



Intensive Level Survey of the City of Ponca City Park System

City of Ponca City, Oklahoma

Submitted to:
Rhonda Skrapke, Grant Administrator
City of Ponca City
516 East Grand Avenue
Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601

Submitted by:



ENVIRONMENTAL
ARCHEOLOGICAL
AND PLANNING
CONSULTANTS

1504 W. 5th St.
Austin, TX 78703
(512) 478-0858
hicksenv.com

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Abstract

Hicks & Company Environmental/Archeological Consultants (Hicks & Company) conducted an intensive-level thematic survey of the City of Ponca City Park System in Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma in March 2024. The City of Ponca City sponsored the survey through their Certified Local Government (CLG) program, with additional funding provided by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OKSHPO).

The survey was conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Identification and Evaluation and *Architectural/Historic Resource Survey: A Field Guide* (available at <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/architsurveys/fieldguide.pdf>). Hicks & Company architectural historians conducted desktop research prior to the field investigation to determine a preliminary historic context and generate a list of properties to be surveyed. Documented properties included City-owned public parks, such as Pioneer Park and War Memorial Park, and outdoor public art located on City-owned property, such as the electric fountain at the Civic Center. Historic Preservation Resource Identification Forms, survey maps, and photo documentation were developed for each historic resource determined to be 40 years of age or older (1984 or earlier). A total of 27 resources were documented during the survey.

This document serves as the survey report for the project and details the survey findings, including recommendations for properties that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and properties that warrant further research. A total of five resources are recommended as eligible, and two are recommended for further research.

Introduction

Public parks have been a focal point of Ponca City since its founding in 1893; however, the majority of extant resources were not yet documented until this survey. To determine the historic significance and integrity of Ponca City's public parks, the City of Ponca City contracted with Hicks & Company to survey these resources.

Hicks & Company architectural historians documented the city parks and outdoor public art in March 2024. The goal of the survey was to identify properties potentially eligible for the NRHP. Hicks & Company conducted preliminary desktop research, fieldwork, and archival research at local repositories in order to develop a historic context and document detailed information about each resource to better evaluate its historic significance. The historic context in this document focuses on the development of the local park system in Ponca City from c. 1893 to the 1980s. It is intended to provide a framework within which to evaluate the historic significance and integrity of each resource.

Research Design

Research and evaluation methodology occurred in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Identification and the guidelines provided by OKSHPO's *Architectural/Historic Resources Survey: A Field Guide* (updated 2013). Beginning in February 2024, Hicks & Company architectural historians conducted desktop and archival research to develop a historic context for the surveyed resources. Research included both primary and secondary sources, such as:

- Sanborn and Clarkson Fire Insurance Maps dating from 1894–1925
- United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map for 1970
- City directories dating from 1936–1960
- Historic aerial photographs from 1938, 1954, 1966, 1981, and 1991–present
- Archived newspapers via Newspapers.com for local publications dating c. 1890–present
- Vertical subject files at the Ponca City Library
- NRHP nomination files
- National Park Service guidance documents, such as *National Register Bulletin 18: How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes*
- Oklahoma Historical Society’s online repository of newspapers, photographs, maps, and documents

For a full list of sources, see the annotated bibliography at the end of this report, as well as footnotes throughout.

Survey Methodology

The survey focused on the City of Ponca City park system and outdoor public art located on City-owned property that had not been previously evaluated. Only resources of historic age (40 years or older) were documented. A few prominent pieces of public art in central Ponca City were determined to not be historic-age and therefore not included in the survey. A few examples include the Lew Wentz Statue (2004), the Centennial Bronze at the Civic Center by Jo Saylor (1993), and the “Through The Eyes Of a Child” statue by Jo Saylor (1988). In addition, public art that has already been documented or listed on the NRHP, such as the Pioneer Woman statue, were not documented during the survey.

Based on archival research and information provided by the City, the project team surveyed 27 resources within the city limits, the majority of which are clustered in central Ponca City (see **Figures 1-1** through **1-13** in **Appendix A** and **Tables 1** and **2** below).

Fieldwork took place March 5–8, 2024, and involved comprehensive on-site examination, photographic documentation, and detailed notetaking. The fieldwork focused on identifying historical or potentially significant landscapes, structures, buildings, or objects. In addition to fieldwork, the survey team conducted research at local repositories such as the E.W. Marland Mansion, Marland’s Grand House, the Ponca City Library, and City archives. This included reviewing documents, examining historic photographs and negatives, and consulting with local historians and Ponca City employees.

The integrity and historical significance of each resource was evaluated to determine eligibility for listing on the NRHP. The National Park Service’s National Register Bulletin 18 specifies that a designed landscape, such as local park, botanical garden, or golf course, must be able to keep the integrity of its characteristic features. Alterations made to designed landscapes affect the ability of a property to convey its historic integrity. Common alterations include the removal of old park equipment, such as playgrounds and picnic tables, as well as adjustment of pathways that were part of an originally designed circulation pattern. Overwhelming alterations that occurred outside of the period of significance (c. 1900–1984) detract from the historic integrity of a site, resulting in ineligibility.

Table 1. Surveyed Resources - Public Parks				
No.	Name	Address	Year Built	NRHP Eligibility
1	Ambuc Pool/Pecan Park	601 S. 6th St.	c. 1913, 1984	Not Eligible
2	Attucks Park	1313 E. Dixie Dr.	c. 1925	Not Eligible
3	Big Spring Park	E. South Ave. and S. 13th St.	1976	Recommended for further research
4	Briar Ridge Park	2501 Briar Ridge Rd.	c. 1975	Not Eligible
5	Dan Moran Park	901 W. South Ave.	1941	Not Eligible
6	Frazier Park	3001 Meadow Ln.	c. 1970	Not Eligible
7	Garfield Park	800 E. Cherry Ave.	1924	Eligible
8	Jaycee Park	3100 E. Hubbard Rd.	c. 1966	Not Eligible
9	Johnson Park	1400 N. Ash St.	c. 1965	Not Eligible
10	Lake Ponca & Ambuc Park	1688 L.A. Cann Dr.	c. 1935	Not Eligible
11	L.A. Cann Memorial Garden	1500 E. Grand Ave.	1908, c. 1975	Eligible
12	Lew Wentz Golf Course	2928 L.A. Cann Dr.	1950	Recommended for further research
13	Liberty Park	601 W. Liberty Ave.	1960	Not Eligible
14	McGraw Park	1501 McGraw Dr.	c. 1950	Not Eligible
15	Pioneer Park	520 E. Hazel St.	c. 1900	Eligible
16	Redbud Park	1921 E. Woodland Rd.	c. 1959	Not Eligible
17	Sherwood Park	2800 Canterbury Ave.	c. 1960	Not Eligible
18	Sunset Park	1107 W. Overbrook Ave.	1923	Not Eligible
19	War Memorial Park	706 N. 7th St.	c. 1925	Eligible
20	Willow Springs Park	815 Miller Ave.	c. 1975	Not Eligible
21	Young Park	2101 Jane St.	c. 1953	Not Eligible

Table 2. Surveyed Resources - Outdoor Public Art on City-owned Property				
No.	Name	Address	Year Built	NRHP Eligibility
1	WWI Memorial Fountain and Plaque	1500 E. Grand Ave.	1925	Not Eligible
2	Ponca City Firehouse Bell at Civic Center	1500 E. Grand Ave.	1900	Not Eligible
3	E.W. Marland Statue at Civic Center	1500 E. Grand Ave.	1927-1930	Eligible
4	Drinking Fountain at Veteran's Plaza	516 E. Grand Ave.	1902	Not Eligible
5	Birdbath at Marland's Grand Home	1000 E. Grand Ave.	1923	Not Eligible
6	L.A. Cann Drive Memorial	516 E. Grand Ave.	1902	Not Eligible

Historic Context

Ponca City is located in Kay County in north central Oklahoma. Ponca City has a rich history as a successful oil town and is most notably the home of former Oklahoma governor and oil magnate E.W. Marland. Incorporated in 1893, Ponca City served as an important commercial and trading center for northern Oklahoma in its early years. The town's beginnings are tied to the Cherokee Strip run of 1893, when land in northern Oklahoma designated for use by the Cherokee Nation was opened to Anglo American settlement. This "land run" brought numerous settlers to the area, including B.S. Barnes, who subdivided his 160-acre claim into a townsite named Ponca City.

When new cities on the American frontier were surveyed and platted, the government or town company set aside city blocks for use as a park or public square. In Ponca City, early Sanborn maps show that two adjacent city blocks were designated for use as a park and public square along Grand Avenue: blocks 43 and 44. However, plans for a park in this location soon changed. The prosperity of boom towns like Ponca City could be fragile and volatile, and public amenities such as city parks sometimes took a backseat to other essential public buildings like schools, jails, and courthouses that were vital in securing a town's economic stability. As such, research indicates that blocks 43 and 44 were converted into school grounds by the early 1900s, if not earlier (the 1927 Roosevelt School and 1939 East Middle School currently sit on the blocks). In exchange, undeveloped lots at the northern edge of the city were designated for park use. Ponca City's first public park consisted of a four-block area bordered by Hazel Avenue on the south, Highland Avenue on the north, Fifth Street on the west, and Seventh Street on the east. This park, currently known as Pioneer Park, was initially referred to as "North Park" and "City Park." The name later changed to "Ruby Park" in 1922, and the park was eventually renamed to Pioneer Park in 1954.

Pioneer Park remained a grassy, undeveloped lot in its early years due to a City commission that was unable to donate significant funds to its development and maintenance. However, local citizens undertook this task themselves and appealed to City officials to invest in the improvement of the park. Beautification of Ponca City soon became a priority for its inhabitants who may have been motivated by the nationwide City Beautiful movement that promoted the importance of urban planning in creating a healthy, desirable place to live. As City Beautiful campaigns began to occur in nearby communities throughout Oklahoma in the early 1900s, Ponca Citians also began to call attention to the meager state of its one city park, in addition to calling for paved streets, utilities, and street lighting. Based on an 1896 article in the *Ponca City Democrat*, a reporter bemoaned the City's inadequate use of its "numerous park reserves." By 1904, another reporter noted that the northern blocks reserved for a public park were "not so desirable" but still sat unused and unimproved.¹

Finally, around 1905, local George Chrisman was hired by the City to "break ground" on the west half of Pioneer Park. He planted trees and dug irrigation trenches which consistently filled with water with the help of his wife when necessary.² However, the perpetual lack of funds for park improvements continued to stall meaningful progress, and the shortcomings of Ponca City's one city park were regularly discussed in the newspaper. Locals impatiently called for a "pavilion and providing of seats and other conveniences" that would better accommodate picnics, concerts, and

¹ "For a Public Park," *Ponca City Democrat* (Ponca City, OK), Jan. 14, 1904.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/583334911/?match=1&terms=public%20park>.

² "The City Park," *Ponca City Courier* (Ponca City, OK), Jul. 5, 1917.

celebrations.³ In 1913, the *Ponca City Courier* remarked that “this city cannot afford to be behind other cities in the matter of parks...The city water and lights could be installed in the park at a nominal cost. Gas could also be installed and many other improvements made, that would [add] to the attractiveness of the place as a summer resort and play ground. Who’s going to start things?”⁴

Approximately one week later, the newspaper reported that the women of the local Twentieth Century Club were taking initiative to improve the park by hiring a landscape gardener to draw plans for the park.⁵ Although their efforts took a few years, the park underwent substantial improvements by 1916 with the addition of “cement walks, drinking fountains, and seats.” The park named an official caretaker, Mr. A.W. Saylor, who was busy year-round improving the park with various flowers and shrubs.⁶



Photo 1. A historic view of Garfield Park showing stone arch bridges, picnic tables, and a culvert. City of Ponca City archives.

From the 1920s onward, the expansion and improvement of Ponca City’s park system was met with more support and funding, no doubt driven by the city’s booming growth. The population of Ponca City more than doubled in the 1920s from approximately 7,000 citizens in 1920 to over 16,000 in 1930. The Ponca City planning commission was formed in 1925, and the City’s first comprehensive plan was approved in 1927. The planning document identified several major initiatives for the City to undertake, one of which included reserving land for parks, particularly on the west side of town.⁷

³ “Doings of a Day,” *Ponca City Courier* (Ponca City, OK), Mar. 18, 1901; “The City Park,” *Ponca City Courier* (Ponca City, OK), Jul. 13, 1911.

⁴ “The City Park,” *Ponca City Courier* (Ponca City, OK), Feb. 13, 1913.

⁵ “City Park Improvement,” *Ponca City Courier* (Ponca City, OK), Feb. 20, 1913.

⁶ “Our City Park,” *Ponca City Courier* (Ponca City, OK), Nov. 16, 1916.

⁷ 1920s, Ponca City Library vertical file.

In 1923, City commissioners appointed P.J. Bellinghausen as the superintendent of Ponca City parks. Within the first few years of Bellinghausen's leadership, Garfield Park, described beforehand as an "unsightly gully," was levelled and planted by Bellinghausen's team. Additionally, new maple trees were planted in Pioneer Park, and pecan trees were planted in the so-called Pecan Park. One of Bellinghausen's greatest initiatives in his position was the creation of a garden nursery to furnish city parks with plants. He did this successfully, and impressively without a greenhouse, on a section of land in the present-day War Memorial Park.⁸ When it was originally purchased in the mid-1920s from E.W. Marland, War Memorial Park was temporarily referred to as "North Park" before it was officially named War Memorial Park in 1954. Jacob L. Crane, a professional city planner with a Chicago-based firm, designed the plans for the park, possibly setting aside space for Bellinghausen's city nursery.⁹ Bellinghausen's team carried out Crane's design for War Memorial Park and oversaw the development of the Sunset Hill Tourist camp (present-day Sunset Park), which was gifted to the City by oilman Lew Wentz in 1923.¹⁰ The tourist camp provided camping areas to visiting motorists and featured stone ovens, a communal kitchen, restrooms, tables, and some cabins. In 1923, local stone mason George Wittmer was hired to construct a stone bridge over the creek in the tourist camp, but newspaper articles suggest that this was washed out during a large storm a few years later.¹¹ A stone arch bridge currently in its place likely dates to c. 1940 and matches the stone arch bridges in other parks in Ponca City.

