

# Spatial Data Visualization and Analytics (Course Material)

A modern introduction to working with spatial datasets

*Ujaval Gandhi*

## Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
Why do we care about location? . . . . .	4
Location data is everywhere . . . . .	4
Spatial Data Model . . . . .	4
Spatial Data Formats . . . . .	5
Spatial Data Types . . . . .	5
Map Projections . . . . .	5
<b>Introduction to QGIS</b>	<b>5</b>
Plugins . . . . .	5
<b>Get the Data Package</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Visualization</b>	<b>6</b>
Points . . . . .	6
Exercise: Mapping Air Quality . . . . .	6
Lines . . . . .	29
Exercise: Visualize GPS Tracks . . . . .	29
Polygons . . . . .	41
Exercise: Mapping Census Data . . . . .	41
Point Clouds . . . . .	52
Exercise: View Point Cloud from an Aerial Survey . . . . .	53
Raster - Photos . . . . .	55
Exercise: View Drone Imagery . . . . .	55
Raster - Satellite Images . . . . .	58
Exercise: View Sentinel-2 Image and Create Composites . . . . .	58
Raster - Elevation Data . . . . .	62

<b>Analysis</b>	<b>62</b>
Exercise: Uber Movement Analysis . . . . .	62
Exercise: Analyze Metro Rail Accesiblity . . . . .	78
Exercise: Distribution of Green Spaces . . . . .	96
Exercise: Determine the Best Area for a Home . . . . .	104
<b>Data Credits</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>License</b>	<b>114</b>

---

This course is also offered as an in-person class. If you would like to attend one of my workshops, visit [www.spatialthoughts.com/events](http://www.spatialthoughts.com/events) to know details of upcoming classes. You may also sign up for my mailing list to know when new sessions are scheduled.

---



# Introduction

## Why do we care about location?

“Everything is related to everything else, but near things are more related than distant things.” - Waldo Tobler’s First Law of Geography

When modeling and analyzing our world, location is a critical factor. A non-spatial model cannot accurately reflect the processes and interactions happening in our world. Take this example - predicting housing prices - where a spatial prediction model performed much better than a purely non-spatial one.

## Location data is everywhere

Today the availability of location data - both for individuals and businesses - has exploded. Spatial data adds another dimension to data, and reveals patterns that are otherwise not obvious.

Individuals - with GPS sensors on their smartphones - have the ability to tag their data with location. Photos taken with smartphones have the location embedded in it. If opted-in, one can store and access their location history on an ongoing basis.

Most businesses have location data in one form or the other. Customer addresses, IP-locations of website visitors, sales territories, supply chain routes and so on. For other businesses - such as taxi aggregators, food delivery, logistics - generate huge amounts of location data that can be mined for intelligence.

IoT (Internet-Of-Things) devices are collecting location data continuously alongside with sensor data.

Governments are also increasing collecting and sharing location based data. Data relating to urban infrastructure, census, LIDAR and aerial imagery etc. are being collected at massive scale. Many governments have implemented open data sharing policies - making this data available to individuals and businesses to use.

## Spatial Data Model

geometry + properties

shape + table

geometry = coordinates + reference properties = type + data

A GeoJSON representation

```
{
  "type": "Feature",
  "geometry": {
    "type": "Point",
    "coordinates": [ 77.58270263671875, 12.963074139604124]
  },
  "properties": {
```



```

        "name": "Bengaluru"
    }
}

```

## Spatial Data Formats

Type	Non-Spatial Data	Spatial Data
Text	csv, json, xml	csv, geojson, gml, kml
Binary/Compressed	pdf, xls, zip	shapefile, geopdf, geopackage
Images	tiff, jpg, png	geotiff, jpeg2000
Databases	SQLite, PostgreSQL, Oracle	Spatialite, PostGIS, Oracle Spatial

## Spatial Data Types

Type	Sub Types	Examples
Vector	Point	
	Line	
	Polygons	
	Point Cloud	LIDAR surveys
Raster	Photos	Aerial and Drone Photos
	Grids	Satellite Imagery, Elevation Data, Thematic Data
Mesh	Mesh	
Tiles	Raster Tile Layers	TMS / WMS
	Vector Tile Layers	

## Map Projections

<https://bl.ocks.org/syntagmatic/ba569633d51ebec6ec6e>

EPSG: 7755 WGS 84 / India NSF LCC NATIONAL SPATIAL FRAMEWORK

[https://giscourses.cfans.umn.edu/sites/giscourses.cfans.umn.edu/files/5480chapter3\\_projections\\_excerpt.pdf](https://giscourses.cfans.umn.edu/sites/giscourses.cfans.umn.edu/files/5480chapter3_projections_excerpt.pdf)

## Introduction to QGIS

### Plugins

- QuickMapServices
- TimeManager
- QuickOSM



## Get the Data Package

The exercises in this class use a variety of datasets. All the required layers, project files etc. are supplied to you in the `spatial_data_viz.zip` file. Unzip this file to the `Downloads` directory.

## Visualization

### Points

The simplest representation of spatial data can be done using a table. A place can be represented using a pair of coordinates - Latitude and Longitude - with other attribute information about the place. Many spatial data source come in this form. Excel sheets, CSV files, database tables etc.

#### Exercise: Mapping Air Quality

Worsening air quality is a severe problem in many countries around the world. India - particularly - Delhi suffers from acute problems of high pollution levels. One of the first steps to better understand the problem, is to have continuous monitoring of air quality across the cities. Many organizations have stepped up and setup such sensors that collect air quality data and make it publicly available. OpenAQ is a platform that collects this data from all public sources and makes it available in an easy to use form.

If you are interested in this topic, Urban Emissions has a lot of relevant information and datasets for India.

We will take the sensor data for PM2.5 concentrations 1 day and map it. The aim is to turn this tabular data info an informative spatial data visualization.

For this exercise, we are using daily average data for Delhi, India for February 15, 2020. This data was downloaded from OpenAQ Data Download



[View More →](#) [Download Selection \(CSV\)](#) [Download](#)

## Data Download

Guatemala [View More →](#) Hong Kong [View More →](#)

Customize the data you want to download. Currently, only the last 90 days is available from this form. [Realtime](#) and [daily](#) archives of all 529,373,956 are also available. [More](#)

[Locations](#) [Info](#) [Locations](#) [Info](#)

INTS 1,489,382 LOCATIONS 16

Country <a href="#">View More →</a>	Area <a href="#">View More →</a>	Location <a href="#">View More →</a>	
<input type="button" value="India"/>	<input type="button" value="Delhi"/>	<input type="button" value="Select a Location"/>	
START DATE	Year <input type="button" value="2020"/>	Month <input type="button" value="February"/>	Day <input type="button" value="15"/>
END DATE	Year <input type="button" value="2020"/>	Month <input type="button" value="February"/>	Day <input type="button" value="15"/>
<b>PARAMETERS</b> <a href="#">View More →</a> <a href="#">Get Downloaded</a> <a href="#">View More →</a> <a href="#">Download</a>			
<input type="checkbox"/> BC <input type="checkbox"/> CO <input type="checkbox"/> NO2 <input type="checkbox"/> O3 <input type="checkbox"/> PM10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM2.5 <input type="checkbox"/> SO2			
<a href="#">Cancel</a> <a href="#">Download Selection (CSV)</a>			

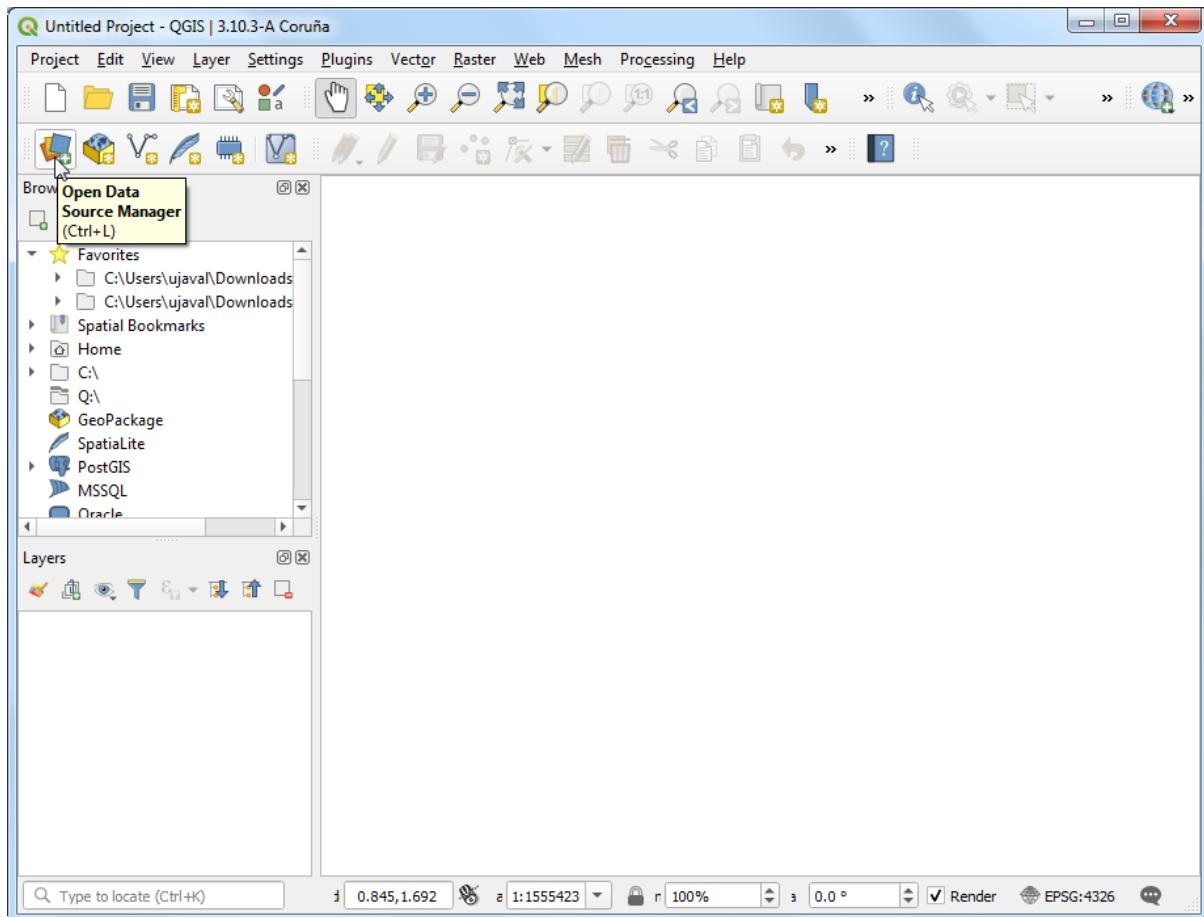
Ireland [View More →](#) Israel [View More →](#)

MEASUREMENTS 173,130,367 LOCATIONS 2,041

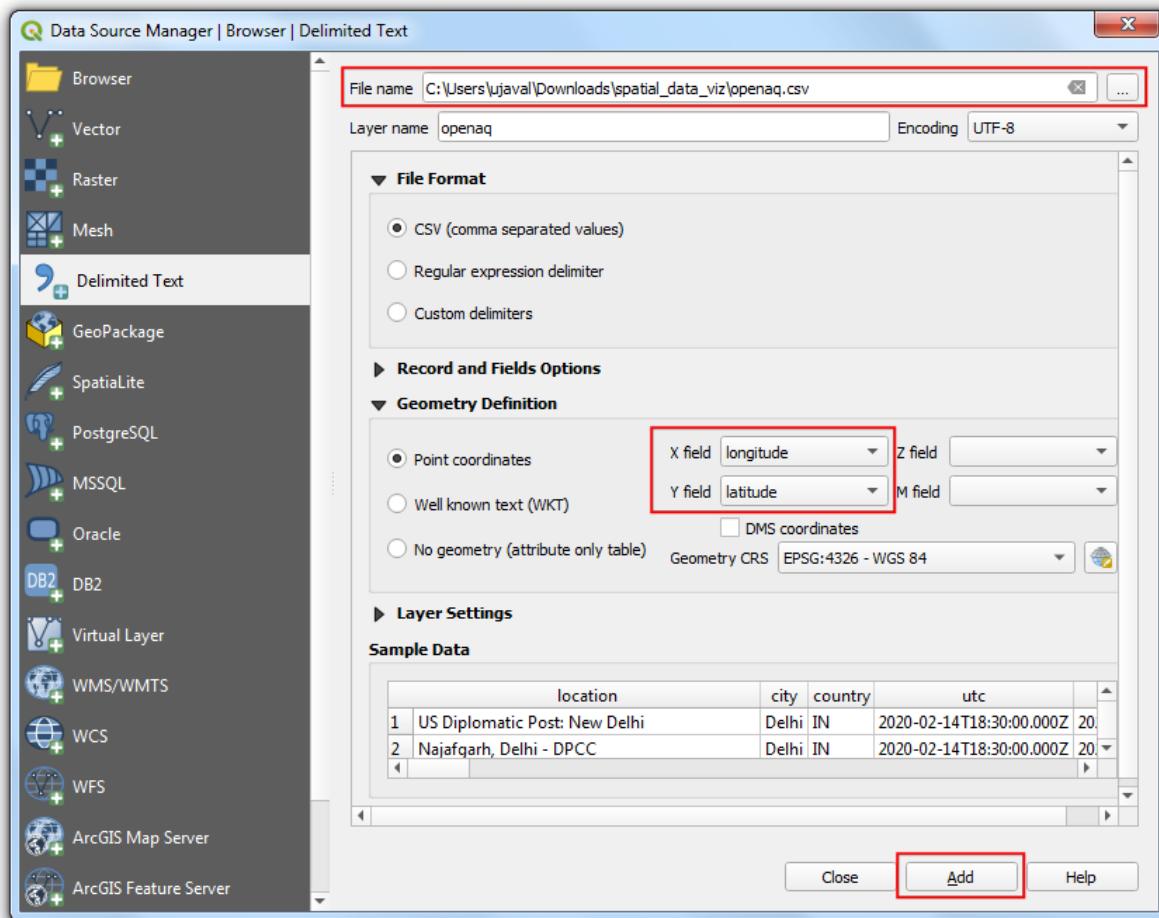
Open the `openaq.csv` file in a text editor and examine it. Each row of data contains data from 1 monitoring station. The `latitude` and `longitude` column contain the coordinates of the station and the `value` contains the daily average PM2.5 concentration

location	city	country	utc	local	parameter	value	unit	latitude	longitude	attribution
US Diplomatic Post: New Delhi	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	67	µg/m³	28.63576	77.22445	{"name": "EPA AirNow I"}
Najafgarh, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	195	µg/m³	28.570173	76.933762	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Alipur, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	85	µg/m³	28.815329	77.15301	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Mundka, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	68	µg/m³	28.684678	77.076574	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Sri Aurobindo Marg, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	85	µg/m³	28.531346	77.190156	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Narela, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	101	µg/m³	28.822836	77.101981	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Vivek Vihar, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	84	µg/m³	28.672342	77.31526	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Okhla Phase-2, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	102	µg/m³	28.530785	77.271255	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Ashok Vihar, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	74	µg/m³	28.695381	77.181665	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	68	µg/m³	28.498571	77.26484	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Punjabi Bagh, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	63	µg/m³	28.674045	77.131023	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
R K Puram, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	72	µg/m³	28.563262	77.186937	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Mandir Marg, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	70	µg/m³	28.636429	77.201067	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Bawana, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	150	µg/m³	28.7762	77.051074	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Sonia Vihar, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	77	µg/m³	28.710508	77.249485	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Patparganj, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	52	µg/m³	28.623748	77.287205	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Nehru Nagar, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	59	µg/m³	28.56789	77.250515	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	57	µg/m³	28.58028	77.233829	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Jahangirpuri, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	106	µg/m³	28.73282	77.170633	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Dwarka-Sector 8, Delhi - DPCC	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	103	µg/m³	28.5710274	77.0719006	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
NSIT Dwarka, Delhi - CPCB	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	118.51	µg/m³	28.60909	77.0325413	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
ITO, Delhi - CPCB	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	53	µg/m³	28.628624	77.24106	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
DTU, Delhi - CPCB	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	133.45	µg/m³	28.7500499	77.1112615	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
Shadipur, Delhi - CPCB	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	63.41	µg/m³	28.6514781	77.1473105	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
IHBAS, Dilshad Garden, Delhi - CPCB	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	52.4	µg/m³	28.6811736	77.3025234	{"name": "Central Pollu"}
North Campus, DU, Delhi - IMD	Delhi	IN	2020-02-14T18:30:00.000Z	2020-02-15T00:00+05:30	pm25	37.95	µg/m³	28.6573814	77.1585447	{"name": "Central Pollu"}

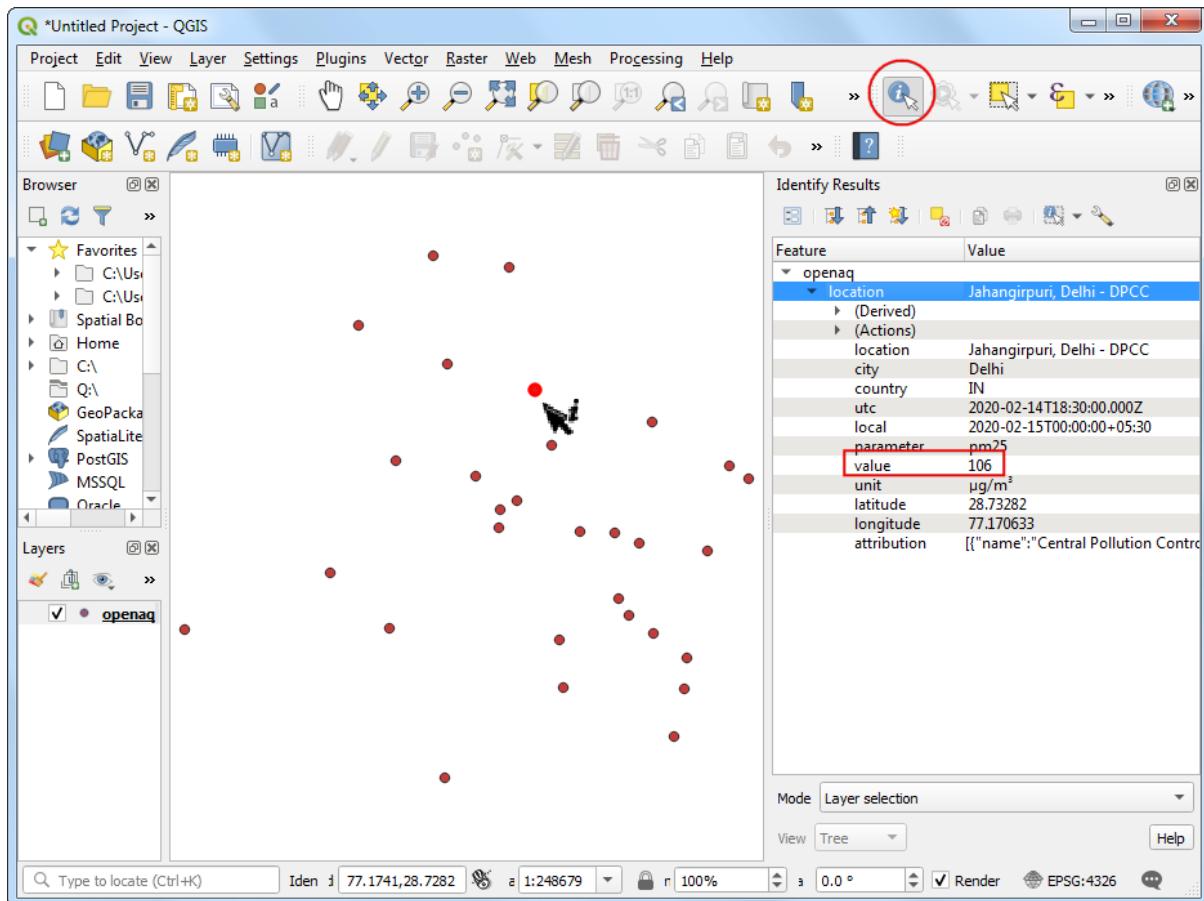
Tabular data in text files fall into the category of **Delimited Text** files, such as this can be imported in QGIS via *Data Source Manager*. Click *Open Data Source Manager* button.



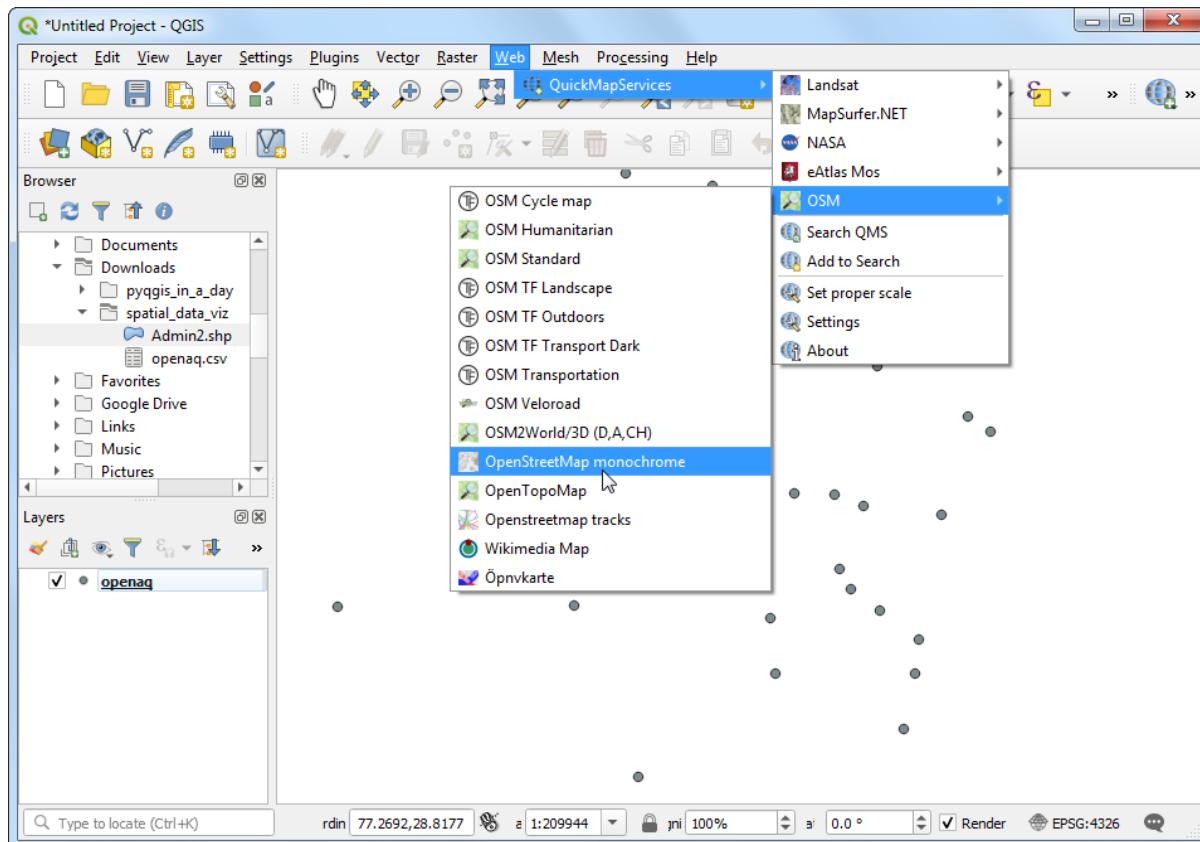
Browse to the `openaq.csv` file and open it. As we want to import this file as points, select *Point coordinates*. Choose `longitude` as *X Field* and `latitude` as *Y Field*. Click *Add*.



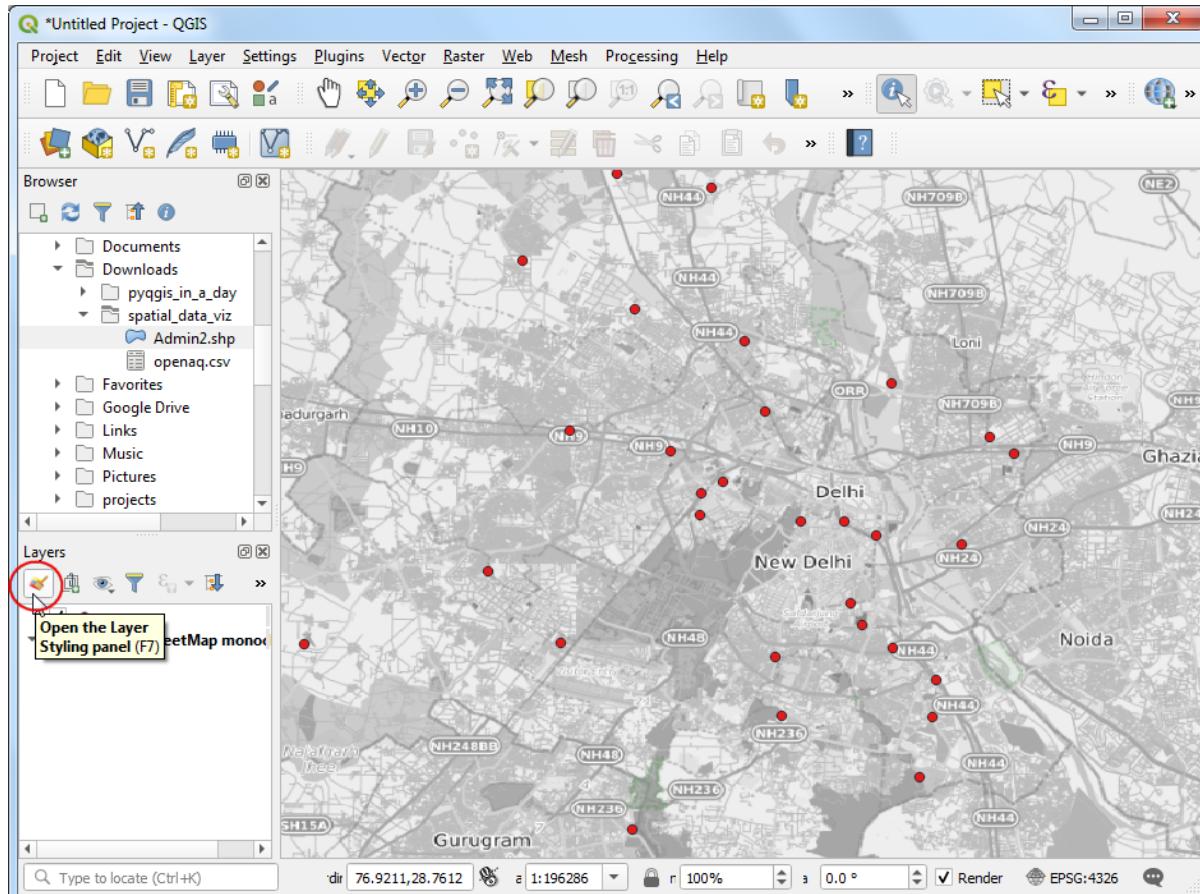
You will see the tabular data now loaded in QGIS canvas as a spatial data layer. Use the *Identify* button and click on any of the point. You will see the attribute data that is attached to each point.



Through we can see the point distribution is across the city of Delhi, we are missing the context on where is point is located. A base-map layer will help us understand this data better. The **QuickMapServices** plugin gives us ready access to many different types of base-maps. Go to **Web** → **QuickMapServices** → **OSM** → **OpenStreetMap monochrome** layer.

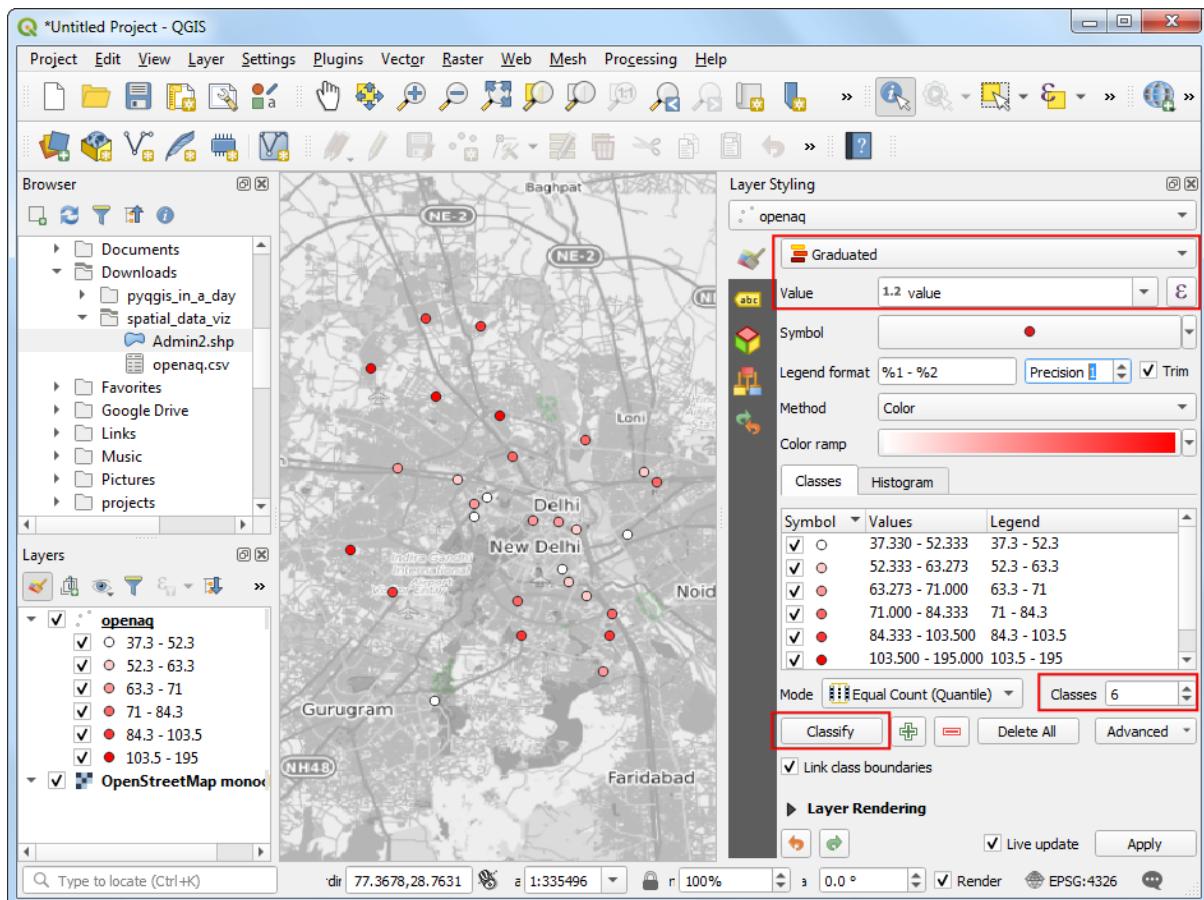


A new layer will get added to the *Layers* panel and the *Canvas*. Now you can see the points in the context of the city and surroundings. Let's style the point layer better now. Click *Open the Layer Styling Panel*.



We will color each point according to the observed PM2.5 value. Choose **Graduated**

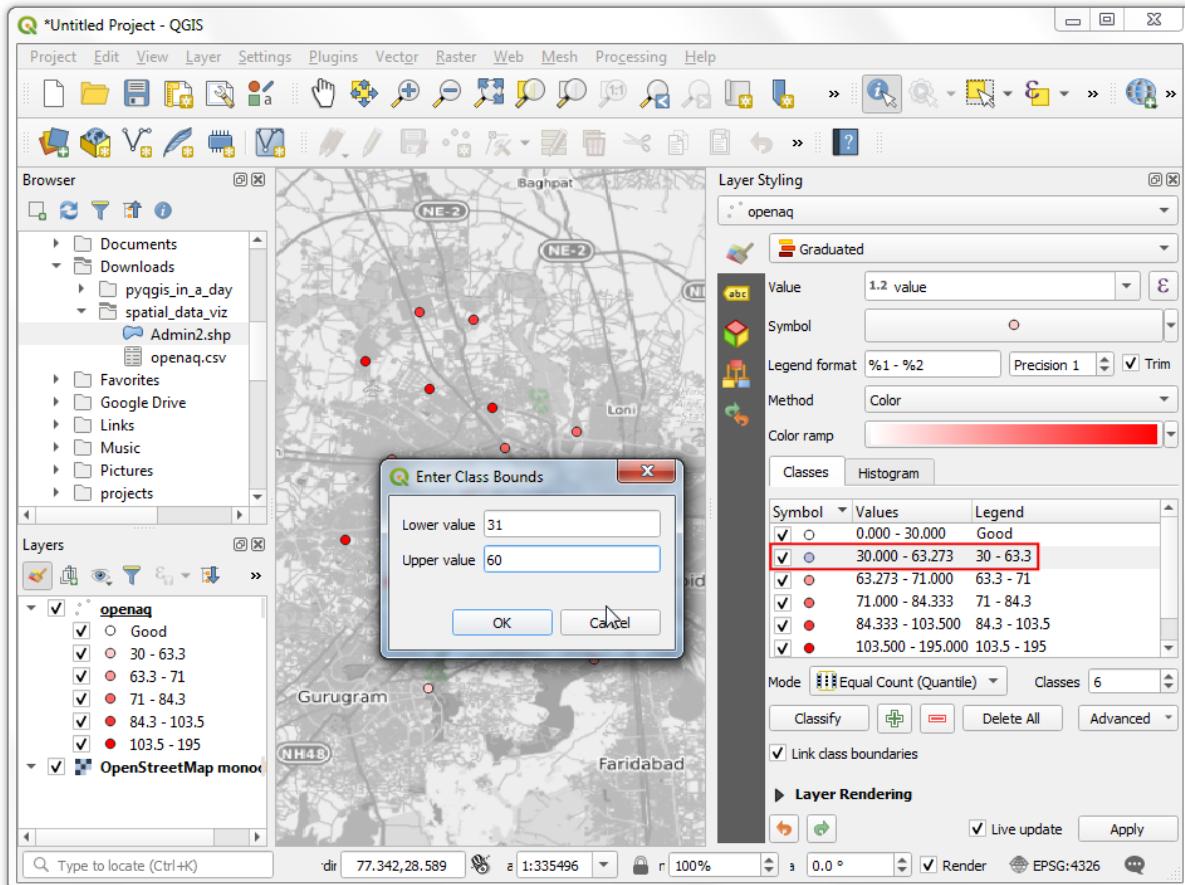
renderer and value as the *Value* column. Set the number of *Classes* to 6 and click *Classify*.



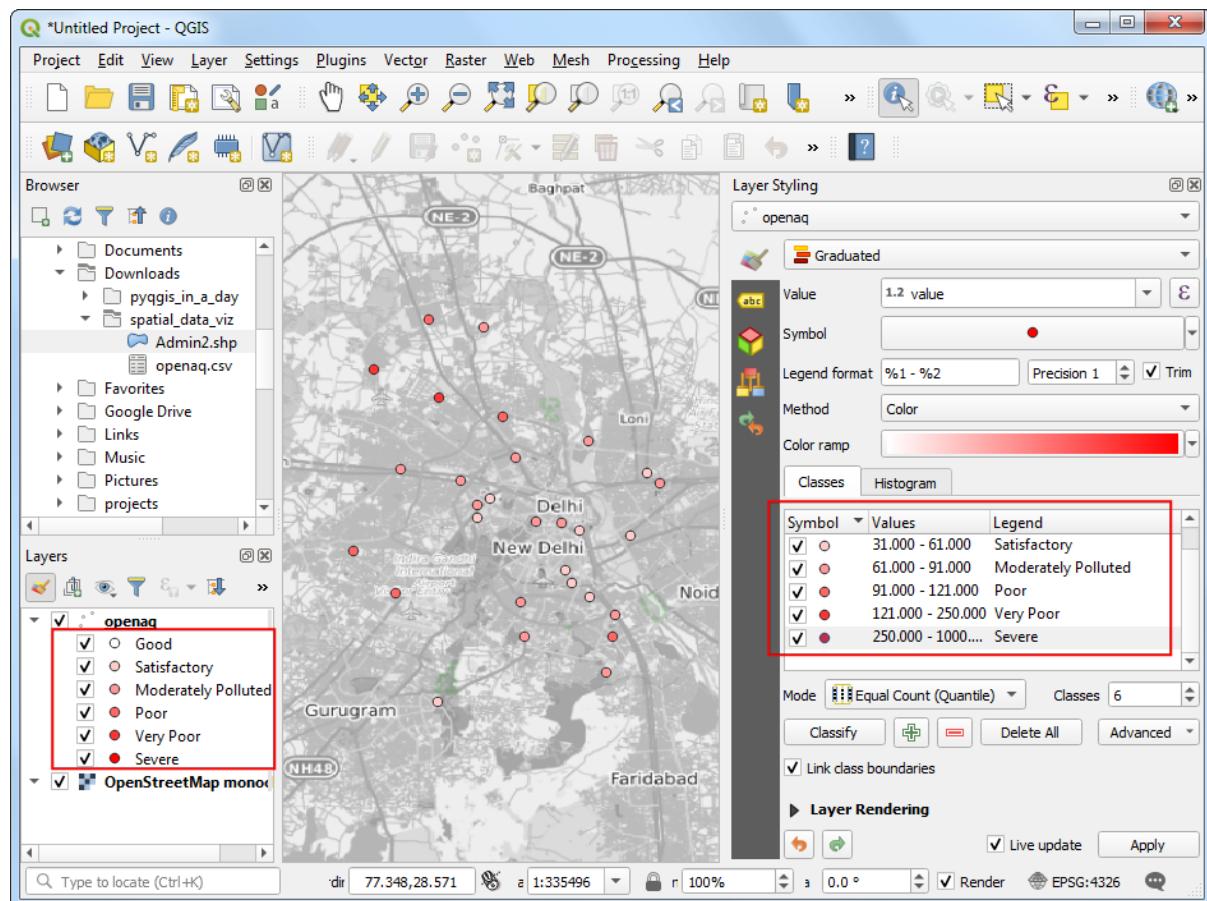
For the class ranges to have some meaning, we need to link them to the commonly used scale. India has adopted National Air Quality Index with the following definitions.

AQI Category, Pollutants and Health Breakpoints								
AQI Category (Range)	PM <sub>10</sub> 24-hr	PM <sub>2.5</sub> 24-hr	NO <sub>2</sub> 24-hr	O <sub>3</sub> 8-hr	CO 8-hr (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	SO <sub>2</sub> 24-hr	NH <sub>3</sub> 24-hr	Pb 24-hr
Good (0-50)	0-50	0-30	0-40	0-50	0-1.0	0-40	0-200	0-0.5
Satisfactory (51-100)	51-100	31-60	41-80	51-100	1.1-2.0	41-80	201-400	0.5 – 1.0
Moderately polluted (101-200)	101-250	61-90	81-180	101-168	2.1- 10	81-380	401-800	1.1-2.0
Poor (201-300)	251-350	91-120	181-280	169-208	10-17	381-800	801-1200	2.1-3.0
Very poor (301-400)	351-430	121-250	281-400	209-748*	17-34	801-1600	1200-1800	3.1-3.5
Severe (401-500)	430 +	250+	400+	748+*	34+	1600+	1800+	3.5+

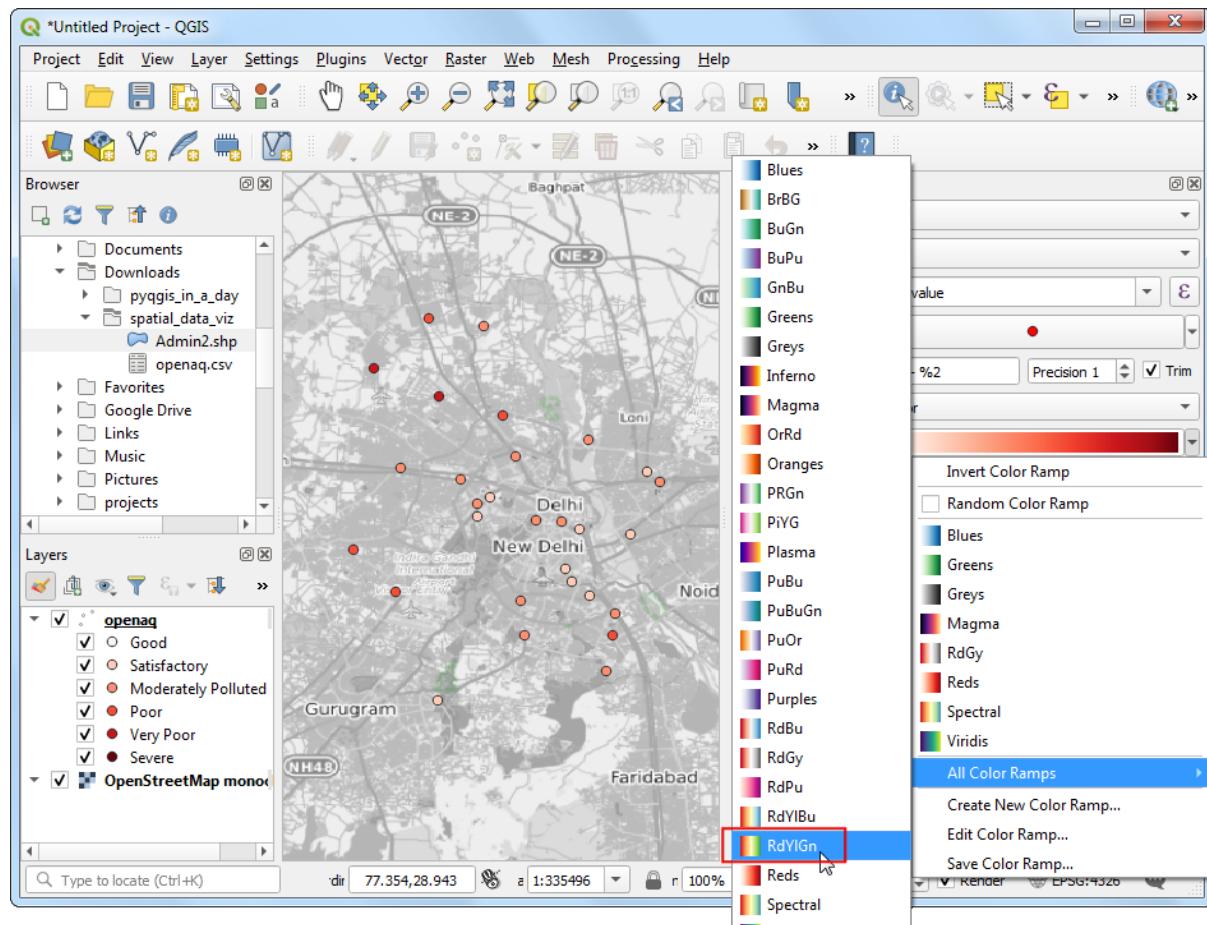
Let's adjust the class values to match those defined in the National Air Quality Index. We can also change the *Legend* labels to the human-readable category names. You can double-click each class range and edit it.



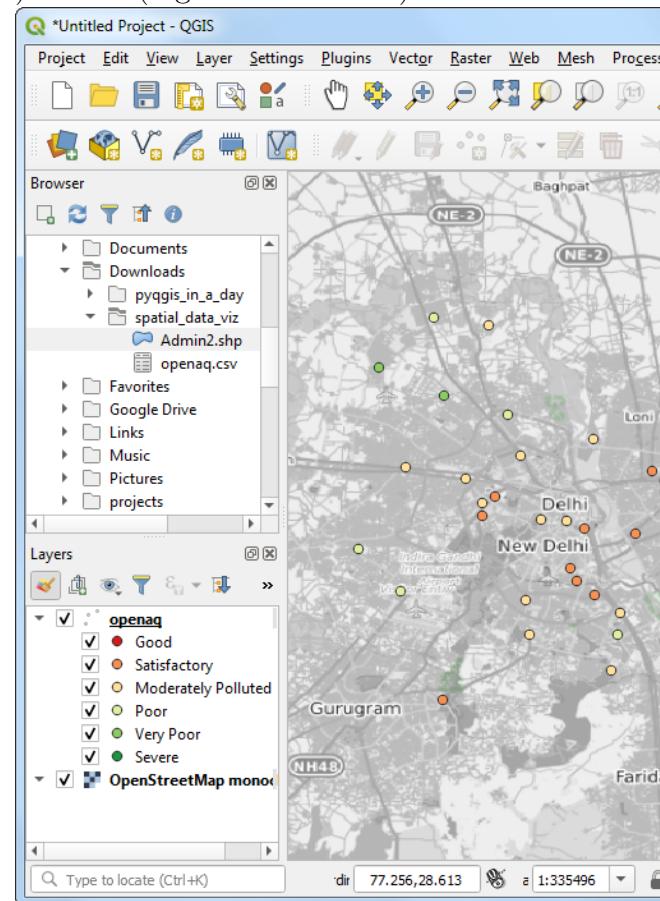
As you edit the categories, the map visualization will change accordingly. The layer legend will also show the legend labels now.



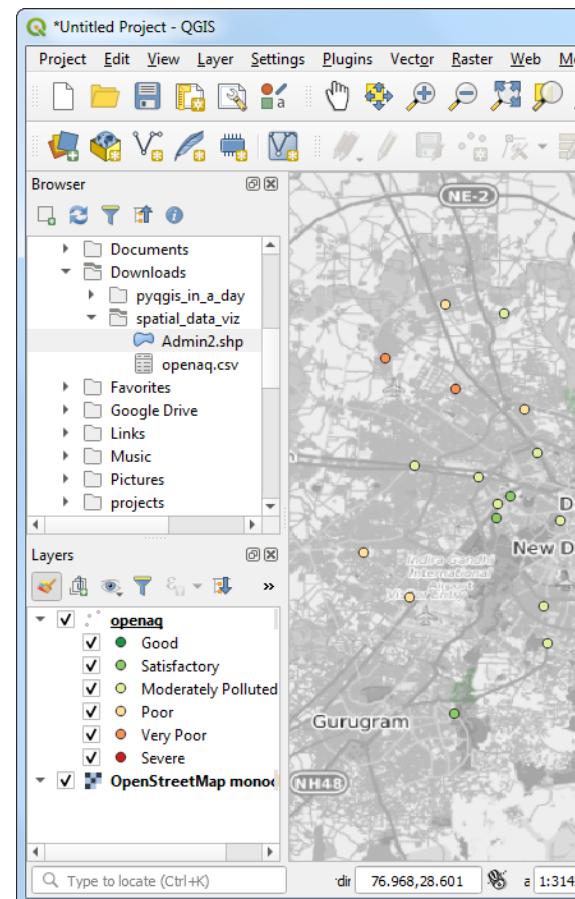
We can change the color also to match those defined in the index. Select the dropdown next to the color ramp and select the RdYlGn (Red-Yellow-Green) ramp.



We want the ramp to go from Green (low PM2.5 values) to Red (high PM2.5 values) - so

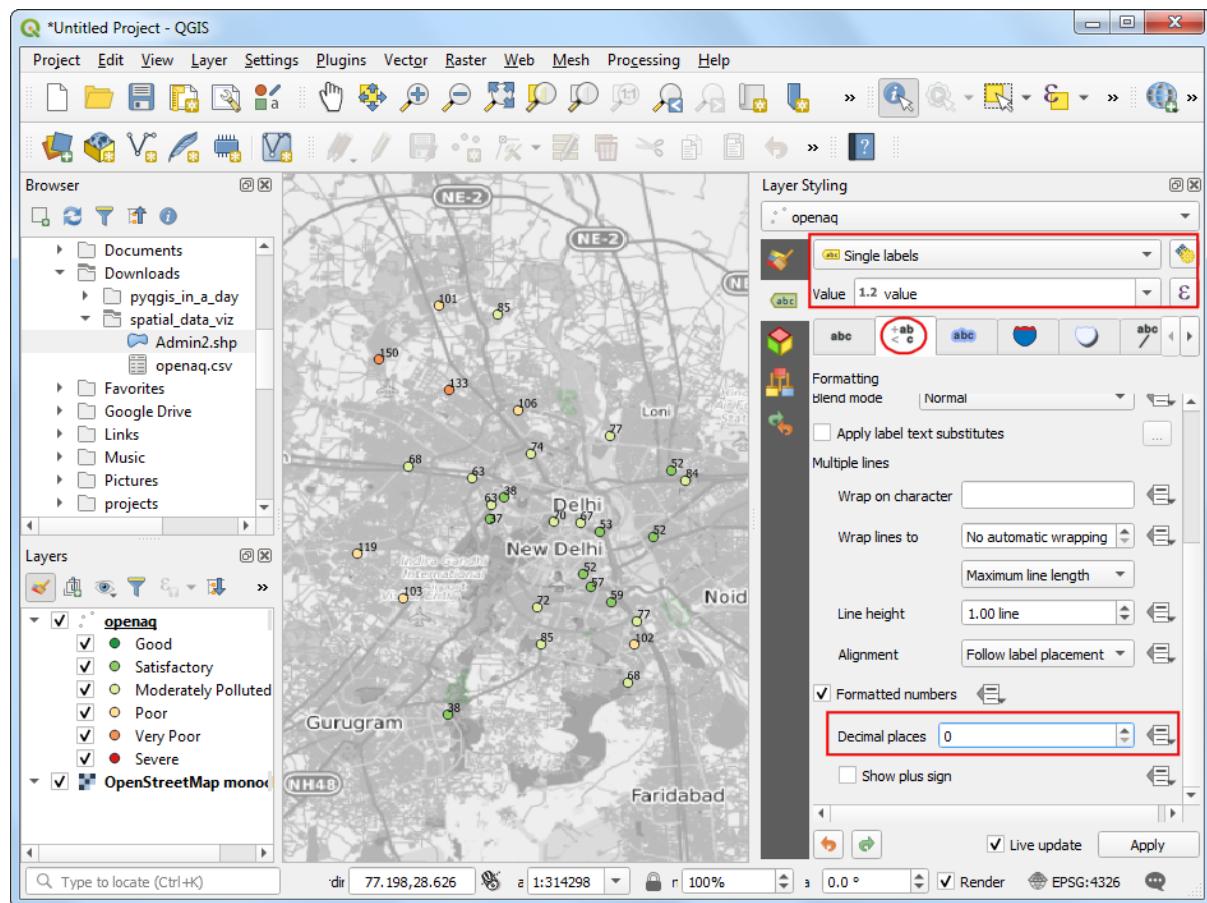


click the dropdown again and select *Invert Color Ramp*.

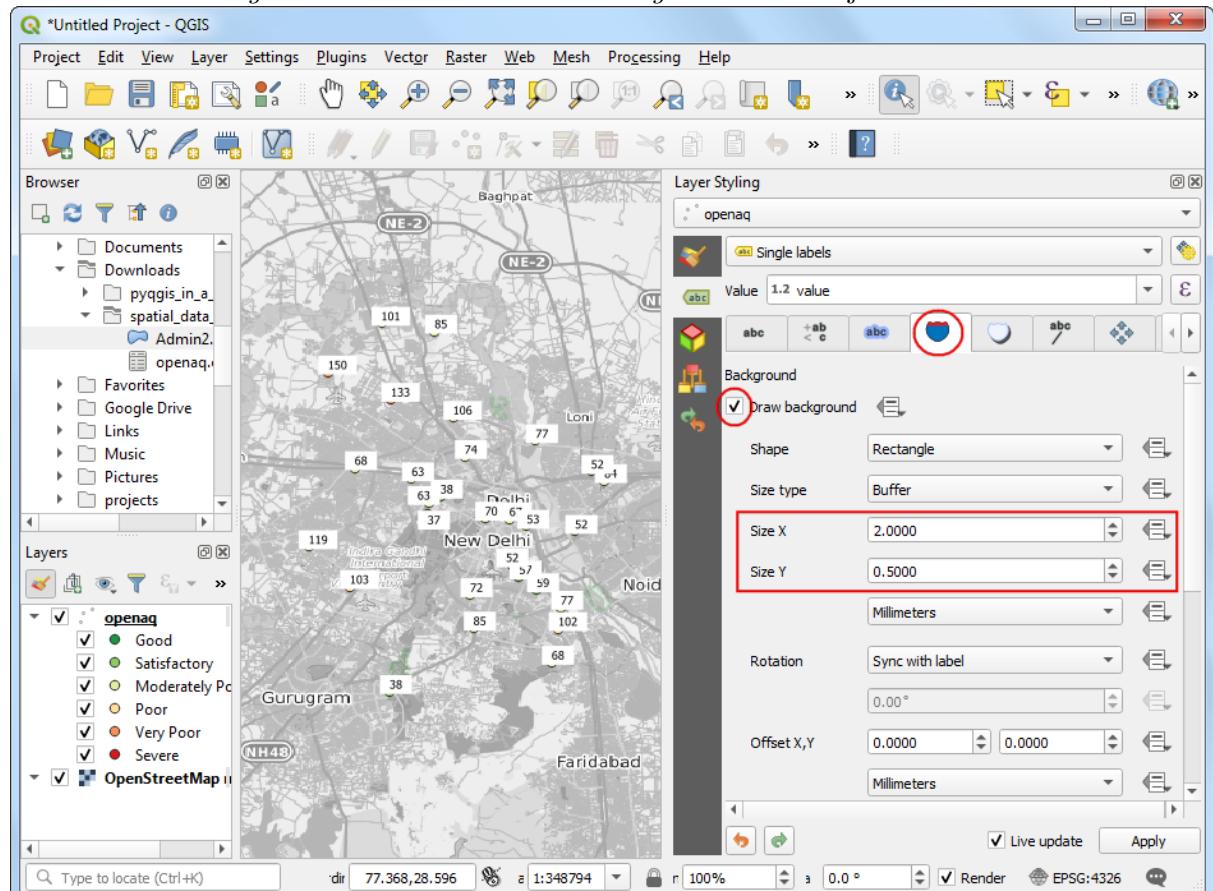


We will add labels to the points now. Switch to the *Labels* tab.

Choose **Single labels** and **value** as **Value**. Scroll down and check **Formatted numbers** and change the **Decimal places** to 0.

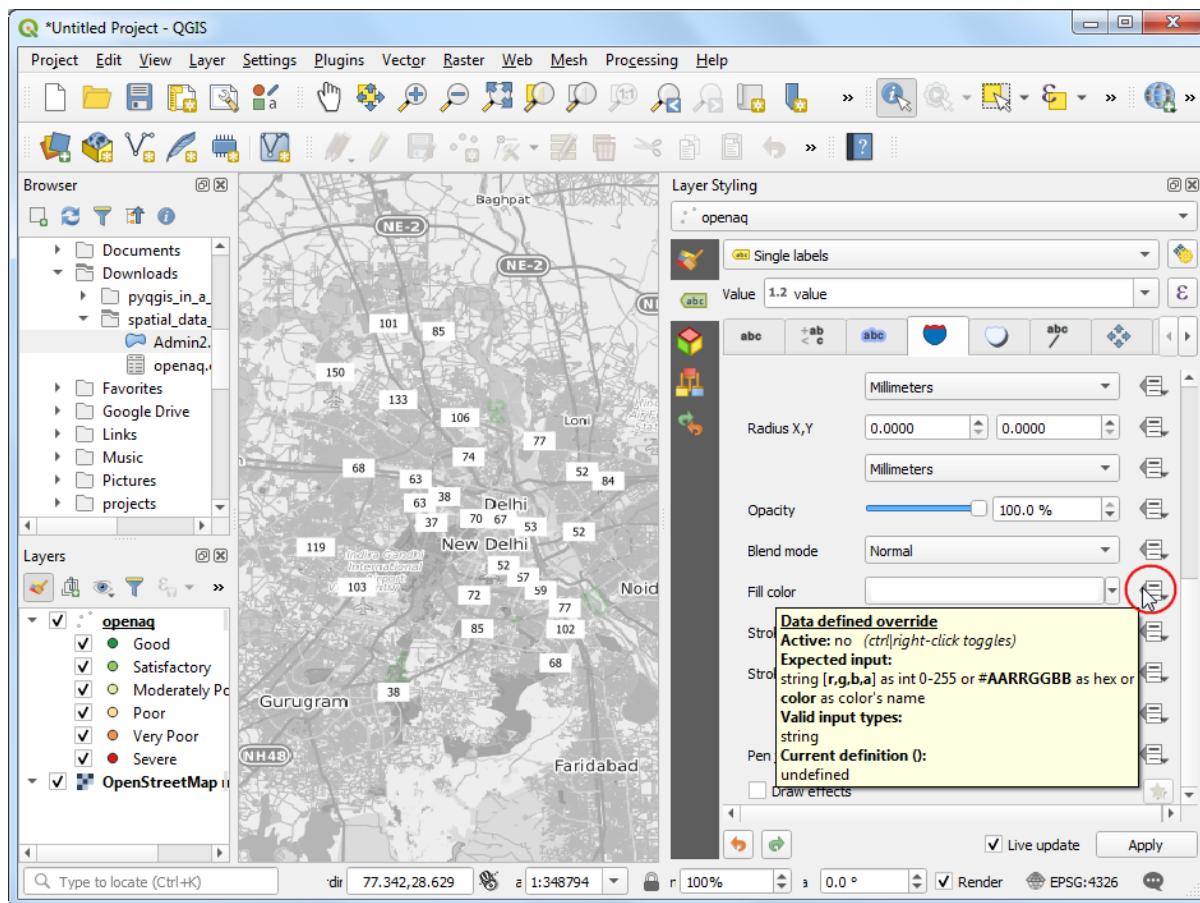


Next, switch to the *Background* tab. Check *Draw background* and adjust the *Size X* and

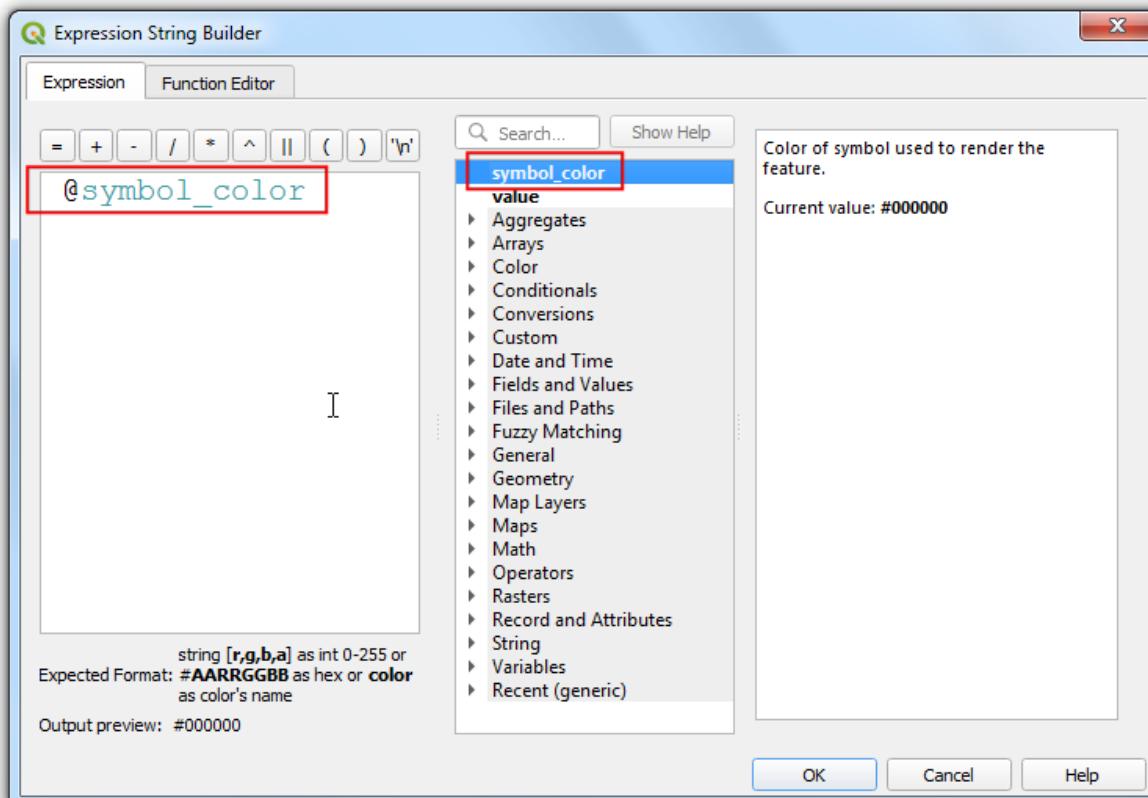


*Size Y.*

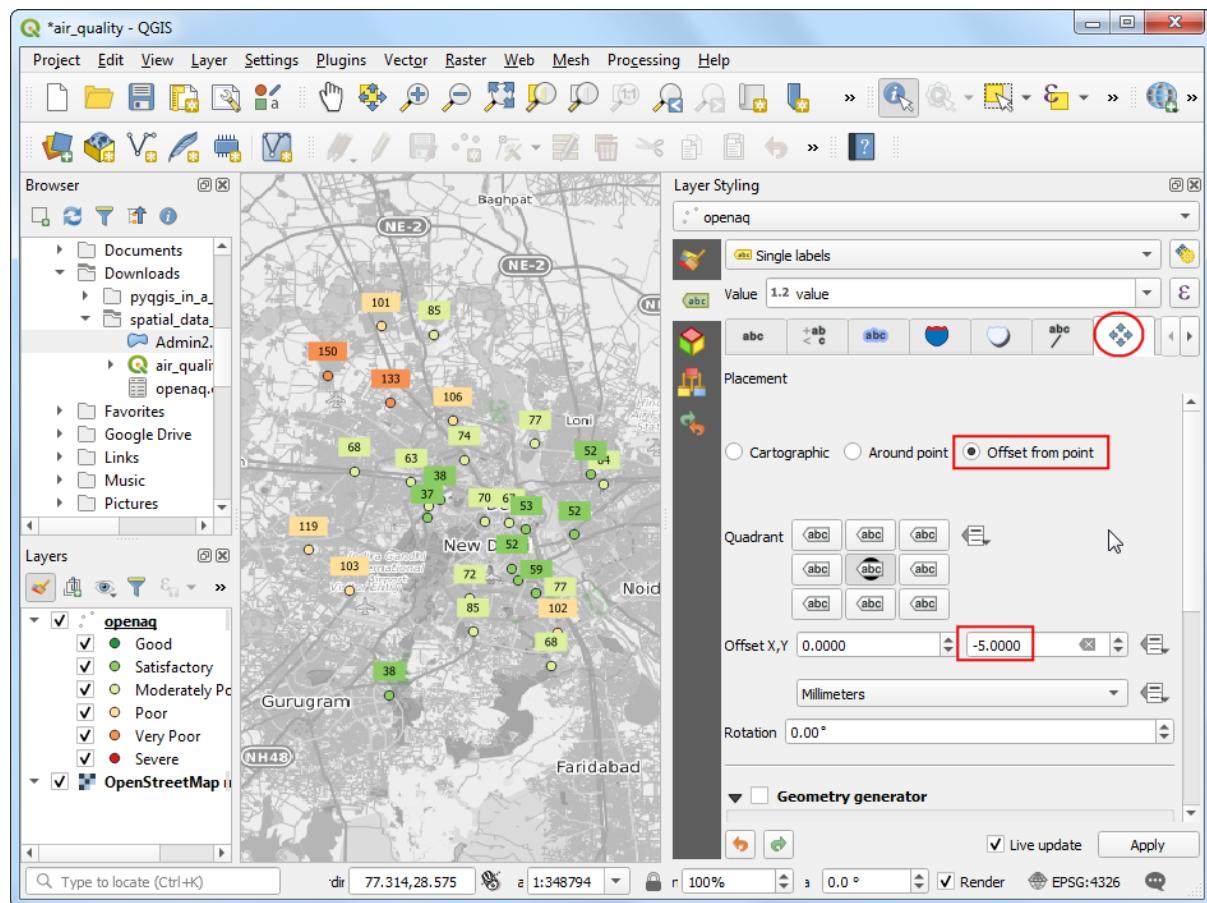
Scroll down to the *Fill color* section. We want the fill color for each box to match the color of the associated point. Click the *Data defined override* button and choose *Edit*.



