RETHINKING INSTITUTIONS AS PUBLIC SPACES

Expanding Public Spaces in Institutional and Educational Land Uses for the Youth and Elderly in Montréal-Nord

OUR DESIGN INSPIRATIONS

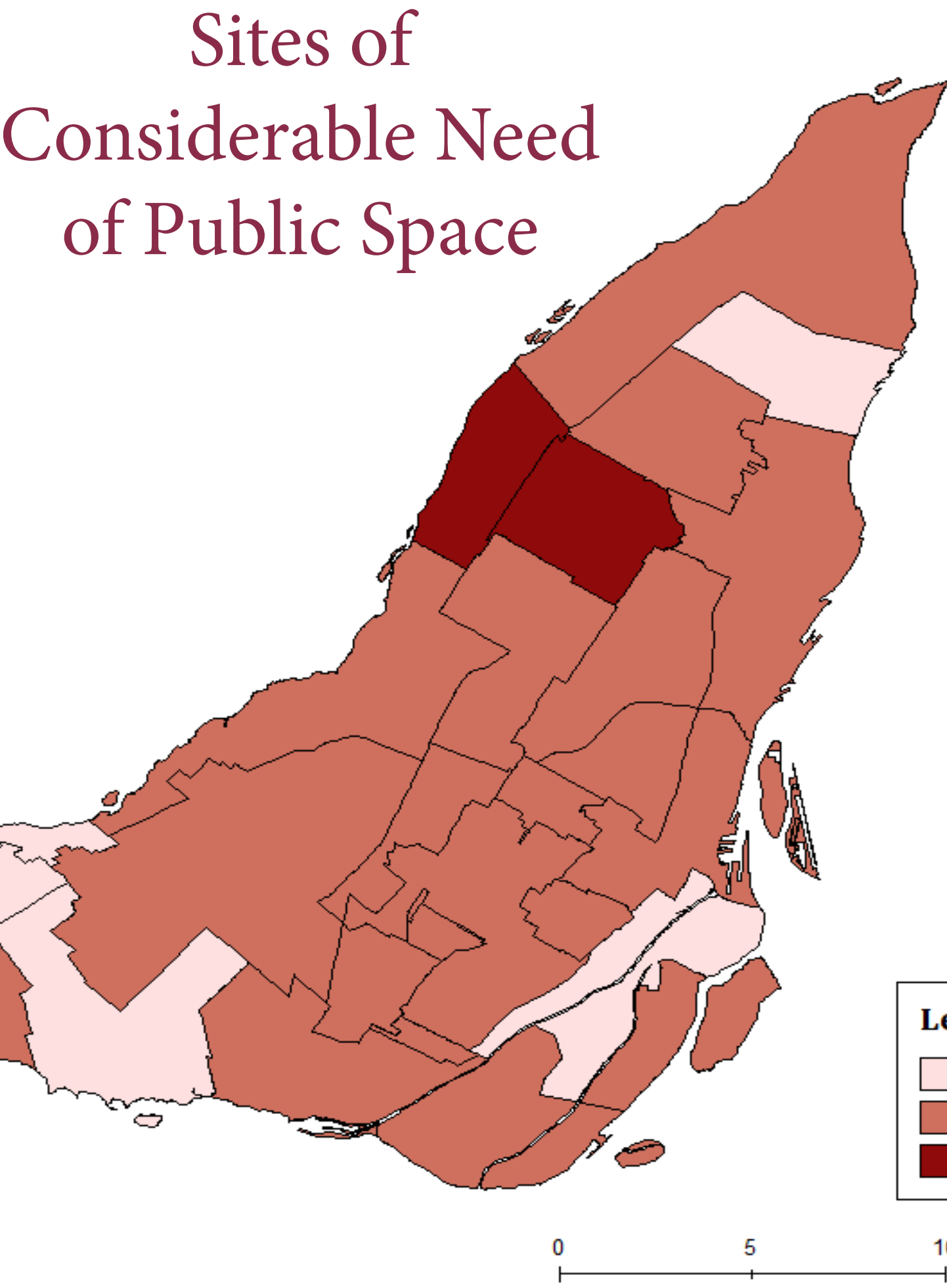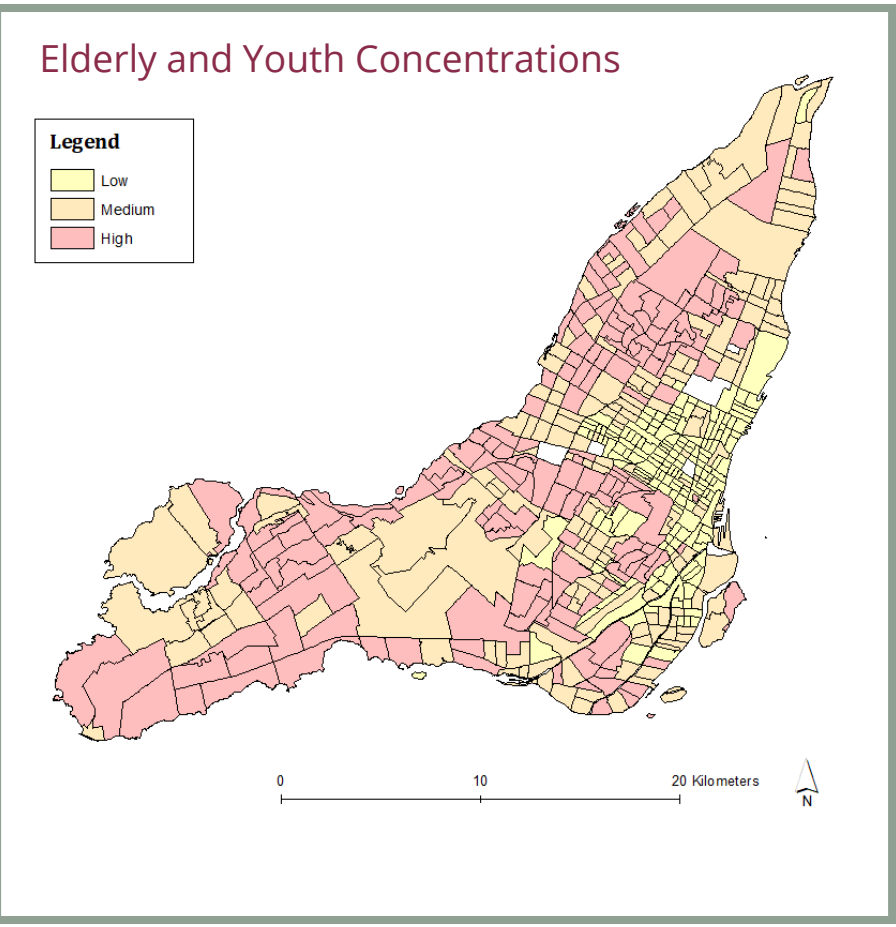