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CSN Editor

Lake County

The Lake County GIS is governed by the GIS Board, County Engineer, County Auditor, and County Commissioner. Lake GIS logged 42 million hits in 2007. Their GIS was started in 1999 and was the first ArcIMS Internet GIS application in Ohio back in 2000. They update the tax map daily.



options for surveyors. Also text displayed on the mapping stays the same size no matter how far you zoom in.

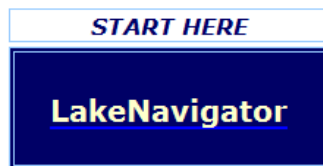
Layers

I have already discussed a portion of the layers the Lake GIS has available and they are displayed to the left of the mapping. The GIS offers layers for contours, streams, soils, and draft updated flood maps that are found under the *Elevations*, *Hydrography*, and *Environmental* layer folders respectively.

The start page of the Lake GIS is:

www.lakegis.org

You can launch the mapping window at the upper right corner by clicking on this feature.



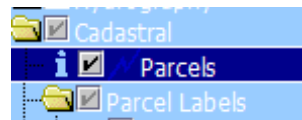
Navigation

The Lake GIS uses a familiar interface as other counties. The navigation buttons shown above right in order are: zoom in, zoom out, pan, previous map view, and view entire county. Your zoom or pan selection remains in effect until you choose another tool. You can zoom to a specific scale by inputting the value at the lower right corner of the GIS window. Their mapping does fully expand if you maximize your browser using a widescreen display. There is also real-time geodetic positions at the bottom of the screen.



Tax/Parcel Map

The Lake GIS allows for view of a Parcel Map (parcel lines only) or the full tax map by turning additional layers on. Click on the *Parcel Labels* folder in the layers palette shown at right to get the additional parcel text layer options. The mapping with parcel numbers, owners, and lot dimensions is shown atop the next column. These parcel labels will not become visible until you are sufficiently zoomed in. There are also layers to show old parcel lines, lot lines, and tracts. All of which are very useful



Lake County provides aerial photography dating back to 1973. Yes 1973, it's not a misprint. The resolution and edge matchup for the older aerials certainly isn't a good as photography flown since the year 2000, but it is still very useful. When you are doing land planning for the future, it's important to know how the land was in the past. The Lake GIS department plans to add aerial photography from 1951 very soon. They are also working on photography from 1967 and 1937; however, the completeness of county coverage is lacking and extra funding is necessary to bring it all to the GIS.

You will notice the Lake GIS has aerial photography layers for Ashtabula, Geauga, and Cuyahoga counties. This is for emergency management functions because Perry nuclear power plant is within Lake County. Cuyahoga's aerials and centerlines were hosted for the benefit of Cuyahoga's emergency management teams before Cuyahoga had their GIS operating.

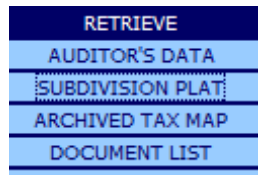
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Parcel/Map Selection

Parcels are graphically selected. Most surveyors will use the *P* button shown at right to select a parcel. This brings up brief parcel information at the bottom left of the mapping with, but also links to extra information shown at right.

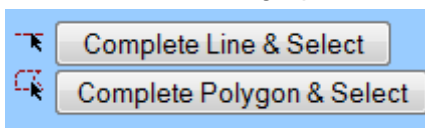


Auditor's Data brings up tax information; *Subdivision Plat* brings up the full PDF pages of the subdivision the parcel is in (if it is a subplot); *Archived Tax Map* works the same way; and *Document List* brings up a list of recorded documents. The Lake County Recorder will not provide PDF versions of their newer scanned documents because of social security number issues as Lorain County did. Lorain County got past this problem so let's hope Lake County can too. Full and easy access to the subdivision plat and old tax maps are great to have as properties of the parcel you select.

Other parcel selection tools buttons are shown at right.



- Button 1: graphically select multiple parcels by clicking inside them.
- Button 2: window a rectangle and all parcels within the rectangle will be selected.
- Button 3: click each end of a line, with finish line/figure buttons at the bottom of the mapping shown below. All parcels the line cross will be selected.
- Button 4: clear/erase graphic selections.



Tools

The Lake GIS provides tools for graphically measuring distances and areas. The distance tool shows you real-time distances as you move your mouse after each graphic point selection and you are always shown a running totals as you go along.



Three other tools that I haven't seen in the other 5 GIS's I've reviewed are shown at right and have these



functions:

- Button 1: line or outline an area on the map in a specified color
- Button 2: label GIS data field (e.g. owner, road name, address) in adjustable sizes, fonts, etc.
- Button 3: state plane queries.

Downloads

The Lake GIS does not have any directly GIS related downloads available. They do sell GIS data on CDs for \$50.

The Lake County Tax Map Department has an archive of surveys, railroad valuation maps, and old atlases found here:

www.lakegis.org/TaxMap/SURVEYS.htm

When in either *survey* selection, click on the option for *TIF* directory when confronted with the "To Parent Directory" screen.

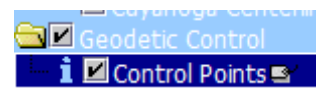
The Lake County Engineer has a link for *Road Records* in his *Survey Data* page found here:

www.lakecountyohio.org/engineer/Survey.htm

Many of the road records are scanned field book pages of county surveys.

Monumentation

Click the box next to *Control Points* in the layers



list as shown at right to turn on Geodetic Monuments on the mapping. Then click on the words "Control Points". This will add the blue "i" making it your *Active Layer*. Next click the "i" button shown at right to allow you to graphically identify a feature. You can finally graphically select a geodetic monument marker and data for it will appear at the bottom of the screen. There will include a link to a PDF data sheet for it under the *Number* column. Some of the data sheets include a ground level photograph of the monument's surroundings and an aerial photograph.

Printing

This is where Lake GIS really shines and gives users useful options. By clicking the printer icon/button at the top left of the screen, you are then given options to create a map at a specified scale, to include auditor's or recorder's information if a parcel is selected, and control over print size and

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orientation! You are able to create a print PDF in three sizes: letter, ledger (11x17), and 20x36 which they call *Tax Map* and in both portrait and landscape orientations! I can't tell you how good a feature this is to have when other GIS's only provide a user with a letter sized portrait print page.

In conclusion, it is obvious the longer a GIS has been around the more features it can offer. The Lake GIS excels at parcel label layers and print options. There is also very good access to county surveys and road records. This makes me wish I had more work to do in Lake County.

I would again like to thank the Dick Kotapish who provided information and answered my questions during my review process. You can click his name below to send him an email.

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Robert Hoy, P.S. is an Ohio licensed land surveyor and is the Communication Trustee and Cleveland Surveying News editor for the Cleveland Chapter of the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio.

Read Mr. Hoy's other northeast Ohio county GIS reviews in the last 3 month's newsletters found on the Newsletters page of the Cleveland Chapter's website: www.plso.com

You can find more about the Professional Land Surveyors of Ohio (PLSO) by visiting their website: www.ohiosurveyor.org