

Map Project 1. Mapping with a Purpose

Introduction

This is the first mapping project in Cartography class. Mapping projects are a way to put what you learn in class into action. This project will focus on building your design, layout, and composition skills, as well as creating and designing maps with a purpose. You will create a map of Boulder, CO, using the data sets available in the City of Boulder's Open Data Catalog.

Deliverables / Due Dates

Your map for this project will be critiqued in class during a map critique. Afterwards, students are responsible for incorporating the feedback into a second draft of the map to submit to the instructor.

January 23. Bring first drafts of Boulder map to class (MC1)

January 30. Final maps submitted to instructor

The final map submission will include (reference the *'How to' Submit an Assignment* on the course website):

- Emphasis map(s)
- First drafts Boulder Map
- Written feedback received from MC1
- Final map

Instructions

In this assignment, you will be creating a thematic map of the City of Boulder. A **thematic map** is a map that emphasizes a particular theme or special topic (i.e. Outdoor Recreation). Thematic maps are different from general reference maps because they show more than just base features like rivers, boundaries, roads, etc. Those base features still have a place in a thematic map, but it may not be necessary to include all base features or the same level as detail of those base layers, as you would show in a reference map.

To find out more about Boulder, CO and what themes or special topics may be interesting to map, visit: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/>.

You will create your map using the data from the City of Boulder's Open Data Catalog (<https://bouldercolorado.gov/open-data>). Below are a few examples of some topics:

- Hiking, Biking, & Outdoor Recreation
- City of Boulder with Kids
- Historic Boulder
- Potential Floods in Boulder
- Living in Boulder (neighborhoods, places of interest, etc)
- Green Boulder (parks & greenspaces)

Here are some general guidelines for the assignment:

- The map should be designed for an **8.5 x 11** piece of paper, printed in **color**.
- This is a **thematic map**, which means it is meant to communicate geographic information based on a specific topic or theme.
- You will need to identify the **audience** for your map. Some examples of this may be locals, tourists, parents, outdoor enthusiasts, or environmental groups.
- The maps should include the following **map elements**: title, scale bar, north arrow, legend, data sources, cartographer name, and text providing a brief description of the theme and/or map.
- It must include a **locator or inset map** either showing the location of Boulder within a larger region or an area within your map in more detail.
- Follow best practices in the **placements, style, and visual arrangements** of all map elements on the page.
- Symbolize data layers and map elements to create an appropriate **visual hierarchy**
- Create an **emphasis map(s)** to draft a layout for your maps