

August 4, 2022 (</blogs/google-maps-adds-hearing-loops-information>)

# Google Maps Adds Hearing Loops Information (</blogs/google-maps-adds-hearing-loops-information>)

Resources (</blogs/category/Resources>)

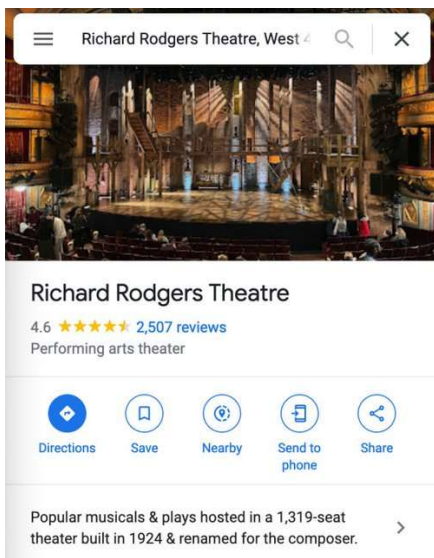
*By Stephen O. Frazier*

Google Maps has recently begun including hearing loops in the accessibility information on its website. This has received little notice from the national media or hearing loss–related entities but, for the hard of hearing, this is important news. A national database of looped venues has been a goal of hearing loop advocates for years and it's finally becoming a reality. This action, a joint undertaking of the Get in the Hearing Loop Committee (GITHL) of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) and Google Maps, is the latest example of the growing awareness and availability of hearing loops in public places.

Hearing loops are the preferred assistive listening technology for those people with hearing loss and hearing aids. Unlike Bluetooth, currently a 1-to-1 means of transmitting sound, hearing loops can serve an audience of 1 to 1,000 or more. Hearing loops, in their simplest form, are a thin copper wire discreetly placed to encircle a room and are connected through an amplifier to the room's public address system.

The amplifier feeds the sound from the public address (PA) system to the loop wire that then transmits it as a silent electromagnetic signal to receivers in hearing aids. These receivers are called telecoils and they are available in the majority of hearing aids and all cochlear implant processors.

These hearing devices turn the signal back into sound and, with the microphones in the hearing aids or implant turned off, the user hears mostly the sound from the PA with little background noise. This dramatically increases the intelligibility of what is being said over the PA system. The "speech to noise ratio" that's so important in hearing and understanding conversation is heavily weighted to speech as opposed to noise.



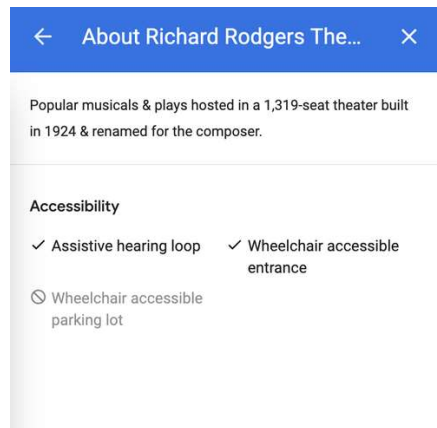
Click on the > arrow on the

User-friendly hearing loops are common in the U.K., much of Western Europe and Australasia and, in the U.S., increasingly found in theaters, places of worship, and other areas where people with hearing loss can expect to have difficulty hearing. I recently wrote about

bottom right of this image to get accessibility information.

hearing loop efforts in the Summer 2022 issue of Hearing Health magazine.

(<https://view.publitas.com/p222-4764/hearing-health-summer-2022-issue/page/20>)



After clicking the > arrow this is the accessibility information displayed. Google Maps users can suggest edits and corrections.

This initiative by the GITHL committee and Google Maps has already resulted in the listing of thousands of venues nationwide that offer hearing loop access. The process is ongoing. To check if a particular venue offers hearing loop communication access, visit [maps.google.com](https://maps.google.com) on your laptop, tablet, or phone. Search the name of a venue, such as

“Richard Rodgers Theatre New York City” and the map reloads showing the venue on a street map. A box contains information such as the venue’s street address, phone number, hours of operation, etc.

In that space, directly below a row of blue circular icons, is a brief description of the venue with a “more arrow” like this > (see images).

Click on that > arrow and you'll find “Assistive hearing loop” if one is known to be present, plus other applicable accessibility information such as wheelchair access or other accommodations. On a smartphone or tablet, this information is found on Google Maps by clicking “About.”

This is an ongoing project and the GITHL committee

continues to seek out and verify hearing loop installations throughout the country. The listings are interactive so individuals can lend a hand in maintaining their integrity.

On every venue's Google Maps listing there is a "suggest an edit" or a prompt to "update this place." There are also links to add a photo or to post a review. If mention of the loop is missing on a venue known to be looped, users can email the GITHL committee at [loop.locations@hearingloss.org](mailto:loop.locations@hearingloss.org) (<mailto:loop.locations@hearingloss.org>) to let them know.

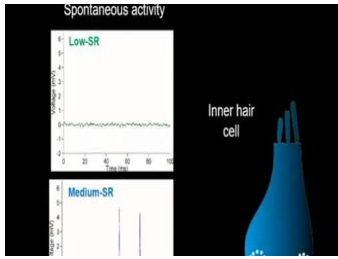
Loop installers or others involved with setting up hearing loss can suggest additions or revisions of Google Maps listings by visiting the HLAA's site at [hearingloss.org/hearinglooplocations](http://hearingloss.org/hearinglooplocations) ([https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s1ORtJAWrUizTQ0Z8JTjuTjNdShUDK1JIPs-uEa\\_ofZUQzBBTDlPM1dGNDdOWFNQSUhHT1hON0VPUyQIQCN0PWcu](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s1ORtJAWrUizTQ0Z8JTjuTjNdShUDK1JIPs-uEa_ofZUQzBBTDlPM1dGNDdOWFNQSUhHT1hON0VPUyQIQCN0PWcu)) and completing a brief form.



