

Contributing Hearing Loop Photos to Google Maps

Introduction

Google Maps launched a new accessibility attribute for hearing loops called Assistive Hearing Loops. By uploading photos of hearing loops in Google Maps, you can show others that the business, organization, or institution has a hearing loop. This helps others find and benefit from hearing loops.



Tips:

1. **Sign in.** Sign in to your Google account. If you aren't comfortable using your personal Gmail account, create another Google or Gmail account for hearing loops.
2. **Take a photo.** Take a photo that includes the International Symbol of Access for Hearing Loss with a T indicating a hearing loop. It is commonly blue in the U.S. Try to include identifying details about the location in your photo.

If you decide to include people in your photo, think about how they can enhance the hearing loop message, and not distract.

For example, the photo to the right shows the hearing loop symbol, educational telecoil information, and hearing loop receivers for those who do not have telecoils or hearing devices. In the background is a beautiful, stained window to show the church setting.

More examples



First Congregational Church, Boulder, CO



Danville Library
Danville, CA



Detroit Metro Airport
Detroit, MI



Grocery Outlet
Springfield, OR

3. **Photo editing.** If you have the skills, it can be helpful to adjust the photos: cropping, straightening, removing personal metadata, and color adjustments.

4. **Photos may be rejected by**

- a. The business owner, since the business has final decision-making authority.
- b. Google, if their guidelines are not followed or if you combine photos or graphics. An example of a rejected image is the photo to the right. It has an inserted arrow.

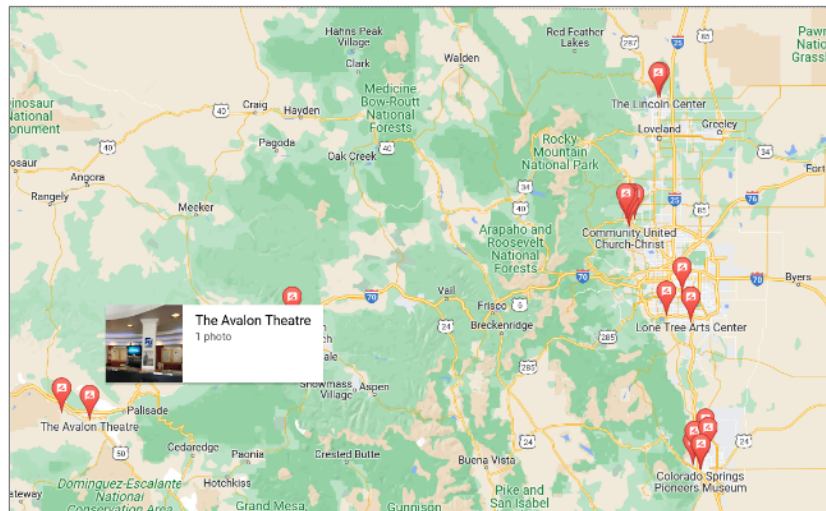


Fox Valley Hearing Center, Oshkosh, WI

5. **Google Local Guide.** By uploading photos and reviews, you become part of a global community of explorers who write reviews, share photos, answer questions, add or edit places, and check facts on Google Maps. Millions of people rely on contributions like yours to decide where to go and what to do.

<https://support.google.com/local-guides/answer/6225846>

6. You can see all your contributions on a map inside your Google account.



For more information about photos in Google Maps, please visit

<https://support.google.com/maps/answer/2622947>

For more information about the Hearing Loss Association of America Get in the Hearing Loop Program, including a free toolkit, visit hearingloss.org/GITHL.

Photos courtesy of Alan Anttila, Juliëtte Sterkens, Ann Thomas, and Wynne Whyman.