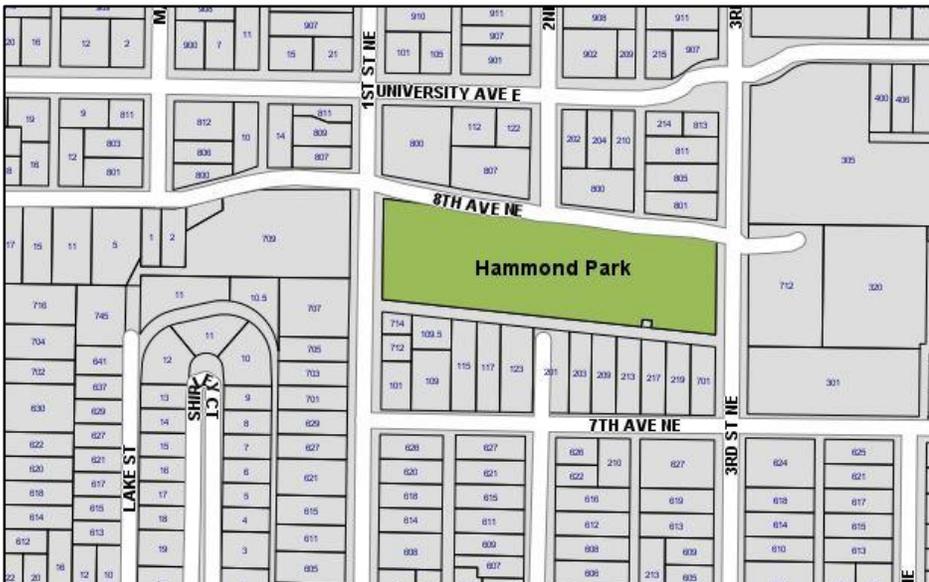


GIS News

Nov/Dec 2014

IN THIS ISSUE



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

Welcome to the second edition of the City of Minot GIS News! Summer has come and gone and now it's time to transition to the colder weather and that dreaded **snow!!!** I hope the first newsletter sparked a little bit of your curiosity about our GIS and how it can be used. Minot's [geographic information system](#) is chugging right along and there have been some improvements since the last newsletter to tell you about. Our GIS continues to be a hit with developers, engineers and realtors. I never realized how valuable it is to some people until it happens to go down and the phone calls or emails start coming in! That is a good thing, and it keeps me focused on making the GIS as resourceful as possible to everyone.

DATA UPDATES

RECENT UPDATES TO *EXISTING* GIS DATA LAYERS

Parcels – The parcel layer (property lines) is continuously being updated to reflect new developments, owners and zoning.

Address Points – This layer is always kept as updated as possible. We are assigning addresses as new plats come in and then they are added to the GIS.

City Bus Routes – One of the Early Morning bus routes was removed from service due to little or no ridership.

Parks and Rec – The parks layer was updated to contain the correct hyperlinks to each parks website.

Utilities – The utilities are a work in progress but are getting better. Storm sewer utilities have been worked on some this last month as they need to be moved to their correct locations.

Software Updates – Behind the scenes updates were done to correct the issues that the software had with Internet Explorer.



Snow Routes

With old man winter right around the corner, it is important to know which streets are snow routes. Pg. 2



Family Coming for the Holidays?

Thanksgiving and Christmas are usually spent with family. Do you have enough room for everyone or maybe they need hotel rooms. Find out where the closest hotel is and book your rooms. Pg. 3

Snow Routes

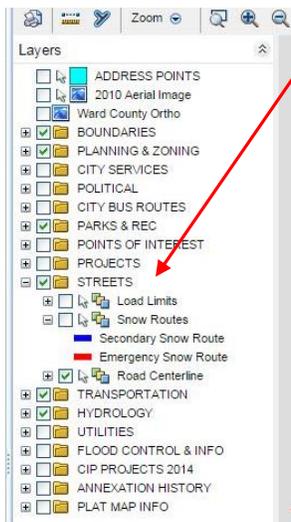
For those of us who have lived in Minot for quite some time, we are well aware of which roads are the best to travel on during or after a snowstorm. Many new residents however, may be unfamiliar with driving in winter weather and are not aware of the designated snow routes.

Minot's Snow Removal Plan attempts to provide as much flexibility as possible, knowing that one plan cannot possibly encompass all the different scenarios that may occur during a snow event.

Snow routes are made passable prior to moving operations into other areas of the City. If crews are cleaning snow routes while it is still snowing, the amount of snowfall may require them to start over again on the designated snow routes when they are done.

So which roads are designated snow routes and how far are you from one?

