

## Minnesota City GIS Contacts Webpage: invitation to participate

Dear City GIS Staff,

The Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo) is compiling a [Minnesota City GIS Contacts webpage](#) and invites your city to participate. As Minnesota's coordinating GIS office, we often field requests for information. We currently host county and tribal government contact lists that have become very popular. As part of our public service, we are adding the city GIS contact list.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the list is to provide a point-of-contact for the public to learn more about GIS services and mapping at Minnesota cities (that have GIS staff/services). We also hope it will be a great tool for colleagues across the State to get in touch, for example to collaborate or ask questions regarding best practices.

**Advantages** to participating: The public can locate appropriate city staff more quickly, saving them and the city time. By sharing a link to GIS information on your website, many people can answer their questions without having to contact your staff at all. Your staff also can more easily find contacts at other cities.

### What contact information are we asking for?

- Staff person's name, title and department – can include more than one person
- Phone number – either a direct number or a more general one
- Email – either a direct email or a more general one
- GIS/Maps website – any city webpage(s) that describe GIS data, maps or services, or the city homepage

**What would you be expected to do?** We would hope that the point-of-contact would respond to public inquiries, either directly or by referring the question to other appropriate staff. However, there are no guarantees that city staff can answer every question, and there is no requirement to provide city GIS data or maps to the public.

MnGeo will keep the list as up-to-date as possible. We will email the contacts at least once per year asking them to review the information and to let us know if updates are needed. We will also update the list any time we learn of changes otherwise.

**Two similar lists**, maintained with the cooperation of Minnesota's counties and tribal governments, have proven invaluable:

- [County GIS contacts](#)
- [Tribal government GIS contacts](#)

A number of people have told us that it's been a great service to know where to begin looking for information. No contacts have reported problems with participating on these lists.

**Next Steps:** Please let us know if your city wishes to participate or if you have any questions or suggestions: [gisinfo.mngeo@state.mn.us](mailto:gisinfo.mngeo@state.mn.us) We appreciate your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Ross  
Minnesota Chief Geospatial Information Officer  
Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo)