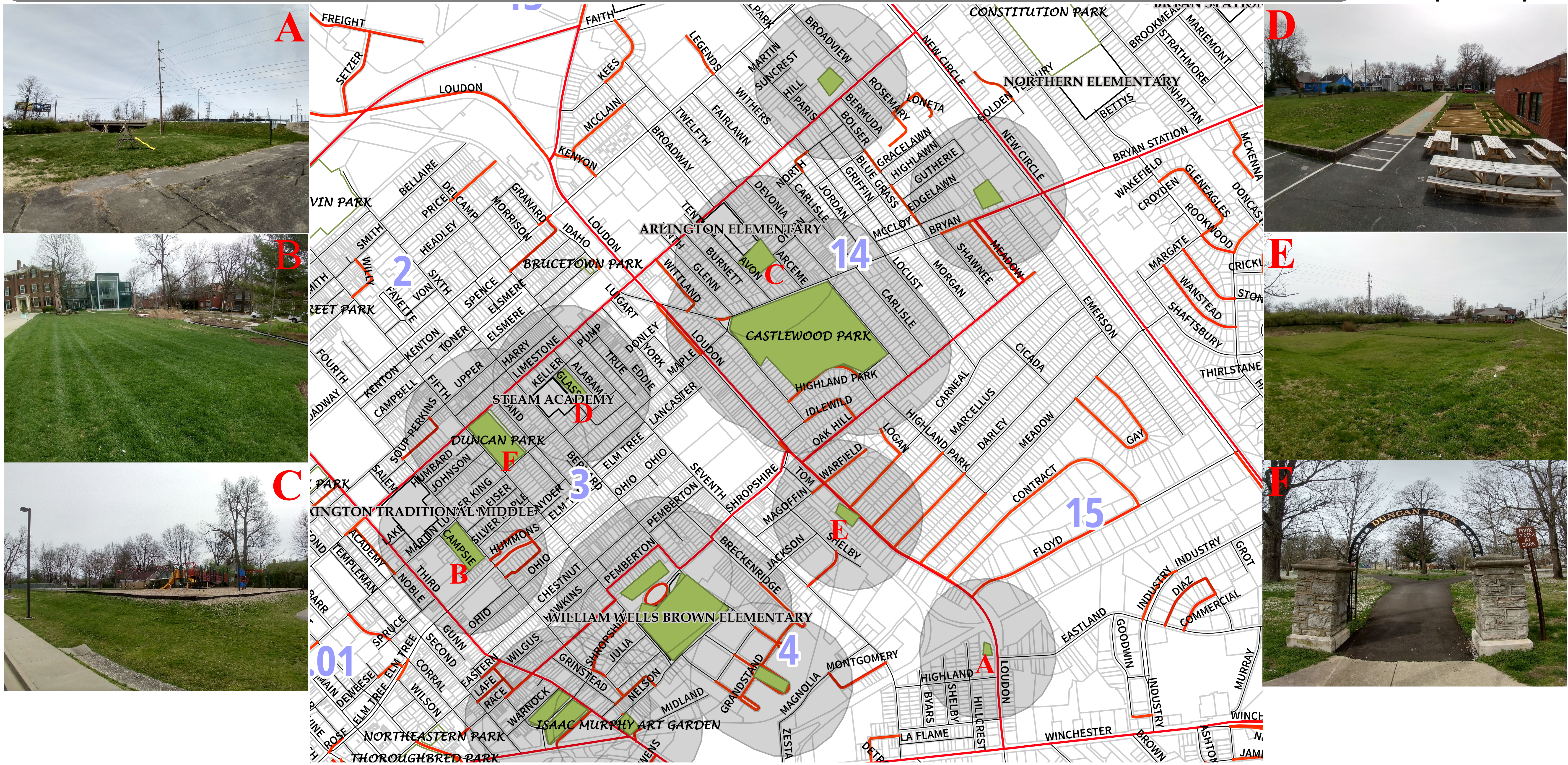


Outdoor Access – A Closer Look

Census Tracts 3, 4, 14, and 15



At the beginning of our research, we already knew that greenspaces were an essential part of an urban setting. However they are classified – parks, woods, playgrounds, athletic fields, creeks – greenspaces vary in size but all provide benefits. In addition to providing habitat for wildlife, stormwater management, and improved air quality, green urban spaces facilitate physical and mental well-being and they have the ability to reduce health inequalities. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) “physical inactivity, linked to poor walkability and lack of access to recreational areas, accounts for 3.3% of global deaths.” We wanted to look at Fayette County as a whole and see if we saw any specific concerns that could be linked to limited access to greenspace.

One reason we chose to focus on this section of Lexington is that access to greenspace is important for developmental health and we observed that census tract 4 has the highest rate of households headed by single mothers in Fayette County. Small lot sizes show that children might not have much room to play outside their homes. We also highlighted roads with heavy traffic to show one concern with pedestrian access to greenspace – crossing the street with children.

The combination of small lot sizes and a large proportion of single-parent households makes access to greenspace a very important issue. We observed that the amount of local green space available within a 10 minute walk (approximately .5 miles) alone did not appear to improve rates of obesity and high BP rates. Simply having green space available isn’t going to fix the larger problems we observed.

