Visit us on Linkedin

Interested in GIS jobs? Need to access expert opinions? Want to know what is happening around the State? Help build your GIS network on Linkedin.

MSGIC is on Linkedin

Upcoming Events

• Summer Quarterly at Silver Spring

Join us at Veterans Plaza in Silver Spring on July 27.

Agenda

• MidShore Regional GIS Committee

MidShore Regional GIS Committee meetings is October 26 in the morning. Location to TBD. Contact Lauren McDermott at Salisbury University for more details..

• MSGIC Executive Meetings.

Look for more information regarding the MSGIC Executive meeting on August 10.

• Fall Quarterly at Frederick County Community College

Join us in Frederick on October 19.

Maryland State Geographic Information Committee

ISSUE 01 Summer 2011

Committed to Excellence in the Development and Coordination of Geographic Information Technologies

Geospatial Maryland

MSGIC

MSGIC was established by the Governor of Maryland in 1992 to help better serve the GIS community in Maryland. MSGIC members represent all levels of government, academia, regional organizations, and private industry. Through our volunteer organization, our goal is to help make GIS in Maryland better.

- Serve as a focal point for coordination of GIS activities statewide.
- Reduce duplication of GIS efforts within Maryland.
- Support development of geographic data sets that are useful for multiple purposes, recognizing that individual entities may be responsible for developing and maintaining specific data sets.
- Develop and work to implement standards and guidelines for GIS in Maryland.
- Promote the preservation of valuable GIS data, recognizing that such data are a capital asset.

Have a good idea? Looking to get involved? This newsletter will help guide you to some of the opportunities to help grow the use of GIS in The State of Maryland.

Maryland State Geographic Information Committee

this issue

Momentum for Maryland's Statewide GIS Inventory

By Ashley Buzzeo and Susan Wooden

When MSGIC launched an ambitious 3-week initiative in February to encourage Maryland's government agencies, counties, regional councils, and private corporations to inventory their GIS data holdings into a national database, our GIS community rose to the challenge and greatly exceeded the goals.

MSGIC chose the National States Geographic Information Council's *Ramona GIS Inventory Tool* to capture data ownership and sharing information. The Center for GIS (CGIS) at Towson University coordinated an upbeat campaign to encourage data producers statewide to inventory specific framework layers into Ramona as a foundation. The Governor's Office expanded the original list of datasets to include many others of particular importance to public safety.

Our success is measured in tangible results: by February 28, the final day of the challenge, 1,109 data layers had been entered into Ramona. Here's the breakdown by data producer.

- 426 state agency data layers
- 14 private entity data layers
- 2 regional group data layers
- 1 federal agency data layer
- 666 county data layers

Going forward, we're putting all of the lessons learned to good use as we work on a process that maintains momentum and updates
Ramona with as many data layers from as many data producers as possible. To date, more than 1,200 data layers have been inventoried in Ramona for Maryland. Governor Martin O'Malley has declared February as GIS Inventory Month, so we'll be launching our next ambitious initiative on National GIS Day in November.

To find out more about Ramona and Maryland's 3-week challenge, visit http://gisinventory.net/.

Visit http://www.msgic.state.md.us/events/gisinvmonth/GovProc2011.pdf to read the Governor's proclamation and the reasons why MSGIC continues striving to bring data, people, and technology together to apply GIS for the greater good of Maryland and her citizens.

MSGIC NewsLine:

— MSGIC Election announced 7/27
— MacKenzie GIS Honored by ESRI

Read more on the MSGIC website.

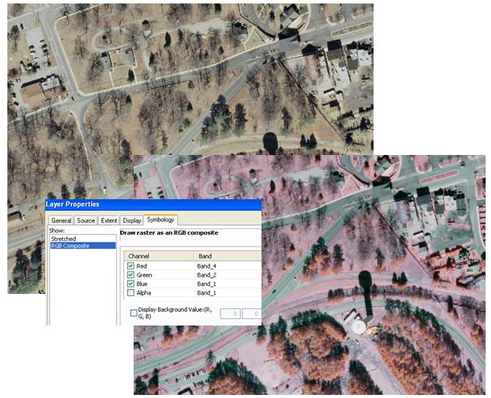
How To ??

Register for Ramona

The GIS Inventory is produced by the National States' Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) as an online engagement tool for States and their partners. Its primary purpose is to track the status of geographic information system (GIS) characteristics and data production in U.S. state and local governments to aid the planning and building of State Spatial Data Infrastructures (SSDI's).

There are two main types of users who benefit from the GIS Inventory: a) regional, state and local GIS data producers/publishers who register a profile and record their authoritative GIS data holdings; and b) partners from state, federal, private and non-profit agencies as well as the general public who are interested in viewing reports on the status of GIS data across a State or region.

Read More



Statewide Orthoimagery

Orthoimagery is a key framework dataset for most GIS applications.

By Jim Cannistra

Several exciting initiatives related to orthoimagery are underway that will result in updated orthoimagery for Maryland.

First, orthoimagery flown in the spring of 2010 for the eastern shore has been completed. This 0.5' / 6" orthoimagery has been delivered to the 9 Eastern Shore Counties. Over the next several months this imagery will be used to update the 6" imagery map service contained on the iMAP servers and will be provided to the United States Geological Survey for updating the National Map. Other data requests will be administered by the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative.

