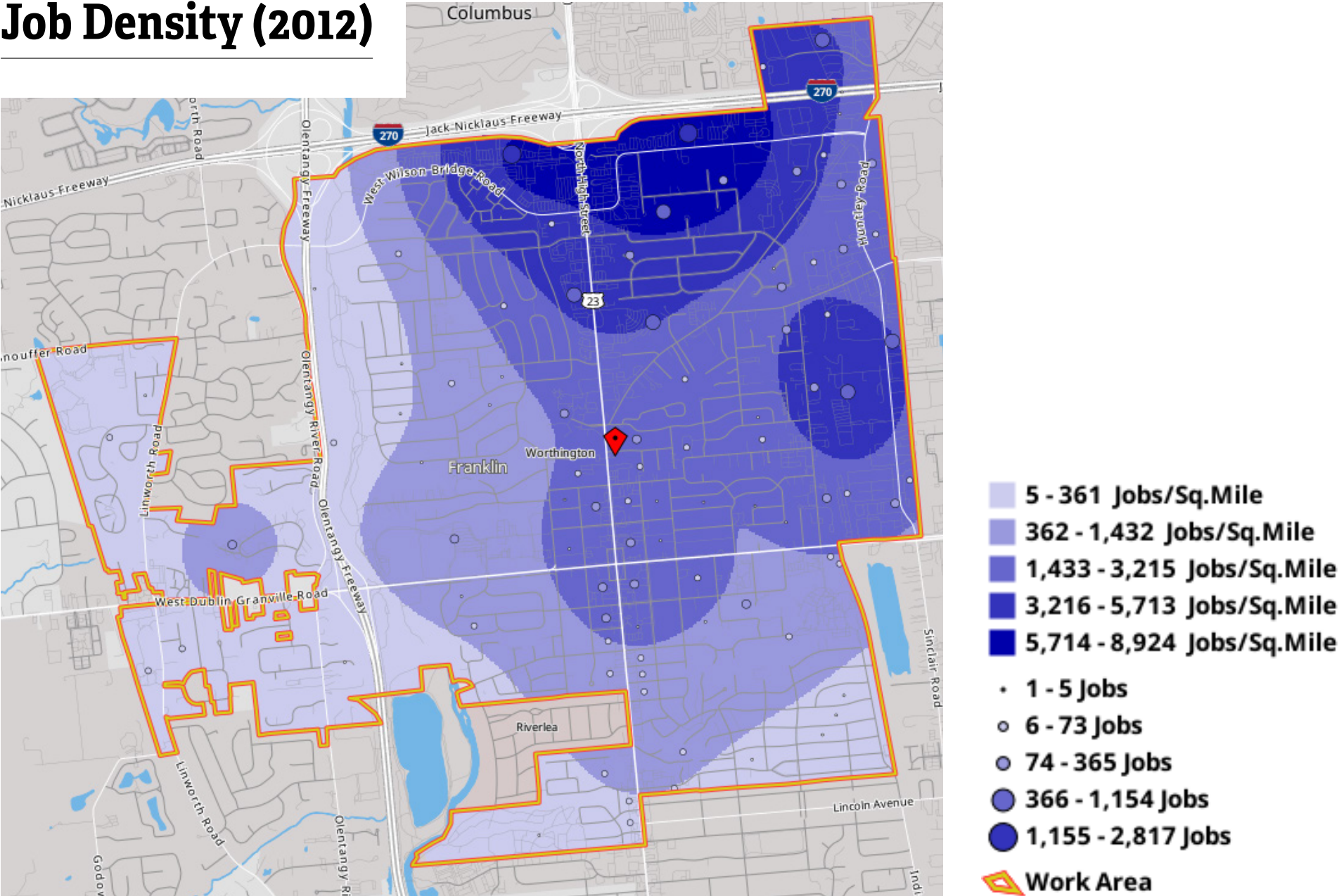


Source: Ninigret Partners analysis of Census On-the-Map data (January 2025, divided by land area)

Job Density (2022)



Job Density (2012)