Bellinghausen also landscaped the exterior of the civic buildings in Ponca City, most notably the Civic Center. Bellinghausen's landscaping at the Civic Center was added onto by the donation of the centrally-placed electric fountain and war memorial tablet that were sponsored by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The electric fountain and war memorial was dedicated on Veteran's Day, November 11, 1925.

The 1930s were less prolific for Ponca City as the repercussions of the Great Depression took hold. However, with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) programs formed by President Roosevelt's New Deal legislation, great improvements were made to the city's recreational assets, most notably the formation of Lake Ponca in 1935. The New Deal programs provided significant relief to Oklahoma in the early 1930s despite being hampered by the state's exceptionally high unemployment, population decline, mismanagement, and lack of support by some state politicians that decried the program as federal interference. The WPA provided nearly \$60 million in revenue to Oklahoma and employed over 100,000 people, and the CCC operated over 49 camps in the state.¹² Ponca City was one of the many recipients of the New Deal programs. In 1933, the WPA approved \$560,000 in funding for Ponca City to construct a 750-acre water reservoir east of town and a public library. Fourteen hundred acres were acquired on Turkey Creek, and by 1935, Lake Ponca provided a reliable water

⁸ Spring Reveals Value of Ponca City Parks, Apr. 25, 1937.

⁹ "Ponca City's First Planning Expert Hired as Consultant on New Plan," *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Mar. 30, 1955; "Landscaping of North Park Under Way," *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Nov. 26, 1928.

¹⁰ "Ponca City Parks Are Important Asset and Ones Most Used Are Those Costing Nothing," *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Jan. 23, 1938.

¹¹ "Storms Sweep Oklahoma and Arkansas Sections; Damage in Kay, Osage Counties Is Large," *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Mar. 20, 1927.

¹² William H. Mullins, "Great Depression," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, May 7, 2024, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=GR014>.

source for the city after its founding. The CCC assisted with beautification and road work for the site, including the construction of a boathouse, outdoor ovens, bridges, and the entrance gate.¹³ The extant park features built by the CCC at Lake Ponca are contributing resources to the Lake Ponca Duck Pond NRHP Historic District. In addition to the developments at Lake Ponca, the WPA was also responsible for constructing a drainage ditch through Garfield Park and Pecan Park as part of a drinking water system improvement, as well as adding tennis courts and replacing a wading pool in Pioneer Park.



Photo 2. *Photo of stone bridge at Garfield Park, 1956. City of Ponca City archives.*

Additional research may be needed to confirm the extent of the WPA and CCC's involvement with other city parks in Ponca City; particularly since the stonework at Lake Ponca is very similar to the stone arch bridges seen in War Memorial Park, Pioneer Park, and Garfield Park. The stone bridges still extant in Ponca City's parks are all constructed of rough-cut stone laid in regular courses over a barrel arch with a voussoir/ring stone detail and topped with parging along the parapet walls with rough-cut stones embedded into the cement. The bridge walls are framed with round piers at both ends of the bridge that feature similar stonework and parging detail. However, no New Deal program markers were observed on the bridges during the field investigations, and research suggests that Ponca City park employees were responsible for installing the bridges in the city parks, possibly intentionally matching those constructed at the Lake Ponca Duck Pond. Supporting this assumption is an article in *The Ponca City News* from 1948 that states, "Eleven stone bridges have been constructed for city parks, and right now the staff is working on a 240-foot stone retaining wall along the east side of Garfield Park." Also in 1948, the newspaper

¹³ 1930s, Ponca City Library vertical file.

reported, “Employees of the park department built a picnic oven, a stone bridge, and two park tables in North Park [War Memorial Park] last month.”¹⁴ Furthermore, Herman E. “Bud” Jordan, who worked for the Ponca City park department beginning in the late 1940s, credited the City (himself included) with building the original bridges in War Memorial Park.¹⁵

Other park improvements during the 1930s included putting an end to tourists camping at the Sunset Hill Tourist Camp by converting it to a city park. Additionally, McKinley Park in the southern section of the city was purchased for \$3,000, and an expansion of Attucks Park (previously called Dixie Hill Park) was acquired for \$1,800. Attucks Park lies adjacent to the Attucks Community Center, a building constructed in 1926 to serve as the “Attucks Separate School” for Black schoolchildren until 1966, when all grades in Ponca City schools were desegregated.¹⁶ The park was primarily used by the Black community of Ponca City and included a wading pool and baseball diamond.

Recreational swimming pools also saw a rise in the 1930s and became beloved public amenities that served as the center of community life, particularly during the summer. Public pools were usually located in public parks and primarily used by white middle-class families. The first public pool in Ponca City was the Lincoln Pool, funded and gifted to the City by local oilman and philanthropist Lew Wentz. Lincoln Pool opened in 1926 at North Palm Street and West Chestnut Avenue. In the early 1930s, wading pools were added to Attucks Park and Garfield Park. A few years later, the City purchased the 90x120-foot Bogan Pool (renamed the Municipal Pool), located at East Ponca Avenue and South 6th Street and built by theater-owner A.L. Bogan in 1926.¹⁷

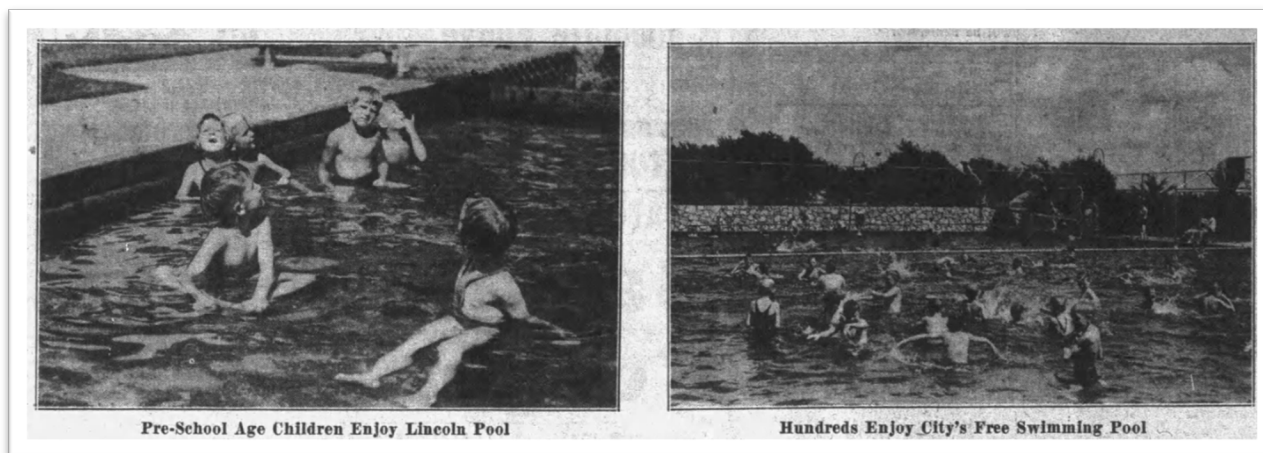


Photo 3. Photos of children enjoying Lincoln Pool (left) and Bogan Pool (right), *The Ponca City News*, Jul 28, 1938.

All of Ponca City’s earliest municipal swimming pools and wading pools have since been removed. Lincoln Pool was demolished in 1991, and the “New Bogan’s Pool” (currently known as the

¹⁴ “Park Department Has Its Hands Full Taking Care of City’s 19,535 Trees,” *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Nov. 10, 1948; “City Department Make Up Reports,” *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Jan. 8, 1948.

¹⁵ “Herman Eugene “Bud” Jordan,” Find A Grave, May 7, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/62826741/herman-eugene-jordan>.

¹⁶ “Attucks Community Center,” *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Feb. 22, 2023.

¹⁷ “‘In the Good Ole Summer Time’ Poncans Scamper to Take a Dip’ Cit’s Many Swimming Pools Are a Refuge on Blistering Days,” *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Jul. 28, 1938.

Ambucs Pool) was built in 1984 at a new location in Pecan Park, two blocks away from the original. By the late 1940s, the wading pools were determined to be a health hazard by the Kay County Health Department and were closed to the public. The Pioneer Park wading pool was filled in with a concrete platform to be use for outdoor concerts and performances.¹⁸ Remnants of the platform are still extant in the park.

World War II brought additional population growth to Ponca City, in part to meet Conoco's increased refining operations for the war effort. New housing developments were platted and developed in the northwest portion of the city on large tracts of land previously owned by E.W. Marland to the east of present-day 14th Street.¹⁹ By the late 1940s, Ponca City had 13 parks totaling 2,030 acres that were maintained by 10 City employees and a \$30,000 annual budget. Park features included playground equipment (slides, swings, wading pools), horseshoe courts, tennis courts, sanded croquet courts, baseball diamonds, fountains, outdoor ovens, benches, and tables.²⁰



Photo 4. A band posing at the outdoor concert platform (formerly a wading pool) in Pioneer Park, 1959. Although not identified in the photo, the band might be the Ponca City Accordion Band. City of Ponca City archives.

In 1943, the City was given the opportunity to purchase E.W. Marland's 1928 golf course. Many were excitedly in support as the park system had yet to include a municipal golf course. However, the 69-acre tract was estimated to have \$10,000 of maintenance per year, a sizeable burden for the modest park system to keep running.²¹ City commissioners called a special election to see if they should move forward with the deal, and Ponca Citizens voted against buying the course by nearly

¹⁸ "Pioneer Park Ready For Opening Concert," *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Jun. 22, 1959.

¹⁹ "1940s," Ponca Public Library vertical file.

²⁰ "Local Parks Give Residents Chance of Vacation at Home," *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Jun. 8, 1948.

²¹ "Legal Notices," *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Jul. 21, 1942.

a 2 to 1 ratio.²² Marland's course was later transformed into the Ponca City Country Club in 1945 when it was sold into private hands. Fortunately, refusal of the Marland golf course deal resulted in a more affordable development seven years later. In 1950, the City opened the nine-hole Lakeside Municipal Golf Course on land gifted by Lew Wentz that sat adjacent to the Wentz Camp. The City hired Ponca City Country Club golf pro Bill Oliver to design the course with an estimated construction cost of \$15,000. Two frame buildings from the Darr School were moved to the site to be reused as the clubhouse and equipment house, and a stone entrance was constructed to match the one at the Lake Ponca Duck Pond NRHP Historic District along L.A. Cann Drive.²³ Just two years after the opening, the City hired golf course architects Jack and Floyd Farley from Oklahoma City to draw plans for an 18-hole course expansion. In the 1970s, the course was renamed Lew Wentz, and a new clubhouse was constructed in 1980. The stone entrance gate and four small bridges throughout the course are original to the 1950 course, and a c. 1930 enclosure, potentially a pump house, is located along the water bank near hole 18. The enclosure matches the castellated architecture of the Wentz Camp and is presumably associated with that property, which was listed on the NRHP in 2010.



Photo 4. Aerial view of Lew Wentz Golf Course, c. 1960. City of Ponca City archives.

Ponca City in the post-war era was met with a wave of commercial development and housing construction, placing demands on public utilities and amenities. To manage the expansions, the City's planning department updated the comprehensive plan in the mid-1950s and again in the late 1960s. Overall, parks and public facilities were readily supported and well-maintained. By 1960,

²² "City Turns Down Golf Course Plan," *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Aug. 11, 1943.

²³ "City Golf course Nears Readiness," *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Oct. 22, 1950.

there were 17 public parks, three free swimming pools, 12 tennis courts, and nine baseball diamonds.²⁴

Several neighborhoods to the north were platted and developed, and a small area was usually set aside in each development for use as a park, such as for the Crestview and Young additions. Parks such as Frazier Park, Johnson Park, McGraw Park, and Liberty Park were created at the same time the surrounding neighborhoods were platted.

This period was also marked by more controversial projects. In 1955, land out of Dan Moran Park was utilized by the state national guard for an armory building. With some objections from local citizens, the City was able to complete construction of the Hutchins Memorial Auditorium in the north section of War Memorial Park in 1961. The auditorium was designed by John Duncan Forsyth, who also designed the Marland Estate. However, this building was demolished in 2016, and a new auditorium is under construction in its place.

The 1950s–1970s focused on preserving Ponca City’s history. The E.W. Marland statue completed by sculptor Jo Davidson in 1930 was gifted to the City by Mrs. Lydie Marland. The statue originally sat on the Marland Estate and was relocated to the northeast corner of the Civic Center in 1951.²⁵ Philanthropic efforts undertaken by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution included the 1952 installation of a granite marker 200 feet east of the Big Spring, signifying a natural spring that attracted Native Americans and white settlers to the area. In 1954, the group purchased and restored the 1902 public drinking fountain that originally sat at the northeast corner of the Civic Center grounds, Historic sites were also added to the list of Ponca City’s parks. Marland’s Grand Home and the Marland Mansion were purchased by the City in 1967 and 1975, respectively.²⁶ The 1908 L.A. Cann Residence was also acquired by the City in the 1970s, and its extensive grounds were transformed by local garden groups into a memorial botanic garden.

