Community Observation Results

Bonnyville, Alberta

COMMUNITY HEALTH &
THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Centre for
Health Promotion
S T U D I E S

SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Presentation Outline

- What is the Built Environment

- What we did

- Why we did what we did

- What we found

- How this information can help your community

The Built Environment Includes...

Community Design Factors

Land Uses

Transportation Options
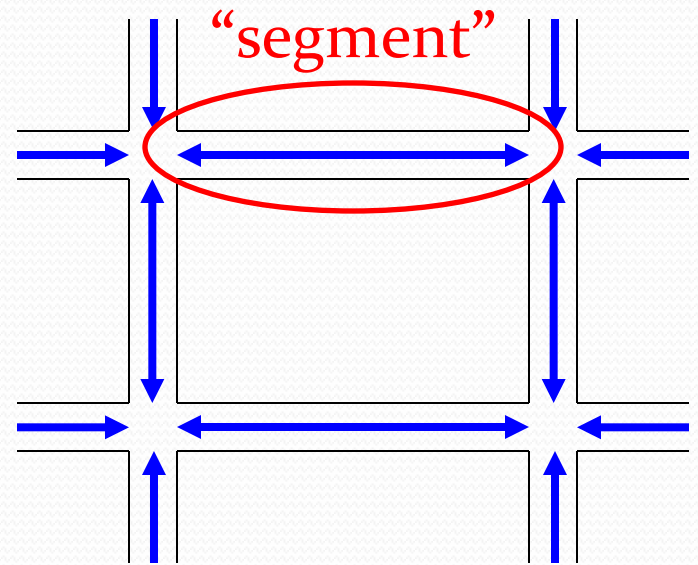
Activity and Eating Options

Aesthetics

What We Did (September, 2008)

- An observer walked every street in Bonnyville.

- The observer stopped at 296 locations.

- These locations represent every "segment" of street between two intersections.

- Each segment was rated on 230 characteristics of the built environment.

"segment"

CHBE Team's Core Belief

- The community built environment (BE):
  - influences our health-related decisions, and
  - presents both opportunities and barriers.
- Changes in the BE can have a positive effect on individual and community health.
- The observation data contributes to understanding the BE so that potential changes can be made.

What We Found

- Results from the Bonnyville observation are presented here.

- The 230 characteristics have been organized into 6 themes.

- Within each of the themes, sub-themes have been created of features that are normally found together on the same segment.
  - 21 sub-themes in total

Themes and their Sub-Themes

Attractiveness

  Attractiveness - Retail

  Attractiveness - Park

  Attractiveness - Street

  Attractiveness - Older Area

Safety from Crime

  Crime Safety - Indicator Aesthetics

  Crime Safety - Indicator Services

  Crime Safety - Indicator Destinations

Traffic Safety

  Traffic Safety - Crossing

  Traffic Safety - Walking

  Traffic Safety - Traffic Calming

  Traffic Safety - Mid-Block Crosswalk

Diversity of Destinations

  Diversity of Destinations - Retail

  Diversity of Destinations - Civic

  Diversity of Destinations - Fitness

  Diversity of Destinations - Schools

  Diversity of Destinations - Industrial

Density

  Residential Density

  Building Stories

Pedestrian Accessibility

  Pedestrian Access - Sidewalks

  Pedestrian Access - Freeways

  Pedestrian Access - Barriers

Results Interpretation

- A street or area is more walkable when it has more features supportive of walking or other forms of physical activity.

- On the maps, segments are coloured to reflect the quality of the theme or feature relative to the rest of the segments in the community.

- More than one segment can be in close proximity to a given physical feature (e.g., a school). Thus, interpretation of the results relates to understanding the proximity of segments to features, and not to the total number of the features in the community.

Results Interpretation

- It is important to note that the comparisons presented here are based only on the differences between segments in Bonnyville.
  - For example: If a segment has a low rating for crime safety, this does not necessarily mean the segment is not safe. This simply means that in comparison to the other segments in Bonnyville, the segment was observed as being less safe.

Results

- The following slides provide 20 maps representing each of the sub-themes.
- An additional 26 maps are provided for a selection of the individual features that make up each of the sub-themes.

Attractiveness

Features that enhance the pleasure of walking.

Attractiveness - Retail

- Garbage Bins
- Newspaper Boxes
- Bus Stops
- Increased Sidewalk Width
- Public Art
- Sidewalk Coverings

Attractiveness - Retail

High ... Low

Does not exist, or no data

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers
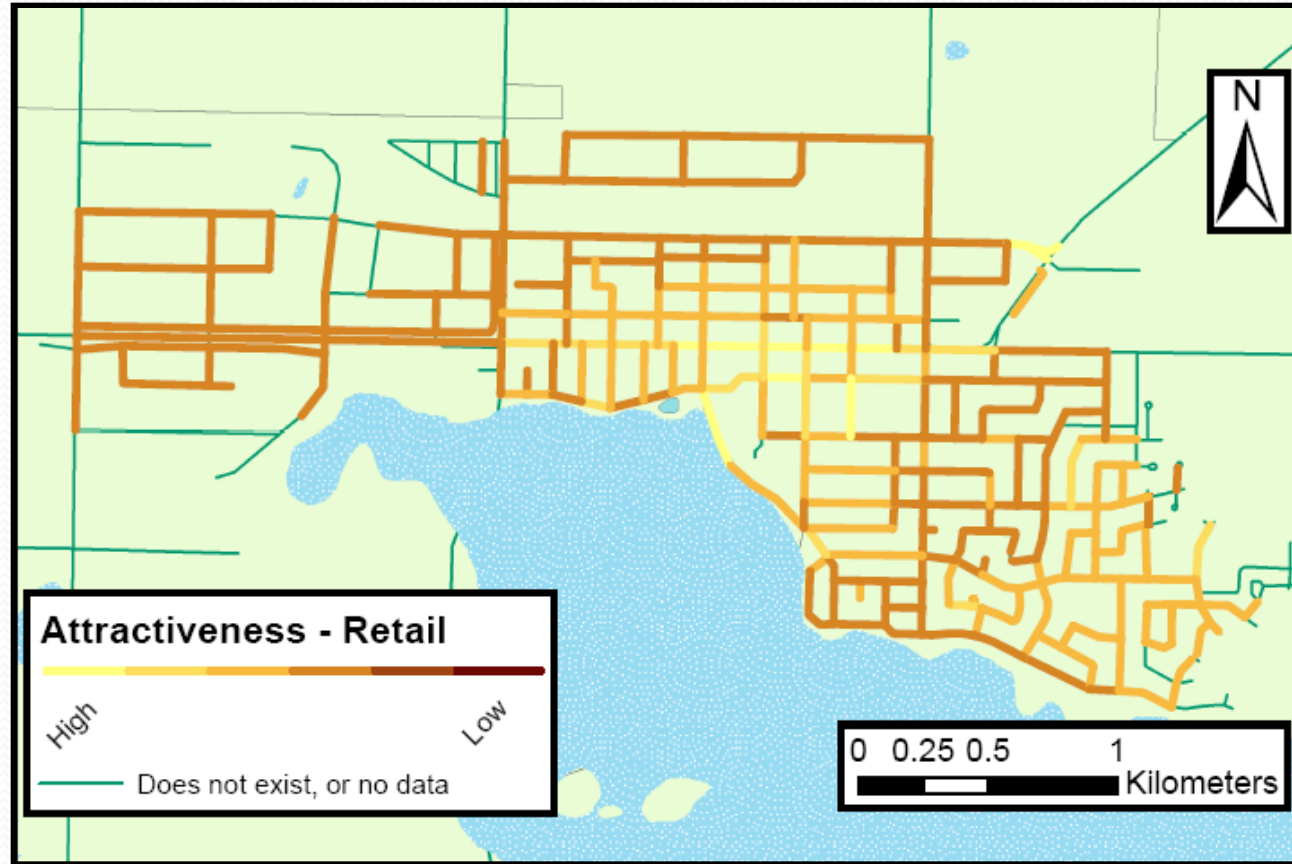
Some features associated with retail locations increase the level of attractiveness.

Garbage Bins
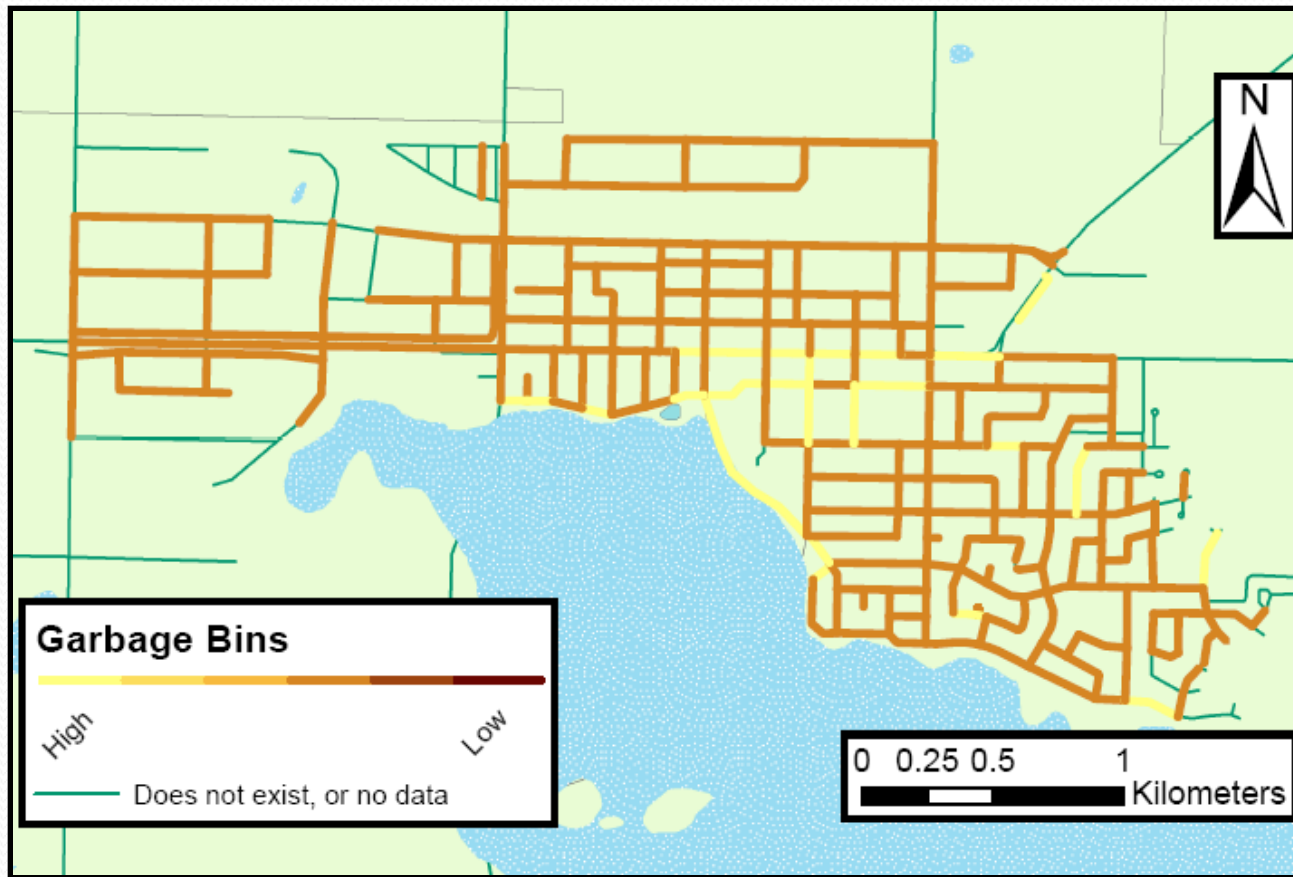
Presence of garbage bins indicates a higher level of attractiveness.

Sidewalk Width
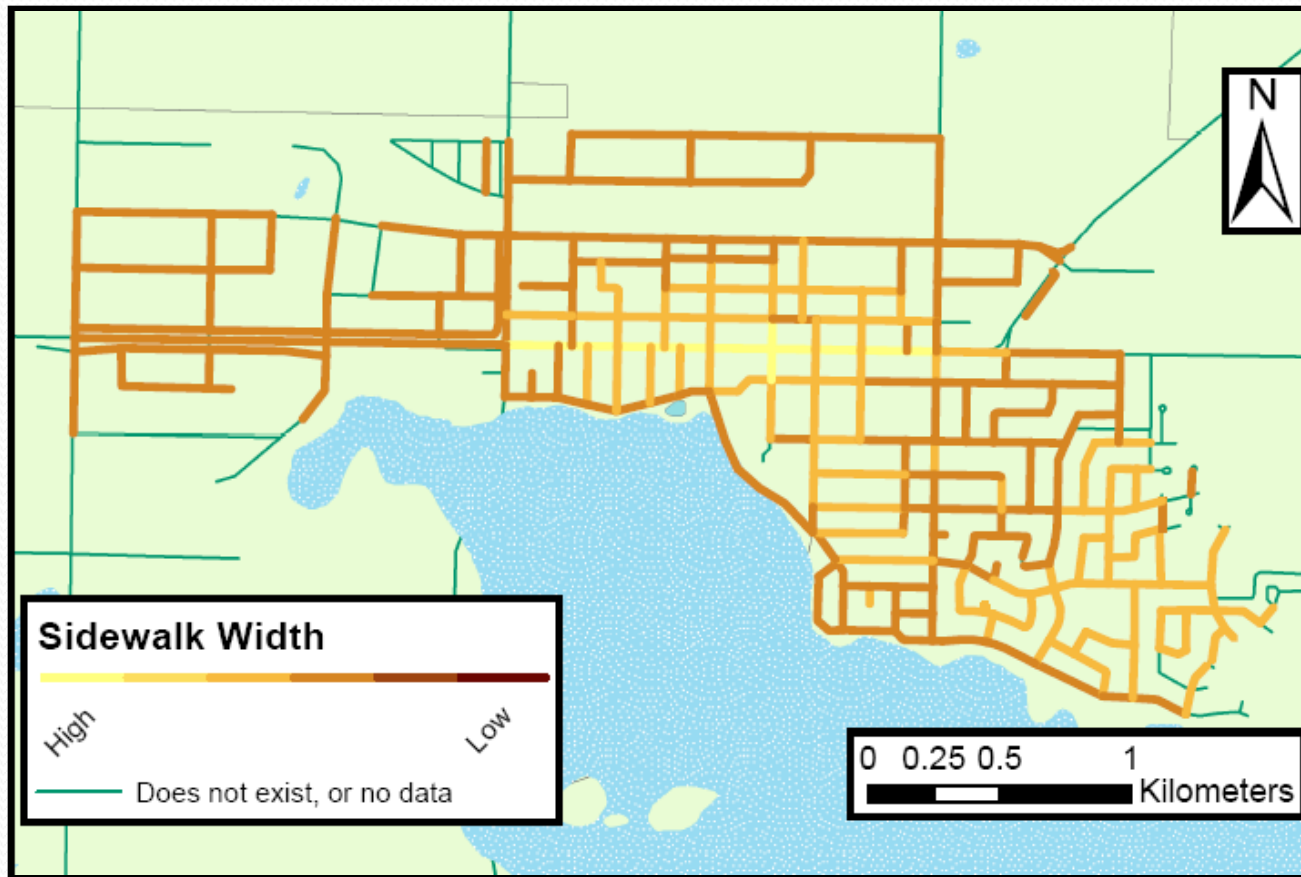
Presence of wider sidewalks indicates a higher level of attractiveness.

Attractiveness - Park

- Playground
- Playing Field
- Open Spaces
- Basketball Nets
- Seating Options
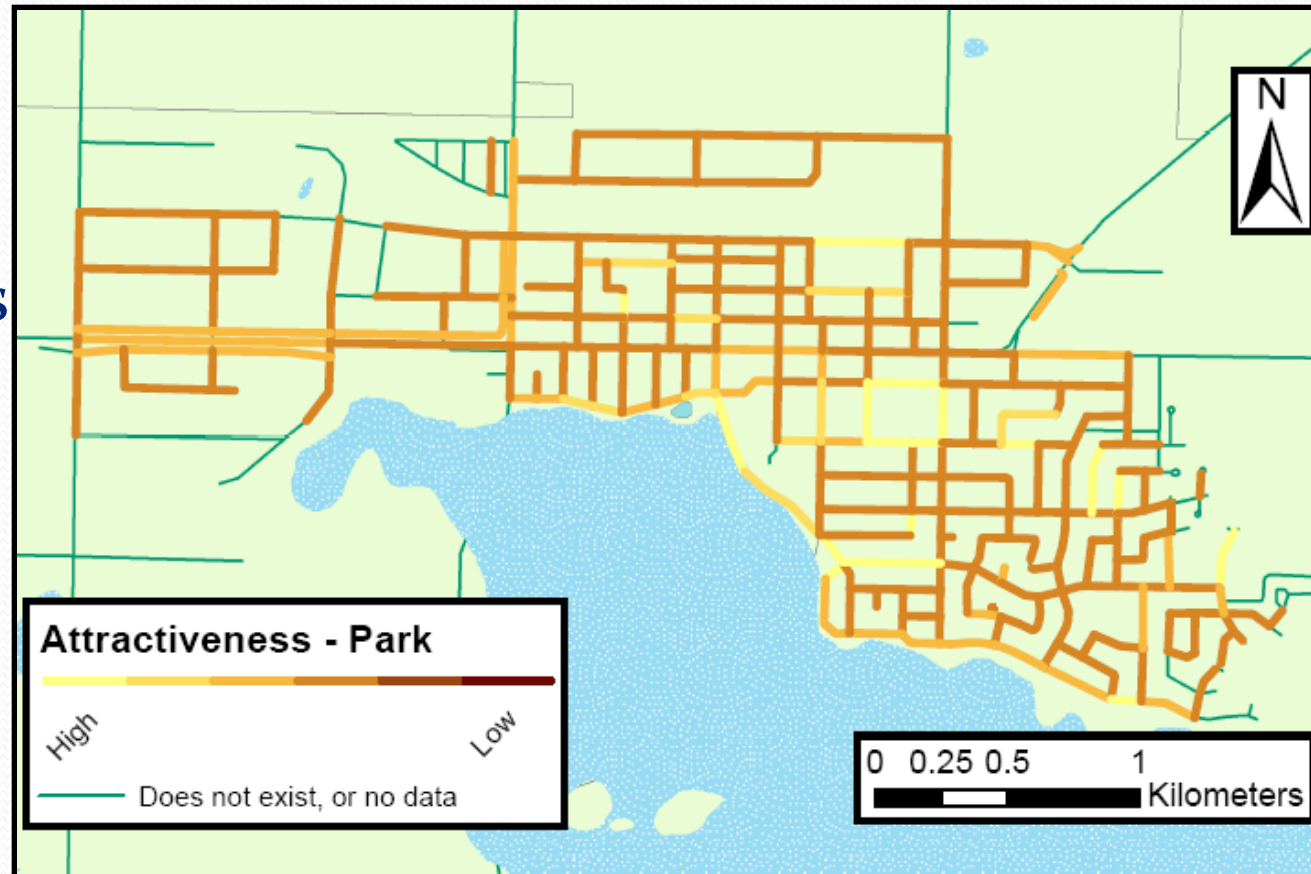
Some features associated with park space increase the level of attractiveness.

