

# **#WaterAND Heat Using Community Science to Address Hazard Bias**

**Janice Barnes, PhD**

**climate adaptation partners (CAP)**

August 02, 2023

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# #SharingIsCaring

A Coalition Around Heat Research in Charleston, South Carolina

Climate Adaptation Partners

Charleston Medical District

City of Charleston Office of Sustainability and Resilience

City of Charleston GIS and Planning Teams

MUSC Office of Sustainability

Roper St. Francis Healthcare

Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center

Fernleaf Interactive

MUSC Office of Health Promotion

City of Charleston Wellness Committee

South Carolina Sea Grant

Carolinas Integrated Sciences Assessment

The Citadel James B. Near Center for Climate Studies

Southeast Regional Climate Center

North Carolina State University

Appalachian State

MUSC Arboretum

Charleston Resilience Network

Charleston Healthy Business Coalition

CAPA Strategies

NOAA NIHHIS Team

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

South Carolina Health Professionals for Climate Action

South Carolina Interfaith Power and Light

College of Charleston

Clemson University

South Carolina Aquarium

City of Charleston Planning

MUSC School of Nursing

MUSC Medical School

University of South Carolina

State of South Carolina Meteorology Team

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EPA Environmental Measurement Symposium

August 02, 2023

# Charleston Heat Research

**1** **CMD Heat Research**

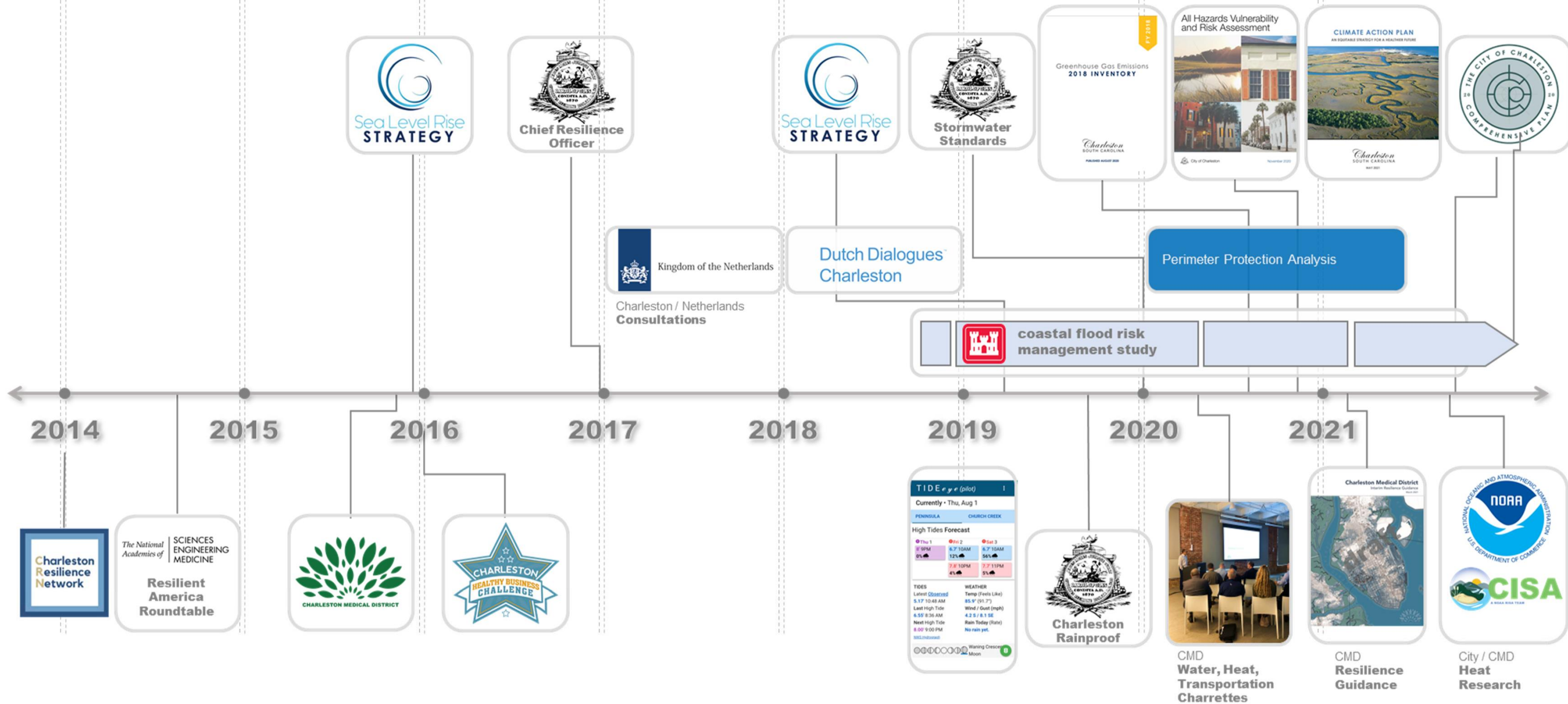
**2** **CISA Heat Research**

**3** **HeatWatch Research**

**4** **Expanding and Sharing Research**

**#WaterAND Heat: Using Community Science to Address Hazard Bias**

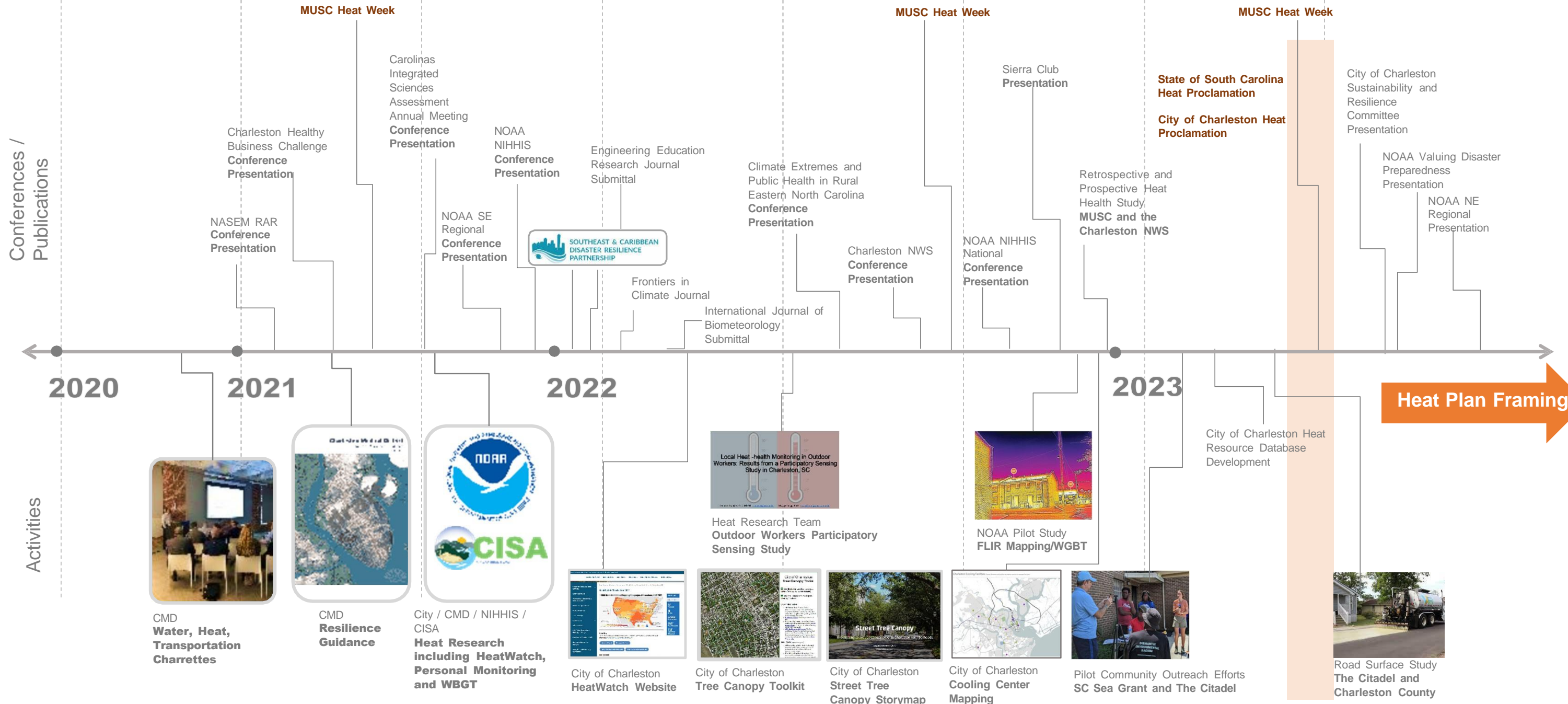
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# #WaterAND Heat: Using Community Science to Address Hazard Bias

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# Charleston Heat Research

1

## CMD Heat Research

Used LANDSAT to spatialize hot areas

Used FLIR and GPS to visualize materials that amplify heat

Hosted Heat Charrette at Charleston Medical District

2

## CISA Heat Research

Janice Barnes, Climate Adaptation Partners  
Leo Temko, Climate Adaptation Partners

Dennis Frazier, Charleston Medical District  
Rick McMahon, Ralph Johnson VA Medical Center  
Ken Hill, Roper St. Francis Hospital  
Christine von Kolnitz, MUSC  
Ray Huff, Clemson  
Mark Wilbert, City of Charleston CRO (formerly)  
Steve Hargett, Charleston Medical District (retired CFO MUSC)  
Dr. Susan Johnson, MUSC Director, Office of Health Promotion, member of City Wellness Committee

Kirstin Dow, USC  
Chip Konrad, UNC-Chapel Hill

City of Charleston  
Fernleaf

3

## HeatWatch Research

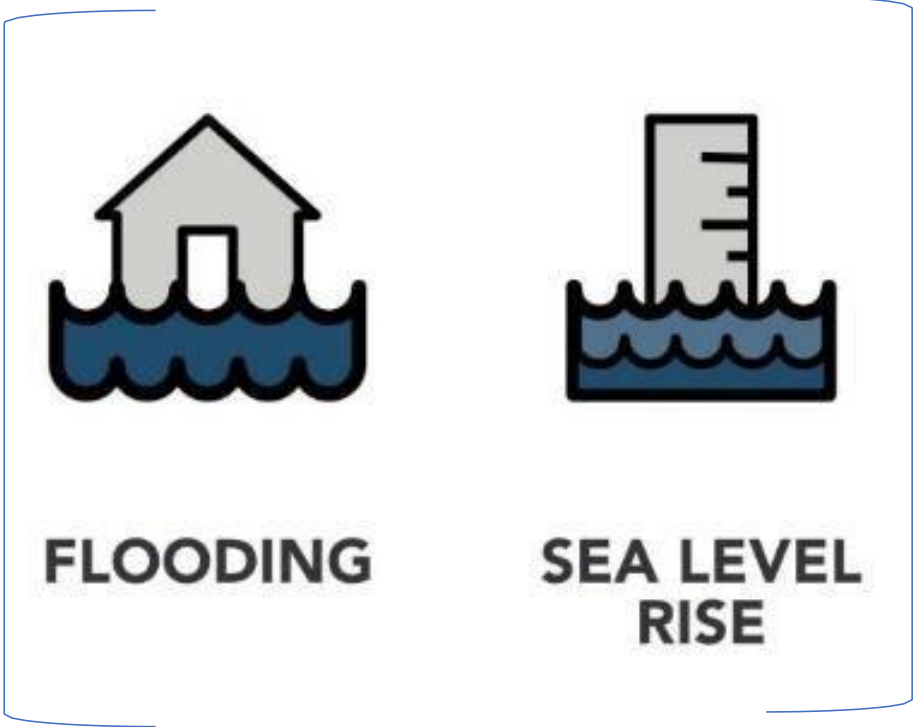
4

## Expanding and Sharing Research

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# Charleston Vulnerabilities Assessment



FLOODING

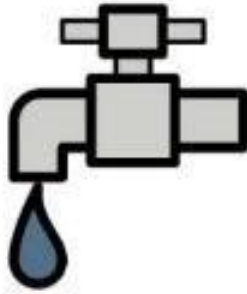
SEA LEVEL RISE



SEISMIC



EXTREME HEAT



WATER SHORTAGE

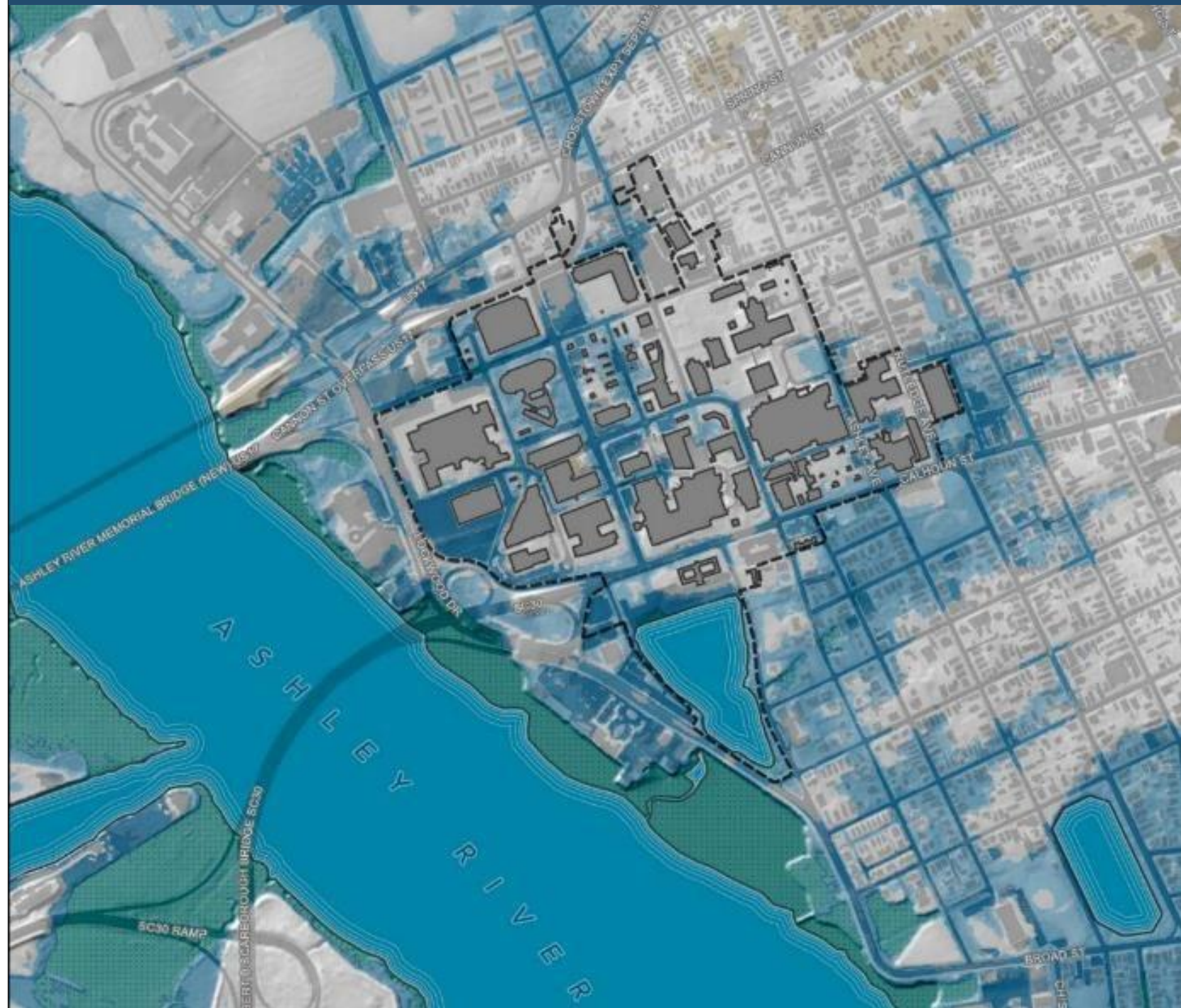
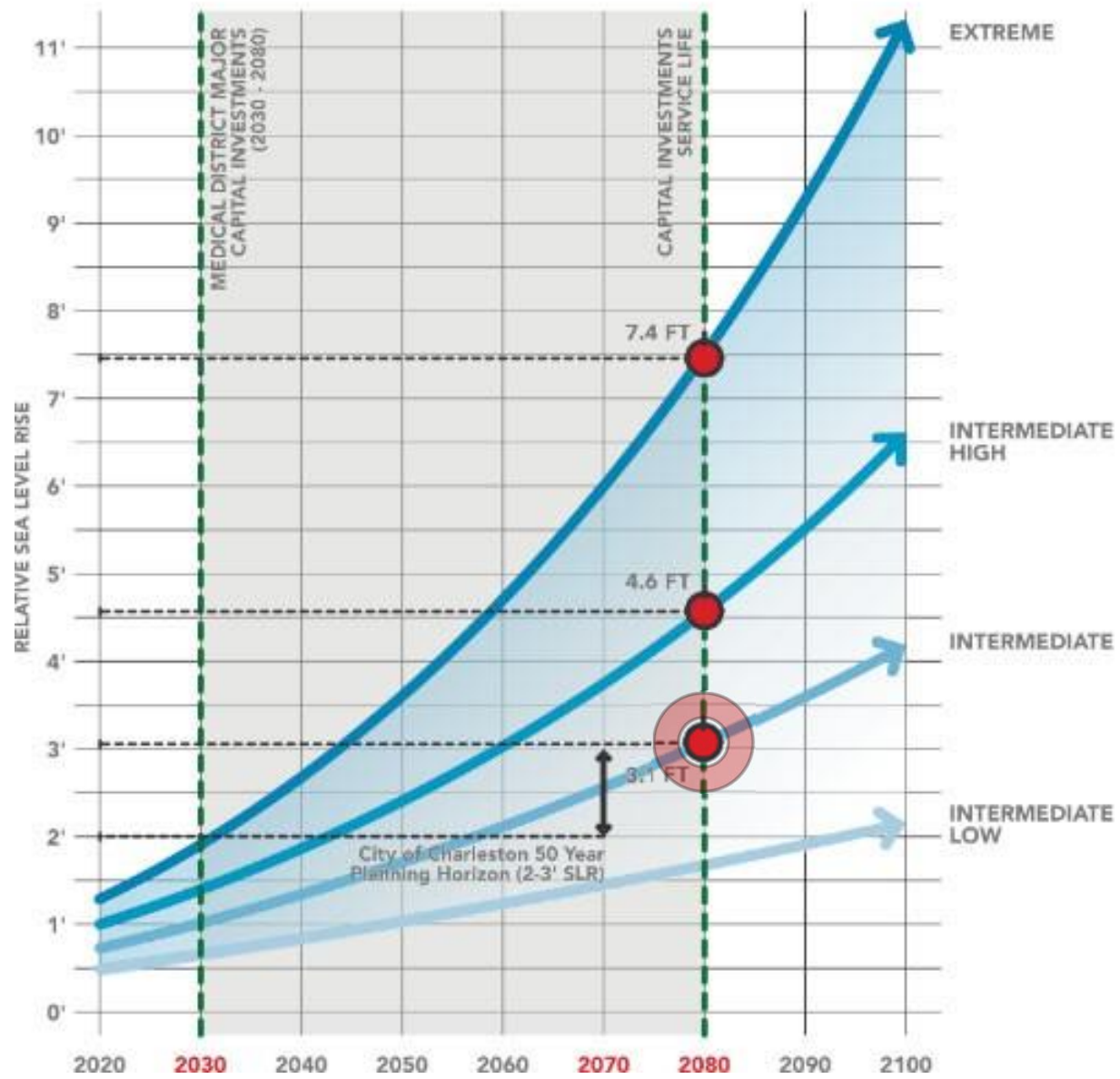


