

A photograph of a park path lined with trees and a bench. The path is paved and leads into the distance, flanked by lush green grass and mature trees. A black park bench is visible on the left side of the path. A tall, white lamppost stands on the right side. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# 5 Classification of Parks





## CLASSIFICATION OF PARKS

While the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* provides definitions for park classifications, it also acknowledges that each community is unique in terms of geographical, cultural and socioeconomic make-up. As such each community or park agency should develop its own standards for recreation, parks and open space, with the NRPA definitions as a guide. This is especially important for communities like Addison that are built out and don't offer opportunities for significant expansion of amenities, facilities or open space.

As a means of organizing the public open space facilities found in the Addison Park District, the park areas are classified according to a hierarchy that provides for a comprehensive system of interrelated parks. All parks can be placed into specific categories or classifications. Some parks that meet neighborhood needs and have specialized amenities could be placed into more than one classification, but are placed in the classification that meets the broadest definition. The park and open space classifications that are appropriate for the Addison Park District do not necessarily meet the NRPA guidelines in a strict sense as far as size or amenities, but are appropriate to the overall offerings of the District. The APD classifications are as follows:

- Mini Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Open Lands

Definitions for the classification of parks and facilities are generally based upon the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines, but are refined to address the specific needs of the Addison Park District and its residents. The criteria used to define each of the open space and park categories are described below.

## MINI PARKS

Mini Parks are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population area, or that serve a specific function or age group. Examples of amenities found in mini parks include playground/tot lot equipment, benches, picnic tables, gazebos, ornamental landscape features, etc.

## SERVICE AREA

Mini Parks could have amenities that draw people from a greater area, but typically serve an area within a ¼ mile radius.



## PARK SIZE

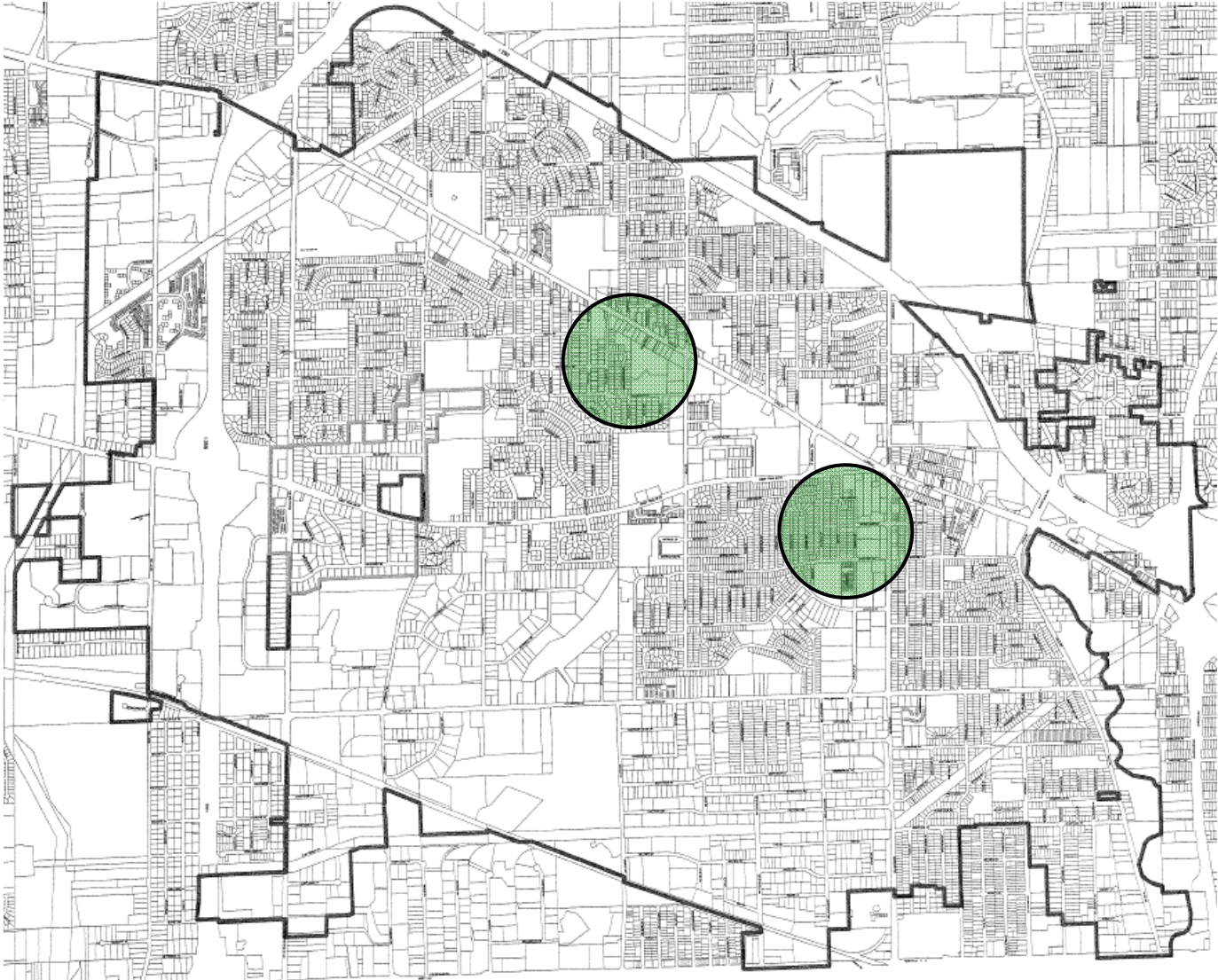
Because of the specialized nature of these parks, they usually range in size from only 2500 square feet up to 1 acre.

