

Advancing Equity in Planning through Public Health Partnerships

Presented by:

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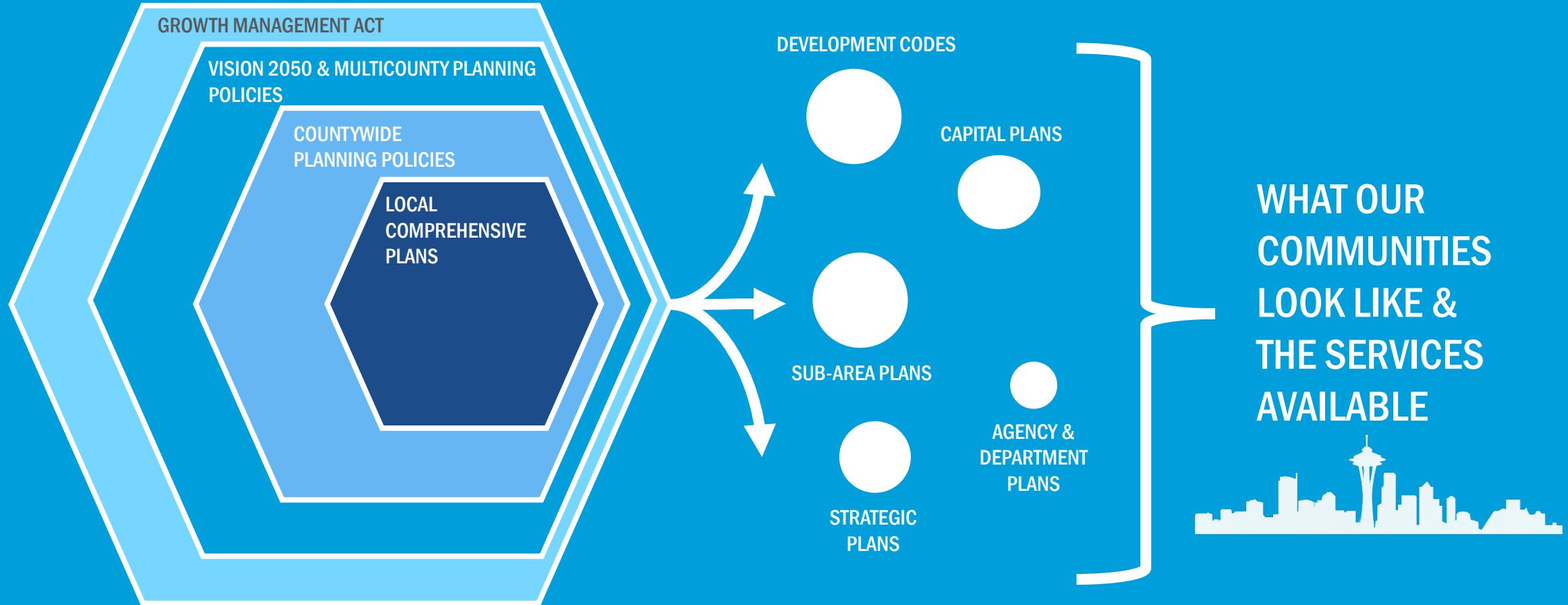
Thursday, October 9th, 2025

Learning Objectives

- ✓ Understand how planning decisions influence community determinants of health.
- ✓ Know how community health promotion assessments using a targeted universalism framework can support alternatives analyses.
- ✓ Understand the complexities involved in planning for growth while addressing existing community health disparities and how public health data and partnerships can help inform decision making.

Optional text here

Our communities are shaped by multiple layers of planning policy.



Planning decisions influence community health

Community risk factors

- Pollution exposure
- Housing and business (in)stability
- Pedestrian injuries & vehicle collisions
- Violence

