

Park Access

Description

This story map shows access to parks per 1,000 people based on geographic proximity to recreational open space. People are considered to have access to “neighborhood parks” (less than 35 acres) within half a mile of their home and “community parks” (35 acres or more) within one mile of their home. Values are reported at four levels: less than one acre, one to four acres, four to ten acres, and more than ten acres of accessible parkland per 1,000 people. Generally, the four-acre standard is considered adequate for denser communities, while the ten-acre standard is appropriate for less-dense areas.

Inputs

CMAP Land Use Inventory

- Source: CMAP 2013 Parcel-Based Land Use Inventory
- Vintage: 2013 (published 2016)
- Location: [CMAP Data Depot](#)

U.S. Census Bureau

- Source: U.S. Census Bureau, SF1
- Vintage: 2010
- Location: <https://www.census.gov/>

CMAP Subzones

- Source: CMAP, derived from PLSS quarter-sections
- Vintage: 2009
- Location: [CMAP Data Depot](#)

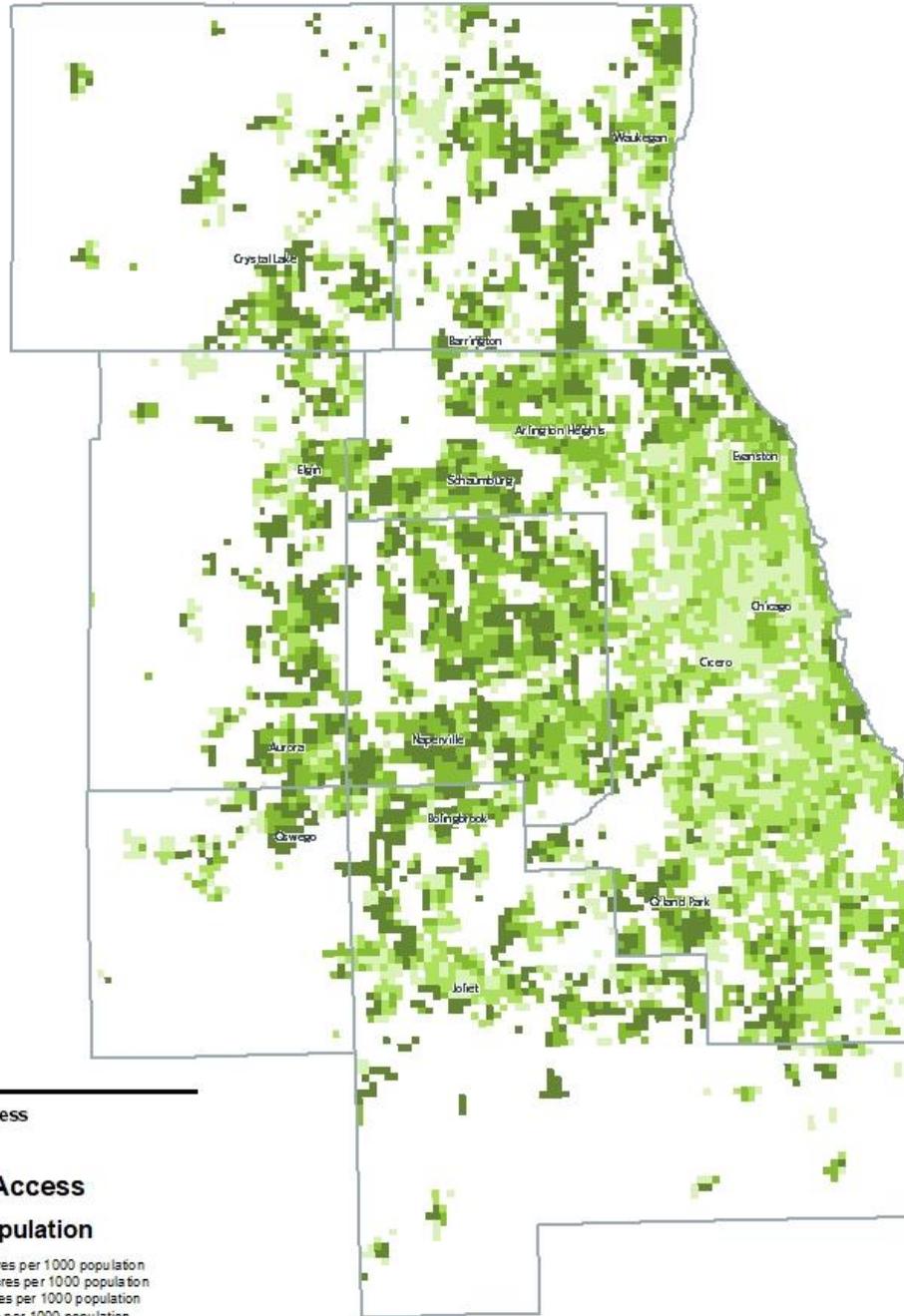
Procedures

- 1) First, a layer containing 2010 U.S. Census Data by subzone was loaded into a GIS program
- 2) A centroid point was created for each remaining subzone, weighted by the distribution of population within it
- 3) These centroids were then given one-mile and half-mile buffers
- 4) Next, the CMAP Land Use Inventory was used to identify recreational open space within the seven-county region.
- 5) The Intersect tool was then used to identify gross parkland accessible from each population centroid, using two criteria:

- a. All park acres within each half-mile buffer
 - b. Additional park acreages from parks that are larger than 35 acres (“community parks”) within each one-mile buffer
- 6) Each park’s acreage was divided by the total population with access to it – from all subzones – to calculate its individual acreage per 1,000 people.
 - 7) For each subzone, the acreage per 1,000 people of each park within the buffers was summed to calculate the total accessible acreage per 1,000 people for the population of each subzone.
 - 8) Finally, each subzone was categorized into one of four groups: less than one acre, one to four acres, four to ten acres, or more than ten acres of accessible parkland per 1,000 people. All subzones with fewer than 1,000 residents per square mile (i.e. below the Census Bureau’s definition of “urbanized areas”) were removed.

Contacts

Contact [Noel Peterson](#) with any questions about this local strategy map.



Source: CMAR 2017.