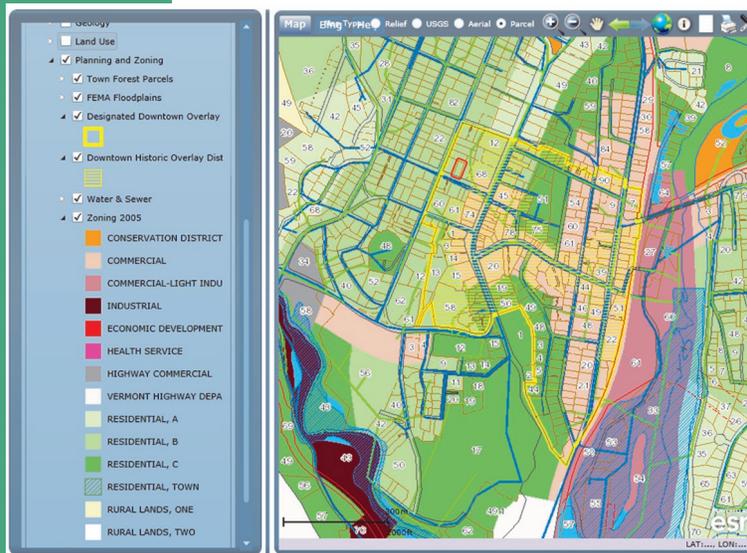


Statewide VT Parcel Mapping Data

Why is Statewide Parcel Data Important?

- Parcel data can be used by towns to ensure that their grand list is accurate and equitable, and to plan for community resilience.
- Statewide, consistent, current parcel data can be used by state agencies to analyze the impact of state policies, and to efficiently plan and implement road construction projects.
- Environmental consulting firms, foresters, surveyors, real estate agents, and engineers all use existing parcel data to provide services to the citizens of VT's towns.
- Parcel data, used with existing online mapping applications, allow citizens to see how their property boundaries relate to zoning, natural resources, and their neighbors' property.



The Goals:

CONSISTENT DATA

Each town's parcel data would follow the state parcel data content **standard**, allowing it to be easily combined and viewed with other towns' data.

CURRENT DATA

Each town's data would be **updated** annually or every few years so that it reflects the current situation.

STATEWIDE DATA

Every town would have consistent, current, digital parcel data available to the town, citizens, state entities, and the private sector.

Vermont's towns are responsible for determining the value of real estate owned within their boundaries and for taxing those properties. For many years, land ownership information was of interest to the owners, neighbors, town, and no one else.

Today, information about land ownership and value is key to many public and private functions: regional planning, transportation planning and construction, state analysis of settlement patterns, taxation equity, and the impact of state programs, just to name a few.

The current state of Vermont's parcel data (from a statewide perspective) is inconsistent and fragmented. Some towns have current data that meets the state data standard, but many are either out of date or don't contain elements that make it easier to combine with neighboring towns, and a few towns don't have

Another major issue with town parcel data is that the various patches of our statewide parcel data quilt don't necessarily line up properly. Since there is no official digital town boundary mapping layer, towns and their mapping consultants don't have to make sure that their boundaries line up with parcel data from neighboring towns. There are existing disagreements about the location of some shared town boundaries, as well.

How can we improve the existing parcel data, create data for the towns that currently have none, stitch all of the data together seamlessly, and not break the bank at either the town or state level?

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What is the State Doing About it?

Possible Scenarios:

Totally Towns

Money to subsidize parcel creation/updates flows to towns when their data adheres to the standard and they provide it to an identified compiler periodically.

Substantially State

Funding goes to a state program that receives or collects boundary update information and maintains the statewide database of parcel boundaries. Towns still contract directly with mappers to create tax maps.

Outsourced

Similar to State option above, but the state would actually contract with an outside organization or consultant to run the program.

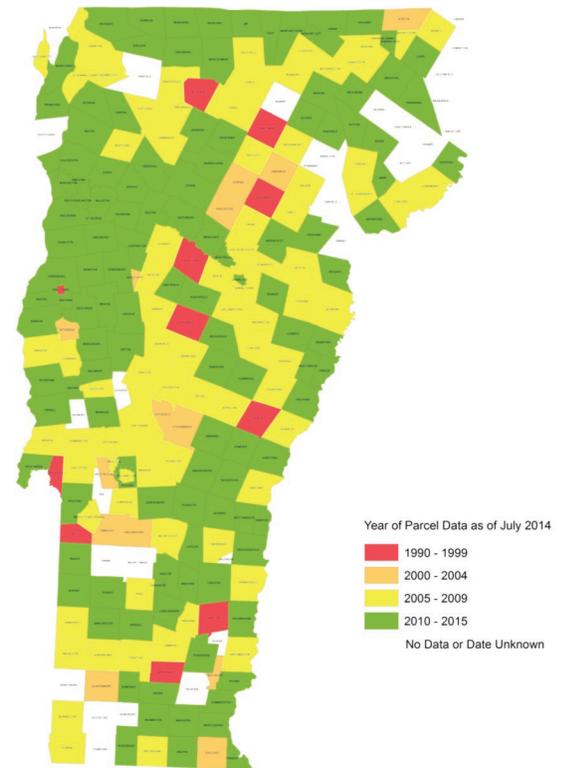
These three options are only being talked about and explored at this time. Your input is welcome: Survey???

Since the fall of 2013, a group of representatives of state agencies and departments, interested nonprofits, and professional organizations have been meeting to discuss how to make consistent, current, statewide parcel data happen in Vermont. That group eventually became the EGC's (Enterprise Geospatial Consortium) Parcel Workgroup.

The workgroup has been discussing the technical aspects of an imagined statewide parcel data layer as well as the political and funding aspects. We are very aware of what a complicated issue this is and therefore have taken time to try to work through the many questions that have come up.

VTrans Right of Way Division identified a pool of money that they were interested in using to fund an initial effort to bring all towns' data up to the level of the state standard. VTrans leadership is still considering whether to spend the money on this effort. In the meantime, VTrans is funding a Return on Investment report and an additional report that will explore possible funding mechanisms for a long-term parcel data maintenance program in VT.

VT Digital Parcel Data Status July 2014



Workgroup Participants

- VT Center for Geographic Information
- VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- VT Agency of Transportation
- VT Dept. of Taxes
- VT Agency of Natural Resources
- VT League of Cities and Towns
- VT Association of Listers and Assessors
- VT Society of Land Surveyors
- VT Regional Planning Commissions

Issues to be Worked Out

- Funding source
- Program structure
- Program home
- Who updates the data
- How does funding get to towns

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