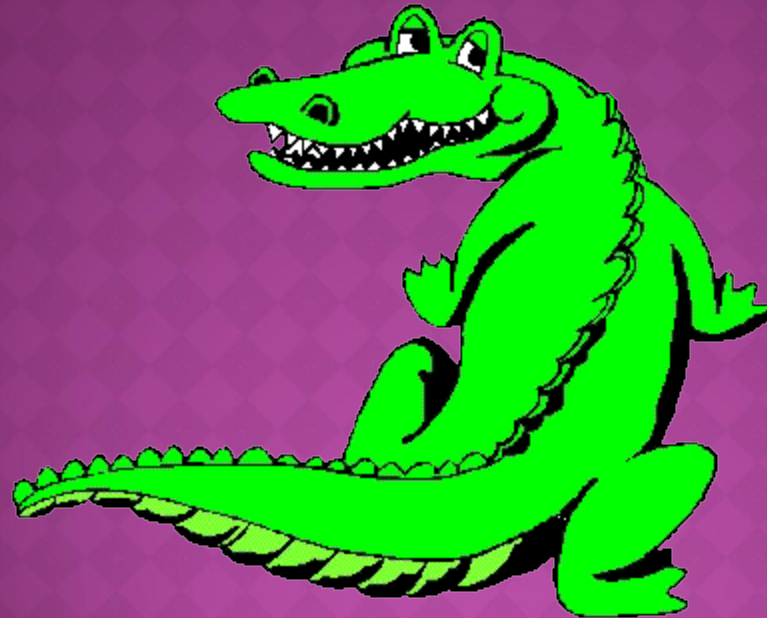# Analysis of the Availability of Healthy Food Options for UF Students

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PROBLEM BACKGROUND

Food desert - a *low-income census tract* where a substantial number or share of residents have *low access* to a supermarket or large grocery store

Many UF students lack easy access to healthy food options, and thus end up eating *junk food*

FOCUS OF STUDY

- To find a **new location** to build a healthy food option for gators with limited access to existing healthy food options

HEALTHY FOOD DEFINED

- Must have fresh produce
- Must be open every day of the week
- Must have reasonable prices
- Must be available to every person and take SNAP cards
- This excludes: restaurants, vitamin stores, farmers markets and assisted food places
- Left with: **Grocery, natural and health food stores**

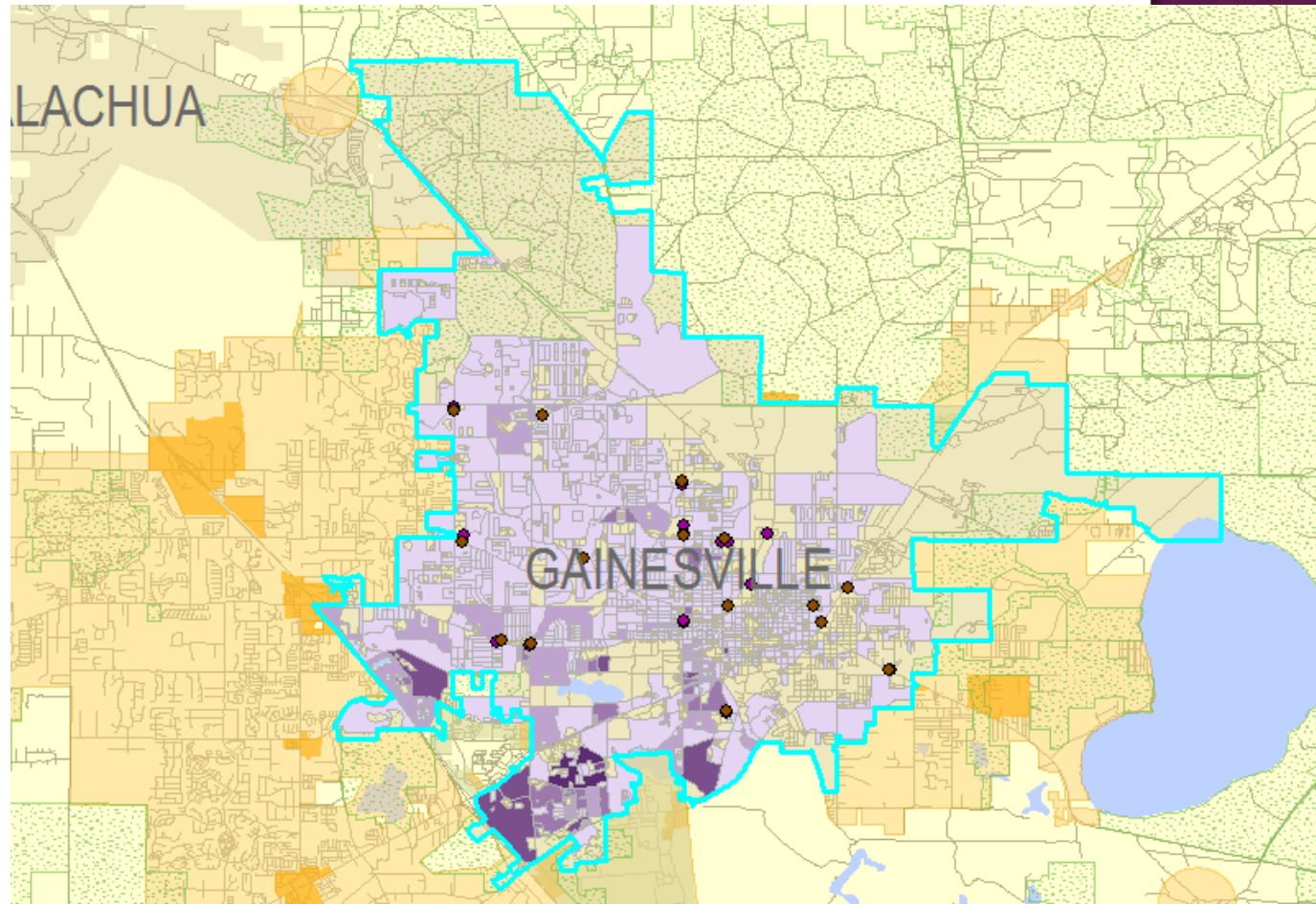# CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF NEW LOCATION

