



# Use of Parcel Data to Update and Enhance Census Bureau Geospatial Data

**David J. Cowen**

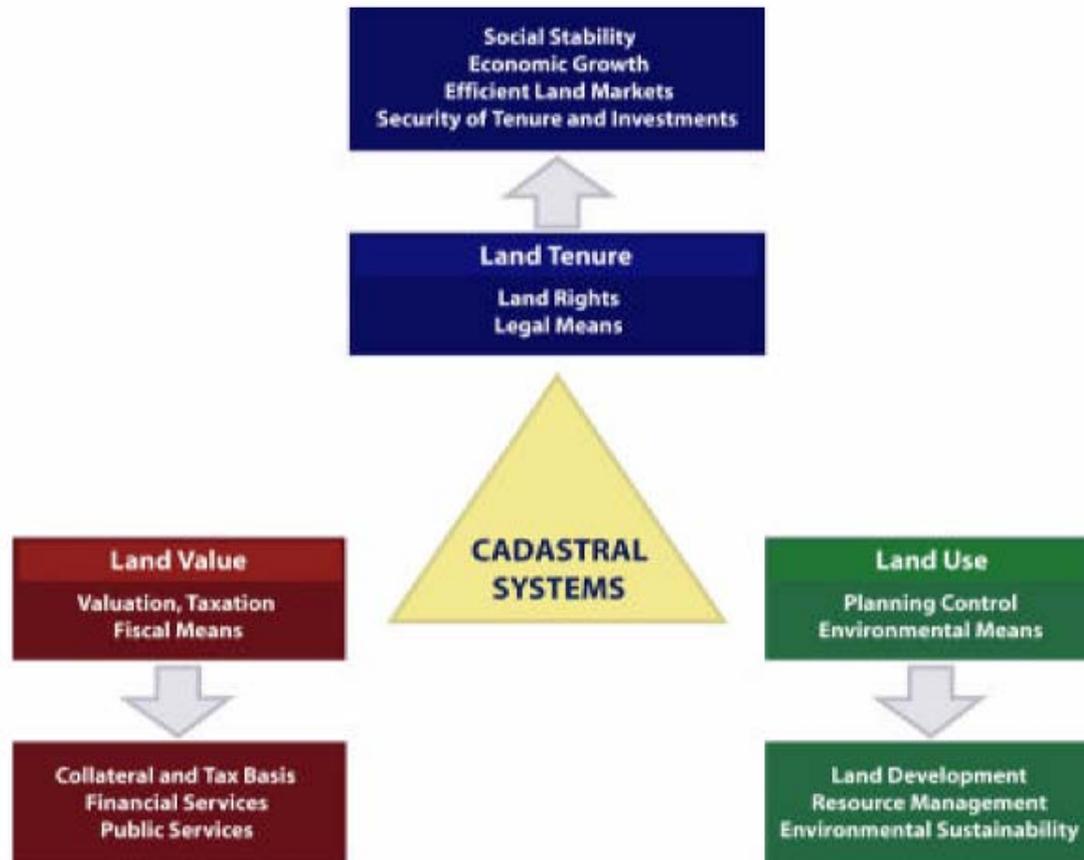
Professor Emeritus, University of South Carolina  
Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

Summer at the Census – August 4, 2011

# Credits and Disclaimers

- This presentation was prepared under the Summer at the Census Program
- Thanks to:
  - Mike Ratcliffe
  - Matt Jennings
  - Valerie Beaudin
  - Frank Usher
- Data provided by
  - South Carolina GIS Council
  - Core Logic
  - Loudoun County VA Office of Mapping and Geographic Information
- All Census geospatial data was retrieved from public websites
- No data with Title 13 restrictions was used

# The Cadastre is the Critical Form of Geospatial Data in Society



**Fig. 1:** *Cadastral systems provide a basic land information infrastructure for running the interrelated systems within the areas of Land Tenure, Land Value, and Land Use.*

# Parcels are linked to many operations of Government

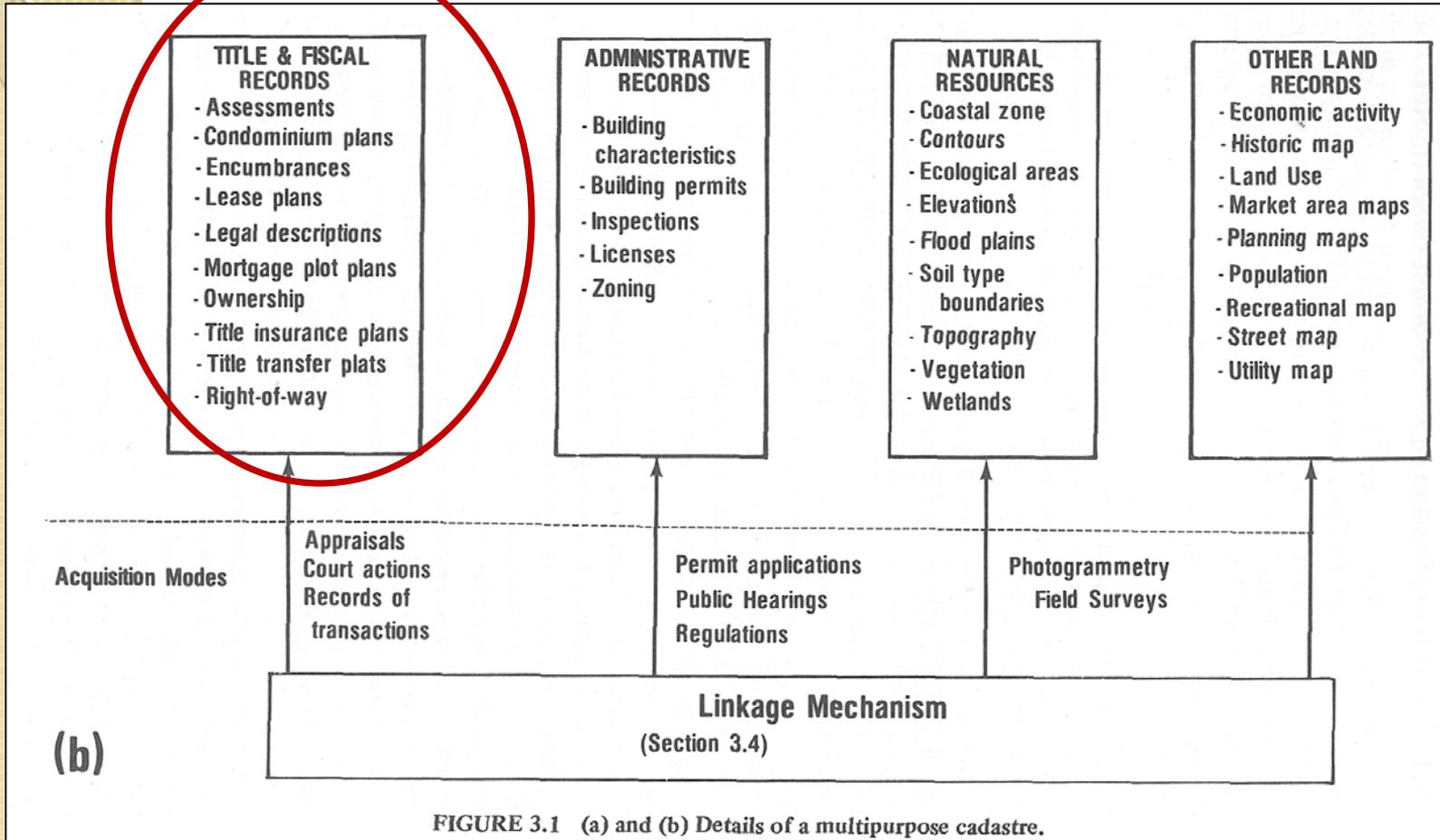
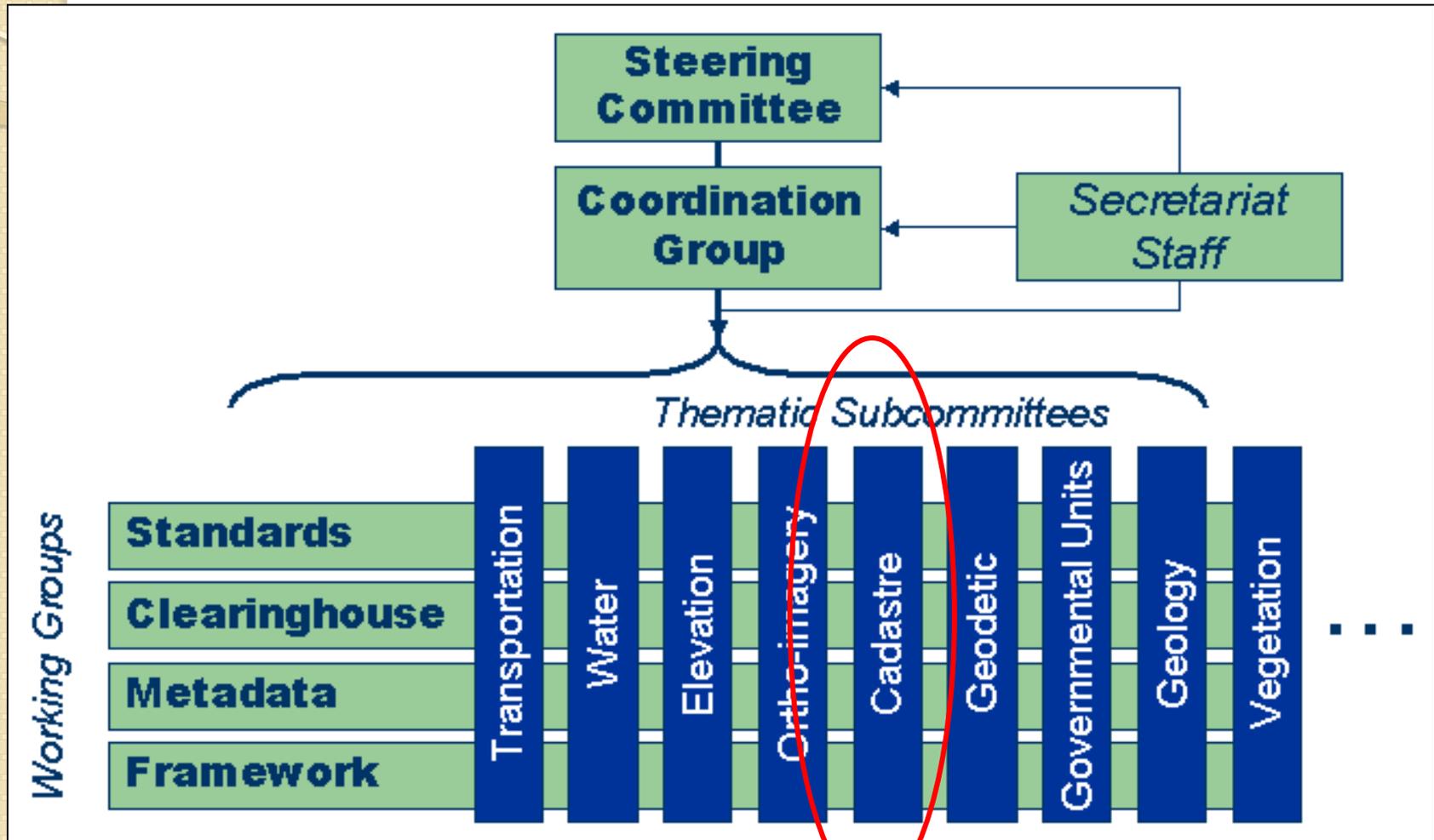


FIGURE 3.1 (a) and (b) Details of a multipurpose cadastre.

# The Cadastre is Critical to the Federal Geospatial Community



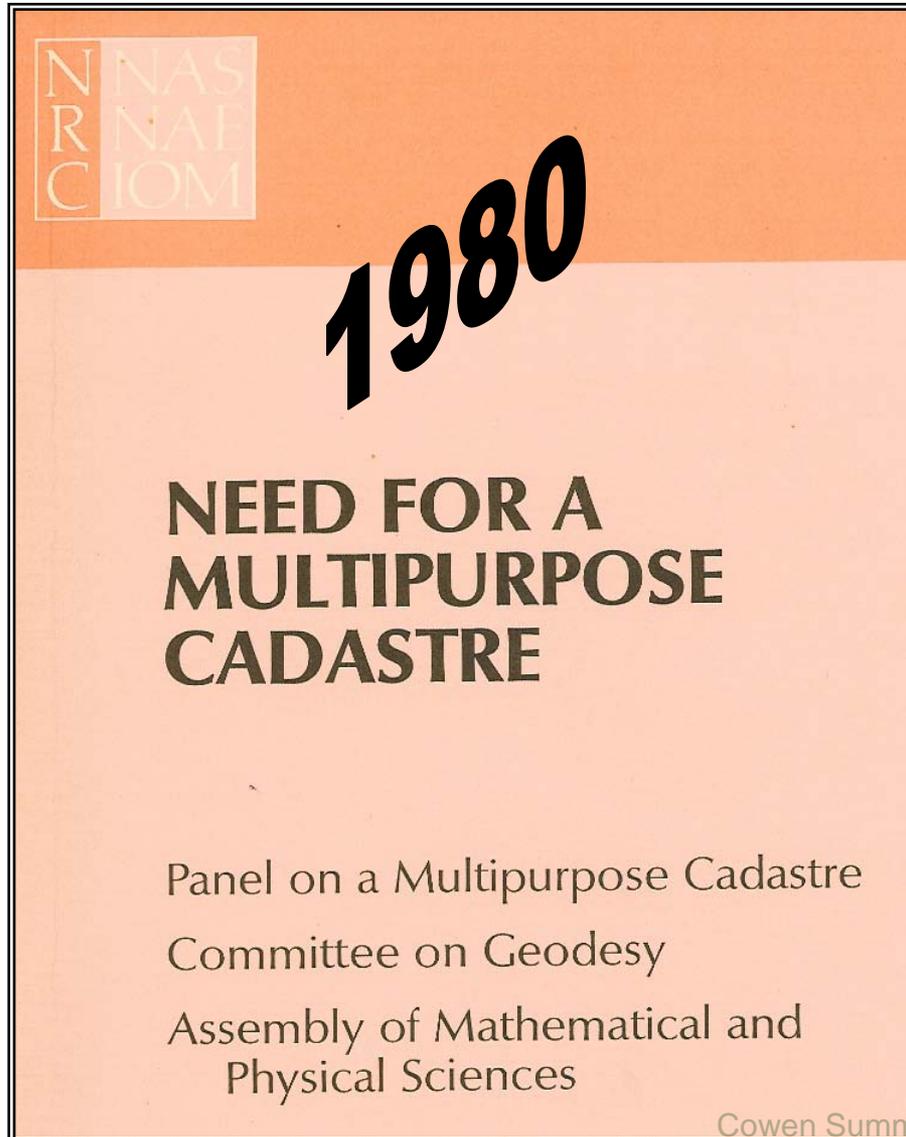
# Technology

- “**Current technology is adequate** in most cases for the surveying, mapping, data collecting, filing and dissemination of information.
- Advancement in computer applications, communication **networks** and copying processes promise of more-efficient use of the multipurpose cadastre.”

# Obstacles

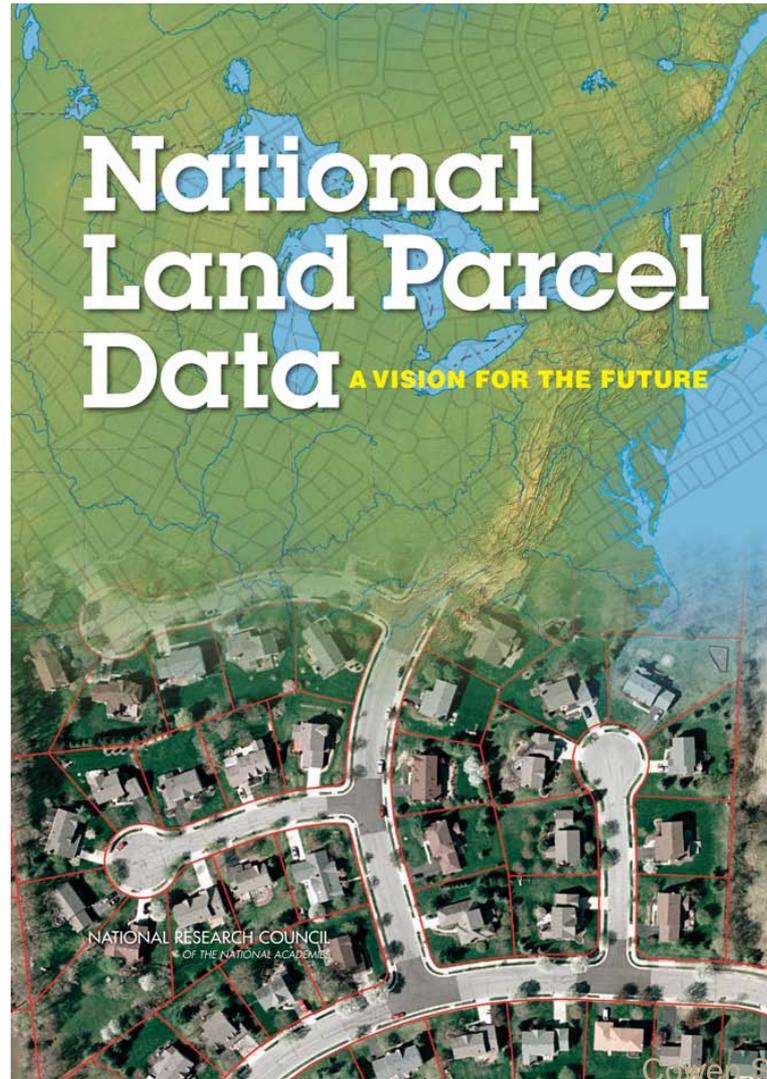
- The major **obstacles** in the development of a multipurpose cadastre are the **organizational** and **institutional** requirements.

But, of course, we knew that in 1980



# 2007 – National Research Council Report

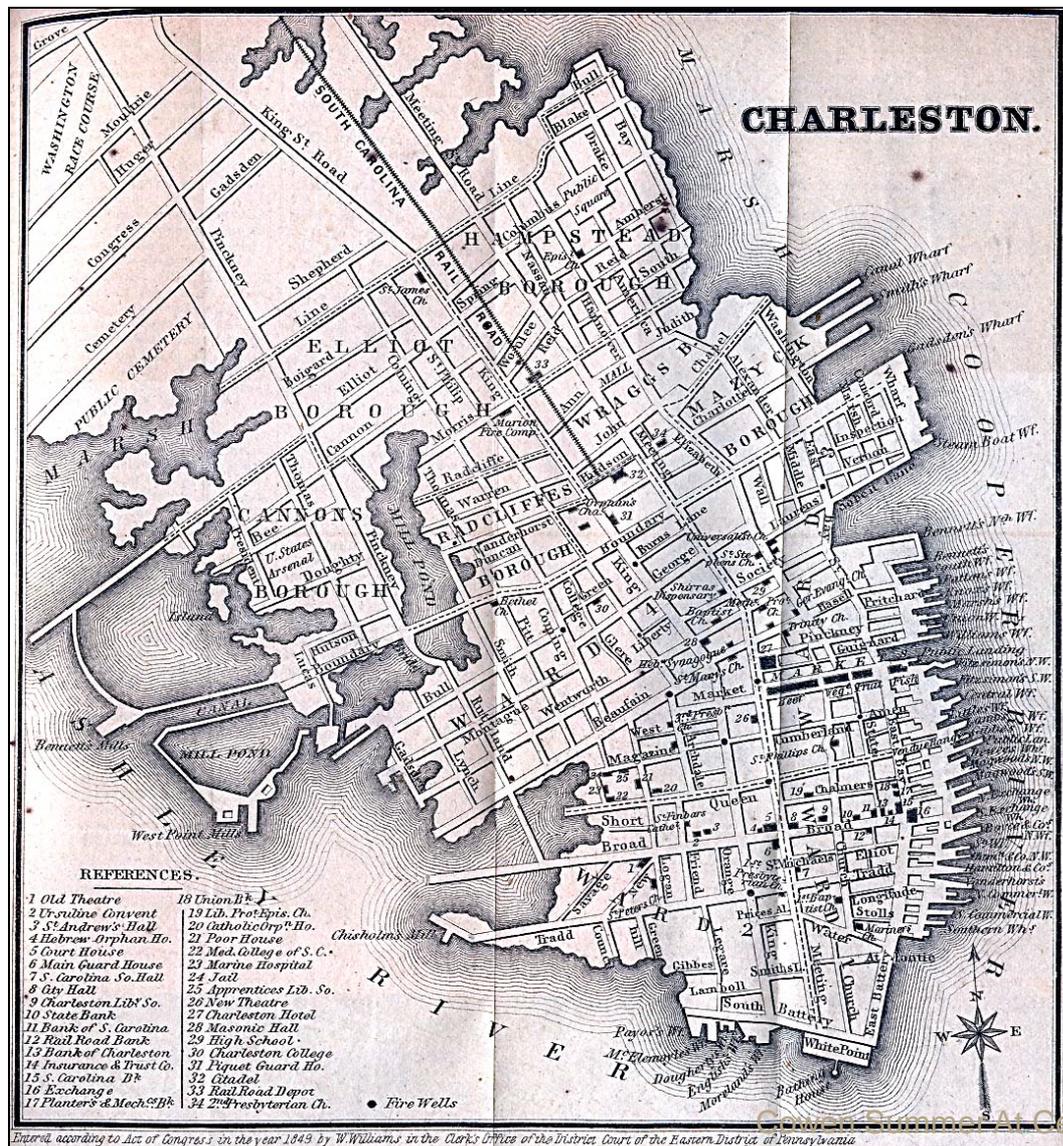
*Nine Recommendations Including one on Title 13*



