

CONNECTICUT Geo-Focus



This Quarterly Newsletter is created by the Education and Training Working Group of the Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council. Our purpose is to communicate news about current GIS-related activities within and affecting the State of Connecticut. Newsletter editors: Beth Stewart-Kelly and Liz Crutcher.

Summer 2008
Volume 1, Issue 2



From the GeoDESK

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Newsletter Contacts

Because this newsletter is for us – the CT GIS world – we want your feedback. Letters or comments will be reviewed and published provided space exists in the newsletter. Please feel free to submit letters and articles to:

beth.kelly2@us.army.mil or
Liz.Crutcher@ct.gov

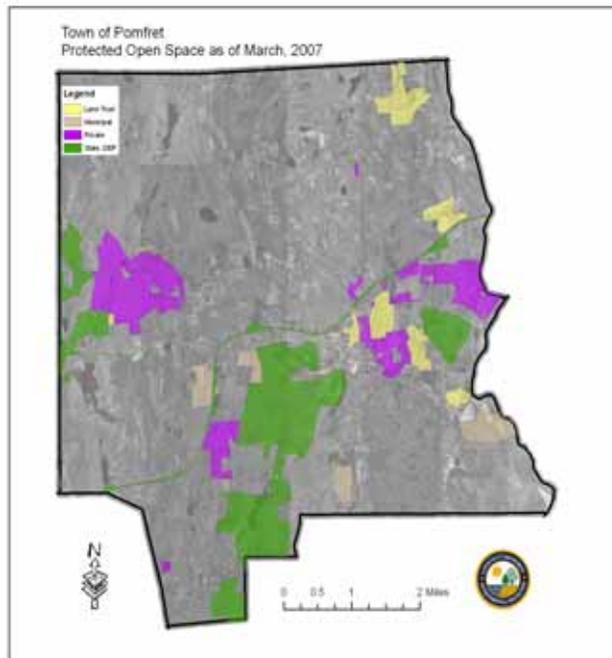
GIS Associations of Interest:

- [The Association of American Geographers \(AAG\)](#)
- [The National States Geographic Information Council \(NSGIC\)](#)
- [The University Consortium of Geographic Information Science \(UCGIS\)](#)

Protected Open Space Mapping Project (POSM)

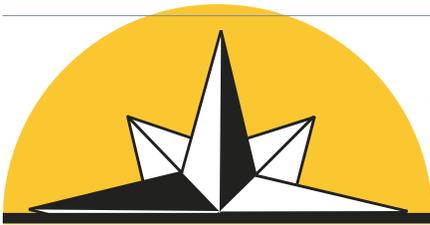
The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) is in the process of creating a statewide, automated inventory of protected open space. The goal of this project is to obtain current and complete location, boundary, and attribute data for all parcels in the state that meet a standard definition of protected open space. It will provide the basis for development of a centralized geodatabase of preserved land helping us measure our progress in meeting a goal of preserving 21% of Connecticut's total acreage as Open Space by 2023. It will also be a vital tool in the future management of the state's environment, natural resources, and land use. Due to the magnitude of this task, we need to collect as much information and acquire as

much input and data from individual municipalities as possible. The project was divided into three phases categorized by the type of existing information each town had in place. Phase 1 consisted of thirty-seven coastally influenced towns and is complete. Phase 2 consists of towns that have cadastral data, and Phase 3 consists of towns with only paper records. These phases are being accomplished simultaneously, depending on regional scheduling and data availability. In order to facilitate this project, the Department of Environmental Protection's workers travel to each town to research parcel data and extract basic information about protected open space parcels from Town Clerk and Town Assessor's land records.



The criteria defining open space for this project focus on undeveloped land that enjoys a measure of protection from development by virtue of its ownership and use. It does not necessarily require permanent deed restrictions and is not always accessible to the general public. Most of the parcels included are owned by non-profit organizations or governmental institutions. DEP's Land Acquisition and Management Division is coordinating this effort. The project is expected to be complete by December 2010.

Education and Training Working Group members are:
Co-Chair: Peter Sandgren, DEMHS, **Co-Chair:** Sandy Prisløe, UCONN, Beth Stewart-Kelly Military Dept., Liz Crutcher, DOIT, Scott Roberts, Town of South Windsor, Dennis Barry, DSS, Peter Petrella, DSS, Arroll Borden, United Way, Bernard Asimonye, DOIT, Tyler Kleykamp, OPM.



Banana Boat Quote

Geography that is !

Send us your favorite Geography quote or comment and get your name up here!

Email them to the E&T Working Group at beth.kelly2@us.army.mil

New Britain's surveyors say "GIS stands for, *Get It Surveyed!*" The Assessor said, "I thought it was true in the beginning, but as we improve our GIS layers the surveyors will all come to us for data, and they'll see!"
Chas LaVoie,
New Britain's Assessor
May 2008

GIS Day is coming on November 19th 2008. Look for details in the Fall newsletter.

