

WHITE BEAR AVENUE RESURFACING SUMMARY OF ENGINEERING RECOMMENDATIONS

Report prepared: 5/1/2019

Open House: 3/28/2019

Public Hearing: 5/15/2019

PROJECT

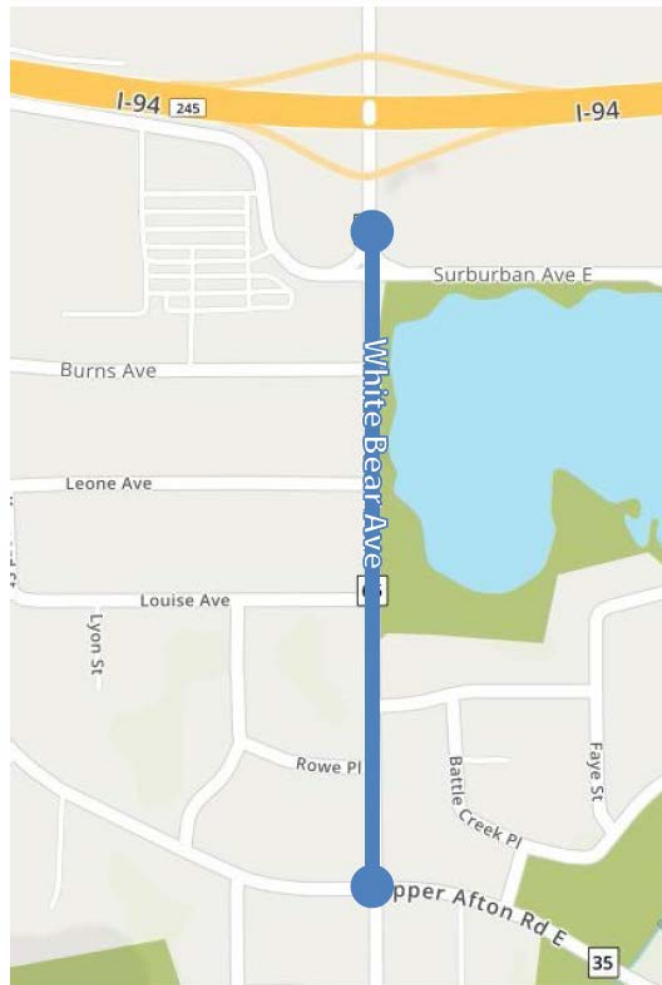
Ramsey County is resurfacing White Bear Avenue between Upper Afton Road and Suburban Avenue in 2019. The project will improve the pavement condition, upgrade curb ramps to meet guidelines for ADA accessibility, and add bike lanes. Removal of on-street parking is proposed along the east side of White Bear Avenue from Upper Afton Road to Suburban Avenue.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to improve pavement condition, enhance pedestrian safety, and provide a north-south bicycling facility on White Bear Avenue that connects to existing and planned bikeways. The Saint Paul Bicycle Plan recommends “in-street separated (bicycle) lanes” for this corridor.

White Bear Avenue is a Ramsey County b-minor arterial carrying approximately 4,000-5,000 vehicles per day. The speed limit on White Bear Avenue is 30 mph, and speed data is unavailable for the corridor. There is one travel lane in each direction, and parking on both sides of the street.

There are existing and planned bicycle lanes adjacent to the project area. Bicycle lanes were installed on Upper Afton Road in 2016. Additional planned bike routes in the area include bike lanes on Burns Avenue and Suburban Avenue. Future projects will extend the bike lanes on White Bear Avenue further north across I-94.



I. INITIATING ACTION

Ramsey County is planning a mill and overlay of White Bear Avenue between Upper Afton Road and Suburban Avenue in summer 2019. To improve road safety for all users, Ramsey County is proposing to narrow the existing travel lanes to reduce automobile speeds and add bicycle lanes. Bicycle lanes provide designated space for bicyclists and improves safety for people driving and biking. These facilities are consistent with the goals in the Saint Paul Bicycle Plan and the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

II. PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

White Bear Avenue will be resurfaced, addressing pavement quality issues and providing a smooth surface for people driving and biking. To accommodate the installation of bicycling facilities, on-street parking removal is proposed on the east side of White Bear Avenue between Upper Afton Road and Suburban Avenue.

To understand how parking is used today, Public Works staff conducted 13 parking occupancy counts along White Bear Avenue between November 2018 and February 2019, including evenings, early mornings, mid-day, and weekend counts. There are approximately 100 parking spaces on White Bear Avenue between Burns Avenue and Suburban Avenue, 46 spaces on the west side of White Bear Avenue, and 54 spaces on the east side of White Bear Avenue. On average, staff observed that the on-street parking on both sides of White Bear Avenue ranged between 2% and 10% of maximum capacity. On average, the parking counts observed more vehicles parking on the west side of White Bear Avenue than on the east side, and higher average occupancy on the west side than the east side of White Bear Avenue. Based on this data, staff recommends removing parking from the east side of White Bear Avenue, and believes that parking supply on the west side of White Bear Avenue is sufficient to accommodate existing parking needs. The parking occupancy data is summarized in **Table 1** and attached in the **Appendix** of this document.

Table 1. On-Street Parking Occupancy Data

	West Side		East Side		Both Sides	
Number of Spaces	46		54		100	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Minimum Observed	1	2%	0	0%	2	2%
Maximum Observed	9	20%	3	6%	10	10%
Average	4.8	10%	1.5	3%	6.3	6%

III. ALTERNATIVES

Repaving the street without bicycle facilities would not improve bicyclist safety, or help to control speeds along the corridor. Not pursuing bicycle facilities with the 2019 project would not improve safety or comfort for people bicycling on White Bear Avenue, and would fail to connect to existing bicycle facilities on Upper Afton Road installed in 2016.

IV. POSITIVE BENEFITS

This project will improve the safety of all users of the roadway. Providing dedicated bike lanes improves safety and comfort for people bicycling, encourages predictable riding behavior, and connects to existing bike lanes on Upper Afton Road. Narrowing the travel lanes to accommodate bicycle facilities will minimize pedestrians' exposure to motorized traffic. ADA-compliant pedestrian ramps will improve safety for pedestrians at intersections, and all users will benefit from improved pavement quality following the street resurfacing.

V. ADVERSE EFFECTS

Routine impacts such as noise, dust, and general disruptions to vehicular traffic can be anticipated during project construction. Removal of some on-street parking will reduce overall parking capacity along the corridor and make on-street parking less convenient for properties on the east side of White Bear Avenue.

VI. TIME SCHEDULE

It is anticipated that the mill and overlay and all improvements will be installed in summer 2019.

VII. COST ESTIMATE

Ramsey County is financing 100% of project construction costs.

VIII. ESTIMATED FINANCING

Ramsey County is financing 100% of project construction costs.

