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Custom Basemaps with Mapbox Studio

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Custom Basemaps with Mapbox Studio

Welcome to the Essential ArcGIS Task Sheet Series. This series supplements the Iowa State University Geospatial Technology Training Program short course series. The task sheets are designed to provide quick, easy instructions for performing mapping tasks.

Mapbox is a versatile mapping platform that allows users to build maps and apps. This tasksheet will focus on Mapbox Studio, an interface for styling custom basemaps. Mapbox provides seven template styles from which to start, or users can start from scratch. Check out what has been done with Mapbox here: <https://www.mapbox.com/gallery/>. Mapbox uses data from Open Street Maps (OSM), so it would be helpful to be familiar with OSM: https://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/Map_Features. This tasksheet will guide you in customizing a basemap that emphasizes water and parks.

1. Getting Started

- To get started, navigate to <https://www.mapbox.com/studio/> in a web browser. If you do not already have a username, go ahead and sign up for Mapbox here.
- Once you have logged in or created an account, click on **Styles** in the left hand panel. On the next page, click **New Style** to begin customizing a basemap.
- You have the option to start from **Empty** style or begin from a template. In this case we are going to build off a template. Select **Light** and click **Create**.

2. Customizing Labels

- There are multiple ways to change the font, size, halo, and color of text fields. One way is to open the **Fonts stacks** panel by clicking **Properties**, and select **Font stacks**.
- This will open up all the different text styles set previously in the map template. By default, they are arranged in groups **By value**, which show all the types of text that have the same style. To see each type of text, select **By property**.
- Sort the Font stacks **by Value**. There should be six groups of text types. We will be changing the first font listed for each group. The second font listed is the fallback font, which will be used if the primary font is not supported (See example where the fallback font is used for street names in a different language).
- For the first two groups, change the primary font to **Call Five S Negative OT Reg**. For the remaining groups, use a font called **Call Five L OT Regular**. Leave the secondary font as the default.