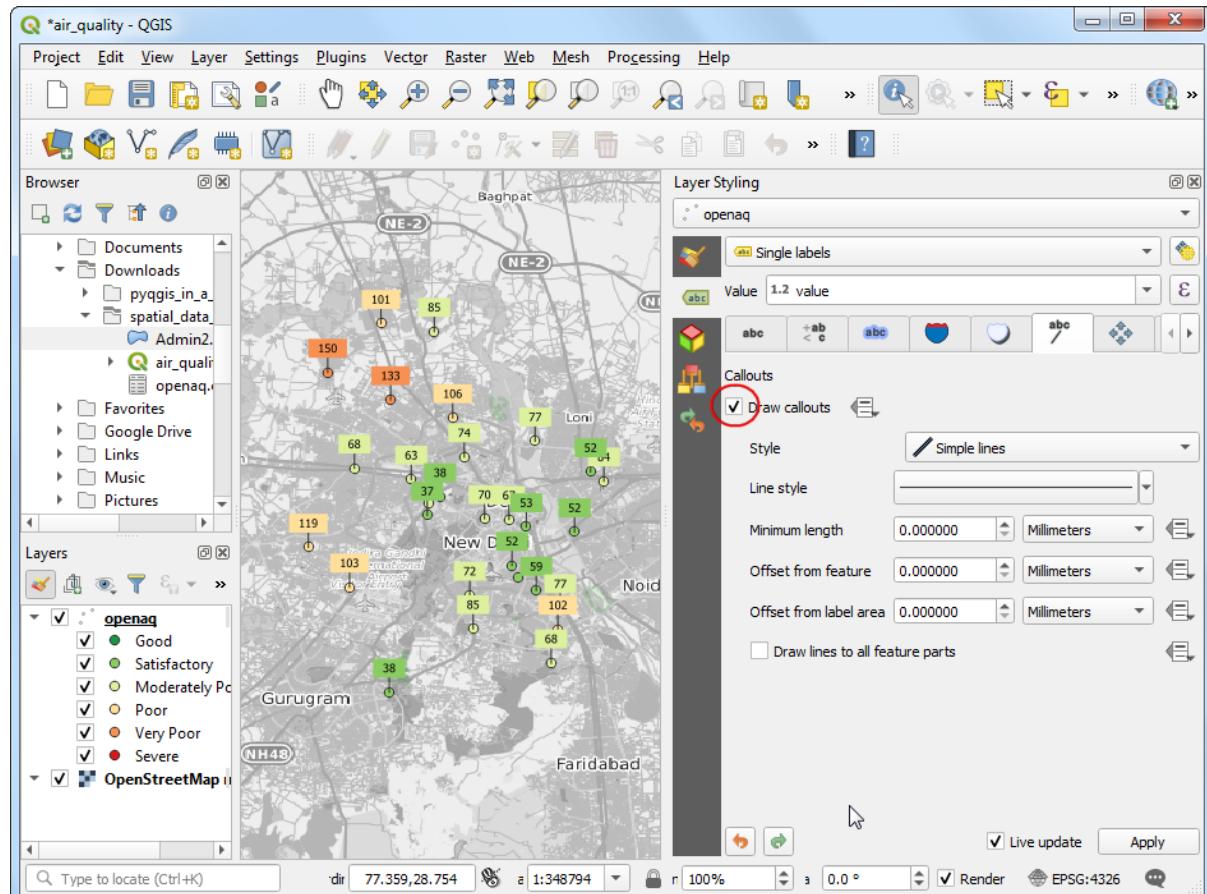
Double-click the `@symbol_color` variable to add it to the expression. Click OK.



You will see the map change and the label shields will have the color matching the category based on the values. We will move the labels slightly above so the points are also seen. Switch to the *Placement* tab and select *Offset from point*. Check the *Offset Y* to *-5*.

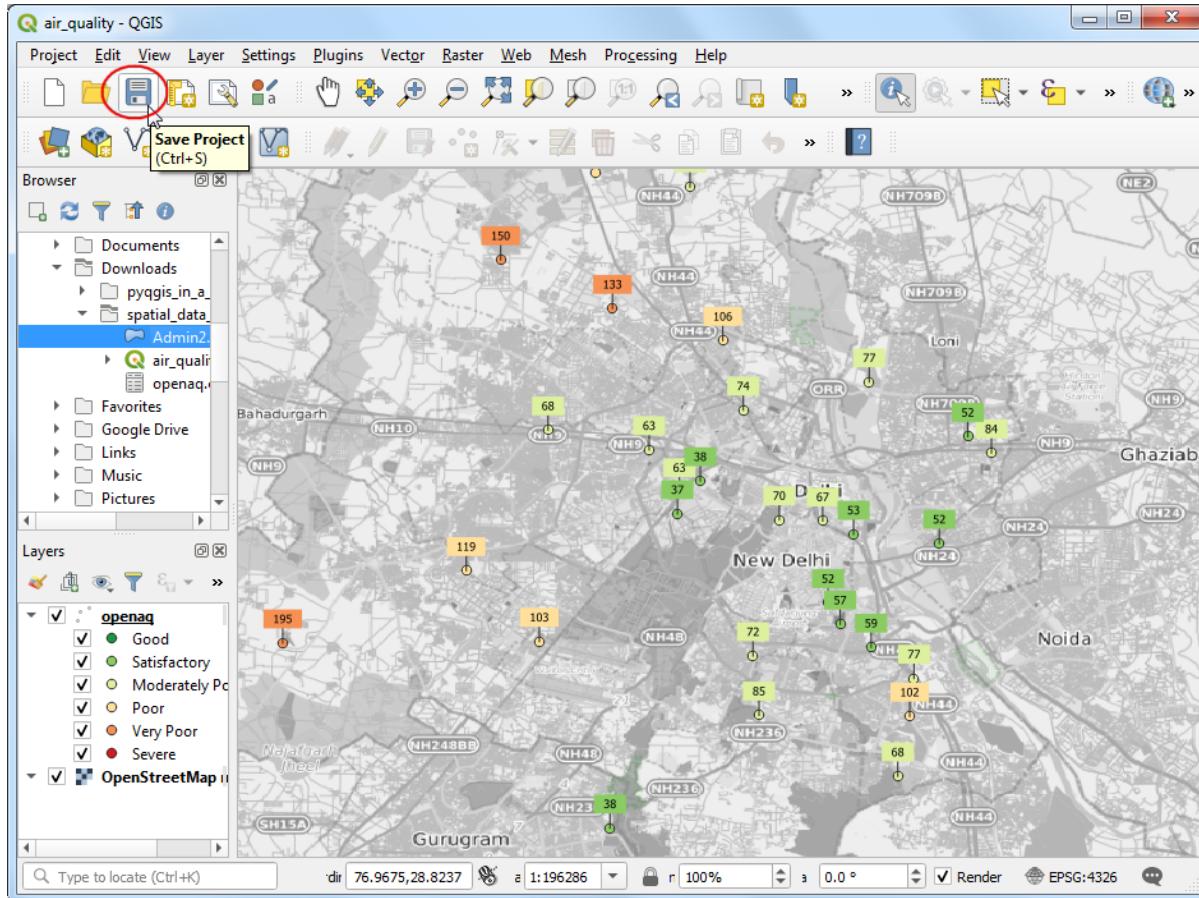


Lastly, go to the *Callouts* tab and check *Draw callouts* to make it easy to see which labels belong to which point.

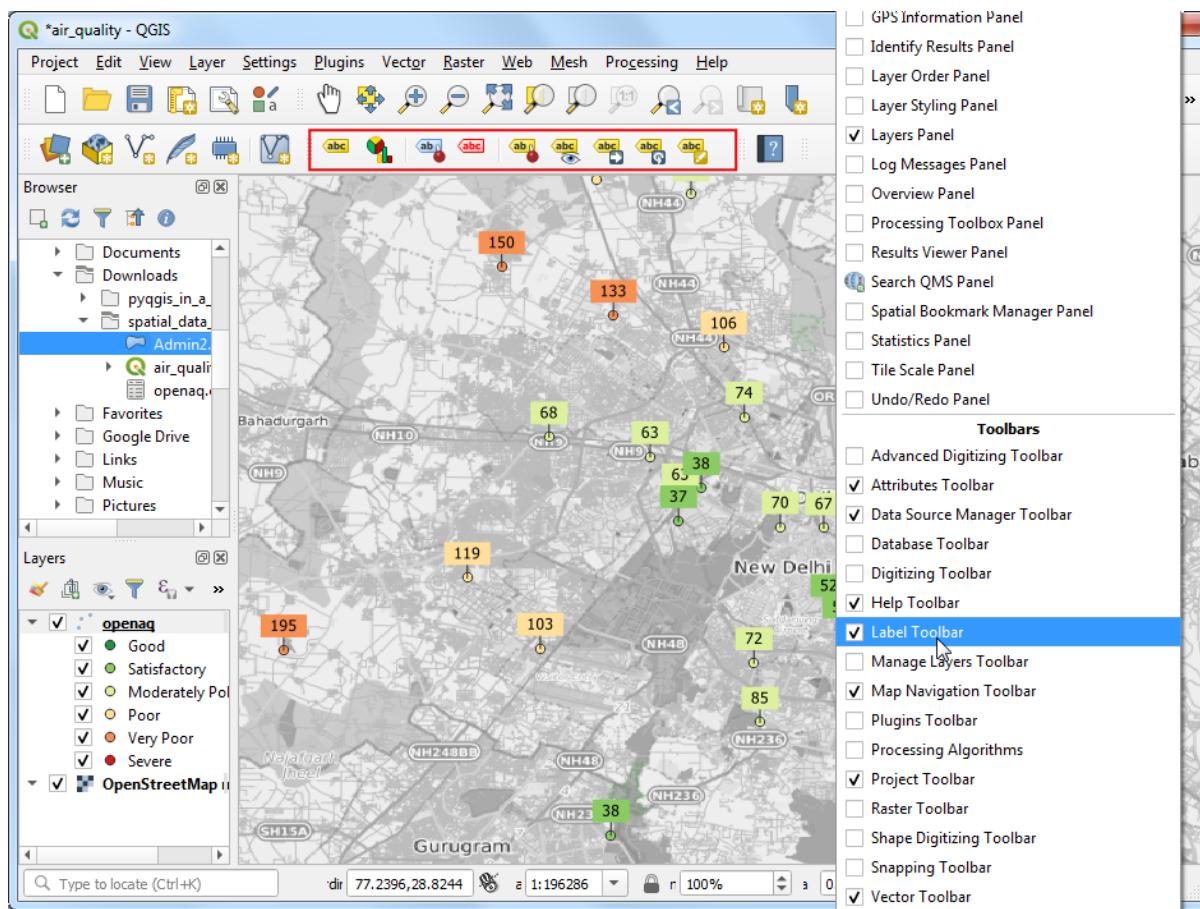


It is a good idea to save our work. Click the *Save Project* button and save it as

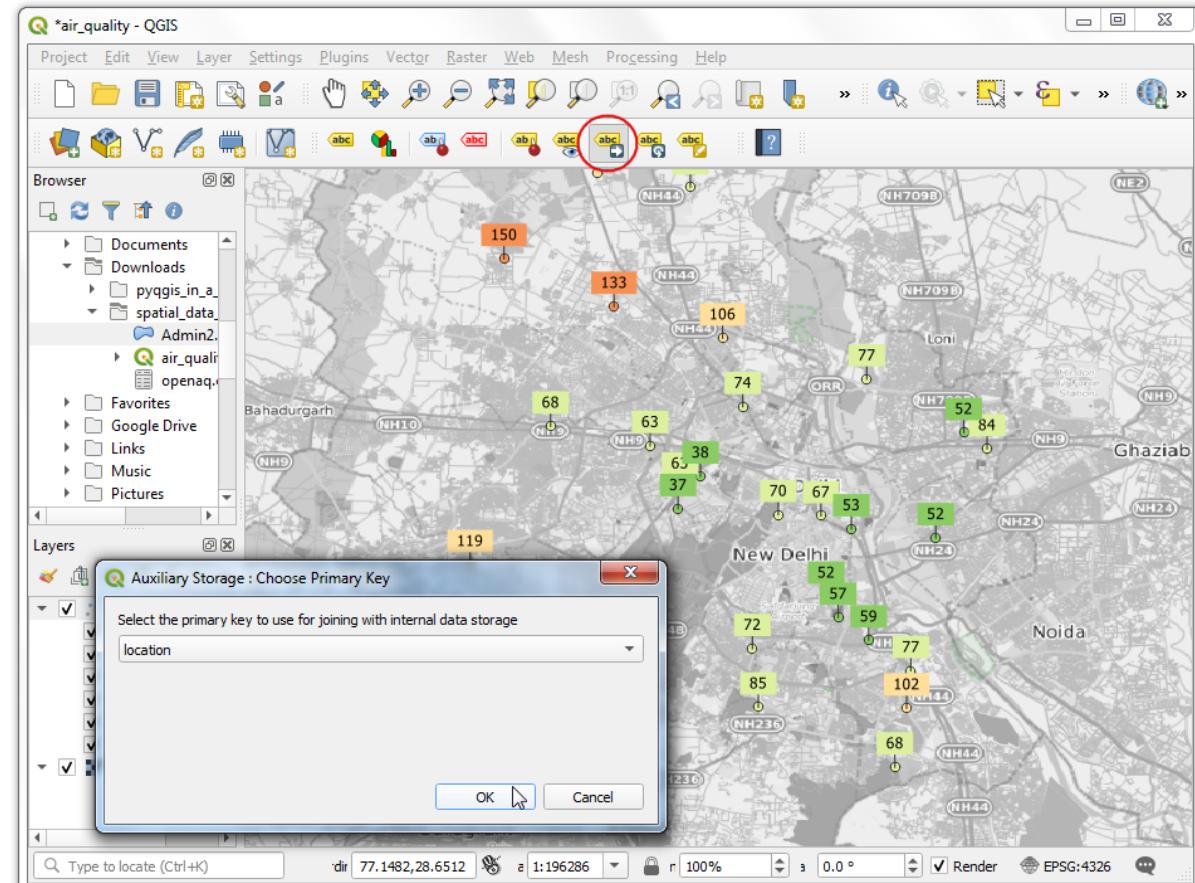
air\_quality.qgz.



You can see most of the labels are legible, but some are too close and feel a bit cluttered. We can fix them by manually adjusting the placement. Right-click anywhere on the toolbar area and enable the *Label Toolbar*.

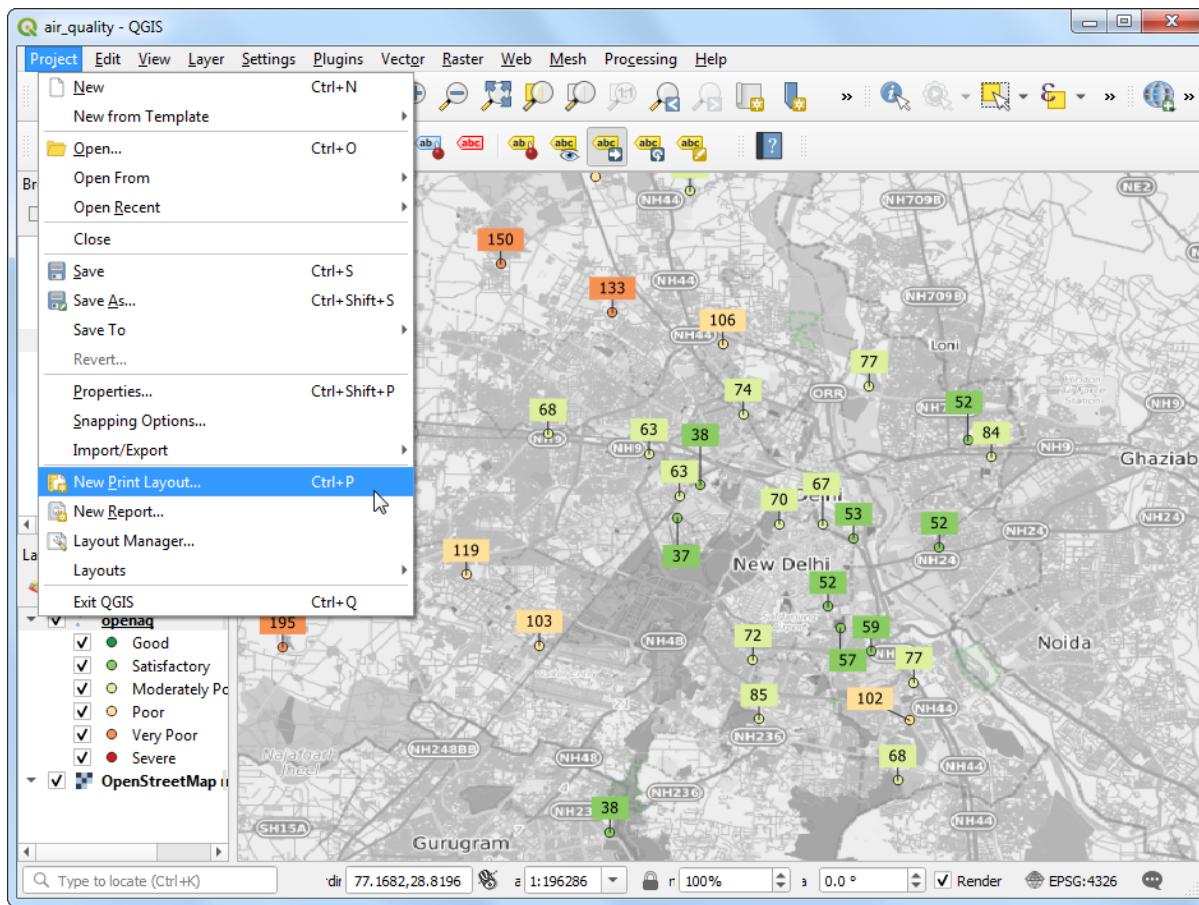


Click the *Move a Label* button. Click *OK* on the *Auxiliary Storage* prompt.

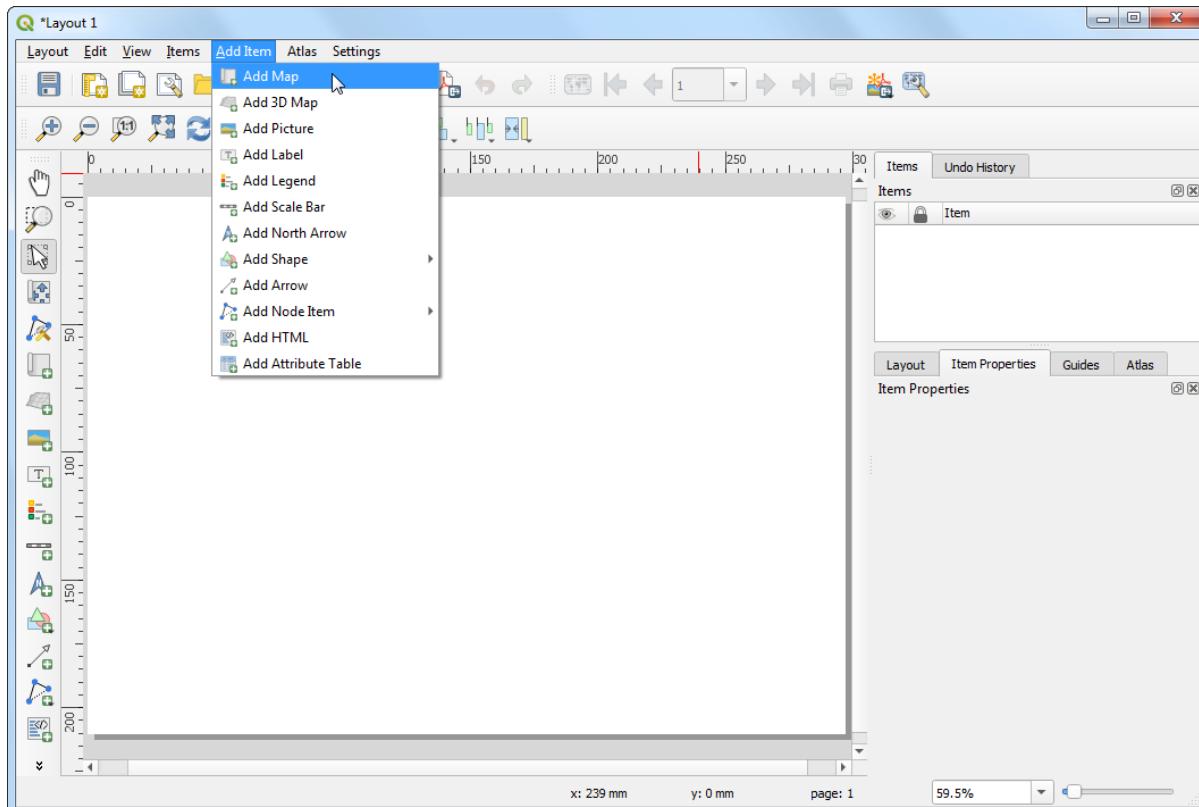


With the *Move a Label* button active, click on a any label to select it. Click at the place you want to move it to, and it will be placed there. Once you are satisfied, save the

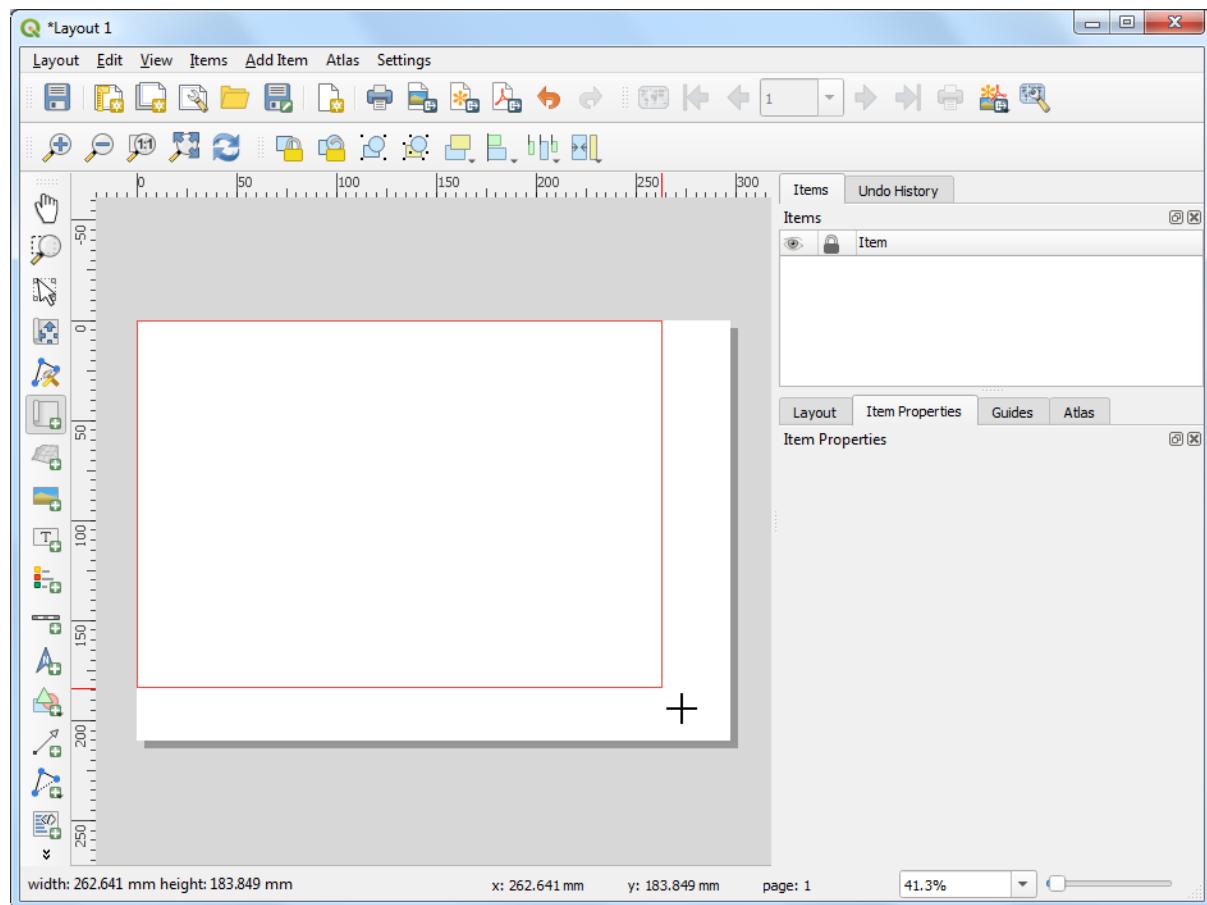
project. It is time to export our map. Go to **Project → New Print Layout....**. Leave the name empty and click *OK*.



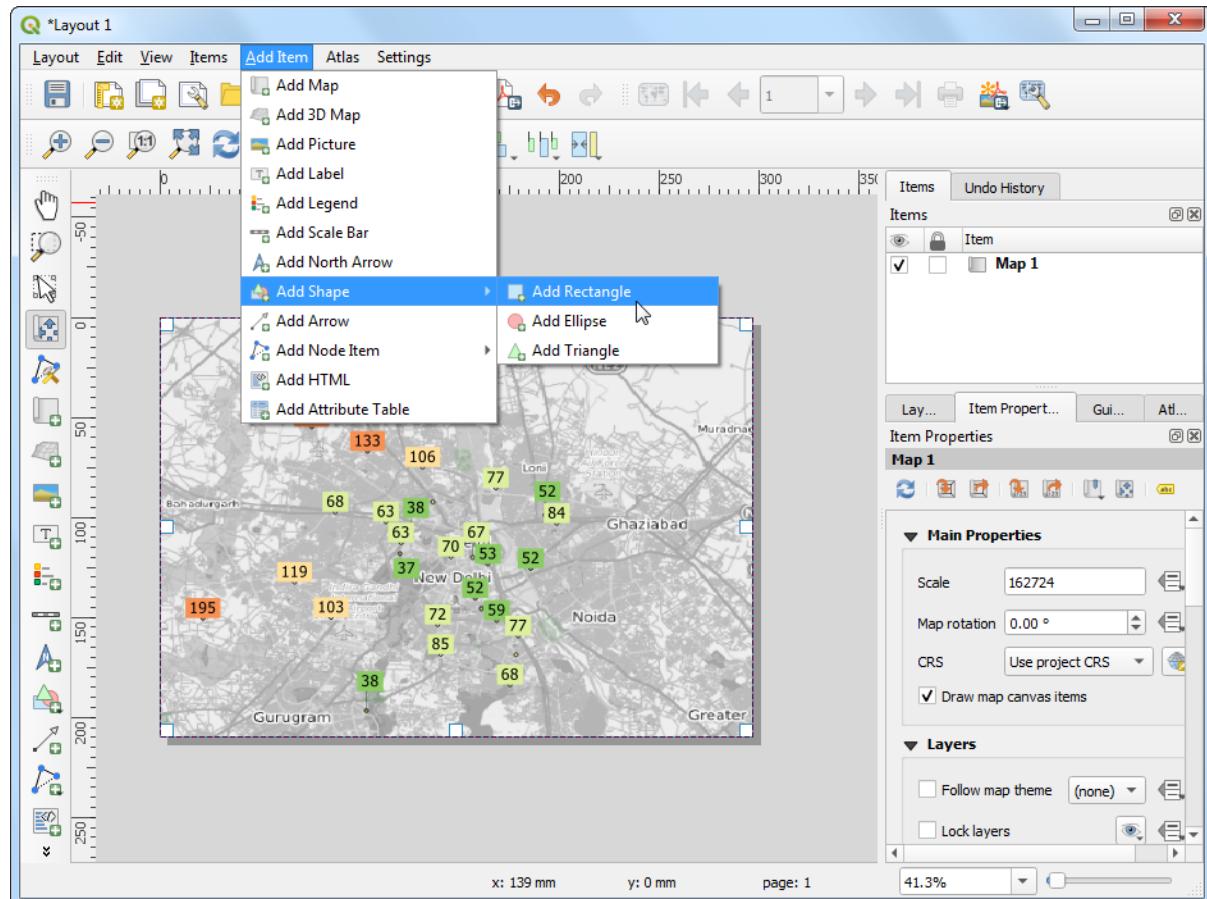
Print Layouts are a way to compose a static map with various elements such as labels, legends, north arrow, scale bar etc. Go to **Add Item → Add Map**.



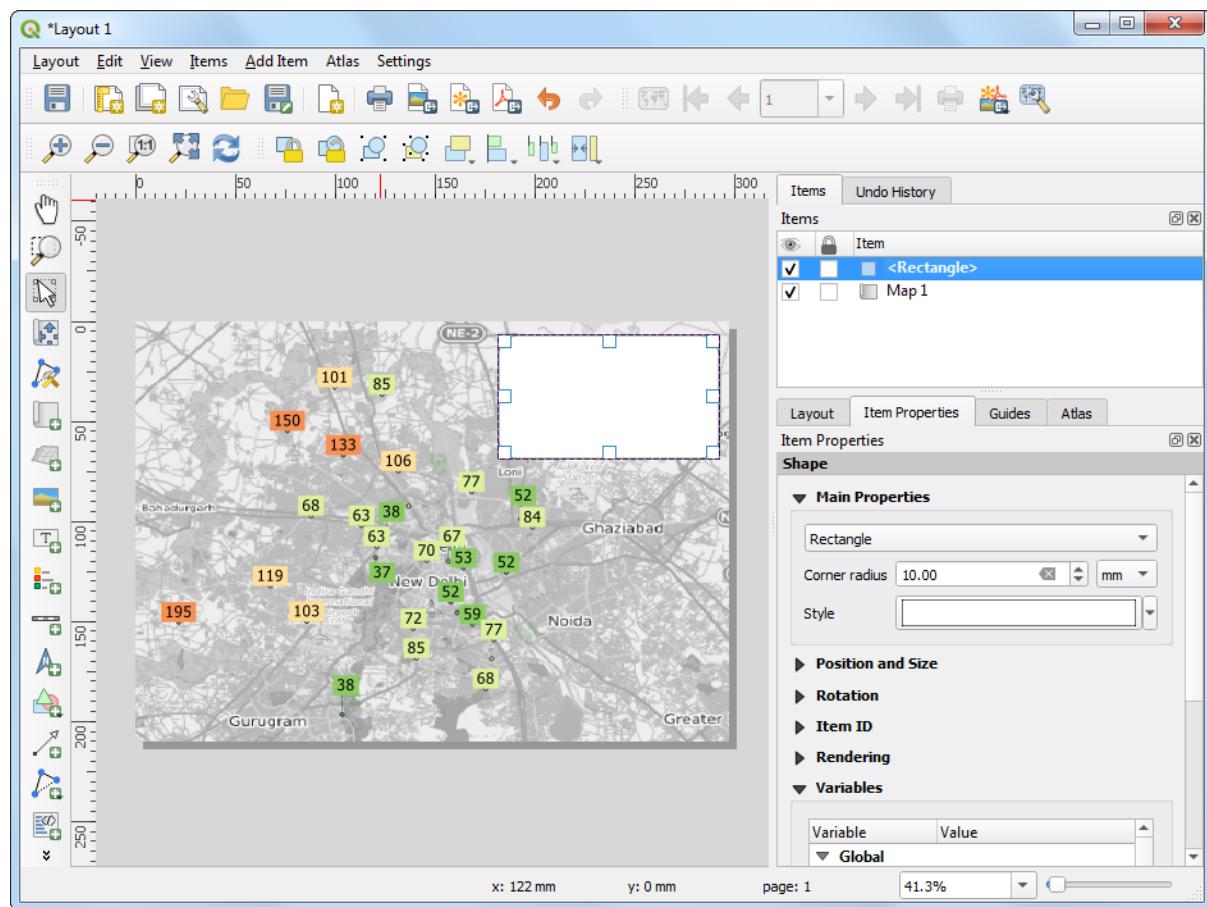
Drag a rectangle where you want the map to be rendered. Once you let go of your mouse button, the map from the main canvas will be loaded in the region.



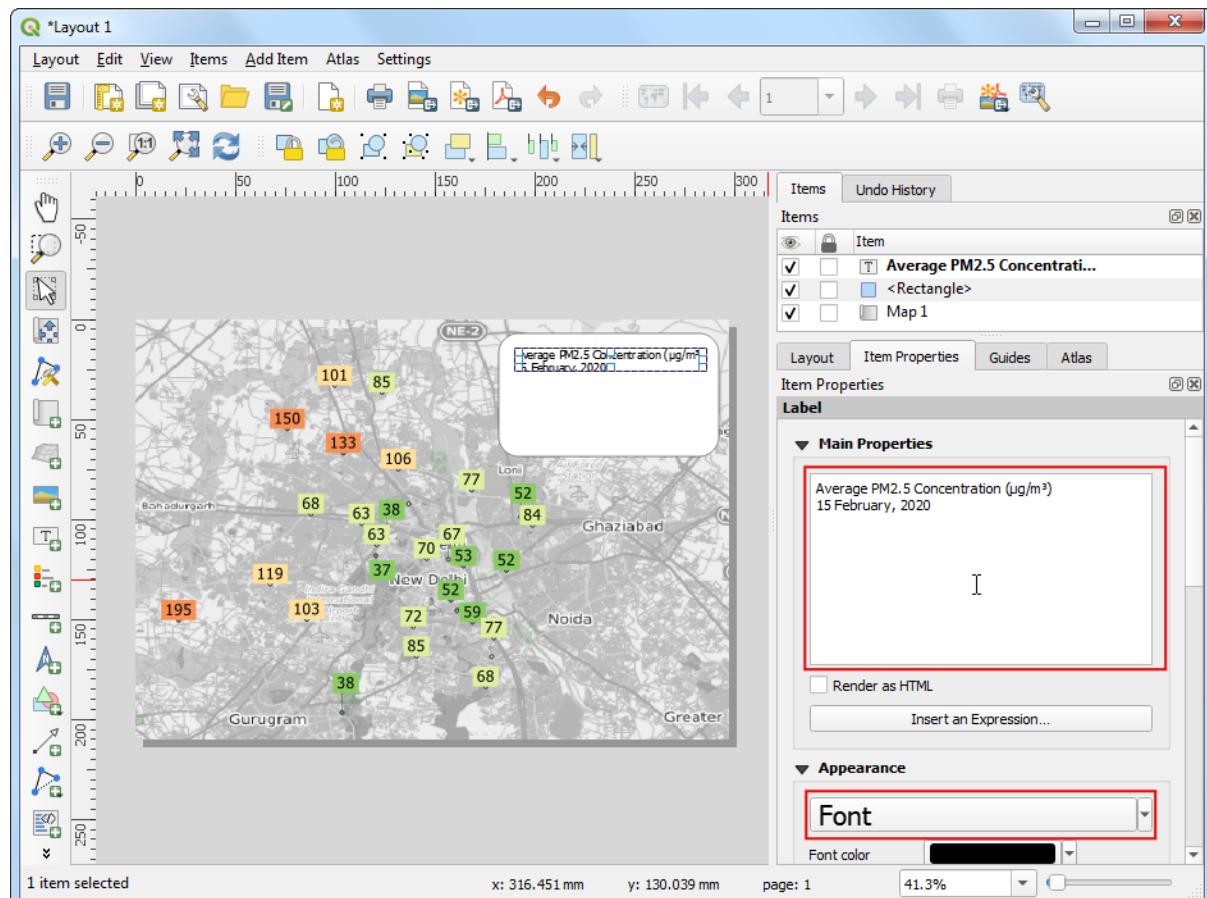
Next, we will add a *Rectangle* which will hold the tile, legend and attribution.



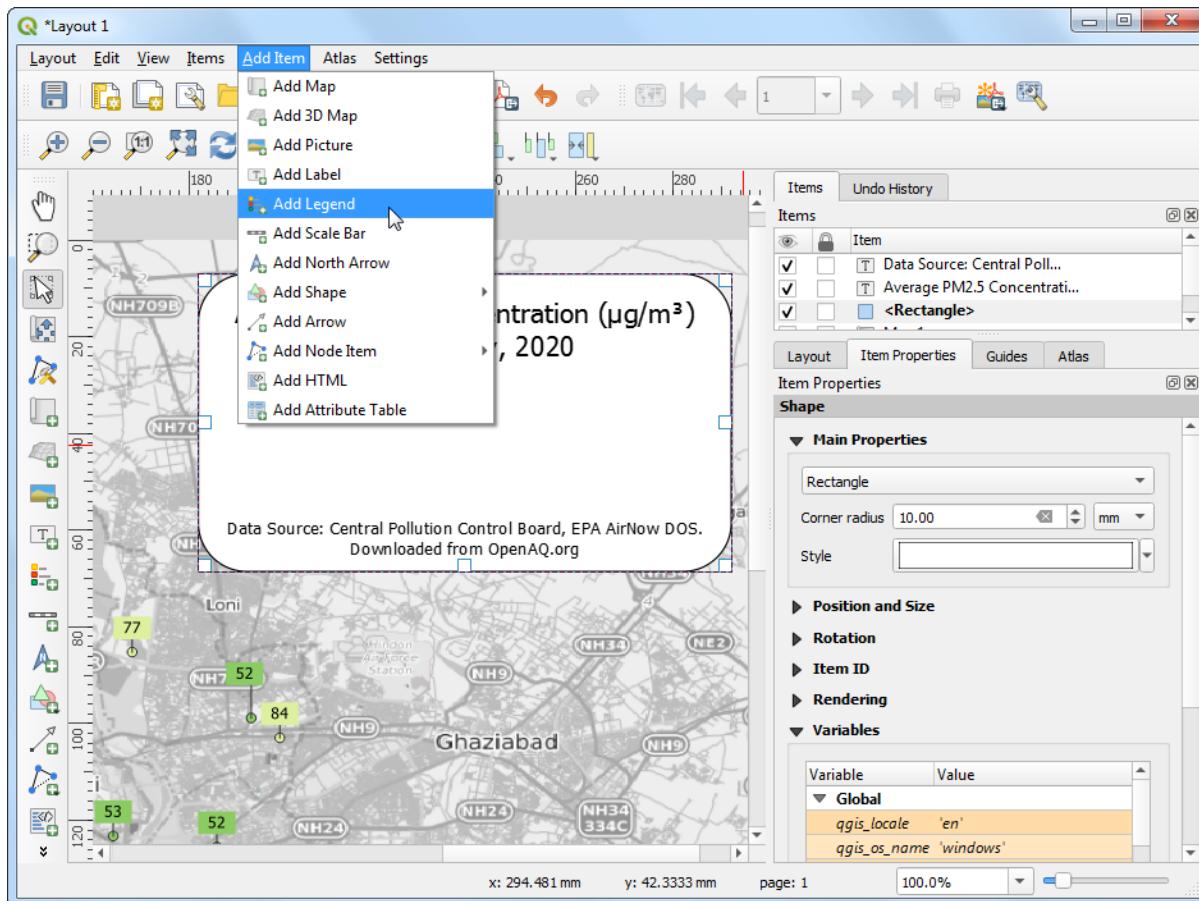
Place the rectangle on the top-right hand corner and change the *Corner radius* to 10.



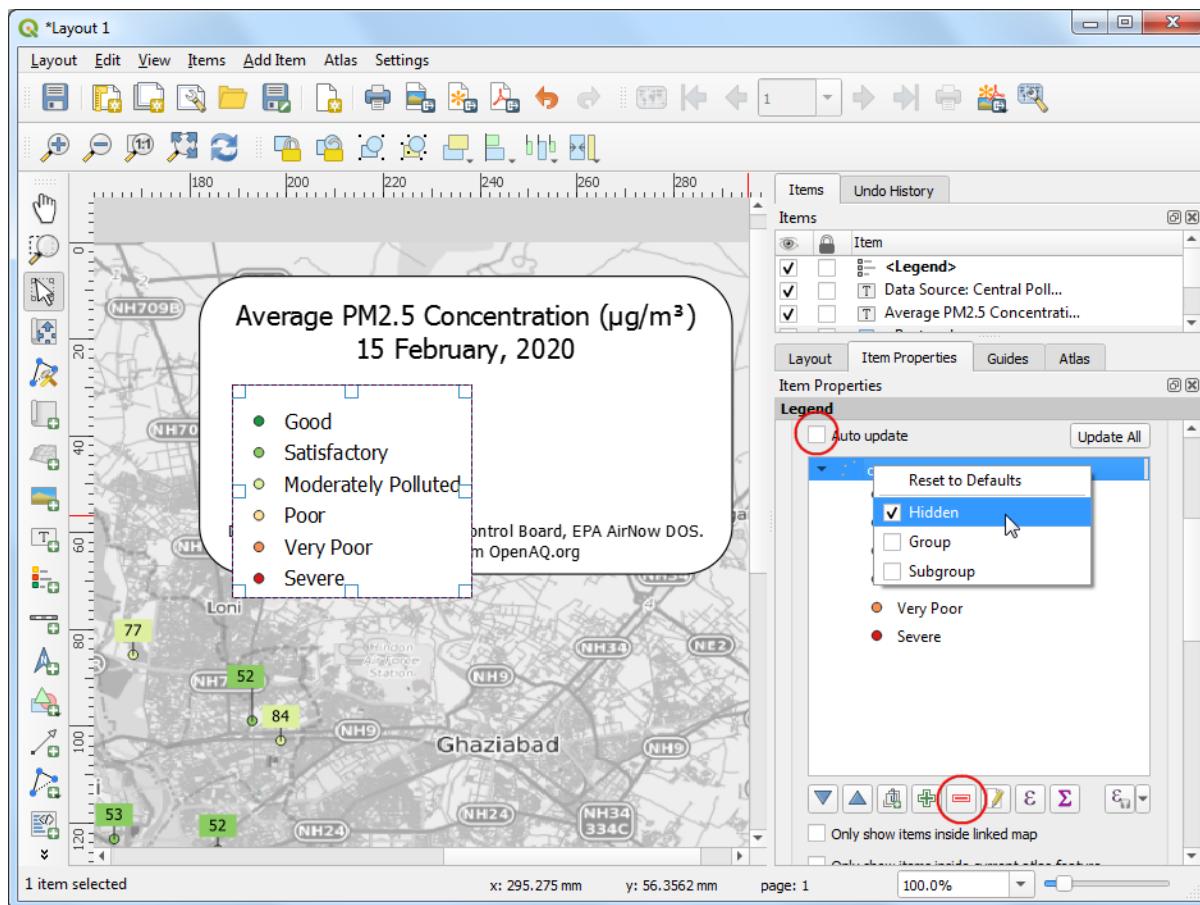
Next, add a *Label* with the title Average PM2.5 Concentration ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) and date 15 Bebruary, 2020.



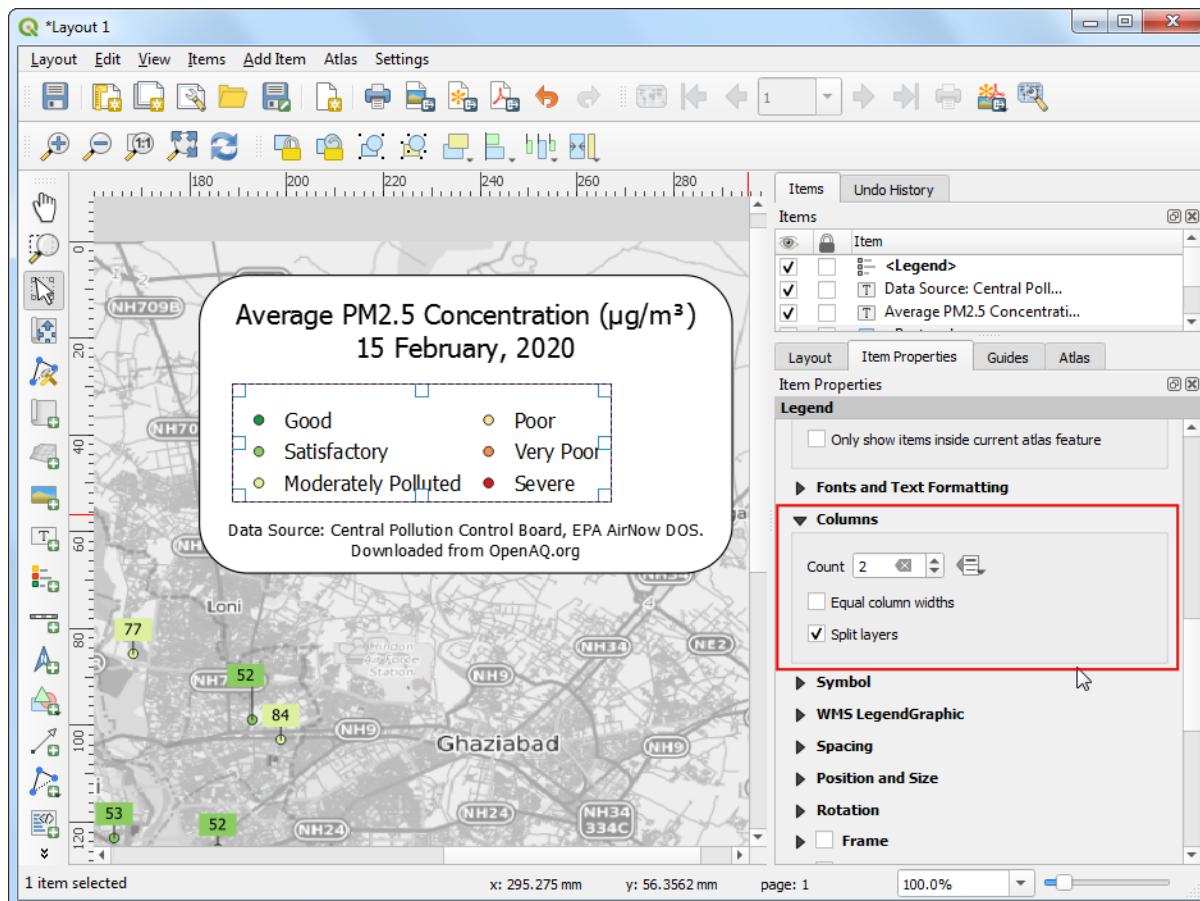
Add another *Label* with the attribution text Data Source: Central Pollution Control Board, EPA AirNow DOS. Downloaded from OpenAQ.org. Now we will add a legend, so our users know how to interpret various colors on the map. Go to Add Item → Add Legend



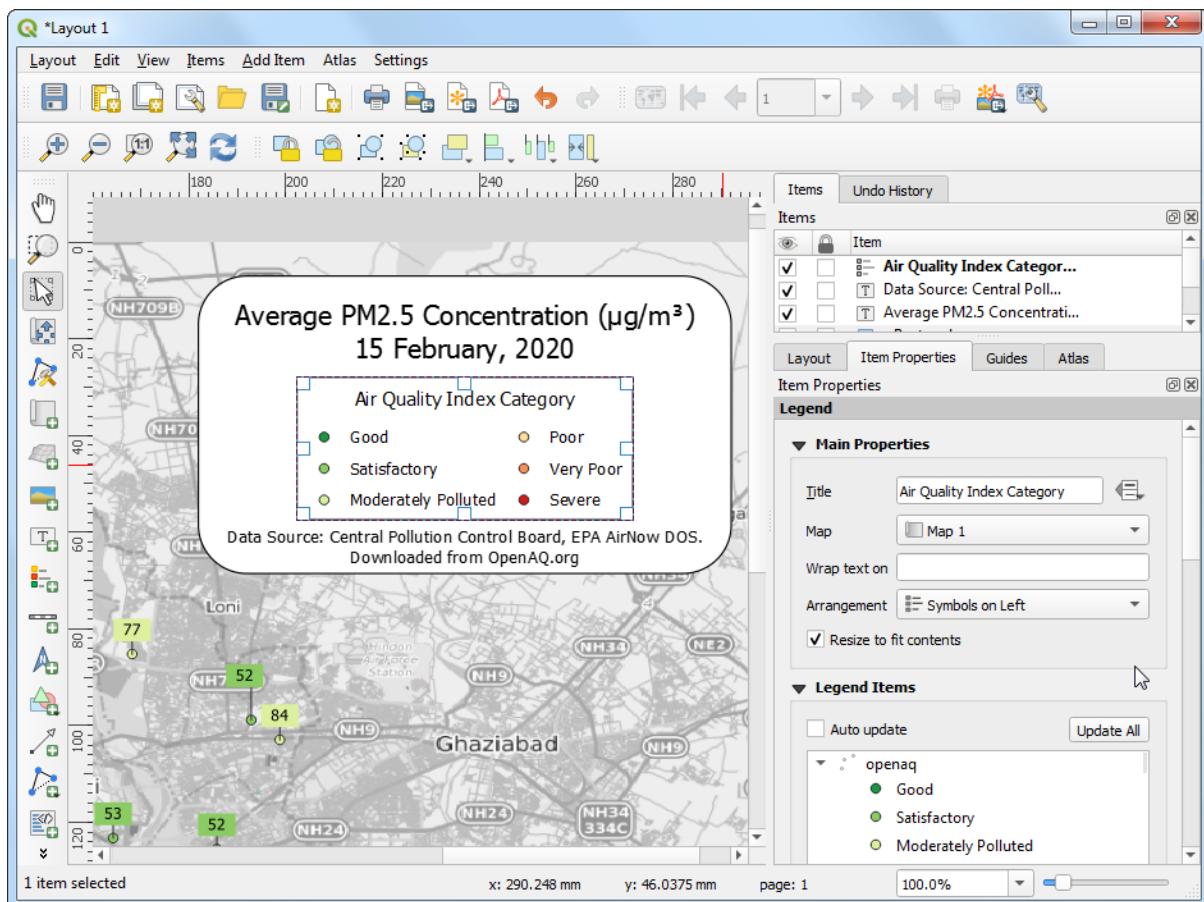
Drag a box to insert the legend. Go to the *Item Properties* tab and turn-off *Auto update*. Remove the OpenStreetMap monochrome layer and set the openaq group label to *Hidden*.



The default legend placement is vertical - in a single column. We can change it to be in multiple columns to make it span horizontal. Scroll down to the *Columns* section and change the *Count* to 2 and check *Split layers*.



In the *Main Properties* section, enter a *Title* for the legend as Air Quality Index Category.



Once you are satisfied with the map, we can export the map. You can export the composition as an **Image** if you wanted to use it in a website, email, slideshow etc. You can also export it to as an **SVG** so it can be further edited in a graphics program such as InkScape. But the most common format for maps is still a **PDF**.

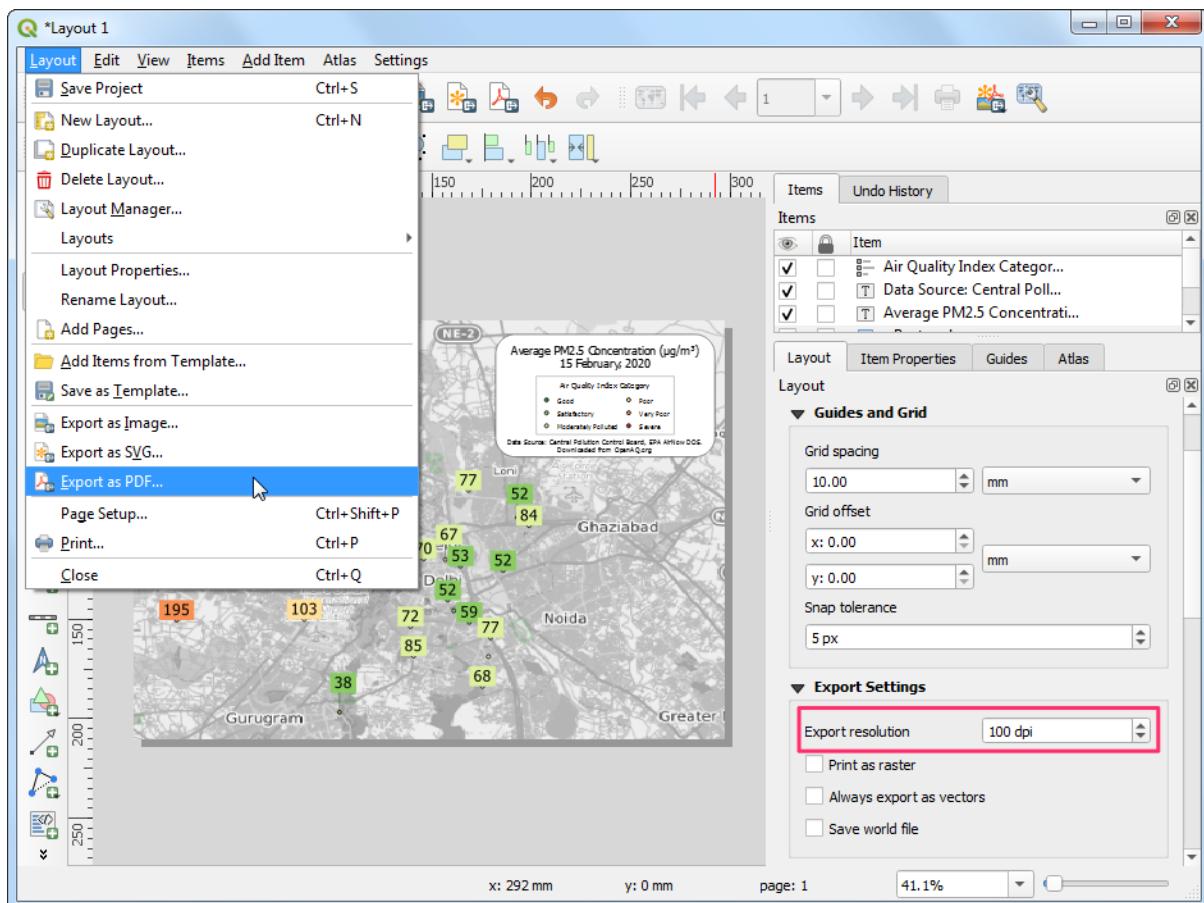
**Atanas Entchev**  
@atanas

Replies to @awoodruff

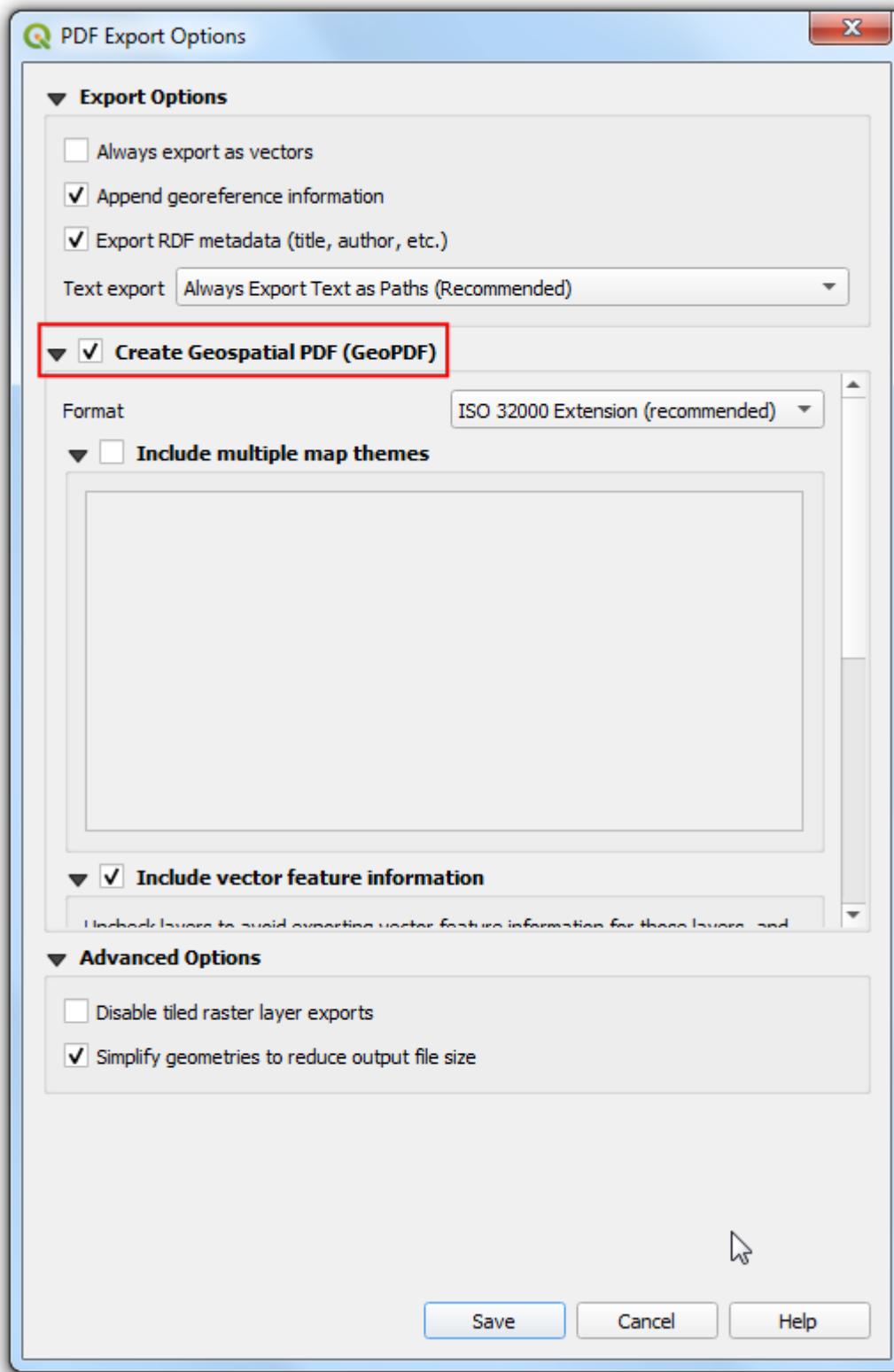
**80% of GIS is converting SHP to PDF, no matter what ppl on this here platform say.**

8:18 PM · Oct 9, 2019 · Twitter Web App

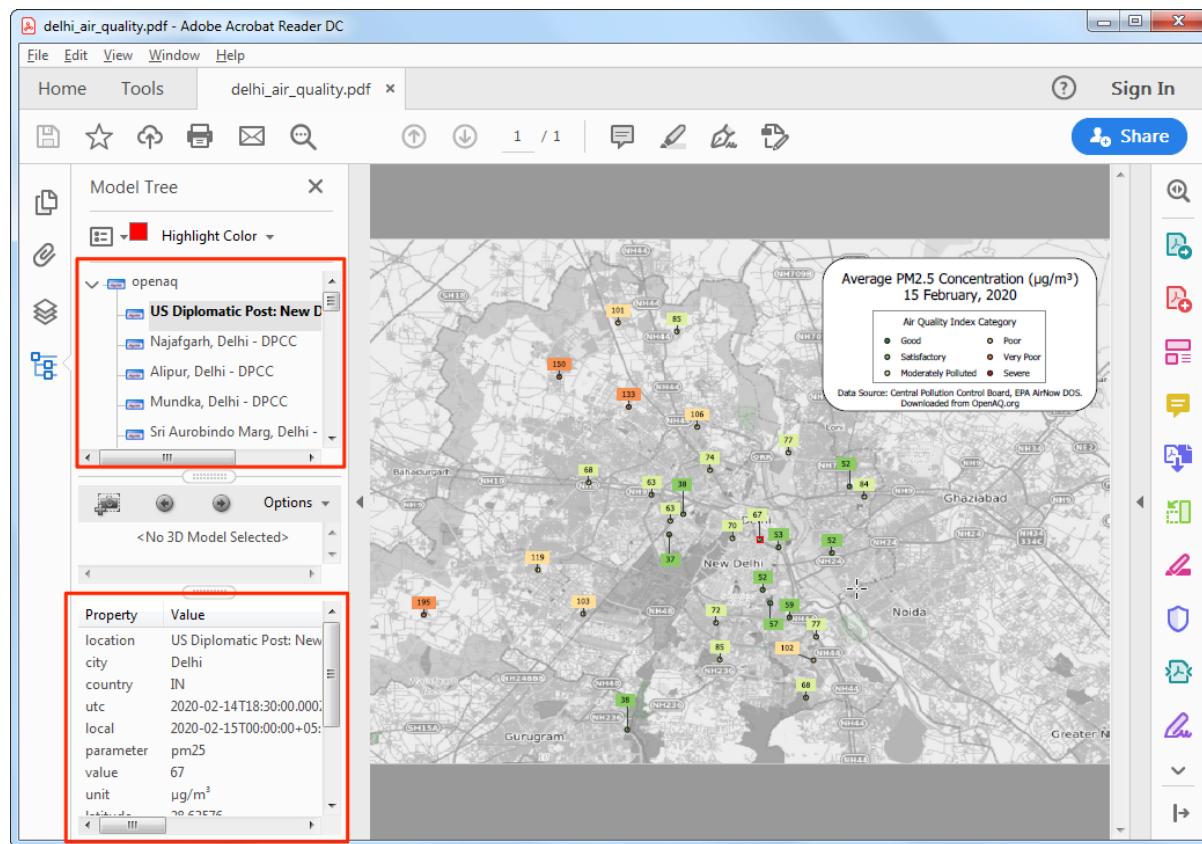
So let's export our map to a PDF. Before exporting, switch to the *Layout* tab and set the *Export resolution* to 100 dpi. Go to **Layout → Export as PDF**.



