

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Meeting

September 16, 2026
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Options

- **Virtual:** Online via Microsoft Teams
- **In-person:** Room 2000 (Skjeggstad), [Stassen Building](#), 600 N Robert Street, Saint Paul, MN

Agenda

1. Call to order (Krueger)	11:00	10 min
a. Roll call		
b. Approval of Agenda*		
c. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2026 *		
2. Review and receive Committee Reports (Krueger)	11:10	5 min
3. Approve modified Committee Work Plans* (Krueger)	11:15	5 min
4. National Address Database presentation (Kaminowitz)	11:20	20 min
5. NSGIC Geospatial Maturity Assessment Report (Slaats)	11:40	10 min
6. MCGISA proposal for GAC opt-in data sharing process (Slaats)	11:50	20 min
7. <i>Break and networking</i>	12:10	15 min
8. Imagery Committee request* (Albrecht)	12:25	5 min
9. Committee presentations		
a. Emergency Preparedness Committee (Goodman)	12:30	10 min
b. Data Endorsement Committee* (Slaats / Trappe)	12:40	20 min
c. Archiving Committee (Matke / Mortensen)	1:00	15 min
10. Sector reports		
a. Higher Education (Stark / Mohapatra)	1:15	10 min
b. Nonprofit (Fendos)	1:25	10 min
11. Minnesota Geospatial Information Office updates (Slaats)	1:35	5 min
12. Executive Team updates (Krueger)	1:40	10 min
13. Round Robin / Announcements (All)	1:50	10 min
14. Adjourn* (Krueger)	2:00	

* *Motion required*

Committee Reports

These reports include updates on each committee's [FY2026-27 Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Priorities](#).

3D Geomatics Committee

There is no report from the 3D Geomatics Committee.

Archiving Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Geodata Archive Implementation (*active*)

Most Recent Successes

- Completed a draft report: Proposed Scope for Minnesota Geospatial Data Archiving

Next Activities / Tasks

- Drafting final version of report for review by GAC in December
- Presenting about Archiving Committee work at MN GIS/LIS in October

Barriers

None

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

None

Request for Assistance

- Review of draft report and submission of feedback

Content contributed by [Ryan Mattke](#) on behalf of the committee.

Awards Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

None

Most Recent Successes

The Awards Committee met several times over the summer to review submissions for the Governor's Commendation.

Next Activities / Tasks

Meet early 2027 to review nomination process and start promotion of the commendations.

Barriers

None

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

N/A

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by [Len Kne](#) on behalf of the committee.

Data Endorsement Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

None

Most Recent Successes

At the time of this submission, the committee has finished final drafts of the Data Endorsement Proposal Form, Evaluation Form, and a Procedures document which includes a workflow diagram of the entire data endorsement process. We've also piloted two test datasets through the process and identified the changes that are needed to make the process work.

Next Activities / Tasks

Present the results of the committee's work to the GAC and request GAC action on approving a formal Data Endorsement process.

Barriers

None

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

N/A

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by [Kevin Trappe](#) on behalf of the committee.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Critical Infrastructure Data Workflow (*active*)
- Options for a Fire Risk Assessment Tool (*active*)
- US National Grid Map Availability (*active*)

Most Recent Successes

The Fire Risk Assessment Tool workgroup gains momentum and continues its work forward. The USNG map transfer to MnGeo work continues.

Next Activities / Tasks

The next meeting for the Fire Risk Assessment Tool Workgroup will be in September. Our second meeting involves:

- Discussing questions the workgroup would like the tool to help you answer or added mapping layers.
- Share ideas of tools that are currently available.
- The Education Workgroup will reconvene in January when schedules can better align.
- The Critical Infrastructure workgroup sunset document is pending.

Barriers

The Education Workgroup is running into a barrier finding a platform to host the "GIS Instacart" profiles for emergency managers to search when GIS assistance is needed.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

For the MN Fire Risk Assessment Tool workgroup, we have completed our first meeting on July 27. Our second meeting will be rescheduled for September.

In our first meeting, we discussed the history of the MN Fire Risk Assessment Tool. The workgroup provided some initial feedback on the current tool, which lacked:

- Building stock information
- MnGeo has some available data in a standardized format but they only get what counties are willing to send
- Incident types that have CRR initiatives
- Medicals- examples: falls
- False alarms
- Overall, a majority of fires departments aren't predominately working fires
- Weather
- Home/building heating source (propane vs. natural gas)

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by [Britta Maddox](#) on behalf of the committee.

Imagery Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Statewide Imagery Program (*active*)

Most Recent Successes

- Established new GAC Committee and 2-year work plan.
- Expanded members/expertise.
- Initiated a Statewide Imagery Program needs assessment RFP scope of work.
- Began discussions of assuming the Image Service Sustainability Committee activities.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Request GAC retire on-hold Image Service Sustainability Committee and move activities under the Imagery Committee as a subcommittee.
- Explore other successful Statewide Imagery Programs, including Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Rhode Island.
- Continue refinement of a Statewide Imagery Program needs assessment RFP.

Barriers

None

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

A majority of the Committee focus is developing a broad set of requirements for a Statewide Imagery Program Needs Assessment RFP. This will be provided to MnGeo as a recommendation to initiate a contract, as a first step to implementing the priority of a Statewide Imagery Program.

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by [Tanya Mayer](#) on behalf of the committee.

K-12 Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- K-12 Curated Geospatial Datasets (*active*)
- K-12 Minnesota Digital Atlas (*active*)

Most Recent Successes

- Shana presented about the joint GAC and GIS/LIS K-12 Committee at the Esri Ed Summit. There was significant interest in the creation of datasets that are useable and manageable for teachers and students.
- Planning is underway for GeoFest on October 10.
- We will be presenting about our work at GIS/LIS in Duluth.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Geofest! October 10. Please send any teachers you know who are interested in GIS.

Barriers

- Time

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

- All priorities for K-12 are in the planning stages.

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by [Shana Crosson](#) on behalf of the committee.

