

MAPPING THE TOWN OF DANVERS RAIL TRAIL

Geographic Information Systems

GPH903

Professor Marcos Luna

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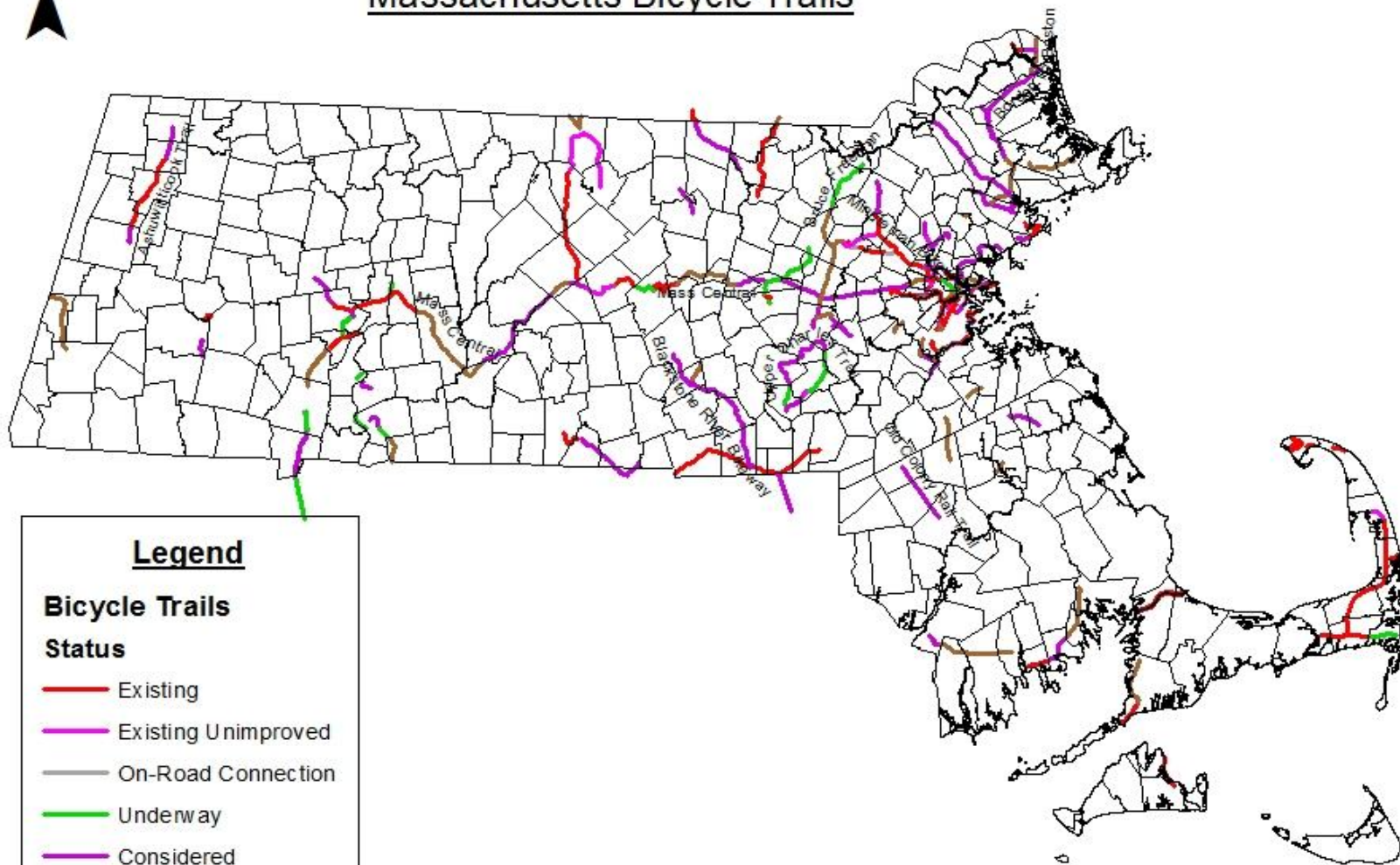
Rail Trail Project Background

- ▣ My project was to create a map for visitors to navigate the Danvers Rail Trail.
- ▣ I was excited to complete this project because the Rail Trail provides a safe corridor for all types of outdoor activities from cycling to cross country skiing.
- ▣ A century ago there were 300,000 mile of railroad track in the US, of those 160,000 miles are abandoned.
- ▣ With the combined efforts of government agencies and local communities there are now over 300 miles of rail trails in Massachusetts today.



