

Considering the Impact of Social Exclusion on High Risk Youth (PUBLIC REPORT)

This study explored the impact of social exclusion on high risk youths' geography and routine activities; that is, youth have been asked about the routes they travel, the activities they pursue, are routes safe or not and whom they are meeting along the route(s). The study explored the geography of high risk youth and how that geography may be influenced by social exclusion from community institutions and public spaces.

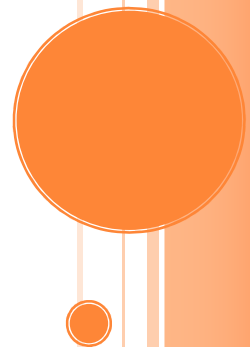
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have been used to document on the map the route(s) and destination(s) that high risk youth report to be their typical daily travels.

Old Strathcona Community Mapping and Planning Committee
c/o Mapping and Planning Support – M.A.P.S.

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June, 2012



CONSIDERING THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION ON HIGH RISK YOUTH

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The Old Strathcona Community Mapping and Planning Committee is a partnership of Human Services providers working in the neighbourhood of Old Strathcona in Edmonton. The mandate of the committee is to improve services and supports to youth through collaborative planning and delivery of services. Given the high number of transient youth in the community, and the fact that many members had noted some changes in what youth were reporting regarding their daily behaviour, the members became interested in the question of social exclusion and whether or not the transient lifestyle led to social exclusion or the social exclusion led to a transient lifestyle.

The relation of high risk youths' geography to social exclusion is important to understand, as it has been argued that restricted access to housing, employment, school programs, and public spaces place youth at risk for committing crimes as well as being victimized by crime, because such exclusion forces them into spending most of their time on the street (Gaetz, 2004). The depression and suicidal ideation that is common amongst street youth (Kral & Kidd, 2002) may also reflect such exclusion, as well as feelings of alienation or unworthiness with respect to belonging to family, school, community, or cultural groups. It is hypothesized that feeling marginal with respect to others in these social contexts may further influence youth to stay on the geographical margins of the community (i.e., the street), rather than accept safe spaces in shelters, or other forms of social assistance.

The Committee agreed that utilizing the relationships that member agencies had with high risk youth it would be possible and beneficial to have some conversations with youth regarding this issue. Member agencies serving high risk youth agreed to host Focus Groups within their agencies with the youth at a convenient time when the youth were available and interested. Food would be provided and the sessions would be facilitated by a staff member familiar with the youth. A mapping exercise and a set of guiding questions were created. Five agencies agreed to participate.

METHODS, MATERIALS, AND TECHNIQUES

Mapping and Planning Support (M.A.P.S.) created a total of 54 maps for the youth safety route information gathering process.

The 54 maps were created using ESRI ArcGIS 9.3 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping application (Figure 1).

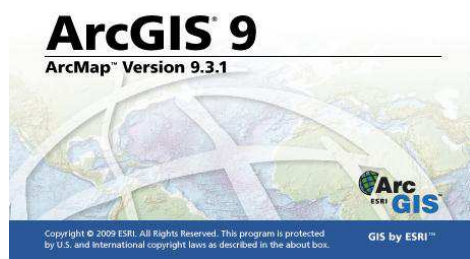


Figure 1

Each of 54 maps were created with specific geographic base data layers and landmarks in order to allow easy orientation on the map (Figure 2):

- Edmonton street layer with street names
- Main Edmonton hydrology feature (North Saskatchewan River)
- Edmonton Train Station, LRT Routes with named LRT stations
- Edmonton's Mill Creek Ravine Park
- Location of five organizations involved in the project
- Edmonton Public Libraries
- And other landmarks such as Police Station, Recreation Centre, and Malls

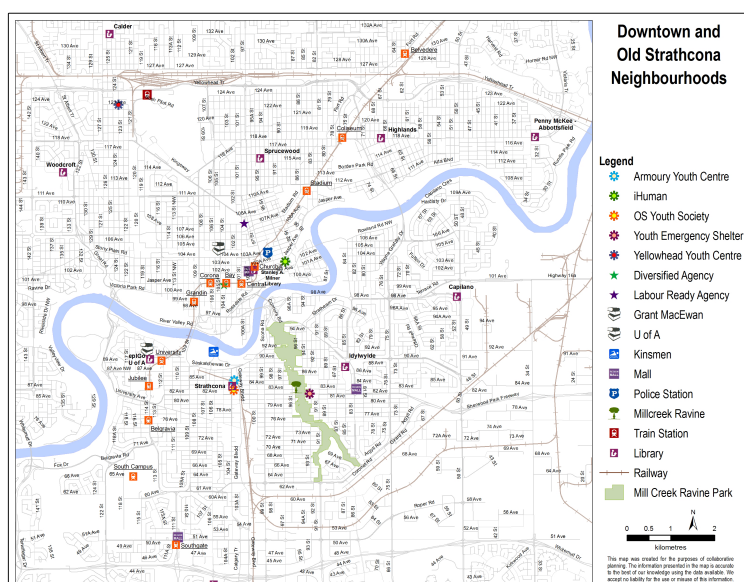


Figure 2: Map created for collecting Youth Safety Route Information. Map was created using ArcGIS 9.3 and contains geographic layers for easy orientation.

M.A.P.S. distributed the maps, guiding questions, and instructions to the five member agencies that agreed to participate in the project:

- Boyle Street Community Services
- iHuman Youth Society (iHuman)
- Inner City Youth Housing Project (ICYHP)
- Old Strathcona Youth Society (The Coop) (OSYS)
- Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS)

M.A.P.S. held information sessions with the agencies. Participating agencies agreed to a timeline of eight weeks to collect information. The agencies integrated the information gathering into their regular focus groups sessions with youth. Food was provided in the focus groups sessions. Youth participated voluntarily. The guiding questions are noted below:

1. Where are you going: (Please draw on the map your daily route(s) and destination(s))
2. Why are you going there and what are you doing there (Please name the points on the map)?
3. Who are you meeting/hanging with there?
4. Do you feel safe or unsafe at each of this(these) destination(s)?
5. What makes it safe/unsafe?
6. If you could go anywhere in the city, where would you go?
7. What stops you from going there?
8. Have you been victimized by crime and/or encouraged to commit a crime in the areas that you regularly travel?

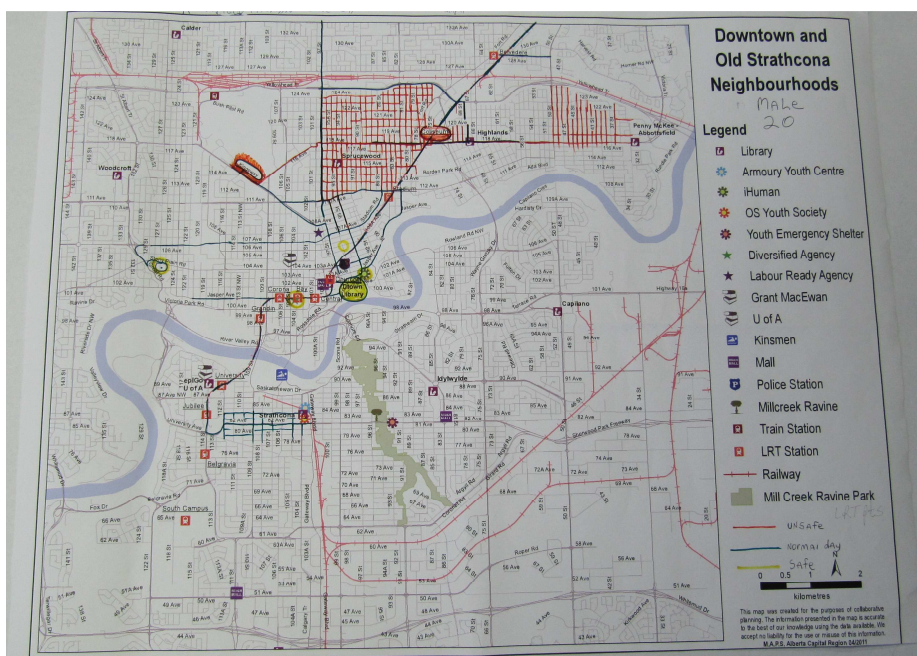


Figure 3: Sample youth map.

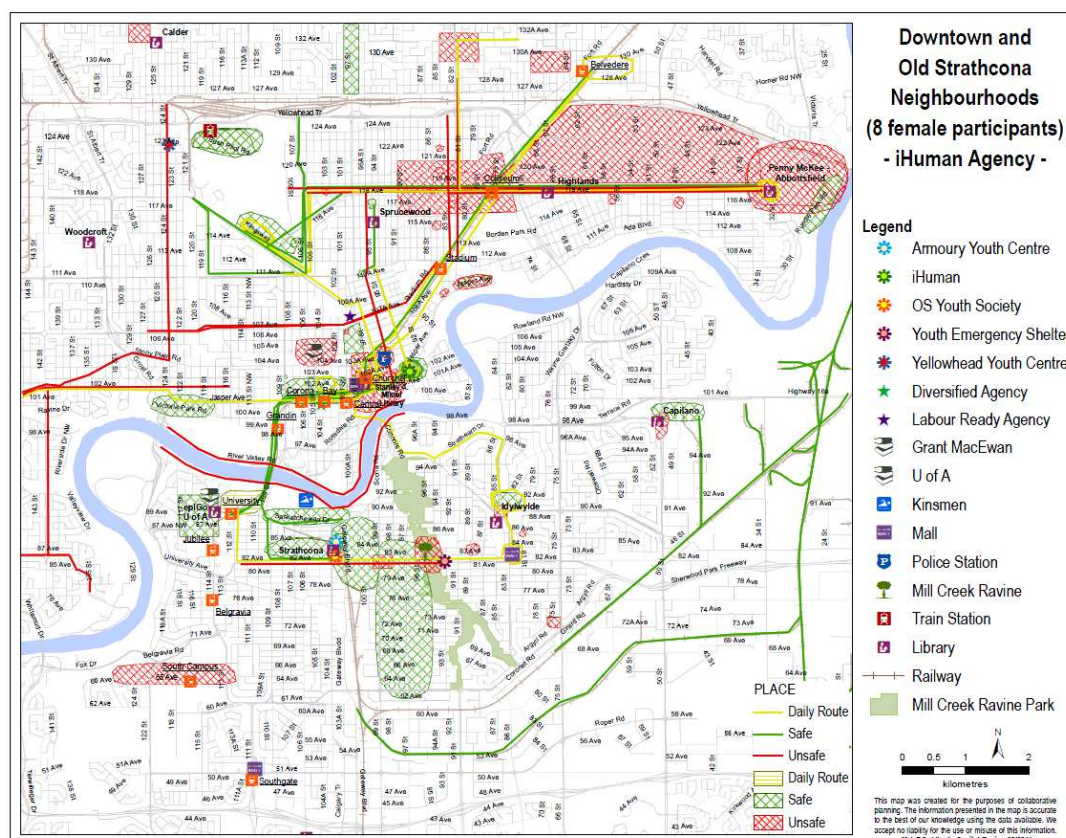


Figure 4: Sample completed map.

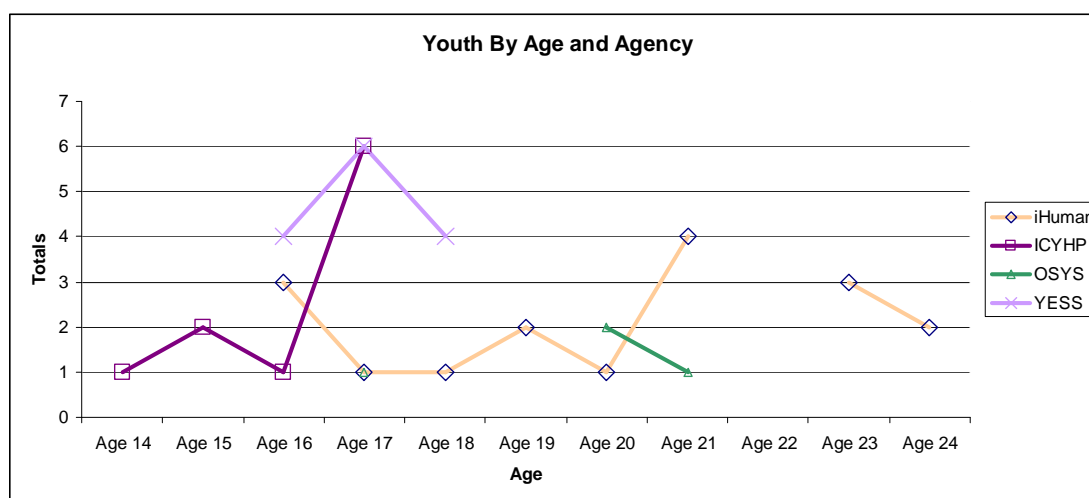
RESULTS

Four agencies (iHuman, ICYHP, OSYS, and YESS) and 57 youth participated in these conversations. Distribution of youth by agencies, age and gender are shown in Table 1, Table 2 and Graph 1.

Note* Not all youth ages/gender were recorded.

Agency	By Age											Total
	Age 14	Age 15	Age 16	Age 17	Age 18	Age 19	Age 20	Age 21	Age 22	Age 23	Age 24	
iHuman			3	1	1	2	1	4		3	2	17
ICYHP	1	2	1	6								10
OSYS				1			2	1				16
YESS			4	6	4							14
Total	1	2	8	14	5	2	3	5	0	3	2	57

Table 1: Distribution of youth by agency and age



Graph 1: Distribution of youth by age and Agency

	By Gender		Total
	Female	Male	
iHuman	10	7	17
ICYHP	3	7	10
OSYS	3	8	11
YESS	5	9	14
Total			52

Table 2: Distribution of youth by agency and gender

iHuman Results

Letter from Executive Director of iHuman Catherine Broomfield

NOTE: Catherine Broomfield facilitated the conversation and summarized the youths comments this way.

Generally speaking the youth identified neighbourhoods and streets/avenues as unsafe. This was usually because of references to drugs and violent people who frequent or live in those areas. Youth tend to avoid the areas if they can but also they are limited in where they can live either with family/friends or what they can afford.

All tend to either walk or stick to public transit and these sites were either safe or unsafe depending on the youth and experiences they have had, especially at LRT stations.

All youth tended to identify that safe places were few and dangerous places where many and subject to change unexpectedly, e.i. a safe space might become dangerous in a blink of an eye.

All tended to have been victims or perpetrators of crimes in the unsafe areas. Few were willing to share details in this regard.

At the time of M.A.P.S. project iHuman had a partnership with the University of Alberta and youth were regularly attending a drama – based program on the University of Alberta Campus.

As well, it should be noted that the medium (using maps) was a positive tool to collect the data because for those youth who may have literacy problems the maps were a visual representation of their thoughts and opinions, which meant it was also more inclusive as a process for data collection.

Summary by Gender for Safe, Unsafe Areas and Daily Routes

MAPS DONE BY MALE YOUTH

Male youth that participated in the conversation were 18, 19, 20, and two at 23 years of age. One male youth shows the city as a whole is a safe place, with few pockets of unsafe places. Two male youth show the city as a whole is an unsafe place.

Observations for **SAFE** places indicated on the map are:

Generally neighbourhoods areas are safe. Agencies OSYS, iHuman, and Armoury are seen as safe places. University of Alberta area is safe. Accessing services or meeting family or friends at termination points are seen as safe places. Library areas around University of Alberta, Abbottsfield, Capilano, and Stanley A. Milner are seen as safe areas. Areas around Stony Plain Rd, Groat Rd, and streets from 124 to 129 are seen as safe areas. Area around Kingsway Mall and from 109 to 105 St and Kingsway Ave to 118 Ave is seen as safe.

Observations for **UNSAFE** places indicated on the map are:

Areas around Kingsway Garden Mall and Kingsway Ave are unsafe. Unsafe LRT stations are: South Campus, Belgravia, Churchill, Stadium, Coliseum, and Belvedere. Unsafe areas around following libraries: Abbottsfield, Highlands, Sprucewood, Calder and Stanley A. Milner. Unsafe areas in the city: from Yellowhead north to Calder library along 125 St, streets south of Belvedere 61 to 64 to the Yellowhead Trail, along Fort Rd. Big patches from 97 St up to 66 and from 50 St to Victoria Trail. From Yellowhead south to 110A Ave and 118 Ave to Yellowhead Trail.

Observations for **DAILY/USUAL/NORMAL routes** indicated on the map are:

The daily route varies from youth to youth. But generally the youth travel either by bus, take LRT or walk. The majority of the routes follow LRT lines, bus stops or if they walk, they walk along main roads. Roads (streets, avenues) identified on the north side of the North Saskatchewan River are streets from east to west: 67, 68, 95, 96, 97, 100, and 109. Avenues from north to south: 129, Yellowhead Trail, 118, 110A, 107A, 107, and Jasper Avenue. Roads (streets, avenues) identified on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River are: going from 95 St to south crossing river and connecting to 98 and 101 Ave all the way until 45 St. Scona Rd and 99 St are major roads youth use too, as well as 109 St all the way to the 111 St to Southgate mall. Many male youth use 84, 83, 82 and 80 Ave from the University area to OSYS and Armoury agencies and library in the vicinity of the area.

Legend

-  Armoury Youth Centre
-  iHuman
-  OS Youth Society
-  Youth Emergency Shelter
-  Yellowhead Youth Centre
-  Diversified Agency
-  Labour Ready Agency
-  Grant MacEwan
-  U of A
-  Kinsmen
-  Mall
-  Police Station
-  Mill Creek Ravine
-  Train Station
-  Library
-  Railway
-  Mill Creek Ravine Park

This map was created for the purposes of collaborative planning. The information presented in the map is accurate to the best of our knowledge using the data available. We accept no liability for the use or misuse of this information.

MAPS DONE BY **FEMALE YOUTH**

Female youth that participated in the conversation were 16, 19, three at 21, 23, and two at 24 years of age. Two females indicated location of a home on the map.

Observations for **SAFE** places indicated on the map are:

Some females indicated that safe places usually follow daily/usual routes. There are more safe places south of the North Saskatchewan River than north of the river. Safe areas north of the river are: around Train Station(s) – Bush Pilot Rd, area around Kingsway mall, area from 127 Ave to 133 Ave and from 96 St to 98 St. Downtown area from 97 St to 100 St, and 105 Ave to 107 Ave. Safe is around iHuman agency. Victoria Park Rd area is seen as safe. Safe areas south of the river: University of Alberta, Saskatchewan Dr, from 109 St to Mill Creek Ravine, and from Saskatchewan River to 82 Ave and from Whyte Avenue to 62 Ave. For one female youth southside train tracks are a safe place. University of Alberta and Capilano library are safe places. For many female youth LRT train/stations are safe places.

Observations for **UNSAFE** places indicated on the map are:





There are big areas of unsafe places north of the river. Specifically, a big area from Abbottsfield library almost up to Sprucewood library along 118 Ave. Areas around Grant MacEwan, the City Centre mall, police station in downtown, and Stanley A. Milner library are unsafe. South of the river unsafe areas are around South Campus LRT, along 82 Ave from 112 St to YESS and small area around Capilano library.

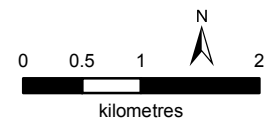
Observations for **DAILY/USUAL/NORMAL routes** indicated on the map are:

The majority of daily routes follow LRT lines from north up to University LRT on the southside of the river. Routes follow major roads. From 32 St to Kingsway Ave along 118 Ave. For some route goes from 110A Ave to Jasper Ave and continues west. For other youth is crossing the river taking Conors Rd, Strathearn Dr, down 85 St to Idylwyld library Boonie Doon mall and along 82 Ave.

Legend

- PLACE

-  Daily Route
-  Safe
-  Unsafe
-  Daily Route
-  Safe
-  Unsafe



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MAPS DONE BY **COUPLES** YOUTH

Two couples participated in the mapping project. First couple is: female 17 and male 16 years of age and the second couple is female 17 and male 21 years of age.

Observations for **SAFE** places indicated on the map are:

Safe area around iHuman, police station in downtown, and YESS.

Observations for **UNSAFE** places indicated on the map are:

Almost all north side of the city from 103 Ave to 132A Ave and 113 St to 66 St. Unsafe is along 82 Ave from 70 St to 122 St. Along 118 Ave from Abbottsfield library to 109 St and continuing along 118 Ave to the west side of the city.

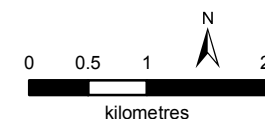
Observations for **DAILY/USUAL/NORMAL routes** indicated on the map are:

Daily route follows major roads. Daily route is taken by LRT from Stadium to South Campus. Daily route is along 107 Ave from 109 St going west. Along 91 St, Jasper Ave, Stony Plain Rd and going west. Daily route is from Bonnie Doon mall to 122 St. Big area covering Wayne Gretzky Dr, 101 Ave, 84 St up north to Rowland Rd. Area of Mill Creek north from 83 Ave and 83 Ave from Bonnie Doon mall to 122 St.

Legend

- PLACE

-  Daily Route
 Safe
 Unsafe
 Daily Route
 Safe
 Unsafe



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ICYHP Results

Letter from Program Manager of Inner City Youth Housing Project (ICYHP) Jodi Paskuski

NOTE: This is the Youth Workers interpretation of the results and not the individual youths who completed the maps.

The young lady who identified 118th Ave as being a safe place most likely grew up in this area and therefore felt as though she knew the area quite well and would have a number of supports that live within that area.

Our youth seem to identify places south of the river as being safe or places they would like to go. We believe these places are identified as safe due to the youth not spending a great deal of time in these areas. Perhaps the youth are being told by others these places are safe, or due to the limited time spent in these areas they would know less people and have less enemies in these areas.

The Youth seem to identify all LRT stations as either safe or unsafe. This seems to be determined by the river (south = safe, north = unsafe)

It was the assumption of the Youth Workers that the youth would identify a place as being unsafe if they had been victimized in this area or the youth would have enemies who spend time in these areas.

Places they would like to go is most likely determined by where their supports are located.

The University may be seen as a safe place given the security in place there or the ability for our youth to blend in with the students.

Summary by Gender for Safe, Unsafe Areas and Daily Routes

MAPS DONE BY MALE YOUTH

Male youth who participated are 15, 16 and five are 17 years of age. From seven males one travels south on his daily route taking LRT (17 yrs old). Three youth draw on the map places where would they go if they could go anywhere in the city (question 6).

Observations for **SAFE** places indicated on the map are:

The majority of safe places are on the south side of the city. They cover almost all the map. A few pockets of safe areas on the north side of the city are: around Coliseum LRT, Kingsway Ave, block of area from 112 Ave to 115 Ave and from 122 St to 128 St. A bigger block area is from 125 St to 142 St and from 102 Ave to 111 Ave. Area from 124 St going east to downtown along 104 Ave, Jasper Ave, and 100 Ave.

Observations for **UNSAFE** places indicated on the map are:



















An unsafe street on the south side is along 82 Ave. North part of the city has more unsafe areas. They are shown on the map around all LRT stations except Grandin. Abbottsfield library area is big unsafe area. Very big area around Yellowhead Youth Centre from 121 St to 135 St and 118 Ave to Yellowhead is unsafe. Pockets in downtown area including Grant MacEwan are unsafe. Area around Kingsway Ave from 105 St to 109 St. Few streets east and west of 116 Ave is unsafe as well as long stretch of Jasper Ave and 107 Ave from downtown to the west.

Observations for **DAILY/USUAL/NORMAL routes** indicated on the map are:







Youth travel mostly on the north side of the city following the LRT lines and major roads. Daily routes are along major roads are 118 Ave, Kingsway Ave, 110A Ave, 107 Ave, Jasper Ave, Stony Plain Rd going west. Streets include 107, 97, 95 92, 109 from Grandin LRT station to the south and continuing to 114 St to South Campus LRT station. Getaway Blvd and train lines are marked on the map as well.

Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods (7 male participants) - ICYHP Agency -

Legend

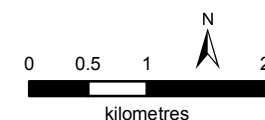
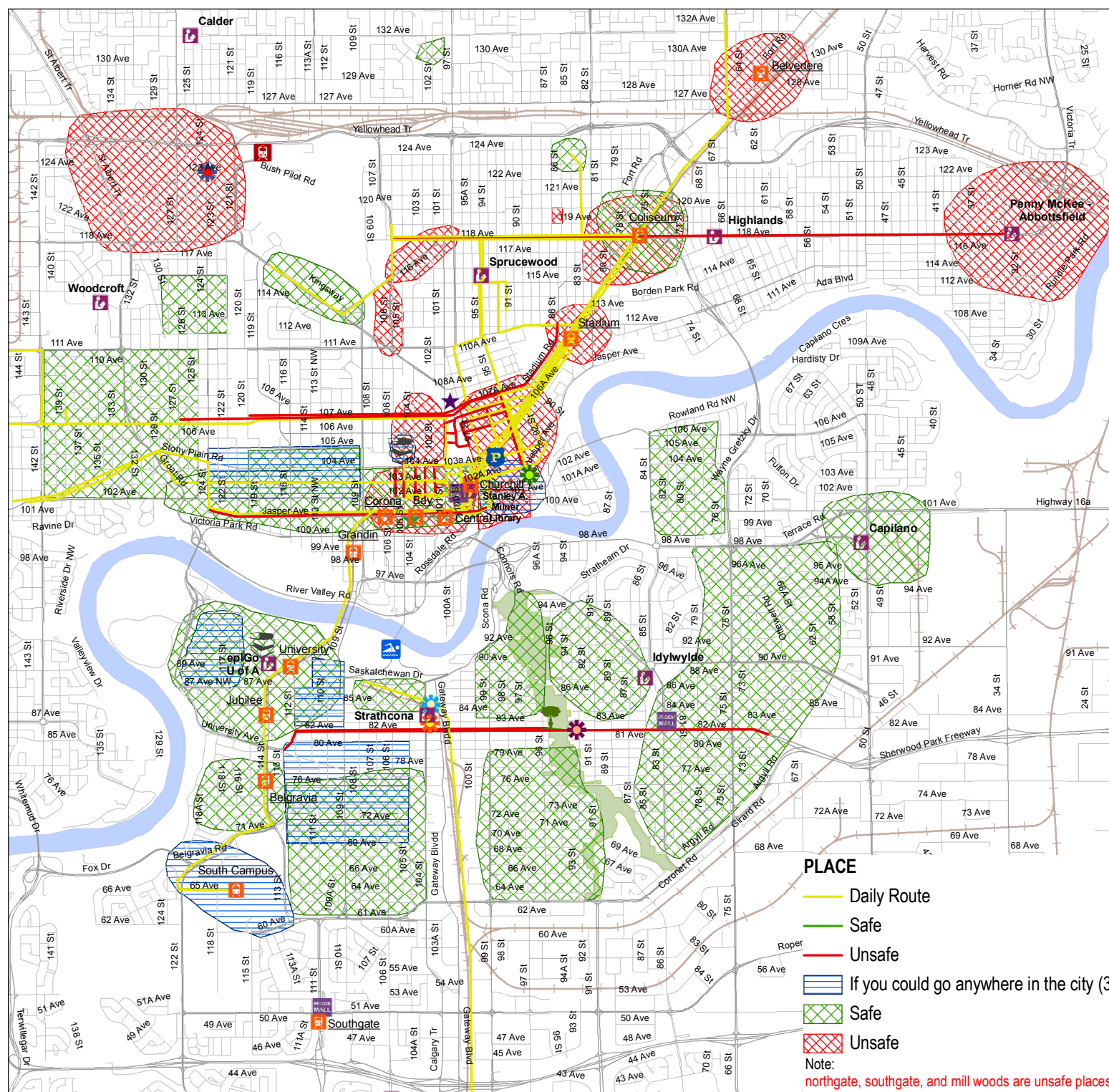
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-  Mall
-  Police Station
-  Mill Creek Ravine
-  Train Station
-  LRT Station
-  Library
-  Railway
-  Mill Creek Ravine Park

PLACE

-  Daily Route
-  Safe
-  Unsafe
-  If you could go anywhere in the city (3)
-  Safe
-  Unsafe

Note:

northgate, southgate, and mill woods are unsafe places.



