

CHAPTER 2:

EAST HIGH SCHOOL

socioeconomic
characteristics

This chapter explores economic characteristics, such as income, employment, poverty, as well as social characteristics related to education and crime. Current figures are provided, as well as historic rates to show trends across the city. It also compares city statistics with those of Mahoning County and Ohio.

Median Income

Median household income in Youngstown (\$24,880) is considerably lower than Mahoning County (\$40,123) and roughly half that of Ohio (\$47,358) and the United States (\$49,445). Income in Youngstown is lower than all benchmark cities.

While the city's median is low, pockets of middle income neighborhoods exist on each side of town. **West side census tract 8027.02 has a median income higher than the national average. Census tracts 8015 and 8042 have median incomes higher than the average for Mahoning County.** Tracts with the lowest median incomes are located

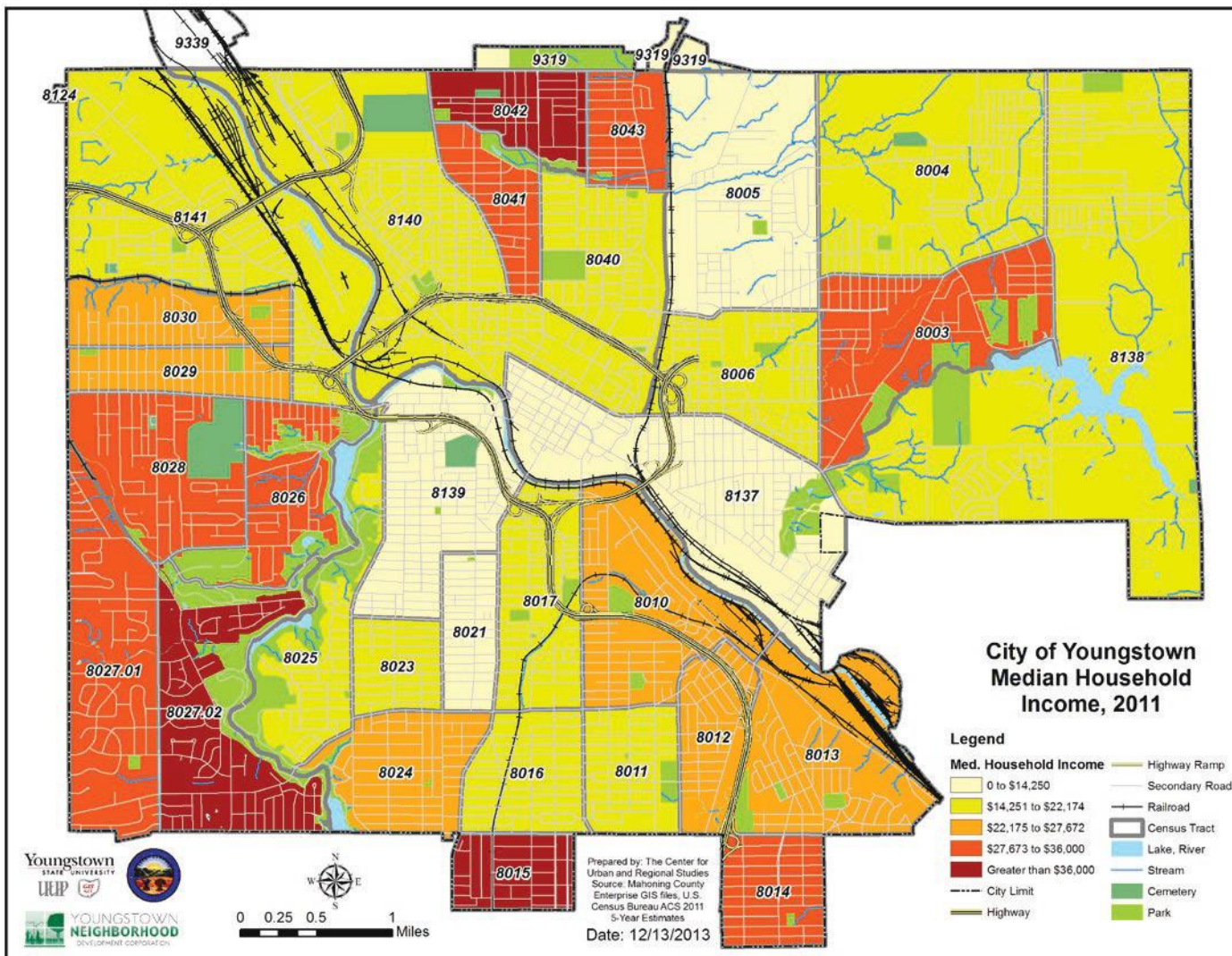


Figure 2.1 - The south side has eight census tracts below the city's median household income. Vacancy and blight are a considerable issue in these neighborhoods, such as Cottage Grove, pictured above.

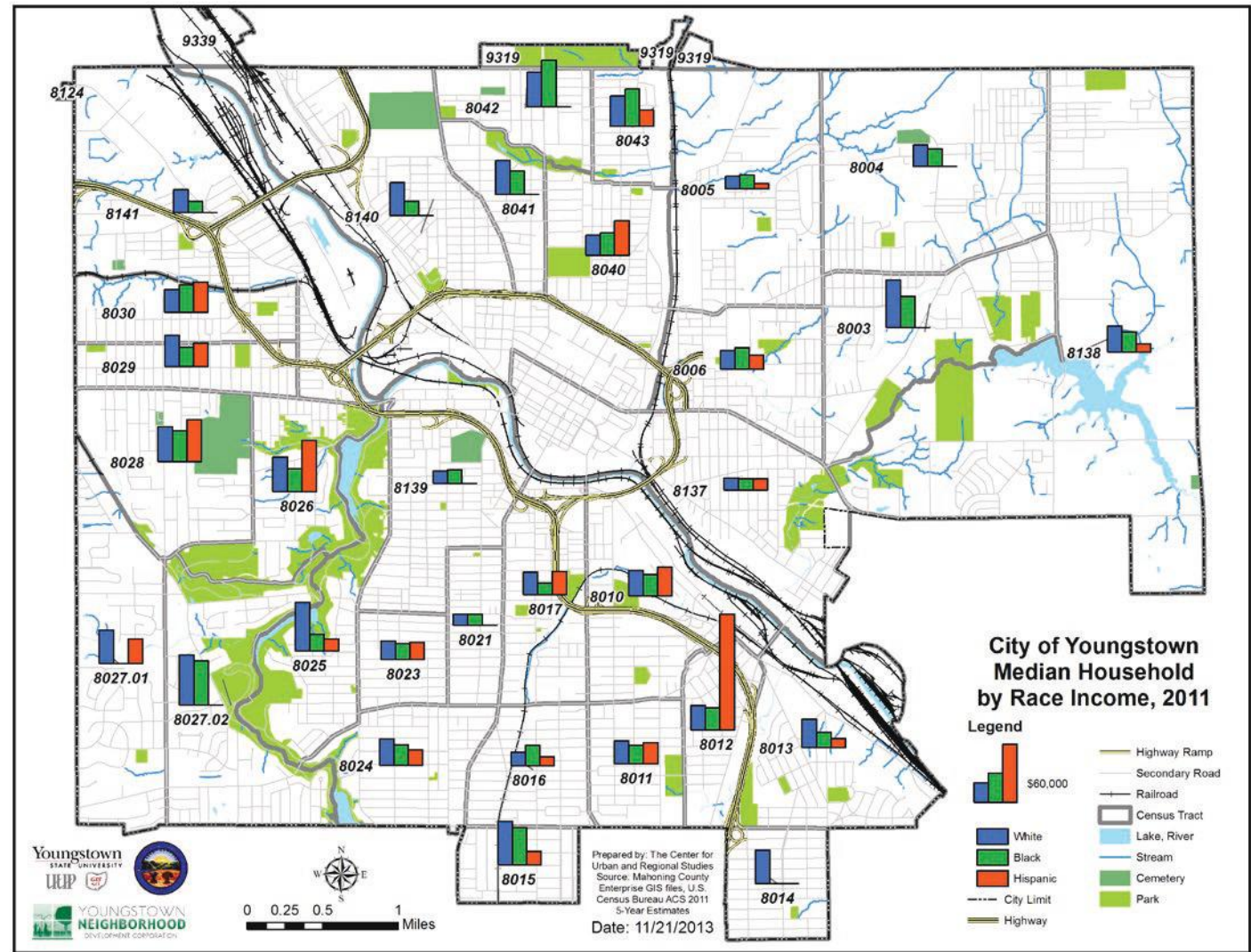


Figure 2.2 - Three census tracts have median incomes above Mahoning County as a whole. These include the neighborhoods of Crandall Park North, Kirkmere, and Pleasant Grove, pictured above.

on the lower south side, the lower east side, and north side neighborhoods closest to the Mahoning River: 8004, 8005, 8023, 8137, 8139, and 8140.

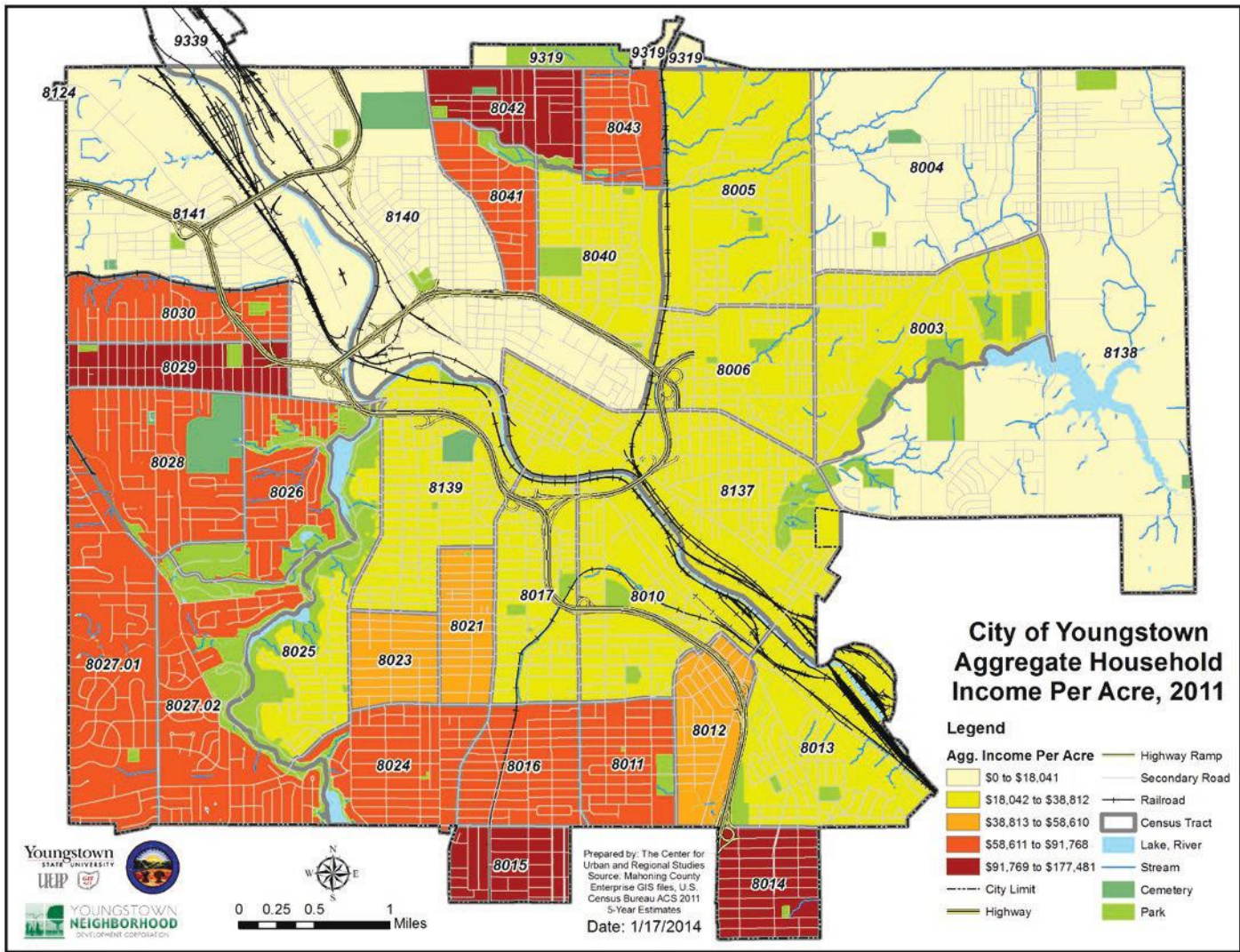
The median household income for Whites in the City of Youngstown is \$30,579, \$19,052 for Blacks, and \$15,901 for Hispanics. **In most census tracts Whites earn more on average than Blacks, with the exception of the north side, where Blacks' earnings exceed Whites' in census tracts 8040, 8042, and 8043.** Median incomes for Blacks are highest in tracts 8015, 8027.02, 8028, 8042, and 8043.

Multiple tracts have median incomes of Blacks and Whites that are roughly equivalent, including relatively high income tracts such as 8027.02 and 8028, and lower income tracts, such as 8006, 8012, 8021, 8040, 8137, and 8139. Large disparities exist in median incomes of Blacks and Whites in several tracts, such as 8013, 8025, 8140, and 8141.



Figures 2.3 and 2.4- Employers in the City of Youngstown.



