



# **A Spatial Analysis of Urban Green Equity in North America**

Lorien Nesbitt, PhD Candidate

Faculty of Forestry, UBC

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# *Urban Green Equity:*

Equitable access to urban greenery regardless of differentiating factors such as socioeconomic status, race, cultural background, or age

# Why does green equity matter?



## ***Ethics***

- We all deserve equal access

## ***Physical health***

- Better overall health
- Fewer cardiovascular problems
- Improved pregnancy outcomes

## ***Climate change adaptation***

- Does low green equity = vulnerability?

## ***Crime rates?***

- Urban vegetation can be associated with reduced crime in low-income areas

# What do we need to know?

## ***Where***

- Where is urban vegetation?
- Where isn't it?

## ***Socioeconomics***

- Who benefits?
- Who doesn't?

## ***Local context***

- Urban development history
- Urban forest management practices
- Cultural perceptions/preferences

## ***Governance***

- Who has power?
- Who decides?



# New York City Case Study

**LEGEND**

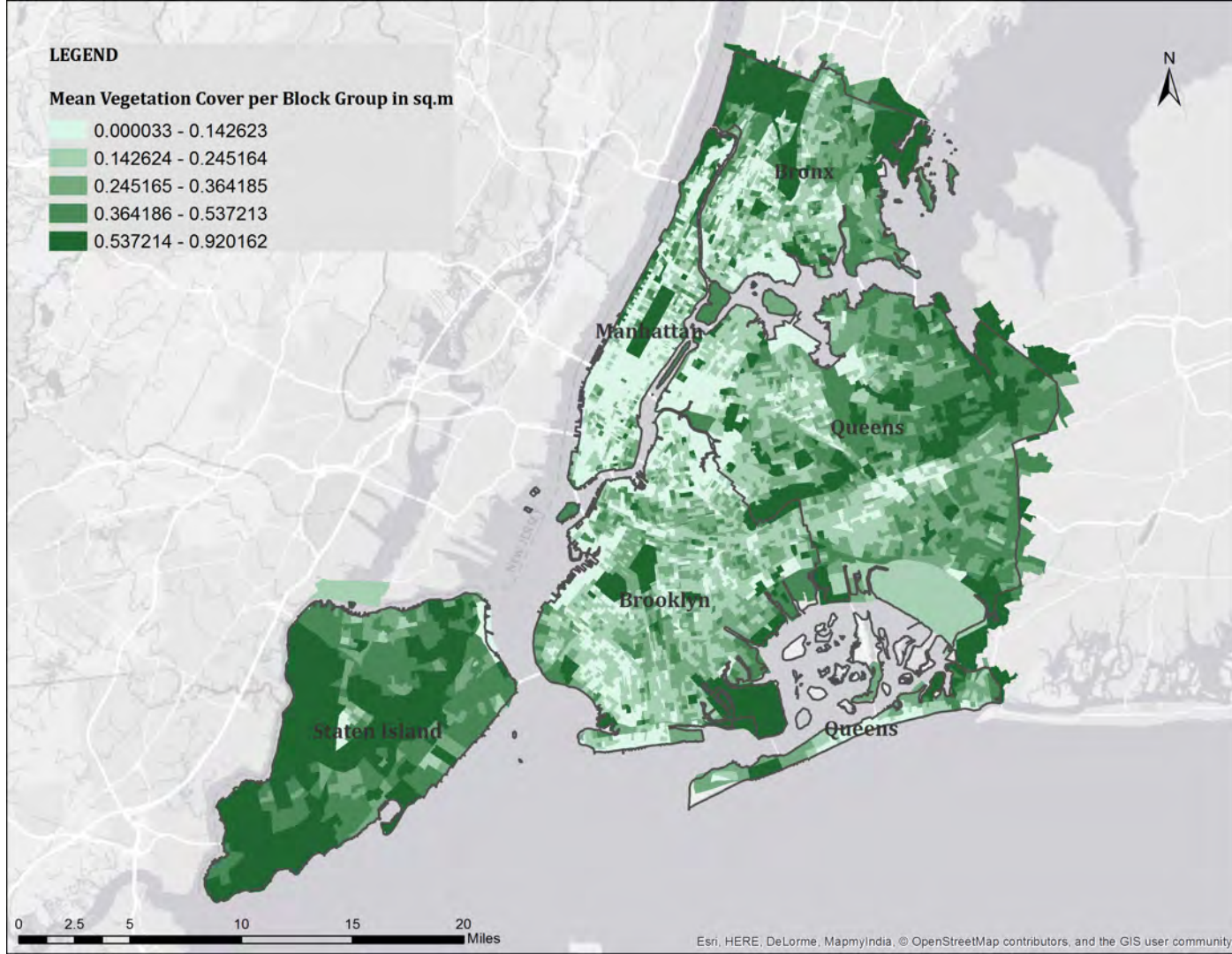
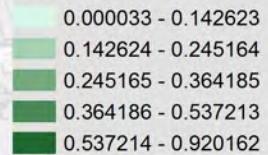
**Study Area**

