

# 2022 WLIP Report

## CONTENTS

<b>OVERVIEW .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>WLIP YEAR IN REVIEW .....</b>	<b>2</b>
PROMOTING THE WISCONSIN STATEWIDE PARCEL MAP .....	2
2023 GRANT APPLICATION RELEASE .....	2
V8 STATEWIDE PARCEL MAP DATABASE PROJECT .....	2
COUNTY DATA ACCESS & OPEN DATA .....	3
FEDERAL FUNDING FOR LIDAR .....	3
LIDAR DERIVATIVES & OTHER GEOSPATIAL PROJECTS .....	3
WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION COUNCIL ACTIVITIES .....	3
<b>FUNDING .....</b>	<b>4</b>
WLIP REVENUE AND GRANTS .....	4
EXPENDITURE OF RETAINED FEES AND GRANTS IN 2021 .....	5
FUTURE GRANT PROJECTIONS .....	6



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# OVERVIEW

The Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP), administered by the Division of Intergovernmental Relations within the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), provides public funding to Wisconsin counties for the modernization of local land records. This funding takes the form of register of deeds real estate document recording fees retained at the county level and grants awarded by DOA.

This annual report discusses the year in review for WLIP program activities and how WLIP funding was invested in county geospatial technology and infrastructure in the previous reporting year (2021).

## WLIP YEAR IN REVIEW

### PROMOTING THE WISCONSIN STATEWIDE PARCEL MAP

In order to more directly meet the statutory requirements for counties to post parcel data online in the Searchable Format and increase awareness of the statewide parcel database, in 2022 DOA asked that counties provide a link to [www.sco.wisc.edu/parcels/data](http://www.sco.wisc.edu/parcels/data) on their website. Given that many end-users of the statewide parcel layer represent businesses, federal government, and non-profit organizations outside of Wisconsin, the county links to the statewide parcel map are intended to help boost page rank in web search results and maximize discoverability and use of the statewide parcel map.

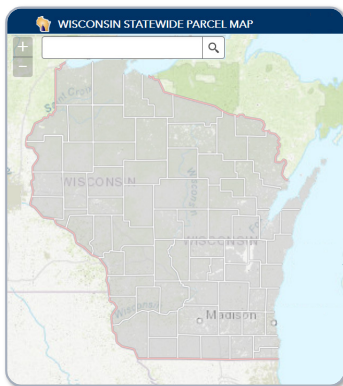
Wisconsin Statewide Parcel Map



### 2023 GRANT APPLICATION RELEASE

The 2023 WLIP Grant Application was made available in September offering three types of WLIP grants totaling \$7.3 million. Each county is eligible to receive a \$70k Strategic Initiative grant for 2023. Strategic Initiative grants are prioritized to meet standards known as “benchmarks” for parcel dataset development, which includes the annual parcel/tax roll data submission. Every county is also eligible for a \$1k Training & Education grant, and the 46 counties that retained less than \$100k in recording fees during the previous fiscal year are eligible for Base Budget grants. For the 2023 grant application, a definition for integration of PLSS was created with stakeholder input and added to the Strategic Initiative Grant instructions.

### V8 STATEWIDE PARCEL MAP DATABASE PROJECT



The Version 8 Statewide Parcel Map Database Project (V8) is part of the larger Statewide Digital Parcel Map Initiative, a multi-year DOA initiative that resulted from Act 20 of 2013. The Parcel Initiative is important for improving the quality of Wisconsin’s real estate information, economic development, emergency planning and response, and other citizen services. Like V1-V7, the V8 Project was a collaboration between DOA and the State Cartographer’s Office. Counties submit data according to the Searchable Format, a set of standards detailed in the Submission Documentation that followed from the statutory directives in Act 20. On June 20th, **the V8 statewide parcel database was released**—the eighth version of the state’s publicly available digital parcel map, featuring 3.5 million parcel records. Visit the statewide parcel map webpage for data downloads, a web app, and more.

The V1-7 Projects provided feedback in the form of Observation Reports designed to aid counties in achieving the Searchable Format. In order to focus efforts on other aspects of the Parcel Initiative, counties did not receive an V8 Observation Report. However, detailed analysis of V8 data can be found in the V8 Final Report.

