

OCTOBER 8, 2021

Greater Hill District Master Plan

Graphics and Supporting Materials for Cultural Legacy Assessment

- I. Research Summary
- II. Proposed Cultural Legacy Framework

2011 Masterplan



8/20 Small Group Meeting Notes



8/20 Small Group Meeting Notes



mico

The Crossroads of the World

The label “crossroads of the world” speaks to the perseverance of the neighborhood’s ever growing African American population to shape a strong community within a segregated society... For this area to be embraced publicly by black print and radio media as a symbol of the neighborhood’s identity demonstrates the ability of the Hill’s African American community to construct understandings of black lives, social spaces, and places that reflected the black cultural autonomy from white society.

*- The Crossroads of the World”:
A Social and Cultural History of Jazz in Pittsburgh’s Hill District, 1920-1970*



Shannopin's Town was a Seneca village near present-day Pittsburgh; it is likely the Seneca inhabited the fork in the Ohio River seasonally.

The Senecas used the Ohio and Allegheny rivers as a war trail to the Illinois region long before they shared the area with the Delaware and Shawnee tribes.

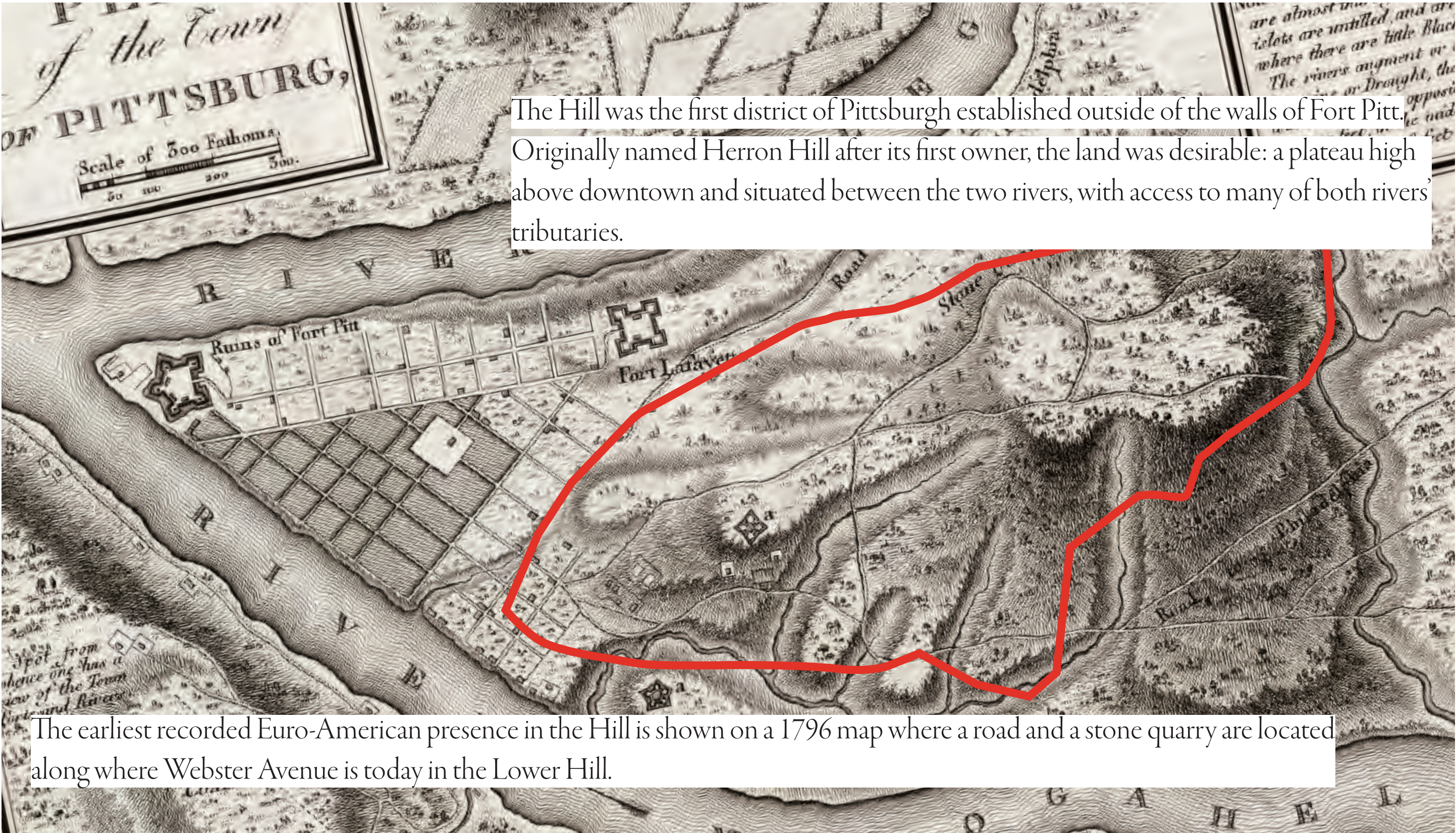
1770: Fort Pitt

During the mid-eighteenth century Seven Years War, Herron Hill was the site of a battle between British, American, Native American and French combatants.

Fort Pitt is established by British traders in the mid-18th Century; this was a coveted position as it provided access to three waterways. Fort Pitt would become a major front during the French and Indian War.



1796 : Herron Hill



1852

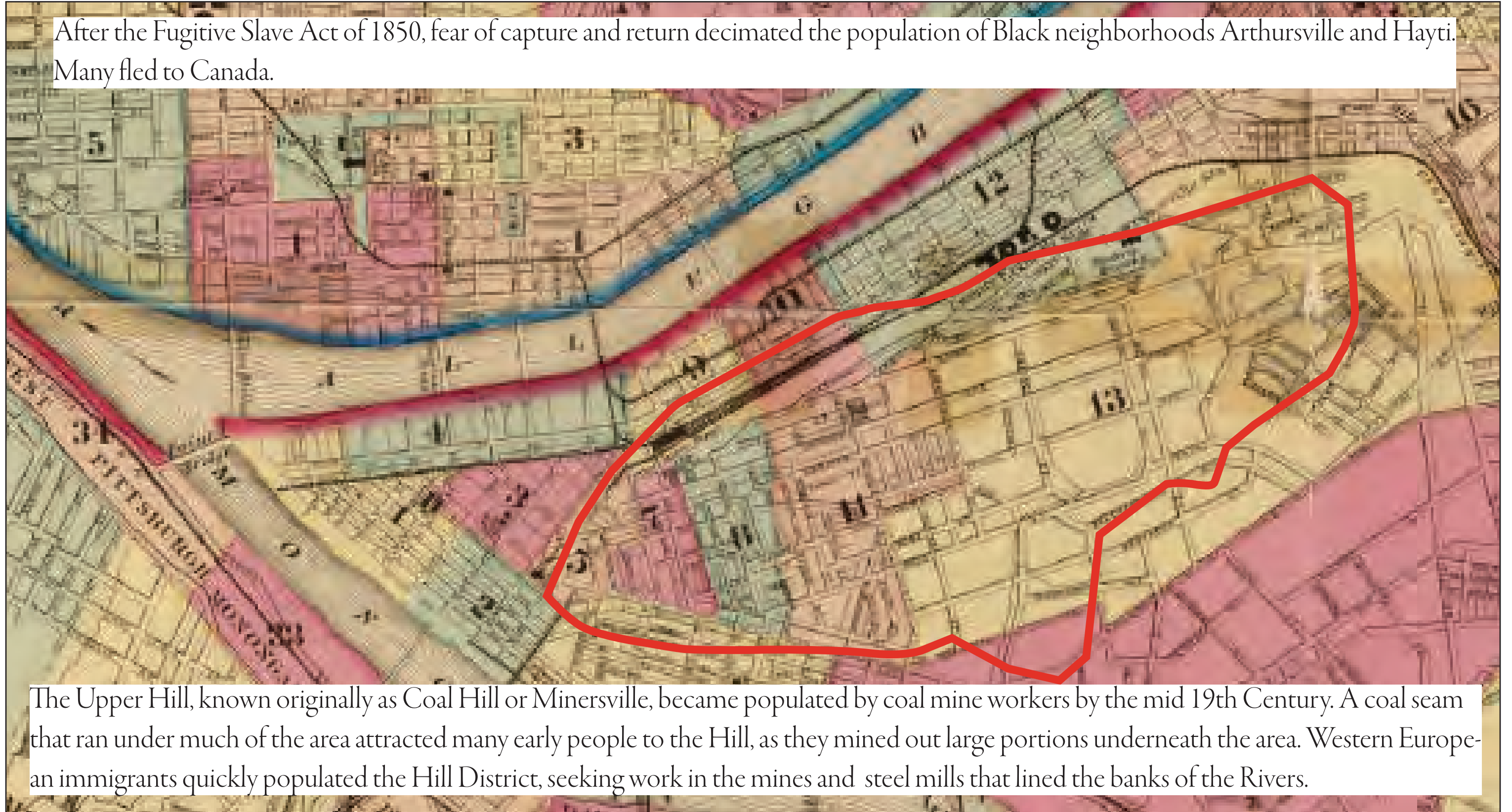


In the early 1800s, the formerly enslaved established homes in the Hill District.