IX. PROPOSED ASSESSMENT RATES

No assessments are proposed as part of this project.

X. SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact:

Reuben Collins, Transportation Planning and Safety Division
Email: reuben.collins@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Phone: 651-266-6059

XI. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department of Public Works believes the project submitted herein to be necessary and feasible. The Department's Engineering Recommendation is for approval of the project as proposed.

Appendix

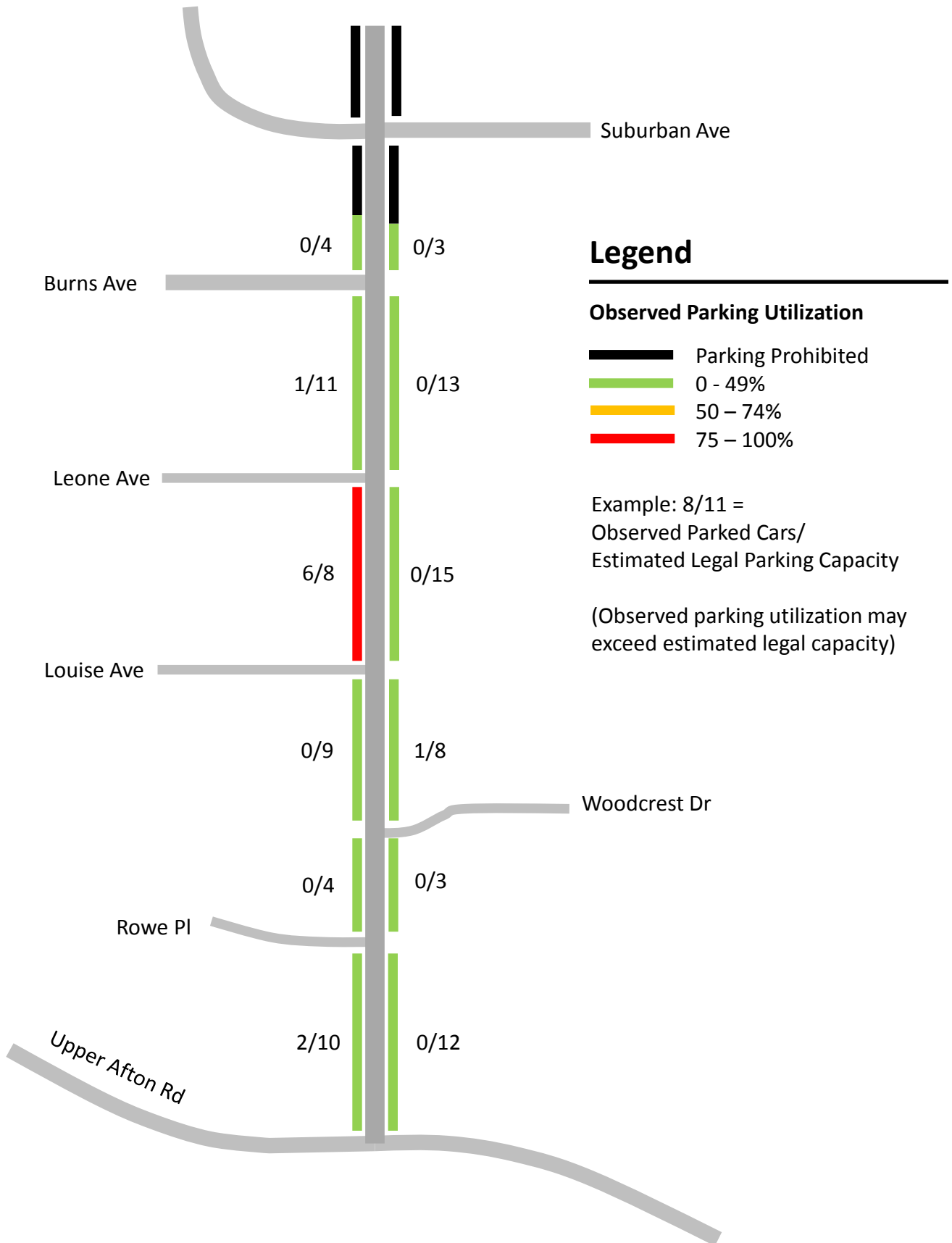
Attached:

1. White Bear Avenue Parking Occupancy Study

White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekday Early Morning (4:00-6:00 AM)