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MAPS DONE BY **FEMALE** YOUTH

Female youth who participated are 14, 15 and 17 years old. None of three females answered questions. Two of the females do not travel south on their daily route. Female 15 years of age goes to the University LRT station as her final south destination, if she could go anywhere in the city it would be large area of the downtown and across the river. Female 17 years of age would cover large area around EPL Capilano as her anywhere place to go to.

Observations for **SAFE** places indicated on the map are:

There are only few safe places and they are south of the river. Safe areas are around University of Alberta LRT station and library and around South Campus, and Southgate LRT stations. Few streets are shown as safe places: south along 104 St from OSYS agency south to the 76 Ave and along 114 St from Saskatchewan Dr to 82 Ave.

Observations for **UNSAFE** places indicated on the map are:



















Unsafe places are on the north side of the river. Downtown and big area from Churchill to Stadium LRT stations. Also small areas of Coliseum LRT stations is unsafe place. Area around and east of Highlands library is unsafe. Stretch of the roads from 105 Ave to 107 Ave along 108 St is unsafe.

Observations for **DAILY/USUAL/NORMAL** routes indicated on the map are:









Daily route of female youth is mostly taken by LRT line. Line is taken from Coliseum up to University. Stretch of route goes for some female from Coliseum LRT to 107 St along 118 Ave.

Downtown and Old Strathcona Nhoods (3 female participants) - ICYHP Agency -

Legend

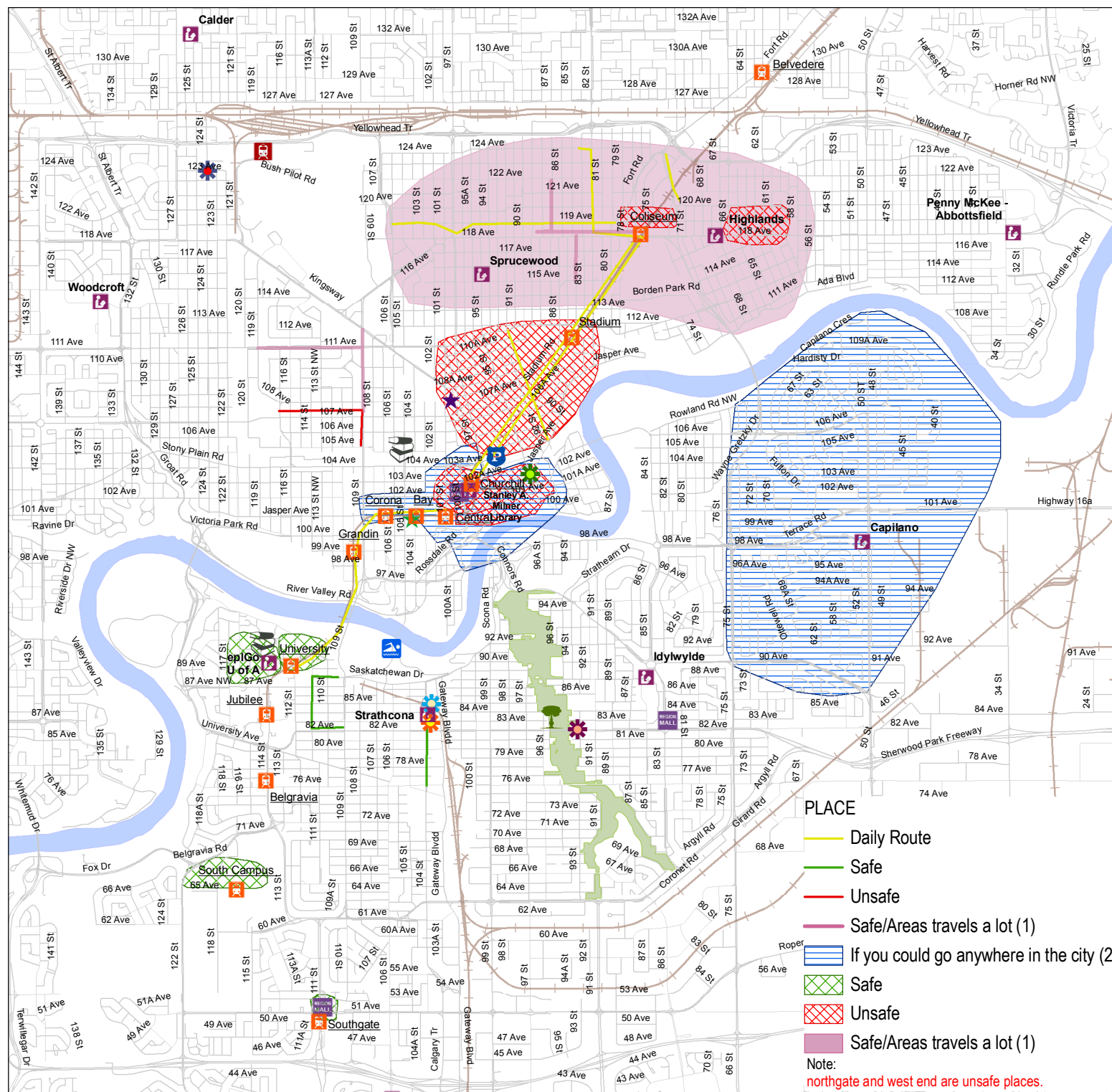
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-  Library
-  Railway
-  Mill Creek Ravine Park

PLACE

-  Daily Route
-  Safe
-  Unsafe
-  Safe/Areas travels a lot (1)
-  If you could go anywhere in the city (2)
-  Safe
-  Unsafe
-  Safe/Areas travels a lot (1)

Note:

northgate and west end are unsafe places.



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OSYS (Old Strathcona Youth Society) Results

Three Conversations were held.

Summary by Gender for Safe, Unsafe Areas and Daily Routes

MAPS DONE BY MALE YOUTH

Maps were done by eight males. Five males 19 - 22 years of age and three males (17, 20 and 21 years of age).

Observations for **SAFE** places indicated on the map are:

More safe places on the south side of the city. River valley area from 127 St to Mill Creek Ravine is safe place. Around University of Alberta up to University Ave. Whitemud and Fox Dr going west. South of 51 Ave going south. From 80 Ave south to the first line of train tracks is safe and from 83 St to 58 St. On the north side of the city area around Groat Rd and Stony Plain Rd is safe. Area covering 111 Ave up north to 120 Ave and 120 St to 107 St is safe.

Observations for **UNSAFE** places indicated on the map are:



















Unsafe is one pocket on the south side from 52 St to the east and south from Whitemud to south. Many pockets of unsafe areas are north of the river. Downtown, LRT stations: Stadium, Coliseum, libraries: Stanley A. Milner, Highlands, and Abbottsfield. Big area covering Woodcroft library is unsafe from 107 Ave to almost 124 Ave and 142 St to 123 St.






Observations for **DAILY/USUAL/NORMAL routes** indicated on the map are:

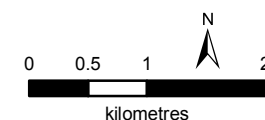
Daily route follows LRT lines and major roads. From 111 Ave going south along 109 St. Another route follows the main road of 82 Ave to Armoury going east to Fulton Dr then south to Capilano library and going back west to Idylwyld library and YESS.

Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods (8 male participants) - OSYS Agency -

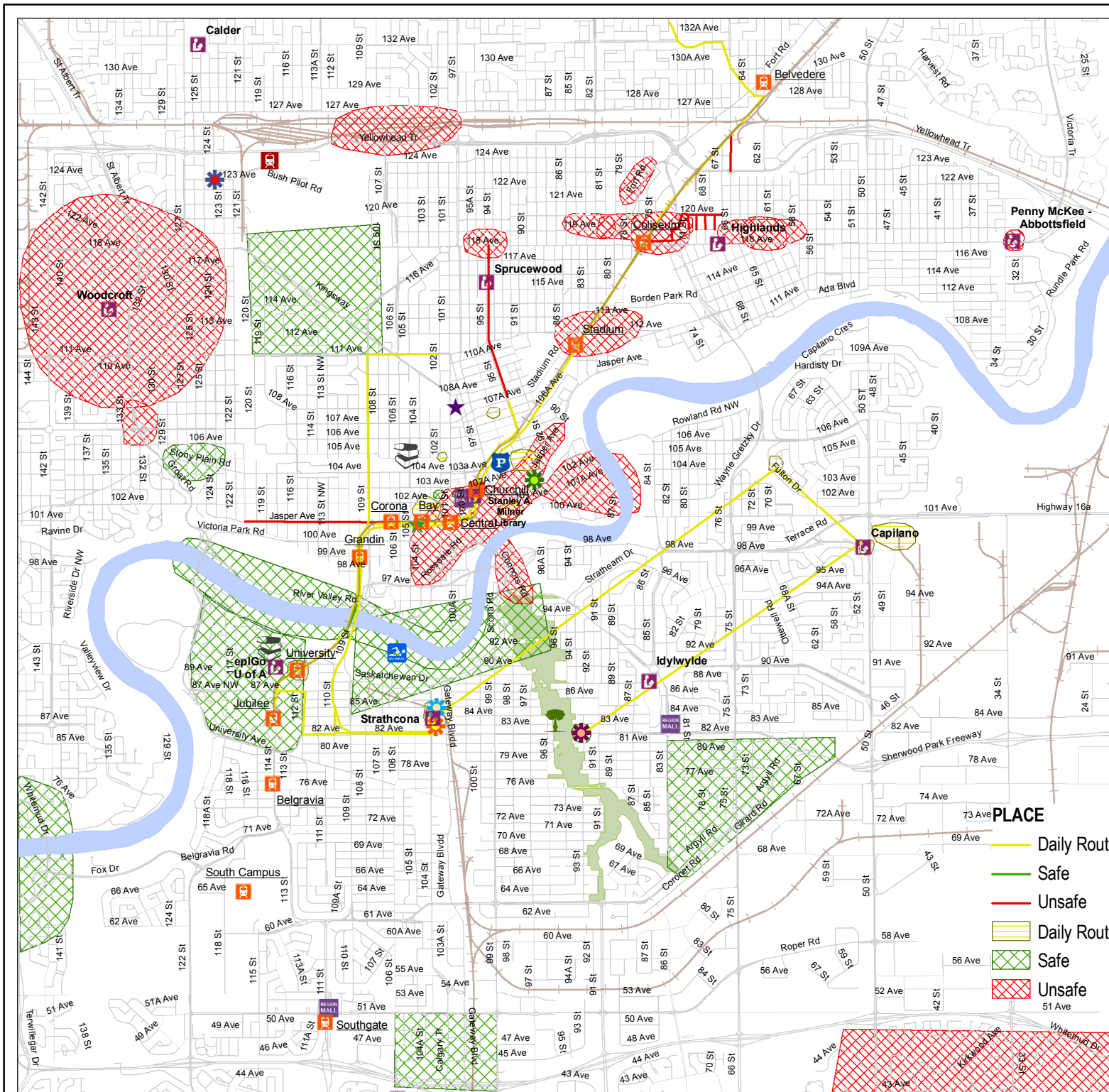
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-  Mill Creek Ravine
-  Train Station
-  LRT Station
-  Library
-  Railway
-  Mill Creek Ravine Park

- ### PLACE
-  Daily Route
 -  Safe
 -  Unsafe
 -  Daily Route
 -  Safe
 -  Unsafe



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MAPS DONE BY YOUTH WHICH GENDER/AGE IS UNKNOWN

Observations for **SAFE** places indicated on the map are:

Safe place follows train track on the south side of the city. Safe is from YESS to Armoury, to University of Alberta along 82 Ave. Safe place is across 109 St to downtown using all LRT stations up to Churchill LRT. and from Yellowhead Trail up to north on LRT line.

