



Leibniz Institute of  
Ecological Urban and  
Regional Development



STATE OF  
THE MAP  
FIRENZE

State of the Map 2022  
Florence, Italy

# Automated derivation of public urban green spaces via activity-related barriers using OpenStreetMap.

Theodor Rieche



# About

## Theodor Rieche



- cartographer & spatial scientist
- research associate at IOER, research area "Spatial Information and Modelling" (since December 2021)
- currently working in project GOAT 3.0 (Geo Open Accessibility Tool)
- interests: Open Source&Open Data, OSM, Spatial AI, Citizen Science ...

## Master thesis

### ■ supervisors



# Project „MeinGruen – Information and navigation to urban green spaces“

- Research project (2018-2021)
- Funded by BMVI (mFUND)
- Public urban green spaces
- „meinGrün“-App
- Filter by criteria or activity possible
- Pilot cities Dresden and Heidelberg
- Polygon base to store features



Fig. 1: Screenshot „meinGrün“-App [1]

[1] <https://meingruen.ioer.info/>

# Motivation

- Incomplete data of urban green spaces in official data
- Green spaces are missing (are more than parks)
- Different data sources → different data licenses → only OSM possible?
- Consideration of the reality of life / perception of the users of green spaces?
- Test of models to predict greenness or publicly accessibility?

# Research questions

- How well is OpenStreetMap data suited for deriving publicly accessible green spaces in urban areas?
- Which land use transitions or key-value (object type) mapped in OpenStreetMap have which probability of being a barrier?

# Study area

Pilot city Dresden (Germany) + 5 km buffer

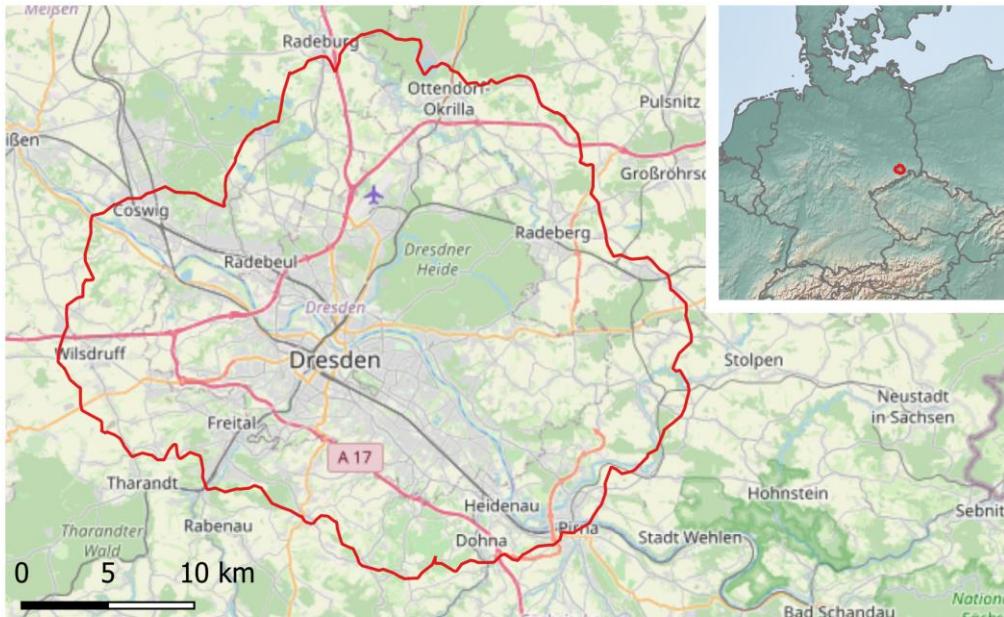
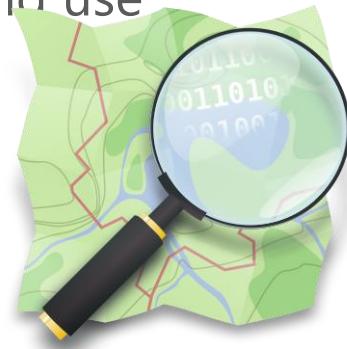


Fig. 2: Study area Dresden, Germany [2]

# Data sources

- OpenStreetMap
  - Streets, railroads, waterways, barriers, land use, ...
- official cadastral data (ALKIS) → having field “TN” / land use
- cadastral parcels owned by the city of Dresden
  - Requested in the city council of the city of Dresden



# Definition of an activity-related barrier

- Physical barriers such as walls, fences, hedges (barrier=\*)
- Action space of doing an activity → delimited by barriers
- Activities divided into „stationary“ or „in motion“
- Roads, railroads, waterways → are always barriers
- Trails or change of land use → uncertain knowledge of being a barrier

Ergo

- To simplify the model → reduction to stationary activities
- Conceptual framework extends OSM definition of barrier

# Definition of a activity-related barrier

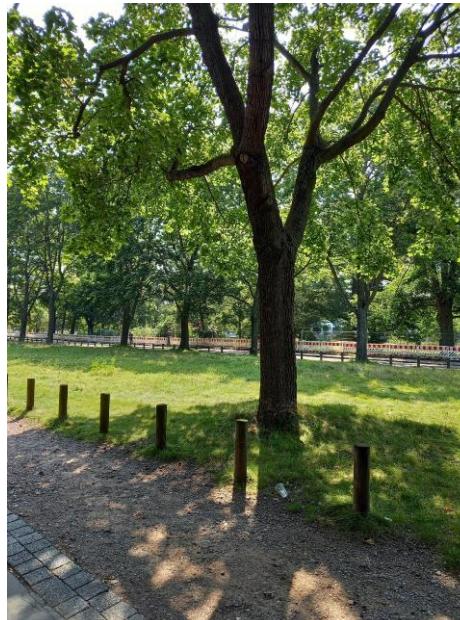


Fig. 3/4: Examples for barriers (flowerbeds, bollards)

