

GIS: Providing Citywide Visibility City of Gillette, Wyoming



The City of Gillette, Wyoming is no stranger to GIS. The City has been utilizing GIS since the early 1990s, when a set of digital orthophotography (aerial photography) was acquired. Since then, the City has made great strides in its GIS, having developed a variety of geospatial data, hired a dedicated GIS staff, and standardized various types of GIS software. As part of its proactive approach to GIS, the City contracted GTG in 2004 to develop a GIS implementation plan that would provide a strategic plan of action for the following three years.

Working with the City, GTG quickly identified the City's short and long term priorities. One of the critical elements that needed to be assessed was the City's organizational structure. The City's stakeholders, all of whom were interviewed during the needs assessment phase of the project, identified the need for a new position that would serve as a GIS manager or coordinator. Realizing that this position is critical for the success of a GIS initiative, GTG evaluated the City's options and provided recommendations on changes to the City's GIS organizational structure. One of the key facets of this project was the City's expedience with feedback on GTG's recommendations. As a result, GTG was able to provide a recommendation that could be formally reviewed prior to completion of the project as a whole.



LGweb

The next priority identified during the project was the need for an application that would provide citywide visibility of the value of GIS and its complementary technologies. Identifying the City's reliance on HTE as an important technology that could be leveraged in the City's GIS, GTG facilitated the implementation of LGweb, an Intranet GIS browser, which would allow a variety of City staff to view the City's GIS data in conjunction with spatially enabled HTE data. The City seized this opportunity and began a pilot project to test the integration of HTE data with its GIS. The end product was an application that has received visibility and merit at all levels of the organization. As with the organizational structure recommendation, the City proactively pursued its implementation, configuration, and use of LGweb.

The City's GIS staff served as an incredible source of information and support during the project; this support served to improve the needs assessment, evaluation, and recommendation phases of the project. Momentum began to build as the project progressed, and the City and GTG continued collaboration on development of a comprehensive plan that integrated a common vision and objectives. In the end, GTG produced an implementation plan that will serve to expand GIS in an organization with an existing history of GIS success.

Since delivery of the implementation plan, GTG has continued to build on its relationship with the City. GTG has visited and communicated with City staff to see how the GIS implementation is progressing. Like many other GTG clients, the City has begun to execute on many of the action items prioritized in the plan. The pilot implementation of LGweb was successful, and the City has now begun to deploy the application as an enterprise-wide solution. Other endeavors include the procurement of an Internet GIS data browser as well as additional HTE mapping products provided by LG.

The City of Gillette's effective use of GIS showcases the importance and value of a strategic plan of action.

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