



PARKS & RECREATION BOARD-CITY OF GAINESVILLE
MEETING MINUTES

The Parks & Recreation board met for a monthly meeting on August 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gainesville Civic Center.

Members Present: Joanie Jones, Paula Moore, Martin Phillips, Latecia Hendricks, Joesph Christian

Members Absent: Dick Haayen, Matthew Compton

Staff Present: Kevin Gann, Zenia Cruz

Guests Present: Sean Hunt

ACTION

A quorum was present.

The First item was to approve July 22, 2025 Minutes. Joanie Jones made the motion to accept and Joseph Christian second the motion. Passed with unanimous consent.

The Second item was to approve is the renaming of Jaycee Park to Kiwanis Park. Joseph Christian made the fist motion to accept and Joanie Jones second the motion. Passed with unanimous consent.

Recognition of Citizens with Non-Agenda Items- Sean Hunt with the Antero Group joined the meeting to share Parks and Trails Master Plan. (Plan is included)

DISCUSSION

Sean Hunt joined our meeting and presented a PowerPoint prepared by the Antero Group. The presentation outlined the nine priority areas identified by Antero, which were then shared with the public for ranking. The results closely mirrored the advisory board's own rankings.

The priority list was presented as follows:

1. Trails
2. Passive Recreation
3. Zoo

4. Connectivity
5. Sports Facilities
6. Playgrounds
7. Outdoor Fitness
8. Water Features
9. Public Art/Monuments

Sean provided an overview of the maps to clarify potential locations and gathered feedback from members regarding alternative sites and additional ideas. Members expressed surprise at the rankings, particularly that requests from the sports community appeared lower on the list. It was noted that many youth sports organizations consist largely of non-city residents, whose input was not included in the survey results.

Board members contributed suggestions on connectivity, specifically where trails should be developed and how they could link to other areas of the city. They also reviewed park locations and discussed concepts for pocket prairies at various sites.

ADJOURN

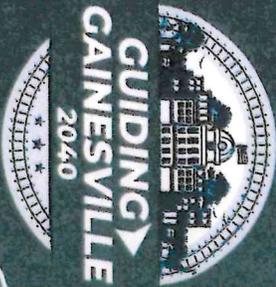
The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, August 26, 2025

Zenia Cruz
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation Department



Martin Phillips 2/10/2026
Chairman Date



City of Gainesville, Texas Parks & Trails Master Plan

WHAT IS IT?

The Parks & Trails Master Plan serves as a **visionary guide** for creating a connected and accessible parks system that enhances the quality of life for all Gainesville residents.

The plan will **incorporate community input** to identify opportunities for improving park access, quality, and connectivity.

WHY PLAN?

A Parks & Trails Master Plan will help us **identify and prioritize** investments in our parks and green spaces.

By planning for the future, we can ensure **continued stewardship** of these valuable community assets and preserve the natural beauty that makes Gainesville special.

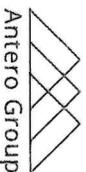
WHO IS INVOLVED?

Gainesville residents and stakeholders will help identify and prioritize challenges and opportunities. An Advisory Committee of community leaders will help facilitate the direction of the plan.



LET'S SHAPE OUR FUTURE
TOGETHER

FACILITATED BY:



Antero Group

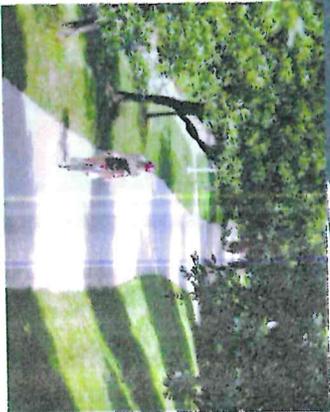
Valley Quest
DESIGN

URBAN3



PARK PROGRAMMING PUBLIC INPUT RANKINGS

(1 = Top Priority, 9 = Lower Priority)



