



South Carolina Major City Demographics

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Abstract

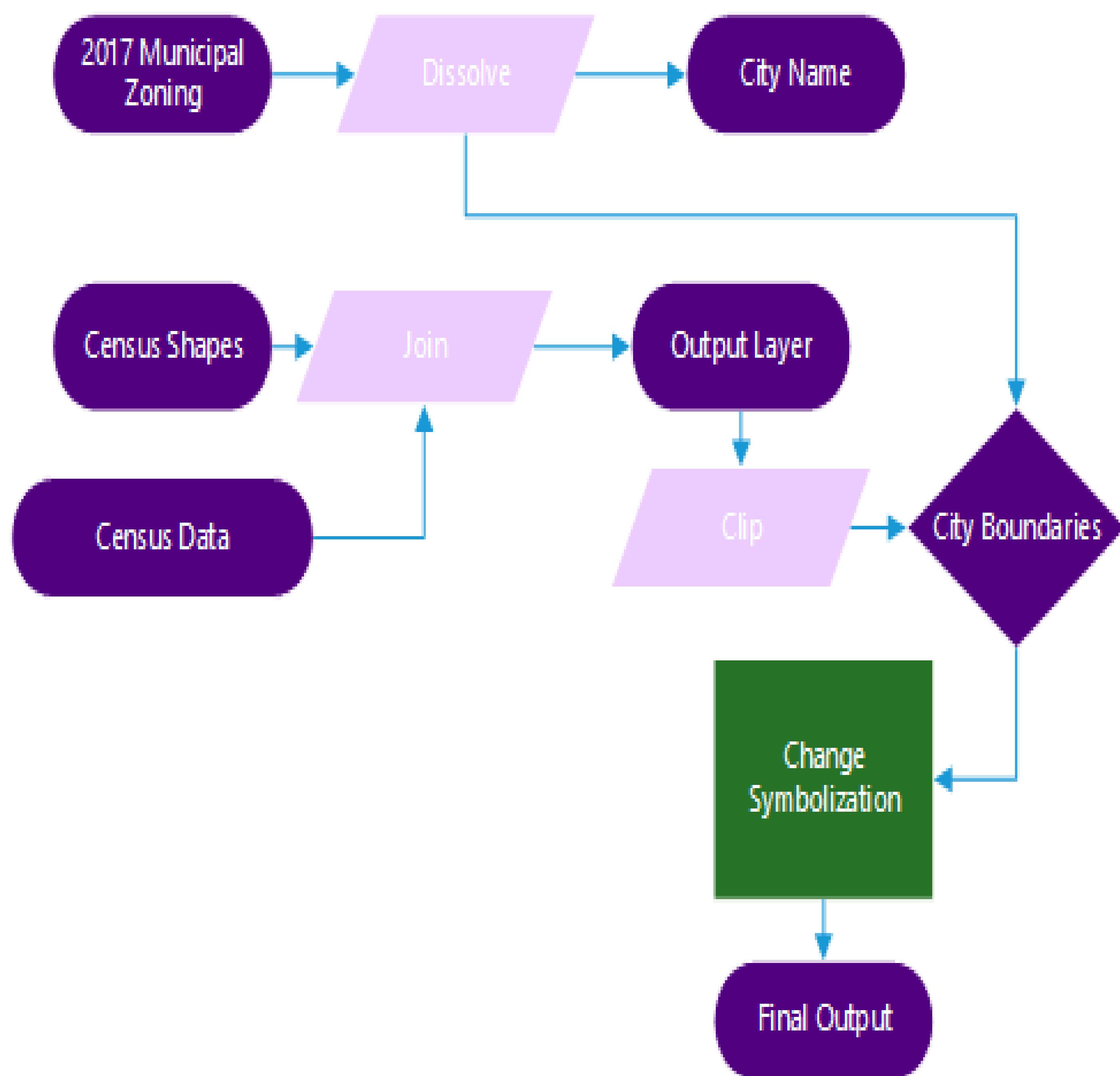
Municipal annexation is a process by which a municipality expands its boundaries into adjacent areas not already incorporated into the municipality, often in response to urbanization near city boundaries. Shoestring or flagpole annexation occurs when a city, town or other municipality in which it acquires new territory that is contiguous to the existing territory but is only connected to it by a thin strip of land. Annexation is tied to city growth, and the City of Greenville is much smaller than other cities in the state.

