

GIS Software Options

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Data in GIS format are unique because the spatial feature is connected to a table, which contains attribute information about the feature. The data you purchase from the County will be provided in standard GIS format:

- Vector layers such as parcels, 5' elevation contours, or roads will be in shapefile format
- Imagery including the orthophotography will be in TIFF format

Livingston County utilizes ArcView or ArcInfo software packages, which are developed by the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), to generate maps and create the data layers.

The GIS layers provided by Livingston County GIS can be viewed in a variety of software packages:

Software	Company	Type	Cost	Website
ArcView	ESRI	GIS	Contact company	www.esri.com
AutoCAD	Autodesk	CAD	Contact company	www.autodesk.com
MicroStation	Bentley	CAD	Contact company	www.bentley.com
ArcExplorer	ESRI	GIS	Free Download	www.esri.com
AccuGlobe	DDTI	GIS	Free Download	www.ddti.net

GIS = Geographic Information System CAD = Computer Aided Drafting

Both ArcExplorer and AccuGlobe are available at no cost and can be freely distributed. Please visit their websites if you would like more information:

1) ArcExplorer is available from ESRI and the User Manual is also included with the download (<http://www.esri.com/software/arcexplorer/index.html>).

2) AccuGlobe is available from DDTI (<http://www.ddti.net/accuglobe.asp>). AccuGlobe does not have a user manual, but you can download some tutorials from the Charlevoix County GIS Coordinator's website: <http://www.charlevoixcounty.org/accuglobe.asp>. These exercises may help familiarize you with the program.