

# Who ARE the People in your Neighborhood? Developing Mapzen's Neighborhood Database

Nat Case, INCase LLC

[nat@incasellc.com](mailto:nat@incasellc.com)

## Where On Earth

From GeoPlanet to Yahoo



## Flickr

Geotags using Where On Earth geocode list



## Who's On First

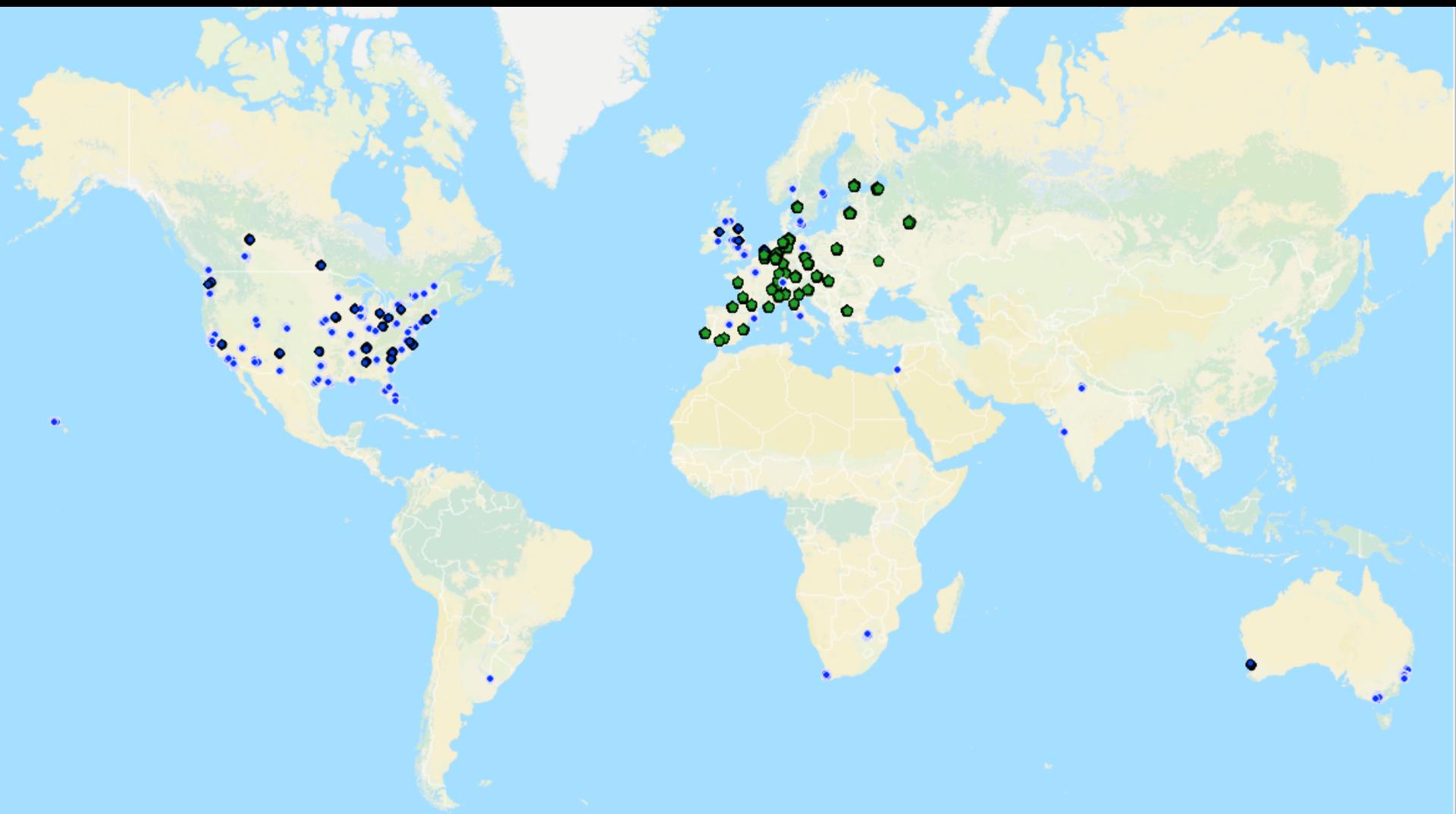
Processed tags and generated polygons, centroids,  
and calculated prominence based number of tagged photos

## Where On Earth field classification (from Wikipedia)

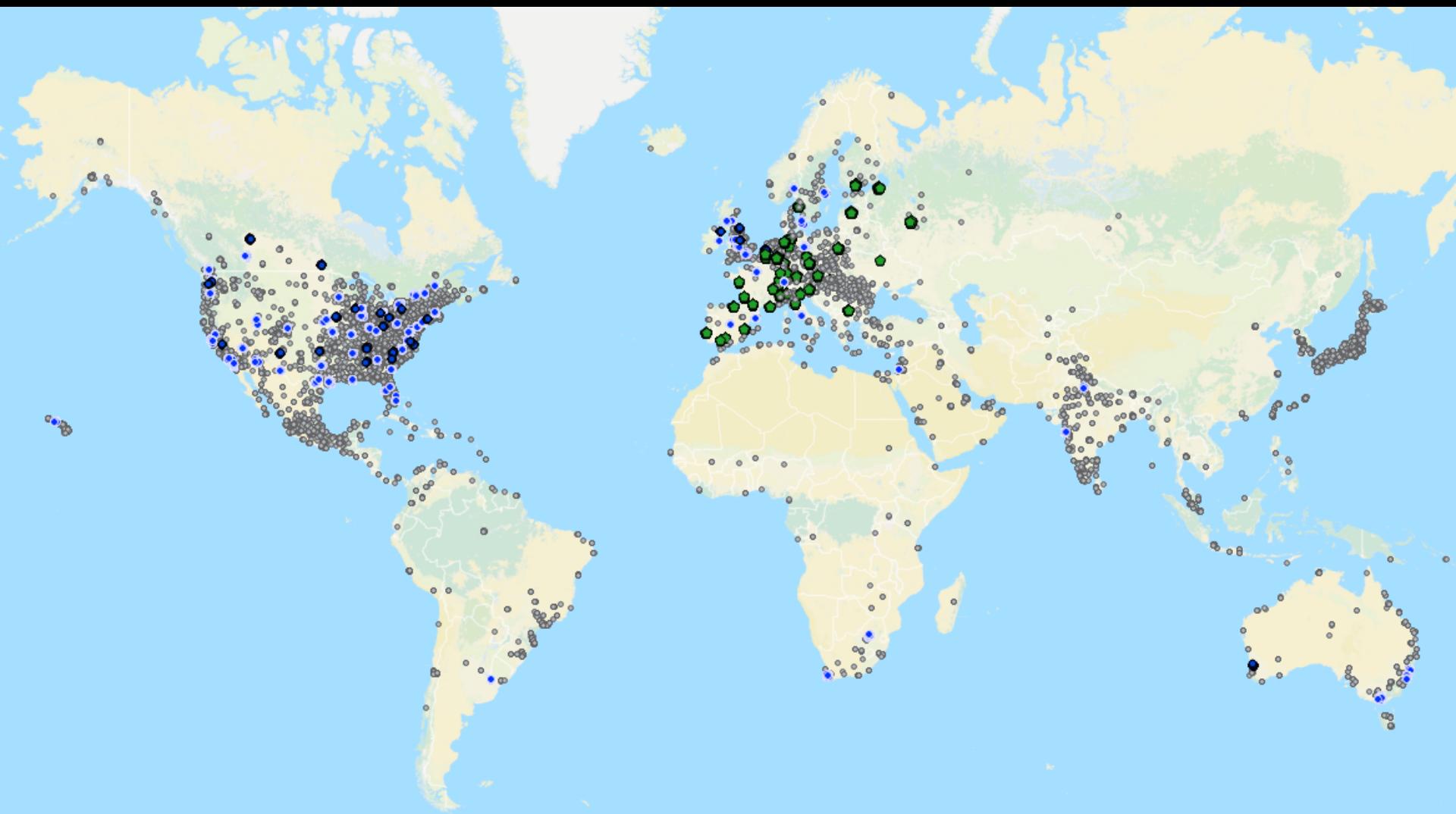
Admin3	10	One of the tertiary administrative areas within a country. Place type names associated with this place type include: Commune, Municipality, District, Ward.
Town	7	One of the major populated places within a country. This category includes incorporated cities and towns, major unincorporated towns and villages.
Suburb	22	One of the subdivisions within a town. This category includes suburbs, neighborhoods, wards.