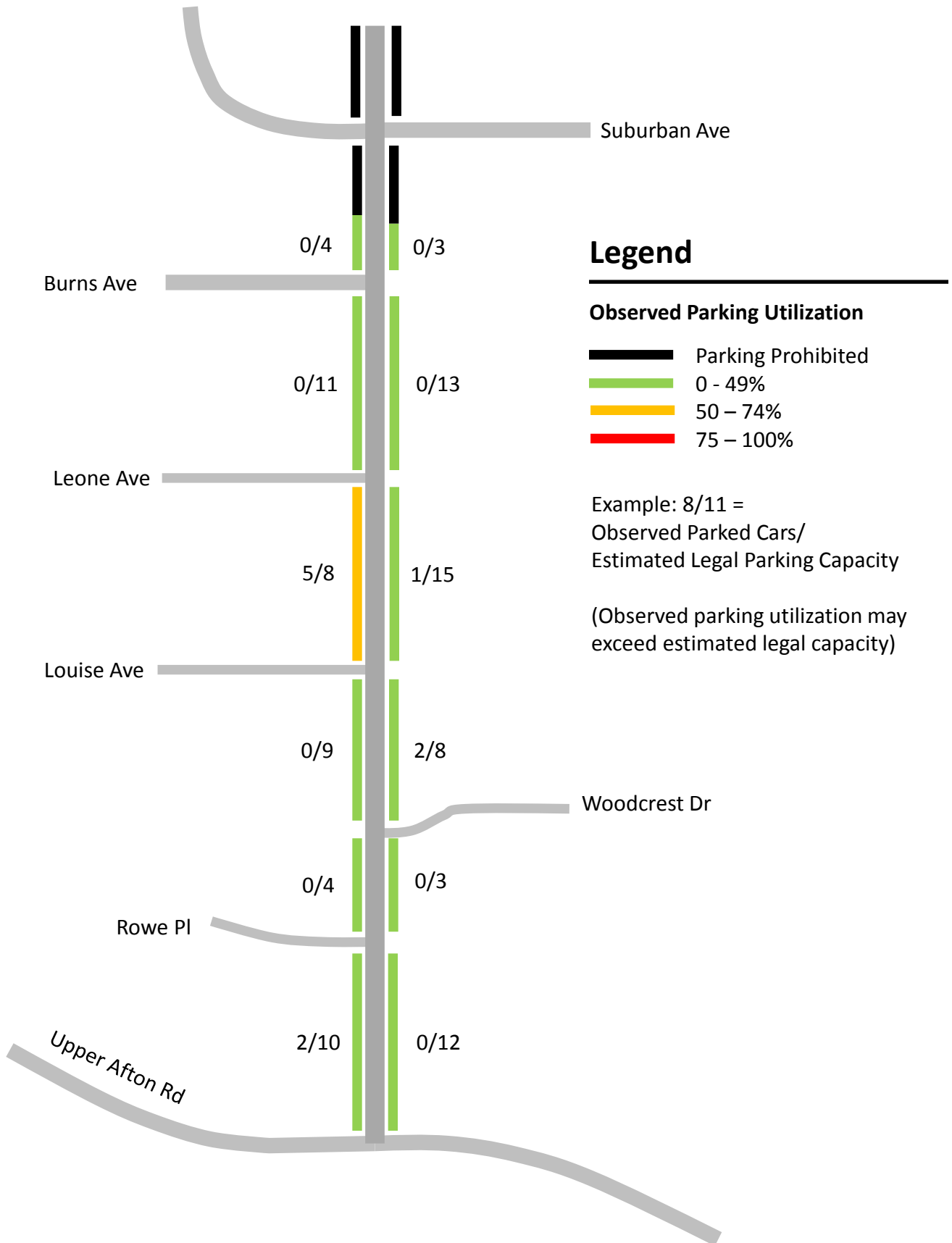
Tuesday 1/22/2019



White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekday Early Morning (4:00-6:00 AM)

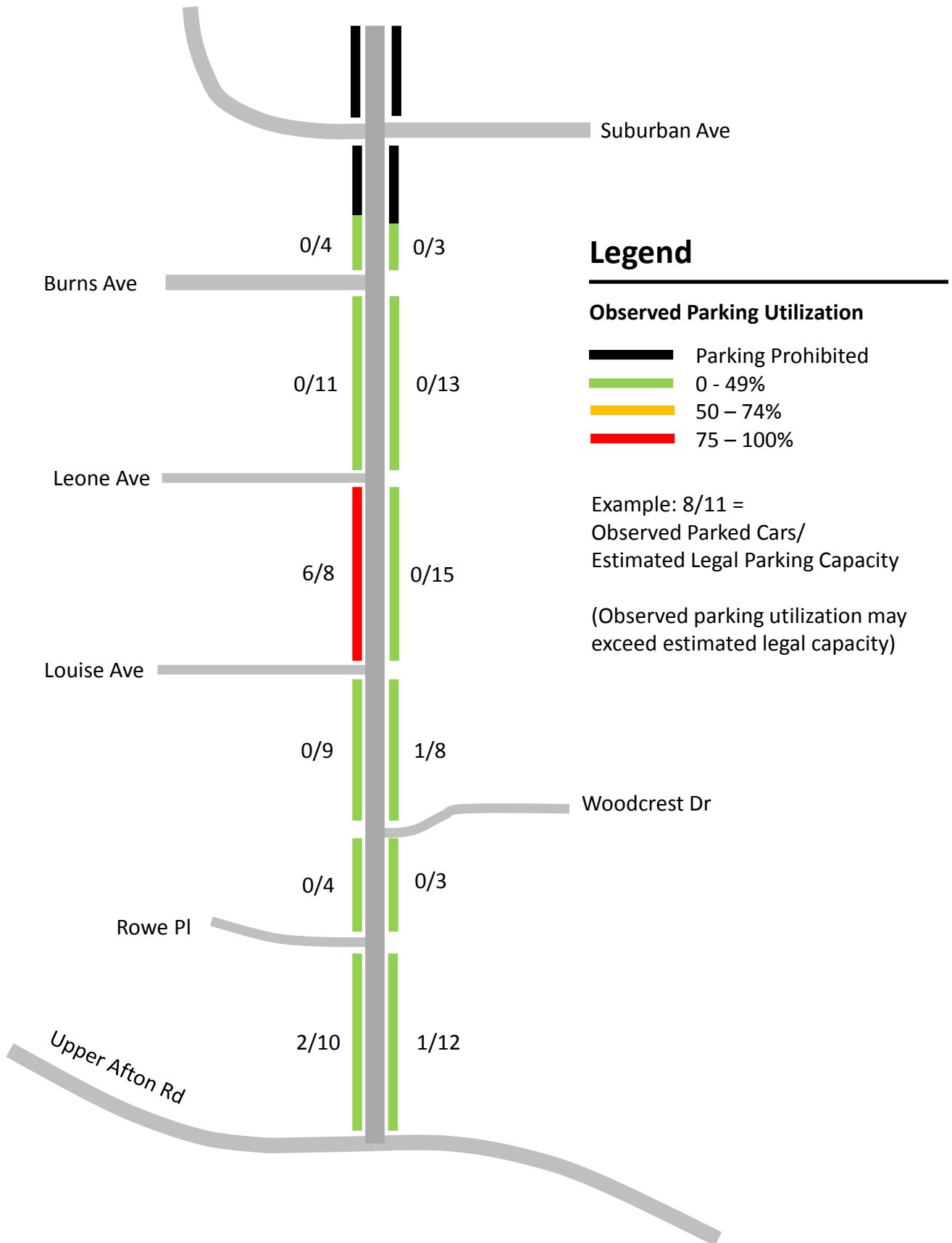
Thursday 1/24/2019



White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekday Early Morning (4:00-6:00 AM)