Playgrounds
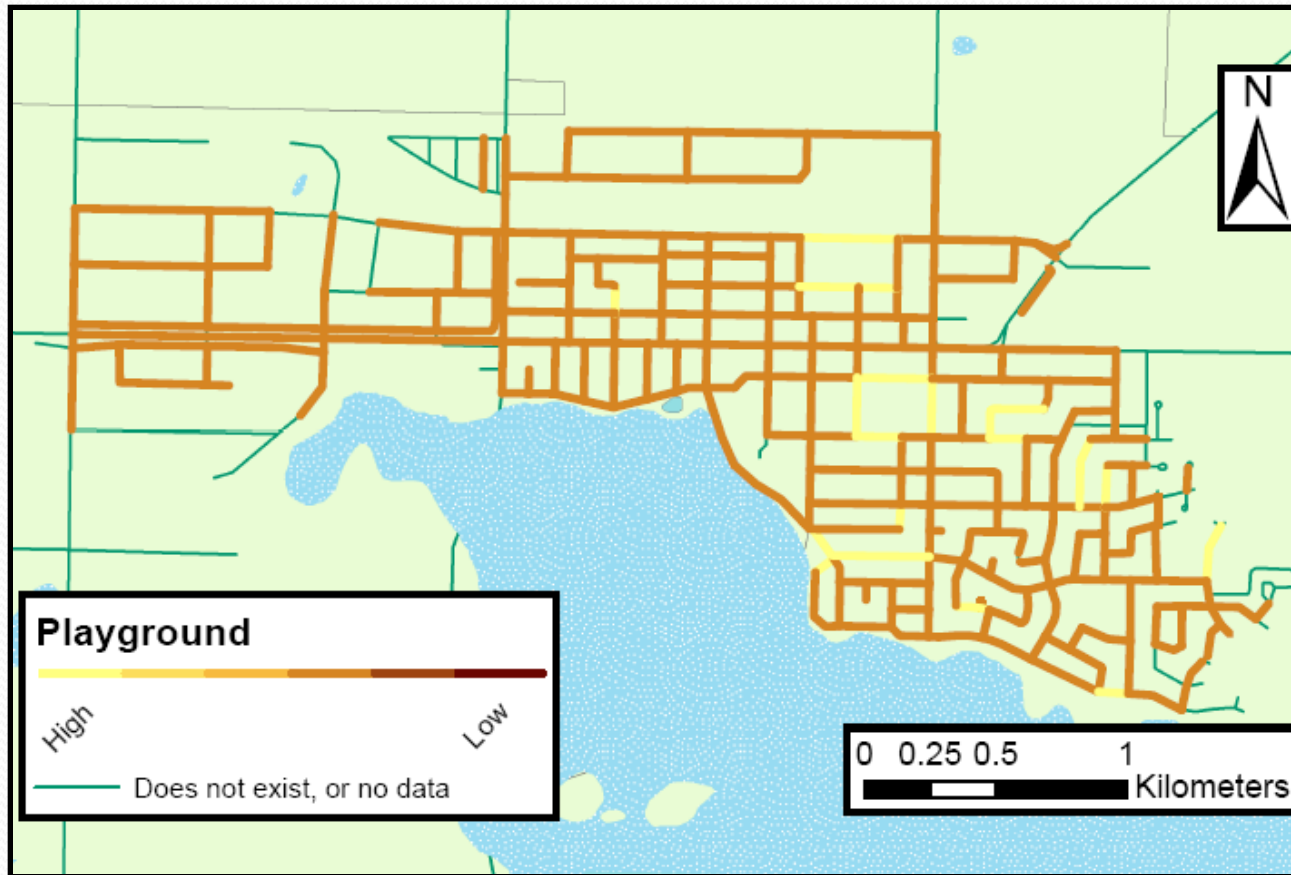
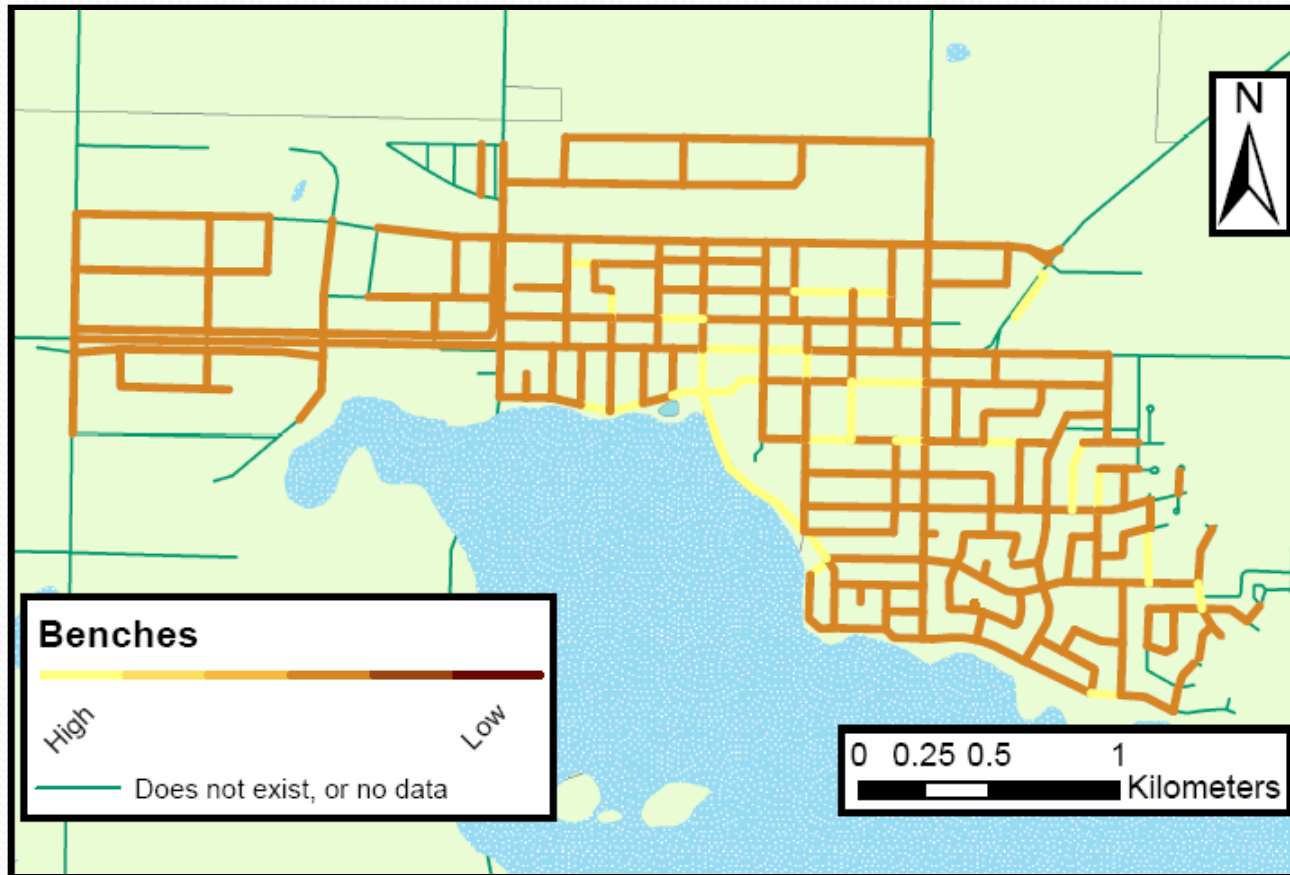Presence of playgrounds indicates a higher level of attractiveness.

Playing Field
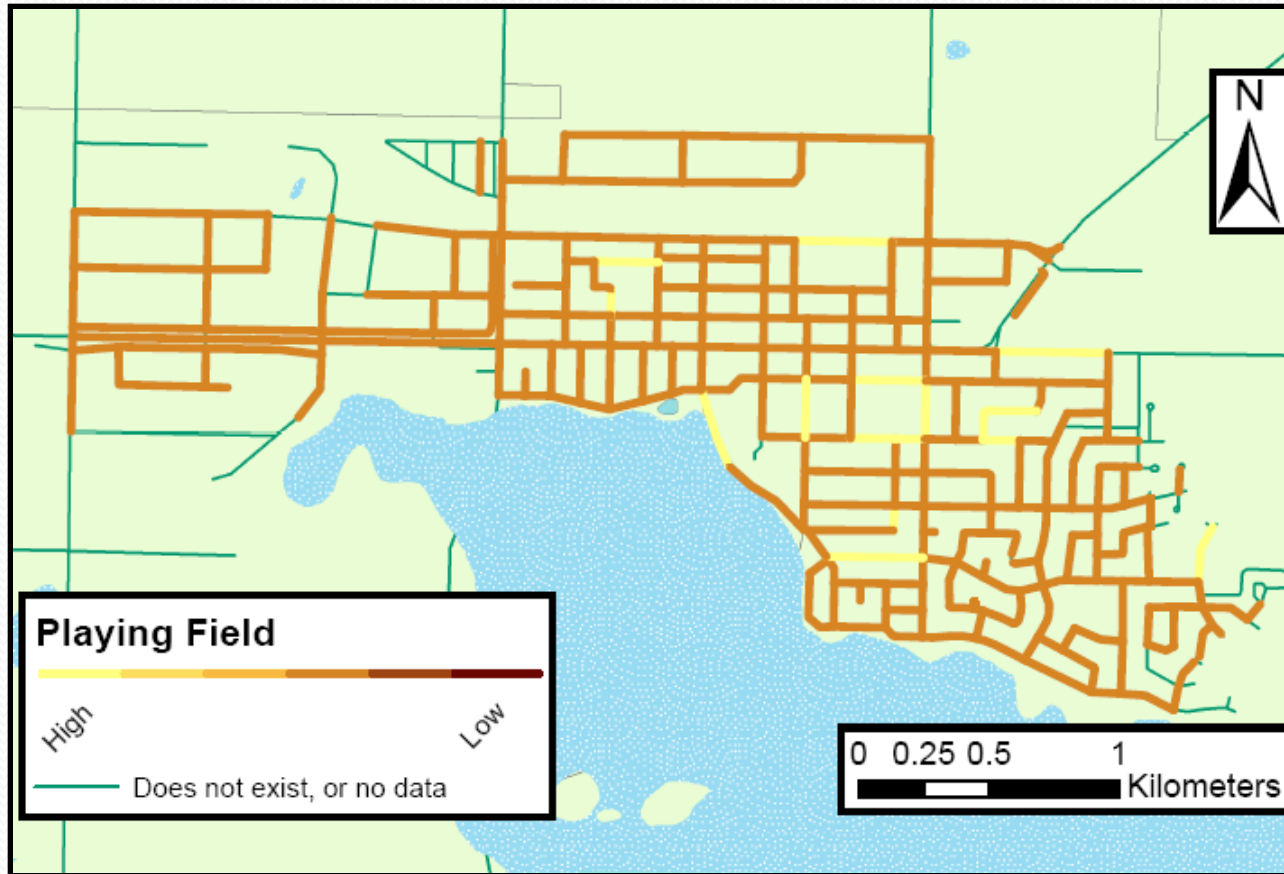
Presence of playing fields indicates a higher level of attractiveness.

Open Spaces
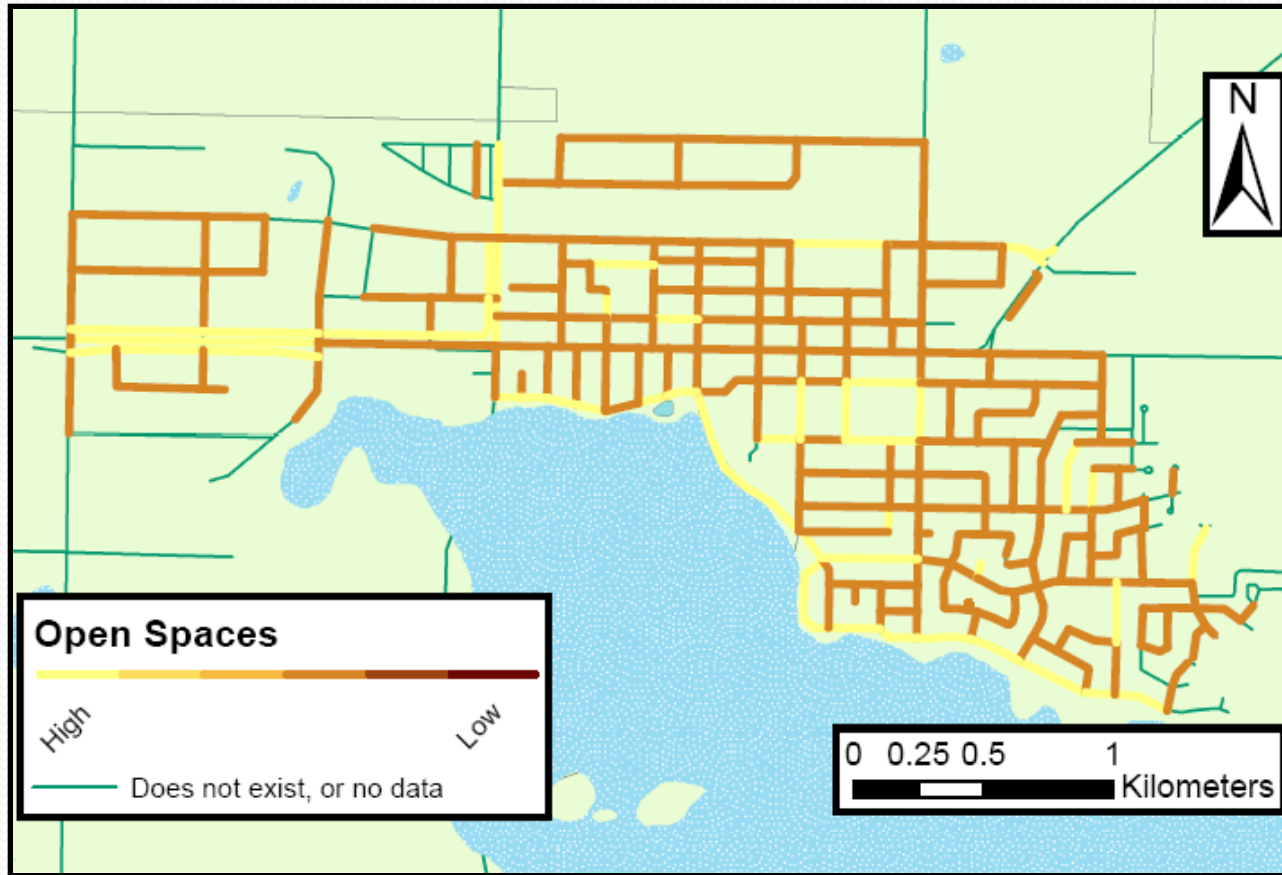
Presence of open spaces indicates a higher level of attractiveness.

Seating Options

Benches

High — Low

— Does not exist, or no data

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers

Presence of seating options indicates a higher level of attractiveness.

Attractiveness - Street

- Landscaping
- Street Flowers
- Absence of Overhead Wires
- Absence of Blank Walls
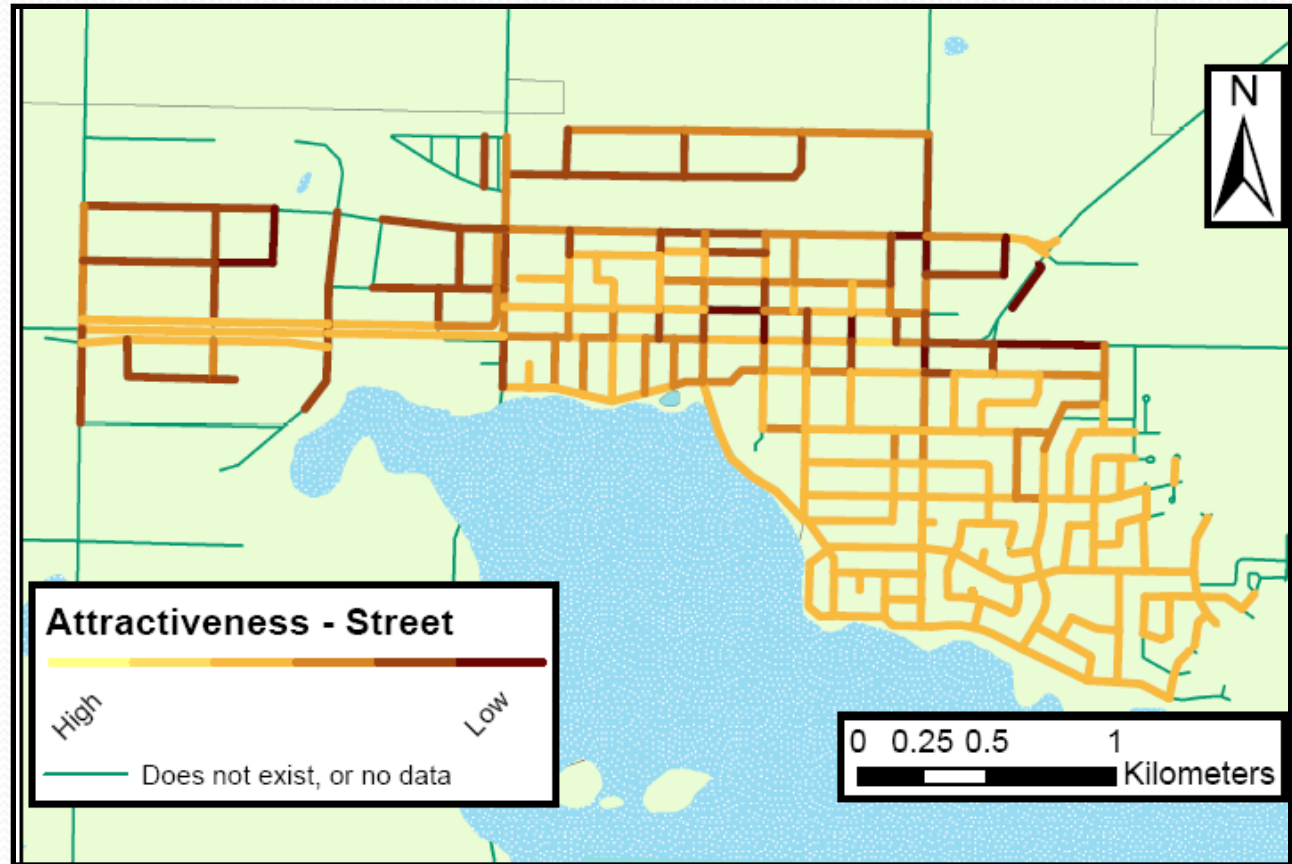
Some features associated with streetscapes increase the level of attractiveness.

Landscaping
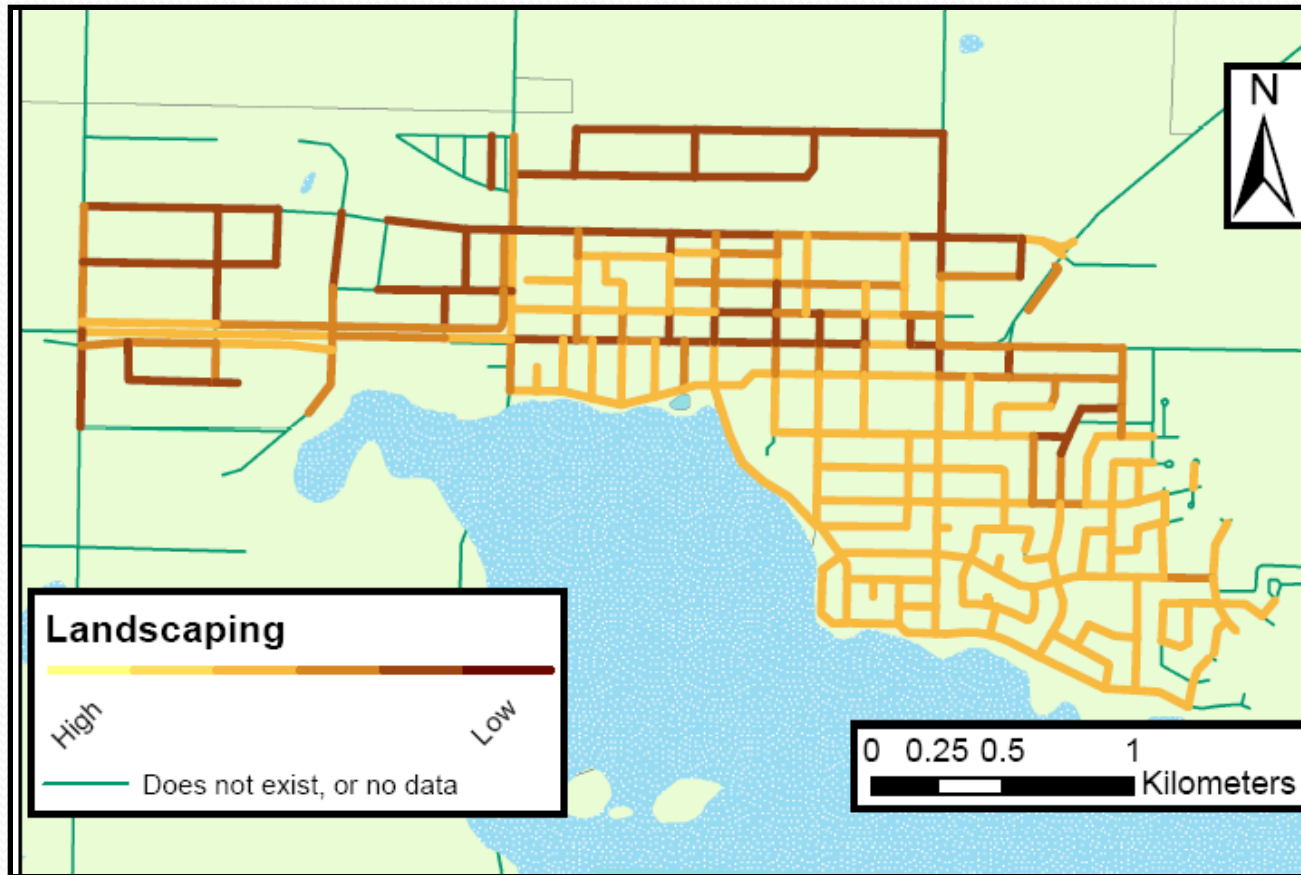
Presence of nicer landscaping indicates a higher level of attractiveness.

