I wish I had a GIS map of the City of Ithaca

Eric Lerner October 12, 2021

I wish I had a GIS map of the City of Ithaca showing all the pedestrian ways in the city, including sidewalks, crosswalks, walkways, bridges, etc. I have a layman's understanding of what GIS maps can do, but I don't know technicalities. I believe the city has about 75 miles of sidewalk, not including trails. I believe the city property tax rolls have about 5500 properties. I don't know what databases are readily available to GIS. I imagine at least that any information that's in the assessment rolls will be available, and also information on city-owned real estate. Some of this data should be easy to access; some will be harder. This is a wish list that will surely be whittled down, and there's surely more that might be added.

Code each property in the city for who has current responsibility for clearing snow.

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City of Ithaca
     City buildings
     Parks
     Bridges
     Crosswalks
     Trails
     Commons (see note 1)
Cornell
Private for profit businesses
Local Not-for-Profits & churches & schools
Other governments (see note 2)
     Tompkins County
     Town of Ithaca (e.g. Town Hall)
     State (e.g. DOT)
     Federal (e.g. post office, IRS)
     ICSD
     IHA
Residential
     Owner occupant
     Absentee landlords (large & small)
Unoccupied buildings
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Note 1: I believe the city plows walkways in and around the Commons, in cooperation with DIA. Show this in map. City employees? City hardware? Who pays?

Note 2: Does the city have cooperative agreements with other government organizations or NGOs to clear sidewalks, e.g. who plows walks around the Town of Ithaca Town Hall? Who plows by Cornell off-campus buildings? I believe there are such agreements among local governments & NYS to plow roads more efficiently. I don't know if those agreements extend to walkways.

Code for pedestrian destinations, e.g. businesses, schools. Mark pedestrian infrastructure, e.g. mail boxes, bus stops, bike racks, parking meters & parking payment machines.

Code properties that have been ticketed for non-compliance and outcome of ticket.

Code each block of sidewalk and each crosswalk for volume of pedestrian traffic.

I believe a GIS map can link to a spreadsheet, which could, e.g. show mileage totals or number of properties for each of the above categories. A spreadsheet could assign a priority (1-10) ranking to each block in the city, based on criteria defined in formulae.

One crude way to create a first draft list of priority pedestrian walkways would be to draw a network that links all the city's bus stops. How many miles would that be?