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March 2019

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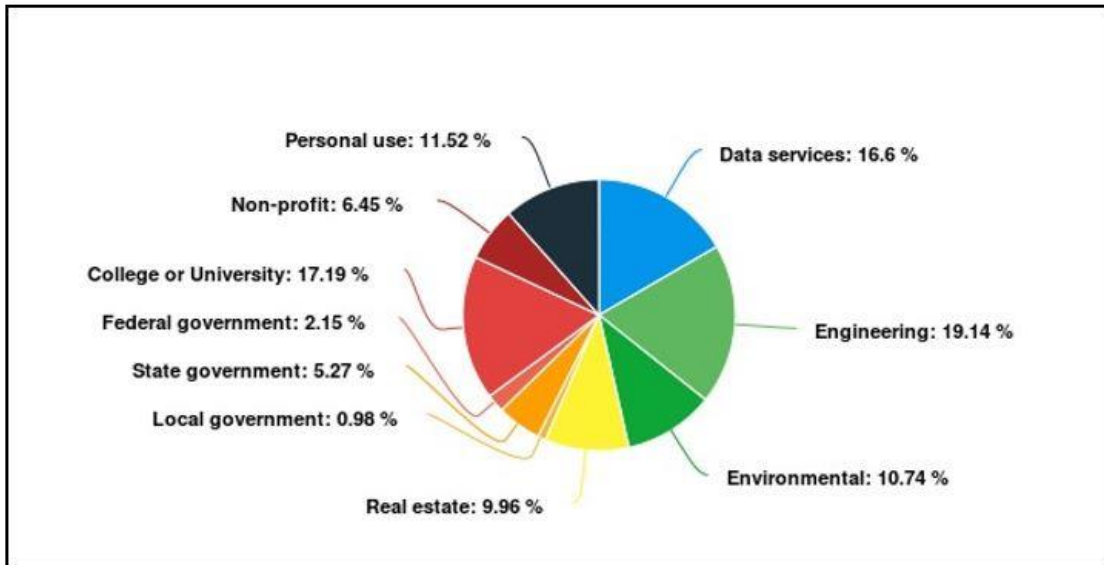
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[Users of MassGIS Statewide Parcel Data](#)

The vision of statewide standardized parcel mapping and its benefits were first identified in a MassGIS newsletter from 1988. Obviously, this vision would require a mapping standard. MassGIS released version one of its [parcel mapping standard](#) in 2002. However, it was not until the mapping needs of the [Next Generation 911 System](#) were identified that MassGIS received the funding needed to standardize parcel mapping statewide. However, the standardization needed for the 911 project work did not fully meet municipal needs. Obviously, transitioning municipalities to maintaining standardized mapping would only happen if that mapping met their needs. MassGIS successfully made the case for additional funding. That funding supported enhancing the standardized mapping so that it met municipal tax mapping and other operational needs. Cities and towns that participated in the enhancements program agreed to maintain their parcel maps in compliance with the standard and to deliver annual map updates to MassGIS.

In recent years, MassGIS's original vision has been fully validated as we have seen the

diversity of stakeholders that now rely upon having current standardized statewide parcel data. Last year we began tracking who was downloading our statewide parcel data. The users range from land trusts to the mining industry, with one of the more frequent requesters being companies that install solar panels. Below is a general breakdown of the users over the past year:



2019 Spring Orthophoto Acquisition

MassGIS has contracted with the US Geological Survey (USGS) to have them procure statewide orthoimagery on behalf of the Commonwealth in the spring of 2019. The specifications are typical for spring time orthoimagery: 15 cm pixel resolution (nominal 6”), 4-band (R, G, B, IR), leaf-off, snow/ice free, and no flooding. Presuming the selected vendor successfully acquires statewide imagery this spring, we anticipate taking delivery of the new orthoimagery early in calendar 2020. State funding sources are the State 911 Department, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, MassDOT, and MassGIS’s parent agency, the Executive Office of Technology and Security Services. The Massachusetts office of the Natural Resource and Conservation Service is also contributing significant funding. We anticipate that the data will be provided as a webservice available to anyone, unlike the current licensing of Google imagery, which will continue to be available only to currently licensed users.