## APD MINI PARKS

Two parks in the APD system are classified as Mini Parks. Armani Park offers a playground for neighborhood children. The May Street Park had a tot lot playground until it was burned down in 2008. The limited size and shape of the site preclude replacement equipment given current safety requirements for playgrounds.

- Armani Park 0.37 acres
- May Street Tot Lot 0.23 acres





## **MINI PARK LOCATIONS**

A ¼-mile radius service area for the two Mini Parks is shown on the above map.



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS DEFINED

The Neighborhood Park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Generally designed with a focus on informal active and passive recreation that serves neighborhood recreation needs, area is provided for recreational activities such as field games, court games, picnicking and playground areas. Many neighborhood parks may also contain athletic fields that are used by community athletic organizations, thus serving the community as a whole.



## SERVICE AREA

Neighborhood Parks serves an area within a ¼ to ½ mile radius uninterrupted by major roads or other barriers.



## PARK SIZE

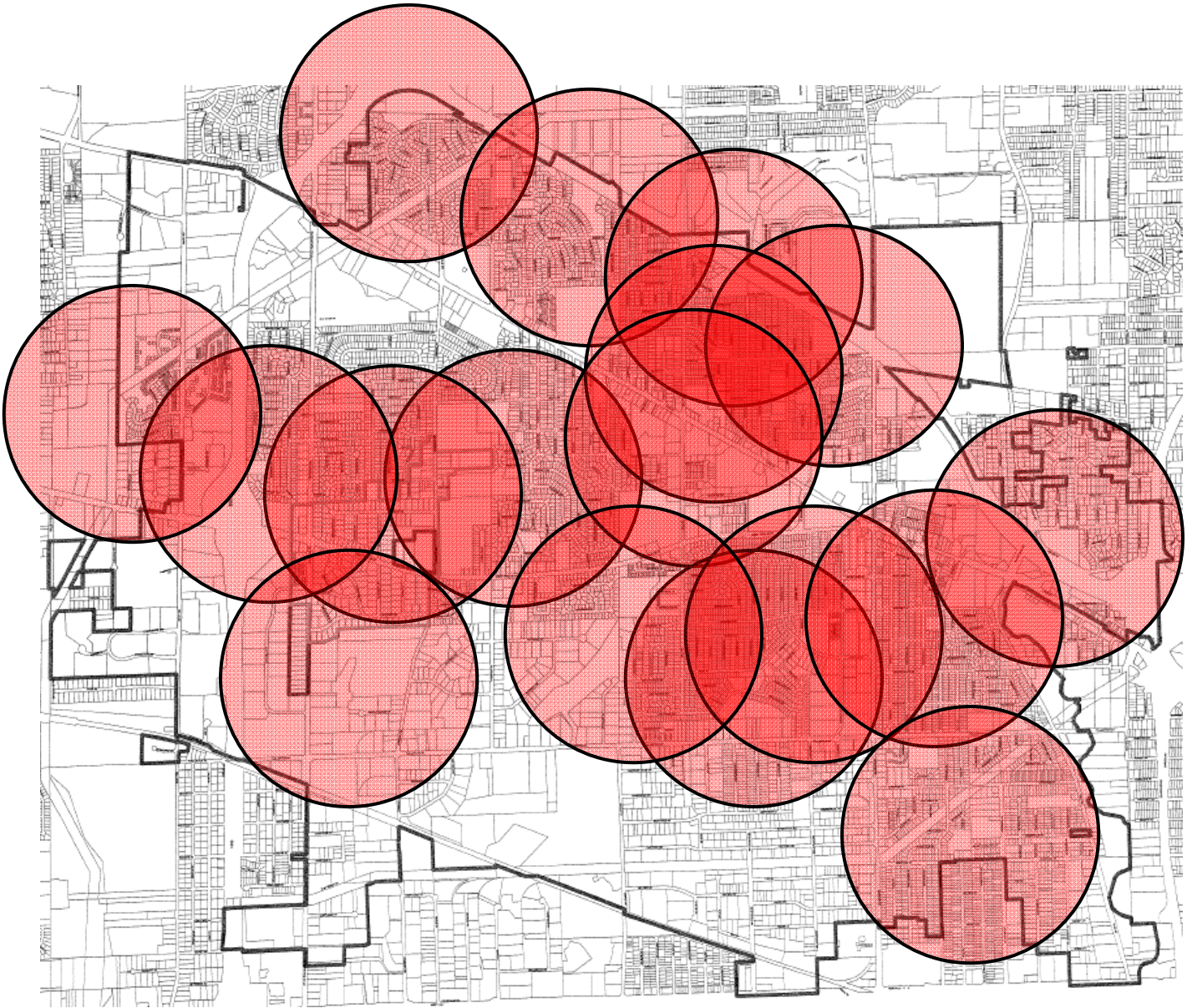
5 to 10 acres is considered optimal, though only five of the APD Neighborhood Parks fall within this range. One to two acres are standard for every 1000 residents served.



