



## August 2009

Welcome to the thirty-ninth edition of the **MassGIS GISette**, a bi-monthly newsletter e-mailed to more than 1,700 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](mailto:paul.nutting@state.ma.us).

### 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Arc Users Group Conference

In a month's time, hundreds of GIS users from across the northeast will descend upon the Radisson Hotel in Nashua, New Hampshire for the [24th Annual Northeast Arc Users Group Conference](#). Scores of presentations and dozens of ESRI-led workshops form the educational core of this 3-day conference, which is augmented by a variety of social events. The program grid and event schedule is now posted on the website.

MassGIS will be represented by several staff members who will deliver presentations:

- *Director Christian Jacqz and Assistant Director Neil MacGaffey* will present [details of a pilot project](#) funded by the State 911 Department. The pilot's objective is to assign a point to every address in six Massachusetts communities so as to increase geocoding accuracy.
- *Aleda Freeman* will present recent significant enhancements to [MassGIS' ever evolving WebServices](#).
- *Dan Marrier* will talk about the methods he developed for identifying candidate sites for [wind turbines on Cape Cod](#).
- A presentation by *Gabriella Laird and Dominique Pahlavan* will focus on a [new extension they created for ArcMap](#) that enables distributed editing of MassGIS open space data by trusted sources while also ensuring that participants follow business rules for this data layer.

### Database Updates

- **Hospitals Layer now [Acute Care Hospitals](#) - 8/20/2009**  
This point datalayer shows the location of 82 acute care hospitals in Massachusetts. Acute care hospitals are those licensed under MGL Chapter 111, section 51 that contain a majority of medical-surgical, pediatric, obstetric, and maternity beds, as defined by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). The features in this layer are based on database information provided to MassGIS from the DPH, Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS). This August 2009 update limits the features to include only acute care hospitals (and removes other "specialty hospitals"); it replaces the layer formerly known as "Hospitals and Emergency Room Facilities." The layer now includes attributes for trauma center and teaching hospital status.
- **[DCR Pools Updated](#) - 8/11/2009**  
An attribute edit was made to the Olsen Pool in Boston. This point datalayer contains the location of 45 pools in Massachusetts that are owned and/or operated by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Pool types include swimming, wading, diving and spray deck. The layer was developed by the DCR GIS Program and is based on DCR State and Urban Park pool listings as of July 31, 2009.
- **[OpenSpace Updated](#) - 7/22/2009**  
The MassGIS Protected and Recreational OpenSpace Datalayer has been updated with various edits around

the state. A new shapefile and personal geodatabase have been placed on our ftp site, representing data updated as of 7/16/09.

- **Updates to DEP Public Water Supply Layers - 7/16/2009**  
The MassDEP GIS Group has updated the following layers:
  - [Public Water Supplies](#)
  - [Zone IIs, IWPA](#)

## **Online Mapping**

### **CZM's Online Mapping Tool**

The [Massachusetts Ocean Resource Information System \(MORIS\)](#) is an online mapping tool built on the OLIVER shell, but it shows mostly ocean related spatial data as opposed to OLIVER's terrestrial data. Coastal Zone Management has developed over 85 layers that can be viewed and downloaded directly from MORIS. Many of these layers were used in the creation of [CZM's Draft Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan 2009](#) and are also accessible using [webservices](#) and from the normal [download area](#) of the MassGIS library.

### **Online Reporting of Community Preservation Info to the DOR**

The Department of Revenue is collaborating for the second year with MassGIS to collect information about Community Preservation Act projects. Communities that have passed the Community Preservation Act (currently 142) need to fill out a form called CP-3 online by September 15th in order to receive their state match. The form collects summary information about the projects that are being paid for by CPA funds. This summary information includes a description, whether the project is of type OpenSpace, historic, recreation or housing (1 or more may apply), project status and basic funding information. The on-line form includes a web mapping component that enables users to enter parcel information and a point for the project's geographic location. The datalayer of points is available [here](#). Additionally, if a project is an OpenSpace project involving a land purchase, MassGIS can use this information to integrate that parcel into the MassGIS OpenSpace datalayer.

### **Where's My Nearest School?**

The Department of Education is continuing to expand their use of the MassGIS web mapping services for delivering information about schools and school districts. Their latest application, programmed by [John Kim](#), is called [Schools Near Me](#). Using the familiar Google Maps interface (with its address locating capabilities), the application allows a user to enter an address and view all of the schools within a user defined radius. The map re-centers and populates with the standard school symbols and also presents a table with information from the standard DOE school profiles database. The schools location data is added to the display using the MassGIS webservices.

### **GeoServer Upgrade**

MassGIS has upgraded its GeoServer installation from 1.6.5 to 1.7.6, a major improvement which offers new functionality. See [http://lyceum.massgis.state.ma.us/wiki/doku.php?id=whats\\_new](http://lyceum.massgis.state.ma.us/wiki/doku.php?id=whats_new) for more details. We are experiencing inconsistent drawing with new raster layers (sometimes blank images are generated) and expect to have a fix soon.

As a result, a new OLIVER is available which includes these improvements:

1. Switch to more up-to-date street data for geocoding / address matching
2. Improved algorithm for geocoding / address matching
3. Ability to clip image data (e.g. orthos) as well as vector data (points/lines/polygons)
4. Ability to switch between various foldersets of data
5. Removed confusing login screen
6. Now backed by GeoServer instead of ArcIMS
7. Faster data downloads

The old OLIVER continues to be available until the raster problem is fixed.

## More Clients for Accessing WebServices

There are more ways than ever to access the MassGIS webservice. Most of the clients are free and some of the newer ones have more functionality than some of the earlier applications. [Learn more about it.](#)

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Any comments or suggestions about the GISette are welcome – send to [paul.nutting@state.ma.us](mailto:paul.nutting@state.ma.us).

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

### Massachusetts Geographic Information System (MassGIS)

251 Causeway St. Suite 500

Boston, MA 02114

Phone: (617) 626-1238

Fax: (617) 626-1249

