

The Right to Parks: Examining the Relationship Between Urban Green Spaces and Community Cohesion in Memphis, Tennessee

INTRO / PURPOSE

Why This Study Matters

- Parks are often seen as simple recreational spaces, but they play a bigger role in how people experience their community.
- In cities like Memphis, access to safe and well-maintained green spaces is not the same across neighborhoods.
- This study looks at how park quality and access shape community attachment, and how these patterns connect to race and income across the city.

MAIN IDEA

- The quality and accessibility of parks in Memphis help shape how connected people feel to their communities, and these experiences are not the same for everyone.

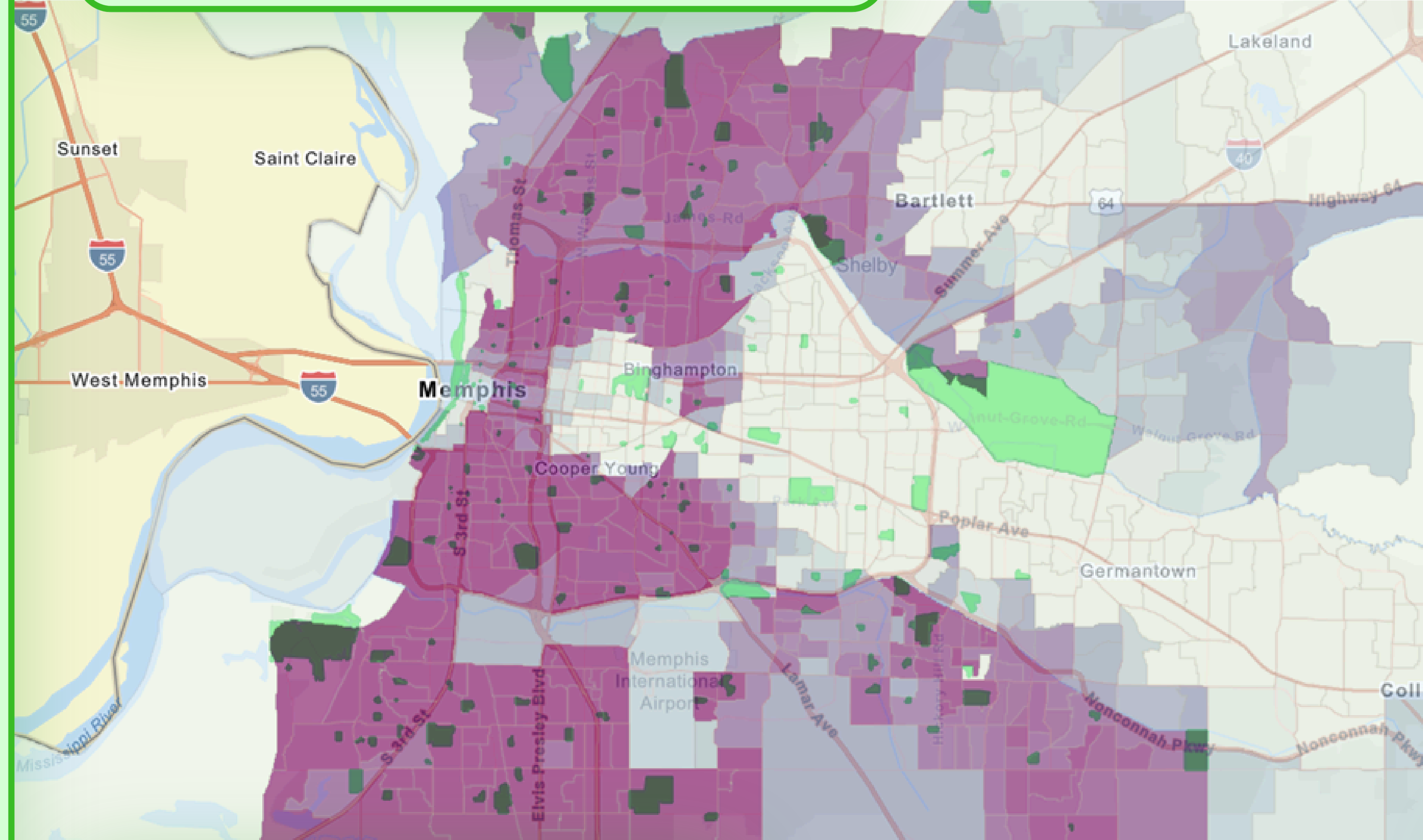
METHODS

- Survey of Memphis residents
- ArcGIS spatial analysis
- Combined subjective experiences with objective spatial patterns

