



Good Data for Good Planning

Accessing Philadelphia's Free Information



City of
Philadelphia



Key Learning Objectives

- What tools are best to answer zoning, building permit, vacancy and property-related data questions?
 - Where to find current and historical maps and years of aerial and street view imagery?
 - Where to find the City's public data, how to explore and use it?
- 



Instructors

- Sara Mattio, GIS Analyst, Office of Innovation + Technology (OIT)
 - Tim Haynes, Senior Lead GIS Analyst, OIT
 - Mark Wheeler, Interim Chief Information Officer, OIT
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 - Ariel Diliberto, City Planner, Planning and Development
- 



Ground Rules

- All questions are welcome.
 - If we use an acronym without defining it first or you just don't remember how we defined it, let us know.
 - If we use jargon or a term you don't understand, ask us to explain it.
- 



Public Web Apps



Can I preview City data or map it without downloading it or hiring a consultant to help me?



OpenMaps

openmaps.phila.gov

What is OpenMaps?

- Allows users to explore the city's spatial open datasets in a simple mapping tool
- Great for:
 - Previewing open datasets
 - Comparing many data points at once
 - Understanding how data might answer questions

City of Philadelphia | OpenMaps DEMO

Filter By Text:

Filter By Category:

Search the map

- Athletic Fields, Tracks, and Courts
- Big Belly Wastebaskets
- Bike Network
- Business Licenses
- Business Licenses - Food
- Business Permits - Signs
- Business Violations
- C&I Fire Violations
- Census Block Groups - 2010
- Census Tracts - 2010
- City Limits
- Combined Sewer Service Area

City of Philadelphia | CityGeo |

Help | Feedback



Where can I find the zoning for an address?

How can I find out if there's been zoning variances and building permits issued for property in my neighborhood?



Atlas

atlas.phila.gov

What is Atlas?

- A tool that combines property data from multiple departments into one source
- Great for:
 - Getting the history of permits, licenses, and inspections at any address
 - Combining hard-to-find City resources with aerial imagery and historical maps

The screenshot displays the Atlas interface for the address 1234 MARKET ST, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107-3721. The interface is divided into a left sidebar with navigation options and a main content area with a map on the right.

Property Assessments

Property assessment and sale information for this address. Source: Office of Property Assessments (OPA). OPA was formerly a part of the Bureau of Revision of Taxes (BRT) and some City records may still use that name.

OPA Account #	883309050
OPA Address	1234 MARKET ST
Owners	SEPTA
Assessed Value	\$141,684,400
Sale Date	09/16/1993
Sale Price	\$10

[See more at Property Search](#)

Navigation Options:

- Deeds
- Licenses & Inspections
- Zoning

Map: The map shows the location of 1234 MARKET ST in Philadelphia, PA. The map includes labels for Market St, 13th St, 12th St, Ludlow St, and S College St. Landmarks such as The Wanamaker Building, SEPTA Building, and Saint John the Evangelist Church are also visible.



How can I find out if a building is vacant on my block?

I'm writing a grant proposal and want a statistic for amount of vacant land in my neighborhood, is that mapped?



Vacancy
phila.gov/vacancymap

What is the Vacant Property Indicators Model?

- A tool for identifying properties across Philadelphia which are likely to be vacant
- Utilizes city administrative and geographic data

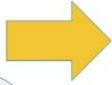




Data Sources

• City Administrative Data

- Licenses & Inspections
- Philadelphia Water Department
- Office of Property Assessment
- City Planning Commission
- Philadelphia Land Bank
- Department of Revenue
- Philadelphia Gas Works
- Pennsylvania Horticultural Society



Queries & Filters

• Examples:

- Vacancy license?
- Water shutoff in last 4 months?
- Recently identified as vacant land?
- Existing severe building code violations?
- Demolished or newly constructed buildings?



