

Cambridge GIS

Summer 2013 Newsletter

Cambridge Geographic Information System

GIS Staff

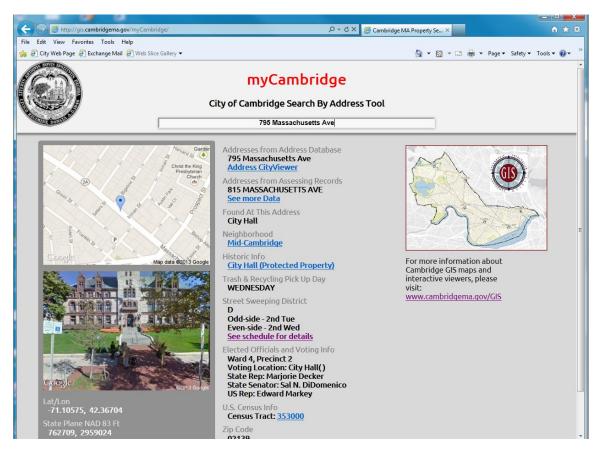
IT Department Jeff Amero, GIS Manager Sean Sweeney, GIS Specialist Katie Grillo, GIS Technician

Community Development Brendan Monroe, GIS Specialist

Cambridge GIS is working on some exciting projects this year, many of which will help both the public and staff better access information spatially through the City's Geographic Information System.

Introducing myCambridge, Address Dashboard

We have been working on a tool over the past several years which will allow users to get detailed information about any address in the City. Each address which is in the City's master address database has been verified using in-house validations and field checks, and is tied to each building and tax parcel associated with it. Through the address database and GIS we now can tie information to each address like never before and show the results in our address dashboard called *myCambridge*. Our first version was rolled out in May, and we will be continually updating this page with more information. Visit: http://gis.cambridgema.gov/myCambridge/ to explore!

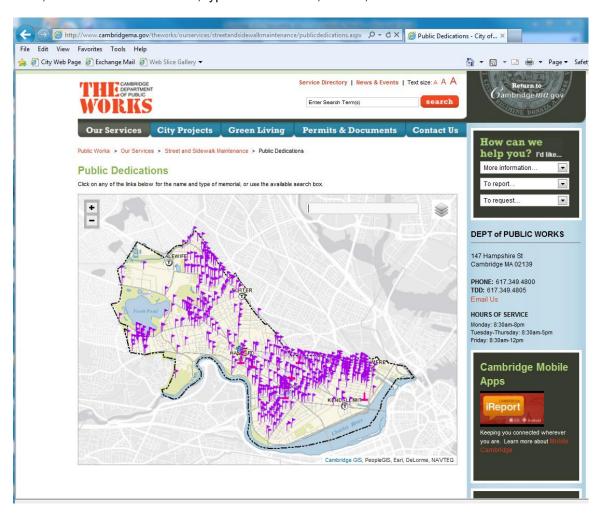


This tool will work in all browsers and on mobile devices. Links to Google StreetView, the Assessing database, related City Web pages, and the U.S. Census Fact Finder site are now available. A GIS search of nearby points of interest to each address and links to other City databases which address specific data is planned for future versions. Take it for a test drive!

New Interactive GIS Maps

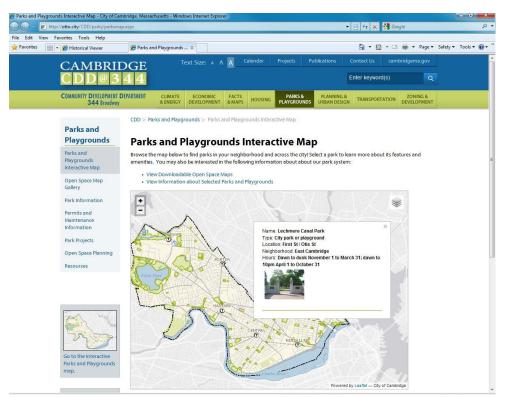
Over the past year we have been working on our new interactive GIS Web maps. Last year we launched our first set of maps on the Community Development Department (CDD) Web site. These tools are being built and served in-house and will work with all desktop browsers as well as mobile devices. The thought behind these GIS maps is to offer a very user friendly tool that can pull information from the City's databases based on one theme. These interactive maps can be embedded inside City Web pages, or launched as a separate window.

