Geospatial Services Strategic Vision

Gallatin County Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

1st Draft 6/15/2023
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Our geospatial services strategic vision for Gallatin County GIS is to be a trusted and innovative leader in geospatial information management, providing exceptional services that empower decision-making, enhance community engagement, improve departmental operations, and support sustainable development. This strategic vision is supplemented by objectives that, when pursued, will help realize this vision.

Geospatial Excellence

We strive for geospatial excellence by maintaining accurate and up-to-date geospatial data, leveraging advanced technologies, and adhering to industry best practices. Our commitment to data quality and integrity ensures that decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public have access to reliable and comprehensive geospatial information.

Objectives

1. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current GIS office structure, workflows, and technologies to identify areas for improvement and optimization.
2. Review and update existing GIS policies, standards, and procedures to ensure alignment with industry best practices and evolving technological advancements.
3. Develop a strategic implementation plan for the revision of the GIS office, outlining clear timelines, resource requirements, and performance metrics.
4. Ensure the accuracy and currency of spatial data by implementing robust data management and quality control measures.
5. Continuously evaluate and adopt emerging geospatial technologies and standards to improve data collection, analysis, and dissemination processes.
6. Evaluate and optimize data collection, verification, and maintenance processes to ensure data integrity, accuracy, and accessibility.

Collaborative Partnerships

We foster collaborative partnerships with other county departments, local agencies, community organizations, and the public. By working together, we leverage collective knowledge, resources, and expertise to address complex spatial challenges, promote data sharing, and deliver innovative solutions that benefit the entire community.

Objectives

1. Enhance collaboration and communication between the GIS office and other county departments, fostering a more integrated and coordinated approach to geospatial data management and analysis.
2. Enhance data sharing and interoperability by implementing standardized data formats, metadata standards, and data dissemination platforms.

3. Implement standardized data exchange protocols and interoperability frameworks to facilitate seamless data sharing and integration between different county departments, municipalities, and agencies, eliminating redundant data collection and improving data accuracy.
4. Engage with stakeholders, including county leadership, department heads, and end-users, to gather feedback and insights on the existing GIS office and identify specific areas that require improvement or adjustment.
5. Establish and foster strong partnerships with county departments, municipalities, local agencies, and community organizations to facilitate data sharing and collaborative geospatial projects.
6. Actively participate in regional and state-level geospatial initiatives and forums to exchange knowledge, share resources, and contribute to the broader geospatial community.
7. Enhance the accessibility and usability of geospatial data and tools for county departments and agencies, enabling them to easily access, visualize, and analyze spatial information to support their day-to-day operations and strategic planning.
8. Provide training, technical support, and documentation to county departments and agencies, empowering their staff to effectively utilize GIS resources, resulting in more efficient data management, analysis, and reporting.

Empowering Decision-Making

We empower decision-makers at all levels by providing timely and insightful geospatial analysis, visualization, and tools. Our goal is to enable evidence-based decision-making, enhance policy development, and support effective resource allocation across various county departments and initiatives.

Objectives

1. Develop and provide user-friendly geospatial tools, applications, and dashboards that support decision-makers in accessing, visualizing, and analyzing spatial data relevant to their respective areas of responsibility.
2. Collaborate closely with county departments and agencies to identify their specific needs and requirements for geospatial data and analysis and develop tailored GIS solutions that optimize their workflows and decision-making processes.
3. Develop interactive dashboards and reporting tools that leverage GIS capabilities to provide real-time, data-driven insights to county departments and agencies, enabling them to make informed decisions and respond more effectively to emerging challenges.
4. Offer training and workshops to county staff and stakeholders on how to effectively utilize geospatial information for decision-making, planning, and policy development.
5. Promote open data standards and formats to facilitate data interoperability and compatibility, enabling the public to integrate geospatial information into their own applications, research projects, or decision-making processes.

