



The background of the page is a light cream color with a pattern of numerous thin, wavy, orange lines that create a sense of movement and texture. The lines are arranged in a somewhat chaotic but rhythmic pattern, with some lines being more vertical and others more horizontal or curved.

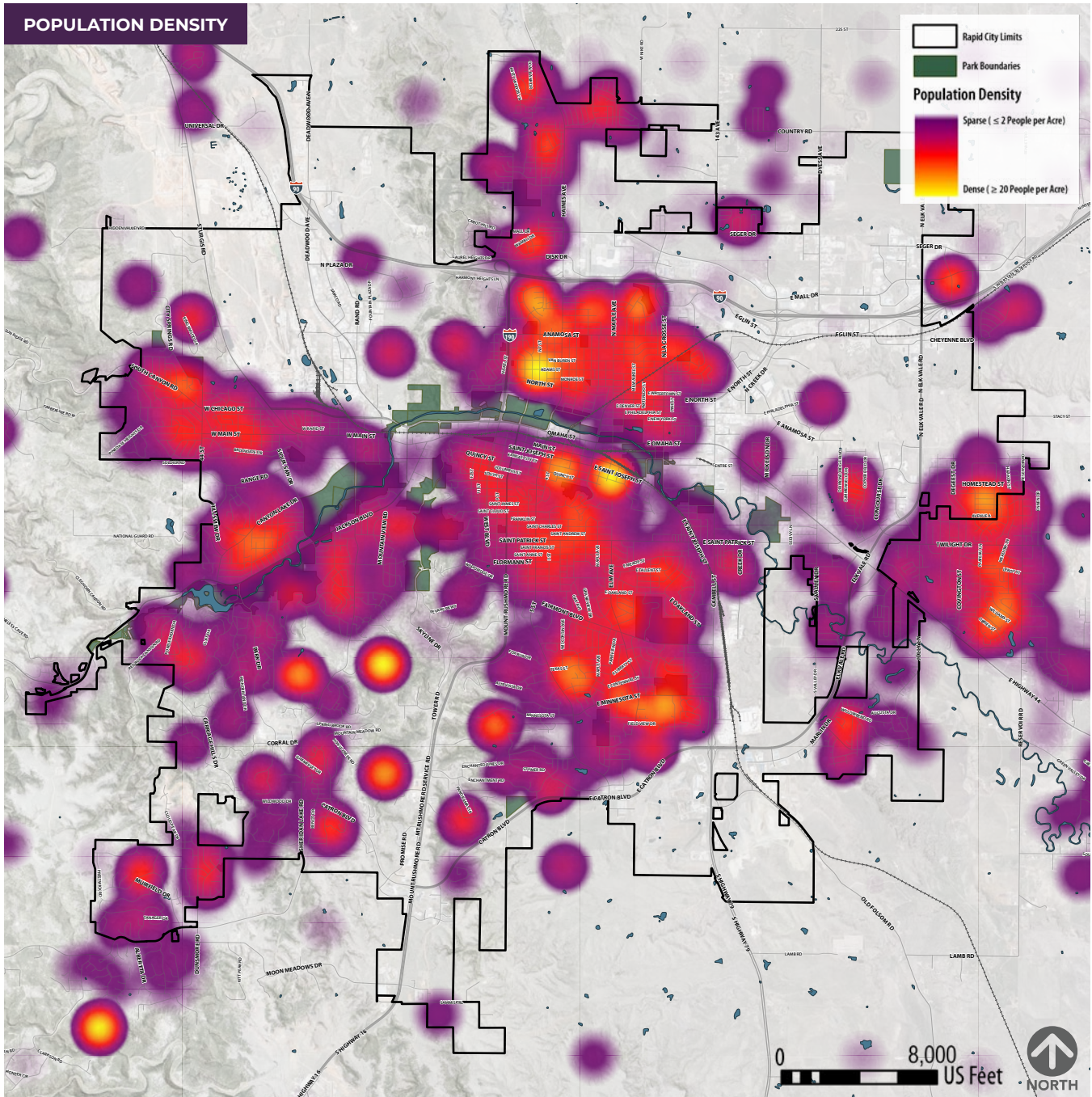
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PARK SYSTEM ANALYSIS

