



Iowa Association
of Municipal Utilities

The problems with mapping..



- ▶ A common distribution system mapping scenario for utilities is relying on copies of outdated maps pieced together from several different projects, handwritten

notes on updates, and the memory of staff onsite during construction or repairs.

- ▶ Therefore, it's easy to lose track of distribution system changes with staff turnover or the loss/destruction of the outdated paper maps.

So, how does a small utility efficiently keep track of and compile all its underground and above ground infrastructure information?

- ▶ Utilities can electronically keep track of their infrastructure through GIS mapping. It allows systems to complete up-to-date visual maps and provides them with a simple way to record keeping the components (valves, hydrants, etc.) in the distribution system. GIS can be applied to many types of municipal applications (wastewater, water, gas, electric, storm water) and can be used for better planning.

GIS Mapping for Small Utilities on a Budget



IAMU's GIS Program

IAMU's GIS Program objective is to provide utilities with a low cost, electronic alternative to maintaining their system's infrastructure internally – without needing expensive software and an expert in GIS software on staff.

IAMU's GIS Program includes:

- ▶ Quality mapping combined with recording keeping alternatives at a low cost.
- ▶ Creating up-to date electronic maps.
- ▶ Incorporating a database of basic infrastructure information that coordinates with visual maps.
- ▶ Incorporation of GPS coordinates to reference points within the electronic maps (optional and only if requested).
- ▶ Free GIS compatible software for the community to complete future changes to their system.
- ▶ Training and technical support for the free GIS compatible software.
- ▶ Optional map updating provided for systems who chose not to train staff on the software and contract IAMU to complete changes as needed.



◆ What is GIS?

GIS (Geographic Information System) is much more than just a mapping program.

It manages, analyzes, and displays graphical features associated with their location on Earth.

The backbone of GIS visual mapping features is a unique, user defined database of information that can be used to store specific attributes of an object.

▶ Free Software included!

- ▶ The **free** GIS software included in IAMU's program is easy to use and was designed for people who are not GIS specialists.
- ▶ It is compatible with commercial GIS programs, simple to install, and will run on most laptops or home computers.

For more information about IAMU's GIS Mapping Program, contact:
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