

New Policy Regarding the Maintenance of Administrative Feature Names in The National Map

Effective October 1, 2014:

As a result of reprioritized budgets and resources, the decision has been made to suspend the maintenance of some administrative (i.e. cultural or manmade) feature names in The National Map and to discontinue the maintenance of all administrative names through the GNIS public interface. The features that will continue to be maintained in The National Map will be updated in GNIS on a periodic revision cycle through submissions from authoritative sources or based on input from volunteers through The National Map Corps.

If you are interested in participating in The National Map Corps, which “encourages citizens to collect structures data by adding new features, removing obsolete points, and correcting existing data for The National Map,” please visit the following Web site: <https://nationalmap.gov/TheNationalMapCorps/>. To identify the administrative features to be maintained through The National Map Corps program, click "Structures List" located on the left-hand side of the page.

If you have further questions, please visit The National Map home page at: <https://nationalmap.gov>.

What this means for our users:

Since the 2014 policy was introduced, GNIS staff is no longer allowed to make updates or additions to manmade (administrative features). Examples of such features are: church, library, museum, state or local park. We will no longer maintain the features through GNIS. Other administrative feature names (examples are cemetery, school, prison, fire station, and police station) will be maintained via The National Map Corps. We will continue to distribute the data we currently have, but will not accept additions or corrections for administrative names through gnis_manager@usgs.gov.