City of Takoma Park

Housing and Community Development

An Assessment of Park Quality, Proximity, and Race:

Preliminary Findings

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Overview

- Background Information and Objectives
- Park Assessment
- Incorporation of Racial Demographics
- Distance Matrix Analysis and Results
- Conclusion and Next Steps

Background Information

- The purpose of this project is to contribute to the development of the Public Space Management Plan.
- A parks inventory was completed in 2016, but did not consider quality or condition of amenities.
- Previous assessments of public space in Takoma Park have not incorporated racial demographics or measured proximity.

Council Priorities

A Livable Community For All

Environmentally Sustainable Community

Objectives

- Determine the quality of parks within the City and distribution of park amenities.
- Identify the distribution of parks in terms of racial demographics throughout the City.
- Determine how well the City meets the national standard of all residents living within ¼ mile or 10 minute walk of a park (American Planning Assoc. and National Recreation and Park Assoc.).

Park Amenity Data Collection Process

- Data collection began in February, 2020
- Used Collector for ArcGIS, ArcGIS Pro, and ArcGIS Online
- Collector was used to plot amenities with up to 5ft accuracy.
- Notes and photos were added to items in questionable condition.

Park Grading Scale

- Active vs Passive Parks
- Landscape Features
- Structural Features
- Cleanliness
- Development of Total Score for each park

Park Quality Assessment

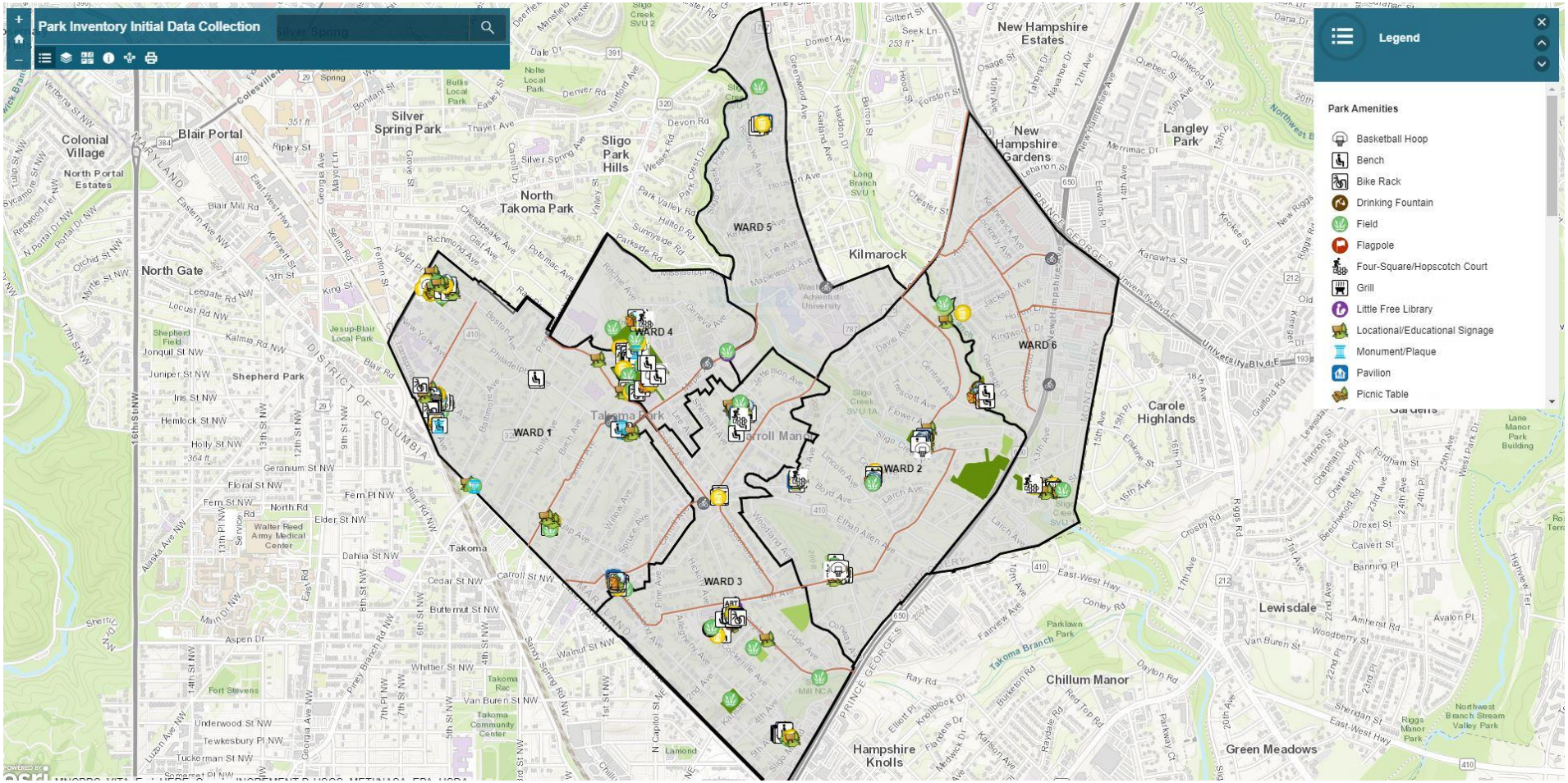
- 32 parks were evaluated (20 City owned; 12 County owned)
- Average total score for all parks in the city was calculated at 72.94 out of 100
- Two parks were given a total score of 100
- Eight parks fell below the average (5 City owned; 3 County owned)

