Data Basin User Guide:

Your guide to viewing, creating, editing and downloading Rensselaer Plateau maps and data

Rensselaer Plateau Alliance

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Quick Start

Step 1: Open datasets in a map
(A) Go to: DataBasin.org

Type "Rensselaer" into Search by keyword or location search box.

OR

(B) If you have followed the link from the RPA website, you will be automatically forwarded to the RPA Data Basin Gallery, so you will not need to follow step (A) above.

Click on the image of the map (or multiple images if you would like to open multiple layers). An orange check mark will show up on the map image(s).

Example image of the map:
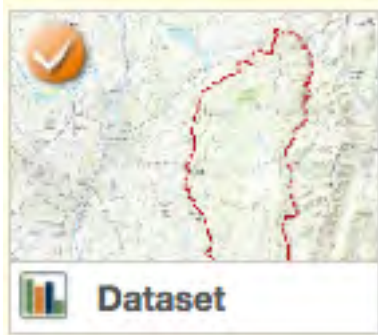
Then click "Add to…" and select "New maps (datasets only)" (located at the top of the page). **You may find it useful to also select and add "Roads in Rensselaer County, NY."**
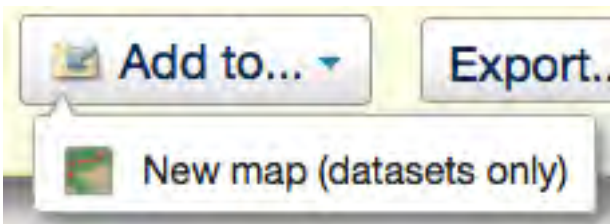
Step 2: Reorder Layers
You may want to reorder layers for viewing (e.g. You may want to see roads as the top layer). To change layer order, go to "Layers which is located on the left side of the map, then "Datasets."

Next click and drag a dataset up or down to put it into the position you would like. You will see a black line showing you the layers position within that list.

Step 3: Change the Basemap

Your basemap is the map layer that is displayed beneath all other data layers.

To change the basemap, click on "Layers" which is located on the left hand side of the map, then click on "Basemaps." From there, you can choose from a variety of basemaps, such as Topography, Streets, Terrain or Light Gray.
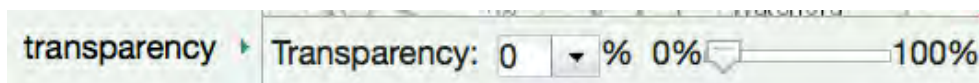

Step 4: Adjust Layer Transparency

You may want to adjust layer transparency, so that you may see your underlying base map or other data layers. To adjust transparency, first click on "Layers" which is located on the left side of the map, then "Datasets," then on the blue arrow icon.
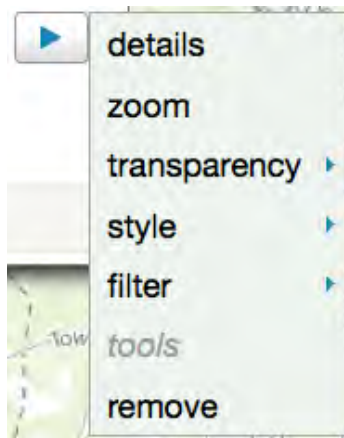
When you click on the blue arrow icon, a list will appear. Click on "transparency".

You can then adjust transparency by using the slider or typing in a number.

Step 5: Find a Specific Location

To move to a specific location on the map use the zoom and pan tools.

   Pan Mode. This button will enable you to pan on the map

Zoom Mode. This button will enable zoom mode on the map. Once it's enabled, you can draw a rectangle on the screen, and the map will zoom to that extent

Zoom In. This button zooms the map display in by one zoom level, making the geographic area smaller.

Zoom out. This button zooms the map display out by one zoom level, making the geographic area larger.

Getting Started

(A) Go to: DataBasin.org

To find Rensselaer Plateau data, type "Rensselaer" into Search by keyword or location search box.

OR

(B) If you have followed the link from the RPA website, you will be automatically forwarded to the RPA Data Basin Gallery, so you will not need to follow step (A) above.