### Statewide PLSS Layer Sub-Project

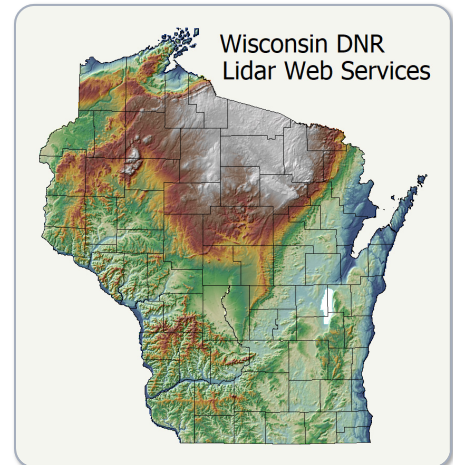
In 2022, DOA and SCO continued work to create an updated a statewide PLSS database, constructed from local PLSS corner data collected as part of the V8 Project. Learn more about PLSS data in Wisconsin at [www.sco.wisc.edu/surveying](http://www.sco.wisc.edu/surveying).

## COUNTY DATA ACCESS & OPEN DATA

For Version 8 of the Statewide Parcel Map Database Project, the data request was coordinated with the UW-Madison Robinson Map Library (RML). RML collects and archives annual snapshots of several framework vector layers which are available for download via GeoData@Wisconsin, a geospatial data portal developed in partnership with SCO. In 2022, 378 new county GIS datasets with **a total of 486 feature classes were added to GeoData@Wisconsin** for public download. For the most current county data, users can always consult county webpages, listed at [doa.wi.gov/DIR/County\\_Contacts.pdf](http://doa.wi.gov/DIR/County_Contacts.pdf).

## FEDERAL FUNDING FOR LIDAR

With the completion of the current FY22 lidar acquisition project, all 72 Wisconsin counties will have lidar elevation data meeting federal Quality Level 2 standard or better. County land information programs have been critical to the success of the statewide acquisition, contributing about one third of the \$15 million total estimated cost. In 2022, the Geographic Information Officer (GIO) Jim Giglierano helped coordinate multi-county grant applications for QL2/QL1 lidar data through the federal USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). For areas not covered by counties participating in 3DEP, the GIO coordinated collection of additional funding from other state and regional partners, and tracked separate lidar acquisitions by FEMA.

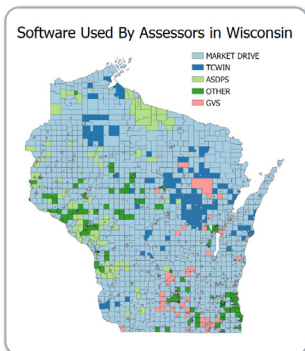


- FY22 federal contributions included an NRCS award of \$456,613.63 and a USGS award of \$1,565,551.74, for a grand total of **\$2,022,165.37** in federal funding.
- Total cost of acquisition and processing was \$3,020,940.73, with the remainder funded by Wisconsin state, regional, and local partners.
- The project covered 12 counties—Polk, Winnebago, Iowa and Green for QL2, and Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Jackson, Oneida, Trempealeau, Vilas and Wood for QL1.
- 3DEP applications were also submitted on behalf of counties for FY23 grants as well.
- DOA also directly supports distribution of final data products as well as WLIP-funded lidar data to state partners and to the public through the UW-Madison WisconsinView imagery archive, through the FTP site at <ftp://ftp.ssec.wisc.edu/pub/wisconsinview/lidar> and interactive map at [www.sco.wisc.edu/data/elevationlidar](http://www.sco.wisc.edu/data/elevationlidar).
- The Department of Natural Resources offers online streaming REST services and an online viewer for lidar data.
- The status of the statewide elevation effort can be viewed at [coast.noaa.gov/inventory](http://coast.noaa.gov/inventory).

This totals **\$6,279,587.37 of federal funding netted for lidar** in 2015-2022 3DEP applications coordinated by DOA on behalf of county and other Wisconsin partners. First time coverage of publicly available, standardized lidar for the state is projected to be available in early 2024 when the current FY22 project is delivered.

## LIDAR DERIVATIVES & OTHER GEOSPATIAL PROJECTS

The GIO has also engaged in other efforts exploring needs, standards, and funding sources for lidar-derived hydrologic products in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and USGS, who are working toward the update of GIS layers referred to as the 24k hydro layer and the National Hydrography Layer.



