



Lake County GIS Expands into the Sheriff's Office

A Case Study



Highlights

- GIS for the lay-person
- Incorporating FREE software
- Data-driven decision making

Return on Investment (ROI)

- Saving staff time

Contact Us

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Lake County GIS has expanded into the Sheriff's Office and collaborated with them to create a cloud-based interactive map the deputies can use to locate potential new addresses for Sexual Offenders prior to their moving into a neighborhood.

Background:

The Lake County Sheriff's Sexual Offender & Sexual Predator Tracking Unit is mandated by law to track the sexual offenders, sexual predators and career criminals living in Lake County who have been released from the Department of Corrections. The unit maintains files on each of these subjects that includes the most current address information, and tracks these offenders by performing face to face address verifications. They also reference the Florida Department of Law Enforcements online mapping application, but this application was designed for the *citizen* to see where the offenders *currently* reside. And it does not show the locations of facilities the offenders must avoid.

The Issue:

The first issue to arise was one of approving an address ahead of time if an offender wants to relocate. Lake County currently requires certain offenders and predators to live at least 1,000 feet away from schools, parks, day cares, and other facilities where children gather. The deputies needed a quick way to locate a potential address and determine if it falls outside the radius of these types of facilities.



A second issue may arise if the Lake County Board of Commissioners increases the 1,000 foot radius to 2,000 or more. The deputies needed a quick, visual way to locate each predator and ensure they meet the required distance from these facilities.

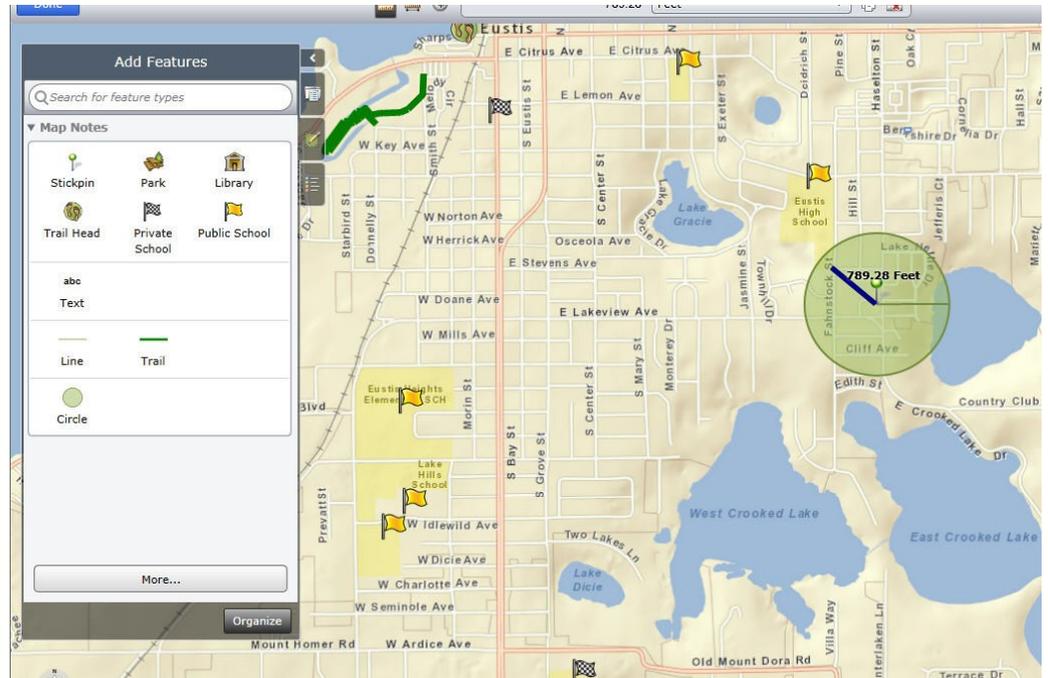
The Solution:

The obvious solution was an ArcGIS Explorer Online application that is hosted by ESRI (the counties primary GIS vendor) and which resides in the cloud. With the recent roll-out of new features, existing county GIS data such as the location of parks, trails, public schools and libraries were quickly uploaded into the application and mapped. Additional data for private schools was obtained in spreadsheet format containing addresses and was easily converted to a .csv file, uploaded and symbolized.

Additional data can be added as it is collected by the deputies themselves without having to request support from the County GIS team.



Once the initial data was uploaded and symbolized it becomes a simple matter of typing in a potential address to geocode it on the map. Then, using tools that come standard with the application, deputies can draw a circle around that location using the appropriate radius and determine if restricted facilities fall within the radius. Additional measuring tools and property boundary data allow a property line to property line measurement to ensure compliance with the law.



The Benefits:

Without their own GIS staff, this free online application is meeting the needs of the Sheriff's Office by shortening the research time and allowing faster decisions to be made. The small learning curve has allowed the deputies to create, customize, and maintain their own interactive mapping application, freeing up funds and man hours that can be used elsewhere.