# Methodology

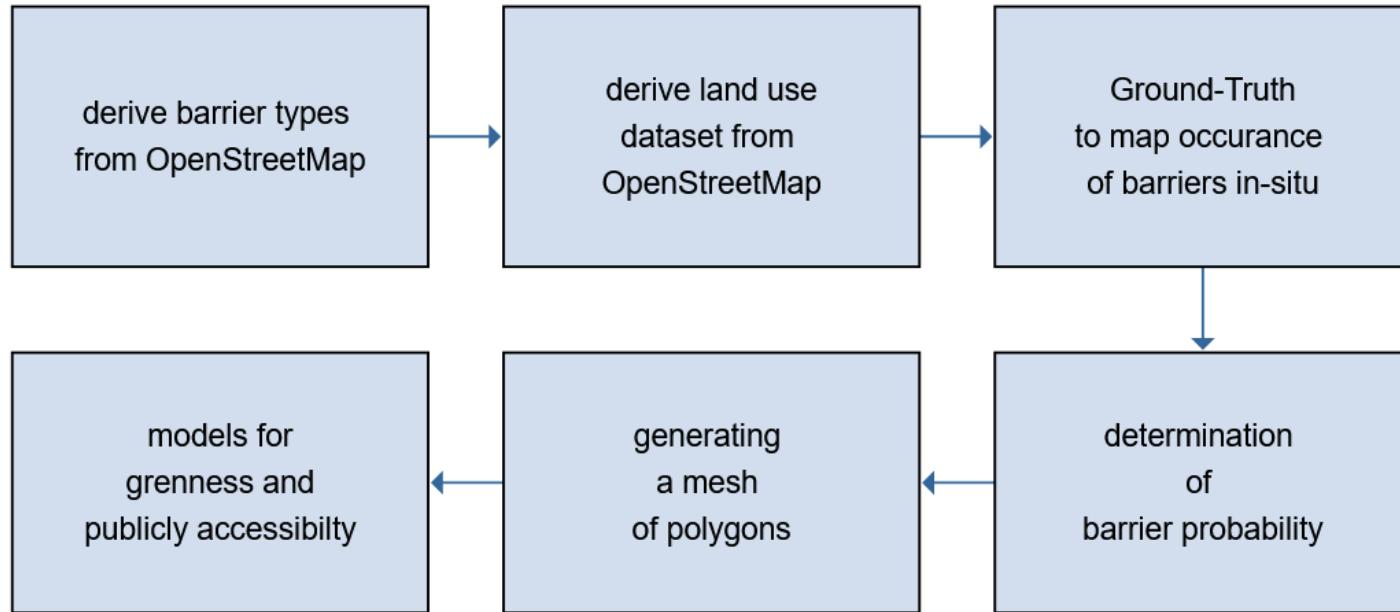


Fig. 5: conceptual framework

# Technical implementation

- Ubuntu 20.04 LTS
- dev environment based on Docker container
- Each container having specific installed packages
- PostgreSQL/ PostGIS-database
- SQL, PL/pgSQL, Python, Jupyter Notebook
- Open Source approach

