

June 2006

Welcome to the twentieth edition of the **MassGIS GISette**, a bi-monthly newsletter e-mailed to over 1100 of our users and partner agencies to keep them informed of data updates, GIS events, and on-going technology developments. This newsletter will not replace more focused e-mails that many of you currently receive. A page on our website has been created for the [GISette](#). There you will find back issues of the GISette and an [online subscription form](#).

While our primary intent in publishing the GISette is to disseminate information related to MassGIS initiatives and data development in particular, we also see the GISette as a means of communicating public agency GIS news. So we encourage readers to send in updates or announcements concerning public agencies that they would like included in the GISette. We particularly want to encourage submission of announcements concerning data development projects. Announcements should be sent to Paul Nutting at paul.nutting@state.ma.us.

Massachusetts Conservation Mapping Assistance Partnership Program

MACMAPP is a collaboration between the GIS software vendor, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) to provide a bundle of GIS software and training to conservation organizations at a very substantial discount. All 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with an explicit conservation mission and all municipal conservation commissions operating in Massachusetts are eligible.

Recipients will obtain the latest ArcView 9.1 software from ESRI along with two years of support, on-line training and documentation (a total package valued at about \$3,000) for a cost of \$400. In addition, MassGIS will provide free GIS data and will be offering hands-on training workshops in using GIS software and compiling open space data.

MACMAPPP recipients must commit to participating in the Open Space mapping initiative and sharing GIS data that they generate (other than sensitive data relating to potential acquisitions.) Interested organizations should download the MACMAPPP [Application and Narrative](#) from the MassGIS web site.

All organizations that decide to proceed will be asked to participate in an initial application review. Note that this is not a competitive program - any conservation organization that meets minimum program requirements will be accepted (see narrative document for details). On receipt and approval of the application, the \$400 fee plus shipping costs is due to ESRI; when paid the ArcView 9.1 bundle will be sent out.

The intent of the program is to support conservation organizations with planning and inventory using GIS. For example, conservation commissions might want to record locations of Notices of Intent or to prepare an Open Space Plan per Division of Conservation Services requirements. Land trusts may want to look at parcel maps and at critical biological resource areas to help set priorities for land protection. Summaries of program activities will be posted by MassGIS with the intent of fostering a community of interest amongst participating MACMAPPP organizations. Similar programs have established state and nation-wide networks of GIS users with common goals.

Orthophoto Project Update

MassGIS has received all of the GeoTIFF images from this project and is pleased to announce that all 1,554 tiles have been posted to our ftp site for [free download](#) in the lossy MrSID format. Lossy JPEG 2000 versions will follow soon. We have been working as quickly as possible to complete the QA of the images and to process them into the compressed MrSID and JPEG 2000 formats. QA is essential and project timelines have been slowed by images that we rejected. We reviewed each image tile to make sure every one is acceptable. This is important because, for example, we recently requested two images be re-shipped because they were completely black. The lossy MrSID and JPEG 2000 formats will be followed by lossless JPEG 2000 images (125Mb per tile) and regional mosaics. The 4-band JPEG 2000 format will be particularly attractive if you are interested in the near infrared portion of the color spectrum (the MrSIDs contain only the red, green, and blue bands). Subsequently, we will provide digital terrain models, both as TIN files and as ASCII files of coordinates for breaklines and masspoints, and a one-meter raster of impervious surface interpretation.

MassGIS Standard for Digital Plan Submittal Municipalities

If you work for a municipality or participate in the municipal development review process and have not already checked out this standard, we encourage you to do so. This standard was developed with substantial input from all stakeholders: municipal and regional government agencies, surveyors and engineers, and GIS consultants. The standard addresses all the relevant technical and procedural issues, including file format, layer naming and feature symbolization, georeferencing, disclaimers, and copyright. To obtain a copy of the standard, a template for the digital plan file required by the standard, and other documents concerning the standard, [visit our website](#).

Database Updates

- **DEP Wetlands (1:12,000) Data Updated - State Nearly Complete!** - 6/28/2006
Data have been added to the Bashbish, Hoosic, Housatonic and Kinderhook watersheds. Aside from a small area in the towns of Ayer and Harvard, the entire state is now complete! For more information, please see the [Datalayer Description](#), which includes links to free data download and an online wetlands map viewer.
- **Updates to DEP Public Water Supply Layers** - 6/26/06
The MassDEP GIS Group has updated the following layers:
 - [Public Water Supplies](#)
 - [Zone IIs, IWPA](#)
 - [Surface Water Protection Areas \(Zone A, B, C\)](#)
- **C21e Layer Updated** - 6/13/2006
DEP GIS Group has updated the [Tier Classified Chapter 21E Sites](#) datalayer. The update included: 122 sites added and 58 removed.
- **Title 5 Layer Updated** - 6/28/06
Tiles for the Bashbish, Hoosic, Housatonic and Kinderhook watersheds were modified to reflect updates to the DEP Wetlands (1:12,000) layer.
- **New [Community Health Network Areas](#) Layer** - 6/9/2006
This new layer represents boundaries of CHNAs, local coalitions of public, non-profit, and private

sectors working together to build healthier communities in Massachusetts through community-based prevention planning and health promotion.

