**Frequently Asked Questions**

**How will the parcel data be used?**Parcel data is used as a GIS layer on the WV Flood Tool to determine what portions of a property are within a Special Flood Hazard Area. It is also used for flood risk assessments and flood reduction efforts for communities.

**Why is WV DHSEM contacting you?**As a courtesy, we want to inform you that our office intends on adding the best available digital parcels for your county to the WV Flood Tool. If digital parcels are not available from the county assessor’s office or WV Property Tax Division, then parcel geometry from alternative sources will be utilized. These sources include parcel polygons created from the Mineral Lands Mapping Program or local E-911 offices.

**What is primary source of digital parcels?**The primary source of digital parcels is the WV Property Tax Division which creates a master surface tax parcel file every year from the parcel files provided by the county assessor offices and other sources. Both the WV Property Tax Division and county assessors are co-custodians of the tax maps and GIS files. The passing of SB 588 in July 2017 permitted the WV Property Tax Division to allow all digital tax maps and GIS files to be downloaded at no charge. These digital files can be downloaded from an authorized tax map distribution site located at the State Data Clearinghouse at [https://wvgis.wvu.edu/data/dataset.php?ID=371](http://wvgis.wvu.edu/data/dataset.php?ID=371).

**What if a citizen contacts me about privacy concerns that his or her property information is posted on the web application?**Recent court case decisions and approved legislation in West Virginia have deemed that property record information and maps are not private information. This includes the collection, storage, retrieval or aggregation of information about an individual that is publicly available from legal information found in deeds, property records, and property maps. Sensitive information such as telephone numbers and security alarm systems are redacted from the property records before released to the public.

**What if the available digital parcel files for my county are not current or completely accurate?**Disclaimers on the web application inform users that the digital parcel layer is for reference and informational purposes only and obtained from the best available sources. Below are tax map disclaimers for the parcel layer in the WV Flood Tool:

**Accuracy:** The parcels and assessment records are for reference and informational purposes only and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the appropriate usage of the information. Furthermore, the county assessor’s published full-version tax maps are the primary authoritative source for surface tax maps and should be consulted if there are questions about the accuracy of the digital parcels on the WV Flood Tool. A PDF file of any full-version tax map in West Virginia can be accessed by a web browser using the following URL parameters: <https://www.mapwv.gov/taxmaps/?m=02-04-037M> (County Code - District No. - Map ID). Contact your county assessor office if you have questions about the parcel geometry or attributes.

**Building Permits:** County issued floodplain determinations and building permits are required prior to all construction, so please contact your county prior to initiating any type of development.

**No Liability Provision:** Tax maps are prepared for taxation purposes only and the assessor and map sales unit of the property Tax Division of the Department of Revenue shall have no liability to any third party for any errors or omissions associated therewith or in connection with the use of tax maps for any other purpose.

 **What will the parcel data look like on the WV Flood Tool?**Refer to the document web link below on how parcel data and other GIS layers provided by local governments (aerial imagery, topography, building footprints, and addresses) are displayed on the WV Flood Tool.

Web Link to Importance of Local Government GIS Data Layers for WV Flood Tool:
<https://data.wvgis.wvu.edu/pub/temp/FEMA/FRA/FT/Importance_Local_GIS_Data_20180103.pdf>.