In the *PDF Export Options*, you can check *Create Geospatial PDF (GeoPDF)*. GeoPDF is an enhanced PDF format that is spatially aware and preserves layer and attribute information. Click *Save* and save the output as `delhi_air_quality.pdf`.



If you open the resulting PDF in a compatible reader such as Adobe Acrobat, you can toggle layer visibility, query attributes by features, measure distances and so on.



## Lines

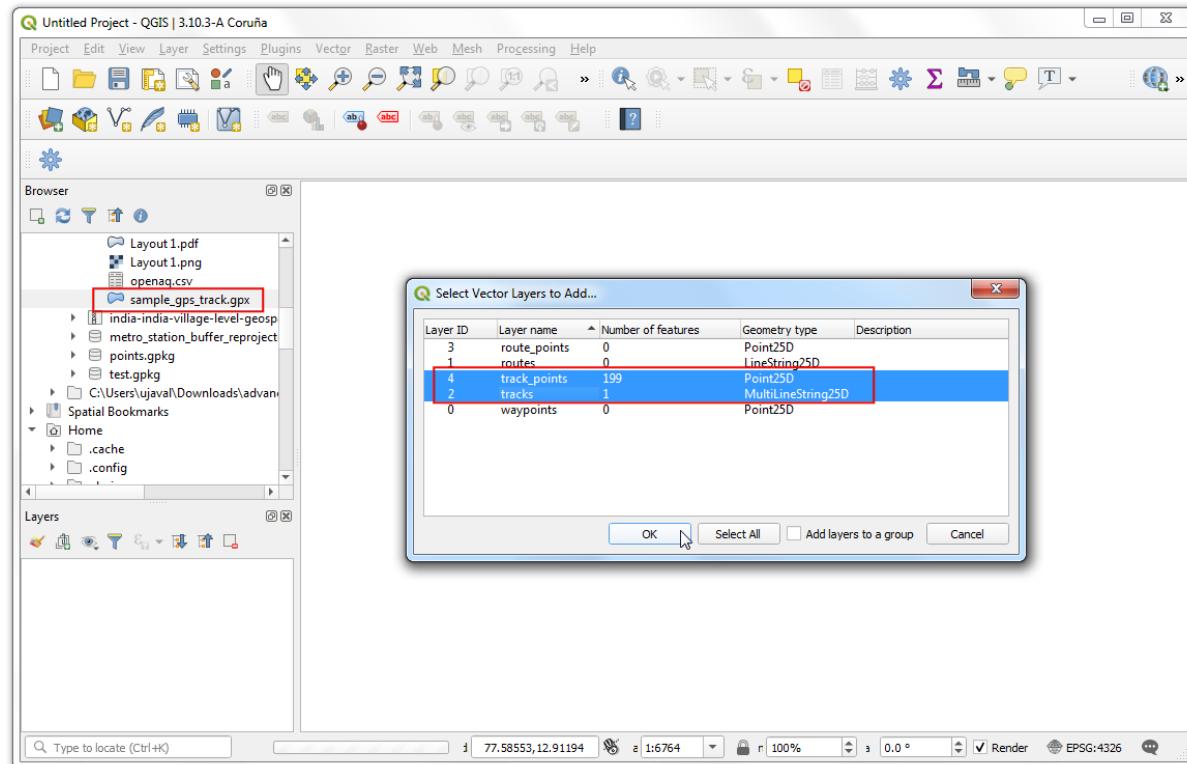
Many of our transportation infrastructure such as roads, bridges, railways etc. as well as natural features such as rivers, streams etc. can be modeled as lines. Other abstract concepts, such as contours and trajectories are also modeled using linear features. Shapefiles, GeoJSON, GPX are commonly used file formats for storing line datasets.

### Exercise: Visualize GPS Tracks

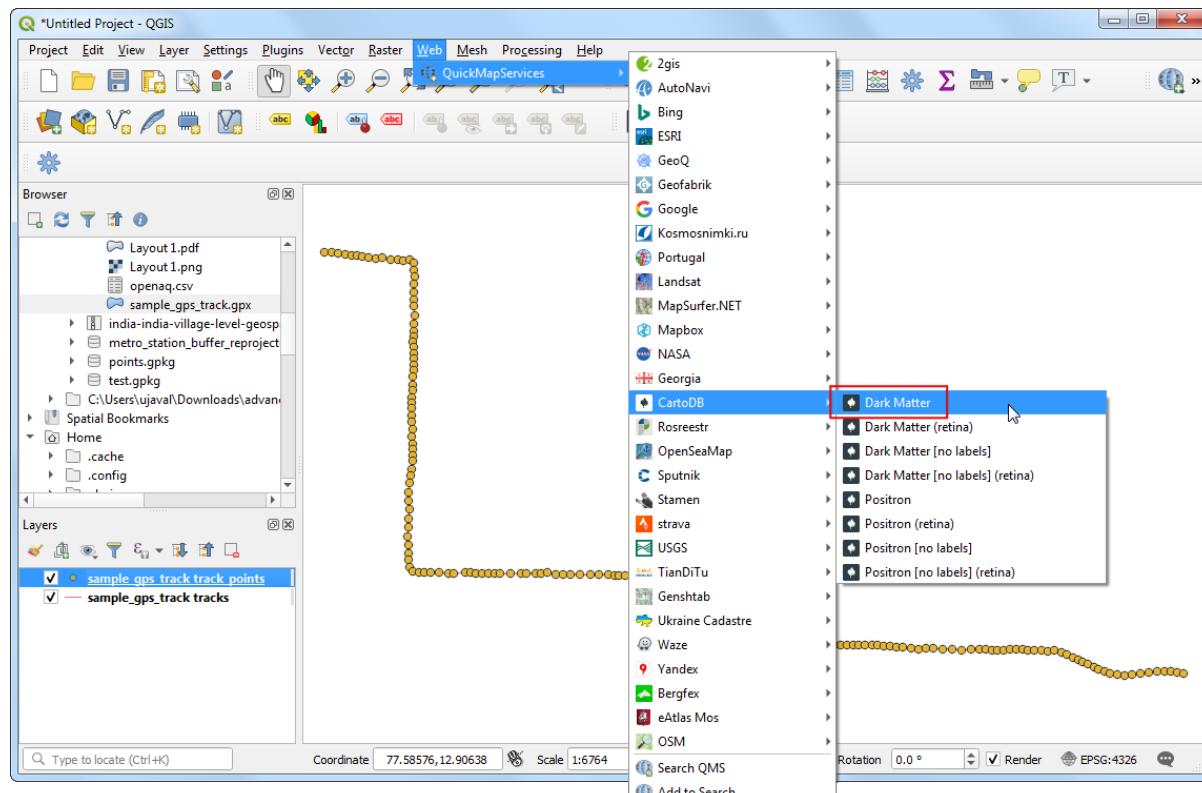
GPS tracks have become ubiquitous in modern life. With GPS built-into most phones, many of us capture the tracks while running or biking outdoors. Cab companies use GPS tracks collected during the trip to determine fares. Delivery and logistics companies store and analyze millions of GPS tracks from their assets to derive location intelligence.

We will use a GPS track I collected using the open-source GPS Logger app while cycling to work. The default format for storing GPS tracks is GPS Exchange Format (GPX). It is a XML-based text format that allows storing points, tracks and routes in a single file. We will use the data in `sample_gps_track.gpx` file and create an animated GIF showing the trip.

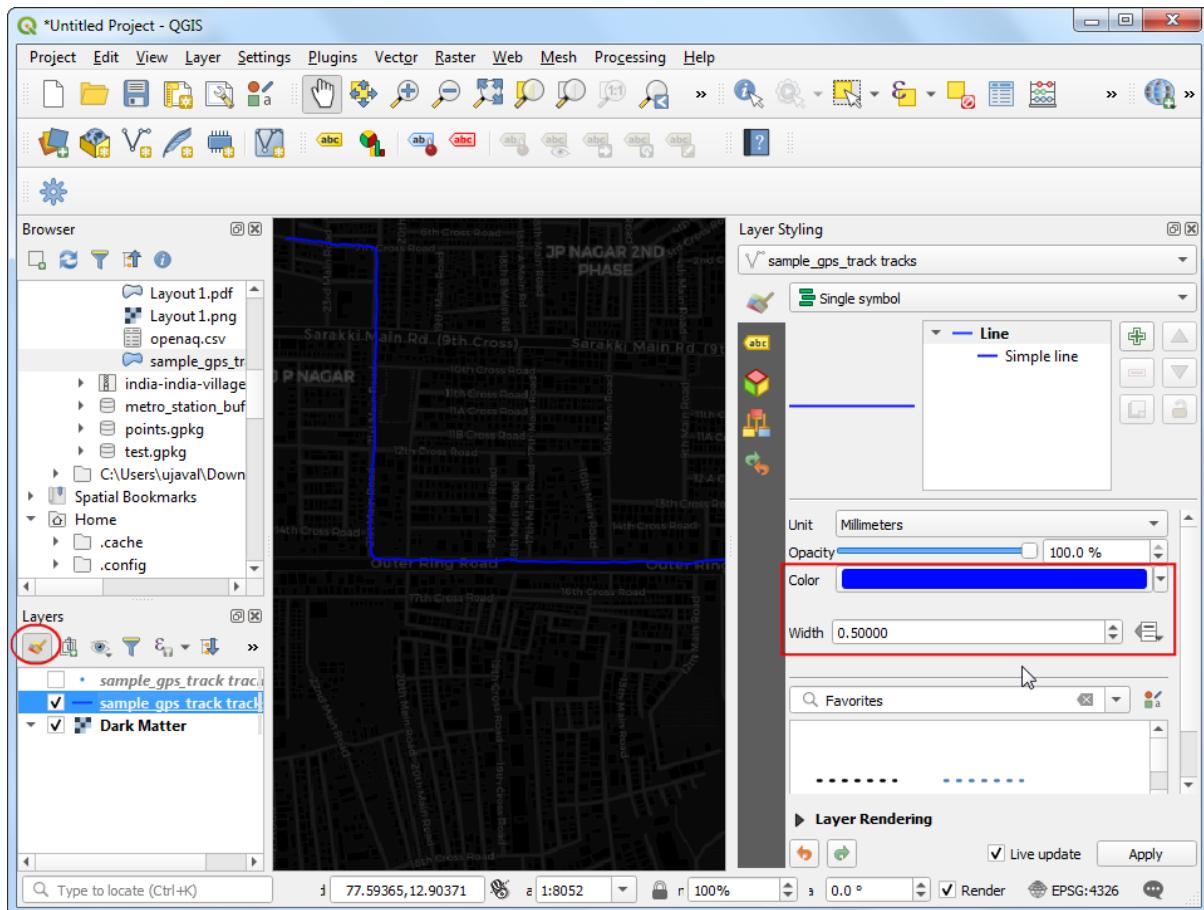
1. Locate the `sample_gps_track.gpx` file and drag it to the canvas. As the file contains multiple data types, a pop-up will ask us to select the layers to add. Hold the *Shift* key and select both `track_points` and `tracks` layers. Click *OK*.



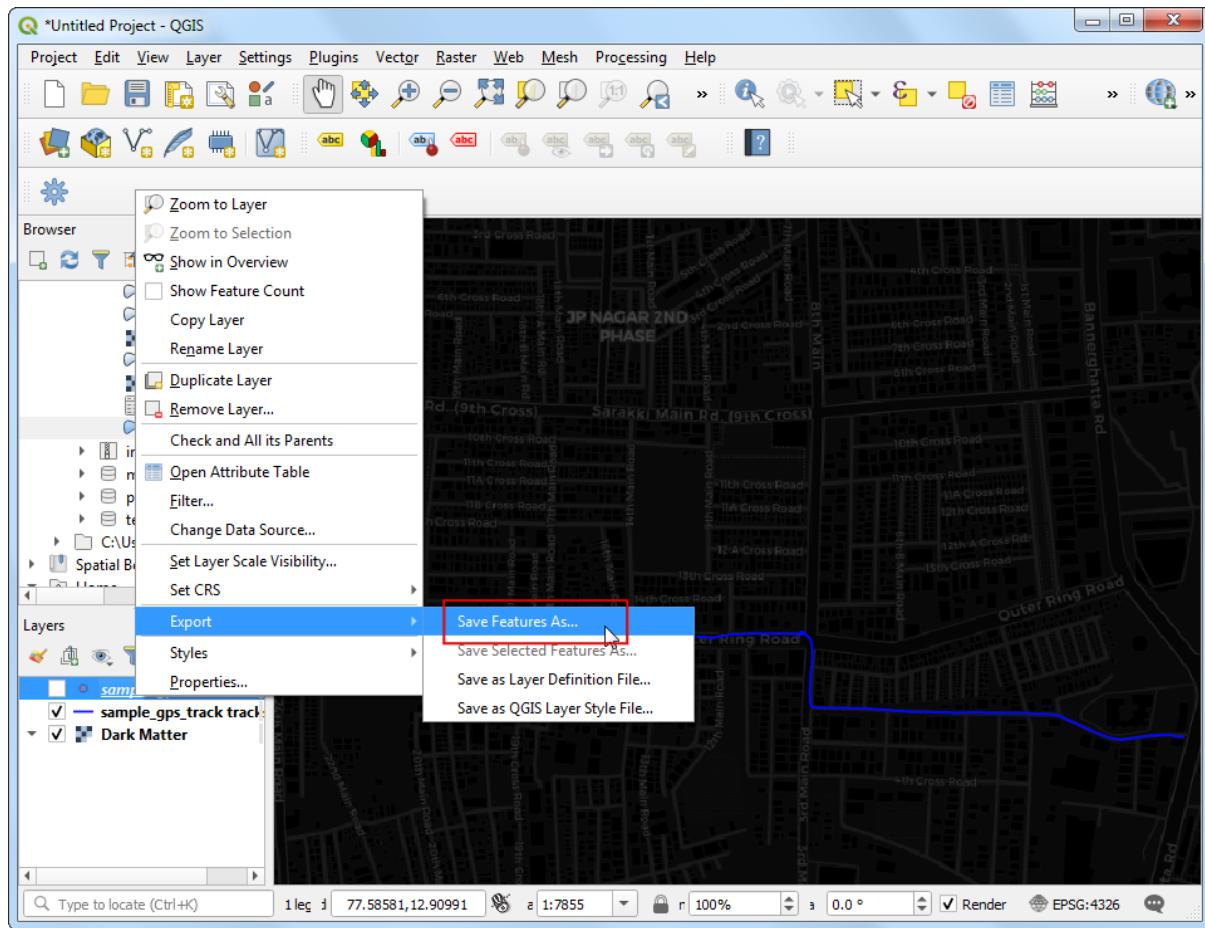
2. To add some context to the map, we should add a basemap. A dark background map works best for the visualization we want to create. Go to **Web** → **QuickMapServices** → **CartoDB** → **Dark Matter** layer.



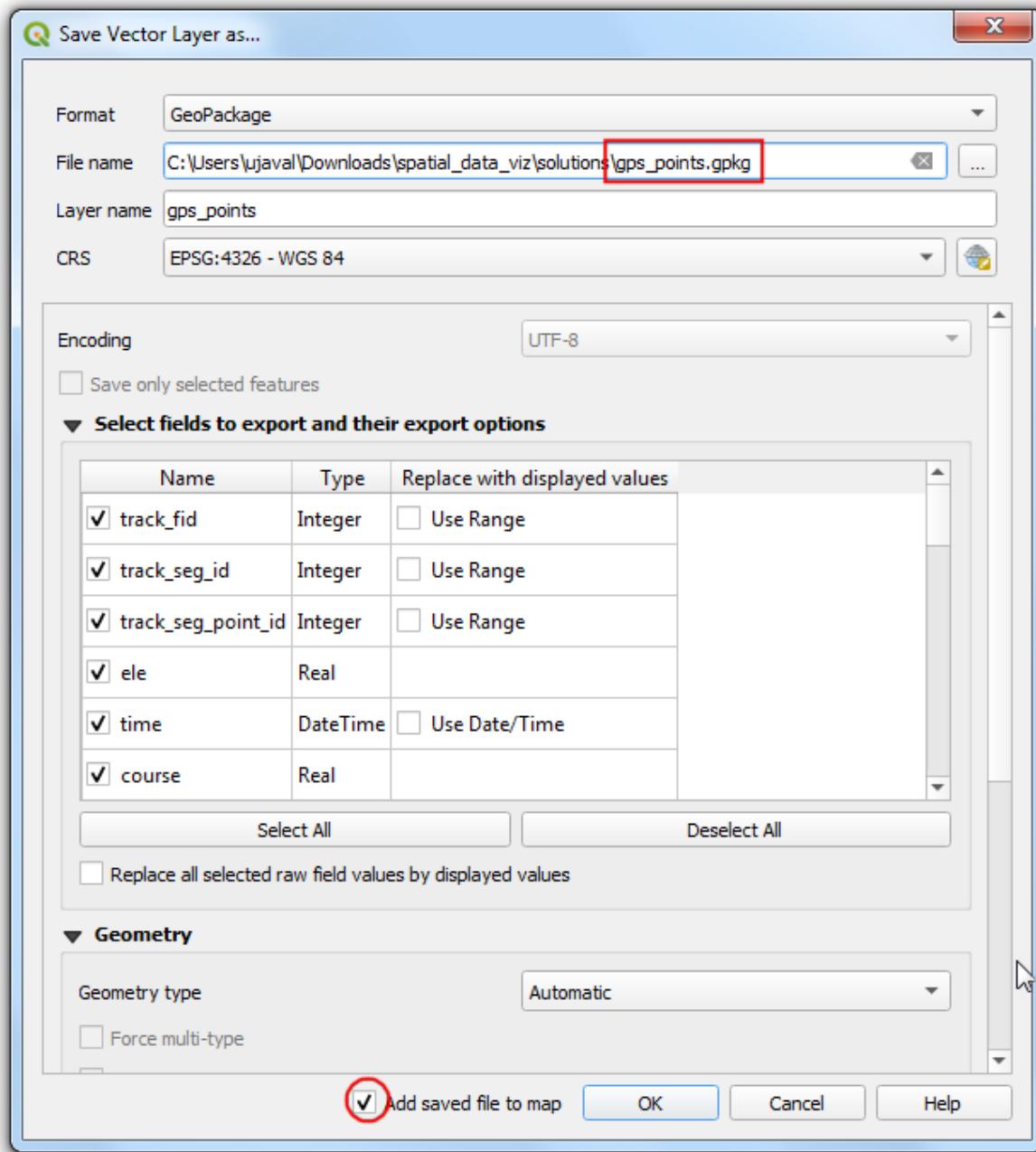
3. Select the **sample\_gps\_track** tracks layer and click *Open the Layer Styling Panel*. You can change the line *Color* to Blue and *Width* to 0.5.



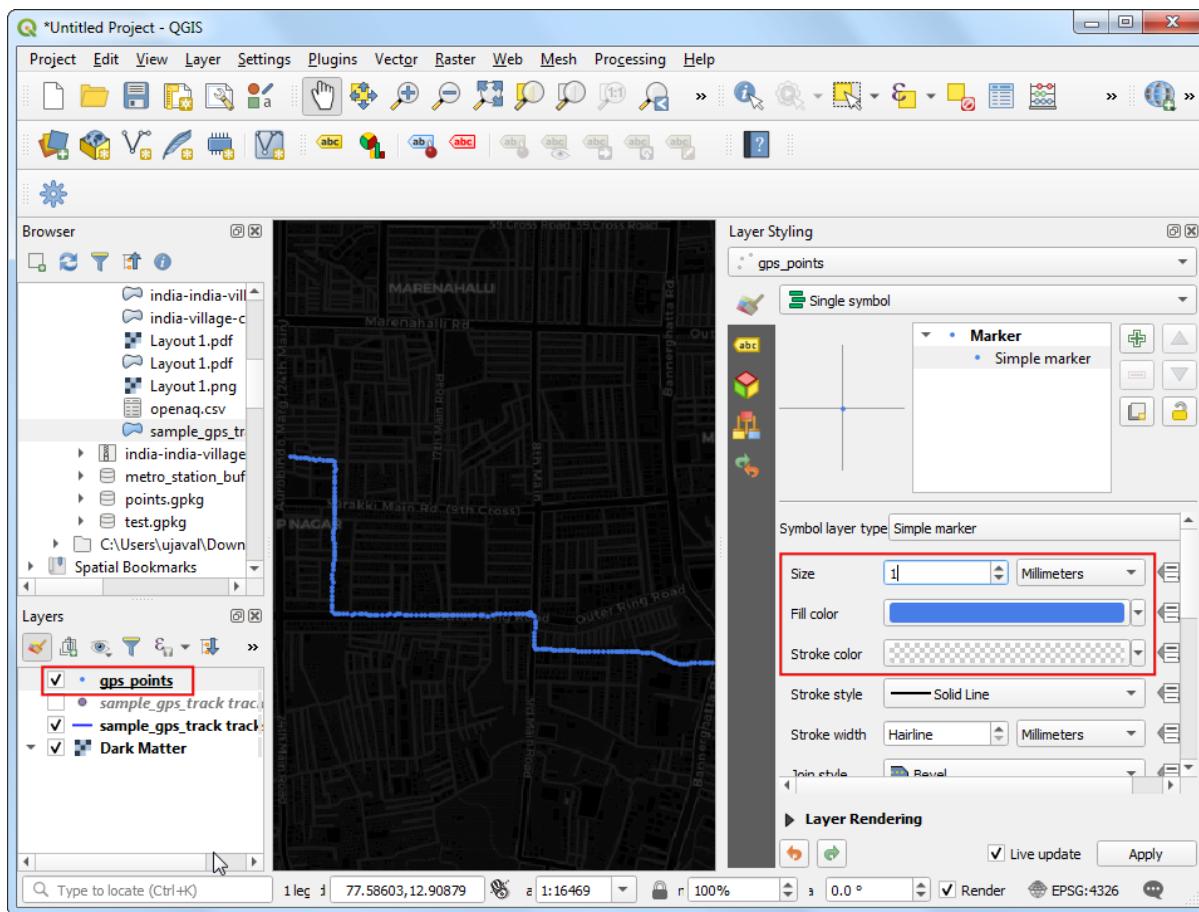
4. Before styling the points, we will first export the layer to a different format. Animating the points require applying filters on the data layer which doesn't work well with the GPX format, so we will export it to a GeoPackage. Right-click the **sample\_gps\_tracks track\_points** layer and go to **Export → Save Feature As**.



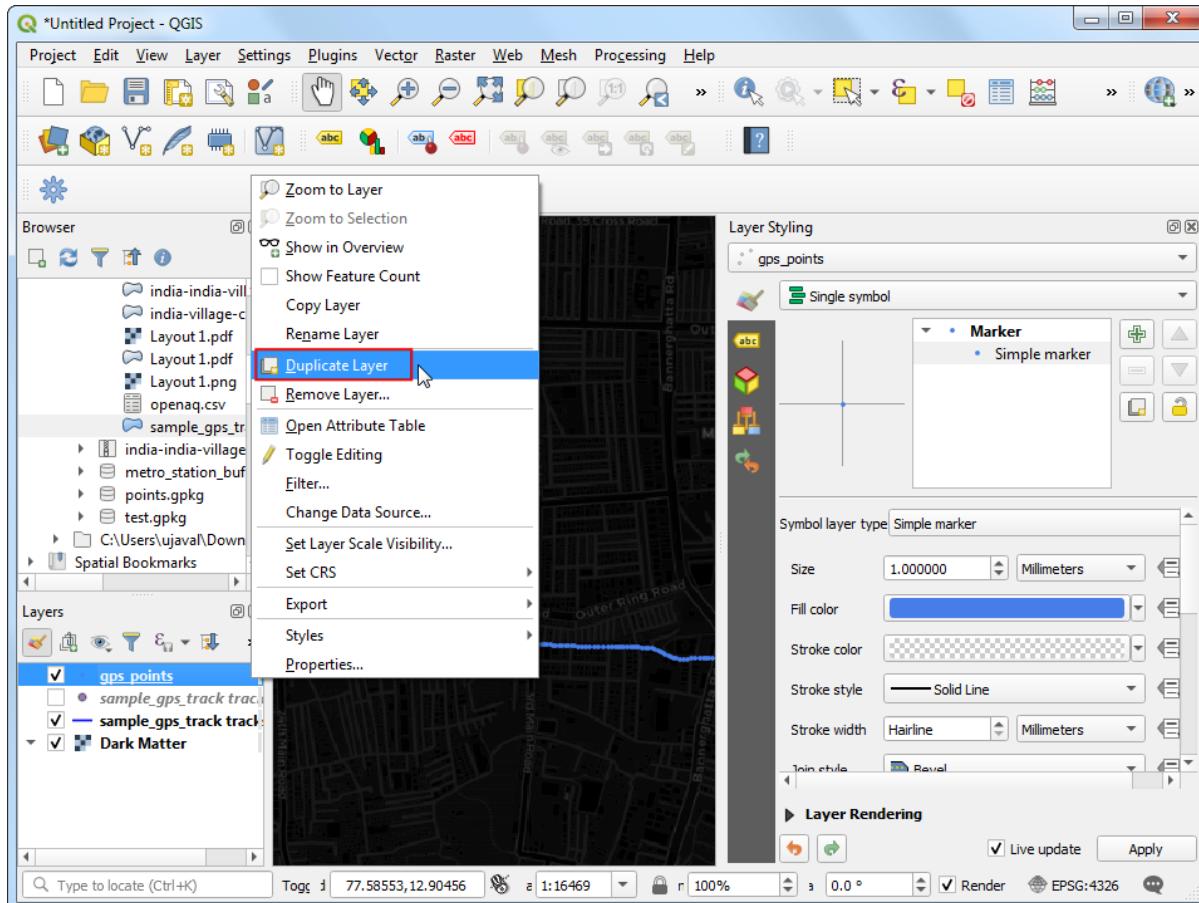
5. Select the output *File name* as `gps_points.gpkg`. Make sure the *Add saved file to map* button is checked and click *OK*.



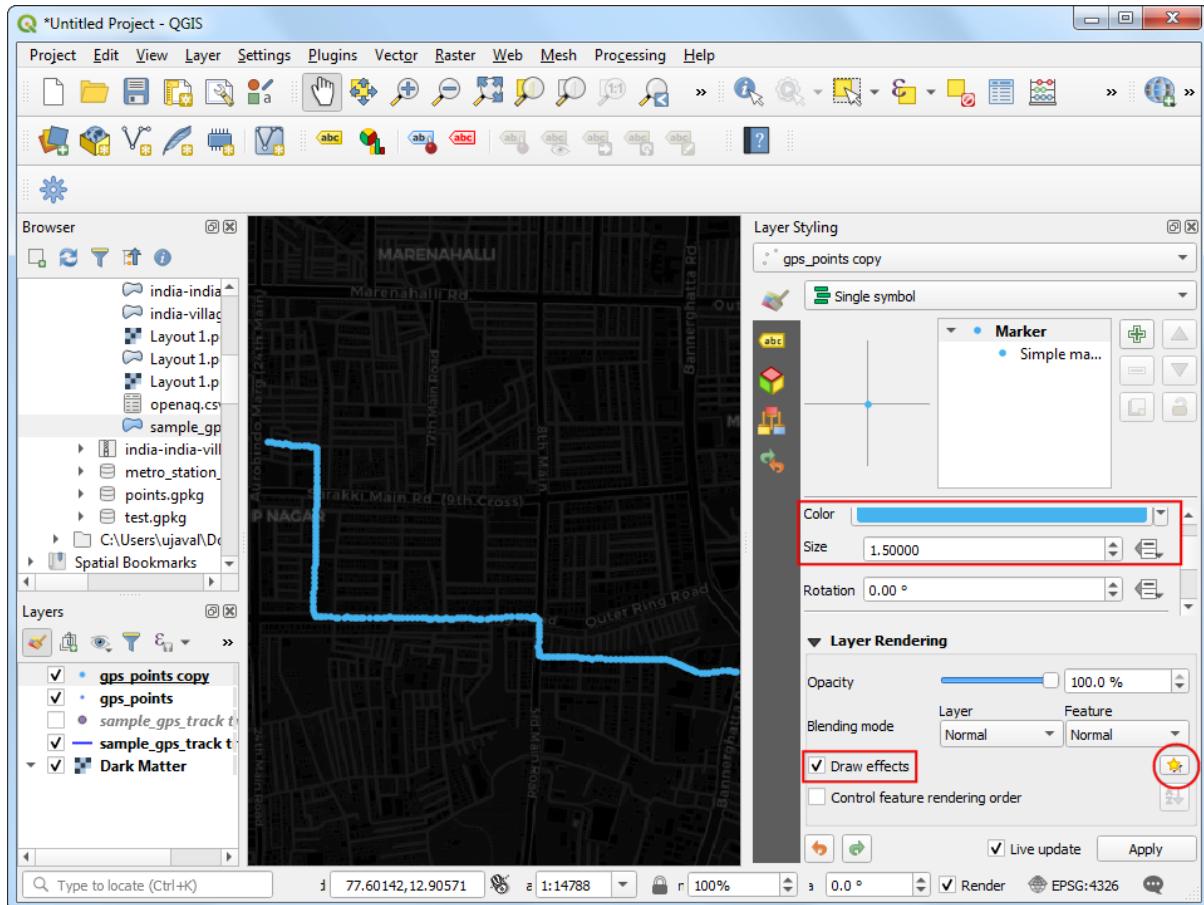
6. A new layer `gps_points` will be added to the *Layers* panel. In the *Layer Styling Panel*, select *Simple marker* symbol. Change the point *Size* to 1. Choose a lighter shade of Blue as the *Fill color* and a *Transparent Stroke* as *Stroke color*.



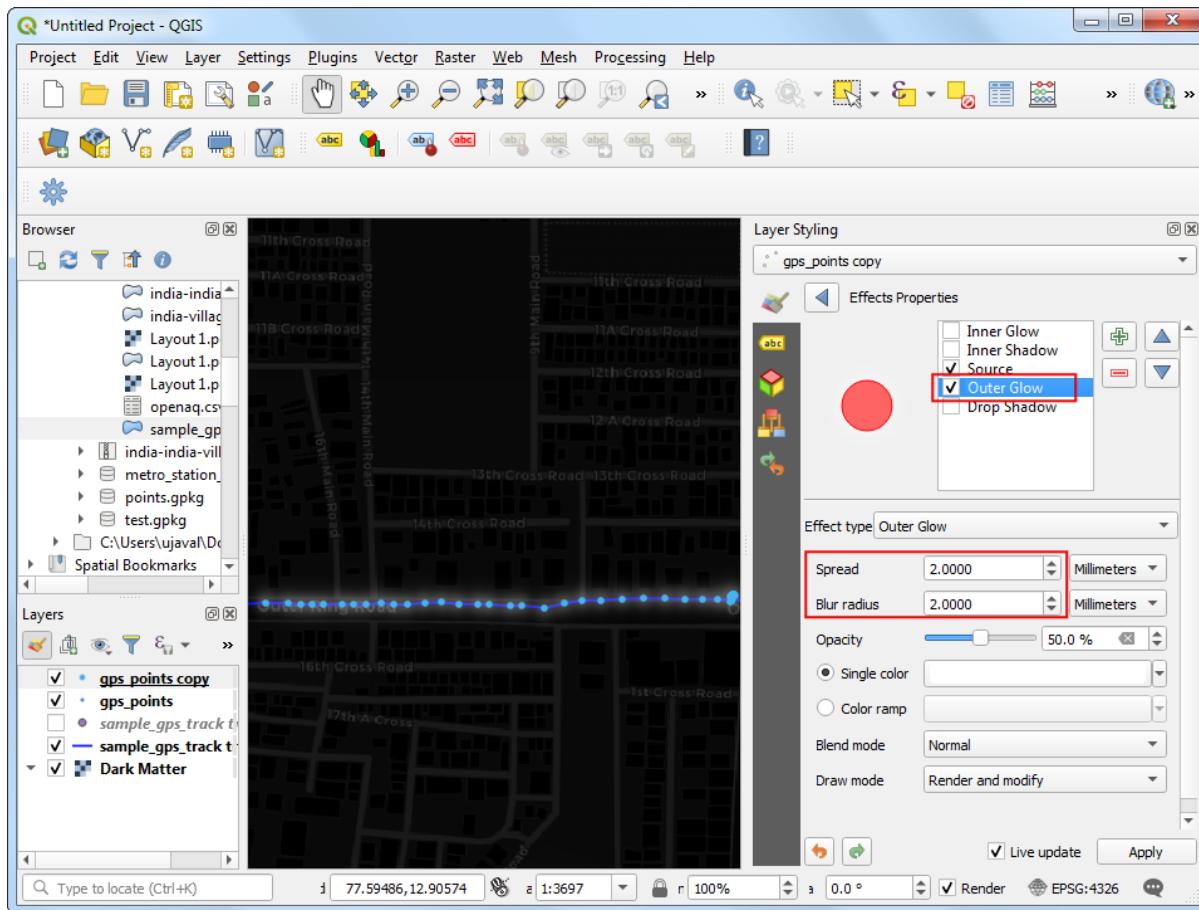
7. We want to give a glow effect to the points as it is animating. Right-click the `gps_points` layer and choose *Duplicate Layer*.



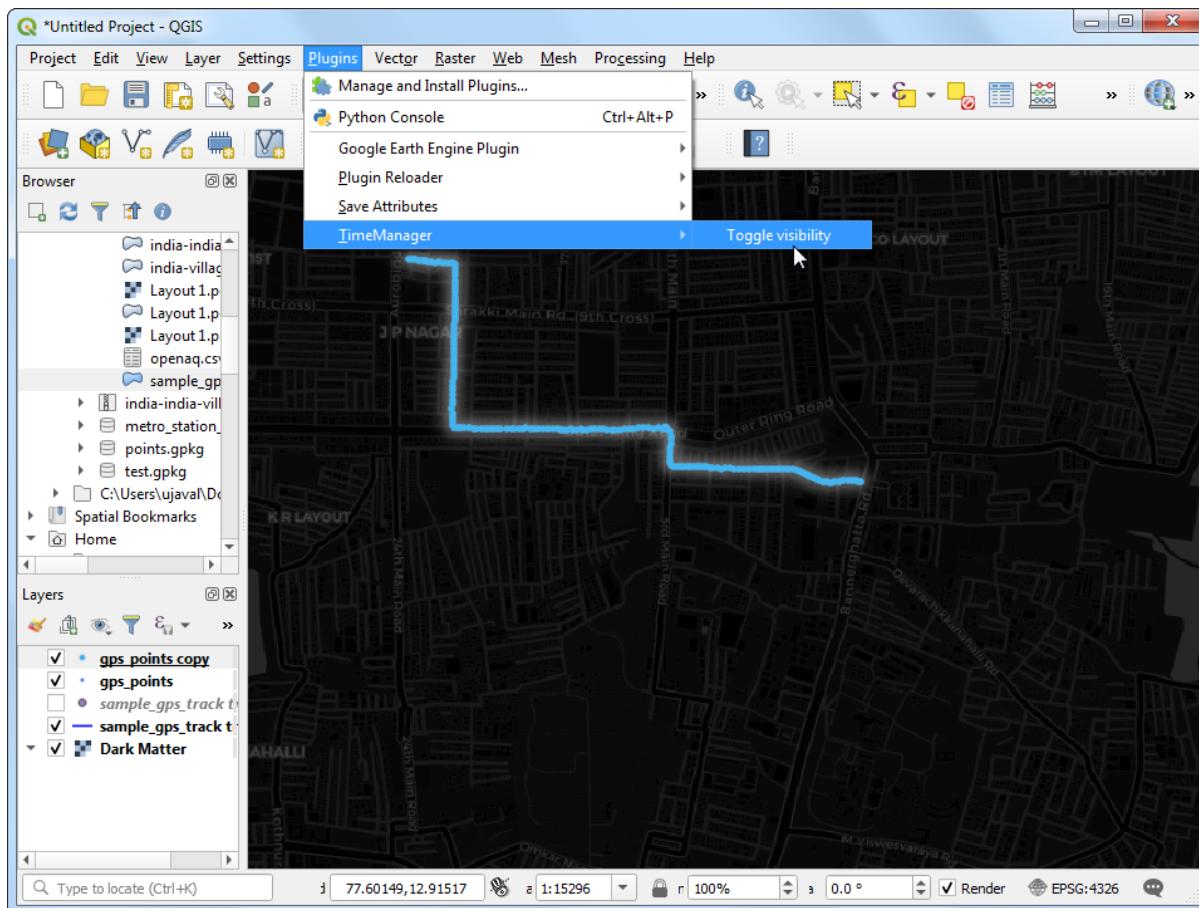
8. In the *Layer Styling Panel* for the duplicated `gps_points_copy` layer, choose bright neon as the *Color* and increase the size to 1.5. Check the *Draw Effects* option and click the *Effects* button next to it.



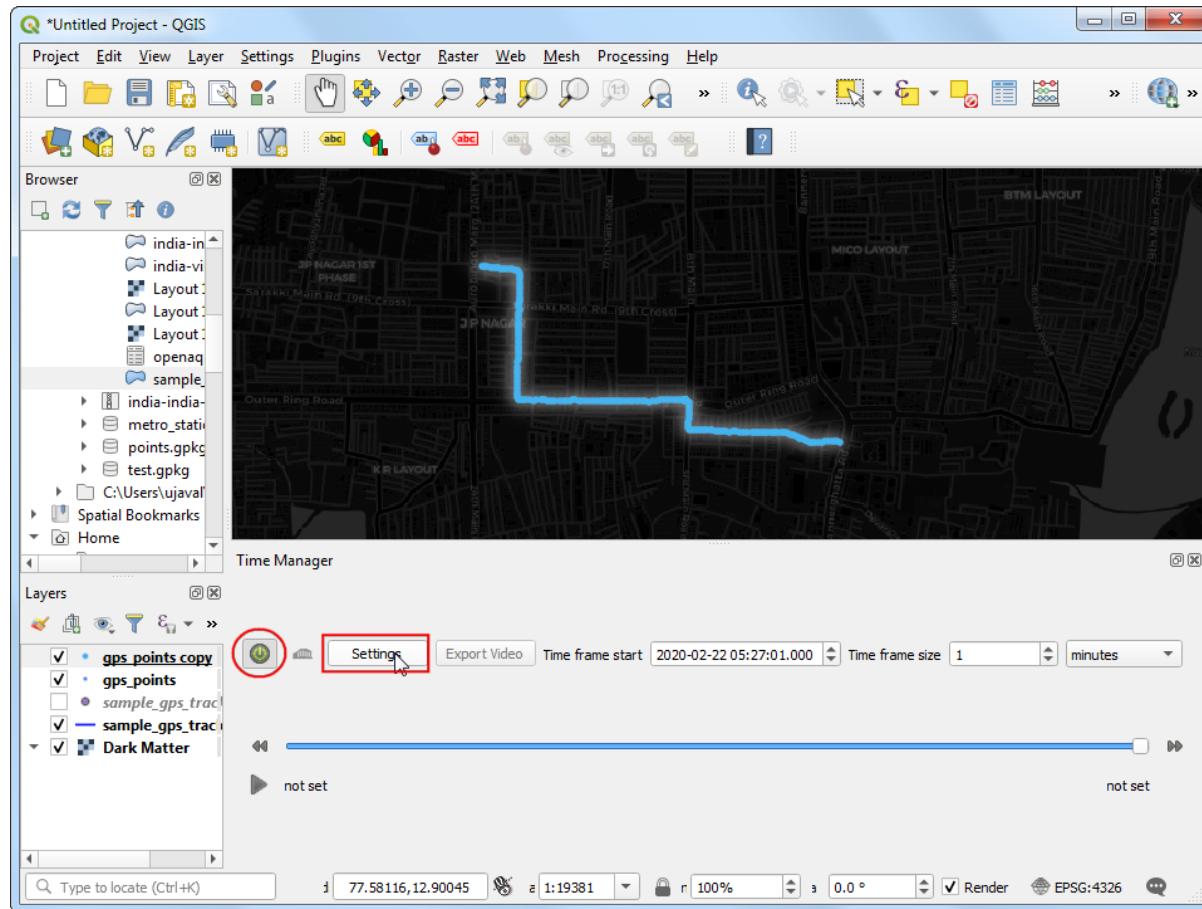
9. In the *Effects Properties* panel, check *Outer Glow*. Select 2.0 for both *Spread* and *Blue radius*.



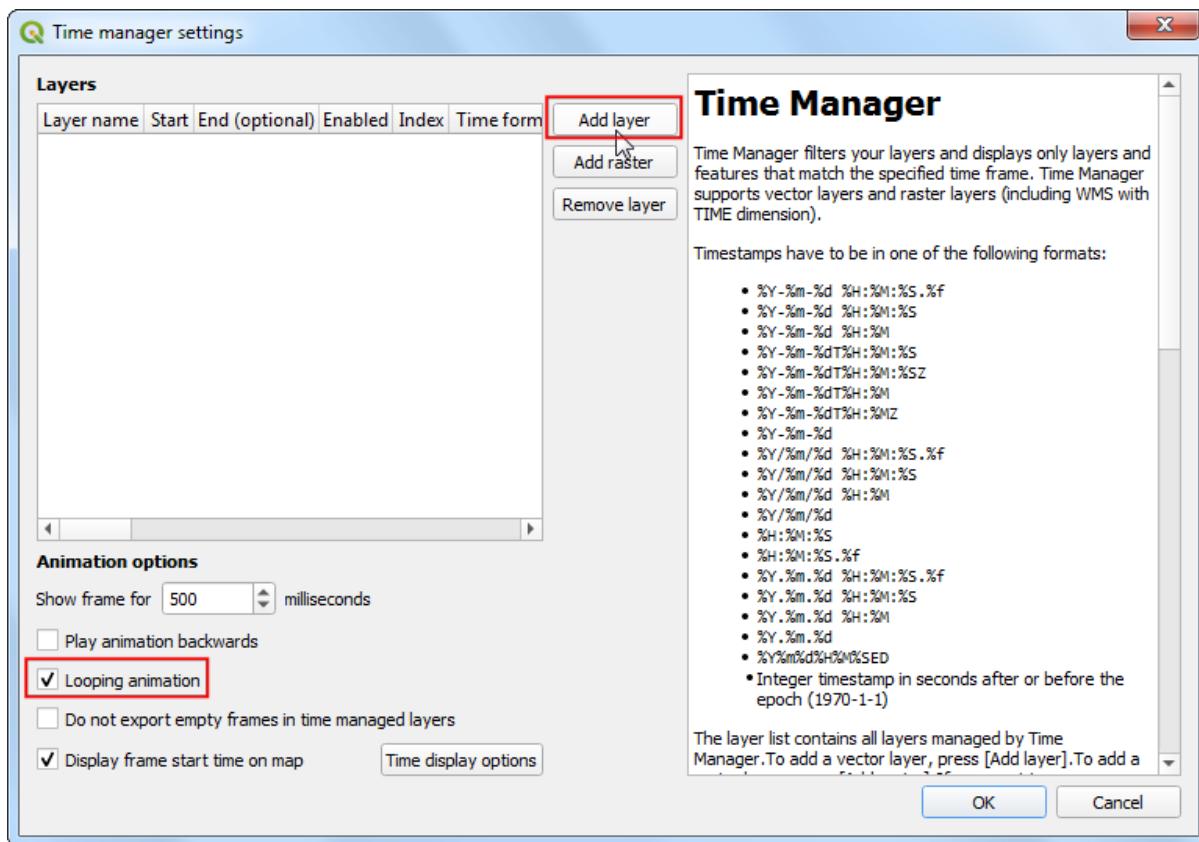
10. Now we are ready to animate the points. Go to **Plugins → Time Manager → Toggle visibility.**



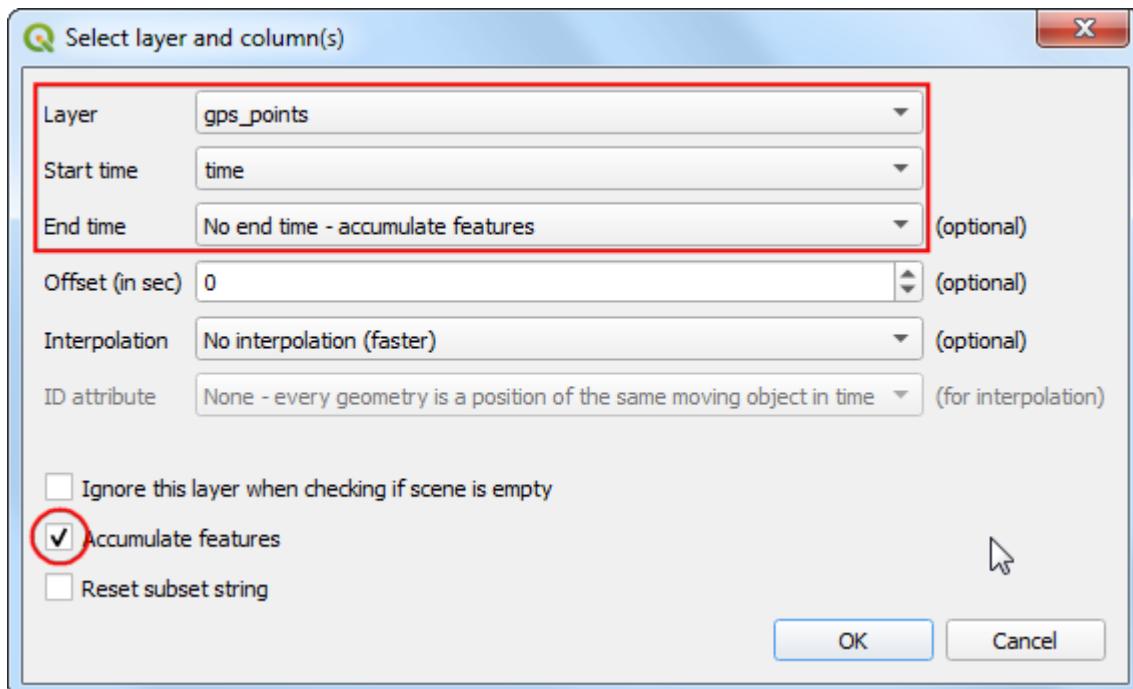
11. In the *Time Manager* panel, click the *Power* button to activate the plugin. Click *Settings*.



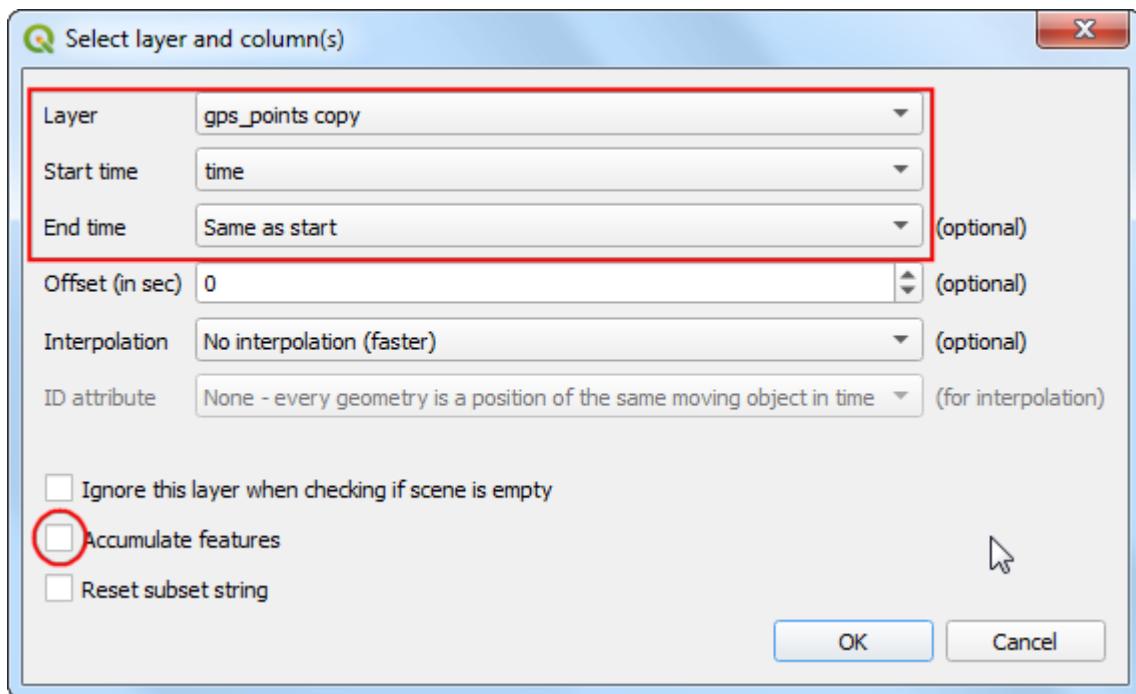
12. In the *Time Manager Settings* window, check the *Lopping animation* button. Next, click the *Add layer* button.



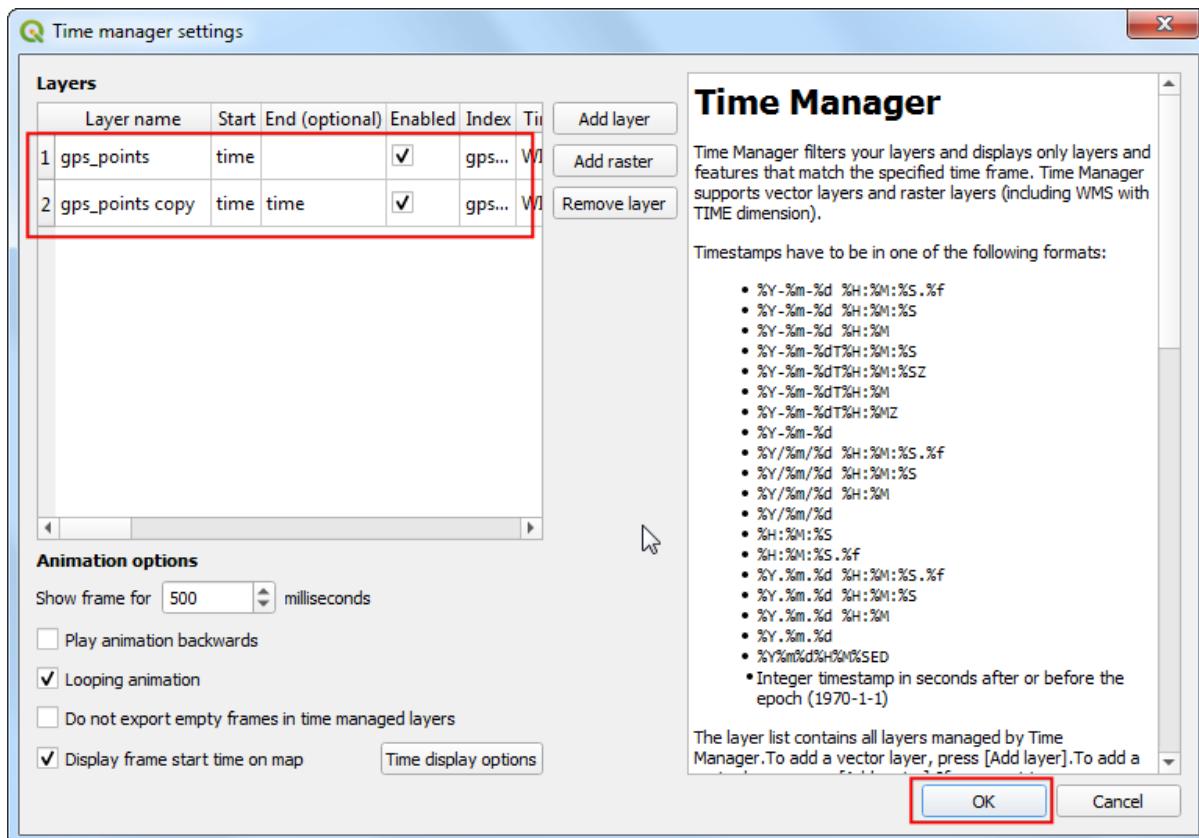
13. To achieve the effect we want, we will animate both `gps_points` and the `gps_points_copy` layers. First select `gps_points` layer. Select `time` as the *Start time* and `No end time - accumulate features` as the *End time*. Make sure to check the *Accumulate features* box. Click *OK*.



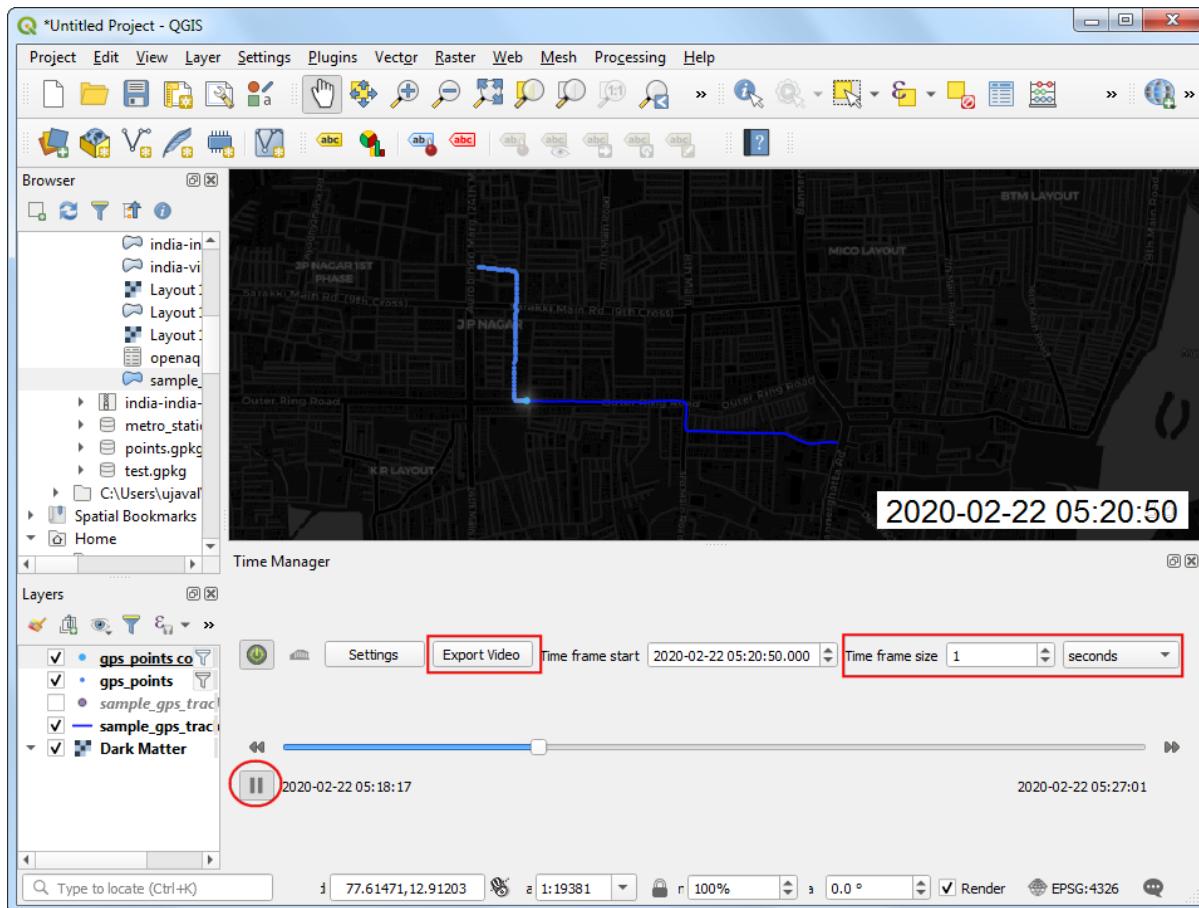
14. Click *Add layer* again and this time select `gps_points_copy` layer. Select `time` as the *Start time* and `Same as start` as the *End Time*. Uncheck the *Accumulate features* box.