HAZMAT

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# Rising Waters



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# Upcoming Projects

**+\$2 billion @ CMD**

MUSC Replacement Hospital

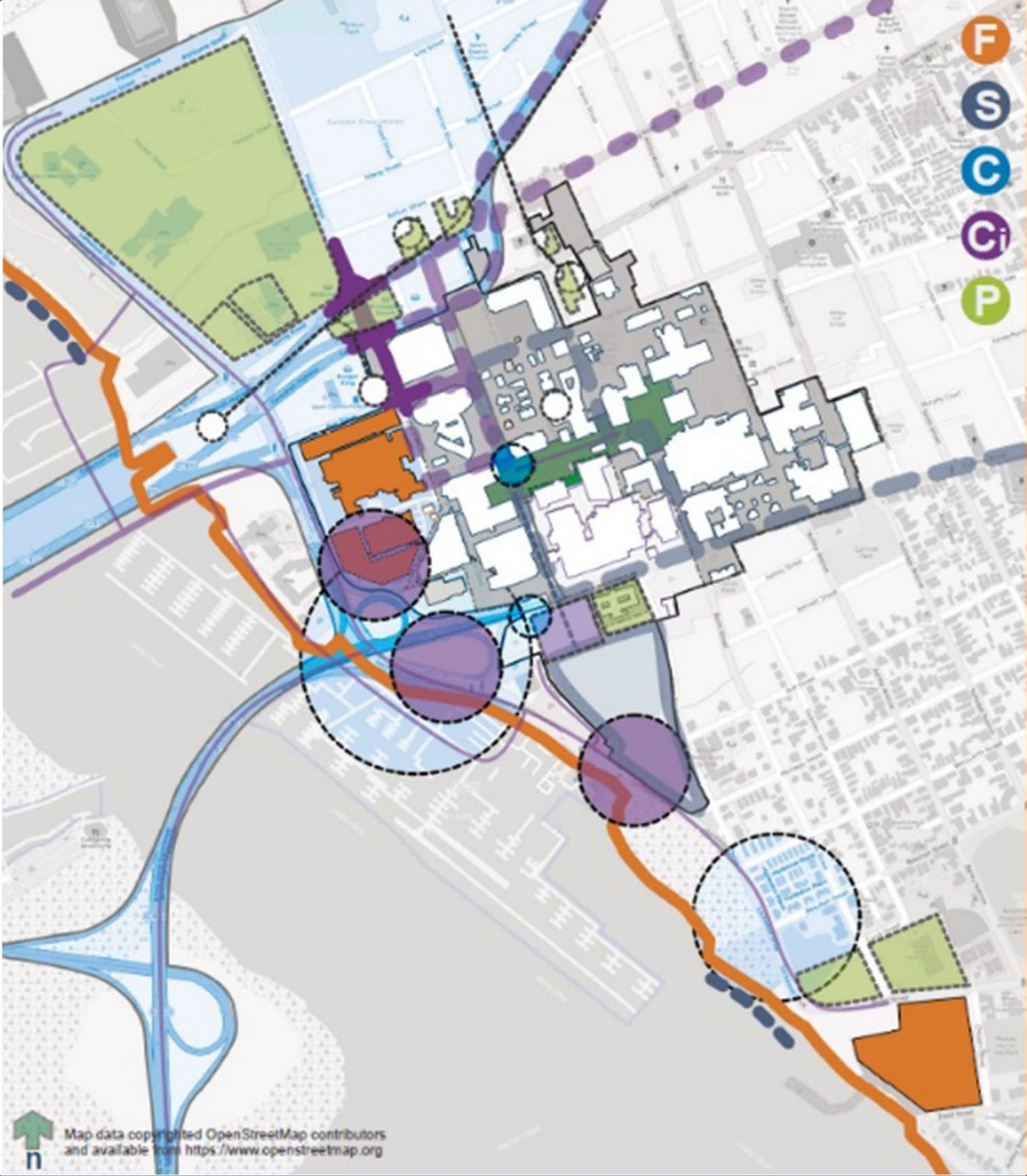
VA Bed Tower, Garage and Upgrades

**+ USACE**

**+ City Projects**

**+ SC DoT**

**+ West Edge**

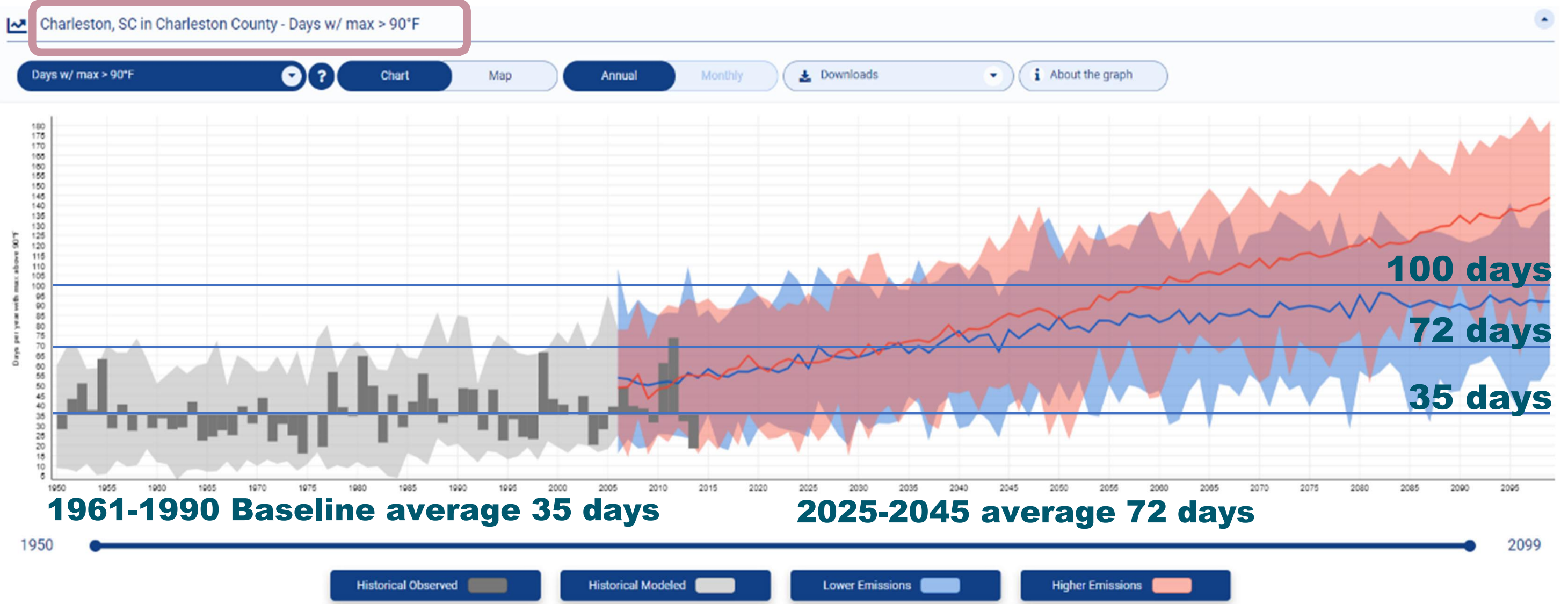


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# Rising Heat



Source: US Climate Resilience Toolkit / Dr. Kirstin Dow / CISA

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# Heat is Deadly

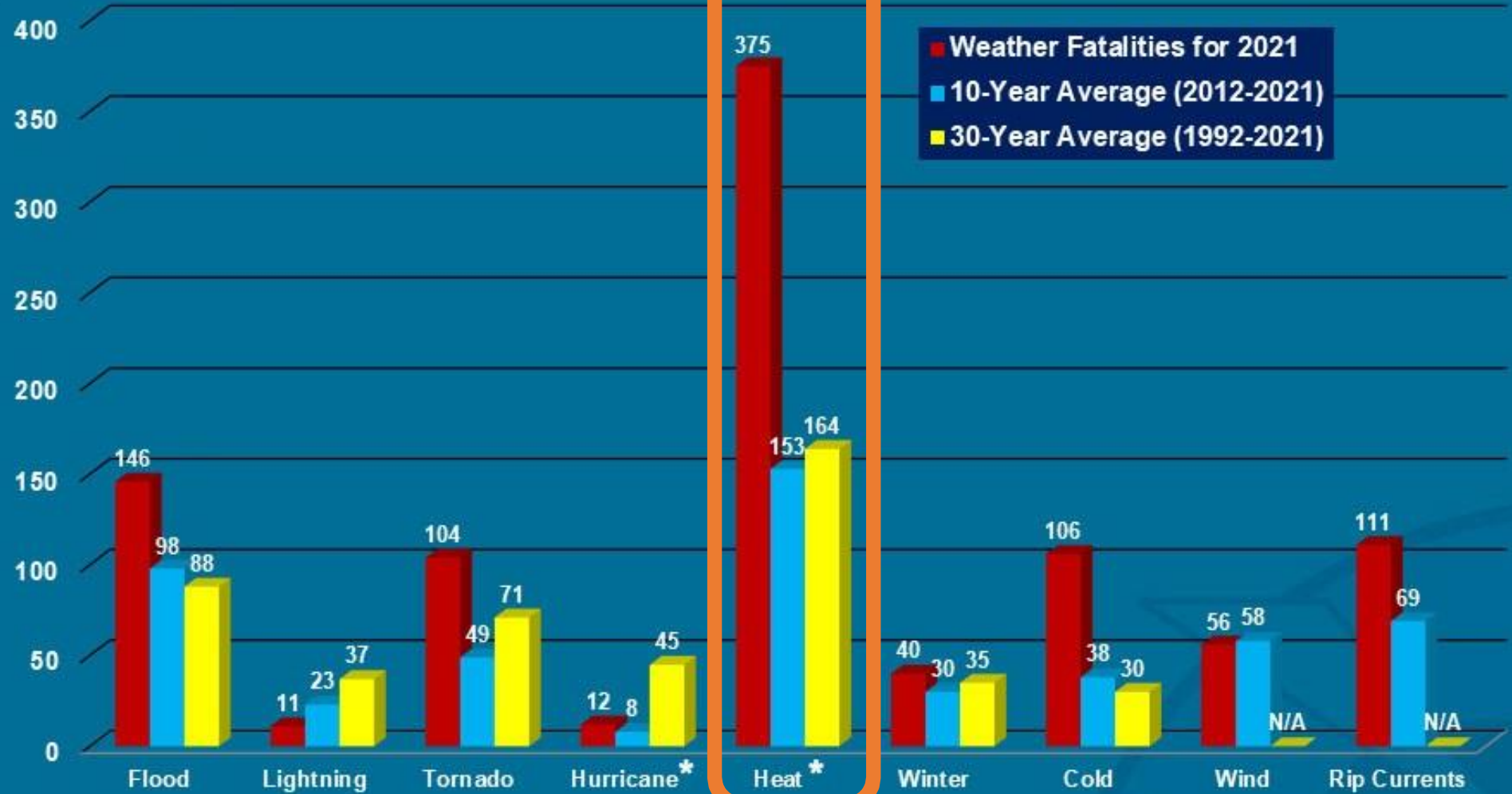
In the south, heat is a given, but it's getting hotter than it used to be.

Increased heat exposure impacts health.

Heat kills more people annually than any other weather hazard.



## Weather Fatalities 2021



\*Due to an inherent delay in the reporting of official heat fatalities in some jurisdictions, this number will likely rise in subsequent updates.

\*The fatalities, injuries, and damage estimates found under Hurricane/Tropical Cyclone events are attributed only to the wind.

IMAGE CREDIT: NWS

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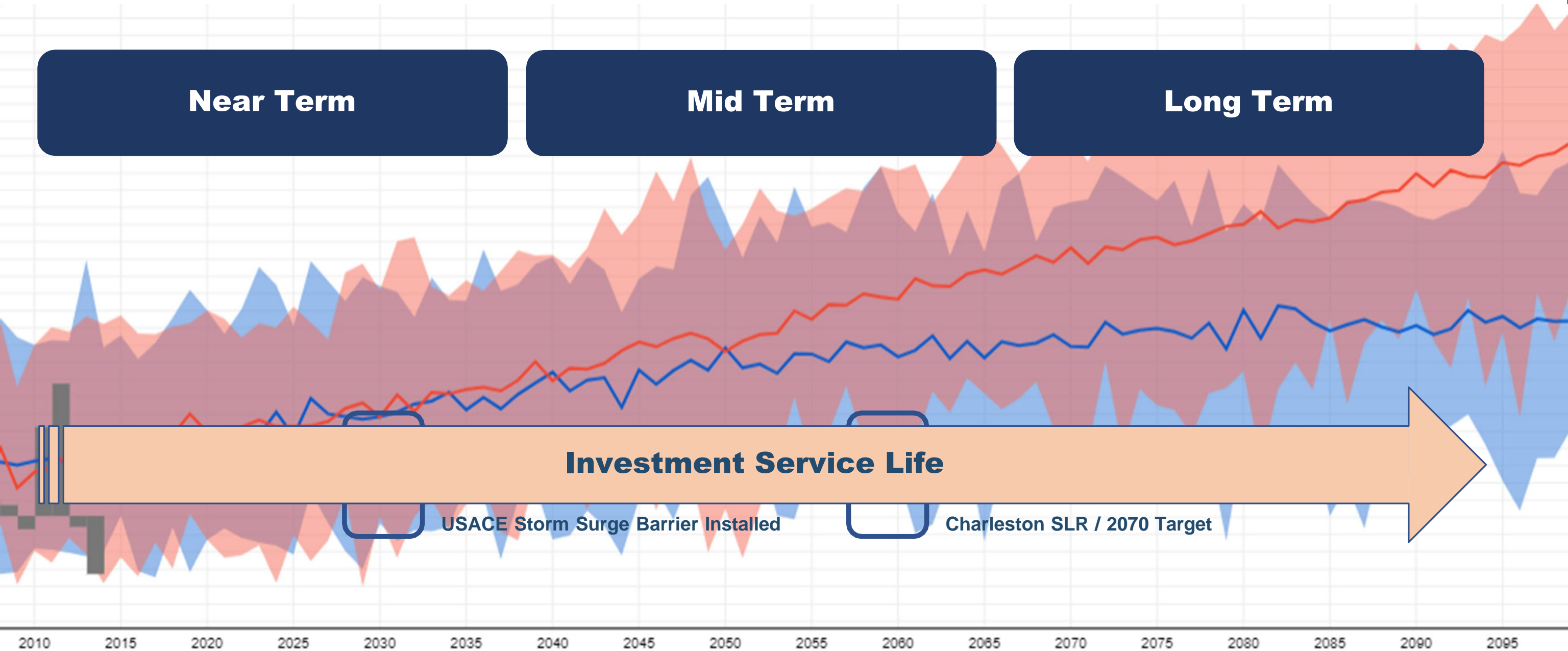
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# Investment Service Life

Near Term

Mid Term

Long Term



Investment Service Life

USACE Storm Surge Barrier Installed

Charleston SLR / 2070 Target

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# Surface Temperature

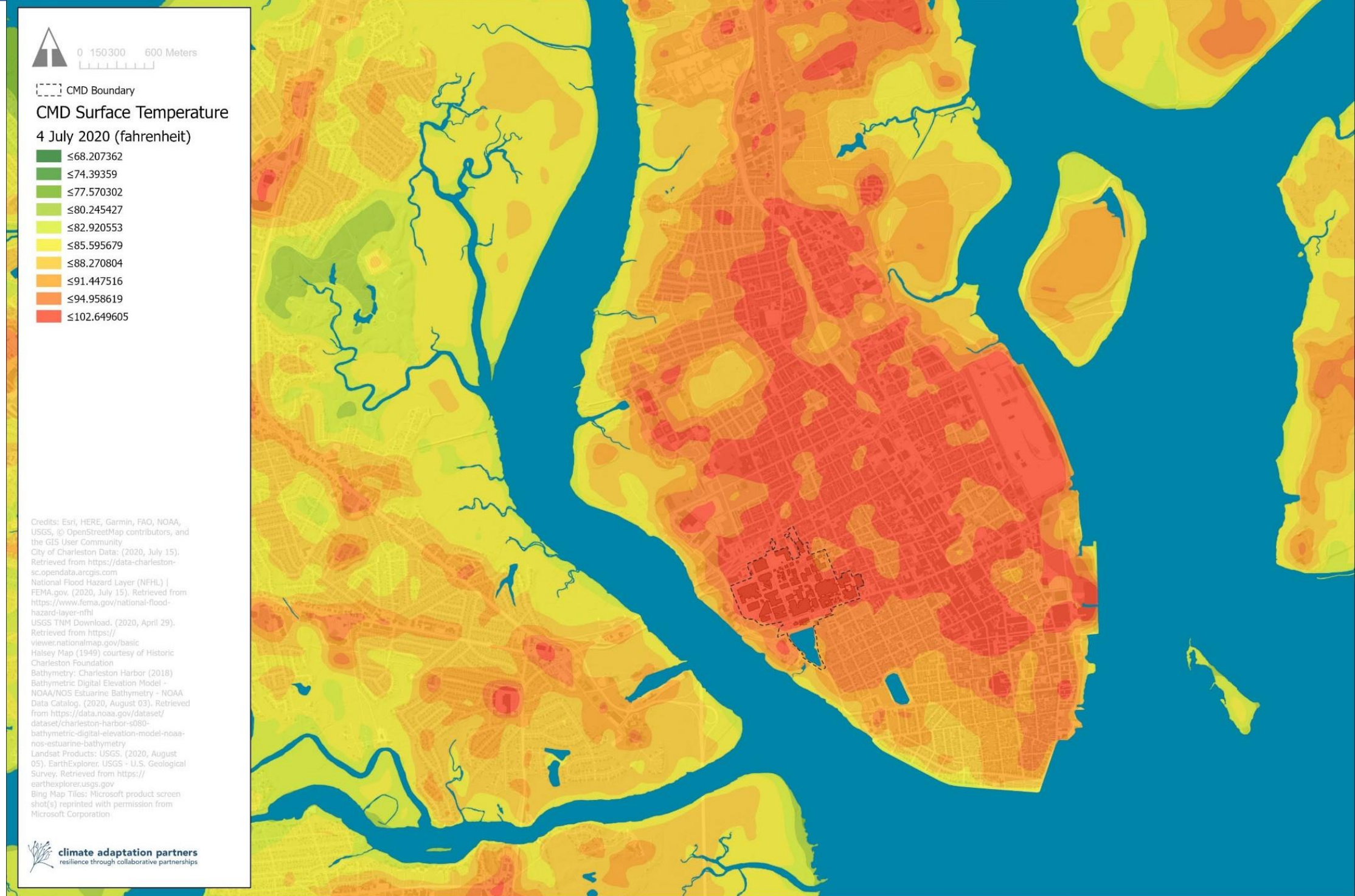
Landsat 8 Operational Land Imager (OLI)

NDVI

- Band 4: Red
- Band 5: Near Infrared

Land Surface Temperature

- Band 10: Thermal Infrared Sensor (TIRS1)



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# FLIR ONE Gen 3



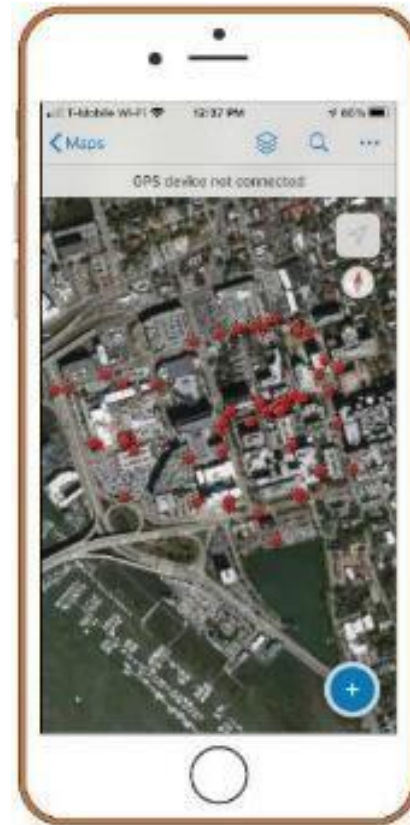
## Outputs

- Relative comparison
- Surface temperature
- Accuracy of +/- 5%
- Range -20C--+120C

## Limitations

- Single Surface only
- Battery Life / Circuit Impact
- Image Registration

# ArcGIS Collector + Bad Elf GPS Pro



## Outputs

- Geolocated survey points
- Custom web-enabled app
- Web-hosted geospatial layer ready for GIS processing

## Limitations

- 2.5m Stationary Accuracy
- Environmental obstructions can limit accuracy

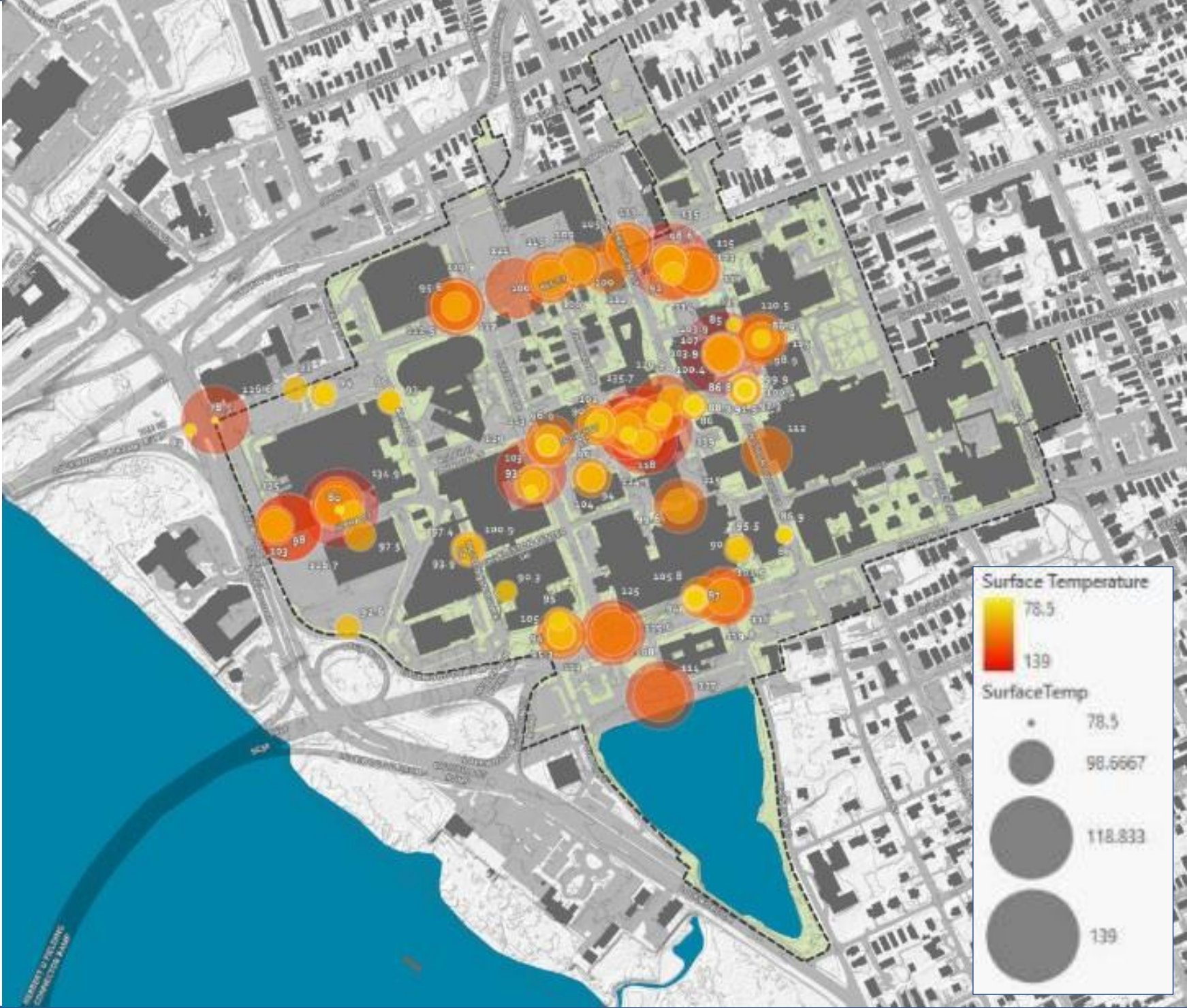
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# Surface Temperature Points

27 AUGUST 2020	12 am	6 am	12 pm	6 pm
TEMPERATURE deg. f (high)	75	88	91	90
WIND mph (direction)	1 (nne)	2 (w)	9 (w)	8 (ssw)
HUMIDITY %	94	82	63	80

Historical weather data sourced from timeanddate.com  
 © 2020 Time and Date AS



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# Doughty Street & Greenway



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# Memorial Garden & Drug Discovery-BioEngineering Plaza



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# Urban Farm



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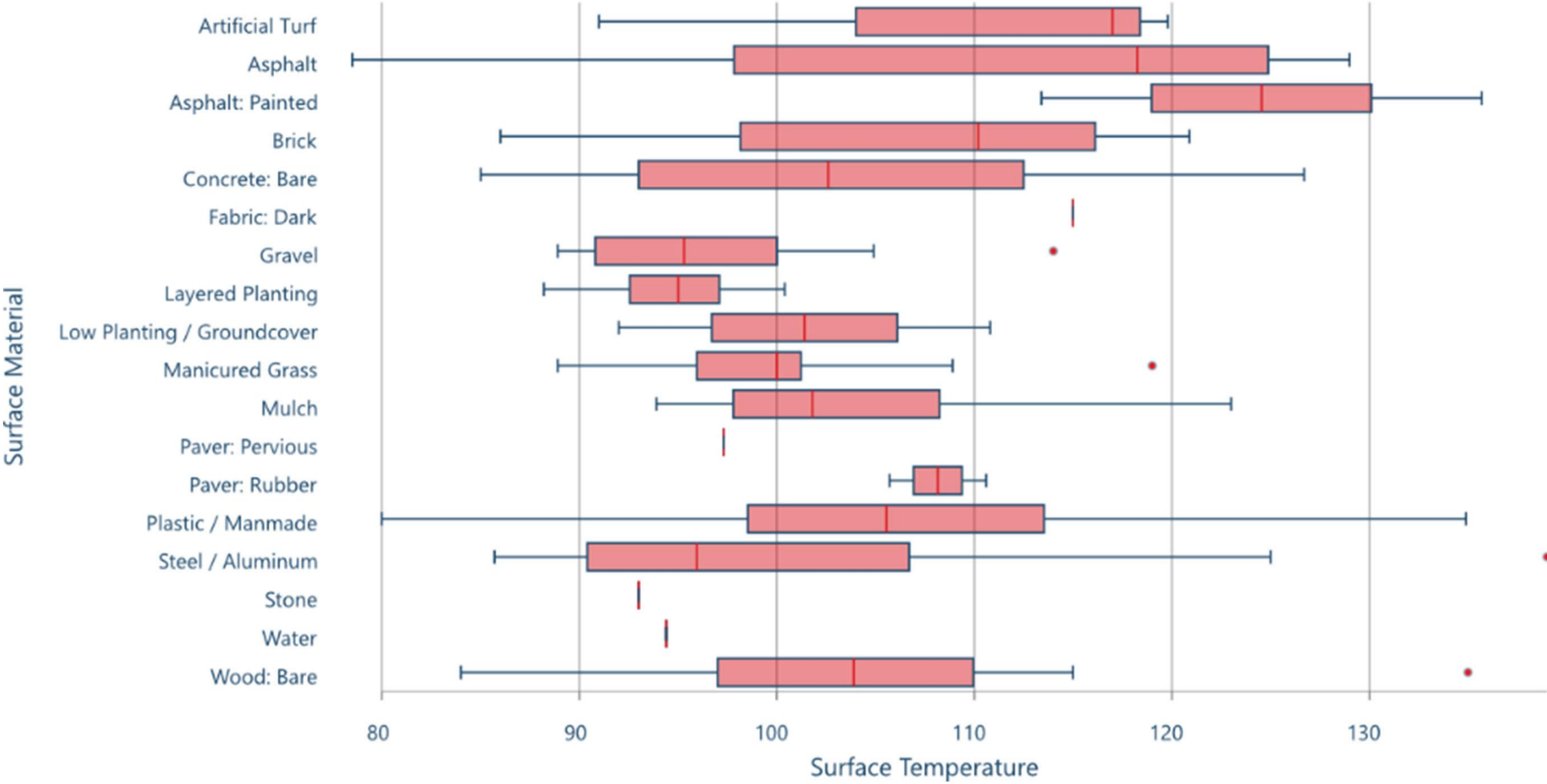
# Bee Street



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# Material Type / Temperature Distribution



**~40 degree surface temperature differential**

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# Summer 2020 Charleston Medical District Charrettes

How is heat addressed?