Park Quality Assessment

Park amenity data was used to create an interactive web map:
https://arcg.is/0j5r1j

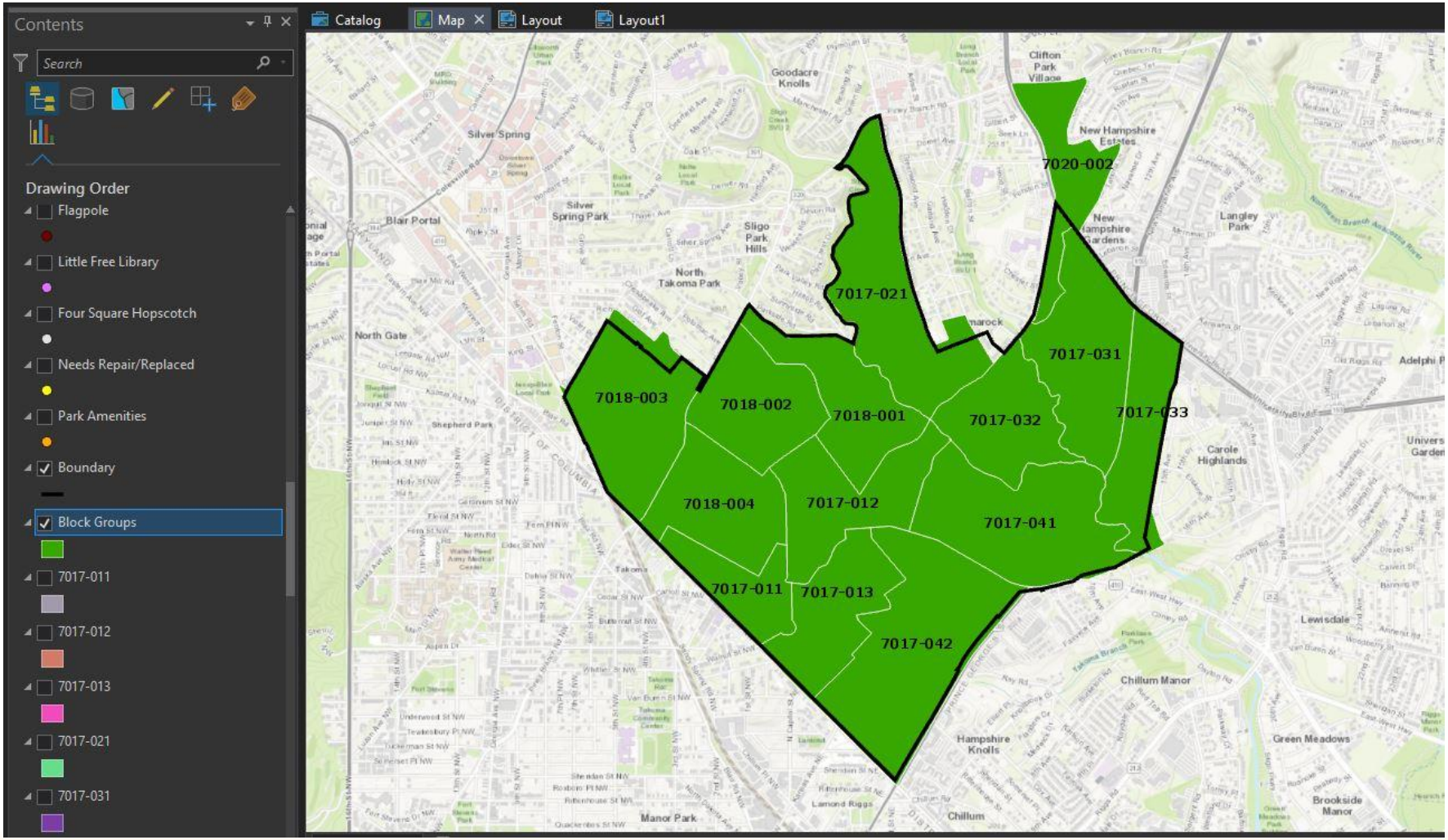
Park amenities can be assessed individually.

Park Amenities



Jackson Boyd Park

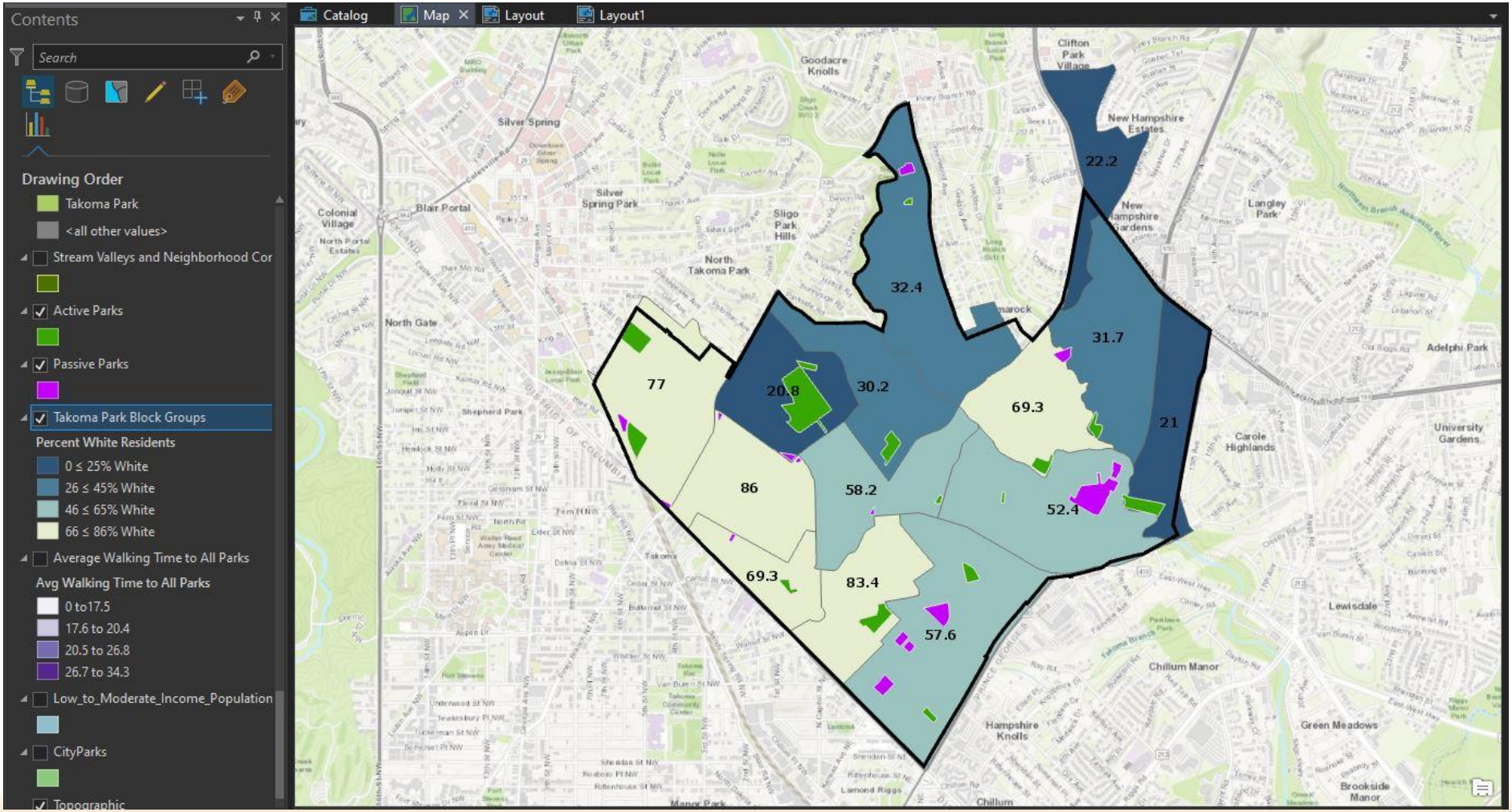
Census Block Groups



Incorporating Racial Demographics

- Block group level racial demographic data gathered from Census.
- Census breaks out data on race. For this part of the study, categories of white and people of