SPATIAL VISION COMMUNITY WEB MAPPING PORTAL

Proposal

Developed for Connecting Country Project – Norman Wettenhall Foundation

Document Control

Client Name	Connecting Country Project – Norman Wettenhall Foundation
Project Name	Spatial Vision Community Web Mapping Portal
Document Type	Proposal
Project Number	SV002209
File Name	SV002209 SV Community Web Mapping Proposal.doc
Version Date	28 May 2008
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Contents

1. Background

Connecting Country (CC) is a unique landscape-scale project which aims to increase, enhance and restore biodiversity across the Mount Alexander Shire. The project is led by the Friends of the Box-Ironbark Forest (FoBIF) and involves a wide range of groups and agencies. FOBIF have recently received funding from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation to develop a "biodiversity blueprint". The blueprint aims to be a central point where knowledge and community decision making can coincide.

It is planned to develop a website to serve as a focus for the project, serving a number of different purposes:

o   A place where participants can visit to keep in touch with the objectives, progress and outcomes of the project.

This would include forthcoming events, project maps, contacts and relevant background information such as scientific reports and useful web links.

o   A place for information and data exchange.

This may include blogs, wikis, forums and interactive mapping capability.

Spatial Vision has been approached regarding the provision of the web mapping component of this website.

2. Spatial Vision Offer

Spatial Vision offers to provide a suitable web mapping capability for the CC website, operating from our web site. We offer to provide this to the CC project at no cost, subject to some conditions set out below. This web mapping portal would be developed and operated by Spatial Vision as a marketing initiative, to demonstrate our technical and business capabilities and to enable us to promote Spatial Vision mapping products such as our Vicmap Book range of products.

Although this web mapping portal would be linked to the CC website and accessed for that project via that link, we would also publish and promote the web mapping portal from the main Spatial Vision website and make it available to Spatial Vision clients and the general public, initially focussed on the collection and sharing of community generated NRM information. Information entered by CC website users and general users of the web mapping portal via the Spatial Vision website would not be differentiated and it in intended that all entered information would be available for viewing by all users. Suitable terms and conditions of use will need to be developed and advertised on the site to ensure that users understand this use of their information.
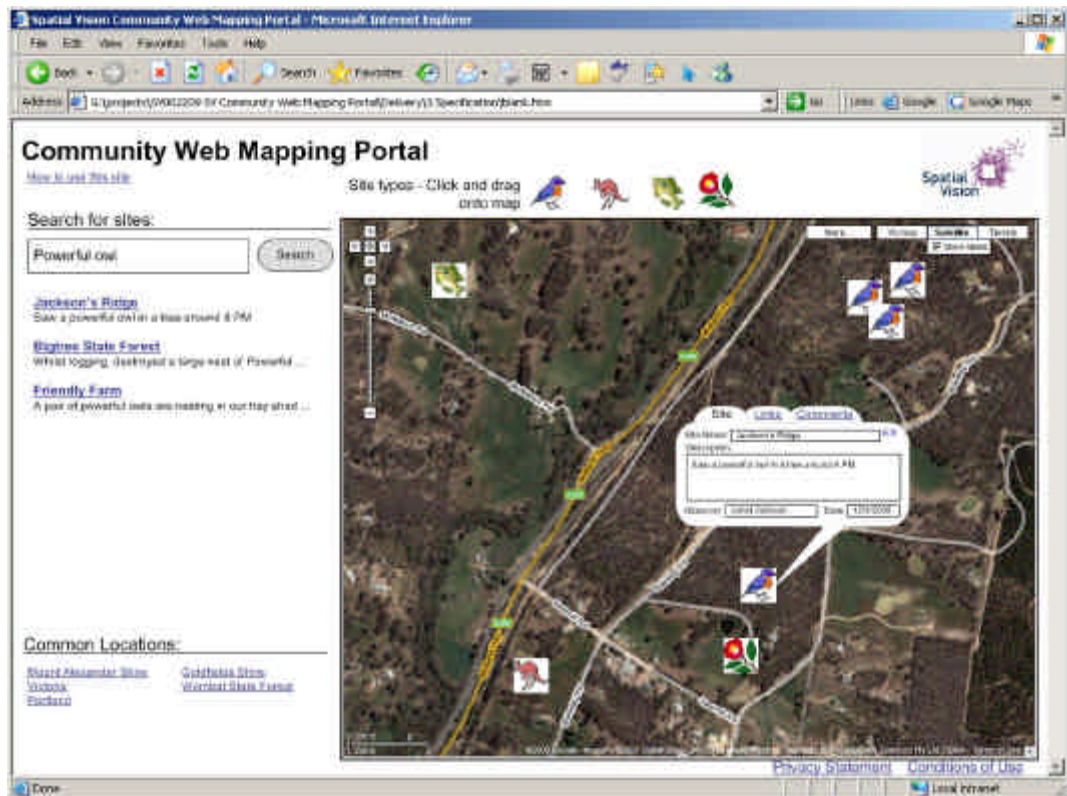
In the future, this web mapping portal may be linked to other websites to provide those sites with a web mapping capability.