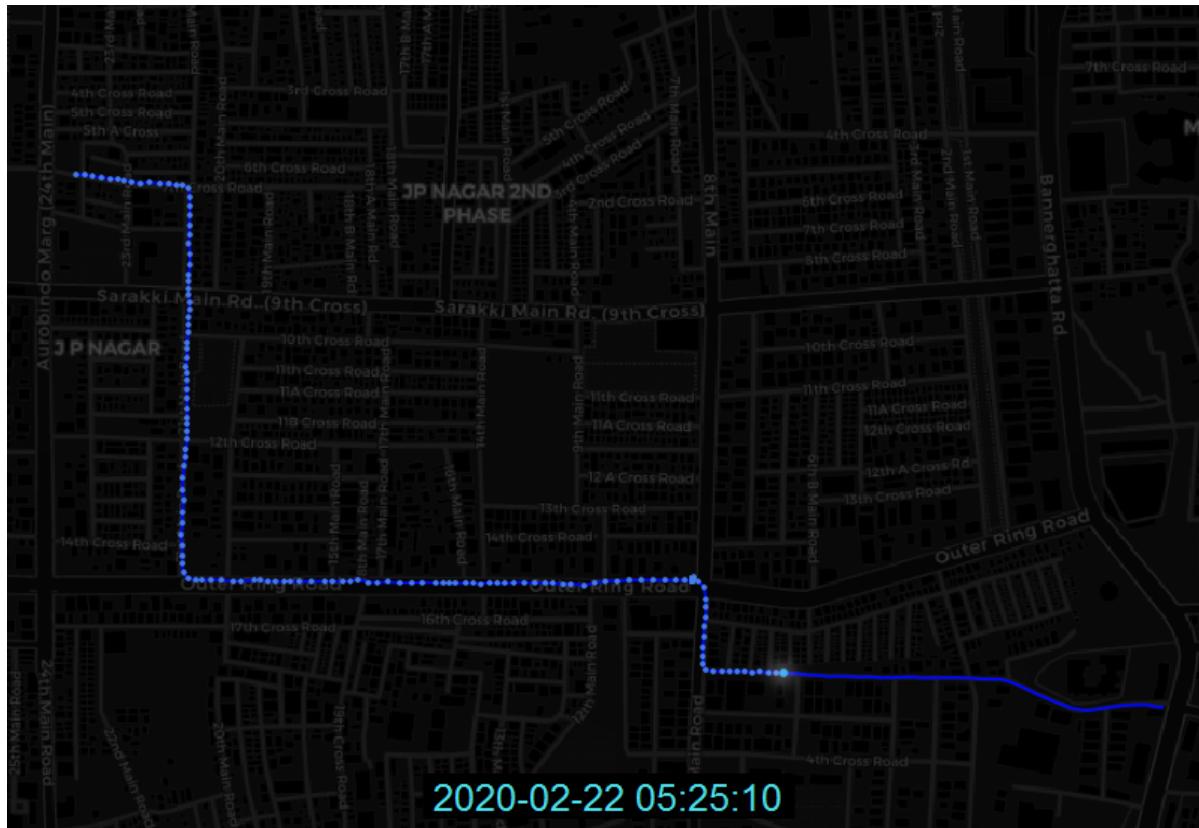
15. Once both the layers are configured, click *OK*.



16. Back in the main QGIS window, change the *Time frame size* to 1 second. Click *Play*. You will see the points animate and show the position along with the timestamp. You can click *Export Video* to export individual frames to a folder.



17. Once you have the individual frames, you can use a program such as ezgif.com to create an animated GIF from them. The result would look as below.



## Polygons

Regions are modeled as polygons. Polygons are most commonly used to model administrative areas, buildings, land parcels etc. Polygon geometry is represented as a series of coordinates. Since the shapes can be complex, polygons have a more verbose geometry descriptions and seldom come in a CSV files. GeoJSON and shapefile are the most commonly used file formats for storing polygon datasets.

### Exercise: Mapping Census Data

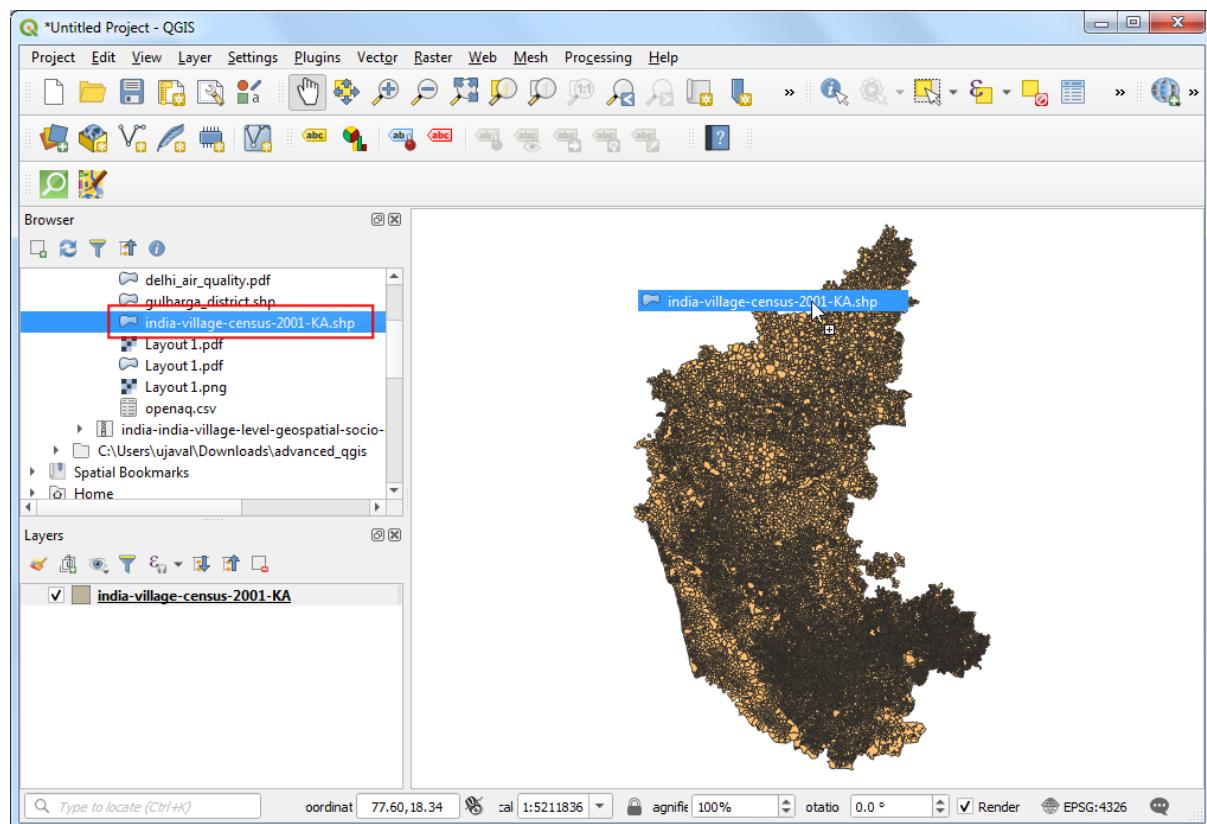
Census data is one of the major sources of secondary data available in a country. Many types of spatial analysis requires detailed demographic information that is available from the census data.

Census data is usually published as tables by aggregating the raw numbers to an administrative region - typically a *census block*. To map these tables, one needs to know the *geometry* of these regions - which are supplied separately as boundary files. Both of these can be joined to create a polygon layer that can be visualized and mapped. See this tutorial on how this process is carried out in QGIS.

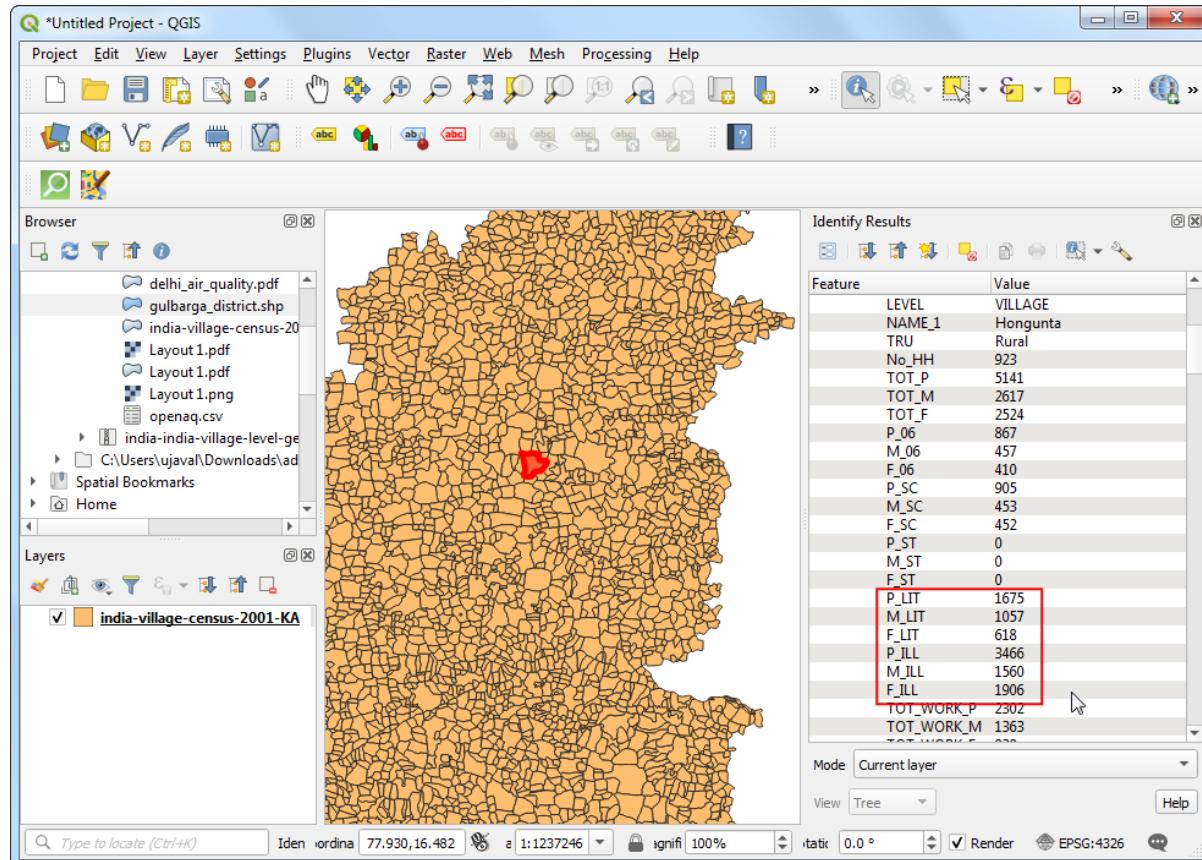
We will use India Village-Level Geospatial Socio-Economic Data Set published by NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC). This dataset combines the village/town level boundaries with Primary Census Abstract (PCA) and Village Directory (VD) data series of the Indian census. It is distributed as shapefiles.

For this exercise, we will be using the shapefile for the state of Karnataka and map the literacy rate in the Gulbarga district.

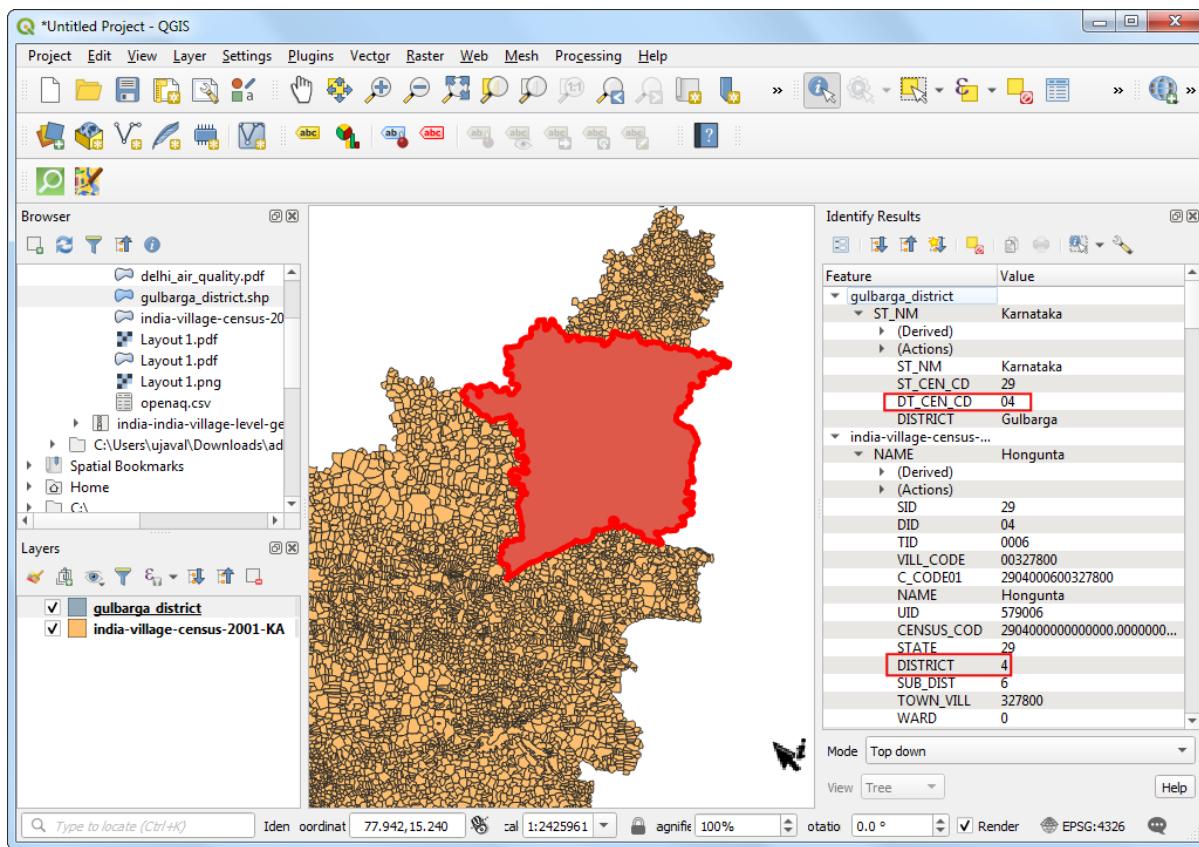
Locate the `india-village-census-2001-KA.shp` file in the *Browser* panel and drag it to QGIS canvas.



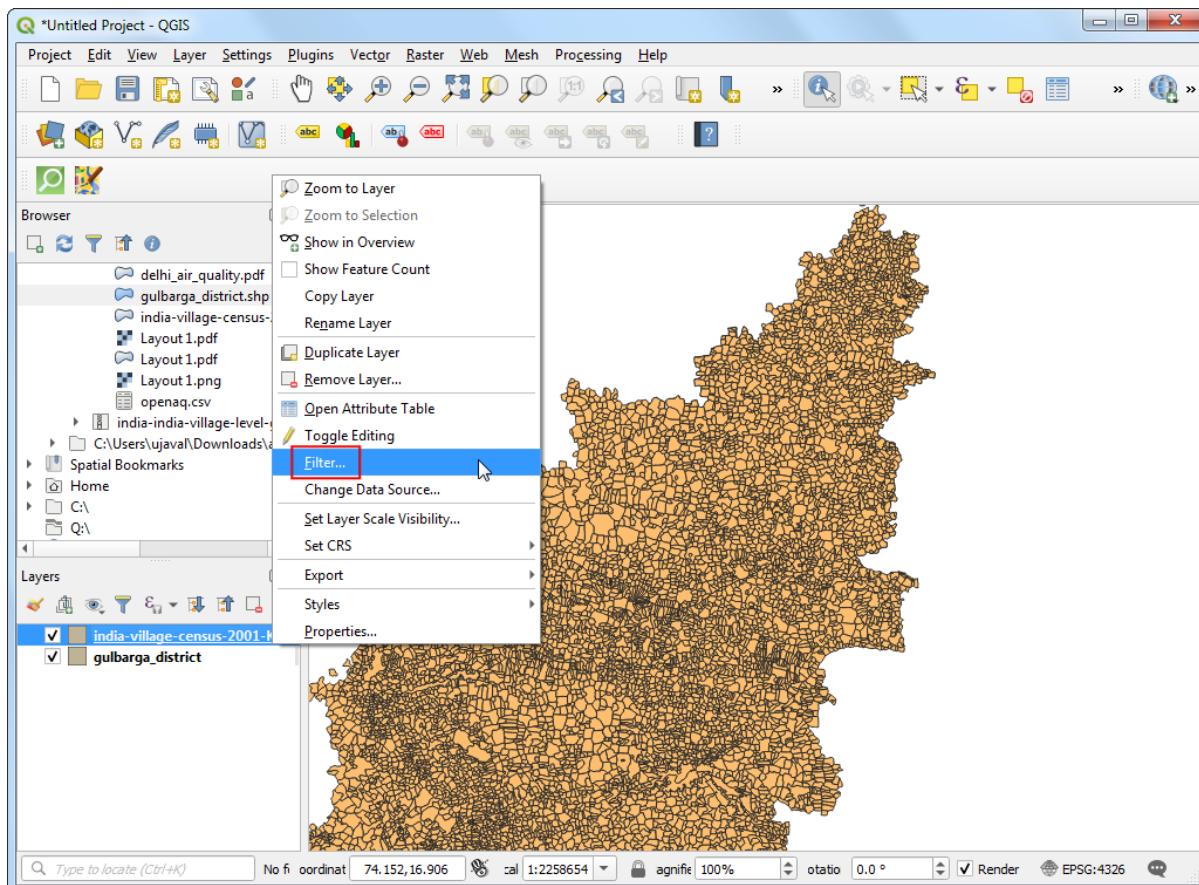
A new layer `india-village-census-2001-KA` will be added to the *Layers* panel. Use the *Identify* tool to click on any polygon and explore the attributes. The definitions of each column is contained in the documentation that is supplied with the data. As we are looking to map the literacy levels, the attributes with `_LIT` suffix are useful for our purpose. The `P_LIT` column refers to *Person Literates* and `TOT_P` refers to *Total Population* that we will use to calculate and map literacy rate.



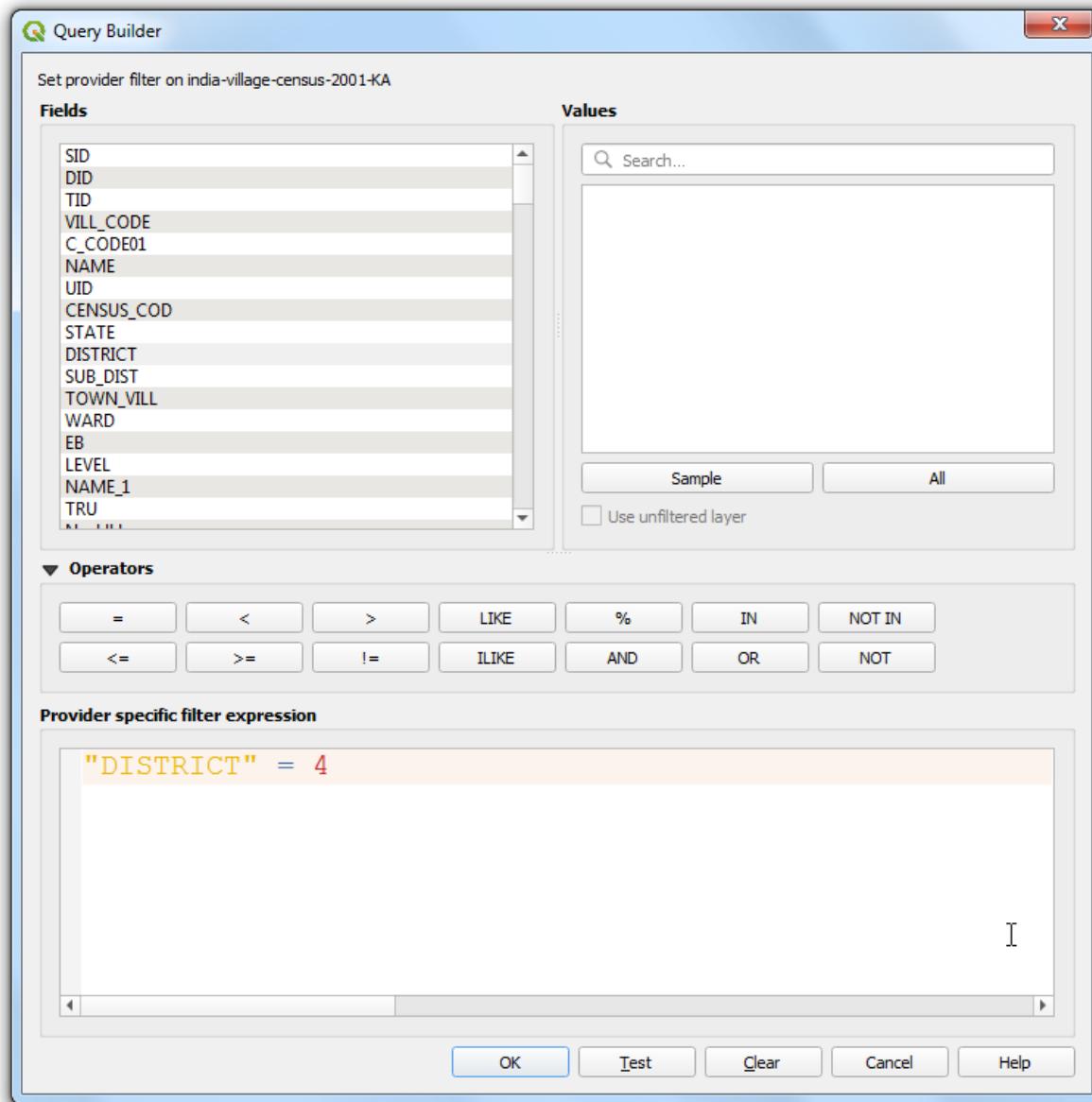
We want to select a subset of polygons from this layer belonging to the *Gulbarga* district. Load the `gulbarga_district.shp` layer that has been extracted from the Districts shapefile supplied by DataMeet. The column `DT_CEN_CD` contains the district id for this particular district. We can use this to filter the polygon layer.



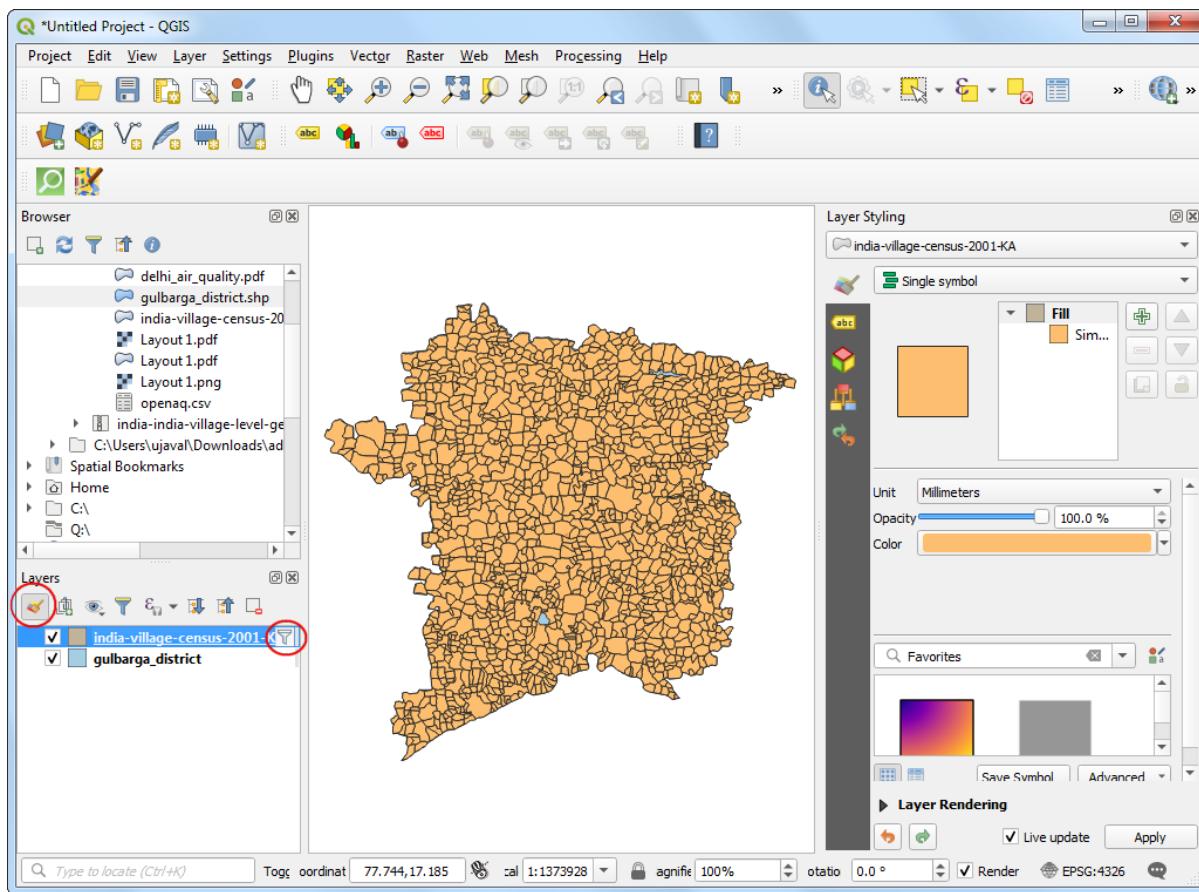
In the *Layers* panel, drag the *gulbarga\_district* layer below the *india-village-census-2001-KA* layer. Right-click the *india-village-census-2001-KA* layer and select *Filter*.



Enter the expression `DISTRICT = 4` to select all villages and towns from our chosen district. Click *OK*.



You will see a filter icon next to the `india-village-census-2001-KA` layer indicating that a filter is applied to the layer. The map canvas will update to show only the polygons belonging to the district.

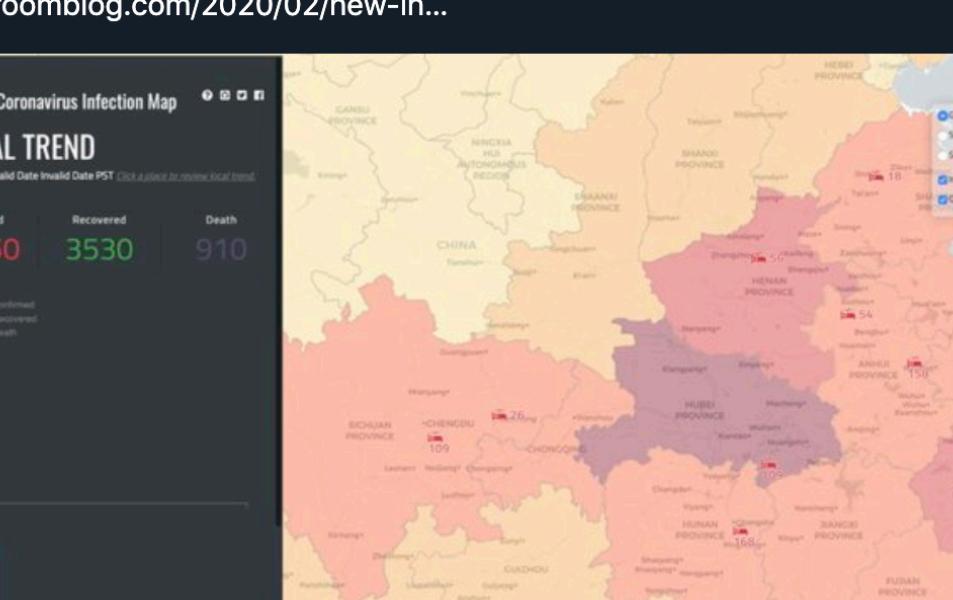


Now we will create a *thematic* map showing the literacy rate in the district. When creating a thematic (choropleth) map such as this, it is important to normalize the values you are mapping. A common mistake is to use totals instead of rates in such map.

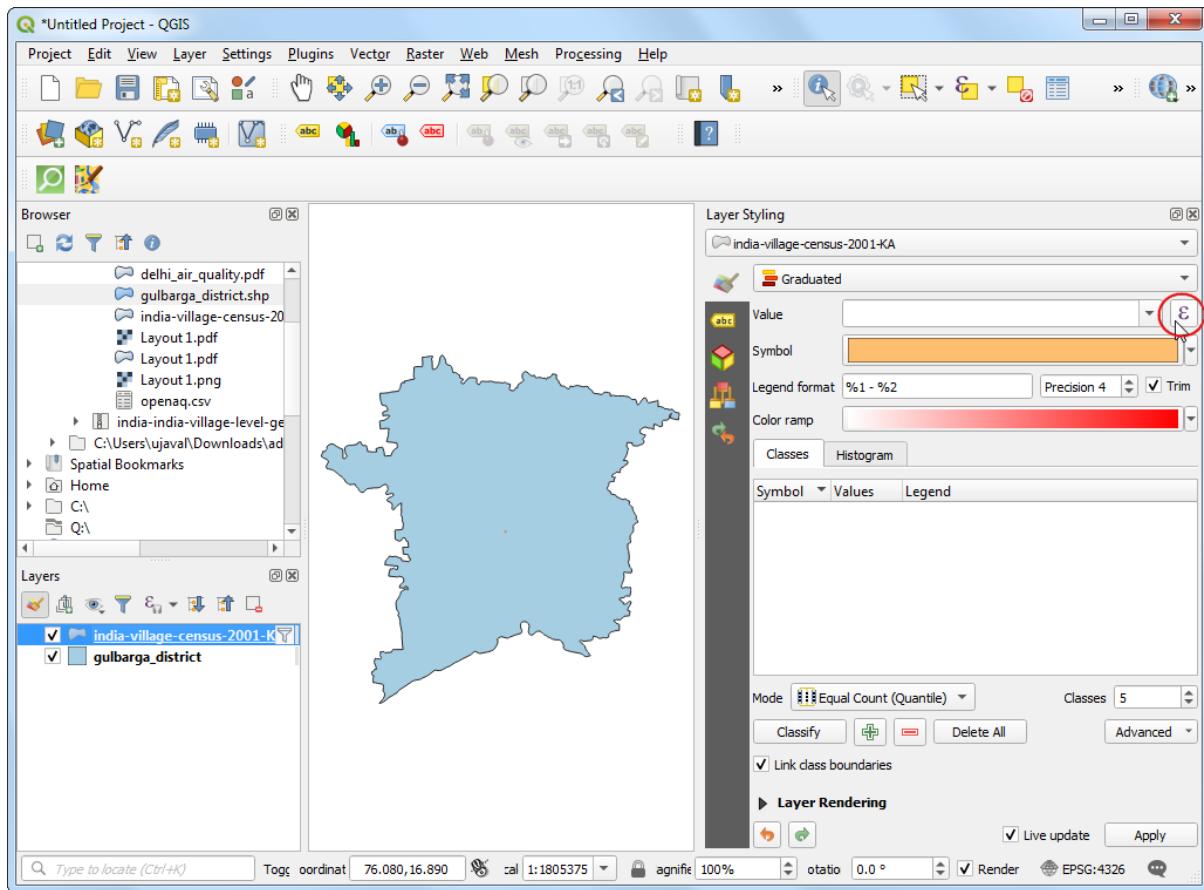
 Kenneth Field  
@kennethfield

And yet another that uses totals, not rates, on a choropleth rendering it utterly useless as a way to compare the incidence & prevalence across the map. Normalize the damn thing. Per capita is a simple calculation.

 The Map Room @maproomblog · Feb 10  
New Interactive Coronavirus Map from the University of Washington  
[maproomblog.com/2020/02/new-in...](http://maproomblog.com/2020/02/new-in...)

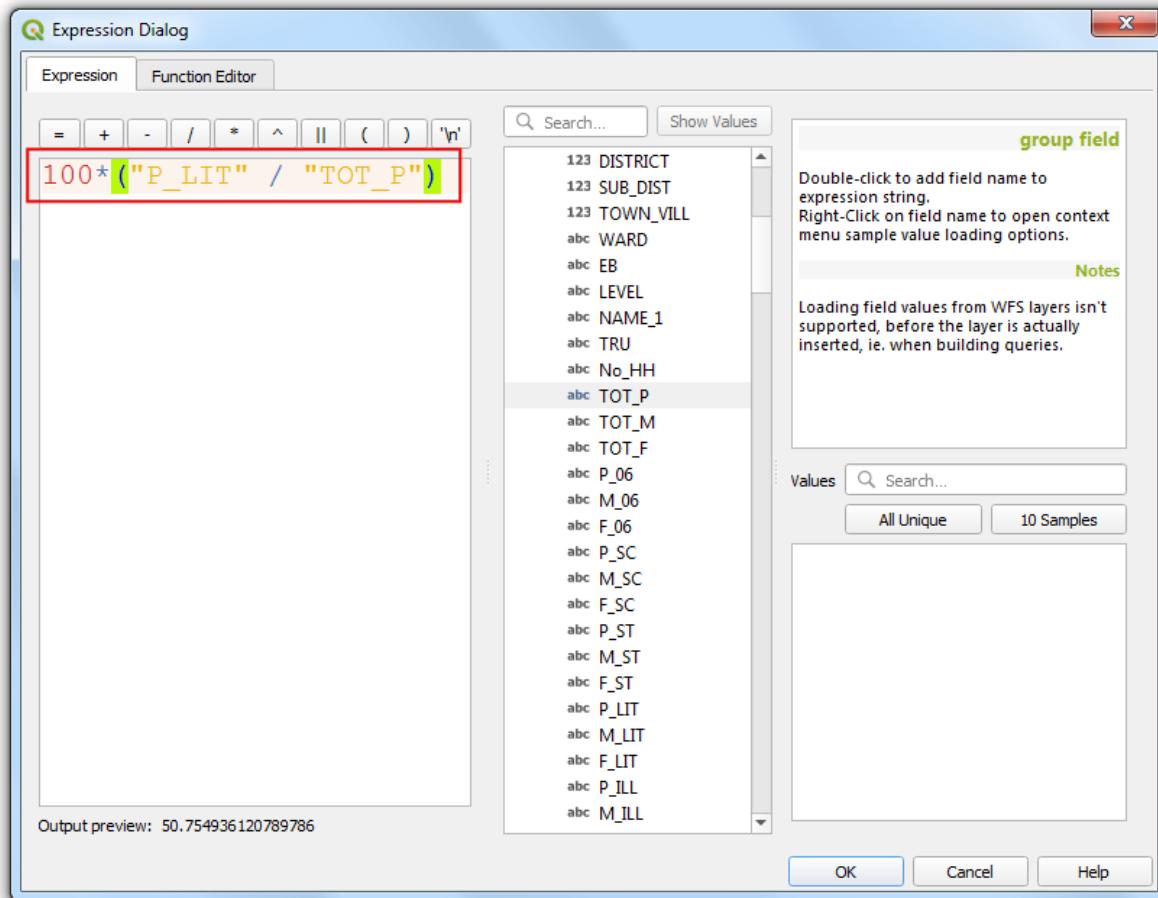


Click *Open the Layer Styling Panel*. Select *Graduated* renderer. In the *Value* column, click the *Expression* button.

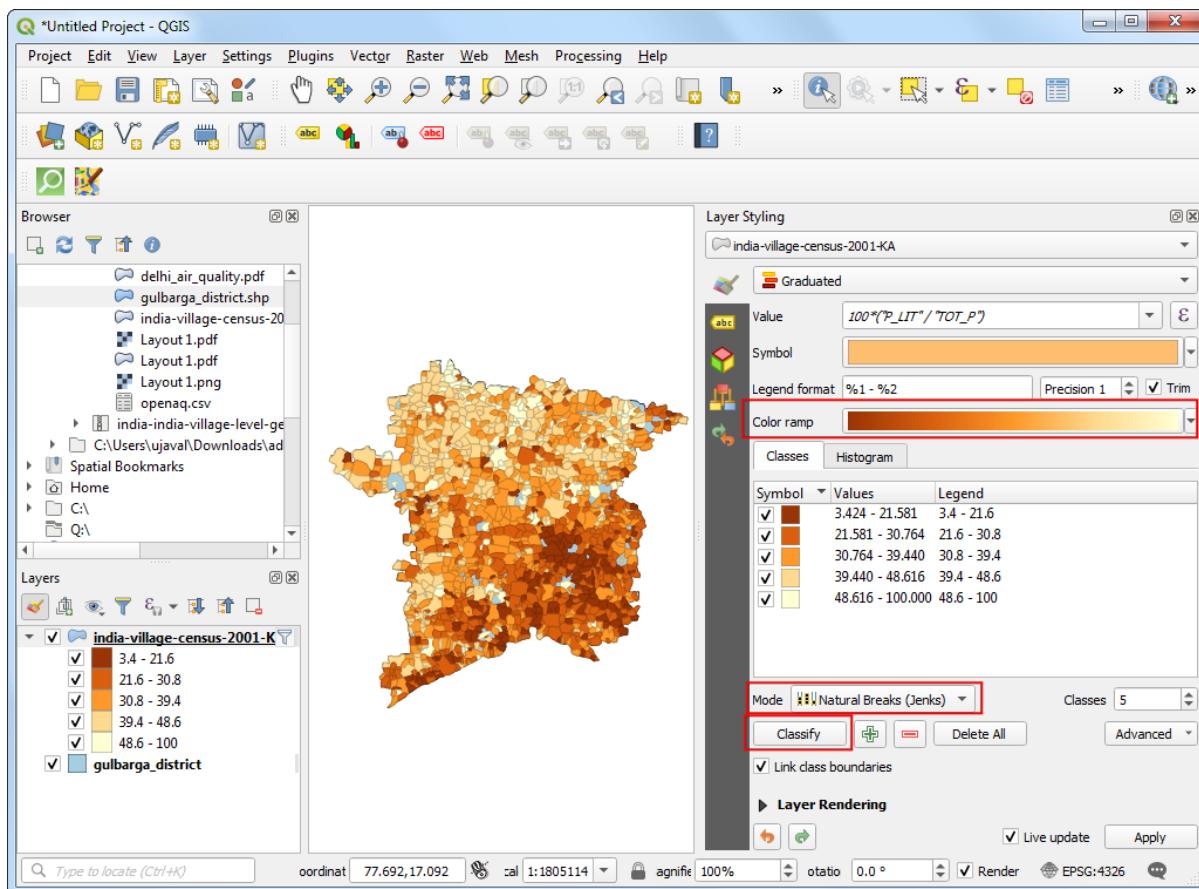


Enter the following expression. As we want to map literacy rate, we can normalize the total literate persons by dividing with the total population.

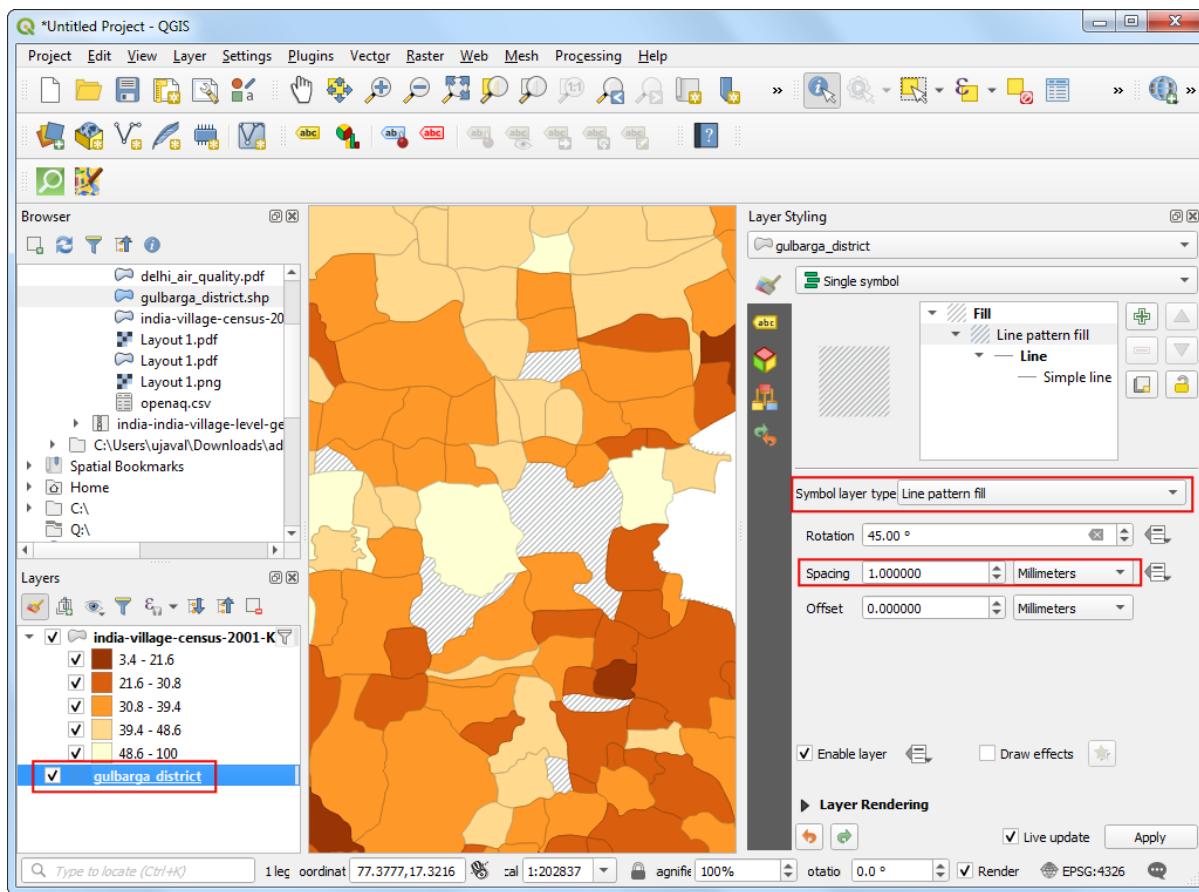
100\*("P\_LIT"/"TOT\_P")



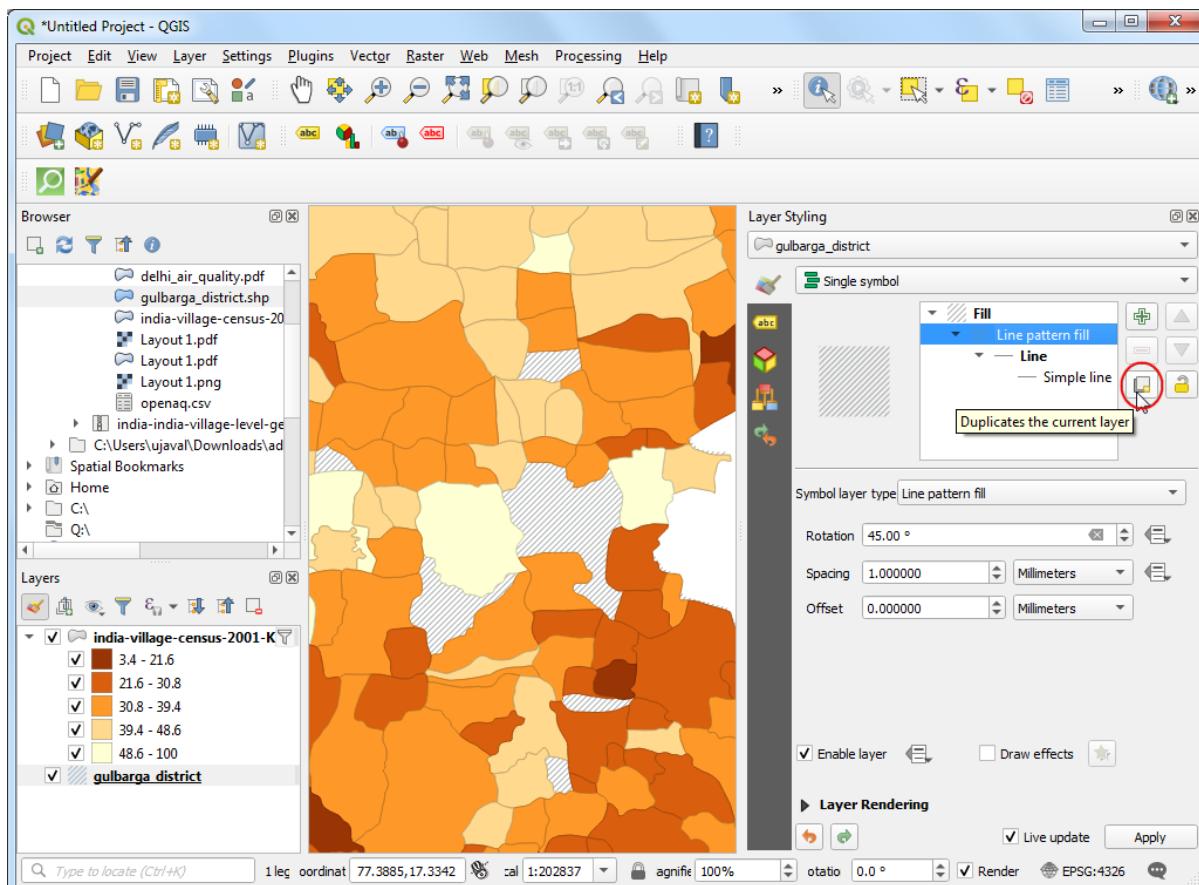
Choose a color ramp and the *Mode* of your choice and click *Classify*. You will see the polygons colored according to the literacy rates. Mapping this makes it much easier to see the pattern that villages to the south of the district have much lower literacy rates than their northern counterparts.



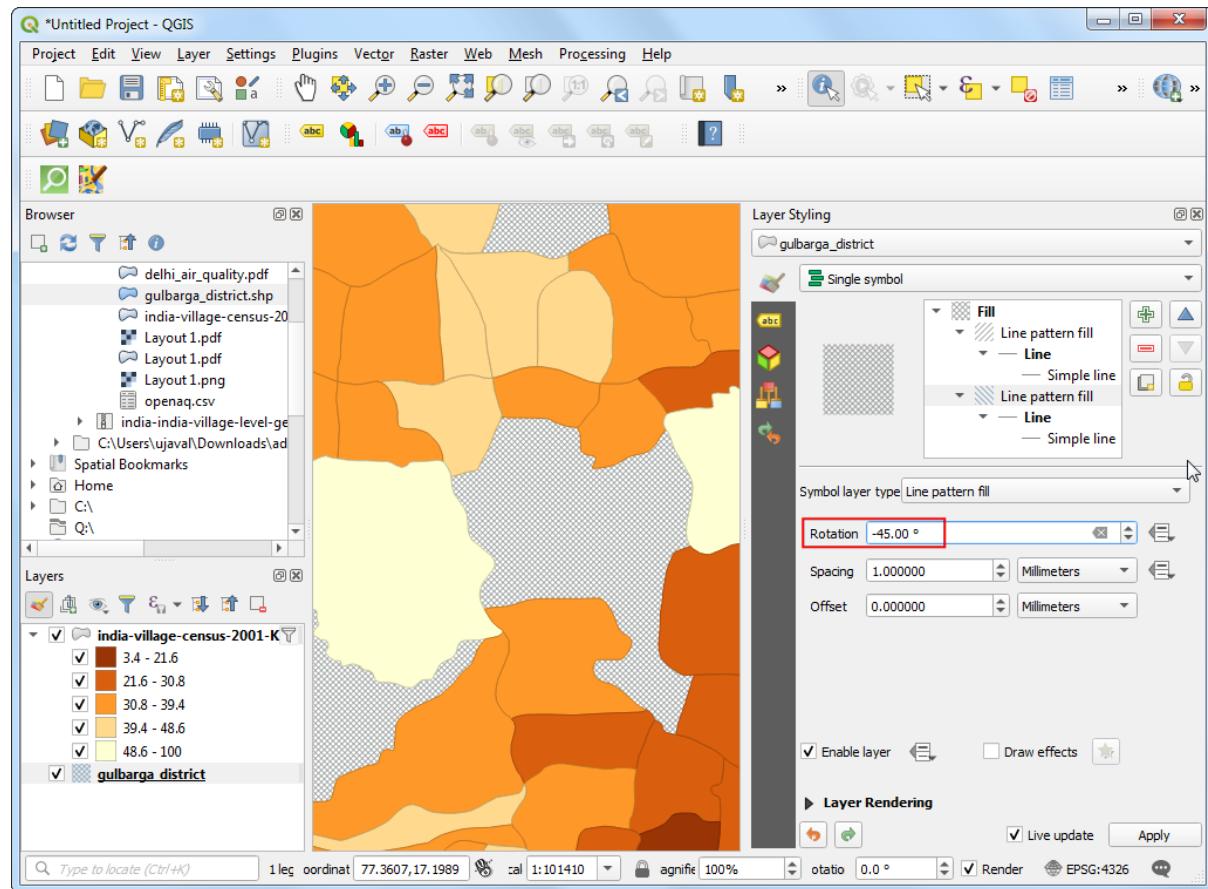
If you zoom in - you will notice gaps in the polygon layer. These are the areas with cities which do not have Village Directory (VD) data tables and thus excluded in this data layer. Instead of a hole, we can style it better to indicate no-data values. Select the `gulbarga_district` layer. Change the *Symbol layer type* to be Line pattern fill. Change the spacing as per your liking.



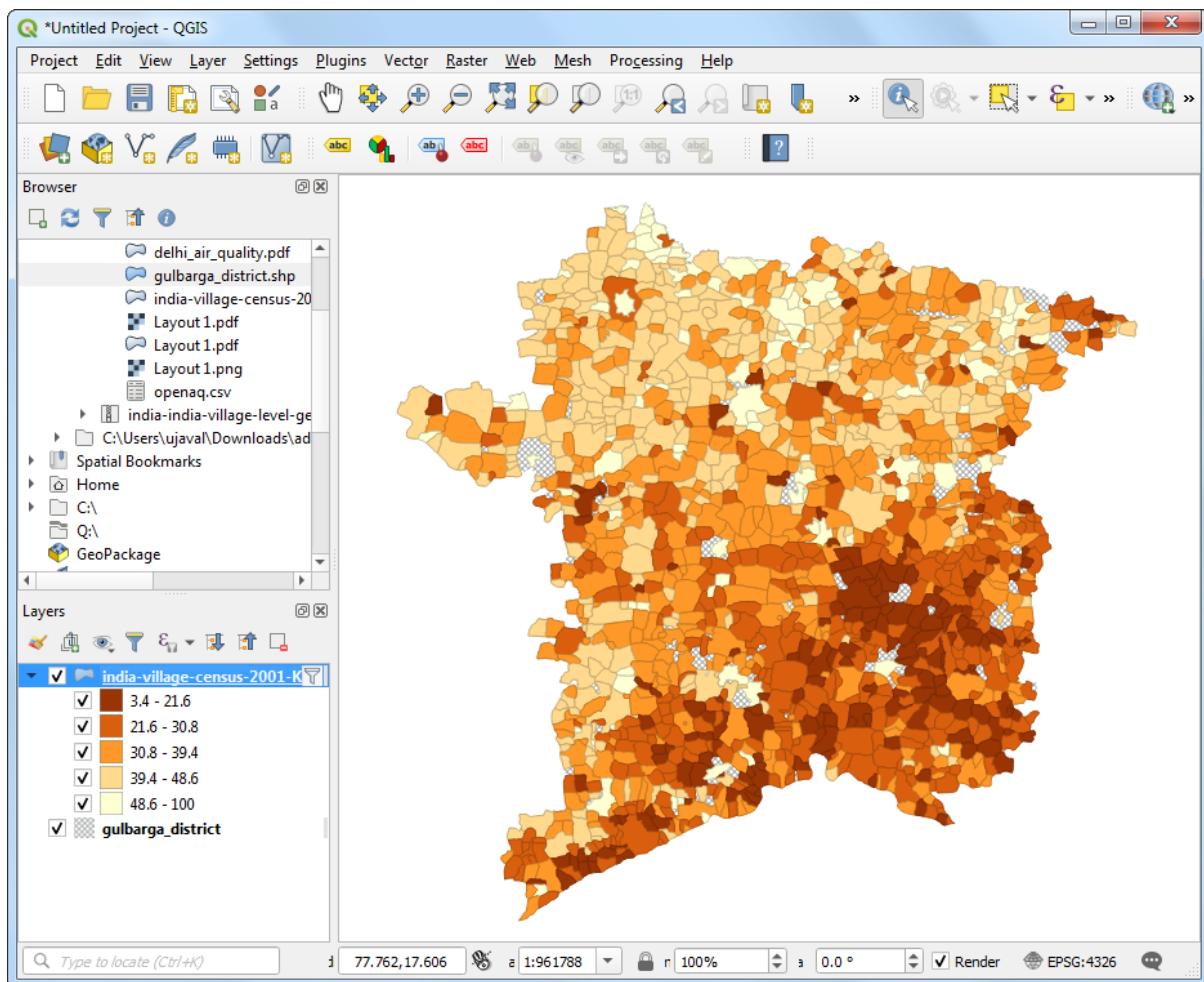
You will notice that the options for fill do not have a cross pattern fill. That is because it can be easily created by combining 2 line pattern fills of opposite direction. Click the *Duplicate the current layer* button in the *Layer Styling Panel*.



Change the *Rotation* value to  $-45.00$  degrees. You will see the gaps now rendered with a cross-pattern fill.



You have a visualization of the literacy rate in the district.



## Point Clouds

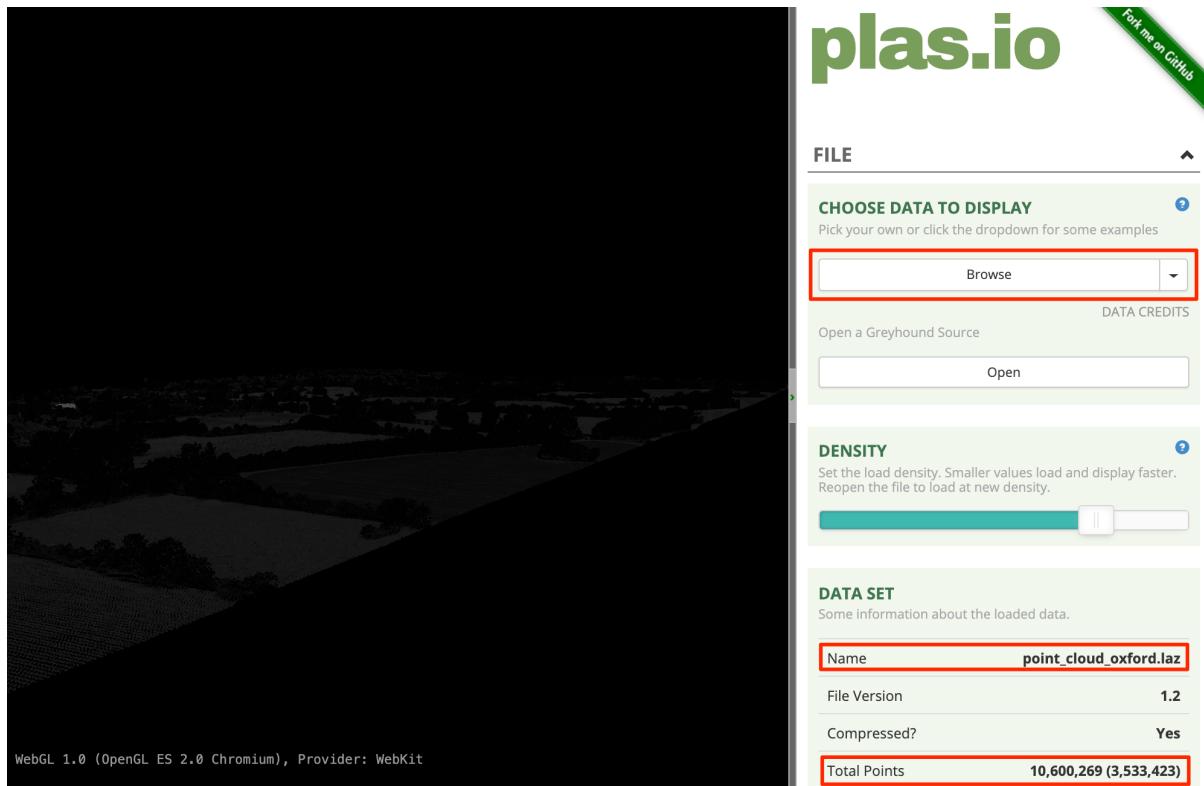
Modern mapping technology includes doing aerial surveys using a LiDAR sensor. LiDAR stands for “Light Detection and Ranging”. This sensor uses light pulses to determine the distance to the objects of the ground. For each light-pulse that is sent out the system computes X,Y and Z coordinates of the object. This data representation is not new for spatial data - but since survey of even a small area can result in millions of such points - standard tools for viewing and processing points do not work. Such a *Point Cloud* is typically stored in the LAS or LAZ formats.



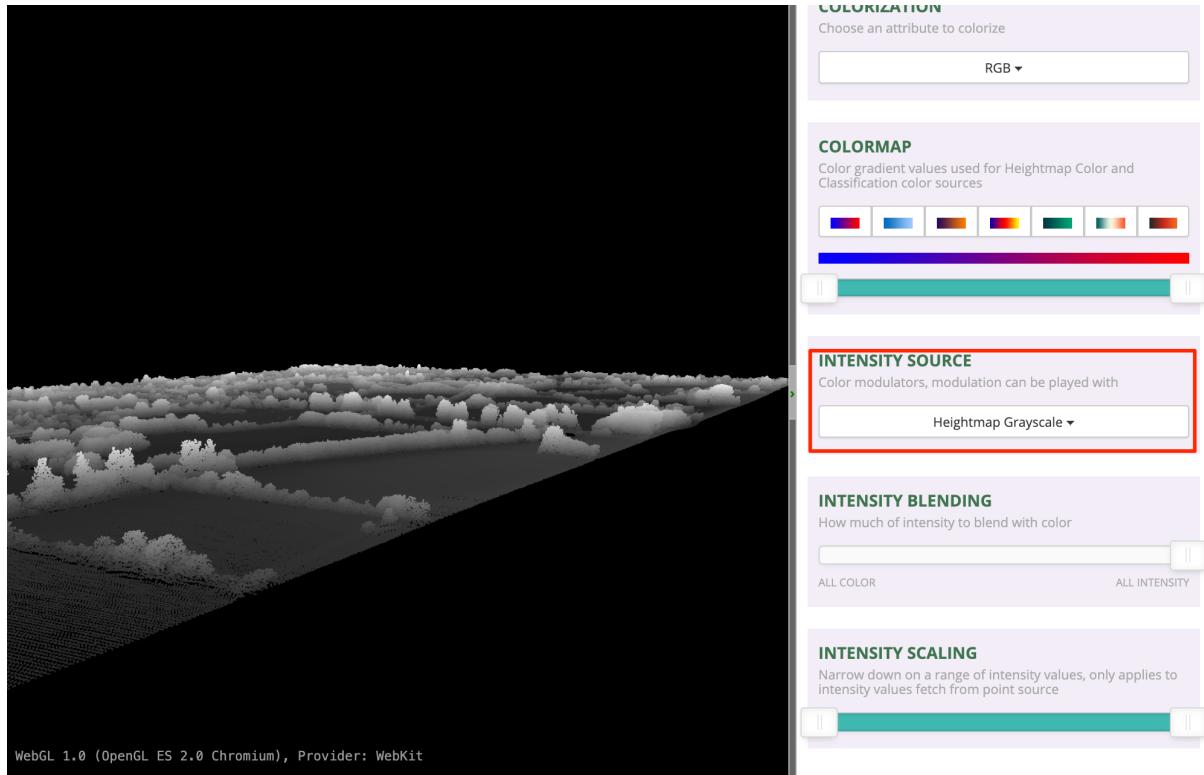
### Exercise: View Point Cloud from an Aerial Survey

UK's Department of Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) provides country-wide LiDAR data and products via the Defra Data Services Platform under an open license. We will use a point cloud dataset for Oxford University available as a LAZ file.