2016 Land Cover/Land Use

MassGIS will imminently be releasing a raster format land cover/land use (LC/LU) map. The LC was derived from 2016 aerial imagery, and the LU is based on generalization of the land use codes in the statewide parcel data. The land cover dataset was created by the Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ocean Service, Office for Coastal Management (OCM). Each of these layers can be accessed independently, or in interesting and useful combinations with one another. For instance, a user can simply display impervious surfaces (land cover), or commercial parcels (land use). In combination, it is possible to display and measure the portions of the commercial parcels that are covered by impervious surfaces. See this [PDF](#) for descriptions of the 19 land cover classes. **Once we have uploaded the data (not yet)**, it will be on [this page](#) and can be downloaded in 1 meter-sized tiles. Keep checking that page, sign up for our [data updates](#) , or follow @MassGIS on Twitter for the release date. NOAA is now serving the Land Cover data [here](#).

Addressing Standard

Municipal staff responsible for assigning addresses may find it very helpful to consult the MassGIS [Address Standard](#). The standard reflects the deep experience of MassGIS staff with addresses as part of building the master address database for the [Next Generation 911 System](#). The standard also reflects input from a variety of public and private stakeholders. The standard is relevant to all municipalities, large and small, to the companies that provide them with services and software, and to the larger community of address users. It describes best practices for address assignment and how to create address listings that are comprehensive, accurate, and useful.

Database Updates

MassGIS is continuing to incorporate updates into its [standardized parcels database](#). “Level 3” Assessor Parcel Data have been updated for the following 41 cities and towns:

Town ID	City/Town	Fiscal Year
24	BELCHERTOWN	2020
25	BELLINGHAM	2019
51	CARLISLE	2019
57	CHELSEA	2019
58	CHESHIRE	2020
62	CHILMARK	2019
69	CUMMINGTON	2018
82	DUXBURY	2019
84	EAST BROOKFIELD	2019
85	EAST LONGMEADOW	2019
89	EDGARTOWN	2019
91	ERVING	2019
92	ESSEX	2020
94	FAIRHAVEN	2020
102	FREETOWN	2019
112	GRANVILLE	2019
141	HUDSON	2019
147	LANCASTER	2018
154	LEVERETT	2019
160	LOWELL	2019
161	LUDLOW	2018
163	LYNN	2018
164	LYNNFIELD	2019
169	MARION	2019
174	MAYNARD	2020
199	NEEDHAM	2019
206	NEWBURYPORT	2019
224	ORLEANS	2019
233	PERU	2019
239	PLYMOUTH	2019
250	ROCHESTER	2018
251	ROCKLAND	2019
260	SANDISFIELD	2020
281	SPRINGFIELD	2019
295	TEWKSBURY	2019
319	WENDELL	2019
320	WENHAM	2020
335	WESTWOOD	2019
337	WHATELY	2020
338	WHITMAN	2018
351	WRENTHAM	2018

MassGIS updated the [Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles](#) (RMV) locations layer of service centers and AAA branch offices that provide many RMV services. Data are up-to-date through February 5, 2019 and includes a corrected location of the Plymouth RMV office.

MassDEP has updated the [Non-Potential Drinking Water Source Areas](#) data layer, available from MassGIS.

This layer represents Non-Potential Drinking Water Source Areas (NPDWSA), which are regulatory in nature, representing one of many considerations used in determining the standards to which ground water must be cleaned in the event of a release of oil or hazardous material.

Events

The 2019 Spring NEARC Conference will be held Tuesday, May 14, at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire. Additional information about Spring NEARC can be found [here](#).

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MassGIS – The Commonwealth's Bureau of Geographic Information is located within the Massachusetts Executive Office of Technology Services and Security,

and is charged with the collection, enhancement, storage, and dissemination of the Commonwealth's geographic data and information.



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