

Aug. 88

GIS Plans

If you are planning to build a GIS data base and use GIS technology in your park, the best way to anticipate and plan for your needs and requirements is by preparing a GIS plan. There are no formal guidelines for preparing this document, but here are some suggestions on what it should address:

1. What resource, maintenance, operations, or other management problems will the GIS help solve? In other words, what are the intended applications of the GIS?

2. What data, at what scales, will be needed in the GIS to address the problems cited above?

3. What data does the park already possess? What form are these data in (e.g., maps, tables, digital, etc.)? What is the scale of the maps? What text data bases exist that could be used in conjunction with the GIS?

4. What will be the project boundary for data acquisition and digitizing (i.e., what will be geographic boundary for data acquisition and digitizing)?

5. What data does the park need to acquire? How will this be done? What are sources of additional data? How much will data acquisition cost? What is the schedule for data acquisition?

6. How will the digitizing of data be done? How much will the digitizing cost? What is the schedule for digitizing?

7. What GIS software will be used?

8. What are the alternatives for running the GIS? How much will they cost? What hardware acquisition is proposed? What is the schedule for hardware acquisition?

9. Who will operate and use the GIS? Where will the system administratively reside? How much time will the park devote to using the GIS?

10. How does the creation and use of the GIS data base relate to other data management activities in the park? Is it part of a wider effort to coordinate and consolidate all data management activities throughout the park?

Circulate the draft GIS plan throughout the park--to all divisions. This will serve to bring everybody in on the process, and may minimize conflicts and misunderstandings along the way. Nobody will be surprised or suspicious of what's happening, and you may even win wider support for the project than originally anticipated.