GEO NOTE

The Cadastral Data Subcommittee of the Connecticut Geospatial Council has posted a Draft Cadastral Standard on the Geospatial Council website at <http://www.ct.gov/gis/cwp>. If you are interested in commenting on the draft please email comments to Mark Goetz at: goetm001@hartford.gov



From the GeoDESK

Plant Collection donated by State Military to the Charles B. Graves Herbarium at Connecticut College

Linda Brunza, CT ARNG, Natural Resources, with Page Owen, Botany Dept. Chair, and Chad Jones, Plant Ecologist from Conn. College.

Understanding the natural resources of a military training site is imperative to the execution of sound management decisions, long-term sustainment, and successful integration of land use and the military mission. Data from surveying plant species are used to analyze resources and prepare and implement management plans.

A Plant Survey took place on four Connecticut installations in 2006 and 2007, conducted by the Center of Environmental Management of Military Lands from Colorado State University. GIS was an integral part of this survey. Detailed attributes were collected for each transect or point, including the location in UTM coordinates, vegetation components and characteristics, general soil type, and aspect. As a result of this study, an extensive herbarium collection was created. Approximately 600 plant species were pressed, dried and mounted as vouchers. Due to their fragile nature, the samples need to be maintained in long term storage with controlled temperature and humidity. A cooperative agreement was made between the CT Army National Guard and Connecticut College, a liberal arts college in New London and in close proximity to the training sites. The collection will be deposited with the *Charles B. Graves* herbarium at the college, where it is accessible to the military department and to the school's botany and environmental studies programs, providing an important supplement to their existing plant collection. The specimens will be used in teaching to help students learn to identify the plants of Connecticut and will be available for research projects as well. Because of the database and GIS information available for these specimens, they will be useful for studying the distributions of plant species in Connecticut.



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Are you a GIS Professional?

About GISCI . . .

The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) is a tax-exempt not-for-profit organization that provides the geographic information systems (GIS) community with a complete certification program. GISCI offers participants from the first early years on the job until retirement a positive method of developing value for professionals and employers in the GIS profession.

REMINDER: The Grandfathering Provision ends on January 1, 2009. All Grandfathering Applications must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2008 to be considered. The Grandfathering Provision is for experienced practitioners. The current practitioner's experience is allowed to compensate for deficiencies in the other two Achievement Categories. Therefore, the Grandfathering Provision is based solely on experience. If a minimum number of years, or points, of experience is met, then the individual obtains their certification. After that, they must attain the required points in each category for recertification.

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Island GIS

The San Salvador Island GIS Database

By Dr. R. Laurence Davis, June 2008

The San Salvador Island GIS Database is an organized collection of digital information and geographic data assembled for the island of San Salvador, Bahamas. It was created by Matthew C. Robinson and R. Laurence Davis at the University of New Haven's Geographical Information Systems Laboratory and the Gerace Research Center in San Salvador.

The database was built on research conducted by scientists working for the Government of the Bahamas. The project goal was to compile a database of digital information that would be useful for planning and conservation on the Island. The database includes information on topography and natural features such as beaches, blueholes, contour lines, lakes and ponds, tidal creeks and wetlands. Physical and geological features collected are caves, rock quarries, bedrock geology and the islands submarine shelf. Biological features of sensitive habitats, rare and endangered species, botanical communities and marshes, archaeological features and infrastructure are included as well.

All information collected is copyrighted by the University of New Haven but available to interested researchers.



From the GeoDESK

GPS Muster Winner

Bryan Pavlik from the Department of Public Safety came closest to the target (within one meter) and won the Global Positioning System (GPS) Muster at the NEARC Conference in Northampton, MA, this May. He used his inexpensive hand held GPS unit which was in competition with more advanced (and expensive) GPS units! Way to go Bryan!



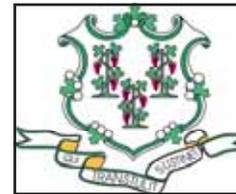
Bryan Pavlik, Dan Czaja and Aaron Nash

How to Link Your Municipal Website to the Oblique Imagery on Virtual Earth by Patrick Ladd, GIS Meriden

A picture may be worth a thousand words but linking your municipal web site to the Bird's Eye Viewer on Virtual Earth—maps.live only takes a few words. All you need is an address for the following URL. To try it, copy this line into a browser: <http://maps.live.com/default.aspx?where1=142 East Main St Meriden CT>. That's all it takes! The link opens Virtual Earth and automatically zooms to that address. While it doesn't open the Bird's Eye Viewer directly (you need to know the Scene ID for that), you simply click on the pop-up for Bird's Eye Viewer. It's very simple to do and has been widely received here in Meriden.

