Milwaukee Neighborhoods

May, 2000

Milwaukee Neighborhood Identification Project

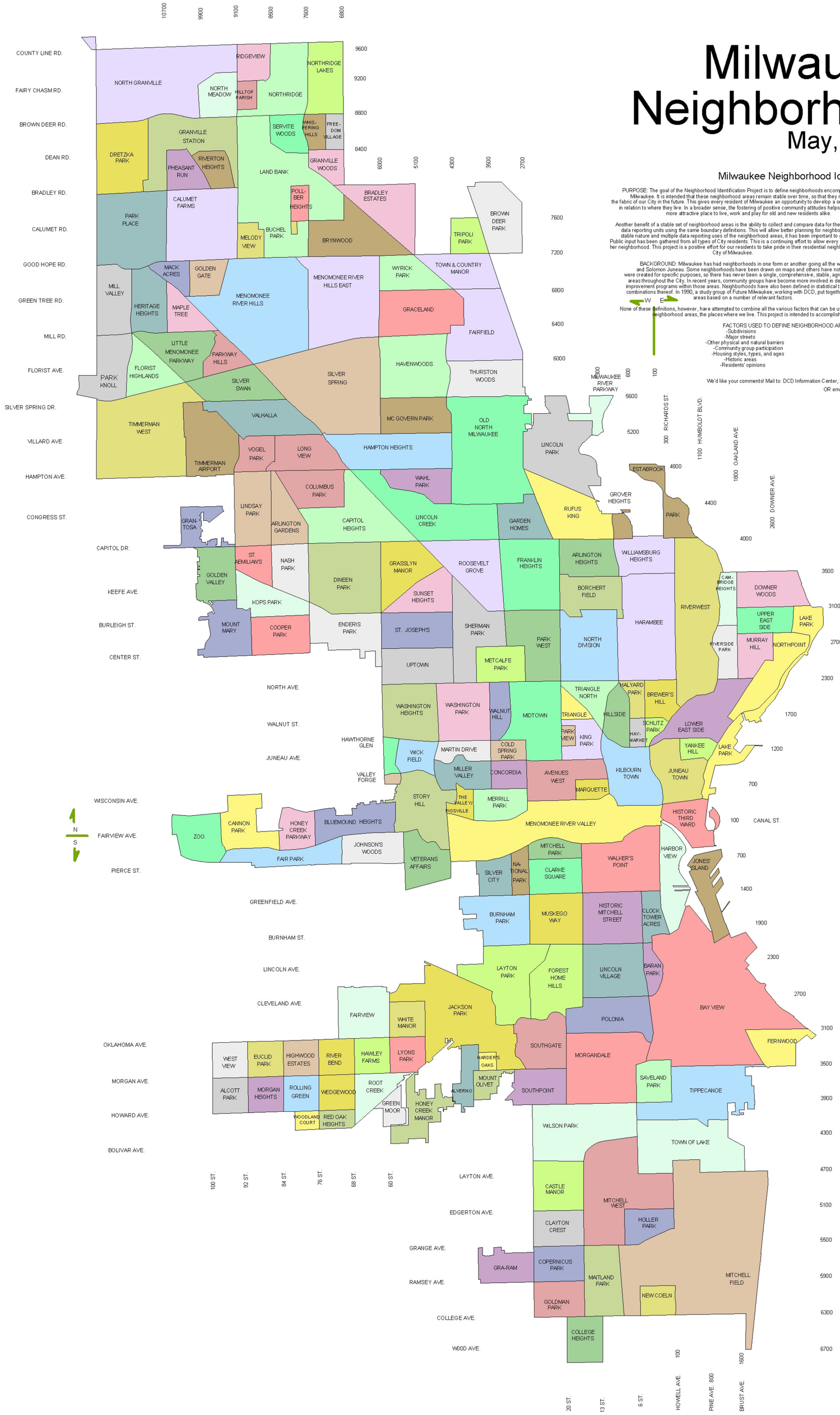
PURPOSE: The goal of the Neighborhood Identification Project is to define neighborhoods encompassing all of the residential areas in Milwaukee. It is intended that these neighborhood areas remain stable over time, so that they may become a recognized part of the fabric of our City in the future. This gives every resident of Milwaukee an opportunity to develop a sense of place, pride, and belonging in relation to where they live. In a broader sense, the fostering of positive community attitudes helps to make the City a better and more attractive place to live, work and play for old and new residents alike.

Another benefit of a stable set of neighborhood areas is the ability to collect and compare data for the neighborhoods over time, with all data reporting units using the same boundary definitions. This will allow better planning for neighborhood improvement. Because of the stable nature and multiple data reporting uses of the neighborhood areas, it has been important to garner broad community support for them. Public input has been gathered from all types of City residents. This is a continuing effort to allow every citizen a voice in defining his or her neighborhood. This project is a positive effort for our residents to take pride in their residential neighborhood areas throughout the City of Milwaukee.

BACKGROUND: Milwaukee has had neighborhoods in one form or another going all the way back to the dispute between Byron Kilbourn and Solomon Juneau. Some neighborhoods have been drawn on maps and others have not. Most of the existing neighborhood definitions were created for specific purposes, so there has never been a single, comprehensive, stable, agreed-upon delineation of neighborhood areas throughout the City. In recent years, community groups have become more involved in defining neighborhood areas, and conducting improvement programs within those areas. Neighborhoods have also been defined in statistical terms, often using census tracts, or combinations thereof. In 1990, a study group of Future Milwaukee, working with DCD, put together a map defining 75 City neighborhood areas based on a number of relevant factors.

None of these definitions, however, have attempted to combine all the various factors that can be used to identify a set of citywide neighborhood areas, the places where we live. This project is intended to accomplish that goal.

FACTORS USED TO DEFINE NEIGHBORHOOD AREAS:
- -Subdivisions
- -Major streets
- -Other physical and natural barriers
- -Community group participation
- -Housing styles, types, and ages
- -Historic areas
- -Residents' opinions

WHAT THIS PROJECT IS NOT:
- -It is not an attempt to define community group boundaries
- -It is not an attempt to define funding or programming areas
- -It is not an attempt to separate groups of people
- -It is not an attempt to do neighborhood planning
- -It is not an attempt to dictate where people should live

We'd like your comments! Mail to: DCD Information Center, P.O. Box 324, Milwaukee, WI 53201
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