

The initial phase of the program included a \$265,000 contract to install 225 new survey monuments in the county. The county chose the monument sites to provide control for the developing areas within the 770 square miles of Richland County. The county excluded areas such as the capital city (Columbia), Fort Jackson, and the Congaree Swamp National Monument from the project because federal law bars development in protected areas and the county does not manage permitting on the military base or in the city. The county submitted the survey monument network to the United States National Geodetic Survey to be “blue booked” and maintained.

Data for monuments in the Richland County network are available on the county GIS Web site (www.richlandmaps.com). County personnel and/or

local surveyors will install new monuments and add monuments to the network on an as-needed basis as land development continues.

Richland County ties data to a common reference by combining digital data submission requirements and establishing a survey monument network. The expenditures for the training seminars, guest speakers, and the monument network have begun to pay off in the quality of data submitted to the county. Because plans are submitted in standard digital format and tied to the State Plane coordinate system, the Public Works Department performs a technical review and runs watershed models within the GIS without having to redraft plans or rubber sheet scanned plans into a GIS layer. The receipt of as-built digital files for each development aids the maintenance of county GIS layers. The county will not accept dedication of roads and drainage for subdivisions or issue a certificate of occupancy for commercial development until Public Work receives the digital as-built files.

Judging from the first few months of data submission, the cost of changing the way the county and local professionals do business and installing a survey monument network will be a small price to pay for increased efficiency in plan review, more accurate data, and improved data maintenance. ⦿



In Richland County, South Carolina, developers submit digital design drawings and plans that are tied to the State Plane coordinate system. The county began a survey monument densification program to assist local surveyors and engineers in referencing the State Plane coordinate system.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