To do this as a link on your website, you can make the address a variable. Here's how the link might look in ASP.NET: `<a href="http://maps.live.com/default.aspx?where1=<%Response.Write(St_Num & " " & StreetName)%>%20Meriden%20CT" target=_blank>Bird's Eye View` where St_Num is the house address and StreetName is, well, street name.

You can do much more linking of your website to Virtual Earth by looking here: <http://www.viawindowslive.com/Resources/VirtualEarth/BuildyourownURL.aspx>.



From the GeoDESK

GIS for Fireworks

by Beth Stewart-Kelly

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Snowy Piping Plover found at Sandy Point West Haven



As we prepare for our Nation's birthday this 4th of July, one Connecticut town has moved to the forefront of being green. The West Haven Fireworks Committee introduced Geographical Information Systems for the first time in their 2008 marine permit application to the CT Coast Guard.

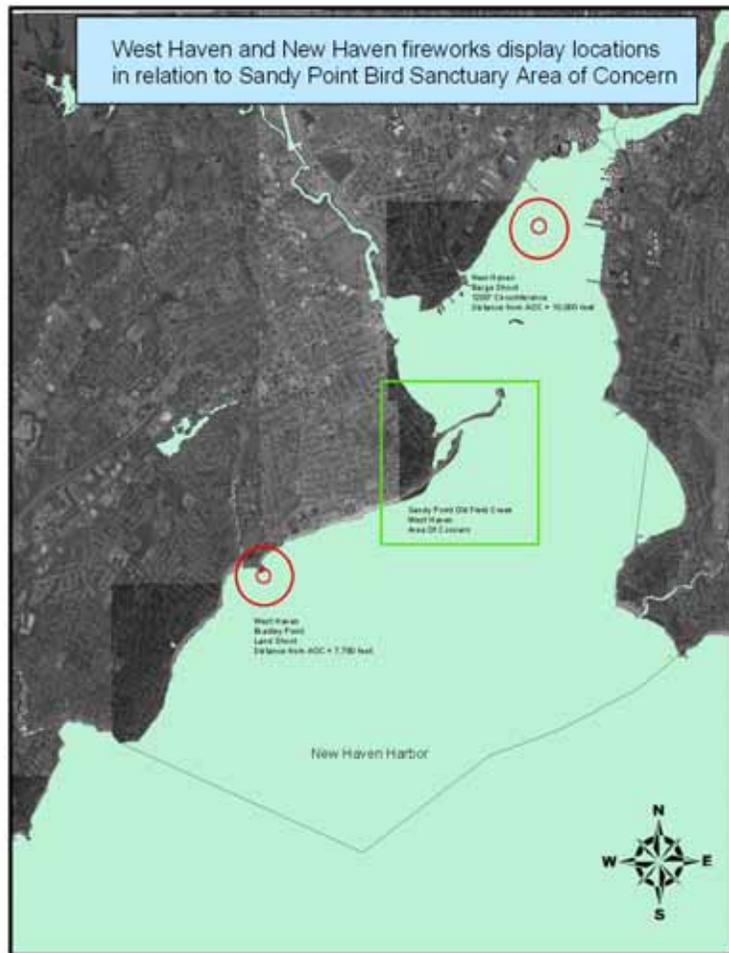
Sandy Point in West Haven is a 100 acre tidal habitat that is designated as a sensitive "area of concern" and is listed on the Natural Diversity database. It is a sanctuary for Piping Plovers, Least Terns and many other rare and endangered species. The committee worked in conjunction with the West Haven Open Space Commission by mapping their event location and New Haven's event location in relation to Sandy Point for planning purposes.

The Committee had been required to develop a Spectator Management Plan by the Department of Environmental Protection and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service because Sandy Point is between both West Haven and New Haven firework shoots. The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to beach managers and property owners seeking to avoid potential violations of Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1538) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 17) that could occur as the result of recreational activities on beaches used by breeding piping plovers along the Atlantic Coast.

This kind of event brings thousands of spectators to the shoreline every year with their picnic baskets, pets, personal fireworks and recreational equipment, all of which can have a profound affect on their habitat. Therefore, measures needed to be put in place to avoid direct and indirect impacts to the shoreline bird populations. The committee will utilize GIS in future events to monitor the effects at Sandy Point and to ensure the stability of existing Plover pairs.

Hopefully more municipalities will include GIS in their conservation efforts to better monitor the sensitive areas before during and after spectator events.

 This kind of event brings thousands of spectators to the shoreline every year.