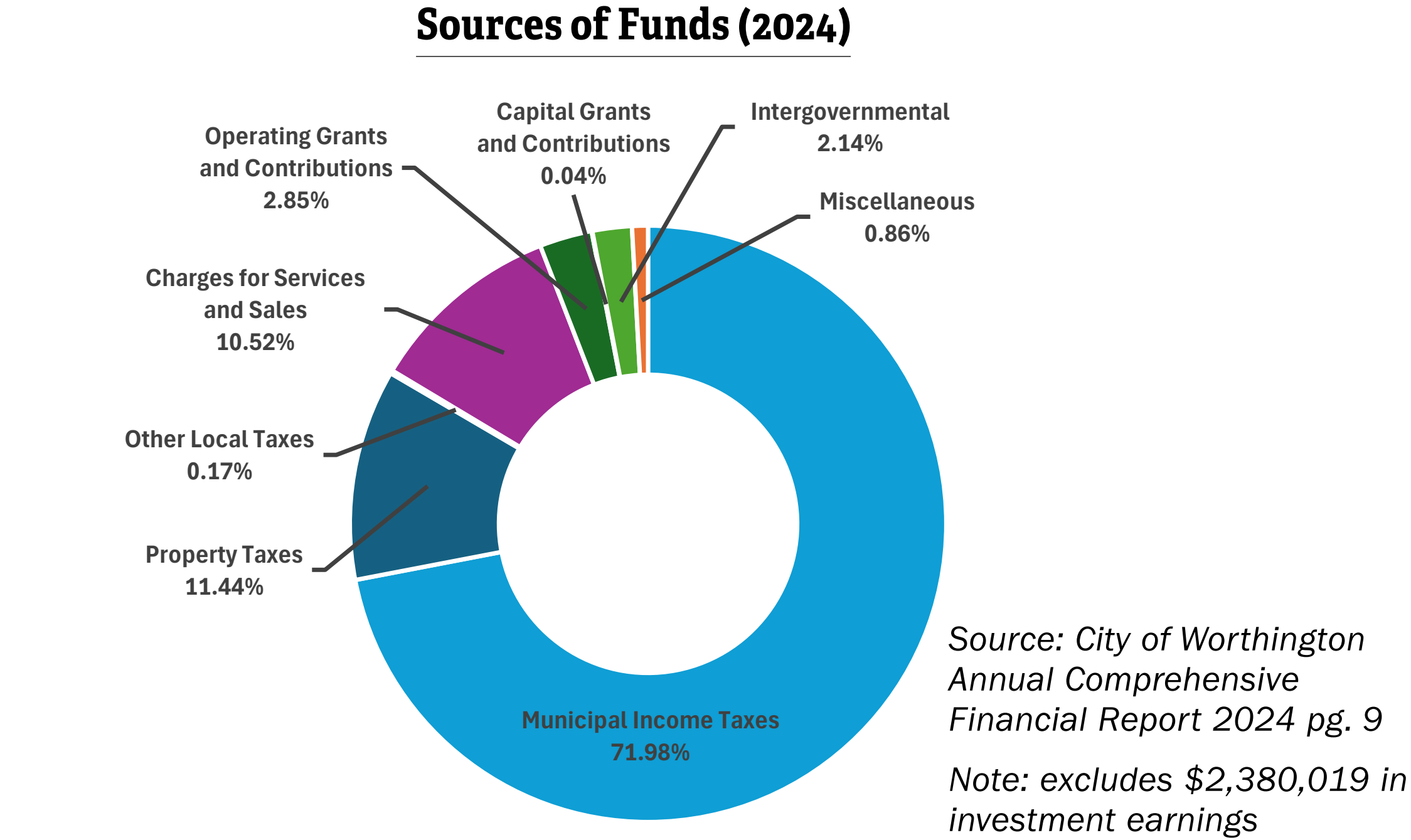


Wage growth for Worthington Jobs has driven recent growth in tax collections.

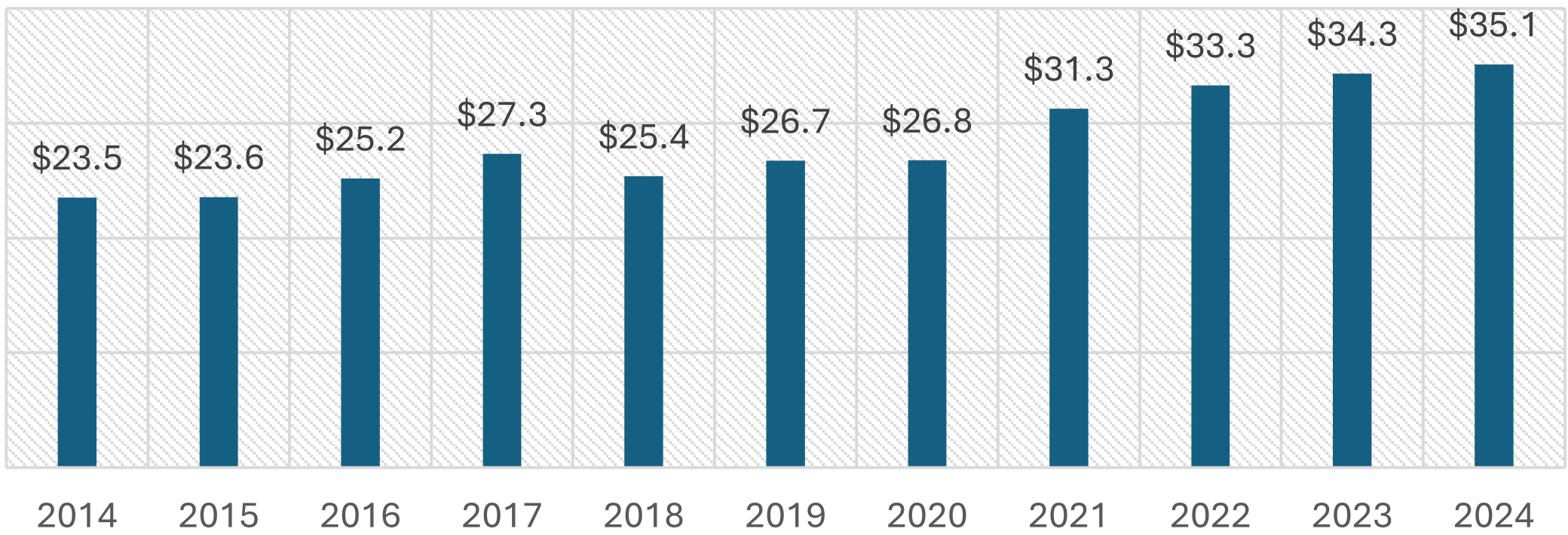
Income tax performance is an important indicator of economic health and a predictor of fiscal health

Income tax collections were flat until 2020, but have accelerated post-COVID

- Working from home could be a potential source
- Collections have grown by 49% in the last decade, faster than employment growth, indicating higher wages
- However, the number of filers has declined by 18%, which means that higher incomes have driven the growth in collections



Worthington Income Tax Collections Nominal Dollars (\$millions)



Source: Ninigret Partners analysis of city 2023 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) pg S -11 and the March 2025 Income Tax Report

Worthington's office situation is challenging.

Occupied office buildings are important for the city's tax base.

