



## St Joseph County

---

---

# Geographic Information Systems Department

(269) 467-5543

Fax (269) 467-5672

1/7/2022

### *2021 Annual GIS Department Summary*

The GIS Department continues to focus on the day-to-day data updates and maintenance while working on larger, long term projects as time permits. Following are a few of the 2021 accomplishments:

- Migrated from ArcGIS to QGIS as the standard GIS software within the county. QGIS is a free, open-source software. Switching to QGIS saves \$7,500-\$10,000 annually in licensing fees compared to the previous ArcGIS software.
- Implemented the new FREE St Joseph County GIS download service, which was used by over 50 organizations in 2021. This is a surprisingly high number compared to the number of organizations that were willing to purchase and use County GIS data in the past. The two most commonly stated uses of the data were 1) site location analysis for new businesses and 2) reference data for new utility work (mostly telecommunications).
- Remapped nearly 2000 parcels to within +/- 3 foot accuracy. Most are within +/- 1 foot. As of 12/31/21, the GIS Department has remapped 74% of the county parcels (20,792 of the 28,308 parcels). Included in this effort is remapping numerous subdivision lots and plats. Also continued to update related section corner data.
- This year, the GIS Department took on the annual parcel combination/split/boundary change mapping tasks formerly processed by the Equalization Department. As of 12/31/21, the GIS Department had processed nearly 100 new parcel combinations/splits/boundary changes.
- Performed the annual tax map updates and reprinted hundreds of maps.
- Coordinated with 4-H Youth Council to have them sponsor the new 2022 Plat Book as a fund raiser.
- Made many corrections and improvements to the E-911 dispatch database.
- Prototyped online application analyzing the geographic distribution of E-911 calls.
- Researched and chose new internet mapping software to develop custom, need-specific applications for a number of departments in 2022.
- Processed 176 new or re-issued property addresses. Developed new process for issuing new addresses in conjunction with the local units of governments.
- Performed regular updates to the Fetch GIS public access system. The Fetch system continues to be used at high rate of approximately 500 queries each work day by people looking for property and tax information.
- Acted as the Remonumentation Grant Administrator. This includes coordinating with the County Surveyor to prepare the initial grant proposal, attending Remonumentation project meetings, compiling and entering Land Corner Recordation Certificate information into the state database, and submitting a final Completion Report.

### Upcoming Projects for 2022:

- Continue transition from ArcGIS to QGIS as the primary GIS software used in the County.
- Utilize new Internet Mapping Software tools (MANGO) to develop custom internet mapping applications specific to the needs of a number of departments.
- Develop new Internet-based procedures for accepting applications for new property addresses.
- Develop automatic on-line Address Verification tool.
- Continue to populate new Survey & Map index database application.
- Continue parcel remapping project.
- Work with 4-H Youth Council to develop 2022 Plat Book.
- Add new layers to fetch (elevations, parcel dimensions, etc).

Let me know if you have any questions.

Jerry Happel  
GIS Director/Address Administrator  
St Joseph County, MI

612 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 427, Centreville, Michigan 49032