Outreach Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- GIS Advocacy Resources (*active*)
- More Fully Attributed Statewide Parcel Data (*active*)
- Statewide Address Points Data (*active*)
- Statewide Parcel Data (*active*)
- Statewide Road Centerline Data (*active*)
- Success Stories for Geospatial Technology (*active*)

Most Recent Successes

- Following the May debut of the GAC Home, Data Endorsement, and Outreach Committee Hubs, the Outreach Committee Hub build team collaborated closely with MnGeo leads Megan Sisko, Sally Wakefield, and intern Nicole Jacquez. Over five working sessions (June 9, June 23, July 7, July 21, and July 28), the team successfully standardized and completed nine remaining GAC Committee Hub sites. Megan reached out to all GAC Committee chairs in August for this cutover.
- All 12 GAC Hub sites were officially launched on August 31, 2026. Prior to launch, MNIT accessibility testing revealed no critical flaws or "showstoppers." The complete test results will be shared during the September 8 Outreach Committee meeting to strategize next steps.
- The Open Data Subcommittee, in partnership with MnGeo, developed and deployed a web application that visualizes county data opt-in statuses.
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/edab1eeaa70b42cfb188530579c20fa9>

Next Activities / Tasks

- **Hub Maintenance Plan:** Work with GAC Committee chairs on a plan to maintain committee Hubs continuously going forward.
- **MCGISA request for modifying opt-in protocol:** The MCGISA leadership team engaged the State GIO regarding a proposal to modify or remove the current data opt-in protocol. The goal is to make statewide geospatial products—derived from freely available, authoritative county data—shareable by default.
- **Path to Alignment:**
 - **August 26:** The proposal was vetted during the Outreach Open Data Subcommittee meeting.
 - **September 8:** The initiative will be presented to the broader GAC Outreach Committee for discussion.
 - **September 16:** MnGeo will formally present a letter and introduce this topic at the quarterly GAC meeting.
 - **October (Target):** Pending alignment, MnGeo, GAC, and MCGISA will co-host a joint meeting to secure buy-in from Minnesota counties
- Contingent on the progression of the MCGISA proposal, the Open Data Subcommittee will continue to promote open data.

Barriers

- **Funding Requirements:** Potential consulting funding is required to successfully conduct the proposed GIS ROI study.
- **Platform-Level Accessibility Limitations:** Some accessibility improvement areas identified on the ArcGIS Hubs are tied directly to underlying Esri platform constraints. These currently exist as enhancement requests in Esri's development queue and require vendor-side modifications.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

- Data Contribution Milestones (Out of 87 MN Counties):
 - **Parcels:** 59 counties have contributed parcel data.
 - **NG9-1-1 Address Points & Emergency Service Zones (ESZs):** 58 counties have committed to sharing.
 - **NG9-1-1 Road Centerlines:** 57 counties have opted in to share.
- Data Availability: All parcel, address point, and road centerline datasets are publicly available for download on the MN Geospatial Commons and are refreshed on a quarterly basis.
- Committee Operations:
 - **Open Data Subcommittee:** Convenes every 12 weeks on Tuesdays from 11:00 – 11:50 AM. Members report on workgroup tasks between sessions, with the next meeting scheduled for October 7, 2026.
 - **Outreach Committee:** Meets approximately every 6 weeks on Tuesdays from 2:00 – 3:00 PM to monitor GAC Hub site maintenance, engagement activities, and communication endeavors. The next meeting is September 8, 2026 (additional schedules are published on the committee website).

Request for Assistance

- **Accessibility Coordination:** We request continued support from MnGeo staff to coordinate with MNIT Communications regarding the recent accessibility test findings and required platform-level Hub improvements.
- **Open Data ROI Study Sponsorship:** The GAC Outreach Committee and the Open Data Subcommittee strongly recommend that MnGeo initiate and sponsor an open data ROI study. Documenting the concrete value of GIS data sharing at the county level is critical to our advocacy, whether the state maintains the opt-in approval approach or transitions to a sharing-by-default model.

Content contributed by [Jessica Fendos](#) on behalf of the committee.

Parcels and Land Records Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Remonumentation of all original federal Section Corners (*active*)
- Statewide Right-of-Way Data (*active*)
- Updated & Aligned Boundary Data (*active*)

Most Recent Successes

- Passage of PLSS Point Data Standard was approved by the GAC.
- Statewide Right Of Way subcommittee was established.

Next Activities / Tasks

- **Boundary Alignment:** Continue on implementation guidelines for PLSS Point Data Standard. Work on formalizing guidance for boundary alignment workflow/best practices.
- **PLSS Remonumentation Legislation:** Propose new legislation to fund PLSS Monument Grant Program. Continue outreach.
- **Statewide Right Of Way:** Start meeting and figure out what they want to do.

Barriers

- Volunteering time and funding.

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

- Statewide Right-of-Way Data priority project owner is Pat Veraguth.

Request for Assistance

- Patience.

Content contributed by [Preston Dowell](#) on behalf of the committee.

PLSS Preservation Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Remonumentation of all original federal Section Corners (*active*)
- Statewide Survey Records Inventory (*complete*)

Most Recent Successes

- All 27 of the 34 original PLSS Monument Grants have been completed. 7 counties have active extensions to fully utilize remaining funds. Extensions will expire June 30, 2027.
- Statewide Survey Record Inventory is complete.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Ongoing monitoring of remaining 7 grants.

Barriers

- Lack of permanent grant funding for "Remonumentation of all original federal Section Corners" No money=No Remon!!!

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

- Remonumentation of all original federal Section Corners will only happen when permanent funding on an annual or biennial basis is achieved.

Request for Assistance

- We need 5 letters of support from every Minnesota Legislative District requesting permanent PLSS Monument Grant Funding.

Content contributed by [Kory Thurnau](#) on behalf of the committee.

Standards Committee

Responsible Priority Projects and Initiatives

- Bikeways Data Standard Expansion for Trails (*pending*)
- Transportation Asset Standard (*pending*)

Most Recent Successes

- PLSS Point Data Standard adopted by the GAC.
- Published informational piece about GAC standards in MnGeo Gov Delivery newsletter.
- Committee approved for public review a new attribute to the Address Point Data and Road Centerline Data standards. Public review ends 9/23.

Next Activities / Tasks

- Respond to public review comments.

Barriers

None

Additional Priority Projects and Initiatives Updates

None

Request for Assistance

None

Content contributed by [Mark Kotz](#) on behalf of the committee.

Attachments

The following pages include attached documents submitted for GAC discussion:

- 1. Minnesota County GIS Association (MCGISA) proposal for opt-in data sharing process*
- 2. Proposed Operational Procedures for Proposing and Approving Data Endorsement*



Minnesota County Geographic Information Systems Association

August 4, 2026

Alison Slaats
MnGeo Director and Minnesota CGIO
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Minnesota IT Services
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Shifting from Opt-In to Practical Solutions: A Proposal from the Minnesota County GIS Association

Director Slaats,

On behalf of the Minnesota County GIS Association (MCGISA), we appreciate MnGeo's longstanding leadership in advancing statewide geospatial collaboration. The partnership between county governments, MnGeo, the Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC), and numerous state agencies has positioned Minnesota as a national leader in the development and use of authoritative geospatial information.

MCGISA respectfully requests that MnGeo and the Geospatial Advisory Council consider evolving the current county "opt-in" process for statewide data publication into a more streamlined statewide data governance model. Specifically, we recommend that publicly available statewide geospatial products derived from freely-available authoritative county data become the default, rather than requiring counties to affirmatively opt in before those products can be published.

