



5.0

HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Westminster promotes a high quality of life and fosters a safe, inclusive, and healthy community. Key elements of this include opportunities for residents, visitors and employees to improve their personal wellness—physically, emotionally and intellectually—as well as public safety services to support the city’s neighborhoods and activity centers. Promoting arts and culture is also part of the city’s overall strategy to create a unique sense of place. Poverty, food insecurity, affordable housing, and homelessness continue to be a challenge to overall quality of life, resilience, and sense of community in Westminster and this Plan, as well as the Sustainability Plan and various city programs, identify strategies to support vulnerable populations. Many of these objectives are achieved through collaborative partnerships with public, private or nonprofit entities. This chapter supports the *Healthy Places* plan cornerstone and establishes a policy framework for the management of Westminster’s parks, open space, recreation and libraries, arts and culture, and public safety to ensure the city’s core services continue to support the needs of the community.

5.1 GOALS & POLICIES

The following goals and policies provide direction for all aspects of physical planning. Goals are defined as desired ideals and a value to be sought. Policies articulate a course of action that guides governmental decision making to meet the goal. To further define how policies can be implemented in the short- and long-term, specific strategies can be found in the Implementation Action Plan.



RECREATION AND LITERACY

Goal HWS-1 Provide convenient recreational, wellness and literacy opportunities for all Westminster residents.

- 1.1 As new development occurs, evaluate opportunities to contribute to the provision and maintenance of adequate parks, recreation facilities, libraries, and open spaces to meet the needs of its new residents and minimize level of service impacts to existing parks, recreation and library facilities.
- 1.2 Encourage design options that allow community gathering spaces in central locations in support of the Neighborhood Unit concept that are capable of supporting cultural and recreational activities appropriate to the area.
- 1.3 Ensure equitable access to recreation, wellness, and literacy through partnerships with Apex Parks & Recreation District, Adams County, Hyland Hills Parks & Recreation District, Jefferson County, and Anythink Libraries.



PARK LAND

Goal HWS-2 Provide new smaller, high quality parks that address the need of high-density and mixed-use developments.

- 2.1 Promote the development of park facilities that encourage pedestrian and bicycle access, provide a range of services and meet the needs of a variety of all ages and abilities.
- 2.2 Plan for new parks and civic spaces in Focus Areas as build out continues that support redevelopment efforts and add to the image of the city.



WELLNESS AND HEALTHY LIVING

Goal HWS-3 Support access to healthy and culturally relevant food and other support services.

- 3.1 Encourage local food production and other supportive actions identified in the Sustainability Plan.
- 3.2 Encourage improved access to healthy foods.
- 3.3 Incentivize community agricultural production, green space, gardening, and healthy food outlets in housing developments.



OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

Goal HWS-4 Ensure access to and maintenance of the city’s open space and trails network and preservation of sensitive habitats and environments.

- 4.1 Provide easy and safe access to the city’s open space and trail network.
- 4.2 Ensure the city’s open space and trails network is well-maintained and continues to preserve sensitive habitats and environments.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Goal HWS-5 Reflect the diversity of the community through public art and cultural programming.

- 5.1 Encourage the appropriate placement of public art, in key public locations, including plazas, gateways into the city, streetscapes, and individual developments.
- 5.2 Integrate public art and visually distinct designs into infrastructure that visually connect with nearby districts or neighborhoods.
- 5.3 Promote arts and cultural districts and amenities as destinations.

SCHOOLS

Goal HWS-6 Support access to high quality educational resources and programs for all community members.

- 6.1 Work cooperatively with the local school districts to ensure that sufficient facilities are available to accommodate projected school enrollment in the community and that beneficial reuse options are available where facilities are planned for closure due to falling enrollment.
- 6.2 Continue to work with the school districts to optimize community use of school facilities, including school playgrounds and sports facilities as well as auditoriums or cafeterias to host community meetings.
- 6.3 Encourage collaboration between the city and school districts to support enrichment activities and mentorship/ internship programs for students.
- 6.4 Support alternative funding mechanisms for local school districts due to decreasing opportunities to collect School Land Dedication fees as the city nears buildout.

RELEVANT PLANS

The following plans are incorporated by reference and are not repeated in detail:

- Parks, Recreation & Libraries Plan
- Library Master Plan
- Open Space Stewardship Plan
- Individual park master plans
- Public Safety plans
- Arts & Culture Plan
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Sustainability Plan
- American with Disabilities Act Transition Plan

See complete list of plans and policy documents in Ch. 9.

CROSS-CUTTING TOPICS

- Education
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Health
- Resilience
- Safety
- Climate

ISO RATING

WFD has achieved the best possible fire protection class rating issued by the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) - an ISO 1 rating. The Class 1 rating is important to property owners who may now see a reduction in their insurance premiums. The new rating is a prestigious designation that few fire protection districts in the nation have achieved. The ISO rating is evaluated approximately every five years. Moving to a "Class 1" places WFD in the prestigious group of only 240 departments throughout the country with an ISO rating of 1.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

A chronically homeless individual or family has a head of household who has been living outdoors, in a shelter or area not intended for human habitation for at least a year or on at least four separate occasions in the last three years. To be chronically homeless, the person must also have a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental health illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from a brain injury, or a chronic physical illness or disability.

