Survey Control Finder

Overview

Wisconsin has tens of thousands of survey control monuments and PLSS corners placed by numerous agencies and counties over many decades, so the avenues for finding control point and PLSS information and are varied.
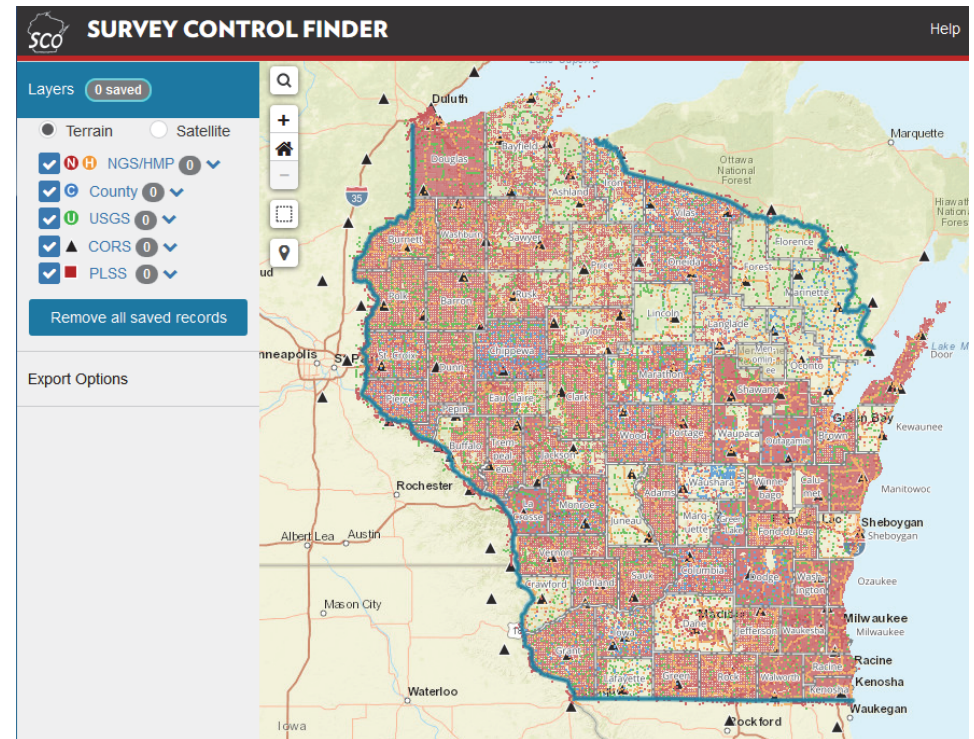
Survey Control Finder[1] is a mobile-friendly application that provides a central point of access to over 28,000 control points and over 200,000 Public Land Survey System (PLSS) records in Wisconsin.

Control points and PLSS corners are shown in a common view so users can visually navigate, locate and identify them.

PLSS in Wisconsin

The Public Land Survey System (PLSS)[2] at the most basic level can be described as a legal (not mathematical) reference system established by the Federal Government in 1785 to divide and then convey lands from the Public Domain to private land owners.

