

# Hospitality in the City

**World Town Planning Day 2014**  
**Theme: Unintended Consequence**

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## Introduction

One of the qualities of “good” city form is **hospitality**:  
the degree to which  
different people,  
at different times,  
for different motivations,  
are accommodated.

The **PUBLIC REALM** - space within the city where all citizens can be *by right*.





## Issue

Focus on the private realm at the expense of the public realm





## Issue

### Privatization and control of the public realm





Basic needs that the PUBLIC REALM should provide include:

## Shelter





Basic needs that the PUBLIC REALM should provide include:

## Water

Luxor, Egypt photo F Alaniz Uribe





Basic needs that the PUBLIC REALM should provide include:

## Water

Calgary, photo B Sandalack





Basic needs that the PUBLIC REALM should provide include:

## Food

Halifax, Nova Scotia





Basic needs that the PUBLIC REALM should provide include:

## Other amenities - place-specific

New York



Christchurch, New Zealand





Basic needs that the PUBLIC REALM should provide include:

## Social gathering places

Calgary



Calgary





Basic needs that the PUBLIC REALM should provide include:

## Seating





Basic needs that the PUBLIC REALM should provide include:

## Spaces for all age groups





Basic needs that the PUBLIC REALM should provide include:

## Spaces for all citizens





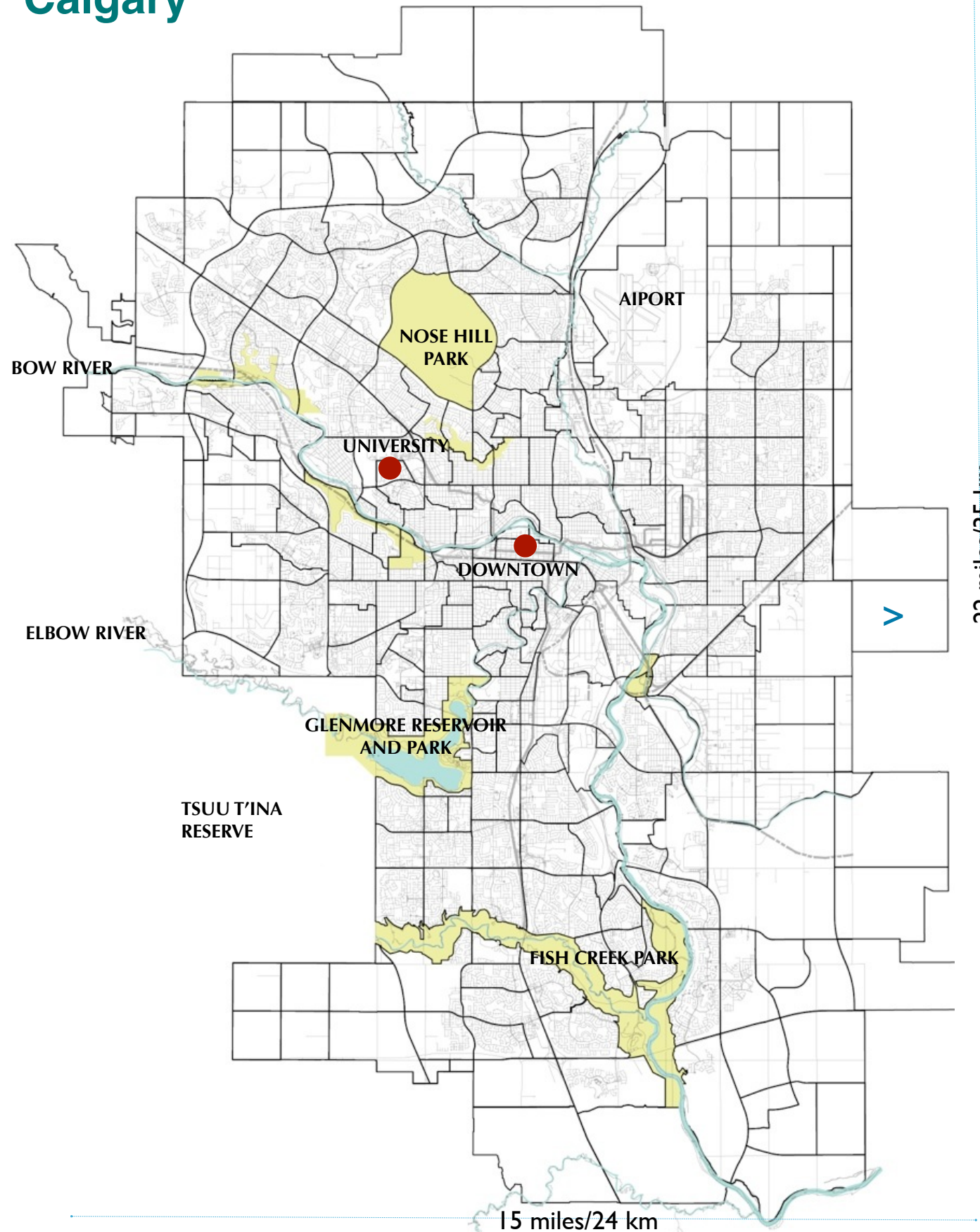
We are here:



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# Calgary



map by the Urban Lab 2011 based on City of Calgary CAD layers

- > established at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers
- > area +330 square miles, population +1.3 Million
- > several large urban parks
- > clear neighbourhood boundaries
- > concentric growth around distinct and imageable downtown



model of downtown Calgary looking south  
by the Urban Lab 2003



## Project: Inventory and Analysis – Calgary Centre City

A recent project between the University of Calgary and the City of Calgary assessed the quality of the public realm in downtown Calgary, in order to provide the basis for improvement strategies that would encourage use by more people.





A systematic **audit** provided a comprehensive database and map inventory of the study area. It highlighted areas of poor quality, where pedestrian activity would be discouraged due to various physical factors (e.g., sidewalk presence/condition, places to sit, provision of shade/shelter, etc.).



The Urban Lab / Faculty of Environmental Design  
PF 3102 - 2500 University Dr. NW  
Calgary, AB - T2N 1N4 - 403.220.7527



16.aug.2014

**Project: Centre City Public Realm Audit Proposal**

**AUDIT RUBRIC**

**Sidewalks and Circulation**

Sidewalk Quality

- 5 - Sidewalks are generously wide, evenly surfaced, made with high quality materials, and are extremely well-maintained.
- 4 - Sidewalks are above average width, evenly surfaced, made with quality materials, and are well-maintained.
- 3 - Sidewalks are average width, with some uneven surfaces, made with regular materials, and are generally maintained.
- 2 - Sidewalks are narrow, have uneven surfaces, are made with regular materials, and are under-maintained.
- 1 - Sidewalks are extremely narrow, have rough or uneven surfaces, are made with regular or lower-grade materials, and require significant maintenance.

