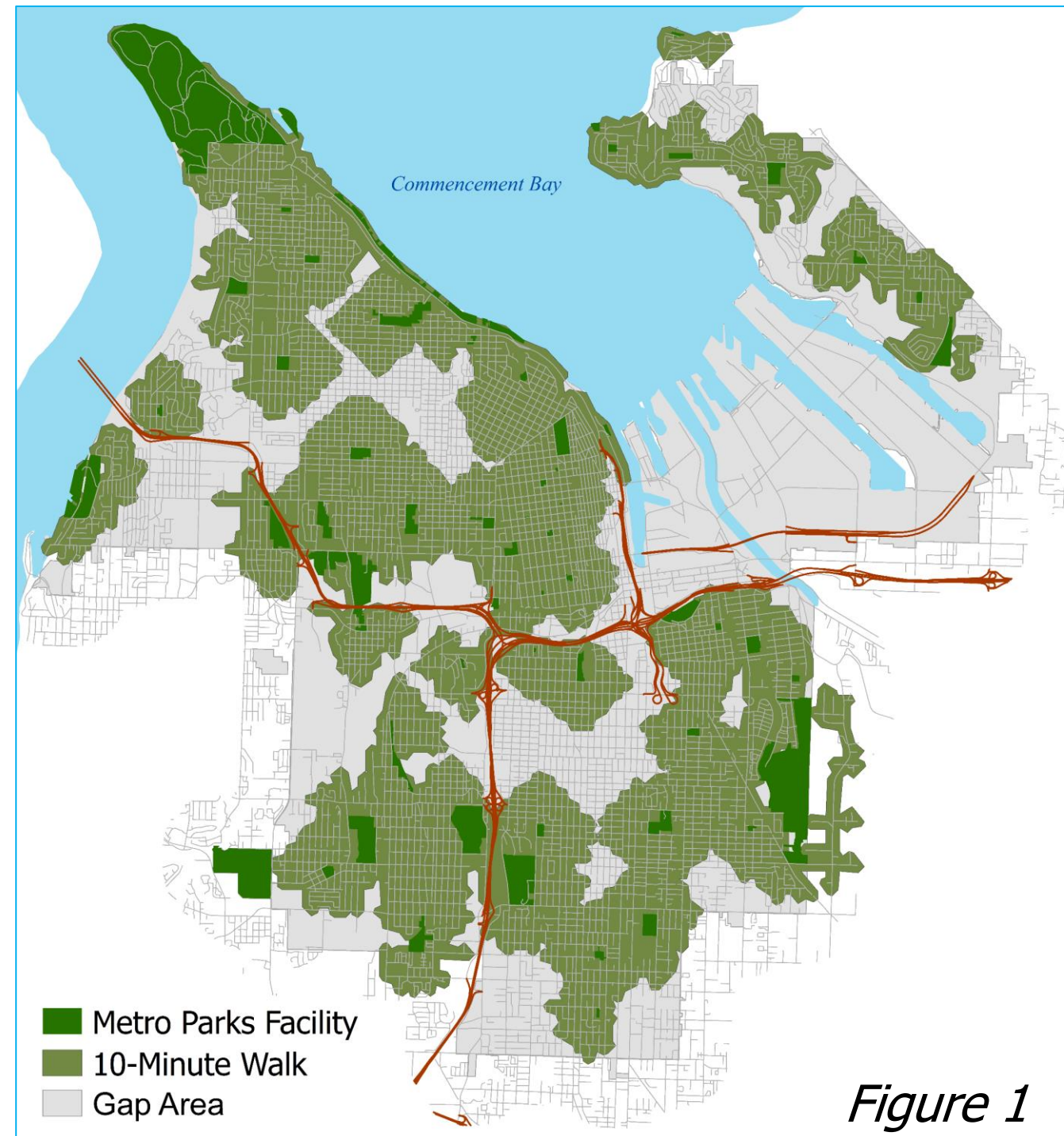# Where Should Tacoma's Next Park Be?
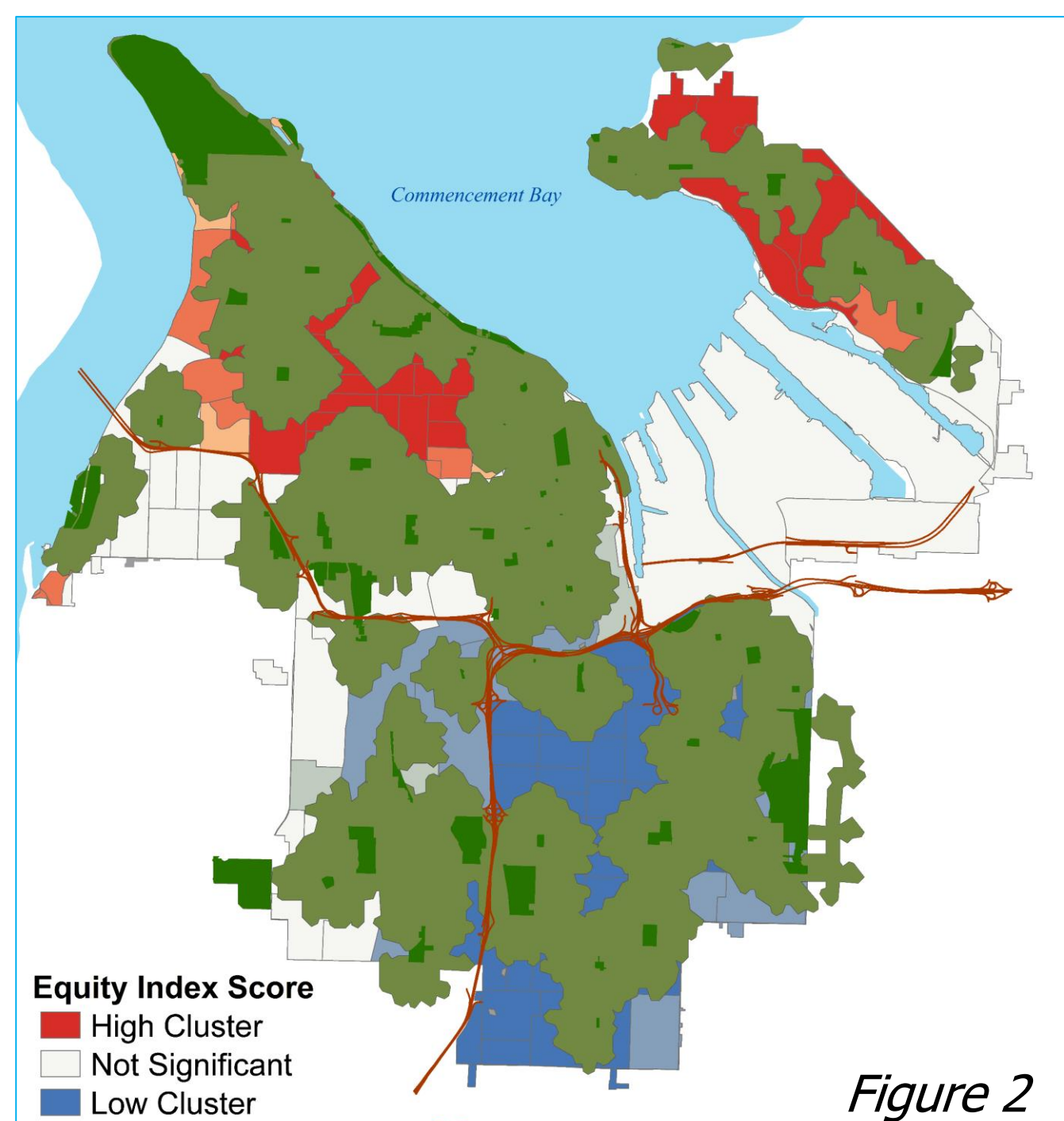
A Gap Analysis of Space Beyond a 10-Minute Walk to Parks and Community Centers

