

# Envisioning the Future of the New Washington Heights Neighborhood Park

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## Summary and Goals

The purpose of this project is to model the 27-acre lot in the New Washington Heights neighborhood of Greenville County, South Carolina, and to explore possible future uses for this parcel of land. The trapezoidal polygon in the map below is the lot of interest. Notice the building in the southeast corner of the lot. This is an old school that is currently being demolished. Greenville County is also planning to purchase the narrow triangle adjacent to the Northwest corner of the lot.

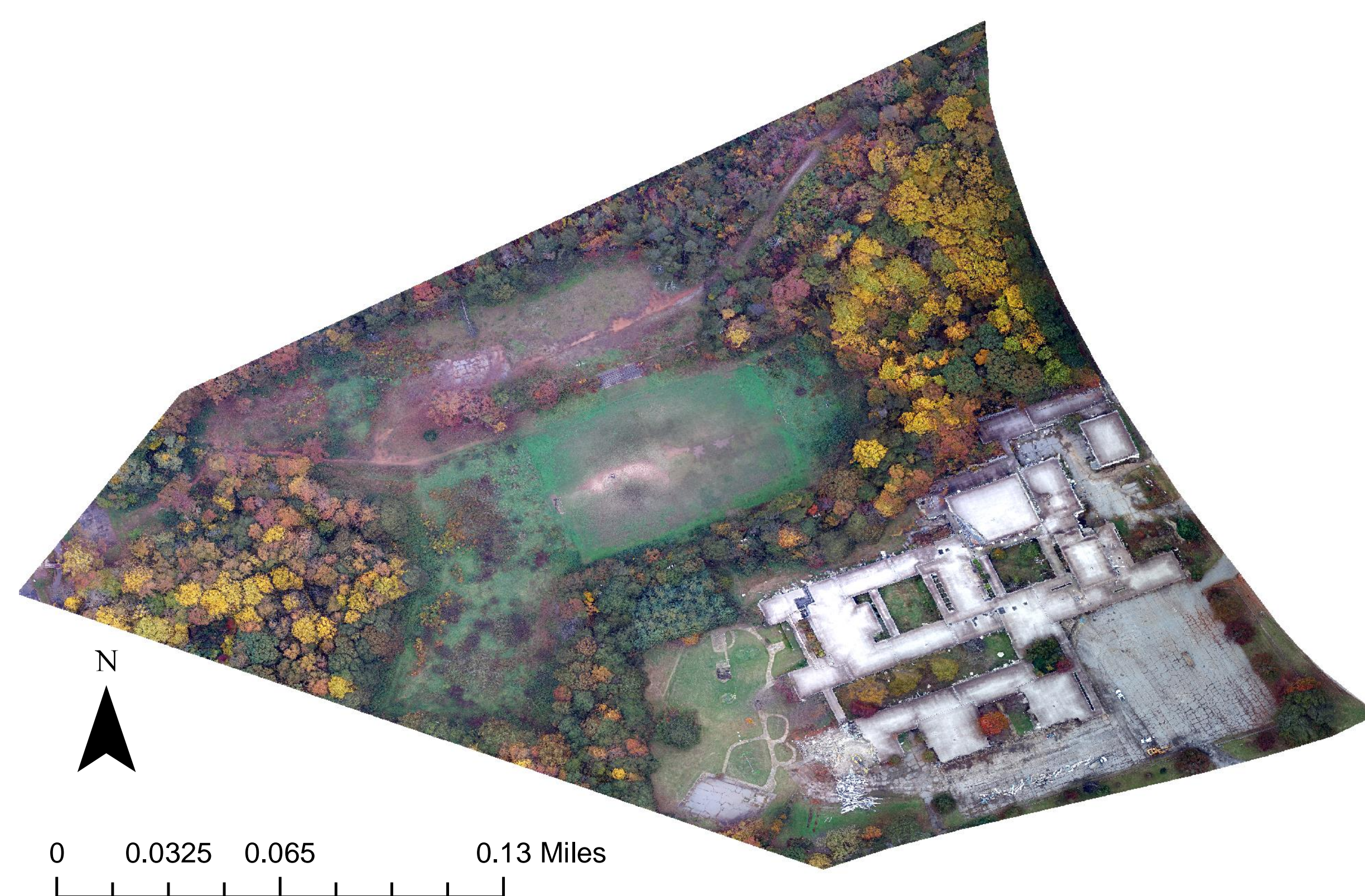
## Background

Natural and social scientists have praised the "Urban Ecosystem" model, which emphasizes the relationship between humans and the outdoors. Access to natural areas is closely tied with health and happiness in urban ecosystems. For this reason, it is important to provide communities with the opportunity to spend quality time outside. With the ongoing demolition of the old school building, this lot is the ideal location for an outdoor recreation facility. Black lines indicate property boundaries, while orange lines indicate topography contours.

