



Digital Tools for Planning, Placemaking, & Preservation

WYGEO/WYOPASS
Fall Conference,
Douglas, WY
10.18.2018

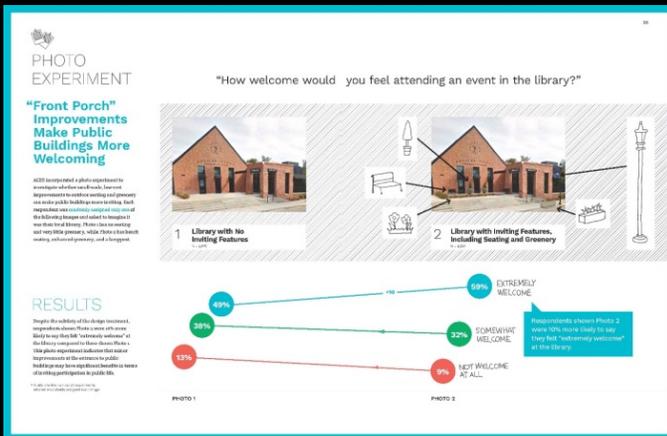
Mike Davenport
Community Matters Institute



Identify Available tools and related costs and ways to learn

Orient primarily to low-cost and free tools

Provide lists of resources for the tools, placemaking and preservation



INTRODUCTION

- Session Outline
- Types of Tools
- Placemaking
- Preservation

Resources

Note: Asterisk (*) indicates free PDF download is available online

Digital Tools

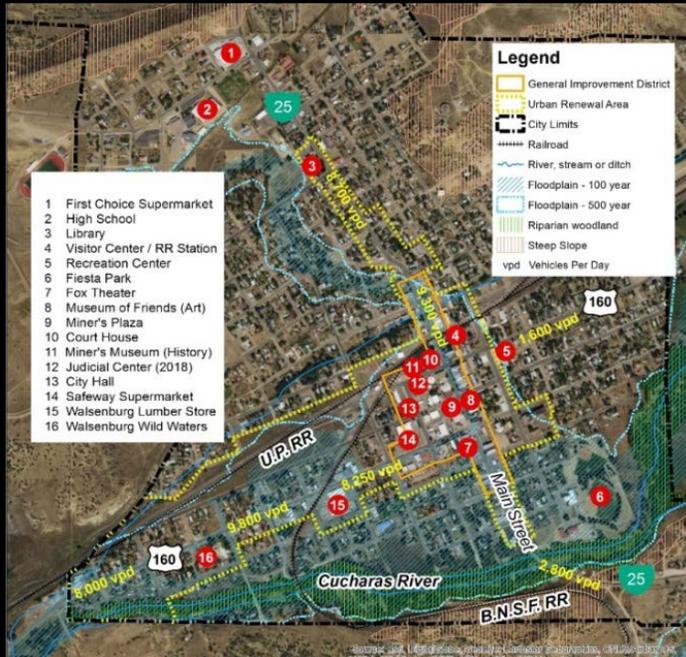
- [Urban Design Reclaimed – Tools, Techniques and Strategies for Planners](#), Emily Talen, 2009

Placemaking

- [Creating Vibrant Public Spaces](#), Ned Crankshaw, 2009

Preservation – Design Review

- PAS Report 591 [Design Review: Guiding Better Development](#)

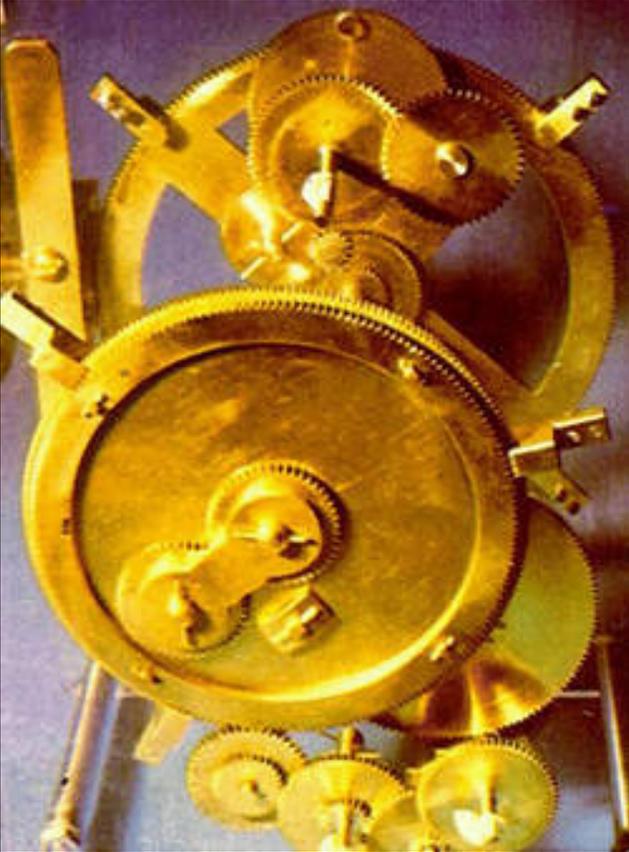


Introduction

- Placemaking & Places
- Preservation & Design Review

Tools

- Software & Hardware
- Data & Data Management
- Photos
- GIS
- Drawing
- Engagement
- Implementation



*The first computer –
Antikythera mechanism
Greece, 2nd Century B.C.*

Programs

- Software
- Online programs

Data

- Natural environment
- Cultural or Societal environment
- Built environment

References

- Websites
- Downloadable documents

Data & Data Management

- Data sources
- Dropbox
- OneDrive
- Access database

Photos

- Street View
- Google Earth Pro
- Photoshop

Mapping & GIS

- ArcMap

Drawing & Editing

- SketchUp Pro
- Acrobat Pro

Engagement

- Survey Monkey

Implementation

- Tactical urbanism

PLACEMAKING

- Recent origins
- Social Life of Small Urban Spaces
- Project for Public Spaces
- What is placemaking
- The places in placemaking

Resources

Note: Asterisk (*) indicates document is available online as a free PDF

Examples of Placemaking:

- *Places in the Making – MIT

Principles:

- *"Placemaking: What If We Built Our Cities Around Places," PPS
- *"Placemaking & The Future of Cities", PPS
- *10 Principles for Building Healthy Places - Urban Land Institute
- *Ten Principles for Responsible Tourism – Urban Land Institute
- *[The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces](#) at scribd.com

Getting Organized:

- [Paths and Pitfalls – On the Way to a New Vibrancy in Older Retail Districts](#), Ed Crow, 2003

Success and Failure:

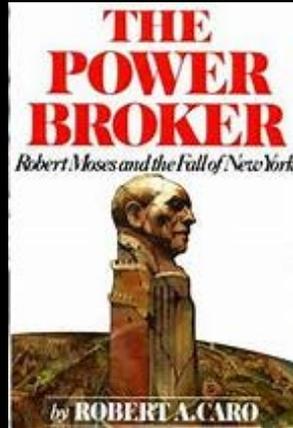
- *What Makes a Successful Place
- *Why Public Spaces Fail

Public Involvement:

- [Charrette Handbook](#)



Robert Moses



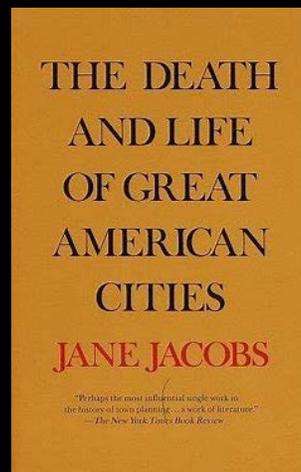
Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs represented two different visions of the city. William H. Whyte, a mentor of Jacobs and editor at *Fortune* magazine, invited her to write an article. The article “Downtown is for People” eventually led to The Death and Life of Great American Cities.



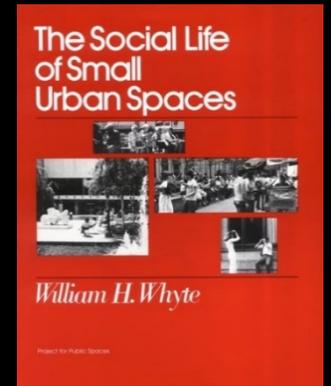
William H. Whyte



Jane Jacobs



Whyte, already famous for writing the highly influential The Organization Man, became interested in why some plazas are full of people and others empty. This led to the book and movie The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces.



Fred Kent, founder of the Project for Public Spaces, was one of William H. Whyte's research assistants on the Street Life Project.

