

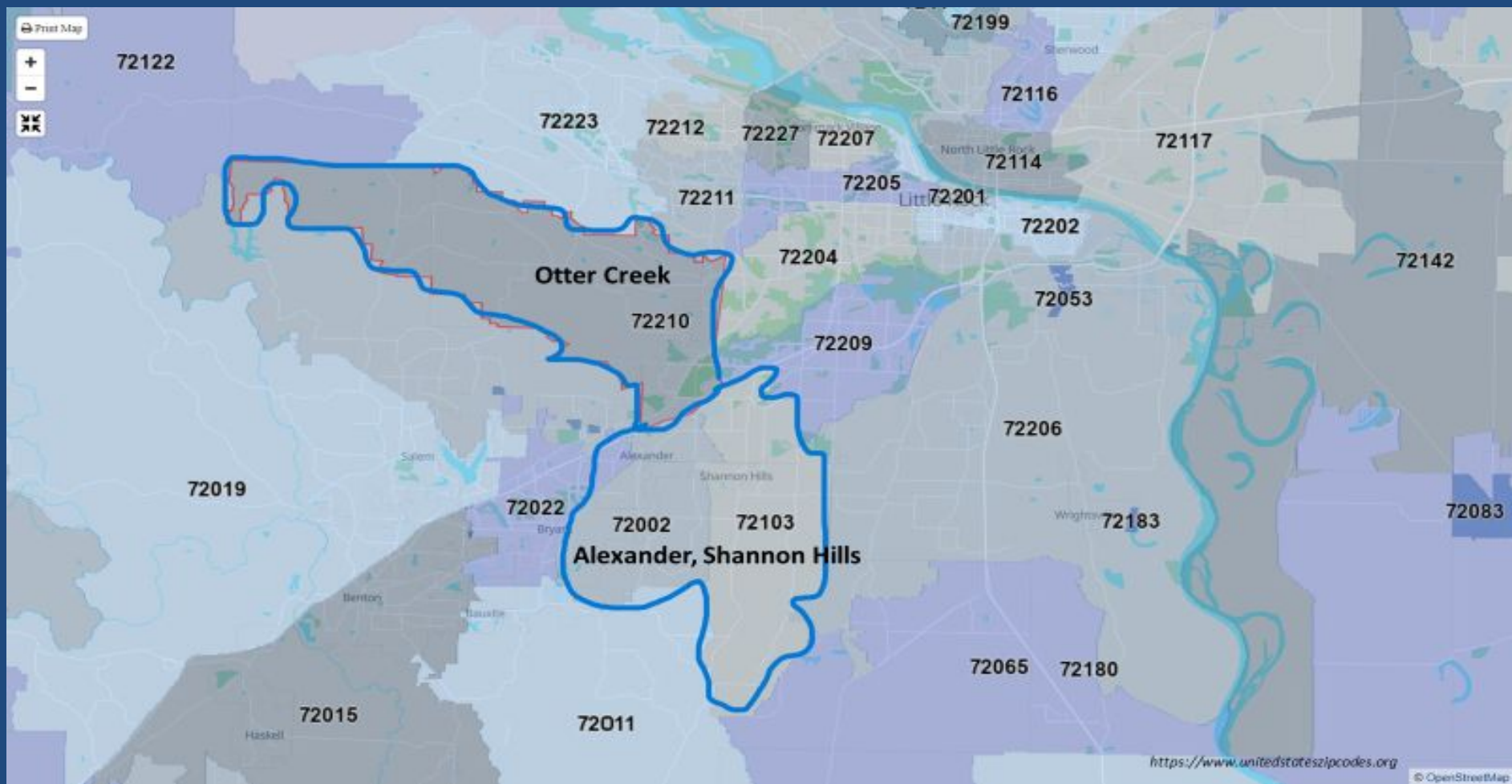
Central Arkansas Regional Landscape Analysis

72210 (Otter Creek),
72103 (Mabelavel+Shannon Hills),
72002 (Alexander)