CHAPTER 5 SUMMARY

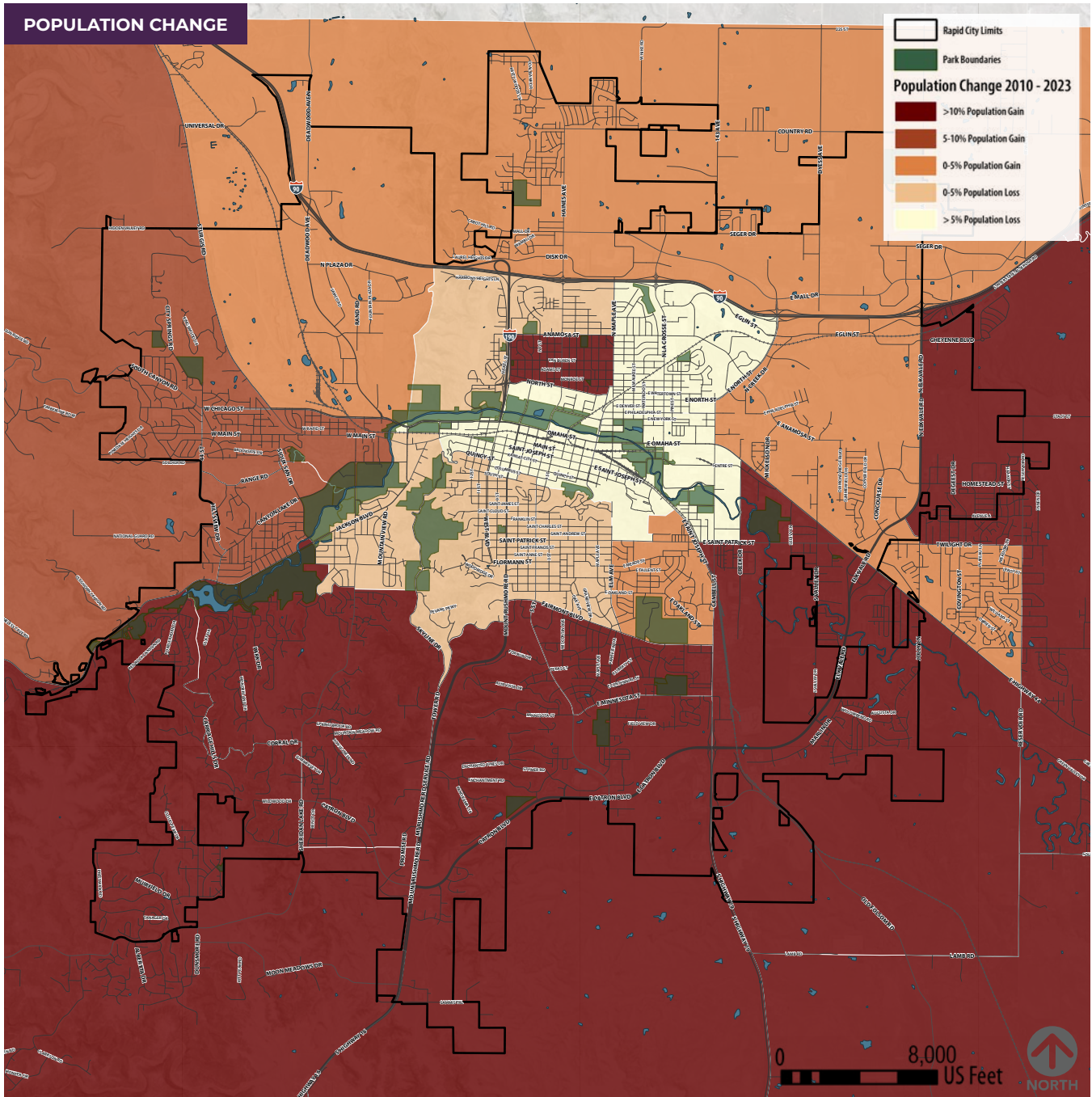
KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Growth Is Happening On The Edges, But Parks Are Concentrated In The Center** - Population is increasing most on the south and west sides of the city, while existing parks and trails are primarily located in and around the urban core, creating a growing gap between where people live and where parks are.
- 2. Key Demographics** - Youth, Seniors, And Working-Age Adults are all concentrated on the outskirts where park access and walkability are lowest, underscoring the need for more equitably distributed parks and better trail connectivity citywide.
- 3. Walkability To Parks Is A Significant Challenge For Outer Neighborhoods** - Residents on the city's edges face the longest distances to parks, making trail connections, safe routes, and potentially new park sites in developing areas a priority.
- 4. Natural Constraints Shape Where New Parks Can And Can't Go** - Floodplains along Rapid Creek and steep terrain on the city's western edges limit developable land, but also present opportunities to embrace those landscapes as natural open space and trail corridors.
- 5. The Analysis Makes A Clear Case For Proactive, Growth-Oriented Planning** - As the city continues to expand, strategic decisions about where to acquire land, build connections, and invest in new facilities will determine whether the park system keeps pace with Rapid City's evolving population.



