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Professor Allred

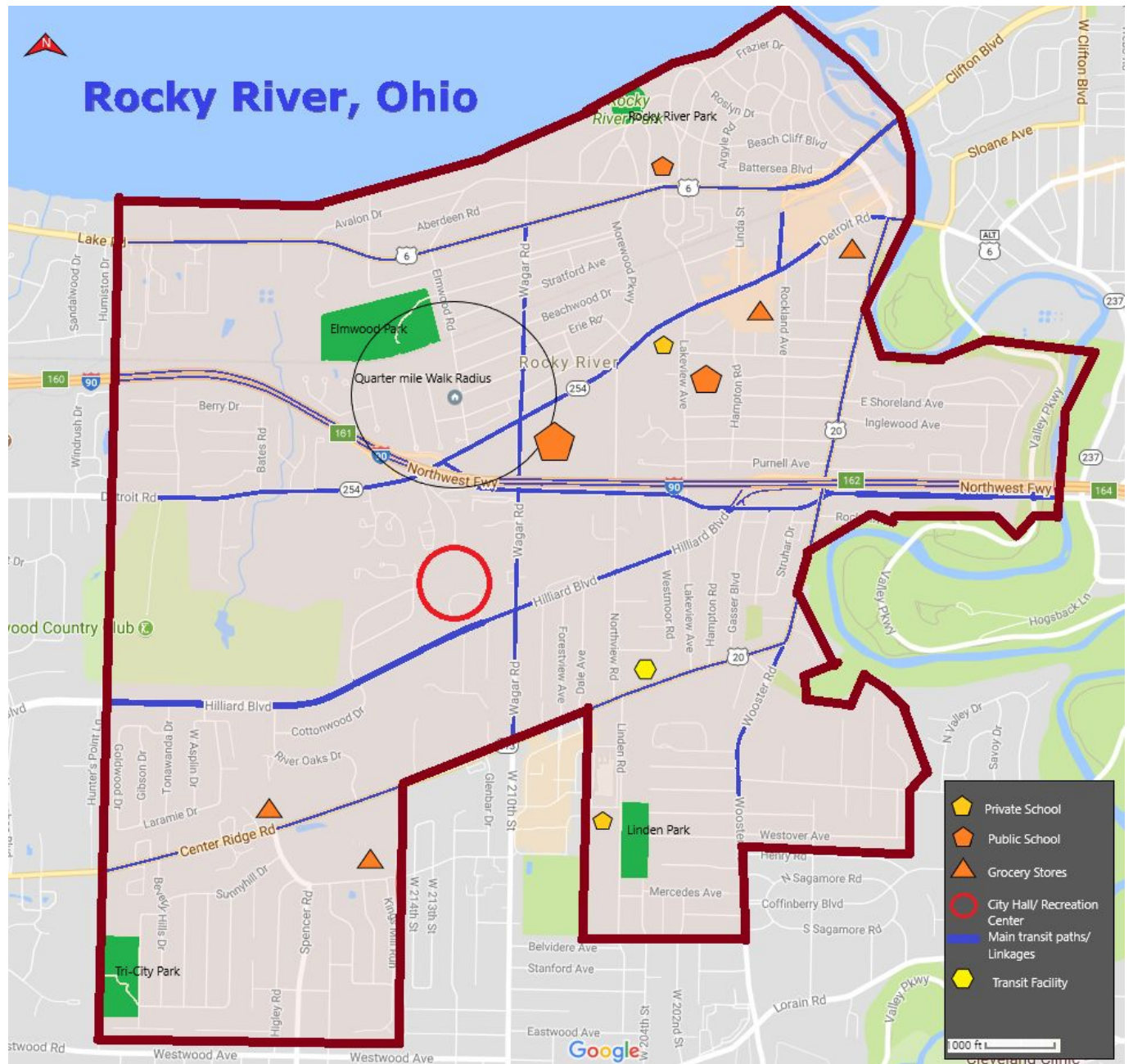