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Introduction

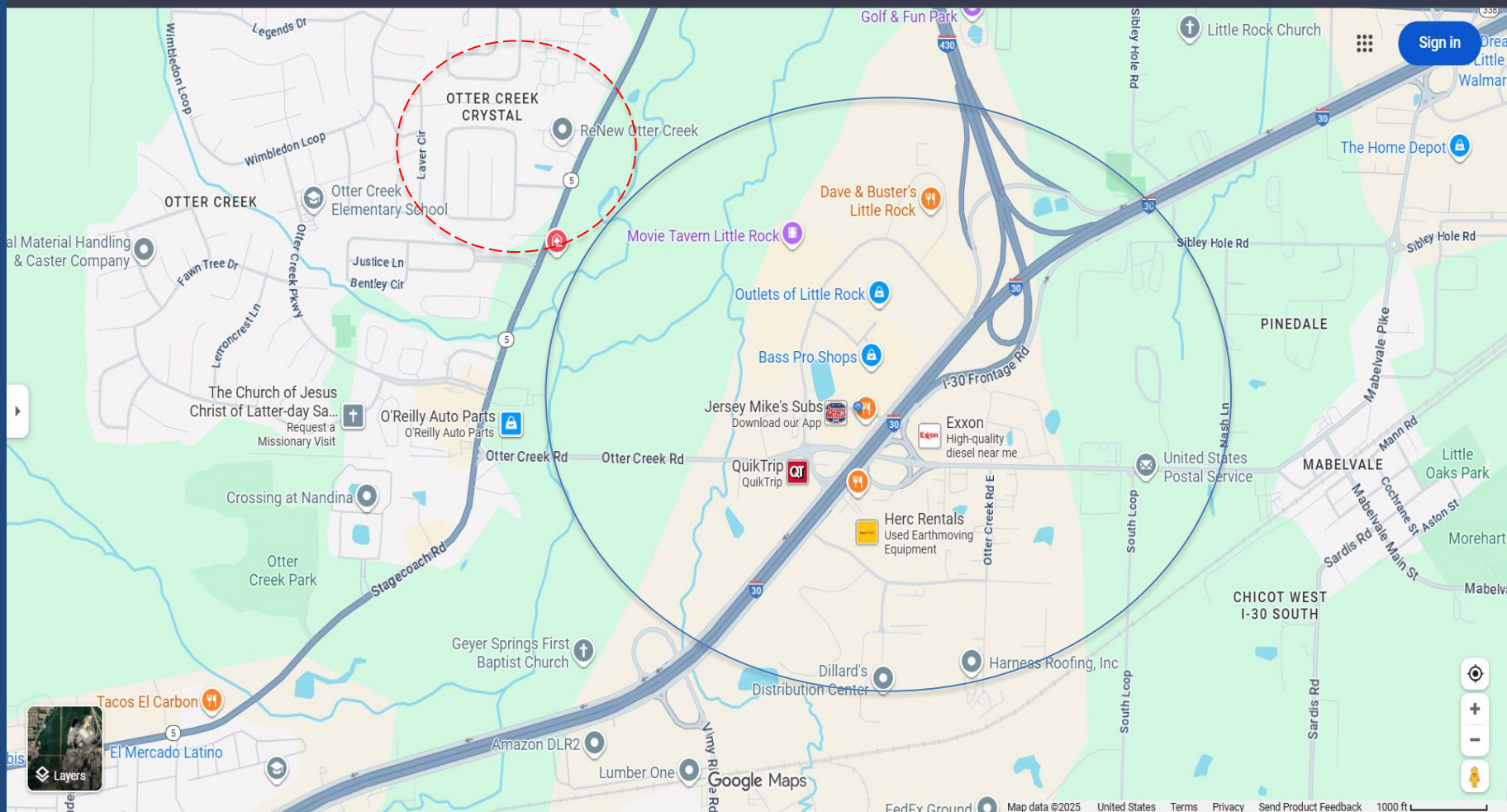
- Families in the Mabelvale West Corridor of Southwest Little Rock face equity gaps.
- Neighborhoods analyzed: Otter Creek, Shannon Hills, Alexander
- Why selected: high, school-age populations, rising birth rates, gaps in school performance