Another undertaking, the Ashland County Building Inventory Data Project, produced a building inventory for Ashland County to assist in flood preparedness and mitigation. The project was an effort of the State Cartographer's Office and the Geographic Information Officer (GIO) Jim Giglierano and was funded through the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. The inventory was constructed with property assessment data—information-rich data that can be challenging to access from local government data stewards—as well as parcel data, lidar imagery, and building footprints. The project presented an opportunity to study the usability of several building footprints datasets for hazard damage assessment, adding to a growing picture of the various state agency and program needs for a building footprint layer derived from the lidar point cloud and/or aerial imagery.

## WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Wisconsin Land Information Council (WLIC) serves in an advisory role to DOA on matters relating to the WLIP. The group provides a channel for stakeholder organizations to voice their opinions on matters relating to land information records modernization. The WLIC met in December of 2021 and October of 2022.

# FUNDING

Since the Program’s earliest days, from 1990 through June 30, 2022, Wisconsin counties have retained a total of \$225 million for land information activities and received a total of \$80 million in land information grants. In order to retain fees for land information and be eligible for WLIP grants, county land information offices must meet several **requirements for accountability and transparency**:

- Update the county’s land information plan at least every three years
- Meet with the county land information council to review expenditures, policies, and priorities of the land information office at least once per year
- Report on expenditure activities each year
- Submit detailed applications for WLIP grants
- Complete the annual WLIP survey, if conducted
- Subscribe to DOA’s land information listserv
- Submit parcel data in the Searchable Format to DOA
- Submit other WLIP-funded GIS layers to DOA as requested

## WLIP REVENUE AND GRANTS

As of January 1, 2015, counties are required to submit \$7 per document recorded to the state Land Information Fund. The \$7 contribution to the state Land Information Fund amounted to state revenue of \$7.8 million in State FY2022, which is the source of funding for WLIP grants and administration of the program.

ROD Document Recording Fee	
\$15	County Undesignated
\$ 8	County Retained for Land Information
<u>\$ 7</u>	State Land Information Fund
<b>\$30</b>	

Because counties with modest real estate market activity do not generate substantial land information office revenue, WLIP Base Budget grants are provided in order to enable eligible counties to develop, maintain, and operate a basic land information system. Counties that retain less than \$100k in retained fees for land information are eligible for a Base Budget grant according to the formula at right.

### WLIP Base Budget Grant Eligibility Formula

**\$100k – ROD document recording fees @ \$8 per doc recorded**

Example: County records 5,000 documents  
 $\$100k - (5,000 \times \$8)$   
 $\$100k - (\$40k)$   
 $\$ 60k =$  Base Budget grant eligibility

Base Budget grants totaled \$1.9 million statewide and were awarded to 42 counties in 2022. Counties are projected to retain fees and receive grants that combined total \$14 million for 2022.