Nearly 2.5 million square feet of office space exists in Worthington. According to the Tax Assessor's data, 24 records have no data, but totals 2.4 million square feet

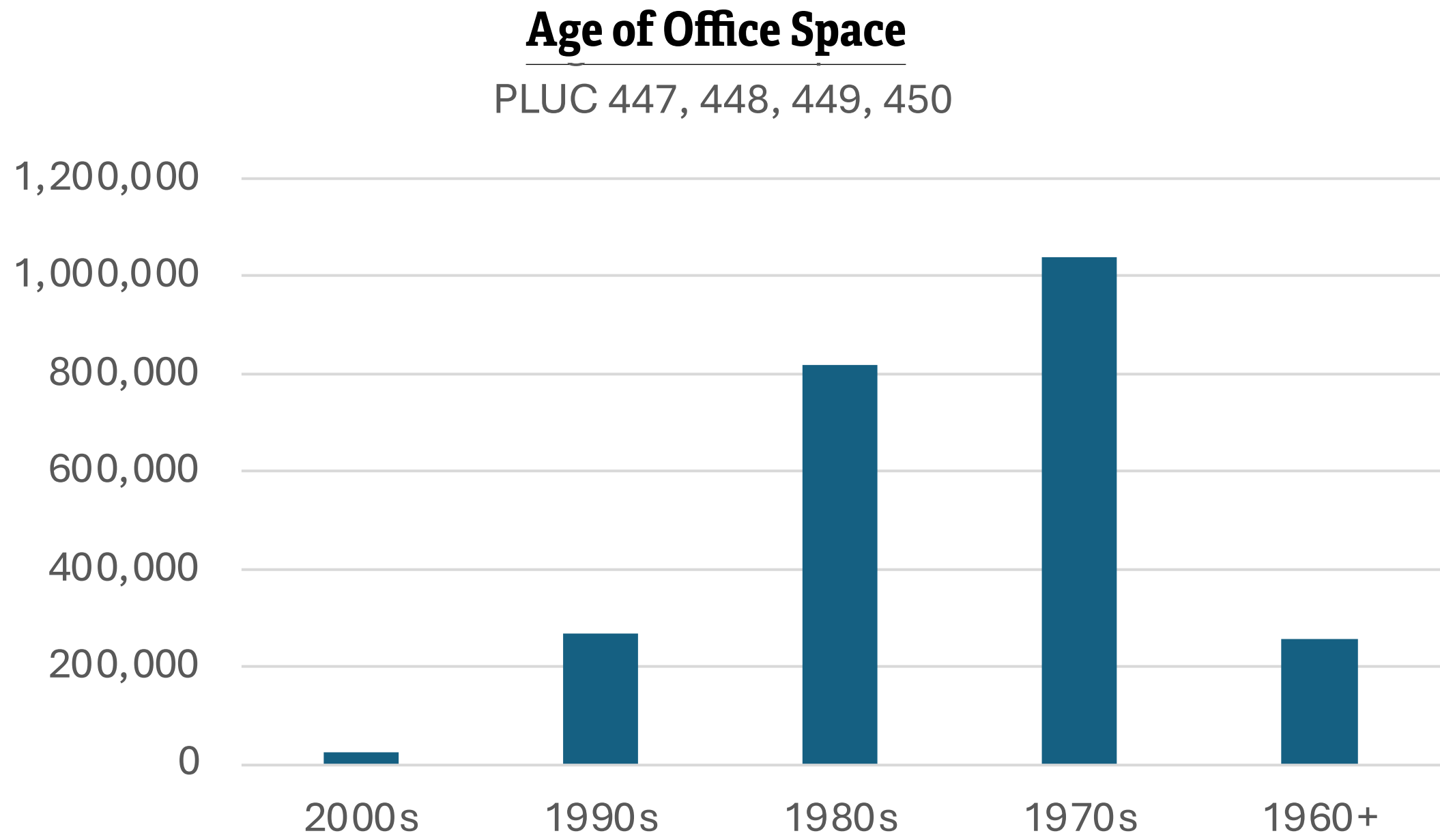
The majority of this space is rated "Class C." A relatively small amount (10-11%) of the city's office space is "Class A."

Less than 1% of the space was built in the 21st century; More than 50% was built before 1979

59 out of 72 buildings have undergone some form of remodeling (approximately 300 sq ft have been remodeled after 2010)

The current office vacancy rate in Worthington is 21.7% as of Q1 of 2025, which is below the overall office vacancy rate for Greater Columbus of 23.9% during the same period (Cushman & Wakefield)

Note: Though a space may be leased, it may not be fully occupied.



Source: Ninigret Partners analysis of Franklin County Auditor parcel records for Worthington (2024)

Class A Buildings (per County Assessor)

Address	Owner	Grade	Gross Area (Sf)	
200 W Old Wilson Bridg Rd	Worthington Industries Inc	A	139,763	Office Bldg H-R 5s+
100 Old Wilson Bridg Rd	Corporate Hill Llc	A	119,228	Office Bldg H-R 5s+
874 Proprietors Rd	Wfp Properties Llc	A	5,175	Office Bldg L-R 1-4s