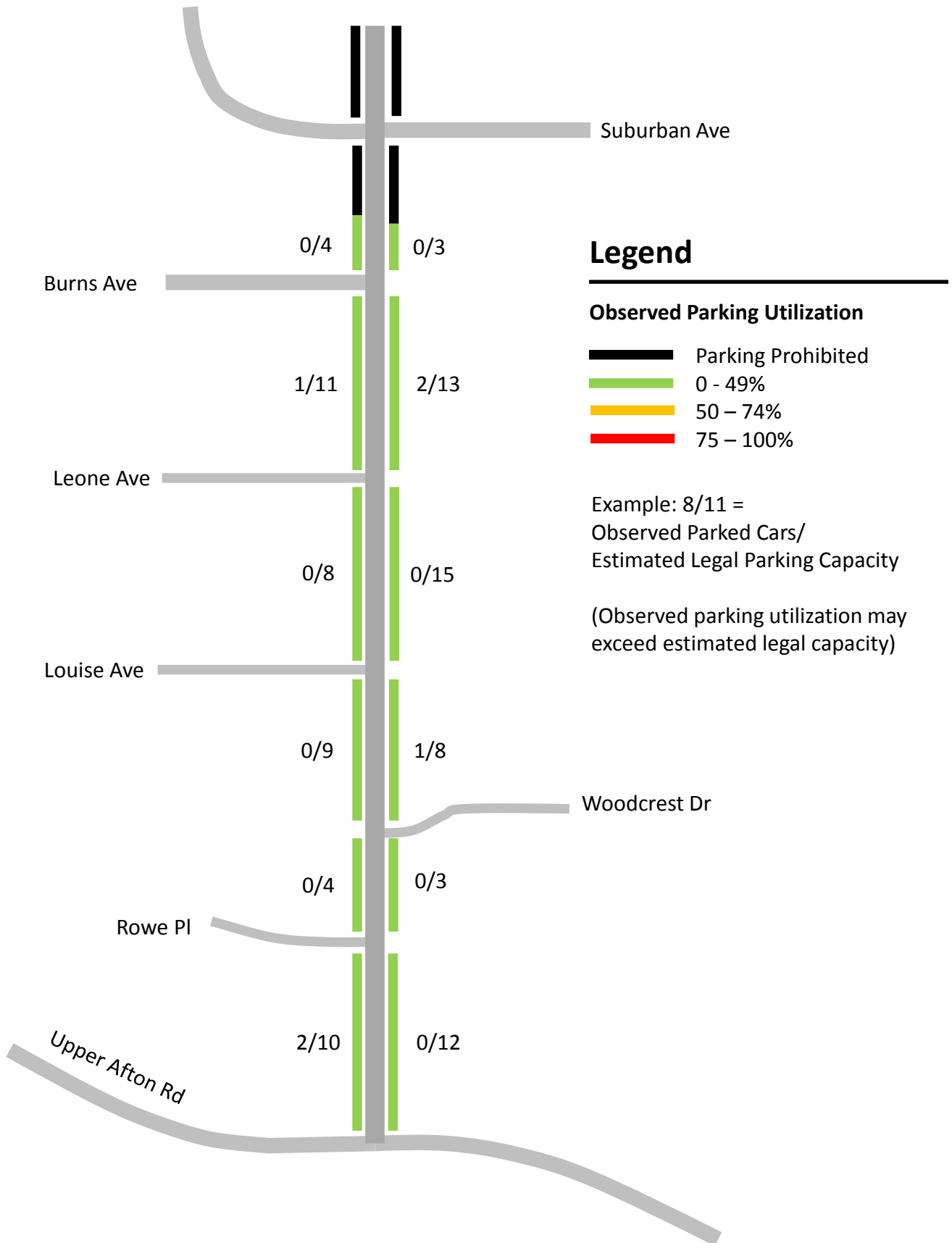
Tuesday 2/5/2019



White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekday Morning (7:00 AM)

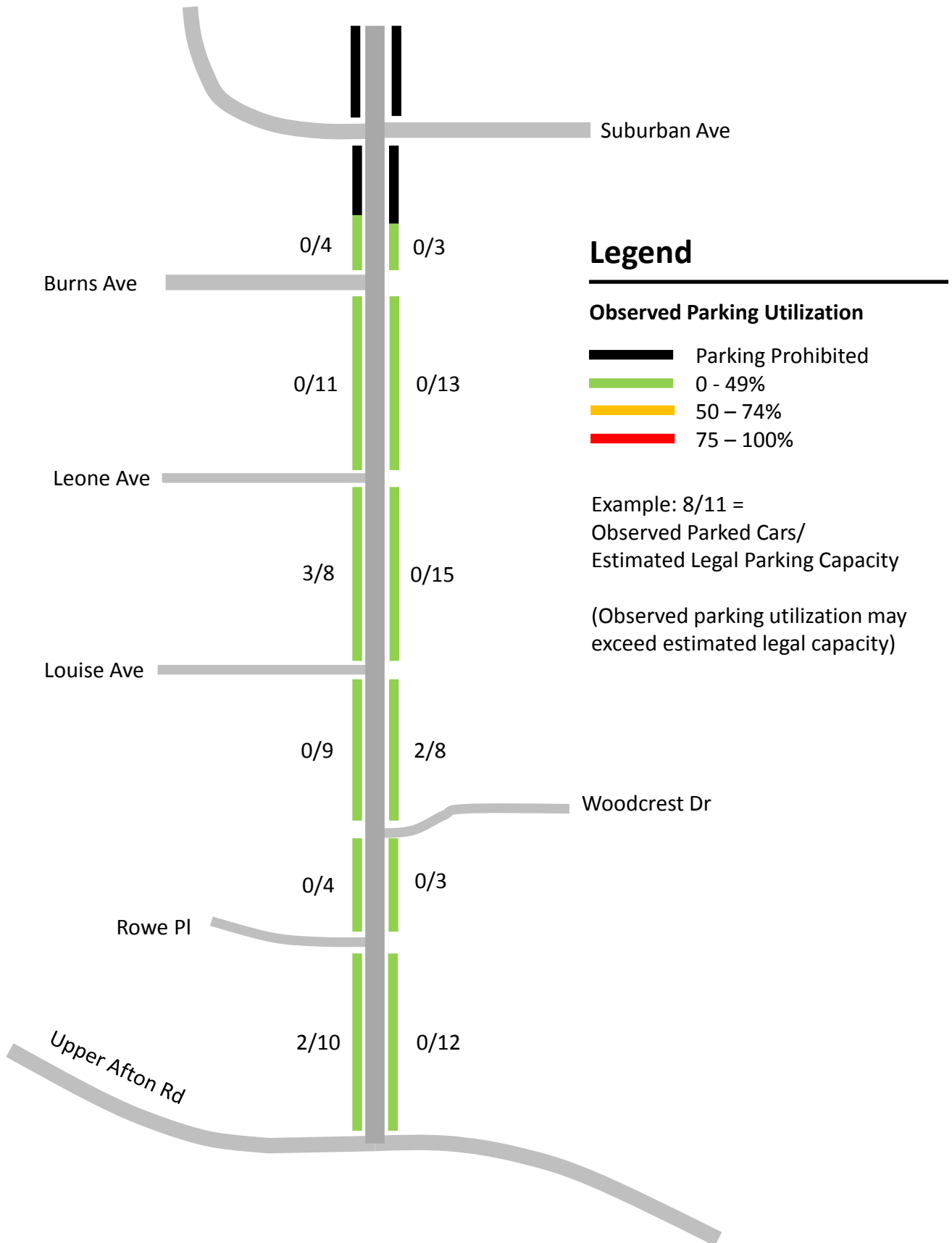
Tuesday 11/6/2018



White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekday Mid-day (11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