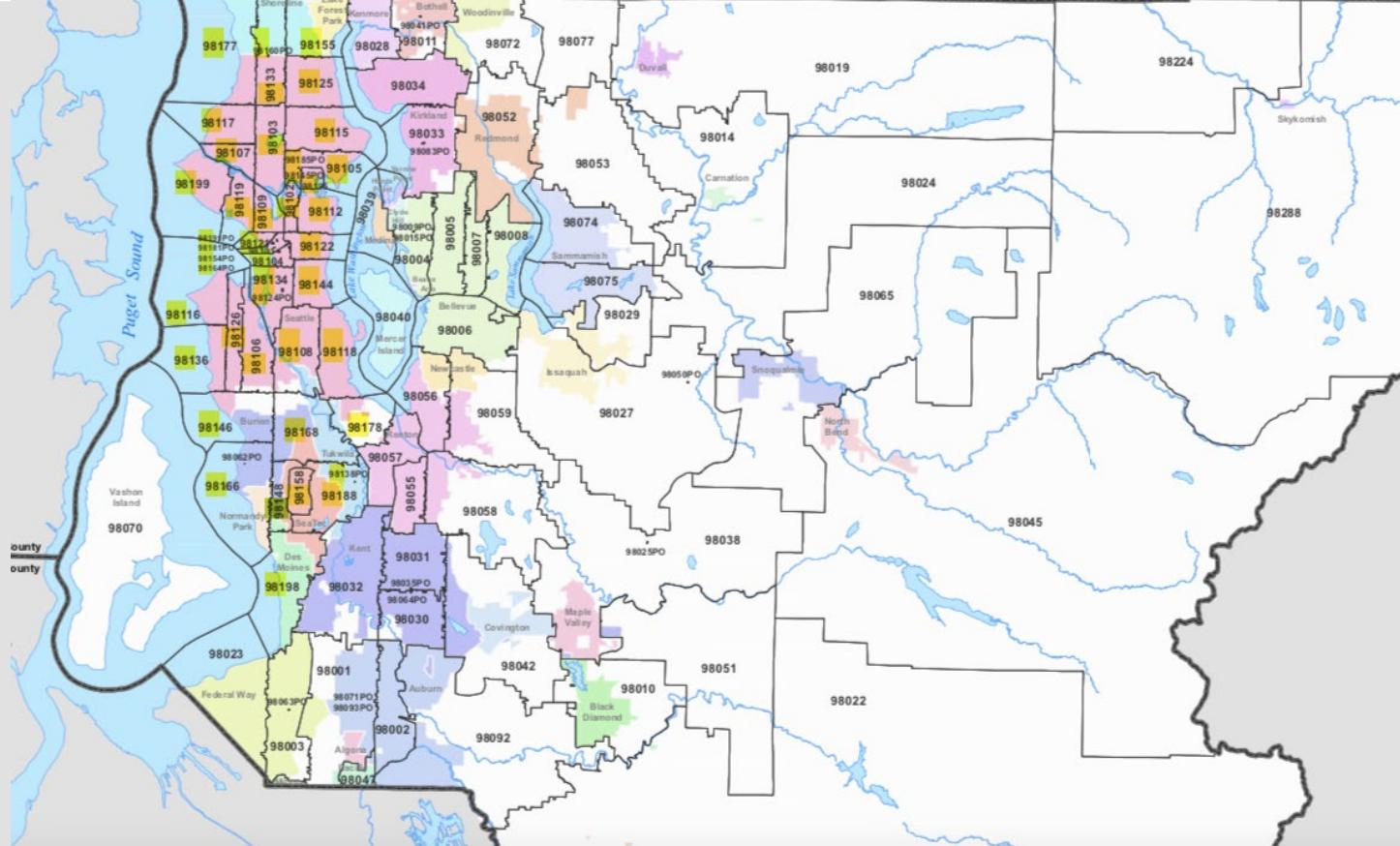
Community protective factors

- Tree canopy cover
- Open spaces
- Transit service
- Proximity to healthy food
- Sidewalks, crosswalks & pedestrian lighting

Health outcomes

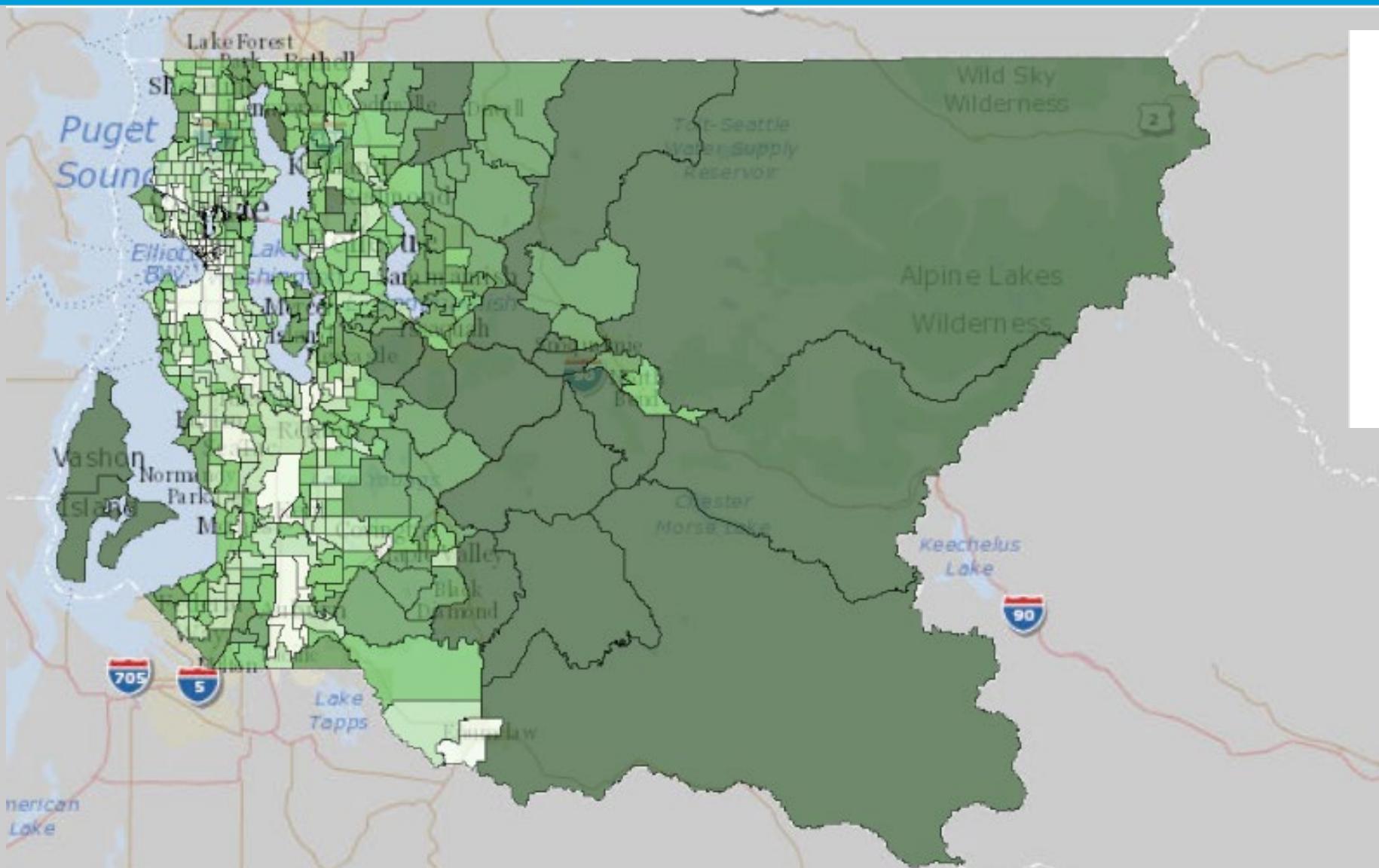
- Life expectancy, average healthy years lived
- Rates of asthma, diabetes, COPD, heart attack, deaths, etc.





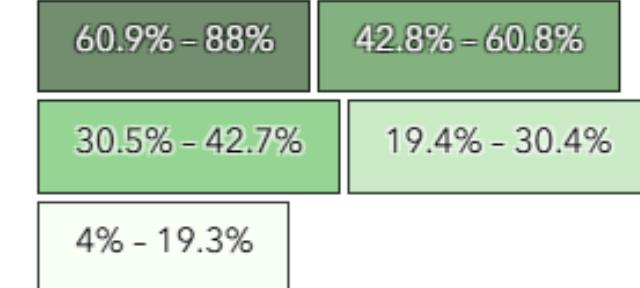
Zip code has a greater influence over an individual's quality-and length of life than their genetic code.