The parcel must be:

- Available
- Within a census block with a high concentration of students
- Within 150 ft of a bus stop
- At least 2 miles away from another store deemed a healthy food option
- Not in a high or medium crime region
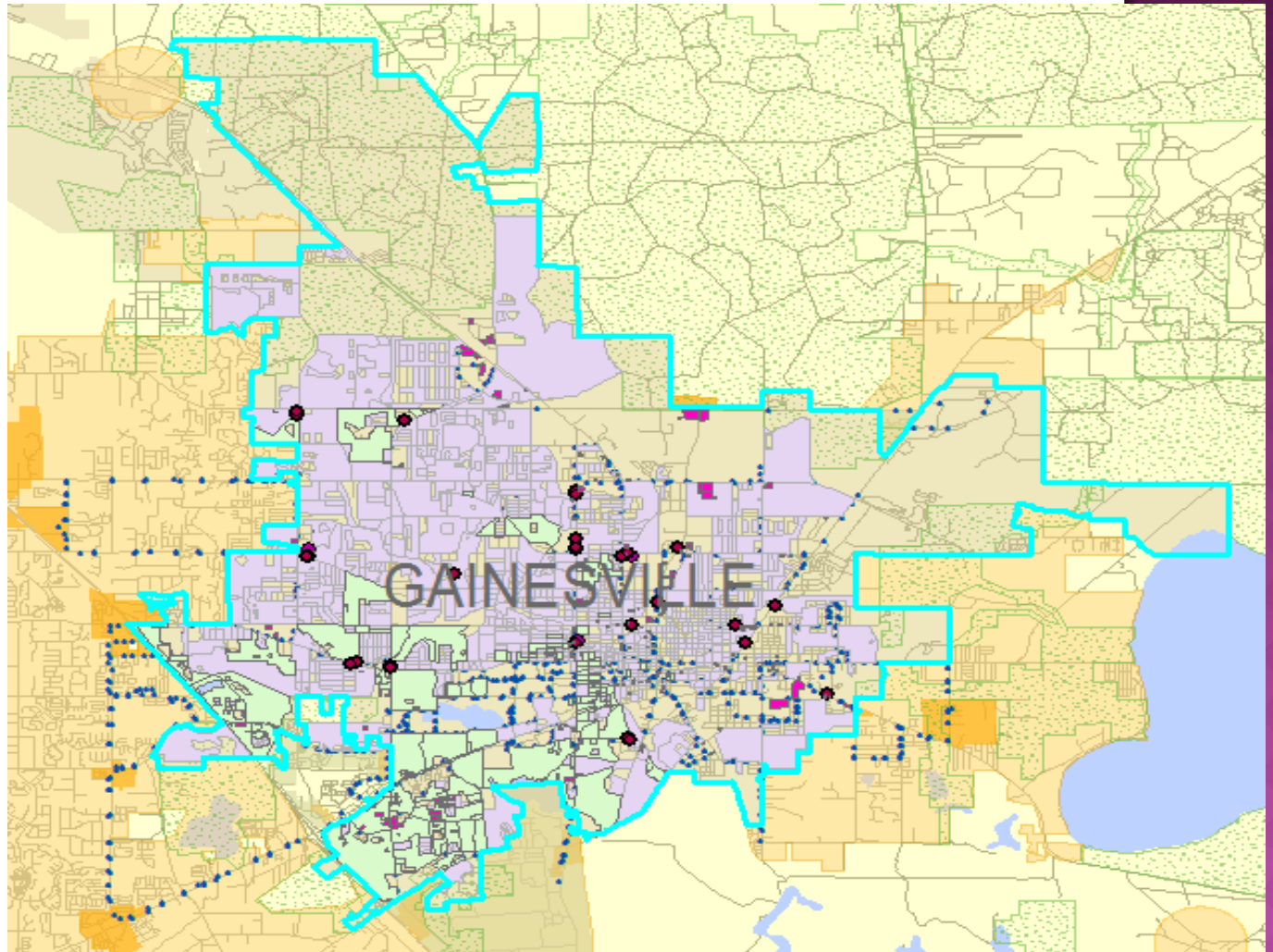
STEP 1

