

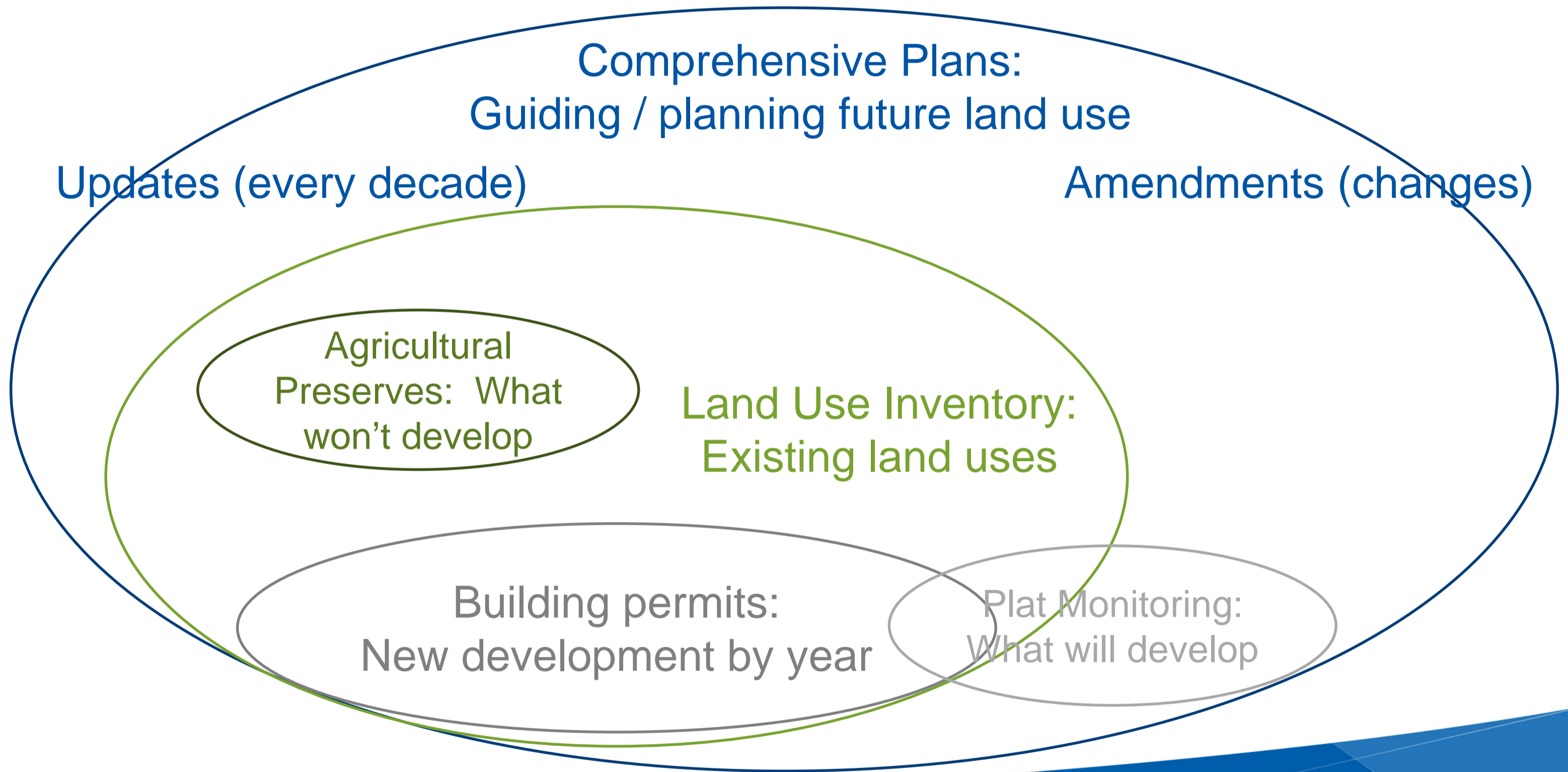
# Release of the 2016 Land Use Inventory

