

Preliminary Agenda



2027 WLIA Annual Conference • Madison, WI

February 17-19, 2027

Monona Terrace



Exhibitors and Sponsors

There are still opportunities available to exhibit and/or sponsor! Details can be found in the Exhibitors Prospectus found at www.wlia.org/events/2027-annual-conference

Sponsor Level Highlights

Platinum \$3750	Level 2 WLIA Membership, 2 Booths w/choice of location, custom promos, free registrations and more
Gold \$2750	Level 1 WLIA Membership, 1 booth, free registrations and more
Silver \$1650	Level 1 WLIA Membership, 1 booth, free registration and more
Badge \$1000	Year-round visibility on all event name badges throughout the year

Or, gain visibility while supporting crowd favorite events and essential services

**Map
Contest
\$300**

**Opening
Night
\$300**

**Break
Sponsor
\$250**

**Wi-Fi
Sponsor
\$250**

Exhibit Space

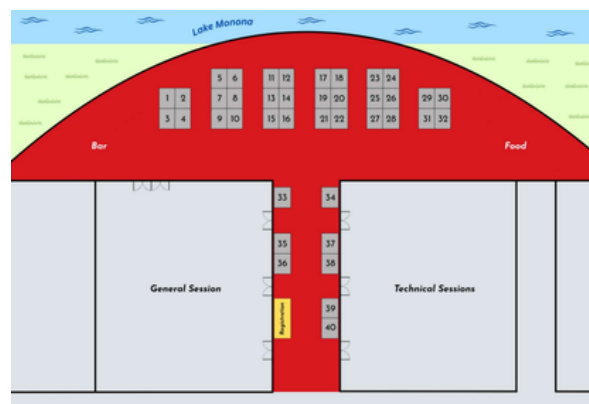


Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
VERSION HISTORY	3
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE	4
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS	5
POLICIES	6
WEDNESDAY	
Detailed Schedule	7
Workshop Descriptions	8
THURSDAY	
Detailed Schedule	10
Thursday Breakout Session Descriptions	12
FRIDAY	
Detailed Schedule	19
Morning Educational Breakout Session Descriptions	21

Version History

Version 0.0 Preliminary Program - October 9, 2026

Conference Schedule

Wednesday

- 9-12** Morning Workshops
- 12-1:30** Lunch
- 1:30-4:30** Afternoon Workshops
- 4:30-5:30** LION Meeting/Free Time
- 6:30-9** The Opening

Thursday

- 8:30-9:30** Morning Workshops
- 9:30-10:30** Keynote Speaker - Mark Redsten
- 10:50-12:30** Breakout Sessions/Exhibit Hall Opening
- 12:30-1:30** Lunch-Town Hall Pt. 1/Hand Drawn Map Contest
- 1:35-3:15** Breakout Sessions
- 3:15** Map Gallery Opening
- 3:30-4:15** Special Interest Groups 1
- 4:15-5** Special Interest Groups 2
- 5-7** Exhibitor Reception/Silent Auction

Friday

- 7-8** Past Presidents Breakfast
- 8-8:30** Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
- 8:30-9** Welcome
- 9-10** Keynote - Nancy von Meyer, Steve Ventura, Ann Barrett
- 10:35-12:15** Breakout Sessions
- 12:15-2** Lunch/Awards/Town Hall Pt. 2

Registration opens at 8 am each day

Keynote Speakers

All Keynote Addresses in General Session

THURSDAY KEYNOTE

Mark Redsten

Executive Director, Clean Wisconsin

FRIDAY KEYNOTES

Nancy von Meyer, PhD

President, Fairview Industries

Steve Ventura, PhD

Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Introduction By

Ann Barrett, CAE

Executive Services Manager, Wisconsin Land Information Association

Policies

WLIA implements four policies dedicated to having a safe, healthy, and enjoyable environment for everyone at WLIA events. Below are summaries for each of them. Full details are available online at wlia.org/event-policy. If you have questions or concerns, contact a WLIA board member or staff.

WLIA CODE OF CONDUCT

We do not tolerate harassment of community members or event participants in any form. Participants violating these rules may be sanctioned and/or expelled from the event without a refund at the discretion of the event organizers. If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of the WLIA Board of Directors, email admin@wlia.org, or stop by the registration desk immediately. The WLIA President, President-Elect, and Past President will communicate promptly with anyone who reports an issue while working quickly to address the problem in a confidential manner.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNT POLICY

Those with delinquent accounts will not be able to register for events until their accounts are made whole. The President, Past-President and President-Elect will investigate any accounts created on the WLIA website that appear to circumvent this policy. Anyone found to have purposefully and willingly created an account to circumvent this policy will be subject to a written warning on first offense and a letter to the violator and their employer stating the person is no longer eligible to attend any WLIA events on a second offense.

DUTY OF CARE

Before leaving home for WLIA events, follow relevant health care guidance and evaluate your own health. Stay home if you are feeling unwell. While on-site, follow everyday guidance to prevent the spread of illnesses. For any questions or concerns, reach out to Ann Barrett, Executive Services Manager.

PHOTO POLICY

Registering for any WLIA event constitutes your consent to be photographed, filmed and/or otherwise recorded. Your likeness may be used for marketing and promotional materials, on social media, and for other uses not yet defined. If you do not consent to being recorded or having your likeness used, please wear a red lanyard that will be provided by WLIA at registration as a visual cue to those taking photographs and recordings to not include you. If you are taking photographs and recordings at an event, you understand that you should not include people wearing a red lanyard.

Detailed Schedule

Wednesday, Feb 17 - Workshop Day

8-5 | Registration

9-12 | Morning Workshops

Hall E From Projects to Priorities: Capital Improvement Planning with ArcGIS

Hall J GIS Strategic Planning

Hall F AI Impacts on Local Government

Hall H You Just Received the PLSS Remonumentation Survey Corners—Now What?

Hall G LIO 101 - You're the LIO, Now What?

Hall I Preforming Cadastral-like Parcel Mapping - Part 1

12-1:30 | Lunch

Founders
Room | Board Lunch

1:30-4:30 | Afternoon Workshops

Hall E GIS Strategies for Managing Critical Infrastructure

Hall J Map the Vision: Leadership Strategies for Modern GIS Programs

Hall F Big Tech Unchecked - A Toolkit for Community Action

Hall H Understanding Legal Descriptions for Local Government

Hall G Policy Into Practice: A Practical Technology Playbook for Public Service

Hall I Preforming Cadastral-like Parcel Mapping - Part 2

2-4 | WLIC Meeting (Founders Room)

4:30-5:30 | LION Meeting (Founders Room)

6:30-9 | The Opening (Community Room, Lower Level)

Wednesday Workshop Descriptions

Morning Workshops: 9:00 am-12:00 pm Afternoon Workshops: 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

1. From Projects to Priorities: Capital Improvement Planning with ArcGIS

Hall E

Jarod Fox - Esri

Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs) help organizations prioritize investments, align funding with strategic goals, and communicate future infrastructure needs. Yet many agencies still rely on disconnected spreadsheets, PDFs, and manual processes that make it difficult to evaluate projects, track progress, and share information with stakeholders. In this hands-on workshop, discover how ArcGIS can transform capital planning by bringing projects, budgets, schedules, and geographic context together in a single system. Learn how to use maps, dashboards, web applications, and data-driven workflows to identify needs, prioritize investments, visualize project impacts, and improve transparency across departments and the public.

2. GIS Strategic Planning

Hall J

Allen Ibaugh - Cultivate Geospatial Solutions

Ashley Hitt - Cultivate Geospatial Solutions

Every GIS program eventually reaches a point where ad hoc project work no longer scales to the needs of the organization it serves. Strategic planning is the discipline that bridges that gap: it aligns GIS investment with agency mission, clarifies priorities among competing demands, and gives leadership a defensible roadmap for staffing, technology, and funding decisions. This half-day workshop introduces the fundamentals of GIS strategic planning – what it is, why it differs from a simple project list or technology upgrade plan, and where it fits alongside broader IT and organizational planning efforts. Participants will see real examples of strategic plans from state and local government GIS programs and discuss the common pitfalls that cause plans to stall before they are ever implemented.

