

## Visualizing Land Ownership across Vermont

The Statewide Property Parcel Mapping Program, a project funded by the Vermont Agency of Transportation, creates or updates parcel data – that is, mapping data that depict ownership boundaries on tax maps, plus associated attributes like SPAN (Spatial Data Analysis Network) – to meet the state data standard over three years. It also establishes an ongoing program to support annual updates of that data. The Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) helps to staff and coordinate the program.

The state will choose mapping contractors to do the initial creation/update. Criteria for choosing the contractors will include a town's preferences and the ability of contractors to create mapping data that meet the state standard. A request for proposals will be published later this year for contractors interested in working with multiple towns. VCGI expects about a third of the state will be mapped each year for three years. No towns have yet been prioritized.

Why statewide property parcel mapping? Parcel data support many kinds of mapping and analysis, such as fair and accurate taxation and reappraisal, informed community planning and economic development, and targeted natural resource conservation. Current parcel data vary from town to town in terms of content, age, and availability, which makes it difficult to do mapping and analysis in some towns or across multiple towns. An ongoing program will work with each town to determine the best way to ensure annual data updates meet the state data standard – from simply collecting updated parcel data from the town's mapping contractor to actually editing and updating the parcel data for the town.

You can learn about this project and provide input at several upcoming venues:

- Parcel Data Update focus group, August 24, Davis Building, National Life Complex, Montpelier ([http://vcgi.vermont.gov/events/parcel\\_standard\\_20160824](http://vcgi.vermont.gov/events/parcel_standard_20160824))
- Vermont Assessors and Listers Association Annual Meeting, September 19, Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee (<http://www.valavt.org/>)
- VLCT Town Fair, October 6, Champlain Valley Fairgrounds, Essex Junction (<http://www.vlct.org/events-news-blogs/town-fair/>)
- Meetings and brown bag lunch events at regional planning commissions (TBD).

More information about the project as it becomes available will be posted on the VCGI website, <http://vcgi.vermont.gov/parcels>. For more immediate information, contact the author at 802-882-3002 or [leslie.pelch@vermont.gov](mailto:leslie.pelch@vermont.gov).

Leslie Pelch, Program Manager  
VCGI Property Parcel Mapping