Read Me File

Relatable Files

The other two non-zip files within this directory are the **Data Dictionary** & **Orion Data File Diagram**. These relatable files are here to help users understand the ORION data files better.

- The Data Dictionary will help users navigate what fields are in which tables and what they are named.
- The Orion Data File Diagram visually shows how the tables joins/relates to one another and by which field.
- The Cadastral Flood Metadata is a document that describes important information about the data.

Other Zip Files

There are four zip files within this county directory.

- The **{countyname}_GDB.zip** contains the county parcels within a file geodatabase.
- The **{countyname}_ORION_Data_GDB.zip** contains the ORION data tables. within a file geodatabase. These tables were exported from the county SQL database.
- The **{countyname}_ORION_Data_SQLDatabase.zip** contains
- The **{countyname}_SHP.zip** contains the county parcels as a shapefile.

*Note that the **{county_name}** is referring to the county name in which you are downloading data for.*

Tips on Joining the County ORION Data

1. For users using the SQL Databases, please refer to the documentation on the Montana State Library FTP.
2. For users using the ORION data tables within a file geodatabase to join to the county parcels, there are a few things you should be aware of.
   - There are 35 tables within the ORION databases.
   - Each table contains information from a total of three tax years (the current tax year, and two previous tax years).
     - Apply a filter to only join the current tax year's records.
   - Many of the tables have a few dozen fields each (i.e. the 'Res' table contains 92 fields), depending on the subject matter.
   - Be specific in what data you'd like to join to and choose to either hide or eliminate unnecessary fields.
   - In some cases, you'll notice a one-to-many relationship on certain parcels exist, particularly in urban and suburban communities (i.e. two apartment buildings will show as two separate ORION records within the data when joining to a single parcel).
   - If you are looking for other buildings and yard improvements (aka outbuildings) associated with the property, this data can be found within the '**oby**' table
   - If you are looking for other features associated with the property, this data can be found within the '**Combof**' table.
   - Condos and building improvement parcels (such as airport hangers, a restaurant building owned by a separate owner, etc. are not mapped in the parcels data. The best way to associate these records to a mappable parcel is to join the '**LinkedProperty**' in order to obtain the necessary joining field, LinkedProperty. A fair warning though, the data format for this field has the "true geocode" that is split out by dashes (i.e. 07-4186-15-2-05-01-8001) and will not join without doing some sort of pre-processing. I'd recommend running either an arcade or python expression against this field to remove the dashes before joining table.
   - If there are attribute values that are not clear of the meaning, DOR publishes this data within their valuation manuals that are available here.