

PLATTRACKER[®]

Plat Tracker Plats Search Using

My City Map Viewer



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Enterprise Geographic Information System

Enterprise GIS, City of Houston

Houston Information Technology Services, 611 Walker Street, 5th Floor, Houston, TX 77002

Questions or problem about **My City** can be directed to our GIS Helpline **832.393.6555**

For technical questions, please contact: MyCityHelpDesk@houstontx.gov



The 'My City Houston' interactive mapping web site provides the citizens of Houston a means to access the most current **geographic information systems** (GIS) data and aerial imagery (current and historical). These data all hosted within the City's enterprise GIS system that Mayor Bill White initiated in 2006. Users of the web site are provided with a variety of search and identify tools to assist them in finding information relevant to their needs.

My City - <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/public> .

To Search for Plat Tracker Plats, it starts on Page 13 (see below).



The interactive mapping web site provides the public, customers (applicants), area agencies, land planners and civil engineers (who represent land owners, developers, and builders) an easy way to locate a submitted plat on 'My City Houston's map. Plats submitted on 'Plat Tracker's plat submittal site (<http://www.HoustonPlatTracker.org>) take part in the subdivision platting of property within Houston's extraterritorial jurisdiction for review and presentation to the **Houston Planning Commission**.

Background

The **My City** application is a web-based mapping application that allows its users to interact with over 200 map layers and datasets that are relevant to the City's mission. The sites also include multiple sets of aerial imagery and scanned maps. Access to real-time data for traffic conditions, traffic cameras, and stream gages is also provided. The Enterprise GIS team used the same

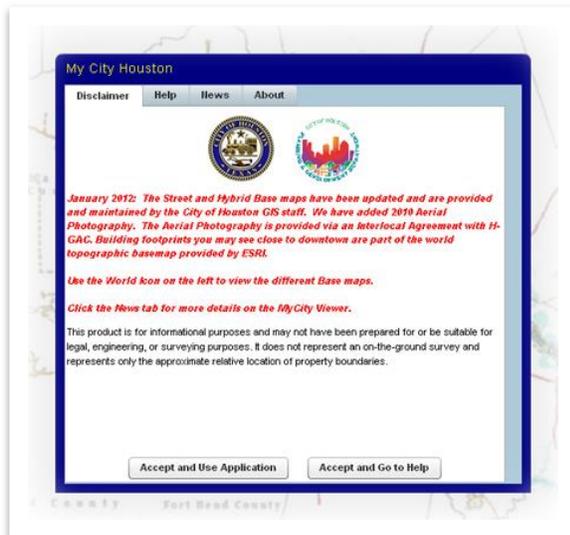


application design employed for the **'My City-Recent Crime'** site that they had developed with the Houston Police Department. The common look-and-feel helps assure a similar user experience for the across mapping applications.

The **'City Map Layers'** tool provides access to the full set of map layers, aerial imagery, and scanned maps. Users can select either the **'Locate Address'** and **'Locate Feature'** tools to quickly navigate to specific addresses or features (City Council Districts, Super Neighborhoods, Plat Tracker Plats, KeyMap grid, Lambert Tiles, Zip Codes, etc.) . A special **'Layer Toggle'** menu provides a quick way for users to display high interest map layers. A **"drill-down"** identify tool provides users a means to quickly find out a lot of information about a location, with handy links provided to navigate the users to externally hosted information (appraisal district property records, Google StreetView™, county web sites, etc.). The site also provides the first map-driven access to the city's ILMS building permit data (ranging back to 1987) with its **'Search Permits'** tool. A **"redlining tool"** is also provided to allow the users to annotate the map. This tool includes the ability to save the graphics to a file. This file can then be transmitted to others so that they can be re-loaded on to **My City** from another location or at another time. The site also includes a print to PDF function.

Getting Started

To view the **My City** interactive mapping web site ensure that **Adobe Flash Player** version 17.0.0.188 or greater is installed. The site is based on the **Environmental System Research Institute's** (ESRI) Adobe Flex API. The following browsers can be used: Internet Explorer 8.0 or higher, as well as recent versions Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Opera. The higher version of the Adobe Flash plug-ins required to support printing to PDF.



Help documents can be downloaded using the **'Help Menu'** or the **'Help'** tab on the splash screen.

The City's GIS data are ever-changing. The Enterprise GIS team has gone to great effort to assure that the data in this application are of high quality and that they will remain as current as possible. This has involved forging agreements between the departments responsible for each dataset, and working out processes for regular update of each dataset.

As you access the '**My City Houston Map Viewer**' web page, the '**My City Main Splash Screen**' displays the "**Disclaimer**" screen. The tabs include information on the following:

- **Disclaimer**
- **Help**
- **News**
- **About**

Click the '**Agree**' button upon accepting with the terms and conditions of using the site. If disagree, click the '**Disagree**' button which takes you to the official '**City of Houston eGovernment Center**' site @ <http://www.houstontx.gov> .

Disclaimer – Please take time to read the important '**Disclaimer**' before using the web site.

Help – Documents for download are available in this section and they are in PDF format. Also, you can find a copy of this '**Plat Tracker Guide**', the "**My City Plat Tracker User Guide**" on the list. Help documents can also be found using the '**Help Menu**'.

If you have any questions, please see the contact person in the list above or the GIS Hotline at **(832) 393-6555**.

For our most popular hard-copy "printable" maps and other GIS related applications, please visit the '**My City Maps & Apps!**' web site @ <http://mycity.houstontx.gov>, the official **City of Houston, Enterprise GIS** web site.

News – Click the '**News**' tab for more details on the '**My City Houston Map Viewer**'. News is updated on a regular basis and could provide important information to the use of the site. Generally new items include announce of new datasets, functionalities, and tools, or that may alert the user to a problem that has been identified.

About – About the "**My City Houston Map Viewer**". General information about the application, including who to contact to report problems and to request additions or changes to the application.



Using the Locate Feature Tool

At startup on the 'My City Houston' interactive mapping application, one can find the 'Locate Feature' tool in its minimized form in the top right portion of your browser window (just below the 'Locate Address' tool, see below, "A").

