



Requiem for Wilderness in Dhaka

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Introduction

- The capital of Bangladesh, Dhaka is a megacity with one of the highest population density in the world.
- Since the independence in 1971, it has become the sole administrative, economic and political center and the phenomena of influx of people increased significantly. Moreover, decades of growing economy accelerated the unplanned rapid urbanization.

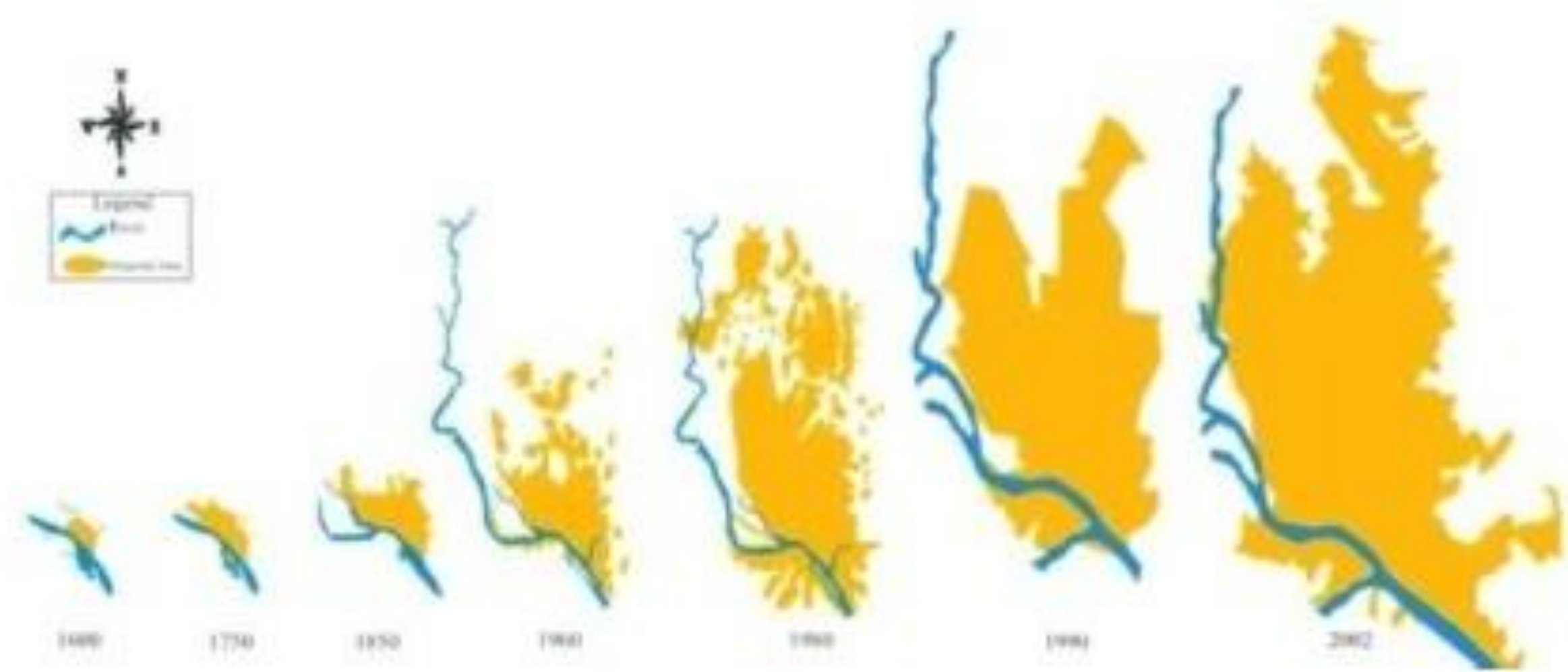


From Google Map



Introduction

- Historical documents and records prove presence of marsh or shallow land and natural groves.
- There were also traces of wilderness and wildlife, canals for accessibility and drainage.
- On top these, Mughals passion for garden gifted Dhaka with few beautiful ones.