Resources

Website: pps.org

* <https://www.pps.org/.../2016/10/Oct-2016-placemaking-booklet.pdf>

*Step-by-step guide –<http://www.placemakingchicago.com/guide/>
<https://www.pps.org/.../PPS-Placemaking-and-the-Future-of-Cities.pdf>

*Action plan:
[placemakingchicago.com/cmsfiles/placemaking_sampleactionplan.pdf](http://www.placemakingchicago.com/cmsfiles/placemaking_sampleactionplan.pdf)

*http://www.placemakingchicago.com/cmsfiles/placemaking_doityourselfchecklist.pdf

*<https://www.pps.org/article/what-is-placemaking>

*What if we built our cities around places:

<https://dn60005mpuo2f.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Oct-2016-placemaking-booklet.pdf>

Tools and Techniques for Creating Great Public Spaces

Underlying Ideas	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The community is the expert2. You are creating a place not just a design3. You can't do it alone4. They always say it can't be done
Planning & Outreach Techniques	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. You can see a lot just by observing6. Develop a vision
Translating Ideas Into Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Form supports function8. Triangulate
Implementation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">9. Start with the petunias10. Money is not the issue11. You are never finished

Creating and re-creating places, for the use and **enjoyment** of the community, with:

- High level of public involvement



- A multi-faceted process

Plan & Design

- Organize
- Involve
- Research
- Analyze
- Decide



Implement

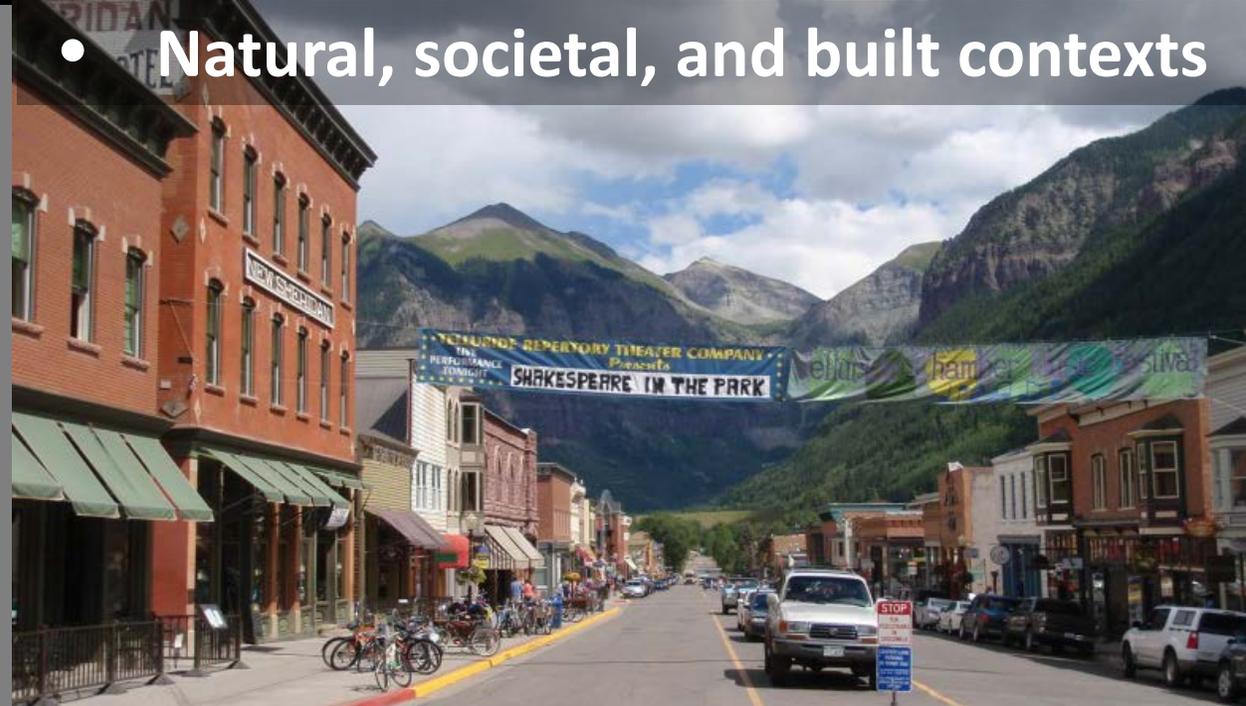
- Approve
- Finance
- Construct



Operate & Adjust

- Manage
- Maintain
- Keep safe
- Promote
- Evaluate

- Natural, societal, and built contexts



What is the place in placemaking?

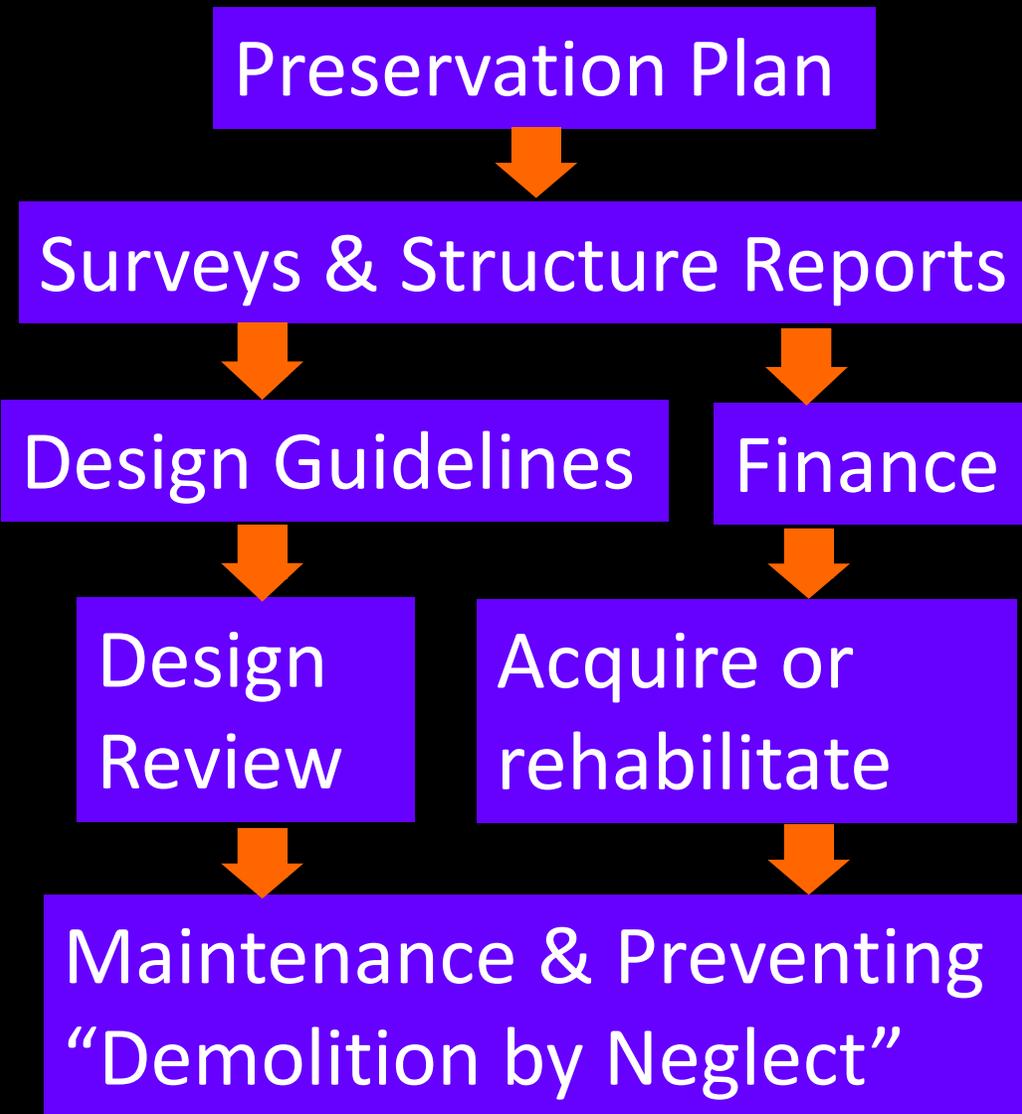
- **Space** – plaza, park, playground, or community facility
- **Path, link or connector** – stream, trail, open space corridor, or streetscape
- **District** - downtown, neighborhood, or community



PRESERVATION

- Program
- Organization
- What makes a building historic
 - Significance
 - Integrity





Resources

Note: Asterisk (*) indicates it is available online as a free download

Preservation Planning:

- *PAS report 450: Preparing a Historic Preservation Plan

What Makes a Building Historic:

- *National Register Bulletin: "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation"

Design Guidelines:

- *Online library, [National Alliance of Preservation Commissions \(NAPC\)](#)

Design Review:

- *Interpreting the Secretary of Interior Rehabilitation Standards

Finance

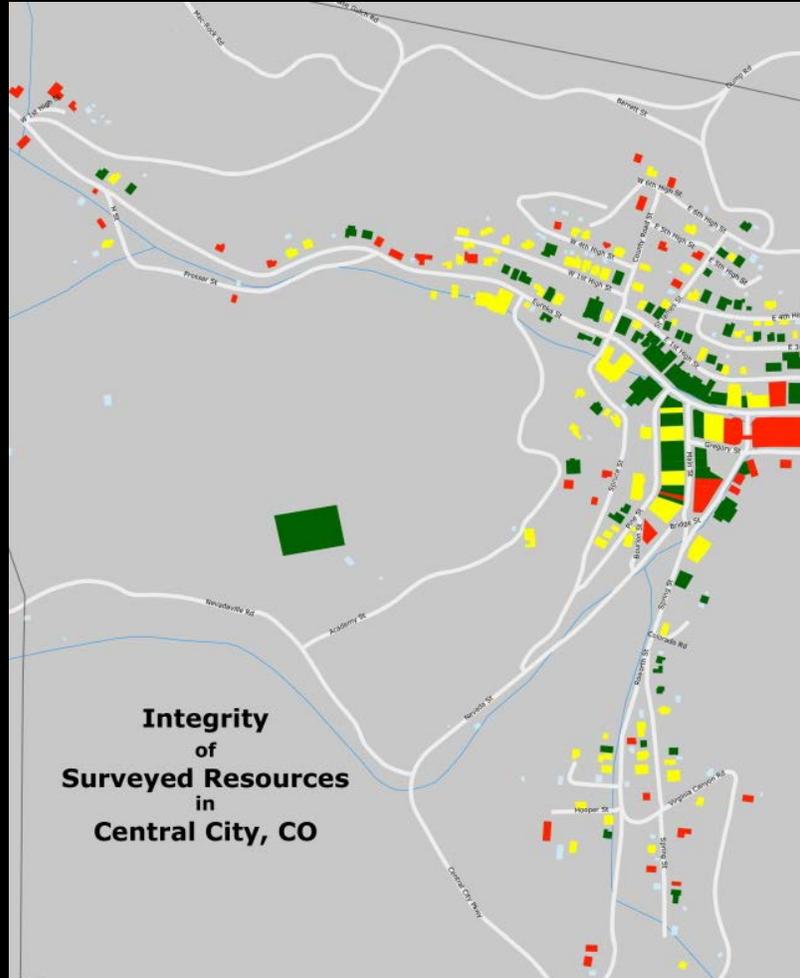
- *"A Guide to Tax-Advantaged Rehabilitation" from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)