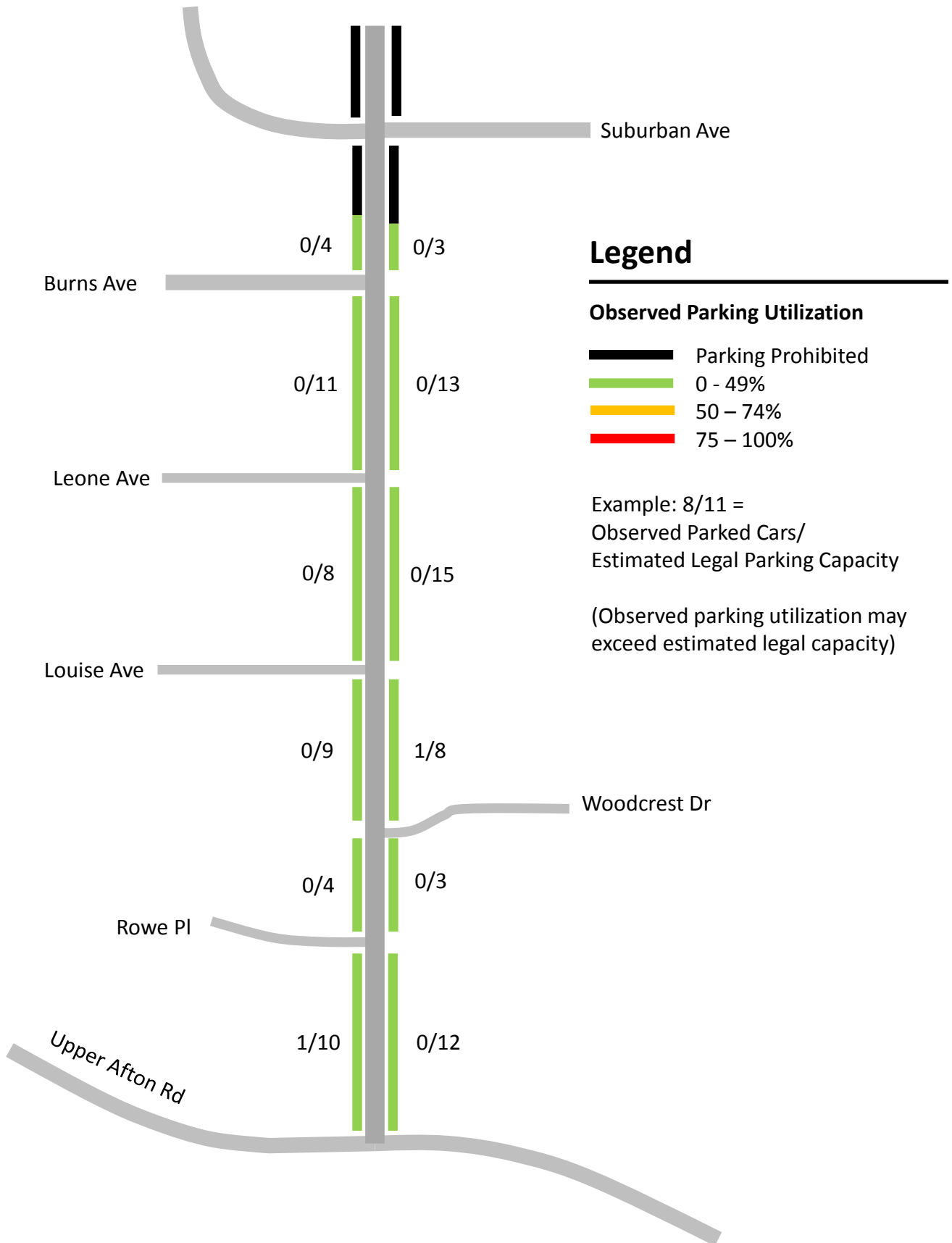
Tuesday 1/22/2019



White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekday Mid-day (11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

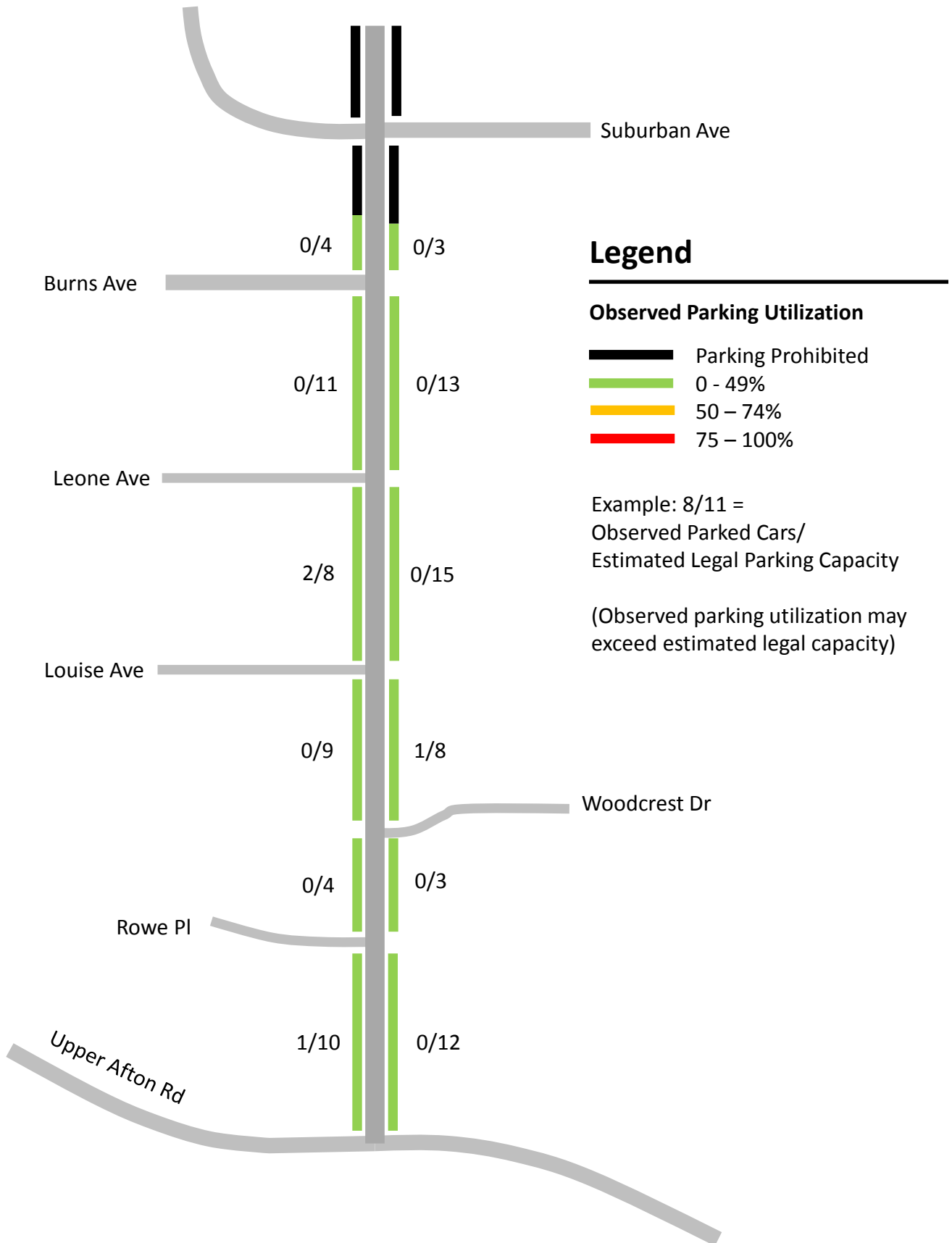
Friday 1/25/2019



White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekday Afternoon (4:00 PM)