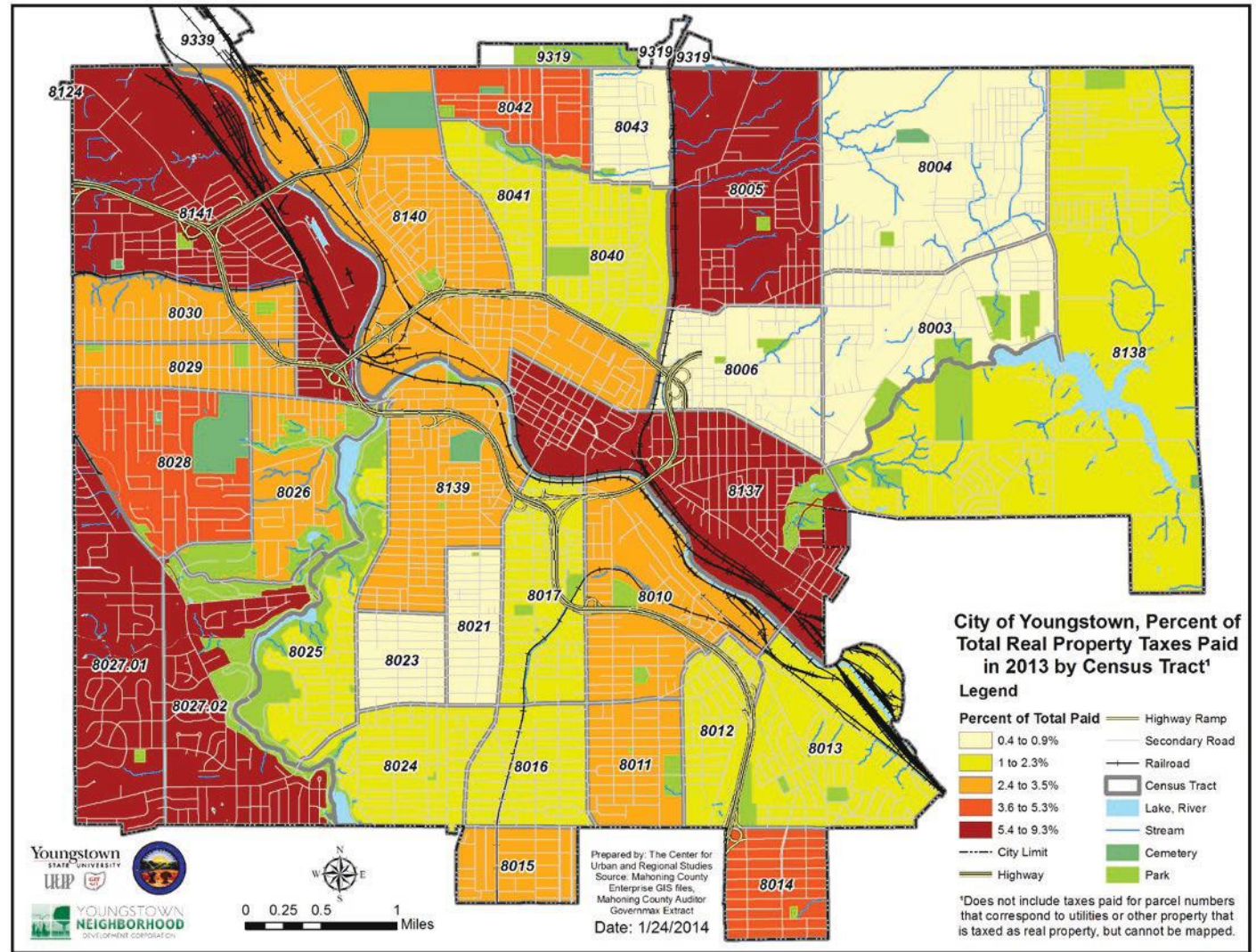


Aggregate household income was calculated by multiplying the average household income by total number of households, then dividing that amount by the total acreage of each census tract. **Aggregate household income is greatest—more than \$91,769 per acre—in tracts with high population density and high median household incomes, such as 8014 and 8015 on the south side and 8042 on the north side.** In census tract 8029, median household income is only slightly above the citywide average, but it is the most densely populated tract in the city.

In semi-rural areas of the east side, as well as census tracts with low population density, aggregate household income is less than \$18,041 per acre. These census tracts include 8004 and 8138 on the east side, 8140 on the north side, and 8141 on the west side.

Taxes

Eight census tracts provide a higher-than-average amount of property tax revenue to the city of Youngstown. These tracts include higher-income residential tracts, such as 8014 on the south side, 8027.01, 8027.02, and 8028 on the west side, and 8042 on the north side. Additionally, census tract 8141 along the Mahoning River provides a high portion of property tax revenue, mainly due to the location of two major industrial parks: Salt Springs and Ohio Works. Census tract 8137, which includes downtown Youngstown, also contributes a higher-than-average share. Conversely, tracts with low property values and high rates of tax delinquency contribute smaller amounts of property taxes. These tracts include 8021 and 8023 on the south side, 8043 on the north side, and 8003, 8004, and 8006 on the east side.



Employment

In 2011, the unemployment rate for the City of Youngstown stood at 19.5%. This was far higher than Mahoning County's rate of 11.1% and more than double that of Ohio (9.3%) and the US (8.7%). Youngstown's unemployment rate is similar to that of Gary (19.1%) and slightly lower than Flint (23.9%), but higher than Dayton (17.0%), Canton (14.9%), Chattanooga (12.1%) and Erie (10.4%).

Rates for individual census tracts in Youngstown vary widely, ranging from 6.7% in 8015 to 50.9% in 8004. **The highest unemployment rates are on the south and east sides.** All tracts on the east side have higher unemployment rates than the city's average.

The lowest unemployment rates are in tracts 8012, 8014, and 8015 on the south side, and 8027.01, 8027.02, and 8030 on the west side. Conversely, the highest rates are in tracts 8003, 8004, 8005, and 8006 on the east side, and 8021 and 8139 on the south side.

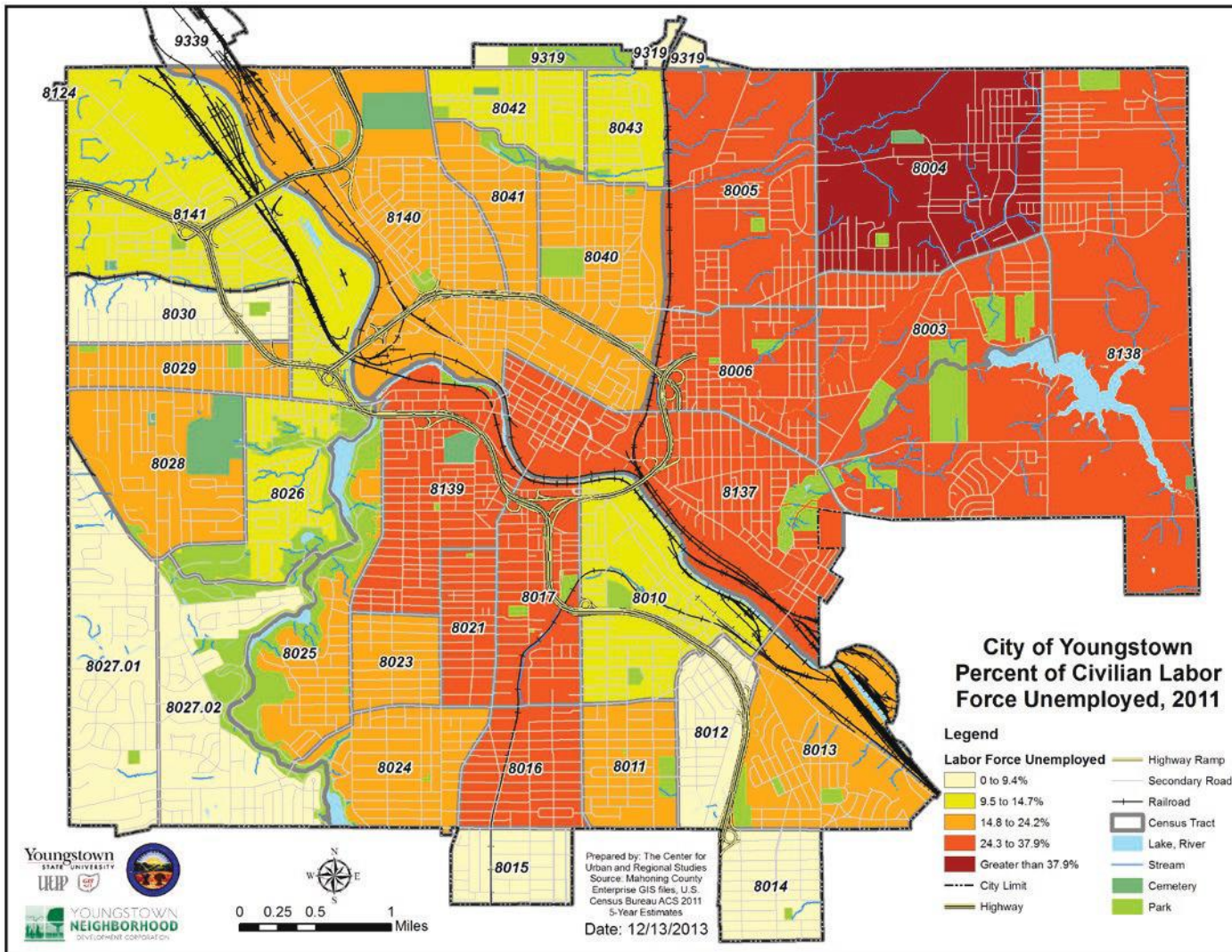


Figure 2.5 - Industrial corridors along Wilson Avenue, Poland Avenue (pictured below), and US 422 line the Mahoning River.



Figure 2.6 - Vacant industrial structures line Crab Creek, along Logan Avenue (pictured below) and Albert Street.



The unemployment rate fluctuates with the expansions and contractions in the national economy; thus comparing rates over time can be difficult and potentially misleading. However, an

analysis of the change in the unemployment rate for Youngstown's census tracts is consistent with changes in poverty rates. **For example, the greatest percentage increases in unemployment rates between 1990 and 2011 were in tracts 8016 and 8028. The poverty rate in these two tracts more than doubled during**

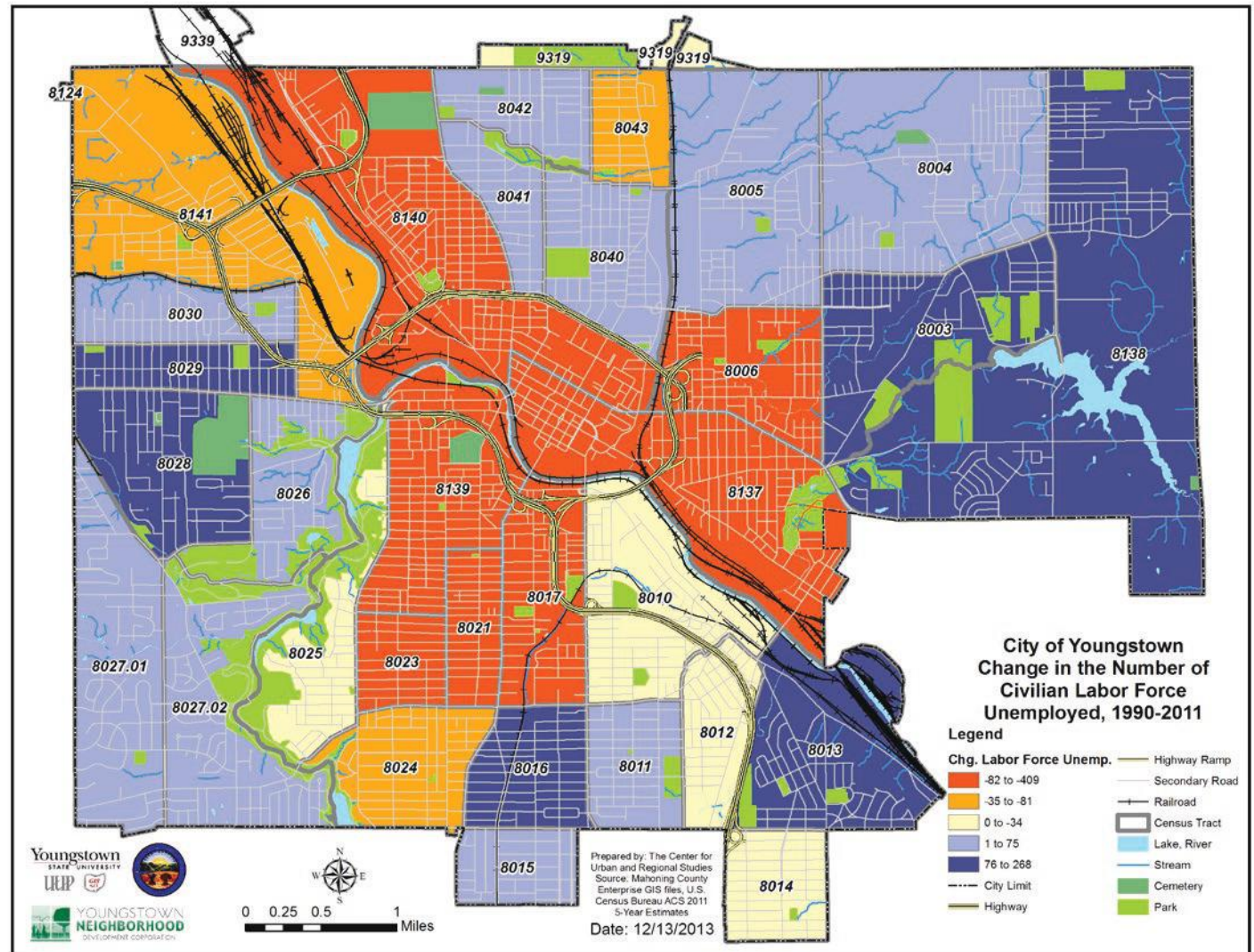
the same period. Five other tracts experienced an increase in unemployment of at least 10 percentage points: 8003, 8004, 8011, 8013, and 8138, all of which are located on the south and east sides.