The importance of beautiful parks runs deep in the history of Ponca City. Since 1896, local citizens have made their desires for shared outdoor spaces known, and as Ponca City grew, so did its need for all types of recreation. Ponca City’s abundant park system is primarily due to the efforts of the early 1900s, when park superintendents like P.J. Bellinghausen transformed undesirable land into focal points that quickly became valued gathering spots for the community. Some of these parks relied on designs from out-of-town professionals, but in most cases, they were laboriously laid out and maintained by the City’s own parks department. Ponca City’s unique and historically significant parks are irreplaceable, and every effort should be made to promote and protect these cultural resources.

²⁴ Ponca City, Oklahoma, City Directory, 1960. Ancestry.com. U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

²⁵ “City to Place Marland Statue On Front Lawn of Civic Center,” *Ponca City News* (Ponca City, OK), Aug. 29, 1950.

²⁶ E.W. Marland Masion NRHP Nomination, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/39e08f29-ce75-4bee-bfd1-315bbe02380f>

Survey Results

The primary resource typology is informed by the National Register Bulletin 18, which recognizes four categories of cultural landscapes: designed landscapes, vernacular landscapes, historic sites, and ethnographic landscapes. This classification allows for landscape types to be evaluated under a similar framework. Designed landscapes were the only type of cultural landscape encountered during the survey initiative, which are properties that have been intentionally laid out by a designer, architect, or owner for a recreational purpose. These landscapes contain many subtypes, such as formal gardens, cemeteries, plazas, and battlefields. The designed landscape subtypes encountered during this survey initiative were limited to local city parks, golf courses, monuments, botanical gardens, and fountains.

The types of designed landscapes encountered during the field survey primarily included local parks, in addition to a botanical garden and a golf course. These features vary in their design and topography to best serve their intended purpose. Local parks often feature a circulation system of sidewalks, bridges, and trails, as well as intentional placement of trees, shrubs, walls, and fences that help frame certain vistas. These parks also feature recreational objects, such as playgrounds, picnic tables and benches, tennis courts, skate parks, baseball diamonds, and splash pads. Many public parks also contain culverts for adequate storm drainage.

Monuments and statuary were also observed during the survey initiative and include granite markers, bronze plaque, and memorial statues.

Resources Individually Eligible for the NRHP

Of the 27 resources documented, five were identified as eligible for the NRHP (see **Figure 2-1**). Each retains sufficient integrity and is able to convey an association with the themes of community planning, entertainment, and recreation. For photographs of each resource discussed below, refer to **Appendix B**.

Garfield Park

Garfield Park (see **Figure 2-12**) is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of recreation and community planning and Criterion C as the work of the WPA. Garfield Park was acquired by the City in 1924 and improved by Ponca City Park Superintendent P.J. Bellinghausen and his team. The group leveled and relandscaped the park and built wooden bridges that were later replaced with stone bridges. This was one of Bellinghausen's first projects after he took over the position in 1923. The remaining stone arch bridges were likely constructed by park employees c. 1948. The stone retaining wall along the east side of the park was also constructed by park employees around the same time. The park still retains substantial integrity, and the stone arch bridges and WPA-era stone drainage ditch are character-defining features.

L.A. Cann Memorial Garden

L.A. Cann Memorial Garden (see **Figure 2-12**) is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B for its association with L.A. Cann, former City Manager, and under Criterion C for the Prairie-style architecture of the 1908 Cann family residence. Lester A. Cann served as City Manager from 1934–1948. After his death in 1957, his daughter, Elsie, dedicated the house and 10-acre property to the City. The historic home is a nine-bedroom two-story building with a gabled

roof, wood clapboard siding, corbelled chimney, and original stain glass windows. Despite renovations in the 1970s, the house still retains sufficient in integrity. Local garden clubs have contributed to the landscaping over the years, and further research may yield additional significance about the formation of the gardens.

Pioneer Park

Pioneer Park (see **Figure 2-10**) is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of recreation and community planning and Criterion C as the work of the WPA. Pioneer Park is the first public park in Ponca City, with the land set aside for recreational use in the early 1900s. Pioneer Park received its current name in 1952, but it was initially referred to as “North Park” and "City Park," followed by "Ruby Park" in 1922. The two pillars at the entrance on Hazel Street were installed in the late 1920s when the name was changed to "Ruby Park" in honor of C.H. Ruby, who discovered natural gas in Ponca City. In the 1930s, Pioneer Park was home to various WPA improvement projects, including the replacement of the c. 1923 wading pool and addition of tennis courts. A stone-lined culvert was constructed in the 1920s and may have been installed with the original wading pool. The park also contains remnants of the c. 1923 wading pool that was remodeled into a concert platform c. 1950, as well as the stone-lined culvert that runs north-south through the park. In 1952, the park name was officially changed to “Pioneer Park” to honor the pioneers of 1893 who settled the Cherokee Strip. A modern playscape, pavilion, and bathroom facility were added post-2000 but do not substantially diminish the historic integrity of the park.

War Memorial Park

War Memorial Park (see **Figure 2-10**) is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A in the area of recreation and community planning. The land for War Memorial Park (temporarily referred to as "North Park" until it was officially named in 1954), was purchased from E.W. Marland in 1927 for \$50,000. At that time, the 23-acre park was the largest addition to the park system. The City retained Jacob L. Crane, a professional city planner with a Chicago-based firm, to design the park. Crane had previously worked with the City on a 1927 comprehensive plan, and Crane's plans were carried out by Park Superintendent P.J. Bellinghausen. Around the same time, Bellinghausen used a section of land in the north part of the park for a nursery. The nursery flourished under Bellinghausen's care and successfully provided plants for all the City's parks for many years. While research is inconclusive as to the extent of WPA or CCC-era improvements in War Memorial Park, it is likely that the remaining c. 1948 stone bridges, built by park employees, were intentionally designed to emulate the CCC's bridge and stone entrance at Lake Ponca. Tennis courts were added along the east edge of the park by 1930 but have since been remodeled.

In 1954, the name of the park was changed to War Memorial Park. In 1962, the Hutchins Memorial auditorium was constructed in the north section of the park. The auditorium was designed by Tulsa architect John D. Forsyth, who worked on the Marland Mansion. The City hired J.O. Lambert, Jr., of Dallas to landscape the surrounding area. However, the 1962 auditorium was demolished in 2016, and construction is underway on a new auditorium in its place. In 2006, the Northern Oklahoma Vietnam Veterans of America installed a POW/MIA memorial at the southwest corner of the park, and a nine-hole disc golf course was added in 2001. Despite some modern additions, the park still retains sufficient integrity.

E.W. Marland Statue

The E.W. Marland Statue (See **Figure 2-11**) is the only public art resource that is recommended eligible for the NRHP. The statue is eligible under Criterion C as the work of well-known American sculptor Jo Davidson. The statue was fabricated by Davidson in his Paris studio between 1927 and 1930 and is made of French limestone mounted on pink granite. It depicts Marland seated in a large chair wearing riding clothes. It was briefly located on the grounds of Marland's estate and was eventually gifted to the City by Marland's widow, Lydie Marland. J. Duncan Forsyth designed plans for the placement of the memorial at the Civic Center. The statue retains integrity and has not been modified or altered since it was placed at the northeast corner of the Civic Center in the 1950s.

Recommendations for Further Study

Big Spring

Big Spring (see **Figure 2-14**) is a natural spring that attracted Native Americans and Anglo-American settlers to the area and influenced the location of Ponca City. The small area features a terraced masonry design with a fishpond, plaque, and metal spigot. Based on aerial imagery and a plaque on the property, these improvements were made in the mid-1970s. The resource may not be significant for its associations as a public park, but further study may prove to hold archaeological significance and be eligible under Criterion D for its association with the pre- and post-contact history of Ponca City.

The Lew Wentz Golf Course

The Lew Wentz Golf Course (see **Figure 2-4**) is an 18-hole golf course that overlooks Lake Ponca. It was opened in 1950 as the Lakeside Municipal Golf Course, a nine-hole course laid out by Ponca City Country Club golf pro Bill Oliver. In 1952, the City hired Jack and Floyd Farley from Oklahoma City to draw plans for an 18-hole course. The course was renamed in the 1970s for Lew Wentz, and a new clubhouse was constructed in 1980 in place of the former building. Further research may reveal whether the golf course's association with Floyd Farley alone may render the resource eligible under Criterion C. Floyd Farley designed numerous golf courses in Oklahoma, Kansas, and potentially other states as well. Further documentation is also needed to determine if the Farley's design is still intact.

Resources Ineligible for the NRHP

The remaining resources were determined not eligible for the NRHP primarily due to non-historic-age alterations (ones that occurred post-1984). Some parks have been dramatically altered from their original design, primarily in regard to the recreational structures and objects (or lack thereof) which were often removed or replaced. For example, Sunset Park originally featured an assortment of c. 1920 features, such as outdoor ovens, a restroom facility, picnic tables, and even a few cabins. However, all of these were removed by the 1950s, and the c. 1940 stone arch bridge is the only historic feature remaining. In a few other cases, parks that were considered to have high integrity did not meet the criteria for historic significance. For example, Liberty Park was built in conjunction with the development of the surrounding Anlo Park subdivision. Although changes to this park have been relatively minimal and the park still retains an original c. 1960 bridge, research

did not indicate that it was a significantly designed landscape, nor were there any associations with significant trends, events, or people discovered.

Summary

Hicks & Company architectural historians completed a survey of 27 historic-age public parks and outdoor public art on City-owned property in Ponca City, Oklahoma. Each resource was documented with a Historic Preservation Resource Identification Form, a map, and photo documentation. Of the 27 inventories, five are recommended as individually eligible for the NRHP, and two are recommended for further research to fully assess eligibility. Resources that were determined ineligible were either due to a lack of integrity from substantial alterations or because they were not found to have an association with significant trends, events, or persons.

Acknowledgement of Support

The activity that is the subject of this report has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

Annotated Bibliography

Aerial Photo of Kay County, OK, USA, AWI-2-38. 1938. University of Oklahoma Libraries, Government Documents Collection via Shareok Repository. <https://shareok.org>.

The University of Oklahoma's digitized collection of 1938 aerial photographs of Kay County provided valuable information about the state of Ponca City's parks during that period.

Gaston, Kelli Crews. "Downtown Ponca City Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2008).

The historic narrative in this 2008 nomination helped guide the historic context section of this report.

Google Maps. www. <https://www.google.com/maps>. (accessed July 2023).

Historic aerials by NETRonline. [Historicaerials.com. https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer](https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer). (accessed July 2023).

This website provided historic aerials dating back to 1981 as well as the 1970 U.S.G.S. Topographic map. These maps were helpful in documenting the age of parks and identifying when alterations were made.

"Lake Ponca Duck Pond Historic District, National Register of Historic Places." 2010.

Lupkin, Jocelyn. "Lake Ponca Duck Pond Historic District." Ponca City, Kay County, Oklahoma. 2015. http://nr2_shpo.okstate.edu/pdfs/15000872.pdf.

Although this resource was not documented during the survey initiative since it was already listed on the NRHP, the historic context section of the nomination report provided context regarding the WPA's and CCC's involvement in Ponca City.

Oklahoma Historical Society. *The Gateway to Oklahoma History*. Digital Collections. <https://gateway.okhistory.org/>. (accessed June and July 2023).

The online collections of photographs were helpful in adding visual documentation of the history of Ponca City's parks.

"Ponca City, Oklahoma City Directory 1938-1960," Ancestry.com, *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

Ponca City News. www.newspapers.com. (accessed June and July 2023).

"Died." July 15, 1883.

Articles from Ponca City News dating between 1918 to 1963 were accessed via Newspapers.com. These newspaper articles provided valuable primary source material for assessing historic significance and for building the historic context section.

Sanborn Maps, 1894–1925. Map. Library of Congress. *Map Collections*. (accessed April 2024).

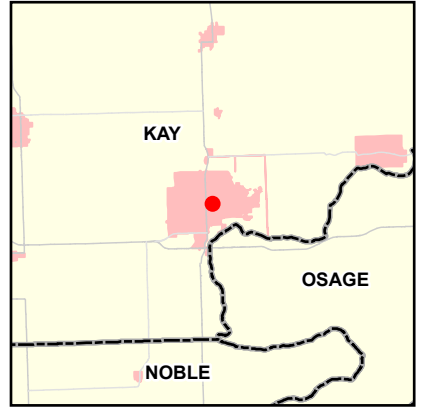
Sanborn maps show an aerial view of buildings on city blocks for the purpose of insurance. These maps were used to determine the location of city blocks designated for park use in the early 1900s.