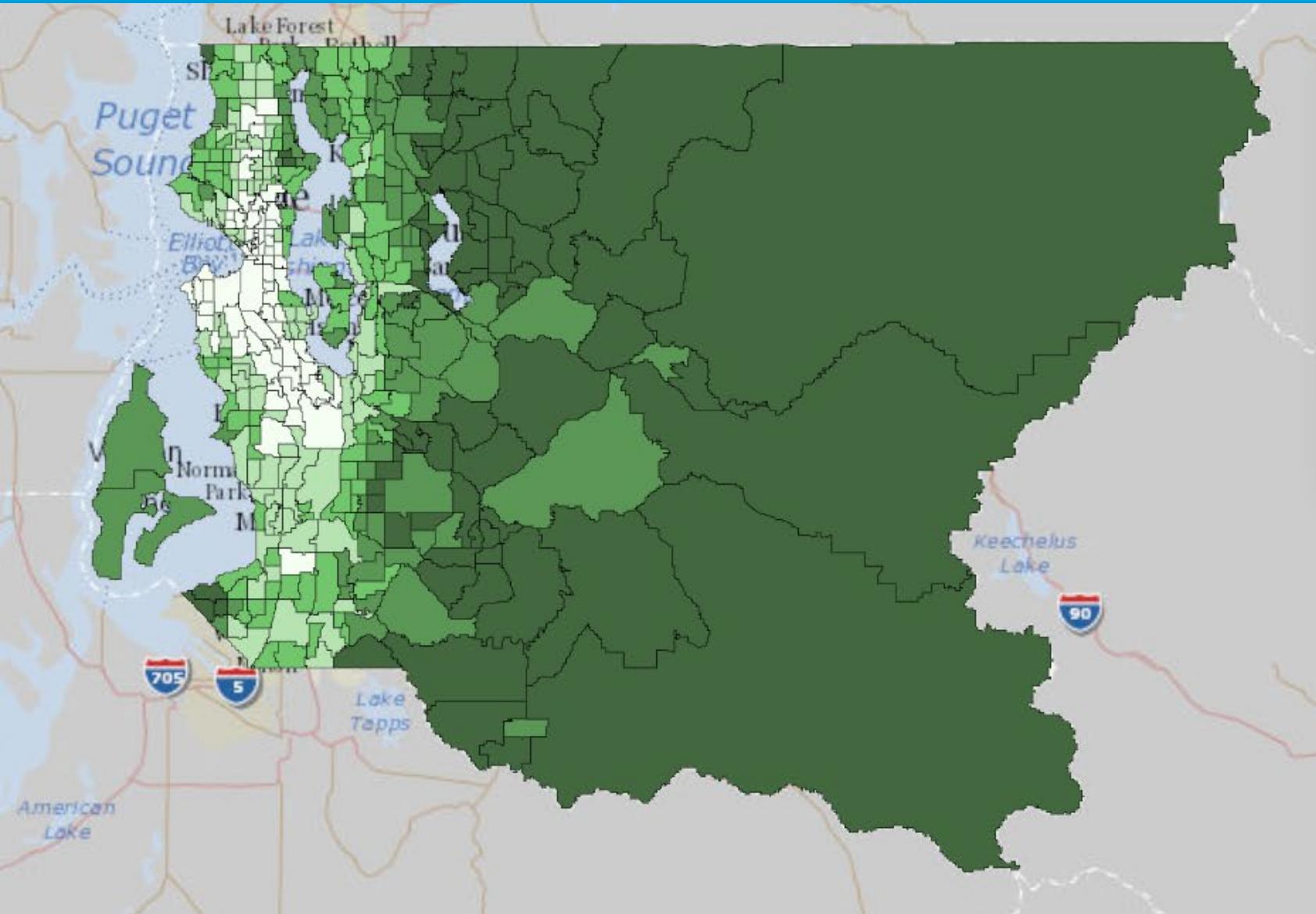
Graham GN. Why Your ZIP Code Matters More Than Your Genetic Code: Promoting Healthy Outcomes from Mother to Child. *Breastfeed Med*. 2016 Oct;11:396-7. doi: 10.1089/bfm.2016.0113. Epub 2016 Aug 11. PMID: 27513279.



