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GEOS 472

Lab 1: Reflective Analysis

The map I have created for this assignment is an interactive map of Grouse Mountain's ski runs. This map was created for the purpose of reviewing the mountain's difficulty and trails prior to skiing. This map is not a map that should be used for navigation, as it lacks landmarks and other signifiers needed to be able to find where one is on the mountain. Rather, this map should be used to assess the difficulty of the mountain, or to review the trails one wants to ski or snowboard based on difficulty and location on the hill. My map attempts to answer the question of what trails are the most difficult or beginner friendly on Grouse Mountain. The data I used for my map was a self drawn dataset of the Grouse Mountain ski and snowboard runs. I obtained this data from TrailForks, which is a navigation and trail research application. My map works to display a simpler, easier to read version of trailforks.

Stylistically, I chose to make the style of the map monochrome and darker. This is because I wanted to let the ski runs pop out. I also wanted to use the shadow effect to better display the topography of the region, and this effect looked the clearest in the darker styles. I have removed almost all labels except for the mountains in the region, so as to not distract from the ski runs. I also kept the names of cities and neighborhoods, to be able to better understand the location of Grouse Mountain in relation to Metro Vancouver. This also allows my map to be viewed at different zoom levels and for different purposes. Because this is not a map for navigation, I decided to make it simplistic and easy to read, with little to no distractions from the main runs. I decided to keep the labels of mountains in the region to display the other ski areas or

higher elevation areas in the region. This can also give the user a give idea of the view they will be seeing from the top of Grouse Mountain. I placed a duplicate layer of my ski run data overtop of my initial layer and changed the width of the lines to 1px to give the effect that the ski slopes are glowing. I believe that this made my map look more professional, and added a fun effect on the map that allows the reader to more clearly see the runs.

Although I believe my map accomplishes what I set out to achieve, there are a few things I would change with more time and knowledge on html interactivity. One thing that was brought up in my peer review with Andrea Sze, was that it would be a good idea to add data on all of the North Shore Mountains, and as you zoom out on the map, the lines would turn into circles or dots that you can click on to display the lines again. This would make my map a good comparison map, and would allow users to adequately assess which mountain they would like to visit. Another thing I would change is I would make it so you can hover over the lines and it displays the trail name and difficulty, rather than clicking it. This would allow for higher user ease when accessing and using my map.