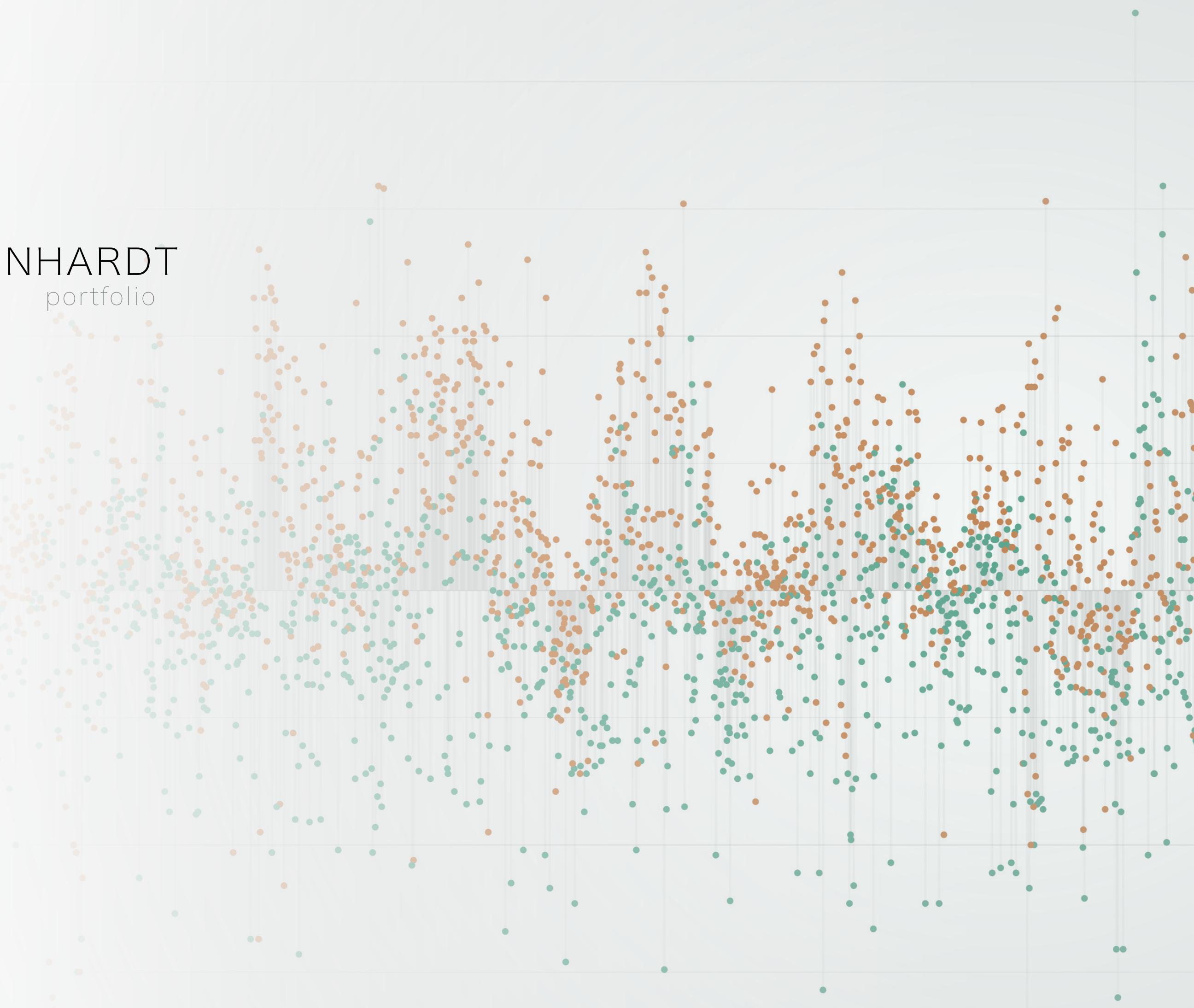
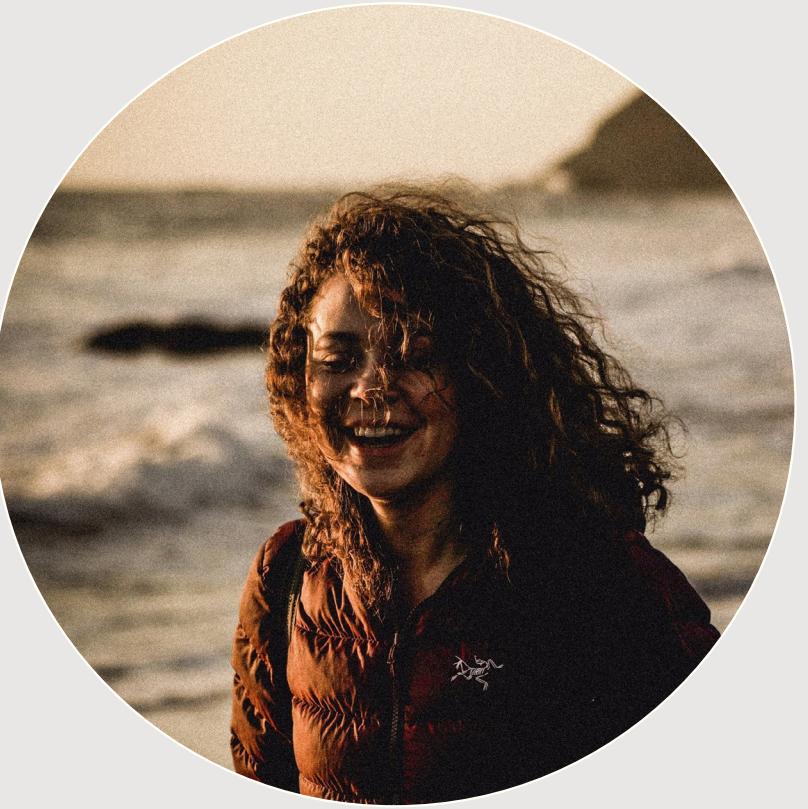


JULIA C. MEINHARDT

portfolio

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About Me

My upbringing in a remote rural town of 1,200 people brought me first to Montana State University and now to the Harvard Graduate School of Design to explore how I can help bridge people, communities, and regions through innovation, restoration, and conservation.

This portfolio represents work completed during my first semester at Harvard as a Master of Urban Planning student, where I was introduced to an array of new software, modes of representation, and ways of thinking. As of March 1, 2021, I was admitted to the GSD Master of Landscape Architecture program, which I will begin as a dual degree student in Fall 2021.

