

FOGIS Group - Friends of GIS in Clinton County, Ohio

January 10th, 2012

Since the last e-mail of this nature, we have been busy with a number of initiatives of which we would like to keep our friends aware. While we cannot list every single map created or printed, or describe each and every data set that's been edited, or pass on all of the many questions answered, we can hit the highlights of the last year and perhaps offer a brief glimpse into what the future might hold for us.

One of the first stops in a tour of the Clinton County GIS Department should be the GIS Department web page, located here:

WWW.CLINTONCOUNTYOHGIS.ORG

To date we have more than 15,000 PDF files that include scanned surveys, maps, images, diagrams, etc., all available on the web page. We have gone to great lengths to scan and make our historical tax maps available, most of them in three ways; as a layer of data that can be added to a GIS Program, as just a scanned, static map in PDF file format, and as a layer of data that is available as a KML file for use in Google Earth or related applications.

A number of years ago we put together a Microsoft Access database of all of our different layers of data, and is continually updated. You will find attached to this e-mail a report generated from that database that lists the datasets that we have as actual GIS Data Layers, which are able to be added to any GIS Program. That list of available data is up to almost 900 separate items.

Our GIS Server has been up and running for more than a year, and currently holds almost 200 GB of Data. We've recently add a 3 TB (Terabyte) Portable Drive to our data storage, which is currently holding steady 1 ½ TB of free space.

We've gone to great lengths to organize archived and backup data in such a way that it is always "live", meaning we can look at data from June of 2001 as easily as something that was just created yesterday and edited this morning. That kind of organization requires forethought and no small amount of planning. A simple demonstration of one type of data set can be illustrated with our aerial photography collection. We can, using any computer connected to the GIS Server, now view instantly photography from 1950, 1951, 1962, 1968, 1971, 1988, 1994, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2011. This document is not the venue with which to go into great detail the source of all of this aerial photography, but suffice it to say many of the year's data sets come from disparate sources, ranging from the Soil and Water Department here in Clinton County to the Department of Agriculture from Washington D.C.

I mentioned (above) "*...any computer connected to the GIS Server...*" That is of course true, but we've organized our library of data in such a way as to be able to easily offer it on a portable drive. Of course,

for all of the data, it would require a large portable drive – but with the price of data storage being at an all-time low, this is certainly a viable way of accessing our collections.

There are many, many other items that I would enjoy explaining in great detail, but realizing that the length of an e-mail is directly proportional to how many recipients read it – I will stop here.

In the future we have plans for an update e-mail at least every quarter, and perhaps public meetings once a year.

If anyone has any questions or comments feel free to e-mail me any time or stop by my office in the Clinton County Courthouse.

Joe Merritt

Clinton County GIS Department Manager