



City of Baton Rouge
Parish of East Baton Rouge



Press Release
Tuesday, November 17, 2015

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City-Parish to host “*International GIS Day*” on Wednesday, November 18th

The City-Parish will host an Open House in honor of International GIS Day on Wednesday, November 18th from noon to 5 p.m. in the first floor lobby of City Hall at 222 Saint Louis Street. The event is free and open to the public, and Mayor-President Melvin “Kip” Holden is encouraging everyone who is interested in the City-Parish’s Geographic Information System (GIS) to attend.

During the Open House, representatives from the Department of Information Services, Office of the Planning Commission, and the Mayor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness will showcase a variety of paper maps and posters, as well as presentations, videos, and demonstrations of interactive web maps – all of which are core components of the parish wide GIS program.

“Over the past year, our team has made tremendous progress in advancing the use of GIS tools and technologies throughout the City-Parish – advancements that have become essential to the everyday business of many of our City-Parish departments,” said Mayor Holden. “This open house is designed to demonstrate to the public the breadth of our GIS offerings and how critical this program is to informing how we use technology to make impactful decisions relative to the environment, economic development, and general health and welfare of all our residents and businesses here in Baton Rouge.

In addition, the City-Parish’s [Map Portal](#) which launched this past July with more than 80 on-demand GIS web services as the next phase of the Mayor Holden’s efforts to establish free and easy access to public sector data, will be on display with demonstrations held to educate users on how to navigate the site.

City-Parish representatives will also provide demonstrations of [Open Data BR](#), the City-Parish’s premier public data repository launched earlier this year that incorporates a number of various GIS services and data sources into its open data offerings; the East Baton Rouge Parish [Assessor’s GeoPortal](#); and [City Key](#), a portal powered by GIS technology and built by the East Baton Rouge Parish Library in conjunction with the Mayor’s Healthy City Initiative.

International GIS Day is celebrated throughout the world each year in November, with hundreds of events held by GIS advocates and users both in the U.S. and abroad with a focus on establishing an international forum for users of GIS technology to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference.

The City-Parish has long been a user of GIS technology, since the formal initiation of a GIS Program 22 years ago as part of Baton Rouge’s first comprehensive plan. Today, more than 15 departments and agencies work together to further the implementation and success of the [eBRGIS Program](#), which now includes a number of tools, data, maps, applications and mobile technologies developed by the City-Parish GIS team. For example, GIS technology is utilized to support public safety operations, with law enforcement officials working in tandem with GIS analysts to build a series of applications that will form a “Common Operational Picture” from which law enforcement and emergency responders can work and establish situational awareness for response efforts.

