

Our Plan:

- Share locations of free WiFi access points on Facebook
- Identify areas of need using Facebook/Survey/GIS Data
- Park WiFi Enabled Cars / Busses in Empty Parking Lots
- Open Existing Hotspots to the Public

Maintain Physical
Distancing



Vital Uses of WiFi

Education
Telemedicine
Employment
Food Delivery
Employment
Social Connectedness

16% of the U.S. Population does not have Internet Access

2018, ACS

Join the WiFiWarriors
and help provide free
WiFi to those in need.

During this time of physical
distancing, WiFi access has
never been more vital.

We feel that



WiFi is *as essential* as **Water**
during this pandemic

Learn More & Get Involved!

Join our Facebook Group

<https://tinyurl.com/FacebookWiFiWarriors>

Website www.WNYwifiWarriors.com



Internet Access in WNY and beyond

*In **Western New York**, **18.6%** ($\pm 0.5\%$) of all households have **no access** to the internet.*

*In New York State, less than **15.6%** ($\pm 0.1\%$) of all households have no access to the internet.*

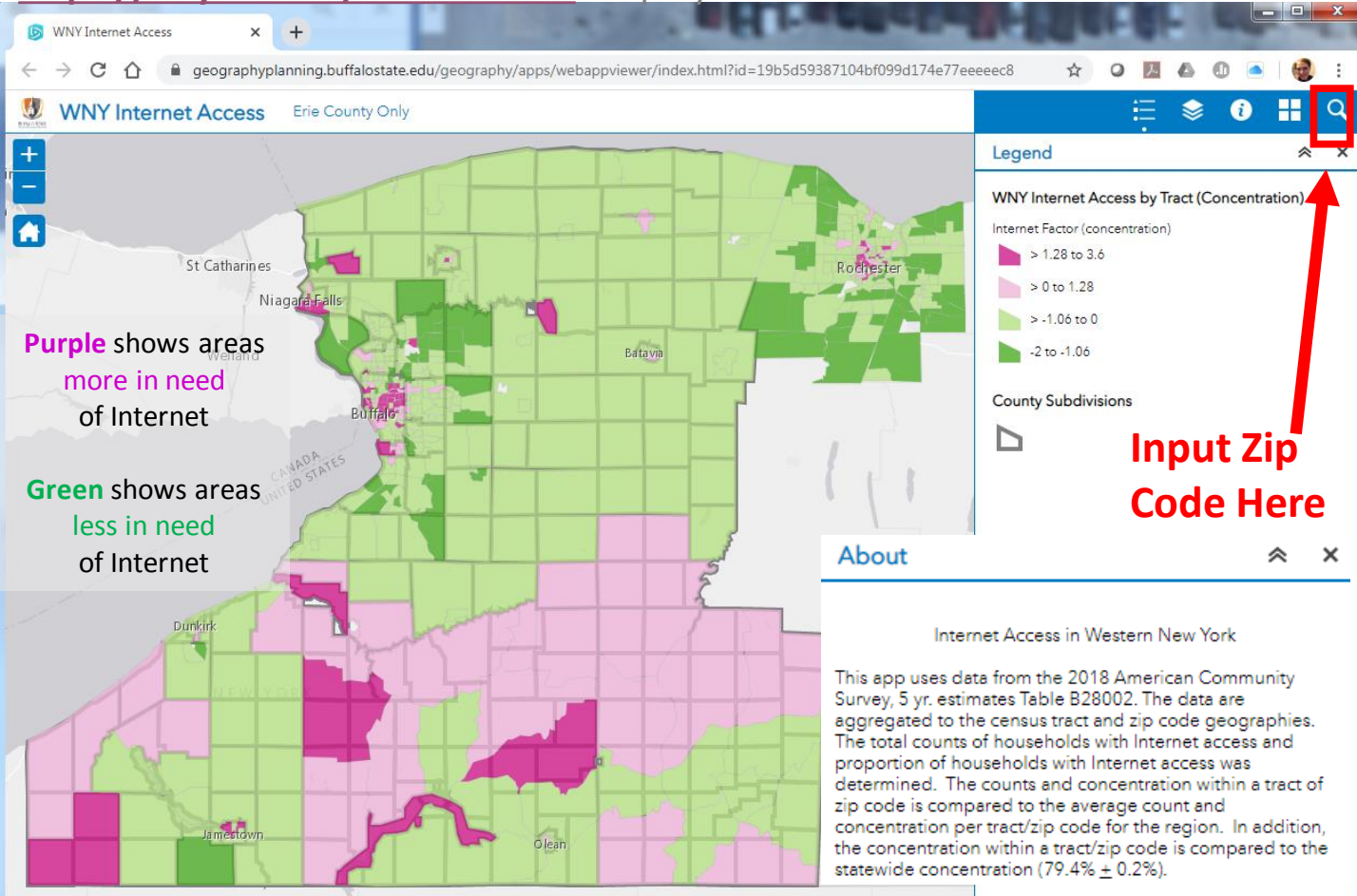
*In the U.S. **15.8%** ($\pm 0.1\%$) of all households have no access to the internet.*