- **New [Nursing Homes and Rest Homes Layer](#) - 6/2/2006**
This new point layer, developed by the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, contains the location of all licensed nursing homes and rest homes in the commonwealth.
- **State House District Layer Updated - 5/31/2006**
The [Massachusetts House Legislative Districts](#) layer has been updated for attribute edits in April and May.
- **[New Layers from the Executive Office of Transportation](#) - 5/30/2006**
Eleven layers developed by [EOT](#) are now incorporated into OLIVER and the MassGIS Data Viewer. Datasets include Airports, Ferry Routes, Seaports, Boston Harbor Water Taxi Stops, Tollbooths, Park and Ride Lots, four Regional Transit Authorities layers, and Massachusetts 2000 Urban Boundaries.
- **[Towns from Survey Points Layer Updated](#) - 5/24/2006**
Files were replaced with adjusted boundaries (arcs and polygons) for moved points ID1 = 1629 (Needham-Wellesley) and 1933 (Winchendon-NH border).
- **[DEP Regions Layer Updated](#) - 5/10/2006**
Region boundaries were modified to reflect the re-assignment of some towns to other regions by [MassDEP](#).
- **[MassDEP Oil and/or Hazardous Material Sites with Activity and Use Limitations \(AUL\) Layer Updated](#) - 5/10/2006**
Updates made by [MassDEP](#) included: 41 added and 69 RTN changes.
- **New "Multi-part" Town Boundary Layers - 5/4/2006**
These layers contain one feature for each of the 351 municipalities. Cities and towns with islands are represented as one multi-part polygon. These layers -- one created from the [1:25,000 Towns](#) layer, and one from the [Survey Towns](#) -- may be useful in analyses using 1-to-1 joins on the TOWN_ID field.
- **EOT-OTP Roads Updated - 5/1/2006**
The Yearend 2005 release is now available for the EOT-OTP Roads datalayer. MassGIS is also making available a Major Routes layer for fast display of major highways at small scales. See the [EOT-OTP Roads datalayer page](#) for details.

Online Mapping

Get UTM Points Online

Many users of our online HTML viewers have asked for an enhancement that would allow for determining the UTM coordinates of a particular point. This feature has been added to three of the HTML viewers:

- [Color Ortho Imagery \(2005\)](#)
- [Color Ortho Imagery \(2001\)](#)
- [USGS Topographic Maps](#)

Open Space Corner

Greetings Open Space Users!

OpenSpace has now moved into an updated schema – please see the new [diagram](#). The update was mostly tweaks, but the biggest changes are the addition of an Alternate Site Name field to keep colorful local names for sites when they might otherwise be lost in a regional site name (e.g. Townsville State Forest vs. Old Pete’s Meadow). This change was made for both OpenSpace and Chapter 61 polygon layers. Also, several redundant or invalid fields were dropped from the Chapter 61 layer. The arc layer was broken into subtypes (Bounds OpenSpace, Bounds Chapter61 or Bounds Both). In doing so, topology rules were able to be specified that do not allow arcs to exist that do not border OpenSpace or Chapter 61 polygons – a flaw in the original topology.

The domains for OpenSpace were also revisited and improved. There are now separate and distinct domains for source type: attribute and spatial. The arc feature class also has two spatial source fields to accommodate cases where the shape of the polygon was determined from one source, say a deed description, and the actual spatial position of that shape is determined by another, say a GPS point location.

There were also some major data updates. All arc_date fields have been calculated, all abbreviations are now in the proper ABRV fields and all land trusts are properly coded and symbolized. Several new additions were also made to OpenSpace. Here are the latest statistics:

OpenSpace Polys

Total number of polys:	32,157
Total area of polys:	1,303,251.35 acres
Total polys with permanent protection:	24,195 (Over 75% of total OS Polys)
Total area with permanent protection:	1,121,638.33 acres (Over 86% of total OS Area)

Chapter 61 Polys

Total number of polys:	8,195
Total area of polys:	293,055.49 acres

OpenSpace Arcs

Total number of arcs:	158,619
Total length of arcs:	51,534.74 km

Did you see something in our Open Space data that isn’t quite right? Let me know so I can fix it. If you need help in submitting a revision and/or addition, I’ll aid you any way I can.

Here’s to a great summer out in the OpenSpaces of Massachusetts!

Scott Costello, MassGIS Open Space Coordinator, scott.costello@state.ma.us, 617-626-1076.

Events and Announcements

ValleyGIS Group Meeting: Wednesday, August 23rd, 11:00-1:00 at Baystate Medical Center's Health Geographics Program, [3601 Main St., Springfield](#)

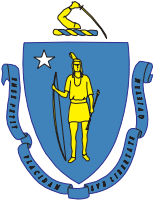


Any comments or suggestions about the GISette are welcomed paul.nutting@state.ma.us.

MassGIS-The Commonwealth's Office of Geographic and Environmental Information is located within the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and is charged with the collection, enhancement, storage and dissemination of the Commonwealth's geographic data.

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<p>Office of Geographic and Environmental Information</p>		
<p>Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs - 2006</p>		