From here, you can either click on "Gallery" or "Datasets." RPA has created a gallery that houses all of the relevant datasets that you may want to look at.
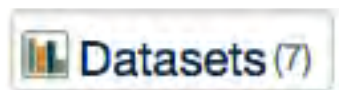
Open a single dataset in the map viewer

To open a single dataset in the map viewer, click on the name/title of the map, then click "Open in Map." Some datasets are large, so it may take some time to load.

Example:

Rensselaer Plateau Boundary (2013), Rensselaer County, New York

Conceptualization: Rensselaer Plateau Ecological Features Working Group (David M. Hunt, Ecological Intuition & Medicine, with review by Nick Conrad, Rensselaer Land Trust and New York Natural Heritage Program).

Boundary of the Rensselaer Plateau as a physiographic unit. Physiography represents the study of landforms at regional levels, usually addressing combined patterns of topography, geology, soils, and dominant vegetation types.

Peer review: This dataset was reviewed in another manner.

Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (Last modified May 19, 2014)

Aquatic Networks on the Rensselaer Plateau in Rensselaer County, New York

Rensselaer Plateau Alliance. Conceptualization by the Rensselaer Plateau Ecological Features Working Group (David M. Hunt, Ecological Intuition & Medicine, with assistance from and review by Nick Conrad, Rensselaer Land Trust and New...

Comprehensive map of regionally-important aquatic networks for the Rensselaer Plateau. Aquatic networks represent long, hydrologically-connected two-dimensional landscape-level areas with a centralized stream system plus closely associated buffer...

Peer review: This dataset was reviewed in another manner.

Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (Last modified June 25, 2014)
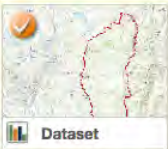

Open multiple datasets in the map viewer

To open multiple datasets in the map viewer click on the picture icon of the map. Orange check marks will appear on the upper left hand corner of the maps.

Example:

Then click on "Add to..." and then "New map (datasets only)." This will add the dataset you selected into a new map.
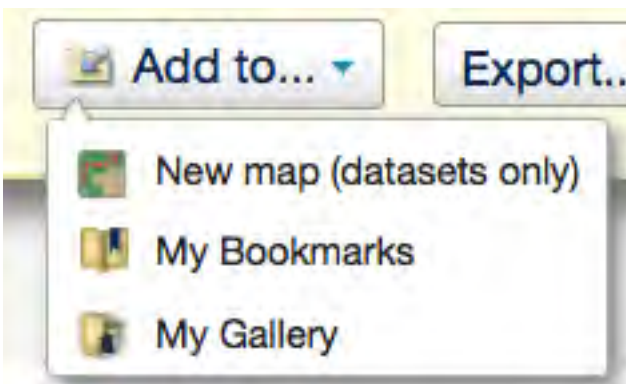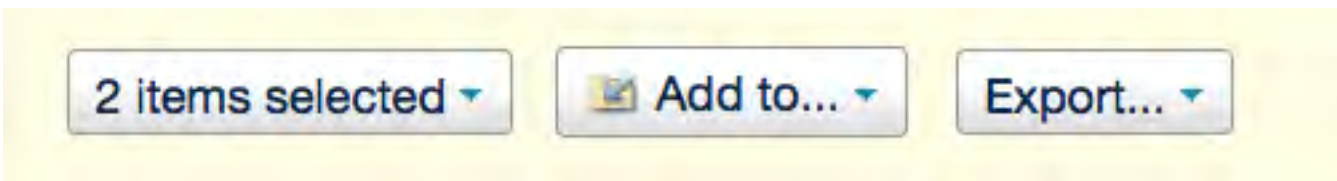
Legend

The legend shows the styles used by all visible data layers in this map. To hide or display your legend, click on the "Legend" button in the top right.
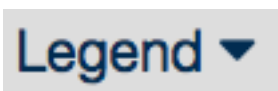
Basic Tools

Pan Mode. This button will enable you to pan on the map

Zoom Mode. This button will enable zoom mode on the map. Once it's enabled, you can draw a rectangle on the screen, and the map will zoom to that extent

Zoom In. This button zooms the map display in by one zoom level, making the geographic area smaller.

Zoom out. This button zooms the map display out by one zoom level, making the geographic area larger.

Full Extent. This button will zoom to the extent that shows all your datasets. This will zoom to the extent of the world if you have no datasets in this map.