Objectives and Literature Review

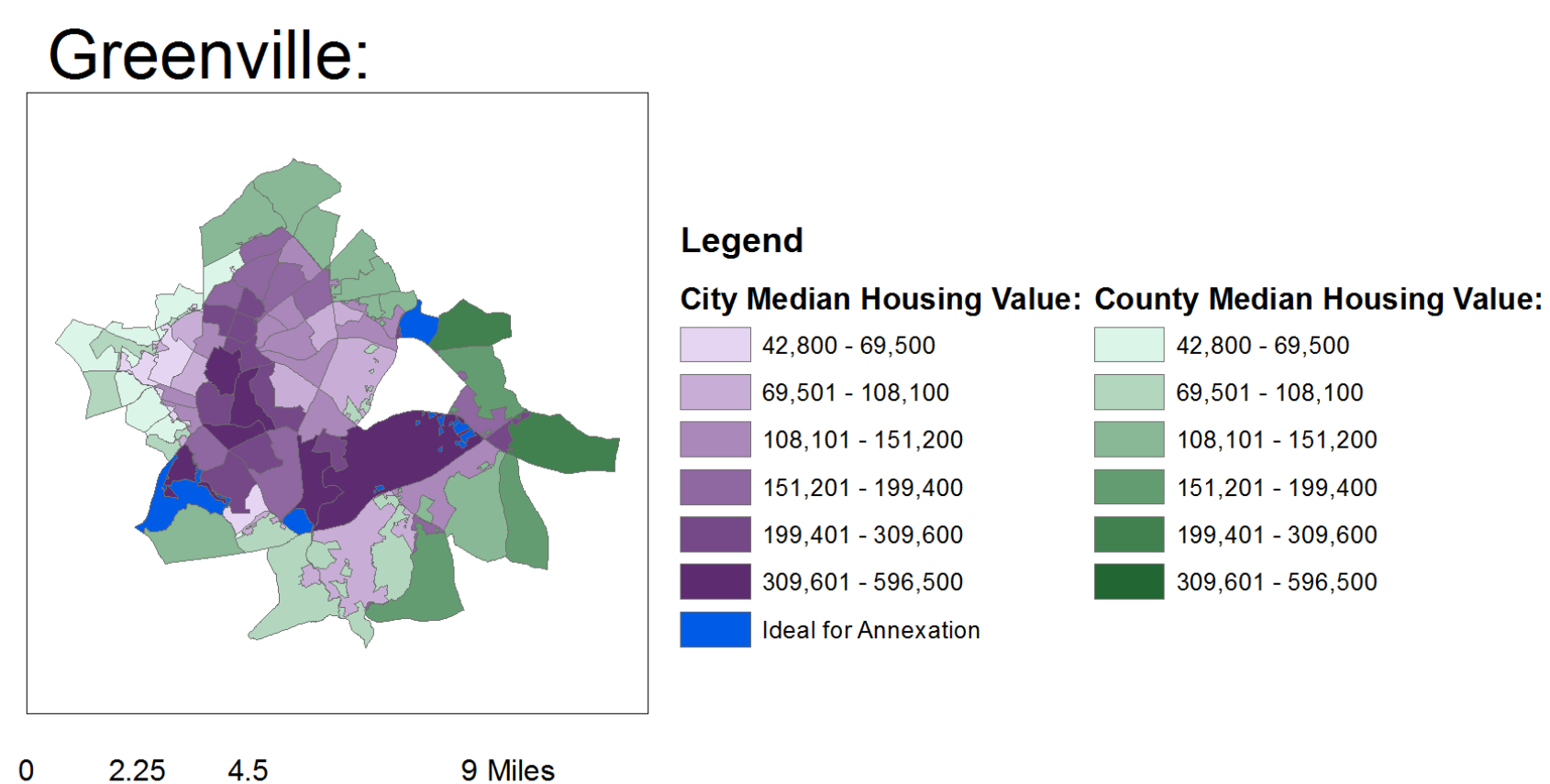
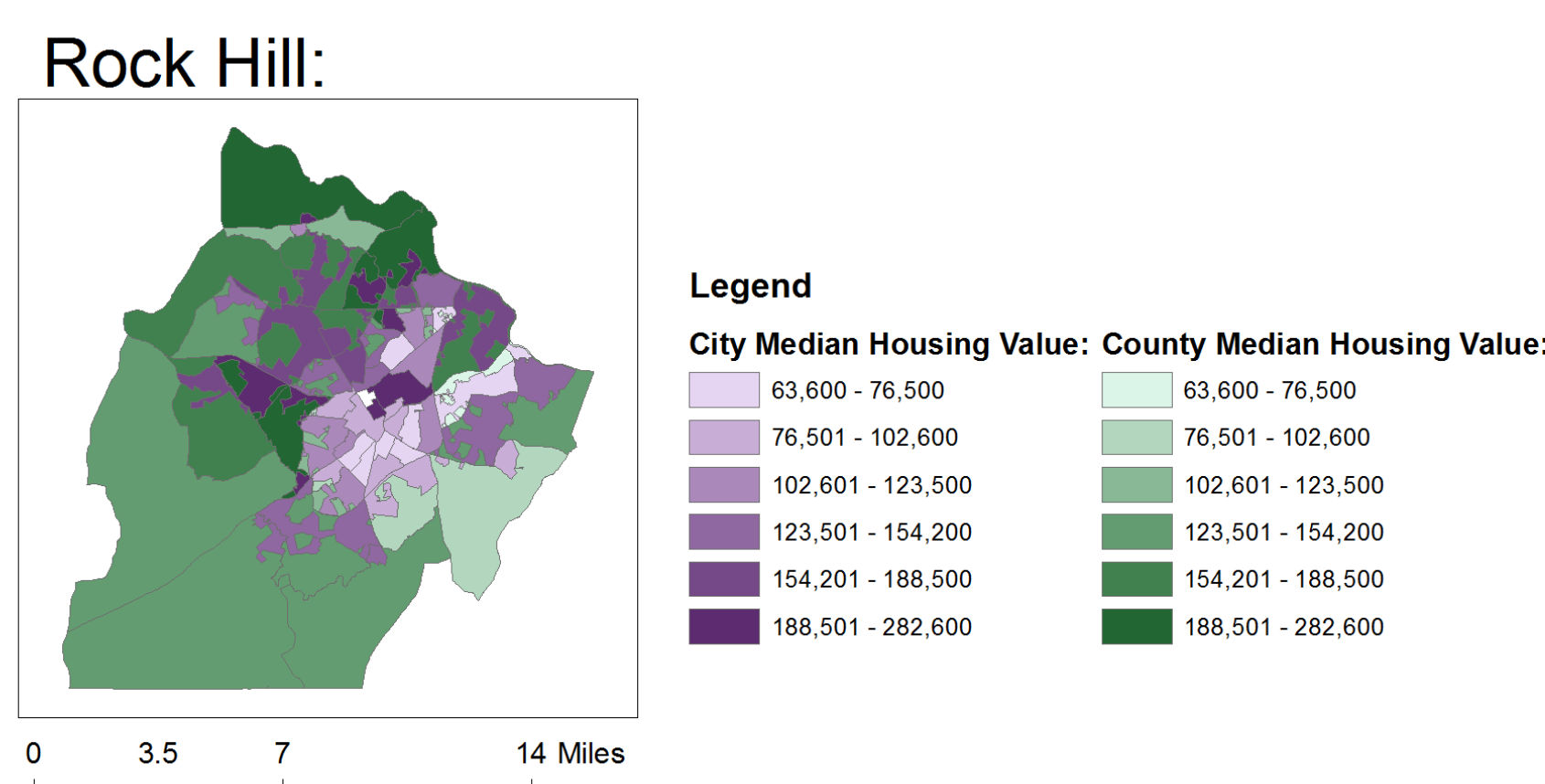
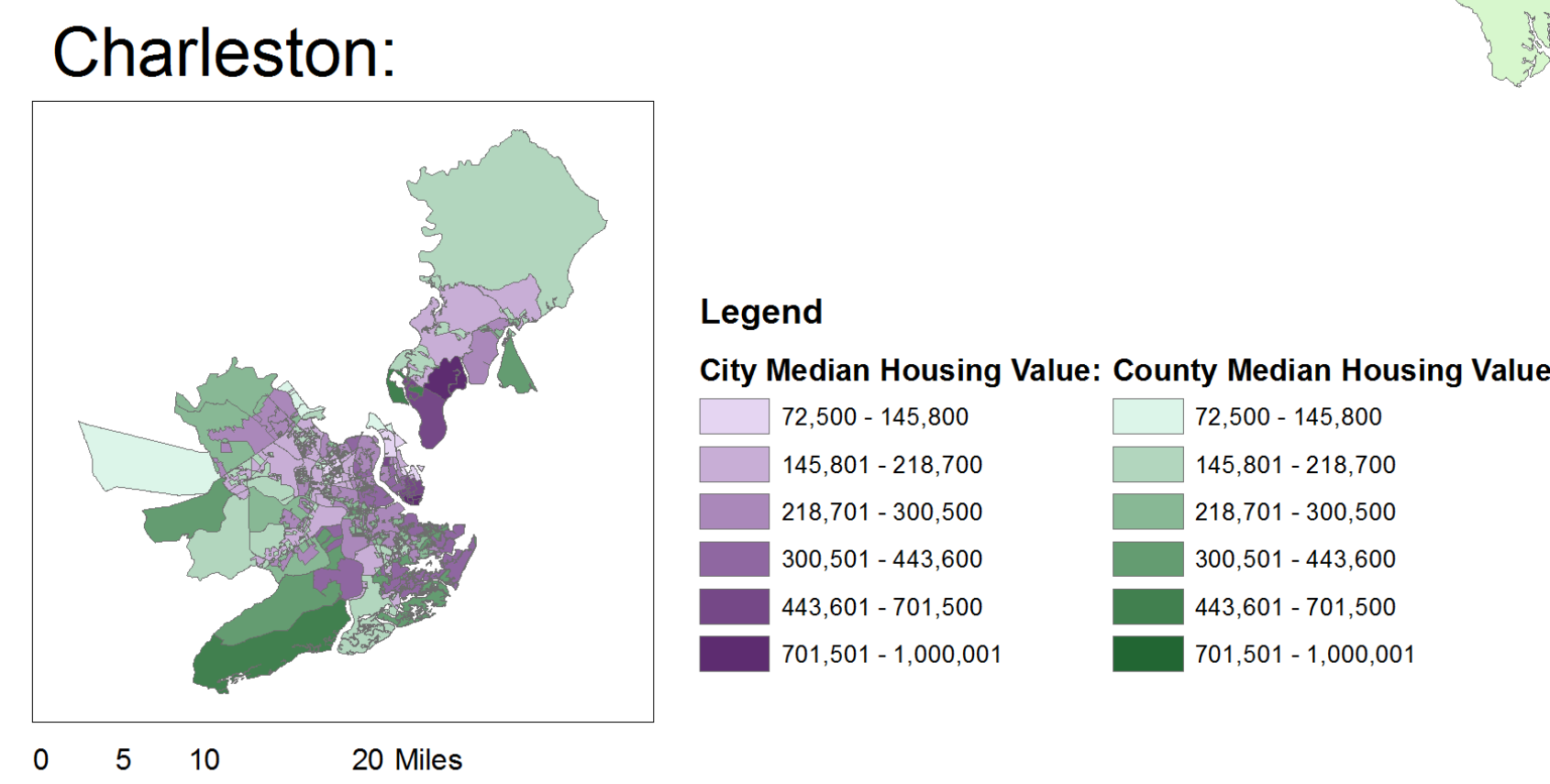
To analyze the history of annexation in other cities in South Carolina to compare them to the annexation in the City of Greenville. To answer the following questions: How has annexation in the City of Charleston differed from that in Greenville? Are there any opportunities for Greenville's annexation that have been successful in other cities in the state?