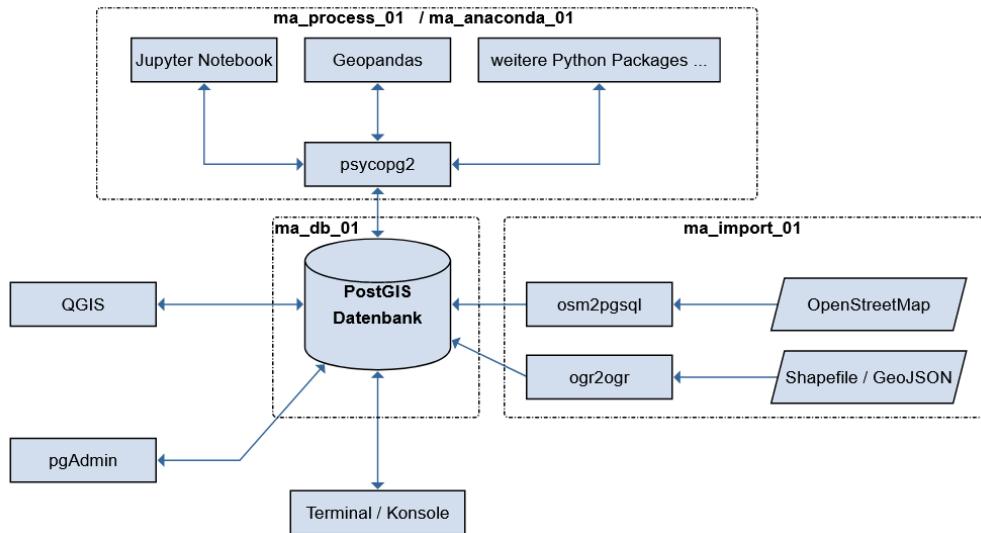


Fig. 6: Technical implementation

# Derivation of barrier types from OpenStreetMap

- Roads
- Railroads
- Waterways
- Barriers
- Trails
- Change of land use

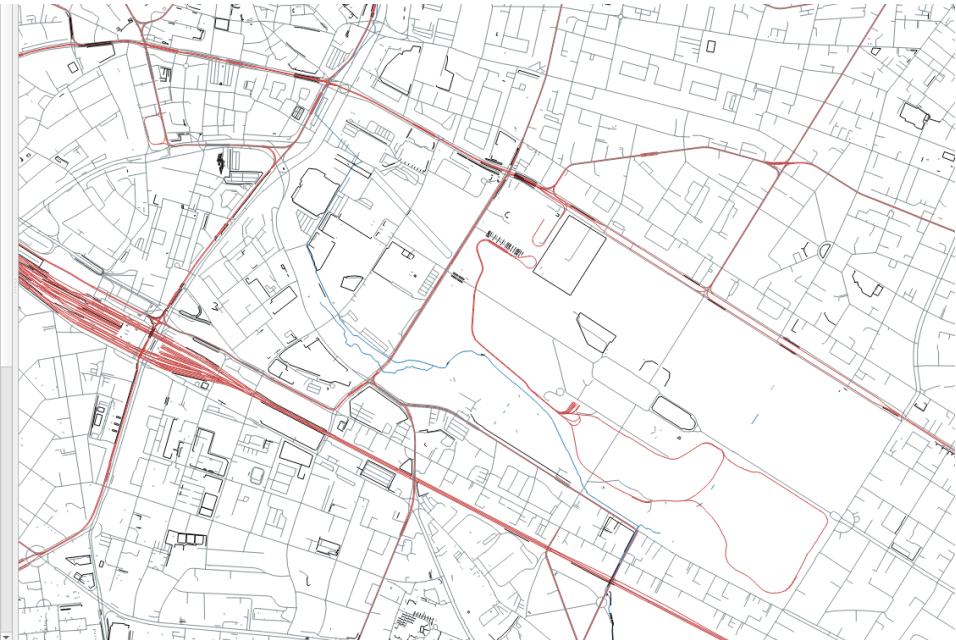
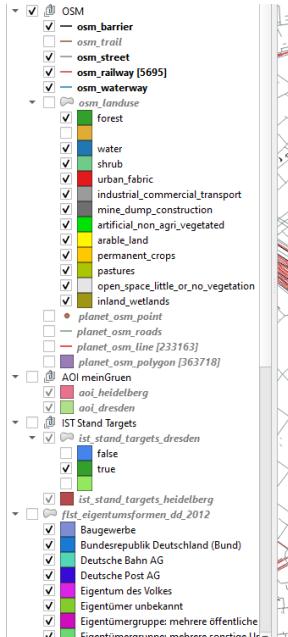


Fig. 7: derived barriers (Dresden, Germany)

Certain and uncertain knowledge

<b>osm_railway</b>	<b>osm_trail</b>	<b>osm_street</b>	<b>osm_waterway</b>	<b>osm_barrier</b>
<p>railway='construction'          railway='disused'          railway='facility'          railway='funicular'          railway='miniature'          railway='narrow_gauge'          railway='platform'          railway='platform_edge'          railway='preserved'          railway='rail'          railway='tram'          railway='tram_stop'          railway='turntable'</p>	<p>highway = 'bridleway'          highway = 'cycleway'          highway = 'footway'          highway = 'no'          highway = 'path'          highway = 'track'</p>	<p>highway = 'construction'          highway = 'living_street'          highway = 'motorway'          highway = 'motorway_link'          highway = 'pedestrian'          highway = 'platform'          highway = 'primary'          highway = 'primary_link'          highway = 'raceway'          highway = 'residential'          highway = 'road'          highway = 'secondary'          highway = 'secondary_link'          highway = 'service'          highway = 'steps'          highway = 'tertiary'          highway = 'tertiary_link'          highway = 'trunk'          highway = 'trunk_link'          highway = 'unclassified'</p>	<p>waterway = 'canal'          waterway = 'dam'          waterway = 'ditch'          waterway = 'drain'          waterway = 'fish_pass'          waterway = 'river'          waterway = 'stream'</p>	<p>barrier=*</p> <p>(all values are relevant)</p>
<p>Remove bridges and tunnels.           highway=elevator, only if no closed line (to avoid indoor elevators)</p>	<p>Remove bridges and tunnels.           highway=steps, check adjazent highway-key</p>	<p>Remove bridges and tunnels.           highway=steps, check adjazent highway-key</p>	<p>Remove bridges and tunnels. also tunnel=culvert</p>	<p>Applied to osm „polygons“ and „lines“. Also convert „polygons“ to „lines“.</p>

