



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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County honored for application of geospatial technology

St. Louis County is being recognized nationally for its innovative use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, specifically its integration of spatial data with land records among multiple departments. The county received a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the Esri International User Conference held earlier this summer. This award acknowledges vision, leadership, hard work, and innovative use of Esri's GIS technology.

St. Louis County uses GIS technology to integrate land records documents such as deeds and mortgages, with parcels, allowing staff to access recorded documents by parcel number or parcel location on a map. Many other documents associated with a parcel, such as land use permits, easements and right-of-ways are viewable through a secure web-based application called the Land Information Portal.

Creation of the web-based Land Information Portal was a joint, multi-year effort that ultimately solved a business need for employees from multiple departments that had need to access electronic land records documents. Employees from seven different departments contributed to GIS efforts, including Planning and Community Development, Public Records and Property Valuation, Auditor, Land and Minerals, Sheriff, Public Works, and Information Technology.

“GIS technology has allowed us to do our jobs more accurately and efficiently, and it’s really been a county-wide effort,” said Barbara Hayden, director of the county’s Planning and Community Development Department. “It’s an honor to be recognized on a national level and it really shows the talent and vision of our staff and Board of Commissioners, and the strong collaboration among county departments.”

“In the Recorder’s Office, we’ve changed from a paper-based system to a fully electronic
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system,” said Mark Monacelli, director of Public Records and Property Valuation. “Integrating recorded land records into GIS was the logical next step. St. Louis County is recognized nationally as an industry leader in this capacity.”

Organizations from around the world honored at the conference span industries including agriculture, cartography, climate change, defense and intelligence, economic development, education, government, health and human services, telecommunications and utilities.

"The SAG Awards identify the organizations and people that are using the power of geography to improve our world and drive change," says Esri president Jack Dangermond. "They deserve recognition for both solving their communities' greatest challenges and for their invaluable contributions to the continued evolution of geographic science."

St. Louis County Commissioners will honor the approximately 20 county employees who work on GIS projects at its Board meeting September 9.

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Shown below, L-R: Jake Rodel, St. Louis County Auditor's Office; Jack Dangermond, Esri president; Andrea Grygo, St. Louis County Enterprise GIS manager; and Barbara Hayden, St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Director.

