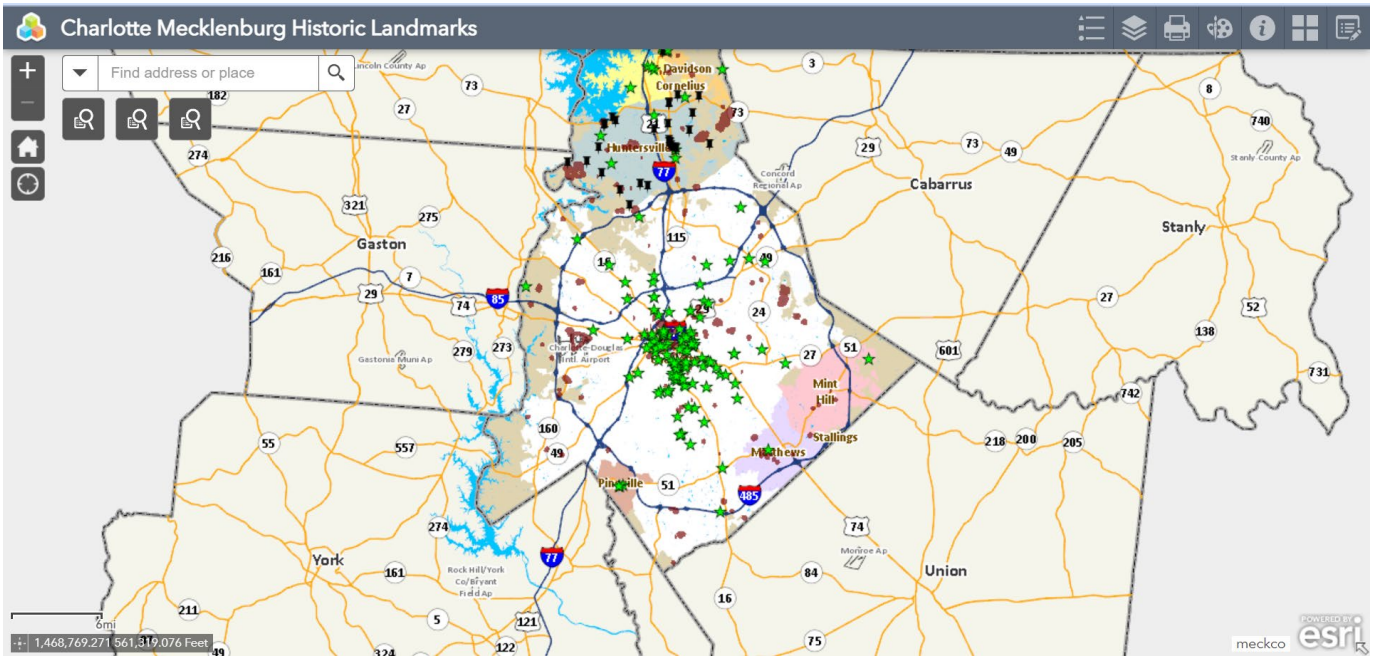
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR HLC GIS SITE
(as of September 7, 2022)

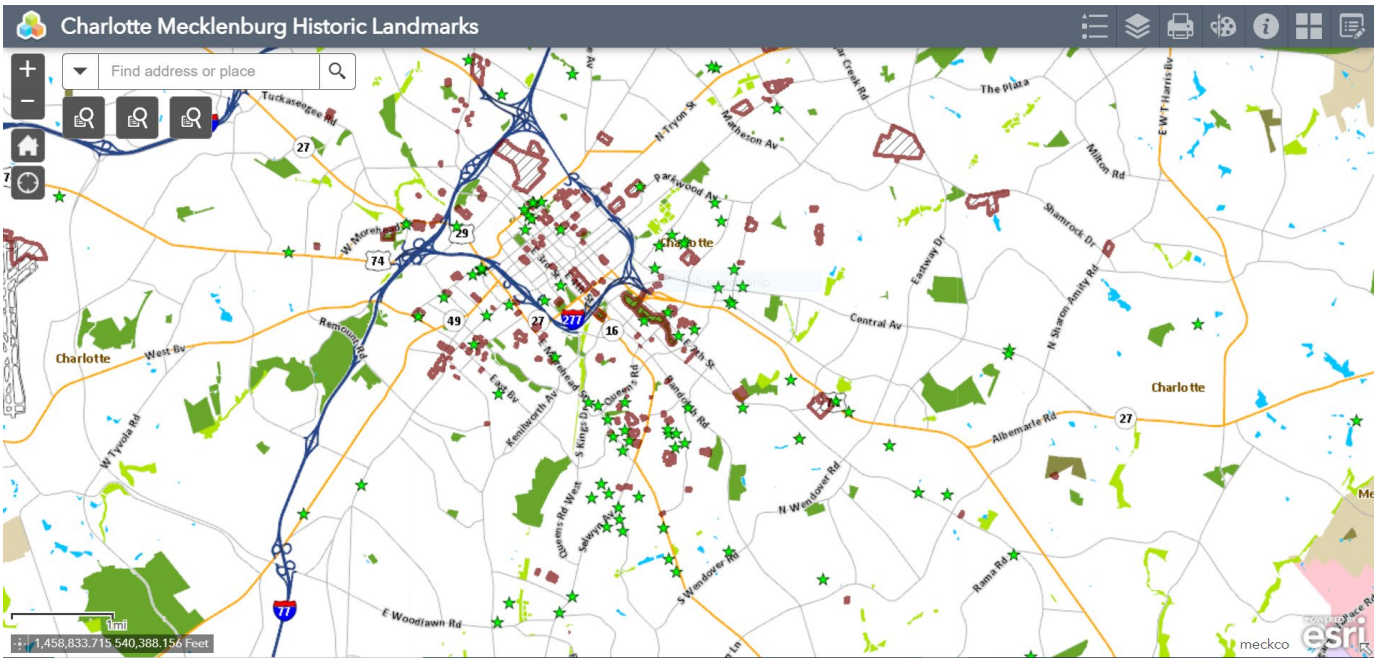
In recognition of the forthcoming Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission's 50th anniversary (in 2023), HLC Staff has proposed a substantial upgrade of HLC's current geographic information system (GIS) website. Proposed enhancements include an improved user interface experience featuring simplified layouts, cleaner visual graphics and mapping symbols, more extensive information about historic properties (including direct links to historic and current images, survey and research/designation reports, and uniform summary data fields for each property), and more robust search and filter functionality.

