

APPLYING MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TECHNICAL WORK TO PLANNING

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**BLUE
CYPRESS
CONSULTING**

Today we focus on how data leads to more informed decision-making and addresses multi-disciplinary challenges and opportunities that communities face.

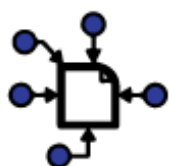
Collaboration across disciplines is a cornerstone of Blue Cypress work. Our Community Planning team often works with or alongside our Utility Management Services (UMS) team to develop solutions to our clients' challenges. Community Planning contributes to UMS projects through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis, policy development, stakeholder engagement, and applying the multi-disciplinary hat that planners are trained to bring to community challenges. This knowledge transfer adds value to our services by facilitating diversity of perspective and enhances our ability to support an array of clients in more impactful and meaningful ways. In turn, the planning team gains from the UMS expertise in data and program management as well as analysis best practices and tools/tactics that are transferrable to community planning projects.



GIS Analysis of Fats, Oils, and Grease to Influence Policy and Change Behavior

In our work with local utilities, wastewater system challenges often tie back to local policies and practices as well as the communications tools we use.

A particular program Blue Cypress provides expertise in is reduction of fats, oils, and grease within wastewater systems to improve performance and minimize service disruptions or failures. By analyzing and geographically displaying data where issues occur and aligning that with demographic and other community data, we help pinpoint where problems exist in the network. Developing heat maps using this data leads to understanding the locational impacts and the root causes of the issues. The solutions tie back to prevention strategies and targeted policy and communication tactics, two areas that our Community Planning team focuses on in its daily work. Changes to local policy combined with public relations initiatives that raise awareness about proper disposal of materials can make a big impact in the health of our natural environment and improve public health outcomes.



Data Collection

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Geographic & Policy Analysis



Issues Identification, Policy Solutions & Communications

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Communications Solutions & Behavior Change



Balancing Investment and Equity

One cornerstone of community planning and infrastructure work is a constant effort to help ensure fair and equitable access for all community members to community services, resources, and programs.

As Blue Cypress helps our client communities, recognition of and concerted efforts to address and reduce inequities that may exist or have developed over time is essential. One way to do this is being mindful of the demographic trends and characteristics of your citizens, then applying that understanding to a geographic overlay and tailoring the analysis or implementation approach based on that data. In planning work, this is a requirement of federally funded projects, and our experience has been that it is an essential layer of information in any public sector work.

By utilizing Census data paired with land use, transportation and transit, and public facilities data, we tell the unique story of the community and where greater focus or tailored strategies will play an important role in either beginning to repair inequities or ensuring access to programs.

Easement Policy and Use

Municipal clients are facing issues that are complex and demand a multifaceted approach and solutions that consider context, history, policy, and immediate program goals.

Blue Cypress is helping our clients with a recurring topic in both the utility and community planning worlds: utility easements. How do they serve their main purpose of protecting utility pipes or lines and allowing for maintenance while also impacting how community members interact with public and private land? Can they serve more than one purpose?

A fundamental aspect to answering these questions is collecting current and accurate land use and environmental conditions data, such as steep slopes, vegetated areas, and types of land uses. The interplay of data shown through GIS applications helps pinpoint unique maintenance issues for easements while also highlighting opportunities for cross department collaboration and policy creation to improve permitting, raise citizen knowledge, and ensure easements are protected and utilized. The analysis also sheds light on potential opportunities to leverage these easement assets to accommodate other community goals, such as non-invasive trail development.

Data creation, analysis, and results shape the approach and tools Blue Cypress recommends for communicating with the public. We also rely on the resulting analysis to offer improved processes, policies, and programs for the communities we serve. We strive to advise our clients on policy awareness or updates, investment needs, and programs that result in improving the quality of life in the communities they serve.

Get In Touch



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