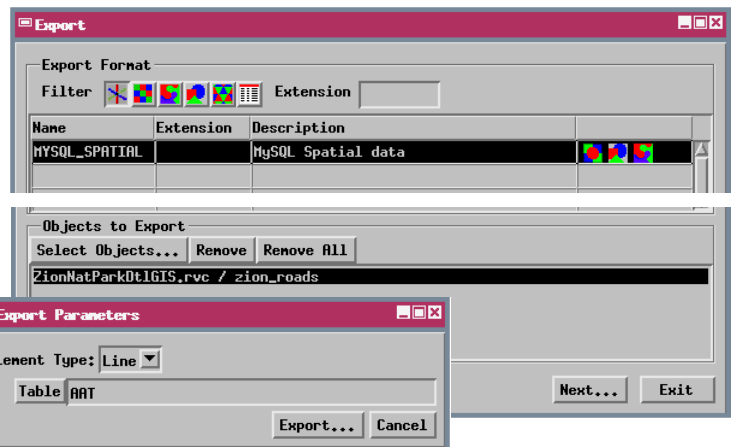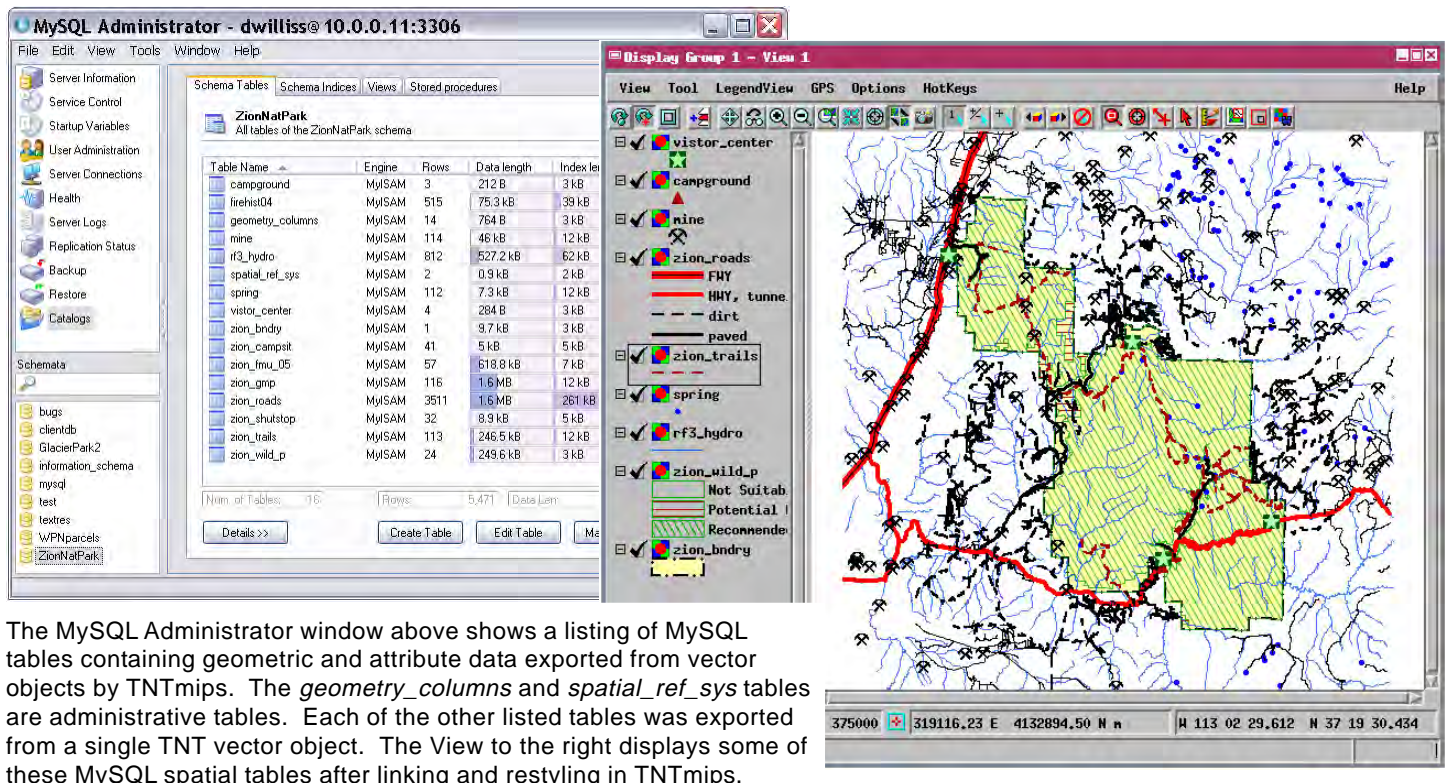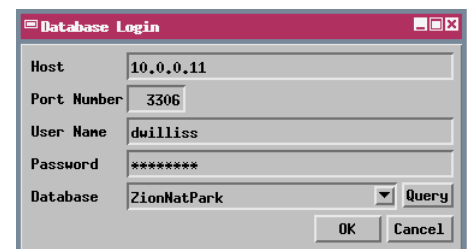# Export Geometric Objects to MySQL Spatial

The MySQL relational database system includes spatial extensions that allow it to store geographic features as well as their associated attributes. You can use the Export process in the TNT products to export geometric (vector or CAD) objects in your TNT Project Files to a MySQL database table.

Each spatial object is stored in MySQL as a separate table with one record for each spatial element. A special geometry column in each table stores the spatial coordinate information for its element, while conventional data columns hold associated attributes. A MySQL spatial table can store any of the types of spatial element found in TNT vector objects (point, line, or polygon), but there can be only one of these element types per table. Therefore, when you export a vector object you are prompted to choose a single element type to export. You also can select a single associated attribute table to provide the basic attributes to be stored in the same MySQL spatial table. MySQL provides no explicit mechanism for storing style information, so no display styles are exported.

If the TNT geometric object you export includes a number of related attribute tables, you can use the MySQL Database export to export these additional tables to the same MySQL database to which you exported the spatial object. Keyfield designations and relationships are not set automatically by the export, so you will need to set these manually in MySQL after the tables are exported.

The MySQL_SPATIAL export prompts you to choose the element type and one associated attribute table to export, then provides a dialog to allow you to log in to the MySQL database.

The MySQL Administrator window above shows a listing of MySQL tables containing geometric and attribute data exported from vector objects by TNTmips. The *geometry_columns* and *spatial_ref_sys* tables are administrative tables. Each of the other listed tables was exported from a single TNT vector object. The View to the right displays some of these MySQL spatial tables after linking and restyling in TNTmips.