In 1830, the Lower Hill housed 110 black families, mostly centered in what was called Arthursville. Later called Little Hayti, Arthursville was an area centered where Roberts Street is today that consisted of mainly African-American families in the mid-nineteenth century.

1866

After the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, fear of capture and return decimated the population of Black neighborhoods Arthursville and Hayti. Many fled to Canada.



The Upper Hill, known originally as Coal Hill or Minersville, became populated by coal mine workers by the mid 19th Century. A coal seam that ran under much of the area attracted many early people to the Hill, as they mined out large portions underneath the area. Western European immigrants quickly populated the Hill District, seeking work in the mines and steel mills that lined the banks of the Rivers.

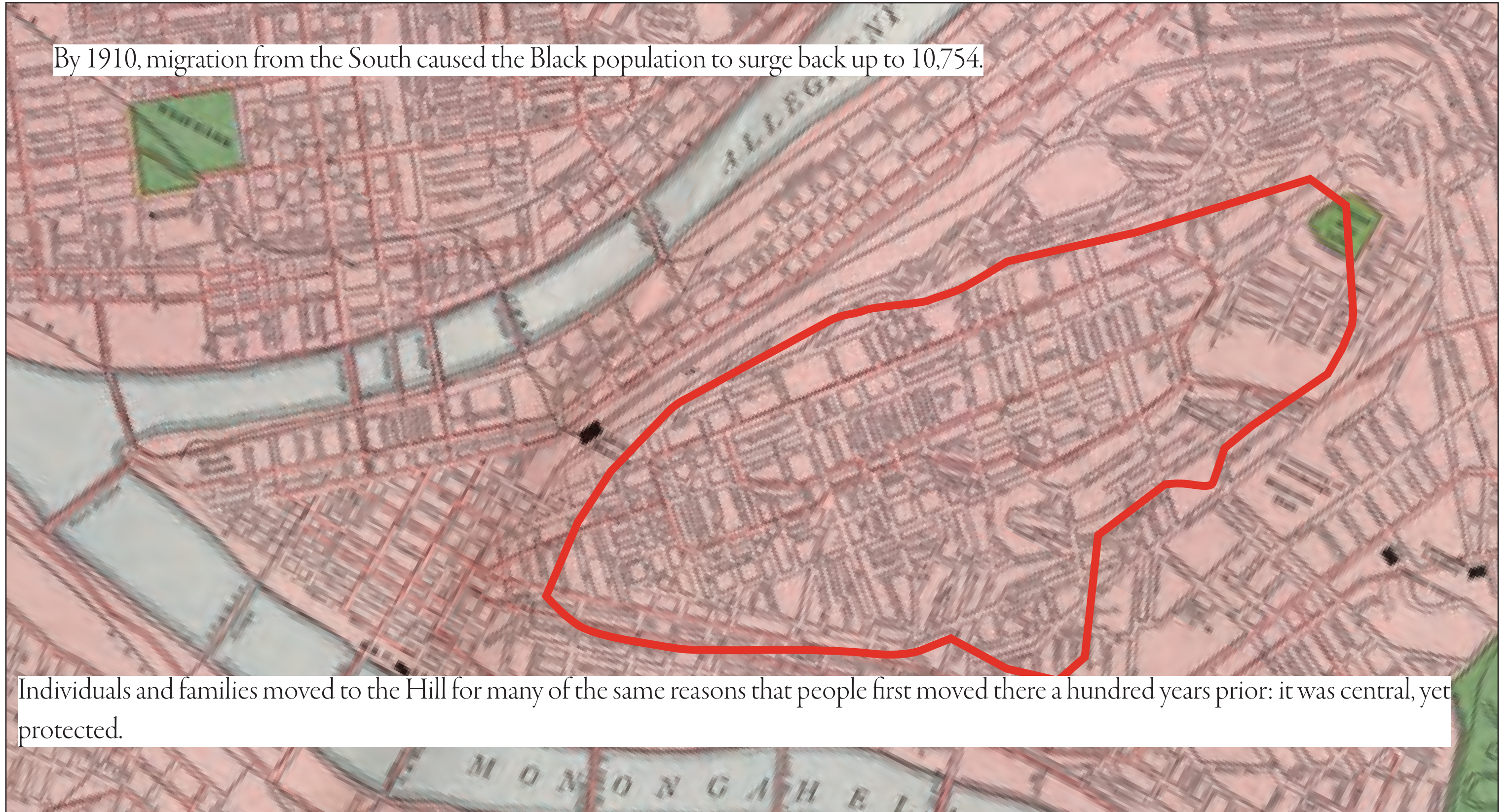
1900

By 1900, the remaining Black population had moved to eastern areas such as East Liberty and Homewood, leaving only 200 Black people in the Lower Hill. The Hill District now housed mainly Eastern European Jewish immigrants; the main industry in the neighborhood had become cigar production.



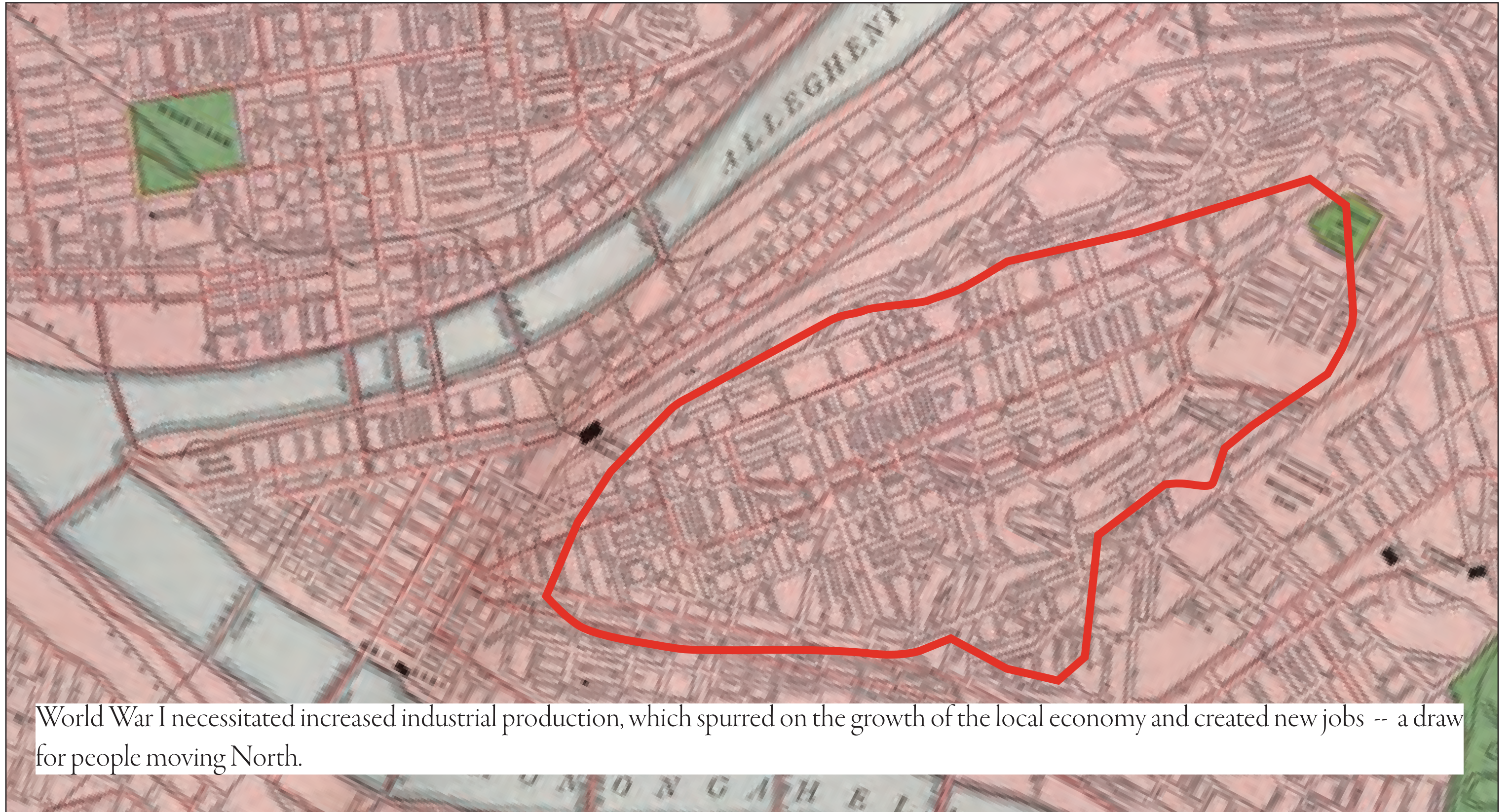
1912

By 1910, migration from the South caused the Black population to surge back up to 10,754.