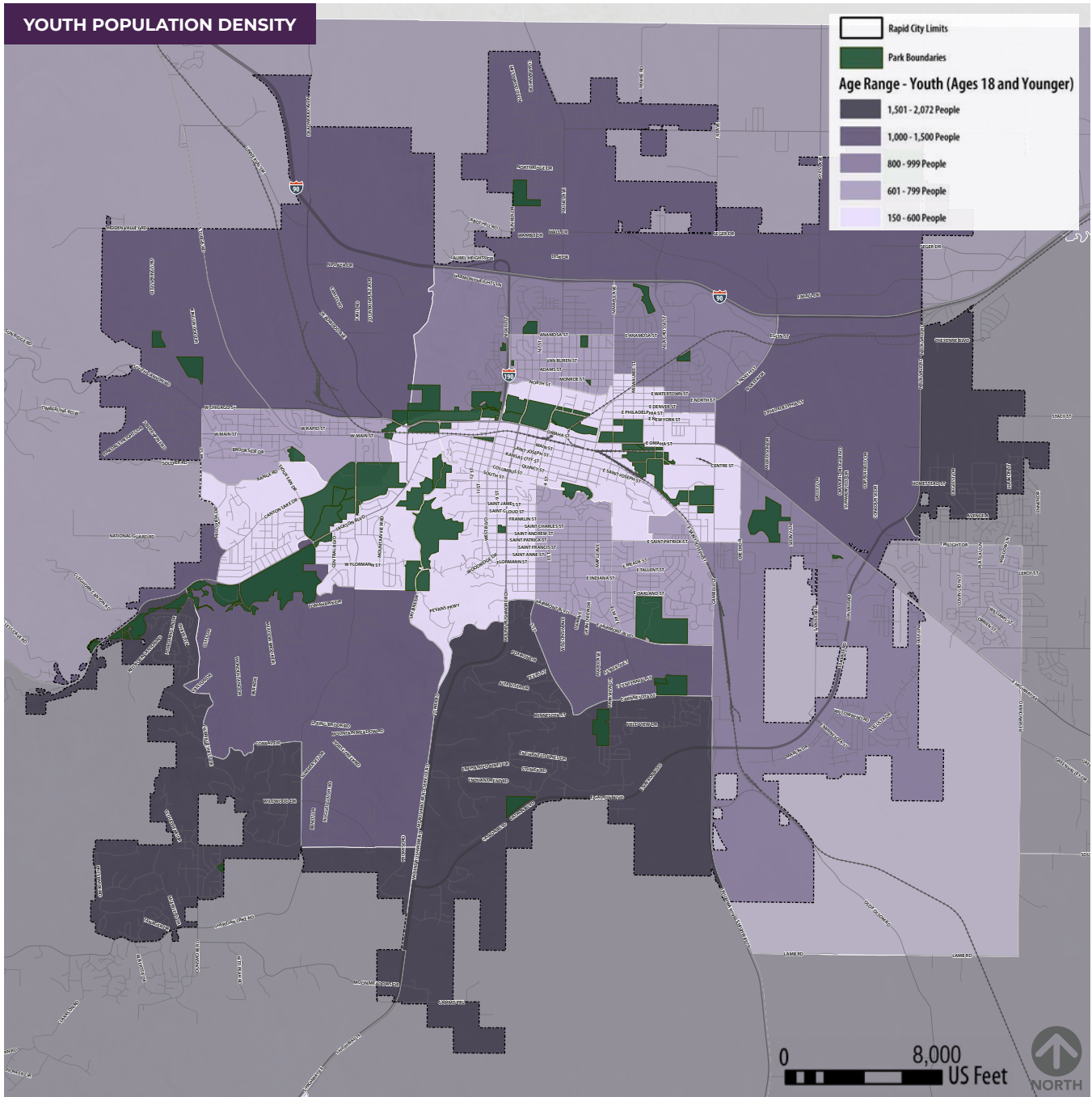
POPULATION DENSITY

Rapid City's population is densest in the city's center and west side. From this, we can analyze where residents live in relation to where parks and trails are located and determine whether they are well-aligned.