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Massachusetts Bicycle Trails



Legend

Bicycle Trails

Status

- Existing
- Existing Unimproved
- On-Road Connection
- Underway
- Considered
- Potential

0 5 10 20 30 40 50 Miles

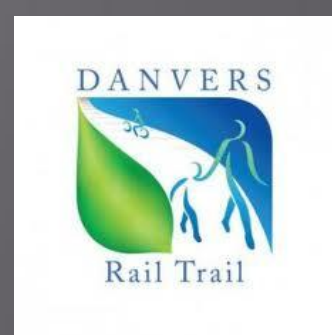


Objectives



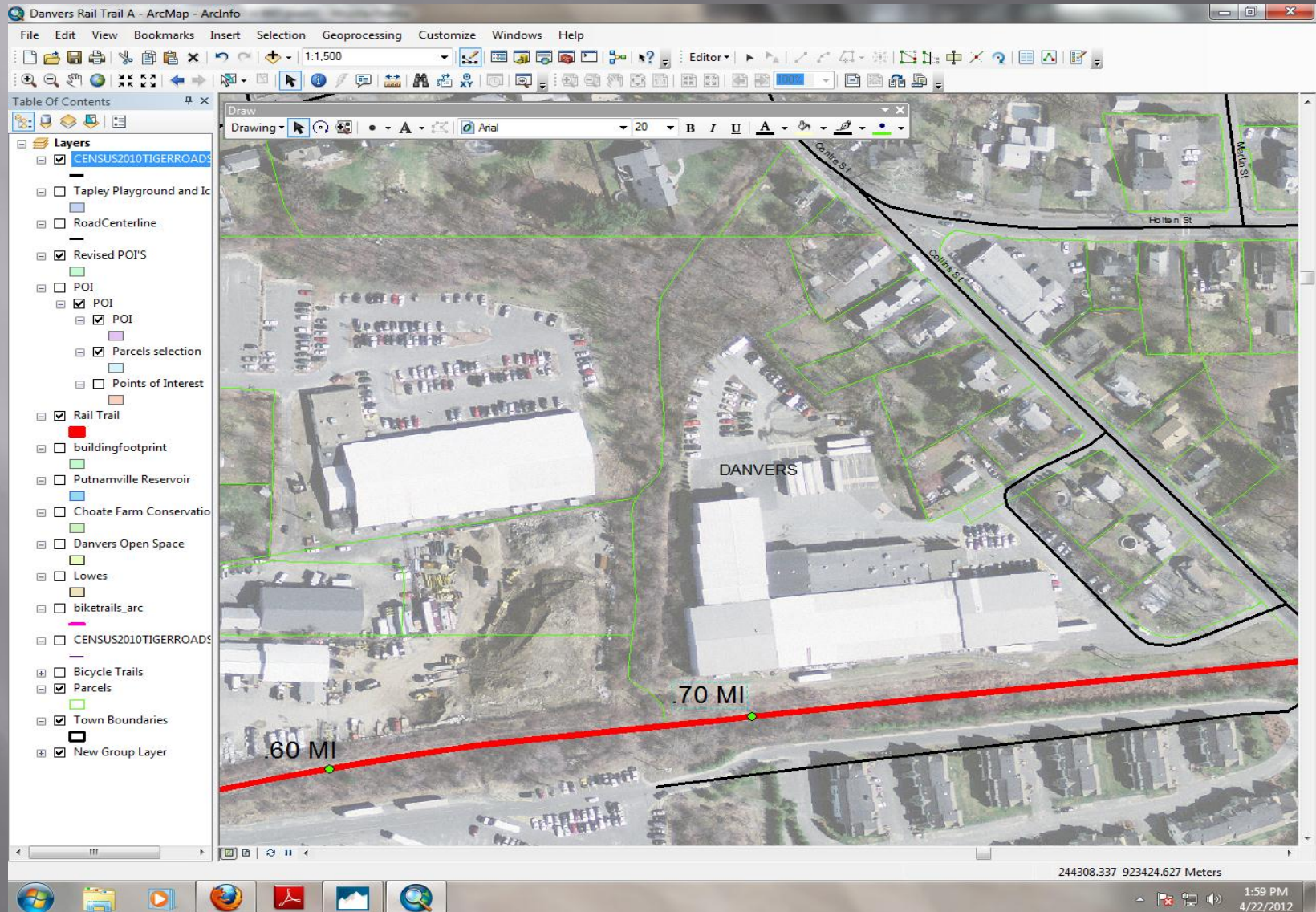
- ▣ The goal of this project was to produce a map to be placed in designated kiosks along the Danvers Rail Trail to help visitors navigate the trail.
- ▣ The map will need to be easy to interpret, as well as highlight points of interests along the trail.
- ▣ This map may be used for future fundraising events put on by the Danvers Rail Trail Committee.

Methods and Data



- ▣ Most of the data used in this project was obtained through MassGIS©, the remainder was provided by the Town of Danvers Electric Division.
- ▣ I started with the town boundary shape file and added the infrastructure with 2010 census data.
- ▣ Points of interest were gathered by identifying the corresponding parcels on the map and creating new layers by the selected elements.
- ▣ The trail route itself was created by editing the vertices of the Boston and Maine railroad parcel and comparing it to USGS Color Ortho Imagery (2008/2009).

