City of Alexandria, Virginia
GIS Data DVD
Spring 2010

This DVD contains the following:

- City of Alexandria's GIS Data
- Metadata for the City's Data
- Orthophotography
- PDF of the City's Orthophotography index

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Data Format: The City's data was created using ESRI's ArcGIS software. The data is available in shapefiles and file geodatabases. Shapefiles are comprised of three or more files, all with the same name and different file extensions. The files with the .shx, .shp and .dbf extensions must be present for the shapefile to open. The file geodatabase is a new geodatabase type released in version 9.2. A file geodatabase is a collection of various types of GIS datasets held in a file system folder. This is the recommended native data format for ArcGIS stored and managed in a file system folder. ArcExplorer is a free data viewer that will provide the functions necessary to view our data and orthophotography (orthophotography must be converted to georeferenced .tif to be read in ArcExplorer, see MrSID converter information). If you need more information about ArcExplorer or ArcGIS, please contact ESRI on the web at www.esri.com .

We are not providing our data in DXF format at this time. To accommodate users who need DXF files, we are including a link to geocommunity.com. This website has several different Shapefile/DXF translators available to download (http://software.geocomm.com/translators/arcview/) as well as having plenty of useful GIS information. Several ArcGIS extensions will convert from shapefile to DXF, CADTools and SHP2DXF are available through ERSI's website: (http://support.esri.com).

Contact Information: If you have any questions regarding this data set or want more information about the City's GIS, please visit the GIS pages of the City of Alexandria's website http://www.alexandriava.gov/gis or email us at GISHelp@alexandriava.gov.

Real Estate Assessments: At this time, we are including general real estate assessment information with the City's GIS Data. If you are interested in obtaining more information you may contact the Office of Real Estate Assessments at (703) 746-4646. Assessment information is also available on the City's web site at http://www.alexandriava.gov/realestate. Using the website you may look up parcels by Databank number, property address or map, block and lot numbers (i.e. Map number: 010.01, block number: 02, lot number: 01).

Orthophotography: The City orthophotography is from a March 2009 flight. It is MrSID compressed for distribution.

2009 Orthophotography specifications:
      Ground Resolution .25 ft.
      Scale 1" = 100' (1:1200)
      Tile Grid Size N/S 1250 ft.
      Tile Grid Size E/W 1250 ft.

We have included a PDF of the orthophotography index to allow the user to pick only the tiles they wish to view. We have also included a shapefile of the tile index. To view the orthophotography in any ArcGIS 8x or higher product, simply load the image. To view the orthophotography in ArcExplorer, images must be

converted to georeferenced .TIFs. Download the ExpressView Browser Plugin at www.lizardtech.com/download .