Maintenance and Demolition by Neglect

- *[Demolition by Neglect: An Examination of Charleston's Ordinance](#), thesis at Clemson by Meg Richardson

Criteria

- A. Events or Periods
- B. Persons
- C. Design or Construction
- D. Research



*"Central City Survey Update,"
Center of Preservation Research*

Criteria Considerations

- A. Religious property
- B. Moved building
- C. Historic figure's birthplace or grave
- D. Cemetery
- E. Reconstructed building
- F. Commemorative building
- G. Building at least 50 years old

Aspects of Integrity

1. Location
2. Design
3. Setting
4. Materials
5. Workmanship
6. Feeling
7. Association

Architectural Character

- Shape or massing
- Roof
- Openings
- Projections
- Trim/secondary features
- Materials
- Setting

Evaluating Tools

Software

Hardware

- Computer
- Peripherals
- Field equipment

Resources

Note: Asterisk (*) indicates free online PDF is available

- Evaluating software:
 - **Guide_to_Building_Regulatory_Processes.pdf*
(quote: “Don’t Pave the Cowpath”)
- Overview of major software:
 - **Placemaking Tools for Community Action*
 - http://www.thegreenhorns.net/wp-content/files_mf/1351261646Placemaking_v1.pdf



Potential issues:

- Cost and time to acquire and use
- Payback time for the investment
- How usable by staff and public
- Trying to learn while on a project deadline

Potential benefits:

- Improve effectiveness
- Reduce time and cost
- Enhance public confidence

Potential problems:

- Impose burdens on users
- Be resisted by users
- Add complexity to a simple process



Download



Physical media

- **Functions:** what the software can do
- **Licenses:**
 - Use: “Commercial” vs. “Personal or Learning”
 - Type: Perpetual (buy) vs. Subscription (“rent”)
- **System requirements:**
 - Will it run on your computer
 - “Minimum” vs. “Recommended” system requirements
- **Input and output file formats:**
 - Compatibility with other software
- **Technical support:** availability and cost
- **Media:** physical or download



- Type: Desktop, laptop or workstation (desktop or laptop)
- Insurance: for repair and damage
- Software system requirements
- Touchscreen vs. tablet with pen or stylus

The graphics in this PowerPoint were created on a computer with the following specifications:

- Processor: Intel i7 @ 2.40 GHz
- 8 GB ram
- 2 GB graphics card
- 500 GB hard drive

- Options:
 - Purchase new
 - Purchase used
 - Use printing/copy center
- Low cost 3D printing (a work in progress):
 - Cost: under \$500 for a printer that can make a 12" x 12" size model
 - Alternative: email drawings to a 3D printing service



Printer/Copier/Scanner

Up to 11x17 size sheet
Starts at \$150



Large format printer

Up to 24x36 size sheet
Starts at \$700 w/o stand



Large format scanner

Up to 24x36 size sheet
Starts at \$1800 w/o stand



Calculations in feet and inches

- Smartphone apps
- Handheld calculator: \$15 to \$70



Measuring heights and distances

- Smartphone apps
- Handheld rangefinder: \$100-\$200

TOOLS: DATA & DATA MANAGEMENT

- Data – Natural Environment
- Data – Societal Environment
- Data – Built Environment
- Sending large files – *Dropbox*
- Sharing files – *OneDrive*
- Data management - *Access*

Federal agencies:

- Census/American Community Survey
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

State agencies:

- Transportation
- Environment
- State Demographer

County:

- Assessor
- Information Technology

Private:

- Socio-economic data
- Aerial/satellite data & images
- Digital content
 - 2D: “Entourage”
 - 3D: SketchUp 3D Warehouse

Books:

- Interlibrary Loan

- Trees, shrubs, flowers and edibles
- Sun and shade
- Breezes and windbreaks
- Precipitation and cover
- Day and night
- Changing seasons
- Water features
- Fountains





Topography:

- Esri basemaps for GIS
- 3D: from internet using SketchUp

Water features:

- State and local GIS data
- Satellite/aerial photography

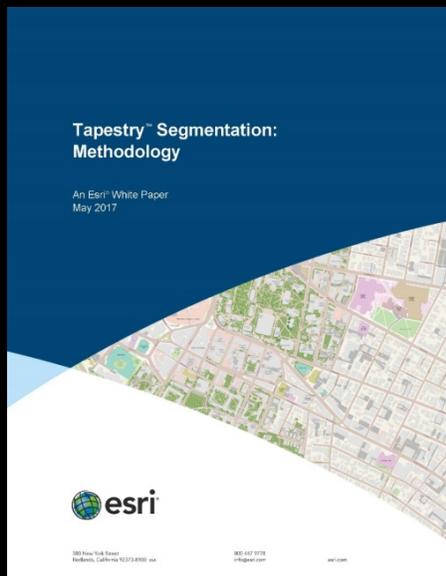
Flood maps: FEMA, images and GIS

Vegetation: Satellite/aerial photography



Demographic

- Census
- American Community Survey (ACS), collected annually
- City-Data.com - information on cities, towns, and places
- Esri GIS “Tapestry”



Historic

- Historic (academic) context studies
- Photo books and digital libraries
- Sanborn maps – DPL Western History Library
- City directories



- **Economic Data**

- County Business Patterns
- Local Area Personal Income (counties)
- Headwaters Economics

- **Economic Resources**

- Michigan - placemaking program
- “Central Social District” – APA Planning Webcast Series (YouTube)
- Cleveland Model – Evergreen Cooperatives (website)



Cleveland Model

- **FTP paid web service**

- Starts at approximately \$16/month billed annually
- 100 GB storage with 10 GB maximum file size



- **Compressed or zipped files** – many programs are free or very low cost
- **Dropbox** – free or paid versions (with more features)
- **MS OneDrive** – free or paid, comes with Windows operating system



Versions:

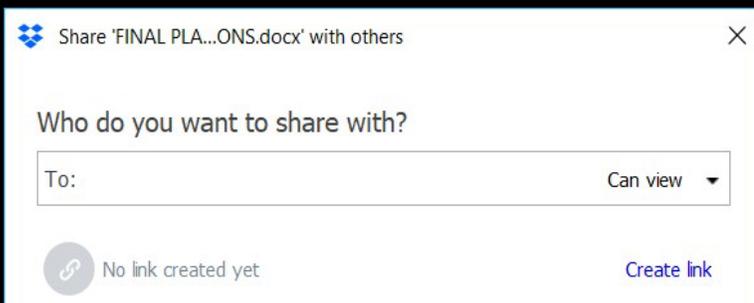
- Dropbox Basic – free, 2 GB storage capacity
- Dropbox Business – free trial, several paid versions with greater capacity

Learning:

- Website: www.dropbox.com
- Book: Dropbox in 30 Minutes

How to use:

- Drag file into the Dropbox “Public” folder
- Right click on the file, select “share”
- Type recipient’s email address



Use:

- Upload files and folders to share
- Control sharing of files and folders
- Included with the Windows operating system

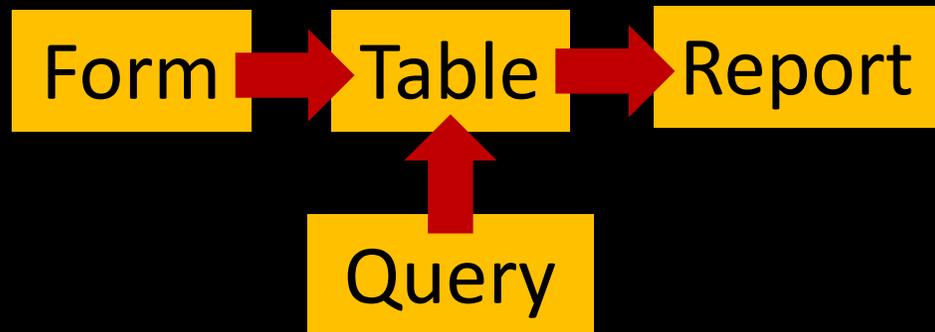


Versions:

- OneDrive (free) – 50 GB capacity
- Premium OneDrive (plans start at \$6.99/mo) – starts at 1 TB capacity, free trial

Learn:

- On Windows desktop, type “OneDrive” to install



Books:

- Tutorials: [Microsoft Access 2013 Step by Step](#)
- Find quickly: [Teach Yourself Visually Microsoft Access 2013](#)
- Reference: [Microsoft Office 2016 Bible](#)

Digital:

- Access help: in program and on a website
- YouTube: *“Learn Microsoft Access – Free Beginner Course”*

TOOLS: AIR & GROUND PHOTOS

Google Earth Pro

Street View

Photoshop



What Pro version of Google Earth can do:

- Satellite photography of the entire planet
- Distance and area measurements
- Sunlight adjustment for time of day and day of year
- Earlier air and satellite photos for many locations
- Flyover video creation



Cost: Free for both versions (Pro was \$399)

Learning: Very intuitive – many YouTube videos



Views:

- Plan
- Perspective

Note:

When creating a PDF, large areas may take a long time to generate or be too large



Create a view at a size for sketching, site design and site planning



Downtown Salt Lake City

- **Previously:** models created in SketchUp could be uploaded to Google Earth.
- **Now:** Google is creating 3D models of buildings and trees.
- **Community size.** Google buildings and trees appear to be available for places over 50,000 population and sometimes their suburbs. SketchUp models usually can still be found in smaller communities.

