

A quarterly newsletter to keep people informed of updates and changes to the City's Geographic Information System

Volume 2, Issue 1

Fall 2011

FOLLOW THIS LINK TO THE NEW PUBLIC WEB GIS SITE

<http://gis.marlborough-ma.gov>

Welcome to the fifth edition of the *GISette!* This edition is going to deviate somewhat from the typical format. I am dedicating this abbreviated newsletter to coincide with the public release of the City's new *PIMA* GIS website. **GIS is now available to the general public!** This represents a real milestone in how Marlborough's geographic information system will aid the general public, professionals and city employees alike.

From this issue forward, I will also be including a 'Tips and Tricks' section to the newsletter in the hopes that it will make using the web mapping site easier to use. There are a lot of tools built in to the new site.

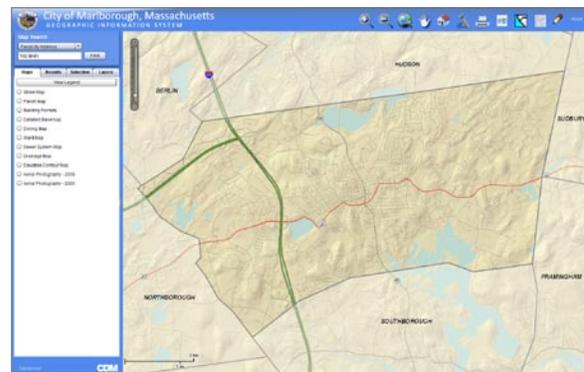
The GIS Website Allows Users to:

- Create Abutters Lists
- Identify Parcels and Ownership Information
- Measure distances and areas
- Create and Print Fully Customizable Maps
- Turn on and off layers, displaying a range of information
- View and download plans

PIMA is Here!

Marlborough's Public Information Mapping Application

For several years now, Marlborough has had an internal website that has allowed its employees to access the city's geographic information system (GIS). The site has gives users the ability to gather and display information from the Assessor's Office, Engineering Division, Water and Sewer Division and the Building Department. "Layers" can be turned off and on as needed allowing users to create fully customizable maps. These maps displaying the information desired help in making better and more informed decisions. It has also saved valuable time and effort by bringing information from multiple resources into one easy to use location.



Click the image to go to the new PIMA site

The benefits to the general public should become immediately obvious. The ease of access will make gathering information for real estate professionals, surveyors and homeowners a much quicker process. Although it will not eliminate the need completely, the requirement to visit already busy municipal offices for certain types of information will be greatly reduced. This new public access to the city's GIS site will allow us to be better and more efficiently serve residents of Marlborough and the general public as a whole.

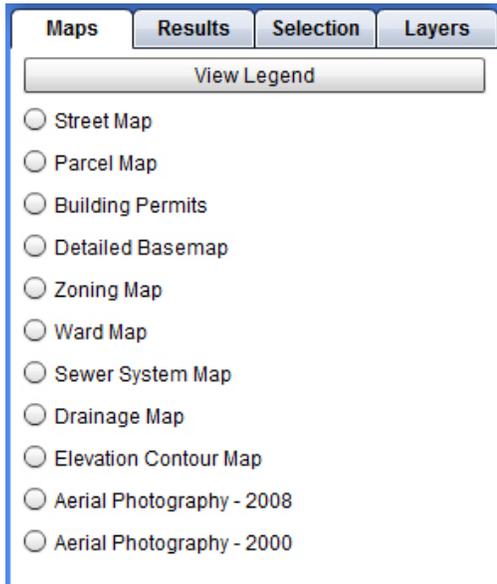
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- 1 List of Functions
- 2 "Quick Maps"
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Maps with the touch of a single button

Pre-made “Quick maps” make it easy to view relevant information

One aspect of the new site that enhances its ease of use is the availability of readymade “quick maps”. Although there are dozens of layers of information that can be turned on and off within the site, we have found that certain sets of predetermined layers grouped together and turned on with a single button, makes the average user’s experience a more efficient and effective one. The various themes of these predetermined maps come from years of usage and trying to understand what people



need in order to get the answers they are looking for as quickly as possible. Therefore, we have arrived at a set of eleven themed maps that people can choose from. (See graphic) These can be further customized with the addition of layers added as needed. But as you can see, the quick maps range from very general to specific in nature and should answer most inquiries quickly and efficiently. The new site operates in a similar manner to well known web mapping applications such as Google and Bing maps. The site uses scale dependencies and the ‘caching’ of layers to make display more fluidly and draw faster. That means that more or less information is displayed depending on how far in or how far out you are zoomed on the desired map. The closer in you get, the more information is displayed. This list of maps can also be changed depending on the needs of the users. Adding a new quick map is a simple process should the demand for one arise. We want to encourage users to make suggestions about the site. After all, this is here to serve the public and make *your* life easier.

TIPS AND TRICKS

CREATING AN ABUTTERS LIST

1. Open the site and navigate to the property whose abutters you would like to locate. Use the “Map Search” function in the top left of the site. Once located, click “Zoom and Select”
2. Once located, move your cursor to the “Extended Tools” button  at the top of the page and click to open it.
3. Select the pushpin icon  to activate the abutters tool. A new box will appear.
4. Enter the specified distance (in feet) around the property that you require.
5. Next, click on the parcel. It should turn red as an indicator, and then click “Buffer”.
6. The results of your query will be displayed in the column to the left. This list may be saved as an Excel spreadsheet or used to create mailing labels directly by clicking “Export” at the top of your selection set.



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