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GEOG 370

1/18/2023

*Homework 1*

1. What was the finest scale of data that you found?

I found data on the town level, with outlines of residential and municipal buildings.

2. List up to ten types of layers that you found.

* Watershed delineations
* Elevation map
* County lines from census data
* Road maps
* Hospital locations
* School locations
* Bodies of water
* Rare species habitats
* Urban areas
* Forested areas

3. In what formats could the data be downloaded?

I used data from the Massachusetts state government’s website, the Mass GIS data, which could be downloaded in either a shapefile or geodatabase format.

4. What problems, if any, did you encounter while trying to use a particular dataset?

Downloading the Mass GIS dataset took a long time, because it was an enormous zip file with folders for each of the different layers across the whole state, and so it also took a while to extract the folders themselves. I ended up using the statewide data, because the data for the town of Falmouth was located on a publicly available website and I didn’t see any option to download specific layers. It seemed that many websites would direct to maps they provided instead of datasets to be downloaded.