

NYLA THURSDAY

She/her/hers | 608-535-4841 | Madison, WI | nylathursday@gmail.com | [Portfolio](#)

EXPERIENCE

GIS Specialist, [Center for Health Disparities Research](#), UW-Madison, July 2022 – Present

Member of the geospatial team within CHDR to provide geocoding, geospatial analysis, and cartographic outputs to the [Neighborhood Atlas Project](#). Our team worked with large amounts of complex data, bringing it from raw tables to publication appropriate maps. I developed, documented, and trained team members in rigorous spatial analysis to support research publications.

Teaching Assistant – Introduction to Cartography, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Jan. 2023 – May 2023

Joyous semester teaching and supporting students in ArcGIS Pro and Adobe Illustrator for beginning geospatial analysis and cartographic design. Students ranged from first-year undergraduates to PHD students and from novice to intermediate knowledge of GIS or design software.

Health and Safety Data Technician, [Bellingham Public Schools](#), Bellingham, WA, Oct. 2018 – Dec. 2021

Built relationships in a school district with 23 schools to collaborate with students, staff, and families on health, wellness, and safety programs. Before the COVID-19 pandemic I worked on active transportation mapping, analysis, and outreach for K-12 students and district-wide immunization record keeping systems.

During the COVID-19 pandemic I co-led response teams to meet the needs of our students and families for food, internet, school supplies, and reopening classrooms. For ongoing health, I coordinated with medical providers, facilities, district staff, and community volunteers to provide on-site covid testing and 18 COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

GIS Intern & Project Lead, [Sustainable Communities Partnership](#), Bellingham, WA, July 2017 – June 2018

Coordinated a one-year project building community knowledge of flood hazards through data collection, mapping, and community events. Data collection was a mixture of existing parcel and hazard data and collected elevation data from surveying a network we built. I worked directly with Western Washington University departments and Stanwood city officials on scope and deliverables.

Volunteer Coordinator, City of Bellingham Parks Department, Bellingham, WA, Sept 2016 – June 2017

Worked with a team to plan, coordinate, and lead volunteer groups in environmental restoration projects in Bellingham parks and greenways. Groups ranged from toddler to 90-year-old volunteers who had varying knowledge of restoration work and physical ability.

EDUCATION

B.A., **Geography**, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA | June 2018 | GPA 4.0

Certificate: Geographic Information Science | **Minor:** Disaster Risk Reduction

M.S., **GIS & Cartography**, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, WI | May 2023 | GPA 4.0

SKILLS

SOFTWARE, WEB PLATFORMS, AND PROGRAMMING

Advanced

ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, ArcMap
 Adobe Illustrator
 Microsoft Suite
 Qualtrics

Intermediate

QGIS
 Postgres
 MapBox
 GitHub
 SQL

Beginner

Python
 JavaScript
 HTML & CSS

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Multi-platform presentations
 Committee and community meeting lead
 Teaching in a structured classroom or lab setting
 Informal teaching for rotating volunteer groups
 Community outreach materials creation for a variety of audiences

PROJECT MANAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP, AND TEAMWORK

Plan, train, and lead fieldwork
 Single and multi-year project management with grant-based budgets
 Public entity budgeting and requisition processes
 Large event planning and day-of coordinator

VOLUNTEER

Parks Restoration, Bellingham, WA, 2012-2021

Before and after working for the Parks Department, I was a regular volunteer supporting parks restoration days. During these events I worked on teams removing invasive species and planting native plants to support restoring the flora and fauna in our city parks and along waterways.

Bike Educator, Bellingham, WA, 2018-2021

I have volunteered with Vamos Outdoors Project, Bellingham Public Schools, and Shifting Gears as a bike educator and support to ensure equitable access to outdoor recreation.

Trail Building, Bellingham, WA, 2016-2021

As an avid mountain biker, I deeply appreciate the time and community effort it takes to create the spaces we recreate in. Over the years have volunteered with local organizations to volunteer on trail building days.

AWARDS

Outstanding Graduate Environmental Studies Department, Western Washington University 2018

Magna Cum Laude, Western Washington University 2018

Health and Wellbeing Peace Builder of Whatcom County, Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center 2021