



City Council Workshop Memo

Crest Hill, IL

Meeting Date:	March 30, 2026
Submitter:	Daniel Ritter, Community Development Director Ron Wiedeman, Director of Engineering
Department:	Community Development and Engineering
Agenda Item:	Discuss Utilizing the GIS Consortium and Municipal GIS Partners (MGP, Inc.) for GIS Services

Summary/Background:

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is designed to store, manage, display, and analyze all types of geographic and spatial data. GIS combines database functions with computer mapping to analyze geographic data. GIS helps communities automate and improve local government business processes, from mapping incidents to supporting infrastructure systems and projects. GIS is a visualization technology that integrates information, uncovers complex information relationships, and supports local government decision-making. GIS results in a better understanding, more effective communication, and greater operational efficiency. The data in these systems is relied on heavily to influence decisions on public infrastructure, economic development, code enforcement, policing and public safety, budgeting, and much more.

Crest Hill has utilized Robinson Engineering to start up and operate its GIS program since around 2010. The current GIS system utilizes ArcGIS software and is primarily utilized for spatial tracking of utilities, infrastructure, and zoning information. The current system is only accessible to and utilized internally by staff. The system has limited capabilities to create maps, analyze data, be accessible to the public, or be customized for specific projects/initiatives. The capabilities and accuracy of the current data and program are limited. Will County's GIS system also provides some additional information, but access to information is limited and not specifically tied to Crest Hill. Staff have discussed potential changes in the past and recently began exploring the potential of transitioning to a service that has a focus and expertise in GIS systems that can help the GIS take the City to a new level in data-driven decision making across all departments.

The GIS Consortium is a unique municipal shared services model specific to Chicagoland that has been utilized by existing staff in prior organizations. The model allows cost and time efficiencies and consistency that is not available from private contractors or in-house services.

GIS Consortium – public.gisconsortium.org

The GIS Consortium is a proven solution for communities that are increasingly being challenged to do more with less. Its collaborative approach reduces costs while improving public services. Crest Hill's size limits its financial and functional ability to host an in-house GIS department (as is utilized in larger communities like Joliet, Aurora, and Naperville). A common alternative in the Chicago area is the GIS Consortium. The GIS Consortium is an organization of Chicago-area communities unified by a common goal: to share resources, information, staffing, and technology so that municipalities can optimize the value of geographic information systems (GIS).

The GIS Consortium creates value for its members by identifying opportunities to minimize cost and risk. Members do not pay annual dues, but apply their entire GIS investment directly to solutions and operations. All intellectual property developed by the GIS Consortium belongs to its members. The consortium was started in 1999 by four communities and has since grown to 44 Chicagoland communities of varying sizes (<https://public.gisconsortium.org/members/gis-consortium-members>). Nearby communities include Woodridge and Tinley Park.

Each member community has one vote, regardless of its population, geographic size, or membership date. Each community owns its data and has equal rights to intellectual property. Data sharing among members is encouraged to facilitate greater efficiencies, better business processes, and mutual aid support. The annual costs are based on a community's population and geographic area.

Municipal GIS Partners (MGP) – www.mgpinc.com

The GIS consortium partners with a separate company, Municipal GIS Partners, which specializes in municipal GIS operations and is the specific contractor for the consortium. MGP will complete the work and provide staff for regular updates, maintenance, and special projects as it relates to the city's GIS system. A separate agreement will be completed between the city and MGP for the GIS services.

MGP provides a high degree of experience and continuity across local government GIS solutions. MGP will be utilized to onboard and transfer existing data, as well as "clean it" and standardize it. They will help provide direction and guidance on existing data improvements as well as solutions related to addressing, property mailings, asset/property management, emergency management tracking, and much more. MGP staff is assigned to regularly meet with City staff to ensure data is sufficient, improvements are being made, and special projects are planned and completed.

Funding/Financial Impact: The City has previously paid for GIS services out of the engineering services budget and \$146,000.00 was budgeted in 2026.

The request for funding in the FY2027 budget is being made with the new budget, including the initial onboarding fees and contract amounts. The total amount required for the 2026-2027 budget year is \$168,657. Ongoing projected costs are in the attached proposal.

Recommended Council Action: Provide direction to staff regarding moving forward with the GIS Consortium and MGP for GIS services starting in the 2027 budget year. If approved staff will bring back to Council, the appropriate agreements and proposal for final approval.

Financial Impact:

Funding Source: General Fund and Water Sewer Fund

Budgeted Amount: \$170,000.00 (\$70,000 (GF) & \$100,000.00 (Water and Sewer) 2027

Cost: \$168,657.00

Attachments:

1. GIS Consortium Shared Services Proposal – City of Crest Hill 2026
2. GISC Membership Agreement
3. MGP Master Agreement and Attachments