



# PARKS ELEMENT

LAS VEGAS 2020  
MASTER PLAN

introduction

park & neighborhood services  
facility classification system

existing facilities

analysis

spatial analysis

needs assessment

facility needs

functional analysis

costs

funding sources

implementation



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# CITY OF LAS VEGAS PARKS ELEMENT

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# INTRODUCTION

This element of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan (“Master Plan”) establishes standards, guidelines, objectives, policies and priorities for the location, development and maintenance of parks in Las Vegas. The city of Las Vegas (“City”) initiated this effort to establish a parks system which offers opportunities for leisure and fitness enjoyed in natural settings and contributes to an overall healthy community. This Parks Element satisfies various requirements outlined in the Recreation Plan of NRS 278.160. It analyzes the existing park system and delineates opportunities to extend the system in the future.

## POLICY FRAMEWORK

State law requires that governing entities in counties with a population of over 700,000 people adopt a master plan to address a list of subjects set forth in section 278.160 of the Nevada Revised Statutes. The creation of a parks element satisfies a portion of the recreation plan, which is a required subject of NRS 278.160.

- Recreation Plan – Showing a comprehensive system of recreation areas, including without limitation, natural reservations, parks, parkways, trails, reserved river-bank strips, beaches, playgrounds, and other recreation areas, including, when practicable, the locations and proposed development thereof.

The requirements delineated by NRS to adopt a recreation plan are the basis by which the parks element was established. This parks element addresses all but one of the requirements outlined by the recreation plan from NRS 278.160. The subject of trails was identified by the city of Las Vegas to receive greater attention, therefore, the City created a trails element dedicated solely to the establishment of a multi-modal trails system to encourage non-vehicular travel. The inventory, analysis and recommendations in this updated Parks Element will serve as the city of Las Vegas’ recreation plan, and in combination with the Trails Element, will satisfy the statutory requirements.

## 1992 GENERAL PLAN

Prior to the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, the 1992 General Plan satisfied NRS requirements regarding parks. The 1992 General Plan was adopted April 1, 1992 and later updated December 7, 1994. At that time the plan included a chapter on Leisure and Cultural Services. This chapter incorporated



parks, open spaces, trails, cultural art centers and senior citizen centers. One of the areas of interest specifically referenced was “parks and open space” stating:

Parks and open space are an important part of improving the quality of life for Las Vegas citizens. Parks and open space give people an opportunity to exercise, relax, and congregate for group activities. In addition, parks add an aesthetic value to the City, which improves public perception and interest in the area.

The City restructured the method by which parks are planned, constructed and maintained in the mid-1990s. Currently, four City departments, Leisure Services, Field Operations, Detention & Enforcement and Planning and Development, are involved in managing, maintaining and providing security of the park system. Collaboration amongst staffs in these departments is essential to the successful provision of park and leisure services to the community.



*Majestic Park*

# THE LAS VEGAS 2020 MASTER PLAN

The Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan was adopted by City Council on September 6, 2000, forming the framework for a series of elements to replace the 1992 General Plan. One of these elements was the Parks and Recreation Plan. The element was adopted on March 15, 2000, and updated on April 2, 2008.

The Master Plan contains numerous goals, objectives and policies pertaining directly and indirectly to parks. The Parks Element is intended to not only satisfy NRS requirements, but also provide a document that will assist with future needs of the City as it continues to grow. The City of Las Vegas has considered how policies stipulated in the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan direct decisions affecting park issues. This element provides information that will aid the City's priorities and initiatives. The goals, objectives and policies that are related to the Parks Element are as follows:

GOAL 1: The Downtown area will emerge as the preeminent hub of business, residential, government, tourism and gaming activities in the City of Las Vegas and as a major hub of such activities in the Las Vegas Valley.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: To improve the livability of the Downtown through the creation of a series of safe, attractive and interesting public open spaces and non-vehicular routes to connect these open spaces and other major Downtown activities.

POLICY 1.2.1: That each District be focused around a central open space, park, public facility or landmark which lends identity and character to that District.

POLICY 1.2.2: That a major civic square, open space or park be developed in the central business/government district core, to serve as a focal point for the City and contribute to the identity, functionality and amenity of the Downtown.

POLICY 1.2.3: That all Downtown parks and open spaces be linked with non-vehicular corridors or routes. These routes may incorporate a theme, and should be readily identifiable through sidewalk treatments, signage, lighting, landscaping and other techniques. Enhanced streetscapes should be developed along selected corridors. The intent is to foster a safe, pleasant and convenient pedestrian environment. The City will promote the use of public/private partnerships to develop Downtown open space.

GOAL 2: Mature neighborhoods will be sustained and improved through appropriate and selective high quality redevelopment and preservation.

OBJECTIVE 2.4: To ensure that the quality of existing residential neighborhoods within the City of Las Vegas is maintained and enhanced.



POLICY 2.4.1: That the City aggressively promote, on an opportunity basis, the acquisition and development of land for parks in central city locations.

POLICY 2.4.2: That the City continue to improve the level of maintenance of existing park areas within the City.

GOAL 3: Newly developing areas of the City will contain adequate educational facilities, and recreational and open space and be linked to major employment centers by mass transit, including buses, and by trails.

OBJECTIVE 3.1: To ensure that new residential subdivisions, with the exception of areas currently designated as rural preservation neighborhoods by Nevada statute, are developed into walkable communities, where reliance on auto trips for convenience shopping and access to education and recreation is minimized, and where development densities support transit.

POLICY 3.1.3: That residential areas be within walking distance of a neighborhood park.

OBJECTIVE 3.4: To ensure that adequate portions of the lands released for urban development by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are developed for recreational and educational public facilities, transit facilities and fire stations, that will benefit the City.

POLICY 3.4.1: That a minimum of 30 percent of available BLM lands be planned for recreational and parks uses within the Centennial Hills sector of the City, in the general vicinity of the intersection of Kyle Canyon Road and US 95.

POLICY 3.4.2: That detailed plans for recreation, parks and other uses be set forth in a special area plan for the Kyle Canyon area. Any future Kyle Canyon special area plan shall include policies to ensure that an acceptable percentage of the residential and commercial portions of Town Center are developed before residential, commercial and industrial development is allowed in Kyle Canyon. The growth planned for the Kyle Canyon area should not be in direct competition with any undeveloped portions of Town Center, and direct competition with Downtown growth should also be considered.

OBJECTIVE 3.6: To ensure that adequate amounts of park space and trail systems are designated and developed to meet or exceed national standards and standards established in the Master Plan Parks & Recreation Element.

POLICY 3.6.1: That the City establish a parks system based on systematic parks classifications, park size requirements and service area standards.

POLICY 3.6.2: That new developments pay their fair share of park land acquisition and development costs to ensure that national and local standards are met for such new development.

POLICY 3.6.3: That the City obtain lands for parks in developed portions of the City where established park standards are not being met.

POLICY 3.6.4: That lands acquired for parks purposes be obtained in proactive ways, including land purchase through bond issues and land exchanges.

POLICY 3.6.5: That the City maintain high standards with respect to the maintenance and operation of existing parks.

POLICY 3.6.6: That the City encourage the joint development of park space in conjunction with school sites, under the Open Schools/Open Doors agreement.

POLICY 3.6.7: That the City encourage the development of parks that link with and take advantage of trail and pedestrian/bike traffic plans.

GOAL 7: Issues of regional significance, requiring the city of Las Vegas to coordinate with other government entities and agencies within the Valley, will be addressed in a timely fashion.

OBJECTIVE 7.4: To identify, protect and preserve archeological resources and areas with unique or sensitive geologic features that exist within the city boundaries, and to integrate them with new urban development that extends into archeologically sensitive areas.

POLICY 7.4.2: That efforts be made to preserve any significant archeological resources that may be discovered. If possible, that such protection or preservation integrates the resource into the context of the community, such as in a park or open space.

OBJECTIVE 7.6: To ensure that joint use of public facilities is pursued to provide efficient and cost effective services and facilities.

POLICY 7.6.1: That the City coordinate with other public agencies in the Las Vegas Valley to pursue the design and construction of public facilities to have multiple uses.

The benefits of parks are traditionally described in qualitative terms. Parks consistently appear in quality of life surveys as important factors for residents. Historically, parks have been touted as peaceful retreats from the bustling, often crowded city and, in the absence of yards, as places for urban dwellers to get exercise and recreation.

The National Parks Service and the City Parks Alliance are two national organizations dedicated to creating vibrant and healthy parks. The National Park Service offers advice, technical assistance, and money to help local communities create recreation opportunities. The National Park Service awards millions of dollars annually in the form of outdoor recreation grants.

The City Parks Alliance works to integrate parks into the national dialogue on urban renewal, public land investment, economic development and healthy communities. The organization serves in Washington D.C. to advocate legislation in support for local level parks. The City Parks Alliance vision is

“that everyone in urban America lives within walking distance of a park that is clean and safe.” The organization has been supporting park development since its development in 2000. Studies by these organizations have found that parks benefit the community in the following ways:

- Improves economic health
- Reduces crime
- Contributes to the conservation of natural resources
- Creates a strong sense of community
- Potentially increases the value of property
- Promotes an increase in fitness and a reduction in obesity
- Contributes to the preservation of aesthetic values
- Supports overall quality of life

A 2010 study by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) quantified the economic impact outdoor recreation has on the United States economy. The study found that every dollar invested in parks generates at least four dollars in economic value to the public. The study concluded that the United States Park system generates approximately \$13 billion annually of private sector economic activity. Equally important, the study also concluded that this activity generated nearly 270,000 private sector jobs across the nation.

## FEDERAL EFFORTS

Beyond the efforts of the National Parks Service and City Parks Alliance, other federal efforts have contributed to conserving, creating, and maintaining local area parks. In 1990, Congress passed the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Establishment Act. The Act designated Red Rock Canyon as a National Conservation Area. The legislation required the development of a management plan. The primary purpose of the management plan is to conserve and protect the natural resources in Red Rock National Conservation Area, while giving the public opportunities to recreate and enjoy and appreciate nature. The 2011 edition of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Resource Plan addresses and updates management policy for the present and future needs of Red Rock Canyon. By virtue of its proximity to Las Vegas, this natural reservation area provides unique recreational opportunities to residents and visitors and greatly enhances the portfolio of parks and leisure facilities provided by the city.

Congress also enacted the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) in 1998. The Act authorized the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to dispose of public land. A portion of land sales proceeds may be used for conservation and the development of parks, trails and natural areas by local and federal agencies. The City accesses these funds through a competitive application process.





## STATE EFFORTS

The state of Nevada also plays an important role in the development and maintenance of local parks. The Nevada Division of State Parks serves as a liaison to the National Parks Service in administering the funding program here in Nevada. The NDSP is responsible for creating a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The plan identifies critical outdoor recreation issues facing the State of Nevada and recommends actions to address each. The actions serve as the mechanism for evaluating the disbursement of federal funds from the National Parks Service. Any state seeking federal funding must have an updated SCORP document. The top three issues identified in the 2010 SCORP, regarding outdoor recreation in Nevada are:

- Ensure proper maintenance of existing outdoor recreation facilities and manage impacts from increased usage.
- Provide an appropriate level of service at recreation sites.
- Ensure of sufficient funding for existing and future recreation sites.

The Assessment and Policy Plan found that there is a high rate of outdoor activity participation among Nevadans. In addition, the 2010 plan observed an increase in usage since the last SCORP was completed in 2003. It is to be expected that facilities are under pressure to expand their services and properly maintain existing services. There is also strong support in Nevada for conservation of natural and wilderness areas, historic sites and cultural resources. The SCORP plan can assist in identifying areas for open space, parks and trails planning in the Las Vegas area.

## LOCAL EFFORTS

In 1999, Nevada Legislature adopted Assembly Bill 493. The bill required communities in the Las Vegas Valley to come together to produce a regional policy plan to discuss coordinated planning policy guidelines. As a result, the Las Vegas Valley governing bodies created the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition in 1999 by way of interlocal agreement. The coalition is comprised of elected officials from the city of Las Vegas, city of North Las Vegas, city of Henderson, Boulder City and Clark County. This group formulated the required Southern Nevada Regional Policy Plan in 2001 and updated the plan in 2005 and 2012. The plan consists of regional planning policy guidelines that are recognized by the local governments. It specifies eight topics to be addressed through cooperative regional planning, listed as follows:



- Conservation, open space and natural resources;
- Air quality;
- Infill development;
- Population forecasts;
- Land use;
- Sustainability;
- Public Schools/K-12 Education; and
- Transportation

The coalition adopted plans addressing each of these topics. The Regional Open Space Plan, adopted by the Coalition in 2006, was created to detail planning policy guidelines regarding conservation, open space, and natural resources. It focused on strategies for conserving open space in Southern Nevada. The plan encourages open space in the City that consists of passive neighborhood spaces, not active parks, where people can find solace, quiet and perhaps a view of the mountain backdrop. The plan contains a Recommended Open Space System, which includes five open space elements that create guidelines for conservation in Southern Nevada.

In addition to the partnership with the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition, the city of Las Vegas has also partnered with Clark County. In 2002, the city of Las Vegas entered into an Interlocal Agreement with Clark County that established joint policies including but not limited to park and trail planning. The partnership was created to develop a seamless network of parks and trails dedicated to residents living in or close to unincorporated areas with gaps in service. The agreement created a new set of plans for parks and recreational trails and for the creation of a joint recreational trails map. The agreement also states specific coordinated roadway designs that provide ample shoulder space for future non-motorized uses.

In an attempt to develop the infrastructure necessary to balance open space and development, the City of Las Vegas adopted the Northwest Open Space Plan in 2005. The plan provides a policy framework for creating an open space system in the northwest area of the City, comprised of the following four components:

- Protection of natural systems
- Active recreational landscapes
- Historic and cultural landscapes
- Contiguous open space corridors

Implementation of the Northwest Open Space Plan includes conservation of land for parks, open space and trails. The location of land to be set aside should create a “hub and spoke” system that uses trails and open space corridors to connect parks and open areas. Parks should be located in

concert with trails and open space to create a system that is easily accessible by pedestrians and cyclists throughout the City. The Parks & Recreation Element provides a regulatory framework for implementing the active recreational landscapes component of the open space system.

The Northwest Open Space Plan recommended an equestrian park be located in the Centennial Hills sector of the City. As such, in 2005 the city of Las Vegas created the Equestrian Park Master Plan to explore the feasibility of building a high quality equestrian park. The plan outlines data to determine the need for a park, evaluates other equestrian parks, provides a master plan for the site, recommends a funding and phasing plan for construction, and defines operations and management programs. Due to the number of flexible and multi-use facilities being proposed, the Equestrian Park will be able to host a wide variety of equine events.

The city of Las Vegas has also created a master plan for Floyd Lamb Park. Previously owned and managed by the State of Nevada the park was transferred to the City of Las Vegas on July 1, 2007. The park currently supports passive recreational activities such as fishing, hiking, picnicking, and equestrian facilities. The City of Las Vegas plan for Floyd Lamb Park includes two additional lakes, a loop road, visitors center, archeological museum, mountain bike trails, memorial garden, pedestrian and equestrian trails, picnic areas, historic buildings area, and two environmental enhancement areas.

When ample space is available, large parks like the aforementioned Floyd Lamb Park and Northwest Equestrian Park are ideal. However, the luxury of space isn't always available. The City addresses the integration of parks within the built urban environment. In highly urbanized areas, particularly downtown, small open spaces are the only option with limited available land. As such, the city included a park component when adopting the Downtown Centennial Plan in 2000. An integral part of the Master Plan, the Downtown Centennial Plan contains provisions for a network of cultural and recreational pocket parks that, together, are known as Urban Pathways. The vision for these parks include small, fenced areas for doggy aerobics, tot lots, human chess, handball courts, small areas with walls for practicing tennis, perhaps even putting areas. Furthermore, goals of the plan include the provision of open space as an active and passive element of the pedestrian streetscape experience downtown.

Trails serve as an important greenway in connecting the Las Vegas park system. The Trails Elements of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, originally adopted in 2002 and most recently updated in 2013, establishes standards, guidelines, objec-



tives, policies and priorities for the location, development and maintenance of the trail systems. The intent of the plan is to link open spaces, parks and natural areas, as well as delineate opportunities to extend trail systems during the next 20 years. Please refer to the Trails Element for further details.

## LOCAL PRIVATE/PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS

Cities across the country are experimenting with private public partnerships, also known as “concessions” and “outsourcing,” for some of their park and recreation operations. These arrangements are most successful with specialized, revenue generating facilities, such as golf courses, stadiums and restaurants. In those instances, it is often more economical for a local government to contract with an outside operator than to run the facility itself. While this concept is in its infancy, it has been embraced at varying levels by city governments around the country.

In addition to partnerships with the private sector, there are also opportunities for mutually beneficial relationships between a local government and a non-profit organization. The Trust for Public Land has identified four factors that must be in place for these partnerships to succeed:

- There must be an open process and contracts must be bid properly;
- To compete with private interest, facilities must be as good as or better than competitors;
- Fee structure must be appropriate for the location, service and competition; and
- Agency oversight is essential.

The city has some experience with private/public partnerships. The Angel Park Golf Course is operated by a for-profit company although the land is owned by the city of Las Vegas. While not appropriate in all situations, private/public partnerships are an important alternative for the provision of parks and leisure services. The city may choose to enter into an agreement for various reasons, including the generation of revenue by charging a fee for the use of a city-owned facility.

Increasing budgets and decreasing revenues were some of the factors identified when the City Council made the decision to partner with a private, non-profit corporation for the management of the Durango Hills and Centennial Hills Community Centers. The city utilized a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to advertise to eligible organizations and implemented panels consisting of subject matter experts to ensure the most appropriate organization was chosen.



The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) applied and was chosen to manage the Durango Hills Community Center and has been successful in operating this facility for nearly a decade. Recently, with the construction of the Centennial Hills Community Center, the city once again published an RFP for qualified, eligible organizations. The YMCA successfully bid for the management opportunity and is now managing both the Durango Hills and Centennial Hills Community Centers.

The successful partnership allows the city to commit resources to other essential government services while the YMCA is able to enhance the community by providing health, recreational, arts and cultural activities ranging from swimming lessons and summer camps to organized sports and arts and crafts. Contracts with the YMCA ensure the city has an active role in managing the success of both community centers and the partnership is beneficial for the city, the YMCA, and the residents in the Las Vegas valley.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

Parks and recreation service has been provided by the city of Las Vegas for over 60 years, beginning in 1949 with the administration of leisure services by the Department of Parks and Leisure Activities. Over time, the administration of the park system has changed as the City has grown and the local government has expanded to meet the needs of residents.

The Department is responsible for programming and staffing of leisure service centers and programming parks. Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services also oversees the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. Eleven commission members are appointed by the City Council and serve for a three-year term. The Commission's duties are:

- To make recommendations, in cooperation with the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services, to the City Council on matters pertaining to public parks and public recreation and to cooperate with other governmental agencies and civic groups to facilitate sound park and recreation planning;
- To aid in coordinating the parks and recreation services with other governmental agencies and other voluntary organizations;
- To assist in the functions of the Department of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services which involve or affect the public; and

- To make recommendations to the City Council on matters pertaining to municipal golf courses, including, but not limited to capital improvements and green fees or any other charges to the public for use of the facilities.

## **DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

The City's Department of Operations and Maintenance is responsible for coordinating land resources with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and maintenance of park facilities. One critical component of the park system under the purview of the Department of Operations and Maintenance is management of Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) leases between the BLM and the City of Las Vegas. Many city parks are located on land the City leases from the BLM.

Finding land that can be developed as park space is critical in addressing the recreational needs of the City. To accomplish this task, the City examines where growth is expected and, with approval from City Council, the Real Estate division of the Department of Operations and Maintenance applies for Recreation and Public Purpose Act (R&PP) leases. The Recreation and Public Purposes Act (68 Statute 173; 43 United States Code 869 et. seq.), was enacted by Congress in 1954 and the law is administered by the BLM.

The Act authorizes the sale or lease of public lands for recreational or public purposes to state and local governments and to qualified non-profit organizations. Examples of typical uses under the Act are historic monument sites, campgrounds, schools, fire houses, law enforcement facilities, municipal facilities, landfills, hospitals, parks, and fairgrounds. The Act applies to all public lands, except lands within national forests, national parks and monuments, national wildlife refuges, Indian lands, and acquired lands. The amount of land an applicant can purchase is set by law. Whether the land is to be purchased or leased, the BLM will classify, for purposes of the Act, only the amount of land required for efficient operation of the projects described in an applicant's development plan. Applicants must limit the land requested to a reasonable amount. Applicants are required to first accept a lease, or lease with option to purchase, to assure approved development takes place before a sale is made and a patent (government deed) is issued. Projects that may include the disposal, placement, or release of hazardous materials (i.e., sanitary landfills) may go directly to patent.

Counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of a State and non-profit organizations may purchase up to 640 acres a year for recreation purposes, and an additional 640 acres for other public purposes. These lands must be within the political boundaries of the agency or within the area of jurisdiction of the organization or, in the case of cities, they must lie within convenient access to the municipality and within the same state. The Act sets no limitation on the amount of land that may be leased. Some lease applications have been in place for 20 years and still have not processed because the need to develop in those areas has not presented itself.

## **DEPARTMENT OF DETENTION & ENFORCEMENT**

The Department of Detention & Enforcement provides law enforcement services to Las Vegas residents, businesses and visitors so they can enjoy a safe community. The deputy city marshals are responsible for patrolling property owned, leased, or otherwise under the control of the city of Las Vegas, including city parks, recreation facilities and government buildings. Deputy Marshals work closely with Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services to manage programs and special events on city property. Animal Control also plays a key role by monitoring activities within the various dog parks throughout the city to ensure the safety of those utilizing these special facilities.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

The Department of Planning prepares plans for future park needs through the Parks & Recreation Element of the Master Plan. Master plans were prepared in 1960, 1975, 1985, 1992 and 2000. The plans documented existing conditions and set park policy for the City. Maps included in the plans are particularly useful for gauging the growth of the city's park system through the decades. Past policies are also significant as they indicate the City's priorities and perspective on park issues, and shed light on how those have changed/evolved over time.

With over 60 percent of the adult population overweight and rising rates of diabetes and heart disease, urban planning professionals are exploring the link between community design and health. Most believe that even moderate physical activity can improve overall health. Studies are now examining the environmental reasons why an increasing number of people are not getting the recommended amount of activity.





A growing body of research has produced preliminary findings that the design of our cities creates barriers to physical activity. A study by the Saint Louis University School of Public Health published in the American Journal of Preventative Medicine has identified the top factors that influence individual's activity levels. They are as follows:

- Land use – a mix of uses increase a person's desire to be active. Hiking and biking trails and crosswalks promote walking and bike use.
- Transportation – mass transit encourages healthy lifestyles because people are forced to walk to and from stops.
- Aesthetics – people are more inclined to walk when there is a well-maintained environment with interesting things to see (historic monuments, attractions, etc.)
- Institutional and organizational policies – encouraging physical activity in parks, recreational systems, schools and the workplace promote an active lifestyle.
- Promotions – media campaigns build awareness of the importance of physical activity and can increase movement.
- Public policies – policies, such as appropriating funds for construction of bike lanes, walking trails, parks and recreational amenities, promote activity-friendly infrastructure.
- Travel patterns – people are more likely to walk or bike to work if they see others doing the same thing.



*Doug Selby Park*



# PARK & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES FACILITY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Policy 3.6.1 of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan requires the city to establish a parks system based on parks classifications, park size requirements and service area standards. A park classification system is a way to organize and provide a standard terminology for the park and open space system. The classification system utilized by the city of Las Vegas is based on the guidelines established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and local factors.

The city's park classification system is based on the following considerations:

- Size;
- Service area and characteristics of service population;
- Type and variety of developed recreational amenities;
- Programming needs of service populations; and
- Usage patterns.

## PARK TYPES

**Mini Park/Urban Plaza:** A small park or plaza facility, with no more than one acre of land, and serving residents within one-quarter mile. Due to the limited service area of the mini park, they are only recommended in developed areas that have limited land available for neighborhood parks.

**Neighborhood Park:** A park that serves as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood, with up to ten acres of land area, and serves those residents within one-half mile. This category has been expanded beyond the NRPA classification system to include smaller existing city parks that have between one and five acres of land.

**Community Park:** A park that serves a broader purpose than neighborhood parks, has from 30 to 50 acres of land area, and serves those residents within three miles. This category has been expended beyond the NRPA classification system to include smaller existing city parks that contain between ten and 30 acres of land.

**Regional Park:** A large park that meets the broad needs of the community, has over 50 acres of land area, and serves those residents within approximately eight miles.

**School Park:** A school playground and sports field that may be open for public use during times that the school is closed. For purposes of this plan, the service area for School Parks will be the same as that for Neighborhood Parks, or one-half mile.



**Special Use Park/Facility:** A park or facility with a very specific use which is generally oriented for a specific purpose. Examples include, but are not limited to: equestrian parks, extreme sports parks, dog parks, motocross tracks, and competitive tennis facilities. The standard amenities vary depending upon the specific type of park/facility. Recreation trends identified by ongoing public needs assessments may also indicate demand for new special use parks/facilities. These facilities serve the entire community and do not have size or service area requirements of their own. For tracking purposes, their acreage and/or square footage is categorized in the appropriate park/facility classification.

## Park Facilities

Park Classification	Acreage	Service Area	Amenities
<b>Mini Park</b> <b>Neighborhood Park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local designation</li> </ul>	Less than one acre 1-5 acres	Less than ¼ Mile  ¼ to ½ Mile	N/A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-site parking</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Half-street improvements along one side of the property.</li> <li>• Shade structures</li> <li>• Standard site furniture, drinking fountain, signage, parking and pathway lighting, trash enclosure, vehicle gates, and irrigation controls.</li> <li>• One or two amenities such as bocce, horseshoes or basketball.</li> <li>• Optional amenities such as community gardens, memorials, art sculptures, splash pads, etc.</li> <li>• A tot lot with fabric shade.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRPA designation</li> </ul>	5-10 acres		
<b>Community Park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local designation</li> </ul>	10-30 acres		Amenities found in a Neighborhood Park plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports fields</li> <li>• Sports Courts</li> <li>• Optional amenities such as amphitheatres or skateboarding areas</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRPA designation</li> </ul>	30-50 acres	½ mile to 3 miles	
<b>Regional Park</b>	>50 acres	Entire Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same amenities found in a Community Park</li> <li>• Optional amenities such as amphitheatres or skateboarding areas</li> </ul>
<b>School Park</b>	Variable	½ Mile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Sports fields</li> <li>• Sports Courts</li> </ul>
<b>Special Use Park</b>	Variable	N/A	Depends on Park Use

# LEISURE SERVICE FACILITY TYPES

The city's Leisure Services facilities classification system is based on the following considerations:

- Facility square footage;
- Characteristics of service population;
- Type and variety of developed recreational amenities;
- Programming needs of service populations; and
- Usage patterns.

**Neighborhood Center:** A Leisure Service Facility designed with multiple types of programming space that can be used for a variety of general recreational, social, performing and visual arts and educational activities. Neighborhood Centers should be between 20,000 and 30,000 square feet and service approximately 10,000 residents.

**Community Center:** A Leisure Service facility designed to serve the citizens' recreational, social, performing and visual arts and educational needs beyond the immediate neighborhood and to a wider community audience. These centers are generally located adjacent to a community park, are about 30,000 to 55,000 square feet in size, and service approximately 25,000 residents.

**Regional Center:** A Leisure Service facility designed to offer a wider range of leisure services than the smaller Neighborhood and Community Centers. A regional center would typically serve several communities and be centrally located for regional use. Ideally, it should be located in conjunction with a larger park and/or swimming pool facility. These centers are at least 55,000 square feet in area and serve approximately 75,000 residents.

**Community School:** A Community School offers a range of recreational, social performing and visual arts and educational activities, provides opportunities that strengthen and support schools, communities, families and students. The City generally owns and operates a modular office on the school site for before and after school programming that utilizes the school site's gymnasium, classrooms, and other district-owned amenities.

**Aquatic Center:** An aquatic center typically offers both recreational swimming (lap swimming and swim lessons), competitive swimming and training rooms, and cardiovascular strength rooms. Associated amenities will include locker rooms, showers, and office space. An aquatic center may be located in conjunction with another park or facility, but can also be located independently as a stand-alone facility.



**Recreational Facilities**

Facility Type	Size	Service Area	Amenities
Neighborhood Center	20,000-30,000+ SF	10,000 residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lounge and lobby</li> <li>• Offices</li> <li>• Multipurpose rooms</li> <li>• Game room</li> <li>• Kitchen</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Gymnasium, showers and locker rooms (unless provided at an adjacent facility)</li> <li>• Conference room</li> </ul>
Community Center	20,000-55,000+ SF	25,000 residents	Amenities found in a Neighborhood Center plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance studio</li> <li>• Gymnastics room</li> <li>• Cardio/strength training room</li> <li>• Instructor center</li> </ul>
Regional Center	>55,000+ SF	75,000 residents	Amenities found in a Community Center plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor or outdoor pool</li> <li>• Indoor walk/jog track</li> <li>• Auxiliary gymnasium</li> <li>• Computer lab</li> </ul>
Community School	Varies	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modular office</li> <li>• Multi-purpose classrooms</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Playing fields</li> <li>• Gymnasium</li> <li>• Track</li> <li>• Cafeteria space/lunchroom</li> </ul>
Aquatic Center	Varies	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locker rooms</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Lobby</li> <li>• Showers</li> <li>• Office space</li> <li>• Classrooms</li> <li>• Cardiovascular strength space</li> </ul>
Special Use Facility	Varies	Varies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specialty use area based on public interest, such as performing arts theatre, ballroom, indoor walking track, music room, arts &amp; crafts room, pottery room, weaving room, art gallery, etc.</li> </ul>

# EXISTING FACILITIES

A main component of this element is an inventory of existing parks and recreational facilities. In this section, information is presented citywide and by planning sector, and includes all park space and recreational facilities falling within one of the categories outlined in the Park Classification System section of this element.

As of April 2013, the City of Las Vegas owns and operates 1,736 acres of park space. Given the City's population of 594,294 in 2013, this yields a service level of approximately 2.92 acres per 1,000 persons, which exceeds the standard adopted in 2000 of 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Overall, the City has increased its service level from 1.1 acres per 1,000 residents in 2000 to 2.6 acres in 2006, to 2.92 in 2013. This has been accomplished by increasing the number of city parks from (40 to 76) over the same time period.

Although standards and service levels are intended to measure the city's progress in serving the recreational needs of its citizens, in order to create a complete picture of the city's park system, other types of park space that add to and complement the city's system should also be addressed. Privately-owned parks and golf courses all add to the recreational opportunities available to Las Vegas residents. Privately-owned parks and golf courses are shown on Map 5.

As indicated in the following table, the public availability of privately owned and operated parks and golf courses boosts the city's service level to 7.74 acres per 1,000 residents, well over the recommended national standard of 2.5 acres per 1,000. Table 4 below shows the park acreage of the aforementioned types of parks and resulting service level for both publicly and privately owned facilities.

**Table 1: Citywide Current Park Service Levels**

<b>Current Park Service Levels</b>		
<b>Publicly Owned And Operated Parks</b>		
	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Acres/1,000 population</b>
City Parks	1,736	2.92
Public Golf Courses	722	1.06
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>4.13</b>
<b>Privately Owned And Operated Parks</b>		
Private Parks	342	0.58
Private Golf Courses	1,837	3.09
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>3.66</b>
<b>Park Service Levels, City of Las Vegas, Totals</b>	<b>4,637</b>	<b>7.80</b>

The inventory includes 76 parks encompassing 1699.77 acres, and 30 leisure service facilities operated by the city and community partners with a total of 669,861 square feet as shown in Map 1.

## City of Las Vegas (Map 1)

### Demographics:

- 2013 Population: 594,294
- Projected 2015 Population: 620,939
- Projected 2025 population: 730,274
- Projected 2035 population: 774,765

**Table 2: Citywide Park and Facility Data**

<b>Parks</b>				
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Smallest Facility</b>	<b>Largest Facility</b>
Mini Park/Urban Plaza	4	2.11 acres	Mary Dutton Park (.2 acre)	Fitzgeralds Tot Lot (.86 acres)
Neighborhood Parks	48	307.6 acres	Cameron Community Park (1.1 acres)	Rafael Rivera Park (10 acres)
Community Parks	20	504.36 acres	Garehime Heights Park (10.33 acres)	All American Park (45 acres)
Regional Parks	4	885.7 acres	Bettye Wilson Soccer Complex (58.33 acres)	Floyd Lamb Park (660 acres)
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1736 acres</b>		

**Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Facilities**

Neighborhood Centers	12	122,009 SF	Cimarron Rose Community Center (2,408 SF)	Charleston Heights Arts Center (25,540 SF)
Community Centers	7	274,794 SF	Mirabelli Community Center (31,787 SF)	Doolittle Community Center (52,800 SF)
Regional Centers	3	273,058 SF	Las Vegas Sports Park (68,107 SF)	Chuck Minker Sports Complex (106,951 SF)
Aquatic Centers	8			
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>669,861 SF</b>		

**Southeast Sector (Map 4)**

## Demographics:

- 2013 Population: 210,110
- Projected 2015 Population: 213,093
- Projected 2025 Population: 216,484
- Projected 2035 Population: 217,453

**Table 3: Southeast Sector Park and Facility Data**

<b>Parks</b>				
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Smallest Facility</b>	<b>Largest Facility</b>
Mini Park/Urban Plaza	4	2.11 acres	Mary Dutton Park (.2 acre)	Fitzgeralds Tot Lot (.86 acres)
Neighborhood Parks	19	88.39 acres	Wildwood Park (1.24 acres)	Mike Morgan Family Park (9.38 acres)
Community Parks	5	126.59 acres	Cragin Park (13.15 acres)	Gary Reese Freedom Park (44.54 acres)
Regional Parks	1	59.37 acres	Lorenzi Park (59.37 acres)	Lorenzi Park (59.37 acres)
Special Use Parks	0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>276.46 acres</b>		

**Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Facilities**

Neighborhood Centers	10	109,195 SF	Lorenzi Adaptive Recreation & Outreach Center (2,420 SF)	Charleston Heights Arts Center (25,540 SF)
Community Centers	5	191,768 SF	Mirabelli Community Center (31,787 SF)	Doolittle Community Center (52,800 SF)
Regional Centers	1	106,951 SF	Chuck Minker Sports Complex (106,951 SF)	Chuck Minker Sports Complex (106,951 SF)
Aquatic Centers	5			
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>407,914 SF</b>		

**Southwest Sector (Map 3)**

## Demographics:

- 2013 Population: 200,476
- Projected 2015 Population: 218,820
- Projected 2025 Population: 268,013
- Projected 2035 Population: 273,128

**Table 4: Southwest Sector Park and Facility Data**

<b>Parks</b>				
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Smallest Facility</b>	<b>Largest Facility</b>
Mini Park/Urban Plaza	0			
Neighborhood Parks	13	60.36 acres	Cameron Community Park (1.1 acres)	Pioneer Park (17 acres)
Community Parks	6	154.89 acres	AnSan Sister City Park (15.56 acres)	All American Park (45 acres)
Regional Parks	2	166.33 acres	Bettye Wilson Sports Complex (58.33 acres)	Kellogg Zaher Sports Complex (108 acres)
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>398.58 acres</b>		

**Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Facilities**

Neighborhood Centers	1	10,406 SF	Darling Tennis Center (10,406 SF)	Darling Tennis Center (10,406 SF)
Community Centers	1	41,287 SF	Veteran's Memorial Leisure Services Center (41,287 SF)	Veteran's Memorial Leisure Services Center (41,287 SF)
Regional Centers	1	68,107 SF	Las Vegas Sports Park (68,107 SF)	Las Vegas Sports Park (68,107 SF)
Aquatic Centers	1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>119,800 SF</b>		

**Centennial Hills Sector (Map 2)**

Demographics:

- 2013 Population: 183,708
- Projected 2015 Population: 189,206
- Projected 2025 Population: 245,777
- Projected 2035 Population: 284,184



**Table 5: Centennial Hills Sector Park and Facility Data**

<b>Parks</b>				
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Smallest Facility</b>	<b>Largest Facility</b>
Mini Park/Urban Plaza	0			
Neighborhood Parks	16	141.85 acres	Gilmore/Cliff Shadows (1.5 acres)	Centennial Hills (30 acres)
Community Parks	9	222.88 acres	Buckskin/Cliff Shadows (10.5 acres)	Majestic Park (44.4 acres)
Regional Parks	1	660 acres	Floyd Lamb Park (660 acres)	Floyd Lamb Park (660 acres)
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,024.73</b>		

**Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Facilities**

Neighborhood Centers	1	2,408 SF	Cimarron Rose Community Center (2,408 SF)	Cimarron Rose Community Center (2,408 SF)
Community Centers	1	41,739 SF	Durango Hills Community Center – YMCA (41,739 SF)	Durango Hills Community Center – YMCA (41,739 SF)
Regional Centers	1	98,000 SF	Centennial Community and Active Adult Center (98,000 SF)	Centennial Community and Active Adult Center (98,000 SF)
Aquatic Centers	2			
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>142,147 SF</b>		

**Table 6: Aquatic Centers Citywide**

Aquatic Center Facilities				
Name	Type	Location	Const. Year	Pool Surface Area (Sq.Ft.)
Baker Pool	6-lane, 25-yard outdoor pool	1100 E. St Louis Ave.	2003	4,500
Doolittle Pool	Outdoor play pool with zero-depth entry	1950 N. J St.	2003	5,655
Municipal Pool	50-meter, 25-yard indoor heated pool	431 E. Bonanza Ave.	1999	11,842
Carlos L. Martinez and Darrio J. Hall Family Pool at Freedom Park	6-lane, 25-yard outdoor play and competitive pool with zero-depth entry	889 N. Pecos Rd.	2006	7,442
Garside Pool	6-lane, 25-yard outdoor pool: 1 wading pool	300 S. Torrey Pines Dr.	1969	4,892 swim and 225 wading
Pavilion Center Pool	50-meter, 25-yard outdoor pool	101 N. Pavilion Center Dr.	2002	12,000
Durango Hills Community Center / YMCA Pool	8-lane, 25-yard outdoor pool	3521 N. Durango Dr.	1999	5,213 swim and 4,668 wading
Centennial Hills Community Center / YMCA Pool	1 indoor 6-lane, 26-yard lap pool; 1 indoor teaching pool; 1 outdoor play pool; 1 outdoor swim pool (4)	6601 N. Buffalo Dr.	2007	5,350 outdoor swim, 2,414 outdoor play, 600 indoor teaching, 3,570 indoor lap
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12 pools at 8 centers</b>			<b>68,371 SF</b>

# ANALYSIS

This section provides an analysis of parks and leisure service facilities within Las Vegas by using an approach that includes both quantitative and qualitative measures. This comprehensive approach ensures an objective assessment of the park system. This section contains:

- A level of service analysis to project the amount of park acreage needed to accommodate the City's population through 2035;
- A spatial analysis to identify gaps in the system and to monitor the equitable distribution of parks throughout the City;
- A needs assessment to identify existing surpluses or deficiencies in types of parks and recreations facilities, and the issues and priorities that are important to residents; and
- A functional analysis to determine the amenities (fields, courts, etc) that will be needed and to set a standard for the provision of future amenities.

The Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan divides the City into three sectors. Each sector represents a geographical area of the City and each sector has its own unique characteristics and needs. The three sectors are identified as the Southeast Sector, the Southwest Sector and the Centennial Hills Sector. Where appropriate, data is shown citywide and by sector.

## ASSUMPTIONS

Within this document, citywide statistics and analysis use the 2012/13 City of Las Vegas population estimate and the acreage of city owned/maintained parks. This element is intended to document the existing conditions and guide the future development of city owned/maintained parks. However, as discussed in previous sections, the city uses a variety of methods to provide parks.

## LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

A level of service standard is a critical component of park planning. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides recommended guidelines and standards, but also suggests that local communities develop level of service standards that reflect their own unique characteristics.

In 1998, the Southern Nevada Strategic Planning Authority (SNSPA), which was the precursor to the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC), completed

a comprehensive regional study entitled “Planning for our Second Century.” A portion of the study examined the need for parks based on demographic standards for parks in the Las Vegas Valley. The study found that, based on national level of service standards, the valley was deficient in the amount of park space and recreational facilities provided for residents. It also found that national standards could not be directly applied to the Las Vegas Valley, partly because of the large amount of federal land designated for recreation and open space that is within a short driving distance. The result of the study was a recommendation by the SNSPA of 2.5 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.

In 2000, the city of Las Vegas adopted the 2020 Master Plan Parks Element and the 2.5 acre per 1,000 resident standard based on the SNSPA study. In 2008, the Parks Element was updated and the 2.5 acre standard was deemed to still be applicable to the conditions during that time period. The 2012 SNRPC Regional Policy Plan now encourages local governments to adopt a minimum parks and subdivision open space standard for new development of between 2.5 and 10 acres per 1000 residents, depending on location. This is the recommended service level standard for the City of Las Vegas when considering long-range park planning. While this service level is a pertinent barometer for citywide provision of parks, an equally important issue is providing parks that are geographically available to all neighborhoods.

As noted in the Background Section, the city has increased its level of service from 1.1 acres per 1,000 residents in 2000 to approximately 2.92 in 2013. A large portion of the increase is due to the acquisition of Floyd Lamb Park from the State of Nevada in 2007. Floyd Lamb Park, with 680 acres, represents 39% of the city’s total park acreage. It functions as a regional park, but will also provide neighborhood services to nearby residents. Although the city currently exceeds its adopted standard based on provision of parks citywide, a large disparity exists among the planning sectors described above. This analysis provides a target for the future provision of park acreage in the city, focusing on underserved areas, both in terms of population density and length of time with less than adequate parks and recreation facilities.

## METHODOLOGY

In this analysis, a planned park is a park project that appears on the city of Las Vegas’ 2013-2017 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), but has not yet been built. The 2013-2017 CIP represents the best available data on new city of Las Vegas park construction. The acreage for each planned park



is shown to correspond to the year the project appears on the CIP. It should be noted that although the CIP is a five-year plan, a capital budget is prepared annually. Projects may be added, removed or revised during the preparation of the annual budget provided that locations are identified within the city's adopted master plan.

Tables seven through eleven shown below display current and projected service levels citywide, and by geographic sector. Population estimates and projections are used to calculate the amount of acreage required to achieve the adopted standard of 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents. That calculation is then compared to existing and planned park acreage to determine a surplus/deficit. Analysis will show that while the city as a whole meets the adopted 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents' service standard, there are many deficiencies in localized geographic areas throughout the city.

## CITYWIDE CURRENT AND PROJECTED SERVICE LEVELS

**Table 7: Citywide Current & Projected Service Levels**

	Citywide					
	2012	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Population	594,294	620,939	674,657	730,274	765,150	774,765
Park Acreage Built and Funded	1,736	1,737	1,737	1,737	1,737	1,737
Acreage Needed to meet standard	1,485	1,553	1,687	1,826	1,913	1,937
Difference Surplus(Deficit)	251	184	50	(89)	(176)	(200)
Level of Service	2.92	2.79	2.57	2.29	2.27	2.24

*\*Acres of park space per 1000 residents*

## SOUTHEAST SECTOR LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

The Southeast Sector, which includes Downtown Las Vegas, contains some of the oldest neighborhoods and parks in the city. The Southeast Sector is largely built-out with few vacant parcels available for new development. This sector is largely underserved in terms of park acreage with a level of service well below the city standard. The Southeast Sector's current level of service is 1.36 acres per 1,000 residents. The Southeast is the most deficient sector in terms of park acreage compared to other parts of the city. There is only one new city park funded (Stupak Park) on the current five-year CIP within the Southeast Sector.

Downtown Las Vegas is currently experiencing a renewed influx of residents and new businesses, and is rapidly becoming a hub for events, festivals and community gatherings. New residential developments such as Newport Lofts, Juhl and The Ogden have brought many new residents to the downtown area. There are approximately 8,200 residents living downtown with 4.04 existing park acres, which results in a service level of one half acre per 1,000 residents – well below the recommended 2.5 acres per 1000. In spite of the economic downturn of the late 2000's, there are still active zoning approvals for over 2,850 planned residential units in the downtown area which will further exacerbate the shortage of park space within downtown and the Southeast Sector as a whole.

The population of this sector is expected to increase slightly between now and 2035; however, the population may increase beyond projections if the popularity of downtown continues to increase and attract additional employers and residents. The table below shows that the park service level deficit will increase slightly over the next twenty-two years, but the City's central core popularity appears to be increasing and may skew the population projections in the near future resulting in a greater service level deficiency for this sector.

**Table 8: Southeast Sector Current & Projected Service Levels**

Southeast Sector						
	2012	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Population	210,110	213,093	214,064	216,484	217,425	217,453
Park Acreage Built and Funded	286	287	287	287	287	287
Acreage Needed to meet standard	525	533	535	541	542	544
Difference Surplus(Deficit)	(239)	(246)	(248)	(254)	(255)	(257)
Level of Service*	1.36	1.35	1.34	1.33	1.32	1.31

\*Acres of park space per 1000 residents

## CENTENNIAL HILLS SECTOR LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

With a level of service of 6.63 acres per thousand residents, the Centennial Hills Sector has the highest park acreage ratio of all planning sectors. This is the fastest growing area of the city with the population expected to increase 65% by 2035. The city has aggressively sought Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) leases from the BLM on vacant land in this area. Those leases enable park sites to be reserved in advance of new construction, allowing the city to keep pace with growth.

The addition of the Floyd Lamb Park to the city's inventory accounts for much of the gain in park acreage in the Centennial Hills Sector. The transfer of the 680-acre park from state ownership to city ownership occurred on July 1, 2007. Floyd Lamb is a regional park and will serve the sector, but will also provide neighborhood park functions for nearby residents. The chart below demonstrates the current and future service levels are expected to be above 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents thorough the year 2035. There are no new city parks shown on the current five-year CIP within the Centennial Hills Sector.

**Table 9: Centennial Hills Current & Projected Service Levels**

Centennial Hills Sector						
	2012	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Population	183,708	189,206	211,654	245,777	274,640	284,184
Park Acreage Built and Funded	1170	1170	1170	1170	1170	1170
Acreage Needed to meet standard	459	473	529	614	687	710
Difference Surplus (Deficit)	711	697	641	556	483	460
Level of Service*	6.63	6.19	5.55	4.61	4.27	4.12

\*Acres of park space per 1000 residents

## SOUTHWEST SECTOR LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

The Southwest Sector is largely built-out. The majority of the future growth will occur within the Summerlin master planned community. The sector as a whole, including the Summerlin population and park acreage, enjoys a level of service that is equal to or greater than city standards, even though Summerlin builds and maintains its own parks.

The portions of Summerlin that are within the city limits contain approximately 262 acres of parks that are owned/maintained by the Homeowner's Association/Master Developer. The city serves the remainder of the Southwest Sector with 303 acres of parks. Currently, the Southwest Sector in its entirety consists of approximately 565 acres of parks, which equates to a service level of 2.82 acres per 1,000 residents. The sector as a whole is projected to have adequate park service levels through the year 2015. It should be noted that no new city parks are shown on the current five-year CIP within the Southwest Sector.

**Table 10: Southwest Sector Current & Projected Service Levels**

Southwest Sector						
	2012	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035
Population	200,476	218,820	248,939	268,013	273,085	273,125
Park Acreage Built and Funded						
(Summerlin Included)	565	565	565	565	565	565
Acreage Needed to meet standard	501	547	622	670	683	683
Difference (Surplus/Deficit)	64	18	(57)	(105)	(118)	(118)
Level of Service*	2.82	2.58	2.27	2.10	2.07	2.07

\*Acres of park space per 1000 residents

# SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Pursuant to national standards, parks should be located in an equitable manner so that all city residents are within walking distance to a neighborhood park. Master Plan goals and policies, including Policy 3.1.3, echo this concept that every park and recreational facility for each type be located within the appropriately defined distance. It is important to note that all parks provide service at the neighborhood level, regardless of their sizes and, therefore, serve as neighborhood parks. The same is true of regional parks, as these parks also provide service at the community and neighborhood levels within that radius.

The maximum recommended service area of a neighborhood park is a half-mile radius. It should be noted that the service area radii do not reflect all access barriers to parks. Physical barriers to pedestrian traffic, such as arterial streets and walls around gated communities should also taken into consideration when locating neighborhood parks.

The half-mile service area standard allows for a spatial analysis on the distribution of parks throughout the city and by planning sector. Map 1 displays all existing and planned city parks. For this purpose, a planned park is a park project that appears on the 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Program, indicating that it has priority for funding.

A spatial analysis is an appropriate method to evaluate the physical distribution of parks, but is only one aspect of the park system. Parks can meet the spatial criteria, but fail to meet the needs for parks in this community based on demographic or functional standards. Nor does the spatial analysis address the temporal inequities in aging neighborhoods that have not been served with city parks and recreation facilities for a number of decades. This spatial analysis and corresponding maps should help guide decisions on the location of future neighborhood parks to guarantee equitable geographic distribution.

## CITYWIDE SPATIAL ANALYSIS

The city of Las Vegas covers 133.25 square miles. Of that area, 61.23 square miles, or 46%, lies outside of the one-half mile service radii of a neighborhood park. Approximately 185,481 people (31% of the total city population) live in the underserved areas of the city. To examine the underserved areas in more detail, the city was divided by Master Plan sector and broken down by zip code. Each zip code is defined in a table by sector, and identifies total population, underserved



population, percentage of population underserved, age of housing stock, total park acreage and ratio of park acreage per 1000 residents. Statistics for zip codes that bisect sector or city limits have been adjusted to reflect its location and characteristics. Each zip code, along with the underserved population in each, is contained on Map 11. The average age of the housing stock in each zip code is shown on Map 13.

**Table II: Citywide Service Area Figures**

Sector	Population	Population Outside Of ½ Mile Service Area	Percent of Population Outside ½ Mile Service Area	Land Area (Square Miles)	Land Area Outside Of ½ Mile Service Area (Square Miles)	Percent Of Land Area Outside Of ½ Mile Service Area
Southeast	210,110	83,318	40%	30.10	12.15	40%
Southwest	200,476	56,876	28%	46.67	20.31	44%
Centennial						
Hills	183,708	42,950	23%	56.48	28.77	51%
City Wide Totals	594,294	183,144	31%	133.25	61.23	46%

Summerlin park acreage was included in this analysis due to the fact that while they are owned and maintained by Summerlin, they are generally accessible to the general public. To exclude these privately owned parks would skew the analysis and show a deficit in park service levels in areas where in fact none exists. Another consideration to take into account is the 12.30 square miles (7,867 acres) of BLM land north of Moccasin Road that is undeveloped and causes a large discrepancy between the percentage of the Centennial Hills population that is underserved and the total amount of land that is outside the one half mile service area. The BLM land results in the Centennial Hills Sector having the most amount of land outside a park service area; however, this sector has the lowest amount of population that is underserved throughout the entire city.

## SOUTHEAST SECTOR SPATIAL ANALYSIS

The Southeast Sector encompasses 30.10 square miles, or approximately 23% of the overall city area, which makes it the smallest sector in the City. While the Southeast Sector has the lowest amount of land area, it is also the densest with 210,110 residents, or approximately 35%, of the City's overall population. This sector also has the largest percentage of population lying outside the recommended half-mile service radius of a neighborhood park with 83,318 residents, or approximately 40%, outside the recommended one-half mile park service radius. There are approximately 1.37 park acres per 1000 residents, which is well below the adopted standard of 2.5 acres per 1000. This sector is also the most mature, with the average residential dwelling unit being built in 1970.

**Table 12: Southeast Sector Service Area Figures**

Zip Code	Total Population	Underserved Population	Percentage Of Zip That Is Underserved	Average Housing Age	Total Park Acreage	Ratio Of Park Acreage Per 1000 Residents
89101	41,772	17,140	41%	1960	91.94	2.2
89102*	26,855	20,708	77%	1968	5.89	.21
89104*	17,320	5,293	31%	1956	27.63	1.59
89106	25,711	10,631	41%	1976	25.55	.99
89107	39,988	11,751	29%	1967	86.09	2.15
89108*	16,321	2,142	13%	1982	32.04	1.96
89110*	42,143	15,653	37%	1981	20.50	.48
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>210,110</b>	<b>83,318</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>1970</b>	<b>289.64</b>	<b>1.37</b>

\*Population adjusted to account for portions of the zip code outside the city limits/sector

## SOUTHWEST SECTOR SPATIAL ANALYSIS

The Southeast Sector encompasses 46.67 square miles, or approximately 35 % of the overall city area. The sector's population is approximately 200,476, or 34 percent of the city's overall population. Approximately 56,786 residents, or 28 percent, of the Southwest sector's population are more than a half-mile from a neighborhood park. Summerlin park acreage was included in this analysis due to the fact that while these parks are not owned or maintained by the City, they are generally accessible to the general public. The Southeast Sector encompasses 46.67 square miles, or approximately 35% of the overall city area. The park ratio per 1000 residents is 2.62 and the majority of the sector is well served by either city parks or Summerlin parks. The primary underserved areas includes the four square miles in the southern portion of the sector that is developed as "Peccole Ranch," "The Lakes" and "Canyon Gate." These communities were developed without any park space. The average construction year of dwelling units in this sector is 1999.

**Table 13: Southwest Sector Service Area Figures**

Zip Code	Total Population	Underserved Population	Percentage Of Zip That Is Underserved	Average Housing Age	Total Park Acreage	Ratio Of Park Acreage Per 1000 Residents
89108	41,182	8,027	20%	1982	8.74	.02
89117*	36,034	28,606	79%	1991	72.81	2.02
89128	36,616	8,295	23%	1992	253.98	7.05
89124	0	0	0%	N/A	0	0
89134	24,463	3,305	14%	1994	53.14	2.21
89135	0	0	0%	2006	0	0
89138	12,630	439	3%	2005	44.37	3.69
89144	18,462	1,326	7%	1999	96.66	5.37
89145	25,773	6,555	25%	1987	35.57	1.42
89146*	5,316	323	6%	1975	0	0
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>200,476</b>	<b>56,876</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>565.27</b>	<b>2.62</b>

\*Population adjusted to account for portions of the zip code outside the city limits/sector

# CENTENNIAL HILLS SECTOR

## SPATIAL ANALYSIS

The Centennial Hills sector encompasses 56.48 square miles, or approximately 42% of the overall city area. The sector's population is approximately 183,708, or 31 percent of the city's overall population. Approximately 42,950 residents, or 23 percent, of the Centennial Hills sector's population are more than a half-mile from a neighborhood park. There are 6.37 park acres per 1000 residents and this sector has the newest housing stock, with the average year of construction being 1999. The Centennial Hills sector is the largest in terms of land area and includes approximately 7,867 acres of undeveloped BLM land north of Moccasin Road. Neighborhood parks should be planned as growth occurs so they are distributed equitably throughout the sector.

**Table 14: Centennial Hills Sector Service Area Figures**

Zip Code	Total Population	Underserved Population	Percentage Of Zip That Is Underserved	Average Housing Age	Total Park Acreage	Ratio Of Park Acreage Per 1000 Residents
89108*	14,073	8,535	60%	1982	32.20	2.3
89129*	48,562	3,185	7%	1999	246.81	5.1
89130*	30,921	16,064	52%	1996	19.11	.62
89131*	40,582	3,137	8%	2002	793.21	19.5
89143*	13,260	5	0%	2002	0	0
89149*	27,121	6,324	23%	2002	79.19	2.9
89166	9,189	5,700	62%	2009	0	0
<b>Sector Totals</b>	<b>183,708</b>	<b>42,950</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>1170.52</b>	<b>6.37</b>

\*Population adjusted to account for portions of the zip code outside the city limits/sector

## PARK DISTRIBUTION BASED ON SERVICE AREA

The maximum recommended service area of a neighborhood park is a half-mile radius, but there are also physical barriers to pedestrian traffic that must be taken into consideration when locating neighborhood parks. However, for the purpose of this analysis, the half-mile service area standard was used. Map 1 displays all existing and planned city parks. For the purpose of this element, a planned park is a park project that appears on the 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Program.

Map 8 illustrates the half-mile service radius for each neighborhood park. Ideally, all city parks would meet both

the level of service and service area standards adopted by the city, currently set at 2.5 acres of park space per 1,000 residents within the one-half mile buffer around each park. To measure whether all city parks are of adequate size to serve the surrounding population and are located to be accessible to the neighborhood, an analysis of population densities within each park service zone (one-half mile radius) was performed.

This spatial analysis indicates that the Southeast Sector is severely underserved in terms of park acreage. An analysis of service area provides a description of the status of the park system, points to future need, and assists the city in determining where to allocate new park resources. Analyzing the physical location of parks along with the recommended service area is the first step, but linking level of service with service area standards, population density, and age of neighborhood provides a more telling story of where the actual need exists for park space.

## **PARKS DISTRIBUTION BASED ON POPULATION DENSITY**

A spatial analysis evaluates the geographic distribution of parks, but only looks at one aspect of the park system. Parks can meet the spatial service criteria, but fail to meet the needs for parks in this community based on demographic or functional factors. For purposes of the Parks & Recreation Element, population density was used to evaluate whether existing parks are overburdened due to the number of people they must accommodate, and to point to the locations where the need is greatest for future parks. This should guide decisions on citing future neighborhood parks with the goal of equitable distribution. The analysis can be further refined at the neighborhood level to include other demographic factors, such as race and income, to determine the social equity of park distribution. In addition to population density, age of housing stock has also been incorporated into this analysis. This allows identification of chronically underserved areas in the most densely populated areas of the city as shown on Map 14.

Previous analysis has shown that, with currently approved parks and expected development, the city of Las Vegas will have adequate park acreage to achieve the goal of 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents. This is due in large part to construction of a number of large regional and community parks. Therefore, the city must now address park needs in some of the more densely populated areas that are currently relying on relatively small neighborhood parks.

While the overall citywide goal of 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents has been accomplished, the larger issue is whether the level of service is deficient in certain areas of the city. In order to address this question, the spatial location of park acreage relative to population has been examined. Maps 9 and 10 display the population density of the city of Las Vegas, along with locations of parks relative to the population density. The densest areas of the city, shown in purple and red, are located around downtown and the eastern portions of the city within the Southeast Sector, near U.S. 95 in the Southwest Sector and in dispersed clusters in the Centennial Hills Sector. On map 9, the high density areas represent 20.01 – 30 persons per acre and are shown in purple. The red, urban areas signify 12.01-20 persons per acre.

Map 10 illustrates the population density of those areas in the city of Las Vegas that fall outside the one-half mile service radius of any neighborhood park. The analysis shows that 31% of the population of the city of Las Vegas does not live within one-half mile of a city of Las Vegas neighborhood park. Map 11 displays the underserved population in each zip code throughout the city. Map 13 shows the average housing age in each city zip code. Map 14 combines the population density and housing age information, graphically highlighting the most densely populated areas in the city that have endured the longest periods of time with substandard park and recreation service. As indicated on Map 8, the most chronically underserved area is located in the Southeast Sector where approximately 40 percent of the population is outside the one-half mile neighborhood park service area with the average dwelling unit having been constructed in 1970. The Southeast Sector is also the densest, with approximately 6,980 residents per square mile (10.90 residents per acre). The Centennial Hills and Southwest Sectors have 23 and 28 percent of their populations outside of the neighborhood park service area, and have densities of 3,252 and 4,296 residents per square mile (5.08 and 6.71 residents per acre), respectively. Average construction year of dwelling units in the Centennial Hills Sector is 1999 and 1992 in the Southwest Sector. Based on this analysis, new park planning and construction efforts should be focused in the Southeast Sector, where the highest need exists and where new parks and recreation facilities will benefit the most residents.

It is important to note that the suggested level of service standard, as it relates to service area, is not a perfect tool for gauging the adequacy of park space. As previously noted, there are a number of factors that contribute to the location and type of recreational space and facilities that are available in certain areas. One of these factors is the national standard for various activity types and another is the specific needs of an area as determined by the residents of that area. These are discussed in more detail in the following two sections.

## LEISURE SERVICES FACILITIES/ CENTERS DISTRIBUTION BASED ON POPULATION DENSITY

A spatial analysis of the distribution of all regional, community and neighborhood leisure services facilities and their service areas is shown on Map 7. The service areas are determined based on the standards established in Table 15. This methodology differs from that for parks which used a ½ mile radius to delineate service areas. The spatial analysis for centers is population based. Map 7 shows coverage for all regional, community and neighborhood leisure service facilities. Maps 7a, 7b, 7c and 7d display the service areas for neighborhood, community, regional and aquatic centers, respectively.

Neighborhood Leisure Service Centers, as displayed on Map 7a, have a service area based on a ratio of one center per 10,000 people. The service area for each neighborhood center as shown in yellow contains approximately 10,000 city residents. In several instances, there are overlapping service areas among centers, primarily those clustered in the Southeast Sector. Areas underserved by neighborhood centers include all of the white portions of the city not included in a yellow circle. The Centennial Hills and Southwest Sectors are the most deficient in neighborhood centers based on this type of spatial analysis.

Community Leisure Service Centers, as shown on Map 7b, have a service area based on a ratio of one center per 25,000 people, shown in gold. Similar to the distribution of neighborhood centers, there is overlap in service areas, most notably in the Southeast Sector. The greatest deficiency appears to be in the Centennial Hills Sector, followed by the Southwest Sector, based on the population ratio standard.

Regional Leisure Service Centers, as indicated on Map 7c, have service areas defined in red based on a ratio of one center per 75,000 people. There are three regional leisure service centers, one in each sector. The center in the Southeast Sector serves the greatest number of people based on density, followed by the centers in the Centennial Hills and Southwest sectors.

Aquatic Facilities, as shown on Map 7d, have service areas identified in light blue based on a ratio of one center per 20,000 people. As noted with other types of centers, there is some overlap of service areas in the Southeast Sector. The greatest service deficiencies appear to be located in the Southwest and Centennial Hills Sectors. There is also a significant gap in service in that portion of the Southeast Sector located west of Interstate 15.

## OTHER SITE SELECTION FACTORS

To determine new locations for constructing leisure services centers, the city utilizes demographic information, including median age and household income, and to meet future needs, should focus first on those areas indicated on Maps 7 through 7d where the population is underserved. In also assessing community recreation offerings by private and non-profit organizations in the areas underserved by municipal facilities, the city can identify if there is a need for a new leisure services center. The city chooses not to compete for recreation programming with existing services already provided to the public. However, affordable services are a concern for city residents and the city considers this in its programming and site selection for new facilities.

In addition to information provided by the spatial analysis, other factors to consider when prioritizing construction of new leisure services facilities include: land constraints, city tax revenues, R&PP leases on land, community partnership opportunities, such as those with the YMCA and school district, identified service level standards, and citizen feedback from the Community Needs Assessment Program surveys and other types of public feedback regarding leisure services demand.



*Baker Park*



# NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

In 2005, the Department of Leisure Services conducted a survey to gauge the recreational and programming priorities of city residents. While this data is over 8 years old, it is the most recent survey that the City has conducted. The survey was designed to gather information in the following topical areas:

## Recreation habits

- Existing and desired recreation habits – citywide and by ward – for youths, adults and seniors

## Facilities

- Interest in additional indoor and outdoor facilities
- Types of facilities desired
- Amenities desired for indoor recreation centers
- Usage of community centers

## Programming

- Methods community members use to find out about recreational and cultural programs and services
- Resident's willingness to travel for services
- Programming input for those with disabilities
- Usage of city-managed senior centers

## Policies and Planning

- Community priorities for leisure service facilities, general programming and teen programming
- Fee structure, funding sources and service priorities
- Facility development priorities

## METHODOLOGY

Surveys were distributed to a random sample via door-to-door delivery and mail. 23,600 surveys were distributed with 1,787 returned for a return ratio of 7.6%. Given the population of Las Vegas, the number of surveys distributed and the number of returned surveys, a 2.1% margin of error at the 95% confidence level was achieved. Survey results were broken down both citywide and by ward. Below are some of the important findings from the survey.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Priorities for facilities are as follows: maintain existing facilities, upgrade existing facilities, and build new facilities.
- Priorities for programming are as follows: youth programming, senior programming, and general health and fitness programming.





- 100% of responses indicated at least conditional supports for a tax measure for improvements to and acquisition of parks. Swimming, walking, hiking, weight training and going to the gym are listed as the top “active” recreation activities. Reading, listening to music, participating in family activities, arts & crafts, gardening and gourmet cooking are the top “passive” recreation activities of respondents.
- 9 out of 10 of the most popular activities indicated are significantly above the average participation rate.
- Activities that respondents would like to do more of include attending concerts, fairs and festivals; participating in arts and crafts; and indoor swimming.
- A significant number of respondents feel that additional outdoor facilities are needed in their area. This is particularly true in Wards 3, 5 and 6.
- Support for an indoor recreation center is very strong across all wards.
- In all wards of the City, respondents indicated a need for basic park amenities, such as paved trails, picnic areas, playgrounds, and basketball courts.
- Respondents indicated that “family activities” are a recreation option that residents both do and want to do. Additionally, family-oriented outdoor facility choices (such as water play parks, family picnic areas, small water playgrounds, tot lots and open grassy areas) are at the top of the list of facility priorities. Other strong parallels between activities and facilities chosen are as follows: respondent indicated a strong interest in both outdoor and indoor swimming, and a pool is the third-highest facility choice of respondents; a strong interest in walking for pleasure was also demonstrated, and paved trails are a top facility priority.
- There are also facility choices that are not congruent. Respondents indicated an interest in basketball courts and sport fields. However, basketball, football and soccer rank relatively low when asked what activities they are currently participating in or would like to do.
- Construction of water play features, indoor swimming pools, and football, soccer, baseball and softball fields received strong support statistically and in write-in responses, citywide.
- Most respondents find out about recreation programs and services via word of mouth, program guides and local newspaper advertisements.
- If the parks and recreation budget were decreased, respondents in all wards would want to reduce or eliminate plans to construct new parks and facilities.

Respondents would avoid eliminating or reducing operational hours at existing community centers and swimming pools.

- Parks are second only to home as a place where respondents spend their free time.

# FACILITY NEEDS

The following table illustrates facility needs based on each planning sector's population. Based on current service standards, each sector is deficient in the number of all categories of leisure services facilities available to the citizens of Las Vegas, except in the Southwest Sector, where the standard for regional centers is currently met.

**Table 15: Leisure Facility Needs by Sector**

## Southeast Sector

Facility Type	Service Standard	Needs Based On 2013 Population Of 210,110	Existing Facilities	Surplus (Deficiency)
Neighborhood Center	1: 10,000 residents	21	10	(11)
Community Center	1:25,000 residents	8	5	(3)
Regional Center	1:75,000 residents	3	1	(2)

## Southwest Sector

Facility Type	Service Standard	Needs Based On 2013 Population Of 200,476	Existing Facilities	Surplus (Deficiency)
Neighborhood Center	1: 10,000 residents	20	1	(19)
Community Center	1:25,000 residents	8	1	(7)
Regional Center	1:75,000 residents	3	1	(2)

## Centennial Hills Sector

Facility Type	Service Standard	Needs Based On 2013 Population Of 183,708	Existing Facilities	Surplus (Deficiency)
Neighborhood Center	1: 10,000 residents	18	1	(17)
Community Center	1:25,000 residents	7	1	(6)
Regional Center	1:75,000 residents	2	1	(1)

# FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS

The above sections establish guidelines for determining the general location, spatial distribution, and number of parks needed at full build-out of the city. A functional analysis identifies recreational needs by activity type using national standards as a guide. Accordingly, the functional analysis will determine the level of service needed, whether existing facilities are adequate to serve the existing population, and the level of service needed for each function for the community at full build-out.

Several assumptions must be established as recreational demands and interests change over time. Demographic shifts in the lifecycle of a neighborhood also result in changing recreational demands. For example, a neighborhood with a concentration of families with young children will have different needs as the children mature. The impacts of these changes can be costly to the city as it attempts to provide appropriate amenities and programming for its residents. Some fields may serve multiple sports where no significant change of configuration is required.

Service standards have been established using national standards as a guide, but have been adjusted to local conditions based on use patterns, climatic conditions and citizen surveys. Determination of future facility needs should be subject to periodic review. While it is impracticable to forecast the exact location of sports fields throughout the city, it is important to set a benchmark for the number of amenities needed in future park construction.

In recent years, the NRPA has renounced the “one size fits all” approach and recommends that communities develop park and recreational facility standards that fit individual needs and circumstances. Under this approach, the NRPA recommends using public meetings, community surveys, and interviews with various department heads, league presidents, and the recreational program directors to establish the current facility utilization and future needs.

## CITYWIDE RECREATION FACILITIES

The table below shows specific comparisons between recommended standards and the city’s existing functional level of services. These comparisons indicate that the city is in need of all types of fields and recreational amenities, except jogging tracks. Major deficiencies exist in all the sports field categories. As new parks are planned and designed, consideration should be given to the standards established in this plan and specific facility needs should be assessed during the annual capital budget planning process.



**Table 16: Citywide Recreation Facilities Current and Future Needs****Citywide**

2013 Population: 594,294

2035 Projected Population: 774,765

<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Recommended Service Standard</b>	<b>Current CLV Inventory</b>	<b>Current Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>Projected Surplus (Deficit)</b>
Basketball Court	1:5,000 Residents	56	(63)	(99)
Tennis Court	1:2,000 Residents	66	(231)	(321)
Volleyball Court	1:5,000 Residents	24	(95)	(131)
Lacrosse Field	1:5,000 Residents	4	(115)	(151)
Baseball/Softball Field	1:15,000 Residents	48	8	(4)
Football Field	1:20,000 Residents	9	(21)	(31)
Soccer Field	1:10,000 Residents	44	(14)	(33)
Golf Course	1:50,000 Residents			
Jogging Track	1:20,000 Residents	42	12	3
Swimming Pool	1:20,000 Residents	9	(21)	(31)

**Southeast Sector****Table 17: Southeast Sector Recreation Facilities Current and Future Needs****Southeast Sector**

2013 Population: 210,110

2035 Projected Population: 217,453

<b>Amenity</b>	<b>Recommended Service Standard</b>	<b>Current CLV Inventory</b>	<b>Current Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>Projected Surplus (Deficit)</b>
Basketball Court	1:5,000 Residents	30	(12)	(13)
Tennis Court	1:2,000 Residents	19	(86)	(90)
Volleyball Court	1:5,000 Residents	3	(39)	(40)
Lacrosse Field	1:5,000 Residents	0	(42)	(43)
Baseball/Softball Field	1:15,000 Residents	14	0	
Football Field	1:20,000 Residents	2	(9)	(9)
Soccer Field	1:10,000 Residents	10	(11)	(12)
Golf Course	1:50,000 Residents			
Jogging Track	1:20,000 Residents	9	(2)	(2)
Swimming Pool	1:20,000 Residents	5	(6)	(6)

## Southwest Sector

**Table 18: Southwest Sector Recreation Facilities Current and Future Needs**

### Southwest Sector

2013 Population: 200,476

2035 Projected Population: 273,128

Amenity	Recommended Service Standard	Current CLV Inventory	Current Surplus (Deficit)	Projected Surplus (Deficit)
Basketball Court	1:5,000 Residents	4	(36)	(51)
Tennis Court	1:2,000 Residents	34	(66)	(103)
Volleyball Court	1:5,000 Residents	4	(36)	(51)
Lacrosse Field	1:5,000 Residents	0	(40)	(55)
Baseball/Softball Field	1:15,000 Residents	13	0	(5)
Football Field	1:20,000 Residents	7	(3)	(7)
Soccer Field	1:10,000 Residents	28	8	0
Golf Course	1:50,000 Residents			
Jogging Track	1:20,000 Residents	15	5	1
Swimming Pool	1:20,000 Residents	1	(9)	(13)

## Centennial Hills

**Table 19: Centennial Hills Sector Recreation Facilities Current and Future Needs**

### Centennial Hills Sector

2013 Population: 183,708

2035 Projected Population: 284,184

Amenity	Recommended Service Standard	Current CLV Inventory	Current Surplus (Deficit)	Projected Surplus (Deficit)
Basketball Court	1:5,000 Residents	22	(15)	(35)
Tennis Court	1:2,000 Residents	13	(79)	(129)
Volleyball Court	1:5,000 Residents	17	(20)	(40)
Lacrosse Field	1:5,000 Residents	4	(33)	(53)
Baseball/Softball Field	1:15,000 Residents	21	9	2
Football Field	1:20,000 Residents	0	(9)	(10)
Soccer Field	1:10,000 Residents	6	(12)	(22)
Golf Course	1:50,000 Residents			
Jogging Track	1:20,000 Residents	18	9	4
Swimming Pool	1:20,000 Residents	2	(7)	(12)

# COSTS

The costs of providing leisure services include the costs necessary to maintain the park system and for programmed activities and events. Maintenance costs include those costs necessary for the equipment and personnel to keep parks and facilities in good condition, while programming costs are those costs incurred in sponsoring activities and events. The Department of Operations and Maintenance Department is primarily responsible for maintenance costs while the The Department of Parks and Leisure Activities are responsible for park programming activities.

Maintenance of parks and recreational facilities is an important aspect of every parks system. Without proper maintenance it is difficult to keep the parks system at a level that does not regress to a dilapidated state. When this occurs, it is generally more costly to make the necessary improvements to bring the parks system back to the appropriate level. Unfortunately, when funds are scarce, it is often maintenance of the parks system that assumes a lower priority than other aspects of the system.

To reduce maintenance costs, the City needs to continually search for cost effective ways to design and develop parks. The use of hardscapes, xeriscapes, and desert tolerant landscaping may be more expensive to install initially, but are easier and less costly to maintain over the long term. When possible, turf should be discouraged to reduce the long term costs associated with irrigation and ongoing maintenance.



*Floyd Lamb Park at  
Tule Springs*

# FUNDING SOURCES

The City's funds planning resource, the capital improvements program, contains funding for new parks, based on a five-year horizon, which is updated annually. The items approved through this process represent the approved priority list for spending capital funds. It is recommended that recreational developments requiring capital expenditure be closely coordinated through the capital improvements program so that budgeting and parks planning priorities are linked logically and efficiently.

The City derives funds for parks and recreational purposes, including the acquisition, development, and operations of parks, recreational facilities, and programs from a number of sources. The major existing revenue sources along with a detailed explanation of each are listed below.

## GENERAL

### GENERAL TAX REVENUE

This revenue source is one of the largest sources of funding for parks and recreational purposes. The revenue is derived from the imposition of primarily sales taxes and property taxes.

### RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION TAX

The Residential Construction Tax (RCT) is derived from new residential development according to a formula that is equivalent to one percent of the construction value of a residential structure up to a ceiling of \$1000. The construction value is set at 36 cents per square foot. The RCT is collected in funds, as land or as parks in lieu of funds or land.

### GENERAL REVENUE BUDGET

Some funds are made available for recreational purposes from moneys collected via general fund augmentation. These funds are City revenues generated from a variety of sources that have not been used for other purposes. It should be noted that these funds are variable and do not constitute a guaranteed annual amount.

## POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

To adequately serve the recreational needs of the community's residents, alternative revenue sources to the City's general fund need to be pursued. Potential revenue sources are detailed below. The most logical source of revenue for parks/open space acquisition and development and park renovation and to enable a citywide disbursement of funds

based on actual need would be a voter approved bonding measure. A recently passed medium term bond resulted in the funding of 11 parks projects, including new parks development and improvements in all sectors of the City. It is anticipated that a larger, longer term bond would address additional park deficiencies (spatial, demographic, and functional) identified in this plan and give community residents a greater variety of recreational opportunities to enhance their quality of life.

### **GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

General Obligation Bonds must be approved by the voters. Such funds are not geographically limited and, therefore, are an important source in addressing the recreational needs in existing neighborhoods.

### **PARK DISTRICT FEES**

Some communities have initiated a fee for entrance to parks. The park district fees are established so non-residents are charged for using local parks while residents are admitted free of charge. In areas where one jurisdiction provides a park system more desirable than the surrounding areas, the demand for use by non-resident users can be significant. Consequently, the community responsible for the park carries the financial burden of developing, maintaining and operating the park for non-residents.

### **PARK ENTRANCE FEES**

Park Entrance Fees operate similar to Park District Fees except that all users are charged for entrance to the park. These fees are primarily established for regional parks and are used to finance the operation of regional parks. When such fees are applied to local parks, low income residents may be deprived of their use.

### **GRANTS**

The federal government offers grants in the form of Community Development Block Grants. These funds may be available for the development of parks, but they are usually of a limited amount and have qualifying constraints that limit their applicability. Other grants are available but are limited in use specifically for trail development or pedestrian improvements. One such grant is the TEA-21 grant administered by the Regional Transportation Commission.

### **LAS VEGAS CONVENTION AND VISITORS' AUTHORITY**

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors' Authority provides a voluntary annual grant to the City that is used for parks purposes. It should be noted that this is a voluntary contribution on the part of the Authority and not a guaranteed amount.





## **SNPLMA**

With the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA), which was passed in 1998, an important option has entered the funding equation. Each year, Southern Nevada entities submit proposals to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) which allocates funds received from large federal land auctions to those projects which score sufficiently high in the ranking system. While available funding through the SNPLMA program has been reduced significantly in recent years, it is still a source of funding for park renovation, parkland acquisition, and the construction of new parks and community recreation centers.

## **RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSE ACT (R&PP) CONVEYANCES**

The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Act) permits the BLM to lease land at nominal cost to the City for “recreation and public act conveyances.” This is the prevalent method the City uses to obtain land from the BLM for parks and recreational facilities. The use of property under an R&PP may at some time in the future be abandoned, as the Secretary of the Interior has the right to terminate a conveyance until such time as a “patent” is issued. A patent is a legal instrument the Federal government uses to convey land to others by quit claim deed. There is no record of the Secretary terminating a conveyance to land used for parks and recreational purposes, but it is recommended the City procure patents from the BLM so lands are preserved in perpetuity for parks. If the City acquires land under an R&PP in an area that is later determined to be in a poor location for a park, the City may exchange the land with a property owner who has land in a more optimal location. According to the Act, a “Transfer of Reversionary Interest” or TRI permits the interest in land that is secured under an R&PP to be transferred to non-federal lands. If the non-Federal land to which the transfer is made is of less value, an amount equal to the difference in fair market value of the lands must be paid to the Secretary. While the Transfer of Reversionary Interest was intended to allow shifts or adjustments in the location of lands for public purposes to sites within a relatively short distance of say a thousand feet, the process may be used to a great advantage for obtaining land for parks in older areas of the community. For example, land owned by the BLM in the Centennial Hills sector could be secured for parks and recreational purposes and that interest transferred to a site of equal value in the southeast sector where a park is direfully needed. The land in the Centennial Hills would then be made available for private development. In this manner, an R&PP is another method for acquiring land without identifying a source of funds to purchase the land.

