



# imagine NEWS

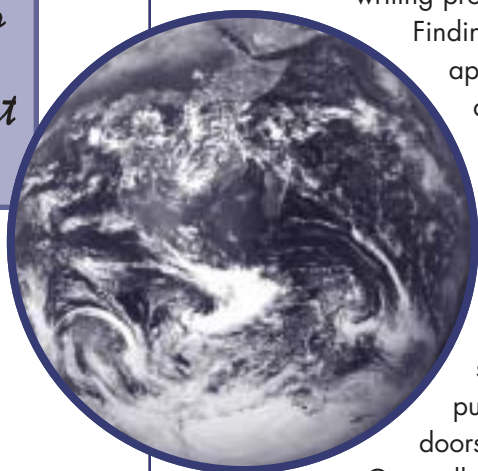
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Member NEWS



## Grants for Local Government GIS

By Kathleen Weessies and Brooks E. Kelley

Receiving outside money, equipment, or software for a GIS project seems like pennies from heaven. But the grant writing process is not labor free.

Finding grants, applying appropriately for them and carrying out the requirements of the granting body all require considerable time and effort.

Grants are rarely unrestricted or for such mundane purposes as keeping the doors open and lights on.

Generally the granting organization wants to use the funding opportunity to encourage a particular activity or desirable outcome.

Granting bodies can be state, or federal government, private non-profit organizations, or for-profit companies. The grant process is most likely to be successful when the funding opportunity closely matches the mission of the requestor.

### FINDING GRANTS

Finding appropriate grant opportunities may only require a heightened awareness of particular websites, email lists, or news

articles in trade publications. Non-profit associations that serve local government interests often report or advertise grant opportunities. This avenue is especially helpful for discovering one-time opportunities with a short time frame. The majority of year-to-year grant opportunities are reported through channels that need to be sought out.

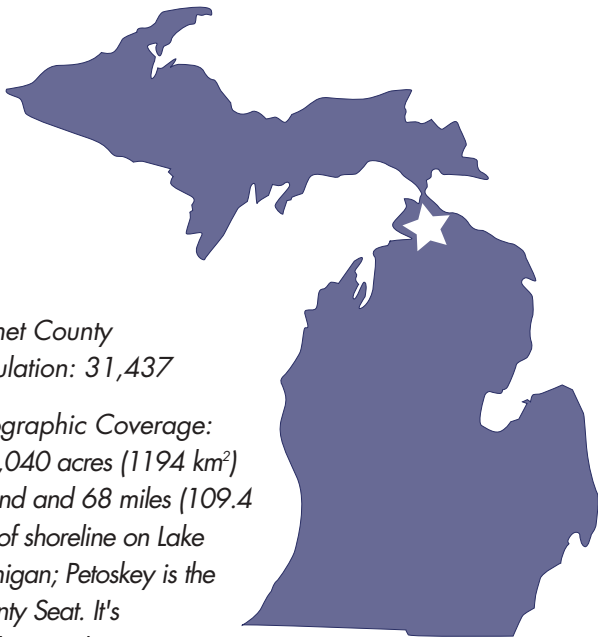
Information sources on grants are diverse, being compiled by a variety of interested parties. Some resources overlap, and many are not kept up to date. The vastness of grant finding tools may be overwhelming. Hopefully a manageable assortment of grant-finding tools listed here will help.

### MICHIGAN WEBSITES

- **Michigan Center for Geographic Information** - <http://michigan.gov/cgi>  
The Center has a link on their website for posting grant opportunities
- **Michigan Township Association e-News**  
<http://www.mta-townships.org/enews.htm>
- **Directory of state-administered grants**  
Economic Development Grants Available through State of Michigan  
Newest available is 2001-2002  
<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/stateecd.htm>

# Who's Doing What in GIS and Spatial Technology?

By *Mary Roux*



*Emmet County  
Population: 31,437*

*Geographic Coverage:  
295,040 acres (1194 km<sup>2</sup>)  
of land and 68 miles (109.4  
km) of shoreline on Lake  
Michigan; Petoskey is the  
County Seat. It's  
predominately resort  
and state land, including Wilderness State Park.*

*Number of Staff: 3*

*Annual Budget: \$94,200 (not including the director's salary)*

## **PROGRAM STATUS**

Emmet County began its GIS conservatively in 1996 with one employee, Maureen Radke, taken from the Planning and Zoning Department. For a while she was doing both jobs until she was named head of the GIS Department and Mary Roux, the description clerk, was transferred from Equalization. In February of 1997, a contract employee, Harry Kitchen, was hired to help out as a consultant. Harry was hired in 1998 as a full time County employee, and Maureen moved on to better things in her chosen field of planning. Harry and Mary remain as the entire department, which has merged with Equalization, headed by the Equalization Director, Lynette Girard.