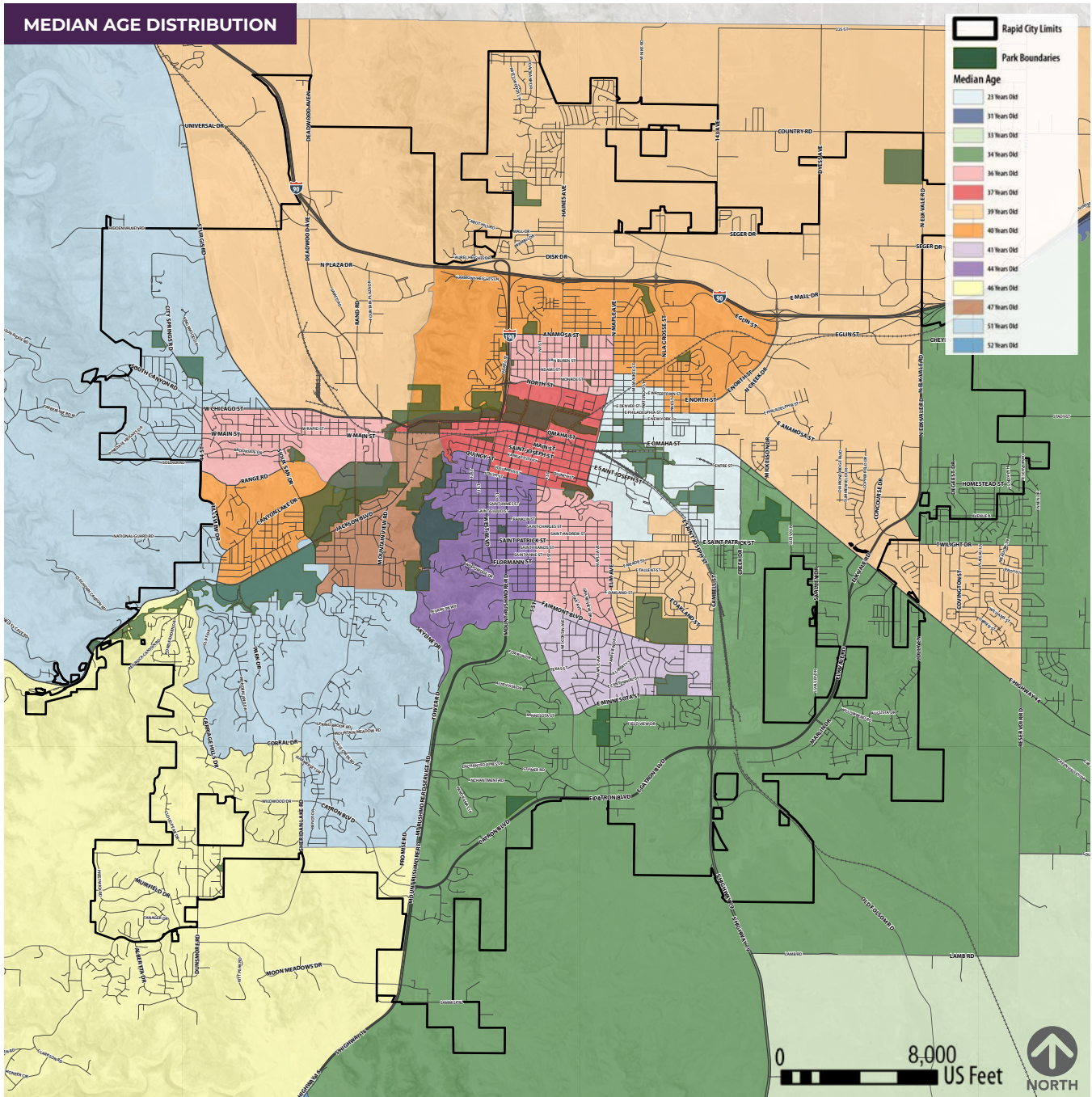
POPULATION CHANGE

Areas colored dark red are experiencing the most population growth. The number of residents is growing the most on the south and west sides of the city and decreasing at its center.