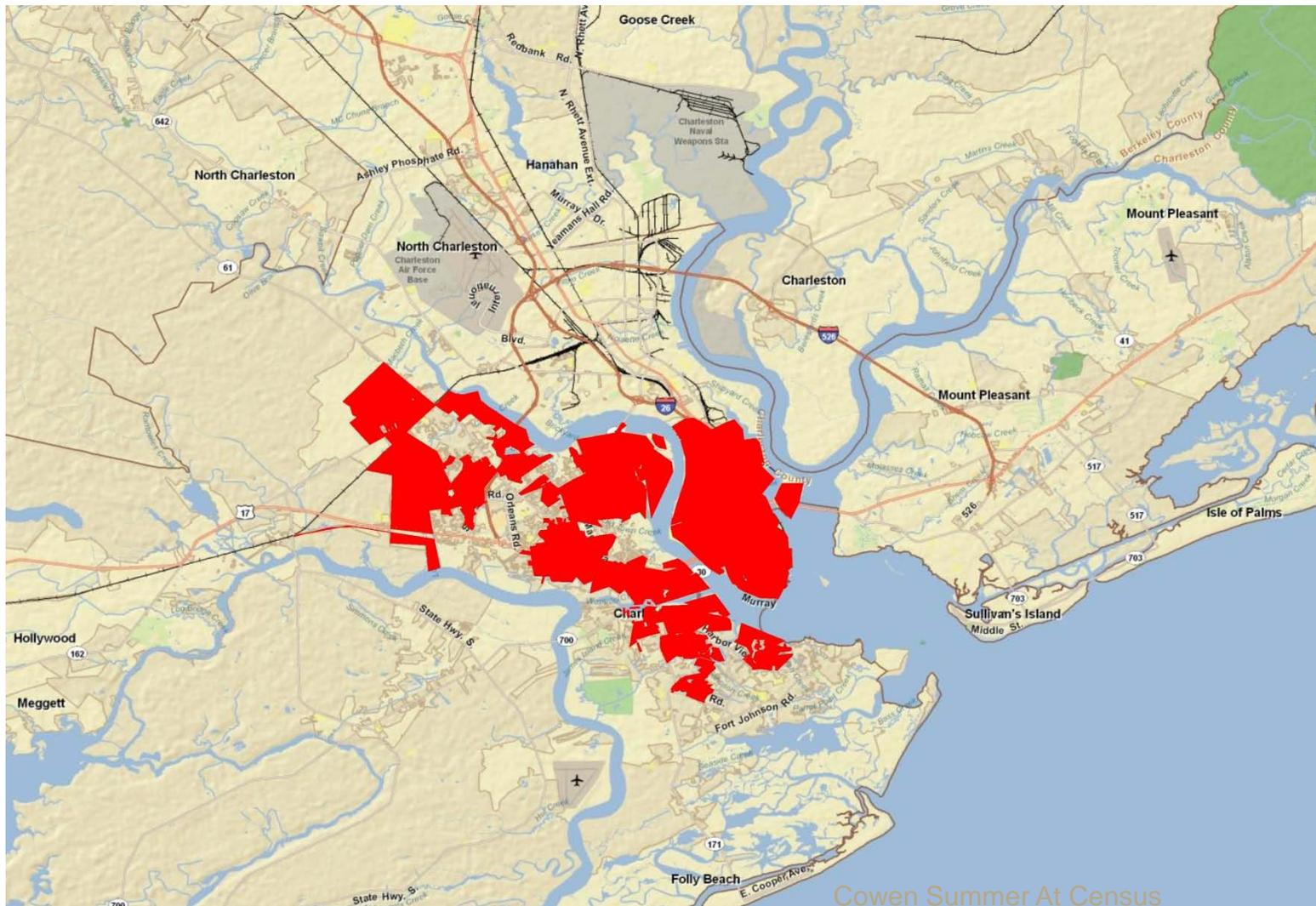
# Working Hypotheses That are of Interest to the Geography Division

- Parcels:
  - *are required to accurately represent many municipal boundaries*
  - can generate centroids that are an excellent representation of many structure points
  - can be used to separate public and private land which is important for validation
  - can be used to generate road centerlines
  - can be dissolved to create many meaningful polygons

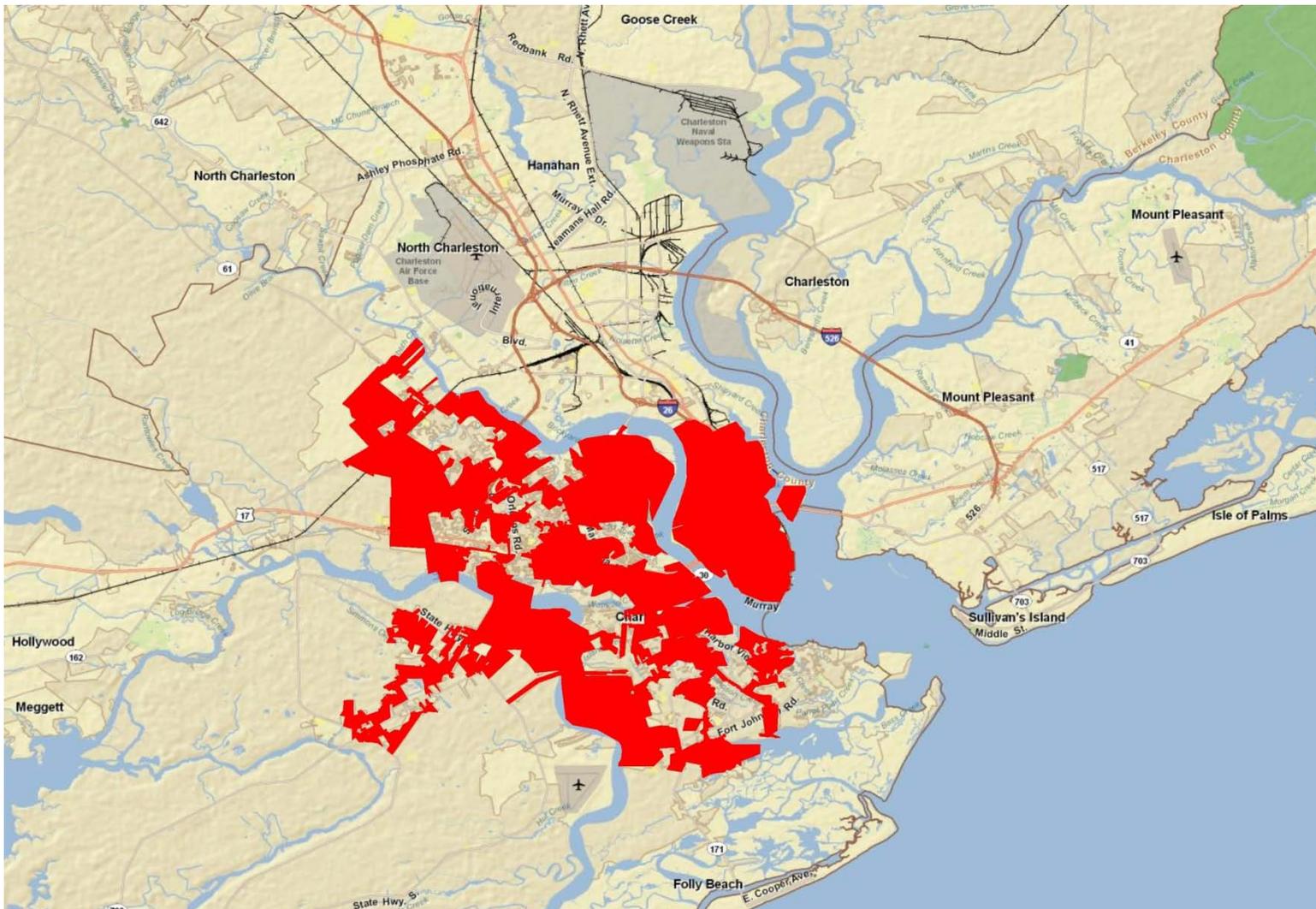
# 1849



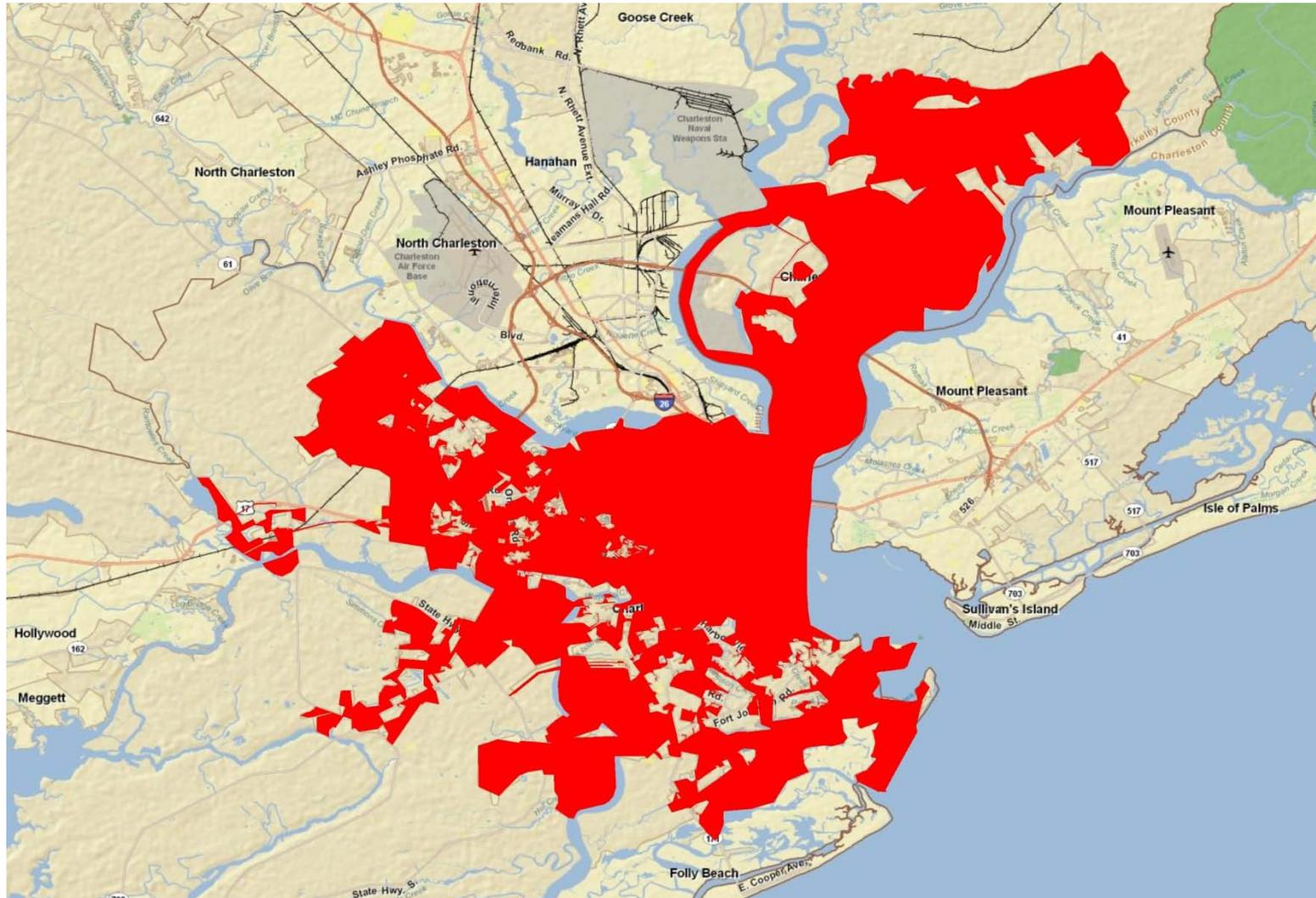
# 1980 Census Bureau City Boundaries



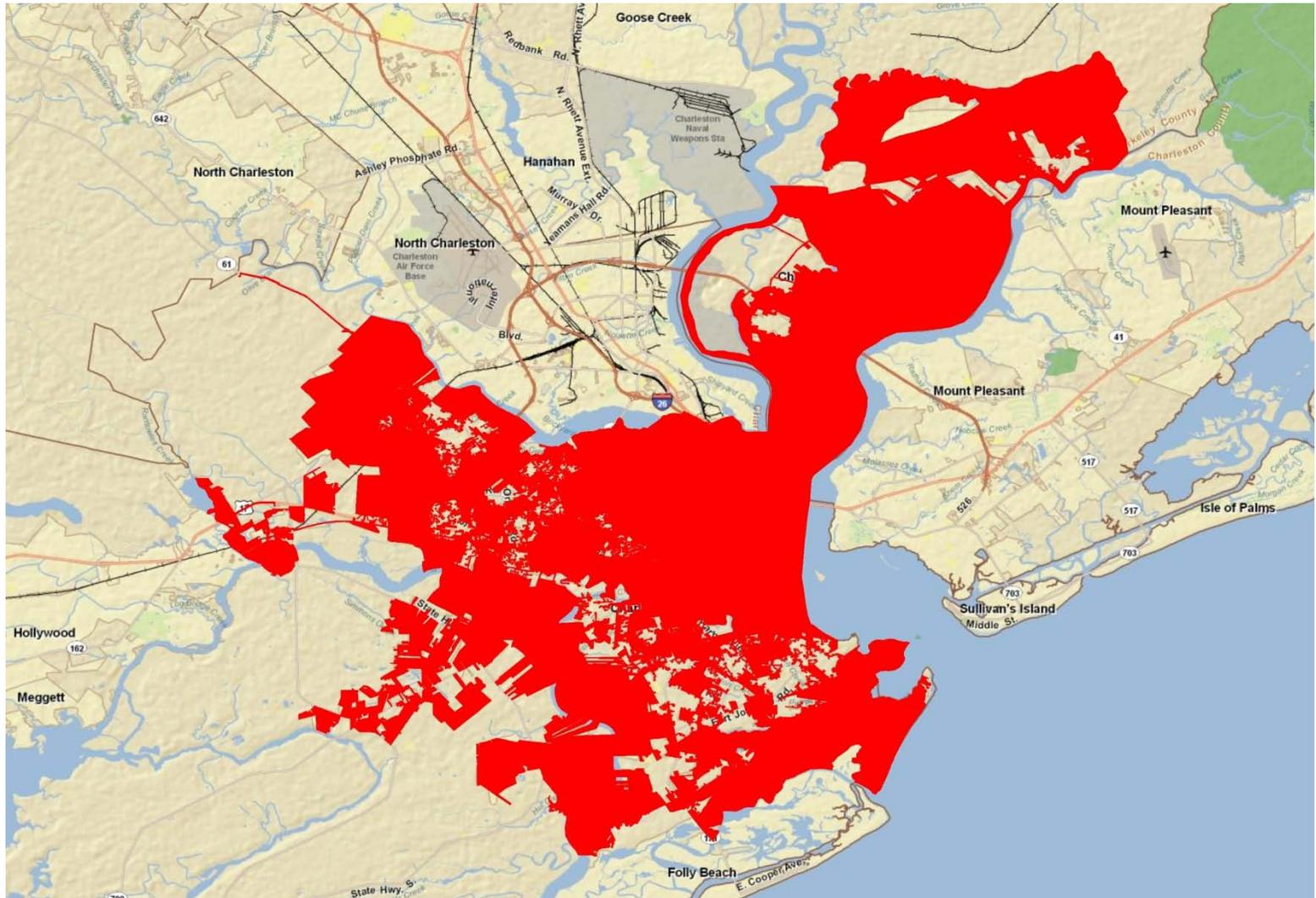
# 1990 Census Bureau City Boundaries



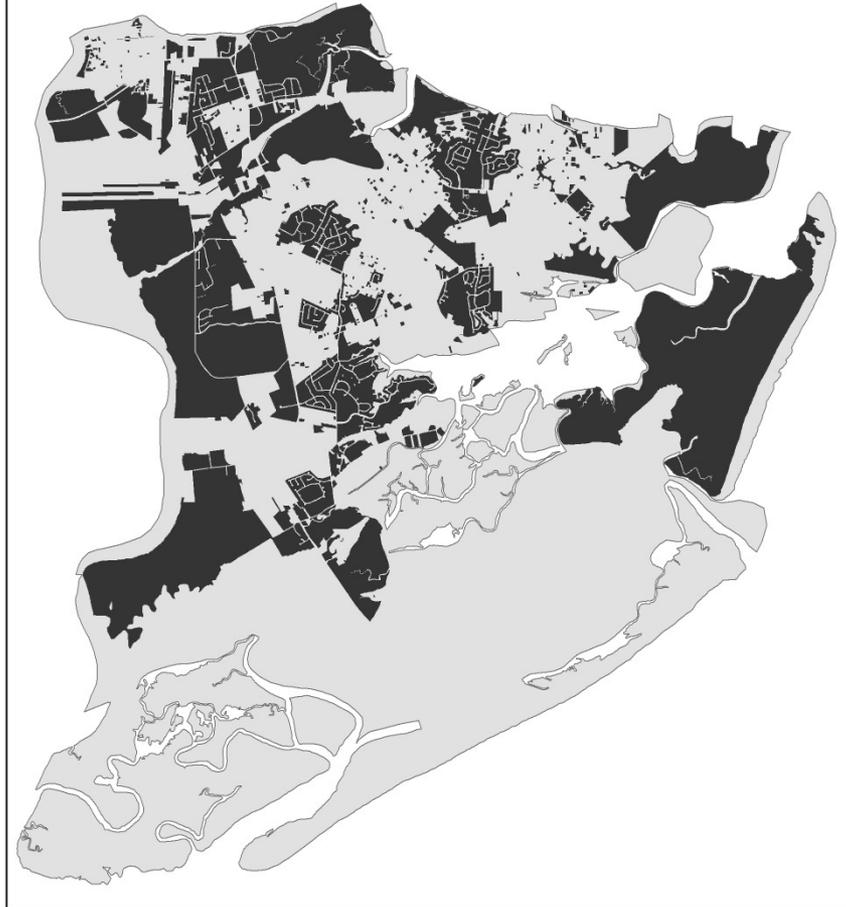
# 2000 Census Bureau City Boundaries



# 2007 City of Charleston City Boundaries



**City of Charleston  
788 Separate Non Contiguous Clusters  
of Parcels On James Island**



# Charleston County GIS

## “Authoritative Source”

Charleston County GIS - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://ccgisweb.charlestoncounty.org/website/Charleston/viewer.htm

Most Visited Getting Started Latest Headlines

Charleston County Govern... CHARLESTON COUNTY fees.pdf (application/pdf Obj... Charleston County GIS Welcome to the Charleston C...

