

January 3, 2019



On **December 4**, a significant number of new fields and selections were successfully added to the Paragon MLS system database. This followed a series of training sessions held at the OABR Ed Center aimed at office personnel responsible for MLS data input. If you missed the training or just want to know more, watch the video at: <https://youtu.be/aemmhqkn3ra>.

It's likely you noticed the new fields now available, however, beginning on January 7, it will be mandatory that you complete all "required" fields any time listing data is input or updated in the system. This means an update to any listing (such as a price change, date extension, or any other data change) will now trigger the new required fields to be updated before the listing can be saved or updated.

Data input forms have also been updated (check the date at the bottom of the form). There are also abbreviated summary forms with the new required fields only. Go to: www.OmahaREALTORS.com/RegionalMLS.

Improved county records! In addition to the new fields, the MLS system now features seven additional counties that were added to the existing 12 counties already integrated with the Paragon MLS system via the CRS Data public records tools. More info at: www.omaharealtors.com/crs-data. If you're not familiar with the CRS Data Tools in the Paragon MLS system, look for the black and gold Action Icons on the search-results screen.

MLS Area Maps. As communicated earlier, MLS Area Maps will no longer be present in the MLS after **January 7**. This change will affect users who are used to relying on this legacy system using Areas and Sub-Areas, however, the Google mapping feature now built into the Paragon system will allow users to take advantage of new shape-drawing tools and will allow agents to save their most popular MLS area map searches. It is important that users take time to replace Area and Sub-Area with Google Map shapes in their Saved Searches to ensure that clients continue to receive new matches after January 7. Overall, the user-response to the enhancements has been positive, recognizing the end-result will be better for all MLS users once the listing data from the Lincoln and Omaha areas are combined to form one regional market.

Timeline for conversion. We expect to see the consolidated data from both the Lincoln and Omaha areas in Paragon beginning on **February 25**. At that time agents from the Lincoln MLS will be operating in parallel. This means Lincoln area users will continue to enter listing data into their existing system, however, the listing data will be automatically pushed into the Paragon system at the same time. Lincoln's existing system will continue to operate as normal, but all users will have access to listing information from both markets in the Paragon MLS system.

During this time, data accuracy or mapping issues will be identified and resolved, and the consolidation team will check for flaws in the system operation. During the month of March there will be on-site training in Lincoln for all users new to the Paragon system. This training will include lessons using the CRS Data public records and tax tools.

On **March 22**, the final cutover process will begin. At that point, listing changes and new listing entry will be blocked on Lincoln's existing system until data entry is unlocked for the Lincoln area listings on the Paragon MLS system on **March 25**. On that day, the final cutover will conclude and the Great Plains Regional MLS system will be operational with all listings from both markets. All listing input and listing changes will then be made only in the Paragon system.

Please note: all dates are subject to change! The formation of the Regional MLS resulted in the creation of a new entity: Great Plains Regional MLS, LLC., a jointly-owned venture of the Lincoln and Omaha area MLSes.

This new operation will require a reauthorization of ACH payments from all users, so expect an email requesting you to reauthorize your ACH auto-payment via an automated system. Watch for more information coming soon! The reauthorization will need to be completed before the final cutover to avoid an interruption of service. The MLS fees were set by the Regional Board of Directors at \$30 per month for agent-subscribers; \$71 per month for broker-participants. The first ACH payment for the Regional MLS is expected to process April 1 (subject to change).

Stay current with all the MLS changes and new information that impacts your business. Think you missed something? Go to: www.OmahaREALTORS.com/RegionalMLS.