Availability
and
quality of
older
photos
varies
widely by
location



1999



2015



Measure:

- Distances
- Areas

Red corner points: can be adjusted to make a more precise area calculation



- Draw a shape
- Color the shape
- Make the shape semi-transparent
- Export the image to add text



Noon



Early Evening



- Draw a route or path
- Record a video along the path
- Adjust the speed of the video
- Set the height above ground at points along the path
- Stop the video at any point along the path

COST: free

LEARNING: Type in the internet browser -
“How to Use Google Street View: 11 Steps (with Pictures)”



Building facades



Streets



“Air” view – from Google Earth Pro



Building façade – from Street View

1. In Google Earth Pro, measure the width of the building
2. In Street view, measure the width and height of the building
3. Apply the ratio to the known width to determine the building height



Use:

- Photoshop includes many tools for editing photos and other images
- Stamp Tool used here to remove tree and truck in front of the building
- Photoshop also can convert many types of files

Cost:

- *Photoshop*: \$240/year subscription, industry standard
- *Paintshop*: \$100 price

Learn:

- Creative Suite 6 Design & Web Premium Digital Classroom

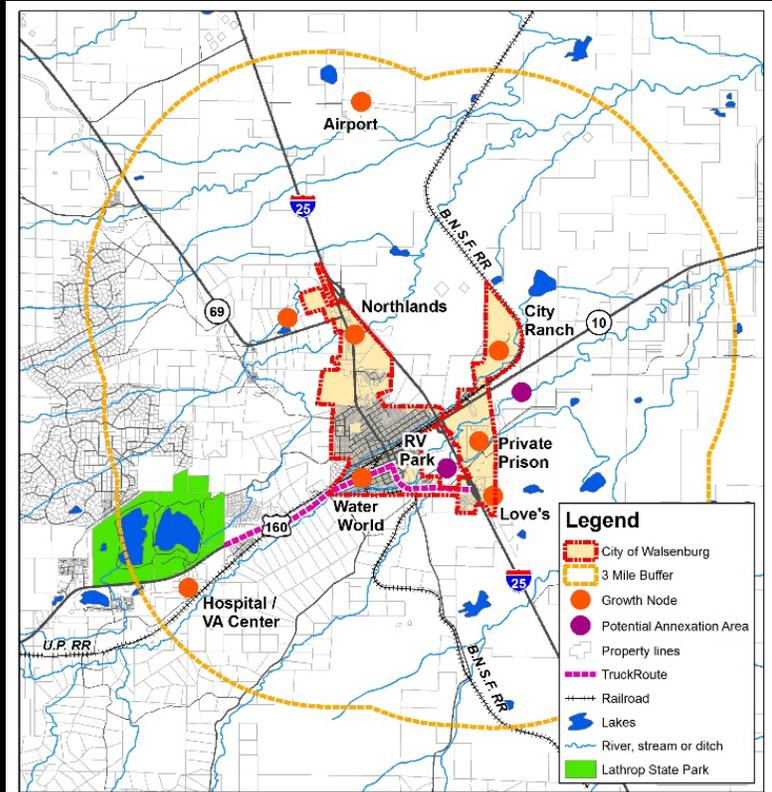
MAPPING & GIS

- Adobe Acrobat
- QGIS
- Autodesk Map
- ArcGIS
- ArcGIS Pro

General: GIS includes both maps and databases

Uses:

- Create and edit maps
- Connect maps to data and files
- Include a basemap: street, topo, or satellite photos
- Convert scanned image to a digital file
- Import GPS data



ArcGIS Pro:

- 3D drawing, such as building height

QGIS (formerly Quantum GIS)

- Free
- Uses SHP files like other GIS software

ArcMap (Esri)

- “Personal” version \$100 per a year (renewable)
- Basic version \$1500 for perpetual license
- 21 day free trial, \$400/year for continuing tech support and updates

Autodesk Map

- Free trial, \$1575 per year subscription

Acrobat Pro

- PDF with layers can function like a very simple GIS, if the PDF was created from a program that uses layers, like AutoCAD

- **Esri training centers:**
two day classes
- **Book:** Getting to Know ArcGIS for Desktop
- **Esri E-Learning**
- **Tutorials**
- **“Help”** desktop and online
- **YouTube** videos

Frequently Used GIS Tools

A. Get Started

- A1. Decide on the location of files
- A2. Start a new map
- A3. Open an existing map
- A4. Save a map
- A5. Get help
- A6. Tutorial files

B. Change the View

- B1. Add a toolbar
- B2. Data and Layout Views
- B3. Zoom & pan – Data View
- B4. Zoom & pan – Layout View
- B5. Bookmarks
- B6. Magnifier
- B7. Table of Contents
- B8. Table of Contents - Properties
- B9. Coordinate systems
- B10. Change order of layers

C. Create a Feature

- C1. Add a shapefile layer
- C2. Create a feature
- C3. Convert a graphic to a layer shapefile
- C4. Add a label to a layer
- C5. Create shapefile from selected features

D. Change a Feature

- D1. Select a feature
- D2. Turn a layer on and off
- D3. Change layer color and style
- D4. Change layer size or shape
- D5. Add a part to a layer
- D6. Divide a layer feature

E. Get Information About a Feature

- E1. Create an attribute table
- E2. Open an attribute table
- E3. Add or delete a field
- E4. Add or change data in a field
- E5. View feature data – HTML Popup
- E6. Repair a layer data link

F. Create a Map Layout

- F1. Add a data frame
- F2. Add title
- F3. Add scale
- F4. Add legend
- F5. Add text

G. Input – Add Other Information Types

- G1. Create a geodatabase (GDB)
- G2. Add a basemap
- G3. Create a hyperlink path
- G4. Create a direct hyperlink
- G5. Add GPS data – GPX conversion tool
- G6. Add GPS data – GPX toolbar
- G7. Import a map image
- G8. Trace a map image
- G9. Semi-automatic digitizing

H. Output – Create Documents & Files

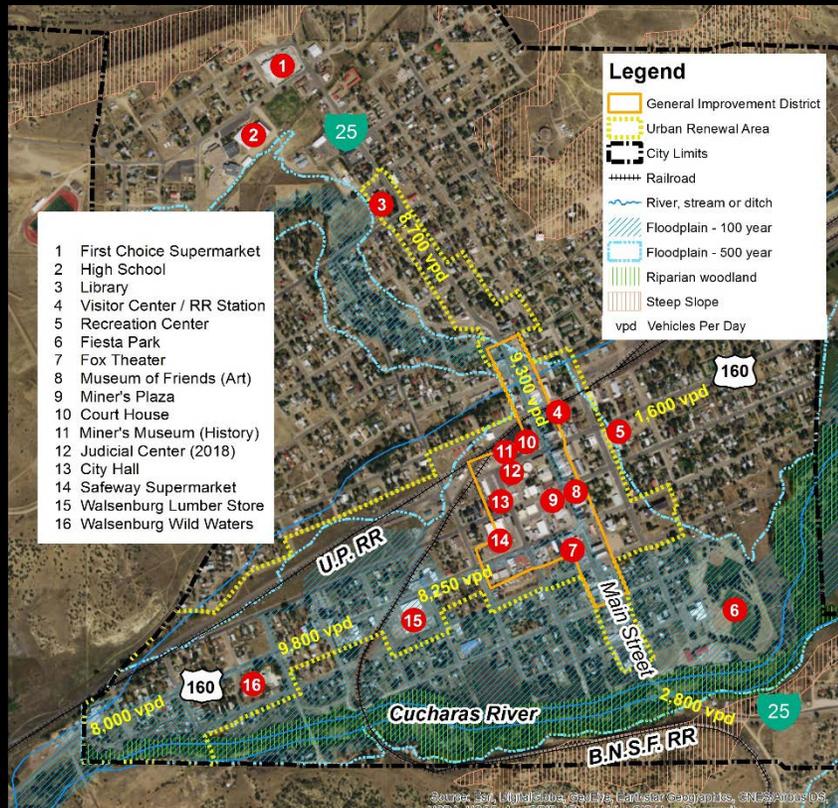
- H1. Print a map
- H2. Create a layer (LYR) file
- H3. Compress a shapefile
- H4. Export a map
- H5. Create a webmap
- H6. Create a report
- H7. Add a report to a map

Types:

- SHP files (points, lines, areas)
- Data files, including CSV files
- Scanned or drawn images
- GPS data
- Hyperlinks: direct & attribute table

Sources:

- Federal and state government
- County – for municipalities
- Esri and other private sources – basemaps, demographic profiles, uploaded user files



- Finding data: SHP files
- Digital files: archive vs. working files
- Data and Layout Views: text and bookmarks
- Attribute table
- ArcGIS Pro
- Disappearing data

Uncommon options

- **Minecraft**
- **PowerPoint**

Drawing

- **SketchUp (SKU)**
- **SKU Extensions**

Editing

- **Acrobat Pro**

SKETCHUP

- PDF of designing a plaza: “SketchUp for Site Design Chapter 7 Detailed Site Modeling”