Fig. 8: derivation of barriers from OpenStreetMap

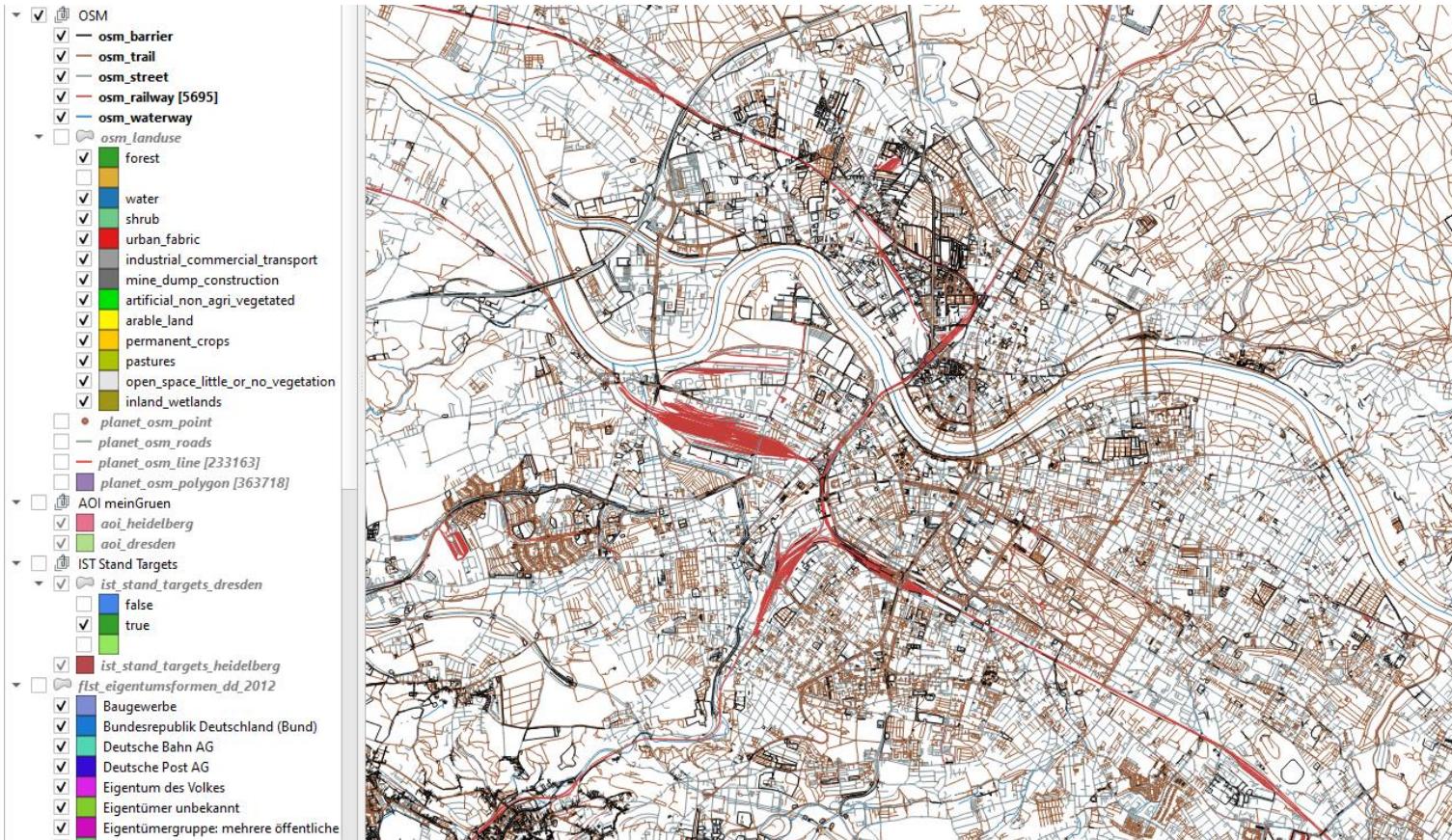


Fig. 9: Screenshot QGIS showing derived barriers

# Derivation of land use layer (without overlaps and holes)

- To extract land use changes as lines; also using a residual class

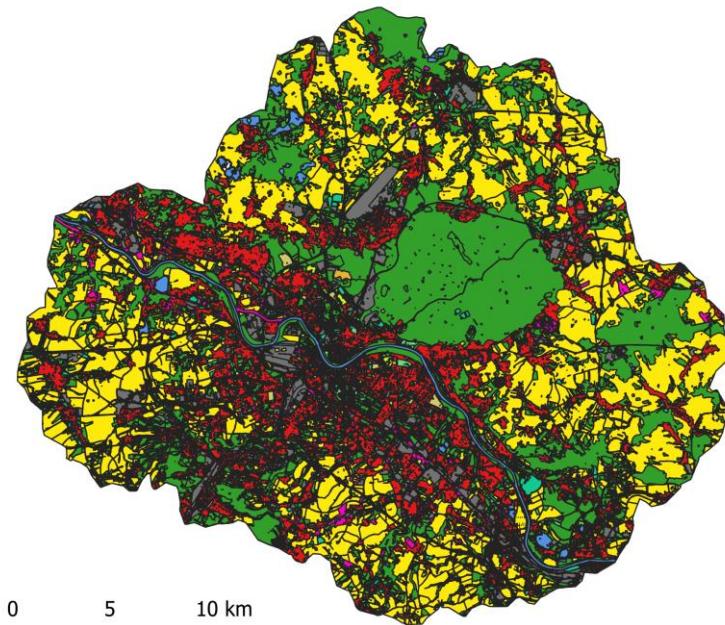
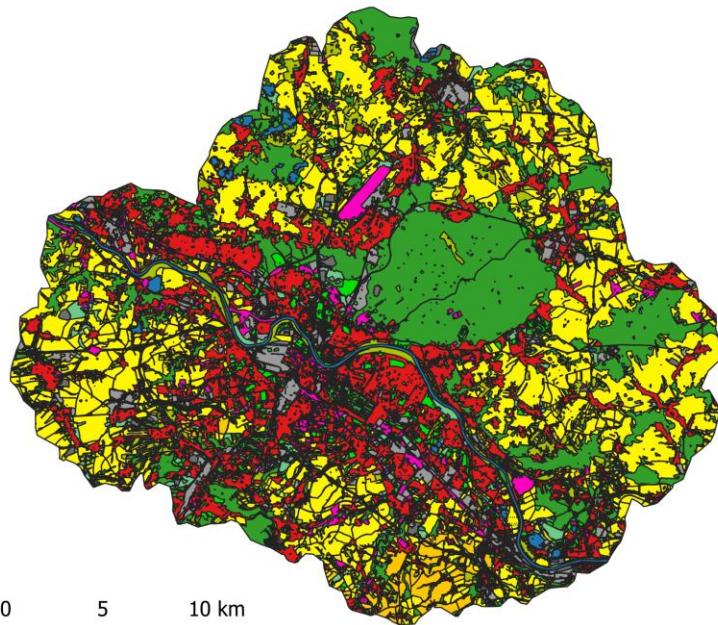


Fig. 10/11: option A (GIScience / osmlanduse.org) and option B (IOER Monitor)