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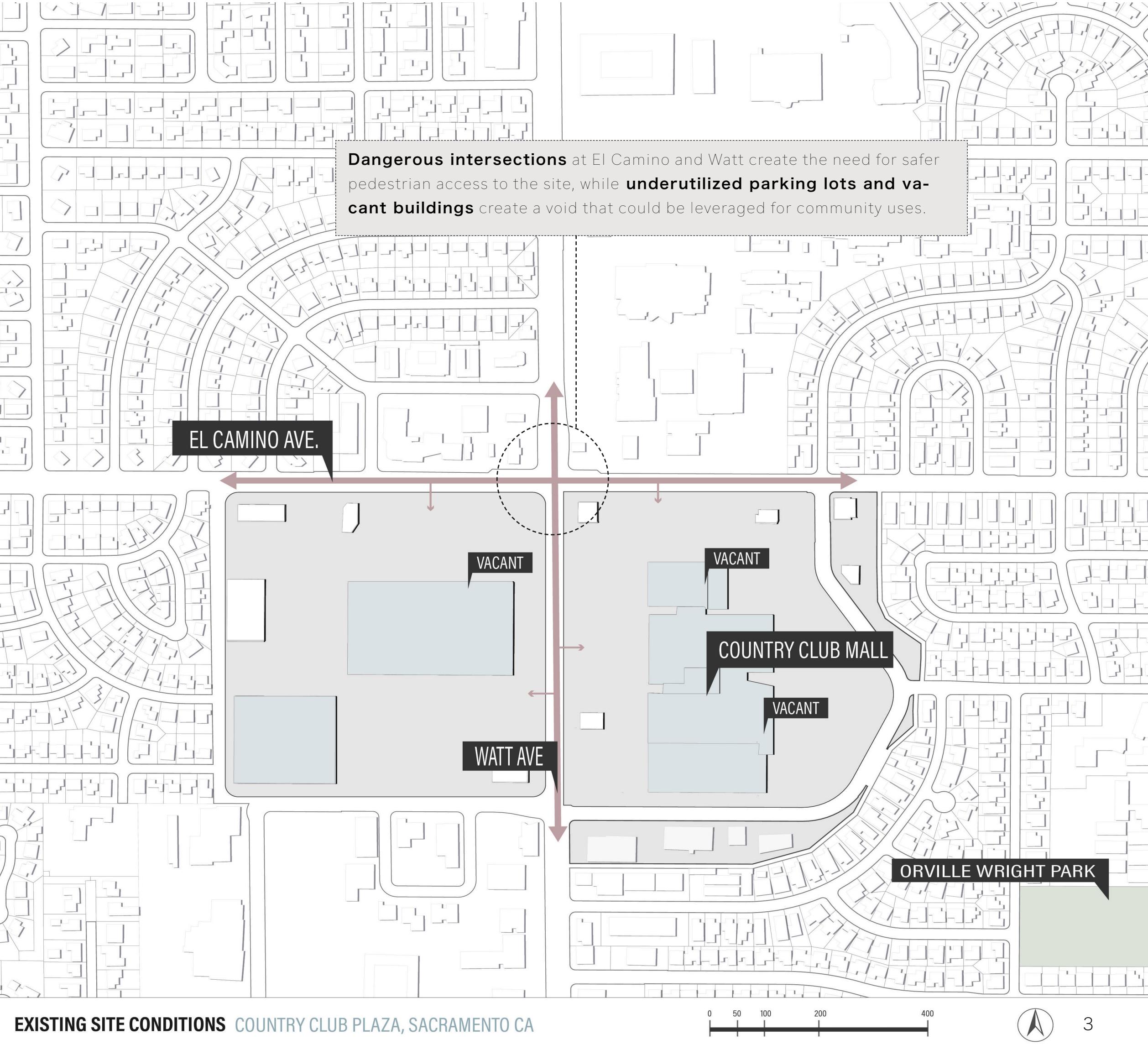
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01. ALLIED ARDEN ARCADE

Instructor: David Gamble | Course: Urban Design for Planners | Duration: 8 Weeks FALL 2020 | Tools: GIS, Rhino, Illustrator, Sketchup

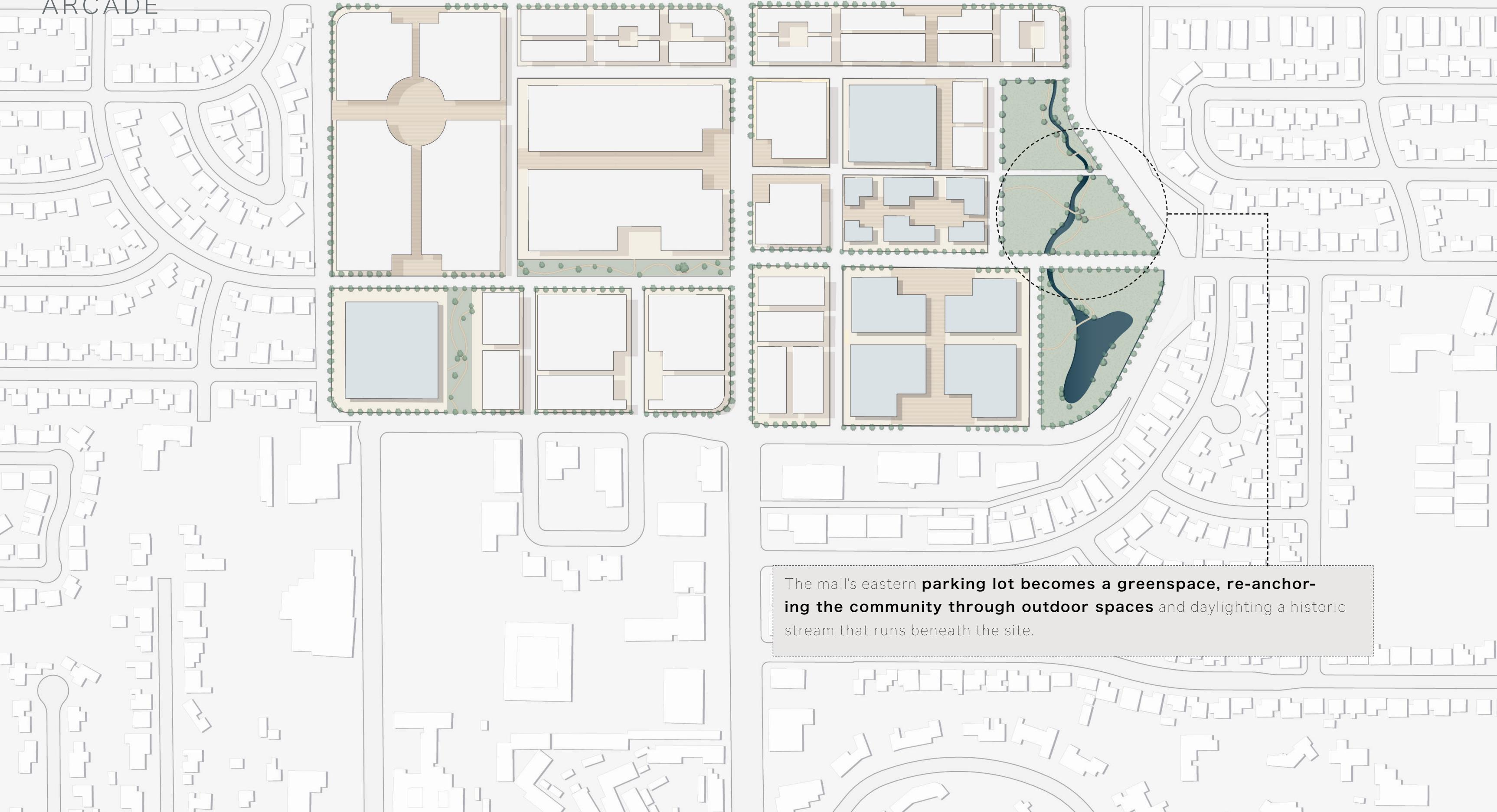
What do we do with decaying retail spaces in suburbs? I chose the Country Club Plaza as an urban intervention site for this course to explore how antiquated suburban spaces like vacant malls can be catalysts for new development anchored around public and green spaces.

GIS, site visits, and qualitative research were the foundation of my existing conditions analysis. I then used a process of sketching, writing, and charrettes to develop a site master plan that responds to site-specific needs.

