



PUBLIC SPACE AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Supporting cities to develop city-wide strategies

Case of Wuchang District, Wuhan

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Significance of the City-wide Public Space Assessment: Global Agenda

- **SDG 11.4:**
 - “Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”
- **Target 11.7:**
 - “by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”
- **Indicator 11.7.1:**
 - “the average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by age, gender and disability”



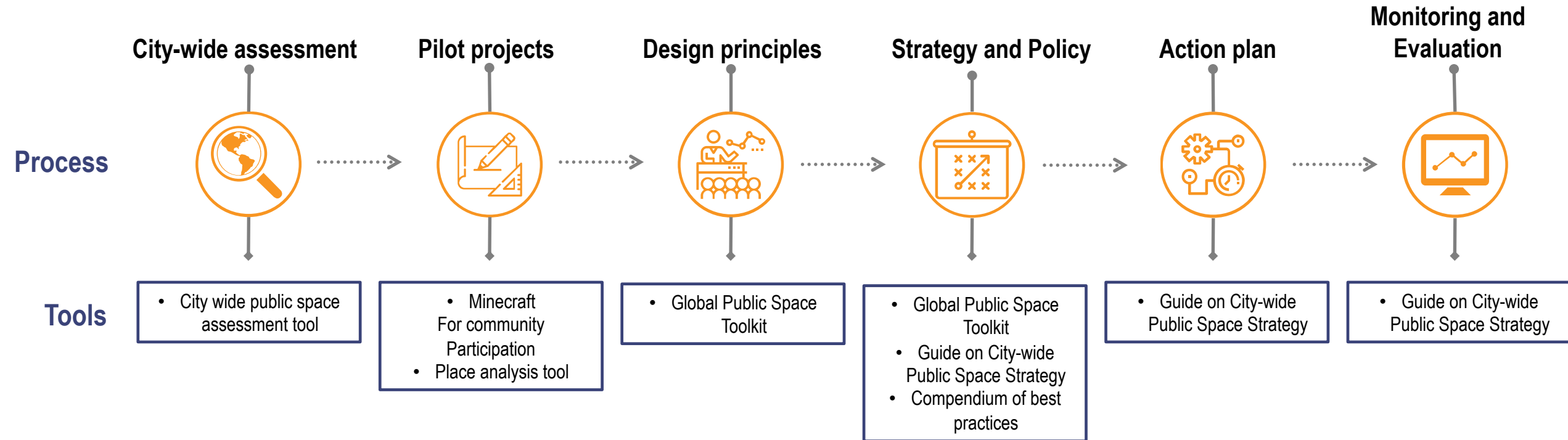
Mentioned 10 times in 8 discrete paragraphs and 2 times in the vision

- With commitments to social, economic and environmental sustainability referenced to safe, inclusive, accessible green and quality public space for all
- Heritage preservation has been mentioned in 2 paragraphs (38 and 124)

Public space and heritage

- Public spaces are often part of the urban cultural heritage (places, parks, churches etc.)
- Public spaces have attributes that contribute to the definition of the value of the space (what kind of city would be Wuhan without its public spaces?)
- They are property, under responsibility and managed by the state (on the conservation level)
- Perceiving the space as a holistic concept
- Not always monuments and buildings:
 - Tangible heritage: archeology, art, moveable objectives, architecture and landscape
 - Intangible heritage: oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts

Process and tools



Importance of City-wide public space assessment

- Determining the **accessibility** of public spaces in their respective cities and human settlements.
- Establishing the **quantity** of public spaces within their urban boundaries while providing a benchmark against which improvements can be measured. This particularly important in meeting local targets, and monitoring the implementation of SDG 11.7.
- Understanding the **network** of public spaces in their cities and identify enablers and barriers for connectivity and linkages.
- Understanding the **distribution** of public spaces and identify disparities.
- Assessing the **quality** of public spaces with a special focus on access, use, comfort, amenities, safety, and green coverage.
- Developing comprehensive **and implementable city-wide public space strategies and policies.**

The Methodology: Knowing where you are?



Identify **gaps**:



Accessibility



Safety



Inclusivity



**Monitor and Report on
the SDG 11.7 and the
NUA**

WHAT IS A PUBLIC SPACE?