Sidewalk Distribution

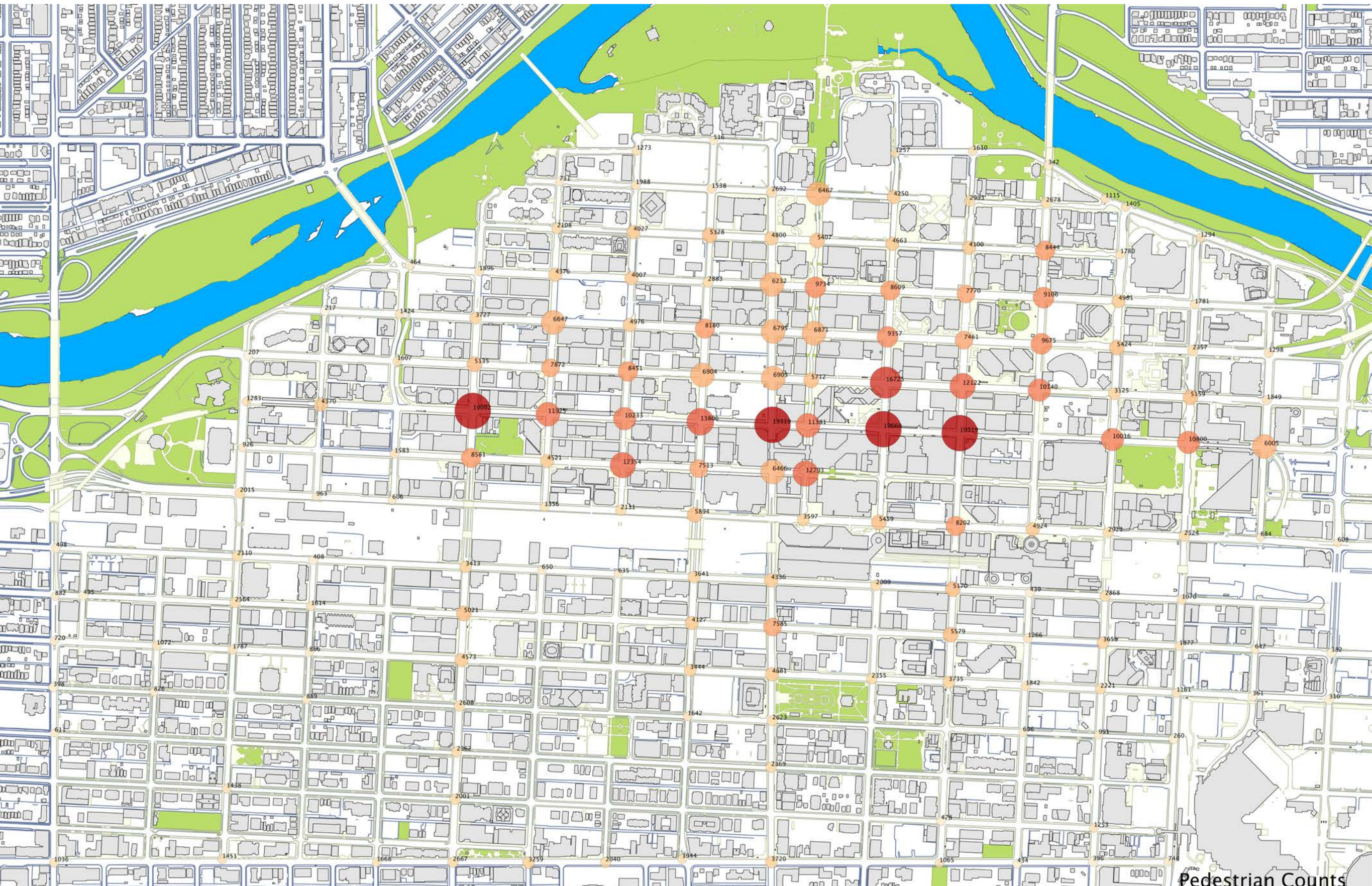
- 5 - Sidewalks consistently line both sides of the street. They are set back from the road and a buffer (such as street trees or parked cars) separates pedestrians from vehicles.
- 4 - Sidewalks regularly line both sides of the street. They are generally set back from the road and buffers sometimes separate pedestrians and vehicles.
- 3 - Sidewalks tend to line both sides of the street. There is generally no set back from the road, but there are occasional buffers that separate pedestrians and vehicles.
- 2 - Sidewalks tend to line only one side of the street. There is generally no set back from the road, and there are few buffers between pedestrians and vehicles.
- 1 - Sidewalks are generally absent. When present, they are next to the street with little or no buffer between pedestrians and vehicles.

Pedestrian Crossings

- 5 - There are clearly articulated pedestrian crossings at all intersections (including flashing lights where necessary).
- 4 - Most pedestrian crossings are articulated.
- 3 - Some pedestrian crossings are articulated.
- 2 - Few pedestrian crossings some barriers (concrete barriers, closures, etc.).
- 1 - No pedestrian crossings and multiple barriers.

