GIS FAQ's

The City of West Bend uses geographic information system (GIS) technology as part of the City's business operations. GIS, in the simplest of terms, is the integration of geographical features with data associated with these features. By using GIS, City staff is able to produce maps, charts, and graphs that allow city government to operate more effectively and efficiently, and decision-makers are equipped with detailed information in order to make better informed decisions.

The GIS Services group is organizationally located within the Department of Community Development, but aims to provide GIS-related services and guidance to all City staff. The GIS Services group also handles requests from the public and outside agencies with respect to data requests and/or questions. The primary aim of the GIS Services group is to support internal City staff. A secondary aim is to provide effective and efficient access to the data resources by the general public.

The GIS Services group provides services and creates products for use by the City's staff or people/firms the City does business with. The GIS Services group *is not* a cartographic services company. We *do not* create maps or documents for the public or other organizations upon request. To better enable the general public or outside agencies to utilize data and maps created by the City of West Bend, the GIS Services group maintains:

1. A point of access to download data and/or maps. These are the general maps that we produce for the City staff.

2. A web-drive application ("Paragon Map Service") to allow user's to view GIS data within a dynamic map document. This is a customized application that provides the user with a flexible means to view the data *they* want to see and even make a map document.

Significant efforts are made to keep these data resources current, but it must be understood that internal needs supersede our efforts to provide external access of the data resources.

August 14, 2009