

OPERATION SAFE SHELTER

Overview of team findings, process and
recommendations

Primary objectives of the mission

Identify suitable locations that can accommodate unhoused people with a range of needs in temporary shelters, tents or vehicles.

Engage service providers and other subject matter experts to verify location suitability and better inform viable options.

Sites brought forward as options will have basic plans to meet sanitation, security and access to services.

Approach

First task was to assess the current situation and identify contributing factors to the current increase in unhoused and unsheltered individuals in and around Missoula:

- Current Homeless Shelters are operating at 50% capacity due to continued, Center for Disease Control (CDC), guidance for COVID Mitigation. Nationally, all shelters are adhering to this guidance. There is no current timeline as to when this guidance might change.
- Many unsheltered individuals have housing vouchers, but current housing crisis does not present options for utilizing vouchers.

Second Task was to create criteria to evaluate potential sites and understand the best use of each site based on needs

- Size
- Proximity to existing utilities (power, water, sewer)
- Proximity to public transportation routes
- Potential as a long term or short-term option
- Security considerations
- Suitability for type of shelter (tents, structures, vehicles etc.)
- Proximity to busy roads, schools, etc.
- Access for occupants and emergency vehicles
- Ownership
- Current use

Third Task was to engage with City and County staff to further inform site suitability & function

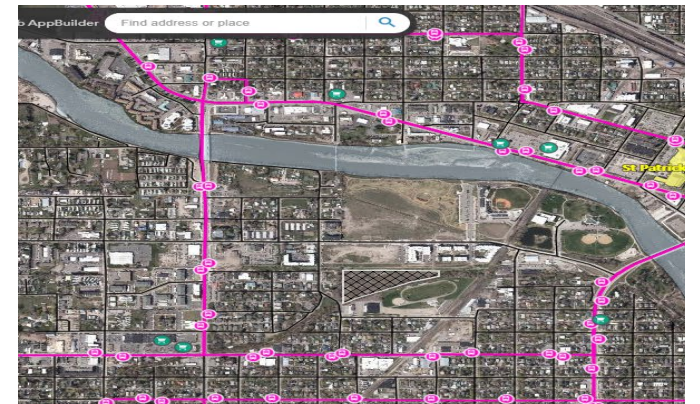
- City Developmental Services
- County Community and Planning Services
- Environmental Health
- Chief Administrative staff for both City and County

Evaluation

Assessed 21 sites

Private properties

City or County
Owned Parcels



Key findings:

- There is no single site that is suited to address the needs of the current or expected unsheltered population.
- Three different types of sites should be deployed at three different locations:
 - A site(s) that offer temporary transitional housing for individuals who either have a current housing voucher, are connected to housing navigation services but can't be placed, or those that unexpectedly become homeless and need a short-term shelter. Individuals accepted into this type of site would be based on referral criteria.
 - A site(s) that can act as a legal, minimally supported, safe campground. This site should be easy to find (navigate to) and easily supported with sanitation services such as garbage and bathroom facilities. Outreach to individuals accessing this site would largely be supported by current service providers such as the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and others.
 - A site that can support a service rich environment comprised of small "all season" hard sided structures. The site would require 24/7 operational management and individuals would be accepted into this site based on referral criteria.

Recommendation for temporary transitional housing:

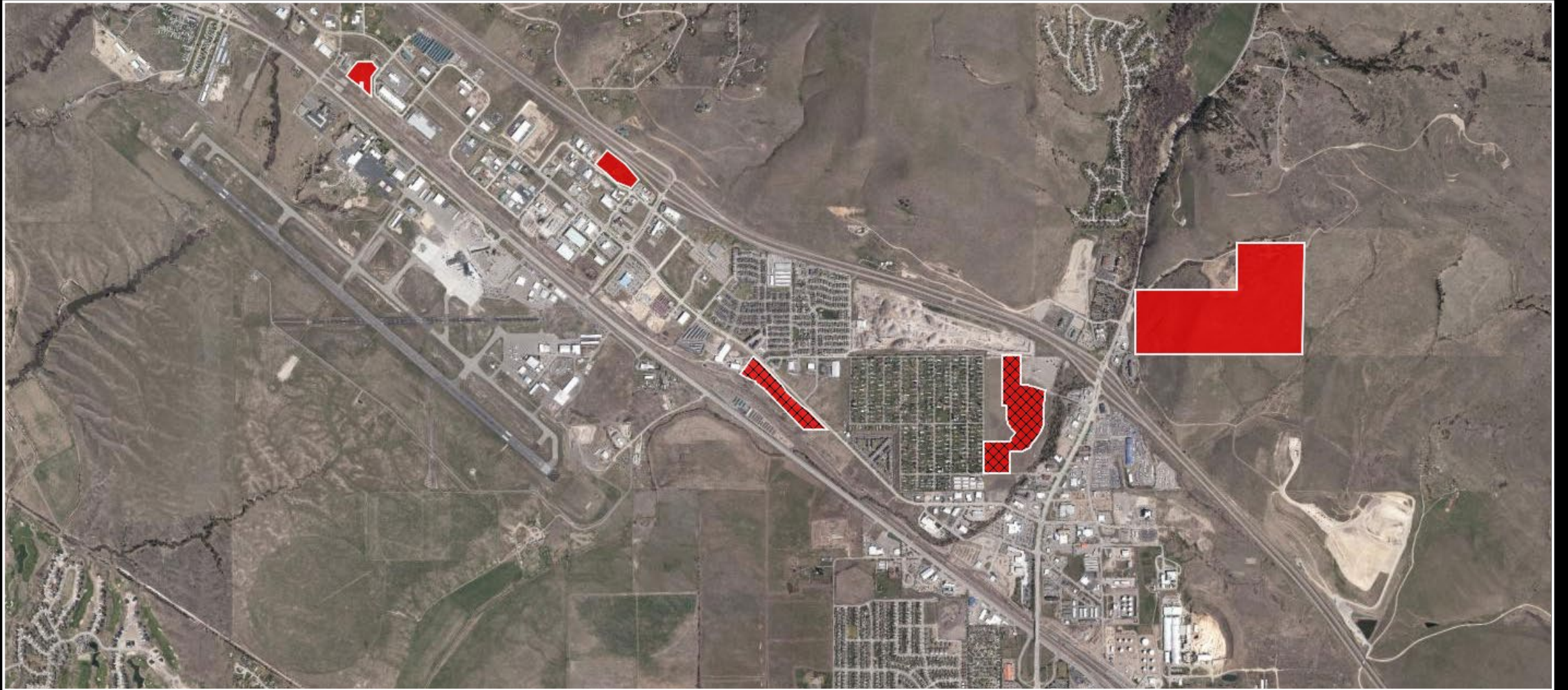
- To address the current limited capacity of the local homeless shelters and lack of available housing
 - Utilize the City owned facility at [1427 West Broadway](#) (former Sleepy Inn) for temporary transitional housing.
 - This site was most recently used for COVID Response to provide isolation and quarantine rooms for individuals who had no suitable location to do so.
 - Health officials and shelters serving the homeless still report a need for continued Isolation options for those experiencing homelessness but, the current and expected need does not require the entire facility
 - This site could be up and operational as both a limited isolation facility and temporary transitional housing within a couple weeks.
 - Costs may be reimbursable through existing emergency solutions grant managed by the Human Resource Council.

Recommendation for legal safe campground:

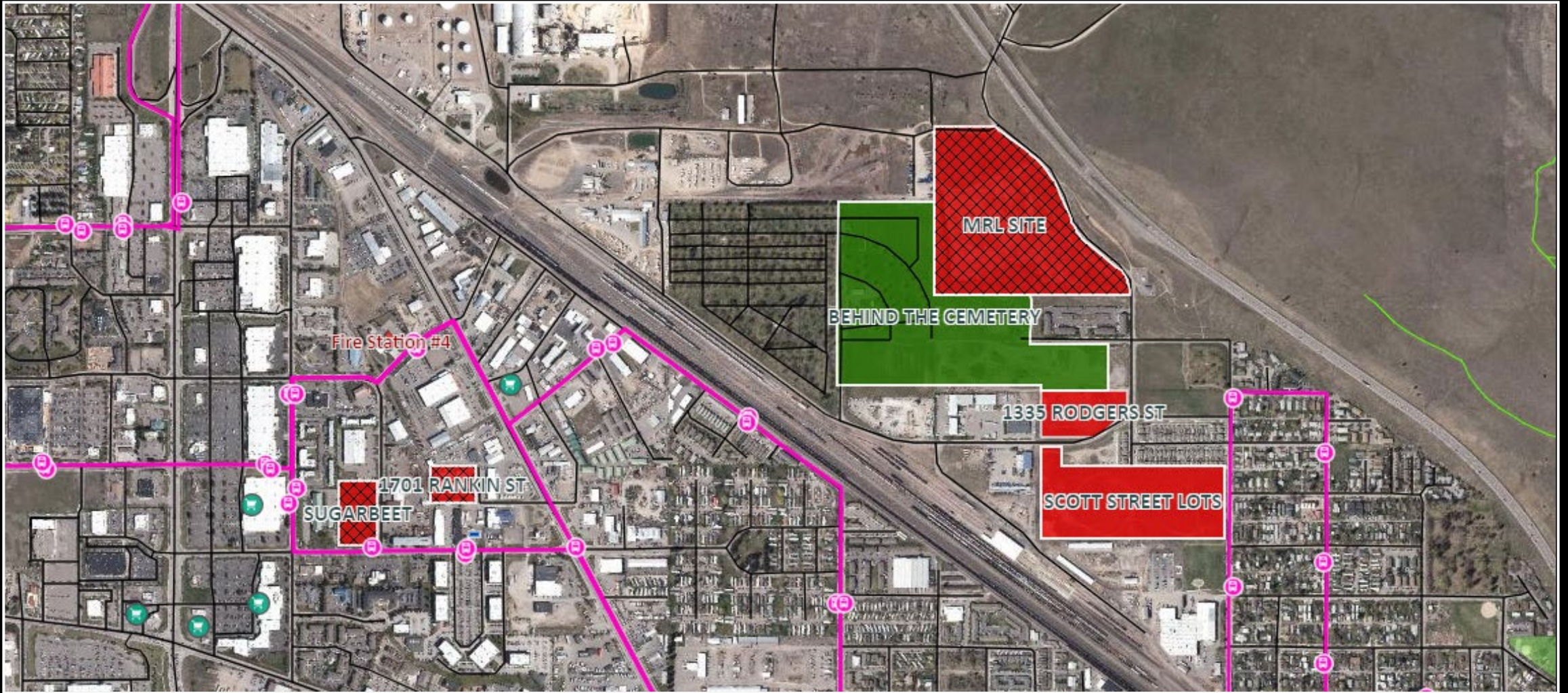
- To address those experiencing homelessness who need a minimally supported, safe option to illegal camping:
 - Construct and design a camping area with sanitation services, security and designated camping spots at the City Owned Parcel at the end of [Clark Fork Lane](#).
 - Site is currently used to store equipment for Missoula Compost operations.
 - Site could be graded with designated camp sites and facilities.
 - Site is near the existing Reserve Street encampment, but offers better access for emergency services, sanitation services, and is not in the floodway.
 - Site is close to food and grocery options, public transportation and is not near residential neighborhoods or busy streets.