color were highlighted to identify impact on minority populations.
- Race data was overlapped with park quality data to determine if gaps exist and how parks are distributed.

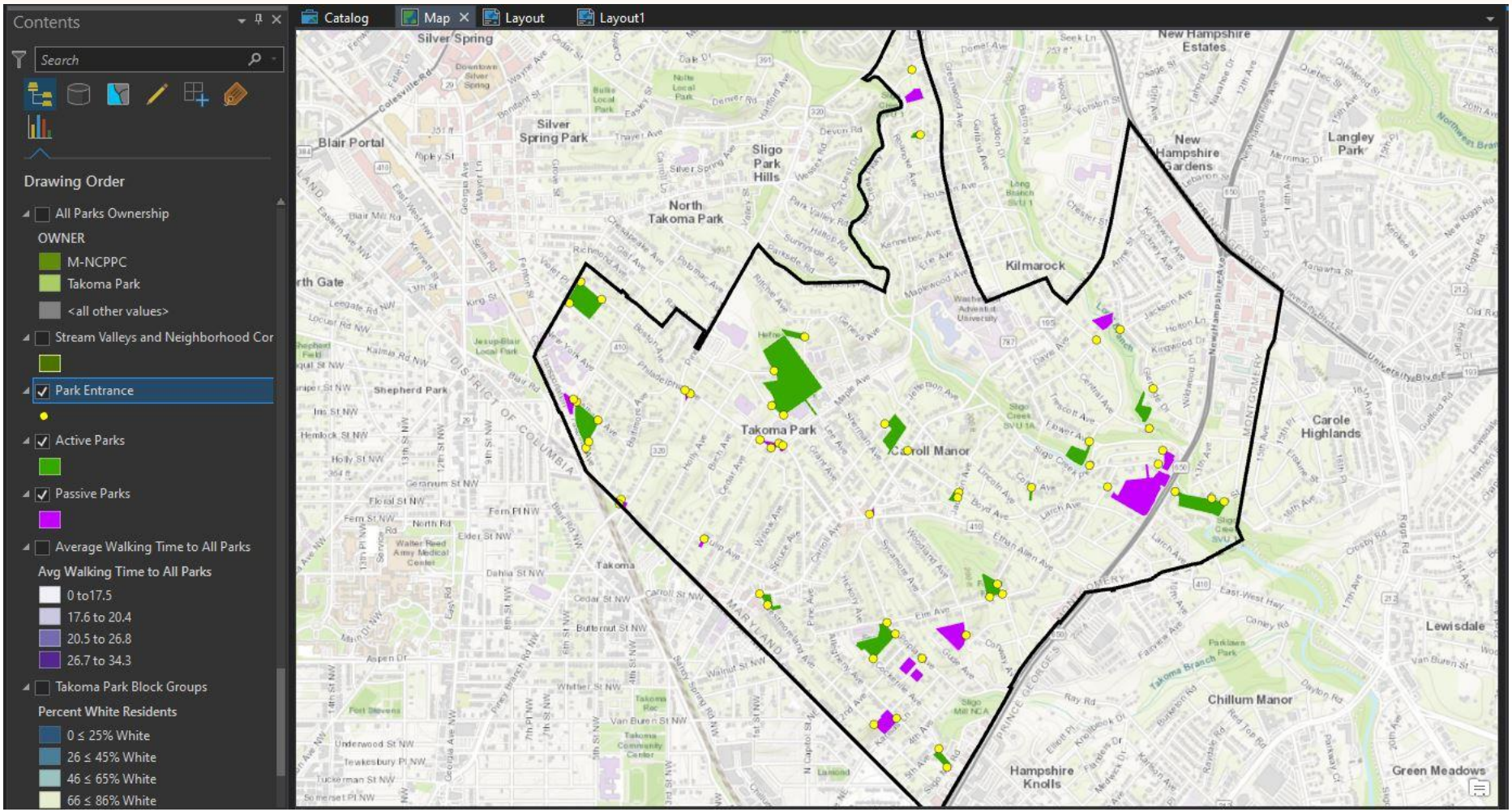
Race Demographics by Census Block Groups:
percent of population that is white.