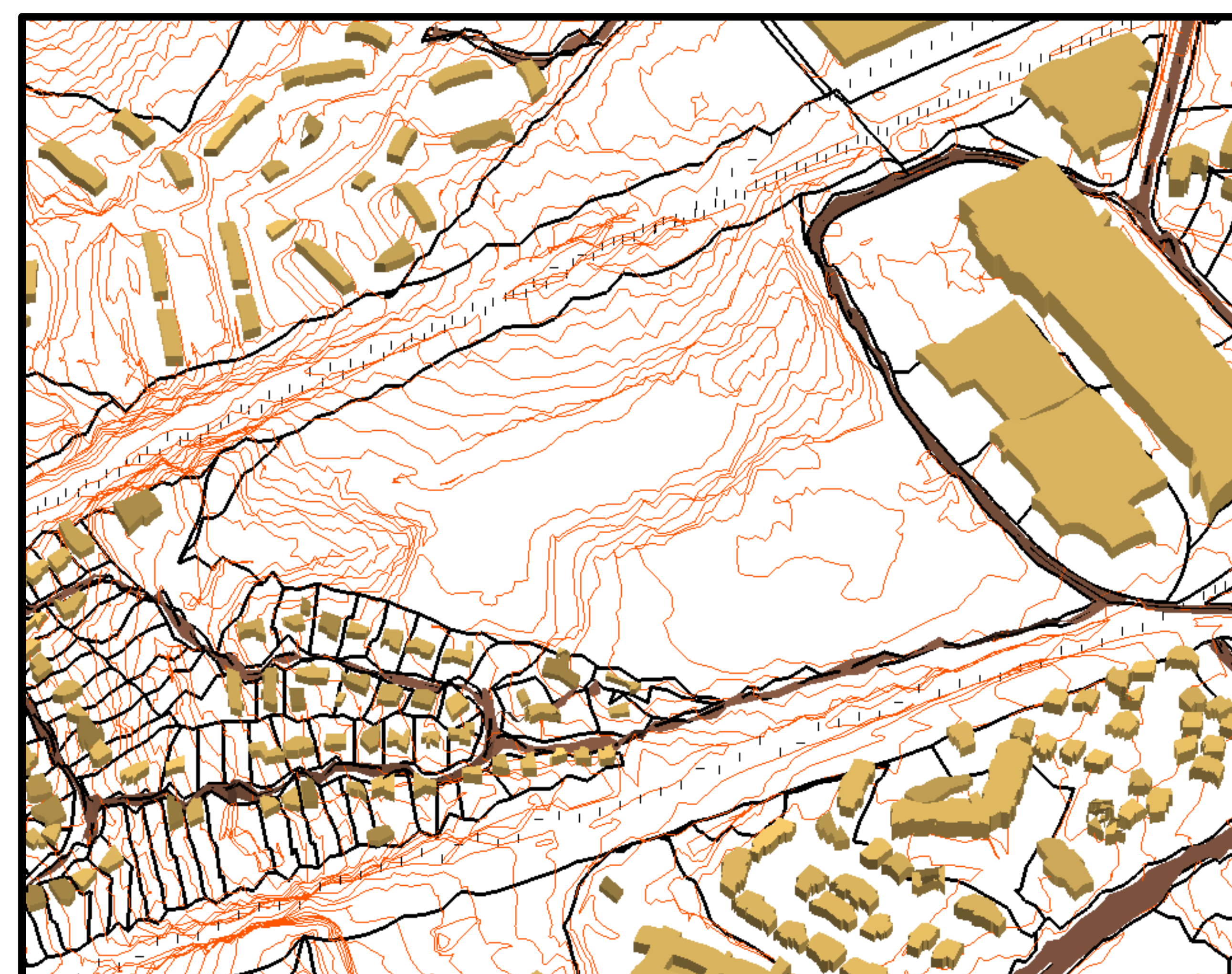
## Limiting Factors

Numerous factors could limit the extent of this project. For example, municipal budgets established by city and county governments, the needs and desires of the people in the surrounding community, and the timeline associated with the demolition of the school all impact what may be put in the vacant lot and when.