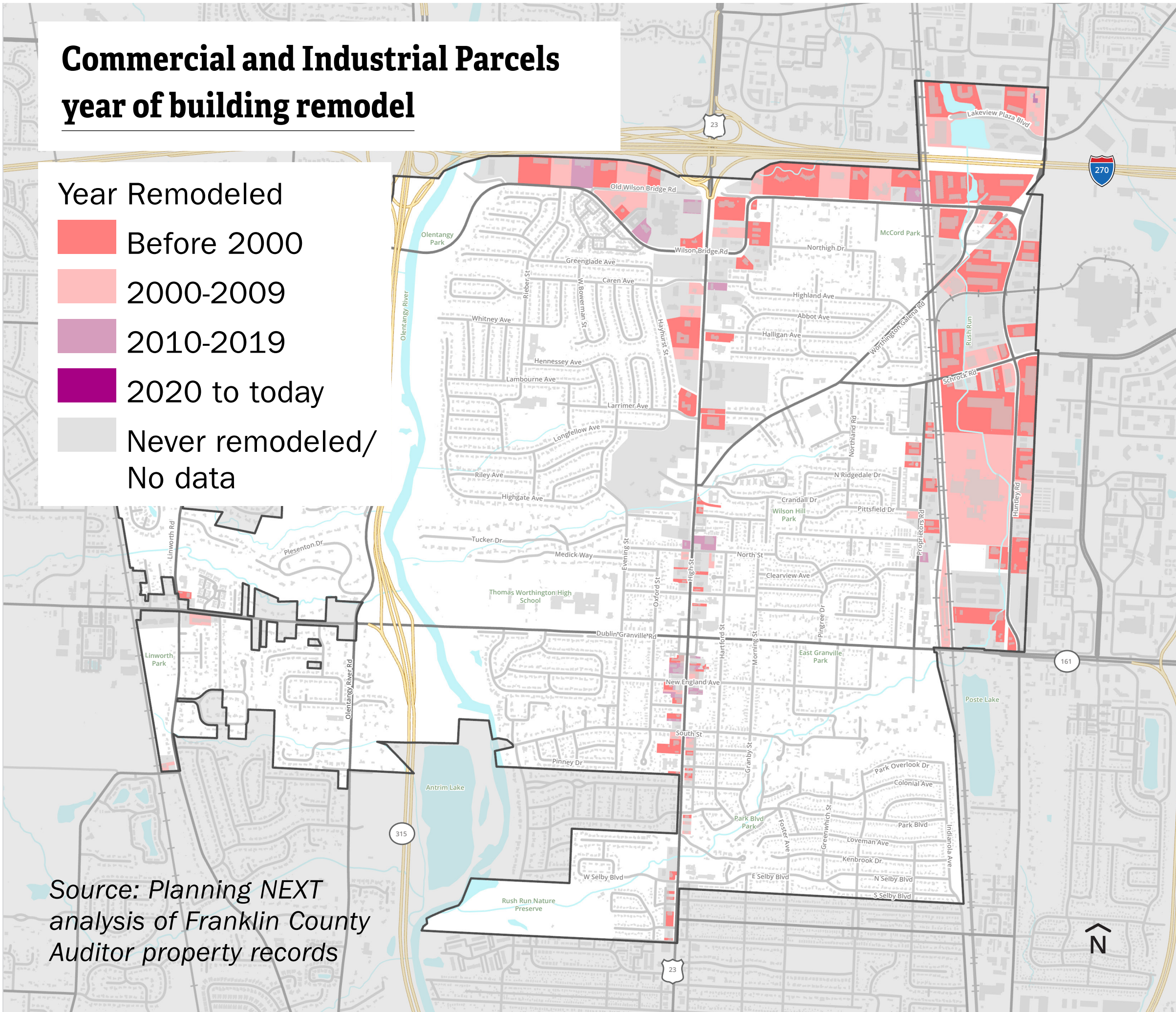
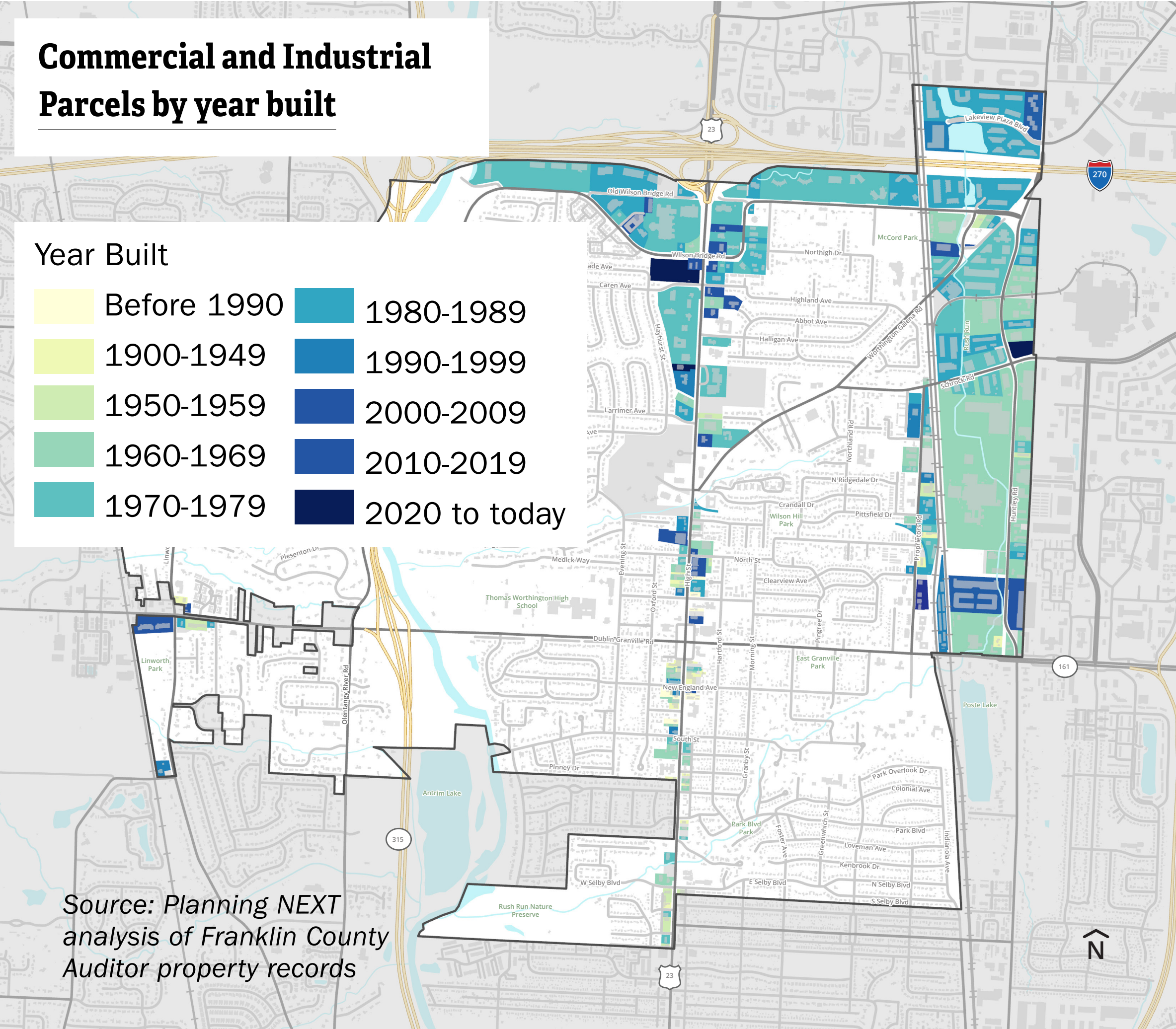
Definitions of office class are based on Franklin County tax records which differ from the definitions assigned by brokers for marketing purposes. According to Franklin County, three buildings in Worthington are Class A, totaling about 11% of the office space. According to local brokers and city staff, there is much less Class A space in the city.