Minnesota's GIS Environment Has Matured

The current opt-in process was developed at a time when statewide GIS collaboration was still evolving. It provided counties with an appropriate mechanism to participate in the creation of statewide datasets while standards, governance, and data-sharing practices were still being established.

Over the past two decades, however, Minnesota's geospatial environment has changed dramatically.

County GIS programs have matured into the authoritative source for many of the state's most important geospatial datasets. Data standards have become well established. Counties routinely maintain and share high-quality GIS information with state agencies in support of taxation, transportation, emergency management, natural resources, elections, Next Generation 911 (NG911), and numerous other statewide initiatives.

Today, statewide geospatial collaboration is no longer an emerging concept. It is an essential part of how state and local government operate together.

As that collaboration has matured, MCGISA believes the governance model should mature as well.

The Current Opt-In Process Became an Administrative Barrier

Although participation remains voluntary, many counties view the opt-in process as an additional administrative requirement rather than a meaningful policy decision.

Many counties have expressed confusion or concern about what “opting in” actually means, as well as why it’s needed. Some counties have even had concerns about the need to obtain additional administrative or legal approval before choosing to opt in. This has created unnecessary administrative friction. County attorneys and county leadership may view these agreements as creating obligations beyond simply sharing public government information, even when that is not their intended purpose.

The result may not have been predictable, but we believe it was inevitable. Today, 32 Minnesota counties – more than one-third of the state – have chosen not to participate in the current opt-in process. Over the past decade, considerable effort has been devoted to encouraging additional participation, yet those efforts have produced only incremental gains.

MCGISA does not believe this reflects opposition to statewide GIS collaboration. Rather, it reflects a governance process that has become more cumbersome than the value it provides.

A Governance Model Based on Shared Stewardship

MCGISA believes Minnesota has reached a point where statewide public geospatial products should be viewed as a natural extension of the long-standing partnership between counties and the State.

Under this model, counties would continue to serve as the authoritative custodians of local geospatial information, responsible for maintaining the accuracy and currency of their data.

MnGeo would continue to fulfill its important role as steward of statewide geospatial resources by aggregating, curating, and publishing statewide public datasets that provide broad value to government agencies, private industry, researchers, and the public.

This approach recognizes that statewide datasets are not simply collections of county data. Rather, they are statewide public products derived from authoritative county information and thoughtfully managed to meet statewide needs.

MCGISA also recognizes that counties maintain different policies regarding public access to geospatial data and respects those local decisions. We recommend that statewide public datasets supporting NG911 be published as a matter of statewide stewardship. For other county datasets, MnGeo should work with counties that maintain Board-approved fee schedules or other public distribution restrictions to determine whether those datasets should be excluded from statewide public products. Conversely, when counties already make their GIS data publicly available without restriction, statewide aggregation and republication should be understood as an appropriate extension of that public availability.

At the end of the day, by focusing on stewardship rather than participation agreements, Minnesota can reduce unnecessary administrative burden while improving the completeness, consistency, and long-term sustainability of statewide geospatial resources.

NG911 Provides a Good Example

The ongoing implementation of Next Generation 911 illustrates why statewide data stewardship is important.

County governments maintain the authoritative address points, road centerlines, and related GIS data necessary to support emergency communications. Those operational datasets often contain features, attributes, or representations that are essential for emergency response but are not intended for general public mapping applications.

For example, certain private roads, driveways, or other operational features may appropriately exist within NG911 datasets to support emergency dispatch and routing. Those same features may be unnecessary, or even misleading, if included in a statewide public road dataset intended for general mapping or navigation.

This distinction is not a question of whether the data are public. Rather, it reflects the principle that operational datasets and public-facing statewide products often serve different purposes.

Accordingly, MCGISA is not recommending that every operational dataset submitted by counties be published exactly as received. Instead, we recommend that authoritative county data continue to serve as the foundation from which appropriate statewide public products are developed through established stewardship and data curation practices.

NG911 demonstrates that statewide aggregation and public publication are complementary but not identical functions.

Redirecting Resources Toward Greater Statewide Value

MCGISA believes the time and effort currently devoted to administering, promoting, discussing, and participating in the opt-in process would provide greater value if redirected toward activities that benefit every county and our partners.

Examples include:

- Continued development of collaborative statewide data standards.
- Long-term funding to support county GIS maintenance, particularly for NG911.
- Development and promotion of additional statewide map services, particularly services that focus on access to NG911 datasets.
- Enhanced statewide quality assurance and validation, and tools to support this effort.
- Expanded collaboration between MnGeo, county GIS professionals, and the broader Minnesota geospatial community on future statewide initiatives.

These investments strengthen Minnesota's geospatial infrastructure regardless of whether a county previously chose to participate in the opt-in process.

Moving Forward

MCGISA recognizes that, under Minnesota Statutes section 16E.30, MnGeo is advised by the Geospatial Advisory Council on matters of statewide geospatial policy.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that MnGeo bring this proposal before the GAC for consideration and work collaboratively toward a statewide data governance model in which NG911-related public datasets are published statewide by default, while other county datasets are incorporated into statewide public products consistent with each county's established public data policy. MCGISA leadership is willing to assist you in that proposal and contribute to discussion.

The opt-in process served an important purpose during the formative years of statewide GIS collaboration. Today, however, Minnesota's GIS community has reached a level of maturity where a governance model centered on shared stewardship, rather than administrative participation agreements, better reflects how counties and the State already work together.

MCGISA remains committed to working collaboratively with MnGeo, the Geospatial Advisory Council, county governments, and our state partners to ensure Minnesota continues to build authoritative, trusted, and sustainable statewide geospatial resources for the benefit of all Minnesotans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC)

Operational Procedures for Proposing and Approving Data Endorsement

Version 1 – Published xx/xx/2026

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Introduction

About the GAC

The mission of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) is to act as a coordinating body for the Minnesota geospatial community. The GAC is authorized by legislation passed in 2009 and reauthorized in 2014 Minnesota Statutes (16E.30, subd. 8). It represents a cross-section of organizations that include city, county, regional, state, federal and tribal governments as well as education, business and nonprofit sectors.

Purpose of Data Endorsement

The Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) Data Endorsement process establishes a transparent, consistent, and efficient framework for identifying and endorsing geospatial datasets that support Minnesota's Spatial Data Infrastructure (MnSDI) and GAC priorities.

Endorsed datasets represent the best available statewide datasets for cross-jurisdictional use, supported by clear metadata, stewardship, and demonstrated utility.

Important Clarification:

Endorsement does not imply superiority over local datasets for local workflows. Local authoritative sources (e.g., counties, cities) may remain the most current and appropriate for specific use cases.

