TNTatlas

Using GPS with Nebraska Land Viewer Atlas

The Nebraska Land Viewer Atlas 2nd Edition can accept and show locations from a GPS device as an aid to navigation when the Atlas is used on a portable computer in the field. The TNTatlas view window marks the current GPS location with a colored marker symbol of your choice. The position of this marker is automatically updated as the GPS position changes, and the view can also automatically pan to keep the GPS position visible. When the Atlas view is zoomed in to reveal the color aerial imagery that shows ground features as small as 3 feet, the GPS marker location can be easily related to nearby landmarks that are visible in the image on your computer screen and on the ground.

Additional valuable map reference information is provided by the DataTip, which pops up automatically when you pause the mouse cursor over the image. The DataTip lists the county, township, and section for the cursor location, among other information.

The atlas can also open a log file of saved GPS waypoints and “play back” the saved positions for review of field locations back in the office.

If Auto-Scroll is off and the GPS location is outside of the current view, an arrow marker points in the direction of the GPS location. You can then use the scroll bars on the TNTatlas window to move the viewing area horizontally and vertically in that direction to locate the GPS marker.

The Add Device selection on the GPS menu opens the GPS Device Settings window so you can select the GPS port and data protocol. Most GPS devices can generate output positions using the NMEA 0183 protocol.

TNTatlas supports GPS input via your computer’s serial or parallel port. To use a GPS device with a USB connection, use a USB to serial (RS-232) adapter to connect the GPS cable to your computer’s serial port.