



Create Your Own Map

Help Guide

Welcome to **Create Your Own Map**, an interactive web mapping application. This guide will help you learn how to use the drawing tools, measurement features, and print functionality to create and share your own custom maps.

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1. Sketch Tools - Draw points, lines, and shapes
2. Color Picker - Customize your drawings
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1. Sketch Tools

The Sketch toolbar allows you to draw various shapes on the map. You can create points, lines, polygons, rectangles, and circles. All drawings can be selected, moved, and deleted after creation.

The Sketch Toolbar

Select

Point

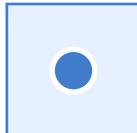
Line

Polygon

Rectangle

Circle

Available Drawing Tools



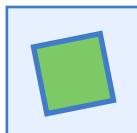
Point Tool

Click on the map to place a marker point. Points are useful for marking specific locations like addresses, landmarks, or points of interest.



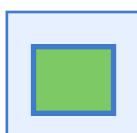
Line Tool

Click to start a line, click again to add vertices, and double-click to finish. Lines are useful for drawing routes, paths, or boundaries.



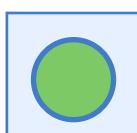
Polygon Tool

Click to add vertices of a polygon shape, and double-click to close the shape. Polygons are useful for outlining areas like properties, parks, or zones.



Rectangle Tool

Click and drag to draw a rectangle. Useful for highlighting rectangular areas or creating boxes on the map.



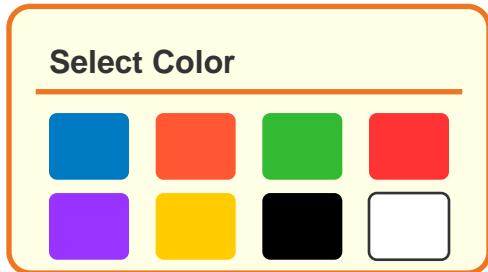
Circle Tool

Click to set the center, then drag to set the radius. Circles are useful for showing buffer zones or areas of influence.

■ **Tip:** After drawing a shape, you can click on it to select it. Selected shapes can be moved by dragging, or deleted using the delete key or the toolbar options.

2. Color Picker

The Color Picker panel lets you choose colors for your drawings. Select a color before drawing to apply it to new shapes. The selected color affects points, lines, polygon outlines, and text.



Available Colors

- **Blue** - Default color, great for water features or general use
- **Orange** - High visibility, good for highlighting important areas
- **Green** - Perfect for parks, vegetation, or environmental features
- **Red** - Attention-grabbing, useful for warnings or boundaries
- **Purple** - Distinctive color for special designations
- **Yellow** - Bright and visible, good for construction or caution areas
- **Black** - Classic choice for text and outlines
- White - Useful for contrast on dark backgrounds

■ **Tip:** Select your desired color BEFORE drawing. The color is applied when you create the shape. To change an existing shape's color, delete it and redraw with the new color selected.

3. Text Tool

The Text Tool allows you to add labels and annotations to your map. Text is placed at a specific point on the map and will move with the map when you pan or zoom.



Adding Text to Your Map

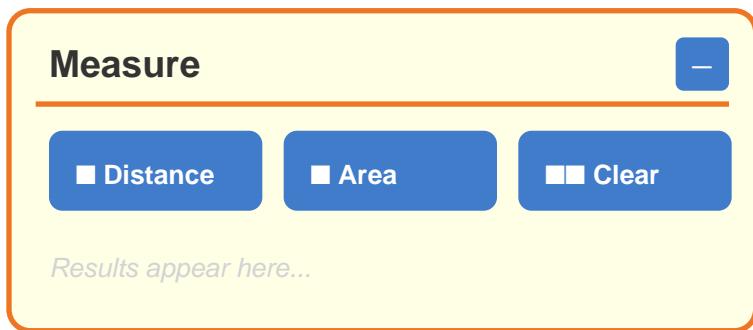
1. Type your text in the input field
2. Click the 'Place Text on Map' button
3. Your cursor will change to a crosshair
4. Click on the map where you want the text to appear
5. The text will be placed with the currently selected color

■ **Tip:** Text includes a white halo (outline) for better readability against any map background. Choose darker colors like blue or black for best visibility.

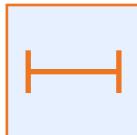
4. Measurement Tools

The Measurement panel provides tools to measure distances and areas on the map. Measurements are displayed in metric units (meters for distance, square meters for area).

The Measurement Panel

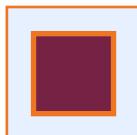


Measurement Tools



Distance Measurement

Click the Distance button, then click points on the map to measure the distance between them. Double-click to finish measuring. The total distance will be displayed in the results area.



Area Measurement

Click the Area button, then click points on the map to define a polygon. Double-click to close the polygon and calculate the area. The area will be displayed in square meters.

How to Measure

Measuring Distance:

1. Click the **Distance** button
2. Click on the map to set the starting point
3. Click additional points to measure along a path
4. Double-click to finish and see the total distance

Measuring Area:

1. Click the **Area** button
2. Click on the map to set the first corner of your area
3. Continue clicking to add more vertices
4. Double-click to close the shape and calculate the area

Clearing Measurements:

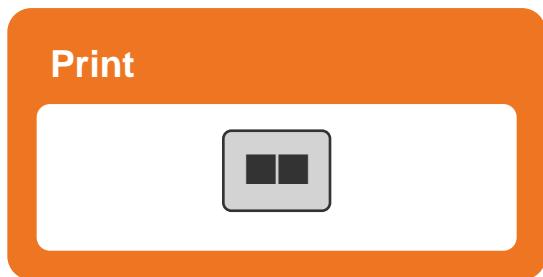
Click the **Clear** button to remove all measurements from the map.

■ **Tip:** Use the minimize button (–) in the panel header to collapse the measurement panel when not in use. Click (+) to expand it again.

5. Print Tool

The Print tool allows you to export your map as a PDF or image file. Your drawings, measurements, and the current map view will be included in the exported file.

The Print Panel



How to Print Your Map

1. Position your map view to show the area you want to print
2. Ensure all your drawings are visible in the current view
3. Click on the Print panel to expand it
4. Click the printer icon to open print options
5. Select your preferred format (PDF, PNG, or JPG)
6. Click the Print button to generate your map
7. Once complete, download your exported map file

■ Tip: For best results, zoom to the exact area you want to print before using the Print tool. The exported map will match your current view.

Quick Reference Card

Tool	Action	How to Use
Point	Mark a location	Click once on the map
Line	Draw a path	Click points, double-click to finish
Polygon	Draw a shape	Click vertices, double-click to close
Rectangle	Draw a box	Click and drag
Circle	Draw a circle	Click center, drag for radius
Text	Add a label	Type text, click button, click map
Distance	Measure length	Click points, double-click to finish
Area	Measure area	Click vertices, double-click to close
Print	Export map	Click printer icon, select format

Additional Tips

- **Layer Toggle:** Use the Layers panel to turn on Aerial imagery and Roads overlay
- **Navigation:** Use mouse wheel to zoom, click and drag to pan the map
- **Undo/Redo:** Use the undo/redo buttons in the Sketch toolbar to correct mistakes
- **Selection:** Click on any drawn shape to select it for editing or deletion
- **Delete:** Select a shape and press Delete key, or use the toolbar delete option

This help guide was created for the Create Your Own Map application. For additional assistance, please contact the GIS department.