For the remainder of the State (14 counties and Baltimore City) new orthoimagery will be produced from 2011 aerial photography flown by Axis Geospatial and its team of sub consultants. Over 32,000 aerial photographs were acquired between March 1st and April 15th of this year. Photography was captured using a Z/I Imaging Digital Mapping Cameras (DMC) which has the capability for the collection of color, color infrared and panchromatic imagery data within a single mission.

For more information contact:

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Department of Information Technology
Ken.Miller@doit.state.md.us

James Cannistra, Director of Data Planning Service
Maryland Department of Planning
jcannistra@mdp.state.md.us

Useful Links
http://www.imap.maryland.gov
http://nationalmap.gov/ortho.html
http://www.esrgc.org

Product Specifications:

Imagery is being produced in accordance with the following standards.

- *Resolution:* 6" / 0.5' GSD
- *Accuracy:* ASPRS Class I – 2' RMSE
- *Coordinate System:* NAD83/2007 HARN Adjustment, State Plane
- *Bands:* 4-band (RGB + NIR) image capture and product delivery
- *Format:* TIFF format w/ world files deliveries in ft (primary) and meters (secondary)
- *Tiling*: 4000' * 6000' tiles
- *Compressed imagery* JPEG (4-band) *and* SID (3-band)

Funding for this project was provided by the Emergency Number Systems Board (ENSB) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). This contract is being managed by the State's GIO and the Maryland Department of Planning. Several communities exercised buy up options including LiDAR (Howard and Calvert Counties), 0.25' resolution imagery (Annapolis and the Maryland Port Authority). Aerial flights over a potion of the Chesapeake Bay are also planned. Oblique imagery is another buy-up options that could be exercised in the future.

Data will be quality controlled by Axis Team member URS Consultants, Inc. with supplemental reviews being conducted by the State/County representatives. The western shore imagery will be produced over a 1 year timeframe with interim product deliveries made on a block basis beginning in the late summer.

PLANNING 2.0
allegany county, md

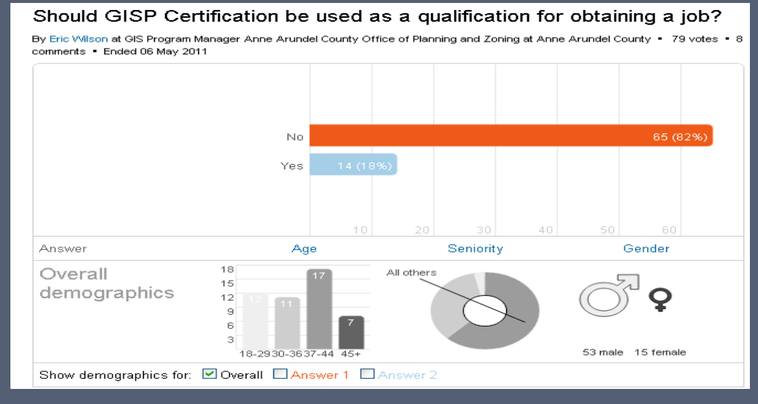
Allegany County Released Planning 2.0

By Elizabeth Stahlman and Greg Hildreth

In April of 2011, Allegany County released the Planning 2.0 web map application. The website has been designed to streamline the public commenting process regarding Land Use designations within the county. Planning 2.0 encourages greater participation among the public in the County's planning process. Citizens are able to search for their property, view the Existing Land Use and the projected Future Land Use, and then add a comment to their property through a mapping and form driven interface. Comments will be reviewed by the Allegany County Planning Division and property owners are contacted by a member of the Planning staff.

The Land Use data displayed on the website was developed by the Allegany County Planning Division. The Planning 2.0 website was developed by the Allegany County GIS Office using ESRI ArcMap, ArcServer, ArcSDE, and Adobe Flash Builder software. This is the first application deployed by Allegany County that uses GIS software to seek public feedback via the internet. Planning 2.0 has formalized and standardized what has in the past been a very impromptu and time consuming process. The website has improved communication by reducing scheduling conflicts and by documenting each submission in one central geodatabase. When a user submits a comment, they are actually editing a versioned feature class through a feature service layer. The date associated with each submission allows the planning staff to address comments in order. The additional data layers available on the site add objectivity to the discussion between the planning staff and the public. Planning 2.0 has improved internal workflows for the county while simultaneously allowing the public to better access those workflows and influence the planning process. Developing the site in-house may have been a requirement due to tight budgets, but the end product is an example of the potential within the County and should raise the bar on what can be expected of County staff resources.

Q&A: Should GISP be used as a qualification for getting a job?



GIS in the News

GIS "Rock Stars" in Europe, Africa #esriuc

Timothy Schilling was a USAID worker and his wife Michele Schilling taught GIS in Rwanda. The result? Raising the income for an entire nation. How did they do it?

Read More

Latest Esri Map Book Illustrates Broad Range of GIS Capabilities.

Containing more than 100 maps, this edition clearly shows how GIS users contribute ever-increasing amounts of data and other resources to promote sustainable development and a more hopeful future. Each map is accompanied by a description of how it was produced, for what purpose, and by whom. Esri Map Book, Volume 26, is an important collection of maps for GIS users, cartographers, collectors, and map libraries.

Read More

MSGIC Pick

Energy Maryland Map

As energy costs rise and environmental concerns grow, the Maryland Department of General Services is incorporating energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies into the **Maryland government's infrastructure. Clean, green energy sources such as the solar, wind and biomass conserves energy and saves money while reducing our carbon footprint to help protect the environment.**

View the map