## APD NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Seventeen parks in the APD system are classified as Neighborhood Parks. These parks typically include a playground, picnic areas, athletic fields or courts, open space or other amenities. APD neighborhood parks range in size from as small as the 2.03-acre Old Mill Park to the 13.7-acre Foxdale Park.

■ Byron Park	11.25 acres	■ Nike Park	6.95 acres
■ Cherokee Park	4.96 acres	■ Oak Knoll Park	9.84 acres
■ Farmwood Park	12.90 acres	■ Old Mill Park	2.03 acres
■ Foxdale Park	13.70 acres	■ Sunset Park	3.63 acres
■ Green Oaks Park	3.20 acres	■ Tamara Heights Park	10.00 acres
■ Highview Park	10.24 acres	■ Westview Park	5.27 acres
■ Kenroy Park	4.40 acres	■ Westwood Park	6.70 acres
■ Lake Manor North Park	2.70 acres	■ Wilderness Park	3.58 acres
■ Mill Meadows Park	3.96 acres		



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK LOCATIONS

A ½-mile radius service area for the seventeen Neighborhood Parks is shown on the APD map above.



## COMMUNITY PARKS DEFINED

Community Parks are diverse in nature, serving a broader purpose than the neighborhood or mini parks. While community parks may include neighborhood park amenities, and do act as neighborhood parks as well, the focus of a community park is on meeting community-based recreation, athletics and open space needs. These parks may contain significant athletic complexes, aquatic amenities, walking paths, picnic areas and various other active and passive amenities depending upon community needs and site suitability. In some cases, a park with only a single athletic field that provides a venue for community athletic organizations may fall into this category regardless of its small size. The Community Park may also be the venue of an activity or amenity that has broad community appeal but does not fit the Special Use designation.

## SERVICE AREA

Community Parks usually serve multiple neighborhoods, and with special amenities serving the residents of the entire Park District. With neighborhood park amenities, the Community Park typically is designated to serve an area within a ½ mile to over 3 mile radius.

## PARK SIZE

25.0 acres or more are preferred, but special amenities of community interest or athletic fields that provide for the community as a whole may be on much smaller sites. The traditional Community Park contains five to eight acres for every 1000 residents served.