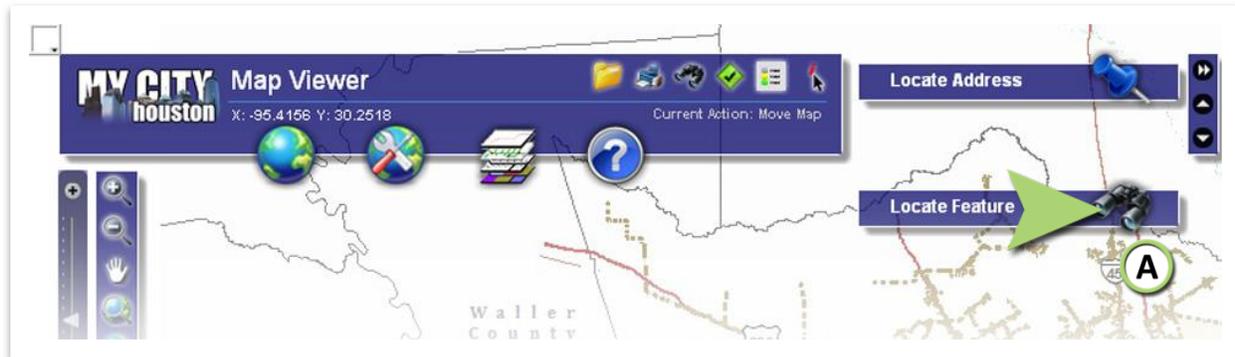
'THE LOCATE FEATURE' tool



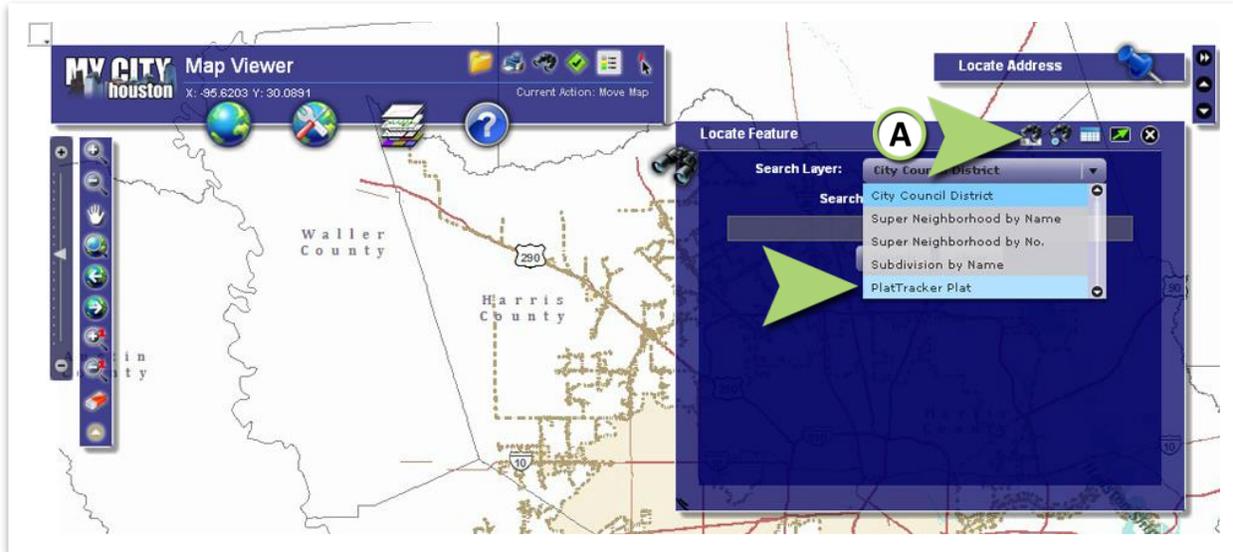
Note: The 'Locate Feature' tool should show up in the top right portion of your browser window when the application first opens. If the tool is "closed", it can be brought back by selecting the 'Locate Feature' tool from the 'Tools' menu (see left).

Note: If the tool is "minimized" (see below), click on the 'Locate Feature' icon which will cause the tool to expand.

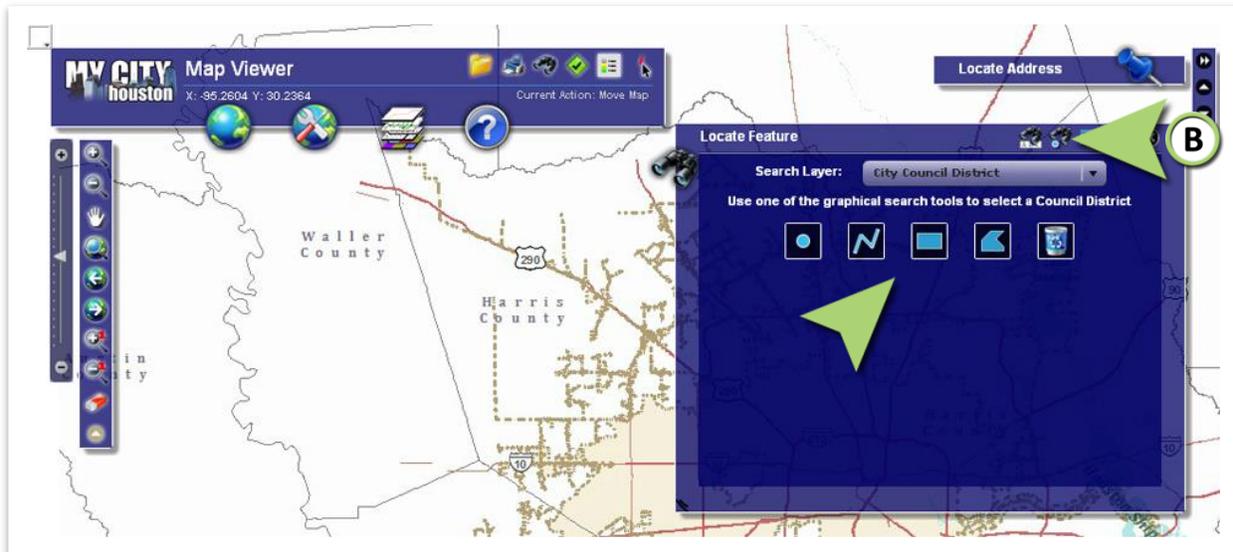
Click the 'Locate Feature' icon opens the **Locate Feature window** to search fields.



LOCATE FEATURE: 'Text Search' tool and 'Graphical Search' tool.



'Locate Feature' tools Search by 'Text' (see above, "A"), and by 'Graphical' (see below, "B").



Locate Feature tools include:

- **Text Search** – by entering a text in the search field box.
- **Graphical Search** – by selecting a point, a line, rectangle, or polygon. And, a tool to "**clear**" the graphical selection.
- **Results** – view the results of the search by text or by graphical.
- **Minimize** – to minimize the window, and bring the panel back to its original position.
- **Close** – to close the entire menu. If the tool is "**closed**", it can be brought back by selecting the '**Locate Feature**' tool from the '**Tools**' menu (see above).

By clicking on one of the first two small icons on the top of the tool window, it is possible to select either a '**Text Search**' or a '**Graphical Search**'. The '**Text Search**' is the *default* search mode.

