



In This Issue

1. [New Maps in the Gallery](#)
2. [How I Use GIS: Hydrant Flushing](#)
3. [Town Meeting is Coming!](#)

1. Map Gallery

New maps available from Concord GIS!
CTRL-Click on a title to view, download or print the full-sized map

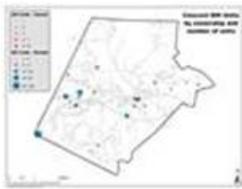
[Parcel Topography](#)



[Concord Solar](#)



[Affordable Housing](#)



[Walden Pond Bathymetry](#)



[Back to Top](#)

2. How I Use GIS: Alex Wahlstrom



Alex Wahlstrom, Environmental and Regulatory Coordinator for Concord's Water & Sewer Division, manages the Hydrant Flushing program (among many other things!)

"We flush hydrants to improve water quality, particularly at dead ends, and to remove any sediment that has accumulated in the system. Concord does unidirectional flushing along the various mains, to ensure sufficient velocity for full scouring of the system.

"When the crew is flushing a hydrant, they record a variety of data, including water color (black, brown etc.) level of sediment, and time needed to flush until the water runs clear. Additional data about the hydrant itself may also be collected: installation date, paint needed, and so on."

In the past this data was captured on paper log sheets. The sheets sometimes get smudged, damaged (wet?) or lost; and as there is no way to encourage the completion of the entire sheet, information may be missed. Now the crew uses ArcGIS Online to view a hydrant map on an iPad. Clicking on a hydrant symbol pops up this Hydrant Flushing form for capturing the needed data, with pre-populated drop-down menus containing the valid options for most fields:

HydrantFlushing	
Facility ID	HL09-001
Location	
Install Date	
Installed By	
Manufacturer	
Other Manufacturer	
Model	
Steamer	
Breakaway	
Branch	
Flush Date	
Inspector	
Total FlushTime	
Sediment	
Color	

“The crew also has the option to take a phot of the hydrant if there’s a problem, which becomes part of the record.

“This process saves time back at the office since the data doesn’t need to be re-entered into the computer – which also prevents data entry errors.

“We map the results and use them for annual reporting, tracking unmetered usage, and identifying areas of town with more sediment buildup or discoloration.”

As with any new technology, some folks take to it more readily than others... Further improvements to make the tool more user-friendly and efficient in the field are in the works.

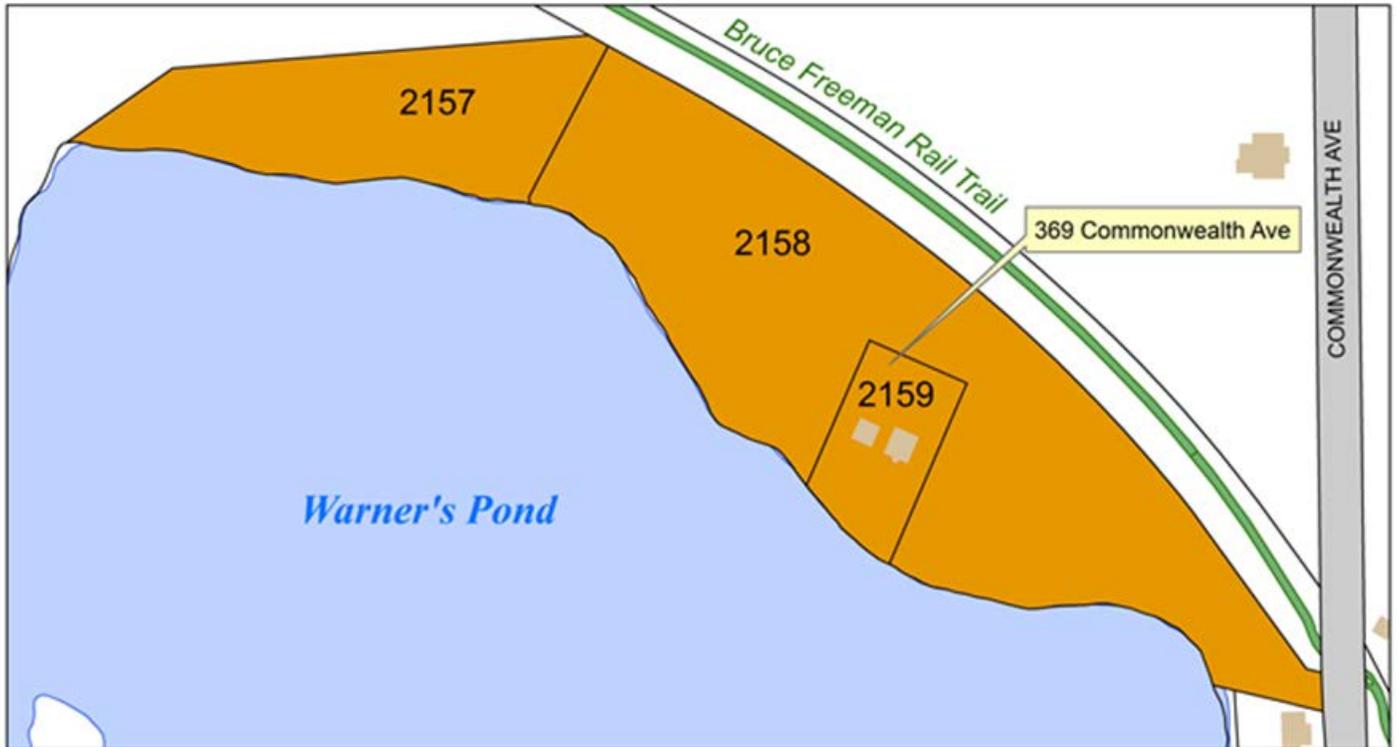
[Back to Top](#)

3. Town Meeting is Coming, Town Meeting is Coming!



Requests for maps to illustrate Warrant articles have been coming in, and we welcome yours too! Here’s a sample to whet your imagination:

Acquisition of Land on Warner's Pond



[Back to Top](#)