



## CITY OF EVANSVILLE

ONE N.W. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD.  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA 47708

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
JONATHAN WEINZAPFEL

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**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Audra Levy**  
**Communications Director**  
**(812) 436-4969**  
**[alevy@evansvillegis.com](mailto:alevy@evansvillegis.com)**

### **Evansville Wins Award for Using Data Mapping**

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – The City of Evansville today was recognized for using geographic information systems (GIS) in developing the Front Door Pride Program. The city won the technology award in the large community category from the Indiana Geographic Information Council (IGIC). Evansville began using GIS for mapping in April 2001. Now departments such as the Evansville Police, the Vanderburgh County Assessor and the Department of Urban Forestry use it.

Front Door Pride is a neighborhood revitalization and redevelopment initiative. It includes new housing construction along with housing rehab in Evansville's older neighborhoods. The city used GIS to define the boundaries for the Front Door Pride area. They are: Lloyd Expressway to the North, US-41 to the East, the Ohio River levee to the South, the Ohio River to the West and Cherry Street to the Northwest.

Data from a variety of sources were layered into a map revealing which area of the city had the greatest housing infill and rehab needs. For instance, GIS mapping helped identify tax sale properties in the Front Door Pride area. More than 180 properties were purchased for future infill housing and homes to be rehabbed over the past 18 months. With other statistical information from GIS, the city was ready to improve housing conditions, clean up distressed properties and make overall improvements to neighborhoods. GIS was also used to define an Arts District Area within Front Door Pride.

“GIS played a critical role in locating an area we could redevelop that would benefit both the city and its residents,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. “Now we are well on our way to making major strides toward revitalization in the Front Door Pride area.”

Because of GIS research that was used to define the Front Door Pride area, the city was able to leverage a \$1 million housing grant from the state of Indiana. The city has also budgeted over \$1 million in Community Development Block Grant funds for the program. Additional funds will be available from the private sector in the form of financing packages for residents.

Citizens can utilize available public GIS data. If you would like to learn more about Evansville's GIS system, go to <http://www.evansvillegis.com/default.htm>

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