



St Joseph County

Geographic Information Systems Department

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2/5/19

2018 Annual GIS Department Summary

2018 saw a reduction from 3 FTE GIS staff to 1 FTE. The staff reduction occurred early in the year. As a result, many GIS tasks and programs were shelved for the entirety of 2018. Existing staff focused on the day-to-day data updates and maintenance while working on larger, long term projects as time permitted. Following are a few of the 2018 accomplishments:

- Updated and printed multiple copies of over 1200 new 2018 Tax Maps. Laid out end to end, the maps would stretch for over ½ mile. This is an annual project.
- Created a new second version of the 1200 Tax Maps showing Air Photos as a backdrop.
- Created an on-line application for easy access and viewing of the Tax Maps in flip-book and .pdf format. The application is accessible from the county website and has been utilized over 2500 times since its release mid-year. More importantly, almost 600 copies of the individual .pdf Tax Map booklets for each Village and Township have been downloaded for home use.
- Remapped over 6000 parcels to within +/- 3 foot accuracy. Most are within +/- 1 foot. The GIS Department has now remapped over 30% of the county parcels in the last two years (nearly 9,000 of the 28,411 parcels). Included in this effort is remapping numerous subdivision lots and plats. This is an important ongoing project to dramatically improve the quality of the GIS parcel data.
- Made many improvements to the E-911 dispatch database.
- Issued over 125 new addresses in the county and modernized the address issuance process.
- Performed regular updates to the Fetch GIS public access system. The Fetch system continues to be used at an increasing rate. It is now being queried nearly 500 times each work day by people looking for property and tax information.
- Acted as the Remonumentation Grant Administrator. The 2018 grant budget was \$50,000.
- Acquired and processed LIDAR data for the county; using it to derive highly accurate elevations, hillshade, and 10, 5 and 1-foot contour layers. This data is now available at both a county-wide and township level. An efficient public delivery mechanism is being explored.
- Prepared numerous custom maps and data as requested both internally and externally.

Upcoming Projects for 2019:

- Update and print 2019 Tax Maps
- Update 2019 Plat Book
- Acquire and process 2019 Air Photos
- Publish new layers (Lidar, 2019 photos, historic air photos) to Fetch for public access.
- Continue parcel remapping project.
- Acquire additional GPS accurate PLSS section corners in support of the parcel remapping project.
- Prepare Township GIS service package sample.
- Explore uses of LIDAR data in support of Parks, Drains, Emergency planning, and other areas.
- Continue to make large scale improvements to the E-9-1-1 Dispatch database.
- Prepare location-based crime and incident maps and analysis.
- Prepare new parks and trails maps for the Parks Dept.
- Develop tools for Equalization to better utilize GIS.

Given the staff reduction, I am pleased at the volume of work accomplished in 2018. Let me know if you have any questions.

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