

# courier-journal.com

## Oldham Maps, property data available online

BY ANDREA UHDE • AUHDE@COURIER-JOURNAL.COM • FEBRUARY 24, 2010

---

Let's say you want to go for a run in Oldham County, but you don't know where the greenway trails are.

Or you're thinking of buying a home in Crestwood, but aren't sure if the house is in a flood plain.

Or perhaps the snow has you wondering — who's in charge of plowing my street?

A new Web site for Oldham has the answers.

Various county departments and state and local agencies have mapped out everything from sinkholes, streams and wetlands to houses, subdivisions and soils over the last several years.

And while the information has always been public, officials said the new Web site — OldhamGIS.org — will make it easier and **faster** for residents, developers, real estate agents and anyone else to get the information.

“If we're going to have the public information, why not make it public?” said Louise Allen, an employee with the planning and development department.

She calls the mapping system — known as GIS, or Geographic Information System — a “very powerful planning tool.”

It should be launched by early March, she said.

The county has been working on the maps since 2002, when a group of officials from departments ranging from the water district to the Property Valuation Administration joined to one comprehensive mapping system.

The Web site allows people to search properties using basic information such as a street address or a homeowner's name. People can look up addresses, streets, parcels, zoning, subdivisions, magisterial districts, fire districts and greenway trails — among other things.

People also can type in their address and zoom in on a picture of their home taken from above in 2009.

All 24,468 land parcels in the county are identified on the map, said Adam Reinhardt, a planning and development employee who updates the site daily to show changes such as [home sales](#) and parcel divisions.

Reinhardt said when he first started the job in 2007, much of the county's parcel information was incorrect. It wasn't regularly updated, and it was difficult to verify the information, he said

Allen said various departments have been using the system for years, and it saves employees time because they don't have to look up the information in files.

“For homeowners, it lets them look [more](#) easily at a broad picture of what's around them,” Reinhardt said.

A group representing six Oldham departments has been working with the maps. The group, called the Oldham Geographic Information Consortium, includes representatives from La Grange utilities, the county water district and the Property Valuation Administrator's office. Each member group helped pay to get the system up and running, and helps fund its upkeep, Allen said.

Barbara Winters, a member of the PVA staff, said the maps have helped reduce mistakes determining property lines when lots are divided.

Also, her office can more easily find structures such as pools that are visible on the pictures in the system's maps but aren't on the tax roll, she said.

“With this being new, we're catching them a little at a time,” she said.

Property maps are now available on the PVA's Web site, [www.oldhampva.com](http://www.oldhampva.com).

“You can even zoom in and see the make and model of your car,” Winters said. “That's something we didn't have before.”

Reporter Andrea Uhde can be reached at (502)