

Break & Enter Crime Opportunity Spaces in Regina

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- RCMP Central Training Academy
- Saskatchewan Police College
- Police Studies Program (School of Human Justice)
- TERRA Lab (Department of Geography)
- SSHRC
- StatsCan



Environmental Criminology

- Routine Activity Theory.
- Rational Choice Theory.
- Criminal Pattern Theory.

Routine Activity Theory

The Crime Analysis Triangle



Likely offender + suitable target – capable guardian = crime opportunity

Rational Choice Theory

- Most offenders make a (fairly) rational decision to commit an offence.
 - What are the rewards against the chances of getting caught?
 - The rewards and likelihood of capture vary by time and place.

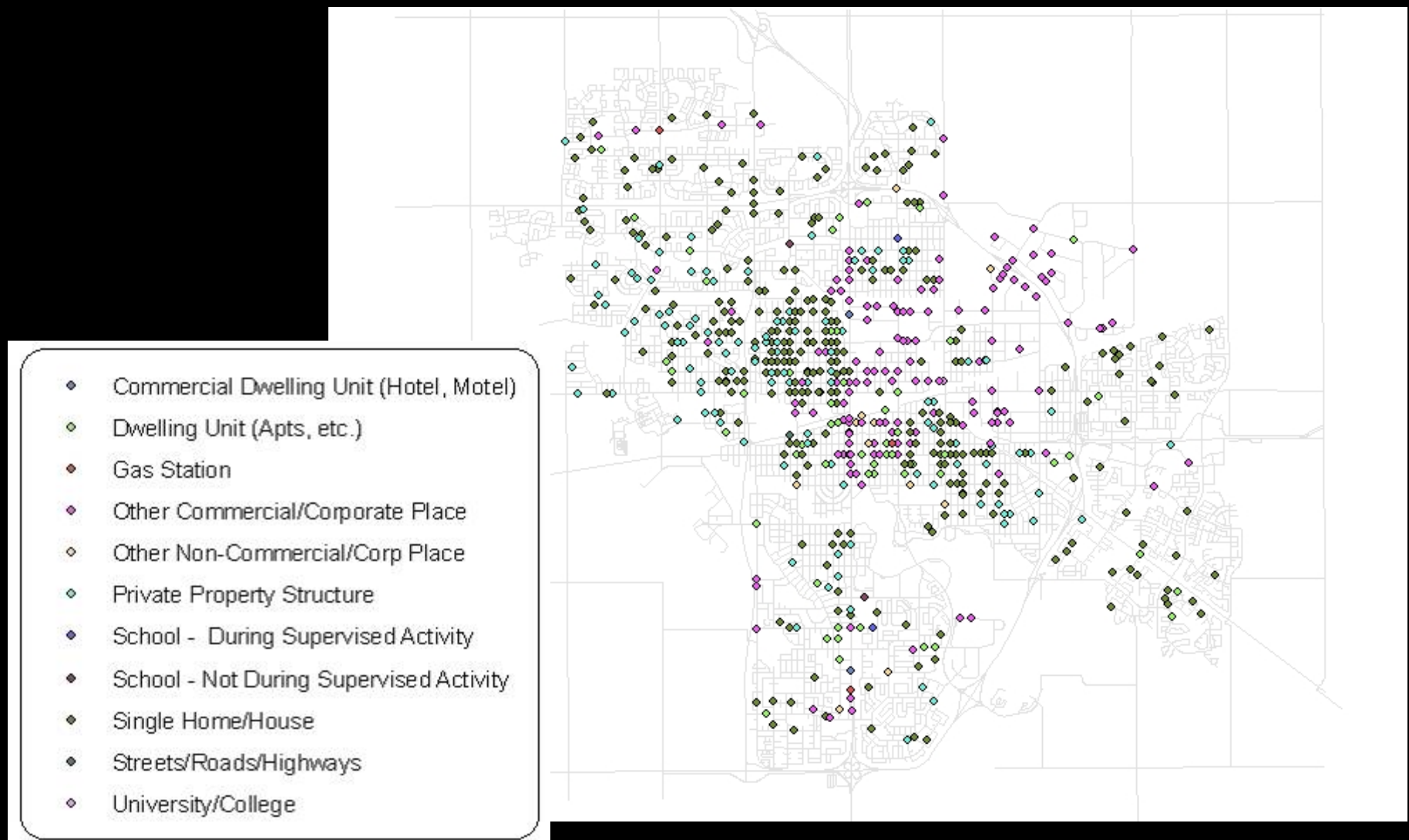
Crime Pattern Theory

- Offenders are influenced by the daily activities and routines of their lives.
 - They will tend to concentrate in areas that are known to them.
 - In their day-to-day activities, they will be watching for targets that have no guardians or place managers.