APPENDIX A
FIGURES

Figure 1 - 1

Surveyed Resources
(Overview)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Outdoor Art (represented by a purple triangle)
- Public Parks (represented by a green outline)
- Streams (NHD) (represented by a blue line)

Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

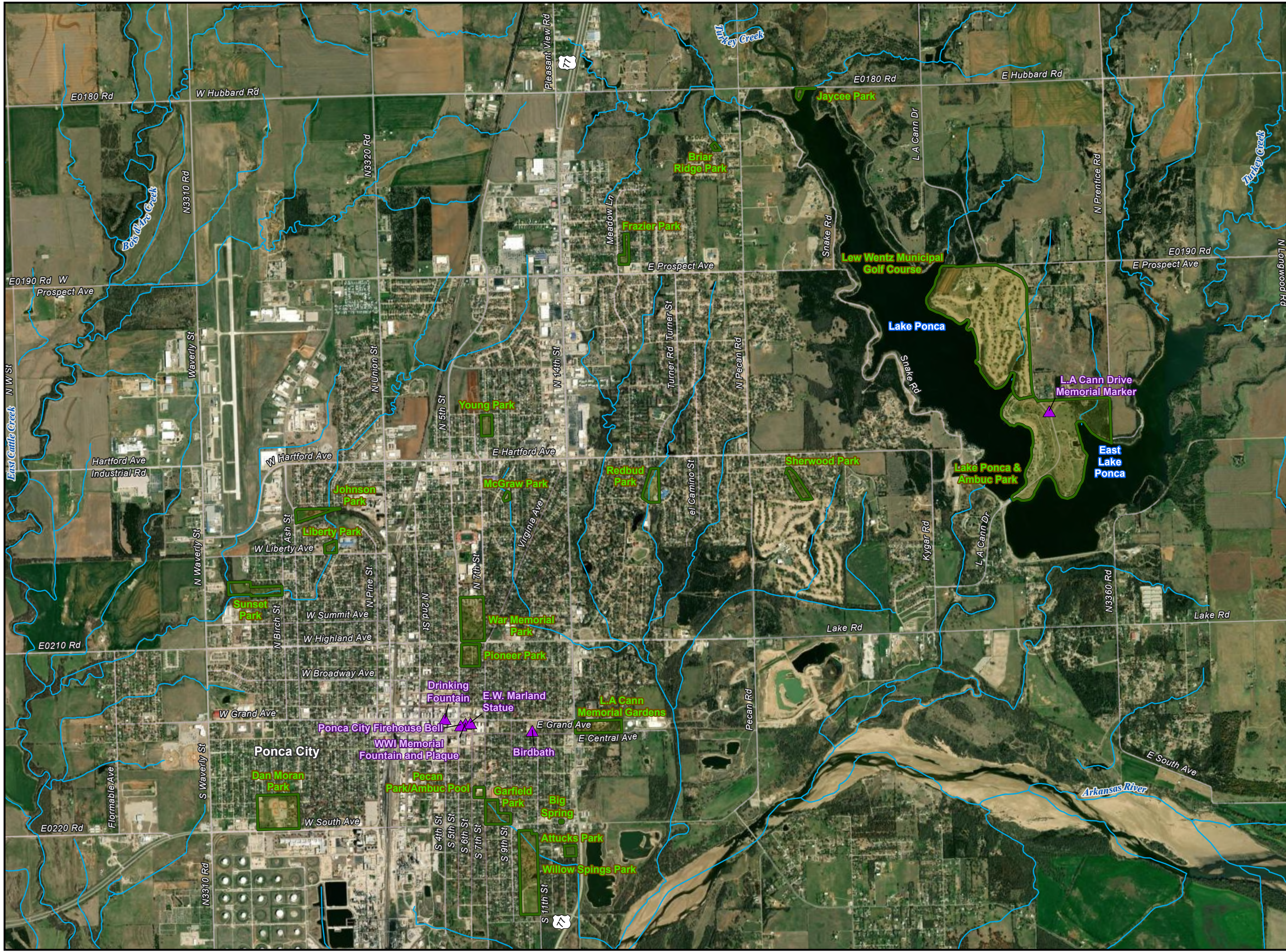
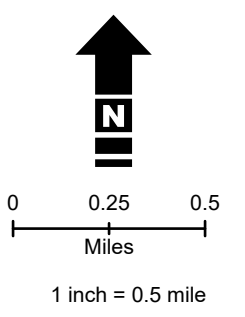
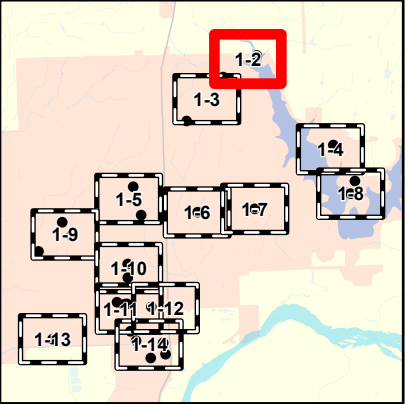




Figure 1 - 2

**Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

-  Public Parks
-  Streams (NHD)



Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

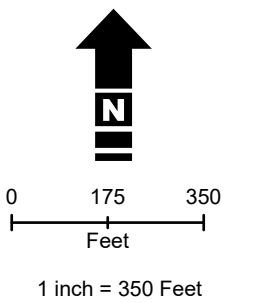
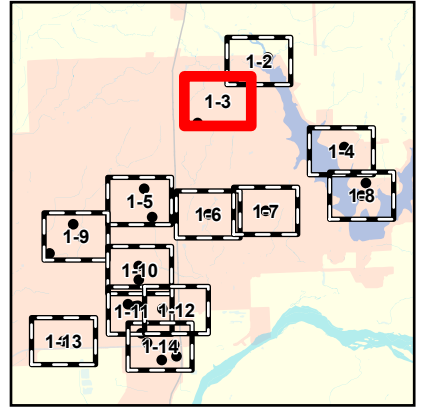






Figure 1 - 3

**Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK

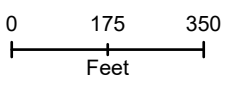
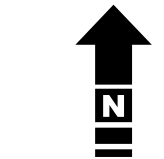


Key to Features

-  Public Parks
-  Streams (NHD)

Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

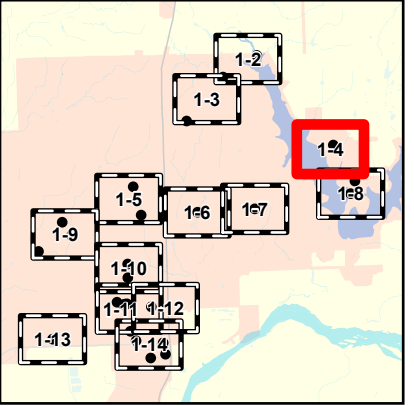


1 inch = 350 Feet

Figure 1 - 4

**Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Park Features
- ▭ Public Parks
- Streams (NHD)



Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

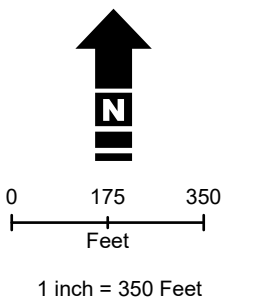
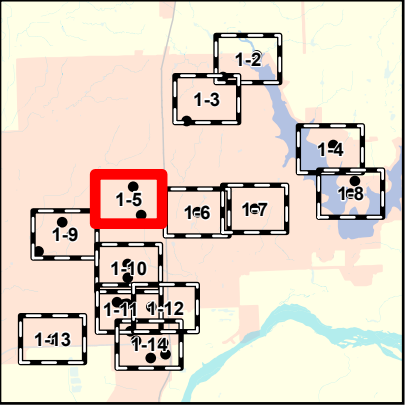


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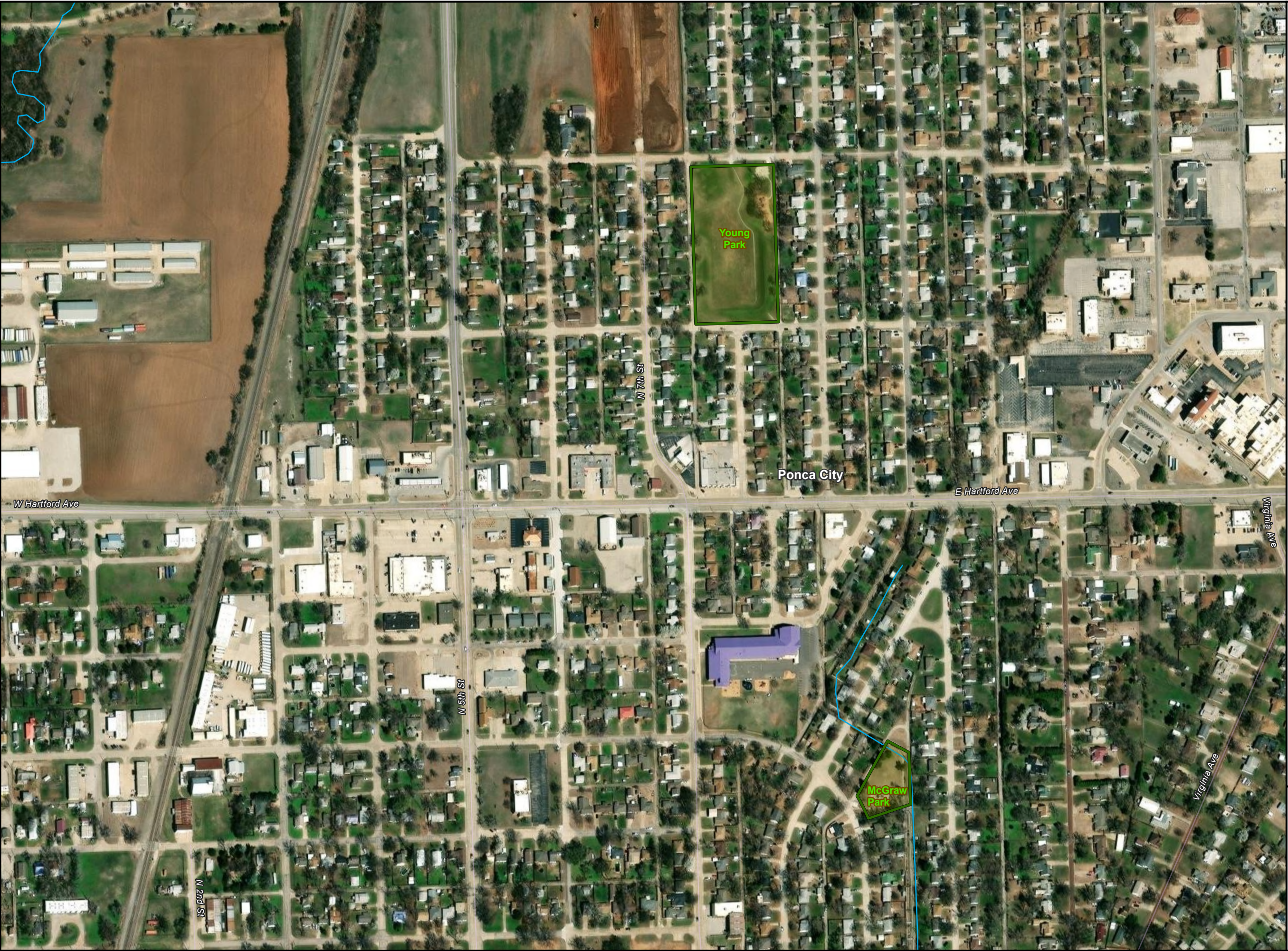
Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Public Parks (indicated by a green outline)
- Streams (NHD) (indicated by a blue line)



Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

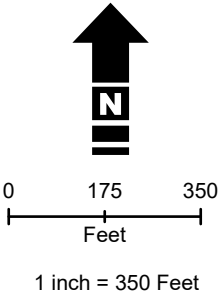
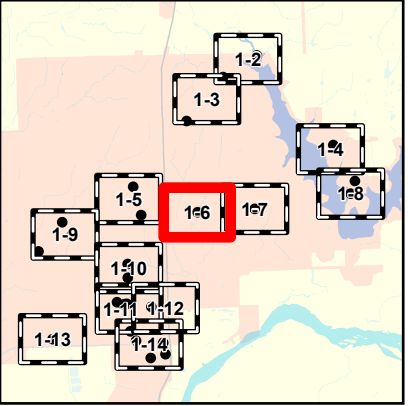




Figure 1 - 6

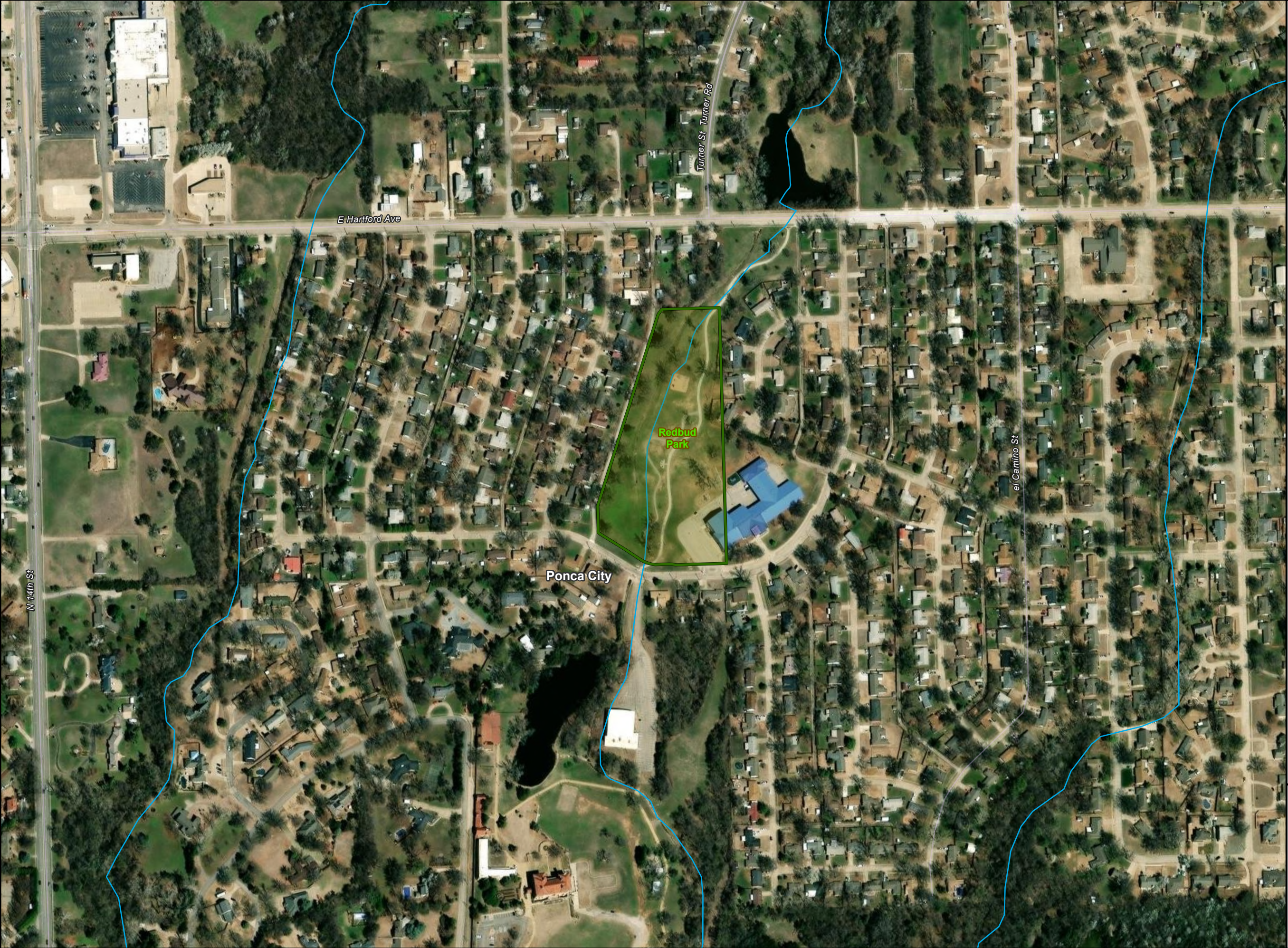
**Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