Worthington Office buildings by County Assessor grade

Assessor Grade	A	B	B+1	B+2	B-1	C	C+1	C+2	C-1	C-2
Number of Buildings	3	42	2	1	2	75	2	25	1	19
SQ FT	264,166	460,523	139,237	105,617	62,515	637,743	68,829	612,117	5165	50,504
% Sq Ft	11%	19%	6%	4%	3%	27%	3%	25%	0%	2%

Source: Ninigret Partners analysis of Franklin County Auditor parcel records for Worthington (2024)

The age of commercial and industrial buildings may also indicate a potential for redevelopment or improvement.



Existing Conditions Snapshot

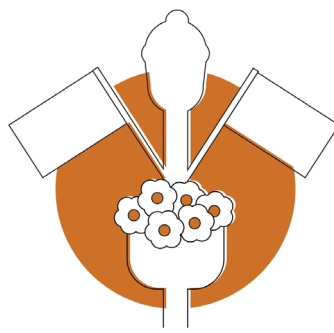
Parks, Natural Resources, and Sustainability



Connection to Vision Worthington



Worthington is a Model for Environmental Stewardship.



Worthington Offers a High Quality of Life.

Parks, natural resources, and sustainability tie directly to the Environmental Stewardship vision and contribute to the community's quality of life and sense of place. Those sentiments from the Vision (summarized) include:

As a community, we...

- Maintain and preserve existing public parks and offer creative common and recreational spaces for all ages and abilities to enjoy.
- Encourage the redevelopment of existing buildings to reduce waste and pollution.
- Strive to be on the leading edge of environmental stewardship.
- Follow a sustainable, balanced approach to new development and green space.

Parks and open space comprise 8.9% of the land coverage in Worthington, totaling 255 acres.

- Of that total, approximately 221 acres are City parks. This gives Worthington 12.4 acres per 1,000 residents.
- The National Recreation and Park Association recommends a minimum of 6-10 acres per 1,000 residents for a community of Worthington's size.

Legend

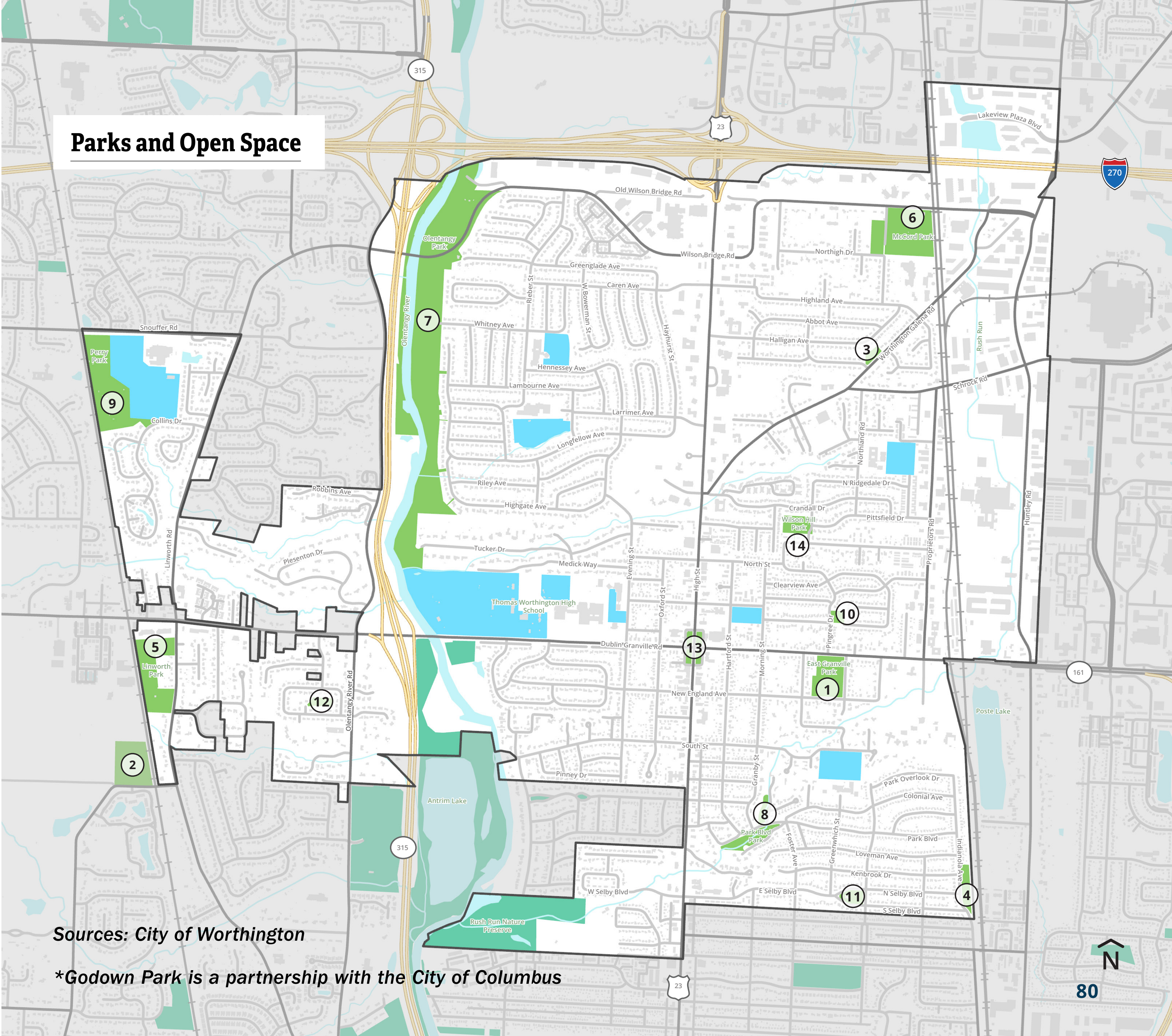
- Worthington Parks
- Other nearby Parks
- Other open spaces
- Water
- City Boundary

