

City of Issaquah GIS Viewers – Map Contents Tools

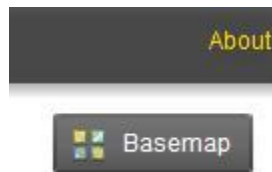
version 3.x

Locating the Map Contents and Basemaps tools

In the viewer toolbar is an icon that looks like a “stack of map layers” that represents the Map Contents widget. Typically, the Map Contents widget is open by default. The yellow bar under the icon indicates that the widget is open within the viewer, though you may have the widget minimized.

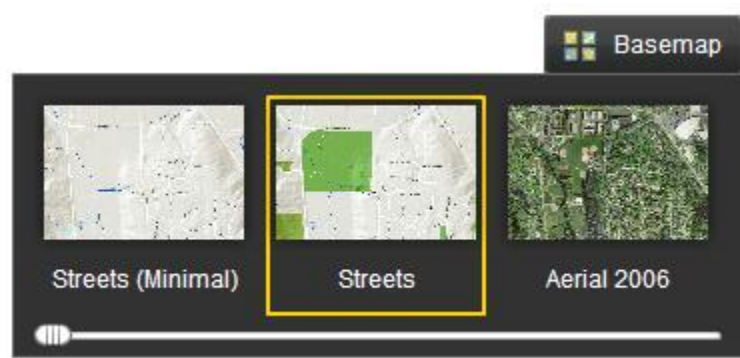


The basemaps are located in the upper right corner of the map window directly below the toolbar.



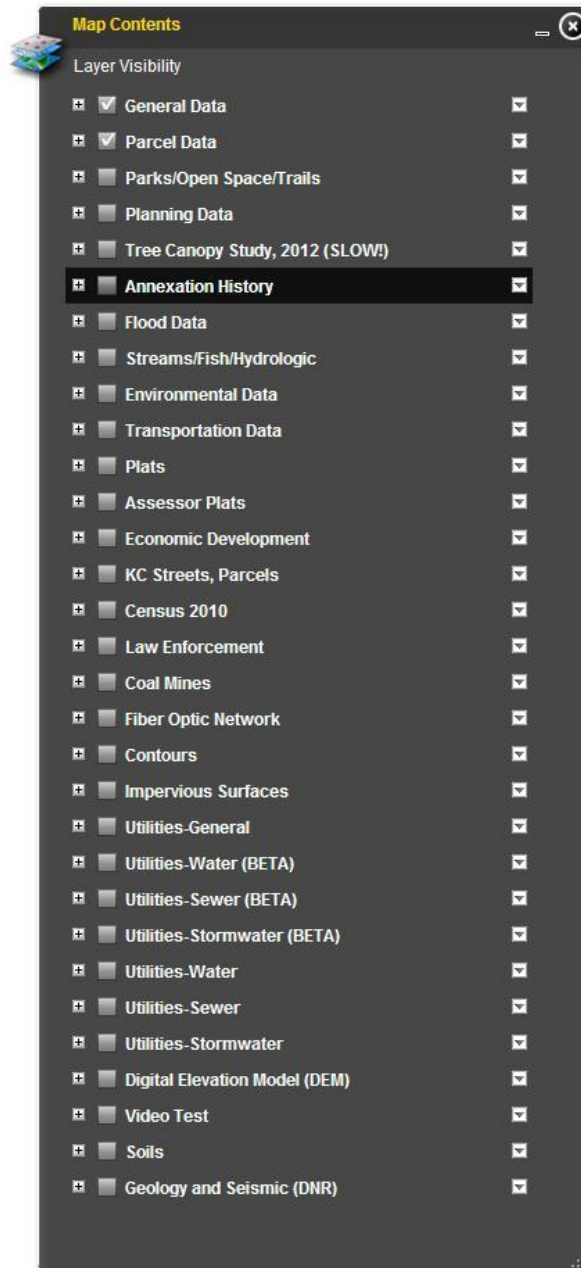
Basemaps Tool

Clicking on the Basemap button expands the basemaps window to include all of the basemaps available within the viewer. Currently there are three basemaps: Streets, which is typically the default basemap shown upon loading the viewer; Streets (minimal), which is useful if you have other data that contains shading or hatch patterns (since the parks/Open Space shading is turned off); and our 2006 Aerial imagery. Additional aerial imagery flights will be added as we acquire them, enabling the user to view multiple years of imagery flights for historical perspective.