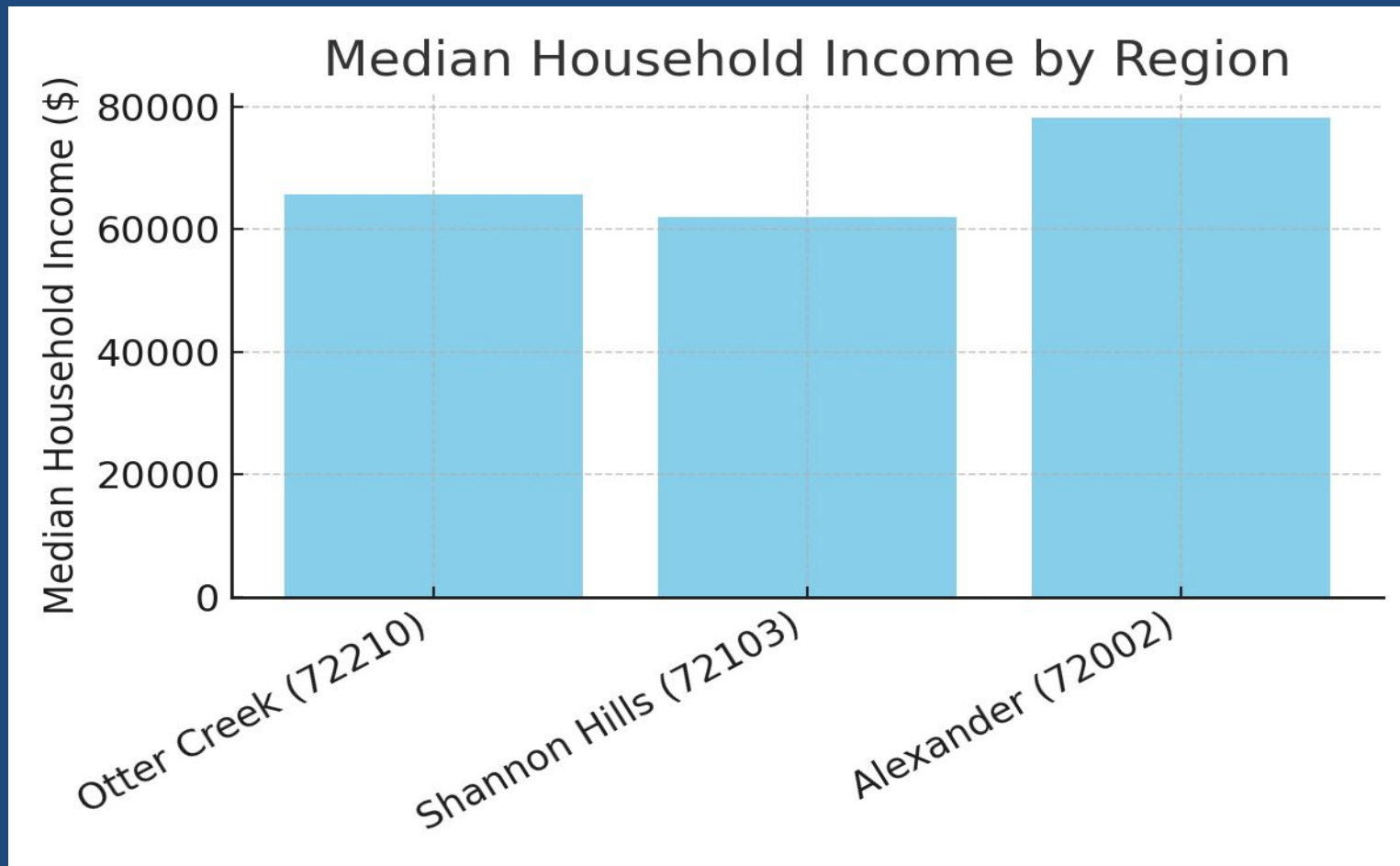
Demographics Snapshot

- Otter Creek:
 - 46% White,
 - 38% Black,
 - 7% Hispanic
- Mabelvale+
Shannon Hills:
 - 60% White,
 - 20% Black,
 - 9% Hispanic
- Alexander:
 - 67% White,
 - 16% Black,
 - 8% Hispanic

Community Assets and Economic Vitality



Economic Indicators



Economic Landscape

- Median income:
 - Alexander \$78,260;
 - Otter Creek \$65,675;
 - Shannon Hills \$61,967
- College attainment:
 - Otter Creek 35%,
 - Shannon Hills 18%
- Poverty rate: ~13%, higher among children (23–27%)
- Implication: Economic disparities shape schooling readiness