Previous research indicates that multiple factors influence municipal annexation. Investigations into municipal annexation "have been largely conducted at the interstate unit of analysis and have focused on the impact of annexation legislation on overall annexation frequency" (Smith and Willse 2012). City annexation is also messy, and annexation laws differ greatly between states. Zeinemann studied annexation in Wisconsin, finding that annexation and annexation law are often uncoordinated and inconsistent. While most of my sources focused on the theoretical framework of urban annexation, GIS is useful in this context by linking historical spatial information to corresponding geographic features in a computerized cartographic database (Siebert 2000).

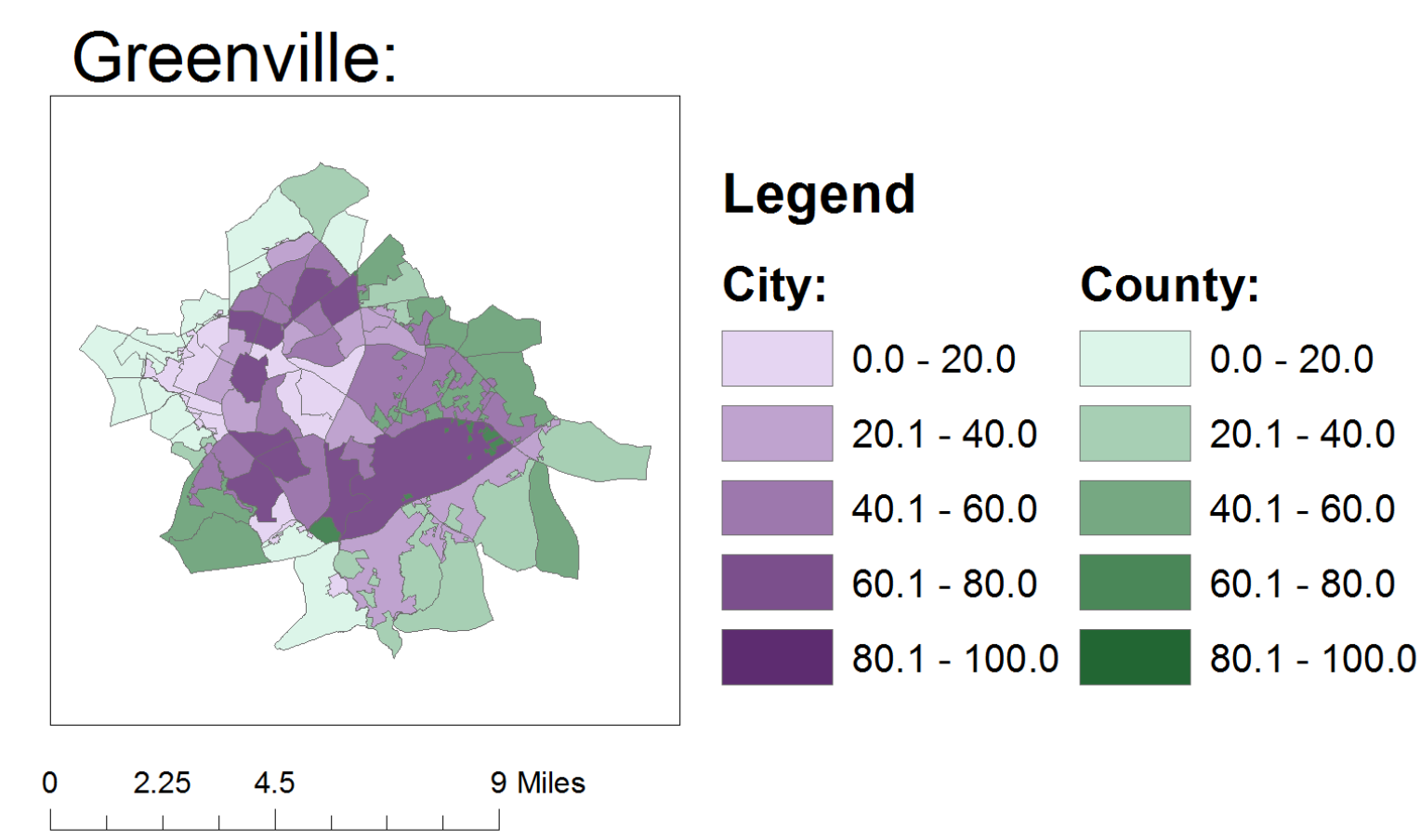
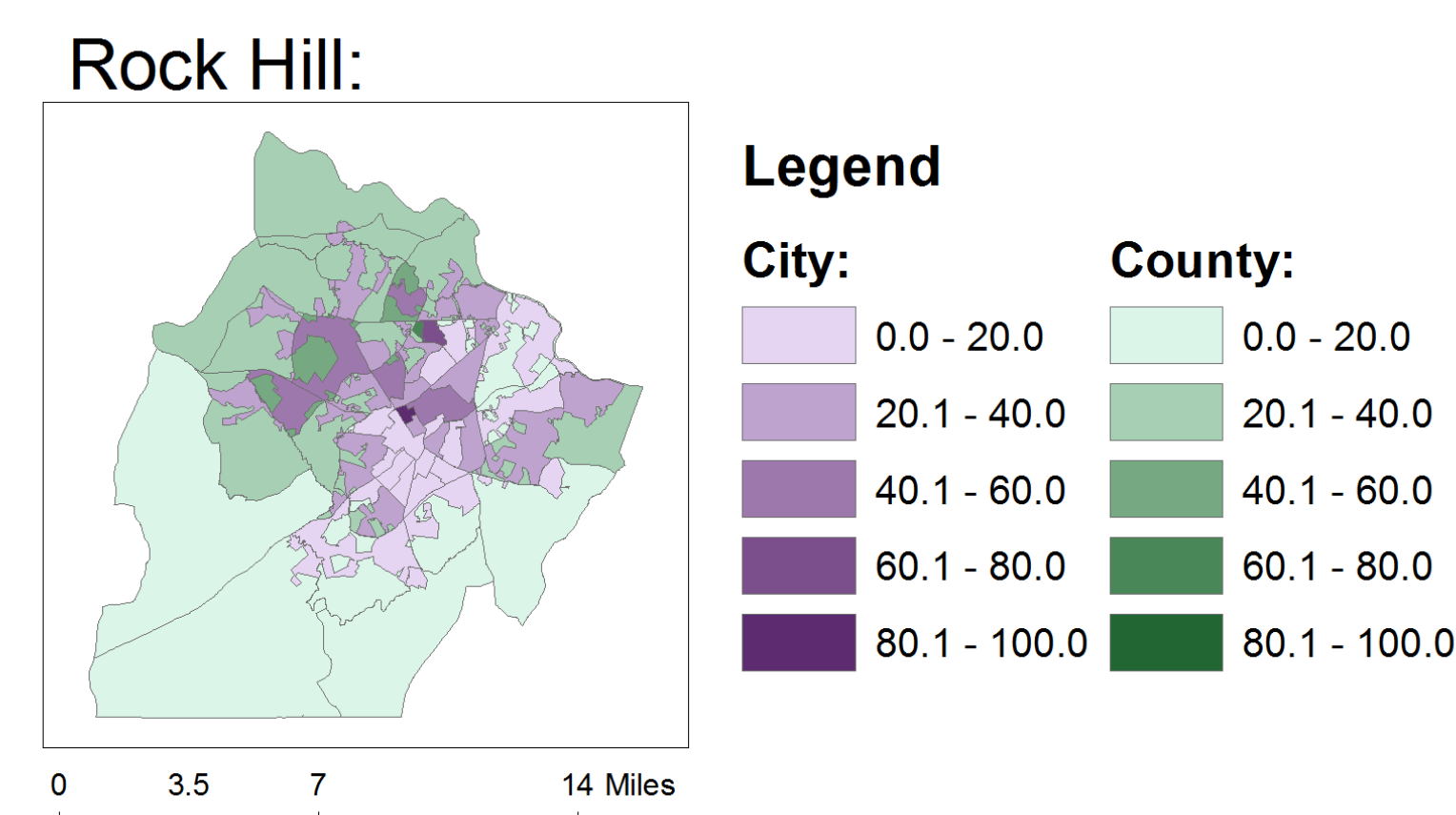
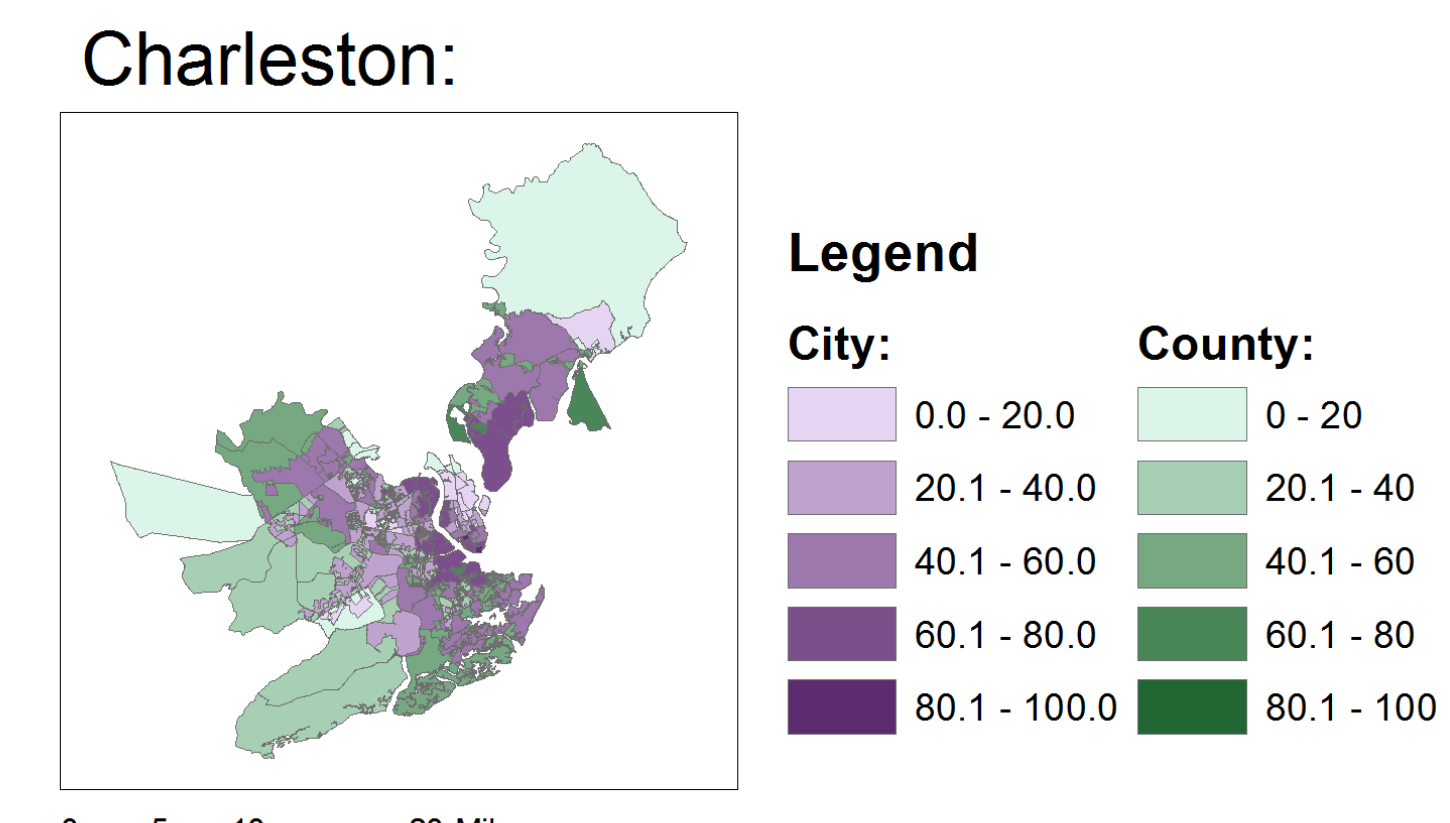
Methods