1. TRAILS



2. PASSIVE RECREATION



3. ZOO



4. CONNECTIVITY



5. SPORTS FACILITIES



6. PLAYGROUNDS



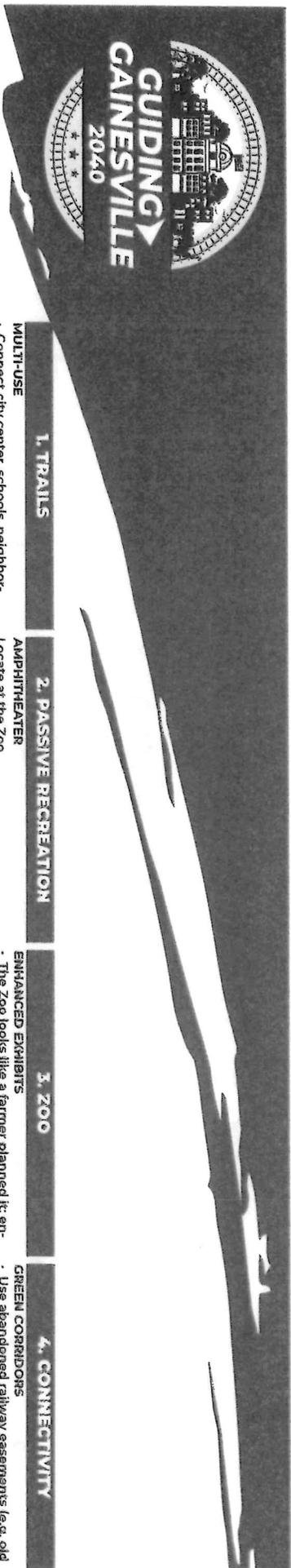
7. OUTDOOR FITNESS



8. WATER FEATURES



9. PUBLIC ART/MONUMENTS



PARK PROGRAMMING PUBLIC INPUT PRIORITIES COMMENT-SUMMARY

1. TRAILS

- MULTI-USE**
- Connect city center, schools, neighborhoods, shopping centers.
 - Include separated trail on bypass road.
 - Enhance trailhead facilities.
 - Improve safety with adequate lighting.
 - Address loose dog problems along trails.
 - Add more trails and loops to existing parks.

- NATURE**
- Develop Blue Trails facilities and network.

- FOREST**
- Develop trails along Elm Creek and Pecan Creek.
 - Provide more gravel trails rather than concrete as a lower-impact alternative.

- MULTI-LEVEL**
- Widen existing concrete trails with gravel extensions to increase capacity.

2. PASSIVE RECREATION

- AMPHITHEATER**
- Locate at the Zoo

- COMMUNITY SPACES & GARDENS**
- Sponsor Gardening Clubs and neighborhood Community Gardens.
 - Pollinator gardens featuring Texas Native and adapted plants would be great!
 - Open Stanford House to additional recreational use and groups; plenty of room in a well-maintained facility.

- LARGE LAWN AREAS**
- Pocket Prairies and low-water / low-mow landscaping could improve small areas around all parks.
 - Site a Pocket Park on Commerce.

- SEATING & FURNISHINGS**
- Good, comfortable seating
 - More grills in parks
 - Permanent public restrooms in all parks and public spaces at humane distance intervals

3. ZOO

- ENHANCED EXHIBITS**
- The Zoo looks like a farmer planned it; enhance those enclosures.
 - Expand Zoo further to the west.
 - Expand Zoo exhibits to other park locations such as Edison Park?

- "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS" CAFE**
- No comments made

- ENHANCED EVENT SPACE**
- Develop an Education/Event Center for lectures, classes, and camps.
 - Construct an Amphitheater.

4. CONNECTIVITY

- GREEN CORRIDORS**
- Use abandoned railway easements (e.g. old RR spur bending west from Moran/Dixon to I-35 frontage road)
 - Connect all 4 parts of the city.

- PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES**
- Locate at the NE corner of Leonard Park (across California Street at frontage road or to connect to Moffitt Park further west? Ped. underpass connection at Elm Fork might be most viable)

- UNDER/OVERPASS PEDA. CONNECTIONS**
- Locate at all grade-separated roadways and water channel undercrossings

- WAYFINDING SIGNAGE**
- No comments made

- GENERAL LOCATION SUGGESTIONS**
- Peery Pioneer Cemetery
 - Main St at Pecan Creek Park
 - Grand Ave at Main St and US 82
 - Heritage Park

5. SPORTS FACILITIES

- PICKLEBALL / TENNIS**
- Expand Moffitt Park to the current transfer station.

- SOFTBALL / BASEBALL
ENHANCED SPECTATOR SEATING**
- No comments made

- SOCCER**
- More basketball courts
 - More disc golf courses

- GENERAL LOCATION SUGGESTIONS**
- Jaycee Park
 - Pond along Pecan Creek
 - Edison Park
 - Heritage Park

6. PLAYGROUNDS

- NATURE PLAY
SLIDES/CLIMBERS**
- No comments made

- LANDFORMS**
- Create a new Landform playground north of US 82

- LARGE SHADED PLAY STRUCTURES**
- Shade structures are needed at Jaycee/ Pecan Creek Park playgrounds.
 - Don't care about style but replace hot metal and aging equipment at Heritage, Edison, and Jaycee Parks

7. OUTDOOR FITNESS

- OBSTACLE STYLE PARK
FITNESS TRAIL STOP
OUTDOOR GYM**
- No comments made

- GENERAL LOCATION SUGGESTIONS**
- Jaycee Park
 - Pond along Pecan Creek
 - Edison Park
 - Heritage Park

8. WATER FEATURES

- AQUATIC FACILITIES**
- Lap Swimming requested
 - Redirect treated water from the wastewater plant to create upriver water features or a lazy river.

- PEACEFUL WATER FEATURES**
- Suggested location at Heritage Park

- CLASSIC PARK FOUNTAIN and/or SPLASHPAD**
- No comments made

- GENERAL LOCATION SUGGESTIONS**
- Jaycee Park
 - Pond along Pecan Creek
 - Keretasso Park
 - Medal of Honor Host City Park

