

PAGIS DAY

The first annual PAGis Day was held on September 18th at the North Little Rock City Services building. PAGis member agencies presented on a variety of topics. We heard how the Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority transitioned from ArcMap to ArcPro. We learned about the City of Maumelle's new permitting process for fiber and utility installs. The City of Little Rock unveiled their new MacArthur Park Historic District Viewer and shared some of the Planning Department's GIS workflows. The City of Sherwood walked us through the development of their interactive community maps and Central Arkansas Water outlined their Lead Service Line Inventory project. Thank you to everyone who attended and presented. We look forward to next year's PAGis Day!



NEW PAGIS TECHNICIAN

Kayla Stahl is the newest addition to PAGis. Kayla graduated from UCA in December 2023 with a bachelor's degree in Geography and a Journalism minor. She first discovered GIS through her high school EAST program where she created a digital headstone directory for her community's cemetery. In college, Kayla worked on research funded by NASA's EPSCoR program. Her research focused on the best ways to predict future weather patterns in ArcPro, using NASA satellite imagery and deep learning algorithms. We are thrilled to have Kayla as a part of the PAGis team!

ORTHO QC

Every three years, PAGis receives certified orthorectified aerial imagery. We use this imagery to perform a comprehensive QC on the primary PAGis layers (BPADD, BO, SCADD, RE, and REP). We also QC some of our less used layers, such as Cemeteries, Traffic Signals, Communication Points, Trails, Sidewalks, Solar, Reservoirs, and Bridges. The 2024 Ortho QC began in August. To ensure our QC covers all of Pulaski County, we create a grid layer with 800 x 1200 foot tiles, which allows us to track our QC progress. So far PAGis staff has QC'd 42.5% (14,694/25,562) of the grid tiles.

PAGIS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



MARK MAHAR

GIS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER
CITY OF LITTLE ROCK

Mark Mahar is the GIS Analyst/Programmer for the City of Little Rock Planning and Development department. He has been in this position since June 2021.

How did you get into GIS?

Simply put, curiosity got me into GIS. Initially I went to school to be a physicist, but I couldn't answer a lot of questions I had about the built and natural environment, and how they interact with one another, with physics alone. This got me interested in geography, human geography specifically, and I took a cartography class. GIS just stuck out to me as an extremely powerful tool to answer the exact questions I was having.

What do you do at your job?

I deal with changes in our GIS data for anything that would go through the Planning Commission (Zoning, Land Use, and Annexations as examples). Since Little Rock only has two GIS Analysts (Me and Kevin Pruett in Public Works), we assist all the other city departments who have GIS needs. I also spend some time as a makeshift server manager for our SQL servers and ensure our web maps stay online and constantly updated. With frequent special projects mixed in, I'm never bored, that's for sure.

How do you use PAGis data in your daily work?

I use PAGis data every day. BPADD and SCADD are probably my most frequent flyers, but I don't think there is a dataset from PAGis that I haven't used. Our data is so ingrained with PAGis' data it would be easier to list the times I don't use PAGis data.

Do you have a favorite GIS resource?

PAGis is my most used resource, but as far as a favorite, I really like when a project requires pulling in satellite imagery (specifically when it's using infrared bands), so I guess USGS' Earth Explorer may be my "favorite". Only because the projects that require that are some of the more fun projects.

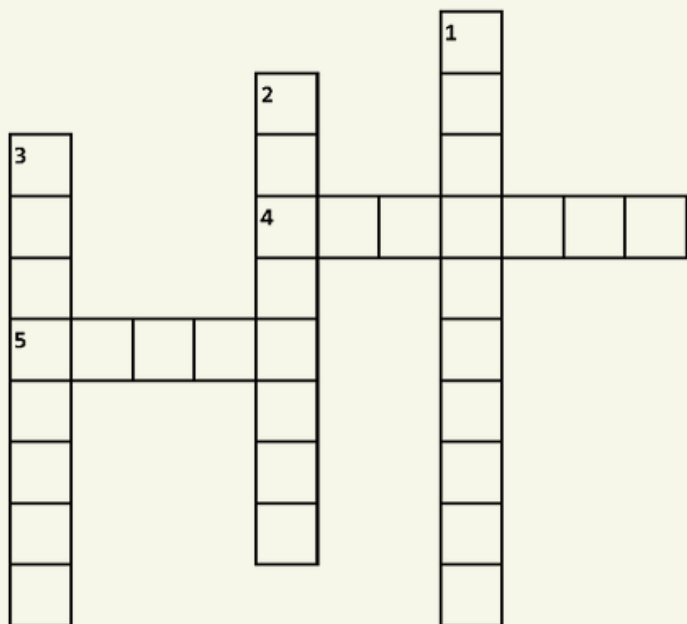
Is GIS what you thought it would be?

Yes and no. I expected some frustration in GIS, but I didn't expect the most frustrating part to be explaining why it's useful or important.

If you could magically acquire a new skill overnight, what would it be?

I'd like to be "magically" gifted at reading code. I want to see through it like the Matrix and understand it immediately, instead of hunting for the misplaced semicolon.

PAGIS CROSSWORD



Down

1. Use this app to view infrastructure that helps during storms.
2. This layer shows you where to find headstones.
3. This layer shows you where you can walk.

Across

4. Company PAGis contracted with in 1997 to acquire orthophotography and updated planimetric data.
5. The number of employees at PAGis.

Second Quarter Answers

1. This person is the current chair of the PAGis Board.
2. Use this app to find the height of Pinnacle Mountain.
3. Use this map application widget to see historical photography.
4. This is the newest PAGis Member Agency.
5. Use this app to find the water line that feeds your house.