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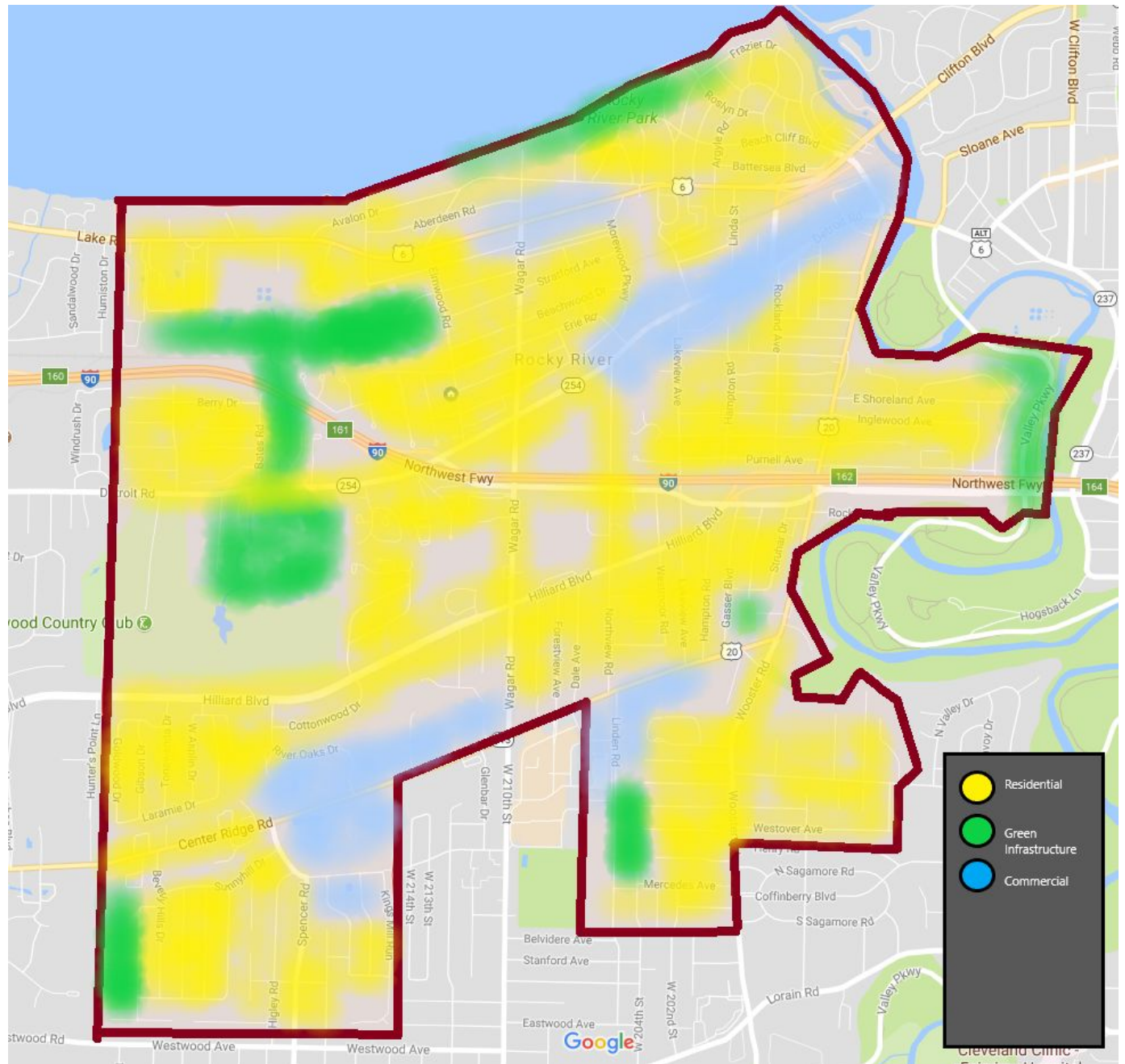
### Checklist