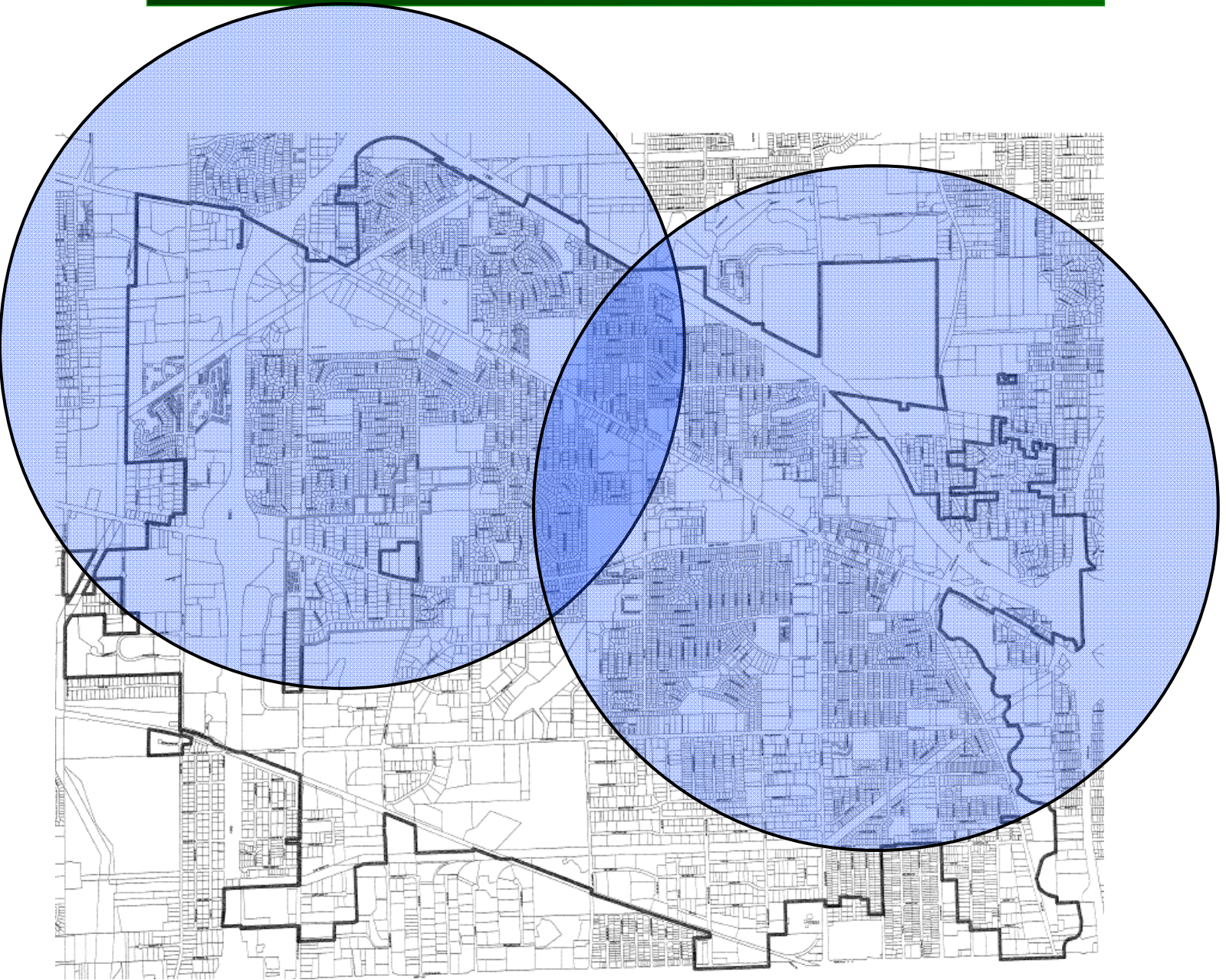
## APD COMMUNITY PARKS

Two parks in the APD system are classified as Community Parks. Community and Centennial Parks include multiple athletic field and courts as well as other unique amenities that service the entire community.

- Centennial Park                      39.80 acres
- Community Park                      50.00 acres







## **COMMUNITY PARK LOCATIONS**

A 3-mile radius service area for the two Community Parks is shown on the above map.



## SPECIAL USE PARKS/FACILITIES DEFINED

Special Use Parks cover a broad range of specialized park and recreation facilities, often with a single major use. Golf courses, historical sites, community center sites, theme parks, water parks and other special use facilities fall into this category. These parks may also include neighborhood or community park elements, but with amenities that have a regional appeal to visitors from outside the boundaries of the Park District.

## SERVICE AREA

Special Use Parks/Facilities serve the entire Park District, and often provide amenities that draw visitors from well beyond the boundaries of the District.



## PARK SIZE

The size of the park or facility site can vary significantly based on the needs of the amenity/facility.