Text Search Tool

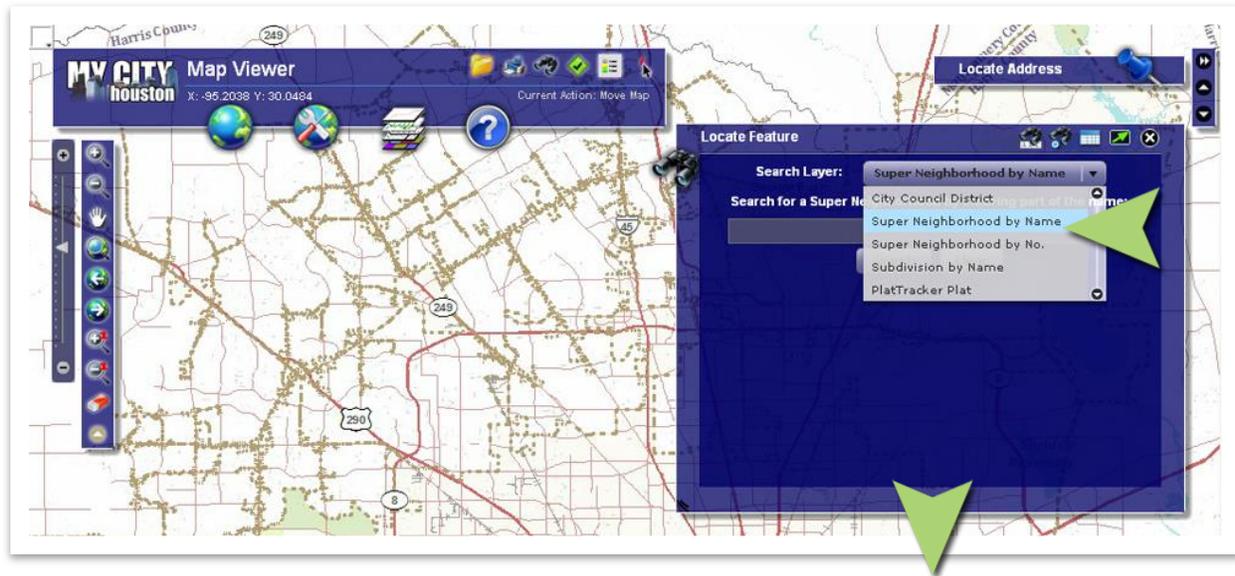
If '**Text Search**' is selected, use the **Search Layer** drop down menu list options to select the "**search layer**". Please "**scroll down**" for the wide range of search list options.

The choices are:- City Council District, Super Neighborhood by Name, Super Neighborhood by No., Subdivision by Name, Plat Tracker Plats, KeyMap Page, KeyMap Block, Lambert Tile, GIMS Tile (Public Works uses this), or Zip Code. **Note:** These selections may expand in the future, but not necessarily appear in this documentation.

Once the **Search Layer** is selected, enter a string that corresponds to appropriate text to use in the search. Examples are provided for each type.

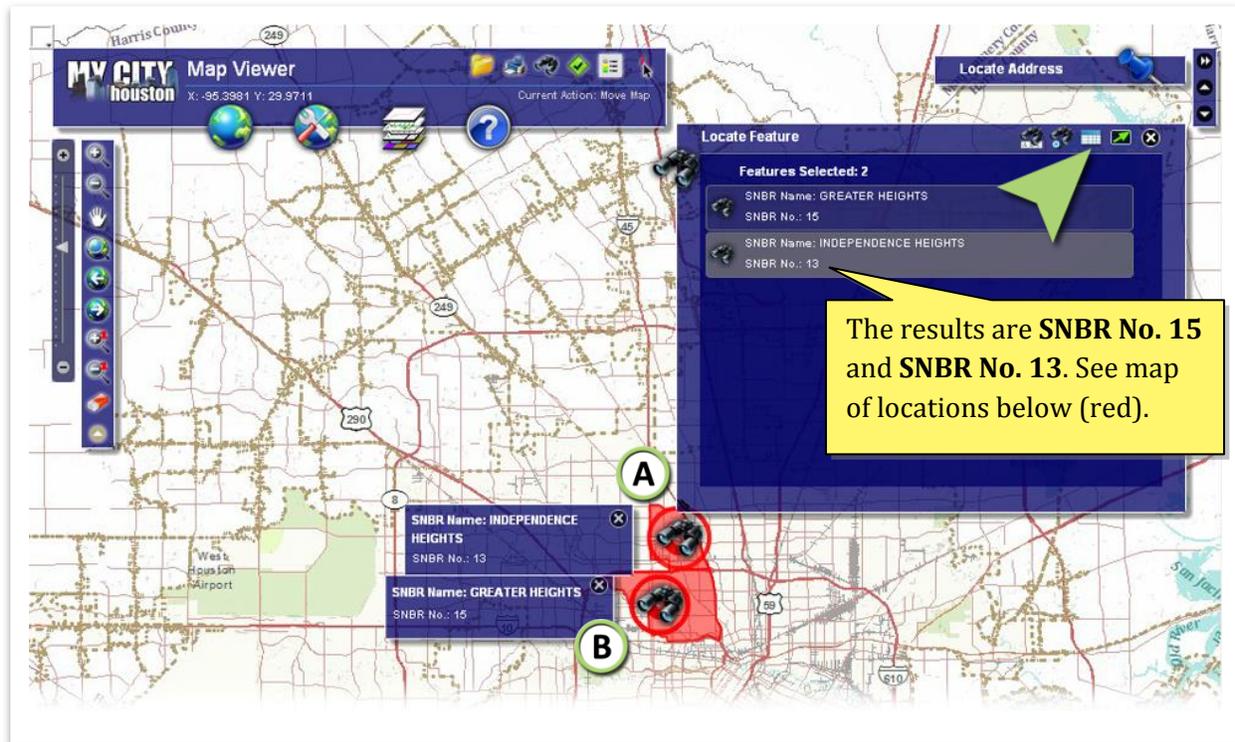
Note: For all cases except '**Super Neighborhood by Name**', the search is an exact, but case-insensitive search. For example, for '**City Council District**', one enters either an "**A**" or "**a**" to locate that City Council District. For '**Super Neighborhood by Name**', one only needs to enter a word or words appearing the Super Neighborhood name. For example, entering the string "**Heights**" will produce two results as there are two (2) Super Neighborhoods that have the word "**Heights**" in their names. Once the string is entered, click on the '**Search**' button.





The search will initiate and the tool will flip the panel to **'Results'** panel (this panel is indicated on the top right icon panel by the icon). Any results will be listed there, plus the map will show the result feature(s) highlighted in a semi-transparent red color. If one clicks on one of the results listed in the Results Panel, the map will zoom to and highlight that single result.

The two (2) **Heights Super Neighborhoods** are "**Independence Heights**" and "**Greater Heights**", see "**A**" and "**B**" respectively (below). The highlighted features can be cleared by clicking on the '**Clear**' button in the **Text Search** panel, or by clicking on the '**Clear**' button in the **Graphical Search** panel (next icon).