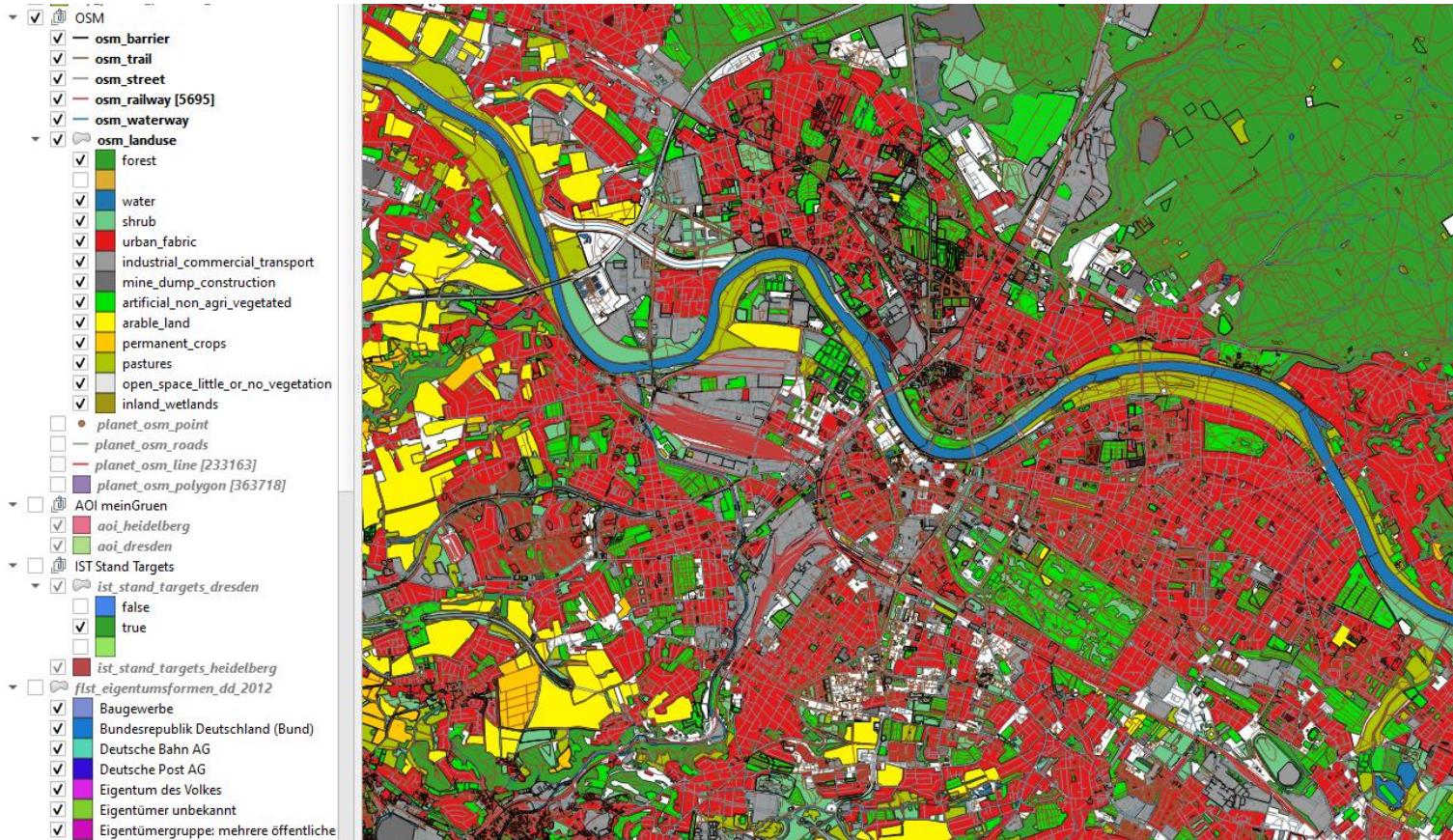


Fig. 12: Screenshot QGIS showing land use

# Ground-Truth in-situ mapping

Only for trails and land use changes

- Goal: generate knowledge about being a barrier by type
- QField-App with prepared forms, Barrier: „yes“, „no“, „nodata“

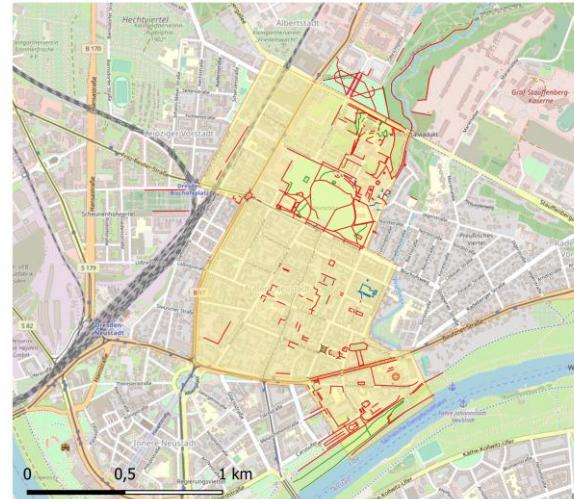


Fig. 13/14: mapped barriers (city park area and new town area in Dresden)

# Ground-Truth in-situ mapping

Mapped objects:

area	trails		land use changes	
	number	$\Sigma$ length	number	$\Sigma$ length
<b>city park</b>	297	64.682,28 m	1.145	41.429,90 m
<b>new town</b>	96	12.802,35 m	548	19.718,66 m
<b>miscellaneous</b>	15	4.816,81 m	27	3.057,84 m
<b>sum</b>	408	82.301,44 m	1.720	64.206,40 m

Fig. 15: mapped line segments

- Barrier probabilities were calculated for each type of trail or land use change
- Weighted by length

