Madison Neighborhood Indicators

Pilot Project

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A Brief History Neighborhood Indicators

- **NHI Background**
  - NH Indicator concept dates back to 60s
  - Implementations beginning in 90s:
    - National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership – Urban Institute
  - Early models costly and heavily reliant upon federal and foundation $$

- **NHI in the 21st Century**
  - Affordability
  - Technology
  - Digital and georeferenced data
  - Growing costs of policing, incarceration, healthcare, etc.
Timeline

- **Process:**
  - Proposed by Alder Tim Bruer
  - APL approached by City in 2007
  - Pilot funded to examine utility and feasibility using 5 sample neighborhoods in 2008
  - Lots of discussions back and forth with City agencies, public presentations and listening sessions with neighborhood associations, both touting the goals and soliciting feedback
  - Some of the principal uses identified:
    - Monitoring; Early warning system which would identify trends: social, economic, and physical characteristics
    - Appropriate allocation of City and other resources
    - Assess effectiveness of programs
  - Funding approved for Full Scale 2008-2009
Madison NH Indicators and the big picture

- Lots of good Neighborhood Indicators Systems
  - Baltimore (BNIA), Philadelphia (NBase), Los Angeles (NKCA), Providence (ProvPlan).
- What makes Madison special?
  - Geographic Scale
  - Temporal Scale
  - Fiscal Scale
Geographic Scale

- **Census Tracts**
  - Readily available, Lots of Demographic Data, spatially exhaustive, but not necessarily meaningful to residents.

- **Neighborhoods**
  - Demographic data not so readily available, much more meaningful to residents. Generally smaller in scale.
Geographic Scale

- NH Statistical Areas:
  - Constructed from aggregating Census 2000 blocks that had their center both within NH boundaries and were within City of Madison boundaries.

Burr Oaks Neighborhood
Geographic Scale

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  - “Containers” for summarizing point data or population estimates at a different scale
Temporal Scale

- Some indicators highlight collecting data on multi-year intervals or highlight data on the most current outcomes.

![Graph showing Vacant Properties, USPS, Percent: 1999 - 2007](From Philadelphia Nbase)
Financial Scale

- No external funding
- Implementation for 10% of cost of some big city indicator projects
Creating the Website

The Brax's Addition neighborhood is located on the south side of Madison just to the east of the South Park Street Corridor. The neighborhood is bounded by Wapato Creek (Murphy's Creek) on the north, Chicago Northwestern Railroad on the east, Buck Street on the south, and South Park Street on the west. Information about the Brax's Addition Neighborhood Association can be viewed at http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/neighborhoods/braxsadd.html.
Open Source Software Used

- PostgreSql (Database)
  - PostGIS (Spatial database extension)

- OpenLayers (Client side)

- SharpMap (Web Map Service (WMS))

- Python (Server side)
Why Open Source

- Not locked into a vendor
  - Flexible
- Easier to Customize
  - Not a black box
- Community support
  - Active communities
  - Rapid problem resolution
- Price
  - Some upfront costs but pays for itself
Thank you

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