-  Bronx
-  Brooklyn
-  Manhattan
-  Queens
-  Staten Island

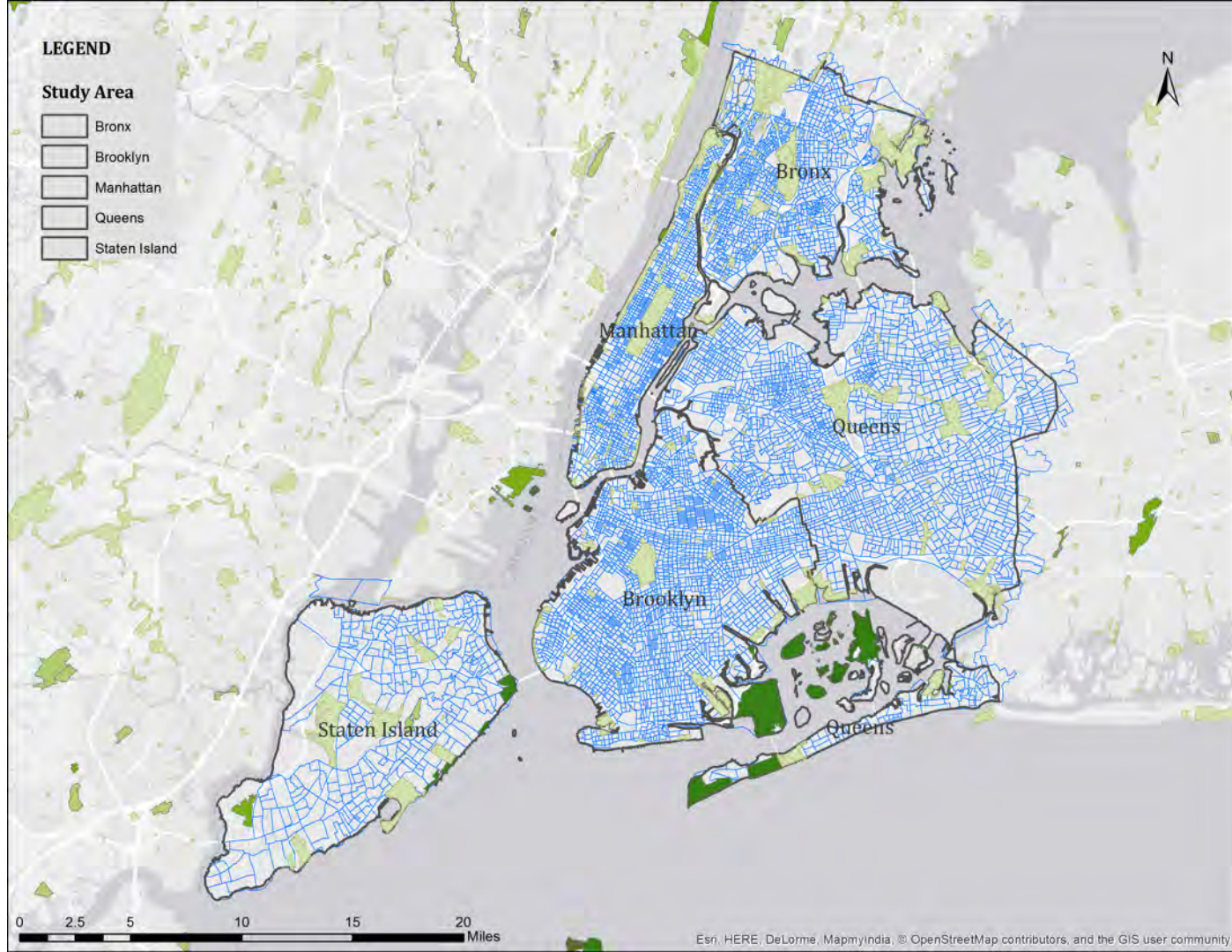