Previous Extent. This button will take you to the extent you were at before your last zoom or pan.

Next Extent. This button will take you were at before you clicked the 'Previous Extent' button.

Locate. Find a location on the map by the name of the place, such as "Troy, NY" or by entering latitude and longitude.

Identify. Identify mode allows you to click on the map and display an information window for all layers at that location. Click on the "Identify" button, then click on a location on the map. A window will pop-up and show you the records in that location. You can click on the "records" and it will show you all the information about that record.
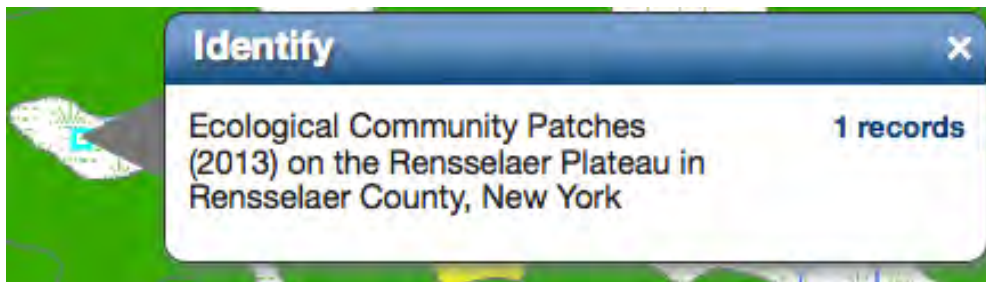
Example of using the Identify tool for the Ecological Communities dataset:
(1) Click on a polygon in the dataset

(2) The Identify information box will appear. Click on "1 records" (if you have multiple datasets on your map, there may be more than 1 record).

(3) Information about that polygon will appear. So in this case, we know that the ecological community we clicked on is a Deep Emergent Marsh and that it is 2.699 acres. To find out more information about each attribute (e.g. PatchCode1, occ_code2, or PatchAcres), hover on the name
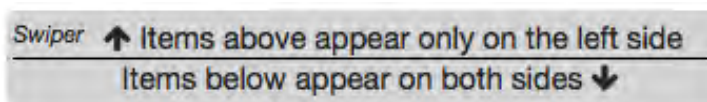
Measure. Measures distances or areas on the map

Swiper. This will allow you to "swipe" on or more layers back and forth over the top of other layers in your map. You can also use a different basemap with the swiper:

Go to "Layers" which is located on the left side of the map,

then to "Datasets."

When the Swiper tool is activated you will see this message under Datasets. Click and drag your datasets above or below this message.

Select. Select features (points, lines or polygons) from the top visible layer in an area that you draw. Not all layers are available for this operation. Once you have an initial selection, you can hold down the SHIFT key while drawing to add more features to your selection, or hold the CTRL key to remove features

Analyze. Use of these tools requires a subscription

Basemaps

Your basemap is the map layer that is displayed beneath all other data layers.

To change the basemap, click on "Layers" which is located on the left hand side of the map, then click on "Basemaps." From there, you can choose from a variety of basemaps, such as Topography, Streets, Terrain or Light Gray.

Layers and Layer Functions

Adding layers

To add other layers (e.g. Plateau boundary, streets, etc.), click on the "Layers" button on the left side of the map. Next click on "Datasets," then "add datasets"
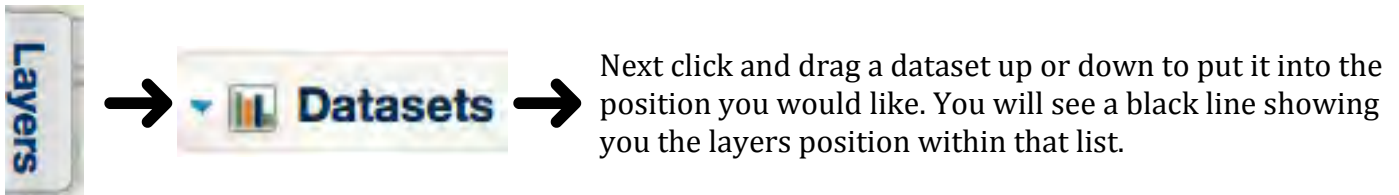
Type in the search word that you are interested in searching for in the search box. If you type "Rensselaer," you will find all the datasets in the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance gallery. Click on the items you would like to add. Once chosen, you will see an orange check mark on the chosen dataset. You may add multiple datasets at one time. Then click "add items".

