River Pyle
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GHY 3814
10/6/2022

Lab 3 – "My First Web Map" Reflection

During this lab, I was able to build new skills, improve on old ones, as well as develop an understanding of file tracking through git and use of the leaflet JS library. Although difficult in comparison to html and css styling, use of the Leaflet JS library in addition to other JS was streamlined and the tutorials clearly explain how to use each feature, e.g., linestring, circle, as well as map attributes and feature styling. A significant challenge to the trail system I chose was the only available data was in segments, and I had to import each segment into QGIS, merge the segments that were relevant to the trail I was depicting, and draw in a few missing segments to create a complete polyline. One that was exported to a single JS file leaflet tools imported the variable 'data' from the route.js file quickly and accurately. I chose the circle feature versus the markers for significant points in the trail as each circle more accurately represented junctions than markers, which may be 10-20 feet off-trail when georeferenced. Moving between the lat, long attributes of each circle adjacent the html-preview and google maps, a relatively location for each junction was found. The css styling for the colors of each feature and the background for the text boxes is based upon the AMC 'Olympic White' hexadecimal code as well as hex codes from an earth tone color pallet. An unnecessary detail added early on is the 'Show/Hide Text' button, from which various code snippets were taken from github and combined into a function with local variable names. Although a more well-documented trail system and omitting the interactive button may have expediated this lab, I enjoyed building an understand of the base syntax for fast css styling between both JS variables in a web map as well as positioning text. I look forward to building nested web maps, as well as the script to design maps that self-update from inputted GeoJson data.

To append the work done on this trail map, I added features, simplified formatting and symbology, and cleaned the index.html file of unnecessary code. I restructured the symbology of the circles to one default color/border setup as individual designs made the map look 'busy'. Additionally, I removed the visible dashes from the trail polyline as it was an unnecessary design feature. The dashes did not denote a special section of trail. I also changed the tooltips to popups, as it allows the user to browse the map freely without unwanted popups. Lastly, I changed the basemap from the usgs aerial imagery to esri – world imagery as the latter allows for increased zoom. The esri basemap was also taken during winter months and low tree cover, allowing for a clearer view of the trails.