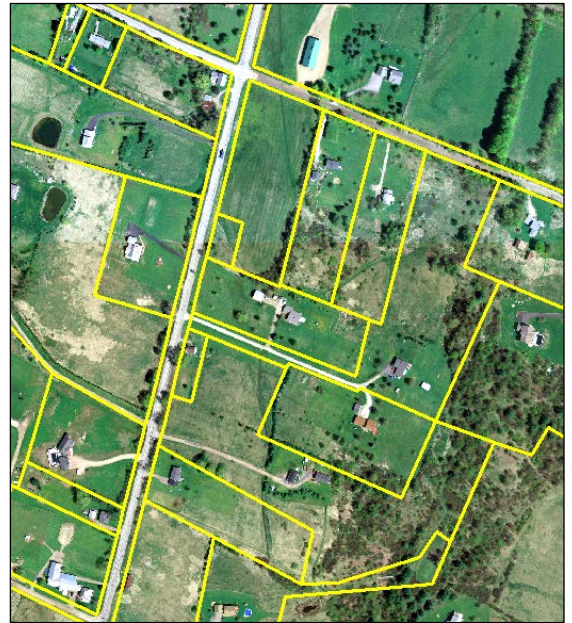


# Statewide Parcel Mapping Initiative

## Introduction

There is interest in creating a seamless Statewide Parcel Data Layer that will include all the parcels for each municipality within the State in a standard format. The parcels would be individual pieces of land that have the same ownership. This would integrate all the municipal parcel maps into one seamless parcel map for the State.

Of all of the various layers of information collected and consolidated by government or private entities, none is more sought after than ownership of land. This statement is certainly not to take away from the importance of other key data layers, such as roads, soils, watershed boundaries or the host of other information that is employed daily to manage Vermont. Ownership, in the form of a parcel map, adds to the interpretability of almost any other information layer. Roads serve little purpose unless they are designed and managed to move people and goods from one person's land to another. Soils have an agricultural potential and a septic suitability, but without context to ownership (parcels), there is a greatly reduced information value.

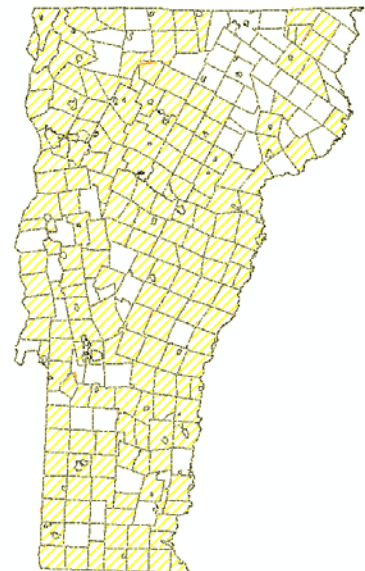


Example of Parcel Data over an Orthophoto – Essex, VT

A seamless statewide parcel data layer that can be linked to the Grand List would provide great benefits to VTrans and provide opportunities in streamlining existing business processes and create efficiencies. There are also many additional benefits throughout State government, at the regional level and with the municipalities.

## Project Overview

To date, 224 municipalities have created some form of GIS parcel data and of these, 116 municipalities have their parcel data maintained through 2010 and some to 2013. There are 18 municipalities that have CAD data, 10 with paper maps, and there only 16 that have no parcel mapping at all. These numbers are based on an initial survey and subject to change as more outreach to municipalities is performed and more accurate information is made available.



## Building the Statewide Parcel Data Layer

The creation of a Statewide Parcel Data Layer starts with the compilation of all the parcel data that already exists, assessing the quality and currency, and then working to convert all the data to a standard data format. Currently, there is a parcel data standard that has been defined by the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI), and this data standard will serve as a point of beginning in creating the statewide parcel dataset.