Source: 2018 ACS (Census) Data, 5 Year Estimates, Dr. Mix- [Neighborhood Measures](#)

Curious about internet access in your Zip Code?

Visit the below URL and see access estimates in your zip code:

<https://tinyurl.com/WifiWarriors> Map by Dr. Wende A. Mix of Buffalo State

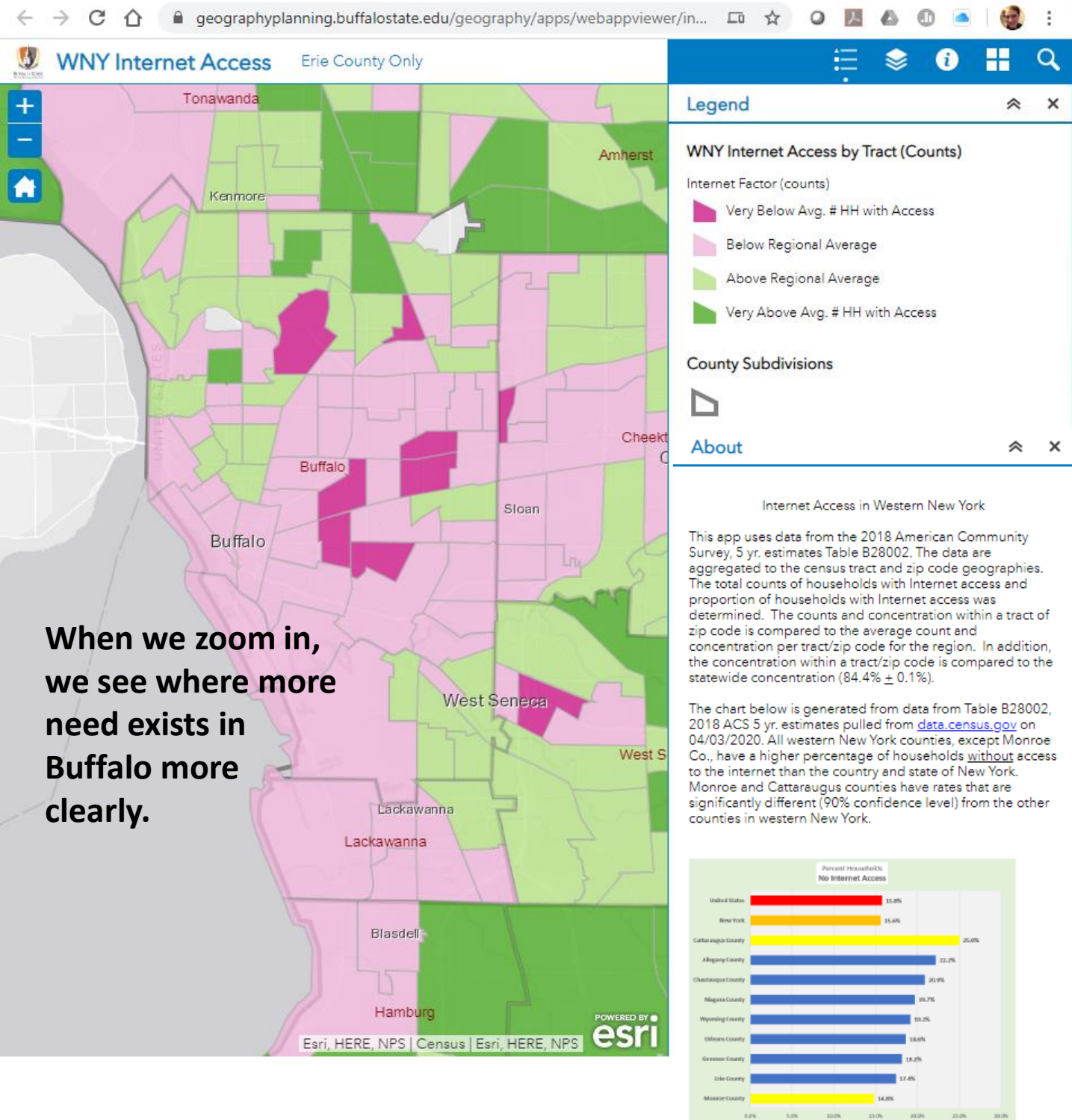


Internet Access in WNY Spotlight on Buffalo

Map by Dr. Wende A. Mix of Buffalo State
<https://tinyurl.com/WifiWarriors>

Purple shows areas
more in need of Internet

Green shows areas
less in need of Internet



Without Internet (WiFi), many people are without access to the following...

- Education
- Telemedicine
- Food Delivery
- Employment
- Opportunities to Socially Connect
- Important State & National Updates (CDC, WHO, etc.)

18.6% of WNY is without internet access. Without internet access, people can not access education, telemedicine, food delivery, employment, or state and federal updates. Internet access is a Social Determinant of Health. We created a Facebook Group called WiFiWarriors to connect people with mobile/static WiFi Hotspots to those that are in need of internet access, free of charge. WiFi Warriors is a collective of individuals who are working to improve WiFi access in many different ways. Working together (apart) we can improve access and possibly save lives.

Read More Here. <http://wnywifiwarriors.com/about-us/>

Get Involved!

Just sharing the link to the Facebook Group is AMAZING.

- *If you know someone without internet access, please help them reach out.*
- *If you have a WiFi access point you are willing to open to the public, please post it's location and info on our Facebook Group!*

Join our Facebook Group To see the most up-to-date conversations and needs. Click this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/840573843107793/>

Or

Reach out to Kim Herrington via the [Facebook](#) Group or [LinkedIn](#) Messenger

Or

Visit our website www.WNYwifiWarriors.com

A bit about the Original WiFi Warrior.

Kimberly Herrington
Creator of
WiFiWarriors

[Facebook Group](#)

[Slack Channel](#)

[Website](#)



Photo Courtesy of @blanc_photographie

- Kim Herrington has over 15 years of experience working in Healthcare.
- Her passions are educating the community about Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), Data Literacy, Health Analytics, and Data Storytelling.
- Through her free Business Intelligence work groups she strives to turn activists into analysts, and turn event planners into product managers.
- Kim is passionate about the future of telemedicine and the use of technology and is always ready to solve the toughest problems facing WNY.

Read More about Kim:

https://geographyplanning.buffalostate.edu/wMix/WAMfsrc_poster.pdf

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kimbuchner/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/taking-action-social-determinants-health-2020-herrington->