Median Housing Value:



Percent of Population with Bachelors Degree or Above:



Annexation Recommendations:

MEDIAN HOUSING VALUE:	
Census Tract and Block Group:	Median Housing Value:
001900, 2	396,600
002103, 2	334,300
001807, 3	309,600
001900, 3	362,400

MEDIAN INCOME:	
Census Tract and Block Group:	Median Income:
002811, 2	71,643
001900, 2	100,192
001501, 1	81,588
002811, 1	65,260
001807, 3	93,854
001900, 3	85,655
002804, 1	80,327

Future Research

Future research should utilize more recent data. For this project, I used data from the 2010 Census and 2006 to 2010 American Community Survey. These data sets were the most recent complete datasets that could be used, and they still included a great deal of error. Specifically, the educational attainment variable had a great deal of error. Additionally, future research should include a wider variety of variables than educational attainment, median income, and median housing value, for owner occupied dwellings.

Conclusion

As we can see from the analyses presented, there is a significant variation in racial makeup and median income within and among the cities studied. The City of Charleston has the widest variation of median income in the cities studied, ranging from 5,560 to 234,875. In contrast, The cities of Rock Hill and Greenville had narrower ranges of median income, 18,939 to 110,909 and 8,828 to 132,663.

One of the constraints that Greenville faces in annexing additional properties is that it is ringed by areas of lower median income, especially west of the city. This is significant because taxes are an important factor driving annexation.

I used median housing value and median income in block groups to highlight areas that are ideal for annexation. While I originally planned to do this with all of the variables that I studied, I found that the standard of error in the educational attainment data was too high for meaningful results. Using the highest median housing values outside of city limits, I found four census tracts that were ideal for annexation. Using median income, I found six census tracts that were ideal for annexation. However, one of the limitations to my study was my use of census data, which is usable for residential annexation rather than commercial annexation. These recommendations, based on housing and income data, are not viable for commercial properties. One of the key issues that I ran into was the extent of the data. Since annexation is so specific, block level data is more useful than block group data. However, the variables that I used are only available for block group data.

References and Data Sources

- Siebert, Loren. "Using GIS to Document, Visualize, and Interpret Tokyo's Spatial History." *Social Science History* 24, no. 3 (2000): 537-74.
- Smith, Russell M., and John T. Willse. "Influences on Municipal Annexation Methodology: An Intrastate Analysis of Annexation Activity in North Carolina, 2000-2010." *State & Local Government Review* 44, no. 3 (2012): 185-95.
- Minnesota Population Center. *National Historical Geographic Information System: Version 2.0*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota 2011. <http://www.nhgis.org>

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Median Income:

