Westchester County GIS has recently received funding through the New York State Department of Environmental Hudson River Estuary Grant Program (http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/hudson/nptg.html) to conduct a comprehensive GIS-based mapping inventory of vacant properties in 14 Hudson riverfront communities including Peekskill, Cortlandt, Ossining, Buchanan, Croton-on-Hudson, Briarcliff Manor, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and portions of Yonkers and Mt. Pleasant. The project, which is titled “Westchester County Vacant Property Inventory,” is differentiated from previous open space mapping initiatives in the county in that the inventory will be based on digital tax parcel data.

In keeping with grant guidelines, vacant parcels will be classified in context of criteria such as: (1) proximity to existing open space areas as designated on the 2004 Westchester County Open Space Map, (2) watershed and drainage basins, (3) properties within 500 feet of stream corridors, and (4) parcels which may have unique or special natural resources/environmental characteristics as designated by local planning staff or consultants. Data collected during the project will be integrated into an on-line web mapping application entitled the Hudson River Communities Open Space Data Viewer which will be hosted by Westchester County GIS during the project and is intended to broaden community-wide awareness of the project.

The proposed ArcIMS application will include online links to other relevant website and information sources including Westchester County Proposal for Open Space (http://www.westchestergov.com/openospace), the Westchester Land Trust (http://www.westchestergov.com/wcgis/landtrust), the Scenic Hudson (http://www.scenichud-son.org) and the Open Space Institute (http://www.osi.org/home.asp), among other organizations.

Data developed by Westchester County GIS as part of this project will be made available in industry standard format (ESRI coverage (.E00 export) and shapefile formats which are compatible with mapping systems being used by agencies involved in open space planning in the lower Hudson Valley.

Project initiation is scheduled to begin April 2006 with data collection, analysis, and web mapping applications anticipated to take 15 months to complete. For more information on the Hudson River Estuary Grant GIS project, contact Ana Hiraldo at (914) 995-4416 or Sam Wear at (914) 995-3047. The project can also be monitored by visiting the county's GIS website at http://giswww.westchestergov.com.

GIS Receives State Grant to Support Vacant Parcel Inventory

Hudson River communities will be the focus of detailed GIS mapping project.

GIS as part of this project will be made available in industry standard format (ESRI coverage (.E00 export) and shapefile formats which are compatible with mapping systems being used by agencies involved in open space planning in the lower Hudson Valley.

Project initiation is scheduled to begin April 2006 with data collection, analysis, and web mapping applications anticipated to take 15 months to complete. For more information on the Hudson River Estuary Grant GIS project, contact Ana Hiraldo at (914) 995-4416 or Sam Wear at (914) 995-3047. The project can also be monitored by visiting the county's GIS website at http://giswww.westchestergov.com.

2nd Annual GIS Workshop for Engineering & Public Works

May 19, 2006
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Westchester County Center

Westchester County GIS continues its series of skill learning presentations focusing on the integration of GIS, CAD, and GPS. This year’s workshop will offer a three-hour course entitled “Geographic Information Systems, Engineering and CAD” which has been approved for three (3) Professional Development Hour (PDH) credits through the Practicing Institute of Engineering (PIE). Cost for the PDH course is $25/person. Registration and agenda information is available on the county GIS website at http://giswww.westchestergov.com.
Residents Can Now Query Gas Station Database
Application locates closest gas stations and cheaper gas prices

For the past five years, Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection (CP) has maintained a database of gas stations which includes facility information (address, phone number, operating hours) and gasoline prices. The database is available at the CP website (http://www.westchestergov.com/consumer) and can be queried by lowest prices, location, or for gas stations which may have “gas specials.” The current database includes pricing information on 358 gas stations throughout the county.

Due to the continued interest in the gas station database – combined with the recent institute in redlining prices – Westchester County GIS has initiated work with CP staff to build more advanced spatial queries and mapping components utilizing ArcGIS technology into the existing gasoline database application.

Version 1.0 of the GIS-based gas station application will allow users to query for: (a) the closest (or within a predefined radius; i.e., one mile) gas station from a particular street address or intersection, (b) by municipal location, or (c) by zip code. Query results can be viewed in spreadsheet format that can be printed out with a “Print Results” button. Individual stations can be selected, mapped and labeled or a “Map All Stations” button can be selected to show all gas stations which meet the search criteria. Also, users can select gas stations in context of other data layers from the county's central GIS database such as roads, community facilities, and related transportation features. “It's a great enhancement to our gas price survey” says John Gaccione, Public Information Officer, Westchester County Consumer Protection. “Not only can consumers find gas prices, now they can 'map out' exactly where a station is located and what other stations are nearby. By using the new application, drivers will be better able to plan a trip and save money.”

Version 2.0 of the application, which is scheduled to be released later this year, is being designed to include routing capabilities between the starting address and a selected gas station. This added functionality utilizes ESRI's ArcIMS software for the server, the ArcGIS Server SDK format of the street centerline file which the county utilizes nearly exclusively for web mapping applications. For more information on the gasoline and gas station web mapping program, contact either John Gaccione, Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection, at (914) 995-2160, or Tong Zhou, Westchester County GIS, at (914) 995-3012 or e-mail at tzhou@westchestergov.com.