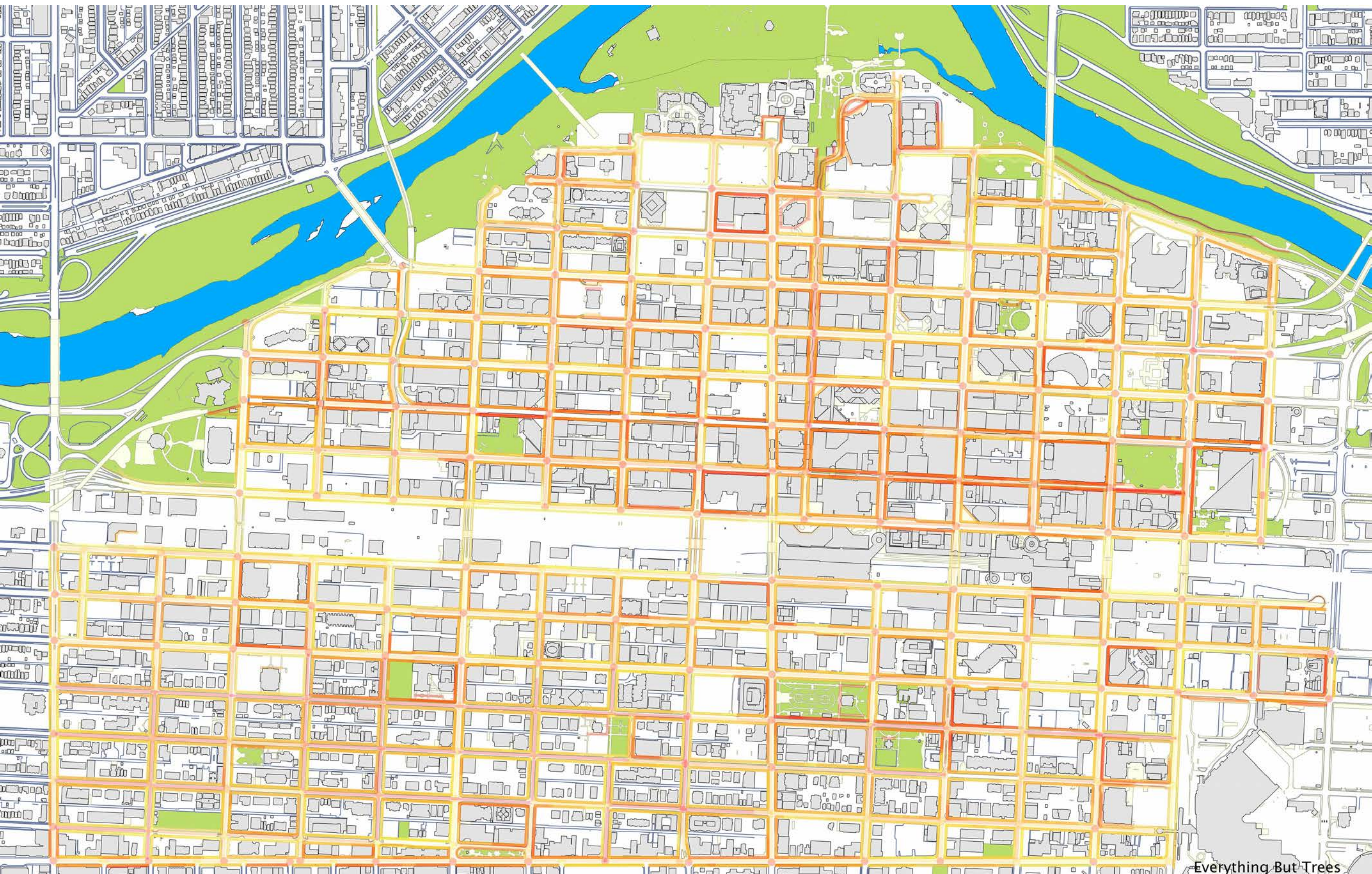


# Example mapping: Pedestrian counts at intersections



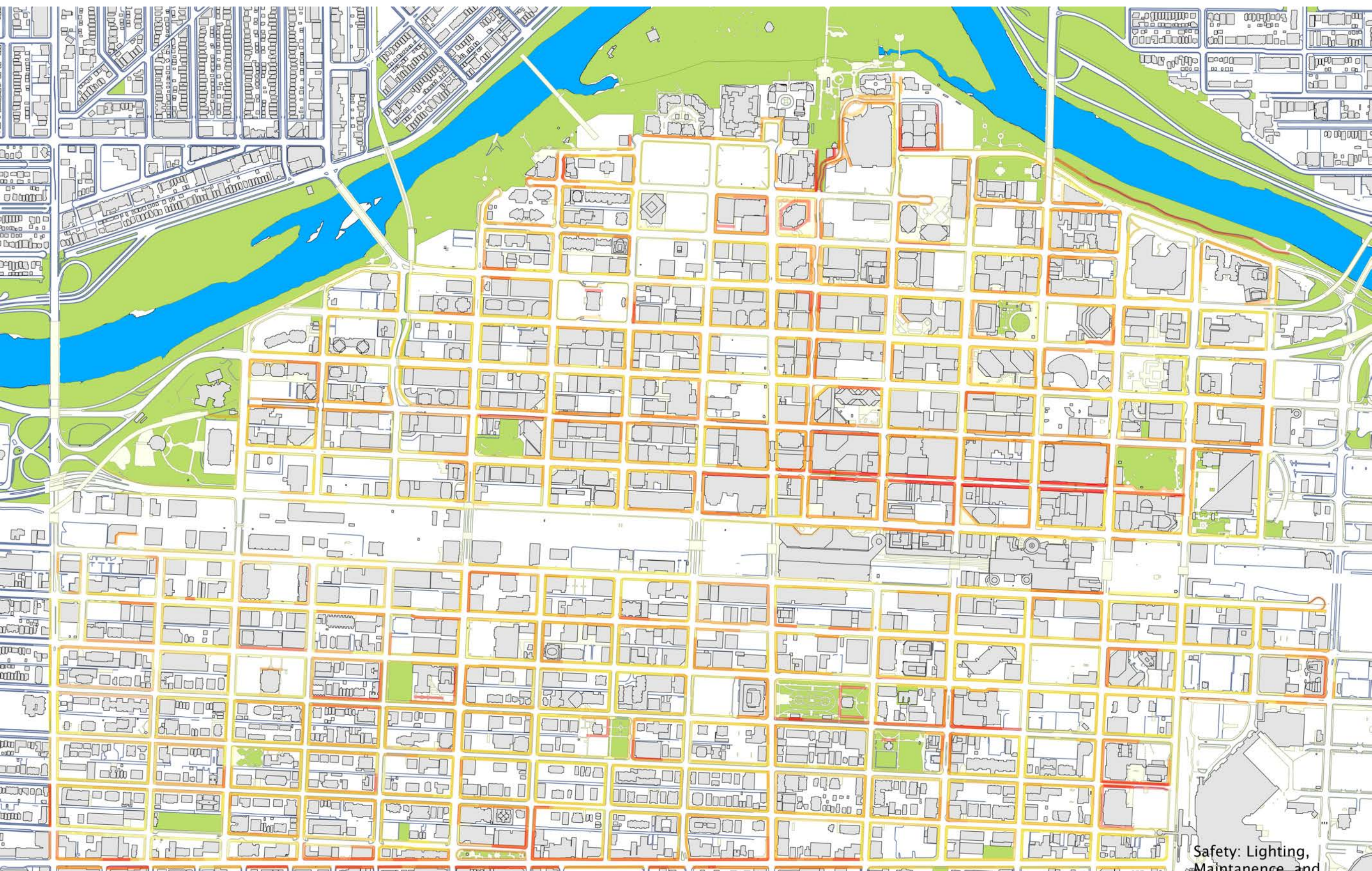


## Example mapping: Public realm qualities (all aspects except trees)





## Example mapping: Safety, lighting, building frontage quality





## Unintended consequences of planning

Negative consequences occurred in several types of circumstances:

- where the physical quality was not deliberate, but was poor due to conflicting values
- automobile circulation vs. pedestrian comfort
- infrastructure provision not coordinated - shallow utilities prevent street tree planting