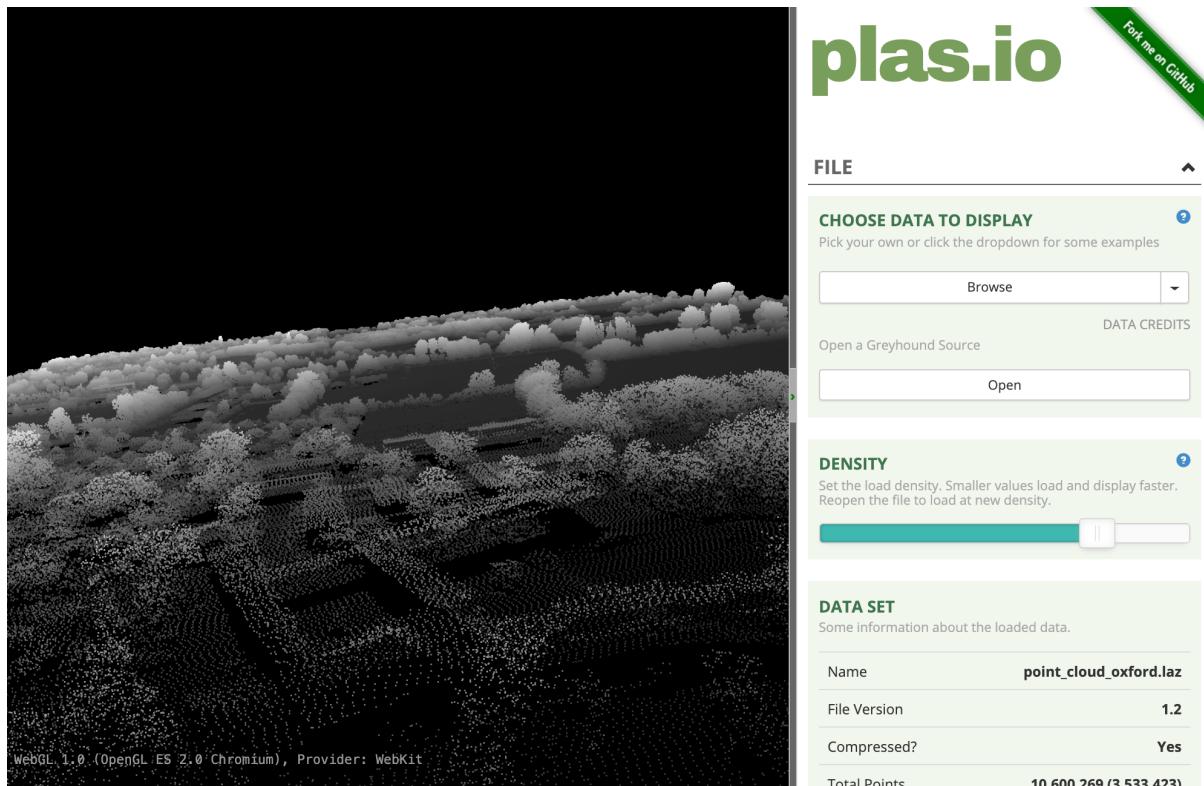
Plasio is a browser-based LAS/LAZ point cloud viewer. Visit [plas.io](http://plas.io). Click *Browse* and locate the `point_cloud_oxford.laz` file. Click *Open*. Note that this small region is rendered with over 3.5M source points.



Once the data is loaded, scroll down in the right-hand panel and locate the *Intensity Source* section. Select **Heightmap Grayscale** option from the drop-down selector.



Use the left-mouse button and scroll-wheel to zoom/pan around and explore the dataset.



## Raster - Photos

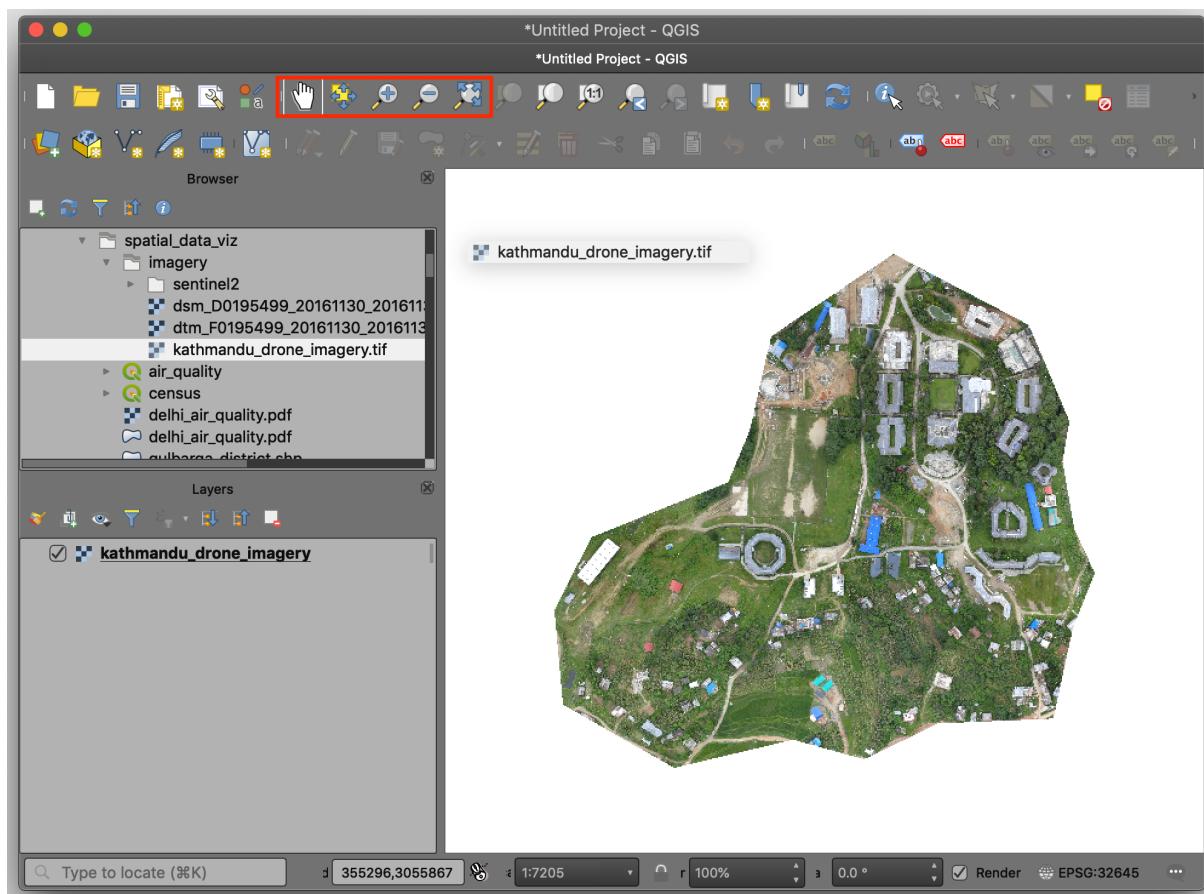
Photos collected from airborne sensors - such as kites, hot-air balloons, planes, helicopters and more recently UAVs - are useful source of information for mapping. They often act as a basemap - providing context for other spatial data. They are also used to extract feature information that are modeled as vector data.

The most common format for imagery is GeoTiff. A geotiff file contains additional metadata that allow us to convert pixel location (row/column) to a real-world location (latitude/longitude). A regular photo can be converted to a spatially-aware raster through a process known as GeoReferencing.

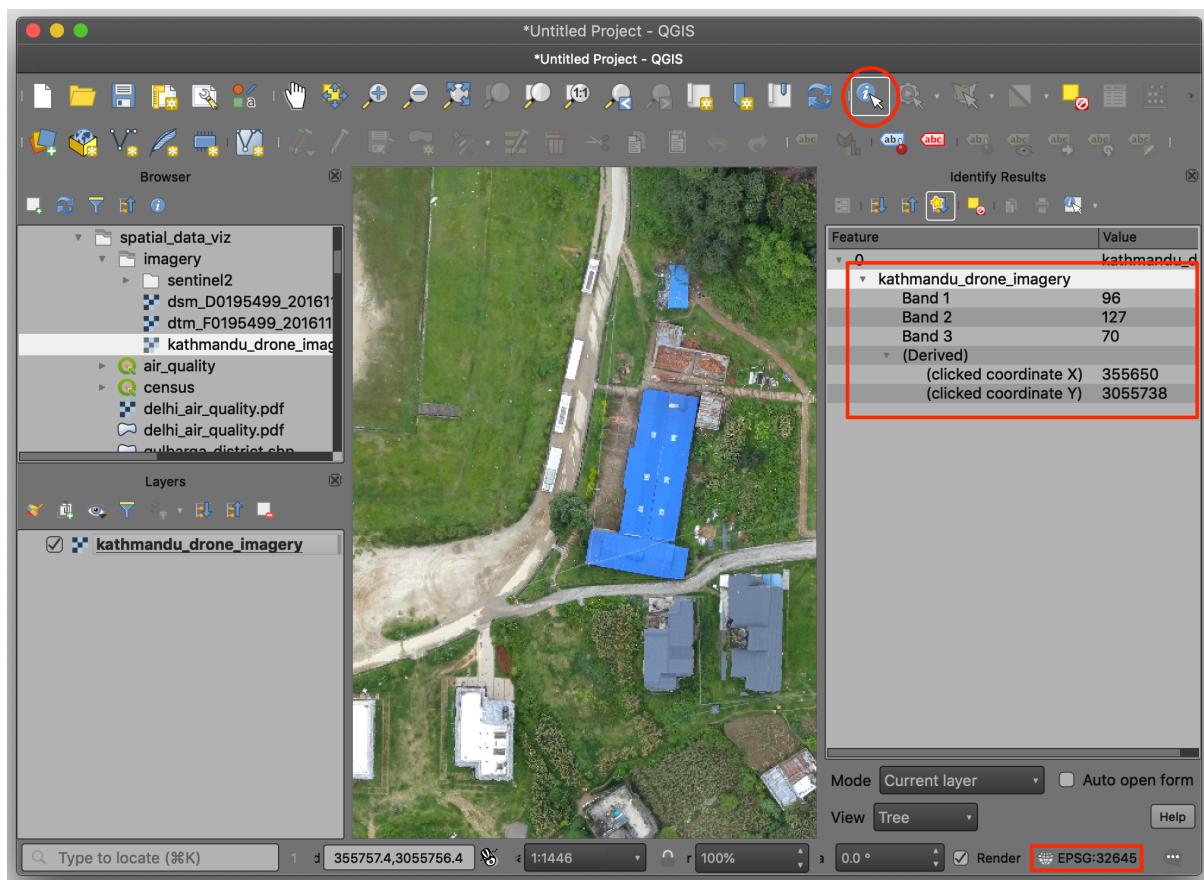
### Exercise: View Drone Imagery

OpenAerialMap is an open service to share and download overhead imagery. We will use an image of Kathmandu University Grounds shared by WeRobotics.

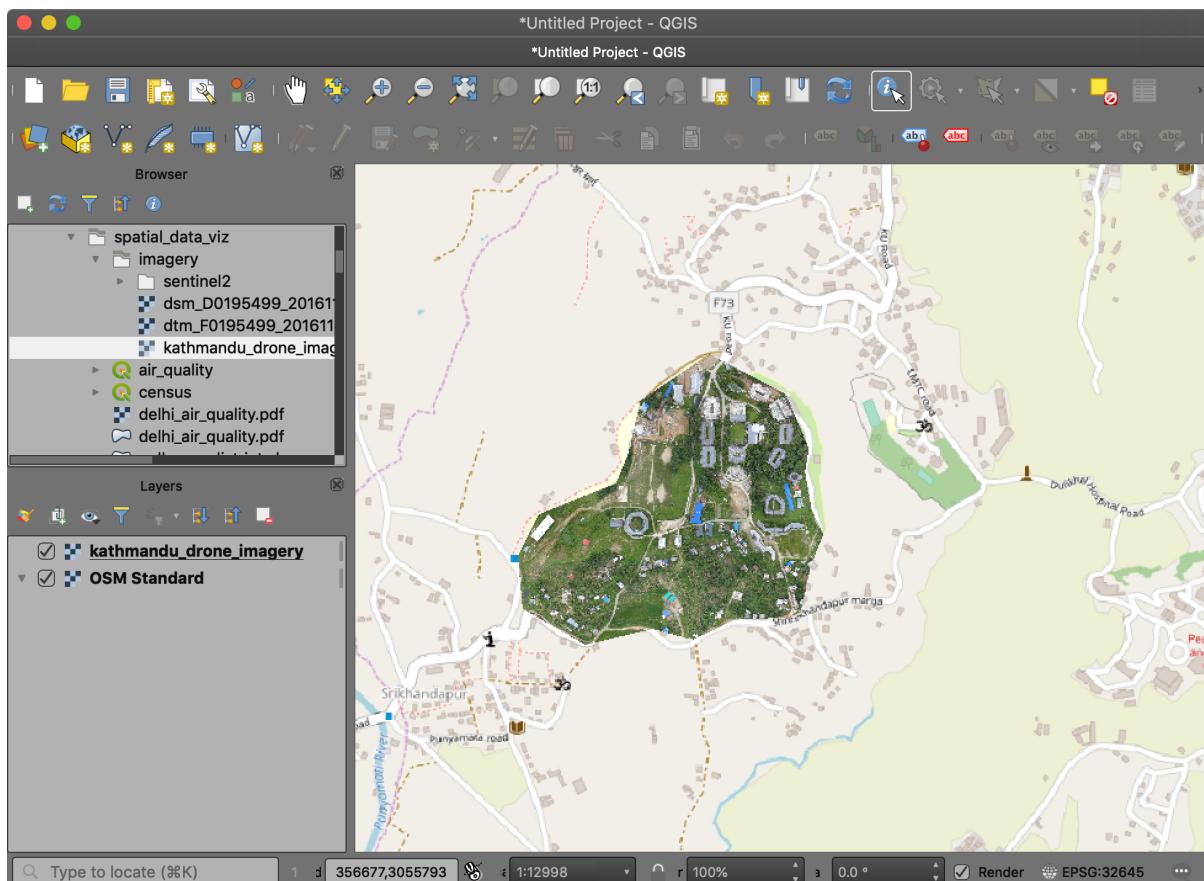
Browse to the `kathmandu_drone_imagery.tif` file and drag it to QGIS. Use the Zoom/Pan tools to explore the imagery.



At the bottom right, notice that the CRS is EPSG:32645 which refers to the UTM Zone 45N. Select the *Identify* tool and click anywhere on the image. You will see that the image contains 3 bands - one each for Red, Green and Blue. The coordinates are projected coordinates - not geographic coordinates. These are referred as *X (Easting)* and *Y (Northing)*.



As the image is also georeferenced, we can see it in context of other spatial layers. Go to **Web → QuickMapServices → OSM → OSM Standard**. A tile layer will be added to the *Layers* panel and you can see both line up with each other since both layers are spatially aware.



## Raster - Satellite Images

There are hundreds of Earth Observation Satellites in space continuously capturing images of the earth. Many space agencies around the world make this data available freely. These datasets are immensely valuable to scientists, researchers, governments and businesses.

The satellite images are different than regular photos because they contain information in across many bands of wavelengths - not just - Red, Green and Blue. This rich information allows machine learning models to easily distinguish different objects. For example, an astroturf and real lawn may both look green, but reflect the infrared light very differently. So one can easily differentiate between these using the additional information contained in a multi-spectral image.

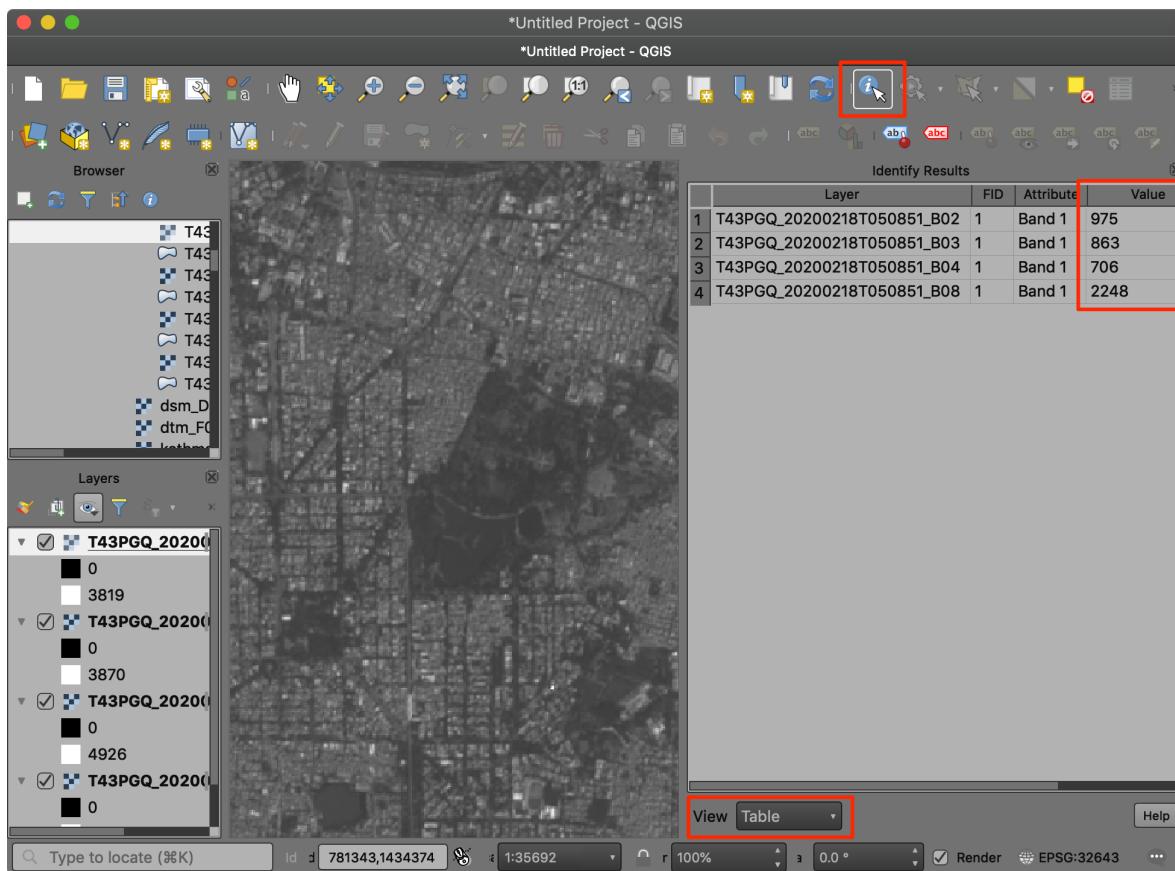
### Exercise: View Sentinel-2 Image and Create Composites

Sentinel-2 is a European Space Agency (ESA) mission with 2 satellites. The resolution of each pixel in the image is 10 meters. This is lower than drone or aerial imagery resolution, but still good enough for city and region level analysis. More importantly, the data is captured in 12 different bands - making it very useful for scientific applications. These mission capture every location on the earth every 5 days, allowing for continuous monitoring of the whole earth. ESA also makes all the data from this mission freely available.

We will load a Sentinel-2 image for Bangalore, India captured on 18 February, 2020. The data package directory `imagery/sentinel-2` 4 files in JPEG2000 format. The 4 files are for bands Red (B4), Green (B3), Blue (B2) and Near Infrared (B8).

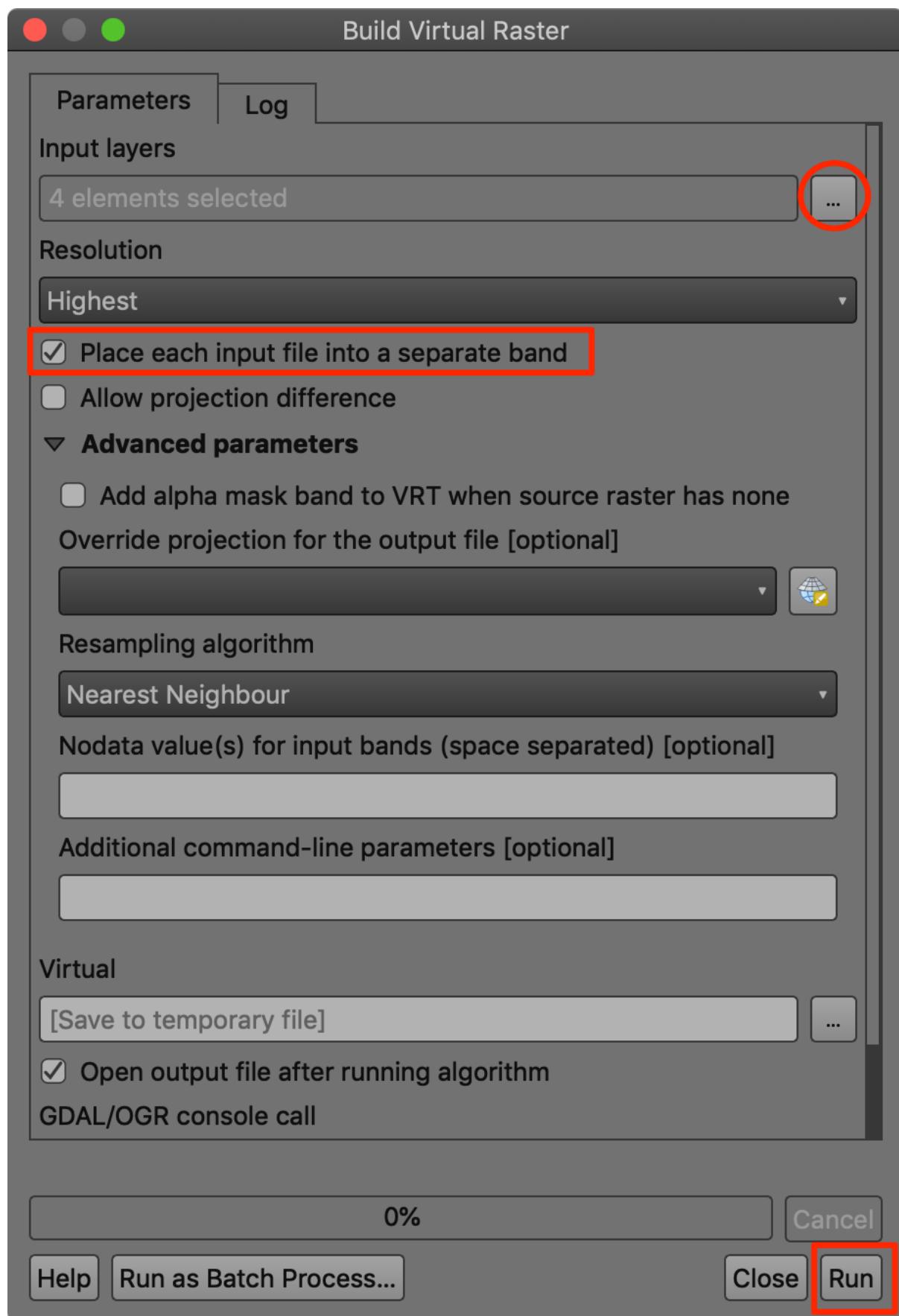
Drag all 4 images to the QGIS canvas. Zoom in to any area and explore how the same object has different reflectance in different bands.





We can combine multiple bands into a single image and visualize it. These are called *Color Composites*. To merge individual images to a single one, go to **Processing → Toolbox** and find **GDAL → Raster miscellaneous → Build virtual raster**. Double-click to launch the tool.

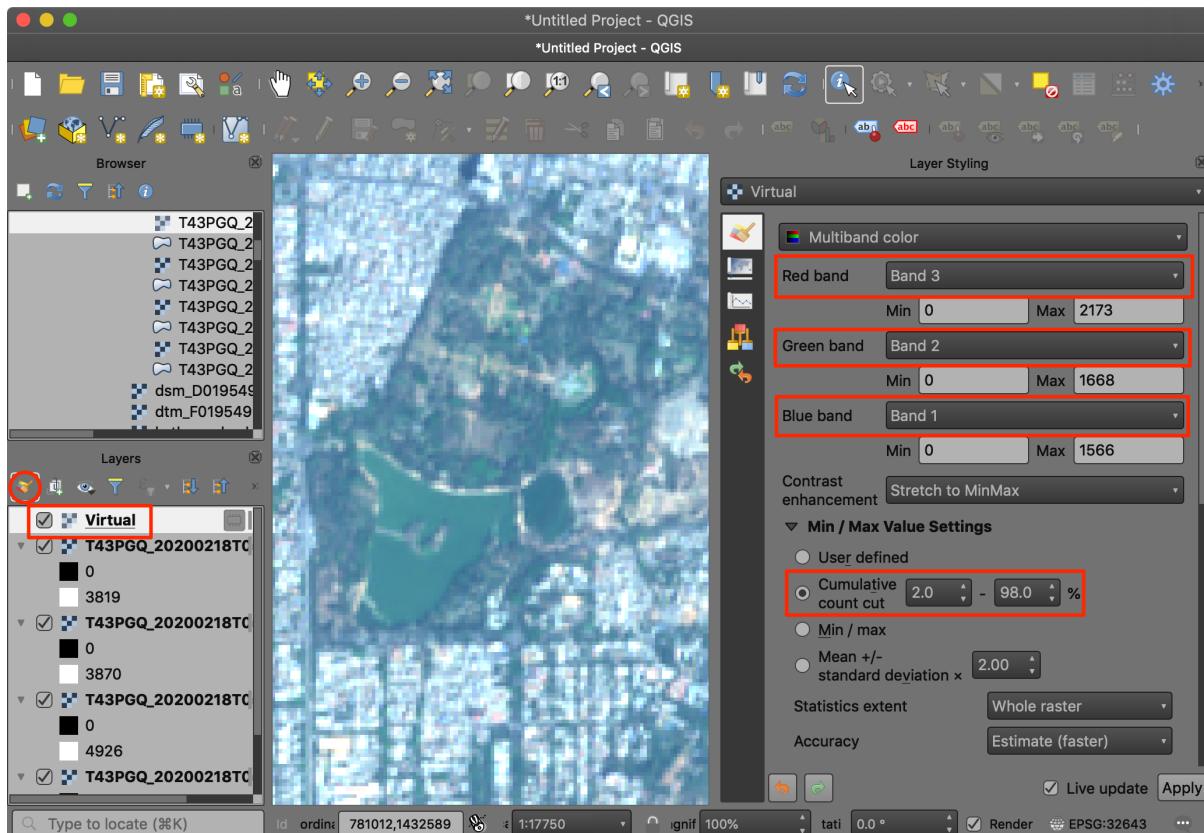
Select all 4 layers as *Input layers* and check *Place each input file into a separate band*. Next click *Run*.



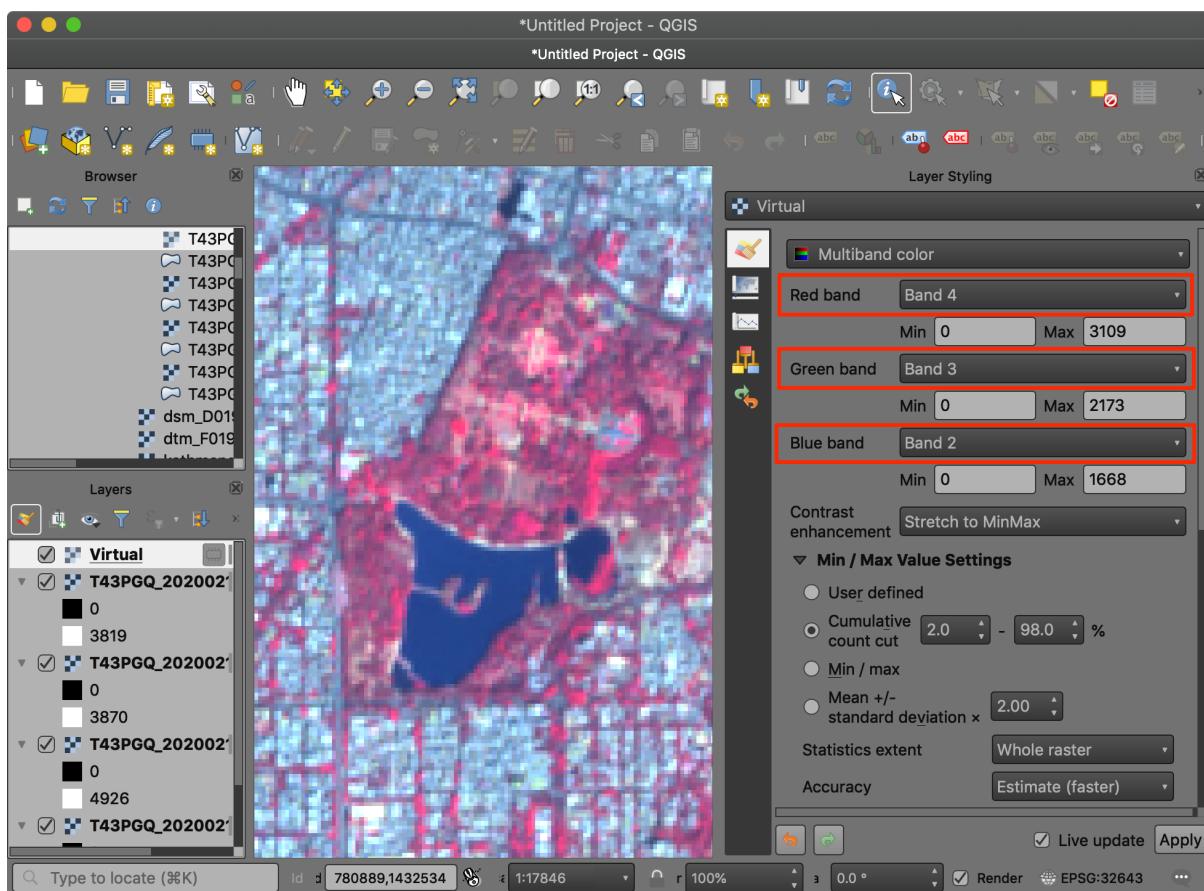
A new layer **Virtual** will be added to the *Layers* panel. This layer contains references to the 4 different images. Note that the order of the bands in alphabetical, so the mapping in the virtual raster is as follows:

Virtual Raster Band	Image
Band 1	B02 (Blue)
Band 2	B03 (Green)
Band 3	B04 (Red)
Band 4	B08 (NIR)

We will first visualize a *RGB Color Composite*. This is also referred as a *Natural Color Composite* since it is how the image would be perceived by the human eye. Place **Band 3**, **Band 2** and **Band 1** as *Red*, *Green* and *Blue* bands. Change the *Min/Max Value Settings* to *Cumulative count cut*. You will see the image now appears in natural colors.



Let's create a different type of visualization, known as *False Color Composite*. Here we want to create a *NRG Color Composite* where we put Near Infrared band in Red channel, Red band in green channel and Green band in blue channel. This visualization highlights the vegetation in red color and allows for easy visual interpretation of vegetation. Note how the water body and vegetation appeared almost the same color in the RGB composite, but are easy to separate in the NRG composite.



## Raster - Elevation Data

<https://data.gov.uk/dataset/6a117171-5c59-4c7d-8e8b-8e7aefe8ee2e/lidar-composite-dtm-1m>

## Analysis

### Exercise: Uber Movement Analysis

Uber provides anonymized data aggregated from over ten billion taxi trips to help urban planning around the world. The data is freely available in open-format for download. The dataset includes info such as travel times and speeds along each road segment.

We will take the Travel Times data for the city of Bangalore to analyze the traffic patterns and find out the areas that are accessible within 30 minutes of driving. This type of map is known as an Isochrone Map and is useful in urban planning.

The data comes in 2 parts. A GeoJSON file `bangalore_wards.json` depicting the boundaries of wards in the city and a CSV file `bangalore-wards-2019-3-OnlyWeekdays-HourlyAggregate.csv` that contains travel times aggregated at the ward level and hour of the day for the time period Q3 (July-Sep) of 2019. A whitepaper documents the methodology used for creating this dataset.

The structure of the CSV file is as follows

sourceid	dstid	hod	mean_travel_time	...
55	111	8	2026.76	...

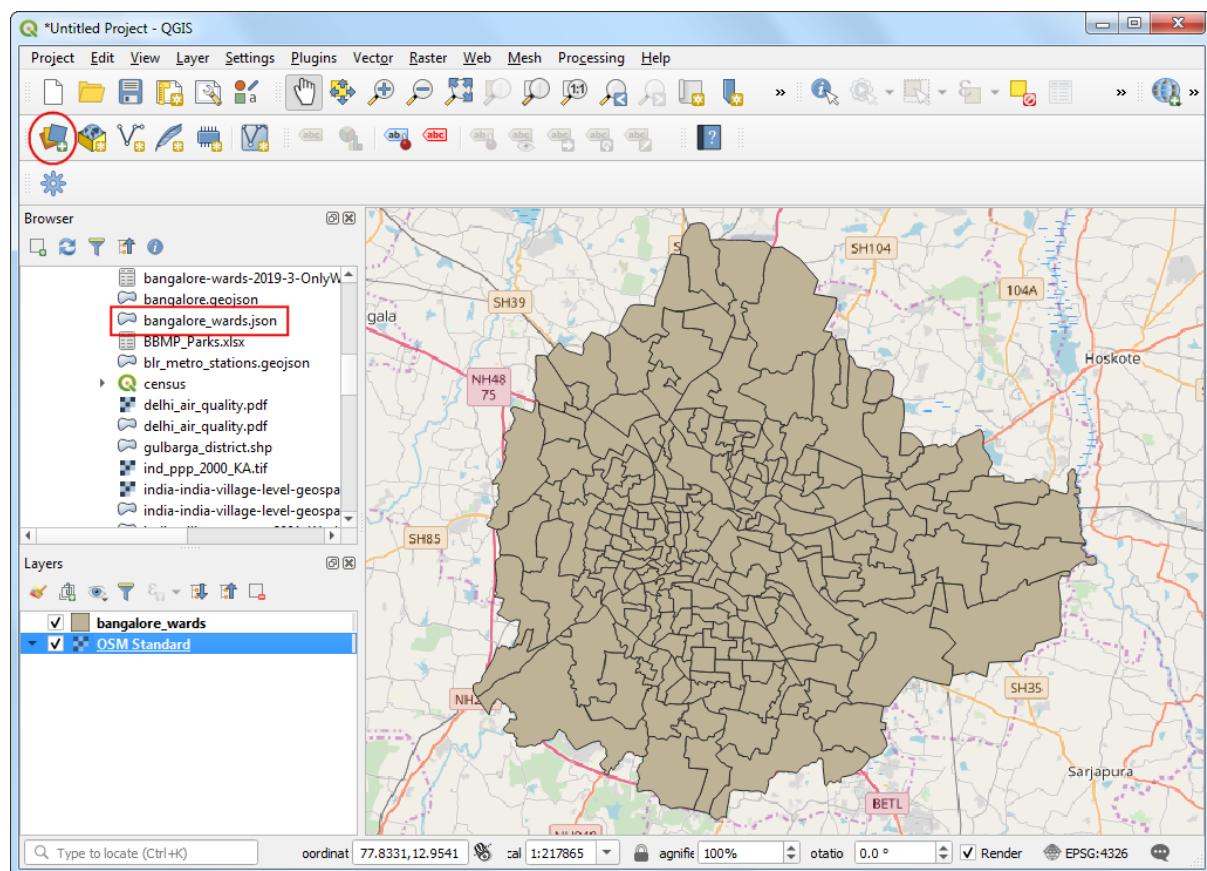


sourceid	dstid	hod	mean_travel_time	...
22	25	13	770.07	...

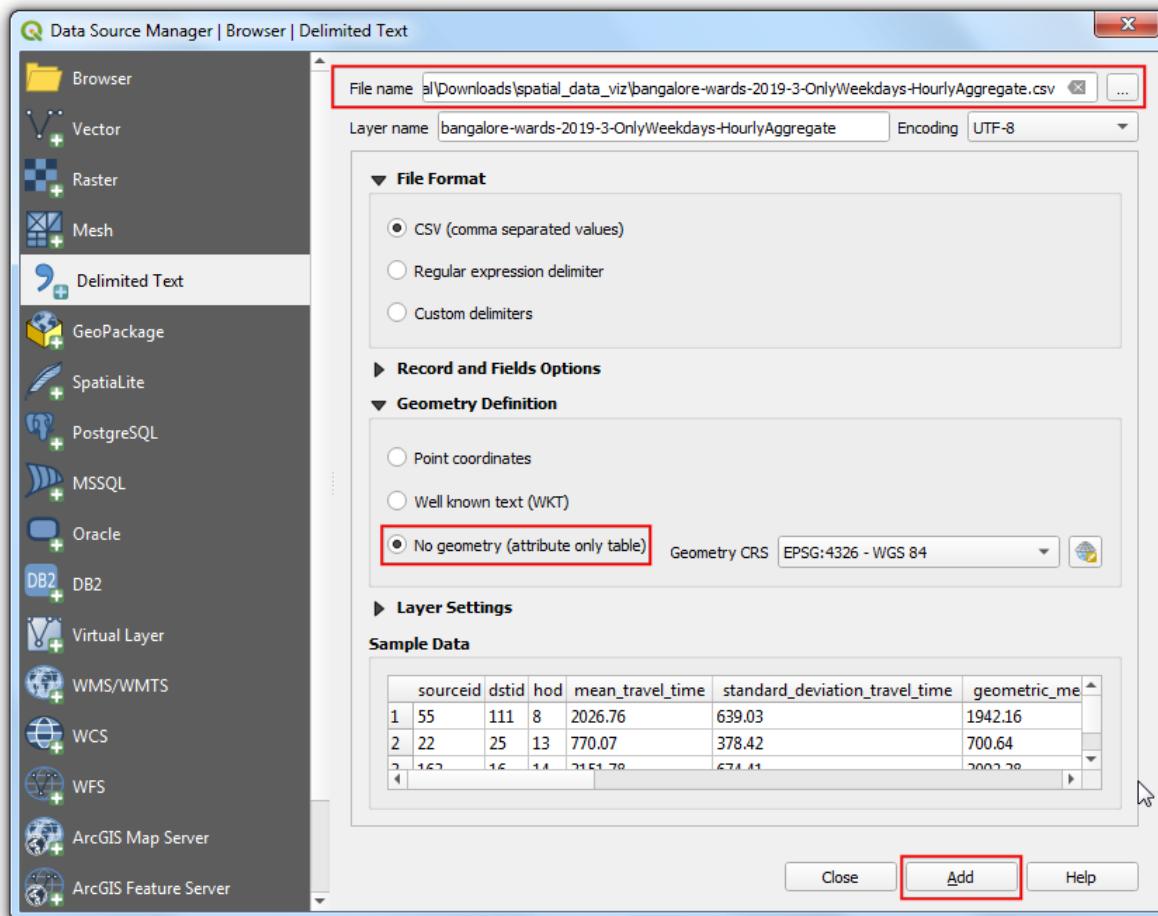
- **sourceid** and **dstid**: the pair of origin-destination ward ids
- **hod**: hour-of-day. Ranges from 0-23
- **mean\_travel\_time**: average travel time in seconds aggregated from all the trips

There are 198 wards in Bangalore. The file contains pair-wise travel time between each of them for all hours of the day. The total records of travel times between them would be  $198 \times 198 \times 24 = 940896$ . But since not all wards have enough trips between them at certain hours, they are not provided. Thus our file contains a total of 818263 rows. This is still a lot of data and we need to do some Analysis to extract the right set from it.

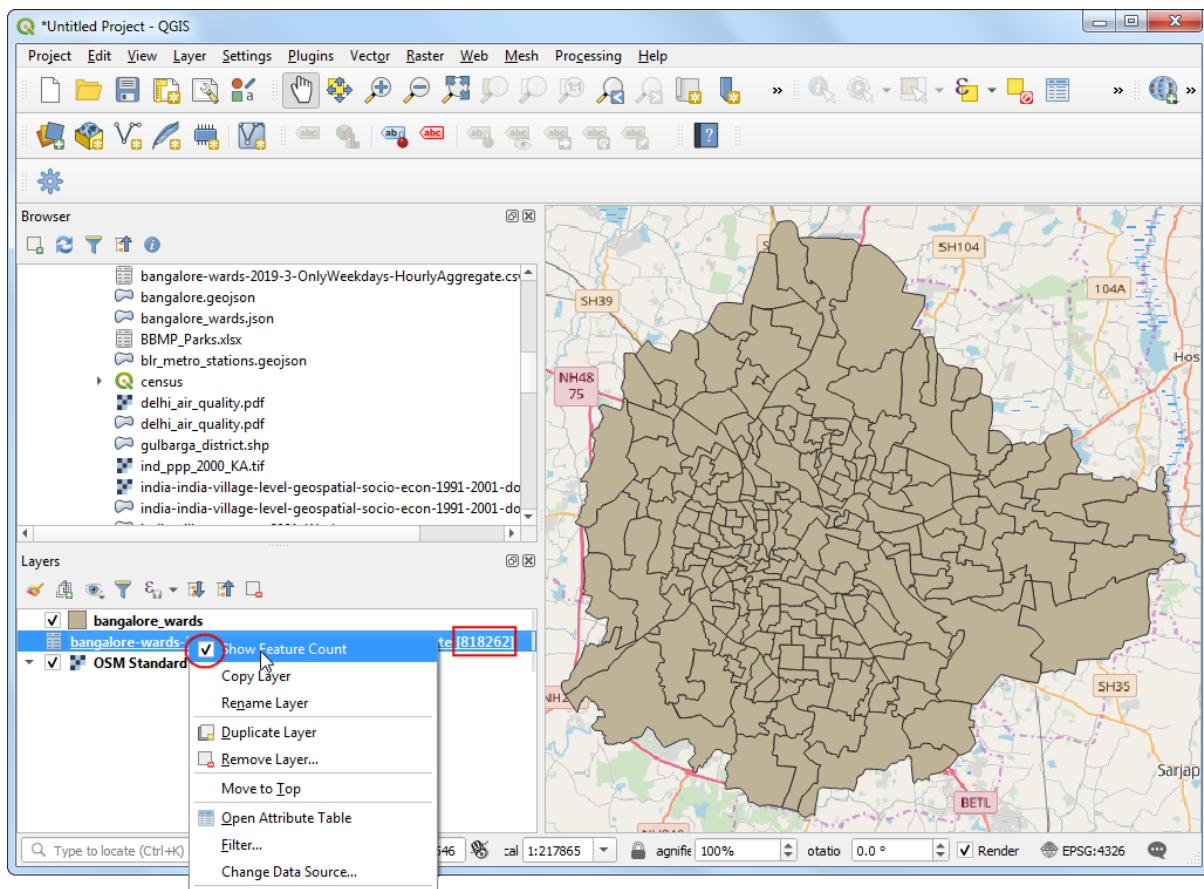
1. Let's first load a base layer from OpenStreetMap. Go to **Web** → **QuickMapServices** → **OSM** → **OSM Standard**. Next locate the `bangalore_wards.json` file in the *Browser* panel and drag it to the canvas. Once loaded, click *Open Data Source Manager* button.



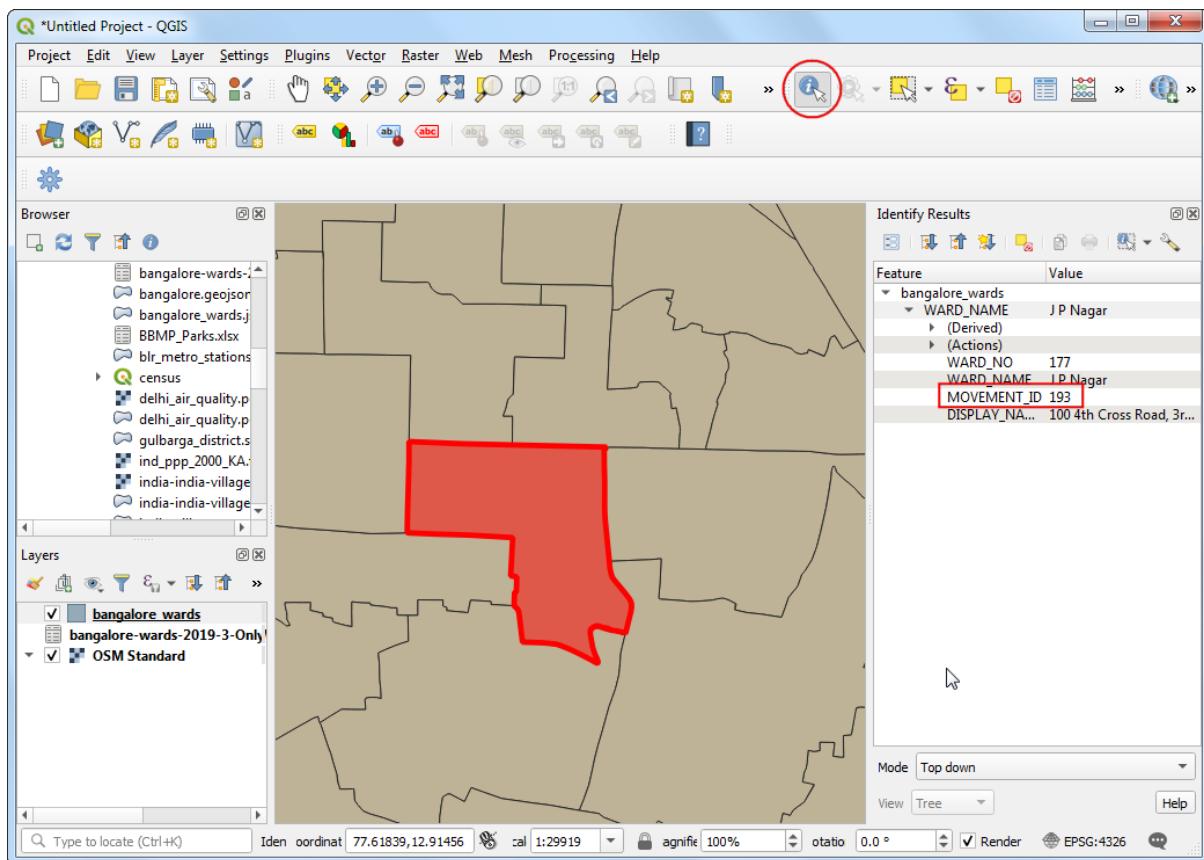
2. Switch to the *Delimited Text* tab. Browse to the `bangalore-wards-2019-3-OnlyWeekdays-Hourly` file and select it. Since this CSV file is just tabular data, select *No geometry (attribute only table)* option and click *Add*.



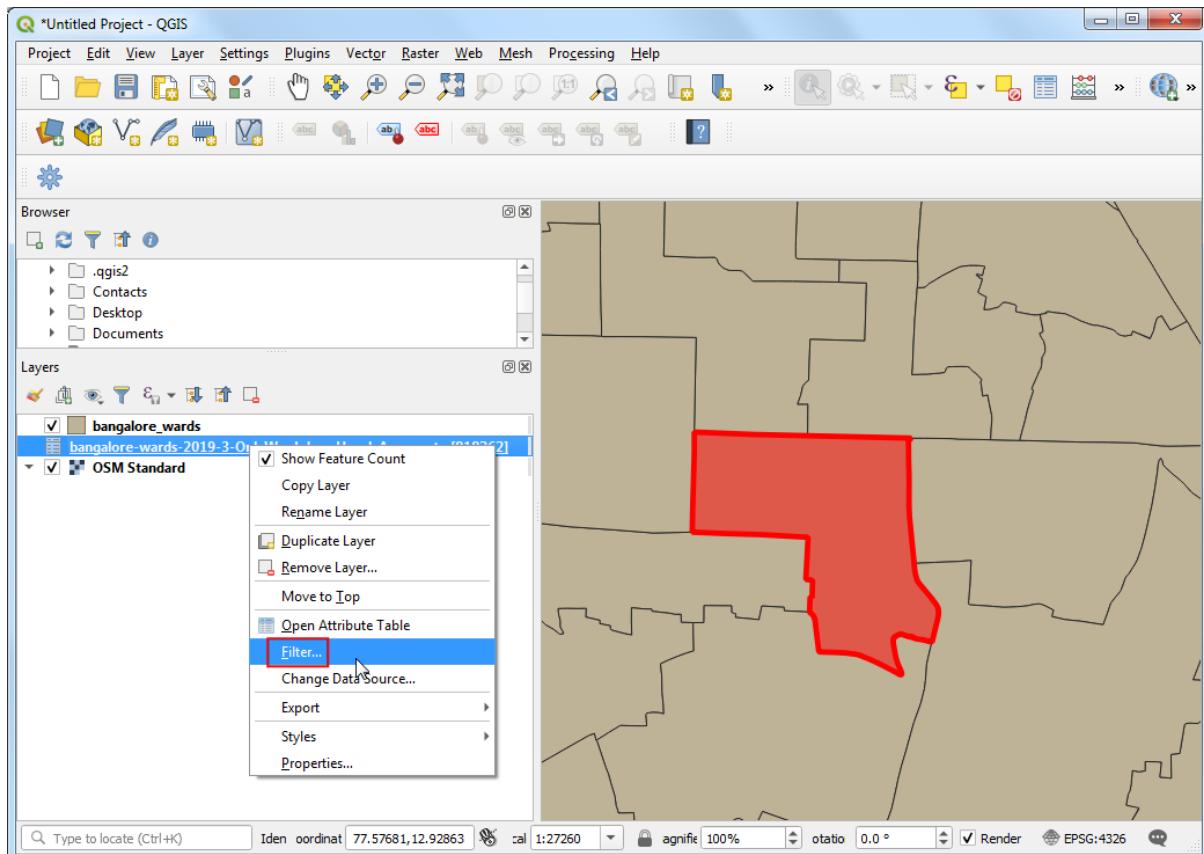
3. Once the `bangalore-wards-2019-3-OnlyWeekdays-HourlyAggregate` layer is added to the *Layers* panel, right-click on it and select *Show Feature Count*. The total rows from the table will be displayed next to it.



4. For the purpose of this exercise, we will calculate all areas that are accessible within 30 minutes from Spatial Thoughts office. When you find the area on the basemap, you can select the *Identify* button and select `bangalore_wards` layer and click on it. The results will confirm that the office is located in the *JP Nagar* ward with the ***MOVEMENT\_ID 193***.

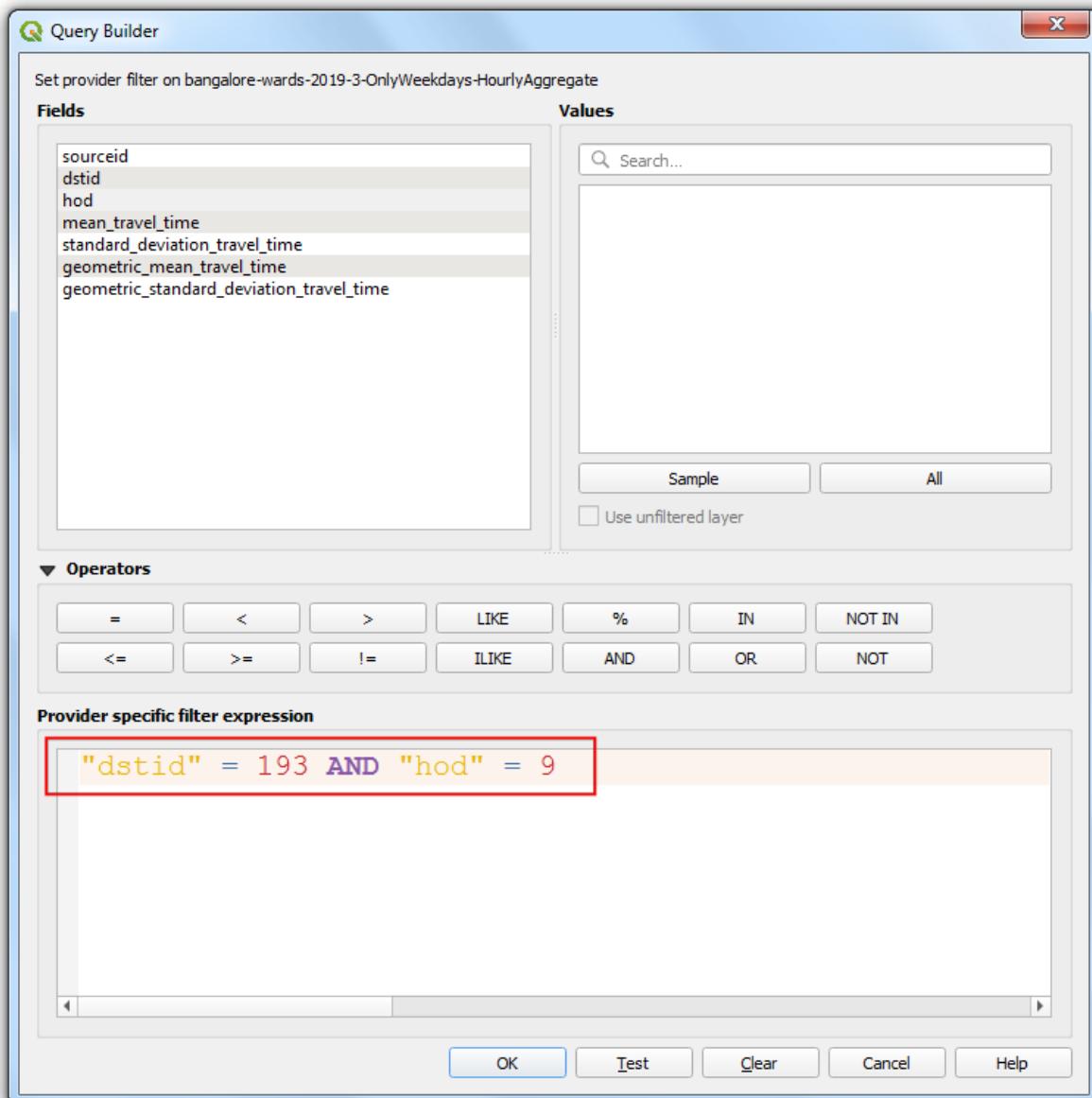


5. We can filter the travel time records to just those which have this ward as the destination. We can also restrict our analysis to the peak morning commute hours of 9am-10am. Right-click the bangalore-wards-2019-3-OnlyWeekdays-HourlyAggregate layer and select *Filter*.

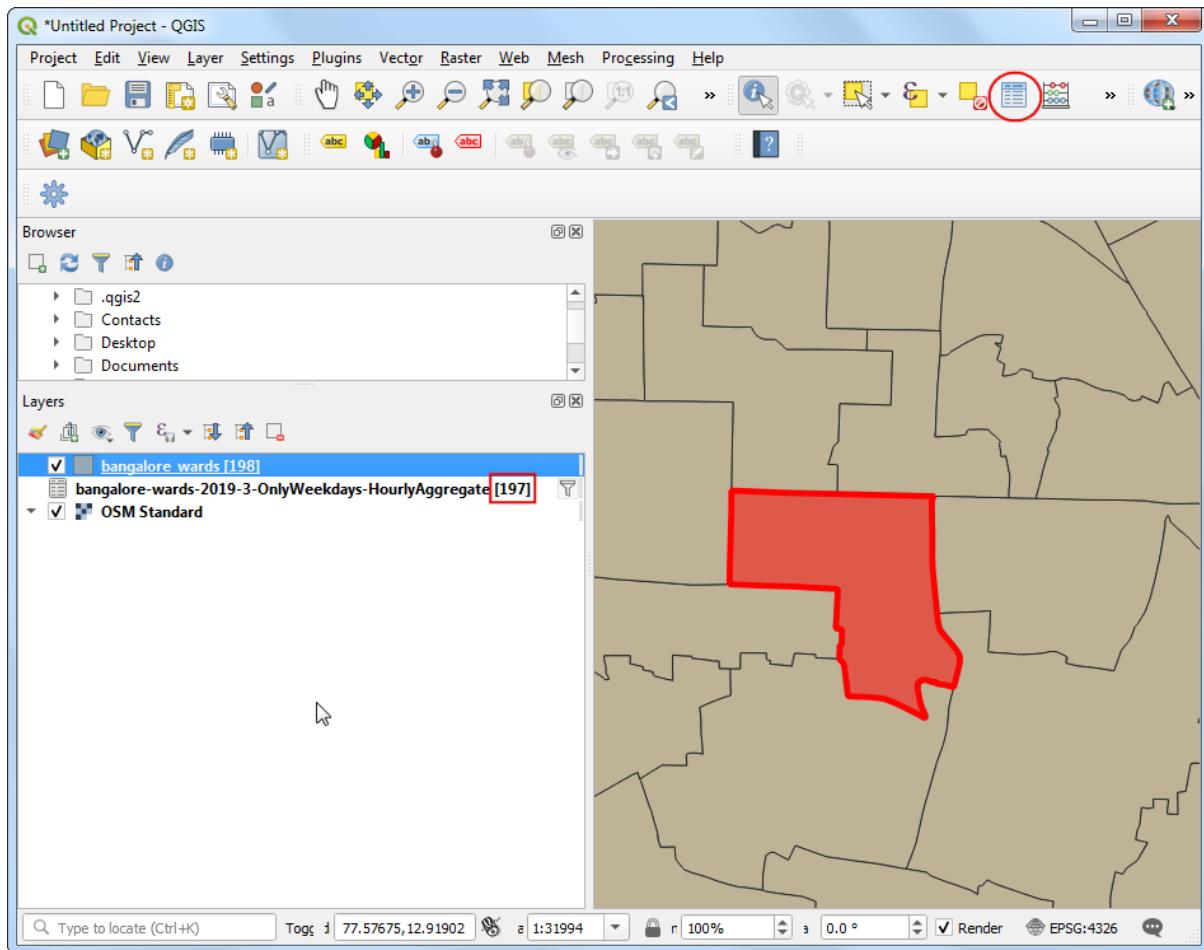


6. Enter the following filter expression and click *OK*.

"dstid" = 193 AND "hod" = 9



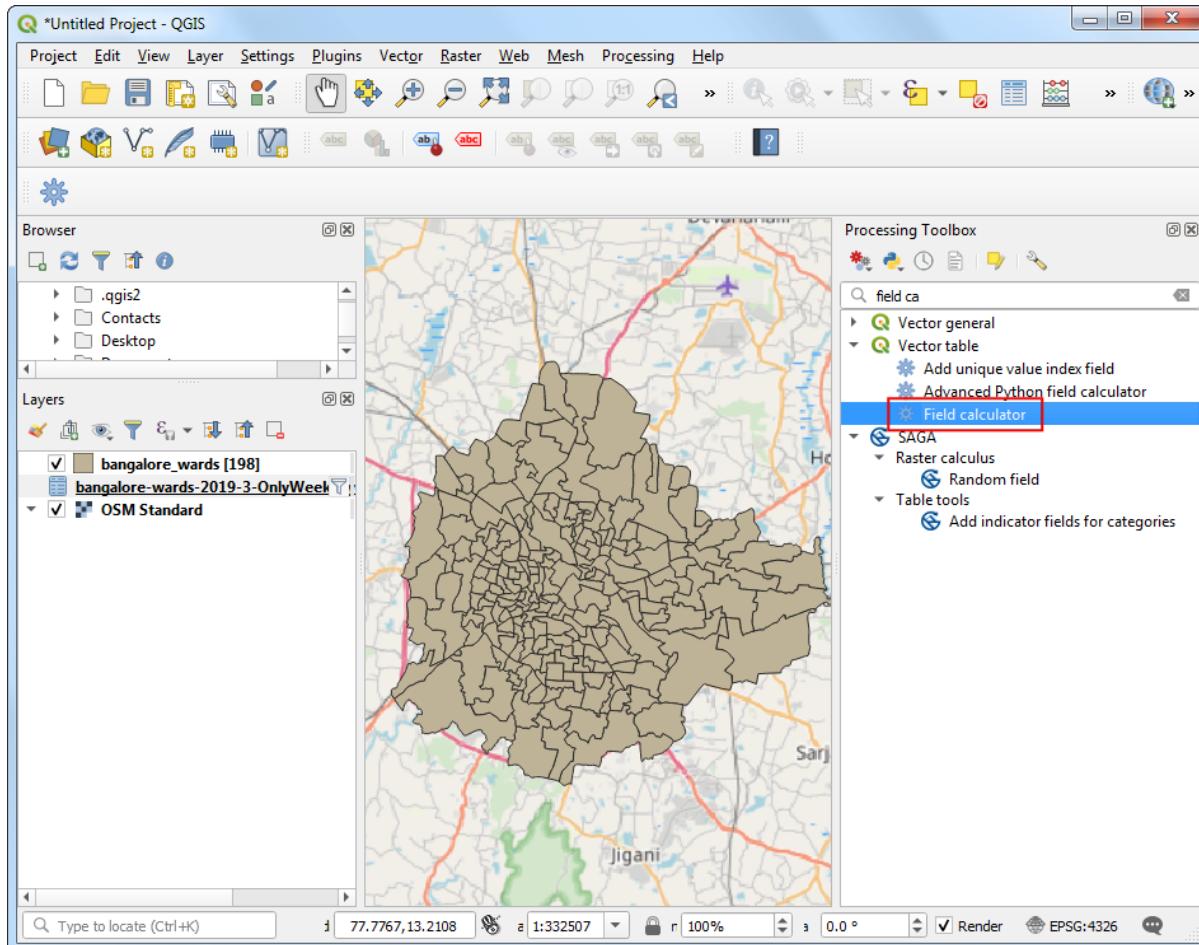
7. Back in the main QGIS window, you will see that the number of records in the filtered table are now down to just 197. Since there are a total of 198 wards in the city, we have records of travel times between the 1 destination ward and 197 source wards. Open the attribute table of both the layers using the *Open Attribute Table* button in the *Attributes* toolbar.



