2.3

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHICS

The most important part of a parks and recreation system is not its real estate, infrastructure, or programs; it is the people that the system serves.

With a total estimated population of about 106,000 at the time of the 2020 Census, Hillsboro is the 5th largest city in Oregon by population, and one of the most racially diverse. About 46% of Hillsboro residents are People of Color—defined here as non-White and non-Hispanic/Latino. This is substantially above the state of Oregon (26%) and Oregon's Metro region (35%), looking more like and even exceeding the percentage for the whole United States (41%).

The U.S. Census reports Hispanic/Latino as an ethnicity rather than a racial group, but we are following the common practice of defining People of Color as non-white and non-Hispanic/Latino. For individual communities of color (e.g., Asian, Black etc.) we include people who self-identified with this category in combination with any other, raising the visibility of multiracial individuals in the data. 2020 Census data does not distinguish people of Middle Eastern and North African ancestry from other racial groups (typically, White), so estimates of People of Color do not include this group.

The relative demographic structure of the Metro region is a useful point of comparison for Hillsboro, because although much of the history, economics, and politics are shared, it also highlights what makes Hillsboro unique.

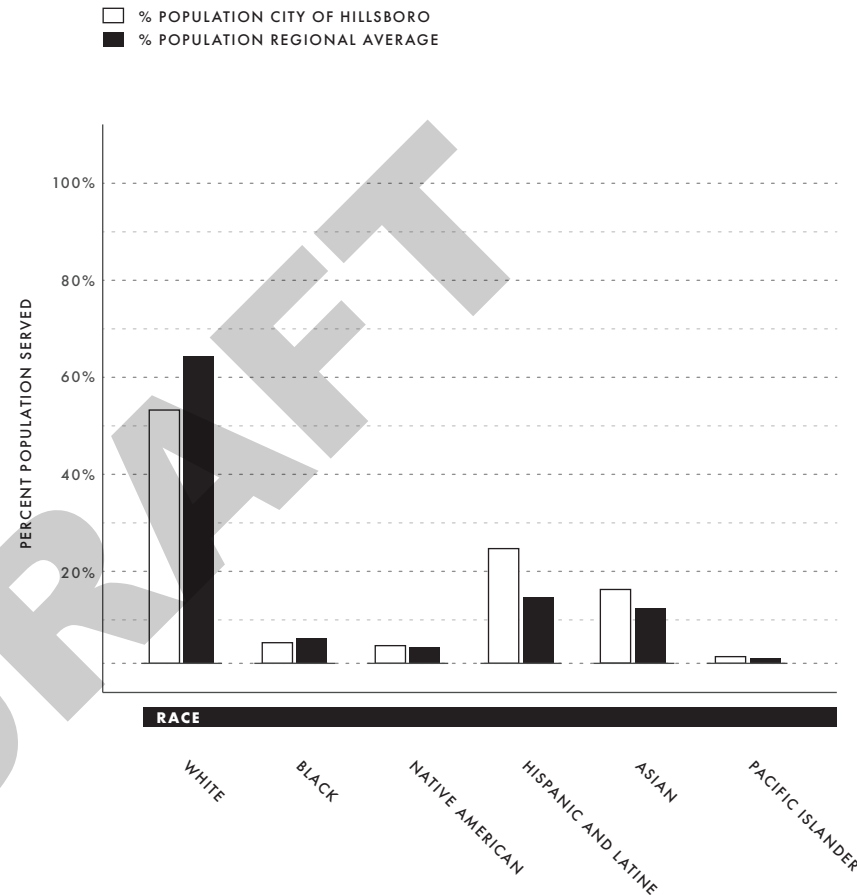## CITY OF HILLSBORO OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS
RACE AND ETHNICITY

☐ % POPULATION CITY OF HILLSBORO
■ % POPULATION REGIONAL AVERAGE

FIG. 2.3-1: HILLSBORO DEMOGRAPHICS (RACE & ETHNICITY)