June 28, 2017

Metropolitan Council

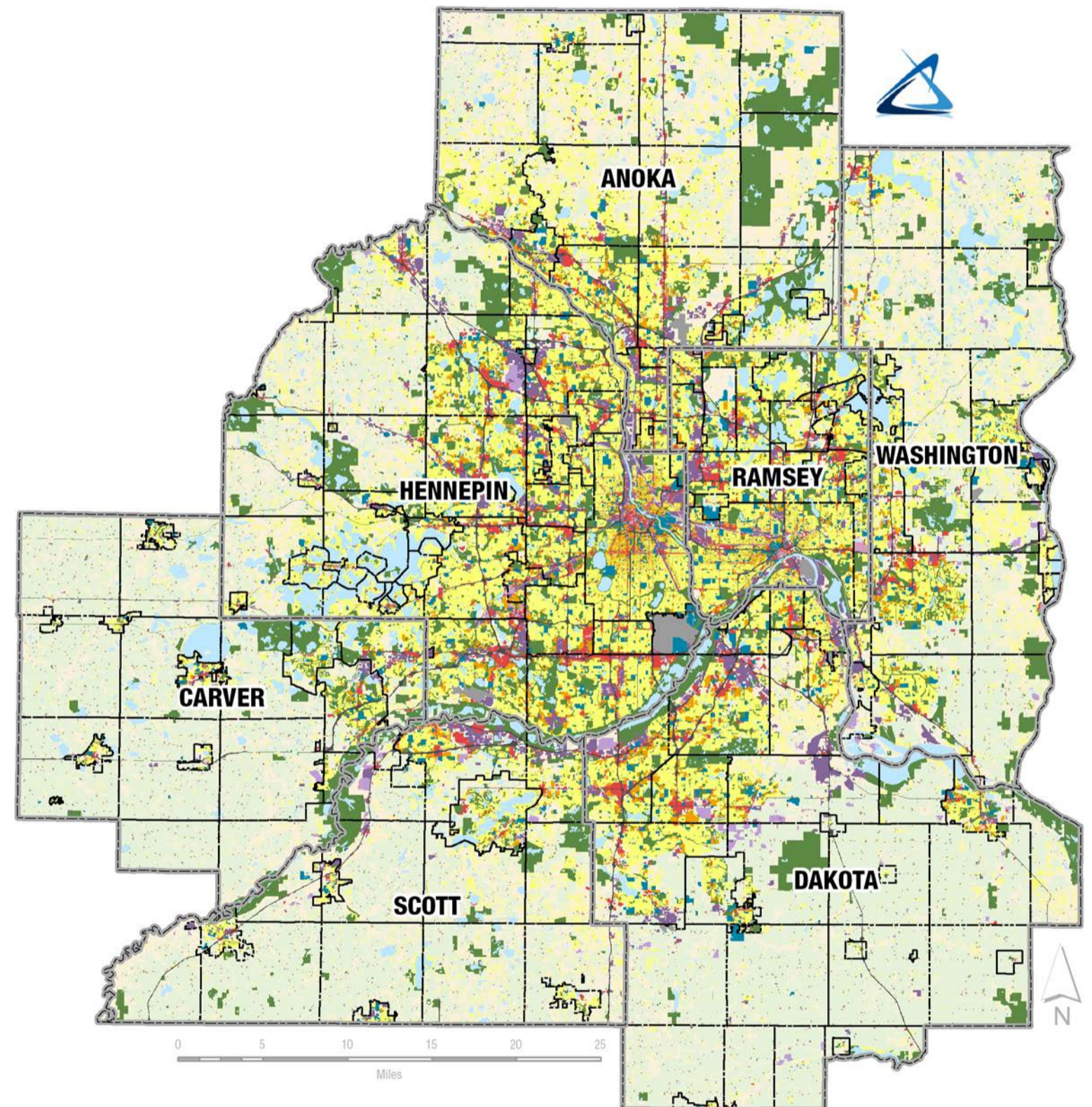


# How data and policy relate



# About the Land Use Inventory

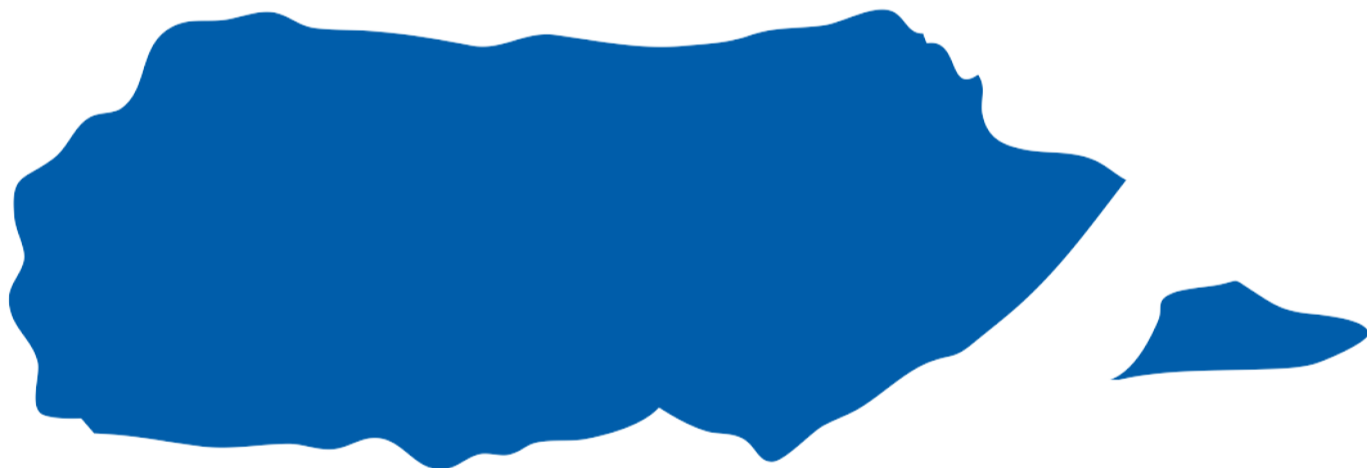
- Based on aerial photography
- Represent existing land use – not tax classifications, planned land use or land cover
- Interpreted and classified
- Standard and uniform classifications across the region
- Every five to seven years the Metropolitan Council since 1984 (and previously)



# About the seven-county region


1.9 million acres

Nearly the size of Puerto Rico



## METROSTATS

Exploring regional issues that matter



June 2017

### Growing Greener, Getting Leaner: Land Use in the Twin Cities Region

**Key findings**

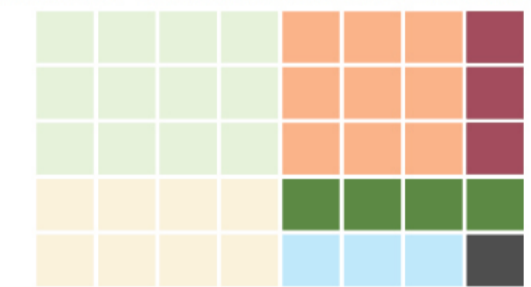
Every year the Twin Cities region develops land to meet the residential and employment needs of its growing population. About five years Council research generates a snapshot of existing land use by interpreting and classifying region-wide aerial photography. By tracking land use changes, the Council and local planners can better visualize development trends and anticipate future growth needs.