Tree Canopy by tract

Percent



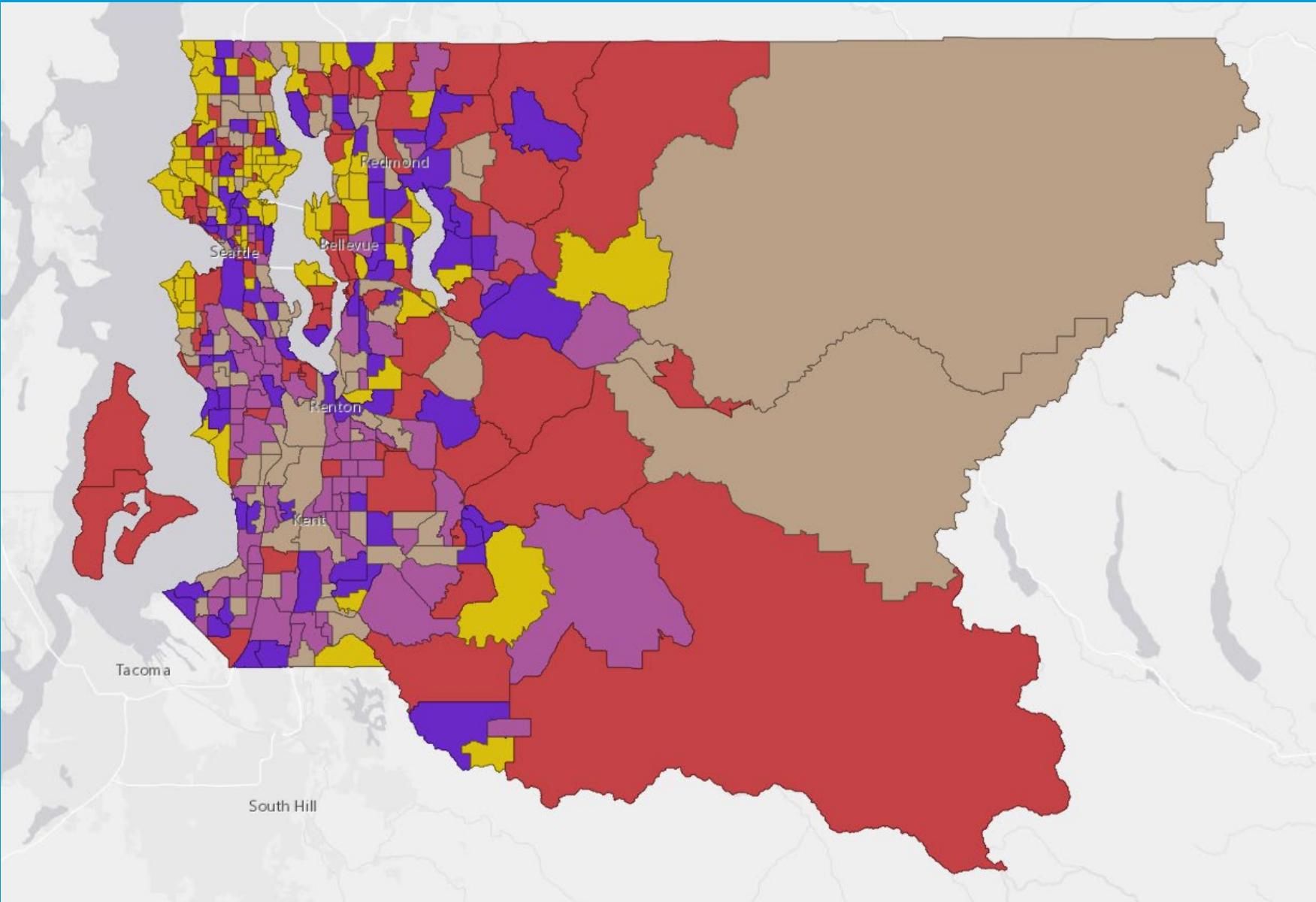


Environmental Pollution Burden by Census Tract

Overall Exposure Index Score

> 3.66 - 4.5	> 3.16 - 3.66
> 2.66 - 3.16	> 2.16 - 2.66
1.5 - 2.16	

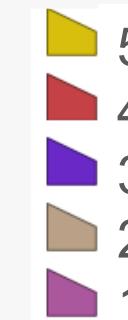




Legend

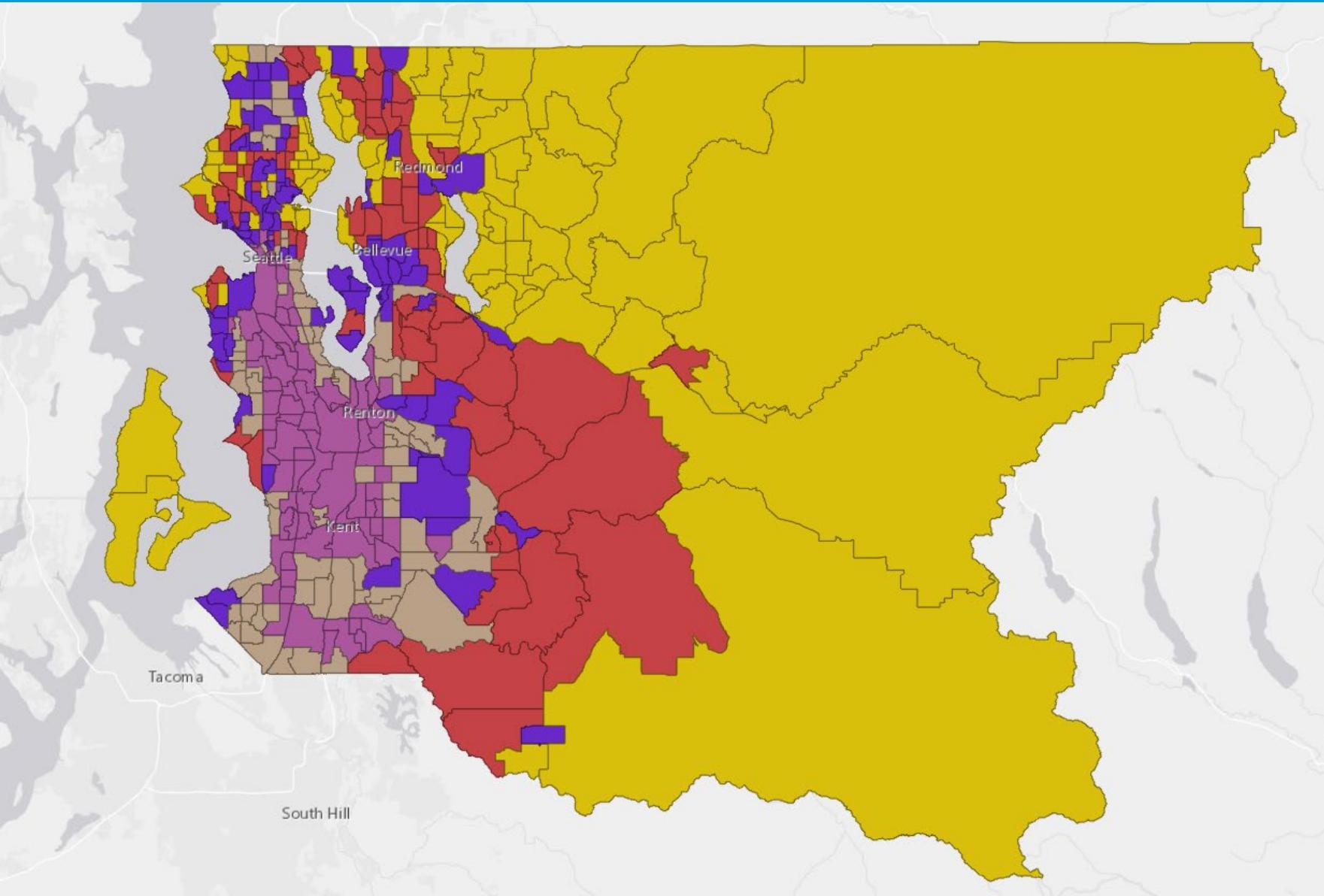
WADOH Environmental Health Disparities Index
Calculated for King County / wadohehdindex area

sen_pop_quintile



**higher values equal higher
rates of sensitive populations*

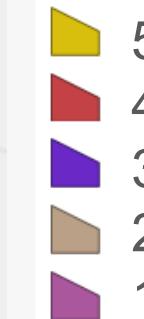




Legend

WADOH Environmental Health Disparities Index
Calculated for King County / wadohehdindex area

EHD_quintile



*Lower quintile values equal
higher rates of disparities



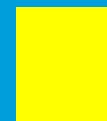


Key geographic areas



Urban Growth Area (UGA)

Housing and job growth is focused in the UGA to protect rural and resource lands and deliver efficient services, characterized by higher density development