City Parks

- 1. East Granville Park
- 2. Godown Park*
- 3. Henschman Park
- 4. Indianola Park

- 5. Linworth Park
- 6. McCord Park
- 7. Olentangy Parklands
- 8. Park Boulevard Park
- 9. Perry Park
- 10. Pingree Park
- 11. Selby Park
- 12. Shaker Square Park
- 13. Village Green
- 14. Wilson Hill Park

EXISTING CONDITIONS SNAPSHOT



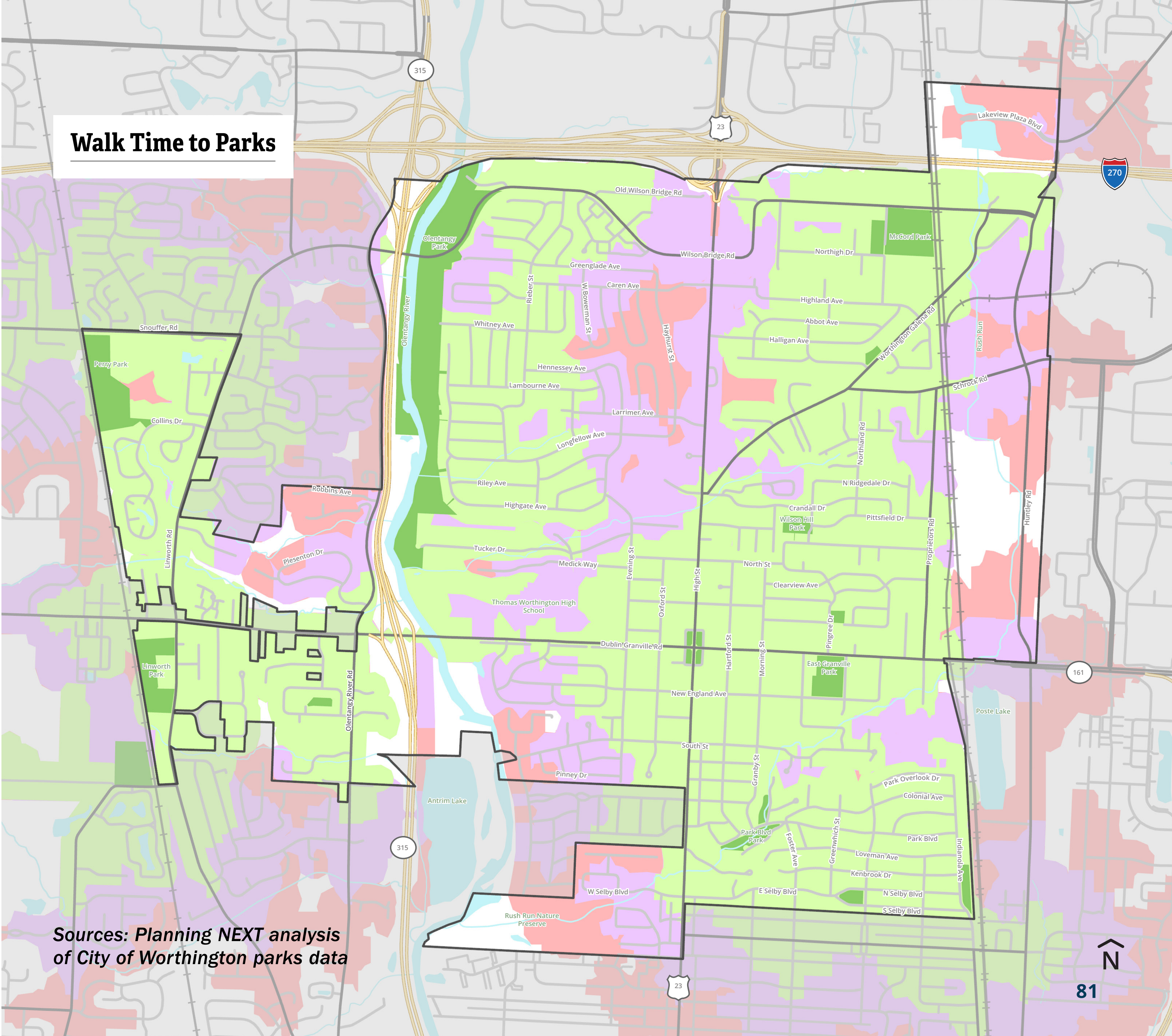
The City's park and open space network provides walkable access to a majority of the community.