CITY OF HILLSBORO OVERALL DEMOGRAPHICS
SOCIO-ECONOMICS, HEALTH AND ABILITY

☐ % POPULATION CITY OF HILLSBORO
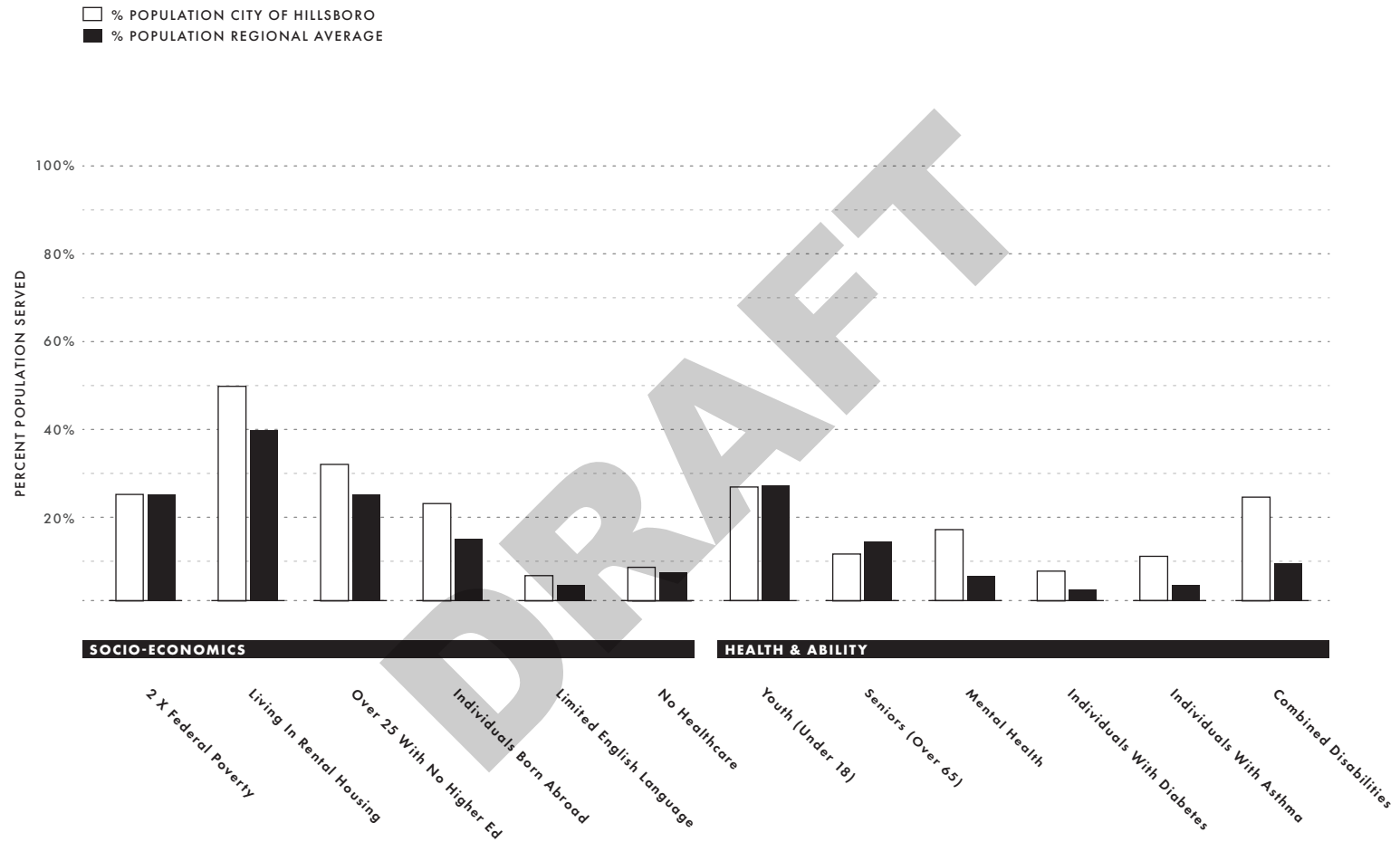■ % POPULATION REGIONAL AVERAGE

FIG. 2.3-2: HILLSBORO DEMOGRAPHICS (SOCIO-ECONOMICS, HEALTH & ABILITY)

Compared with the region, Hillsboro is home to significantly higher percentages of People of Color over all, and higher percentages of those who identify as Asian, Hispanic/Latine, Native American, and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. New and long-established immigrant communities are found throughout the city at higher rates, as well as people who live in households without any proficiency in English.

Another relevant indicator is the higher rate of renter-occupied households (many of whom, especially People of Color, are cost-burdened by the high median rental rates). Aside from being a key driver of intergenerational wealth building, homeownership often provides private backyard greenspaces, so the benefits provided by the parks and recreation system are especially valuable for people who rent their homes.

While there is a lot we can learn from map data, there is more that we can't see. No person can be reduced to a data point on a map, and there are many kinds of important identities and vulnerabilities that we just don't have the data to portray. Some examples are the LGBTQIA+ community (although new surveys estimate that 15% or 499,860 adult Oregonians identify as LGBTQ), and those community members that are experiencing houselessness (the 2023 regional Point-in-Time Count recorded 543 sheltered and 230 unsheltered persons in Washington County). For these and other groups, involvement during the community engagement process of this plan is especially critical.

DEMOGRAPHIC METHODS

All of the spatial demographic data in this plan are based on a dasymetric allocation of Census 2020 and ACS 2019 data. Census data summarizes population estimates at the block, block group, or census tract scale, which vary in scale and size across the region. Dasymetric allocation is a way to increase the resolution of this data by bringing in other predictive factors like land use and zoning, allowing us to more accurately locate estimate population densities in residential areas.

For this Plan, we have resampled demographics into 10-acre hexagons, which in a typical urban area may be made up of 3 to 5 city blocks.

OVERALL COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

City of Hillsboro	CoH Count	CoH %	Region %	% Diff
Population Overall	105,945	-	-	-
Race				
White	56,580	53.4%	65.4%	-12.0%
Black	4,574	4.3%	5.4%	-1.1%
Native American	3,863	3.6%	3.4%	0.3%
Hispanic or Latine	25,442	24.0%	14.0%	10.0%
Asian	16,284	15.4%	11.7%	3.7%
Pacific Islander	1,388	1.3%	1.1%	0.2%
Socio-Economics				
2x Federal Poverty Line	26,480	25.0%	24.9%	0.1%
In Rental Housing	47,302	44.6%	38.9%	5.8%
>25 with No Higher Ed	30,015	28.3%	25.4%	2.9%
Born Abroad	21,448	20.2%	14.5%	5.7%
Limited English	14,413	13.6%	3.7%	9.9%
No Healthcare	7,271	6.9%	6.8%	0.0%
Health & Ability				
Youth	25,021	23.6%	20.7%	2.9%
Seniors	11,668	11.0%	13.9%	-2.8%
Mental Health	17,660	16.7%	5.9%	10.8%
Diabetes	7,590	7.2%	2.7%	4.4%
Asthma	11,006	10.4%	3.8%	6.6%
Combined Disabilities	25,806	24.4%	8.8%	15.6%