**Layers**

Visible Active

- Libraries
- County Boat Landings
- Fire Stations
- EMS Facilities
- 2001 Buildings
- Streets/Roads
- Parcels
- Tax Districts
- Municipal Boundaries
- Unincorporated County Zoning
- 2001 Color Photos
- 2009 Color Photos

To make a layer active click on the round button located directly to the left of the layer name

Use SEARCH TABS at bottom of map OR use the ZOOM TOOLS to define the area of interest

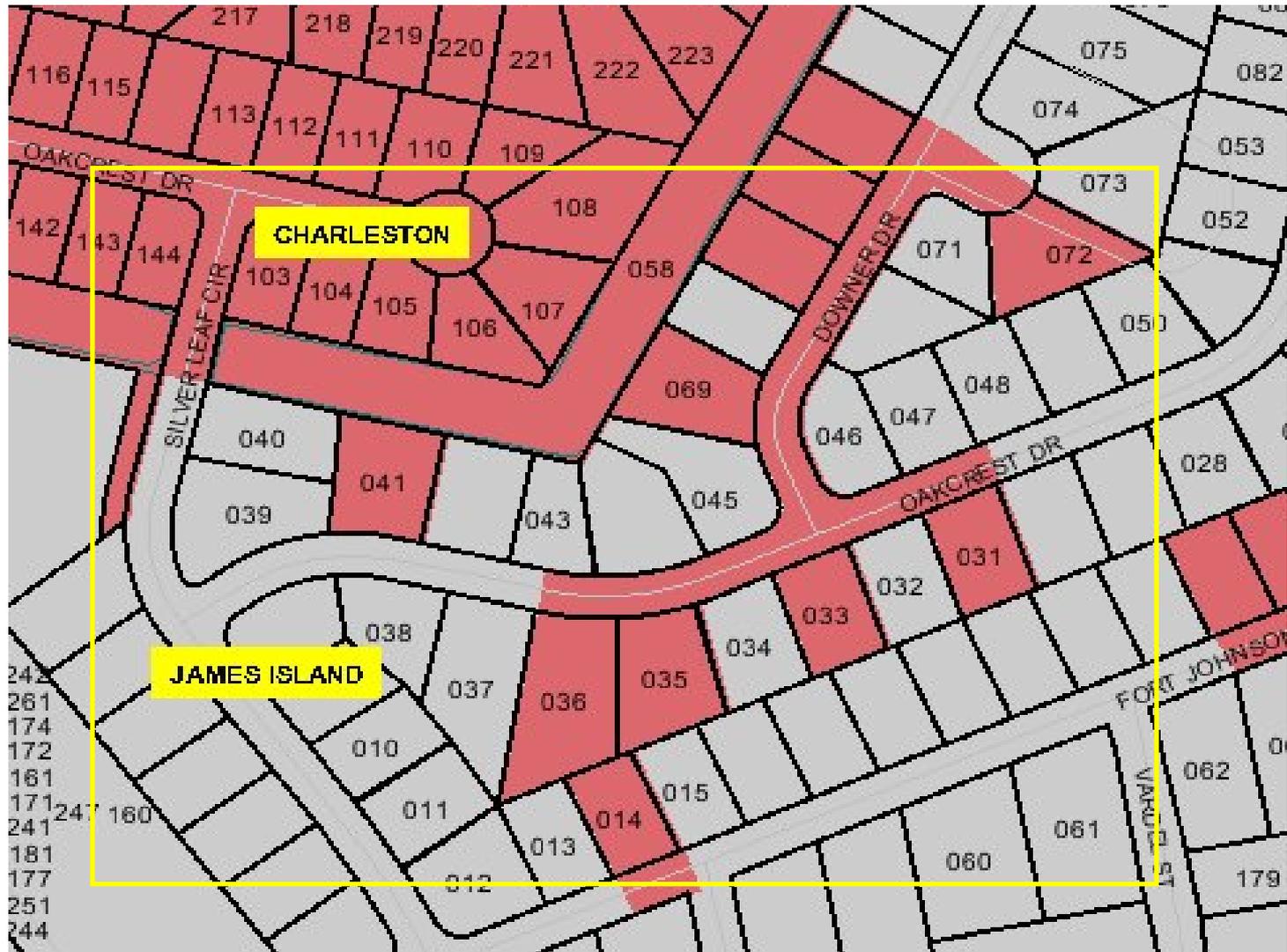
2001 Buildings is now the Active Layer



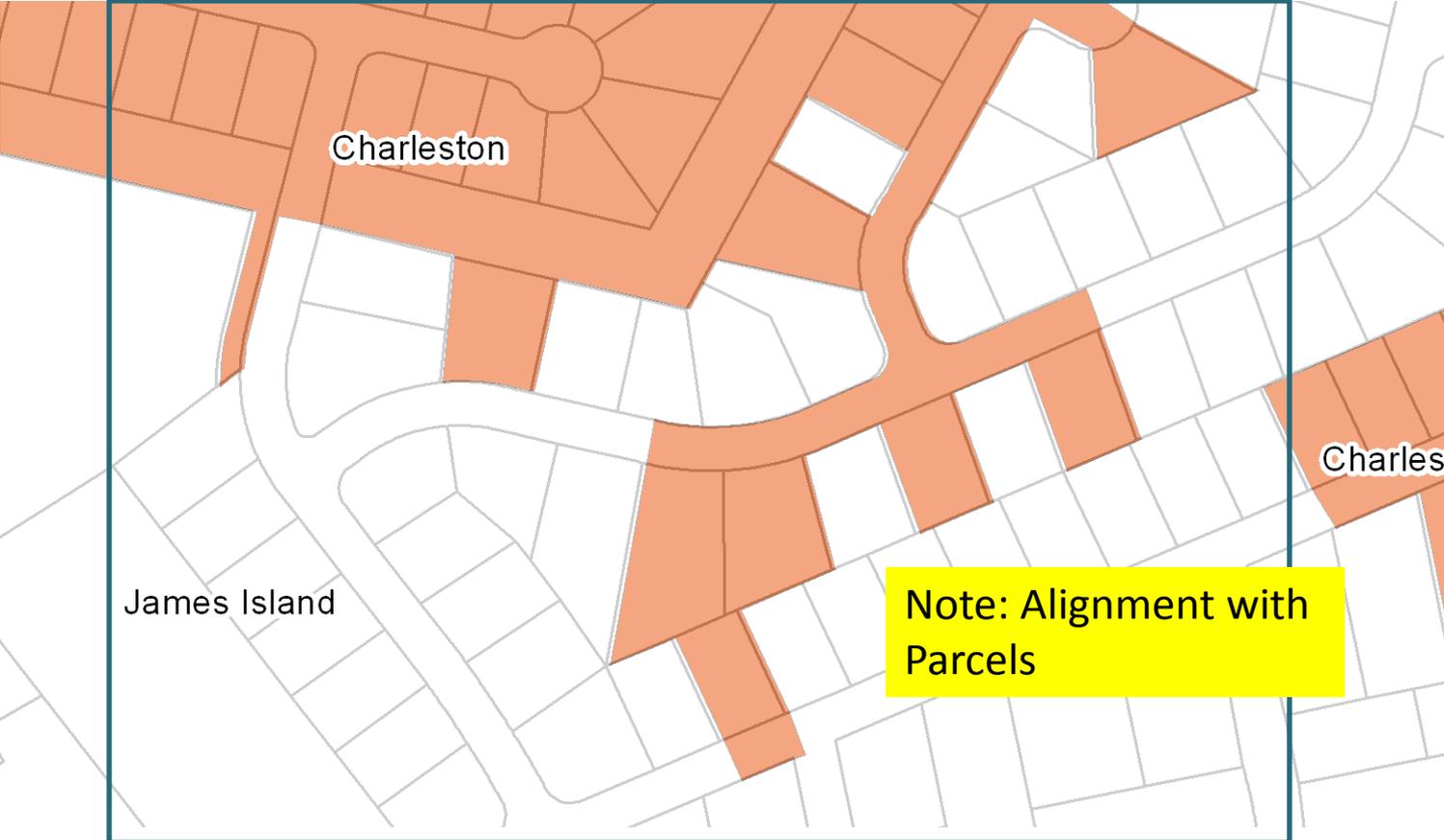
Search by TMS Search by Address Search by Name

Enter No: 1450 Street: Fort Johnson rd Search Ex: 4045 BRIDGE VIEW

# Charleston County



# Core Logic Municipal Boundary View With Parcels

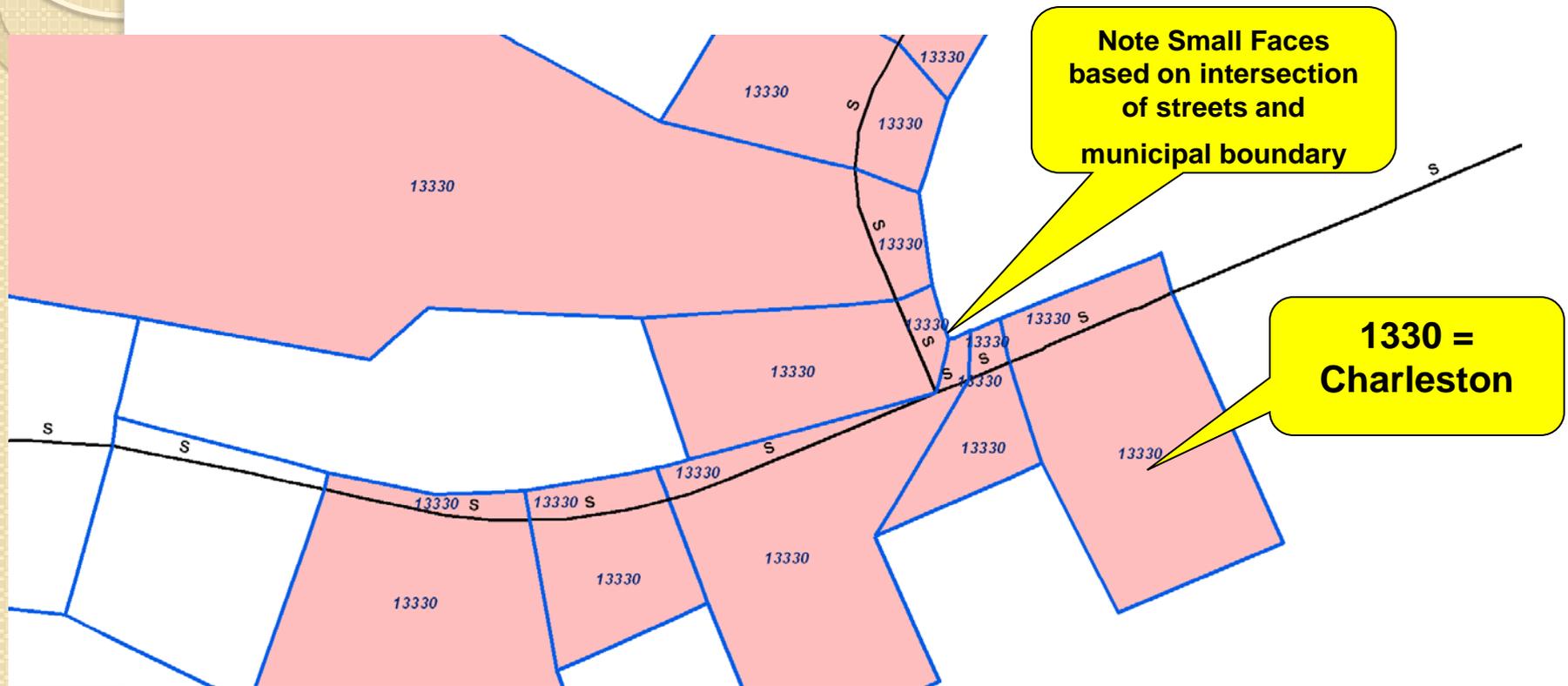


# TIGER FACES

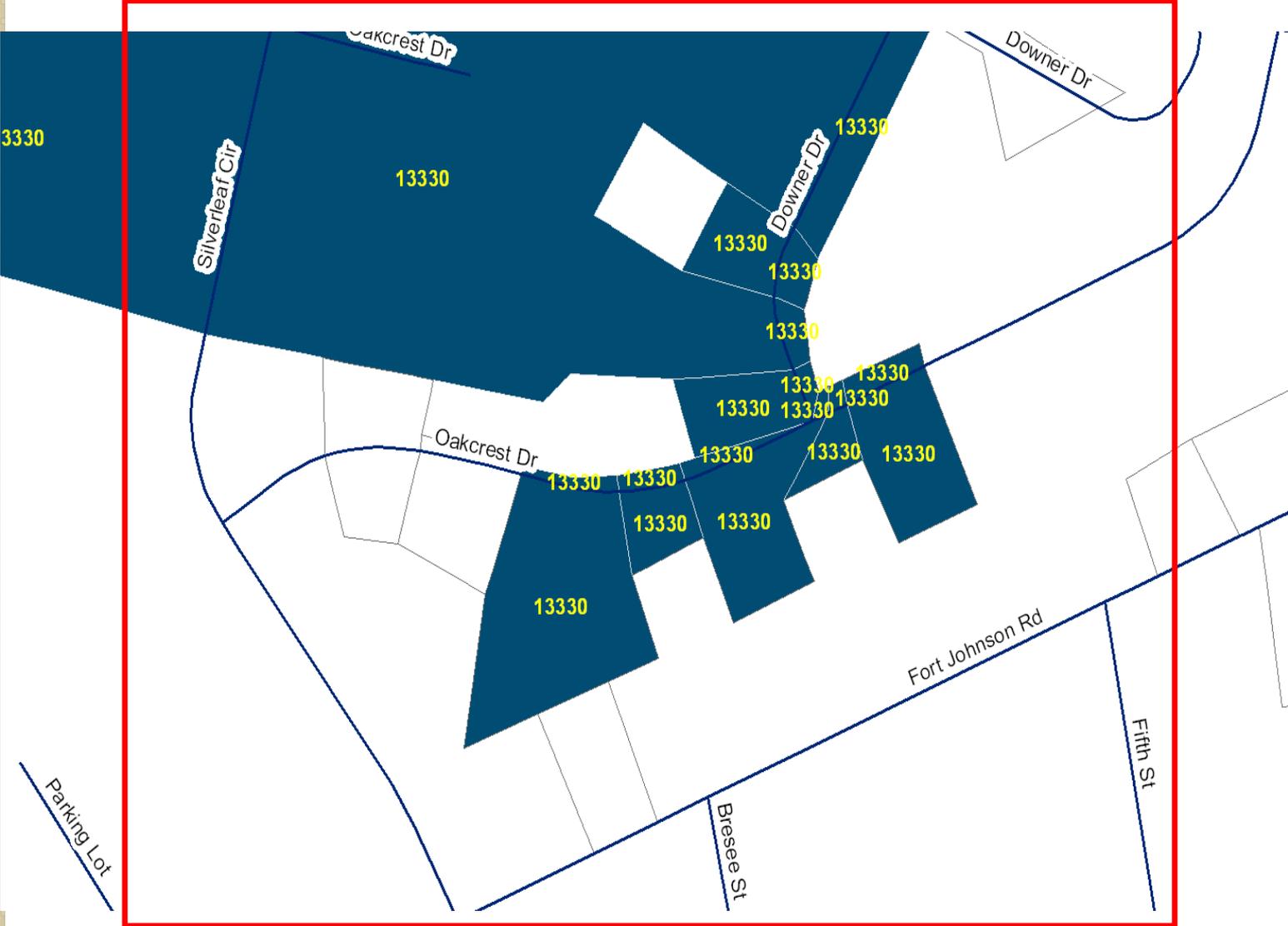
## Charleston = 13330



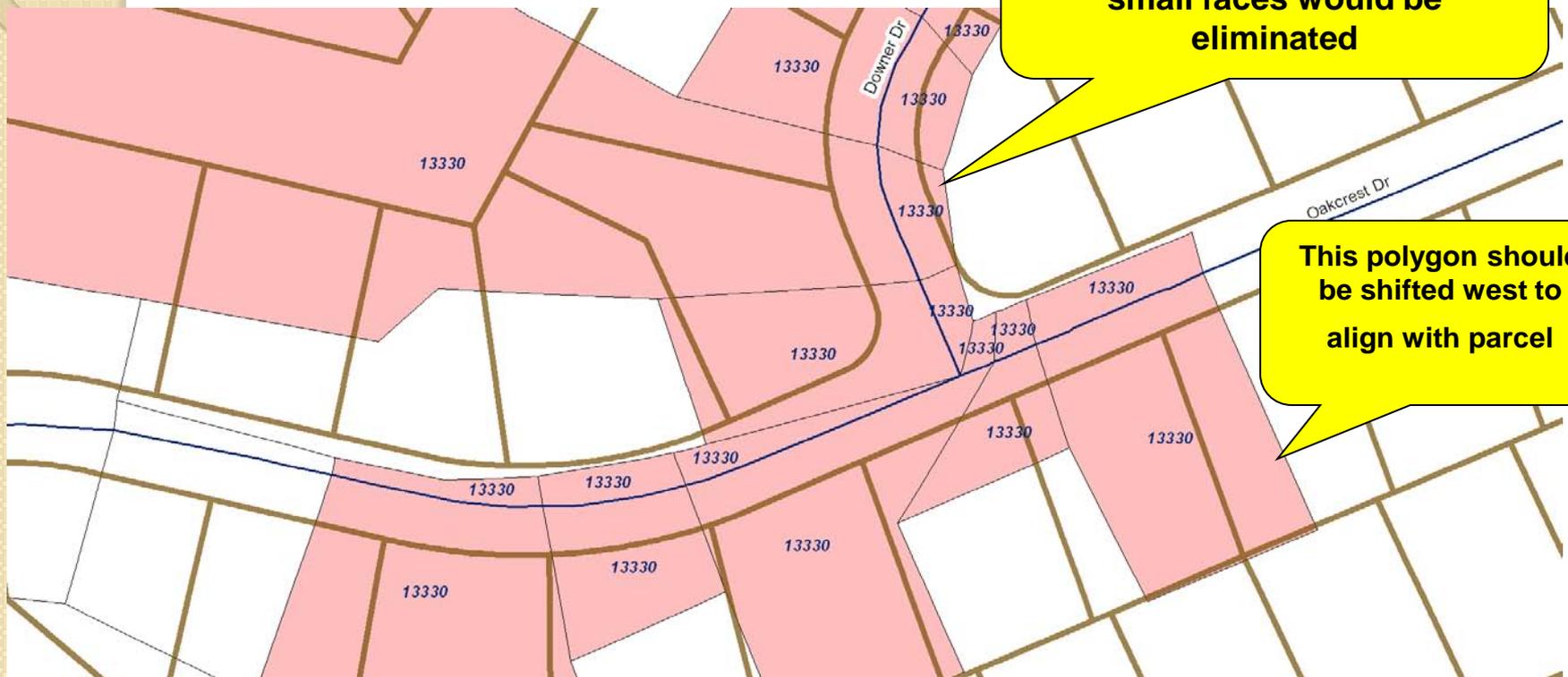
# TIGER Faces Based on Charleston Municipal Boundary