It is a roughly gridded network of surveyed lines and monuments that represent approximate six-mile by six-mile "townships". Each township is further subdivided into approximate one-mile by one mile "sections". The PLSS is a key part of the original legal basis for virtually all property in the state.
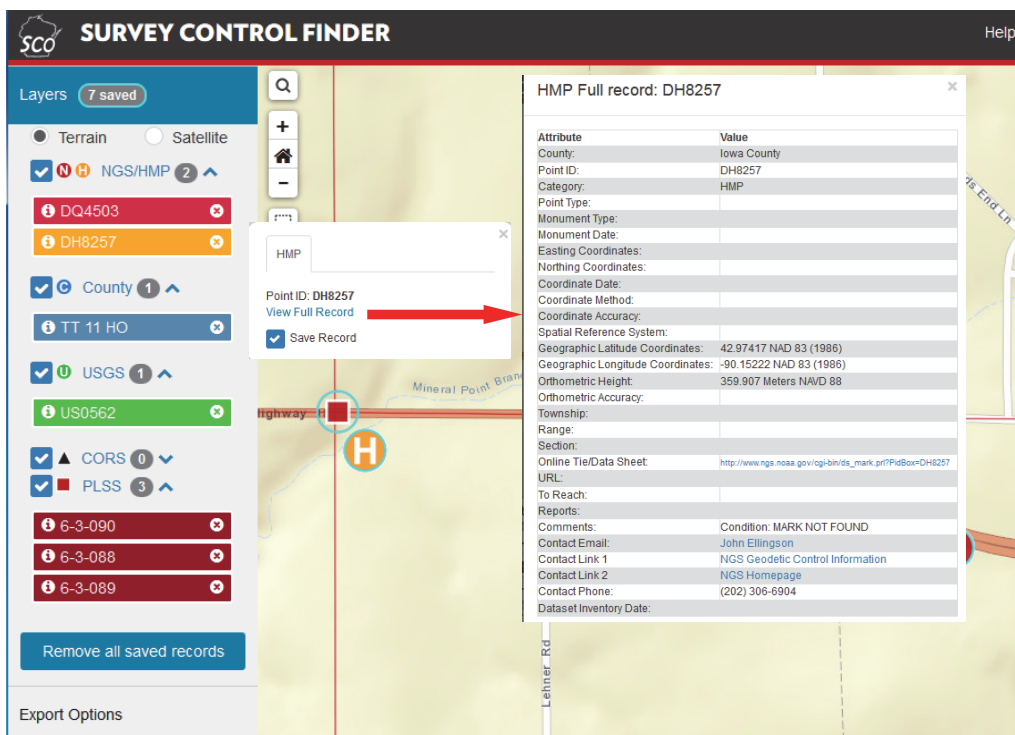
Progress towards updated PLSS monuments and coordinates vary widely across the state, with some counties having completed remonumentation, while others are at various stages of completion.

PLSS corner information accessible through this application comes directly from county contributors. While corner attribute information is retrievable from this application, other relevant corner attributes may be available via direct links to online digital tie sheets maintained by the contrib-

utor on their Web sites providing real-time information.

Geodetic Control in Wisconsin

Geodetic control point information accessible in Survey Control Finder includes Wisconsin Height Modernization Program (WI-HMP)[3] control, local control established by Wisconsin counties, National Geodetic Survey (NGS)[4] control, historical USGS 3rd order vertical control, and represented as CORS stations include the Wisconsin Continuously Operating Reference System (WISCORS)[5], and NGS Continuously Operating Reference System[6] stations.

Attribute	Value
County:	Iowa County
Point ID:	DH8257
Category:	HMP
Point Type:	
Monument Type:	
Monument Date:	
Easting Coordinates:	
Northing Coordinates:	
Coordinate Date:	
Coordinate Method:	
Coordinate Accuracy:	
Spatial Reference System:	
Geographic Latitude Coordinates:	42.97417 NAD 83 (1986)
Geographic Longitude Coordinates:	-90.15222 NAD 83 (1986)
Orthometric Height:	359.907 Meters NAVD 88
Orthometric Accuracy:	
Township:	
Range:	
Section:	
Online Tie/Data Sheet:	http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds_mark.prl?PidBox=DH8257
URL:	
To Reach:	
Reports:	
Comments:	Condition: MARK NOT FOUND
Contact Email:	John Ellingson
Contact Link 1	NGS Geodetic Control Information
Contact Link 2	NGS Homepage
Contact Phone:	(202) 306-6904
Dataset Inventory Date:	

Locating points and viewing associated records

Navigating

There are several different ways to navigate. The user is initially directed to the statewide coverage of the data layers except the PLSS data layer is unchecked by default (due to thousands of corners). From here users can either search for a specific location, a county, or an address using the search icon or simply zoom in/out.

After performing a search, either click on a point or use the box to select multiple points. The selected points will be listed in the column on the left side of the map display in the corresponding data layer. Simply click the down arrow by the data layer to see the selected records. From here open the record to view the attributes.

Submitting Data

Contributing PLSS and/or geodetic control information is easy, simply provide your dataset as a shapefile or geo-database.

Protecting/reporting Disturbance

The value of control information or boundary marking/PLSS corners is jeopardized by any disturbance, so protection is key. Missing or disturbed monuments/corners, as well as those in danger of being disturbed, can be reported to the agency stamped on the cap or by filling out a survey station condition report form[7].

Geodetic and PLSS control is a vital component of surveying, mapping, and engineering projects and the development of geographic/land information systems.