## New Washington Heights- Before and After Demolition

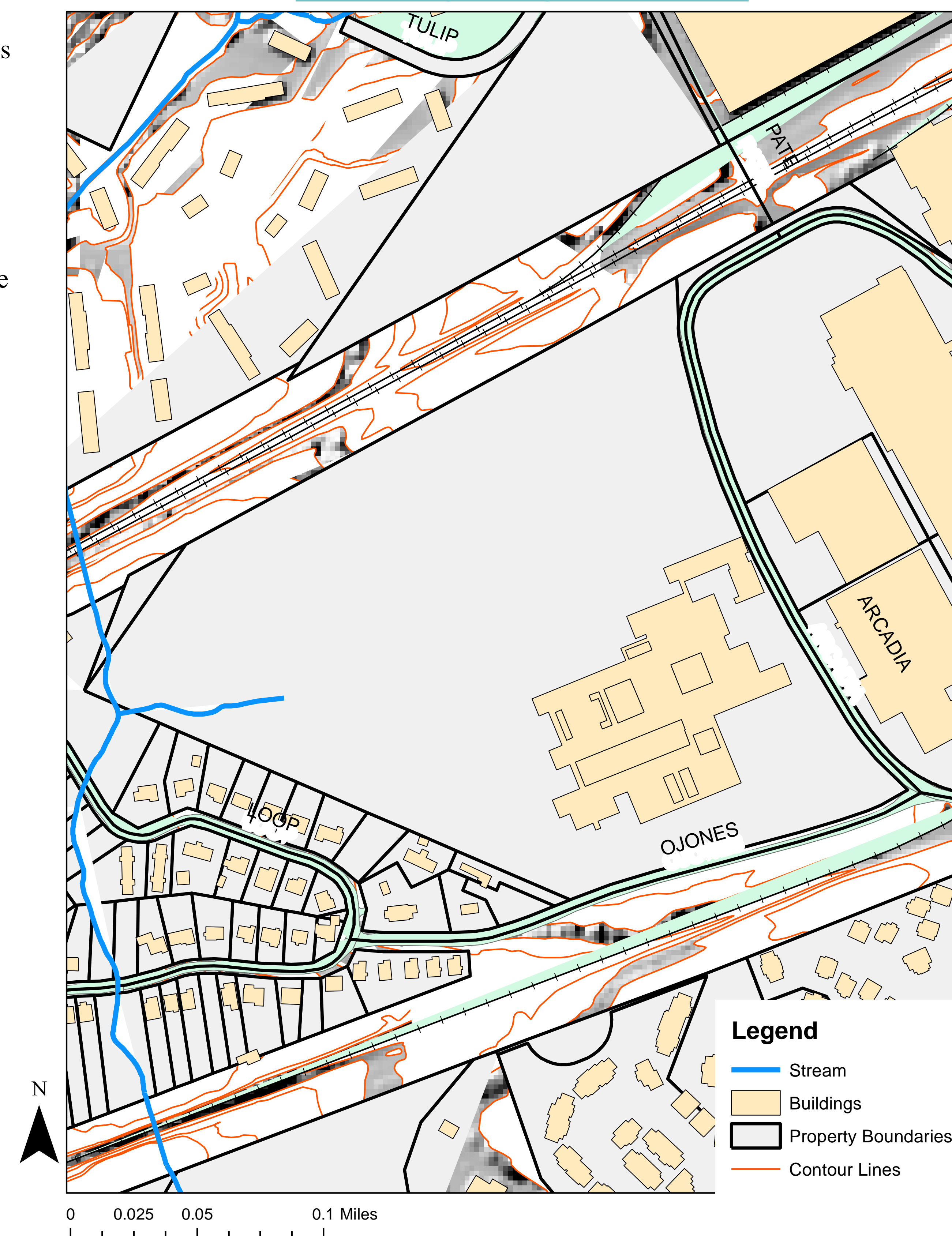


Map 2 is an aerial photograph of New Washington Heights taken by a drone before demolition of the school began. It has been clipped to correspond with the 27-acre lot. Courtesy of Dr. Suresh Muthukrishnan.



