



Information Resources Exchange Group Highlights

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

The 111th meeting of the DVRPC's Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG) was called to order at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's office by IREG Chair, Micheal Gall, from the City of Philadelphia, Parks and Recreation Department, 52 people were in attendance.

IREG is dedicated to sharing innovations and developments in information technology related in particular to geographic data, data management, geospatial technology, and spatial analysis.

Key Points

- Mark Zakutansky and Cathy Poppenwimer from the Appalachian Mountain Club presented their methodology and highlights, on how they assessed land conservation priorities for viewsheds along The Circuit Trails. Utilizing GIS they were able to generate detailed viewsheds along selected Circuit Trails, which will help advocacy groups and others, prioritize important and desirable lands adjacent to Circuit Trails that they may wish to preserve or protect.
- Christine Salvadore presented her recent research for her capstone project, analysing highway incident data to help develop a congestion management process within the DVRPC region.
- Shelby Guercio presented and demonstrated her recent capstone project, in which she built an Esri ArcGIS Online Operations Dashboard for the Philadelphia Water Department. The Dashboard provides on the fly spatial analysis with custom widget showing total green acres and other metrics for tracking stormwater infrastructure in each of the different drainage districts in the City of Philadelphia.
- Micheal Gall, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Planning, gave an in depth look into the struggles and successes that he has had with mapping Trails and Greenways in Philadelphia's park system. NextGen 911 is driving the interest to make sure that recreational facilities are mapped and have accurate addresses or locations within Philadelphia's park systems for emergency responders.

Presentations

Protecting Significant Views Along The Circuit: An Assessment of Land Conservation Priorities for Viewsheds Along The Circuit - Mark Zakutansky (Director of Conservation Policy Engagement) and Cathy Poppenwimer (Assistant Staff Scientist and GIS Analyst) from the Appalachian Mountain Club

Scenic views enhance enjoyment of The Circuit. Land development throughout the region threatens scenic areas and views, decreasing trail enjoyment and presenting challenges for conservation planners. Strategic protection of land with high scenic value near trails protects a quality trail experience and conserves significant resources. This session describes a visual assessment study of The Circuit, including: the methodology used to evaluate land conservation priorities in The Circuit's suburban and rural viewsheds; visual assessment analysis to identify and rank priority conservation opportunities along the trails, and how the study results provide a new tool for land conservation. The session concludes by discussing future applications of the visual assessment study, including study expansion, a most threatened views list and development of an interactive, on-line map.

Utilizing Incident Data to Develop the Congestion Management Process - Christine Salvadore, recent graduate from Temple University's Professional Science Master's (P.S.M.) degree in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Greened Acres Dashboard: Tracking Green StormWater Infrastructure in Philadelphia using Esri's ArcGIS Online Operations Dashboard - Shelby Guercio, recent graduate from Temple University's Professional Science Master's (P.S.M.) degree in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Lessons in Trails and Greenways Mapping in Philadelphia - Michael Gall, GIS Specialist 2, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Planning

Information Items

- GeoPhilly, MaptimePHL and Women in GIS Philly are having a Mappy happy hour on June 18
- DVRPC is looking into purchasing an Aerial Imagery Service product from NearMap (<https://go.nearmap.com/>)
- DVRPC is anticipating a late summer/early fall launch of the Greater Philadelphia Pedestrian Portal as well as receiving the GIS data for the New Jersey sidewalk inventory.

The next scheduled IREG meeting is Wednesday, September 12th, 2019.

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