Survey Services

The City Surveyor supervises all survey services performed by the City of Grand Junction.

Parcels in the Grand Valley were originally laid out as part of the Public Land Survey System. Time was of the essence, as competing interests vied to attract a railroad system. By establishing a point of origin at what is now 28 Road and G Road—a meridian specific to the Grand Valley known as the Ute meridian, and utilizing an obscure technique known as the three-mile method—surveyors created the townships that comprise a large part of today's Grand Valley**.**

Once the townships were established, one section was laid out to comprise a plat of Grand Junction. Streets, lots, and blocks were dedicated and survey monuments were set by the original surveyors at each street intersection to control the location of the street right-of-way and the lot and block corners. Over the years, of course, this original square mile of Grand Junction has, by annexation, grown to the size it is today with each annexed subdivision potentially containing established control monuments.

One function of City Surveying is to maintain ties and positions of all *City survey monuments* that have been set by the original surveyor of a subdivision. As the City grows, the challenge is to identify survey monuments that may exist in these areas. Also, *vertical benchmarks* are established and maintained on points throughout the City. These benchmarks are currently set to *NAVD 88/92*, a datum established by the National Geodetic Survey.

City Surveying also performs field work for design of City capital improvement projects and database management involved in mapping and control for the City's Geographic Information System. This work is tied to a horizontal control network that was established in the early 1990's in conjunction with and under the auspices of Mesa County. This control network is densified in the general area of the City limits. This control system is described and can be viewed in Mesa County's Geographic Information System.