

ST. LOUIS COUNTY GIS STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION: St. Louis County will continue to develop and maintain a comprehensive and accessible Geographic Information System to enhance the provision of services.

OUR VISION is an integrated Geographic Information system for all stakeholders which includes St. Louis County departments, its citizens, and other interested parties. The system will provide the resources for interactive mapping, spatial querying, analysis, and planning.

Goal 1: Leadership and Planning:

Provide coordinated leadership and planning for GIS development and use in St. Louis County.

Objectives:

1. Develop a formal structure for GIS that facilitates leadership, policy development, resolution of technical issues, administration, and implementation of systems and applications.
2. Create a forum to identify current and future applications and coordinate planning efforts among stakeholders.
3. Identify and coordinate funding sources for development and dissemination of geographic information.

Actions:

1. The County Administrator should appoint a GIS Advisory Committee and direct it to develop necessary structure for achieving the objectives of GIS leadership and planning.
 - √ GIS Advisory Committee Bylaws
 - √ GIS Coordination
 - √ Incorporate other stakeholders
 - √ Identify applications to support the provision of County services
 - √ Coordination of projects and funding
 - √ Establish a GIS Users Group consisting of all interested stakeholders and technical users
 - √ Appoint GIS Technical Standards Committee
2. The GIS Advisory Committee should develop a proposal to the County Board for a GIS Revolving Fund similar to the MIS hardware/software purchase fund.

Goal 2: GIS Standards

Develop standards for the creation, maintenance, documentation, and use of geographic information.

Objectives:

1. Identify hardware and software for a robust, accessible system.
2. Define minimum data layer standards to insure GIS data integrity.
3. Use established documentation (metadata) standards.
4. Establish and document version control standards for creating and maintaining data.

Action:

The GIS Technical Standards Committee will identify and recommend appropriate hardware, software, data standards and procedures to the GIS Advisory Committee.

Goal 3: Building and Maintaining the Foundation

Identify, build, and maintain the foundation upon which the GIS System will be based.

Objectives:

1. Develop and maintain a metadata web site.
2. Develop and maintain a survey coordinate foundation.
3. Develop and maintain a parcel layer.
4. Develop and maintain an address layer.
5. Develop and maintain a County transportation layer.
6. Compile a set of digital imagery.
7. Develop and maintain a jurisdictional database.

Actions:

1. The Land Department should assume responsibility for the development of metadata.
2. The County Surveyor should continue to establish certified township and section corners in a digital format which is critical to creation of all the other GIS layers. They will continue the development of half section maps.
3. The County Assessor should continue to develop a parcel layer and maintain those parcels that have already been developed in the GIS.
4. The Communications Department should coordinate the development and maintenance of a GIS address layer and public safety jurisdictions layer.
5. The Public Works Department should continue developing and maintaining a County transportation base, including current and historical roads, railroads, airports, utility information, cartways, ditches, and transit.
6. The County Land Department should continue to maintain aerial digital imagery, including digital ortho quads, and DNR color infrared photography. The Department will also maintain natural resources related layers.
7. The Planning Department should maintain a jurisdictional information base, including political jurisdictions, school districts, commissioner and legislative districts, special districts, Census tracts, voter districts, zoning districts, and other area wide information.
8. The Land Department should continue to coordinate the addition of information from outside sources to the St. Louis County GIS.

Goal 4: Communications, Access, Data, and Security

Inform stakeholders about what information is available and how to access it. Data must be secure but readily available for authorized users.

Objective:

1. Develop and implement a plan to disseminate available geographic information.

Actions:

1. The GIS Users Group should develop and disseminate a GIS data catalog (using the ARDC data clearinghouse).
2. The GIS Advisory Committee should develop a protocol for a Service Bureau for data and maps.
3. The MIS Department should establish network capabilities to handle the GIS data exchange, security, software, and licensing.

Goal 5: Technical Knowledge Sharing and Training

Facilitate the sharing of GIS expertise and knowledge among the GIS community.

Objectives:

1. Promote GIS use by facilitating information and knowledge sharing among stakeholders.
2. Identify and prioritize County GIS training needs.

Actions:

1. The GIS Users Group will be a forum for the exchange of information.
2. The GIS Users Group should encourage participation in regional and national users groups.
3. The GIS Users Group should set up a mentoring program.
4. Each department should perform a skills assessment by position for standard GIS hardware and software.
5. Each department should perform a training needs survey.
6. The GIS Users Group should assist Employee Development with the establishment of GIS training classes.

St. Louis County GIS

County Administrator