

MetroGIS Future Land Use Classification System

Introduction

In May 1997, the MetroGIS data user community identified Future Land Use as one of thirteen-priority business information needs. A contract was entered into with the North Metro I-35W Corridor Coalition to develop a future land use coding scheme for its seven cities to serve as a pilot for the entire metro area. The MetroGIS Future Land Use workgroup, made up of state, regional and local units of government, extrapolated the Coalition's classification scheme to create a drafted regional classification scheme over the course of several meetings between August 1999 and May 2000. The classification system is land use based upon planned future activity of the land. The overall objective of the MetroGIS Future Land Use Classification System (MFLUCS) is to implement a generalized future land use coding scheme to be able to make similar comparisons of community-based future land use plans.

The MFLUCS is a 3-level design, permitting a level of refinement to most future land use mapping projects. The first level, is the regional level classification, based primarily upon activity. And the second level, is the local units of government classification based primarily upon activity. The third level, is the national level classification code developed by the American Planning Association, Land Based Classification System (LBCS), based upon activity.

During that time, the Metropolitan Council was also identified as a candidate to assume the regional custodian responsibilities for MetroGIS' future land use information need. The Metropolitan Council has a business need for a regional dataset that would permit like comparisons of future land use among cities throughout the seven county area. This information is needed to provide context for its smart growth initiative. Council GIS staff has agreed to test the classification scheme developed by the MetroGIS Future Land Use workgroup as they develop a regional dataset for the Council's business information needs.

***DRAFT* - Future Land Use Classification Coding Scheme**

The MFLUCS is a typical classification system. The organization of the numerical and alphanumerical codes reflect this multi-level hierarchy.

Numerical codes

The first level, is the regional level classification, codes use a two digit number.

The second level, is the local units of government (sub-regional) classification, codes use a three digit number.

The third level, is the national classification, codes use a four digit number.

Examples:

11 - Interpreted to the first level, thus represents *Residential*

111 - Interpreted to the second level, thus represents *Rural Residential*
1000 - Interpreted to the third level, thus represents *Residential*

Alphabetic codes

The alphanumeric codes use a unique combination of letters for the first two levels, there is no equivalent alphanumeric code in the LBCS, third level designation.

Examples:

RES - Interpreted to the first level, thus represents *Residential*

R - Interpreted to the second level, thus represents *Rural Residential*

MFLUCCS Codes

The following classification codes are included with a standard color-coding format. Definition interpretations are based upon the activity of the land use and are stated as such. Please go to the MetroGIS web site under supported projects at <http://www.metrogis.org/supported/codingscheme.pdf> (PDF, 9 pages) to view and download the future land use coding scheme.

I-35W Future Land Use Mapping Example

The generalized future and existing land use designations by the North Metro I-35W Corridor Coalition are working documents of a sub-regional build-out study in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Design Center.

The following link is a mapping example of the Generalized Future Land Use designations developed, adopted and used by the North Metro I-35W Corridor Coalition for joint analysis and planning purposes. The following file is in PDF format: http://www.cala.umn.edu/design_center/projects/i35w/pdf%20files/gflu.pdf .

Further mapping examples will be included and updated in the future.

***DRAFT* - Implementation Strategy**

The planners/community development directors of each city and township in the seven county metropolitan area will be receiving a mailing that will include a brief explanation of the workgroup's proposed scheme. It will also detail the process used to arrive at the scheme, and a "first cut" of applying the scheme to their community prepared by the Council to test the workgroup's assumptions following a initial test with several communities.

Specifically:

1. Metropolitan Council GIS staff would collect or create GIS (digital) versions of each future land use plan as they have been adopted by each city or township in the seven county area. The resulting future land use designations will be aligned, as possible, with The Lawrence Group's regional street centerline dataset and county maintained parcel boundaries. The resulting GIS datasets will be made available to respective communities free of charge via the Internet.
2. A "first cut" of an aggregated regional future land use dataset will be produced by the Council's GIS staff for each community. Council staff will "map" future land use for each respective community to the regional scheme developed by the MetroGIS Future Land Use working group.
3. An explanation of the process and feedback will be requested for a sample of the region's 189 communities. Three types of feedback would be sought: a) accuracy of the designation boundaries and of the designation category, b) use of a probability surface to produce "fuzzy boundaries", and c) the regional coding scheme itself.
4. If necessary, the MetroGIS future land use workgroup will be convened to address comments concerning the preliminary regional coding scheme, regional dataset, and/or feedback procedures to expedite review by the remaining cities/townships.
5. Each of the remaining 189 cities and townships in the region will receive a mailing including a copy of the "first cut" regional dataset to critique the items listed in Step 3.
6. The Council's GIS staff will modify, as necessary, the designations for each city/township per the feedback from local officials. This dataset would likely be available free via the Internet at a date to be determined.
7. A Data Users Forum would be held Fall 2000/Winter 2001 to obtain feedback from the MetroGIS data user community about the usefulness of the regional future land use dataset, desired improvements, and update specifications.

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