



Coweta County GIS Information Policy



The following is the Coweta County GIS Information Policy. Access to the County's data for external organizations will be governed by the type of organization that requests the data. Three types of organizations have been identified: County contractors, governmental, and non-governmental organizations. For each of these organizational types, cost for access to data, conditions for the use of the County's GIS data, and responsibility for dissemination have been listed. They include:

1. County Contractors (e.g., civil/electrical engineering and architectural design firms):
 - a) GIS data to be provided free-of-charge
 - b) Wording added to County's standard purchasing contract which states the availability of data, limits the County's liability for the use (or misuse) of the data, and prohibits selling and re-use of the data
 - c) Distribution of data will be the responsibility of the County's GIS Department
 - d) The Contractor must sign the County's "Data Exchange Agreement"
2. Governmental Organizations (e.g., City of Newnan, Coweta County School System, Coweta County Water and Sewer Authority):
 - a) GIS data to be provided free-of-charge.
 - b) Long-term goal of data sharing and like-kind exchange agreements.
 - c) County will reserve right to charge for access to data on a case-by-case basis if it is determined to be in the best interest of the County.
 - d) Access to data will be controlled by signing the County's "Memorandum of Understanding" which prohibits selling and limits re-use of the data.
 - e) Distribution of data will be the responsibility of the County GIS Department.
 - f) Any party or individual providing services to a Coweta County Data Sharing Partner will need to sign the "Data Exchange Agreement" and purchase the GIS data.
3. Non-governmental Organizations (e.g., land development companies, engineering/architectural design firms and non-profit community organizations):
 - a) GIS data to be sold at the cost of dissemination (production cost and media costs) plus a provision for cost recovery of the data (rate determined by data layer and size of area covered).
 - b) County will reserve the right to restrict data access for protection of privacy or trade secret.
 - c) Access to data will be controlled by the County's "Data Exchange Agreement" which limits the County's liability for the use (or misuse) of the data, and prohibits selling and re-use of the data.
 - d) Any party or individual providing services to a Coweta County Data Sharing Partner will need to sign the "Data Exchange Agreement" and purchase the GIS data.
 - e) Distribution of data will be the responsibility of the County GIS Department.

Access to the County's GIS data is limited (e.g., parcel data, aerial photos, and topography) at this time (June 3, 2008). The County's GIS Information Policy can evolve over time as additional data layers are developed and a clearer understanding of the legal and privacy issues regarding GIS data access emerges.

This GIS Information policy incorporates elements from policy guidelines published by GIS professional organizations such as the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) and the GIS Law and Policy Institute.