Individuals and families moved to the Hill for many of the same reasons that people first moved there a hundred years prior: it was central, yet protected.

World War I and the creation of a City within a City



World War I necessitated increased industrial production, which spurred on the growth of the local economy and created new jobs -- a draw for people moving North.

The Historic Hill District



LEGEND

Historic 5th Ward

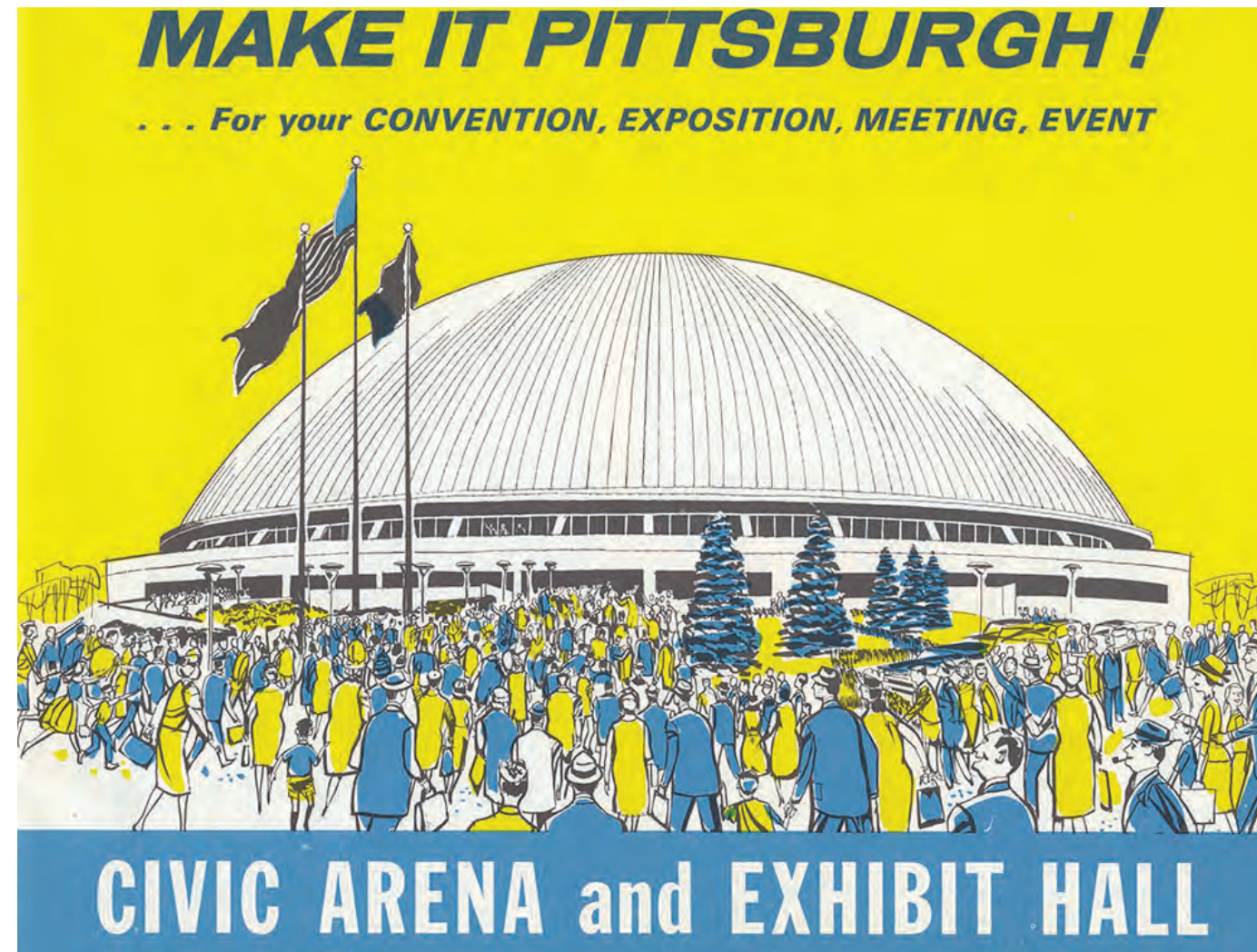
Historic 3rd Ward

Historic Grid

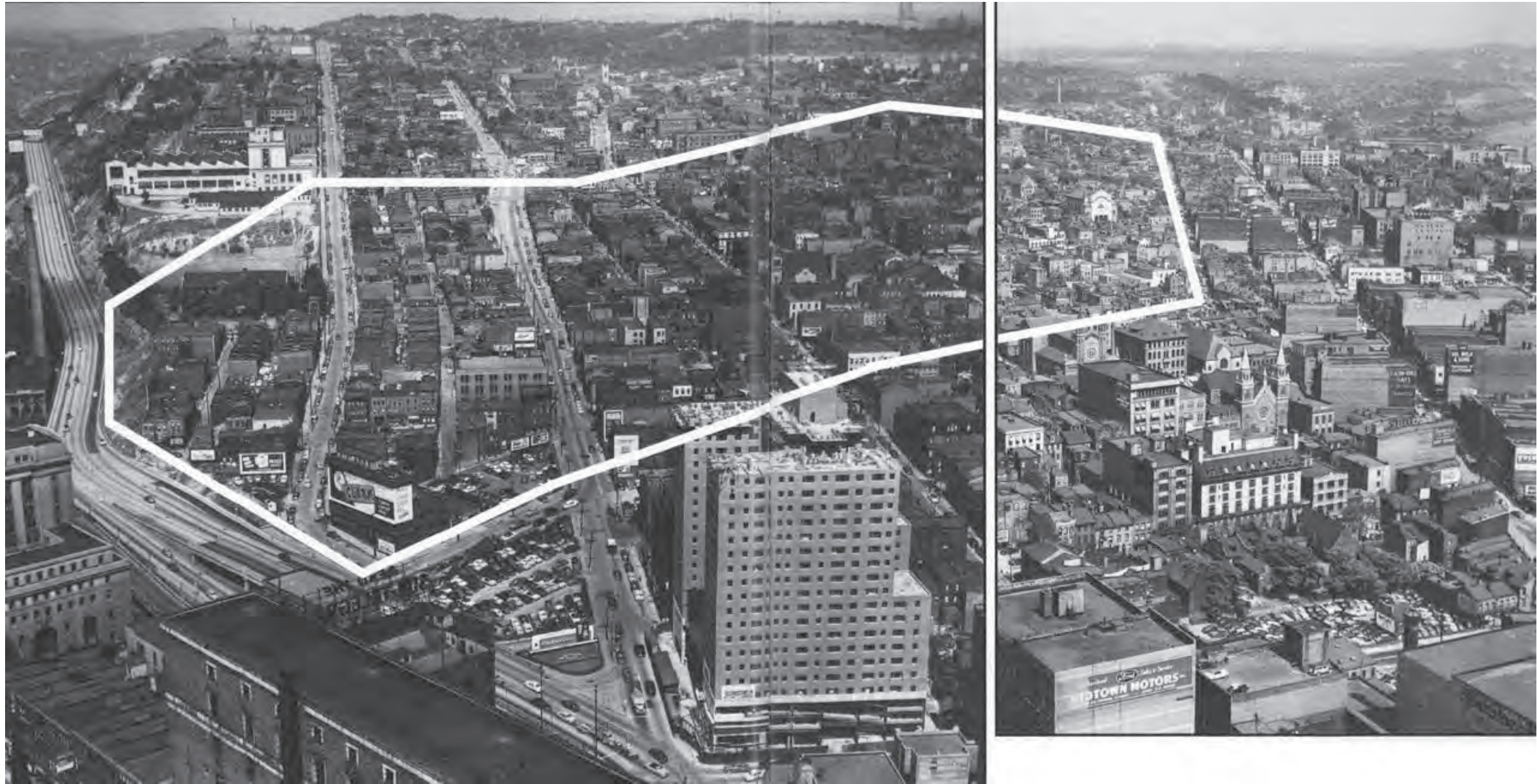
Major Crossroads

The Allegheny Conference

Federal involvement in urban renewal began in earnest after the passage of the National Housing Act of 1949. The law was passed with the intentions of providing “the goal of a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American.” The Hill District was targeted from the start by the leaders of the city as the prime location in the city where these urban renewal programs could take place.



