

Abstract Title: **Mapping the Proximity of Nymphaea to Roman Roads**

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Introduction: Nymphaea served as large informal gathering spaces and had connections to water sources. Some of these water sources were naturally occurring and some were man-made. Nymphaea served multiple purposes including that of sanctuaries, assembly areas, and reservoirs. Where are the nymphaea and where are the roads? How close are they to each other? How accessible were the Nymphaea?

Research Objectives: Understanding the locations of nymphaea relative to roads, aqueducts, or cities could give us a better idea of how many people might have had access to these places. Some were even built as a commemoration to others or themselves. Following our preliminary research, we might hypothesize that the nymphaea were generally built closer to urban areas where perhaps the most people had access to them. Their proximity to roads and cities might also help us visualize the connection of the nymphaea to the rest of the Roman world.

Method: Considering our time constraints, it was beneficial to use as much data as is readily available as possible. We downloaded the roads and cities data sets that we needed, but the most important aspect was gathering the coordinates of nymphaea. Once in a spreadsheet, we could put the coordinates into arcmap so that we could see where the nymphaea were and ask the software to calculate the distances between nymphaea and roads.

Results: Our research tells us that nymphaea are close to water, roads, and cities. While we originally planned to find nymphaea proximity to cities, difficulties led to the omission of its calculation.

Conclusion: This might mean that ease of access to nymphaea was a priority. This might also be a testament to how Roman roads were to be able to connect their many urban areas effectively.

