

MARION COUNTY GIS/WEB DEPARTMENT  
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## GIS - FAQ

### WHAT IS GIS ?

GIS stands for Geographical Information System. GIS is a digital mapping system with the ability to relate people, places, objects, and events to a geographical location.

### DOES MARION COUNTY'S GIS SHOW MY PROPERTY LINES ?

Marion County's GIS shows parcel lines. Sometimes a property will be represented by a single parcel, and sometimes a property will be represented by multiple parcels for legal description or identification purposes. Check your property tax statement or real estate assessment roll to determine how many parcels are listed.

If you have a specific need to know the location of your property lines on the ground you may need to contact a private surveyor to perform a survey of your property if one has not been performed previously.

### WHERE CAN I GET A MAP OF MY PROPERTY ?

There are multiple ways the County can assist you. The GIS, Auditor, Zoning, or Assessor departments can print you maps of your property in black and white or color with various types of information available. If you have internet access, preferably DSL, cable, or other broadband access, the Assessor's office has a web site at [www.marioncountya.org](http://www.marioncountya.org) where the GIS mapping of the County is available.

### IS MY PROPERTY LOCATED IN A FLOOD PLAIN?

FEMA recently completed a new flood plain hazard study of Marion County and has released new flood plain hazard maps for Marion County. Either the Marion County Engineer, Zoning, or GIS departments can assist you with a map of your property or determining whether further research is required.

Additional information may be obtained at:

[www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/info.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/info.shtm)

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## I LOOKED ON THE ASSESSOR'S WEB SITE AND MY PROPERTY-PARCEL LINES LOOK WRONG, WHY IS THAT ?

This is a very common question that has multiple complicated and multi-faceted answers.

The parcels lines within the County's GIS system are representations of various recorded legal documents such as subdivision plats, private surveys, transfer documents (deeds, contracts, etc.), right-of-way acquisitions, among others.

Sometimes there are errors within the documentation, sometimes there are disagreements between the documents listed above, and sometimes there are errors in editing within the GIS system.

There is a difference between the property-parcel lines being "wrong" and the lines appearing wrong relative to the backdrop of the aerial imagery. Marion County has different versions of aerial imagery. The property-parcel lines can appear to be in different locations depending on which imagery you use as a backdrop. There is a direct relationship between the accuracy of the imagery relative to the line work, and the cost of that imagery. More accuracy, more expensive.

The purchase of real estate can be a very complicated transaction for most people. Sometimes people misunderstand exactly what they are purchasing. Ask questions.

In any case, if you have questions about what you see in the GIS system please feel free to contact the Auditor, Assessor, or GIS department. They will be happy to assist you in finding the answers, or find the proper person for you to ask your questions.

## WHAT IS A CSR ?

CSR stands for Corn Suitability Rating. The Corn Suitability Rating system rates each soil type in Iowa according to its' ability to be used for intensive and sustained row crop farming with the least amount of damage to the soil. The system goes from a low of 5, soils poorly suited for row crop farming, to a high of 100, soils that can be row crop farmed intensively with the least amount of damage to the soil. Some situations such as water, strip mine spoils, and others, receive a zero rating. A number of criteria are taken into account, and certain assumptions are made in regard to the care of the soil by the manager.

## I'M ON A COUNTY WEB SITE AND I'M HAVING PROBLEMS, WHAT DO I DO ?

If it's an operational problem there are a few things you might want to try first:

Click on your browser refresh button to make sure a fresh copy of the site loads okay. Try this with another web site also to make sure it loads okay.

Close your browser, and then open it up and try again.

Close all your programs, reboot your computer and try again.

If access to another computer is available try the web site on it to see if the problem is isolated to the first computer.

If the problem persists you will want to contact someone affiliated with the web site.

Most web sites have a method for contacting someone affiliated with the web site. Often they will have a "Contact Us", or "Feedback", or a way to contact the Webmaster. For some problems you may need to contact the particular County department associated with the web page or site for assistance.