The core of the session focuses on the practical side: how to get started, who needs to be at the table, and how to structure a planning process that fits the time and resources you actually have. This workshop welcomes attendees at any stage of the strategic planning journey – whether you have never had a formal GIS strategic plan, have completed one before, or revisit one every year. We will walk through setting clear goals – improving data governance, expanding self-service access, building staff capacity, demonstrating ROI to stakeholders – and translating those goals into a phased set of actionable objectives with measurable outcomes. The workshop also covers assessing current-state maturity, engaging stakeholders and executive sponsors, and building an implementation and communication plan that keeps the strategic plan alive after the workshop ends rather than shelved as a one-time document. Attendees will leave with a practical framework and starter templates they can adapt to their own agency.

3. AI Impacts on Local Government

Hall F

John Parrish - UW-Madison Division of Extension

Coming later.

4. You Just Received the PLSS Remonumentation Survey Corners—Now What?

Hall H

Frank Conkling - Panda Consulting

Receiving a new Public Land Survey System (PLSS) remonumentation dataset is a significant milestone, but it also marks the beginning of a complex integration process. How should the new survey corners be incorporated into an existing GIS? What happens when remonumented corners do not align with current parcel mapping? Should existing parcel geometry be shifted, or should a new cadastral framework be established? This workshop examines the practical and technical decisions that organizations face after receiving a completed PLSS remonumentation survey.

Participants will explore proven strategies for evaluating survey deliverables, validating monument locations, integrating control into the ArcGIS Parcel Fabric, and determining appropriate workflows for maintaining existing parcels while transitioning to a remonumented framework. The workshop also discusses the legal and mapping implications of adopting new corner coordinates, methods for minimizing disruption to existing parcel data, and approaches for communicating changes to stakeholders. Through real-world examples and best practices, attendees will gain the knowledge needed to confidently transform a remonumentation project from a collection of surveyed corners into the foundation of a modern, authoritative cadastral system.

5. LIO 101 - You're the LIO, Now What?

Hall G

Eric Damkot - Washington County

Peter Herreid - Wisconsin Department of Administration

This workshop, "You're the LIO—Now What?", is designed for new or aspiring Land Information Officers who want a clear understanding of the responsibilities that come with the role. Participants will learn the essentials of creating and maintaining land information plans, managing budgets, completing required reports, and preparing grant applications. The session will also highlight key statutory requirements, share success stories from experienced LIOs, and provide time for open Q&A. Whether you're stepping into the position for the first time or looking to deepen your knowledge, this workshop offers a practical, peer-informed guide to succeeding as a county Land Information Officer.

6. Preforming Cadastral-like Parcel Mapping (All Day Workshop)

Hall I

Doug Avoles - St. Croix County

From the beginning of the WI Land Information Program (WLIP), parcel data has been identified as the most important and widely used Foundational Element. In the early years of the WLIP, Cadastral parcel mapping was defined as parcel mapping that could be used to make land title determinations, and it was required to be created from a survey based Public Land Survey System (PLSS) corner framework. At that time most counties were creating and maintaining Index parcel mapping, with a long-term goal of developing Cadastral mapping. When compared to a strict definition of true cadastral mapping, our WI efforts should probably be more aptly named "Cadastral like" parcel mapping.

In 2013, the WLIP put in place several strategic initiatives to complete key statewide datasets. Parcel mapping and Public Land Survey System (PLSS) corner remonumentation were given the highest priority. To be funded by the strategic initiative, PLSS remonumentation is required to be performed to a "Survey Grade" coordinate level. Since then, counties have been working toward the completion of PLSS remonumentation that will allow them to complete "Cadastral like" parcel mapping.

"Cadastral like" parcel mapping requires an attention to detail, a knack for correctly interpreting legal descriptions, and understanding principals of WI land surveying laws and administrative rules. This workshop will be a lecture-based workshop covering a range of topics involved with "Cadastral like" parcel mapping. Hughes and Avoles will share their knowledge and many years of experience working with the PLSS, subdivision plats, Certified Survey Maps (CSMs), maps of survey, the WI geodetic control network, and the nuances of performing detailed "Cadastral Like" parcel mapping. Key concepts, rules & regulations, WI Statutes & Case Law pertaining to: road right-of-ways, dedications, riparian rights, senior property rights, mapping of old original plats, and order of precedence will be covered.

Whether you are new to parcel mapping & working with surveys/plats/legal descriptions, or if you feel you still have some things to learn, then this workshop is for you. Workshop attendees will be provided with copies of the Workshop PowerPoint and many resources collected by the instructors over the years.

7. GIS Strategies for Managing Critical Infrastructure

Hall E

Jarod Fox - Esri

Discover how ArcGIS connects the office, the field, and decision-makers to support effective infrastructure and operations programs. This hands-on workshop explores how organizations can use location intelligence to streamline inspections, coordinate field activities, track maintenance work, and gain greater visibility into the condition of critical infrastructure. Participants will learn how ArcGIS supports the full operational workflow, from collecting data in the field and managing work activities to analyzing results and communicating status across departments. Through real-world examples and demonstrations, attendees will explore tools such as ArcGIS Field Maps, Survey123, and Dashboards to improve efficiency, enhance collaboration, and make more informed decisions. Whether you support public works, utilities, transportation, parks, facilities, or other infrastructure-focused programs, this session will provide practical guidance for building modern, GIS-driven workflows that transform maps into actionable operational intelligence.

8. Map the Vision: Leadership Strategies for Modern GIS Programs

Hall J

Addison Scufsa - Esri

Coming later.

9. Big Tech Unchecked - A Toolkit for Community Action

Hall F

Coming later.

10. Understanding Legal Descriptions for Local Government

Hall H

Lisa Schaefer - Pro-West & Associates

Whether you're new to legal descriptions or looking to strengthen your existing knowledge, this workshop provides a practical foundation for understanding, interpreting, and applying legal descriptions with greater confidence. Participants will be introduced to the fundamentals of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS), including how land is divided, referenced, and described. Through clear explanations and practical examples, attendees will develop the skills needed to read common legal description formats, recognize key terminology, and understand how descriptions relate to maps, parcels, and real-world boundaries. The workshop will also explore best practices for writing and reviewing legal descriptions, helping participants identify potential issues, improve accuracy, and better communicate land information in their local government role.

11. Policy Into Practice: A Practical Technology Playbook for Public Service

Hall G

Adam Dorn - Winnebago County

"The technology state and local governments rely on to deliver public services continues to evolve. This creates opportunities to improve services, but also has almost constant operational challenges like vendor lock-in and retiring institutional knowledge to the allure of "one-size-fits-all" software.

Service delivery is policy. This workshop gives frontline staff, team leads, and department heads a playbook to navigate technology decisions and align organizational needs. Instead of high-level concepts, attendees will get practical and non-technical tools they can use right away, including:

- Low Cost Prototyping: How to build and test Minimum Viable Products (MVPs) using existing tools to validate workflows before spending money.
- The 5 Vendor Demo Questions: Uncover hidden licensing fees, support traps, and exit strategies before your organization commits.
- Integration Realities: Evaluate the full range of integration options from Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to webhooks, against the staff costs of a "manual bucket brigade."

- Fear-Setting: Identify the failures your organization fears and figure out how organizations with fewer resources and less knowledge are already addressing those challenges.

If you are working on major system migrations, trying to fix a broken process, or creating a brand-new workflow, you will leave with the frameworks to minimize risk and turn technology change into long term public value.

