Nuisance and Call for Service Data Analysis

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Nuisance and Call for Service Data Analysis
Winter 2015 • Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative
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Geography 272: Cartography
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The Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative (SWLI)

The concept of the Upper Mississippi Center for Sustainable Communities (UMC) came from exploratory meetings with more than 125 on and off-campus community stakeholders between January and August of 2013. The need was clear: our area’s urban and rural communities have identified many environmental and economic sustainability issues and do not have the staff, expertise, time or funding to address them. The vision of the UMC was to mobilize Augustana’s faculty and students to help communities solve the social, economic, and environmental challenges facing the rural and urban landscapes of the Upper Mississippi region by integrating the study of these current, local issues into coursework taught on campus. After two pilot years, the UMC implemented a unique collaborative learning model named the Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative.

The Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative is modeled after the Sustainable Cities Year Program at the University of Oregon. Augustana College is the only exclusively undergraduate institution in the country to adapt this highly successful program to a residential liberal arts setting. The model creates a full one-year partnership between Augustana and a city/county partner, matching existing courses from multiple departments and other learning experiences (independent study, senior inquiry, internships) with community-identified and driven sustainability problems. The SWLI also helps cities and counties achieve their economic, social, and environmental sustainability goals while working with limited resources.

The Sustainable Working Landscapes Initiative represents a paradigm shift for service learning experiences in higher education. Instead of asking groups and communities to participate in initiatives that originate in academia, the UMC asks communities to identify their most pressing social, economic, and sustainability challenges. It then provides these groups and communities with the human and academic resources of Augustana College faculty and students to help them address the challenges. This is not a one-time group of volunteers. SWLI student and faculty participants commit to supplying three, 10 week terms of sustained research, study and work in the classroom and in the field. The UMC is establishing enduring relationships between Augustana and these constituents so they can continue to work together to find creative solutions, test and evaluate their effectiveness, and try again as challenges and problems change.
The Mississippi River city of Clinton, Iowa (pop. 26,473) was chosen as Augustana’s 2015-16 SWLI partner. Students and faculty have collaborated with Clinton officials and community stakeholders to complete 15 community-identified projects. Throughout the year, these projects have been worked on by 150 students in 15 courses in the humanities, social, and natural sciences. Because these projects are community-driven priorities, the fresh ideas, designs and products students generate address critical but unmet needs and have real-world impact.

**Project Description**
The City of Clinton has a GIS system, but no staff position dedicated to utilize the system to provide useful data for decision making purposes. Current GIS mapping needs are the following:

- Specific incident/crime mapping for the Police department
- Specific nuisance abatement mapping

Cartography students used the spreadsheet data from the city to create maps for basic spatial analysis for decision makers. These maps will hopefully aid the city’s future allocation of resources.

**Call for Service Reports:** The City of Clinton provided a spreadsheet of all calls for service reported from 2009-2013. Each call for service included the call type and address of the call. Using the Chief of Police’s help, we generalized the 121 different call types to 12 categories. The addresses of each report were then geocoded using ArcGIS. Each category is mapped separately, using data from 2009-2013.

**Nuisance Reports:** The City of Clinton provided a spreadsheet of all nuisance reports from 2011-2015. Each report included a nuisance type and the address of each specific report. We generalized the nuisance types using identifiers in the report description, totaling nine categories for mapping nuisance. The addresses of each report were then geocoded using ArcGIS. All nuisance categories are mapped together, categories separated by symbol color, using data from 2013-2015.

In this document all maps from the project are displayed. Except for the Child Endangerment Reports, the Call for Service Reports show an overview of the data in the entire study area first, followed by two maps of larger scale depicting the northeast and southwest sections of the city.
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