## **ACQUISITION AT REDUCED OR NOMINAL COST**

On occasion, parcels of land are disposed of by the County when the property owners fall delinquent in paying the property taxes owed on the parcels. At that time, there may be an opportunity for the City to acquire land at reduced or nominal cost, often for the amount of the back taxes. This method of park land acquisition can be very beneficial in older parts of the community where there is a need for parks and avoids having to locate a source of funding to purchase them. Quite often, however, parcels being disposed of will not meet the criteria of this plan document, as they are either not in the right location or not large enough for neighborhood parks.

## **PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Public/private arrangements can be very beneficial. Monetary or in-kind contributions, however, must ensure access to parks and recreational facilities by the general public.

## **GIFTS**

Gifts of land or money designated for parks purposes have provided a source of funding, but such gifts are unfettered and unrestricted and the application of names to a park or facility recognizing a benefactor or family must follow approved City policy.

## **FUND RAISERS**

Fund raising has been done for a very limited number of minor projects. Such funds are generally directed toward facility development rather than for land acquisition.

## **TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (TDR)**

TDR is a concept devised long ago to give a property owner the right to develop property in a certain way in exchange for the dedication or granting of land to the City that the property owner has in another part of the community. This method is an in-kind way of obtaining park land without having to identify a funding source to purchase it. This same concept could be very beneficial in the establishment of park sites, particularly in older developed areas where there is a need for parks. In exchange, the property owner, whose land is granted to the City, would be given the right to develop other property at, for example, at a higher density or for a different land use.

# IMPLEMENTATION

The challenge for any long-range, municipal master plan is to remain relevant and useful throughout its lifecycle. A master plan outlines a vision for the future to be implemented incrementally over time. This Parks & Recreation Element is intended to execute the master plan by guiding individual decisions on the location and funding of city parks. One of the main implementation tools for the master plan is the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a fiscal and management tool used by the City to allocate its resources. This element should be regarded as a resource for the City to use during the CIP process to help inform capital programming decisions. The recommendations below were developed from the multiple levels of analysis detailed in the previous sections and are intended to be comprehensive, taking into account the park needs of residents, current conditions, future park expenditures and future population growth.

- P1:** Prioritize parks planning and implementation in the most densely populated areas of the city that have endured the longest periods of time with substandard parks and recreation services.
- P2:** New park projects should be located within the underserved areas shown on Maps 11 and 12 of this element, with top tier priority given to underserved areas in the southeast sector.
- P3:** Locate neighborhood parks with one-half mile service areas that are not obstructed by physical barriers to pedestrian traffic such as arterial streets.
- P4:** Smaller, neighborhood parks with appropriate amenities should be planned and built so that every resident is within walking distance of a park, focusing first on areas with the highest population densities as identified on Map 10.
- P5:** Encourage the development of smaller scale public urban spaces, parks and plazas within downtown and urban core.
- P6:** Explore strategies to facilitate additional park space in the downtown area by exploring alternate methods of park development, including but not limited to, private/public partnerships, land exchanges, land purchases, land donations and utilization of Redevelopment Agency funds.
- P7:** Identify sites within underserved areas not located within a master planned community that may be suitable for park development as shown on Maps 10, 11 and 12.
- P8:** Provide active recreational facilities based on the adjusted national standards and aim to tailor service standards for recreational facilities to the population's identified needs as shown on tables 16, 17, 18 and 19.
- P9:** Prioritize provision of new leisure services facilities based on the needs analysis contained in Table 15 and Maps 7A through 7D.
- P10:** Conceptual design work for new park and recreation projects should take into consideration existing amenities in the area and aim to reduce deficiencies
- P11:** Continue to work with the Public Works Department to integrate the City of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan with the CIP process.

- P12:** Consult the maps and implementation items provided in this element during the CIP process.
- P11:** Monitor the population growth, change in recreation trends, and levels of service, to better identify projects for the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plan.
- P12:** Coordinate location of parks with Clark County and the city of North Las Vegas where feasible.
- P13:** Coordinate with Clark County School District to develop or expand park facilities in conjunction with existing and future school sites.
- P14:** Continue to coordinate with the Clark County School District to identify opportunities for co location and joint use of sports fields and other facilities.
- P15:** Continue to work with the Howard Hughes Corporation to ensure that future Summerlin development continues to adequately incorporate park space.
- P16:** Update the Parks & Recreation Element every five years to account for new parks that have been constructed and to update planned parks based the five-year CIP Plan. Perform new level of service spatial analysis to determine if the City is meeting established goals.
- P17:** Utilize the parks and community centers analyses and mapping contained in this element as tools for achieving equitable distribution of parks and recreation centers throughout the city.
- P18:** Continue to explore methods to reduce park maintenance costs by incorporating sound design and landscaping practices.



# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 1 Parks and Recreation Element

### Existing City Parks & Leisure Service Centers

- City of Las Vegas Park
- City of Las Vegas Recreational Center
- Clark County or North Las Vegas Park

City of Las Vegas



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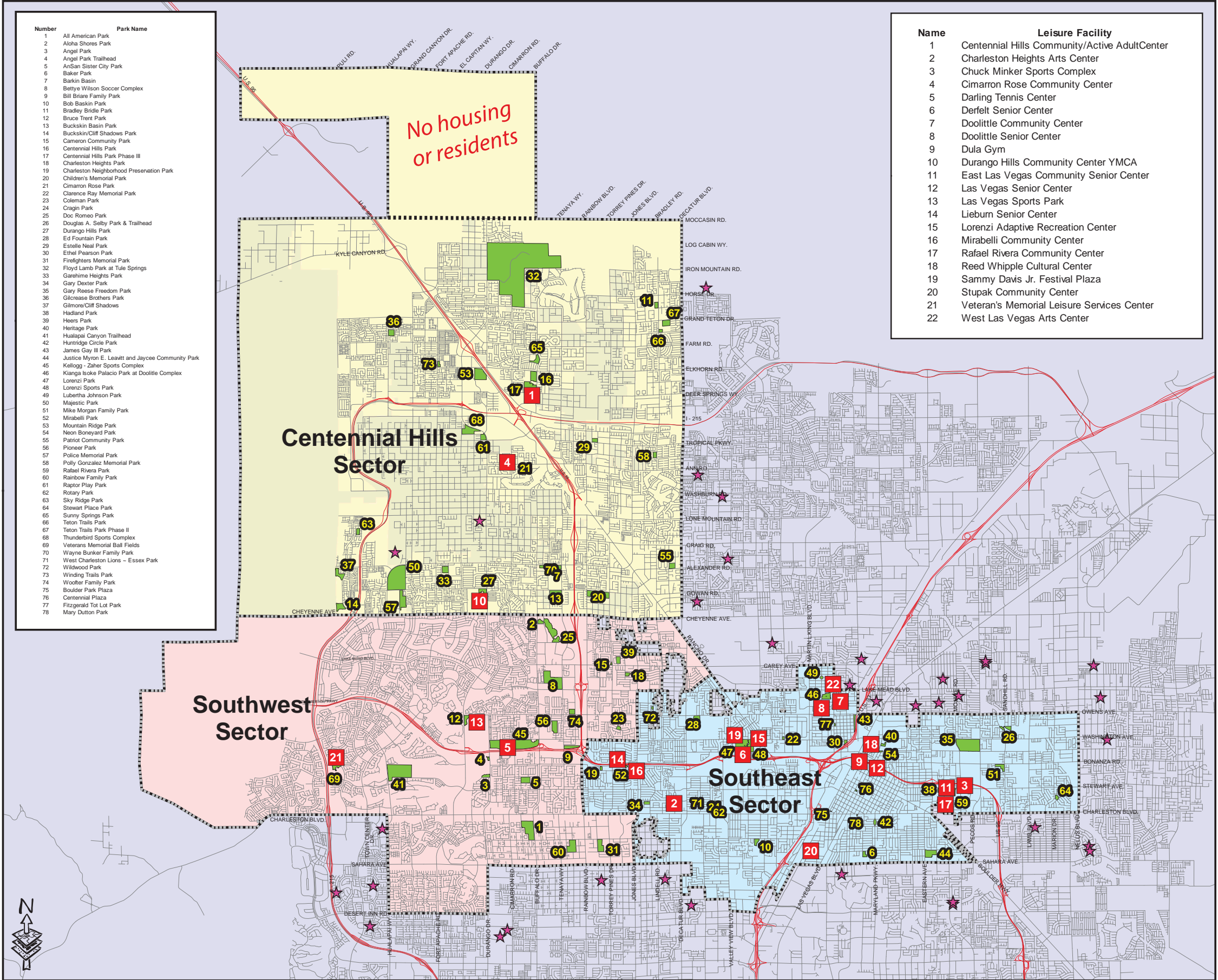
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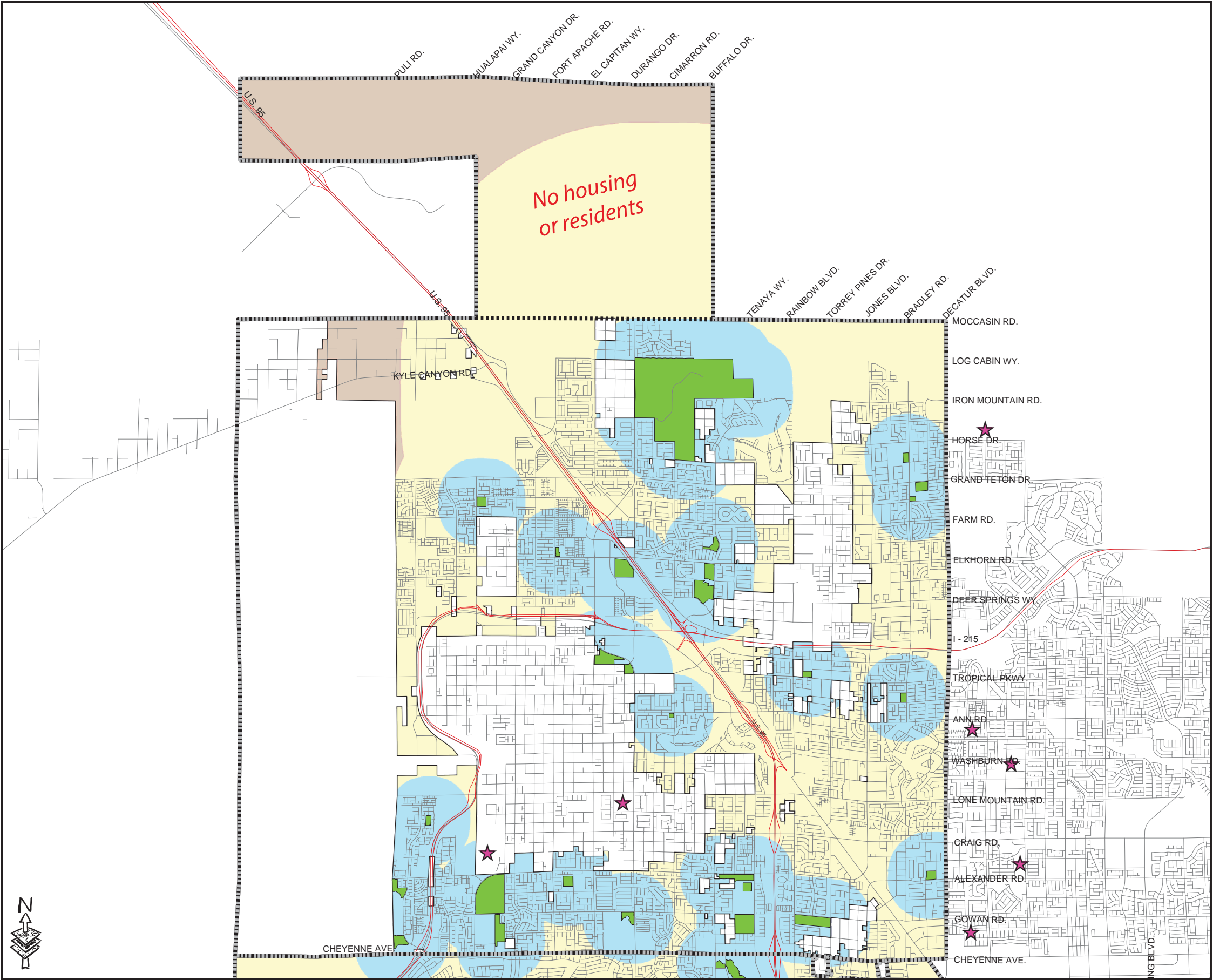
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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 2 Parks and Recreation Element

### Existing City Parks Centennial Hills Sector



 Centennial Hills Sector

 City of Las Vegas Park

 Regional Park Buffer  
(8 Mile Radius)

 Community Park Buffer  
(3 Mile Radius)

 Neighborhood Park Buffer  
(1/2 Mile Radius)

 Mini Park/  
(1/4 Mile Radius)

 Clark County or North  
Las Vegas Park

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 3 Parks and Recreation Element

### Existing City Parks Southwest Sector

-  Southwest Sector
-  City of Las Vegas Park
-  Regional Park Buffer  
(8 Mile Radius)
-  Community Park Buffer  
(3 Mile Radius)
-  Neighborhood Park Buffer  
(1/2 Mile Radius)
-  Mini Park/  
(1/4 Mile Radius)
-  Clark County or North  
Las Vegas Park

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Miles

Data current as of: July 10, 2013

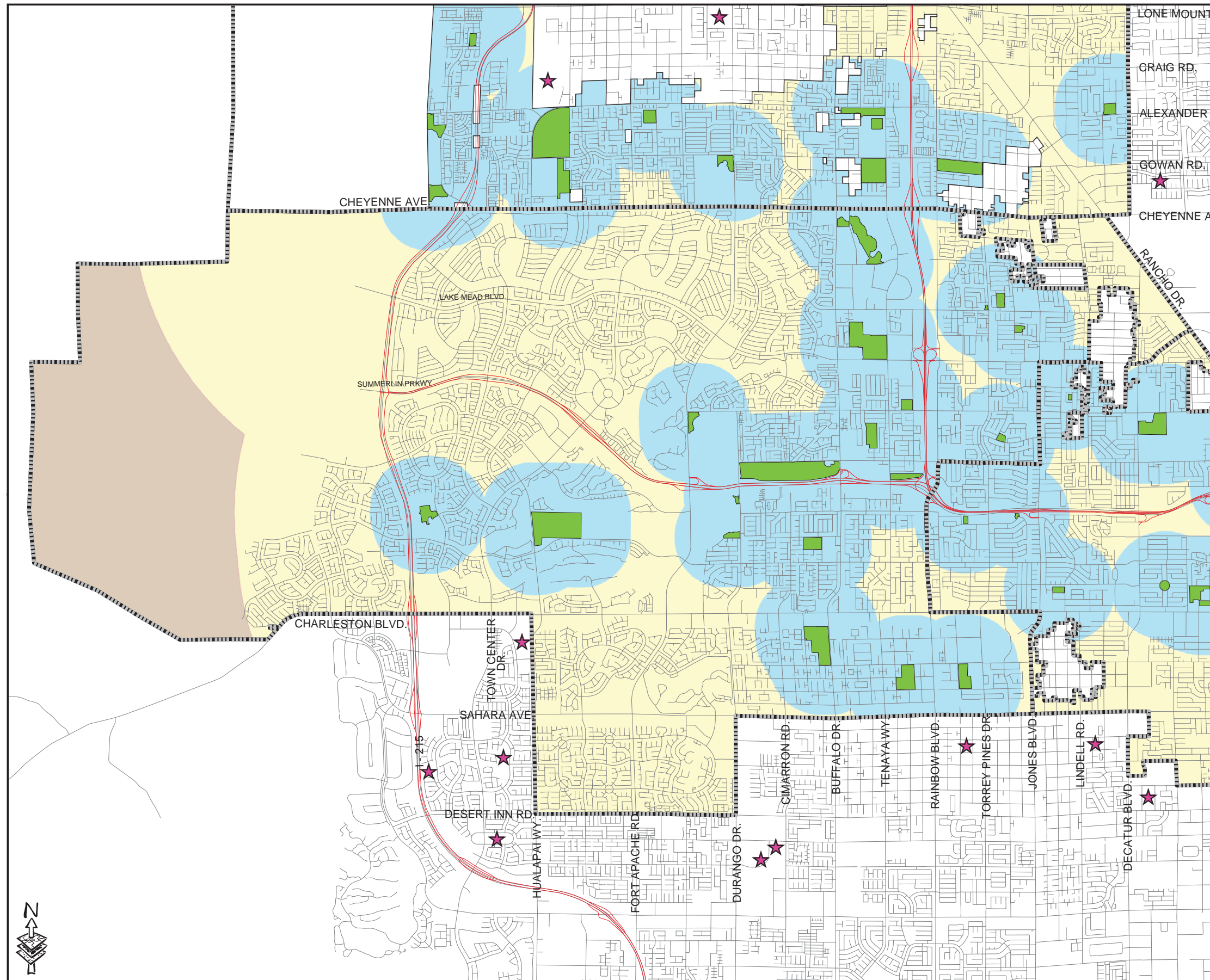
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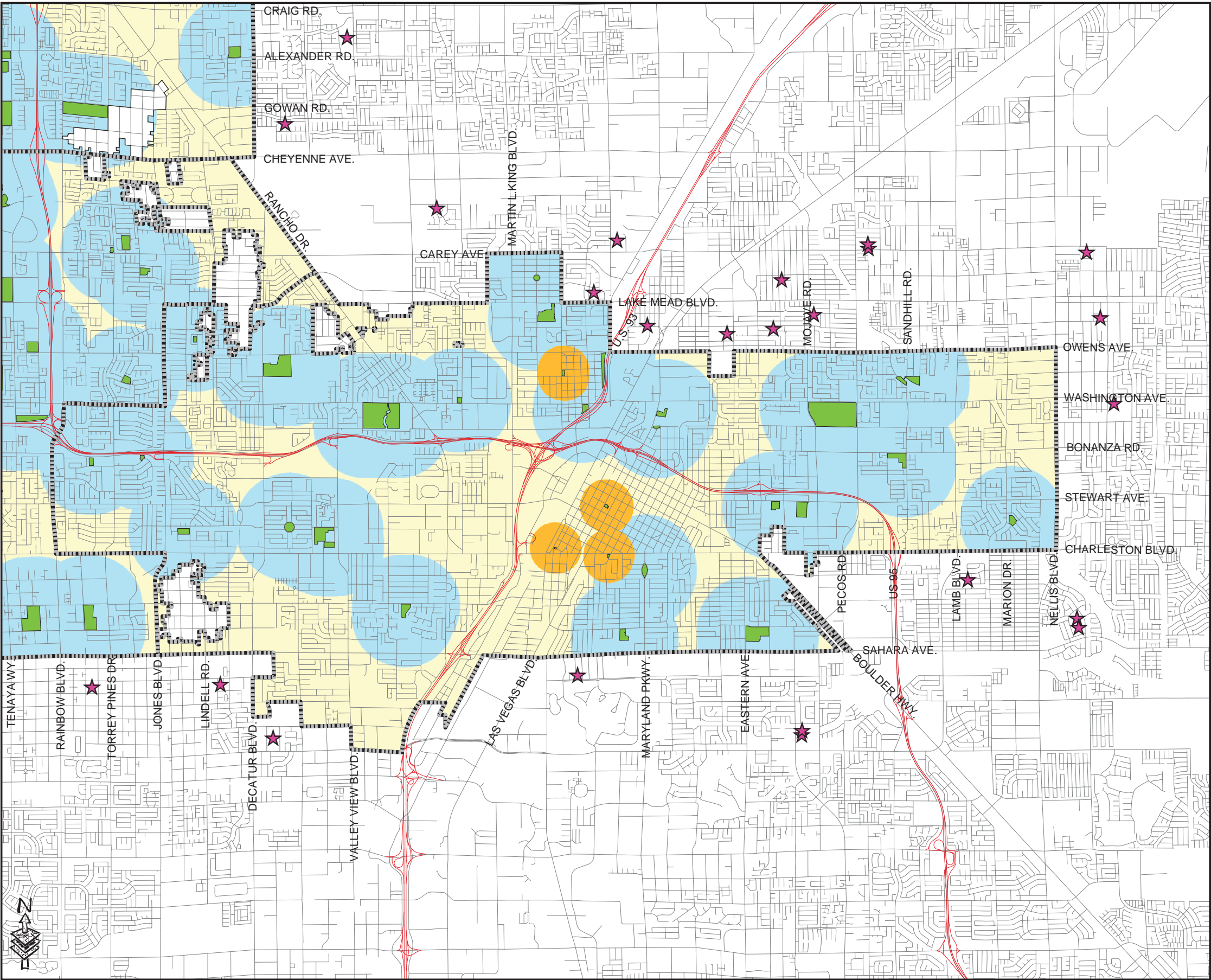
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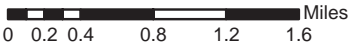
# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 4 Parks and Recreation Element