Graphical Search Tool

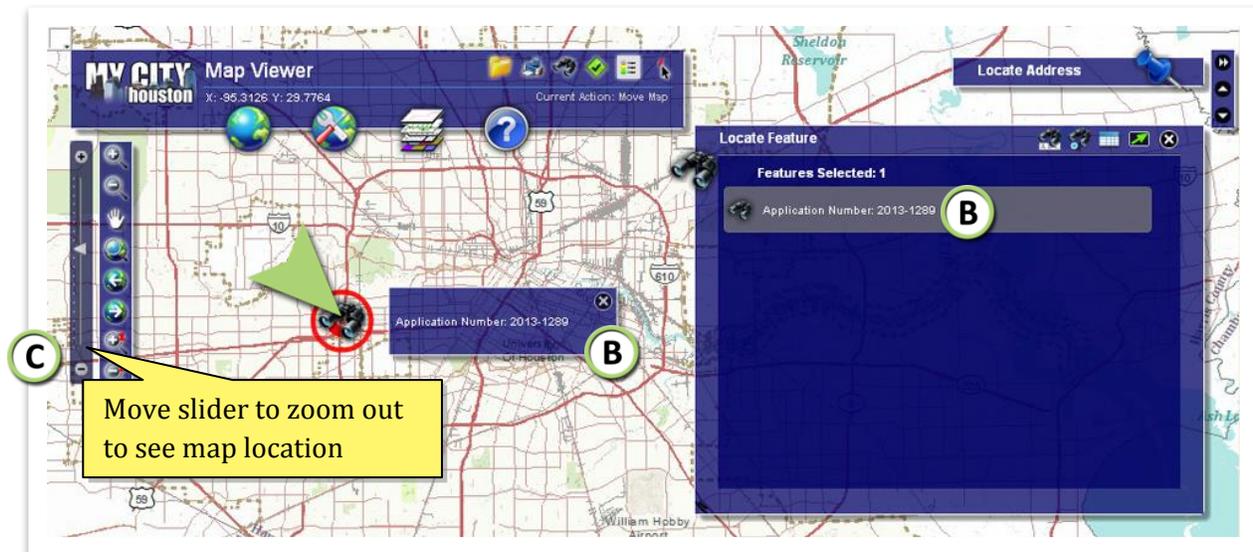
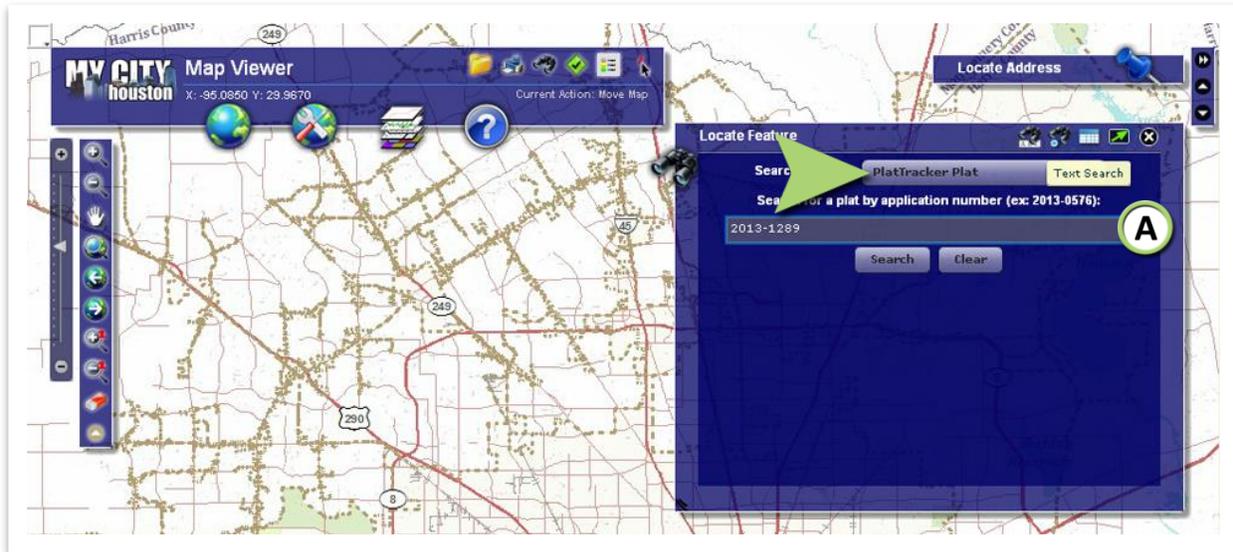
If '**Graphical Search**' is selected, use the **Search Layer** drop down menu list options to select the "**search layer**". Please "**scroll down**" for the wide range of search list options.

The choices are:- City Council District, Super Neighborhood by Name, Super Neighborhood by No., Subdivision by Name, Plat Tracker Plats, KeyMap Page, KeyMap Block, Lambert Tile, GIMS Tile (Public Works uses this), or Zip Code. **Note:** These selections may expand in the future, but not necessarily appear in this documentation.

Then select one of the '**Graphical Search**' tools to select a feature by clicking on the map (Select by Point) or drawing a feature (Select by Rectangle or Select by Polygon). Once the feature is drawn, any features in the selected **Search Layer** will be selected and highlighted. A list of results will be shown in the '**Results**' panel. Once again, clicking on one of the listed results will cause that single result to be zoomed to and highlighted.

The highlighted features can be cleared by clicking on the 'Clear' button in the **Text Search** panel, or by clicking on the 'Clear Graphics' tool in the shortcut menu on the **Main Menu Controller**.

Example: **Search 'Plat Tracker Plats' by Search Text Tool**



A In the 'Text Search' panel, "scroll down/arrow down" for the 'Plat Tracker Plats Data' list options. Enter an **Application Number**, in the text field area. Click, 'Search' after entering a number. Example: **2013-1001** (enter an application no., if available.)

- B** The search will initiate and the tool will flip the panel to the '**Results**' panel (this panel is indicated on the top right icon panel by the icon). Any results will be listed there, plus the map will show the result feature(s) highlighted in a semi-transparent red color. The area represents the **boundaries** and/or **property lines** of the polygon boundary of the Registry Template CAD drawing submitted by the customers (applicants) and civil engineers (who represent land owners, developers, and builders) during the subdivision platting of properties.
- C** If one clicks on the results listed in the '**Results**' panel, the map will zoom to and highlight the result. Move slider to '**zoom out**' to see map location, if needed.
- D** The highlighted features can be cleared by clicking on the 'Clear' button in the '**Text Search**' panel, or by clicking on the '**Clear Graphics**' tool in the shortcut menu on the **Main Menu Controller**.

The City's GIS data are ever-changing. The Enterprise GIS team has gone to great effort to assure that the data in this application are of high quality and that they will remain as current as possible. This has involved forging agreements between the departments responsible for each dataset, and working out processes for regular update of each dataset.