9. PUBLIC ART / MONUMENTS

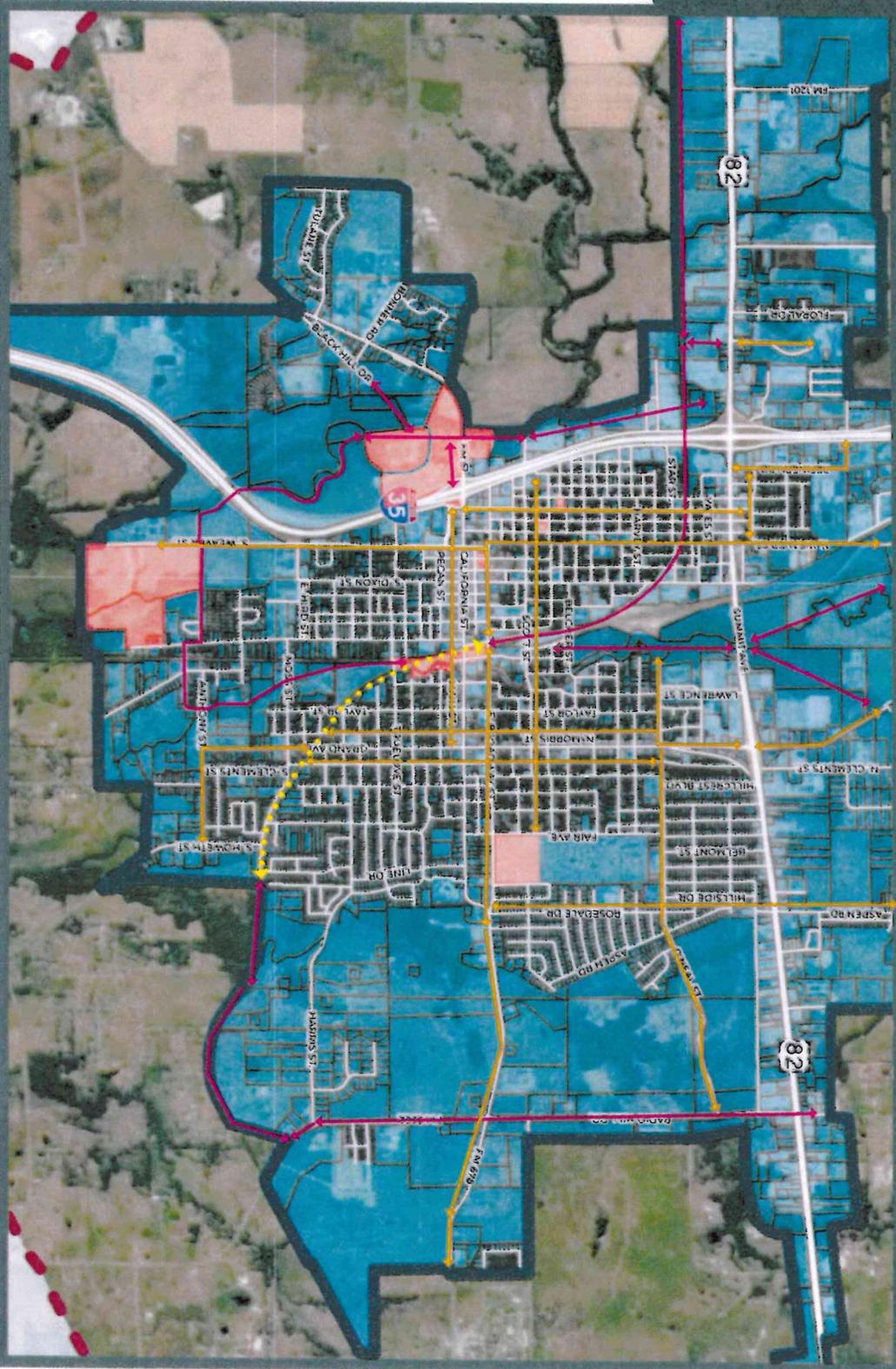
- PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
PATRIOTIC ART
MEMORIAL DISPLAYS**
- No comments made

- NATURE / DOG PARK SCULPTURES**
- Suggested location for nature sculpture at intersection of Eldritch and Ritchey.