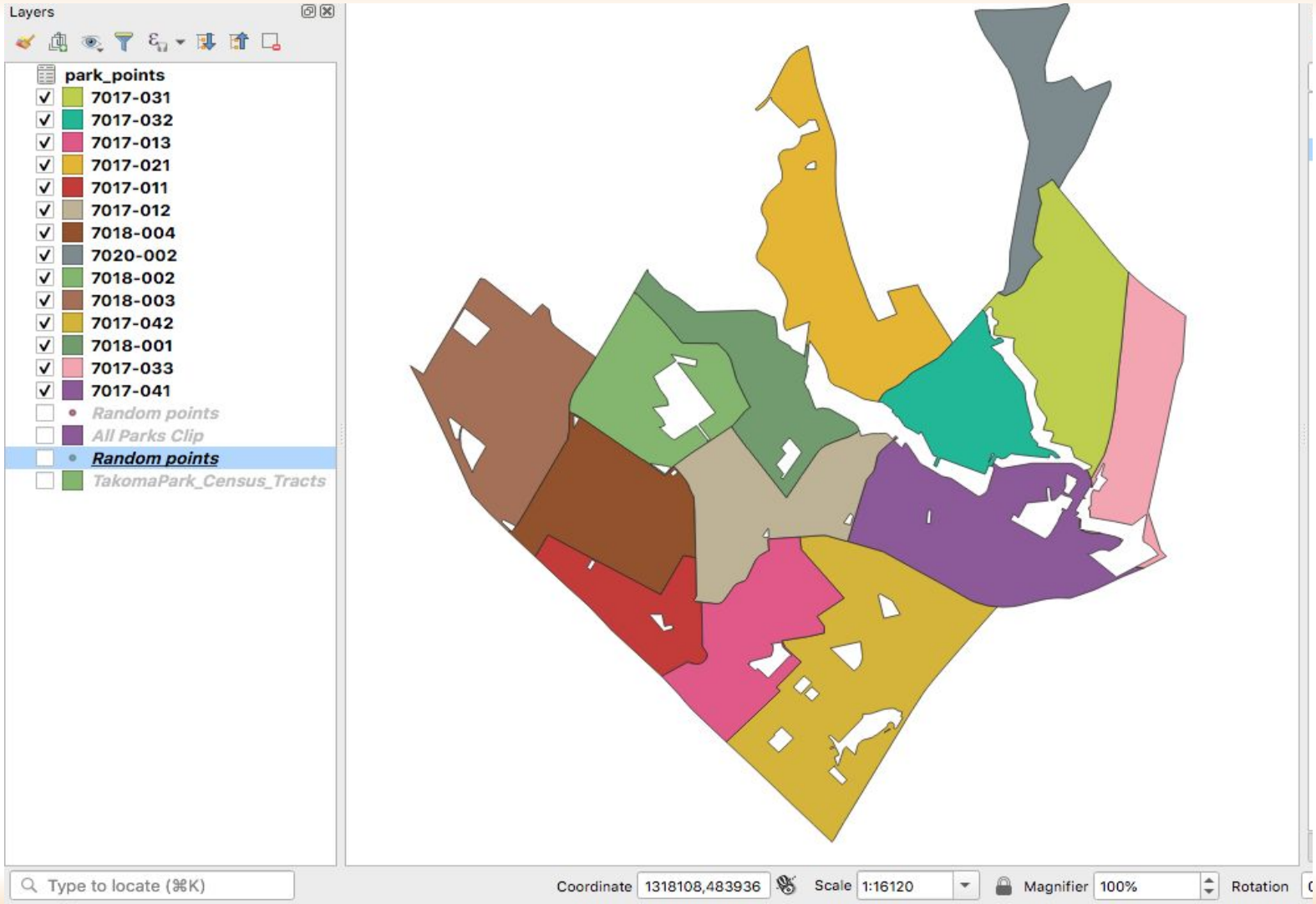
Proximity Analysis

- Identified all potential park entrances using Google Street View and then created “Park Entrance” points.
- Generated 100 random points within each block group to represent potential starting locations within block groups.
- Ran Mapbox Matrix API at the block group level measuring distance from all random points to all park entrances points.
- Calculated average walking time (minutes) from any location in each block group to **all parks.**

