



Developing a Standard GIS Map Set

RPC is developing a standard GIS map set that will eventually be available 'on demand' for all communities in the region. Once completed, we will have uniform *regional* datasets for each of our 'standard' layers. Each layer will incorporate a standard (not T specific) set of attributes, and map symbology. This will better enable us to produce maps of multiple town areas as well as result in -around time for many map requests.

We anticipate the automation, update and production of approximately five towns per year. Funding for this project was provided in part by the NH Office of State Planning through the Target Grant. Please contact David Wickliffe, GIS Specialist, for more infor-

RPC Standard Map Set	
Base Map/Transportation Map	Base features plus Legislative highway classification; - roads with bus service, commuter rail,
	Town zoning map (if GIS version available) or RPC representation of generalized zoning districts
	1992 aerial photo interpretation of general categories,
Land Cover / Land Use	Satellite imagery data (Landsat TM), -
Surface Water Resources	Wetlands, watersheds, rivers/streams, flood hazard
Stratified Drift Aquifers	Aquifers by transmissivity range.
Conservation Lands Map	GRANIT & RPC new submissions (with database
Composite Tax Map	(where digital composite map is available)
Cultural, Historic and	NRHP, REPP, Graveyards, other if available...
Community Facilities Map	community resources, water & sewer service
	contour lines over hillshade relief model
Soil Potential for Devel.	to development potential
Digital Orthophoto Map	1998 digital orthophoto maps (DOQs)

Regional Master Plan: Housing Chapter

The RPC is nearing completion of one more component of its Regional Master Plan, the **Housing Chapter**. While still in **DRAFT** form, we are hopeful that the document will be reviewed by the Commission and released for general comment in September.

The Housing Master Plan examines the Region's housing stock including development trends, housing types, household characteristics, housing costs, and a variety of other information as available from the 2000 Census and other sources. The Chapter also re the comparative rates (and growing gap) between employment growth and housing production in the region and the effect thi had on housing costs. The document will ultimately contain a new Regional Housing Needs Analysis as required by NH RSA §36 to replace the Commission's 1994 Analysis, however, this comp o will not be completed until the release of a revised analysis method being cooperatively developed by the NHOSP, regional p agencies and NH Housing Finance Authority, expected in January

While regional housing analyses may not be the most exciting of topics, it is one that affects us all. Throughout much of the region the construction of large, expensive sing become the norm. Using a measuring stick that compares federally defined fair market rents to incomes, Hampshire is real and growing. The National Association of Home-

builders found that Portsmouth was the seventh least affordable housing market in the United States. The only markets where housing is less affordable are all in California, and include San Francisco and the Silicon Valley. Such conditions are not healthy for the region, now or in the future. The Housing Chapter includes sug- methods communities can use to help encourage a diversity sing to meet the needs of a diverse population. For more information on the subject, please contact John Krebs, Senior Planner.

NH Land and Community Heritage Invest

The NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) anticipates opening Grant Round #4 on September 4, 2002. Six million dollars in funding is available for all eligible natu l- tural and historic resource projects. Because this round will grant the rest of the current appropriations from the legislature, competi- tion is expected to be fierce. Materials will be available and e- to those on the Round 4 list on September 4th electronic mailing list please go to the LCHIP website: www.lchip.org to register. Applicants in Grant Round 4 will have approximately six weeks from the opening date to submit proposals; all deadlines will be announced at a later date. The LCHIP office phone number is 224-4113 and the email address is inf

The RPC can provide communities with assistance in completing the LCHIP application. Please contact Theresa Walk - for more information.

Wildlife Master Plan Chapter

The RPC has prepared a Wildlife Master Plan chapter for the t Newfields. This is a new undertaking for the commission and is one of the first of its kind in New Hampshire. The RPC was able to un- dertake this project, in tandem with a complete master plan up for the town, with funds from the *Regional Environmental Plan-* (REPP) provided through NHDES. The Wildlife chap- ter focuses on wildlife habitat identification and preservation. There is a substantial GIS mapping component to the chapter th to depict important wildlife habitat. It was modeled in large part from *nd Protecting New Hampshire's Significant Wildlife Habitat – A Guide for Towns Conservation Groups* published by the Nongame and Endan Wildlife Program of New Hampshire Fish and Game Depart more information about a wildlife chapter component of the master plan for your community contact Theresa Walker or M

Regional Bike Maps!