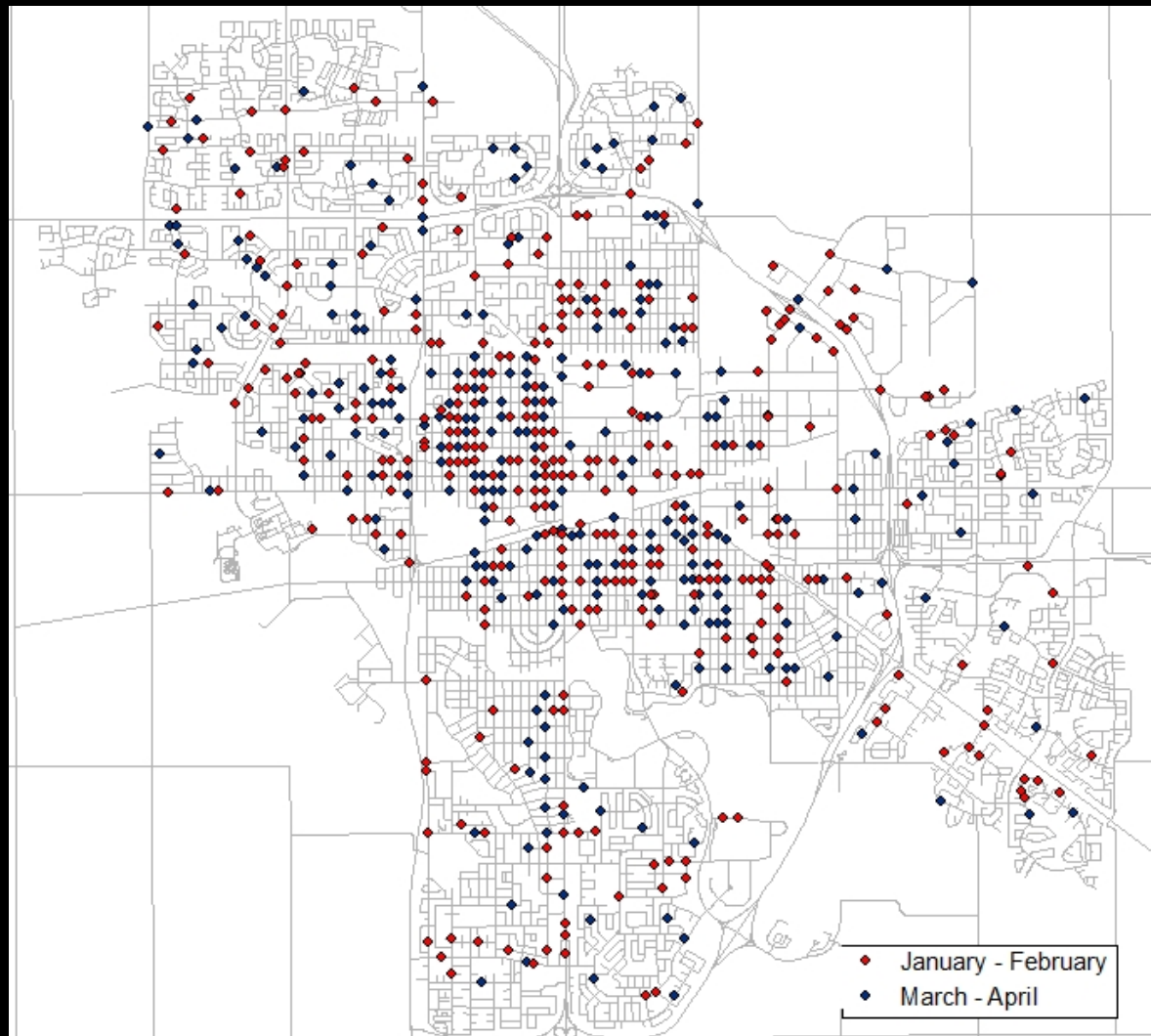
Environmental Criminology

While **routine activity theory** gives us a model to predict if a crime has all the right ingredients to occur, and **rational choice theory** gives us some insight into what an offender is thinking when they decide to commit the crime, **criminal pattern theory** helps us understand where and when the offence will occur.