Fort McMurray

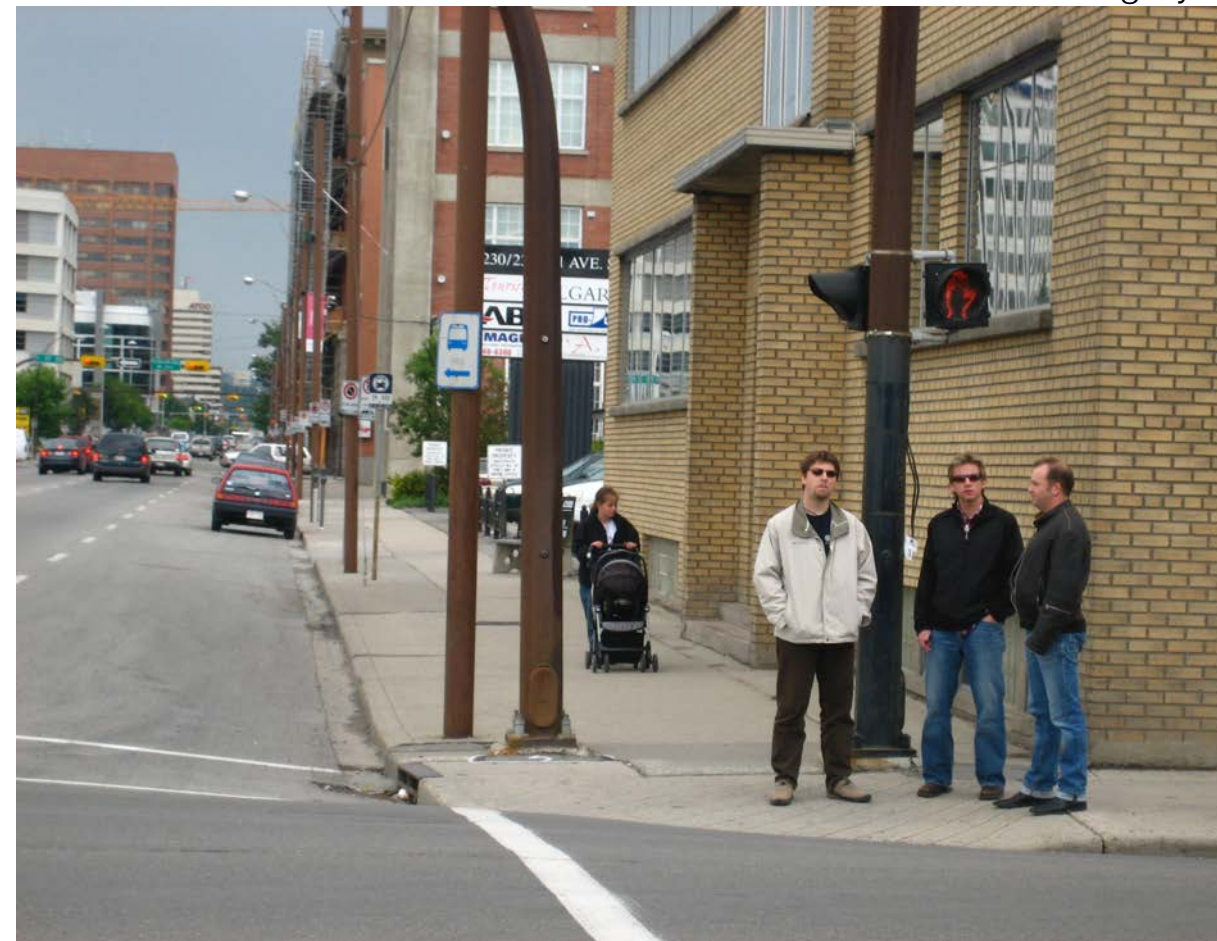




# Unintended consequences of planning

- where the physical quality was not deliberate, but was poor due to conflicting values
- automobile circulation vs. pedestrian comfort
- infrastructure provision not coordinated - shallow utilities prevent street tree planting

Calgary









## Unintended consequences of planning

- where the provision of a public good (e.g. residential use) was not balanced with other qualities





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## Unintended consequences of planning

- where attempts to reduce habitation of a space by 'undesirables' was deliberate, which then rendered the spaces un-hospitable to all citizens.





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# CENTRE CITY PUBLIC TOILET STRATEGY

## **-PILOT PROGRAM LOCATION-**

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS REGARDING THE  
OPERATION OF THIS UNIT -  
**PLEASE CALL THE CITY OF CALGARY @ 311**



## Unintended consequences of planning

- where attempts to reduce habitation of a space by 'undesirables' was deliberate, which then rendered the spaces un-hospitable to all citizens.





