

Program Highlights

December 18, 2013



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THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

It is the most wonderful time of the year! People talking animatedly and coming together to decide on ways to best support their communities. I'm talking about Budget Season of course!

Often this time of year I am asked: "What services does NRPC provide to us? What are the benefits?" Most of you know that NRPC staff is ready to go above and beyond to provide assistance to communities. But many community officials and staff are not aware of the rich resource that is available to them through NRPC. This is where you come in. Pass along the program highlights, give them some ideas for using NRPC to benefit and enhance their work. As one member of the Hollis Energy Committee recently said "NRPC is a valuable resource to communities. All you have to do is ask."

So what can your communities ask for? The following is a general outline of the types of services NRPC offers to communities through membership dues:

Transportation

- Grant Application Assistance
- Specialized Traffic Counts and Data
- Travel Demand Modeling
- Intersection Analysis
- Road Safety Audits
- Road Surface Management System
- Parking Studies

Land Use

- Customized land use board training and resources
- Draft ordinance and regulation review
- Special Planning Projects and Research Assistance through NRPC's Integrating Land Use and Community Planning (iTRaC) Program
- Fact sheets, guidebooks and educational materials
- Master Plan consultation and project scoping

Data and GIS Mapping

- Demographic Data and Analysis
- Mapping Data and Standard Map Sets
- GIS Needs Assessments for Municipalities
- Production of Annual Tax Maps

Environment

- Group energy purchase for municipal and school facilities
- Household hazardous waste collections

The following pages show specifically how NRPC serves communities throughout the region. If you see something here that you think your community could benefit from, or if there is something else that you think NRPC can assist with, please do not hesitate to ask!

Best wishes for a happy New Year!

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director

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Transportation Programs

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN WORKSHOP SUMMARY

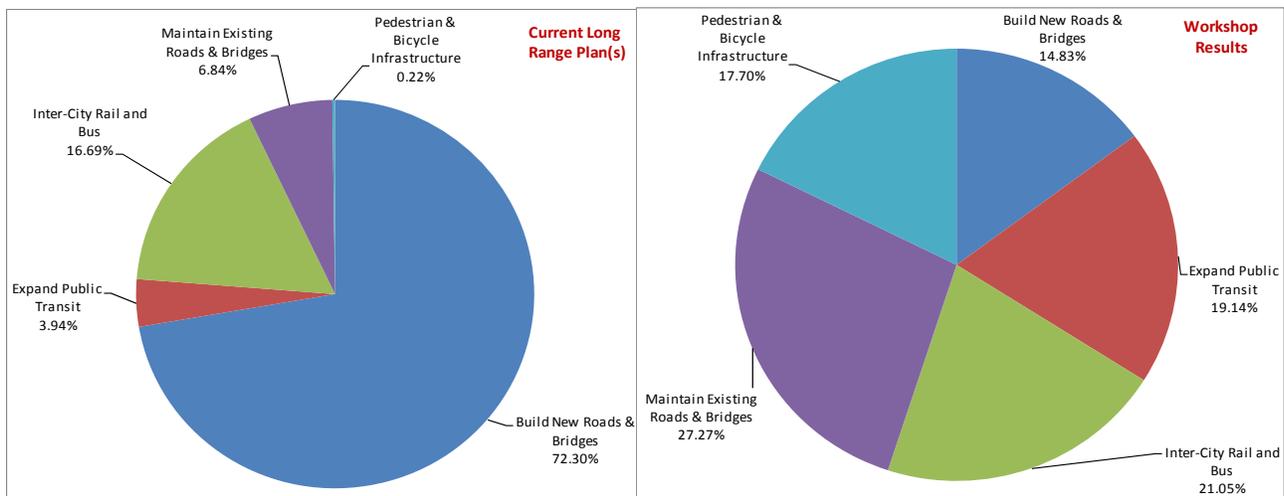
The Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) held a Regional Transportation Workshop on Monday November 18, 2013 at Nashua City Hall to gather additional public input in developing a long-term Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the region. The workshop included a presentation summarizing existing conditions, recent trends and future projections of transportation and demographics in the region.