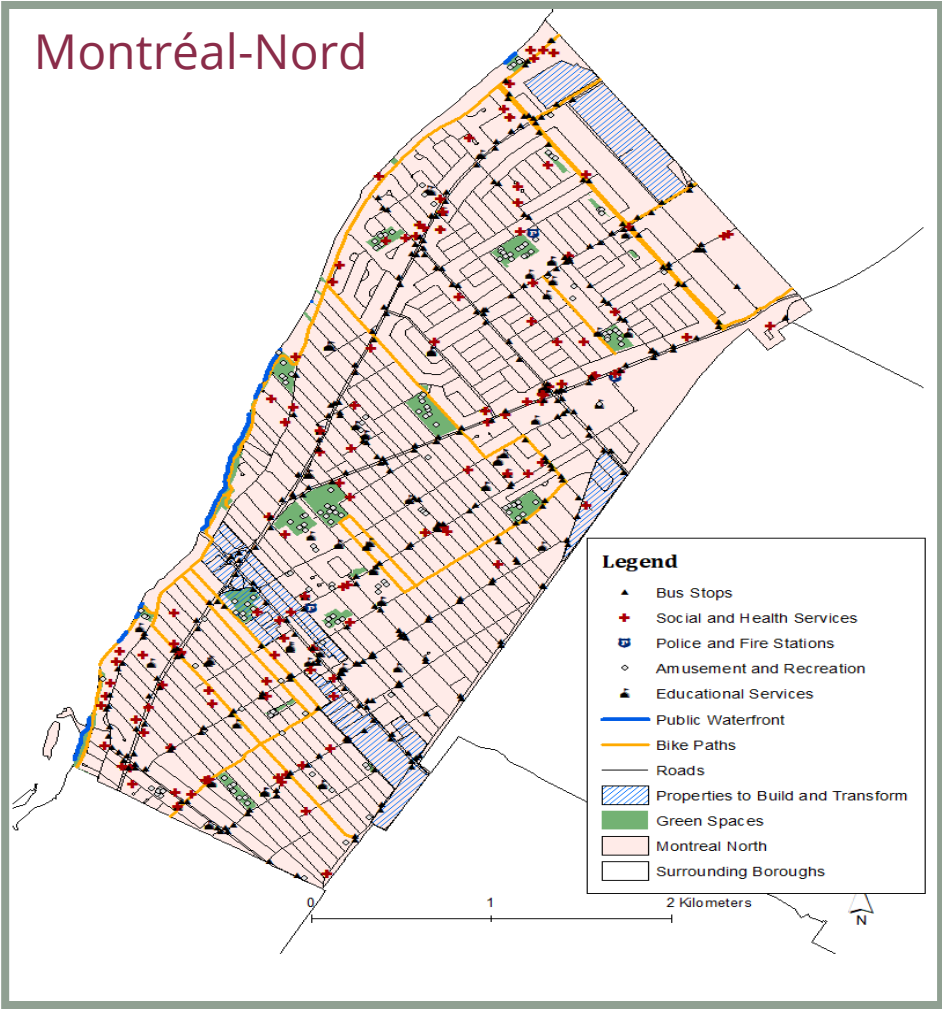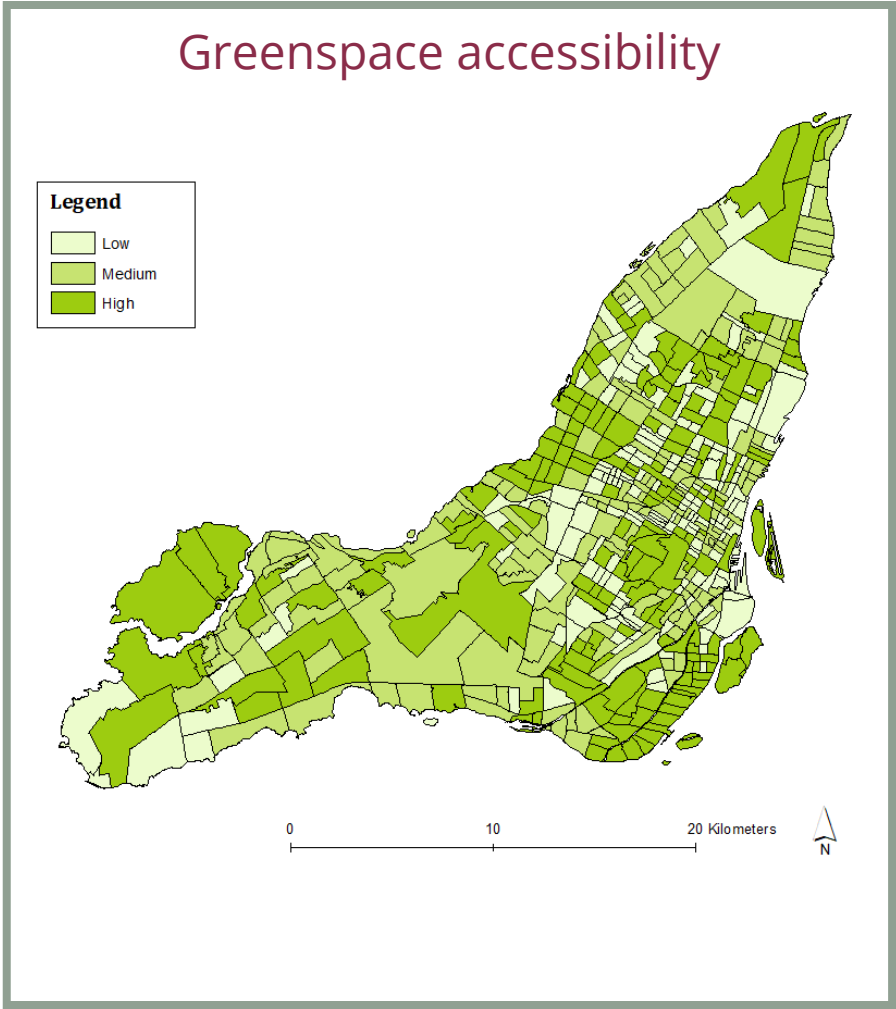### Bilbao, Spain - Public Art & Educational Spaces for Youth & Elderly