Lower Hill Demolition Area



The most extensive urban renewal project affecting the Hill District was the demolition of the Lower Hill in the late 1950s to make way for the Civic Arena and proposed cultural center of the “New Pittsburgh.” The plan removed over 8,000 people from their homes in the Lower Hill and closed hundreds of businesses. Many moved to Homewood, or untouched parts of the Middle and Upper Hill.

Urban Renewal Projects

LEGEND

1

Terrace Houses

2

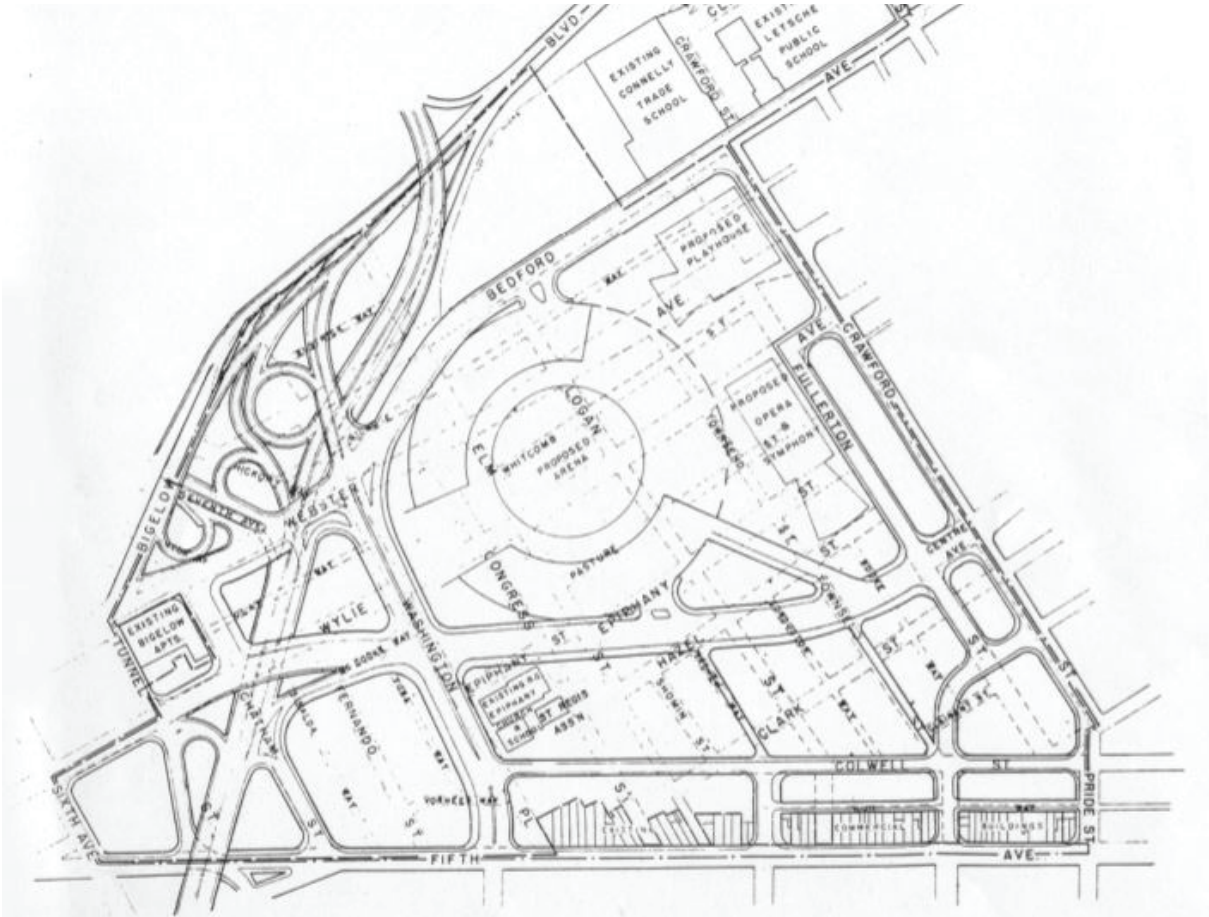
Bedford Dwellings

3

The Civic Arena



Urban Renewal + The Removal of Crossroads



Historic Businesses + Community Centers



- LEGEND**
 - 1 Thelma Lovette YMCA
 - 2 Connelley Tech Institute
 - 3 August Wilson House
 - 4 "Crossroads of the World"
 - 5 Crawford Grill
 - 6 The Ellis Hotel
 - 7 New Grenada Theater
 - 8 Central Park
 - 9 Madam CJ Walker's House
 - 10 Greenlee Field
 - 11 Carnegie Library Hill District Branch
 - 12 McKelvy School and Ballfield
 - 13 Halfway Art Gallery
 - 14 Greenlee Field
 - 15 Elk's Lodge
 - 16 Flamingo Hotel
 - 17 Robert E Williams Memorial Park
 - 18 Freedom Corner
 - 19 Preacher's Row
 - 20 Westbrook Jitney Station
 - 21 NAACP Offices
 - 22 Big Tom's Barber Shop
 - 23 Centre-Heldman Plaza
 - 24 Irene Kaufmann Center
 - 25 Pittsburgh Courier Plant
 - 26 Roosevelt Theatre
 - 27 Jay Drug Store
 - 28 Fireman's Dept. Store
 - 29 Bella's Market
 - 30 Letsche Elementary
 - 31 Gordon's Shoes
 - 32 Johnson Studio
 - 33 Lee's Florist
 - 34 Nesbit's Pie Shop & Restaurant
 - 35 Bayless Chop House
 - 36 Dwelling House Savings & Loan Assoc.
 - 37 Goode's Pharmacy
 - 38 Hendrickson, Tailor
 - 39 Pernell's Printing Shop
 - 40 Owl Cab Company
 - 41 Ruffles Bar Restaurant
 - 42 Speck's Market
- LEGEND, CONT.**
 - 43 Rexall Drug Store
 - 44 Bell Shop Neighborhood Store
 - 45 Gulf Station
 - 46 Hord Letter Press
 - 47 Castle Bar
 - 48 Village Grocery & Fruit Store
 - 49 Chicken Shack
 - 50 Peter Pan Shop
 - 51 Bud's Variety Store
 - 52 Herron Super Market
 - 53 WHOD Radio Station/ Dee's Studios
 - 54 Birdie's Guest House
 - 55 Elmore Hotel
 - 56 Palace Hotel
 - 57 McEvoy Jewelry Store
 - 58 Crystal Barbershop
 - 59 Lasalle's Salon

3000 ft

Religious Institutions

- LEGEND
- 1

St Benedict the Moor Catholic Church
- 2

Ebenezer Baptist Church
- 3

Olivet Baptist Church
- 4

Central Baptist Church
- 5

Cavalry Baptist Church
- 6

Trinity AME Church
- 7

The Church of the Living God
- 8

Grace Presbyterian
- 9

Macedonia Church of Pittsburgh
- 10

First Church of God
- 11

St. Luke Baptist Church
- 12

38 Miller Street
- 13

AME Zion Church Center
- 14

John Wesley AME Zion
- 15

Epiphany Catholic Church
- 16

Hillcrest Seventh Day Adventist
- 17

Church of the Living God
- 18

First Muslim Mosque of Pittsburgh



Jazz Institutions + Landmarks

LEGEND

- 1 Collins Inn/Paramount Club/Musician's
- 2 Leader House/Crawford Girll 1
- 3 Crystal Barber Shop
- 4 Anderson's
- 5 Star Theatre
- 6 The Ritz/Bamboola Club
- 7 Blue Note Cafe/Kelly's Bar
- 8 Stanley's Bar
- 9 Derby Dan's
- 10 Bobby Hinton's
- 11 Washington Club
- 12 Loendi Social Club
- 13 Hurricane Bar & Grill
- 14 B & M Restaurant
- 15 Melody Bar
- 16 Harlem Casino
- 17 Granville Hotel
- 18 Pythian Temple/New Granada Theatre
- 19 88 Bar
- 20 Ellis Hotel
- 21 Teenie Harris Studios
- 22 Crawford Grill 2
- 23 Perry Hotel
- 24 Mutt's Hutt
- 25 Flamingo Hotel
- 26 Elmore Theatre/Savoy Ballroom
- 27 Pittsburgh Courier