Proofed areas, December 2015-December 2016

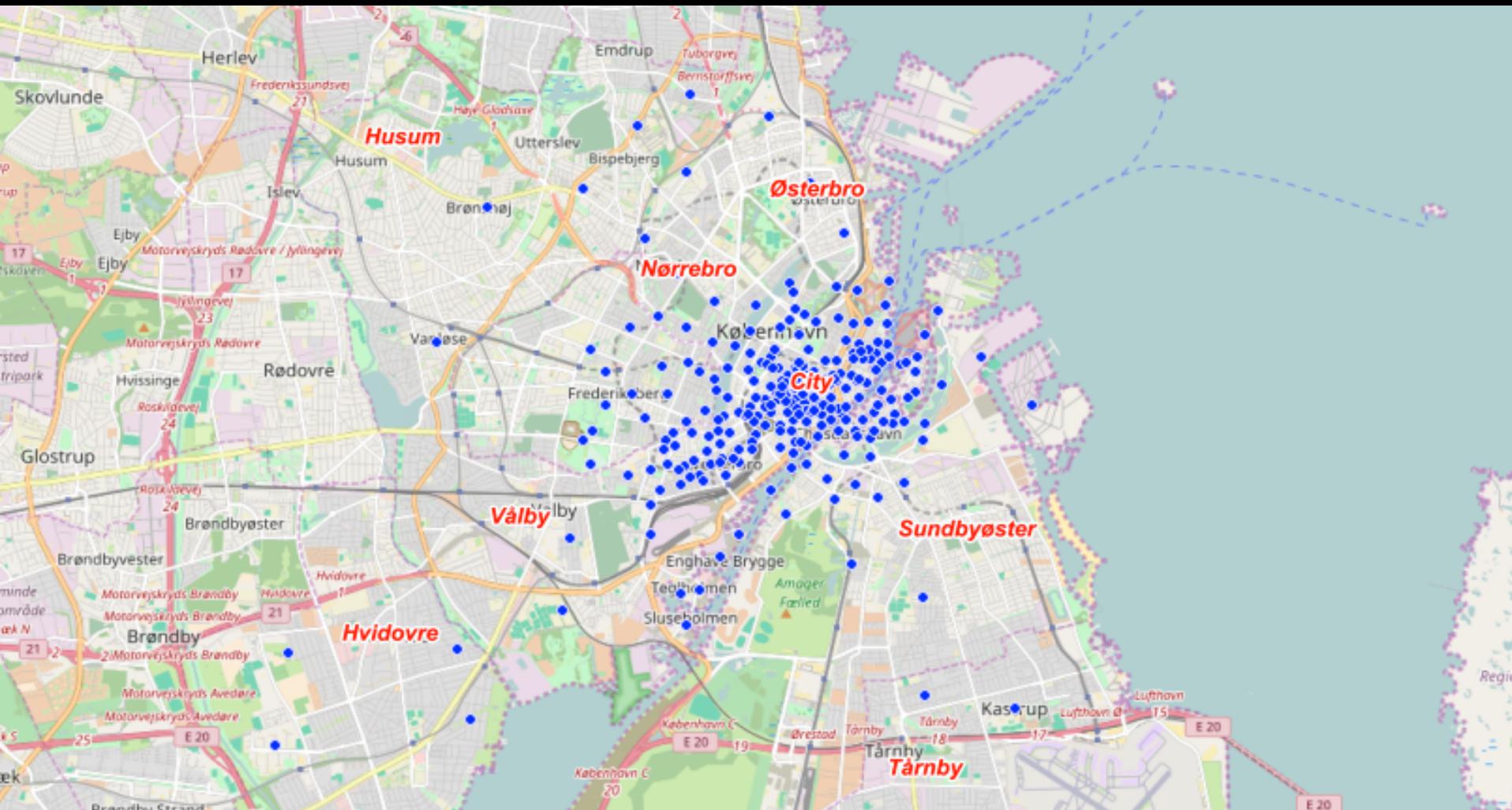


Total WOF neighborhood space

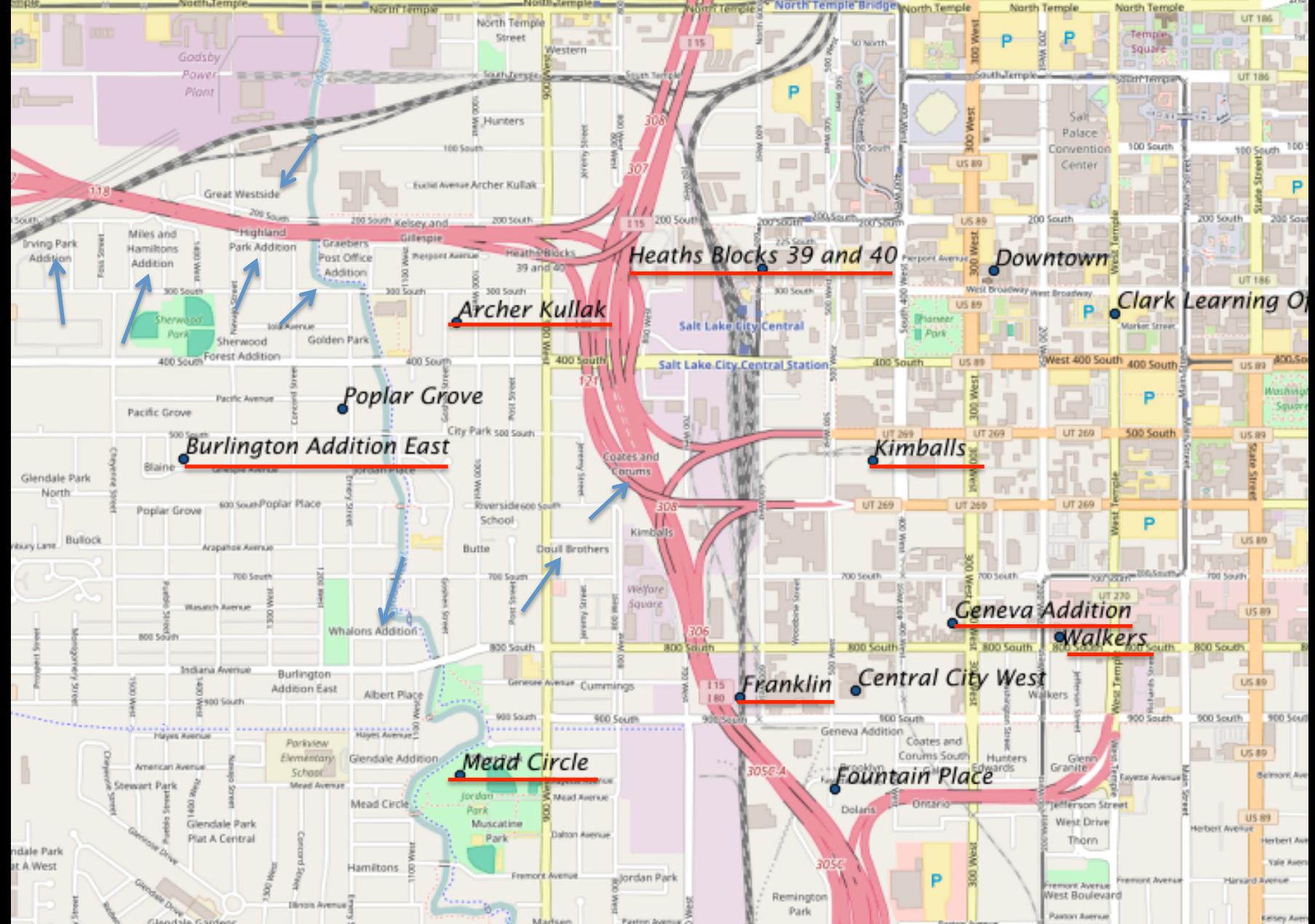


1. WOE's source data was bad
2. WOE's compilation was bad
3. Flickr's users were bad
4. Quattroshapes and Zetashapes logic was bad
5. Cities are stupid
6. Cities don't have neighborhoods
7. Cities are confusing

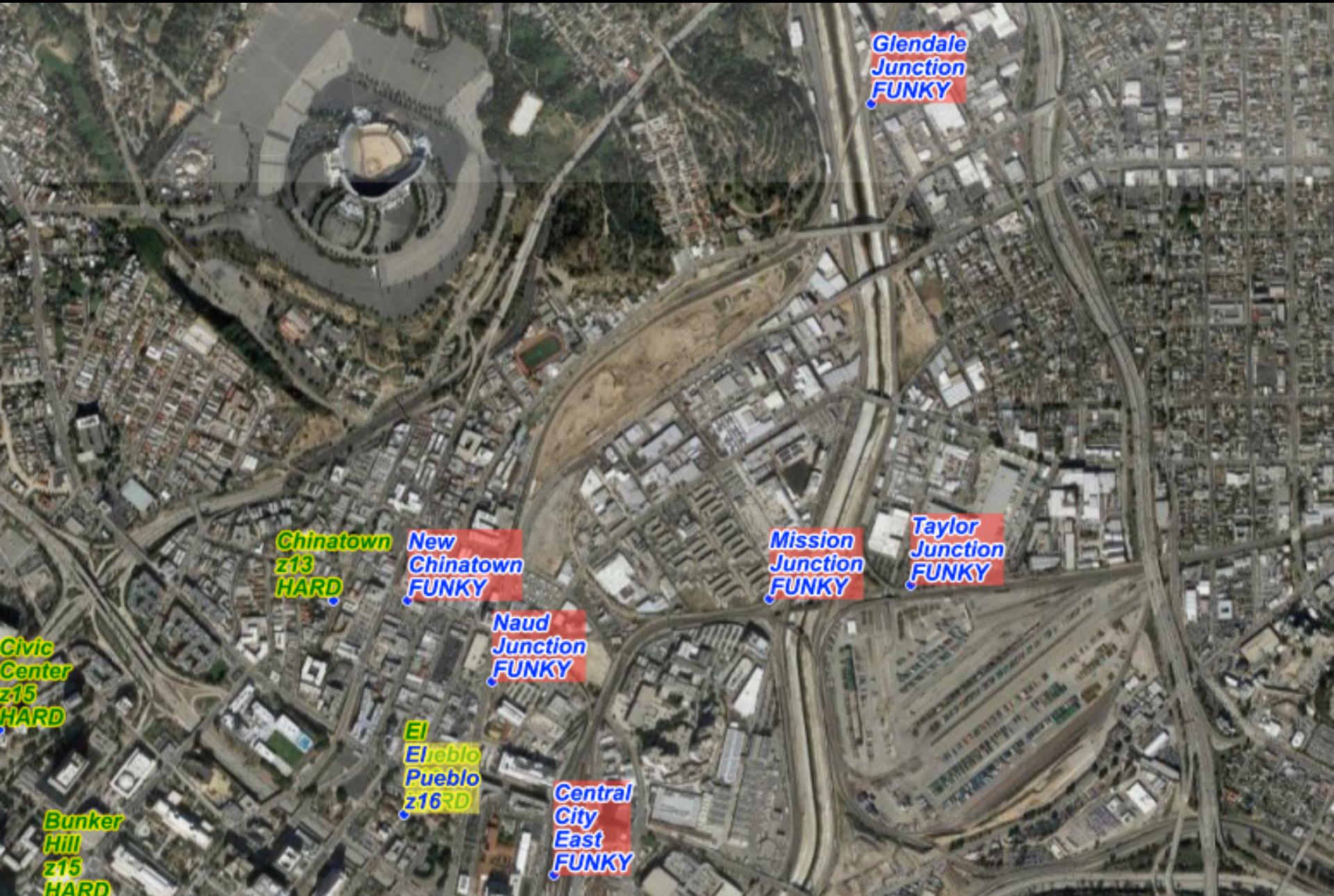
WOE source data was bad



# Mostly street names



Old platted additions and subdivisions



# Deprecated placenames



Query

Result

FAQs

## Feature Detail Report for: Jaggers Terrace

ID: [1249170](#)