# Census View – From TIGER Faces



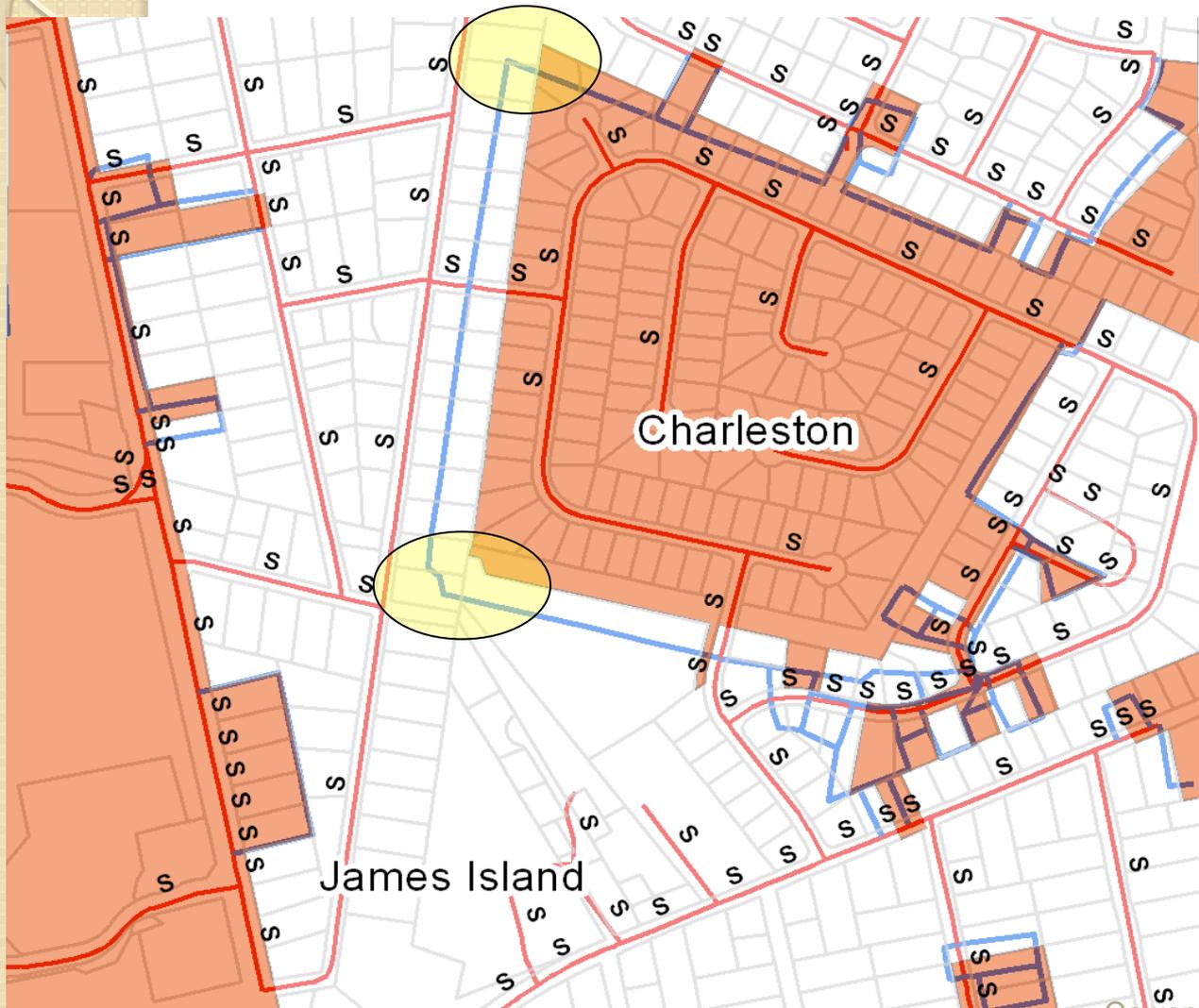
# TIGER Faces & Parcels



**Note – If the TIGER boundary had followed the parcels the small faces would be eliminated**

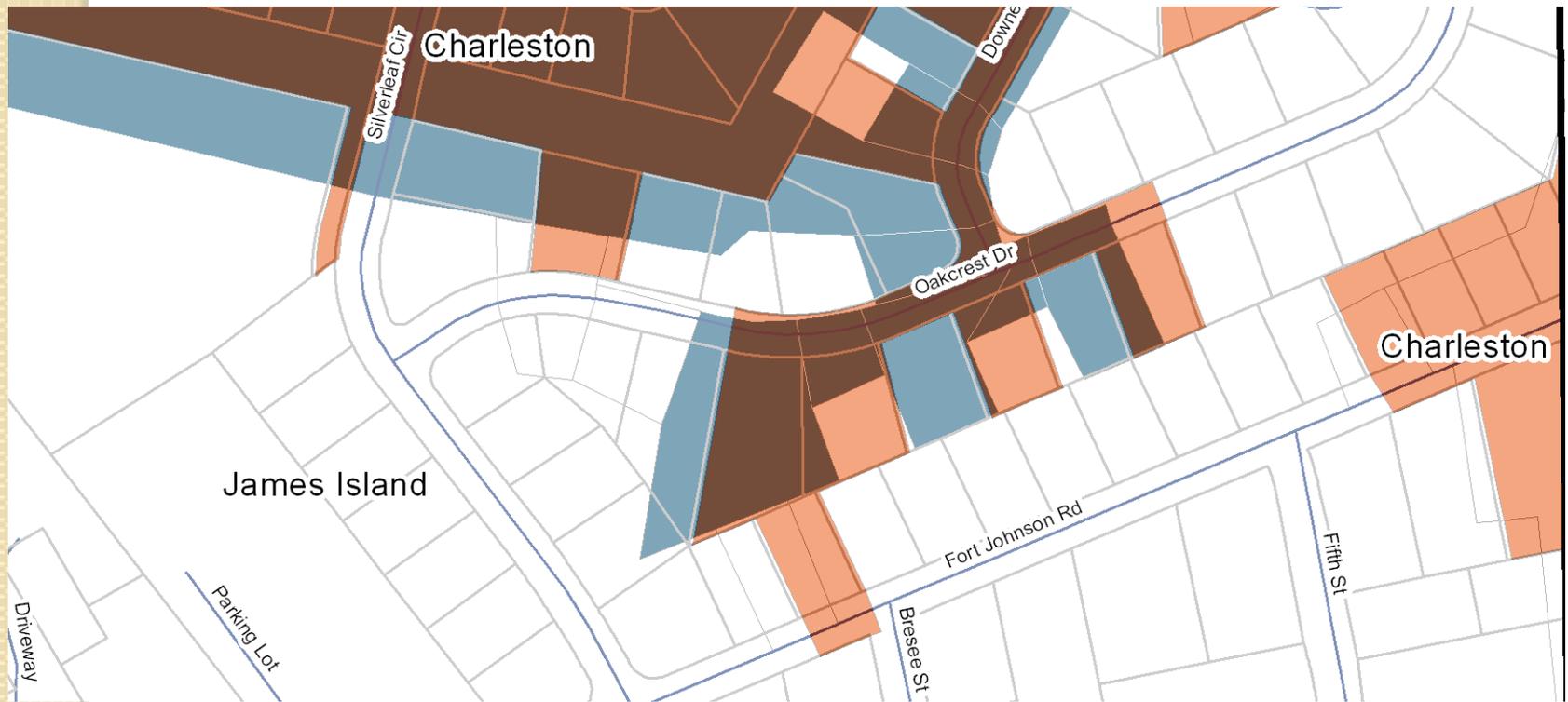
**This polygon should be shifted west to align with parcel**

# Potential Source Of Problem



Mis-matches  
due to rotation,  
translation, and  
scaling errors?

# Polygon Overlay to Find Errors

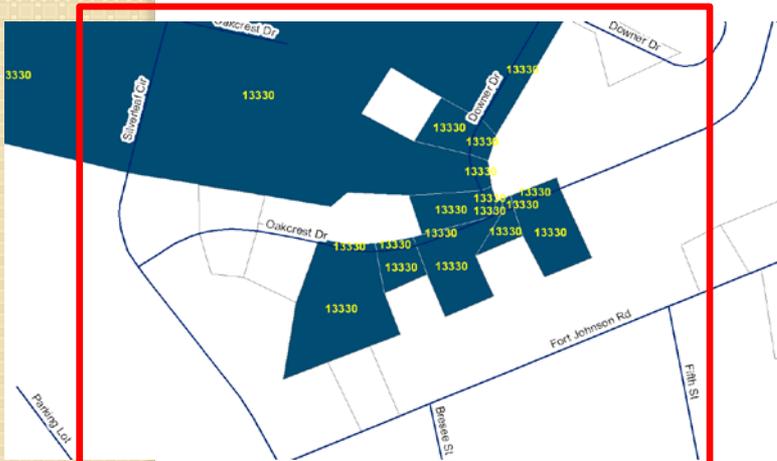


# Comparison – Core Logic matches County



Core Logic – with Parcels

County Official



Census



Census with Parcels

# Working Hypotheses That are of Interest to the Geography Division

- Parcels:
  - are required to accurately represent many municipal boundaries
  - ***can generate centroids that are a excellent representation of many structure points***
  - can be used to separate public and private land which is important for validation
  - can be used to generate road centerlines
  - can be dissolved to create many meaningful polygons

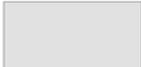
# Advantages

- Can be generated automatically
- Ensure that the point actually falls inside the correct property containing the dwelling
- Ensure that the points have maximum separation

# Parcel Geometry

## Parcels

### Legend

 Parcels



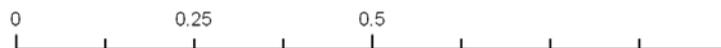
# Parcels Provide a Good Background for Examination of Many TIGER Features

## TIGER Powerlines, Roads, Tabulation Blocks With Parcels



### Legend

- TIGER Powerlines
- █ 2010 Tabulation Block
- Tiger\_Roads



# Loudoun County VA Parcel Types

NB: Few water, couple Multiple tax #, many adjacent

## Parcel Type

### Legend

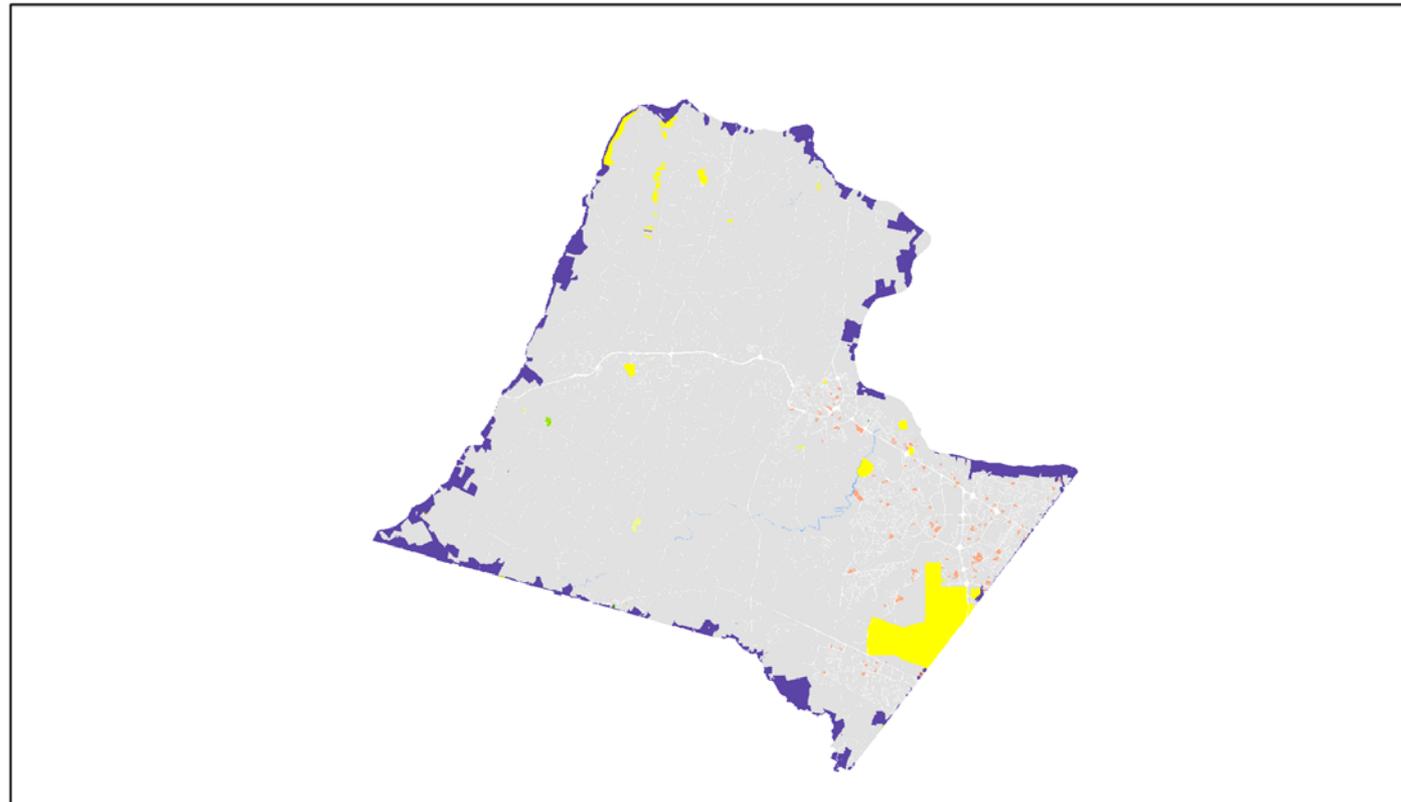
#### Parcels

<all other values>

#### PA\_TYPE

-  <all other values>
-  <all other values>
-  Another county tax
-  B- adjacent
-  Condo
-  Multiple tax #
-  Parcel
-  T
-  U
-  Water

World Boundaries and Places  
World Transportation  
World Imagery  
Low-Resolution (15m) Imagery



0 5 10 20 Miles

# Zoom of Loudoun County Parcel Types

## Parcel Type

### Legend

#### Parcels

<all other values>

#### PA\_TYPE

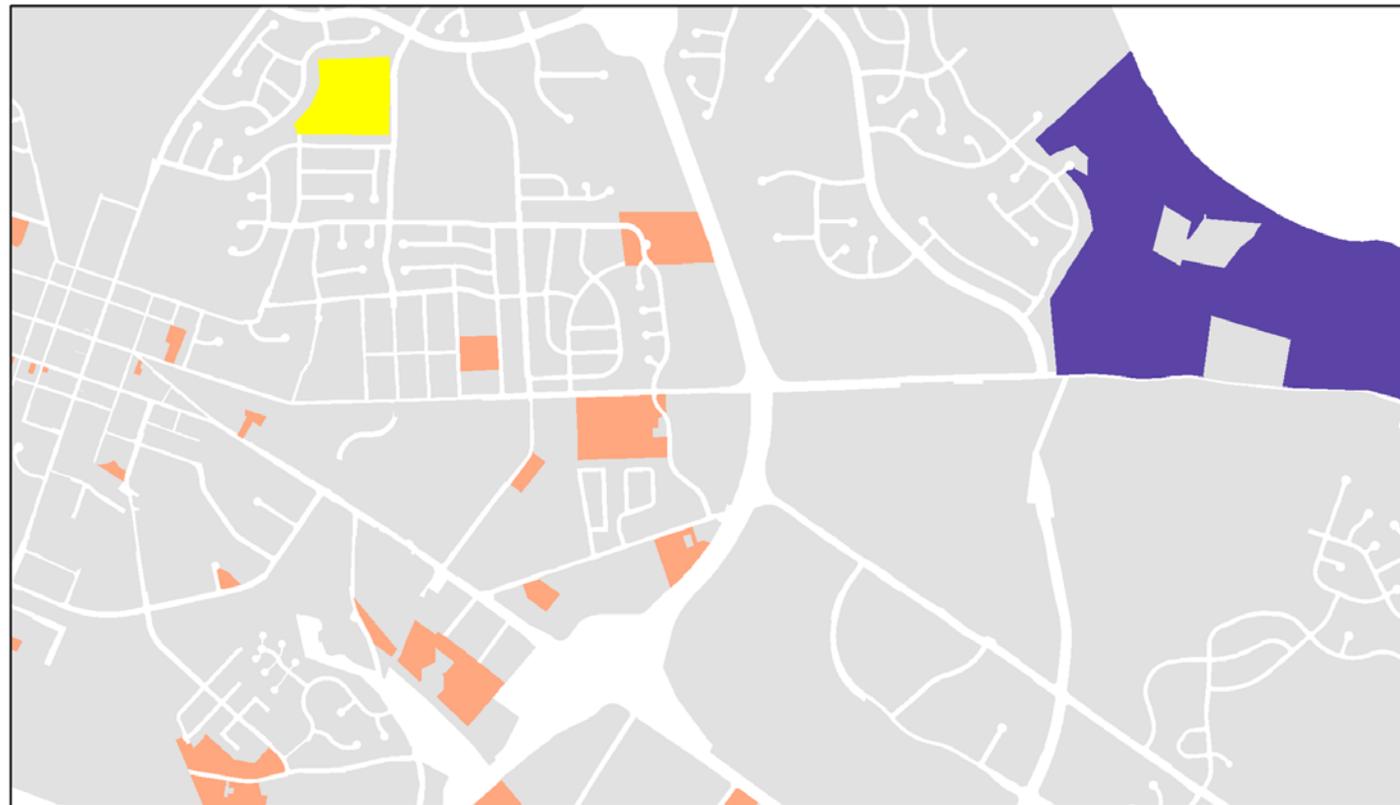
- 
- 
- Another county tax
- B- adjacent
- Condo
- Multiple tax #
- Parcel
- T
- U
- Water

World Boundaries and Places

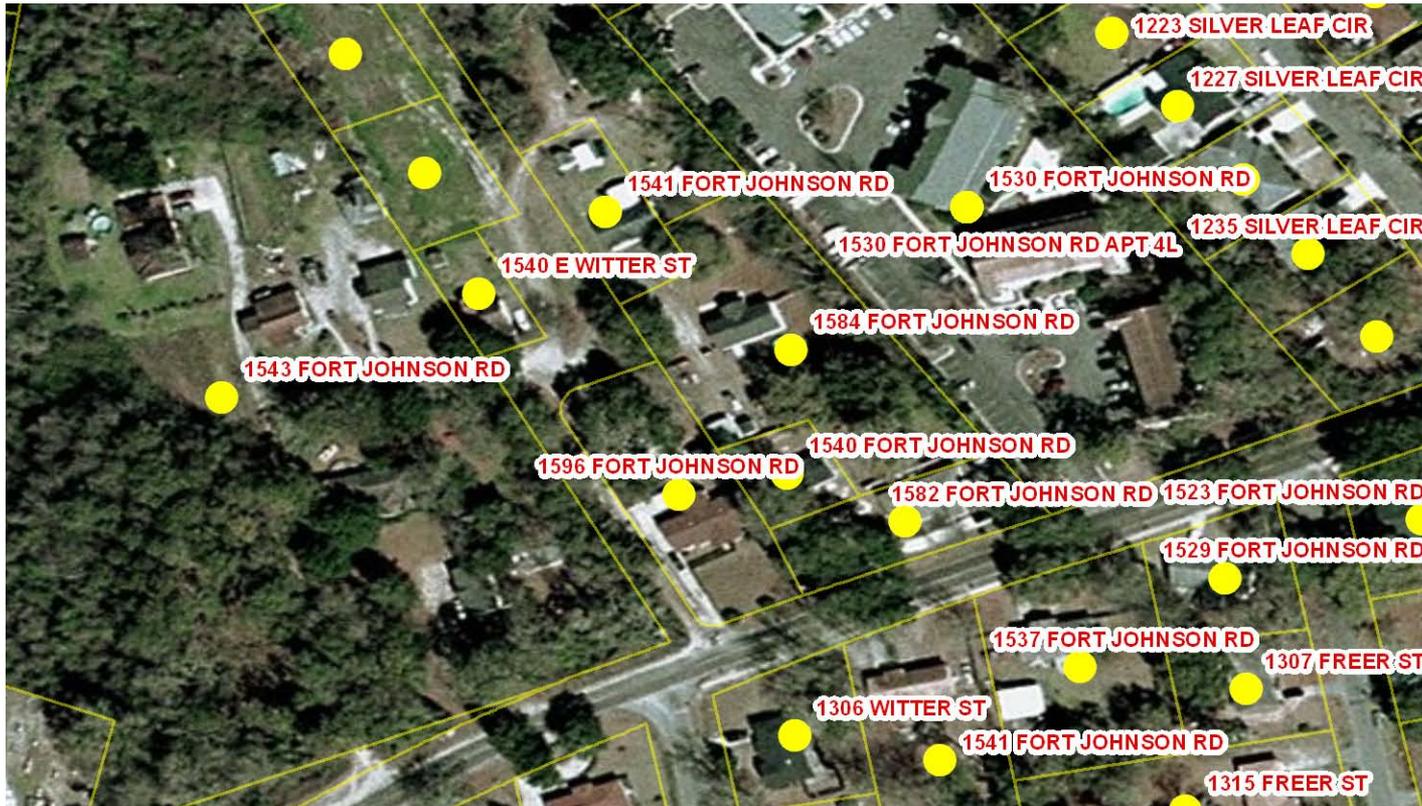
World Transportation

World Imagery

Low-Resolution (15m) Imagery



# Core Logic Provided Address Points – Parcel Centroids



\* No U.S. Census Bureau Title 13 data was used in this slide



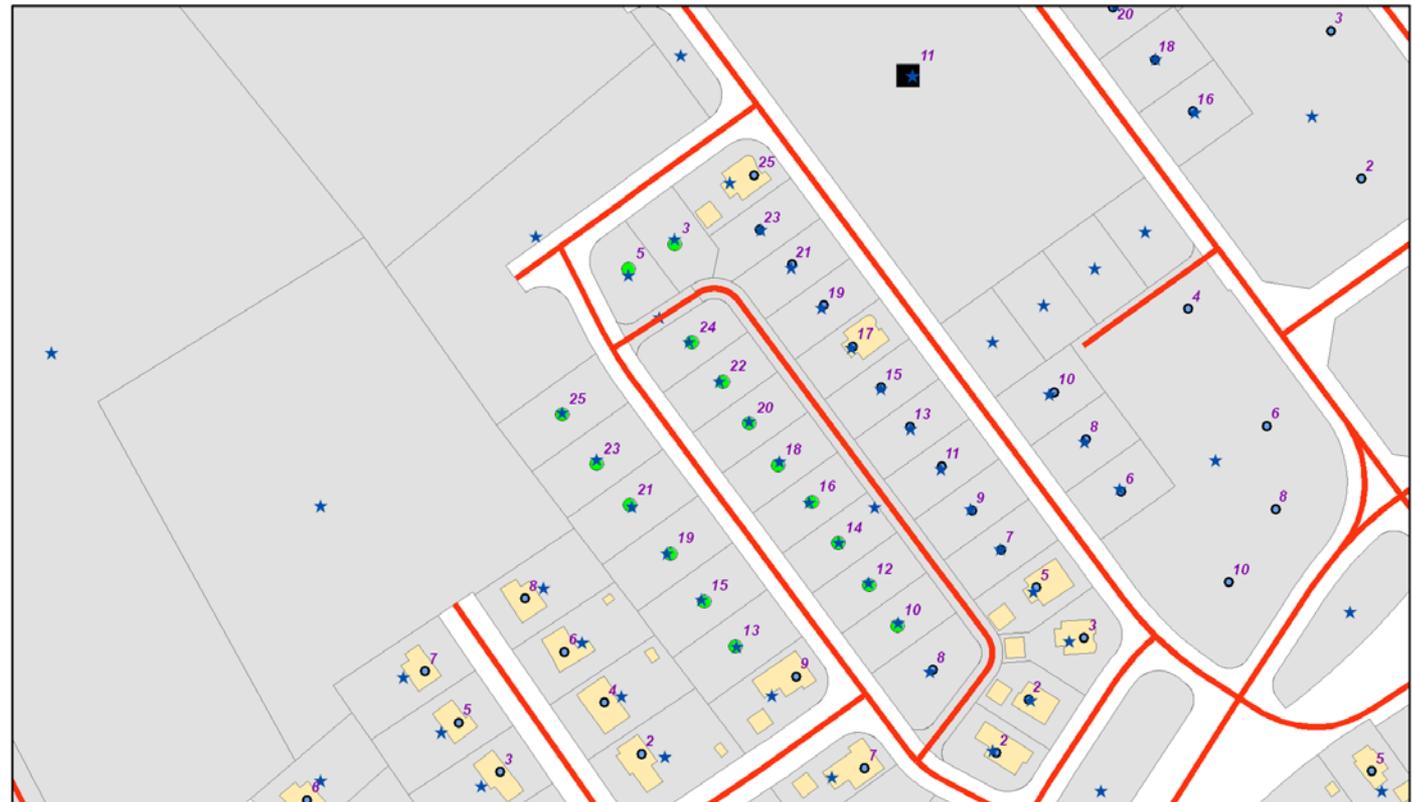
# Parcel Centroids Generated by Polygon to Point Feature – NB: for undeveloped parcels matches with address point (Loudoun County provided data)