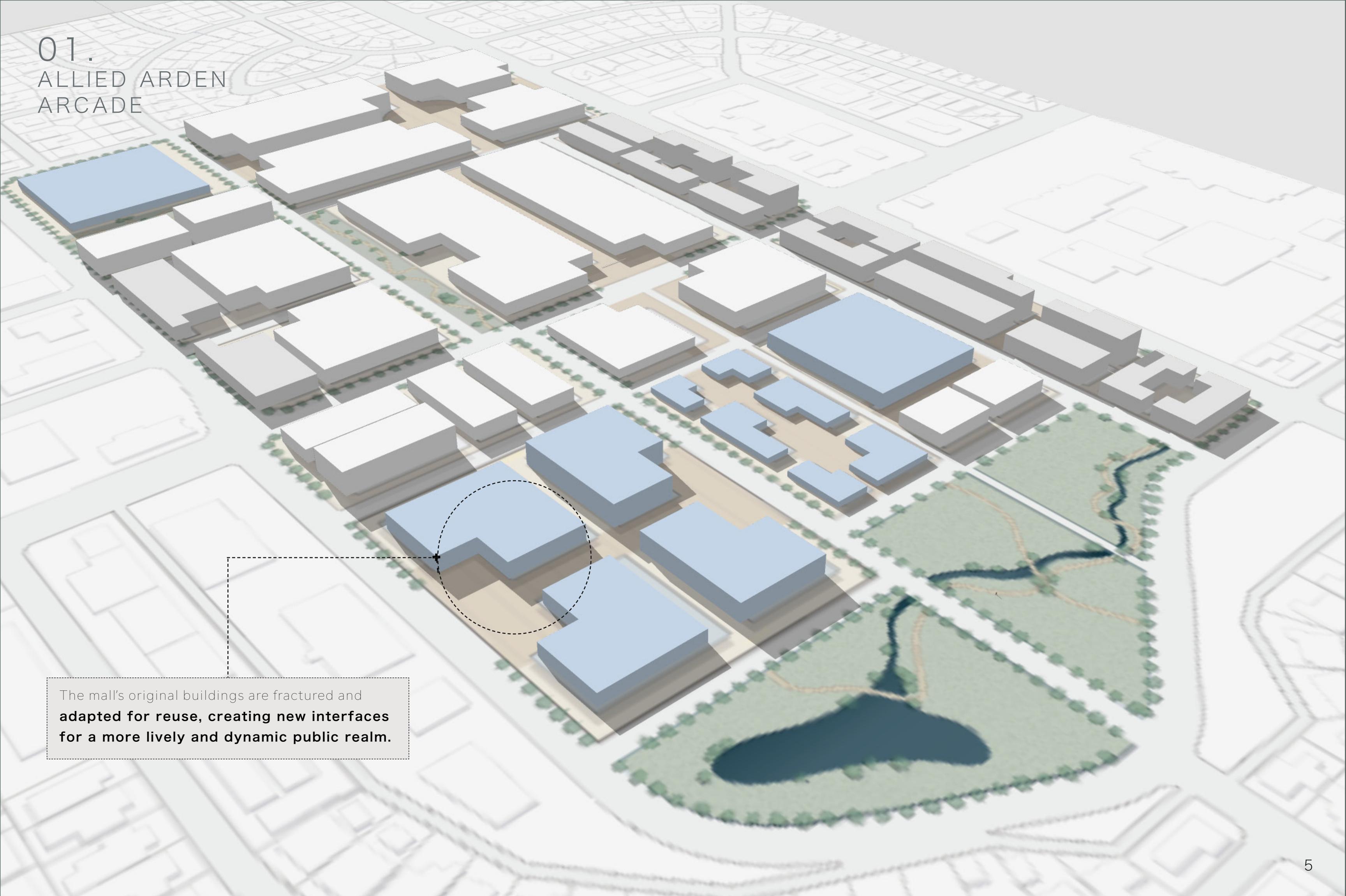


01.

ALLIED ARDEN ARCADE



01. ALLIED ARDEN ARCADE



02. PORTRAIT OF THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL

Instructor: Independent Research | Duration: 2019 | Tools: inDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop

The outdoors are not always a place of refuge and restoration for all. After my 1,100 mile hike on the Pacific Crest Trail in 2019, I sought to better understand mental health, elitism, and environmentalism in the outdoor recreation community. I conceptualized this piece to push myself and the recreation community to think about exclusivity in outdoor landscapes while sharpening my skills in software used for graphic design.

PORTRAIT OF THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL
examining depression, shame, and privilege
in the outdoor recreation community

It hit me on San Jacinto, April 7th. The day after my birthday and a hundred-and-something miles into my 1,100 miles on the Pacific Crest trail in the summer of 2019. We had just bypassed Apache Peak to avoid the steep snowy slope by going over a convenient saddle. We'd heard so much from the hikers in Idyllwild about how treacherous this section was and we'd seen helicopters coming off the mountain in the days leading up to our own approach. I had been anxious and considered turning back but after navigating the alternative route, myself and a small group of hikers I had teamed up with were elated. But this elation was short lived. In the days following San Jacinto I was hit by a crippling depression that would haunt me for the rest of my hike on the Pacific Crest Trail. I couldn't explain my sudden mental shift. I found myself half-walking, half-stumbling through prickly bushes while San Jacinto, bold and beautiful, peered right down at me. My thoughts had turned dark and negative, and they wiggle into my mind invasively, no matter scenery and beauty around me. I cried to my hiking partner that night and chalked it up to a hard day of hiking. The next day was equally difficult and draining. We navigated Fuller Ridge and the miles of snow after it. I knew the ridge might be challenging, but for me it was nightmarish. The terrain was navigable but I was fighting postholding and my own mind. I would find myself stopped, sitting on the snow, cold and shivering, repeating to myself "I can't do this." I tried to talk back to the thoughts. "I'm alive and I'm doing it so I absolutely can do it." But nothing seemed to help. For the first time in my life, depression was literally stopping me in my tracks.

"Unless my ailment was physical, I didn't think I could stop. Depression wasn't deemed a legitimate reason to get off trail."

