Austin Novak

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Portfolio: ajnovak.github.io

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin–Madison
B.S. in Cartography and Geographic Information Systems + People-Environment Geography

EXPERIENCE

Cartographer and GIS Analyst — May 2023 – Feb 2025
SE Group — *Burlington, VT*

- As the resident cartography and geospatial specialist and a community and recreation planning analyst, supported a team of 40+ planners, landscape architects, and environmental specialists with map design, data sourcing, and GIS troubleshooting; created shared basemaps, map templates, style libraries, and automated workflows such as batch GIS-to-CAD clipping and exports.
- Produced 100+ static maps and graphics for 24 public and private sector projects, from site-scale concept and permitting maps to coordinated municipal, county, and statewide plan map series, as well as illustrated promotional maps, wayfinding signage, and ADA-accessible maps, while balancing concurrent projects, budgets, and deadlines.
- Built interactive maps and apps for 11 projects, including maps and StoryMap pages for Montpelier's award-winning city plan, a custom ArcGIS Maps SDK for JavaScript viewer of a geocoded statewide business dataset, Mapbox spinning-globe and project maps for the company website, and an ArcGIS Online sign inventory system for a wildlife refuge, with GitHub-hosted photo popups.
- Designed a map-based engagement platform in ArcGIS Experience Builder and Survey123 that brought the "place a dot" exercise online, gathering 291 location-tagged responses for Lewis and Clark County's growth policy, analyzing the results with density maps and a summary report, and refining the platform across two more projects into a reusable template.
- Co-developed weighted suitability models in ModelBuilder for county and regional housing studies, combining amenities, infrastructure, and hazards data into composite parcel scores that helped identify 13 affordable housing opportunity sites, and published results in a webmap with filterable scores and parcel-level popups.
- Built Lewis and Clark County's future land use layer from scratch using geoprocessing tools, reclassifying land based on zoning, growth, infrastructure, and natural constraints, and creating a new agricultural heritage category from soils data and satellite imagery of active farmland; the layer now guides subdivision reviews and policy development.

Student Production Cartographer — Jan 2020 – May 2023
University of Wisconsin Cartography Lab — *Madison, WI*

- Completed 40 maps and figures across 9 projects for authors, academic publications, and nonprofits, working independently with clients from initial concept to final deliverables and earning repeat requests.
- Took part in 3 cartography challenges: rapid newsroom mapping, a K–5 curriculum, and bird migration GIS.

Sailing Instructor — 2021 – 2022 & May 2026 – Present
Hoofers Sailing Club — *Madison, WI*

- Led sailing lessons for all ages and skill levels, managing fleets of small-craft and groups on vessels up to 24ft in all conditions; praised for time management, calmness, inclusivity, and supportive teaching.

Greenhouse Store Associate — 2020 – 2023 & June 2025 – Present
Madison Greenhouse Store — *Madison, WI*

- Managed plants and customer service in a fast-paced shop, advising on plant selection and care.

AWARDS

- **NACIS:** Cartographic Design Winner (2020); Group Dynamic Map Winner (2022)
- **WLIA:** Best Student Map (2020); People's Choice (2021); 3× Runner-up, Base & Reference and Most Unique Map (2020–2022)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

GIS ArcGIS Pro (ModelBuilder, ArcPy, Spatial Analyst), QGIS, Global Mapper, ArcMap

ArcGIS Online Experience Builder, Survey123, StoryMaps, Dashboards, Instant Apps, Arcade

Web & Code JavaScript, ArcGIS Maps SDK for JavaScript, Leaflet, Mapbox GL JS, Python, HTML/CSS, GitHub

Design Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Figma, Blender

Methods Spatial analysis, geoprocessing & automation, cartographic design, web mapping, participatory GIS