



Town of Dutton
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Montana State Library MLIA
1515 E 6th Ave, Helena MT 59620

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing today in gratitude to the Montana State Library for the opportunity to work on the Town of Dutton MLIA GIS project that you generously granted us the funds to complete.

When we started this project, the system information the Town had was very fragmented and scattered in handwritten files and records. The information on the location of valves, manholes, maintenance records etc. were vague at best, and non-existent at worst. Back when the system was built, the folks that oversaw record keeping did not really think a lot about the future and did not keep exactly accurate as-built plans and would often be called out to turn water off for residents in the winter. Looking for a curb-stop valve in a snowstorm, with nothing but a rough drawing of the location of the valve, a metal detector, and shovel/pick to find it is not exactly easy. Often, after hours of digging through ice just to find a railroad spike, it became very frustrating.

Utilizing GIS we now are now able to go right to whatever we are looking for, regardless of the weather. This saves countless hours and frustration spent looking and digging. Words can not really express how nice it is to know that what you are looking for is going to be there before you start digging.

Above and beyond the original purpose we are finding other ways to utilize the system. Being able to attach every bit of information to a feature such as Maintenance records, pictures, issues, etc. has been a very pleasant surprise. We are incredibly happy with the outcome of this project, and look forward to seeing our system evolve to encompass as much of our operation as we can jam in a map or app. Once again, thank you for this opportunity, it really does make a big impact on a small Town like ours.

Warm Regards,



Jeremiah Kjensmo - Town of Dutton