Figure 2.7 - Dramatic increases in unemployment and poverty have plagued the Cottage Grove neighborhood in the past two decades. These increases have led to rapid deterioration of the housing stock and escalating vacancy rates.



Figure 2.8 - The increase in unemployment and poverty has been paralleled by a drastic reduction in the number of businesses operating along commercial corridors, such as Albert Street.



The Haines Directory of Businesses reports approximately 2,500 business establishments in the city of Youngstown. Businesses are clustered in tracts near Downtown, along the Mahoning River, and along Meridian Road, including 8027.01, 8040, 8137, 8139, 8140, and 8141.

Largely residential tracts have fewer businesses, such as 8027.02 and 8030 on the west side, and 8014 and 8015 on the south side.



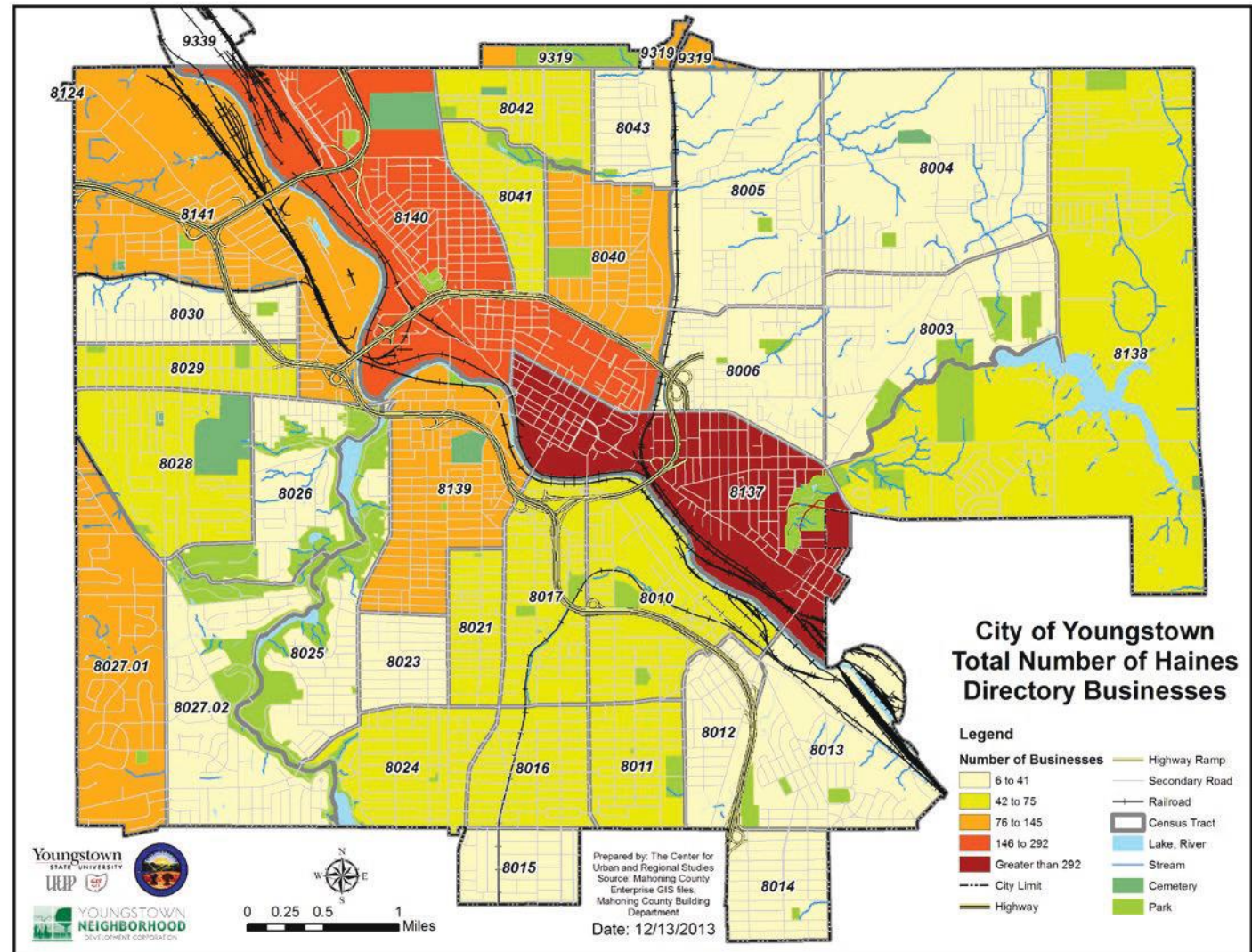
Figure 2.11 - The MVR restaurant near YSU's campus.



Figure 2.9 - Toys 'R Us in the Salt Springs Industrial Park.



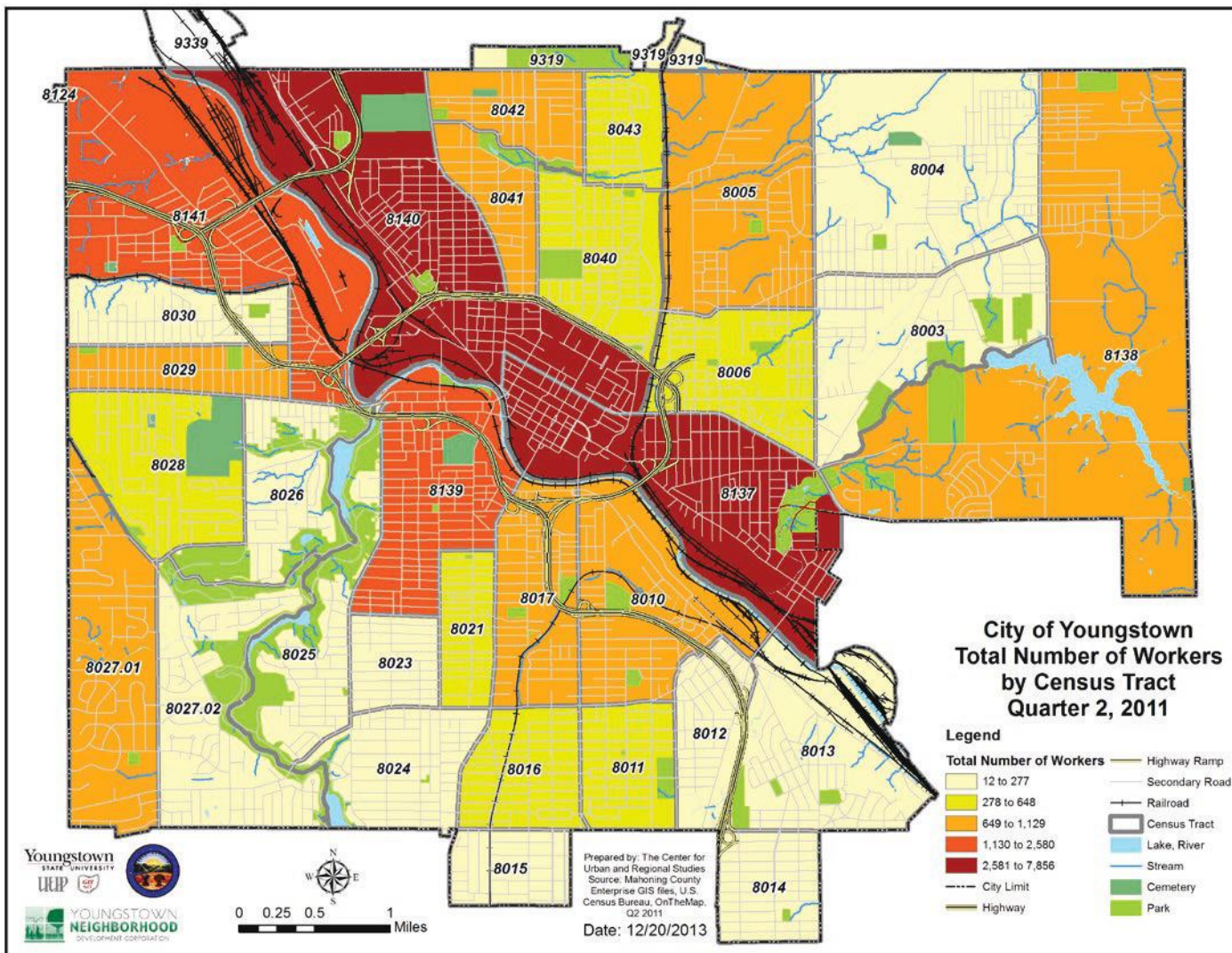
Figure 2.10 - Star Supply on Mahoning Avenue.





figures 2.12-13 - Jobs are concentrated near Downtown Youngstown and in industrial parks along the Mahoning River.

Jobs are concentrated in the central portion of the city, in census tracts 8137 and 8140. These tracts include Downtown, Youngstown State University, and St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Other areas with a high number of jobs are located along the Mahoning River in tract 8141, which contains the Ohio Works and Salt Springs Industrial Parks, and in tract 8139, which includes the Mahoning Commons. Census tracts along major city corridors have moderate numbers of jobs, such as tracts 8028 and 8029 along Mahoning Avenue, tracts 8041 and 8042 along Belmont Avenue, tracts 8016 and 8017 along Market Street and South Avenue, tract 8027.01 along Meridian Road, and tract 8138 along Mc Cartney Road.



The number of commercial building permits issued for 2013 largely mirrors the number of jobs and businesses throughout the city. Census tracts near Downtown and along the Mahoning River had the highest number of permits, followed by tracts along major corridors, such as Meridian Road, Mahoning Avenue, Market Street, and South Avenue.