Detailed Schedule

Thursday, Feb 18

8-5 Registration

8-8:30 Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:30-11 Morning General Session

Welcome, Platinum Highlight, Scholarships, Foundation Update

Keynote - Mark Redsten

Exhibit Hall and Silent Auction Opening

10:50-12:30

Morning Breakout

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Hall E | 1. Badger Bound - Everything Madison |
| Hall F | 2. County Mapping and Planning |
| Hall G | 3. Beyond the Form |
| Hall H | 4. Regional and Tribal Planning |
| Hall I | 5. Datums and Versioning |
| Hall J | 6. Between Lakes and Lines |
| Hall K | 7. Career Connections |

12:30-1:30 Lunch

Hand Drawn Map Contest, 50/50 Raffle, Town Hall Meeting Part 1

1:35-3:15

Afternoon Breakout

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Hall E | 8. Municipal and Utility |
| Hall F | 9. County Mapping and Planning 2.0 |
| Hall G | 10. Emergency and Natural Disaster Response |
| Hall H | 11. FORWARD! - Everything Wisconsin |
| Hall I | 12. Asset Management |
| Hall J | 13. Green Infrastructure |
| Hall K | 14. Legislative Roundtable |

3:15 Map Contest Gallery Opening

3:30-4:15
Special
Interest 1

- | | |
|--------|-----------|
| Hall E | 1A. MUG |
| Hall F | 1B. RPL |
| Hall G | 1C. NG911 |

4:15-5
Special
Interest 2

- | | |
|--------|-----------------|
| Hall H | 2A. Lidar/Hydro |
| Hall I | 2B. Developers |
| Hall J | 2C. UAS |

5-7 Exhibitor Reception and Silent Auction

Track Details

Thursday, Feb 18

Morning

Track	Badger Bound	County Mapping/ Planning	Beyond the Form	Regional/ Tribal Planning	Datums and Versioning	Between Lakes & Lines	Career Connections
Room	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
10:50-11:20	Mapping Complete Neighborhoods	Addressing Made Easier: Streamlining Address Requests with GIS	ESRI - More Than a Form: Unlocking the Power of Survey123	What is a Tribal Realty Office?	Preparations for the New Datums and Coordinate Systems	Forward to New Hydrography Data for Wisconsin and the Nation	Career Connections
11:25-11:55	Developing a Municipal Zoning Layer	A Practical Guide to ArcGIS Field Maps Tasks		GIS for Regional Groundwater Collaboration		Interactive Mapping Tools for Coastal Resilience Planning	
12-12:30	Modernizing a County Land Use Inventory	Building a Practical Easement Lookup Tool		Mapping Transportation Access to Public Health Options		Mitigation Banking & GIS - Support Across Project Lifecycles	

Afternoon

Track	Municipal & Utility	County Mapping/ Planning 2.0	Emergency & Natural Disaster	FORWARD! Everything WI	Asset Management	Green Infrastructure	Legislative
Room	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1:35-2:05	Streamline Inspections and Maintenance with ArcGIS	Guardians of the Land Records Galaxy: Modernization, Fraud, and Cyber Warfare A Practical Guide to ArcGIS Field Maps Tasks	ESRI - Awareness to Action: ArcGIS for Emergency Response	Mapping Tools to Improve Agricultural Emergency Preparedness	Utility Asset Management Using Esri's Web Experience Builder	Detroit Tree Census - A New Perspective on the Urban Forest	Legislative Roundtable
2:10-2:40	City of De Pere's ArcGIS Enterprise and ArcGIS Utility Network Deployment		Part 1: Getting to the Ground Truth with GIS: Deploying Minimum Viable Products in the First Days of Disaster	Mapping WisDOT Right-of-Way	Water Meters, Permits, and Utility Billing - Assemble	Lonely Infrastructure: How Play Can Rebuild the Spaces Between Us	
2:45-3:15	Fifteen Utilities, One Small GIS Shop: Putting AI to Work in Municipal GIS		Part 2: GIS Shift Change: Disaster Response, Live Triage, and Real Decisions	Evaluating the Accessibility of Your Web Mapping Applications	From Good to Great: Elevating Your ArcGIS Dashboards		

Thursday Morning Breakout Session

Descriptions

10:45 am-12:30 pm

Track 1. Badger Bound - Everything Madison

Hall E

Mapping Complete Neighborhoods

10:50 am to 11:20 am - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Liz Levy - Environmental Resources Planner, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

Complete neighborhoods bring people, housing, and opportunities closer together, creating urban areas which are compact, sustainable, and walkable. Mapping complete neighborhoods allows planners to discover local service gaps and assess proposed future development. This presentation will showcase the reproducible method used to map complete neighborhoods in Dane County.

Developing a Municipal Zoning Layer

11:25 am to 11:55 am - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Fred lausly - Senior GIS Analyst, Dane County Land Information Office

Creating a county-wide zoning layer that includes cities and villages is always a change. Dane County is working to develop a municipal zoning layer that allows municipalities to manage their data and create a standard zoning layer.

Modernizing a County Land Use Inventory

12:00 pm to 12:30 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Aaron Krebs - Deputy Land Records Administrator, Dane County Planning & Development

Fred lausly - Senior GIS Analyst, Dane County Land Information Office

Axel Heiden - Land Records LTE, Dane County Planning and Development

Taking an existing 5-year land use inventory workflow and leveraging companion datasets and targeted triggers to streamline and produce yearly updates of land use and develop a land cover dataset with minimal effort. Presenters will share the old process, compromises to the institute the new process and potentially live demo an update.

Track 2. County Mapping & Planning

Hall F

Addressing Made Easier: Streamlining Address Requests with GIS

10:50 am to 11:20 am - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Tiffany Ehlen - GIS Specialist, Grant County

Rachel Bryant - Solutions Engineer, Pro-West & Associates

Learn how Grant County, Wisconsin is using GIS to streamline how new and corrected addresses are requested, reviewed, tracked, and maintained. Explore how a connected GIS workflow is improving efficiency, communication, and visibility while supporting the accurate address information critical to emergency response, land records, and other County operations.

Discover the four components making up Grant County's Address Request Solution, providing residents and staff with an easy way to submit new address requests and corrections. See how County staff manage requests from submission through completion, track progress through a centralized dashboard, and efficiently maintain the County's official address point layer.

Explore how bringing the entire process into GIS is helping Grant County reduce manual coordination, improve communication with residents and municipalities, better understand the status of requests, and create a more reliable path from address request to authoritative County data.

From the Field to the Finish: A Practical Guide to ArcGIS Field Maps Tasks

11:25 am to 11:55 am - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Wendy Leonard - Geospatial Developer Lead, Gewalt Hamilton Associates

ArcGIS Field Maps Tasks provide a robust way to guide field crews through structured workflows directly within ArcGIS Field Maps. With tasks, organizations can reduce training time, minimize data entry errors, and improve consistency across inspections and field data collection efforts. This 60-minute session introduces attendees to the fundamentals of designing, configuring, and deploying Tasks for real-world field operations, using municipal data as a working example. Through a combination of conceptual guidance and live demonstrations, attendees will learn how to break complex inspections and data collection processes into intuitive, step-by-step task workflows. The session will cover configuring task elements, preparing and publishing task-enabled maps, and deploying them for use in the field. In addition to task configuration, participants will explore best practices for aligning workflows with organizational data standards, simplifying field crew onboarding, and maintaining long-term operational consistency. The session will conclude by demonstrating how task-driven workflows can be integrated with a companion web application that provides project managers and field leads with a centralized view of project status, work progress, quality assurance, and team activity. Attendees will leave with a practical framework for implementing ArcGIS Field Maps Tasks within their own organizations, along with resources and strategies for building scalable, end-to-end field data collection workflows that support both field staff and office personnel.