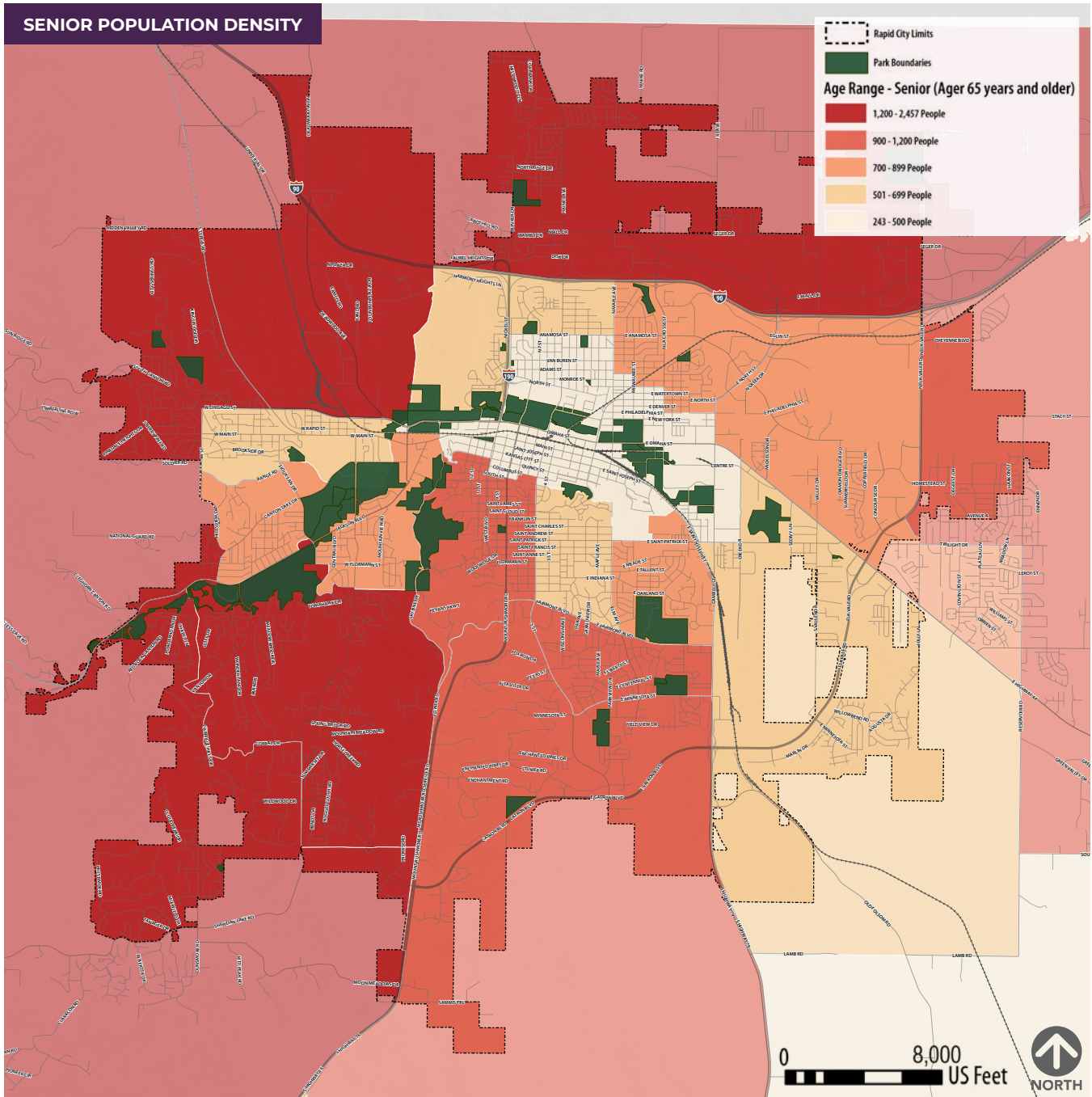
YOUTH POPULATION DENSITY

The highest population of youth, in dark purple, occurs on the south and east sides of Rapid City, which is furthest away from parks.



MEDIAN AGE DISTRIBUTION

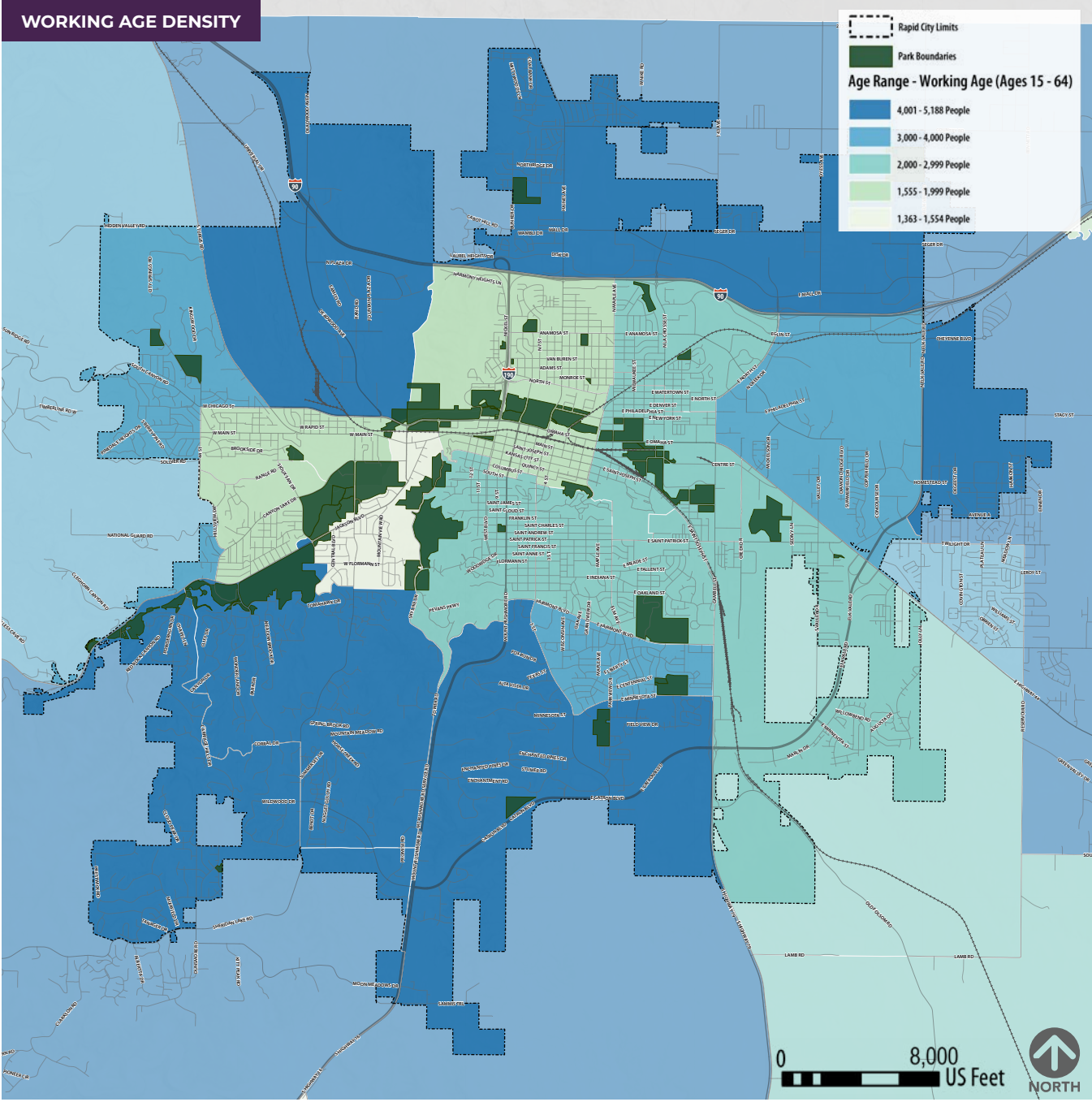
Those ages 23-52 are fairly equally distributed throughout Rapid City.