Our focus	What is the region's current mix of land uses?	How has the region's land use changed since 2010?	How have development patterns changed?
<b>Our findings</b>	<p style="margin: 0;">Nearly half the region's total area is used for agriculture or is undeveloped as of 2016. An additional third of the region is developed, primarily for residential uses. One in every 10 acres is for parks and recreational use. Overall development (all uses) has slowed down somewhat compared with previous land use inventories.</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">The Twin Cities region now has the most park and recreation acreage in its history. The preservation of agricultural land ensures opportunities will remain long-term. New development, especially for residential purposes, is mostly occurring on previously undeveloped land and at higher densities.</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">The region is "doing more with less" in that land consumption to accommodate new population and household growth has required less acreage compared with previous years and has not resulted in net losses of other land use types, like agricultural land.</p>

**The Twin Cities region's current land use**

The Twin Cities region is approximately 1.9 million acres—nearly the size of Puerto Rico. Together, agricultural uses and undeveloped land are 981,000 acres, about half (52%) of the region's total area. Developed uses<sup>1</sup>, including residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and major highways, cover 593,000 acres or 31% of the region's area in 2016 (of all developed land, residential uses account for 72%). Nearly 11% of the Twin Cities region is park and recreational use, and water an additional 6.5%. Transportation infrastructure (airports, major roadways and railroads) are 2% of the region's area at 40,000 acres.

**FIGURE 1. SNAPSHOT—GENERALIZED LAND USE IN THE TWIN CITIES REGION, 2016**



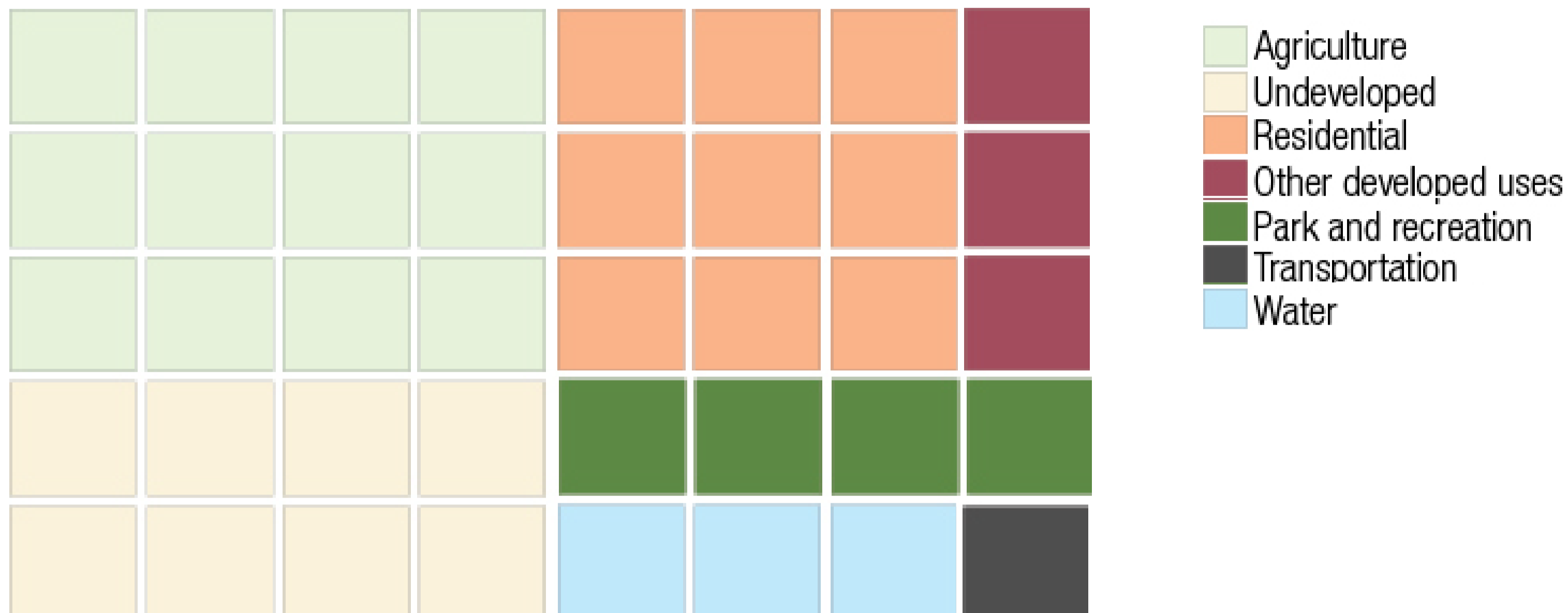
- Agriculture
- Undeveloped
- Residential
- Other developed uses
- Park and recreation
- Water
- Transportation

Source: Metropolitan Council's 2016 Generalized Land Use Inventory; view and download at [metrocouncil.org/data](http://metrocouncil.org/data).