Indicators

• Vacancy and non-Vacancy

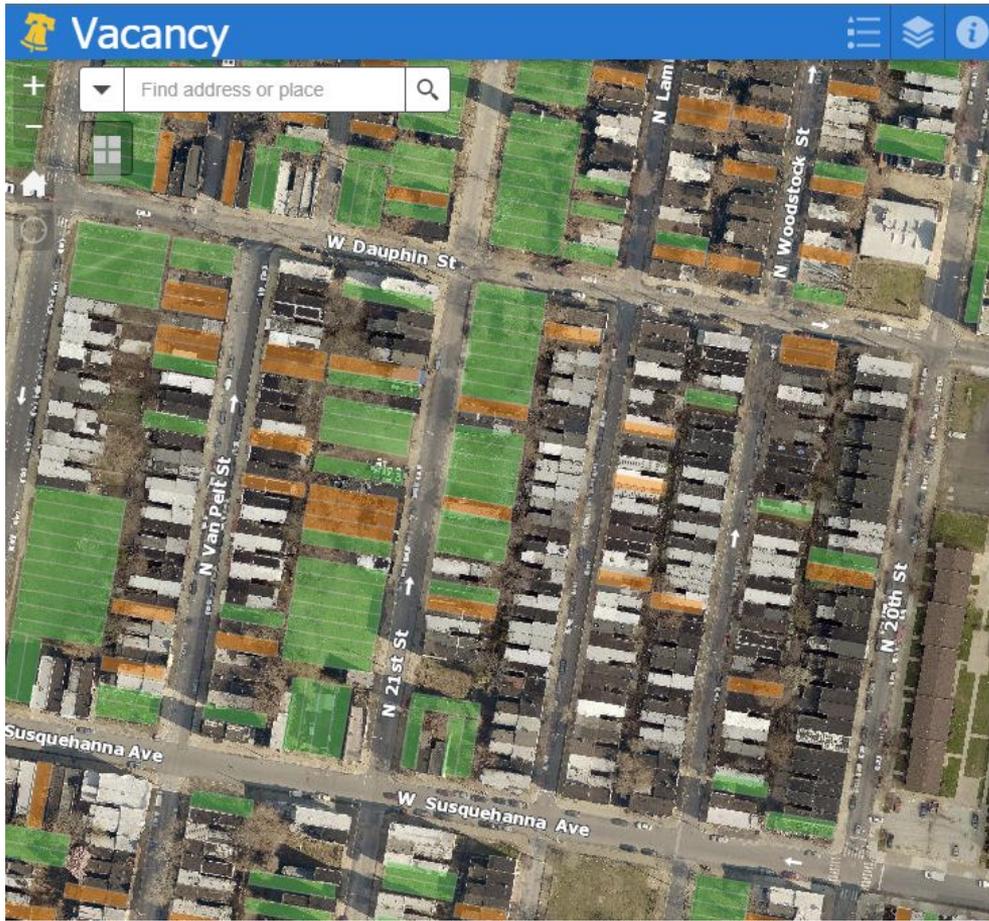
- Scored and weighed
- Aggregated
- Composite score = likelihood of vacancy
- Composite scores scaled



Outputs

- Vacant Land Indicators Rank
- Vacant Building Indicators Rank
- Vacant Block Percentages





How can I view Vacancy data?

- Display:
 - Likely vacant buildings
 - Likely vacant land
 - % of likely vacant properties by block



Health

healthexplorer.phila.gov

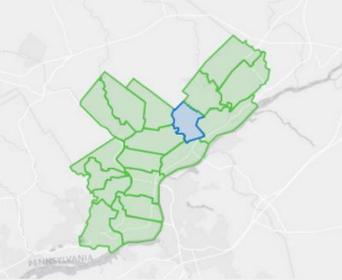
Community Health Explorer



City of Philadelphia | Community Health Explorer

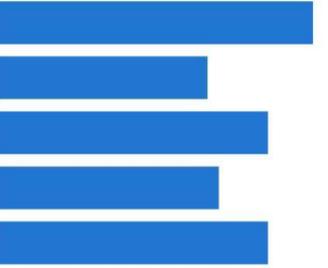
PLANNING DISTRICT RACIAL DISPARITY CITYWIDE OVER TIME TOP 10 CITIES ABOUT

Geographic



Planning Districts
Analyzing the latest year of Philadelphia data by planning districts