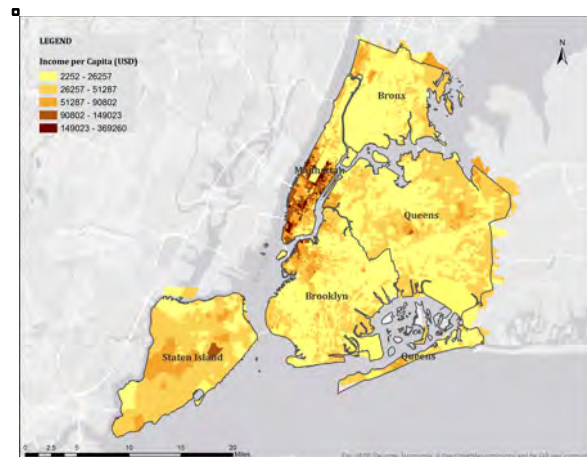
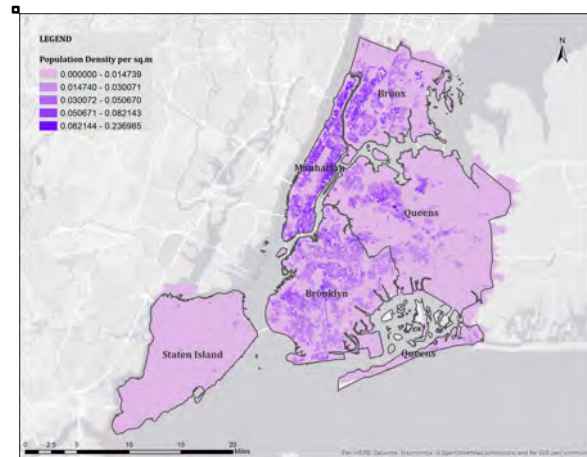
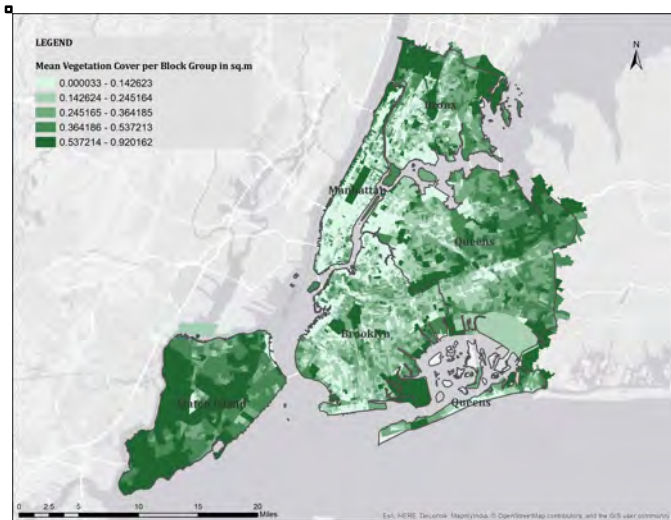
## LEGEND