TABLE 2.3-1: OVERALL COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION DENSITY
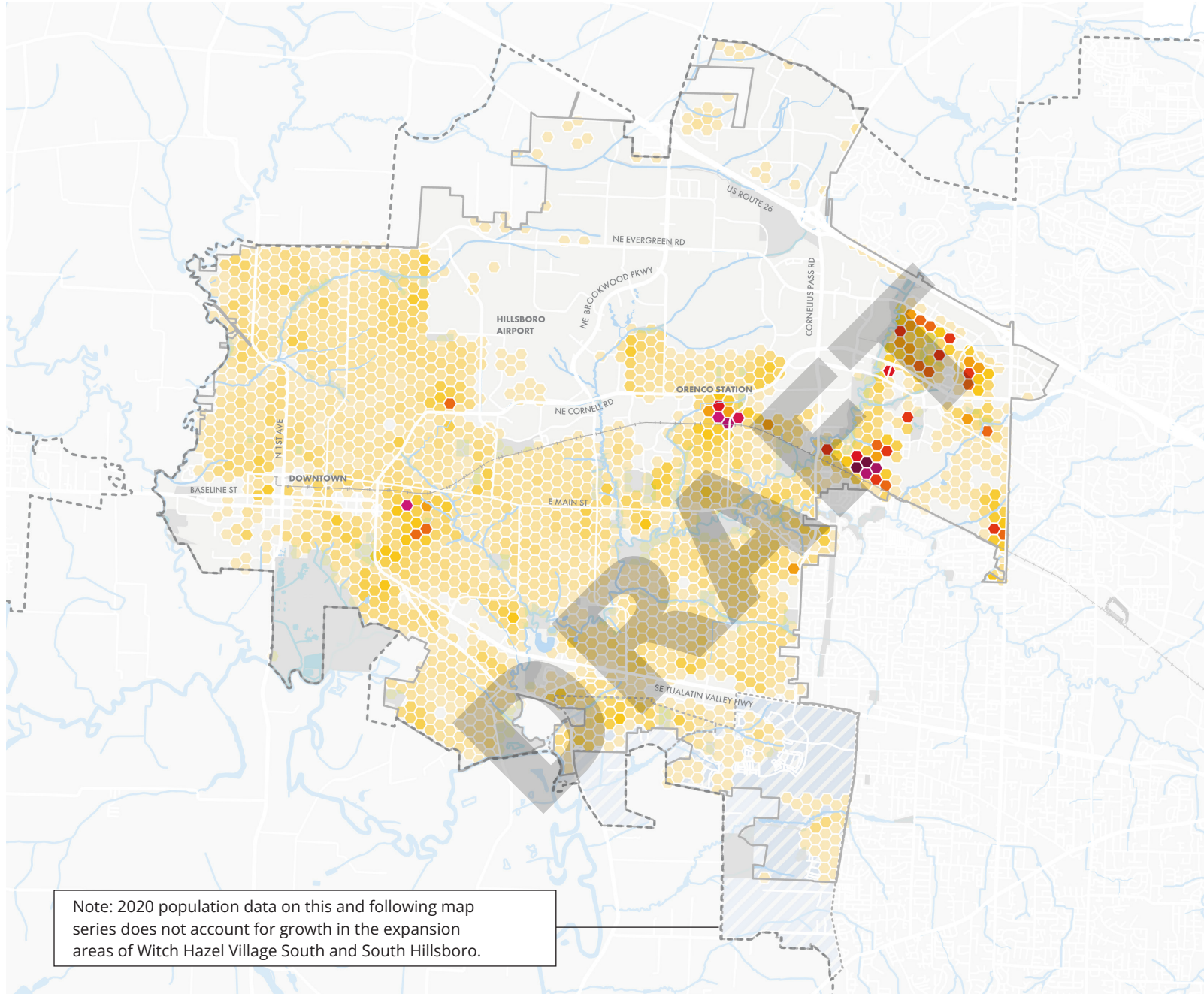
TOTAL POPULATION
(People per 10 acres)

- 0 - 58
- 58 - 116
- 116 - 174
- 174 - 232
- 232 - 290
- 290 - 348
- 348 - 406
- 406 - 464
- 464 - 522
- 522 - 580

- PARK SYSTEM ELEMENTS
- CITY OF HILLSBORO
- URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY
- EXPANSION AREAS
- MAX LINE

N   0 _____ 1
          MILES

Note: 2020 population data on this and following map series does not account for growth in the expansion areas of Witch Hazel Village South and South Hillsboro.

MAP 2.3-1: POPULATION DENSITY

Based on 2020 U.S. Decennial Census data

RACE & ETHNICITY

Now that we know more about the city as a whole, how are people distributed across its urban centers, neighborhoods, and subdivisions? While the city has a land area of close to 26 square miles, there are large areas that are zoned for exclusive industrial and commercial use, especially the tech campuses of Hillsboro's "Silicon Forest" in the north central part of the city.

The result is that most people live in residential areas that form a broad east-west band across the south-central part of town and in newer developments south of Tualatin Valley Highway, as well as in higher density and mixed-use centers along the MAX light rail line such as Downtown, Orenco, and Tanasbourne-Amberglen.