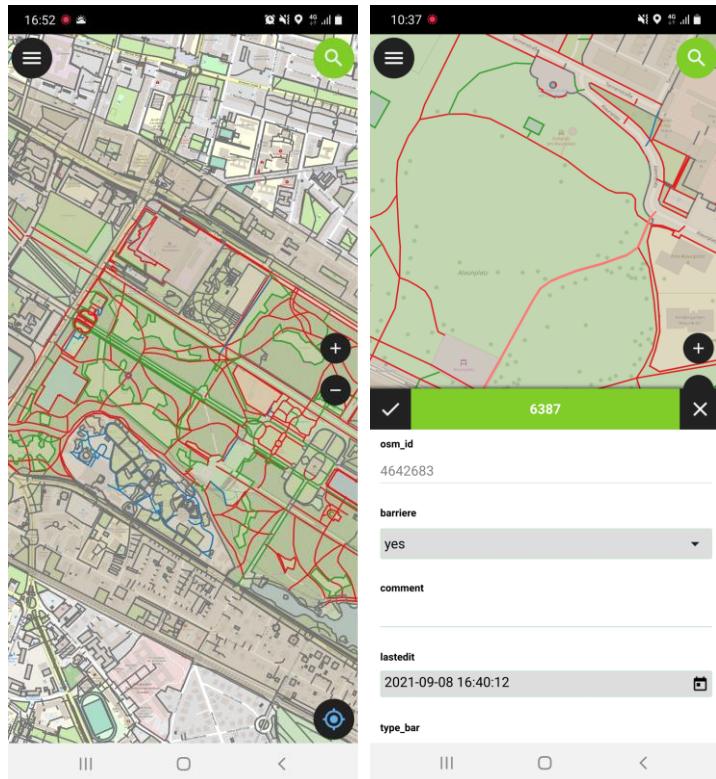
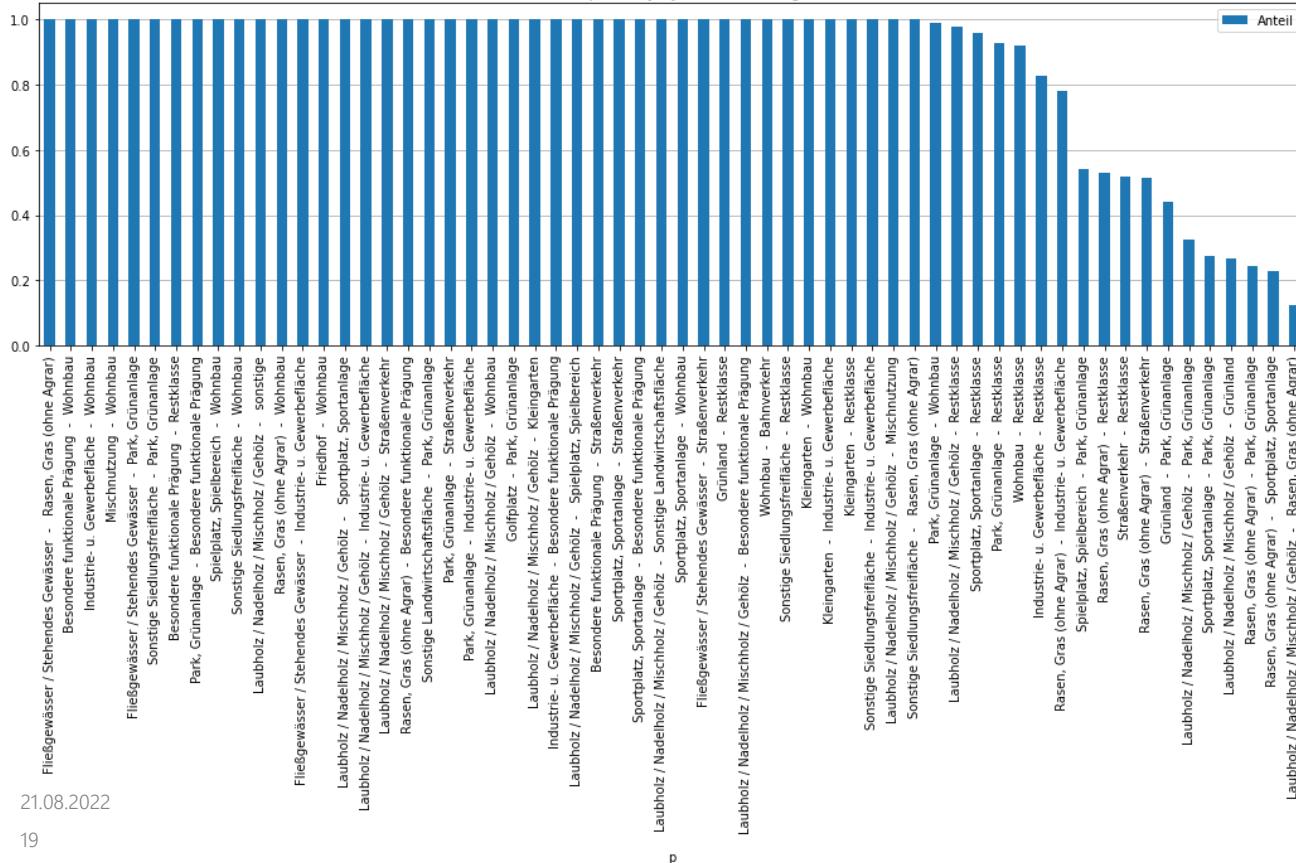


Fig. 16: screenshots QField app

# Results of barrier probabilities

barrier probability by land use change



barrier probability by trail type

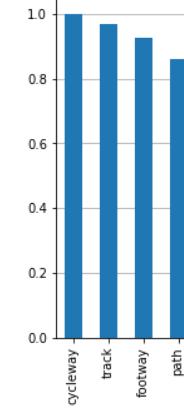


Fig. 17/18: barrier prob. for land use change and trail typ

(Unfortunately only with german labels)

# Generating a polygon mesh

- First: creating a dataset of all lines („line pool“)

Barrier type	Additional attributes for each line		
	„origin“ type of barrier	„buffer“ in meter <b>(half width of real world object)</b>	„likelihood“ being a barrier, with $0 \leq p \leq 1$
<b>streets</b>	osm_street	highway = 'motorway': <b>5,25</b>	<b>1</b>
		highway != 'motorway': <b>3</b>	
<b>railroads</b>	osm_railway	railway != 'tram': <b>3,75</b>	<b>1</b>
		railway = 'tram': <b>2,25</b>	
<b>waterways</b>	osm_waterway	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>barriers</b>	osm_barrier	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>trails</b>	osm_trail	<b>1</b>	<b>0 ... 1</b> (from ground-truth)
<b>land use change</b>	lu_change	<b>0</b>	<b>0 ... 1</b> (from ground-truth)

Fig. 19: additional attributes for line segments

- Second: polygon mesh (`ST_Polygonize()`) for different thresholds of „likelihood“ → representing different action spaces of activities

