GIS
News

Winter 2014

BASEMAP AND ORTHO_PLUS BASEMAP

GIS 101

Basemap Updates and Enhancements
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You may have recently noticed some changes to the basemap services. Most notable is the inclusion of the 2013 aerial photography in the Aerial basemaps, but there are other changes that may be a little more subtle.

We made three changes to the streets layer in the basemaps. A seemingly minor change that we think enhances the overall cartography is that we switched the line cap from butt to round. Culs-de-sac and dead-end roads now have a rounded end. We hope you find the "cleaner" look more cartographically pleasing. In the future we'd like to explore expanding this idea of more realistic line caps by differentiating between dead ends, turning circles (cul-de-sacs with no center median or obstruction) and turning loops (cul-de-sacs with a center median or obstruction). Another change to streets is that we adjusted the font to make it more legible. And the third change to streets was the widening of the street casings at the large scales. This enhancement aids in the legibility of the street names as well as to, well, look less "twiggy" and fill the right-of-way between parcels.

The hillshade surface in the vector basemaps has been updated to use a hillshade made from the 2011 LiDAR. This hillshade is based on the 1-meter DEM, so it is a little more detailed than the 5-foot hillshade that we had been using.

The biggest enhancement is more of an update; the aerial basemaps have all been updated with the new 2013 (6-inch resolution) aerial photography.

The chart at the bottom shows the enhancements and updates to each of the available basemaps. If you have any other suggestions for enhancing the basemaps, please let us know.

	Service Type	Street Symbol Change	Street Name Font Change	2013 Air Photo	2011 Hillshade
DC_Basemap	Cached	√	√		√
DC_Basemap_Live	Dynamic	√	√		√
DC_Basemap_OrthoPlus	Cached	√	√	√	
DC_Basemap_OrthoPlus_Live	Dynamic	√	√	√	
DCGIS_Basemap	Cached	√	√		√
DCGIS_Basemap_OrthoPlus	Cached	√	√	√	
DCPOL_Basemap	Cached	√	√		√
DCPOL_Basemap_OrthoPlus	Cached	√	√	√	