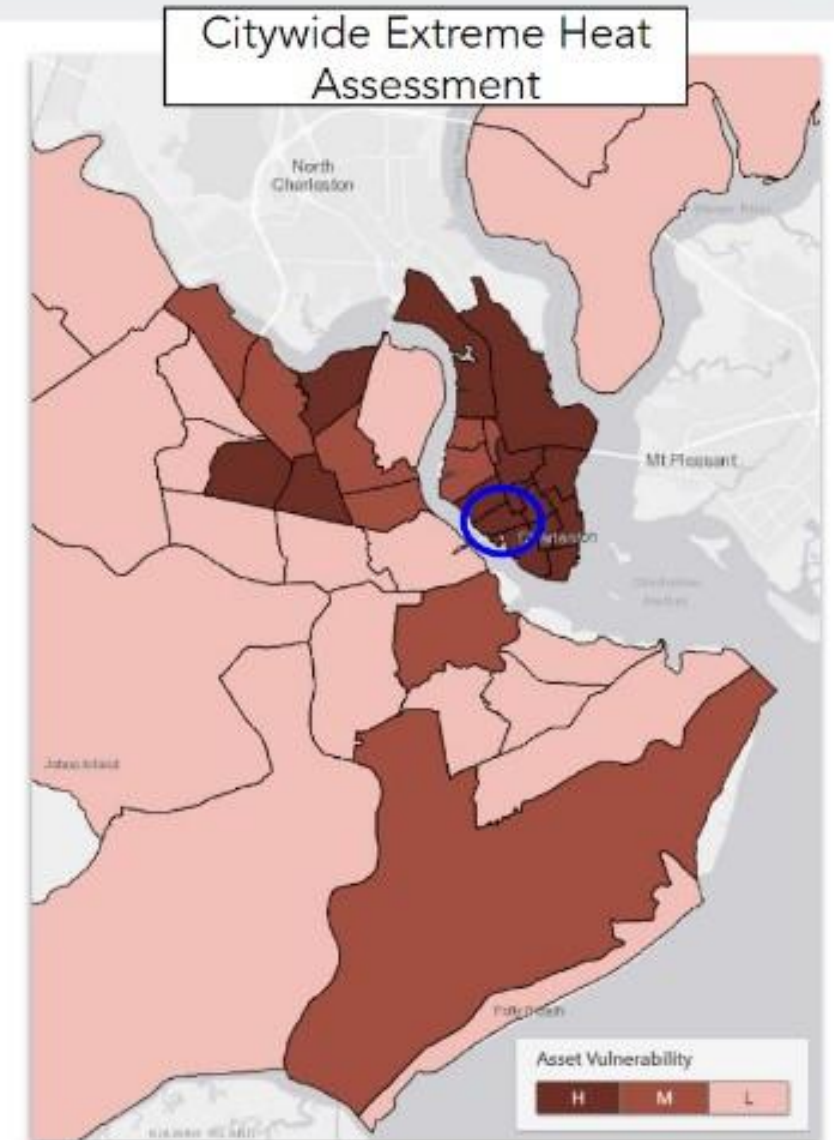


## Vulnerability to Extreme Heat

Key Indicators for the Medical District area:

- Highly developed (more than 70%)
- Sensitive populations (54% households with members 65+ or under 18)
- Low tree canopy (less than 6% area with significant coverage)
- Moderate Socioeconomic Status vulnerability (CDC)

Note: Does not consider populations served within the Medical District



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# Charleston Heat Research

- 1 CMD Heat Research
- 2 CISA Heat Research**
- 3 HeatWatch Research
- 4 Expanding and Sharing Research

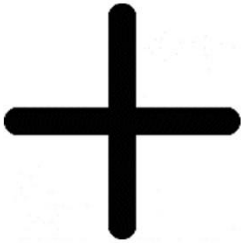
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# CISA Heat Research: Measuring Personal Temperature Exposure & WBGT



**Thermochron or Hydrochron  
iButton**



**GPS and Heart Rate  
Data at the Individual  
Level**



**Hand-held device that  
estimates wet bulb globe  
thermometer**

## Three Groups of Outdoor Workers

## WBGT Pilot Sites

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# Charleston Heat Research

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**3** **HeatWatch Research**

**4** **Expanding and Sharing Research**

Used ibuttons and gps-enabled watches to monitor participant heart rate during workhours across four weeks

Used wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) device to measure temperature, humidity and wind speed at designated areas across a number of days

PI: Dr. Kirstin Dow, USC  
Stafford Mullin  
Grant Farmer  
Dr. Jen Runkle, NC State  
Dr. Maggie Sugg, Appalachian State

MUSC  
Dr. Jerry Reves, MUSC  
Robin Smith, MUSC Arboretum and Grounds  
Major Dorothy Simmons, MUSC Public Safety  
Christine Von Kolnitz, Director of MUSC Sustainability and Recycling

The Citadel  
Dr. Scott Curtis, The Citadel James B Near Center for Climate Studies  
Jonathan Lewellyn, The Citadel Grounds

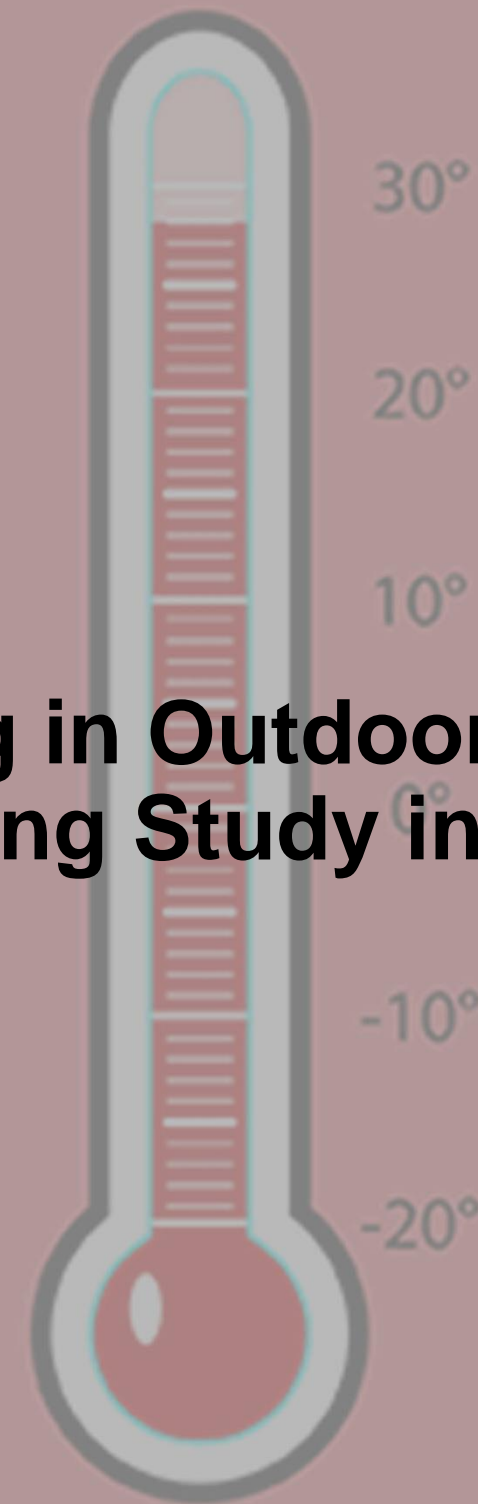
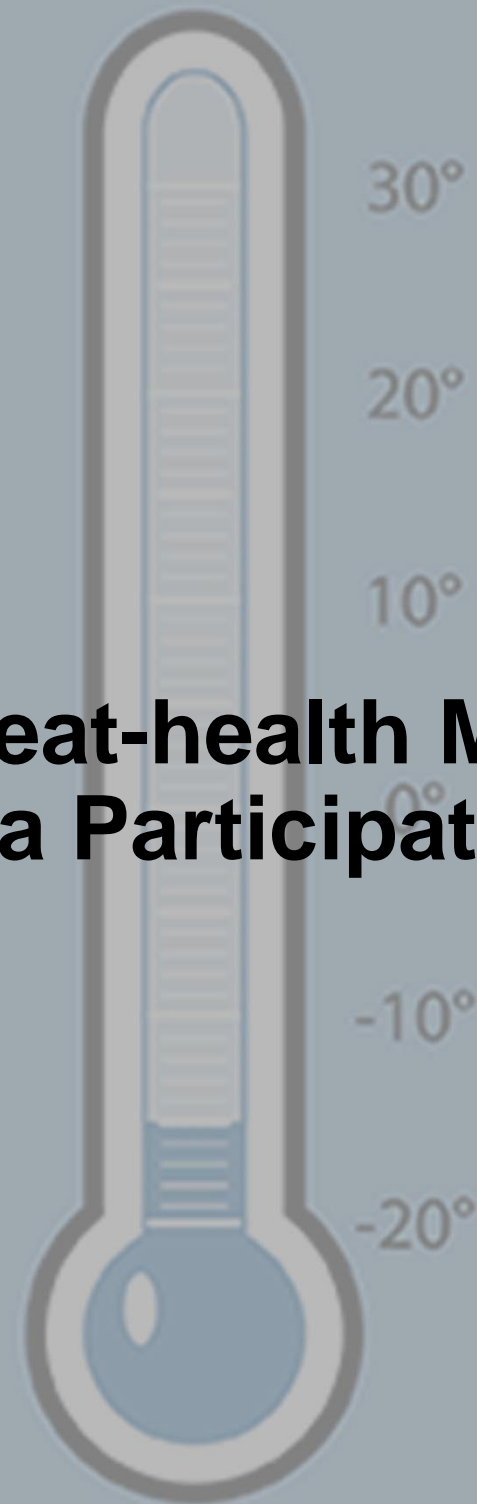
Climate Adaptation Partners  
Janice Barnes  
Leo Temko

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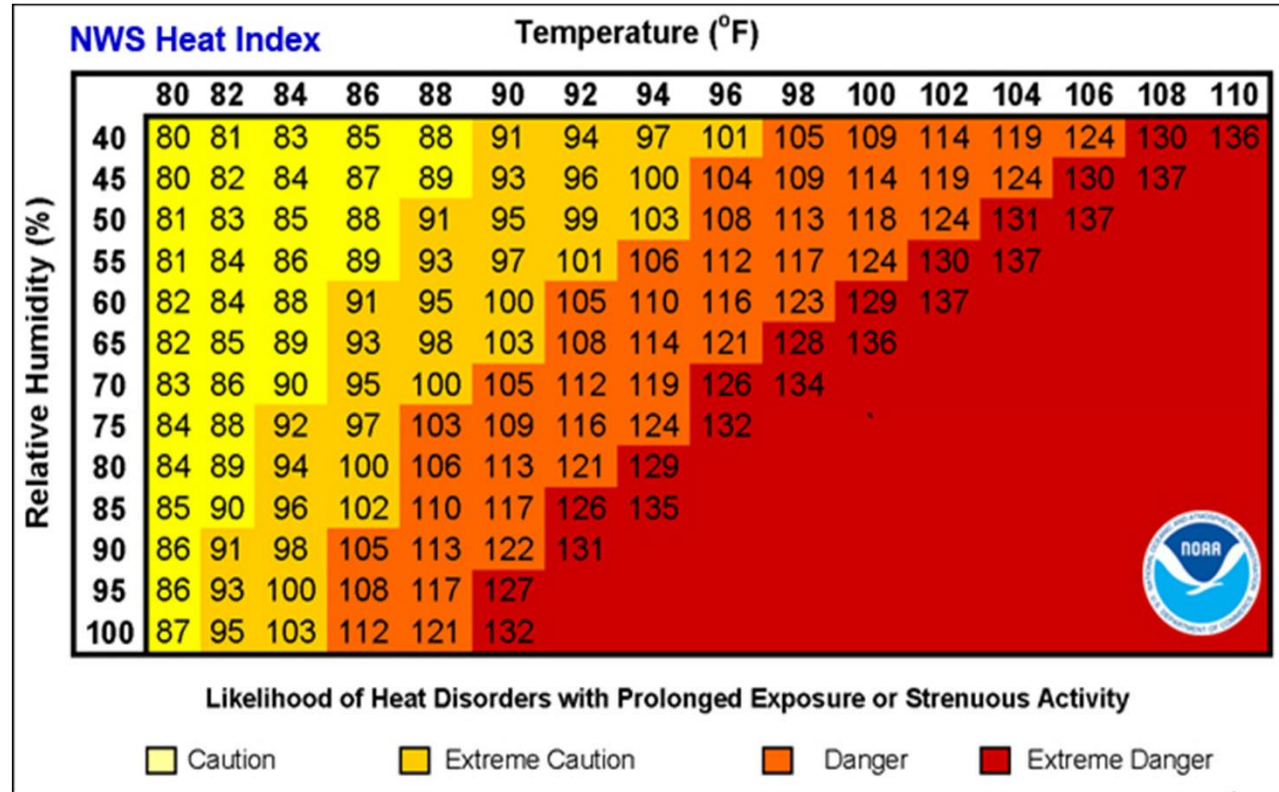


# Local Heat-health Monitoring in Outdoor Workers: Results from a Participatory Sensing Study in Charleston, SC



# Measuring Heat Index Exposure

From: Local Heat-health Monitoring in Outdoor Workers: Results from a Participatory Sensing Study in Charleston, SC (Runkle and Sugg, 2022)



**Heat Index** → Takes into account temperature + relative humidity



Often measured at weather stations at airports or removed from city centers

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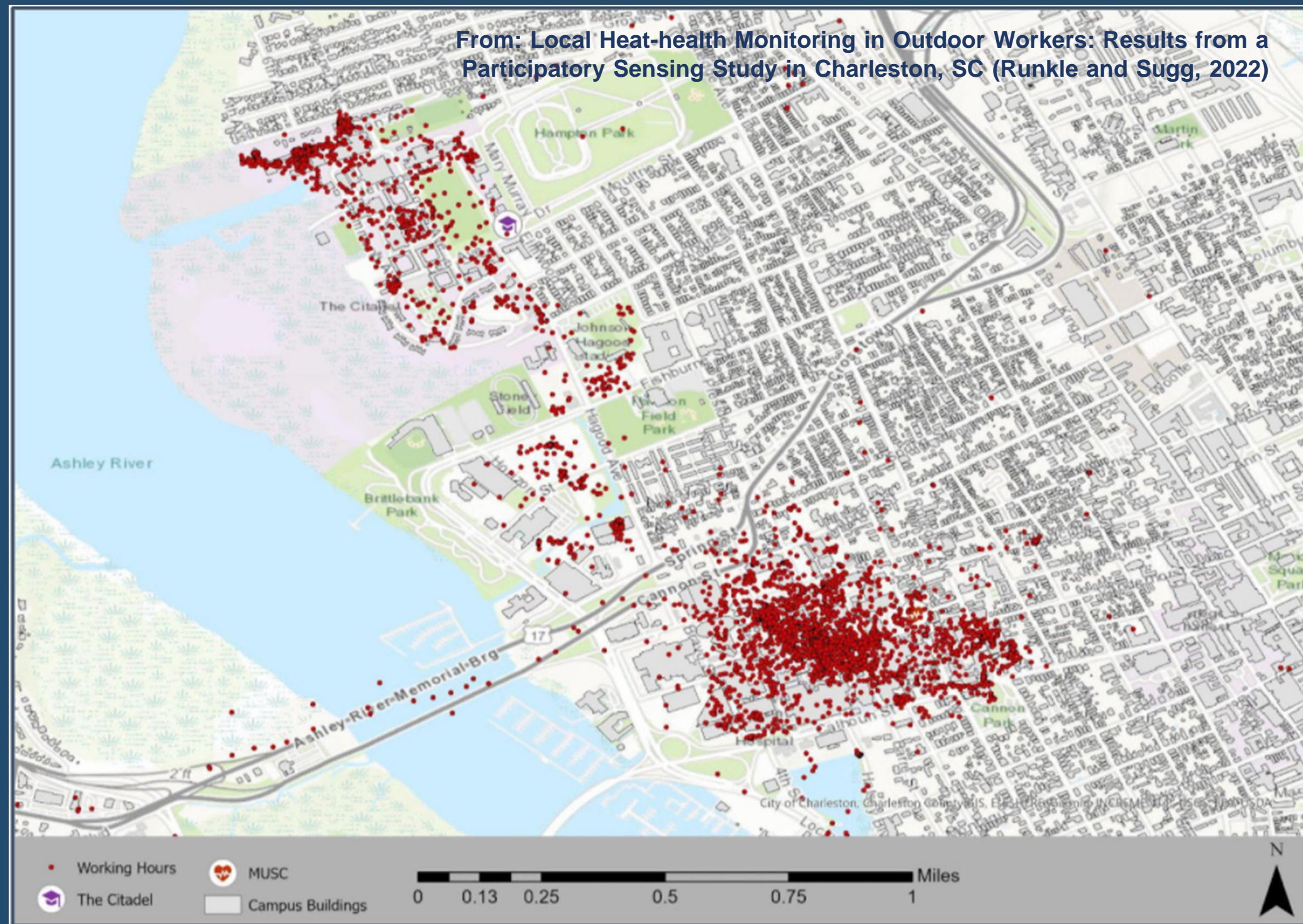
# Continuous Monitoring of Personal Heat Index in an Occupationally Exposed Population

3 groups of participants  
8,500 observations

Examine exposure misclassification relative to HeatWatch and Weather Station

- Quantity heat exposure metrics (intensity, frequency, and duration) and health effects
- Compare individual experienced temperatures with data from UHI campaign in Charleston

From: Local Heat-health Monitoring in Outdoor Workers: Results from a Participatory Sensing Study in Charleston, SC (Runkle and Sugg, 2022)



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# Key Messages

From: Local Heat-health Monitoring in Outdoor Workers: Results from a Participatory Sensing Study in Charleston, SC (Runkle and Sugg, 2022)

We observed that on average, **worker's personal ambient temperature experience** was higher than that recorded at the local weather station. This was especially true for maximum temperature (the highest temperature recorded for a given day).

## Summary of The Citadel Results

Below is the daily temperature exposure for **Week #1** for all participants combined (first column) and for the local weather station (second column):

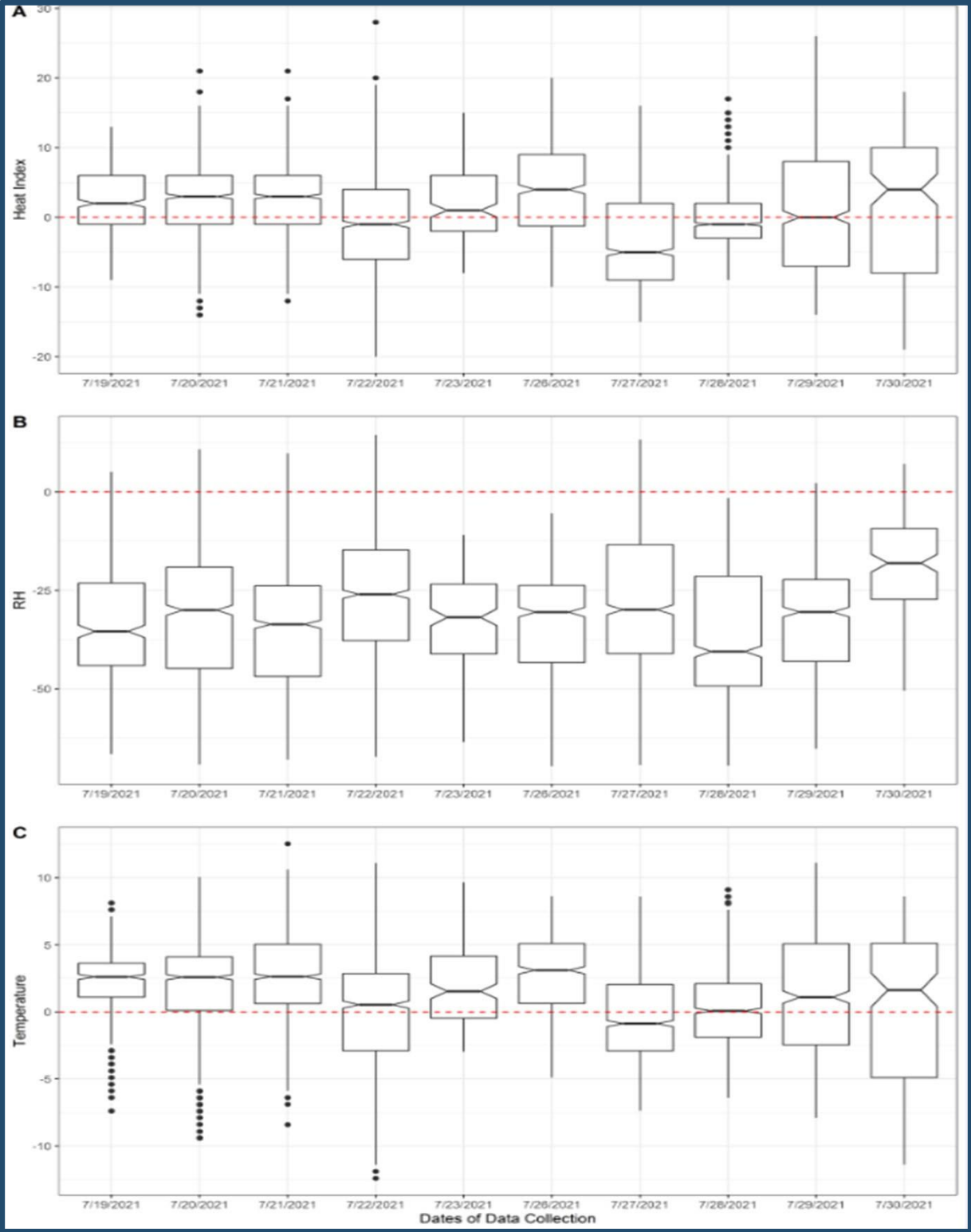
	Monday 7/19		Tuesday 7/20		Wednesday 7/21		Thursday 7/22		Friday 7/23	
Average Temperature	77.7°	81.5°	77.8°	82.5°	78.1°	83.5°	78.3°	85.0°	78.3°	84.0°
Max Temperature	97.8°	87.0°	97.8°	88.0°	97.7°	90.0°	97.8°	90.0°	97.8°	89.0°
Minimum Temperature	62.8°	76.0°	62.8°	77.0°	62.8°	77.0°	65.5°	80.0°	66.3°	79.0°

 All Participants  Weather Station

# Key Messages

From: Local Heat-health Monitoring in Outdoor Workers: Results from a Participatory Sensing Study in Charleston, SC (Runkle and Sugg, 2022)

We observed on average worker's **personal heat index experience** was higher than the local weather station. However, these differences between worker and weather station heat index values were not as high as the temperature.

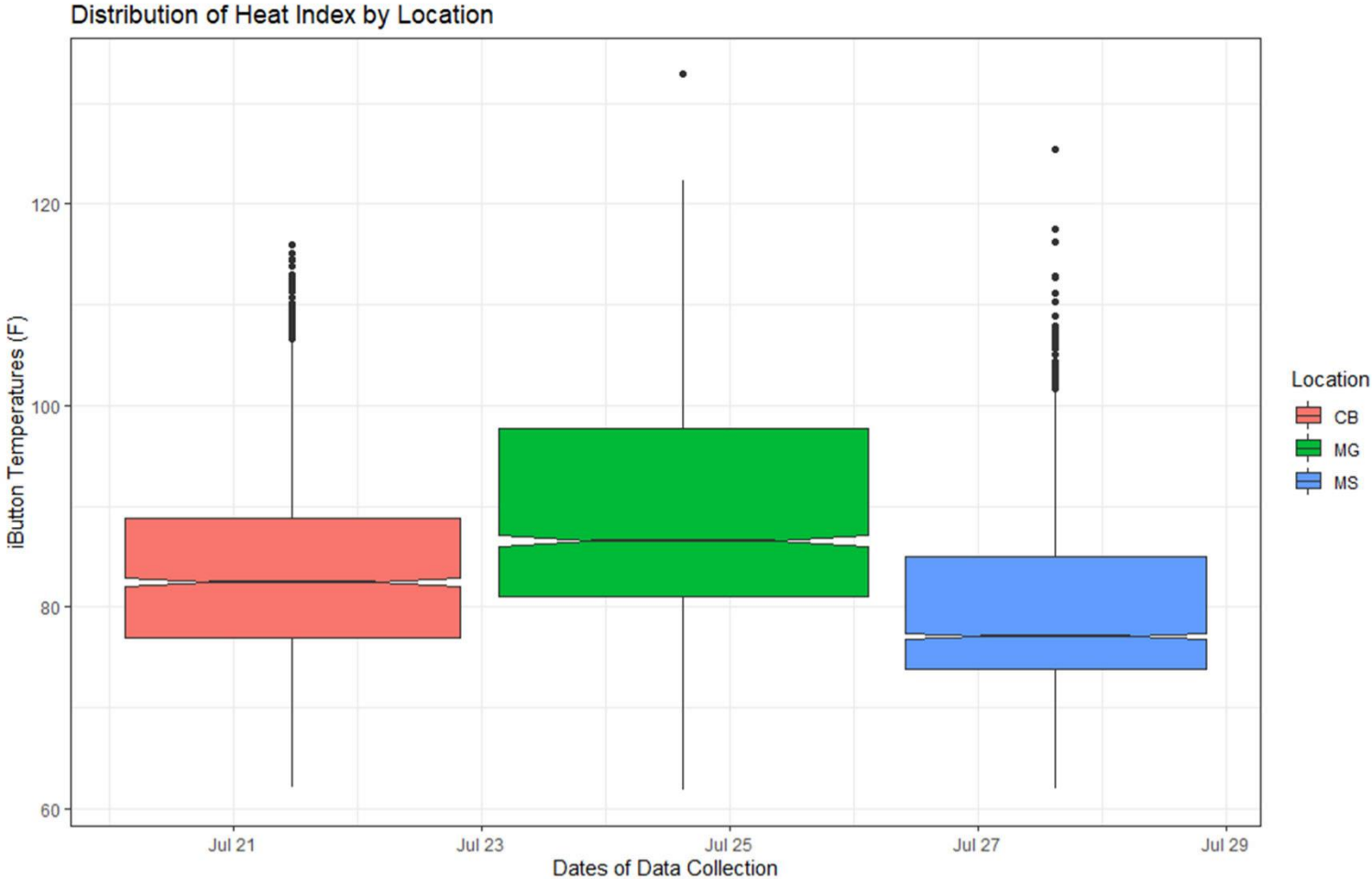


# Key Messages

From: Local Heat-health Monitoring in Outdoor Workers: Results from a Participatory Sensing Study in Charleston, SC (Runkle and Sugg, 2022)

Personal temperatures and heat index values were highest for grounds workers, particularly at MUSC.