- Existing Healthy Food Options and Student Population Density by Block in Gainesville
  - Select by Attribute → Gainesville
  - Intersect → Student population with block by GEOID
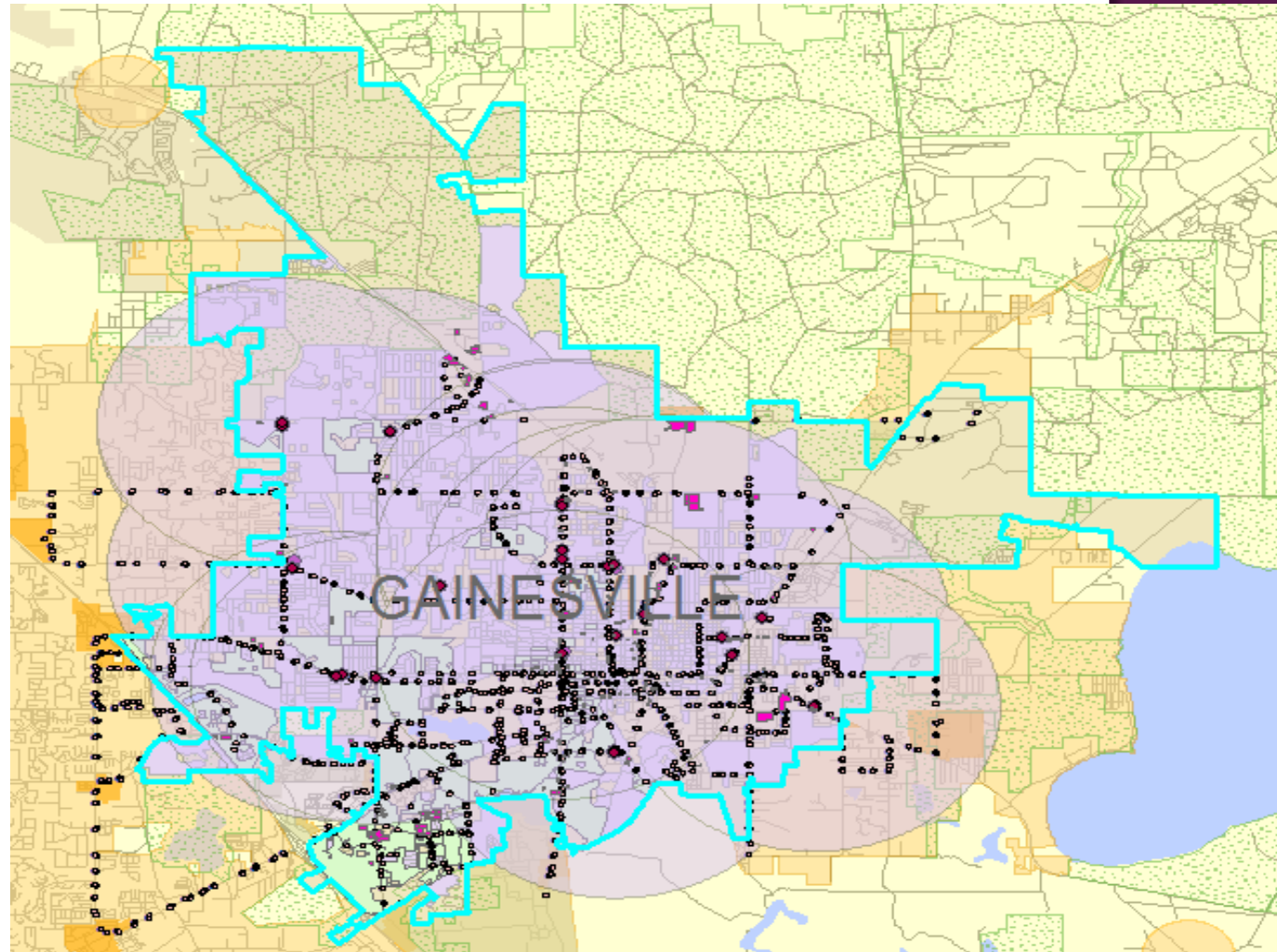 - Select by Attribute → Healthy food options