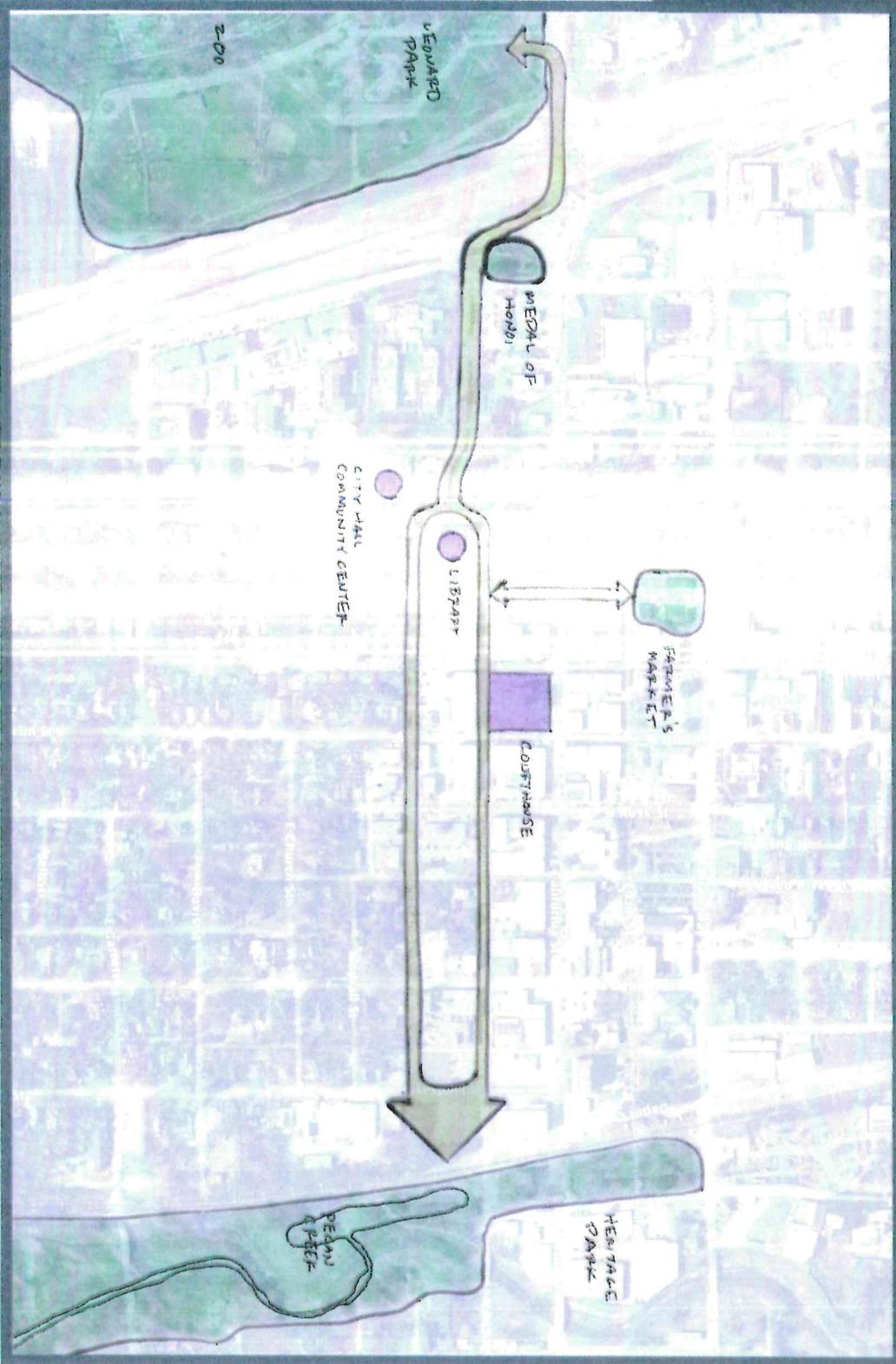
- GENERAL LOCATION SUGGESTIONS**
- Farmers Market
 - Along Commerce Street
 - Heritage Park



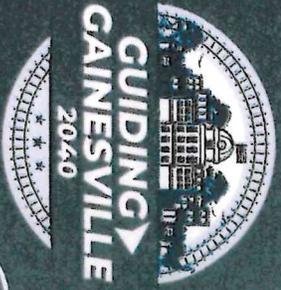
Legend	
	HIKE & BIKE TRAIL
	ON-STREET TRAIL
	EXISTING TRAIL