From Plat to Pop-Up: Building a Practical Easement Lookup Tool

12:00 pm to 12:30 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Ashley Adair - GIS Analyst, City of Pewaukee

Easement information is often scattered across plats, recorded documents, parcel data, PDFs, project files, and staff knowledge, making it difficult for municipal staff and the public to find and understand.

This presentation will show how GIS can support a practical easement lookup workflow by connecting mapped easement features to parcels, source documents, and clear pop-ups. Topics will include organizing easement data, linking records, improving search tools, documenting accuracy, and designing a tool that helps users move from a general property question to reliable source information more efficiently.

The session will focus on lessons learned from developing municipal GIS tools for local government users and will offer practical ideas for communities looking to improve access to easement records, support staff workflows, and make land information easier to use.

Track 3. Beyond the Form

Hall G

ESRI - More Than a Form: Unlocking the Power of Survey123

10:50 am to 11:55 am - 60 Minutes - Beginner

Jarod Fox - Solution Engineer, Esri

ArcGIS Survey123 is much more than a simple data collection tool. It empowers organizations to create smart forms, streamline field workflows, improve data quality, and connect information directly to operational systems across the ArcGIS platform. In this session, attendees will learn how Survey123 can be used to support a wide range of workflows, from inspections and assessments to citizen reporting, permitting, emergency management, public works, utilities, and environmental monitoring. With upcoming changes to the app and the inclusion of Survey123 Studio, we will update attendees on the latest in the tech. Explore how smart forms, conditional logic, repeat records, media capture, and offline capabilities help organizations collect accurate, consistent information wherever work happens.

A GIS Based Approach to Permit Management

12:00 pm to 12:30 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Jeff DuMez - GIS Coordinator/LIO, Brown County Planning & Land Services Department

Mike Nordquist - Solutions Engineer, Pro-West & Associates

Learn how Brown County modernized its state-mandated Shoreland Zoning Permit and Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) program with a workflow that improves visibility, eases field data collection, and enhances reporting - using only the County's GIS software. See how the County replaced legacy forms and scattered SQL files with an integrated GIS solution, allowing Zoning staff to quickly map and track compliance, identify properties needing reminders or enforcement, and generate clear, actionable reports. See the simple mobile forms enabling users to enter information in the field and the valuable difference it's making in improving data accuracy.

We'll walk through the implementation approach, share lessons learned, and discuss outcomes since go-live including what worked well, what we'd do differently, and tips for other counties looking to streamline the process with GIS.

Track 4. Regional & Tribal Planning

Hall H

What is a Tribal Realty Office?

10:50 am to 11:20 am - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Matthew Carriaga - Real Estate Director, Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin

Wyatt Pajtash - GIS Coordinator, Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin

The Ho-Chunk Nation Realty Division staff administers more than 15,000+ acres scattered across 29 counties and 3 states for the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, a federally recognized tribe. Learn how the Ho-Chunk Nation juggles development and conservation of its unique land base. Discover the challenges and obstacles a tribal realty office faces on a daily basis. After this session, participants should have a better understanding of how some tribes are utilizing GIS to assist decision making, planning, land management and development.

Beyond Boundaries: GIS for Regional Groundwater Collaboration

11:25 am to 11:55 am - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Mei Mei Keohane - GIS Planner, Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

Regional Planning Commissions are uniquely positioned to connect local governments, community organizations, and academic partners around shared regional challenges. In Southwest Wisconsin, the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) connected a local advocacy group (Richland Resilience) focused on environmental and economic resilience with a groundwater testing project being conducted by students from UW-Madison to collaborate on expanding groundwater testing in Richland County. That collaboration then expanded to include nonprofit partners and local governments, and resulted in the production of a pair of connected groundwater StoryMaps that walk through the history of the project, provide background information, and share project results. This session explores how GIS can serve both as a tool for collaboration and a way to turn locally collected information into a regional resource. Attendees will leave with practical takeaways for building partnerships, facilitating collaboration, and creating regional GIS tools.

Mapping Transportation Access to Public Health Options

12:00 pm to 12:30 pm - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Natalie Blackert - GIS Specialist, Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission

Northeastern Wisconsin is a diverse region, spanning urban and rural areas. Many people have few options aside from a car to access services that benefit their health. This means that simple access to recreation, healthcare, and healthy food options are out of reach for many in the region without a car, which is a significant barrier to improving public health.

The TAPHO Study aimed to document transportation gaps connecting regional public health options. In doing so, enabling policymakers to direct investment towards closing gaps, which will in turn improve quality of life, strengthen local economies, and improve community health.

The TAPHO Toolkit includes estimates of residents living within travel distances to over 2,000 public health destinations. This presentation will provide an overview of the methods used to prepare population estimates for the TAPHO Toolkit, explain shortcomings, identify mistakes and learning opportunities, and discuss potential extensions and updates.

Track 5. Datums & Versioning

Hall I

Preparations for the New Datums and Coordinate Systems

10:50 am to 11:55 am - 60 Minutes - Intermediate

Jerry Mahun - Educator and Professional Land Surveyor, Multiple Retiree

Although delayed, the new National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) will soon be upon us. It will consist of new datums as well as redefined coordinate systems. When the new NSRS was initially announced, the Wisconsin Spatial Reference Systems 2022 (WSRS 2022) Task Force was created to interface with NGS and to identify and address issues. This session will describe what's coming, what it means to spatial data users, tools that will be available, and work yet needing to be done.

Configure, Publish, & Edit a Branch-Versioned Environment

12:00 pm to 12:30 pm - 30 Minutes - Beginning

Jonathan Arndt - GIS Engineer, Outagamie County, WI

The presentation will walk through the process of configuring an enterprise geodatabase for branch-versioned editing, publishing a branch-versioned feature service, and then managing and editing through that service.

Track 6. Between Lakes & Lines

Hall J

Forward to New Hydrography Data for Wisconsin and the Nation

10:50 am to 11:20 am - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Mitch Bergeson - National Map Liaison, USGS

The USGS 3D Hydrography Program (3DHP) is the first systematic remapping of the Nation's surface water since the original 1:24,000-scale mapping program was active from 1947 to 1992. Starting with highly accurate hydrography derived from high-resolution lidar data from the USGS 3D Elevation Program, 3DHP combines new geometric data with features and functionality of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), the Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) and the various iterations of the NHDPlus into a single system that meets the needs of multiple user groups. By adopting a common feature vocabulary, and integrating mainstem identifiers and flow network derivatives, this dataset forms the geospatial foundation for the Internet of Water (IoW) and improves the discovery and sharing of water-related data. This presentation will provide an overview of 3DHP data, access, functionality, acquisition status, and program goals.

Heads Above Water: Interactive Mapping Tools for Coastal Resilience Planning

11:25 am to 11:55 am - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Ben Yahr - Owner, Resolution Studio

Janet Silbernagel - Owner, Silvernail Geodesign

Planning resilient Great Lakes shorelines is a complex endeavor! Extreme storms, changing lake levels, eroding shorelines, and heightened development pressures present unique design challenges. The ability to communicate and collaborate across diverse teams and stakeholders calls for novel approaches. We will share our work for Milwaukee County Parks Bluffs Assessment and related coastal resilience projects that leverage web-based GIS tools in new ways to deliver public facing platforms for collaborative design support and immersive user engagement.

Mitigation Banking & GIS - Support Across Project Lifecycles

12:00 pm to 12:30 pm - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Tyler Schwartz - GIS Team Lead, Resource Environmental Solutions

This presentation will discuss what environmental mitigation banking is and how GIS technology can support and assist the development of a mitigation bank across the entire project timeline. The presentation will involve an overview of the various mitigation types and mechanisms, and then review the various stages of development, from front end sales all the way through project closeout. Particular focus will be paid to the various GIS tools and techniques that are used throughout that project development cycle and the critical role that GIS plays at each stage. We will look at specific ways GIS can leverage systems and application development, field data collection workflows, ETL/automation and GIS desktop analysis and geoprocessing fit into the larger project architecture.