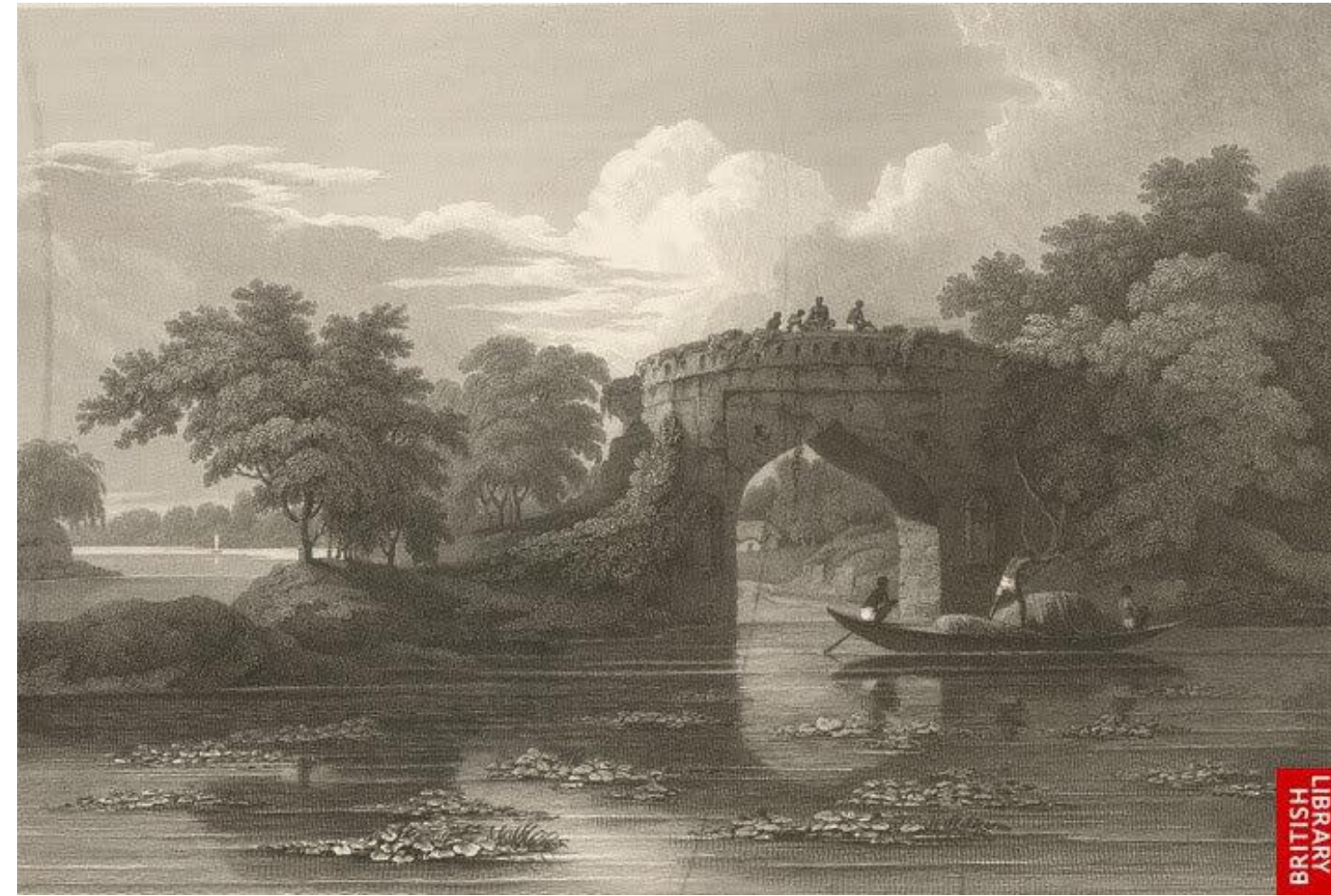


Source: L RAJUK





Introduction