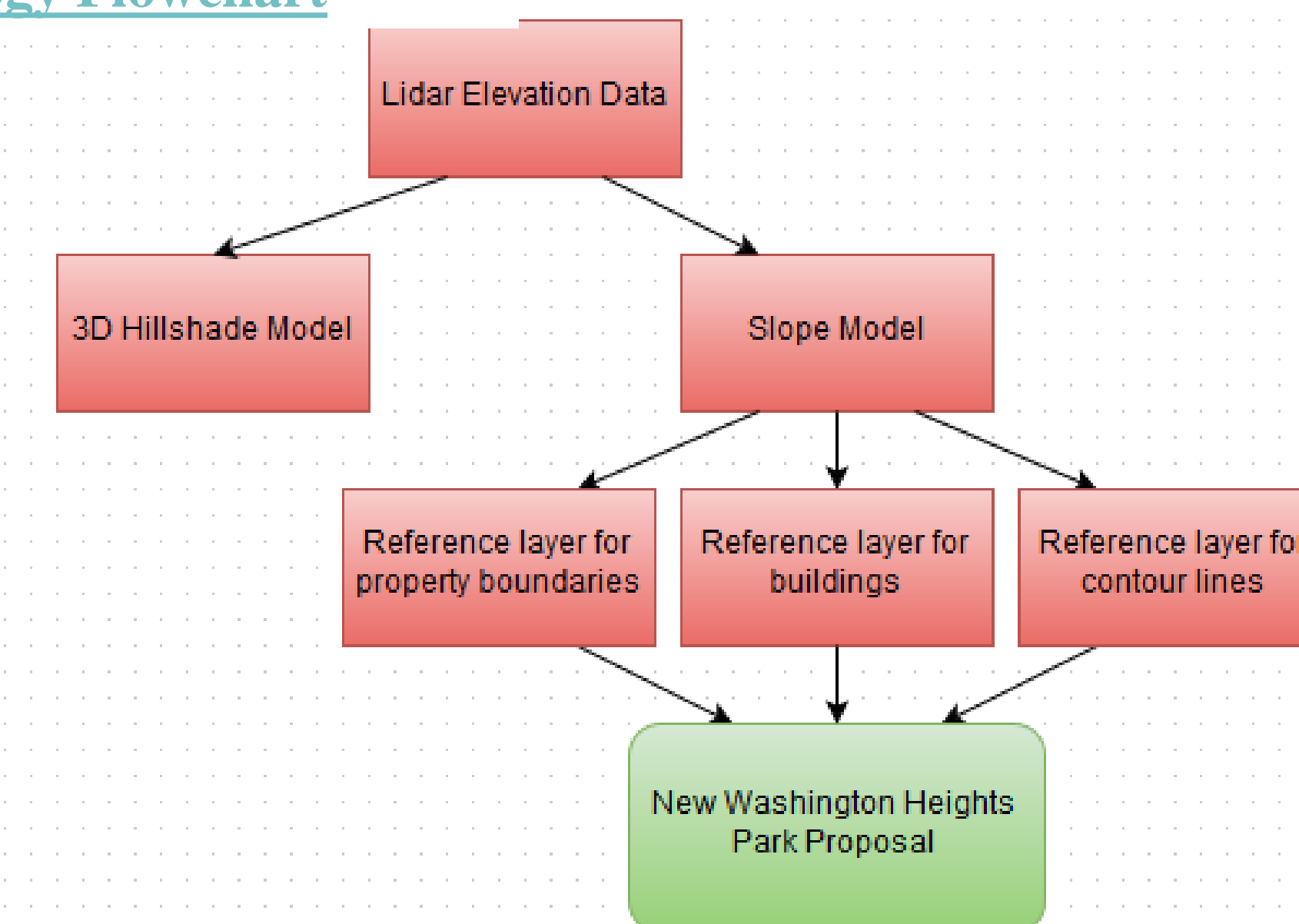
Maps 3 represents the New Washington heights lot and surrounding neighborhood. Contour, building, and municipal property boundaries have been placed on top of a land slope model (created from lidar elevation data) to show the topography of the area. The school has been removed to represent the lot after demolition is complete.