There are unique patterns shown by the distribution of People of Color that relate to histories of housing segregation, development, and immigration. While the densest areas of Hispanic/Latine people are Downtown and in the residential neighborhoods to the southwest, Asian communities are more prevalent to the east and northeast in Orenco and Tanasbourne. African American and Black communities also trend more towards these northeastern centers, while Native American and Pacific Islanders are more generally distributed. Wherever they live, everyone in Hillsboro has the right to enjoy the benefits that a thriving parks and recreation system brings.
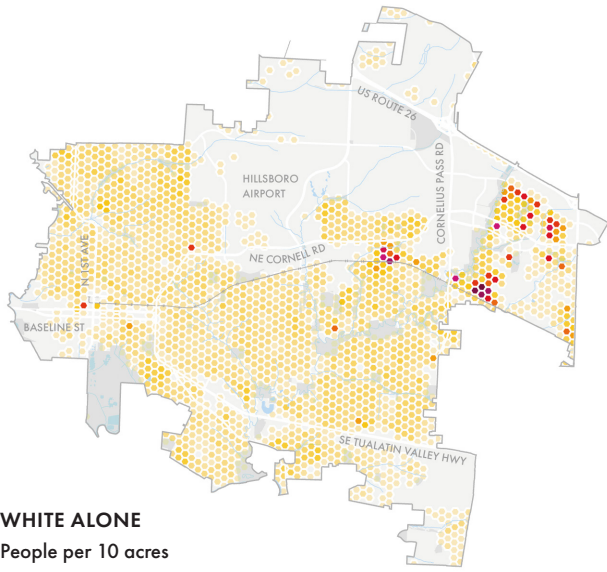
WHITE ALONE
People per 10 acres
0 — 259
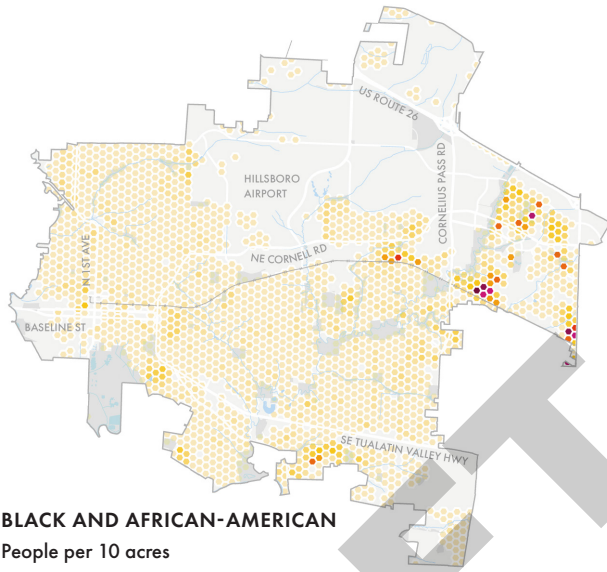
BLACK AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN
People per 10 acres
0 — 55
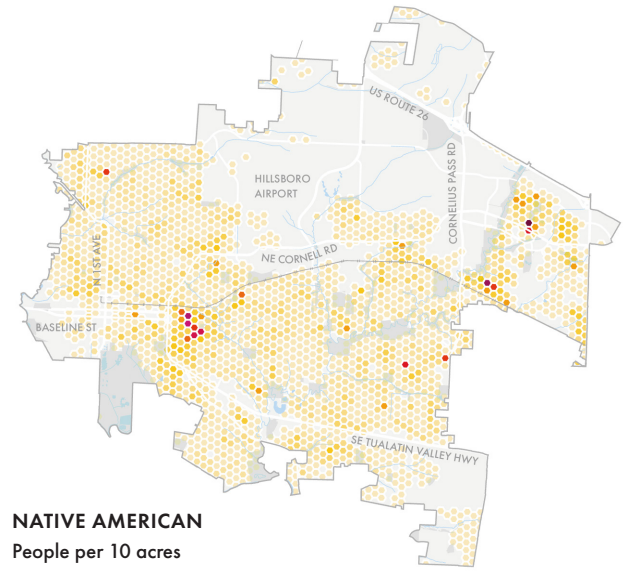
NATIVE AMERICAN
People per 10 acres
0 — 30
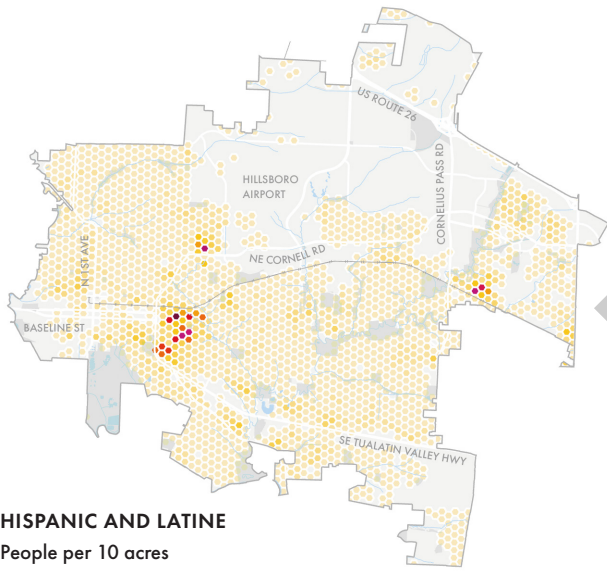
HISPANIC AND LATINE
People per 10 acres
0 — 310
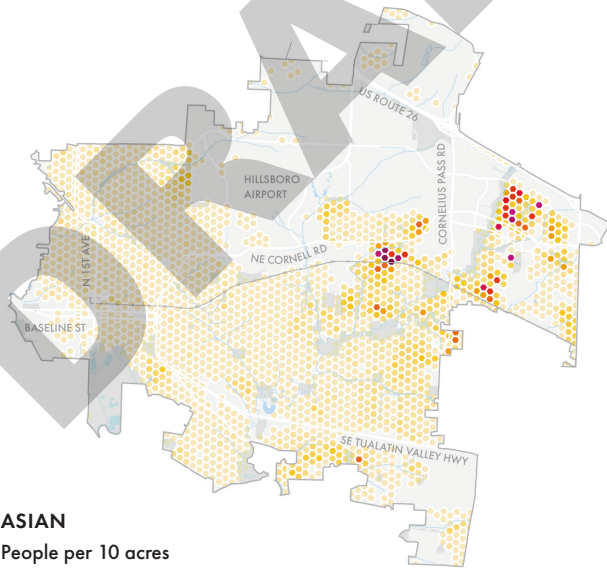
ASIAN
People per 10 acres
0 — 141
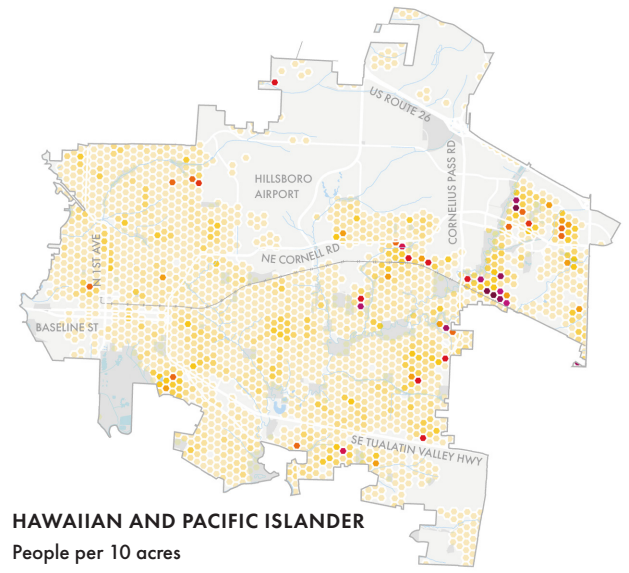
HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
People per 10 acres
0 — 12

