COMMUNITY MAPPING: Community Change with Maps

ASK
What decisions or actions does your map help inform? How can your map be used for community improvement or change?

INVESTIGATE
Once you’ve shared your map with others you have the opportunity to think about using that information to make or influence community changes. If you mapped the location of traffic accidents, for instance, your map could be used to argue for more stop signs or traffic lights in different locations. Or maybe you mapped the location of historic landmarks in the area and want to work with the local Chamber of Commerce to encourage more people to visit your community. Sharing your map might not be enough to impact the change you want to see happen. This may be an opportunity for you to develop your leadership skills in partnering with others to build awareness, advocate for change, or identify resources needed to implement that change.

Putting your maps into action is an important step in reflecting on the usability and value of the data you collected. Some questions to consider based on the feedback from your target users:

- Was the data complete?
- Was the data reliable?
- Was the data relevant?
- Was the data accessible?

CREATE
1. Identify an issue in your community that you care about that could be influenced by the data collected in your map.
2. Identify the change you would like to see happen related to that issue.

Some questions to consider in planning for the target change:

- What is standing in the way of that change?
- Do more people need to be educated about the issue?
- Is there a decision that needs to be made before making the change?
- Who needs to be involved in the decision?
- What information is needed to make that decision?
- How can your map help provide that information?
- What additional maps are needed to provide essential information?
DISCUSS

• How did the data in your map influence a community or individual's decisions?

REFLECT

• What data could be included in your map to make it more useful or influential in making decisions?