1 Proposed Solution (Bus Focused)

As of 3/30/2020

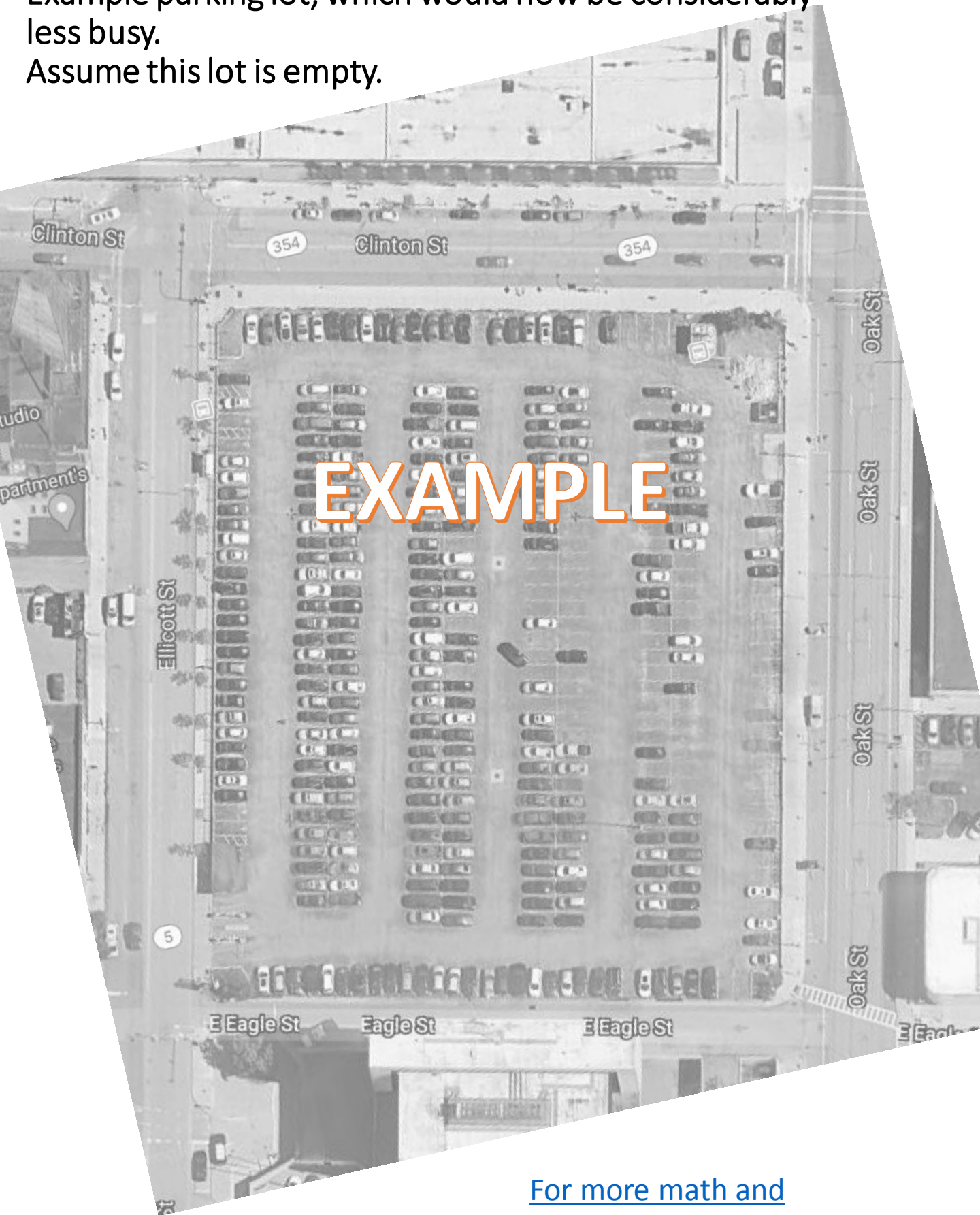
- Leverage Existing Resources
 - Vacant Busses with “WiFi-enabled Hotspots”
 - Abandoned Parking Lots
 - Campus Police or “Security”
- Provide WiFi access 4 hours a day at various “high need” areas across WNY *(Purple areas from previous maps)*
- Park busses and broadcast on news when/where busses will be
- Post WiFi Passwords on Bus Windows if needed
- Park cars in staggered parking spots
- Have “security” around the busses to ensure physical distancing is being maintained, ask people not adhering to guidelines to leave
- Start a movement to get others to place unused equipment to work to help others, while still maintaining physical distance.

Demo- So how would it work?

- The next images will walk you through a *proposed* set up.