RACE & ETHNICITY
MAP 2.3-2: RACE & ETHNICITY

Based on 2020 U.S. Decennial Census data

SOCIO-ECONOMICS

An equity-based approach to planning for our parks requires that we understand the distribution of factors indicating social and economic vulnerability. While we celebrate the communities associated with some of these factors (for instance, new immigrant communities or the working poor), it has been shown that they are associated with economic marginalization, political disenfranchisement, and disproportionate health outcomes.

Poverty, low rates of homeownership, immigration status, linguistic isolation, lack of health care and education, and youth are all traits that put people at risk of being marginalized. They also all suggest strategies by which Hillsboro's parks and recreation system can improve how it is serving the community as a whole, by working on appropriate outreach, capital development, maintenance, and programming.
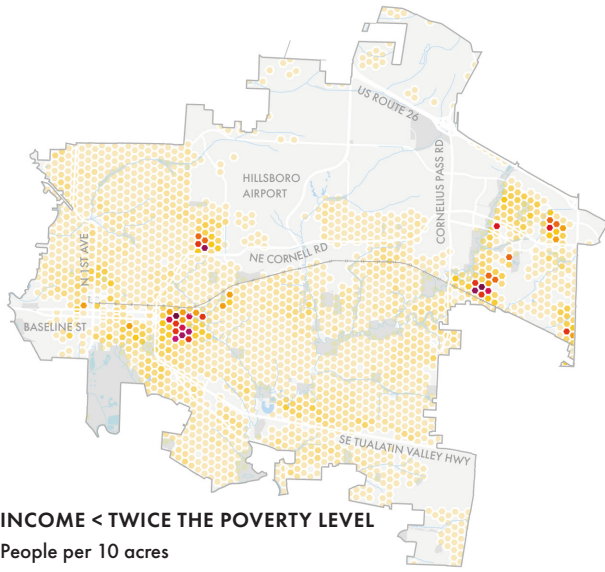
INCOME < TWICE THE POVERTY LEVEL
People per 10 acres
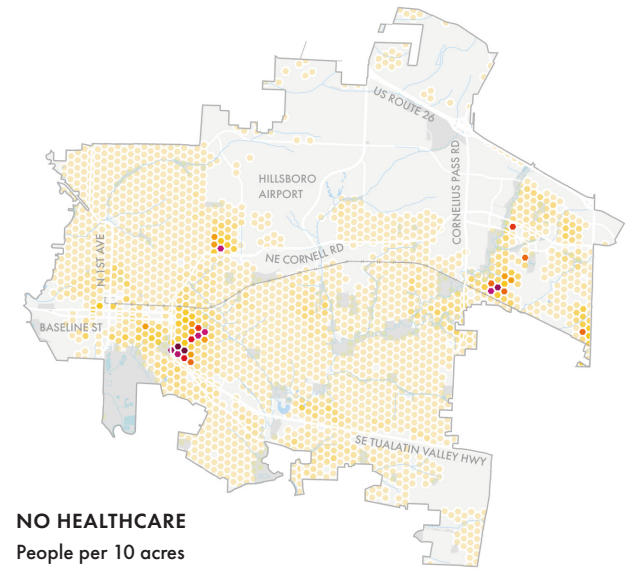0 — 232