SENIOR POPULATION DENSITY

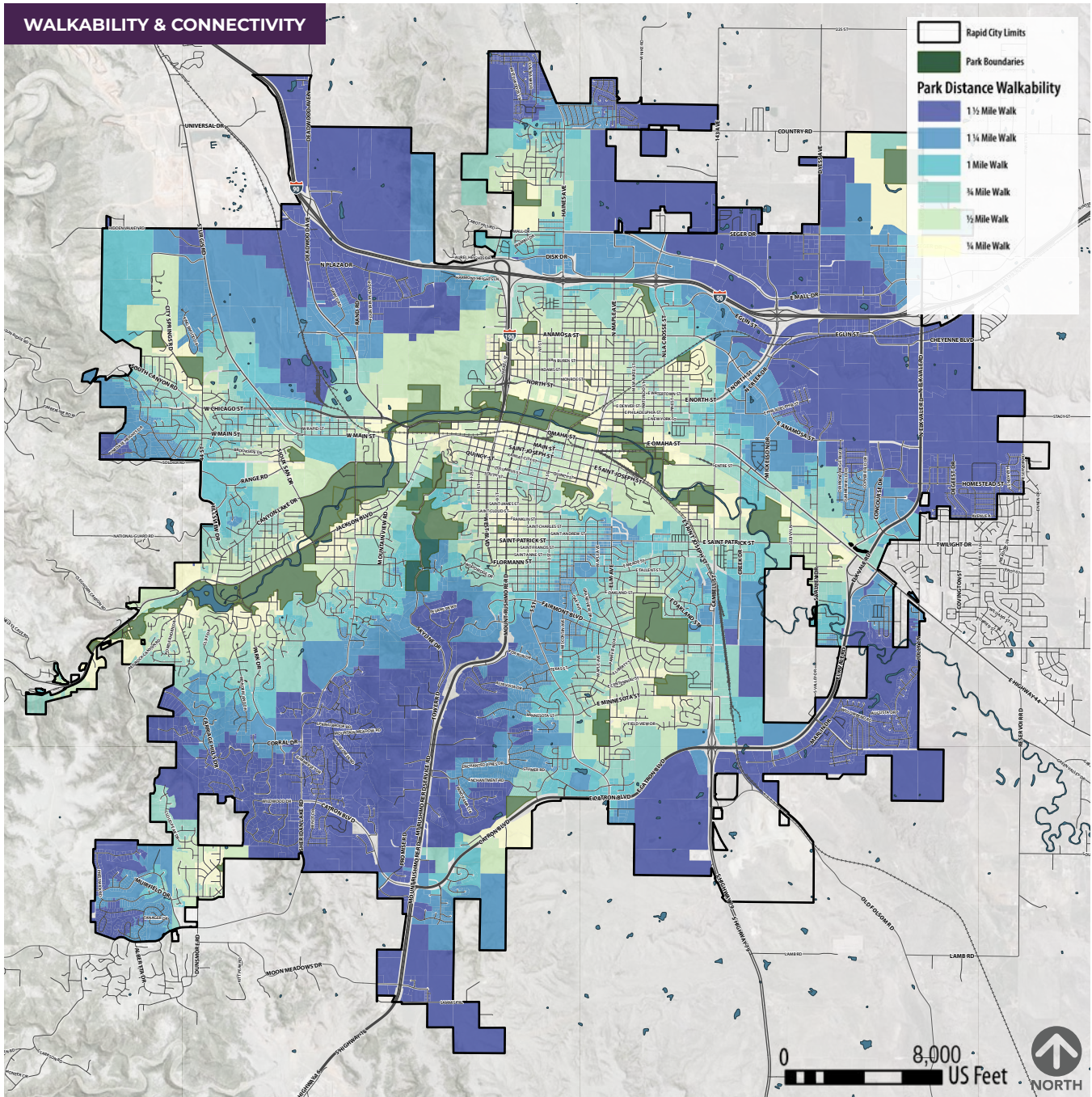
The population of senior citizens is greatest on the outskirts of Rapid City, which is furthest from the parks. Good connectivity and walkability to parks may be especially important to this age group to increase park access.

