

## CAD Files for Harris County

Presented by Holly McDonald & Eric Worthington



# Procedures of Mapping a New Subdivision in Harris County

• The Harris Central Appraisal District is a political subdivision of the State of Texas established in 1980 for the purpose of discovering and appraising property for ad valorem tax purposes. The district has approximately 1.9 million parcels of property to assess each year with a total market value of approximately \$905 billion. The Harris Central Appraisal District receives over 1,600 new subdivisions to map each year.



#### GIS at HCAD

- The GIS Mapping team consists of 11 Mapping Specialists and 5 Analysts. The GIS team maintains the GIS parcel data and jurisdictions boundaries in Harris County.
- Not only does the GIS team maintain the parcel data, but also data management, internal and external applications. Providing data to the public- PData- <a href="https://hcad.org/hcad-online-services/pdata">https://hcad.org/hcad-online-services/pdata</a>
- The parcel maintenance process consists of several steps and can take up to 10 months from start to finish. With certification in August as the completed timeframe.

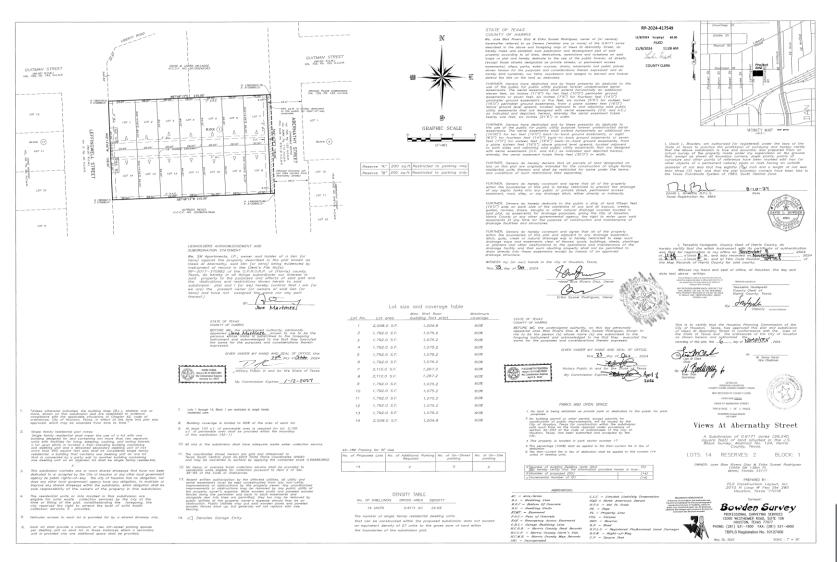


 The developer buys property and contracts a surveyor. The surveyor uses GPS units to survey the property. The land is then divided into one or multiple parcels.



