

METHODS AND GENERAL FINDINGS: GIS MAPPING

GIS Mapping for Bryte and Broderick Neighborhoods and Vicinity

Mapping of the Bryte and Broderick neighborhoods was achieved through ESRI's mapping program ArcGIS (v. 9.2). The maps generated are based on using 1) City of West Sacramento data; 2) data acquired through last year's CRD 440 Report (Appendix A: Community Services Inventory); 3) data acquired through the youth photo trips and journaling process; 4) personal site visits/walking tour where UC Davis graduate students walked around the neighborhoods and noted observations on a base map; and 5) additional West Sacramento data acquired through online resources.

GIS data for the City of West Sacramento was acquired through the City's mapping/GIS webpage, accessible through the City's main website. The City's data was already formatted in the GIS file format, and included data layers for streets, parcels, city boundary, along with address points and other data layers. Additional general data for West Sacramento was acquired online, and included data for rivers, lakes, railroads and other transportation, and Sacramento Regional Transit routes. Again, the data for these layers were also already formatted for GIS use.

The data used from last year's CRD440 report pertained to the addresses for the existing community services in the Bryte and Broderick neighborhoods, along with general service locations in West Sacramento (i.e. City services). The community services data were geocoded through the process of converting addresses to latitude-longitude coordinates using a free online service (<http://www.geocoder.us>). The resulting coordinates were placed into a database, along with general information for each community service. The database was then imported into the GIS mapping program and each community service was mapped. A similar process was undertaken to convert the youth photo trips/journaling data into geographic data that could be mapped. Again, the locations for where the youth took pictures were determined, and the locations were converted to lat-long coordinates for mapping in GIS format. The data mapped from personal site visits/walking tour were based on personal observations during the walking tour and were geocoded and mapped.

The final maps generated show 1) community services—each category of service marked by its own symbol; 2) youth photo destinations along with the youth's perceptions of safety regarding these places—with different symbology representing different perceptions; and 3) general conditions and opportunities for the Bryte and Broderick neighborhood based on preliminary observations from class site visits and the walking tour. Additionally, general base map information is shown and includes general information such as city streets, interstate highways, city boundaries, railways, bus routes (Sac RT), and city parcels. The aim of these maps is to convey information in a graphical manner that is linked geographically to place. The information presented are by no means comprehensive, but are meant to provide a general understanding of the area and to stimulate further analysis of issues related to space and place.

Community Services Map

The community services map for the Bryte and Broderick neighborhoods (and vicinity) provides a clear visual display of where general community services are located. The aim of this map is to provide a resource for the Bryte and Broderick community along with the larger West Sacramento community overall regarding local services specific to the Bryte and Broderick neighborhoods.

Youth Perceptions Map

The youth perceptions map displays general areas where youth indicated their perceptions of safety (safe and unsafe perceptions). The data mapped includes those from the youth photo trips and the youth photo project (photo journaling). Specifically, the data from the youth photo project was analyzed based on the number of times “safe” and “unsafe” perceptions were written on the photo/poster sheets and converted into general visual proportions of safety (where green indicates “safe” and red indicates “unsafe”). The aim of the map is to provide a preliminary and general idea of youth perceptions of safety in the Bryte and Broderick neighborhoods. This is a general graphic display—further study of youth perceptions may reveal additional insights to the places youth perceive as safe and unsafe.

Please refer to the “Youth Photo Project” write-up for more detailed information regarding the photo project process and findings.

Conditions and Opportunities Map

The conditions and opportunities map presents very preliminary findings and general observations regarding the select sites that were visited during a class walking tour. The walking tour focused on three areas of the Bryte and Broderick neighborhoods and was meant to: a) familiarize the graduate students working on this project with the area, and b) to provide an “outsider’s” observations of the conditions and opportunities in these neighborhoods. General findings including noting the availability of vacant lots that can be potentially developed/preserved, noting the potential of adding medians and landscaping along major thoroughfares to improve walkability (notably along Sacramento Avenue), and developing the riverwalk further by connecting the existing riverwalk to the south (near the Ziggurat building) with the riverwalk area to the west of Broderick (adjacent to the boat ramp area). Other general findings included the importance of and opportunities to preserve historic structures (i.e. Senator Garage, Bryte Post Office, etc.) and to create neighborhood commercial centers by focusing redevelopment near existing commercial venues (i.e. near existing neighborhood markets). There are also opportunities to provide additional open space and recreational areas in the neighborhoods, along with strengthening existing parks (i.e. Bryte Park) by conducting use analyses and needs assessments. For example, there is a potential need for more shade at Bryte Park due to the large open fields used during the summer time. The conditions and opportunities map is by far no means a definitive study of how the neighborhoods should be improved or changed, but a vehicle to stimulate thought and provide focus on the current conditions and potential opportunities for neighborhood improvement and beautification. It must be noted that only a few select sites were visited during the walking tour, thus a more comprehensive analysis of the entire Bryte and Broderick area that documents current conditions and opportunities in detail would be helpful. Design charrettes with public input can help to bring more focus on what the community would like to preserve in the neighborhoods and what opportunities are available in improving the neighborhoods.