With nearly 30 participants in attendance NRPC led small group discussions on the transportation needs of the region and how the limited transportation funds available to the region should be invested. NRPC identified and described five funding categories to the workshop participants. Participants were asked how they would prioritize funding to:

- ◆ Build new roads and bridges
- ◆ Fix the existing roads and bridges
- ◆ Maintain and expand regional transit service
- ◆ Intercity bus and rail service
- ◆ Pedestrian and bicycle facilities



After the facilitated group discussions each participant was given 100 transportation dollars and asked to prioritize each funding category by distributing the dollars across the five categories. The dollars were then tallied by category and compared to the funding distribution in the current Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The results show that the current plan (left) is heavily weighted towards the construction of new facilities while the opinion of the public (right) suggests a more balanced approach to transportation investment.



EXIT 36S

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) and the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) are continuing work to assess the effectiveness of a south bound off-ramp at exit 36 on the F.E. Everett Turnpike, near the New Hampshire and Massachusetts border. The study will evaluate traffic flows and potential economic benefits to businesses in the area and will ultimately complete a planning

analyses in support of the development of a southbound off ramp on US Route 3 at Exit 36 in Tyngsborough, Massachusetts.

The Existing Conditions Report is currently under final review and we anticipate a final release date of early winter. This will be followed in the spring by the Future Conditions Report, Recommendations and a Cost Estimate.

The final product will be a planning study report which summarizes data collection efforts and analyzes traffic operations and impacts, transit system improvements, pedestrian and bicycling opportunities, and improvements to economic competitiveness. You can follow progress on this project at www.nashuarpc.org/exit36 and on facebook.com/PlanExit36 or twitter.com/PlanExit36.

AMHERST MIDDLE STREET TRAFFIC STUDY

At the request of the Town of Amherst, NRPC has recently completed an assessment that examines the impact of closing a portion of Middle Street in Amherst Village to traffic. The Town has observed vehicles heading west on Amherst Road (NH Route 122) that use Middle Street as a "cut through" to avoid the signalized intersection at Boston Post Road and Amherst Road. Middle Street bisects the pedestrian friendly Village Green, and the cut through traffic has raised safety concerns. The study assessed the potential impacts of closing the 200± foot section of Middle Street between Main Street and School Street on the roads and intersections in the immediate vicinity.

A draft report, under review by town officials, suggests there would be a slight increase in delay at the intersections along Boston Post Road, where through traffic from Middle Street and turning traffic from School Street and Middle Street was redistributed. No intersections showed a decrease in Level of Service. The draft report concluded that there was no significant degradation to traffic nor any appreciable improvements to pedestrian safety. The draft report will be presented to the Amherst Board of Selectmen in early January.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS (SRTS) PROGRAM

The SRTS program encourages children to bike or walk to school through education and incentives that remind children how much fun biking and walking can be. The program also addresses the safety concerns of parents by encouraging greater enforcement of traffic laws, exploring ways to create safer streets, and educating the public about safe biking, walking, and driving practices. An important first step for a local SRTS program is to develop a Travel Plan that identifies priorities and the steps needed to achieve a successful program. NRPC staff facilitated the development of a Travel Plan for the James Masticola Elementary and Upper Elementary Schools in Merrimack during 2013. The project was finalized in November.

