

MSDIS Update – July-August 2026

New Data

- MSDIS did not receive any new data during this reporting period.

Updated Data

- MSDIS did not receive any data updates during this reporting period.

MSDIS General News

MSDIS Web Presence

The new MSDIS WordPress website is being reviewed for digital accessibility compliance before final deployment.

MAGIC Clearinghouse Summit

As always, it was a joy to attend the annual MAGIC Clearinghouse Summit. For those unfamiliar with the event, the state GIS clearinghouses of all the MAGIC states get together once a year to compare notes, discuss challenges, and share success stories. This year was no exception. Conversation topics included application support, user management, distribution platforms, and proving ROI.

There is some bad news share, though. On the final evening of the Summit, Tom accidentally found himself engaged in an unexpectedly intense game of oversized Jenga with one of the representatives from Minnesota. The competition was fierce and lasted far longer than any game of Jenga ought to, but MSDIS did not carry day.

As penance, Tom will go into self-imposed exile after this month's MGISAC meeting.

Missouri Mapper Annual Meeting

In happier news, Tom also presented at the annual conference of the Missouri Mapper Association. While MSDIS is often thought of as a state resource, our local GIS partners are just as valuable. Many Missouri county GIS applications leverage imagery services hosted by MSDIS and we frequently field questions from local assessors or GIS offices.

As with last year's conference, we were asked about the feasibility of offering GIS training workshops to non-state groups. This remains a priority for MSDIS and I look forward to working with the MMA to determine how we can move forward.

The Triumphant Return of Lewis and Clark

Many longtime MSDIS users will already know that Jim Harlan's digital reconstruction of the Missouri section of the Lewis and Clark expedition is one of the more unique datasets managed by the clearinghouse. Those data have sat unutilized for years, but are getting a new lease on life thanks to MSDIS Undergraduate Intern Addison Vallier. As her introduction to ArcGIS Online, Addison has been tasked with rebuilding that old Lewis and Clark website as a more compact StoryMap (which she has already accomplished) and populating that application with revised and refreshed interactive maps.

This is a big win for the clearinghouse and we are excited for you to see Addison's work once it is completed.

MSDIS Goes Visits St Louis

St Louis is only a two-hour drive from Columbia* but it sometimes feels like a world away. Tom and Katilin sought to fix that this month by scheduling a short visit with our Arch-adjacent partners. During our all-too-brief field trip, we had the pleasure of meeting with representatives from GeoSTL, Taylor Geospatial, and T-REX. It was an absolute blast getting to hear all about the many cool things going on in the region and sharing some of the things MSDIS has been working on.

The clearinghouse is excited to work alongside our new friends in the St Louis geospatial community for the future.

*Trust me on this, I'm a cartographer of some notoriety

State Training

By now it should come as no surprise that the state training workshops continue. What we are particularly pleased to be able to announce this month is that one of our recent training workshops was attended by a significant number of attendees who enrolled thanks to word of mouth.

This is exactly the kind of progression Tom had hoped for when he first dreamed up the training program. MSDIS sits at the perfect intersection of public sector GIS and academic resources.

These workshops will not make anyone a GIS expert, but they aren't designed to. Proper workforce development starts with small steps. Showing beginners that they can understand the software and demonstrating simple workflows like connecting to MSDIS, adding data, making simple maps, and running basic spatial analysis tools. Once those foundational elements are in place, users are better able to judge what advanced workflows they need to understand.

SEMO Imagery Services

We announced last month that several older SEMO image services would be discontinued. After a brief email from a longtime MSDIS user working at MDC, that plan is currently on hold as we determine usage and best practices for moving forward.

MSDIS Downtime

No downtime was reported during the July/August 2026 reporting period.

MSDIS Traffic

This section remains pending.

Donate To MSDIS

Anyone wishing to directly support MSDIS can still donate to the [MSDIS Excellence Fund](#).

MSDIS would like to thank both Aaron Addison and Arthur Crawford for their generous donations to the fund.

MSDIS Socials Media

Your Friendly Neighborhood GIS Data Clearinghouse is proud to announce its triumphant return to the world of social media. You can now follow MSDIS on both [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).