

CanVis News

New Features

The website has been updated! Check out our website for all the latest on CanVis, including support documents, objects, and workshops. Visit www.csc.noaa.gov/canvis/ to see the changes.

Technical assistance is now available! We now have a staff member at the NOAA Coastal Services Center who can help you with all your CanVis needs. Please contact us for assistance with CanVis projects, questions, or custom object creation.

Virtual CanVis Workshops

Free virtual how-to workshops are offered every month. You only need phone and Internet access to participate. Step-by-step instructions and live on-line assistance make learning the software fun and easy. Space is limited, so please register at least two weeks in advance.

Visit www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/canvis/workshop.html for more information.

Upcoming Virtual Workshops (Eastern time zone):

November 18 (1 to 4 p.m.)

December 9 (1 to 4 p.m.)

January 20 (1 to 4 p.m.)

February 17 (1 to 4 p.m.)

March 17 (1 to 4 p.m.)

This quarterly news from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center provides updates and information about CanVis, an easy-to-use visualization software for coastal professionals. CanVis was created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agroforestry Center and adapted by the Center for coastal management applications.



Visualizing the difference between hardened and softened shorelines. Image courtesy of www.bing.com/maps/

Updates

New Coastal Objects

Over 100 new objects are now available for download on the CanVis website at www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/canvis/download.html. The libraries are constantly being updated, so if you have specific object requests or if you have developed objects you wish to add to the library, please e-mail nos.csc.canvis@noaa.gov.

Updated Objects

We have updated many of the existing objects, eliminating as much as possible the white fringe (where present) and other distracting artifacts.

New Object Categories

- Alternative Energy
- Boats
- Coastal Vegetation
- Commercial-Urban
- Commercial-Water
- Coastal People
- Docks, Buoys, and Structures
- Houses, Parks, and Urban Areas
- Satellite and Aerial
- Symbols
- Transportation
- Walls and Buffers



NOAA Coastal Services Center
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

Tips and Tricks

When creating a visualization, hold down the “shift” key to select multiple objects. By doing this you can move, rotate, resize, or perform other commands on all selected objects at once. This is particularly helpful when working on a project that requires several different objects or when scaling multiple objects to fit your base image.

Right-click on any object to adjust the bitmap properties. This allows you to adjust the transparency and edge blend width of the object that you have selected. This will save you time when creating reflections or adding shadows to your projects.

CanVis in the News

“NOAA Illustrates Coastal Changes on a ‘CanVis’”

In a recent article published by the National Association of Counties (NACO), CanVis was highlighted as a simple and affordable way to help local officials and coastal professionals visualize the potential impacts of coastal development and policy changes. Several projects were highlighted in the article, including ones dealing with the effects of high-rise condominiums on water views, the impacts of wind farms on beachfront aesthetics, and the threat of the invasive perennial grass *Phragmites australis* on several ecosystems of the Great Lakes.

The full text of the article can be found on-line at NACO’s website.

www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Environment,_Energy_and_Land_Use&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=30618

“Using CanVis to Illustrate Coastal Changes”

NOAA’s National Ocean Service (NOS) has also written an article illustrating the benefits of using CanVis as a visualization tool. The article goes into detail about the various types of support and training offered by the Coastal Services Center for CanVis users. It also gives some examples and suggestions about what CanVis has been used for in the past and how it can be utilized in the future.

The full text of the article can be found on-line on the NOAA NOS website.

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/news/weeklynews/apr09/canvis.html>

Your Projects

Streetscape Improvements in Fairfield

"The Town of Fairfield, CT received a Streetscape grant. We proposed Brick pavers, new sidewalks, a rain garden, landscaping, etc to the Fairfield Theater Company property. The CAD drawing I developed for the project was a bit complex for the general public to understand. With the CanVis software, I was able to take an existing photograph of the site and quite effortlessly show our proposed ideas! The extensive library of CanVis objects will also help us with our waterfront projects. CanVis is a welcome addition to our Engineering Office!"

Text and images courtesy of Juliana Harris, Town of Fairfield, Connecticut, Engineering Department



Using CanVis to Visualize Wind Turbines in Lake Erie

"In recent years, the Great Lakes community has intensified efforts to investigate and develop alternative and eco-friendly energy solutions in coastal regions. CanVis provides a unique qualitative measure by addressing the aesthetic impacts, issues and concerns that may exist. To create these visualizations, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management (OCM) used reference pictures taken from various vantage points along the Cleveland lakefront. With assistance from the NOAA Coastal Services Center, OCM staff were able to accurately scale the wind turbine graphic to illustrate it at distances between one and ten miles from shore. OCM was also able to depict what a wind "farm" might look like by spacing multiple projected turbine images onto the photograph. These representations have proven to be extremely useful in helping coastal decision makers and developers to more fully understand the issues of wind turbine placement. As Lake Erie wind turbine placement and feasibility studies progress in Ohio, CanVis will continue to serve as a valuable decision-making and communication tool."

Text and images courtesy of Brian D. George, Ohio Department of Natural Resources



Exploring Potential Visual Impacts of Wind Energy on Outer Banks Tourism

"A multidisciplinary research project is investigating the potential impact of wind farm development on tourism on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The research project incorporates visualizations developed using CanVis in a questionnaire composed by economists Craig Landry (East Carolina), John Whitehead and Todd Cherry (Appalachian State) and geographer Tom Allen (East Carolina)... CanVis was used to develop visualizations in both oceanfront and soundside locations, as well as three proximity scenarios (no turbines visible, turbines 1 mile distant, and turbines 4 miles distant)... The survey is ongoing with expectation of completion in spring and reporting of results by summer 2010."

Text and images courtesy of Thomas R. Allen, Ph.D., East Carolina University



Contribute

Help us support you! We would love to hear about projects you have worked on, objects you have created, or anything else you would like to share. We would also like feedback on *CanVis News*. Thank you for your interest in CanVis and making it such a success.