

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Priorities: FY2026-27 Term

Each of the below numbered items is a priority of the [Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council](#) (GAC) for its fiscal year 2026 - 2027 (FY2026-27) term.

Priorities are listed by category, not order of prioritization. The committee responsible for each priority is denoted in parentheses following the priority description.

If you have questions about a proposed priority, please [contact GAC leadership](#) or the corresponding committee.

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](#). (Outreach Committee)
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. (Contributing to Nationwide and Commercial Data Assets Committee)
3. **Statewide Address Points Data** - Statewide publicly available address points data in the [GAC Address Point Data Standard](#). (Outreach Committee)
4. **Statewide Parcel Data** - Statewide publicly available parcel data in the [GAC Parcel Data Standard](#). (Outreach Committee)
5. **Statewide Road Centerline Data** - Statewide publicly available road centerline data in the [GAC Road Centerline Data Standard](#). (Outreach Committee)

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. (Emergency Preparedness Committee)
7. **Options for a 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. (Emergency Preparedness Committee)

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. (Standards Committee)
9. **Cadastral Mapping Guidelines** - Statewide recommendations for the creation and maintenance of cadastral (parcel) maps to facilitate a uniform cadaster across Minnesota. (Parcels and Land Records Committee)
10. **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. (3D Geomatics Committee)
11. **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. (Standards Committee)
12. **Transportation Asset Standard** - A statewide standard for transportation-related assets (e.g., signals, lighting, signing, etc.). (Standards Committee)

Category: Data Development, Data Storage, Data Services

13. **Geodata Archive Implementation** - Implementation of an archive for Minnesota geospatial data. (Archiving Committee)
14. **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. (3D Geomatics Committee)
15. **Lidar Data** - New lidar data acquisition across Minnesota for use in developing new derived products guided by committee-developed standards. (3D Geomatics Committee)
16. **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](#). (3D Geomatics Committee)
17. **Statewide County Boundary Dataset** - A single, aligned statewide county boundary dataset available on the [Minnesota Geospatial Commons](#). (Parcels and Land Records Committee)
18. **Statewide Imagery Program** - A long-term effort dedicated to optimizing the acquisition, inspection, documentation, distribution, and archiving of statewide imagery. (Committee TBD)
19. **Statewide Right-of-Way Data** - A standardized, cross-government statewide dataset for public right-of-way and permanent transportation easements. (Parcels and Land Records Committee)

20. **Updated & Aligned Boundary Data** - Updated and aligned boundary data from authoritative sources. (Parcels and Land Records Committee)
21. **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. (Emergency Preparedness Committee)

Category: Outreach

22. **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. (Outreach Committee)
23. **K-12 Curated Geospatial Datasets** - A succinct collection of geospatial datasets for K-12 students and teachers that is easily navigable, comprehensible, and reliable. (K-12 Education Committee)
24. **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. (K-12 Education Committee)
25. **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. (K-12 Education Committee)
26. **Success Stories for Geospatial Technology** - Outreach and education to show success stories for geospatial technology. (Outreach Committee)

Category: Public Land Survey Preservation

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

On-Hold Priorities

The following priorities have been put on-hold for the term. They are still considered important priorities to the GAC, however, for various reasons these initiatives cannot move forward at this time. The year each item was originally put on hold is denoted in parentheses.

1. Geospatial Commons Advisory Group (2024)
2. MnGeo Image Service Improvements (2024)
3. Planned Land Use Data Standard (2025)
4. State-hosted GIS Servers with Feature Services (2024)
5. Statewide Future Planned Land Use (2024)
6. Statewide Imagery (2026)
7. Statewide Utility Service Area Data (2026)

Retired Priorities

No priorities were retired by the GAC during assessment of priorities for the current term. For information about previously retired priorities, please reach out to GAC leadership.

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.

1. K-12 GIS Resources Group
2. Underground Utilities Data Sharing Team
3. U.S. National Grid Materials

Considered but Not Adopted Priorities

The following priorities were proposed by the community for the current term, however, after careful review were not adopted by the GAC.

1. Cadastralist Professionalization