

# MnGAC Archiving Imagery Workgroup

The Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) works as a coordinating body for the Minnesota geospatial community, representing a cross-section of organizations that include city, county, regional, state, federal and tribal governments as well as academic, education, business, non-profit sectors, and other stakeholder groups that benefit from geospatial technology. In fall of 2018, the GAC voted to approve the creation of an Archiving Workgroup to define the policies, best practices, and procedures for archiving geospatial data in Minnesota, so that valuable geospatial data can be preserved and available for future use.

## WORKGROUP TIMELINE

- 1 Research (2019-2020)**
  - **Archiving Workgroup (2019)**
    - Define guidelines, best practices, and high-level procedures
    - Engage data providers and stakeholders
    - Research funding possibilities
  - **Archiving Implementation Workgroup (2020)**
    - Develop recommendations for governance, technology, and workflows
    - Educate the community
    - Determine funding strategy
- 2 Pilot & Imagery (2021-2022)**
  - **Archiving Pilot Workgroup (2021)**
    - Evaluate and test a range of potential archive technologies
    - Create a proof of concept with a sample set of data
    - Continue to perform community outreach
  - **Archiving Imagery Workgroup (2022)**
    - Research historical and current formats of imagery data
    - Assess the imagery in Minnesota (and the monetary investment involved in its the original creation) through conversations with stakeholders
- 3 Implementation (2023)**
  - Convene a GAC Archiving Committee
  - Assemble Operations Group and Working Team
  - Build technology infrastructure
  - Ingest initial set of items
- 4 Ongoing Operations (2024 & beyond)**
  - Maintain and grow the archive
  - Troubleshoot and upgrade technology and process as needed
  - Evaluate continuing staffing needs
  - Perform regular outreach to stakeholders

### Rewards of archiving geospatial data:

- Save time and effort for data producers
- Support a community of users with shared needs and increase usage of historical geospatial data
- Ensure timely, equitable access to historical geospatial data
- Improved return on investment over time
- Facilitate an increase of free and open data in the GeoCommons by providing support for contributors

### Risks of not archiving geospatial data:

- Data loss - storage media and formats change over time
- Ephemeral data - distinct versions of data may be overwritten
- Duplication of effort across government agencies
- Barriers to access - data requests are time-consuming and reduce overall usage
- Cost - agencies use staff time to provide data and satisfy retention schedules

## Take our Survey!

The MnGAC Archiving Imagery Workgroup is currently investigating best practices for archiving aerial imagery data. Part of this work is to gather an inventory of the types of imagery resources available across the state that would be suitable for archiving.

For our purposes, we are considering digitized aerial photography only at this point. This may be imagery that is scanned photos, georeferenced / georectified image files, or image services. Examples of file formats are TIFF, JPEG, SID, GRID, and their associated spatial info files. We are also interested in index files. However, we are not collecting information about satellite imagery or LiDAR files at this point.

If your organization has aerial imagery that you would like us to consider for archiving, please fill out the our survey! → [z.umn.edu/ImagerySurvey](https://z.umn.edu/ImagerySurvey)

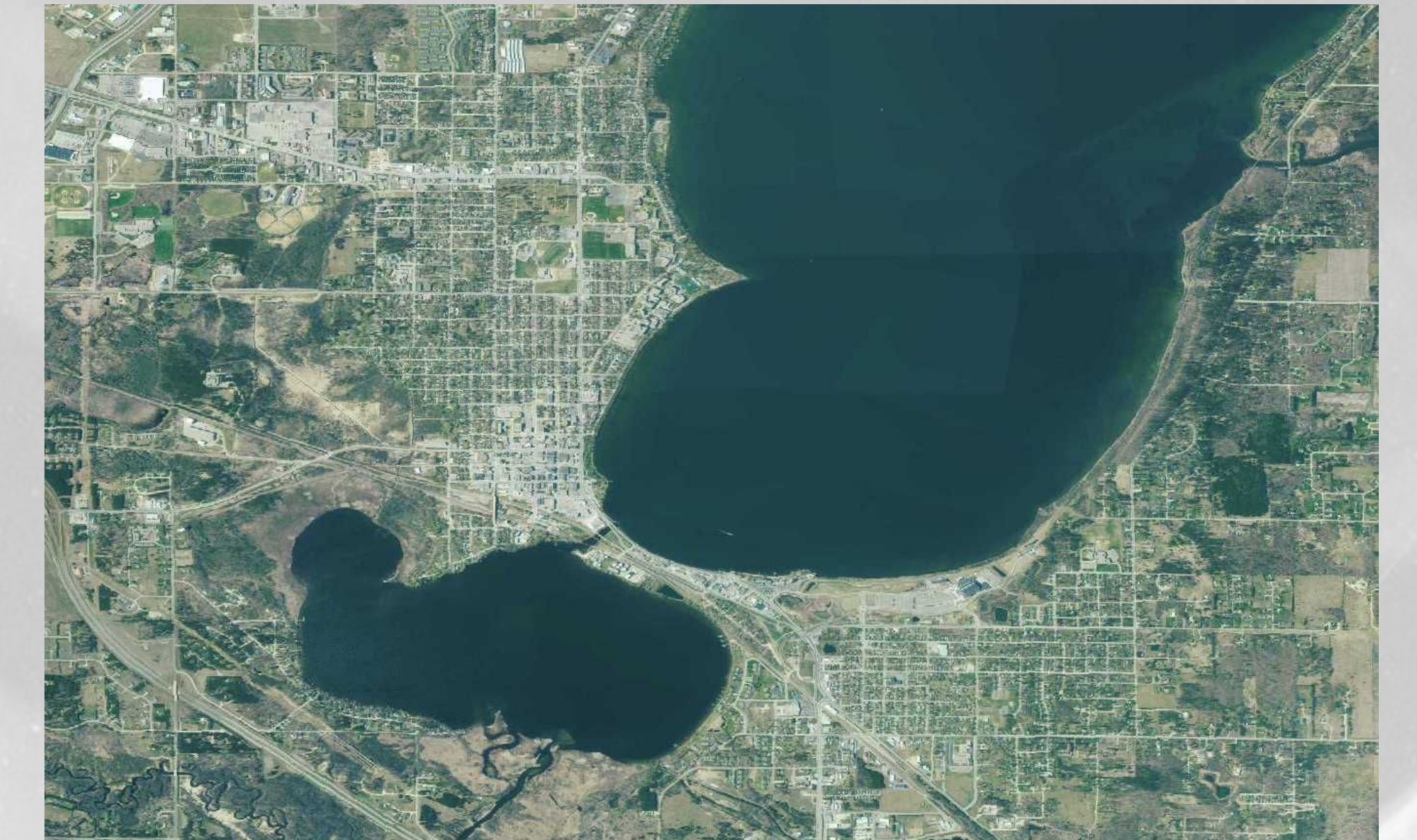


## Aerial Imagery in Minnesota

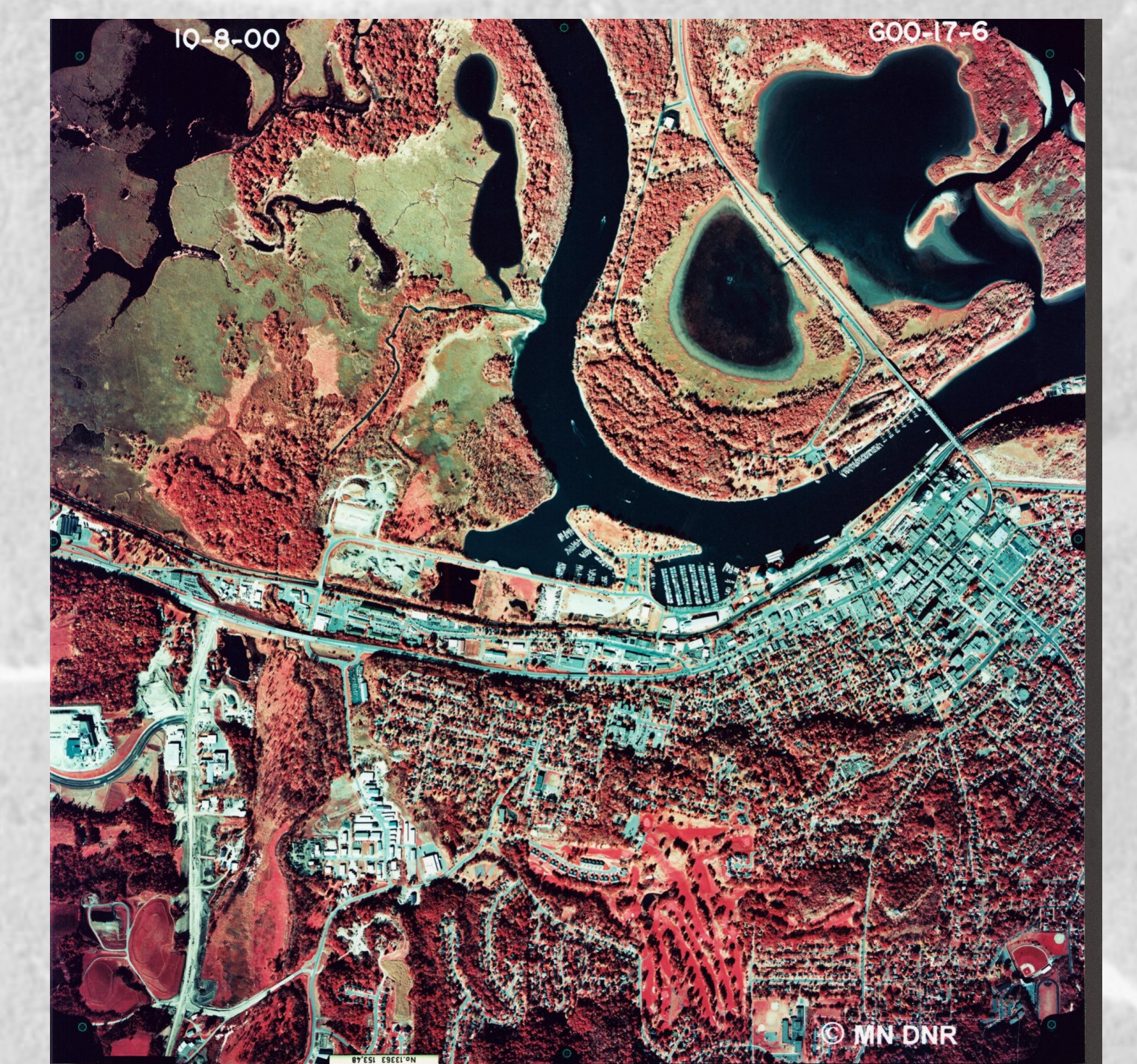
Many organizations create and store aerial imagery of Minnesota. What imagery does your organization collect?