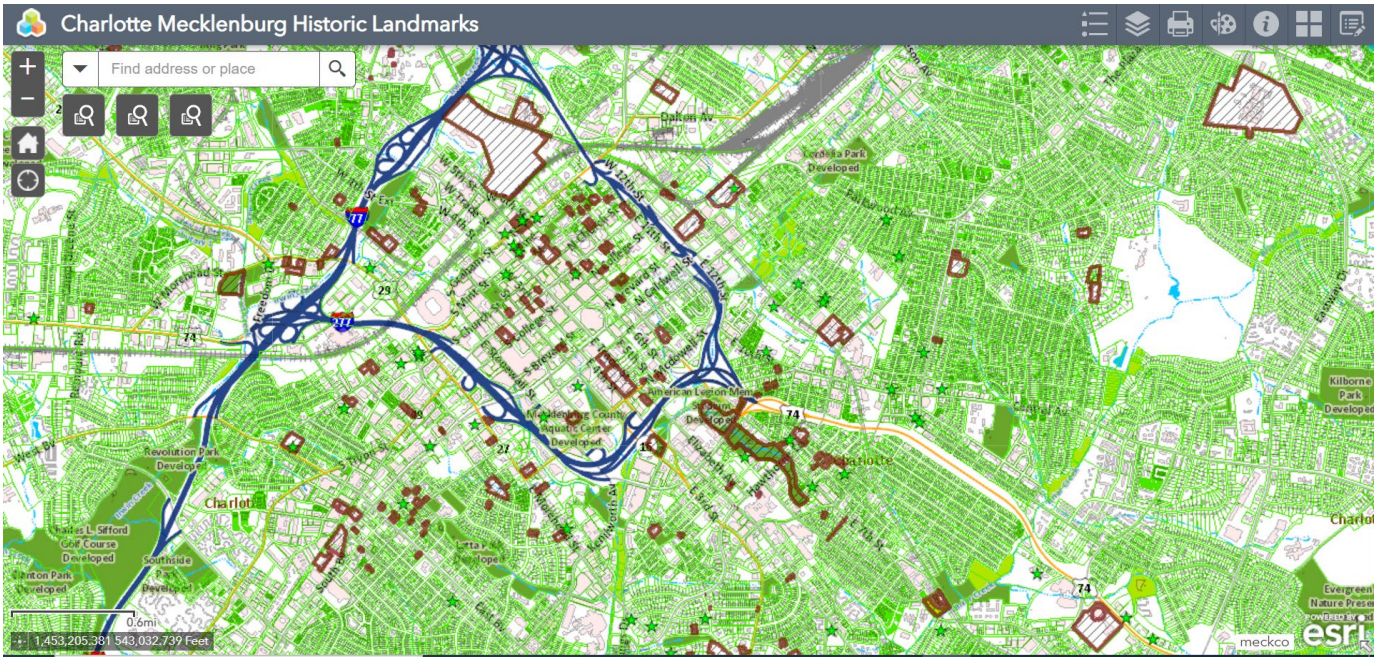
The following document provides screenshots of the current HLC GIS site, as well as screenshots from two websites (New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department) featuring illustrative visual layouts and graphics enhancements proposed by Staff for adoption, followed by detailed lists of overall enhancements contemplated by Staff for the new site.