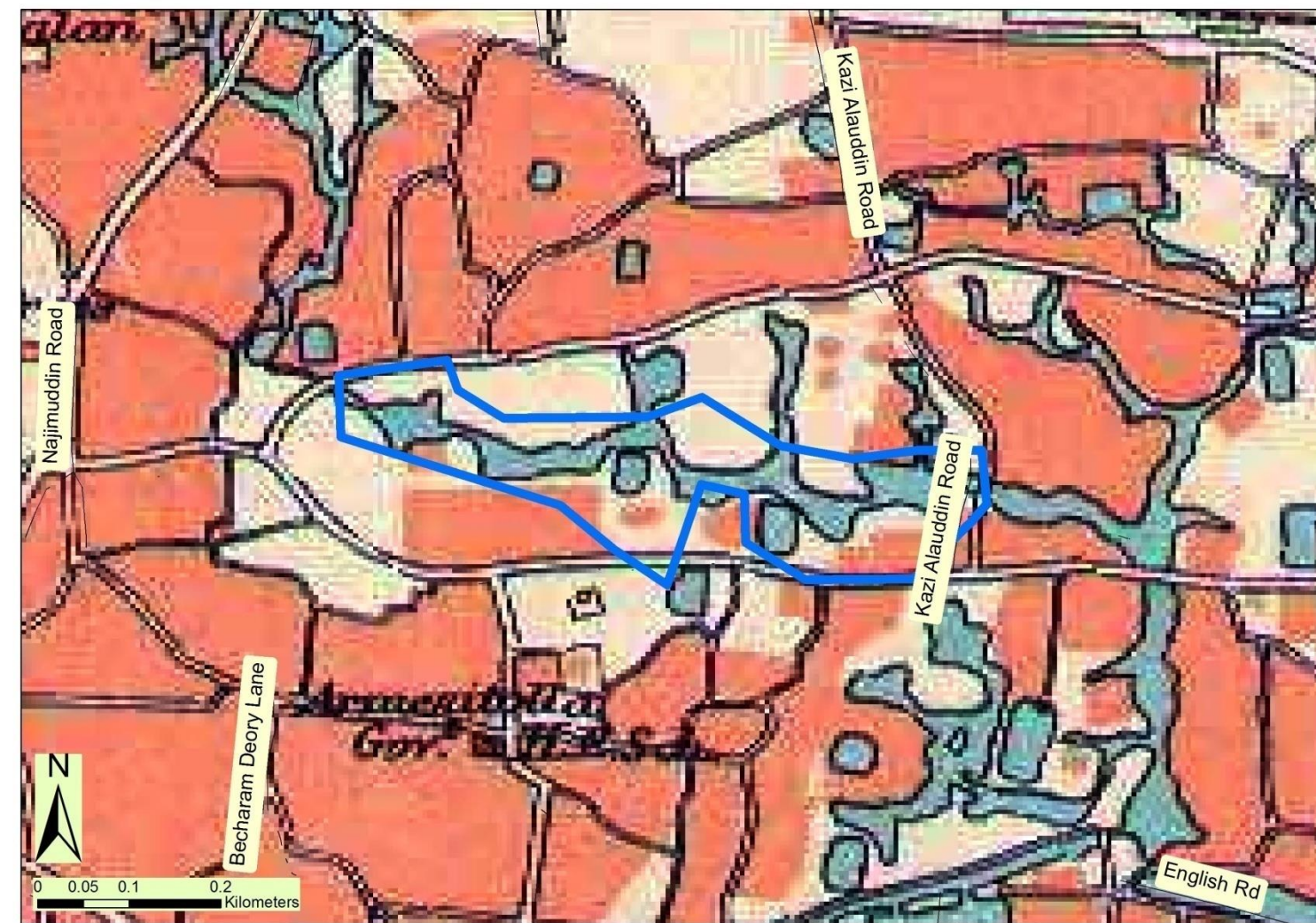
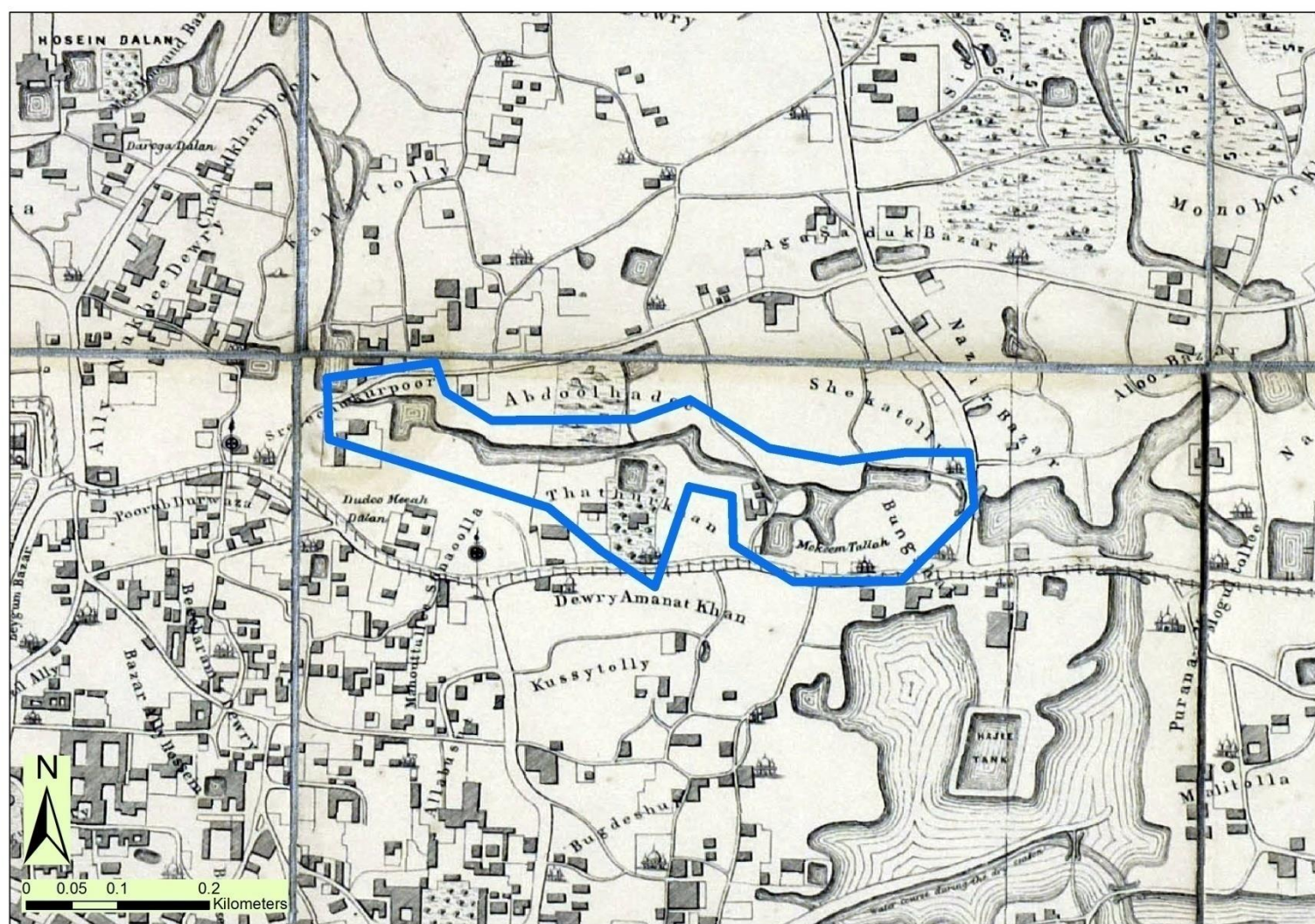
Source: British Library