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Land Use and Environmental Programs

FLUVIAL EROSION AND HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

NRPC staff is currently working with Amherst, Lyndeborough, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton to update their Hazard Mitigation Plans. Hazard mitigation plans identify critical facilities and areas of concern throughout the municipality, analyze potential natural hazards and risks to these facilities, and prioritize mitigation measures to address the hazards. In addition, these updates will include data obtained by the NH Department of Environmental Services' Fluvial Erosion Hazard Program. Under this program, data is being collected in the Souhegan and Piscataquog River watersheds that will identify areas prone to river and stream erosion that can impact public health and safety. For more information, please contact Jill Longval, jilll@nashuarpc.org or 424-2240 x27.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM



In 2013, a total of 1,532 households participated in six HHW collections District-wide. This was an increase from the 2012 total of 1,280 households and marks the highest annual participation rate since 2006. In 2013, every event exceeded participation from 2012, with the exception of the November collection. The August and October collections had the highest participation rates this year. In addition, the May event in Milford had its highest participation rate to-date. Transfer Stations continued to provide the largest source of information to participants, followed by municipal websites and the Nashua

Telegraph. Paint continued to be the most common item received; 770 households brought paint to the 2013 collection events. Other common items included solvents and thinners, lawn and garden products, automotive products, household cleaners, sealers, and antifreeze. Collection events will resume in April 2014. For more information, visit www.nashuarpc.org/hhw or call 603-424-2240.

NEW HAMPSHIRE BROADBAND MAPPING AND PLANNING PROGRAM (NHBMPP)

Our dedicated Broadband Stakeholder Group has played a crucial role in guiding the overall development of a Broadband Plan for the Nashua Region. Staff is in the final stages of developing this document and the information obtained over the last 3 years will culminate in the release of the draft plan this winter. All comments will be incorporated and final adoption is anticipated by late spring or early summer of 2014. For more information on this project, please contact Camille Martineau at camillem@nashuarpc.org.

MILFORD COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANT - ROUND II

In 2013, NRPC worked with the Town of Milford Community Development Staff, project committee, and the Planning Board on revising the existing Open Space and Conservation District regulation (OSCD), Article 6.04. A new section was drafted called "Bonus for Innovative Residential Design and

Development.” In keeping with the main purpose of the existing OSCD (environmentally sound planning to conserve open space that is permanently protected, etc.), the new section’s purpose was to also 1) encourage housing that is consistent with the small town, rural character of Milford while offering a range of residential living opportunities that meet the needs of the community, from entry level to aging-in-place, and as defined by the Housing Goals in Chapter 7: Housing Chapter of the Town’s 2010 Master Plan, and 2) to encourage the creation of neighborhoods that are interconnected with the greater community that support the Town’s sense of character, economic vitality, individual mobility and transportation.



The Milford Community Development Staff and the Planning Board will continue to work on Article 6.04 as a top priority in 2014. For more information, contact Jennifer DiNovo, jenniferd@nashuarpc.org

LITCHFIELD COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANT

NRPC has been working with the Town of Litchfield Planning Board to develop strategies to protect the Town’s agricultural character and support opportunities for economic development. Using input from the summer’s many outreach events the Litchfield Planning Board and NRPC staff drafted an agricultural preservation ordinance, amendments to the town’s non-residential zoning districts and updates to the Town’s commercial and industrial zoning districts to align with current development patterns and the community’s vision for the future. Currently the board is preparing for hearings on each of the drafts in anticipation of sending them to Town Meeting 2014 for adoption.

For more information, contact Jen Czysz, jenc@nashuarpc.org.

WILTON MASTER PLAN UPDATE

In the spring of 2013, NRPC and the Wilton Planning Board heard from the community regarding their thoughts on the existing strengths, issues and challenges facing the Town, local needs, and recommendations to be included in the Master Plan. In the summer and fall, NRPC worked with the Board to develop the Vision Chapter, which included specific vision statements such as “to remain a small-town that protects its rural environment, historic charm, and natural resources, while promoting opportunity for a variety of residential development and local business



opportunities that are compatible and respond to the current needs of the community and support the local economy.” The Board anticipates adopting the new Vision Chapter in early 2014. Feedback from the public outreach process that occurred earlier in 2013 will also inform the development of the Land Use Chapter, which is anticipated to be reviewed by the Board in the New Year.