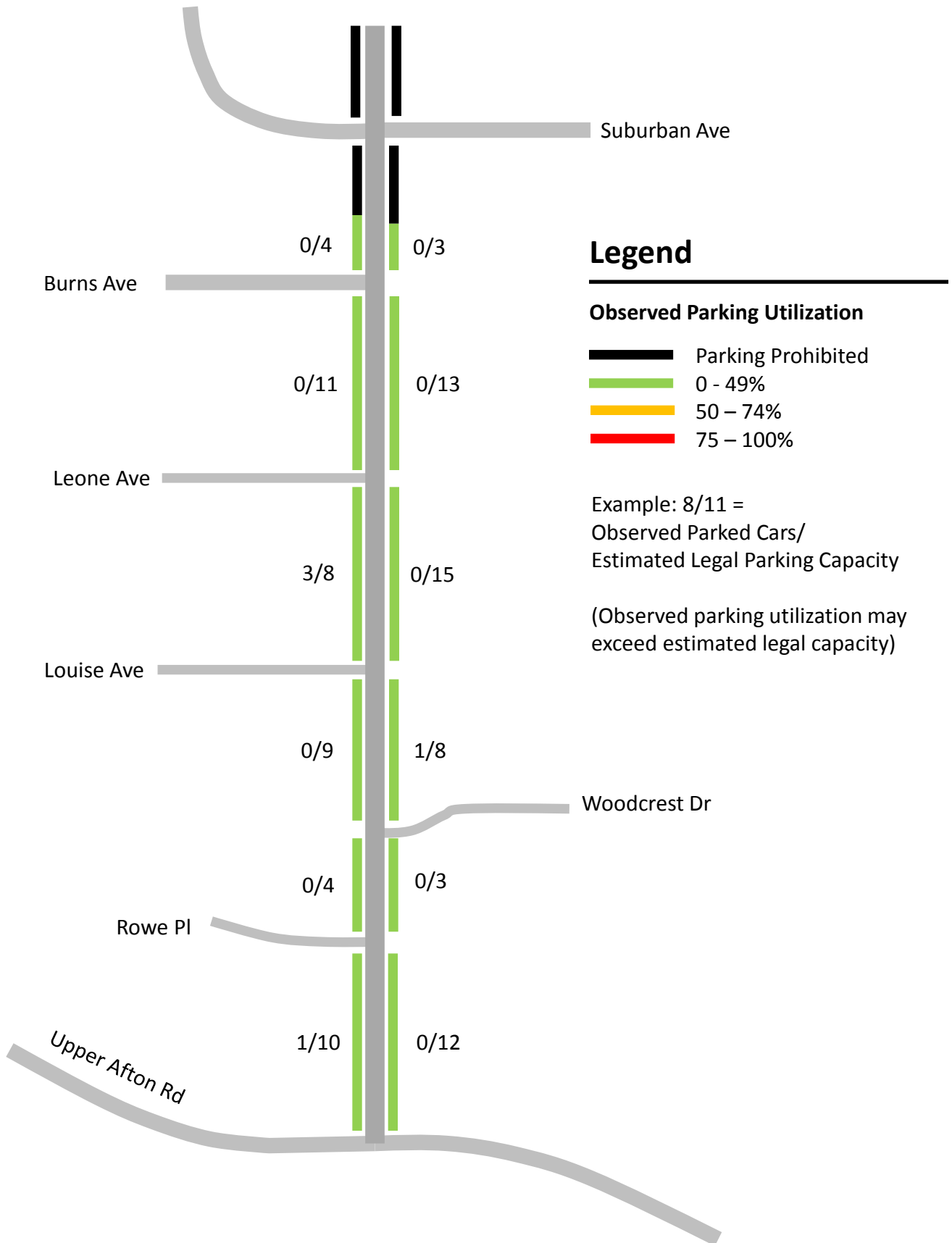
Tuesday 11/6/2018



White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekday Evening (6:00-8:00 PM)