Name: **Jaggers Terrace**

Class: **Populated Place** ([Definitions](#))

Citation: **Champion Map Corporation. Map of Columbia, South Carolina and Vicinity. Charlotte, North Carolina, 1988.**

Entry Date: **01-Feb-1995**

\*Elevation: **299/91**

\*Elevations in feet/meters from the [National Elevation Dataset](#)

### Counties

Sequence	County	Code	State	Code	Country
1	Richland	079	South Carolina	45	US

### Coordinates (One point per USGS topographic map containing the feature, NAD83)

Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
1	34.0343213	-81.0123132	34°02'04"N	081°00'44"W	Columbia North

### Mapping Services

[GNIS in ESRI Map](#)

[USGS The National Map](#)

[HomeTownLocator](#)

[ACME Mapper 2.0](#)

[Microsoft Virtual Earth](#)

[TerraFly.com](#)

[Find the Watershed](#)

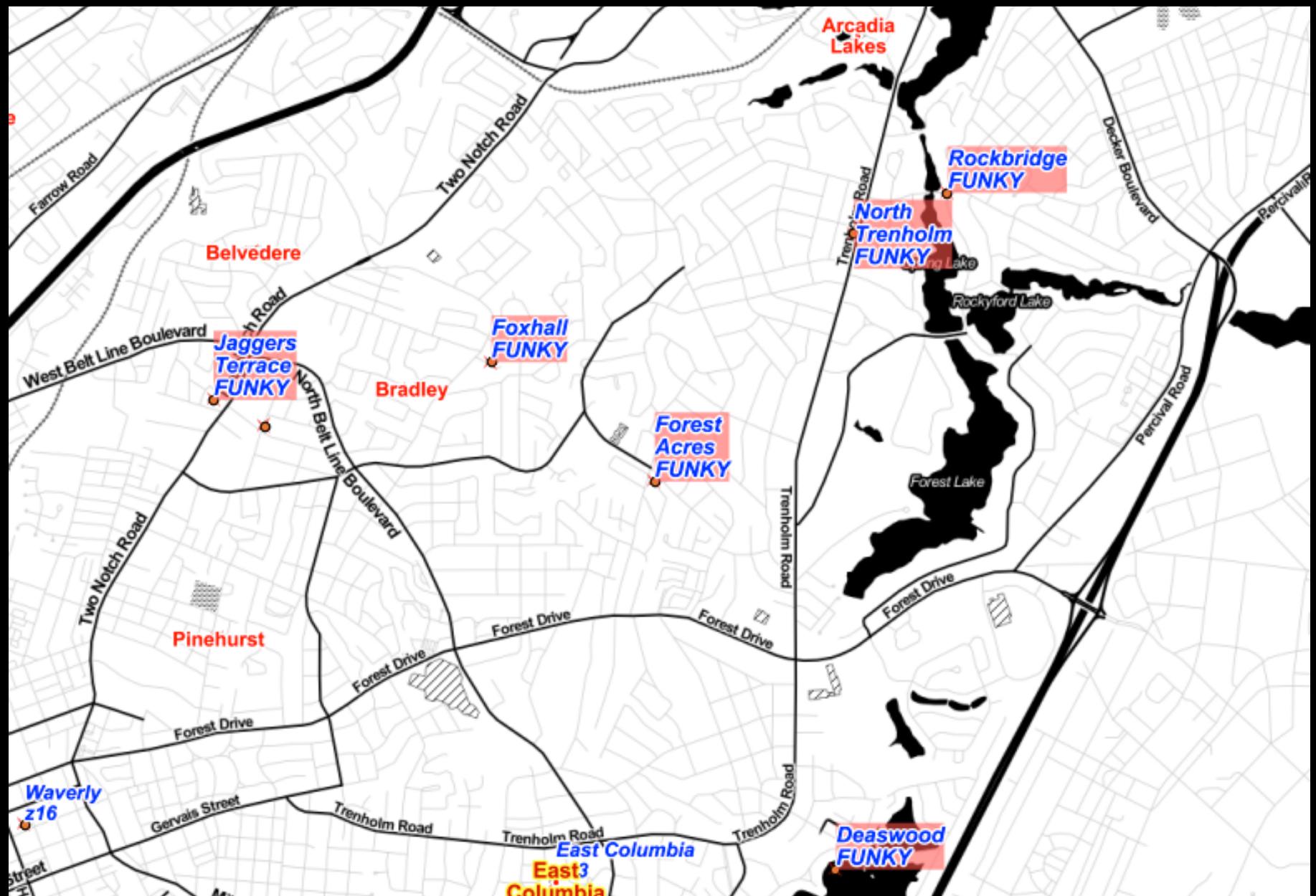
[MapQuest](#)

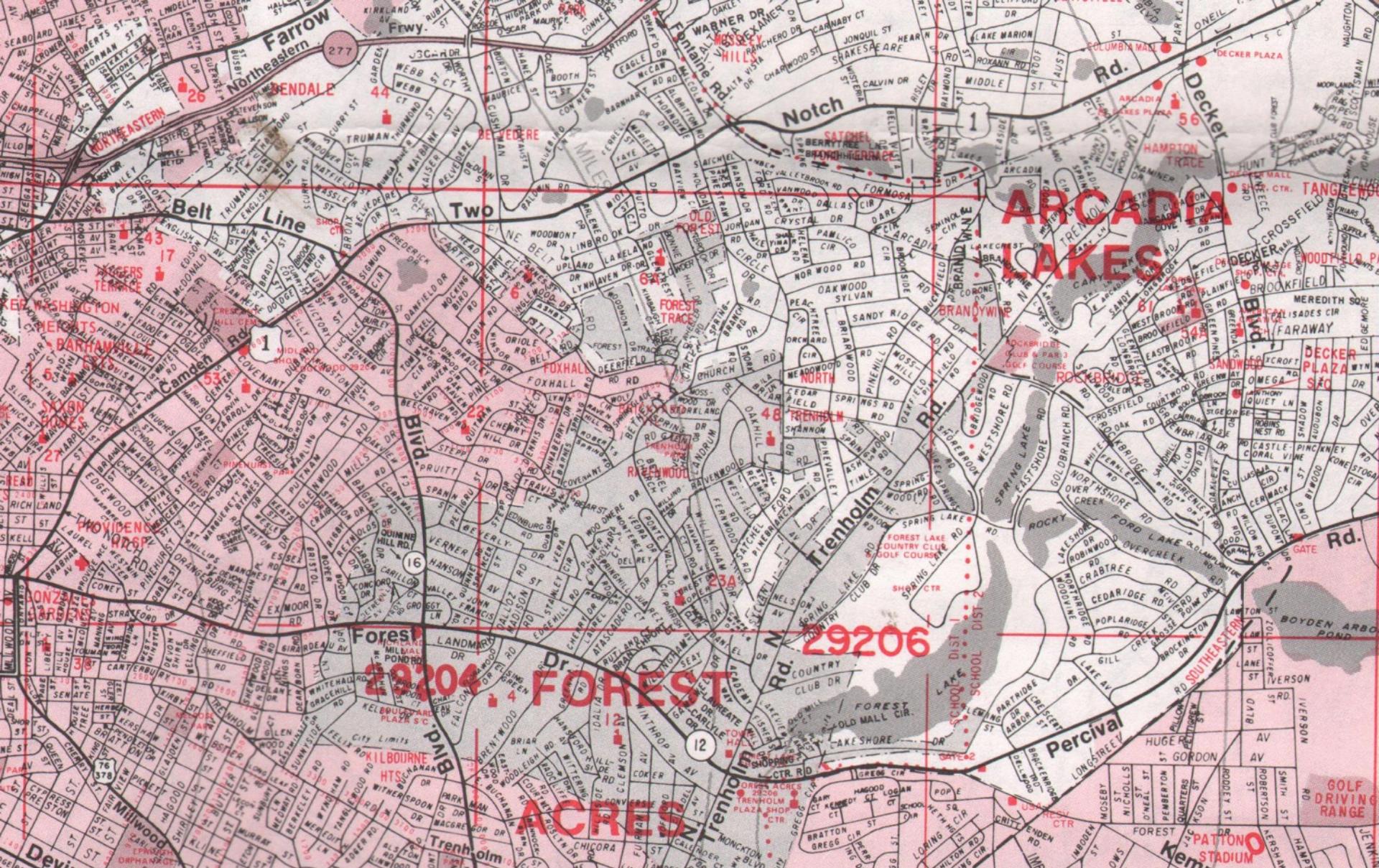
### Important Links

[GNIS Home](#)

[U.S. Board on Geographic Names](#)