Land Use and Environmental Programs

BABOOSIC LAKE "SOAK UP THE RAIN" PILOT PROJECT

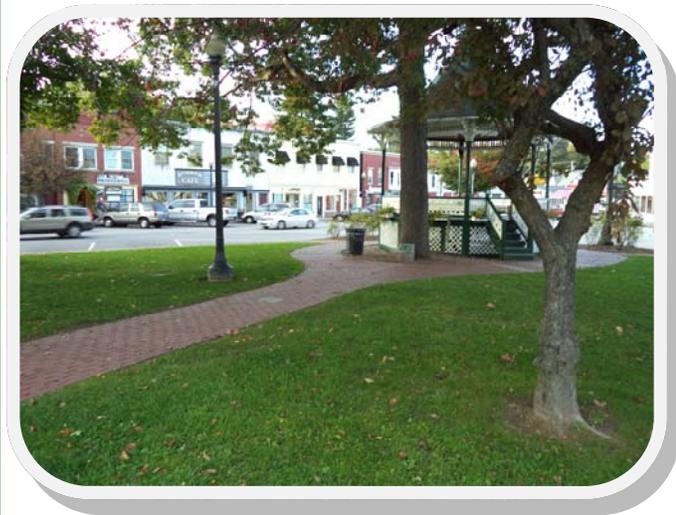
In New Hampshire, 83 percent of pollution of surface water bodies is directly attributable to stormwater runoff. Any rain or snowmelt that is not absorbed directly into the ground intercepted by vegetation or evaporated flows directly into our lakes, rivers, streams and other water bodies. As runoff flows over roadways and other surfaces, it accumulates pollutants from motor oils, fertilizers, animal waste and any other substances it encounters before flowing in to water bodies.

In our region, Baboosic Lake, a 228 acre lake on the Amherst and Merrimack border, is a scenic and popular recreation area. However, the lake has long battled storm-water-related pollution in the form of cyanobacteria and excess algal growth.

In the coming months, NRPC, working in partnership with NHDES and the Towns of Amherst and Merrimack, is drafting an update to the Baboosic Lake Watershed Plan outlining best management practices to limit stormwater flow into the lake. Currently, Baboosic Lake has a Watershed Management Plan, however, it is in need of updating as many projects have been completed by the Baboosic Lake Association and the Towns of Amherst and Merrimack. The completed projects have already reduced stormwater and phosphorus loading into the lake reducing the impacts to water quality. For more information on this project, contact Kim Goddu at kimg@nashuarpc.org.

MILFORD HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) strives for planning that is innovative, inclusive, technically sound, and driven by public participation. These goals are consistent with the goals and outcomes of health impact assessments. What is a Health Impact Assessment (HIA)? An HIA is a systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods and considers input from



stakeholders to determine the potential effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of the effects within the population. HIA provides recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.

The Town of Milford, NH will implement the top recommendation that resulted from a regulatory audit conducted on its Zoning Ordinance and Development Regulations as part of the Round One New Hampshire Community Planning Grant. The new changes will modify the Open Space and Conservation District to

incorporate density bonuses to achieve the Master Plan goals for inclusionary, multigenerational, and affordable housing choice and design; conservation and open space; transportation and mobility; infrastructure and services; and neighborhood character and livability with criteria specific to each of the Town's eight primary zoning districts.

The HIA will review the proposed density bonuses and provide recommendations to enhance the density bonuses and report out the impacts on six identified health areas: opportunities for social cohesion, impacts to water quality, exposure to air pollutants, safety from crime, traffic safety, and housing affordability. An initial draft will be available at the end of December.

If you have any further comments or questions, please contact me at (603) 424-2240x29 or king@nashuarpc.org.

NRPC REGIONAL PLAN AND GRANITE STATE FUTURE STATEWIDE

The most recent community outreach initiative is wrapping up. NRPC hosted twelve community conversations across many sectors including veterans, disabled persons, local government, local soup kitchens, the Embracing Integration Symposium and more. Our regional subcommittees are in full swing and will assist in drafting their respective chapters for the regional plan. A Progress Report on the

Regional Plan is now available online and has been distributed to each of our thirteen member communities highlighting progress made in the last year. Additionally, detailed outlines have been drafted for all of the plan sections and available online for review and comment.



