

State of Vermont

VT Open Geodata Policy

Version 1.0, 01/14/2017

Updates

Date	Notes
12/14/2016	Version 0.1, first draft
12/29/2016	Version 0.2, second draft
01/14/2017	Version 1.0

1. Scope

This policy covers all data, services, and products that are provided through the Vermont Open Geodata Portal.

2. Definitions

Geodata	Data which has geospatial components that model geographic locations. More commonly known as “GIS data” or “geospatial data”.
Open Data	Public record data which is provided to the public through the internet at no cost, without requiring a data request form, and without requiring creation of a login.
Open Geodata	Open data that is geodata.
Vermont Open Geodata Portal	A website that the State of Vermont administers for provision of open geodata.
GIS (Geographic Information System)	A technology that is used for collection, storage, organization, retrieval, display, and analysis of geospatial data.
Metadata	Descriptive information which accompanies a set of data such as the originator, description, point of contact, data credits, data type, data sources, accuracy level, appropriate use, and field descriptions.

3. Policy

3.1. Principles of Open Data

The Vermont Open Geodata Portal is built upon the following four (4) principles of open data.¹

¹ Source: Training Seminar titled *Get Started with ArcGIS Open Data*, Esri. Location: <https://www.esri.com/training/catalog/57630436851d31e02a43f0c8/get-started-with-arcgis-open-data/>

3.1.1. OPENNESS

Anyone may directly access open geodata that is available through the Vermont Open Geodata portal at no cost, without a data request form, and without creation of a login. Making open geodata directly accessible through the Vermont Open Geodata Portal is an efficient approach to providing individuals, businesses, governments, educational institutions, and other organizations with access to valuable open geodata resources.

3.1.2. DISCOVERABILITY

The Vermont Open Geodata Portal can be searched in order to find particular open geodata resources. The user experience of discovering open geodata resources on the portal is consistent. Discoverability allows quick discovery and utilization of open geodata resources that are relevant to particular needs or topics. Discoverability supports government transparency, as open geodata is proactively published for discovery. Furthermore, discoverability supports the private sector by providing a means for businesses and other organizations to discover and apply open geodata resources to their business processes.

3.1.3. EXPLORATION

Geodata resources that are obtained through the Vermont Open Geodata Portal can be visualized, searched, sorted, and analyzed using a variety of GIS software options.

3.1.4. COLLABORATION

Open geodata resources that are available through the Vermont Open Geodata portal can be downloaded, shared, and utilized alongside other data resources. Organizations and individuals can integrate open geodata resources obtained through the Vermont Open Geodata portal with their own processes and other data resources. Integrating multiple data resources can yield powerful data sets that serve analytical processes such as operation support, decision support, and analysis of particular topics.

3.2. Uses Prohibited

For all data, services, and products that are provided through the Vermont Open Geodata Portal, direct, non-value added, reproduction of those data, services, and products with intent to sell is prohibited.

3.3. Metadata

Some data, services, and products that are provided through the Vermont Open Geodata Portal are accompanied by metadata that provides descriptive information such as the data originator, data credits, and appropriate use. Users of data, services, and products that are obtained through the Vermont Open Geodata Portal are encouraged to read metadata that accompanies those data, services, and products.

3.4. Warranties and Liability

Neither the State of Vermont nor the contributors of data, services, and products provided through the Vermont Open Geodata Portal shall be held liable for any improper or incorrect use of those data, services, and products and assume no responsibility for anyone's use of those data, services, and products. In no event shall the State of Vermont or the contributors be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, special, exemplary, or consequential damages (including, but not limited to, procurement or substitute goods or services; loss of use, data, or profits; or business interruption) however caused and on any theory.