

ARROWHEAD GEOSPATIAL COLLABORATIVE

What is the Arrowhead Geospatial Collaborative?

- The Collaborative's main initiative focuses on improving the quality of public land data and fostering data sharing among government agencies in the Arrowhead region of Northeastern Minnesota.
- Currently participating parties in the Collaborative consist of GIS/IT professionals from Cook, Lake, St. Louis, and Carlton Counties, the State of Minnesota (DNR & DOT), Fond du Lac Band, and the USDA Forest service. Any additional interested entities that fall within the ARDC jurisdiction are encouraged to attend.



Benefits of the Collaborative

- Clean transitions when moving between jurisdictions
- Counties are already dealing with issues regarding land ownership and parcel information. This collaboration provides a resource for county GIS professionals to...
 - compare what has worked,
 - learn from mistakes,
 - and develop a region-wide strategy for organizing and managing GIS data
- This can ultimately lead to significant cost savings for all members involved
- This type of collaboration needs the support of elected officials and staff leadership



ARDC's Involvement

- ARDC provides the Collaborative assistance with...
 - Meeting facilitation
 - Seeking grant funding opportunities
 - Providing documentation
 - Serving as a host for regional GIS data
- In order to serve its entire jurisdiction, ARDC encourages the participation from GIS/IT professionals from all seven counties and tribes within its purview.

Similar collaborative efforts

- MetroGIS – an award-winning, regional geographic information systems initiative serving the seven-county metropolitan area of Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN.
- MetroGIS was formed and organized by staff from the Metropolitan council
- It is a voluntary collaboration of local and regional governments, with partners in state and federal government, academic institutions, non-profit organizations and the business community.
- It provides a regional forum to promote and facilitate widespread sharing of geospatial data.
- A study conducted by the Metropolitan council reported that through the MetroGIS collaboration, the council received **“the equivalent of 21 full time staff savings from work performed and data collected by the collaboration.”**