

GIS Technology in the Hands of the Community Flagler County, Florida



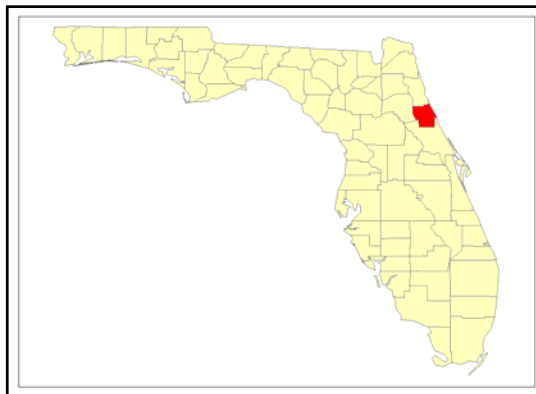
For Henry Flagler, widely considered one of the most important developers in American history, Florida was all about the possibilities.

It's been more than 125 years since Flagler discovered the sunshine state on a winter vacation, but the passion for improvement and progress and the spirit of innovation is alive and well in the county named for him.

Today, Flagler County is still home to some of most charming, unspoiled towns and beaches in America, and officials are working hard to preserve the natural beauty of the county while accommodating the growth and progress Henry Flagler started a century ago.

To help manage growth and the other complex issues they are facing, Flagler County officials found Geographic Technologies Group's GIS solutions are the ideal tools.

"Just keeping up with the new subdivisions going in is a huge challenge for us," said Todd Largacci, the GIS supervisor in the county property appraiser's office. "The property here is very expensive, and the people moving in are affluent and sophisticated. They expect us to have the latest technology and with ACSGeoView™ and ACSGeoTouch™, we do."



ACSGeoView and ACSGeoTouch are the products of a strategic alliance between Geographic Technologies Group and ACS, a leading provider of software solutions for local governments. GTG's GIS software seamlessly integrates with ACS data.

ACSGeoTouch enables citizens to view, analyze and map spatially related GIS information. It places GIS technology in the hands of the community, reducing the demands on office staff. Walk-in customers get all the information they need at the touch of a button, allowing government departments to leverage their investment in GIS technologies.

ACSGeoTouch™ can be configured to support many functions, including parcel lookup and reporting by owner, address, subdivision and/or streets; information on property values and ownership, voting, fire and school districts, flood zones, land use and zoning, building and planning, department directories and contracts, elected officials, legal notices and calendars.

Citizens can even print their own maps.

"This is a new service for us, but I know it will be instantly accepted by the public and the staff. People do so many things with touchscreens now—they get cash from automatic teller machines, check in for flights, buy movie tickets—we're all so familiar with the technology that we practically expect it," Largacci said.

Making the touchscreens a possibility, and helping manage the day-to-day tasks of running the County's infrastructure, is ACSGeoView a state-of-the-art desktop Geographic Information System (GIS) application designed to leverage and distribute GIS and related database information.

Based on Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) technology, ACSGeoView gives local government staff a powerful tool for spatial and tabular query, analysis, and report production.

ACSGeoView lets users browse, query, and analyze GIS and database information.

Collecting and verifying the data that power the GIS applications is a process that began in Flagler County 12 years ago.

“We started the field work in 1996. We learned GIS on the fly and built most of our layers in house. The original building parcels were all in InfoCAD. Within the next year, we’ll have all of the parcel data in,” Largacci said. “We have a vision of what GIS can do and we are pushing for its use county-wide. Right now I get four or five calls a day from other departments wanting data, so I know the demand is there.”

Once the data collection project is finished, Largacci hopes to interest other departments in the possibilities offered by cutting edge GIS technology.

“It’s really exciting to think about all the ways we can do our jobs better and serve our citizens more effectively. I can’t wait to get the Sheriff interested in GIS. The possibilities for public safety are unlimited.”

Geographic Technologies Group

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Local Government*

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