

ACTIVITY: COMMUNITY MAPPING 101

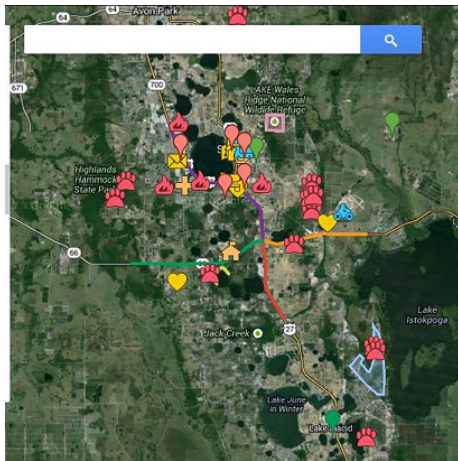
3. Creating Your Community Map

Decide how you want to make your map and gather your materials. All materials are suggestions, but not required.

DO YOU WANT TO DRAW YOUR OWN MAP?

Suggested Materials

- * Markers, Crayons, Chalk, or Paint
- * Stickers
- * Print, purchase, or request a map of your location
- * Alternatively, you can use paper and draw your map from memory



DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIGITAL MAP?

Suggested Materials

- * WiFi
- * Google My Maps
- * Esri ArcGIS Online
- * Roots & Shoots Digital Mapping Guide

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A 3D MODEL?

Suggested Materials

- * Blocks
- * Legos
- * Putty or clay
- * Plenty of space to build your community!



DO YOU WANT TO GO MATERIAL FREE?

Suggested Materials

- * The outdoors
- * Dirt or sand to draw in
- * A stick to draw with
- * Natural objects like leaves, rocks, and sticks to represent the features on your map

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Next, look at the examples below to identify your community's unique features. The lists below are just examples, you don't have to map all of them, and you could map others depending on your community. For example, if you live in an urban area, the features you map will be very different from someone living in a rural area.



TIP:

Distinguish the three categories on your map by assigning each a unique identifier (I.e. color, shape, stickers). For example, mark human features in blue, animal features in orange, and environmental features in green.

People

- * Places for school/work
- * Highlight major streets, bus routes, bike paths, or sidewalks
- * Libraries/community centers
- * Place of worship
- * Grocery stores/corner stores
- * Favorite Restaurants
- * Hospitals or health clinics
- * Shelters and food banks
- * Abandoned Buildings
- * Play Spaces

Animals

- * Animal sightings/species
- * Domestic animal use (dog parks, dog-friendly trails, etc.)
- * Animal shelters
- * Animal control facility
- * Animal hospitals
- * Animal sanctuaries
- * Zoos and aquariums

Environment

- * Wild and/or protected spaces
- * Bodies of water
- * Mountains, beaches, etc.
- * Recycling centers, landfill/waste management
- * Water facilities
- * Local parks
- * Green spaces (yards, tree boxes, etc.)
- * Vacant Lots
- * Power sources (coal, nuclear, wind, solar, and geothermal plants)
- * Environmental services (watershed, reservoirs, wetlands, etc.)



4. Reflect On Your Community Map

Refer to your map as you reflect on the following suggested questions. You can use some of these questions or different reflection questions to think about your community and help you decide where there is an opportunity to take action.

Do any of the marked features above serve more than just one category? (For example, a recycling center benefits the environment but also provides a service to humans.)

What are some of the features above that support the people, other animals, and environmental habitat in your community?

What things do you like about your community? (Look for one quality about your community that makes it a great habitat for people, one quality about your community that makes it a great habitat for animals, and one quality about your community that makes it a great environmental habitat.)

What makes you most proud (happy) to live in your community?

Is your community meeting the basic needs of people and animals?

Is your community environmentally sustainable? (Can your community's environment meet the needs of the current population without negatively impacting the needs of future generations?)

What things could be improved for your community? (Look for one quality your community could improve to make it a better habitat for people, one quality your community could improve to make it a better habitat for animals, one quality your community could improve to make it a better environmental habitat.)

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What other parts of your community should be included on the map? How are they important to the human, animal, or environmental habitats in your community?

Reflect on the observations made in Part 1. How did your initial observations influence your map? Are there things that surprised you about your community as you were mapping?



TIP: Organize your reflections with the [Community Mind Map activity](#).

5. Share Your Map

If you haven't already, sign up as a member on rootsandshoots.org. Then, show us your map and tell us about the project you're planning by navigating to your member profile, clicking *Projects*, then *Add New Project*.



TIP:

Upload photos of your community map and the process of making it to your member or group profile on rootsandshoots.org.



Learn More: RESOURCE

Community Mapping 101 is part of the Roots & Shoots 4-step Formula.

[Next Up, use Step 3: Take Action to design a service project](#)