



# GIS Connection

Whiteside County GIS Office

February 18, 2010

Volume 1, Issue 2

- Check out the **NEW** GIS Office Web Page at <http://www.whiteside.org>. Find it under Departments → Assessor → GIS.
- The Road & Address Atlas will be heading to the printer in the next couple weeks and will be available soon.
- Join us this Spring for the GIS Strategic Planning kick-off!

## GIS Software Enables Information Management

By Lauren Lee & Karl Kovarik

Whiteside County GIS employs ESRI's<sup>1</sup> ArcGIS 9.3.1 desktop software. ESRI is a privately held and debt free (!) company considered to be the industry leader in GIS software and services. ArcGIS provides a platform for spatial analysis, data management, and digital mapping. In the second quarter of 2010, they are looking to release the next generation of software, ArcGIS 10, and it looks to offer some exiting new capabilities.

We also utilize two software solutions from the Sidwell Company<sup>2</sup> called Parcel Builder and FARMS. Parcel Builder simplifies parcel mapping and land records management while FARMS performs productivity-based assessment of farmland parcels. Both of these work in conjunction with ArcGIS.

Whiteside County 911 incorporates the GIS information into two products they use county-wide, Geographic Technologies Group's (GTG's)<sup>3</sup> LGDispatch and LGMobile products. These applications are able to plot

911 calls onto a map which can then be drilled down to street levels and provide address and parcel information. These mapping applications can also plot existing calls for service or historical events whether they be for Police, Fire or EMS. Police, Fire or EMS units that have laptops in their vehicles, will then be passed the same mapping information to their vehicles, which can enhance response times.

<sup>1</sup> [www.esri.com](http://www.esri.com)    <sup>2</sup> [www.sidwellco.com](http://www.sidwellco.com)

<sup>3</sup> [www.geotg.com](http://www.geotg.com)



Whiteside County GIS Parcel Map

Visit <http://www.esri.com/whatscoming> to read about some of the new features of ArcGIS 10 and watch a video demo.

## Beacon Website: New Layers



Some recent layers added to the website include : *Cartography*, *Parcel Points*, and *Lots*. The *Lots* layer is composed of line features designating lot boundaries. This can help in identifying parcels composed of multiple lots or parts of lots. The *Cartography* layer displays helpful notations such as ownership hooks, tics, arrows, et al.

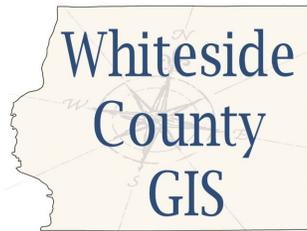
The *Parcel Points* layer contains point features designating each parcel number. However, not all *Parcel Points* have a corresponding polygon boundary located in the layer *Parcels*. *Parcel Points* includes parcel numbers that represent entities such as leases, pollution control, and condos which do not have a physical boundary.

Currently, the parcel search only searches on the *Parcels* layer. However, you can find the condo points fairly easily by searching for the "community" parcel number which is the same as the condo parcel number but ends in -000. This is the parcel the condo point resides on and does exist in the *Parcels* layer. Using the identify tool, on *Parcel Points* will garner similar information to a parcel search.

The Beacon GIS Website is located at [www.beacon.schneidercorp.com](http://www.beacon.schneidercorp.com). The map portion is subscription only.

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“While [GIS] is a great record keeping and geographic accounting system, its fundamental purpose is about helping apply geographic knowledge to create better understanding, planning, and decision making...and of course help in communication.” — *Jack Dangermond, ESRI president, interview with V 1*

Our GIS Website is:  
<http://www.whiteside.org/assessor/gis.html>

- Please feel free to contact Lauren Lee with any questions or comments at 815-772-5185 or llee@whiteside.org.
- Fun Map: Create your own interactive GIS map at <http://www.esri.com/mapping>, then click “Make a Map.”

## A Current Project: Traffic Accident Mapping

Beginning September 2009, the GIS Office has been inputting traffic accident locations garnered from the reports recorded at the Sheriff’s Office. The goal is to provide a way to geographically analyze this data beyond what can be understood by just recording these accidents in a database. Ultimately, this can help Public Safety officials with planning and decision-making regarding traffic accidents.

second map entitled *Traffic Accident Hot Spots* used a grid analysis technique to get a count of accidents in a certain area to identify “Hot Spots” and also did not include those accidents which involved a collision with an animal.

As you can see, there are many more ways we can analyze this data. We could look at accidents involving animal collisions or accidents involving multiple units or even accidents occurring over various time periods. The GIS provides multiple ways to view and analyze this data.



To access online maps: Head to [www.whiteside.org](http://www.whiteside.org) and click under “County Information” then “GIS” and “GIS Documents.” You can change to zoom percentage to 100% to view the map easier when you open the PDFs.

I’ve placed two Traffic Accident maps online in PDF form as examples for you to view. (These can be accessed by following the instructions to the left). The first map entitled *Traffic Accidents* is a general point map of traffic accident locations from Sept.-Dec. 2009. The

