Potential Locations for a Homeless Encampment in Chico, Ca.

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Introduction

Homelessness in Chico, California has been at the forefront of public discourse in recent months. Steps have been taken by the city and other associations to alleviate the number of loitering individuals. But there are other solutions... In Seattle, Washington participating churches open their doors to campers for a few months at a time, with this in mind: "Another analysis conducted to find all of the churches within the Chico sphere of influence within 1/4 mile of a bus route (see below) Perhaps through cooperation with CHAT, these facilities could be instrumental in helping to alleviate a problem that should be a concern for the whole community.

Analysis & Results

• Analysis conducted within the city of Chico sphere of influence
• Pared down the number of tax parcels from over 28,000 to just 42
• Visually refined the search by removing currently developed plots
• Left with 9 that would be suitable for the camp
• All are located in the southeast quadrant of town near the intersection of Park Ave and E Park Ave
• Parcels all zoned for commercial or manufacturing, Industrial businesses; most of the 9 lots feature structures on site (which could be torn down or converted)
• Almost all also have a large amount of open space
• One lot believed to be completely vacant (based on satellite imagery) was later revealed to be under construction
• A prime vacant lot close-by had been eliminated from our analysis due to its proximity to a daycare center; said center was later found to be defunct

Parcel Selection Criteria

- Larger than 1 acre in size
- Within 1/4 mile of B-Line bus routes
- Within 1/4 mile of the Jesus Center
- Within 250 feet of sewer/water lines
- Further than 1/4 mile from schools and daycares

Data & Methods

Data Acquisition

From Geographical Information Center:
- City of Chico sphere of influence
- Butte County tax parcels
- Butte County B-Line bus routes

From Chico Housing Action Team:
- Chico landmarks
- Chico sewer lines
- Chico churches

From California State University, Chico:
- Chico tax parcels

ArcMap 10.2 Tools

- Extract Tools: Clip, Buffer
- Proximity Tools: Select, Overlay Tools: Intersect, Join Tools: Join Field

Conclusion

Our analysis found many suitable places for a homeless encampment, however...

Major issues exist that must be overcome for the project to succeed:
- Of the appropriate parcels, only one is a completely vacant lot
- The rest are developed and in various stages of use
- Residents and business owners of the Park Ave corridor and South Barber neighborhood to the west would likely fight the installation of such a camp in the area

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References