Ethnographic



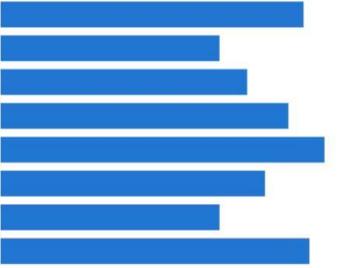
Racial Disparity
Analyzing the latest year of Philadelphia data by race/ethnicity

Longitudinal



Citywide Over Time
Looking at Philadelphia data over time, from 2000 to the present

Comparative



Top 10 Cities
Comparing Philadelphia data to other large cities/counties

About the Community Health Assessment

The CHA is a systematic assessment of population health in Philadelphia, highlighting key public health challenges and assets and informing local public health programs, policies, and partnerships. The CHA includes indicators reflecting health behaviors, health conditions, health care factors, and social and environmental determinants of health.

The Community Health Explorer is a joint project between the City of Philadelphia's **Department of Public Health** and **Office of Open Data and Digital Transformation**.

The Explorer is intended to provide easy-to-use, responsive and accessible visualization tools for viewing the vast amount of data collected annually for the Community Health Assessment.

The Community Health Explorer displays the 2017 Community Health Assessment report. The full report is **available for download** on the Philadelphia Department of Public Health site.

[Read the blog post](#) for more about the development of Community Health Explorer.

About the Application

This is an open source project that uses the City of Philadelphia [patterns](#), [Jekyll](#), [Leaflet.js](#), and [Chartist.js](#).

[LEAVE FEEDBACK](#) 

[SOURCE CODE](#) 





What's Philadelphians' health like...

- in different areas of the City?
 - among different racial groups?
 - over time?
 - in comparison to similar cities?
- 



What % of residents live in poverty in different areas of Philadelphia?

What planning districts have the lowest access to healthy food?

Explore by location



City of Philadelphia

Community Health Explorer

PLANNING DISTRICT RACIAL DISPARITY CITYWIDE OVER TIME TOP 10 CITIES ABOUT

Choose a district: Choose a category:

Built Environment

23.1%
Low-to-no Walkable Access to Healthy Foods and High Poverty

Description:
Percentage of population living in high-poverty areas with low-to-no walkable access to healthy foods as assessed in PDPH's [Food Access Report](#).

Note:
Please note that data definitions and sources differ across dimensions for this indicator.

74.3%
Access to Nearby Parks or Outdoor Space

Description:
Percentage of adults responding yes to the question, "Is there a park or other outdoor space in your neighborhood that you're comfortable visiting during the day?"

Note:
Two years of Household Health Survey data (2012 and 2014/15) were combined to provide more reliable estimates by planning district, therefore these

