

# White House Mapathon

On July 7, the White House is supporting communities, universities, Federal agencies, and Open Government Partnership countries in celebrating and actively participating in open mapping projects. Open mapping supports economic development, jobs and skills, foreign relations and community resilience as a driving engine of innovation, service oriented learning opportunities, and new kinds of digital public diplomacy.

**Tune in to the White House Live on July 7 starting at 1:00PM**

*Tune into [whitehouse.gov/live](http://whitehouse.gov/live) to watch the White House Mapathon program live or view the archive online.*

You can join Federal agencies, educators, students, and community leaders participating in this exciting initiative by hosting a mapathon in conjunction with the White House Mapathon.

## Host a Mapathon

*Organize a hands-on event to engage your colleagues, students or fellow community members in an open mapping project!*

A mapathon can be large or small, formal or informal. By hosting a mapathon, you will enable your event's participants to contribute open geographic data to critical projects that address malaria prevention, access to public lands, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and more.



A Peace Corps staff member teaches a District of Columbia Public Schools student to edit OpenStreetMap.  
Photo Credit: Peace Corps

Hosts can create their own project, or choose from one of our official open mapping projects:



A Peace Corps Mozambique Volunteer and Staff member collect open geographic data for malaria prevention.  
Photo Credit: USAID

## 1. Mapping for Malaria Prevention via OpenStreetMap

Join the White House Mapathon participants in this project! Edit OpenStreetMap by tracing over buildings and roads that you spot in satellite imagery. The data you generate will be used by the President's Malaria Initiative, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Peace Corps to more effectively plan for a malaria

prevention campaign in Mozambique.

Head to <http://tasks.hotosm.org/project/1974> to start!

## 2. Missing America via OpenStreetMap

MissingAmerica is a project led by the U.S. Census Bureau to map remote and marginal places across the United States with the aim of improving OpenStreetMap data in areas with few local mappers. Tasks range from rural Texas to Maine to Nebraska and more. Select from a wide variety of domestic open mapping tasks at [bit.ly/missingamerica](http://bit.ly/missingamerica).

## 3. Public Transit for Public Lands

Identifying the best strategic public transportation options to and from national lands and waters from urban centers is an important aspect of understanding accessibility for underserved communities with limited access to private vehicles. This project will involve identifying and mapping optimal public transportation routes for select urban centers close to national lands and waters and meet certain criteria. This project will highlight locations that are within two hours from urban centers and provide easy access to facilities and select recreational opportunities (swimming, fishing, hiking, etc.) to differentiate them from locations that provide limited opportunities or are otherwise difficult to access without a private vehicle. Information from the Recreation

Information Database and other data sources from the Department of Interior (DOI) and National Park Service will be utilized to complement this initiative. DOI's hope is that a complete travel itinerary can be developed (including public transportation and footpath maps) using the OpenStreetMap framework. To participate, add public transit routes to public lands using this [online form](#).

## 4. Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team Mapping

Select from a variety of international humanitarian open mapping tasks that leverage U.S. Government open data from the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap (HOT) Team at [tasks.hotosm.org](http://tasks.hotosm.org). Participants will edit OpenStreetMap for projects ranging from disaster preparedness and relief to longer-term international development and global health initiatives.

### Instructions for OpenStreetMap Tasks

You can access the OpenStreetMap tool by creating an account at [www.openstreetmap.org](http://www.openstreetmap.org). Go to the URL associated with each project, follow the prompts to “check out” a square, and trace buildings and roads. To learn how to edit OpenStreetMap, follow the editing Walkthrough or view the video tutorials at [www.mapgive.state.gov](http://www.mapgive.state.gov). Save your edits with #WHMapathon so we can track and highlight progress!

## Hosting a Mapathon

To engage students, government at all levels, and communities around the world in open mapping, the U.S. Government has hosted many mapathons, including the first White House Mapathon in 2015. A mapathon brings volunteers together to map



Togolese students edit OpenStreetMap in West Africa during the height of the Ebola crisis.  
Photo Credit: MapGive

information from unmapped places around the world. Mapathon participants have the opportunity to create and collect open geographic data that supports U.S. Government priorities while learning valuable skills and celebrating the importance of open data.

Below are some helpful tips and best practices for hosting a Mapathon:

## Tips for Hosting a Mapathon

- Work with your agency, schools, libraries, and other community organizations to select a date and time for the event and to establish the event capacity. Reliable internet connection is a must for any venue.
- Designate an event coordinator for planning and day of event facilitation.
- Select the open mapping project you will work on. Become familiar with its requirements and practice the workflow before teaching it to others.
- Register your event at [bit.ly/mapathonform](http://bit.ly/mapathonform). Registered events may be featured at the main White House Mapathon as a remote participant.
- Ask participants to RSVP and inform you of their level of experience with open mapping. This will help you identify experienced mappers who can help others.
- Coordinate logistics, including sharing directions, offering instructions for entry to the building, parking, ensuring easy access to restrooms, and posting signage to help participants find the room location.
- Remind participants to bring a laptop and mouse (if possible). Try to identify a few extra laptops to lend to participants who do not have access to one.
- Set up tables that can seat people and have access to power strips or wall outlets, as open mapping typically takes place on a computer.

- Have a large TV with computer input, or a projector and screen or wall available to demonstrate to participants what they should do to contribute to your mapathon's open mapping project.