Recommendation for safe outdoor space

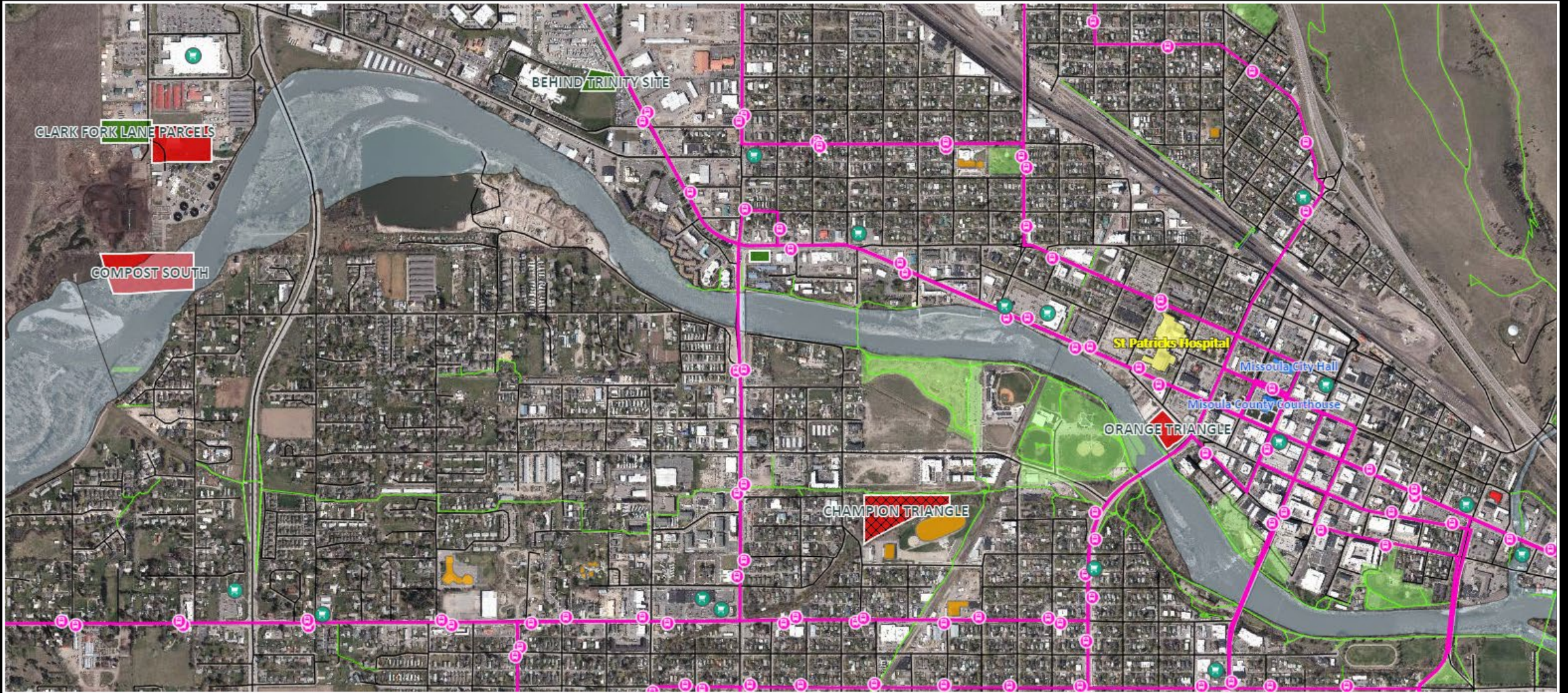
- To provide an all-season, safe environment for individuals experiencing homelessness who are ready to access services geared toward placement into permanent housing:
 - Construct and design a hard sided outdoor space with individual shelters designated for single or double occupancy with separate, shared bathroom and shower facilities at City owned lots adjacent to the Missoula [Cemetery on North Russel](#).** A future site should be developed on the County owned lot adjacent to the new [Trinity site](#) (Currently under construction) located off West Broadway.
 - Site is currently open space unused for park or cemetery purposes
 - Site could be outfitted with power, water and septic to support individual temporary structures, shower/bathroom facilities and service provider office space.
 - Site is near existing public transportation, but additional transportation services will likely be necessary.
 - Individuals accessing the site would be referred through established outreach and case management systems.