Break & Enter Data



Break & Enter Data



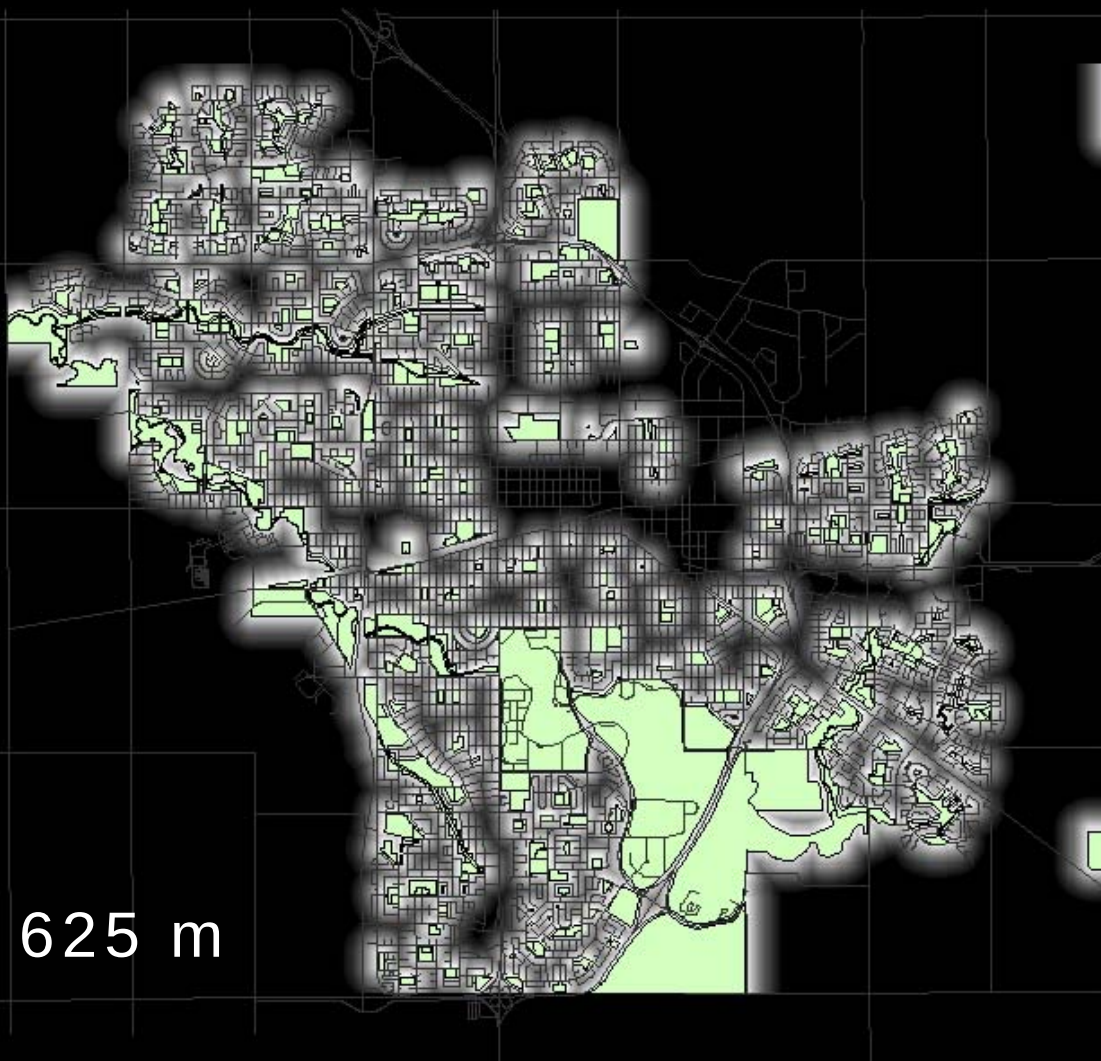
Arterial Roads



Commercial Areas

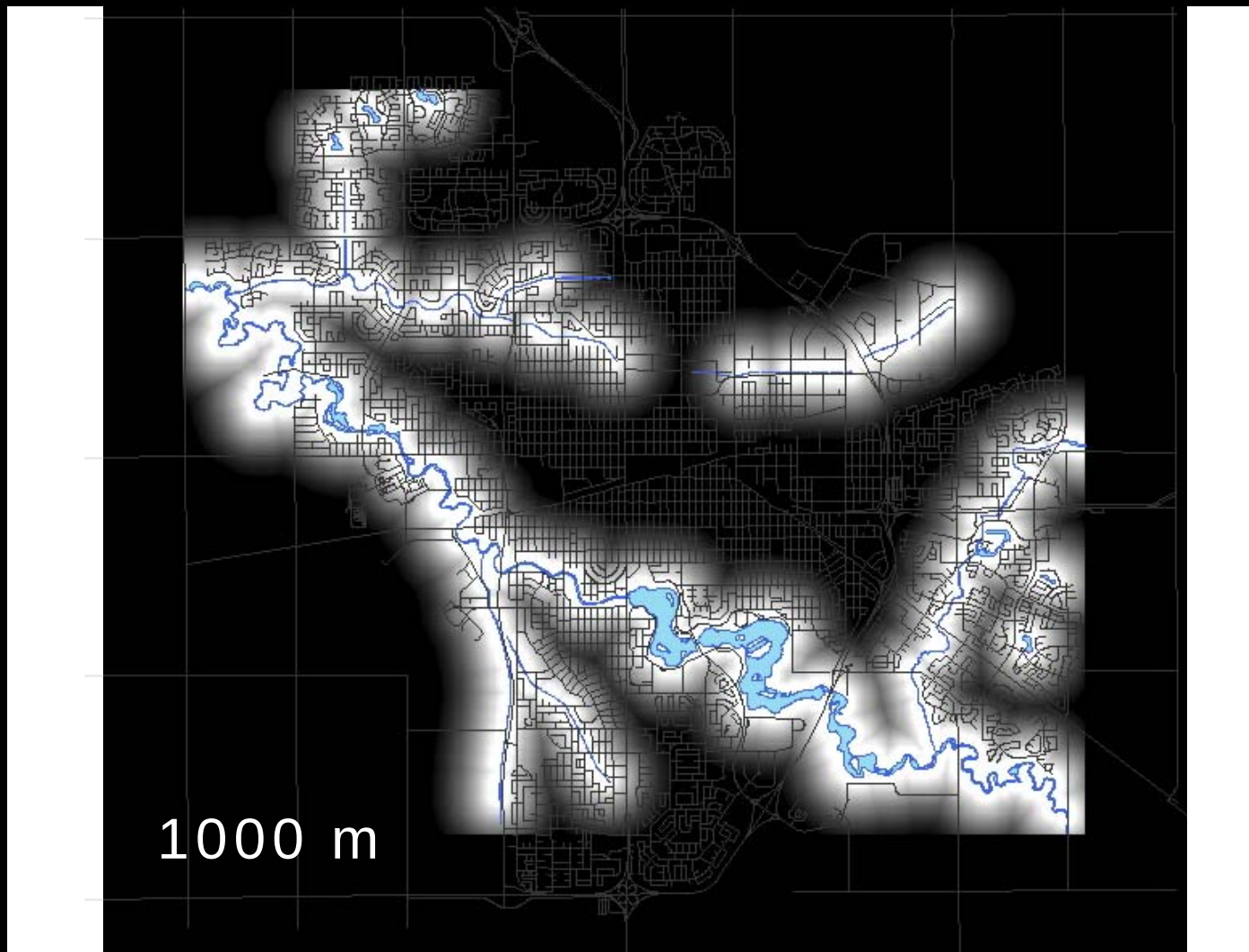


Parks & Open Spaces

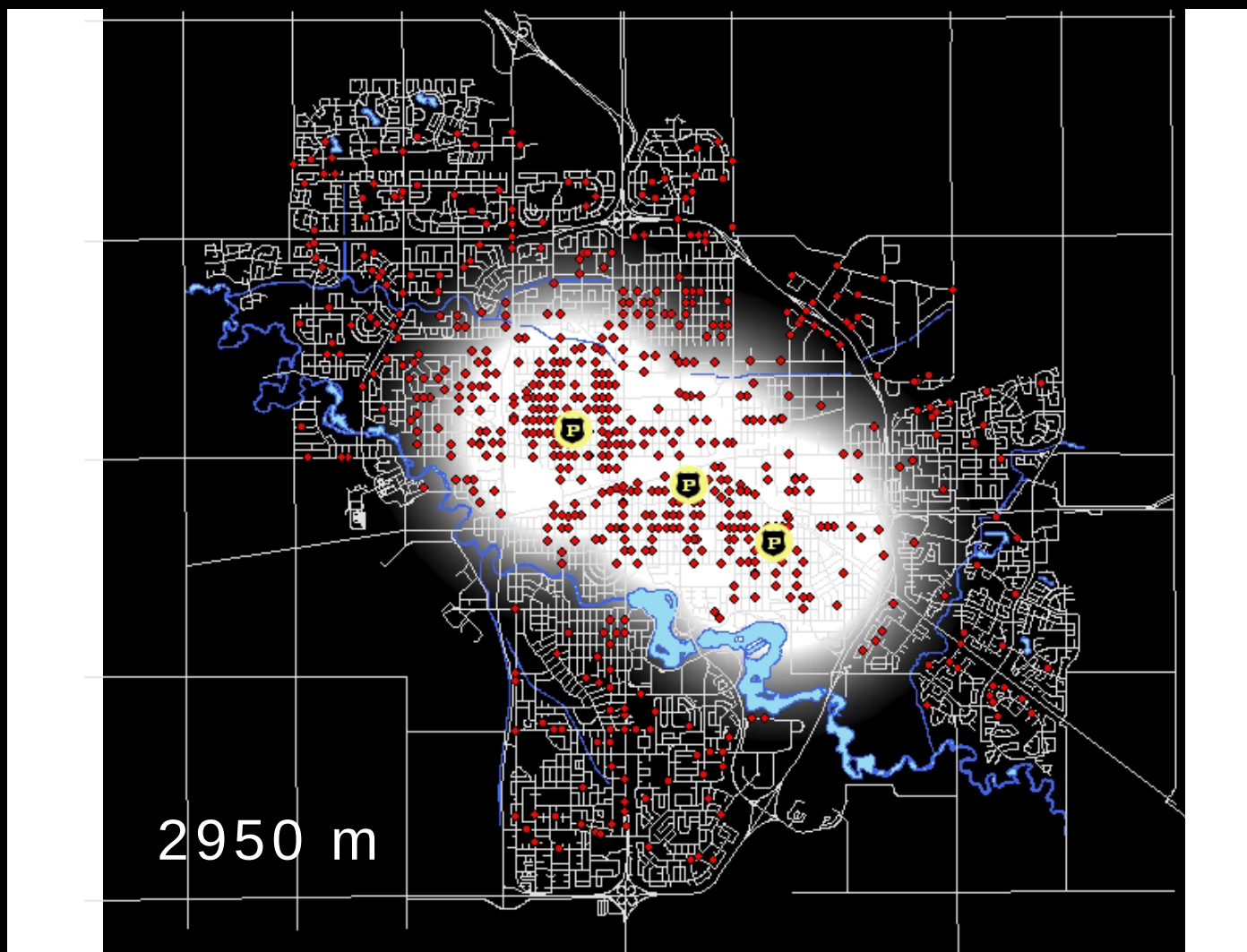