STEP 2

- Blocks with more than 25 students in Gainesville
  - Select by attribute→
      GeoID count
  - Bus stops shown
- Undeveloped vacant commercial tax parcels in Gainesville
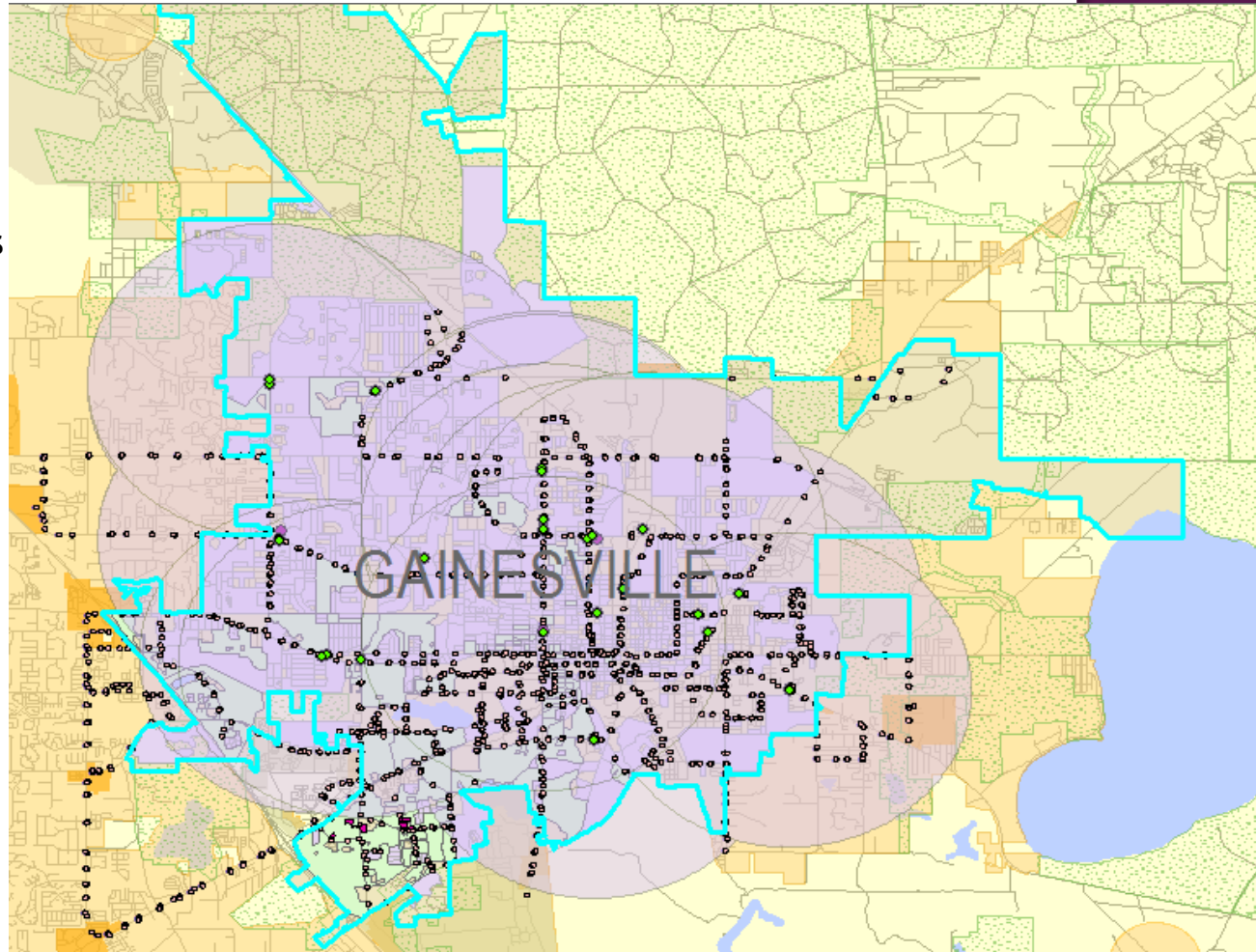 - Select by attribute pusecat and pusedev

