# Land Survey Index Help

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## What is the Public Land Survey System?

The United States Public Land Survey System (USPLSS) in Missouri is an extension of the system adopted by the U.S. Congress in 1785. Between 1815 and 1855, Missouri was surveyed into one mile squares called sections. Thirty-six sections in a block of land measuring six miles on each side is called a township; this created the basis for the transfer of land from the United States Government to private owners and is the basis for all land transfers and ownership in the state today.

## How are sections marked?

The sections were originally marked with wood posts, rocks or mounds of earth. This record of the original survey called the General Land Office (GLO) survey is found in the original field notes and plats. Today, new permanent monuments are placed at the section and ¼ section corners (halfway between section corners). These monuments are aluminum pipes, iron rods, concrete markers or iron pipes with caps stamped to identify the corner. The Missouri Department of Agriculture, county surveyors, and private surveyors assist in setting some of these monuments. The corner also has a witness post and sign set near the corner marker to identify the corner.

## Index Grid including Corner and Section Line numbering

The Land Survey Index User Guide shows the proper positioning of sections in a township, corner locations, and section line numbers as referred to in the Land Survey Index. A fractional section breakdown is also on this handout.
For a PDF copy of the Index Grid see Help File

## How do I search for records by township, range, direction and section?

Select search for records by Township, Range, and Direction

    A. Townships-Missouri ranges from 16 north to 67 north
    B. Ranges-Missouri ranges are from 18 east to 43 west
    C. Direction-east and west of the Fifth Principal Meridian

## How do I search for General Land Office (GLO) notes?

General Land Office (GLO) Notes can be located by finding the line number on the Land Survey Index User Guide and the Section Line (Sec Ln) column in the Land Survey Index.
Tips for finding GLO Notes
For a PDF copy of the GLO Notes Tips see Help File
For a PDF copy of the Index Grid see Help File

## How do I search for subdivisions?

The Subdivision search may be used when searching for any document which has a name. Examples are:
- The actual name of the Subdivision or Condominium
- A town, city or village
- Some additional things which can be searched by name include State Parks, Cemeteries, Rivers or Roads

If you have trouble finding a requested document, try using a partial name. Examples of this are:
- Typing the first few letters of a subdivision, versus the entire name

It is helpful to select the county name from "county" dropdown box, or all subdivisions in state will pop up.
Keep in mind that subdivisions are indexed by last name.
- Example: If searching for Edwin Murphy's Subdivision, type: Murphys Edwin Sub.
- Block & Lot columns can be located on subdivision index.

    For a PDF copy of the Subdivision Tips see Help File

## What are the column headings on the report?
Information available from the report is:

| | |
|---|---|
| Twp | Township number North of the baseline |
| Rng | Range line number |
| Dir | Range direction West or East of Fifth Principal Meridian |
| Sec | Section number in the township |
| Fract | Fractional section number |
| Sec Ln | Section Line number (Field Notes) |
| U. S. Survey | U. S. Survey number |
| Surveyor | Name or registration number |
| Doc Date | Surveyors signature date |
| Root Ref | Location of the document in county records |
| Subdivision | Name of a subdivision, city, town, cemetery; anything with a name |
| Loc Org | Location original document is stored |
| Document Name | Name of the document as found in the Land Survey Index |
| Add | Check this box to add to shopping cart |
| Report Error | Red button to submit error to Land Survey Program |

## County Fips Code and Location of Original Documents
The County Fips Code and Location of Original Documents (LOD) refer to the place the document originated.
For a PDF copy of Fips Code and LOD chart see Help File

## Tips for Researching using the Land Survey Index
Click here for a few tips to help get the most out of research.
For a PDF copy of General Tips for Researching the LSI see Help File

## How can I purchase a copy of the search results?
Ordering from the LSI is easy. Use the online search or review the LSI/CMI Ordering & Payment Tutorial.
Be sure to download your documents before leaving the LSI or CMI or page.
For a PDF copy of instructions see Help File

# FAQ

- ➢ How do I find the next/continuation of a page of a document if it is not one of the documents purchased?
  - o *Refer to General Tips for Researching the LSI. For a PDF copy of General Tips for Researching the LSI see Help File*
- ➢ What happens if I have an issue with an order?
  - o *Email us at [landsurv@mda.mo.gov](mailto:landsurv@mda.mo.gov) or call Land Survey at (573)368-2315 with the ORDER NUMBER and DOCUMENT NAME*
- ➢ How quickly must documents be downloaded after purchase?
  - o *Documents need to be downloaded BEFORE leaving the web page*
- ➢ Can I save documents once purchased and downloaded?
  - o *Yes, documents can be saved after purchase*
- ➢ Is there a help file/guide I can access online?
  - o *Yes, it is located at the top of the page under the tab "HELP"*
- ➢ What happens if I am unable to find a document?
  - o *There is a "tips page" located in the "HELP" file. If additional assistance is needed please contact our office at [landsurv@mda.mo.gov](mailto:landsurv@mda.mo.gov) or (573)368-2315*
- ➢ Are all surveys in your database?
  - o *No, we have most of the surveys that have been recorded but there are many we do not have*
  - o *Currently, we have approximately 1.4 million documents in our system and are adding approximately 10,000 surveys per year*