128.100
Pedestrian and Bicycle Crashes per 100,000 People

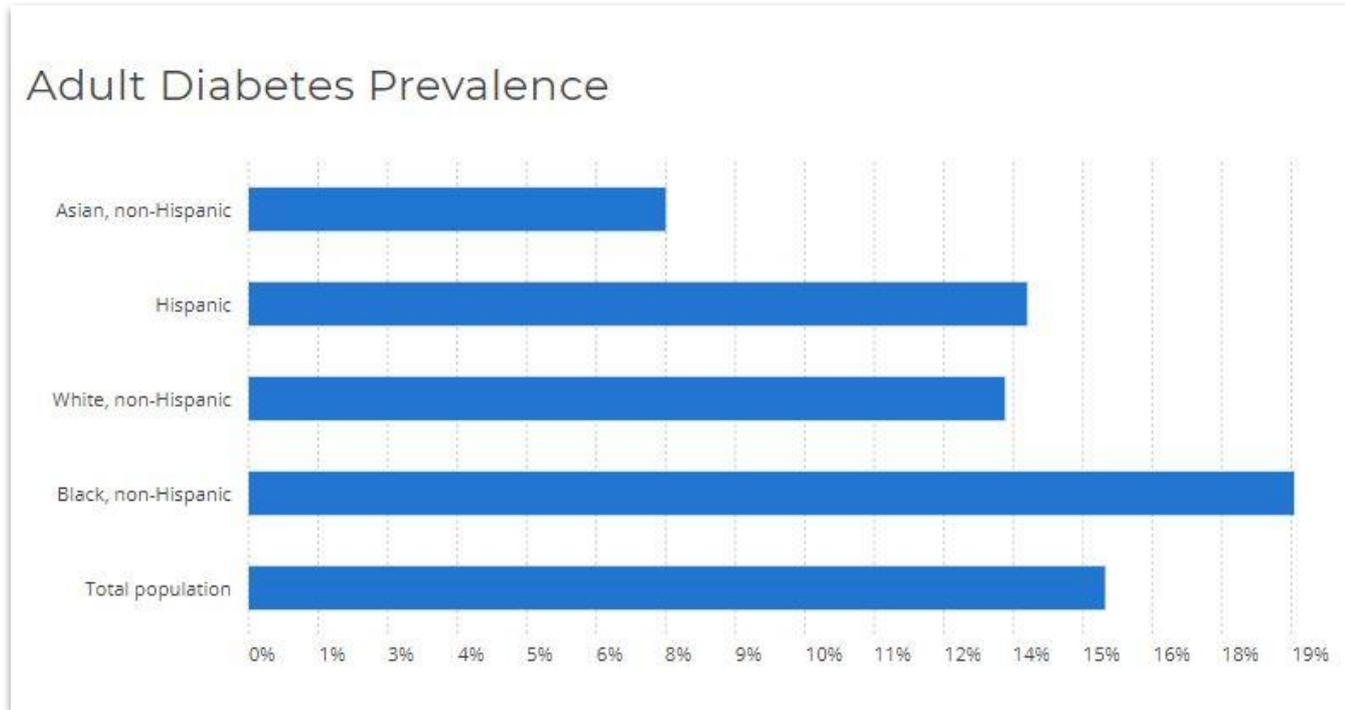
Description:
Rate of pedestrian and bicyclist crashes involving motor vehicles per 100,000 persons.

Source:
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation | 2016



What differences in health exist by race?

