

Milestones Report: October 1999

Autumn Greetings to friends of Green Maps near and far. We're pleased to share our recent accomplishments with you:

The Green Map System continues to expand and increase its impact through the actions of our local partners in all corners of the globe. This October 99 Milestone report will provide you with a brief overview of GMS's highlights, please check out the description at the end of this page and our ever-growing website for more info & images.

100 Green Map Projects Milestone was reached on July 19, 1999 when **Rio de Janeiro**, Brazil joined our global network. Professional and student designers at UniverCidade's School of Visual Arts are leading this project. Although a few local projects have stalled out, currently, there are 107 active Green Map projects in cities, towns and larger regions world-wide, plus young people are green mapping their neighborhoods in several locations.

30 Countries Milestone was reached when **Mexico City** joined GMS in August! This is the 17th capital city participating, and Distrito Federal's environmental protection agency expects to publish their first Green Map this Autumn. Today, our country count has risen to 33, as projects have gotten underway in **El Salvador and Norway**, and just yesterday, Artists for International Peace in **Abu Dhabi**, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, have officially registered!! We're excited about GMS's ability to connect green places and people in all corners of the globe.

29 Green Maps have now been published! Over the summer, several beautiful, powerful new maps were printed and each represents a local Milestone:

The **Other Map of Toronto** for tourists was launched by the Mayor (produced by the Toronto Green Tourism Association),

Boulder Colorado's is a preliminary version with accompanying website (Boulder Water/Energy Conservation Center),

The first completed in Africa, **Tororo Uganda's Green Map** is a hand-colored collaboration between children and adults (Liberty Christian Center) and

Barcelona Spain's Mapa Verde is a large and detailed wall map (Sustainable City Councilor).

Two thematic views of the **Dutch province of Noord-Brabant** cover the bikepaths and gardens (by a regional coalition of eco-info organizations).

More recently, a very comprehensive **Green Map of Milwaukee** Wisconsin was published, both on paper and on the web (it's actually eight maps-in-one by Education/Design Link),

The first web-enabled GIS Green Map has just been launched! It covers 24 cities and the entire county of **Pinellas, Florida** (by the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau), so download the "plug-in" for a virtual vacation.

Get a glimpse of each of these diverse and wonderful maps at our website! Every Green Map project is linked to our website's Green Map section so our network of Mapmakers can be contacted directly. Learn more about their approaches to adapting the GMS framework from our site's Progress Reports and Mapmaking Stories sections, too.

The **Enchanted Desert Green Map** of Valencia County, NM was completed by Gil Sanchez Elementary's sixth graders over the summer, and more children's neighborhood Green Maps are getting their final touches in New York City: The Bronx (Wings Academy), Harlem (All Saints Church Center of International Learning) and Brooklyn (where Recycle A Bicycle is charting the city's garbage crisis). Thanks to great coverage in North America's largest environmental education periodical, "**Green Teacher**", we have been communicating with many new educators. With support from the [Dunn Foundation](#), work on our teacher's toolkit is making good progress, with a Spring release as the goal...watch for future announcements in our website's Youth Mapping section about this forthcoming digital resource!

We're beginning to work with youth group leaders at the YMCA's Earth Service Corps, too. After GMS was presented at their national gathering during the summer, the New England YMCA Earth Service Corps introduced **Green Mapmaking in Russia**, where the town of Suzdal was charted in just four days!

Our website is constantly expanding and lots of positive comments have come to us through our new online [Guest Book](#).

In the News Section, you can view the featured Map of the Season (currently, it's the first Green Map from Michigan, Washtenaw County/Ann Arbor's).

You can preview [events](#) that include Green Maps world-wide, such as the recent UNESCO-sponsored Vision Plus 7 conference in Tokyo (Misako Yomosa of Kyoto's Green Map and I made the first of three joint presentations there, and two new Japanese Green Map projects got underway then too!).

You can also see pictures from the [GMS exhibit at the National Town Meeting](#) for a Sustainable America, our awards and press list.

There are new tools for [Mapmakers](#), including a Guide section just for those who have registered.

Many thanks to the [Graham Foundation](#) for the 1998 grant for the site's re-design this year!

Over the winter, we plan to begin developing a "Virtual Pavilion of Green Maps" in honor of being selected as an EXPO 2000 Project Around the World (you can preview this World's Fair at [www.expo2000.de](#))!

GMS's transition to a separate **not-for-profit organization** continues, thanks to our Board of Directors and probono legal team. We expect to file the last of the paperwork this Autumn. The bank account for Green Map System, Inc. is open, and we're just about ready to receive tax-deductible contributions. Let us know if you'd like information on contributing to our global effort, to the Youth Green Map program or to the Green Map project in a specific location. As we continue to grow and generate social profit, we have more needs, so if you would like to volunteer or intern with GMS, or can offer us good advice, skills or in-kind donations, **please contact us anytime!**

At our homebase in NYC, our original Green Map project, the Green Apple Map, is currently charting fresh views of Lower Manhattan in a series of "close-up maps" produced by us, by neighborhood students and by other "green-eyed" New Yorkers. See the first two maps and travelogues – a tour of the East Village's many eco sites, and a tourist's view of Lower Manhattan's environment – with many more to be posted between now and Earth Day 2000, thanks to the continuing support of [New York City Environmental Fund](#). Outreach to teachers is being expanded this fall, and we're seeking Green Apple views by older New Yorkers, too. We'd be happy to provide you with more info on participating in this Green Apple project, which is introduced at <http://www.greenmap.org/home/firstgm.html>.

So this concludes this Milestone Report of October 99, except to provide the summary below. We look forward to receiving your comments, and on behalf of everyone at the Green Map System, I wish all of you well, especially during these next 62 days until the year 2000.

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Green Maps are designed to highlight sustainable developments in cities around the world, including transportation options, green businesses, healthy food sources, eco-info resources and infrastructure support systems, along with naturally beautiful parks, gardens, wildlife sites, and the cultural places that make a community special. Green Maps promote the interconnections between nature and the built environment. Each of these green sites is identified with GMS icons, our shared symbolic language that gives each Green Map a global linkage. No matter how uniquely a map is designed, its message can be understood across nations and cultures. Today, the Green Map System's award-winning locally adaptable framework and multi-faceted website are being used by design teams of all ages and backgrounds as they create a new way of understanding how to live more lightly and improve the quality of life in our communities.