



WISCONSIN
LAND INFORMATION
ASSOCIATION

Wisconsin Land Information Association: Areas of Interest

The Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) is approximately 1,000 members strong and made up of professionals dedicated to bringing geographic information system (GIS) solutions to problems facing both government and private industry. For thirty years we have been leaders in the development, operation, and maintenance of a network of statewide GIS and land information systems. The WLIA membership can serve as a resource for policymakers as GIS and land information systems have come to impact most areas of public policy. Our areas of interest/expertise include:

Next Generation 911 (NG911)

Land information professionals are often called upon to provide accurate address point, road centerline, and basemap data for use in emergency vehicles and call centers. Next Generation 911 (NG911) enables the transfer of images, video, and text messages by the public to emergency responders. Access to this data will enable first responders to better assess caller and victim conditions from the call site. WLIA sees the value and importance of NG911 and looks to partner in initiatives that make public safety even more effective.

Economic Development

Attracting and keeping businesses in Wisconsin is enhanced by easy access to parcel-based land information data. This enables businesses to identify property available for purchase, rent, or lease. Documents that have been recorded in the Register of Deeds offices are mapped and enhanced by additional information, such as zoning, plat and easement information, and aerial imagery. The parcel mapping and value added data is created and maintained by county and other local government professionals, many of whom are WLIA members. The data is available on local GIS websites and aggregated by DOA to create a statewide parcel map, which is downloadable and available in app form to the general public.

Emergency Management

Severe weather events have brought to the fore the importance of accessing, sharing, and distributing geospatial data. Emergency response to recent flooding events throughout the State of Wisconsin was expedited by the use of GIS and land information. Aid locations, road closures, areas of extreme damage, and more were mapped and made available to the public and emergency professionals in a timely fashion to minimize duplicative efforts. These tasks were handled by association members at every level of government. The same holds true for other incidents, natural disasters or otherwise, such as acts of terrorism, chemical spills, fires, and more. Targeted preparation and faster response using geospatial data means healthier, safer communities.

Transportation

Traffic patterns and trends, accident data, travel time, vehicle and snowplow routing are just a few of the functions that local agencies depend on GIS and Land Information Systems (LIS) professionals to provide. Data maintenance and integrity is maintained in a variety of state, county and local departments and shared to Public Works and Transportation departments. This collaboration and effort ensures that Wisconsin's road, rail, and trail infrastructure meets its travel, industrial, and recreational needs.

Election Districts and Voter Registration

Association members from county and local governments maintain the ward data from which all other election districts are created. Ward, district, and address data are shared with and used by the Wisconsin Elections Commission and the Legislative Technology Services Bureau in applications such as WisVote. Many association members have experience with the redistricting that takes place after each decennial census; often serving as the technical lead for their municipality or county.

The purpose of the Wisconsin Land Information Association is to foster the understanding, development, operation and maintenance of a network of statewide land information systems. Specifically, the Wisconsin Land Information Association's mission is focused on promoting sound policy, promoting interaction and cooperation, technical research and education.



Property Ownership & Assessment

When parcel mapping is paired with property ownership information and overlaid atop recent aerial imagery in an online GIS application it becomes a powerful tool. The WLIA realizes that this would not be possible statewide without the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) funding and support, continuing efforts to provide geospatial data available to all. GIS applications allow assessors to calculate categorical acreage estimates and visualize property sales and land divisions, private property owners to utilize and access vast amounts of information for planning development or conservation, and the tax and assessment information and mapping assists real estate professionals.

Conservation Planning and Environmental Monitoring

Urban and rural environments both require proper planning whether it is for residential and commercial development, environmental corridor protection, or agricultural land preservation. Many of the core data layers of the Wisconsin Land Information Program are utilized for local, regional and statewide resource conservation efforts. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have become embedded in virtually every government planning office to assist in smart design, construction, restoration, and preservation.

Engineering

The construction industry requires sound engineering design that relies on accurate topographic data and aerial photography. The Wisconsin Land Information Program has witnessed and subsequently embraced new technologies like Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to collect high accuracy spatial data. LiDAR, whether acquired in terrestrial, aerial or mobile form when displayed in concert with imagery, produces realistic 3D models. This expedites engineering projects and spurs economic development.

Surveying

As survey practices have evolved from transit and stadia rods to high precision GPS, the requirements for accurate benchmarks, monumentation, and tie points have become critical. One of the critical datasets that the Wisconsin Land Information Program is working to complete statewide is the Public Land Survey System. The location and establishment of these monuments forms the infrastructure for all other land related information. Land surveying professionals have come to expect access to supporting GIS layers to do their jobs. Members of our association are instrumental to the exchange of location data to and from the surveying community.

Utilities

Wisconsin geospatial professionals make data available for all major utility providers. This information is vital to supporting Wisconsin's One-Call Center and Diggers Hotline (811) to protect underground utilities and assets in compliance with Wisconsin State Statute 182.0175. The Wisconsin Land Information Association community continues to push for open data standards to insure that data access to this type of critical data is simple, fast, and free for public and private sector utilities.

Rural Broadband Mapping

Internet connectivity and access plays an integral role in the lives, education, and growth of our urban and rural communities. A recent federal report indicated over 744,000 people in Wisconsin lack access to at least one broadband service. Wisconsin's constituency increasingly demands internet access. The land information community already maintains much of the data and mapping needed to analyze underserved areas and possess the tools to study ways to increase coverage.