WORKING AGE DENSITY



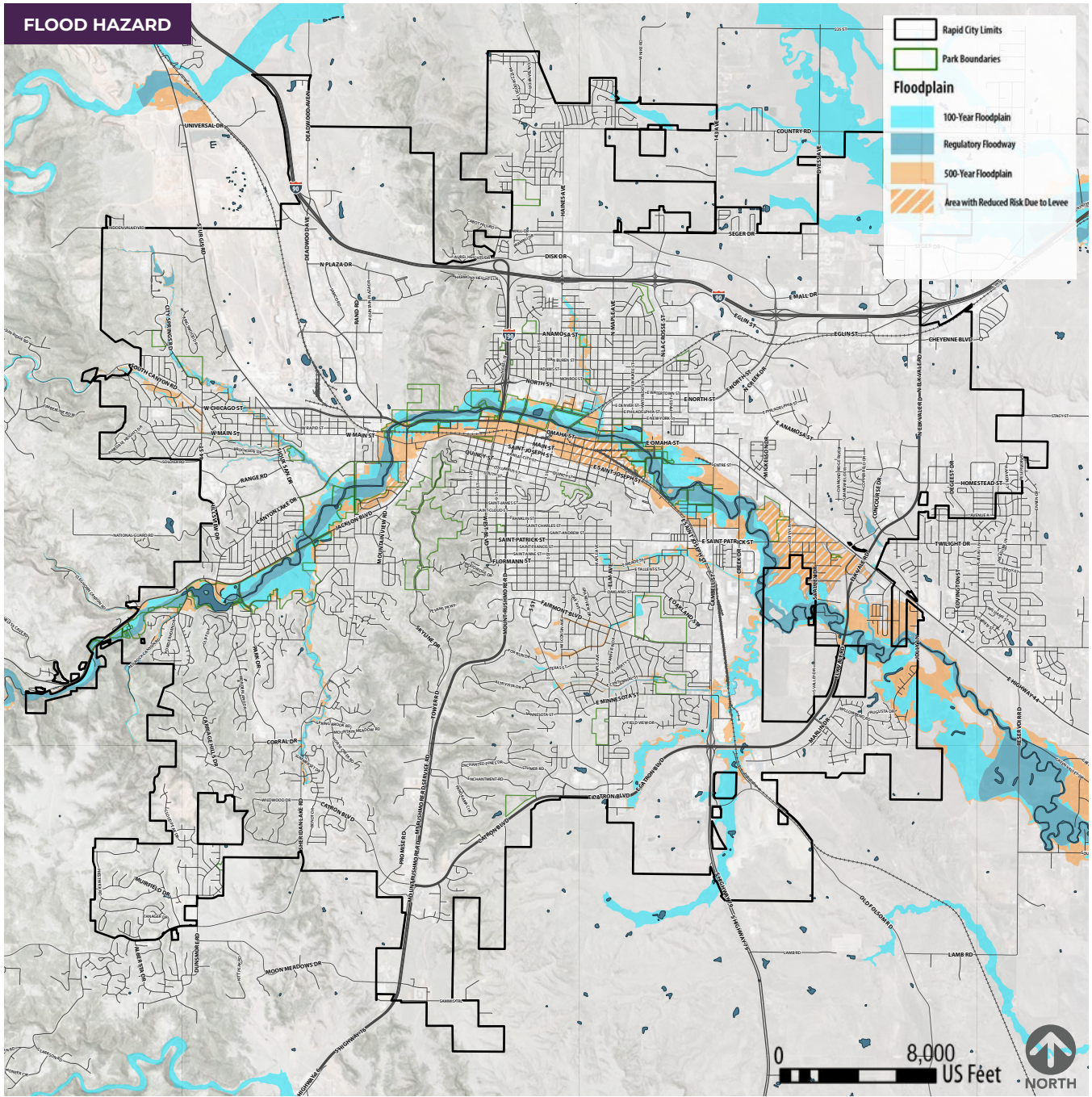
WORKING AGE DENSITY

The distribution of those of working age is greatest on the outskirts of Rapid City, thus making it less walkable to the parks. This population may benefit from greater connectivity to the parks.