Observations for **UNSAFE** places indicated on the map are:

All Mill Creek Ravine is unsafe place. Unsafe is around Saskatchewan Dr and Kinsmen Sports Centre. Very long stretch along river valley is unsafe place. Downtown area and LRT stations are unsafe places. As well as Stadium and Coliseum stations and lines. From 50 St to 107 St along 118 Ave is unsafe. Area from 111 Ave to 103 Ave and 95 St to 97 St is unsafe. Just south of iHuman is unsafe.



















Observations for **DAILY/USUAL/NORMAL** routes indicated on the map are:

Daily routes are not that many. One of the routes is from 104 St along 97 St using LRT lines going south up to University. Another route is from 112 St to YESS along 82 Ave continuing to the east up to 50 St then 106 Ave north crossing the river and up to 118 Ave.

Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods (5 participants)

- gender/age unknown -
- OSYS Agency -

Legend

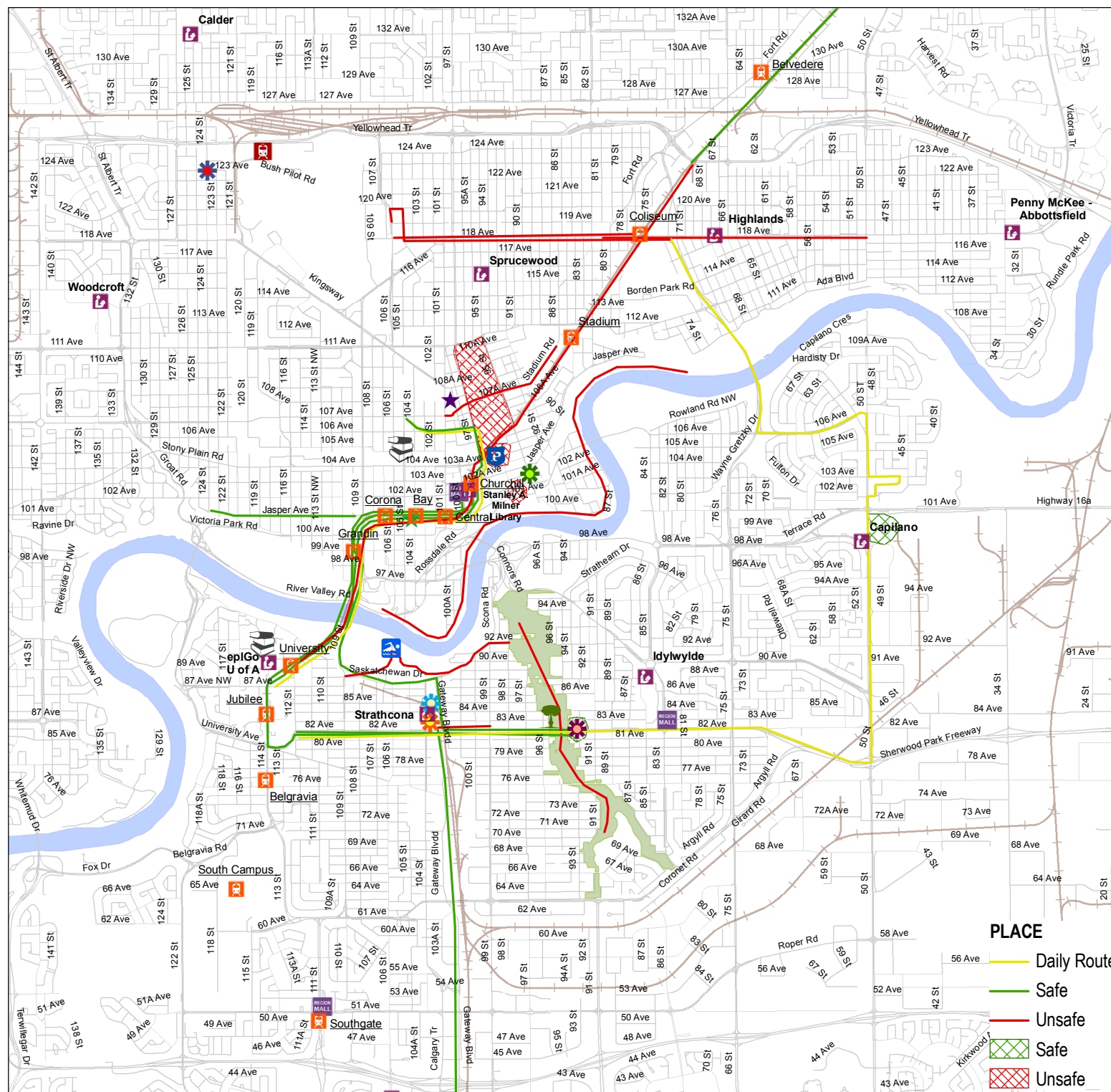
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PLACE

-  Daily Route
-  Safe
-  Unsafe
-  Safe
-  Unsafe



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MAPS DONE BY **FEMALE** YOUTH

Three female participants completed the maps. One female 20 years of age and two females of unknown age completed one map.

Observations for **SAFE** places indicated on the map are:

Very small area north of YESS is safe place.

Observations for **UNSAFE** places indicated on the map are:

Big area covering downtown and almost up to 111 Ave and from 113 St to 95 St is unsafe. Going east from Highlands library from 66 St to 58 St along 118 Ave is unsafe.

Observations for **DAILY/USUAL/NORMAL routes** indicated on the map are:



















Daily route only drawn on the south side of the river. From Kinsmen Sports Centre to the deep south along 104 St and from OSYS.

Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods





(3 female participants)

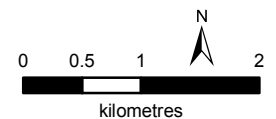
- OSYS Agency -

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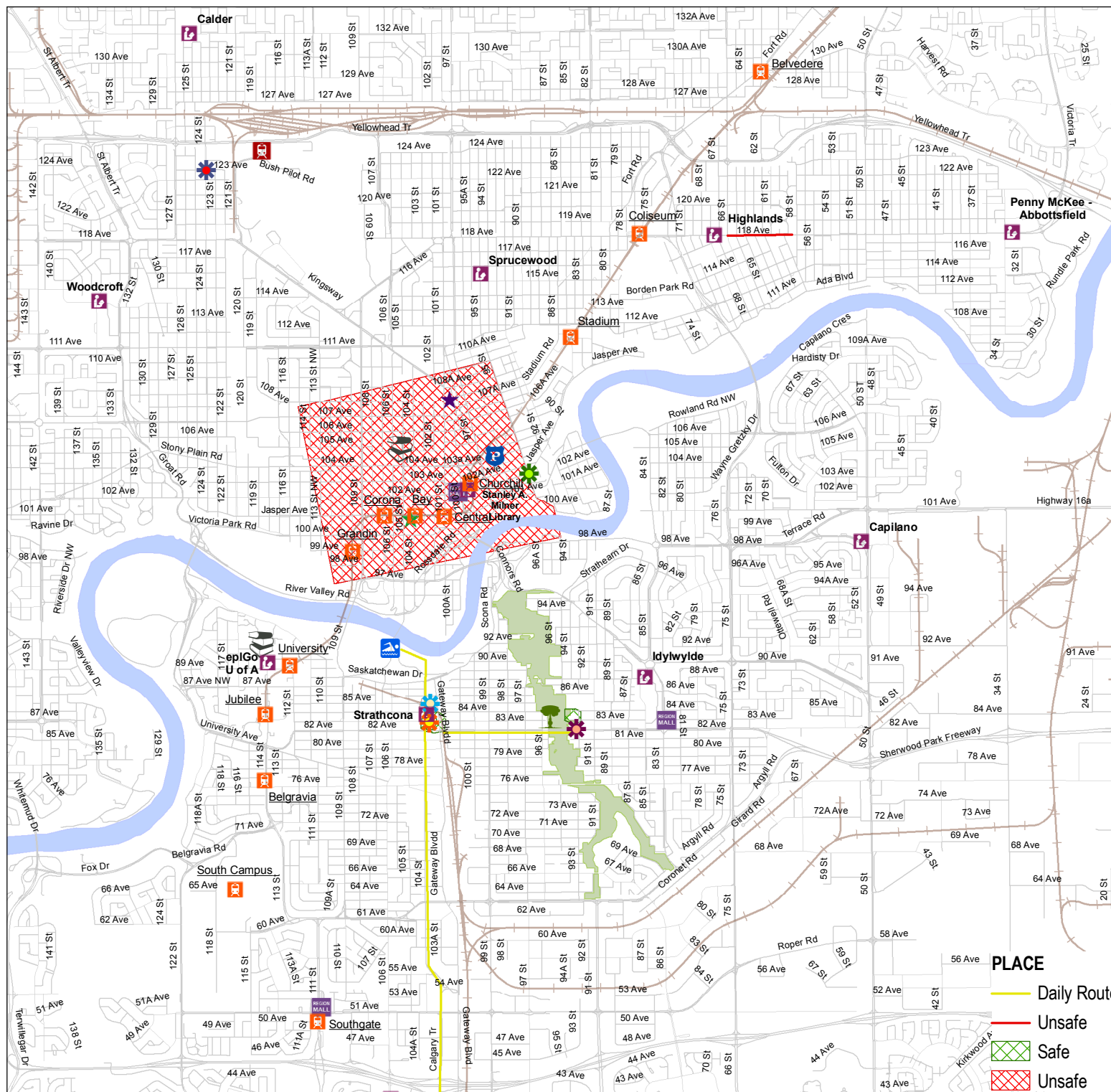
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-  LRT Station
-  Library
-  Railway
-  Mill Creek Ravine Park

PLACE

-  Daily Route
-  Unsafe
-  Safe
-  Unsafe



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YESS Results

Summary by Gender for Safe, Unsafe Areas and Daily Routes

MAPS DONE BY **MALE** YOUTH

Male youth that participated in the mapping project where two at 16, five at 17, and two at 18 years of age.

Observations for **SAFE** places indicated on the map are:

There are no safe places indicated on the map.

Observations for **UNSAFE** places indicated on the map are:


















Indicated unsafe places are only few on the map. One is on the north side in downtown area: around the City Centre mall, Churchill LRT, and police station in the downtown. Few are on the southside: near University LRT station, Armoury, and YESS. One indicated unsafe place is from YESS along 82 Ave up 85 Ave and last unsafe place is to University LRT station.

Observations for **DAILY/USUAL/NORMAL routes** indicated on the map are:

Almost all the map is covered by daily routes. Majority routes are on 109 St and crossing the High Level Bridge. Other routes are along 82 Ave from YESS to 112 St.

Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods (9 male participants) - YESS Agency -

Legend

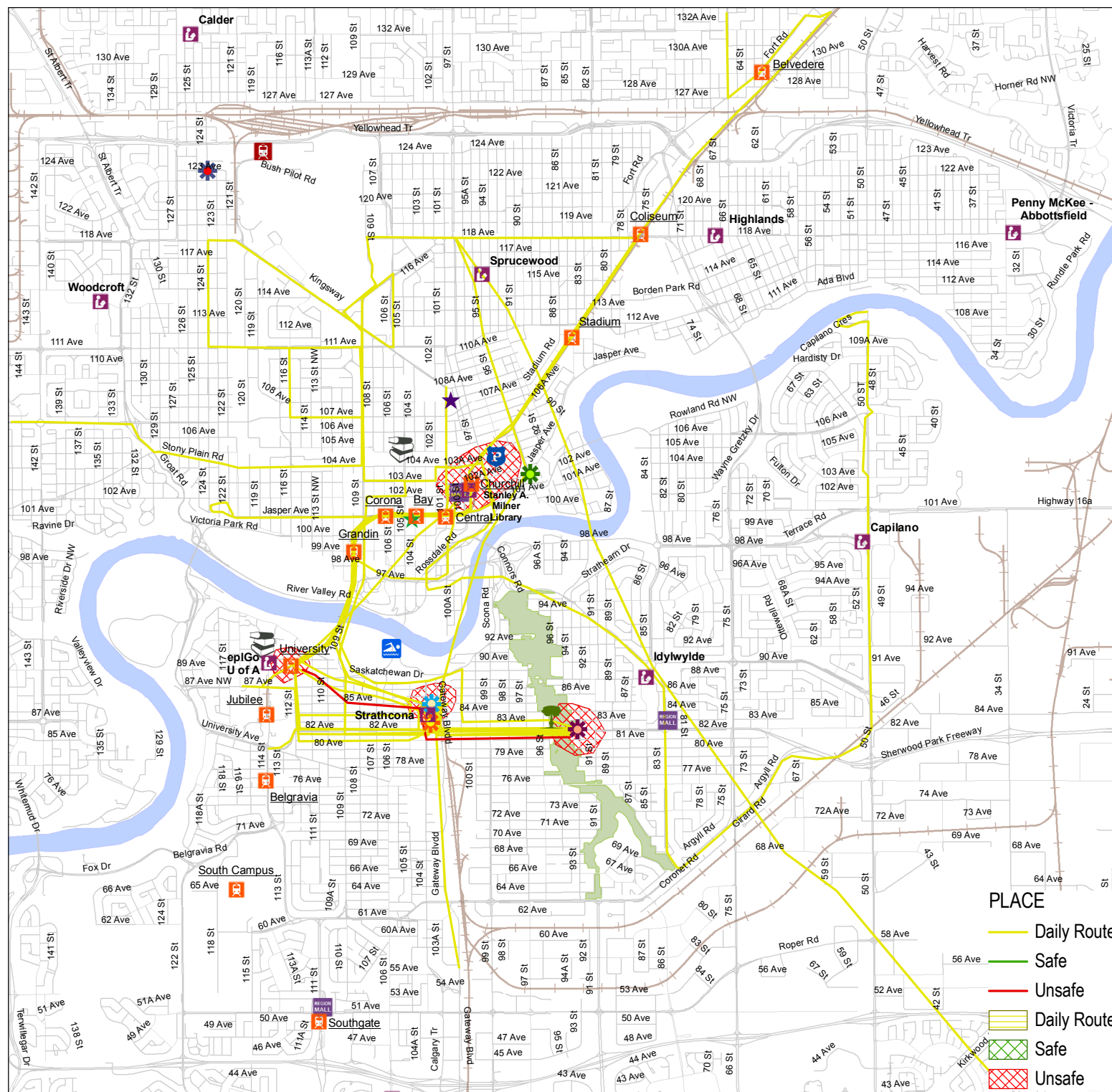
-  Armoury Youth Centre
-  iHuman
-  OS Youth Society
-  Youth Emergency Shelter
-  Yellowhead Youth Centre
-  Diversified Agency
-  Labour Ready Agency
-  Grant MacEwan
-  U of A
-  Kinsmen
-  Mall
-  Police Station
-  Mill Creek Ravine
-  Train Station
-  Library
-  Railway
-  Mill Creek Ravine Park

PLACE

-  Daily Route
-  Safe
-  Unsafe
-  Daily Route
-  Safe
-  Unsafe



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MAPS DONE BY **FEMALE** YOUTH

Female youth that participated in the conversation were two at 16, one at 17, and two at 18 years of age.