Recently, NRPC as part of the regional plan development process co-hosted a presentation with the Southern and Central NH Planning Commissions featuring Dr. Cameron Wake of the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Wake presented preliminary findings of the soon to be released assessment report “Climate Change in Southern NH: Past,

Present, and Future.” Additionally, The UNH Survey Center has concluded a regional telephone survey designed to generate additional input on local values and priorities. The survey conducted as part of a larger statewide survey included oversampling for the NRPC region with a 5% margin of error. Top priorities of residents in the region include energy efficiency, environmental protection, affordable housing, and promoting local agriculture.

Regional Online Forum

This fall NRPC conducted a contest to encourage participation in the [online](http://nashua.granitestatefuture.org) forum (nashua.granitestatefuture.org). Congratulations to the Town of Amherst where the most comments and pinpoints were added to the interactive forum. The town will receive free 2014 – 2015 editions of the NH Planning and Land Use Regulations for their planning board.

Land Use and Environmental Programs

Upcoming Events

NRPC in the coming months will be scheduling one-on-one interviews with local community members to help tell the story of our communities region through the eyes of those who live and work here. The regional plan is heading into the next phase which will include visioning workshops, continued efforts in community engagement, and plan writing.

All materials mentioned above are available [online](http://www.granitestatefuture.org/regions/nashua-region/) at: <http://www.granitestatefuture.org/regions/nashua-region/>.

Statewide Coordination

NRPC staff continued to lead the collaborative efforts with the 8 other Regional Planning Commissions in New Hampshire. This fall NRPC staff coordinated and hosted a scenario planning staff training day to review various tools and software options for modelling economic and land use scenarios. Staff from all 9 regions came together in November along with State partners for a mid-point convening to highlight and present recently completed statewide studies as part of the regional planning process. Presentations included the regional Climate Assessments, UNH Survey Results, NH Listens findings, the GSF Existing Conditions and Trends Assessment, preliminary results from NH Housing's Housing Preferences Study, and top findings of regional needs from each RPC. Regions and statewide partners had an opportunity discuss the results of these many efforts and begin a conversation of possible recommendations and collaborative implementation action items for state, regional and local partners to act on the vision and needs identified through the planning process.



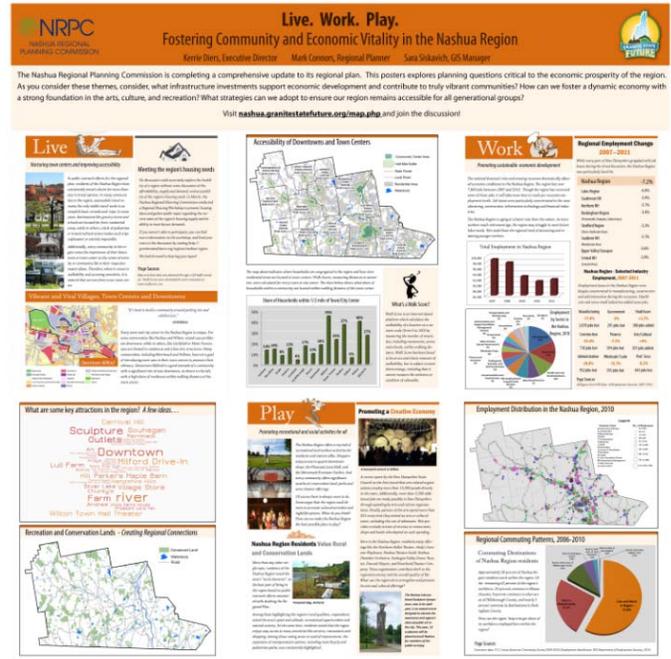
If you are interested in learning more, want to get involved or want more information on the Regional Plan, please contact Jen Cysz at JenC@nashuarpc.org.