LEGEND

Businesses

Religious Institutions

Jazz Institutions

At the Crossroads:
The Hill District's Small Moments

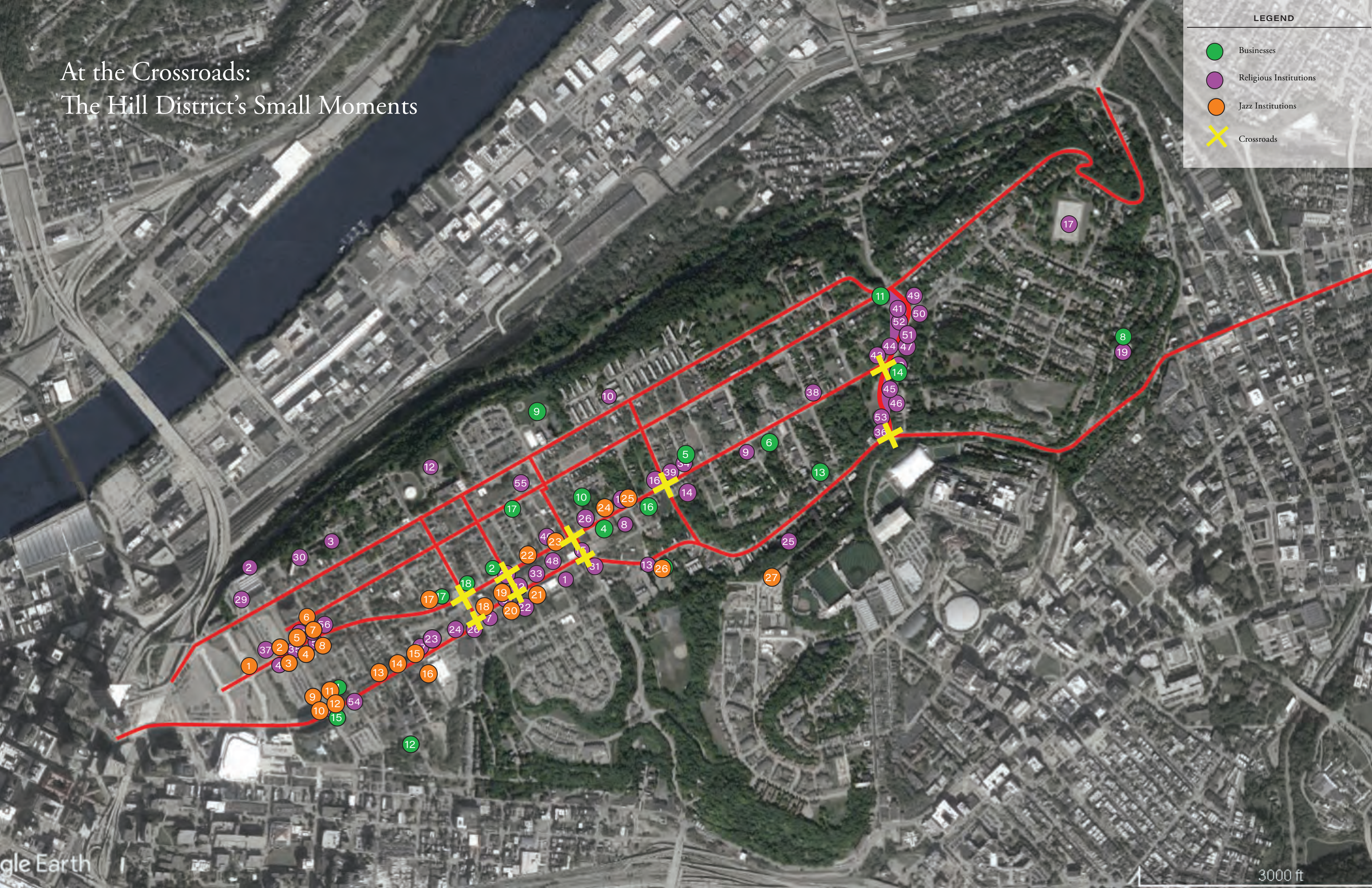
LEGEND

Businesses

Religious Institutions

Jazz Institutions

Crossroads



Avenues



HERRON



WYLIE



CENTRE



MAJOR COMMERICAL THOROUGHFARE,
HISTORIC DIVISION BETWEEN UPPER
AND MIDDLE HILL



MAJOR COMMERICAL CENTER



HISTORIC COMMERICAL CORE AND LINK
TO DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH

Critical Through-Streets



DEVILLIERS



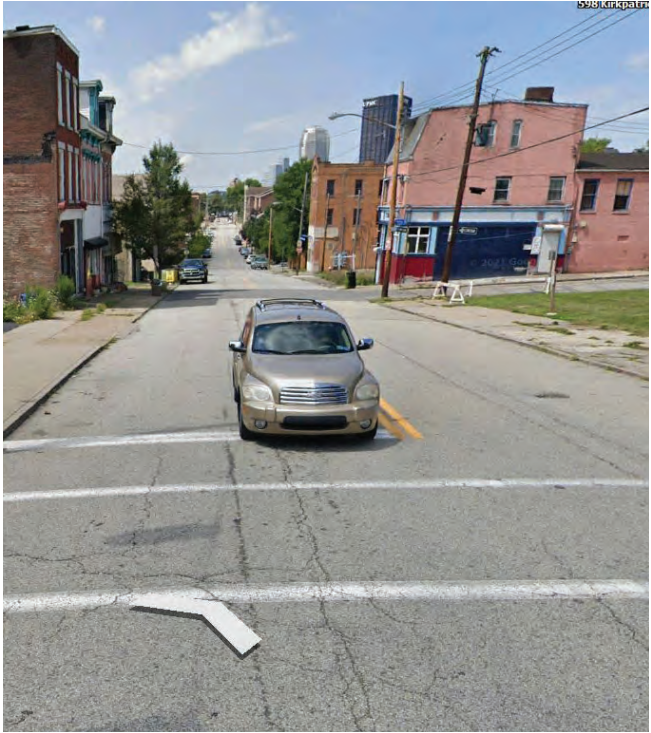
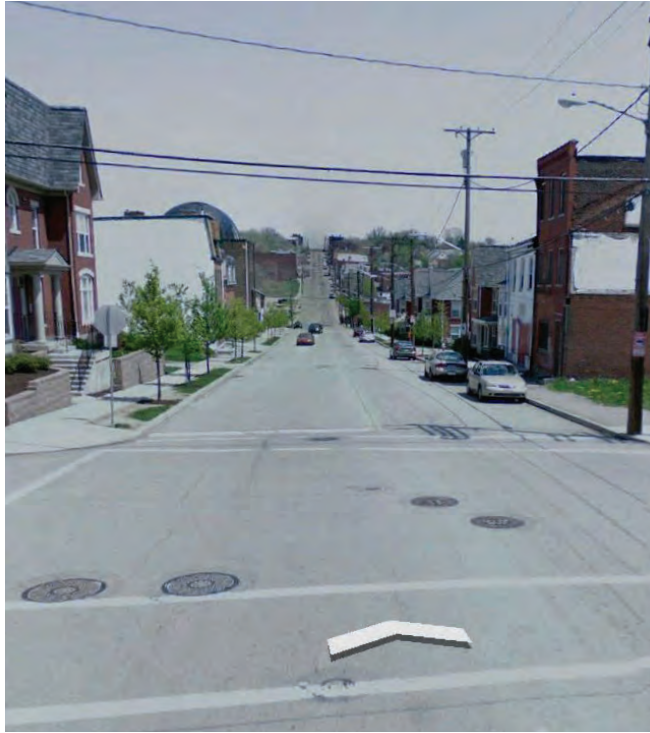
ERIN