## Distribution of Heat Index by Location

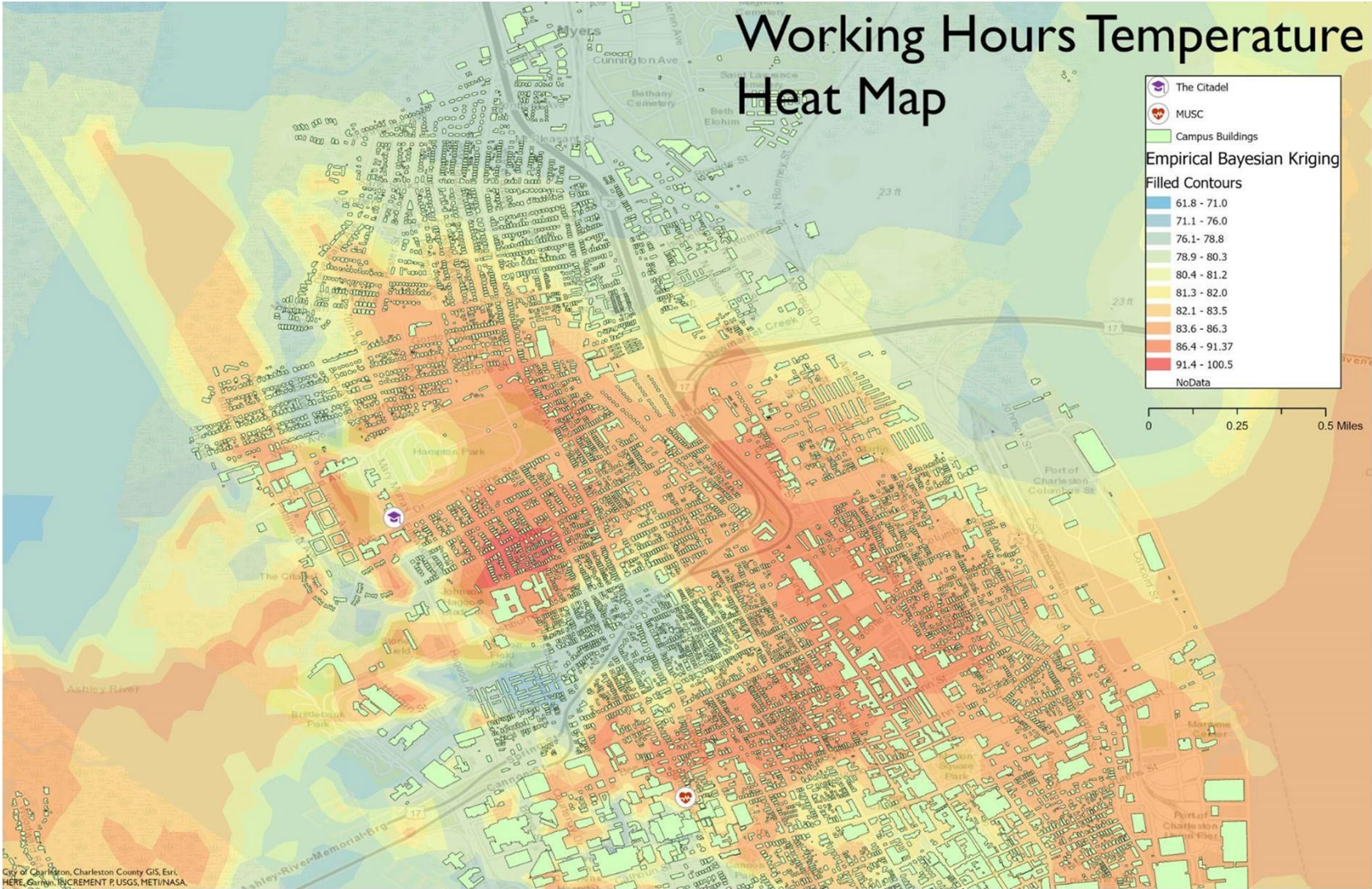


# Key Messages

From: Local Heat-health Monitoring in Outdoor Workers: Results from a Participatory Sensing Study in Charleston, SC (Runkle and Sugg, 2022)

We also noted that the average recorded heat index values for CB and MG were 85F or higher.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), **heightened heat prevention measures should be triggered for workers.**



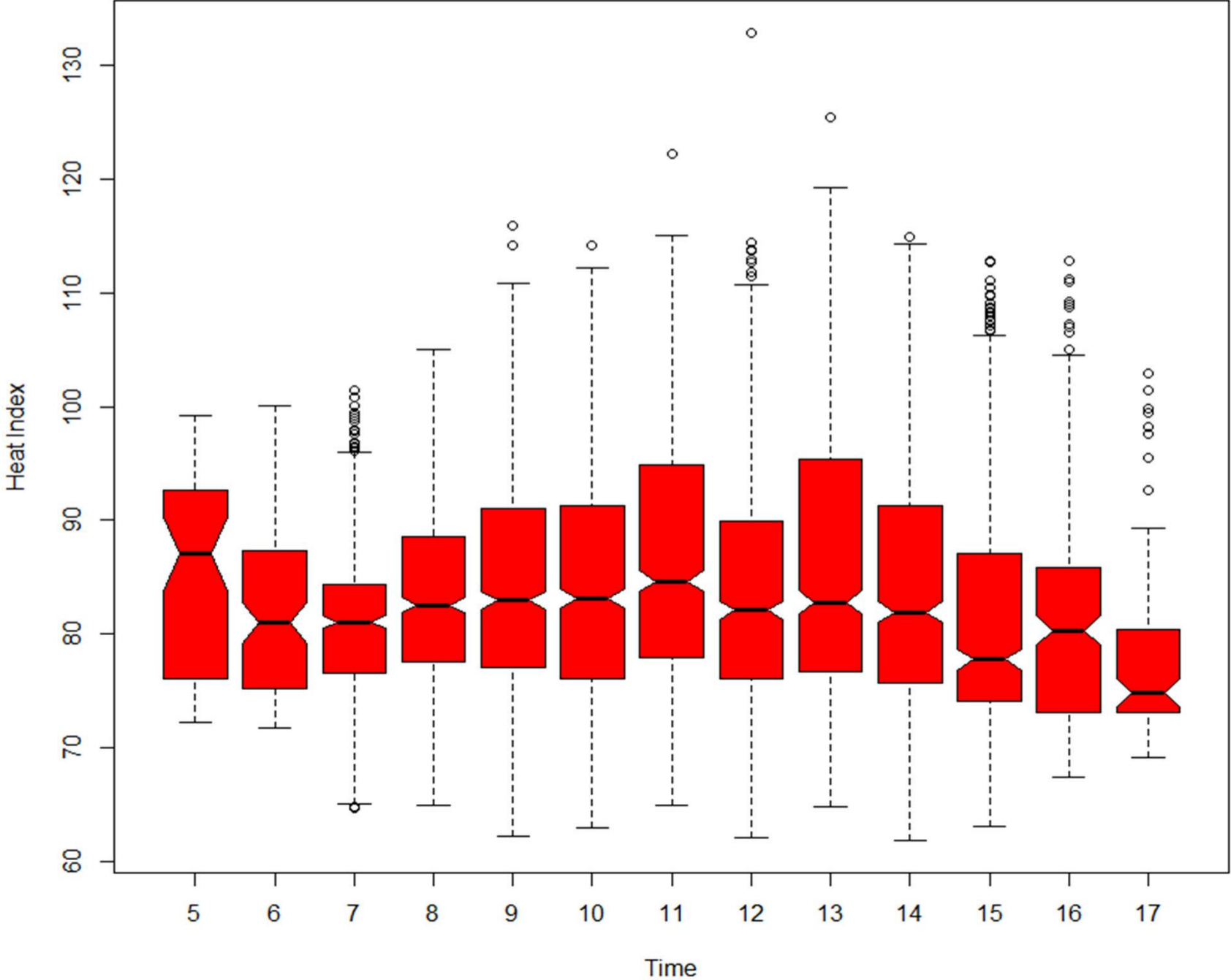
Temperatures modelled based on observations from hydrochron temperature and humidity sensors worn by volunteers July 18-31, 2021

# Key Messages

From: Local Heat-health Monitoring in Outdoor Workers: Results from a Participatory Sensing Study in Charleston, SC (Runkle and Sugg, 2022)

We noted that workers were shifting their workday to include more work outdoors in the earlier parts of the workday.

## Distribution of Heat Index by Time





# NIOSH Recommendations

From: Local Heat-health Monitoring in Outdoor Workers: Results from a Participatory Sensing Study in Charleston, SC (Runkle and Sugg, 2022)



There are a number of ways workers can protect themselves from extreme heat including:

## Leadership

1. **Limit time in the heat and/or increase recovery time** in a cool environment
2. **Reduce energy expenditure** demands of the job to generally cooler times of the day
3. **Conduct trainings** about heat stress and how to recognize the signs/symptoms at work
4. **Increase rest breaks and shorten work periods** during extreme heat periods
5. Develop and use **heat acclimatization plan** at work
6. Implement a **buddy system** where workers observe each other for signs of heat intolerance
7. Require workers to conduct **self-monitoring**

## Personal

1. **Increase physical fitness** outside of work
2. **Drink water frequently**

# Charleston Heat Research

1

**CMD Heat  
Research**

2

**CISA Heat  
Research**

Used ibuttons and gps-enabled watches to monitor participant heart rate during workhours across four weeks

Used wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) device to measure temperature, humidity and wind speed at designated areas across a number of days

3

**HeatWatch  
Research**

PI: Dr. Kirstin Dow, USC  
Stafford Mullin  
Grant Farmer  
Dr. Jen Runkle, NC State  
Dr. Maggie Sugg, Appalachian State

PI: Dr. Chip Konrad, UNC Chapel Hill  
Jordan Clark  
Stafford Mullin  
Grant Farmer  
Student Volunteers

4

**Expanding  
and  
Sharing  
Research**

# Patterns of Heat Stress Across the Landscape and Its Measurement using Wet Bulb Globe Temperature

Dr. Chip Konrad

Director of the NOAA Southeast Regional Climate Center  
Carolina Integrated Science and Assessments Program (CISA)  
Professor, Department of Geography  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

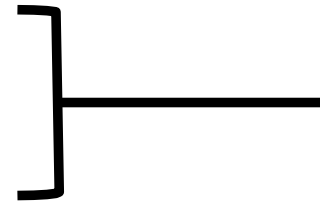
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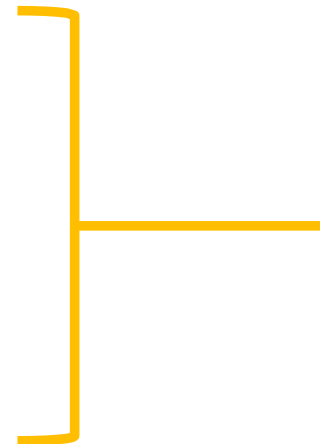
# Measures of Heat Stress

1. Air temperature
2. Humidity



Heat Index

3. Wind speed
4. Solar Radiation



**Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature  
(WBGT)**

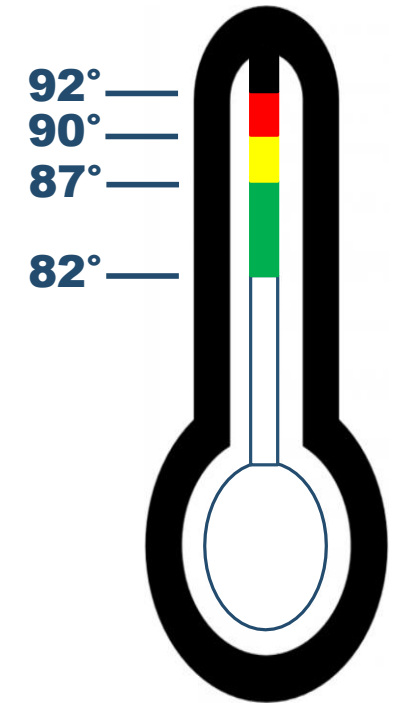
# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## WBGT THRESHOLDS: High School Athletics Associations

Many states have developed requirements for high school sports practice

WBGT Activity Guidelines and Rest/Break Guidelines for Athletes

Heat Category	WBGT Index (F)	Activity Guidelines
No Flag	Under 82	Normal activities
Low (Green Flag)	82-86.9	Three (3) separate four (4) minute rest breaks per hour of activity
Moderate (Yellow Flag)	87-89.9	Maximum two (2) hour activity time. Four (4) separate four (4) minute rest breaks per hour of activity. For football, student-athletes are restricted to helmet, shoulder pads and shorts during activity.
High (Red Flag)	90-91.9	Maximum one (1) hour activity time. Five (5) separate four (4) minute rest breaks. No protective equipment permitted. No conditioning activities permitted.
Extreme (Black Flag)	Over 92	No outdoor activities



Source: Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida High School Athletics Association

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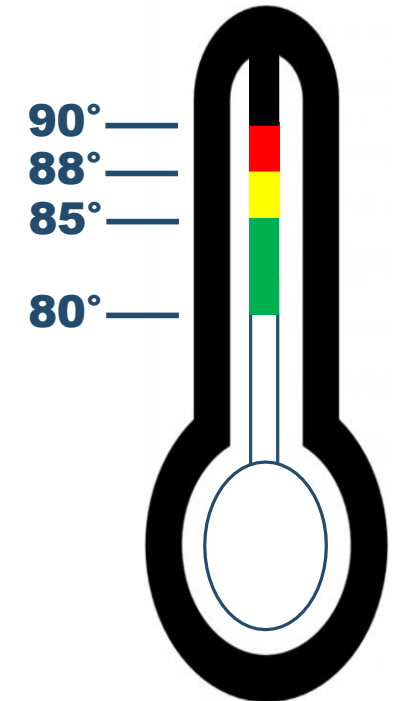
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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## WBGT THRESHOLDS: United States Military

WBGT Activity Guidelines and Rest/Break Guidelines for Athletes

Heat Category	WBGT Index (F)	Activity Guidelines
No Flag	Under 80	Normal Activities
Low (Green Flag)	80-84.9	Discretion required in planning heavy exercise for unseasoned personnel. This is a marginal heat stress limit for all personnel.
Moderate (Yellow Flag)	85-87.9	Strenuous exercise and activity should be curtailed for new and unacclimated personnel during first 3 weeks of heat exposure.
High (Red Flag)	88-89.9	Strenuous exercise curtailed for all personnel with less than 12 weeks training in hot weather.
Extreme (Black Flag)	Over 90	Physical training and strenuous exercise suspended for all personnel



Source: U.S Military Heat Stress Index

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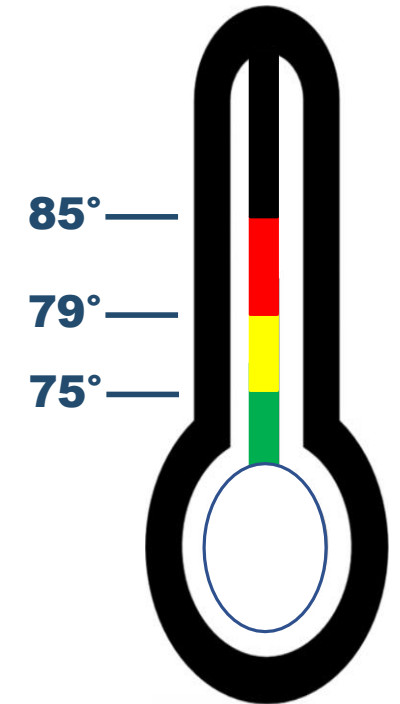
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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## WBGT THRESHOLDS: American Academy of Pediatrics

WBGT Activity Guidelines and Rest/Break Guidelines for Athletes

Heat Category	WBGT Index (F)	Activity Guidelines
No Flag	Under 71	All activities allowed, but be alert for prodromes of heat-related illness in prolonged events
Low (Green Flag)	71-74.9	All activities allowed, but be alert for prodromes of heat-related illness in prolonged events
Moderate (Yellow Flag)	75-78.9	Longer rest periods in the shade; enforce drinking every 15 minutes
High (Red Flag)	79-84.9	Stop activity of unacclimatized persons and other persons with high risk; limit activities of all others (disallow long-distance races, cut down further duration of other activities)
Extreme (Black Flag)	Over 85	Cancel all athletic activities



Source: American Academy of Pediatrics

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# Local patterns of heat stress (WBGT) across a landscape

## 1. Surface type

*Asphalt/concrete is hottest, especially if it is dark colored.  
Artificial turf is hotter, but natural grass is hot.*



## 2. Degree of shade

*Surfaces that have been shaded most of day are the coolest.  
(e.g. north side of quad)*



## 3. Openness of landscape

*Closed (lots of trees/buildings nearby) -Hottest (lowest wind speeds)  
Open (few trees/buildings) – Coolest (highest wind speeds)*



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Less Wind = Higher WBGT

Wind Deflecting Off Building

Wind Blocked

Physicians Eyecare Network

Strom Thurmond Research Building

Gazes Cardiac Research Institute

MUSC Health Benign Hematology at Ashley...

Ashley River Tower Outpatient Pharmacy

MUSC Health Gastroenterology at...

South Carolina Federal Credit Union ATM

MUSC Health

Medical University of South Carolina

Ehrhardt St

Courtenay Dr

Courtenay Dr

Enson Dr

Doughty St

Courtenay Dr

Doughty St

Doughty St

Ehrhardt St

Doughty St

Doughty St

Doughty St

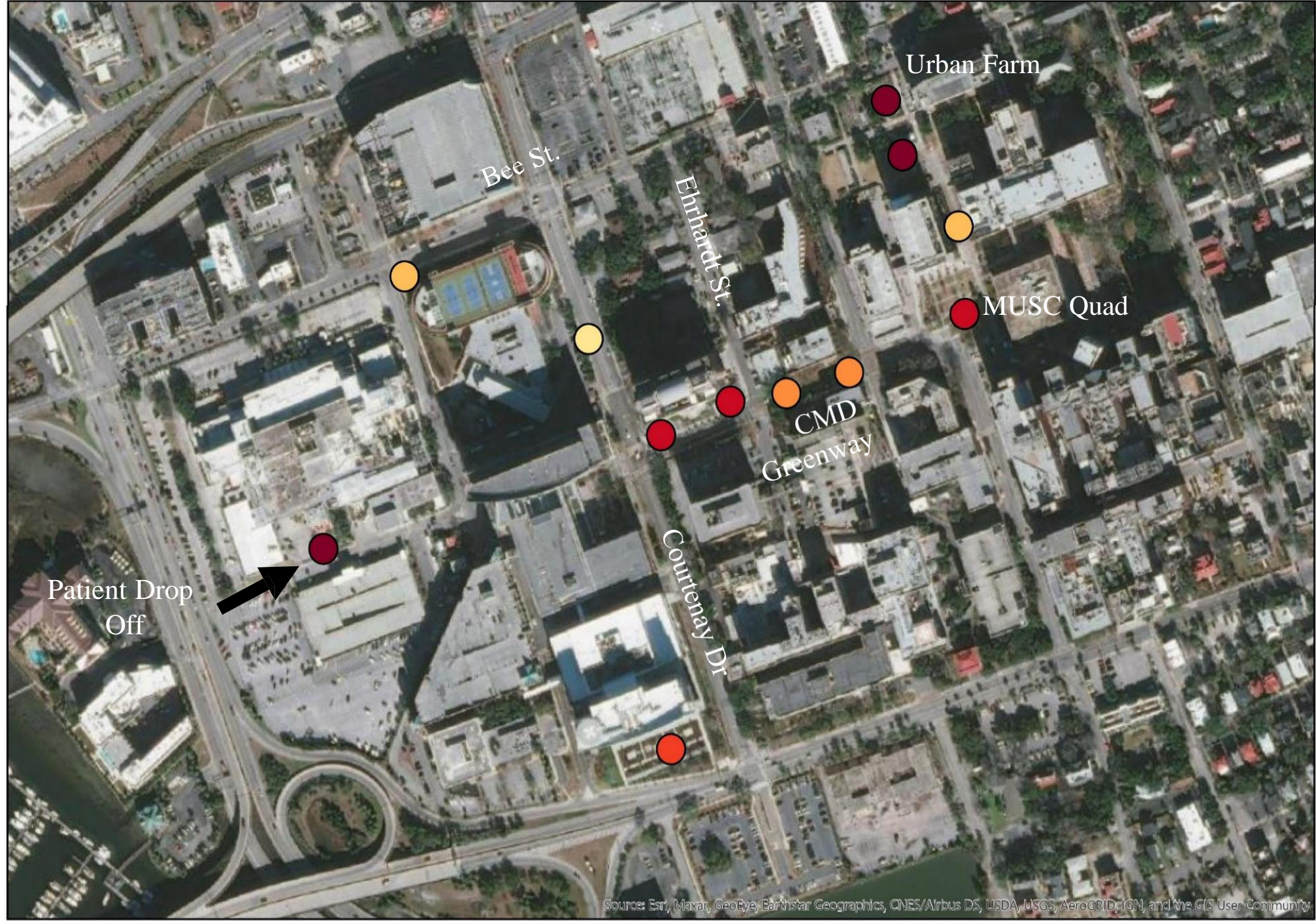
Roper St. Francis

President

100

114

101



# Maximum WBGT at each location

WBGT (°F)

- ≤76.9
- ≤84.6
- ≤88.8
- ≤92.7
- ≤93.6
- ≤94.8
- ≤95.7

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# Charleston Heat Research

## 1 CMD Heat Research

## 2 CISA Heat Research

## 3 HeatWatch Research

## 4 Expanding and Sharing Research

Lead Organization(s)