Urban Unincorporated Area

Portions of the UGA outside of city limits



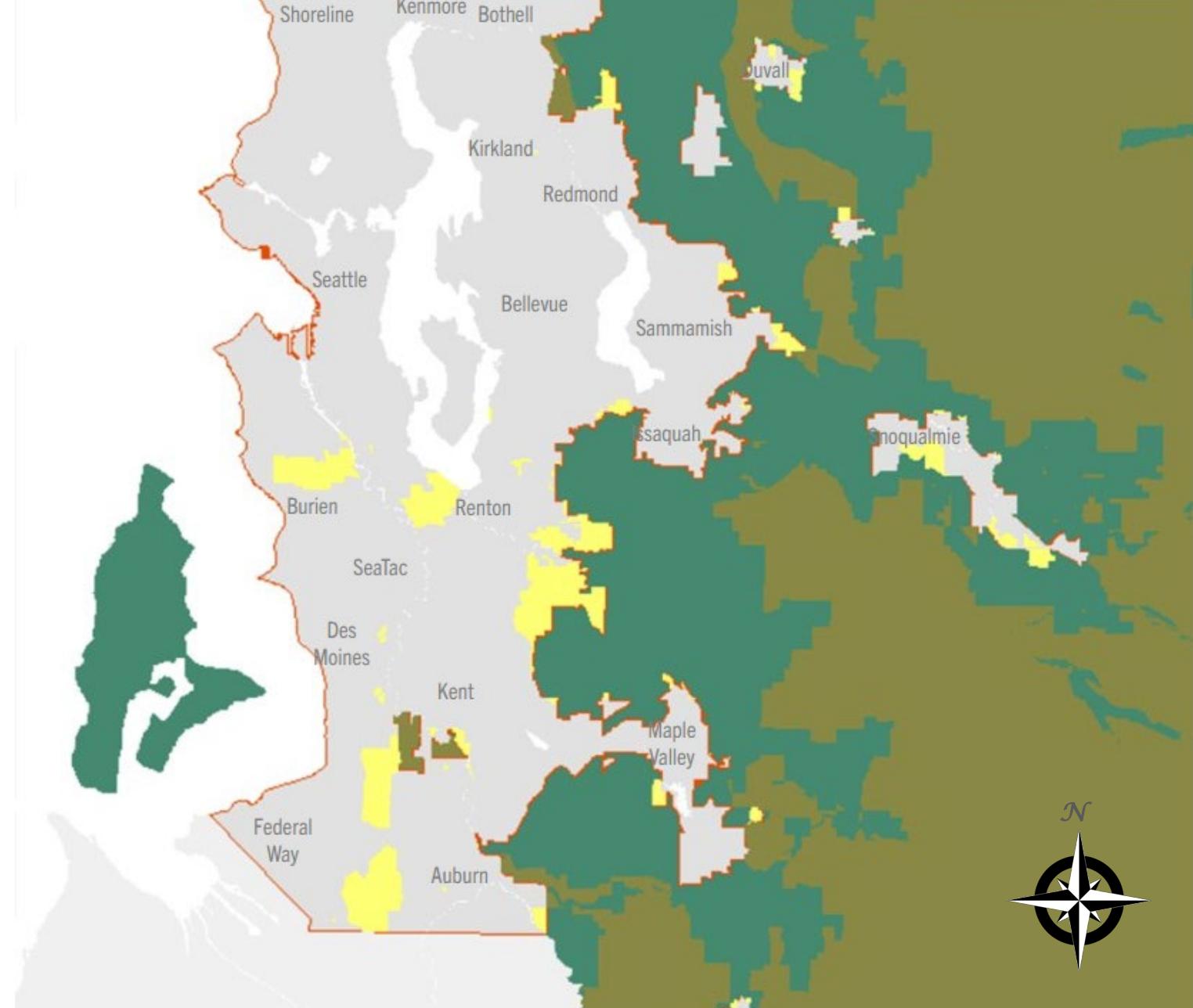
Rural Area

Outside the UGA and Resource Lands, characterized by small-scale farming and forestry and low-density residential development

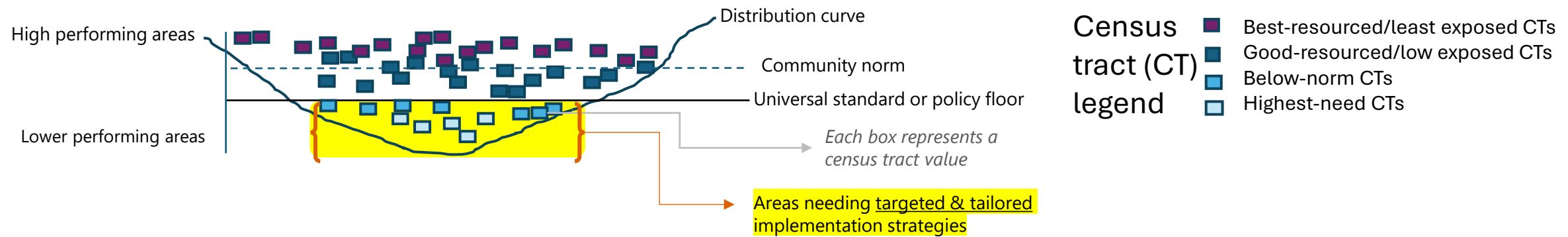


Natural Resource Lands

Designated for agriculture, forestry, or mining



Integrating community health assessments in planning decision making using a targeted universalism framework.



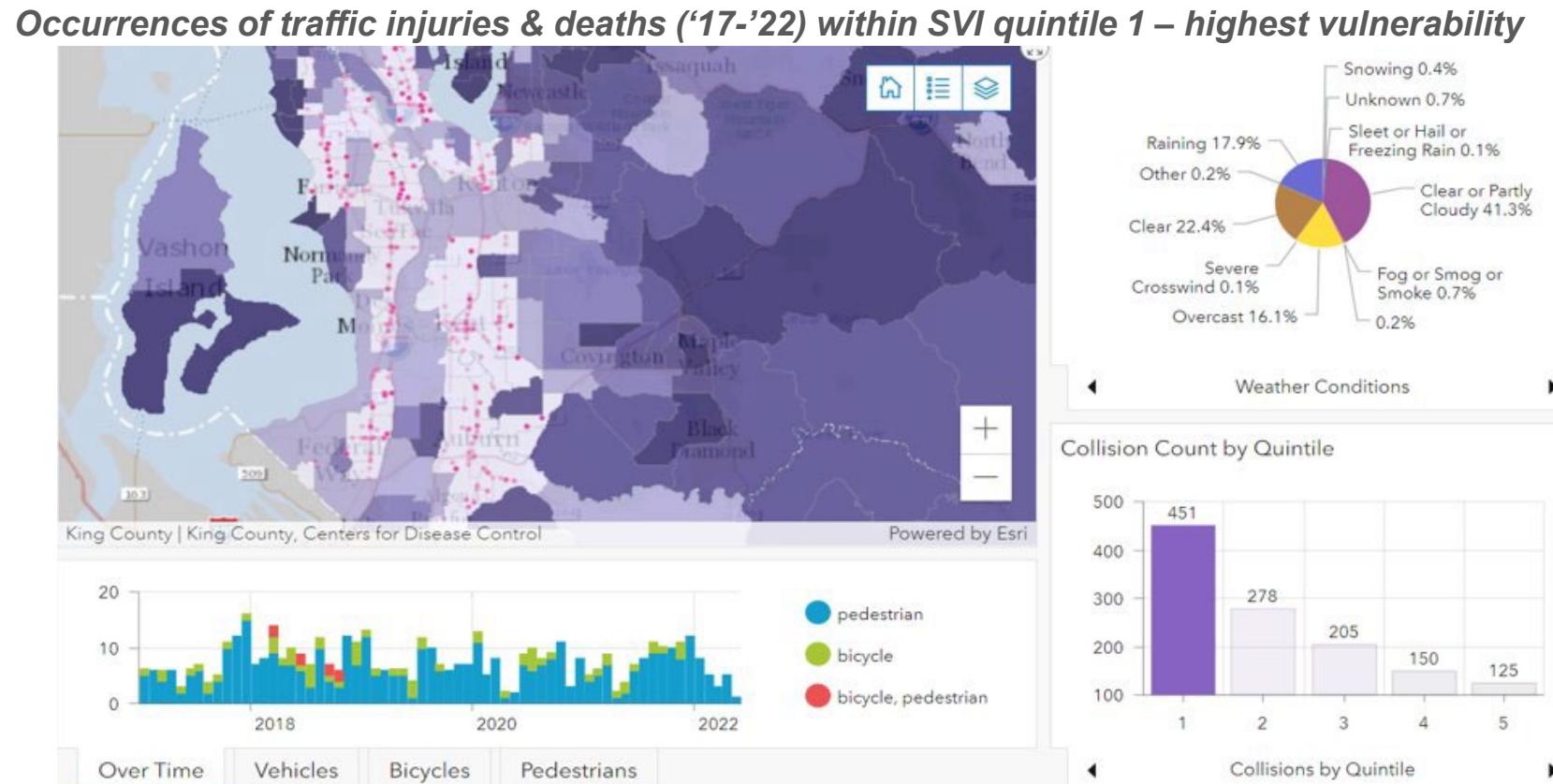
Establishing universal policy goals with **targeted and tailored implementation strategies** to meet unique needs of different populations.