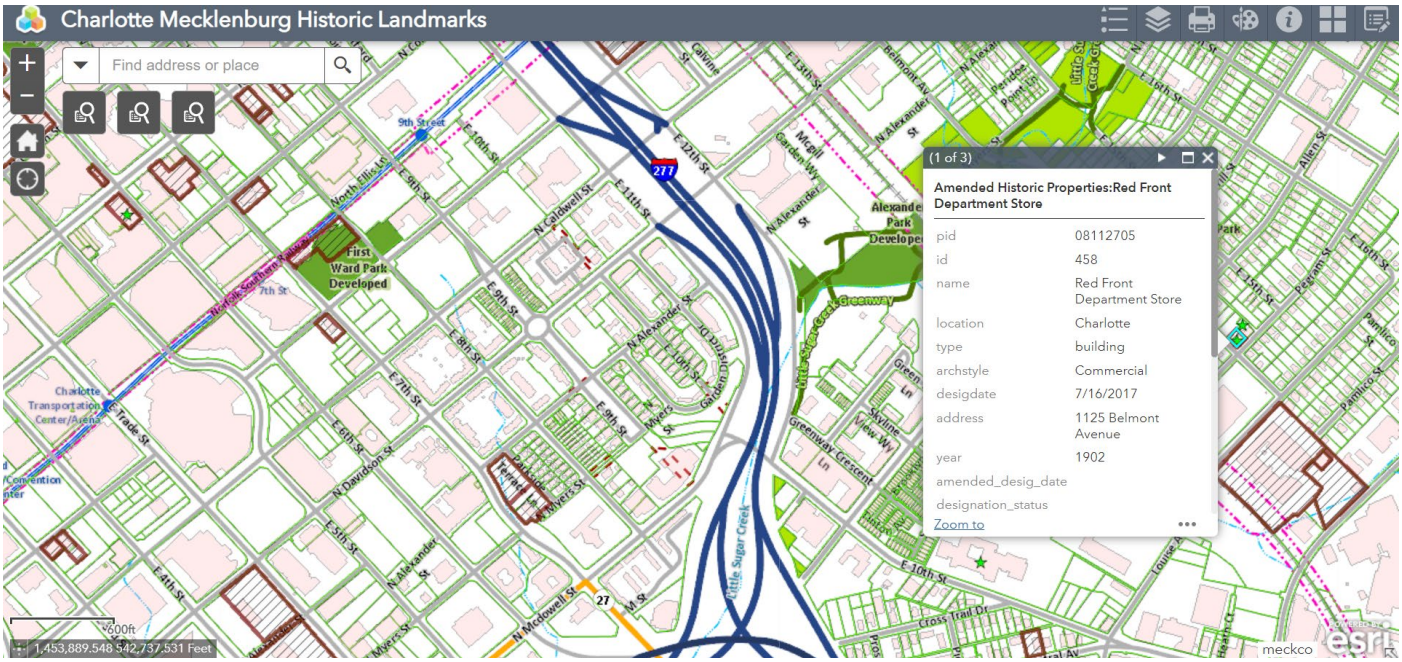
COMPARATIVE SCREENSHOTS OF CURRENT & ALTERNATIVE SITES

Screenshots of increased magnifications from current HLC GIS website (https://meckgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=401686bedc0f4a708234f92eb25feda8)

