

2015 NYS Geospatial Applications Awards Competition Entry Form

Please use the below template to submit your entry for the **2015 NYS Geospatial Applications Awards Competition**. By entering the competition, you grant permission for the NYSGIS Association to publish and publicize your entry.

Required Information

Sponsoring Organization: Ulster County

Stakeholder/Participant List (by Organization):

Title: Relaunch of Ulster County's REConnect, an Interactive Mapping Tool

Abstract: Ulster County REConnect is an interactive mapping tool designed to help you plan your Ulster County adventure. Roughly one-third of the lands and waters of Ulster County are publicly-accessible for everyone. We encourage Ulster County residents and visitors to enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle by taking advantage of these amazing recreational opportunities that exist throughout the County.

For recreation information, just click on the map or use the search bar to find features. For each feature, we also provide links to directions, dining and lodging.

<http://ulstercountyny.gov/maps/recreation/>
<http://ulstercountyny.gov/maps/recreation/test/>

Features worth mentioning on the new & improved version of REConnect:

Mobile First Design - Emphasis on Speed and Reliability

- With the rapid growth of mobile web traffic, this version was developed to work on all devices, scaling accordingly with screen size.
- Migrated away from traditional GIS app of toggling layers. Opted for a pre-rendered base map with more feature shown as users zoom in. All features searchable.

Integrated Browser Geo-Location Services

- For users in Ulster County, they will have the ability to filter search results relative to their phone or PC location. Allows users to identify features near to them.
- For users outside of Ulster or those who don't allow location access, they will perform county-wide searches.
- Location allows us to pass user location to Google for Directions and finding "Nearby Food."

Searchable Content

- added new content searching, old REConnect has no search functionality
- Search gets users to their actual areas of interest faster
- Built pre-defined search terms for easy 1-click searching. This also allows us to drive users to specific types of features that we feel represent Ulster County.
- Old method of map planning with click for information is still available.

Other Notables

- Integrated feature phone numbers into Call links for mobile phones.
- Styled to match Tourism's Recreation Guide and map.

Statement of the Problem: Ulster County lacked a resource which could provide information on all of the recreational opportunities together on one single site.

Response to the Problem: REConnect was developed so that information on all of the recreational opportunities can be accessed on one single site.

Results: REConnect makes it easy for residents and visitors to find recreational opportunities that suite their interests and abilities. It is a great support to our tourism industry and has encouraged residents and visitors to go outside and partake in a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

Return on Investment/Cost-Benefit Analysis:

The Public Health and Tourism cost-benefit cannot be analyzed at this time.

Key Participants: (Name, Organization, Title)

Ulster County Executive Michael P. Hein

Thomas Hynes, Ulster County Information Services, GIS Technology Engineer,

Aaron Bennett, Ulster County Department of the Environment, Environmental Planner

Amanda LaValle, Ulster County Department of the Environment, Coordinator

Alanna Henneberry, Ulster County Department of the Environment, Deputy Coordinator

As well as support from Ulster County Planning Department & Ulster County Tourism Department

Contact Information:

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Deadline & Submission Information

The deadline for entries is Tuesday, September 15, 2015. Please E-mail this completed template to Ben Houston at Benjamin.h.houston@gmail.com, with “GIS Applications: [Name of Submitting Organization]” in the message Subject line.

Thank you for your submission and Good Luck!