

Abstract

Citizens as Planners: Exploring the Role of Geospatial Tools

Track: State and Local Government

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A new generation of geospatial tools is helping to empower citizens to become engaged in land-use planning. Two sets of tools show great promise in fostering citizen engagement: planning-support system software such as WhatIf?, CommunityViz, and PlaceIt, and new interactive hardware such as large, high-resolution plasma screens for data and analysis display. Engaged citizens are using them to identify and locate important land-use factors such as wetlands, environmental corridors, and aesthetic features; to request various analyses, such as identifying high-priority farmland based on location, soil quality, and urban determinants; and to allocate land for future use. These tools, and the new opportunities they provide, will be demonstrated in the three different planning applications: locating, analyzing, and allocating.

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