



Political and Administrative Districts

User Guide

Introduction to the Files

This user guide contains links to download geographic base files of political and administrative districts in New York City. The files were generated from Release 07C of the Department of City Planning's LION file.

Each set of district files is provided in two formats: MapInfo Tables and ArcView Shapefiles. The files are data files, not programs. The user will require a CAD (Computer Assisted Design or Drafting), mapping, GIS (Geographic Information System), graphics/drawing or other software package that can import ArcView® ShapeFiles or MapInfo® Tables.

Information on some of these products can be found at: [MapInfo](#) and [ESRI](#). The Department of City Planning does not endorse any particular product. The BYTES of the BIG APPLE files have not been tested with every package that claims to import these formats.

The [download page](#) lists the district types that are available. For three district types (Borough Boundaries, 2000 Census Tracts and 2000 Census Blocks) there is an option to select either the 'regular' districts (clipped to the shoreline) or the districts including water areas. The official boundaries of Census Tracts, Census Blocks and Boroughs include areas under water. Some Census Blocks and one Census Tract (tract 1622 in Queens) are entirely under water and are therefore not represented within the geographic base files that are clipped to the shoreline.

Downloading and Decompressing Zip Files

For each District Type, files are available in two formats for downloading: ArcView Shapefiles and MapInfo Tables. When you select to download one of the District Types in a particular format, you will be prompted to save a zip file on a local drive. The zip file will be named in the form:

- *dcode_07cav.zip* (for the ArcView format)
- *dcode_07cmi.zip* (for the MapInfo format)

where *dcode* is the District Code as follows:

- nyad = New York City, State Assembly Districts
- nybb = New York City Borough Boundaries
- nybbwi = New York Borough Boundaries (Water Included)
- nycb2000 = New York City Census Blocks for 2000 US Census
- nycb2000wi = New York City Census Blocks for 2000 US Census (Water Included)
- nycc = New York City Council Districts
- nycg = New York City Congressional Districts
- nyct2000 = New York City Census Tracts for 2000 US Census
- nyct2000wi = New York City Census Tracts for 2000 US Census (Water Included)
- nyed = New York City Election Districts
- nyfb = New York City Fire Battalions
- nyfc = New York City Fire Companies
- nyfd = New York City Fire Divisions

- nyha = New York City Health Areas
- nyhc = New York City Health Center Districts
- nyir = New York City Instructional Regions
- nymc = New York City Municipal Court Districts
- nypp = New York City Police Precincts
- nysd = New York City School Districts
- nyss = New York City State Senate Districts

Each of the two types of files (MapInfo and ArcView) has been compressed (zipped) into .Zip files. After selecting one of these formats, your system will ask whether you want to open or save this file; be sure to save it to a local drive. Afterwards, you can unzip the contents of the .Zip file. Unzipping these files will result in multiple files that together comprise, respectively, one MapInfo Table or one ArcView Shapefile. This MapInfo Table or Shapefile contains all of the districts of the particular district type for New York City.

Projections and Accuracy

In the district files in both MapInfo and ArcView formats, the map projection used is the New York Long Island State Plane Coordinate System (NAD83).

The Department of City Planning has completed conflating (i.e., graphically aligning) the LION and District files to precision aerial photography of the city.

The District files are created from Release 07C of the Department of City Planning LION file. They contain updates through November 2007.

Changes from Previous Releases:

Release 07C does not contain any significant changes. All of the district files were created from Release 07C of *DCPLION* which contains both individual roadbeds as well as generic geometry (an imaginary centerline for divided roadbeds). In general, but with exceptions, the district boundaries coincide with generic geometry.

Consult your software documentation for instructions on how to open, import and use the files.

Disclaimer:

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