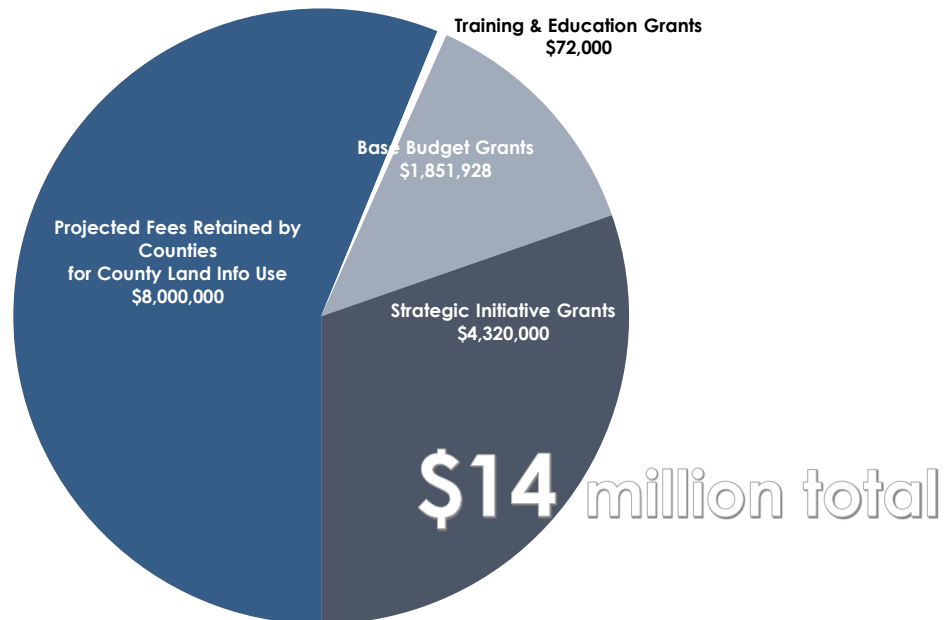
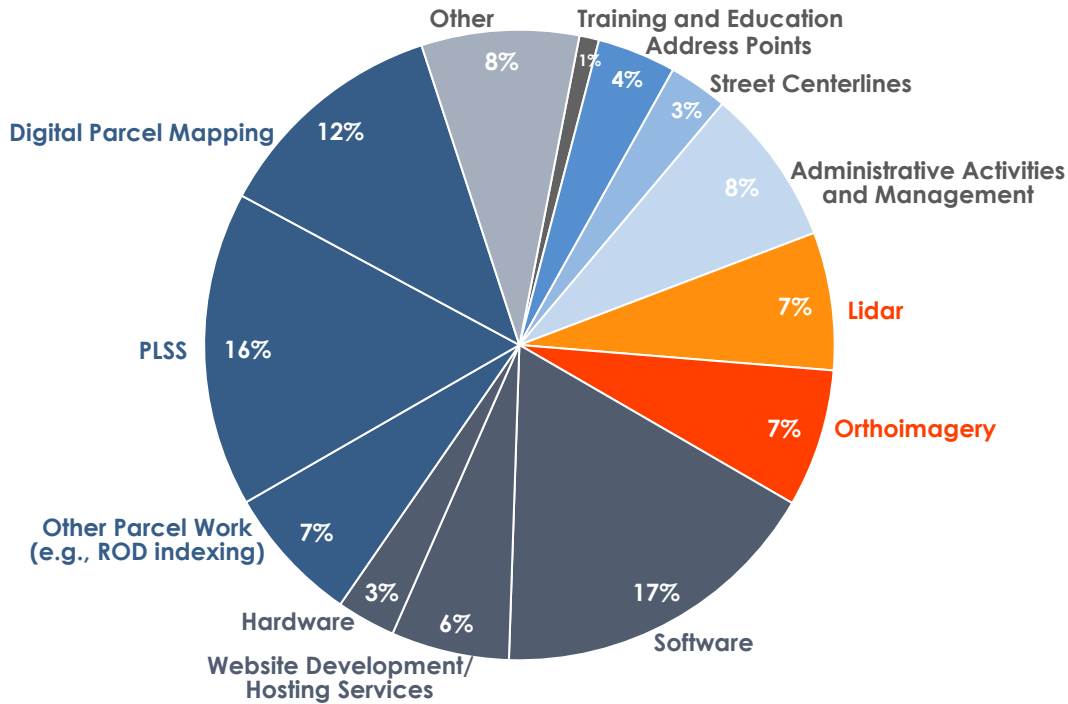


Figure 1. Projected 2022 County Land Information Funding – Fees Retained and WLIP Grants

## EXPENDITURE OF RETAINED FEES AND GRANTS IN 2021

Counties submit annual expenditure reports on how WLIP retained fees and grants were utilized in the previous year and categorize their expenditures in a Retained Fee/Grant Report, in keeping with s. 59.72(2)(b).

In 2021, counties retained fees and received grants for land information totaling \$16.3 million. The dollars spent on land information in 2021 were devoted to the areas depicted in Figure 2.



**Figure 2. County 2021 Expenditures Reported**

Roughly consistent with previous years, Figure 2 illustrates that a little over a third of WLIP funding was used for the development and maintenance of county parcel datasets, including Public Land Survey System remonumentation and other parcel work.

About a quarter of the funding was used for computer hardware, software, and website development and hosting. These expenditures help to provide convenient access to land records through searchable databases, online interactive maps, and various types of mapping applications.

Seven percent was spent on orthoimagery and seven percent on lidar. Some lidar and orthoimagery acquisitions are packaged together.

The remaining funding supported a diverse range of activities, including the development of address points and street centerlines to meet Next Generation 9-1-1 standards. A portion of funding goes to administrative activities and management, a cost category disproportionately associated with county land information offices that employ multiple staff persons and have larger budgets.

## FUTURE GRANT PROJECTIONS

Figure 3 shows grants already awarded and the projected Land Information Program budget for the next few years.

