

October 2005

Welcome to the sixteenth 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](#).

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.

[GIS Day 2005](#)

Our annual GIS Day event will be at Great Hall in the Massachusetts State House on November 16, 2005 and 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, and twenty or so live computer and internet demonstrations showcasing current, interesting GIS projects in an ongoing science fair format. The following is a partial list of exhibitors, with most being from State agencies, with a few high schools and colleges also participating:

- Johanna Meyer at *Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency* will demonstrate the [Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans](#).
- Nate Boonisar and Priscilla Matton of the *Norfolk County and Bristol County Mosquito Control Projects* will demonstrate how they are [Using GIS to Combat Mosquitoes](#).
- Brian Egnitz and Dan Bibel from the *Massachusetts State Police* will show how they are collecting [Crime Statistics for Statewide Analysis](#) and_ to support [Project Safe Neighborhood](#).
- Dave Beck from the *Town of Hull* is an Assessor and will show how [GIS and Digital Parcel Mapping](#) has increased efficiency in his town.
- Joan Gardner and Barbara Lewis from Umass Boston will exhibit the results of their study called the [A Spatial Analysis of Black Historical Figures Interred at Cambridge Cemetery](#)
- Brian Cummings from the *Department of Social Services* will demonstrate the uses of mapping technology in the [Delivery of Human Services](#).
- Jeff Amero from *The City of Cambridge* will demonstrate the importance of GIS to virtually all operations and planning at the municipal level.
- Dr. Shirley Griffin and her students from *Oakmont Regional High School in Ashburnham* will cover [GIS in K-12 Education](#).
- Sylvia Hobbs from the *Department of Public Health* has been analyzing [Geographic Patterns of Out-of-Hospital Deaths in Massachusetts](#).
- Sara Kustron and Evan Caten will demonstrate the process that the *Department of Public Health* uses to perform [Statewide Surveillance of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile](#)

Virus.

- *The Massachusetts Alliance of Regional Geographic Information Systems MARGIS* have been using GIS for many years at all of the state's Regional Planning Agencies and will be on hand to demonstrate their latest regional analysis projects.
- Dominique Pahlavan and Hugh Mattison from *MassGIS* will demonstrate how GIS is being used to map every DCR sidewalk and crosswalk in an effort to devise a Comprehensive Snow Removal Plan for DCR.
- Dan Neville from *The Fingold State House Library* will be on hand to discuss Mapping Resources Available to The Legislature.
- Mark Berger from the *Commonwealth's Office of Transportation Planning* will present Multimodal Transportation Planning.
- Yelena Ogneva-Himmelberger and several students from *Tufts University* will demonstrate a wide variety of mapping and analysis projects conducted at the University including A Socio-Economic Analysis of the Populations Living Within Noise Polluted Areas Around Logan Airport.
- Kathy Jacob and Marc Desmaris from the *Central Transportation Planning Staff* will discuss GIS activities at CTPS.
- Stephen Mabee is the *Official State Geologist* and will demonstrate the Usefulness of GIS to the Geologist
- Philip John is *MassGIS' Imagery Specialist* and will examine the Latest Developments in Imagery.

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

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

PLEASE PLAN ON JOINING US FOR THIS EXCITING EVENT

MassGIS Wins URISA Award

MassGIS' Web Mapping Services was one of the 3 winners of Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)'s 2005 Exemplary Systems in Government (ESIG) award in the category of Enterprise Systems.

[State of Massachusetts - MassGIS Web Mapping Services](#)

"The MassGIS system is an outstanding example of sharing geospatial data, technology, and professional resources. The system addressed many issues in today's geospatial industry, and through great planning, was able create a robust base framework to meet the needs of many users. The Committee was impressed by MassGIS being able to provide technology to so many departments."

MassGIS Assistant Director Neil MacGaffey attended the 43rd annual URISA conference in Kansas City in October to receive the award.

The MassGIS Shared Web Services are a collection of on-line Geographical Information Systems tools that allow applications anywhere on the Internet to retrieve data, vector-maps, imagery, features and much more from the central data repository at MassGIS. The web services are implemented as OpenGIS Consortium (OGC) compliant Web Map Server (WMS), Web Feature Server (WFS), Gazetteer and Geocoder Services. Any Massachusetts government entities are eligible to use the services. A partial list of those using the services: Towns of Somerville, Belchertown and Sutton, Massachusetts State Police, Department of Revenue, Information Technology Division, and the Department of Environmental Protection. Existing or new Internet

applications can plug in maps using the XML-based services.

The MassGIS Web Mapping Services were developed as part of a Massachusetts Information Technology Division E-Government initiative started in March 2001. The web mapping services were envisioned as one of four common, statewide "shared services". (web mapping, customer relations management, credit card payments, security)

MassGIS takes care of these details so government entities don't have to:

- Purchase, installation and configuration of software (database, web mapping, web serving)
- Purchase of servers, bandwidth
- Loading GIS data and keeping it up-to-date.

Agencies don't need to spend time, money or staff on these tasks. Their programmers can focus on developing an application (in any programming language with XML support) and include maps. The services currently receive an average of 4,200 requests per day.

Database Updates

- **State House and Senate District Layers Updated - 10/12/2005**
The [Massachusetts House Legislative Districts](#) and [Massachusetts Senate Legislative Districts](#) layers have been updated with attribute edits to reflect Patricia Jehlen leaving the House and filling Sen. Shannon's open seat.
- **C21e Layer Updated - 10/11/2005**
DEP GIS Group has updated the [Tier Classified Chapter 21E Sites](#) datalayer. 13 sites were added and 62 sites were removed.
- **New [MWRA Water/Sewer Service Areas](#) Layer - 10/3/2005**
This polygon datalayer shows the areas across the commonwealth with water and sewer service as provided by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.
- **Updates to DEP Public Water Supply Layers - 9/21/05**
The DEP GIS Group has updated the following layers:
 - [Public Water Supplies](#)
 - [Zone IIs, IWPA](#) (Updated on 10/11/05 for error fixes)
 - [Surface Water Protection Areas \(Zone A, B, C\)](#)
- **DEP Wetlands (1:12,000) Data Updated - 9/13/2005**
Data have been added and updated (as of Aug. 24, 2005) to the Deerfield, Farmington, Housatonic and Westfield watersheds. For more information, please see the [Datalayer Description](#) and, for areas with completed data development, the [Status Map](#).
- **[Title 5 Layer](#) Updated - 9/13/05**
Tiles for the Deerfield, Farmington, Housatonic and Westfield watersheds were modified to reflect updates to the DEP Wetlands (1:12,000) layer.
- **Soils Layers Updated - 9/8/2005**
SSURGO-Certified soils data (polygons and arc and point spot features) are now available for the Worcester South survey area. In addition, the Microsoft Access databases containing the soils related tables are now available for all SSURGO-certified survey areas. View the current [status map](#) and [download](#) the data.

What's New on the MassGIS Web Site

- **Parcel Grant Program Update** - 10/1/2005
MassGIS is pleased to announce that funding has been allocated by EOEA for parcel data development in Plymouth and Bristol Counties. See the [Parcel Grant Program Updater page](#) for details.
- **Municipal GIS Status Maps** - 9/21/2005
The status maps displaying GIS status and digital parcel development at the municipal level across the Commonwealth have been updated, in PDF and GIF

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.

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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