Recognizes existing disparities are inherent in communities and providing different pathways to equitably advance community health, safety & wellbeing.



Quintiles offer a standard method for considering 'where needs are greatest'

using CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), WA State Environmental Health Disparity Index (EHD Index), or locally recalculated version of the WA EHD Index to reflect better spatial resolution of community conditions.





Applying a comparative ‘community health promotion assessment’ to alternatives analyses

Example framework for considering community health effects of transportation project alternatives to guide development of tailored and targeted project implementation.

Measures most directly influencing public health		Weighting	Remove & Replace	Boulevard 1	Boulevard 2	Bridges & Trails
HW 1: Air Pollution		5	0	3	0	1
HW 2: Noise Pollution		3	2	2	2	1
HW 3/MC 5: Street Safety for Vulnerable Users		5	3	1	2	1
HW 4: Access to Green Space		3	3	2	2	1
MC 2: Improved Walking and Biking Infrastructure		4	3	1	2	3
MC 3: Public Transit Connections		4	1	3	2	1
HE 1: Runoff Reduction & Water Quality Improvement		1	3	1	2	1
HE 2: Climate Resilience		3	3	1	2	1
HE-3: Available Green Space		3	3	1	3	1
AE roll-up: Stability/influence		5	3	2	3	1
Total			24	17	20	12
Average (no weighting)			2.4	1.7	2.0	1.2
Weighted Score			2.3	1.8	1.9	1.2

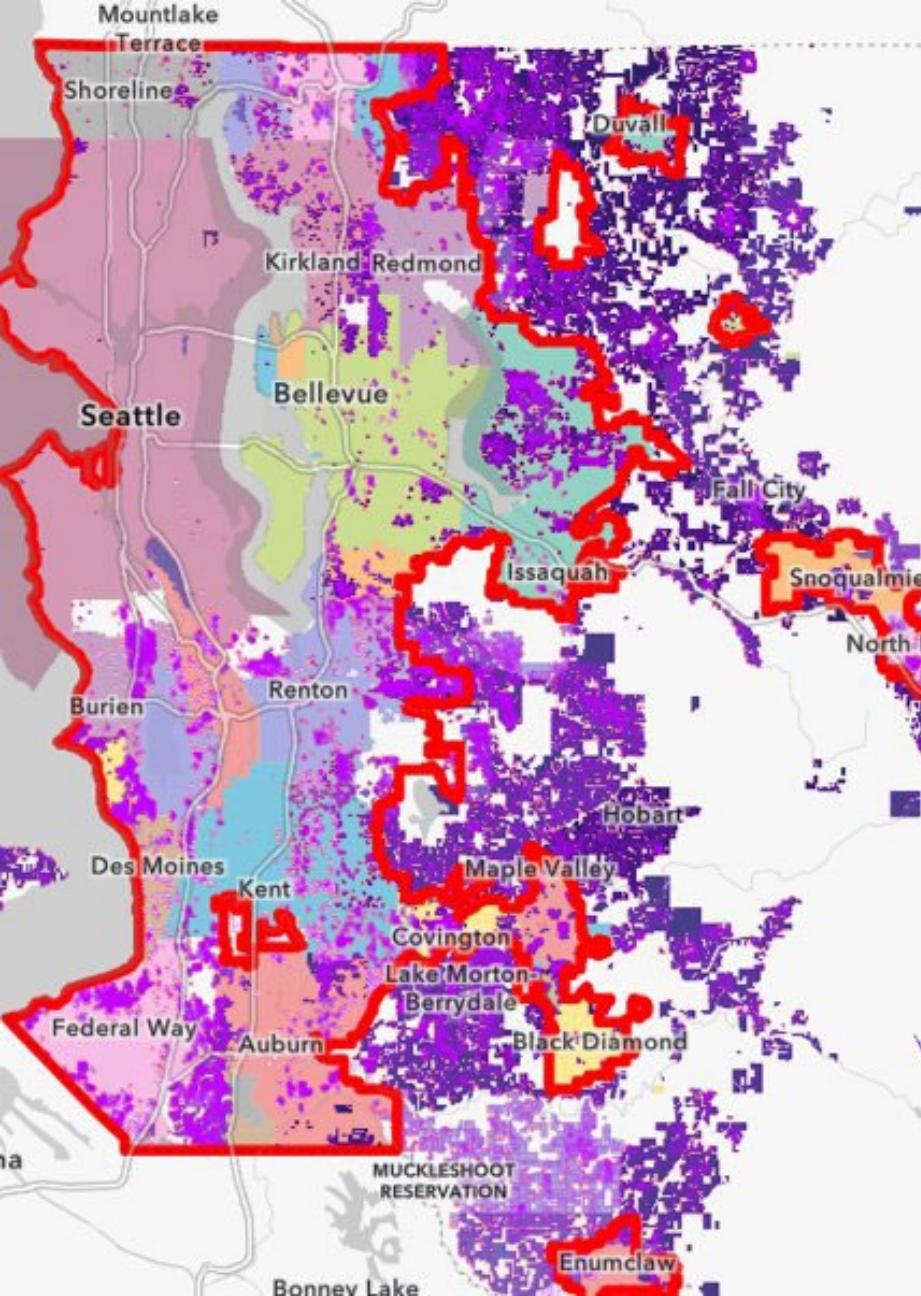
Alternatives community health promotion value rubric	
High	3
Medium	2
Low	1
No Change	0