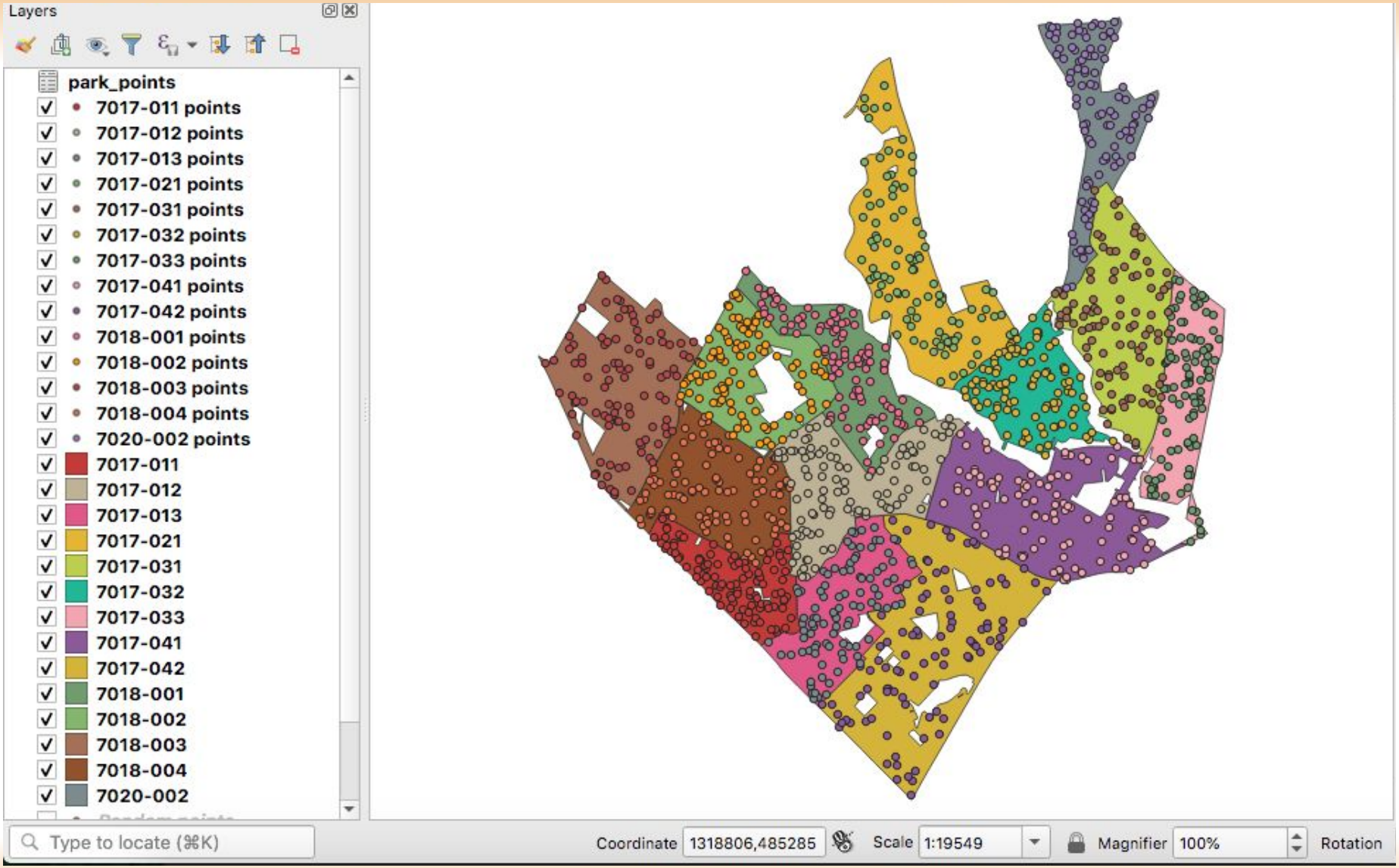
Park Entrance Points