Observations for **SAFE** places indicated on the map are:

There are no safe places indicated on the map.

Observations for **UNSAFE** places indicated on the map are:


















One unsafe place is on the north side of the river. It is north of iHuman and police station in downtown from 102 Ave to 107A Ave and from 96 St to 90 St.

Observations for **DAILY/USUAL/NORMAL** routes indicated on the map are:

No LRT lines are used in the downtown core. Stations used are Belvedere, Coliseum, Stadium, Grandin, University and Belgravia. Major roads and avenues are used when travelling daily. Other routes are from Coliseum LRT to Highlands, and Abbottsfield library along 118 Ave. North Saskatchewan River is crossed in many different places. From OSYS youth travels south along Getaway Blvd to west along Whitemud up north 107 St, making a way along 71 Ave and Fox Dr to west.

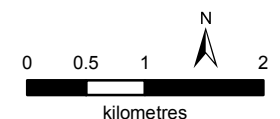
Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods (5 female participants) - YESS Agency -

Legend

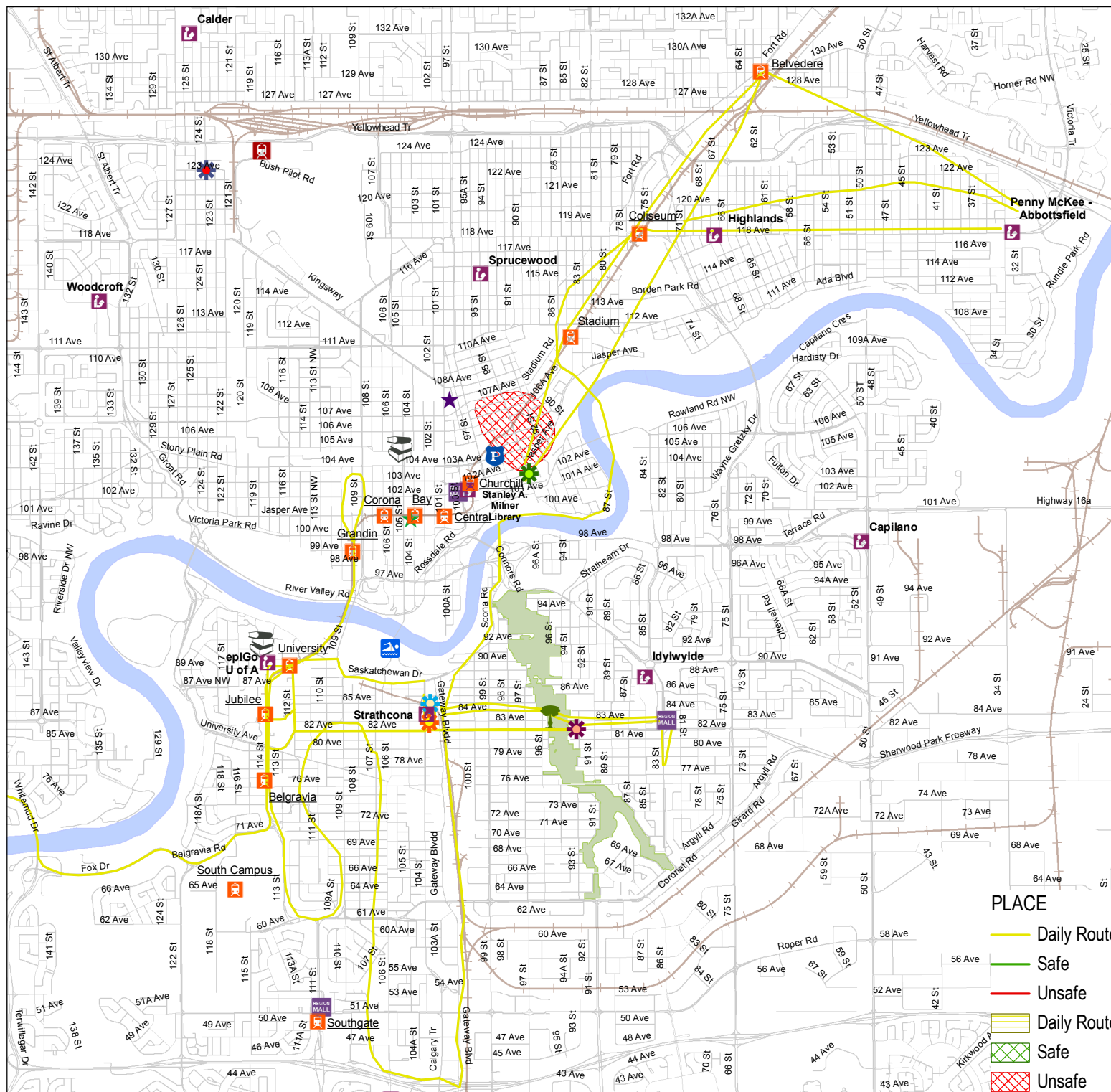
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-  Mall
-  Police Station
-  Mill Creek Ravine
-  Train Station
-  Library
-  Railway
-  Mill Creek Ravine Park

PLACE

-  Daily Route
-  Safe
-  Unsafe
-  Daily Route
-  Safe
-  Unsafe



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DISCUSSION

Looking at the overall daily routes for all participants, the most commonly used route is the LRT route between Belvedere and Jubilee LRT station (Map - Daily routes all participants). They have been extensively used both by male and female.

Male youth participants' daily routes encompass a larger area than female youth participants (Map - Male Daily Routes). The male youth participants travel to east and south of Idylwyld library, while female youth participants did not go to those areas (Maps – Male and Female Daily Routes). Similarly, male youth have mostly indicated this area as safe, while female have not provided any information, except in one case where female participant indicated rail tracks in this area as safe.

A similar situation can be observed in the north east part of the city. Male youth participants travel more between Kingsway and Jasper Avenue and east of Kingsway Avenue, while female participants do not. Similarly, male youth participants have indicated safe and unsafe areas in this part of the city, while female participants did not provide more details.

This difference between male and female youth daily routes is even more apparent when observing male and female safe and unsafe areas. There are significantly more areas indicated as safe by male youth participant than female youth participants. A similar trend can be observed for unsafe areas. However, this difference is more apparent on safe area maps, indicating possibility that there are more safe areas in the city, but they are out of reach to female youth participants.

Interestingly, some youth participants would indicate a specific area as safe, while others identified it as unsafe. Moreover, indicated safe and unsafe areas differ between youth participants, sometime greatly. The proper representation of this information was very difficult to represent using textual representation. However, to summarize the identification of safe and unsafe areas M.A.P.S. used layer transparency in ArcGIS mapping tool. This allowed us to create heat maps of safe and unsafe areas. When two or more safe/unsafe areas overlap, the transparency is reduced creating the darker colour shade on the map. Darker green represents the areas which have been repeatedly indicated as safe by youth participants. In parallel, darker red indicates the higher frequency of unsafe area indications (references to heat maps).

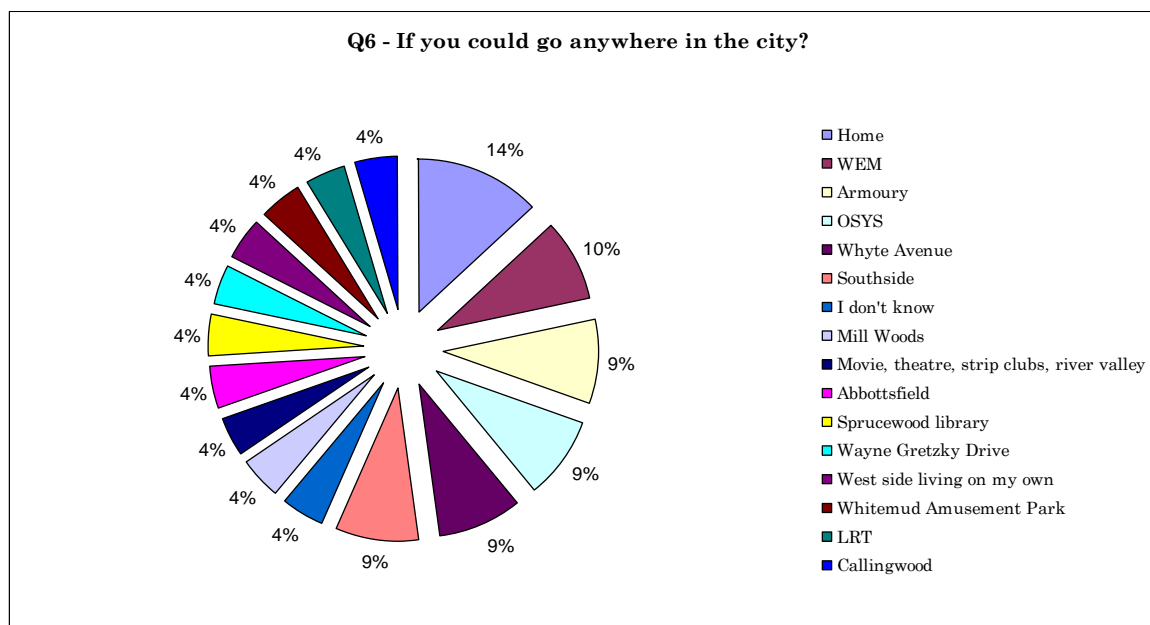
NOTE: As some areas contain visually manageable information, but some areas contain too much information to be clearly observed in this report, we have provided all maps used in this report as supplemental PDF map files. PDF maps can be scaled on the computer screen by users' preferences in order to observe any of the areas in more details.

FOR MAPS SEE FIGURES

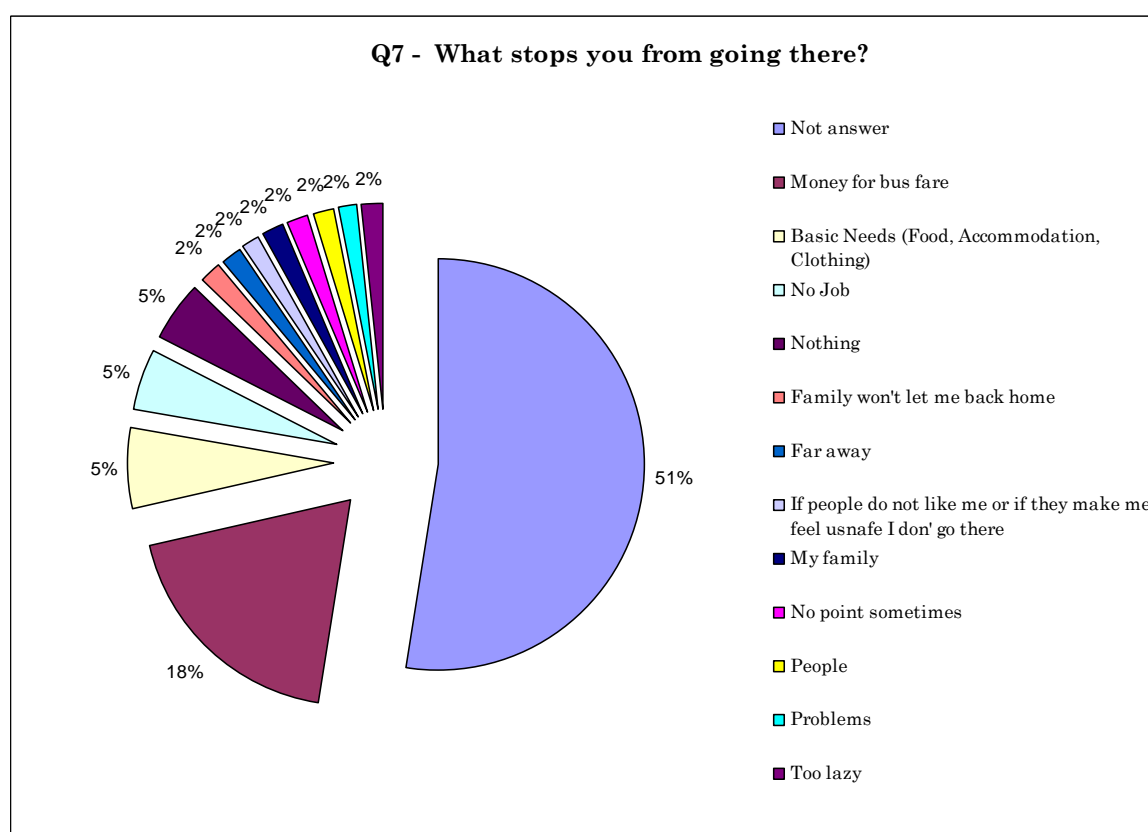
When asked question 6 "If you could go anywhere in the city where would you go?". most participants did not provide the answer to this question. There are 17 different answers provided, 3 of them being "Home", 2 being West Edmonton Mall, and 2 being Armoury. However, when asked question 7, what is stopping you from going there, the most common

answer was the lack of money for transportation. This commonality could indicate the possibility that participating youth would travel more around the study area city?, including their preferred destination, if the money for the public transportation was not an issue (references Tables for Questions 6 and 7). Consequently, if youth had money for transportation they could travel to more preferred and safer areas, allowing them to avoid places where they could be victims of crime or be persuaded to commit the crime.