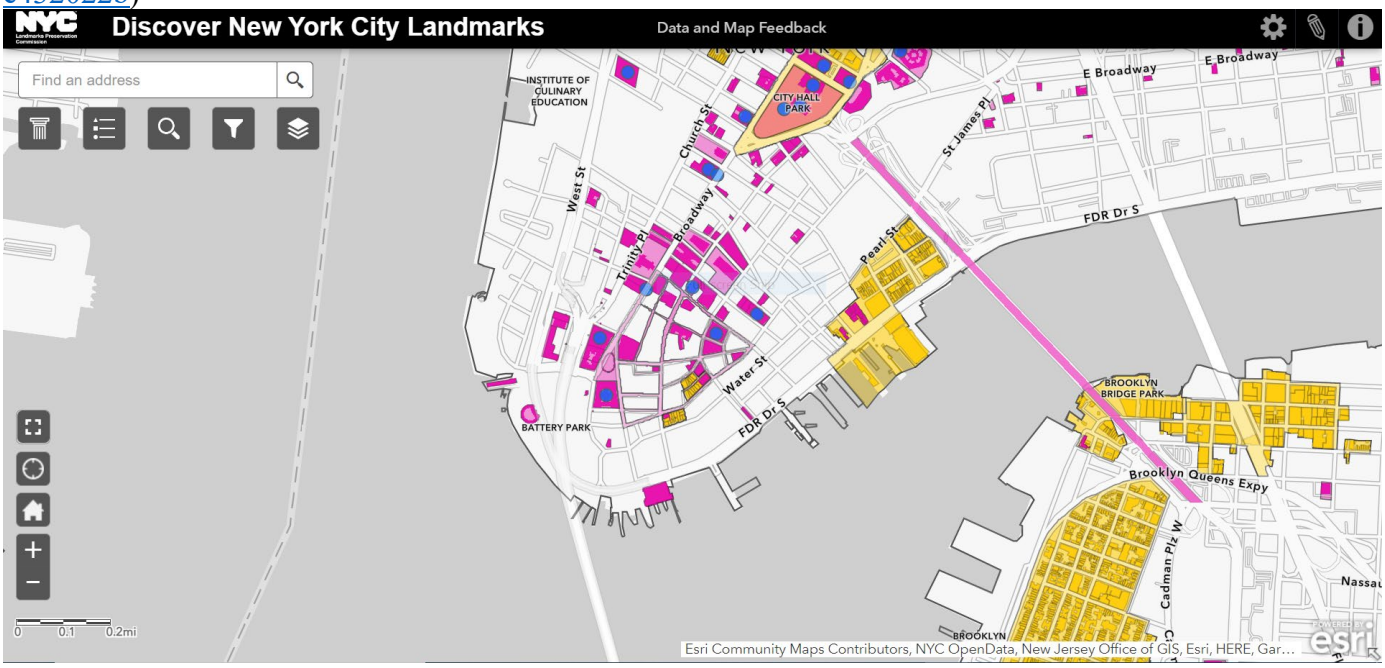


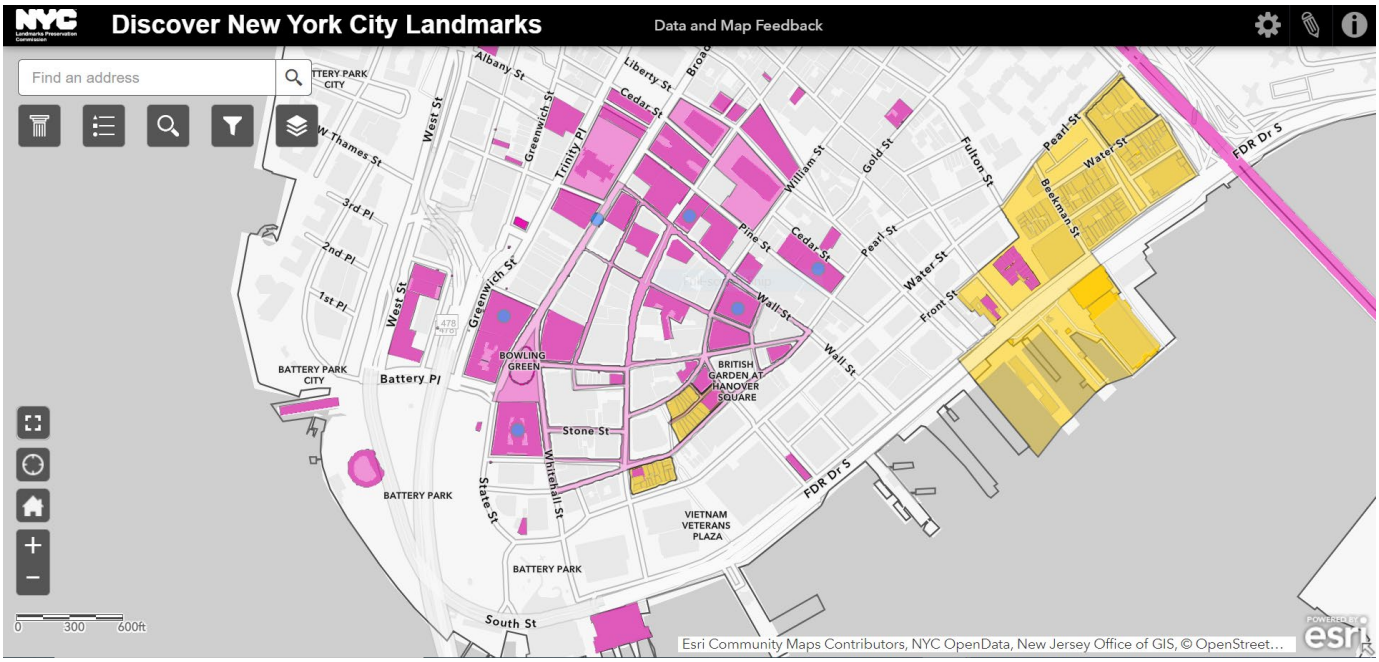

Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks
Find address or place
Charlotte
1mi
1,458,833.715 540,388.156 Feet
meckco
esri

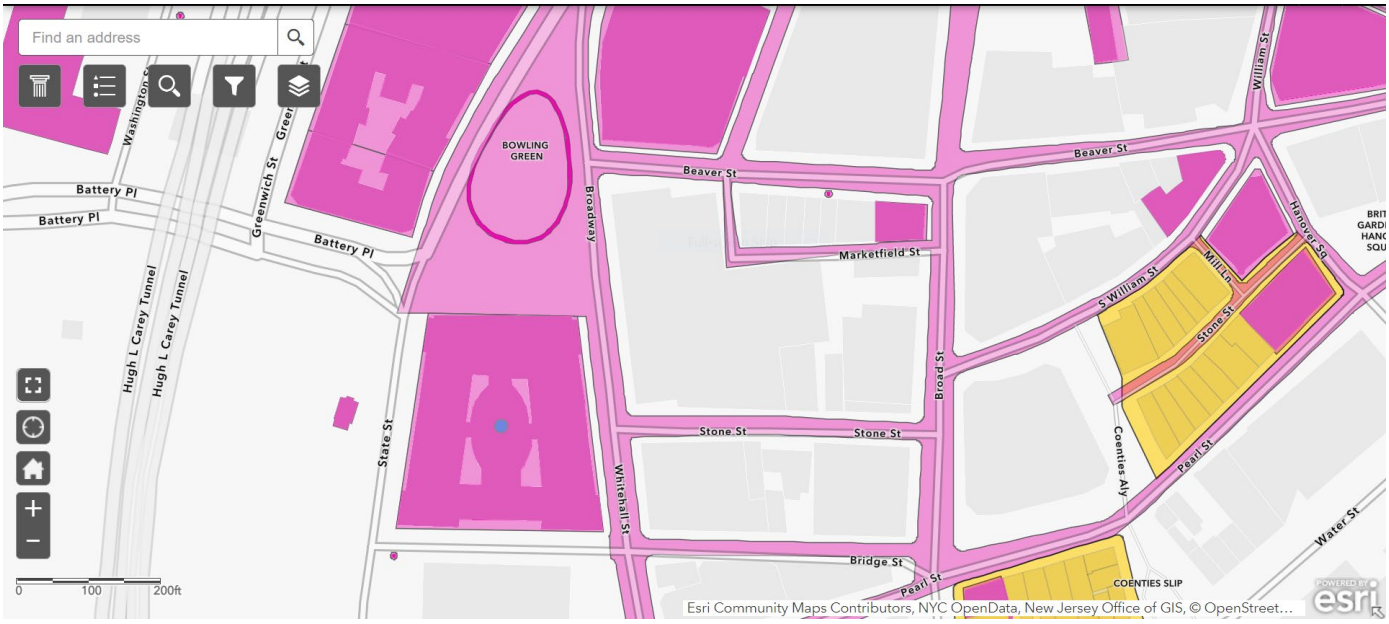

Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks
Find address or place
Charlotte
0.6mi
1,453,205.381 543,032.739 Feet
meckco
esri