The VTrans Mapping and Right of Way Sections are working cooperatively with a committee of stakeholders on a plan to develop a seamless statewide parcel data layer. This committee has been formed as part of the Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC) and is known as the Parcel Workgroup. The workgroup is comprised of the following Agencies and organizations:

- Agency of Agriculture
- Agency of Commerce & Community Development
- Agency of Natural Resources
- Agency of Transportation
- VT Department of Tax – Property Valuation & Review
- VT Department of Public Safety
- VT E911 Board
- Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI)
- VT Association of Planning & Development Agencies (VAPDA)
- Vermont League of Cities and Towns
- Vermont Assessors and Listers Association (VALA)

Following the review of this project by the VTrans IT Governance Committee in late 2013, there has been a focus on the development of a Return on Investment Study and a plan for long-term maintenance of the parcel data layer. The Workgroup's first directive is aggregating the benefits and quantifying the potential savings of having an up-to-date statewide parcel data layer that can be combined to the statewide grand list. The return of investment is being aggregated with inputs from all of the organizations on the committee.

The second directive being discussed by the Workgroup is to define a strategy for maintaining the parcel data into the future and assesses what funding sources would be appropriate to cover the maintenance cost. This discussion is on-going and several possible solutions have been introduced, but a workable strategy and possible alternatives have yet to be solidified.

As the evaluation of the return on investment and maintenance discussion is taking place, VCGI has a \$169,000 grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) to do parcel mapping in the northern 6 counties of the state. They are working

through a method of granting the funds to towns, which should be enough funding to create and complete current standardized parcel data for 11 to 16 towns that currently have no maps. The NBRC grant project is anticipated to be completed by December 1, 2014.

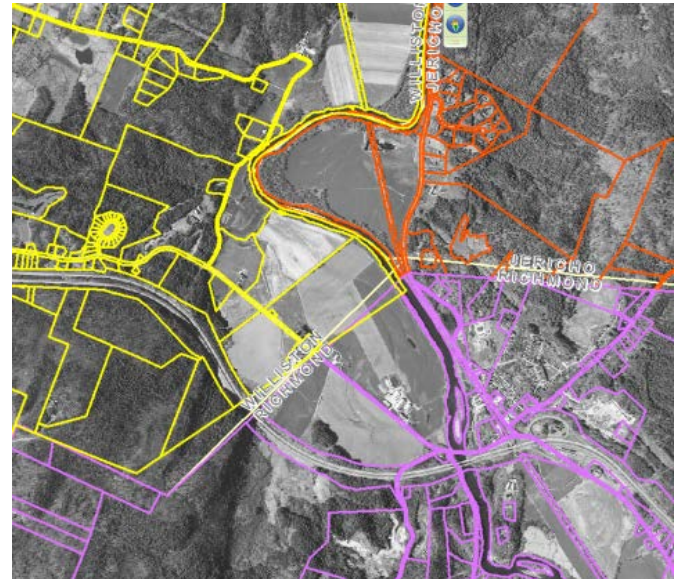
Uses of Statewide Parcel Data by the Agency of Transportation

While the importance of parcel mapping originated to confirm all landed entries to the

Grand List for tax purposes, there more benefits that exist from the ability to include ownership in important analysis functions. The inclusion of the School Parcel Account Number (SPAN) as an attribute within the Parcel Data will allow for parcels to be joined to the Grand List efficiently. Currently, there is no common bond between the parcels and Grand List in many towns or the format is different enough to create large amounts of work to make the linkage.

VTrans can leverage this parcel information in many ways, including the following applications:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Project or Use</u>
Mapping	- aiding in the mapping of road centerlines that end at property boundaries
Mapping	- ability to map VTrans parcels for energy assessment
Mapping	- right of way data to feed TS4 assessments
Right of Way	- streamlined title search during project development phase
Right of Way	- linkage between Grand List and parcel data to view all public land
Right of Way	- encroachment assessment and notice to adjoining landowners
Right of Way	- mapped location of surplus and excess property
Right of Way	- assisting appraisal and property comparables
Right of Way	- emergency response and data on adjoining landowner and property values
Rail	- encroachment assessment and notice to adjoining landowners
Utilities & Permitting-	driveway and access permit evaluation with property location
Asset Management	- understanding of the location and extent of the right of way as an asset