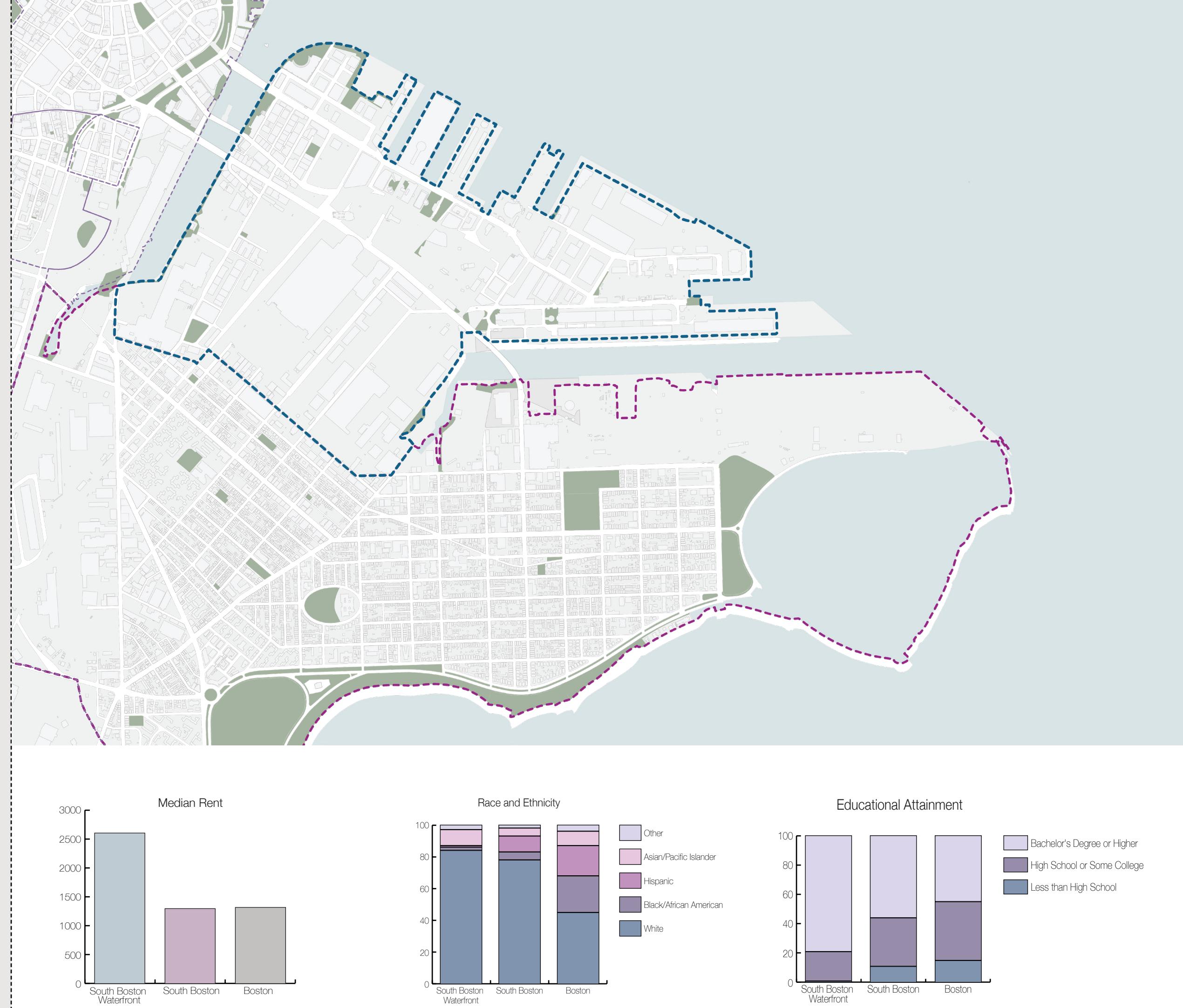
by julia meinhardt

At the I-10 we received our first bout of bona fide trail magic since starting in March. A trail angel named Mama Bear drove up with hot dogs, beer, soda, chips, carrots, cookies just as we threw our packs off under the shade of the overpass. As we ate, Mama Bear shared why she was feeding hikers. She shared about her husband who while struggling with depression had started the PCT a few years earlier but called her in the first 500 miles ready to step off.

03. A STREET CORRIDOR

Instructor: Lily Song | Course: First Semester Core Studio | Duration: 3 Weeks Fall 2020 | Tools: Rhino, GIS, Illustrator | Groupmates: Cristina Davila and Marissa Getts

South Boston and South Boston Waterfront are two areas of the same neighborhood, but quantitative exploration illuminates their distinct economic and demographic disparities. This project explored existing conditions along South Boston sub-neighborhoods and proposed economic, mobility, and open space interventions to create an enhanced A Street Corridor and bridge disparate areas of South Boston.



03. A STREET CORRIDOR



Industrial, residential, and commercial building typologies.

Public transportation networks.



Existing plans along A Street.

Analysis of the sites existing open space, transportation networks, and proposed plans led to our conclusion that A Street was well positioned for development as a corridor street to **improve connectivity between disparate areas of the neighborhood.**

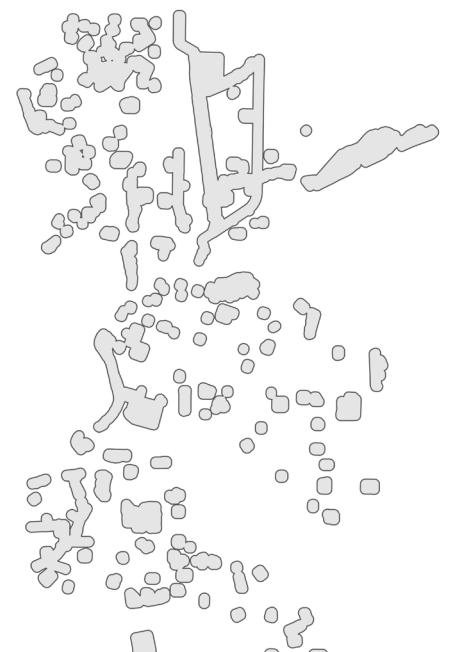


04. SACRAMENTO: CITY OF TREES

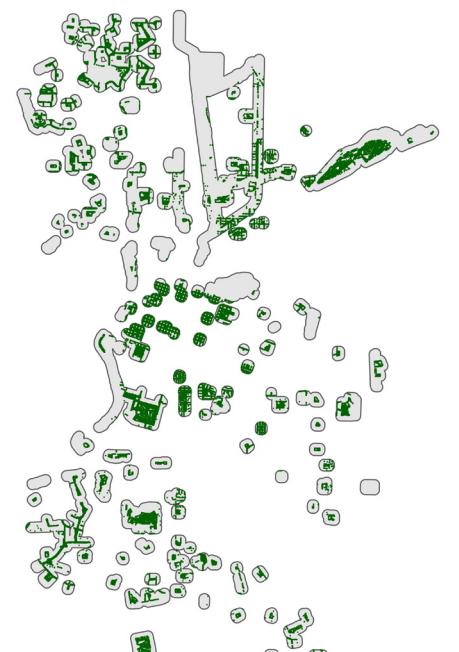
Instructor: Carole Voulgaris | Course: Spatial Analysis | Duration: Fall 2020 | Tools: R

When temperatures soar well above 100°F in the summer, where can people in Sacramento find access public shade? Exploring data spatially provided some clues. For the burgeoning unhoused population in the region, downtown Sacramento's dense tree canopy and parks are a draw for those seeking shelter from the sun.

Using R, I developed these maps to better understand the utility of spatial analytics and its use in social research.