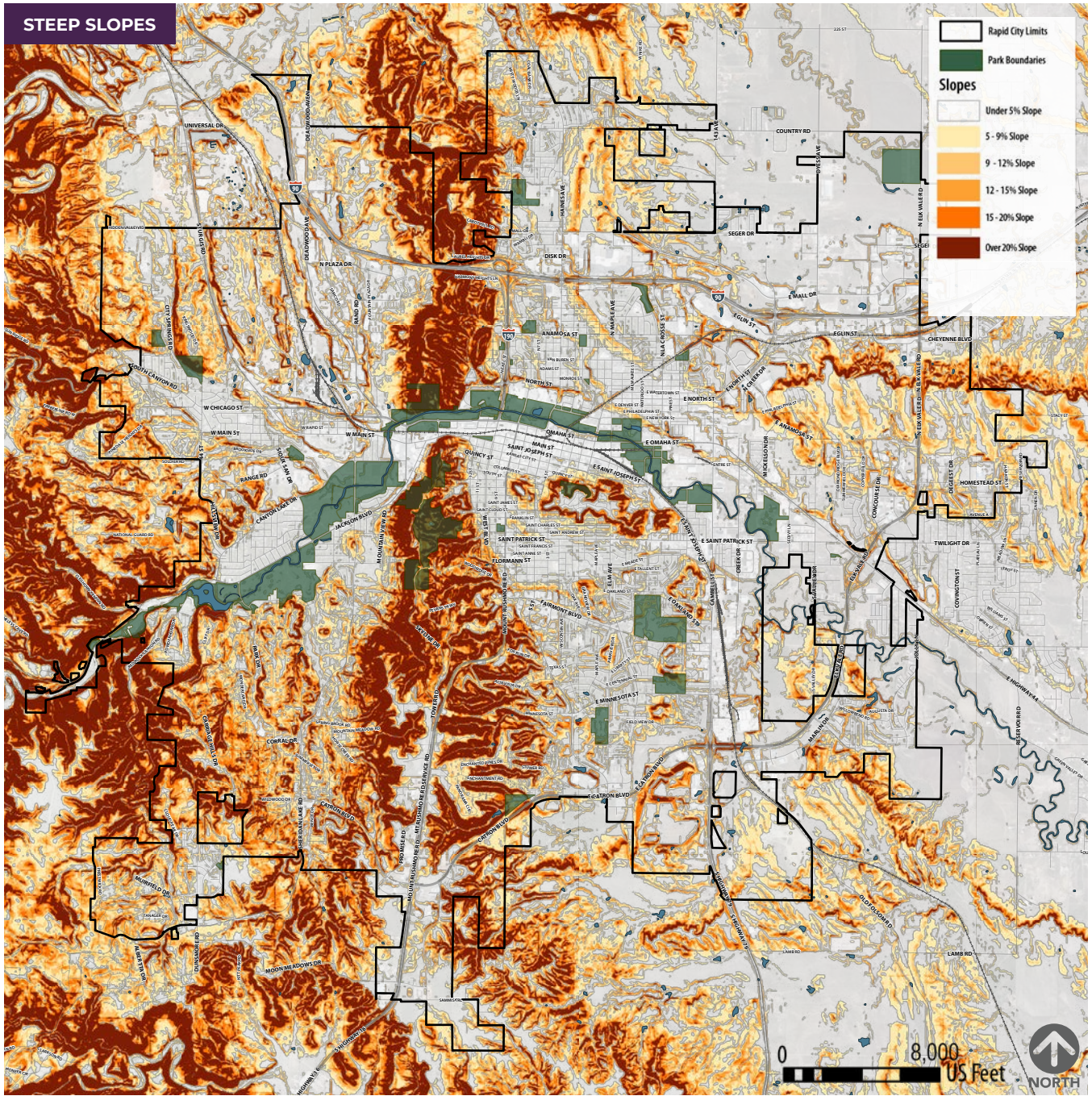
WALKABILITY & CONNECTIVITY

The dark blue color on the map indicates which residents need to walk the furthest to access the park system. On average, those who live on the outskirts of the city experience a longer walk time to parks.



FLOOD HAZARD

The blue and orange areas are located within the floodway and the 100- and 500-year floodplains. As seen, these areas flank Rapid Creek. These areas are less suitable for development due to flood hazards.



STEEP SLOPES

Dark orange areas represent the steepest areas of Rapid City. Steep and uneven terrain are less desirable for development, making them more desirable for parks and open space.

