

Searching for Spatial Understanding in Public Service: 30 years of GIS Discovery in Local Government

Dave Murray, GISP, MENG, MURP

GIS Coordinator, City of Westminster

Lecturer, CU Denver Geography & Environmental Sciences



What are the lessons to be taken away from 30 years of local government GIS discovery? Where we have been does not determine where we are going but it certainly plants a solid foundation.

The evolution of the geospatial industry has had many twists and turns. From the nascent days of the late 1980s and early 90s to the explosion of online mobile apps we see today, it has been an exciting ride. Tracing the evolution of computing from heavy duty UNIX machines to the latest iPhone technology, those that have been in the industry for three decades have certainly kept busy with the need for spatial understanding.

It is said that 80% of all government activities have a geographic component. This has certainly been my experience as I navigated my career in local government with GIS skills and a desire to understand the world around us. From building a base map from scratch to the 24 x 7 insatiable need for location awareness, the GIS professional is ready with maps and a can-do attitude.

To succeed in the geospatial arena you need an abundance of courage, curiosity, humility and persistence. The world has many wonderful things to offer those that can keep up with the changes. This is my story.



Dave Murray is currently in his 19th year as GIS Coordinator at the City of Westminster, Colorado. He manages all of the GIS resources among a diverse group of professionals.

Prior to his position with Westminster, he was the GIS Data Administrator for the City and County of Denver's Waste Water Division. He has also held positions in GIS and Planning with the Cities of Aurora and Thornton, Colorado.

Since 1998, Dave has been an Adjunct Professor and Lecturer at the University of Colorado at Denver. Starting out under the inspired guidance of Dr. Lynn Johnson in the Civil Engineering Department he instructed introductory classes in GIS, databases and geospatial management. He currently instructs the Introduction to Free and Open Source Geospatial course in the spring. He is a true believer in the power that geospatial intelligence can bring to everyone, not just those that can afford it.

Following the seminar, a social hour (5:00pm-6:00pm) will take place at the Tivoli Tap House patio on campus to continue the discussions. Please join us!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 3:30PM-5:00PM
NORTH CLASSROOM 1539