Track 7. Career Connections

Hall K

10:50 am to 12:30 pm - 90 Minutes - Beginner

Kristen Vincent - GIS Manager, City of De Pere

Anna Peters - GIS Manager, REL

Career Connections is back for another year of networking and professional development—and this year, we're changing things up with Speed Networking!

We'll have a group of pre-selected professionals joining us as our industry experts. Participants will join a table for a guided, small-group conversation with one of our experts, with opportunities to ask questions, hear career advice, and learn from their experiences. Every few minutes, we'll rotate tables, giving you the chance to connect with a variety of professionals and perspectives.

Following the speed networking portion, we'll open things up for general networking, giving you an opportunity to continue conversations, follow up on topics that caught your interest, and connect one-on-one with fellow attendees and industry professionals.

And, of course, the ever-popular resume reviews are back! Bring a paper or digital copy of your resume and have it reviewed by one of our volunteers. Whether you're looking for general feedback or preparing for your next internship or job opportunity, this is a great chance to get another set of eyes on it.

Career Connections is geared toward students and emerging professionals, but everyone is welcome to participate. Come ready to ask questions, make connections, and maybe pick up some career advice along the way.

We hope to see you there!

Thursday Afternoon Breakout Session

Descriptions

1:30 pm-3:15 pm

Track 8. Municipal & Utility

Hall E

Ditch the Clipboard: Streamline Inspections and Maintenance with ArcGIS

1:35 pm to 2:05 pm - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Cassidy Killian, GISP - Local Government Regional Team Lead, Cloudpoint Geospatial

In the evolving landscape of GIS and Asset Management, transitioning from traditional inspection methods to digital solutions is essential for operational efficiency. This session explores how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can effectively replace paper-based inspections with streamlined digital workflows. By showcasing two real-world asset management examples, this presentation demonstrates how data collected in the field flows directly to office staff in real-time. Attendees will learn how these integrated workflows save time, significantly reduce manual entry errors, and empower departments to make smarter, data-driven decisions.

Lessons in Change Management: Examples from the City of De Pere's ArcGIS Enterprise and ArcGIS Utility Network Deployment

2:10 pm to 2:40 pm - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Kristen Vincent - GIS Manager, City of De Pere

Since May 2026, the City of De Pere has had a fully deployed ArcGIS Enterprise and ArcGIS Utility Network environment. Since that time, we have begun streamlining workflows, shifting web content from ArcGIS Online to ArcGIS Enterprise, and organizing our new environment. Also during that time, we have been learning, adapting, and communicating - learning how to add new users with our IT Department, adapting to a new editing environment for GIS staff, and communicating new login procedures for field crews. All of these are examples of changes in our operations, and they are happening all at once. In this presentation, we will share lessons learned from our experience with change management. We will discuss the importance of communication and our approach to inform users about workflow shifts, how documentation efforts have been key in understanding new processes, and share some examples of the unexpected challenges and how those were handled. We'll close with our takeaways for managing change successfully.

Fifteen Utilities, One Small GIS Shop: Putting AI to Work in Municipal GIS

2:45 pm to 3:15 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Tyler Caulum - GIS Manager, WPPI Energy

WPPI Energy supports GIS for more than fifteen member utilities, and over the past year an AI coding assistant has become part of that daily work. This session covers real projects, not demos: an electric system map built for mutual-aid crews, circuit tracing that flagged 90+ mis-attributed line segments, 24,000+ automated attribute corrections, billing-meter-to-E911 address matching, and nightly Utility Network maintenance. It also covers the habits that make AI safe against production data - dry runs, backups before every edit, version control - and where the AI got things wrong. You'll leave with practical starting points for the scripting, AGOL administration, and data cleanup waiting in your own shop.

Track 9. County Mapping & Planning 2.0

Hall F

Guardians of the Land Records Galaxy: Modernization, Fraud, and Cyber Warfare

1:35 pm to 2:40 pm - 60 Minutes - Beginner

Staci Hoffman - Register of Deeds, Jefferson & Oneida County

Kyle Franson - Register of Deeds, Oneida County

Welcome to the modern universe of land records management. While every Register of Deeds and county operates as its own distinct "galaxy," all are bound by identical statutes and face the exact same hostile forces. This dynamic session tackles the massive shifts transforming local government: rapid digital modernization, rising deed fraud, and escalating cyber threats. Learn how today's ROD guardians are evolving their defenses, leveraging new technology, and safeguarding the future of public records.

Connecting Housing Data with Unique Building Identifiers

2:45 pm to 3:15 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Matthew Krempely - Community Planner, CARPC

Unique Building Identifiers (UBIDs) provide a methodology to identify a building based upon its footprint and location. Using the inherent attributes of the building creates a meaningful, reproducible, and reversible natural key; one can describe the location and area of the building from the UBID alone. This methodology, which was developed by the US Dept. of Energy and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, has multiple implications for urban and regional planning. This presentation will discuss the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission's insights from adopting this technology, and how they use it to describe and analyze the region's housing inventory.

Track 10. Emergency & Natural Disaster Response

Hall G

ESRI - Awareness to Action: ArcGIS for Emergency Response

1:35 pm to 2:05 pm - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Jarod Fox - Solution Engineer, Esri

When emergencies occur, timely information and effective coordination are critical to protecting lives, property, and communities. ArcGIS provides emergency managers, public safety agencies, and government organizations with the tools needed to monitor evolving situations, share information, coordinate resources, and support informed decision-making throughout an incident. In this session, discover how ArcGIS transforms data into actionable intelligence before, during, and after an emergency. Learn how real-time data feeds, field operations, dashboards, and web applications can be combined to create a common operating picture that supports situational awareness and improves coordination across teams and agencies.

Part 1: Getting to the Ground Truth with GIS: Deploying Minimum Viable Products in the First Days of Disaster

2:10 pm to 2:40 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Adam Dorn - GIS Administrator, Winnebago County

Mike Zuege - GIS Manager, ECWRPC

Quinn Bukouricz - Engineering Technician, City of Menasha

When the Fox Valley tornado struck, responders needed ground truth fast. This session shows how rapidly deployed GIS Minimum Viable Products (MVP) became a stabilizing source of information in the earliest phase of the disaster when no one knew the true scale of the impact. You'll see how operational grids, multi agency drone imagery, real time damage assessments, and advisories were assembled to support critical decision making and public communication. Attendees will learn practical methods for standing up tools under pressure, coordinating across agencies, and laying a solid foundation to support more complex requests that might be coming.

Part 2: GIS Shift Change: Disaster Response, Live Triage, and Real Decisions

2:45 pm to 3:15 pm - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Adam Dorn - GIS Administrator, Winnebago County

Mike Zuege - GIS Manager, ECWRPC

Quinn Bukouricz - Engineering Technician, City of Menasha

Step into the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) - mid-response. Whether or not you attended Part 1, this interactive "Incident Command System (ICS) Shift Change" puts you in the next operational period following the Fox Valley tornado. After a quick briefing, the room will vote on which real-world challenge you want to take head-on.

Together, we will triage requests coming to the GIS Team. Debate competing priorities and compare your decisions with the real decisions made in the actual response. Topics will include road closures, debris management, situational awareness challenges, multiple sources of damage assessments, professional ethics, and long-term recovery. This session offers a chance to practice decision-making before you get the call asking you to report to your EOC.

