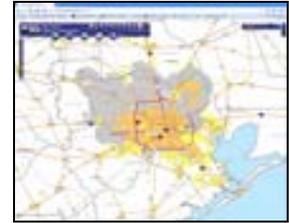


My City Houston Web Site

<http://mycity.houstontx.gov/public>



Developed and hosted by the
GIS Technology Division
Planning and Development Department
City of Houston
611 Walker St, 6th Floor
Houston, TX 77002



The My City Houston interactive mapping web site provides the citizens of Houston a means to access the most current geographic information systems (GIS) data and aerial imagery (current and historical). These data are hosted within the City's enterprise GIS system that Mayor Bill White initiated in 2006. Users of the web site are provided with a variety of search and identify tools to assist them in finding information relevant to their needs.

Background

The My City Houston application is a web-based mapping applications that allows its users to interact with over 200 map layers and datasets that are relevant to the City's mission. The sites also include multiple sets of aerial imagery and scanned maps. Access to real-time data for traffic conditions, traffic cameras, and stream gages is also provided. The enterprise GIS Team used the same application design employed for the My City-Recent Crime site that they had earlier developed with the Houston Police Department. The common look-and-feel helps assure a similar user experience for the across mapping applications.

The City Map Layers tool provides access to the full set of map layers, aerial imagery, and scanned maps. Users can select either the Locate Address and Locate Feature tools to quickly navigate to specific addresses or features (Council Districts, Super Neighborhoods, KeyMap grid, Lambert Tiles, Zip Codes, etc.) . A special "Layer Toggle" menu provides

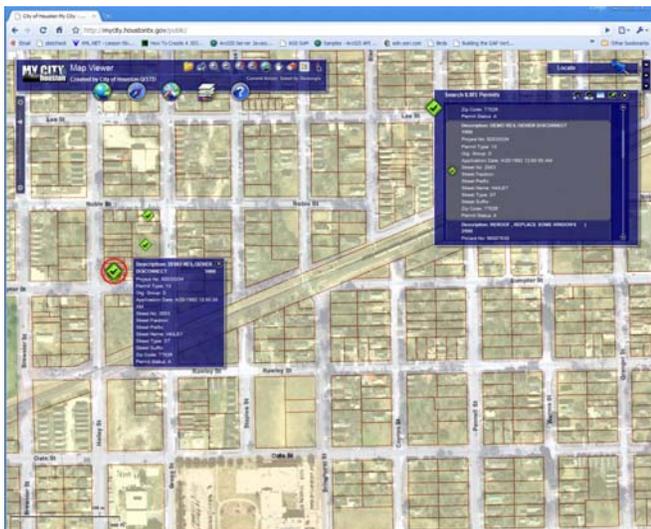
a quick way for users to display high interest map layers. A "drill-down identify tool provides users a means to quickly find out a lot of information about a location, with handy links provided to navigate the users to externally hosted information (appraisal district property records, Google StreetView™, county web sites, etc.). The site also provides the first map-driven access to the city's ILMS building permit data (ranging back to 1987) with its Search Permits tool. A redlining tool is also provided to allow the users to annotate the map. This tool includes the ability to save the graphics to a file. This file can then be transmitted to others so that they can be re-loaded on to My City from another location or at another time. The site also includes a print to PDF function.

Technical Information

The site is based on the Environmental System Research Institute's (ESRI) Adobe Flex API. The following browsers can be used: Internet 7.0 or higher, as well as recent versions Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Opera. The appropriate Adobe Flash Player 10.x plug-in (version 10.x or higher) for the preferred browser must be installed. The higher version of the Adobe Flash plug-ins required to support printing to PDF.

Help documents can be downloaded using the Help Menu or the Help tab on the splash screen.

The City's GIS data are ever-changing. The enterprise GIS team has gone to great effort to assure that the data in this application are of high quality and that they will remain as current as possible. This has involved forging agreements between the departments responsible for each dataset, and working out processes for regular update of each dataset.