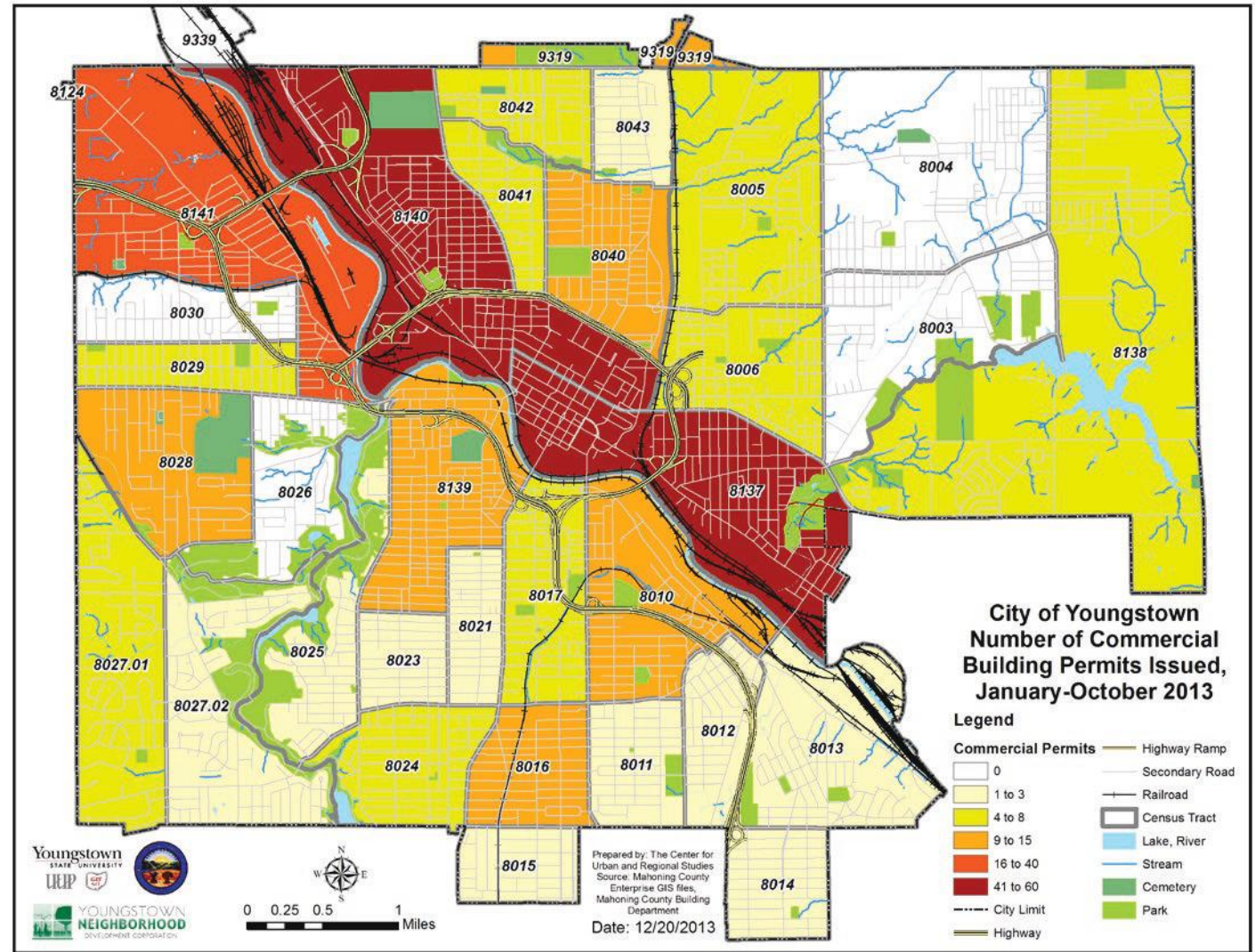


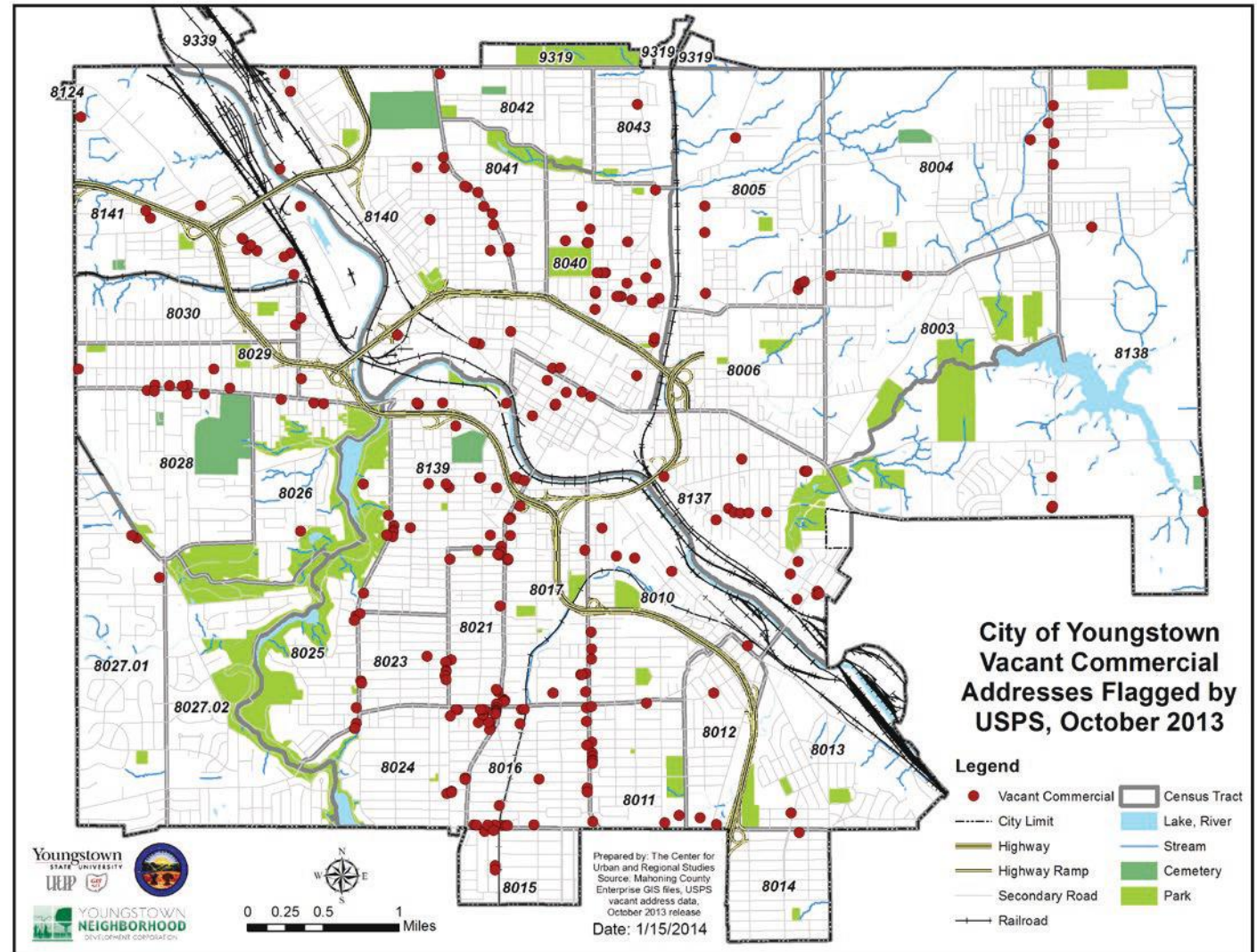
Figure 2.15 - Roberto's, a recently-opened restaurant in Downtown Youngstown.



Figure 2.14 - Soul Food Sensations, a new restaurant on Glenwood Avenue.

The United States Postal Service flags vacant commercial addresses, which are scattered across the city. Vacancies are highest in census tracts 8016, 8017, 8024, and 8139 on the south side; 8040 and 8140 on the north side; 8137 on the east side; and 8141 on the west side. Corridors with high numbers of commercial vacancies include South Avenue, Market Street, Glenwood Avenue, Midlothian Boulevard, Mahoning Avenue, and Belmont Avenue.

A detailed explanation of the methodology for identifying USPS vacancies is located in the appendix of this report.



Poverty

Most of the city's census tracts qualify as Low-to-Moderate Income tracts, according to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines. For a tract to qualify, 51% or more of residents must be low- to moderate-income, which means their income is between 50% and 80% of the area median income. (www.hud.gov) **All census tracts on the east side qualify, as well as all but one on the north side (8042), and all but two on the south side (8014 and 8015).** Only two tracts on the west side qualify (8029 and 8141).

These tracts are areas of extreme disinvestment, blight, vacancy and abandonment. Much of the remaining housing stock is in poor condition and large swaths of vacant land are scattered throughout these neighborhoods.

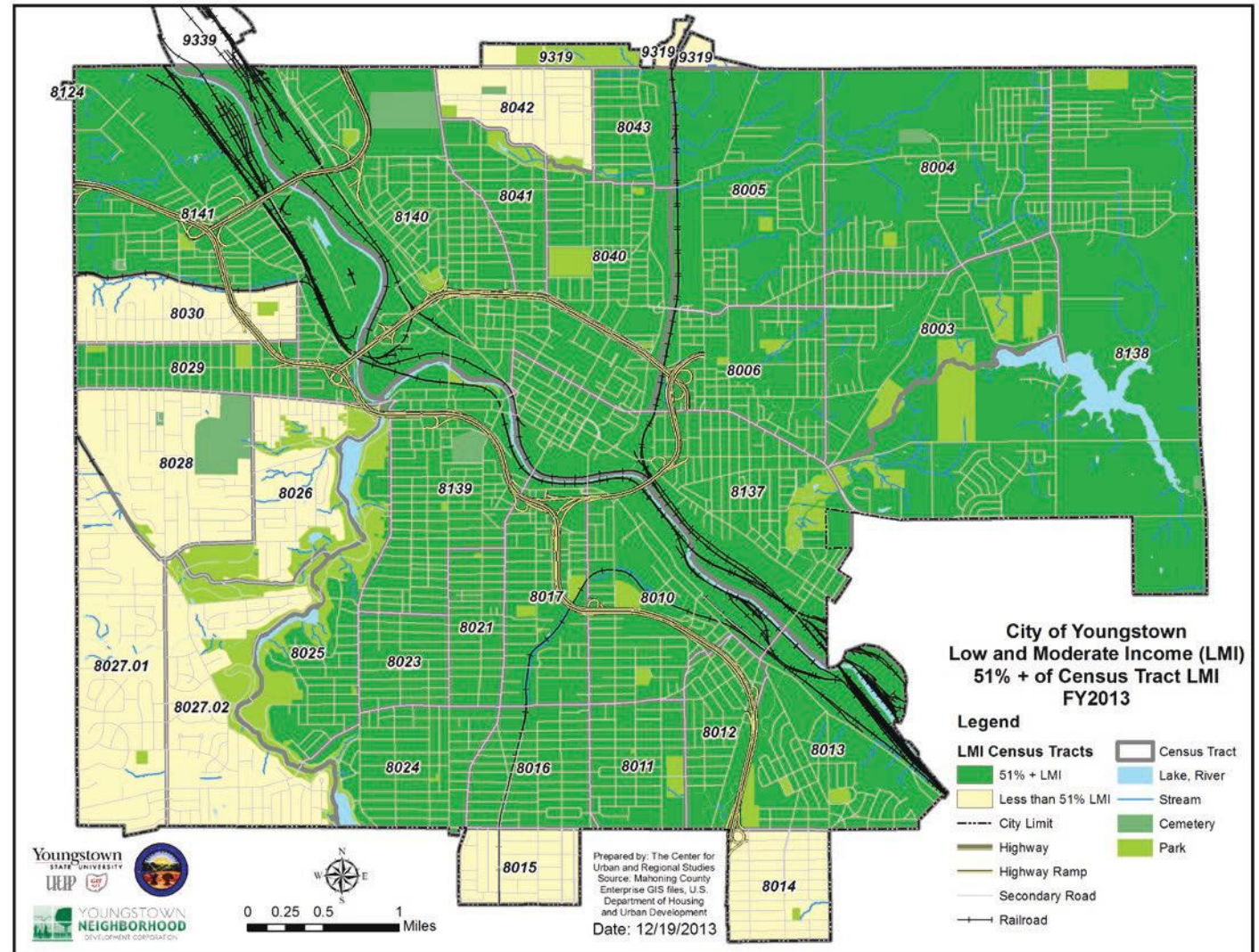


Figure 2.16 - Clusters of abandoned houses in the Oak Hill neighborhood, an area of extreme poverty.



Figure 2.17 - Empty residential lots in the Erie neighborhood where houses once stood.



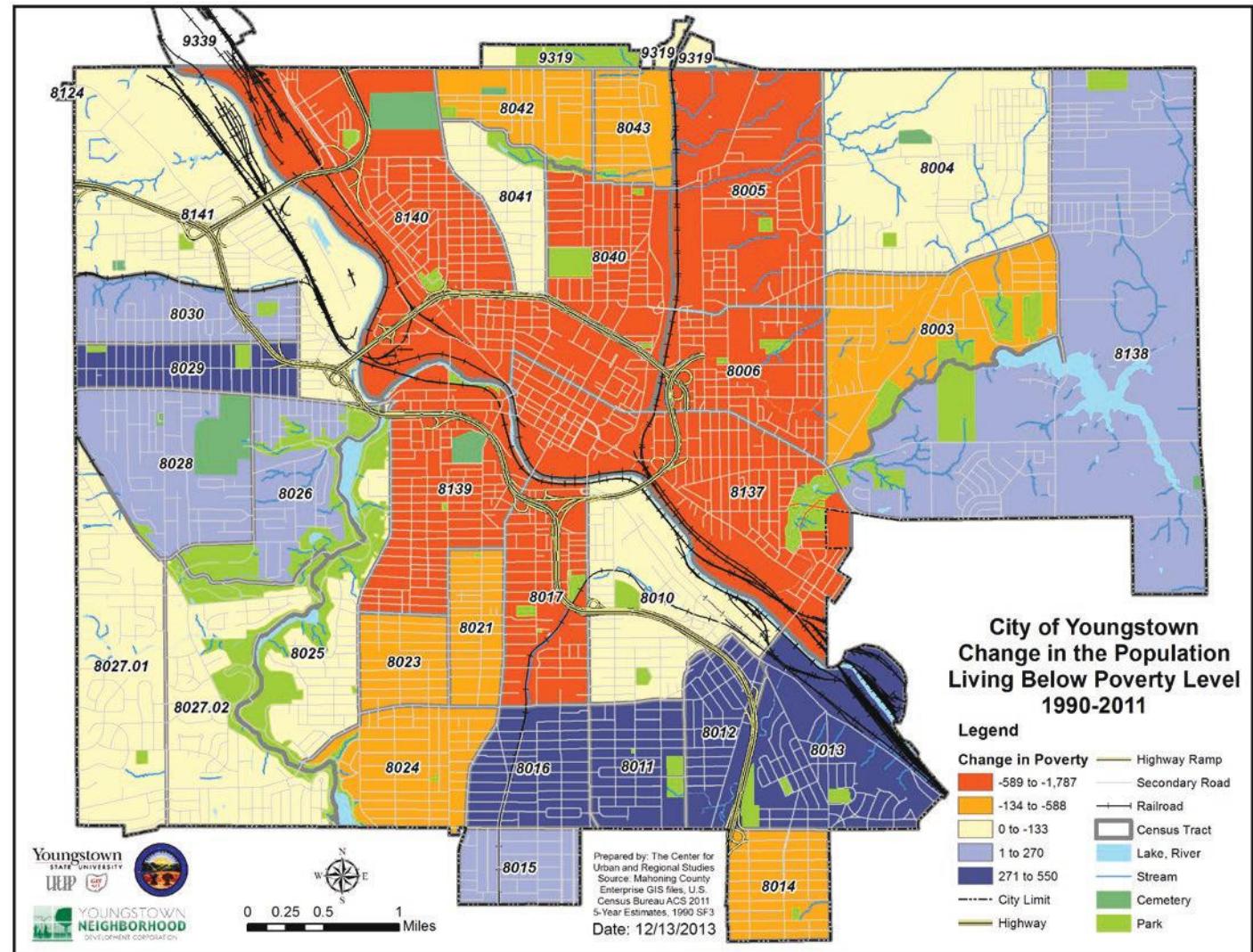
The number of persons living in poverty in Youngstown decreased from 27,000 in 1990 to 21,500 in 2010. However, because the overall population also decreased during that time period, the city's poverty rate increased 4.8 percentage points, from 29% to 34%.

Most census tracts saw an increase in the percentage of residents living in poverty. **The percentage in poverty doubled in seven tracts, all on the west and south sides:** 8011, 8012, 8013, and 8016 on the south side, as well as 8028, 8029, and 8030 on the west side.

Each of these tracts recorded significant numerical increases in the number of residents living in poverty. In 2011, tract 8016 had 550 more residents in poverty than in 1990. In tract 8029, the increase was 538 residents.

