



GIS Connection

Whiteside County GIS Office

August 10, 2011

Volume 2, Issue 4

- There will be NO Fall 2011 issue of the GIS Connection. Please see Page 2 for more information.
- 2011 Farmland Assessments have been generated by the GIS Office.
- ESRI is releasing ArcGIS Version 10.1 in early 2012.

New Aerial Photography

The new color aerial imagery is here! The GIS office recently received county wide aerial tiles from the project. The compressed images will be delivered in the next couple weeks. Beacon users should see the new imagery appear on the website in the next week or two.

To compare, the previous county wide imagery was taken in black and white and had a one foot resolution. Imagery in urban areas were at a six inch resolution in black and white. The new imagery has been captured in color at a resolution of six inches over the entire county. The color images allow for greater clarity in identifying structures and land use portrayed in the image.



*New Aerial View of
Propheter Park,
Sterling, IL*

The new aerial imagery will be utilized in many different ways in the GIS Office. The first goal will be to update the land use layer for our farmland assessment program. In addition, we will update the E911 address point layer, our water feature layer, and plan on creating a new building footprint layer.

The new imagery will also be featured on any hard copy map print outs for county office or citizen requests. The standard map print out is on a letter size sheet of paper for which we charge a fee of \$3.00. Larger size prints are also available. Feel free to stop by to view the new imagery or look for it on Beacon soon.

Beacon Website Tips



The Beacon Demo on May 26 was very well attended with at least 22 users taking advantage of the opportunity. Beacon has taken in some user feedback (including ours) and expanded the functionality of the website since the demo. Based on our user feedback here in Whiteside County, you will notice the selected parcel in the map no longer displays as a fill but instead as an outline.

You will also notice a new check box in the upper right hand corner of the map which allows you to turn on map tips hover mode. When checked, the ownership information will display when you hover your mouse over a parcel. In addition, you now have the capability of turning layers on and off in the full screen map mode thanks to a collapsible tab you will find in the bottom left hand corner. There is a new tool located at the end of the toolbar which allows you to download the current view as a map image in a .png format. Also, the coordinates of the map display in the bottom right hand corner. The default coordinates are state plane but if you click on the plus sign adjacent to them, you can change them to decimal degrees or degrees minutes seconds (lat/long).

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

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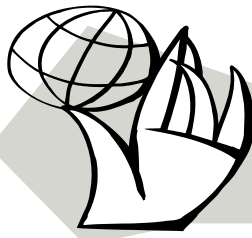
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Our GIS Website is:
<http://www.whiteside.org/assessor/gis.html>

“The good cartographer is both a scientist and an artist. He must have a thorough knowledge of his subject and model, the Earth...” - Erwin Josephus Raisz (1893 –1968)

- Please feel free to contact Lauren Lee with any questions or comments at 815-772-5185 or llee@whiteside.org.
- DIY Aerial Imagery with Balloons & Kites : <http://grassrootsmapping.org/> ; How-to Guide: <http://bit.ly/qrm7Qk>
- Fun Map: WeatherSpark Beta - Current & Historical Weather Data : <http://bit.ly/qf3rk>

GIS News Bites



- Lauren Lee, GIS Coordinator, will be on Maternity Leave from September through December. She will be returning after the first of the year. If you have any immediate needs, please get them into the GIS office during the next couple of weeks. Any questions/concerns while she is on leave may be directed to the Supervisor of Assessments Office at 815-772-5195 or rbrands@whiteside.org. As such, there will be no Fall issue of GIS Connection. Look for the Winter issue coming in February of 2012.
- New Beacon Layers:
 - School Districts
 - Fire Districts
 - Congressional Districts
 - State Rep. & Leg. Districts
 - County Board Districts
 - Sterling Wards
 - Precincts
 - Polling PlacesThese layers should be appearing on Beacon soon.