Blank Walls
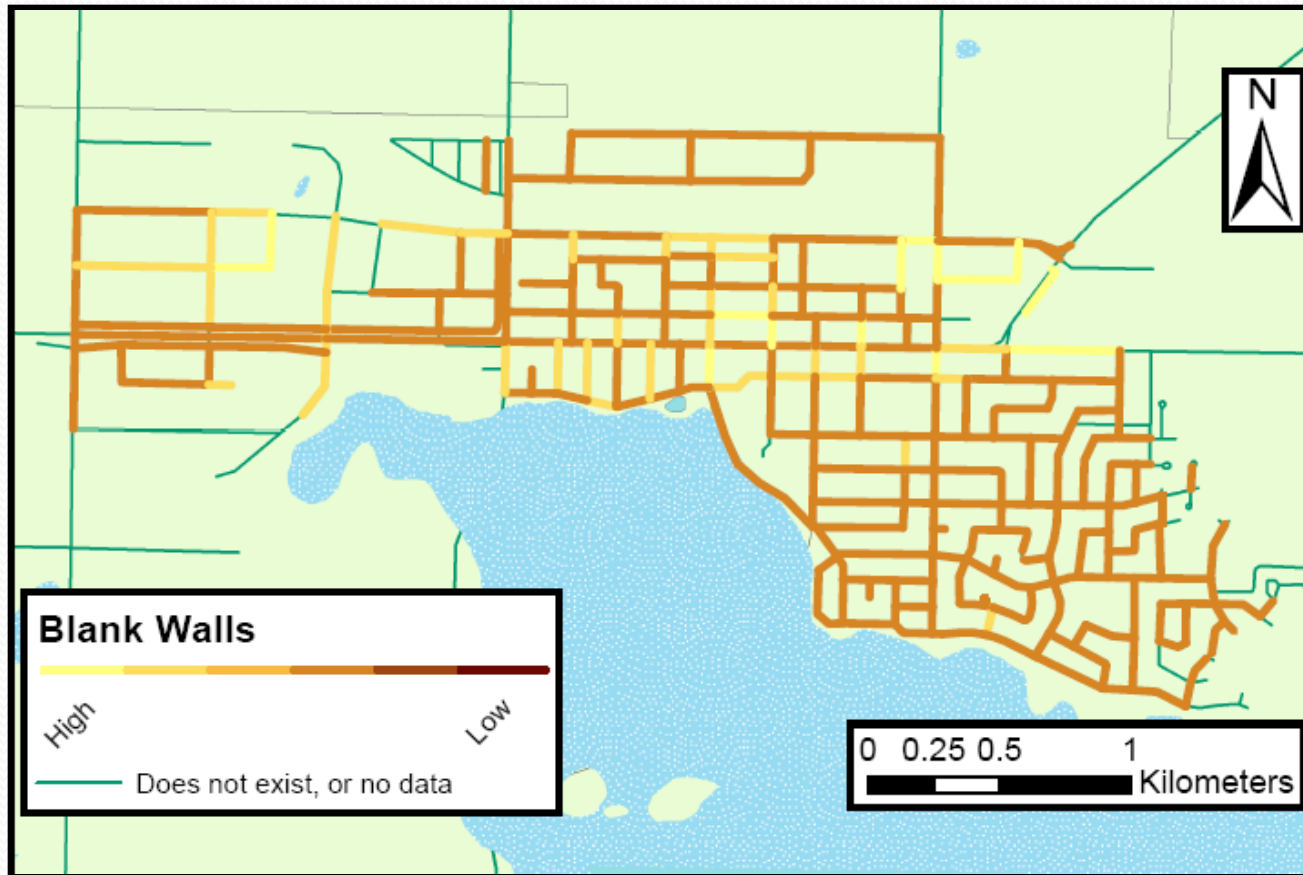
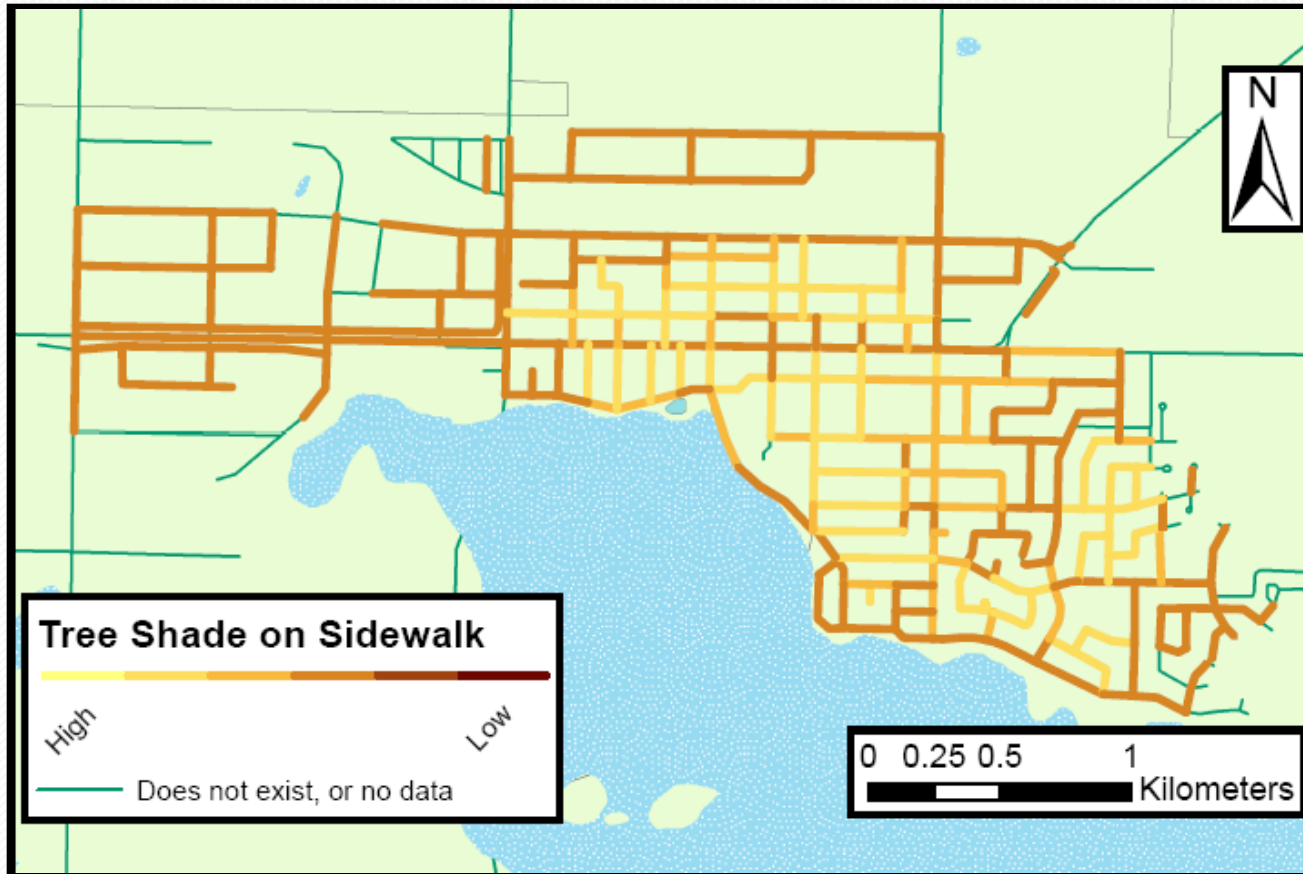Absence of blank walls indicates a higher level of attractiveness.

Attractiveness – Older Area

- Garage Visibility
- Verge Quality
- Tree Shade on Sidewalk
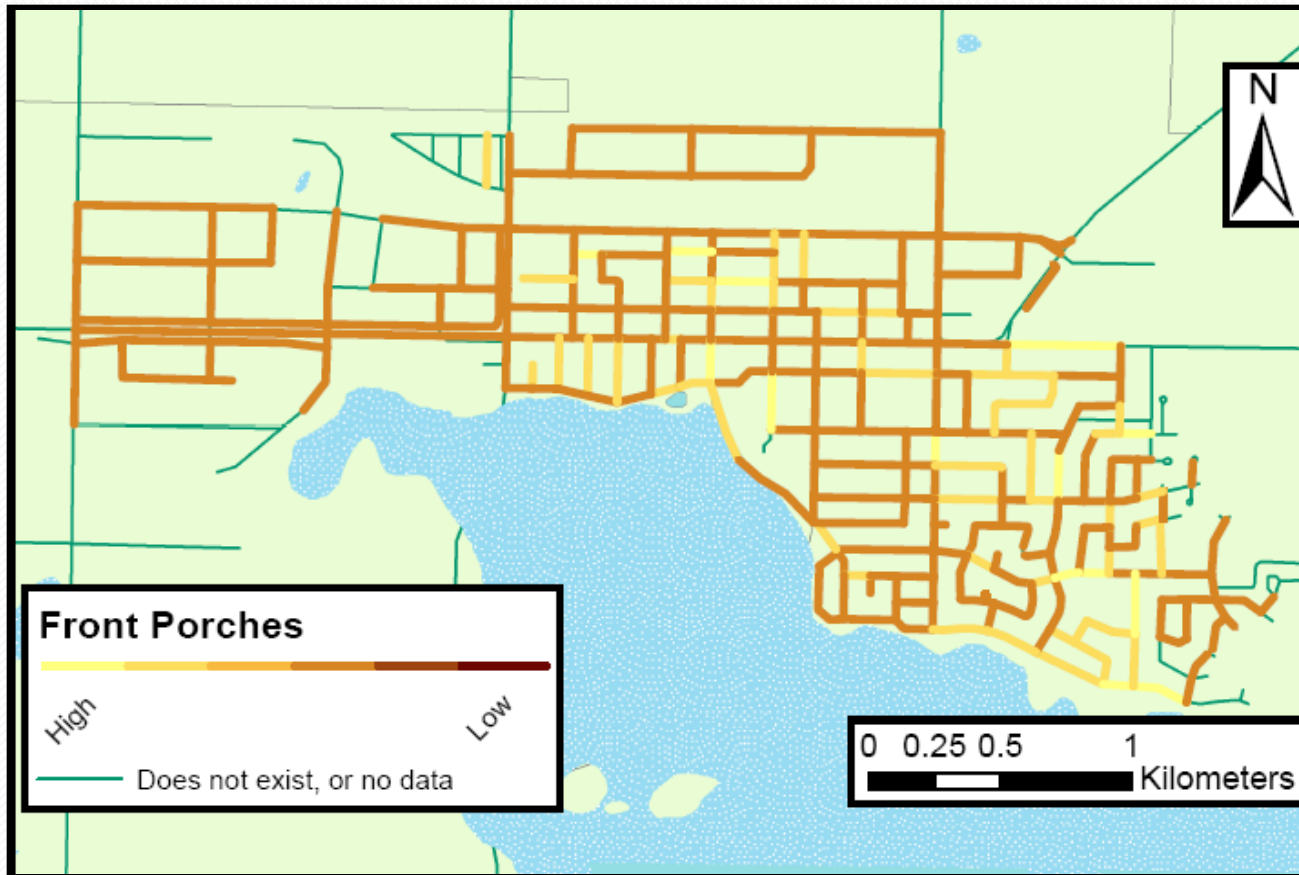- Front Porches
- Off-Street Parking
- Interesting Architecture

Attractivess - Old Neighbourhood

High   Low

Does not exist, or no data

0   0.25   0.5   1
Kilometers
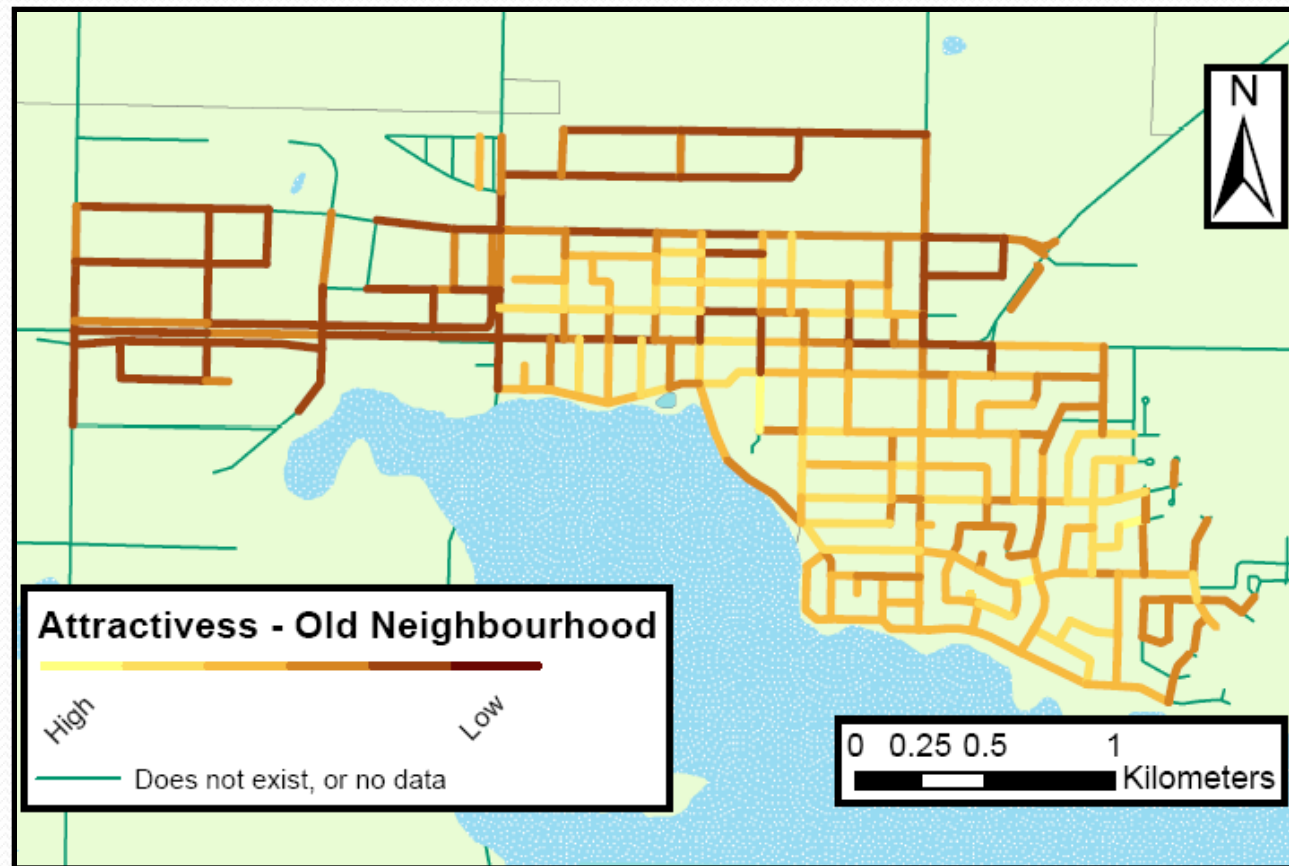
Features associated with old neighbourhoods increase the level of attractiveness.

Tree Shade on Sidewalk

Presence of tree shade indicates a higher level of attractiveness.

Front Porches

Presence of front porches indicates a higher level of attractiveness.

Interesting Architecture
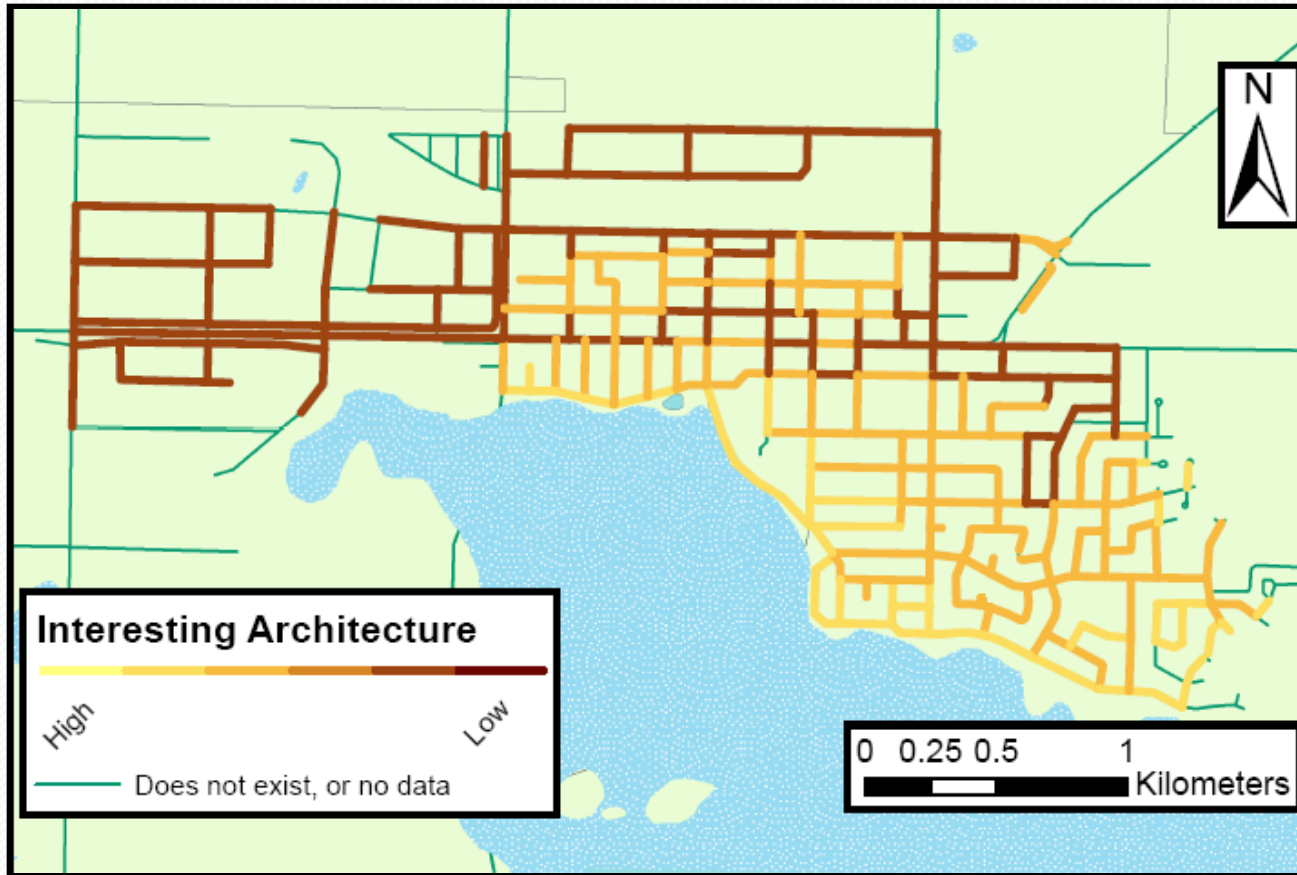
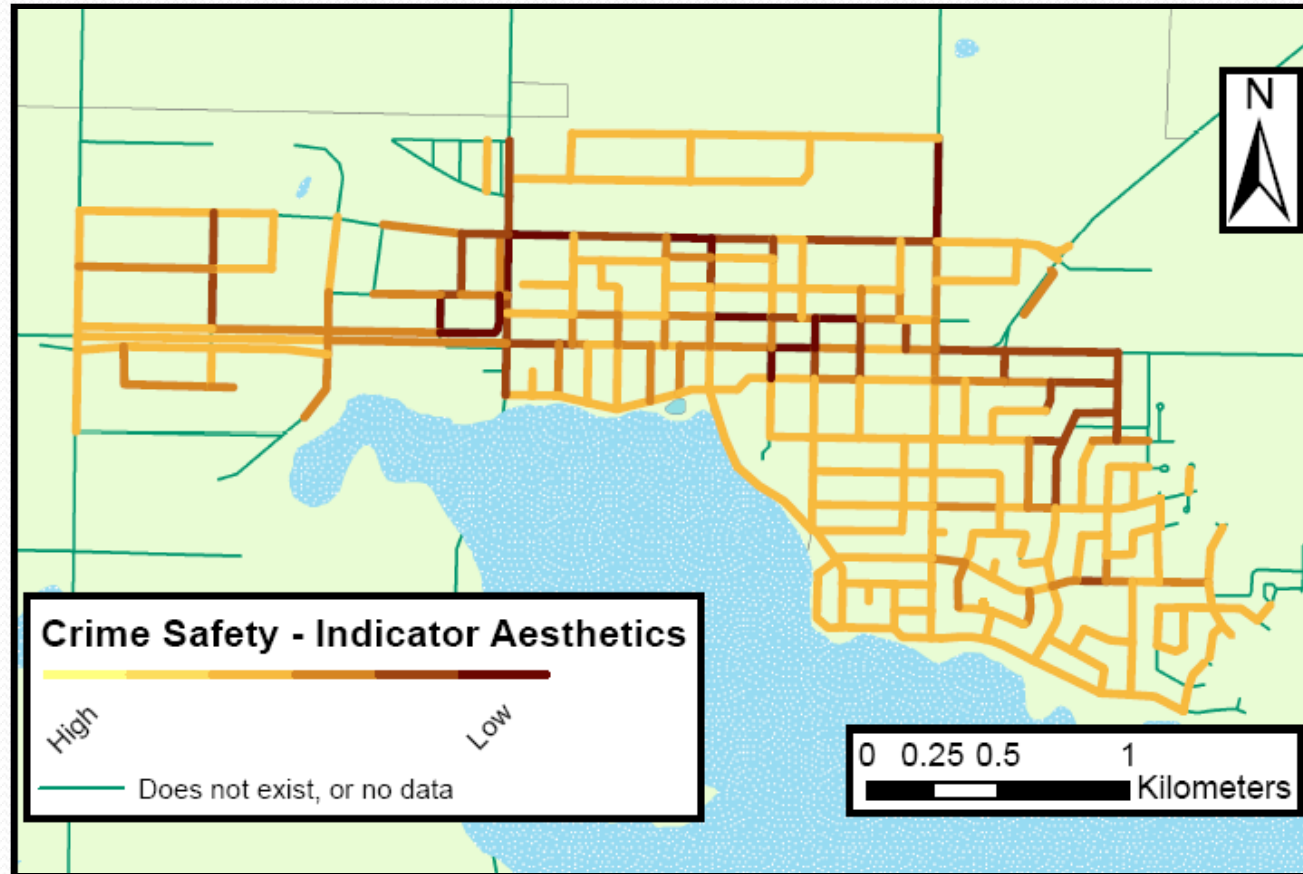Presence of interesting architecture indicates a higher level of attractiveness.

Crime Safety

Features that suggest an area is more safe in relation to crime.

Crime Safety - Aesthetics

- Abandoned Buildings
- Bars on Windows
- Building Maintenenace
- Graffiti
- Litter

Crime Safety - Indicator Aesthetics

High — Low

Does not exist, or no data

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers

Absence of some street characteristics indicates a higher level of crime safety.