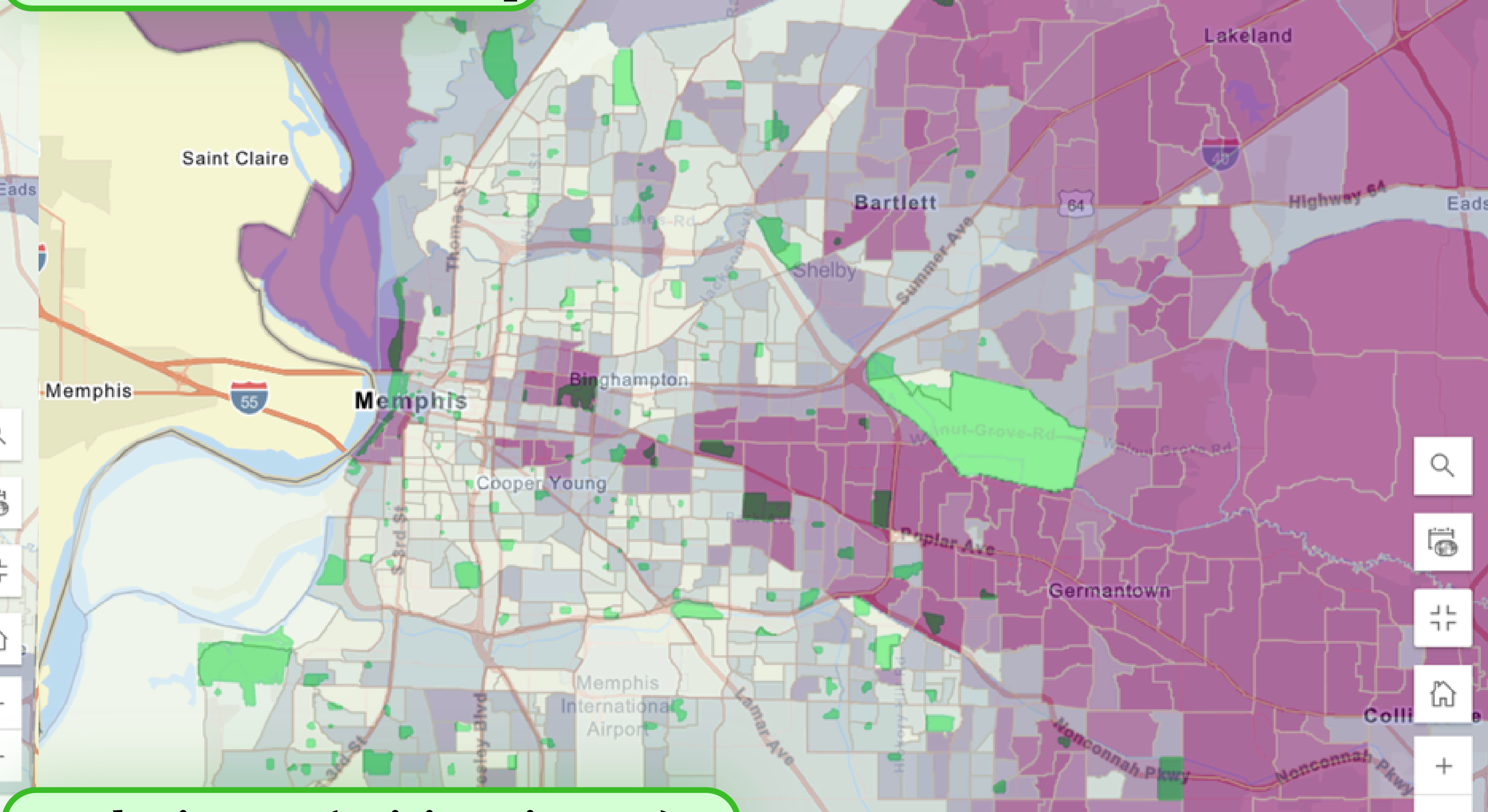
KEY FINDINGS

- People who rated their parks as higher quality also felt more connected to their community
- Easier access to parks is linked to better perceptions of park quality
- GIS maps show that park access is uneven across Memphis
- People who value parks more are also more aware of inequality