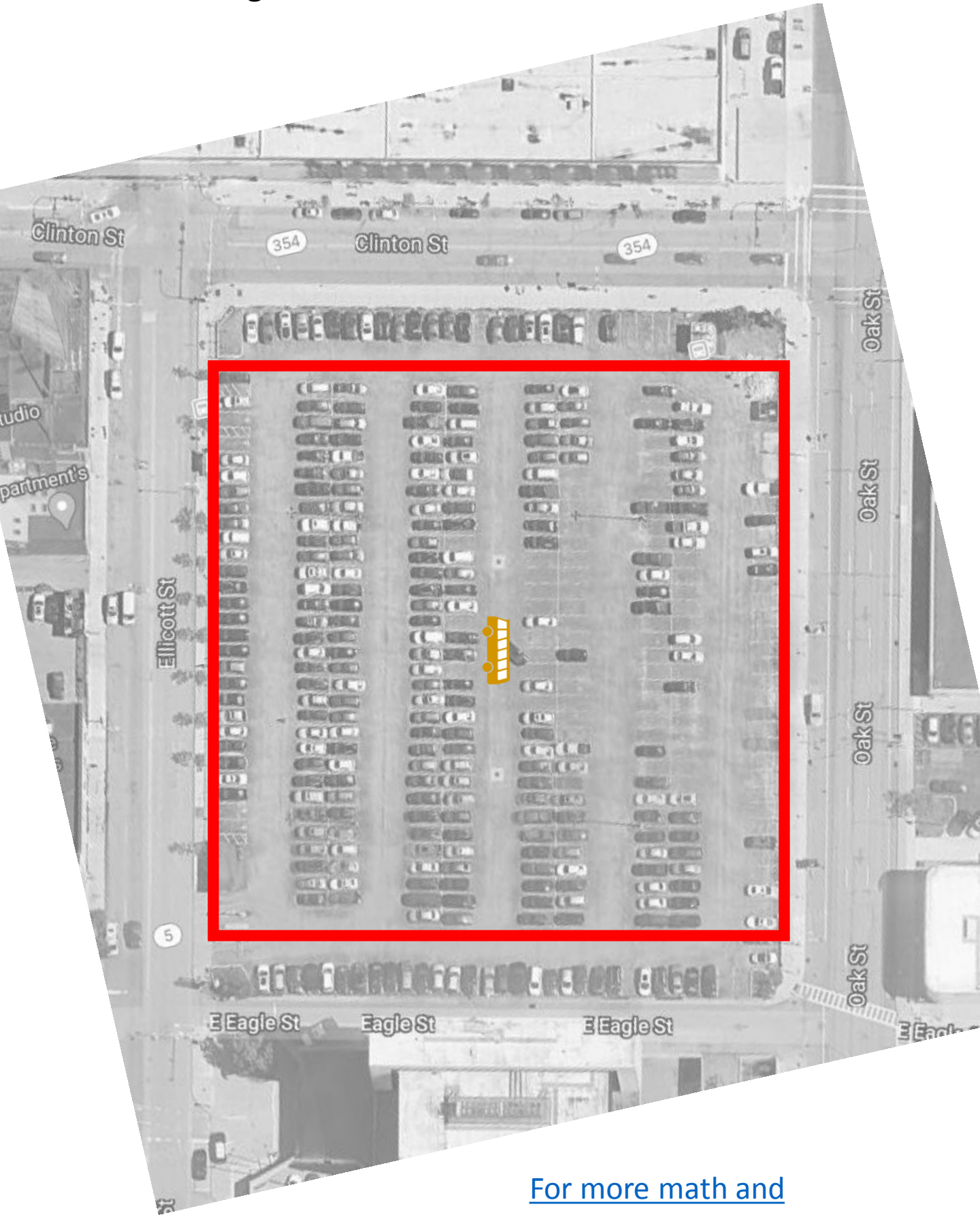
Example parking lot, which would now be considerably less busy.

Assume this lot is empty.



[For more math and assumptions click here](#)