Recreational and commuter bicyclists in New Hampshire now have new maps available to make their cycling experiences more enjoy- able! This past May the NH Dept. of Transportation released a series of 8 maps containing suggested bike routes for NH's 7 tourist regions. Routes were developed with assistance from the Bicy and Pedestrian Advisory Board, the Granite State Wheelmen and many other experienced cyclists throughout the State. The maps not only direct cyclists to the best travel routes, but include the State's bicycle laws and rules of the road, and provide valuable cy- -related information including seasonal weather conditions, state parks, rest and information areas, and contact informatio variety of state and local tourism agencies, local chambers of com- merce, and transportation providers.

For complete coverage of the Rockingham Planning Commission region, pick up copies of the "Seacoast" and "Merrimack Valley Re- gion South" maps, both of which are available at the RPC. The en- tire series of 8 maps are available free of charge at State welcome centers and rest areas, or by calling NHDOT's Bureau of Transporta- tion Planning at 271-

Local Hazard Mitigation Planning

The New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management (NHOEM), with funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Mitigation Assistance Program (MAP), has set a goal for all communities within the State of New Hampshire to have hazard mitigation plans as a means to reduce future losses from natural hazard events before they occur. The Commission, along with the other regional planning agencies throughout the state, has begun the preparation of hazard mitigation plans for communities around the state. This year the RPC will receive MAP funding for the next several years. The RPC will receive MAP funding for the next several years in the preparation of local hazard mitigation plans until all RPC communities have prepared and adopted

Why adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

- To improve upon the protection of the general population from all
- To reduce the potential impact of natural and man-made disasters on the critical support services, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, the natural environment, specific historic interests and the local economy.
- To improve emergency preparedness.

- Improve the disaster response and recovery cap
- To reduce liability with respect to natural and man-
- To identify, introduce and implement cost effective Hazard Mitigation
- To be eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) assistance and funding.

If your community is interested in preparing a local hazard plan or if you have any questions about the process contact Mike Garrepy or Theresa Walker at the RPC office.

Aerial Photo Maps Distributed to Communities

Using our 1998 black and white digital orthophotos we have aerial photo maps for each RPC community. Orthophotos are aerial photographs that have been digitally corrected to remove distortions of relief and camera tilt. Thus, they have the detail of a photograph and the scale properties of a map. These maps were printed on paper, giving them a high-quality look. The maps were distributed to the RPC Commissioners in attendance at the July Commission meeting for delivery to their respective communities. The remaining maps have been delivered directly by RPC staff. Reprints are available, contact David Wickliffe, GIS Specialist, for

RPC Communities Awarded LCHIP Funding from Spring Grant Round

LCHIP awarded four grants in the RPC region this spring for historic preservation studies. The Danville Heritage Commission received \$2,500 towards an engineering study for rehabilitation of the 1886 Victorian style Town Hall. In Hampton the James House Association was awarded \$12,000 to conduct an Historic Structures Report for the 1723 James House, one of the earliest surviving examples of a center chimney colonial house in the State.

The Portsmouth, NH chapter of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America received \$10,000 to study the source of water encroachment into the basement of the Ladd House. Moisture problems endanger the long-term survival of the building, which is a National Historic landmark. The Portsmouth Music Hall was awarded \$900 to conduct an Historic Structures Report for the opera house built in 1878. It is the oldest theatre in the state and the report will be used to develop a restoration

RPC Annual Meeting — Executive Committee Members

At the RPC Annual Meeting this past June, the Commission elected Dick Sunday of Salem to be its Chairman for 2002-2003. Dick is a commercial real estate broker with a long interest in community and regional planning and a member of the RPC Executive Committee since 1999. Stepping down as Chairman, Ralph Foster from Hampton Falls completed his second term as RPC Chair. Also stepping down from the Executive Committee was Marilyn Senter (Plaistow), Warren Bambury (Hampton) and Joseph Kenick (Exeter) after serving for many years.

The new members of the Executive Committee are Rep. Richard Cooney (Salem), Bob Brown (Rye), and Barbara Hill (Newington). Awards were presented to Ted To Bruce Dearborn each for five years of service; and Barbara Hill, Martha Fuller Clark, and Dave Holden all for 10 years of service. Also recognized was Assistant Director, Glenn Greenwood, for fifteen years of service to the RPC.

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