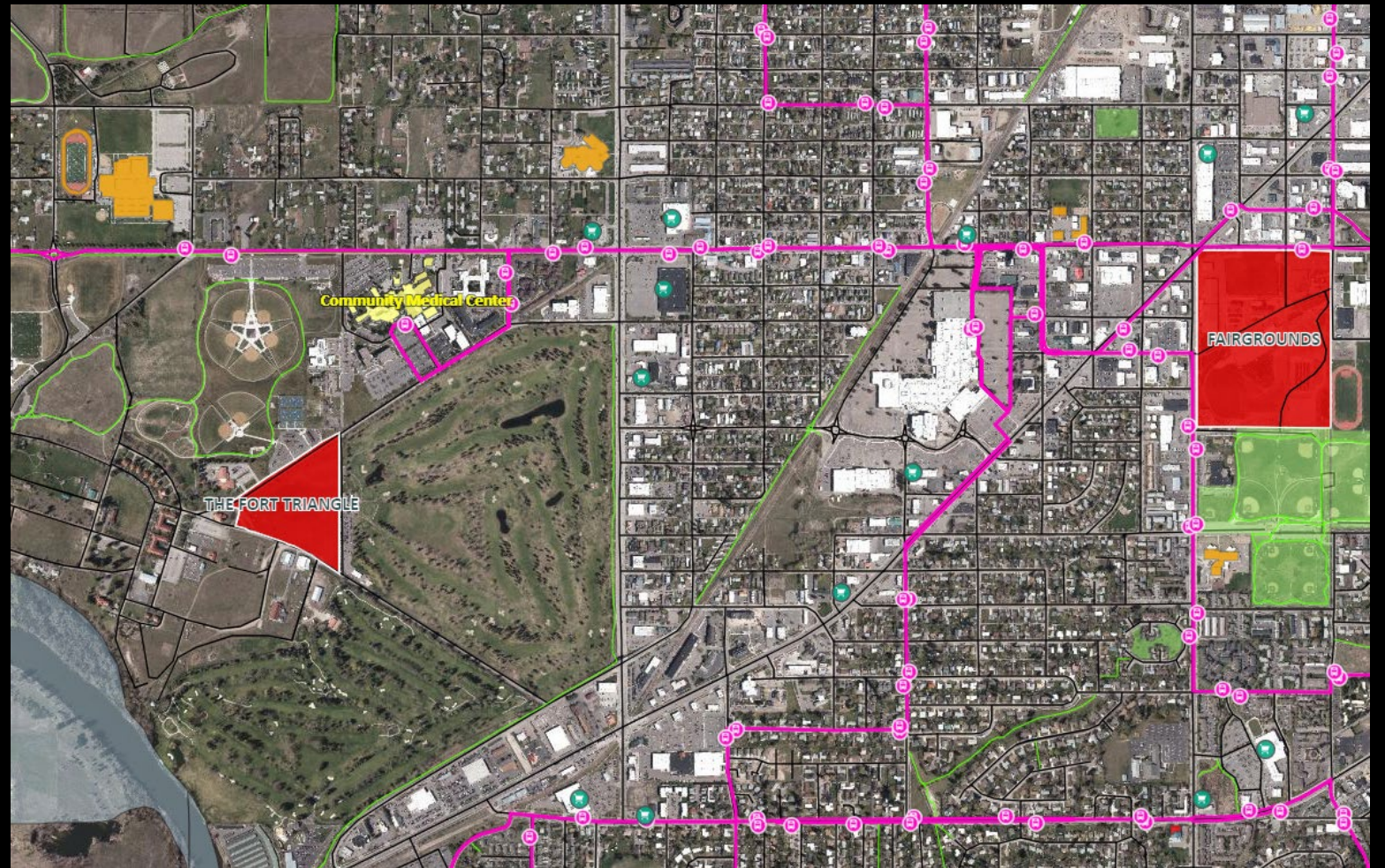
Overview of Sites that were evaluated but not recommended: Western Sector



Overview of Sites that were evaluated but not recommended: Northern Sector



Overview of Sites that were evaluated but not recommended: Central Sector



Overview of Sites that were evaluated but not recommended: Southern Sector



Overview of Sites that were evaluated but not recommended: Eastern Sector