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09 Feb 2021  
T GIS 504  
Lab 2b: COLLECTOR: Reflection

1. The name of my collector map is (without the underscores): “jacobroot Lab2b Park Survey Map V2” (it was my second version, hence the “V2”).
   1. Link to my map: <https://arcg.is/1D4rqL>
2. My customization was fairly limited, as I was focusing more on getting the lab submitted. But I made sure to customize the symbols on my map for each map element, so that users would know more intuitively what data had been submitted. I chose the satellite base map, so that users could more easily locate what they were mapping if they GPS was acting up.
3. Overall, Survey123 was easier to setup because the GUI was specifically designed to be used by those who may not use the rest of the Arc suite. It is a “WYSIWYG” (What You See Is What You Get”) editor; like all of them, it’s easy enough. However, I feel like ArcGIS Collector would be more powerful, and would allow for greater levels of customization. I also enjoyed using the Collector app more than Survey123, which according to my phone, was a total GPS hog (would have been if it was set to only use GPS as necessary).

Both had significant downsides, however. Survey123, when it acted up, did not produce any error messages beyond a very generic “error” message that provided no assistance; it’s entirely up to the user to determine the fault (in my case, I used my phone’s camera to take a picture, but the picture was too large to be submitted through Survey123, which threw an error – I was able to use the built-in camera instead). For Collector, the biggest issue is just getting it setup. As it’s less of a WYSIWYG editor, it requires not just more patience, but also more information and time. You need to know exactly what kind of data is needed beforehand, and you need the skills of Arc (a tall order!) to get the ball rolling. Then getting it published…that’s another problem altogether, especially if you’re unfamiliar with privacy settings for your data layers (another problem of mine).