Poverty rates decreased in several census tracts with both high and low median incomes. These included higher-income tracts 8014, 8027.02, and 8042, as well as lower-income tracts, such as 8003, 8006, and 8140.

Among benchmark cities, Youngstown's increase in poverty



between 1990 and 2010 was the second lowest, just slightly above the 4.7 percentage point increase in Chattanooga. Increases were substantially higher in Gary (6.5), Canton (6.9), and Flint (7.6). Conversely, the increase in poverty in Youngstown was considerably higher than the increase in Mahoning County (1.2), Ohio (2.3) and the US (1.2).

Households

In Youngstown, 28.5% of households have children under the age of 18. In south side tract 8016 and east side tract 8005, more than 40% of households have children. These tracts also have high percent-

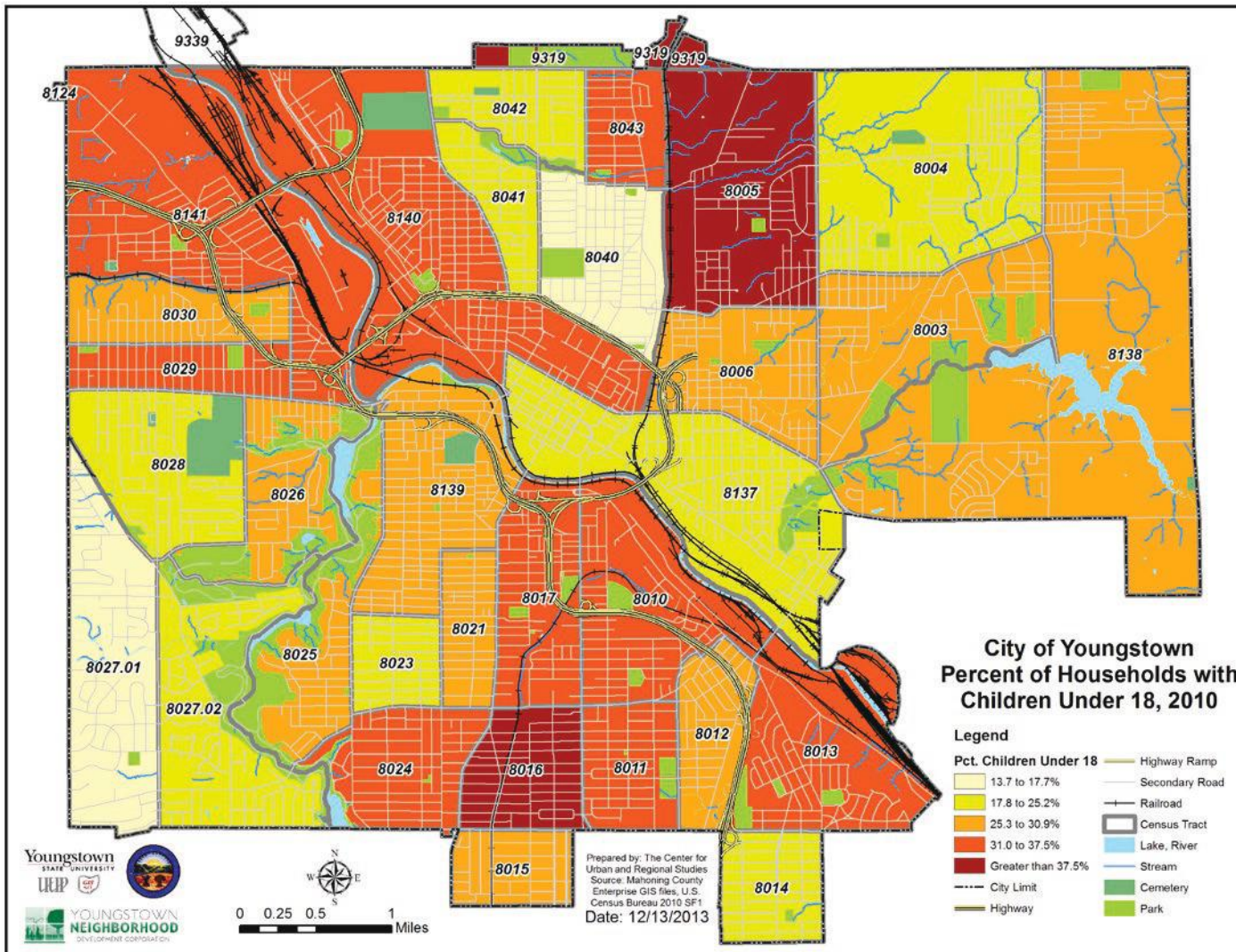
ages of poverty: 59% of households in 8016 and 94% of households in 8005 are impoverished. Tracts with low percentages of households with children include 8040, near Youngstown State University, and 8027.01, which has a high percentage of residents over the age of 65.

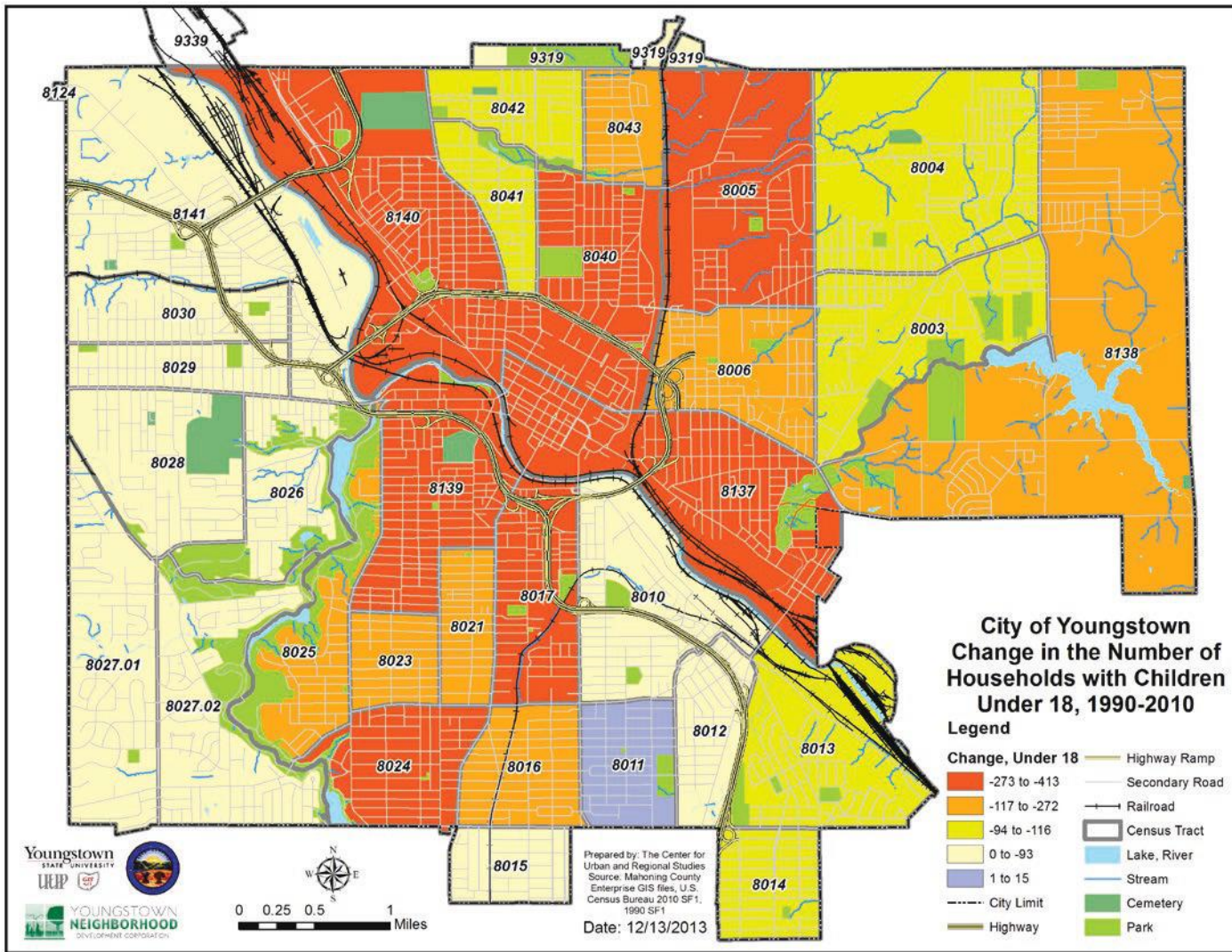


Figure 2.18 - Youth in the Lincoln Park Neighborhood.



Figure 2.19 - A family outside the Oh Wow! Children's Museum.





The percentage of households with children decreased slightly in the city as a whole and in most of the census tracts between 1990 and 2010. However, a notable exception is a large cluster of south side census tracts, including 8010, 8011, 8012, and 8016. Each of these census tracts also experienced dramatic increases in poverty. Each of these tracts witnessed a decrease in the percentage of White residents of at least 50% or greater. However, the percentage of minority residents has increased in each tract.

Figure 2.20 - A playground on the north side.



Figure 2.21 - The Oh Wow! Children's Museum in Downtown.



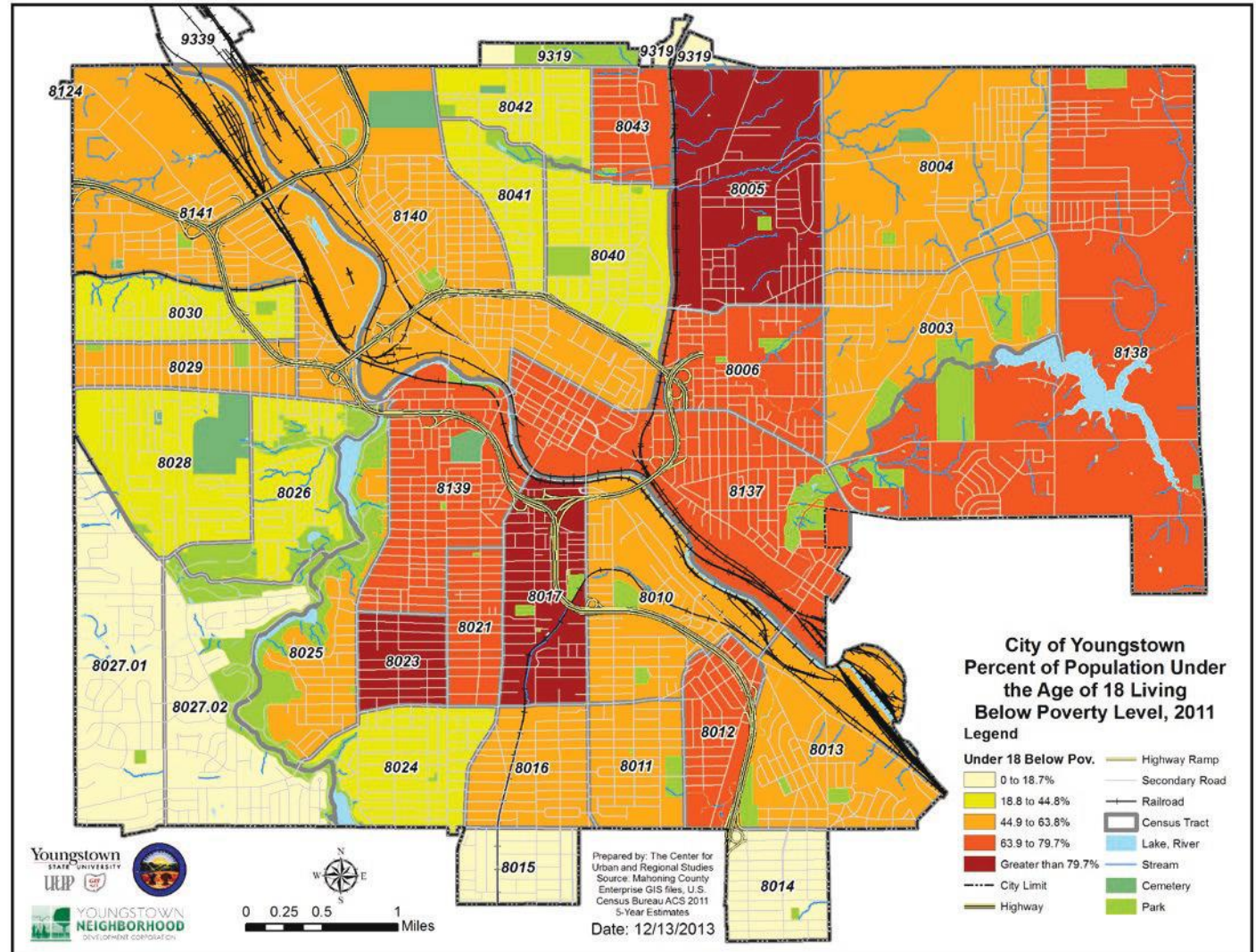
Figure 2.22-23 - Several parks and playgrounds located in neighborhoods with high rates of childhood poverty suffer from significant deferred maintenance.



Figure 2.24 - Playground equipment at the newly-constructed Glenwood Community Park.

Census tracts with the highest percentage of children living in poverty are located on the south and east sides: 8017, 8021, and 8023 on the south side and 8005, 8137, and 8138 on the east side. Conversely, the neighborhoods with the lowest rates of childhood poverty are located on the west side and the southern

edge of the city: 8027.01 and 8027.02 on the west side and 8014 and 8015 on the south side. These statistics largely mirror overall poverty rates and median incomes across the city.