Our latest maps are being created for the Department of Public Works and Licensing Commission. Other maps are in development and will be launched throughout the year. Below is a map for Public Dedications which include the brown poles seen at many street corners throughout the City. New in this map is the search functionality which allows users to search for a public dedication. This search is configurable to any field in our GIS database or related data table, so it could be an address, type of GIS feature, names, etc.



These maps can be built for any department and for Web sites built in the city's content management software, Sitecore, they can be embedded into the Web page. We are also working on a version which will work on mobile devices within the page. This will be extremely useful to many departments including the License Commission who have requested a mobile map for the city taxi cab stands. Most users will be on a phone or mobile device when these maps are accessed.

Our first maps of this type were created for CDD and are now live within the pages of the Community Development Web site. The themes include Parks, CDD projects, Commercial Districts, Green Buildings, & Special Permits. There is also a map which includes all of these themes. Features of these maps include the ability to select an area and get several pieces of information about the site, Google-like use-ability, and in some maps, the ability to turn on and off GIS layers. Visit: www.cambridgema.gov/cdd to see the maps.



A look at the CDD Web site page which features an interactive GIS map within the page.

Cambridge CityViewer Update

Our other longtime GIS Web viewer and tool is called Cambridge CityViewer. Cambridge CityViewer is a tool which allows the user to query any database linked to the GIS, select properties, create mailing labels, export the data to a spreadsheet, access related documents or photos, and print a map. It can be accessed from our GIS Web page at: http://www.cambridgema.gov/GIS where there are several themed viewers with an address search (zoning, infrastructure, historical, etc.), The most visited viewer with a theme of property information can be found after you search for a property in the Assessors Cambridge Property Database at: http://www2.cambridgema.gov/fiscalaffairs/PropertySearch.cfm or from the GIS Web page.

ArcGIS 10.1

City of Cambridge staff who use ArcGIS Desktop are now using version 10, but will be updated to version 10.1 over the summer. This is the latest release from our software provider, ESRI. There are some nice editing tools in the new version and it integrates well with some of our on-line GIS tools, including ArcGIS Online which will be available to some users as we revamp our ESRI licensing agreement over the summer. To learn more about ArcGIS10.1, visit: http://www.esri.com/news/arcnews/spring12articles/introducing-arcgis-101.html

Coming Soon - 1969 Aerial Photos in GIS



Where is this? What is this? 1947 photo on the left, 1969 photo or the right. Same location. Go to: http://gis.cambridgema.gov/map/Viewer.aspx?state=761937622456 to find out.

A couple years back we scanned a set of photos found at DPW from 1947 and brought them in GIS. Those can be seen on the historical viewer at www.cambridgema.gov/GIS. Now we are working on scanning a set of 1969 photos borrowed from the Historical Department. We should have these in GIS this summer. We'll send out an announcement when they are ready.

GIS Twitter Account

Cambridge GIS has a Twitter account where we post any new information out to the public. We are @CambridgeGIS. A list of social media sites for GIS and other Cambridge departments can be found at: http://www.cambridgema.gov/socialmedia.aspx

Upcoming GIS Events in the Area

Some upcoming events with a focus on GIS. This is a great way to find out more about the technology in your specific area of interest, or to see what other municipalities are doing with GIS.

GIS-Pro 2013 - Providence, RI – 4 day event. September 16-19, 2013. Conference sponsored by URISA which focuses on both GIS and related technology by all vendors. This is a national conference in the New England area this year. http://www.urisa.org/gispro2013

NEARC – Nashua, NH – 4 day event. September 29 – October 2, 2013. Regional Northeast ArcGIS User Group Conference. Most established user group meeting in region. Very focused on municipal GIS. There is a separate event for Education on Sept. 29th at same venue. http://www.northeastarc.org/

ESRI Health GIS Conference – Cambridge, MA – 3 day event. October 14-16, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency. Conference sponsored by ESRI, GIS software provider of ArcGIS products. This will focus on GIS in geomedicine, community health, & human services. This is a national conference in the New England area this year. http://www.esri.com/events/health

For more information on Cambridge GIS, please contact us at 617-349-4140 or CambridgeGIS@cambridgeMA.gov