April 1999

NSDI Community Demonstration Projects

What do Dane County Wisconsin and the Tijuana River Watershed have in common? People there are concerned about rapid population growth and its impact on the environment. These problems are common in communities throughout the United States. The National Partnership for Reinventing Government and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency are sponsoring demonstration projects in six areas of the country to support the use of geographic data for decision making. The Gallatin County, Montana; Tillamook County, Oregon; Baltimore Police Department, Maryland; Susquehanna-Lackawanna River partnership; Dane County, Wisconsin; and the Tijuana River Watershed projects will demonstrate how Federal agencies, working in close collaboration with local partnerships can provide communities with the geographic information necessary to solve a range of problems.

These projects will be coordinated by the Federal Geographic Data Committee and will build on the idea of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The NSDI, an effort of many organizations, is the linkage of technology, policies, standards, and resources necessary to improve the use of geographic data.

The demonstration projects will help communities help themselves become more livable and more economically competitive. The wide dissemination of useful geographic information is aimed to put more decision-making power into the hands of families, communities and regions, giving them more freedom and flexibility. Geographic technologies will help these communities address sustainable development and a range of other issues. The projects will serve as models for other communities around the country.

The following communities were selected for this demonstration effort:

In Dane County, Wisconsin, the project will create a citizen-based, online, smart growth planning process to protect farmland and open space and address environmental concerns, while sustaining continued growth.

Gallatin County, Montana, just north of Yellowstone National Park, contains extensive areas of public lands, and is experiencing rapid population growth. This community's project will develop tools for the county government to access integrated federal, state, and local information, consider population impacts, and understand

FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA COMMITTEE
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 590 NATIONAL CENTER
RESTON, VIRGINIA 20192
PHONE: 703-648-5514
FAX: 703-648-5755
HTTP://WWW.FGDC.GOV E-MAIL: GDC@USGS.GOV

alternatives for growth, and the effects of their decisions on the community.

In Tillamook County, Oregon, citizens and local, state, and federal government agencies will be able to monitor and report progress toward common goals for water quality, flood mitigation, and fish habitat restoration through a public/private partnership by creating online web-based tools for reporting and accountability.

The Susquehanna-Lackawanna River partnership in central and northeastern Pennsylvania will provide an integrated regional GIS to help local communities support an environmental master plan, flood mitigation, and performance monitoring for one of the American Heritage Rivers.

The Tijuana River Watershed is one of the most populous and environmentally stressed areas along the U.S. and Mexico border. With new tools and integrated data, this local, state, federal, and international partnership will demonstrate an online decision-support capability to improve water quality and availability and to promote better health.

The Baltimore Maryland City Police Department will apply GIS tools and integrated data to support the development of CrimeStac, a comprehensive digital mapping center to track crime and related trends (e.g., housing, public health), creating a world-class model for crime reduction information.

The Community Demonstration Projects will provide a real-world opportunity to explore the value of the NSDI in solving community problems. Each project will also result in a clearinghouse of spatial data for each community linked to the National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information about the Community Demonstration Projects can be obtained at the World Wide Web site: http://www.fgdc.gov/. Related publications can be obtained from the Federal Geographic Data Committee.