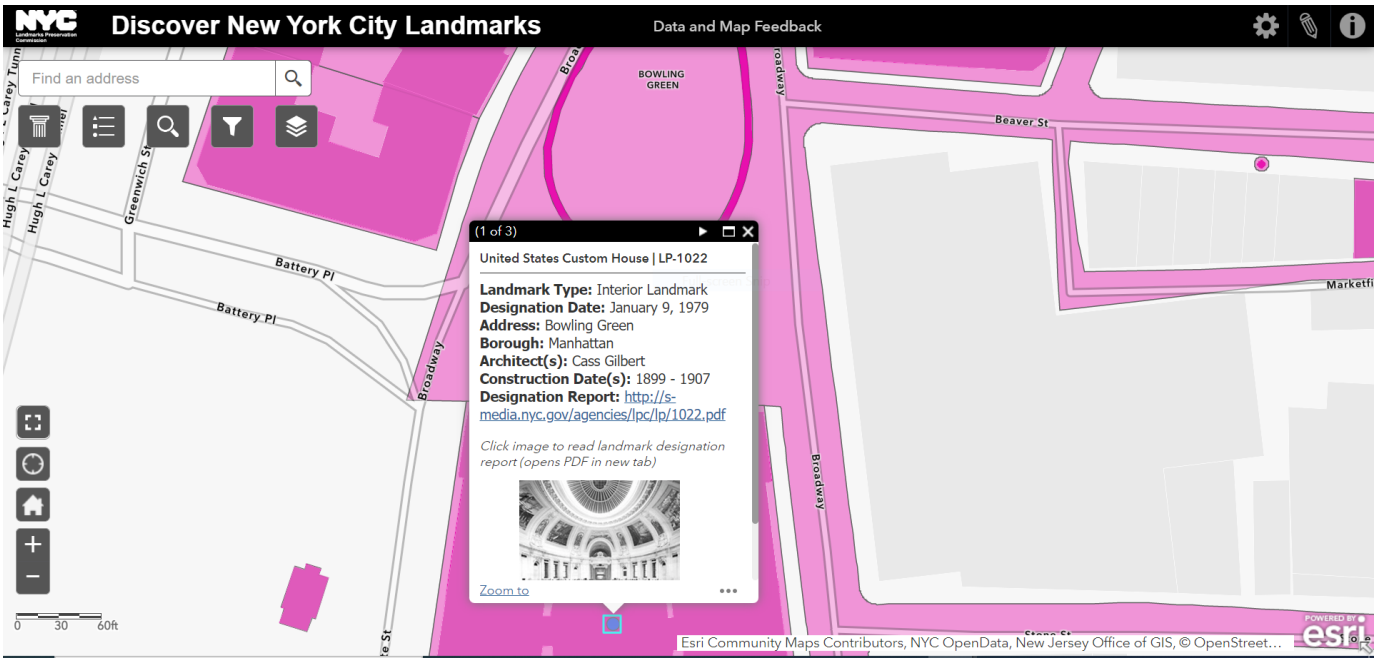


Screenshots of increased magnifications from current New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission website (https://nyclpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=93a88691cace4067828b1eede432022b)

