Interactive Web Maps

Accessibility Quick Card

Follow these best practices to create well designed and accessible custom web mapping applications. For the complete Web Map Guide, including specific recommendations and tools, visit mn.gov/mnit/accessibility

- **Map purpose**

  Focus on delivering key elements when designing your web map. The content drives the accessibility requirements.

- **Follow web accessibility standards**

  The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) are foundational to most standards, including that of the State of Minnesota.

- **Consider the reading order**

  Organize elements on the page in a way that preserves meaning and operability so all users have the same experience.

- **Use native HTML**

  Use native HTML where possible; make use of ARIA only when necessary. For example, use a button instead of divs with role=button. Where applicable, include form element and name, role, state and value to support assistive technology (AT) users.

- **Ensure full keyboard control**

  Support a user interface (UI) and map navigation that can be controlled solely using the keyboard so all interactive elements can be accessed and receive focus.

- **Support dynamic content**

  Ensure dynamic content changes are apparent to all users, including AT users. This includes: overlays, in-page updates, popups, and modal dialogs. For example, using an “ARIA-live” attribute in a map popup can ensure dynamic changes are also conveyed to AT users.

- **Color**

  Do not rely on color alone to distinguish different map elements. Use texture and shapes, and provide high color contrast throughout the map’s symbology, navigation elements, buttons, links and text.

- **Test early and often**

  Accessibility testing tools provide good feedback on your map’s functionality for users living with disabilities. Follow digital accessibility testing best practices, which include using both automated and manual accessibility testing tools. Accessibility testing tools can help evaluate the accessibility of your web content, but only a human can determine true accessibility.

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