-  Public Parks
-  Streams (NHD)



Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
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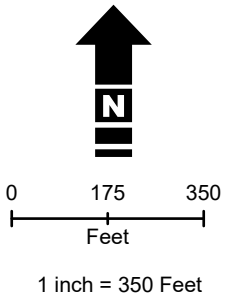
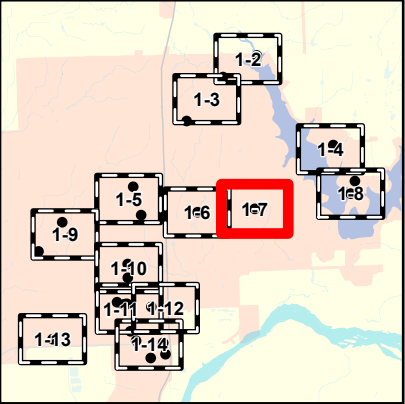


Figure 1 - 7

Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Public Parks (indicated by a green outline)
- Streams (NHD) (indicated by a blue line)



Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
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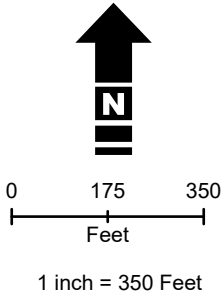
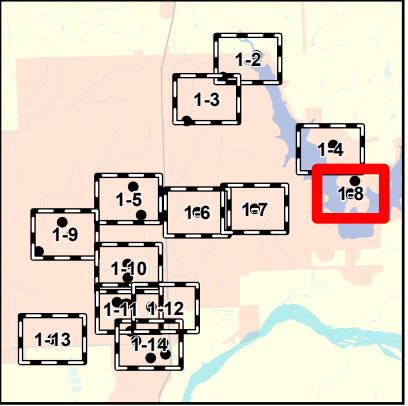


Figure 1 - 8

**Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- ▲ Outdoor Art
- ▭ Public Parks
- Streams (NHD)



Map Created: June 2024
Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

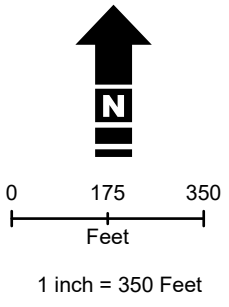
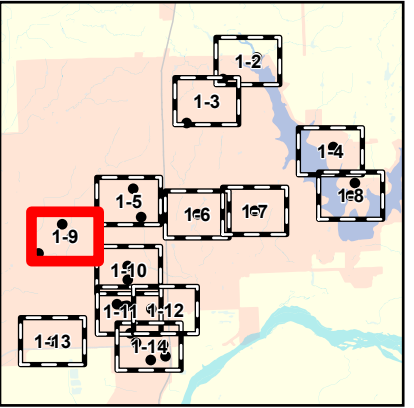


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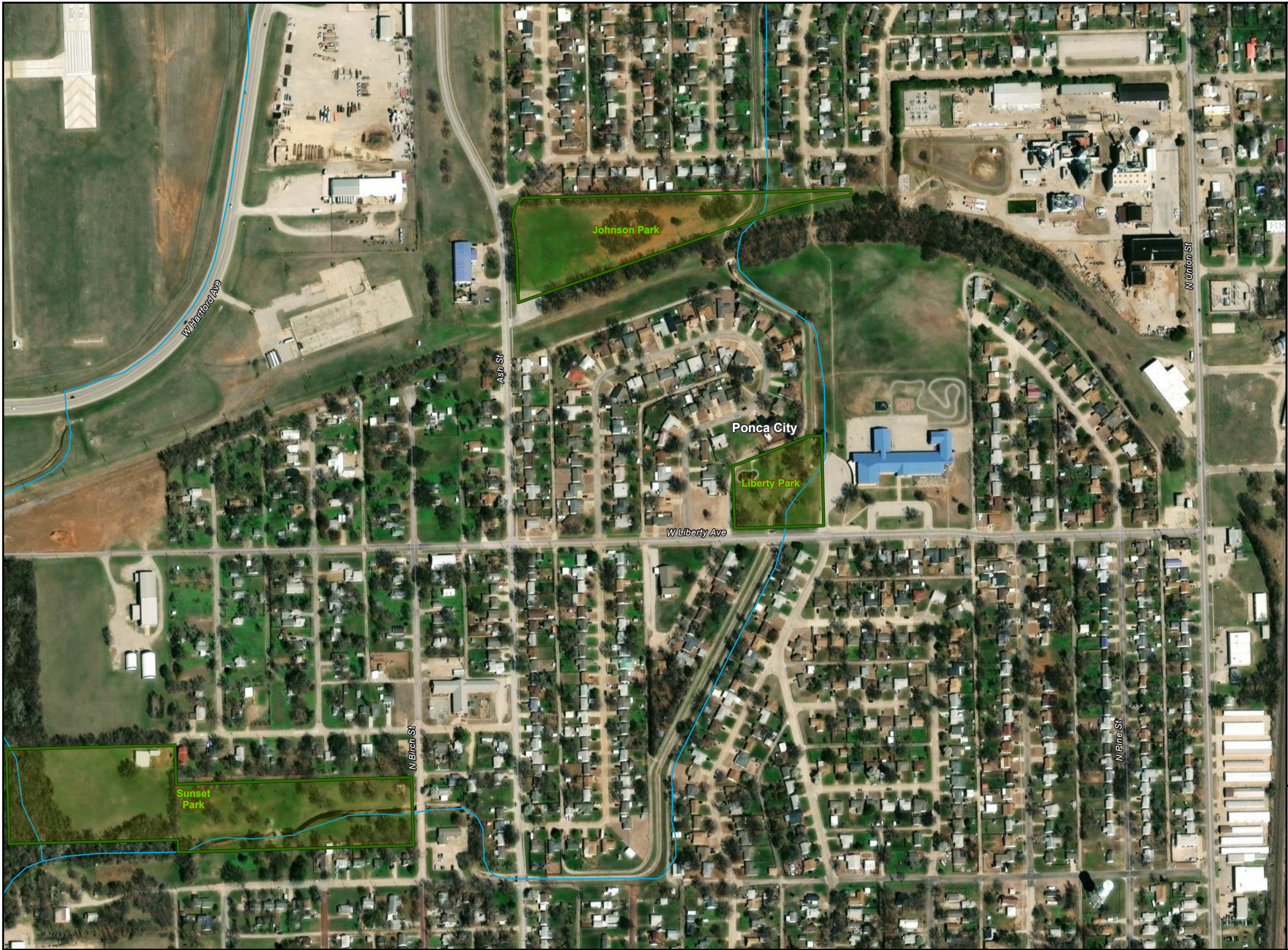
Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Public Parks
- Streams (NHD)



Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

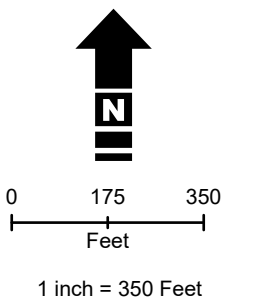
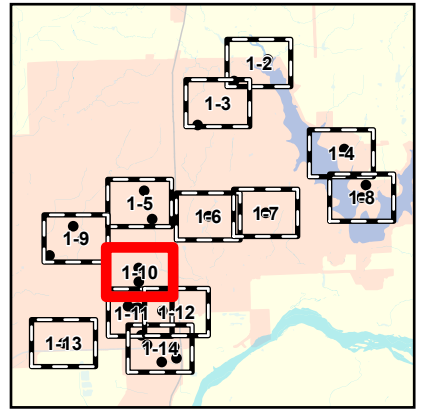




Figure 1 - 10

**Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

-  Public Parks
-  Streams (NHD)



Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

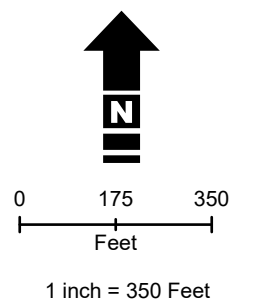
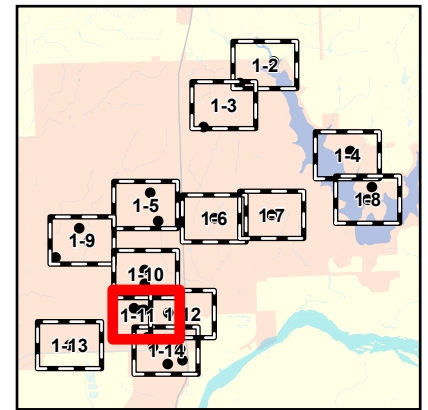


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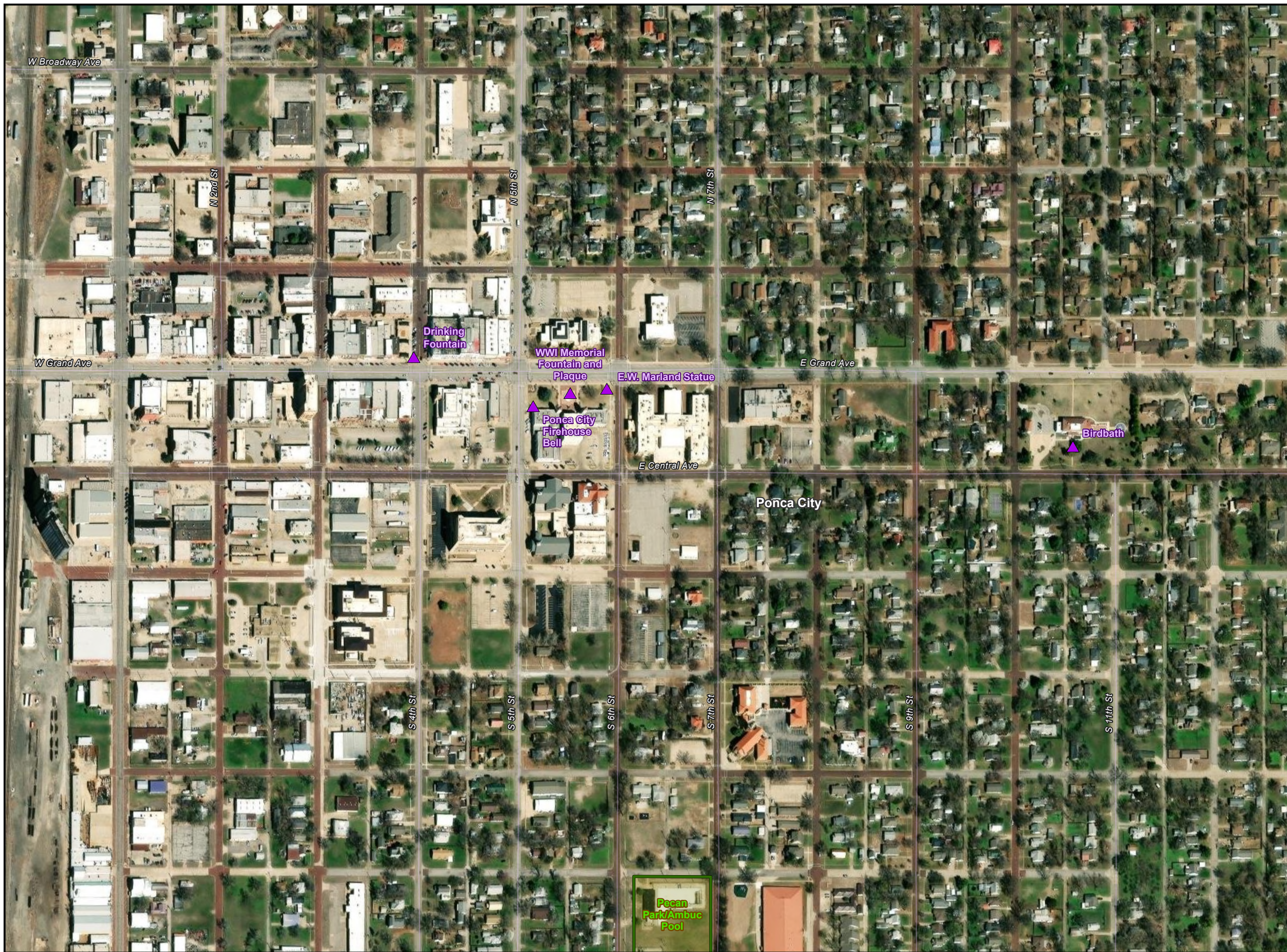
Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Outdoor Art (represented by a purple triangle)
- Public Parks (represented by a green outline)



Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

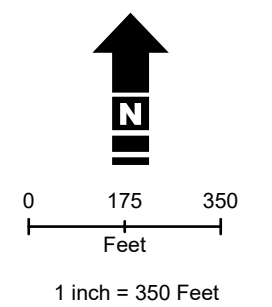
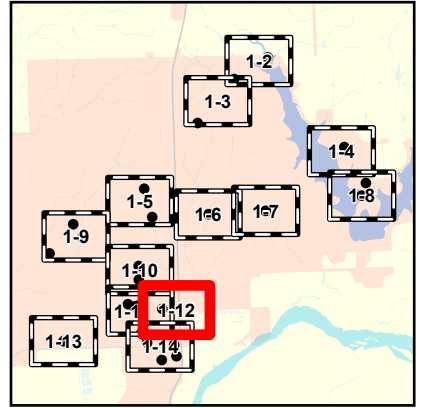


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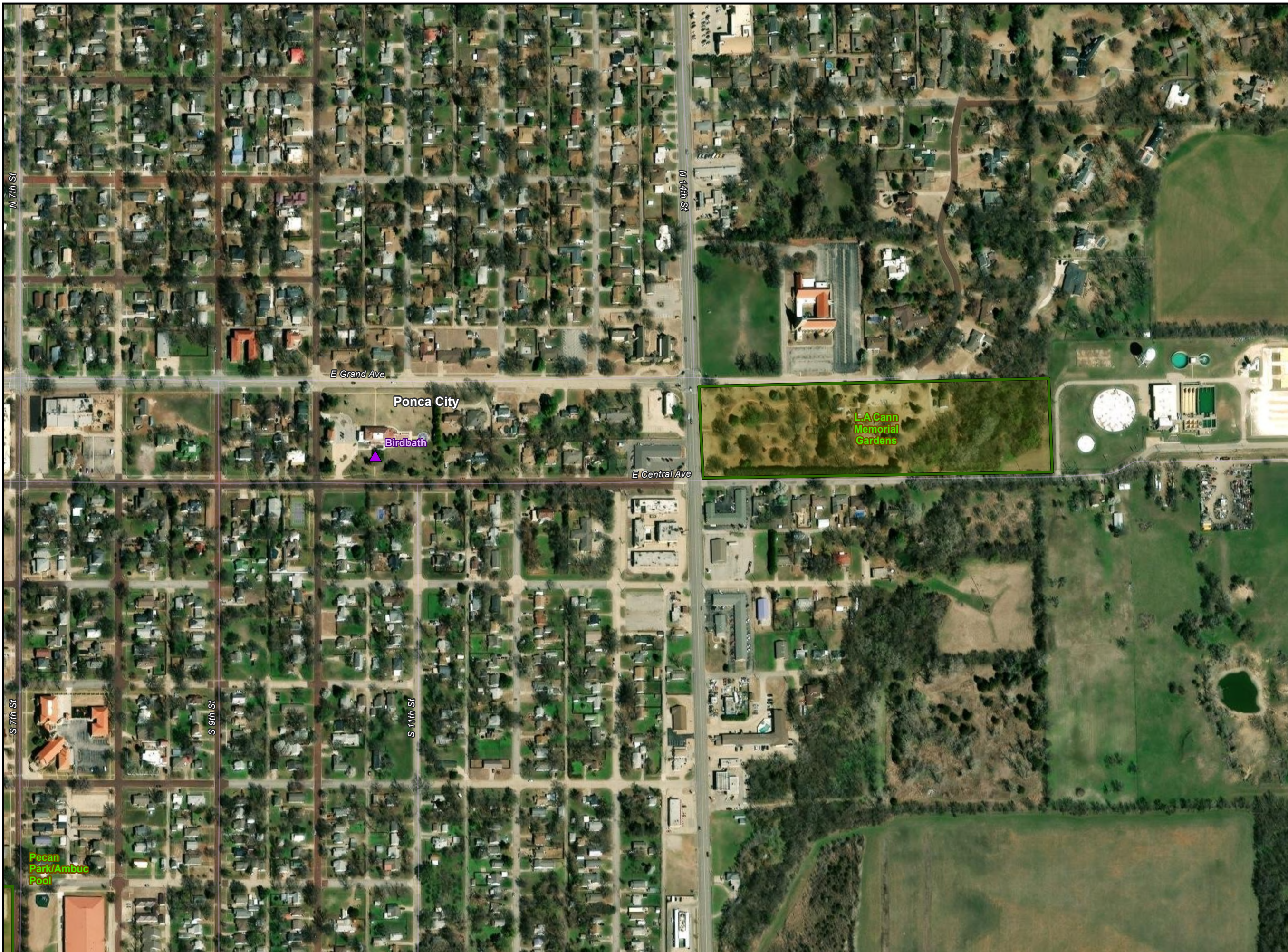
Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Outdoor Art (represented by a purple triangle)
- Public Parks (represented by a green outline)



Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

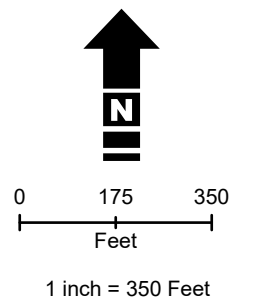
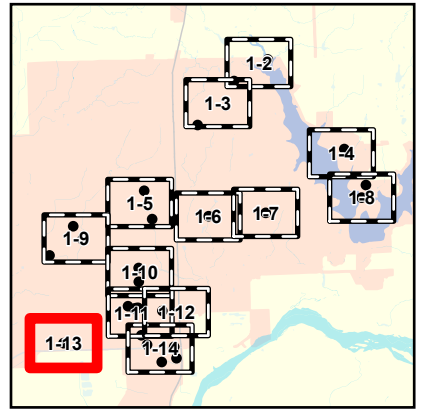


Figure 1 - 13

Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Public Parks
- Streams (NHD)



Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

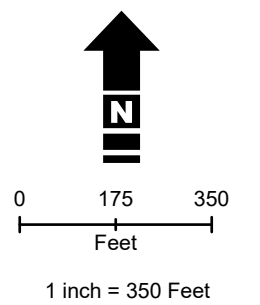
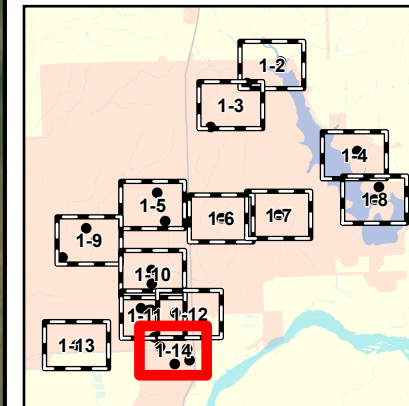


Figure 1 - 14

Surveyed Resources
(Detailed)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Public Parks (indicated by a green outline)
- Streams (NHD) (indicated by a blue line)



Map Created: June 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)



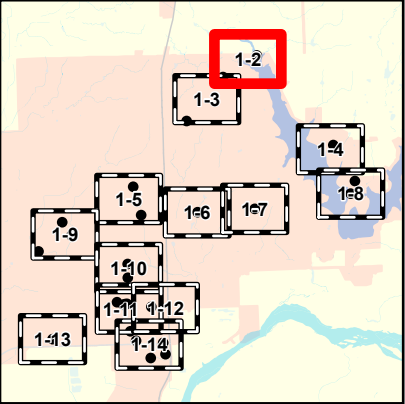
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1 inch = 350 Feet



Figure 2 - 2

**Survey Results
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

-  Public Parks- Not Eligible
-  Streams (NHD)

Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

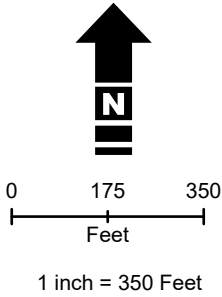
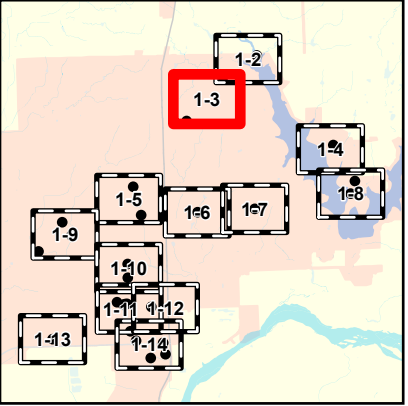




Figure 2 - 3

**Survey Results
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Public Parks- Not Eligible
- Streams (NHD)

Map Created: May 2024
Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

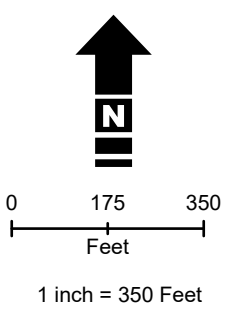
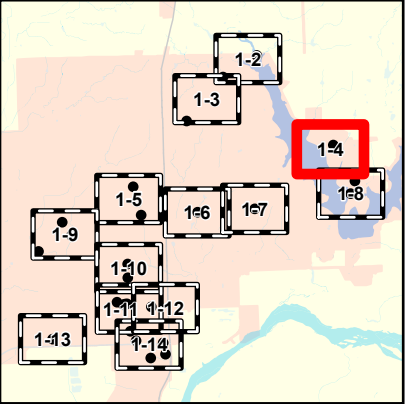






Figure 2 - 4

**Survey Results
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

-  Public Parks- Not Eligible
-  Public Parks- Recommended for Further Research
-  Park Features
-  Streams (NHD)

Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

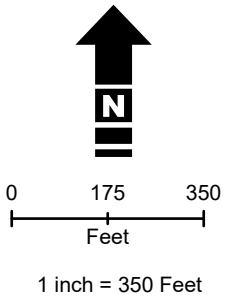
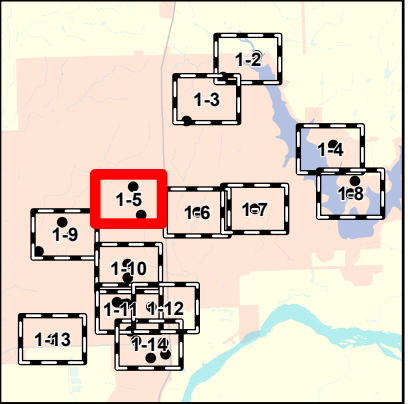


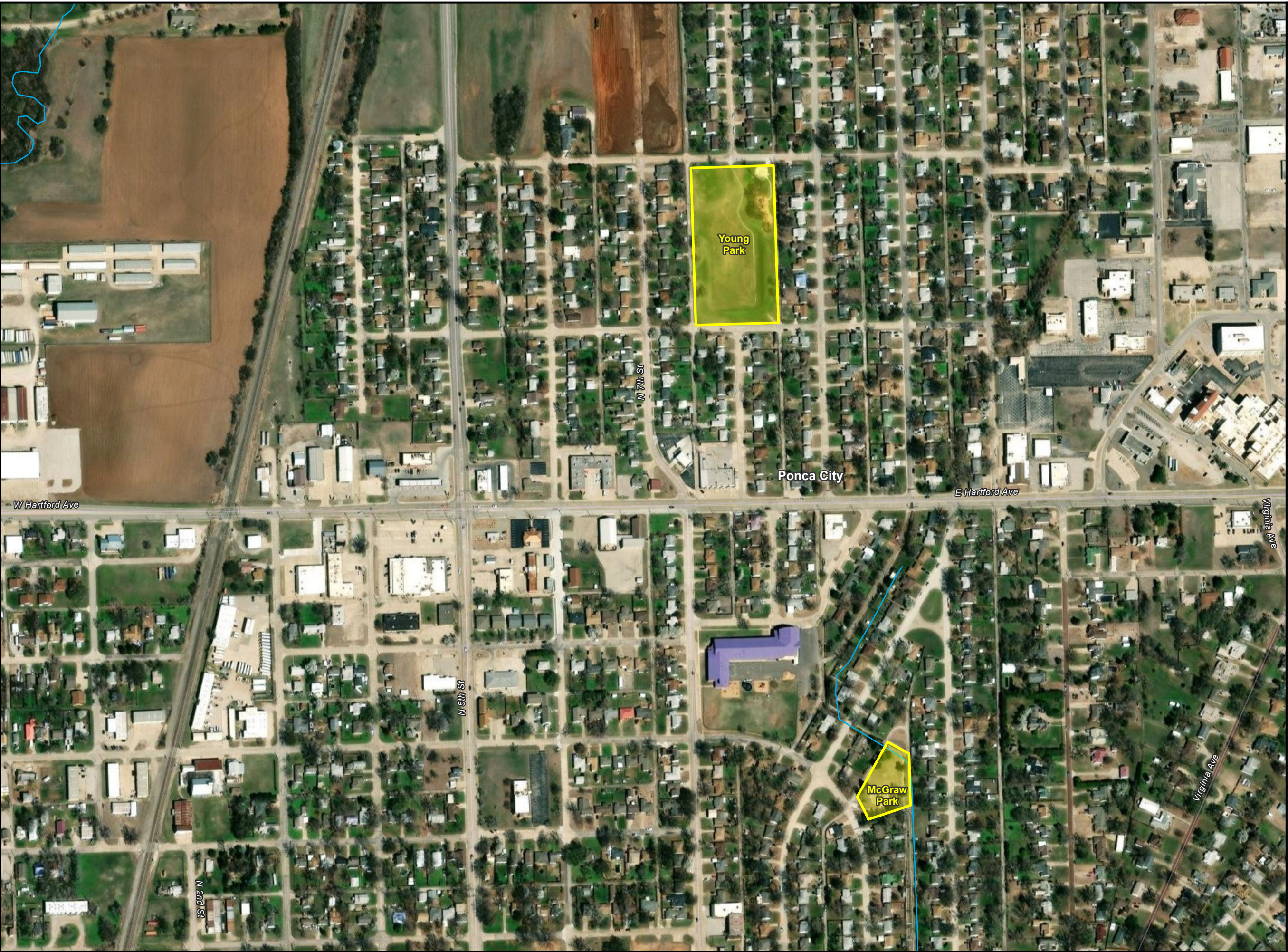
Figure 2 - 5

**Survey Results
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features
Public Parks- Not Eligible
Streams (NHD)



Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

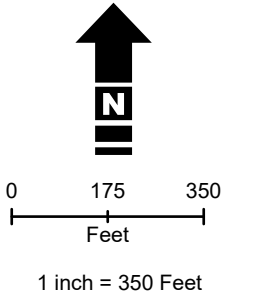
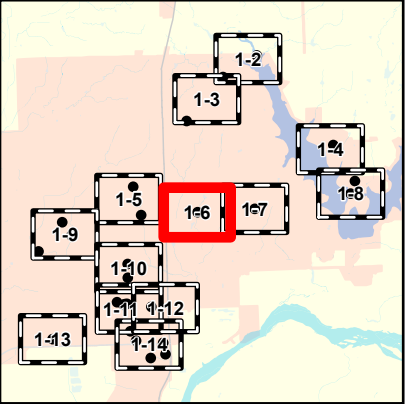