West Haven Spectator Management Plan
Beth Stewart-Kelly - Data Source: City Of West Haven, City of New Haven, DEP 2004 OrthoPhotos 2/2008

NORTHEAST REGIONAL LISTS

VGIS List Serve (VGIS-L) The Vermont Center for Geographic Information maintains a list called VGIS-L, which focuses on GIS Activities within the State of Vermont. Visit www.vtgi.org for subscription instructions.

GISTalk List Serve (GISTalk-L) GISTalk™ forum will keep you up-to-date with the latest tips and tricks. Post your questions and share your unique experiences with a global audience of thousands of professionals. Visit www.nysgis.state.ny.us/outreach/listserv/index.cfm#gistalk for subscription instructions.

Northeast Arc Users Group (NEARC-L) The purpose of the list is to facilitate communication among NEARC members. The list can be used for meetings, seminars and conferences, raising questions about data availability, finding GIS applications, etc. Visit www.northeastarc.org for subscription instructions.



NAIP imagery to be acquired for Connecticut during Summer 2008

By Sandy Prisloe

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The State of Connecticut, as a result of the financial collaboration among a number of state agencies, has entered into a partnership with the USDA Aerial Photography Field Office to acquire statewide 1-meter 4-band NAIP digital aerial ortho-imagery. The imagery will be acquired during the summer of 2008 and will be available in the public domain as both USGS quarter quad uncompressed GeoTiff images and Compressed County Mosaics (CCMs) in JPEG2000 format.

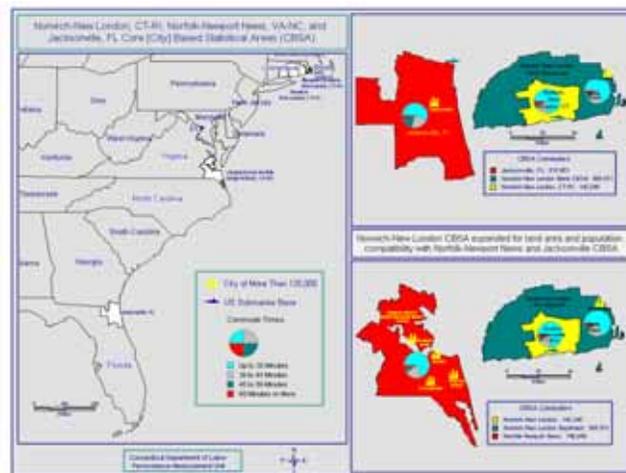
NAIP imagery, which stands for National Agriculture Imagery Program, is acquired by the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and is used by FSA to map and catalog areas of agricultural production throughout the US. Standard NAIP products include 2-meter resolution 3-band (red, green and blue) digital imagery and/or photographic film products. Connecticut was scheduled to have 2-meter NAIP imagery acquired in 2008 although a number of areas without active agriculture were to be excluded. Through a "buy-up" option the state will now acquire complete statewide coverage and at the higher 1-meter resolution. The imagery also will include a fourth near-infrared band which will help identify different types of land cover and vegetation. The imagery will be ortho-rectified and will have a horizontal accuracy of +/- 5 meters.



Sylvestre's Efforts Put His Work on the Map

By Alan Sylvestre 2008

A series of population density, housing availability, and commute time maps designed for the state's successful bid to the US Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRACC) to keep the US sub base in Groton has earned Al Sylvestre of the Performance Measurement Unit a runner-up award from his peers in the Pitney Bowes Map-Info geographic information systems (GIS) software user community.



The entry by Sylvestre, a Research Analyst, was singled out in the **"Interesting and Unusual"** category during a contest held early this spring by Pitney Bowes MapInfo of Stamford and Troy, NY. Contest winners were chosen by e-mail vote of the international MapInfo user community. In addition to being recognized by the international GIS community, Sylvestre's maps were part of a month-long display honoring national geography week last November at the State Legislative Office Building concourse, which was arranged by the Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council (GISC), an initiative composed of members representing municipalities, state agencies, and regional planning agencies, and is chaired by the CIO of the State Department of Information Technology.

The maps use census and state agency data to display locations of employment-entry and job-retention related services such as training programs, transit routes and child day care. According to Sylvestre "[The maps] illustrate conditions that worked in Connecticut's favor in reversing the BRACC decision." Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Core-based Statistical Area (CBSA's), the maps portray the regions competing for the Groton submarine base's operations (Norwich-New London, CT, Jacksonville, FL, and Norfolk/Newport News, Va.) as the common geographic element. "The maps show the concentration of residents living and working in the base's economic sphere of influence," he adds.

They also show "housing vacancy rates to imply the availability of places where base employees can live and reflect commute times to illustrate that a higher proportion of workers have shorter commutes around the Groton base than they do in the other locations."

Sylvestre's award was presented at the May 21 luncheon held during MapInfo's MapWorld 2008 International Users Conference at the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas.