Maureen obtained numerous grants to facilitate the startup of the GIS. Since CCE (Charlevoix-Cheboygan-Emmet)-911 was having all the County roads digitized via GPS, the GIS department was able to share that data and have that as the base, as well as using the MIRIS layers. TopComp was hired to scan and digitize existing paper parcel maps into MapInfo. The reasoning behind

that decision was the need to get all of the parcels mapped quickly and efficiently, with minimal personnel. This may not be the ideal situation, but it did get the system up and running without too much hassle, and it worked fairly well. Maintenance began as soon as the computerized maps were provided, and accuracy is being built in on a daily basis as more and better information is made available. This is simplified by the fact that the GIS Department does all splits and map maintenance of each unit, so it is uniform and consistent.

The Planning and Zoning Department has found GIS to be very useful, first in its master plan, and lately in a land use study which is almost complete. There are current zoning maps for all townships that use County Zoning. Those townships that have a zoning department of their own provide information to the County. County Planning and Zoning uses MapInfo in its office and Harry does its maps once information is available on the various projects.

The County purchased black and white digital orthophotos in 1997 in a cost sharing agreement with MichCon and Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties. The orthophotos helped improve the map data's representative accuracy, particularly along water bodies. The maps in Equalization are kept up-to-date on a weekly basis. A "soils" layer was digitized by a contractor from the soils book and a topography layer was provided by NWMCOG (Northwest Michigan Council of Governments) that displays 5 foot (152.4 cm) contours generated from 30 meter Digital Elevation Model (DEM). These had been downloaded from the Michigan Geographic Data Library website. Overlaying parcel lines on these maps makes a very useful tool.

Other MapInfo users have purchased the County base layers to use for their work. The County Building Department, which is networked, is presently adding corrected and new addresses to the base information, and using the maps to issue building permits. The County Health Department is keeping track of well data. The County Road Commission uses MapInfo to issue driveway permits. The Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians was one of the very first to purchase MapInfo and the base County information to use for their planning activities. Harry provides some support for these other entities but they have had no problem familiarizing themselves with the program and using

*WHO'S DOING WHAT continued on page 4*

**GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT GIS** *continued from page 1***FEDERAL WEBSITES**

- **Grants.gov** - <http://grants.gov>  
An Internet grants management portal

**OTHER WEBSITES**

- **Grants and Related Resources**  
<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/>  
This website is long, but is frequently updated. One component of this site is devoted to non-profit organizations (which includes governments), Grants for Nonprofits  
<http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/grants/2sgalpha.htm>

**BOOKS TO HELP IN THE PROCESS**

- Brown, Larissa and Martin Brown. Demystifying Grant Seeking: What You Really Need to do to Get Grants. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001.
- Carlson, Mim. Winning Grants Step by Step: The Complete Workbook for Planning, Developing, Writing, Successful Proposals. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2002.
- Ferguson, Jacqueline, Laurel Drake-Major, and Michael Gershowitz. The Grantseeker's Answer Book : Fundraising Experts Respond to the Most Commonly Asked Questions. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers, 1999.
- Quick, James, and Cheryl Carter. Grant Seeker's Budget Toolkit. New York : John Wiley, 2001.

**FOUNDATION CENTERS AROUND THE STATE**

The following list is of Foundation Center Cooperating Collections in Michigan. Each provides a core collection of materials useful to grantseekers.

**Alpena County Library**

211 N First St • Alpena MI 49707  
(989) 356-6188

**University Of Michigan – Ann Arbor; Graduate Library**

Reference & Research Services Department  
Ann Arbor MI 48109-1205  
(313) 764-9373

**Willard Public Library**

Nonprofit And Funding Resource Collections  
7 West Van Buren St • Battle Creek MI 49017  
(616) 968-8166

**Henry Ford Centennial Library Adult Services**

16301 Michigan Ave • Dearborn MI 48124  
(313) 943-2330

**Purdy/Kresge Library**

134 Purdy/Kresge Library  
Wayne State University  
Detroit MI 48202  
(313) 577-6424

**Michigan State University Libraries**

Main Library Funding Center  
100 Library • East Lansing MI 48824-1048  
(517) 353-8700

**Farmington Community Library**

32737 West 12 Mile Rd • Farmington Hills MI 48334  
(248) 553-0300

**University Of Michigan-Flint Library**

Flint MI 48502-2186  
(810) 762-3408

**Grand Rapids Public Library**

1100 Hynes Ave SW • Grand Rapids MI 49507  
(616) 456-3600

**Michigan Technological University**

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**Northwestern Michigan College**

Mark & Helen Osterin Library  
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**NETWORKING**

Finally, talk to colleagues in other departments. Let them know GIS is looking for grants. Other department heads may already know of GIS-related grants and will be more likely to pass along opportunities in the future if notified.

