



GIS Connection

Whiteside County GIS Office

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- GeoBee: What You Can Do with Geography : <http://bit.ly/KGakaw>
- The Fire Hydrants layer has been updated with new locations provided by the Sterling Fire Department.
- The landuse layer updates derived from the new aerial photography are about 25% complete.

GIS Office News

- We are upgrading our GIS software and hardware to utilize ArcGIS for Server this summer. Please be aware that this will require some GIS downtime along with changes to the GIS system and how county departments access it. I will try to work with each department through the transition to meet the department's GIS needs. The Beacon website will still be available. Only nightly updates might be affected/delayed.
- The GIS office has hired a summer intern. Please stop by and welcome Andres Florez, a Geography student at Northern Illinois.
- The GIS office will be consulting with the Health Department's Environmental Health division to look into starting a project locating wells using GPS data and integrating those locations into the GIS system.



Image: ESRI

Beacon Website Info



Beacon now features multiple sales data for each parcel. Previously, only the most recent sale was listed. Now any sales back to 2003 are listed.

Searching the E911 address point layer is an alternative to searching the address in the parcel layer. Steps to search the address point layer: 1. Click the "Addresses" layer name in the Layer List to make the layer active. (This will highlight the layer with a rectangle). 2. Click the "Search" tab at the top. 3. Enter the street address. (Tip: *Less is More*. i.e. 1000 1st, instead of 1000 1st Street). 4. Select the blue link for the address needed in the results. 5. Select the "Map" tab at the top to zoom the map to that address. 6. Click the "Parcels" layer in the Layer List to make it the active layer again.

The Beacon GIS Website is located at 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>

“Geography is the only subject that ask you to look at the world and try to make sense of it.” - Peirce F. Lewis, Professor Emeritus of Geography, Penn State

- All links are clickable in your PDF newsletter. If you currently receive a hard copy of the newsletter but wish to receive the emailed PDF copy, please forward your email to llee@whiteside.org.
- Are you ready for the Zombie Apocalypse? Check out the Map of the Dead: <http://bit.ly/JFZmQW>
- What if the World's population lived in one city, how big would it be? <http://bit.ly/Lx03y5>

GIS Terms

Brief descriptions of some of the software or technology associated with the upgrade occurring this summer. This is just a primer to familiarize yourself with some of the language and names specific to GIS in a server environment.

visualize, and share GIS information.

- **Map Service:** The way that a GIS content author publishes maps for use in applications such as ArcGIS Explorer Desktop.
- **ArcSDE:** Technology for managing geographic information in a relational database management system . It is utilized to enable geographic information to be shared by many users across a network.

- **ArcGIS for Server:** This software gives you the ability to create, manage, and distribute GIS services. It simplifies access to GIS services through centralized management of spatial data.

- **ArcGIS Explorer Desktop:** Free GIS viewer that allows the user to explore,



To learn more about ArcGIS for Server visit:
<http://bit.ly/JZjKNi>