STEP 3

- Buffer the selected healthy food options by 2 miles
- Buffer the bus stops by 150 feet
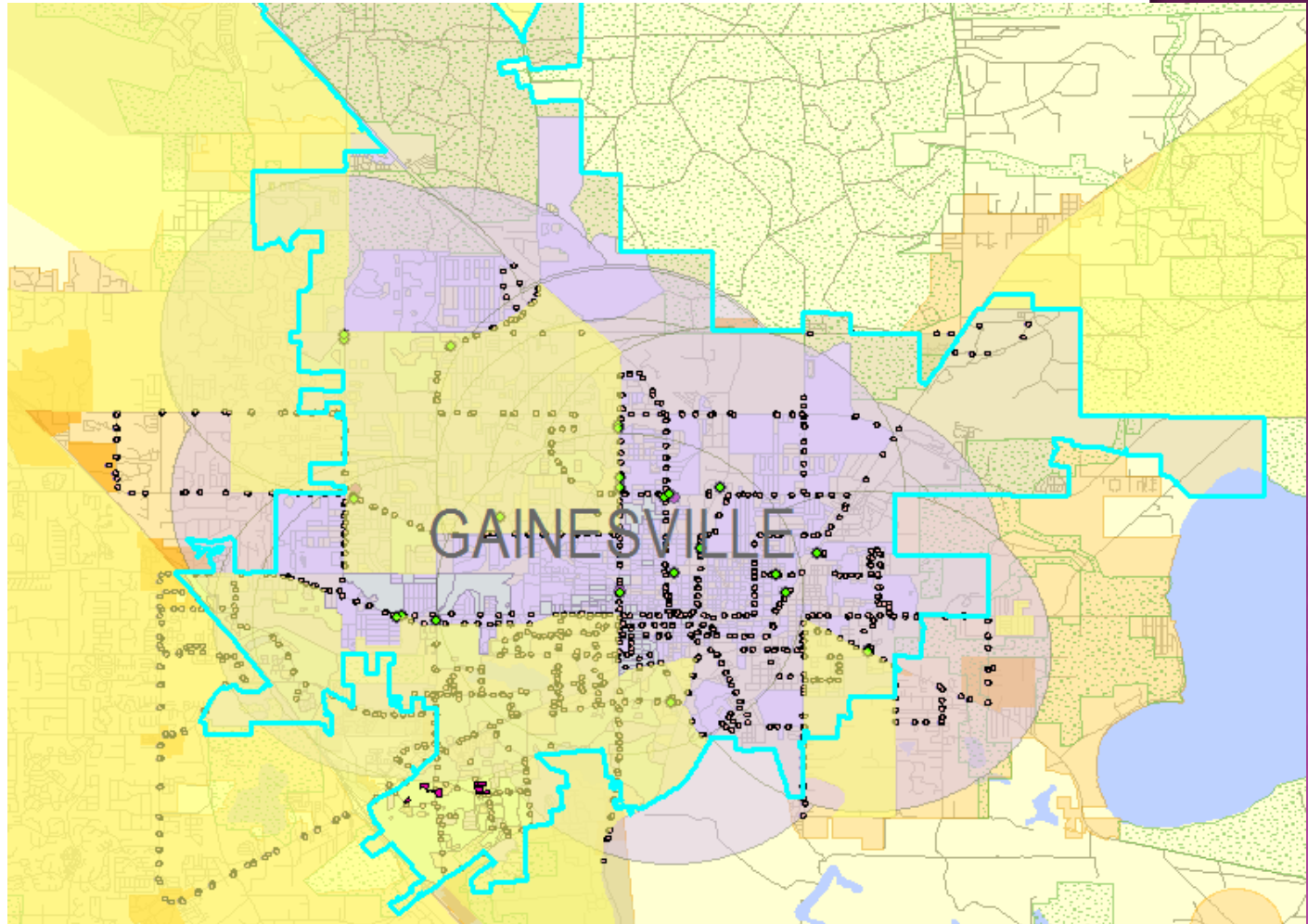 - ArcToolbox/Analysis Tools/Proximity/Buffer