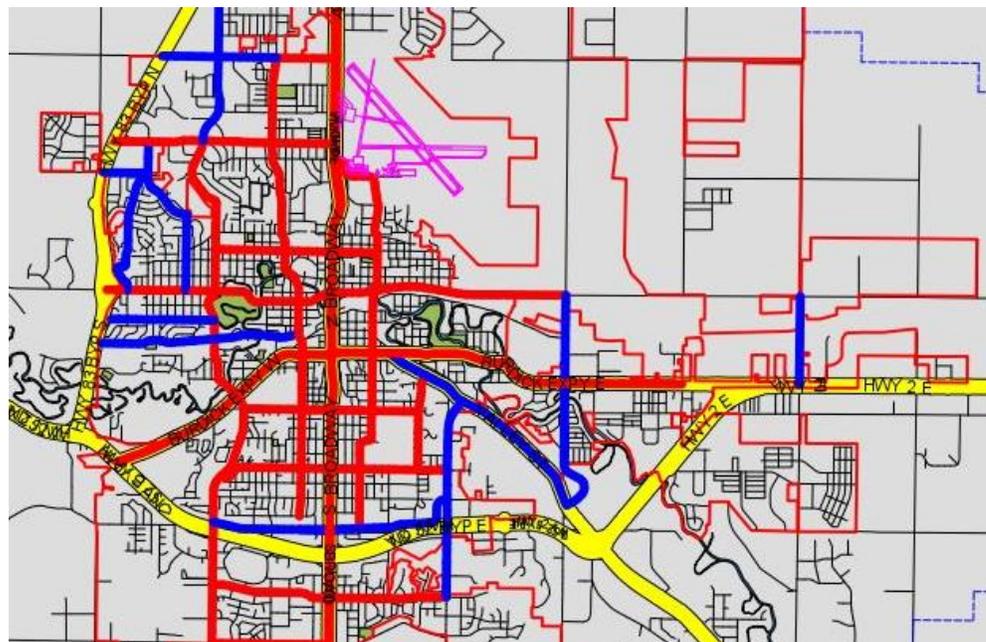
Let's use the City's GIS to show us. [GIS Property Map](#)



Once the map is open, look for the folder in the legend that is labeled **STREETS**. Click on the plus sign next to it to expand the folder.

Then click the plus sign next to Snow Routes to show the two different colors of routes and what they stand for. Then check the box next to Snow Routes.

Your map should now look like the picture below.



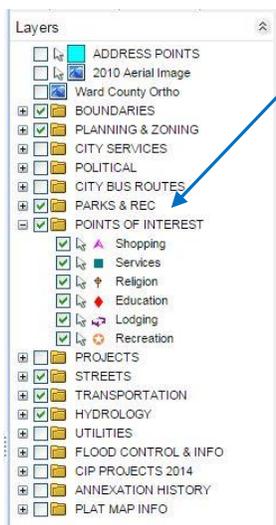
From here you can zoom in to see the street names and house numbers. You can also use the Selection tool to click on the snow route and then in the feature details (see picture at right) you will see the street name, snow route, speed limit, status and surface. You can click on the blue hyperlinked Snow Route and it will take you to the City's Snow Removal plan in case you would like to read more about it.

Search Features	
Feature Details	
Property Map Snow Routes Details (1)	
St Name	UNIVERSITY AVE W
Snow Route	EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTE
Speed Limit	25
Status	Open
Surface	Paved

Family Visiting for the Holidays?

Many people travel for the holiday season to see family and spend some time with them. Often this will entail long trips that require at least a night's stay somewhere if not longer.

So, your entire family is coming from California for the week of Thanksgiving and you don't have nearly enough bedrooms for everyone to sleep in. Obviously they will need a hotel room. Which hotel is closest to your house and easy to navigate to? Let's use the map!