Bars on Windows

Bars on Windows

High ↔ Low

— Does not exist, or no data
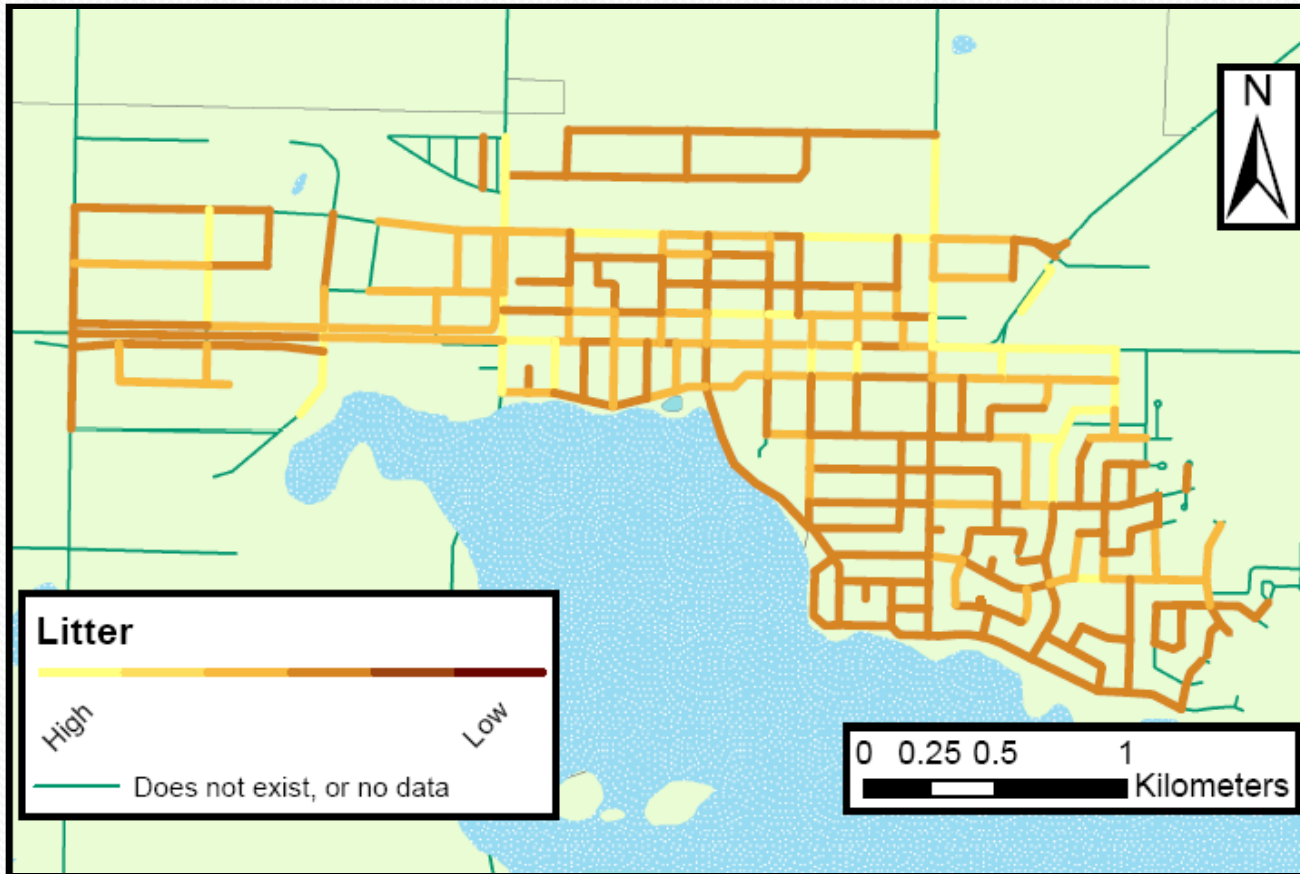
0   0.25 0.5   1
Kilometers
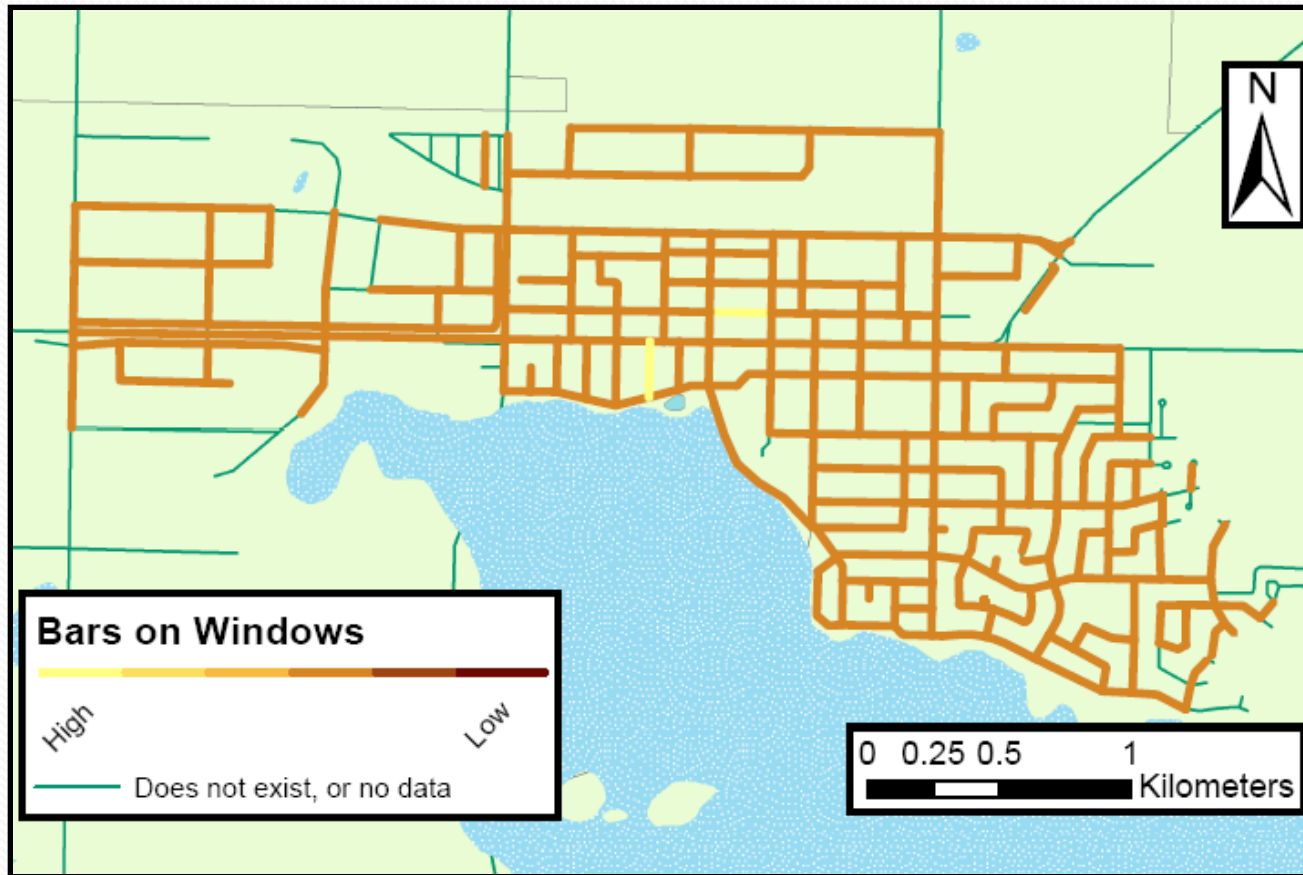
Absence of bars on windows indicates a higher level of crime safety.

Building Maintenance
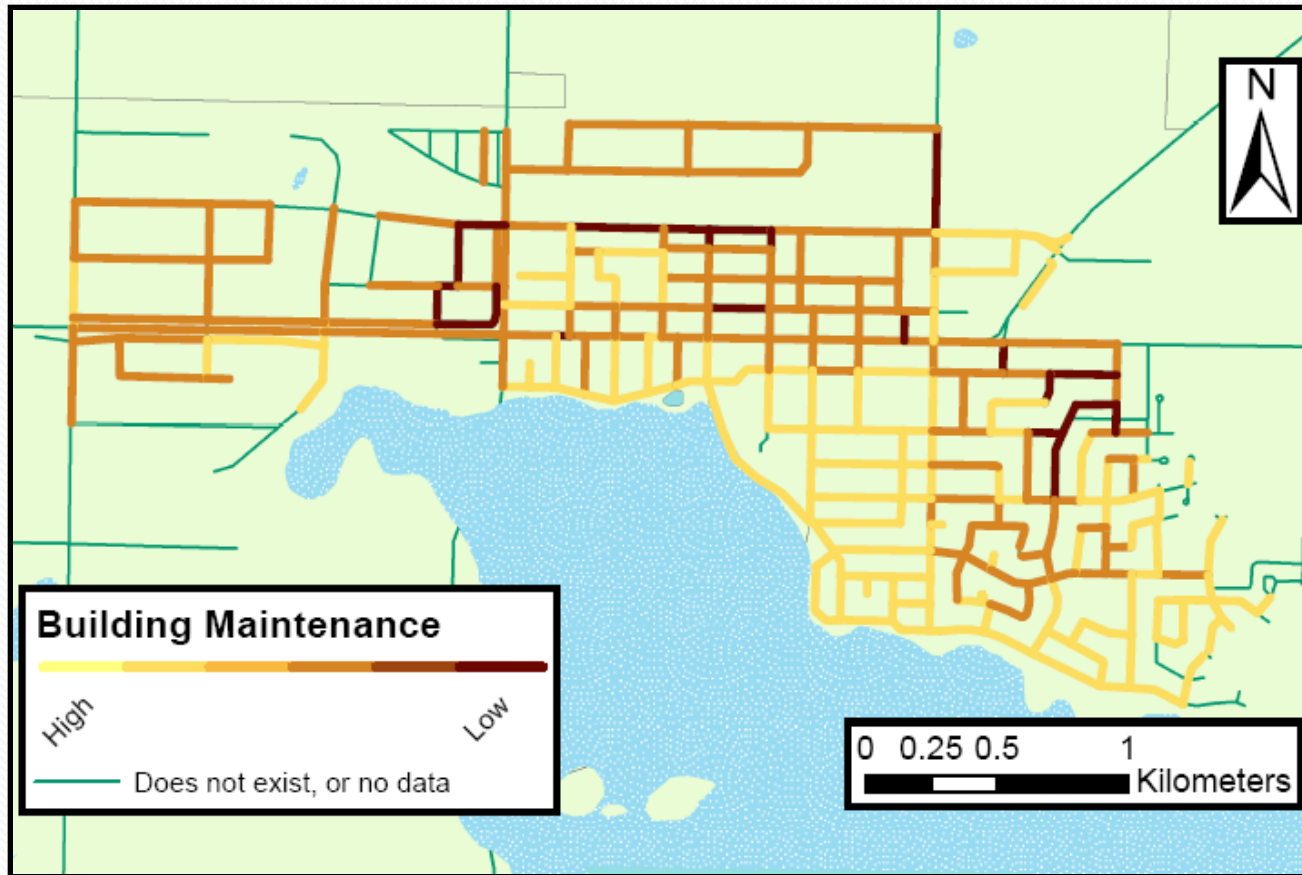
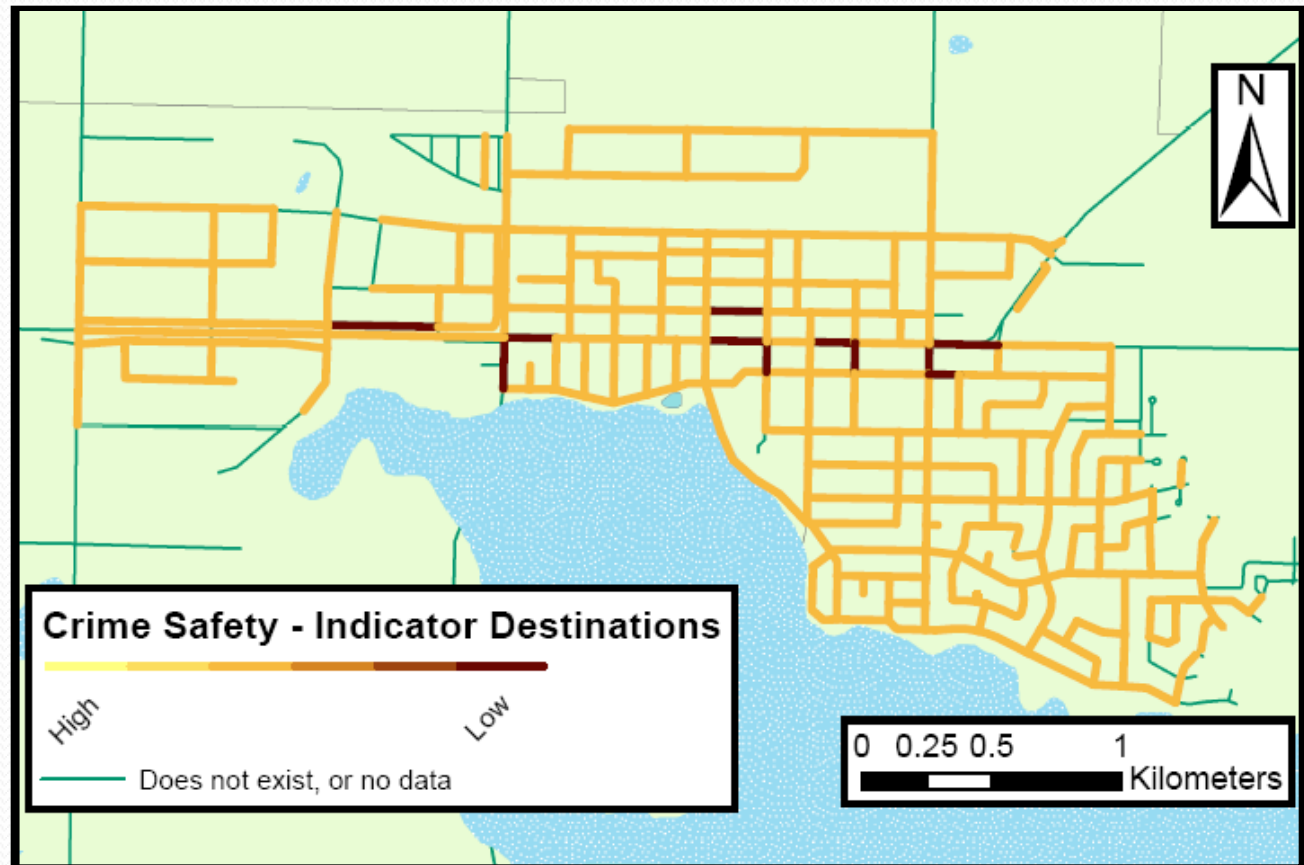Higher maintenance of buildings indicates a higher level of crime safety.

Litter

Absence of litter indicates a higher level of crime safety.

Crime Safety - Destinations

- Liquor Stores
- Bars or Nightclubs

Crime Safety - Indicator Destinations

High ⟶ Low

— Does not exist, or no data
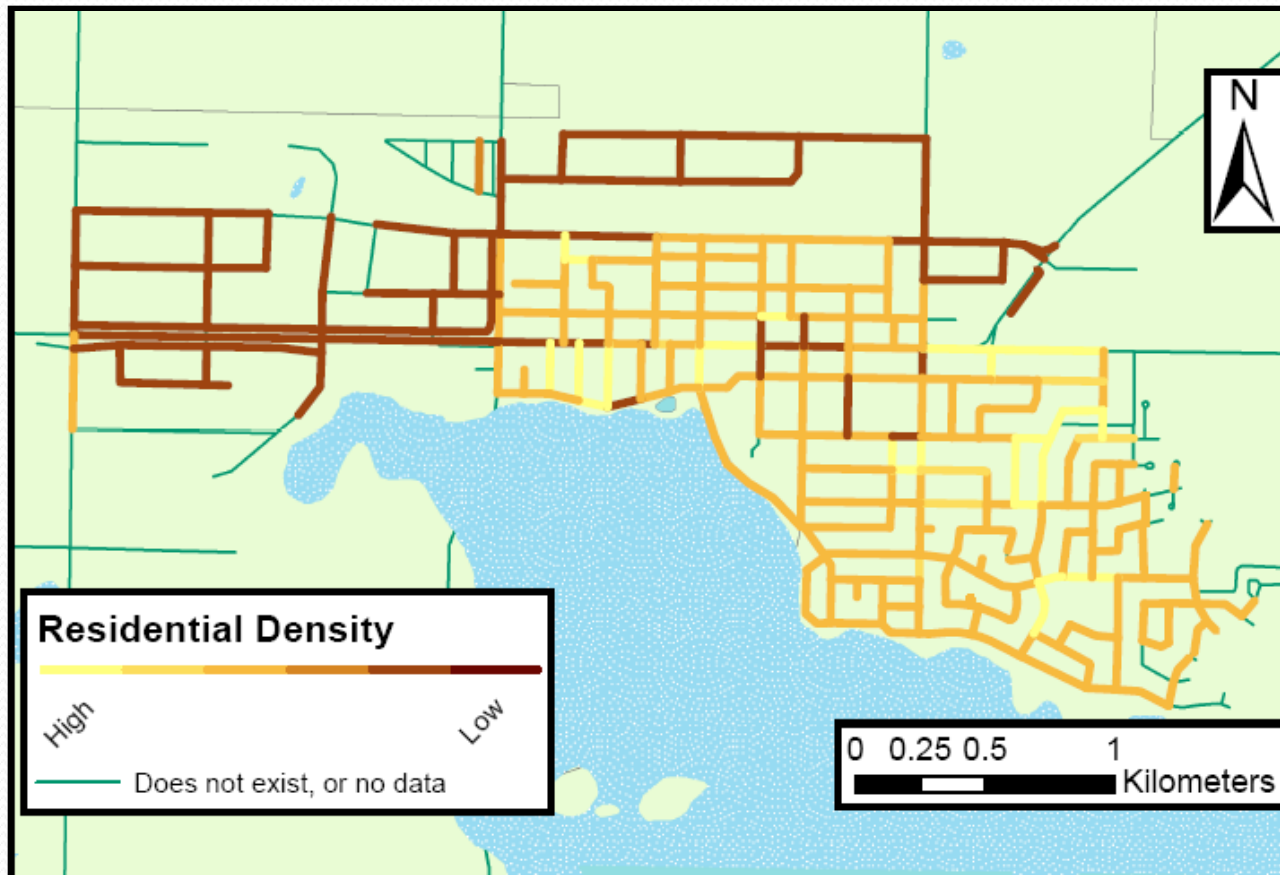
0 0.25 0.5   1
Kilometers

Absence of some destinations indicates a higher level of crime safety.

Density

Features that describe the number of people that could live in an area.

Residential Density

Higher residential density indicates higher potential for pedestrian traffic.

Diversity of Destinations

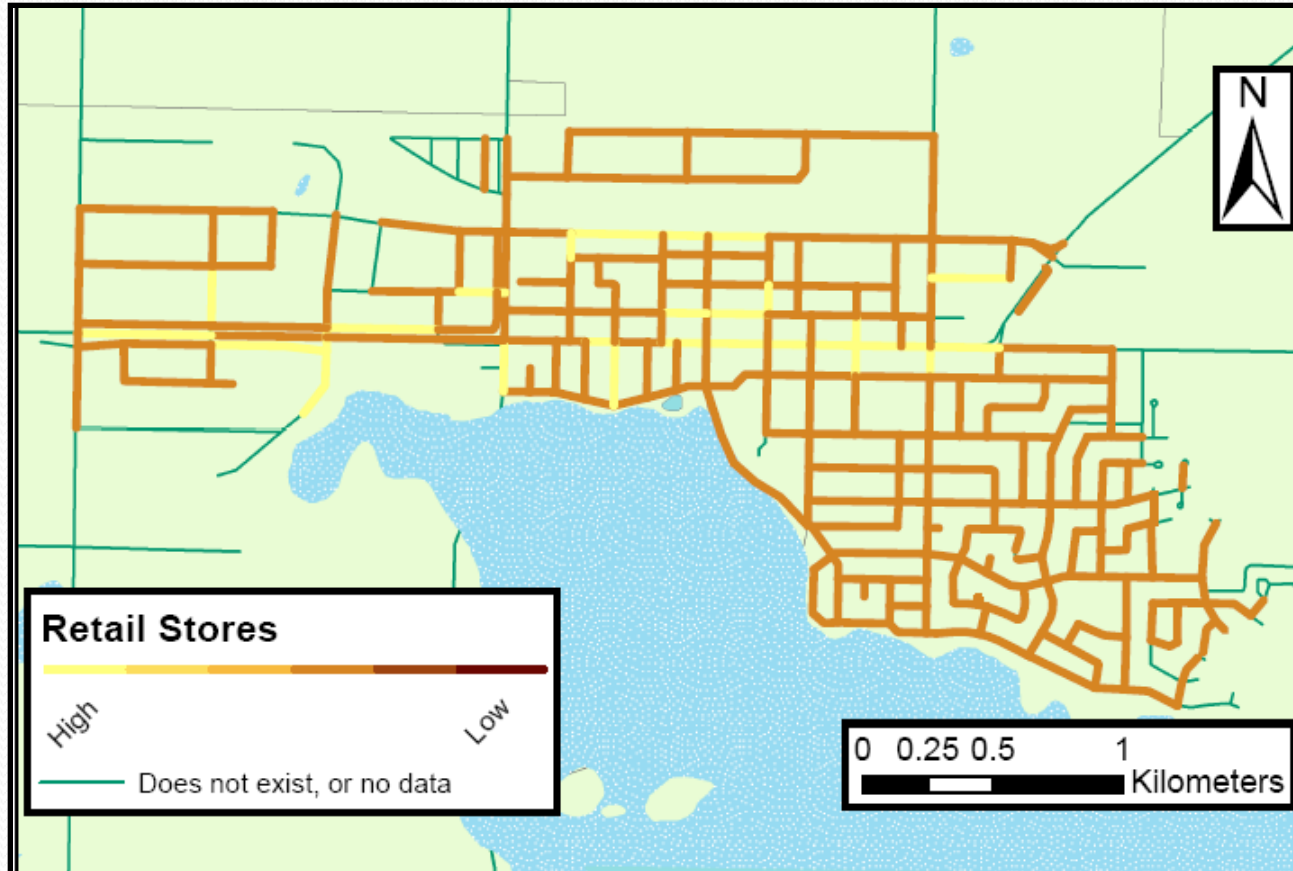Features that are destinations community residents would be interested in accessing.

Diverse Destinations - Retail

- Services
- Row of Shops
- Retail Stores
- Offices
- Restaurants
- Banks
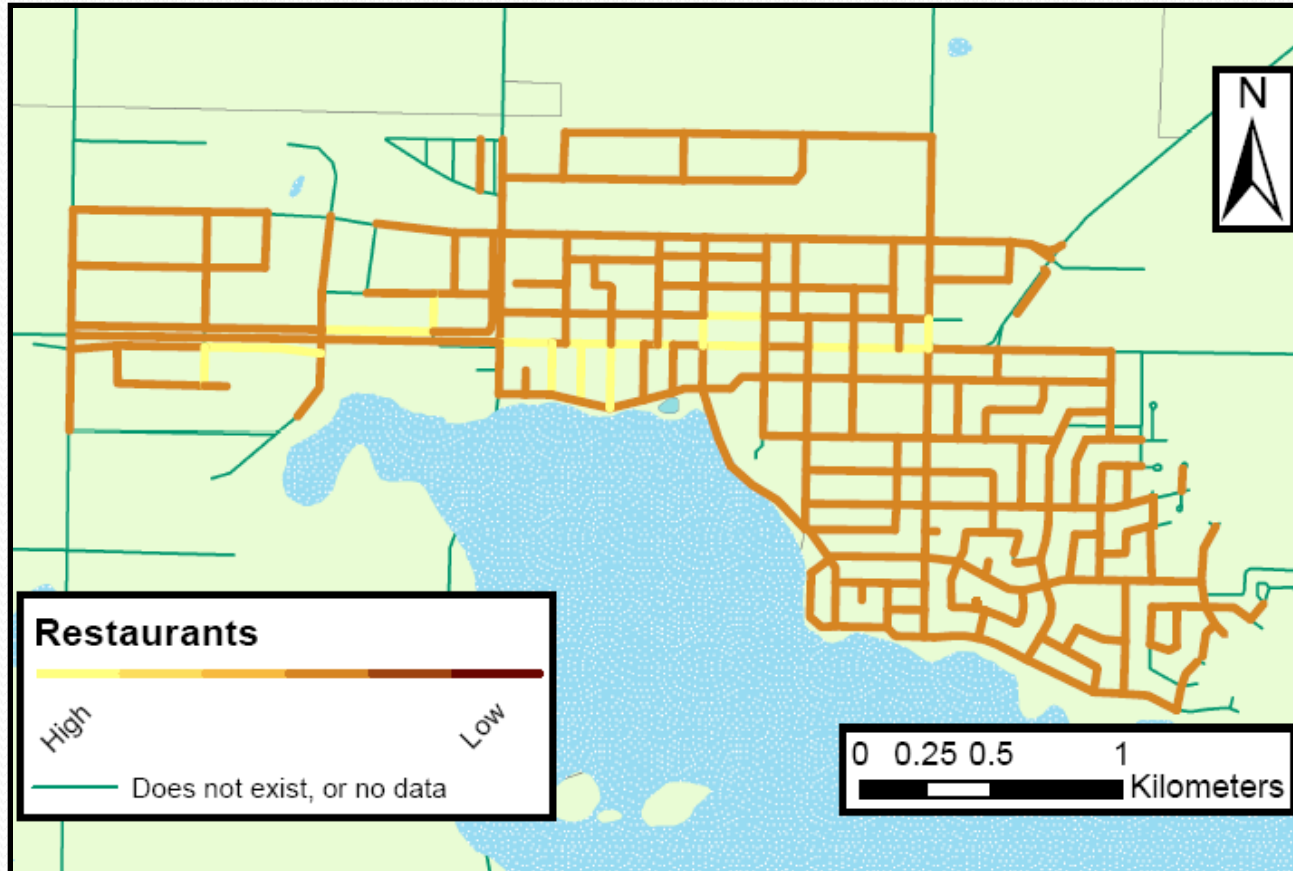- Specialty Food Shops
- Grocery Stores

Diversity of Destinations - Retail

High ────────── Low

Does not exist, or no data
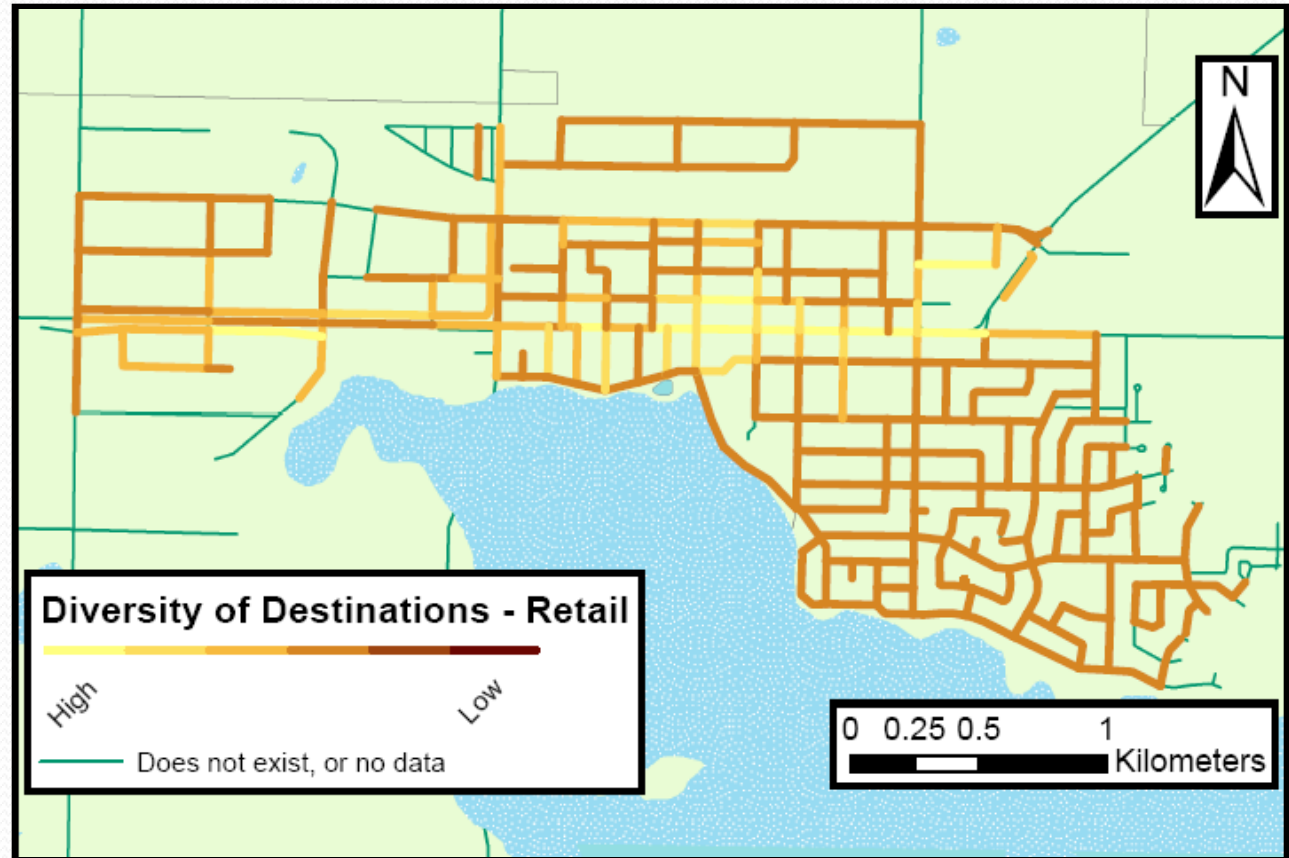
Areas with a diversity of destinations encourage pedestrian traffic.

Retail Stores

Retail Stores

High — Low

Does not exist, or no data
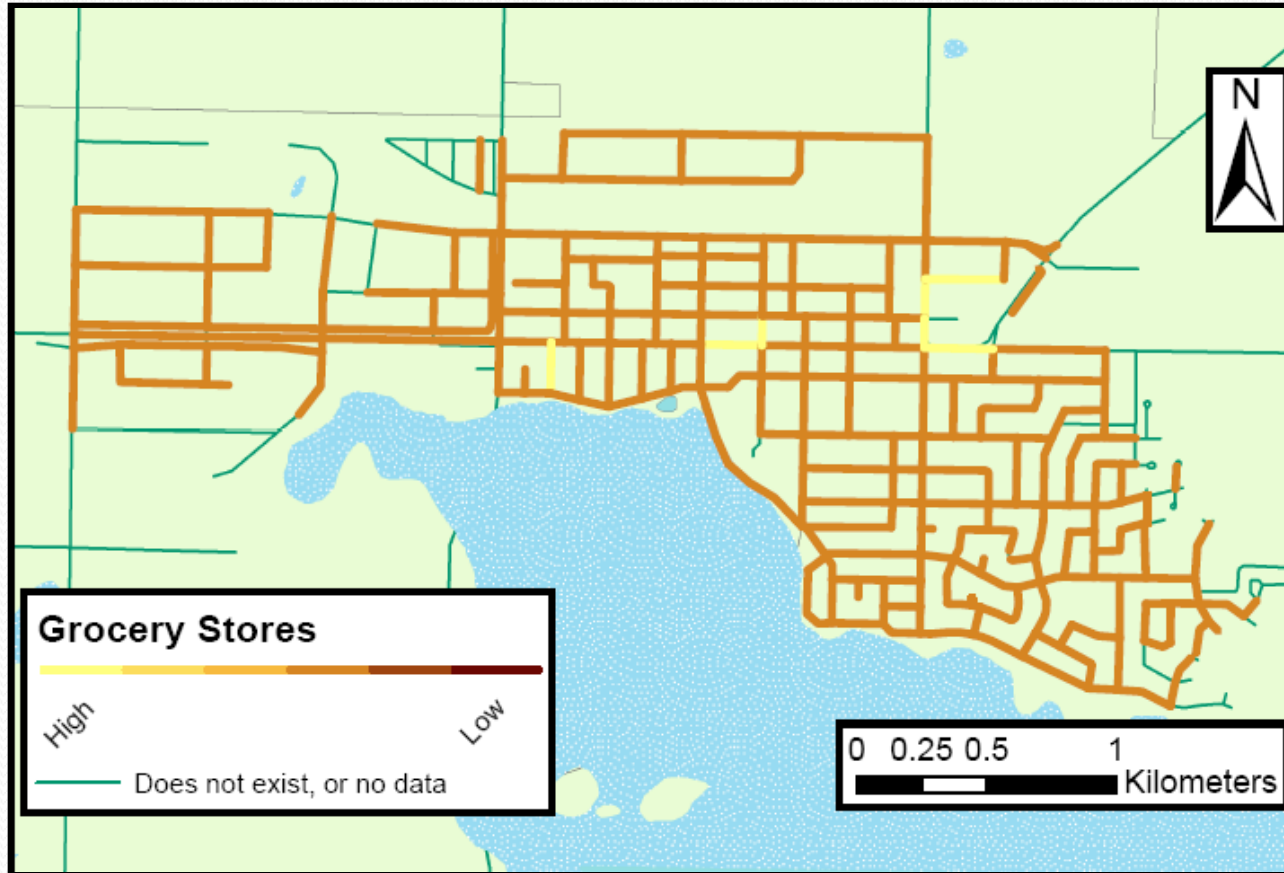
0   0.25 0.5   1
Kilometers

Presence of retail stores increases the chance a resident will access the segment.

Restaurants

Presence of restaurants increases the chance a resident will access the segment.
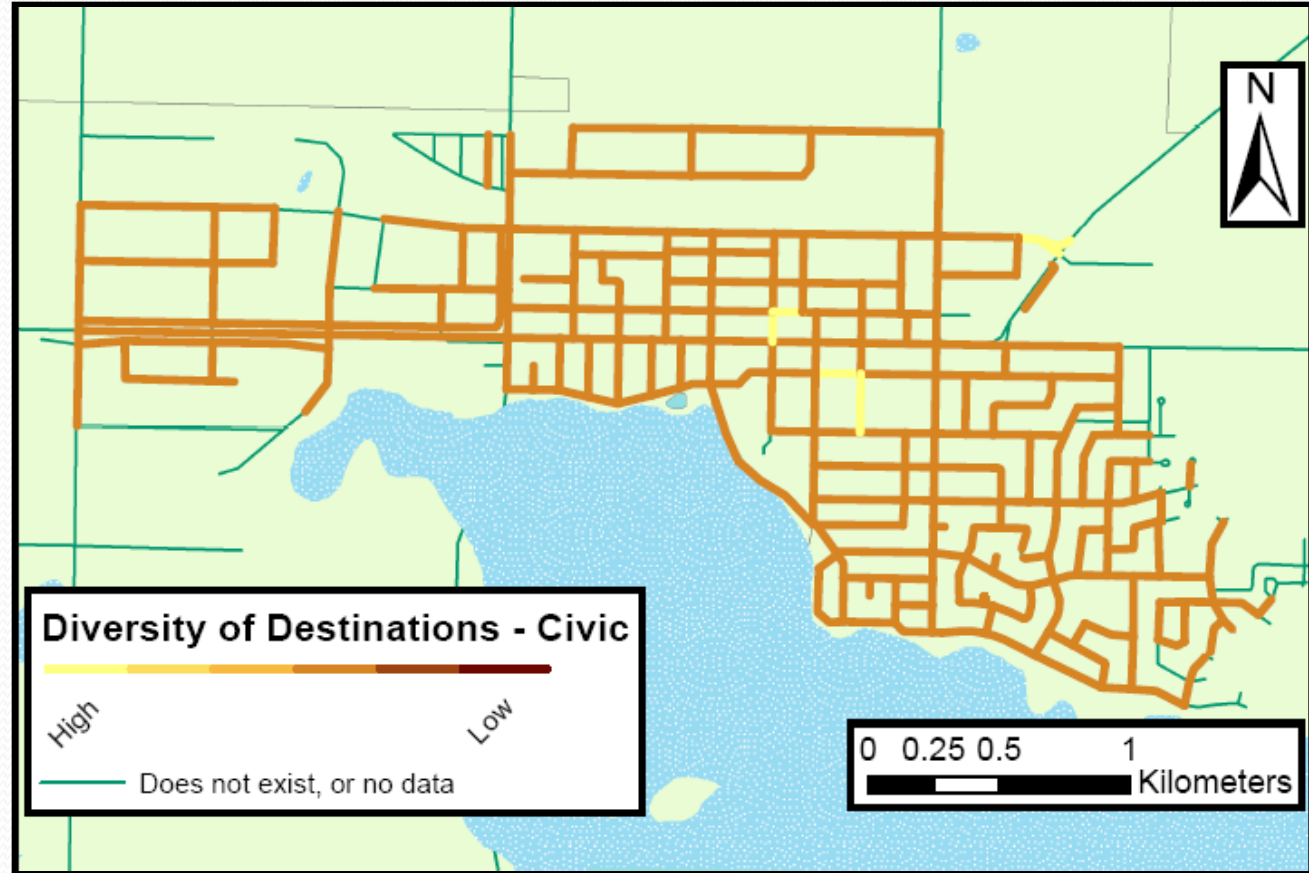
Grocery Stores

Presence of grocery stores increases the chance a resident will access the segment.
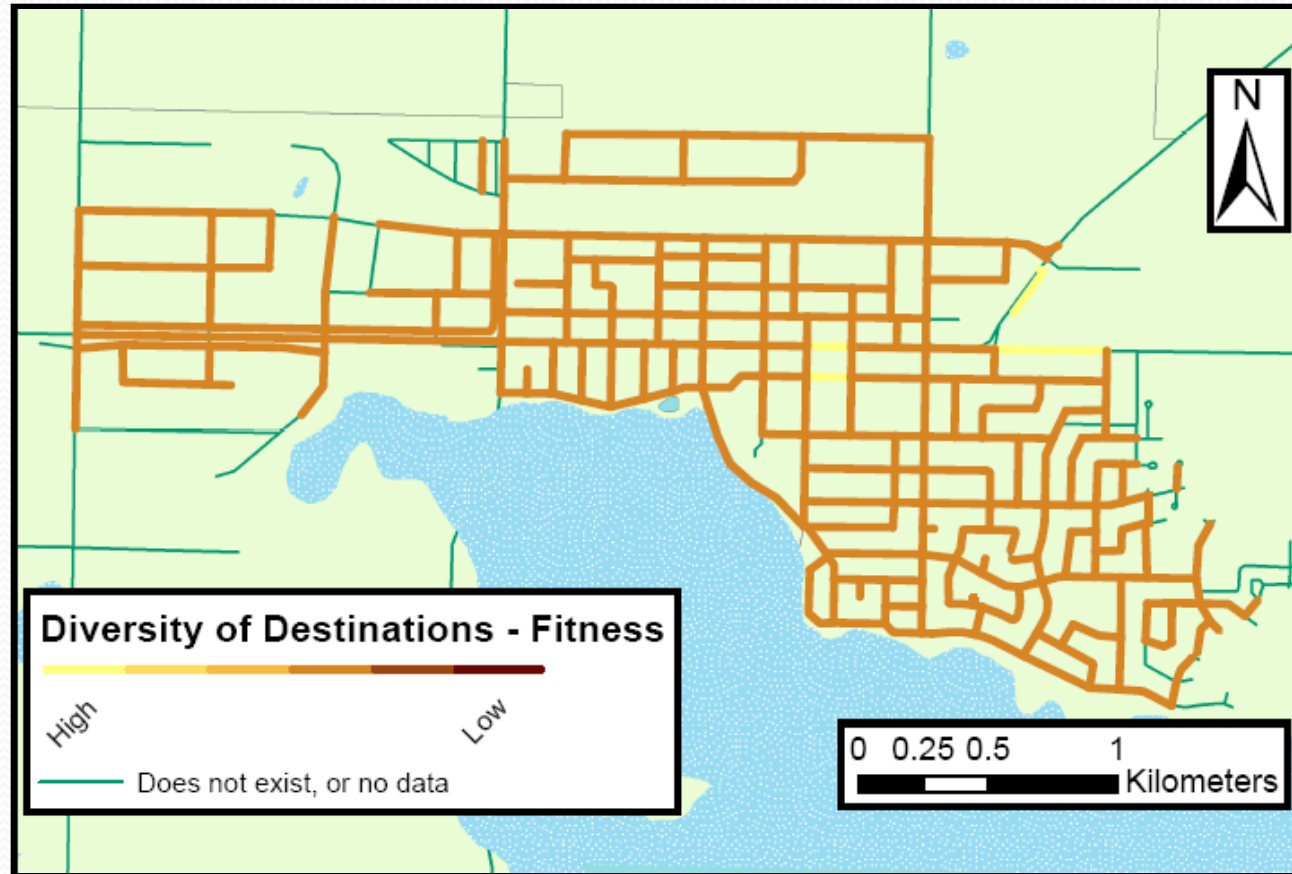
Diverse Destinations - Civic

- Auditorium or Concert Hall
- Museum
- Courthouse
- Theatre
- Post Office
- Library

Diversity of Destinations - Civic

High   Low

Does not exist, or no data

0   0.25   0.5   1 Kilometers

Areas with a diversity of destinations encourage pedestrian traffic.
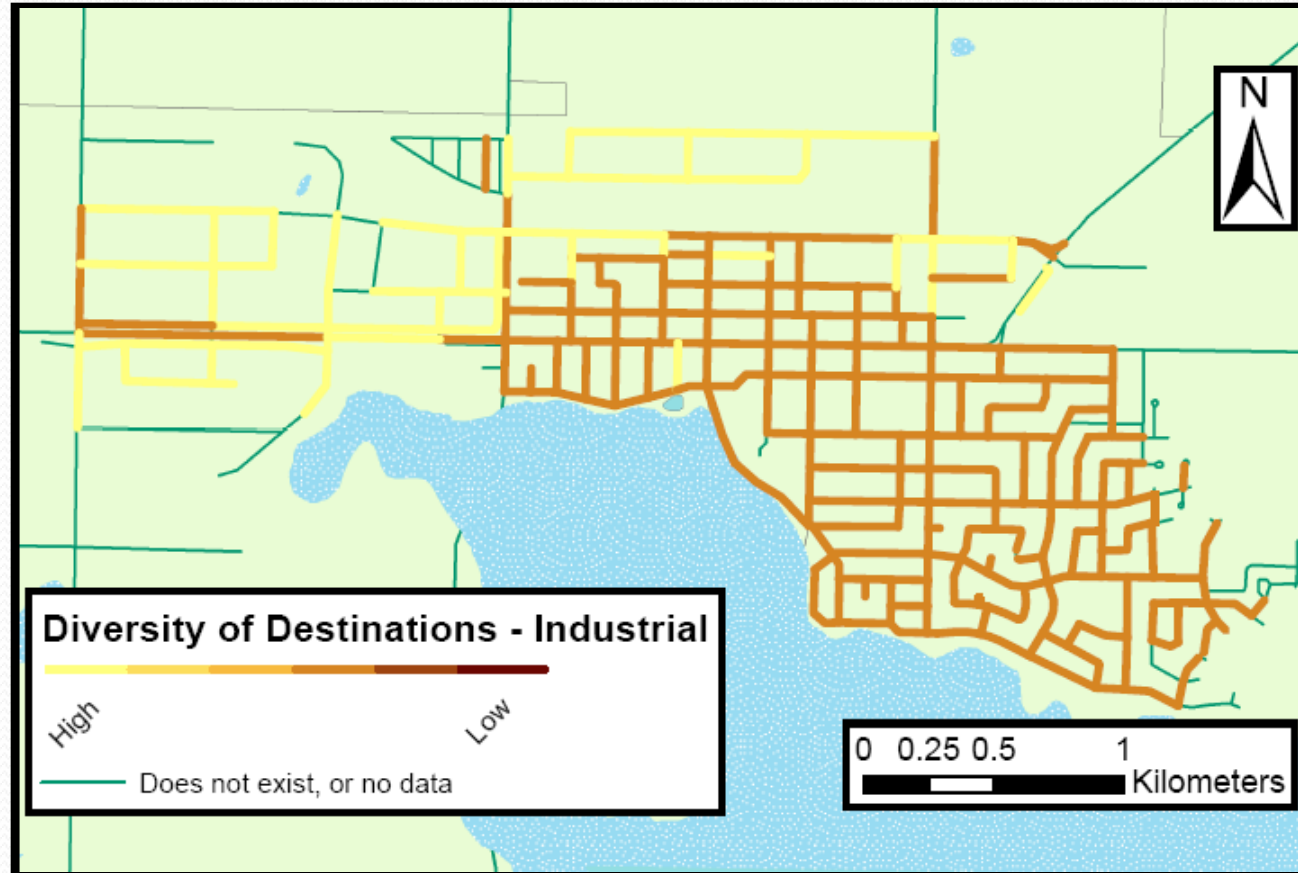
Diverse Destinations - Fitness

- Hockey Arena
- Indoor Pool
- Fitness Centre
- Other Recreation

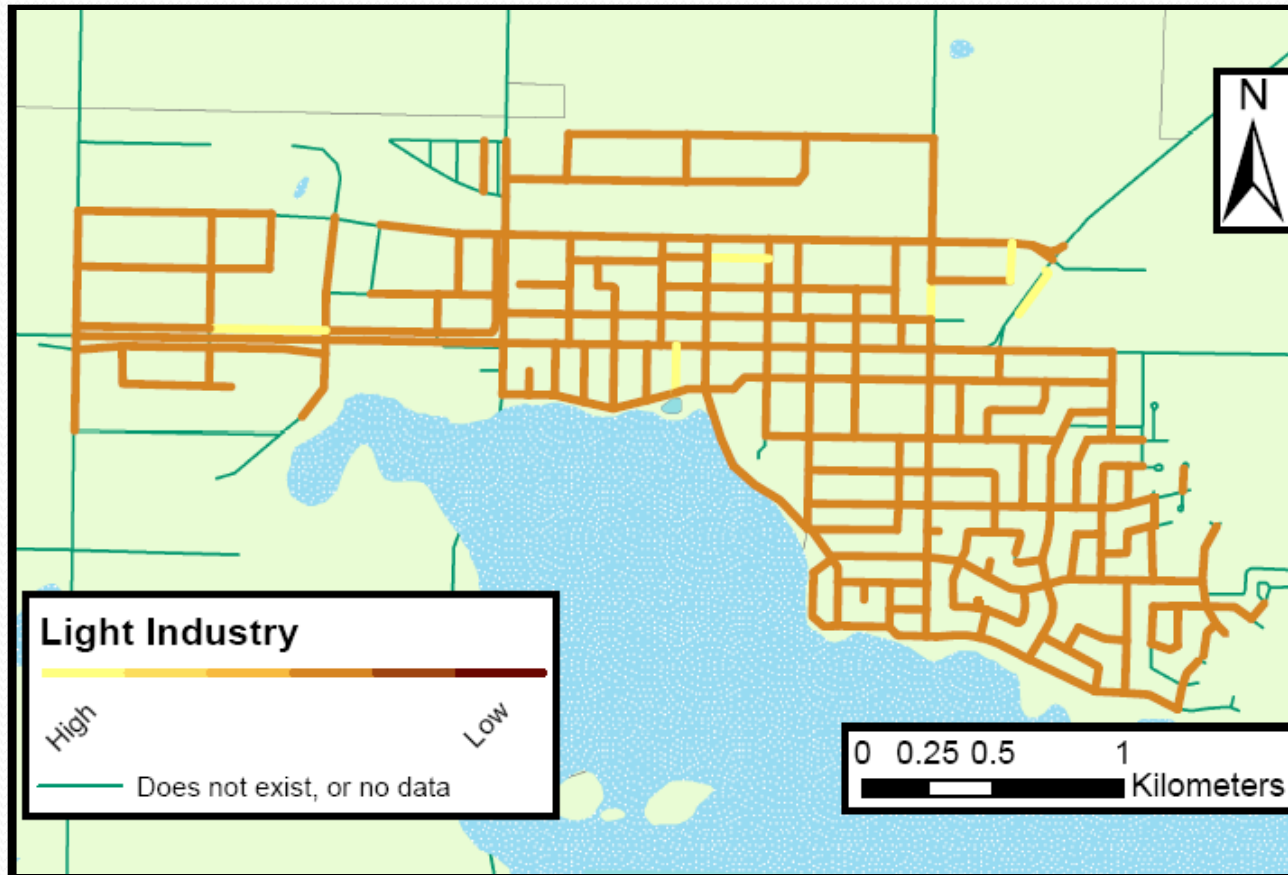Areas with a diversity of destinations encourage pedestrian traffic.