Changing Layer Positions/Order

You may want one layer displaying over top another layer. To change layer order, go to "Layers which is located on the left side of the map, then "Datasets."

Next click and drag a dataset up or down to put it into the position you would like. You will see a black line showing you the layers position within that list.

Adjusting Transparency

To adjust transparency, first click on "Layers" which is located on the left side of the map, then "Datasets," then on the blue arrow icon.

When you click on the blue arrow icon, a list will appear. Click on "transparency".
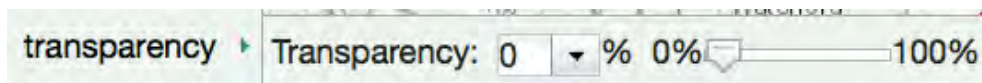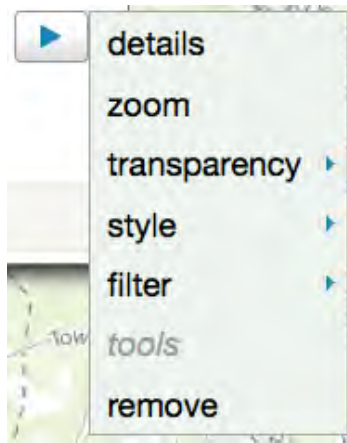
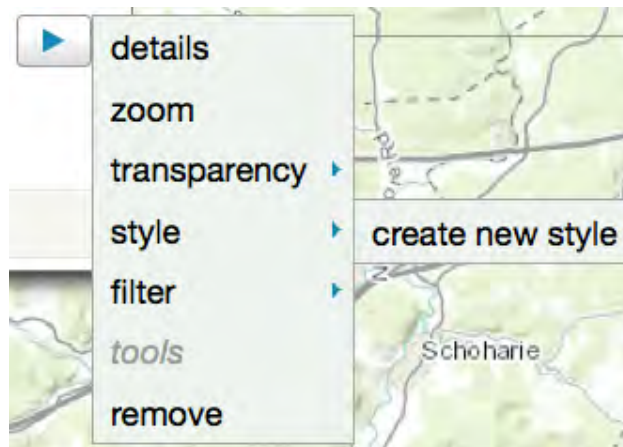You can then adjust transparency by using the slider or typing in a number.

Creating New Styles (e.g. legend colors, line thickness)

To create new styles for your data layers, go to "Layers" which is located on the left side of the map, then "Datasets," then the blue arrow icon.

Then go to "style," then "create new style."

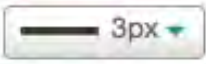You can then choose how you want to style the layer:

Single Style   Unique Values   Classes

Single Style

Use single style when you want all elements in this dataset to look the same. *Examples: state boundaries, river, lakes*

Example:

Unique Values

Use unique values to show a different style for each value found in a categorical attribute. Attributes are used to describe each feature in this layer, such as the vegetation type of an area, or the collection date of a bird observation. Unique values are most useful when there are multiple values of an attribute that you want to see at the same time on your map. This style type is not useful when there are more unique values than you can easily distinguish on a map.

You are limited to 50 unique values when styling this layer.

Examples: forest type, type of bird observed at a location, land ownership type

Example:

Classes

Use classes to group features together based on values in a continuous attribute. Classes are most useful when there is a meaningful range in a particular attribute, and you want to see how that attribute varies within your map. This style type is not particularly useful when there is a very narrow range, or where differences within that range are not meaningful to display within your map.

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Class breaks are composed of a minimum and maximum setting. Any value that is greater than or equal to the minimum will be included in the break. Any value that is less than the maximum will be included in the break. So, if you have two breaks 0 - 10 and 10 - 20, the value 10 would fall in the second break (10 - 20).

You can use between 2 and 12 classes.