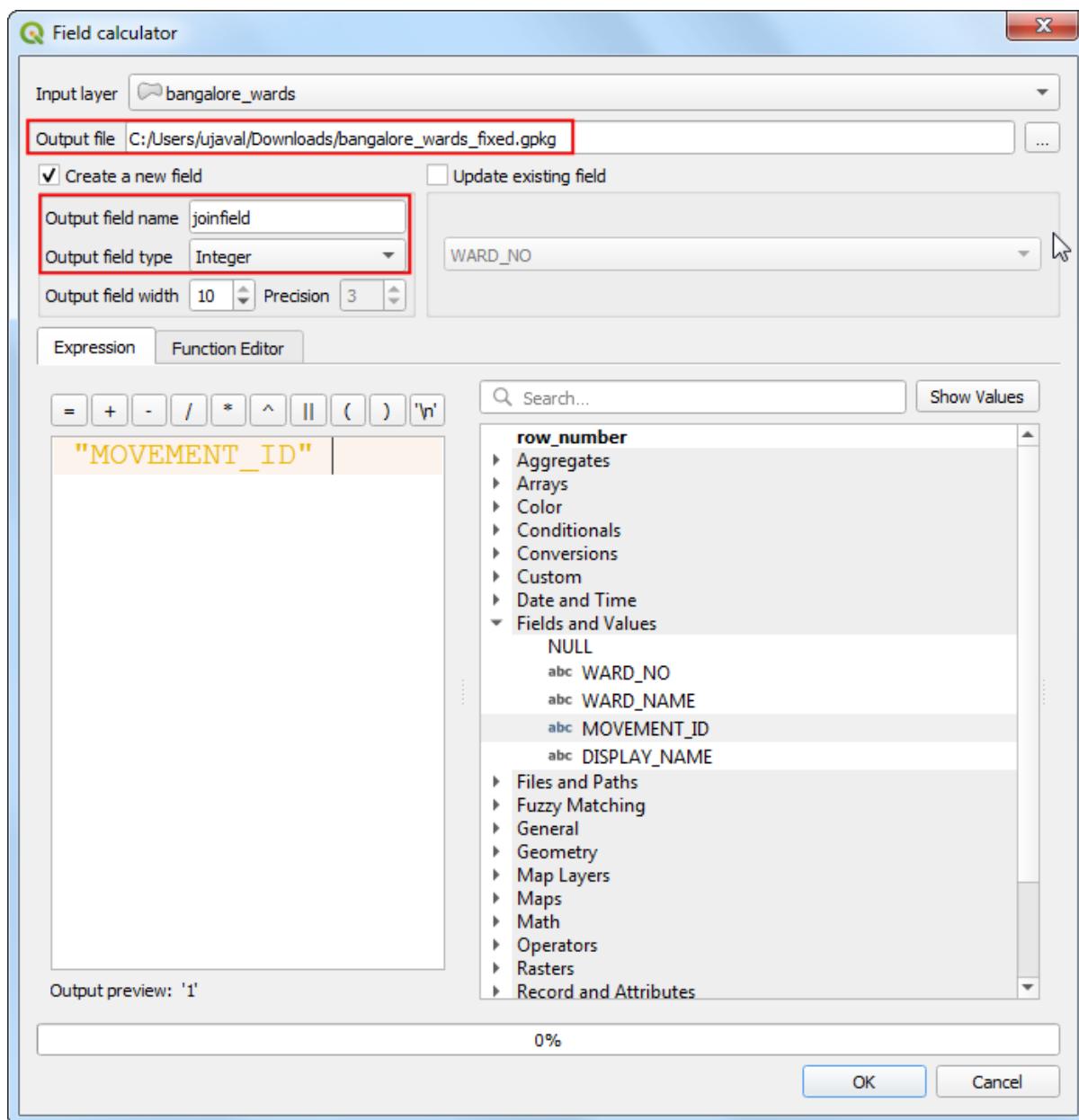
8. Now we have the shapes of the ward in the layer `bangalore_wards` and tabular information in the layer `bangalore-wards-2019-3-OnlyWeekdays-HourlyAggregate`. We can join the attribute information to the shapes using a common attribute. Here the `MOVEMENT_ID` column from the `bangalore_wards` layer and `sourceid` column from the `bangalore-wards-2019-3-OnlyWeekdays-HourlyAggregate` are unique ward identifiers that can be joined. This operation is called a *Table Join*.

bangalore_wards :: Features Total: 198, Filtered: 198, S...				bangalore-wards-2019-3-OnlyWeekdays-HourlyAggregate :: Features Total... ::				
	WARD_NO	WARD_NAME	MOVEMENT_ID	sourceid	dstid	hod	mean_travel_time	rd_deviations_trav...
1	118	Sudham Nagar	134	143	193	9	1369.52	397.33
2	141	Azad Nagar	133	187	193	9	5721.41	1016.61
3	142	Sunkenahalli	136	56	193	9	4232.24	653.58
4	119	Dharmaraya Sw...	135	28	193	9	2902.46	473.39
5	138	Chalavadiyala	130	149	193	9	928.18	389.09
6	137	Rayapuram	129	90	193	9	2936.19	735.16
7	140	Chamrajapet	132	82	193	9	1981.43	518.67
8	139	K R Market	131	23	193	9	2416.63	473.22
9	156	Srinagar	142	140	193	9	888.62	434.58
10	155	Hanumanth Na...	141	17	193	9	4848.39	861.45
11	162	Girinagar	144	69	193	9	4527.35	775.61
12	154	Basavanagudi	143	61	193	9	3932.07	716.71
13	144	Siddapura	138	151	193	9	863.7	314.29

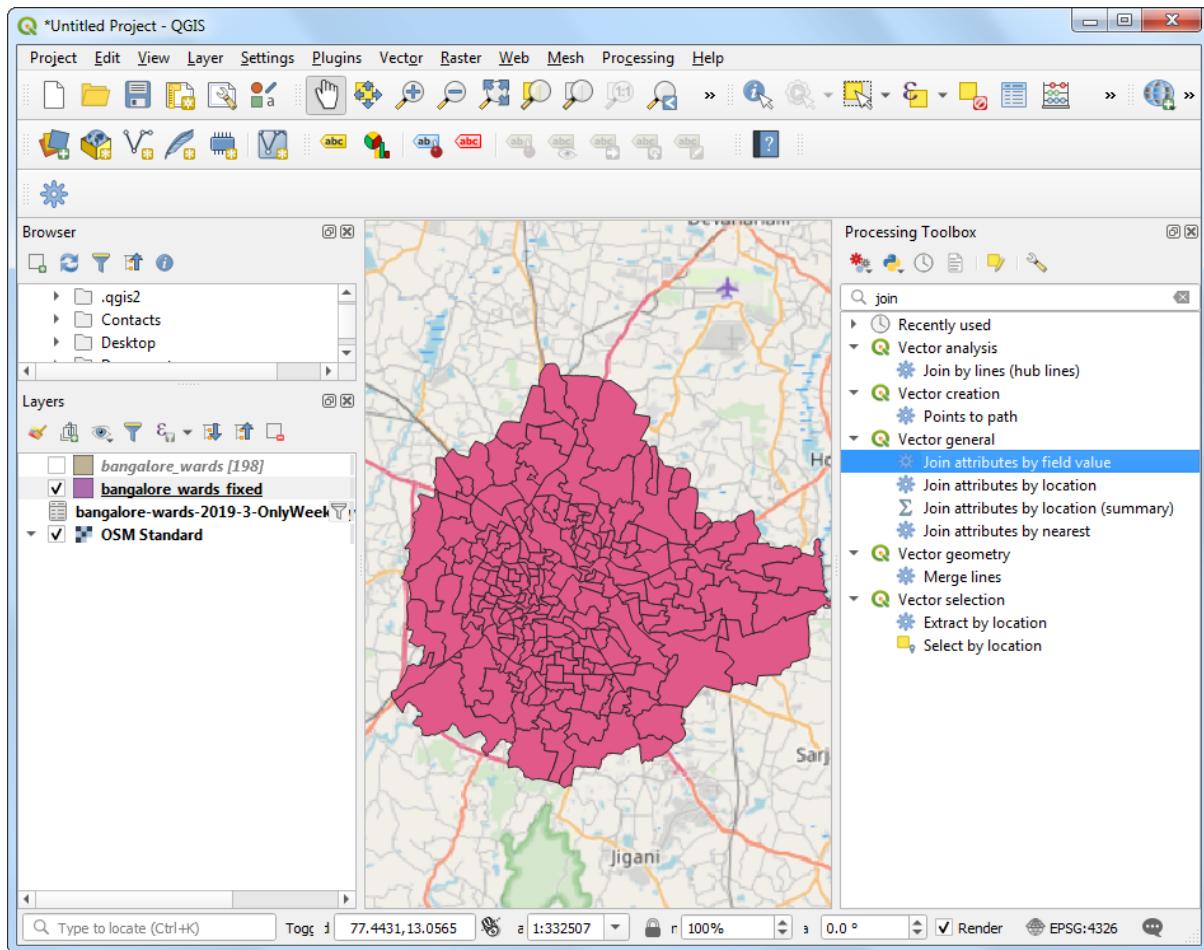
9. Before we can join these two layers, we must ensure that the values in both columns match exactly. Thought they appear the same, they are of different type. Since GeoJSON format has no way of specifying property types, all values are assumed to be of the type *String* - i.e. Text. But when we import a CSV to QGIS, QGIS intelligently determines the types of the columns based on the values and hence has assigned the type *Integer* to the column **sourceid**. So we need to convert the column from the GeoJSON to an integer type as well. Go to **Processing → Toolbox**. Search for the *Vector Table → Field Calculator* algorithm. Double-click to launch it.



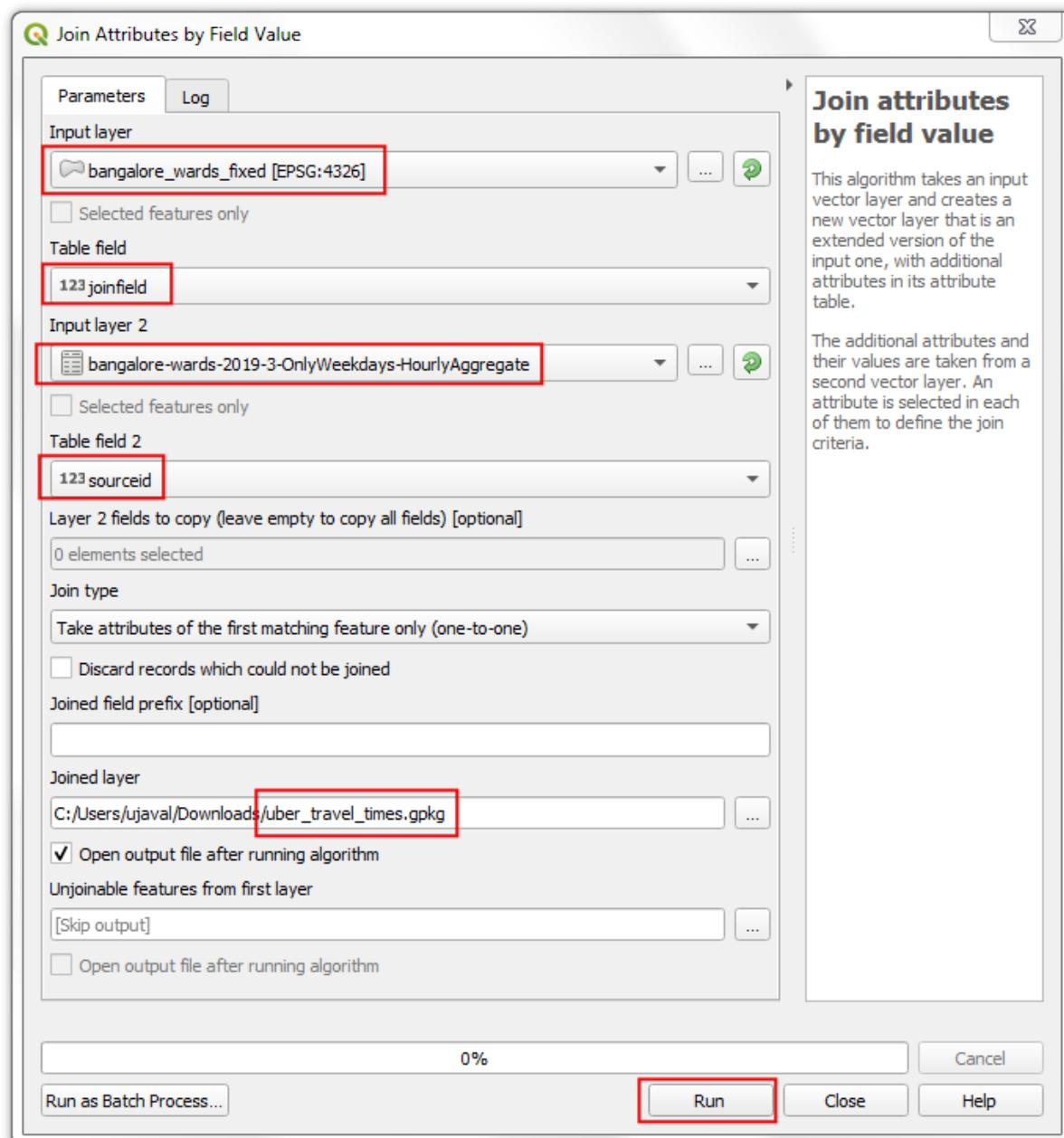
10. Choose **bangalore\_wards** as the *Input Layer*. Click the ... button next to the *Output file* and name the output as **bangalore\_wards\_fixed.gpkg**. Name the new field as **joinfield** and select the *Output field type* as **Integer**. Enter "**MOVEMENT\_ID**" as the expression and click **OK**. Close the field calculator.



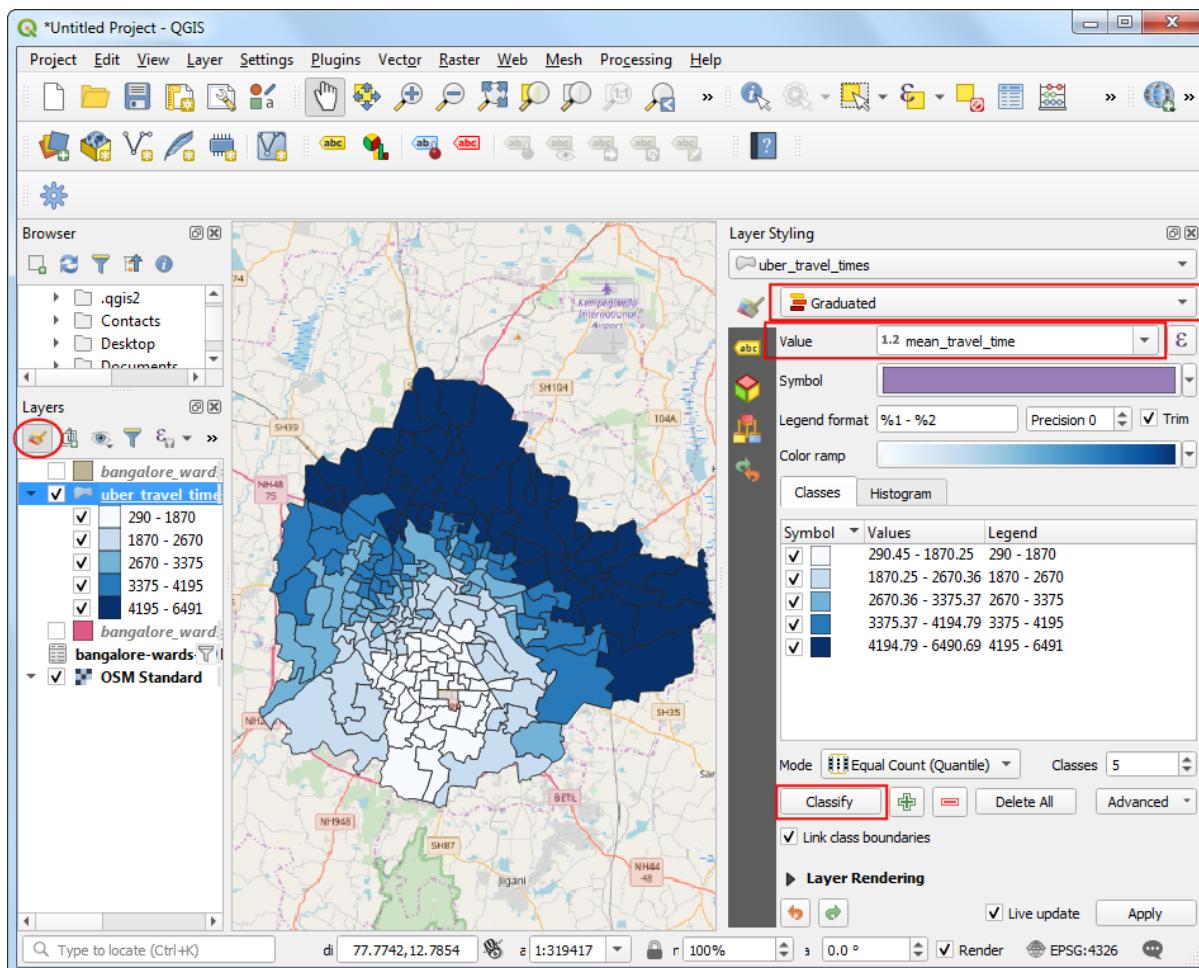
11. A new layer `bangalore_wards_fixed` will be added to the *Layers* panel. Now we are ready to perform the join. Search for and locate the *Join attributes by field value* algorithm from the Processing Toolbox.



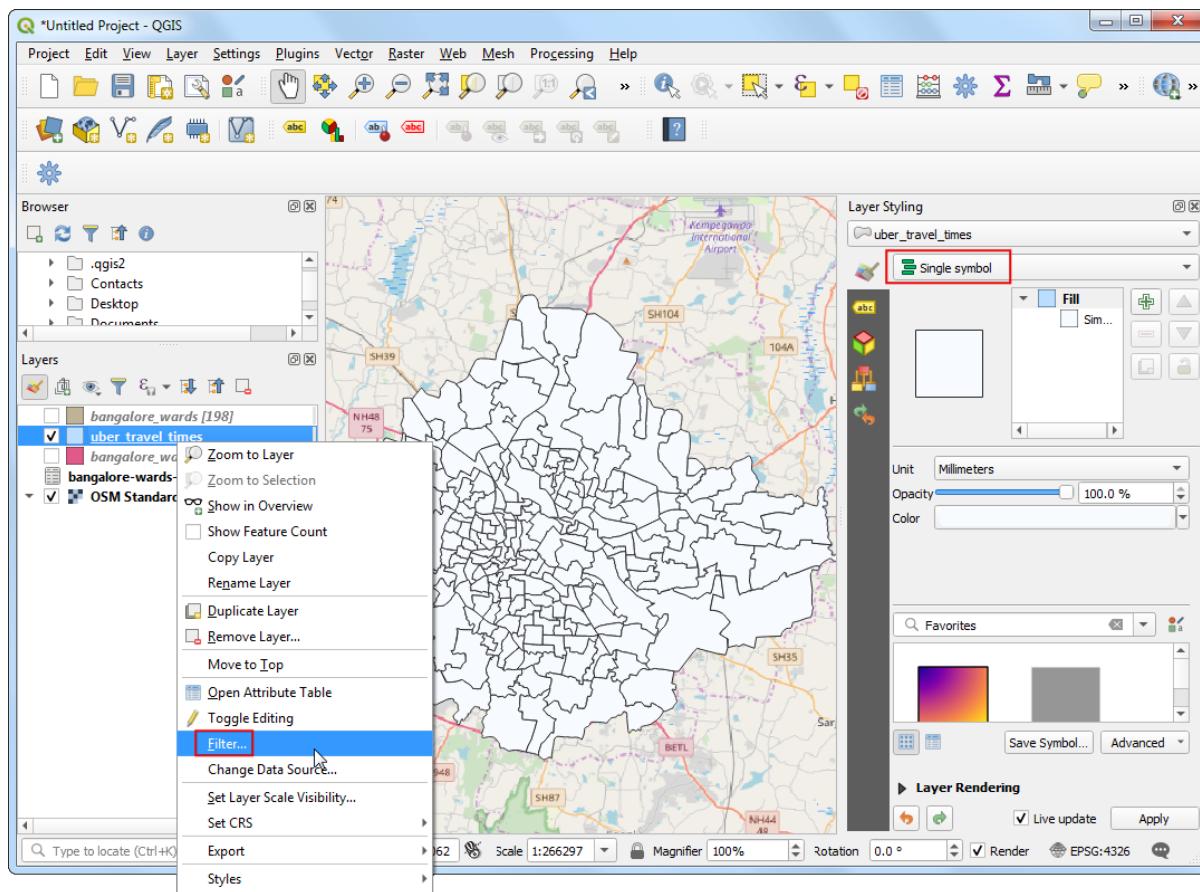
12. Select `bangalore_wards_fixed` as the *Input layer* and `joinfield` as the *Table field*. Select `bangalore-wards-2019-3-OnlyWeekdays-HourlyAggregate` as the *Input layer 2* and `sourceid` as the *Table field 2*. Name the *Joined layer* as `uber_travel_times.gpkg` and click *Run*.



13. A new layer `uber_travel_times` will be added to the *Layers* panel. Let's style it to visualize the result of the join. Click *Open the Layer Styling Panel*. Select the **Graduated renderer** and `mean_travel_time` as the *Value*. Select a color ramp and click *Classify*. You will see the map showing increasing travel times further you go from the destination.

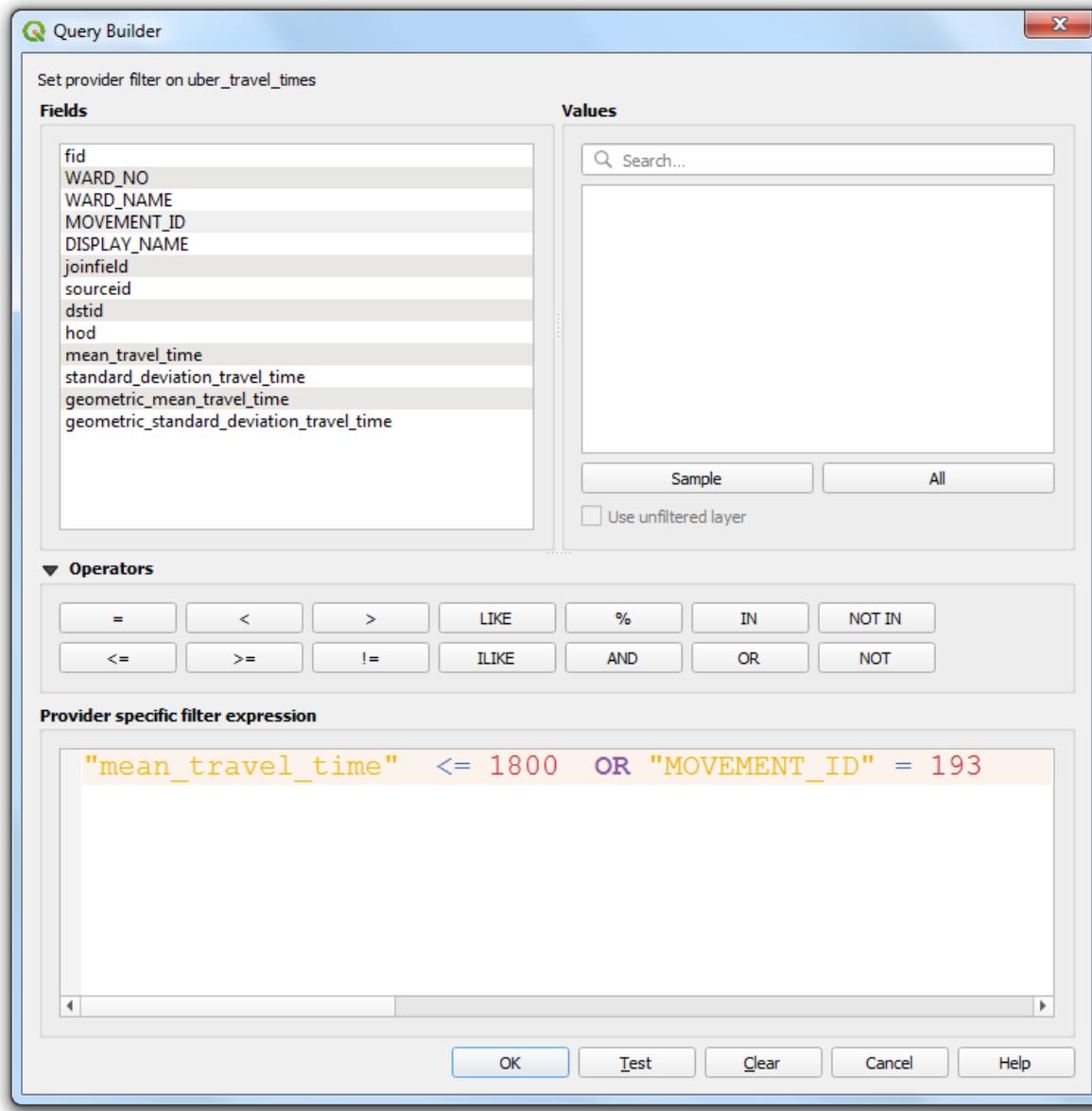


14. But we are looking to analyze and extract areas that are within 30 minutes of travel time, so we need to do some more processing. Switch the styling back to the *Single symbol* renderer. Right-click the `uber_travel_times` layer and select *Filter*.

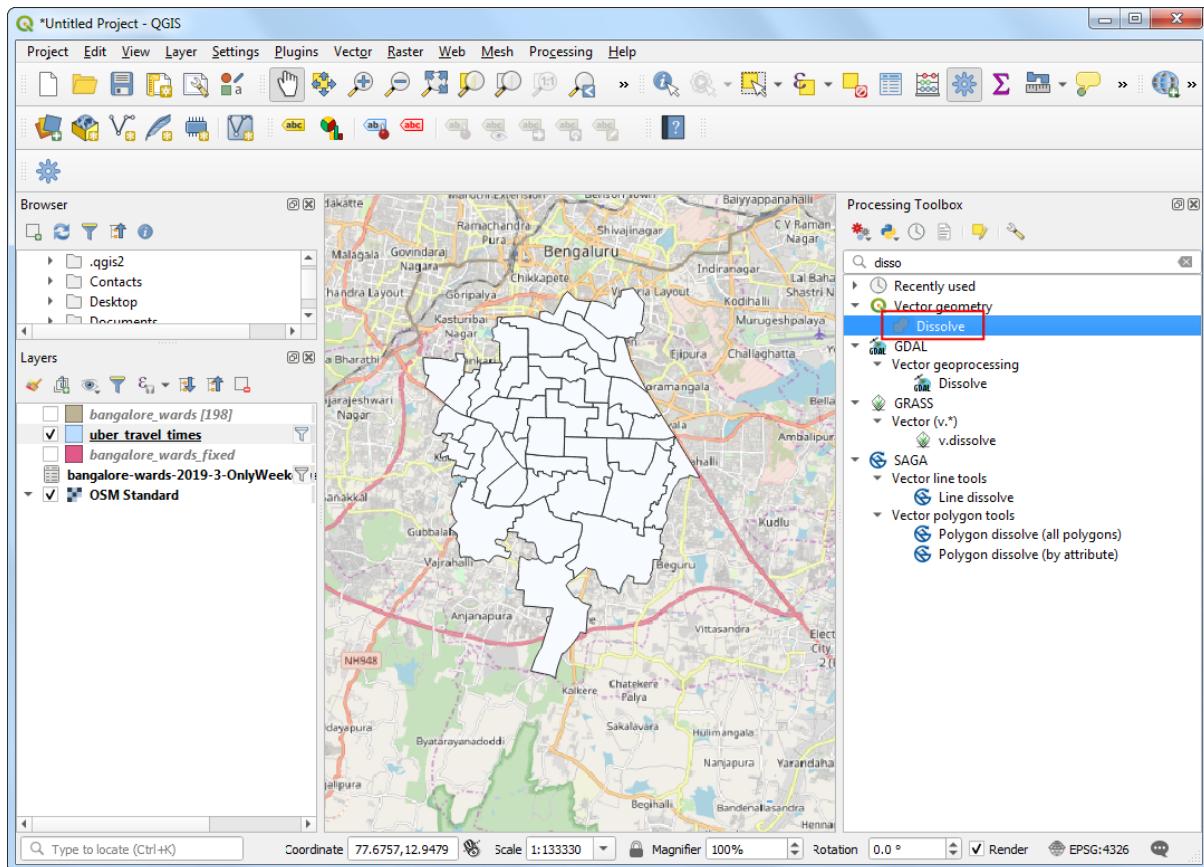


15. Enter the following expression to select all wards within 1800 seconds (30 minutes) of mean travel time. We also need to include our destination ward which will have 0 travel time.

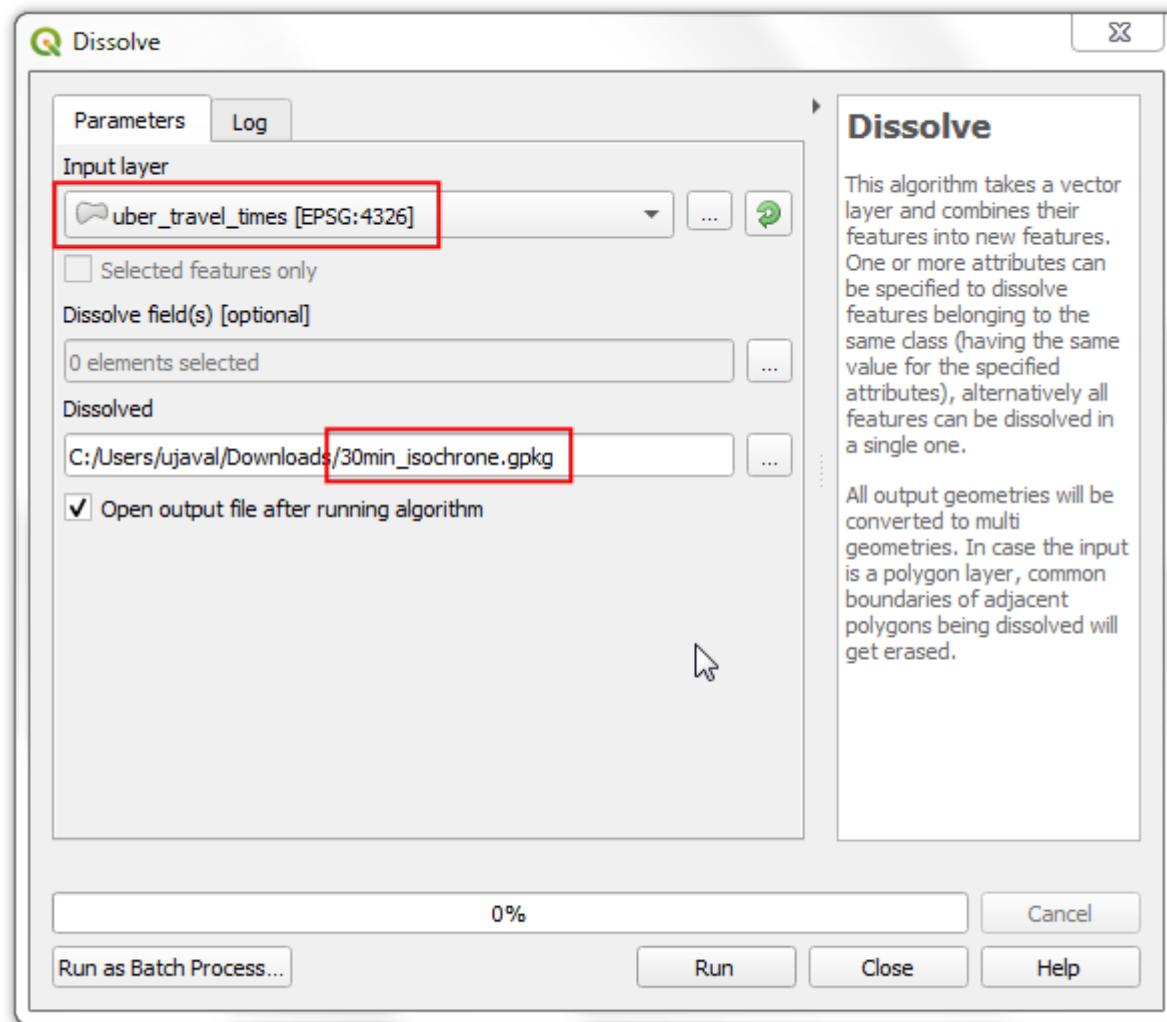
```
"mean_travel_time" <= 1800 OR "MOVEMENT_ID" = 193
```



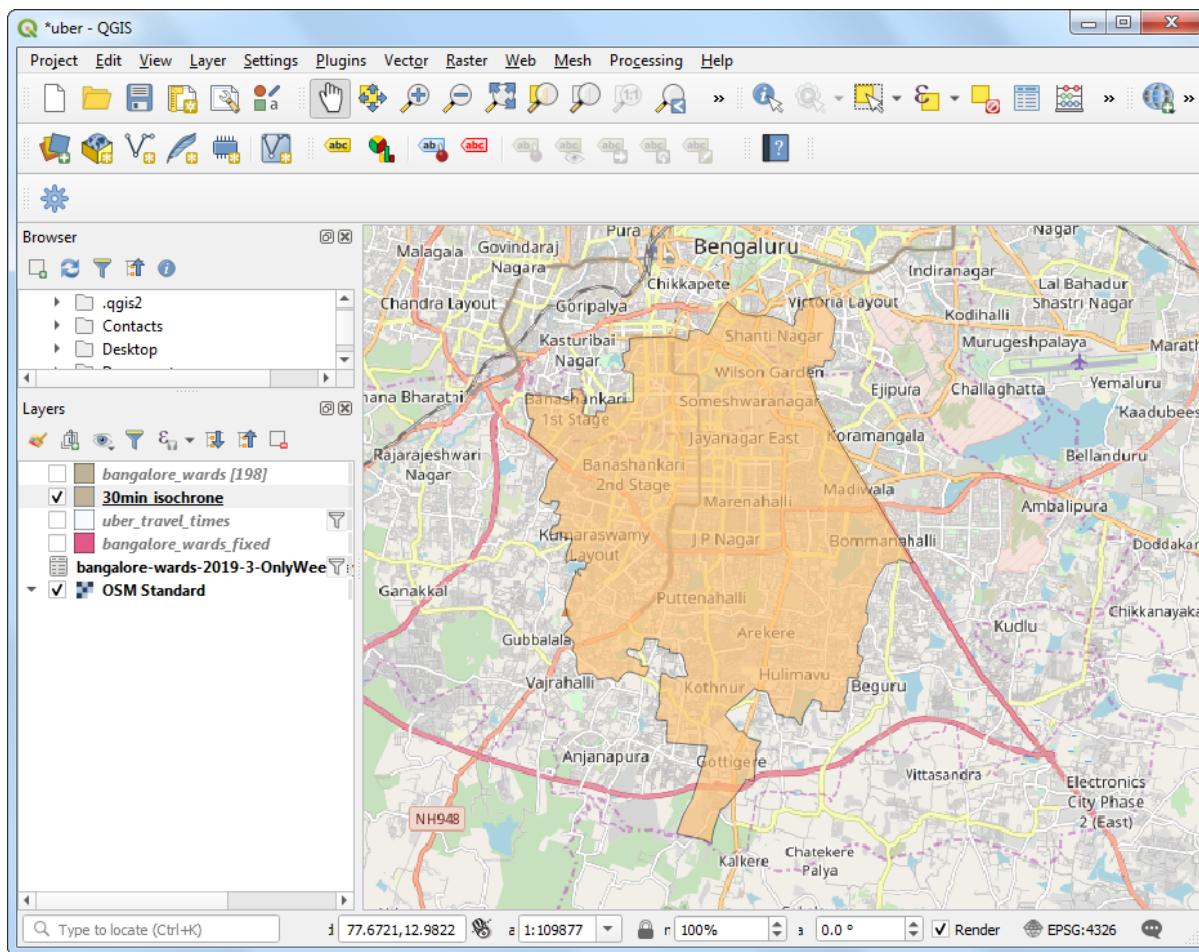
16. The layer will now show the cluster of polygons that constitute the area of interest. We will merge all of them to a single polygon now. Search and locate the *Dissolve* algorithm from the Processing Toolbox.



17. Select `uber_travel_times` as the *Input layer*. Name the *Dissolved* layer as `30min_isochrone.gpkg`. Click *Run*.



18. A new layer `30min_isochrone` will be added to the *Layers* panel showing the result of our analysis.

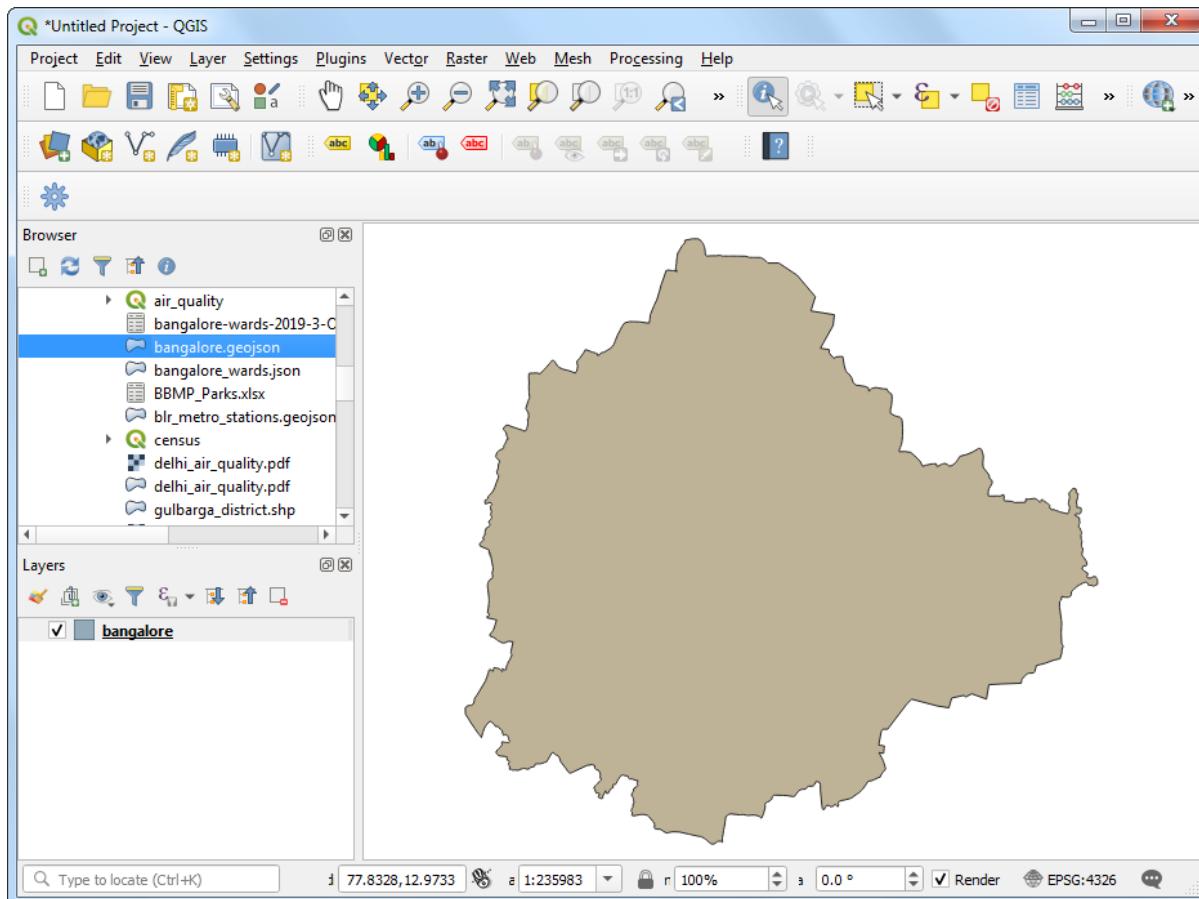


## Exercise: Analyze Metro Rail Accesiblity

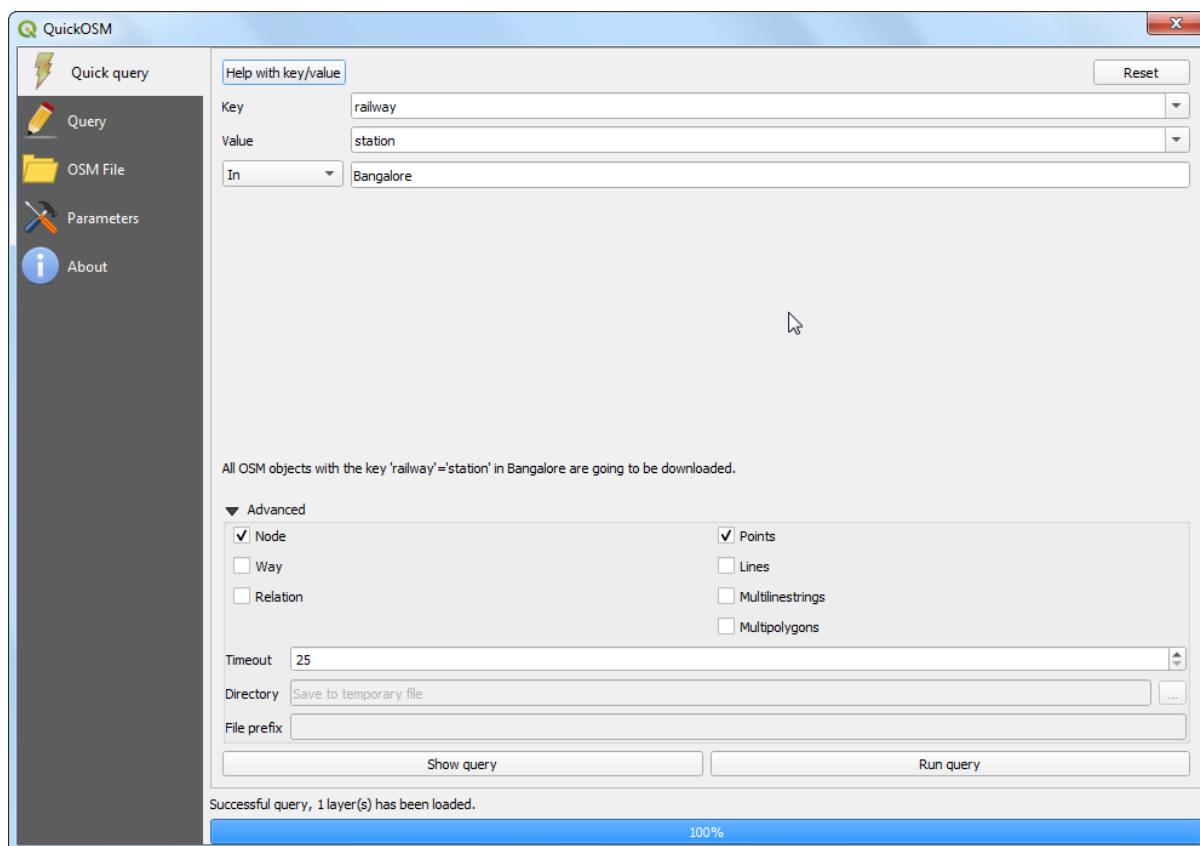
When planning urban infrastructure, a useful criteria is accessibility to public transport. This excellent article by LiveMint analyzes the metro rail accessibility for cities across India. We will try to do a similar analysis.

In this analysis, we will determine what percentage of population in Bangalore live within 1km of a metro station. The power of GIS lies in combining information from multiple disparate sources to answer questions. To carry out this analysis, we will first query OpenStreetMap database to get the location of functioning metro stations in Bangalore. Then we calculate a 1km buffer and combine it with a population grid from WorldPop to determine the population statistics.

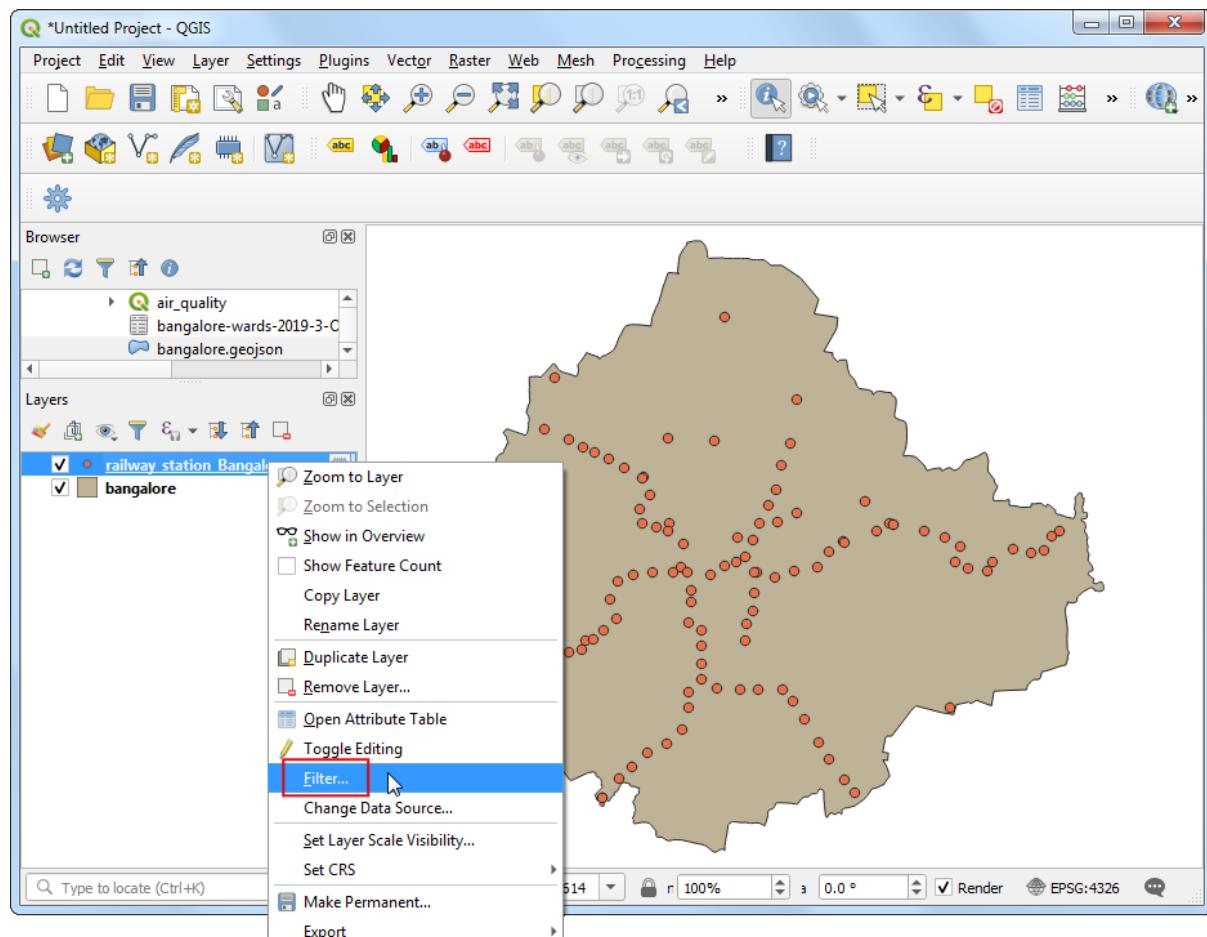
1. Locate the `bangalore.geojson` file and drag it to the canvas. This polygon layer represents the city boundary.



2. Now we will query OpenStreetMap to get a vector layer of railway stations in the city. Go to **Vector** → **QuickOSM** → **QuickOSM**. OpenStreetMap uses a tagging system to record properties of physical features. The tags and the key/value pairs are described in OpenStreetMap wiki. To railway stations are tagged with **railway=station**. Enter **railway** as the *Key*, **station** as the *Value* and **Bangalore** as the geographic filter *In*. Expand the *Advanced* section and check only the *Node* and *Points* boxes. Click *Run Query*.

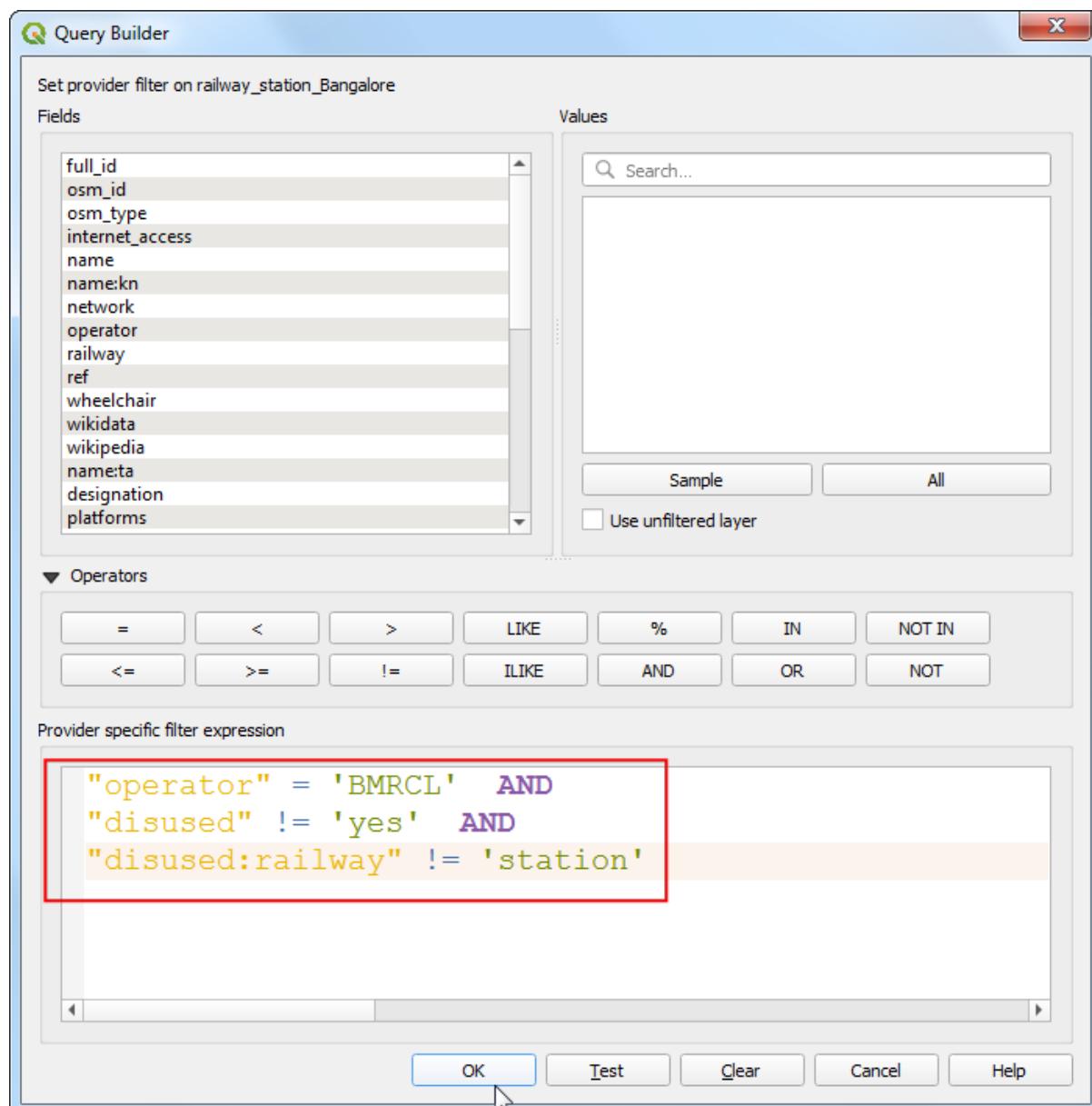


3. Once the query finishes, you will see a new layer `railway_station_Bangalore` loaded in the canvas. This includes all railway stations - including the ones operator by Indian Railways and stations under constructions. We can apply a filter to select only the operation metro stations. Right-click the layer and select *Filter*.