\* No U.S. Census Bureau Title 13 data was used in this slide

Parcel Centroid = Address Point for Undeveloped

## Legend

- Centerlines
- Parcel Centroid
- Address Point
  - <all other values>
- AD\_USE
  - <Null>
  - C
  - M
  - O
  - R
- Buildings
- Parcels



0 0.035 0.07 0.14 Miles

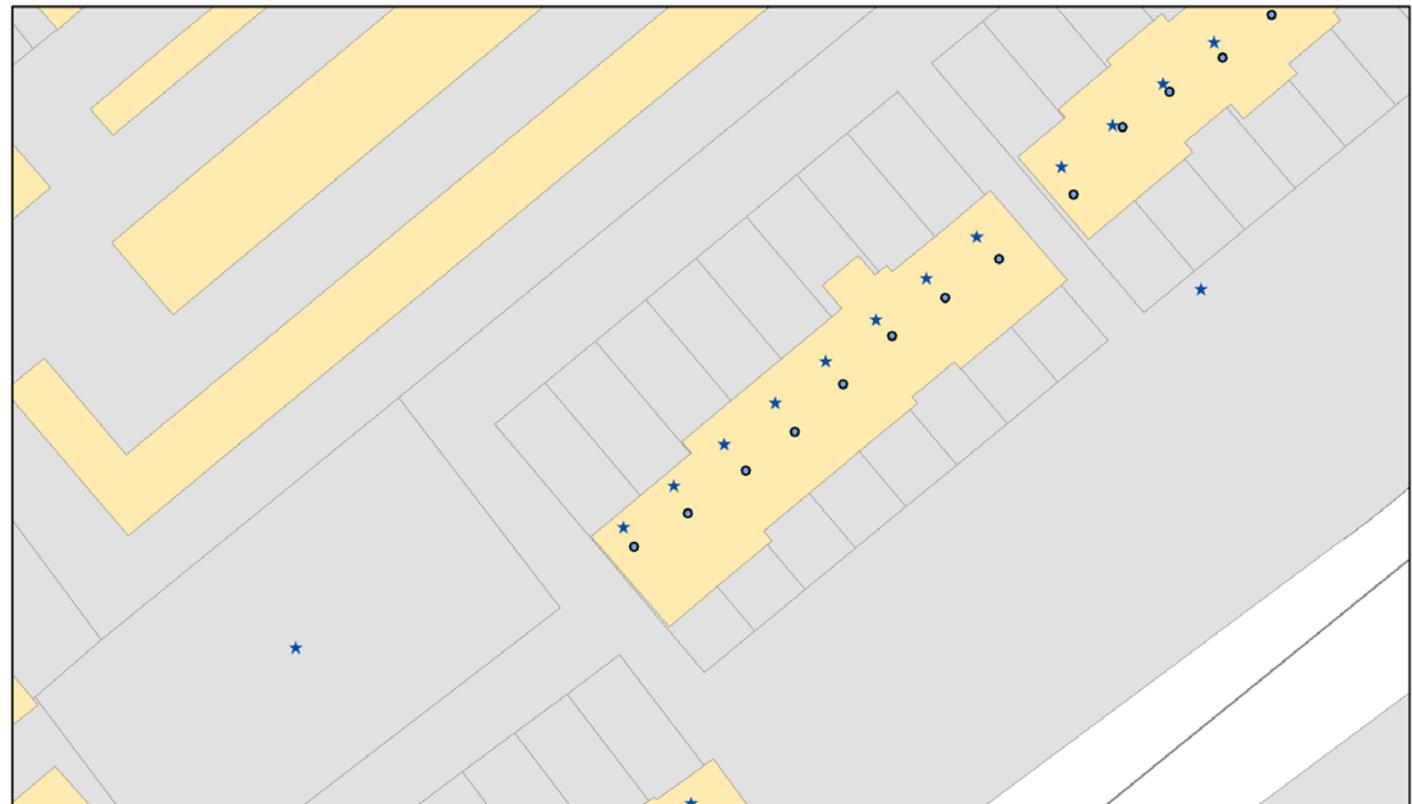
# Example of a Single Building with multiple tax parcels – e.g. Row houses (Loudoun County Provided Data)

\* No U.S. Census Bureau Title 13 data was used in this slide

Loudoun County Parcel Data

## Legend

- Centerlines
- Parcel Centroid
- Address Point
  - <all other values>
- AD\_USE
  - <Null>
  - C
  - M
  - O
  - R
- Buildings
- Parcels



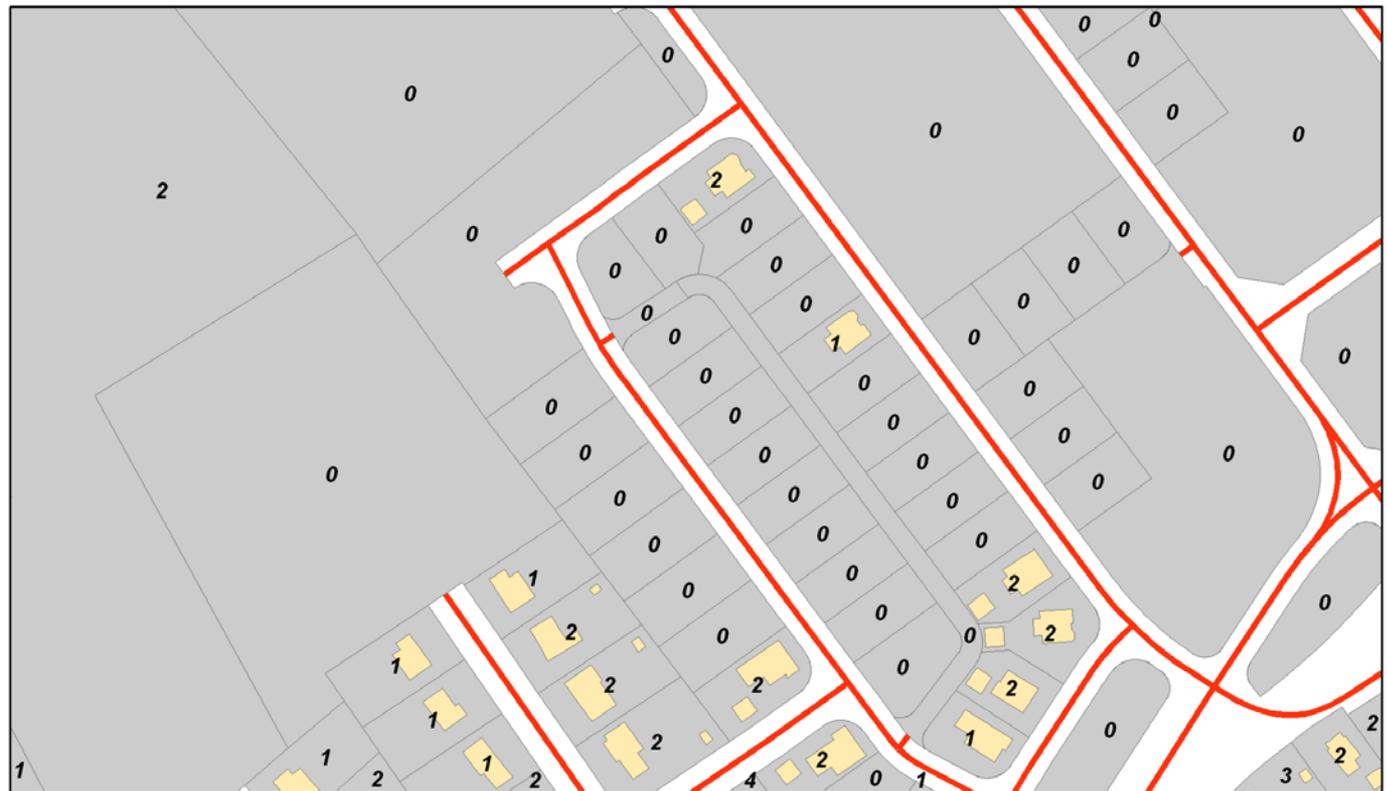
0 0.005 0.01 0.02 Miles

# Spatial Join of Building Polygons to Parcels Count is Automatically Generated – Should be surrogate for “improved”

Number of Buildings Per Parcel

**Legend**

-  Buildings
-  Parcels With Buildings
-  Centerlines



0 0.035 0.07 0.14 Miles

# Working Hypotheses That are of Interest to the Geography Division

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# Dissolved Parcels With Unique Number Generated by Creating a New Field and copying the FID

## Dissolved Parcels



0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Miles

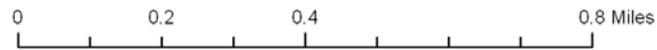
# Non Parcel Areas

Union of A Single County Polygon used to generate attributes for these null areas

## Legend

- Parcels
- nonparcel

## Parcels and Non Parcels



# Comparison of 2010 Tabulation Blocks with Dissolved Parcels and “non parcel areas” (Loudoun County Provided Data)

\* No U.S. Census Bureau Title 13 data was used in this slide

## Tabulation Blocks

### Legend

 2010 Tabulation Block

 Dissolved Parcels

 -1

 study area

 Parcels

### Address Point

 <all other values>

### AD\_USE

 <Null>



 C

 M

 O

 R



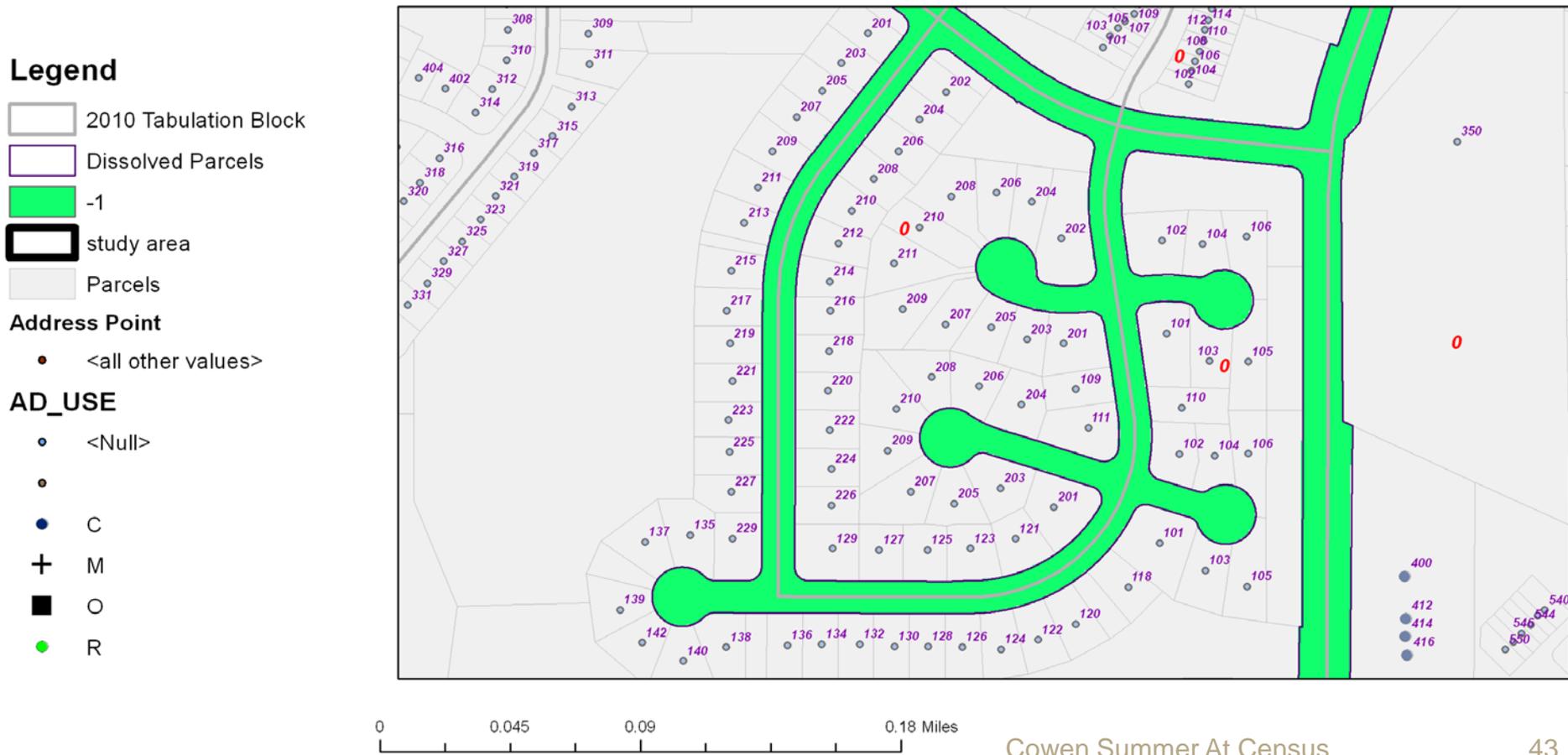
0 0.045 0.09 0.18 Miles



# Tabulation Blocks Compared with Dissolved parcels and Non Parcel polygons (Loudoun County Provided Data)

\* No U.S. Census Bureau Title 13 data was used in this slide

## Tabulation Blocks



# TIGER Roads that intersect parcels with address points (Loudoun County Provided Data)

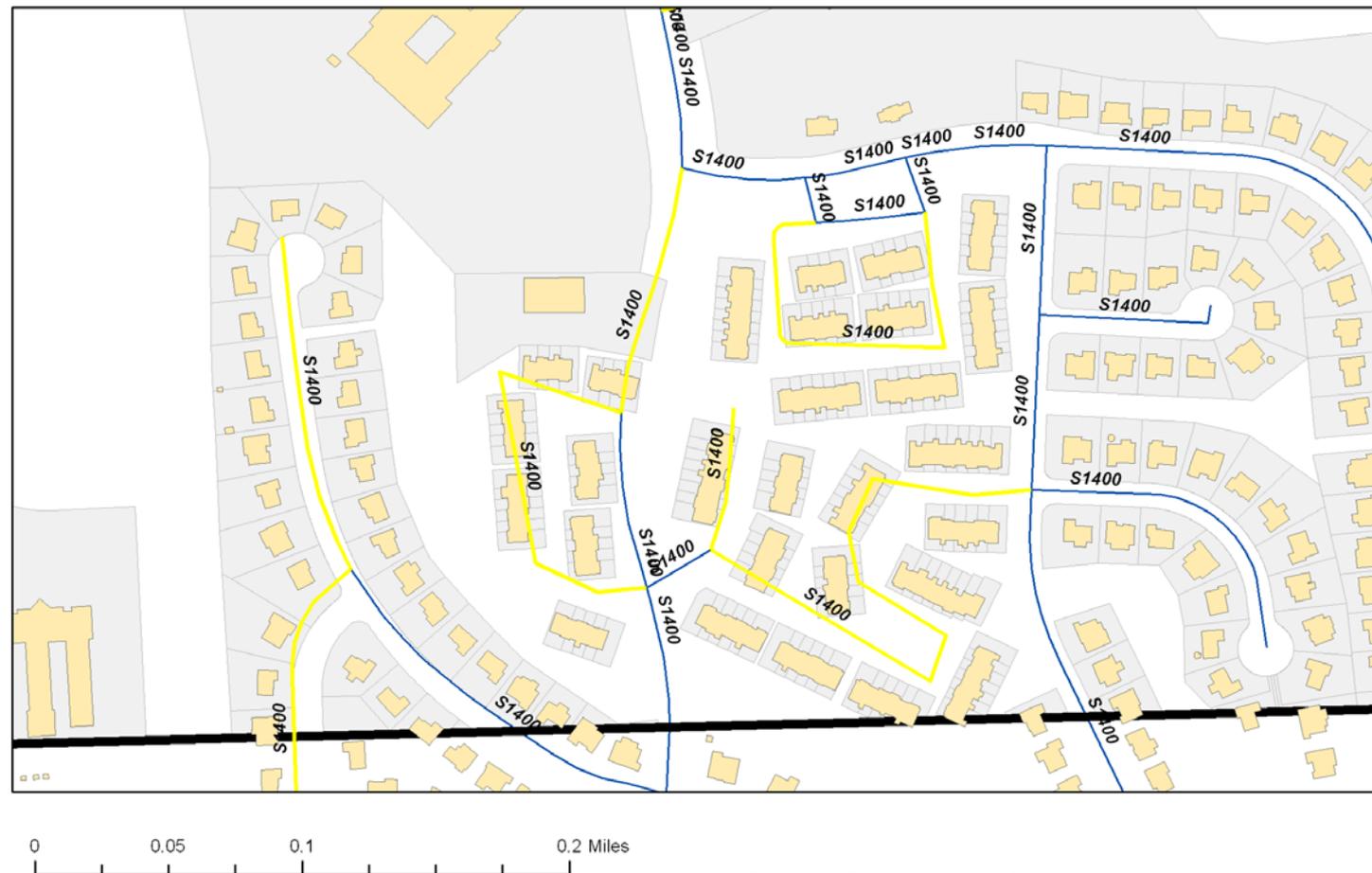
\* No U.S. Census Bureau Title 13 data was used in this slide

## TIGER Roads Intersecting Parcels With Address Pts



TIGER Roads that intersect parcels with address points –  
These are errors that should be corrected

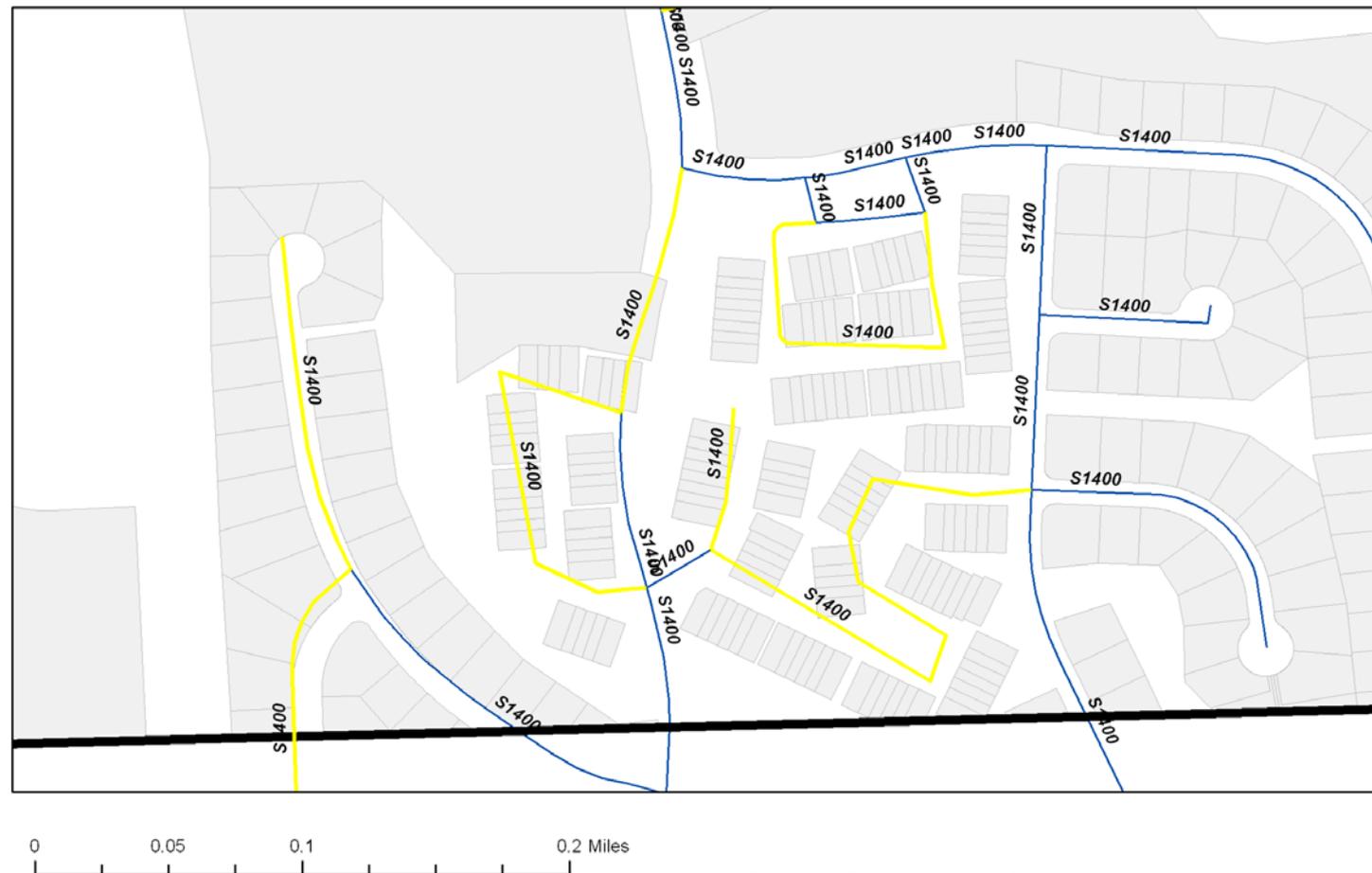
## TIGER Roads Intersecting Parcels With Address Pts



