

Soraida Garcia, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN (E-Mail: garcia409@purdue.edu).

Greenspaces are an important component of the urban ecosystem, benefitting surrounding communities and the city they occupy (Sander, 2010). Urban cemeteries, although categorized as green space, are often not thought of or used as such by urban residents (Ajewole, 2015). As population in cities increase, green space availability has become scarce (Hansmann, 2015), forcing urban residents and city planners to carefully consider the role of urban green spaces in the urban socio-ecosystem. In cities such as Chicago, which is the third largest populated city in the U.S., green spaces should be fully utilized.

Living within a certain distance of a cemetery may also influence home market values of the community in which it resides (Morancho, 2003) and one may also analyze a variety of factors that may also influence property sales price, some of which are status, aesthetics, size or canopy cover.

Cemeteries provide a service to urban wildlife in a way parks cannot (Buchholz, 2016). Parks provide a recreational area for human enjoyment and protection of wildlife however, this green space does not serve wildlife as well as it should (National Geographic, 2016). And in a large city such as Chicago, it is a vital space providing a safe haven to retreat from predators, traffic, and people (National Geographic, 2016).

This study shows the important values cemeteries provide to an urban landscape by focusing on the following three objectives:

- O1:** To identify and characterize effects of proximity (or adjacency) to cemeteries to home market values and evaluate whether these effects differ from those of proximity (or adjacency) to other types of urban greenspace
- O2:** To identify the relationship between the loss of urban wildlife and the proximity of cemetery locations.
- O3:** To distinguish the geospatial arrangement of cemeteries from other green spaces within the structure of an urban landscape.

FOR FURTHER READING:

References: Ajewole, O. I., Olajuyigbe, S. O. and Hassan, A. R. (2015). Potentials of cemeteries as urban tree conservation areas in Ibadan metropolis. *Nigerian Journal of Forestry* 45 (1): 48-59. Buchholz, S., Blick, T., Hannig, K., Kowarik, I., Lemke, A., Otte, V., Scharon, J., Schönhofer, A., Teige, T., Lippe, M.V.D. & Seitz, B. (2016) Biological richness of a large urban cemetery in Berlin. Results of a multi-taxon approach. *Biodiversity Data Journal*, 4. Hansmann, D. (2015) How Green Is Our City: Chicago's Urban Green Space. URL <http://moss-design.com/chicago-parks/> [accessed 6 December 2018]. Morancho, A.B. (2003) A hedonic valuation of urban green areas. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 66, 35–41. City Cemetery Is Alive With Shocking Number of Bats, Spiders. (2016) National Geographic Society. URL <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/07/bats-spiders-city-cemetery-weissensee-jewish-berlin-animals/> [accessed 6 December 2018].

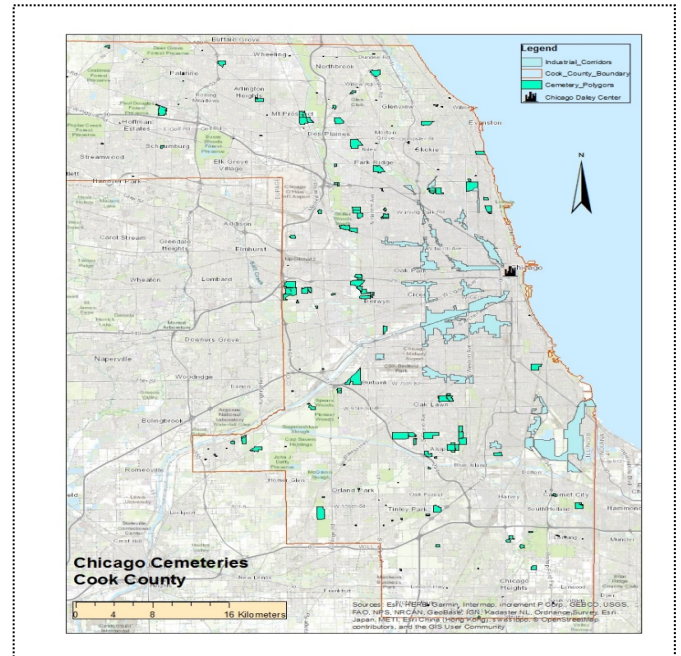


Fig 1: Cemetery and Industrial Corridors placement within the North and South sides of Chicago Cook County.



Fig 2: Attending the esri user conference allowed me to be up to date with the latest GIS techniques and technology. I can now improve my models and share this new found knowledge within the scientific community, amongst my peers and the city of West Lafayette as a way to contribute back to the community.