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Geog 385

Project Summary

The project is designed to create a web map application that finds the location of public spaces in San Francisco. Its purpose is to see within a 2 mile buffer, or roughly 30 minutes walking distance, of any location of your choosing what kind of parklets/parks are nearby. The web map application is also aimed at providing route options if the user were to choose to navigate by foot from one parklet or park to another.

Purpose

The web application is designed for anyone to be able to use to locate parklets or any type of parks nearby their locations or a location of those choosing. In addition, it would be interesting to see if parklets tend to be outside a coffee/café rather than outside an ice cream place for example. Would there be parklets outside bars? Is there some sort of relationship between nearby restaurants and location of parklets?

Description of data development

To create the web application, the data was first brought into ArcMap. The data was obtained from DataSF. The data was available to download as a table which the csv format was picked so it can be easily manipulated in ArcMap. The tables contained an X and a Y field which could be used to display it as points. The data for San Francisco parks was a little trickier to manipulate. Viewing the table in DataSF I was able to see the latitude and longitude in the table, although after downloading it as a csv or an excel file, the field became blank. It took some researching of other available formats to be able to obtain the latitude and longitude data in order to create the 200 some points for parks. Once the data was all in ArcMap, it was shared as a service onto the cloud to build a web map. Though the web map, I was able to choose which fields in the attribute that would be displayed as a pop-up when a point was clicked. Information that wasn't relevant to this project such as manager of a park, zip code and what park service area the park was located in was hidden.

Difficulties encountered

The DataSF providing the data in csv format was extremely helpful. Some difficulties encountered while doing this project was the lack of data when it came to location of coffee shops/cafes, ice cream shops, bars or even restaurants. The option to create a dataset for one of those was available although it would've taken up a long time. The park dataset from DataSF contained latitude and longitude when viewing their table. After downloading it as both csv and excel file, the values were missing, making the data not useable for this project. It took researching other formats that were available to figure out a roundabout way to be able to grab the latitude and longitude so the park location could be displayed as points on a map.

What I've learned and thought

The main thing I've learned from this project was to save often, especially when editing widgets for the web map application. It was easy to configure the widget to what I wanted the user to be able to

do, after launching the application to verify, it was easy to forget the step of clicking save. The project was fun to do and explore what it is like to create a web map application. Having never create a web map application personally but have viewed other web map application from city departments, it looked like it could have been complicated but for this it project it was pretty straightforward. There were many instances where I've edited a widget but kept forgetting to save it and hadn't realized until I came back to the application at a different time and the widget would not work.