GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Online Express Edition

Shared GIS Services Continue to Expand at Westchester County

New advancements in web technology offer a variety of products and services

In today's economy, governments at all levels are searching for ways to pool and share resources to support day-to-day business functions. To this end, Westchester County GIS continues to build upon 20 years of geographic information systems (GIS) development by championing efforts to publish and share geospatial products which provide visible and tangible cost savings to local governments throughout the county.

While proactive GIS data sharing has always been one of the most visible means of how governments can collaborate together in reducing the costs of data development, new advancements in the internet web mapping technology being made available through the County's GIS program offers additional benefits to local governments with limited resources and GIS infrastructure. The County's GIS internet products and services – many of
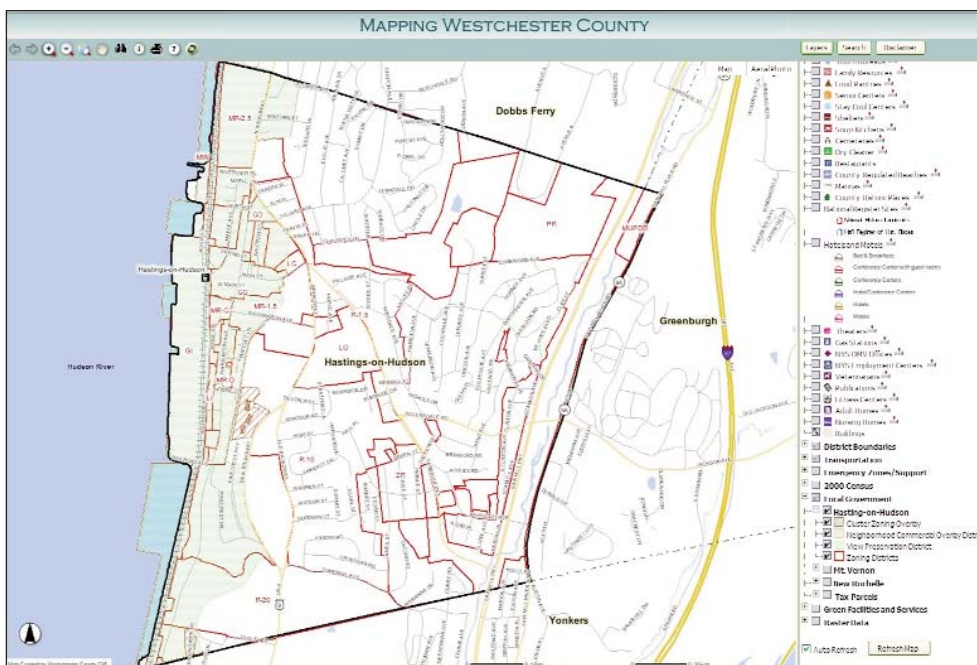
which require only a web browser to access - can be leveraged as a single application or "mashed-up" with local client applications or other map services.

One of the most requested applications from local governments is a tax parcel viewer which generates mailing labels. County GIS staff have recently completed a new version of this application and will be prototyping with two municipalities this spring. Local governments can also immediately create a web mapping program for their municipality by obtaining a unique URL from the County and embedding it on their website. This free URL leverages the the County's flagship web mapping application *Mapping Westchester County* (see examples below).

Desktop products such as ArcReader are being updated for each municipality to include new datasets and will soon be

available for download from the County's GIS website. ArcReader requires no licensing fee and can be loaded from http://www.esri.com/arcreader. The County's geospatial outreach also includes ongoing work with fire districts to inventory and map fire hydrants and a recent grant application which, if funded, would examine how the County's GIS resources and services can be leveraged to support mapping functions in local school districts.

An overview of Westchester County GIS programs and services will be presented at the next Westchester County GIS User Group meeting scheduled for April 8th from 1:30- 3:30 at 143 Grand Street (2nd Floor) in downtown White Plains. For more information on GIS Shared Services, contact Ilir Tota at iat2@westchestergov.com.

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As part of the GIS Shared Services program, Westchester County GIS is preparing ArcReader projects for each municipality which will be available for download from the GIS website. The legend highlights dozens of GIS data layers which are included in the project.

Upcoming Events

April 8, 2010
143 Grand Street
White Plains.

GIS for Public Works
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Westchester County GIS User Group
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

GIS users from local governments, industry, and academia are encouraged to attend.