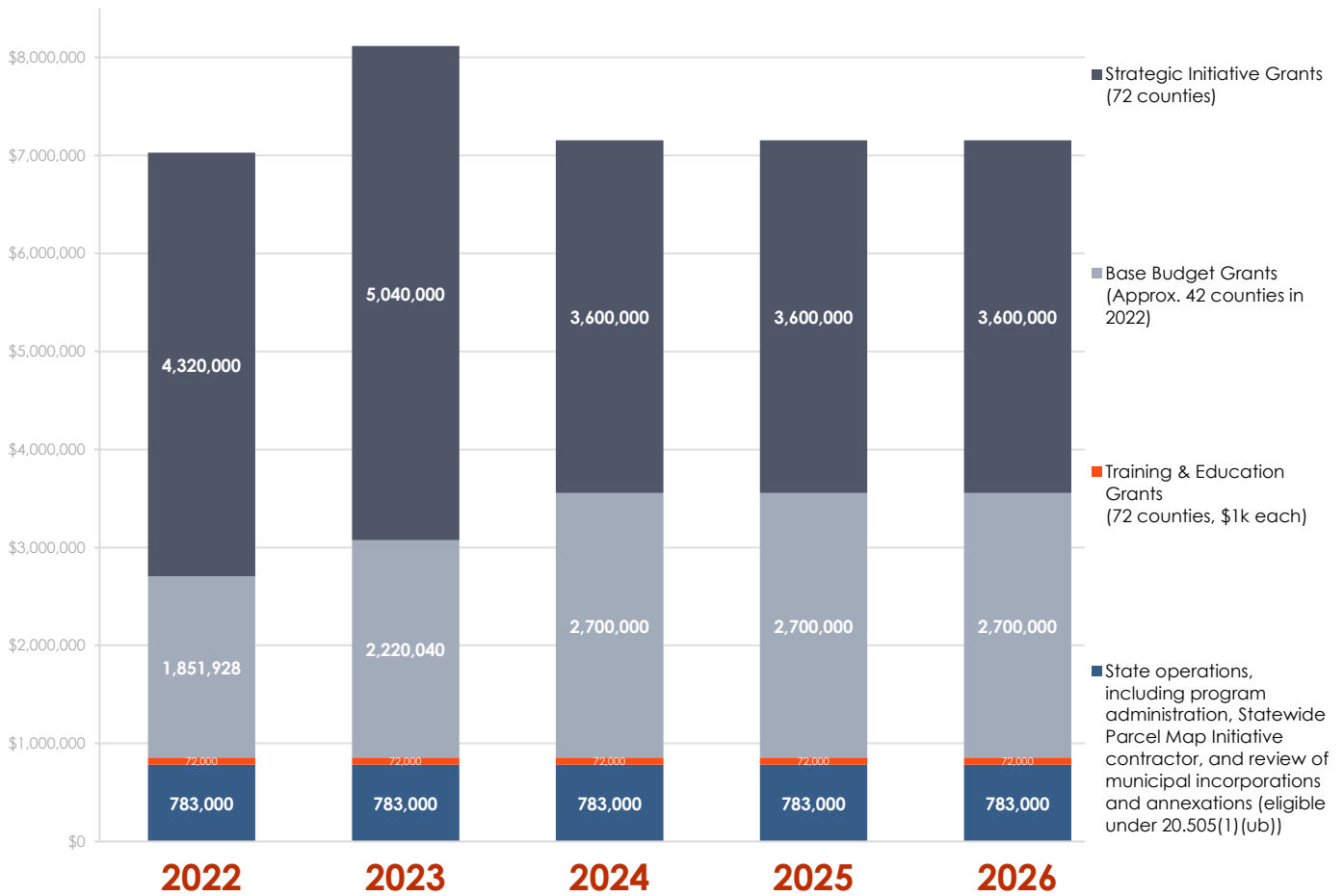


Figure 3. Projected Land Information Program Budget

If implemented as depicted in Figure 3, in 2022 all counties would receive at least \$161,000 in WLIP funding, made up of retained fees, Base Budget grants where applicable, a \$1k Training & Education grant, and a \$60k Strategic Initiative grant.

### Projected WLIP Funding to Counties

- ≥ \$100k Base Budget grant + Retained fees
- \$ 1k Training & Education grant
- \$ 60k Strategic Initiative grant
- ≥ **\$161k per county**

Such a scenario would mean that **about 90% of Land Information Fund spending will be invested in grants to counties** for local land records modernization.

DOA is mindful that utilization of Land Information Fund revenue must be consistent with statutory spending authority as described by state statutes 16.967, 20.505(1)(ub-ud), and schedule under s.20.005(3), and should be for well-defined activities with statewide benefits.