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NRPC POSTER WINS AWARDS

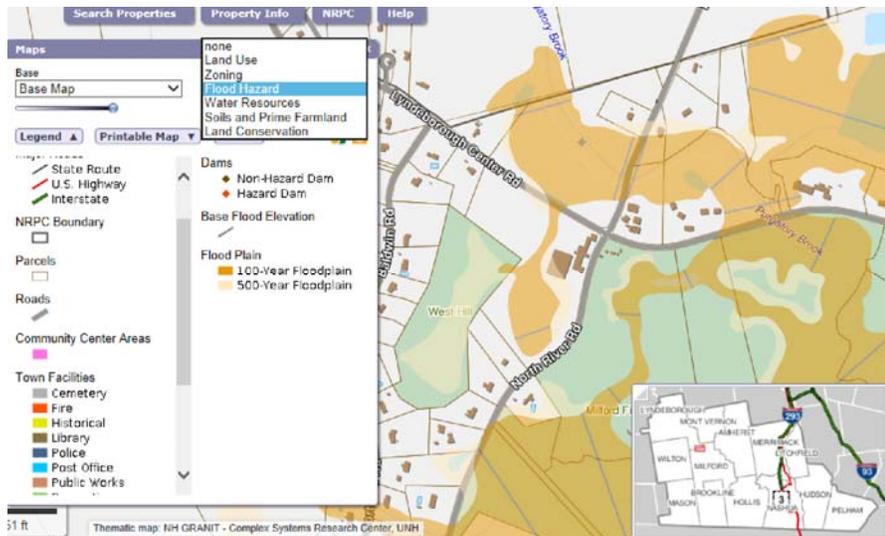
The annual Northeast Arc User Group (NEARC) fall conference was held Sunday, September 29 - Wednesday October 2, 2013 at the Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH. The Northeast Arc User Group (NEARC) is an independent, volunteer organization dedicated to helping users of Esri GIS software be more successful through technical training from Esri, user presentations, and community building events.

NRPC's poster, *Fostering Community and Economic Vitality in the Nashua Region*, explored planning questions related to the economic prosperity of the region with a focus on cultivating the best possible environment in which to live, work, and play.



NRPC's poster was one of a dozen on display and attendees as well as a panel of judges cast their vote for their favorite. NRPC's poster was chosen for both the People's Choice Award as well as the Judges' Award.

LIVE MAPS



GIS technology can enhance and improve local government, but many communities face cost and technological barriers to implementation. NRPC can help. We're taking our standard GIS maps and putting them online in an interactive format.

The beta website is nearing completion. Recent changes include the addition of building footprints to the basemap, a new topography base-map, and new overlays for flood hazards, water resources, important soils, and land conservation.

The application has also been configured to integrate with Patriot WebPro and Vision Appraisal for towns that maintain their data online in those systems. We've also replace the beta database with current assessing records for several towns in the region so that they can take advantage of the full query and reporting capability of the application.

We invite you to check out the beta website at: beta.mapgeo.com/nrpcnh. Send any comments or questions to Sara Siskavich, GIS Manager, at saras@nashuarpc.org. The site's official launch will be early next year in conjunction with NRPC's new website.

GIS BROWNBAG

NRPC GIS Brownbag Lunch series is geared towards municipal GIS users and is open to the public. Each meeting features general news and announcements, followed by a guest speaker or open group discussion on a particular GIS project or topic.

On November 14, 2013, Angelo Marino and Justin Kates from the City of Nashua presented, Effective Information Sharing & Mapping Platforms during Disaster, which included an informative demonstration of the City's interactive web mapping platform that has proven to facilitate communication across city departments during major adverse events such as Hurricane Sandy.

Upcoming scheduled brownbag topics include GIS applications for conservation, recreation, and historic/cultural resource mapping.

