

PRESS RELEASE

September 16, 2016

Morrow County Auditor and Engineer announce new County GIS mapping system

The Morrow County Auditor and Engineer have completed the development of a new computer mapping system called GIS which stands for *Geographic Information System*. County Auditor Patricia Davies and staff are leading the way on this project with the amazing support of County Engineer's staff members Brandon Strain and Assistant Engineer Bart Dennison.

It is the Auditor's parcel base map that supports many important uses, according to Richard Kotapish, of Geo-centric Consulting, Inc., a consultant who has managed the conversion of the Mylar Tax Maps into a computerized format. Mr. Kotapish notes, "The implementation of GIS in Morrow County is without a doubt, the most important technology project to impact local government and Morrow County constituents since E911. Access to County mapping and property information is now available 24/7, from anywhere, even your phone!" Morrow County is the 86th of 88 Ohio Counties to implement GIS. "After the conversion process, the County tax duplicate is more accurate than before, ensuring a more equal application of taxes and tax relief programs." He said.

GIS supports applications such as emergency dispatch, land planning, emergency management and homeland security, crime analysis, property appraisal, civil engineering, natural resource monitoring, transportation planning, public health and environmental analysis, economic development, census analysis, and more.

"GIS is another **Public First** Initiative and important in our efforts to **Modernize Morrow County**. As County Auditor, I am prioritizing creating modern efficiencies and transparent government practices. The citizens of Morrow County deserve the best services and most modern expediciencies available," stated Auditor Davies.

On the new GIS website, users can view aerial photography with parcel boundaries, lot dimensions, quarter sections & lots, easements, subdivisions, lot/sublot numbers, school districts & schools, oil and gas wells, Auditor's property and owner information. Users can overlay natural resource mapping such as soils, streams, lakes, flood plains, and view surveys associated with a property right from the GIS map.

Many Benefits of the GIS Program

Efficient government: Immediate access to County information previously scattered across many offices, providing much more efficient work processes.

Service Improvements: Reduced wait time and streamline services by web access anytime; map layers are now all the same scale allowing for overlay and analysis - soils and property lines for example. Better information for emergency response.

Enhanced Intergovernmental Coordination: Data sharing, cost avoidance, more efficient communication between local government staff, providing better information access and scrutiny.

Efficiencies: Morrow County has effectively reduced the redundant update of map information by staff.

Return on Investment: Due to time reductions related to searching and reconciling geographic information, workflow efficiencies, reduced foot traffic and phone calls to County Offices, and reductions in field time for workers which reduces gas and vehicle maintenance costs.

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Economic development: Geographic data and maps are frequently supplied to surveying and engineering firms, planning, environmental consulting and design businesses, as well as real estate, title companies and citizens.

More than eighty percent of local government functions are associated with managing information about specific locations or geographic areas. Property boundaries, zoning, soils, agriculture districts, fire hydrants, an E911 callers, location and much more. GIS supports applications such as emergency dispatch, land planning, emergency management and Homeland Security, crime analysis, property appraisal, civil engineering, natural resource monitoring, transportation planning, public health and environmental analysis, economic development, census analysis and information access for the public.

The GIS website can be accessed at <http://morrowcountyohio.gov/gis/> . Questions are welcome in both the County Auditor and County Engineer's Offices.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia K. Davies

Morrow County Auditor