

“Mapping Niagara”

Data Sources for the Niagara Region

Western New York, U.S. and Niagara, Ontario, Canada

Prepared by the Urban Design Project, UB

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PROJECT SUMMARY

The Urban Design Project at the School of Architecture and Planning, University at Buffalo, received a small grant from the UB Canadian-American Studies Committee entitled, “Mapping Niagara.” The goal of this project has been to identify existing data bases and sources of information on the binational Niagara Region and to make this information available through various web postings.

This research has confirmed what many researchers know: there are not many shared data sources that address both sides of the border. Given this situation, we have included “complementary” data sets where possible, indicating similar sources of data from each country.

The primary goal is to offer information regarding interactive data bases; however, we have found that many sources provide data but have restricted access to the data base itself. All of the data bases in Regional Niagara, for example, are restricted. To aid researchers, we have therefore included information on selected data sets on how to access data by institution or agency and a contact person for each.

Structure of attached Excel Chart

1. Category of Data
2. Geographic Scope
3. Organization who holds and maintains data
4. Data Base name
5. Data type
6. Accessibility: Public/proprietary, Free/cost, Permission Required
7. Data coverage: Joint, USA, Canadian
8. Contact person
9. Website
10. Notes

ORGANIZATION OF DATA BASES / INFORMATION

The information is divided into two categories: (1) Binational/International Data Bases that contain U.S. and Canadian information within the same data set; and (2) Complementary Data Bases and information sources by National/Federal, State/Provincial, and Region.

Category One: Binational / International Data Bases

Category Two: Complementary Data Information

National/Federal Data Bases¹

State/Provincial Data Bases

Regional Data Bases

We provide the URL for the agency or institution who maintains the data and at times, a specific address for the data sources themselves. All of the agencies and institutions have provided user friendly sites to locate the data base and/or information and these addresses are not likely to change.

CATEGORY ONE: BINATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL DATA SOURCES

<p>GBNRTC (Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council) As the regional transportation agency, GBNRTC compiles data from other agencies such as NYSDOT, the Bridge and Thruway Authorities, etc. <http://www.gbnrtc.org></p> <p><i>Road/Transportation Data (Roads, Bridges, Rail, Airport, Great Lakes, Hospitals for WNY, U.S. and Niagara, Ontario, CA) Need permission to use (contact Richard Guarino, rguarino@gbnrtc.org)</i></p>
<p>“Geography Network” <http://www.geographynetwork.com> Commercial Service</p>
<p>“Terraserver.com” <www.TerraServer.com> Commercial service</p>

¹ International, National/Federal and State/Provincial Data Bases listed as source of regional information.

CATEGORY TWO: COMPLEMENTARY DATA INFORMATION

National and Federal Data Bases

TYPE OF DATA	Canadian	U.S.A.
<p>Natural Resources and Environment</p>	<p>Natural Resource Canada Sites</p> <p>NRC: Canada Centre for Remote Sensing <ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/ccrs/home></p> <p>NRC: CCRS Earth Observation Catalogue <http://ceocat.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca></p> <p>The Atlas of Canada <http://atlas.gc.ca/site/index/html></p> <p>“Geoscan” (http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/ess/esic/geoscan_e.html)</p> <p>Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure: Maps, Images & Data <www.geoconnections.org/CGDI.cfm/fuseaction/maps.welcome/gcs.cfm></p> <p>Environment Canada: The Green Lane <www.ec.gc.ca/envhome.html></p> <p>Pollution Probe <www.pollutionprobe.org></p>	<p>GeoData.gov (general link) <http://geodata.gov/gos></p> <p>USGS <http://edc.usgs.gov></p> <p>USDA Geospatial Data Gateway <http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov></p> <p>USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NCRS) Soils, Resources, etc. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov></p> <p>EPA - Environmental Protection Agency <http://www.epa.gov></p> <p>EPA Superfund Info System <http://www.epa.gov/cerclis></p> <p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife <http://info.fws.gov></p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Statistics Canada <http://www.statcan.ca></p>	<p>Bureau of Transportation Statistics <http://transtats.bts.gov/MappingCenter.asp></p> <p>U.S. Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov> (also available on Geography Network)</p>

State / Provincial Data Bases

	Canadian	U.S.A.
Mapping /images and Natural Resources	Ontario Ministry of the Environment < www.ene.gov.on.ca >	NYS Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure Coordination (NYS GIS Clearing House) < http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us > DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) “Environmental Navigator” < http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/map/index.html > NYS Department of Transportation (<i>Regional Transportation Projects</i>) < http://www.dot.state.ny.us/reg/r5/r5.html >