Introduction

- Started losing its greeneries, water bodies and open spaces. As a consequence, myriads of problems like waterlogging, air, water and noise pollution, congestion etc. emerged.
- Though, there have been projects on improving the situation, they never deemed successful or sustainable.

Transformation of Miran Jallah from 1859 to 2018



Location

- The chosen location is comprised of mainly two areas named Wari and Narinda; between them Narinda is older. There used to be lots of marsh land and forests around this block about 200 years ago. With the expansion of the city from the Mughal period (starting from 1610 AD), Narinda became important.



Location

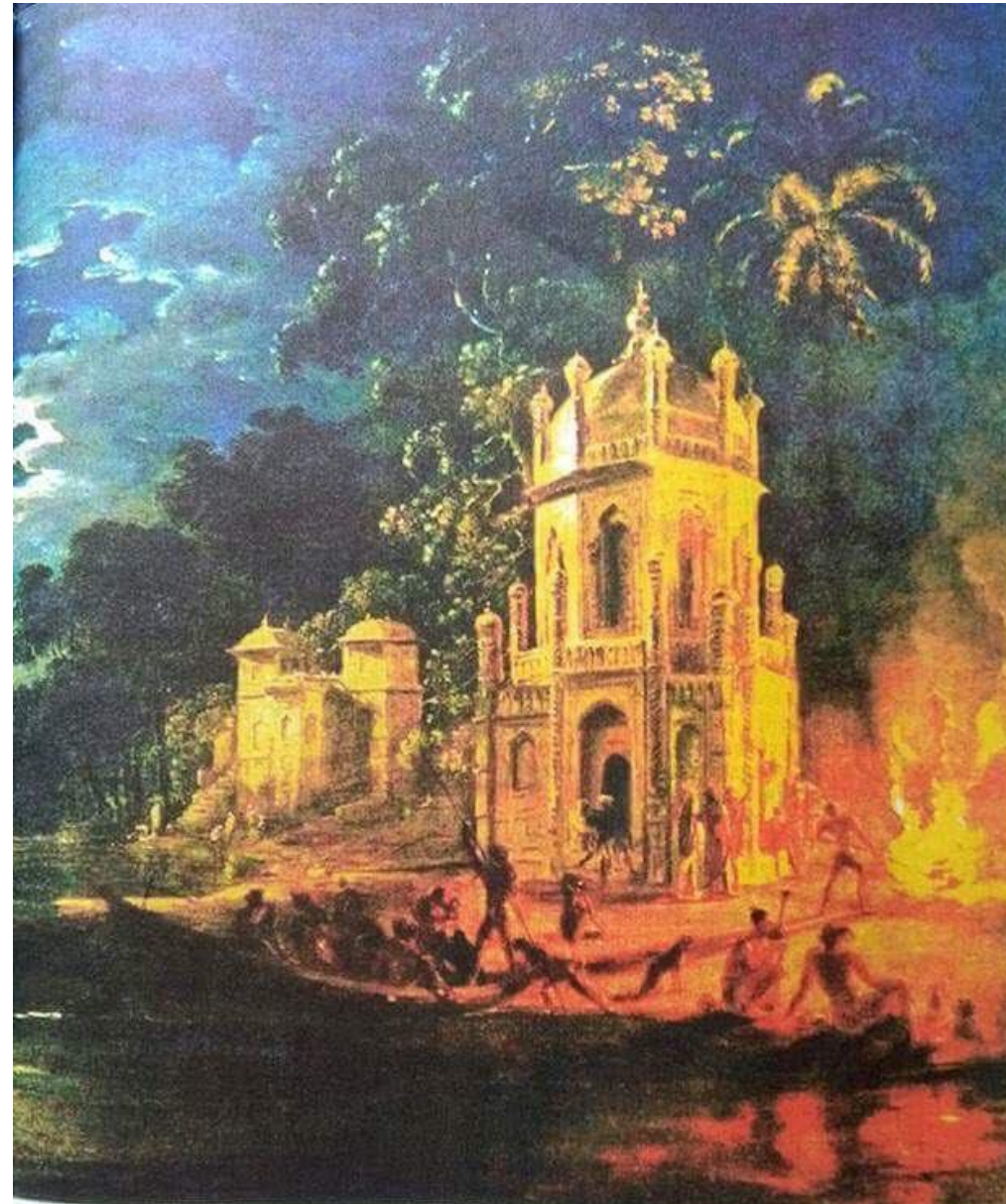
- But while the shift of power to the English happened, Dhaka started to shrink due to both political and economical turmoil. This part of the city lost most of its inhabitants and became a place for cemeteries, burial ground and wilderness.
- It is currently one of the most densely populated part of the city (actually in the world, with more than 50,000 people per sq. km area) and full of life. It has residential, commercial, small industrial blocks among its land-use.