In the city of Bilbao, an increase in the geriatric population has pushed planners to find new ways to promote their wellbeing and decrease overall rates of dementia (Rooney, 2019). The new installations for all ages include brain-training games (2019), a concept that can easily be reproduced in Montréal-Nord. Since there is a high population of elderly and youth, incorporating such design may help create intergenerational bonds through play, promote educational spaces and even include some local art.

Montreal, Québec - Urban Agriculture: Vanier Collective Garden

On the campus of Vanier College, there has been an initiative by the school's board to run a community food garden, which focuses on bringing the school's community together by hosting educational events and encouraging volunteer work (Lizotte, 2018). In Montréal-Nord, this could be beneficial for residents as the socioeconomics of the borough are in great need of input. Urban gardens do not necessarily require a big amount of space, and in return provide great benefits in terms of advocacy, independence and community bonding.

Hamilton, Ontario - Waterfront Public Space

.   The Hamilton Waterfront has a circulating trolley, enabling both youth and elderly visitors the opportunity to explore children's play facilities, historic monuments, skate rental areas, an annual lights festival and a boat tour of the surrounding harbour. As the shore of Montréal-Nord is often blocked by cul-de-sac, rethinking the area could bring opportunities for residents and would be an interesting choice by exploiting the already-existing advantages of the borough. Strong emphasis of cul-de-sac that leads to nowhere, that could be replaced with a link to the water.

Greenspace accessibility

Montréal-Nord

Sites of Considerable Need of Public Space

Elderly and Youth Concentrations

SWOC ANALYSIS OF MONTRÉAL-NORD

| STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
- Strong presence of bus stops - Pie-IX BRT implementation - Bike lanes in the borough - Social and educational services that can be expanded as public space - Presence of existing pedestrian streets - Important areas of heritage within borough	- Lacking diversity of public transit options - Grid like street structure - Current lack of green space in the area - Highway 19 in the middle of the borough acts as a barrier - Bike lanes cross East-West, but there is not that many North-South options	- Presence of waterfront - High amount of elderly and youth - Developers are interested in public spaces in the area (ex: Civiliti) - Connecting bike lanes and roads to the waterfront - The City identified areas to be redeveloped within the borough	- Presence of different socioeconomic groups - Montreal's Winters - Waterfront constrains development - Not all of the land on the waterfront is public - Presence of contaminated sites - Pandemic/ catastrophe-proofing spaces (resilient space) - Pandemic limits funding opportunities for our projects

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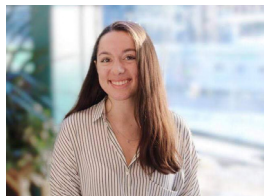
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