Explore by racial disparities

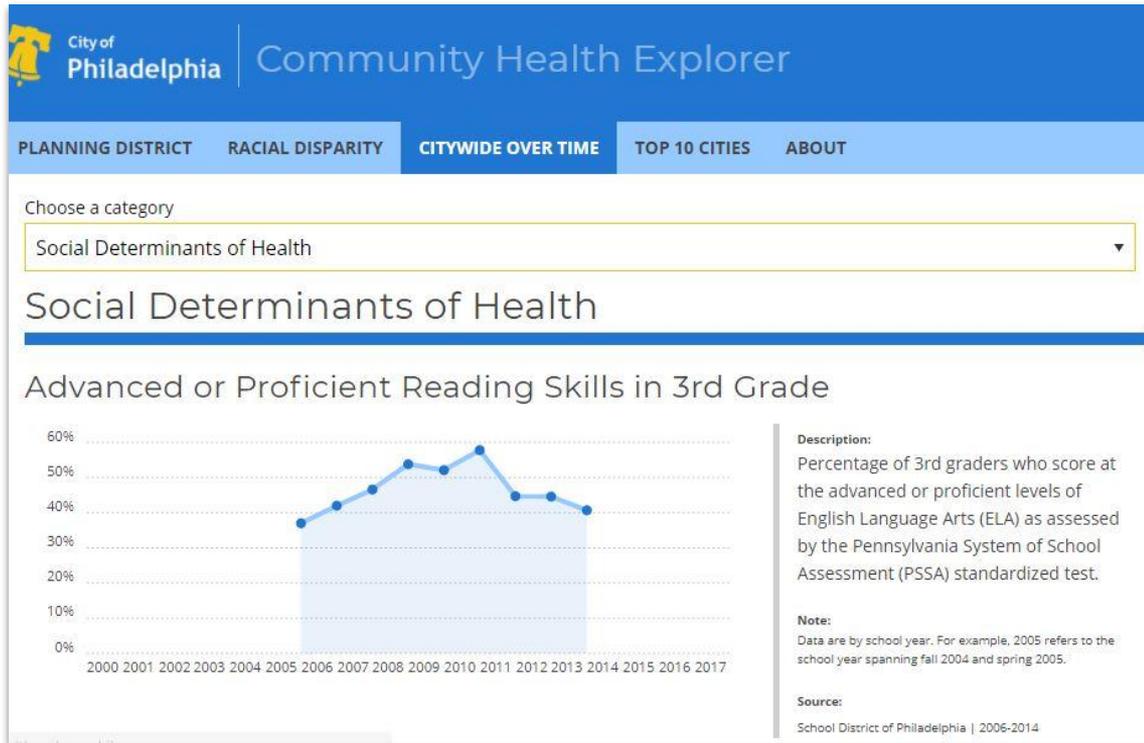




How have the reading skills of 3rd graders changed over time?

Has teen cigarette smoking increased in the last several years?

Explore trends over time



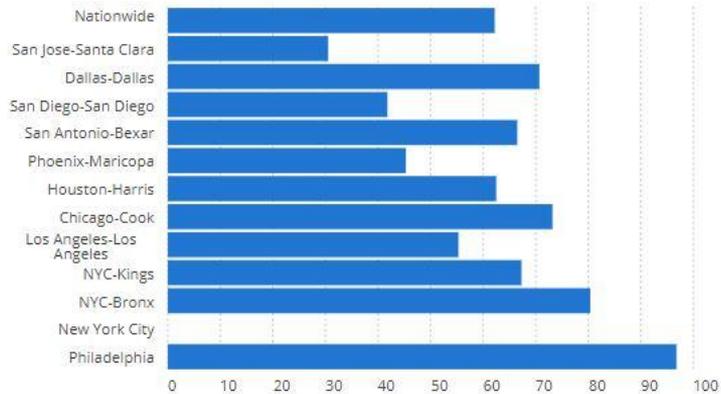


Do Philadelphians die from cardiovascular disease at a higher rate than in similar cities?

Compare to other cities

Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes

Premature Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Mortality Rate per 100,000 People



Description:

Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 persons of CVD deaths (all heart disease) to persons under 75 years of age.

Note:

Data are at the county level.

See the overtime graph for the most recent data for Philadelphia.

Source:

Interactive Atlas of Heart Disease and Stroke, National Center for Health Statistics | 2011-2013



What's the amount of park land in my neighborhood compared to others?

Where can I find information about crime incidents?



Stress Index

phila.gov/stressmap



What is the Stress Index?

- Joint effort between Mayor's Office of Education and OIT to support the Community Schools Initiative
- Maps areas of stress through census, health , crime, and school district data





These tools are great, but I want to work directly with the City's data.

Where do I find it online?
What tools do I need to use it?