0 250 500 1,000 Meters



Past & Present



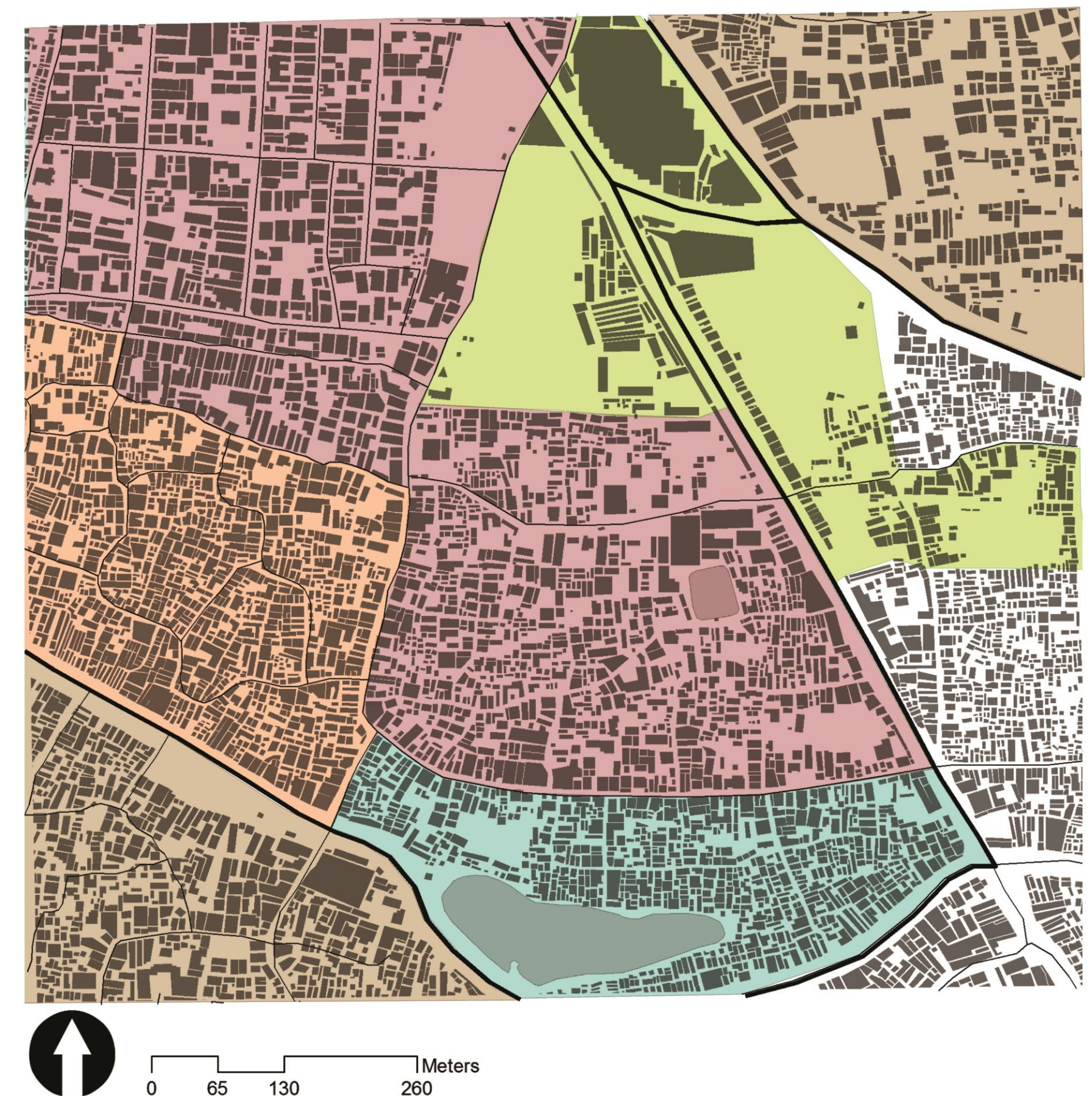
Narinda Cemetery in 1787 and in 2016

Loharpool at
Sutrapur in 1830s
and in 2016



Objective

- It nearly represents all of the land usage typology of the city as a whole. 5 typologies of land usage pattern which is also common around the city have been defined.
- They are: (1) High density High-rise urban housing, (2) Urban green open space, (3) High