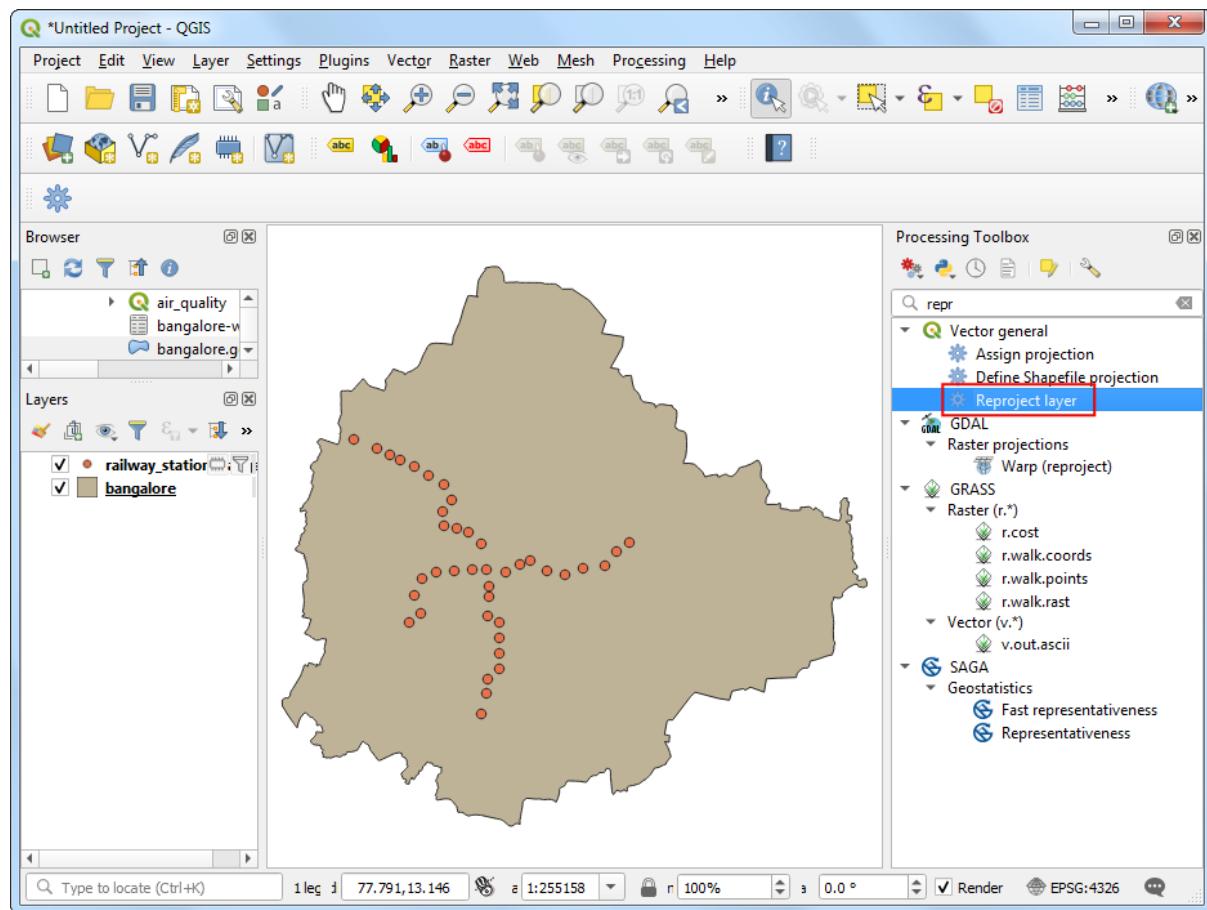


4. In the *Query Builder* enter the following expression and click *OK*.

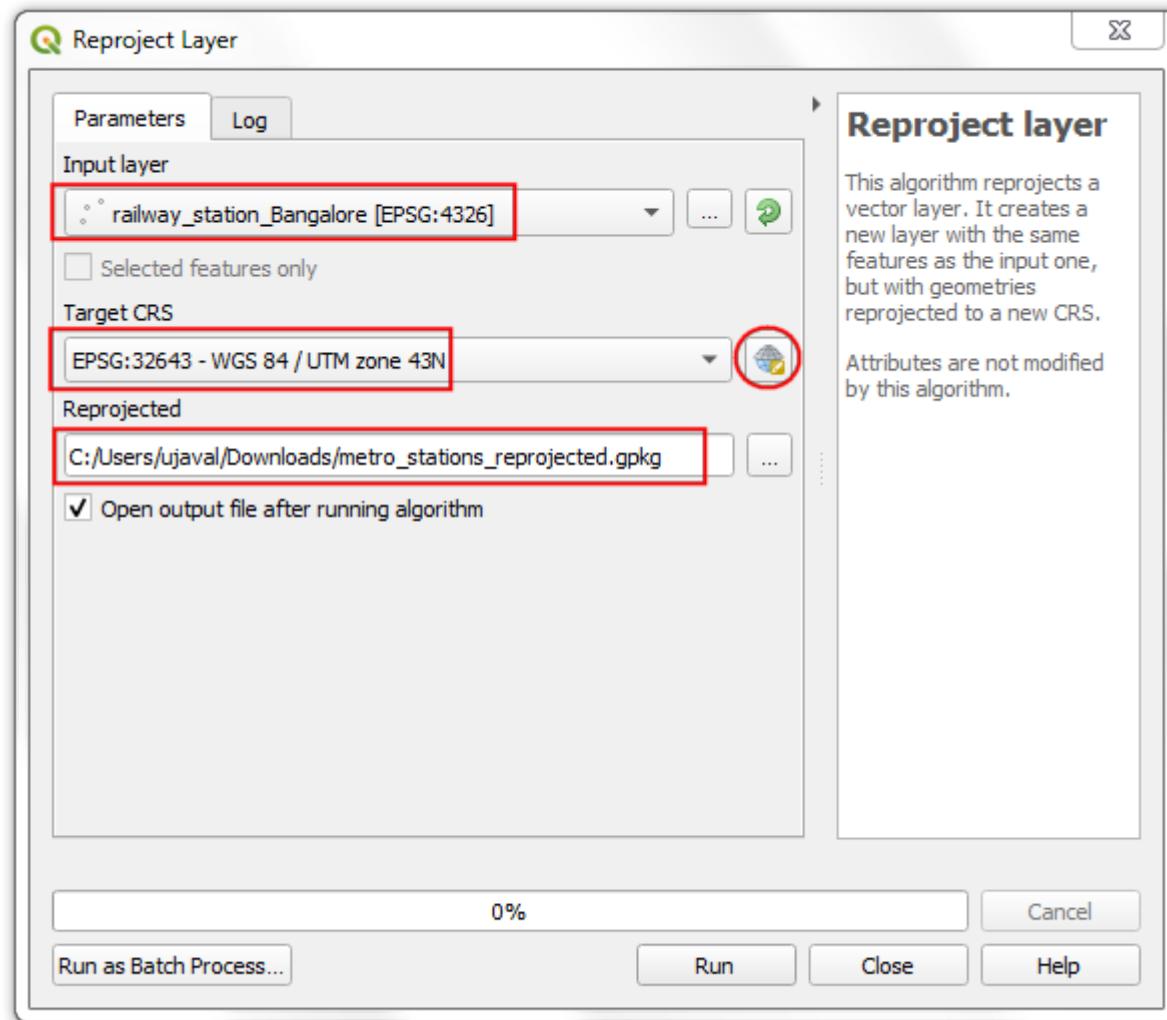
```
"operator" = 'BMRCL' AND "disused" != 'yes' AND "disused:railway" != 'station'
```



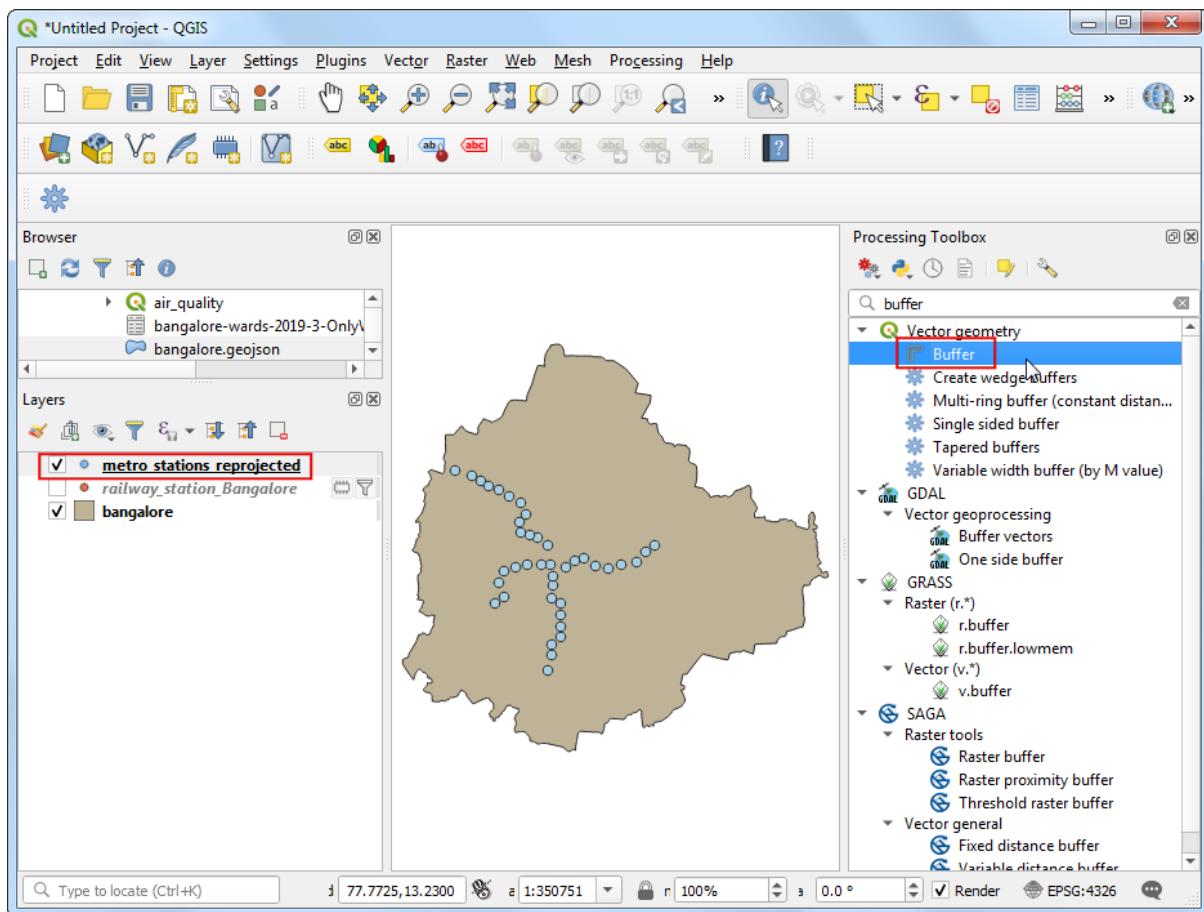
5. Now the map will update to show only the operation metro stations in the city. Next, we need to apply a *Buffer* to these stations to find areas within 1km. But our data comes in the EPSG:4326 WGS84 Geopgraphic Projection - which has degrees as units. To do geoprocessing operations on this layer in projected units such as kilometers, we must first reproject the layer in a suitable projected coordinate reference system (CRS). Go to **Processing → Toolbox**. Search for and locate the **Vector general → Reproject layer** algorithm. Double-click to launch it.



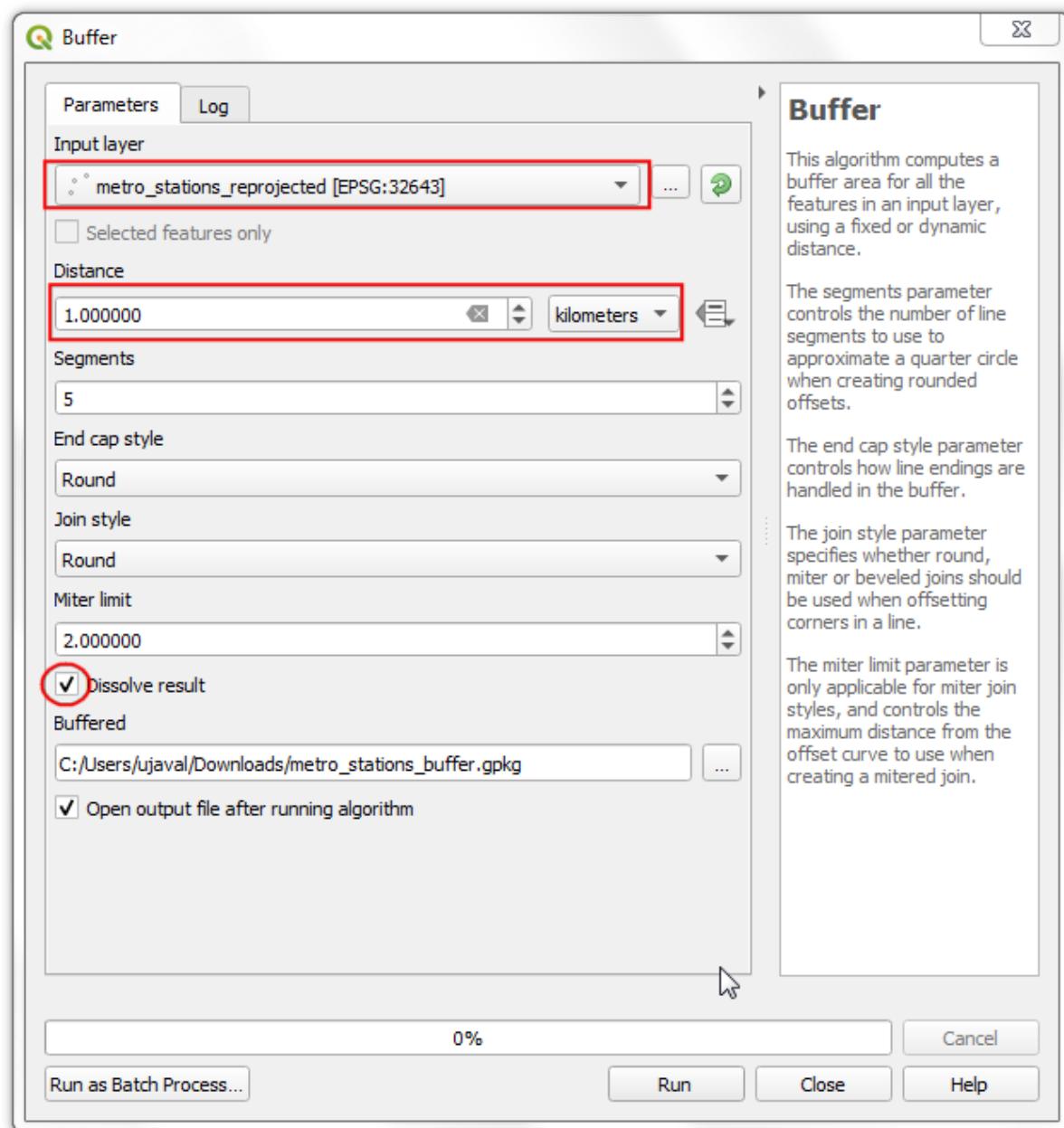
6. Choose `railway_station_Bangalore` as the *Input layer*. Select EPSG:32643 – WGS 84 UTM Zone 43N as the *Target CRS*. Name the *Reprojected* layer as `metro_stations_reprojected.gpkg`.



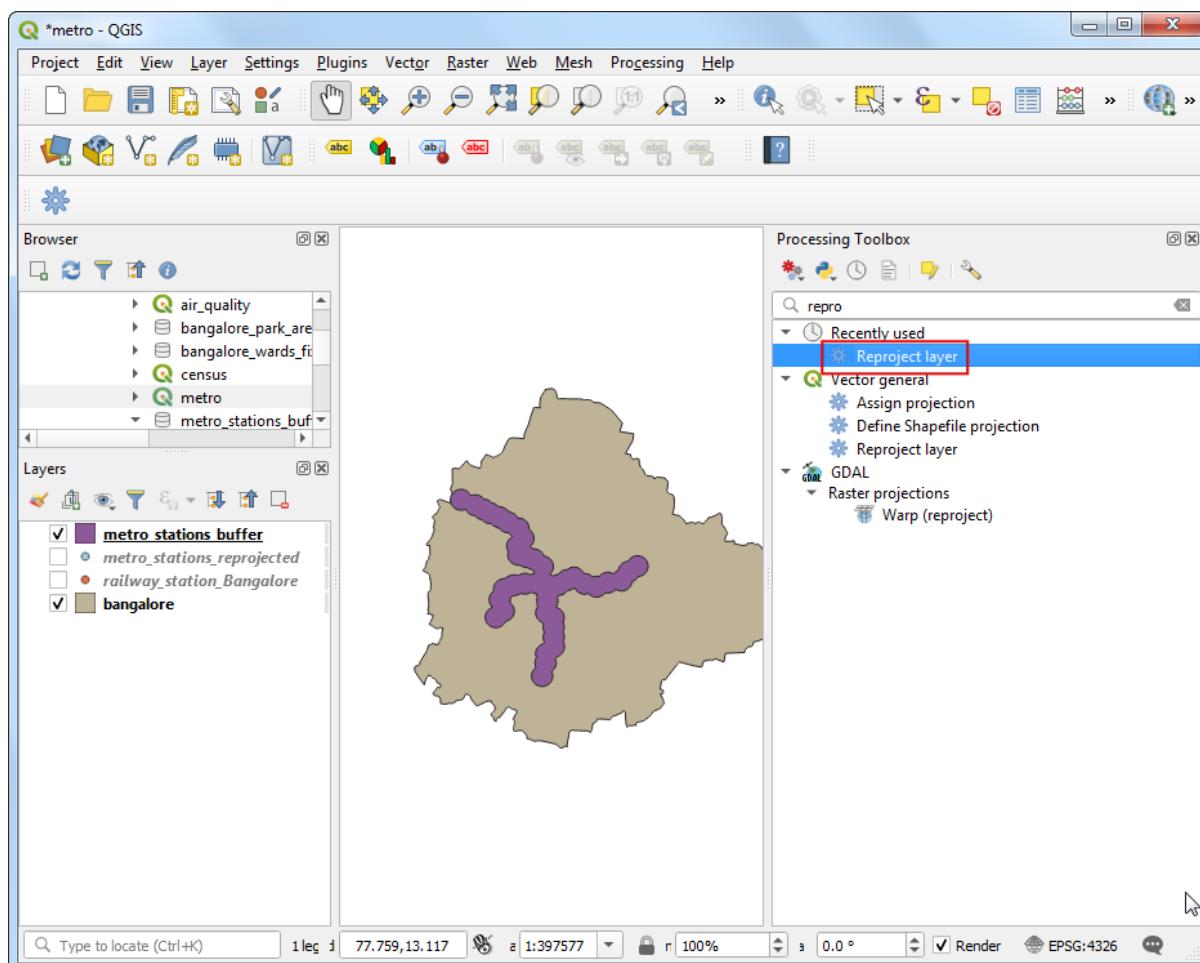
- Once the reprojected layer `metro_stations_reprojected` is created, search for the **Vector geometry → Buffer** algorithm and double-click to launch the algorithm.



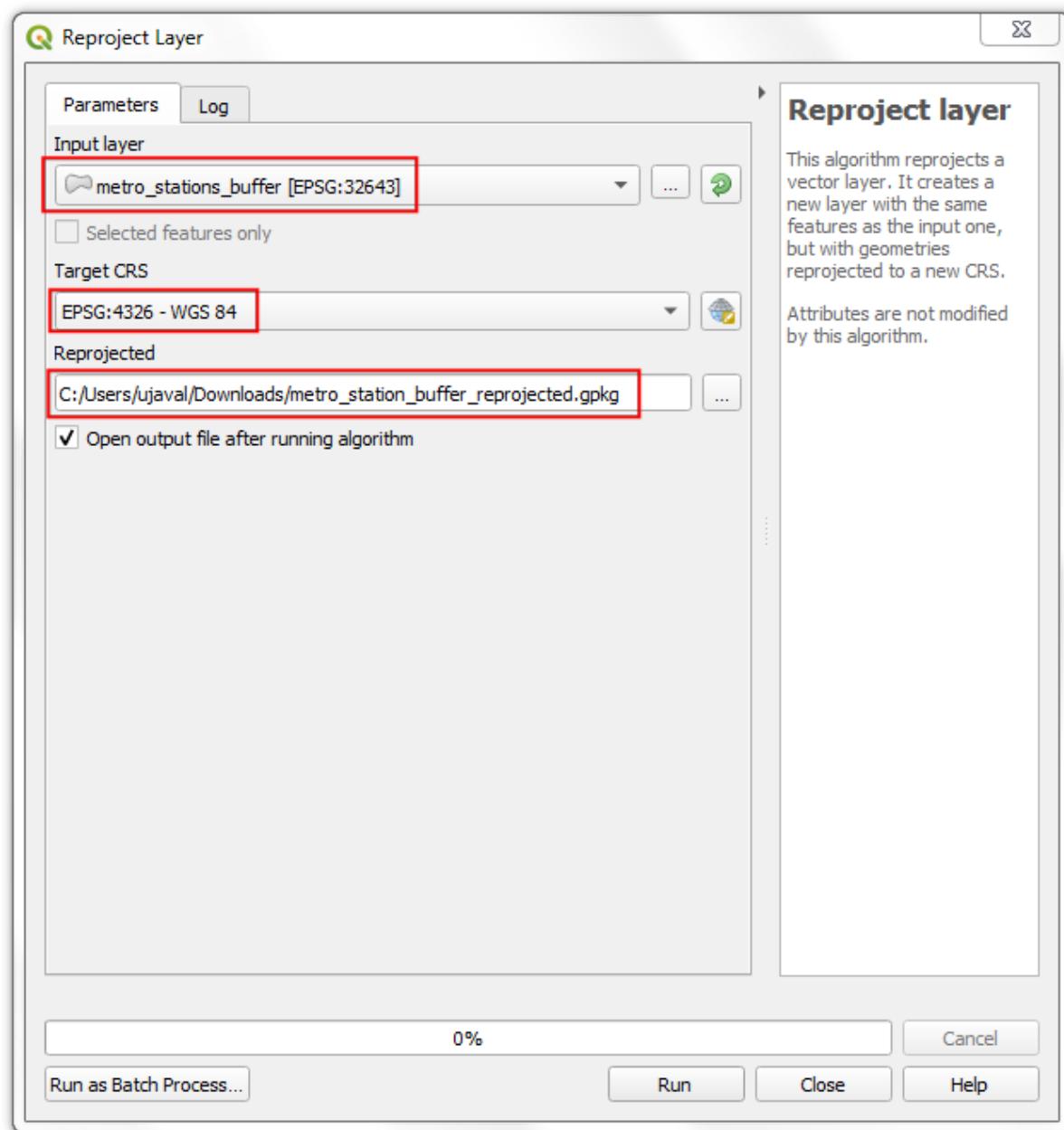
8. Select `metro_stations_reprojected` as the *Input layer*. Enter `1 kilometers` as the *Distance*. Check the *Dissolve result* option and name the *Buffered* output layer as `metro_stations_buffer.gpkg`. click *Run*.



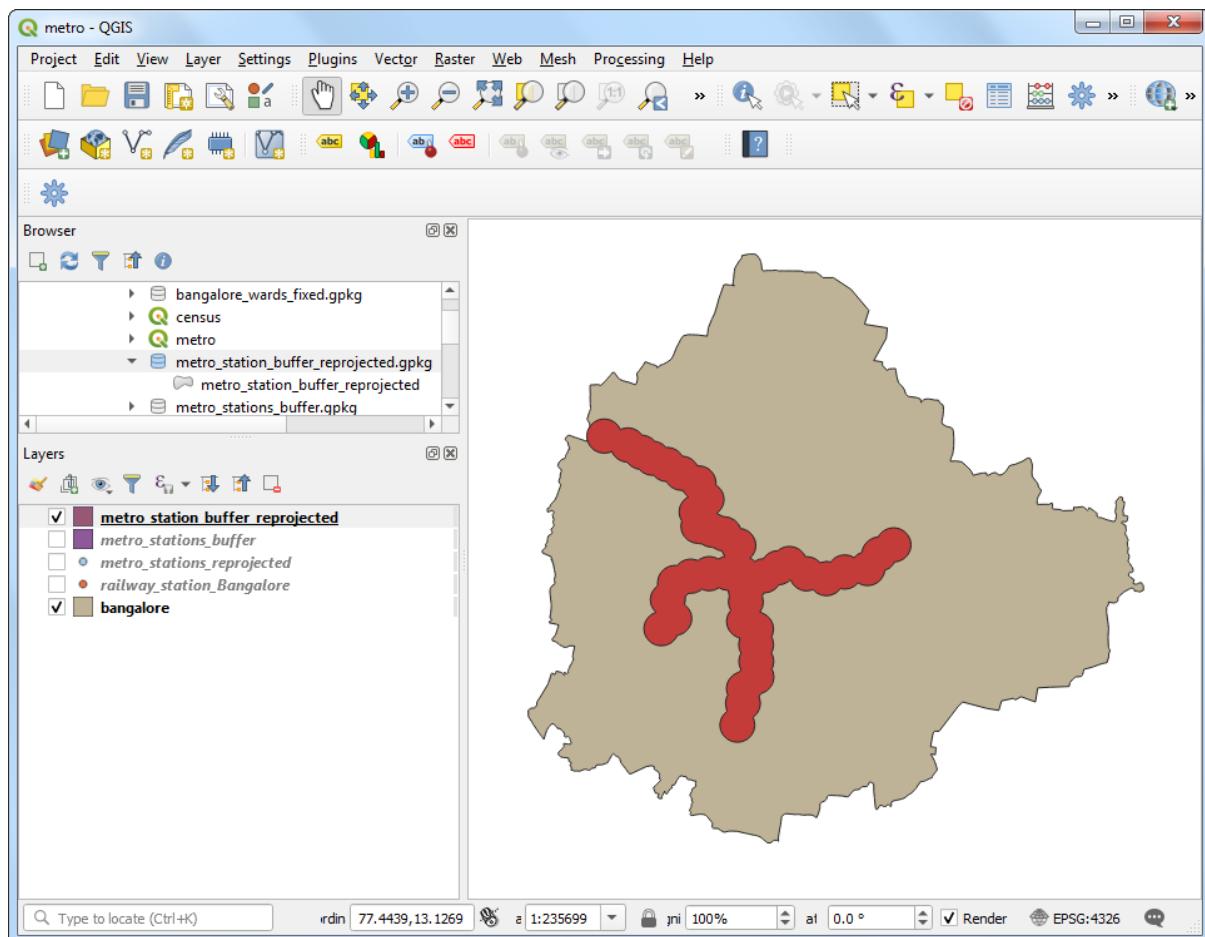
9. The layer now has a polygon representing areas within 1km of a metro station. Now that we are done with the geoprocessing operation, let's convert the result back to the original projection so we can use it along with other layers. Search for **Vector general → Reproject layer** algorithm and launch it.



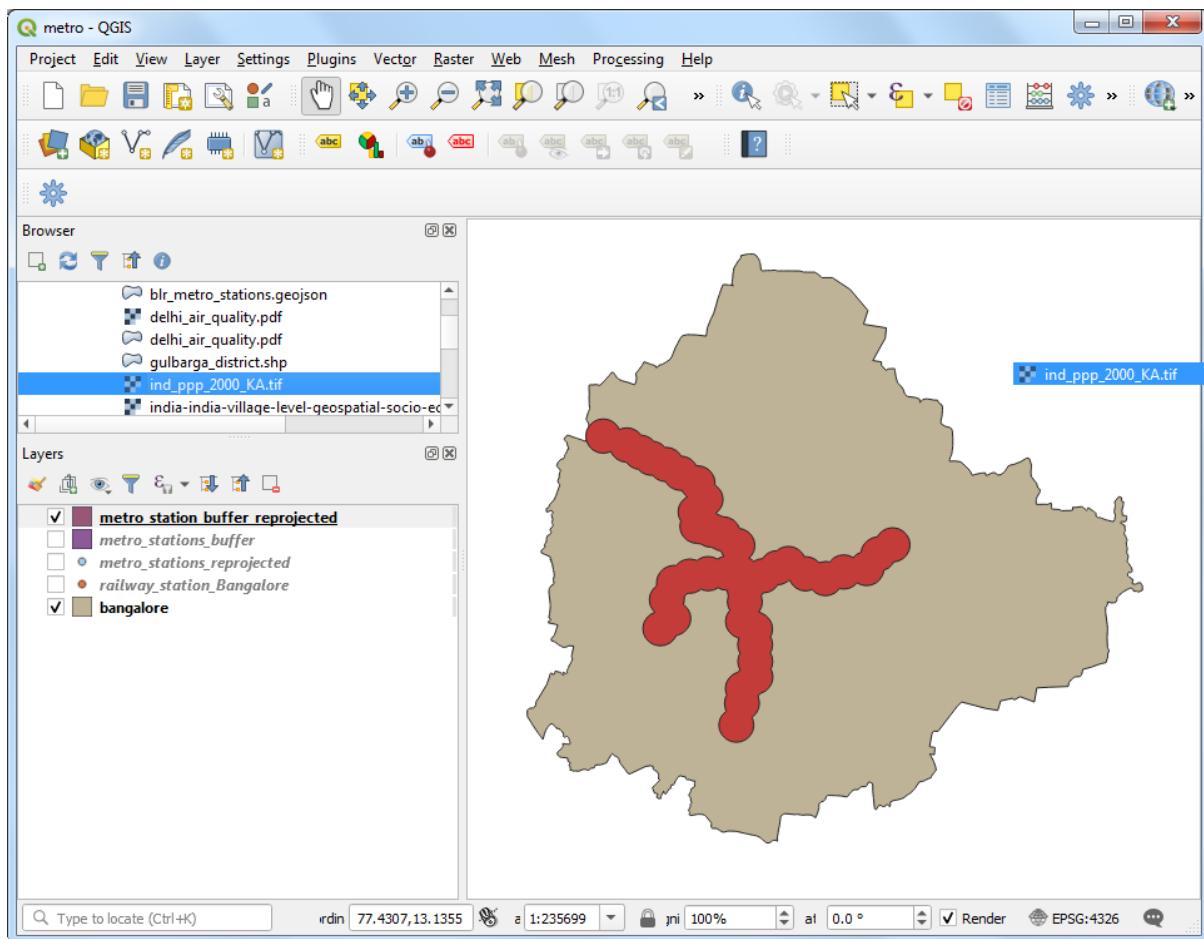
10. Select `metro_stations_buffer` as the *Input layer* and `EPSG:4326 -WGS 84` as the *Target CRS*. Name the output as `metro_station_buffer_reprojected.gpkg`. Click *Run*.



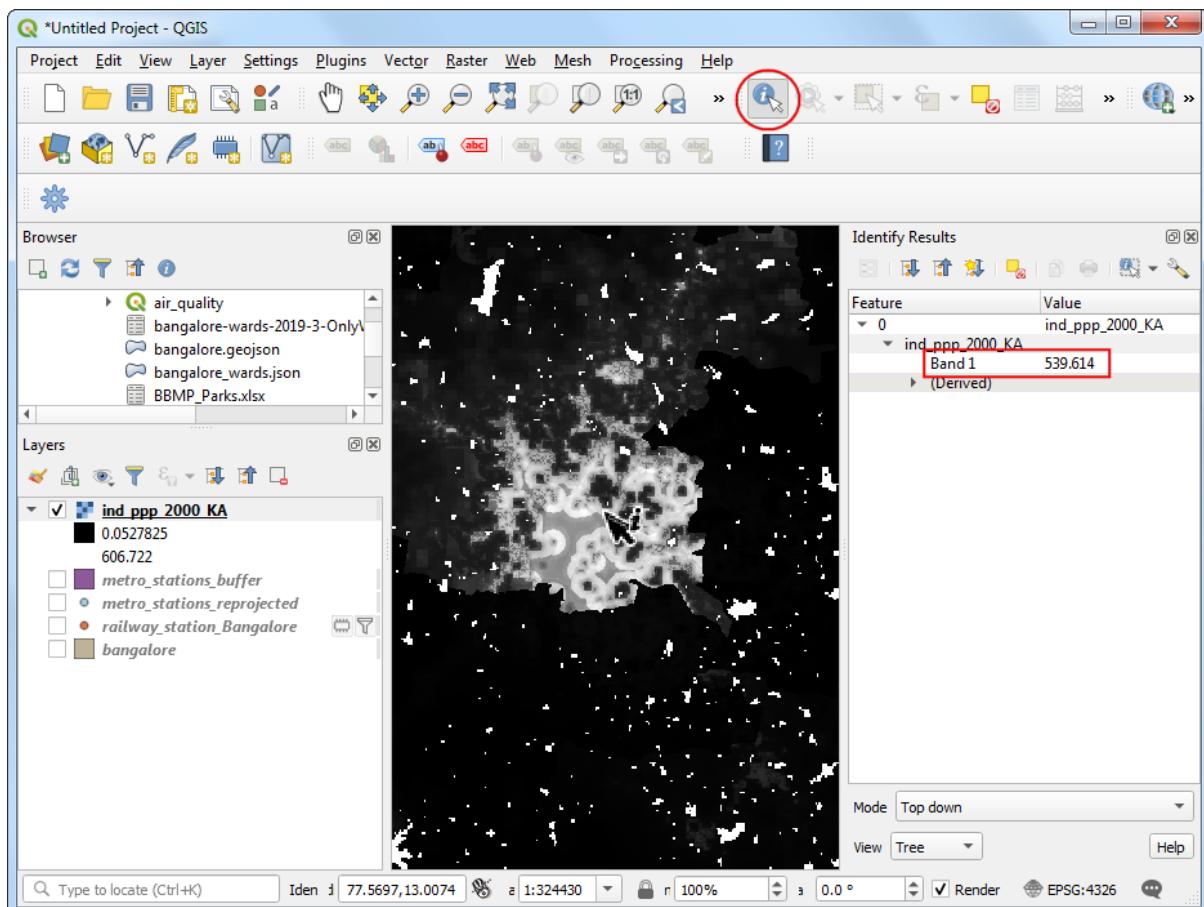
11. A new layer `metro_station_buffer_reprojected` will be added to the canvas that represents the area within 1 km of a metro station. We already have the `bangalore` layer representing the extent of the city. Now we are ready to extract the population data for both these layers.



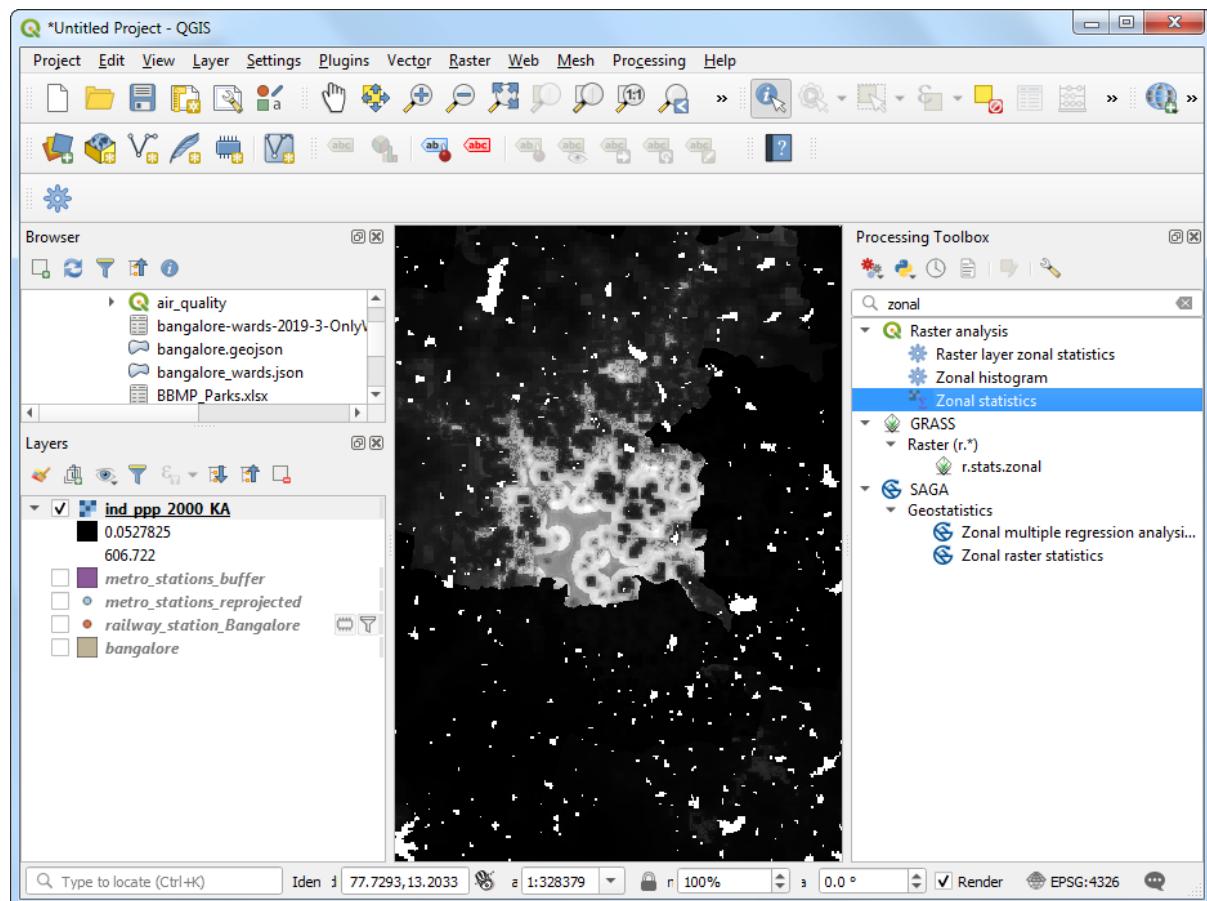
12. Locate the `ind_ppp_2000_KA.tif` in the *Browser* panel. Drag it to the canvas.



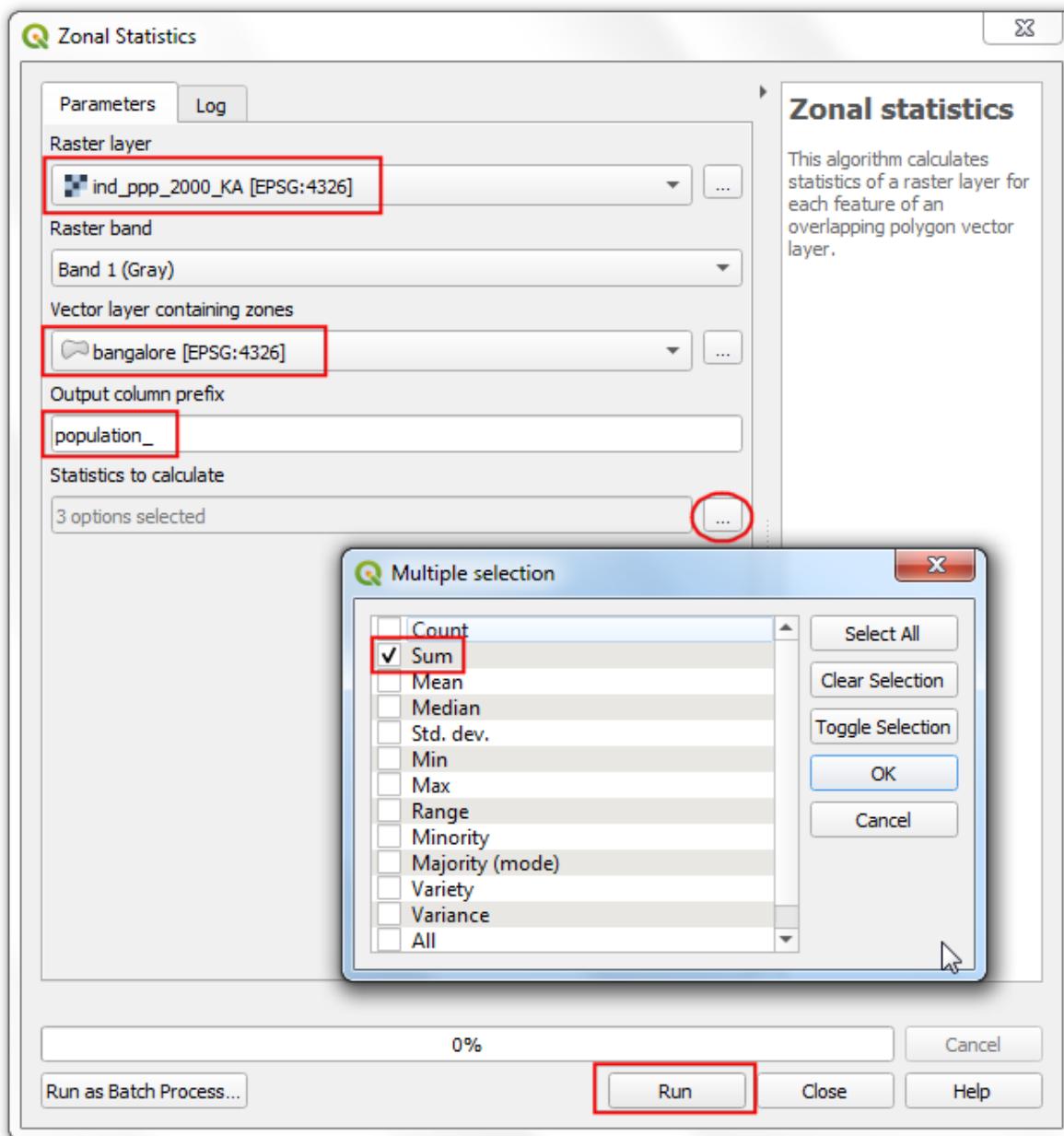
13. Select the `ind_ppp_2000_KA` layer and use the *Identify* tool to explore the pixel values. The resolution of the raster is roughly 100m x 100m. The raster layer has only 1 band and the pixel value is the estimated number of people within the 100 sq. m. area.



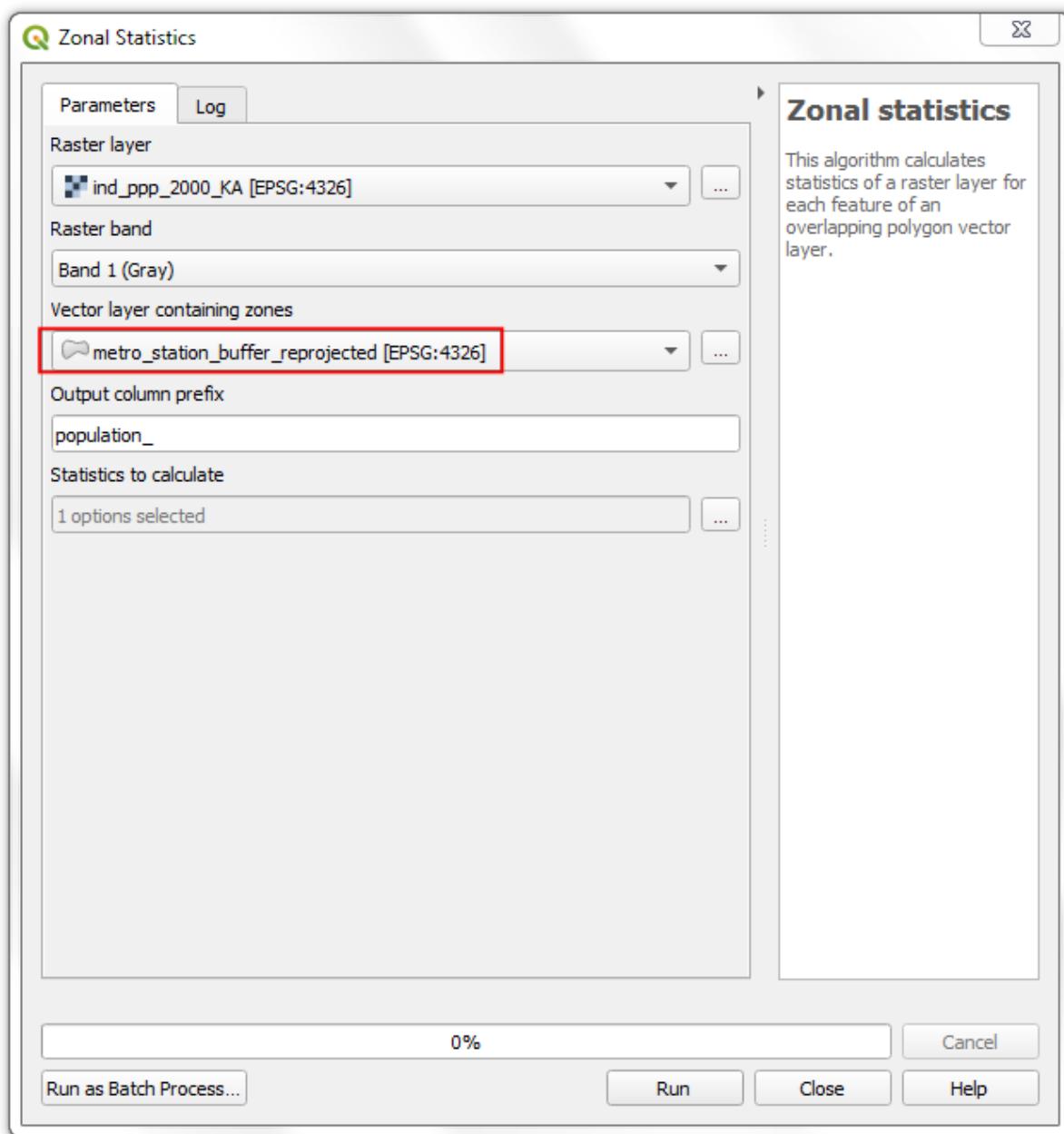
14. We can determine the total population by summing up the values from the pixels that fall within a polygon. This operation is known as *Zonal Statistics*. Search for and locate the **Raster analysis → Zonal statistics** algorithm. Double-click to launch it.



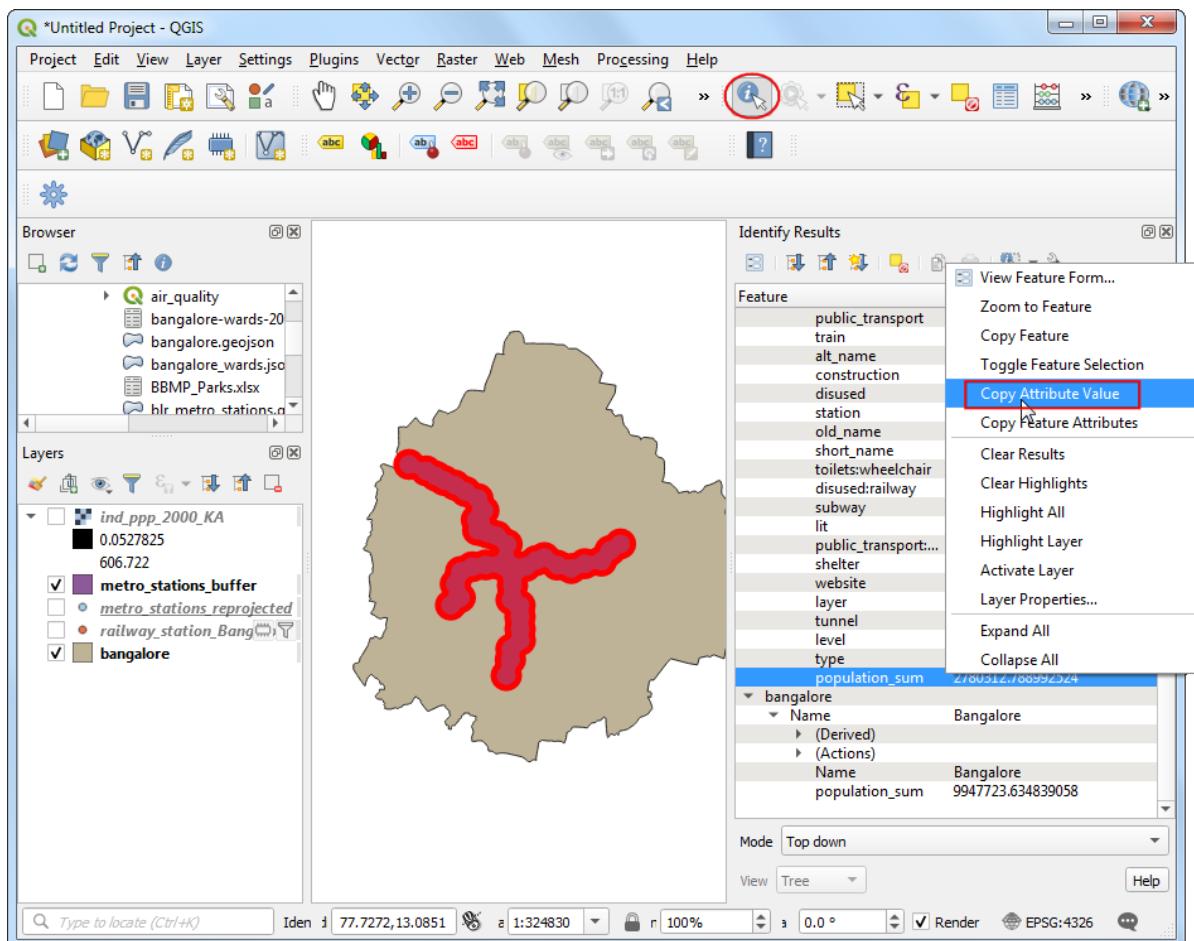
15. Select `ind_ppp_2000_KA` as the *Raster layer* and `bangalore` as the *Vector layer containing zones*. Enter `population_` as the *Output column prefix*. We are interested only in the `Sum` so uncheck other *Statistics to calculate*. Click *Run*.



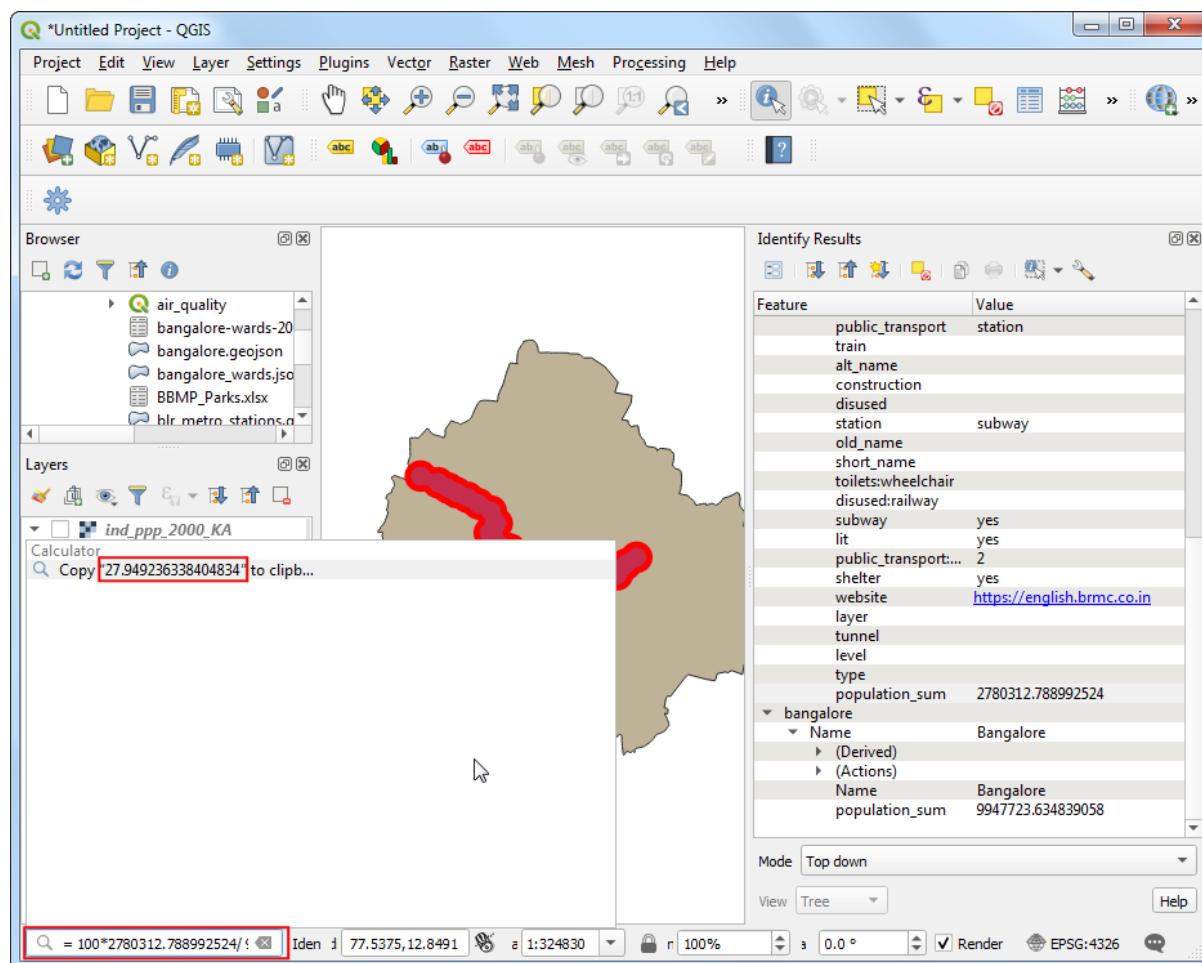
16. Once the algorithm finishes, repeat the same process for the `metro_station_buffer_reprojected` layer.



17. This algorithm would add a new attribute to each of these layers with the total population contained within the polygons. Use the *Identify* tool and click on the polygons. The **population\_sum** field will contain the population. You can right-click on it and select *Copy Attribute Value*



- QGIS has a built-in calculator. Click on the *Locator* box at the bottom-left of the window and type `=`. Paste the population totals from the metro station buffer and the city polygon. The result is the percentage of population that lives within 1km of a metro station.



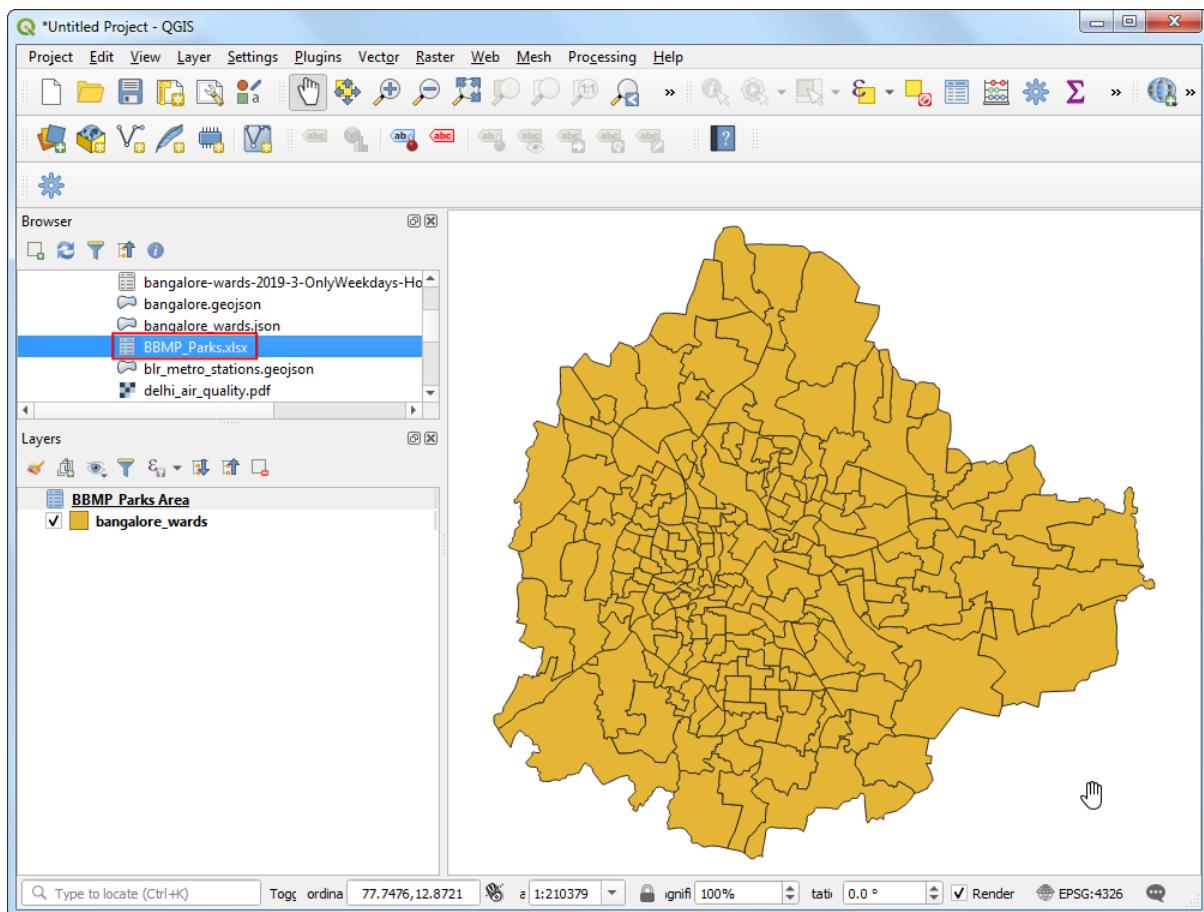
## Exercise: Distribution of Green Spaces

Open spaces like parks are a critical necessity in dense urban areas. Not only they help the environment and providing recreational facilities, but as this study by Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) found - proximity to a park can also have a positive impact on one's mental health.

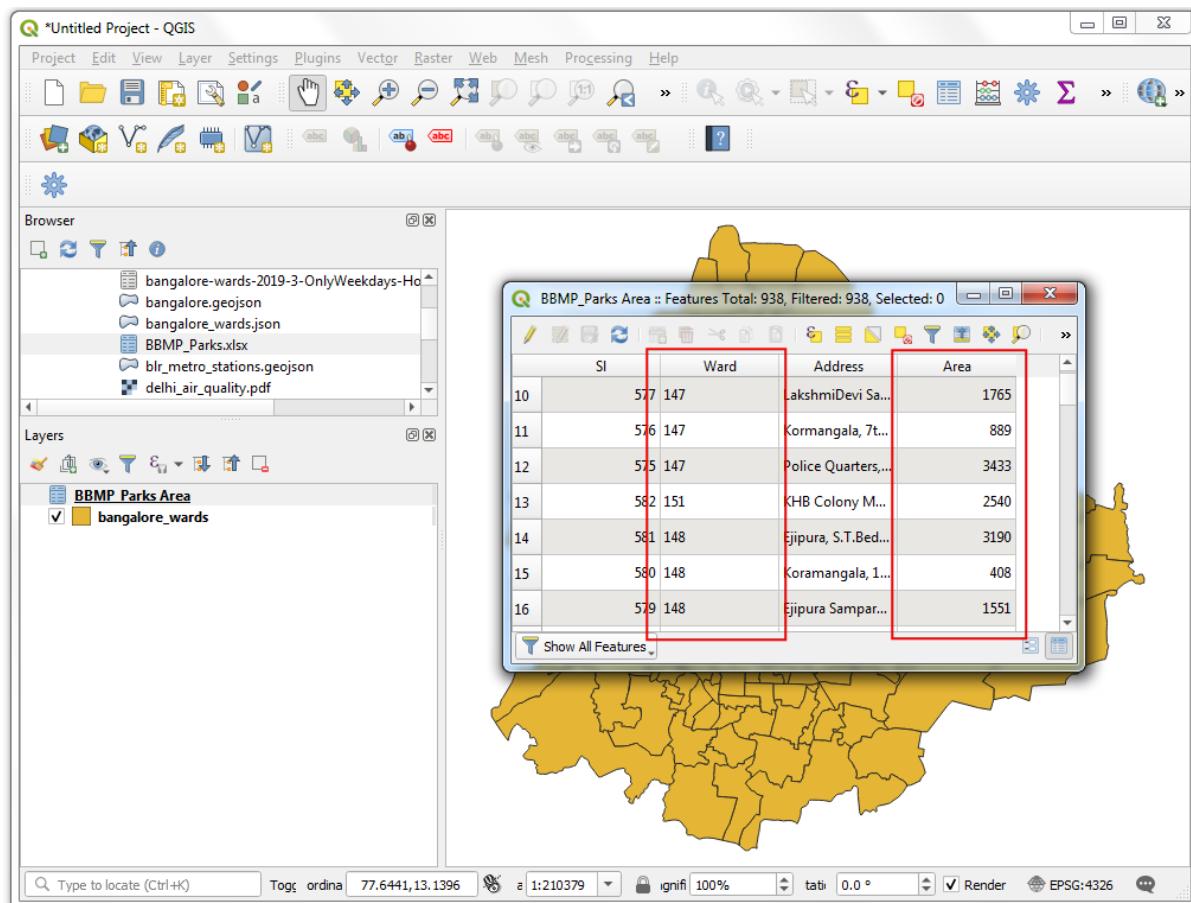
In this exercise, we will take a List of Parks published by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), calculate the total area of parks for each ward of the city and map the results. This data is made available by OpenCity - Urban Data Portal as a PDF file. I converted this PDF to an Excel file using Zamzar Online file conversion tool. The resulting file was cleaned up and is available as **BBMP\_Parks.xlsx**.

This exercise tackles only the total area of park per ward. But quality also matters. Do take a look at the Parks and Playgrounds Score of Bengaluru Report by ichangemycity that did a comprehensive analysis of open spaces in the city.

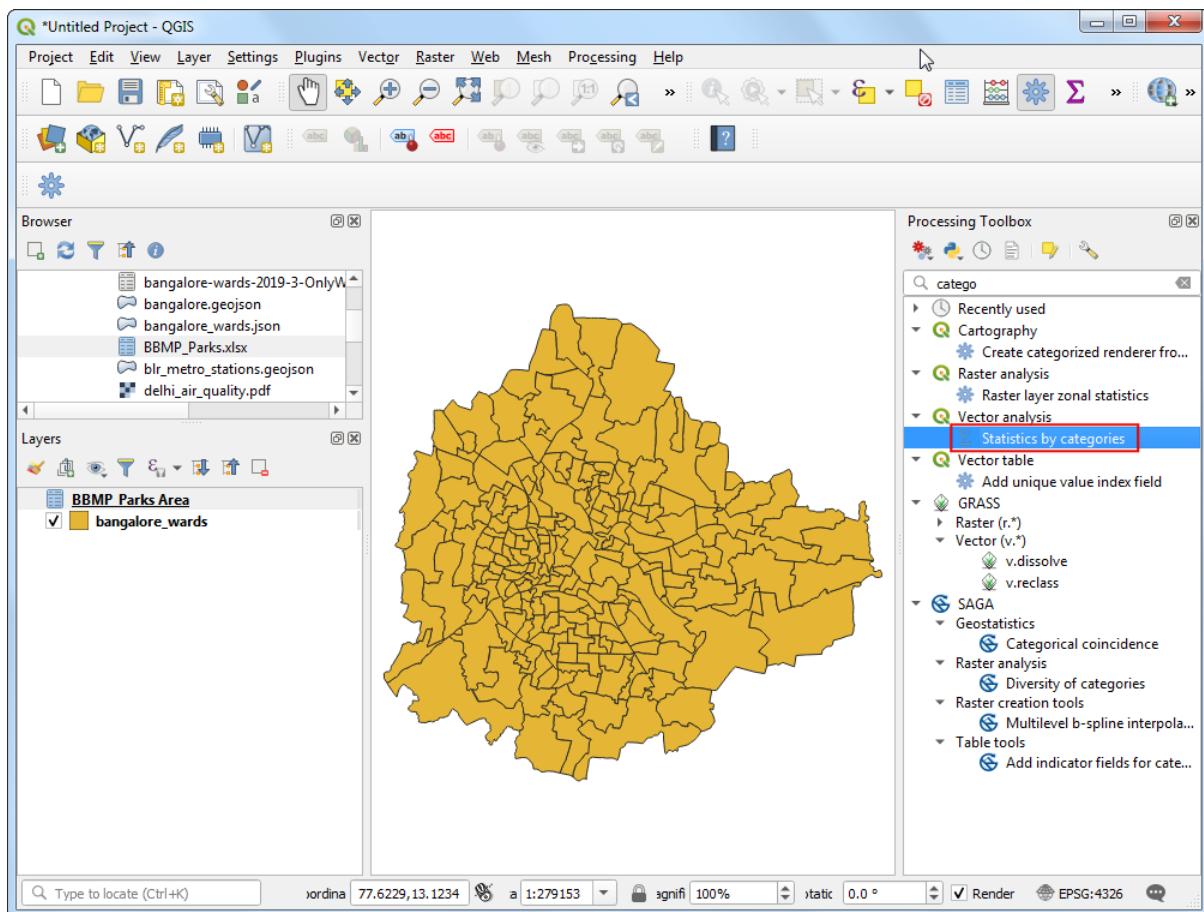
1. locate the **bangalore\_wards.json** file in the *Browser* panel and drag it to the canvas. Next find the **BBMP\_Parks.xlsx** file. QGIS can read Excel files directly too. Drag it to the canvas. You will have 2 layers **bangalore\_wards** and **BBMP\_Parks\_Area** loaded in the *Layers* panel.



