Metes and Bounds Newsletter

Saline County Flood Risk Explorer

New floodplain maps will become effective for Saline County on April 18, 2018. To explain the development of the new floodplain maps while letting residents explore their flood risk, insurance and mitigation options, the Kansas Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with risk communication contractor Resilience Action Partners, developed an Esri Story Map. This Story Map conveys complex technical information in a format that is easily digestible to the public by showcasing flooding pictures and graphics with interactive web maps.

The landing page highlights photos of flood events that struck Salina in 2007 and 2015, as well as historic flooding that occurred in 1951 and 1903. The tabbed format compiles embedded Story Maps and a wealth of technical information in a simple format that describes the mapping process. One interactive map allows the user to visualize the importance of the levee by showing areas that would be flooded without the protection it provides. Other interactive maps allow the user to explore the new floodplains and search for their property, as well as a map that allows for comparison of the old non-LiDAR based floodplain to the new more accurate floodplain based on LiDAR topography. This map underscores the importance of LiDAR technology through a section that describes what LiDAR data collection is and how it improves accuracy.
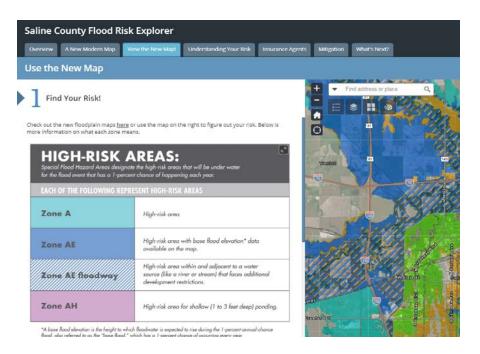
This issue:

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The Story Map also walks the user through the mapping process and includes a timeline and photos from the Floodplain Open House held in May of 2017. In addition, it features a heat map that displays how insurance rates have changed in Salina with the new maps, as well as a helpful graphic that illustrates what insurance covers and what it does not. There are additional sections with local contact information, understanding what the flood zones mean, tips on lowering your flood risk, insurance information, finding your base flood elevation and more. You can check out the Story Map here or by clicking on the above image.

Although the Esri source code for Story Maps is technically available for free on GitHub, you would need to be a developer to utilize this code and have permissions to publish on your internal web server. However, with any ArcGIS account you can create simple Story Maps, and with a paid ArcGIS Online subscription, you can take advantage of more advanced options such as publishing your own data in interactive web maps using Web AppBuilder. For further inspiration, Esri hosts a gallery of available templates as well as more information on their Story Map FAQ page.

2018 KAM Conference - Submit Your Abstract!

The KAM 2018 conference will be held in Manhattan, KS at the Hilton Garden Inn from October 16th – 19th 2018. This is a wonderful location within walking distance of downtown Manhattan, the Flint Hills Discovery Center, and the Kansas River Linear Trail. As always, this conference will provide many learning activities and opportunities to network with other accomplished GIS / Mapping professionals from across the state.

We have opened the abstract submission form on our website at //www.kansasmappers.org/SubmitPresentation. If you or anyone you know would like to share knowledge at the conference, please complete the form. We plan to have the conference schedule set by the end of June, so please submit your abstracts early!

I am pleased to announce that John Cannella, Deputy Superintendent of the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region, will be our keynote speaker. This year is the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. The National Park Service makes extensive use of GIS for Resource Information Management, so this historic occasion corresponds well with our conference. We will have more information about Mr. Cannella on the website soon. If you would like more information about the 50th anniversary of the National Trails visit www.trails50.org.

I'm looking forward to another fantastic conference! Mark your calendar now and check the website often for updates. We'll send out an e-mail as soon as registration opens.

Linda Sibert

Intro to Python and Using Python in GIS (Two-Day Class)

There's still room in the Intro to Python Class. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

This two day class will cover various aspects of the Python coding language such as variables, expressions, statements, loops, strings, lists and others on the first day and will cover using Python in the Field Calculator, using code from geoproccessing tasks, creating simple code for labels, looping through data, and more on the second day. It will be held on May 10th and May 11th, 2018 in Lawrence, KS.

This class will be geared towards GIS professionals who are at beginner to intermediate level in Python. No previous experience with Python is needed.

For more detailed information on this two-day class, or to register, please follow the below link:

https://www.kansasmappers.org/event-2830488