- This map uses the sidewalk/trail network to estimate walk times to park access points. Some areas may be close to a park, but lack walkable access.
- Most of the city is within a 10-minute walk to a park
- Places that are a 15-minute or longer walk to a park include much of the North High Street corridor, the eastern half of the Worthington Estates neighborhood, and the Northeast Area.

Legend

- Worthington Parks
- 10 minute walk to a park access point
- 15 minute walk to a park access point
- 20 minute walk to a park access point

EXISTING CONDITIONS SNAPSHOT



Relative to its size and population, Worthington features a generous amount of park space and recreation facilities.

- Park Master Plan (2017) concluded that the City has ample park space when compared to benchmark communities. The City's focus has been on maintenance and improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities. For the Parks Master Plan, data from Worthington was compared to 81 participating cities from around the country. At that time:
- Worthington had approximately 12.4 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, exceeding most peers and benchmarks. The median for peers was 7.8 acres, and the average was 11.2 acres
- In terms of recreation and community centers, Worthington ranked 4th nationally with 6.7 sq ft per resident (Westerville had 3.1 and Dublin had 2.7)
- Worthington's numbers have not changed significantly since that time.
- Park space does not measure the quality or condition of, or access to park facilities.



[Parks Master Plan](#)

While the number of park acres and recreational space has changed little since the Parks Plan, costs have risen significantly. The City continues to invest in park upkeep and improvements.

After public safety (police and fire services), Parks and Recreation is the second largest category in Worthington's recent operating budgets (about 17%). That funding supports programming, administration, and maintenance.

The City's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) has funded improvements to half of the City's parks in recent years. Future anticipated improvements are listed in the 5-year CIP, which is part of the annual budget process. Recent completed improvements include:

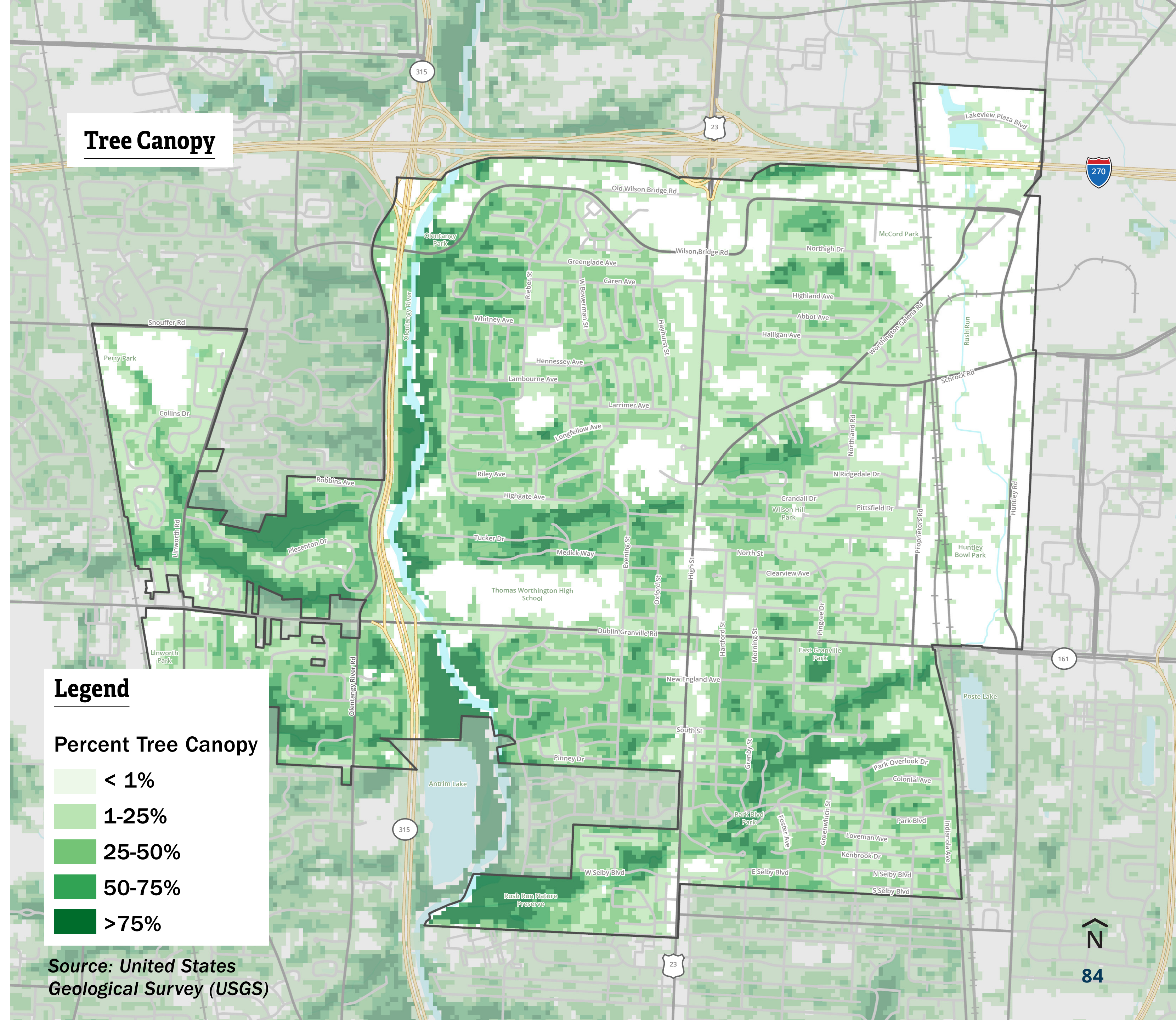
- **East Granville Road Park.** The playground was replaced in 2024.
- **Olentangy Parklands.** Several tennis courts were converted into pickleball courts in 2024.
- **Indianola & Wilson Hill Parks.** The tennis and basketball courts were resurfaced in 2024.
- **McCord Park.** Open shelters, a playground, ball diamonds, restrooms, the trail system, and the restoration of a 1923 B&O Railroad Caboose were completed from 2022 to 2024.
- **Shaker Square Park.** The playground and safety surface were replaced in 2023.
- **Perry Park.** The playground and safety surface were replaced in 2023.
- **Selby Park.** The playground and safety surface were replaced in 2021.