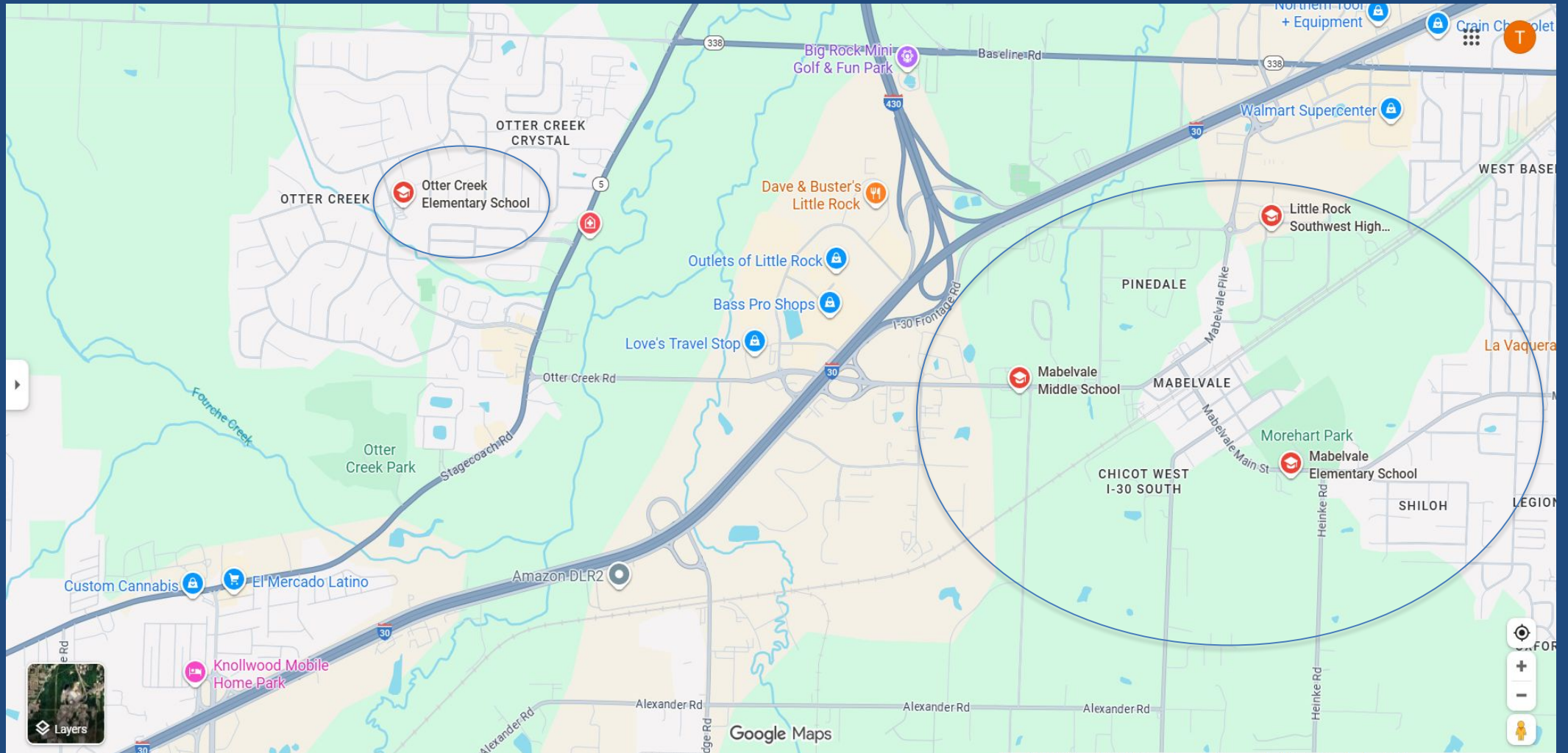
Health and Safety

- Violent crime:
 - Alexander lowest (3/1,000)
 - Shannon Hill's highest (6/1,000)
- Property crime:
 - 9–11 per 1,000 across zones
- Access: all areas have healthcare and healthy food
- Implication: Equity is needed in property crime areas