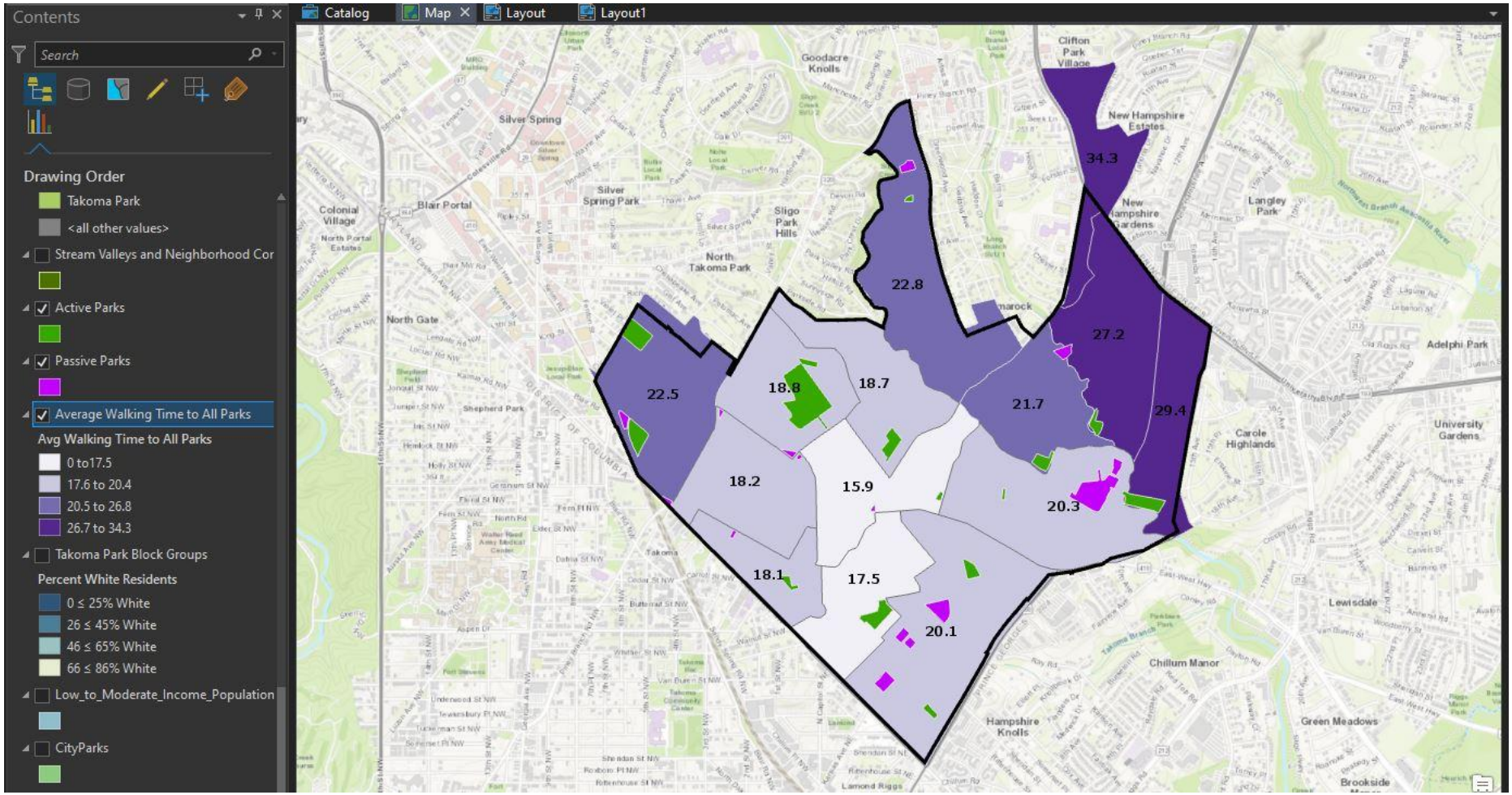
Census Block Groups (separated)