<b>Project</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Number (If applicable)</b>
Linkages to Work (Downtown Cleveland)	Yes	2
Sidewalks on Roads	Yes	
Public Parks	Yes	4
Local Grocers	Yes	4
Bicycle Facilities	Yes	1
Transit Facilities	Yes	1
Neighborhood Public Schooling	Yes	1 (Primary to High School)
Renewable Energy Production	No	
Wastewater Management	Yes	
Access to Recreation Facilities	Yes	1

Map #1



Map #2



-Scale and North Same as above map

## Rocky River Sustainability Reflection

Along the shore of Lake Erie in Cuyahoga County lies a small city known as Rocky River, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. Named after the river that borders the city to the east, Rocky River houses around twenty thousand citizens, with around nine thousand households.

(Wikipedia 1) According to a study done by Nerdwallet in 2013, Rocky River is the fourth least diverse city in the United States with 95.90% of the population being white. (Sandy 1) Among other things, the city is known for its public education, with Rocky River High School being a very highly ranked high school in Ohio. The public school district earned the “Excellent with Distinction” rating from the Ohio Department of Education. (Wikipedia 1) The city itself is relatively small, only five square miles, bordered by Westlake, Fairview, Bay Village, and Lakewood. While Rocky River is small, it has many sustainable features and takes advantage of its compact footprint.

I personally picked Rocky River because I have lived there all my life and have noticed many things regarding the sustainability and overall function of the community. In the northeast and southwest corners of the city, walkability to grocery stores is phenomenal, with the greatest distance being around half a mile from residential areas. In other areas, walkability to food places is definitely worse, with three quarters to one mile being the maximum distance. Also Rocky River has many parks, packing four into the city’s small footprint of five square miles. Furthermore there is a good amount of green infrastructure, with wooded areas and a stream on the west side of the city, as well as the Cleveland Metroparks and a river on the east side. While the start of the Cleveland Metroparks is technically in the neighboring city of Lakewood,

walkability and bikeability to this vast green space is very reasonable for most residents of Rocky River. Sidewalks cover well over ninety percent of roads in Rocky River, and biking is very popular for many.

In terms of transit to work, a vast majority of citizens work in Cleveland, which is to the east of Rocky River. With a high average household income in Rocky River, for most people it is very economically viable to own personal vehicles, which more often than not they will take to work. This is definitely something worth improving in Rocky River, as nearly everyone has their own car and the public transit system, while there, leaves more to be desired. The transit system definitely needs more buses, as well as increased reliability. Furthermore there is only one official transit station in Rocky River, and the bus stops are far and few between. With an increased and more reliable bussing system, the city of Rocky River has the potential to reduce vast amounts of carbon emissions from personal vehicles.

Another area that Rocky River needs to improve is renewable energy sources. Rocky River gets a majority of it's power from nonrenewable sources, including mostly coal, natural gas, and nuclear. Nearly negligible amounts of electricity come from renewable sources, and this is definitely something worth improving. With very little high density housing in this suburban city, as well as only small rivers and little land space remaining, I believe the most beneficial source for renewable power is solar panels. While space for a solar array in Rocky River is extremely limited, solar leasing for the roofs of family's homes is a great option for the type of lifestyle most residents live. Because citizens in Rocky River have a tendency to stay in River, signing into a twenty year lease with a solar company is a very viable option.

Overall, I believe in terms of planning, Rocky River has done a great job. More bicycle lanes would definitely encourage less driving, but pedestrian traffic has always been well managed with a great number of sidewalks. In order to become more sustainable, Rocky River simply needs improved public transit and renewable energy, which is definitely a development issue but equally a personal lifestyle issue. So I believe in order to improve Rocky River's performance, we need developers to increase transit and encourage citizens to change their mindsets on sustainability.

#### Works Cited

"Rocky River, Ohio." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 12 Nov. 2017,

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[www.clevescene.com/scene-and-heard/archives/2013/07/11/surprise-rocky-river-among-least-diverse-cities-in-us](http://www.clevescene.com/scene-and-heard/archives/2013/07/11/surprise-rocky-river-among-least-diverse-cities-in-us).

The average household size was 2.16 and the average family size was 2.95.

1660 sq ft average home