PROPOSED TRAILS

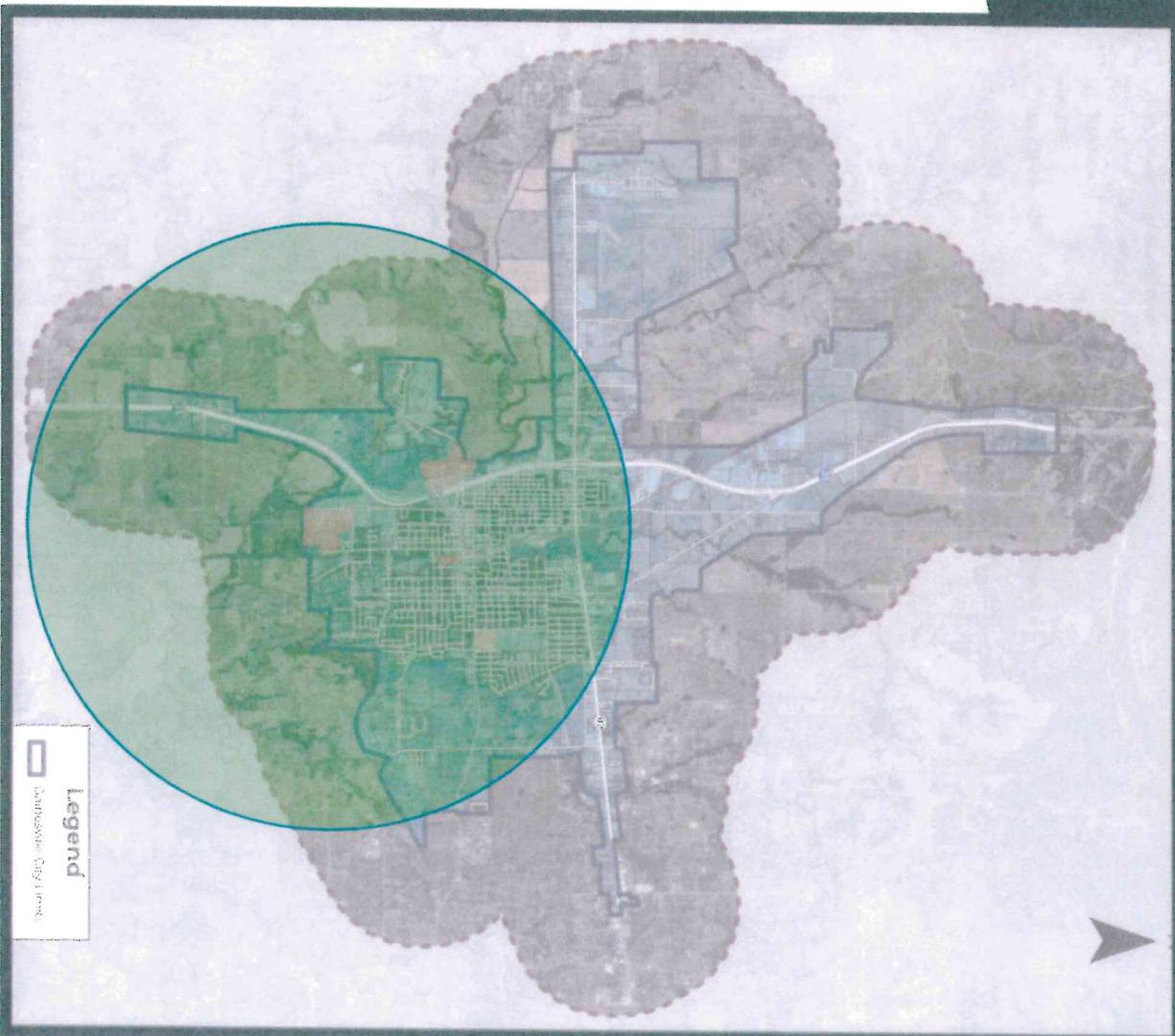


DOWNTOWN GREEN CORRIDOR



PARKS EQUITY MAPPING

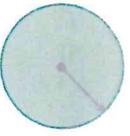
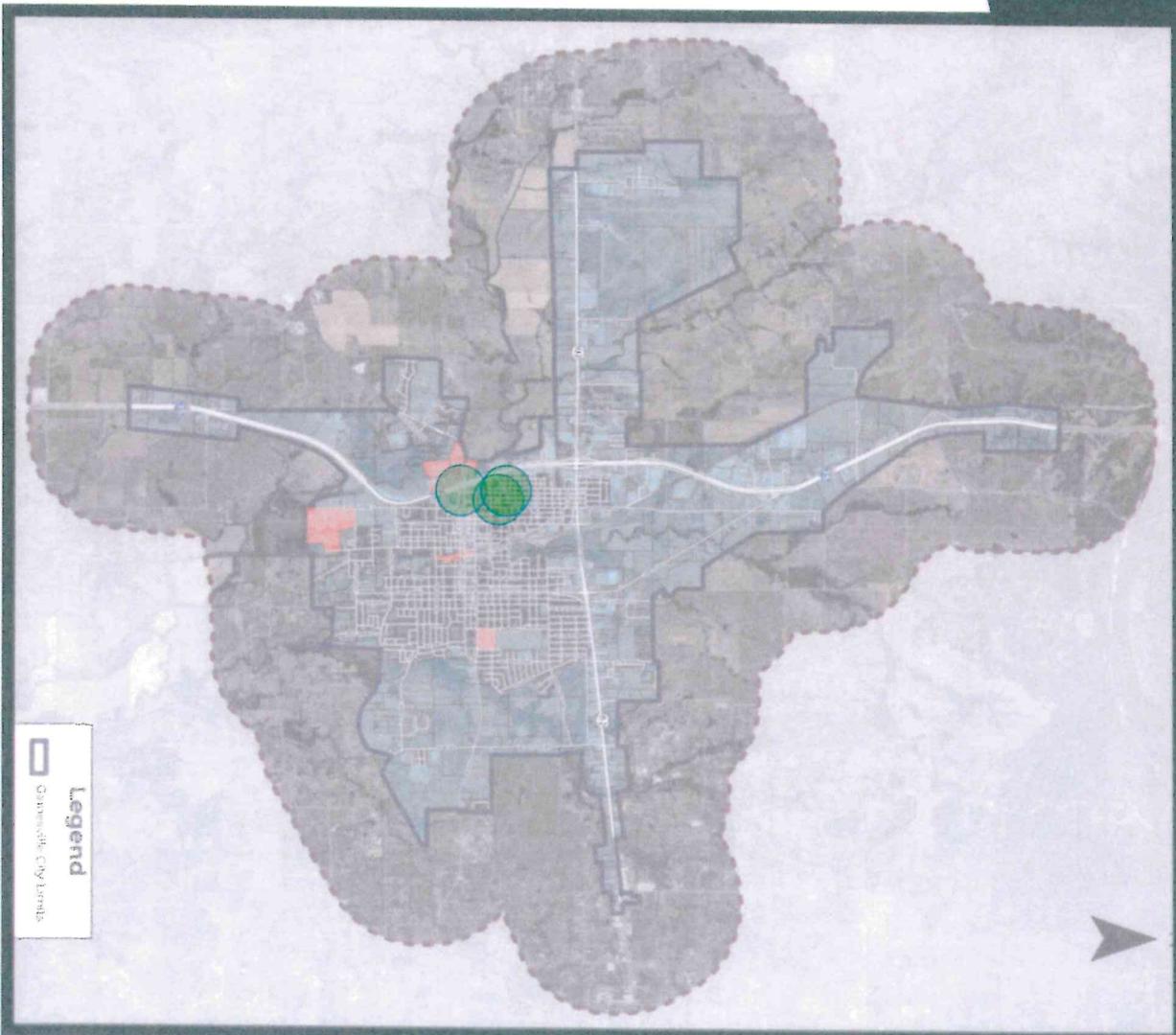
Regional Park
Kennetso Park
Service Radius = 3 miles

A diagram showing a central point with a red dot. A red line extends from the center to the edge of a light blue circle, representing a 3-mile service radius.