Scope

These procedures apply to:

- Datasets submitted using the Data Endorsement Proposal Form
- Reviews conducted using the Data Endorsement Evaluation Form
- Public review and stakeholder engagement processes
- All GAC committees and partners involved in endorsement activities

Guiding Principles

Endorsed datasets should:

- Align with GAC biennial priorities, MnSDI, and NSDI framework themes
- Represent the best available statewide aggregation or dataset for shared use
- Include clear metadata, disclaimers, and appropriate use guidance
- Support cross-jurisdictional workflows
- Maintain sustainable stewardship and funding
- Be open and accessible, when appropriate

Key Policy Considerations

Appropriate Use & Disclaimers

All endorsed datasets must include standardized disclaimer language that:

- Clarifies intended use (statewide, regional, analytical, etc.)
- Directs users to local authoritative sources for the most current data
- Reinforces that endorsement is use-case specific

This reflects current statewide practices (e.g., aggregated parcel datasets) and addresses stakeholder concerns about misinterpretation.

“Why Endorsement” Requirement

Each proposal must clearly articulate:

- Why endorsement is needed
- Why the dataset is the best statewide option, especially if multiple sources exist

This should be prominently captured early in the proposal process.

Statewide Value Focus

Endorsement prioritizes datasets that:

- Provide statewide or broadly applicable coverage
- Enable consistent use across jurisdictions
- Support statewide decision-making and analysis

Roles and Responsibilities

Proposer

- Submits proposal and supporting materials
- Clearly articulates statewide value and justification
- Engages stakeholders
- Proposer may be an individual, group, work group, committee, department, agency, etc.

Data Steward

- Responsible for long-term dataset maintenance
- Ensure metadata, QA/QC, and updates are maintained

Data Endorsement Committee

- Leads the endorsement process
- Coordinates reviews and public engagement
- Develops recommendations

Committee Reviewers

- Conduct structured evaluations using the Evaluation Form
- Provide documented, criteria-based feedback

Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC)

- Reviews committee recommendations
- Makes final endorsement decisions

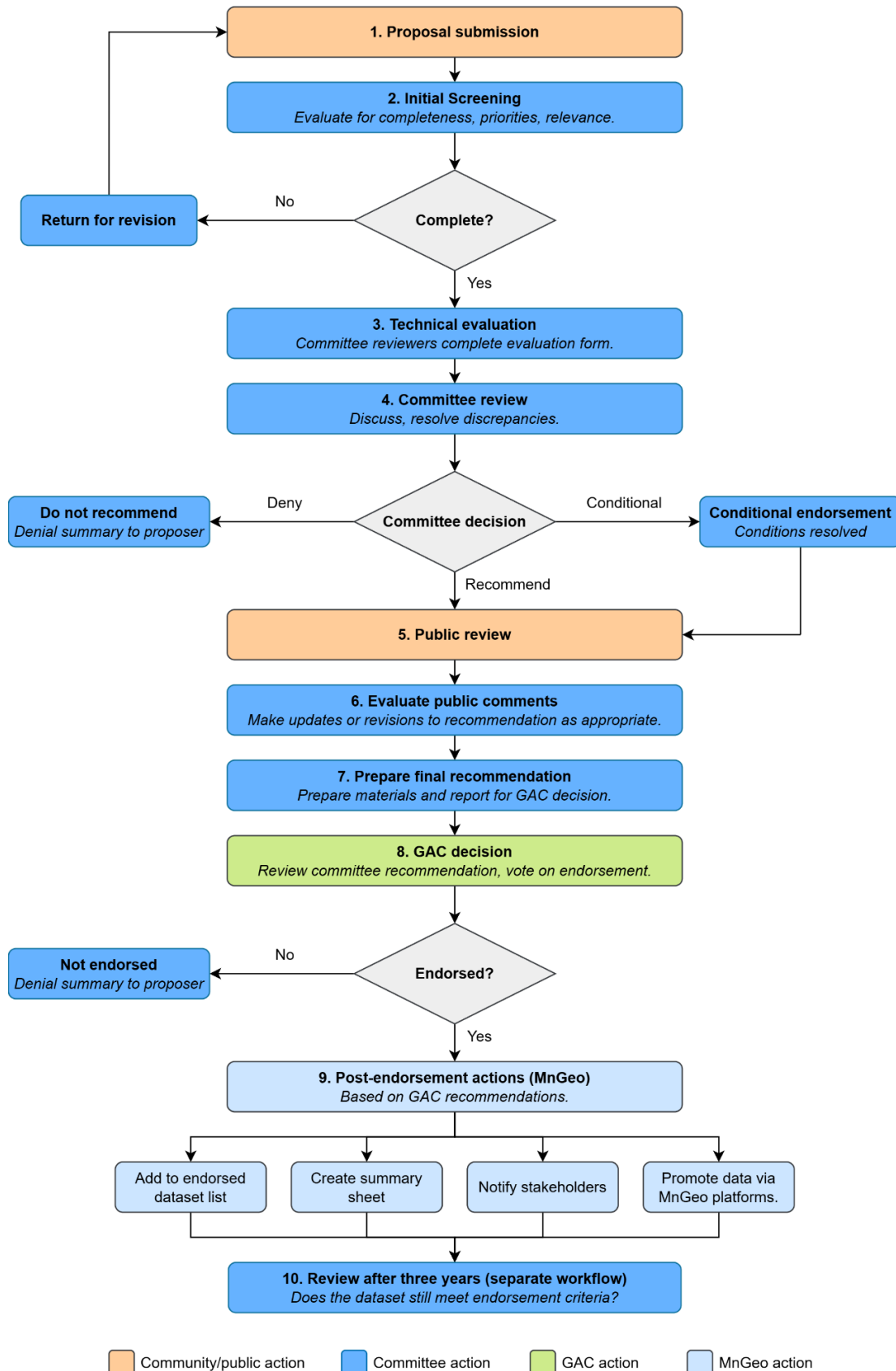
Endorsement Criteria

Datasets are evaluated using the established categories:

- Theme Alignment
- Stewardship
- Quality
- Coverage
- Constraints
- Metadata

Note: Certain criteria require mandatory “Yes” responses to proceed toward endorsement.

