Want to hear about something cool?!

November 17, 2015
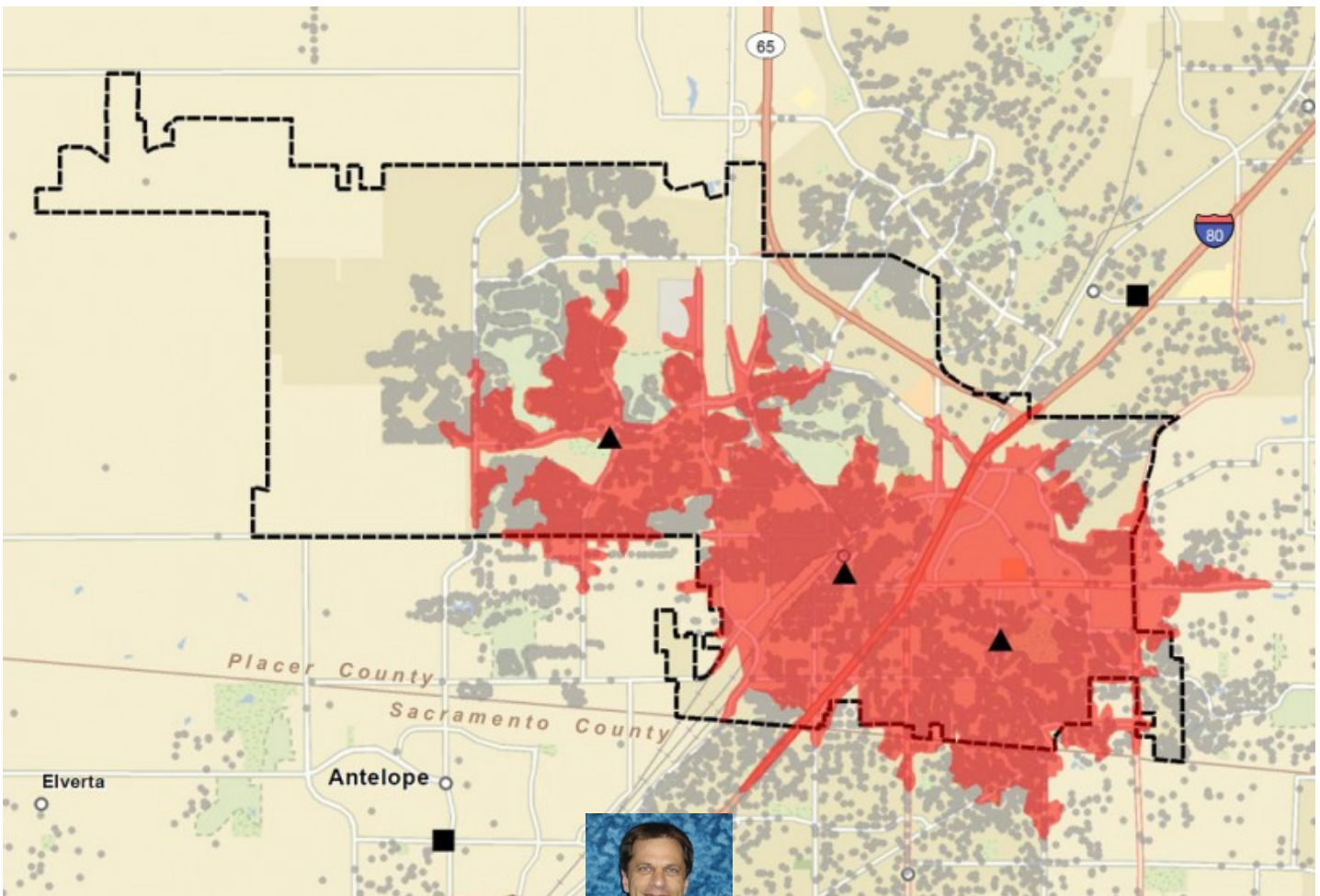
By Scott Adrian

It's a common problem actually, GIS Professionals everywhere struggling to describe what they do. I can already picture myself at a Christmas party next month and a fellow merrymaker asking,

"What do you do?"

"GIS."

"GPS, like in my car?"

"No, like Geographic Information System."

"Huh."

"I make maps."

"Ohhh."

And while my last answer is technically true, its' only part of the story.

