

# Massachusetts

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Massachusetts has done, and continues to do, a great job producing GIS datasets and distributing over the Internet at no cost. Much of the data is distributed through the various divisions of the [Massachusetts state government](#), other are distributed by other departments within the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) (USGS). I have found these sites particularly useful:

- The [Massachusetts state government](#) is a great place to begin a search. With a little digging, we can come up with an enormous amount of useful data. Of particular interest is the [MassGIS](#) site, we can download ARC/INFO Export Files (.E00) and ESRI Shapefiles (.SHP).

## **Statewide Layers:**

**Statewide Layers**

*To Download:* Hold down the Shift key and left-click on each link to save locally

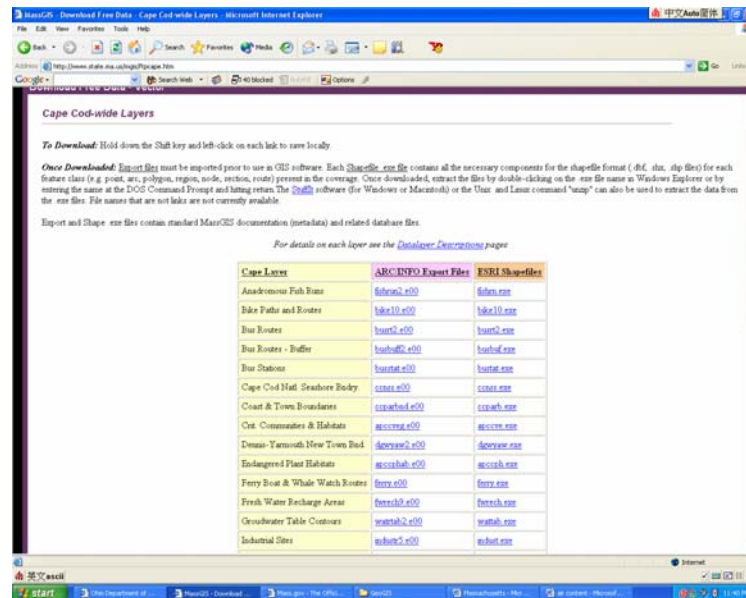
*Once Downloaded:* Export files must be imported prior to use in GIS software. Each Shapefile .esri file contains all the necessary components for the shapefile format (.dbf, .shx, .shp files) for each feature class (e.g. point, arc, polygon, region, node, section, route) present in the coverage. Once downloaded, extract the files by double-clicking on the .esri file name in Windows Explorer or by entering the name at the DOS Command Prompt and hitting return. The [Shape](#) software (for Windows or Macintosh) or the Unix and Linux command "unzip" can also be used to extract the data from the .esri files. File names that are not links are not currently available.

Export and Shape .esri files contain standard MetaGIS documentation (metadata) and related database files

*For metadata (database description) on each layer click on its name in the "State Layer" column*

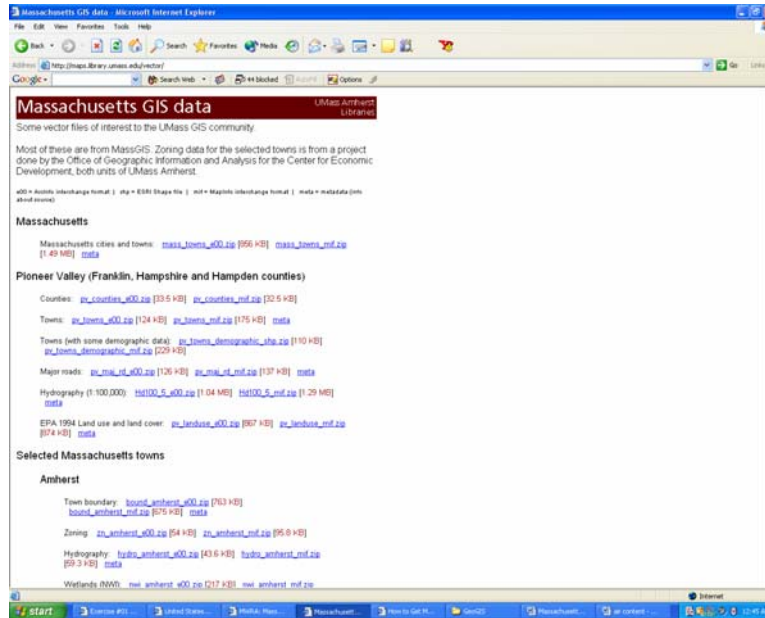
State Layer	ARC/INFO Export Files	ESRI Shapefiles
<a href="#">Abandoned Chamber Boats</a>	ab_cra.e00	ab_cra.shp
<a href="#">Aspects</a>	aspe.shp.e00	aspe.shp
<a href="#">Areas of Critical Env. Concern</a>	accra.e00	accra.shp
<a href="#">Barrier Beaches</a>	barbsh.e00	barb.shp
<a href="#">Beach Labeling</a>	N/A	be08b.shp
<a href="#">Bicycle Trails</a>	biker.e00	biker.shp
<a href="#">COG 1/2m MGRS Mosaic Index</a>	co18m.e00	co18m.shp
<a href="#">CDM Sheet Index</a>	camsh.e00	camsh.shp
<a href="#">Canoe Access Points</a>	canac.e00	canac.shp
<a href="#">Canoe Trails</a>	cantr.e00	cantr.shp
<a href="#">Coastal Barrier Resource Data</a>	clbr.e00	clbr.shp
<a href="#">Color Submerged Flight Lines</a>	csf23.e00	csf23.shp
<a href="#">Color CO (1982) Mosaic Index</a>	coman.e00	coman.shp
<a href="#">Congressional District (1998)</a>	con108.e00	con108.shp

## Cape Cod-wide Layers:



- [U.S. Geological Survey \(USGS\) National Mapping Program](#) may provide more data of geologic interest. From the site [USGS Geographic Data Download](#) we can find the data in DEM's, DLG's, NLCD's, and NHD's format. We can download the data of Massachusetts from FTP via State.
- [GeoCommunity](#) also distributes a great deal of USGS data. From that site we can find some useful data.





- [Massachusetts Water Resources Administration](#) provides some data of geologic interest. It is also from USGS.