“Public spaces are all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive”

Charter on Public Spaces

Types of Public Space that are assessed

Streets

Public open spaces

Public facilities

Adoption of the assessment tool

2015



- Nairobi, Kenya

2016



- Bamenda, Cameroon
- Kisumu, Kenya

2017



- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Wuhan, China

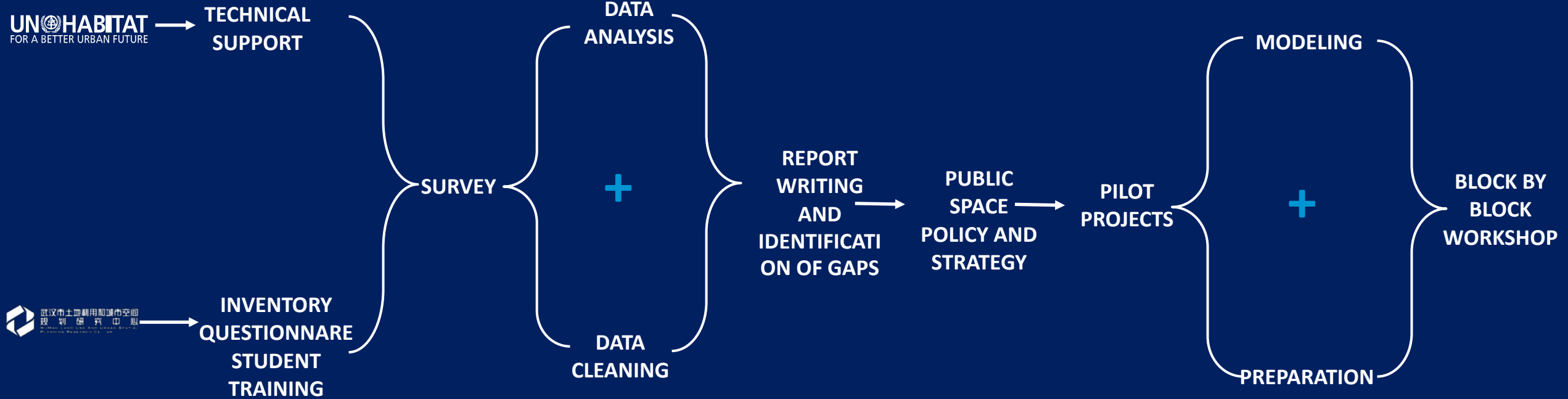
2018



- Johannesburg, South Africa
- Kampala, Uganda
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Suleja and Minna, Nigeria
- Durban, South Africa
- Wuhan, China