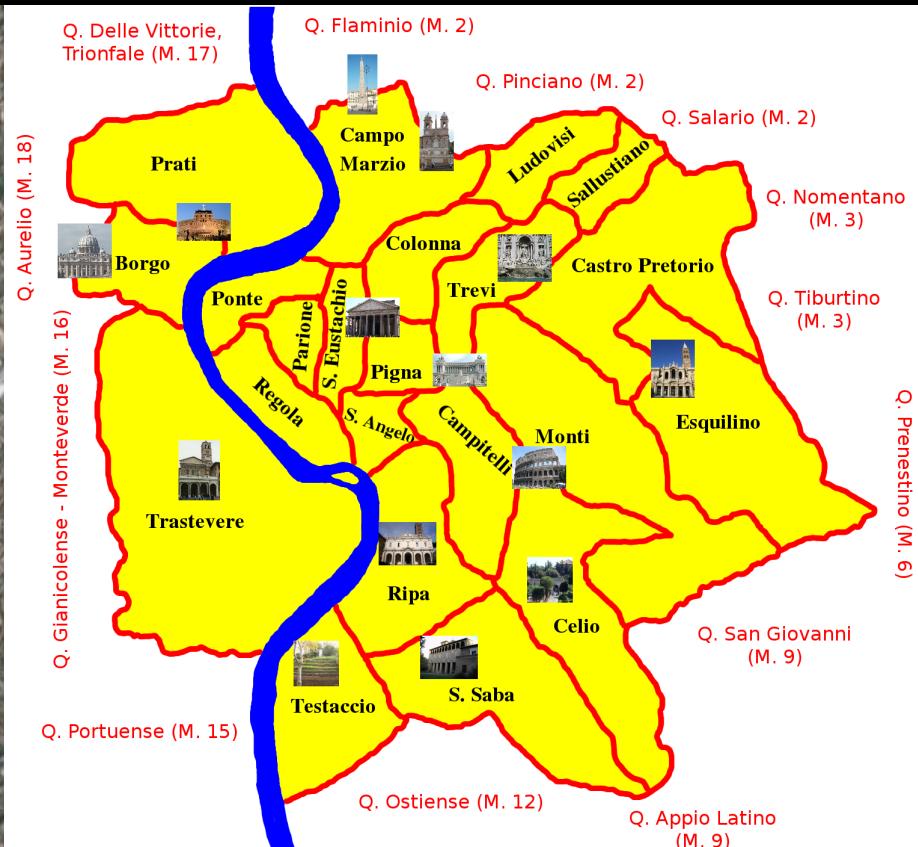
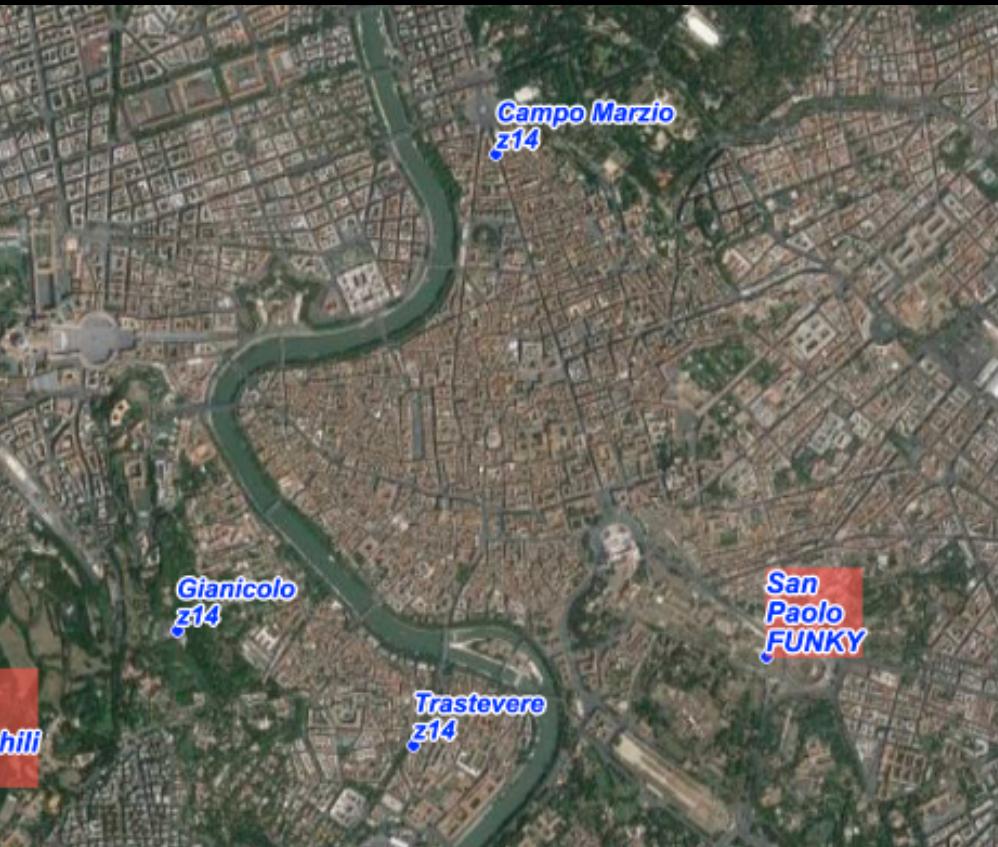
[Mapping Information](#)