Map Contents Tool

This is the primary tool for visualizing the data contained within the viewer. The list of available data may differ between the various departmental viewers based upon the department need. The overall goal is to provide all of the data you need to perform your work without having to wade through data that you will never use.



Some definitions...

The following are some helpful definitions as they relate to the GIS Viewer, and particularly the Map Contents widget:

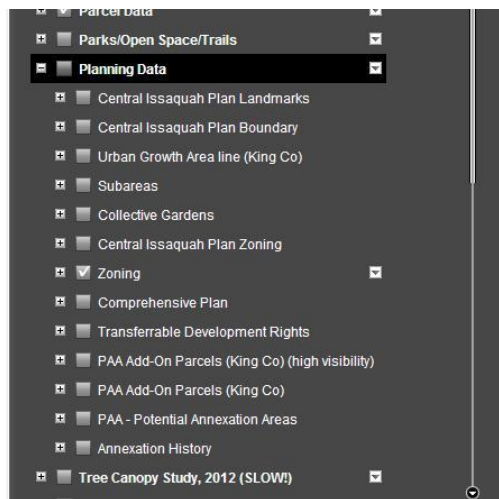
Map Layer (a.k.a. data layer; GIS layer) – typically an individual set of geographic features maintained within the GIS. Streets are a layer. Parcels are another layer. Individual map layers allow the user to show only the geographic features that are necessary for their purpose.

Map Service – a group of map layers, typically organized around a common theme (e.g. Planning data, Utilities data, Flood data). The viewer can function with only one map service, but organizing the data into multiple map services provides flexibility in visualizing the data. Map layers may be further grouped within a map service to better organize them.

The Map Contents Tool - Details

When the map contents widget first loads—either by default or when the user first clicks the icon on the toolbar—the map services are all collapsed (see the graphic above). Some map services are turned on by default. Those map services have a checkmark in the checkbox next to the map service name.

By clicking on the “plus” sign next to the checkbox, you can see what map layers are within a map service. The graphic below shows a map service expanded to show the map layers within it:

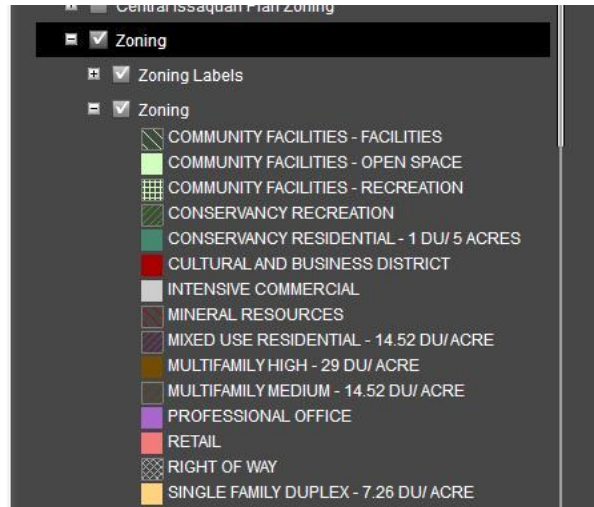


In the graphic you will notice that the Zoning map layer is checked “on” (visible). But you will also notice the Planning Data map service does **not** have a check in the checkbox (not visible). This sometimes confuses users. The map service must be checked as visible in order for any map layers within the map service to be drawn in the map window!