# Unintended consequences of planning

- where urban redevelopment becomes a victim of its own success

> East Village - derelict area produced by previous eras of questionable planning and design decisions, vacant for decades



Calgary Municipal Land Corporation



## Unintended consequences of planning

- where urban redevelopment becomes a victim of its own success

> East Village - aiming to be the coolest, hottest, oldest, newest neighbourhood





# Unintended consequences of planning

- where urban redevelopment becomes a victim of its own success

➤ Riverwalk - public realm improvements in advance of redevelopment - attracts many users, in addition to existing population of marginal and homeless





## Unintended consequences of planning

- where urban redevelopment becomes a victim of its own success

> Public toilets installed to make the area more hospitable





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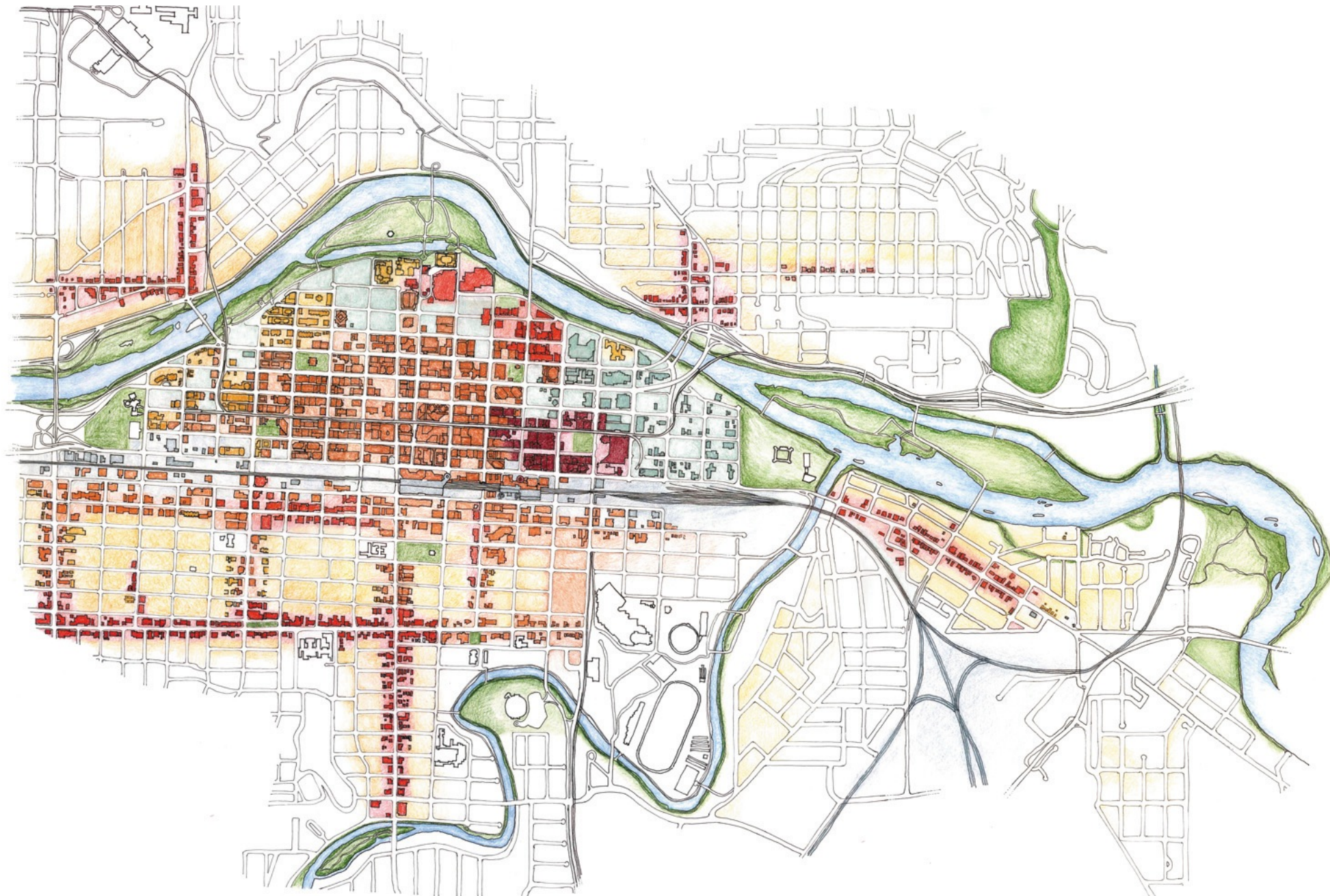
➤ Public toilets closed except for during events (for the paying public) due to concerns about negative uses and users





## Strategies for the future, based on project findings

- build on existing high-use areas and thoroughfares - start where things are working well
- series of improvement strategies
  - linkages, including railway underpasses
  - high use nodes and potential destinations
  - street tree planting strategy
  - sidewalk improvements
  - ground floor uses (e.g., facing the river, where the popular river path runs)





