



St Joseph County

Geographic Information Systems Department

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4/13/2023

2022+ 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 2022+ accomplishments (includes some Q1, 2023 activities):

Notable Projects:

- Took advantage of the new St Joseph County website capabilities to fully customize the GIS Departments web page.
- Released new Interactive Map Portal including several new custom, need-specific Internet Mapping applications. Applications include: the Address Verification Portal, the Drain Assessment Mapping System, the Emergency Management Mapping System, the Land Value Mapping System, Parcel History Portal, Parle Accuracy Map, the Remonumentation Program Progress Tracker, and the just released Parcel Detail Map Repository (56,000+ maps).
- Made many corrections and improvements to the E-911 dispatch GIS database to bring it up to Next Generation 911 Standards (NG911).
- Worked with 4-H Youth Council to produce the new 2022 Plat Book as a fund raiser.
- Preliminary investigations into Robotic Process Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, and Performance Metrics.

Regular Housekeeping Activities:

- Continued migration from ArcGIS to QGIS as the standard desktop 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.
- Maintained the FREE St Joseph County GIS download service, which was used by 56 organizations in 2022 (up 12% over 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 2,066 parcels to within +/- 3 foot accuracy. Most are within +/- 1 foot. As of 3/31/23, the GIS Department has remapped 82% of the county parcels (23,164 of the 28,343 parcels). Included in this effort is remapping numerous subdivision lots and plats. Also continued to update related section corner data.
- Worked with Equalization and local assessors to map nearly 150 new parcel combinations/splits/boundary changes.
- Performed the annual tax map updates and reprinted hundreds of maps.
- Processed 134 new or re-issued property addresses (down 24% from 2021). Implemented new process for issuing new addresses in conjunction with the local units of governments. Released the Address Verification portal.
- Performed regular data updates to the Fetch GIS public access system.
- 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.
- Created many maps and reports to support county departments and external partners.

Upcoming Notable Projects for 2023:

- Deep dive into Robotic Process Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics, and Performance Metrics. These technologies hold incredible promise to dramatically improve county workflows and enhance our decision-making process. Define GIS Department role in regard to these technologies.
- Continue to leverage new Internet Mapping Software tools (MANGO) to develop custom internet mapping applications specific to the needs (Dispatch, Police, Register of Deeds, EDGE, Surveys, Address management and more)

Let me know if you have any questions.

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