Diverse Destinations - Industrial

- Light Industry
- Medium or Heavy Industry

Diversity of Destinations - Industrial

High   Low

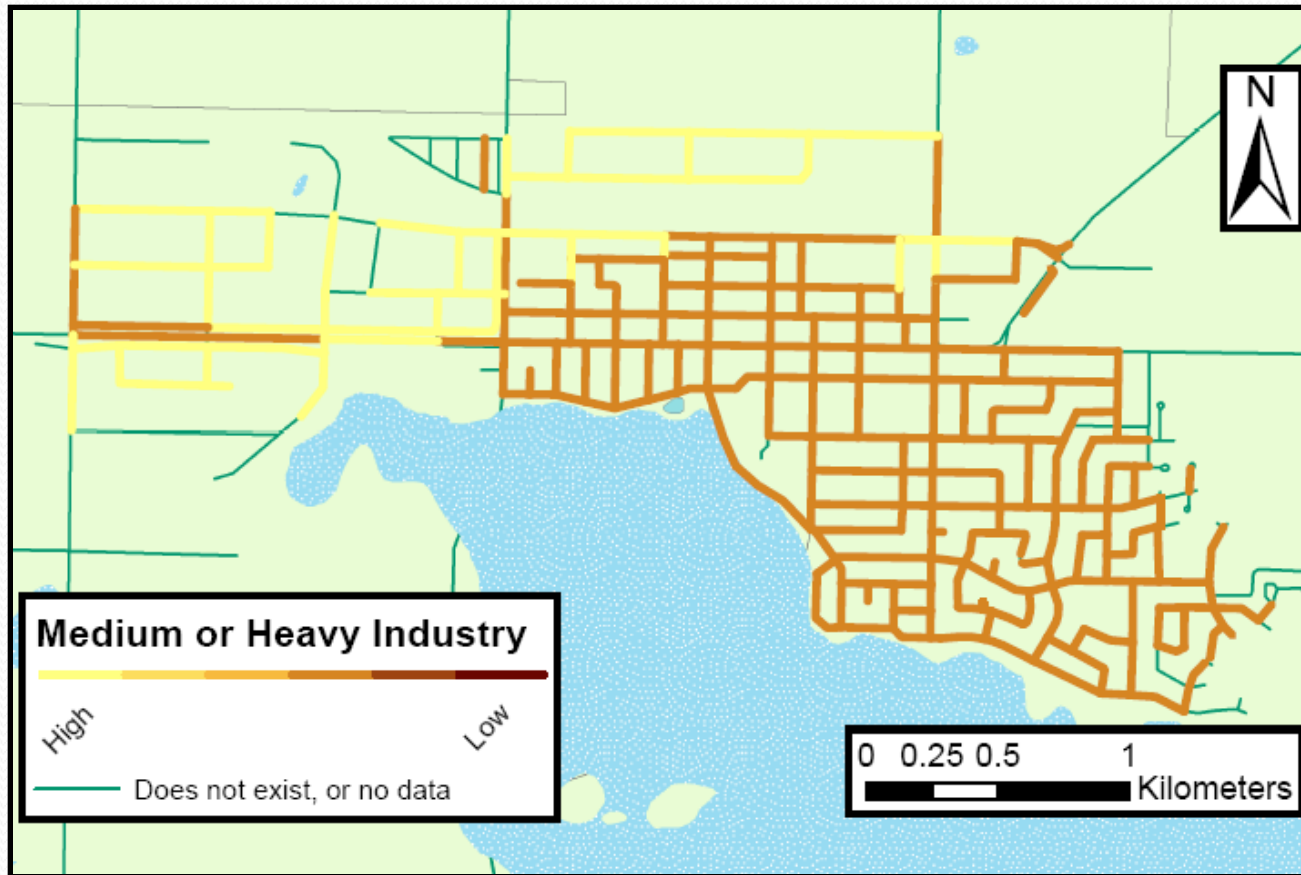Does not exist, or no data

0   0.25   0.5   1   Kilometers

Areas with a diversity of destinations encourage pedestrian traffic.

Light Industry

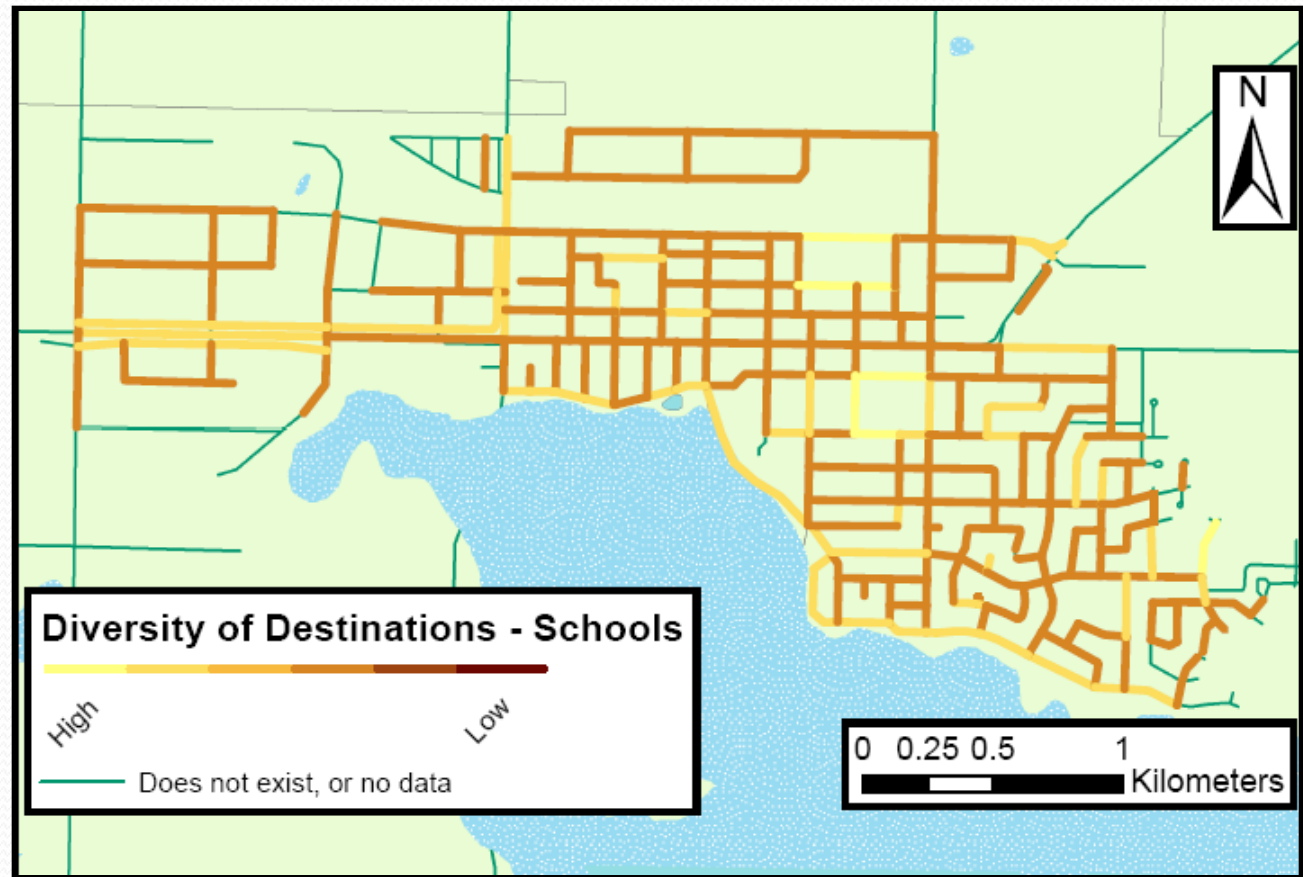Light industry increases the chance a resident will access the segment.

Medium or Heavy Industry

Presence of medium or heavy industry increases the chance a resident will access the segment.

Diverse Destinations - Schools

- Schools
- Public Space

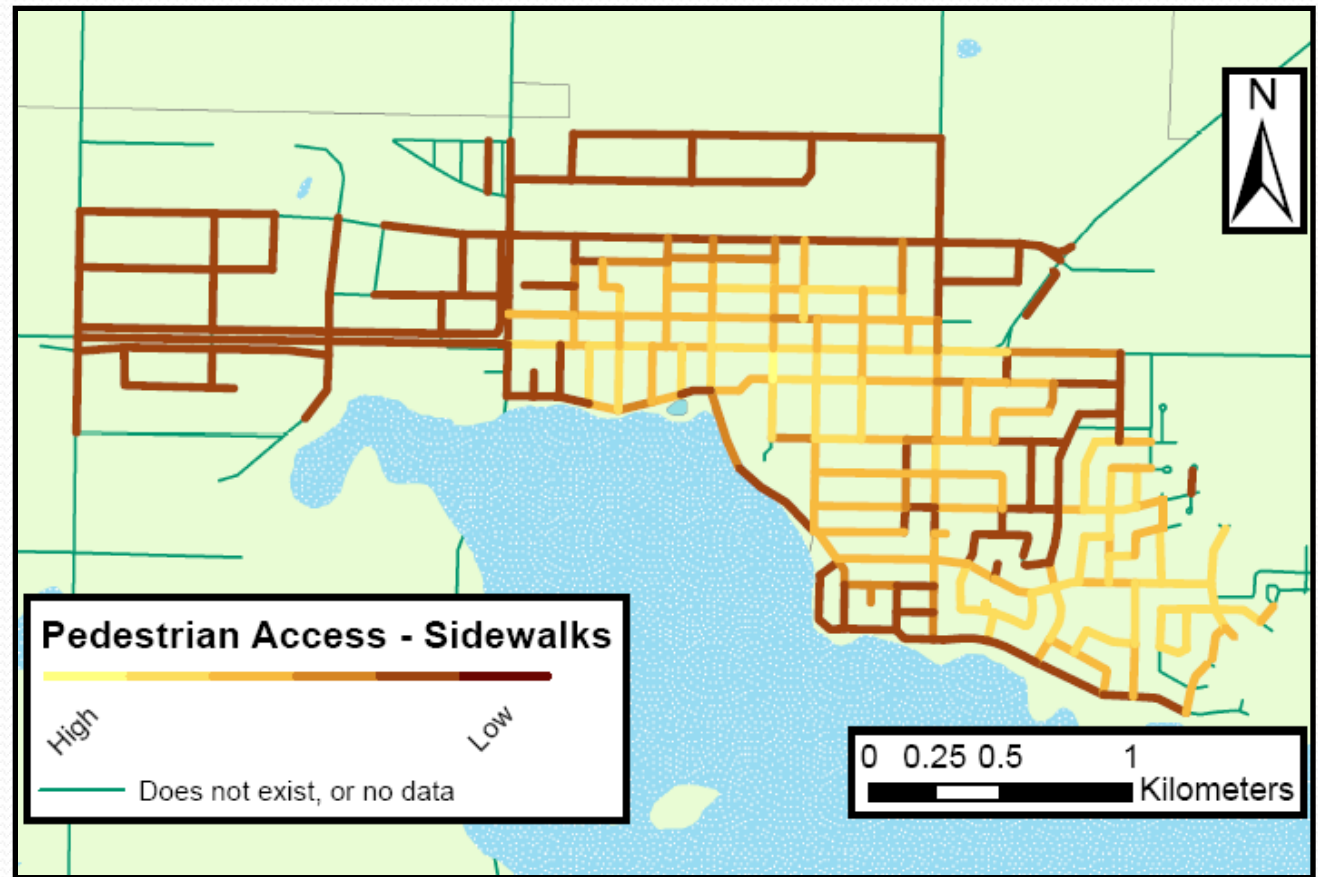Areas with a diversity of destinations encourage pedestrian traffic.

Pedestrian Access

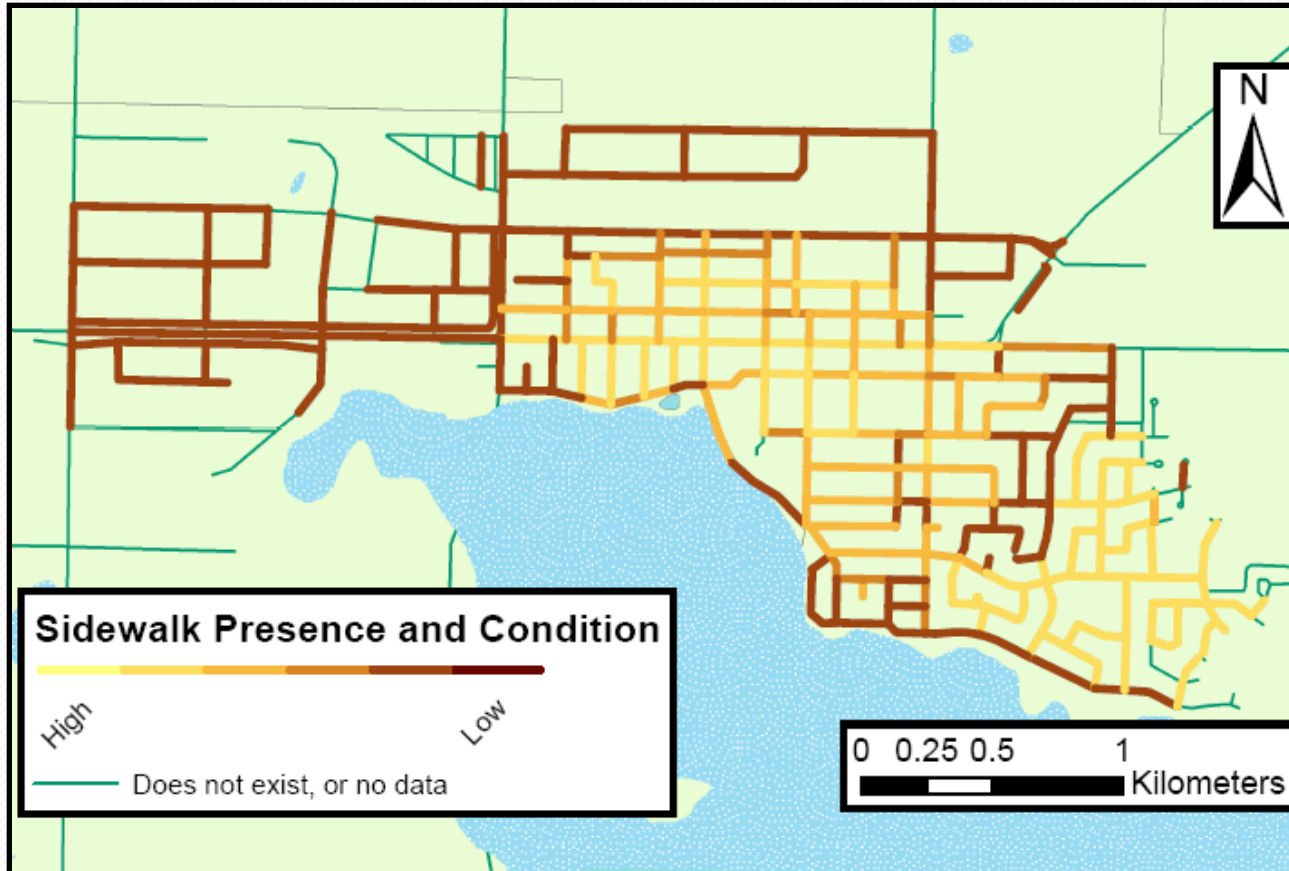Features that make walking to a destination easier.

Pedestrian Access - Sidewalks

- Sidewalk Presence and Condition
- Sidewalk Connections

Pedestrian Access - Sidewalks

High — Low

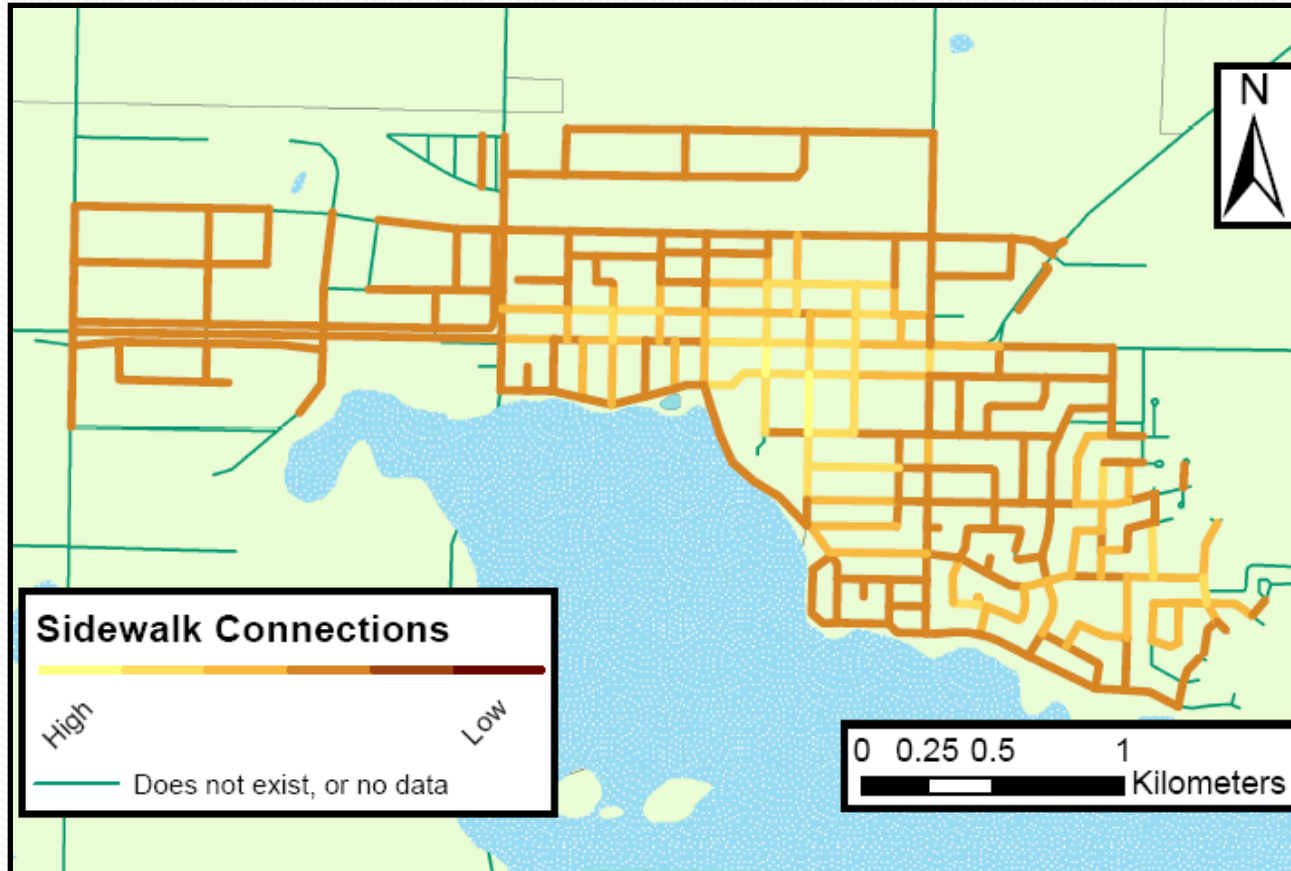Does not exist, or no data

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometers

Higher quality sidewalks result in a higher level of pedestrian access.
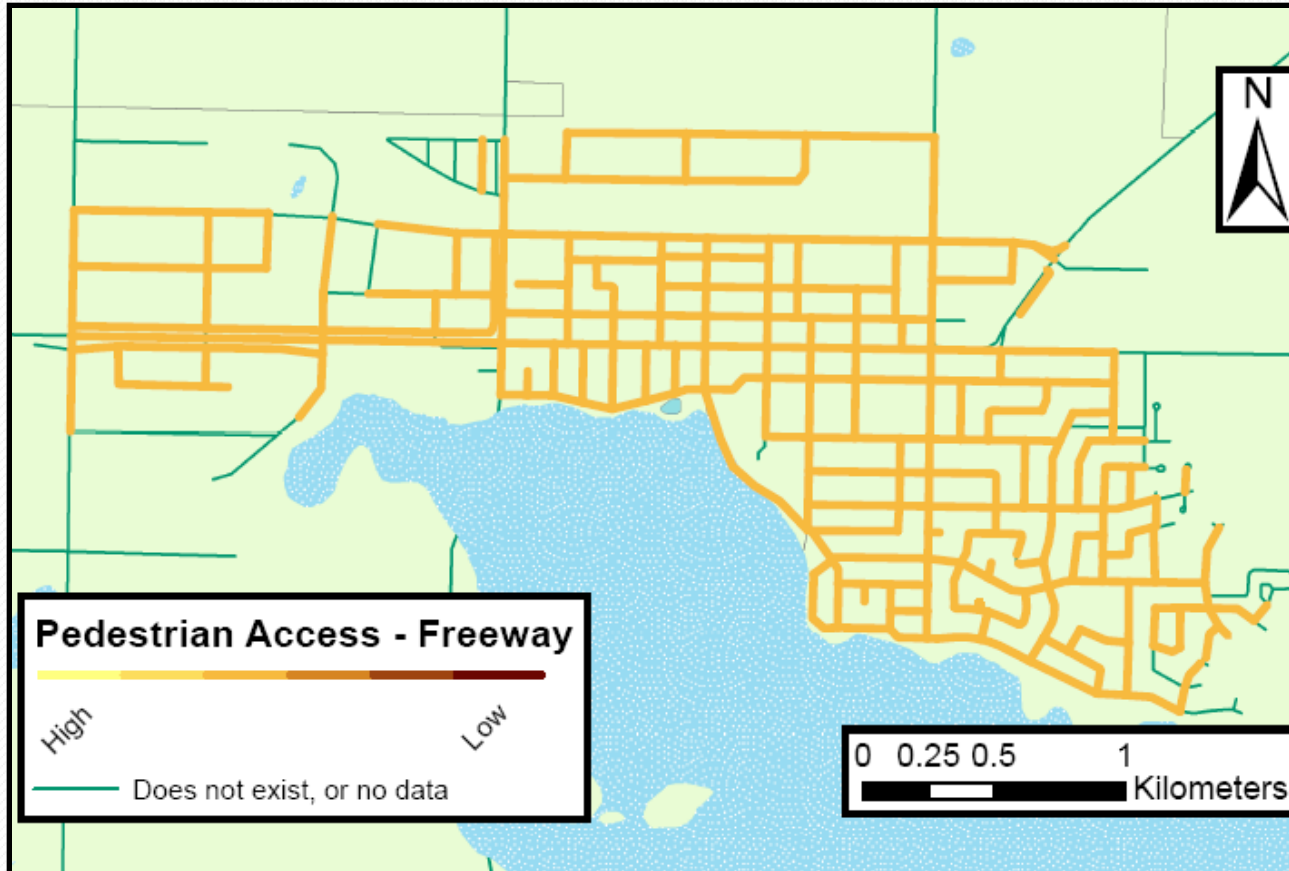
Sidewalk Presence/Condition

Presence and condition of sidewalks indicate a higher level of pedestrian access.