Purpose: The city of Tacoma is working to provide a park or open space within a 10-minute walk of every citizen. Metro Parks Tacoma teamed with the University of Washington Tacoma to determine which areas of the city fall short of this goal and to prioritize potential locations for new parks, open spaces, and community centers.

Figure 1

Legend (Figure 1):
- Metro Parks Facility
- 10-Minute Walk
- Gap Area

Gap Areas: A network analysis of roads defined service areas within a 10-minute walk to Tacoma's parks and community centers. This analysis accounted for barriers such as freeways and extended outside the city limits to reduce the edge effect.

Gray areas show service *gap areas* beyond a 10-minute walk to a park. Gap areas make up 40 percent of Tacoma's geography and are home to one-third of Tacoma's residents, or 71,209 people. This includes 15,154 youth under 18 years of age.
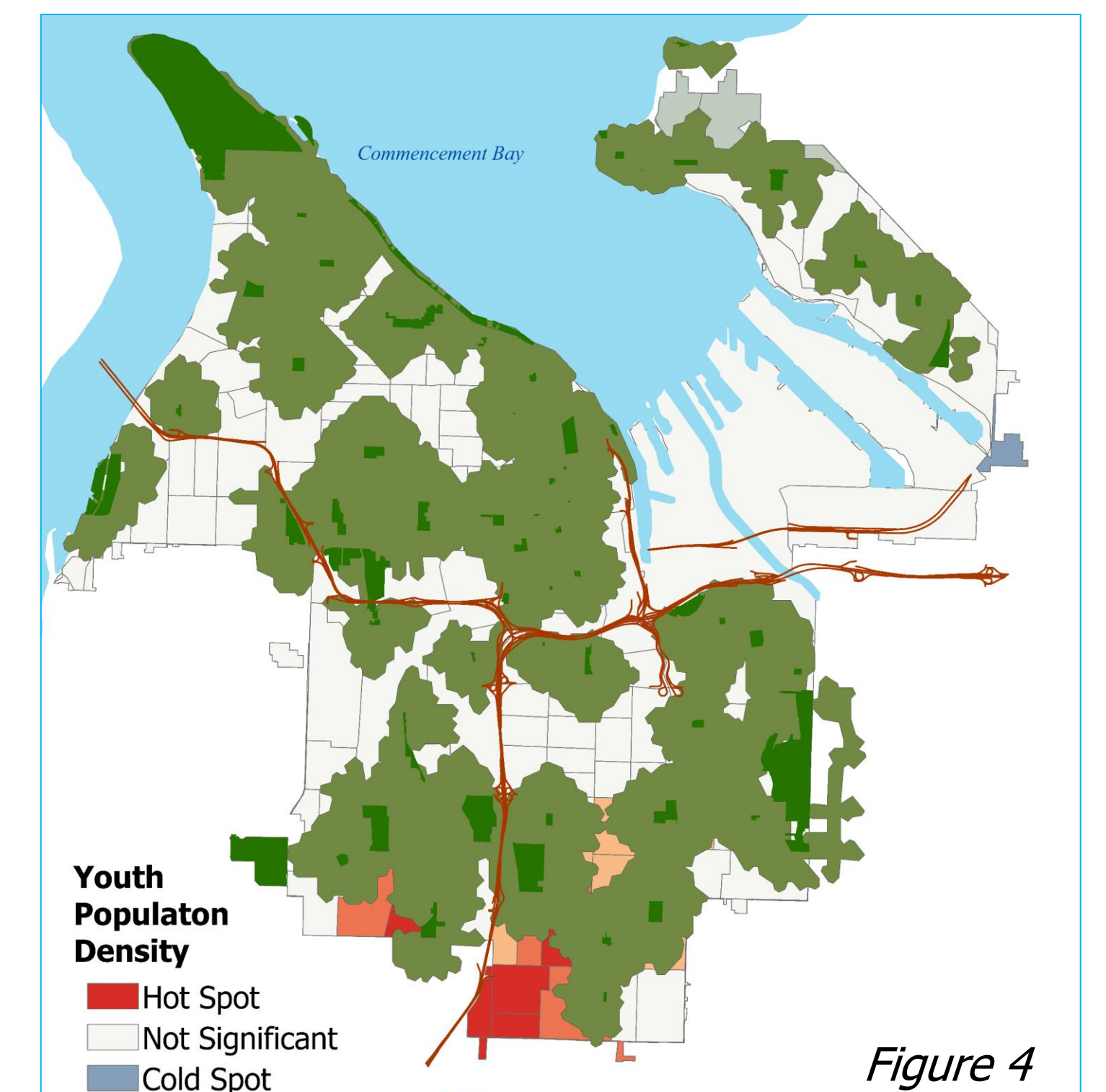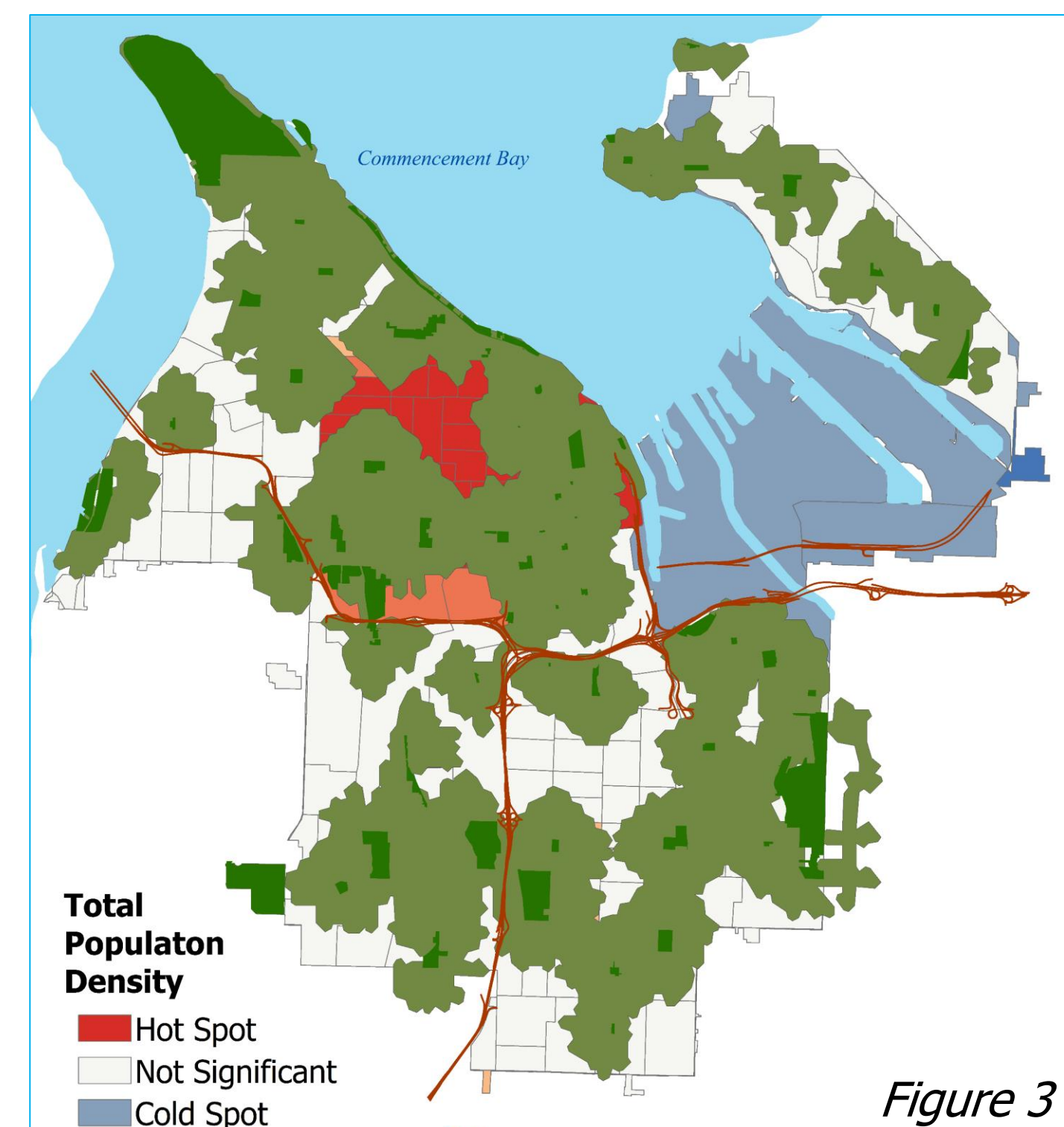
Equity Index: The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity generated Tacoma's Equity Index which aggregates 20 indicators within four categories: accessibility, economy, education and livability. The index rates a standard of living ranging from Very High to Very Low.

A hot spot analysis shows two high equity index clusters in North Tacoma and a low equity index cluster in South Tacoma.

Figure 2

Equity Index Score:
- High Cluster
- Not Significant
- Low Cluster

Populations: Population density analyses of the gap areas found two candidates for Tacoma's next park: a zone of high *total* population density in North Tacoma and a zone of high *youth* population density in South Tacoma.

Figure 3

Total Population Density:
- Hot Spot
- Not Significant
- Cold Spot

Figure 4

Youth Population Density:
- Hot Spot
- Not Significant
- Cold Spot

Recommendation: One-third of the children living in Tacoma's gap areas are disproportionately from Very Low Equity Index homes.

The high youth population area shown on Figure 4 coincides with Low and Very Low Equity Index areas. This portion of the city should be considered for Tacoma's next park.

Youth Population by Equity Index

	6,000	4,000	2,000	-
Very High				
High				
Moderate				
Low				
Very Low				