ACROBAT PRO

- **Book:** [Adobe Acrobat X Classroom in a Book: The Document Review Process](#)
- **Web:** *How to Use Adobe Acrobat DC's Comment and Mark-Up Tools (2016 Update)*

Many different types of programs include some potential for being used to create drawings

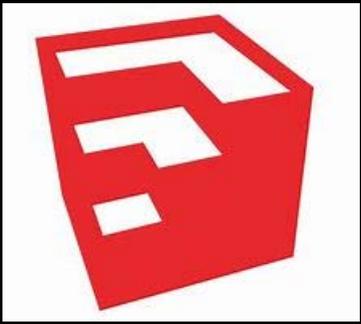


Street section in PowerPoint



Minecraft for playground design



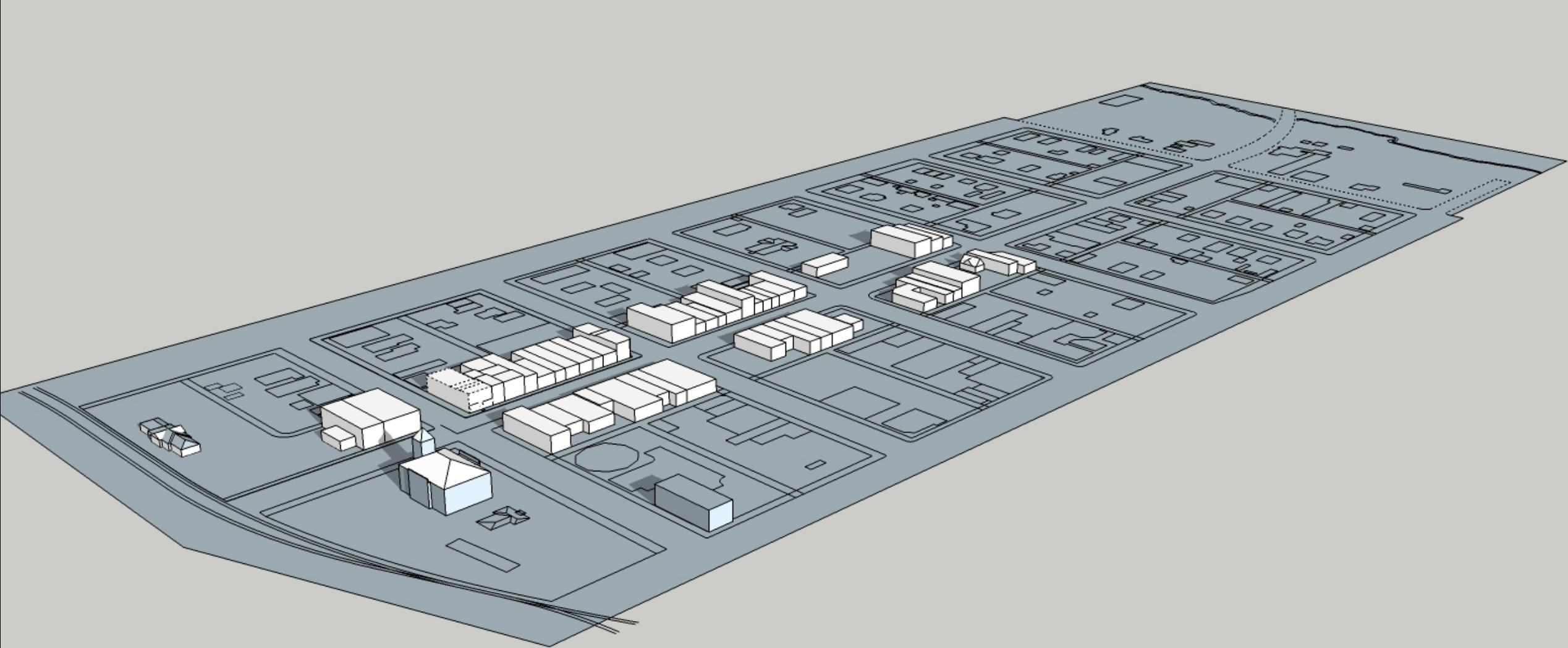


- 2D and 3D drawing
- “Walkthru and flyover” – camera “animation”
- Add photo images to 3D model surfaces
- Create 3D model from photographs
- Dynamic components
- Warehouse – hundreds of downloadable models such as trees, people, vehicles, and buildings
- Extensions – hundreds of free and pay add-on or plug-in downloadable software
- Geo-location

- ***SketchUp Make*** – free for training use
- ***SketchUp Pro*** \$700 perpetual license and one year support
 - Annual update approximately \$100 per year
 - Includes a separate linked program ***Layout*** to create 2D plan documents: titles, dimensions, etc.
- ***Extension Warehouse*** of add on programs
 - Most free or under \$25
- **Rendering** extensions cost several hundred dollars
- *Revit 2018 @ \$2,200/year; 3D Max @ \$1,470/year*

- The software is very intuitive
- Available help: in program, online, YouTube tutorials
- Some books:
 - *SketchUp for Dummies, 2017*: up-to-date thorough description; describes and sometimes shows how to use
 - *SketchUp for Site Design, 2nd Edition 2016*: the book most closely oriented to urban design and planning
 - *SketchUp Missing Manual, 2009*: very thorough step-by-step shows how to use the program
 - *Teach Yourself SketchUp 8 in 10 Minutes, 2011*: detailed description and exercises of the most common commands

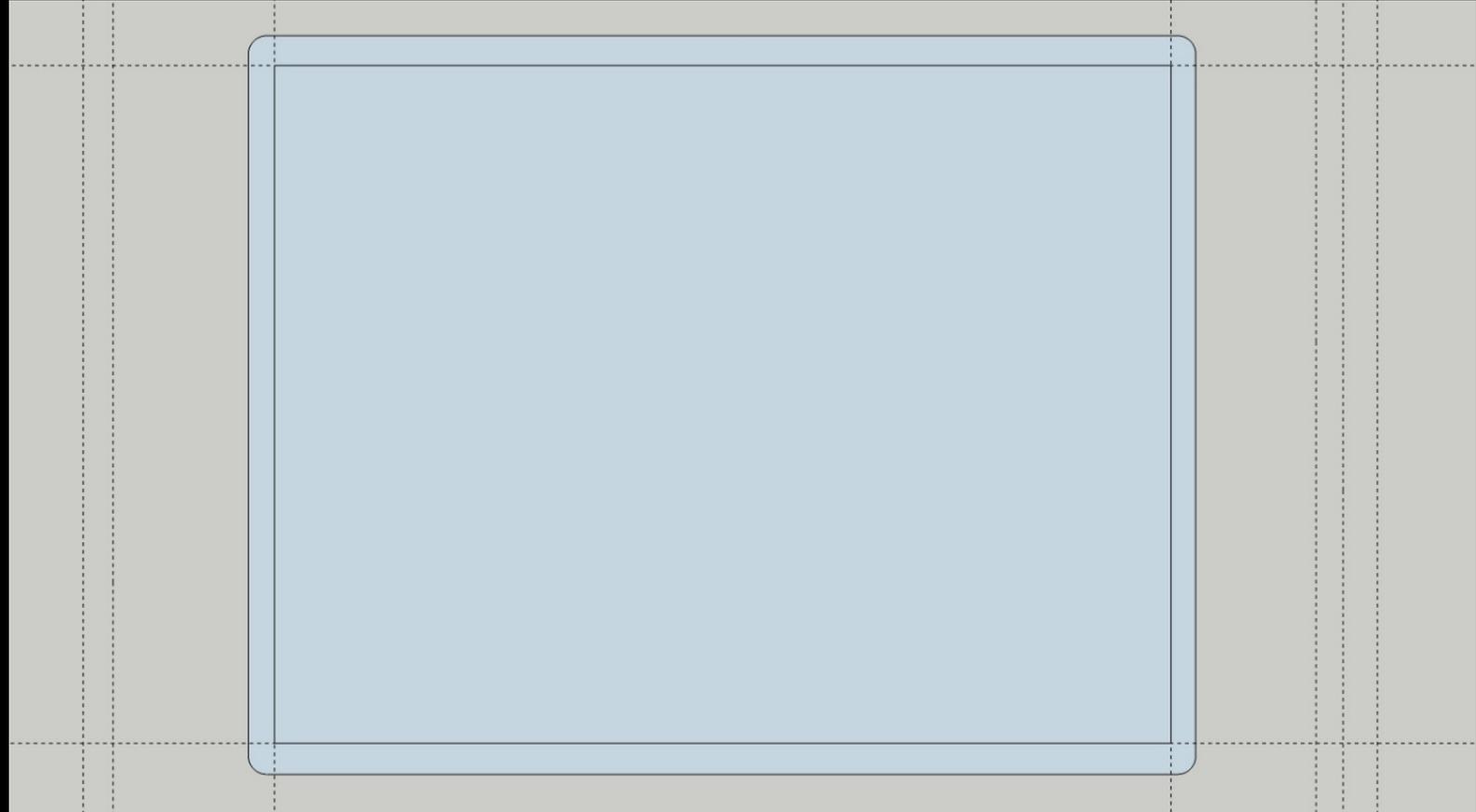
- File size
 - Use *components* and *groups* whenever possible
 - Use smaller file size models from the Warehouse
- Large and complex models: it's important to be proficient with:
 - *Groups and components*
 - *Layers*
 - *Outliner, including Hide and Lock*