Sidewalk Connections

Well-connected sidewalks indicate a higher level of pedestrian access.

Pedestrian Access - Freeway

There were no freeways observed in Bonnyville.

Pedestrian Access - Barriers

- Highway Barrier
- Railway Barrier
- Impassable Land Use
- Roads with 6+ Lanes
- Temporary Construction
- Other Barrier

Pedestrian Access - Barriers

High ————————— Low

—— Does not exist, or no data

0 0.25 0.5   1   Kilometers
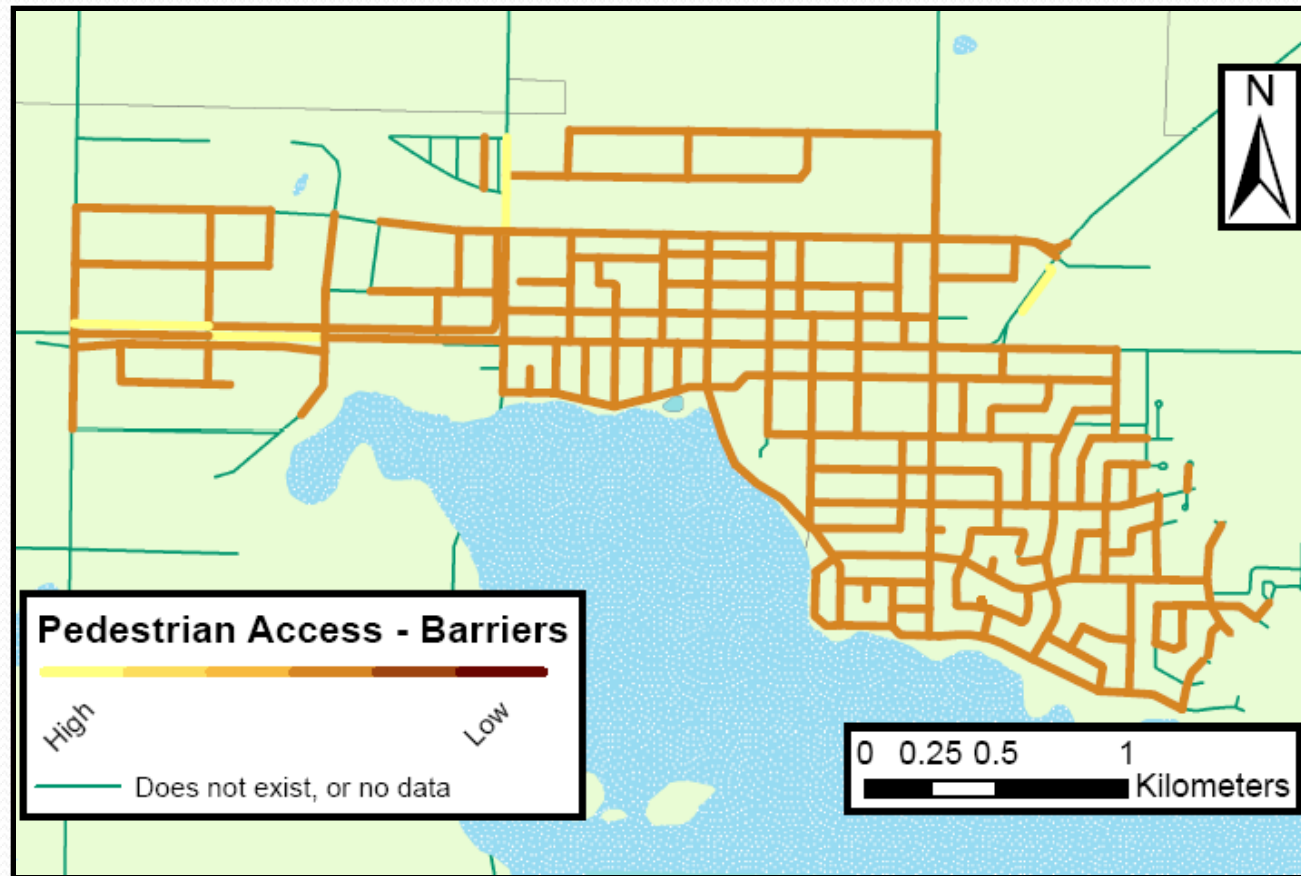
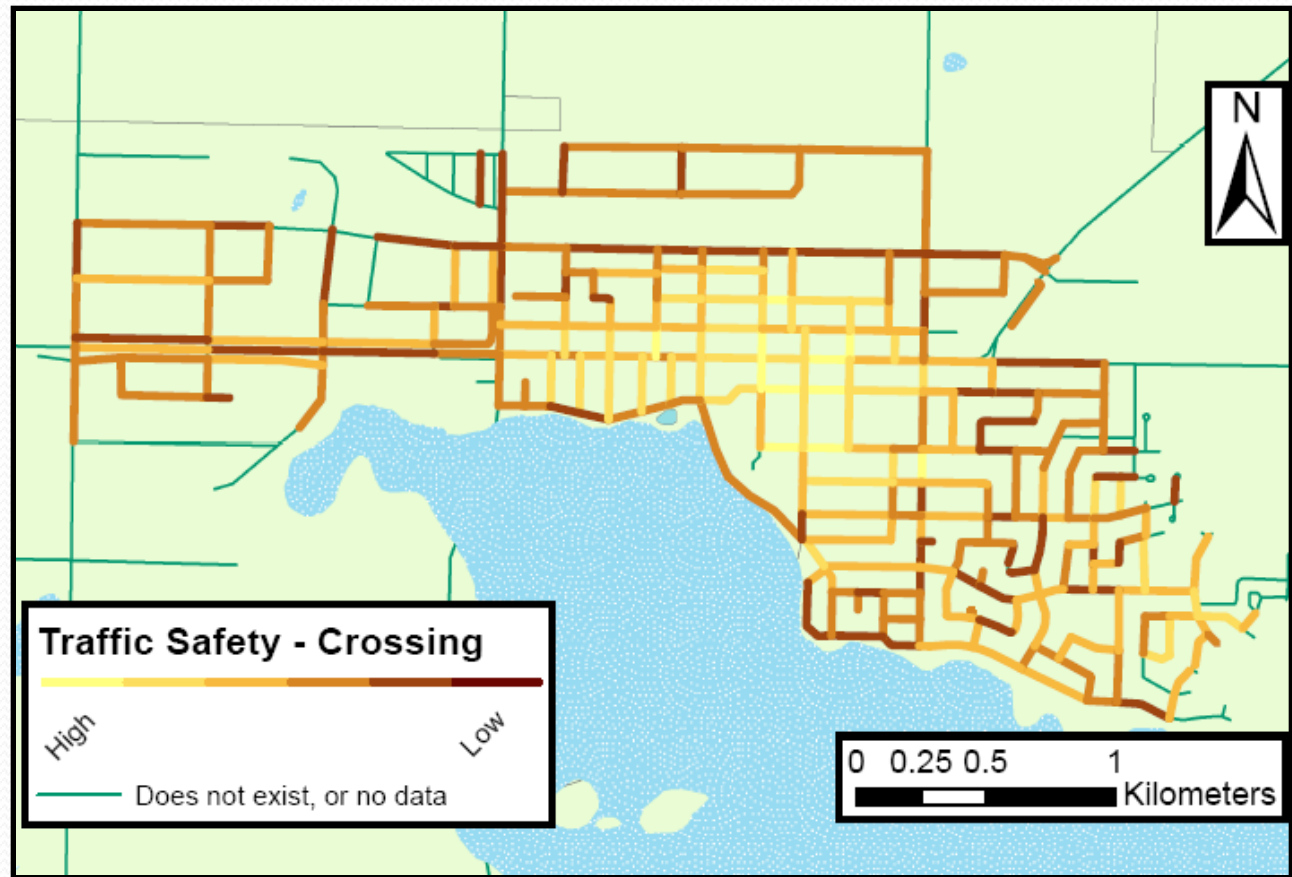Absence of barriers indicates higher pedestrian access.

Traffic Safety

Features that suggest an area is more safe for pedestrians in relation to traffic.
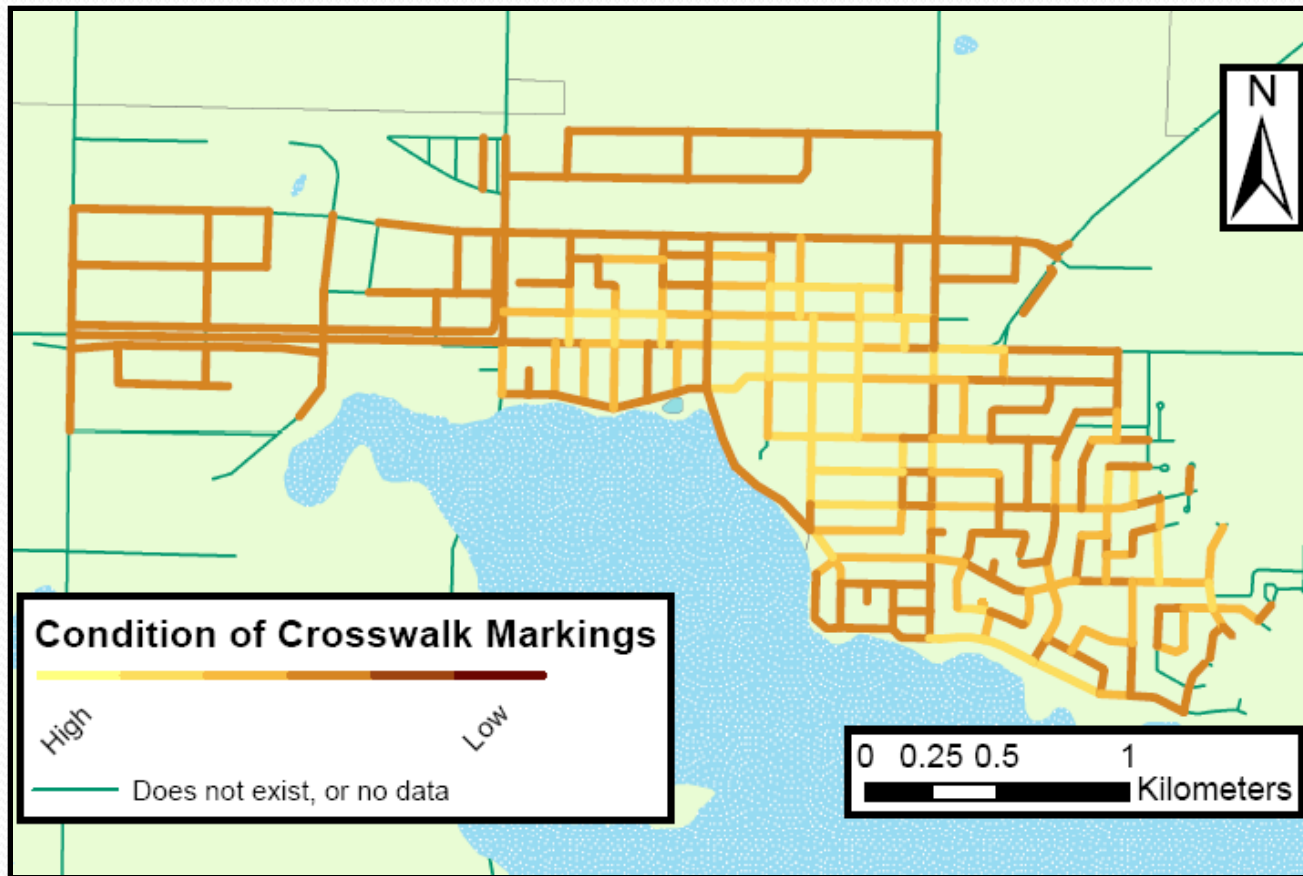
Traffic Safety – Crossing

- Condition of Crosswalk Markings
- Sum of Curb Cuts
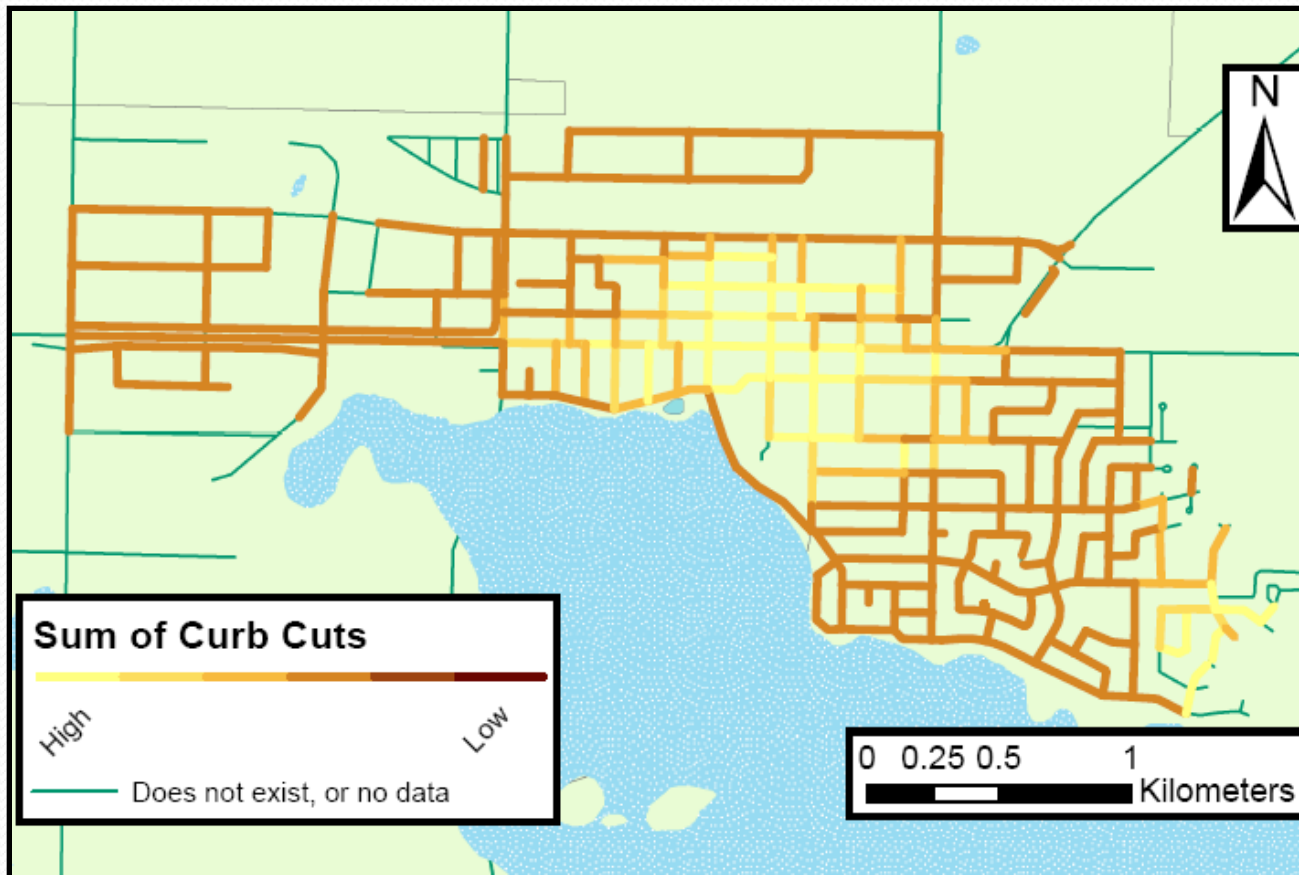- Signs and Signal Systems

Areas with safer road crossings encourage pedestrian traffic.

Condition of Crosswalks

Presence and condition of crosswalks indicate a higher level of traffic safety.
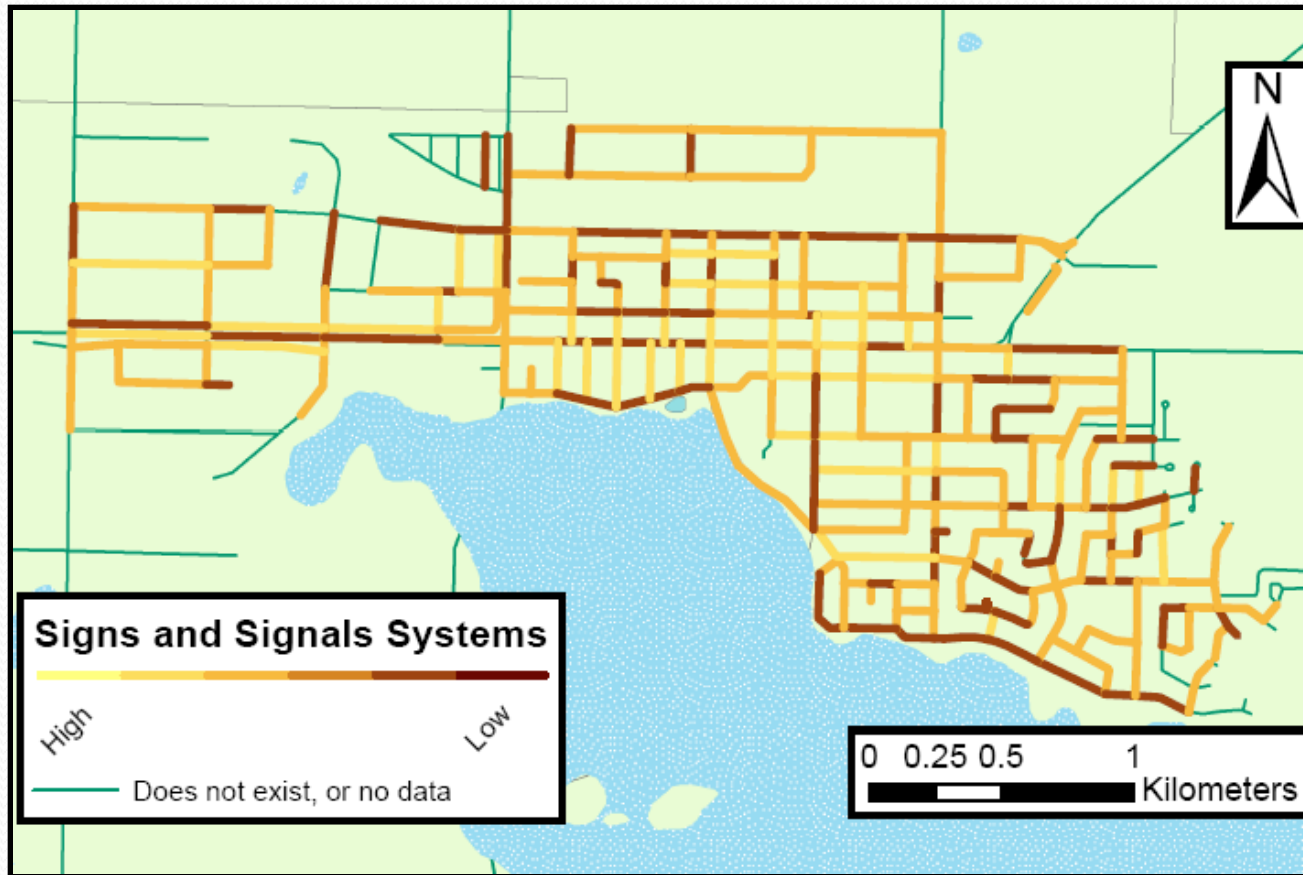
Sum of Curb Cuts

A curb cut is a ramp that takes a sidewalk down to street level. Normally found at street corners, they make it easier for pedestrians to cross a street.