Q6 - If you could go anywhere in the city, where would you go?	Count
Not answer	32
Home	3
WEM	2
Armoury	2
OSYS	2
Whyte Avenue	2
Southside	2
I don't know	1
Mill Woods	1
Movie, theatre, strip clubs, river valley	1
Abbottsfield	1
Sprucewood library	1
Wayne Gretzky Drive	1
West side living on my own	1
Whitemud Amusement Park	1
LRT	1
Callingwood	1



Q7 - What stops you from going there?	Count
Not answer	33
Money for bus fare	12
Basic Needs (Food, Accommodation, Clothing)	4
No Job	3
Nothing	3
Family won't let me back home	1
Far away	1
If people do not like me or if they make me feel unsafe I don' go there	1
My family	1
No point sometimes	1
People	1
Problems	1
Too lazy	1

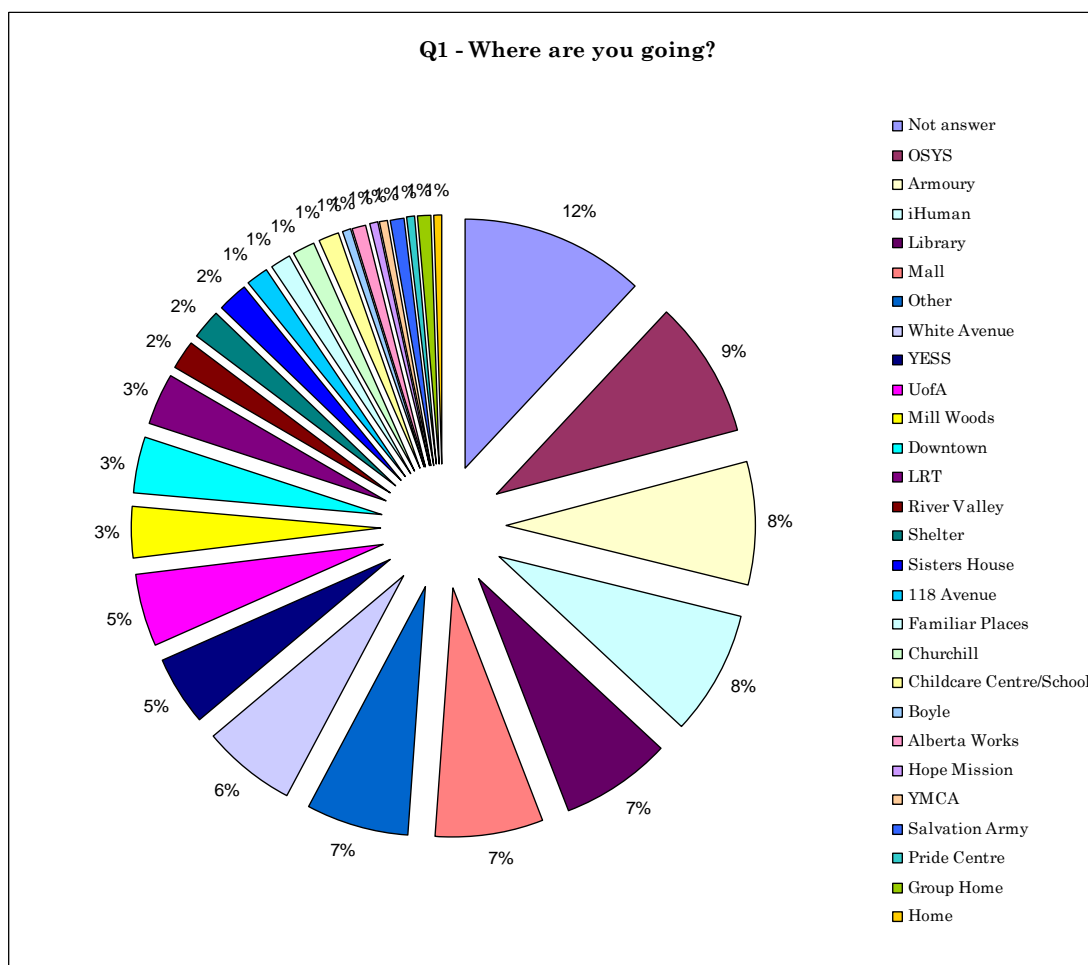


Question 1 – Where are you going?

When asked question 1 “Where are you going?”, most youth did not provide an answer. There are 38 different answers provided, however 10 of the general answers were grouped under “Other” category, which makes total of 28 different answers shown. Of those that did answer, the top answers were OSYS (13), Armory (12), iHuman (12), Library (11) and Mall (10). Most youth indicated public places such as Youth Social Agencies, Libraries, and Malls

as their destinations. One could take this to mean that they generally do not feel excluded from public places, which is contrary to the Gaetz study, which indicated public places as unwelcome for youth, consequently confounding them to more isolated places where they can be easily victimized.

Q1 - Where are you going: (Please draw on the map your daily route)	Count
Not answer	18
OSYS	13
Armoury	12
iHuman	12
Library	11
Mall	10
Other	10
White Ave	9
YESS	7
UofA	7
Mill woods	5
Downtown	5
LRT	5
River Valley	3
Shelter	3
Sisters House	3
118 Avenue	2
Familiar Places	2
Churchill	2
Childcare Centre/School	2
Boyle	1
Alberta Works	1
Hope Mission	1
YMCA	1
Salvation Army	1
Pride Centre	1
Group Home	1
Home	1



However, 5 youth indicated that they are going to unsafe places such as River Valley, Downtown, and 118 Avenue. In addition, most youth have not answered this question. These two points indicate that these answers should be taken with certain consideration.

When comparing these findings to the heat maps of safe places, they seem to correlate, as most youth have indicated that they feel safe at those public places.


















References

Gaetz, S. (2004). Safe streets for whom? Homeless youth, social exclusion, and criminal victimization. *Canadian Journal of Criminology & Criminal Justice*, 46(4), 423-455.

Kral, M. J., & Kidd, S. A. (2002). Suicide and prostitution among street youth: A qualitative analysis. *Adolescence*, 37(146), 411-430.

ALL participants who identified DAILY ROUTE in Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods

Legend

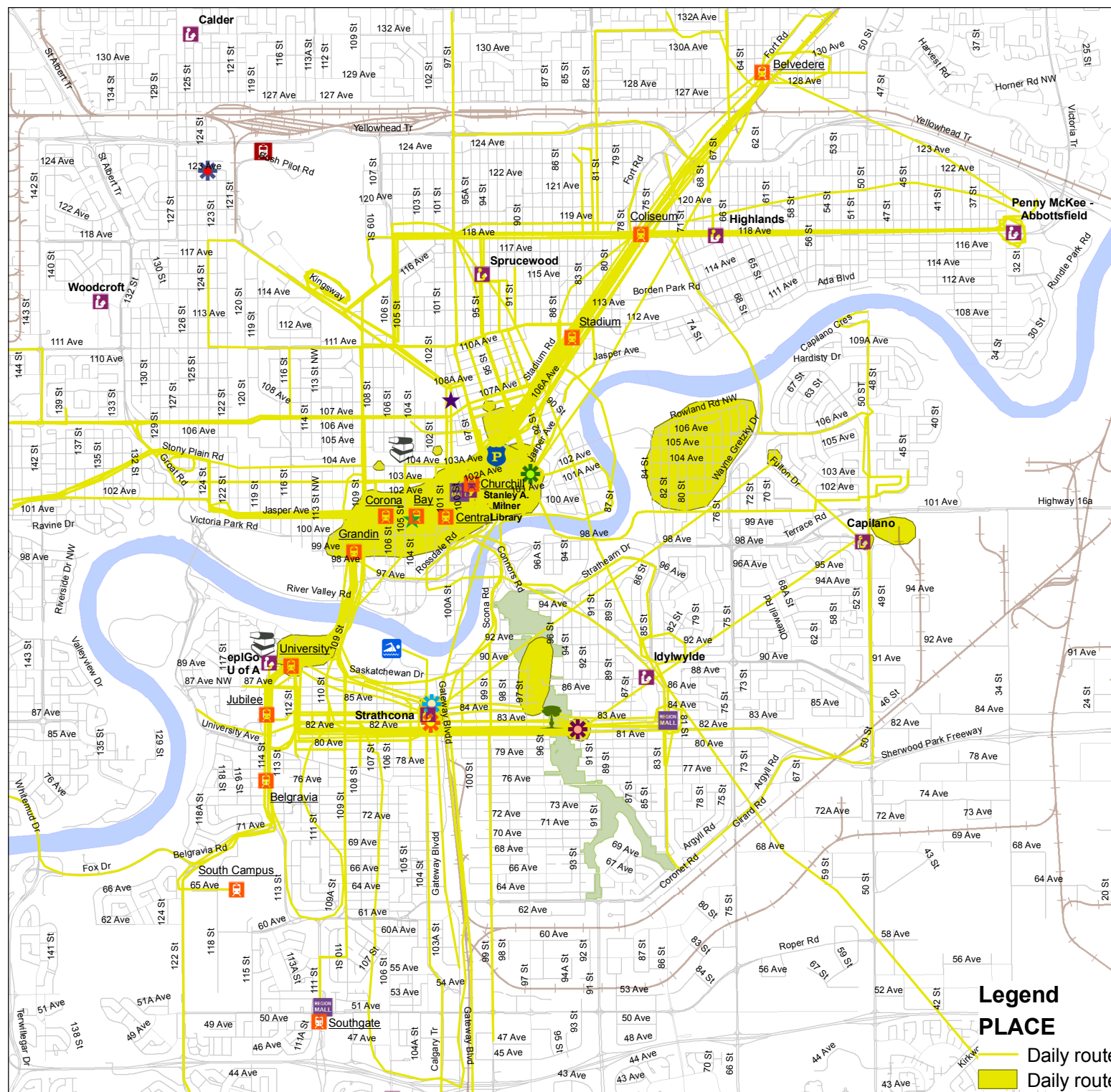
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-  U of A
-  Kinsmen
-  Mall
-  Police Station
-  Millcreek Ravine
-  Train Station
-  Library
-  Railway
-  Mill Creek Ravine Park

Legend PLACE

-  Daily route
-  Daily route




















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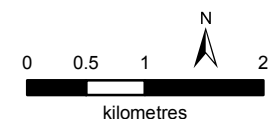
MALE participants who identified DAILY ROUTE in Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods

Legend

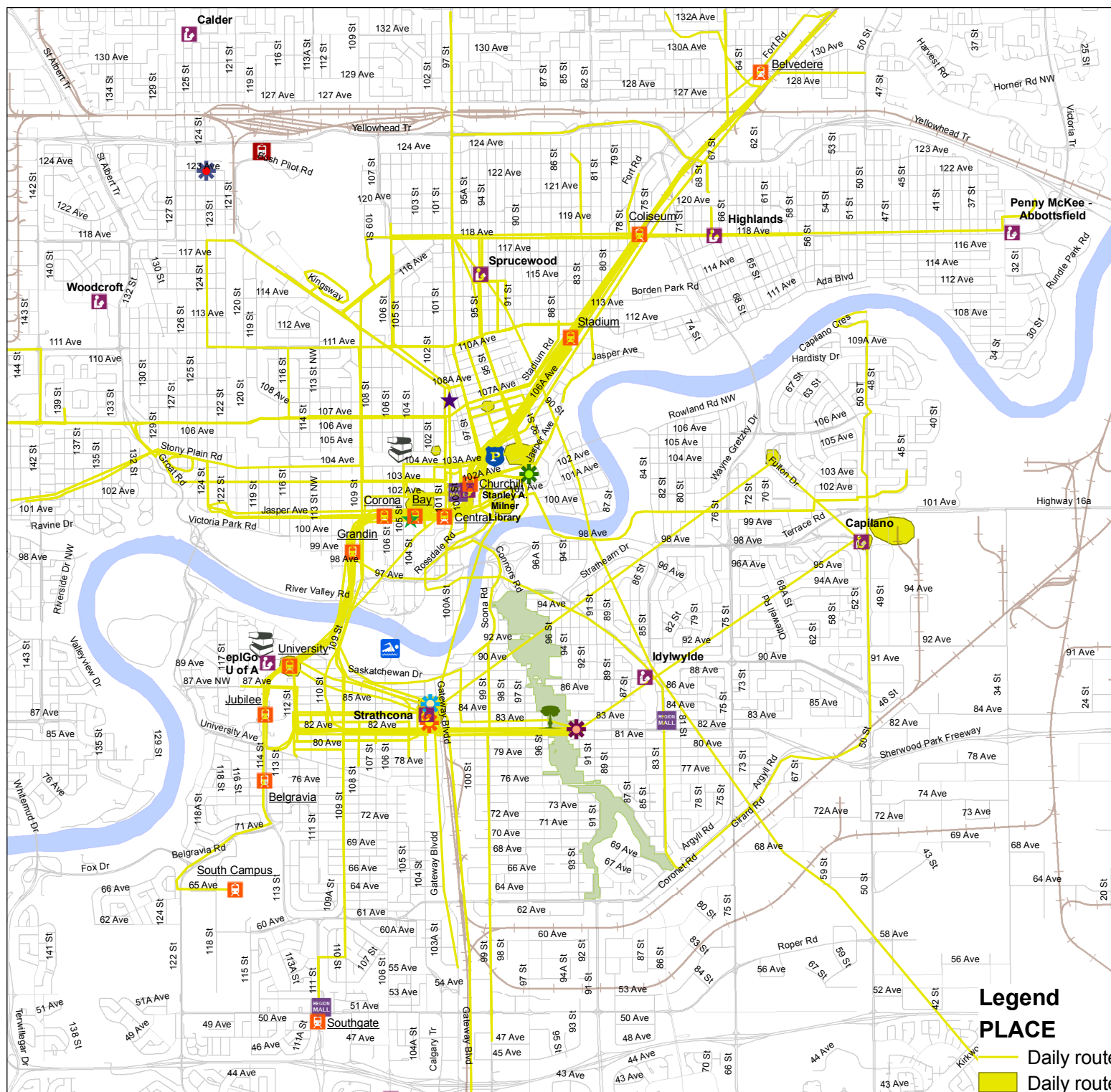
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Legend PLACE

