

Proposed Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Priorities:

FY2026-27 Term

Each of the below numbered items is a separate priority proposed for the [Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council](#) (GAC) to consider for its fiscal year 2026 - 2027 (FY2026-27) term. If you have questions about a proposed priority, please [contact GAC leadership](#).

Priorities are listed by category, not order of proposed prioritization.

Category: Open Data

1. **More Fully Attributed Statewide Parcel Data** - An effort to increase the presence of field values within the statewide publicly available parcel dataset and as defined by the [GAC Parcel Data Standard](#).
2. **Publication of Open Foundational Datasets** - Published foundational datasets shared nationally through open data and commercial sources. Foundational datasets are defined as parcels, addresses, road centerlines, and critical infrastructure.
3. **Statewide Address Points Data** - Statewide publicly available address points data in the [GAC Address Point Data Standard](#).
4. **Statewide Parcel Data** - Statewide publicly available parcel data in the [GAC Parcel Data Standard](#).
5. **Statewide Road Centerline Data** - Statewide publicly available road centerline data in the [GAC Road Centerline Data Standard](#).

Category: Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Services, Criminal Justice

6. **Critical Infrastructure Data Workflow** - A workflow for developing, sharing, and maintaining statewide, publicly available, authoritative geospatial data for primary critical infrastructure themes.
7. **Fire Risk Assessment Tool** - Identify and assess fire risk assessment software tools suitable for use by local fire agencies and the State Fire Marshal Division of the Department of Public Safety.

Category: Data Standards, Guidelines, Best Practices

8. **Bikeways Data Standard Expansion for Trails** - Expansion of the existing GAC [Bikeways Data Standard](#) to a "Trails and Bikeways" standard representing Minnesota's full range of non-motorized corridors (e.g., hiking, equestrian, multi-use, snowmobile, water, etc.). Deliverables include a revised data model, domain tables, documentation, and implementation guidance.
9. **Cadastral Mapping Guidelines** - Statewide recommendations for the creation and maintenance of cadastral (parcel) maps to facilitate a uniform cadaster across Minnesota.

10. **Cadastralist Professionalization** - Statewide credentialing and training requirements for a Minnesota Cadastral Mapping Specialist certification (for tax parcel mapping), adopted from the International Association of Assessing Officers.
11. **Culvert Data Standard** - A culvert data standard for data sharing across the geospatial and infrastructure asset management communities and to support development of a future statewide culvert inventory.
12. **Public Land Survey System Data Standard** - A statewide data standard for Public Land Survey System (PLSS) control points to support remonumentation efforts and ongoing maintenance of the PLSS.
13. **Transportation Asset Standard** - A statewide standard for transportation-related assets (e.g., signals, lighting, signing, etc.).

Category: Data Development, Data Storage, Data Services

14. **Geodata Archive Implementation** - Implementation of an archive for Minnesota geospatial data.
15. **Hydro-modified DEMs** - Accurate hydro-modified DEMs (hDEMs, “hydro-DEMs”) that serve modern flood modeling and hydro-terrain analysis tools, and the development of more accurate watercourses and watersheds.
16. **Lidar Data** - New lidar data acquisition across Minnesota for use in developing new derived products guided by committee-developed standards.
17. **Lidar-derived Hydrography** - A statewide hydrography dataset derived from Minnesota’s second generation, QL1 lidar data that follows US Geological Survey (USGS) 3D Hydrography Program specifications. This data could then be included in the [USGS National Hydrography Dataset](#).
18. **Statewide County Boundary Dataset** - A single, aligned statewide county boundary dataset available on the [Minnesota Geospatial Commons](#).
19. **Statewide Imagery** - Statewide publicly available imagery that is up-to-date and consistently high resolution across the state.
20. **Statewide Imagery Program** - A long-term effort dedicated to optimizing the acquisition, inspection, documentation, distribution, and archiving of statewide imagery.
21. **Statewide Right-of-Way Data** - A standardized, cross-government statewide dataset for public right-of-way and permanent transportation easements.
22. **Statewide Utility Service Area Data** - Statewide publicly available utility service area data identifying service boundaries for all hard-lined utilities – water, sewer, gas, electric, and telecommunications.
23. **Updated & Aligned Boundary Data** - Updated and aligned boundary data from authoritative sources.
24. **US National Grid Map Availability** - Establish a long-term plan to ensure the ongoing maintenance and availability of US National Grid (USNG) maps for Minnesota, hosted by the State of Minnesota.

Category: Outreach

25. **GIS Advocacy Resources** - Resources (including example letters of support, story map, dashboard, etc.) to help the GAC and the GIS community explain the return on investment (ROI) of their GIS projects to leaders, such as county commissioners, administrators, and department heads.
26. **K-12 Curated Geospatial Datasets** - A succinct collection of geospatial datasets for K-12 students and teachers that is easily navigable, comprehensible, and reliable.
27. **K-12 GIS Resources Group** - A team dedicated to developing resources for K-12 educators to learn, practice, and implement GIS in the classroom.
28. **K-12 Minnesota Digital Atlas** - A free, student-focused curated collection of digital maps for K-12 students and teachers that covers many subject areas of interest, such as economics, environment, demographics, physical geography, transportation, climate, agriculture and more.
29. **Statewide Educator Dataset** - A statewide geospatial dataset that enables educators and students to explore how their local landscapes have changed over time. Example datasets include historical and current Fire Insurance Plans (FIPs), aerial imagery, subdivision plats, other municipal maps.
30. **Success Stories for Geospatial Technology** - Outreach and education to show success stories for geospatial technology.

Category: Public Land Survey Preservation

31. **Remonumentation of all original federal Section Corners** - Remonumentation of all original Minnesota section corners set by the national General Land Office.
32. **Statewide Survey Records Inventory** - An inventory and assessment of land survey records held by government agencies within the state of Minnesota.

On-Hold Priorities

The following priorities are currently on hold. They are still considered important priorities to the GAC, however, for various reasons these initiatives cannot move forward at this time and are therefore not considered for prioritization. However, the GAC will discuss how to handle these priorities in the current term.

- Geospatial Commons Advisory Group
- MnGeo Image Service Improvements
- Planned Land Use Data Standard
- State-hosted GIS Servers with Feature Services
- Statewide Future Planned Land Use

Retired Priorities

The following priorities have been retired by the GAC. However, the geospatial community may reintroduce these priorities to the GAC for consideration at any time.

- Basemap Services
- Fire Hydrant Data Standard
- Inventory of MN GeoData Assets
- NG9-1-1 Geospatial Forum
- Parks Data Standard
- Recreational Trails Data Standard
- Snow Emergency Parking Data Practices
- State Business License Data
- Strategy Team for All Types of Imagery
- Street Parking Restrictions Data Standard
- Summary Crime Data

Completed Priorities from the Previous Term

The following priorities were completed during the previous GAC term. There may be new priorities related to these, but they are defined as new efforts.

- **Underground Utilities Data Sharing Team** - A project team to develop geospatial data sharing methodologies to support the state's underground utilities community.
- **U.S. National Grid Materials** - Maps, procedures, templates, and other materials to help all levels of government implement the U.S. National Grid.