METROSTATS

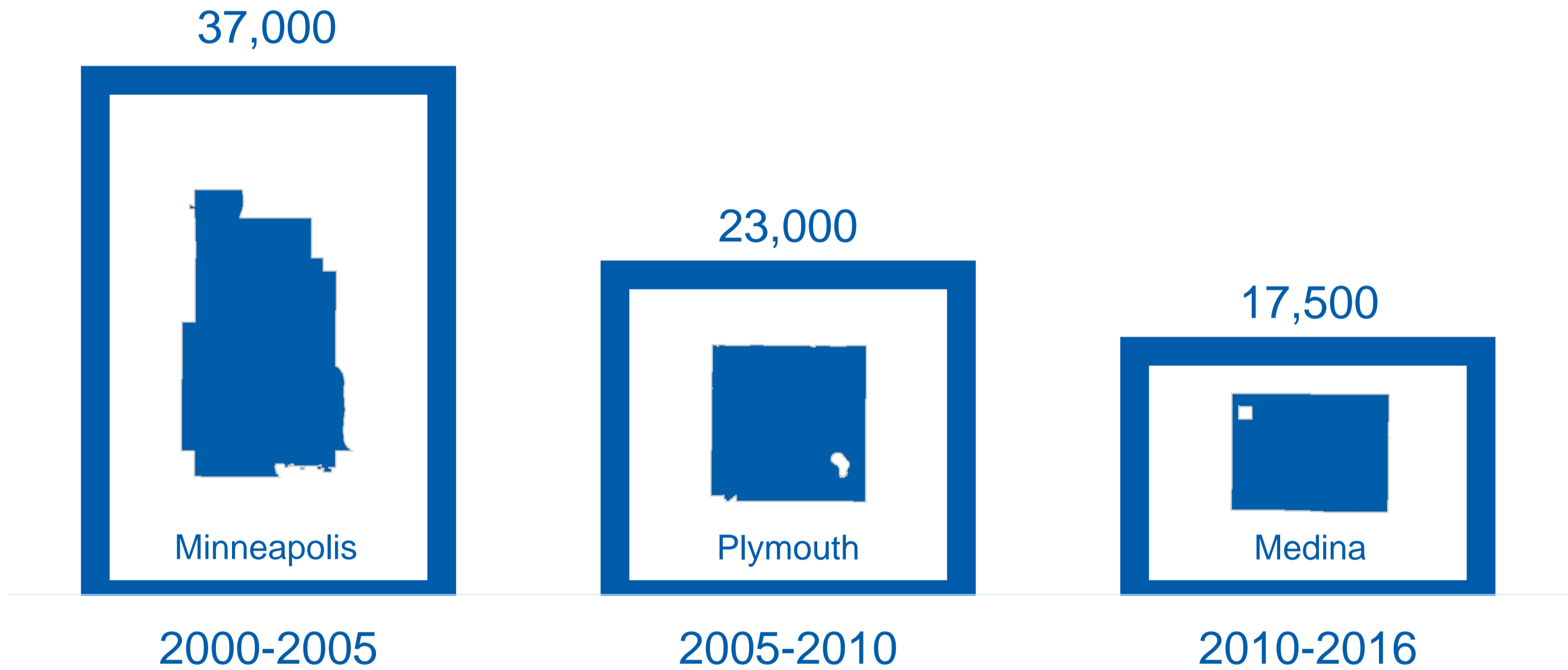
Metropolitan Council | [metrocouncil.org/metrostats](http://metrocouncil.org/metrostats) | 1

