# FREE GIS (Mapping and Analysis) SERVICES FOR MUNICIPALITIES

## 2021 Guidelines

Tompkins County provides up to $500 in free GIS services to municipalities within Tompkins County. This roughly equates to 10 hours of GIS analysis and 3 poster-sized maps.

### What is GIS?

A geographic information system (GIS) is a framework for gathering, managing, and analyzing data. Rooted in the science of geography, GIS integrates many types of data. It analyzes spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes. With this unique capability, GIS reveals deeper insights into data, such as patterns, relationships, and situations—helping users make smarter decisions ([www.esri.com](www.esri.com)).

### Examples of how GIS can assist a municipality:

- Bringing together multiple pieces of information to inform decisions, such as examining floodplains, wetlands, waterways, zoning, etc. when considering the vulnerability of future development to flood hazards.
- Providing evidence needed for successful grant applications, such as visually depicting results of a housing conditions survey to support an application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award to support a housing rehabilitation program.
- Creating the basis for visual materials to help with municipal efforts, such as depicting proposed zoning changes.

### Examples of commonly used data available for this analysis:

- Tax parcel data
- Wetlands, watersheds and waterways
- Soils
- Aerial Imagery (air photos)

### How does a municipality access this free GIS assistance?

Contact Sharon Heller, County GIS Analyst, to share details on information/analysis sought and desired turnaround time (see phone and email below). Please note that assistance is scheduled as time permits around the County's GIS-related work.

### Additional Free Mapping Assistance

Tompkins County also has free online interactive mapping tools available that the public can use to view the environmental aspects of any property or area of your community. The County's GIS Analyst can provide your municipality with free hands-on training to show officials and/or staff how to navigate the tool and make their own printable maps.

Please visit [https://geo.tompkins-co.org/sites/mappingtompkins/](https://geo.tompkins-co.org/sites/mappingtompkins/) for interactive mapping tools.

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