

GIS and Your Parks

Bernadette de Leon explained how to cost effectively connect a parks system to people using GIS technology. She discussed the difference between using raster data and vector data when mapping an area. Although there is high cost software that can be purchased to link your parks via GIS there are also many free services on the internet that will do much of the same things for you. The Canadians were the first ones to develop and use a GIS system and now it is becoming increasingly popular across many areas. GIS is a little thing that can make a big difference in a park system.

Geographic information systems are a method to visualize, manipulate, analyze and display spatial data of land using computer software that is easily accessible and inexpensive. First used by geologists, GIS has been gaining a foothold in the field of parks and recreation in areas of planning and selection. Layers of information are displayed through two types of data: raster and vector. Raster data is arranged in a pixilated fashion known as grids or cells, while vector data is used in scaling.

This session served as a helpful guide in location free software and tutorials in the Internet.

Some helpful websites:

- <http://www.freeGIS.org/>
- <http://grass.itc.it/>
- <http://www.ncgia.ucsb.edu/cctp//csiss.org>



Geographic Information System (GIS) and Social Networking Technologies on a Park Budget: Free and Inexpensive Technology to Map, Monitor and Market Your Site

If you have internet access, you have a way of putting yourself on the digital map and sharing your park facilities with the world. The web has brought the globe to our fingertips and made a digital revolution possible. Are you taking advantage of all the freely-available technology that will put you on the map? As a global citizen, you can share text, images and videos by publishing to websites such as Google Maps. In addition to sharing information, you can measure; produce maps for publications; and (to a certain degree) monitor your facilities. Demographic information for planning and benchmarking against similar communities throughout the US is only a few mouse clicks away. Finally, you can convert addresses to points on a map so that you can pinpoint your visitors and look for trends as well as where to market. Feel the wind in your hair as we surf the WORLD-WIDE web!

Bernadette de Leon
HP 190B, Indiana University
1025 E. 7th Street
Bloomington, IN
812-855-1562
deleon@indiana.edu