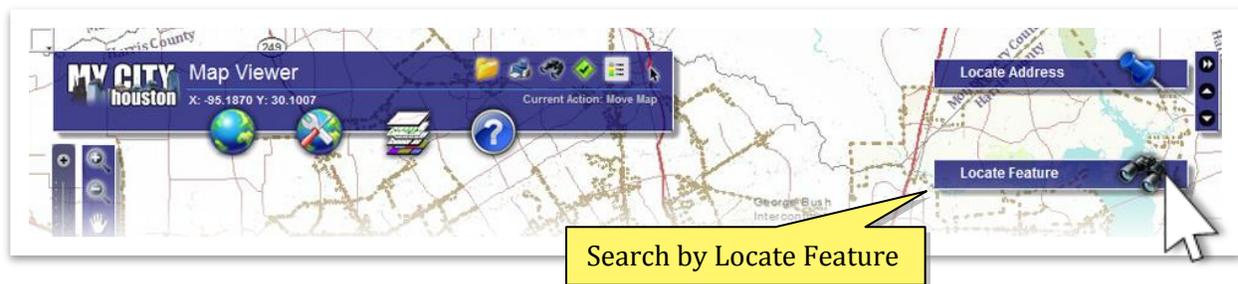
Searching Plat Tracker Plat Data

Here are the **three (3) simple ways** to access '**Plat Tracker Plat Data**' on **My City** mapping application. '**Plat Tracker Plats**' search includes:

- **Locate Feature Tool:** Search by entering an Application Number.
- **City Map Data:** Search Plat Tracker Plats layers located from the **Main Tool Bar**.
- **Locate Map Layers:** Using the Layer Toggle tool located from the **Main Tool Bar**.

Locate Feature Tool

At startup on the '**My City Houston**' interactive mapping application, one can find the '**Locate Feature**' tool in its minimized form in the top right portion of your browser window (just below the '**Locate Address**' tool).



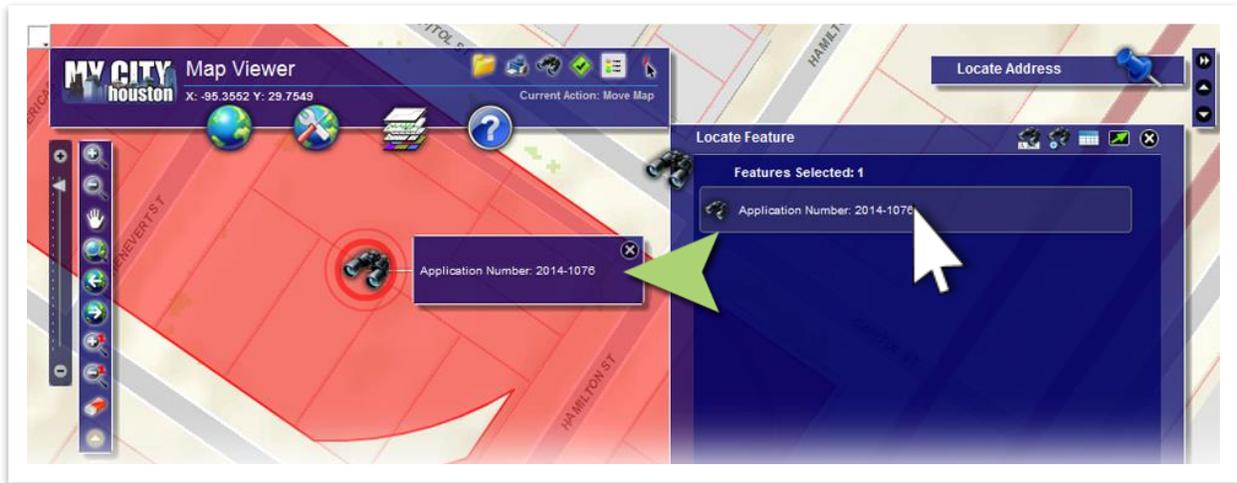
1. The '**Locate Feature**' tool.

Click the '**Locate Feature**' icon opens the **Locate Feature window** to search fields. Click the **Search Layers** dropdown tool for the variety of options. Select the '**Plat Tracker Plat**' option.



Enter an **Application Number** to plat search in the text box (ex: 2013-0576) provided. Click on the **'Search'** button.

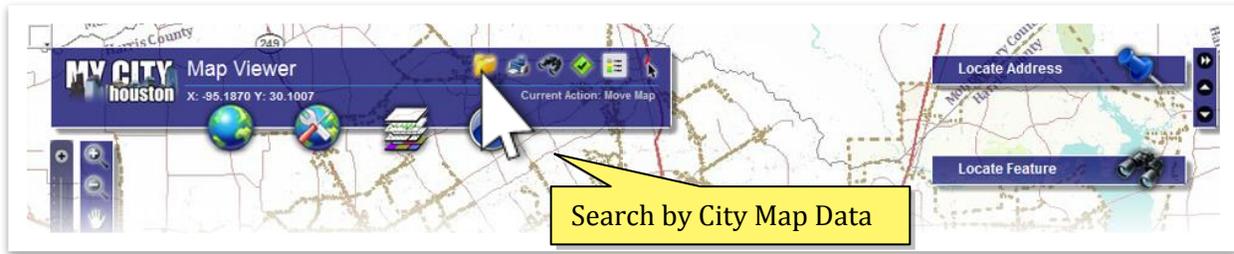
The search will initiate and the tool will flip the panel to **'Results'** panel (this panel is indicated on the top right icon panel by the icon). Any result will be listed there, plus the map will show the result feature highlighted in a semi-transparent red color. If one clicks on the result listed in the Results Panel, the map will zoom to and highlight that single result.



