



Big Stone County faced a GIS challenge. The benefits of location technology and its ability to move the organization forward were well understood, however, as a small organization, the in-house expertise required to implement the right tools and workflows was lacking.

The County enlisted support from its long-term GIS partner, Pro-West & Associates, working together to define the GIS solutions that would allow the County to achieve the greatest return on investment. Working with Pro-West allowed the County to benefit from wide-ranging GIS expertise on one team, offering the most efficient and cost-effective path to reaching its GIS goals.

In fall 2017, a GIS needs assessment was conducted, during which the County's goals and needs were identified. The next year saw the County, working with Pro-West, fulfil an ambitious series of steps to reach those goals, which included:

- Improved citizen engagement
- Elimination of data silos
- Easier access to location data
- Mobile capabilities
- Reduced reliance on manual, paper-based processes that left room for error

Tasks performed included:

- Esri ArcGIS Online solution configuration for public/internal use
- GIS usage enabled for Emergency Management, Assessor and Highway Departments
- Data sharing and migration for greater use and accessibility:
  - Ditch benefit data
  - Property sales data

- Emergency management data
- Development of data related to public representation
- Data sharing to provide public access to data
- Process automation to increase accuracy and efficiency

### EASY ANSWERS TO “WHERE?”

A collection of online GIS tools and resources was created to provide a user-friendly way to enable County staff and citizens to find answers to their “Where?” questions:

A [Mapping and GIS Hub](#) was configured and shared on the County's [website home page](#) for maximum visibility amongst County residents and, therefore, return on investment. Enabling citizen self-service with mobile-friendly GIS tools has transformed the experience of finding critical information, with the ability to find what is needed at any time on any device without the need to call or visit County offices or wait for a response.



[Mapping and GIS Hub](#)

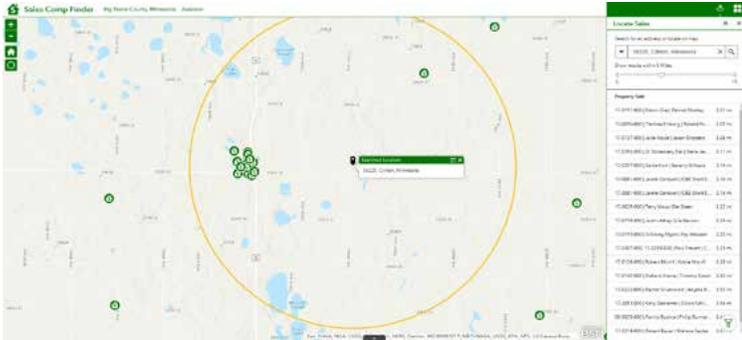
An [Open Data Portal](#) was created, providing a single location for users to find all of the County's shared data.

## FOCUS ON LAND RECORDS

Land records data is the foundation of many functions performed by County government, and a focus on land records was important to match public expectations and departmental needs. A set of nine online GIS maps and applications allow public and staff users to find the information they need on property in Big Stone County quickly and easily, on any device.

[Property Sales Manager](#) empowers County staff with the ability to track and analyze property sales and related assessment information.

[Sales Comp Finder](#) enables the public to easily view comparable sales and related property information.

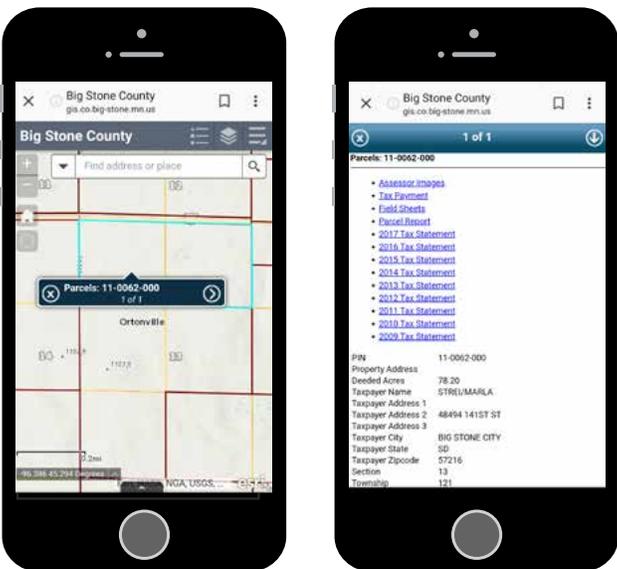


[Sales Comp Finder application](#)

[Public Zoning](#) provides a way for constituents to view zoning district and shoreline ordinance zones.

[Interactive Mapping](#) provides GIS tools and data to find land records information.