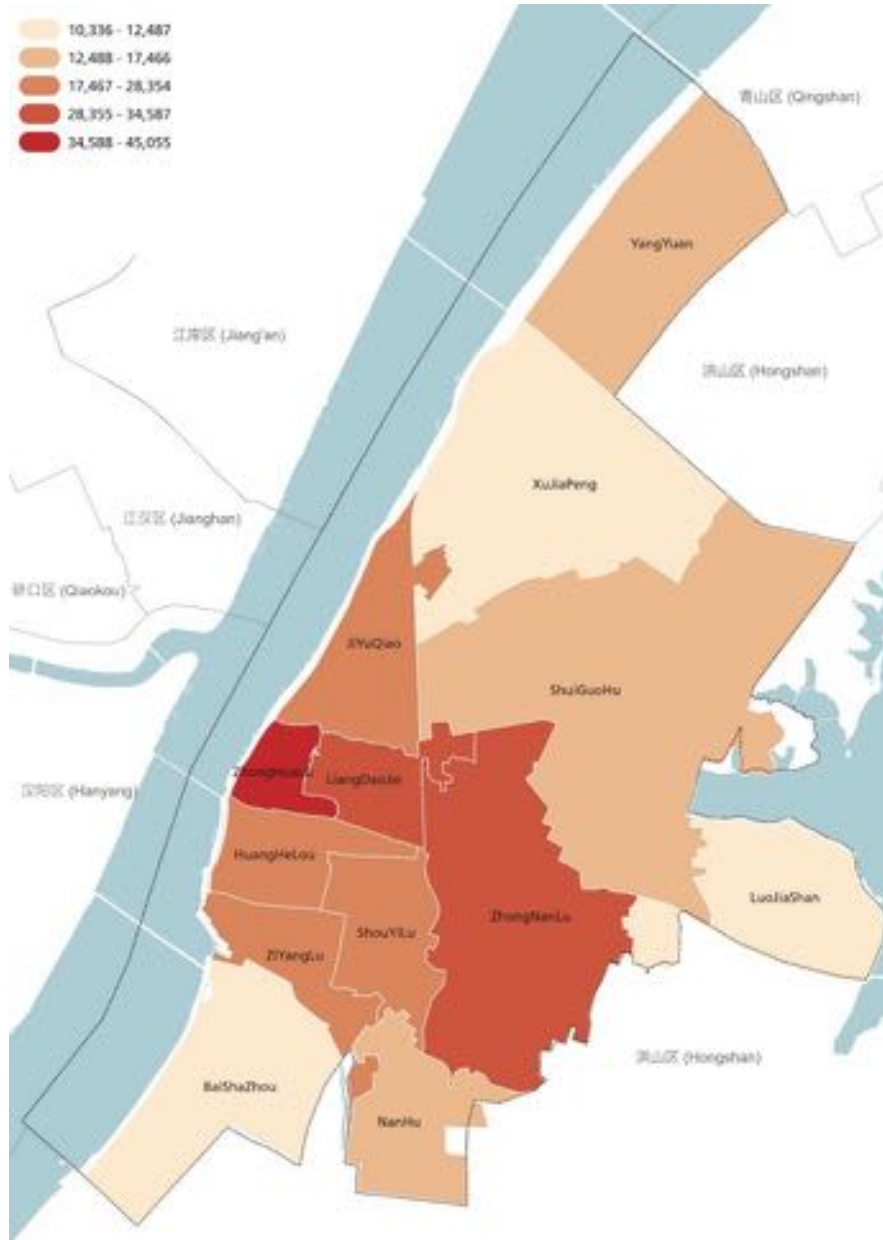
The Work Plan



Wuchang history



Wuchang District: Potential and Challenges



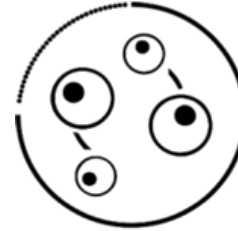
Plenty of historical places



Rich natural resources



Good spatial connectivity in macro level.



Lack of diversities in land use



Lack of public green space



Loss of identity of space



2015 – 1,037,441

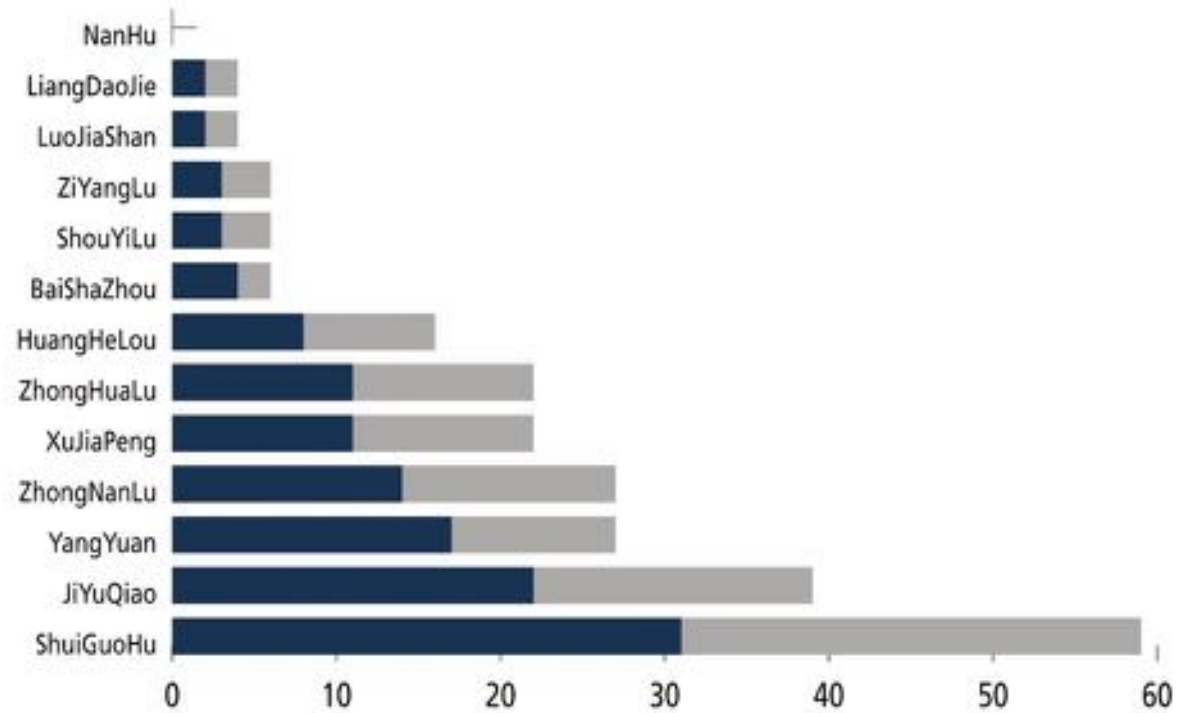
Data collection : snapshot



13
Sub-Districts

140
Data entry
points including
streets

122
Cleaned data
points



Area of Assessed public
spaces: **3.3 sq Km**

Data analysis: City scale



Spatial Accessibility

- % of land accessible within 400m (5mins walk)
- Street connectivity and density