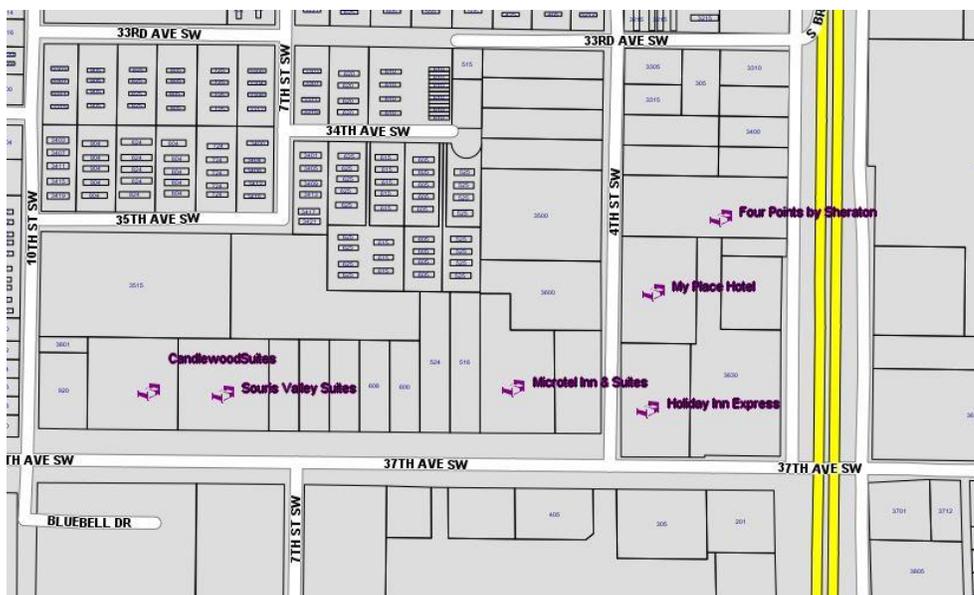


Once the GIS Property map is open, look for the folder in the legend that is labeled **POINTS OF INTEREST**. Click on the plus sign next to it to expand the folder.

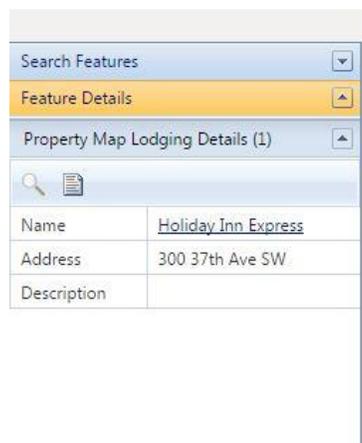
Then check the box next to POINTS OF INTEREST.

(If you only want to see hotels, uncheck Shopping, Services, Religion, Education, and Recreation).

In the picture below, I have zoomed into my map in the area of 37th Ave SW (north of Wal-Mart). It is easy to see that there are several choices in this area.



From here you can select the hotel you are interested in and then in the feature details you can click on the hotel's website where your family could then make reservations or check pricing. (See below)



Relatives want to go Black Friday shopping?

Check out the Shopping layer to see store locations and websites!



WHAT'S NEW?

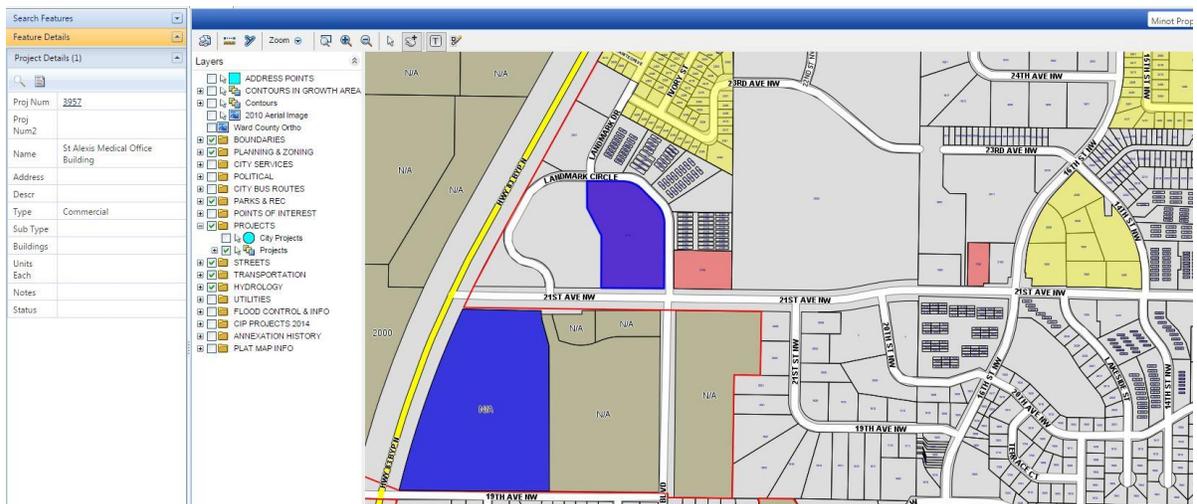
Since the last newsletter, a new group of data layers has been added to the map. This group is called **PROJECTS**.

There are two different data layers within this folder. There are **City Projects** and **Projects**.

City Projects are those that relate to infrastructure, paving districts, etc...

Projects are the other projects happening around town such as restaurants, businesses, office buildings, apartment complexes, residential developments, etc....

Next time you're curious about that new building going up or piece of land that being developed, try checking the Projects folder and see if your question is answered!



GIS AROUND THE WORLD

GIS is used by many organizations and for many different reasons. Lately, one of the news stories everyone has been hearing about is the Ebola virus. Are you still confused about the statistics and where it has been found? Check out the Animated Ebola GIS map published by a group of researchers, epidemiologists and software developers at Boston Children's Hospital. Here you can click on the outbreak locations and read news articles related to it. Also there is a timeline at the bottom of the map showing the number of cases and deaths.

<http://healthmap.org/ebola/#timeline>



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