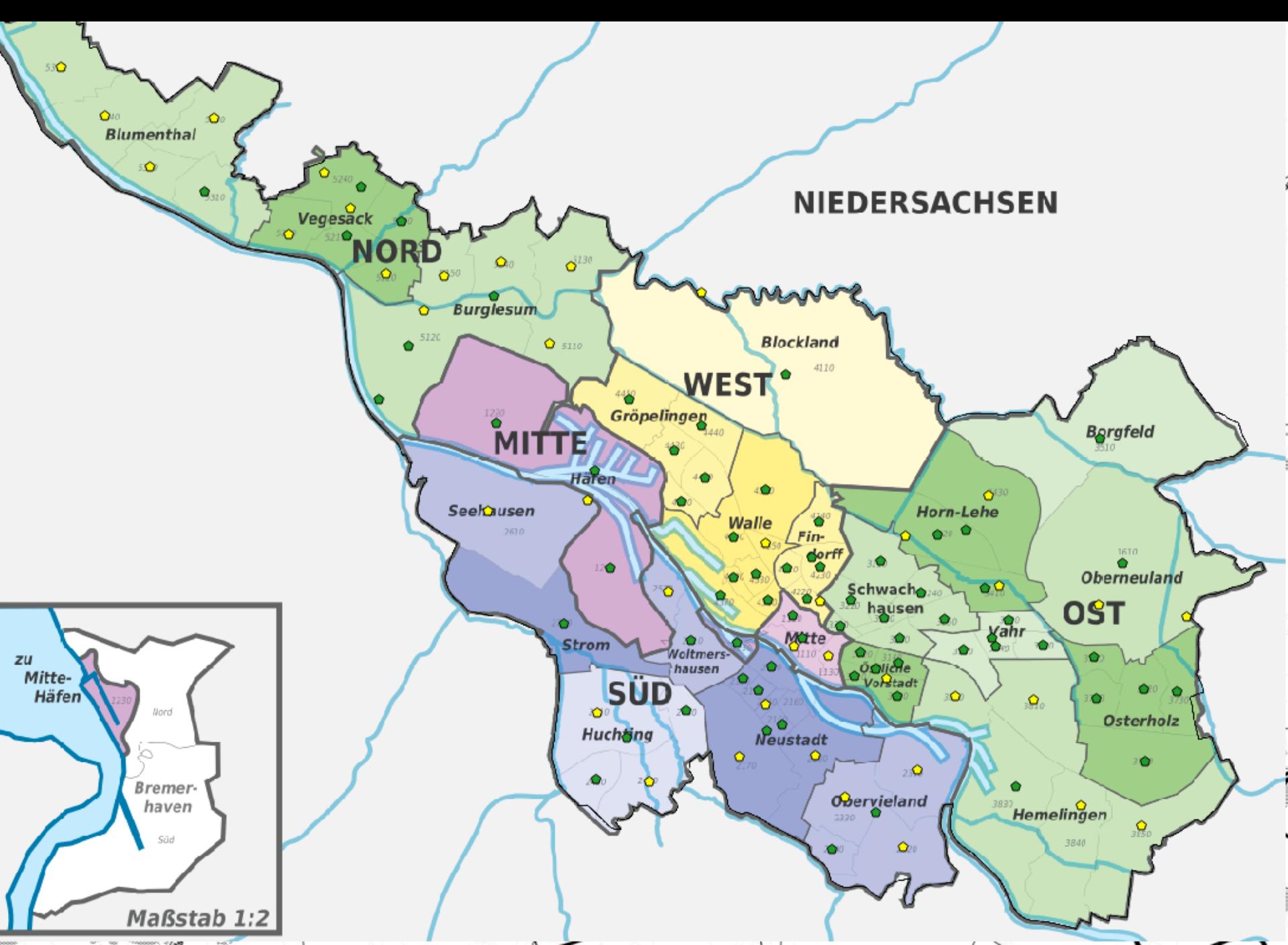


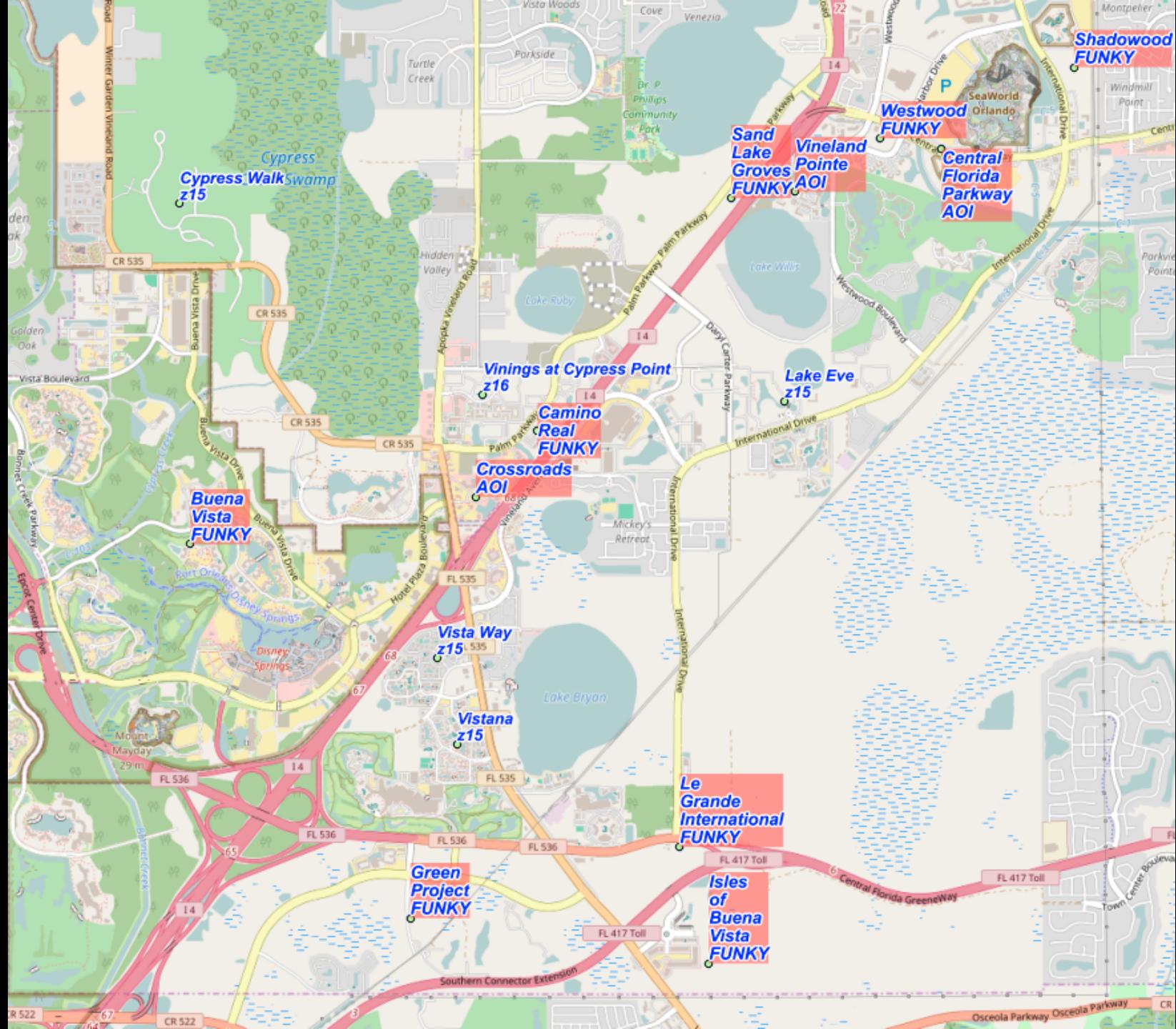
Champion Street Map, Columbia SC, 1988  
(thanks to Ross Taylor, University of South Carolina Map Library)

WOE compilation was bad



*Missing rioni*





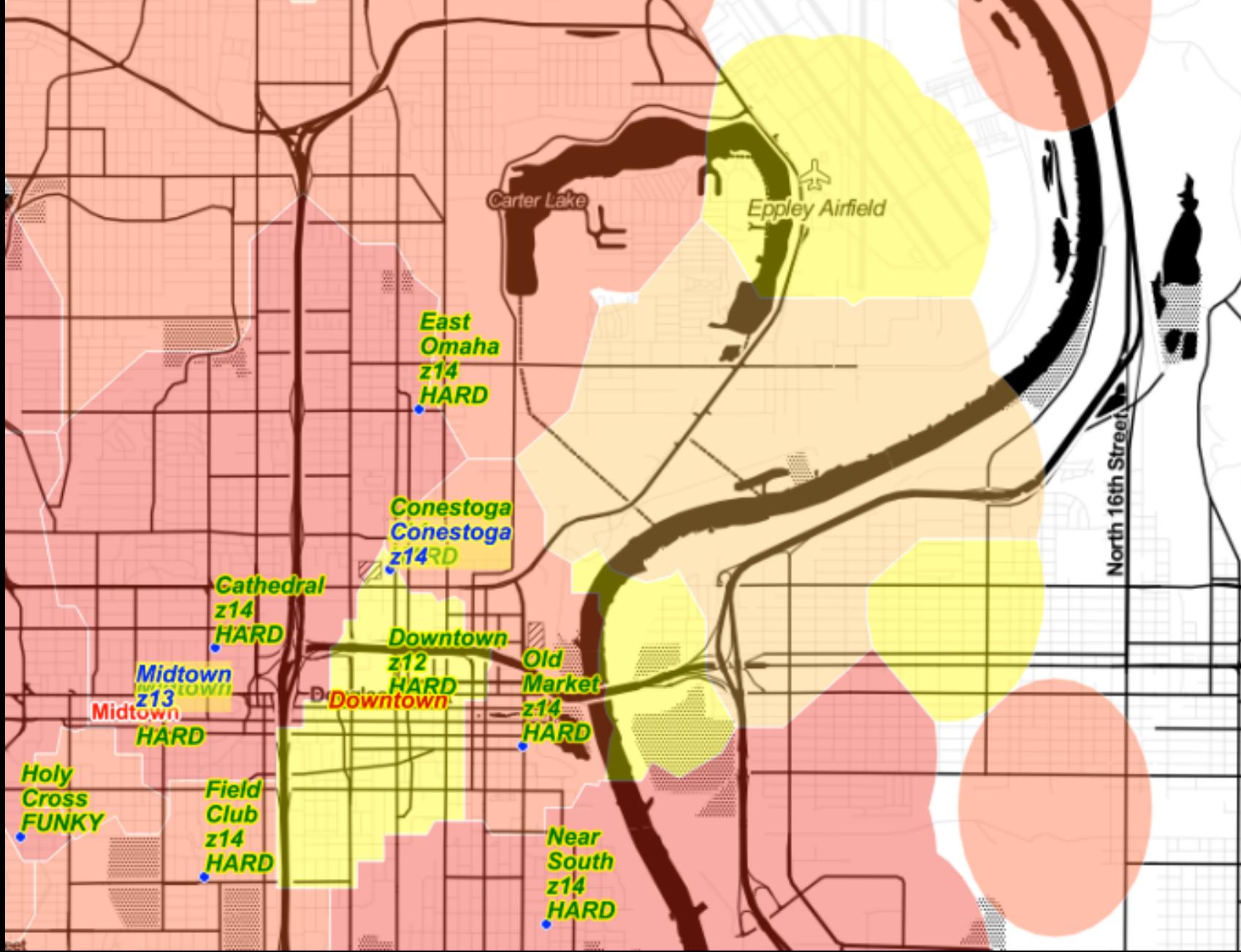


Green Project



Sand Lake Groves

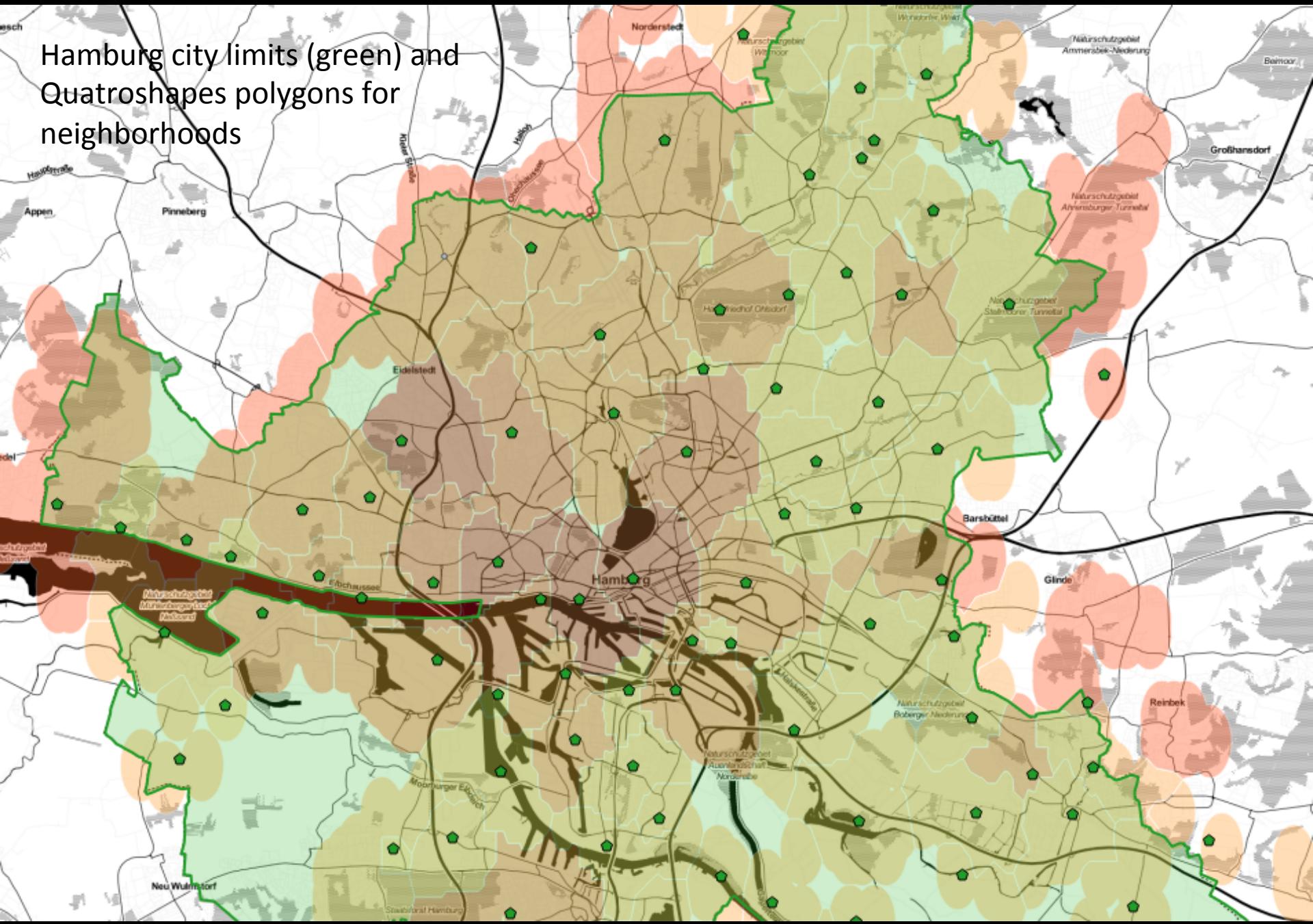
Flickr users are bad



Yellow = “Downtown Omaha”