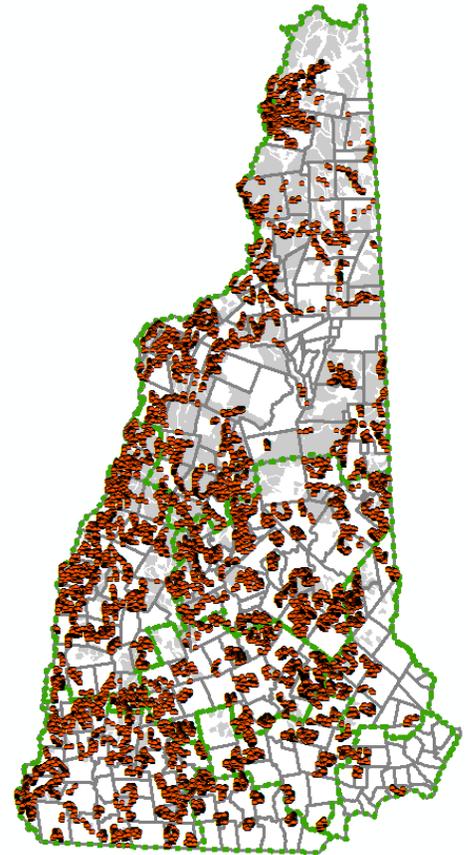
SPOTLIGHT ON BROADBAND MAPPING — Rural Addressing

The New Hampshire Broadband Mapping and Planning Program (NHBMPP) is a comprehensive effort to characterize broadband availability across the state. A key component is capturing the availability of cable, DSL, and other broadband services at the residential property level. NRPC is coordinating the statewide collection of rural address point locations. These data are collected using in-field GPS or created on-screen using a variety of public and commercial geospatial reference data such as digital parcels, aerial imagery, and business databases.

The grant activities under this program have been extended into 2014 to support additional and enhanced data collection for these rural areas.

Community Anchor Institutions

Characterizing the quality of broadband access at key community locations such as schools, libraries, medical/healthcare access points, public safety locations, post-secondary locations, and other governmental sites has been an important component of the NHBMPP. NH RPCs, including NRPC, have facilitated the maintenance of this dataset through location mapping and broadband survey collection. For the first time since the creation of the GRANIT Key Destinations datalayer (circa 2006) there is now a comprehensive GIS inventory of these features available to the GIS community in NH. Users interested in this dataset can contact NRPC or [NH GRANIT, the NH Statewide GIS Clearinghouse](#).



GIS SERVICES FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

The NRPC GIS group is committed to helping our communities and their stakeholders succeed with GIS. Our services include needs assessments, tax mapping, custom mapping, analysis, GIS and GPS technical support, and demographics.

Our local GIS support activities for Q4 have included:

- Continued maintenance of a region-wide parcel database.
- Development of GIS-based tax maps for the Town of Litchfield.
- The creation of several new region-wide GIS datasets including.
 - ◆ Historical Districts
 - ◆ Economic Revitalization zones
 - ◆ Region-wide mapping of building footprints
- Reprints of large format street maps for Hollis, Brookline, and Mason to support business at the Hollis Communications Center.
- Custom GIS/GPS analysis for the Brookline Icebreakers Club to facilitate landowner identification along their trails.
- Custom demographics analysis and slides for the City of Nashua to communicate road layout changes in the vicinity of the proposed East Hollis St roundabout.
- A map of the proposed Pelham downtown mixed use district to support community planning activities.
- Design of a walking map that highlights pedestrian-friendly destinations, opportunities for recreation, and healthy eating off the Tree Streets/Mine Falls area of Nashua.
- Began an update to the cistern map for the Hollis Fire Department.
- A large format street map to facilitate snow plow route planning for the Amherst DPW.

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
NEW HAMPSHIRE

TAX MAPS

July 1, 2013

0 0.5 1 Miles

Tax Sheet
 Road ROW
 Parcel

Waterbody
 Stream



Prepared by:
Nashua Regional Planning Commission
Merrimack, New Hampshire



The Assessing Department maintains a continuing program to identify and correct errors. The Department makes no claims to the validity or reliability, or to any implied uses, of this representation.

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