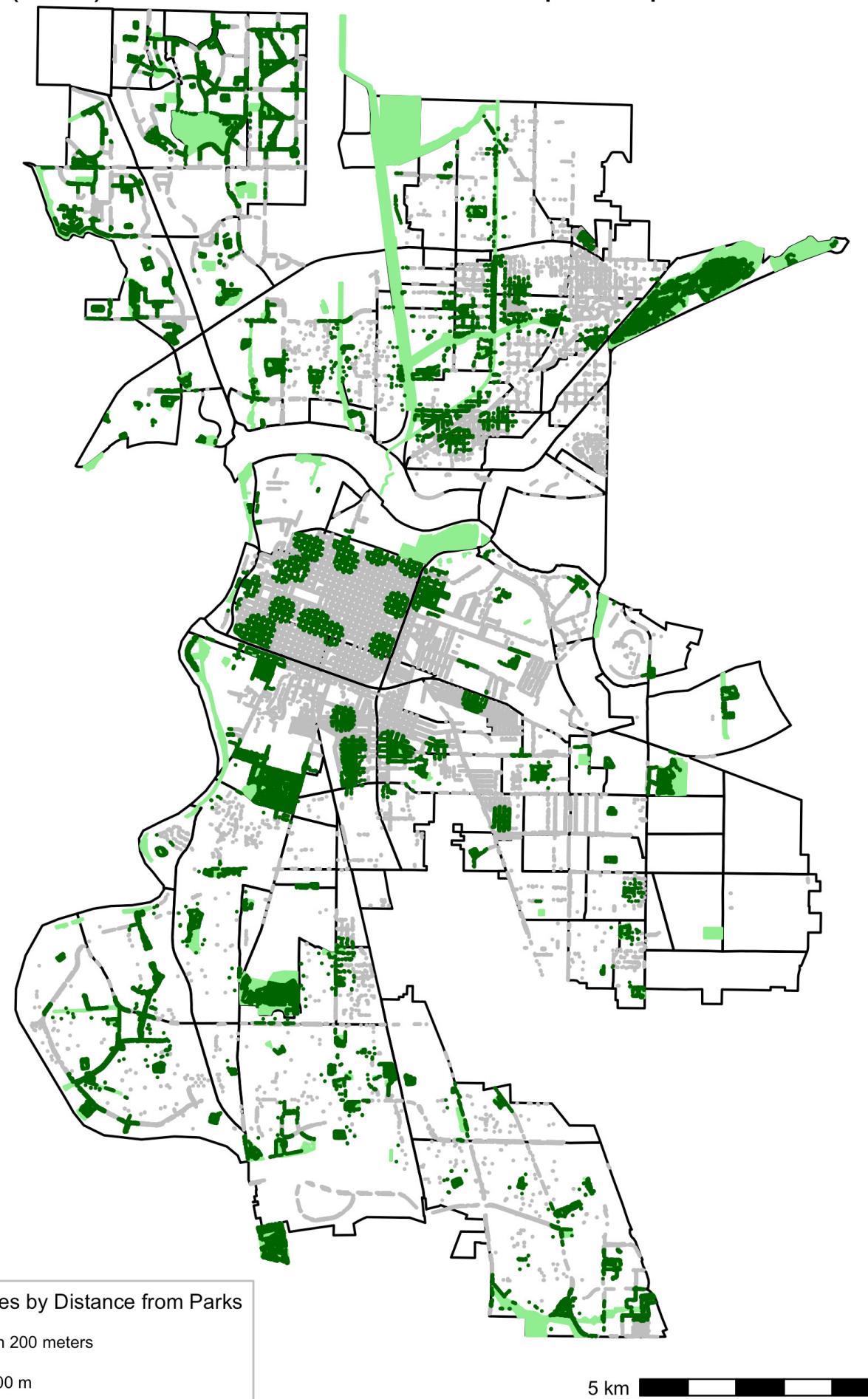


200 meter buffer zone around public parks

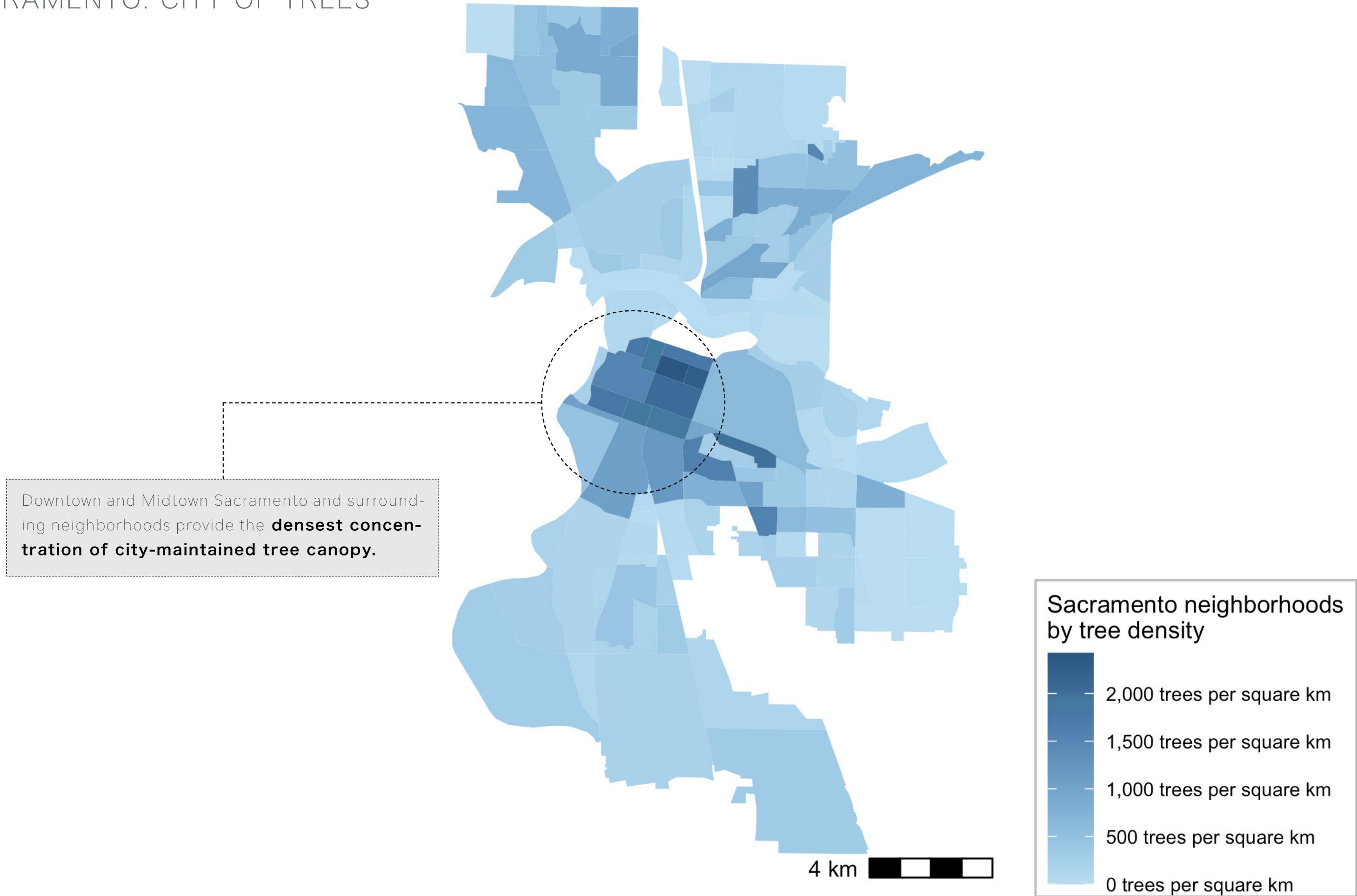


Trees within 200 meter buffer zone

Of the 99,262 Publicly Maintained Trees in Sacramento 52,251 (53%) are within 200 meters of a public park.