# What is the mix of land uses



Source: Metropolitan Council, Generalized Land Use Inventory

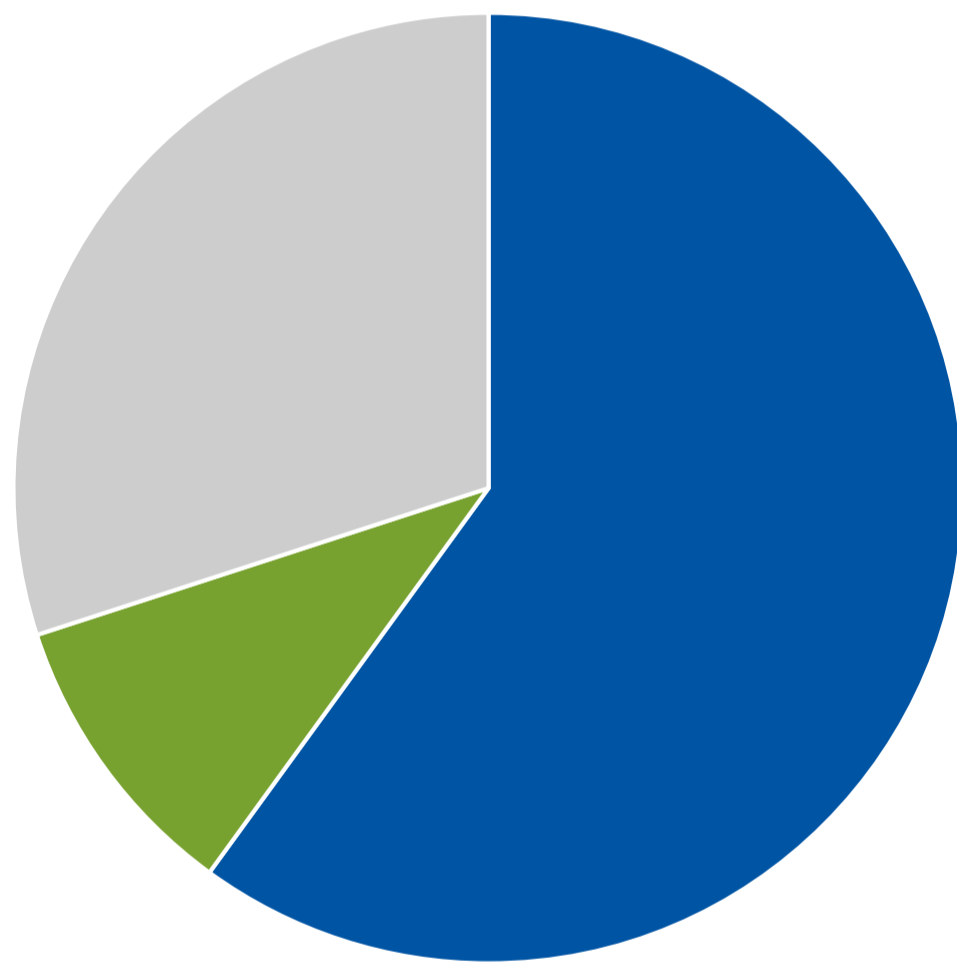
# More acres of developed land... but growing more slowly



Source: Metropolitan Council, Generalized Land Use Inventory

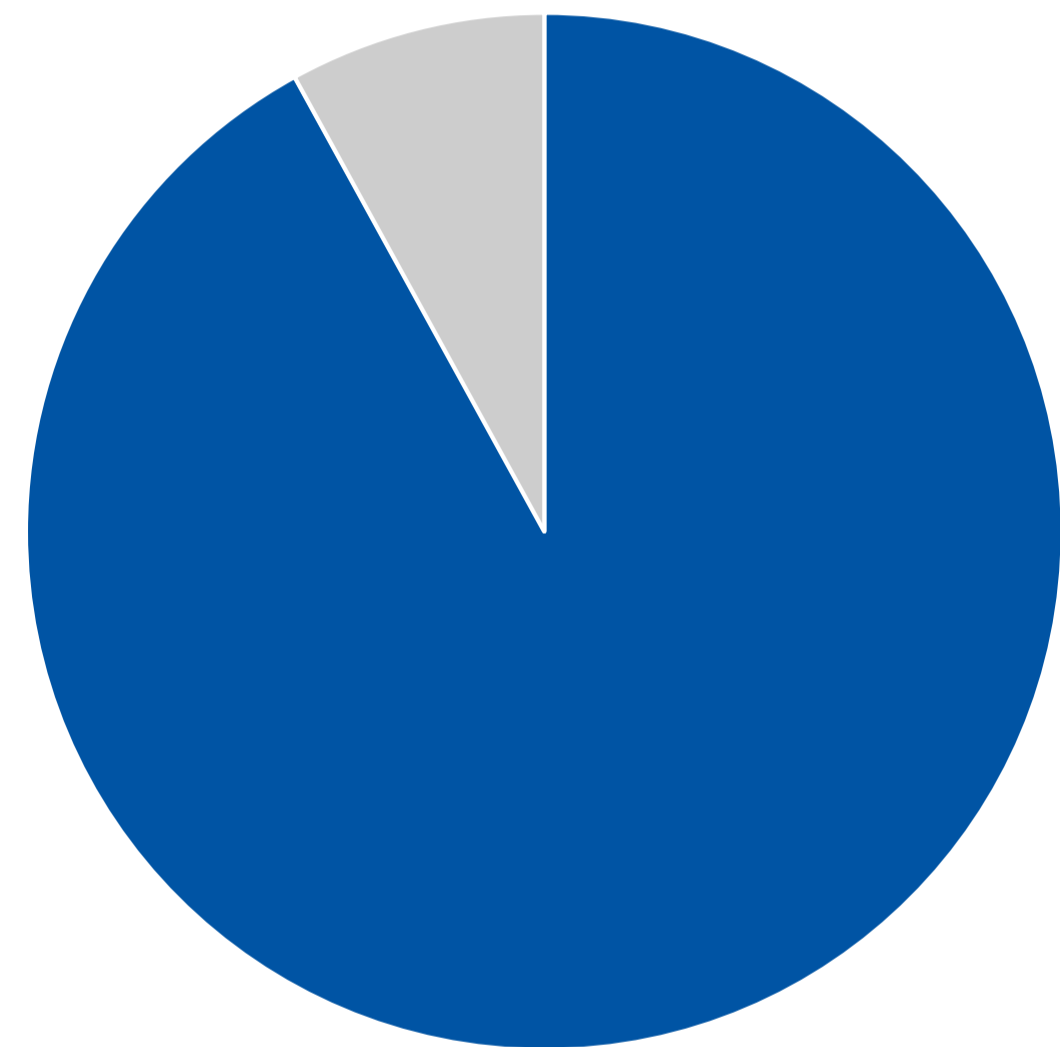
# Residential construction is driving land development