Track 11. FORWARD! - Everything Wisconsin

Hall H

Mapping Tools to Improve Agricultural Emergency Preparedness

1:35 pm to 2:05 pm - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Jakob Hanschu - Research Specialist, National Farm Medicine Center

Researchers at the National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC), based in Marshfield, Wisconsin, have developed two online mapping tools to improve the health, wellbeing, and safety of rural and agricultural communities. FarmMAPPER is a digital adaptation of a program that has existed for decades, and is used by first responders in preplanning farm operations. PremisesMapper was released in April 2026 and has already seen wide use among livestock producers as well as state biosecurity officials, notably in the early response efforts surrounding highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Wisconsin. These tools were built using the ArcGIS for JavaScript API and are freely available to users. This presentation will cover the origin and development of the tools as well as an in-depth look at how stakeholder user experience interviews informed the design of the PremisesMapper tool.

Mapping WisDOT Right-of-Way

2:10 pm to 2:40 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Katie Ginther - Cartographic Specialist, WisDOT

Darya Salehi Mava - GIS Intern, WisDOT

Eugenie Huang, State Cartographer's Office

WisDOT is developing a GIS feature class of WisDOT-controlled right-of-way (ROW) boundaries. These boundaries currently can only be found by referencing a large variety of plats ranging from 1905 to present day. WisDOT has partnered with the State Cartographer's Office to georeference all historic plat sheets. The complete extent of existing ROW boundaries, permanent easements and access control on the state highway network will be mapped using a combination of these georeferenced plats, aerial imagery, CAD data, and parcel data. This presentation will cover the project scope, progress updates, and future plans for the project and the resulting data.

Evaluating the Accessibility of Your Web Mapping Applications

2:45 pm to 3:15 pm - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Hayden Elza - GIS Developer, Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office

With the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II compliance deadline approaching in April 2027, many are wondering how to know if their content meets the accessibility requirements. In this presentation, I will walk through how we evaluate the accessibility of web applications at the Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office, including the tools, spreadsheets, and documentation that support our workflow. Through a live, step-by-step review of an example application, attendees will learn how to identify barriers to accessibility, document findings, and build a repeatable evaluation process for their own organizations.

Track 12. Asset Management

Hall I

Utility Asset Management Using Esri's Web Experience Builder

1:35 pm to 2:05 pm - 30 Minutes - To Be Determined

Sam Keehan - GIS Utilities Coordinator, City of Sun Prairie

Explore ways the City of Sun Prairie has improved their sanitary and stormwater asset management systems using the Esri ArcGIS Enterprise Portal environment. GIS staff and public service crews have worked together to update database schemas, field maps, and create customized web experiences using Esri's Experience Builder and query layers. The project is ever-evolving, but crews are already able to better track and plan their work.

Water Meters, Permits, and Utility Billing - Assemble

2:10 pm to 2:40 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Joe Tew - Land Information Systems Manager, City of Brookfield

Michael Meke - GIS Technician III, City of Brookfield

Coming later.

From Good to Great: Elevating Your ArcGIS Dashboards

2:45 pm to 3:15 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Lauren Wunderlich - GIS Analyst, Ruekert-Mielke

ArcGIS Online dashboards are powerful tools for turning data into actionable insights, but designing dashboards that effectively support decision-making requires more than just displaying information. This session will showcase real-world dashboard solutions developed to address challenges in asset management, Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) inventories, and other operational needs. Through problem-to-solution examples, attendees will learn design strategies, customization offerings, and visualization techniques gained from successful dashboard implementations. Whether you're creating a new dashboard or refining an existing one, you'll leave with ideas and best practices to elevate your ArcGIS Online dashboards and better serve your users.

Track 13. Asset Management

Hall J

Detroit Tree Census - A New Perspective on the Urban Forest

1:35 pm to 2:05 pm - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Arron Lee - Senior Account Manager, NV5 Geospatial

Urban trees are essential for the functioning of a modern city. Understanding and managing the tree canopy can be both expensive and time consuming. In most cases only street tree and trees on the local government land are measured but this only makes up part of the overall tree resource. To get both an understanding of the extent, diversity, health and distribution of the City of Detroit's tree resource, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) funded a project to map all the trees within the City's boundaries to support planting and management of the urban tree canopy by The Greening of Detroit (TGD) and the General Services Department (GSD) of the City of Detroit. Currently the City of Detroit has a tree canopy cover of around 26% and has a goal of increasing this Citywide to around 40%. To achieve these goals planting will be required on both public and private lands, so understanding the tree resource and opportunities for tree planting across all ownerships is important for both the management and the development of tree planting programs for public and private lands within the City boundaries, and across the region. The project leverages existing high resolution lidar dataset that was flown in 2021, tree inventory data, and 2025 summer imagery to create a wall-to-wall tree census of the City. This will result in information about every dominant tree within the boundaries of the City. These data will be integrated into enterprise systems for tree management and utilized for tree management and community engagement. The presentation will review the approach and results of the projects, and how tree census data will change the way we understand the urban forest and manage it.

Lonely Infrastructure: How Play Can Rebuild the Spaces Between Us

2:10 pm to 3:15 pm - 60 Minutes - Beginner

Jeremy Fojut - Founder & President, Fojut Ventures

Land-information systems are powerful at showing where parcels, infrastructure, amenities, and public assets exist. They are less equipped to show whether those places help people connect. This session introduces Human Infrastructure: a practical layer for understanding the social permission, playful catalysts, and repeatable rituals that turn proximity into belonging. Using Milwaukee Night Market, ART 64, Play Date, and Social Furniture, Jeremy Fojut will show how spatial information can be paired with observable human indicators such as participation, dwell time, repeat visits, cross-group interaction, and stewardship. Attendees will apply the Proximity -> Permission -> Catalyst -> Repeatability framework to a mapped place or public asset and identify one low-cost way to make the information more useful for planning community connection. The session does not require specialized social-science training and is designed to spark practical collaboration among GIS, planning, parks, economic-development, and community-engagement teams.

Track 14. Legislative Roundtable

Hall K

1:35 pm to 3:15 pm - 90 Minutes - To Be Determined

Detailed Schedule

Friday, Feb 19

7-8 | Past Presidents Breakfast

8-12 | Registration

8-8:30 | Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:30-11 | Morning General Session

Welcome and Gold Highlight

Keynote-Nancy von Meyer, Steve Ventura, Ann Barrett

9:45 | Silent Auction Ends

10:00 | Hotel Checkout, Break with Exhibitors

10:35-12:15
Morning Breakout

Hall E | 15. AI + GIS

Hall F | 16. Parcel Mapping

Hall G | 17. Online and Mobile Mapping

Hall H | 18. Imagery and Lidar

Hall I | 19. Tripping with Cartographers

Hall J | 20. Environmental Planning

Hall K | 21. Student Symposium

12:15-2 | Lunch

Town Hall Part 2, Awards, Closing

2:00 | New Board Meeting

Track Details

Friday, Feb 18

Morning

Track	AI + GIS	Organization Management	Online & Mobile Mapping	Imagery & Lidar	Tripping with Cartographers	Environmental Planning	Future Professionals
Room	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
10:35-11:05	Beyond the Map: AI's Growing Role in ArcGIS	Building the Parcel Archive: trials in legacy data conversion and web-application development	A Flexible Approach to Automating Map Creation: Enabling Rapid Recreation of Planning Division Maps and Mailing Lists	SEWRPC High Density Lidar Project	Where the Map Takes Me: Adventures of a Wisconsin GIS Professional	Using NRCS SSURGO Soils data	Student Symposium
11:10-11:40	Automating Repeatable Workflows in GIS with AI Scripting	The Future of Cadastral Mapping	From Data Collection to Decision Support: A 15,000-Mile Mobile Mapping Initiative for WisDOT	Historic Imagery Challenges/ Success	40 Things a Geographer Notices in Fiji	Updated Downscaled Climate Projections for Wisconsin for Local Planning	
11:45-12:15		Whose Land Is It Anyway? Why Wisconsin Still Can't Map Its Public Lands	Smart Waste Management, One Year In: What the Scans Are Telling Us.	Remote Sensing Indices for Tracking Agriculture BMPs	The Apostle Islands National Lakshore & International Travel/Incorporating Your Kids on an International Trip/TBA	Point Clouds to Practical Conservation: Leveraging Lidar for Improved Land and Water Resource Management	

Friday Morning Breakout Session Descriptions

10:30 am-12:15 pm

Track 15. AI + GIS

Hall E

Beyond the Map: AI's Growing Role in ArcGIS

10:35 am to 11:05 am - 60 Minutes - Beginner

Jarod Fox - Solution Engineer, Esri

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly transforming how organizations collect, manage, analyze, and communicate geographic information. From natural language experiences and automated content generation to advanced imagery analysis and predictive modeling, AI is becoming an increasingly powerful capability across the ArcGIS platform. In this session, explore how AI is expanding the possibilities of GIS by helping users work more efficiently, uncover new insights, and make better-informed decisions. Attendees will discover how AI-powered capabilities are being integrated throughout ArcGIS to simplify workflows, accelerate analysis, improve data quality, and enhance the way organizations interact with spatial information.