STEP 4

- Select the tax parcels that intersect the bus buffer of 150 ft
  - Select by location
    - Target layer→tax parcels
    - Source layer→bus stops buffer
- Remove the tax parcels that intersect with health food options buffer of 2 miles
  - Select by location→remove from selected feature
    - Target layer→selected tax parcels by bus buffer
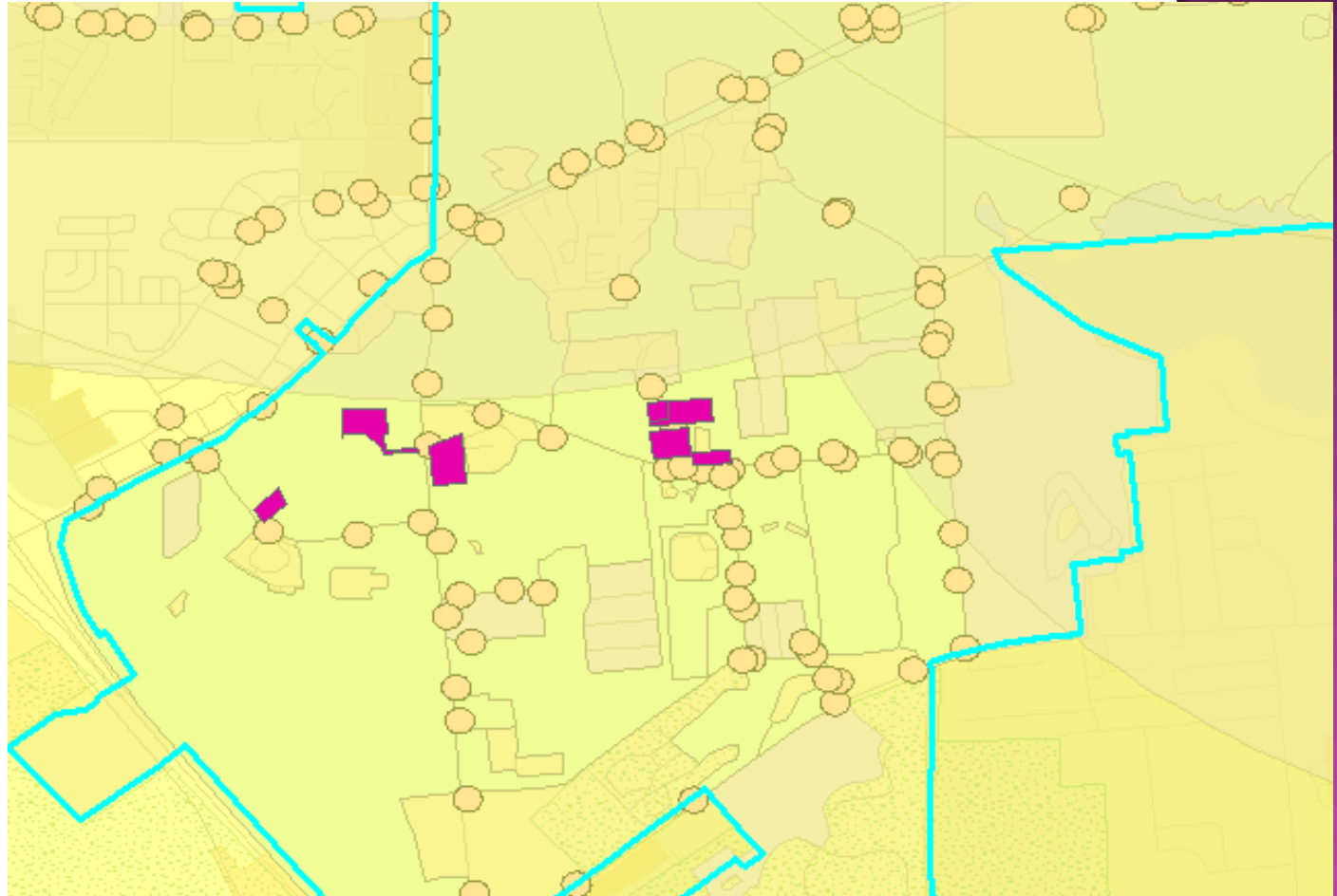   - Source layer→ health food options buffer

STEP 5

- Crime – low, lower, or lowest
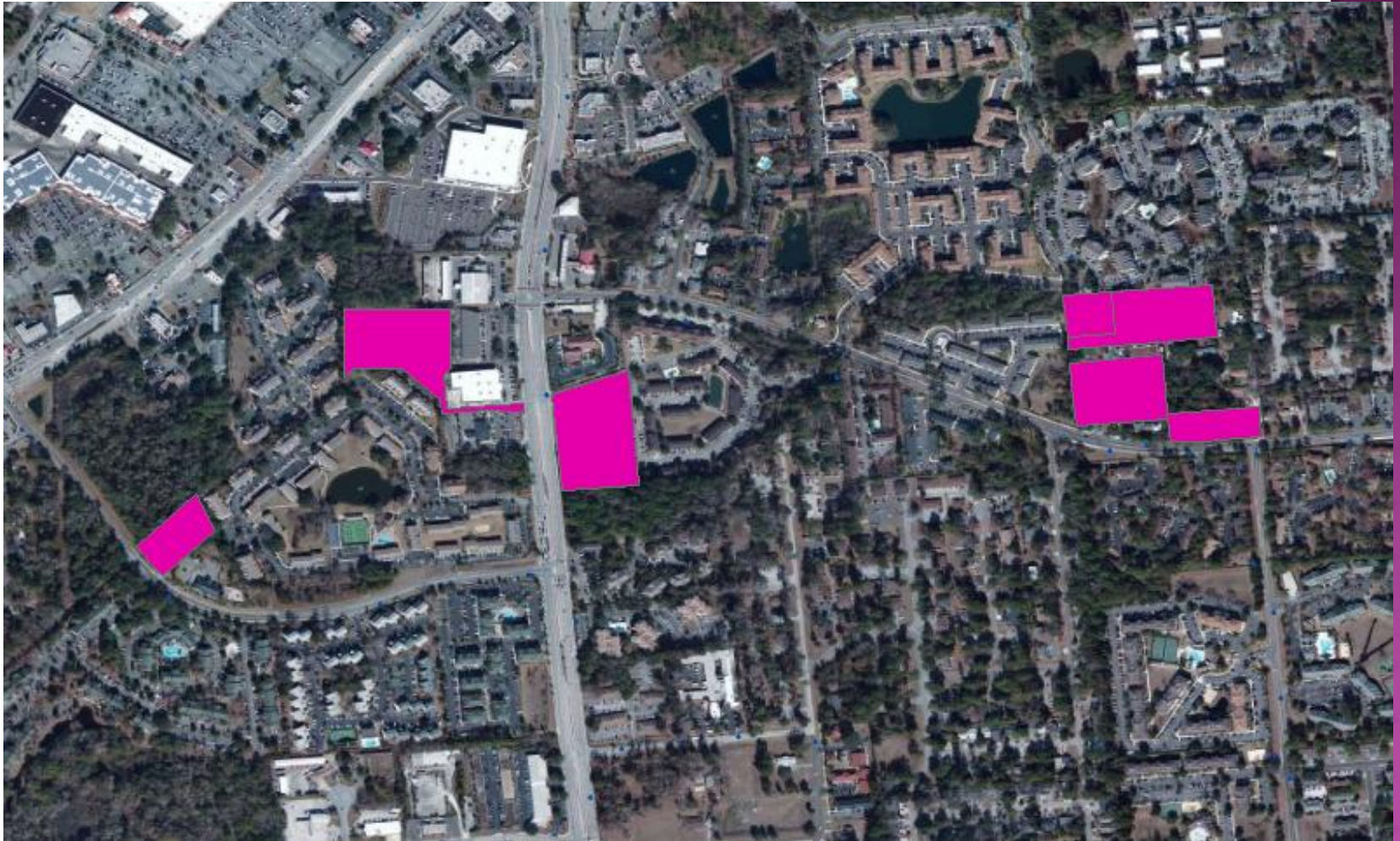 - Select by Attribute → crime rank