Quatros and  
Zetashapes logic were bad

Hamburg city limits (green) and  
Quatrosshapes polygons for  
neighborhoods



Cities are stupid

Tools



Home



Initial View



Identify



Print

Basic Tools

GIS Viewer



WEST PALM BEACH

West Palm Beach

Neighborhoods GIS Viewer

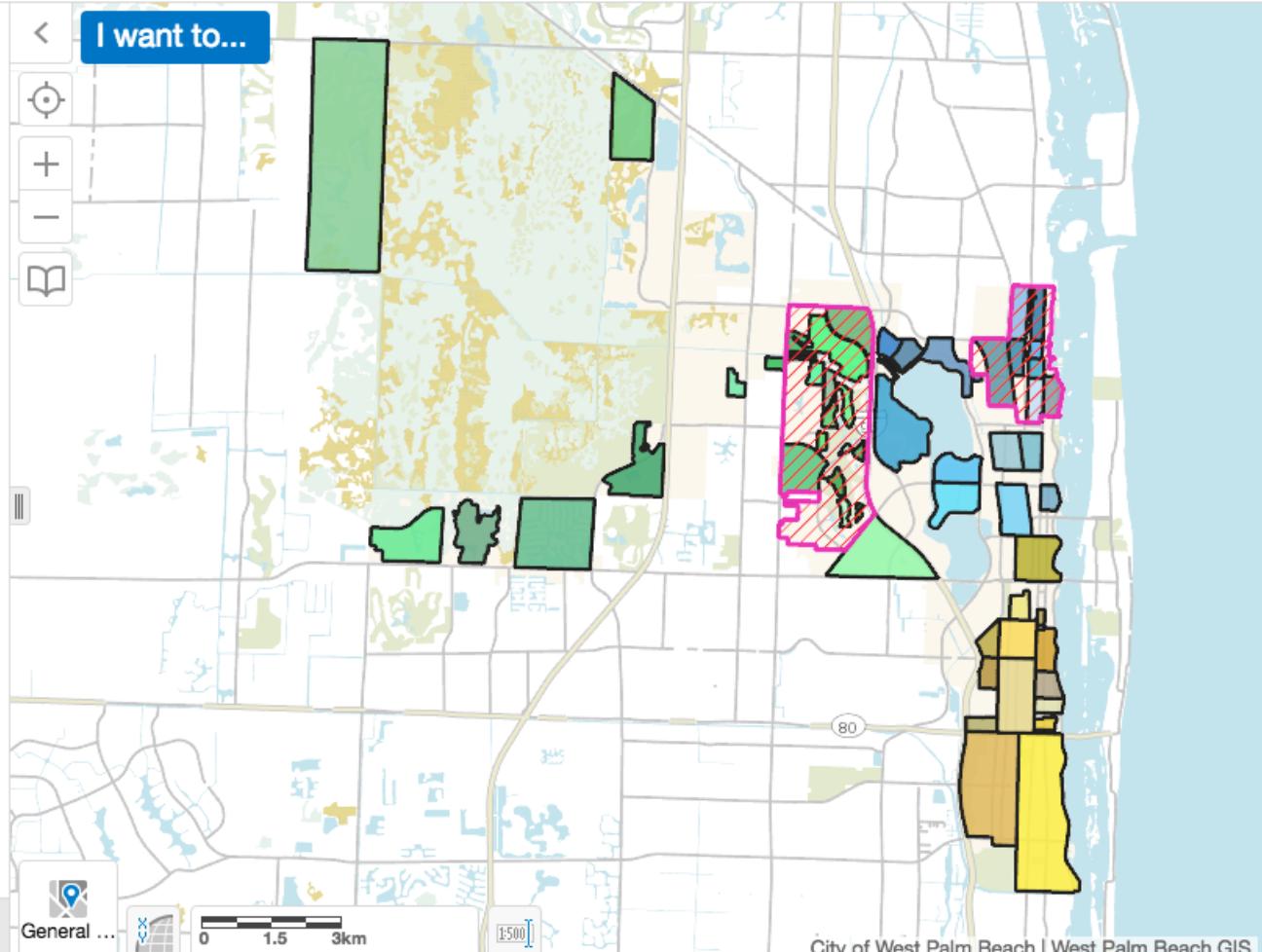
-Search by Neighborhood Name

-Search by Address

-Search by President Name

-Print Maps

-Navigate Neighborhood Boundaries



GIS Viewer



General ...

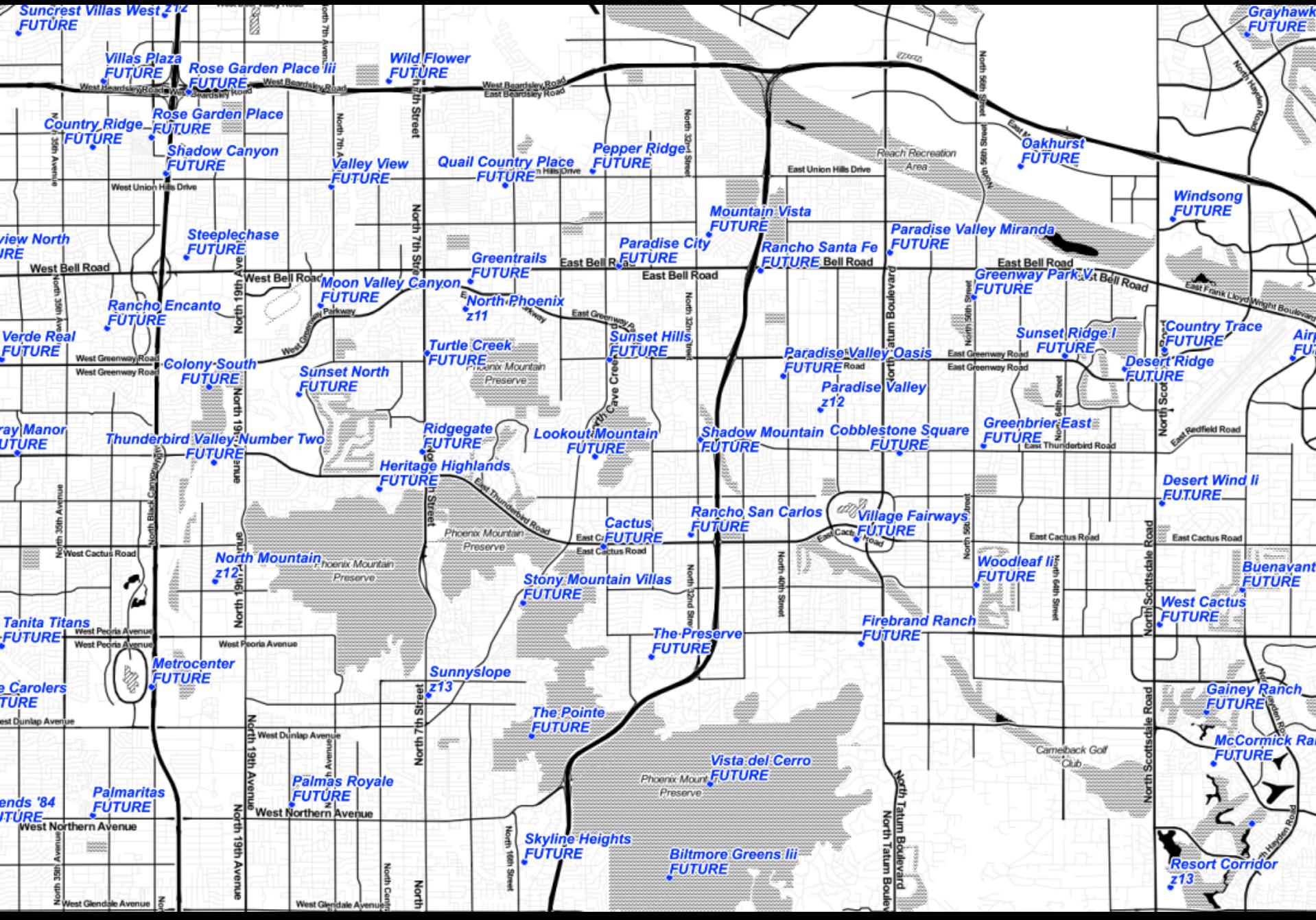


0 1.5 3km



1:500

Cities don't have neighborhoods



Cities are confusing



NEW YORK.

1891.