Automating Repeatable Workflows in GIS with AI Scripting

11:10 am to 12:15 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Sarah Morrison - GIS Analyst, MSA Professional Services

Coming later.

Track 16. Organization Management

Hall F

Building the Parcel Archive: trials in legacy data conversion and web-application development

10:35 am to 11:05 am - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Joshua Birndorf - GIS Analyst / Real Property Lister, Kenosha County Division of Land Information

Boundaries and features within a county are constantly in flux. As documents pour through a Register of Deeds and Land Information Office, parcels can be split or combined, municipal borders change as land is annexed or attached, and subdivisions can appear housing tens to hundreds of new parcels. County web-based parcel viewer applications often display the most up-to-date information possible, giving the public a real-time view of their county's current configuration. But what should be done with archived datasets? This presentation outlines how Kenosha County used python to convert parcel data stored in coverage and personal geodatabase formats and used ArcGIS Experience Builder to create the Kenosha County Parcel Archive.

The Future of Cadastral Mapping

11:10 am to 11:40 am - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Frank Conkling - Owner, Panda Consulting

Cadastral mapping is entering a period of unprecedented transformation. For decades, parcel mapping has focused primarily on representing land ownership as two-dimensional polygons with associated ownership and assessment attributes. While this model has served governments and land administrators well, emerging technologies, evolving property rights, and increasing demands for richer spatial information are redefining what a cadastral system must represent. This presentation explores the megatrends that will shape the future of cadastral mapping and examines how GIS professionals can prepare for the next generation of land records.

Participants will discover how advances in artificial intelligence are poised to automate many routine mapping tasks, from deed interpretation and quality assurance to feature extraction and change detection, allowing cadastral professionals to focus on the complex legal and analytical decisions that continue to require human expertise. The presentation also examines the evolution of cadastral data models beyond traditional land parcels to include increasingly sophisticated representations of three-dimensional and non-land interests. Topics include condominiums, stacked ownership, air rights, subsurface estates, easements, utility corridors, time-share interests, fractional ownership, and the growing need to model significant personal property that is legally associated with land interests. Together, these trends point toward a future where cadastral systems become comprehensive digital representations of property rights, restrictions, responsibilities, and interests rather than simply maps of land ownership.

Attendees will leave with a forward-looking perspective on the technologies, data models, and professional skills that will define the next decade of cadastral mapping, enabling them to better position their organizations for the rapidly changing landscape of land records management.

Whose Land Is It Anyway? Why Wisconsin Still Can't Map Its Public Lands

11:45 am to 12:15 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Christina Dennis - Graduate Student, UW-Madison, WI State Cartographer's Office

Ray Weigand - MS Student/GIS Intern, WI State Cartographer's Office, UW-Madison

Wisconsin is home to a remarkable array of natural and cultural landscapes, and residents and visitors alike want to explore all they can while respecting private ownership. Hence the long-standing desire for a public lands map that helps people get out and enjoy these places. Because lands open to the public are largely those owned by federal, state, county and other government entities, building such a map starts with a question that has proven surprisingly difficult to answer from parcel data: which parcels does the government own? The Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office maintains an annual statewide parcel layer, assembled from data shaped by assessor interpretations, GIS technician documentation, landowner discretion, and county and municipal workflows. Although the layer moves through a regular pipeline with validation and cleaning tools, determining whether a parcel is publicly owned from its ownership and taxation attributes has proven exceptionally difficult. In principle, the statewide schema and state statute suggest that attributes such as the auxiliary class should identify a parcel as federal, state, county, other tax-exempt or private. In practice, an analysis of auxiliary classes and owner names in the 2025 parcel layer reveals wide and sometimes contradictory variation in labeling, both between and within counties. We will walk through some recurring patterns of inconsistency and then present an initial prototype layer that assigns every parcel a probability of being government-owned, based on the auxiliary class, owner name, and the parcel ID. We close with a call for clearer, more consistent labeling by counties and local assessors, a necessary step in moving from a government lands layer to a true public lands layer for the public to enjoy.

Track 17. Online & Mobile Mapping

Hall G

A Flexible Approach to Automating Map Creation: Enabling Rapid Recreation of Planning Division Maps and Mailing Lists

10:35 am to 11:05 am - 30 Minutes - To Be Determined

Jeff Ingebritsen - GIS Specialist, City of Madison Planning Division

A Flexible Approach to Automating Map Creation:

Enabling Rapid Recreation of Planning Division Maps and Mailing Lists

The City of Madison Planning Division regularly creates locator maps for submissions to City Commissions and the Common Council. The Division also sends mailings to city residents within certain distances of zoning map amendments, conditional uses, demolitions, and Planned Development District approvals. This talk describes the various methods the Division has taken to make this work more efficient, reproducible, and shareable. The approaches include:

1. Using ArcGIS Notebooks to quickly create mailing lists and accompanying quality control maps with flexible parameters,
2. Writing python toolboxes to enable non-technical GIS users to modify common maps from a template, and
3. Modifying the notebooks in step 1 to solve a customized Rezoning project.

From Data Collection to Decision Support: A 15,000-Mile Mobile Mapping Initiative for WisDOT

11:10 am to 11:40 am - 30 Minutes - To Be Determined

Matt Schoenhofen - Senior Project Manager, NV5

State departments of transportation are increasingly leveraging mobile mapping technologies to support asset management, safety analysis, and infrastructure reporting at scale. This presentation highlights an ongoing statewide mobile collection initiative for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), covering 15,000 miles across the State Trunk Network (STN).

The project combines high-density mobile LiDAR and spherical imagery acquisition to create a comprehensive digital representation of Wisconsin's highway system. Deliverables include a web-based corridor visualization platform powered by ENVI Discover, as well as bridge clearance inventory data to support compliance with the National Bridge Inventory and SNBI reporting requirements.

Beyond traditional mobile mapping products, the project explores the integration of image recognition and machine learning workflows to accelerate feature extraction and inventory development. Emerging applications may include the automated collection of Model Inventory of Roadway Elements (MIRE) data, such as intersection control and geometric characteristics. By combining advanced sensing technologies with artificial intelligence-driven analytics, the project aims to improve efficiency, consistency, and scalability in statewide transportation asset inventories.

Smart Waste Management, One Year In: What the Scans Are Telling Us

11:45 am to 12:15 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Sumukh Ramesh - Geospatial Software Engineer, Berntsen International

A year after the City of Hendersonville, NC launched its RFID-enabled residential waste and recycling pilot on the Esri ArcGIS platform, the data captured at every truck lift is now driving real operational decisions. This follow-up session picks up where our WILA Annual 2026 presentation left off. It briefly recaps the pilot design (passive RFID tags on every residential receptacle, truck-mounted readers, and ArcGIS Survey123, feature services, and Dashboards serving as the system of record), then turns to the analytics layer that has grown around that data.