density low-rise housing, (4) Water body condition, and (5) Mixed typology.
- By solving few of the problems of this area as a case study, an example can be proven to the city that urban forest can still be possible anywhere, even in such a precarious situation.





Housing And Landscape

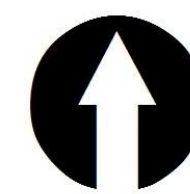
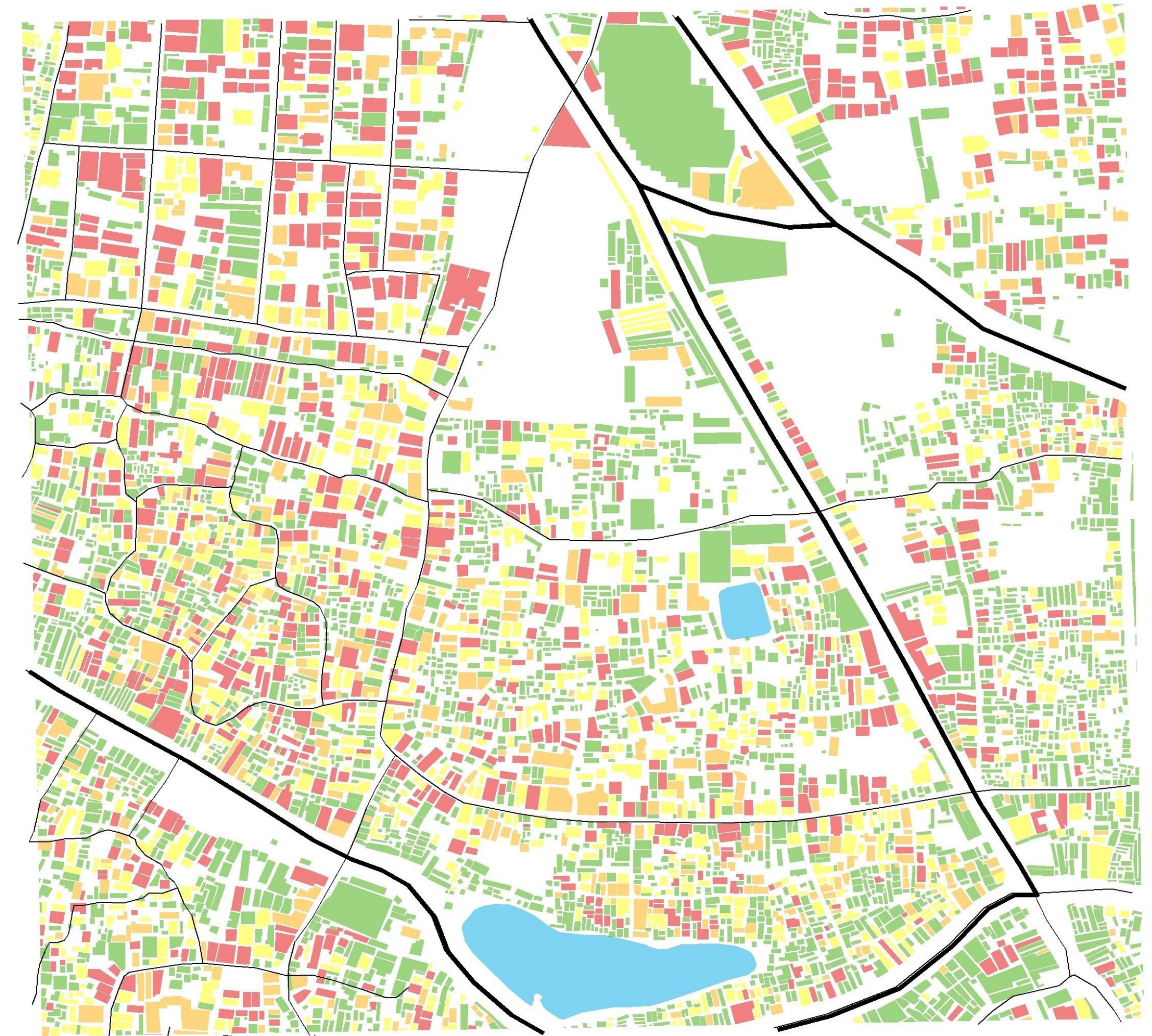
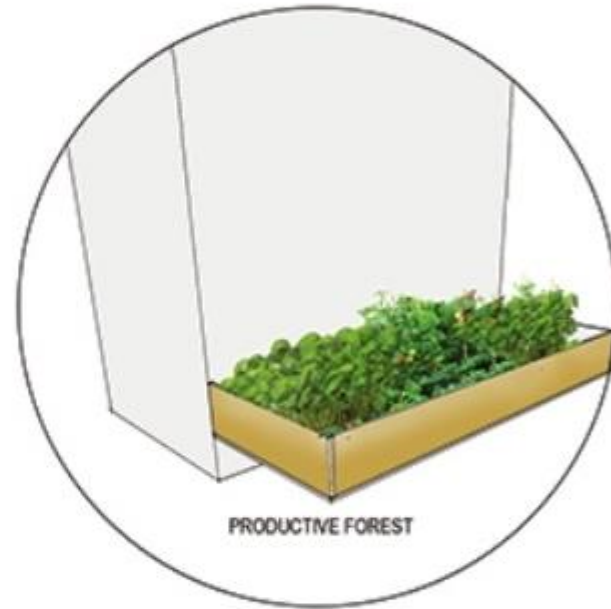
VERTICAL FOREST