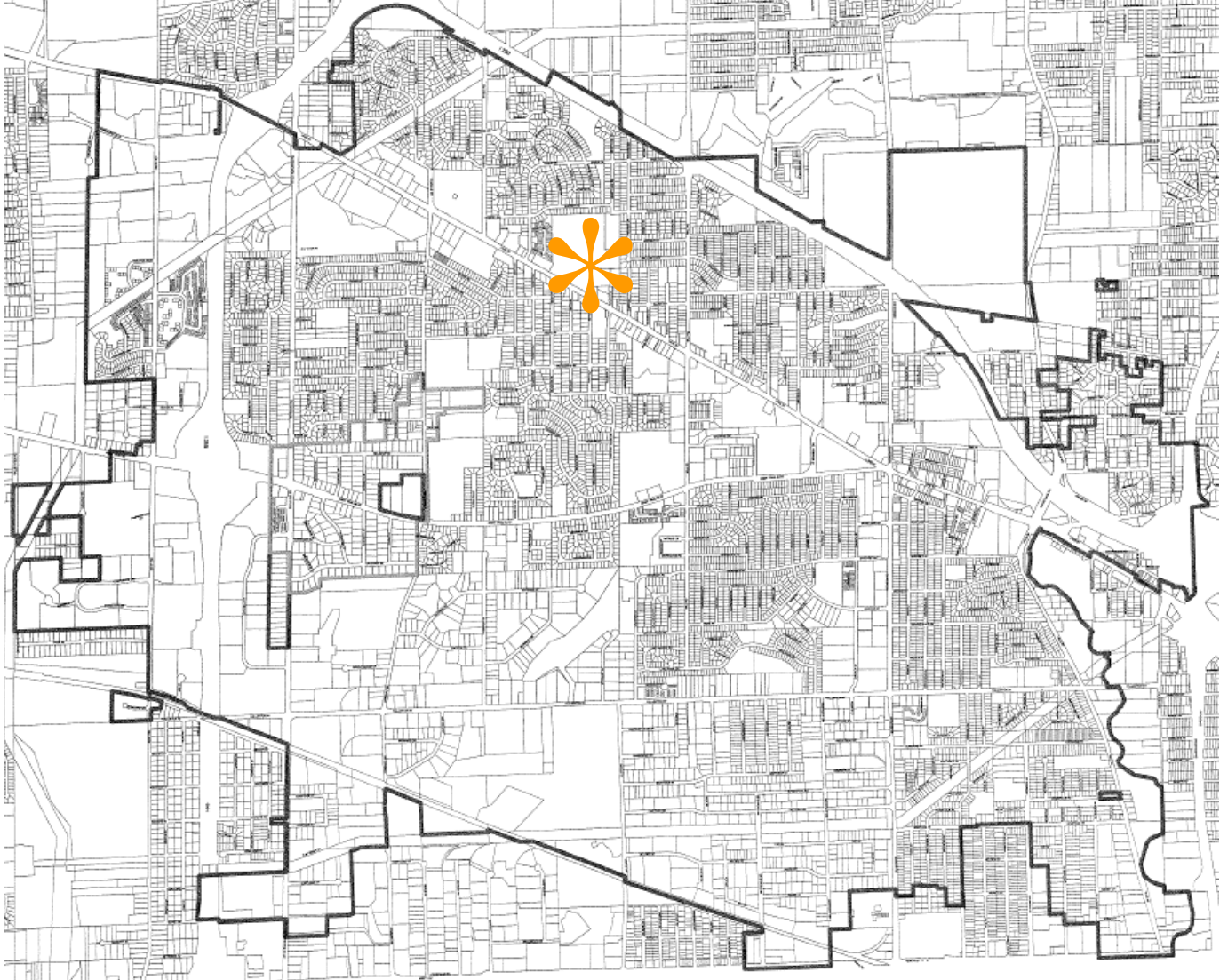
## APD SPECIAL USE PARKS & FACILITIES

One APD park/facility is classified as Special Use Parks/Facilities. This facility offers amenities that appeal to the District residents and often to a greater regional population.

- Links n Tees 43.16 acres







## SPECIAL USE PARK LOCATIONS

Special Use Parks and Facilities serve the entire community as well as provide amenities that appeal to visitors from outside the Park District.

## OPEN LANDS DEFINED

Open Land sites are properties designated as parks that have few or no built amenities, but provide natural areas or open space that can be utilized for passive recreation. These parks may have a trail, picnic tables and benches, but are dominated by open areas for the enjoyment of nature, fishing or other similar activities. While many park and recreation agencies may categorize stormwater management sites as 'special use', they may also be categorized as Open Lands.

## SERVICE AREA

Undefined, as they do not serve a population, but rather a resource.

## DESIRABLE SIZE

Open lands can be of any size, though smaller sites do not provide the open space intent of larger sites. In the case of natural areas, it is important to include enough land to protect the resource in an adequate manner.