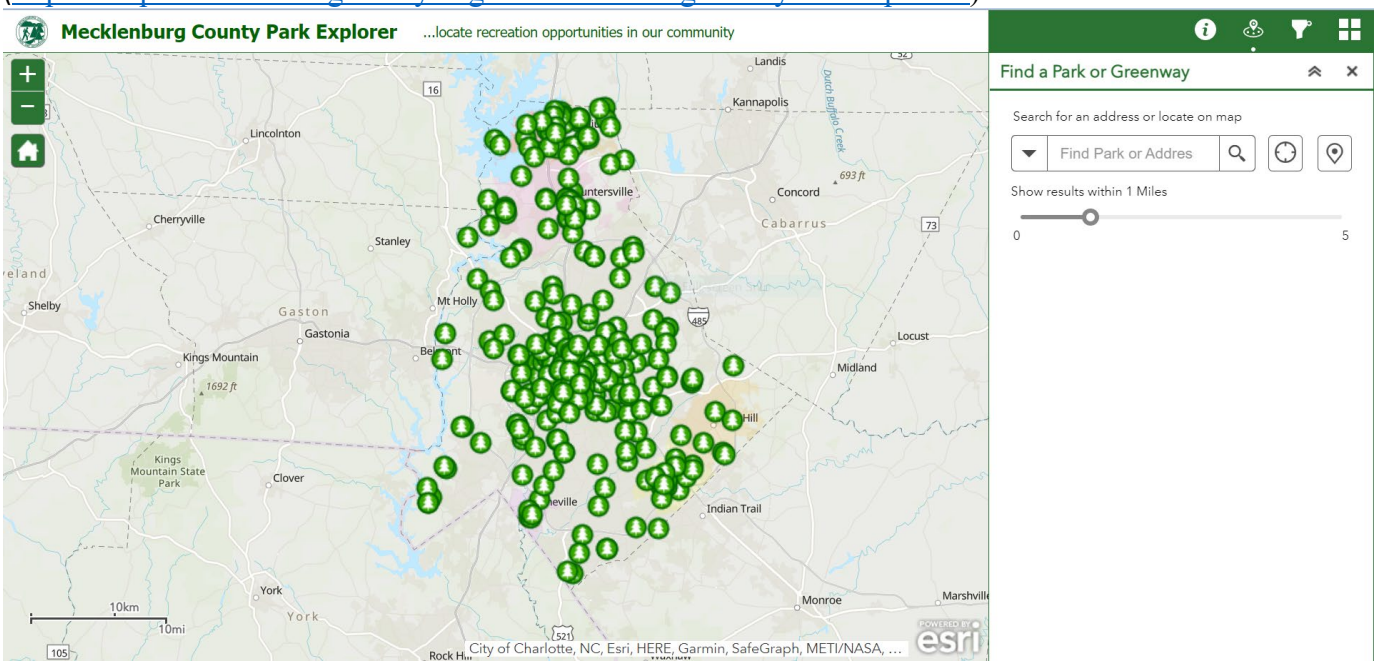


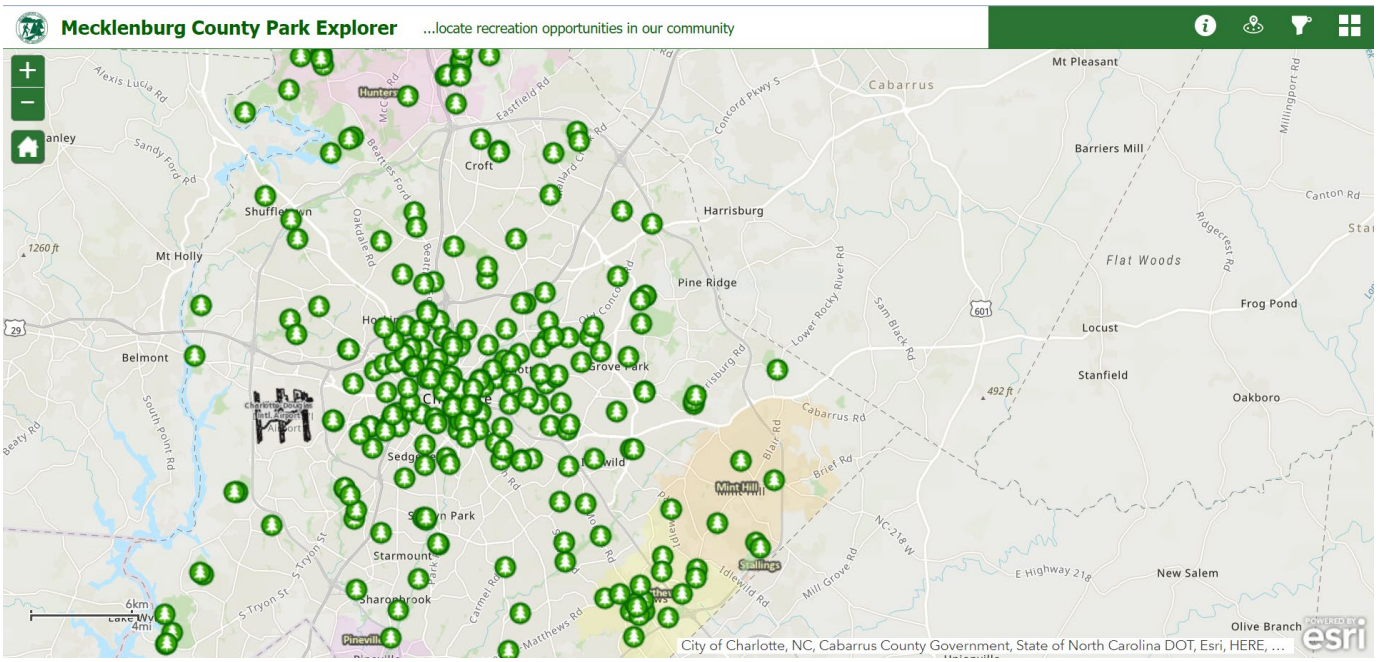

Discover New York City Landmarks
Data and Map Feedback
Find an address
Albany St
Liberty St
Broad
Cedar St
West St
Greenwich St
Trinity Pl
William St
Gold St
Fulton St
Pearl St
Water St
FDR Dr S
Beekman St
Pine St
Cedar St
Pearl St
Water St
Front St
Wall St
3rd Pl
2nd Pl
1st Pl
BOWLING GREEN
BRITISH GARDEN AT HANOVER SQUARE
BATTERY PARK CITY
Battery Pl
Stone St
Whitehall St
State St
BATTERY PARK
VIETNAM VETERANS PLAZA
South St
0
300
600ft
Esri Community Maps Contributors, NYC OpenData, New Jersey Office of GIS, © OpenStreet…
esri