Endorsement Process Workflow



1. Proposal Submission

- Proposal submitted with required documentation

Must include:

- Clear “why endorsement” justification
- Metadata and stewardship documentation

2. Initial Screening

Endorsement Committee verifies:

- Completeness
- Alignment with GAC priorities
- Statewide relevance

Outcome:

- Advance OR return for revision

3. Technical Evaluation

- Distributed to Endorsement Committee reviewers
- Evaluation Form completed independently

Focus on:

- Statewide applicability
- Stewardship and sustainability
- Data quality and standards

4. Committee Review & Consensus

- Review all evaluations
- Discuss and resolve any review discrepancies

Endorsement Committee Decision:

- Recommend Endorsement
- Conditional Endorsement
 - Identified conditions must be addressed and verified prior to being moved to Public Review
- Do Not Recommend
 - A summary of reasons for denial will be reported to the proposer

5. Public Review

A formal public review period is required after the Endorsement Committee Recommends Endorsement
Public Review will follow this structure:

Duration: 45 days

Audience:

- State agencies

- Counties and cities
- Broader public (open access)

Feedback Requirements (Respondents should provide):

- Their role (e.g., end user, Subject Matter Expert (SME), steward, etc.)
- Their intended use of the dataset
- Whether the dataset meets their needs
- Concerns or risks they've identified

Transparency:

- Comments will be published with attribution
- A comment summary and responses will be documented

6. Evaluate Public Comments

- Review public feedback
- Update based on recommendations (as needed)

7. Final Committee Recommendation

- Prepare final report and recommendation for GAC consideration

8. GAC Decision

- Review recommendation and supporting materials
- Vote on endorsement

9. Post-Endorsement Actions

- Dataset added to official endorsed list
- “Endorsed Dataset Summary Sheet” created
- Communication distributed to stakeholders
- Dataset published on the Minnesota Geospatial Commons as a GAC-endorsed free and open dataset

Communication Requirements

Summary Sheet

Each endorsed dataset will include a public-facing summary that includes:

- Purpose and scope of the data
- Appropriate “use” recommendations
- Key metadata highlights
- Disclaimer language
- Steward information

Stakeholder Messaging

- Endorsement is **not** an indicator of universal superiority
- Local datasets may be more appropriate for certain uses
- Proper use depends on context

Timeline

- Intake & Screening: 2–3 weeks
- Evaluation: 3–4 weeks
- Public Review: 45 days
- Final Decision: Next GAC meeting

Lifecycle of Endorsement

- Initial phase may include a high volume of foundational datasets
- Ongoing endorsements will occur as needs evolve
- Endorsed Datasets will be reviewed 3 years from the date of endorsement.

Appendices

- Proposal Form
- Evaluation Form
- Public Review Comments and Responses Template
- Endorsed Dataset Summary Sheet Template
- Endorsed Dataset Disclaimer Policy

GAC Data Endorsement Proposal Form

Instructions

The Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) uses this form to consider foundational geospatial data, and associated attributes, for endorsement and use in Minnesota.

The GAC will only endorse data related to an identified [GAC priority](#) or themes identified in [Minnesota's Spatial Data Infrastructure \(MnSDI\)](#)

For consideration please:

- Identify the proposer(s) and stakeholders who support the proposal.
- Complete all sections with brief but clear responses.
- Attach all referenced artifacts (e.g., dataset files, metadata, data quality plans, letters of support, etc.)

Section 1: General Summary

1.1 Date of Submission

Enter Date Here

1.2 Title of Dataset Proposed for Endorsement

Enter title of dataset as you would like it formally referenced.

If published, please provide a link: Provide Link Here

1.3 Supporters

Please provide contact information of the individual(s) supporting endorsement of this data.

- **Proposer:** Individual or group submitting the endorsement proposal.
- **Data Steward:** Individual or group responsible for long-term data maintenance.
- **Producer:** Organization or entity responsible for producing this dataset.
- **Contributor(s):** If this is aggregated data, what entities contribute to the dataset.

Name	Role	Organization	Email
Add rows and additional roles as needed			

1.3.1 Contributor Notification (if applicable)

If applicable, how have data contributors been informed about the aggregation process and the intention to publicly publish and distribute their data?

Enter Response Here

1.4 General Dataset Description and Purpose

Please provide the description and purpose of this dataset.

Enter Response Here

1.5 Justification

Why is this dataset being proposed for endorsement by the GAC?

Enter Response Here

1.5.1 GAC Priority

Which GAC priority does this dataset support? [Use this LINK to find GAC priorities](#)

Enter Response Here

The dataset must address a framework theme or a GAC priority to be considered.

1.5.2 Applicable Framework Theme

Which framework theme does this data intend to represent?

[Minnesota's Spatial Data Infrastructure \(MnSDI\)](#)

Enter Response Here

The dataset must address a framework theme or a GAC priority to be considered.

Section 2: Data Details

2.1 Geospatial Data

What type of geospatial data is represented in this dataset? ☐ Vector ☐ Raster

If vector data, does this include points, lines, and/or polygons? ☐ Points ☐ Lines ☐ Polygons

2.2 Coverage

Is this dataset intended to contain all available data across the geographic area of the state (statewide)?

☐ Yes, Statewide ☐ Other: Enter Response Here

2.3 Aggregated Dataset

Is this an aggregated dataset compiled from two or more sources? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2.3.1 Aggregation Process

Is the aggregation process documented/standardized? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, please provide details below or provide a copy of a data quality plan as part of this proposal package.

Enter Response Here

2.4 Public Data Confirmation

Is this data free and open to the public? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does this dataset include data on individuals (names, addresses, etc.)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

2.5 Data Standards

Does the dataset, as a whole, adhere to a local, regional, state ([GAC Standard](#)), or federal standards?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other (Please Describe Below)

Provide a citation for applicable standard(s) or “Other” information here.

2.5.1 Attribute/ Domain Standards

Does this data leverage domains and other standardized attribute values that follow applicable business rules and standards?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Provide a citation for applicable standard(s) or “Other” information here.

2.6 Data Quality Plan

Is there a data quality assurance and control plan supporting the ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the data? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please provide details below or provide a copy of a data quality plan as part of this proposal package.

Enter Response Here

2.7 Stewardship Plan

Is there adequate funding and a plan to maintain this dataset long term and keep it up to date?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please provide details about how this dataset will be stewarded or provide a copy of the stewardship plan as part of this proposal package.

Enter Response Here

2.8 Metadata

Please provide a copy of the metadata that accompanies this dataset.

Metadata should be provided in the format prescribed by the [Minnesota Geospatial Metadata Guidelines \(MGMG\)](#).

Metadata can be documented in this format using the [Minnesota Metadata Editor \(MME\)](#) to produce XML and HTML files for easy review and distribution.

Metadata elements in the MGMG help provide insights into the quality of the data. Please be sure to provide robust information for each element.

If published provide link here

Section 3. Communications

3.1 Stakeholders

Who has been identified as stakeholders (i.e. intended users, government officials, agencies, etc.)?

Enter Response Here

3.1.1 Stakeholder Engagement

How have you engaged stakeholders in the data development process, and what feedback did they provide during development?

Enter Response Here

3.2 Communications Plan

Have the proposers, producers, and stewards developed a communication plan to help educate identified stakeholders (and the GAC) about this data and its appropriate use more broadly? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please provide details about how you plan to communicate to stakeholders.