Examples: temperature, precipitation, number of birds observed at a location.
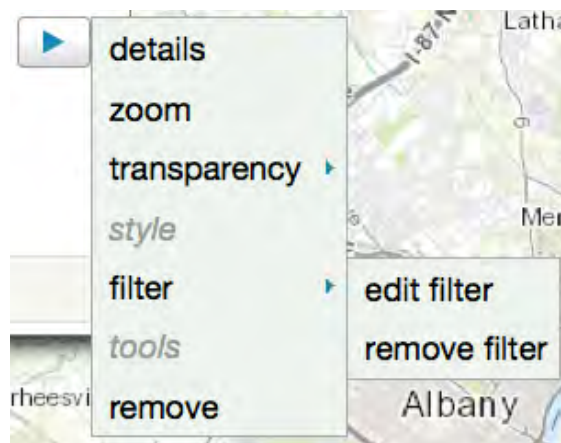
Example:

Filtering Data

You may want to filter some of the data. For instance, you may want to only look at "Hemlock Northern Hardwood Forests" in the Ecological Community Patches dataset, or you may only want to look at Ecological Community Patches that are greater than 100 acres.

To do so, go to "Layers" which is located on the left side of the map, then "Datasets," then the blue arrow icon, then to "filter," then "edit filter."

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Example filter*:* If you want to display only "Hemlock Northern Hardwood Forests," you would choose "EcoComName" and "equals" and "Hemlock Northern Hardwood Forests." To make it easier, you can click "choose values" and it will provide a list of whatever variable you are looking at

Example filter: If you want to display only Ecological Community Patches greater than or equal to 100 acres, you would choose "RP_Acres" and ">=" and type in "100"

Drawings

If you want to create a drawing on your map, click on "Layers" which is located on the left side of the map, then "Drawings," then "create."

You can then use the tools in the "Edit Drawing Layer" to create drawings on your map.

Locating Yourself on the Map

To help identify locations you may be interested on the map, a census streets/roads layer has been added to the RPA gallery. This dataset is entitled, "Roads in Rensselaer County, NY." If you add this layer before another layer, you may need to reorder your layers. See section "Changing Layer Positions/Order" to reorder your layers (i.e. have one layer show up on top/above of another layer).
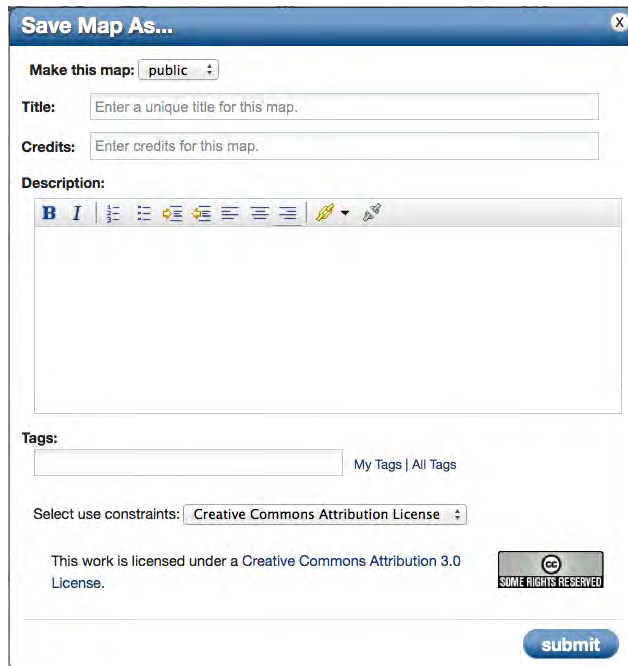
Saving and Exporting Your Maps

If you want to save or export your maps, you need to create a Data Basin account, which is free. You sign up by creating a username and password.

