



(as of 9/22/06)

Criteria for OASIS Website Content

The OASIS executive committee has developed the following criteria and priorities as a guide to maintaining and enhancing the OASIS website and related projects with partners, in ways that are consistent with OASIS's mission and in the context of its organizational structure. The OASIS team will apply these criteria holistically as requests/suggestions/proposals are made to expand or modify the purpose and content of OASIS. These criteria were reviewed at a full Steering Committee meeting on May 25, 2006.

1. Relevance to OASIS's mission

- OASIS website focuses on data and maps that are related to open space, but with an emphasis on nexus between open space and other elements of the city's and region's "civic infrastructure." This includes physical and community assets that help support the city's social fabric – not only parks and open spaces, but housing, transit networks, education services, and land use planning and community development.
- *Current exceptions:* current website content is somewhat idiosyncratic, lying in-between the comprehensive universe of information vs. data sets selected due to their availability and ease of mapping.
- *Not resolved:* geologic data and soil survey results, for example.

2. Data accessibility for the website

- Preference is for publicly accessible information – which implies no (or minimal) cost for OASIS mapping team to acquire the data, and no restrictions on the use of the data on the website or for redistributing the data widely. Full credit is given on the website and related materials for data partners.
- *Current exceptions:* license restrictions on NYC property data and Basemap layers (though we will continue to seek freely available alternatives).

3. Data accessibility from the website

- OASIS will try to present information in ways that make it more meaningful to the general public than the data's raw format might allow (such as classifying infrared imagery according to impervious and non-impervious surfaces, or adding qualifiers to specific data elements such as building dates).
- *Current exceptions:* some info, such as real property or wetlands data, is included largely as-is.
- *Not resolved:* providing the ability to download geography or attributes directly from OASIS. Also, how does this intersect with security concerns.

4. Audience

- Most of the information should be easily understood by, visualized by, and be relevant to a variety of audiences including the general public, local community groups, the media, public officials, larger environmental and educational institutions.
- *Not resolved:* how to portray scientific information in ways that can be widely and easily understood.

5. Technical feasibility

- Preference for data already in digital form, either in GIS format or compatible with GIS (i.e., it includes a geographic component such as latitude/longitude, street address, block-lot number).
- *Current exceptions:* data from community-based groups without resources to provide pre-formatted data sets. (If resources permit, OASIS will try to help community groups with data collection.)

6. Quality control

- Goal is to seek databases that include metadata, data dictionary, consistent clean data (including vintage – when data collected, vs. when it was digitized.)

- *Current exceptions:* many data sets on OASIS still do not have metadata. The OASIS team has provided summary metadata where possible, but it's very limited.

7. Funding, time available to get content on OASIS

- Preference is to seek funding – either jointly with partner or directly through CUNY Graduate Center – to cover costs of: a) modifying OASIS to integrate new data set and/or tools and maintain over time; b) portion of cost of general maintenance of website; and c) other OASIS costs including outreach, partnership activities, etc. OASIS team can provide sample proposals with budget suggestions.
- *Current exceptions:* Content that can be included with minimal staff time, or if funding already exists through other projects.

8. Geographic scope

- Emphasis is currently on New York City's 5 boroughs, but it has been a long-standing goal of the steering committee to extend the geographic scope of OASIS maps to the larger region such as riparian boundaries (such as Bronx River watershed), and/or RPA boundaries.
- *Current exceptions:* mapped information for HEP and Living Memorials data extends into northern New Jersey and small portions of Conn. and Westchester and Nassau counties.

9. Geographic scale

- Priority is to include data as disaggregated as possible, so it can be viewed and accessed at the property (parcel) level, street address, or Census tract, especially within New York City's 5 boroughs.
- *Current exceptions:*
 - In certain neighborhoods, students have collected data disaggregated at a smaller level than parcel, such as street trees;
 - Census data summarized by borough/county;
 - Wetlands boundaries that are too imprecise to display at a zoomed-in level; and
 - NYCEJA's open space access research analyzed by Community Board.
- *Not resolved:* is there an easy way (in the context of website usability) to integrate locally mapped parcel-level data within NYC with maps that display the larger metropolitan region and/or NYC Watershed.

10. Temporal scale

- Priority is to include current data, updated as frequently as data availability allows.
- *Current exceptions:* NYC Basemap aerial photos are from 1996 (more recent photos are not publicly available), and some wetlands data is as old as mid-1970s.
- *Not resolved:* possibility of providing historical archived data or snapshots in time (either to show land use change or for other analytical purposes). Also, how to ensure that "outdated" information isn't mixed inappropriately with current data.

11. No conflict of interest with OASIS mission

- Neither the data themselves nor the tools on the website should promote a particular position on an issue. If the project or data set is controversial, this should be brought to the steering committee for advice, vote, or consensus.

The OASIS executive committee fully understands that this list may change in the future, based on decision-making structure above, time, funding, etc.