



# GIS Consortium

BUILDING SMARTER COMMUNITIES

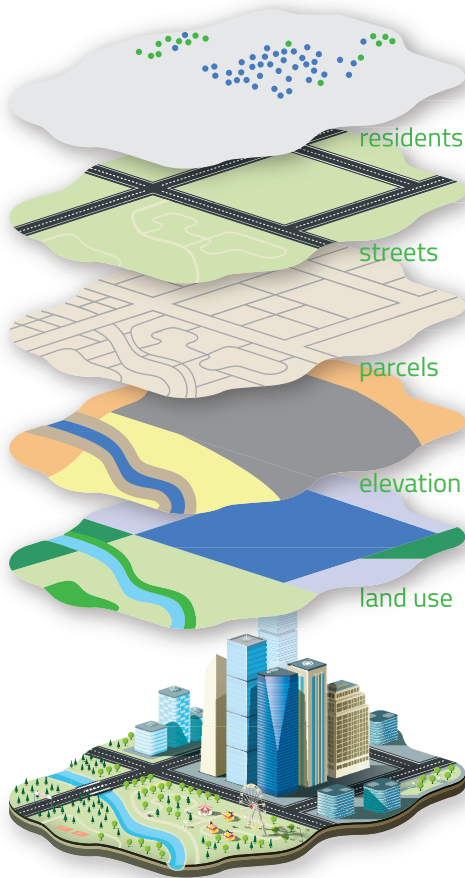


# GIS Consortium Overview

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is an integral tool for cities. It enables efficient and effective planning across all city departments, improves the delivery of services, and can help engage and empower citizens.

By leveraging the collective buying power of its members and partnering with GIS consultants at FLO Analytics, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) GIS Consortium provides affordable access to GIS expertise and resources, so you can implement the right GIS solution for your community.





# The Benefits of GIS

You can use GIS to improve the operation of utility networks, analyze the value of land and associated improvements, maintain right-of-way assets, develop and share public safety response plans, promote sustainable communities, and more.

GIS can integrate information among your city's departments, increasing communications and facilitating collaboration. Other benefits include:

- **Preserving institutional knowledge**  
*Capture your employees' knowledge before they retire*
- **Increasing efficiencies and reducing costs**  
*Streamline time-consuming tasks, using the latest technologies*
- **Improving your asset management**  
*Reduce your liability and optimize your operations and maintenance*
- **Engaging your community**  
*Improve transparency by making data interactive and accessible*



## Needs Assessment

Not sure how to implement or expand GIS in your city? A needs assessment is a great place to start. We can work with your city to capture your GIS baseline and determine your current and future functionality requirements. The result of the needs assessment is a roadmap with clear and concise recommendations detailing what you need to do in order to move forward and achieve your goals.



personnel



workflows



goals and  
objectives



spatial  
data



data  
access



software



hardware





## GIS Program Development

Spend more time focused on your work and less time trying to figure out GIS software. Whether you need a little or a lot of GIS assistance, we can help you with everything—from being an on-call resource for any of your mapping or data needs, to helping your organization develop an implementation strategy for ramping up or creating your GIS program.



## Public Works

A public works department needs GIS to effectively and efficiently manage assets. Whether you're just beginning to use GIS or are already leveraging existing asset management software, we can help your city fully implement the right technology to achieve a greater return on investment.

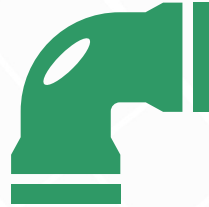




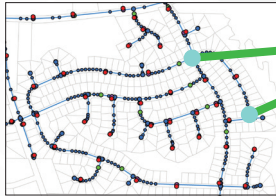
water



storm



sewer



features

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attributes



## Water, Sewer and Storm Utilities

Using our experience in asset management for sewer, stormwater, and water utilities, we can help your staff utilize GIS technology in developing inventories and collecting data; providing field staff with access to utility information or digital inspection forms; integrating systems with O&M software; or planning, coordinating, and communicating capital improvement projects.



## Land Records

Effectively managing your community's land records isn't easy. We can assist your city in implementing and streamlining processes that help you analyze land value and associated improvements, identify landowners, and delineate land-use and zoning regulations. We can also set up workflows that provide your staff with simple tools to generate mailing labels for owner and occupant notifications.



built environment



zoning and  
land use



address  
information



assessed  
values



property  
information



notify property  
owners





## Planning and Development

GIS and data analytics can help your planning and development department work more effectively, engage the community in your growth management plans, and promote business diversity. Need assistance with developing your department's GIS or a specialized analysis project? We can help with that, too.



## Public Safety

It's essential that your police and fire departments have access to the data they need to effectively allocate resources to protect human life and property in your community. GIS provides a range of tools to help your city analyze the dynamics of an incident, understand trends, develop pre-incident plans, collaborate with other agencies, and improve response activities.





## Emergency Preparedness and Management

In an emergency, you need a common operational platform to optimize response activities. With GIS technology, you can access the data you need for developing and sharing response plans, maintaining situational awareness, and improving the efficiency and accuracy of recovery efforts. GIS also provides public facing tools that inform citizens about hazards and emergency facilities in their community.



## Internal Collaboration

GIS offers a robust suite of tools, including online data viewers, to help speed up and automate routine workflows. New cloud-based tools also provide a low-cost way to deploy an online mapping platform that promotes collaboration within and across your city's departments, leading to more informed decision making.




# open data P O R T A L


[My Activity](#)

## Open Data


Welcome to our data portal. Explore the categories and featured data stories below to find maps, dashboards, charts, and other visualizations that help tell the story of Washington's cities. We update this portal regularly, so check back often.




### Data categories




Demographics




Economy




Education




Emergency Management




Environment




Finance & Taxes




Health



Infrastructure & Transport

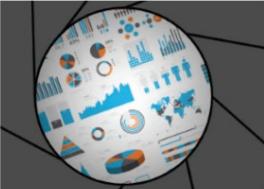


Planning & Development




Other

### Featured data stories [\(click here to see full list\)](#)



Featured data story  
Highlight your most urgent city issues here!



Featured data story  
Highlight your most urgent city issues here!



## Citizen Engagement

Citizens want to know what's happening in their community, whether that's by exploring a city map, finding a popular park, or learning about road construction. We can develop GIS-powered online mapping platforms and open data portals, so you can empower citizens to explore data and find answers, increasing your city's overall transparency.



# FAQs

## **Q: How is AWC able to offer GIS services at an affordable rate?**

A: By leveraging the collective buying power of AWC members, the GIS Consortium provides an affordable way to access the knowledge and resources needed to fully implement the right GIS solution for your community.

The GIS Consortium's flexible structure allows you to purchase just the right amount of GIS services, allowing you to reach your goals without taking on the costs associated with additional GIS staff and equipment.

## **Q: What if I don't know what kind of GIS services I need?**

A: Each GIS Consortium service tier comes with a free rapid GIS needs assessment—a quick and objective way to determine the state of GIS at your organization, identify your goals for GIS implementation, and get recommendations for moving forward.

## **Q: Where can I learn more about member rates?**

A: Visit [wacities.org](http://wacities.org) to learn about our current member rates.

## **Q: Does the GIS Consortium offer a flexible service model?**

A: The GIS Consortium doesn't offer a one-size-fits-all solution. Instead, FLO Analytics' experienced GIS analysts work with you to figure out where your organization's pain points are, and how GIS can help. The service hours that come with each membership tier are completely flexible, and can be used towards any GIS project that will help you achieve your goals.

## **Q: How do I get started?**

A: Visit [wacities.org](http://wacities.org) to download a membership agreement.



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