Open data

opendataphilly.org

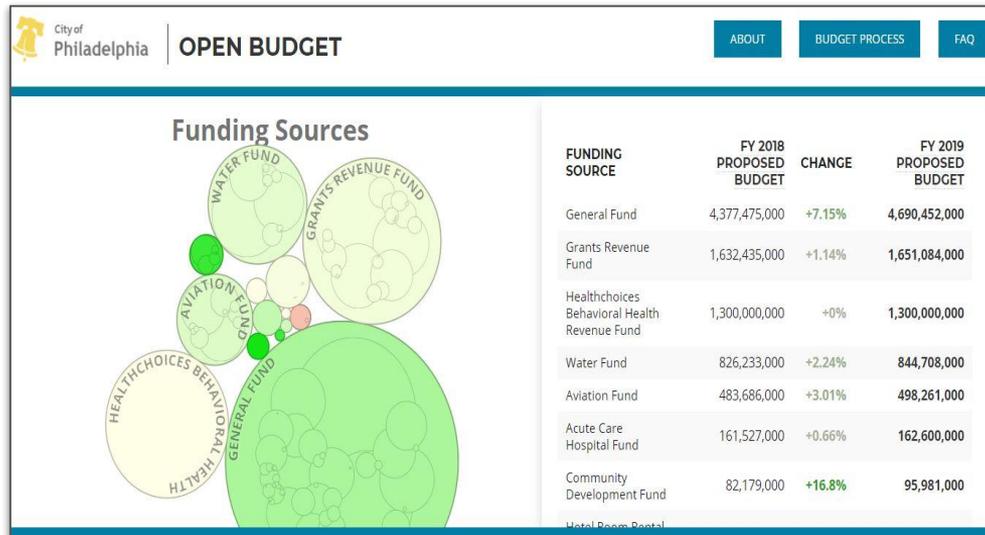
What's "Open Data"?

- Online & free
- Machine readable
- Up to date
- Context provided

The screenshot displays the OpenDataPhilly website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'OpenDataPhilly' and links for 'Datasets', 'Organizations', 'Topics', 'About', and 'Resources'. The main content area is titled 'Organizations / City of Philadelphia / Property Assessments'. It features a 'Property Assessments' section with a 'Followers' count of 15 and a description: 'Property characteristic and assessment information from the Office of Property Assessment. Updated twice per week.' Below this, there are several interactive elements: 'Exterior Condition Map', 'Atlas', 'Property Search', and 'OPA Property Assessments Visualization'. A 'Data and Resources' section at the bottom lists three data formats: 'Properties (CSV)', 'Properties (GeoJSON)', and 'Properties (SHP)', each with an 'Explore' button. The City of Philadelphia logo is also visible on the left side of the page.

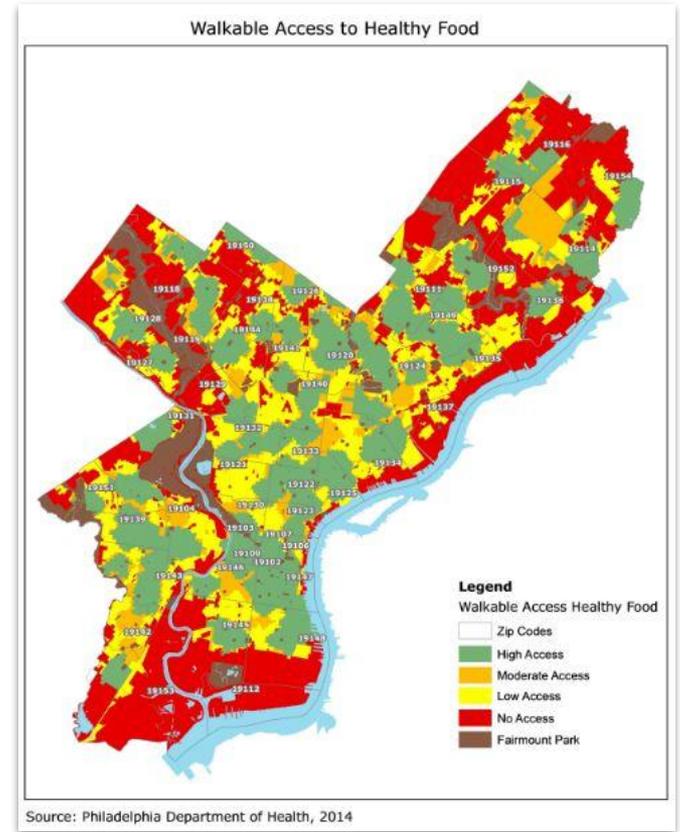
Why does the City release open data?