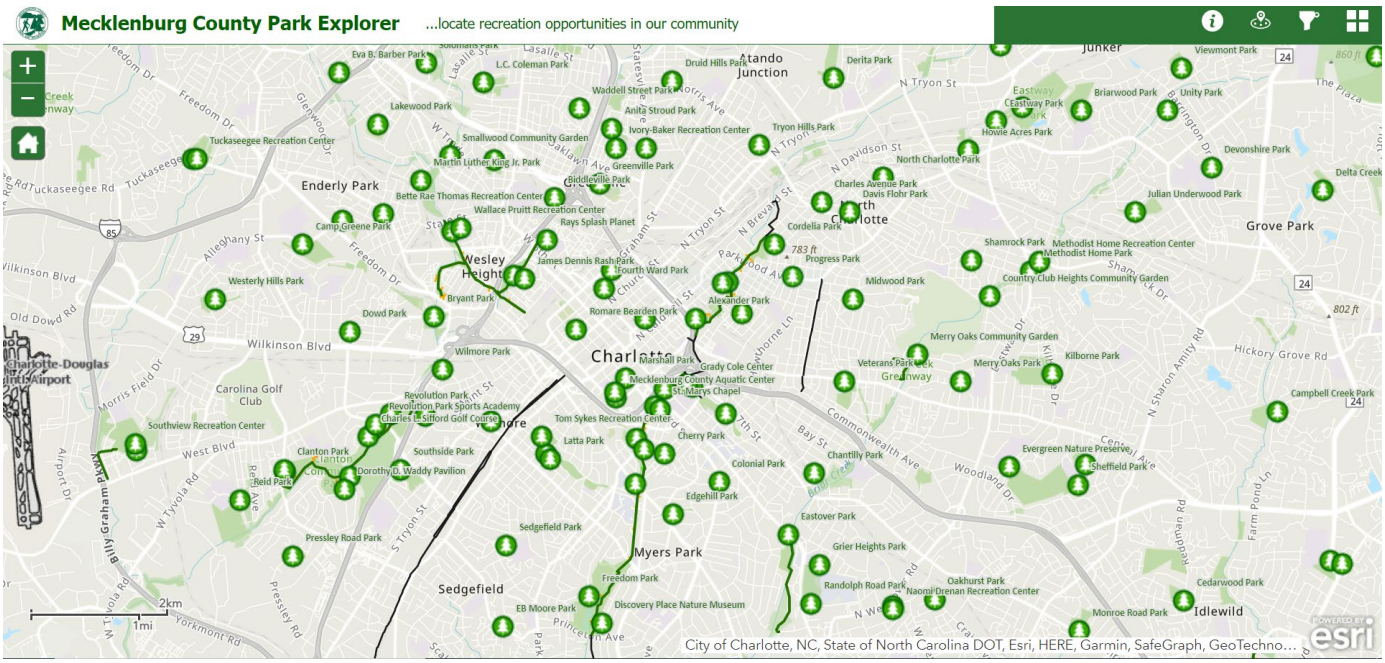

Find an address
Washington St
Greenwich St
Battery Pl
Battery Pl
Battery Pl
Hugh L Carey Tunnel
Hugh L Carey Tunnel
BOWLING GREEN
Broadway
Beaver St
Beaver St
William St
Marketfield St
Hanover Sq
Mill Ln
S William St
Stone St
Broad St
Stone St
Stone St
State St
Whitehall St
Coenties Aly
Pearl St
Water St
Bridge St
Pearl St
COENTIES SLIP
0
100
200ft
Esri Community Maps Contributors, NYC OpenData, New Jersey Office of GIS, © OpenStreet…
esri

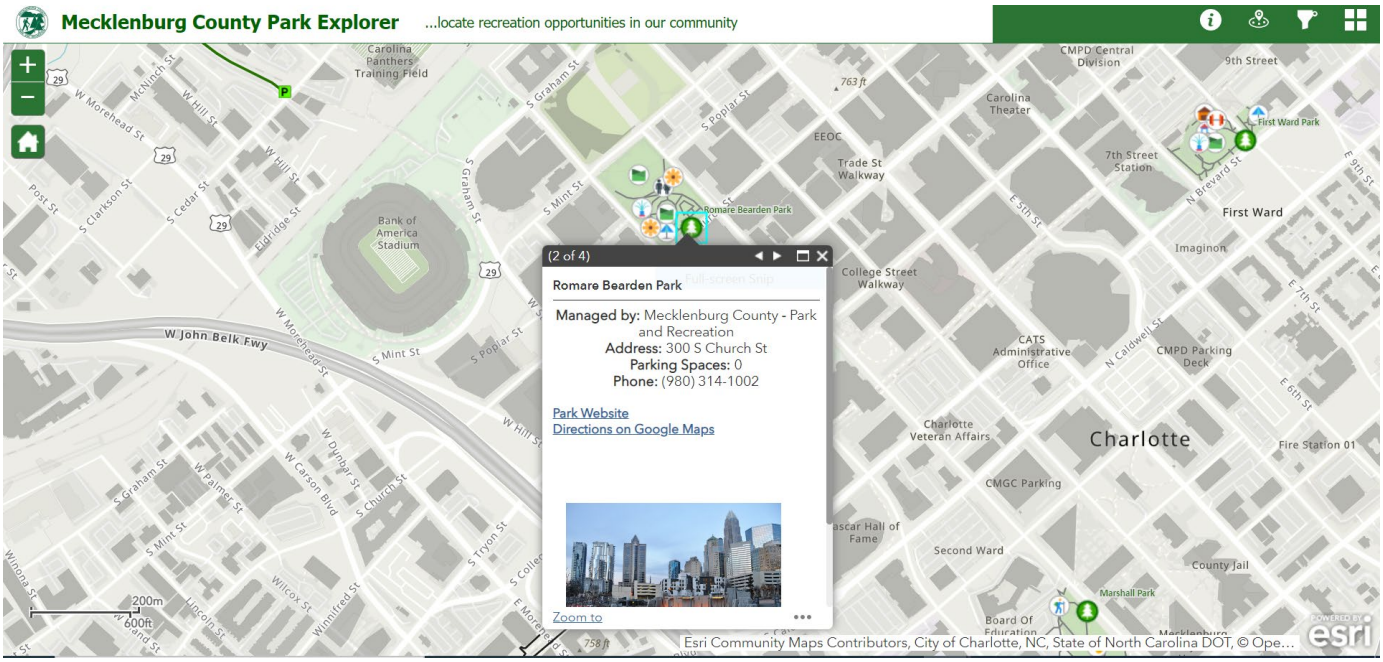


Screenshots of increased magnifications from current Mecklenburg County Parks & Rec "Park Explorer" website (https://maps.mecklenburgcountync.gov/MecklenburgCountyParkExplorer/)




