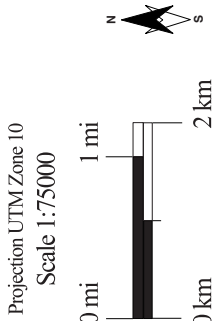


As defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, an urbanized area comprises one or more places with a minimum of 50,000 persons and at least 1,000 persons per square mile. This map depicts areas having densities of 1,000 or more people per square mile in shades of brown and those areas with densities of less than 1,000 people per square mile in shades of green. Places of urban and non-urban settlements are distinguished by using opposing colors to represent these density ranges. The graduated color scheme employed within this opposing color framework is based on the continuous density spectrum that spans urban and non-urban areas. This representation emphasizes density thresholds between urban and non-urban areas as defined by the U.S. Geological Survey as well.

Currently, areas within city limits occupy 4% of the Willamette River Basin’s area. Urban growth boundaries indicate that the percentage of land covered by cities can rise to 6%. Expanding urban areas imply a change in the economic base and also presume increasing future population densities in places that are presently not considered urban. These changing densities can be seen on the facing page map of Portland and the growing cities surrounding it (Map 12).

Density is concentrated east and north of the Willamette River, near the city’s main core. In general, with greater distance from the core, the density decreases. This pattern is also visible in the towns of Beaverton, Newberg, Hillsboro, and Canby.

Diverging from this general pattern are areas such as the city’s core, where citizens work but do not reside. Additionally, parks and open space in Portland were designed to be close to the urban center. Consequently, densities in the highest ranges are adjacent to densities in the lowest range. This contrast of densities is also visible along the city’s northern edge, where industrial zones near the Columbia Slough adjoin residential zones.



1990 Portland Area Population Density by Census Block⁷²

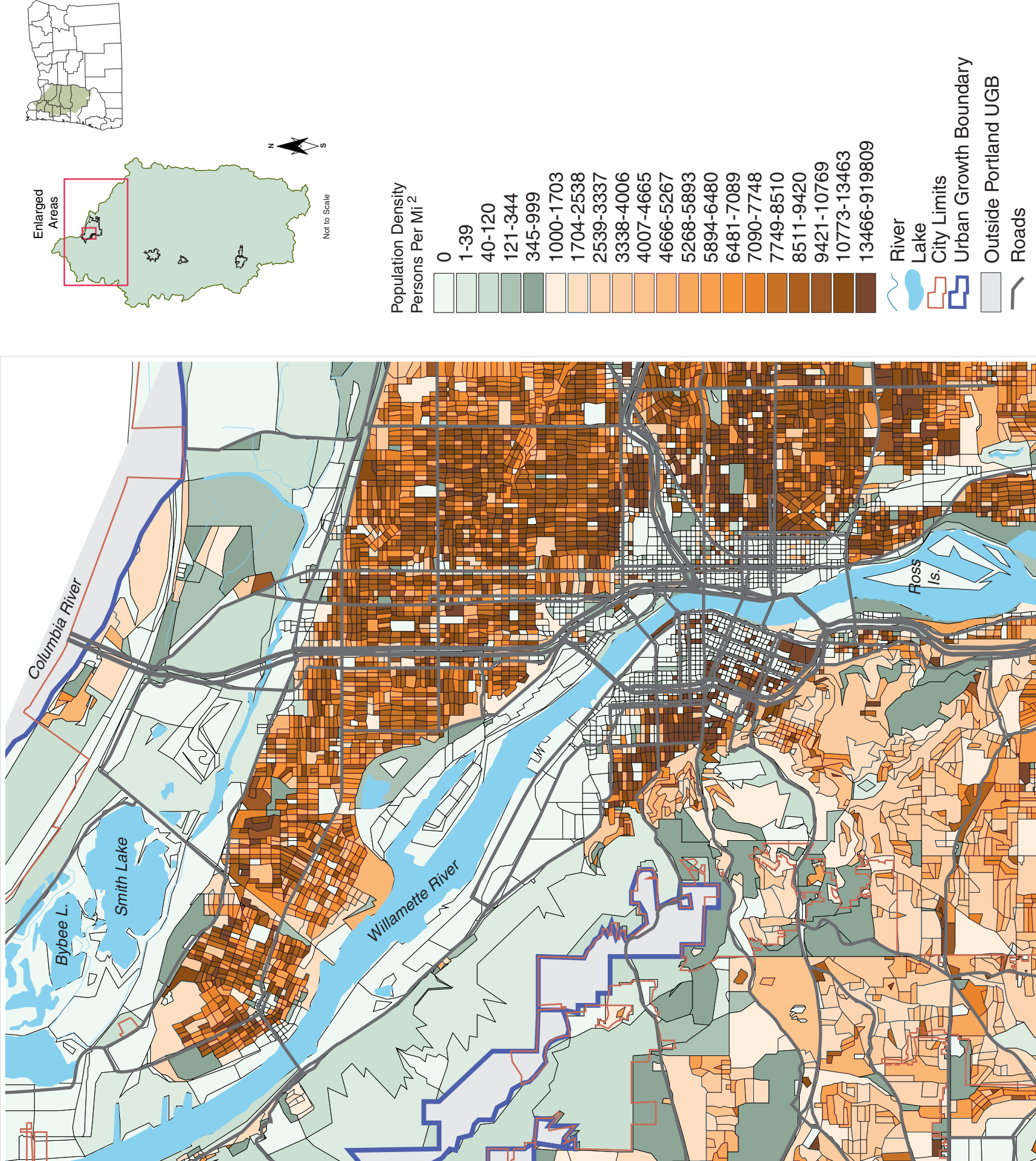


Figure 78. Detail of 1990 population density in the Portland metropolitan area.

Map 12. 1990 Population Density in the Northern Willamette Valley⁷²