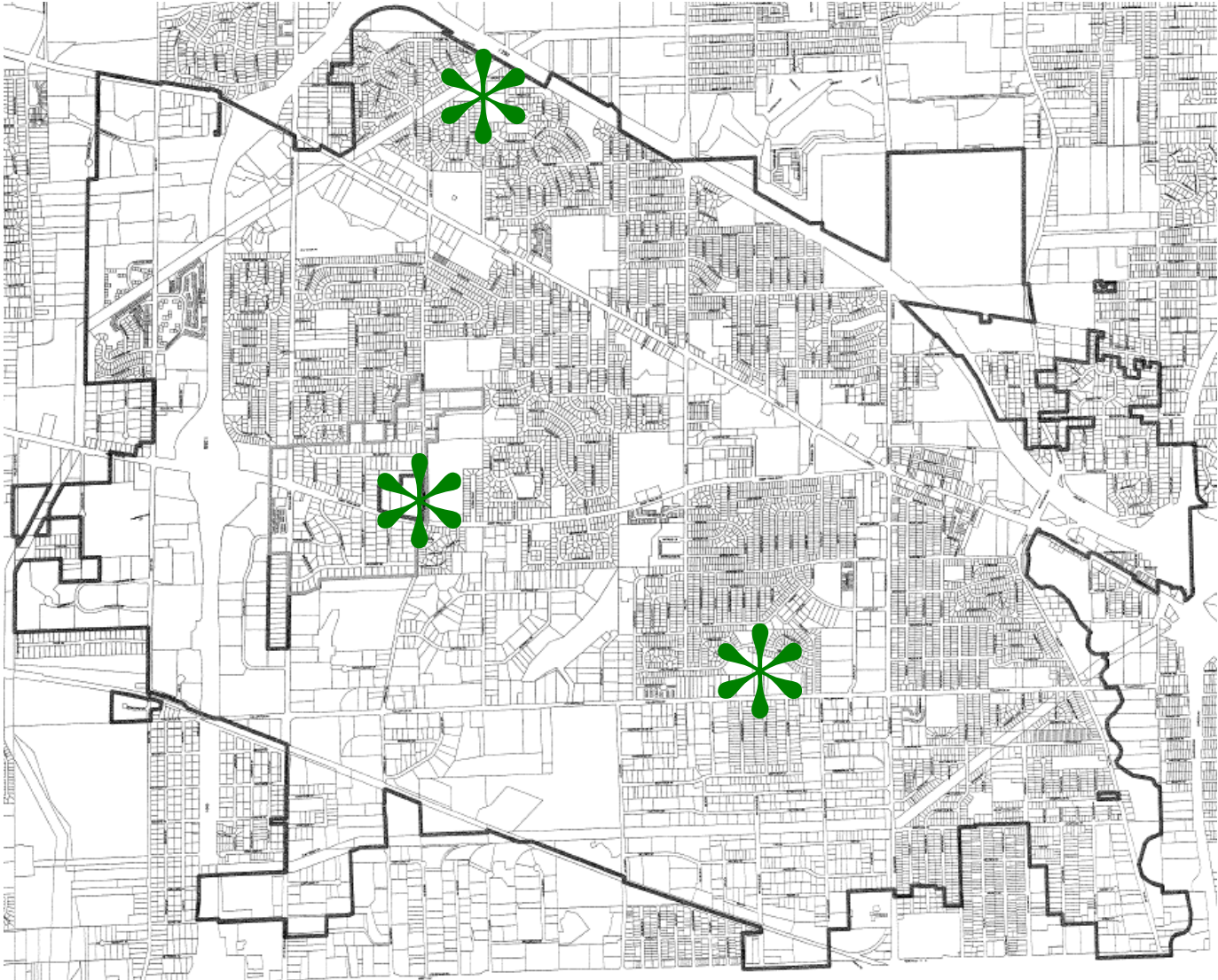
## APD OPEN LANDS

Three APD parks and facilities are classified as Open Lands. Two of the parks provide an urban escape with natural areas, wetlands and trails. The third is a stormwater retention site that offers no other recreation amenities.

- Army Trail Nature Center      17.85 acres
- Lake Manor Park South      12.98 acres
- Westridge Pond      3.50 acres





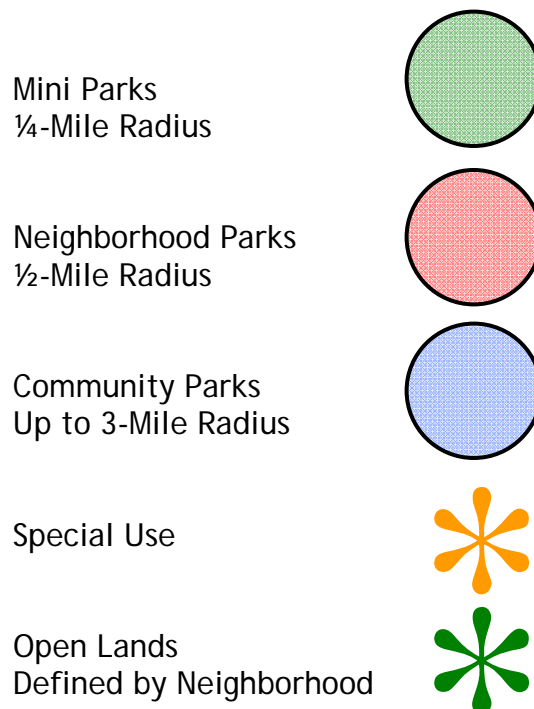


## **OPEN LANDS LOCATIONS**

Open Lands serve the entire community and do not have a defined service area.

