



St Joseph County

Geographic Information Systems Department

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1/6/20

2020 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 2020 accomplishments:

- Transitioned smoothly to working remotely as part of COVID-19 protocol.
- Finalized new fee schedule and prepared the GIS data for easy request and download via the internet.
- Published several new LIDAR digital elevation datasets, including 1-foot elevation contour lines for the entire county.
- Developed a Map & Survey Index tool to quickly identify all maps or surveys produced for any area in the county. This is an ongoing project.
- Remapped nearly 5000 parcels to within +/- 3 foot accuracy. Most are within +/- 1 foot. As of 12/31/20, the GIS Department has remapped 66% of the county parcels in the last four years (18,716 of the 28,346 parcels). Included in this effort is remapping numerous subdivision lots and plats. Also continued to update related section corner data.
- Updated and printed over 1,200 2020 Tax maps.
- Worked closely with the Drain Commissioner to develop ways to use GIS data to improve the quality and efficiency of services offered. Assisted with several projects as part of this effort.
- Made many corrections and improvements to the E-911 dispatch database.
- Created and printed E911 Dispatch "Hot Spot" maps analyzing the geographic distribution of 57,000 E-911 calls.
- Processed over 120 new or re-issued addresses.
- Developed methodology to auto-generate and label parcel dimensions for all newly remapped parcels in the county.
- 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.
- Acquired new 2020 aerial photography for the West ½ of the county through the Michigan Statewide Authoritative Imagery & LiDAR Program.
- Prepared numerous custom maps, data and information requests both internally and externally.

Upcoming Projects for 2021:

- Continue to populate new Survey & Map index database application.
- Migrate to new GIS software (ArcPro), while reducing the overall number of GIS licenses needed in the county.
- Update GIS service contracts with local units.
- Continue parcel remapping project.
- Add new layers to fetch (elevations, parcel dimensions, etc).
- Provide tool to access LIDAR data for the Drain Commissioner.
- Continue to explore uses of GIS data in support of Drains and other areas.
- Continue to make large scale improvements to the E-9-1-1 Dispatch database.
- Establish a routine/tool for regular E-911 location-based crime and incident maps and analysis.

Given current staffing levels, I am pleased at the volume of work accomplished in 2020. Let me know if you have any questions.

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