- Government transparency & accountability
- Improves government operations



Why release open data?

- Civic technology [apps](#)
- Program evaluation & grantwriting
- Legislative advocacy
- Community organizing
- Classroom curriculum & research





Where can I find the City's datasets?

What if I have a question about a dataset?

How can I find data on OpenDataPhilly.org?

Search by:

- Topic
- Organization
- Dataset
- Keyword



The screenshot shows the OpenDataPhilly website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo, 'Log in', 'Register', and menu items for 'Datasets', 'Organizations', 'Topics', 'About', and 'Resources'. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar. The main content area features a large circular image of a map with data points. To the left of the image, the text reads: 'Your source for open data in the Philadelphia region'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'OpenDataPhilly is a catalog of open data in the Philadelphia region. In addition to being the official open data repository for the City, it includes data sets from many organizations in the region.' Below the main content, there is a 'Search data' section with a search input field and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search field, a text box says: 'Get started by searching from 349 datasets that cover all dimensions of Philadelphia, from city council districts to park locations.'

What if I have a question about a dataset?

City of Philadelphia Metadata Catalog

311 Service and Information Requests (Full Dataset)

Parent Dataset	311 Service Requests	Contains Sensitive Data	Yes
Department	311	Sensitive Data Comments	
Dataset Contact	andy.rehwell@phila.gov	System of Record	
Description	This represents all service and information requests since December 8th, 2014 submitted to 311 via the 311 mobile application, calls, walk-ins, emails, the 311 website or social media.	Format	SQL Database
Development Process		Table/Layer Name	
Date Range		Classification	Public
Update Frequency	Daily	Metadata Classification	Public
		Data Last Updated	
		Metadata Last Updated	02/09/2016

Fields

Field Name	Alias	Description	Type
address		Human-readable address or description of location.	Text
agency_responsible		The department in charge of the service request.	Text
expected_datetime		The date and time when the service request can be expected to be fulfilled. This may be based on a service-specific service level agreement.	DateTime
location		The latitude and longitude for the location of the service request.	Geometry
media_url		A URL to media associated with the request, eg an image.	URL
requested_datetime		The date and time when the service request was made.	DateTime
service_code		The unique identifier for the service or information request type.	Numeric

NEW TOPIC

Open Data Philly Shared publicly

60 of 290 topics (99+ unread)

Discussion Group for Open Data and Government Transparency in Philadelphia

Topic	Posts	Views	Author	Time
★ OPA 2018 Property Assessments Change map	2 posts	9 views	Aaron Kreider +1	4:49 PM
★ DataScience Training in Chennai	1	4	ijazz jazz	5:51 AM
★ Address to Federal Congressional District look-up	1	5	spencer snygg	Apr 11
★ Past city employee salary data	6	11	Ryan Briggs +1	Apr 9
★ Let's build a killer Philly Map and API	4	30	Aaron Kreider +2	Apr 7
★ Merging OPA data with Parcels to get Multi Polygon	5	24	Aaron Kreider +1	Apr 5
★ Historical tax info	1	18	Renee Bell	Mar 21
★ Architectural plans	1	15	Anita De Rosa	Mar 21

PHL open data forum

Benny: The metadata catalogue



I need...

Just plain data



Property
Open Data

Maps



OpenMaps
Stress Index
Vacancy Map

Maps and data



Atlas
Health Explorer

I can find it at...