Metadata: The following applies to all data layers:
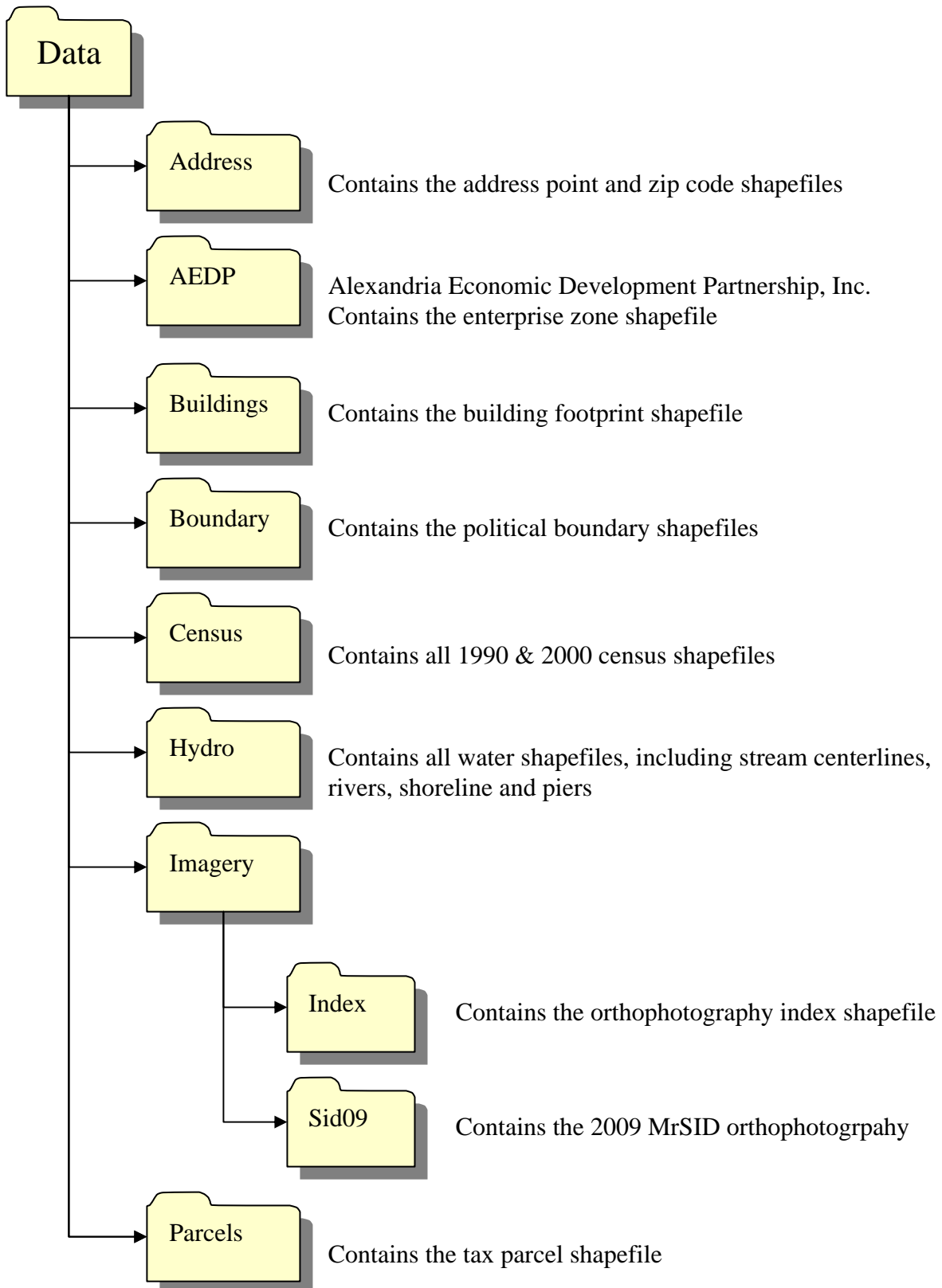File Type: Shapefile, .shp or File Geodatabase, .gdb

Spatial Reference: Vertical: NAVD88 Horizontal: NAD83, Virginia North, measured in US feet Accuracy of Data: 100 Scale (+/- 2 feet) Data current as of: May 2010

All shapefiles and file geodatabases include a *shape* field in their tables. This field describes what type of feature the theme or layer is (point, polyline or polygon). Any polyline shapefile will have a *shape_leng* field that contains the length of each line segment in feet. Any polygon shapefile will have a *shape_area* field containing the area of the polygon in square feet and a *shape_leng* field containing the length of the perimeter in feet.

Naming Conventions: Most of the GIS layers found on this DVD will contain a name, then an underscore (_), then a suffix. Suffixes are used to distinguish feature types quickly without having to view the layer. Use the following chart as a reference guide to suffix definitions.

Suffix	Description
Layer_l	Line feature
Layer_lc	Line feature referring to the centerline of a feature
Layer_le	Line feature referring to the edge of a feature (i.e. curbs)
Layer_p	Point feature
Layer_x	Index feature (i.e. tax map index)
Layer_y	Polygon feature

CD Data File Layout

Data

Address — Contains the address point and zip code shapefiles

AEDP — Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, Inc. Contains the enterprise zone shapefile

Buildings — Contains the building footprint shapefile

Boundary — Contains the political boundary shapefiles

Census — Contains all 1990 & 2000 census shapefiles

Hydro — Contains all water shapefiles, including stream centerlines, rivers, shoreline and piers

Imagery

  Index — Contains the orthophotography index shapefile

  Sid09 — Contains the 2009 MrSID orthophotogrpahy

Parcels — Contains the tax parcel shapefile

Data

Planning — Contains the zoning and small area plan shapefiles

Rec. — Contains all recreation shapefiles including parks, bike trails, recreation centers and amenities

School — Contains the public schools and school board district shapefiles

Sewer — Contains the Sewer and Stormwater file geodatabase

Topo — Contains the contour shapefile.

Transit — Contains all transit shapefiles including railroads, metro tracks and metro stops

Trnsprt — Contains all transportation shapefiles including street centerlines, roads, and public/private curbs, driveways, and parking

Voting — Contains all voter registration shapefiles including precincts, polling places and Virginia Senate and House districts

Walks — Contains the sidewalk shapefiles