1. Draw guidelines for ROW and curbs



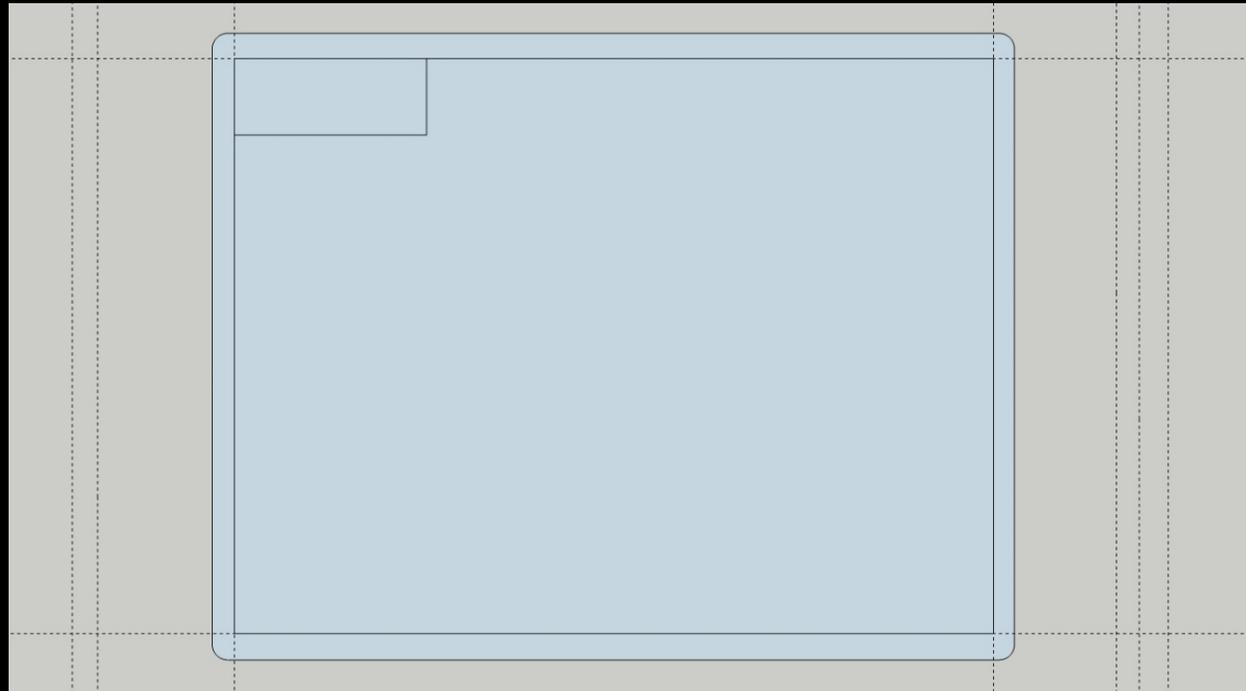
- a. Draw the curb and ROW lines.
- b. Use *select* tool to select the shaded area, right click, and select *group*.



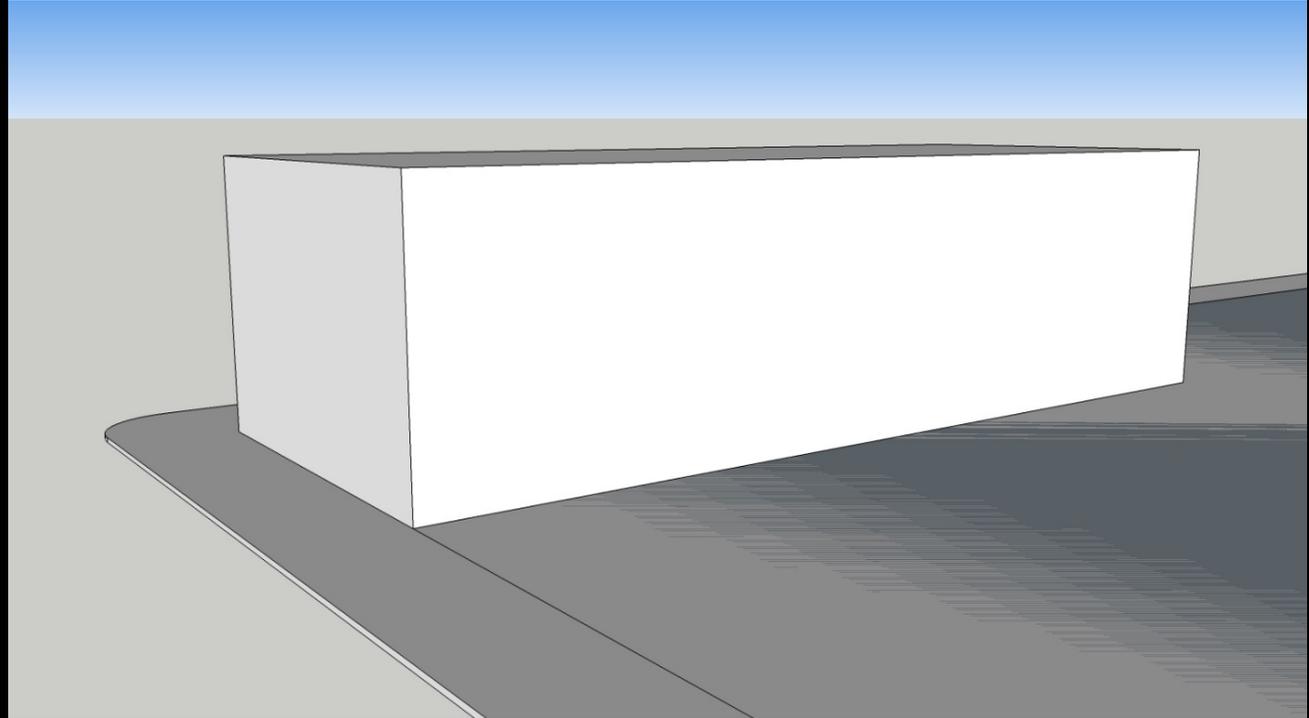
3. Draw a building footprint

63

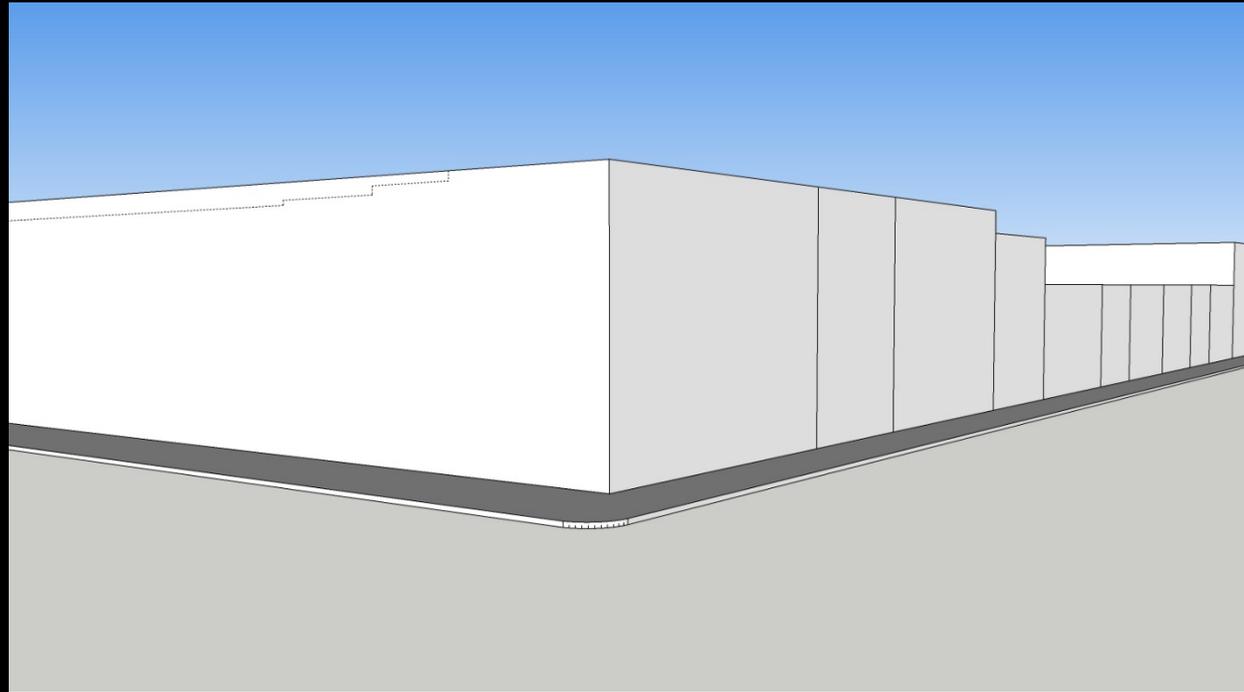
- a. Draw the building footprint with **rectangle** tool.
- b. Convert the footprint to a **group**.