PARKS EQUITY MAPPING

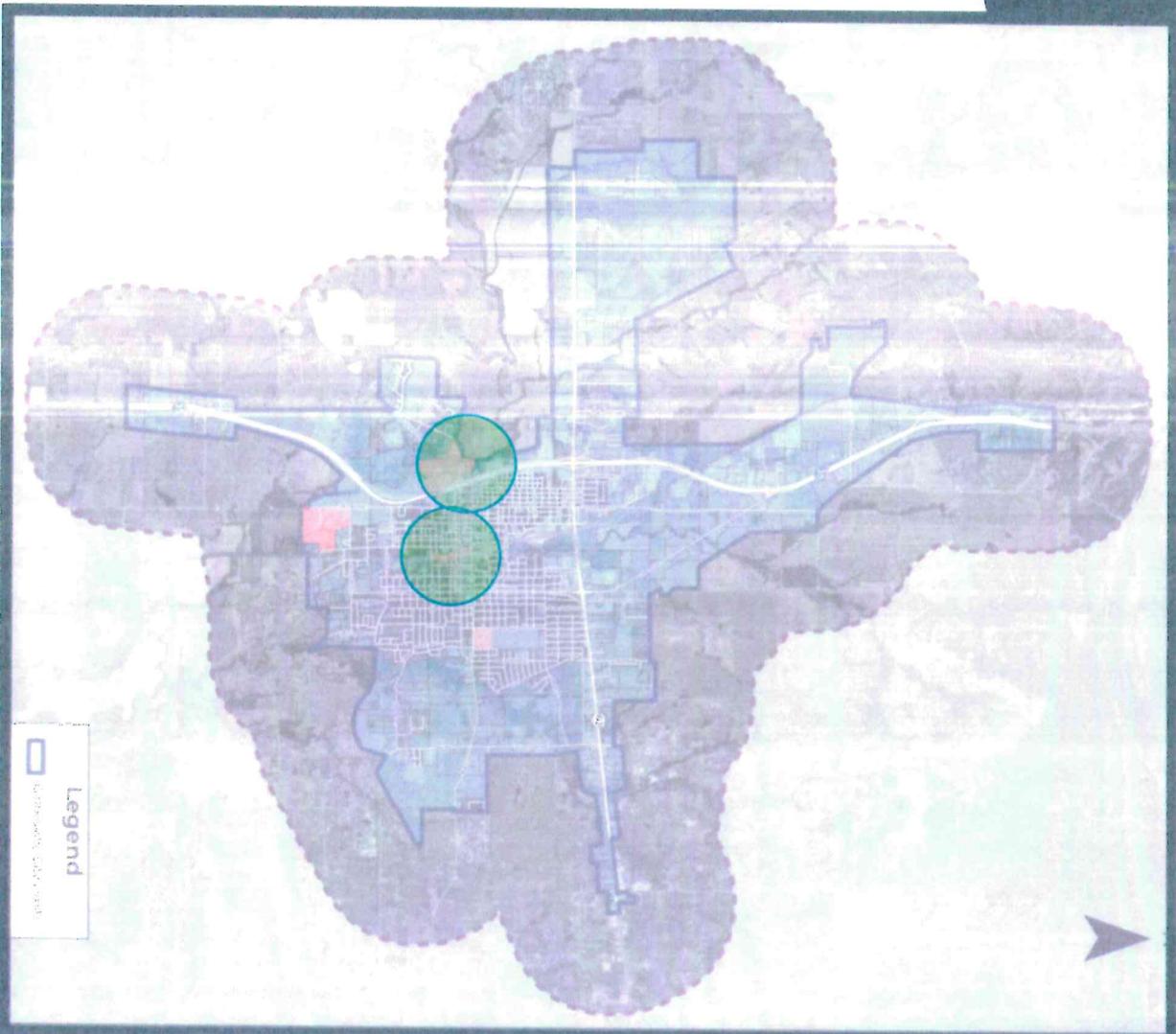
Pocket Parks
 B.P. Douglas
 Medal of Honor
 Booker T. Washington
 Service Radius = 1/4 mile

