

## ***Finding the correct aerial photographs and topographic maps on MassGIS...***

Finding the correct tiles for the aerial photographs and topographic maps that cover a specific area, for example Westfield State University, can be frustrating at times!

### **Detailed Instructions (2005 aerial photographs and topographic maps)**

1. First, determine the six-digit IDs for the tiles you need to download. MassGIS provides an index map at <http://www.mass.gov/anf/docs/itd/services/massgis/ix-oq.pdf>

*This is a large PDF file and I suggest downloading it to your USB flash drive for easier and faster use. You'll need it in the future.*

Open the index map and zoom-into Westfield. It takes a bit to get used to what you are looking at, but you see the town line (as a dashed line), the Mass Pike (in green), Route 10 and Route 20 (in red), and the larger water bodies (in blue). The black grid shows the air photo and topographic map tiles (with the six-digit ID).

2. Now you have to guess = estimate where the campus is located and which tiles you need to download. This can be done via trial-and-error...download a tile, open it in ArcMap to check if you 'see' WSU.
3. In this case you need two tiles because Westfield State is split almost in the middle:

*93874 and 97874*

4. Navigate to the download page for the 2005 aerial photographs in MrSID format and contrast-stretched at <http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/it-serv-and-support/application-serv/office-of-geographic-information-massgis/datalayers/colororthos2005.html>

For the topographic maps, navigate to <http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/it-serv-and-support/application-serv/office-of-geographic-information-massgis/datalayers/imquad.html>

5. Scroll down until you find the six-digit ID and download the zip archive.

Right-click on the file, select Save Target as (Internet Explorer) or Save Link as (Firefox) and download the files into your dedicated folder on your USB flash drive.

Browse to your dedicated folder and unzip/extract the MrSID files.

6. Start ArcMap and add the two MrSID images into a group layer. You should be able to see the campus, especially Juniper Park School. Now you zoom-in, set a spatial bookmark, and you are ready for further analysis or digitizing.

## **Detailed Instructions (2008/2009 aerial photographs and topographic maps)**

The basic procedure is the same, except you need to use the 8-digit numbers for each tile found here:  
<http://www.mass.gov/anf/docs/itd/services/massgis/coq2008-09-index.pdf>

*MassGIS provides two ways to download these images: a map-based tool and a traditional file listing – choose whatever you prefer!*

<http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/it-serv-and-support/application-serv/office-of-geographic-information-massgis/datalayers/massgis-data-download-usgs-color-ortho-imagery-2008-2009.html>

### **Oliver**

You can also use Oliver to view and download these raster data.  
Use the Data Export Wizard.

For Help and Instructions: [http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/map\\_ol/moris\\_users\\_documentation.htm](http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/map_ol/moris_users_documentation.htm)