Imagery Source: EagleView

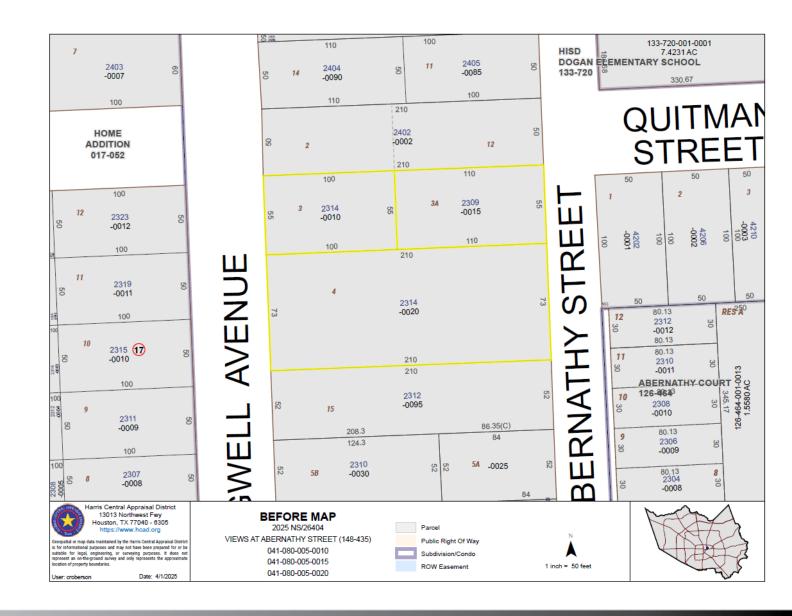




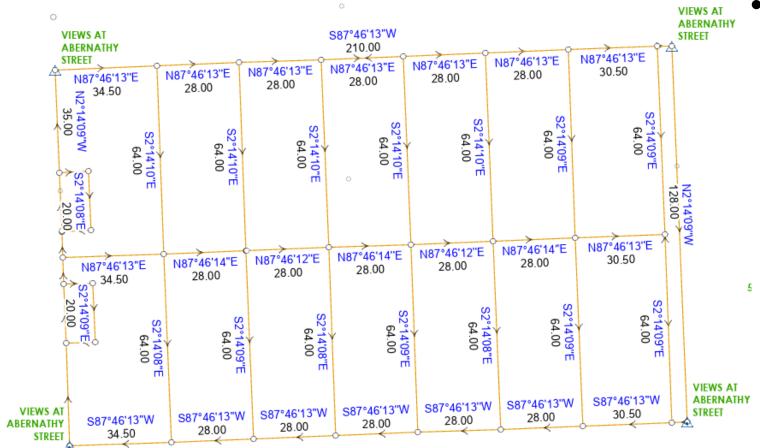
 Once the plat is sent to the **Harris County** Clerk to be recorded. The Harris Central **Appraisal** District then downloads the information.



 The GIS Specialist locates the original parcel(s) in ArcGIS Pro ©.



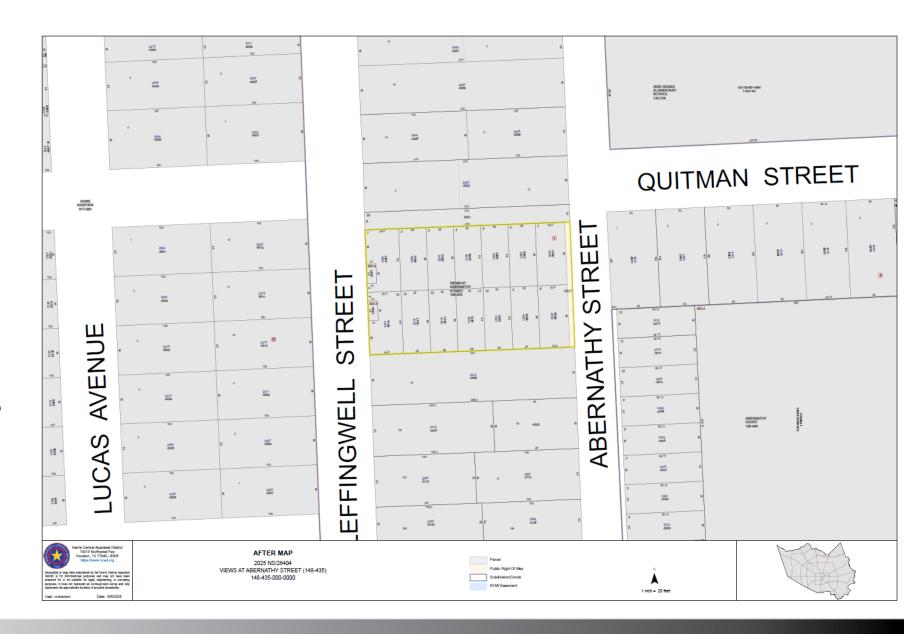




 The subdivision is moved into place using XY coordinates. Coordinate geometry is used to digitize the new subdivision from the information provided on the plat. The GIS Specialist will enter in the COGO manually by entering in each call or by CAD or DWG file which is faster.



• The GIS **Specialist** adds the attributes of the subdivision. The subdivision is then created and will be appraised.





#### Brainstorming!

- HCAD is currently operating off of pdf data from the County Clerk.
- The digital data to create the recorded documents is unavailable to the HCAD Specialists who modify the Parcel Database.
- Access would reduce the time required to update the Parcel Database.
- An ideal world would involve a final digital copy passed through to HCAD at the time of recordation.



#### The Path Forward

- HCAD is interested in capturing digital data to improve workflow efficiencies
- Reduced time for Parcel Maintenance results in timely data updates
- The mechanism for this has yet to be determined and we're seeking input from our fellow local platting authorities as well as the private firms creating this data.
- Low cost, ease of use and following the K.I.S.S. principal.



#### Challenges

- Barriers to efficiency:
  - Outdated Filing Requirements
  - Platting Requirements at the local level
  - Software versions compliant with ESRI Parcel Fabric
  - Varying firm technology
  - Data quality, Standardization, Spatial accuracy
  - Marginalizing increased costs of business



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