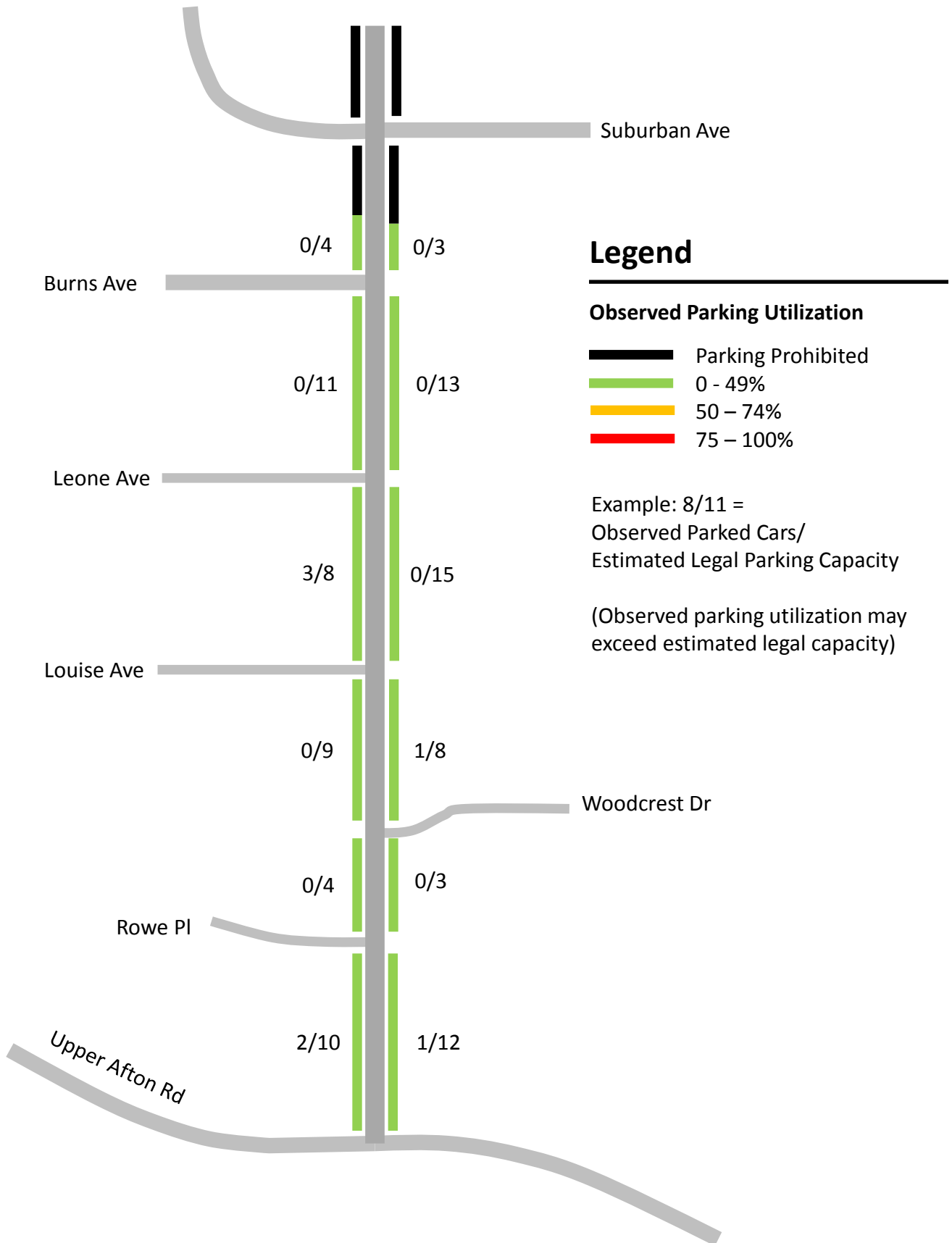
Thursday 1/24/2019



White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekday Evening (6:00-8:00 PM)

