GIS Connection

Whiteside County GIS Office

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- ArcGIS 10, the newest version of ESRI's software, is expected to be available June 2010.

- The Road & Address Atlas is available for purchase for $10. Visit the GIS webpage for more information.

- Please stop by and welcome William Mekeel. He will be working as a GIS Intern for the summer.

GIS Strategic Planning Kick-off

This Spring the GIS Office took its first steps toward drafting a strategic plan to define a course of action for the office. One of the first steps was to draft both a mission statement and vision for Whiteside County GIS.

Mission Statement: Whiteside County GIS strives to work in partnership with County Departments to support the activities of the County by providing comprehensive GIS data, infrastructure, and services to enable decision-making, improve efficiency, and enhance service to the public.

Vision: It is the vision of Whiteside County GIS to provide an innovative GIS environment incorporating current and emerging technologies using a cost-effective, county wide enterprise approach.

In addition, we held several informational meetings with County, Township, and Municipal officials and plan on holding a couple more in June. At these meetings, we discuss what a GIS is, how Whiteside County is using GIS, how some other local governments are using their GIS systems, and have a time for questions and brainstorming.

Some of the issues that were discussed in the prior meetings included: a possible new aerial flight in 2011, some municipalities receiving regular updates of common GIS base layers, Beacon Website cost and layers, crime mapping, infrastructure layers, contours from new LIDAR data, safety of GIS information, and many others.

Please keep your eyes peeled for the announcements of upcoming meetings and planning tasks if you are interested in GIS and what it can do for you.

Strategic Planning

Whiteside County GIS
Lauren Lee   GIS Coordinator

Copies of previous newsletters can be found on the GIS website at http://www.whiteside.org/assessor/gis.html

Beacon Website

Beacon has added a great new feature: Google Street View. This feature is located in the toolbar next to the print setup.

Street View is available in Sterling, Rock Falls, Morrison, and other major roadways in the county. When you click on the icon and click on the map, a new window will open showing the street view available through Google maps. (You will need to allow pop-ups from the Beacon website in order for the new window to open).

An address point layer has also been recently added to the website. This layer represents a more complete view of addresses since it is maintained for use by our E911 system. You can search based on this layer by clicking on the layer name (not the check box) in the "Layers" list to make it the active layer. (The parcel layer is the default active layer). Then in the search tab, enter the address. Sometimes less information is better as it will generate a list of similar addresses and you can choose the correct address. Then if you click the map tab, you can view that address location.

The Beacon GIS Website is located at www.beacon.schneidercorp.com. The map portion is subscription only.

In this issue:

Lauren Lee - GIS Coordinator
200 E. Knox St. , Room 205
Morrison, IL 61270

Tel: 815-772-5185
E-mail: llee@whiteside.org

"GIS consistently delivers a return on investment including cost avoidance; time savings; increased accuracy, productivity, and revenue; and better decision making. — *ESRI GIS for Local Government*

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: Check out pictures and information from 13-year-old Jordan Romero's attempt to climb Mt. Everest in this interactive GIS map: http://edn1.esri.com/everest/Default.html

A Current Project: Protected Places

The Illinois Sex Offender Information website is located at http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/.

In 2007, the GIS office created several layers to utilize regarding laws associated with "protected places." For instance, a registered sex offender is not allowed to reside within 500 ft of schools, parks, and registered day cares. In addition, those caught distributing illegal drugs within 1000 ft of certain protected places face a higher penalty.

Therefore, the GIS office identified these protected places in a layer. This was then used to generate 500 ft and 1000 ft buffers around these places. This allows for a graphical representation of these protected zones and allows for easier identification.

These layers are updated continuously and have been utilized for hard copy maps as well as for residence compliance.

In addition, the GIS office occasionally plots registered offender locations from the Illinois Sex Offender Information website maintained by the State Police. This layer can be overlaid with the buffer zones to capture those offenders not in compliance. This information is then relayed to appropriate officials for their use.