Worthington has greater tree canopy in comparison to Franklin County.

- Canopy cover in Worthington is 38% of its total land area while it is 24% for Franklin County.
- Areas with lower tree canopy include commercial and industrial areas with large footprint buildings and parking lots, active parks, and schools.
- Worthington lacks regulatory tools that some other cities use to protect natural resources, such as lot coverage limitations, stream buffers or protection zones, or tree removal/replacement standards.

**Franklin County Tree Canopy Analysis (2021)*

EXISTING CONDITIONS SNAPSHOT



The Vision Implementation Team (VIT), on Sustainability, recommended that the City develop a long-term sustainability plan.

The comprehensive plan's focus is on where and how the community should develop in the future. It will incorporate sustainability throughout its recommendations and it may address the most critical community aspirations regarding sustainability. But a separate plan focused on sustainability or climate action could go further to address city operations or programs to reduce energy consumption, protect natural resources, or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or other related ideas.

Example metrics that a comprehensive plan could set policies and programs to measure

For reducing energy consumption

- Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Percentage of commuters driving alone vs. commuters that use alternative options
- Sidewalk coverage or walkable areas
- Greenway trail miles
- Number of alternative fuel stations

For protecting natural resources

- Low-impact development
- Tree coverage vs. impervious coverage
- Buildings in high-risk areas

For sustainability in economic development

- Jobs in “green energy-related industries”
- Employers with established sustainability policies

Regional groups, plans, and programs addressing sustainability and climate change.

[Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed \(FLOW\)](#)

A nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping the Olentangy River clean through hands-on activities, public education, and outreach efforts.

[Power a Clean Future Ohio \(PCFO\)](#)

A nonprofit organization that engages local governments in building a clean energy future by identifying ways to reduce carbon emissions.

[Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio \(SWACO\)](#)

SWACO incorporates numerous sustainable practices into its operations to find environmentally safe methods for waste disposal. This includes the use of green fleet vehicles, a commitment to reducing emissions, community outreach efforts, and more.

[Environmental Crimes Task Force of Central Ohio \(ECTF\)](#)

A multi-agency group that works to protect the environment, health, and safety of residents by investigating and prosecuting environmental crimes, including littering and illegal dumping.

[Columbus Climate Action Plan](#)

A guide for the City of Columbus to reduce carbon emissions through collaborative efforts among the City, private businesses, organizations, and residents.

[LinkUS](#)

An initiative that will transform the Central Ohio transportation system into a comprehensive network by creating five different Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes, bikeways, and greenways, thereby boosting sustainable transportation practices in the region.

[MORPC Sustainable 2050](#)

A program that supports member communities in advancing sustainable efforts through technical assistance, collaboration, and recognition.

[US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant \(CPRG\)](#)

A program that supports strategies for reducing greenhouse gases and improving air quality. Central Ohio has received \$1 million to support these goals across the region.

Worthington is a platinum member in MORPC's Sustainable2050 program.

This includes involvement in many sustainable initiatives. A few of which are outlined below:

- **Utilize an electric aggregation program.** 100% of the energy consumed with Worthington's program is matched by investments in wind Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).
- **Upgrade municipal buildings and parks.** This has been achieved by installing bottle fillers in all buildings and many parks, building and street lighting are being upgraded to LEDs, and outdated HVAC systems are being replaced.
- **Incentivize green stormwater infrastructure.** This includes examples such as rain barrels. Worthington has conducted outreach through a working agreement with the Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- **Promote sustainable development.** This has been achieved by incorporating recommendations into Worthington's Design Guidelines for energy efficiency, stormwater management, alternative transportation elements, and other aspects. Additionally, the zoning code has been utilized to permit Planned Unit Developments (PUDs), which provide Worthington's boards and councils with the flexibility to preserve and enhance natural resources and green spaces.



More information about Sustainable2050 can be found at:
<https://www.morpc.org/programs-services/sustainable2050/>

Other current sustainability efforts Worthington include:

Worthington Arbor Advisory Committee. A volunteer group established by the City Council that meets monthly to review landscape plans and offer guidance on urban forestry in Worthington.

Worthington Green Team. A group of volunteers from the Worthington Partnership, a nonprofit organization, dedicated to implementing sustainable initiatives in Worthington.

Tree City USA. Worthington has been designated a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation since 1989.

Street Tree Program. A program hosted by the City to share the cost of planting and maintaining new street trees throughout the community. Requests to participate are taken each year.

Farmers Market. A year-round event hosted by the Worthington Partnership to support local and small-scale farmers.

The Compost Exchange. A program hosted by the Worthington Partnership that offers a subscription for weekly drop-off or curbside pickup services for the collection of compost materials. Members receive free compost each year.

STREET TREE APPLICATION

All trees are available on a first-come, first served basis. Planting will be done in the Spring and Fall after your application has been processed and trees are available.

Application must include payment for homeowner cost of \$125 per tree; the city will cover the balance and cost for planting. Trees will be approximately 1.5" inch caliper. Overall height will depend on the species selected. Please choose the tree(s) that best fit your lawn (within the right-of-way). If you have any questions on placement or species, please call the City Arborist for advice at 614-348-4926.

Name: _____ D.O.B: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Trees Requested: _____ QTY: _____ COST: \$ _____

Trees Requested: _____ QTY: _____ COST: \$ _____

Trees Requested: _____ QTY: _____ COST: \$ _____

Total \$ Enclosed : _____



MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Worthington Parks & Recreation

Attn: Street Tree Program
345 East Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, OH 43085

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
614-436-2743