DIFFERENT BUILDING ACTIVITIES



PRODUCTIVE FOREST



0 65 130 260 Meters

Legend

Structure Stories: more than 3 (red), 3 (orange), 2 (yellow), 1 (green)



**World Forum on
Urban Forests**
Mantova 2018

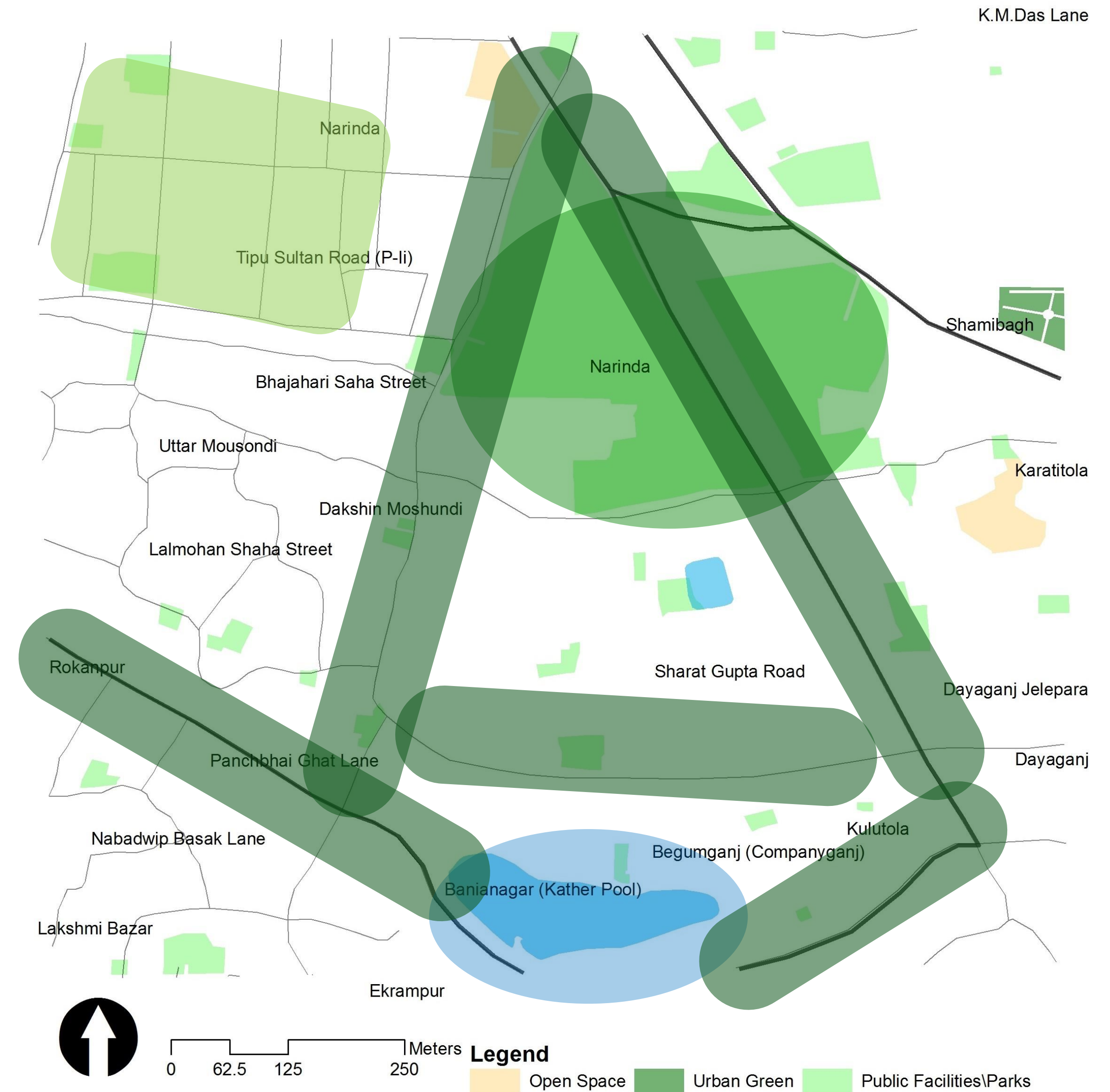
Housing And Landscape





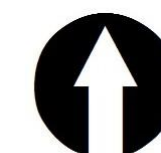
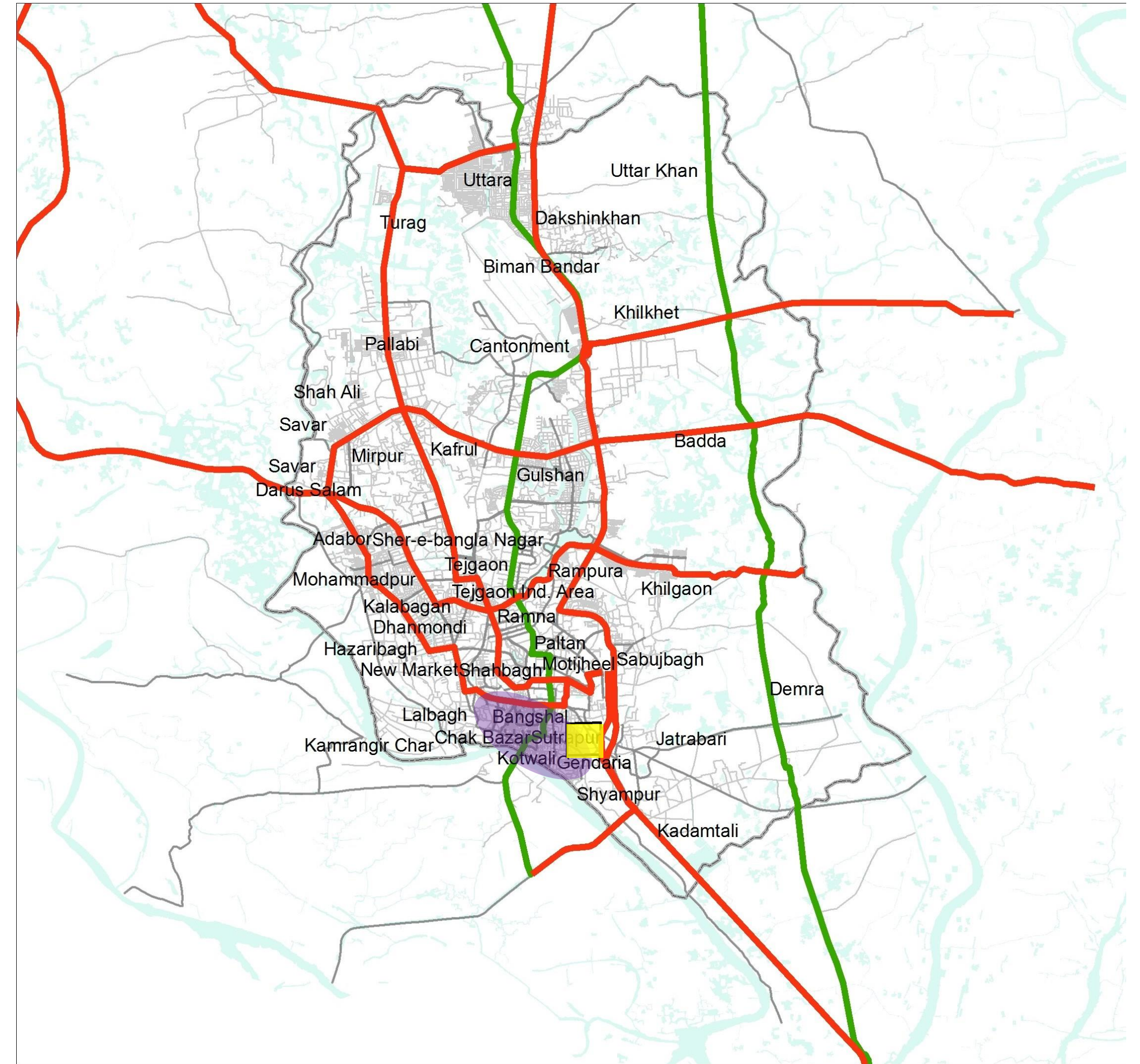
Housing And Landscape

- The urban green will be achieved by not only designing and retrofitting the buildings but also the roads, streets and corridors.
- The transportation network infrastructure will work as a linear park along with vegetations in the buildings.