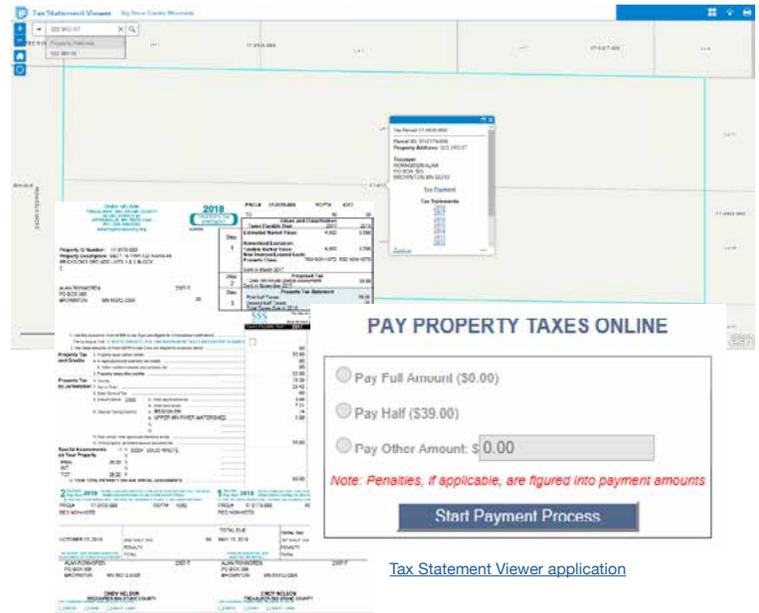
[Mobile Mapping](#) provides a mobile-friendly way to view land records data, fast.



[Mobile Mapping application](#)

[Tax Parcel Viewer](#) provides access for the public to information on tax parcels and assessment.

[Tax Statement Viewer](#) enables residents to access city tax statements and connect to an online property payment portal.



[Tax Statement Viewer application](#)

[Parcel Drafter](#) allows staff to enter metes-and-bounds descriptions and check closure errors.

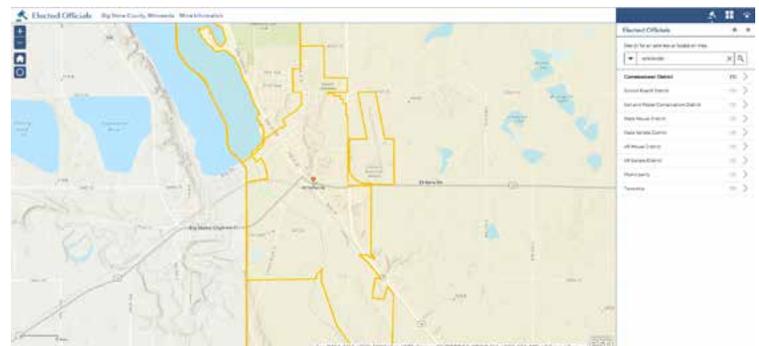
[Permit Finder](#) allows the public to find property and permit reports.

[Ditch Benefits](#) enables users to identify property benefitting from ditch areas.

## ENHANCING ELECTION INFORMATION

Sharing easy-to-access information on elected representatives formed a key component of the County's goal of improved constituent engagement.

The [Elected Officials](#) application brings together important information on representation for Big Stone County's residents at various levels of government.



[Elected Officials application](#)

[Election Polling Places](#) provides answers to citizens' questions about where they should go to cast their ballot on election day.

[Elected Officials Manager](#) is an internal application for staff to manage information on local elected officials.

[Elected Officials Dashboard](#) allows citizens and staff to efficiently look up elected officials' information and compare district areas.

## SUPPORTING VITAL SERVICES WITH GIS

Beyond land records and public representation, GIS is proving key in supporting other important County departments and functions.

Across organizations and industries, emergency management is heavily reliant on GIS technology in planning, executing and evaluating responses to emergency events. Big Stone County is no exception. Its [Situational Awareness application](#) allows staff to identify the impact of an incident on public infrastructure and human populations.

Location technology is also transforming how the County's field staff do their jobs every day, providing access to data even when offline and seamless connection between field and office staff and workflows. For example, the County's [Sign Inventory application](#) allows field staff to inventory traffic signs and inspections, with a companion [Sign Manager application](#) providing the same capabilities to office-based staff.

Additionally, the [Feedlot Solution](#) currently in development will allow users to conveniently view feedlot data in a mobile-friendly environment.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The County has achieved the goals it set for GIS in 2018. With data shared via a central location, silos within the organization have been eliminated and all users are now able to benefit from location data.

The public is empowered with the ability to find answers when they are needed via their own devices, ensuring an efficient route to accurate information.

Accurate information is also critical in transitioning manual processes to GIS-based solutions, ensuring the integrity of the information recorded without room for human error. Access to that information is also key, which is enabled for both public and internal staff users via online resources and centrally located, authoritative data.

Thanks to the implementation of modern, web-based GIS tools and up-to-date data, Big Stone County has built a GIS function that far exceeds expectations for its size and resources and is playing an important role in moving the organization forward.

The County is ready to embrace the many more exciting opportunities on the horizon for its GIS program.

5,400 visits to online  
GIS applications in 9  
months