# TIGER Roads that intersect parcels with address points

– These are errors that should be corrected

## TIGER Roads Intersecting Parcels With Address Pts



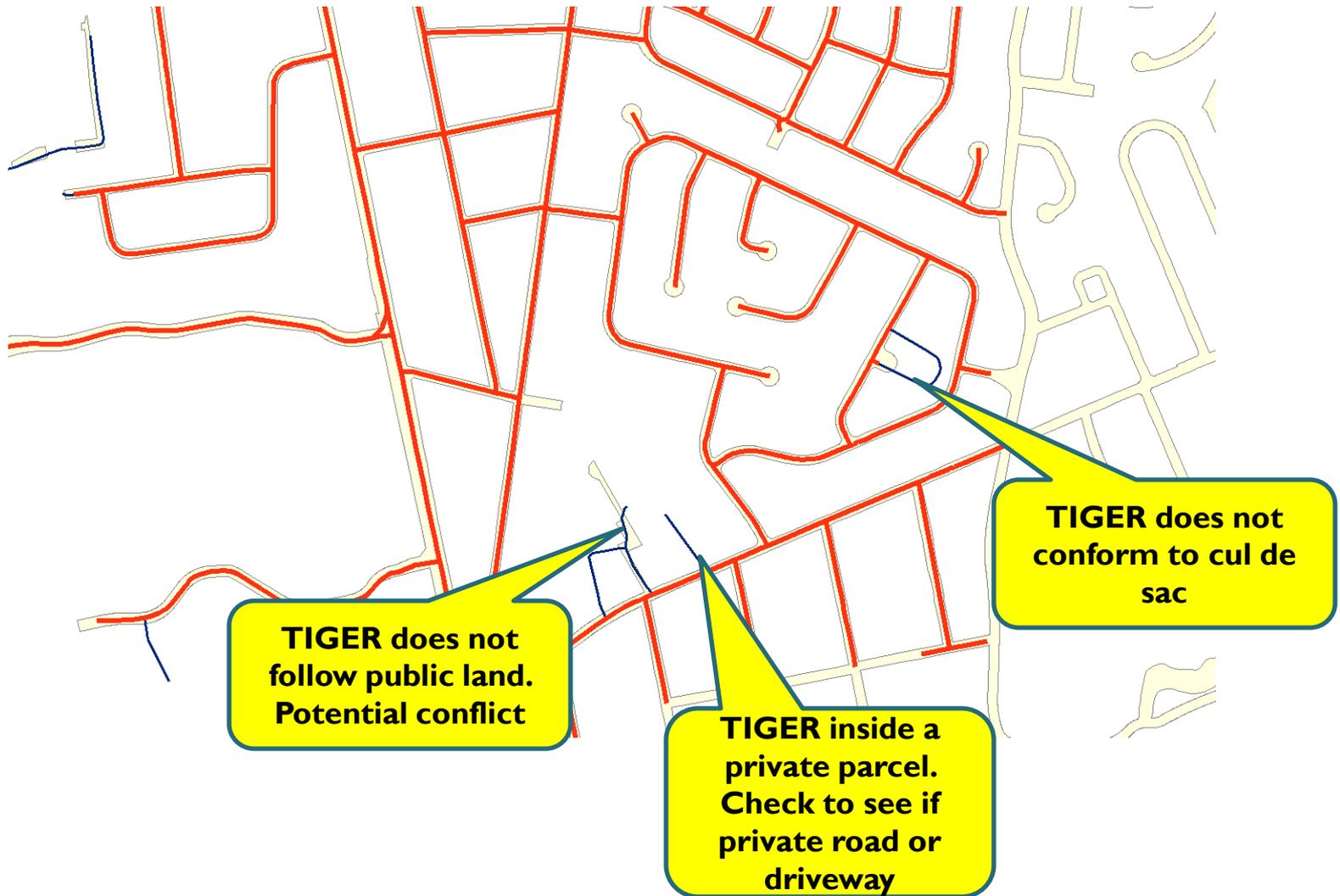
# TIGER Roads that intersect parcels with address points – These are errors that should be corrected

## TIGER Roads Intersecting Parcels With Address Pts



0 0.04 0.08 0.16 Miles

# TIGER Segments not in agreement with public



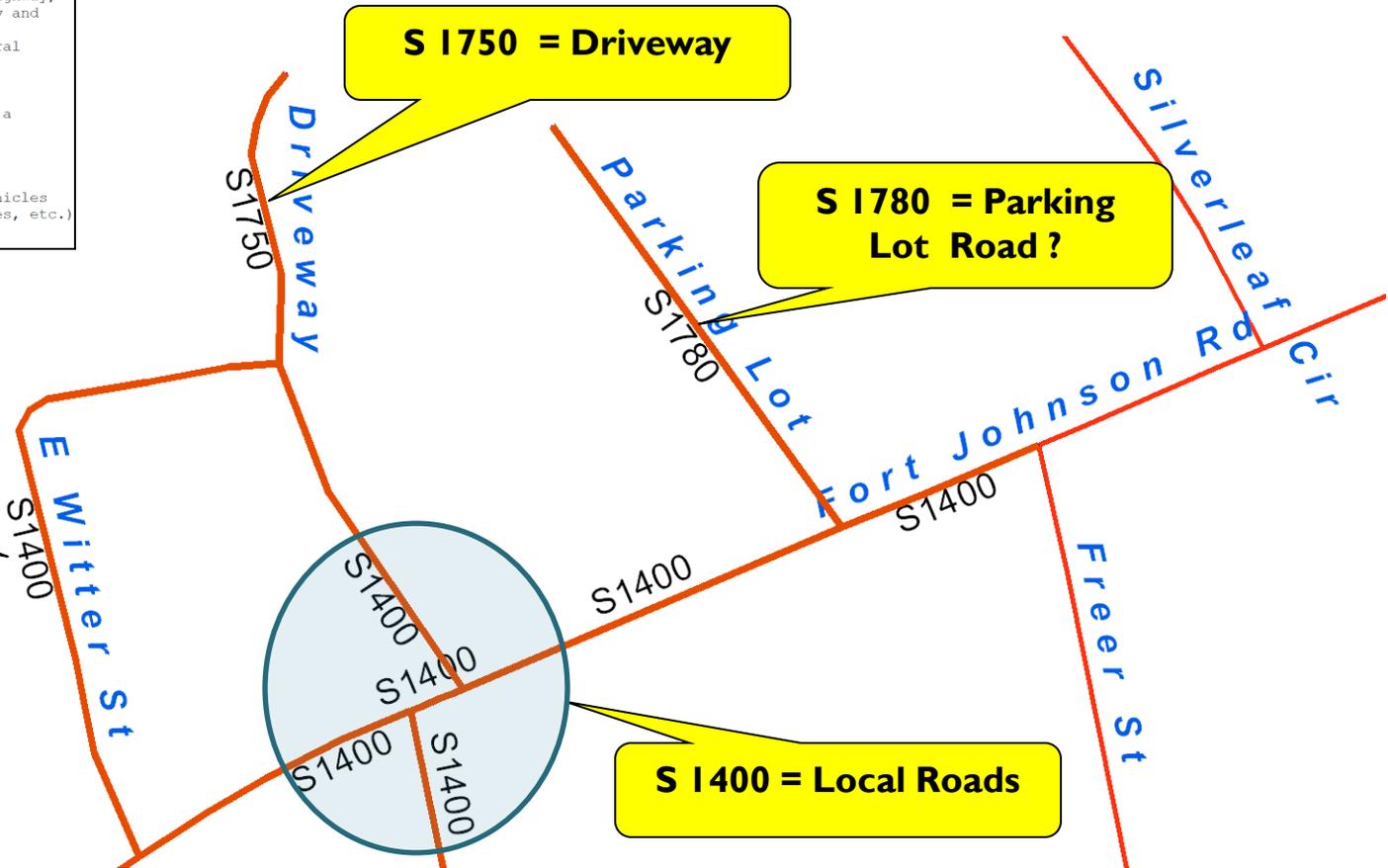
# Problem I



# Is this a local road?

ROAD FEATURES	
MTFCC	FEATURE NAME
S1100	Interstate Highway or Primary Road with limited access
S1200	Primary Road without limited access, US Highway, State Highway, or County Highway, Secondary and connecting roads
S1400	Local Neighborhood Road, Rural Road, City Street
S1500	Vehicular Trail (4WD)
S1630	Ramp
S1640	Service Drive usually along a limited access highway
S1710	Walkway/Pedestrian Trail
S1720	Stairway
S1730	Alley
S1740	Private Road for service vehicles (logging, oil fields, ranches, etc.)
S1750	Private Driveway

Is this a local road ?





# Problem 2: Cul de Sac

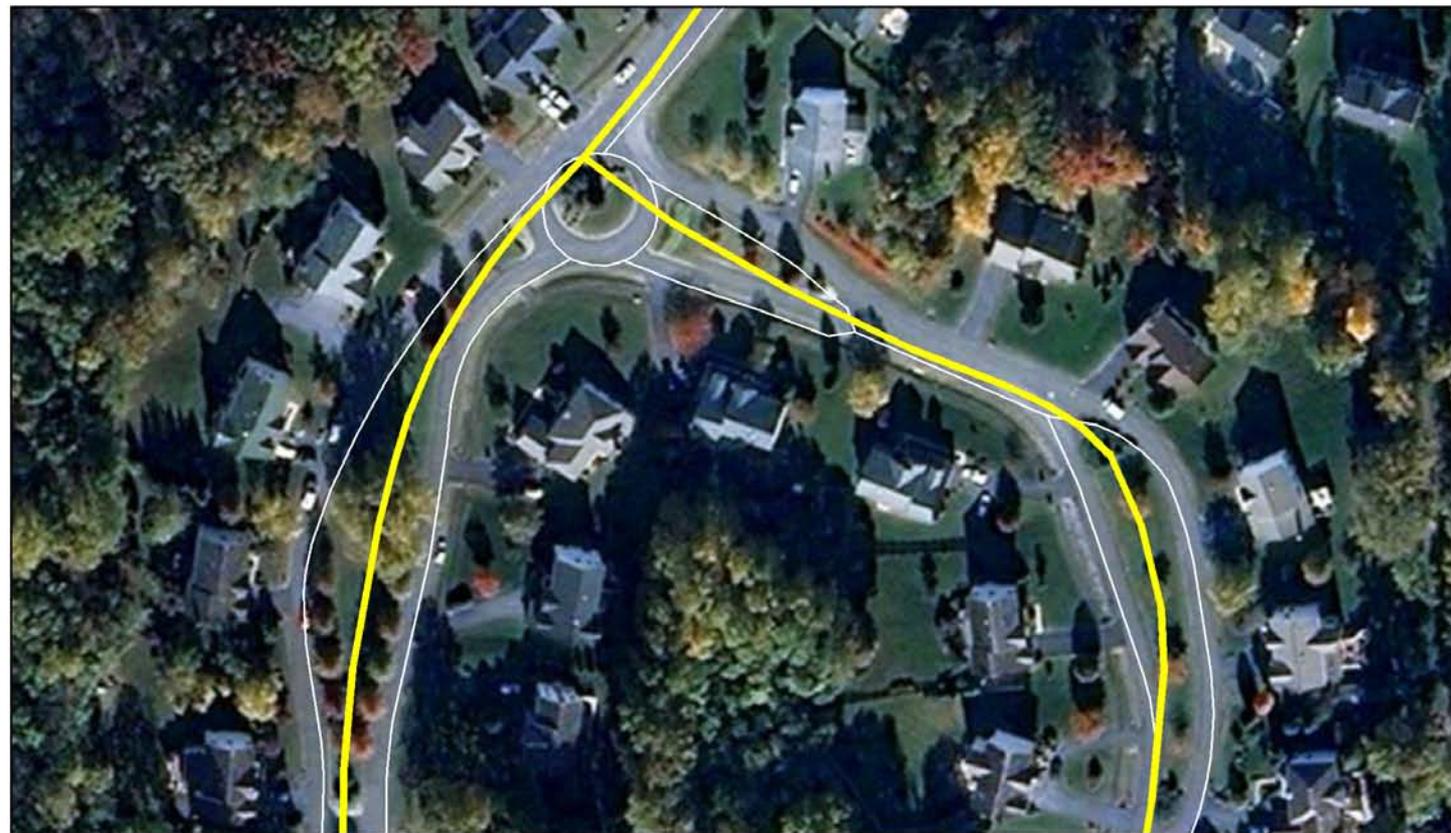
**Charleston 911 – Orange  
TIGER - Navy**



**Note ESRI basemap  
is correct.  
Charleston 911 and  
TIGER are wrong and  
from the same base**

# Example of How TIGER Requirements Differ from Navigation Requirements

## TIGER Roads Compared to Loudoun Centerlines



### Legend

- study area
- Tiger\_Roads
- Loudoun Centerlines

0 0.02 0.04 0.08 Miles

# Working Hypotheses That are of Interest to the Geography Division

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  - can be dissolved to create many meaningful polygons

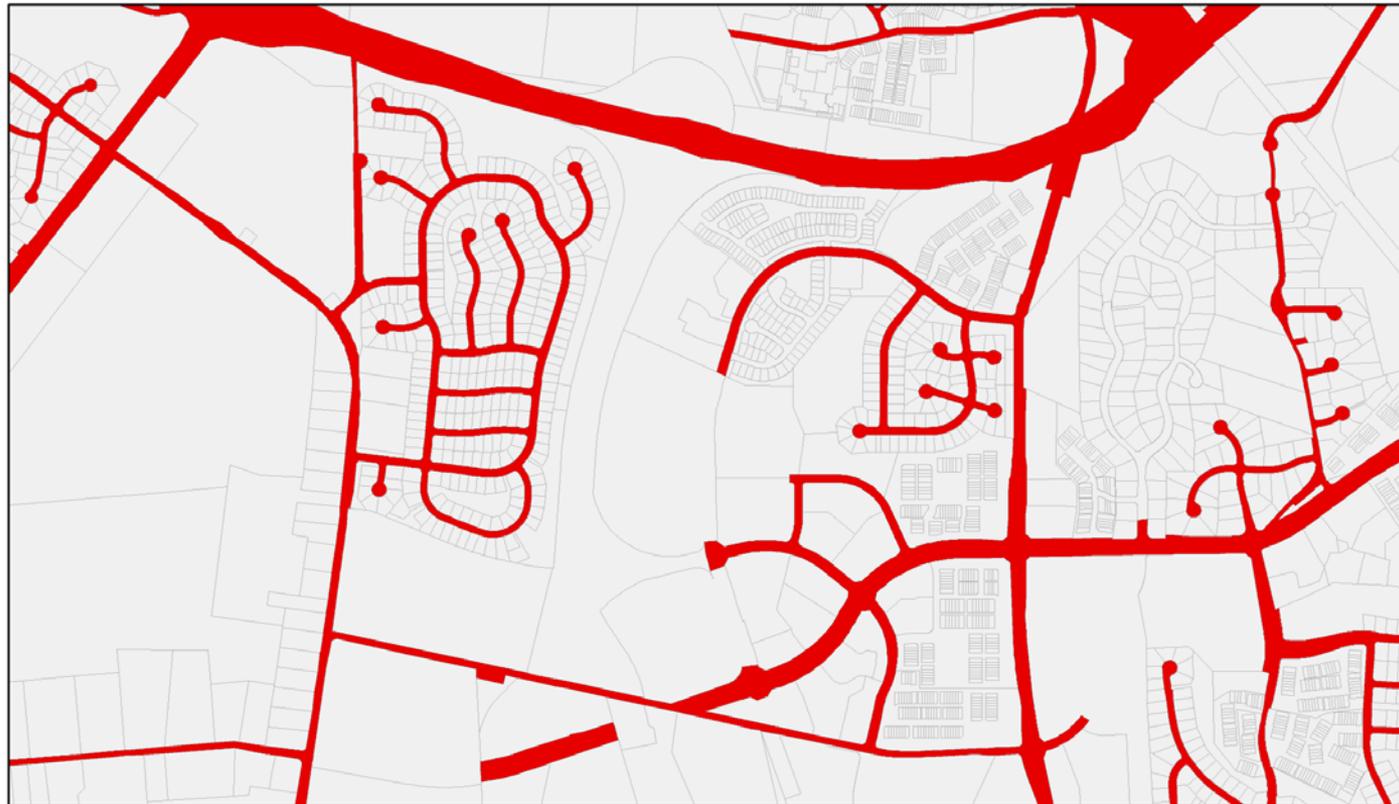
# Non Parcel Areas

Union of A Single County Polygon used to generate attributes for these null areas

## Legend

- Parcels
- nonparcel

## Parcels and Non Parcels

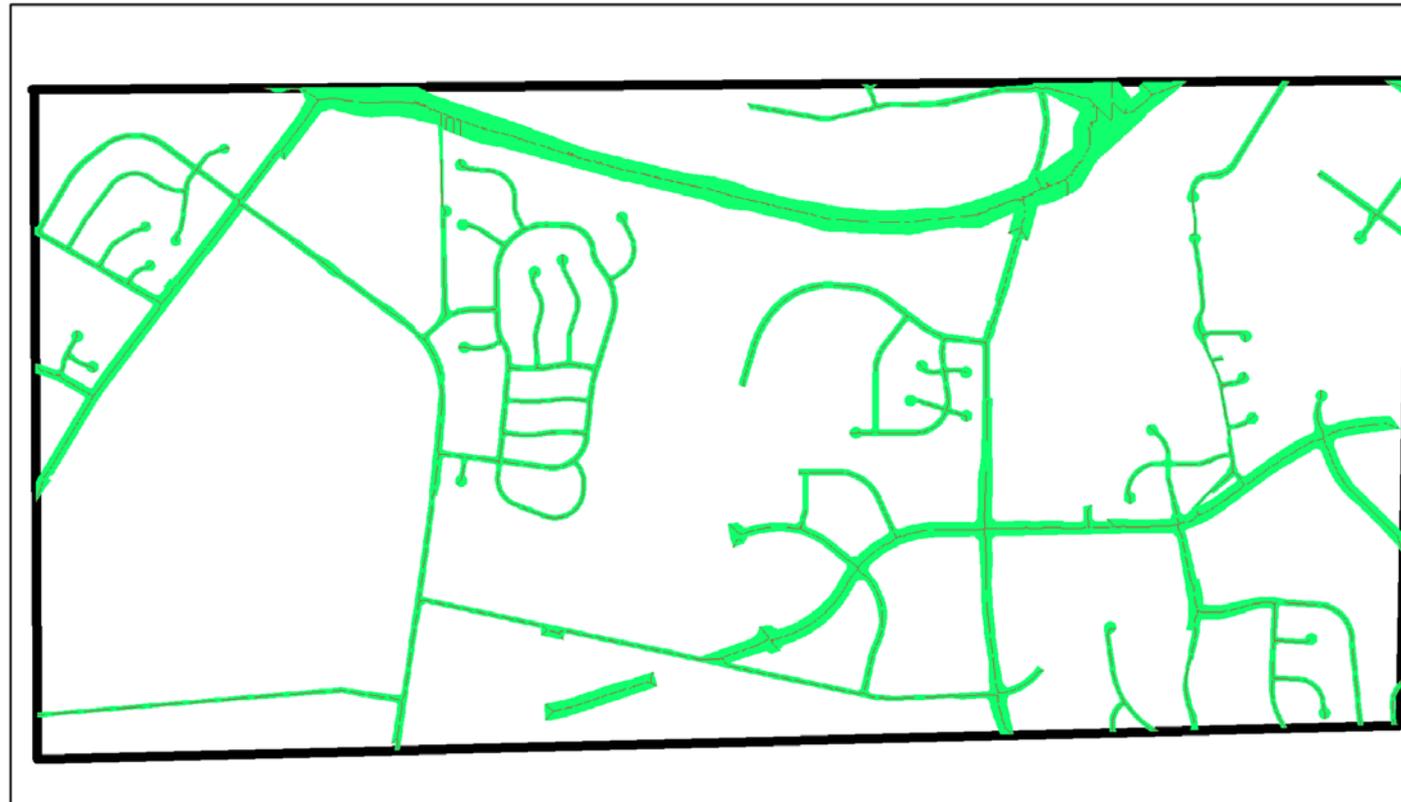
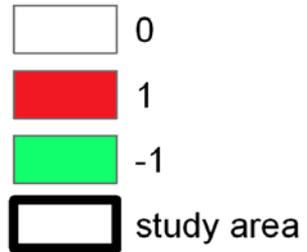


