

Updating General Plan Maps using GIS

Purpose

Beginning in 2009, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes initiated a thorough and complete update of its city-wide General Plan, which was last updated in the 1970's. PVNet was chosen by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes to update these General Plan maps by generating GIS-based maps for map production as well as for analysis. By converting hard copy General Plan maps into soft copy, digital formats with GIS, PVNet is able to provide both city officials and community members with well organized plans for growth and development of the city as well as an easier method for maintaining and updating General Plan data for any future maps.

Method

In order to proceed with its project, PVNet needed to convert all hard copy maps into digital maps with the aid of GIS software. PVNet began by scanning hard copies of General Plan maps and using the scans as a model for digitization in GIS. By using the hard maps as models, PVNet was able to recreate and update General Plan data in a digital format. By keeping in constant contact with geologists as well as city officials, PVNet was able to make accurate updates and corrections to outdated General Plan data. City of Rancho Palos Verdes staff was required for the approval of the maps as well as for the authorization to make changes to the maps. Once the digital maps were approved by the city staff, PVNet was allowed to proceed with the creation of a final cartographic product that could be distributed to city officials and community members.

Results

With the help of PVNet staff, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes was able to successfully digitize and update the city's previously outdated General Plan. PVNet was able to completely digitize the city's General Plan and add the digital data, created during the process, into the city's database. Having General Plan data in the city database allows for easy maintenance of the data as well as easy access to the data, should it be necessary to update the data. With data readily available, it is very easy for the city to create digitized GIS-based maps in the future based on General Plan data.