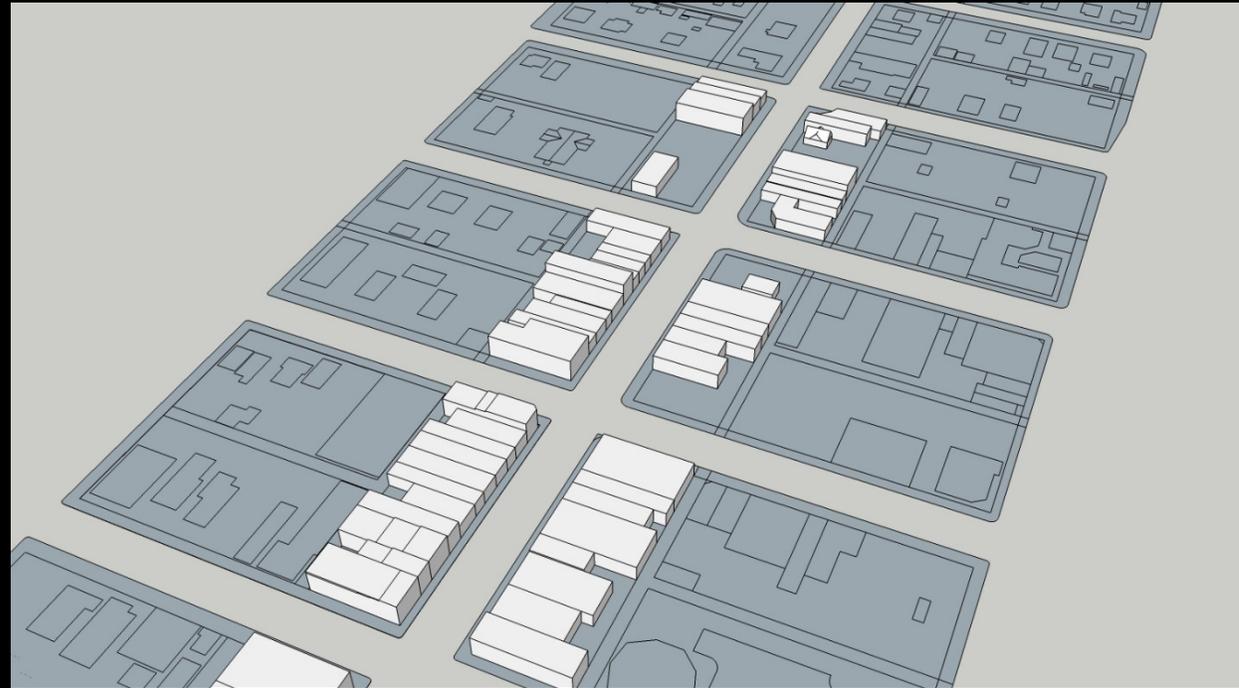
- a. Pull* the sidewalk up to represent the height of the curb.
- b. Pull* the footprint up to the height of the building.



Repeat the process for the rest of the buildings on the block.

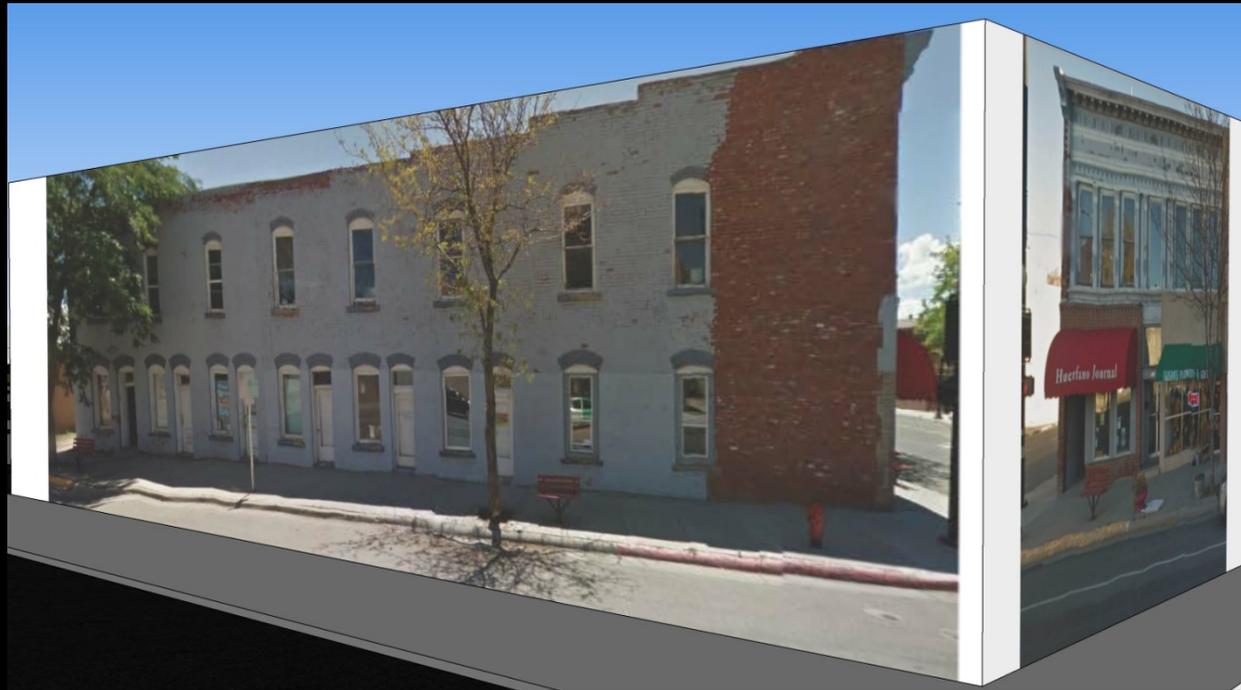


Repeat the process for the rest of the blocks.



a. *Import* a photo into the model.

b. Attach the photo to the building wall.



8. Match the photo the shape of the wall

68

- a. Note: tree was erased with Photoshop prior to importing the picture into the model.
- b. Cut the model with the *push* tool to create the stepped wall.
- c. Repeat the process for the other façade.



- a. *Import* canopy, tree, car, people, etc.
- b. Use *paint bucket* on walk and street.
- c. Turn *shadows* on.
- d. *Render* in another program.



Versions:

- Standard – reading
- Pro – editing

Cost:

- Standard – free
- Pro - \$20/month (\$240/year)

Uses

- File conversion
- Editing

Editing types:

- Drawing
 - Callout, text
 - Cloud
 - Lines, shapes
 - Arrow

- Annotation

- Text
- Highlighting
- Strikethrough
- Attachments
- Strikethrough



Different types of drawing edits

- **Opinion Surveys**
- **Visual Preference Survey (VPS)**
- **Research**
- **Voting or Polling**

Resources

Note: Asterisk (*) indicates free PDF download is available online

Visual Preference Survey

- *http://www.milford.nh.gov/sites/milfordtheme.Imp03.lucidus.net/files/visual_preference_survey_v2.pdf
- Visions for a New American Dream by Anton Nellessen, 1994

Research

- *Assembly: Shaping Space for Public Life
- *Assembly: Civic Design Guidelines

Charrettes

- The Charrette Handbook
- The National Charrette Training Institute
- *https://www.michigantownships.org/downloads/charrette_handbook_2.pdf

Voting or Polling

- http://nnecapa.org/files/2012/02/Th03-b_Public-Particip-Keypad_NNECAPA2012.pdf

SurveyMonkey

- Free version
 - Up to 10 questions
 - Up to 100 respondents
 - Unlimited number of surveys
 - 40 templates
 - 3 ways to collect: email, website, web link

- Paid versions
 - Unlimited questions
 - Unlimited respondents

5. **QUALITY OF LIFE:** Please identify up to three (3) issues you believe are the most pressing issues facing Monument in the next two years.

<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic in general	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain current geographic size of Monument
<input type="checkbox"/> Water resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Shopping opportunities
<input type="checkbox"/> Leisure activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Rate of growth
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Open space	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality of new development
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve Parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide more Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Activities and recreation for youth
<input type="checkbox"/> Crime reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase housing choices
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve Community image	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide more opportunities to get from place to place without a car
<input type="checkbox"/> Road maintenance	

Other (please specify)

6. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** In the Monument area, and within the Town of Monument, public services and facilities are provided by a number of different local governments depending on where you live. Generally, the Town provides water and sewer service west of I-25, while the Triview Metropolitan District provides water, sewer, drainage, parks and recreation, street maintenance and even traffic control devices on the east side of I-25. There are also a number of smaller Districts that provide service throughout the Tri-Lakes area. Which governmental entity provides basic services to your home?

	Town of Monument Water or Monument Sanitation District	Triview Metropolitan District	Woodmoor SWD (not in Town)	Village Center Metro District	Pinion Pines Metro District (most not in Town)	Don't Know
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sewer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storm Drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and Recreation amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open Space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please specify)



Approaches:

- Comparing a series of photo pairs
- Rating one photo at a time, such as on a scale from -2 to +2

Resource:

- *Visions for a New American Dream* by Anton Nellessen, 1994



PHOTO EXPERIMENT

“Front Porch” Improvements Make Public Buildings More Welcoming

ACES incorporated a photo experiment to investigate whether small-scale, low-cost improvements to outdoor seating and greenery can make public buildings more inviting. Each respondent was randomly assigned only one of the following images and asked to imagine it was their local library. Photo 1 has no seating and very little greenery, while Photo 2 has bench seating, enhanced greenery, and a lamppost.

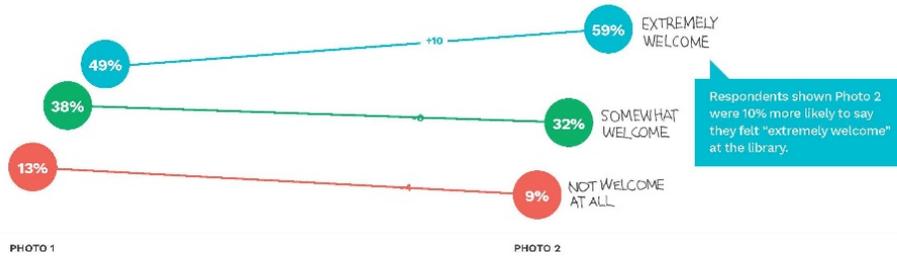
“How welcome would you feel attending an event in the library?”