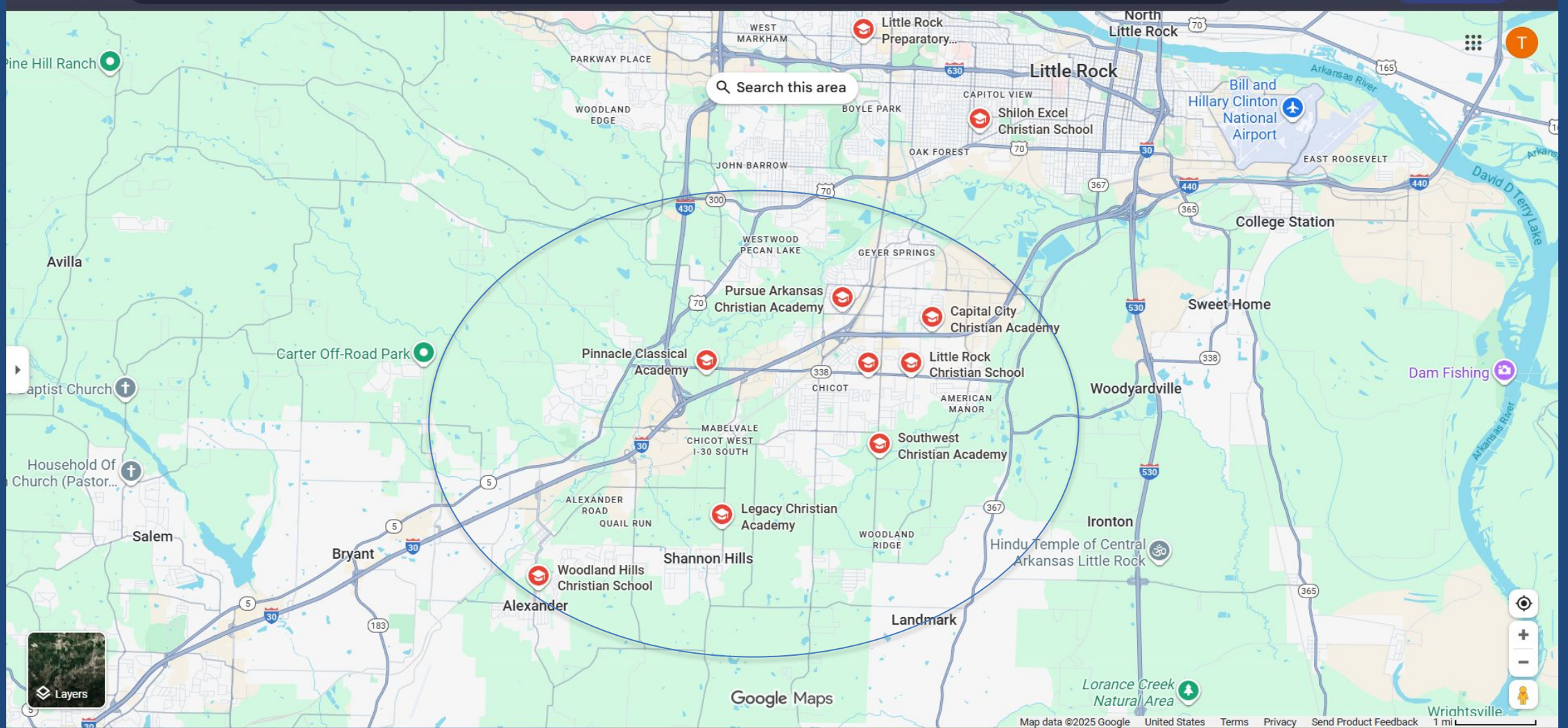
Employment Landscape

- Otter Creek: Retail, Healthcare (Outlets of Little Rock, Walmart)
- Shannon Hills: Health, Warehousing, Manufacturing (Baptist Health, Amazon Distribution Center)
- Alexander: Transportation, Logistics (Dillard's Distribution Center)
- Implication: Career-connected learning opportunities