04. SACRAMENTO: CITY OF TREES

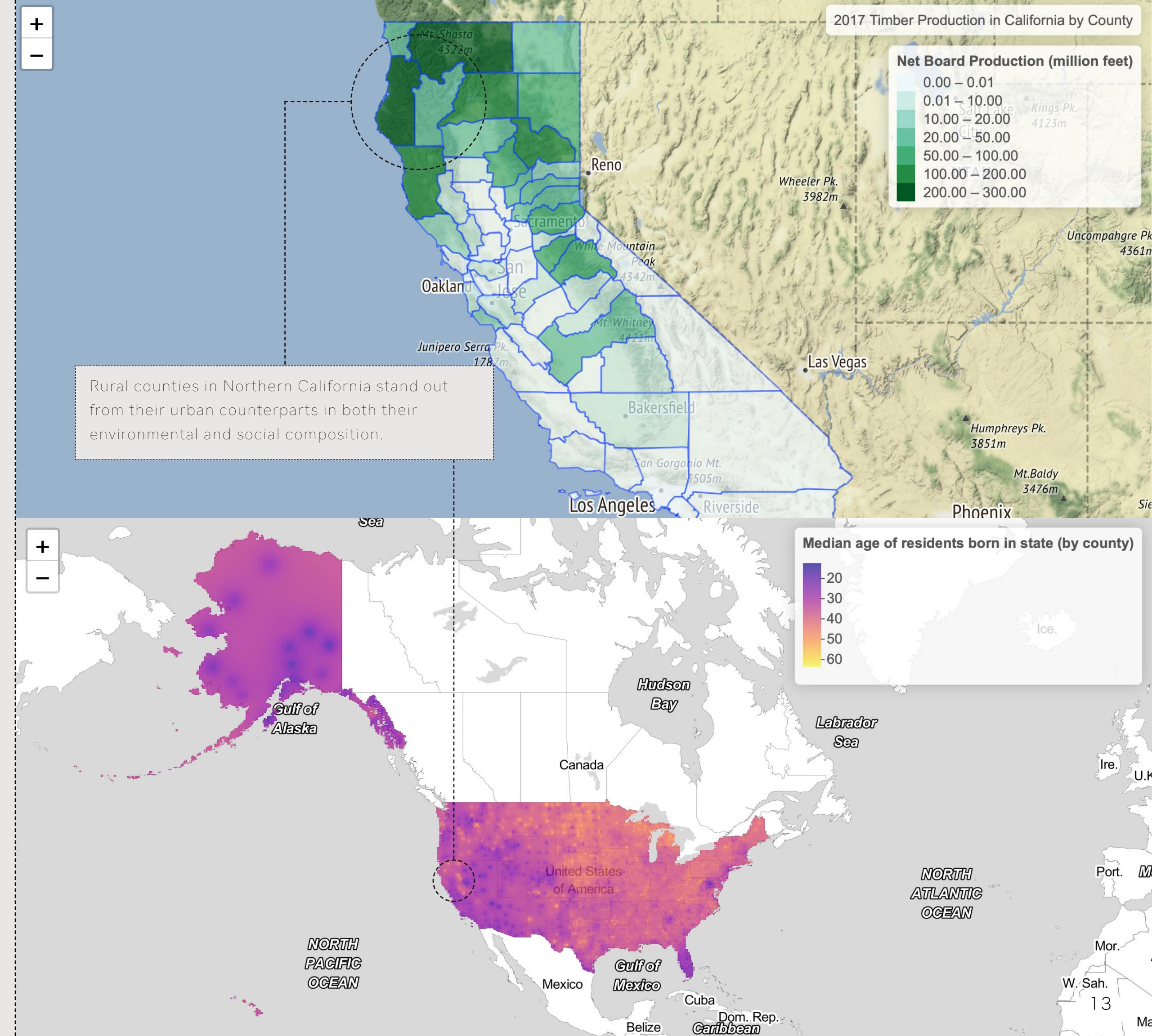


05. INTERACTIVE MAPPING: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL VISUALIZATIONS

Instructor: Carole Voulgaris | Course: Spatial Analysis | Duration: Fall 2020 | Tools: R

These maps (which are interactive on the web) were born out of my interest in rural-urban environmental and social disparities in my homestate of California and across the US.

The gradient of timber production across California and ageing differences county-wide correspond with many economic, political, and ecological differences between counties.



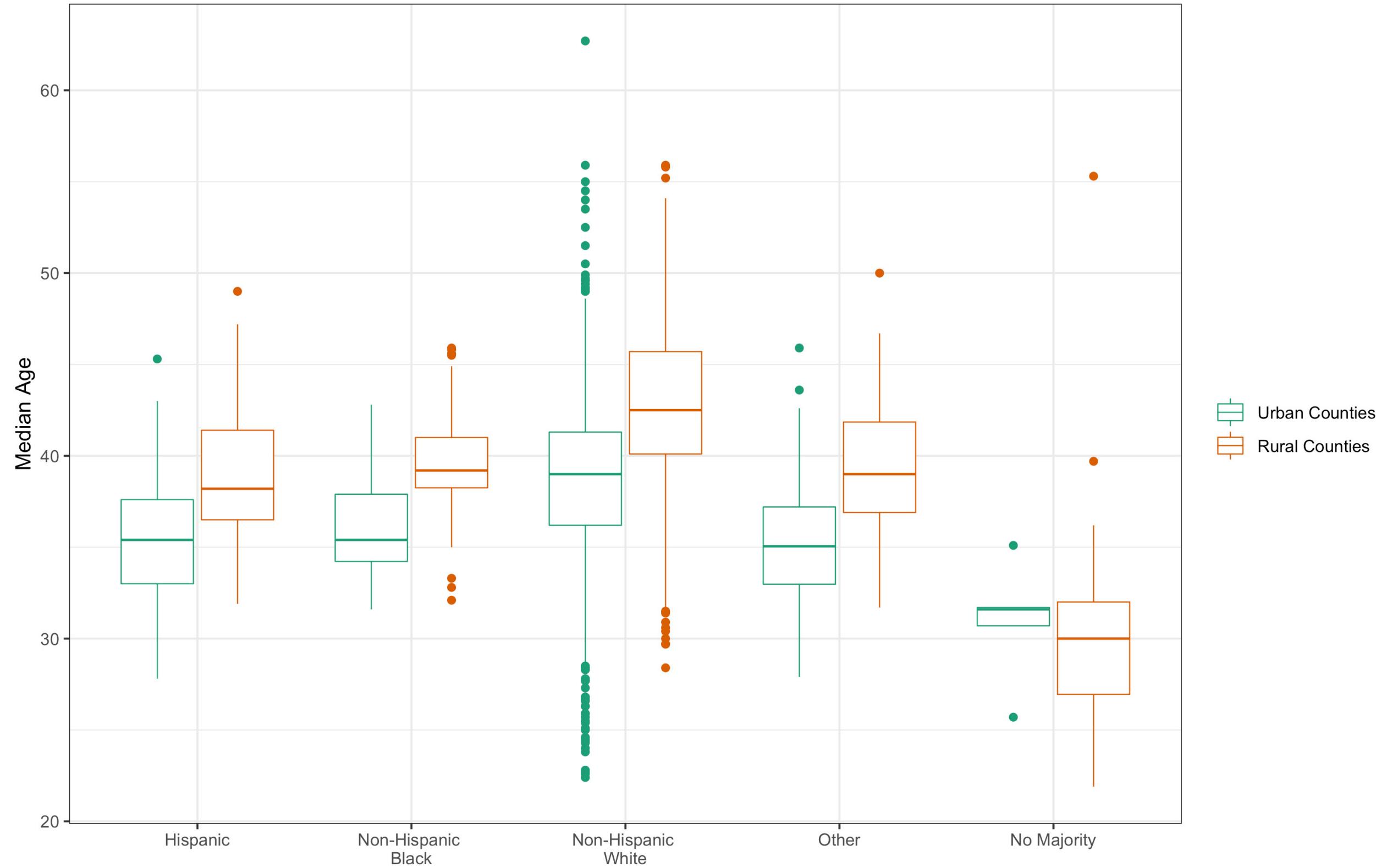
07. THE RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE

Instructor: Carole Voulgaris | Course: Spatial Analysis | Duration: Fall 2020 | Tools: R

This project explored differences in rentership, household size, age, and race and ethnicity across rural and urban US Counties.