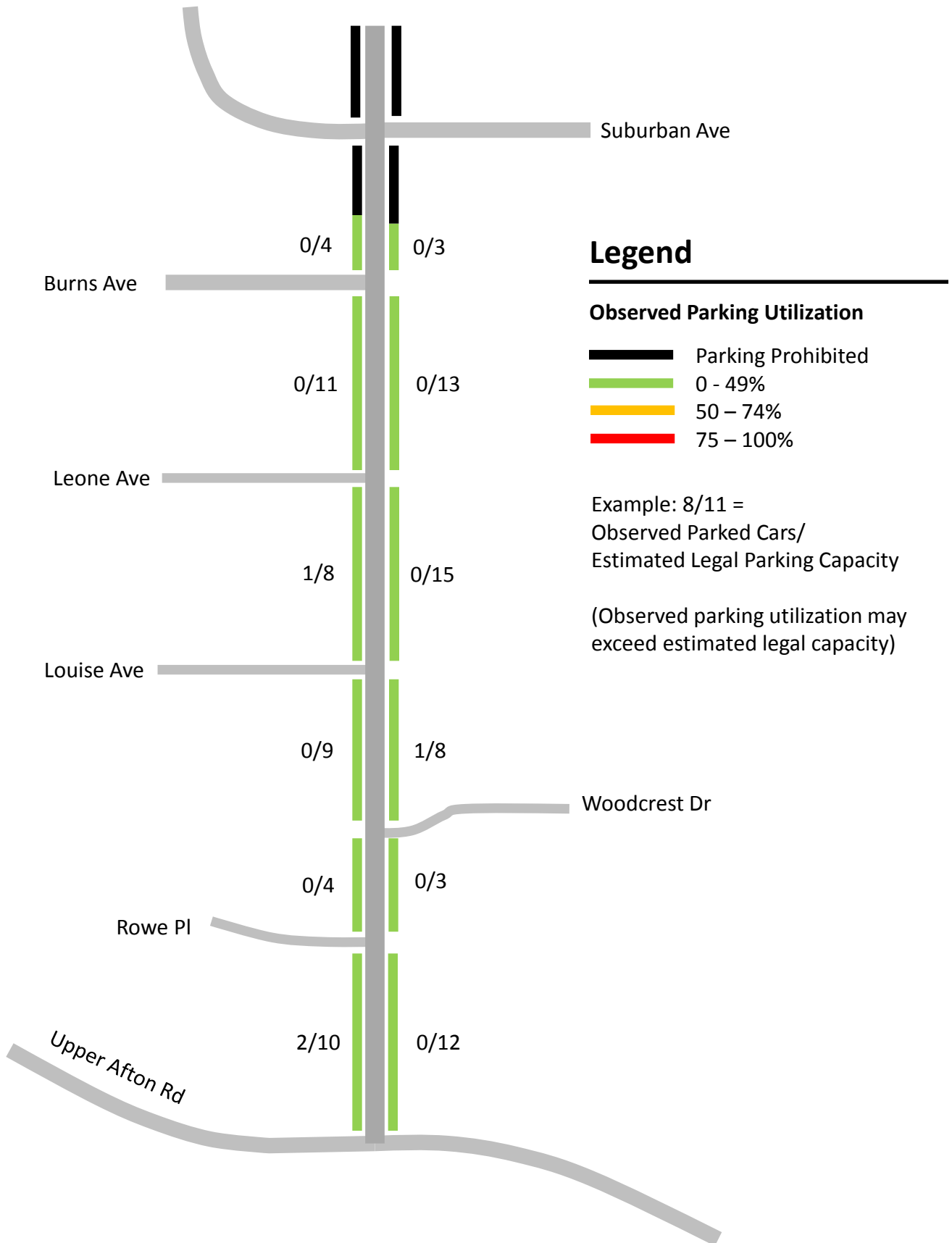
Monday 2/4/2019



White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

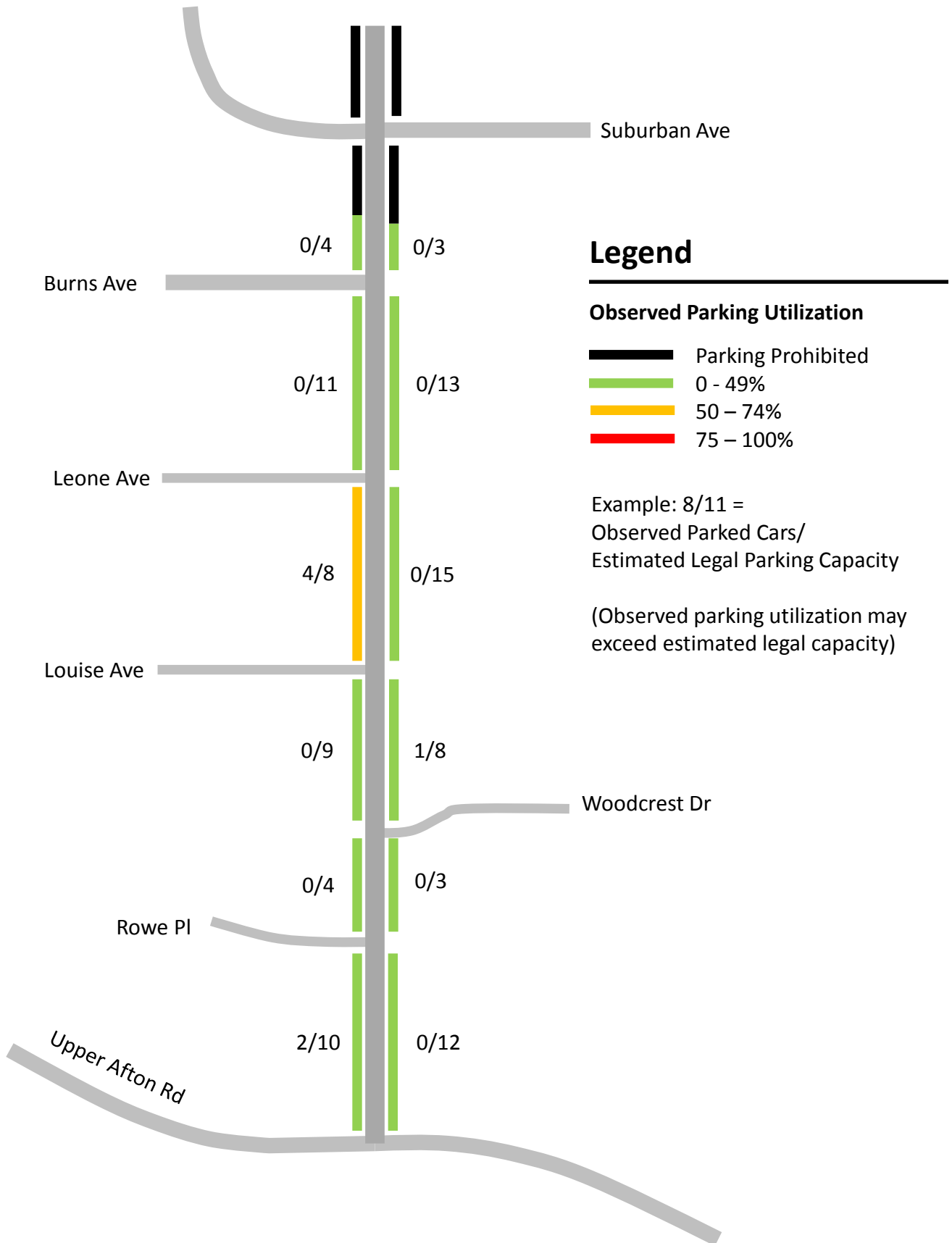
Weekday Evening (6:00-8:00 PM)

Thursday 2/21/2019



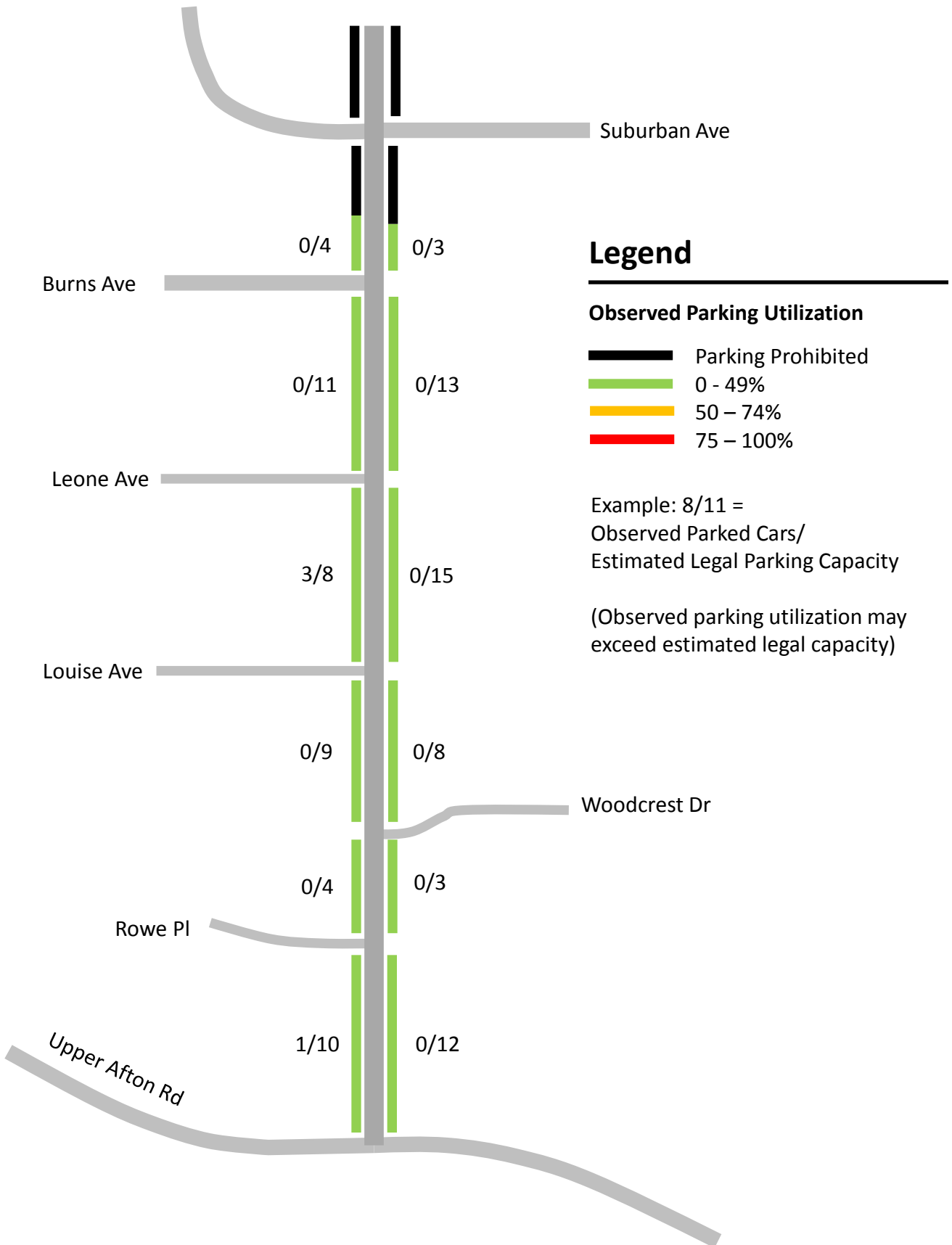
White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekend Mid-day (11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
Saturday 1/19/2019



White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekend Mid-day (11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
Saturday 2/16/2019



White Bear Avenue Parking Counts

Weekend Evening (6:00-8:00 PM)

Saturday 1/26/2019