An example of the Search Permits tool.

General questions about My City Houston can be directed to our GIS Helpline at (713) 837-7777. For technical questions, please contact :

Jackie Smith (Jackie.Smith@houstontx.gov) or
Daniel Bally (Daniel.Bally@houstontx.gov)



Using the Locate Address Tool

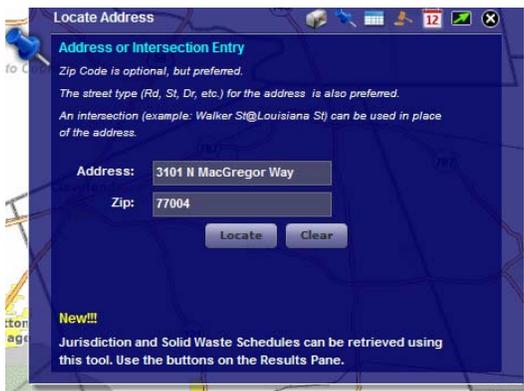


The Locate Address tool will show up in the top right portion of your browser window when the application first opens. If one exits the tool, it can be brought back by selecting the Locate Address tool from the Tools menu (see graphic to the right).

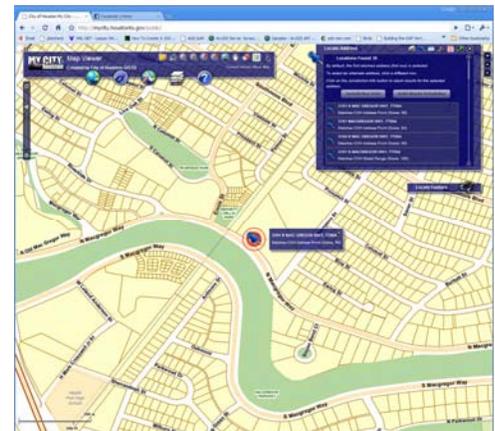
To use the tool, click once on the tool to open it up.

Type in an address and/or zip code in the boxes provided. Zip code is preferred but not optional. Street types are preferred but not required. An intersection can also be search for using syntax such as the following: Louisiana St@Walker St .

Once the address has been entered, click on the Locate button.



The tool will attempt to locate (or geocode) the address. If results are found, the tool will switch to the Results pane and list them. The map will zoom to the area around the best match and also highlight that address. If the user wants to zoom to one of the other results, simply click on that result listing in the table shown in the Results pane.





Using the Locate Address Tool

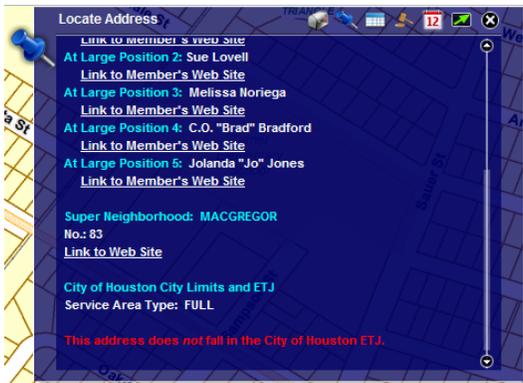
To find out Jurisdiction information for the selected address, click on the Jurisdiction button.

The results will show up in the Jurisdiction Info pane:



Jurisdiction results include information on the following:

- Mayor's Office and link to web site
- Council district member and link to web site
- At-large council members and links to web sites
- Super Neighborhood name and number, link to Planning and Development Dept web page
- Information on whether the location is in the city limits (FULL vs LIMITED purpose area) and/or in the Extra-territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). If is a Limited Purpose Area, it will report on the types of city service provided based on the original agreement with the appropriate Municipal Utility District (MUD).



The user can also go back to the Results pane and click on the Solid Waste Schedules button to report on solid waste collection schedules for an address.

The results will be shown in the Solid Waste Schedules pane. If the address falls in a recycling pick-up area, a link is provided the Solid Waste Department page that lists printable schedules for recycling pick-up.