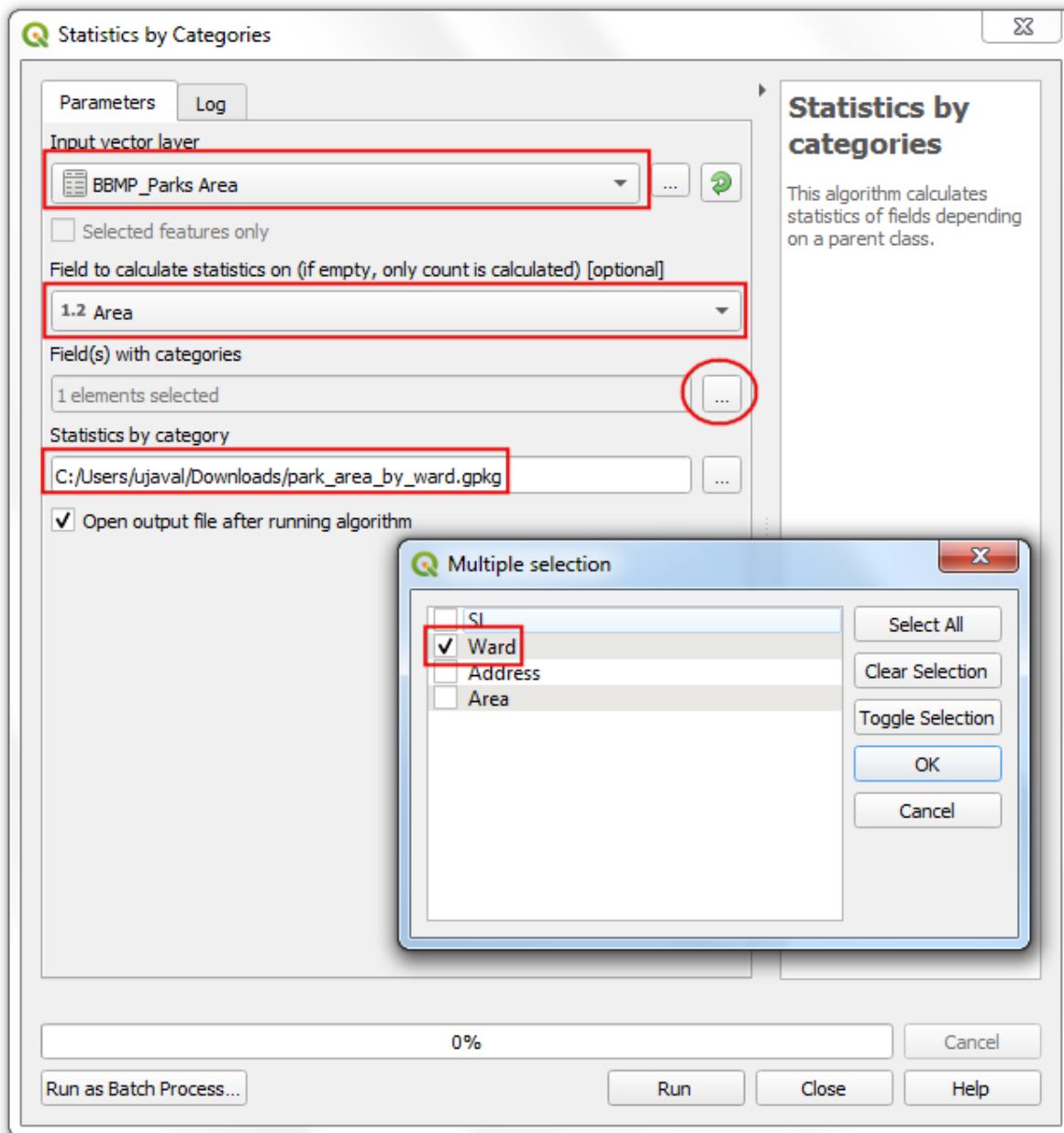
2. Select the **BBMP\_Parks\_Area** layer and click *Open Attribute Table*. The table contains 900+ rows with each row describing a park and its area in sq. meters. We don't have the exact location of the park, but we know which ward it belongs to.



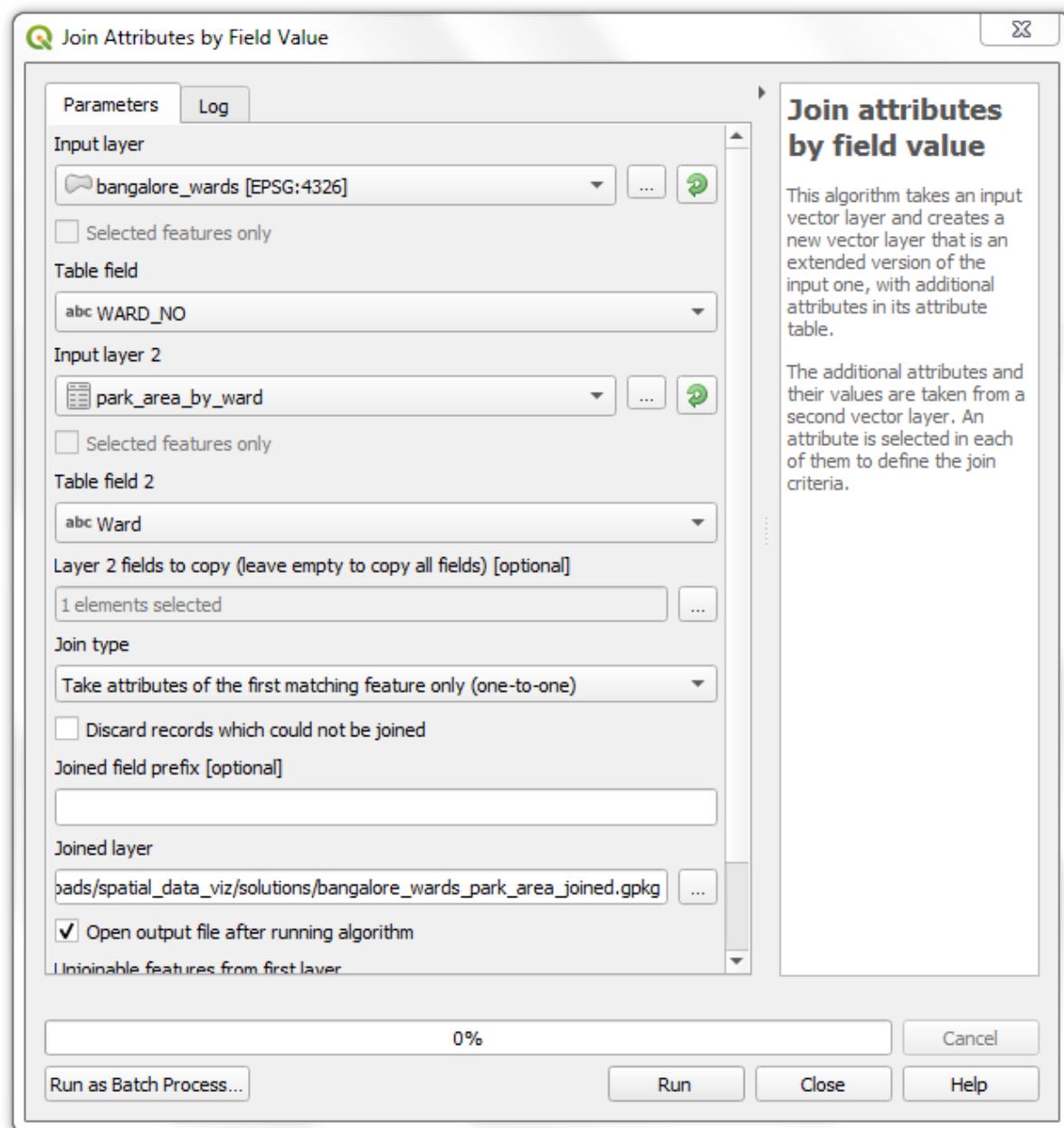
3. We can group all the parks by ward and calculate total park area by each ward. Open the *Processing Toolbox* and search for the **Vector analysis → Statistics by categories** algorithm. Double-click to launch it.



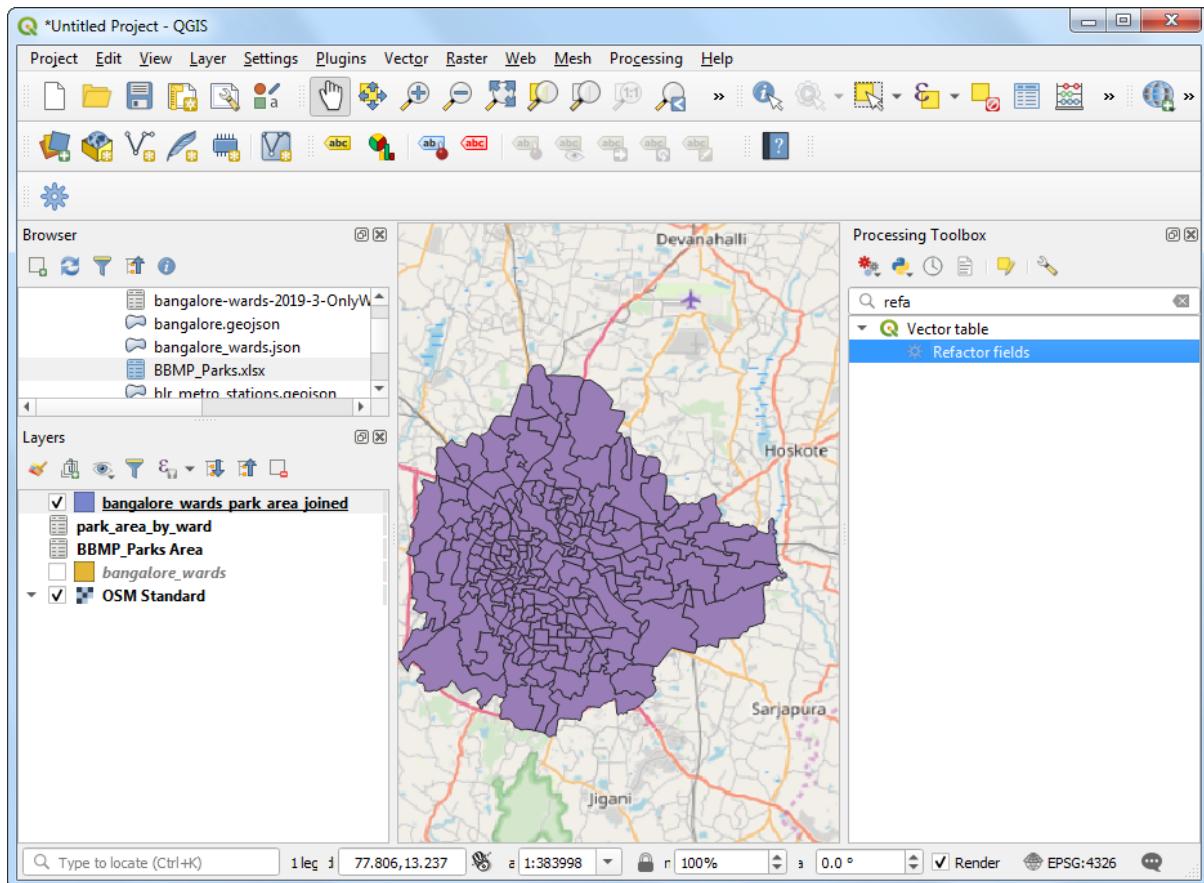
4. Select BBMP\_Parks\_Area as the *Input vector layer*. Select *Area* as the *Field to calculate statistics on*. As we want to group by wards, select *Ward* as the *Field(s) with categories*. Name the resulting *Statistics by category* layer as park\_area\_by\_ward.gpkg. Click *Run*.



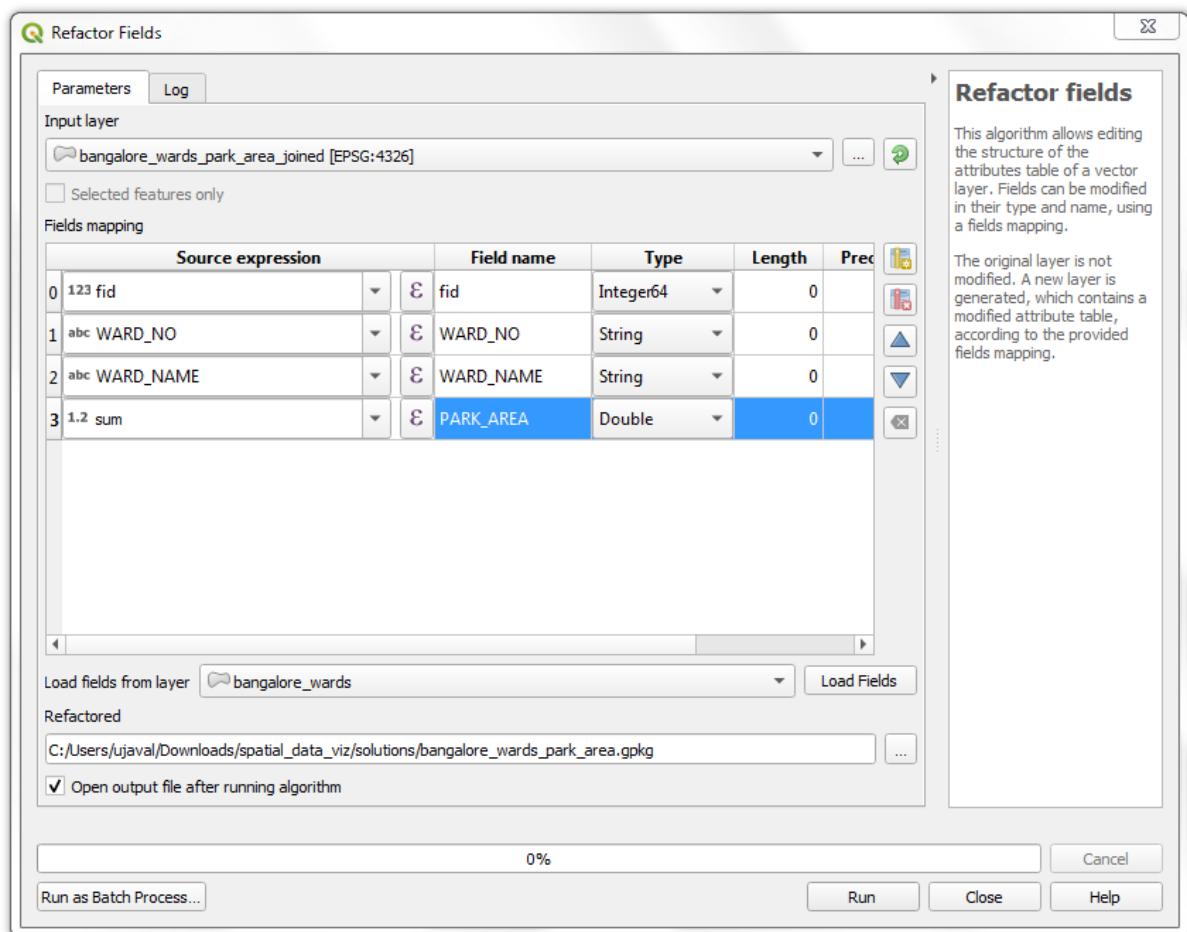
5. Now we have a table with the *sum* of area for each ward allowing us to join it with a spatial layer. Search for and locate the *Join attributes by field value* algorithm from the Processing Toolbox. Select `bangalore_wards` as the *Input layer* and `WARD_NO` as the *Table field*. Select `park_area_by_ward` as the *Input layer 2* and `Ward` as the *Table field 2*. The `park_area_by_ward` contains many columns with different statistics but we are only interested in *sum*. So select `sum` as the *Layer 2 fields to copy*. Name the output layer as `bangalore_wards_park_area_joined.gpkg` and click *Run*.



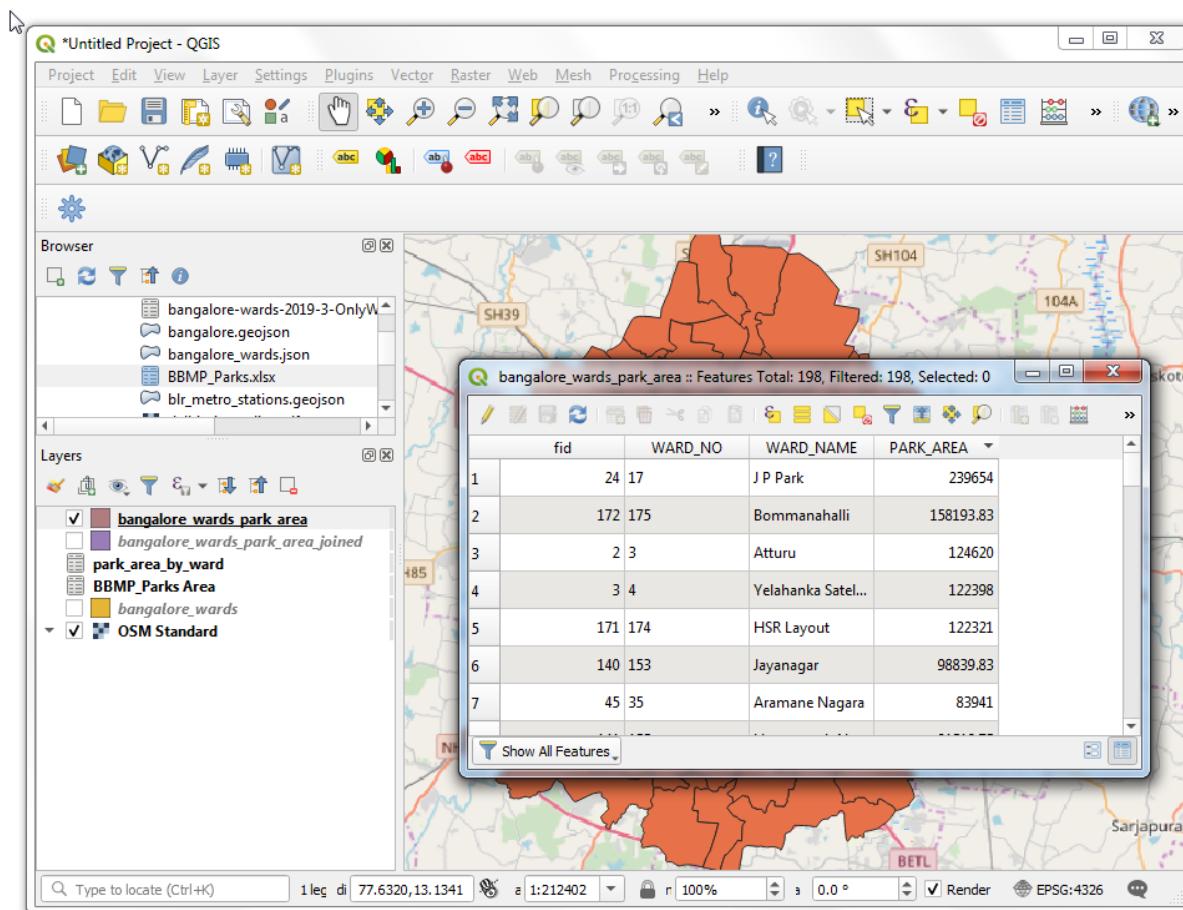
- A new layer `bangalore_wards_park_area_joined` will be added to the *Layers* panel. Before we finalize the results, we can rename the columns to be more descriptive. Search for and locate the **Vector table → Refactor fields** algorithm.



7. Select un-wanted columns and use the *Delete field* to remove them. For the *sum* column, enter **PARK\_AREA** as the *Field name*. Name the *Refactored* output as **bangalore\_wards\_park\_area.gpkg** and click *Run*.



8. The resulting layer `bangalore_wards_park_area` will be added to the *Layers* panel. Explore the attribute table to know the total park area for each ward.



## Exercise: Determine the Best Area for a Home

Finding optimal locations is a widely used spatial analytic technique. Using a suitability models, we can combine multiple criteria and determine rank sites. Here we will take a realistic scenario of determining the best place to live in a city using multiple criteria.

The criteria for this exercise is to rank the wards according to the following criteria

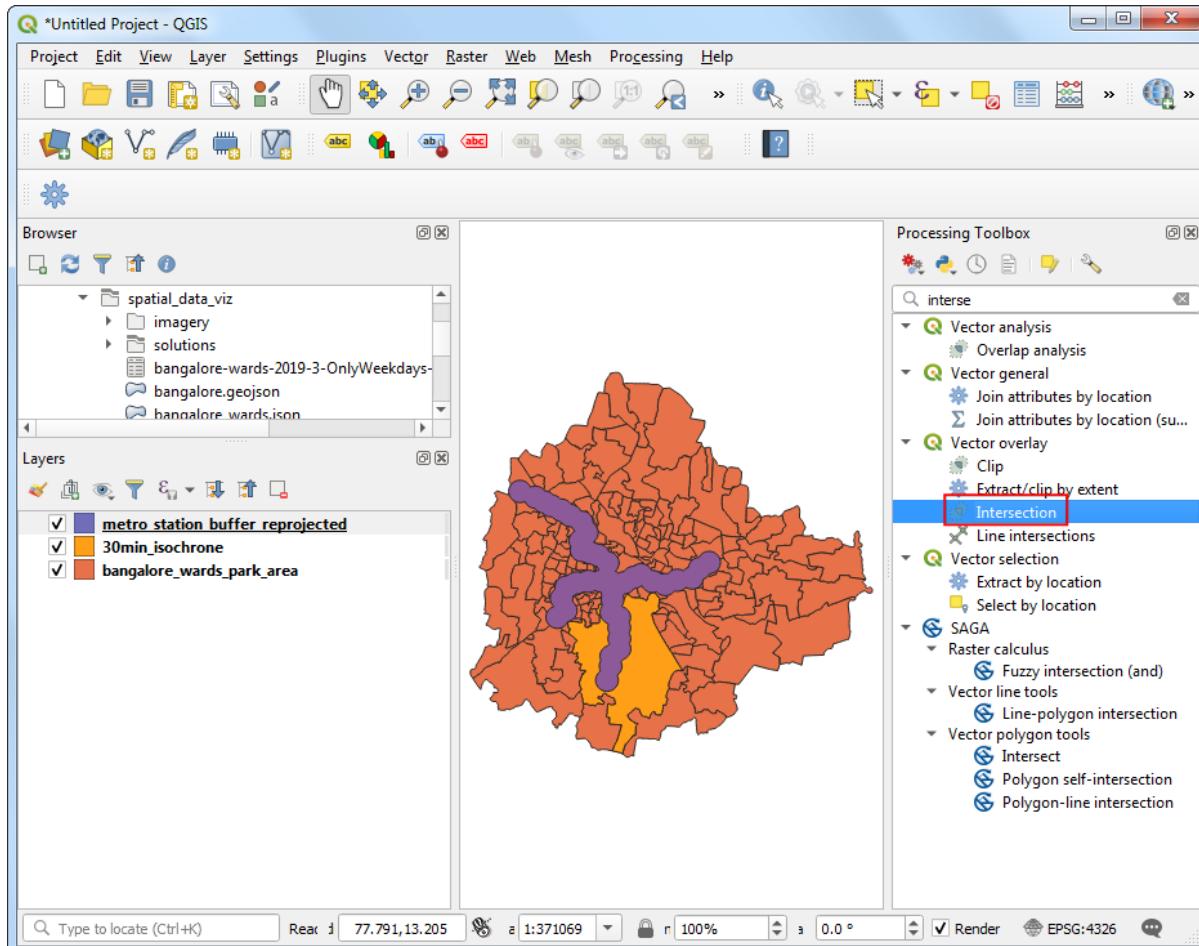
- Must be within 30-minute driving distance from work. We will consider Spatial Thoughts office as the work location.
- Must be within 1km of a metro station.
- Accessibility to parks. Wards with more parks are preferred.

We already have the data prepped from the previous exercises.

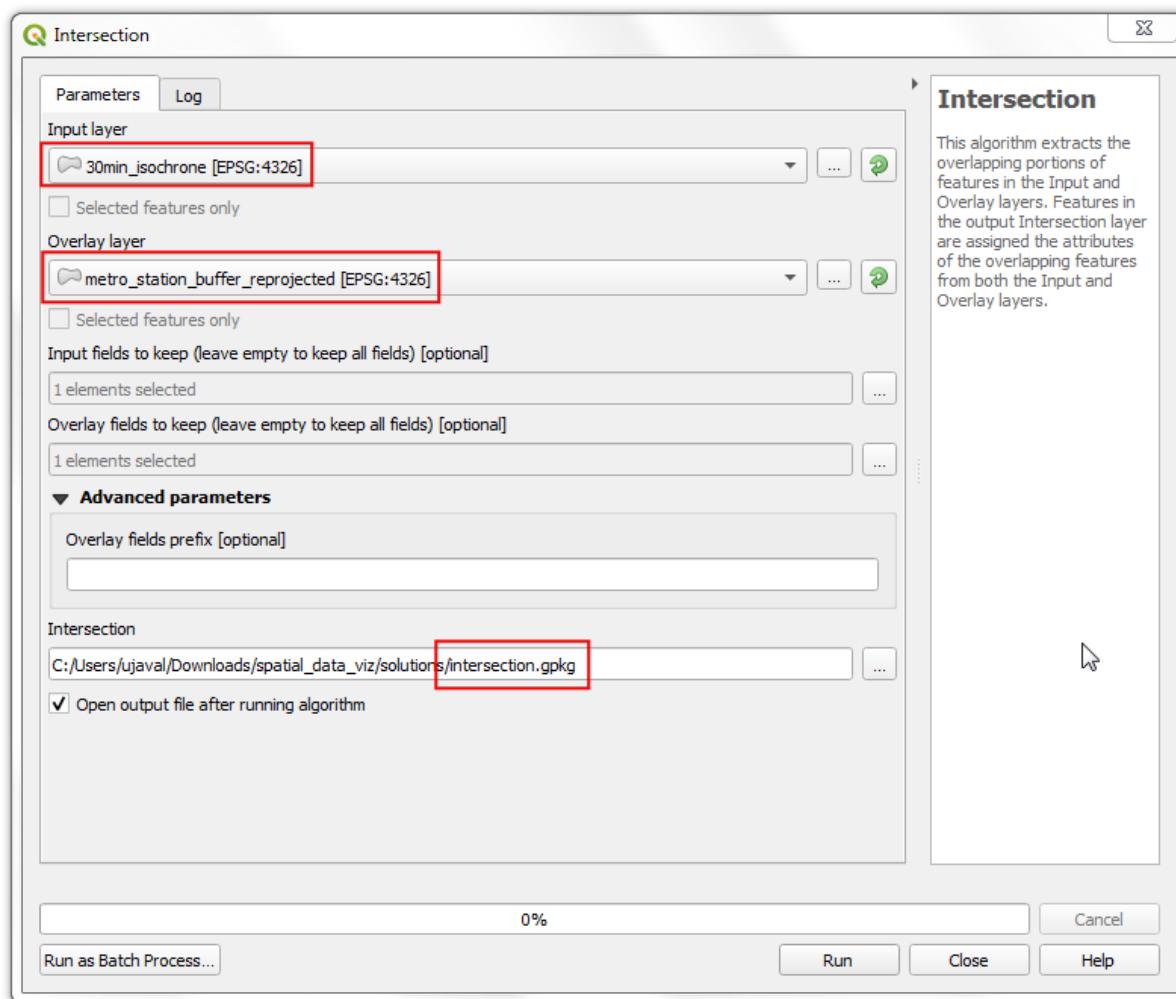
- `30min_isochrone.gpkg` layer representing areas within 30-minute driving distance from work.
- `metro_station_buffer_reprojected.gpkg` layer representing all areas within 1km of a metro station.
- `bangalore_wards_park_area.gpkg` layer with total park area for each ward.

We can now use overlay techniques to carry out the suitability analysis using the above layers.

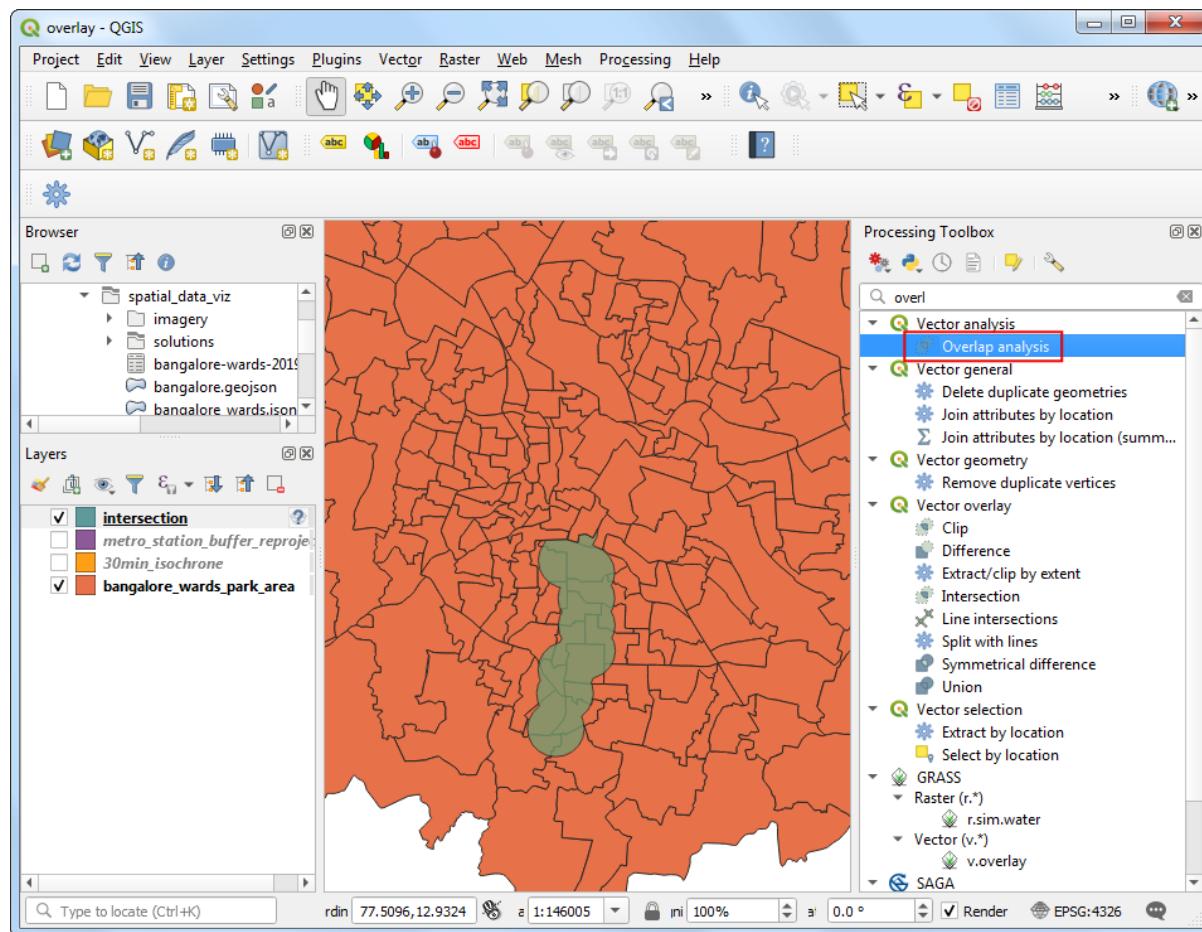
1. Locate `30min_isochrone.gpkg`, `metro_station_buffer_reprojected.gpkg` and `bangalore_wards_park_area.gpkg` layers and add them to QGIS. Search and locate the **Vector overlay → Intersection** algorithm. Double-click to launch it.



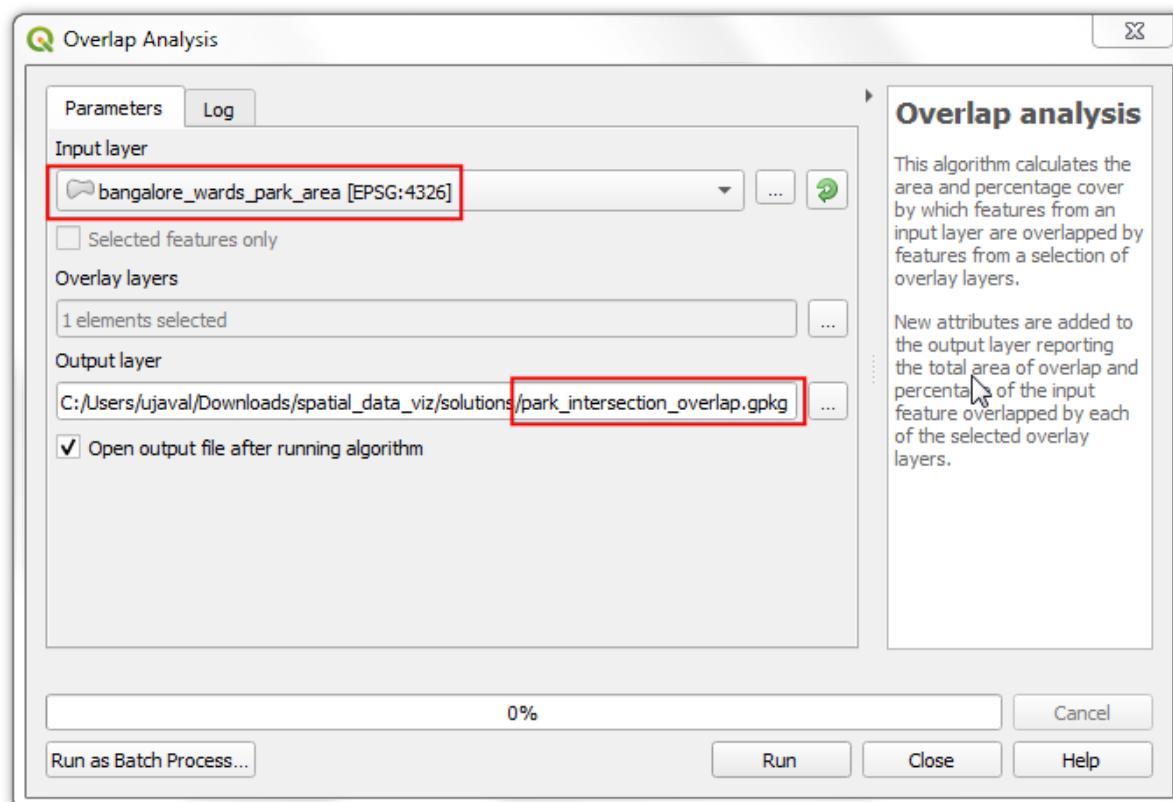
2. Select `30min_isochrone` as the *Input layer* and `metro_station_buffer_reprojected` as the *Overlay layer*. Name the *Intersection* output as `intersection.gpkg`. Click *Run*.



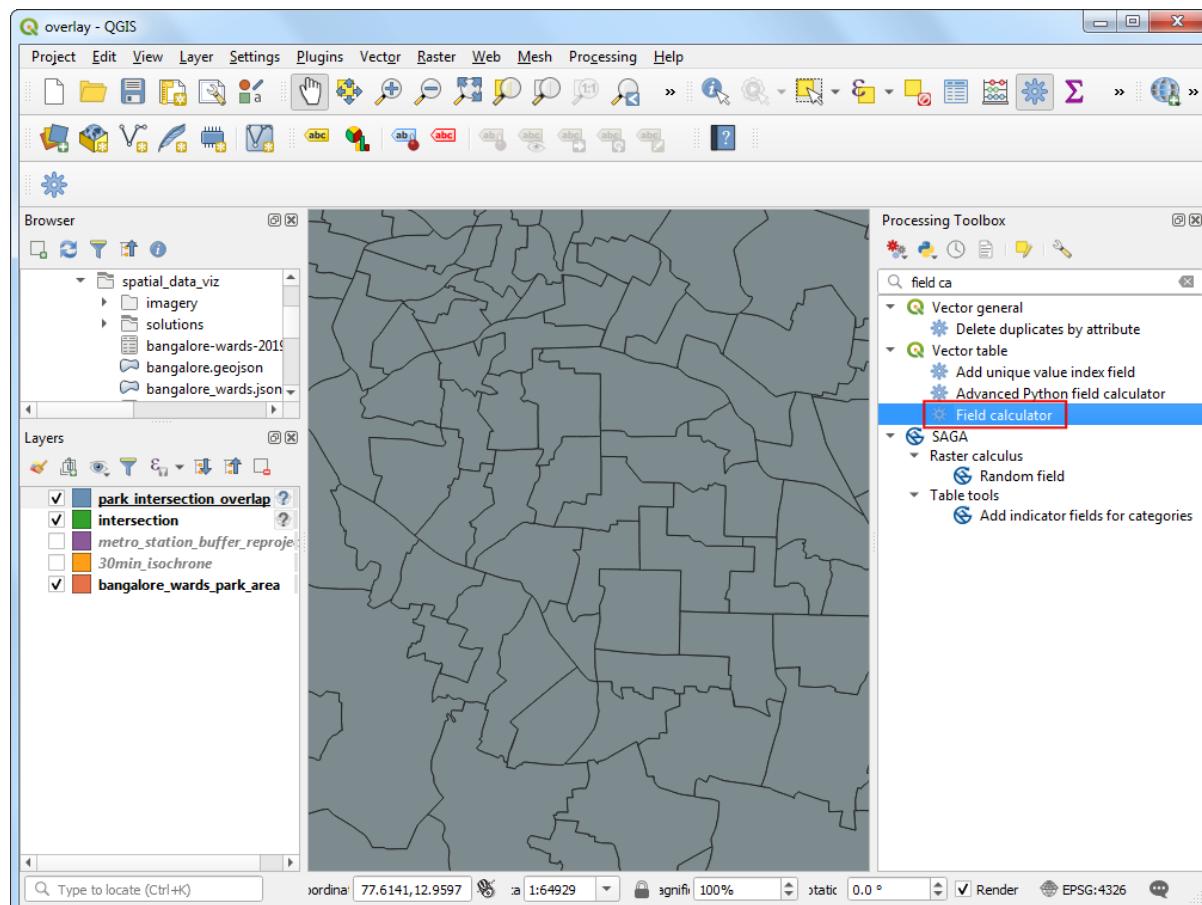
3. The resulting **intersection** layer represents the area that meets 2 of our criteria. Now time to apply the 3rd criteria. Search and locate the **Vector analysis → Overlap analysis** algorithm. Double-click to launch it.



- Select `bangalore_wards_park_area.gpkg` as the *Input layer*. Select `intersection` as the *Overlay layer*. Name the *Output layer* as `park_intersection_overlap.gpkg` and click *Run*.

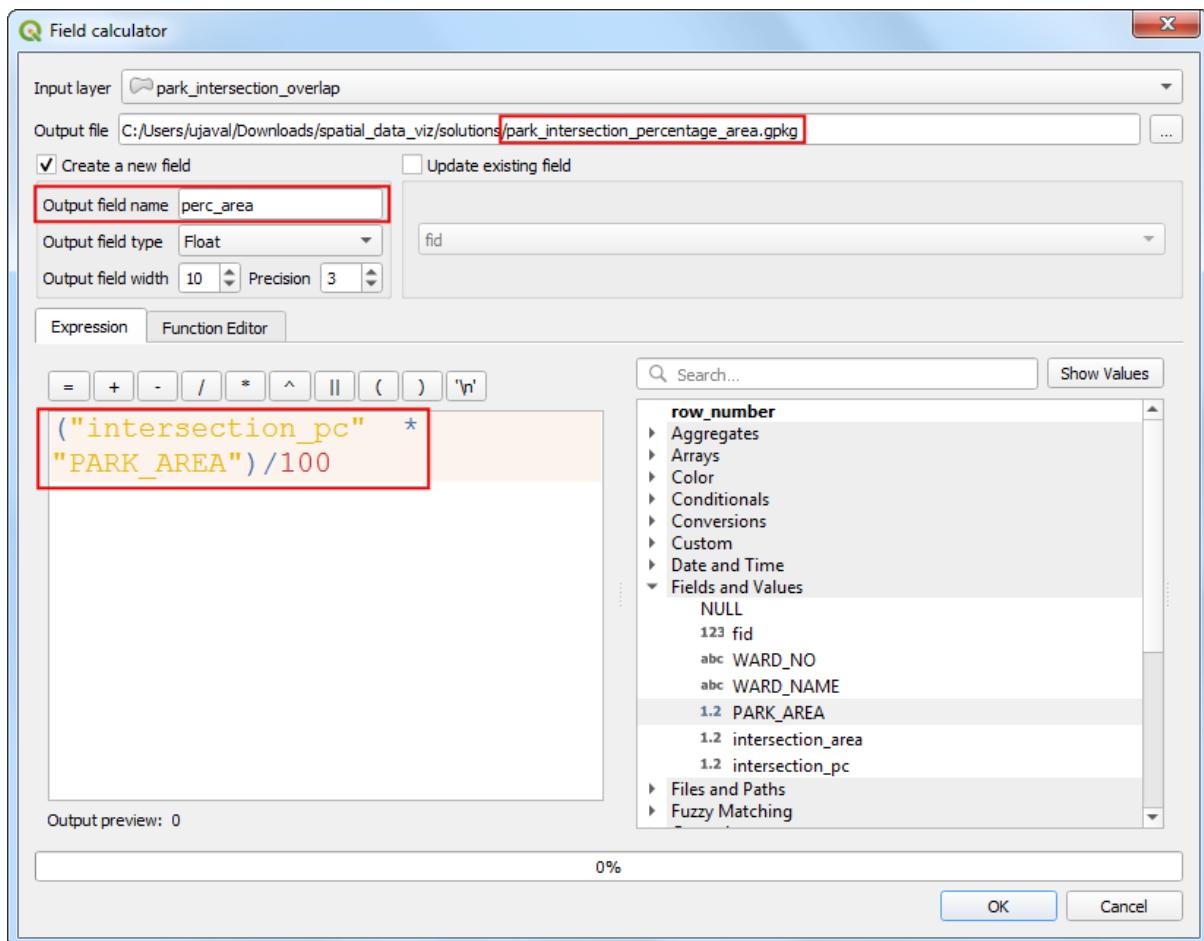


5. The resulting layer `park_intersection_overlap` adds 2 new columns to the original park layer: `intersection_area` and `intersection_pc`. For each ward polygon - we now know what percentage of the polygon intersects with our region of interest. If we assume the parks are evenly distributed throughout the ward, we can calculate the park area in the area of interest using the `intersection_pc` attribute. Search for the *Vector Table → Field Calculator* algorithm. Double-click to launch it.

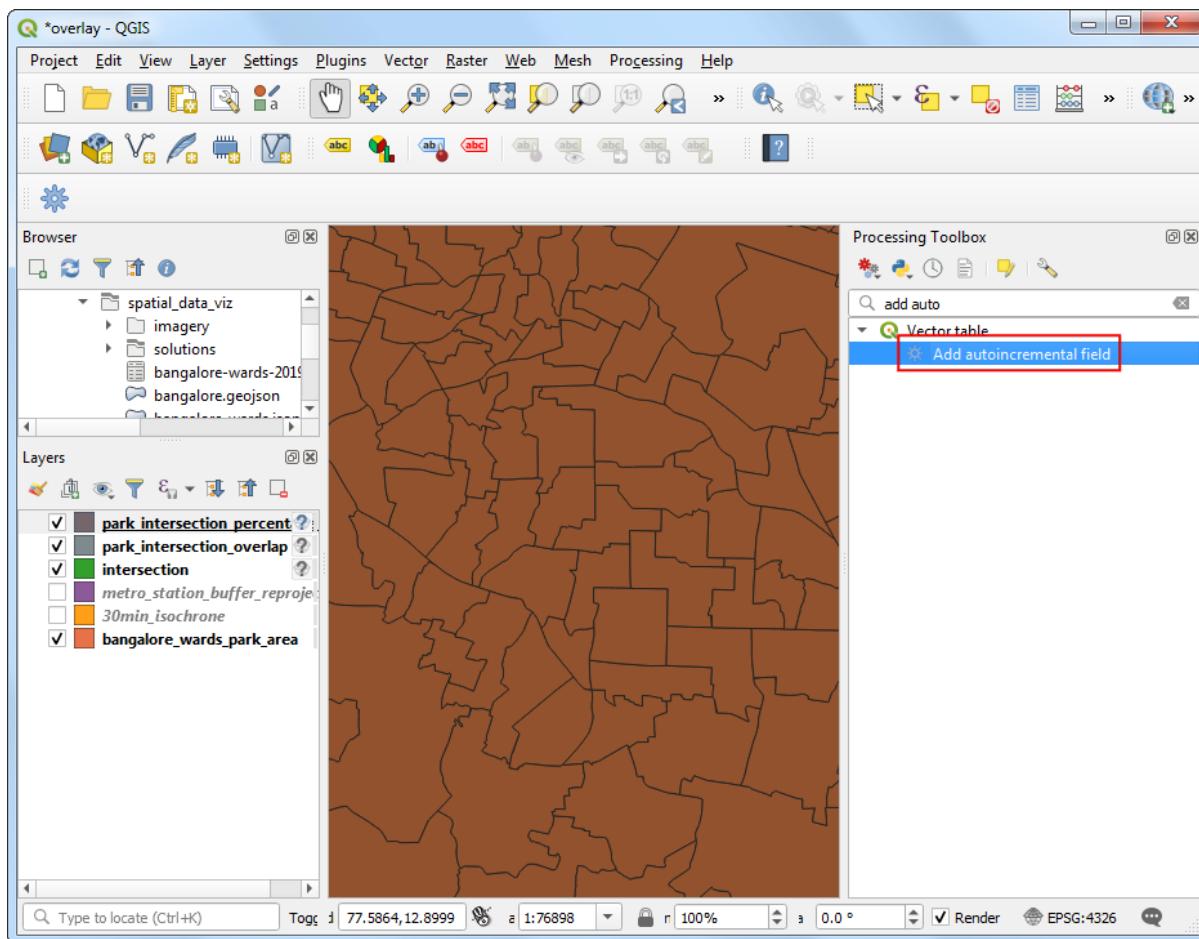


6. Select the *Output file* as `park_intersection_percentage_area.gpkg`. Name the *Output field name* as `perc_area`. Enter the following expression and click *OK*.

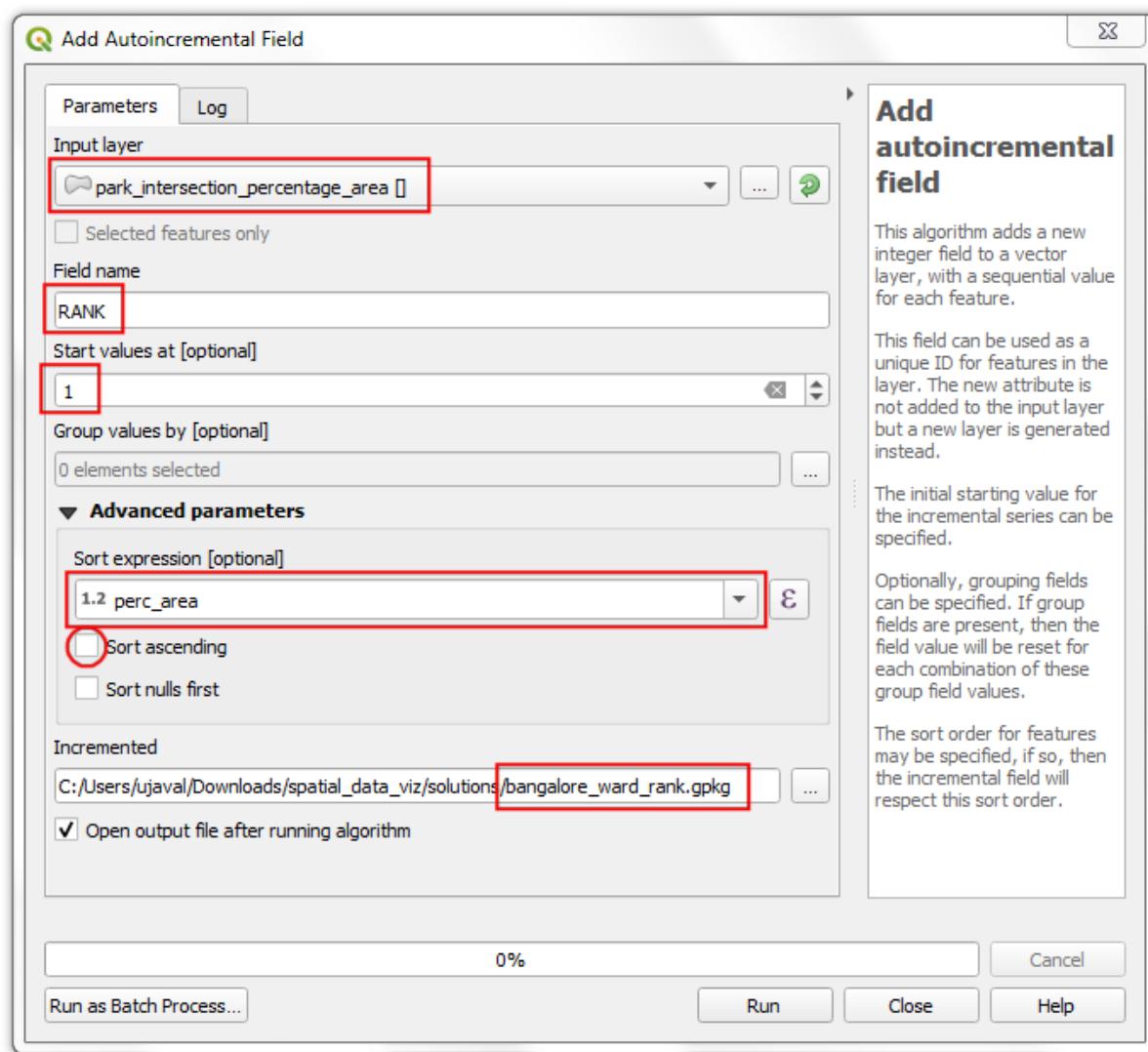
```
("intersection_pc" * "PARK_AREA")/100
```



7. We are almost done. We now know what is the total area of parks in the intersection region for each ward. We can now assign a rank to them. Search for the *Vector Table → Add autoincremental field* algorithm. Double-click to launch it.

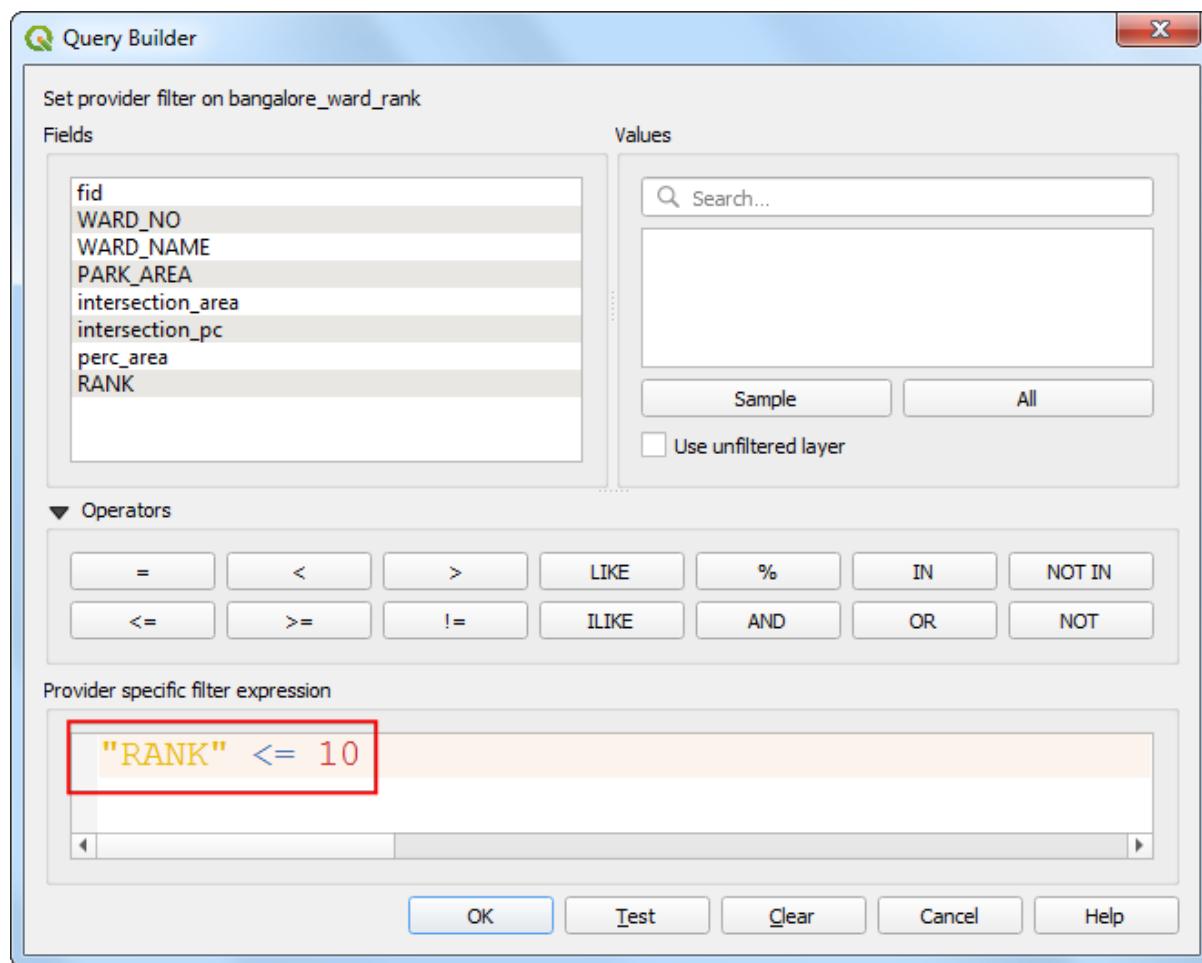


8. Select `park_intersection_percentage_area` as the *Input layer*. Enter `RANK` as the *Field name* and `1` as the *Start values at*. Expand the *Advanced* parameter section and select `perc_area` as the *Sort expression*. Un-check the *Sort ascending* box. Name the *Incremented* output layer as `bangalore_ward_rank.gpkg` and click *Run*.

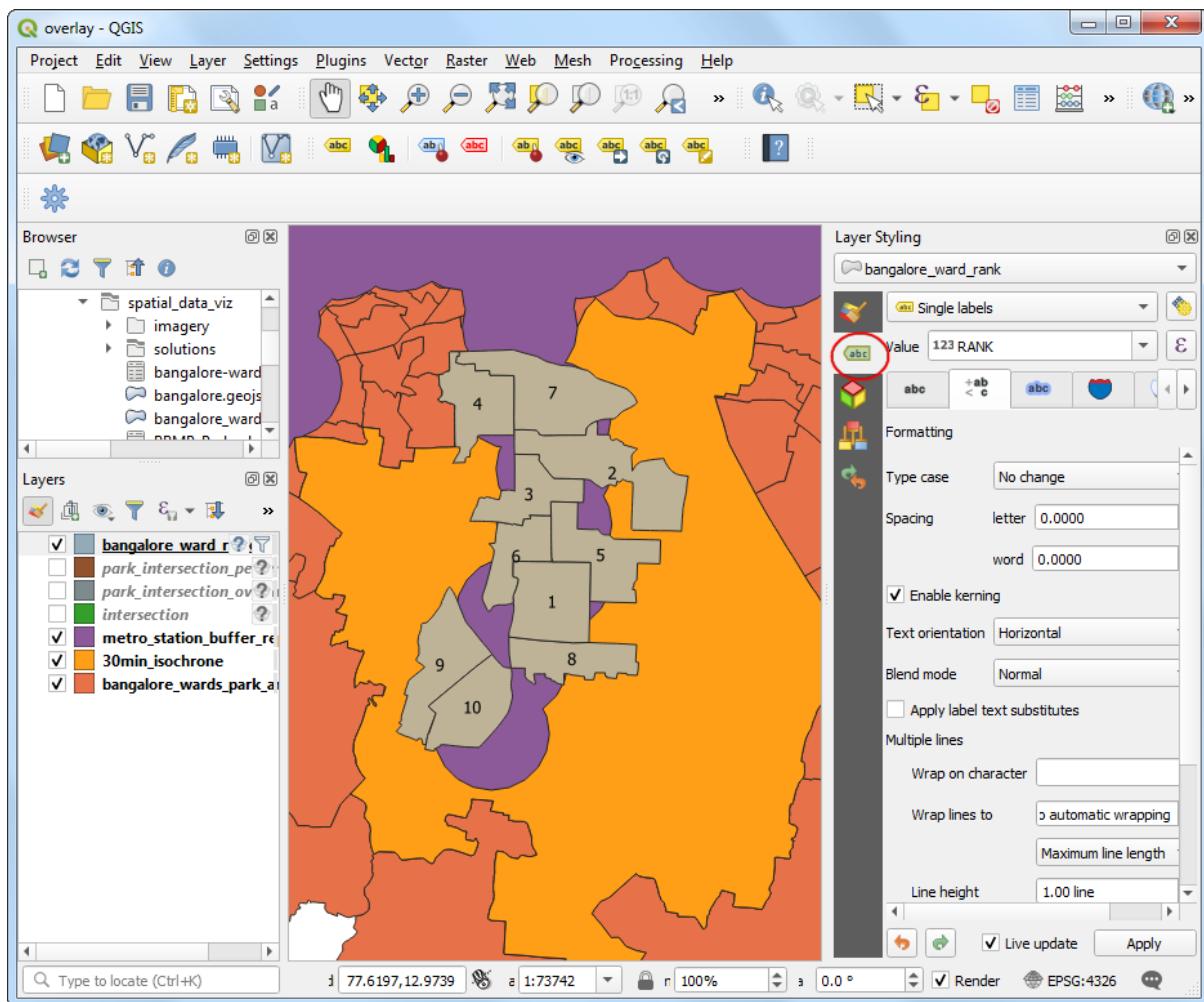


9. Right-click the resulting bangalore\_ward\_rank layer and select *Filter*. Enter the following expression to select the Top 10 wards.

"RANK" <= 10



10. You will see the top 10 wards on the map. Click *Open the Layer Styling Panel* and switch to the *Labels* tab. Choose *Single labels* and RANK as the *Value*. A label with the rank of the ward will be displayed on the map.



## Data Credits

- Delhi PM2.5 concentrations. Downloaded from OpenAQ data download service. Source data from Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) India and EPA AirNow DOC.
- OSM Tile Layer, Bangalore Metro Stations : (c) OpenStreetMap contributors
- India Village-Level Geospatial Socio-Economic Data Set. Meiyappan, P., P. S. Roy, A. Soliman, T. Li, P. Mondal, S. Wang, and A. K. Jain. 2018. India Village-Level Geospatial Socio-Economic Data Set: 1991, 2001. Palisades, NY: NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC). <https://doi.org/10.7927/H4CN71ZJ>. Accessed 15 February 2020.
- Census 2001 Districts: Downloaded from Datameet Spatial Data repository.
- Oxford Point Cloud. DTM, and DSM. Downloaded from Defra Data Services Platform. Crown Copyright 2019
- Kathmandu University Ground Drone Imagery. Downloaded from OpenAerialMap. Captured by WeRobotics
- Bangalore Sentinel-2 Imagery. Downloaded from Copernicus Open Access Hub. Copyright European Space Agency - ESA.
- Travel Times for Bangalore. Data retrieved from Uber Movement, (c) 2020 Uber Technologies, Inc., <https://movement.uber.com>.
- Bangalore Ward Maps Provided by Spatial Data of Municipalities (Maps) Project by Data{Meet}.

- Karnataka Population Grid 2020: Downloaded from WorldPop - School of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Southampton; Department of Geography and Geosciences, University of Louisville; Departement de Geographie, Universite de Namur) and Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), Columbia University (2018). Global High Resolution Population Denominators Project - Funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (OPP1134076). <https://dx.doi.org/10.5258/SOTON/WP00645>
- BBMP: List of Parks - wardwise: Downloaded from OpenCity Urban Data Portal by Oorvani Foundation and DataMeet.

## License

This course material is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License. You are free to use the material for any non-commercial purpose. Kindly give appropriate credit to the original author

If you would like to use this material for commercial use or for teaching a course, kindly contact me for terms.

© 2020 Ujaval Gandhi [www.spatialthoughts.com](http://www.spatialthoughts.com)