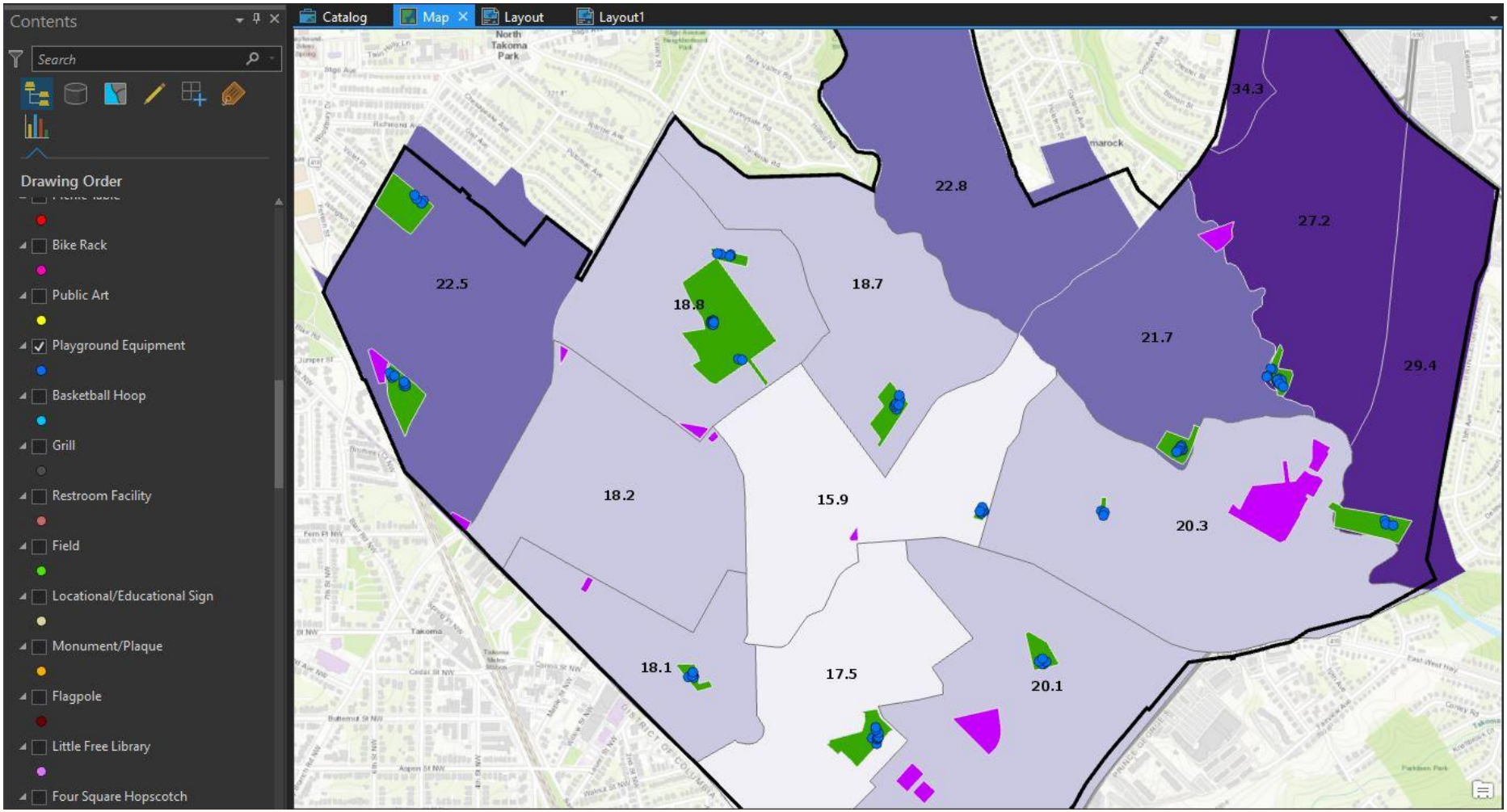
Census Block Groups With Randomly Generated Points



Proximity Analysis Results (Walk time in minutes)



Parks with Playgrounds



Next Steps

- Complete the interactive maps with data from each section of this project and enhance the webpage.
- Identify priorities and criteria for future investment for park improvements or new parks to advance Council goals.
- Design creative multi-purpose uses for City public space.
- Develop public engagement and virtual meeting for Public Space Management Plan.

Questions?

Contact Information

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Additional Information can be found on the City Website:

Public Space Management Plan
https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/public-space-management-plan/