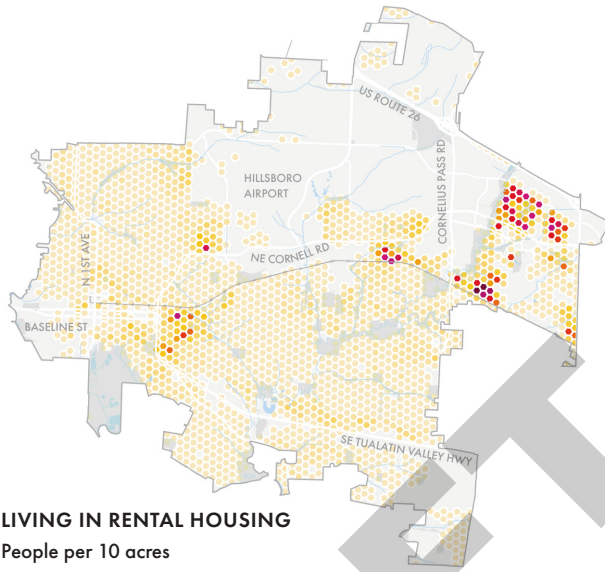
LIVING IN RENTAL HOUSING
People per 10 acres
0 — 406
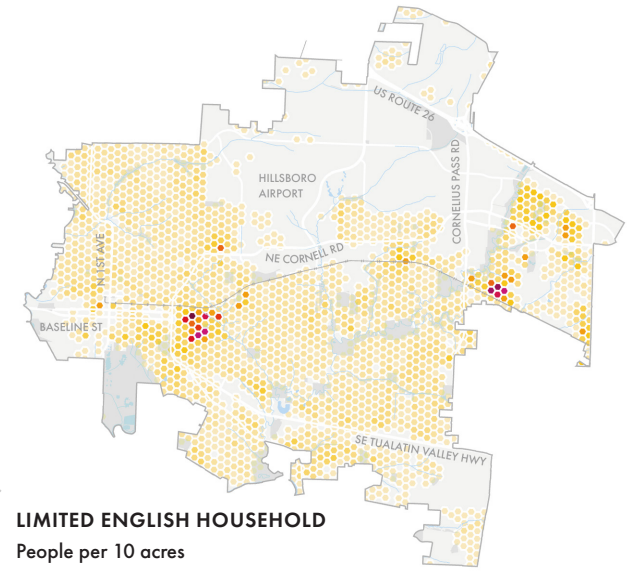
LIMITED ENGLISH HOUSEHOLD
People per 10 acres
— 95
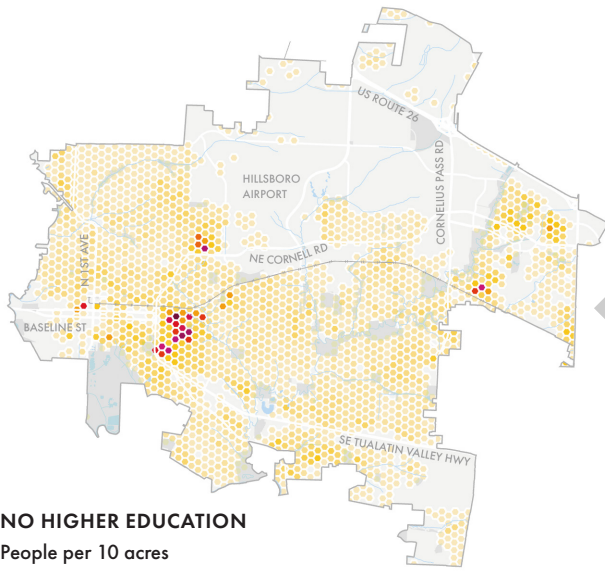
NO HIGHER EDUCATION
People per 10 acres
— 200
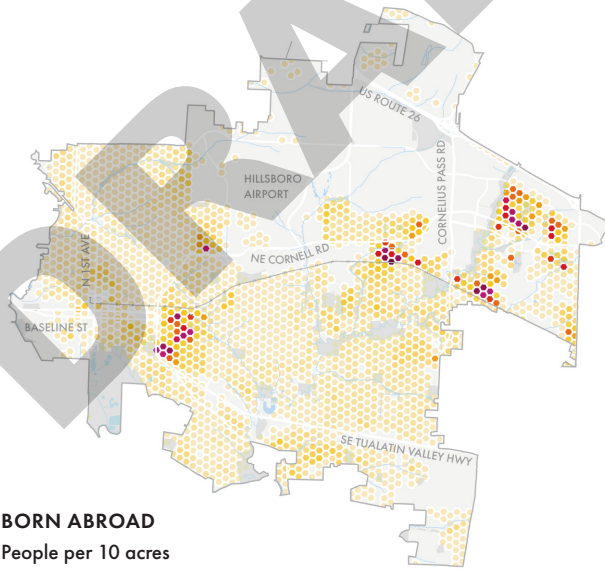
BORN ABROAD
People per 10 acres
— 136

NO HEALTHCARE
People per 10 acres
# — 89

SOCIO-ECONOMICS
MAP 2.3-3: SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

Based on 2020 U.S. Decennial Census data and 2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

HEALTH & ABILITY

Elders and kids have unique parks and recreation system needs. Especially over the past 50 years, the movement for equal access to public space for people living with disabilities has been one of the most important arenas for the extension of civil rights. People with differences in mobility, vision, hearing, and cognitive style have made tremendous progress in demanding and achieving equal rights across many areas of contemporary life, and yet disparities are still commonplace.

