For this suitability analysis, I chose to study the best places to put community gardens in the city of Little Rock, Arkansas. This is because Little Rock is classified as the most obese city in America. My organization for this project is the Food is Free project, a non-profit who goes to communities and helps establish community gardens in neighborhoods across the country. This organization helps people regain control of their health by growing fresh food in their front lawns. These projects help communities become stronger since they work together to build these gardens and later have plots on them allowing people to reconnect with neighbors, something we have lost overtime.

Income is a major factor of health. Income is often a determining factor if you are able shop for healthier foods. Many lower income groups might not have the resources to buy fruits and vegetables which can impact health outcomes. It is transformed as MS Small since less desirable areas will have higher incomes, while lower income areas will be more suited.

Housing units are important because the gardens are to be built on willing homeowners’ lawns. This provides a guaranteed space within urban areas. The data was transformed using MS Large since this tells us what areas have the largest number of housing units. More housing is more desirable, less housing would be less desirable.

Vehicle ownership is a critical factor, people are not willing to walk more than a half mile to reach a destination. These gardens are to be built in areas with less vehicle ownership. These areas might have residents who struggle to get around. The data was transformed with MS Small so the less vehicles there are the better suited the site is.

Obesity is a massive killer in the US. The point of these gardens is to foster healthier lifestyles. This layer looks at and identifies the tracts with the highest obesity rates using MS Large, tracts with higher obesity rates are the most suitable.

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