### Existing City Parks Southeast Sector



- Southeast Sector
- City of Las Vegas Park
- Regional Park Buffer (8 Mile Radius)
- Community Park Buffer (3 Mile Radius)
- Neighborhood Park Buffer (1/2 Mile Radius)
- Mini Park/ (1/4 Mile Radius)
- Clark County or North Las Vegas Park



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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 5 Parks and Recreation Element

### Golf Courses and Privately Maintained Parks over 1 Acre in size

- P** Privately Maintained Park  
**■** Golf Course

- 1 Painted Desert Golf Course
- 2 Los Prados Country Club
- 3 Highland Falls
- 4 Palm Valley Golf Course
- 5 Eagle Crest Golf Club
- 6 TPC at Summerlin
- 7 TPC at The Canyons
- 8 Angel Park Golf Club *(Public)*
- 9 Bad Lands Golf Club
- 10 Canyon Gate Country Club *(Public)*
- 11 Las Vegas Golf Club *(Public)*
- 12 Desert Pines Golf Club *(Public)*
- 13 Durango Hills
- 14 Silverstone Golf Course

*\*note. The Private Park locations are shown as symbols generated from the center points of the actual park polygon area. The actual shape or size of the park area is not shown due to scale constraints.*

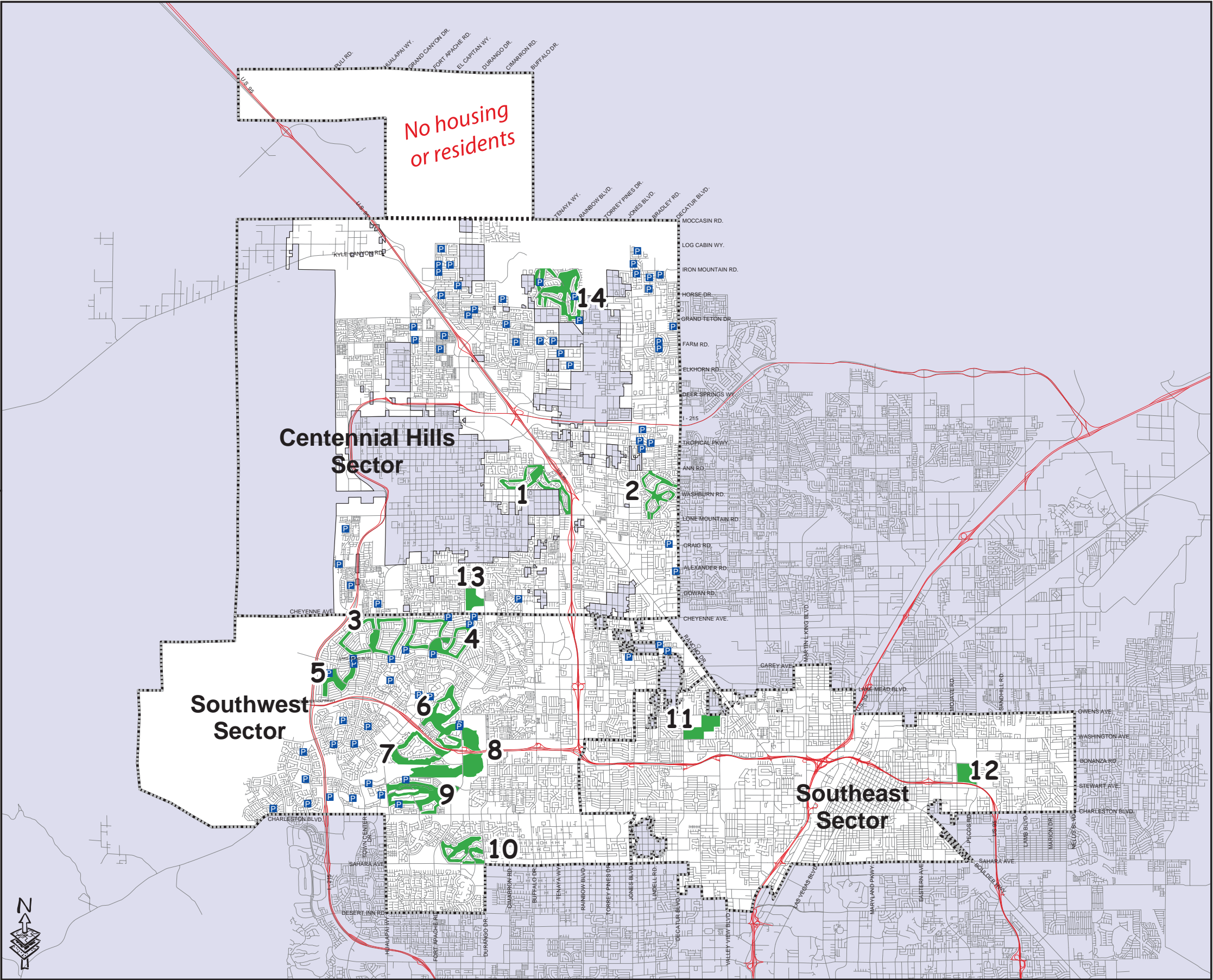
0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Miles

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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 6 Parks and Recreation Element

Access, Availability,  
Service Area Coverage

-  City of Las Vegas Park
-  Private Park
-  No Neighborhood Park  
Within 1/2 Mile
-  Access to Multiple Neighborhood  
Parks Within 1/2 Mile
-  Adequate Service Area\*
-  City of Las Vegas

\* This map illustrates the various service areas for Neighborhood Parks. These service areas are 1/2 mile around the park location. This map is intended to highlight areas that are over or under-served by Neighborhood Parks. All City of Las Vegas Residents are within the service area of community and regional parks. For further information regarding the various service levels and definitions, please see the City of Las Vegas Master Plan Parks Element document.

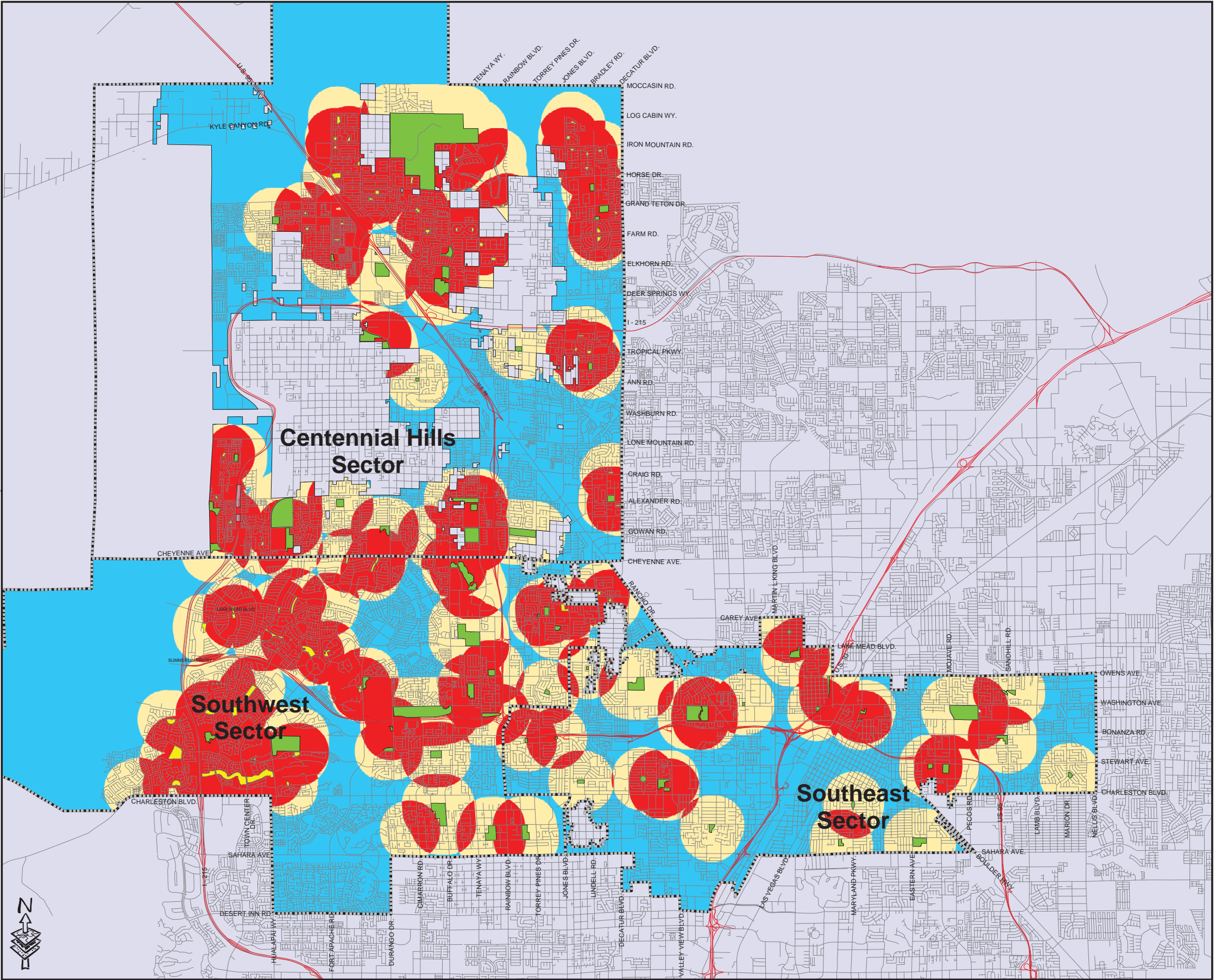
0 0.35 0.7 1.4 2.1 2.8 Miles

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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 7 Parks and Recreation Element

### Regional, Community, and Neighborhood Leisure Service Centers

★ City of Las Vegas  
Leisure Service Center

- Neighborhood  
Coverage Area  
(10,000 Residents)
- Community  
Coverage Area  
(25,000 Residents)
- Regional  
Coverage Area  
(75,000 Residents)

City of Las Vegas

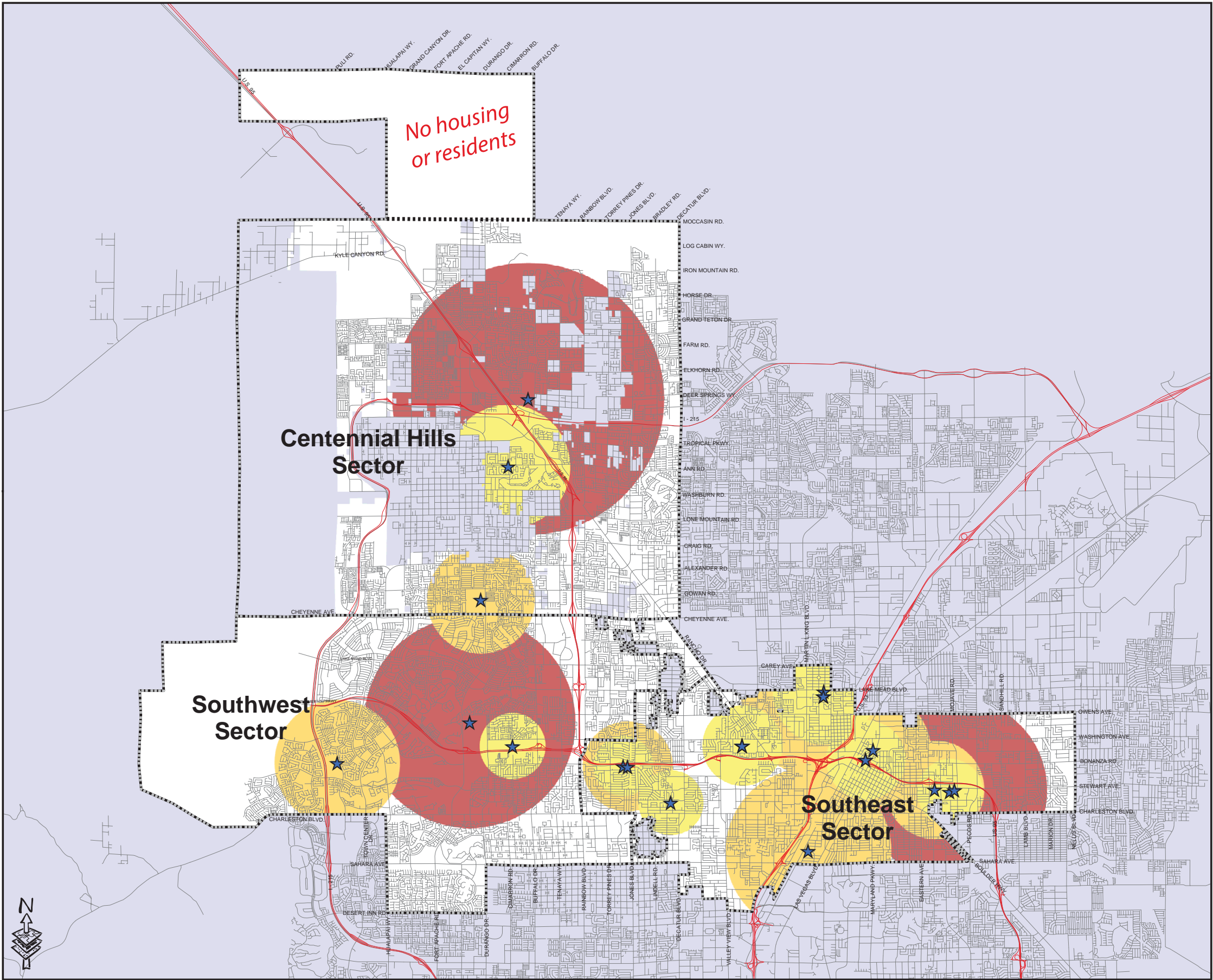
0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Miles

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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 7a Parks and Recreation Element

### Neighborhood Leisure Service Centers

# City of Las Vegas  
Leisure Service Center

Coverage Area  
(10,000 Residents)

Number	Facility Name
1	Charleston Heights Arts Center
2	Cimarron Rose Community Center
3	Darling Tennis Center
4	Derfelt Senior Center
5	Doolittle Senior Center
6	Dula Gym
7	Las Vegas Senior Center
8	Lieburn Senior Center
9	Lorenzi Adaptive Recreation Center
10	Rafael Rivera Community Center
11	Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza
12	West Las Vegas Arts Center

City of Las Vegas

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Miles

Data current as of: July 10, 2013

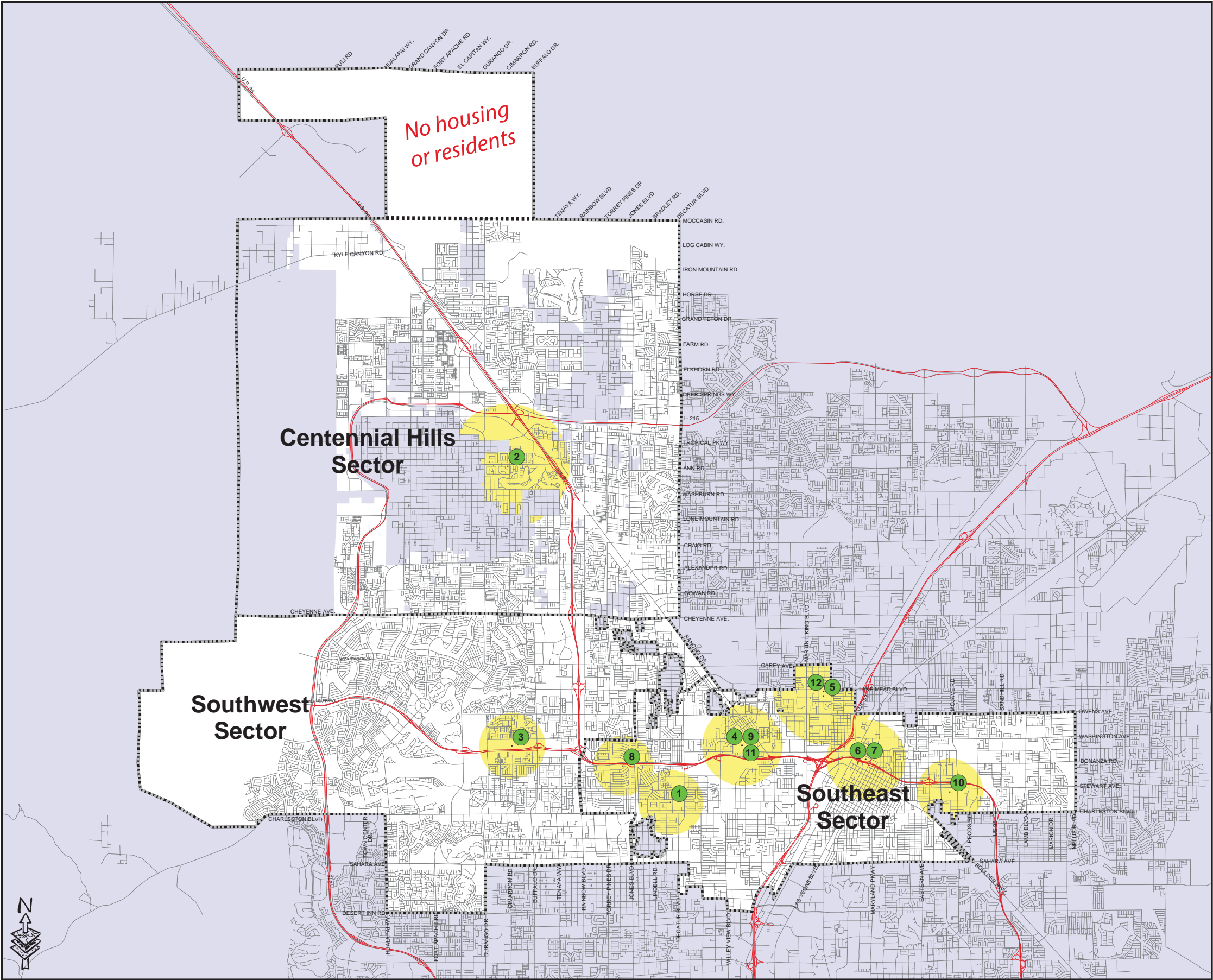
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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 7b Parks and Recreation Element

### Community Leisure Service Centers

# City of Las Vegas  
Leisure Service Center

Coverage Area  
(25,000 Residents)

Number	Facility Name
1	Doolittle Community Center
2	Durango Hills Community Center YMCA
3	East Las Vegas Community Senior Center
4	Mirabelli Community Center
5	Reed Whipple Cultural Center
6	Stupak Community Center
7	Veteran's Memorial Leisure Services Center

City of Las Vegas

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Miles

Data current as of: July 10, 2013

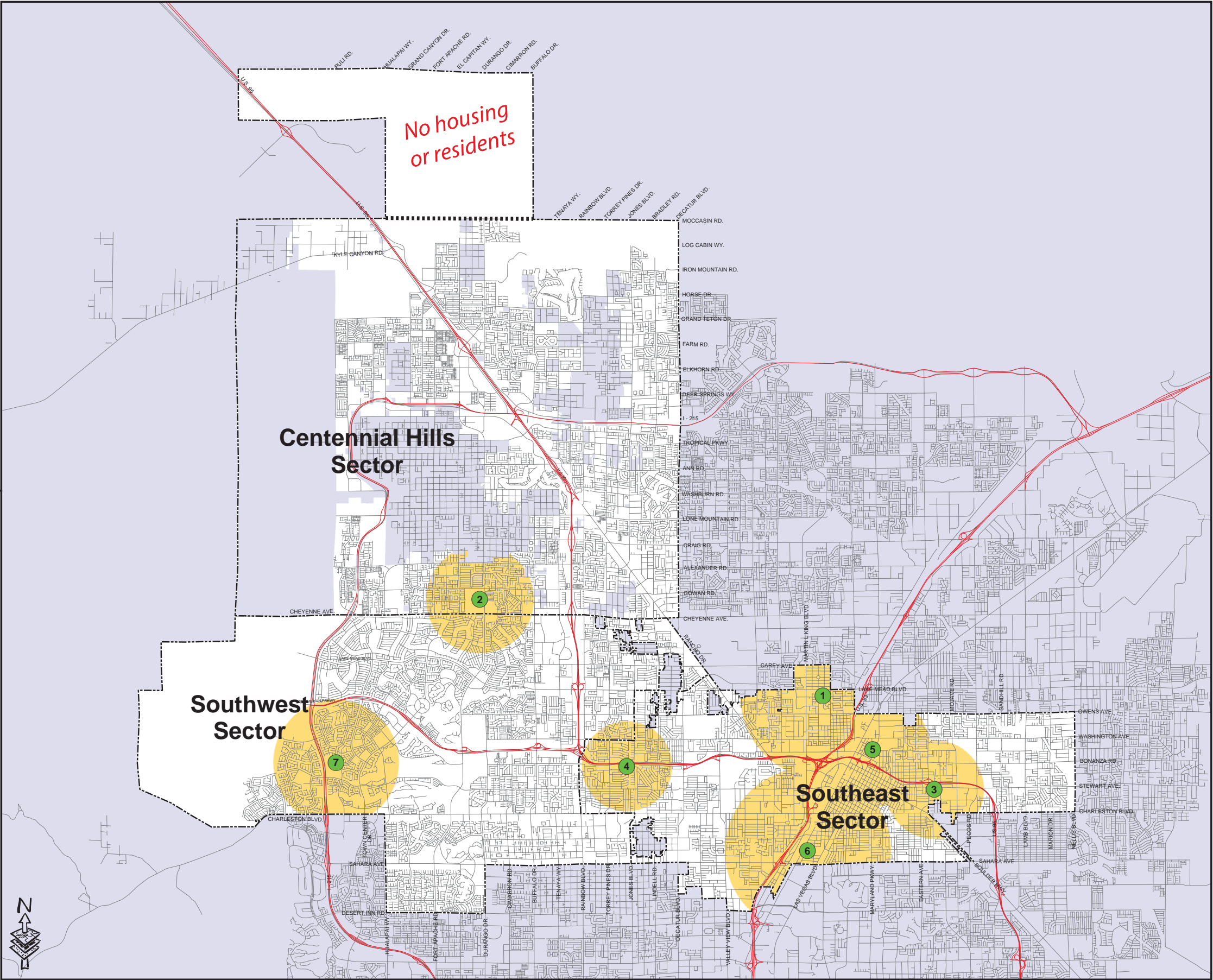
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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 7c Parks and Recreation Element

### Regional Leisure Service Centers

# City of Las Vegas  
Leisure Service Center

○ Coverage Area  
(75,000 Residents)

Number	Facility Name
1	Centennial Hills Community/Active AdultCenter
2	Chuck Minker Sports Complex
3	Las Vegas Sports Park

City of Las Vegas

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Miles

Data current as of: July 10, 2013

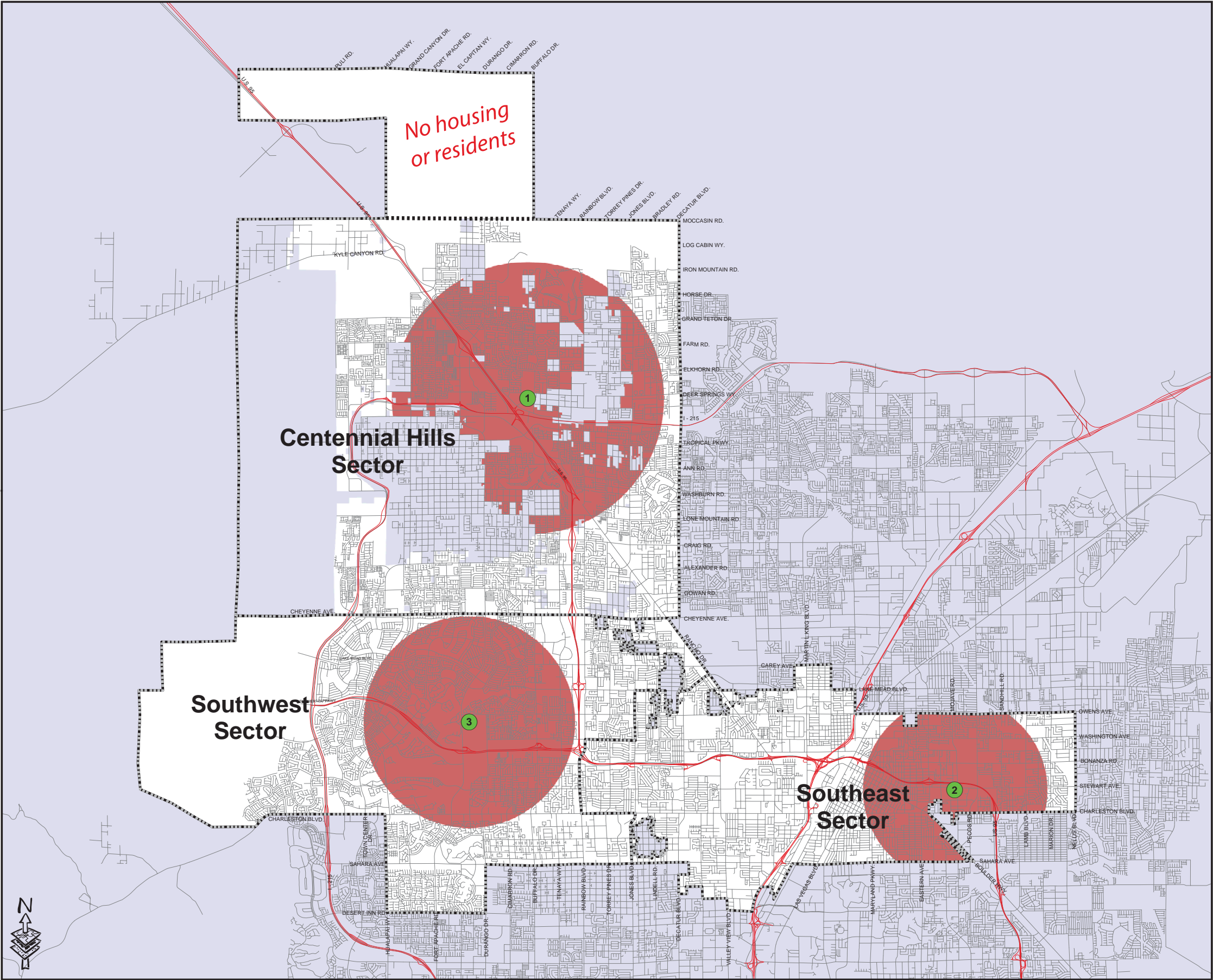
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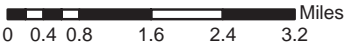
## MAP 7d Parks and Recreation Element

### Aquatic Centers

- # City of Las Vegas Aquatic Center
- Coverage Area (20,000 Residents)

Number	Facility Name
1	Baker
2	Carlos L Martinez
3	Centennial Hills
4	Doolittle
5	Durango Hills
6	Garside
7	Municipal
8	Pavilion

City of Las Vegas



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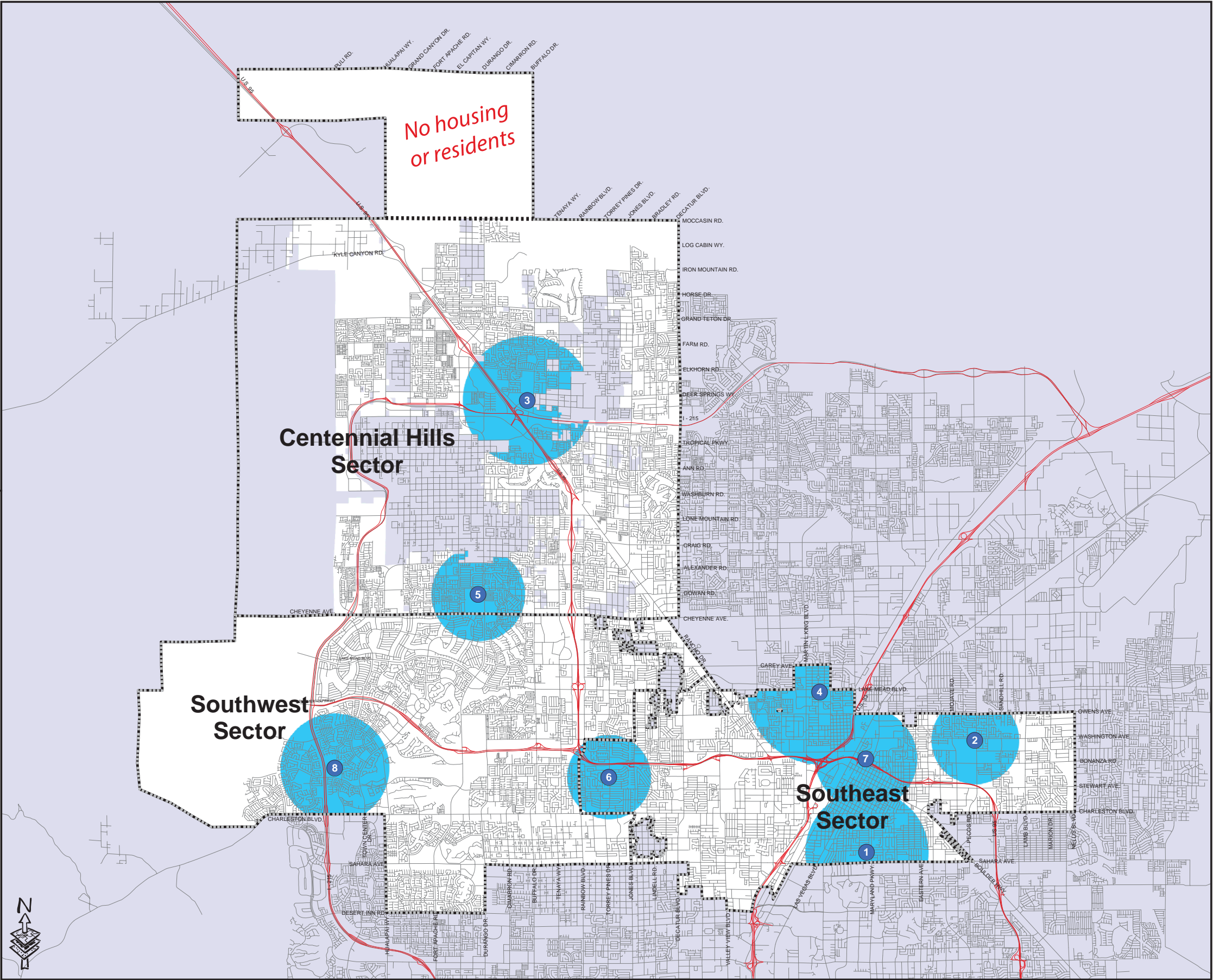
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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 8 Parks and Recreation Element

### Park Coverage per Sector

#### Southeast Sector

- 17.95 sq miles of Neighborhood park coverage (124,267 residents)
- 12.15 sq miles without Neighborhood park coverage (83,318 residents)

#### Southwest Sector

- 26.36 sq miles of Neighborhood park coverage (143,601 residents)
- 20.31 sq miles without Neighborhood park coverage (56,875 residents)

#### Centennial Hills Sector

- 27.71 sq miles of Neighborhood park coverage (140,757 residents)
- 28.77 sq miles without Neighborhood park coverage (42,951 residents)

City of Las Vegas

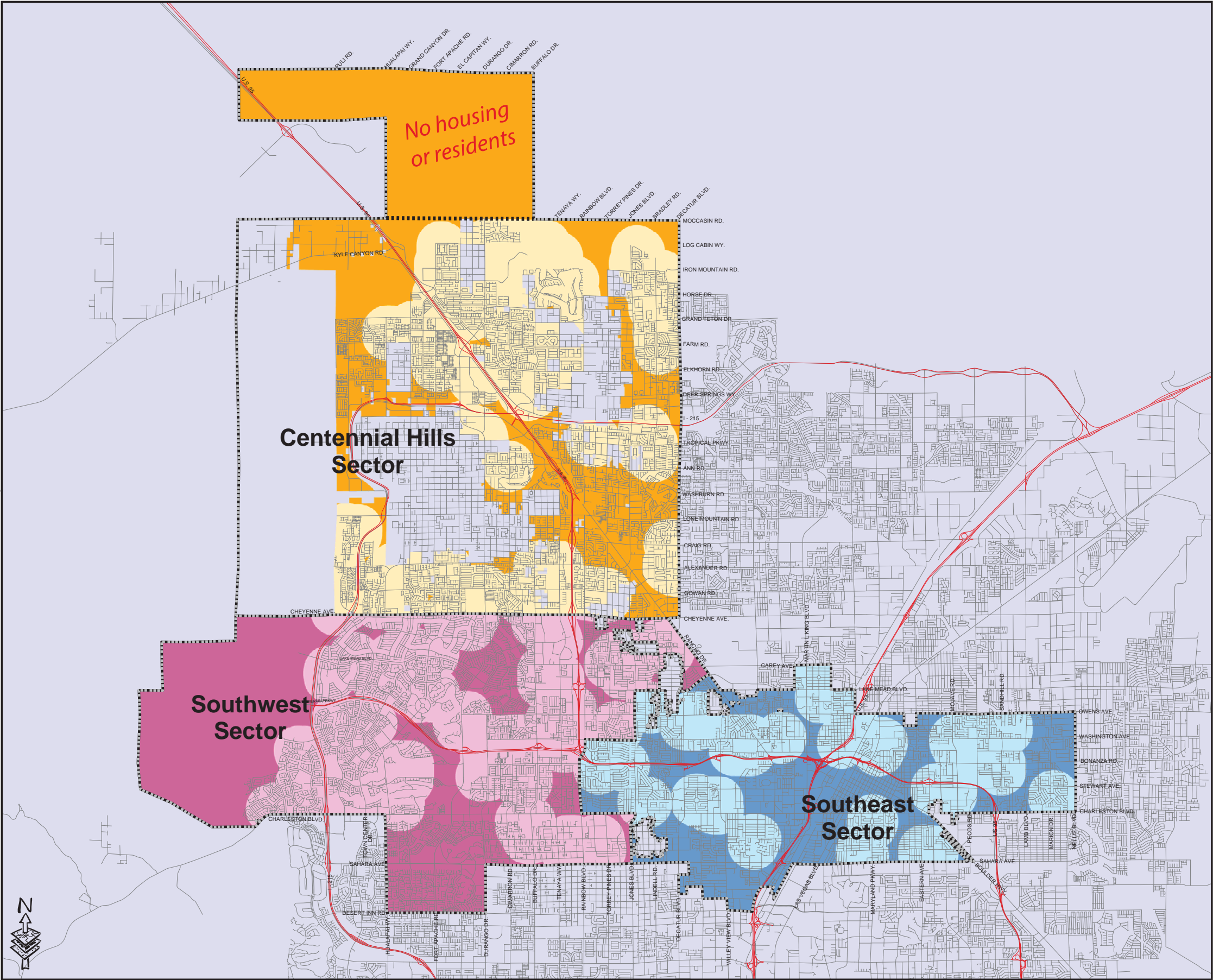
0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Miles

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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 9 Parks and Recreation Element

### City Wide Population (per Acre) Density

-  City of Las Vegas Park
-  Private Park (1 acre+)
-  Rural (0 - 0.5)
-  Low-Density (0.5 - 5)
-  Mid-Density (5.01 - 12)
-  Urban (12.01 - 20)
-  High-Density (20.01 - 30)
-  Park Service Area

All numbers are in persons-per-Acre

 City of Las Vegas

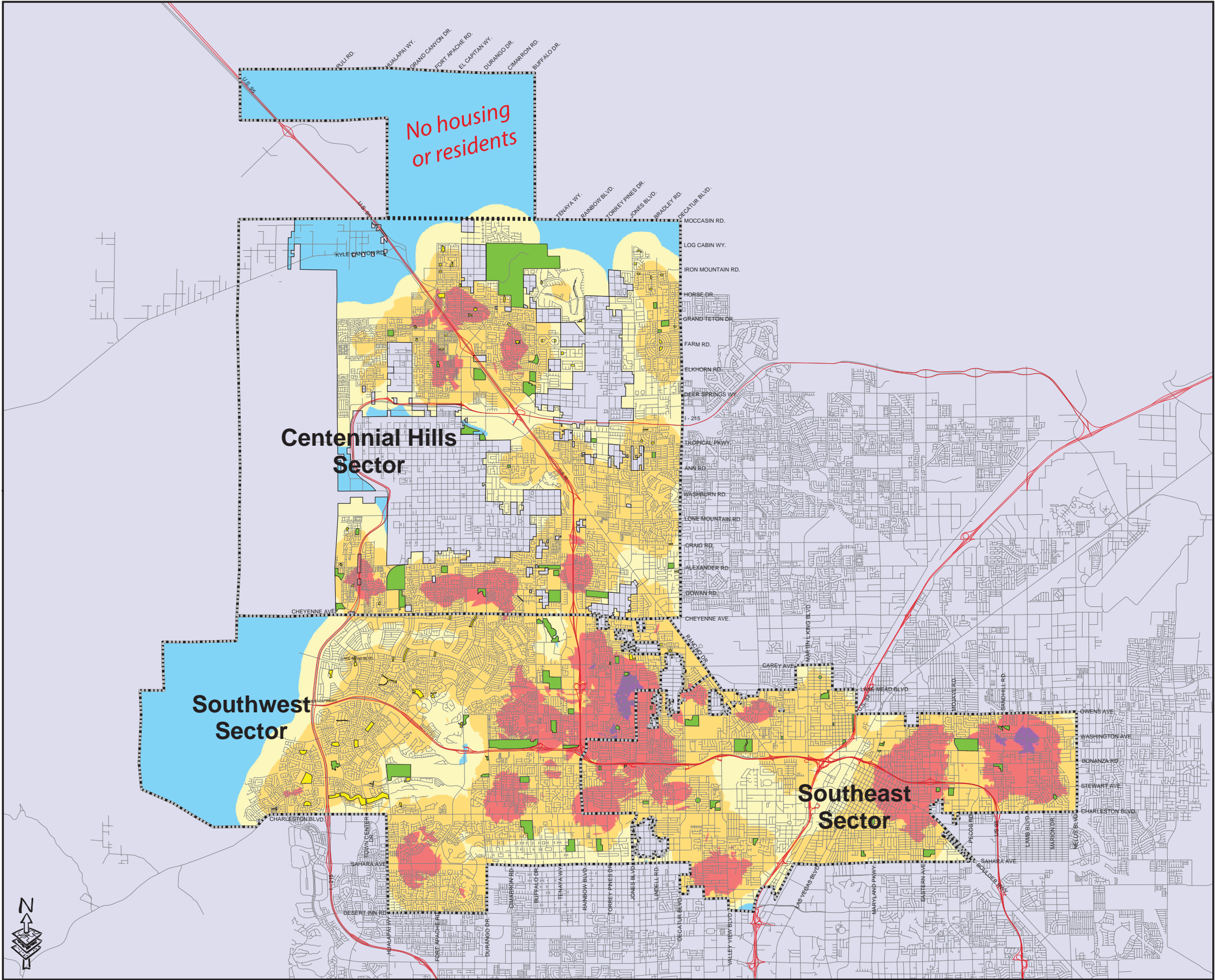
0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Miles