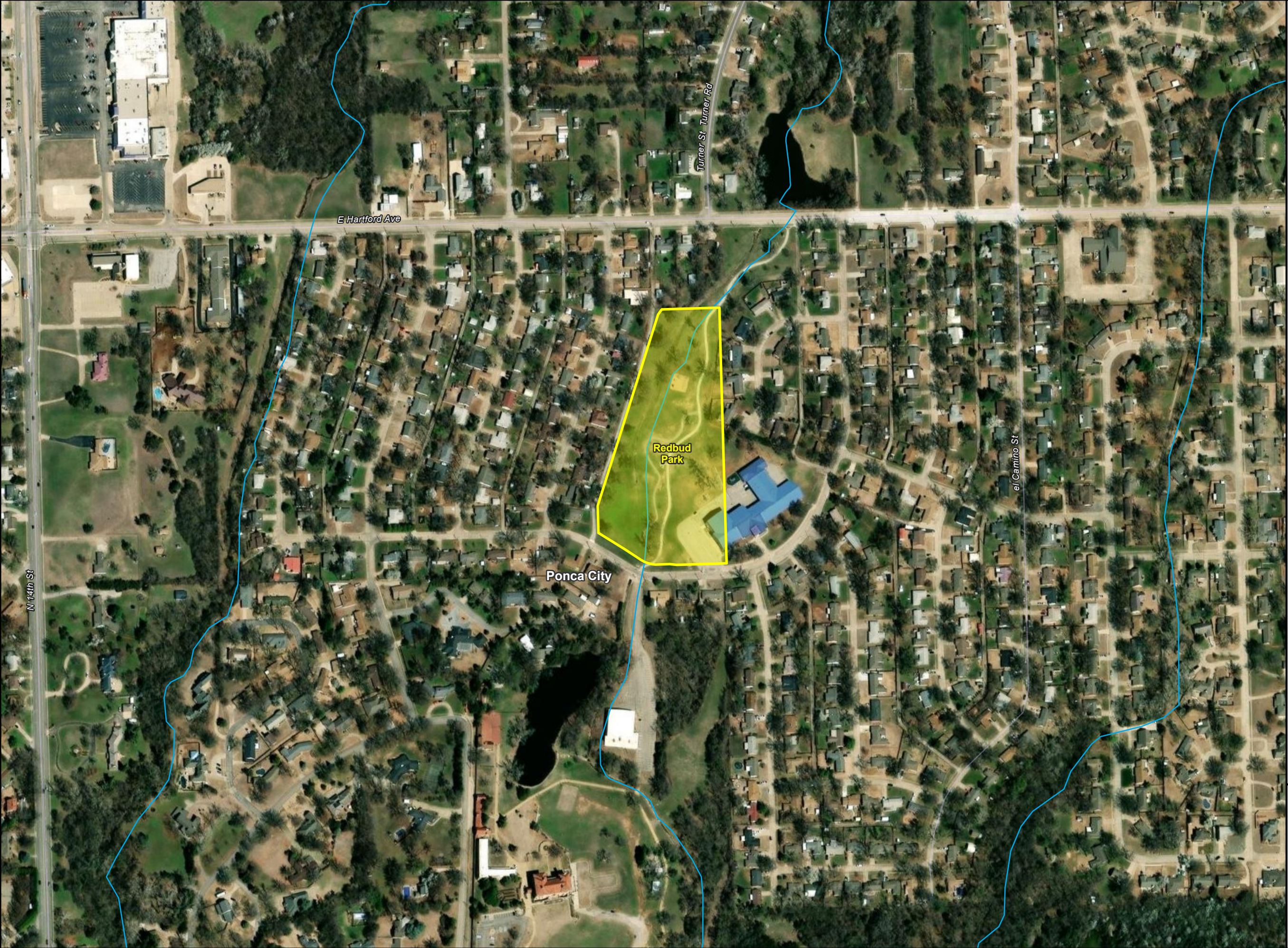
Figure 2 - 6

**Survey Results
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features
Public Parks- Not Eligible
Streams (NHD)



Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

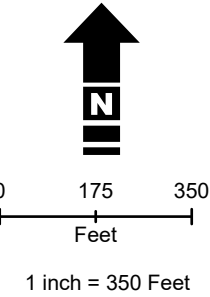
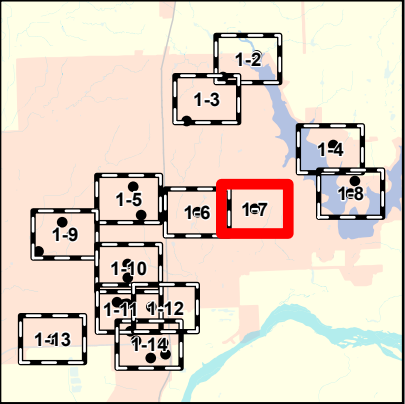


Figure 2 - 7

**Survey Results
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features
Public Parks- Not Eligible
Streams (NHD)



Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

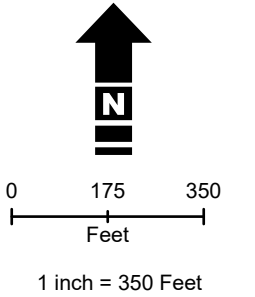
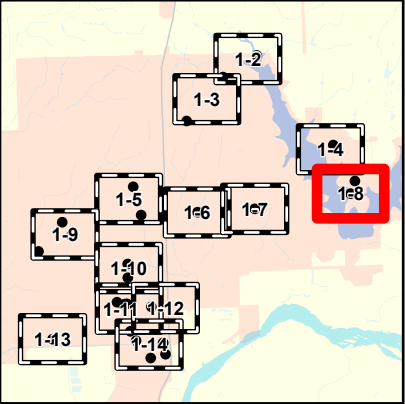






Figure 2 - 8

**Survey Results
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

-  Public Parks- Not Eligible
-  Public Parks- Recommended for Further Research
-  Public Art- Not Eligible
-  Streams (NHD)

Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

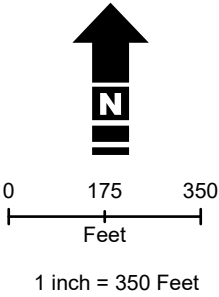
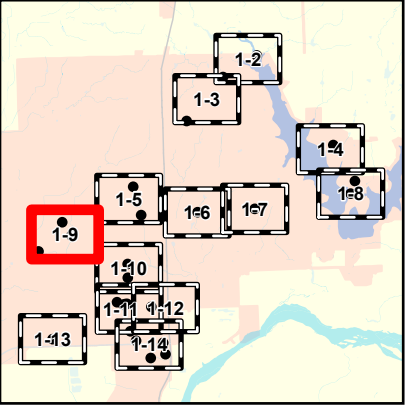


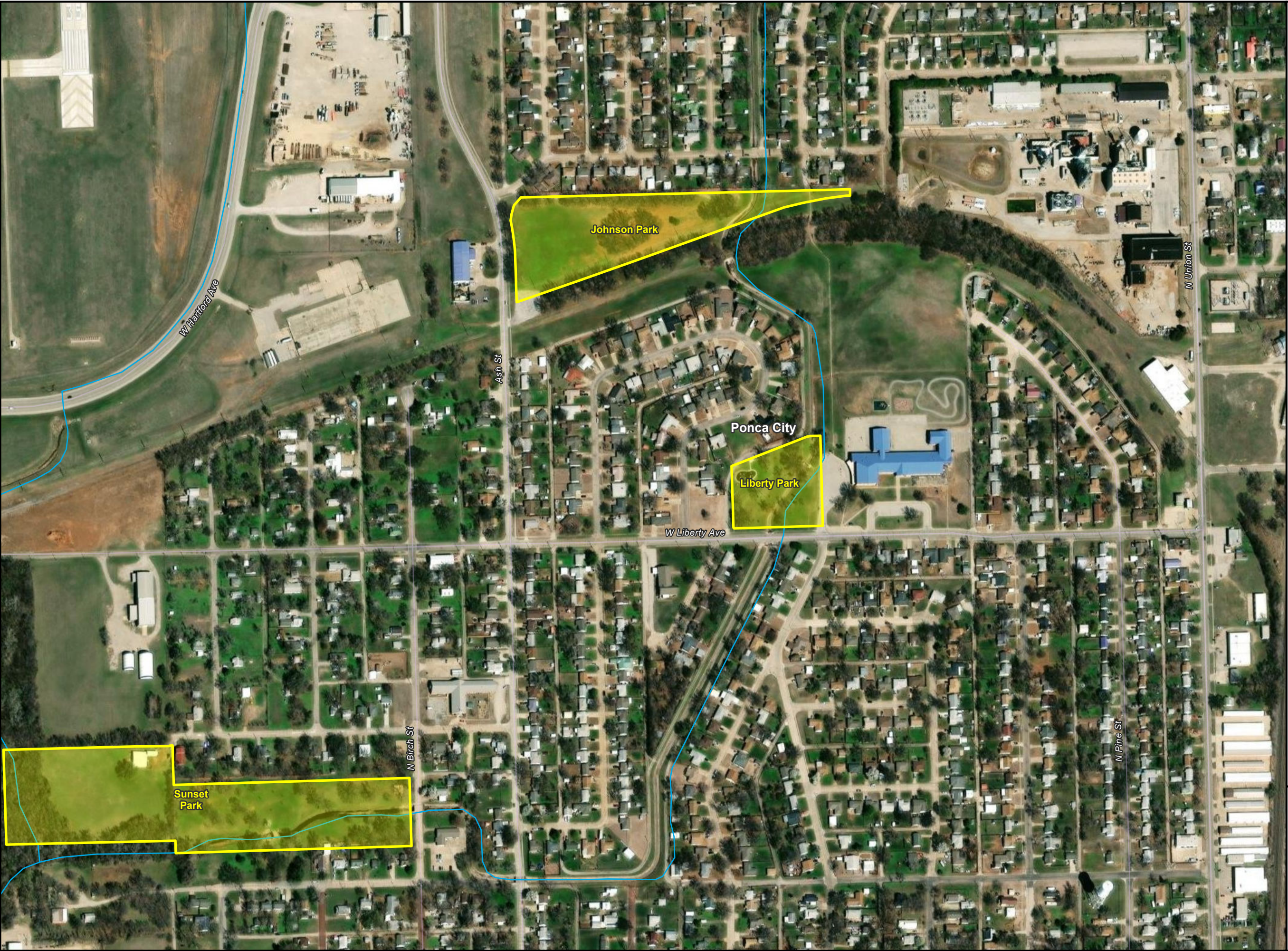
Figure 2 - 9

**Survey Results
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features
Public Parks- Not Eligible
Streams (NHD)



Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

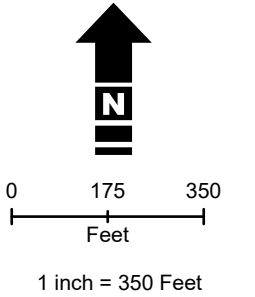
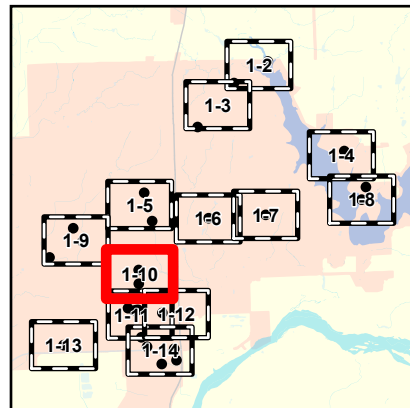


