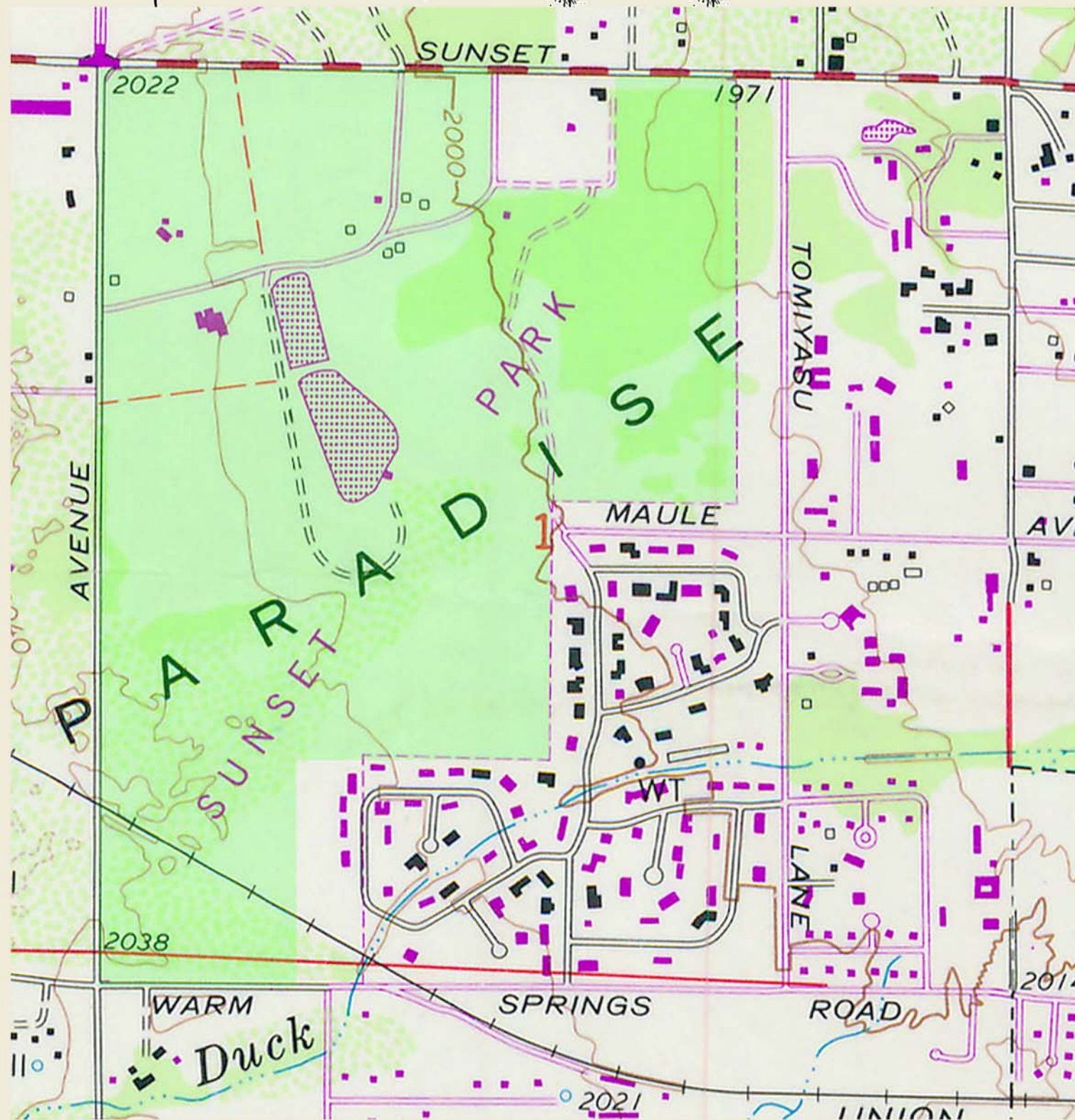


Sunset Regional Park



Sunset Park in 1984. Note the remnant of the Houssels' racetrack. By 1984 the racetrack was partially covered by two irrigation ponds which were later combined into the existing lake.
 - Las Vegas SE Quadrangle, USGS 7 1/2 min. series, 1967 updated through 1984

The Ranch Becomes a Park 1967

As McCarran Airport expanded and subdivisions spread, the old Houssels Ranch with its ponds, shade trees and green pastures became more important to longtime residents of Paradise Valley. Concern grew that the rural beauty of the area might be lost.

Mary Gravelle Habbart purchased 20 acres of the Tomiyasu property next to the Houssels Ranch after World War II and developed a dairy herd. Later, as Paradise Town Board chair, she campaigned tirelessly to turn Houssels Ranch into a public park. In 1967, Clark County purchased the 325-acre ranch with funds from a federal grant that were matched with Paradise Town funds, and the private ranch became a public park.

In the early days, Mary Habbart watched over Sunset Park, protecting it from vagrants and sand thieves. Today, the Clark County Department of Parks and Recreation provides for management and park development.



Clark County Commissioner Darwin Lamb (left) and former Commissioner, later Las Vegas Mayor, Bill Briare honor Mary and Joseph Habbart with the naming of Habbart Field at Sunset Park, May 1970.
 - Eddings Family Collection



Ranch Becomes a Park