

Peer Review of "Developing a GIS-based map depicting current residential projects within the city of Kent, Washington with the intention of public sue availability" by Katie Heintz

## I. Background

### Problem/Issue Statement

Overall the background section is very well written and provides enough of a literature review to be comprehensive yet not enough to be overbearing. You summed up the problems and issues quite well. However I have a few small concerns regarding this section, (i) it might be worth mentioning Microsoft Access in your background since it comes up in your objective and (ii) maybe define GIS for the non-GIS folks. One way to incorporate MS Access might be to say "GIS is often used in conjunction with programs such as MS Access to keep layers up to date..."

### Objectives

The objectives are not only well defined but quite realistic within the scope of the time frame for the project. Your descriptions of your goals are very concise. One thing you might want to mention is that you'll be providing this project to the city of Kent upon completion. I know this seems intuitive but it might help.

### Overview Map

The balance and harmony of the map are good, as well as the color choice. I'm impressed the initial map I can't wait to see the final product. However there are a few things you will want to consider.

1. Make a large format version of your map available via your website. Some of the labels for the surrounding neighborhoods are lost because the map is reduced.
2. Reduced the emphasis on text in the lower right corner of the map. My eye was naturally drawn to the projection, data, etc. information because it was larger than the text about your project.
3. A few subtle things would make the map look better overall, (i) Change the title border to black or add a drop shadow to add continuity, (ii) reduce the north arrow and change its placement, (iii) edit the two polygons inside Kent City Limits.

## II. Methods

Your explanation of the data collection process was good, it was informative. I especially like how you made mention of the separation of datasets, the one being used for strictly cartographic purpose and the other being used for the analysis. It's nice that you clearly outlined your preprocessing steps. My only question is what projection is being used, obviously it's on your map but it might be good in your methods section.

The second to last sentence about the providing a step-by-step tutorial is awesome, you may want to incorporate that into your methods section once you get it finished.

Your Data Flow Diagram is a good start; my only concern is it's a little confusing. Having it more spread out and linear would make it easier to understand, maybe landscape the page. Another purely finicky remark I have about it is, you'd be better off creating it in a program like MS PowerPoint where you can connect boxes easier instead of MS Word.

Some other suggestions that I have for the overall section are (i) make sure you are referencing the correct figure (i.e. Figure 1 for a map of the City of Kent), (ii) maybe explain the process of joining the MS Access database with ArcGIS, (iii) explain what KML is, for non-GIS folks, and finally (iv) possibly provide a screenshot of the GUI for the Access form you created.

Overall your project is sound as a whole. It isn't necessarily relying on much analysis therefore my general comments about the project's analysis are unnecessary. I look forward to seeing the finished project and I'm sure the City of Kent feels much the same way.