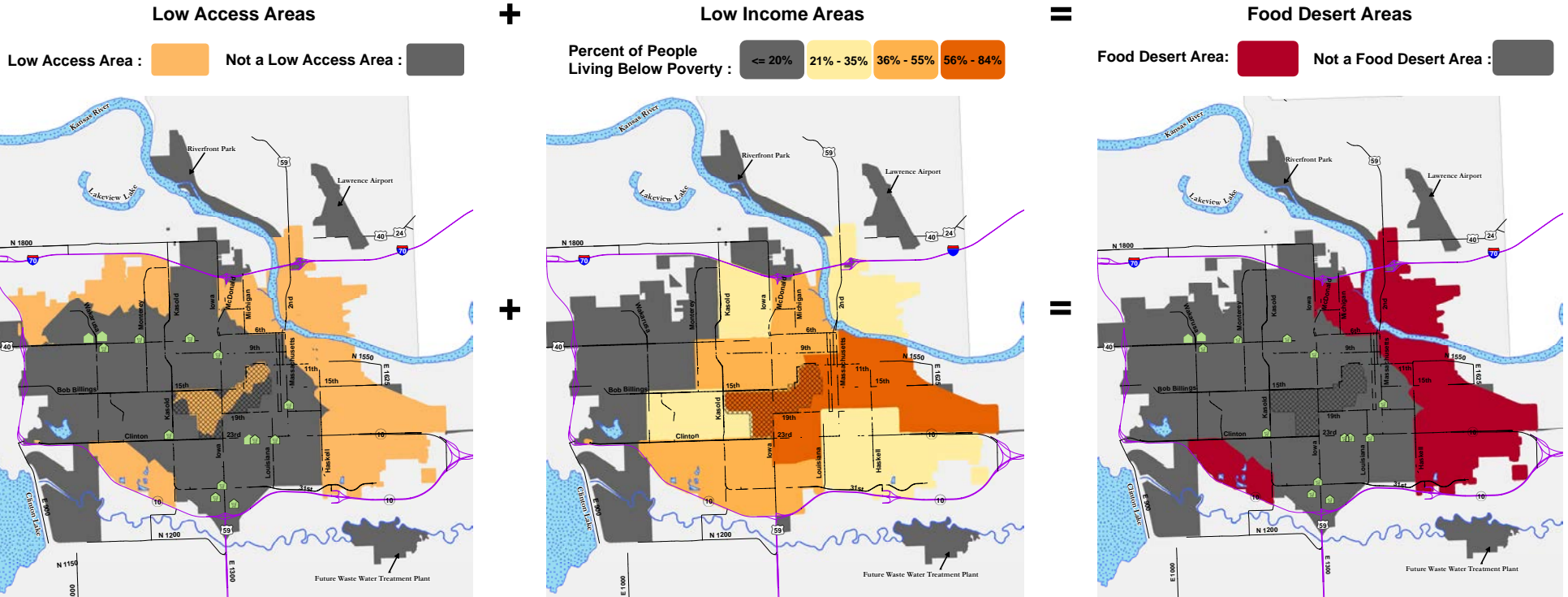


# Where are the 2016 Food Deserts in Lawrence, Kansas?



Areas with low access to healthy food are areas where the majority of population lives more than 1 mile away from a supermarket, supercenter or grocery store.

A low income area is an area where more than 20% of people live below 200% poverty. A family of four living below 200% poverty earns less than \$48,600 in 2016. People living at or below 200% poverty level may qualify for government assistance programs (i.e. SNAP, WIC).

A food desert is an area with both low access to healthy food and low income.

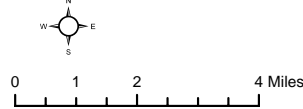
## Health Impact

This food desert map was created as part of the Douglas County Food Policy Council's ongoing work to accurately define and understand the food environment. Key food resources in the food environment are supermarkets, supercenters and grocery stores. Research shows that, living closer to healthy food retail is among the factors associated with better eating habits and decreased risk for obesity and diet-related diseases.<sup>1</sup> These maps incorporate new information (like new grocery store locations and current 2014 census data) since publication of the USDA 2010 food desert map.<sup>2</sup>

Within Douglas County, the majority (75.5%) of residents live in Lawrence, KS. The total population living in the Lawrence food desert is 24,385 (or 28% of people living in Lawrence), of these, 10,428 people live below poverty.

## Legend

- 2016 Grocery/Supermarket
- Major Street
- Highway
- Water Bodies
- Majority of Population Living in Student Housing
- Rural Area



Author: Margaret Gathunguri  
 Data source: American Community Survey 2014 5-year Estimates Modified by Margaret Gathunguri; Douglas County GIS 2016; ReferenceUSA, US Business Database 2015 Modified by Douglas County Food Policy Council and Margaret Gathunguri

<sup>1</sup> Access to Healthy Food and Why It Matters: A Review of the Research. Rep. PolicyLink, 2013. [http://www.healthfoodaccess.org/sites/default/files/GROCERYGAP\\_FINAL\\_NOV2013\\_0.pdf](http://www.healthfoodaccess.org/sites/default/files/GROCERYGAP_FINAL_NOV2013_0.pdf)  
<sup>2</sup> Economic Research Service (ERS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Food Environment Atlas. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas.aspx>.



**DOUGLAS COUNTY**  
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