



August 2005

Welcome to the fifteenth edition of the **MassGIS GISette**, a bi-monthly newsletter E-mailed to 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 to receive the newsletter via E-mail.

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.

Please note: Due to network issues, MassGIS was without E-mail access during the week of Aug. 15-19. If you've yet to receive a response, please resend.

GIS Day 2005

I have reserved Great Hall at the Massachusetts State House for November 16, 2005 for our annual GIS Day event, which will run from 10AM to 2PM. Educating the general public, legislative staff and legislators about the importance of GIS to myriad state functions and programs is the primary purpose of this multi-media display. The day has three major components:

- A map gallery with submissions from non-profits, academia and State agencies;
- A noontime speaking program;
- Twenty or so live computer and Internet demonstrations showcasing current, interesting GIS projects in an ongoing science fair format. Most of these presenters are from State agencies, with a few high schools also participating.

If any of you readers are interested in participating in the map gallery or showcase, please contact me at paul.nutting@state.ma.us.

View a [recap and images](#) of last year's event.

Geocoding for Massachusetts Agencies and Municipalities

The Massachusetts Highway Department has purchased an enterprise license for the NAVTEQ geocoding files for Massachusetts. The license allows these files to be used by any Massachusetts government agency or political subdivision, including commissions, boards, regional agencies, authorities, and cities and towns; however the NAVTEQ files remain the property of NAVTEQ and may not be distributed to outside entities or for any commercial or mobile purposes. MassGIS will act as the distributor of this data, which will be available in a shapefile format or a personal geodatabase. To facilitate the receipt of the data, an organization must first identify a Technical Contact (usually a GIS person) and a Signatory, who should be at the highest supervisory level possible in order to cover the most possible users.

MassGIS will be working with the Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board to correct and refine the data over time. After an initial round of corrections based on the 911 data, we will be seeking local users of the data to act as our partners and to send us errors and corrections.

If you would like to learn more about this valuable service, view a FAQ and technical documents, and download the license agreement and signature page, please visit: http://www.mass.gov/mgis/geocode_data.htm. Please direct any inquiries to paul.nutting@state.ma.us.

Database News

Database Updates

- **New [Registries of Deeds Districts](#) Layer - 7/29/2005**
This polygon layer depicts the boundaries of the 21 Massachusetts Registries of Deeds districts.
- **[Latitude/Longitude Layers](#) Re-created - 7/18/2005**
The one-minute and ten-minute Latitude/Longitude graticule layers were re-created for proper positioning in the NAD83 coordinate system.
- **New [Colleges and Universities](#) Layer - 7/13/2005**
This point datalayer shows the locations of colleges and universities in Massachusetts. It is based on all Massachusetts colleges listed in the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Web site as of October 13, 2004.
- **New [Mass. Emergency Preparedness Regions](#) Layers - 7/5/2005**
The Mass. Dept. of Public Health has produced two administrative boundary datalayers: Emergency Preparedness Regions and Emergency Preparedness Regional Coalitions.
- **NHESP Layers Updated - 6/30/2005**
The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has released the 2005 versions of the [Priority Habitats of Rare Species](#) and [Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife](#) datalayers.

What's New on the MassGIS Web Site

ArcSDE Layer Names and Descriptions

Many of you have asked for this, and I've wanted to have such a consolidated list myself, so here it is (M.Trust):

http://www.mass.gov/mgis/layer_desc.htm contains a list of names and descriptions of the ArcSDE layers, raster datasets, tables and views in the GISDATA schema in our SDE database. Eventually I will make the layer names link to their datalayer description pages.

Online Mapping

New NHESP Viewer

The Department of Fish and Game's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has created a [new single purpose online viewer](#) that shows the new 2005 Priority and Estimated Habitats.

Staff Changes, Announcements and Meetings

In June, Gregory Mandryk, our long-time System Administrator, left MassGIS. He has moved with his family to Honolulu, Hawaii (!), where his wife has taken a new job. The reliability and high up-times of systems, including two migrations to new generations of servers during Gregory's 10+ years as our system administrator, are a testimonial to the great job Gregory did for MassGIS. He will be missed and we wish him well in future endeavors.

In July we welcomed Shalini Sen as a GIS Analyst. Shalini comes to MassGIS from Tucson, Arizona, where she worked for many years on projecting school populations and on transportation planning. At MassGIS, Shalini will be coordinating the GIS data development work for the "Water Budgets" project being conducted by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (MassGIS' parent agency). Welcome, Shalini!

We are also welcoming Laurie Kennison for a brief time while she traverses the metro Boston area recording asset data for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Laurie will be seeking her Masters in Environmental Science and Policy at Clark University this fall.

Accolades

Congratulations to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Center for Environmental Health (CEH) for receiving a [Special Achievement in GIS Award](#) at the recent ESRI User conference. Among other accomplishments, the award recognized the development of a Standard Incidence Ratio Calculator to show rates of cancer across the State. Sara Kustron of CEH and Evan Caten of the State Lab were in San Diego to accept the award.

Other colleagues participated in the Health Showcase on the exhibit floor. [Baystate Health](#)

[System's Health Geographics](#) Program Director Dr. Richard Wait and Sr. GIS Coordinator Ric Skinner demonstrated how for almost eight years, they have been applying GIS technology to hospital/healthcare initiatives spanning medical/clinical, healthcare facilities, healthcare services, community health, health surveillance, and "hospital-land" security and emergency/disaster planning and response.

MGIC

We are planning a MGIC session for September or October, please visit the [MGIS Web page](#) for emerging details.

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.

Massachusetts Geographic Information System (MassGIS)
251 Causeway St. Suite 500
Boston, MA 02114

Phone: (617) 626-1000

Fax: (617) 626-1249