625 m

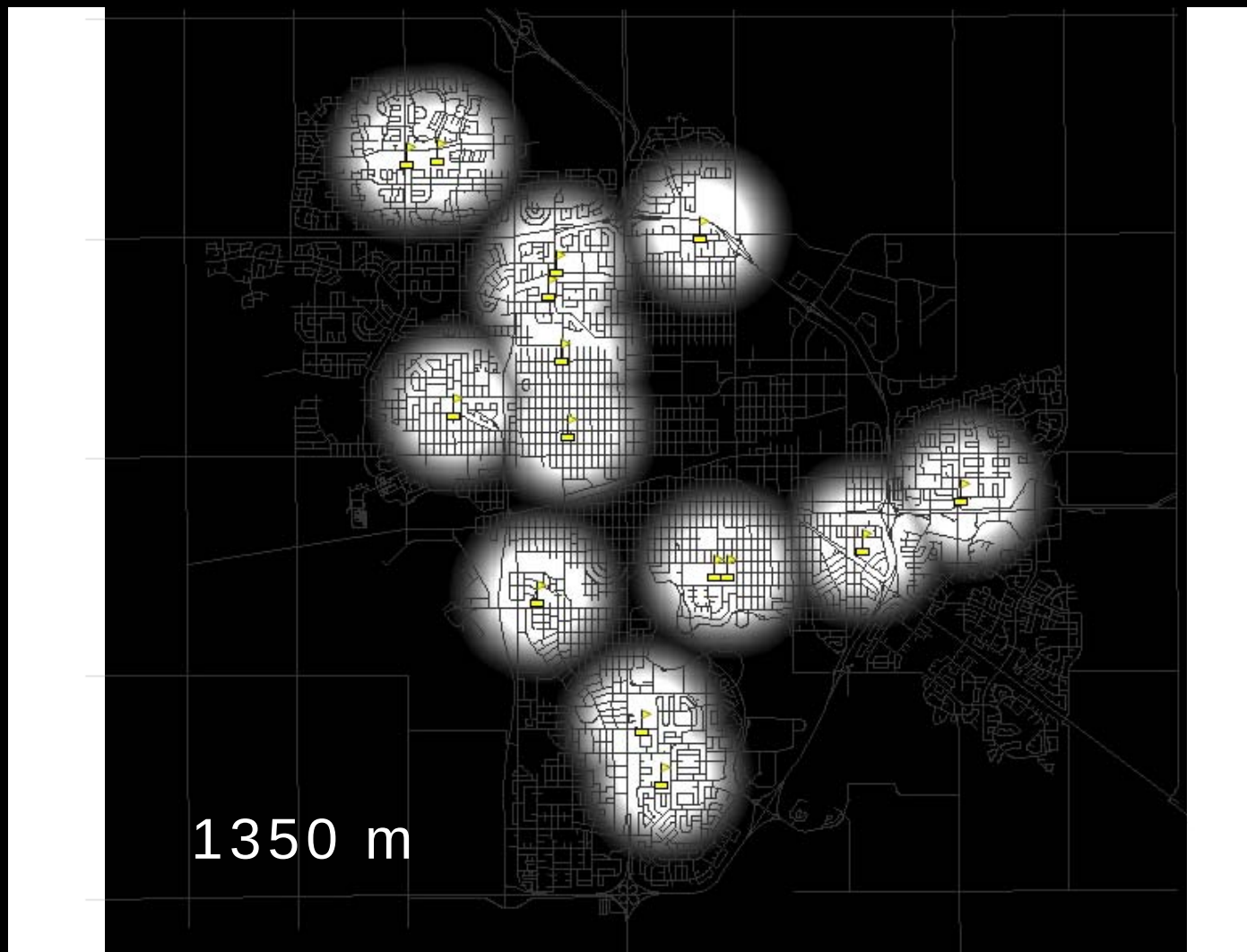
Lakes / Rivers / Creeks



Police



High Schools

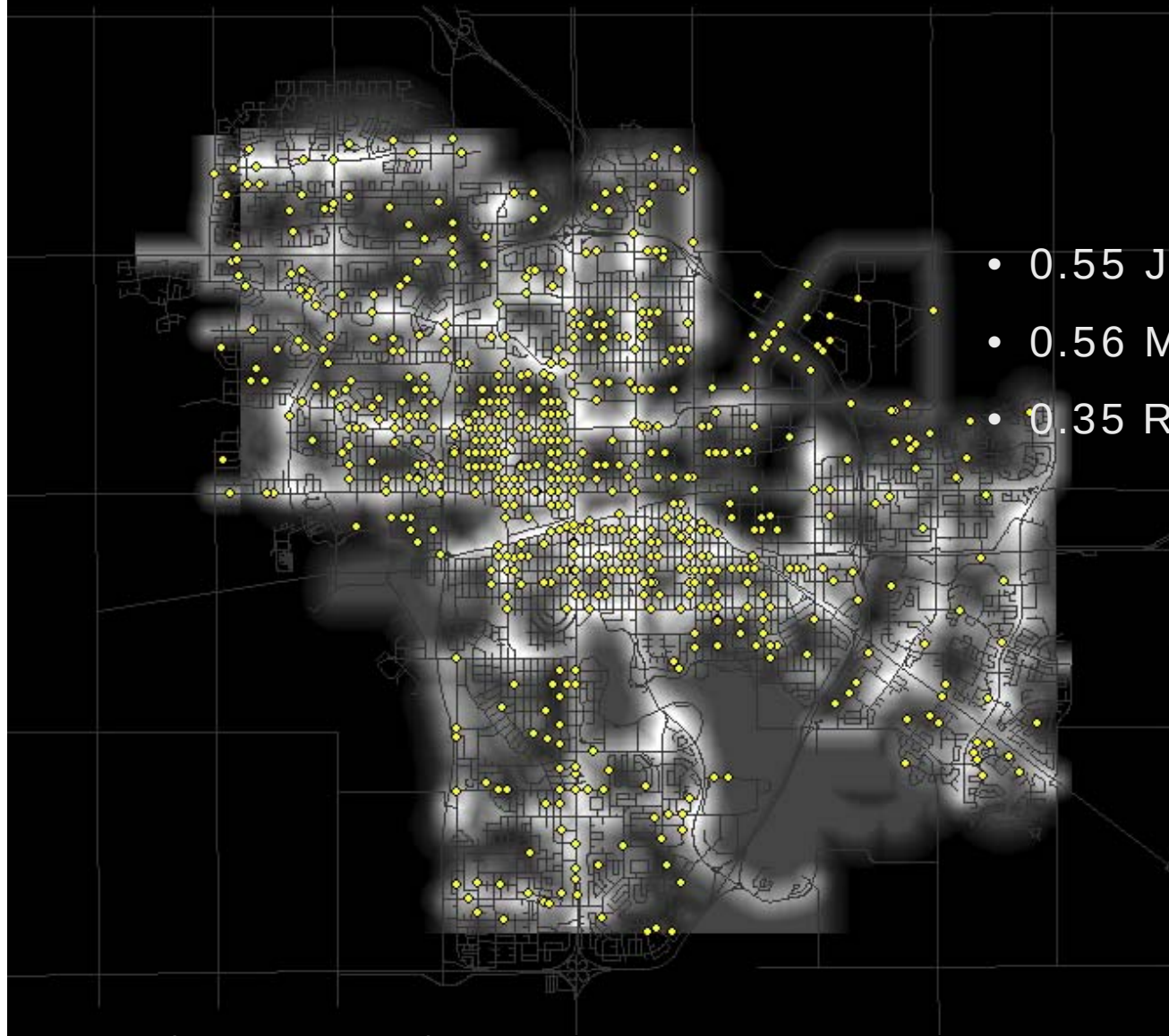


Break & Enter Opportunity Space



- 325 m Arterial Roads
- 575 m Commercial Areas
- 475 m Parks & Open Spaces

Break & Enter Opportunity Space



Probabilities

- 0.55 January - February
- 0.56 March - April
- 0.35 Random Locations

Analysis

	Regina	Ottawa
Arterial Roads	325 m	308 m
Commercial Areas	575 m	289 m
Parks / Vacant Land	475 m	360 m
Recreational Land Use	-	280 m
4 – Node Intersections	-	98 m
Urban Trails	-	694 m

(Moffatt, 2005)

Limitations / Future Research

- Probability decay functions are linear; should they be exponential?
- Probability distance thresholds assume the data are normally distributed; are they?
- January – April 2005 data may not be representative.
- Would housing density be a good indicator?
- Include socio-economic data.