The childhood poverty rate increased by 9 percentage points in the City of Youngstown between 1990 and 2010—from 45% to 54%. **Dramatic increases of more than 20 percentage points were experienced in two key parts of the city: 1) the west side along Mahoning Avenue in tracts 8028 and 8029; and 2) across much of the south side in tracts 8011, 8012, 8013, 8016, 8017, 8023, and 8025.** Running counter to the citywide trend, the rate of childhood poverty decreased in all north side tracts except 8043.

Child poverty rates in Youngstown are similar to those in Gary (57.2%) and Flint (55.7%), slightly higher than rates in Canton (45.8%) and Dayton (48.1%), and considerably higher than rates in Erie (39.7%) and Chattanooga (36.8%).

However, Youngstown's child poverty rate is double that of Mahoning County (27.1%) and more than twice that of Ohio (21.2%) and the US (20.0%).

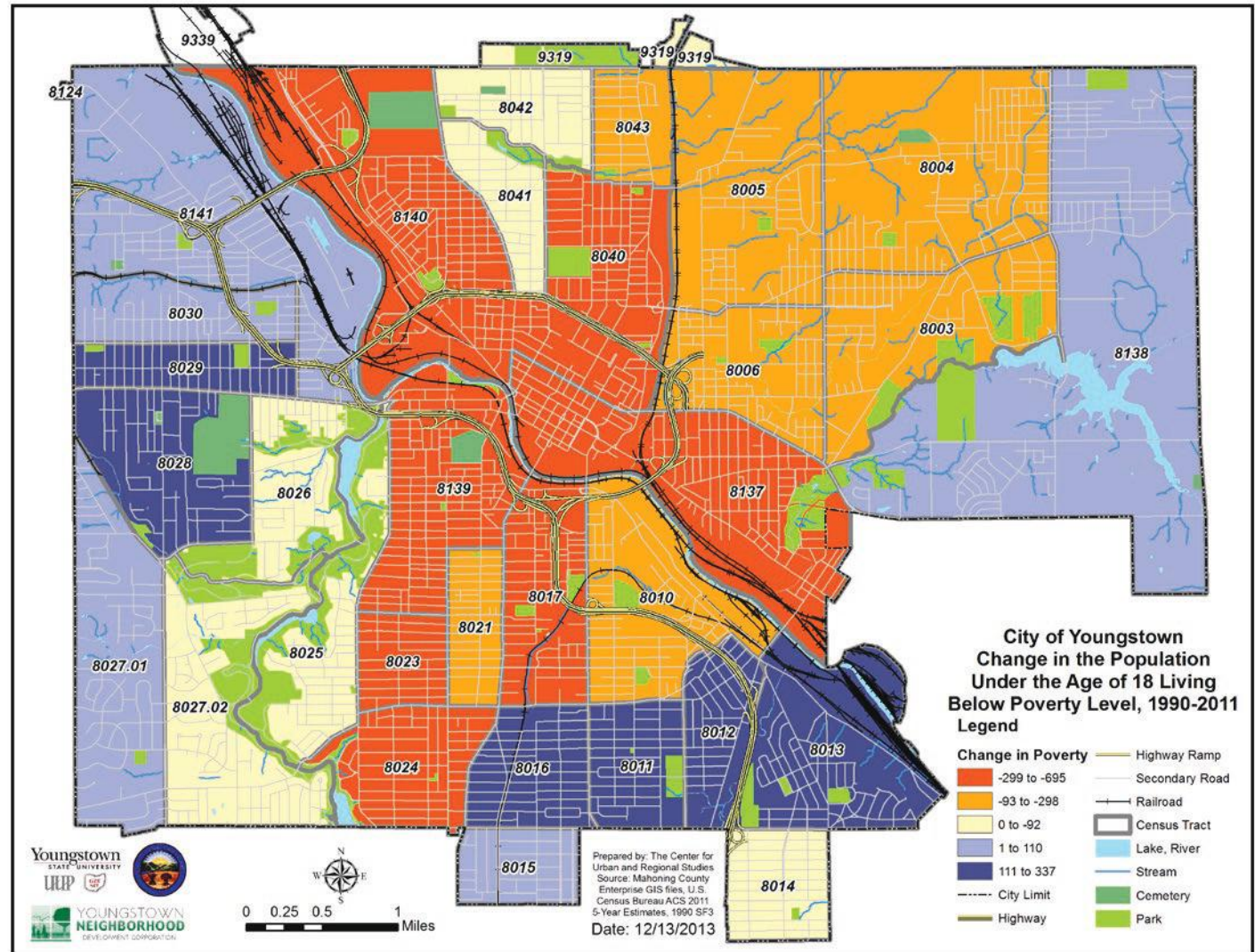


Figure 2.25 - A newly constructed school in the Erie neighborhood

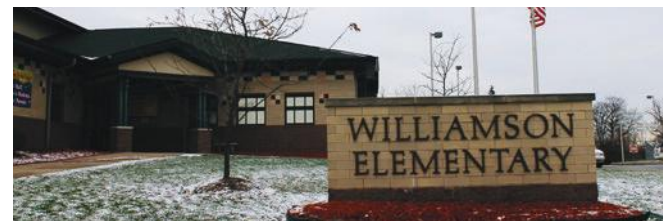
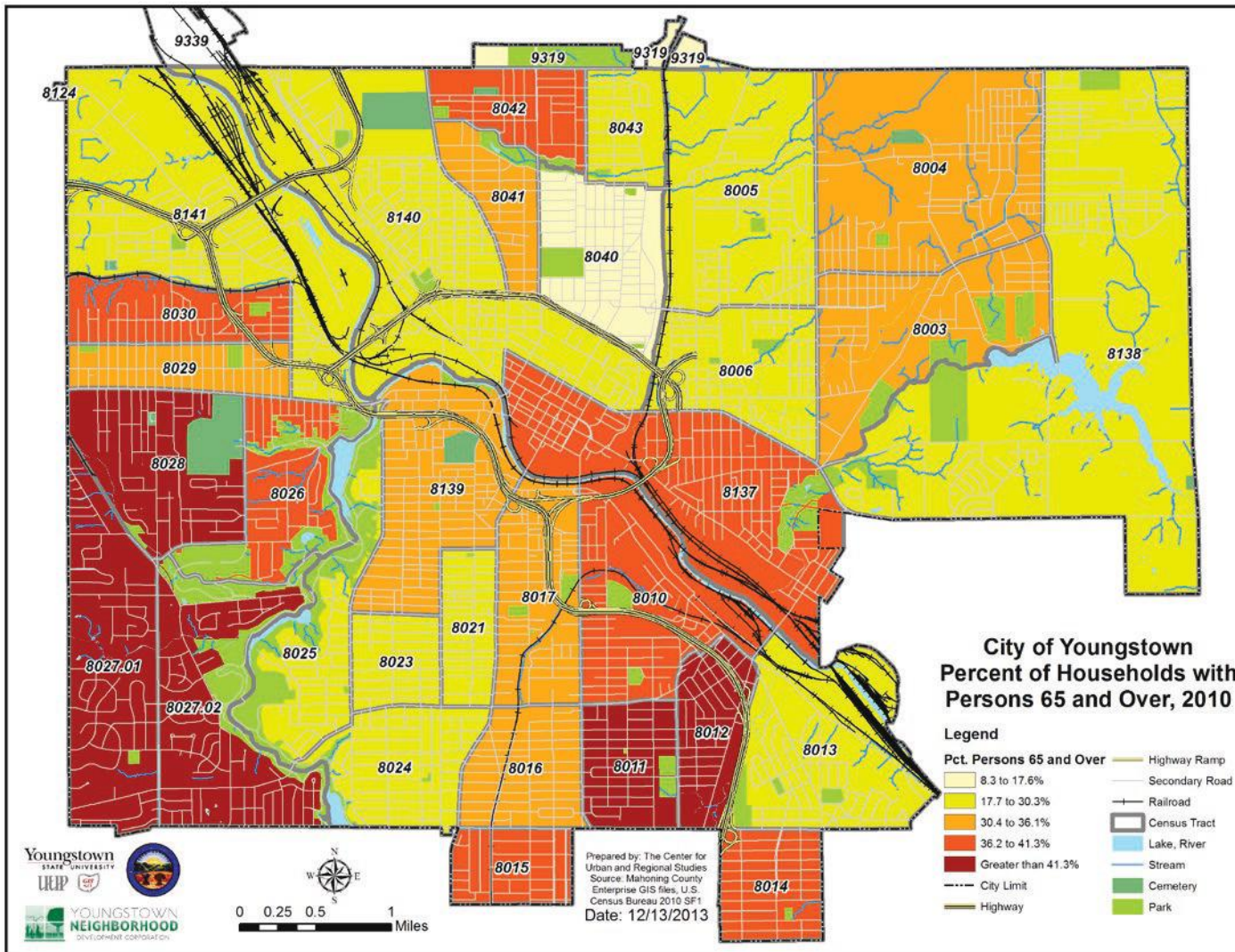
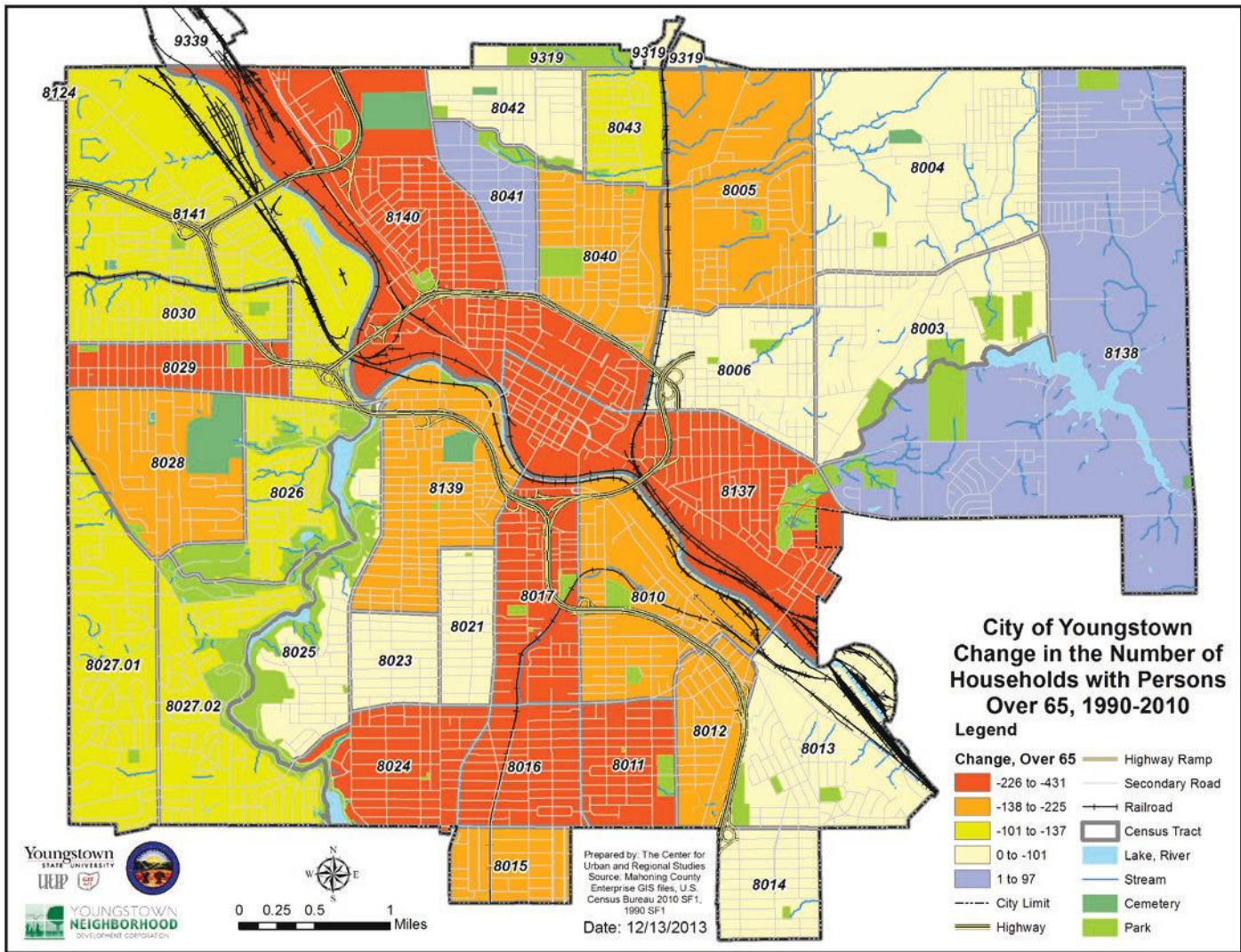


Figure 2.26 - The Boys and Girls Club serves youth in areas of concentrated poverty.





Households with persons over the age of 65 make up 30% of households in Youngstown. Tracts with the highest percentage of households with those over 65 are located predominately on the west side and south side: 8027.01, 8027.02, and 8028 on the west side and 8011 and 8012 on the south side. North side tract 8040, near Youngstown State University, has the lowest percentage of households with persons over 65.