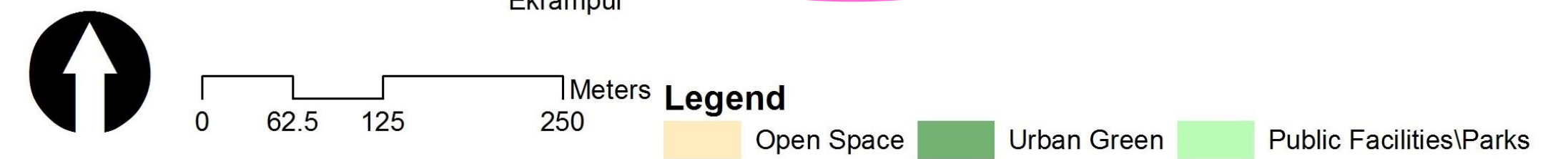
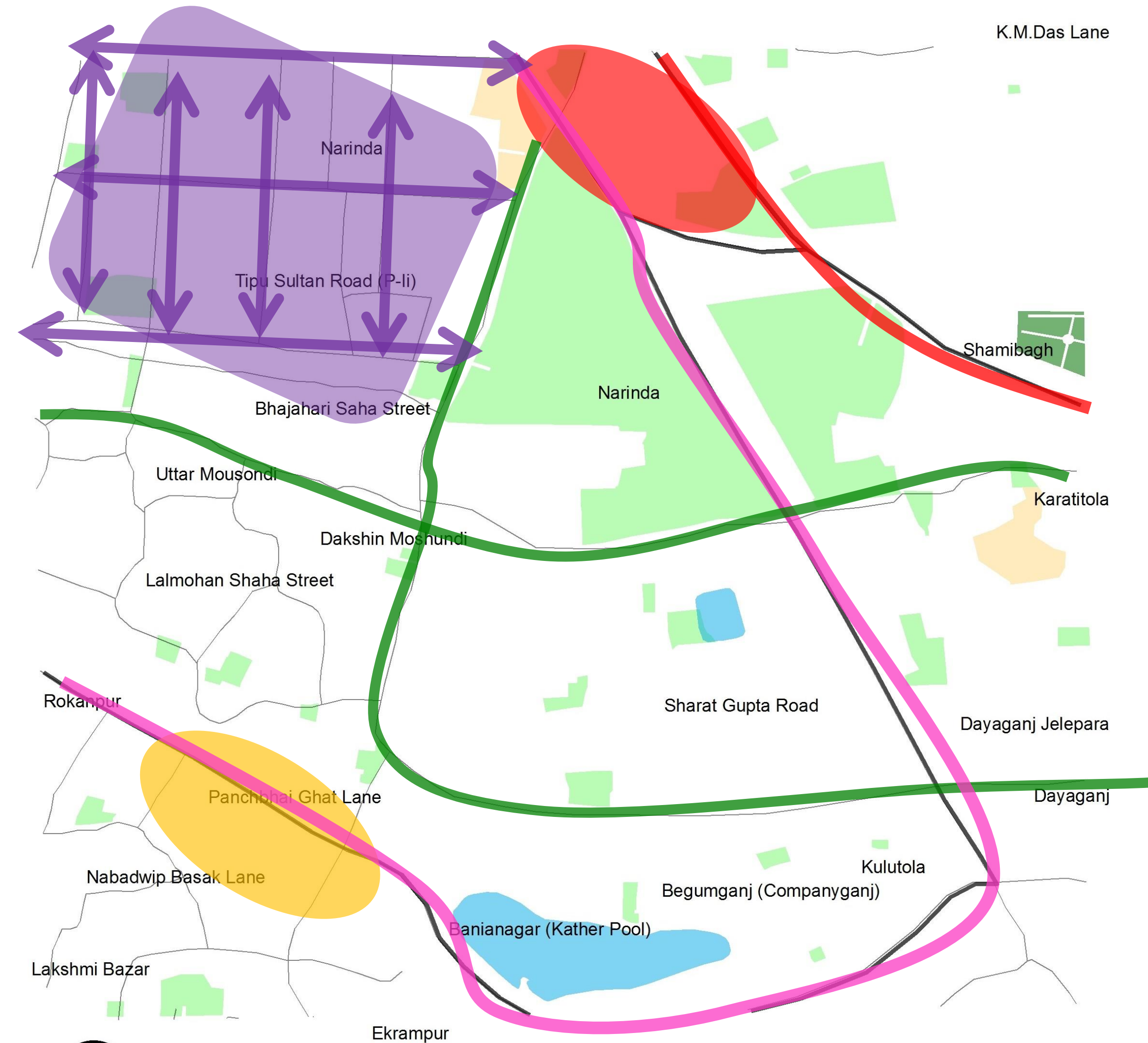
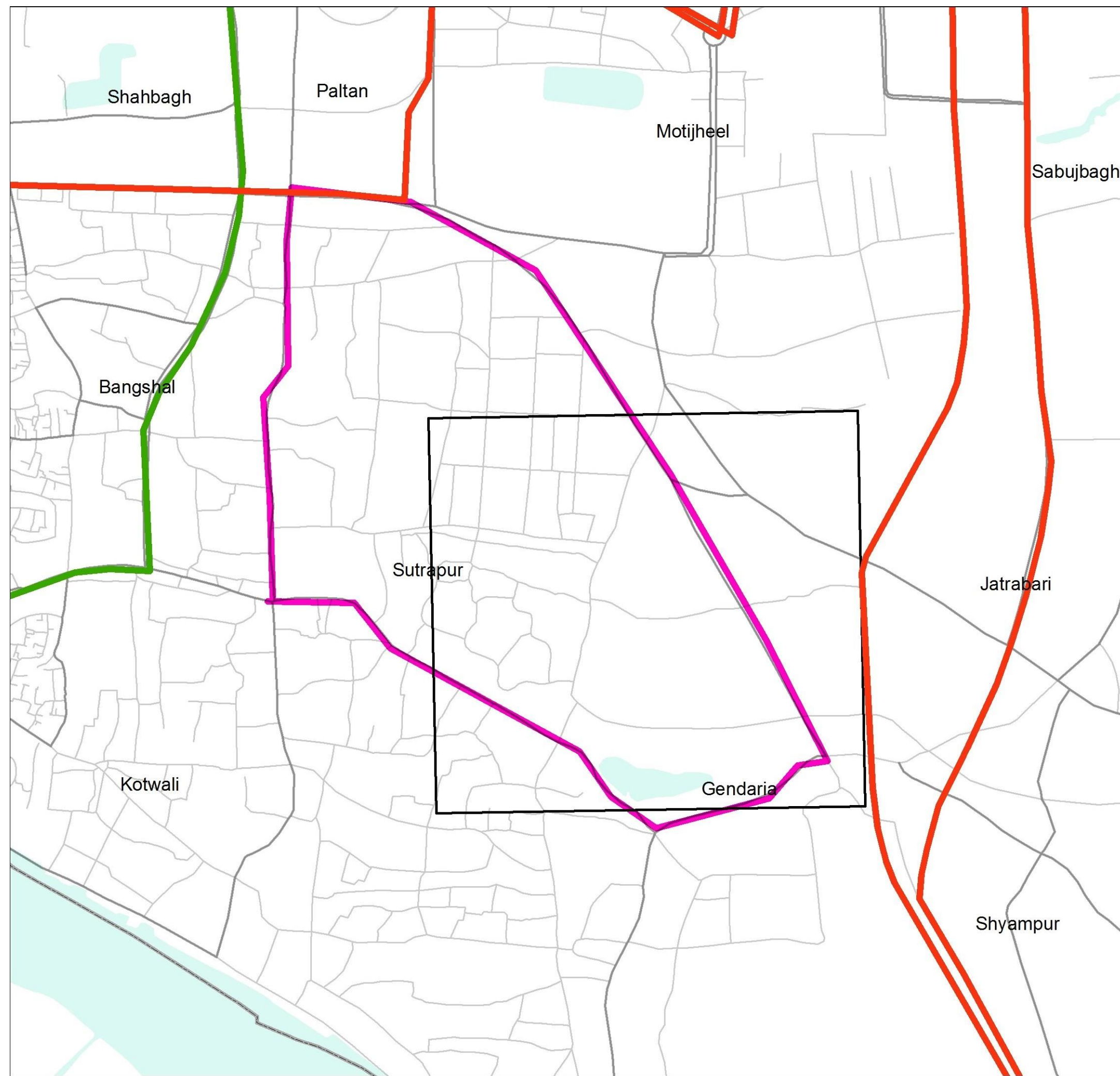
Transportation Network

- From the mobility perspective, government has proposed an extensive plan for transportation emphasizing on public transport by introducing metro rail and bus rapid transit.
- But this portion of the city will not be covered by those facilities mainly because of narrow roads and extremely high demand for land.





Transportation Network





Conclusion

- The selected area can be termed as a transitional area in between old and new part of the Dhaka city.
- The transformation of this area will create new connections with the relatively newer part of the city; coupled with an increase in accessibility and livability.
- The urban design proposal and interventions suggested here can definitely be replicated around other parts of the city. For example, areas with large marsh lands, and water bodies (like northern side of Mirpur) could use this as a suggestion.