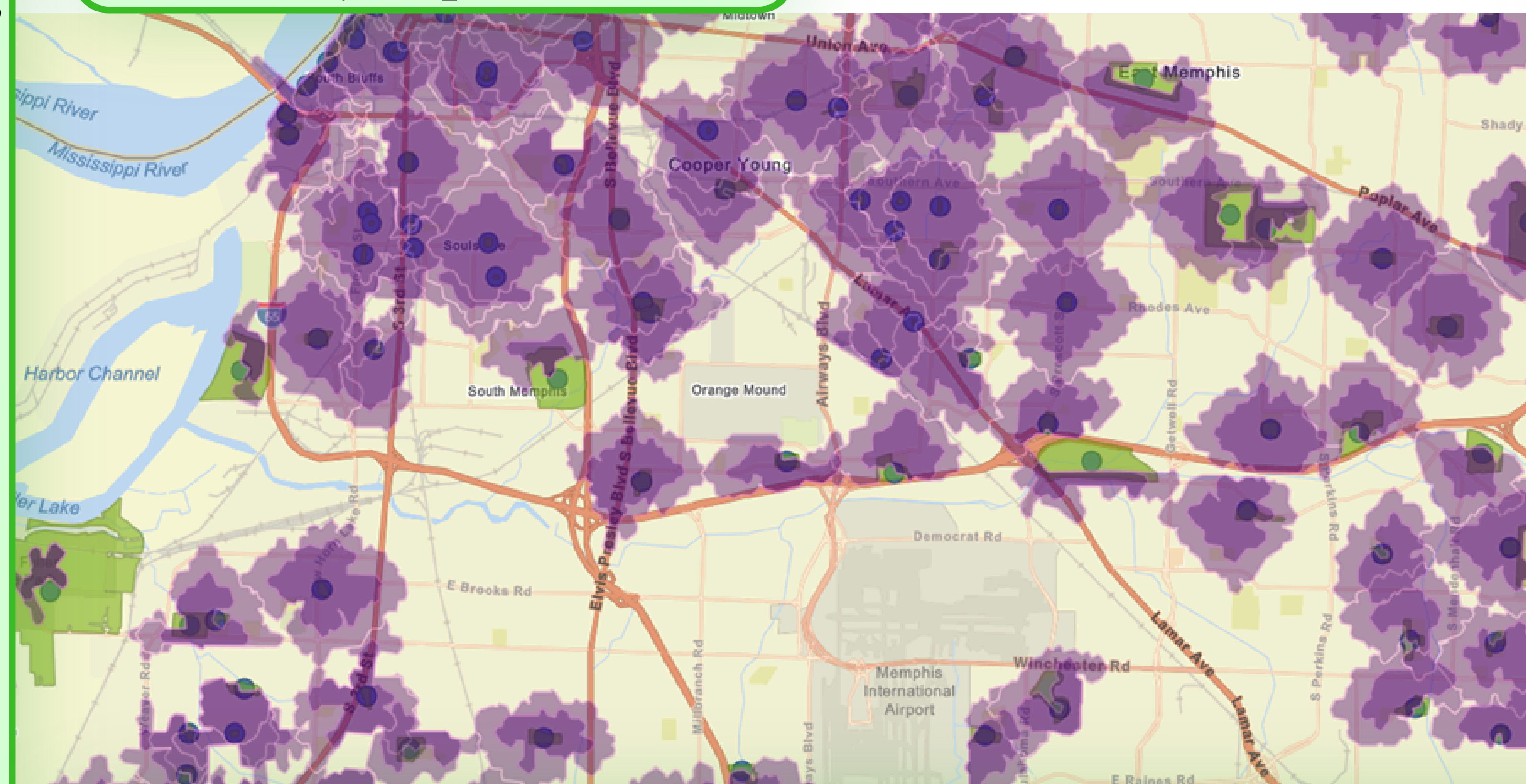
Racial Distribution Map



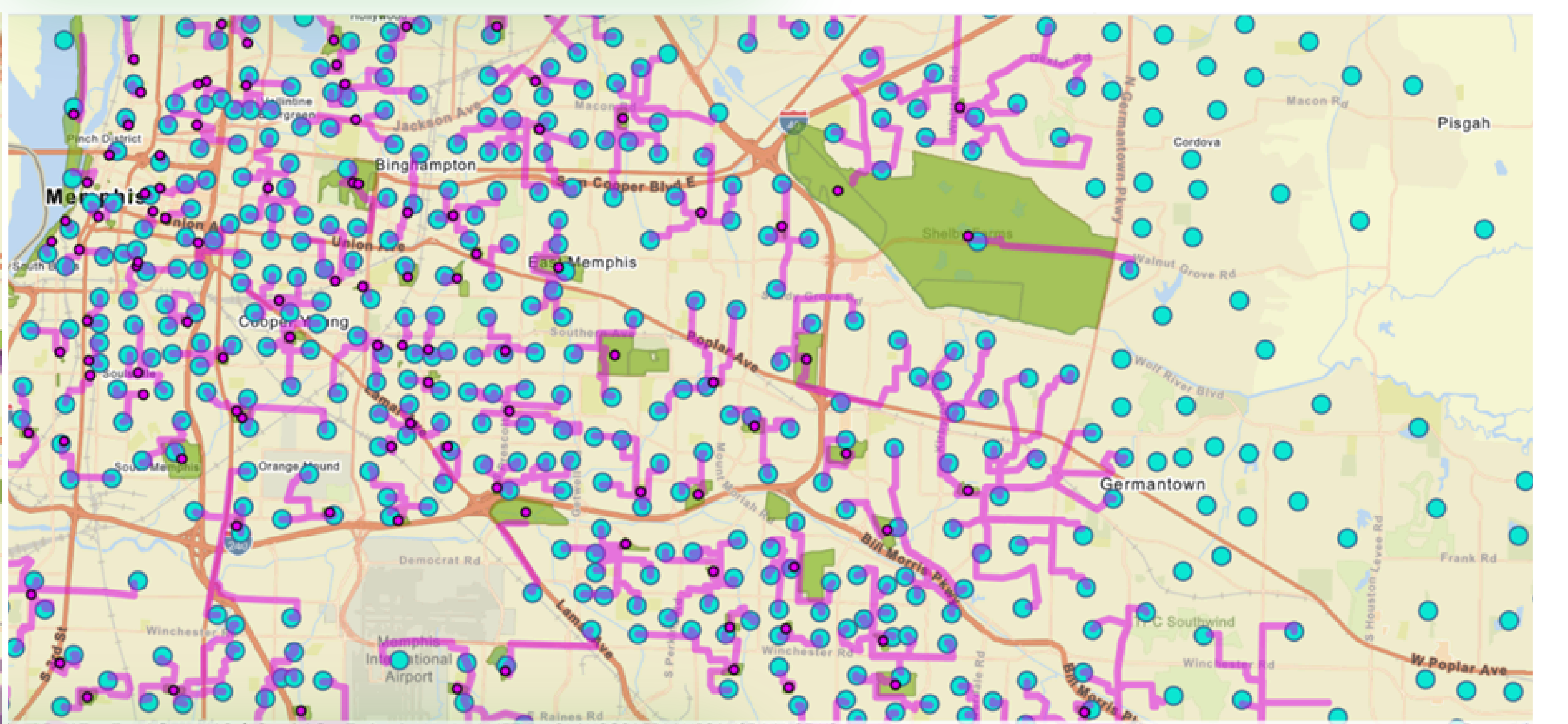
Income Distribution Map



Walkability Map (10–15 min)



Park Distance (Driving Distance)



Big Picture Takeaway

Where you live in Memphis shapes how you experience parks, and that shapes how connected you feel to your community.

- Some residents can walk to a park in minutes
- Others have to travel much farther just to reach one
- Some parks feel clean, safe, and active
- Others feel less maintained or harder to use

Author: DT Franklin
Advised by: Heather Fitz Gibbon



THE COLLEGE OF
WOOSTER