Example of Jericho, Richmond & Williston Parcels and Town Boundaries Not Being Seamless

## **VTrans Parcel Mapping Contacts:**

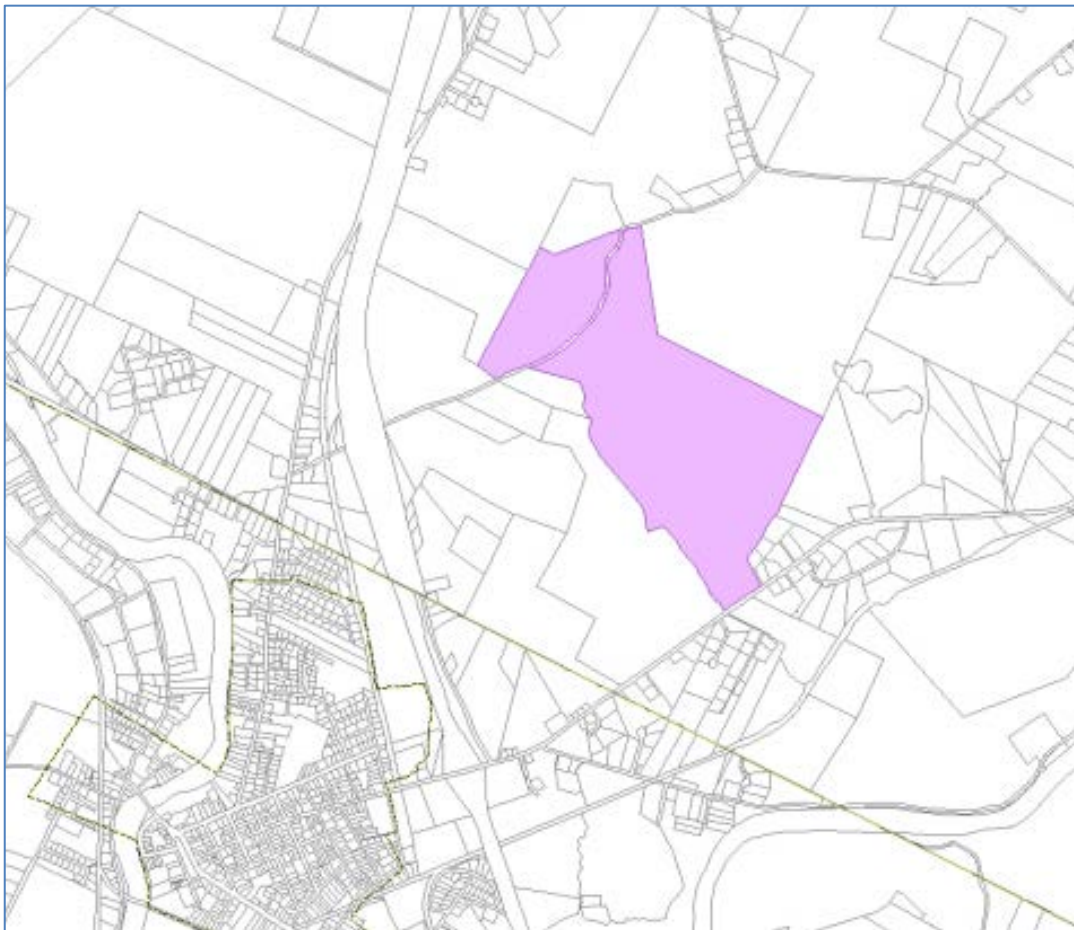
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## **On-Line Parcel Mapping Resources**

EGC – Parcel Workgroup Web Page -

<https://outside.vermont.gov/sites/egcgeo/parcelwg/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>



**Highgate & Swanton Parcels – Franklin County Airport is Shaded**