KIRKPATRICK



CHAUNCEY



Hill District Parks



Hill District Public Parks + Walkability Radii



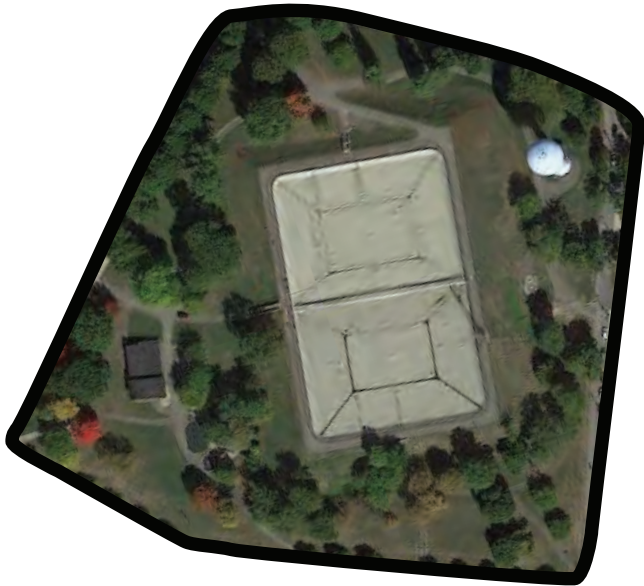
Hill District Public Parks



FRANK CURTO PARK
SIZE: 7.2 ACRES



AMMON RECREATION CENTER
SIZE: 8.1 ACRES



HARRON PARK
SIZE: 12.3 ACRES



KENNARD PARK
SIZE: 13.4 ACRES



GRAHAM PARK
SIZE: .4



GRANTVILLE PARKLET
SIZE: .6

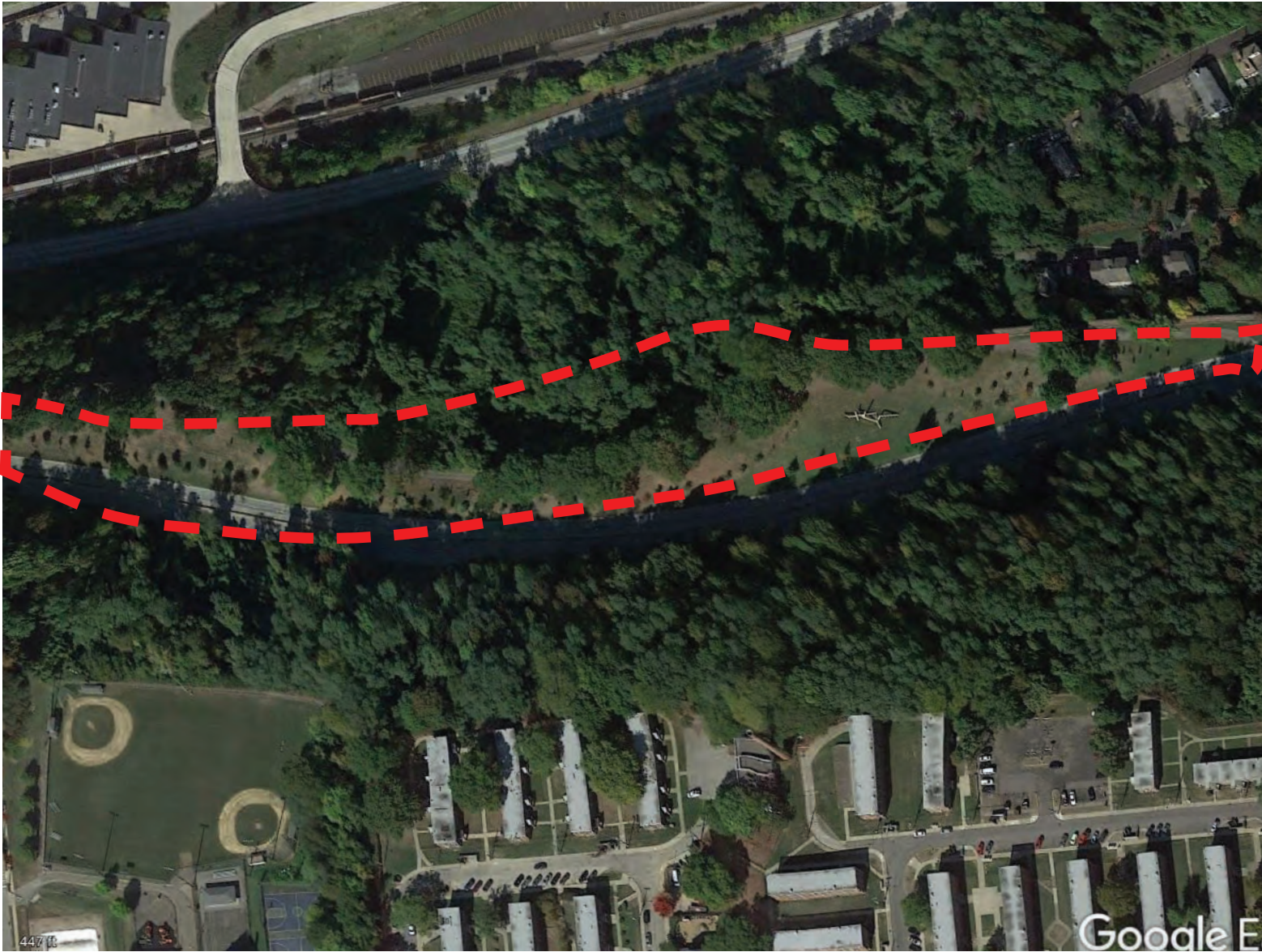


MLK PARK
SIZE: 3.5



VINCENNES PARKLET
SIZE: 1.6

Frank Curto Park



SIZE: 7.2 ACRES
PEOPLE SERVED: 977
PROGRAM: PUBLIC ART



Ammon Recreation Center



SIZE: 8.1 ACRES
PEOPLE SERVED: 2,937
