



# GIS Connection

Whiteside County GIS Office

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- Whiteside County is aiming to be up and running with ArcGIS 10 soon.
- Congratulations to Daryl Drennen on his retirement and to Robin Brands as the new Supervisor of Assessments.
- GIS Day was November 17th during Geography Awareness Week. [<http://www.gisday.com>]

## Flood Map Modernization

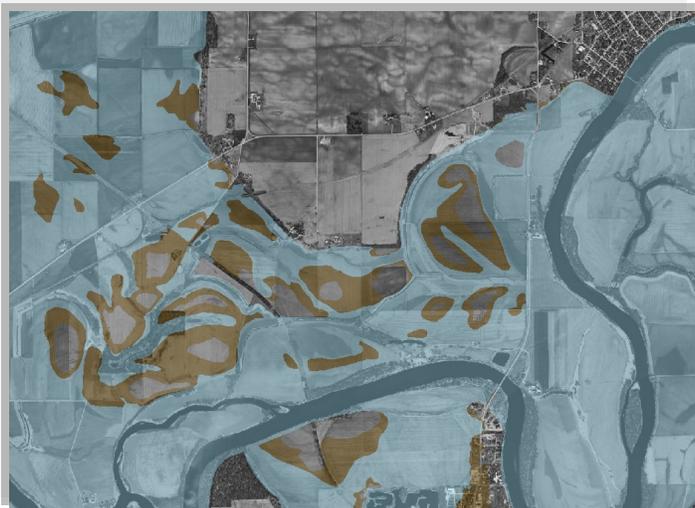
Whiteside County Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) have recently been updated to new seamless digital maps by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois State Water Survey. These maps will be certified and put into use in February of 2011.

The Flood Map Modernization Program was instigated by FEMA as a solution to the abundance of outdated paper maps. Whiteside County's maps, outlining flood hazards located in the county, were last certified in 1986. This update consolidates community based

maps into a single county-wide digital map that can be integrated into our GIS.

The Planning and Zoning office will utilize the new maps in their continuing floodplain management and the Community Rating System Program. The GIS allows for a straight-forward way to identify property owner's within a flood zone who can then be informed about flood hazards and the Community Rating System.

More information can be found at:  
[www.illinoisfloodmaps.org](http://www.illinoisfloodmaps.org).



An Example of the new flood hazard layer near Lyndon & Prophetstown.

## Beacon Website Tips



Did you know that you can make your map area larger or smaller? This feature is located under the *Change Options* button. This

button can be found in the upper right-hand corner of the website. It appears as a sheet of paper with a red checkmark. Then, under *Map Size*, the default is set to medium. You can change this to large or small depending on your preference. In addition, you can change the auto-refresh option on the *Map Layers*. Be sure to click the *Save Changes* button to set your choices. I often set my *Map Size* to large so the map portion fills up more of my computer screen. Another helpful trick is to press F11 to change your browser view to Full Screen Mode (if using browsers Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox). Press F11 again to go back.

Two new layers have been added to Beacon: *Survey Monuments & Quarter Sections*. The *Survey Monuments* layer represents monuments utilized for ground control for the county's aerial flights. The *Quarter Sections* layer will label the quarter section (i.e. NE, NW, SE, SW) at certain zoom levels.

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

“We live in the Global Location Age. ‘Where am I?’ is being replaced by, “Where am I in relation to everything else?” - Geospatial Revolution Project

- Please feel free to contact Lauren Lee with any questions or comments at 815-772-5185 or llee@whiteside.org.
- High-Quality Election Maps: <http://elections.nytimes.com/>
- Fun Map: The True Size of Africa : <http://www.good.is/post/what-is-the-true-size-of-africa/>

## The Geospatial Revolution Project

The Geospatial Revolution Project is an excellent primer about geospatial technologies. Taken from their website:

*Geospatial information influences nearly everything we do, from driving in our cars to military war strategy to the tracking of genocides, diseases and environmental changes. Satellites, surveillance, and location-based technologies create a worldwide geographic knowledge base that is vital to solving social and environmental problems in the interconnected global community.*

*Penn State Public Broadcasting is launching the Geospatial Revolution Project, an integrated public media and outreach initiative about the impact of digital mapping.*

*“We are hoping our viewers will realize how broadly, deeply and irrevocably these technologies are part of our lives, mostly for good but with their social side effects as well,” said Penn State Public Broadcasting writer-director Stephen Stept. “We want folks to share these stories with family, friends and colleagues, and perhaps even to join the revolution in some way.”*

The first two video episodes of a four episode series have been released on their website. I encourage you to take a look.

<http://geospatialrevolution.psu.edu>

