



Legislative Priority: Continued Support for Statewide Mapping Initiatives

Background

Thanks to the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP), along with additional investments at the local level, Wisconsin counties have a history of producing high-quality, timely, and accurate Geographic Information System (GIS) data for their respective jurisdictions. These GIS datasets are primarily designed to support a range of county operations such as law enforcement, health and human services, and land conservation.

The Problem

The WLIP has historically focused on supporting GIS data development at the county level, but not on *integrating* these GIS datasets across county boundaries. Prior to the Wisconsin Legislature adopting Act 20, which established the [statewide parcel map project](#), a business or other organization needing land ownership information was faced with the non-trivial task of assembling GIS data from up to 72 different county sources. The statewide parcel map is *currently the only WLIP-funded statewide GIS dataset available in Wisconsin*. WLIA wants the State of Wisconsin to build upon the success of the statewide parcel map, and extend the lessons learned on that project to other GIS datasets.

Case Studies:

The 2012 Deer Trustee Final Report identified the need for a more accurate and robust statewide geospatial database system to support, not only for wildlife and deer management, but also for many critical services. The report pointed to the lack of seamless, statewide GIS layers. This primarily has been caused by lack of a coordinated program and adequate funding. It stated that economic benefits of such programs are well-established and certainly would figure in current attempts to strengthen Wisconsin's economy.

Following the Deer Trustee's Report, legislation was passed to establish the Wisconsin Statewide Parcel Initiative. The WLIP undertook the development of a statewide parcel dataset, using the high-quality parcel data developed by counties. This initiative proved that county data can be aggregated to create statewide datasets. However, the legislation and funding was limited to just building statewide parcel and zoning datasets.

The 2021 Wisconsin Next Generation 9-1-1 GIS Gap Analysis Project, Final Report & Recommendations document pointed to the need to build a statewide dataset from the counties. The report identifies as one of the most important aspects of NG9-1-1, a seamless, nationwide road centerline dataset. Each state must lead the effort to ensure that the road centerline is seamless statewide. This process can only be accomplished with guidance and support from the State of Wisconsin.

We believe that not acting more aggressively to build statewide datasets from county data has had a detrimental effect upon important statewide issues including the upcoming implementation of NG9-1-1. NG9-1-1 relies on statewide GIS datasets that simply do not exist at this time. GIS data produced by Wisconsin counties must be leveraged to support a wide variety of emerging programs. Not continuing to build on the state parcel initiative has held back efforts like NG9-1-1.

WLIA's request

WLIA asks legislators to: Support initiatives and funding for new and emerging statewide GIS projects that build upon the success of the statewide parcel mapping project.