-  Daily route
-  Daily route




















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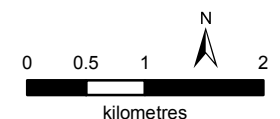
FEMALE participants who identified DAILY ROUTE in Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods

Legend

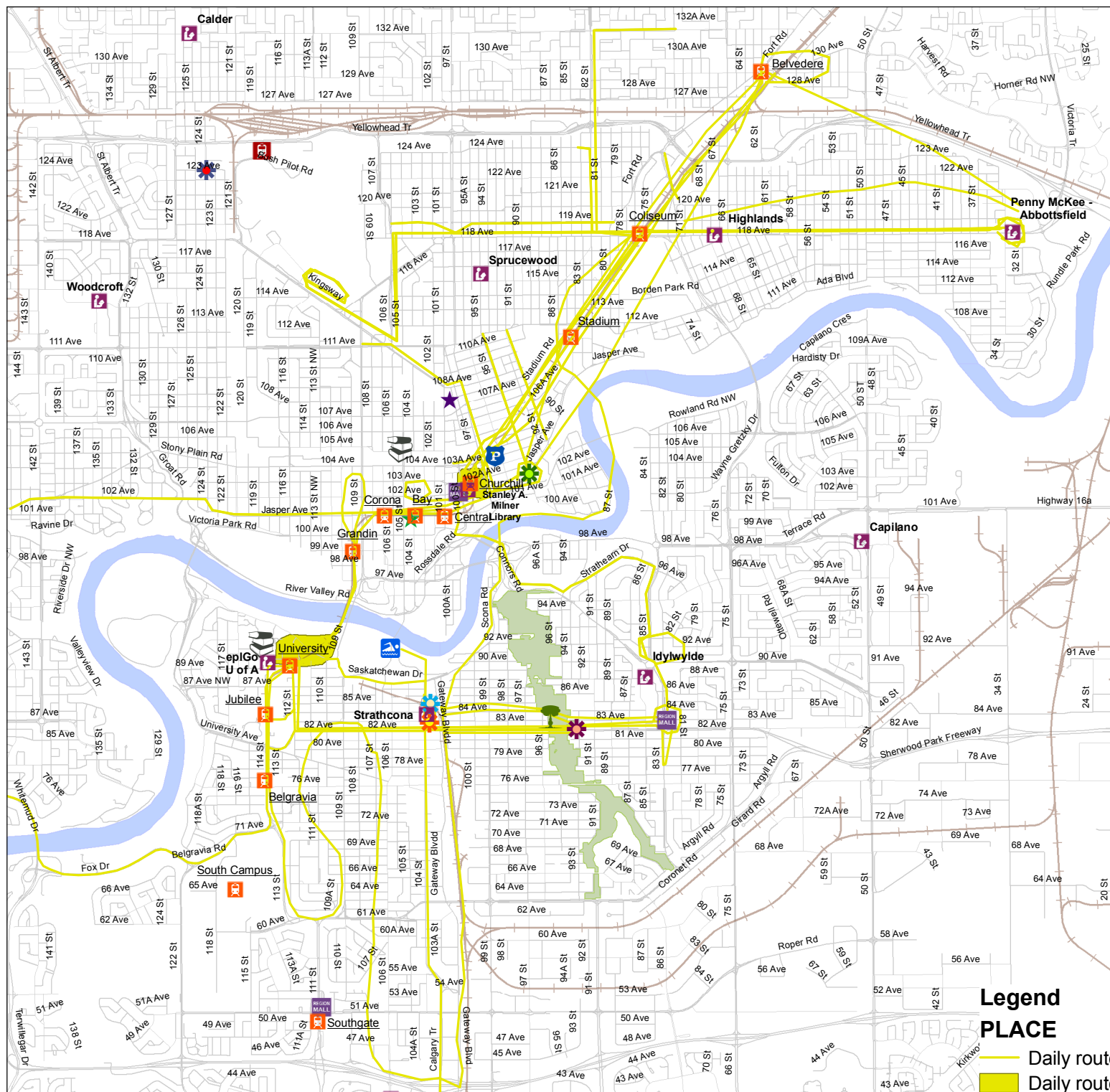
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Legend PLACE

-  Daily route
-  Daily route




















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ALL participants who identified SAFE places in Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods

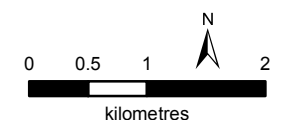
Legend

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-  iHuman
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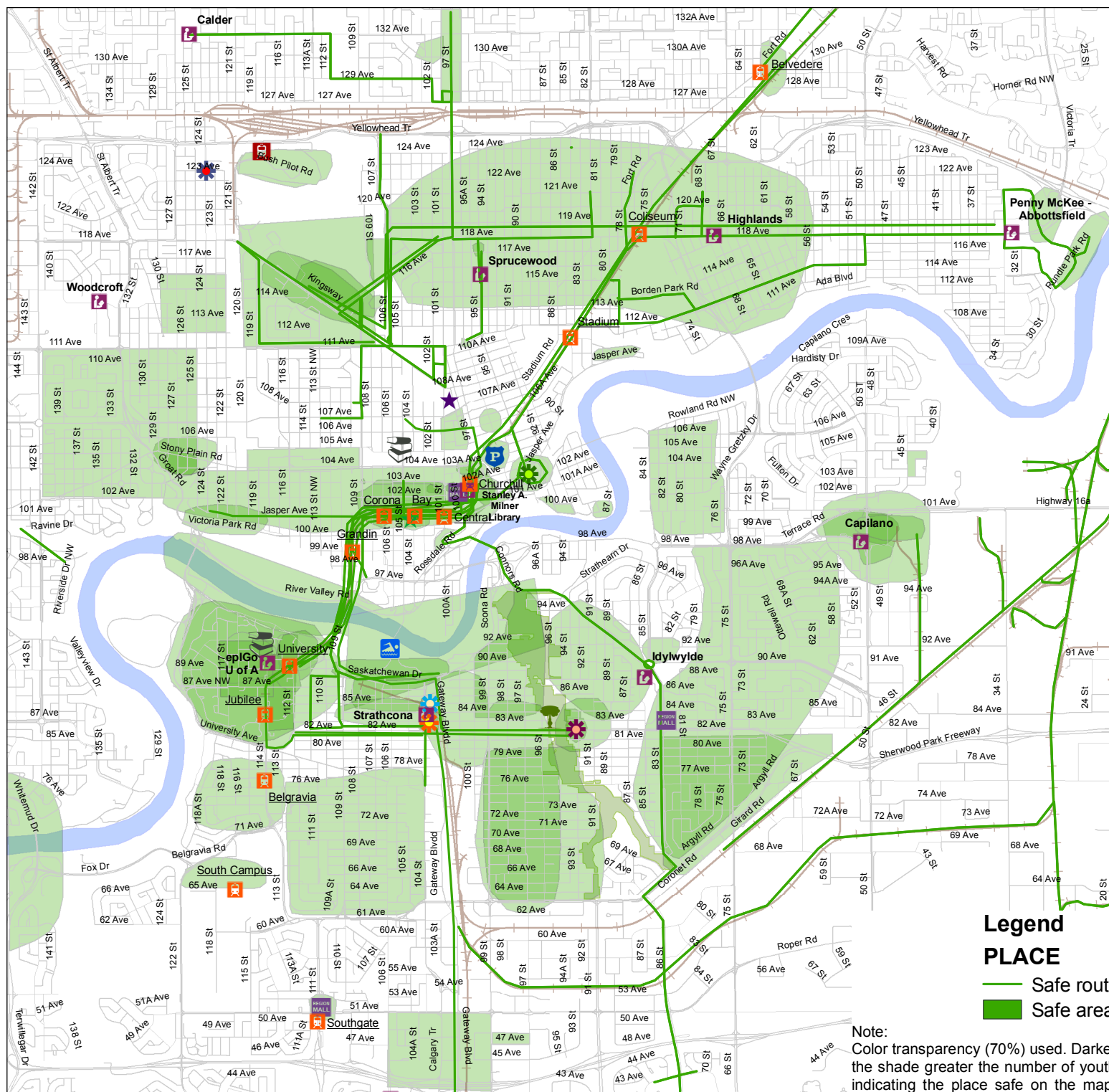
Legend PLACE

-  Safe route
-  Safe area

Note:
Color transparency (70%) used. Darker
the shade greater the number of youth
indicating the place safe on the map.




















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MALE participants who identified SAFE places in Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods

Legend

-  Armoury Youth Centre
-  iHuman
-  OS Youth Society
-  Youth Emergency Shelter
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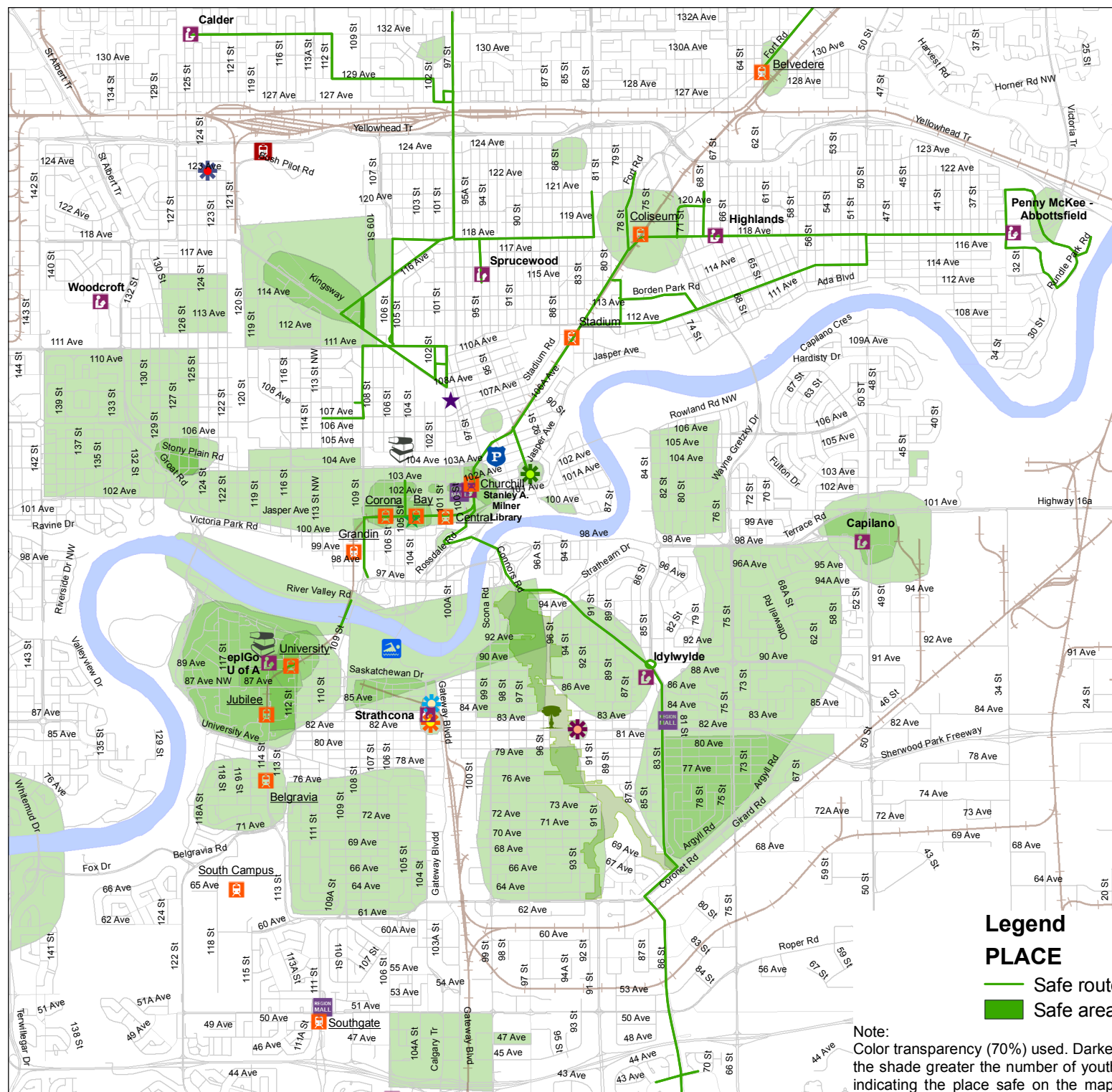
Legend PLACE