Two reports have moved the needle for the City this year. The first is a non-participation audit that reconciles RFID scan events against the participating households. For each household signed up for recycling service, the report shows how often their bin actually goes out, which surfaces enrolled but inactive customers whose absence had been inflating the City's official participation rate. The second is a contamination identification report generated during the City's targeted contamination awareness outreach - when a route supervisor flags a bin as contaminated during collection, the RFID scan links that observation back to the specific household, so the City can send personalized letters and door-hangers instead of blanket route-level messaging.

Both reports run Python based analysis of the scan feed against the ArcGIS geodatabase and surface their outputs through ArcGIS Dashboards for the City's public works team. We'll walk through the data model, the EPC normalization logic that makes multi-truck routes reconcilable, the false-positive traps we hit and fixed, and, most importantly, how the City is using the reports operationally: who reads them, what actions they trigger, and what has changed in resident behavior since outreach began.

Attendees will leave with a concrete blueprint for extending an RFID + GIS field-data system into an operational analytics platform, applicable to waste, water metering, streetlight inspections, and other route-based municipal services.

Track 18. Imagery & LiDar

Hall H

SEWRPC High Density Lidar Project

10:35 am to 11:05 am - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Zach Nienow - Manager - Aerial Mapping, Ayres

Rob Merry - Chief Surveyor, SEWRPC

In 2025, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission led a high density lidar project across all seven counties in the region. The project was the first regional high density lidar project in the state, and was supported by county, state, and federal partners. In this session, we will discuss the collection, processing, validation, and use cases for high density regional lidar. We will demonstrate variety of elevations products that have been developed from the lidar and discuss how they are being used by the stakeholders.

Historic Imagery Challenges/Success

11:10 am to 11:40 am - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Suman Sirivella - GIS Coordinator/LIO, Portage County

Unlocking historic imagery offers transformative benefits for land-use planning, zoning compliance, and real estate analysis. By strategically approaching sourcing of data, digitizing and standardizing legacy imagery we can achieve measurable success by making it publicly available. Also, it empowers better decisions, strengthens legal defensibility and drives smarter community growth.

Remote Sensing Indices for Tracking Agriculture BMPs

11:45 am to 12:15 pm - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Sarah Kussow - Programs Manager/GIS Analyst, Outagamie County Land Conservation

Outagamie County Land Conservation has been working with WDNR and various other partners on using remote sensing indices to track agriculture best management practice implementation. This session will go over how the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index and the Normalized Difference Tillage Index, derived from satellite imagery, is being used to identify fields implementing practices such as cover crops and conservation tillage methods.

Track 19. Tripping with Cartographers

Hall I

Where the Map Takes Me: Adventures of a Wisconsin GIS Professional

10:35 am to 11:05 am - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Anna Peters - GIS Manager, Robert E. Lee & Associates, Inc.

What happens when someone who works with maps every day heads out on an adventure? The maps usually come along.

From exploring close to home in Wisconsin and Michigan to traveling through the mountains and landscapes of the United States, this presentation will share adventures through the perspective of a GIS professional who has a hard time leaving maps behind. It will also follow a different kind of adventure: using maps, apps, and geographic information to help a husband from afar during his journey on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Along the way, we'll look at some of the tools and resources that have helped with trip planning, finding interesting places, navigating unfamiliar areas, understanding the landscape, and solving problems when plans didn't quite work out. We'll talk about the successes, the mistakes, the unexpected detours, and those moments when having a little geographic knowledge really came in handy.

Part travel story, part geography lesson, and part collection of tips from a GIS professional who loves exploring, this session is about the ways maps can help us experience the places around us—whether they're just down the road in Wisconsin or thousands of miles from home.

40 Things a Geographer Notices in Fiji (Reefs, Roads, Maps, Mountains & Everything in Between)

11:10 am to 11:40 am - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Ashley Adair-Murray - GIS Analyst, City of Pewaukee

Normally when I'm talking about GIS, I'm talking about things like parcels, easements, infrastructure, web maps, and all of the other glamorous things we deal with in local government.

But this past summer, I went somewhere a little different. And because apparently a geographer cannot simply go on vacation, I came home with dive photos/videos, maps, observations, and an entirely unnecessary amount of geographic information.

So, in honor of WLIA's 40 and Forward theme, I'm going to share 40 Things a Geographer Notices in Fiji:

Some are geographic.

Some are cultural.

Some are underwater.

And some are things I absolutely did not think about until I was standing on an island in the middle of the South Pacific thinking, "Huh. That's interesting."

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore & International Travel

11:45 am to 11:55 am - 10 Minutes - Beginner

Pam Ledin - GIS Analyst, AgSource

Prepare to be transported from a cold February day to a warm beach in the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore via a visual cornucopia of photos that Pam has taken on her island adventures. Well, the ice caves will be included too, so still bring your jacket! Learn about the unique geography, geology, history, flora and fauna of the Apostle Islands and be inspired to plan your trip to this Wisconsin gem!

Incorporating Your Kids on an International Trip

11:55 am to 12:05 pm - 10 Minutes - Beginner

David Buehler - GIS Specialist, WisDOT

It started with a question from a 4 year old and took over three years to plan, but it finally happened. Explore France, Switzerland, and Spain with the Buehlers. The kids had some requirements, the wife had delusions of grandeur, and I just had hopes of surviving. Follow the journey and take away some travel tips of exploring the world with younger kids.

To Be Determined

12:05 pm to 12:15 pm - 10 Minutes - Beginner

Jodi Helgeson

To come later.

Track 20. Environmental Planning

Hall J

Using NRCS SSURGO Soils Data

10:35 am to 11:05 am - 30 Minutes - To Be Determined

Craig Surman - State GIS Coordinator, USDA-NRCS

Mike England - Assistant State Soil Scientist, USDA-NRCS

Presentation will discuss how to access the USDA NRCS Soils datasets and will also cover how to run some queries to be able to create soil interpretations.

Updated Downscaled Climate Projections for Wisconsin for Local Planning

11:10 am to 11:40 am - 30 Minutes - Beginner

Eric Compas - Professor, University of Wisconsin - Whitewater

As part of its efforts to improve climate-related decisionmaking in the state, the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) has released a new version of its downscaled climate projections for the state. This CMIP6-based data includes several key temperature and precipitation metrics for local communities and counties to use within various planning efforts, e.g. emergency management, land use, zoning, and climate adaptation. The updates include new future scenarios, higher resolution, and a more end-user friendly format. Along with introducing this data, this session will demonstrate how the data can be used appropriately and highlight limitations. These data represent the best available climate modeling data for Wisconsin and are available at GeoData@Wisconsin.gov.

Point Clouds to Practical Conservation: Leveraging Lidar for Improved Land and Water Resource Management

11:45 am to 12:15 pm - 30 Minutes - Intermediate

Nik Anderson - Senior Geospatial Project Manager, Ayres

Noel Schmitz - Office System Technician, Richland County

Lidar has become an invaluable tool for conservation planning, but its full potential is often realized through lidar enhancements that reveal subtle landscape features and drainage patterns. In this presentation, Richland County conservation staff and project partners will share their recent work developing enhanced lidar derivatives and demonstrate how they are being used in daily conservation operations. Attendees will gain an overview of lidar applications, along with real-world examples showing how these tools help better understand terrain, identify drainage concerns, support conservation planning, improve site assessments, and inform land and water resource management decisions. This session will provide both technical insight and practical guidance for conservation and land information professionals interested in leveraging lidar in their own work.

Track 21. Future Professionals - Student Symposium

Hall K

10:35 am to 12:15 pm - 90 Minutes - Beginner