In December, the City of Clearwater Information Technology Department completed its GIS metadata implementation program, and has successfully incorporated metadata maintenance into its GIS data workflows. The yearlong project funded by a grant from FGDC included a procedural evaluation, needs assessment, development and evaluation of tools, initial metadata generation, and adjustments to GIS data workflows to accommodate sound work processes in regard to geospatial metadata. Tools developed during this project include an .xml template compliant with FGDC CSDGM, and also a customized version of an ESRI ArcCatalog metadata editor. The resulting metadata documents have been posted and are discoverable on the Geography Network, and by extension are discoverable on all geospatial metadata clearinghouses recognized by the FGDC.

In our case, we had previously recognized a need for metadata implementation. Obtaining the FGDC grant accelerated our implementation of metadata practices by applying a timetable, and providing motivation for adhering to goals, and requiring the delivery of measurable results. The City was very satisfied with the grant program management. The only difficulties we experienced were the result of our unfamiliarity with the intricacies of complying with Federal grant requirements in general.