

Drought?

The number of drainage projects this year have created the illusion that water was abundant in Minnehaha County. However the cracked, brown terrain that in previous years was my lawn, tells otherwise. But as Mother Nature has taught us in the past, no two years are ever the same. This year's dry weather has provided farmers the opportunity to install drain tile in areas that may have been too wet in the past for equipment to pass through. As a result, a record number of drainage permits have been issued this year despite the extreme drought conditions across Minnehaha County.

Year	Drainage Permits
2012	277
2011	264
2010	189
2009	191
2008	176



Northern
Minnehaha
County

All of the previous drainage permits that have been issued in Minnehaha County have been scanned into the computer and digitized to create a database of drainage permits. Any permit issued in December 2010 or later must submit GPS data of the tile locations. A number of GPS projects have been submitted so far and this data is in the process of being added to the drainage database.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement is always an active division of this office, and this year was no different. After exhausting all avenues and negotiations, the County Commission declared one property a public nuisance. The ability of the staff to work with county residents to bring their properties in to compliance is very evident considering that the number of enforcement cases - zoning, nuisance, and drainage - in which action was taken numbered 136 for 2012.

Two complaints were forwarded to the State Attorney's office for legal action and 90 new complaints were opened this year. The majority of these complaints addressed the following; unlicensed, inoperable and dismantled vehicles; construction without building permits; noxious weeds; and other miscellaneous scrap, junk and building materials on property. Staff also addressed many conditional use permits in regards to their approved conditions and commercial business without the proper zoning and/or required permits.



Looking Forward, Planning Ahead

2012 was a very busy year for the Minnehaha County GIS Department. A GIS Committee was formed to include key department heads, IT managers and commissioners to focus on common goals for GIS uses in the county. We meet on a quarterly basis. A monthly meeting has also been re-established with the City of Sioux Falls GIS Department to continue to partner with them and move towards a countywide seamless dataset that can be shared between the two entities.

With the hiring of a new Highway Department Head came newly developed goals for GIS as well. We assisted them in starting a culvert inventory using a GPS Trimble Unit and ArcPad software for ESRI. Interns at the highway department were trained on field collection and data export into the GIS geodatabase. The new culvert dataset includes GPS locations, photos and a complete list of structural information. Many other features are on the agenda to be inventoried in the future, such as bridges, signs, fencing etc. The GIS Department has assisted in several analysis projects such as traffic counts at intersections and reporting and displaying state accident data for the last 8 years. We are moving toward the ESRI Roads and Highways Model and have already incorporated parts of the Local Government model for Culverts. The bridge data has been brought up to date as well and weight load restrictions have been established.

The GIS Department was also busy with the election year assisting the Auditor's office with updated precinct and district voting boundaries and polling place maps.

With thanks to the Highway Department, Heidi had the opportunity to attend the International ESRI Conference in San Diego, CA in July. This was an invaluable trip as it had been a few years since GIS staff was able to travel. There was a huge emphasis on ArcGIS Online at this year's conference. This came at perfect timing with a major ESRI software upgrade that forced us to create a new Interactive Web Map. MinnEmap is now run through the Flex Viewer. There were many changes to the way the public interacts with our map and how data is displayed. Overall, it has been a positive change and we have had more accolades verses complaints with the new format and speed.