Community health driver considerations

- Physical health / Ecosystem health
- Mental health
- Safety
- Active living
- Social connections
- Access to healthy food

Available public health datasets and community health indicator sources:

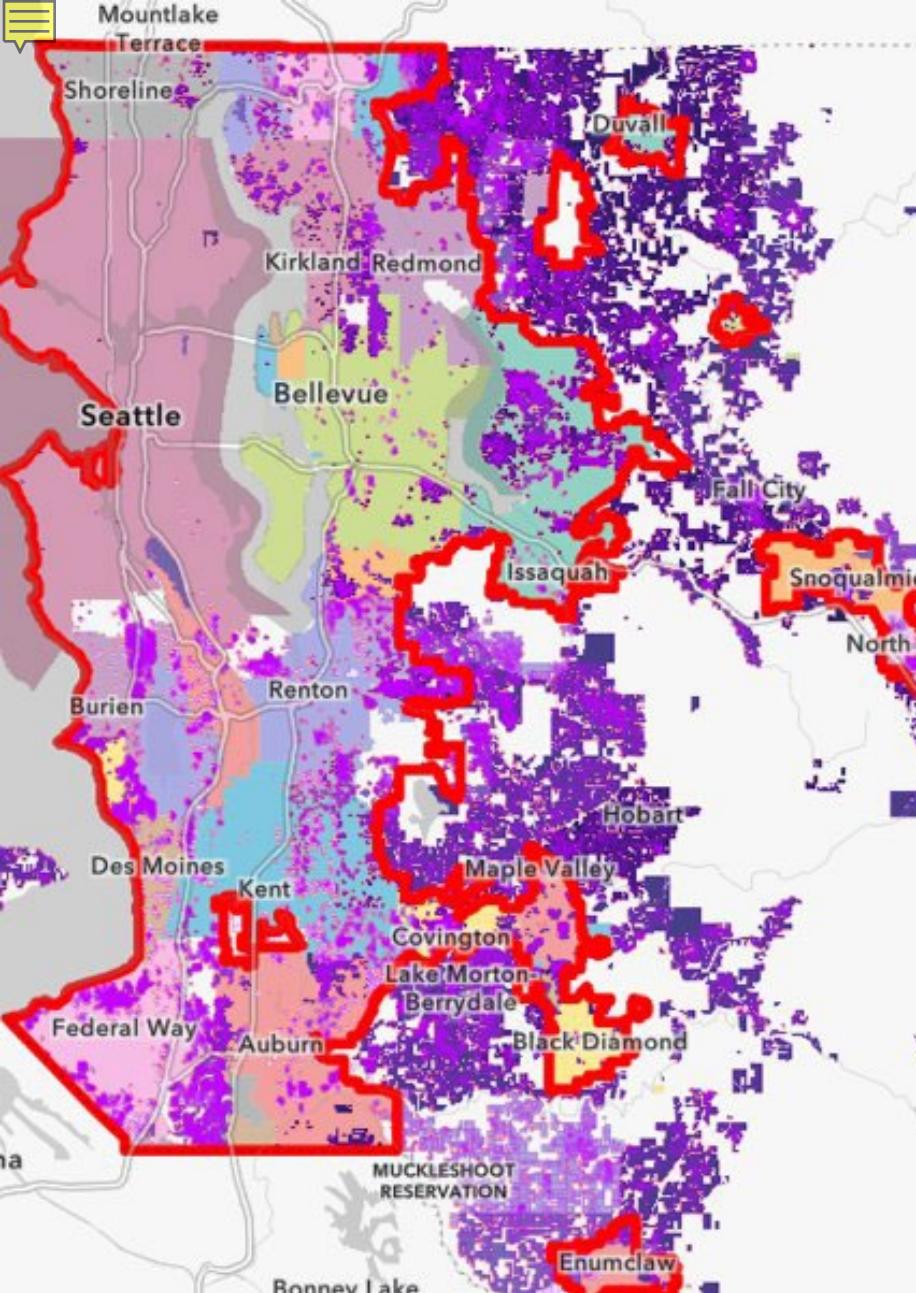
- **CDC Social Vulnerability Index (*temporarily available)**
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/place-health/php/svi/index.html>
- **WA DOH Environmental Health Disparities Map**
<https://doh.wa.gov/data-and-statistical-reports/washington-tracking-network-wtn/washington-environmental-health-disparities-map>
- **Hospital Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs)**
<https://doh.wa.gov/data-statistical-reports/healthcare-washington/hospital-and-patient-data/hospital-community-health-needs-assessment-and-community-health-improvement-services-addendum>
- **Local Health Jurisdictions**
 - Syndromic Surveillance (RHINO)
 - Environmental health permitting & compliance data
 - Additional community health indicator data



Equitable Wastewater Futures (EWF) case study

Planning overview:

- 37,000 septic systems (OSS) in urban KC (*bright pink parcels*)
- Social vulnerability, climate change resilience
- Age of OSS, lifespan
- Risk to public health
- Land-use restrictions