Enter Response Here

GAC Data Endorsement Evaluation Form

Instructions

Use this form to evaluate a proposed dataset for endorsement as a statewide geospatial dataset. Reviewers should consider the information provided by the data proposer, available documentation and metadata, and any other relevant information needed to determine whether the dataset meets the criteria for endorsement.

Evaluators should also consider the Guiding Principles and Key Policy Considerations established in the *GAC Operational Procedures for Proposing and Approving Data Endorsement*. In particular, consider whether the proposed dataset:

- Aligns with GAC priorities and MnSDI or NSDI framework themes;
- Represents the best available statewide dataset or aggregation for shared use;
- Provides meaningful statewide or broad cross-jurisdictional value;
- Has clear metadata, appropriate use guidance, and necessary disclaimers;
- Has sustainable stewardship, maintenance, and funding; and
- Is open and accessible when appropriate.

Endorsement is intended to identify datasets that provide value for statewide or cross-jurisdictional use.

Evaluators should therefore consider the intended use and statewide role of the proposed dataset, rather than evaluating it solely against the quality or characteristics of individual local datasets.

For each question, select the response that best reflects the current status of the dataset. Questions marked with an asterisk (*) identify minimum requirements for endorsement and must be answered Yes for the dataset to be recommended for endorsement. A No response to an asterisked question indicates that additional work or clarification is needed before the dataset can be endorsed.

Questions without an asterisk provide additional information to help evaluate the dataset and identify potential issues, limitations, or recommendations. Where Not Applicable (N/A) is provided as an option, select it only when the question does not apply to the proposed dataset.

Use the Category Notes & Recommendations sections to document important findings, explain any No or N/A responses, identify deficiencies or concerns, and provide recommendations for addressing them. These notes should provide sufficient context to support the reviewer's overall recommendation.

After completing the evaluation, indicate whether you recommend that the dataset be endorsed. The final recommendation should consider the dataset as a whole, including whether all required criteria have been met and whether any identified issues are significant enough to prevent endorsement at this time.

A recommendation of No does not necessarily mean that the dataset is unsuitable for endorsement. It may indicate that additional work, documentation, quality improvements, stewardship arrangements, or other changes are needed before endorsement can be recommended.

Data Endorsement Evaluation Form

Title of Proposed Dataset: [enter response here]

Proposer: [enter response here]

Reviewer's Name: [enter response here]

Date of Submission: [enter response here]

[note for data endorsement committee – the * means that the response must be a yes. A no indicates that more work is needed.]

1. Theme

1. Is it important for this dataset to be endorsed? *
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Is the dataset one of the “framework” themes (MnSDI or NSDI) or related to a GAC priority? *
☐ Yes ☐ No

Category Notes & Recommendations:

[enter response here]

2. Stewardship

1. Is the source and/or data producer identified? *
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Is this dataset an aggregation from several sources and/or data producers?
☐ Yes ☐ No
3. If the answer to the previous question is yes, have the sources and/or data producers agreed to have the data aggregated and published? (*Must be yes or N/A if question 2 is yes.)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable
4. If the answer to question 2 is yes, is the aggregation process documented and/or standardized? (*Must be yes or N/A if question 2 is yes.)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable
5. Does this dataset have a data steward? * (*A data steward in this case may be a person, a team of people, or an agency, division, department, or organization that is responsible for managing and caring for the*

dataset.)

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Will this data be updated when needed, or at a reasonable frequency that will meet the needs of end users? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Is there adequate funding and a plan to maintain this dataset long term and keep it up to date? *

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ In Development

Category Notes & Recommendations:

[enter response here]

3. Quality

1. Does the data adhere to local, regional, state (GAC Standard), or federal standards?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Other: [enter response here]

2. If the data adheres to an official standard, are all mandatory attribute fields complete?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

3. Is this the most appropriate statewide dataset for the identified theme or priority? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Does this data leverage domain and other valid values that follow business rules and standards?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Is the QA and QC process clearly described and/or documented?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Category Notes & Recommendations:

[enter response here]

4. Coverage

1. Is this a statewide dataset or appropriate for statewide use? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Is the dataset about the state as a whole, or focused on a smaller geographic unit?

☐ Statewide ☐ Regional ☐ Local

3. Is the dataset intended to be comprehensive for the entire state, or only specific areas?

☐ Entire State ☐ Specific Areas

Category Notes & Recommendations:

[enter response here]

5. Constraints

1. Is the data free and open? *
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Does this dataset contain data on individuals?
☐ Yes ☐ No
3. If there are certain uses for which this data is not suitable or not recommended, have those been made clear?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Category Notes & Recommendations:

[enter response here]

6. Metadata

1. Does metadata exist for the dataset? *
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the metadata follow [GAC Metadata Standards](#), NSDI, or another standard? *
☐ Yes ☐ No

Category Notes & Recommendations:

[enter response here]

Reviewer Recommendations

- Do you recommend this data to be endorsed? *
☐ Yes ☐ No
1. Please provide rationale below that supports your recommendation.
[enter response here]
 2. What other recommendations do you suggest?
[enter response here]

Public Review Comments and Responses for Data Endorsement

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council



[NAME OF DATASET]

The Data Endorsement Committee of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) held a 45-day public review period ending [DATE], for the proposed [NAME OF DATASET (VERSION IF APPLICABLE)]. Below is a table showing the comments received by the Date Endorsement Committee on or before [DATE].

Preface:

This document summarizes the comments received during the public review period identified above and the Data Endorsement Committee's response to each. Public review is a required step in the GAC Data Endorsement process, giving state agencies, counties, cities, and the broader public an opportunity to evaluate a dataset before the Committee forwards a final recommendation to the Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) for an endorsement decision.

Respondents were asked to identify their role (e.g., end user, subject matter expert, data steward), describe their intended use of the dataset, indicate whether the dataset meets their needs, and note any concerns or risks. Comments are listed below with attribution, along with the Committee's response to each. The Committee reviewed all comments received and, where warranted, updated the proposal or endorsement recommendation accordingly.

#	Comment	Submitter	Committee Response
1			
2			
3			

Comments and responses approved at GAC Data Endorsement Committee Meeting [DATE]

ENDORSED DATASET SUMMARY SHEET

Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC)

SECTION 1 — DATASET IDENTIFICATION

Dataset Title	
Endorsement Date	
GAC Meeting / Vote	
GAC Priority	
Framework Theme	
Date of Submission	

SECTION 2 — ENDORSEMENT OUTCOME

☐ Full Endorsement <i>Effective date: _____</i>	☐ Conditional Endorsement <i>List conditions on reverse / attachment</i>
Conditions (if applicable) <i>List any conditions that must be met for full endorsement...</i>	

SECTION 3 — DATASET CONTACTS

Proposer, steward, producer, and key contributors:

Name	Role	Organization	Email

SECTION 4 — DATASET DESCRIPTION

General Description & Purpose

Brief description of what this dataset represents and its intended use...