- City of Charleston, Climate Adaptation Partners

Partner Organizations

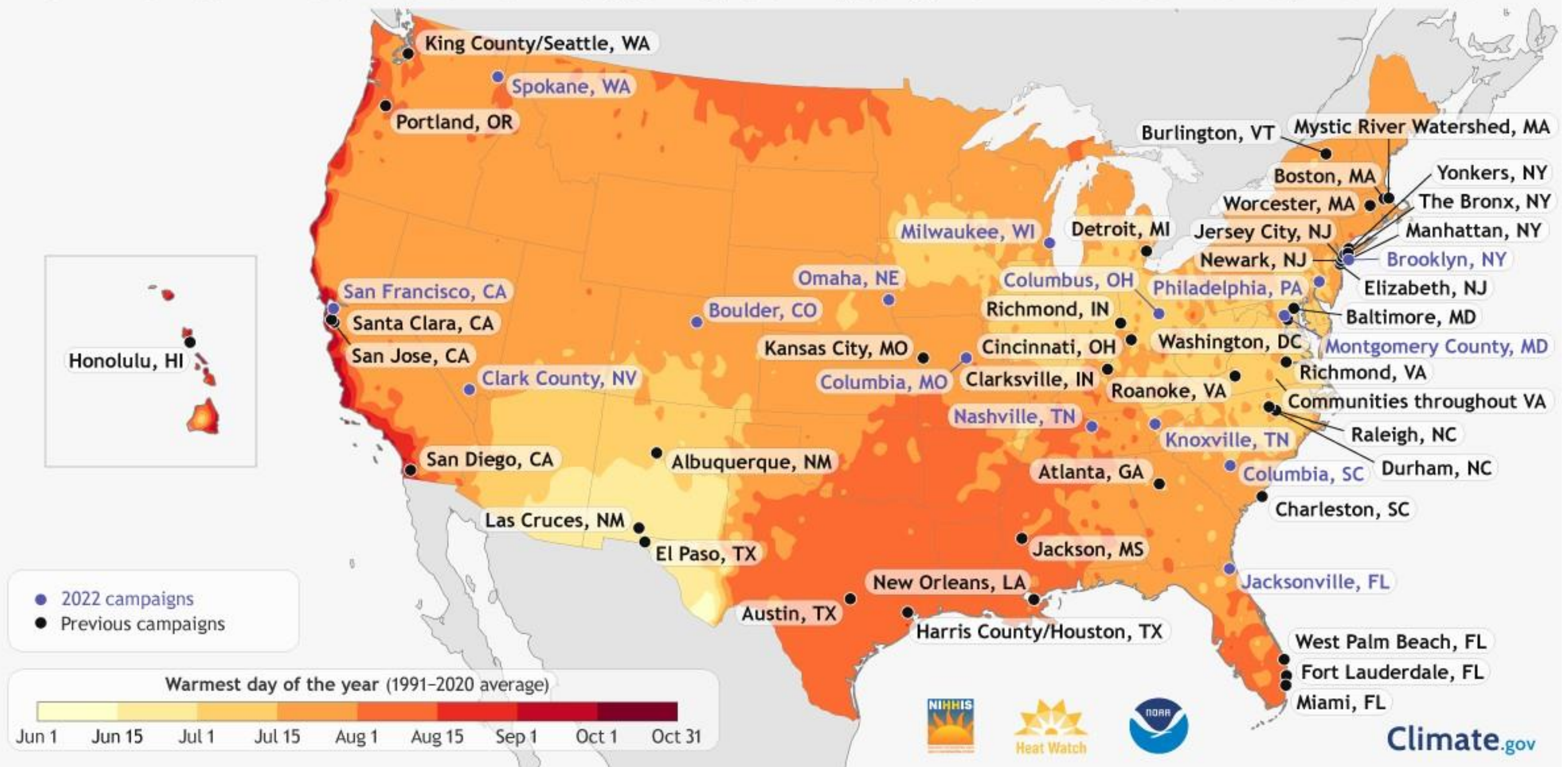
- Medical University of South Carolina Arboretum
- Citadel James B. Near Center for Climate Studies
- Charleston Resilience Network (Over 120 organizations)
- Charleston Medical District
- South Carolina Interfaith Power and Light
- Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments
- Medical University of South Carolina Institute for Air Quality Studies
- Medical University of South Carolina Office of Health Promotion
- Medical University of South Carolina Sustainability Office
- National Weather Service Charleston

Used car-mounted devices to measure temperature and humidity on one representative day

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# NOAA Urban Heat Island Mapping Campaigns: All Locations, 2017-2022



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resilience through collaborative partnerships

# Charleston HeatWatch



Media

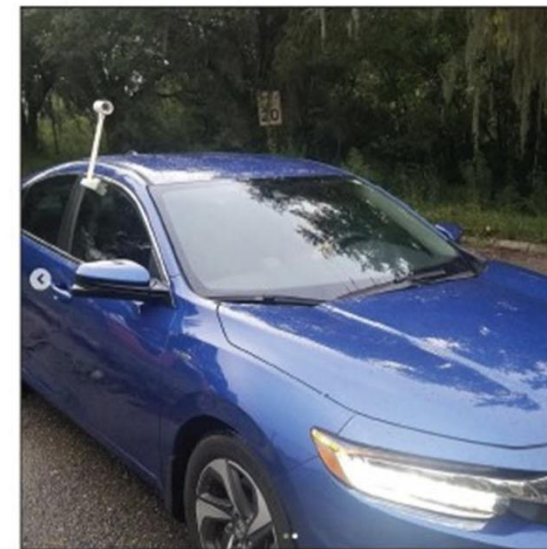
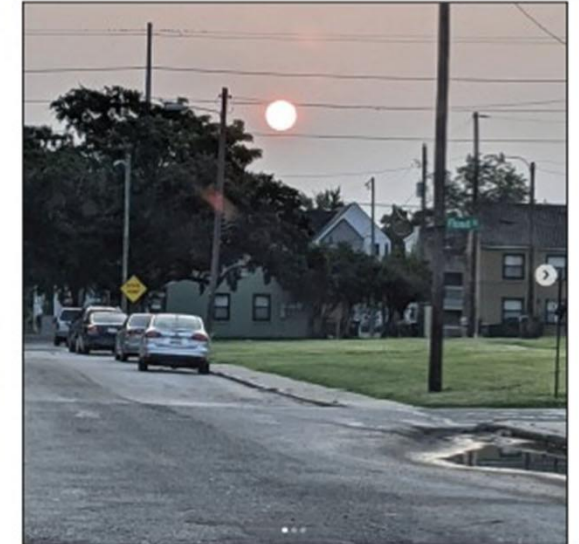


## Driving Team

- Simon and Darla Ghanat
- Lyndsey and Matthew Davis
- Susan and Greg Lovelace
- Catherine Parker and Ben Stone
- Deidre Ragan and Aidan Ragan Fillippa
- Will McCloud
- Grant Farmer
- Rebecca Starkey
- Al Harpring
- Scott Curtis
- Bonnie Ertel
- Darcy Everett
- Christine von Kolnitz
- Pamela Ferguson
- Andrea Forgacs
- Kweku Brown
- Emma Larsen

## FLIR Team

- Shawn McKay
- Amanda Mushal
- Stewart Weinberg
- Starr Hazard



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# Charleston HeatWatch

## Coverage Area

NOAA Funding for 100 SM  
10 Traverses @ 10 SM / Traverse

Initial Charleston screening  
excluding water and wetlands  
~69 SM

Remainder for North Charleston adjoining area

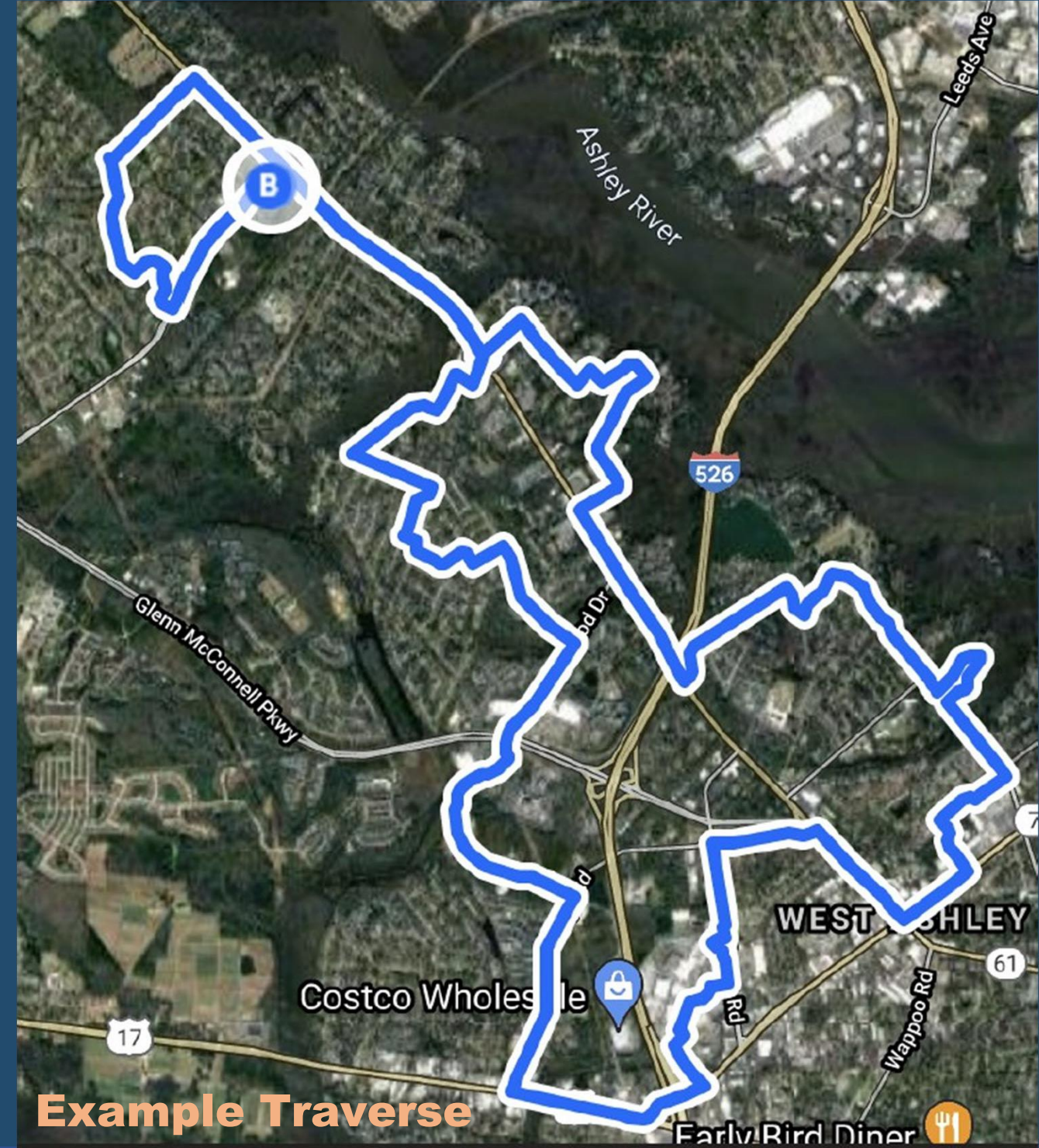
## Data Collection

July 31, 2021

Morning, Afternoon, Evening Traverses

## Volunteers

10 Driving Teams  
3 FLIR Teams  
1 Coordinating Team



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# Charleston Area Heat Watch Context

## Life Expectancy at Birth

Grid - 1 Square Mile

CHS HeatWatch Study Area

## CHS Life Expectancy at Birth

### CDC Life Expectancy (census tract)



**MEDIAN INCOME DATA**  
U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2019 5-year estimates, Tables B19012B, B19013C, B19013D, B19013E, B19013F, B19013G, B19013I, B19013J, B19047, E17053

**HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE DATA**  
U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2019 5-year estimates, Table B27012

**POPULATION DATA**  
U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2019 5-year estimates, Table B01001

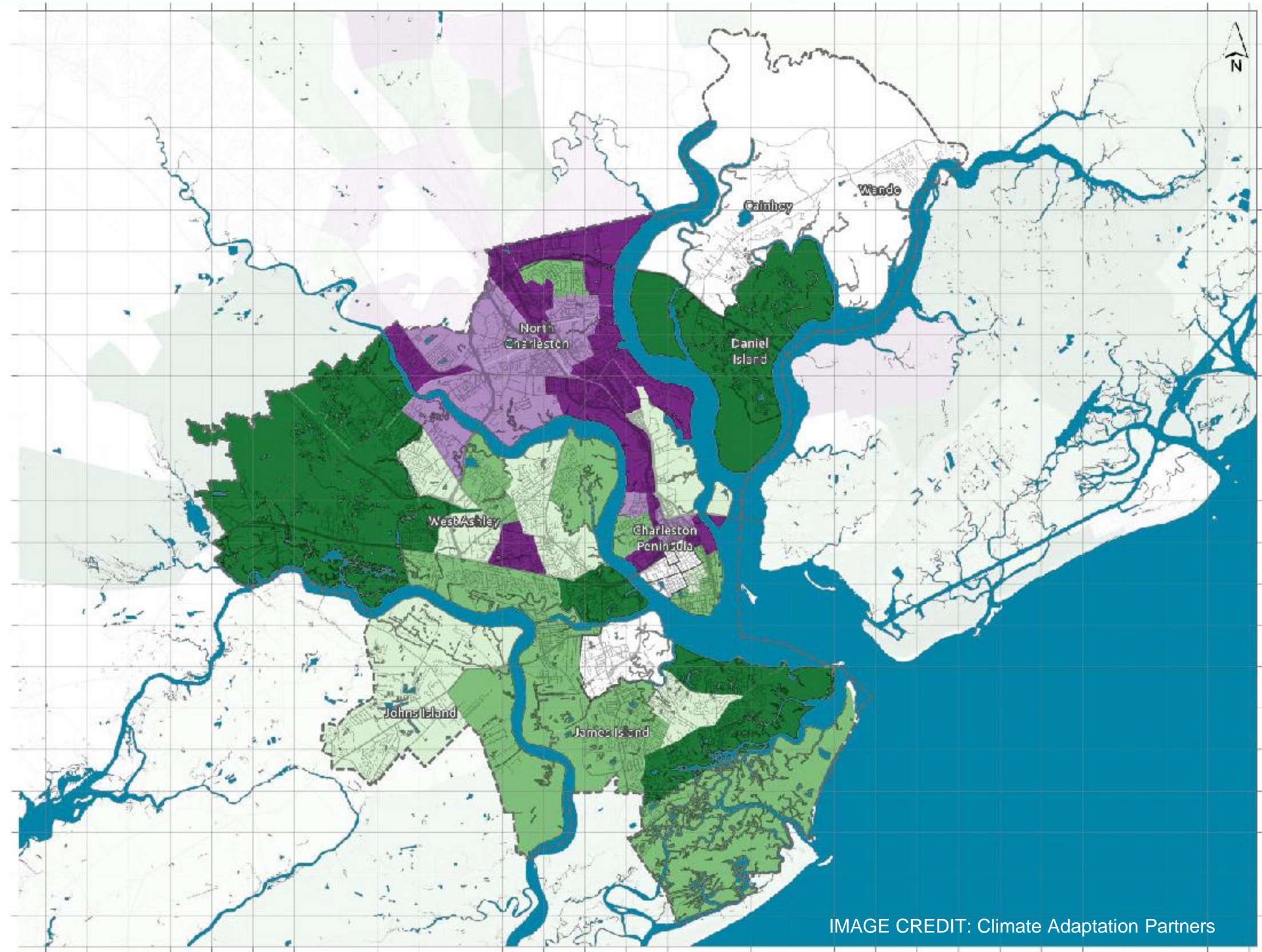
**EDUCATION DATA**  
U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2019 5-year estimates, Table S12

**ELEVATION DATA**  
U.S. Geological Survey, 2019, 3D Elevation Program 3-Meter Resolution Digital Elevation Model, accessed April 16, 2021 at URL: <https://www.egs.gov/earth-science-systems/3dep/data-tools>

**CDC SV DATA**  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry/ Ecopsychiatry Research, Analysis, and Services Program, CDC Social Vulnerability Index, 2016 Database USA, [https://www.atdsr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/data\\_documentation\\_download.html](https://www.atdsr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/data_documentation_download.html), Accessed 09/20/21

**LIFE EXPECTANCY DATA**  
National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP) Life Expectancy Estimates File for (Jurisdiction): 2010-2015; National Center for Health Statistics, 2018. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nssr/usaleep/usaleep.html>

**LANDCOVER & NEIGHBORHOOD DATA**  
City of Charleston GIS



# HeatWatch Results



## HEAT WATCH

**27**

Volunteers

**10**

Routes

**57,948**

Measurements

**95.9°**

Max Temperature

**11.8°**

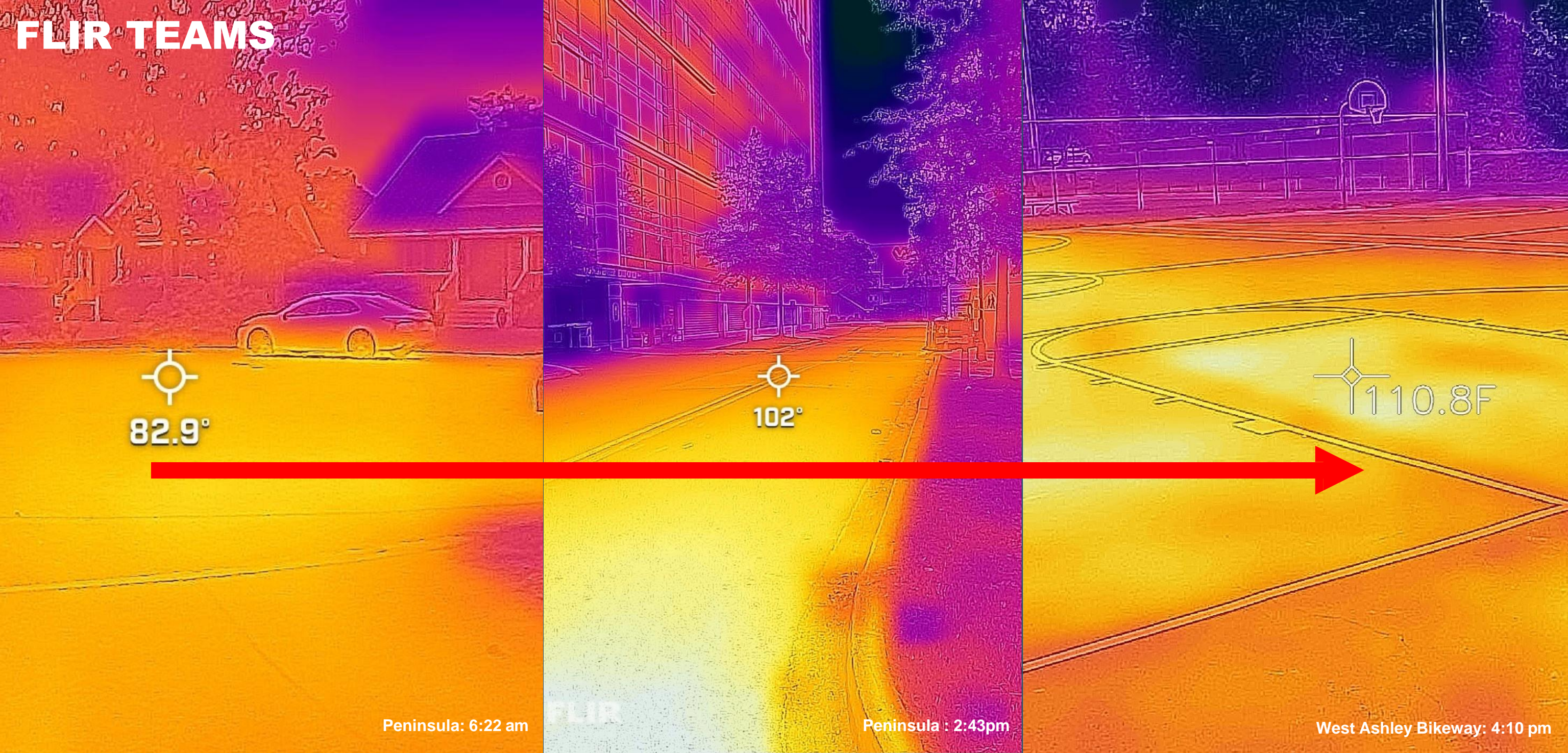
Temperature  
Differential

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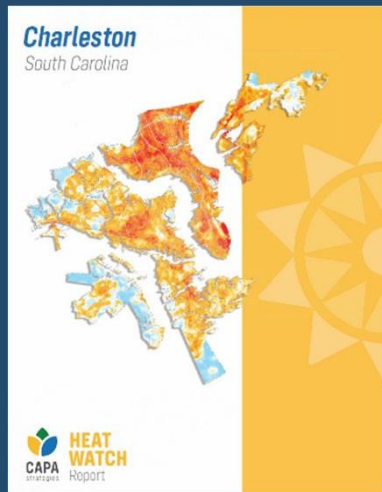


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# HeatWatch Summary

1. More effect of density of development
2. Peninsula was far warmer
3. Conserved Forest was cooler and offered a bigger impact on cooling than water bodies
4. No effect of swampy areas versus regular forest



Open Science Forum

<https://osf.io/b4tfy/>

City of Charleston GIS Team

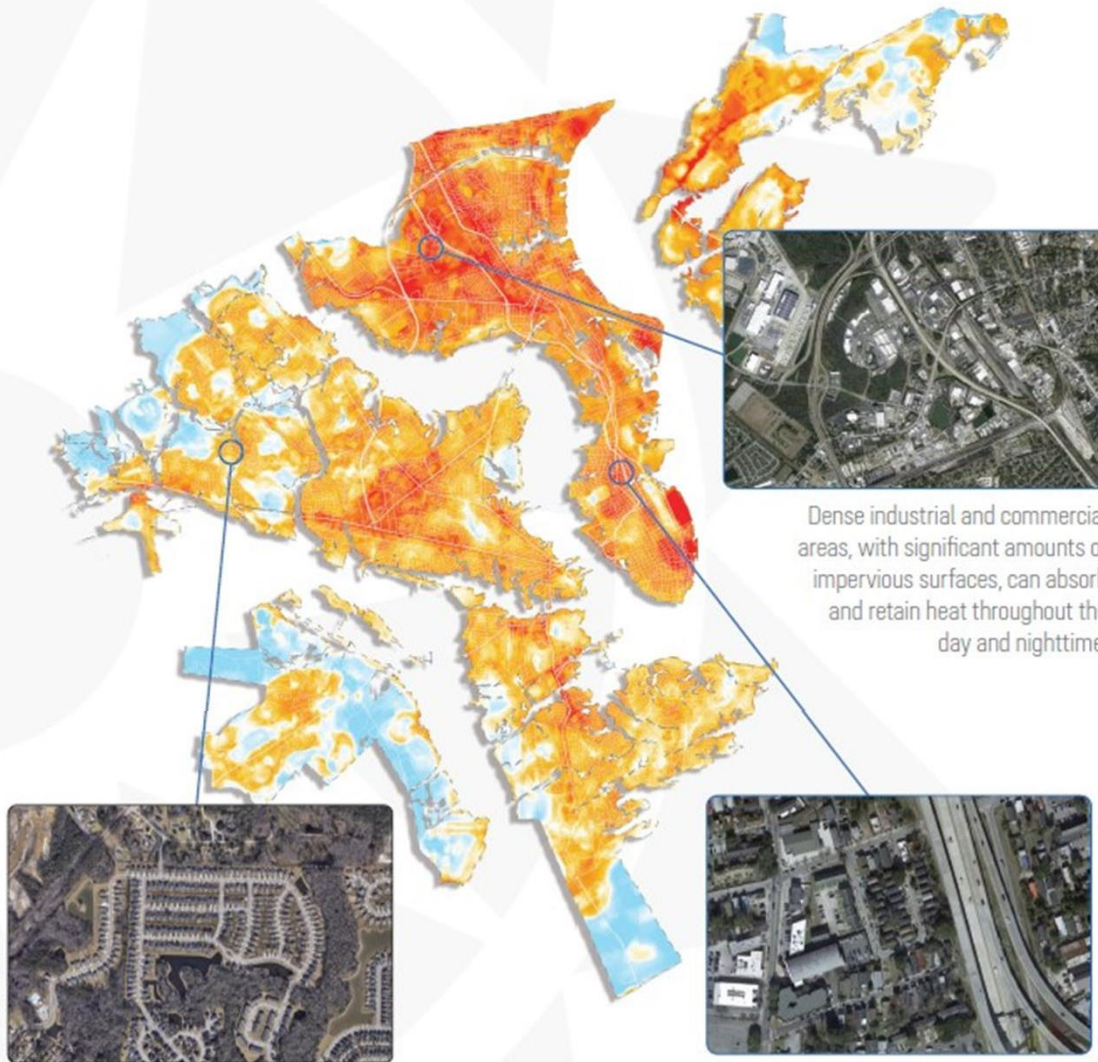
<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/2513/HeatWatch-Charleston-2021>



## Initial Observations



The distribution of heat across a region often varies by qualities of the land and its use. Here are several observations of how this phenomenon may be occurring in your region.



Dense industrial and commercial areas, with significant amounts of impervious surfaces, can absorb and retain heat throughout the day and nighttime.

Conserved forests appear to help reduce the concentration of heat amongst densely packed single family residential neighborhoods.