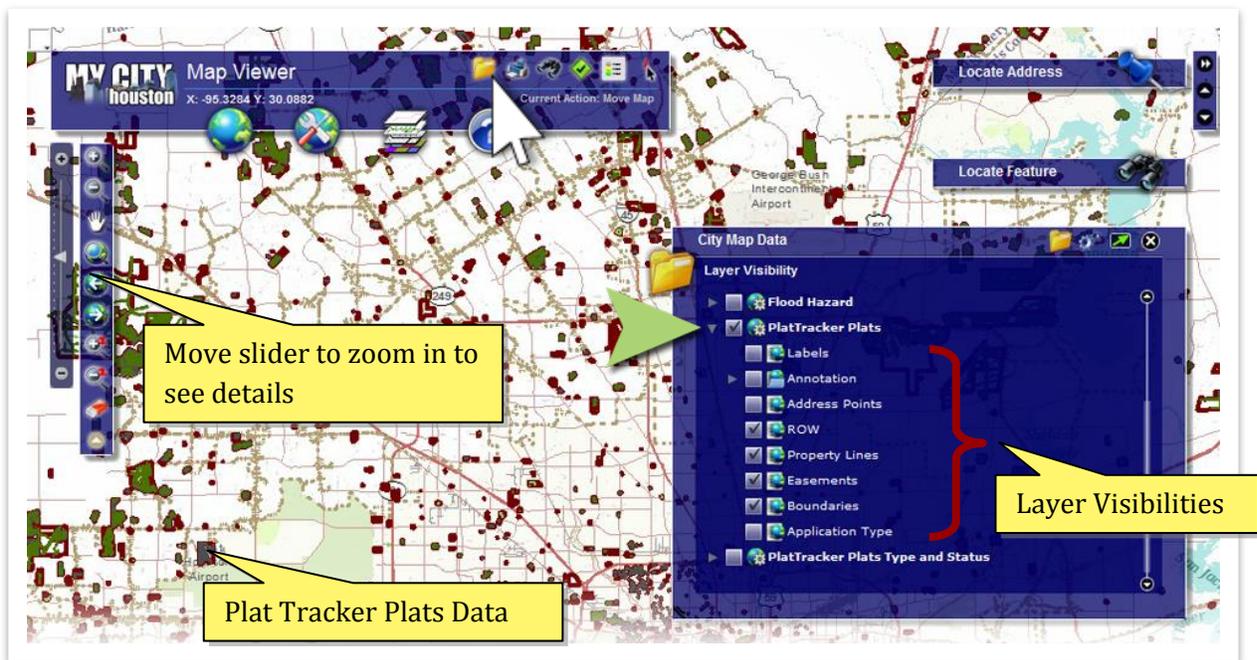
City Map Data

The **'City Map Data Menu'** is the first icon (the **"folder icon"**) located on the **Main Tool Bar**. Clicking on the **'City Map Data'** icon will access the **'City Map Data'** panel, and the *Layer Visibilities* to the multiple of layers. Click on the **'Plat Tracker Plats'** arrow trigger the **"arrow down"** function to select other **"boxes"**. Check all boxes that apply so that the application can return the results and displayed on the map.

Note: **'Plat Tracker Plats'** options **"checkbox"** has to first be checked before any features can be displayed.



II. The 'City Map Layer' tool.



Data is represented by "**dots**" at a distance (on small areas) on the My City map, which indeed is an area, represents by the **boundaries** and/or **property lines**. Those are actually the polygon boundary of the Registry Template CAD drawing submitted by the customers (applicants) and civil engineers (who represent land owners, developers, and builders) during the subdivision platting of properties. Zoom in to see details.

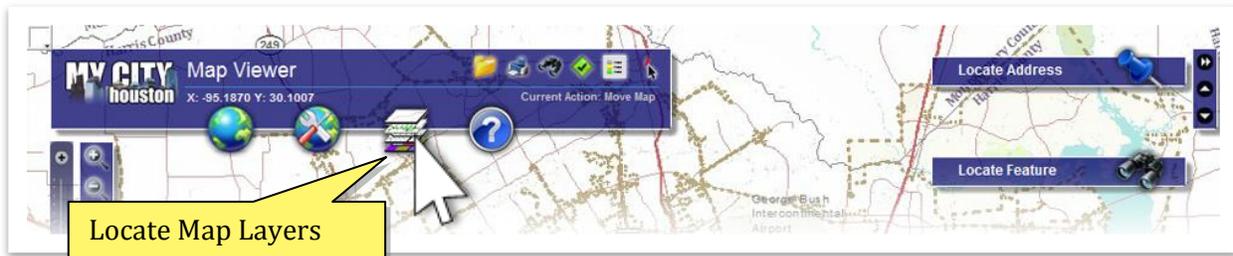
Move slider to zoom "**in**" to see details of the data location and the information as indicated below.



'Plat Tracker Plats' labels consist of application number, subdivision name, the Review Cycle, the application status and the type of application of the highlighted polygon boundary.

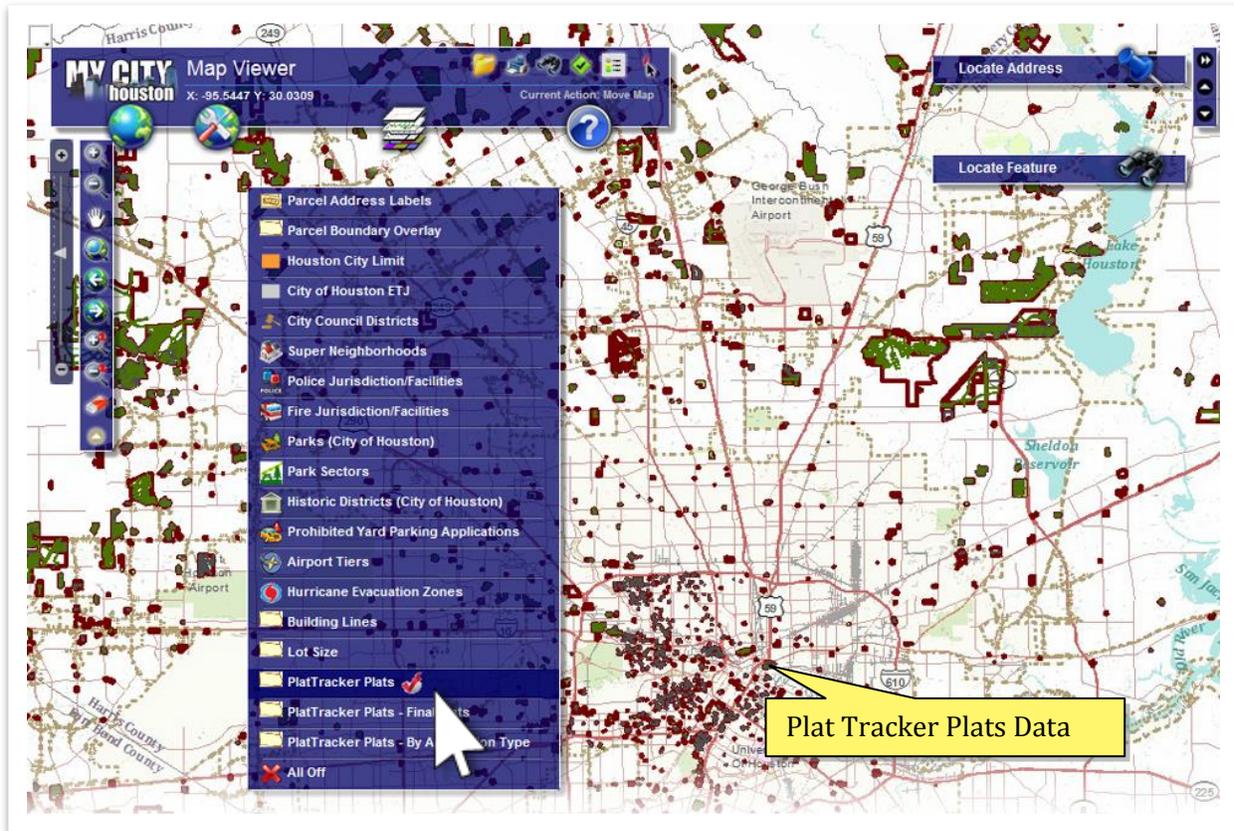
Locate Map Layers

The 'Plat Tracker Plats' tool is located within the 'Layer Toggle' menu, under 'Plat Tracker Plats'. It provides a quick way for users to display high interest map layers.