Figure 2 - 10

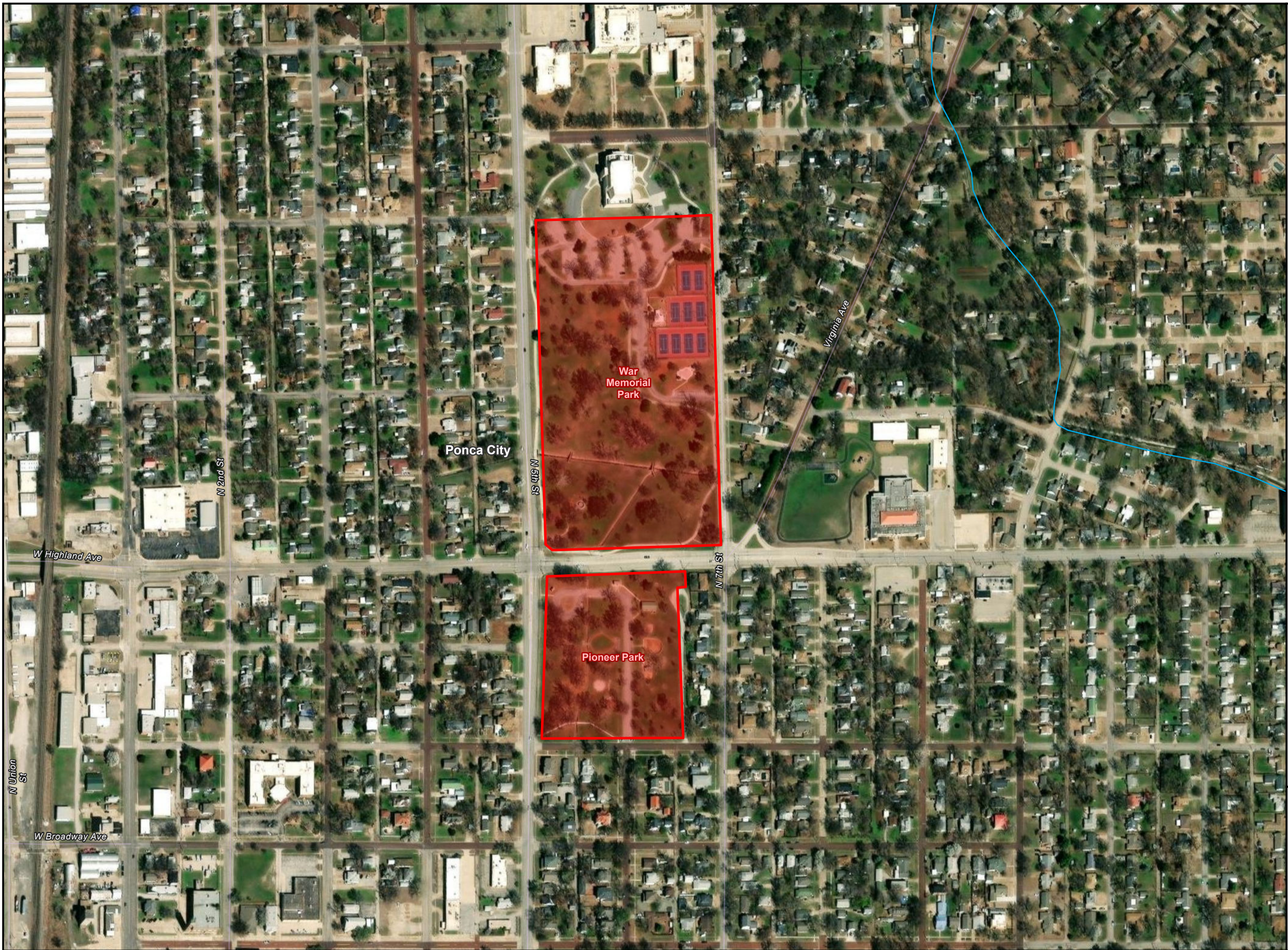
Survey Results
(Detailed)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Public Parks- Eligible
- Streams (NHD)



Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

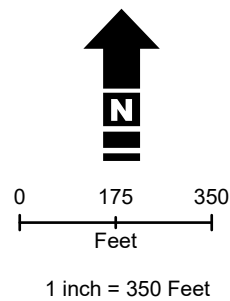
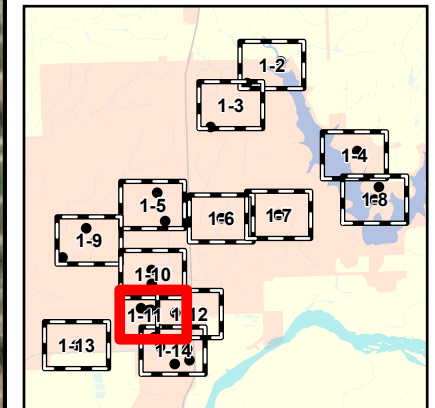


Figure 2 - 11

Survey Results
(Detailed)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



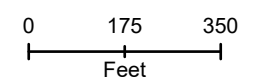
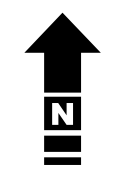
Key to Features

- Public Parks- Not Eligible
- Public Art- Eligible
- Public Art- Not Eligible
- Streams (NHD)



Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

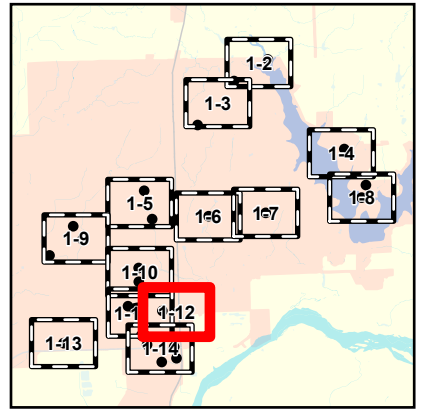


1 inch = 350 Feet

Figure 2 - 12

Survey Results
(Detailed)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

- Public Parks- Eligible
- Public Parks- Not Eligible
- Public Art- Not Eligible
- Streams (NHD)



Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

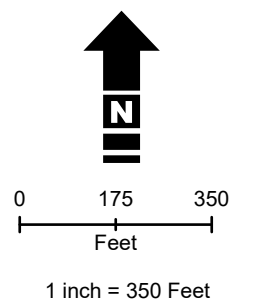
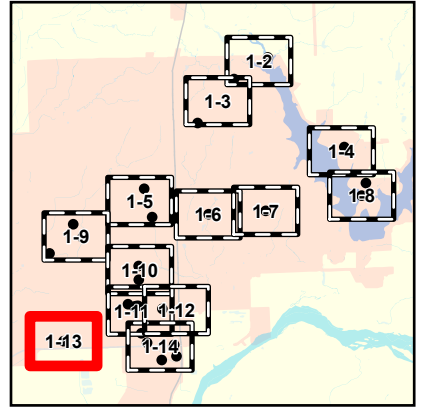




Figure 2 - 13

**Survey Results
(Detailed)**

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



Key to Features

-  Public Parks- Not Eligible
-  Streams (NHD)



Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)

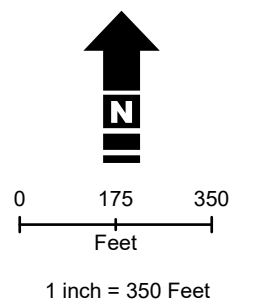
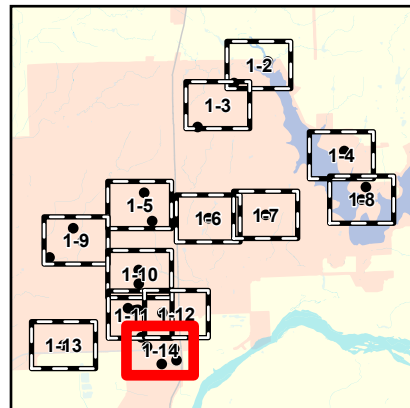


Figure 2 - 14

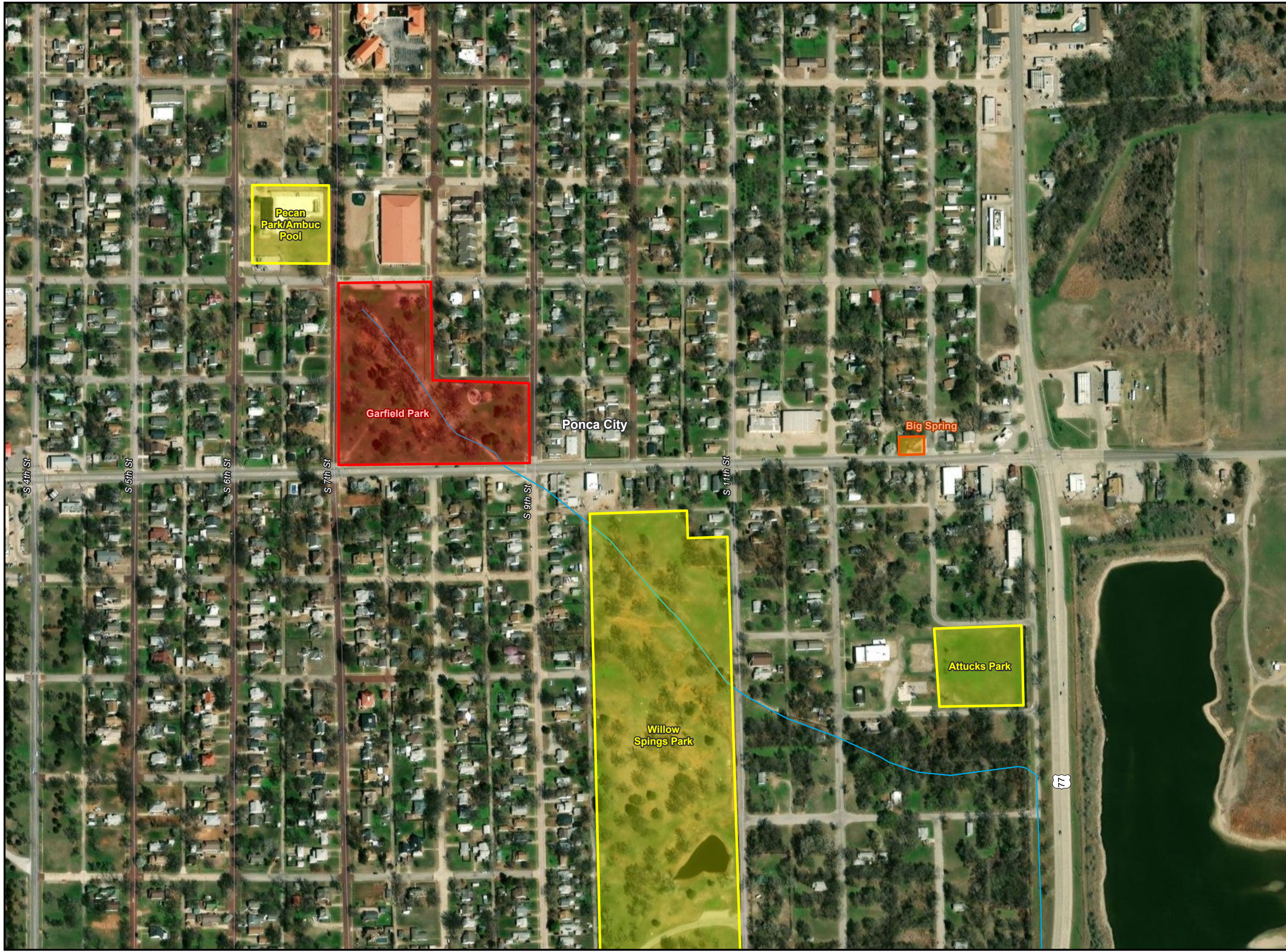
Survey Results
(Detailed)

Ponca City Park System
& Public Art Survey
Kay County, OK



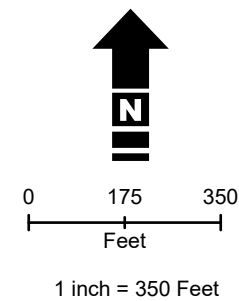
Key to Features

- Public Parks- Eligible
- Public Parks- Not Eligible
- Public Parks- Recommended for Further Research
- Streams (NHD)



Map Created: May 2024

Citation: ESRI World Imagery (2023);
National Wetland Inventory (2023);
National Hydrography Dataset (2023)



APPENDIX B
PROJECT PHOTOS



Photo 1. Garfield Park, located at 800 East Cherry Avenue, was established in 1924. This public park is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C.



Photo 2. L.A. Cann Memorial Gardens, located at 1500 East Grand Avenue, was originally established in 1908. This public park is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criteria B and C.



Photo 3. Family residence on the L.A Cann Memorial Gardens grounds that was dedicated to City Manager, Lester A. Cann, after his death in 1957.



Photo 4. Pillars at the entrance of Pioneer Park (circa 1900) located at 520 East Hazel Street. Pioneer Park is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C.



Photo 5. War Memorial Park, located at 706 North 7th Street, was originally established and donated to the City in 1927. The public park is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.



Photo 6. Bridge presumably built by park employees (circa 1948) at War Memorial Park emulating the style of bridges built by the CCC.



Photo 7. E.W. Marland Statue, located at the Civic Center (1500 East Grand Avenue), was sculpted between 1927 and 1930 by Jo Davidson. This public art piece is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C.



Photo 8. Big Spring Park is located on the corner of East South Avenue and South 13th Street. This public park is recommended for further research to assess its historic association with Ponca City.



Photo 9. Fish pond and metal spigot located in Big Spring Park.



Photo 10. Lew Wentz Golf Course, located at 2928 L.A. Cann Drive, is an 18-hole golf course that was last renovated in 1980 with the addition of the pictured clubhouse. It is recommended for further research to determine if the original 1950 design is still intact.



Photo 11. Stone entrance to Lew Wentz Memorial Golf Course built in 1950.



Photo 12. Stone tower, possibly a pump house, located on the bank of Ponca City Lake near hole 18 on the Lew Wentz Memorial Golf Course (circa 1930).