0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles

# Raster Version of Non Parcel areas

## Raster NonParcel

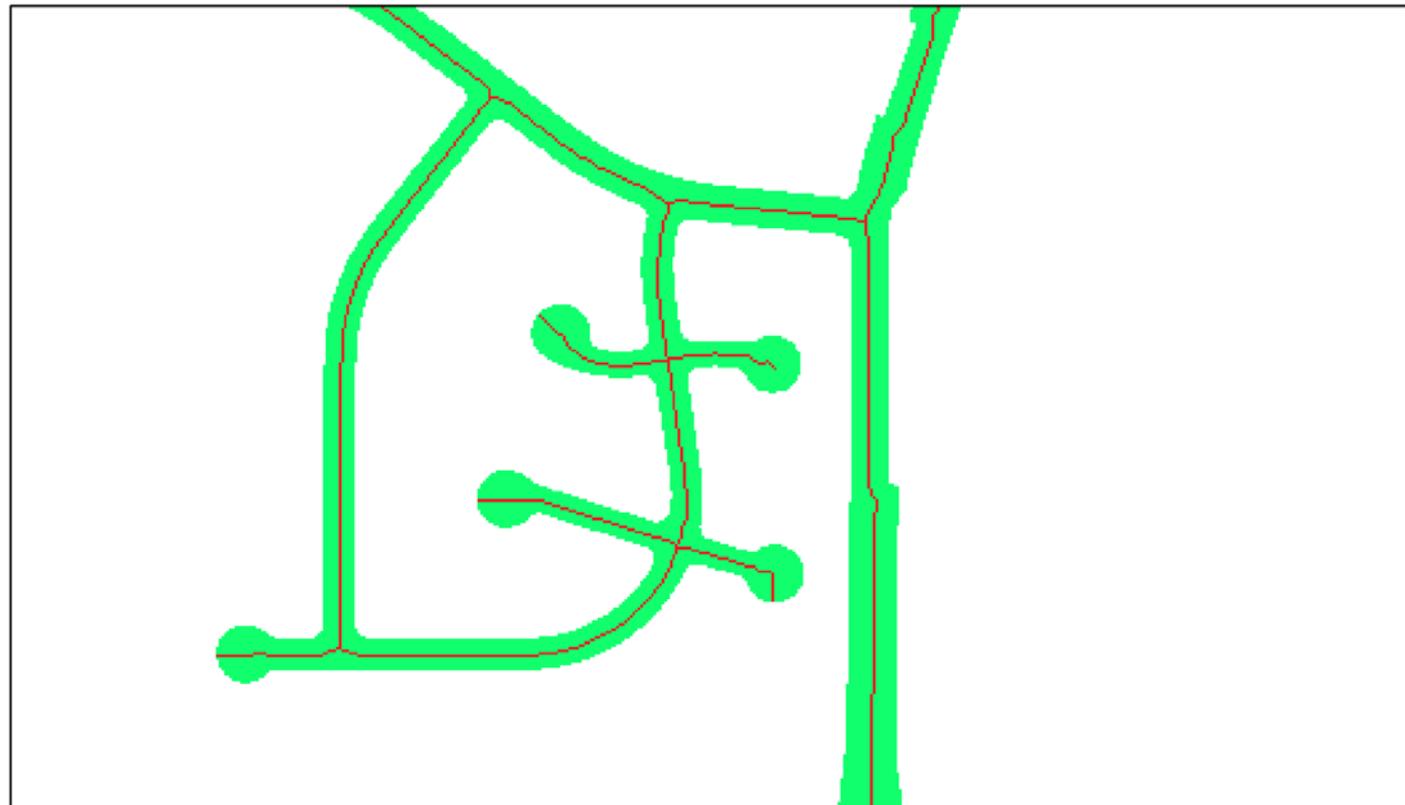
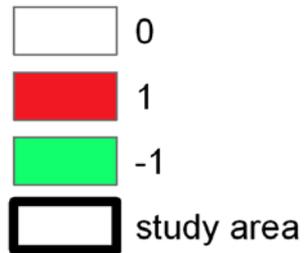
### Legend



# Zoom of Raster of “non parcel” areas with Thinned Raster

## Raster NonParcel - Zoom

### Legend



# Raster to Vector – Non Generalized

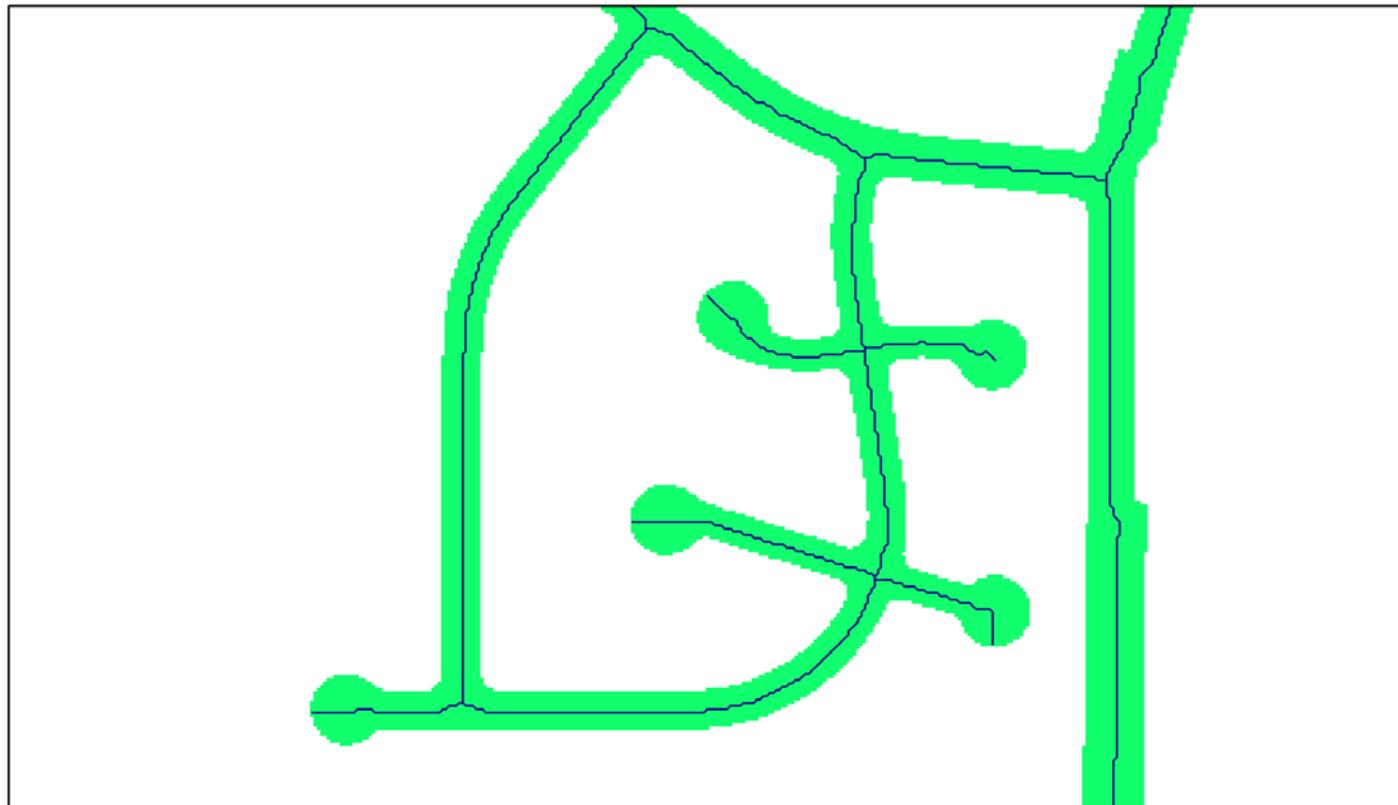
## Raster NonParcel - Vector Non Generalized

### Legend

— vector2

■ -1

□ study area



0 0.045 0.09 0.18 Miles

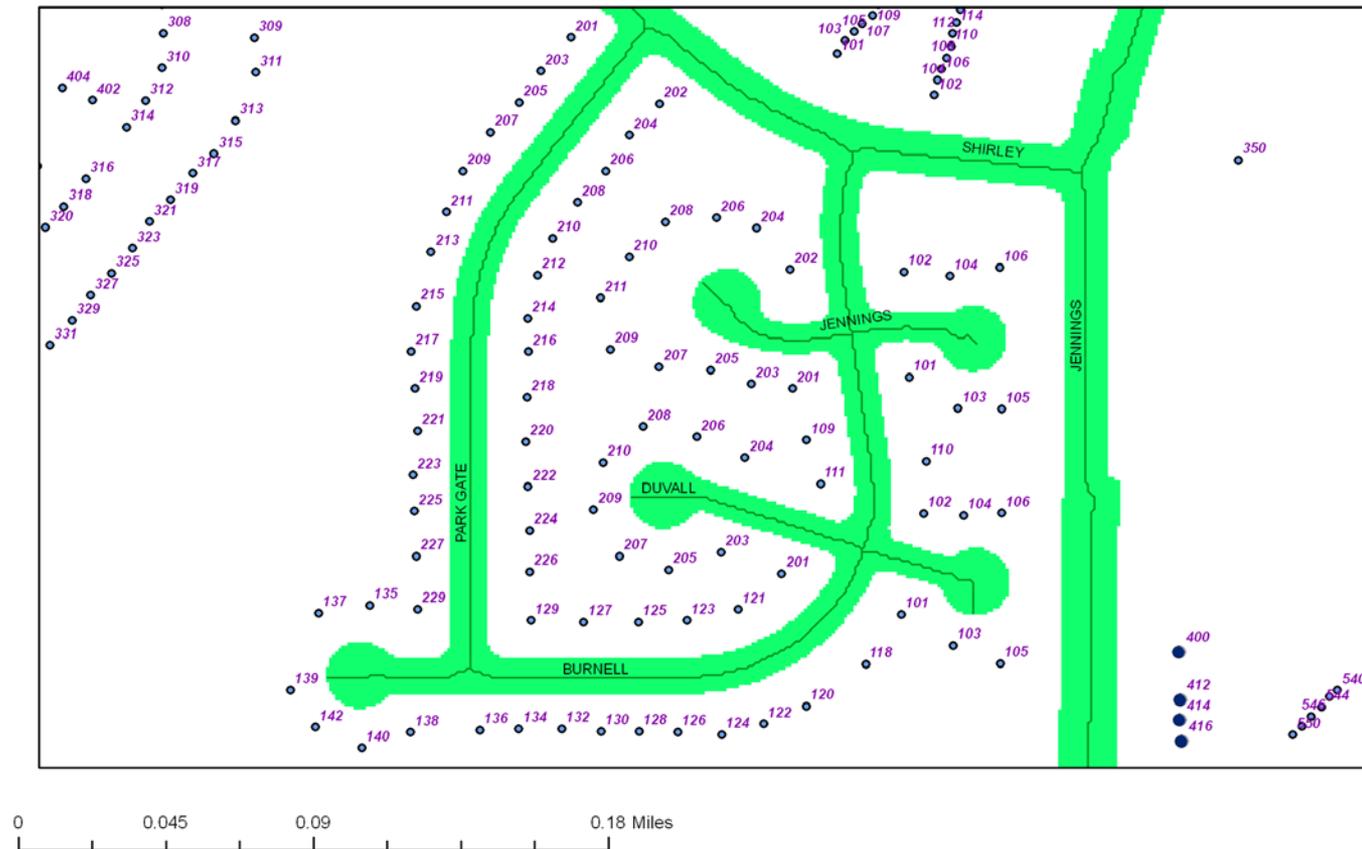
# Vector Names Assigned by Spatial Join to Closest Address Point (Loudoun County Provided Data)

\* No U.S. Census Bureau Title 13 data was used in this slide

## Legend

- roadname
- vector2
- 1
- study area
- Address Point**
- <all other values>
- AD\_USE**
- <Null>
- •
- C
- + M
- O
- R

## Vector Names



# Comparison of TIGER Road Features with non-parcel roads – With Image Service

## TIGER ROADS and NonParcel Roads

### Legend

-  Tiger\_Roads
-  study area
-  World Boundaries and Places
-  World Transportation
-  World Imagery
-  Low-Resolution (15m) Imagery