**SUCCESSFUL GRANT EXAMPLES**

Local governments throughout Michigan have used various types of grants to partially fund GIS activities. These grants have come from the federal and state government,

*GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT GIS continued on page 5*

WHO'S DOING WHAT continued from page 2

it with a minimum of help. CCE-911 continues to share their new road data (maintained by contract with TopComp) with GIS so it's always up-to-date. Hopefully, the Sheriff's Department will be able to use the information for their work soon.

**NEW PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Currently the main project is a website with equalization and map data, which should be available sometime in the Spring of 2003. Equalization will have BS&A Equalizer data available to the public, and the initial plan is to have some basic maps along with that, to be built upon in the future. There will also be a new plat book published shortly.

**LESSON LEARNED**

In a perfect world, having digital orthophotos of top quality and GPS information on all roads and section corners would make the ideal base map to start, if a county has that level of cooperation and financing. Emmet County started with the best information they could get, and built on it over the years. Even with an ideal system, accuracy would always be a work in progress. With a good Information Technology Department for support, it isn't necessary to have a programmer, even though that would be a bonus. A few employees with experience in mapping and a vision for the possibilities can do it.

Mary Roux can be reached at (231) 348-1730 or [mroux@co.emmet.mi.us](mailto:mroux@co.emmet.mi.us)

*Upcoming Meetings*

**2nd Annual Public Participation GIS Conference**

July 20-22, 2003

Portland State University, Portland Oregon

**5th Annual GIS in Addressing Conference  
Street Smart and Address Savvy**

August 17-20, 2003

Providence Marriott, Providence Rhode Island

**URISA 2003 Annual Conference and Exposition**

October 11-15, 2003

Marriott Marquis, Atlanta Georgia

*Grant Awarded*

The Tribal Council of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians has approved allocation of funds to the Grand Traverse County Equalization/GIS Department to assist with costs of obtaining new updated digital orthophotography of Grand Traverse County. The new flight will take place in the spring of 2003.

*Member News*

**InfoGeographics** – a Traverse City-based GIS services and products company – is pleased to announce the addition of **Jason M. Wagester**. Many IMAGIN members are already familiar with Jason through his previous work with Camp, Dresser, & McKee on numerous Michigan GIS projects. Jason's first project is programming support of InfoGeographics' forthcoming GeoConnector product.

New contact information for Jason is:

InfoGeographics, Inc.  
9251 Blackburn Drive • Traverse City MI 49684  
Phone: (231) 995-8266 • Fax: (231) 995-8267  
[jwagester@infogeographics.com](mailto:jwagester@infogeographics.com)  
Web: <http://www.infogeographics.com>

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## GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT GIS *continued from page 1*

Michigan's Indian tribes, and public, private, and non-profit corporations and have been used for a variety of purposes. Here are a few examples.

### **DEQ MICHIGAN COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANTS - BERRIEN COUNTY**

In 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2002 Berrien County received Michigan Coastal Management Program Grants from the Michigan Department of Environment Quality (DEQ). These grants totaled \$80,500 and were used to start building a digital property base for coastal townships atop 1996 digital orthophotos. Like many government grants, these required a 50% match from the recipient. At first, Berrien County matched these funds through the County's general fund. Later on, the County tapped into its infrastructure fund to achieve their half of the match. Cost sharing agreements with two townships and two cities added funds to continue the conversion process. This formula held while the County digitized approximately half its area. However, as time wore on and the potential for state revenue sharing decreased, Berrien County increased its reliance on tipping fees collected from County landfills. This clever use of state grants, cost sharing, and local revenue sources has allowed Berrien County to develop a county-wide property fabric and bankroll a GIS Specialist for two and one half years. Also, as the DEQ receives copies of Berrien County's data, it moves them closer to their goal of collecting parcel-level information for Michigan's shoreline areas.

For more information on Berrien County's experience with DEQ Michigan Coastal Management Program Grants, please contact John Burt (GIS Coordinator) at (269) 983-7111 x8274 or [jburt@berriencounty.org](mailto:jburt@berriencounty.org)

### **ESRI SOFTWARE GRANTS – CITY OF MUSKEGON**

In 1999, the City of Muskegon received a Local Government Start-up Grant from ESRI. This grant consisted of individual copies of ArcInfo, ArcView, MapObjects, and MapObjects Internet Map Server (since replaced by ArcIMS) as well as online training for City staff. This grant had an approximate street value of \$12,000. In addition, the City was able to swap its 20 copies of Maptitude for 20 copies of ArcView at no cost! Monies saved from this grant and software swap were used to bring in a consultant to convert Maptitude-based property and street centerline data to ESRI format and

then assist and train staff in its maintenance. Overall, City staff are pleased with the role this grant played in jump starting their GIS activities and the flexibility it gave them to augment staff efforts.