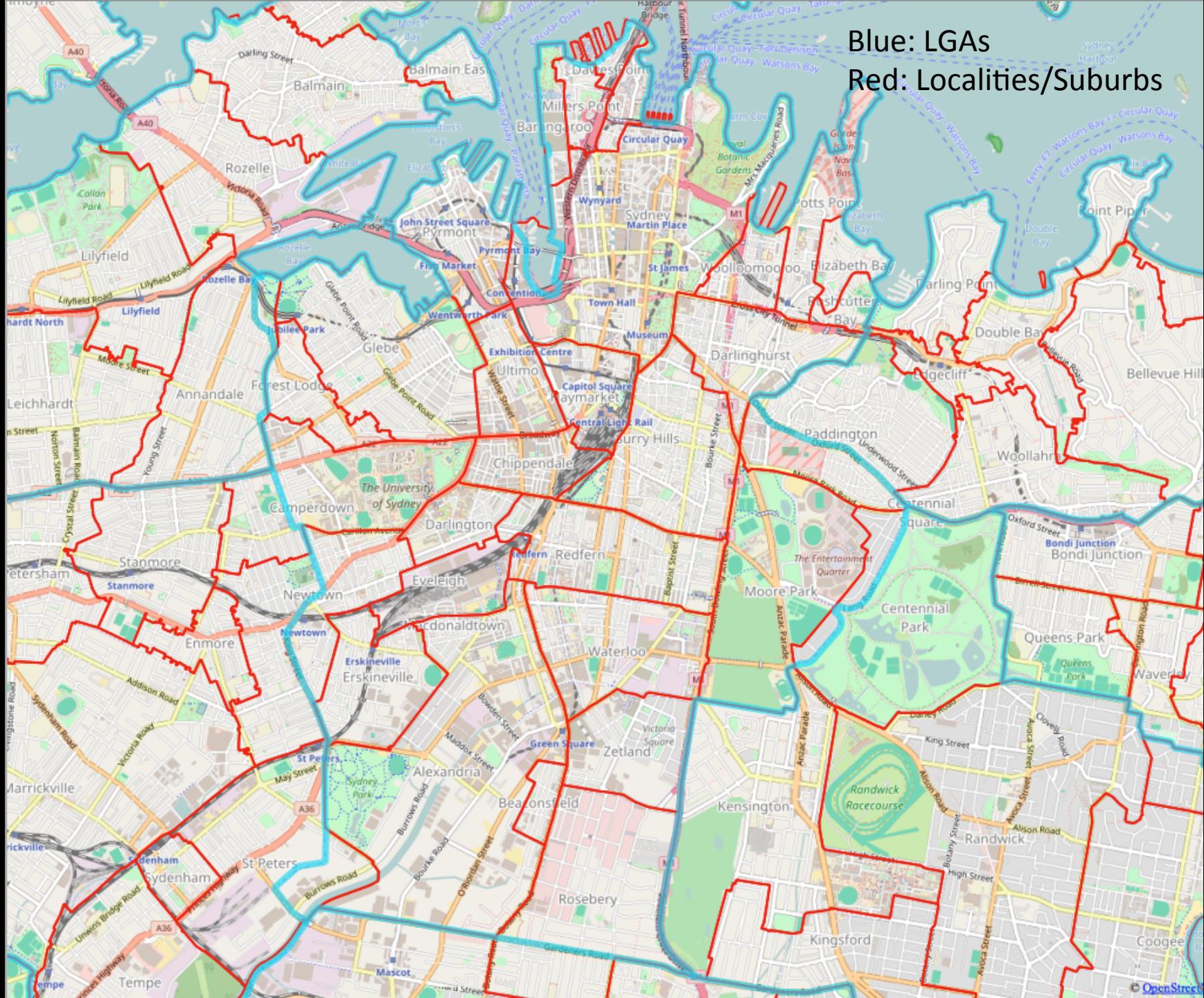


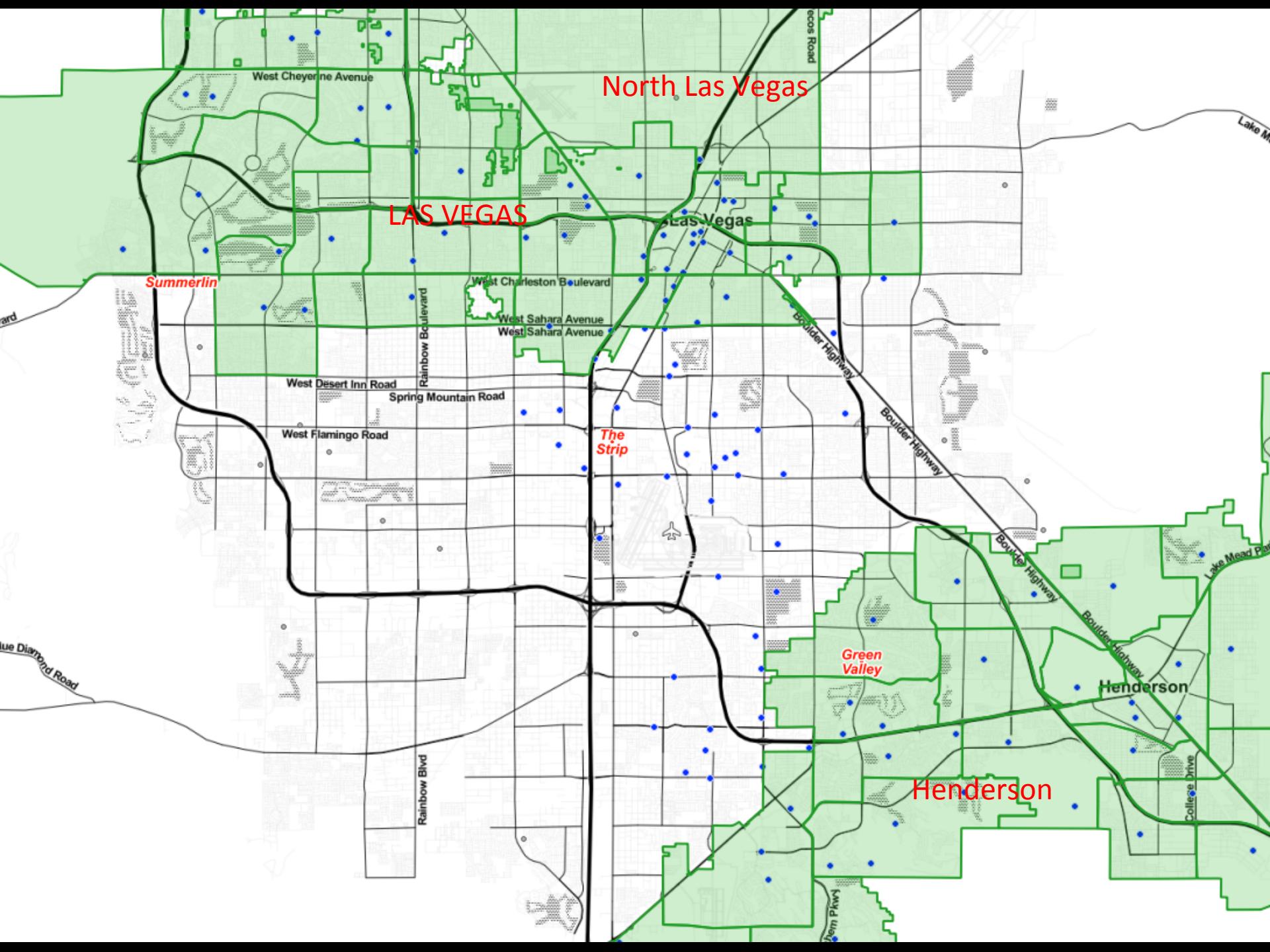
Honolulu



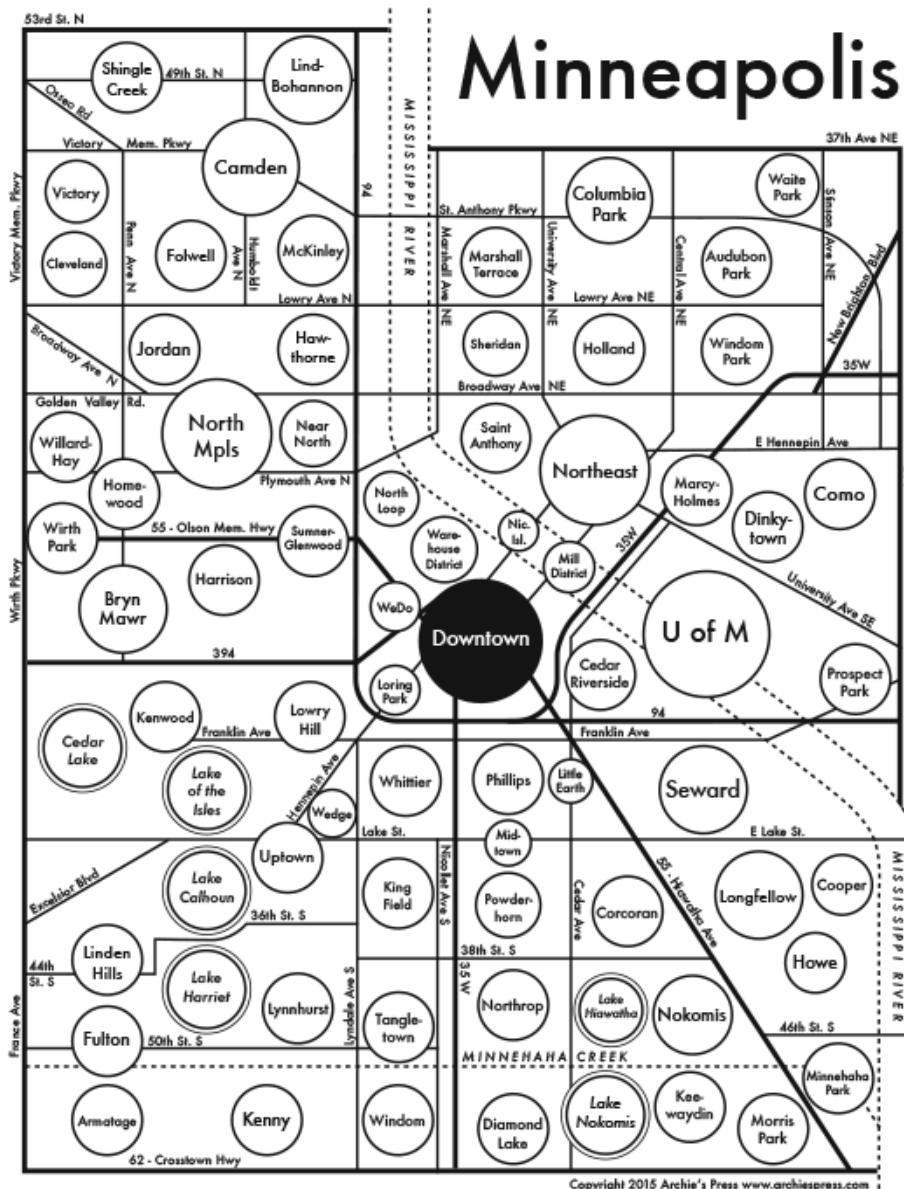
Honolulu

Blue: LGAs  
Red: Localities/Suburbs





# Minneapolis



Most people accept the validity of NoPa, for instance, even though it could easily be called Western Addition. To answer this question, I turned to the Arbiter of Truth, Wikipedia.