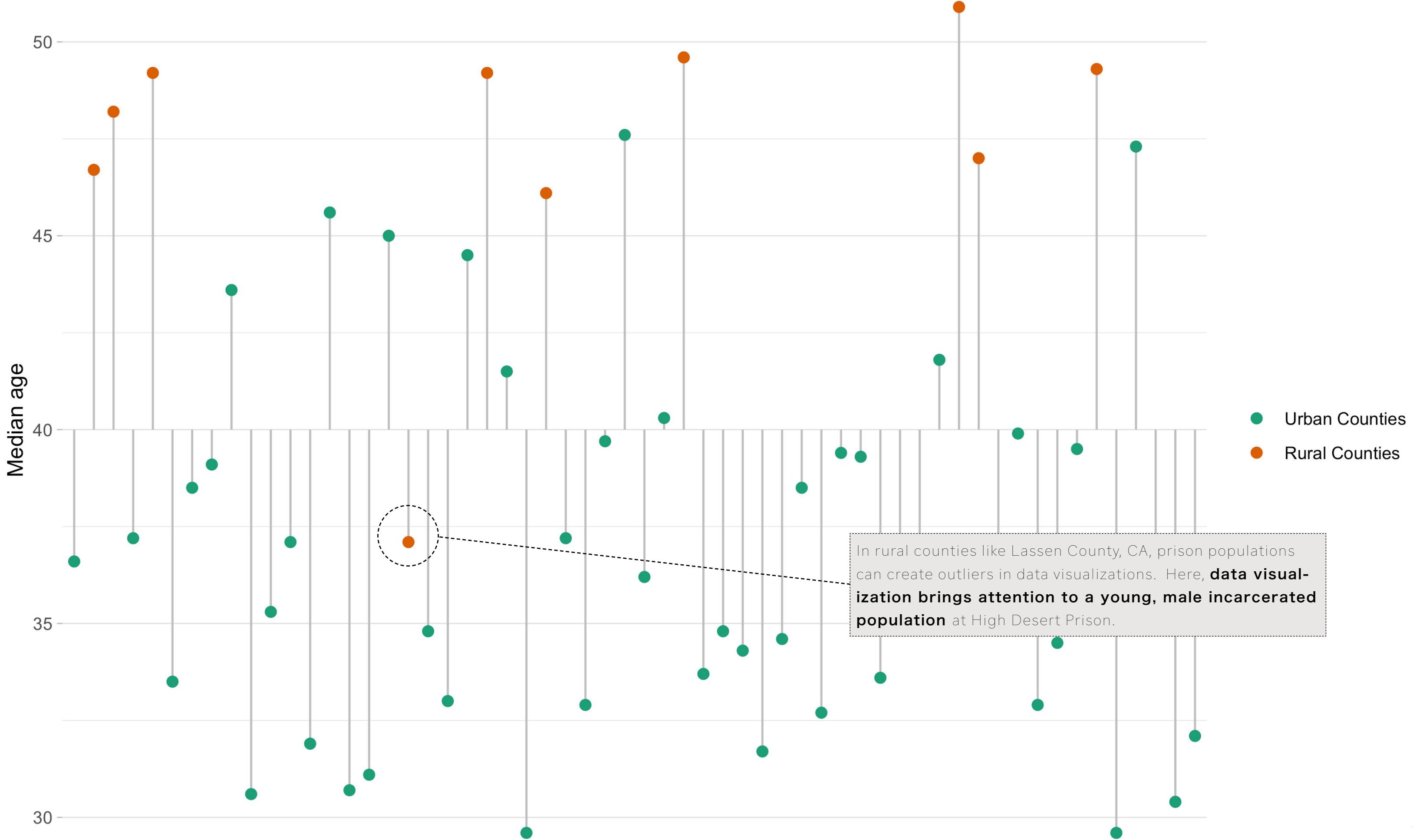
Data visualization can serve as a tool for discovery, conversation, and deepened understanding. While these graphics highlight divisions in how variables are represented across rural and urban areas, my hope is that they ultimately lead viewers to begin questioning how we can begin to bridge the gap between communities and regions.

Median Age by Majority Race and Ethnicity
United States: Rural and Urban Counties