PUBLIC SAFETY



Goal HWS-7 Maintain a safe, secure community with high quality police, fire, and emergency services.

- 7.1 Continue to provide response to all emergencies and achieve response time goals set by each department.
- 7.2 Support community involvement in emergency preparation and response through business and resident outreach efforts.
- 7.3 Ensure current and future residential, employment and visitor populations are adequately served.
- 7.4 Coordinate with Police during development reviews to ensure the environmental and structural design is advantageous for crime prevention and not a hindrance to police response.
- 7.5 Continue working to improve efficiency and interoperability for police and fire services with other local jurisdictions.

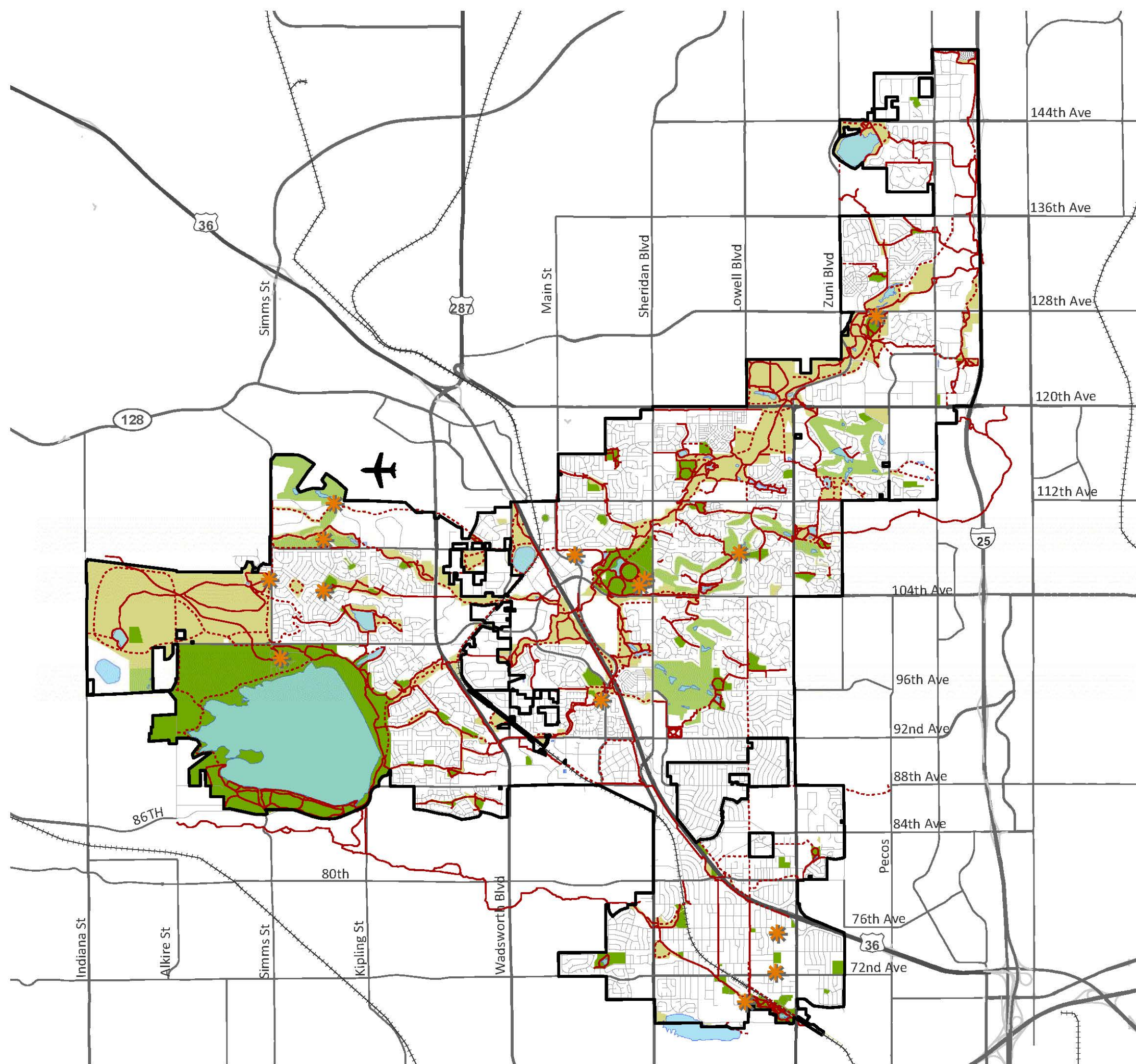
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Goal HWS-8 Promote exceptional public health and assistance programs to support residents with financial, social, physical, and wellness needs.