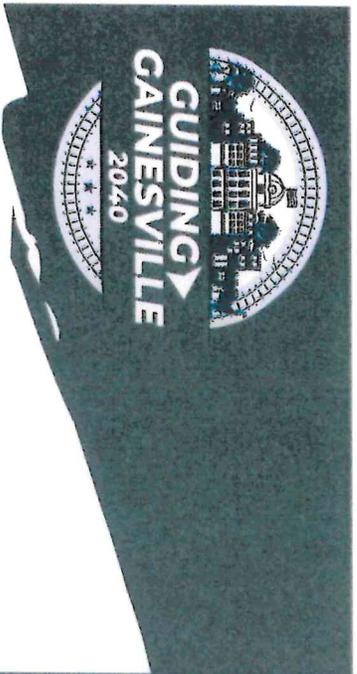





PARKS EQUITY MAPPING

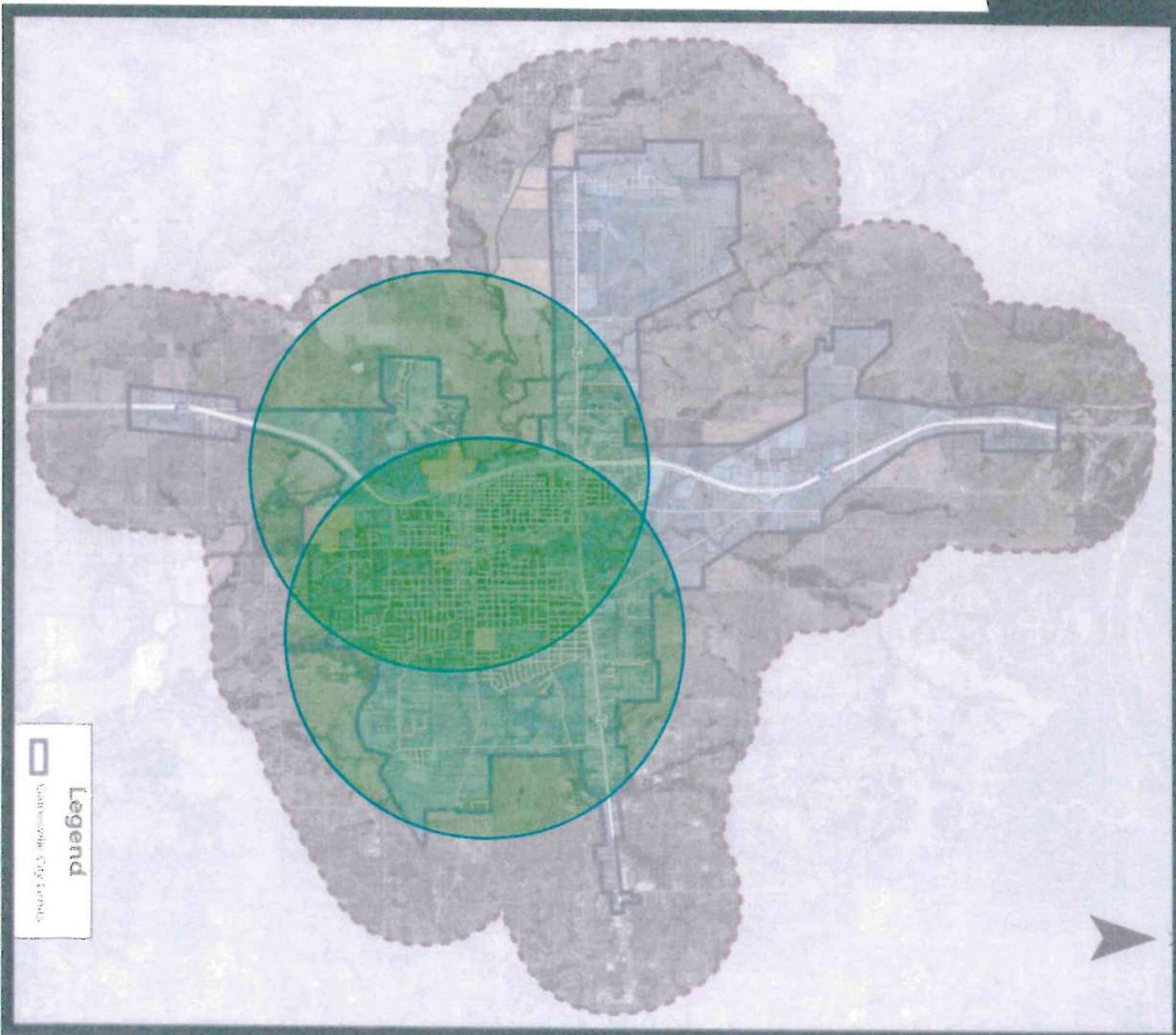
Neighborhood Parks
 Moffitt
 Heritage / Pecan Creek
 Service Radius = 1/2 mile