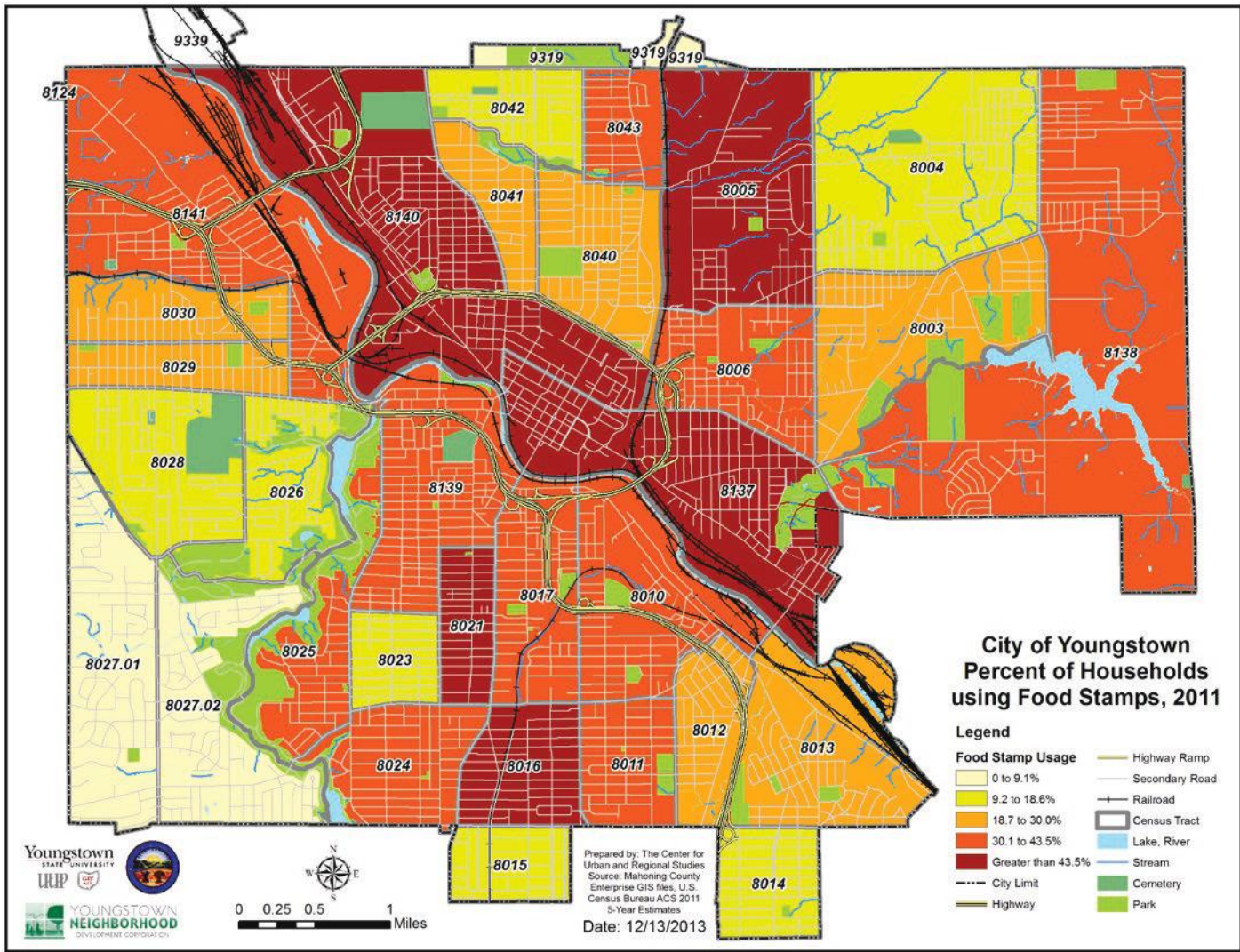


The percentage of households with persons over 65 decreased slightly in Youngstown, from 34% in 1990 to 30% in 2010. Every tract on the west side saw a decrease, most notably tract 8029 along Mahoning Avenue. A cluster of southside tracts east of Market Street experienced a significant decrease: 8010, 8011, 8015, 8016.

However, two clusters of census tracts experienced an increase in the percentage of households with persons over 65: 1) most of the east side, including tracts 8003, 8004, 8006, and 8138; and 2) most of the south side, west of Market Street, including tracts 8021, 8023, 8025, and 8139.



Figure 2.27 - Park Vista provides housing for senior citizens.



Public Assistance

In Youngstown, 31% of households receive food stamps. Rates of households using food stamps generally follow poverty rates across the city. Usage is highest in lower-income tracts 8005, 8016, 8021, 8137, and 8140. Higher-income side tracts on the west side, such as 8027.01 and 8027.02, have the lowest rates.

Approximately twice as many households receive food stamps in Youngstown as in Mahoning County (15.5%), and more than double that of Ohio (12.9%) and the US (11.0%). Rates are lower than Flint (38.2%) and Gary (32.8%) but higher than Canton (26.8%), Dayton (26.5%), Erie (24.8%), and Chattanooga (18.4%).

Figures 2.30 - Some farmers' markets and urban farms, such as Idora's Iron Roots Urban Farm, allow customers to purchase fresh produce with food stamps.

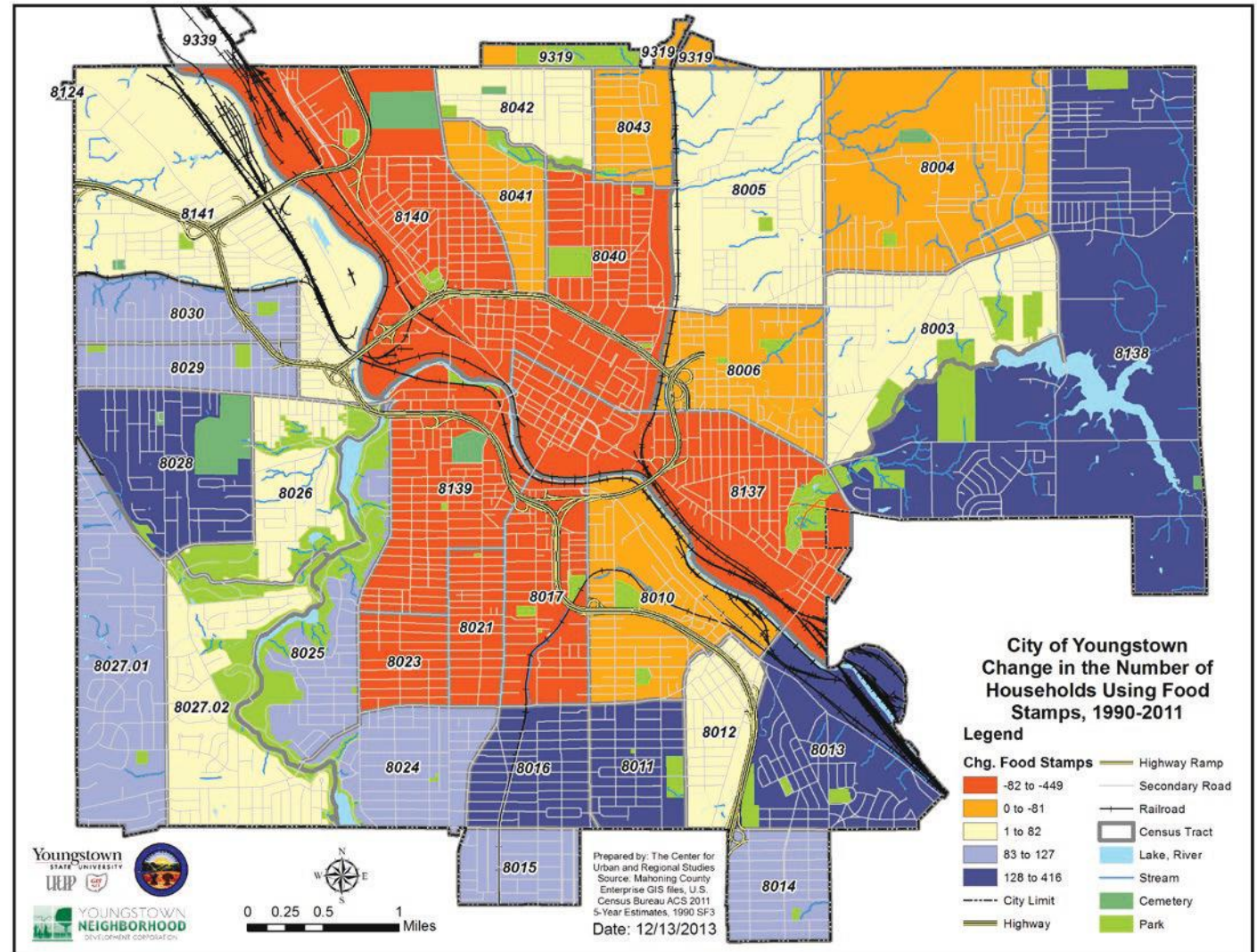
Figures 2.28-29 - Bottom Dollar and Save a Lot operate several grocery stores in Youngstown.



In 1990, 22% of Youngstown's households used food stamps, but by 2010, that percentage had risen to 31%. Increases in the percentage of households using food stamps closely follows increases in poverty and unemployment across the city. Two areas saw the greatest increases: 1) all tracts adjacent to Midlothian Boulevard, including 8011, 8012, 8013, 8014, 8015, 8016, 8024 and 8025; and 2) more than half of west side tracts, including 8027.01, 8028, 8029, and 8030.



Figures 2.31 - Many city neighborhoods have a preponderance of corner convenience stores. Access to fresh, healthy food is limited in these neighborhoods.

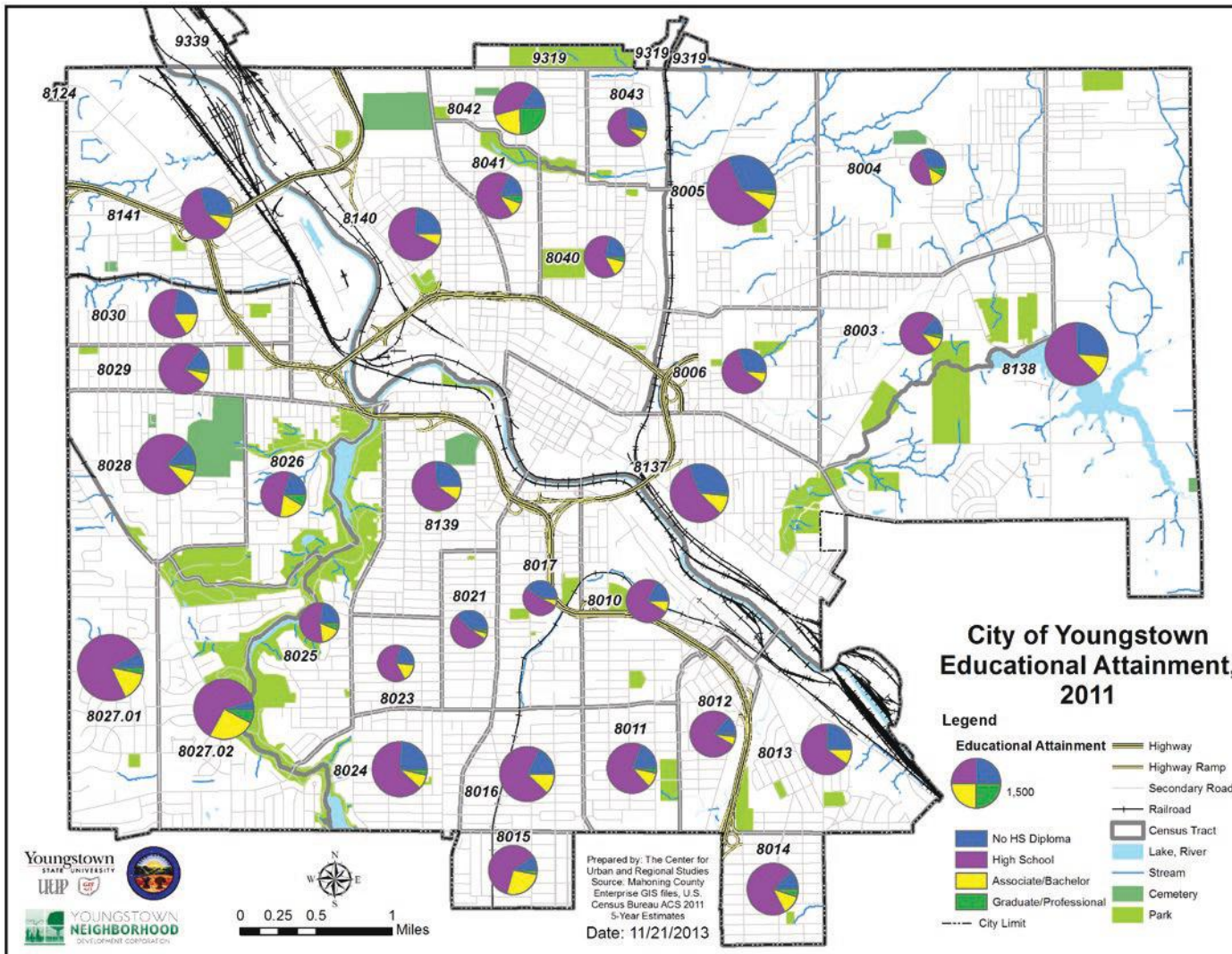


Education

In the City of Youngstown 20% of adults are without a high school diploma, 64% have a high school diploma, 12% have either an Associate's or a Bachelor's degree, and 4% have either a graduate or professional degree. **Twenty-five percent or more of adults in**

ten census tracts are without a high school diploma. These tracts are located primarily on the east side and south side. Tracts on the east side include 8004, 8005, 8006, 8137, 8138. Tracts on the south side include 8017, 8021, and 8139. The remaining tracts are 8141 on the west side and 8043 on the north side.

Three census tracts have a high percentage of adults with an Associate's and/or Bachelor's degree: 8015 on the south side, 8042 on the north side, and 8027.02 on the west side. Tract 8042 also has the highest percentage of adults with a graduate or professional degree.



