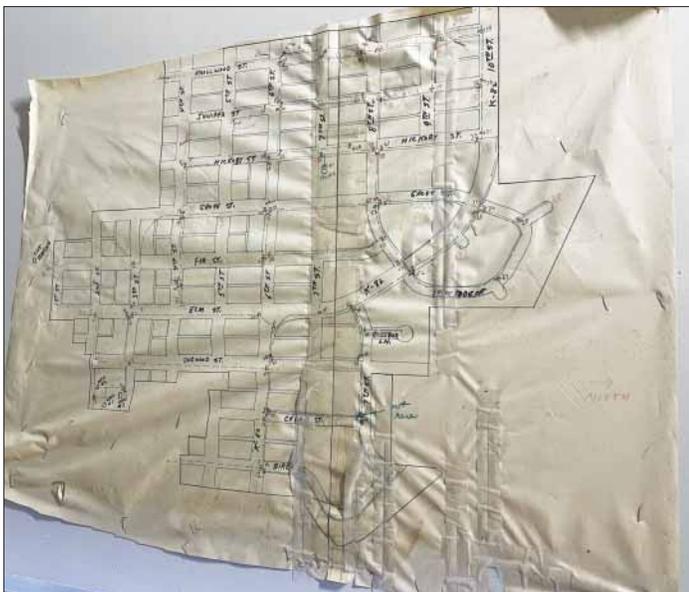




## KRWA Mapping Fall 2022

Kansas Rural Water Association recently upgraded technology to now utilize the Trimble Catalyst DA2 collection device.

**T**he Kansas Rural Water Association has been quite busy in 2022 with an extensive amount of data being collected. KRWA recently invested in the new Trimble DA2 device. KRWA collected data in the cities of Herington, Thayer, and Gas. In those cities KRWA collected both water and wastewater systems, along with PWWS No. 12's water system. Numerous systems also had me stop by and collect new installations to update their maps. A few more projects have requested GPS mapping, including Shawnee Cons. RWD No. 3, and the cities of Bucklin and Wakefield.



Not unlike many cities or RWDs, this photo shows the only water system map in the city of Wakefield. It is hand drawn, patched together, on some type of vinyl material.

Shawnee Cons. RWD No. 3 is going to be collected soon. It's an extensive system. I estimate the project to require 3.5 weeks. This RWD is quite different from most RWDs that KRWA has collected. But this system's area is only roughly seven miles square with approximately 1,200 customers in this small area. Situated on the south side of Topeka, the population is denser than the typical RWD project. There have been numerous RWDs that I've worked on where we'll drive more than a few miles to reach one customer. That isn't going to be the case on this project.

The city of Maple Hill and Atchison RWD 1 have also asked to have new water lines and meter installations collected this Fall. Maple Hill constructed a new storage tank just west of town on top of a flint hill, using the available elevation to supply good pressure. KRWA completed mapping for Maple Hill's water and wastewater systems in 2007. Being a small community of 605 people and with little change to the infrastructure, KRWA has not collected data there since then. With the new storage tank and new water line to it, along with a few new meters and sewer manholes, the city decided it was necessary for their mapping to be updated. Atchison RWD 1, located on the south side of the city of Atchison, typically updates its mapping every few years. With new customers being added and the original 1961 infrastructure unable to meet increasing water demand, the district has been making steady improvements while keeping its maps updated simultaneously-

The cities of Bucklin and Wakefield recently inquired about mapping in 2022. Both cities recognized a need for new up-to-date maps and are proceeding with GPS mapping for the same reasons most small communities do. Jason Goracke, Superintendent for the city of Bucklin, stated that he has just one map that isn't nearly as accurate

or complete as it should be. One street in town isn't even on the map. Having more comprehensive maps, with everything he now knows about the system integrated into a GIS, is something Jason is looking forward to with anticipation. Jeff Ochs, Superintendent for the city of Wakefield, was getting tired of the inefficiency when a leak occurred, and nobody could find the valves to shut a line down, as many of the valves are below grade. Jeff also stated that with the required valve exercising program, it was time to make a change and find all of the valves in town. Getting them collected with accurate GPS so they can be more easily found was something paramount for Jeff also, as the current Wakefield maps leave a lot to be desired. Jeff says, for instance, "the maps will show three valves at the northwest corner of an intersection, but in reality, the valves aren't anywhere close to the northwest corner, and they are buried! Jason and Jeff are not only making their jobs easier by pursuing GPS mapping. This data will benefit these communities for years to come. Future superintendents will be able to operate the systems with drastically improved efficiencies with the Google Earth app for computers and mobile devices.

Having better maps is an essential asset for any utility, but having the mapping data in a digital format can bring so

**Having better maps is an essential asset for any utility, but having the mapping data in a digital format can bring so many more benefits outside of being able to find system infrastructure.**

many more benefits outside of being able to find system infrastructure. When Kansas One Call, Fire Protection Insurance Specialists, FEMA, or engineering firms need the data for different studies, it's as simple as an email to provide the information. I credit the systems mentioned above for making a change that will make their jobs, and future employees' jobs easier and more efficient for many years to come. Though the GIS that KRWA offers is very modest using Google Earth. There is no charge for Google Earth. Should the RWD or city

choose to take their GPS mapping to the next level with editable software, the data will always be available to them to do so.

If any city or RWD is interested in learning the benefits of GIS mapping, I encourage you to call KRWA at 785-336-3760 or email me at mark@krwa.net.

*Mark Thomas has been a GIS Mapping Tech since September 2006. Mark has a bachelor's degree in geography from Kansas State University and has specialized studies in ESRI's ArcView and ArcPad software.*



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