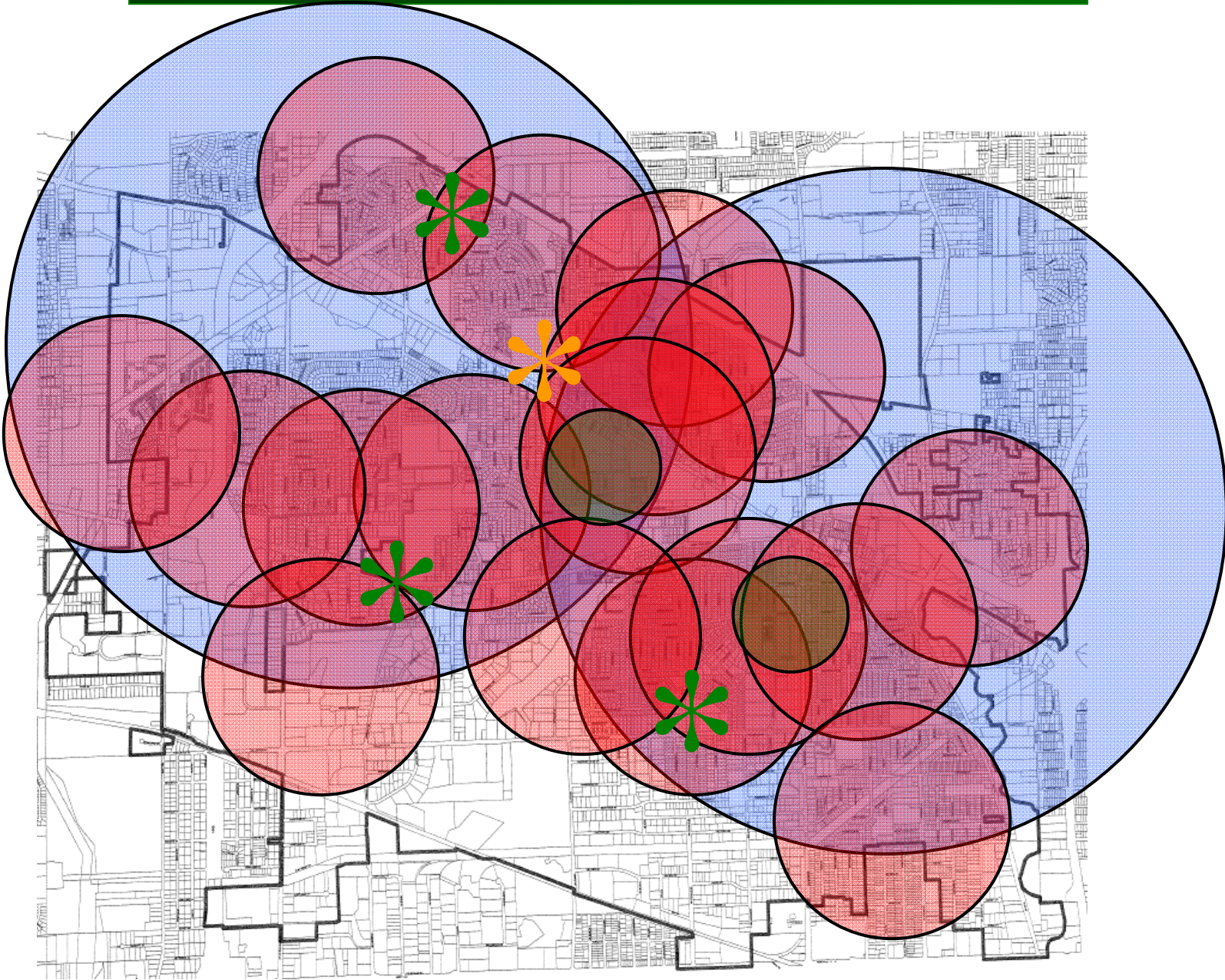
## SERVICE AREA PLAN

The map on the following pages illustrates the service areas for Mini, Neighborhood, and Community parks, along with the locations of Special Use Parks & Facilities and Open Lands found within the Addison Park District. Service areas are consistent with the guidelines established by the National Recreation and Park Association. The Special Use Parks & Facilities do not have defined service areas as they are considered to offer amenities and services that appeal to the entire resident population of the District. The Open Lands also do not have defined services areas. In some cases, the actual service area of any park may be larger if the park includes amenities of regional appeal. Smaller service areas are also possible where major roadways act as barriers to park access. For illustration purposes, these roadway barriers are not shown. The service areas identified are as follows:



With the service area radii for each park type superimposed, it is evident that the Addison Park District provides excellent park and recreation access to its residents.