For more information on Muskegon's experience with ESRI grants, please contact Brenda Moore (Deputy Director of Planning & Economic Development) at (231) 724-6702 or [brenda.moore@postman.org](mailto:brenda.moore@postman.org)

### **TRIBAL TWO PERCENT ALLOCATION AWARDS - GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY**

Under a consent decree signed between the State of Michigan and its numerous Indian tribes, tribes have agreed to pay two percent of their annual video gaming revenue to local units of government. This payment is in the form of grants. The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, like all other tribes in the state, participates in this program and awards Two Percent Allocation Awards twice a year. In the past, the summer grants have gone to education while the winter grants have been used to fund a variety of programs including local government GIS. Over the past several years, Grand Traverse County has made use of these grants - totaling \$72,670 - to fund an assortment of GIS initiatives. These include 1) construction of a centralized ArcSDE database, 2) development of an intranet GIS using ArcIMS, and 3) collection of new digital orthophotos.

In addition to its use of tribal grants, Grand Traverse County has also secured grant funding from an assortment of public and private agencies including the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Michigan DEQ, Michigan Department of Emergency Management, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), and ESRI. In fact, most of the County's GIS budget is ultimately traceable to grants of one sort or another.

For more information on Grand Traverse County's experience with Two Percent Allocation Awards and other grants, please contact Laurie Spencer (Equalization Director) at (231) 922-4774 or [lspencer@co.grand-traverse.mi.us](mailto:lspencer@co.grand-traverse.mi.us)

*Kathleen Weessies of Michigan State University can be reached at (517) 432-9669 or [weessie2@msu.edu](mailto:weessie2@msu.edu)*

*Brooks E. Kelley of InfoGeographics, Inc. can be reached at (231) 995-8266 or [bkelley@infogeographics.com](mailto:bkelley@infogeographics.com)*

# Selecting the Right GIS Software!

## What you need to know before you buy

By *Alissa Bails, R.A. Smith & Associates*

Making an informed decision about the right GIS software to purchase means asking the right questions. Questions about the goals of your GIS implementation. And questions about the GIS products themselves.

For a moment forget about GIS products and boil it down to the basics. The goals of your organization's implementation should drive the software you purchase. To leverage the most from GIS software, step back and outline the goals and objectives of your organization's GIS implementation. The software you may procure for a project-based GIS will differ significantly in cost and complexity than software required for an enterprise-wide or Internet-based GIS.

After identifying your goals and objectives, you're ready to search for software. Given that there is a myriad of GIS software, are you confused about which package will make the most sense? Unsure about what applications you need? Dazed by endless jargon and software application names? Not sure of where to start? Read on. This article is for you.

First, an inventory of data, hardware, software and staff resources should be completed. Key items to consider include:

- Format of existing and desired data (both from internal and external sources)
- Number of GIS users (both long and short term)
- Types of users (data viewers or creators)
- Location of users (all in same building, field, remote locations)
- Users' GIS knowledge and desire to learn

Once this step is completed, you can determine the best GIS software for your organization's needs. Next, obtain a listing of vendors that support your technology requirements. Web resources such as [www.geoplance.com](http://www.geoplance.com) are excellent places to obtain vendor contact information. Also, ask your peers what applications they are using. This is especially important if your organization will be sharing or using data with other organizations.

Ask each vendor for the minimum and recommended hardware requirements for each of the GIS applications needed to meet your organization's needs. Be sure to note each application's operating system requirements. Some of the most popular GIS applications are not supported on all operating systems.

Don't let technical jargon sidetrack you. Request a demonstration. Product features, functionality and pricing differ among vendors. Several vendors also have trial versions of their software available for testing. Ask vendors about their product family, business partners and relationships with companies that may influence your implementation. The following questions can assist you in comparing products:

### INITIAL COSTS

- How much does each license cost?
- What types of licensing are available?
- Are there discounts available to my organization?
- Is there a discount available for purchasing multiple licenses at once?
- Is the application customizable? At what cost?
- Is there any additional hardware needed?

### TRAINING COSTS

- What are the typical training costs?
- How frequently is training available? Where? Reoccurring Costs
- What is the cost for technical support?
- How frequently is software upgraded? At what cost?

Remember: determining the best software for your situation is a process. The above questions can act as a guide for you. By not shortchanging some of the basics outlined here, you will gain greater efficiency, productivity and day-to-day usefulness from your GIS investment.

*Alissa Bails can be reached at [alissa.bails@rasmith.com](mailto:alissa.bails@rasmith.com).*



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