

Knox County GIS Program GIS Policy

GIS definition:

A geographic information system (GIS) integrates hardware, software, data, and people for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. A GIS allows us to view, understand, question, interpret, visualize, and share data in many ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends in the forms of maps, dashboards, reports, and charts.

GIS PROGRAM PURPOSE:

The Knox County GIS Program (KXGIS) provides a GIS Service for Knox County municipalities, public safety agencies, and county departments; the public at large does not receive custom mapping and/or analysis.

GIS SERVICE ACCESS:

Knox County municipalities, public safety agencies, and county departments can access county GIS capability (hardware, software, data, staff), through the Geospatial Database Manager at the Knox Emergency Management Agency office (207.594.5155). As a service provider, KXGIS: 1) follows best IT and industry practices, 2) follows the tenants of universal design to meet the needs of all users, with and without disabilities, 3) implements the security requirements of data creators (i.e. source, original owner) and GIS service recipients (see GIS Program Purpose), and 4) is subject to requirements outlined in the Maine Freedom of Access Act, Title 1 § 408-A (*Exceptions to FOIA availability Title 1 § 402*). GIS Service questions and needs can be directed to the Geospatial Database Manager.

GIS DATA STORAGE/ACCESS/DISTRIBUTION:

Data received and hosted by KXGIS belongs to its creator (i.e. source, original owner). Data creators are responsible for the following: 1) determining access requirements, 2) regulatory compliance, 3) answering data inquiries. Data users (i.e. GIS service recipients): 1) determine the suitability of the data for their purposes, 2) are required to protect accessed data from unauthorized use, and 3) understand that data is dynamic and in a constant state of maintenance, correction, revision. Any data found to be unlawfully obtained will not be accepted into or removed from county systems. Data creators all have the option to remove their data on request.

PII PRIVACY:

KXGIS will protect the privacy/security of individuals and infrastructure when collecting, hosting, and sharing data, photos and videos. Personally Identifiable Information (ex. faces, license plates) will be redacted prior to sharing. Any face, license plate or other personally identifiable information that requires additional blurring or removal, should be brought to the attention of the Geospatial Database Manager.

LIABILITY/WARRANTY:

In no event will Knox County, its staff, or its elected officials be held liable for any ~~direct, indirect, incidental, special, consequential, punitive, or other~~ damages, including loss of data, loss of profits, business interruption, loss of business information, or other pecuniary loss that might arise from arising-out-of or in connection with the use or performance of the data of this mapping service or the information it contains. Knox County assumes no liability arising from the use of this geospatial data or other mapping products. The geospatial data and other mapping products are provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. This includes but is not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.