-  Safe route
-  Safe area

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FEMALE participants who identified SAFE places in Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods

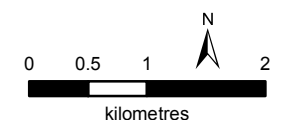
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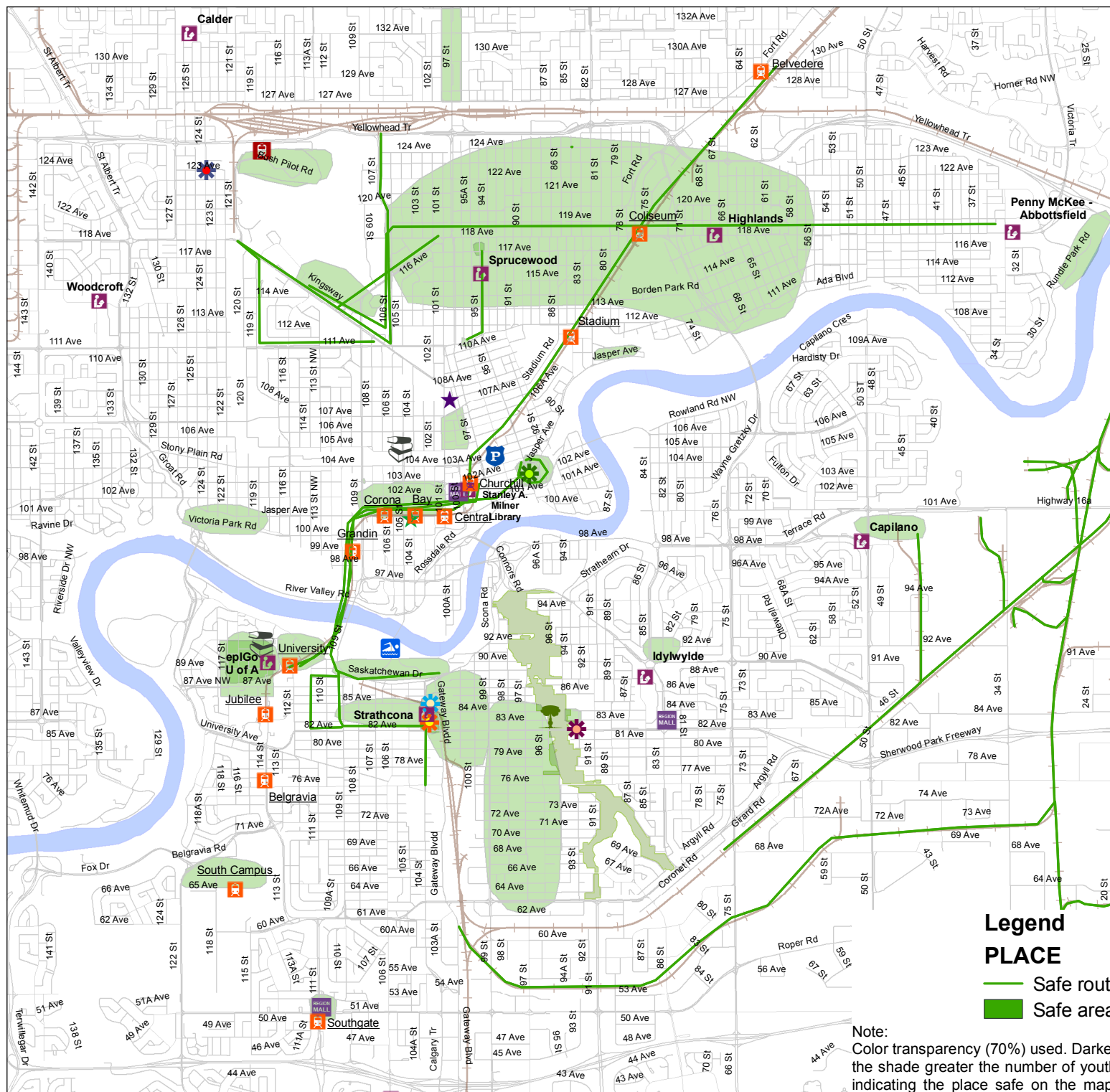
Legend PLACE

-  Safe route
-  Safe area

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ALL participants who identified UNSAFE places in Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods

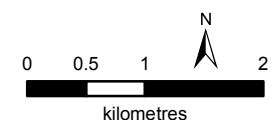
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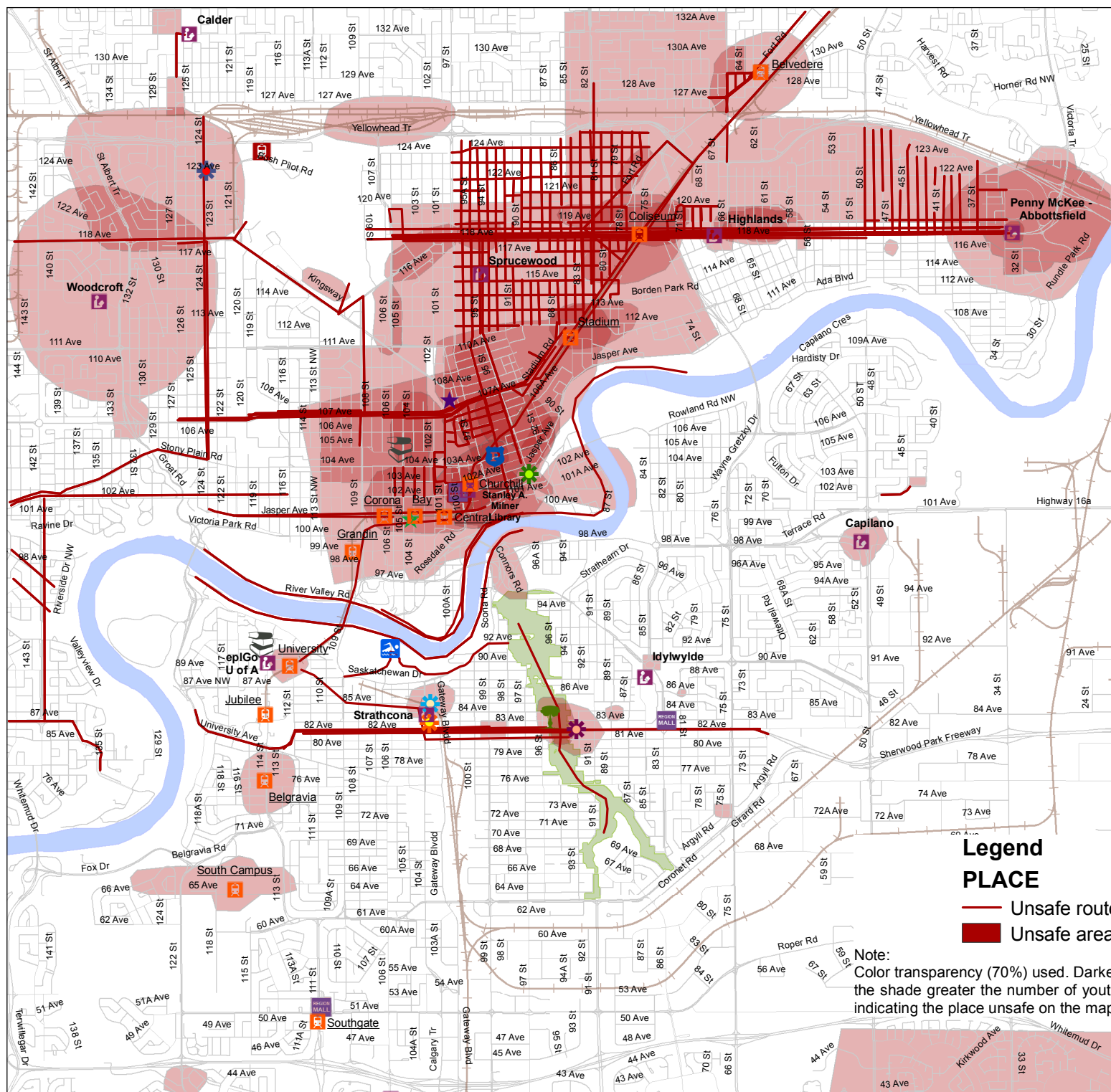
Legend PLACE

-  Unsafe route
-  Unsafe area

Note:
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MALE participants who identified UNSAFE places in Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods

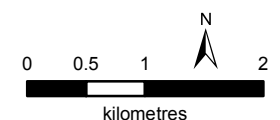
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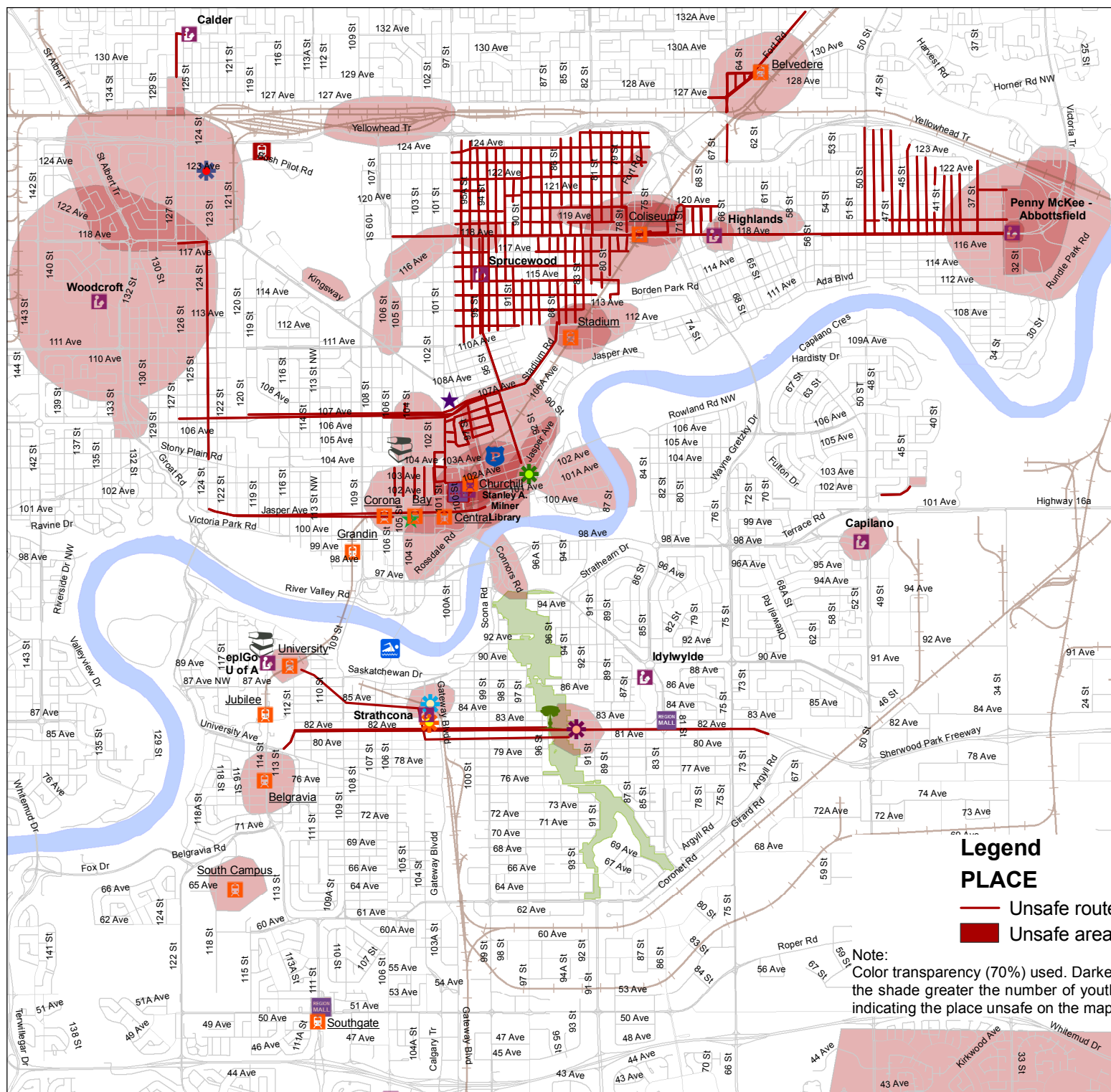
Legend PLACE

-  Unsafe route
-  Unsafe area

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FEMALE participants who identified UNSAFE places in Downtown and Old Strathcona Neighbourhoods

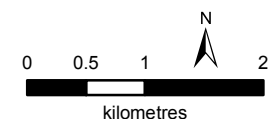
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Legend PLACE

-  Unsafe route
-  Unsafe area

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