3. Proposed Functionality

Spatial Vision proposes to develop the Community Web Mapping Portal (CWMP – this is a working name only and a better name will be chosen prior to release) using the Google Maps API. The choice of this technology means that the web mapping site will have access to the Google Maps imagery layer, the best freely available source of aerial imagery. This data would be supplemented by the Spatial Vision Vicmap Book digital dataset, which provides an easy to use, general topographic map base over rural Victoria.

In the first version, the CWMP would support the entry of point sites only – later versions may add support for line and polygon sites. Users would be able to add a new point site, by clicking or dragging a site type icon onto the map and would then be able to enter some simple details for this site, in version 1 this is proposed to be limited to a site name, description and links to further information such as a related Wiki page or photos.

An initial proposed design for the CWMP is shown in the image below. This design is indicative only of the screen layout and functionality and will be refined during the development period.

For the CC project, it is likely that links entered against sites will refer back to the main CC website. When published from the Spatial Vision website however, we may provide a companion Wiki to enable users to enter further unstructured information regarding the site, including possibly linked photos and documents.

Other functionality envisaged for the CWMP, but not necessarily for version 1 includes:

a) The ability for users to register on the site, either moderated or unmoderated and to create a profile for themselves which will facilitate interaction between the users.

b) Allowance for further sub-categorisation of sites and possibly the collection of further structured information about sites, possibly including details such as observed species or condition

c) The ability for users to search and explore the information by category and textual searches

d) The ability to include other spatial layers in the map display

e) The ability for users to upload data, possibly including field-collected data

f) A public events calendar, related to NRM activities in an area.

4. Methodology and Timing

It is proposed that development of version 1 of the CWMP be commenced in July 2008 and that version 1 be ready for limited release by early August 2008. It is further proposed that the initial release of the CWMP be only via the C website. Although access to the CWMP will not be restricted to the CC project, it will not be linked or promoted independently. The intention is to trial the CWMP with the CC project and users for a period of three months, using this period to refine the operation of the site as required.

At the conclusion of the trial period, Spatial Vision would intend to publicly launch the CWMP, including promoting and linking it on our web site. This release may co-incident with the release of version 2 of the website, if the trial period indicates that expanded functionality is desirable.

5. Conditions of Use

The following conditions will apply to the use of the CWMP by the CC project.

a) Spatial Vision will develop, host and operate the CWMP at no charge to the CC project. If the CC project has any specific requirements of the CWMP such as specific information to be collected or spatial datasets to be included, then standard consulting fees would be negotiated to cover the specification and possibly implementation of these capabilities

b) Spatial Vision will use its best endeavours to make the CWMP available for extended access hours, nominally seven days a week from 8 AM to 10 PM. This availability is not guaranteed however and both planned and unplanned outages may occur, with advance notice being provided to a nominated CC contact where possible. In particular note that the server(s) on which the CWMP will be deployed do not have any "failover" capability and in the event of a catastrophic server failure, the CWMP may be unavailable for 48-72 hours as a replacement server is commissioned.

c) Spatial Vision intends to operate the CWMP for the foreseeable future but provides no guarantees of this and reserves the right to discontinue the facility with a minimum of three months notice to the CC project.

d) In the unlikely event of Spatial Vision discontinuing the operation of the CWMP, we offer to provide a copy of the community-entered information to the CC project in an agreed format, subject to the development of suitable terms of use on the website which would allow this provision to be made.

e) The CC project will be provided with non-exclusive use of the CWMP and information entered by CC users will be visible to other public users of the facility. Similarly, other public users will be able to enter information into the CWMP, including for the Mount Alexander Shire area.

f) Spatial Vision reserves the right to use the CWMP and the information which has been entered into it by CC (or other) users for a variety of promotional purposes