Mecklenburg County Park Explorer
...locate recreation opportunities in our community
Mt Pleasant
Cabarrus
Barriers Mill
Harrisburg
Croft
Mt Holly
Pine Ridge
Flat Woods
Frog Pond
Locust
Stanfield
Oakboro
Belmont
Grove Park
Starmount
Sharonbrook
Mint Hill
Stallings
New Salem
Olive Branch
6km
4mi
City of Charlotte, NC, Cabarrus County Government, State of North Carolina DOT, Esri, HERE, ...
esri


Mecklenburg County Park Explorer
...locate recreation opportunities in our community
Enderly Park
Wesley Heights
Charlotte
Myers Park
Sedgefield
Grove Park
Idlewild
Charlotte-Douglas Intl Airport
2km
1mi
City of Charlotte, NC, State of North Carolina DOT, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechno...
esri



PROPOSED NEW FEATURES AND FUNCTIONALITIES FOR HLC GIS SITE

I. County Properties to be identified on map

1. HLC designated landmarks
2. HLC study list properties
3. Other properties identified in Mecklenburg historical/architectural surveys

II. Data Fields for individual pop-up screens of identified properties

HLC Designated Landmarks

- Name of property
- Street address of property
- Town/city of property
- Location of property (*e.g.*, Plaza Midwood, Third Ward)
- Acreage
- Thumbnail image of property (exterior only)
- Link to Google Streetview
- Year of completion
- Architectural style
- Architect/Builder
- Description of property (including original use, # of stories, materials, distinguishing features)
- Significance of property (*e.g.*, historical, architectural, cultural, influential events or occupants)

- Significant alteration(s) of property (including date(s) of completion)
- Type of designation (exterior vs. exterior & interior)
- Date of designation
- Link to designation report
- Link to designation ordinance
- Link(s) to other relevant documents specific to property (*e.g.*, historic district designation, surveys referencing property, National Register applications)
- Post-designation information (*e.g.*, demolition, approved COAs, amended ordinances)
- Notes (for brief entry of other relevant information)

HLC Study List Properties

- Name of property
- Street address of property
- Town/city of property
- Location of property
- Thumbnail image of property (exterior only)
- Link to Google Streetview
- Year of completion
- Architectural style
- Description of property
- Significance of property
- Link(s) to relevant documents (*e.g.*, applications for consideration, staff reports)
- Notes

Mecklenburg Historical/Architectural Survey Properties*

- Name of property
- Street address of property
- Town/city of property
- Location of property
- Thumbnail image of property (exterior only)
- Link to Google Streetview
- Title(s) of survey(s) in which property is identified
- Year of completion
- Architectural style
- Description of property
- Significance of property
- Link(s) to relevant documents (*e.g.*, survey)
- Notes

* Data fields subject to actual contents of each survey

III. User Experience Enhancements (as compared with current HLC GIS site)

- More easy-on-the-eye layout like the New York City landmarks page (https://nyclpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=93a88691cace4067828b1eede432022b) that recesses buildings into faint gray outlines. The Mecklenburg County Park Explorer site (https://maps.mecklenburgcountync.gov/MecklenburgCountyParkExplorer/) is similarly configured and also shows property lines and building footprints in similar faint gray outlines, but only when the user zooms in extremely close to a specific property.
- Eliminate extraneous markings. The current HLC GIS map includes, for example, green property lines for each Mecklenburg County property parcel (the overload of markings obscures the HLC-specific map symbols); several non-historical parcels throughout the county are identified by name and description ("developed," "undeveloped"); light-rail stations are apparently identified by blue circles; individual screens for several properties outlined in brown (per the map legend, "amended historical properties") identify the properties solely as "Legacy Designated Historical Properties" with no individually-identifying information. Consider whether other current HLC GIS map content is relevant (*e.g.*, "amended historic properties," property ID numbers).
- Use easily distinguishable colors and shapes. The current HLC GIS map uses the same neon green color to identify both study list properties and the property lines of each parcel in the entire county, thereby obscuring the study list symbols.
- Consider using the functionality of Polaris' "Historic" overlay toggle on Polaris which inserts the name of each designated landmark onto the map once the user scrolls in closer on the map.

IV. Search Functionality

- Search by name of property
- Search by street address of property
- Search by town/city of property
- Search by location of property

V. Filters

- Filter properties by town/city of property
- Filter properties by location of property
- Filter properties by eras of construction (consider decade or 25-year increments)
- Filter properties by architectural styles
- Filter properties by types of properties (*e.g.*, residential, commercial, government, church, graveyard)
- Filter properties by architect/builder
- Filter properties by proximity to address input by user (*e.g.*, a "landmarks near me" feature) – this could help as a precursor to translating the written walking tours on the HLC site into some kind of app or other electronic walking tour

VI. Data & Map Feedback Link

- Brief form to allow users to complete and submit template form providing feedback, corrections, updates, additional information, etc. to HLC Staff, who can then determine appropriate steps.

VII. Map Legend and Brief "About" Section

- Brief public-facing statement introducing HLC, designation process, and explanation of map functionality and designation process/distinctions.