

How to Start a GIS in a Small Community

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Overview

- GAASC – Geospatial Administrators Association of South Carolina
 - Background
 - Mission
- How to Start a GIS in a Small Community
- Future Plans




GAASC

- Founded in 2006 by a small group of County and City GIS Managers.
- Mission: To establish a network and forum of management professionals from both the GIS and IT disciplines to share knowledge, experience, and resources, as well as collaborate on common issues, problems, and needs.
- Members include: County, City, Water Utility, and Sustaining Members.
- Meet twice a year: Spring & Fall
- Discuss common issues, technology, develop projects, & solve.




How to Start a GIS in a Small Community

- Assumption based on No GIS
- We want GIS..but how do we get started?
- Identify a need:
 - There is interest or need has formed for GIS.
 - Support a project or service need.
 - Do we need to have a needs assessment prepared
 - Vendor or Internal




How to Start a GIS in a Small Community

- Identify Someone or Staff
- Is someone in your organization already using GIS?
 - Some departments do not always communicate
 - Is there a county to provide GIS services?
 - Is there a COG providing GIS services?



How to Start a GIS in a Small Community

- Identify a "Quick Win"
 - Look beyond "Making Maps".
 - Always keep in mind its ultimate potential to improve decision making
 - Improve performance of organization
 - Use a small project
 - Fire Hydrants
 - Cemetery
 - Parks Application
 - Signs



How to Start a GIS in a Small Community

- Determine an Implementation Plan
 - Meet with Department Heads
 - Talk with GIS peers (County, City, or Organizations)
 - GIS Vendors (i.e. BCS, ESRI)




How to Start a GIS in a Small Community

- Gain Sponsorship
 - Administration
 - Managers
 - Department Heads
 - End user (makes daily job easier)




How to Start a GIS in a Small Community

- Determine a basic budget
 - Hardware – needs to be good equipment
 - Software *(note: Electronically Delivered = no sales tax(exempt))*
 - Data
 - Training
 - Demo\Eval license
 - Web versions as starting point?




How to Start a GIS in a Small Community

- Determine Funding
 - Grants
 - City of North Augusta – Started in planning dept. via grant 1994-1995 included (hardware/software/data/training)
 - Internal Funding (budget created)
 - Multi – departmental effort



How to Start a GIS in a Small Community

- Acquire Assets
 - Hardware – PCs, GPS, Tablets, etc...
 - Software
 - Data
 - Training



How to Start a GIS in a Small Community

- Start and Complete your Project
 - Follow-up with your Sponsors for the project
- Future
 - Develop a long range plan for GIS
 - Ideas or Departments:
 - Public Safety: CAD/Dispatch, Investigations, Substation placement – to help with ISO rating and response times.
 - Utilities: Asset Management(Water/Waste Water/ Storm)
 - Planning: Zoning, Subdivisions, Traffic Evaluations/Impacts
 - Parks & Rec: Parks, Trails
 - Property Maintenance: Irrigation Systems, Turf/Tree Management.



How to Start a GIS in a Small Community

- Thank you!
- GAASC
- Upcoming Spring Meeting – Columbia, SC
 - Website – <http://gaa-sc.org>
 - Email Board – board@gaa-sc.org
- Questions?