

# Livable Streets Network

## About the Livable Streets Network

With the majority of the world's 6.5 billion human beings now living in cities, building healthy, livable and affordable urban environments is critical to the mission of today's global environmental movement.

**The Livable Streets Network** is an online community for people working to create sustainable cities through sensible urban planning, design, and transportation policy. We provide free, open source, web-based, resources to citizens working to create a greener economy, address climate change, reduce oil dependence, alleviate traffic congestion, and provide better access to good jobs in healthy communities.

We believe that people make a city great. Yet, so many of the world's great cities dedicate too much of their precious, limited public space - their streets - to motor vehicles rather than people. We are working to redesign our communities around public transportation and walkable, bikeable streets. We are transforming parking lots into public plazas, busy intersections into town squares, and congested highways into bike paths. We are taking back our cities, one street at a time. We invite you to join us!

## Streetsblog

Streetsblog is a daily news source, online community and political mobilizer for the global Livable Streets movement. Launched in New York City in 2006, Streetsblog is building a network of Livable Streets bloggers throughout North America and around the world.  
<http://www.streetsblog.org/>

## Streetfilms

Streetfilms is the video arm of the Livable Streets Network: producing educational, entertaining, and inspiring films for a sustainable urban environment. Our short, on-line videos on topics such as bus rapid transit in Bogota, Colombia, neighborhood traffic-calming in Portland, Oregon, and bike lane design in Copenhagen, Denmark have been viewed more than half a million times and used to support advocacy projects in communities from Toronto to Tasmania : <http://www.streetfilms.org/>

## Streetswiki

StreetsWiki is a free, community-created, online encyclopedia where you can read, write, and learn about sustainable urban policies from around the world. It's a place for ordinary people, planners, and academics to write and read about our cities and how we can make them more livable.

**OpenPlans** is a software toolbox for powering grassroots campaign websites.  
<http://topp.openplans.org/our-work/openplans>

## Community Mapping

Community Mapping is the creation of a map via a community driven process, usually done to map non-traditional features, such as safe biking or walking routes, local trees and park or other aspects of community life. Community mapping has existed for hundreds of years, but

recent advances in technology, such as GPS's and online mapping portals such as Google Maps have allowed the creation of better and more detailed maps, as well

### **Victoria, Canada**

Victoria is a city on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. Constrained by geography, Victoria has evolved many livable and dense neighbourhoods, such as James Bay, where the **Common Ground Community Mapping Project (CGCM)** originated. CGCM started in 1998 and very quickly started working with local teachers and students to get them to map their local environments. This success led to the creation of the Victoria Regional Green Map and many smaller local maps, in James Bay, Hillside and Victoria West [1]. Using Google Maps, CGCM is currently working on the Online Greater Victoria Green Map [2].

### **OpenStreetMap**

OpenStreetMap, described as a "*Wikipedia for Maps*" [3] is an online project to not only create high-quality community driven maps, but to also free the underlying data which makes up that map. Founded in 2004 by Steve Coast, **OpenStreetMap** has grown rapidly in the past few years and nears street-level completion in many countries in Europe.  
<http://www.livablestreets.com/streetswiki/openstreetmap>

### **Creek Mapping, San Francisco, California**

Many of the minor waterways that drained freshwater into San Francisco Bay from the surrounding hills have been buried by the frenetic urbanization of the area. Much of this drainage still exist in underground pipes but is invisible to millions of resident who live here. Through the initiative of Christopher Richards of the Oakland Museum of California and the Creek Mapping Project many of these creeks have been relocated on a series of maps and guides. As a result of this new visibility many communities have embarked on waterway restoration and enhancements. The Creek Mapping Project can be credited with a reawakening of the possibilities of making these waterways the center of green space development. Some communities have even begun serious discussions about daylighting segments of creeks that remain underground.

There are many examples in the Bay Area of projects that include pedestrian or bicycle paths along rediscovered creeks. Many educators have also taken a cue from this project to become involved in creek side clean up events and water quality monitoring projects.  
<http://www.museumca.org/creeks/>

[1] Common Ground Mapping Project: Success Stories

<http://www.commongroundproject.ca/taxonomy/term/6>

[2] Common Ground Mapping Project: Online Greater Victoria Green Map

[3] IT Week Blog: Lem Bingley

### **The Liveable Streets Network**

<http://www.livablestreets.com/streetswiki>

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