Traditional Public School Options



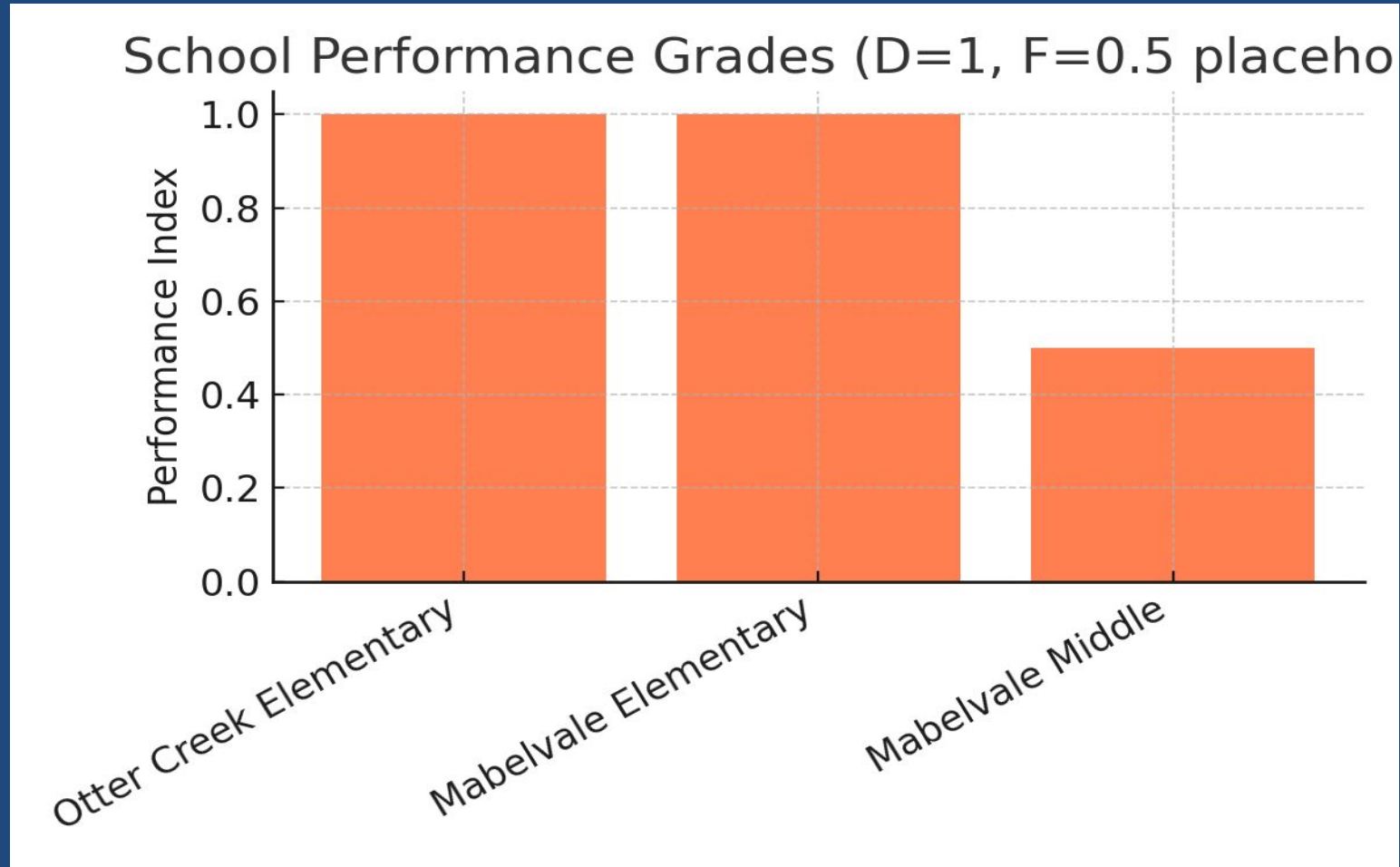
Private School Options



Current Educational Landscape

- Otter Creek Elementary – 372 students, D grade, declining enrollment
- Mabelvale Elementary – 346 students, D grade, declining
- Mabelvale Middle – F grade, declining enrollment
- Little Rock Southwest HS – low performance
- Implication: Consistent underperformance K–12

School Performance Overview



Emerging Themes

- High need for elementary stability
- Population growth vs. school outcomes (Alexander growth)
- Community opportunity vs. safety tensions

Tensions & Opportunities

- Tension: Families face underperforming schools despite stable community assets
- Opportunity: Anchor employers and multilingual households enable partnerships
- Tension: Alexander's growth strains school options

Why a New School is Needed

- Students are funneled into consistently underperforming schools despite strong community assets.
- A new school can bridge opportunity gaps with high-quality early education, literacy foundations, and responsive partnerships.
- 2023 Arkansas Learns Act Implications
 - Early Childhood Initiatives
 - Arkansas' Right to Read Act
 - 3rd grade promotion

Implications for Design

- Early Literacy Readiness
- Benefits Target Community
 - could Montessori appeal to the families seeking innovative non-traditional schooling that fosters independence and creativity ?
 - Montessori's proven outcomes (executive functioning, self-regulation, and strong literacy/numeracy foundations could be a strong differentiator
 - Positioning as the first charter Montessori option in my catchment could be a major competitive edge
- Multilingual engagement (Spanish + English)

Next Steps

- Seek family input across zip codes
- Map early learning feeder gaps (esp. Alexander)
- Refine model for early literacy readiness
- Build partnerships with anchor employers and leaders

References

- <https://data.census.gov>
- <https://www.unitedstateszipcodes.org>
- <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/public-school-accountability/school-performance/school-letter-grade>