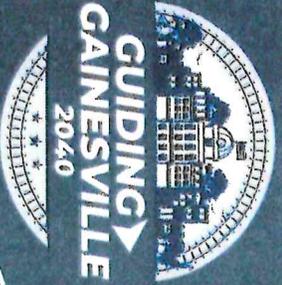




PARKS EQUITY MAPPING

Community Parks
Leonard Park
Edison Park
Service Radius = 2 miles

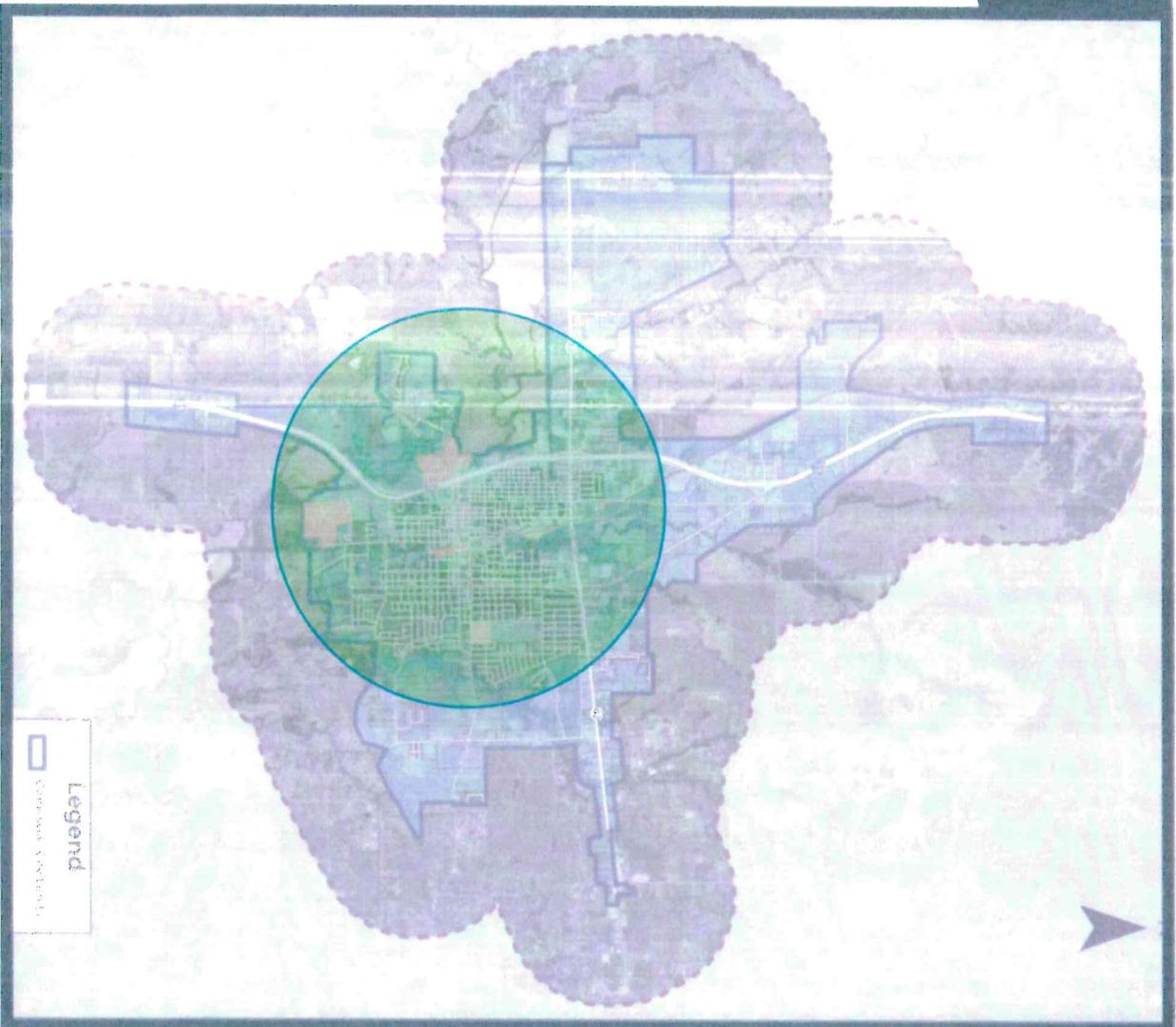


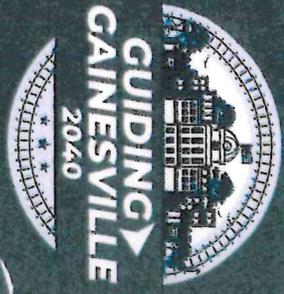


PARKS EQUITY MAPPING

Public Plaza
Farmers' Market

Service Radius = 2 miles





PARKS EQUITY MAPPING

Underserved Areas

10-minute walk



August 26, 2025

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Project Areas - City Level Report

All statistical results are aggregated for the listed project areas and their service areas. Service areas are based on 10-minute (1/2 mile) walk times from project access points defined for each project area and based upon the walkable network.

City: Gainesville, TX	Count
Park Acres	164
Total Population	17,570
Served Population	9,549
Percent Served	54.3%

Age	Within a 10-minute walk
Children (less than age 20)	2,058
Adults (age 20 to age 64)	5,156
Seniors (age 65 and up)	1,536

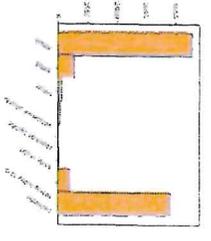
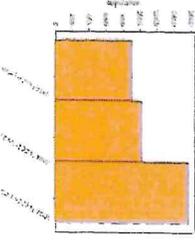
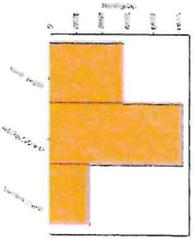
Household by income	Within a 10-minute walk
Low income	905
Middle income	1,022
High income	1,566

(Generated from urban area median income)

Race/Ethnicity	Within a 10-minute walk
White*	4,587
Black*	552
Asian*	122
Native American*	73
Pacific Islander*	4
Other Race*	29
Two or More Races*	405
Hispanic	3,805

* Excludes those that report Hispanic origin (which is captured separately from race by the U.S. Census)

Demographic information is derived from ESRI 2024 Demographic Forecast Block Groups data.



The official data is provided by ESRI. The data is not for public use. The data is provided for internal use only. The number of data points is limited to 1000. The data is provided for internal use only. The number of data points is limited to 1000. The data is provided for internal use only. The number of data points is limited to 1000. © 2025 ESRI. All rights reserved.

