

## What Is GIS?

- **GIS defined: Geographic Information Systems is a computer-based tool that analyzes, stores, manipulates and visualizes geographic information on a map.**
- A geographic information system (GIS) lets us visualize, question, analyze, and interpret data to understand relationships, patterns, and trends.

## Whittier Alliance Asset-Mapping Project Information

The Whittier Alliance Asset Mapping project utilizes GIS in order to assess the neighborhood's progress in its goals in the Whittier 2012-2017 Strategic Plan. These goals include:

- Engaging Stakeholders
- Ensuring Organizational Sustainability
- Promoting Historic Preservation,
- Improving Housing Quality and Choice
- Strengthening the Nicollet Corridor
- Becoming a Model of Neighborhood

### Environmental Sustainability

This information will be useful in developing the upcoming Strategic Plan, as we will be able to visualize where we have been successful in the neighborhood goals, and also be able to see where we still have room for improvement. Many people are involved with this project, including Whittier Alliance staff, students in a University of Minnesota urban GIS class, and University of Minnesota Urban Studies Program interns.

The Maps created for the Whittier Alliance Asset-Mapping Project will provide a snapshot of the neighborhood today through different thematic areas. Map themes will relate to the current Strategic Plan and will inform future neighborhood planning and priorities. Several key maps will also consider the lens' of diverse Whittier stakeholders in areas such as; transit, housing, cultural assets, etc.

### Primary Goals:

1. Present maps and research to the neighborhood as a tool for future planning and to map out current Strategic Plan progress
2. Use maps to make small area plans that would fit into Minneapolis Comprehensive Planning process
3. Create a Map Resource Page on our website to share research with the community

Various maps are being created for the project in areas such as:

- Crime/Safety
- Cultural Assets
- Eat Street Oral History
- Environment
- Strategic Plan Progress
- Housing
- Jobs/Economic Development
- Land Use
- Transit/Transportation

### **List of maps in progress currently:**

Transit:

- Accessibility to Transit Map
- Parking Availability
- Bike Infrastructure and Property Values

Housing:

- General Land Use and Housing Type
- Renter vs. Homeowner
- Affordability
- Housing and Demographics

Culture/Assets:

- Parks
- Murals
- Historic Sites
- Wayfinding
- Places of Worship

Jobs/Economic Development:

- Commercial/Employment Map
- Retail Categories Map

Transit/Transportation

- Bike Infrastructure and Property Values