Park one 29' long bus in the center



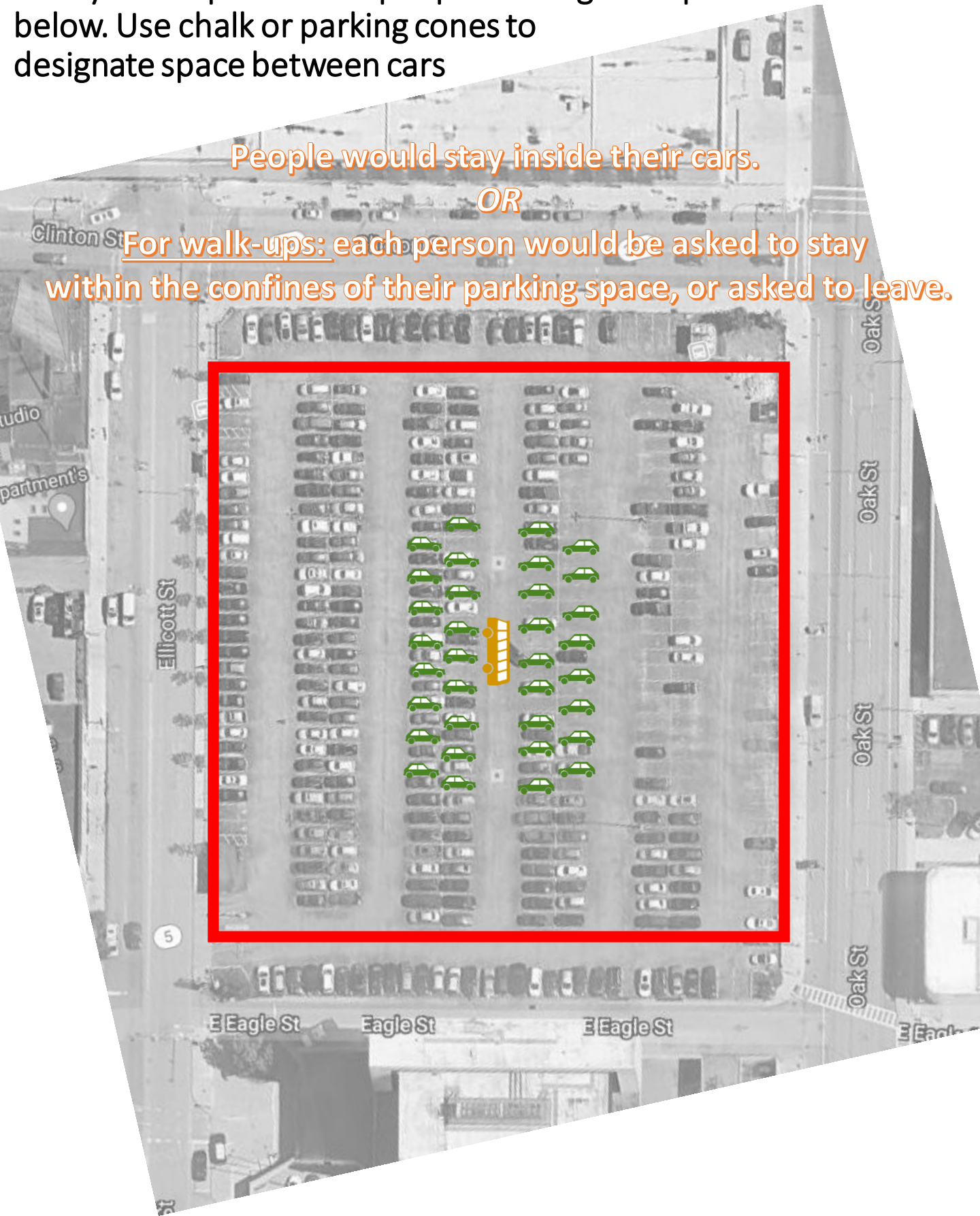
[For more math and assumptions click here](#)

Now you can park 18-35 people in the green spaces below. Use chalk or parking cones to designate space between cars

People would stay inside their cars.

OR

For walk-ups: each person would be asked to stay within the confines of their parking space, or asked to leave.



Add campus police or other “security” to ensure physical distancing is maintained



Use Common Sense

Don't be Daft



Maintain Physical
Distancing or
Be asked to Leave

Who else is doing stuff like this?

- No one that we know of is doing this exact thing.
- In Port Byron they are using school busses, but only for students to download/upload homework in 20 minute sessions.
 - https://auburnpub.com/news/local/port-byron-deploys-buses-with-internet-to-help-students-amid-covid-19-closures/article_898f25ad-bff6-5a85-86bc-ed87c8c2b7db.html
- Spectrum is helping who it can by providing service, but it requires a user to provide a credit card number and some may not have that to give. Also the offer is limited to 60 days of use. It's effective for *students* at this time.
 - <https://www.spectrum.net/support/internet/coronavirus-internet-offer-students/>
- Update 4/2/2020- Xfinity WiFi by Comcast is providing free access to WiFi at various hotspots, but coverage is still not wide enough on a community level.
 - <http://wifi.xfinity.com>
- We still need more options!

As of
4/2/2020

“But what about...”

- We know this proposed solution won't be all things to all people
- We wanted to do ***something***
- We had to start ***somewhere***
- We had to start ***now***
- ***We met our goal to set up no-strings attached WiFi Access on 4/18/2020, at the West Side Community Center near 317 Fargo Ave, Buffalo NY from 12-3pm.***
- ***We will meet our goal again Saturday 4/25/2020 when we set up at the West Side Community Center near 317 Fargo Ave, Buffalo NY from 12-3pm again!***

Next Steps

- Continue to spread awareness of the need of Internet Access and bring attention to Social Determinants of Health.
- Identify others who want to help and connect them via our [Facebook Group](#)
- Talk with more GIS friends to create surveys to connect those in need of WiFi to those that offer it, free of charge (inspirations [1](#) & [2](#))
- Educate others of resources available
- Offer assistance to other counties in the U.S. looking to build or improve upon our ideas here. We dare you. Do better! We want you to!!
- Remember nothing is impossible, and look up to companies like [HealthLink](#). They solved the problem of connecting insurances and medical records, if they can do that, we can connect people to WiFi in WNY!
- Share our stories of success

Get Involved!

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