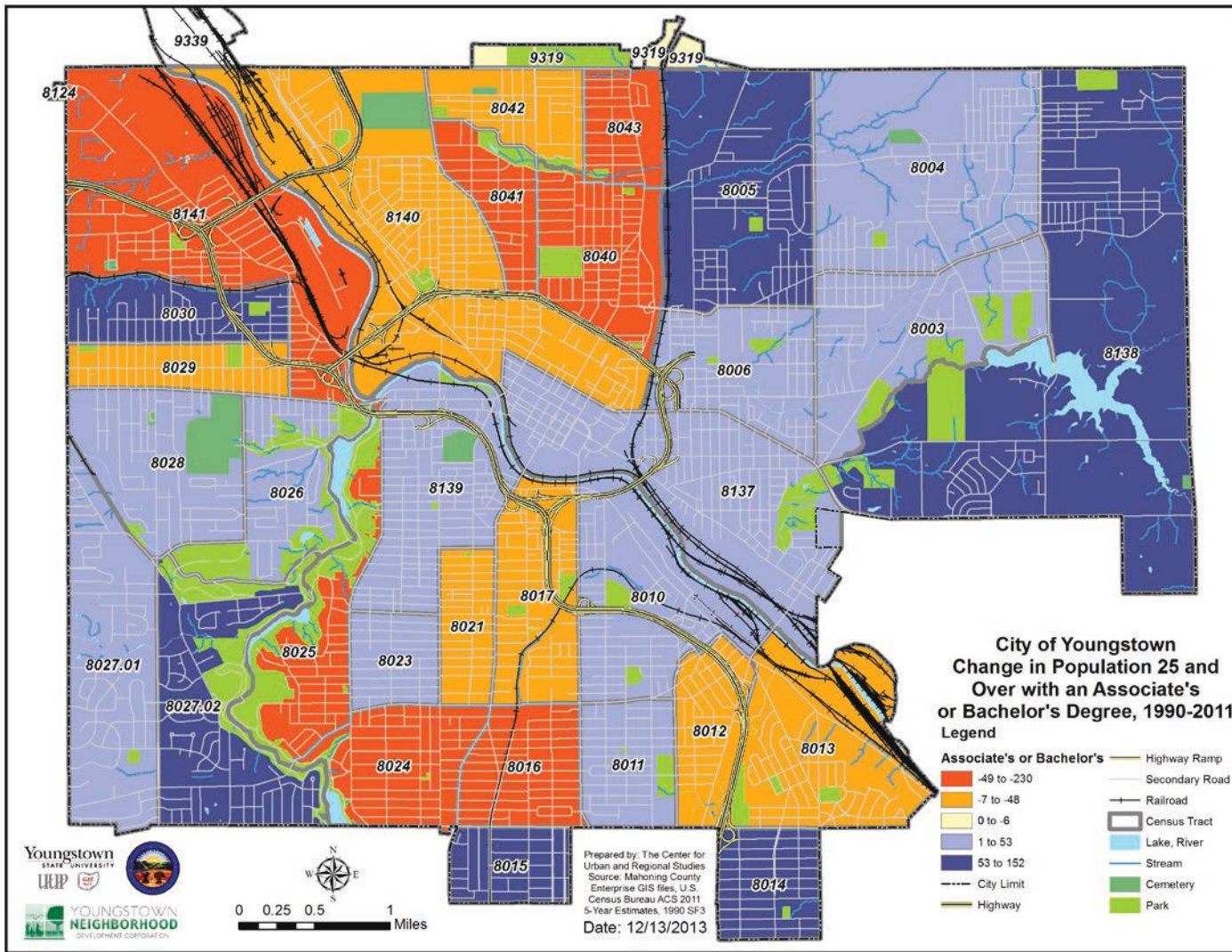
Youngstown has a higher percentage of residents without a high school diploma and a lower percentage of residents with a post-secondary degree than any other benchmark city.



Figure 2.32 - Just over 13,000 students attend Youngstown State University.



Figure 2.33 - Approximately 750 students attend East High School.



The percentage of Youngstown adults with a college degree rose by more than a third between 1990 and 2010. **Increases in educational attainment among adults are most pronounced on the east side.** All tracts experienced more than 50% increases in the percentage of adults with an Associate's or Bachelor's degree. Dramatic increases also occurred on the south side in tracts 8010, 8011, 8014, 8023, and 8139.

Several tracts experienced a decrease in the percentage of adults with degrees: 8041 and 8043 on the north side; 8029 on the west side; and 8016 and 8024 on the south side. Four of these five tracts saw population decreases greater than the city as a whole, indicating a significant exodus of educated persons from these neighborhoods.

Figure 2.34 - Jones Hall, Youngstown State University.



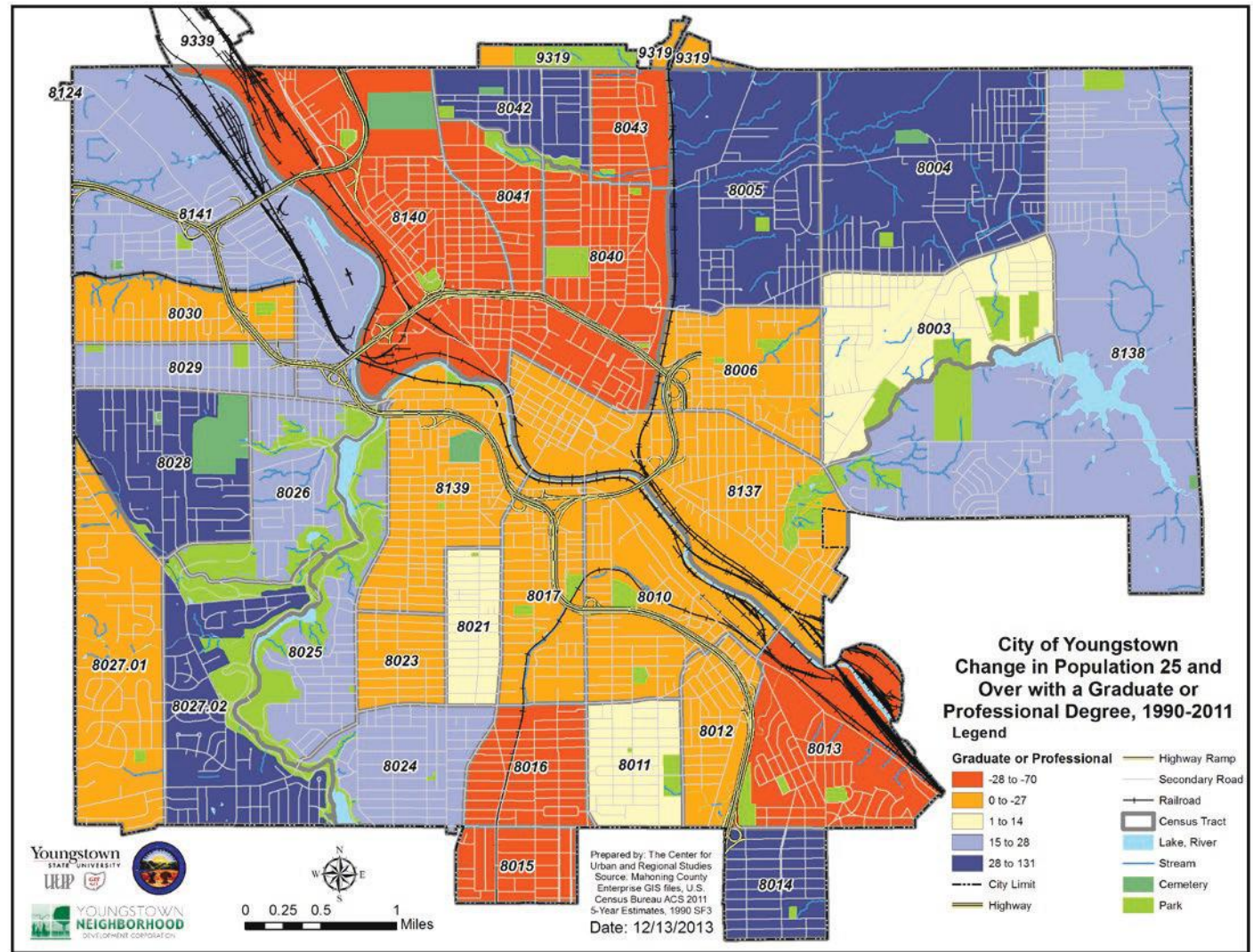
Figure 2.35 - Eastern Gateway Community College, in downtown Youngstown.



Figure 2.36 - Youngstown State University students.



Census tracts across the north side experienced a decrease in both the percentage and the number of adults with a graduate or professional degree: 8040, 8041, 8043, and 8140; only 8042 had an increase. Many south side tracts also saw a decrease: 8010, 8011, 8013, 8015, 8016, 8017, and 8139. Most tracts on the east side recorded increases, as well as tracts 8026, 8027.02, and 8028 on the west side.



Figures 2.37-40 - Job density is greatest in downtown, where major employers include government, education, and health care service industries.

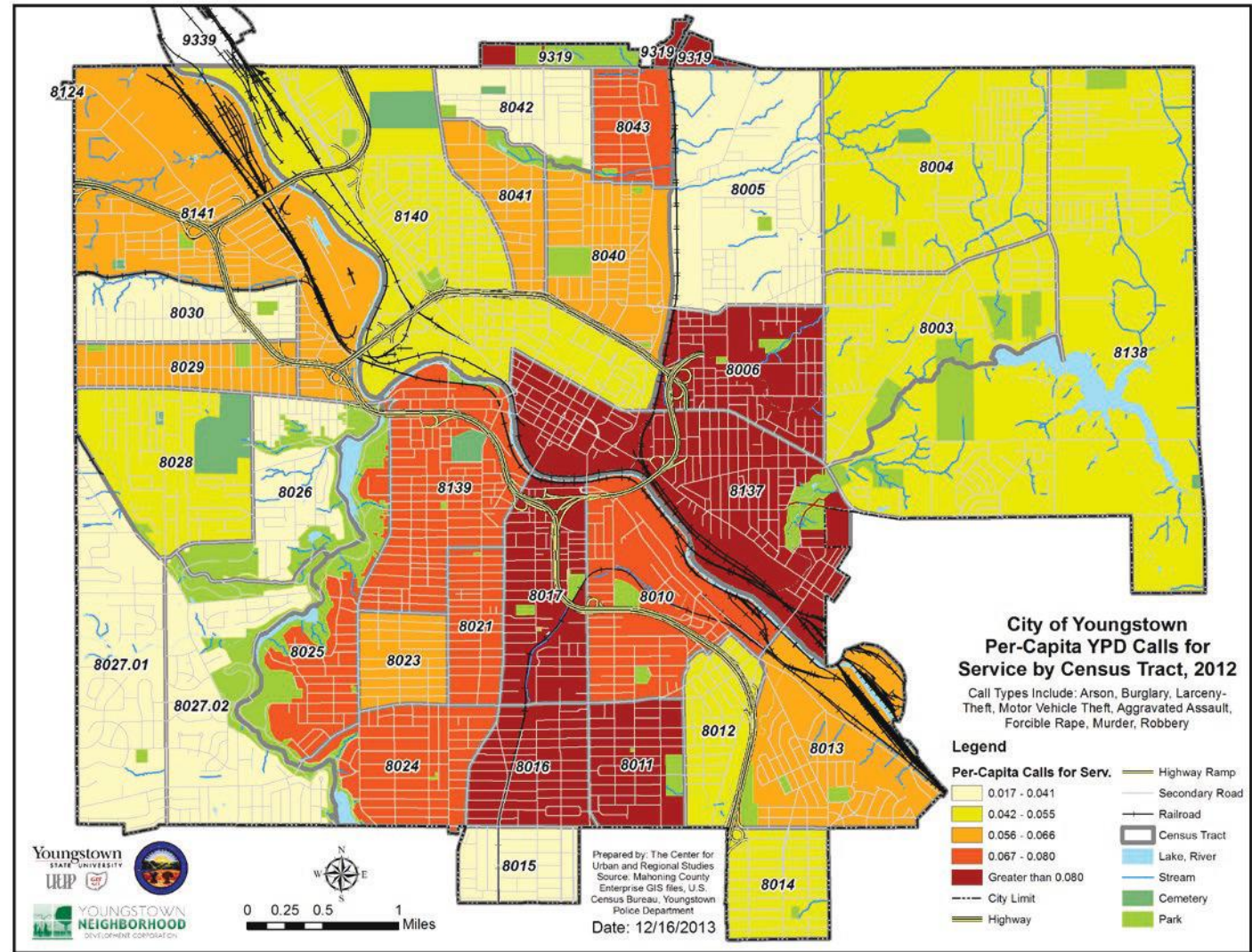


Calls for service to the Youngstown Police Department have been tracked for 8 serious crimes: arson, burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, aggravated assault, forcible rape, murder, and robbery.

Calls for service were clustered in two main areas: 1) across much of the south side, from Mill Creek Park to Shady Run Road and from Downtown to Midlothian Boulevard; and 2) on the lower east side, in tracts 8006 and 8137. Calls for service were lowest on the west side in census tracts 8026, 8027.01, 8027.02, and 8030.



Figure 2.41 - Crime is a significant issue on the city's south side.



Calls for Service to Youngstown Police Department

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Calls for service (arson, burglary, larceny/theft, motor vehicle theft, aggravated assault, forcible rape, murder, and robbery)	5,706	5,191	6,578	5,880	5,136	4,957	5,333	4,502	3,975	3,887

Table 2.1 - Calls for service to YPD for 8 property and violent crimes (2003-2012).