- 8.1 Coordinate across city departments, programs, and facilities for efficiency and effectiveness of community services.
- 8.2 Connect community members with city and external resources through information distribution, especially focused on minority populations with cultural or language barriers.
- 8.3 Maintain and expand access to homeless services through partnerships with other governmental entities and non-profits that provide access to supportive services as well as temporary sheltering and permanent housing.

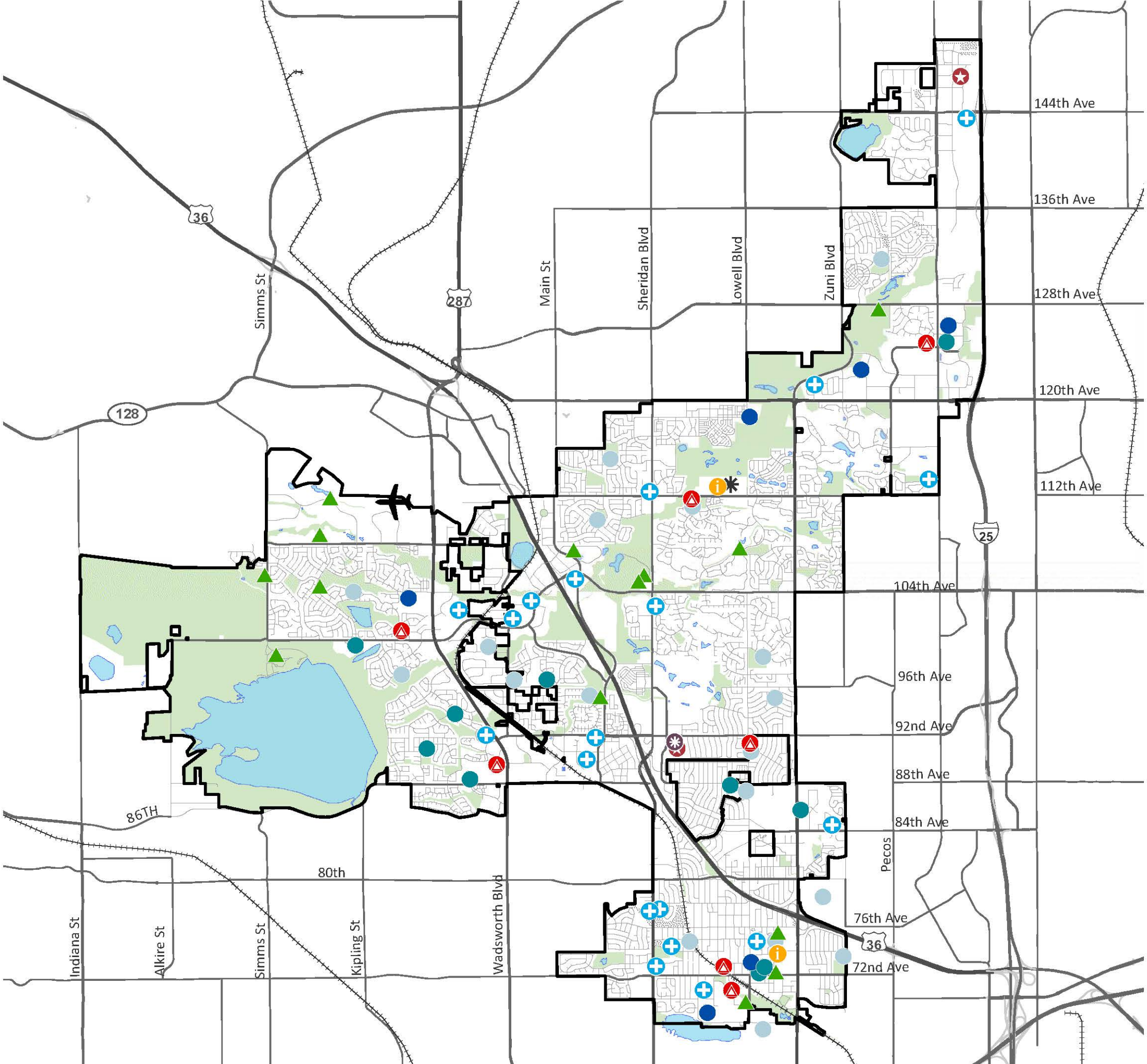
Map 5-1. Parks, Open Space, and Trails System



- Legend**
- Parks
 - Open Space
 - Golf Courses
 - Recreation Facilities
 - Existing Trails
 - Proposed Trails
 - Highway
 - Major roads
 - Local roads
 - Railroad
 - Water
 - Westminster



Map 5-2. Community Facilities



- Legend**
- City Hall
 - Fire Stations
 - Police Facilities
 - Libraries
 - Recreation Facilities
 - Health Facilities
- Public Schools**
- Elementary
 - Middle
 - High
 - College
- Highway
 - Major roads
 - Local roads
 - Railroad
 - Water
 - Parks and Open Space
 - Westminster

