

FREE GIS (Mapping and Analysis) SERVICES FOR MUNICIPALITIES

2020 Guidelines

The Tompkins County 2020 budget provides up to \$500 in free GIS services to municipalities within Tompkins County through the Department of Planning and Sustainability (TCDPS). This equates to roughly 10 hours of GIS analysis and three poster-sized maps.

What is GIS?

A geographic information system (GIS) is a framework for gathering, managing, and analyzing data. Rooted in the science of geography, GIS integrates many types of data. It analyzes spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes. With this unique capability, GIS reveals deeper insights into data, such as patterns, relationships, and situations—helping users make decisions (www.esri.com).

Examples of how GIS can assist a municipality:

- Bringing together multiple pieces of information to inform decisions, such as examining floodplains, wetlands, waterways, zoning, etc. when considering the vulnerability of future development to flood hazards.
- Providing evidence needed for successful grant applications, such as visually depicting results of a housing conditions survey to support an application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award for a housing rehabilitation program.
- Creating visual materials to help with municipal efforts, such as depicting proposed zoning changes.

Examples of commonly used data available for this analysis:

- Tax parcel data
- Wetlands, watersheds, and waterways
- Soils
- Aerial Imagery (air photos)

How does a municipality access this free GIS assistance?

Contact Sharon Heller, GIS analyst with TCDPS, to share details on the information/analysis sought and desired turnaround time (see phone and email below). Please note that assistance is scheduled as time permits around the Department's GIS-related work.

Additional Free Mapping Assistance

Tompkins County also has free online interactive mapping tools available that the public can use to view the environmental aspects of any property or area of your community. GIS Analyst Sharon Heller can provide your municipality with free hands-on training to show officials and/or staff how to navigate the tool and make their own printable maps.

Please visit <https://geo.tompkins-co.org/sites/mappingtompkins/> for interactive mapping tools.

CONTACT: Sharon Heller, GIS Analyst, sheller@tompkins-co.org, 607.274.5560.