

Participatory Mapping of Seattle's Environmental Stewardship Organization "Turf"

Organizations: USDA Forest Service, Pacific NW Research Station, Green Cities Research Alliance

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Project Background:

More than 600 organizations in the Seattle Metro area perform environmental stewardship; Stew-MAP is a project to better understand the full extent and effects of their work. The assessment is being done in collaboration with other U.S. cities (Chicago, New York, and Baltimore [1]). Our team has digitized the geographic boundaries defining where 148 (of the 600+ total) stewardship organizations conduct their work (their "turf") into GIS data layers based on surveys returned by organizations. Visualization of this turf data will become part of a website by late spring 2013 using Google tools - a cost effective web mapping platform. The website will provide a new, spatially explicit view of environmental stewardship in the metro Seattle area for management, research, and use by the general public. There remain a substantial number of stewardship organizations with unmapped turf, and in addition, new organizations form every year. A method is needed to allow organizations to easily mark their turf. The functionality of the Seattle Stew-MAP website needs to be extended to include a spatial data collection tool. Similar tools have been developed for other cities, such as Chicago (Figure 1).

Project Objective:

- Create models to update static maps for Stew-MAP website
- Create dynamic visualizations of organizations stewardship turf using ArcServer
- Create a web-based platform for stewardship organizations to map their turf, and respond to a brief survey

Available data includes:

- Stew-MAP survey data (including text description of organizations' turf & other attributes)
- GIS layer having the digitized turf for each organization as well as individual feature classes for each organization

Expected benefits to organizations:

- Allow organizations to better understand how to allocate resources to guide future and ongoing environmental stewardship

Expected benefits to students:

- Participation in the creation of a publicly displayed web product that can be referenced and shown to future clients or employers; your work will become a permanent component of the Seattle Stew-MAP.
- Professional and hands-on experiences of server-client relationship in a GeoWeb project.
- Experience developing a GIS program/model for a feature and analysis updating service.

[1] Stew-MAP web sites for public outreach: New York City (<http://www.oasisnyc.net/stewardship/stewardshipsearch.aspx>) & Chicago (<http://stewmap.cnt.org/map.php>)

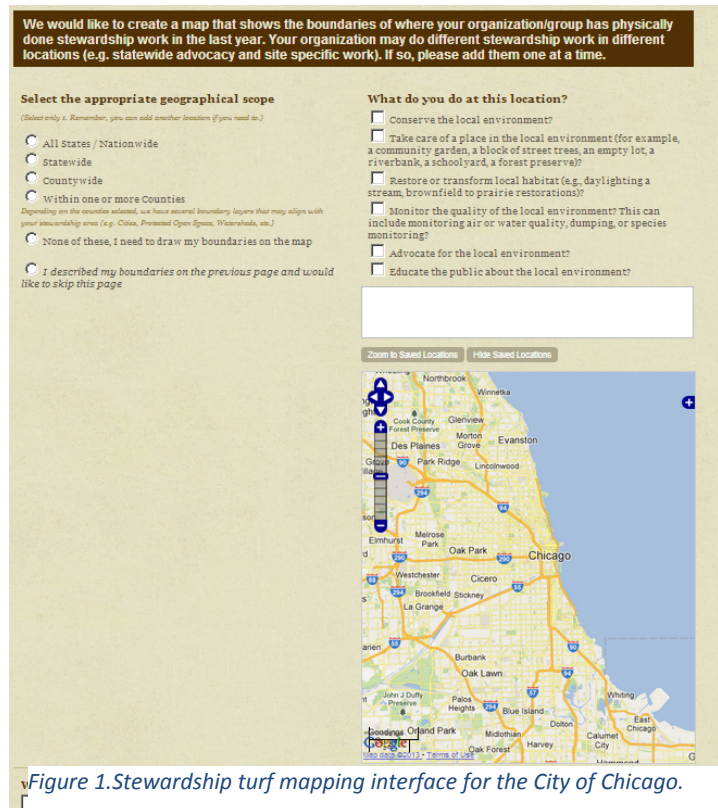


Figure 1. Stewardship turf mapping interface for the City of Chicago.