



MAPPING

Maps assign data to a set geographic location. Additional layers of data (time, distance, change etc.) can be added to provide one of the most effective means to display information. Maps can be used to show walkability, obesity's growth over time, social inequity, crime hotspots or personal history.

Communities have more access to free mapping data via major search engine (Google and Bing) while GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data is collected and used by local governments and organizations to better understand communities. New GIS mapping programs will provide platforms to address social issues and allow organizations or communities create their own mapping system.

This resource guide was created in August 2010 and was last updated in August 2011.

Green Map System

<http://www.greenmap.org/>

Green Map System promotes sustainable development through mapmaking. They have worked with over 500 communities in 55 countries to develop maps that highlight natural resources, ecological, social, and cultural resources. The website has interactive map features as well as example maps.

Story Mapping

<http://www.storymapping.org/>

StoryMapping is a project for the Center for Digital Storytelling, which combines digital storytelling and mapping technologies. The website has resources such as the MapBuilder, Community Walk, and Wayfaring which enable communities to develop interactive maps. Additionally the website has some examples from several communities who have used this technique.

Maps for Change (using photovoice)

<http://map4change.org/>

Maps for Change is an interactive website that allows users to tell compelling stories about their communities using maps, blogs, and other digital tools. There are several example maps that have been created on the website for users to explore.

Walkscore

<http://www.walkscore.com/>

Walkscore is an online tool that measures a neighborhood's walkability by using an algorithm to determine what amenities are within walking distance of a determined location. The site has added a transit score to determine the degree of public transportation that serves a determined location.

Google maps/Bing maps/Google earth

<http://maps.google.com> <http://www.bing.com> <http://earth.google.com/>

Each of these mapping sites offers accurate and interactive maps. Google Maps provides directions via car, transit, biking and walking. They are now mapping greenways and major trails across the world with their street view (a ground view photo mapping of locations and streets). Bing offers similar options with alternate photos. Users can save personal maps for their own uses. Google Earth is a free software program that allows the user to view anywhere on Earth to via satellite imagery, maps, terrain, [3D buildings](#), from galaxies in outer space to the canyons of the ocean.

Examples of Digital Mapping

100 Mile Diet Map for Madison Area

<http://www.chickmappers.com/100miledietmap/>

This website describes a map that was created by University of Wisconsin, Madison students that shows where healthy food options are in the Madison area. The map is based off of work done by Alisa Smith and James MacKinnon in Vancouver, Canada.

Mapping grocery stores in NYC

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/supermarket/index.shtml>

In 2008, NYC commissioned a study to determine if there was a need for more grocery stores. The study indicated that there was a shortage of grocery stores and that grocery stores were needed in some areas more than others. This website also has a PowerPoint presentation that details how the study was conducted, maps that indicate where the need is the greatest, and policy recommendations.

Green atlas

<http://www.greenatlas.org/>

Green atlas has 10 examples from around the world of sustainable mapping. For example, the maps from Pune, India represent eco-tourism. The maps are in PDF format and are free to the public.

Neighborhood on Foot Series

<http://feetfirst.info/assets/maps/?searchterm=maps>

Feet First, a pedestrian advocacy group based in Seattle, Washington has developed several neighborhood maps that include content from local residents as well as local walking routes.

Open Accessible Space Information System (OASIS)

<http://www.oasisnyc.net/default.aspx>

OASIS provides community maps for New York City, in one location. Users can create maps that show park space, transit stops, environmental organizations, and land use for a particular neighborhood.

Mapping the Highline

<http://www.thehighline.org/about/maps>

The organizers of the Highline elevated greenway in New York City used maps to show how preserving the structure of the elevated rail line in Manhattan and turning it into a park would benefit local wildlife.