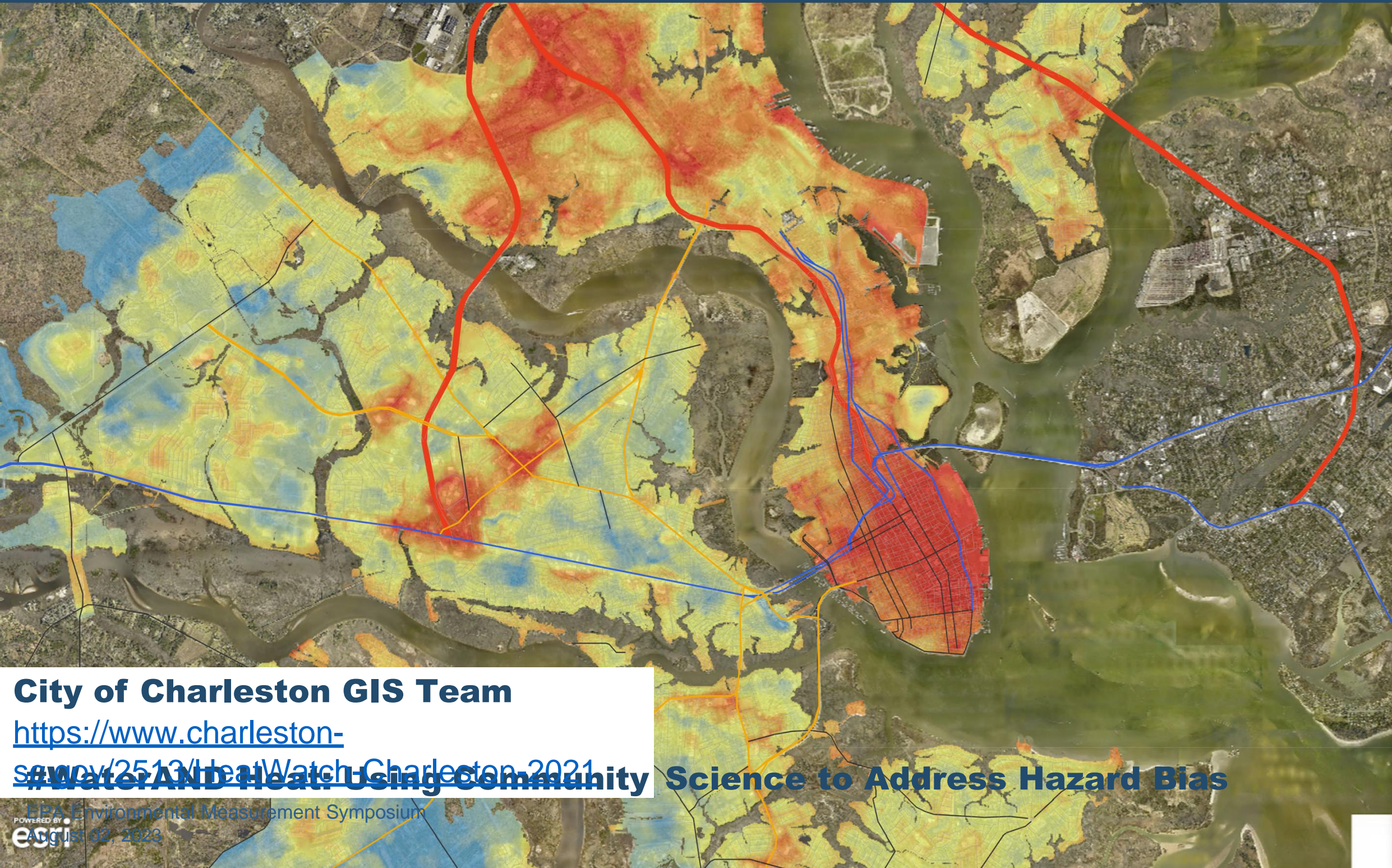
In neighborhoods with lower tree canopy, heat can concentrate throughout the day, keeping residential areas at higher heat health risk.

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# HeatWatch Summary



Layers

- Streets
- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Major Road
- Streets
- Pedestrian
- Heat

**City of Charleston GIS Team**

<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/2513/HeatWatch-Charleston-2021>

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POWERED BY  
esri  
August 02, 2023

# Charleston Heat Research

**1** **CMD Heat Research**

**2** **CISA Heat Research**

**3** **HeatWatch Research**

**4** **Expanding and Sharing Research**

City of Charleston Resilience, GIS, and Planning Departments  
Climate Adaptation Partners  
University of South Carolina  
The Citadel James B. Near Center for Climate Studies  
South Carolina Sea Grant  
UNC-Chapel Hill  
MUSC Sustainability, Office of Health Promotion, Nursing, Epidemiology, Emergency Department, and Arboretum  
National Weather Service Charleston  
State of South Carolina Meteorology Office

NOAA NIHHIS and Pilot Research Team  
City of Miami  
City of Phoenix  
City of Las Vegas  
Drexel University

City of Philadelphia  
City of Columbus

NOAA Pilot Project

Journal Publications  
Philly & Columbia HeatWatch

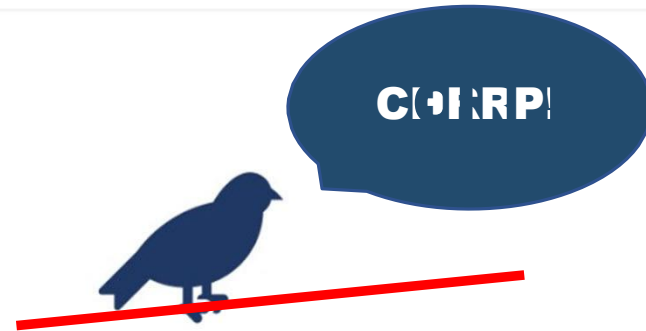
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# NOAA Pilot Project



- About ▾
- Research ▾
- Extension ▾
- Education ▾
- Funding ▾
- For Students ▾
- Publications ▾
- News and Events ▾



## Charleston Heat-Health Research Project

The Charleston Heat-Health Research Project (CHHRP) was created by a group of health professionals, climate scientists, city planners, students and researchers to learn more about heat impacts in the community.

[LEARN ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

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# Why is the NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) sponsoring this work?

- Extreme heat is the number one weather related killer in the United States
- Heat-related health impacts likely will increase with climate change
- **Informed by Climate and Equity Roundtable Events, NOAA is working with four communities to understand heat health impacts and address community needs (in Charleston, Miami, Las Vegas, Phoenix)**

## RESOURCES:

- National Integrated Heat Health Information System ([NIHHIS](#))
- Interagency resource: [Heat.gov](#)

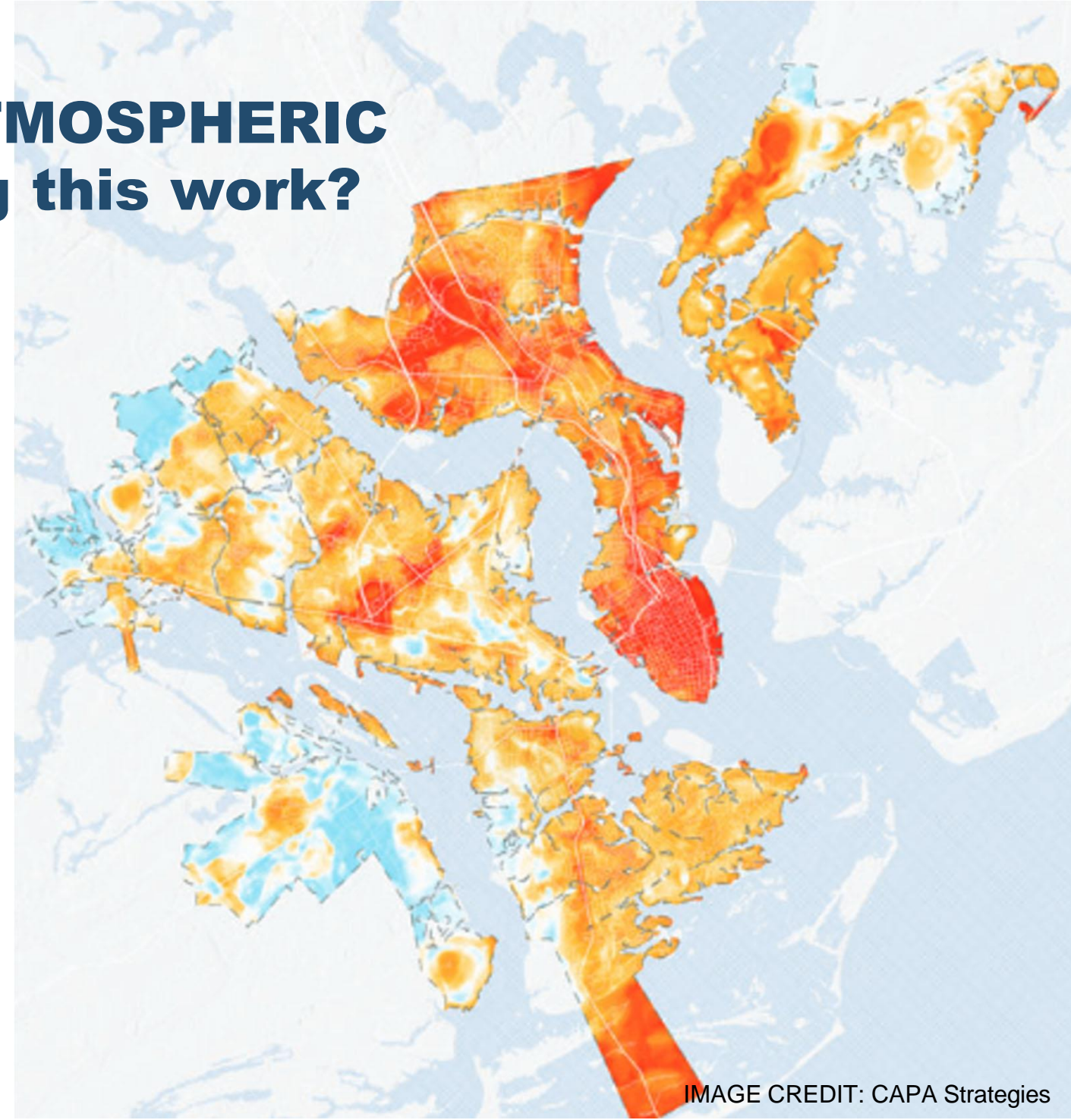


IMAGE CREDIT: CAPA Strategies

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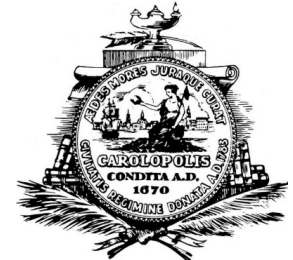
# PARTNERS



**Funding**



**Administration  
and Outreach**



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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION



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[PUBLIC NOTICES](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[PAY YOUR BILL](#)



[HOUSING ASSISTANCE](#) ▾

[LANDLORDS](#) ▾

[PROCUREMENT / CONTRACTS](#) ▾

[TENANTS](#) ▾

[CAREERS](#)



May 11, 2021

**ALL PUBLIC HOUSING IN CHARLESTON TO BE  
REPLACED OR RENOVATED IN SWEEPING  
INITIATIVE**

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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## Near to the CMD, Gadsden Green is in a hot part of Charleston.

We hoped to better understand heat impacts by:

### Phase 1 (LEARN):

- recording hot temperatures in the community
- identifying materials that make heat feel worse
- talking about how heat affects health

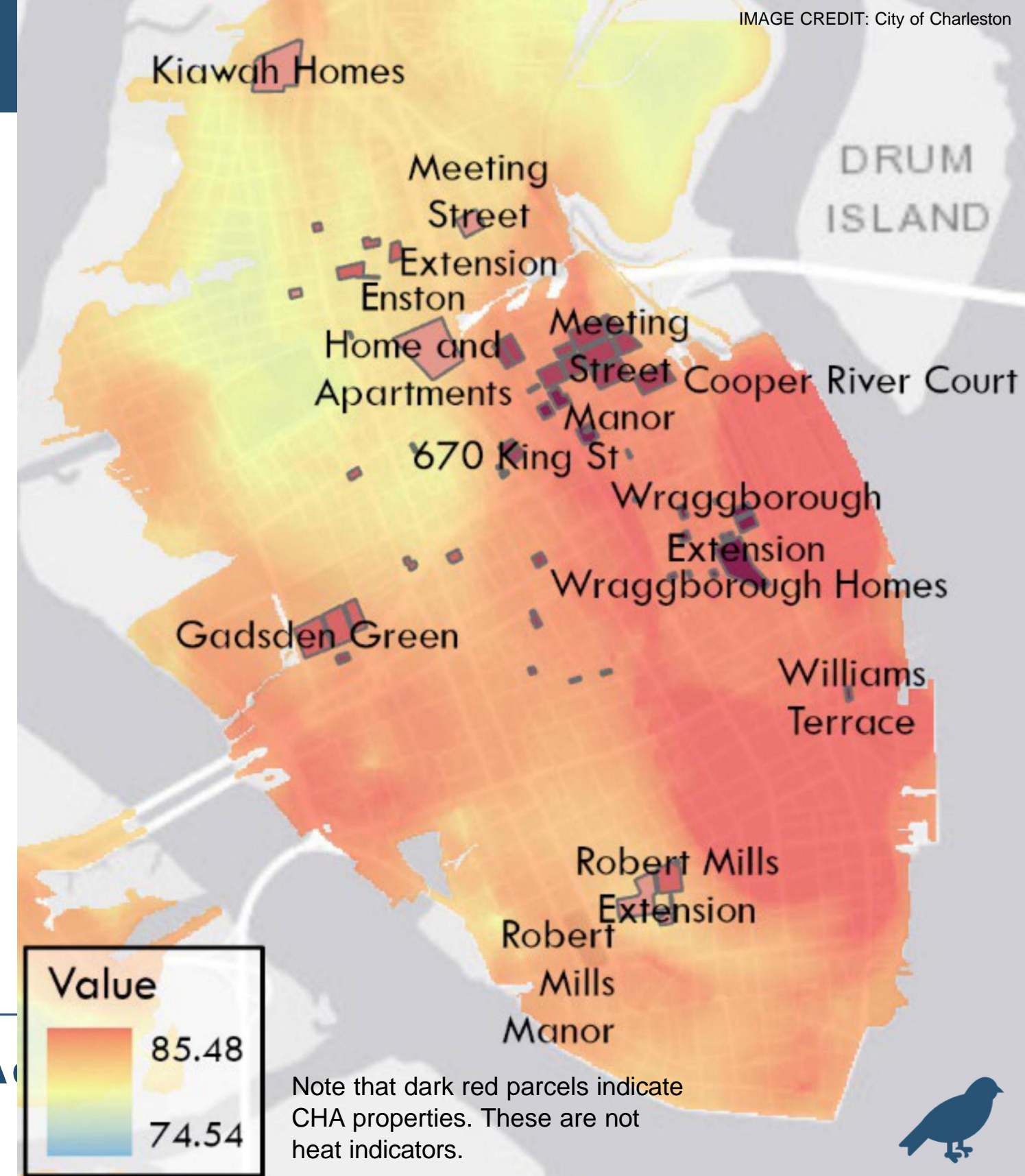
### Phase 2 (ACT):

- identifying resources to help cope with heat
- finding solutions to help cool the environment

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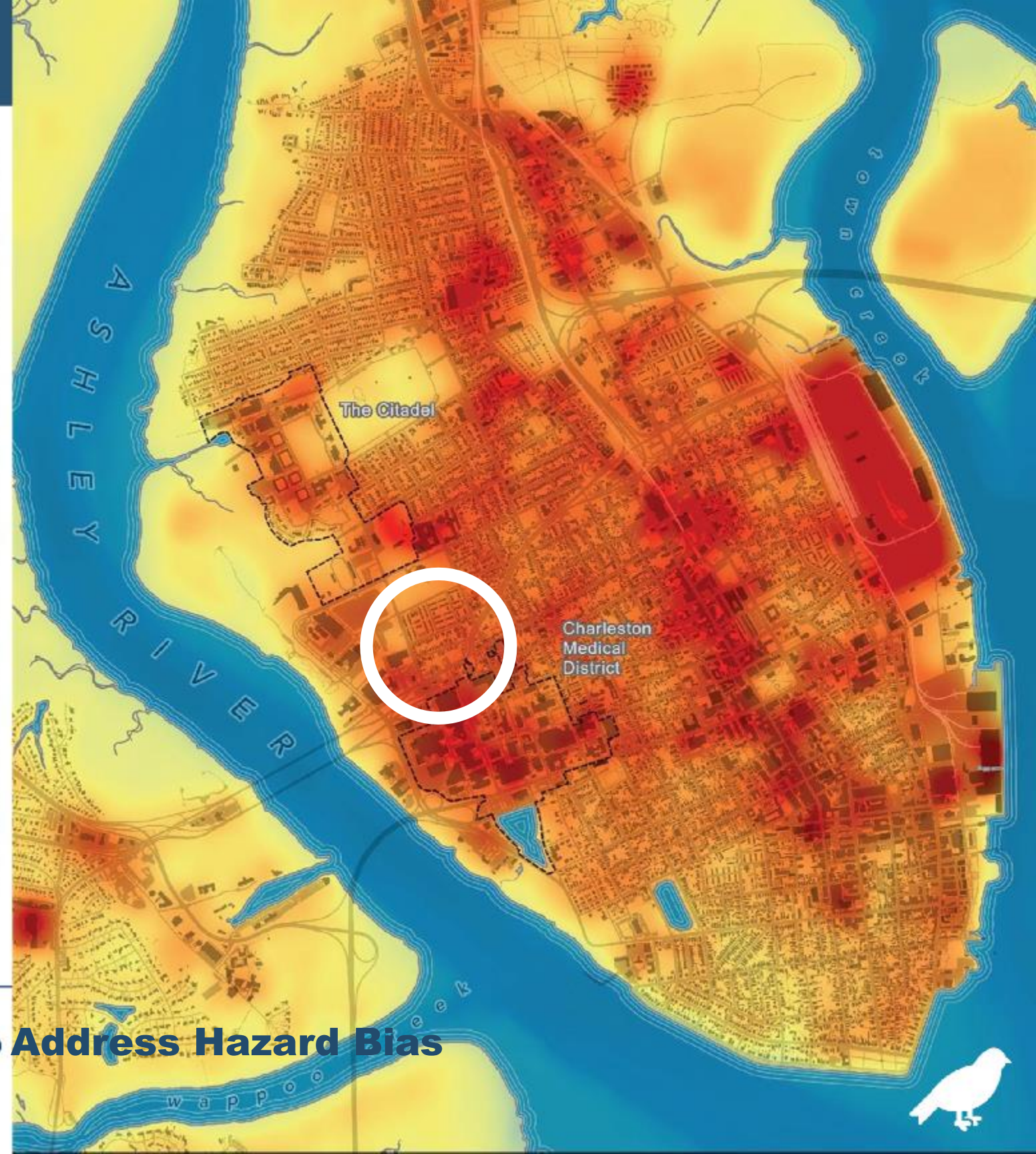
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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION



Figure 2: Gadsden Green Land Cover



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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS DURING OBSERVATION

Atmospheric Readings were collected in Gadsden Green during the 09/04/2022 study

- 6am – 8am
  - 115 Observations
  - Average Air Temperature: 78° F
  - Average Relative Humidity: 90%
  - Average Heat Index: 87° F
- 2pm – 4pm
  - 140 Observations
  - Average Air Temperature: 89° F
  - Average Relative Humidity: 65%
  - Average Heat Index: 104° F

Daily Temperature Data – Charleston Area, SC (ThreadEx)

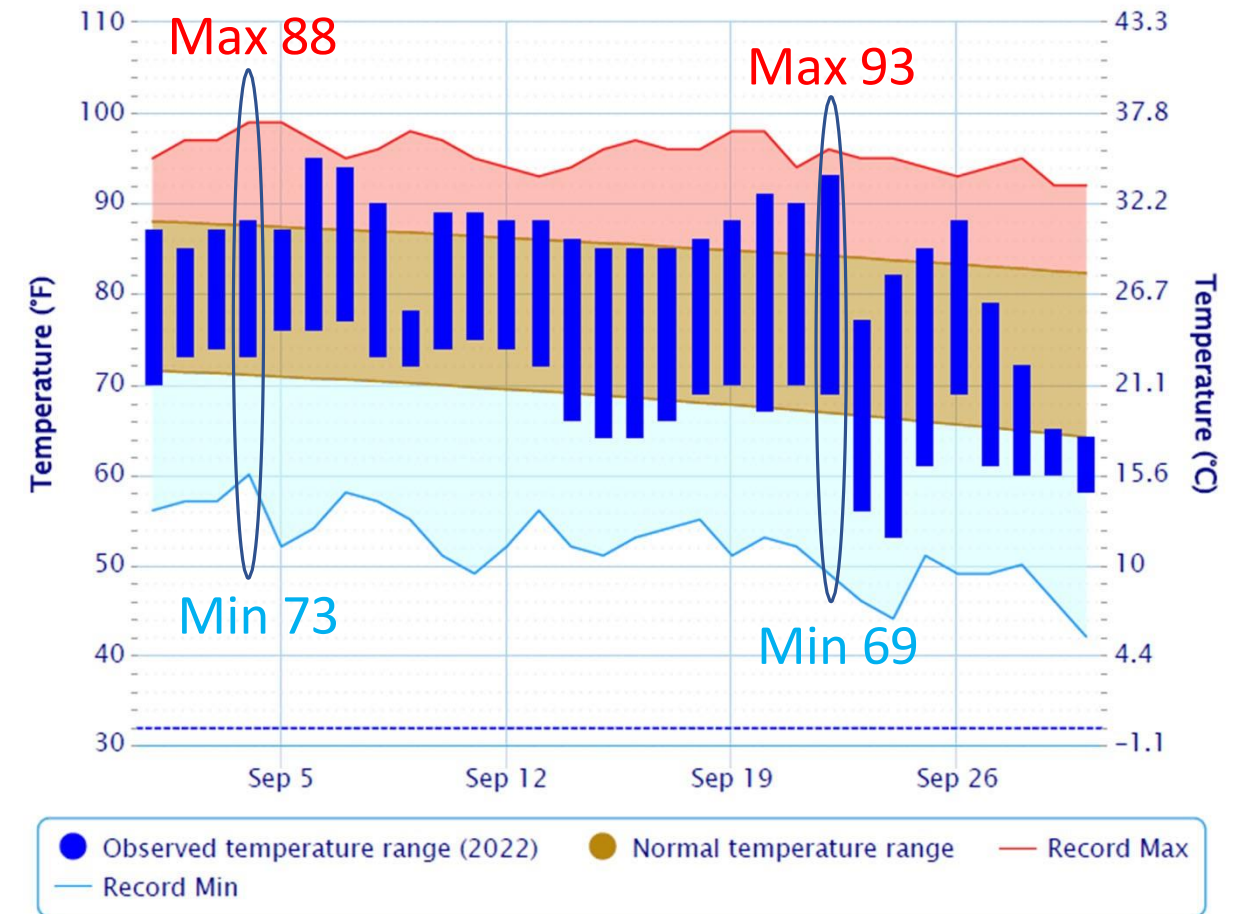


IMAGE CREDIT: National Weather Service

Powered by ACIS

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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## COLLECTION SITE

Data Collection focused on Gadsden Green and Gadsden Green Extension

- Four Kestrel WBGT Locations
- FLIR imagery focused on:

### landscape

asphalt (roads)

concrete (sidewalks)

grass (lawns)

bare earth (dirt)

sand (playgrounds)

mulch (plant areas)

rubber (play surfaces)

### buildings

clay tile (roofs)

shingles (roofs)

painted brick (walls)

unpainted brick (walls)

metal (windows / doors)

glass (windows)

wood (benches / fences)



IMAGE CREDIT: CAP

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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## FLIR IMAGES FROM GADSDEN GREEN

- 223 FLIR Images Analyzed
- 13 Distinct Material Types were Captured
- 488 Unique Temperature Readings
- FLIR teams captured morning and afternoon images to match the WBGT observation periods
- FLIR teams captured sunny and shaded surfaces
- Temperatures reported are typically AVERAGES estimated across contiguous surface areas



