



Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors

410 Tiogue Avenue
Coventry, RI 02816

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RISPLS SUPPORTS STATEWIDE PARCEL MAPPING.

The Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors (RISPLS) Board of Directors has voted to support the effort for the creation of Statewide Parcel Mapping data set. Land surveyors are the stewards of land boundaries, and one primary function of the land surveyor is to recover evidence of boundary lines and corners and then to perform measurements to map his/her findings. Traditionally in the past, Land Surveyors were responsible for updating the assessor's maps in many towns and cities.

Some assessor's parcels were derived by tape and wheel surveys to roughly plot stone walls and fences along roadways with the parties occupying the enclosures, defining lines of occupation which may or may not follow the deeded or Title lines. Surveyors often use Parcel mapping as a first step starting point before gathering accurate primary source data to provide definitive Boundary Locations on the ground, and then to represent them on a record plan. There are no statutes that require the recording of the surveyors mapping, but many have been recorded.

These early compilation assessors' maps are the forerunners of today's GIS parcel mapping. With the advent of aerial mapping as a base layer, the inaccuracies in the earlier compilation assessor's maps became quite obvious. That is to say stonewalls, fences and road ways were visible on the base photos and the assessors line were rectified to the aerial photography, rubber sheeting a best fit solution of the assessors line and corner data available.

Many Parcel maps are being improved by incorporating digital submissions of new surveys and subdivisions by Land Surveyors. Others, by using Coordinate Geometry (COGO) data of old surveys onto a common coordinate system such as Rhode Island State Plane Coordinate System NAD83-US feet. It is important that all Parcel Mapping be completed on a common system to maximize the many multipurpose uses for the data in planning and safety.

Each Parcel in the Parcel Mapping should contain a Unique Parcel Identifier (UPI) which can be linked to many other types of data by adding a UPI attribute to the field of the table of data to be attached or cross referenced. With the advent of digital GIS parcel mapping it is easy to see how graphic data such as environmental, topographic, and cartographic data can be shown by overlaying the Parcel data with a UPI and thus making it apparent for all to see which areas intersect.

Most towns and cities are moving to electronic assessors maps but it must be remembered that parcel mapping is not authoritative to the boundaries of a parcel. Any Parcel Mapping should have attached to it a disclaimer as outlined in the RIGIS-RISPLS MOU.

RISPLS Believes it is in the public's best interest that a comprehensive Statewide Parcel Mapping be accomplished from the best available data and that a standard be raised to allow for the upkeep and maintenance once developed.

Regards,

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