# Polygon mesh

Selecting different polygons based on different intervals for barrier likelihood

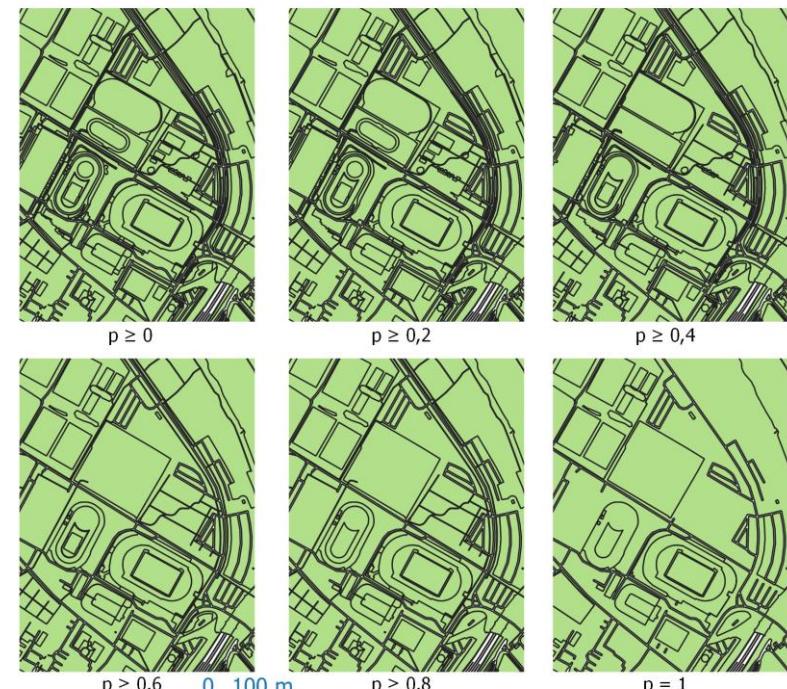
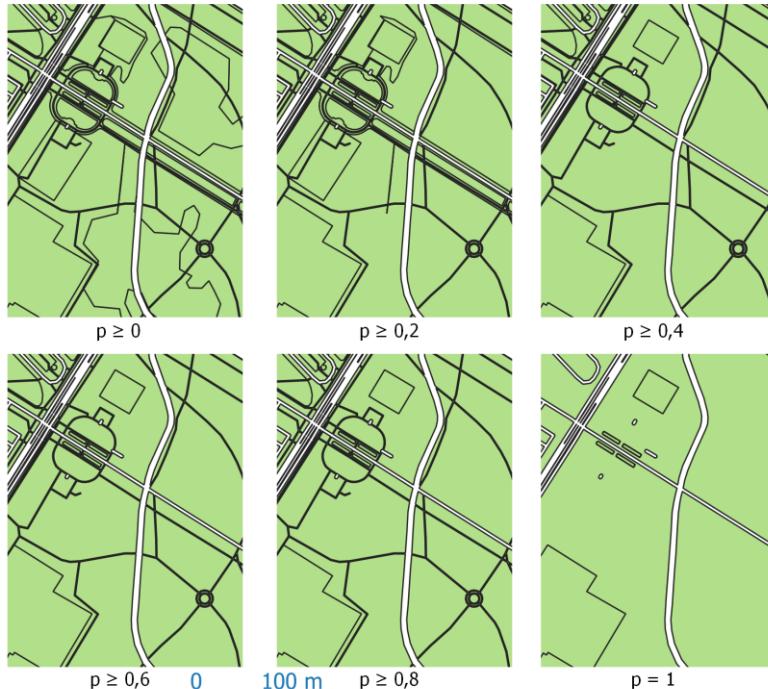


Fig. 20/21: polygon mesh in city park (left) and Ostragehege (right), Dresden

# Model to predict publicly accessibility

Input features of each polygon

- Number of benches
- Number of waste baskets
- Number of public toilets
- Number of public internet / wifi

**Reference data:** cadastral parcels owned by the city of Dresden (17840 polygons)

**Assumption:** cadastral parcels owned by the city of Dresden will be publicly accessible

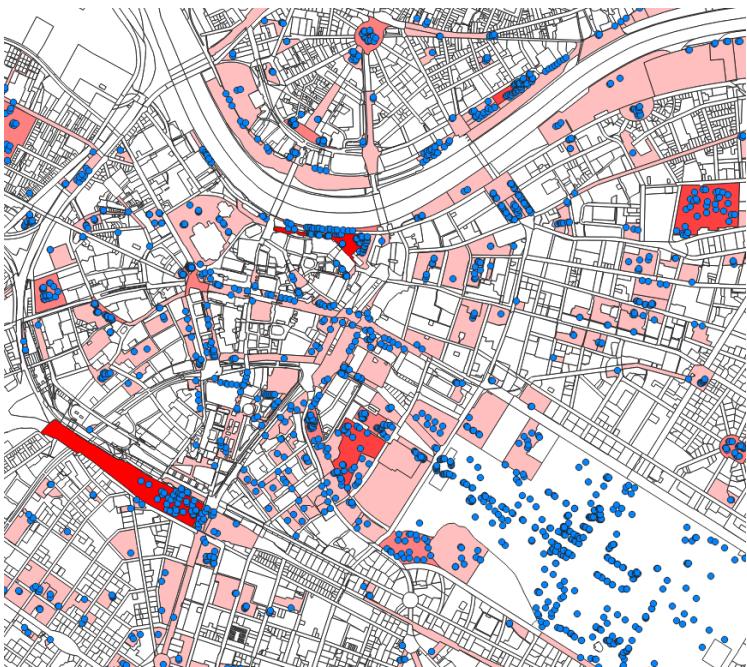


Fig. 22: relation polygons to benches

# Logistic Regression

- Target
  - 0: not publicly accessible
  - 1: publicly accessible
- Counts (*in BBox*)
  - Total: 27126
  - 0: 26732
  - 1: 430