Regional Data Bases and Data Sources

	Canadian	U.S.A.
Regional General Information	<p>Regional Niagara <http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca></p> <p><i>“Your Niagara”</i> <http://www.yourniagara.ca> For more information, contact Tom Jamieson at <tom.jamieson@regional.niagara.on.ca></p> <p><i>“Niagara Navigator”</i> GeoSmart Niagara <http://www.yourniagara.ca>_search Niagara Navigator</p>	<p>Erie County (& Niagara County Data) <http://www.erie.gov></p> <p>Erie County “Internet Mapping Project” <http://www.erie.gov></p> <p>GBNRTC (Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council) <http://www.gbnrtc.org/gis.htm></p> <p>Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth / UB <http://regional-institute.buffalo.edu></p> <p>WNY Regional Information Network or WNYRIN of The Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth <http://www.wnyrin.com></p> <p>“State of the Region” Project of Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth <http://regional-institute.buffalo.edu/prog/sotr.html></p> <p>Regional Economic Development Data Base (REDD) at Institute for Local Governance & Regional Growth (http://regional-institute.buffalo.edu/prog.redd.html)</p>

PEOPLE CONSULTED IN PREPARING CAN AM DATA SETS
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Lynda Schneekloth, Urban Design Project	lhs1@buffalo.edu 716 829 3483 / 201
Sean Brodfuehrer Urban Design Project	stb3@buffalo.edu
Subbiah Mantharam, Institute for Local Governance & Regional Growth	subbiah@buffalo.edu 829 3777
Karen DePalma Institute for Local Governance & Regional Growth	kdepalma@buffalo.edu 829 3007
Ken Forgeron Regional Niagara	kforgeron@regional.niagara.on.ca 905 984 3630 / 3375
Darcy Baker Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	dbaker@conservation-niagara.on.ca 905 788 3135 / 248
John Whitney NRCS	john.whitney@ny.usda.gov 652 8480
Richard Guarino GBNRTC	rguarino@gbnrtc.org 856 2026 / 307
Dale Morris Erie County	morrisd@bflo.co.erie.ny.us 858 7422
Chris Castiglione USFWS	chris_castiglione@fws.gov 691 5456 / 35
Janet Moate, Regional Niagara	janet.moate@regional.niagara.on.ca 905 984 3630 / 3388
Tom Jamieson, Regional Niagara	tom.jamieson@regional.niagara.on.ca 685 4225 / 3451

