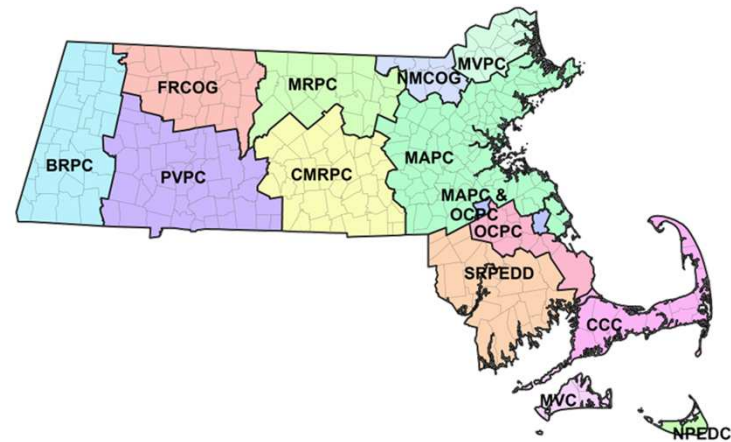
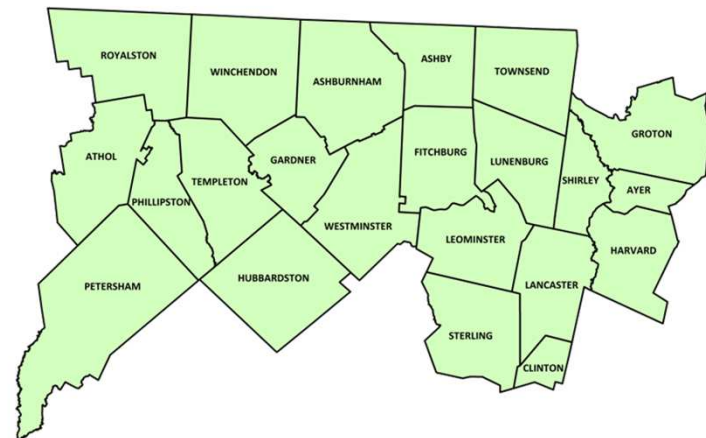


Athol Interactive Mapping of Available Properties

Introduction / Background

- Jason Stanton, GIS Certified Professional (GISP)
 - 978-345-7376 x313 or jstanton@mrpc.org
- Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (RPA)
- RPA's
 - 13 RPA's cover the State of Massachusetts
 - Inexpensive and valuable resources
 - Limited **FREE** GIS Planning Assistance available for member communities
- ESRI
 - Desktop software and Web GIS vendor
- MassGIS
 - Downloadable data
 - ArcGIS Online (AGOL)



Athol Interactive Mapping of Available Properties

History of the Program/Project

- Athol Created the Vacant and Abandoned Building Committee (VABC)
 - <http://www.athol-ma.gov/vacant-and-abandoned-building-committee-vabc>
- The program was started to address a significant number of vacant or abandoned buildings in town.
- The first phase is to identify and create a database of these buildings.
- The second phase is to attempt to remedy those in need of rehabilitation or demolition.

Athol Interactive Mapping of Available Properties

Best Practices

- Saved time and money by centralizing data so that key personnel all have access to the same information in real-time and eliminating the need to manually take notes in the field (where necessary) and transcribe the notes into a database.
- The VABC has efficiently reduced blight by partnering with the Montachusett Enterprise Center, Inc. (MEC), and using resources allocated through the Attorney General's Office has been successful in taking receivership in properties, renovating them, and getting them back on the market.
- The use of this app not only aids in general life safety by giving us a tool to monitor properties, it also protects their emergency services.
 - The program is done in conjunction with the Fire Department, which gives dispatchers and firefighters real time, up to date information on any situation that they may encounter. By being aware of the majority of hazards before arriving on scene, emergency personnel have an advantage.

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How the Project/Program Could be Replicated by Others

- The first thing you need is people who are willing to dedicate time to the program. It's a great program, but it takes a lot of hours into getting it off the ground.
- Understanding that developing and maintaining a database is only one piece. Nothing happens with the properties identified as vacant, without people pushing forward either with demolition, receivership, even just being a thorn in the side of property owners.
- In short, like everything else, you need a little time, and a little money to replicate what we've done. (Something they constantly struggle with.)

Athol Interactive Mapping of Available Properties

Lessons Learned

- Desktop editing is very helpful. Typing on a keyboard is fast and easy where doing data entry on the tablet can be cumbersome.
- In terms of what has worked with their efforts with vacant buildings, unfortunately no two situations are the same. They have had success at receivership, pressuring property owners, tax takings, demolitions... and they've had failures at all of those as well.
- Their overall success has been in the fact that people have noticed our efforts. By making the efforts very public and proactive banks are often times now contacting them when they take ownership of a property to find out what the town's requirements are, if they have a registration program, outstanding code violations etc., and derelict property owners are stepping up to the plate on their own.

Athol Interactive Mapping of Available Properties

Web Mapping Capabilities

- Robust applications which allows users to:
 - Access, view and query data
 - Add additional data layers and change basemap imagery
 - Quickly go to addresses or your current location using GPS
 - Create drawings, markups and text
 - Measure distances and areas
 - Use or create bookmarks for easy navigation
 - View Google® Street View images
 - Create and edit data
 - Attach pictures and/or videos to data
 - Track edits and versions of data
 - Share maps with others
 - Extract Data
 - Print maps

Web Mapping Technologies

Collector for ArcGIS and MRMapper Web Apps

- Collector for ArcGIS
 - Uses ArcGIS Online or Portal for ArcGIS Web Maps
 - Requires installation of the Collector for ArcGIS app (for iOS and Android only)
 - 'Live' OR 'Disconnected' editing
 - Limited tools and functionality
- MRMapper Web Apps
 - Uses ArcGIS Online or Portal for ArcGIS Web Maps
 - Can be consumed on all devices in all major browsers
 - ✓ No App to install
 - ✓ Mac or PC / Tablet or Phone / Windows, iOS or Android
 - ✓ Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Safari
 - ✓ Works in the office **OR** in the field
 - 'Live' editing only
 - Full tools and functionality