All Developed Land, 2016



- Single-family detached
- Other residential
- Other developed uses

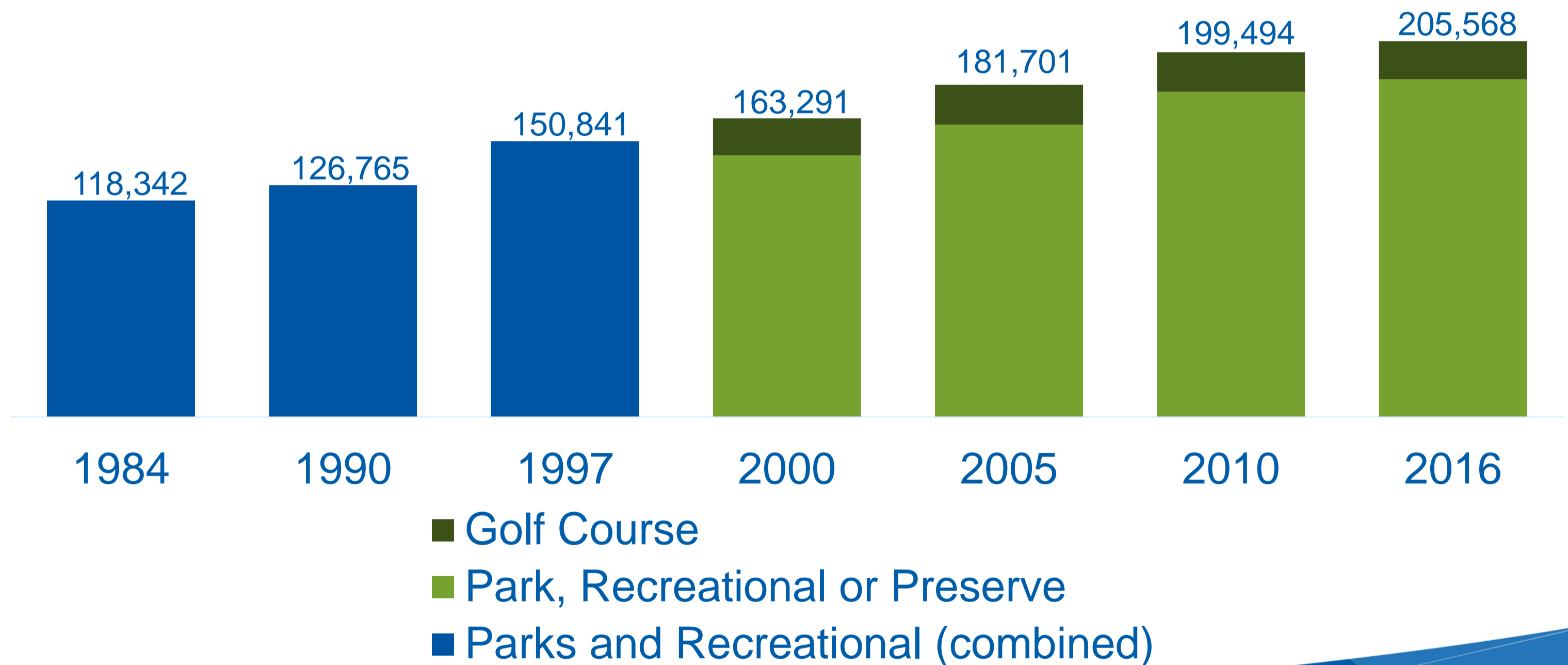
Land Use Changes, 2010-2016



- Single-family detached
- Other developed uses

Source: Metropolitan Council, Generalized Land Use Inventory

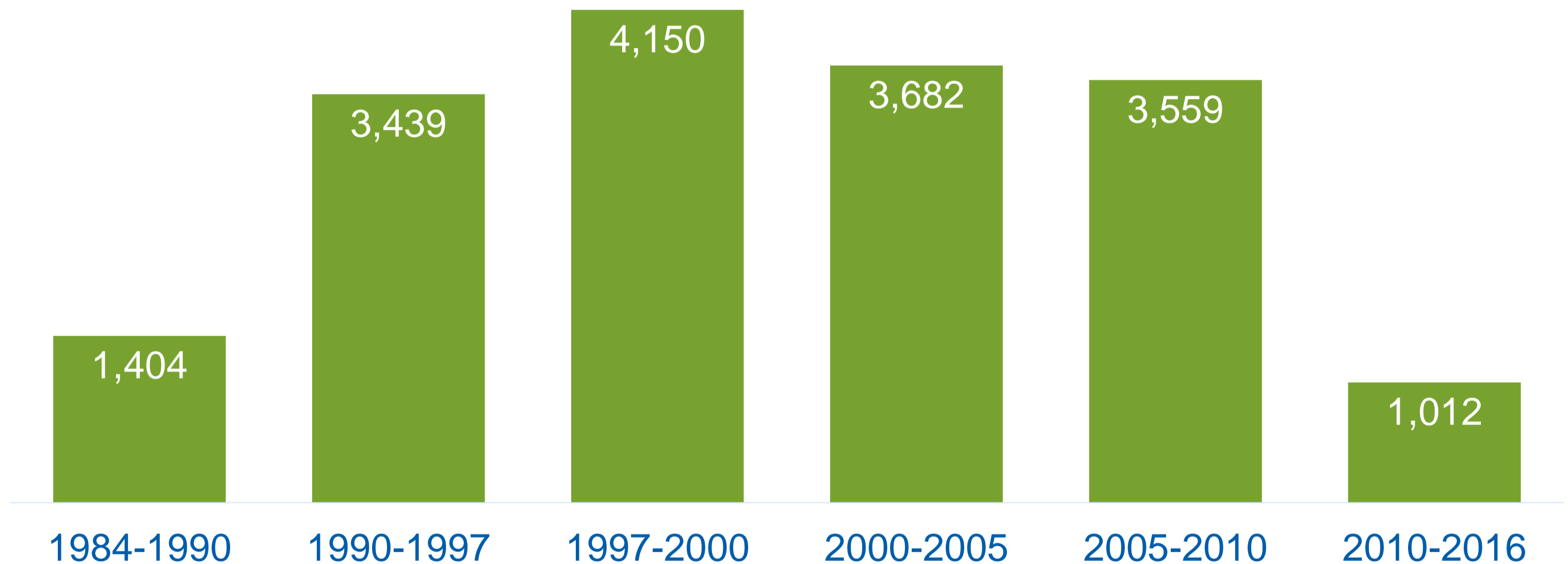
# The greening of the region: Growth in parks and recreation