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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 10 Parks and Recreation Element

Population Density of  
areas outside the 1/2  
mile Neighborhood Park  
Service Area

-  City of Las Vegas Park
-  Private Park (1 acre+)
-  Rural (0 - 0.5)
-  Low-Density (0.5 - 5)
-  Mid-Density (5.01 - 12)
-  Urban (12.01 - 20)
-  High-Density (20.01 - 30)
-  Park Service Area

All numbers are in persons-per-Acre

 City of Las Vegas

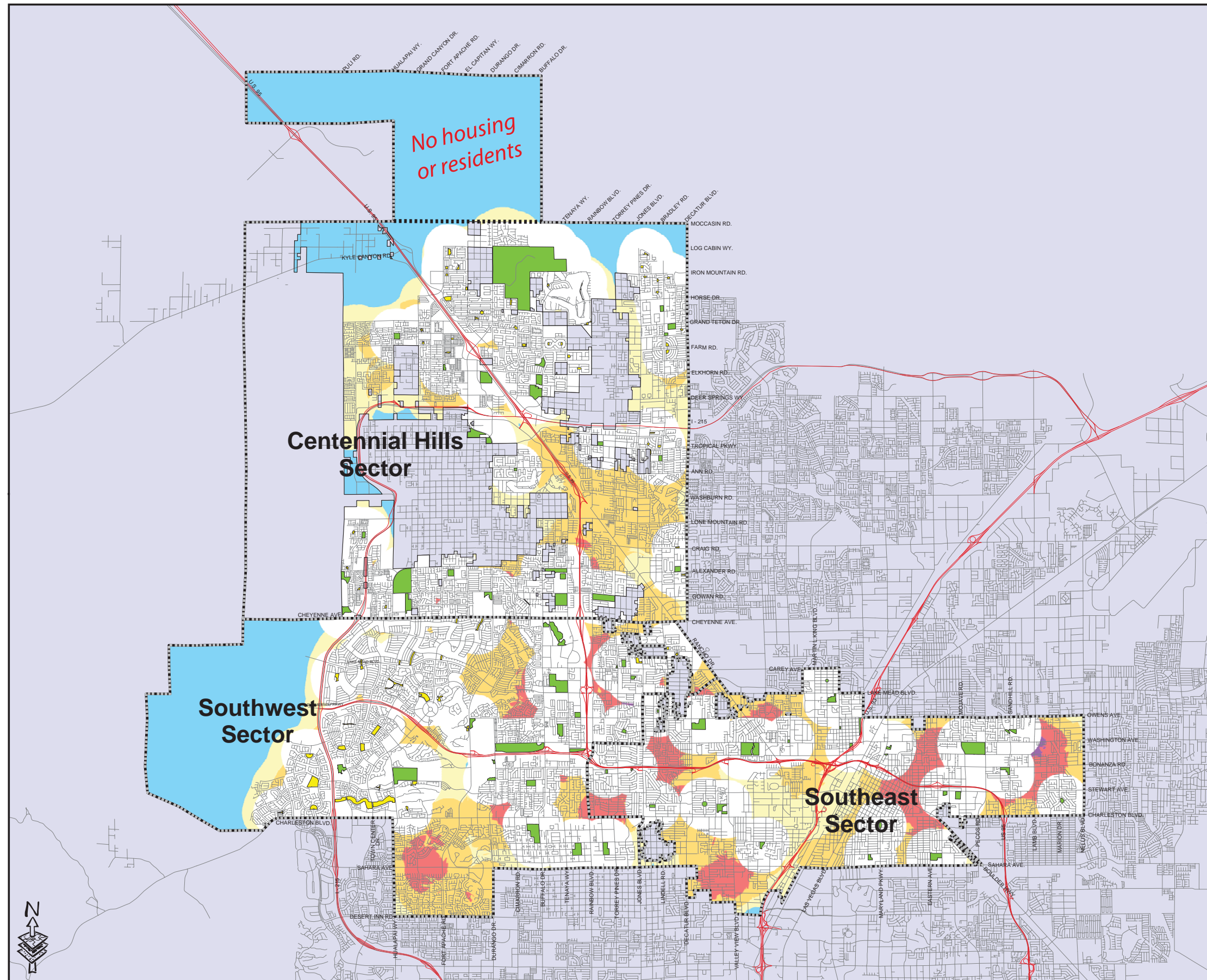
0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Miles

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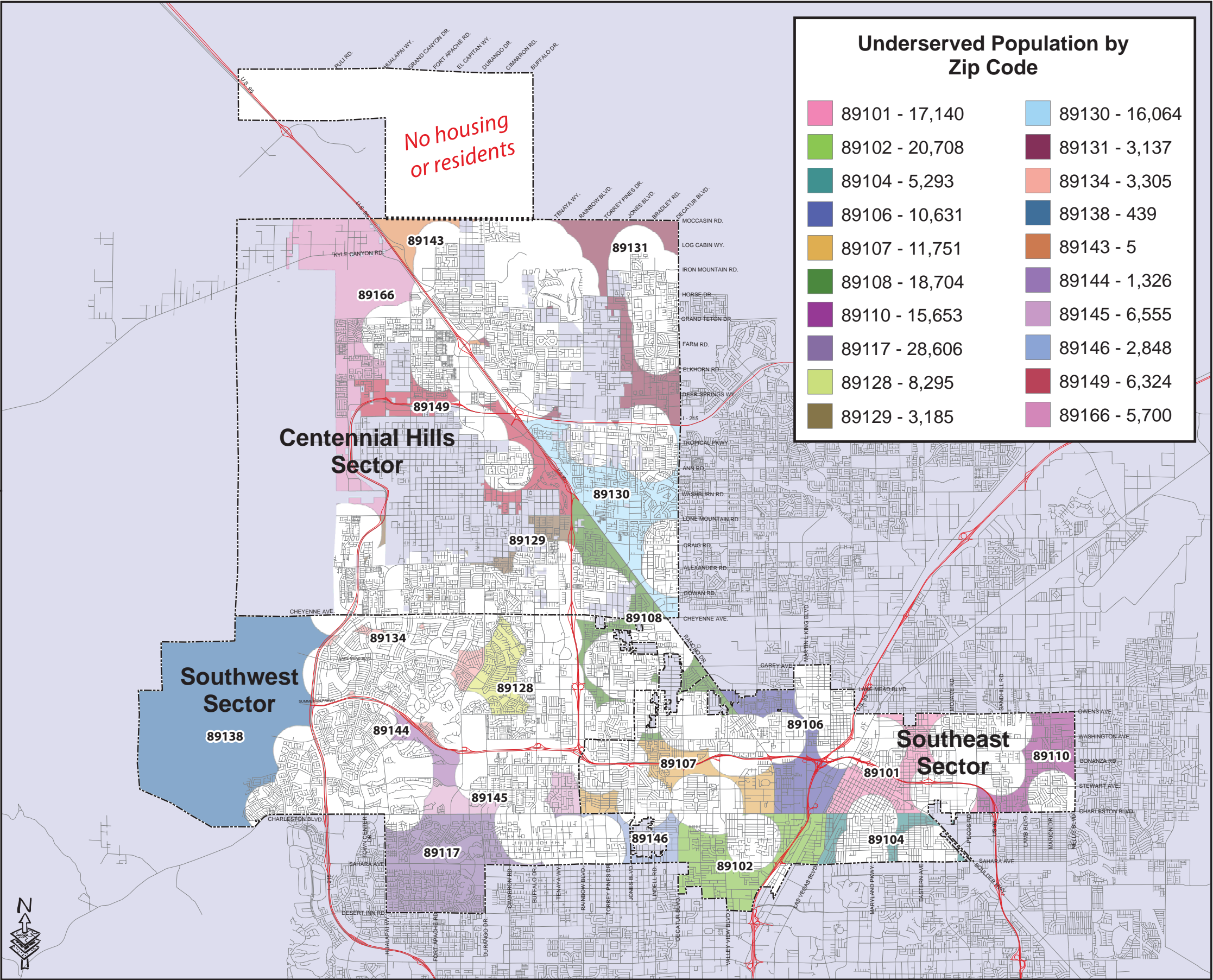
# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 11 Parks and Recreation Element

Population in  
Underserved Areas -  
by Zip Codes

### Underserved Population by Zip Code

89101 - 17,140	89130 - 16,064
89102 - 20,708	89131 - 3,137
89104 - 5,293	89134 - 3,305
89106 - 10,631	89138 - 439
89107 - 11,751	89143 - 5
89108 - 18,704	89144 - 1,326
89110 - 15,653	89145 - 6,555
89117 - 28,606	89146 - 2,848
89128 - 8,295	89149 - 6,324
89129 - 3,185	89166 - 5,700



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0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Miles

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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 12 Parks and Recreation Element

Park Acreage per 1,000  
Residents within 1/2 mile  
radius of a Neighborhood  
Park

-  City of Las Vegas Park
-  Private Park (1 Acre+)

-  Less than 1.0 Acre per 1,000
-  1.0 - 2.5 Acres per 1,000
-  Over 2.5 Acres per 1,000

 City of Las Vegas

0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Miles

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\*Thunderbird Sports Complex has only 153 City of Las Vegas residents within its 1/2 mile. This results in the 167 park acres per 1,000 residents average. If factored to a population base of 1,000 the average is 25.6 park acres.

No housing  
or residents

Centennial Hills  
Sector

Southwest  
Sector

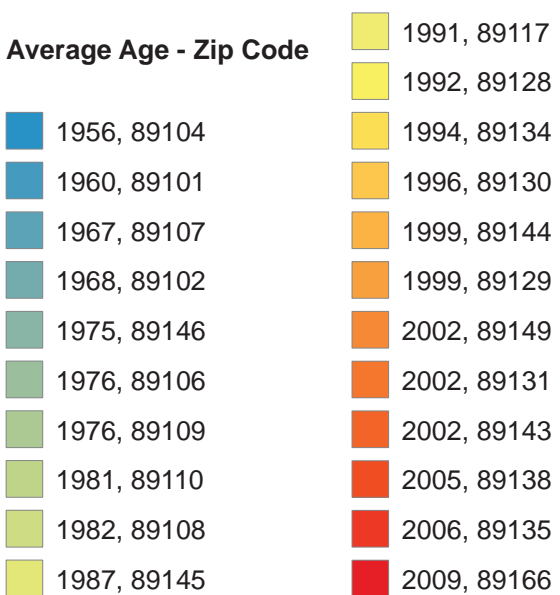
Southeast  
Sector



# City of Las Vegas

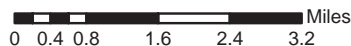
## MAP 13 Parks and Recreation Element

Average Housing Age  
in Underserved areas  
based on year of  
Construction\*



Source: Clark County Assessor

\*Note: Ranges of Average Housing  
Age may include earlier and later  
construction dates.



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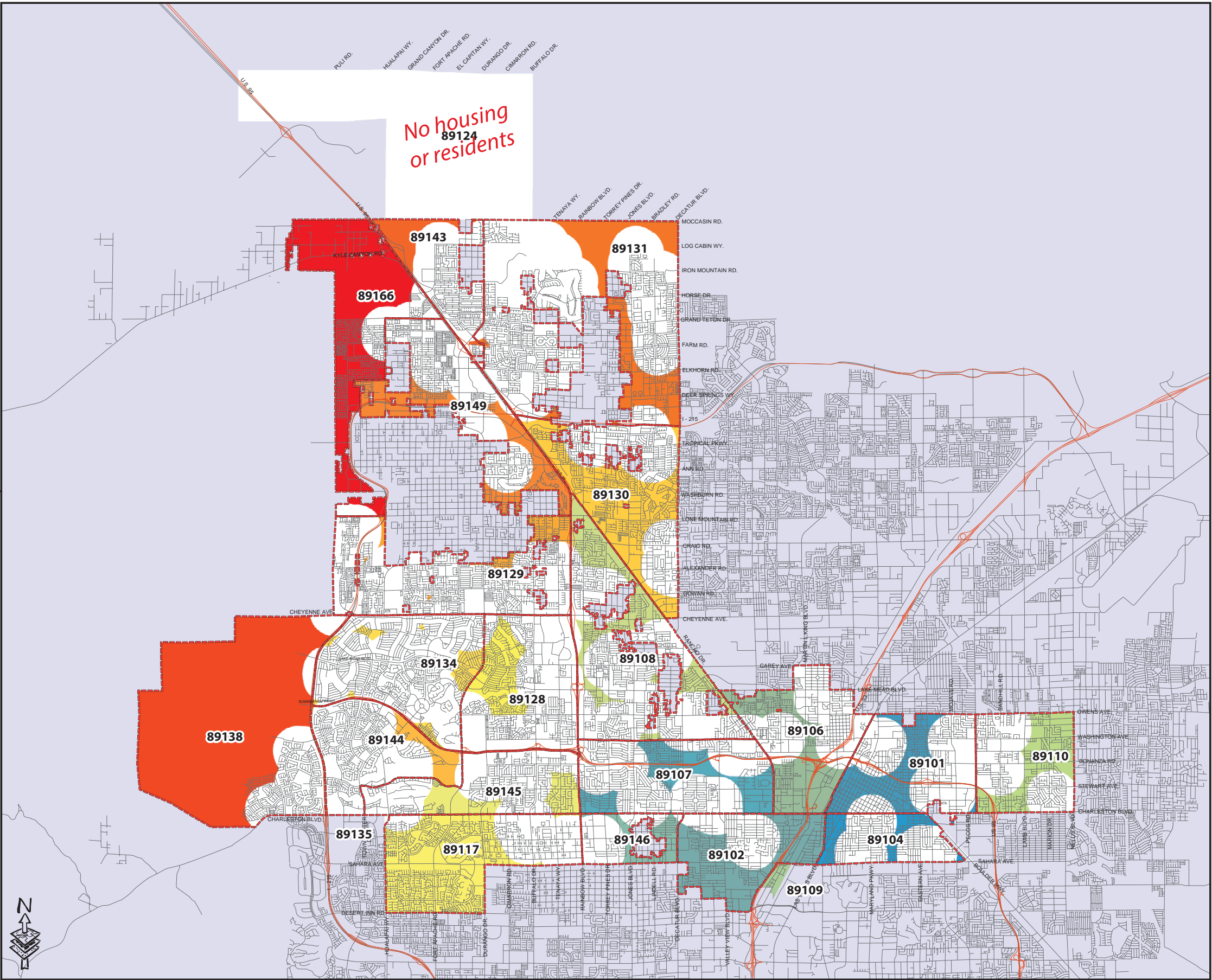
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# City of Las Vegas

## MAP 14 Parks and Recreation Element

Zip Codes with high  
population densities and  
older housing stock

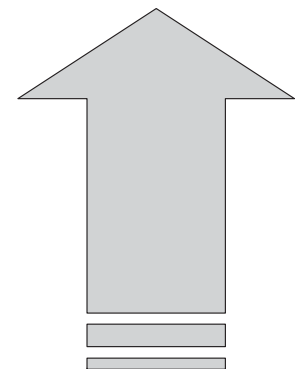
 City of Las Vegas Park

 Existing Park Service Area

 High population density & older housing



 Low population density & newer housing



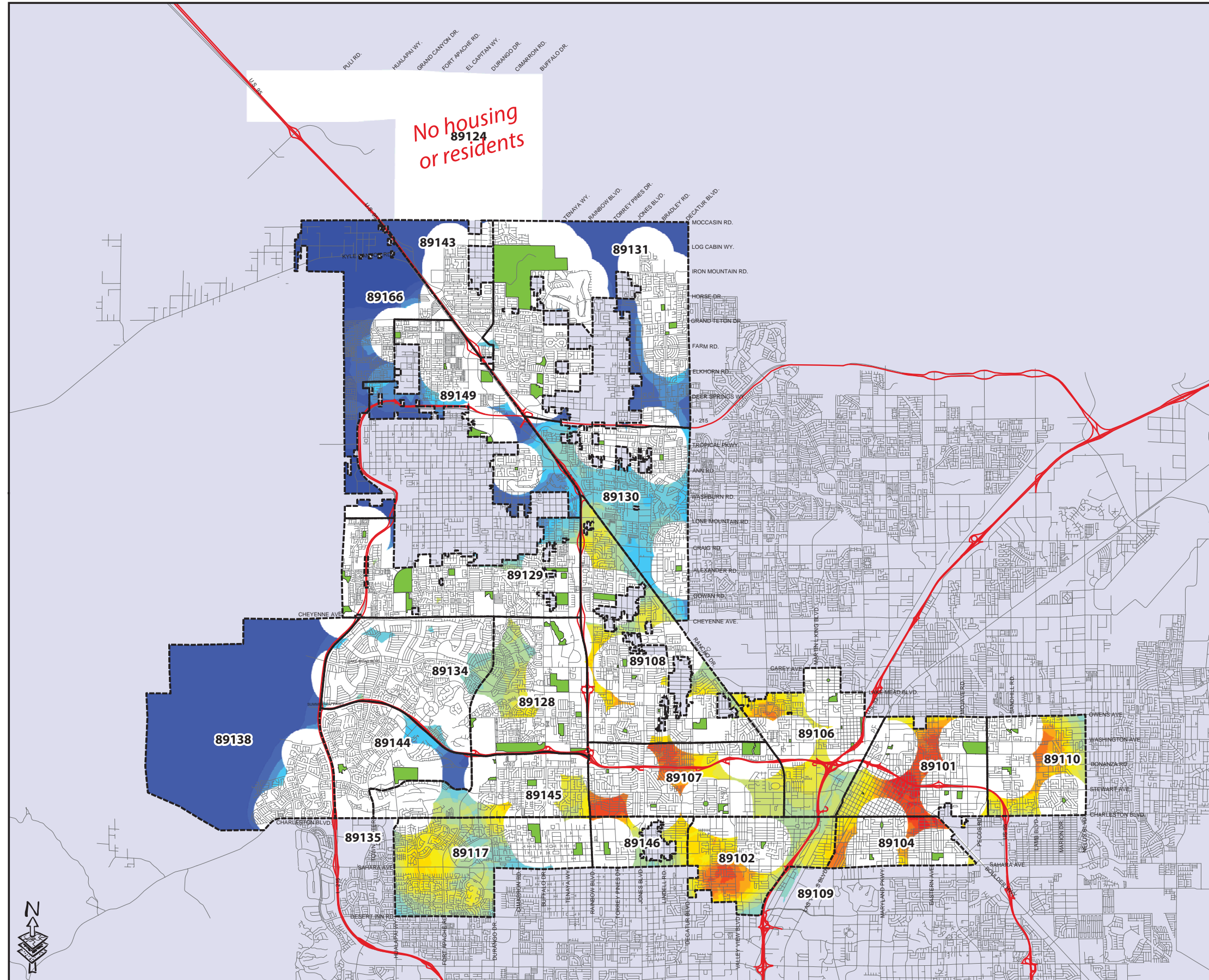
0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Miles

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No housing  
89124  
or residents