Save your Map on DataBasin

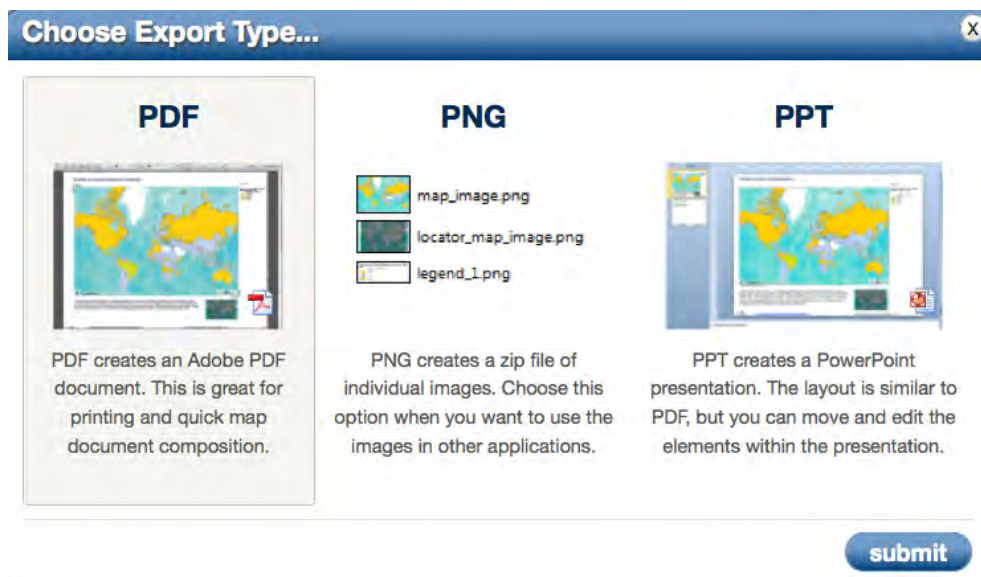To save your map, click on the save disk icon.

This will save your map on the Data Basin website. You will need to enter a few items as displayed below.

Export your map as PDF, PowerPoint or PNG

To export your map, click on the download icon.

This will allow you to export your map as a **PDF**, **PowerPoint** or a set of **PNG** (picture) files

Information about the Data (Metadata)

Metadata provide information about each dataset, such as the spatial resolution, who the data was provided by, information about each attribute in the dataset, the purpose of the dataset or the method used to derive the data.

To find this information, click on the name of the dataset, which will open in a new page.

Example:

Rensselaer Plateau Boundary (2013), Rensselaer County, New York
Conceptualization: Rensselaer Plateau Ecological Features Working Group (David M. Hunt, Ecological Intuition & Medicine, with review by Nick Conrad, Rensselaer Land Trust and New York Natural Heritage Program).
Boundary of the Rensselaer Plateau as a physiographic unit. Physiography represents the study of landforms at regional levels, usually addressing combined patterns of topography, geology, soils, and dominant vegetation types.
Dataset   Peer review: This dataset was reviewed in another manner.

Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (Last modified May 19, 2014)

Aquatic Networks on the Rensselaer Plateau in Rensselaer County, New York
Rensselaer Plateau Alliance. Conceptualization by the Rensselaer Plateau Ecological Features Working Group (David M. Hunt, Ecological Intuition & Medicine, with assistance from and review by Nick Conrad, Rensselaer Land Trust and New...
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Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (Last modified June 25, 2014)

Then scroll down to look at "Details," "Data Layers" and/or "Attachments.

Details	Data Layers (1)	Attachments	Comments (0)

Data Provided By:
Conceptualization: Rensselaer Plateau Ecological Features Working Group (David M. Hunt, Ecological Intuition & Medicine, with review by Nick Conrad, Rensselaer Land Trust and New York Natural Heritage Program).

Content date: 100,000s of years (past to future). A stable, long-term, geologically-based feature.

Citation
Hunt, David M. 2013. Physiographic Boundary of the Rensselaer Plateau. ArcGIS datalayer. prepared for the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Hudson River Estuary Program. Ecological Intuition & Medicine.

Spatial Resolution: variable. derived from other features ranging from about 1:7000 scale (ecological communities) to 1:xxx*** scale (bedrock geology). individual boundary segments drawn at about 1:1,000 scale.

Contact Organization:
Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA). http://www.rensselaerplateau.org. For technical information, contact: Rachel Riemann (rriemann17@hotmail.com) or Sarah Parks (sparks@amalaconsulting.com); For content questions, contact David Hunt (518-279-4124).

Contact Person(s):
Rachel Riemann   Sarah T. Parks

Use Constraints
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Details	**Data Layers (1)**	Attachments	Comments (0)

Layer Type: Feature Layer (1 Polygons)

▸ **Layer Summary**

▸ **Attributes**

▸ **Metadata Files**