Justification for Endorsement

Why this dataset is strategically important for statewide use...

SECTION 5 — DATA DETAILS

Data Type	☐ Vector ☐ Raster
Geometry (if vector)	☐ Points ☐ Lines ☐ Polygons
Coverage	☐ Statewide ☐ Other: _____
Aggregated Dataset	☐ Yes ☐ No
Data Standard	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Other: _____
Metadata Format	MGMG (Minnesota Geospatial Metadata Guidelines)
Metadata Link	
Dataset Link	

SECTION 6 — STEWARDSHIP & QUALITY

Data Quality Plan	☐ Yes ☐ No See attachment: _____
Stewardship Plan	☐ Yes ☐ No See attachment: _____
Funding Confirmed	☐ Yes ☐ No
Aggregation Process	☐ Documented ☐ Not applicable

SECTION 7 — PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY

Review Period	
Number of Respondents	

Key Feedback Themes
<i>Summarize major themes from public comments...</i>

Committee Response to Feedback
<i>How the Endorsement Committee addressed public comments...</i>

SECTION 8 — STAKEHOLDERS & COMMUNICATIONS

Identified Stakeholders
<i>State agencies, counties, cities, and other identified users...</i>

Communications Plan Summary
<i>How stakeholders will be informed of the endorsement and dataset use...</i>

SECTION 9 — POST-ENDORSEMENT ACTIONS

Completed by MnGeo based on GAC recommendation:

Added to Endorsed List	☐ Complete Date: _____
Summary Sheet Published	☐ Complete Date: _____
Stakeholder Notification Sent	☐ Complete Date: _____
Promoted via MnGeo Platforms	☐ Complete Date: _____
Review Date Established	☐ Complete Date: _____

GAC Endorsed Dataset Disclaimer Policy

The Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) and Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) have published this Disclaimer Policy to inform all users of GAC Endorsed Datasets of the terms, limitations, and responsibilities associated with accessing and using endorsed geospatial data. This policy applies to all datasets appearing on the GAC Endorsed Dataset list and any materials, maps, or derivative products that reference or incorporate endorsed datasets.

GAC endorsement signifies that a dataset has met established criteria for statewide relevance, quality, and stewardship — it does not constitute a guarantee of absolute accuracy or fitness for any specific use.

Scope and Applicability

These disclaimers apply to:

- All datasets formally endorsed by the GAC;
- All maps, analyses, reports, or other derivative works that incorporate or reference GAC Endorsed Datasets;
- All users, including state agencies, counties, municipalities, contractors, researchers, and members of the general public; and,
- Data accessed through MnGeo platforms, agency portals, or any third-party distribution channel carrying GAC-endorsed data.

Users who access, download, or incorporate endorsed datasets into any work, whether commercial or noncommercial, are deemed to have read and accepted the terms of this policy.

Disclaimer of Warranties and Limitations of Liability

Disclaimer of Warranties

GAC endorsement confirms that a dataset met established quality criteria at the time of review. Endorsement does not guarantee ongoing accuracy, as conditions, boundaries, and/or underlying information may change over time. Users are encouraged to consult the dataset's steward directly for the most current version.

GAC Endorsed Datasets are made available on an "as is" basis. Neither the State of Minnesota, MNIT, or the GAC, nor any data steward, producer, or contributor, makes any warranty, express or implied (including warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose) with respect to any GAC Endorsed Dataset or derivative products.

There are no guarantees or representations to the user as to the accuracy, completeness, currency, suitability, reliability, or usefulness of any endorsed dataset. THE USER ACCEPTS THE DATA AS IS AND ASSUMES ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ITS USE. The State, MNIT, and the GAC do not represent that use of such data would not infringe on privately owned rights.

Limitations of Liability

Under no circumstances will the State of Minnesota, the GAC, MNIT, or any of their officers, employees, or contractors, be liable for any consequential, incidental, special, or exemplary damages arising from the use of or reliance on any GAC Endorsed Dataset, even if advised of the likelihood of such damages.

Users assume full responsibility for validating data fitness for their intended application prior to use in planning, regulation, engineering, public safety, or other decisions.

Data Accuracy and Appropriate Use

Please note the following limitations apply to all GAC Endorsed Datasets:

Scale and Resolution: Endorsed datasets may have been compiled at a specific scale or resolution and may not be appropriate for parcel-level, site-specific, or engineering-grade applications without further verification.

Temporal Currency: Data reflects conditions as of the publication or update date noted in the dataset's metadata. Users should confirm that the data remains current for their intended use.

Geographic Coverage: Unless specifically noted as complete statewide coverage, endorsed datasets may contain gaps, uneven density, or variations in quality across jurisdictions.

Derived Analysis: The GAC and MNIT are not responsible for the accuracy of any conclusions, maps, or decisions derived from endorsed datasets by third parties.

Geospatial Data

Geospatial Data Disclaimer

The State of Minnesota, MNIT, and the GAC make no representations or warranties, express or implied, with respect to the transmission or reuse of any GAC Endorsed Dataset, regardless of format or means of transmission. There are no guarantees or representations to the user as to the accuracy, completeness, currency, suitability, reliability, or usefulness of any endorsed dataset. THE USER ACCEPTS THE DATA AS IS AND ASSUMES ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH ITS USE.

Under no circumstances will the State of Minnesota, the GAC, MNIT, or any of their officers, employees, or contractors, be liable for any consequential, incidental, special, or exemplary damages arising from the use of or reliance on any GAC Endorsed Dataset, even if advised of the likelihood of such damages. Boundaries, features, and attributes depicted in endorsed datasets are for reference purposes and do not constitute legal survey determinations or official boundary delineations.

All maps and materials derived from endorsed datasets may remain subject to applicable copyright. Permission is granted to copy and use endorsed datasets for lawful noncommercial purposes consistent with the terms of the dataset's stated license and the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

For legal boundary determinations, users should consult licensed surveyors and official county or state records.

Disclaimer of Endorsement of Third-party Products or Services

GAC endorsement of a dataset does not constitute endorsement of any vendor, software platform, commercial product, service, or organization that may distribute, host, or derive value from that dataset.

Reference to any specific commercial product, process, service, trade name, trademark, or manufacturer in connection with a GAC Endorsed Dataset does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the State of Minnesota, MNIT, or the GAC.

Third-party applications, portals, or tools that incorporate endorsed datasets operate independently of the GAC. Users of such applications should consult the applicable third-party terms of service and privacy policies.