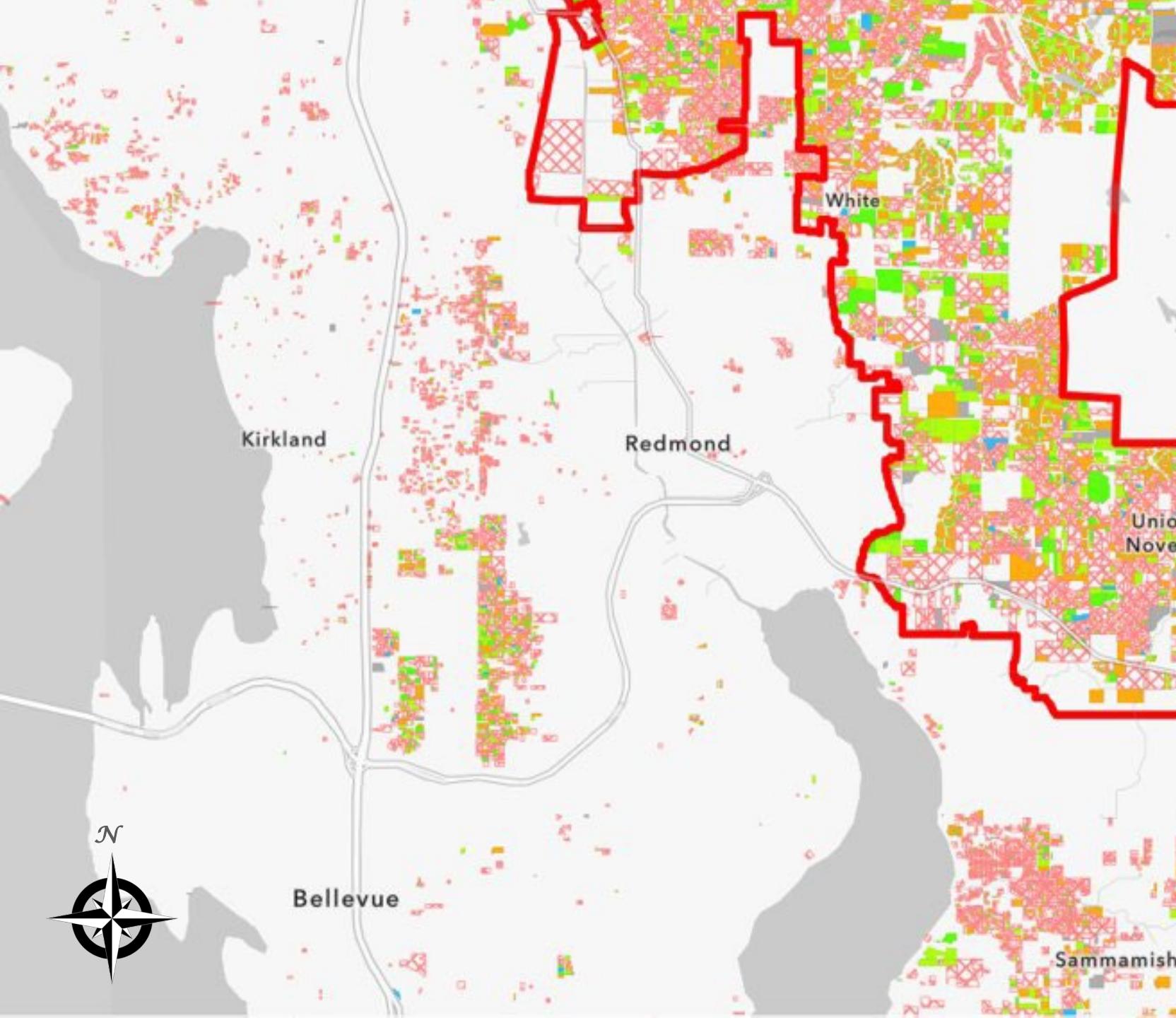


EWF planning aim:

Where community needs are greatest, expand sewer infrastructure

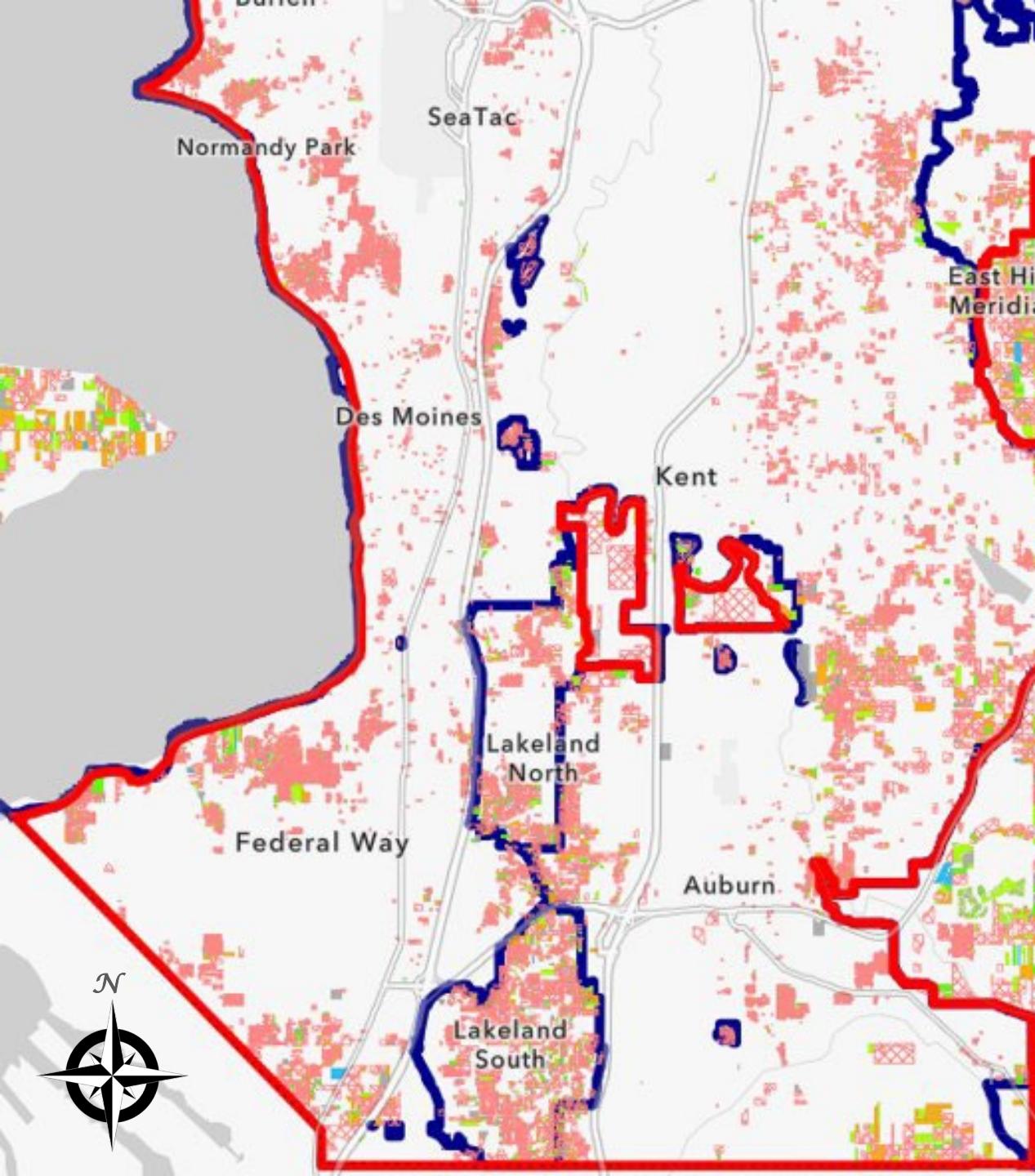
EWF planning considerations:

- What are potential creative OSS solutions where infrastructure expansion is impossible?
- What are potential innovative policy solutions?
- Where and what kind of engagement is needed?
- What are the opportunities for middle and infill housing?
- How might growth projections need to be adjusted?
- What planning alternatives can accommodate infrastructure needs and meet housing density requirements?
- What are the health impacts of different planning scenarios?



Scenario

High prevalence of onsite-sewage systems in past average life-span in residential areas just outside the Growth Area Boundary.



Scenario

High prevalence of onsite-sewage systems in past average life-span in residential areas within the Growth Area Boundary.

Blue outline designates unincorporated areas of King County.

Questions?

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Break Out Discussions