County DOT Continues to Advance GIS Technology

Over the past 2-3 years, Westchester County’s Department of Transportation (WCDOT) has become a significant user of GIS programs and applications supported by Westchester County GIS. Currently, GIS applications and software are being used at various levels in the agency ranging from the non-technical user to DOT staff which have received more in-depth training and are utilizing advanced ArcGIS tools.

Entry-level programs focus on web-based ArcIMS applications which provide basic data queries, viewing and map making functionality. Illustrative of this type of application is the Bee-Line Bus Stops and Bus Routes GIS Data Viewer which has proved to be a very useful tool for the department’s operational staff. Users are able to view and query information on the county’s 63 Bee-Line bus routes and the associated 3,100+ active bus stops.

In another initiative where GIS is being extensively used, WCDOT has been working with staff in the New York State Department of Transportation Hudson Valley Transportation Management Center (TMC) on a project that will analyze traffic disruptions and the impacts of major traffic detours or diversions within Westchester County. The emphasis of the project will be to determine the effect of the closure of specific highway corridors, due to man-made or natural disasters, on the overall transportation network of Westchester County.

The TMC has been using a traffic model developed by staff at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) that analyzes the impacts of complex traffic disruptions. In concert with DOT staff, county GIS personnel are assisting in mapping and coding and configuring street centerline files with attribute data which the MIT traffic model can utilize. The result of the analysis will be used to prioritize capital needs and identify opportunities for redundant transportation services.

WCDOT has also recently become part of a Regional GIS Transportation Coordinating Committee. The coordinating committee was established by The New York Metropolitan Transportation Committee (NYMTC) which provides a collaborative planning forum to address regional transportation-related issues and distributes federal transportation funds. One of the primary purposes of the GIS Coordinating Committee is to address the need to create regional GIS standards which will facilitate the exchange of data sharing among the GIS users in the NYMTC region. The Committee will also review other metropolitan region GIS issues such as application design and data distribution. The committee's last meeting was held March 2006. For more information on DOT GIS initiatives contact Michael Swee, Westchester County Dept. of Transportation, at (914) 813-7760 or Cindy Louie at (914) 995-3014.

Gis Website redesign

The Westchester County GIS website has recently been redesigned to make user navigation easier and more intuitive. One of the major highlights of the redesign is the availability of 2000 base map (1”=100') planimetrics - which are currently being updated as part of the 2005/2006 Westchester County GIS project. The planimetric datasets are now available for download by municipality. Much of the functionality from the previous website remains which included access and download capabilities for over 100 data layers from the county's GIS database, contacts for local government GIS projects, presentations and publications, and access to the county's primary interactive web mapping portal Mapping Westchester County. The website also includes links to countywide 2004 orthophotography which can now be downloaded from the New York State GIS Clearinghouse (http://www.nyogis.state.ny.us). Visit the new site at http://giswww.westchestergov.com.
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Version 1.0 of the GIS-based CP gas station application will allow users to query for (a) the closest (or within a predefined radius of one mile) gas station from a particular street address or intersection, (b) by municipal location, or (c) by zip code. Query results can be mapped and labeled or a “Map All Stations” button can be selected to show all gas stations which meet the search criteria. Also, users can select gas stations in context of other data layers from the county’s central GIS database such as roads, community facilities, and related transportation features. “It’s a great enhancement to our gas price survey” says John Gaccione, Public Information Officer, Westchester County Consumer Protection. “Not only can consumers find gas prices, now they can ‘map out’ exactly where a station is located and what other stations are nearby. By using the new application, drivers will be better able to plan a trip and save money.”

Version 2.0 of the application, which is scheduled to be released later this year, is being designed to include routing capabilities between the starting address and a selected gas station. This added functionality utilizes ESRI’s ArcGIS Server (http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/arcgisserver/index.html) and the Navteq (http://www.navteq.com) SDF format of the street centerline file which the county utilizes nearly exclusively for web mapping applications. For more information, contact John Gaccione, County Department of Consumer Protection, at (914) 995-2160, or Tong Zhou, Westchester County GIS, at (914) 995-3012 or e-mail at tzhou@westchestergov.com.

The Bee-Line Bus Stops and Routes GIS Data Viewer

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Westchester County GIS has recently received funding through the New York State Department of Environmental Hudson River Estuary Grant Program (http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/hudson/dep.html) to conduct a comprehensive GIS-based mapping inventory of vacant properties in 14 Hudson Riverfront communities including Peekskill, Cortlandt, Ossining, Buchanan, Croton-on-Hudson, Briarcliff Manor, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, and portions of Yonkers and Mt. Pleasant. The project, which is titled “Westchester County Vacant Property Inventory,” is differentiated from previous open space mapping initiatives in the county in that this inventory will be based on digital tax parcel data. In keeping with grant guidelines, vacant parcels will be digitally inventoried in context of criteria such as: (1) proximity to existing open space areas as designated on the 2004 Westchester County Open Space Map, (2) watershed and drainage basins, (3) properties within 500 feet of stream corridors, and (4) parcels which may have unique or special natural resources/environmental characteristics as designated by local planning staff or consultants. Data collected during the project will be integrated into an on-line web mapping application entitled the Hudson River Communities Open Space Data Viewer which will be hosted by Westchester County GIS during the project and is intended to broaden community-wide awareness of the project.

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For questions or further information contact, Cindy Louie at clouie@westchestergov.com or Noah Goldberg at ndg1@westchestergov.com.