## New Washington Heights- Current Lot

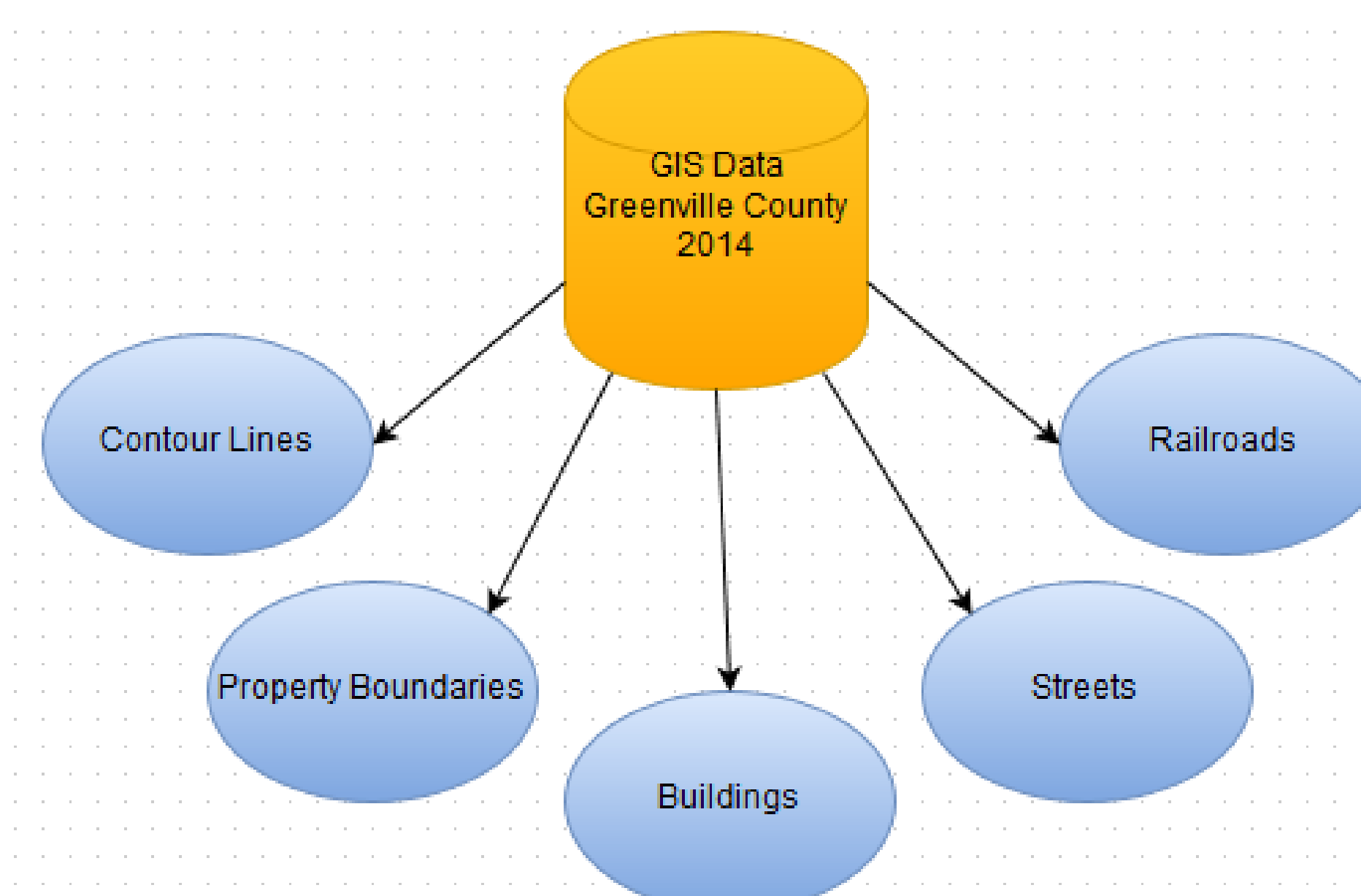


Map 1: The map above represents the New Washington Heights neighborhood before demolition of the school began. A hillshade model is incorporated to show three-dimensional detail, particularly the locations of trees and shaded areas.