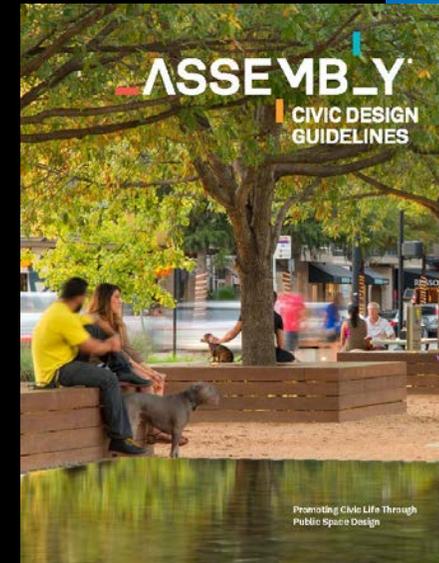
RESULTS

Despite the subtlety of the design treatment, respondents shown Photo 2 were 10% more likely to say they felt “extremely welcome” at the library compared to those shown Photo 1. This photo experiment indicates that minor improvements at the entrance to public buildings may have significant benefits in terms of inviting participation in public life.

*N refers to the number of respondents who saw a particular experimental image.



ASSEMBLY™
SHAPING SPACE FOR CIVIC LIFE



THE ASSEMBLY CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY
Key findings and design implications
June 2017



Keypad polling

- Buy or rent software and equipment



Smartphone voting

- Poll Everywhere
- Doodle

IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION

- **Demonstration projects**
- **Tactical Urbanism**
- **Assessment & Evaluation**

Resources

Note: Asterisk (*) indicates a free PDF download is available online

Decision-Making

- *"How to Keep Your Commission Out of Court", National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC)
- *"Procedural Due Process in Plain English: A Guide for Preservation Commissions", National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)

Demonstration Projects

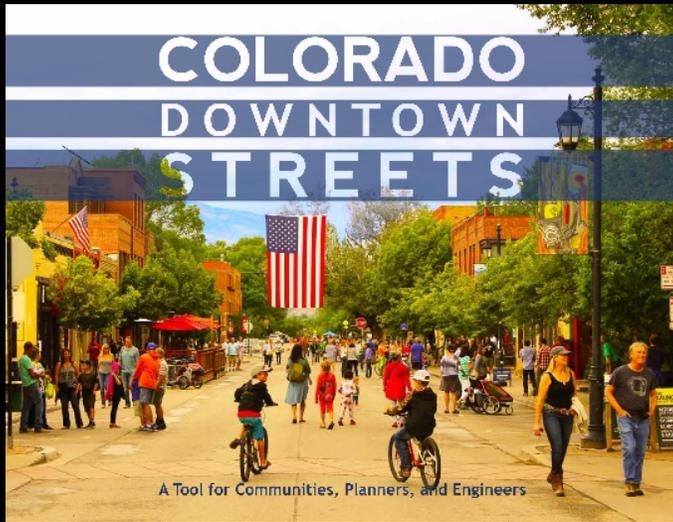
- *<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dola/colorado-downtown-streets>
- *NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) has similar guide more oriented to large cities

Tactical Urbanism

- *"Tactical Urbanist's Guide to Materials and Design", <http://tacticalurbanismguide.com/>

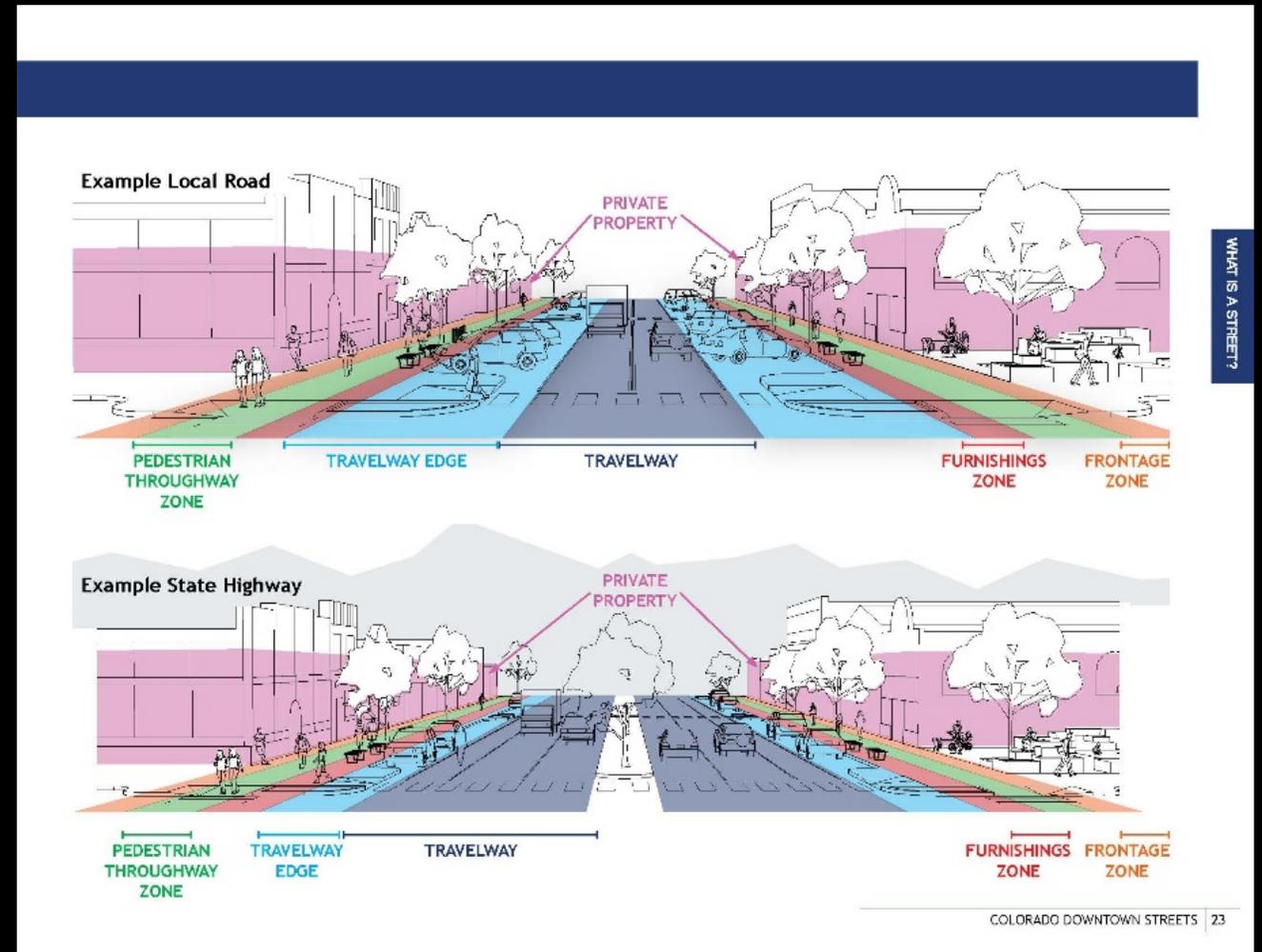
Assessment

- *"The Main Street Sandwich Method: A Rural Guide to a Successful Main Street Assessment", State of Utah Rural Planning Group



Includes chapters on:

- Why Streets Matters
- What is a Street – the elements
- How to Create Great Streets
- Implementation



Tactical Urbanist's Guide to Materials and Design



BARRIER ELEMENTS: PLANTERS



The Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition created 15 plywood planters and set them up to create pop-up protected bicycle lanes at each of the city's summertime Open Streets events. (Kristina Perkins, *BikewaysForEveryone*. For more information visit: bit.ly/MPLS_StealThisIdea). Due to their weight, the organization has since created lightweight, collapsible planters that are easier to transport.



The East Bay Bike Coalition used galvanized steel planters to create a demonstration bike lane on Telegraph Avenue. A manual with details about this project is available at: bit.ly/EastBay-TelegraphManual (East Bay Bicycle Coalition).

WOODEN CRATE



Typical Dimensions: 21" long x 14.5" wide x 9" high.

Estimated Cost: \$9 - 15 / unit.

Overview: Lightweight, stackable wooden crate of various sizes which can be used as a planter.

► Demo (1 day - 1 month) | Pilot (1 month - 1 year) | Interim (1 - 5 years)

Recommended Applications and Installation

- **Bikeways:** Center wooden crates within the buffer zone along the edge of the bikeway. Typical spacing should be 8 - 20 ft. between crates, depending on the thoroughfare's configuration / design speed. Allow a minimum of 15 ft. clear width for installation.
- **Median Islands:** Place approximately 2 - 3 ft. apart to demarcate median area. Provide a minimum 6 ft. break for crosswalk / pedestrian accessibility.
- **Curb Extensions:** Place along edge, approximately 1 crate every 5 ft.
- **Plazas/ Activated Alleys:** Place planters along edge, every 8 - 10 ft. May also be used as landscaping / greenery throughout the area.
- **Roundabouts:** May be used to demarcate roundabout area, in conjunction with signs and other design elements.

Tips and Considerations

- » Light and reusable, but appropriate for only very short-term project use.
- » Easy to ship, but come in large cardboard boxes so make sure you have plenty of storage space.
- » Can be easily branded (see page 37 for more information).

Potential Sources

- » Buy from hardware, department, or craft stores (Purchase online for large quantities)
- » Construct from reclaimed shipping pallets or other wood sources.





Digital Tools for
Planning,
Placemaking,
& Preservation

WYGEO/WYOPASS
Fall Conference,
Douglas, WY
10.18.2018

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