

New Statewide Aerials from DASC Offer Higher Resolution

There is new digital data available at the Data Access and Support Center (DASC) in Lawrence, KS. The new layer is the Next Generation 911 (NG911) aerial orthophotography. These aerials are a product of the NG911 initiative which funded the purchase of the aerials from a private vendor. The funds were acquired from tax dollars to enhance emergency response in Kansas.

DASC is an organization housed at the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) and was created by the Kansas Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Policy Board. The Policy Board was established by the governor in 1989 to develop and manage GIS policies in Kansas. It quickly became apparent that a central repository for acquired data was needed. Thus, DASC was established in 1991 to fulfill that need. DASC administers access to the State's core database. The data in the database is stored on several computers on the KU campus in Lawrence. The services that DASC provides include:

- ◆ Receive, archive and catalog all core databases
- ◆ Check and verify integrity of database



The graphic above is an example of the 2012 color 1-meter resolution aerial photos most commonly used prior to the photo on the opposite page. That photo is new 2014 imagery. That photo represents the improvement in clarity of the new NG911 photography that is currently available.

- ◆ Convert and transform databases to varying software formats and computer architectures
- ◆ Distribute databases as requested and handle inquiries for DASC services
- ◆ Promote and assist the use of the core database and GIS technologies
- ◆ Produce the State GIS web portal

The GIS Policy Board has been funded through the Kansas Water Plan to help acquire necessary layers of information and provide management and distribution services for that data.

The NG911 aerials are statewide, one-foot pixel resolution, with natural color orthoimagery. They were acquired from a private vendor and are available for a variety of different uses.

There are limitations, however, but very few that would prevent the use of the high resolution aerials in a county GIS department or a RWD office.

The following users are entitled to access of the NG911 date from the DASC Web site at <http://www.kansasgis.org/initiatives/NG911/imagery.cfm>:

- ◆ All Kansas state government agencies and regents-level institutions
- ◆ All Kansas county-level governments
- ◆ All Kansas municipal (city) governments
- ◆ All Kansas PSAP's (public-safety answering point)
- ◆ All Kansas public school districts
- ◆ Any firm doing work on behalf of one of these entities



The NG911 aerials provide a vivid and current base layer for any map document or online map service.

government or tax-funded agency, and agree not to distribute the images for private financial gain, you are entitled to utilize the new aerials for planning, management and many other day-to-day purposes.

DASC purposefully created this agreement with the vendor in an attempt to promote data sharing, make common data available for cross-governmental use, use taxpayer resources to eliminate data duplication and follow the trend of online mapping which is more efficient and accurate.

If you have any questions about this data, or other data that is stored at DASC, I recommend you contact them at your earliest convenience. Contact information for DASC staff can be found on their “contact” page at <http://www.kansasgis.org/about/staff.cfm>

There is no public domain distribution.

Anyone representing one of the above entities can go to the DASC Web site listed above and fill out a brief registration form which must be submitted for approval. The limitations do not exclude any tax-funded agencies in Kansas. And, the aerials are fantastic! If there are any situations that would prevent a department or office from using the aerials, it would be the lack of Internet access, or the lack of a program that can utilize the Web Map Service (WMS) format that is currently available. A user needs to have ArcView or other GIS capable software to “stream the aerials in” to a local computer. The aerials are not yet available for digital distribution on disc or hard drive. Frankly, that would be more cumbersome than accessing the aerials online. However, if any office or department does not have the software

or the expertise to utilize such software, there are online mapping portals through DASC that may benefit the user’s needs. I recommend that all departments that are utilizing any type of statistical analysis for information get in contact with DASC to enhance their capabilities. Population information, boundary information, Census results, utilities resources, transportation, local government, elevation and many other datasets are available for use from DASC. Presently, there are 144 layers in the catalog.

The NG911 aerials provide a vivid and current base layer for any map document or online map service. The aerials were taken in the spring of 2014 so all new construction and additions are visible. These aerials are printable from the web service as long as they are not distributed per the vendor’s agreement, stated on the DASC Web page. Essentially, if you represent a

Annual Conference Features GPS Mapping

The 2015 Annual Conference & Exhibition is scheduled for March 24 – 26 at the Century II Convention Center. GPS Mapping and new technologies and resources will be featured during the conference. I encourage anyone interested in learning more about digital mapping and programs associated with GPS to attend. Meanwhile, KRWA staff are available to discuss our experiences with GPS mapping – and we can provide assistance with the subsidy application. It’s an extremely user-friendly process.

Pete Koenig is GPS/GIS Mapping Coordinator at KRWA where he has been employed since 2004. He also has worked on KAN STEP projects and has been involved in other Association activities.