Health conditions, including people experiencing poor mental health, are a related but distinct way of assessing demographics and need across the city.
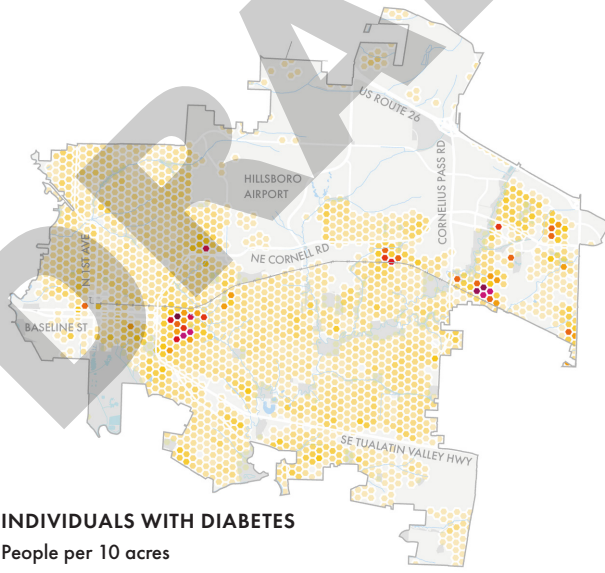
DRAFT
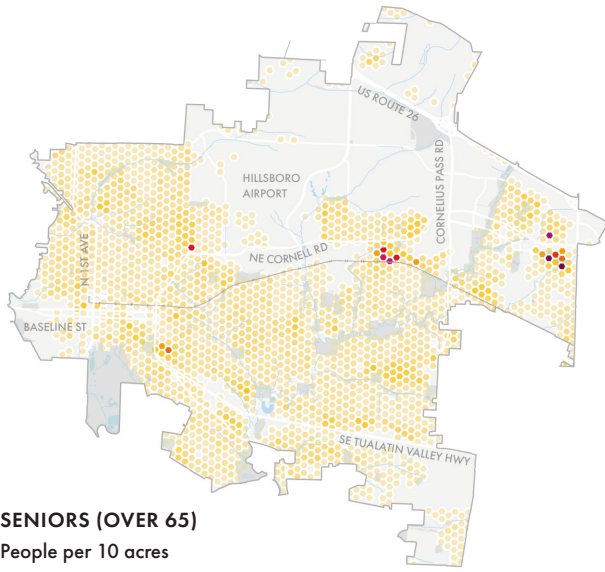
SENIORS (OVER 65)
People per 10 acres
0 — 87
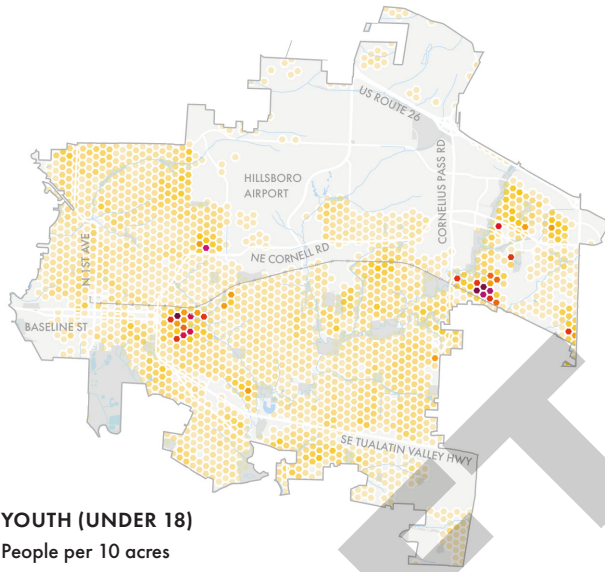
YOUTH (UNDER 18)
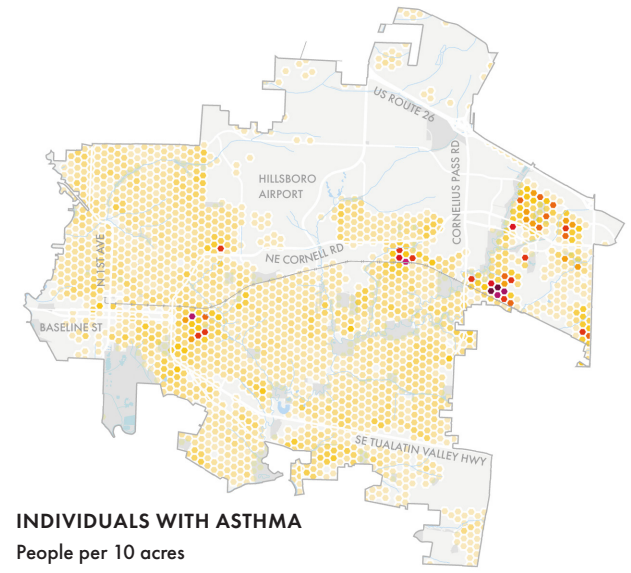People per 10 acres
0 — 150
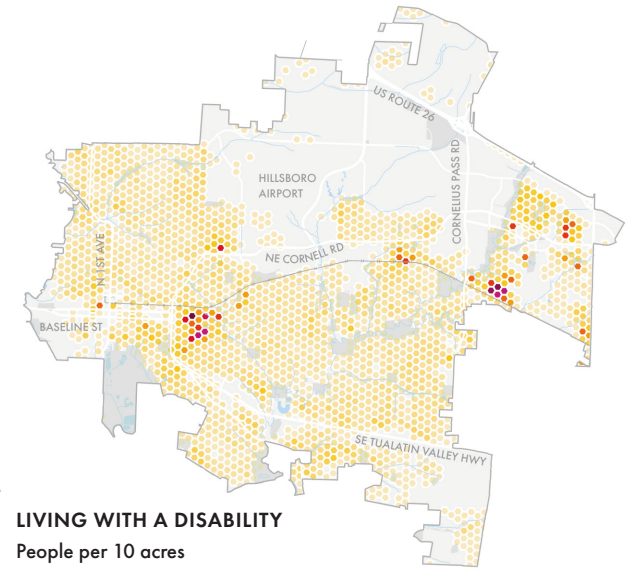
LIVING WITH A DISABILITY
People per 10 acres
0 — 147
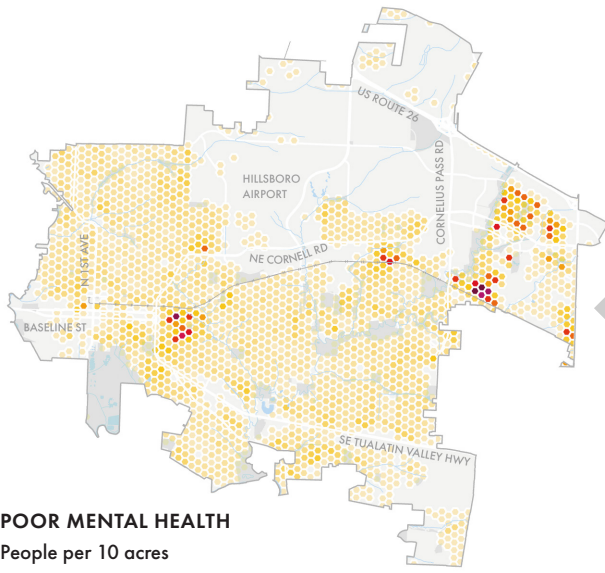
POOR MENTAL HEALTH
People per 10 acres
0 — 100