Source: Metropolitan Council, Generalized Land Use Inventory

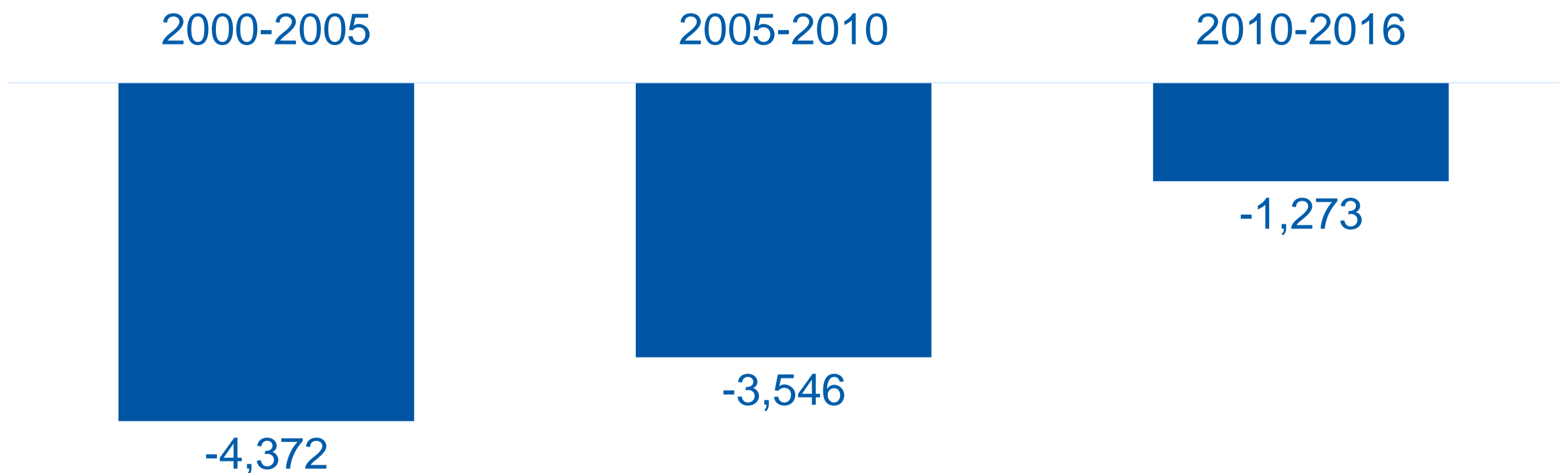


# The greening of the region: Growth in parks and recreation



Source: Metropolitan Council, Generalized Land Use Inventory

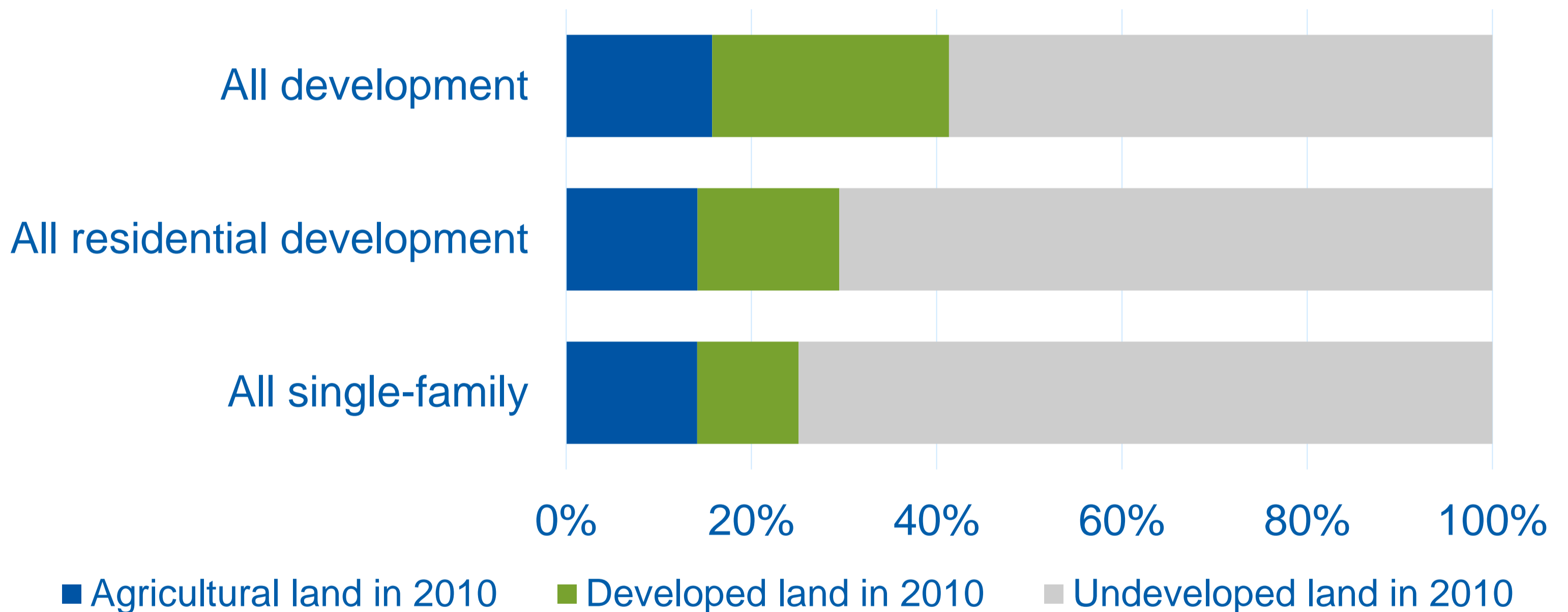
# Preserving opportunities for agriculture in the region



**Average annual acreage of agricultural land lost**

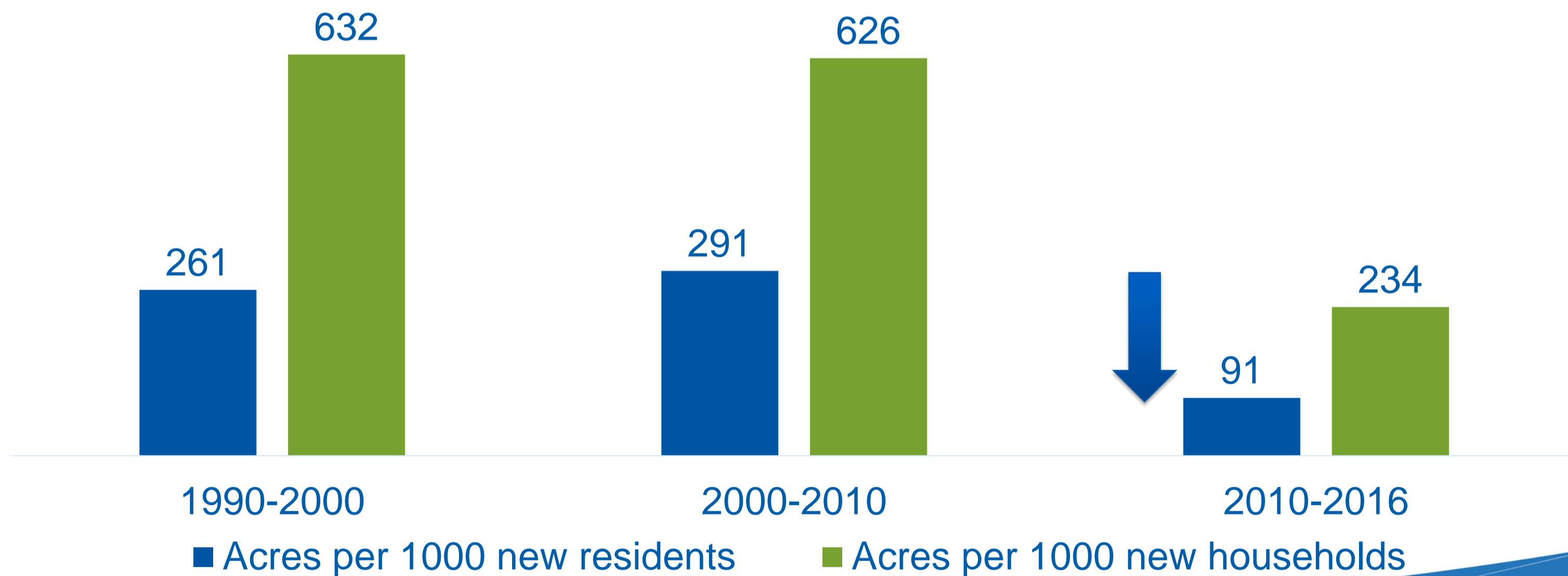
Source: Metropolitan Council, Generalized Land Use Inventory

# Land Supply: Where does new development occur?



Source: Metropolitan Council, Generalized Land Use Inventory

# How have development patterns changed to meet continued population growth?



Sources: Metropolitan Council, Generalized Land Use Inventory; U.S. Census Bureau; Metropolitan Council Population Estimates

# Policy Implications: So what for the Council?

# Questions for discussion:

- One more land use inventory prior to 2050 metropolitan development guide: What trends will the future Metropolitan Council be looking to confirm? What do we need to know between now and then?
- How are Council policies influencing land use patterns across the region?

# Release of the 2016 Land Use Inventory

For more information:

[www.metrocouncil.org/data](http://www.metrocouncil.org/data)

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