To register, contact Ilir Tota at (914) 995-5605 or email at iat2@westchestergov.com. For updated program agenda, directions, and related meeting information visit http://giswww.westchestergov.com.

Westchester County Bee-Line Bus System
Title VI Evaluation of Service Changes

As a recipient of federal transportation funds, the Westchester County Department of Transportation (WCDOT) is required to adhere to specific federal regulations, including those related to compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. WCDOT assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, disability or national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.L. 100.259), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity. WCDOT further assures every effort will be made to ensure nondiscrimination in all of its programs and activities, whether those programs and activities are federally funded or not. A compliance assessment of proposed service modifications is based on U.S. Census Tracts where both percentages of minority population and the population below the poverty level exceed the Westchester County average. As service changes are developed, GIS helps WCDOT determine the impact on minority and low-income population areas. Maps are then prepared to document the Title VI analysis for submittal to the Federal Transit Administration. For more information, please contact Jennifer Irven at jmi2@westchestergov.com.

Featured Project
Municipal Tax Parcel Viewer

Westchester County GIS is developing a "Municipal Tax Parcel Viewer" which can be deployed over the web and made available to local governments. The application uses ArcGIS Server JavaScript API and cached map services for both tax parcel layers and aerial photos that increase the performance significantly and give the user a much better experience with the application. Leveraging the County's existing web mapping environment (ArcGIS Server REST services) the application requires no specialized GIS mapping sofware to use and was developed entirely in-house.

The application will enable citizens to identify a parcel by simply clicking on any parcel, or search a parcel by owner's name, address or print key. Citizens and assessor's office are able to query surrounding parcels by entering a buffer distance and create mailing labels, which will be a PDF file in Avery standard format, directly from the program, or export the result to a Excel file for further editing. The tax maps will show parcel dimensions and parcel ID when it is zoomed to certain level. Users can also switch to aerial photos to see the property's photograph, or see it on Google Maps or Bing Maps. For more information, contact Zhenglu Zhang at zqz1@westchestergov.com or Ilir Tota at iat2@westchestergov.com.

The new Tax Parcel Viewer application enables users to search for individual properties and then generate an "abutters" mailing list. Parcels identified in the abutters query are displayed in the left panel. Users can also print mailing labels for the search result as a PDF file in Avery standard format or exported to Excel file.

GIS Training

Over the past several weeks, Westchester County GIS staff has been offering a series of GIS training sessions focusing on web-based mapping applications which are currently available to county employees. Over 100 county employees representing 22 different departments and agencies have attended the training. For more information, contact Cindy Marx at llc4@westchestergov.com.

New Countywide Data Posted

Recently, Westchester County GIS developed four separate countywide transportation datasets: roadways (including unpaved roads), parking lots, driveways and sidewalks. Also newly posted to the central database, are countywide spot elevations in three categories: bridges, ground, and water. Metadata is available for all these layers.

Flown for a New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) project, spring-2009 one-foot orthophotography was just received at the County. The imagery, reviewed for acceptance by the State's Digital Orthoimagery Program (NYSDOP), includes a fourth Color Infrared band, which can be useful for evaluating vegetation. The County is also expecting LiDAR data, acquired for the same project, to be delivered in the next few weeks.

Be Fit Mapping

Westchester County GIS is working closely with staff from the county Department of Health (DOH) in adding a "BeFit" module to Mapping Westchester County. The program promotes the availability of countywide fitness and smart eating options. The module will allow county residents to enter an address and locate nearby "Be Fit" locations such as parks, playgrounds, hiking trails, fitness centers, swimming pools, sports fields and Farmer's Markets. The application is anticipated to be online later this spring. For more information, please contact Cindy Marx at llc4@westchestergov.com.

Westchester GIS at CELF

Westchester County GIS will be exhibiting at the 5th annual Childrens Environmental Literacy Foundation (CELF) Students for a Sustainable Future EXPO'10 on Tuesday, April 20. The event will take place at PACE University in Pleasantville, from 6-9 p.m. This year, EXPO'10 will focus on Green Schools and resources available in the county and around the area. The county GIS program will be highlighting its work and association with the GreenMap organization, (www.greenmap.org) and other geospatial mapping efforts in the areas of conservation and sustainability. For more information, please visit the EXPO website at http://celfeducation.org/.