Category	Region Type	Organization Name	Database Name	Data Type	Public	Free	Permission Req.	JNT	USA	CAN	Contact	Website	Notes
1	1 - Binational Data	1 - GBNRTC	Regional Transportation Plans	General Info			X	X			quarino@gbnrtc.org	http://www.gbnrtc.org/	
1	1 - Binational Data	1 - GBNRTC	Railways	Digital GIS			X	X			quarino@gbnrtc.org	http://www.gbnrtc.org/	
1	1 - Binational Data	1 - GBNRTC	Railway Stations	Digital GIS			X	X			quarino@gbnrtc.org	http://www.gbnrtc.org/	
1	1 - Binational Data	1 - GBNRTC	Roadways	Digital GIS			X	X			quarino@gbnrtc.org	http://www.gbnrtc.org/	
1	1 - Binational Data	1 - GBNRTC	Bridges	Digital GIS			X	X			quarino@gbnrtc.org	http://www.gbnrtc.org/	
1	1 - Binational Data	1 - GBNRTC	Hospitals	Digital GIS			X	X			quarino@gbnrtc.org	http://www.gbnrtc.org/	
1	1 - Binational Data	1 - GBNRTC	Great Lakes	Digital GIS			X	X			quarino@gbnrtc.org	http://www.gbnrtc.org/	
1	1 - Binational Data	1 - GBNRTC	Cities	Digital GIS			X	X			quarino@gbnrtc.org	http://www.gbnrtc.org/	
1	1 - Binational Data	1 - GBNRTC	Airports	Digital GIS			X	X			quarino@gbnrtc.org	http://www.gbnrtc.org/	
1	1 - Binational Data	1 - GBNRTC	Regional Urban Areas	Digital GIS			X	X			quarino@gbnrtc.org	http://www.gbnrtc.org/	
1	1 - Binational Data	1 - GBNRTC	Regional & Local Municipalities	Digital GIS			X	X			quarino@gbnrtc.org	http://www.gbnrtc.org/	
1	1 - Binational Data	2 - Geography Network	Gateway Website	Digital GIS	X	X		X			Through Website	http://www.geographynetwork.com	This is a third party site that has many links to data for both sides of the border. Some is free, some is for a fee.
1	2 - International Data	3 - Terra Server	Satellite Imagery	Raster Data	X	X		X			support@terraserver.com	www.TerraServer.com	
2	3 - National Data, US	1 - GeoData.gov	Gateway Website	General Info	X	X			X		Contact Through Website	http://www.geodata.gov/gos	This website is a gateway to many other agencies or bureaus within the US government providing links to downloadable data and other information
2	3 - National Data, US	2 - USGS	Digital Elevation Models	Digital GIS	X			X			custserv@usgs.gov	http://edc.usgs.gov/products/elevation/dem.html	Data is open to the public but is charged a fee to access it
2	3 - National Data, US	2 - USGS	Digital Line Graphics	Digital GIS	X			X			custserv@usgs.gov	http://edc.usgs.gov/products/map/dlg.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	2 - USGS	Digital Orthophoto Quadrangles	Raster Data	X			X			custserv@usgs.gov	http://geography.wr.usgs.gov/doi/	
2	3 - National Data, US	2 - USGS	Digital Raster Graphics	Raster Data	X			X			custserv@usgs.gov	http://topomaps.usgs.gov/drg/	
2	3 - National Data, US	3 - USDA - Geospatial Data Gateway	Various Maps & Data	Digital GIS	X	X		X			gateway@ncrc.usda.gov	http://datagateway.ncrc.usda.gov	This is a very user friendly gateway program that allows the downloading of various spatial data like hydrology, street maps or topographic information
2	3 - National Data, US	4 - USDA - National Resource Conservation Services	Biose Cartographic	Digital GIS	X	X		X			http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/contact/	http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/	Navigate to the Data Gateway service to get access to all of their data files.
2	3 - National Data, US	4 - USDA - National Resource Conservation Services	Lighthouse Resource Data	Digital GIS	X	X		X			http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/contact/	http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/	
2	3 - National Data, US	4 - USDA - National Resource Conservation Services	National Resources Inventory	Digital GIS	X	X		X			http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/contact/	http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/	
2	3 - National Data, US	4 - USDA - National Resource Conservation Services	Plants	Digital GIS	X	X		X			http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/contact/	http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/	
2	3 - National Data, US	4 - USDA - National Resource Conservation Services	Soils	Digital GIS	X	X		X			http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/contact/	http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/	
2	3 - National Data, US	4 - USDA - National Resource Conservation Services	Status Map	Digital GIS	X	X		X			http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/contact/	http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/	
2	3 - National Data, US	4 - USDA - National Resource Conservation Services	Water & Climate	Digital GIS	X	X		X			http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/contact/	http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/	
2	3 - National Data, US	4 - USDA - National Resource Conservation Services	Watershed Boundaries	Digital GIS	X	X		X			http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/contact/	http://www.ncrc.usda.gov/	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Air	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	The EPA website is full of environmental information that can be applied and found for regional and national needs. The information comes in many forms - databases, reports and studies.
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Cleanup	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Compliance & Enforcement	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Economics & Ecosystems	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Emergencies	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental Management	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental Technology	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Government	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Human Health	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Industry	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	International Cooperation	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Pesticides	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Pollutants / Toxics	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Pollution Prevention	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Radiation & Radioactivity	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Research	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Treatment & Control	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Wastes	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Water	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/epahome/topics.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Gateway Program	General Info	X	X		X			dubois.katie@epa.gov or Through Website	http://www.epa.gov/enviro/	This website provides a gateway to search for through the EPA maps, databases, topics or other information based on region