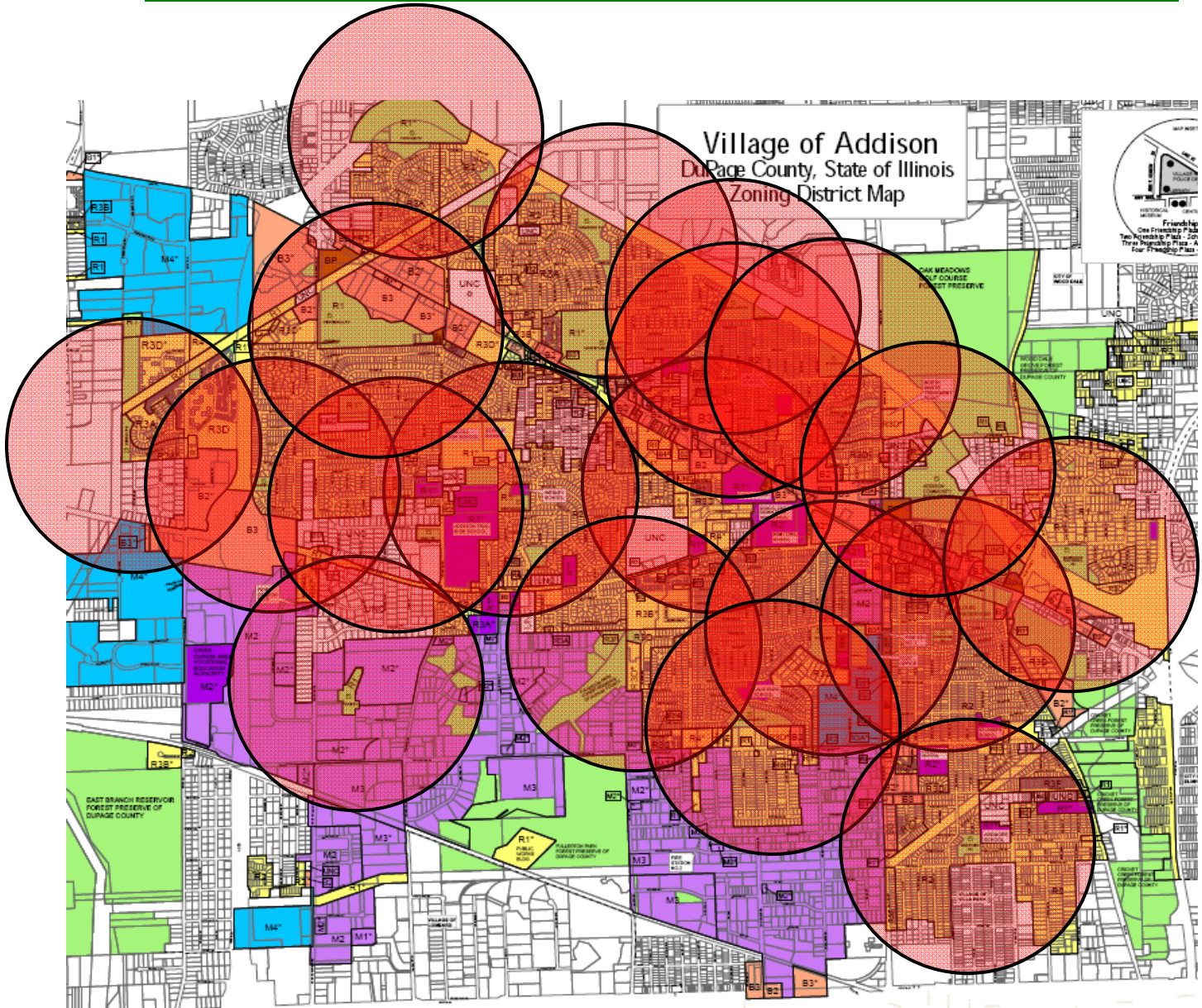


## SERVICE AREA MAP

This map identifies and location and service areas for parks within the Addison Park District.







## ZONING OVERLAY

Overlaying the Neighborhood Parks and the Community Parks (graphically shown as Neighborhood Parks) on the Zoning Map for the Village of Addison illustrates that the entire residential area of the community is well-served by the APD parks. Those areas not served are industrial and commercial zoning areas.