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Natural Resources Atlas Modernization

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The Agency of Digital Services (ADS) and the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) are exploring the modernization of the Vermont Natural Resources Atlas (Atlas) due to the retirement of outdated technology. The retirement of the Application Programming Interface (API) currently used by the Atlas may make the platform vulnerable: the Atlas needs to be upgraded to a newer API as soon as possible to avoid potential impacts.

The Atlas will continue to operate through 2028; however, there is a risk that future browser updates could cause the Atlas to perform less effectively or cease to function during the interim period.

In the interim, we ask that Atlas users:

- Be aware that the platform is in a transition period;
- Consider the platform's limited lifespan for operational planning, guidance documents, and business processes; and
- Watch for future updates and communications that will be provided in the home panel of the application.

Thank you for your patience and understanding through this journey to modernize and evolve the Natural Resources Atlas for the State of Vermont.

Contact [Erik Engstrom](#), GIS Manager at the Vermont Agency of Digital Services, with questions.

Modernization Plan

The Agency of Digital Services is in the beginning stages to scope a project that would modernize the Natural Resources Atlas to work in the current API. The goal is for the application to continue to provide the same functionality that exists in the current application.

We will begin development of the next generation of the Atlas in early 2026.

As with all transformational changes, there will be a transition period. The goal is to keep both the old and new Atlas operational to allow ample time for users to migrate to the new platform and be comfortable using the new application.

JavaScript 3.x API

In February 2023 ESRI [announced the retirement](#) of its JavaScript API 3.x with a retirement date of July 1, 2024. The Natural Resources Atlas is developed using the JavaScript 3.x API and thus is considered a retired product. ESRI has urged applications developed using the 3.x API to migrate to its 4.x API. VertiGIS, the parent company that is the developer of the platform in which the Natural Resources Atlas is developed provided some context to what this means for its users in this [blog post](#).

History of the Natural Resources Atlas

For over a decade – since 2012 – the Vermont Natural Resources Atlas has been used as the online source of natural resources information for the State of Vermont. The longevity of this application given its complexity is remarkable.

The Atlas provides information on various natural resources such as:

- Environmental features: wetlands, forests, rivers, lakes.
- Land use: development areas, agricultural lands.
- Environmental permits: information on permits issued by ANR.
- Other relevant data: flood hazard zones, wildlife habitats.

Users can:

- Explore maps of specific areas in Vermont.
- Overlay different layers of data to analyze information.
- Create custom maps for specific purposes.
- Access and download data.

The Atlas is a valuable resource for anyone interested in learning more about Vermont's environment and making informed decisions related to land use and natural resource management.