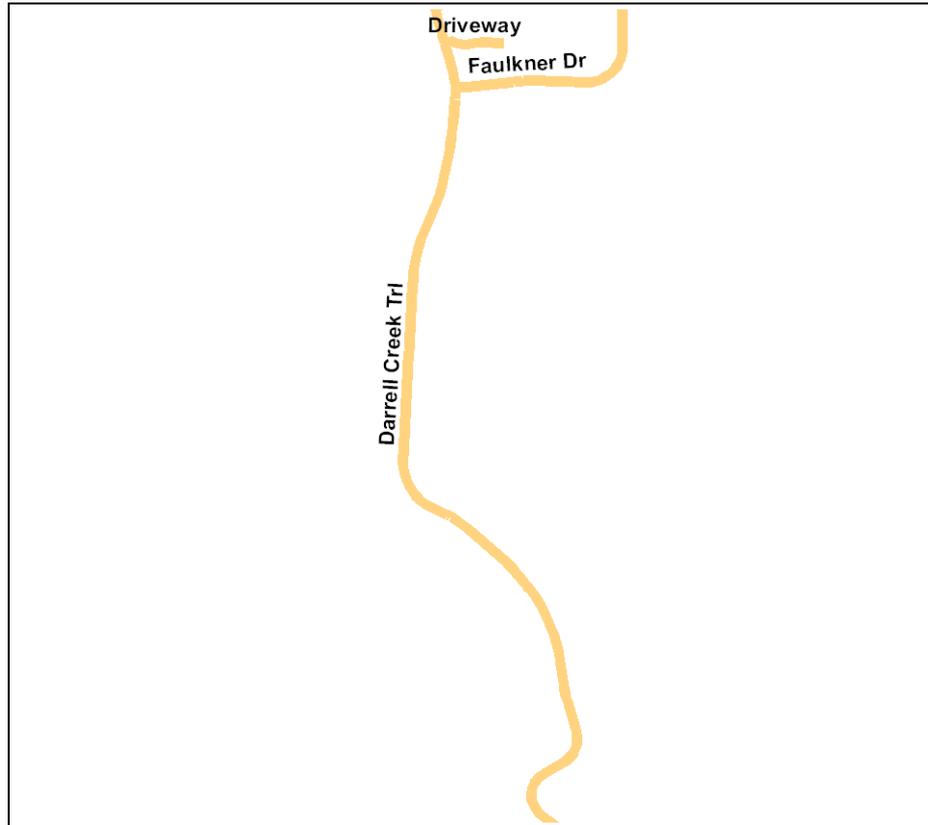


0 0.3 0.6 1.2 Miles

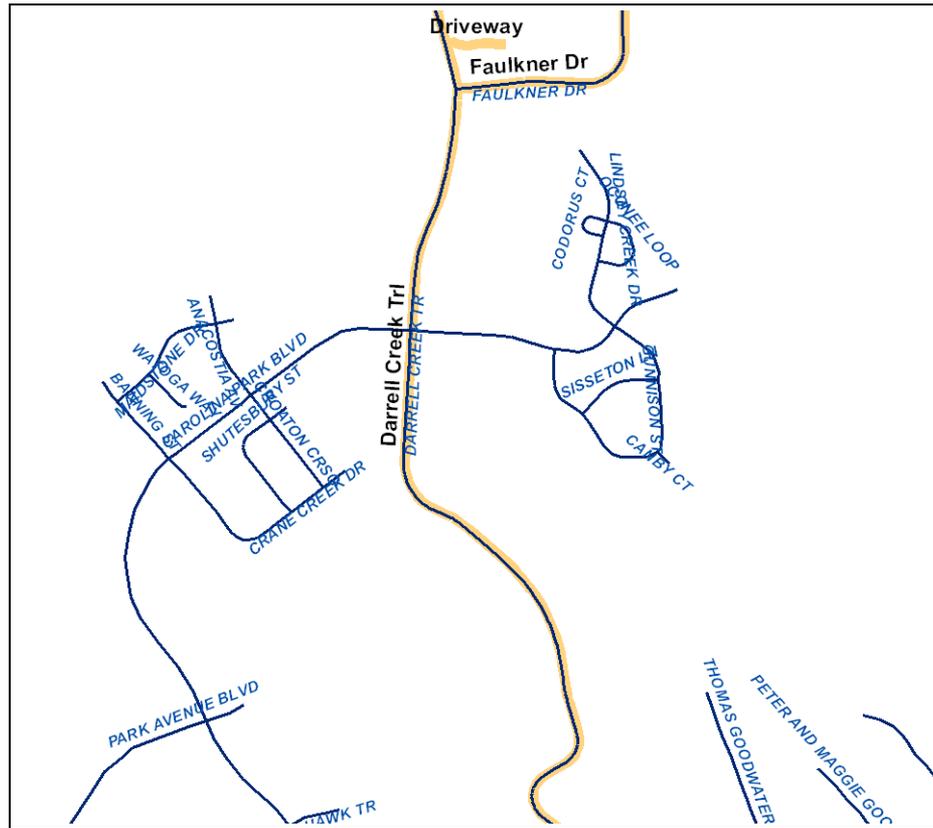


# Discover and Append New Roads

# TIGER

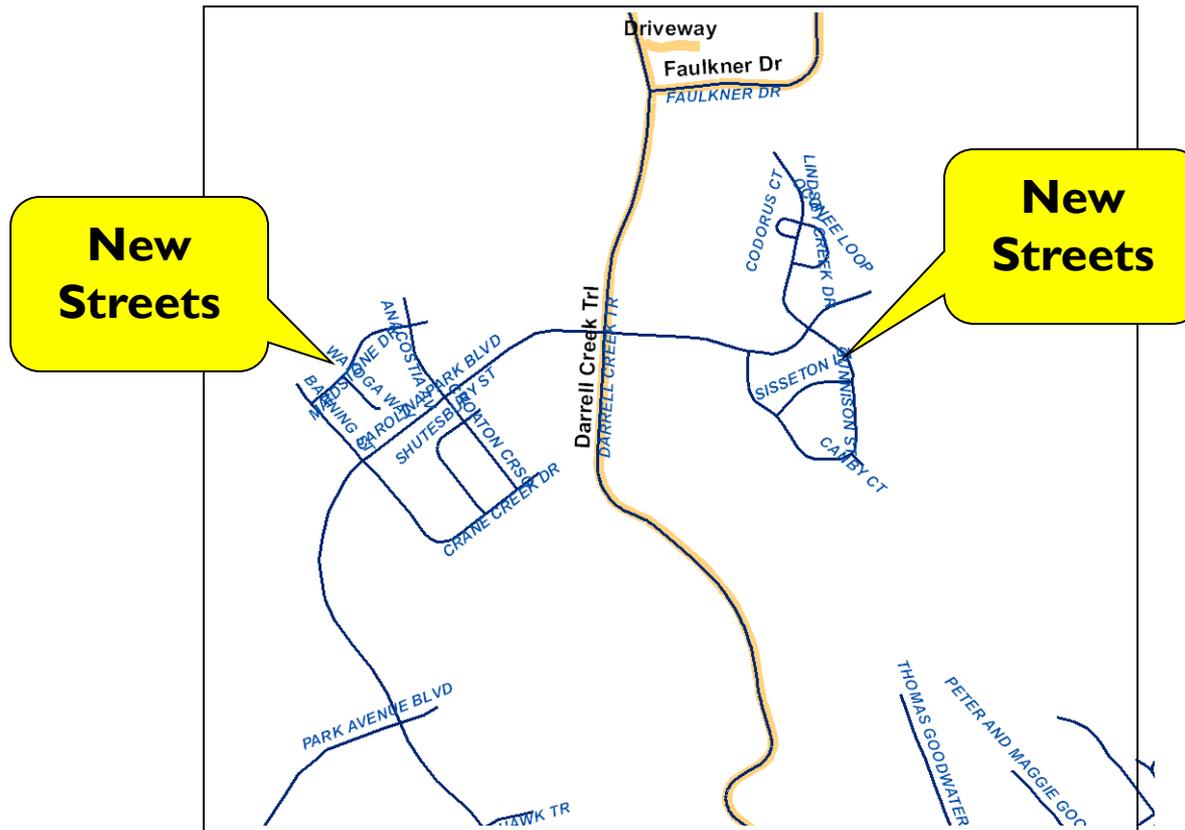


# TIGER & E911 Roads



# TIGER & E911 Roads

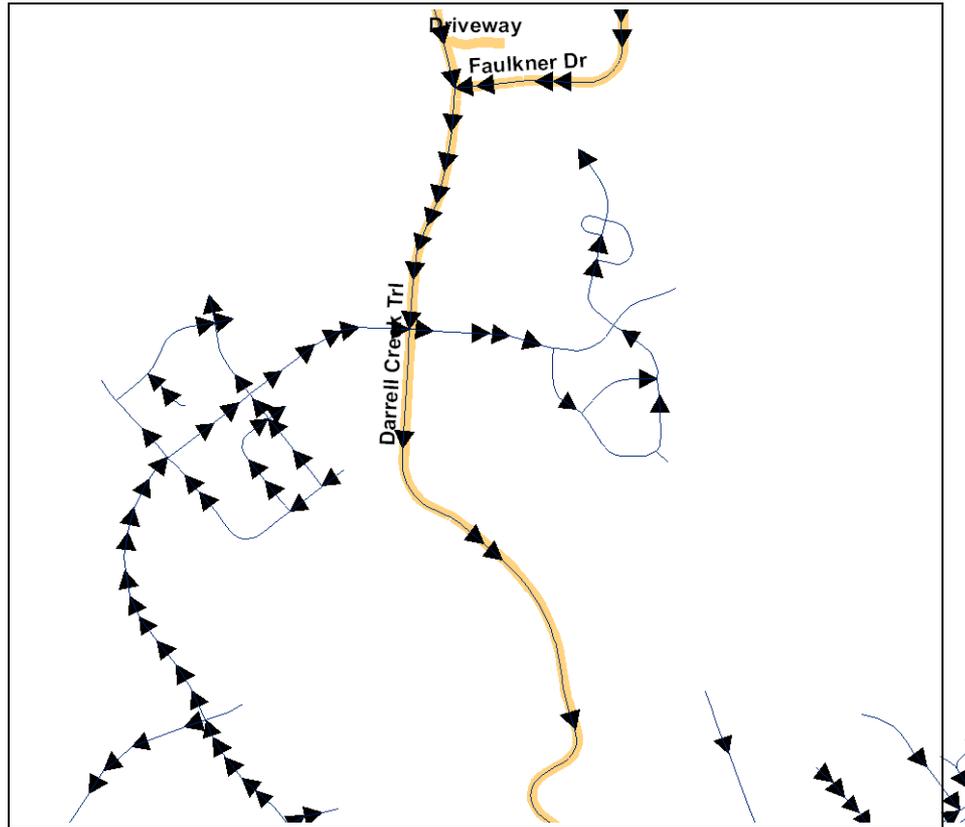
Used for accuracy improvement program



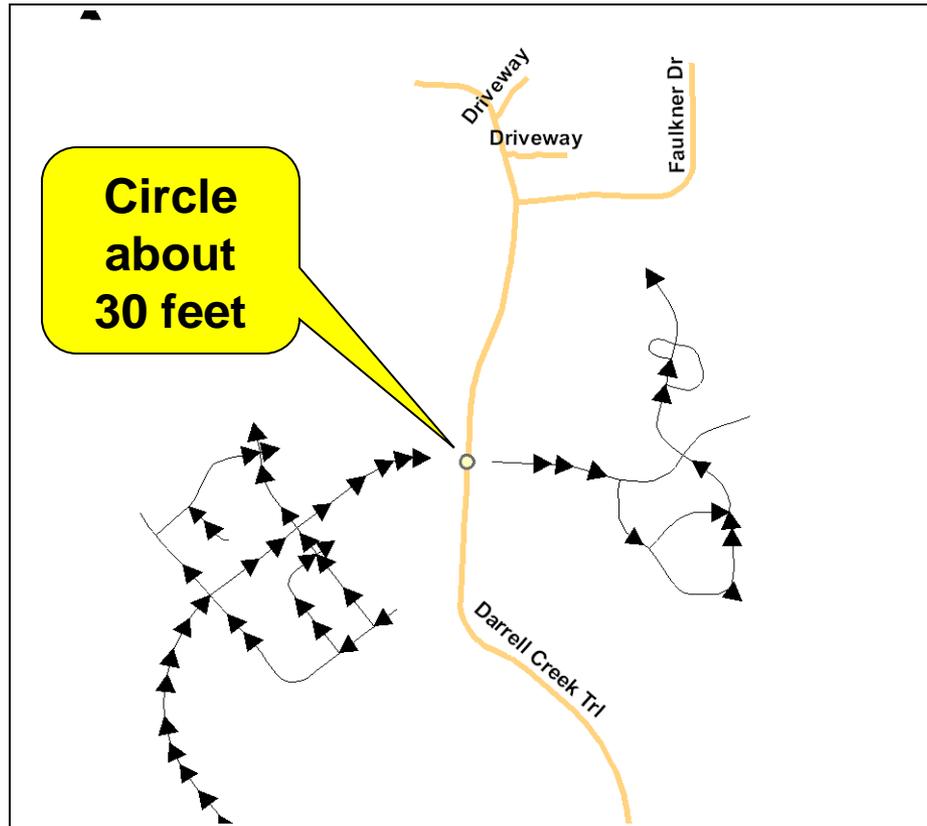
# E911 Decomposed to Vertices



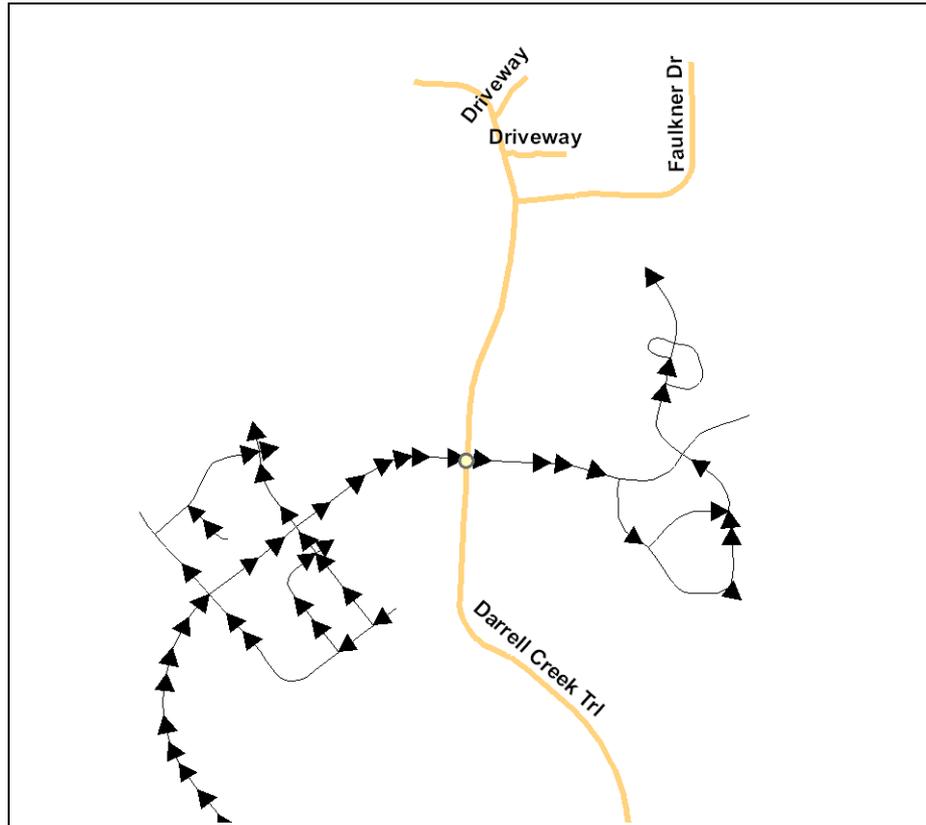
# E911 Segments



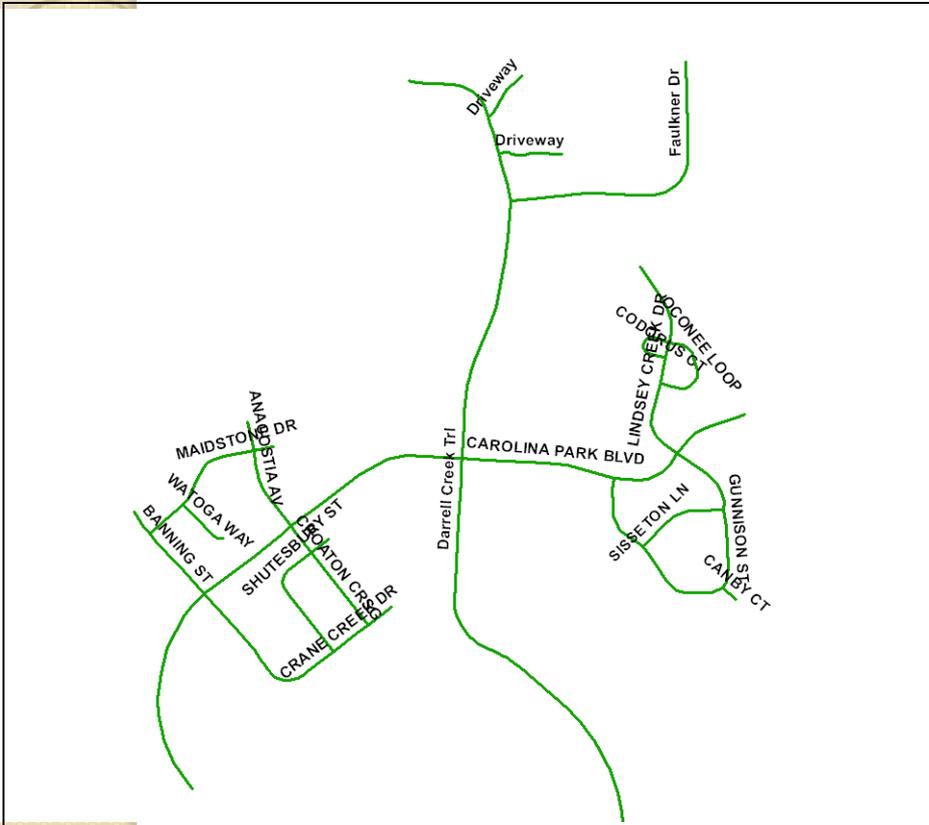
# Segments > 30 Feet From TIGER



Segments added that touch those  $> 30$  feet to complete the new roads



# Appended TIGER



## Attributes Also Appended

Table

appendedx

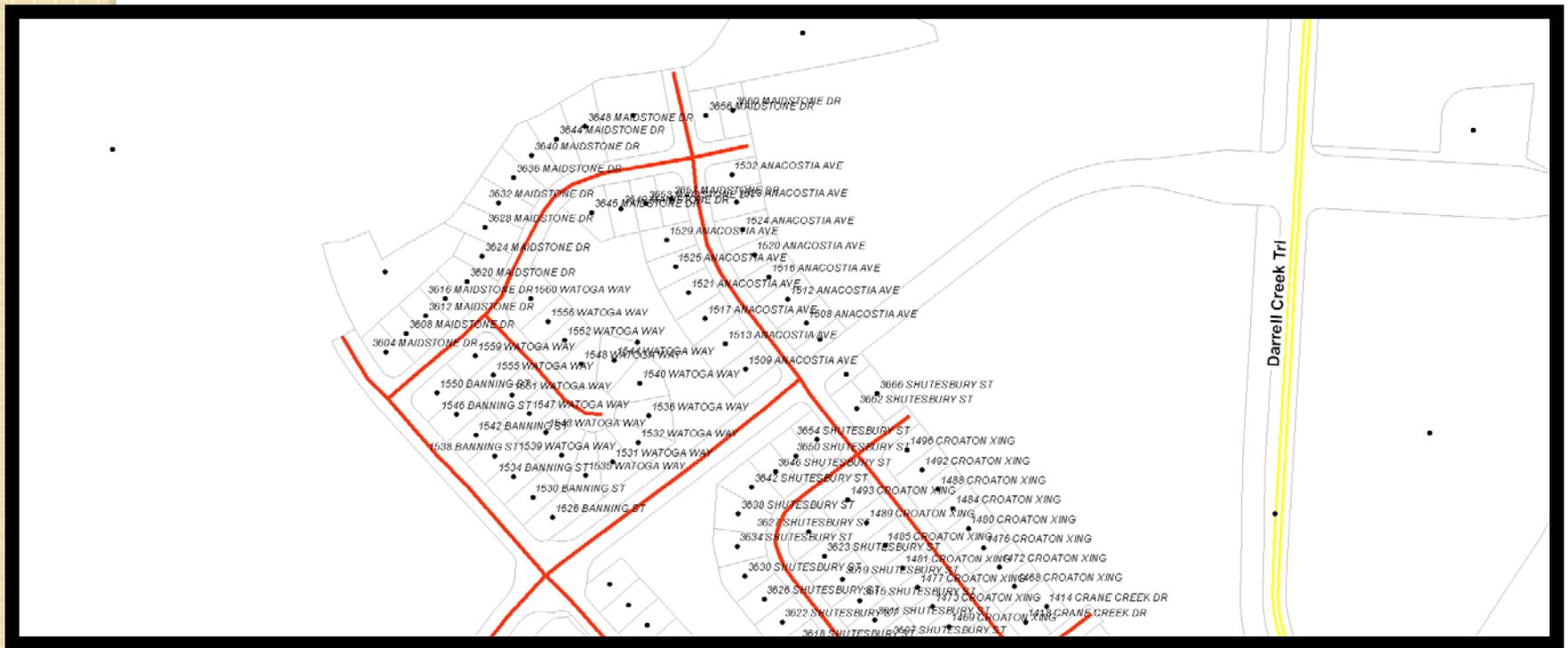
FID	Shape *	FULLNAME	LFROMADD	LTOADD	RFROMADD	RTOADD
21	Polyline	BANNING ST	0	0	1526	1550
22	Polyline	BANNING ST	0	0	1526	1550
23	Polyline	BANNING ST	0	0	1526	1550
24	Polyline	BANNING ST	0	0	1526	1550
25	Polyline	MAIDSTONE DR	3604	3616	3605	3615
26	Polyline	MAIDSTONE DR	3604	3616	3605	3615
27	Polyline	MAIDSTONE DR	3604	3616	3605	3615
28	Polyline	MAIDSTONE DR	3604	3616	3605	3615
29	Polyline	CRANE CREEK DR	1421	1439	1420	1438
30	Polyline	CRANE CREEK DR	1421	1439	1420	1438
31	Polyline	MAIDSTONE DR	3618	3648	3617	3657
32	Polyline	MAIDSTONE DR	3618	3648	3617	3657
33	Polyline	MAIDSTONE DR	3618	3648	3617	3657
34	Polyline	MAIDSTONE DR	3618	3648	3617	3657
35	Polyline	MAIDSTONE DR	3618	3648	3617	3657
36	Polyline	MAIDSTONE DR	3618	3648	3617	3657
37	Polyline	MAIDSTONE DR	3618	3648	3617	3657

1 (0 out of 202 Selected)

appendedx

# Parcel Centroids as Address Points (Core Logic Provided Data)

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# Subdivisions Generated By Dissolving Parcels

## Subdivisions



# Charleston County Zip code Areas Generated by dissolving parcels

## Charleston Parcel Based Zip Codes



0 0.005 0.01 0.02 Decimal Degrees

# Some Non Contiguous Areas

## Charleston Parcel Based Zip Codes



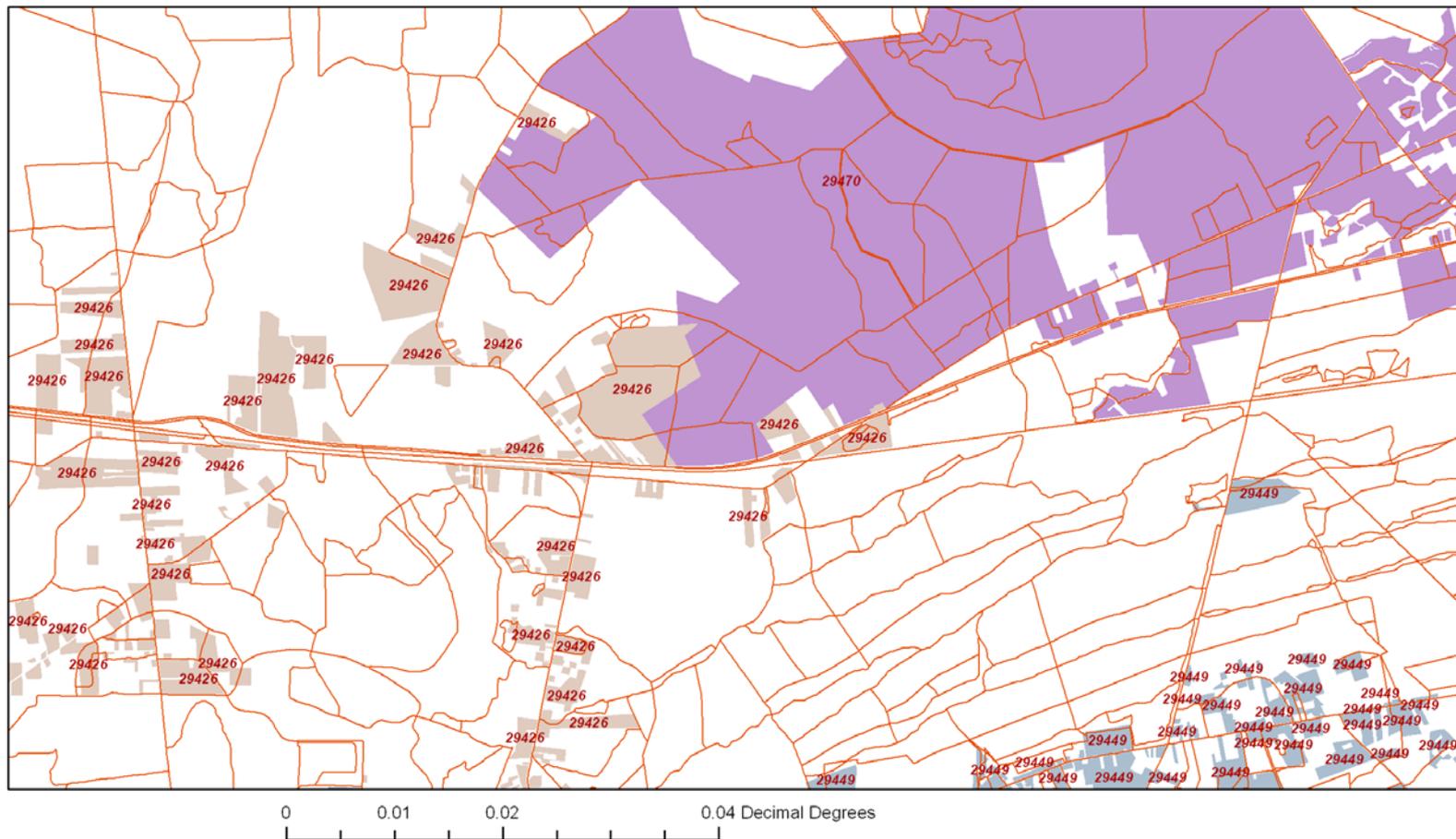
0 0.001 0.002 0.004 Decimal Degrees

# Rural Section of Charleston – Parcel Based Zip Code Areas

## Charleston Parcel Based Zip Codes

### Legend

2010 Tabulation Blocks

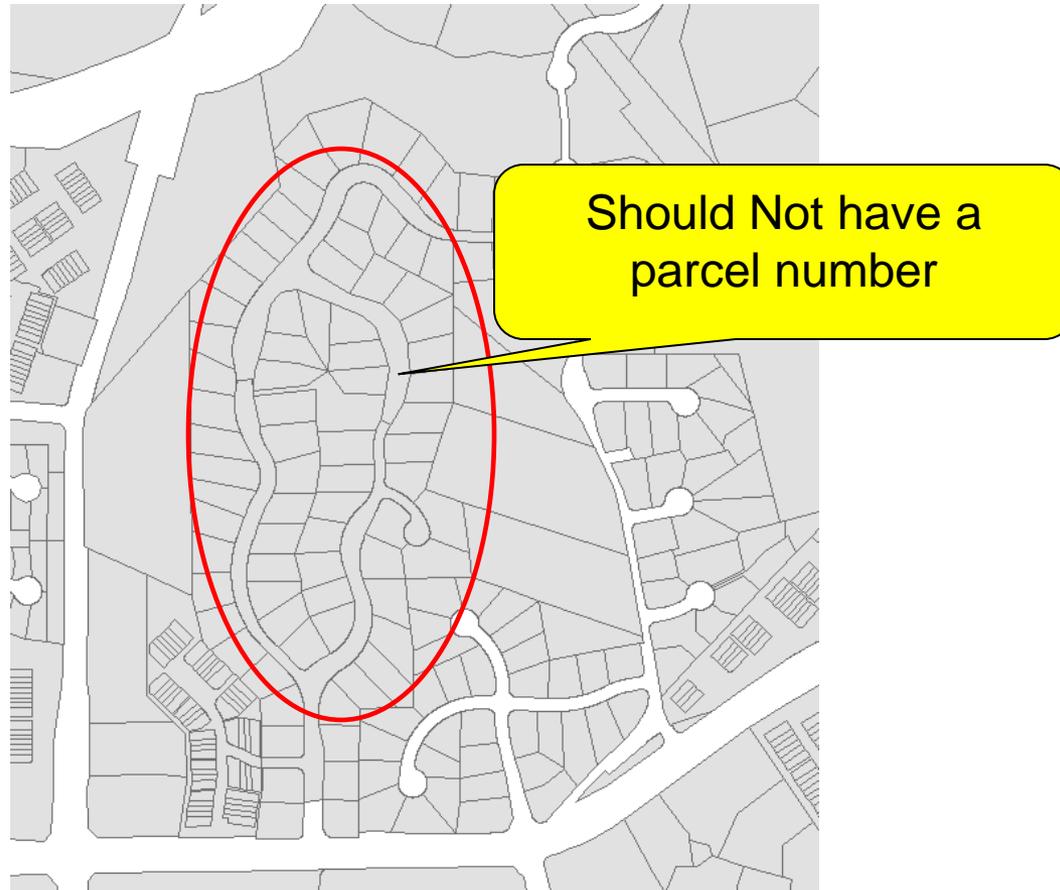




# Problems

## Problem Area

# Obvious Case of Roads With Parcel Numbers



# Surrogate – No Address Points But too inclusive

## Parcels With No Address Points

### Legend

-  study area
-  Parcels - no add pts
-  parceladdpts
-  Tiger\_Roads



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

# Conclusions

- It is possible to quickly generate several useful products from county level parcel data
- These products provide useful geospatial data for validation, representation and update
- Tax parcels are most useful – they deal with areas with existing or potential dwellings
- The Federal Government should explore a license for commercial parcel data – rather than the numerous ones it now purchases