## And aiming to avoid unintended consequences of planning



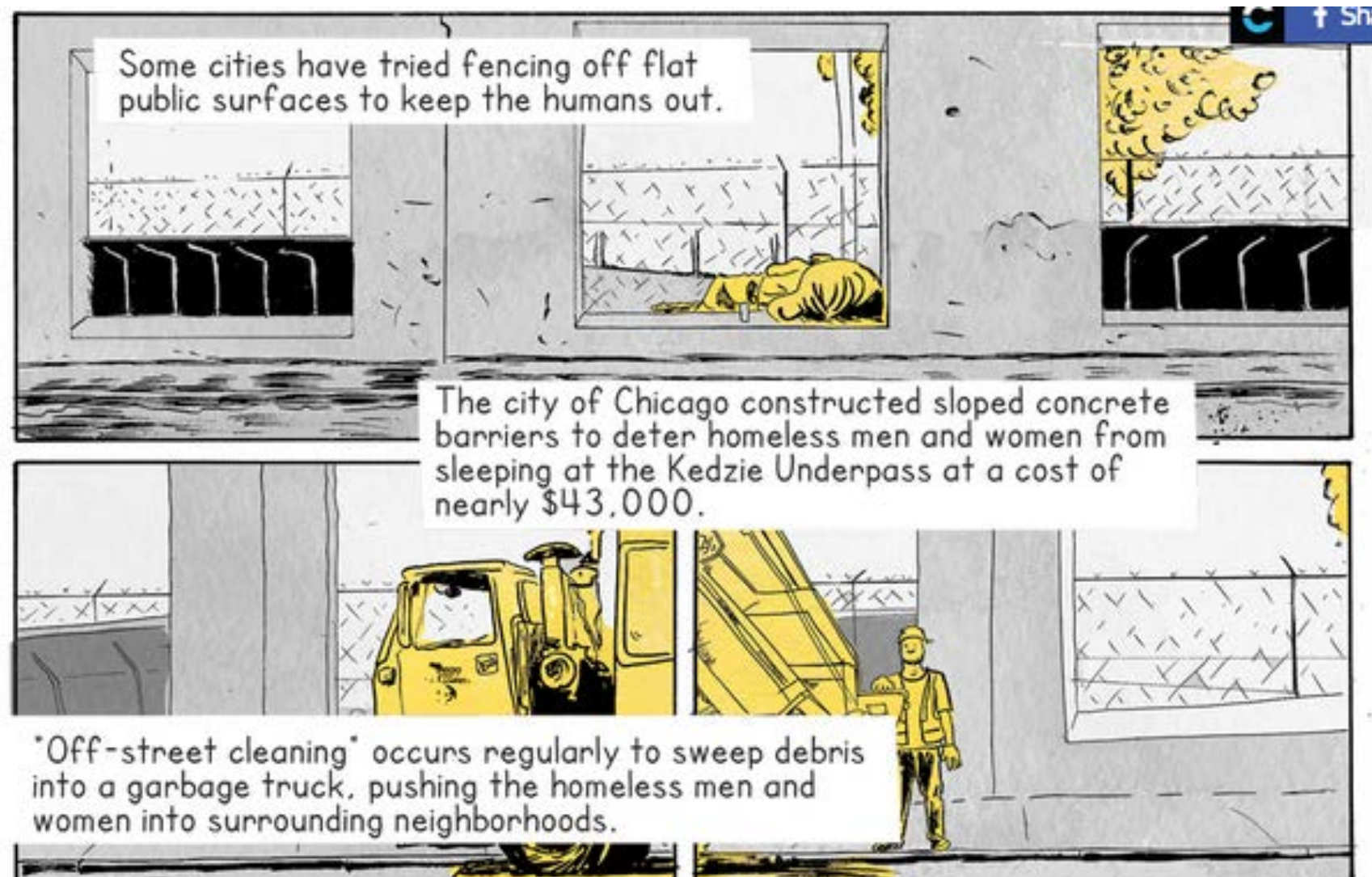
CityLab   
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Following

What happens when people with nowhere else to go are told to move along?

[trib.al/7PFTd0W](https://trib.al/7PFTd0W)







thank you

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