PROGRAM: PLAYGROUND, POOL,
SPORTS FIELDS



Herron Park



SIZE: 12.3 ACRES
PEOPLE SERVED: 2,083
**PROGRAM: PLAYGROUND, COVERED
RESERVOIR**



Kennard Park



SIZE: 13.4 ACRES
PEOPLE SERVED: 5,077
PROGRAM: PLAYGROUND, TENNIS
COURTS, BASKETBALL COURTS,
BASEBALL FIELD

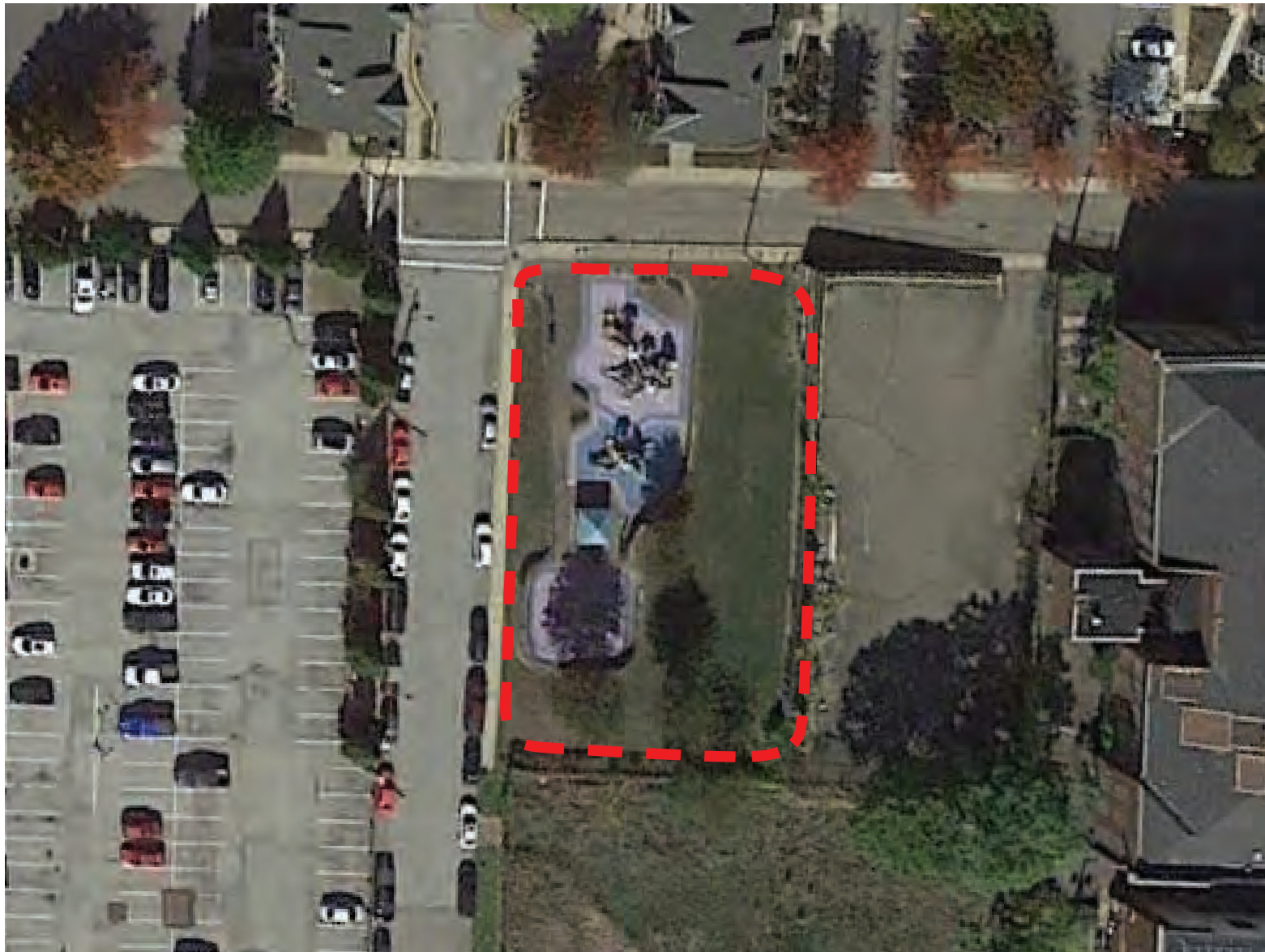


MLK Park



SIZE: 3.5
PEOPLE SERVED: 3,641
PROGRAM: GARDEN PLOTS

Graham Park



SIZE: .4
PEOPLE SERVED: 3,906
PROGRAM: PLAYGROUND



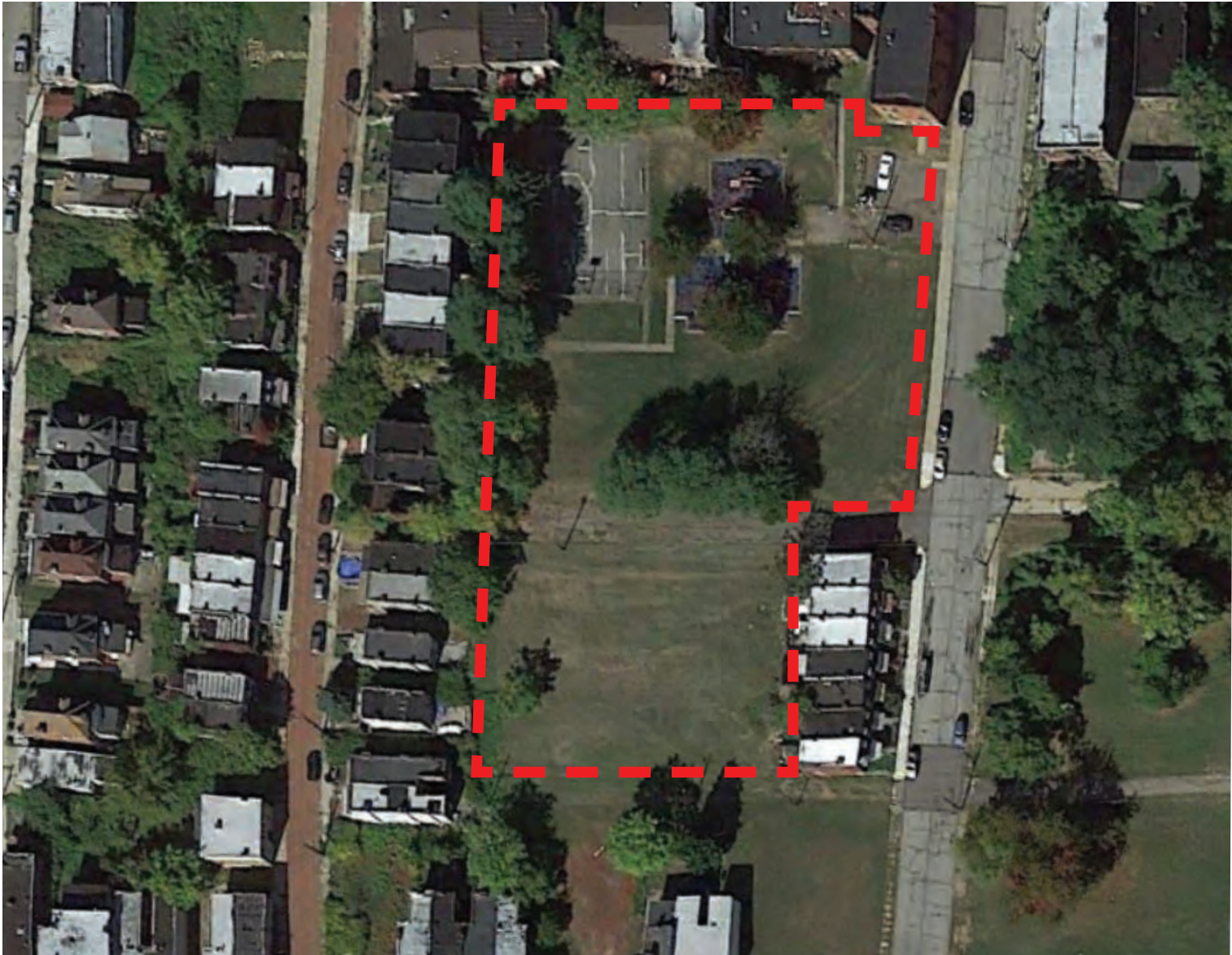
Granville Parklet



SIZE: .6
PEOPLE SERVED: 3, 495
PROGRAM: PLAYGROUND, BASKETBALL
COURTS



Vincennes Parklet



SIZE: 1.6