Identifying Parcels With Imagery

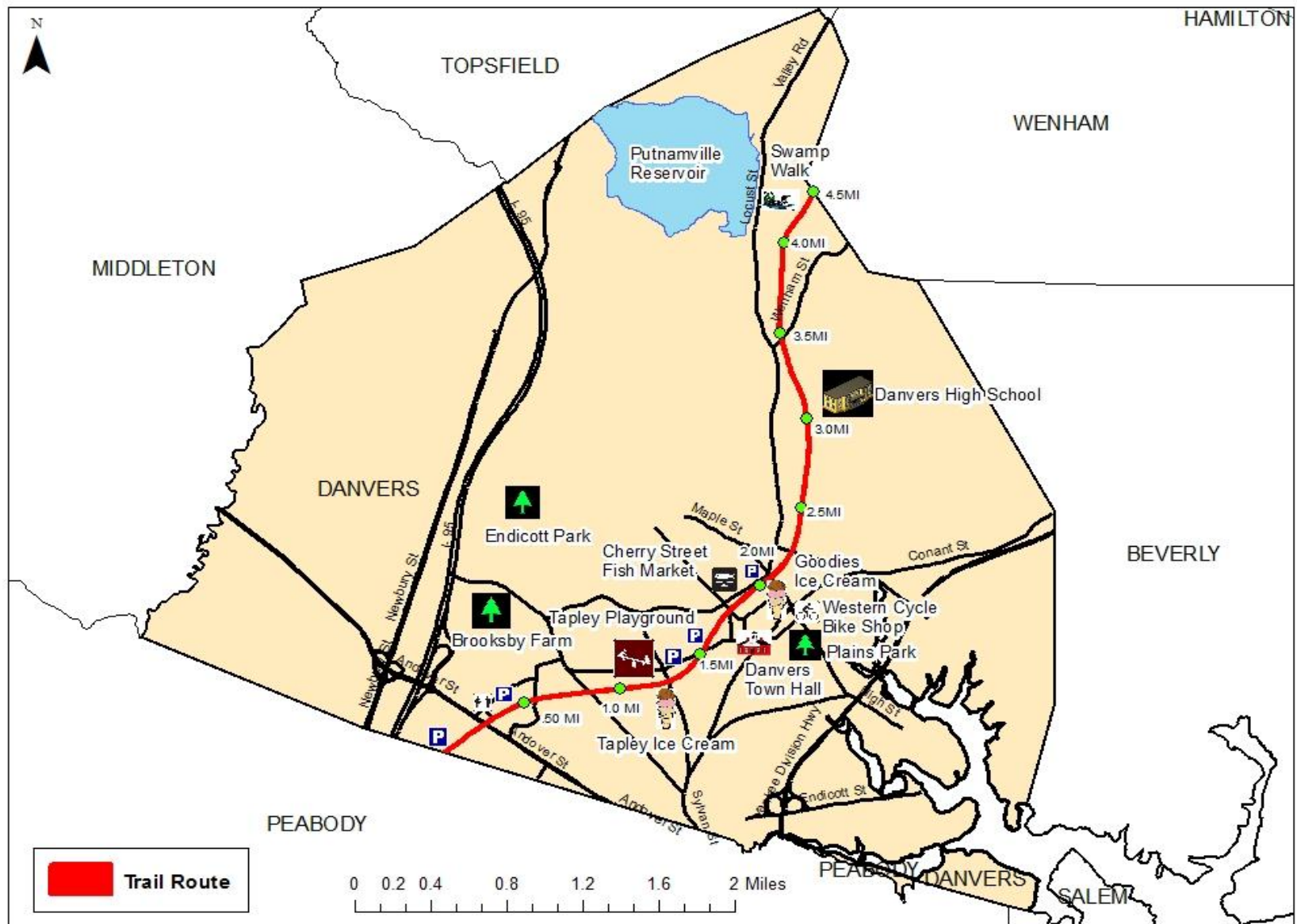


Final Product



- ▣ The final product was a map that serves the intended purpose; to allow visitors to navigate the rail trail.
- ▣ The finished product did not match what I initially intended the map to look like. When I started the process my aim was to identify key land marks and points of interest using the parcels layer. I planned on selecting the desired parcels and using polygons to represent each feature.
- ▣ What I found by using each parcel to identify the features, was that they were barely visible when zoomed out to the full extent. I then tried to edit the vertices of the polygons, this was effective but lost the spatial accuracy.
- ▣ I ultimately decided that I needed to compromise the shape/location of the feature in the interest of visibility. Since I was going to have to compromise either way I opted to use icons rather than polygons to represent each feature. The result was an aesthetically pleasing, informative map .

Danvers Rail Trail



References



- ❑ Rails to Trails Conservancy website. www.railstotrails.org. Accessed March 17, 2012.
- ❑ American Trails Organization. www.americantrails.org. Accessed March 18, 2012.
- ❑ MassGIS website. www.mass.gov/mgis/
- ❑ Personal Correspondence James Gomes, Town of Danvers Electric Department. April 7, 2012.