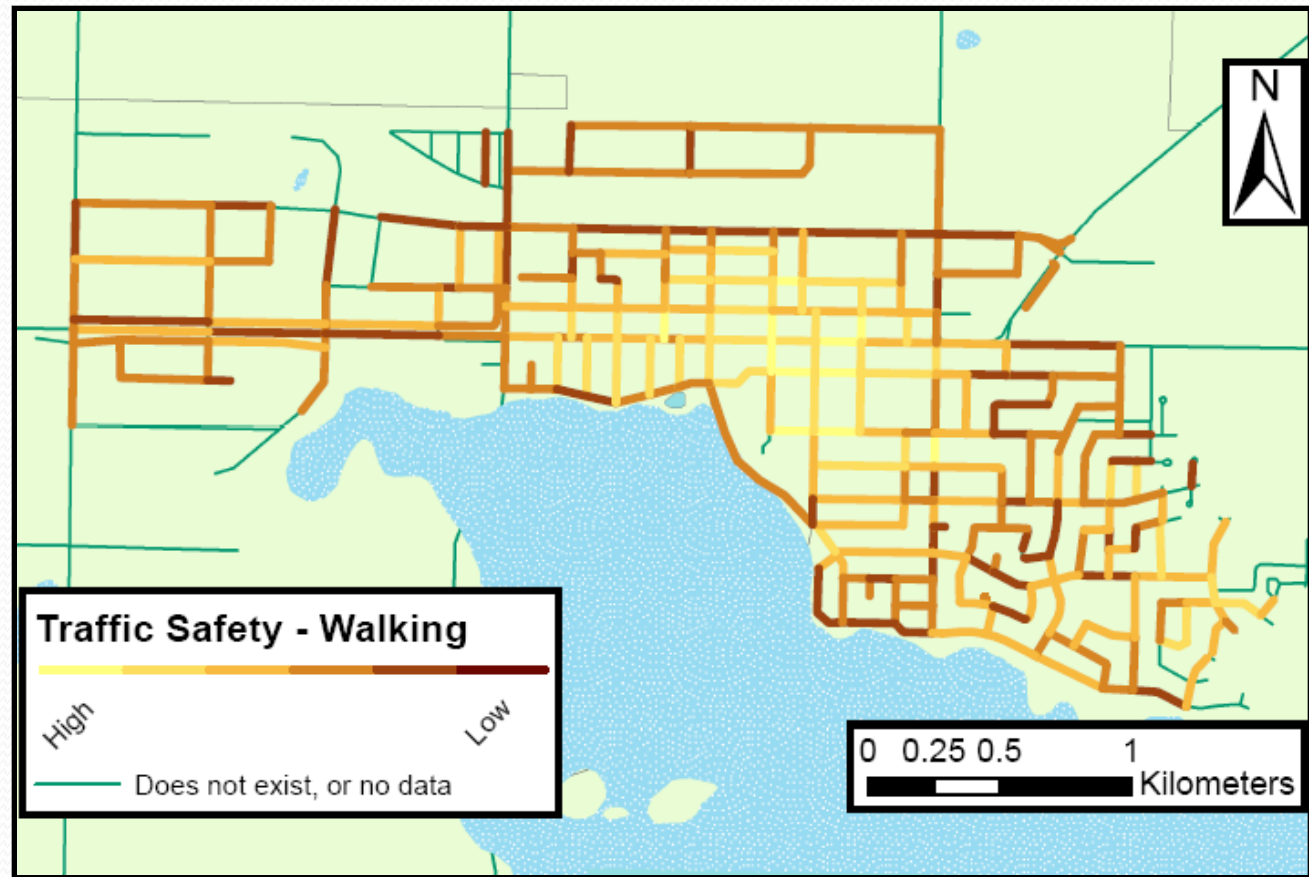Presence of curb cuts at road crossings indicates a higher level of traffic safety.

Signs and Signals Systems

Presence of traffic signs and signals indicates a higher level of traffic safety.
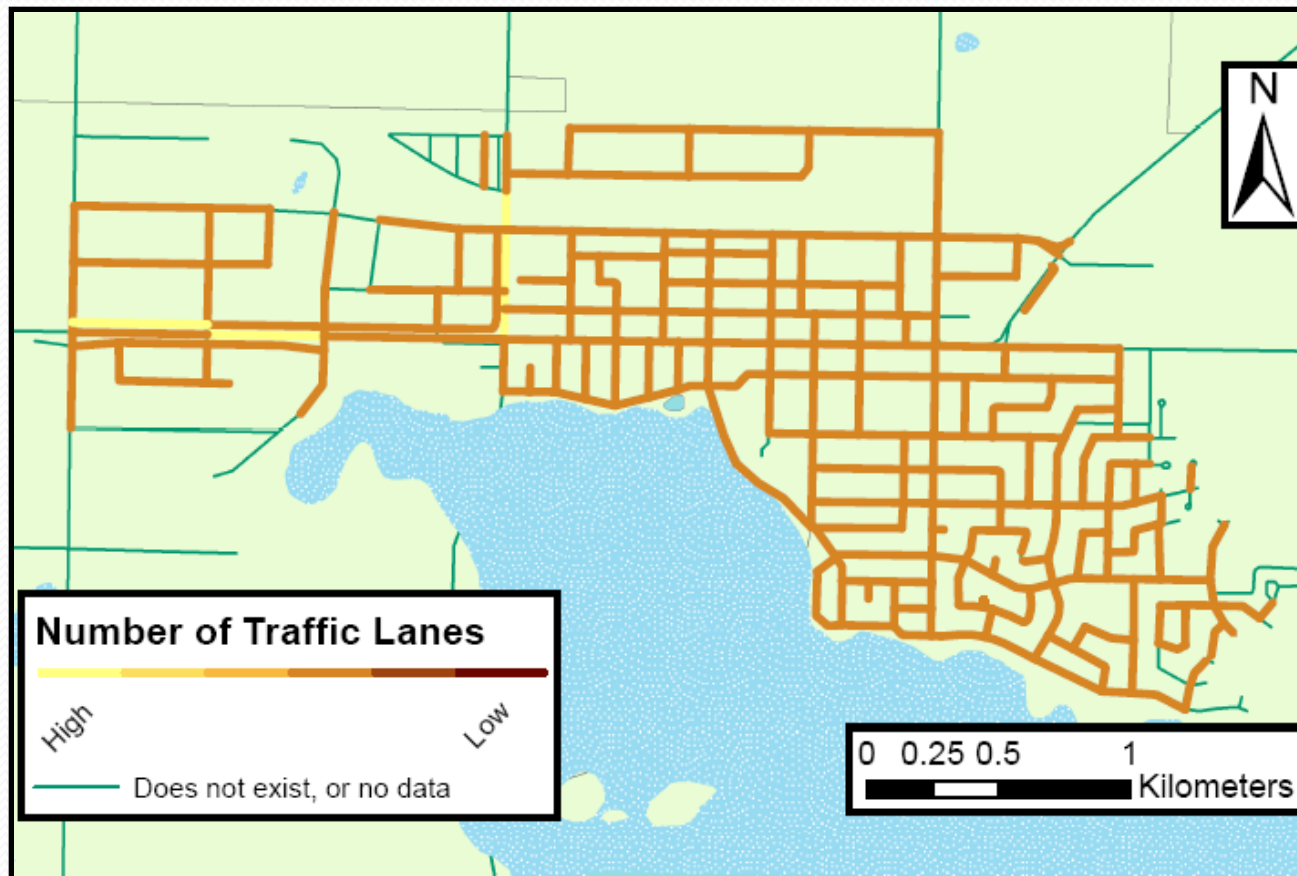
Traffic Safety – Walking

- Number of Traffic Lanes
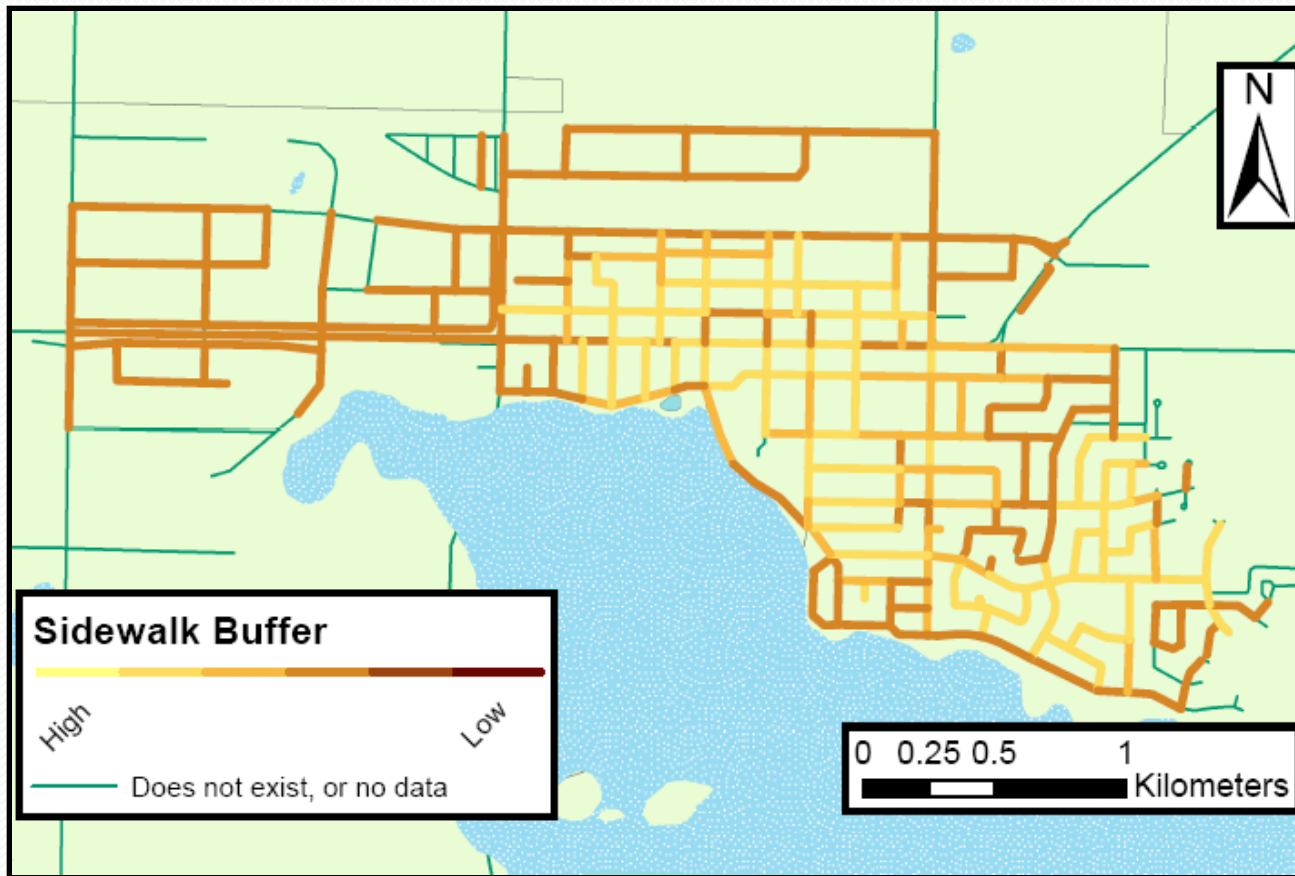- Sidewalk Buffer
- On-Street Parking

Areas with safer road crossings encourage pedestrian traffic.

Number of Traffic Lanes

Fewer traffic lanes indicate a higher level of traffic safety.

Sidewalk Buffer

Sidewalk Buffer

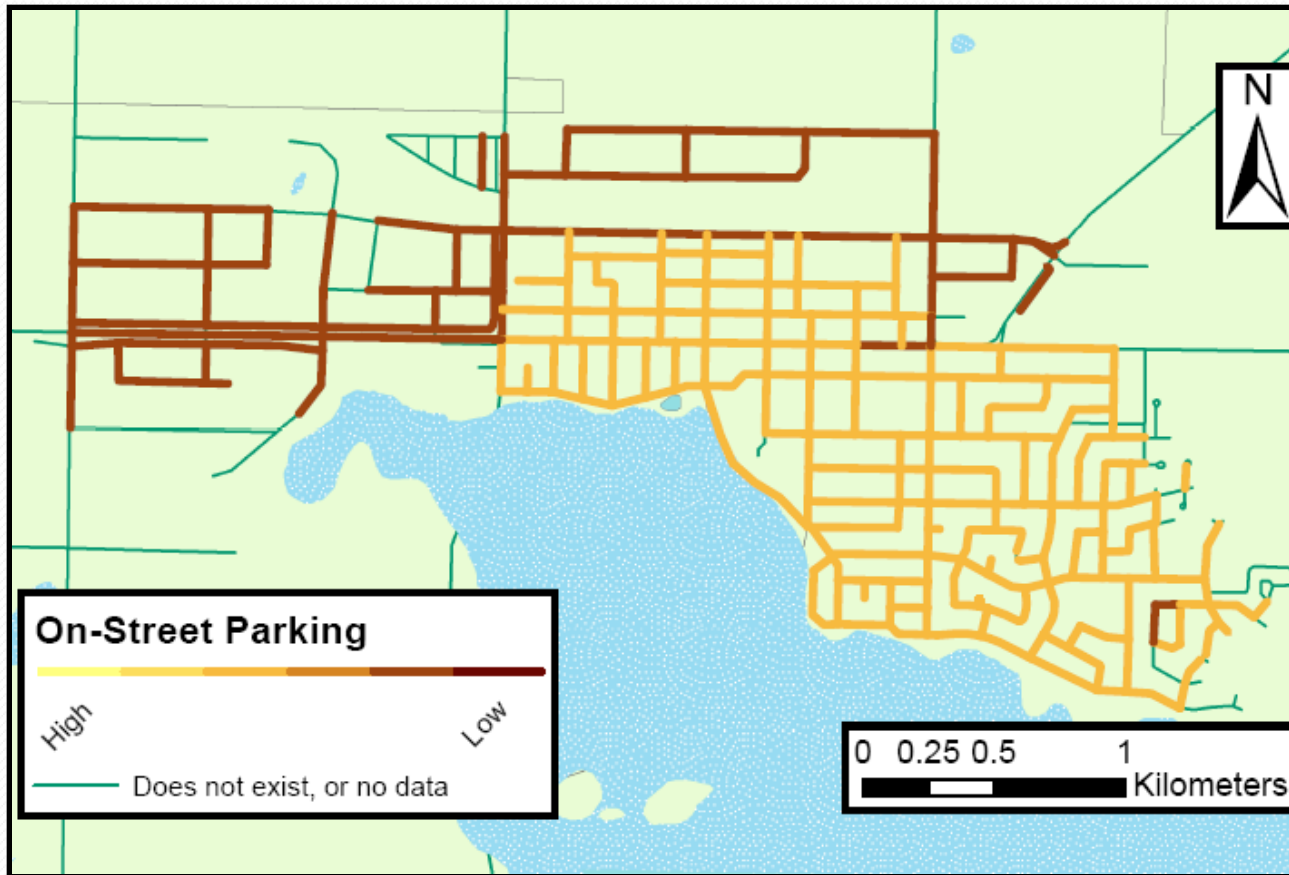High — Low

Does not exist, or no data

0   0.25 0.5   1
Kilometers

A sidewalk buffer is anything that creates a physical barrier between the sidewalk and the road, for example: a guard rail, or a landscaped strip.
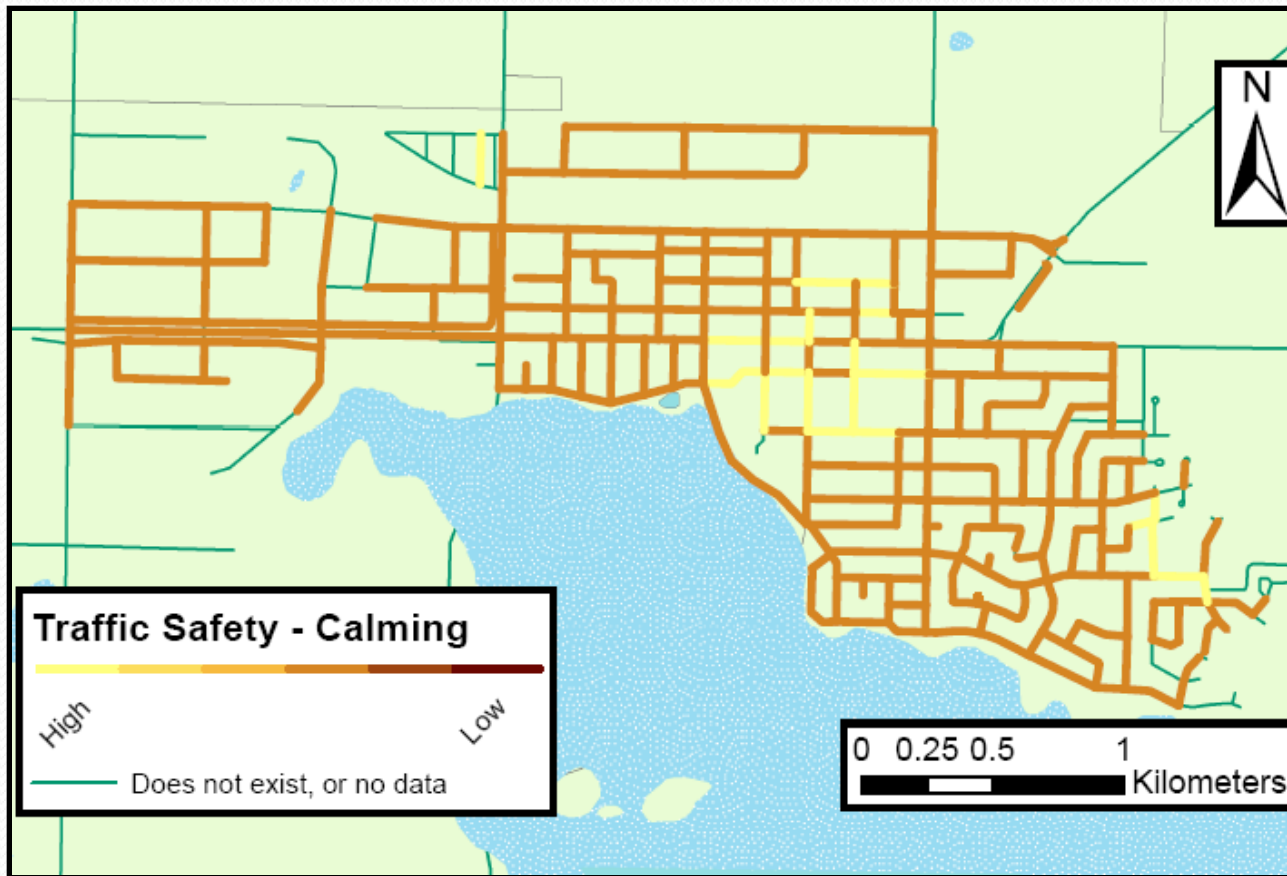
A barrier between the sidewalk and road indicates a higher level of traffic safety.

On-Street Parking

On-street parking indicates a higher level of traffic safety.
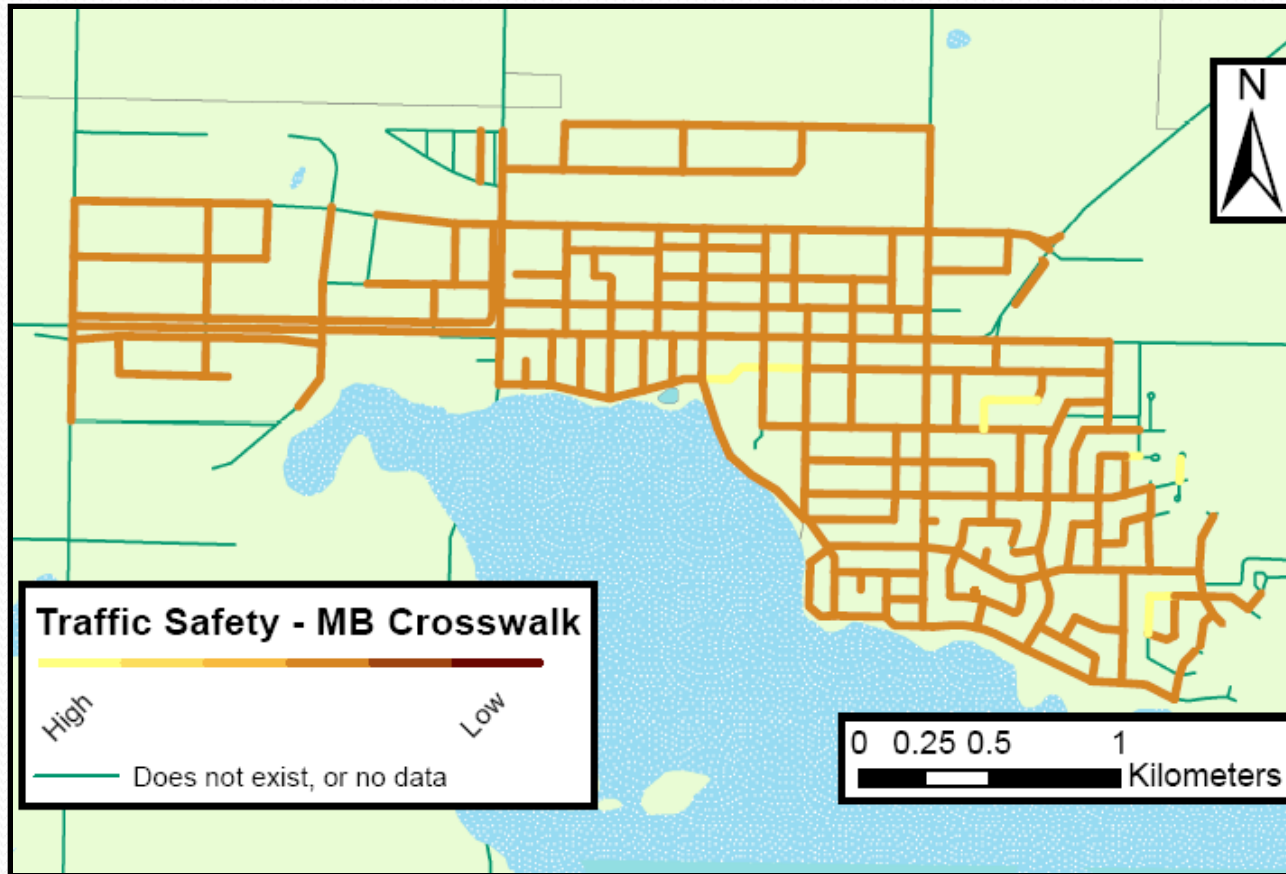
Traffic Safety – Calming

Traffic calming features can include: speed bumps, rumble strips, curb extensions, medians and school zone signs.

Presence of traffic calming features indicates a higher level of traffic safety.

Traffic Safety – Mid-block Crosswalk

Presence of a mid-block crosswalk indicates higher traffic safety.

How this Information can Help

- This analysis identifies **opportunities** and **barriers** for community residents choosing to be physically active.
  - **Opportunities** can be promoted.
    - For example: The creation of walking and cycling routes where segments are identified as being safe and accessible.
  - **Barriers** can be broken down.
    - For example: The installation of benches where there are curb cuts and crosswalks to make areas more accessible for seniors.

Key Lessons Learned to Support the Creation of Healthy Community Environments

- Need to look at **built** and **social environments** in **combination** to better understand how to support community health.

- **Engage community** in all aspects of initiatives to foster local action.

- **Small**, **incremental changes** can have a large impact.

- **Share information** and **create connections** with multiple levels of stakeholders.

- **Collaborate around shared goals to increase success.**

Thank you for your interest!

For more information, please contact:

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780-492-4109

www.publichealth.ualberta.ca

Thank you to our funders:

Suggested Citation

- If referencing this document, please cite as follows:

Community Health and the Built Environment Project Team (2011). *Community Observation Results: Bonnyville, Alberta.* Edmonton, AB: Community Health and the Built Environment Project, School of Public Health, University of Alberta.