PEOPLE SERVED: 2,836
PROGRAM: PLAYGROUND, BASKETBALL
COURTS



Appendix

Bedford Avenue



Webster Avenue



Wylie Avenue



Centre Avenue



Devilliers Street



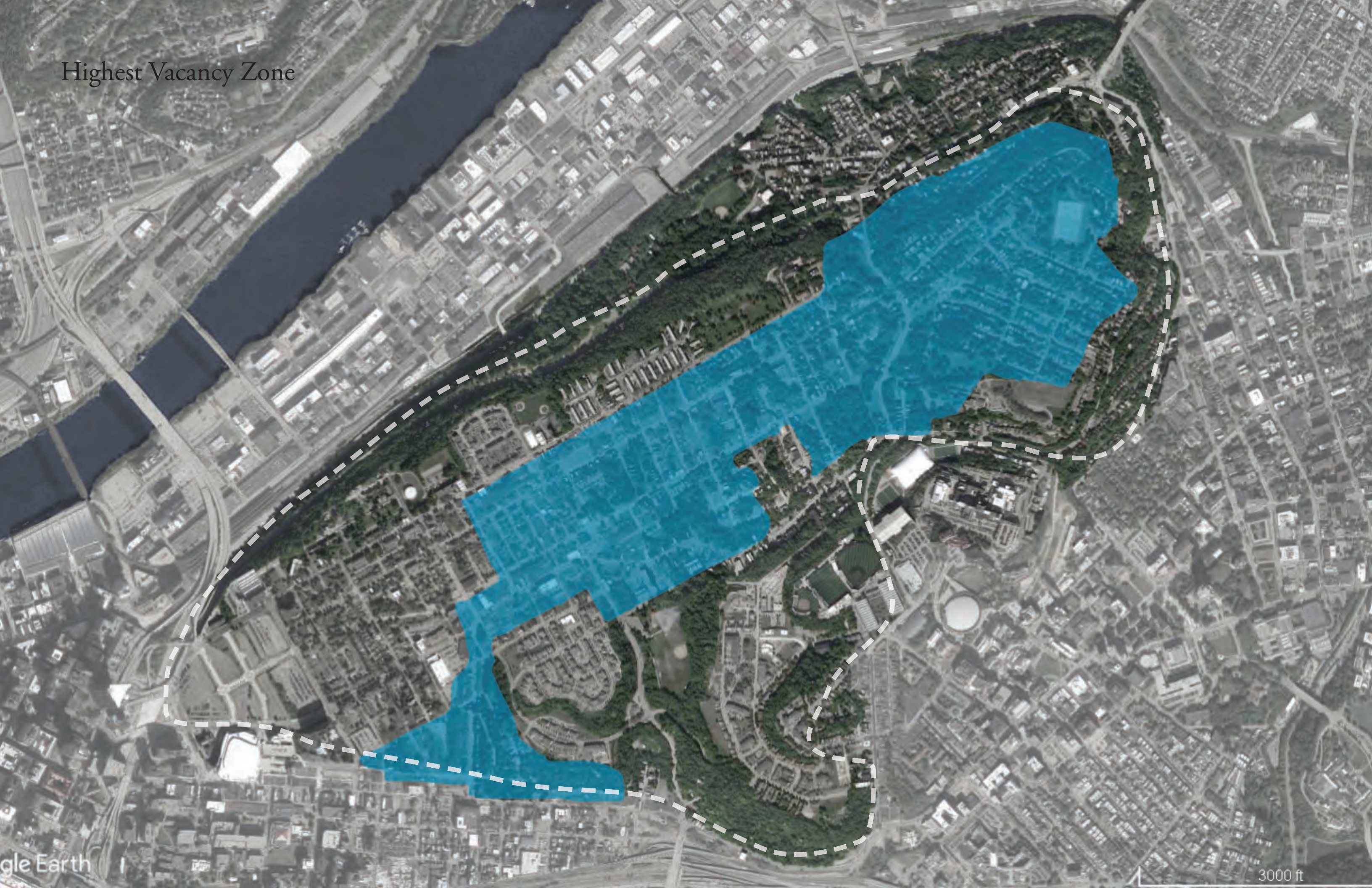
Erin Street



Kirkpatrick Street



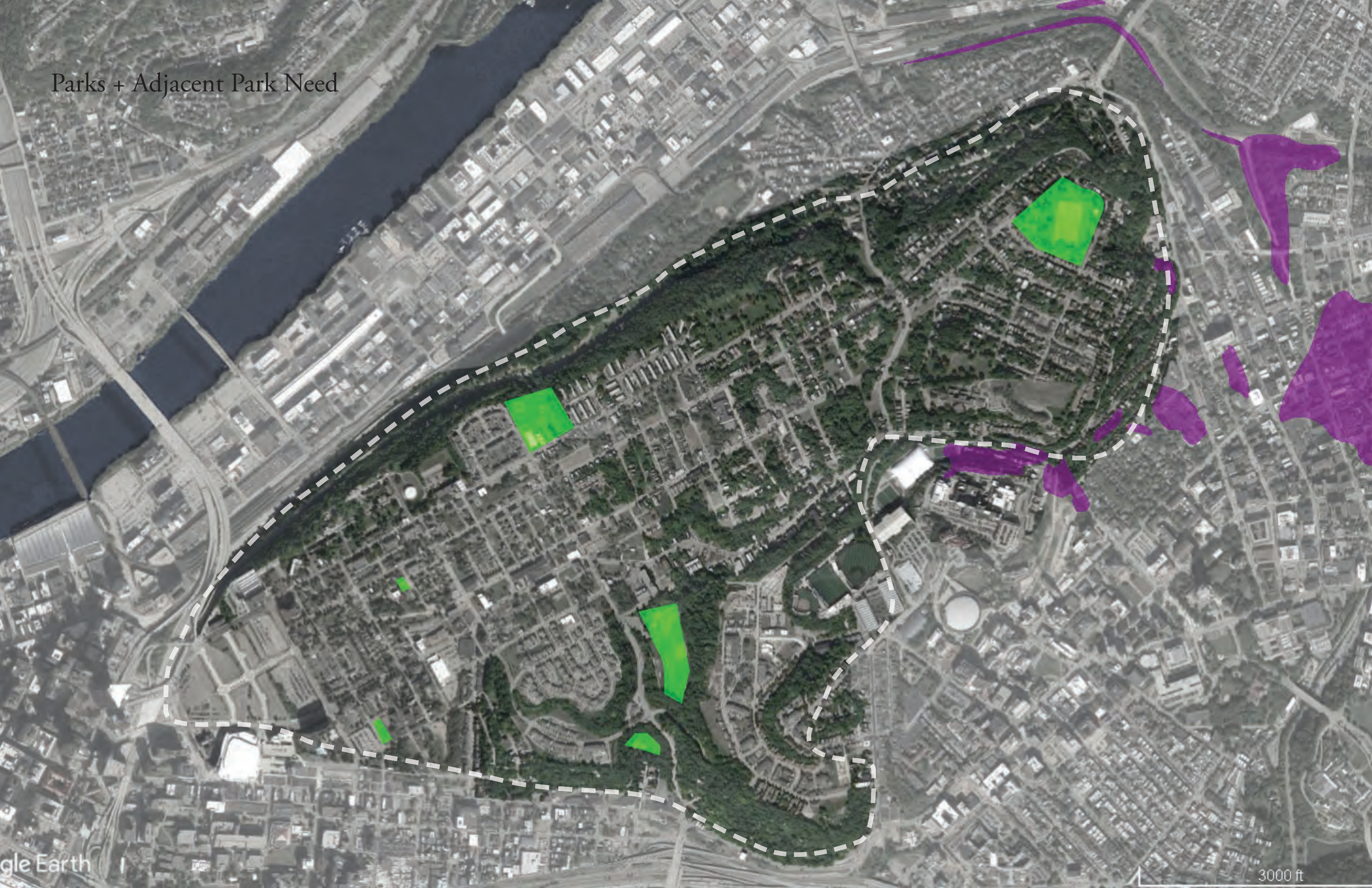
Highest Vacancy Zone



Publicly-Owned Vacant Land



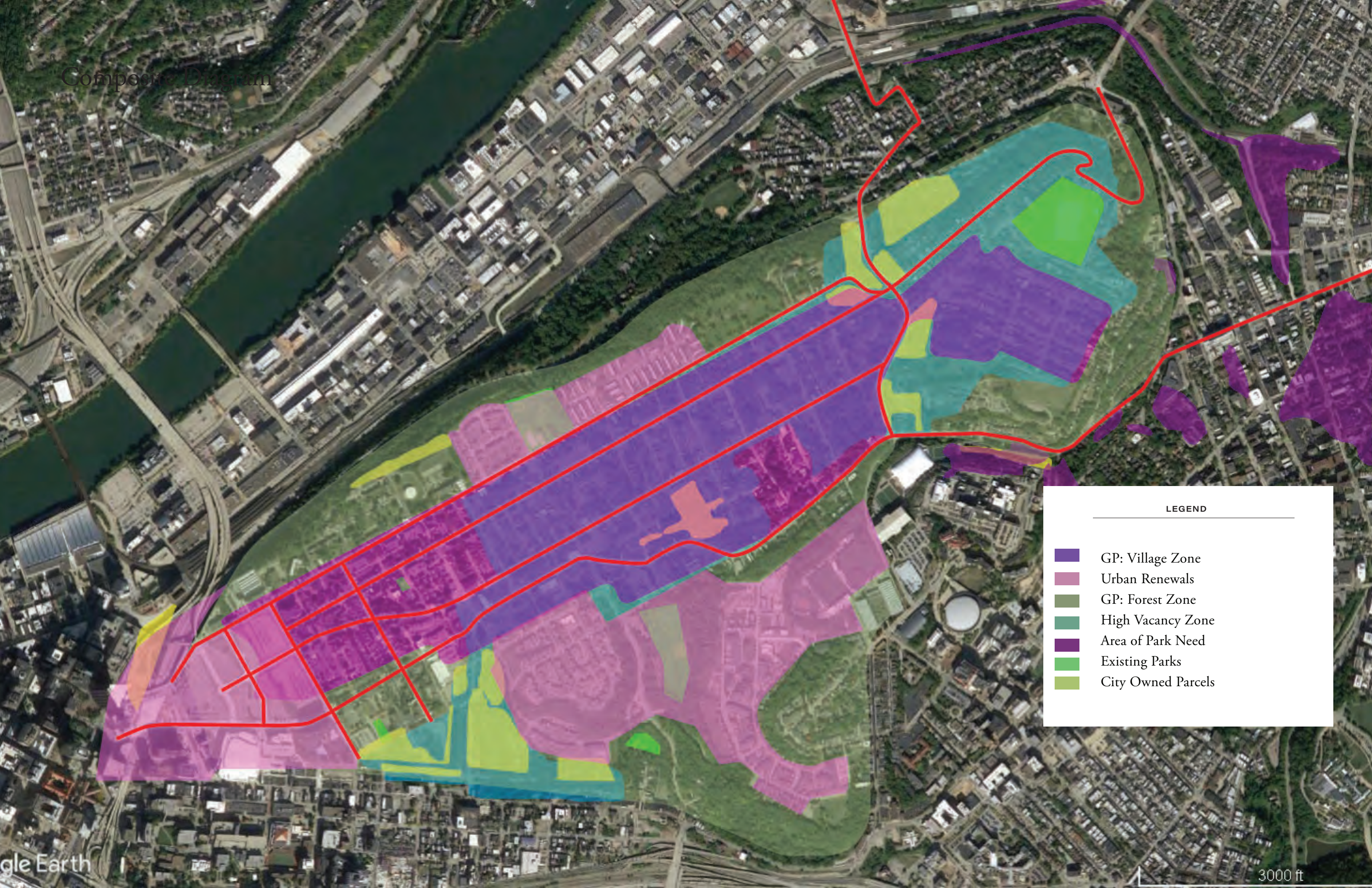
Parks + Adjacent Park Need



Greenprint Framework



Composite Diagram



LEGEND

- GP: Village Zone
- Urban Renewals
- GP: Forest Zone
- High Vacancy Zone
- Area of Park Need
- Existing Parks
- City Owned Parcels

Topography + Tributaries