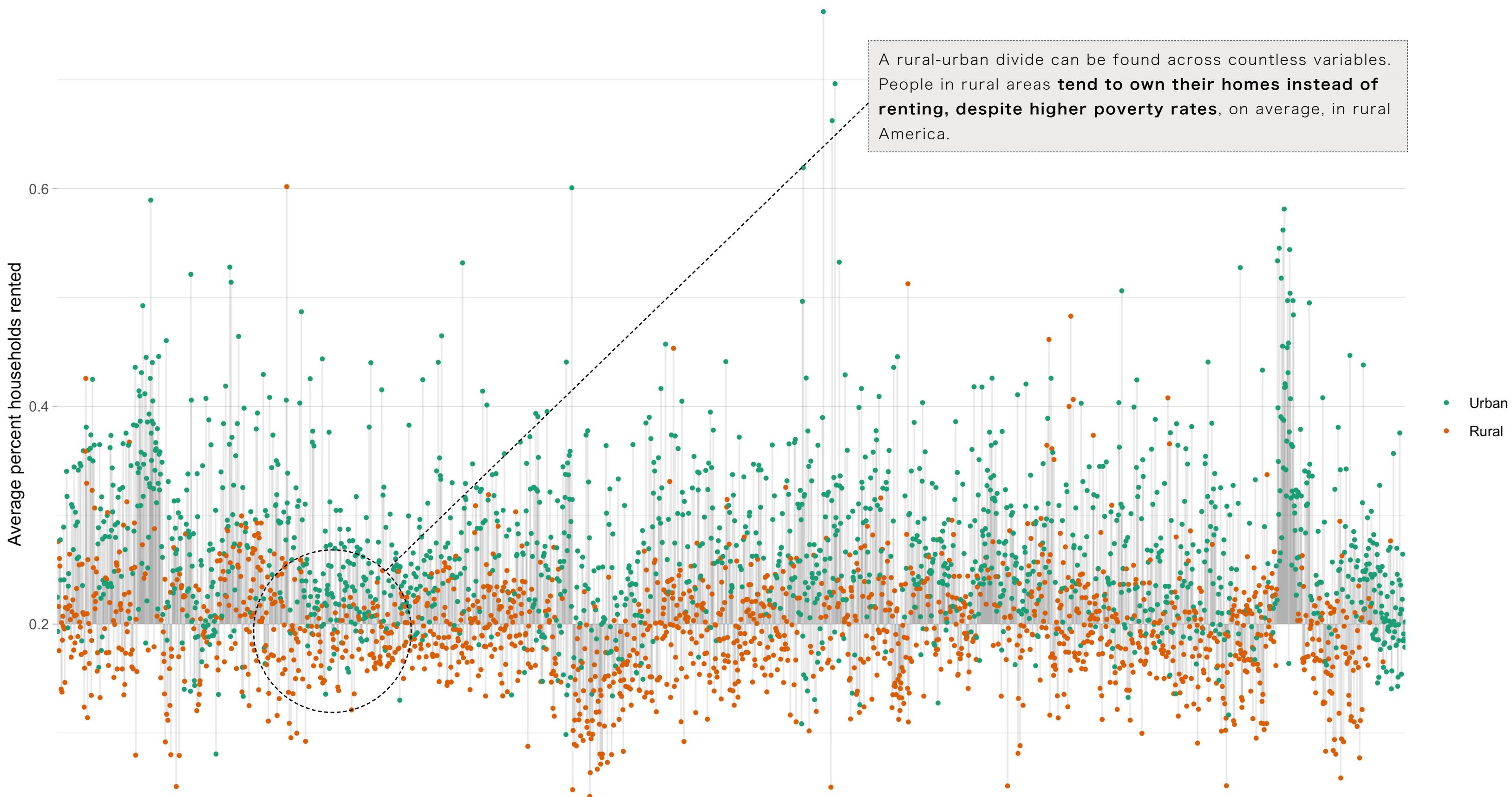
Median Age By County

California: Rural and Urban Counties

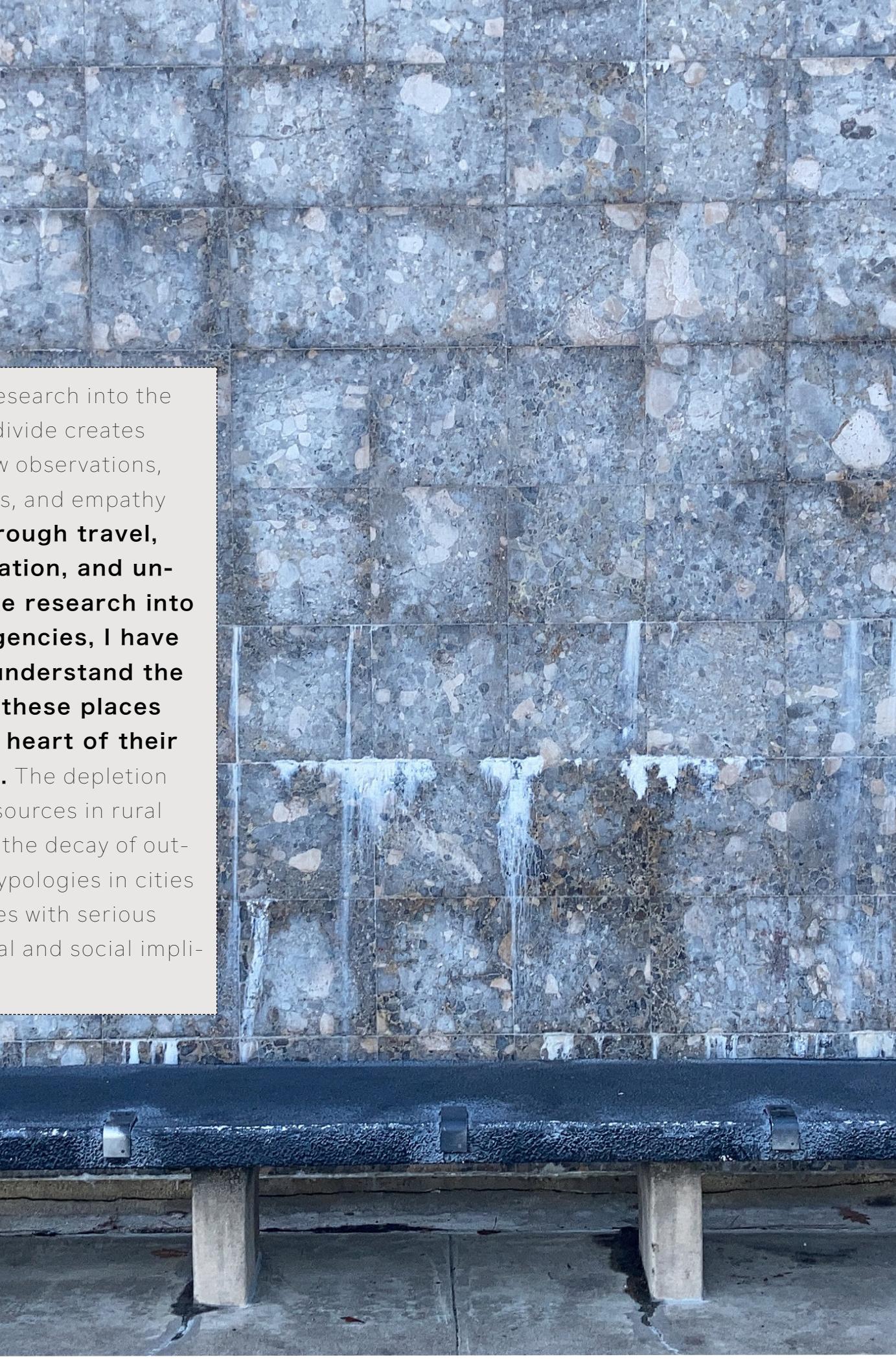
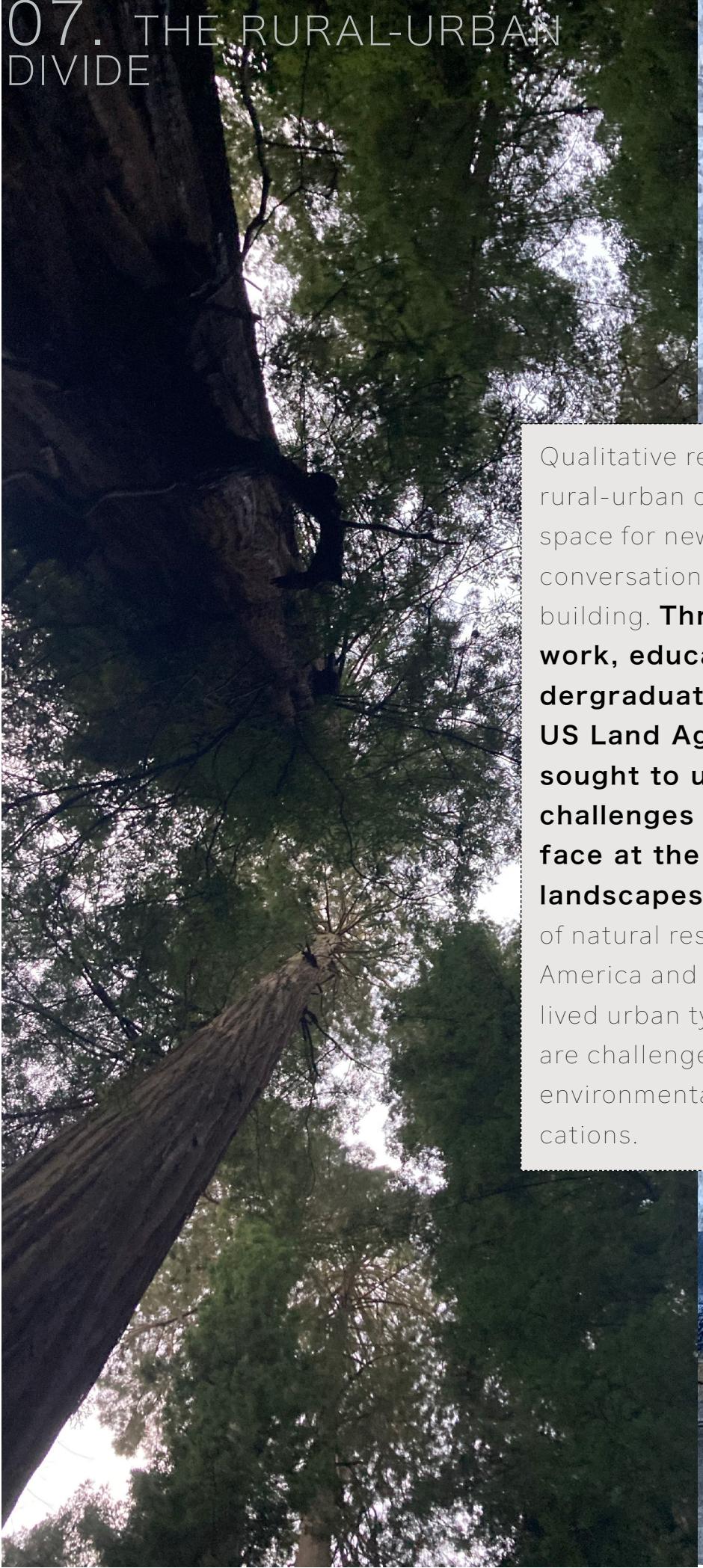


Average Percent in Rented Households

US: Rural and Urban Counties



07. THE RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE



Qualitative research into the rural-urban divide creates space for new observations, conversations, and empathy building. **Through travel, work, education, and undergraduate research into US Land Agencies, I have sought to understand the challenges these places face at the heart of their landscapes.** The depletion of natural resources in rural America and the decay of outlived urban typologies in cities are challenges with serious environmental and social implications.

08. BOZEMAN BOULDERS

Instructor: Carole Voulgaris | Course: Spatial Analysis | Duration: Fall 2020 | Tools: R

Rock climbing is one of many outdoor sports in Bozeman, MT that is attracting young professionals, families, and outdoor enthusiasts to the rapidly growing city. Eight climbing boulders scattered around the city can provide a quick outing, but the spread out nature of the city—and harsh winters—make accessibility to these outdoor amenities still very limited.





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