

Cedar Rapids Buyouts

In order to do the fun part (the analysis), there are a few more things we need to do.

Not all of these are for you. This is just so I have it all in one place.

Remaining tasks

1. Matching names
 - For homeowners that did not accept a buyout, where are they post-buyout?
 - Now that you've matched properties that were targeted but not acquired to owners, we can see if the owner is the same (or not) post-buyout, i.e., after 2014
 - If a property owner changes over this period, do they remain in the Cedar Rapids area?
 - This would be very much like the name matching you did before: match *names* to the assessor data
2. Matching PINs
 - Now that we have a list of owners and their eligible properties (acquired or not), as well as their properties post-buyout, it's time to determine the *values* of those properties
 - This should be straightforward: match parcel ID (TAXPIN or GPN) back to assessor data and get the "improved value" (this is the value of the structure, in contrast to the value of the land)
 - I should be able to do this fairly quickly (unless you have time!)
3. Parcel flood levels
 - Damage information (maybe?)
 - This is in the original GIS data (`parcels.shp`) in the column `FLOODRECOR`, but I'm not clear on what the units are. I'll reach out to Cedar Rapids GIS
4. Getting property characteristics
 - The assessor data we have includes assessed property values (important), but not information on the actual property such as square footage, number of bedrooms, etc. (also important)
 - Scraping: I've scraped their website before...not fun
 - Alternative is to simply ask for the data. They've already provided part of the assessor data, why wouldn't they share the rest of it...?

Analysis

Not exclusive list. Open to ideas!

For context, these are the main research questions I'm considering at the moment (there likely are other interesting questions to be asked):

- What do people do?
 - Why do people choose to take or not take the buyout?
 - Where do they go (spatially)?
 - Are people better off or worse off (in terms of property value) after the buyout?
 - This is conditional on taking or not taking the buyout
 - The same question could be asked about amenities (e.g., lower assessed value because of less square footage, but closer to parks or in a better school district)
1. Exploratory analysis
 - Summary statistics: Summarizing {property value, damage} by {acquired, not acquired}, both pre- and post-buyouts (e.g., 2007 vs 2015)
 - Graphs!
 - ...
 2. Econometrics
 - ...