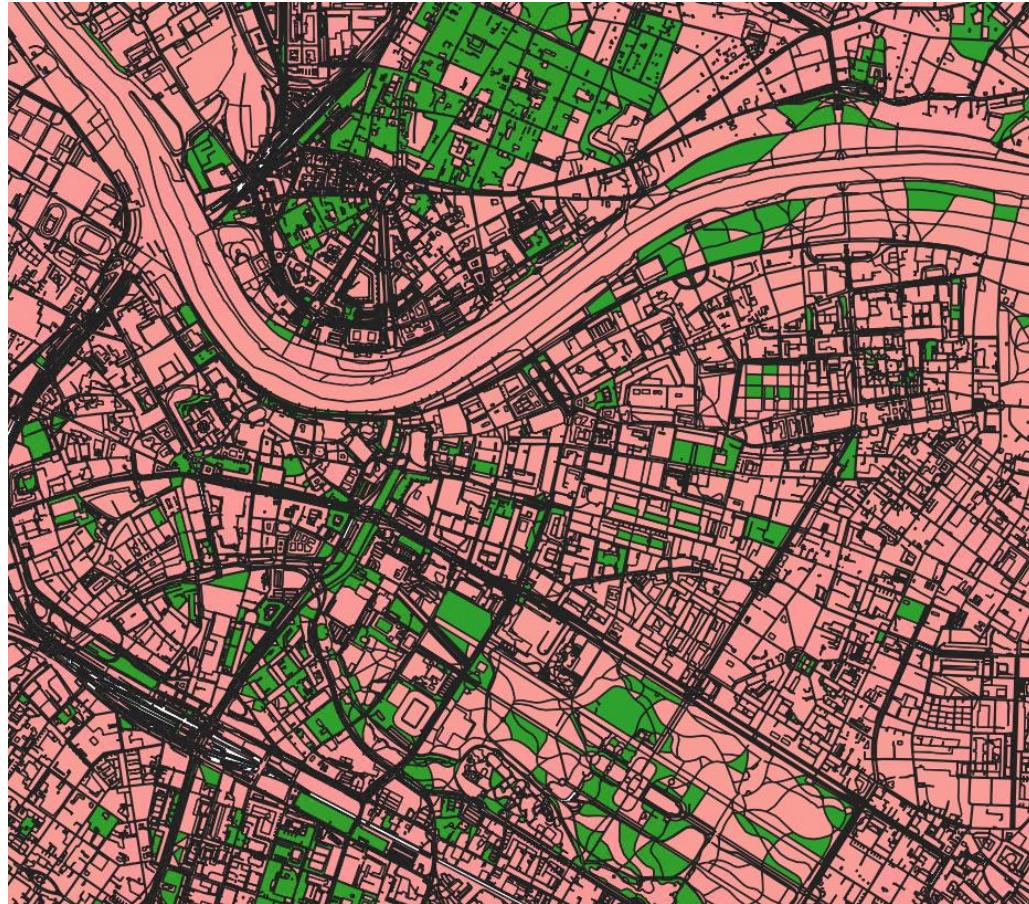


Fig. 23: result publicly accessibility

<b>bench (in_1)</b>	<b>waste basket (in_4)</b>	<b>public toilet (in_8)</b>	<b>Öffentliches Internet (in_9)</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Logistic Regression</b>				
X	X	X	X	0,767433
X	X	X		0,767433
X	X		X	0,767096
X		X	X	0,766424
	X	X	X	0,767321
<b>Support Vector Classifier (SVC)</b>				
X	X	X	X	0,767545
X	X	X		0,767545
X	X		X	0,767321
X		X	X	0,766200
	X	X	X	0,767321
<b>SVC with Radial Basis Function (C=1E6, gamma=1.)</b>				
X	X	X	X	0,772197
X	X	X		0,771804
X	X		X	0,771637
X		X	X	0,770123
	X	X	X	0,769170

Fig. 24: intrinsic score

# Model to predict greenness

Input features of each polygon

- Number of benches
- Number of picnic tables
- Number of trees
- Number of waste baskets



Fig. 25: reference data showing greenness

**Reference data:** official cadastral data (ALKIS) + land use information (22753 polygons)

**Assumption:** land use type „Wald“, „Gehölz“, „Friedhof“, „Sport-, Freizeit- und Erholungsfläche“ represents greenness

# Logistic Regression

- Target
  - 0: not green
  - 1: green
- Counts (*in BBox*)
  - Total: 26472
  - 0: 26732
  - 1: 690



Fig. 26: result greenness

# Model to predict greenness

<b>bench (in_1)</b>	<b>picnic table (in_2)</b>	<b>tree (in_3)</b>	<b>waste baskets (in_4)</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Logistic Regression</b>				
X	X	X	X	0,922867
X	X	X		0,922779
X	X		X	0,922867
X		X	X	0,922867
	X	X	X	0,922691
<b>Support Vector Classifier (SVC) with linear Kernel and C=1</b>				
X	X	X	X	0,926018
X	X	X		0,925432
X	X		X	0,926018
X		X	X	0,926018
	X	X	X	0,926018

Fig. 27: intrinsic score

# Conclusion and outlook

- A new approach of generating urban green spaces
- First testing show good results

## Outlook

- E. g.: XGBoost, grid search for parameters, feature importance
- Generate further input features (path density, other POIs, geometry...)
- Intersect with greenness from remote sensing
- Testing in further cities, mapping more barrier probabilities

# Return to OpenStreetMap project?

- Completeness analysis of barrier=\* ?
- Creating an assistant layer as a help to map land use / land cover ?
- Knowledge about barrier probability and publicly accessibility could be useful to improve routing, e.g. Open Space routing (through polygons)
- ...



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**Thank you  
for your  
attention!**

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source code & master thesis:

[https://github.com/traveller195/master-thesis\\_green\\_spaces\\_derived\\_from\\_osm](https://github.com/traveller195/master-thesis_green_spaces_derived_from_osm)