



## VILAS COUNTY LAND RECORDS OFFICE



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### **THERE'S A MAP FOR THAT!**

Almost every day someone from the public enters the Land Information/Mapping and Surveyor's Office and says "I'm not sure I'm in the right place, but I am wondering if you can help me with information about my land?" Usually, the answer is "Yes".

"These combined offices have thousands of digital and hard-copy documents available for the public to conduct research on land within Vilas County," said Barb Gibson, GIS Coordinator and Vilas County Land Information Officer. Employees are available to assist the public using filed surveys, printed parcel maps and custom Geographic Information Systems (GIS) products.

Sue Kent, Mapping Specialist, assists the public and surveyors with researching land information located in the office. "In between researching surveys and deeds and constructing the parcel maps from filed/recorded documents, there is always time for answering questions about finding property information within the office", Kent stated.

One of the projects that the Vilas County Surveyor, Tom Boettcher, has been conducting is scanning all of the paper survey notes, filed surveys and survey corner documents stored in his office. Boettcher said, "There are 16,622 documents that have been scanned. Scanning the documents prevents further degradation of the paper copies. We plan to make the digital copies of the filed surveys and survey notes available to the public through the county's website in the future." Boettcher also stated copies of Certified Survey Maps and Plats would still need to be requested from the Register of Deeds Office.

In addition to the scanning project, a searchable survey index, created by Adam Grassl, GIS Technician, is available for public use. Grassl stated, "The old paper survey index has been replaced by

an intuitive new digital survey index that will produce lists of filed surveys based on the information that the user provides, such as name of client, name of surveyor, date, location, Section/Town/Range, etc.”

As the weather has turned warmer and seasonal residents and visitors return to the county, requests for maps and property owner contact lists has increased. Gibson stated, “Many property owners are involved in lake associations and want updated lists of property owners adjacent to the lake of interest to inform them of the lake association’s activities. People looking to purchase land within the county also request owner information. Other land owner contact information requests are received from businesses for advertising promotions.”

Becky Nordine, Vilas County Addressing Coordinator stated, “Plum Lake is currently conducting an addressing/fire number project as well as installing new fire number signs. It is important to have a visible fire number sign, using numbers that are consistent and logical in progression, along a road to enable emergency responders, as well as general delivery services, to quickly and efficiently locate individual locations.” Nordine noted that so far she has had positive experiences with the property owners she has encountered while conducting the field address verification work.

Next time that you are in the Vilas County Courthouse, stop by the Land Information/Mapping and Surveyor Office, located in the lower level, and talk with any staff member to find out what information is available concerning land and property ownership within the county. Or just stop by and check out the maps.



Land Information Office personnel Becky Nordine and Adam Grassl assist local resident with mapped information