Mean Vegetation Cover per Block Group in sq.m

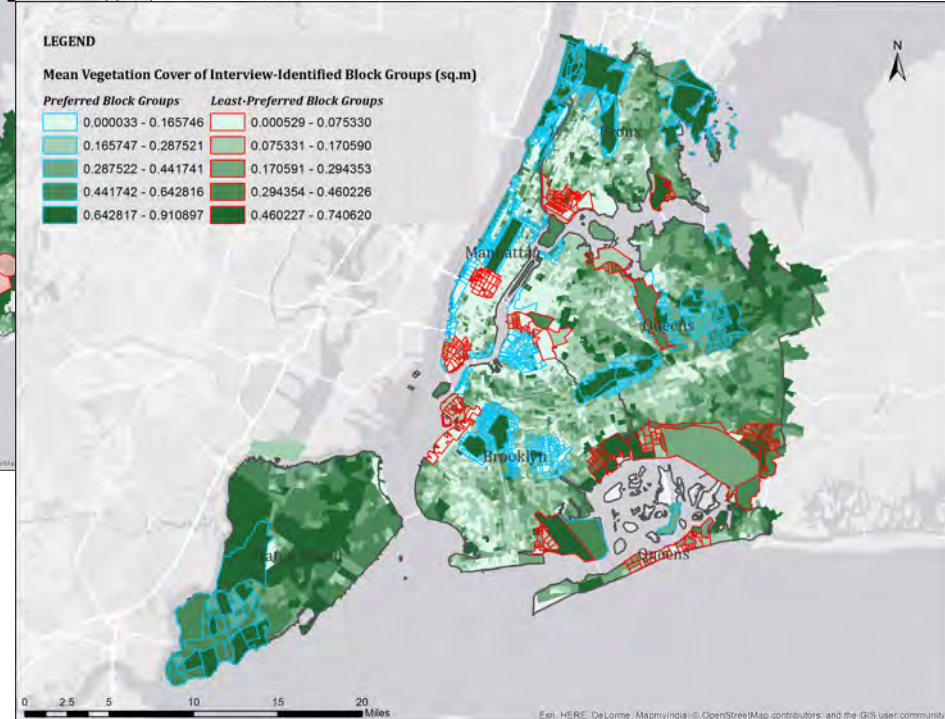
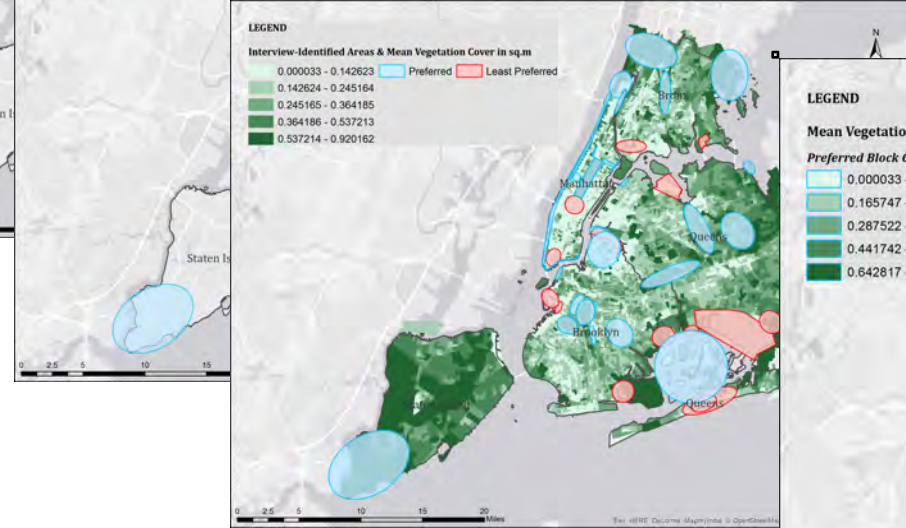