*Trained by the HLAA as a hearing loss support specialist, Hearing Health magazine staff writer and New Mexico resident Stephen O. Frazier has served HLAA and others at the local, state, and national levels as a volunteer in their efforts*

*to improve communication access for people with hearing loss. For more, see [loopnm.com](http://loopnm.com) (<http://loopnm.com>) or email him at [hlaanm@juno.com](mailto:hlaanm@juno.com). (<mailto:hlaanm@juno.com>) For more information on this joint initiative, email [GITHLinfo@hearingloss.org](mailto:GITHLinfo@hearingloss.org) (<mailto:GITHLinfo@hearingloss.org>).*

# The Latest Blog Posts



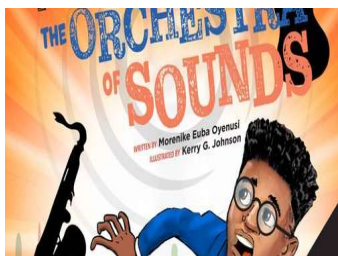
(/blogs/125-million-nih-grant-awarded-to-continue-hidden-hearing-loss-research)

## [\\$12.5 Million NIH Grant Awarded to Continue Hidden Hearing Loss Research \(/blogs/125-million-nih-grant-awarded-to-continue-hidden-hearing-loss-research\)](/blogs/125-million-nih-grant-awarded-to-continue-hidden-hearing-loss-research)

Aug 11, 2022

Funding from the grant extends support of four projects at Mass Eye and Ear that aim to clarify the prevalence, nature, and functional consequences of hidden hearing loss in humans. The work promises to inform cellular-based diagnosis and development of future therapies.

[Read More → \(/blogs/125-million-nih-grant-awarded-to-continue-hidden-hearing-loss-research\)](/blogs/125-million-nih-grant-awarded-to-continue-hidden-hearing-loss-research)



(/blogs/what-if-we-heard-tinnitus-as-an-orchestra)

## [What If We Heard Tinnitus as an Orchestra? \(/blogs/what-if-we-heard-tinnitus-as-an-orchestra\)](/blogs/what-if-we-heard-tinnitus-as-an-orchestra)

Aug 9, 2022

Isaiah, age 15, expresses his experience of tinnitus as that of an alien orchestra performing in his ear. I use the musical performance theme and musical references throughout my graphic novel.

[Read More → \(/blogs/what-if-we-heard-tinnitus-as-an-orchestra\)](/blogs/what-if-we-heard-tinnitus-as-an-orchestra)



## [Google Maps Adds Hearing Loop Information](#)



Richard Rodgers Theatre

4.6 ★★★★★ 2,507 reviews

(/blogs/google-maps-adds-hearing-loops-information)

## Loops Information (/blogs/google-maps-adds-hearing-loops-information)

Aug 4, 2022

Google Maps has recently begun including hearing loops in the accessibility information on its website. A national database of looped venues has been a goal of hearing loop advocates for years and it's finally becoming a reality.

Read More → (/blogs/google-maps-adds-hearing-loops-information)



(/blogs/help-america-hear-through-scholarships)

## Help America Hear Through Scholarships (/blogs/help-america-hear-through-scholarships)

Aug 2, 2022

The scholarship program is an annual nationwide contest offering assistance to high school seniors with hearing loss who are starting their first year of college.

Read More → (/blogs/help-america-hear-through-scholarships)



(/blogs/how-pharmacists-can-help-bridge-the-gap-in-hearing-care-for-seniors)

## How Pharmacists Can Help Bridge the Gap in Hearing Care for Seniors (/blogs/how-pharmacists-can-help-bridge-the-gap-in-hearing-care-for-seniors)

Jul 28, 2022

After reviewing the literature on pharmacy, audiology, and their integration, this paper aims to provide pharmacists with education on hearing loss that colleagues in audiology believe is most critical for pharmacists

pharmacists.

Read More → (/blogs/how-pharmacists-can-help-bridge-the-gap-in-hearing-care-for-seniors)

Tagged: hearing loop (/blogs/tag/hearing+loop), hearing aids (/blogs/tag/hearing+aids), cochlear implants (/blogs/tag/cochlear+implants), telecoil (/blogs/tag/telecoil), technology (/blogs/tag/technology), advocacy (/blogs/tag/advocacy)

♥ 0 Likes    ↪ Share

 Print    PDF    Email   (<https://www.printfriendly.com>)

Comments (0)

Newest First

[Preview](#)    **POST COMMENT...**

Newer Post

What If We Heard  
Tinnitus as an Orchestra?  
(/blogs/what-if-we-  
heard-tinnitus-as-an-  
orchestra)

Older Post

Help America Hear  
Through Scholarships  
(/blogs/help-america-  
hear-through-  
scholarships)

[TERMS \(/TERMS-AND-CONDITIONS\)](/TERMS-AND-CONDITIONS)

[PRIVACY POLICY \(/PRIVACY-POLICY\)](/PRIVACY-POLICY)

[CONTACT US \(/CONTACT-US\)](/CONTACT-US)



© 2022 Hearing Health Foundation. All rights reserved.

Address: 575 Eighth Avenue, #1201, New York NY 10018. Phone:  
212.257.6140 (TTY: 888.435.6104). Email: [info@hhf.org](mailto:info@hhf.org)  
(<mailto:info@hhf.org>).

HHF is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation. Our tax ID number is 13-1882107.

*HHF does not endorse products or services appearing as paid advertisements on this website.*

([http](#)) ([http](#)) ([http](#)) ([http](#))

([http](#))