III. The 'Locate Map Layer' tool.

Click the 'Locate Map Layers Menu' -- the "layers icon" to access the dropdown tool for the variety of options. Select the 'Plat Tracker Plats' tab from the list.



Data is represented by "**dots**" at a distance (on small areas) on the My City map, which indeed is an area, represents by the **boundaries** and/or **property lines**. Zoom in to see details of an area of interest (to view detailed area). Or, simply "**double-click**" on the point of interest.

'**Plat Tracker Plats**' labels consist of application number, subdivision name, the Review Cycle, the application status and the type of application of the highlighted polygon boundary.

However, if those information are not present (missing, see the image below), go to '**City Map Data Menu**' to check the "**boxes**" for the features that you would like **My City** to display. Click on the '**Plat Tracker Plats**' arrow trigger the "**arrow down**" function to select other "**boxes**". Check all boxes that apply so that the application can return the results and displayed on the map, or select **Labels** from the boxes. (Note: '**Plat Tracker Plats**' options "**check box**" has to first be checked before any features can be displayed.)



To view data, check the "boxes" of the sub-category of 'Plat Tracker Plats' (if it is not checked on default).



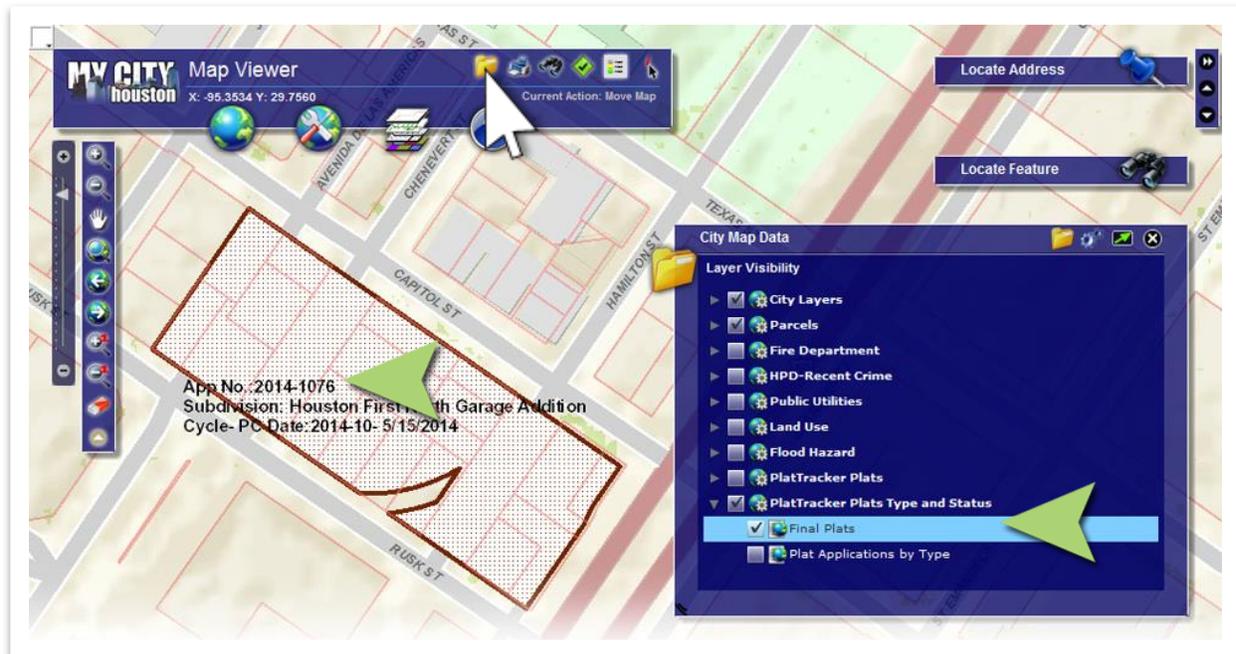
Plat Tracker Plats Type and Status

Plat Tracker Plats and Status tab includes:

- Final Plats
- Plat Applications by Type

Final Plats

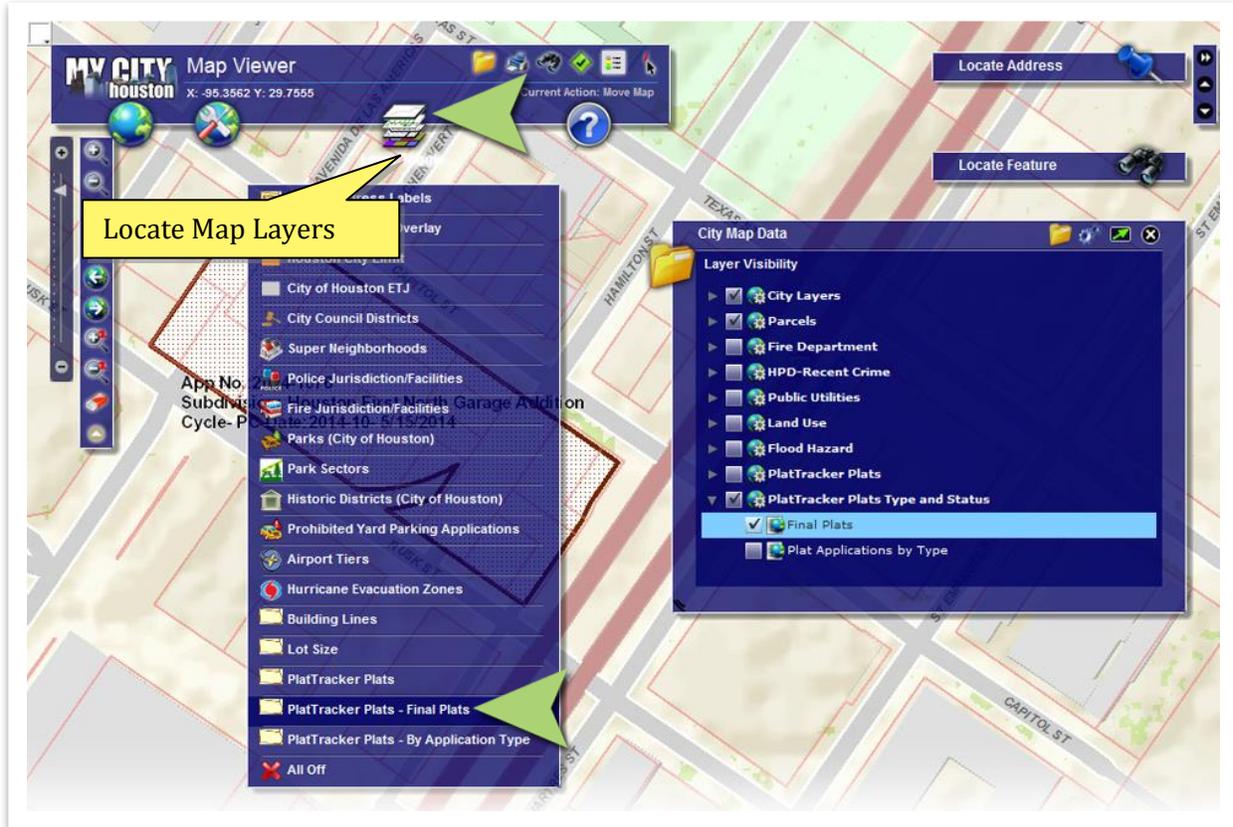
The 'Final Plats' tool is located within the **City Map Data** panel accessed by the 'City Map Data Menu', represented by the "folder icon". Next, click on the 'Plat Tracker Plats Type and Status' tab to access the tool.