2	3 - National Data, US	5 - US Environmental Protection Agency	Superfund Information	General Info	X	X		X			reynolds.david@epa.gov	http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/index.htm	Database of all the Superfund sites throughout the country.
2	3 - National Data, US	6 - US Fish and Wildlife Department	Wildlife Refuge Area	Digital GIS	X	X		X			northeast@fws.gov	http://www.fws.gov/data/datafws.html	This site has many links to other federal or state agencies that offer digital and geospatial data.
2	3 - National Data, US	6 - US Fish and Wildlife Department	National Wetlands Inventory	Digital GIS	X	X		X			northeast@fws.gov	http://www.fws.gov/data/datafws.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	6 - US Fish and Wildlife Department	Fish Hatcheries	Digital GIS	X	X		X			northeast@fws.gov	http://www.fws.gov/data/datafws.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	6 - US Fish and Wildlife Department	Region Data	Digital GIS	X	X		X			northeast@fws.gov	http://www.fws.gov/data/datafws.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	6 - US Fish and Wildlife Department	Ecosystem Coverage's	Digital GIS	X	X		X			northeast@fws.gov	http://www.fws.gov/data/datafws.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	6 - US Fish and Wildlife Department	Office Locations	Digital GIS	X	X		X			northeast@fws.gov	http://www.fws.gov/data/datafws.html	
2	3 - National Data, US	7 - The Bureau of Transportation Statistics	Transportation Related Layers	Digital GIS	X	X		X			answers@bts.gov	http://trnstats.bts.gov/MappingCenter.asp	Their transportation data includes many layers such as railroads, stations, highways, congressional, hydraulic along with many other layers. Data may not be up to date as they release them for download on a yearly basis, the last year provided for is 2003
2	3 - National Data, US	8 - U.S. Census Bureau	Demographic Data	Database	X	X		X			http://www.census.gov/main/www/contacts.html	http://www.census.gov/	
2	4 - National Data, CA	1 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing	Satellite Imagery	Raster Data	X			X			Contact Through Website	http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/ccrs/homepg.ppt?e	
2	4 - National Data, CA	1 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing	Environment	Digital GIS	X			X			Contact Through Website	http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/	
2	4 - National Data, CA	1 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing	Federal Electoral Districts	Digital GIS	X	X		X			info@geogratis.cgd.gc.ca	http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/	
2	4 - National Data, CA	1 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing	Land cover	Digital GIS	X	X		X			info@geogratis.cgd.gc.ca	http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/	
2	4 - National Data, CA	1 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing	Ecosystems	Digital GIS	X	X		X			info@geogratis.cgd.gc.ca	http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/	
2	4 - National Data, CA	1 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing	Ecological Land Survey	Digital GIS	X	X		X			info@geogratis.cgd.gc.ca	http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/	
2	4 - National Data, CA	1 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing	Conservation Areas	Digital GIS	X	X		X			info@geogratis.cgd.gc.ca	http://www.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca/	
2	4 - National Data, CA	2 - CCRS Earth Observation Catalogue	Satellite Imagery	Raster Data	X	X		X			Contact Through Website	http://ceocat.ccrs.nrcan.gc.ca	
2	4 - National Data, CA	3 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing - The Atlas for Canada	People & Society	Digital GIS	X	X		X			Contact Through Website	http://atlasc.gc.ca/site/index.html	All data through the Atlas website is available for public viewing but not downloading. Permission and possible fee might be needed to obtain base data files
2	4 - National Data, CA	3 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing - The Atlas for Canada	Economy	Digital GIS	X	X		X			Contact Through Website	http://atlasc.gc.ca/site/index.html	
2	4 - National Data, CA	3 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing - The Atlas for Canada	History	Digital GIS	X	X		X			Contact Through Website	http://atlasc.gc.ca/site/index.html	
2	4 - National Data, CA	3 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing - The Atlas for Canada	Climate Change	Digital GIS	X	X		X			Contact Through Website	http://atlasc.gc.ca/site/index.html	
2	4 - National Data, CA	3 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing - The Atlas for Canada	Freshwater	Digital GIS	X	X		X			Contact Through Website	http://atlasc.gc.ca/site/index.html	
2	4 - National Data, CA	3 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing - The Atlas for Canada	Reference Maps	Digital GIS	X	X		X			Contact Through Website	http://atlasc.gc.ca/site/index.html	
2	4 - National Data, CA	3 - Canada Centre for Remote Sensing - The Atlas for Canada	Map Archives	Digital GIS	X	X		X			Contact Through Website	http://atlasc.gc.ca/site/index.html	
2	4 - National Data, CA	4 - GeoScan	Reports & Maps	Raster Data	X			X			esic@geoscan.nrcan.gc.ca	http://less.nrcan.gc.ca/esic/index_e.php	There is a variety of free and for fee data available.
2	4 - National Data, CA	5 - Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure	Maps, Images & Data	Digital GIS	X	X		X			www.geconnections.org	http://www.geconnections.org/CGDI_cdm/fuseaction/maps_welcome/pics_cfm	
2	4 - National Data, CA	6 - Environment Canada "The Green Lane"	General Environmental Information	General Info	X	X		X			enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca	http://www.ec.gc.ca/envhome.html	
2	4 - National Data, CA	7 - Pollution Probe	General Environmental Information	General Info	X	X		X			pprobe@pollutionprobe.org	www.pollutionprobe.org	
2	4 - National Data, CA	8 - Statistics Canada	Demographic Data	Database	X	X		X			infostats@statcan.ca	http://www.statcan.ca/start.html	
2	5 - State / Provincial, US	1 - NYS Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure Coordination	Aerial Orthography	Digital GIS	X	X		X			nysgis@csic.state.ny.us	http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us/raster.htm	Only raster data is available through their website but it is based on a GIS viewer program, so actual digital GIS data may be available if contacted.
2	5 - State / Provincial, US	2 - Department of Environmental Conservation	Natural Resources, Maps	Raster Data	X	X		X					