Stewardship and Continuity of Data

The GAC requires that endorsed datasets have a designated steward responsible for ongoing maintenance and quality assurance. However, the GAC and MNIT do not guarantee:

- That an endorsed dataset will remain available indefinitely at any specific location or URL;
- That its endorsed status will be maintained if stewardship changes or quality standards are no longer met; or,
- That updates to an endorsed dataset will be made within any specified timeframe.

Users who incorporate endorsed datasets into operational systems, products, or workflows are strongly encouraged to maintain local copies and monitor the GAC Endorsed Dataset for status changes. The GAC reserves the right to withdraw endorsement if a dataset no longer meets established criteria.

Privacy and Data Practices

The GAC and MNIT are committed to compliance with applicable federal and state privacy law in connection with the collection, use, and distribution of geospatial data.

Endorsed datasets confirmed to contain data on individuals — including names, addresses, or other personally identifiable information — are subject to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA). Users who access such data are responsible for complying with all applicable provisions of the MGDPA and related statutes.

Any personally identifiable information submitted to MnGeo in connection with dataset proposals, public review, or endorsement communications will be managed in accordance with the MGDPA.

Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minn. Stat. § 13) <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/13>

Minnesota Geospatial Information Office — Data Practices <https://www.mngeo.state.mn.us>

Accessibility

The GAC and MnGeo are committed to accessibility in the publication of endorsed dataset information. MnGeo makes every effort to comply with the State of Minnesota Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility guidelines and applicable federal Section 508 standards when publishing endorsed dataset summaries, metadata, and associated documentation.

Endorsed dataset information is available in alternative formats upon request. Contact MnGeo for assistance.

State of Minnesota Accessibility Standard <https://mn.gov/mnit/government/policies/accessibility/>

Section 508 Electronic and Information Technology Standards <https://www.access-board.gov/ict/>

Copyright

Individual endorsed datasets may carry their own copyright, license terms, or use restrictions as specified by the data producer or steward. Users are responsible for reviewing and complying with the license terms applicable to each dataset. GAC endorsement does not supersede or alter the original data license.

Changes to This Policy

MNIT, the GAC, and MnGeo reserve the right to modify, update, or replace this disclaimer policy at any time. Updated versions will be published on the MnGeo website. Continued use of any GAC Endorsed Dataset following such changes constitutes acceptance of the revised terms.

Users are encouraged to review this policy periodically, particularly prior to incorporating endorsed datasets into new projects or operational systems.

Proposed Scope for Minnesota Geospatial Data Archiving [Draft]

Summary

Partnership: MnGAC Archiving Committee and the Big Ten Academic Alliance Geospatial Information Network (BTAA-GIN)

Work area	Scope
Historical Minnesota Geospatial Commons	Create a public archive from the available 2017, 2020, 2021, 2024, and 2026 backups, beginning with the 2017 snapshot.
City and county data	Continue archiving selected foundational local datasets through existing BTAA-GIN collection programs.
State data	To be determined

Exit strategy: MnGeo may assume responsibility for the archive in the future. BTAA-GIN can export the preserved data and associated metadata for transfer.

=====

1. Partnership overview

We propose a partnership between MnGAC and BTAA-GIN to store and provide access to historical Minnesota geospatial data. This approach builds on prior MnGAC archiving work while allowing preservation to begin without first creating a separate state-operated archive.

Dedicated staffing for this work at the BTAA-GIN includes a data curator and a graduate student assistant. The program also employs a part time application developer to support the architecture. Additional Team Members across the Network provide advisory roles.

The MNGAC Archiving Committee will provide direction and review rather than manage routine harvesting, metadata processing, storage, or publication.

Its responsibilities will include:

- defining and periodically refining the scope of the Minnesota archive;
- recommending priorities and identifying important gaps;
- reviewing progress and representative archived resources;
- advising on rights, sensitivity, duplication, or other unusual cases;
- helping communicate the project to MnGAC members and Minnesota data providers; and
- evaluating whether the work continues to meet community needs.

BTAA-GIN will manage the operational archiving work within its available capacity and established workflows.

2. Initial scope

a. Historical Minnesota Geospatial Commons Archive

BTAA-GIN will develop a public archive of data formerly distributed through the CKAN-based Minnesota Geospatial Commons.

The University of Minnesota has backups of the Commons from 2017, 2020, 2021, 2024, and 2026.

The BTAA-GIN data curator will:

- inventory the datasets, metadata, and supporting files in each backup
- identify resources that were added, removed, renamed, replaced, or changed between snapshots
- document the provenance of each dataset
- store the datasets and metadata in the BTAA-GIN Amazon S3 cloud storage
- publish clearly labeled historical versions through the BTAA Geoportal ([see examples](#))
- direct users to the Commons for more current versions

The archived resources will not be presented as substitutes for current data distributed by state agencies or the current Minnesota Geospatial Commons. The original backups will remain intact as preservation source collections, while public access may be organized around individual datasets and related versions.

b. Current City and County Data

BTAA-GIN will continue collecting selected current data from Minnesota cities and counties through its existing geodata collection programs.

This work is already within the scope of the BTAA-GIN Urban Base Layers project. Data from Minneapolis and St. Paul has already been added, and the BTAA-GIN plans to expand its collection to county-level data in the near future.

The project focuses on selected foundational layers rather than everything produced by a jurisdiction. These may include:

- address points
- building footprints
- boundaries
- parcels
- streets
- zoning
- parks
- other foundational layers as identified

These datasets may still be current when collected. Each accession will therefore be clearly dated, and the original provider will remain the authoritative source for current information. As providers update or replace their data, the BTAA-GIN copies will become historical snapshots.

Not all counties in Minnesota have open data, so this will by necessity be limited to participating entities. However, we may look into the possibility that counties would be interested in allowing up to store old versions of data, even if current versions are not publicly available.

c. State Data: to be determined

This proposal does not establish an ongoing process for capturing future versions of current state agency datasets after the historical Commons backups have been processed. Deferring this decision allows the historical archive and existing city and county work to proceed while a sustainable model for future state data is developed.

A later policy will be needed to determine:

- which state datasets should be retained
- how often versions should be captured
- whether collection should occur before or after a version is superseded
- how archived records should relate to the current Minnesota Geospatial Commons
- what roles MnGeo, state agencies, MnGAC, and BTAA-GIN should have

3. Continuity and Exit Strategy

This arrangement does not prevent Minnesota from establishing a state-operated geospatial archive in the future.

MnGeo may assume responsibility for some or all of the work at any time. If responsibility is transferred, BTAA-GIN can export the preserved data together with its associated metadata and provenance information in a transferable package.

This provides a practical path for beginning the work now without making BTAA-GIN the only possible long-term steward. Any future transfer would require agreement on the scope, timing, storage location, access responsibilities, and ongoing maintenance of the collection.