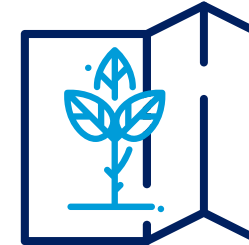
Quantity

- Public Space per capita
- % of built up area that is public space including streets



Location and spatial distribution

- Number of public spaces per km²



Environmental and Biodiversity

- Green area per capita
- Mesh size of green patches (landscape connectivity)
- Ratio land consumption to pop growth
- Expend per cap preserve natural heritage
- % protected areas
- % permeable area
- Native biodiversity (birds) in built-up areas
- % invasive alien species



Network

- Number of public spaces per km²

Data analysis: Public space site scale / Quality



Access

- Accessibility level
- Infrastructure condition
- Proximity to residential/commercial areas
- Bicycle parking
- Vehicular parking



Use

- Number of users
- Type of activity



Comfort

- Air quality
- Noise level
- Cleanliness
- Visual amenity
- safety



Facilities

- Lighting
- Seating
- Garbage bins
- Toilet facilities
- Signage
- Drainage
- Artificial shading



Green coverage

- Tree canopy coverage

Share of land that is open public space



Per capita open public space is
3.2m²/person



Majority of the open public spaces were found in the historical area of Dengshengqiao

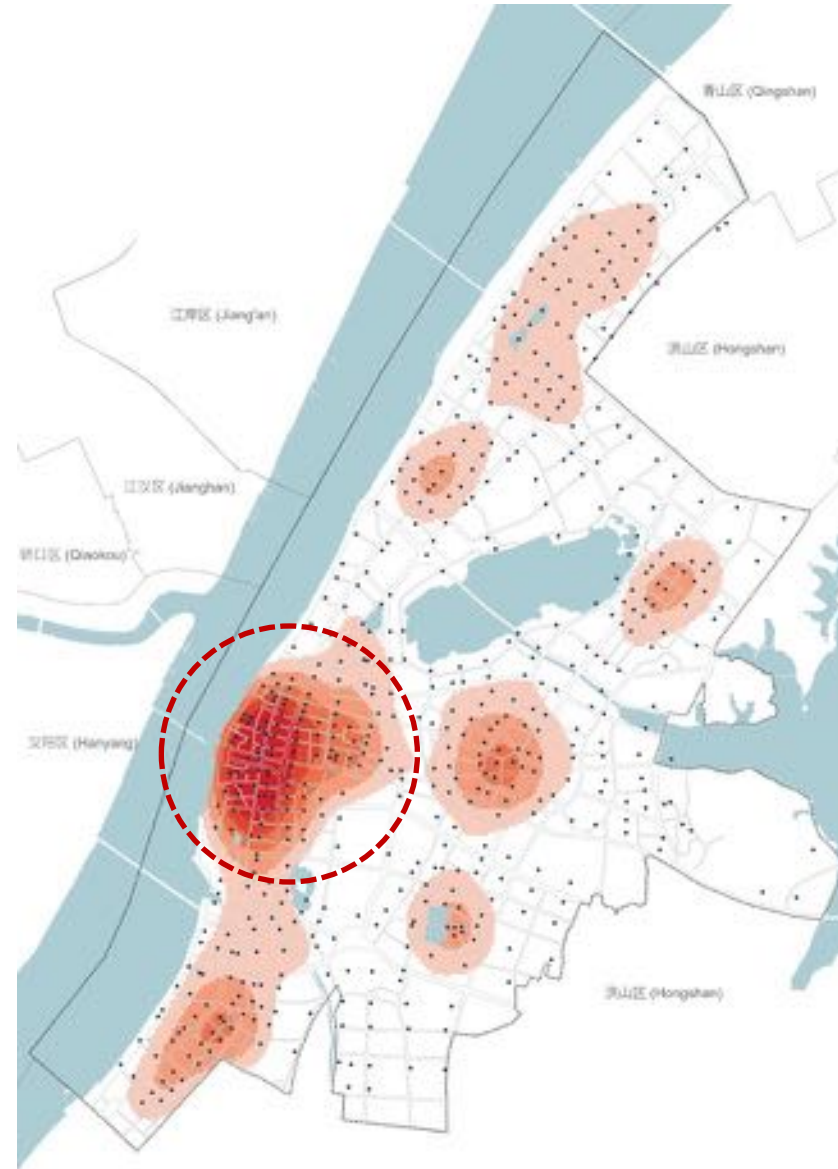


Share of land that is street



Majority of the areas in Wuchang are within 21 mins cycling distance and 25 mins walk. Land allocated to street is 14%