How Citizen Planners Use Data

Citizensplanninginstitute.org

Citizens Planning Institute: *the education & outreach arm of City Planning Commission*



Includes 7-week class every spring and fall that teaches Philadelphians about city planning, zoning, and development.

3 special topic classes each course.



Spring 2018 included: *Accessing Free City Resources*

Citizen Planners shape their communities

CPI Graduate, Spring 2014

I beautified blighted properties in Belmont



CPI Graduate, Fall 2012

I mobilized my community to preserve a local landmark



CPI Graduate, Fall 2014

I started a microgrant program in Newbold



CPI Graduate, Fall 2015

I led the revitalization of Hunting Park



CPI Graduate, Spring 2015

I'm bringing an old school building back to life



CPI Graduate, Spring 2013

I cleaned up & greened my neighborhood & local school



City data and maps help them do it!



I use them to look up properties requesting a variance, to see what RCOs cover a specific property, as well as zoning overlays and historic designation.

I've had a few people want to join our RCO but not be in our area so I've used it to help them find which RCO they would be in.

Dana Mitchell, Girard Estate
Spring 2017 Citizen Planner

City data and maps help them do it!

I'm using them to create a community clean-up campaign.

These tools show the current level of litter, and location of wire trash cans and big belly trash cans in my neighborhood. We're using this information to decide where to focus clean-ups and locate new trash cans.



Carmella Vassor-Johnson, Tioga
Spring 2018 Citizen Planner

City data and maps help them do it!



First and foremost I use it for zoning. Also when I'm out in the community and people ask me about whether a property has the required permits, I pull Atlas up right there on my phone.

Fun fact: this is literally why I got the Note 8 over a Galaxy 😂

Tara Gontek, Holmesburg
Fall 2016 Citizen Planner

City data and maps help them do it!

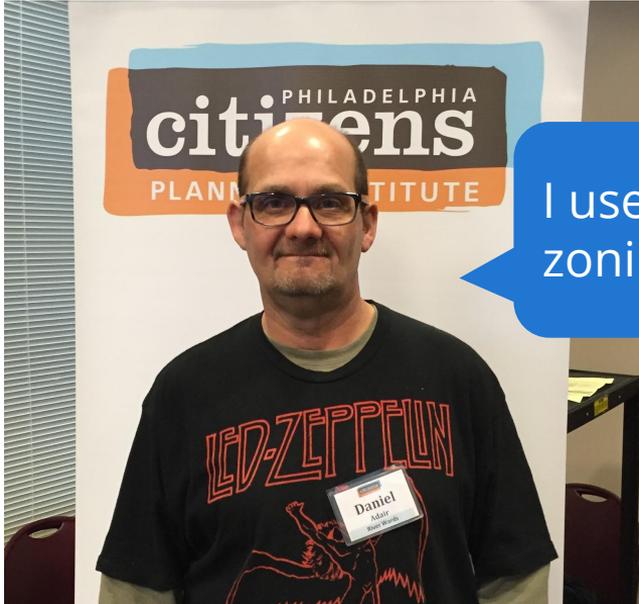
I use them to look up unprotected historic buildings that have sold recently to see if demolition permits have been filed yet.

If not, we hurry to nominate them as historic and protect them!



Venise Whitaker, Fishtown
Fall 2016 Citizen Planner

City data and maps help them do it!



I use them to find old deeds and the zoning of properties.

Daniel Adair, Bridesburg
Spring 2016 Citizen Planner

City data and maps help them do it!

I use Property Search all the time to verify new members on the Nextdoor website. Also to see affected nearby properties with zoning issues. Also use the open data crime stats.

I truly love how much data the City shares with citizens!



Paul Rossi, Girard Estate
Spring 2016 Citizen Planner

City data and maps help them do it!



Angela McFadden, West Poplar
Spring 2018 Citizen Planner

I use open maps to show the properties that make-up our community garden, overlaid on aerial image of the garden.





Thank you!



City of
Philadelphia