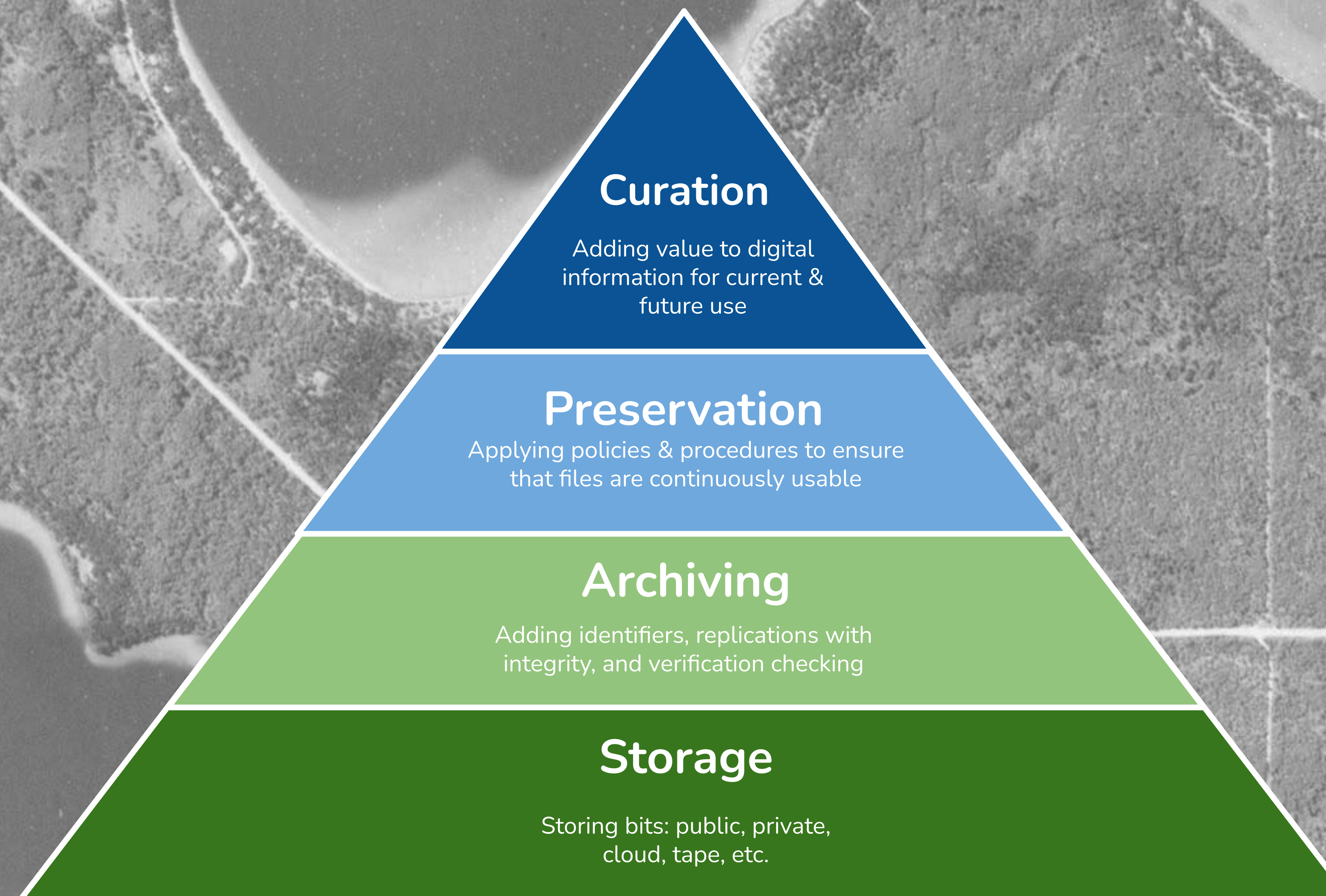
1923 un-georeferenced air photo, Saint Paul area (John R. Borchert Library, University of Minnesota)



2014 Polk Beltrami 1 ft orthophotos, Bemidji area (MnGEO Image Service)



2000 Color Infrared (CIR) photo; Red Wing area  
Photo ID: goo-17-006 (MN DNR Landview)



## Digital Stewardship Pyramid