Street connectivity



Majority of street intersections are within the historical areas of Dengsengqiao due to shorter block sizes

Selected historical streets

Yun Jian Gao Street



Taiping Shi Guan-
chong Fushan Xiang-
gao Jia Xiang Street



De Sheng Gao Street



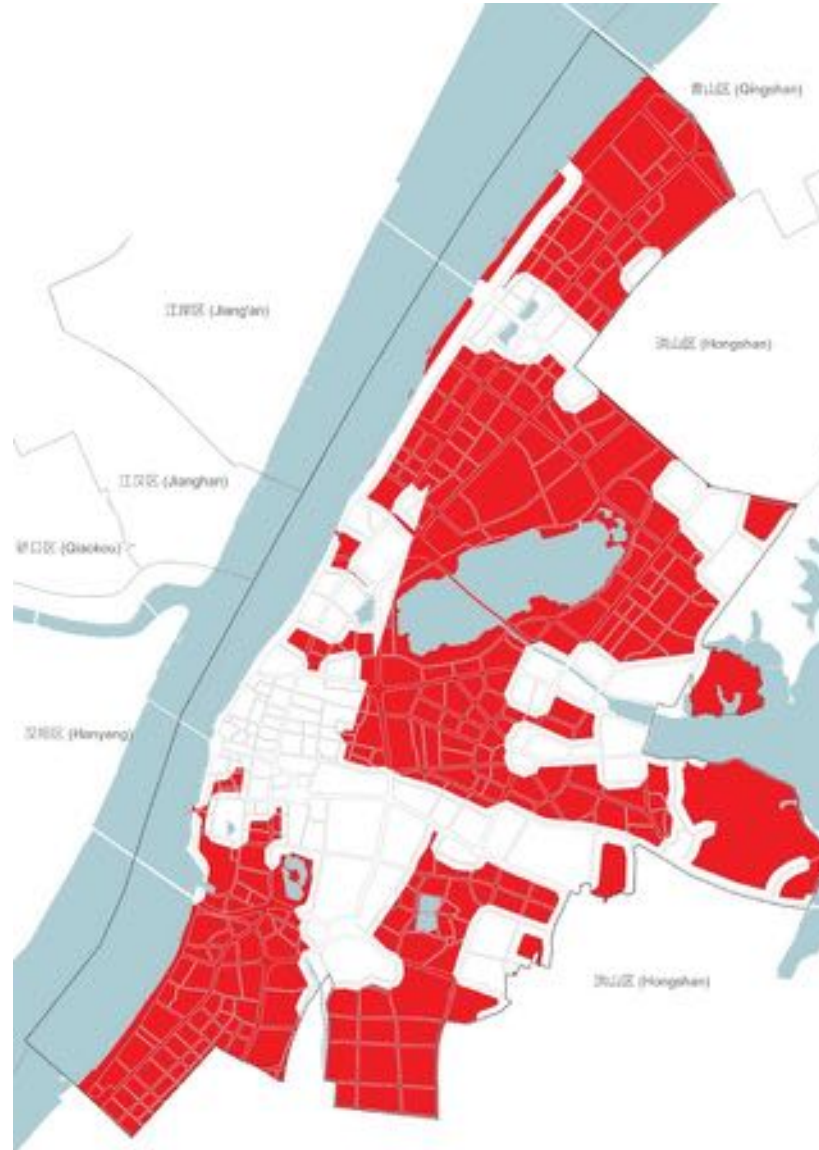
Du Fi Di Street



YanZhi Lu Street



Proximity to destinations



58.3% of Wuchang district does not have open public spaces within 10mins walking distance.

Social-Cultural heritage



Wuchang is the cradle of the regional Chu culture created by the people of Zhou Dynasty (1066B.C-223B.C.) Wuchang has several walking food streets such as Hubu alley and Wuchang streets that sell variety of local dishes including BBQ frog, events and festivals

Diversity in open public spaces



Majority of public spaces in wuchang district are multi functional with 16 of them having both age and gender balance. 12 of these 16 open public spaces had a history of more than 50 years

Way forward and recommendations

- Integration of culture and heritage into management plans of cities
- Strengthening decision-making capacities of local authorities on heritage and preservation
- Strengthening participatory management with different stakeholders (e.g. civil society, national agencies in charge of heritage and culture, private sector, education, professional sectors and international partnerships)
- Taking into account that cultural heritage is a non-renewable resource
- **Broaden the concept: public space as merger of tangible and intangible heritage**



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