Clicking on the 'Plat Tracker Plats Type and Status' arrow trigger the "arrow down" function to select other "boxes" – the 'Final Plats' and the 'Plat Application by Type'.

The 'Final Plats' tool will attempt to locate all plats status that is *finalized*. Data is represented by "dots" at a distance (on small areas) on the My City map, which indeed is an area, represents by the **boundaries** and/or **property lines**. Zoom in to see details of an area of interest (to view detailed area). Or, simply "double-click" on the point of interest.

'Final Plats' labels consist of the application number, subdivision name, the Review Cycle and the Planning Commission date of the highlighted polygon boundary.



The 'Plat Tracker Final Plats' tool can also be found in the 'Locate Map Layer Toggle' panel.

The 'Final Plats' tool is also located within the 'Layer Toggle' menu, under 'Plat Tracker Plats - Final Plats'. It provides a quick way for users to display high interest map layers, (see image above).

Plat Applications by Type

The 'Plat Applications by Type' tool is located within the **City Map Data** panel accessed by the folder icon. Next, click on the **Plat Tracker Plats Type and Status** tab to access the tool.

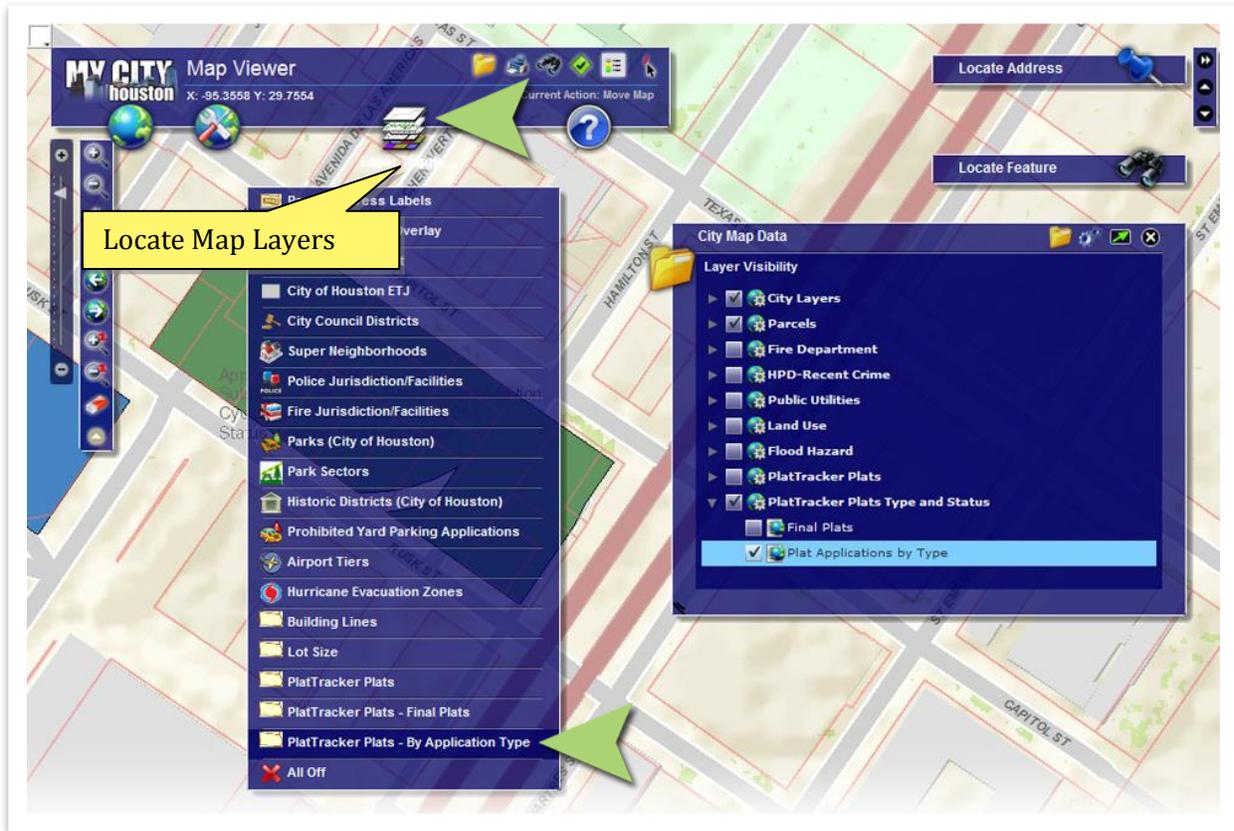
The tool will attempt to locate all plats by **application type**. Data is represented by "dots" at a distance (on small areas) on the My City map, which indeed is an area, represents by the **boundaries** and/or **property lines**. Zoom in to see details of an area of interest (to view detailed area). Or, simply "**double-click**" on the point of interest.

'**Plat Application by Type**' labels consist of the application number, subdivision name, status, the Review Cycle and the Planning Commission date of the highlighted polygon boundary.

The boundaries are represented by the color coding which come in different colors and shades etc. (representing the different types of applications).



The '**Plat Application by Type**' tool is also located within the '**Layer Toggle**' menu, under '**Plat Tracker Plats - By Application Type**'. It provides a quick way for users to display high interest map layers, (see image below).



The *'Plat Tracker Plats by Application Type'* tool can also be found in the *'Locate Map Layer Toggle'* panel.

To learn more about **'Plat Submittal and the Plat Tracker web site'** see the **Plat Tracker Applicant User Guide** document available for download.

To learn more about **'My City Houston Map Application'** see the **My City User Guide** document available for download.