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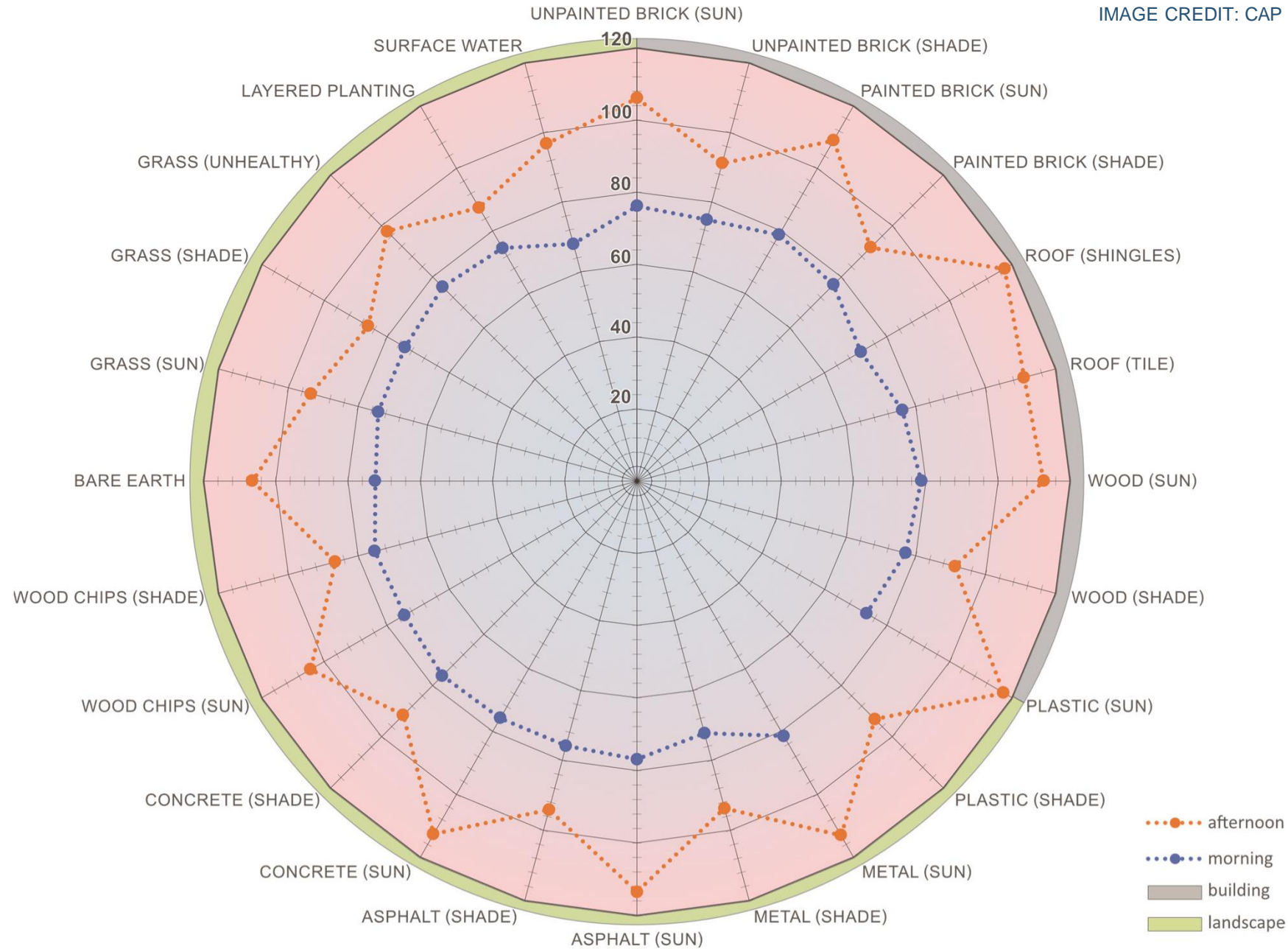
# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## SURFACE TEMPERATURES IN GADSDEN GREEN

This is a summary of temperature **AVERAGES** of various materials in Gadsden Green, including:

- temperature **averages** captured in the morning (blue line) and afternoon (red line)
- surfaces in **(sun)** and in **(shade)**

**What does this tell us?**



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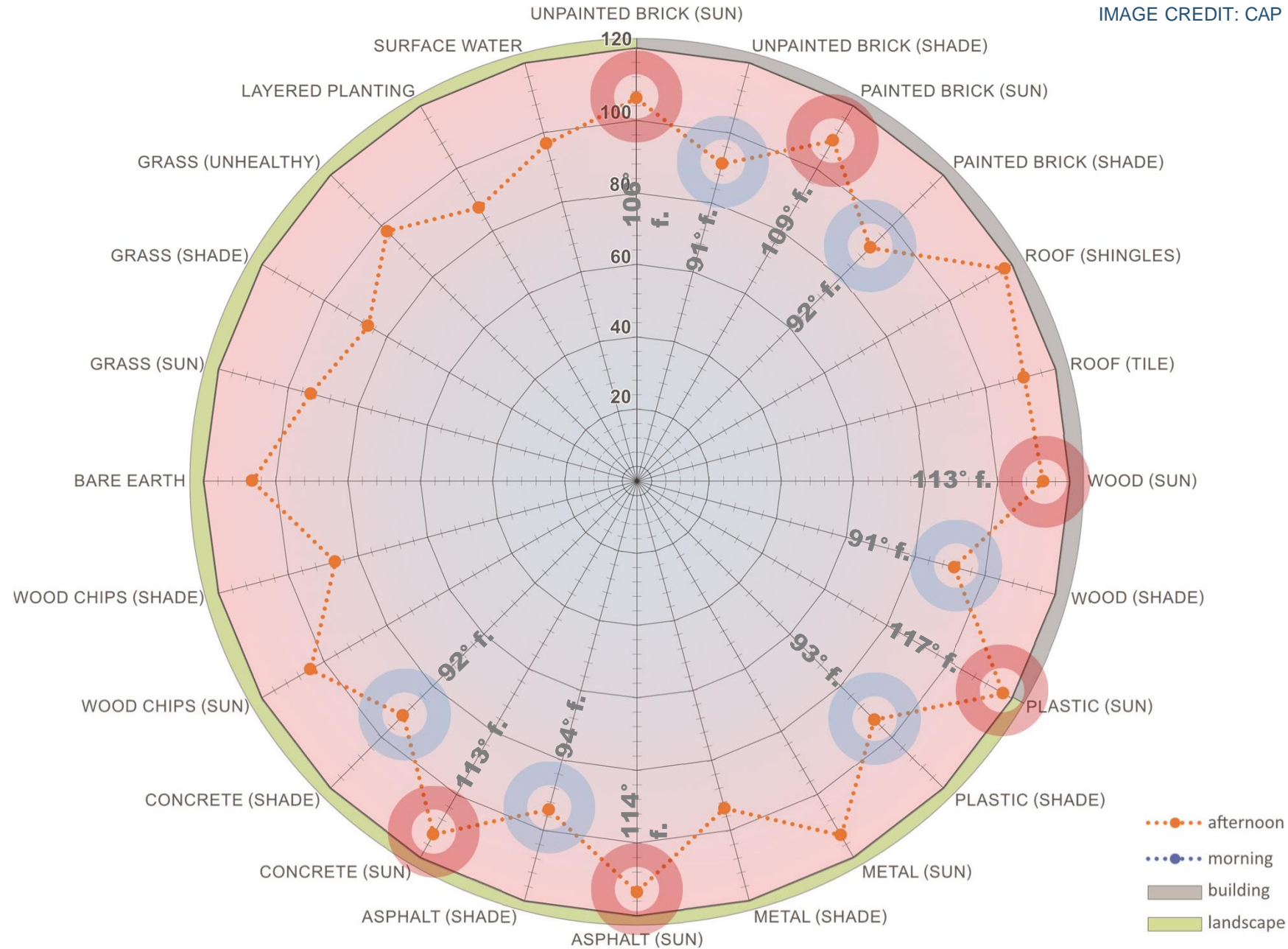
# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## SURFACE TEMPERATURES IN GADSDEN GREEN

Notice how the **average temperatures** of some materials observed in the **afternoon** vary significantly.

This diagram reinforces how important shade is to cooling. Shaded materials are significantly cooler than unshaded.

**Average material temperatures varied as much as 24 degrees between sun and shade.**



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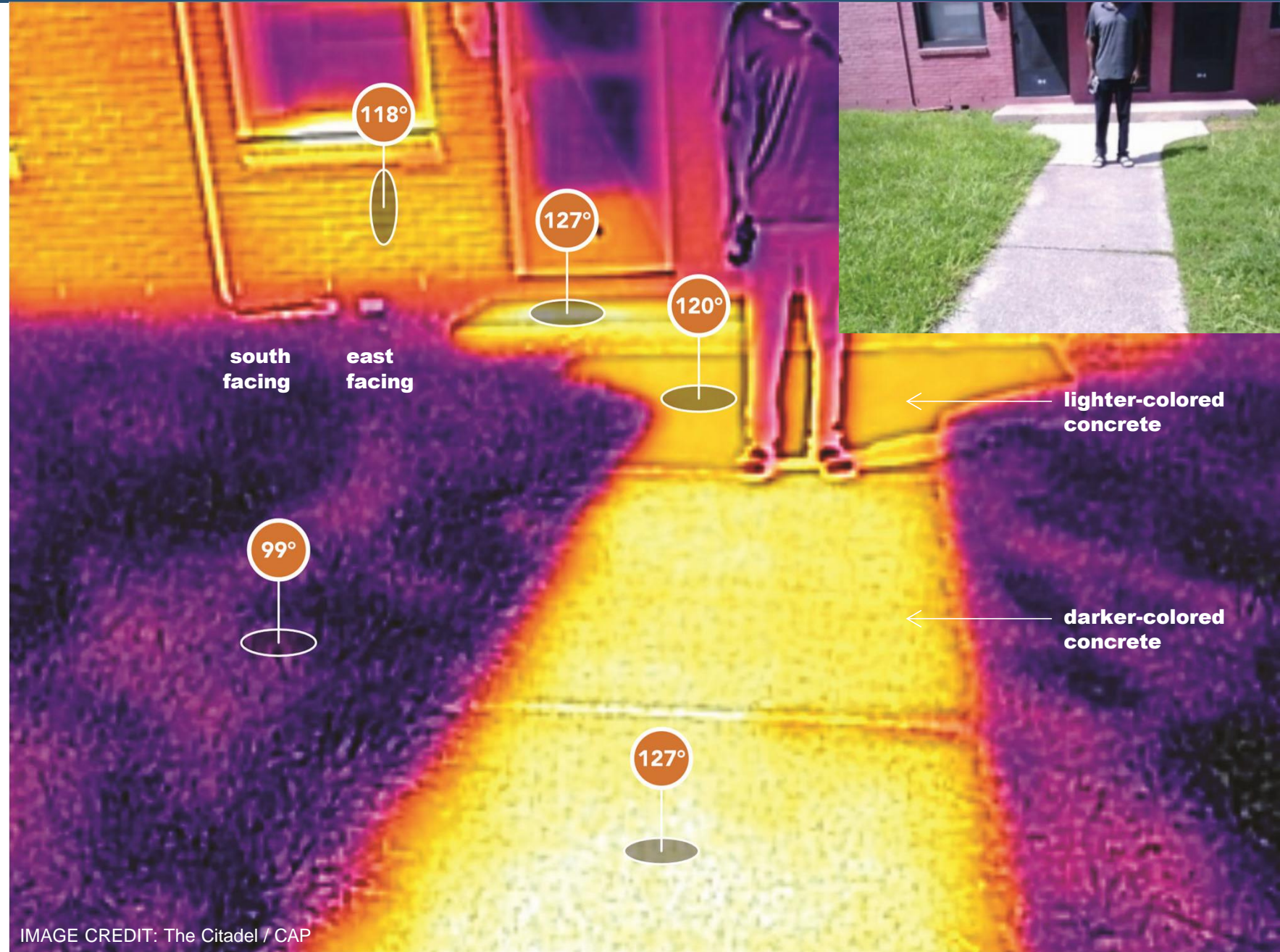
# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## SURFACE TEMPERATURES IN GADSDEN GREEN

The next two images illustrate the surface temperature differences in **sunny** and **shaded** conditions.

This image of an **exposed stoop** in Gadsden Green shows grass, concrete, and brick in direct sun.

**Note the temperature differences between the lighter-colored concrete and darker-colored concrete.**



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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

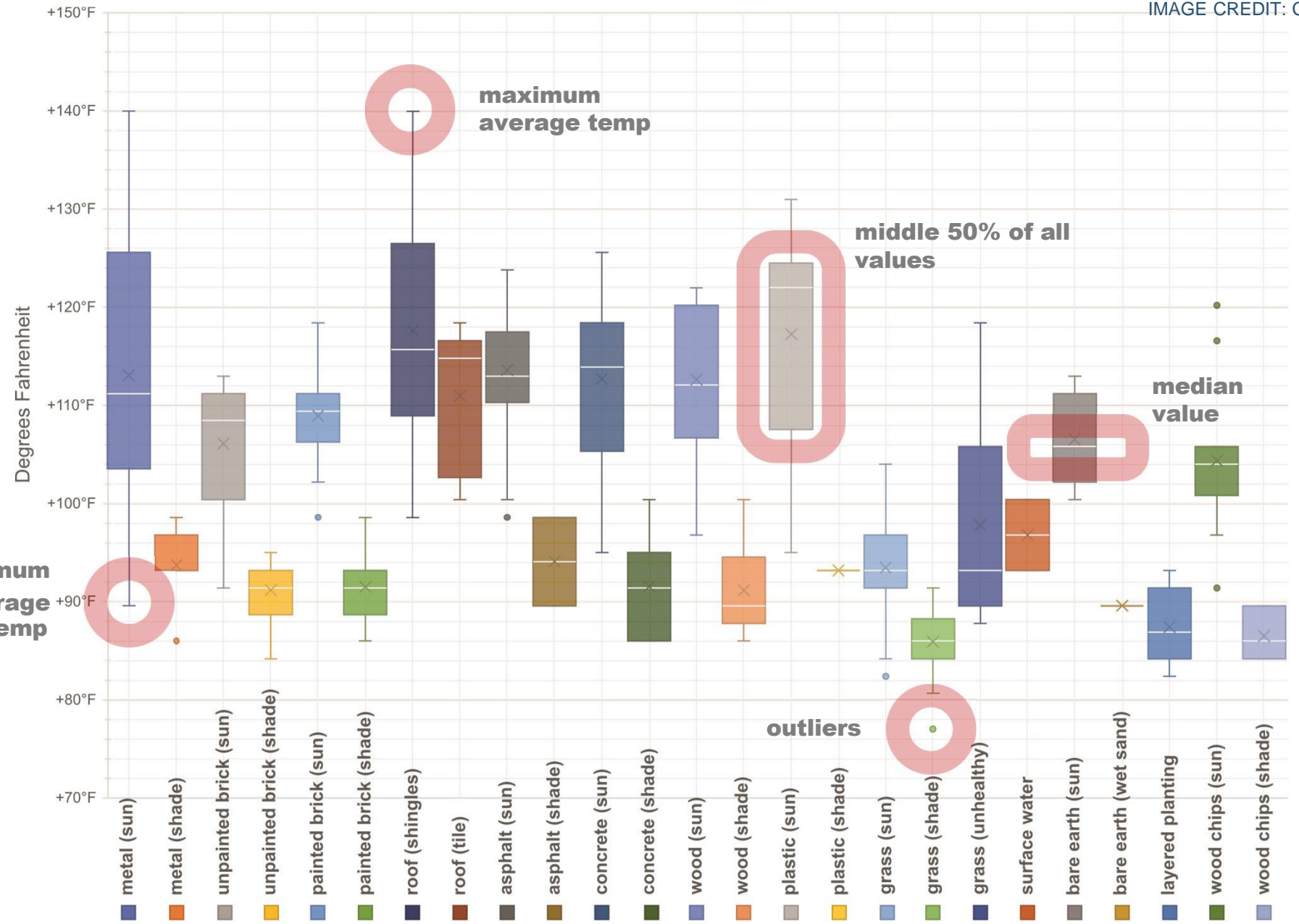
IMAGE CREDIT: CAP

## SURFACE TEMPERATURES IN GADSDEN GREEN

This is a “Box and Whisker” plot showing the distribution of **afternoon** surface temperature **averages** that provides another way to look at the data.

Box and Whisker plots show where most of the collected temperatures fall (the box) as well as the highs and lows (the whiskers).

**This illustrates how temperature values are clustered (showing trends and important deviations of those trends).**



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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## SURFACE TEMPERATURES IN GADSDEN GREEN

This image is from Gadsden Green and includes the two different roof types:

- The blue and red painted brick buildings have dark-colored **clay-tile** roofs.
- The green painted brick building has a dark-colored **asphalt-shingle** roof.

**Note that the clay tile roof has a temperature of 120° and the asphalt shingle roof is much warmer at 139°**



IMAGE CREDIT: The Citadel / CAP

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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## SURFACE TEMPERATURES IN GADSDEN GREEN

It's important to note that there can be significant variation between similar materials as well. This image shows two asphalt shingle roofs (one lighter and one darker)



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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## SURFACE TEMPERATURES IN GADSDEN GREEN

It's important to note that there can be significant variation between similar materials as well. This image shows two asphalt shingle roofs (one lighter and one darker)

**Note that the darker colored asphalt shingle roof is significantly warmer than the lighter asphalt shingle roof.**



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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## SURFACE TEMPERATURES IN GADSDEN GREEN

This image, from the Gadsden Green Extension playground, includes many different surface materials: healthy grass, wood chips / mulch, steel, and plastic.

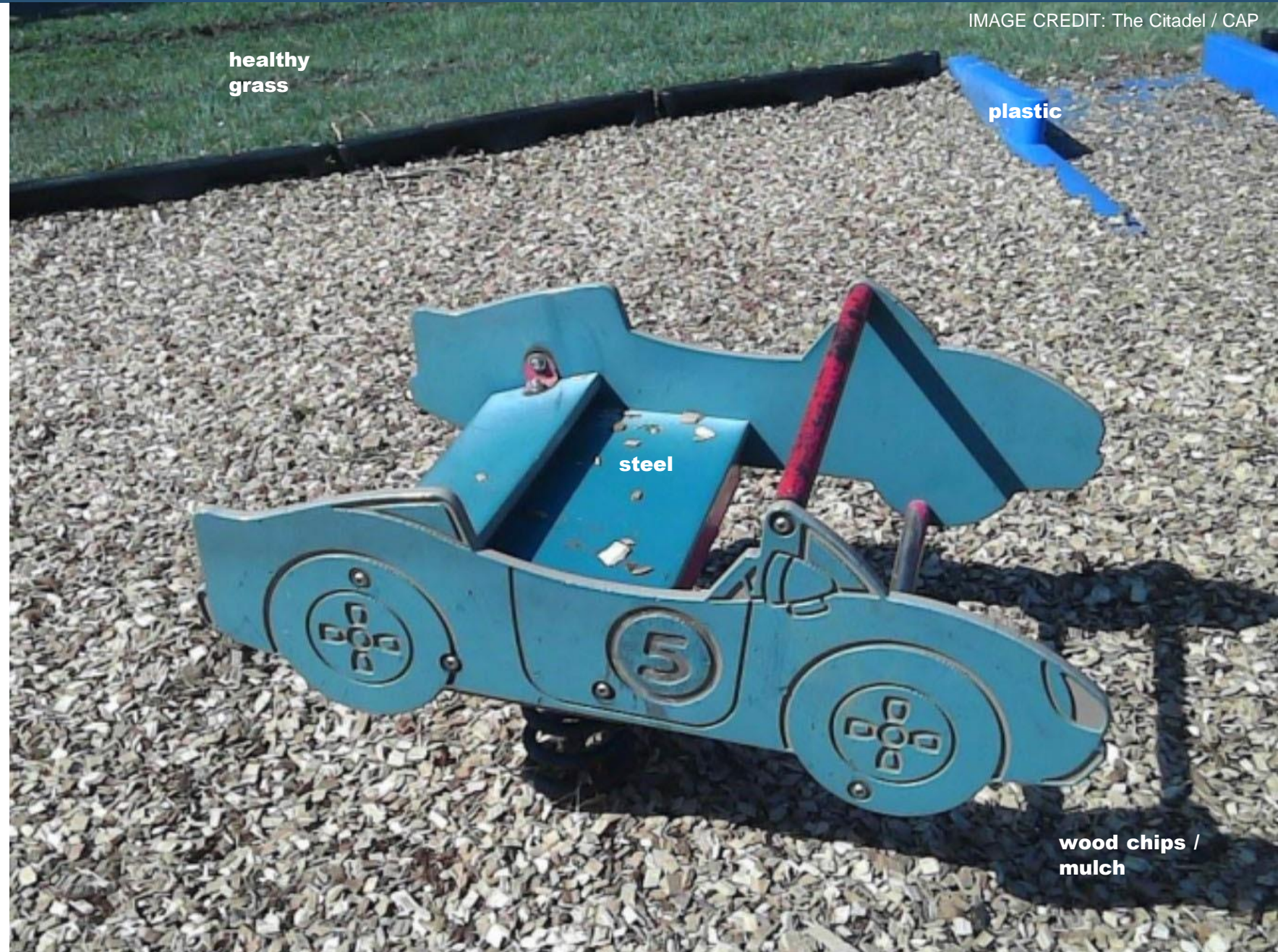


IMAGE CREDIT: The Citadel / CAP

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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

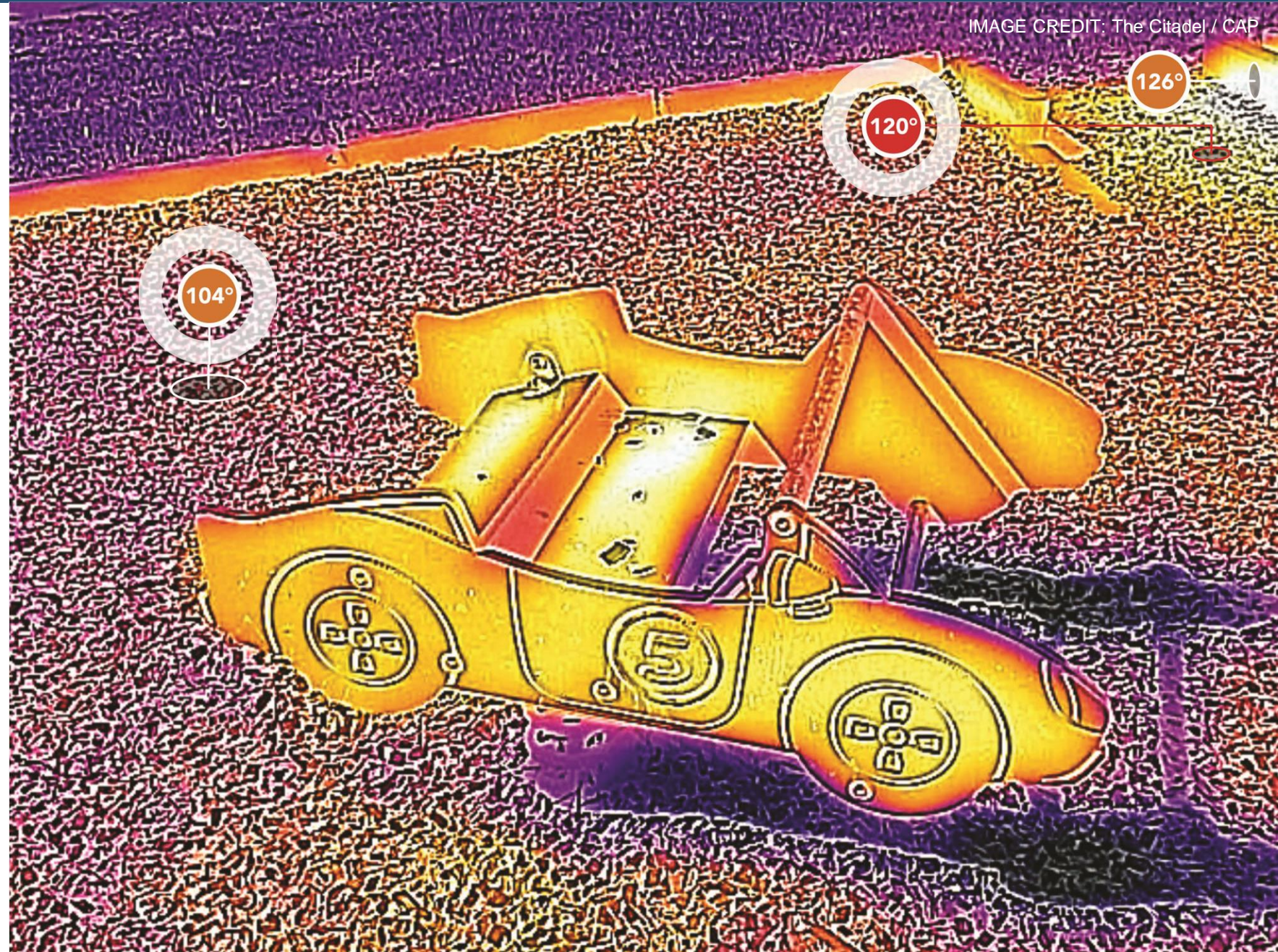
## SURFACE TEMPERATURES IN GADSDEN GREEN

Note that the wood chips / mulch areas are significantly warmer than the grass areas.