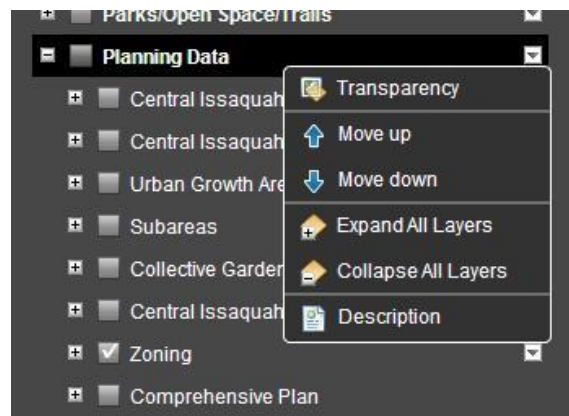
You may also notice that even though a map layer and map service may be turned on, the feature(s) may still not draw. Most map layers have visibility thresholds based on scale that govern when a feature

is drawn in the map window. This is done for visual and performance reasons and can be adjusted to a certain extent by the GIS Coordinator.

Clicking the “plus” sign next to a map layer will expand the layer to show the legend.



On the right-hand side of each map service is a “downward arrow icon”. You may need to adjust the widget window size to see it, or scroll the window to the right. Clicking on the icon brings up the context menu for that map service.



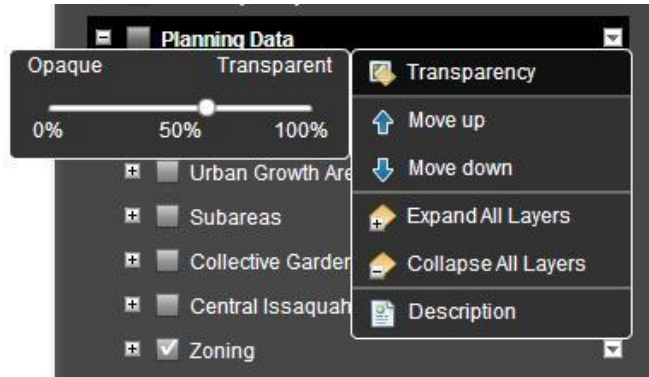
The context menu has various options for manipulating the map service. The user can move a map service up or down in the list of map services. This can be useful if you are attempting to draw two different layers from two different map services and the draw order is affecting the visibility of one of the layers.

You can also collapse all of the layers with one click instead of manually clicking each individual map layer and map service.

Warning! Avoid using the “Expand All Layers” function. If your viewer has many map services with many map layers in each service, using this option can take a long time to complete and may even

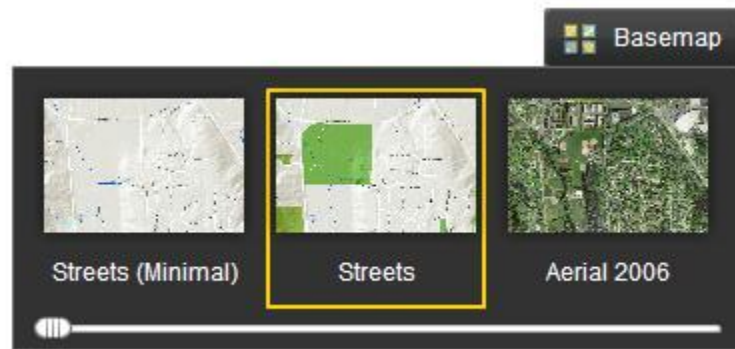
overload the application to the point that it crashes. This option is a great idea in theory but in practice is not very useful with a large amount of data.

The user is also able to adjust the transparency of the **map service** (i.e. all the layers within the map service adopt the same transparency level). This is helpful when displaying two layers—in different map services—that have shading symbology and you want to visualize both together.



The Basemap Tool - Details

There are two primary ways to interact with the basemaps. The user can click on the thumbnail image of a particular basemap to switch to that basemap. This will “jump” the user from one basemap to the next.



The other way is to use the slider located at the bottom of the widget to “fade” between adjacent basemaps:



This blends the two basemaps together, allowing you to see contents from each. When blending, the percentage of each basemap is shown. To quickly return to using just one basemap, click on the thumbnail image of that basemap.

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