In a way, it's a little like experiencing something really cool, and then trying to tell someone about it but all the coolness gets lost in translation. But accurate translation is important, so I'm going to try one more time to convey the cool with language my team has been using lately.
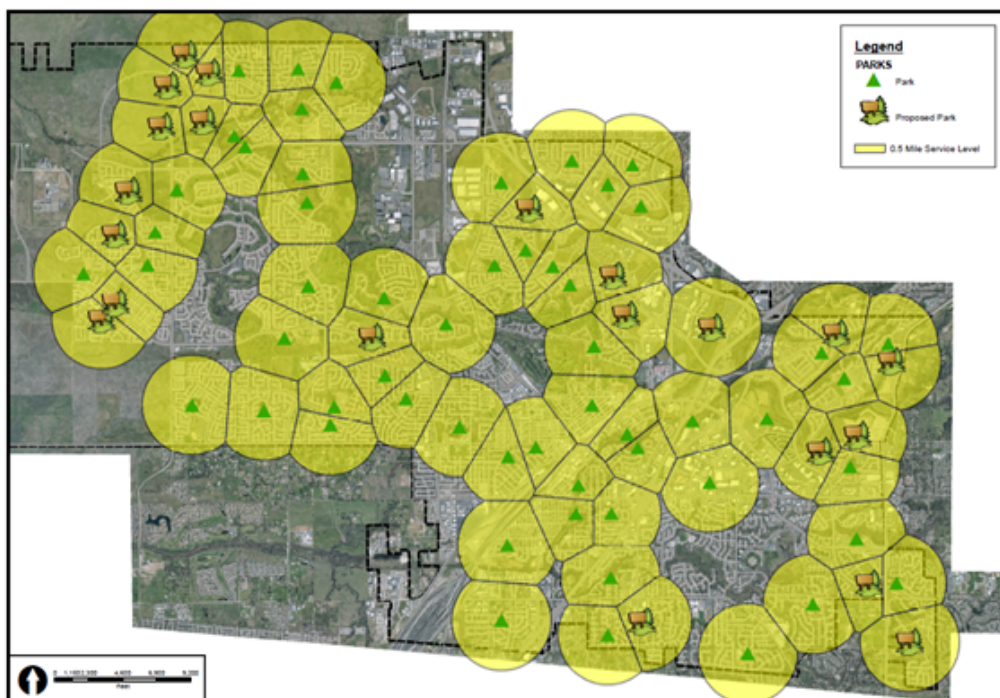
It starts with data, geographic data to be precise. We believe this data tells stories. GIS is a technology for creatively discovering those stories and visually communicating them. Knowing the stories the data is telling provides knowledge we didn't have before, like knowing who lives within fifteen minutes of a library. Knowledge can make us more efficient, improve our decision making, and help solve problems. And that's cool, right?

Park Service Level Analysis
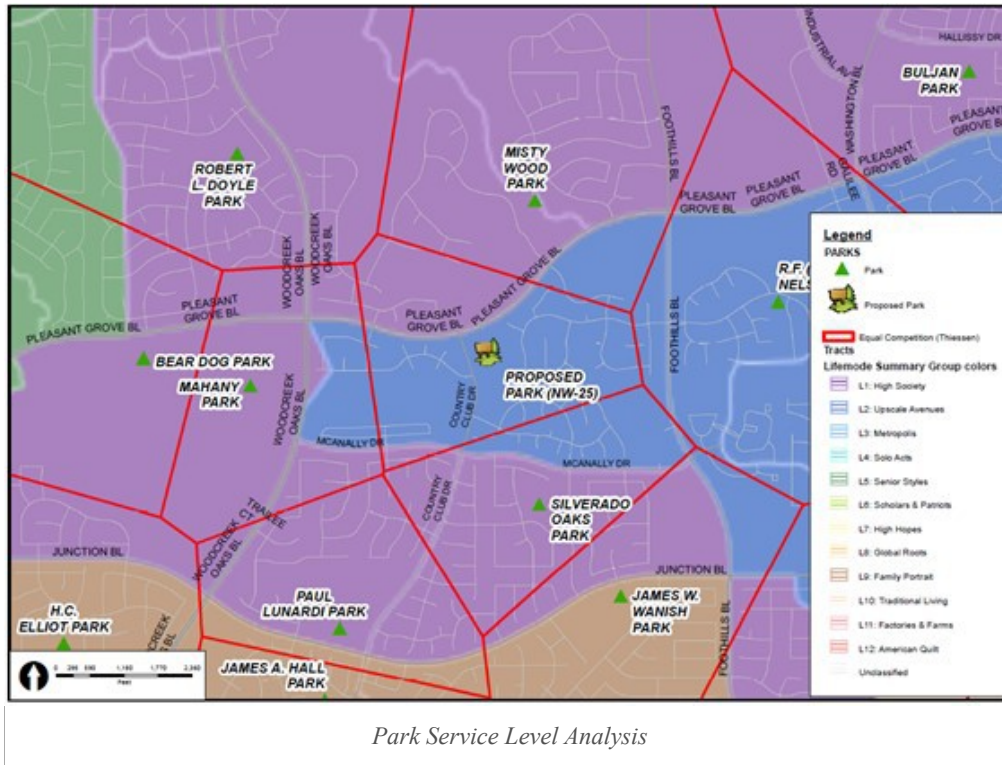
We have a great team in the City that uses GIS every day. We'll all be celebrating GIS Day Wednesday, November 18th. It's an international forum for demonstrating GIS applications and technologies that are making a difference in the world.

So if you see someone on the GIS team on Wednesday, ask them what they do, and prepare to hear something cool!

What do you think of this?

Awesome (84%)	Useful (16%)	It is ok (0%)	Needs More (0%)	Not interested (0%)

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