The hottest surfaces in this area are the plastic and steel surfaces.

But there is also another important principle illustrated by this image

**The radiant heat emitted by the plastic is significantly increasing the surface temperature of the adjacent wood chips / mulch by nearly 20°**



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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## WBGT IN GADSDEN GREEN

### Collection Period:

- September 4, 2022
- ~ 6-8 am and 2-4 pm
- Locations informed by community input

### Counts (minute averages):

- ~120 am & ~120 pm

### Analysis Process:

- Examine WBGT time series
- Examine WBGT components
- Compare published WBGT health "flag" thresholds



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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## Community Involvement



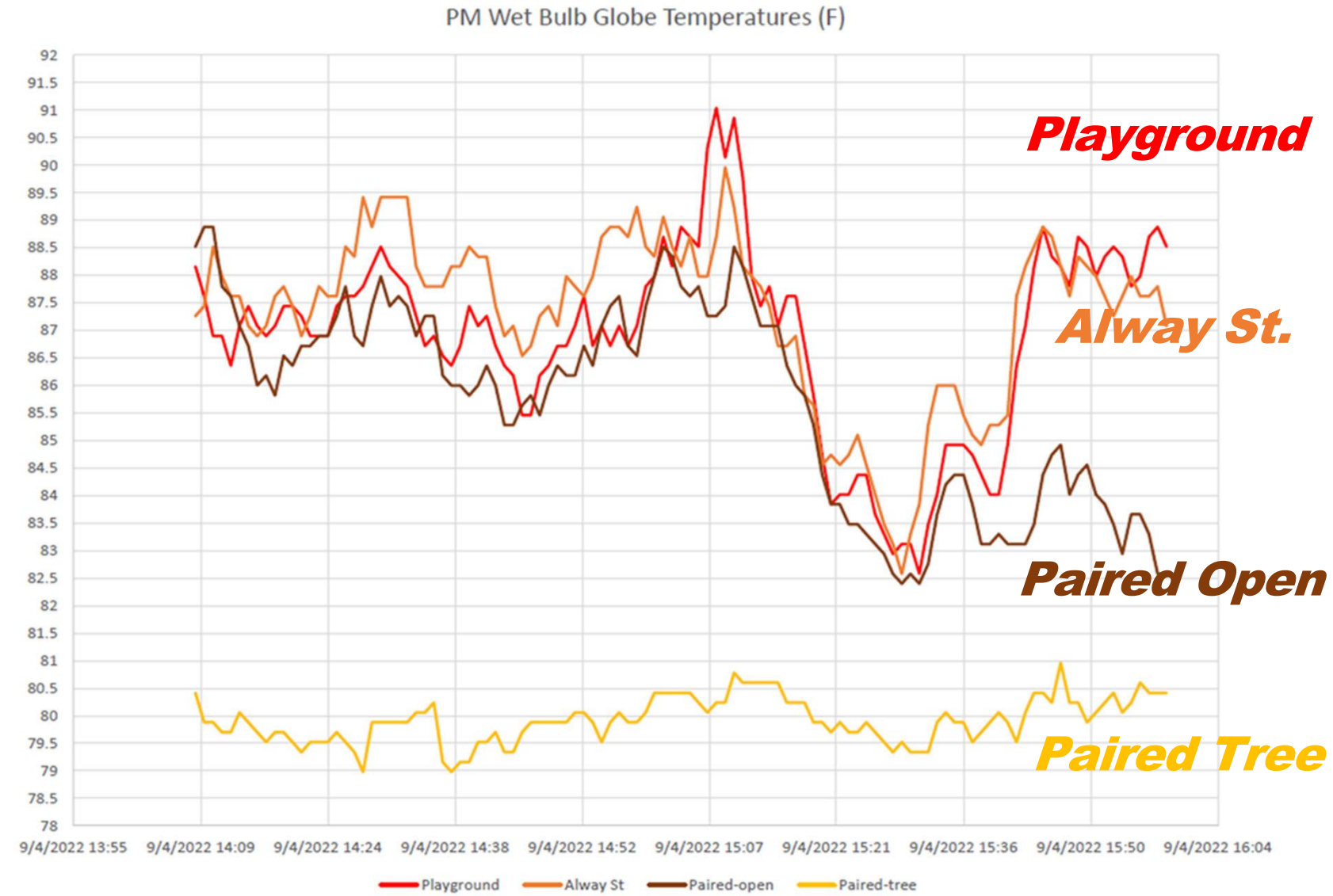
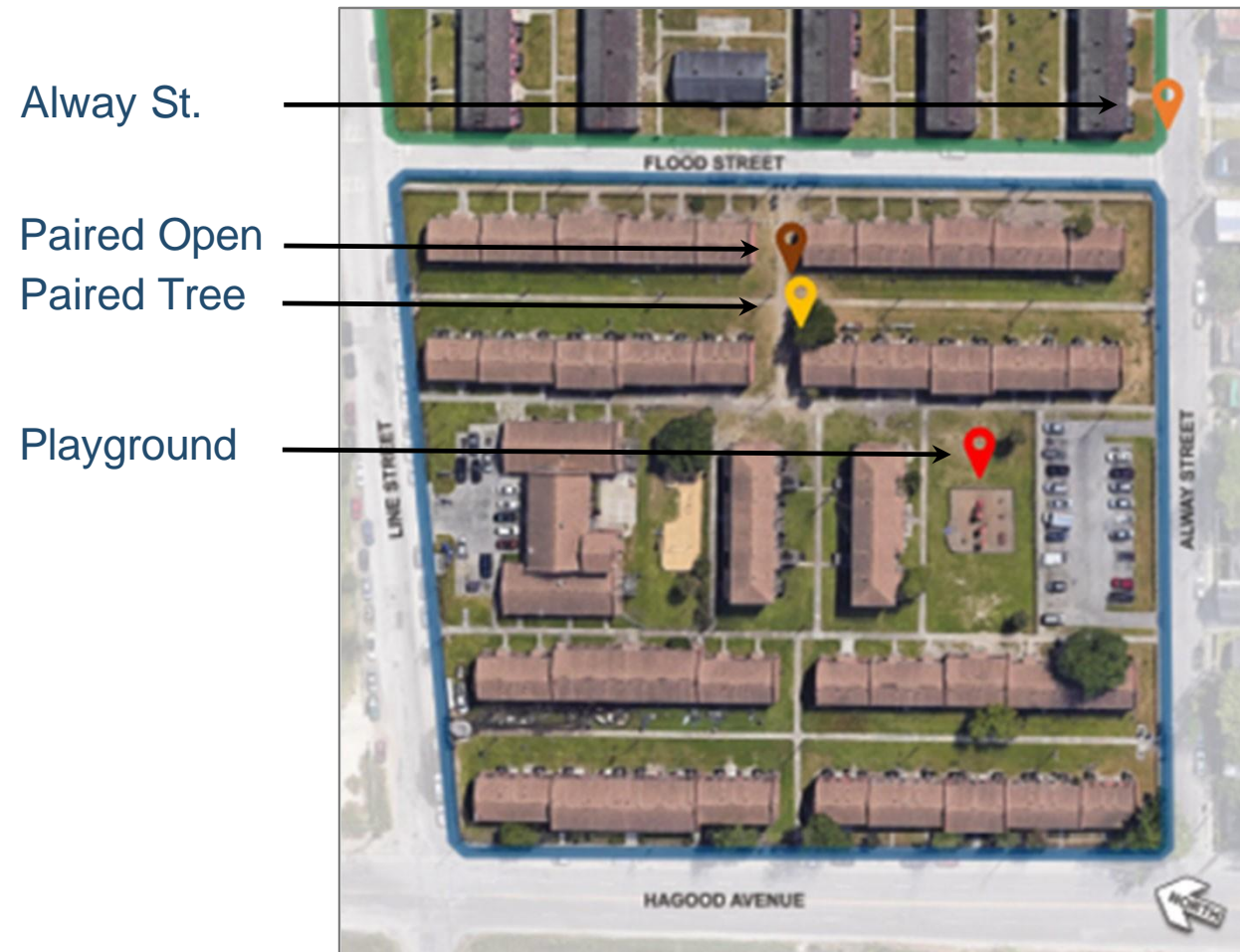
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# HEAT SEASON DATA COLLECTION

## OUTDOOR TEMPERATURE READINGS



\*Flags are U.S. military standard

**Also: considering wind direction and cooling effect**

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# SHARING RESEARCH

## **#WaterAND Heat: Using Community Science to Address Hazard Bias**

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# Sharing Research

*Providing Open Access GIS resources for knowledge sharing*

## NOAA

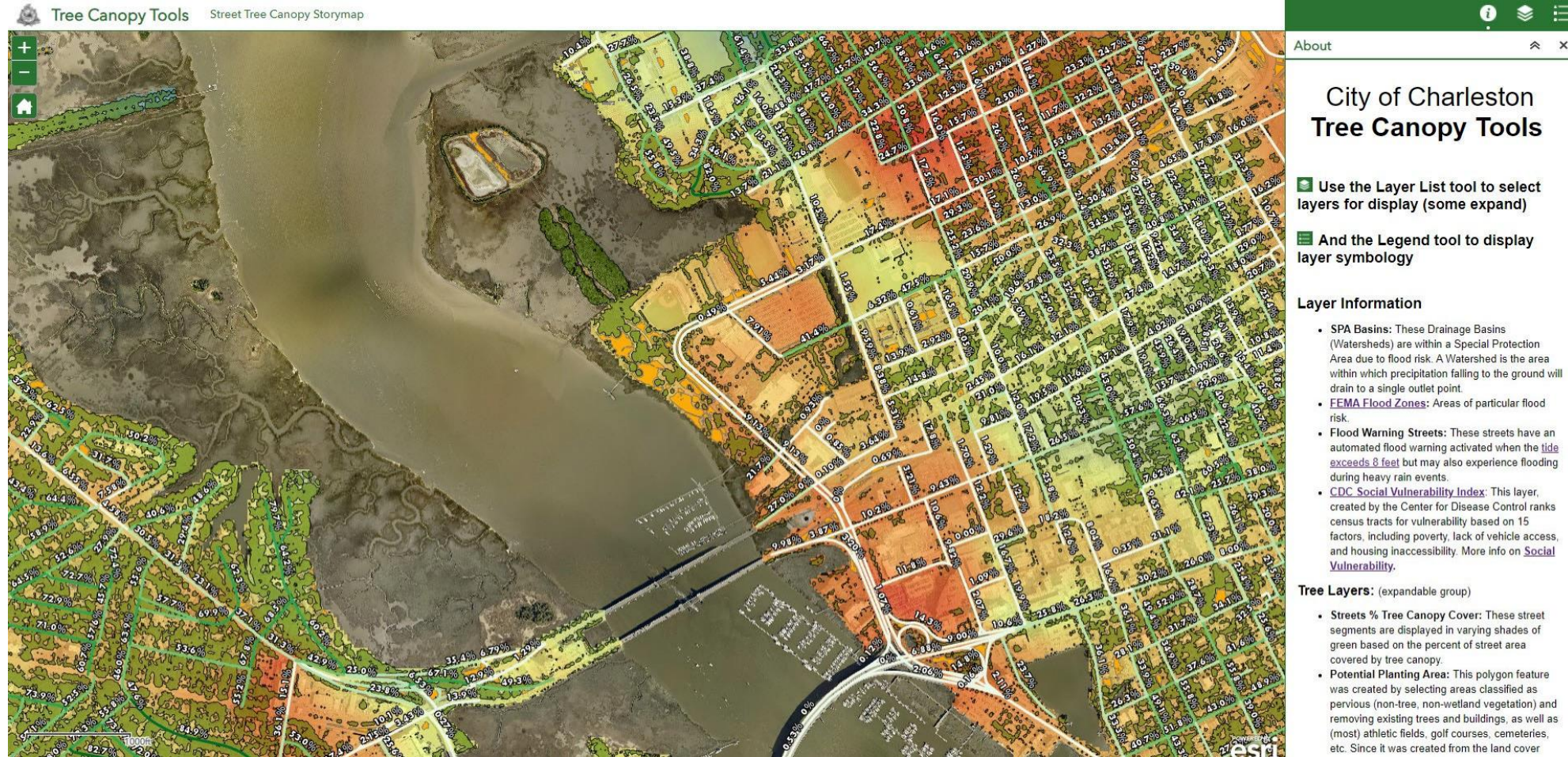
- [HeatWatch ArcGIS Resource](#)

## Open Science Framework

- <https://osf.io/b4tfy>

## City of Charleston

- [HeatWatch](#)
- [Tree Canopy Tools App](#)
- [Street Tree Canopy Storymap](#)



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# Sharing Research

*Publishing Results* to build the knowledge base

## Journal of Biometeorology

Sugg, M.M., Runkle, J.D., Dow, K., Barnes, J., Pearce, J., Bossak, B., Curtis, S.

**Individually experienced heat index in a coastal Southeastern US city among an occupationally exposed population.**

*Int J Biometeorol* **66**, 1665–1681 (2022).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00484-022-02309-y>

## Advances in Environmental Engineering

Larsen E, Ghanat S, Curtis S.

**Experience with Active Learning: The Charleston, SC, USA Urban Heat Island Effect.**

*Adv Environ Eng Res* **2022**;3(2):9

doi:10.21926/aeer.2202020.

## Frontiers in Climate

Barnes, J. and Dow, K.

**Water AND Heat: Intervening in Adaptation Hazard Bias**

*Frontiers in Climate*, 29, June 2022

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fclim.2022.868017>

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# Sharing Research

## *Starting Research on Health Outcomes from Temperature (HOT)*

### **Retrospective Study**

designed to produce a statewide temperature dose response curve. Temperature would be the variable of interest and death the outcome

### **Prospective Study**

compares temperature and air quality with morbidity and mortality in Charleston - clinical data gathered from MUSC, Roper and Regional EMS and temperature and air quality from sensors and weather department

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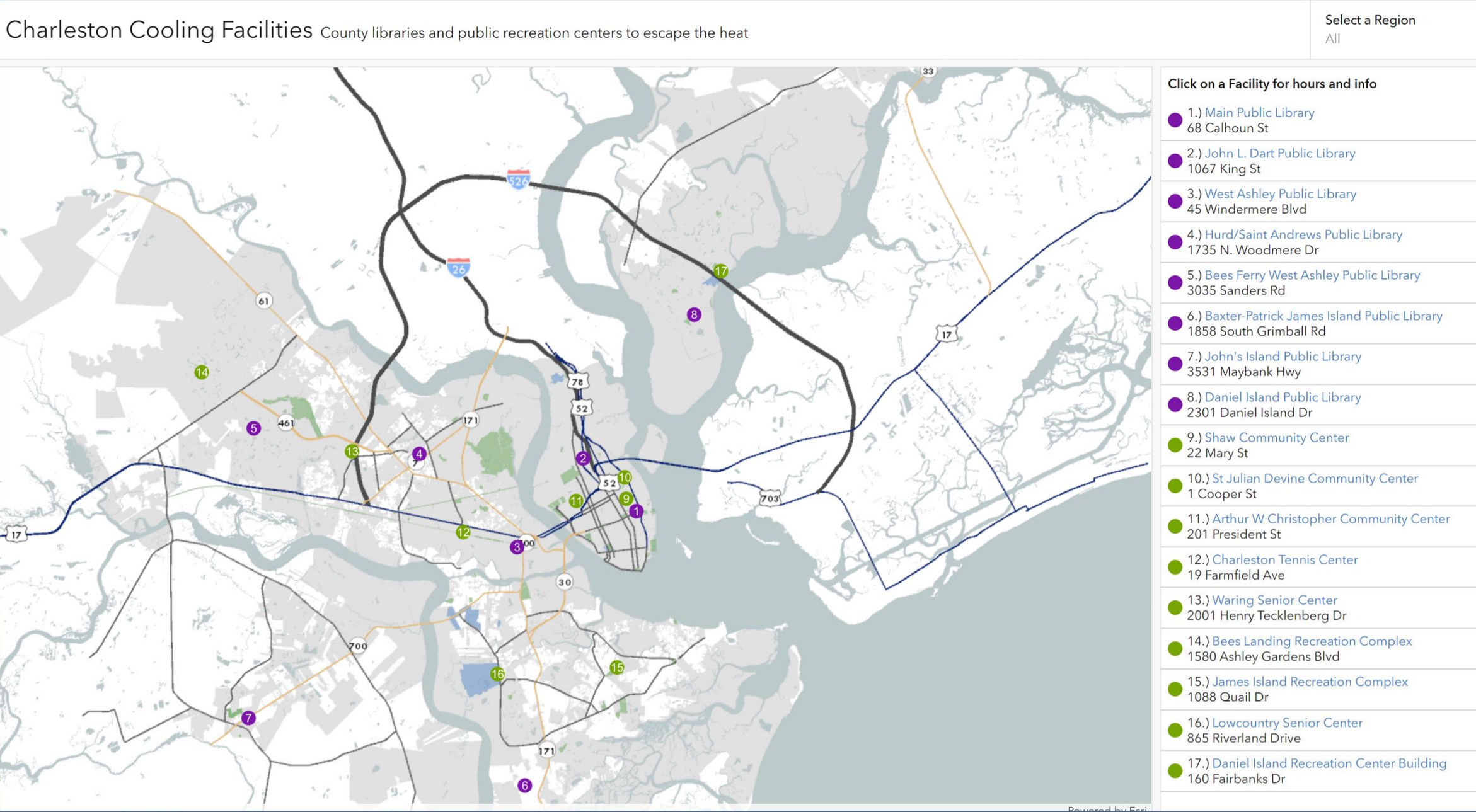
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# Collecting Existing Extreme Heat Resources

City of Charleston  
Resilience, GIS, and  
Planning Teams

MUSC Medical  
Professionals

Winter 2023 College  
of Charleston Intern



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# Outcomes to Date

Collaborative growth and progress on complementary activities

CMD introduced heat into its draft resilience strategy and to its respective masterplanning teams

MUSC declared July 2021, 2022, and 2023 Heat Awareness Month

City of Charleston added extreme heat to the Charleston Comprehensive Plan

<https://www.charleston-sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/31227/Final-City-Plan-Adopted-October-12-2021>

Charleston Tourist Bureau plans heat risk training for guides and new hydration stations

South Carolina's Draft Strategic Statewide Resilience and Risk Reduction Plan includes images of Heat Mapping from Charleston and Columbia Heat Watch activities (to be finalized in July 2023)

<https://scor.sc.gov/sites/scor/files/Documents/5.%20Draft%20Other%20Hazards%20Vulnerability%206.5.23.pdf>

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# Get Involved

*Motivating Local Action* to Address Climate Impacts and Build Resilience

**Increase  
Awareness**

**Increase  
Coping  
Capacity**

**Increase  
Mitigation**

**Increase  
Adaptation**

*Proclamations Help!*

---

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# Statewide Disaster Funding 2015-2021

**\$1.42 B**

FEMA storm-related disaster recovery and mitigation **project total funds\*** 2015-2020. *Of this \$1.19B is federal obligation.* The balance is match funding

**\$451.4 M**

HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) storm-related disaster recovery and mitigation grant totals as of August 2021

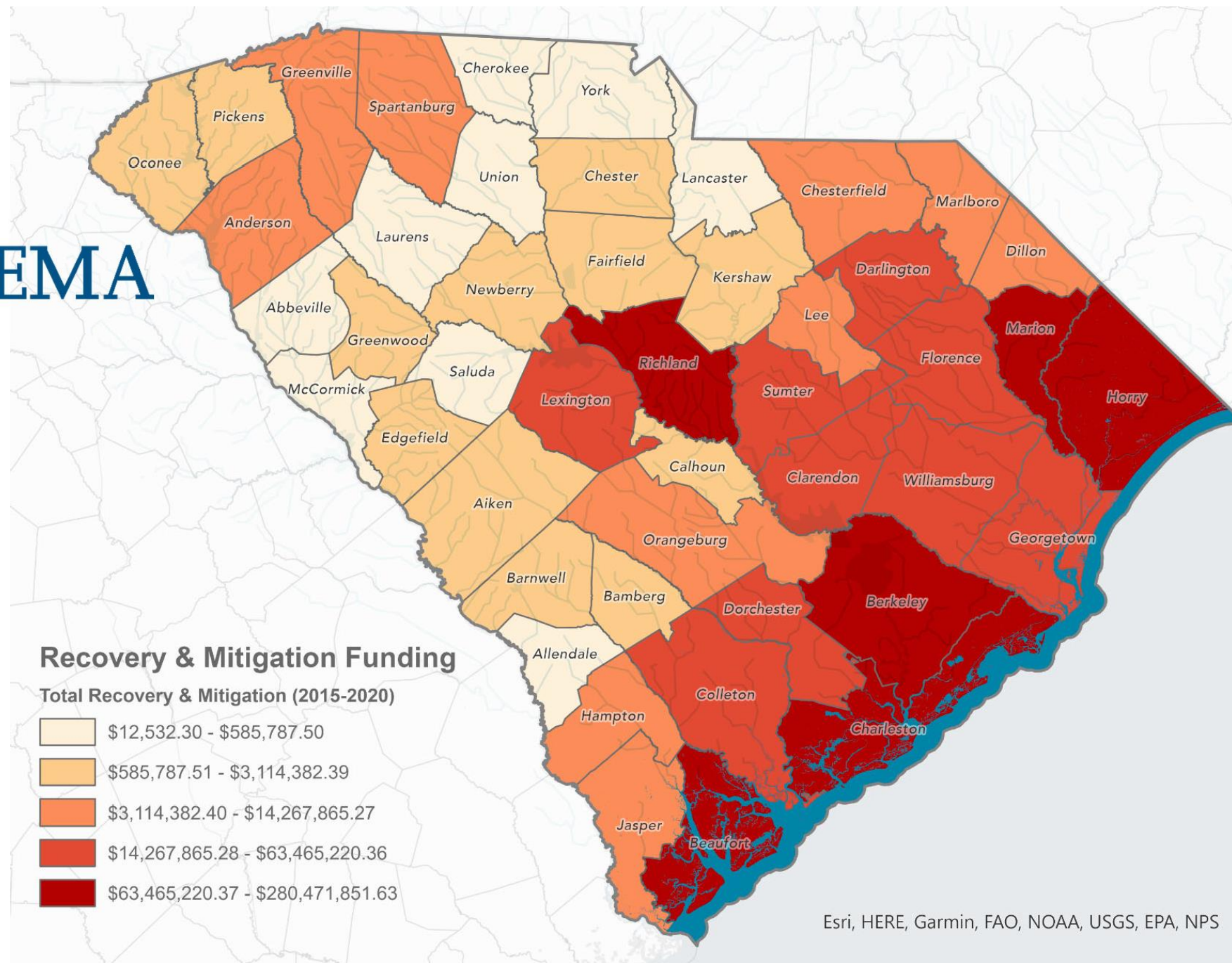
**\$1.87 B**

Total FEMA + HUD storm-related disaster recovery and mitigation project values 2015 – August 2021 (excluding Wildfire and BioHazard)

\*This excludes FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA), Individuals and Households (IHP), Housing Assistance (HA), and Other Needs Assistance (ON) programs.



**FEMA**



NOTE: These data were compiled in a 2021 federal disaster recovery funding study by The Nature Conservancy, Southern Environmental Law Center, and Climate Adaptation Partners. The results of that study are forthcoming.

## #WaterAND Heat: Using Community Science to Address Hazard Bias

EPA Environmental Measurement Symposium  
August 02, 2023

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resilience through collaborative partnerships

# Possible Additional NOAA Collaborations

- increasing research resources, to expand **Heat Health Disparities** research, including **better understanding of energy insecurity** across South Carolina
- linking NOAA/NIHHIS and our campaigns to FEMA/HUD disaster recovery investments to **integrate heat resilience into recovery investments**, such as green and other infrastructure
- **deepening collaboration across the RISAs(CAPs) and other research teams** working to support the integration of climate information into decision making, sharing lessons and pilot work, and extending the research investments
- along with SCOR, **engaging counties and municipalities across the State** to better integrate heat risk awareness and heat reduction strategies in planned investments
- **shared indicators and reporting to value heat** in disaster preparedness and recovery planning

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# **#WaterAND Heat Using Community Science to Address Hazard Bias**

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August 02, 2023

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