INDIVIDUALS WITH DIABETES
People per 10 acres
0 — 41

INDIVIDUALS WITH ASTHMA
People per 10 acres
0 — 62

HEALTH & ABILITY
MAP 2.3-4: HEALTH & ABILITY

Based on 2020 U.S. Decennial Census data and CDC PLACES data from 2019-2020

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS SUMMARY

Where do factors of race and ethnicity, disability and health, and socio-economic indicators like poverty, lack of healthcare, and limited English proficiency stack up across the city?

Putting these factors together is one way to quickly assess demographics across the city. And since they are associated with historical disenfranchisement and lack of access to many forms of economic and social capital including public spaces and recreation opportunities, it can help us begin to focus in on where the greatest need exists.
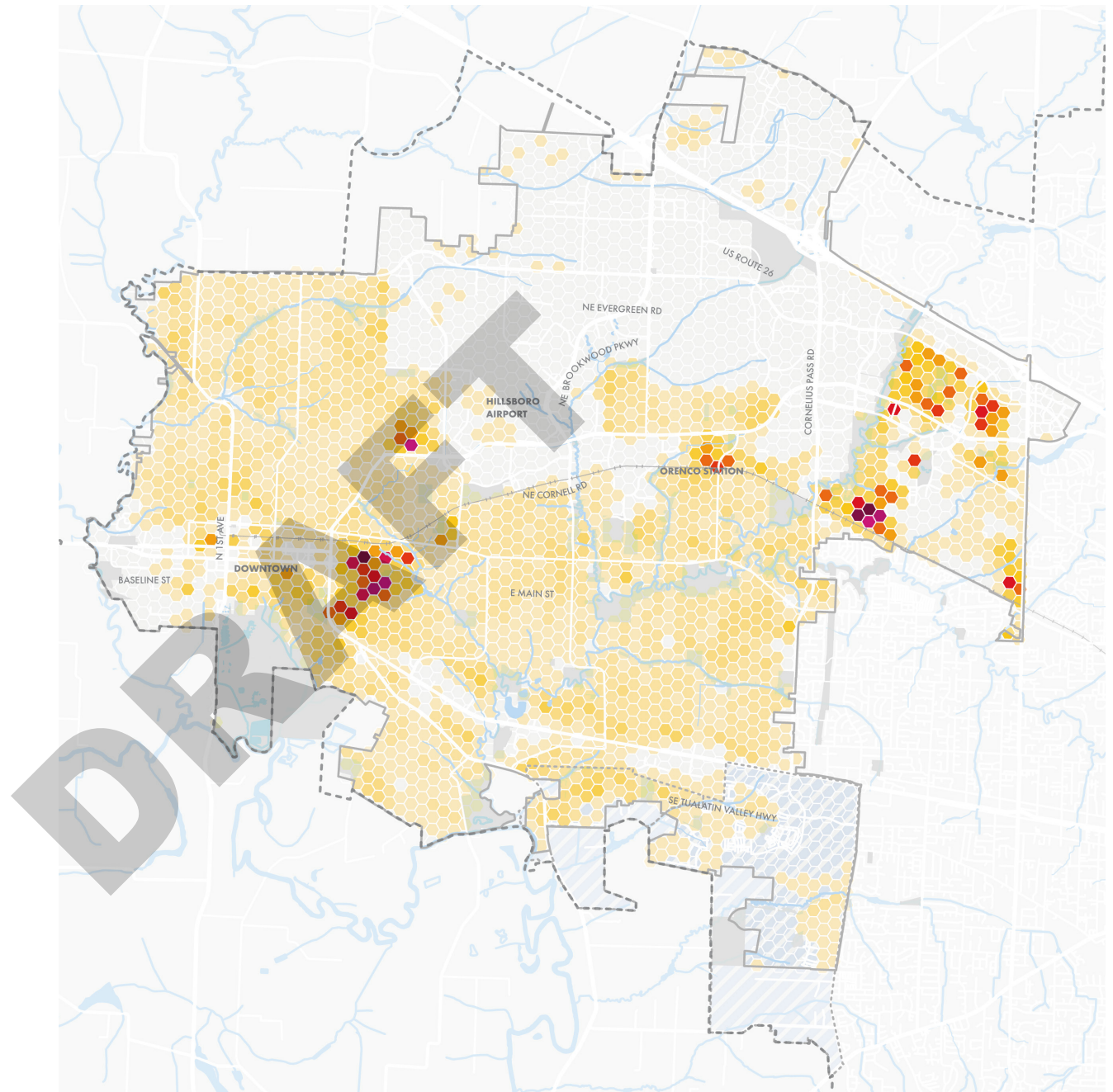
This summary map represents a weighted average of Race & Ethnicity, Social & Economic, and Age, Health, & Ability data. See technical appendix for methods.

INDICATORS OF VULNERABILITY
Average within 10 acres

FEWER ▢▢▢▢▢ MORE

▢ PARK SYSTEM ELEMENTS
▢ CITY OF HILLSBORO
▢ URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY
▢ EXPANSION AREAS
+—+ MAX LINE

N

0   1
MILES

MAP 2.3-5: COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS SUMMARY