
Vilas now offering online access to maps

With the explosion of online access and availability, a common question for the Vilas County Land Information, Mapping and Surveyor Office has been, "When are you going to have maps available on the Internet?"

As of April 2010, the parcel, address and zoning maps were available as static maps and, as of Aug. 6, the interactive geographic information system (GIS) maps are now available through the Vilas County Web site using the Web-based GIS and map portal, according to Barb Gibson, Vilas County GIS coordinator/land information officer.

The static maps are accessible via the county government Web site at co.vilas.wi.us.

"From this same page, you can also access the interactive Web map service," said Gibson. "There are three levels of interactive map service available. Choose the level that best fits your Internet access require-

ments and interest."

Basic level is recommended for all dial-up Internet access users interested in parcel, road, water and zoning information.

Pro level is recommended for users looking for measurements, global positioning system information and imagery, in addition to the basic data.

Advanced level is recommended for broadband Internet access users interested in all available county data sets.

"One thing to consider when using the aerial photography within this service, the user will need to navigate to the area of interest and then turn on the photo," said Gibson. "Additionally, turning off the photo before panning to another area is recommended for efficient use of the site, as it may take time to reload the photo every time the user pans to another area."

The Web-based GIS and map service project has taken quite a few years of building

the infrastructure and acquiring and developing data sets for this service, according to Gibson.

"This project is the result of many hours of work by dedicated county staff from multiple departments, including register of deeds, tax listing, treasurer, information technologies, sheriff, zoning and land information/mapping/surveyor, as well as the consulting firm Technology Management," said Gibson.

"The Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) started in 1990 as a funding mechanism for counties to modernize their land records and make them available to the public on the Internet," said Gibson.

For more information about this mapping project or for questions regarding the online mapping service, contact the Land Information/Mapping Department, located in the Vilas County Courthouse in Eagle River or call (715) 479-3655.