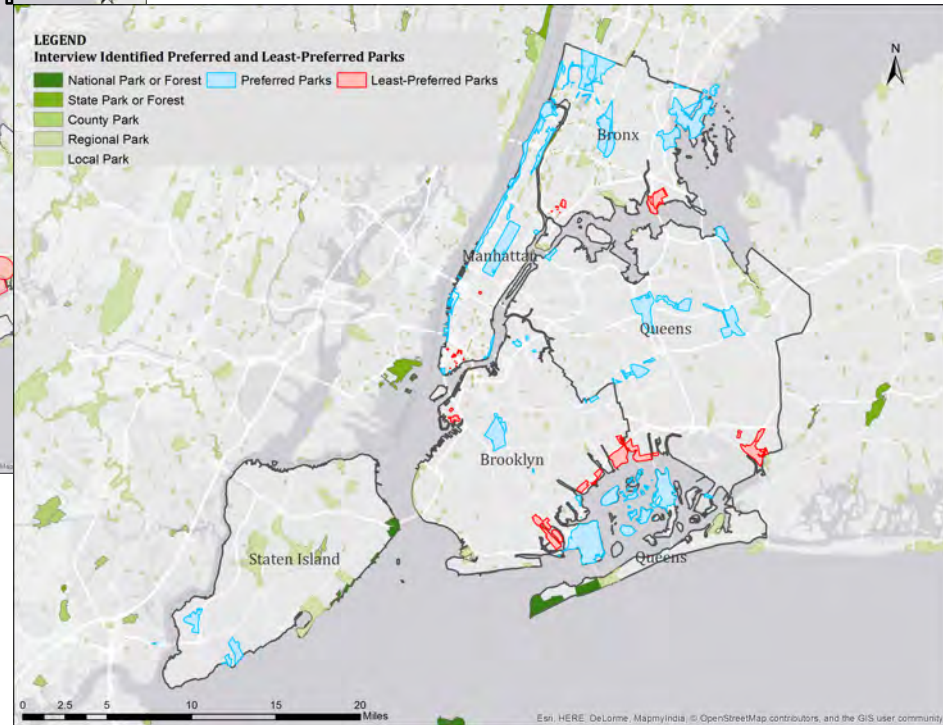
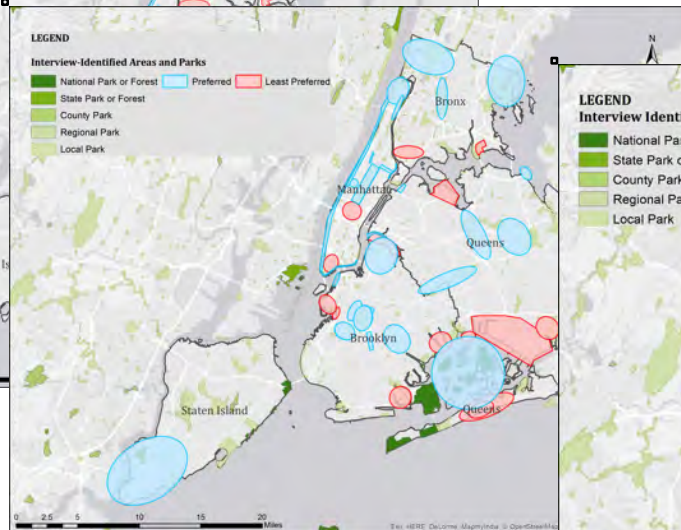
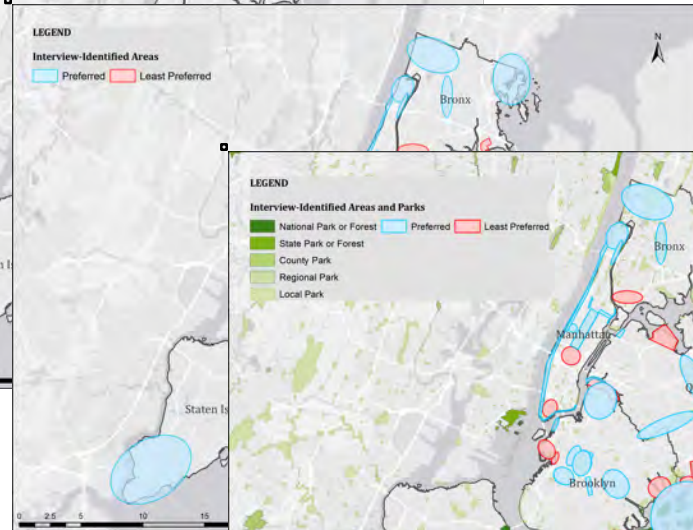














# Urban forest preferences

## ***Preferred***

- Large, mature trees
- Natural vegetation
- Recreational green spaces
- Areas near subjects' home/work
- Trees/green spaces that reflect cultural character or history
- 56 areas
- More vegetation
- More parks & larger parks

## ***Least preferred***

- Trees in poor condition
- Sparse vegetation
- Industrial urban environment
- 18 areas
- Less green
- Fewer parks & smaller parks

# Dimensions of green equity

## ***Access***

- Equitable opportunities to access and benefit

## ***Preference/Quality***

- Varied preference for vegetation qualities and characteristics

## ***Governance***

- Stewardship and active citizenship
- Mosaic governance
- Inclusive planning
- Supporting engagement

# Questions?

Lorien Nesbitt  
[lorien.nesbitt@ubc.ca](mailto:lorien.nesbitt@ubc.ca)