The "**Neighborhoods in San Francisco, California**" entry contains no fewer than 107 names, starting with Alamo Square and ending with Westwood Park. Neighborhood names that I have never heard of include Crocker-Amazon, Islaid Creek and Lone Mountain. But the one that immediately set off bullshit signals was the dubiously named **Safeway Heights**. As in the supermarket, Safeway.

Wikipedia defines the neighborhood of Safeway Heights as "a subset of a number of neighborhoods , including Mission Dolores, Duboce Triangle, and other unnamed portions of San Francisco, centered on the "Castro" Safeway supermarket..." Do we really need a neighborhood named after a big box supermarket chain? Is this some kind of bizarre marketing scheme? Has anyone ever actually used, or heard this neighborhood name used? --*Andy Wright*

SF Weekly, Apr 30, 2008

# THE YAT MAP

## New Orleans area neighborhoods, according to you

## What do you call your neighborhood?

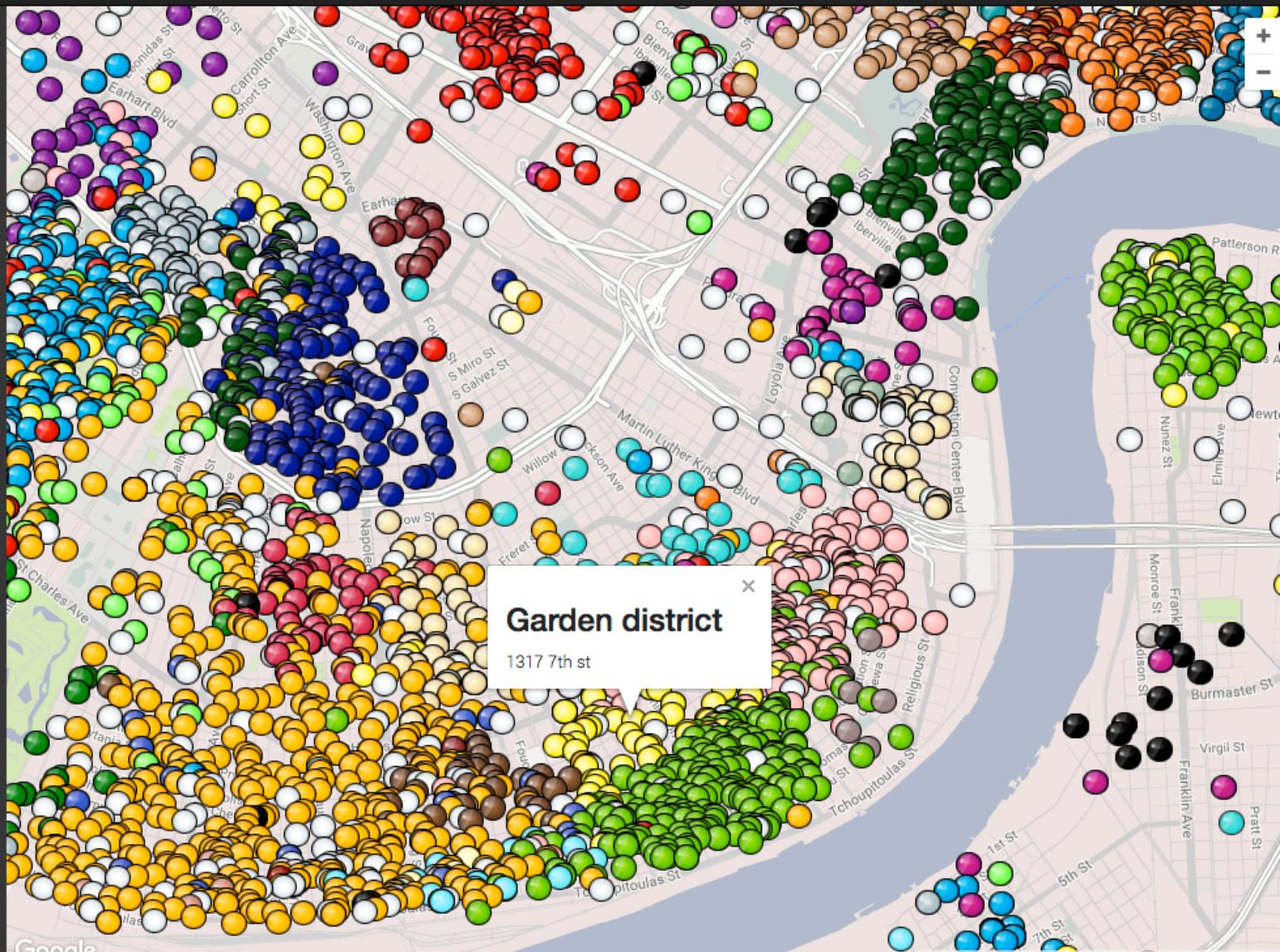
**What is your address? ?**

### Street Address

**City or Town**

Be cool. Like everything else in New Orleans, it may take a moment. Refresh your browser for your dot to appear.

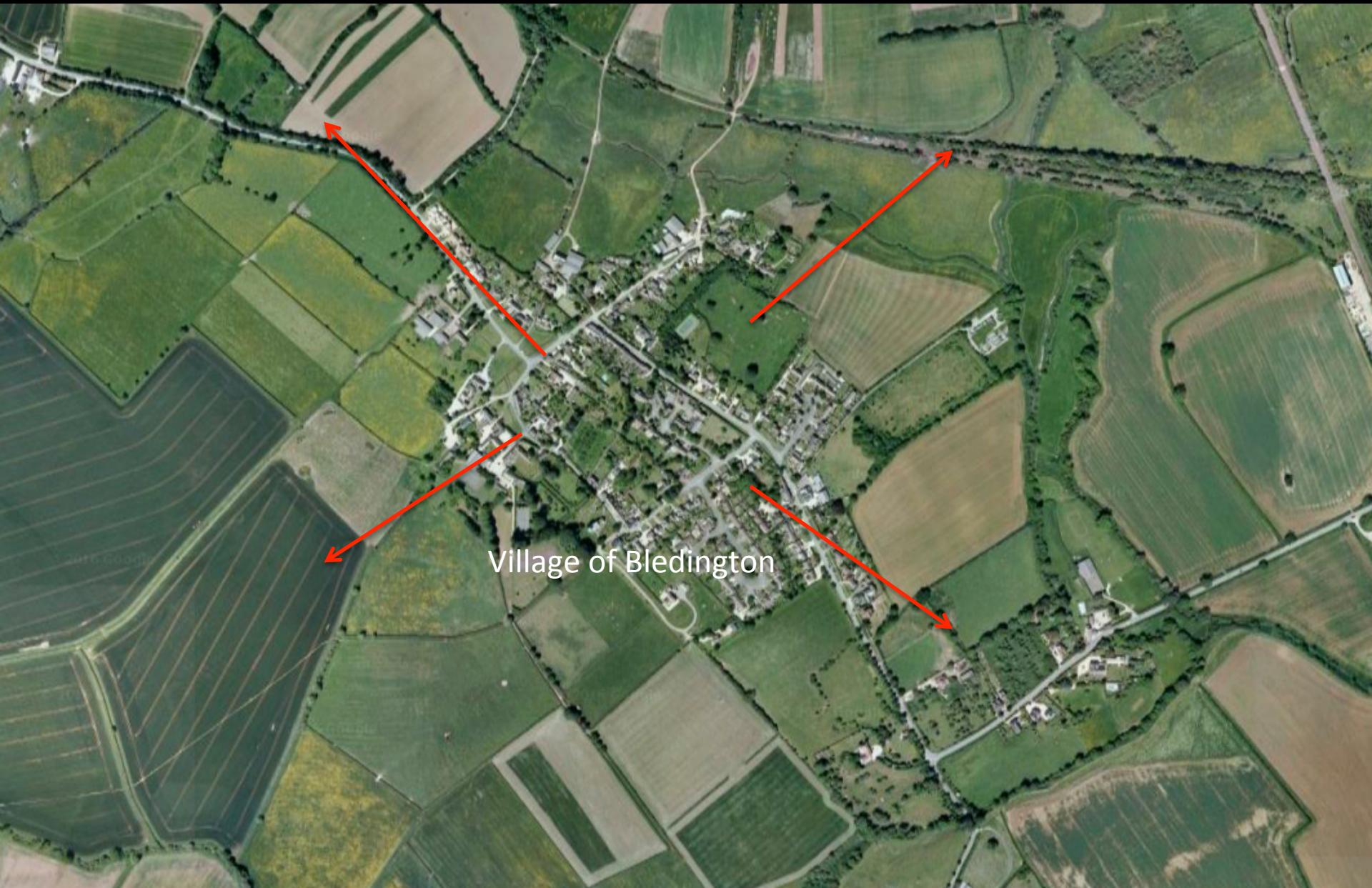
**ADD YOUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD!**



A couple ideas

There are two basic kinds of populated place geography:  
radial and bounded.

Every named populated place has at least the potential  
to have both kinds of geography.



Parish of Bledington

This aerial photograph shows the parish of Bledington. A red wavy line outlines the parish boundary, which is irregular and follows the contours of the land. The area is characterized by a patchwork of agricultural fields in various stages of cultivation, with darker green areas indicating crops like wheat and lighter green areas indicating fallow or different crops. Several clusters of buildings, representing the village, are visible. One main cluster is labeled "Village of Bledington" at the bottom center. Other smaller groups of houses are scattered throughout the parish. The overall terrain is hilly and varied.

Village of Bledington

Neighborhoods are not subsets or  
subdivisions of cities,  
but instead are unincorporated places.