ANALYSIS OF AVAILABLE PARCELS
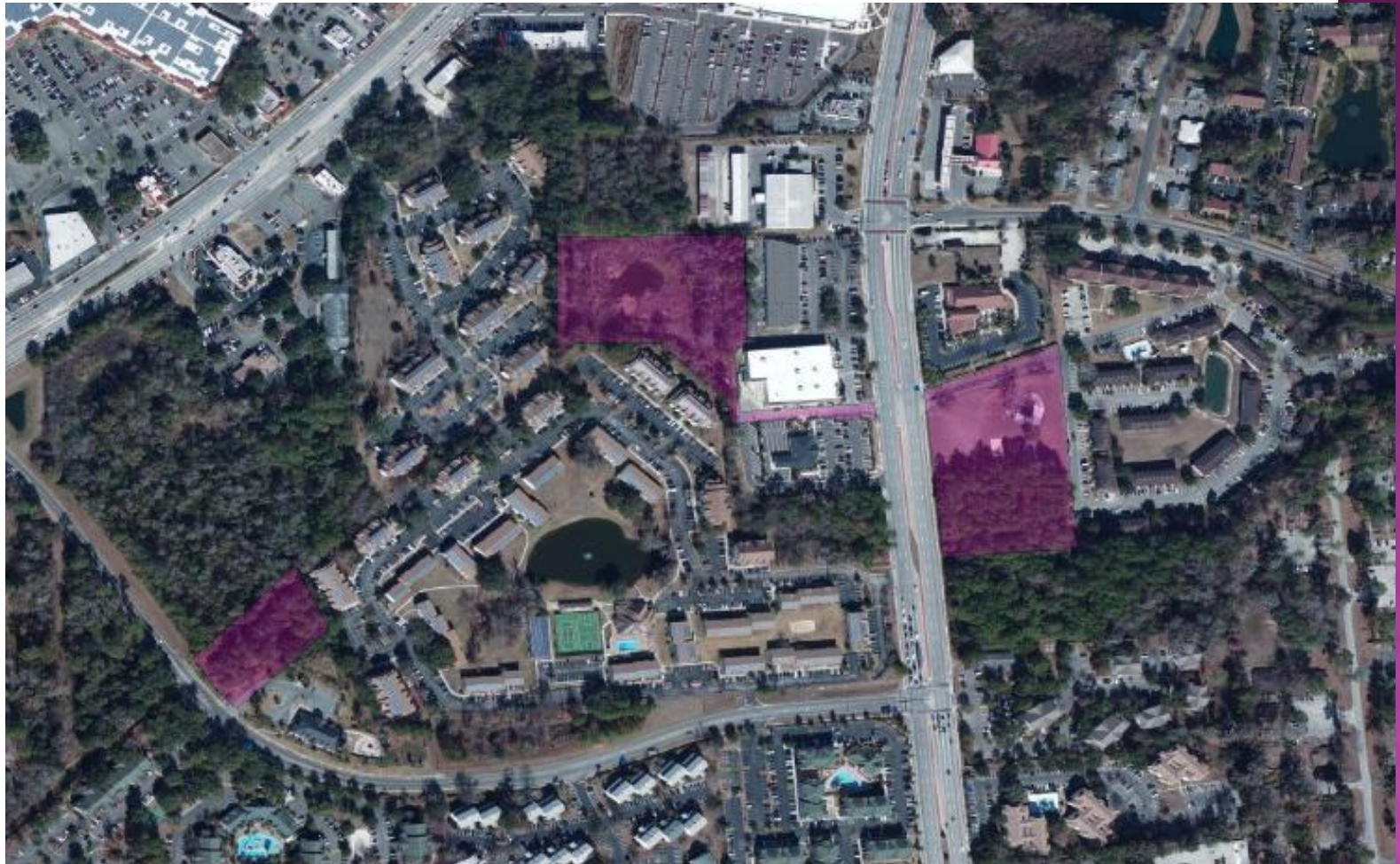
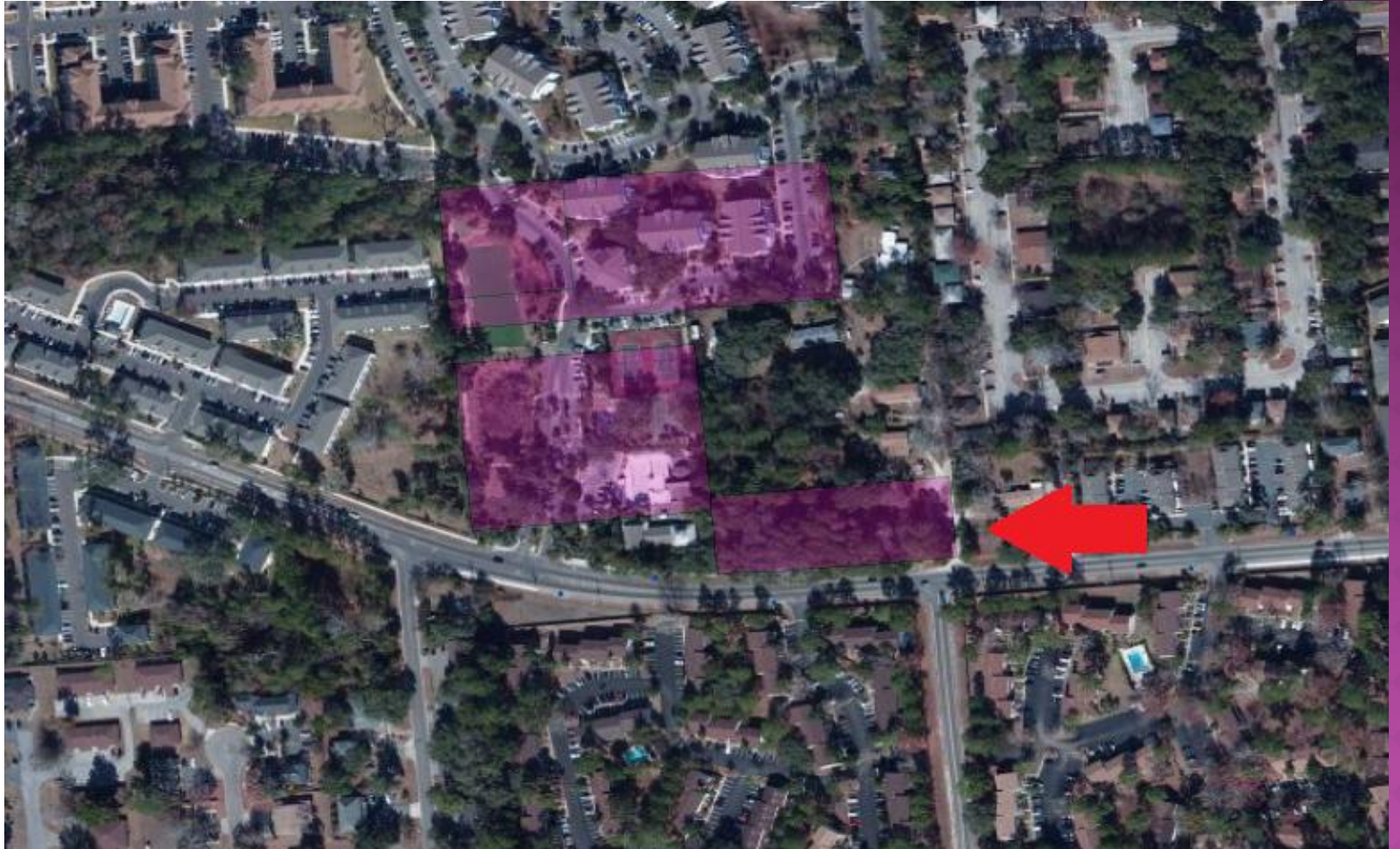- Close up view of the 7 available parcels

BING AERIAL

4 PARCELS ON SW 35TH PLACE

2 PARCELS ON 34TH ST, 1 ON SW 37TH BLVD.

BEST CHOICE!

CONCLUSION

- 3 selected locations for a new healthy food option
  - On 34th St.
  - On SW 37th Blvd.
  - On 35th Pl.
- All met our criteria
- Best choice – **undeveloped vacant commercial tax parcel on 35th Pl.**

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

- Data for Gainesville doesn't include Butler Plaza

- Use of census blocks for population distribution is misleading

- Future land use did not have data within Gainesville