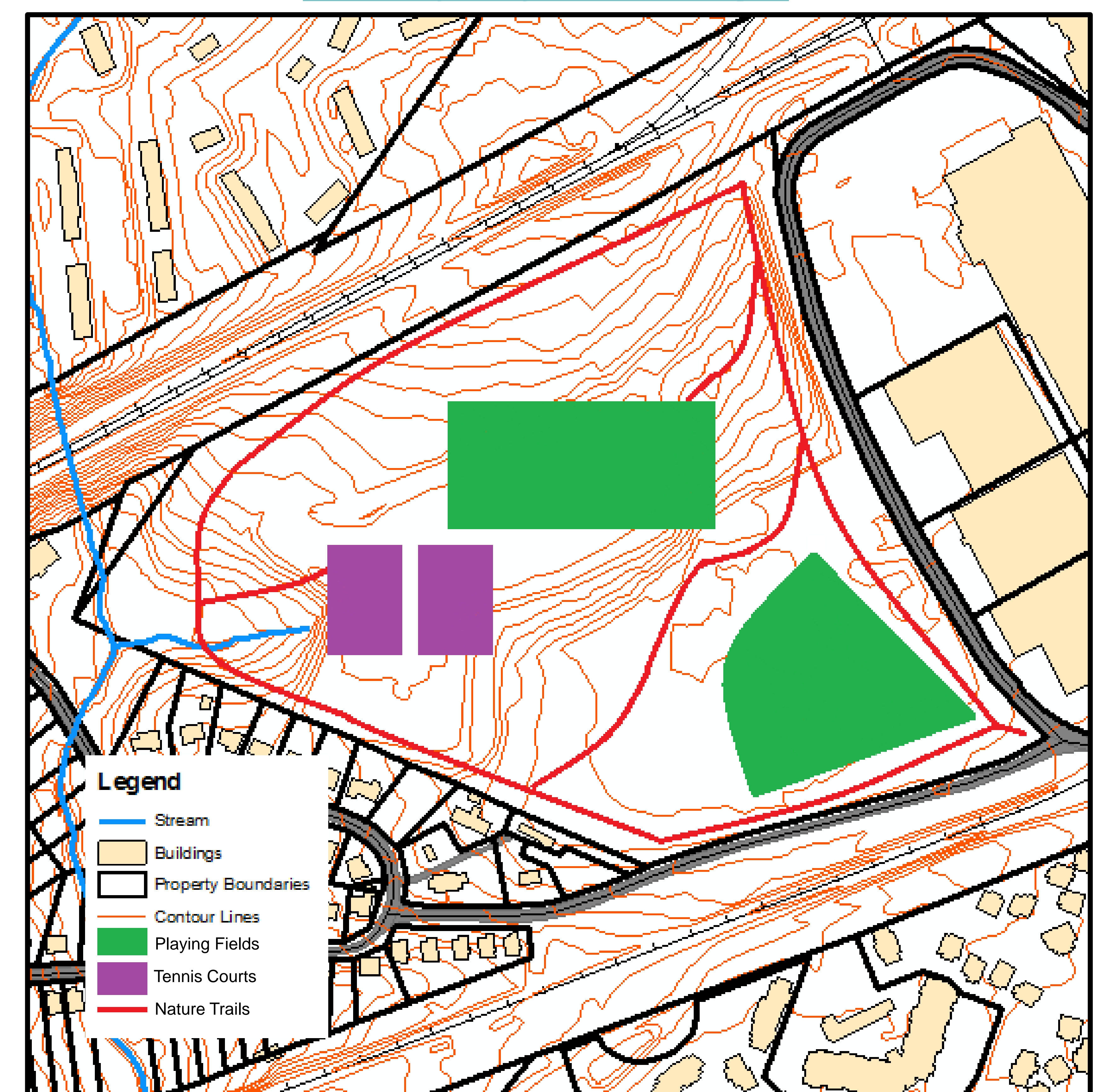
## Methodology Flowchart



## Input Source



## New Washington Heights- Public Park Proposal



Map 4: Map 4 represents a potential park that may be built in the New Washington Heights lot after the demolition of the old school. This park proposal takes advantage of topography, the existing soccer field in the central part of the lot, and natural areas (including a stream) around the outside edge of the 27-acre parcel. A soccer/football field, a baseball field, two tennis courts, and walking trails are present. The proposed fields are dimensionless because the existing soccer field may be expanded to accommodate other sports (such as football, rugby, lacrosse, or field hockey), while the size and shape of baseball fields vary depending on the level of play and the owner's preferences (there is no "regulation" size baseball field). Other features may include picnic tables, restroom facilities, and parking (although there is currently no existing parking in the lot, land could be cleared to make room for this).

## Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Dr. Suresh Muthukrishnan, Mike Winiski, and the Furman University Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences for assistance integral to the completion of this project.

## Conclusion

This project merely shows one possible use of the 27-acre lot in the New Washington Heights neighborhood of Greenville, South Carolina. Because presence of green spaces is correlated with greater happiness and community wellbeing, it is highly recommended that Greenville County use taxpayer funds to construct some form of public recreation facility. A public park like the one illustrated above would restore much natural capital to the area by providing people opportunities for outdoor recreation and the enjoyment of nature. This facility would grant health, economic, and cultural benefits to the people of the New Washington Heights neighborhood.

## Bibliography

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