Community Engagement and Education

We actively engage with the community to increase geospatial literacy, promote understanding of GIS capabilities, and encourage public participation. Through workshops, outreach programs, and user-friendly mapping applications, we ensure that residents, businesses, and community organizations can access and utilize geospatial information to make informed decisions and actively contribute to the county's development.

Objectives

1. Engage with the community through public outreach programs, workshops, and events to promote geospatial literacy and increase awareness of the benefits and applications of GIS in everyday life.
2. Develop user-friendly online mapping applications and platforms that empower residents to access and interact with geospatial information, fostering community participation and collaboration.
3. Enhance the transparency and openness of the GIS Office by proactively sharing geospatial data, maps, and analysis results with the public, fostering a culture of information sharing and civic engagement.
4. Incorporate public feedback and suggestions in the development and enhancement of GIS tools, applications, and data access mechanisms, ensuring that they are aligned with the needs and preferences of the community.
5. Adhere to data sharing policies, privacy regulations, and security measures to protect sensitive information while maximizing public access to non-sensitive geospatial datasets and analysis results.
6. Establish clear guidelines and procedures for the public to request specific geospatial data, custom maps, or analysis services, ensuring that public access requests are handled efficiently and in a timely manner.

Innovation and Technology

We embrace emerging technologies and seek innovative solutions to meet the evolving needs of Gallatin County. By continuously exploring new tools, methodologies, and data sources, we enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of GIS services, streamline workflows, and improve decision support capabilities.

Objectives

1. Conduct research and explore emerging geospatial technologies, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, and remote sensing, to enhance GIS capabilities and expand the range of services provided.
2. Regularly assess the GIS infrastructure and make necessary investments to ensure the office is equipped with the latest hardware, software, and data storage solutions that support efficient geospatial data management and analysis.

3. Streamline and automate existing workflows within county departments and agencies by integrating GIS technologies and tools, reducing manual processes, and increasing operational efficiency.

Resilience and Public Safety

We play a critical role in building the county's resilience and enhancing public safety capabilities. By integrating geospatial data with real-time information, we support effective emergency response, disaster planning, hazard mitigation, and risk assessment. Our aim is to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, protect critical infrastructure, and minimize the impact of natural and human-made disasters.

Objectives

1. Collaborate with public safety agencies to develop and maintain geospatial tools and datasets that support emergency preparedness, response planning, and recovery efforts.
2. Conduct spatial analysis to identify areas of high vulnerability and develop risk assessment models to guide decision-making related to hazard mitigation and emergency response planning.

Sustainable Development and Environmental Stewardship

We prioritize sustainable development and environmental stewardship in our geospatial practices. By mapping and analyzing natural resources, conservation areas, and land use patterns, we contribute to informed land management decisions, support responsible growth, and preserve the unique natural beauty of Gallatin County for future generations.

Objectives

1. Integrate GIS into land use planning processes to support sustainable growth, conservation efforts, and the protection of critical natural resources.
2. Develop geospatial tools and models to assess and monitor the impact of development on the environment, enabling informed decision-making that balances economic growth with environmental stewardship.

Professional Development and Expertise

We invest in the professional development of our staff, fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation. Our team stays at the forefront of GIS technologies, methodologies, and industry trends, ensuring that we deliver high-quality services and remain trusted advisors to the county and its stakeholders.

Objectives

1. Invest in professional development opportunities and training programs to enhance the skills and capabilities of GIS staff, ensuring they are equipped to effectively operate within an office in transition.
2. Provide ongoing training opportunities and professional development programs for GIS staff to enhance their technical skills, knowledge of industry best practices, and proficiency in emerging technologies.
3. Promote a culture of innovation, creativity, and continuous learning within the GIS office, encouraging staff to explore new technologies, methodologies, and approaches to geospatial analysis and data management.
4. Foster a culture of knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation within the GIS Office to encourage continuous improvement and ensure the office remains a center of expertise for geospatial information management.

By embracing this strategic vision, the Gallatin County GIS Division will become a catalyst for informed decision-making, community engagement, and departmental support, making Gallatin County a model for effective geospatial information management and innovation.