



County of Rockland

Office of County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef

NEWS RELEASE

October 27, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County Launches new gateway to computer mapping and GIS data ***New website allows users “one-stop shopping” for County geographic data***

NEW CITY, NY – County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef today announced that the Rockland County Planning Department’s Geographic Information System (GIS) team has implemented new technology that will allow the public to access GIS information and computer-generated mapping for all of Rockland County. The new Internet tool, called the GIS Portal, is now accessible through the County website. Click [here](#) to access the Portal.

GIS is a powerful resource used in many diverse areas, including environmental management, planning, economic development and site selection, real property information & records, transportation and infrastructure, homeland security and public safety, health and human services and business assistance. The portal will provide the public with “one-stop shopping” for GIS resources via a convenient, accessible Internet location without having to make a trip to County offices or requesting information by phone.

“Rockland County has made a commitment to provide an effective, user-friendly way for citizens, businesses and local governments to access valuable GIS-related resources,” said Vanderhoef. “The launch of this Portal meets that commitment by providing a “gateway” to these resources, while making County operations more efficient as well.”

The GIS Portal will enable the County to more proactively meet constituent demand by improving the accessibility of County data. Built on the Sewall *GeoPower™* platform, an ESRI-based application server, the GIS Portal provides commonly requested geographic information via the web. Using a standard browser and a URL, users can access the GIS Portal to make use of interactive map applications, view and download maps, and download digital data upon request.

The GIS Portal also offers users an opportunity to customize their own map. The applications currently available online include the District Mapping Application and the Base Mapping Application. By typing in an address in the District Application, a user can determine the town, village, school, election, legislative, assembly, congressional, senate or census district in which they are located. Via the interactive map, users can then zoom to their address.

The Base Mapping Application allows users to interactively view data layers, including parcel information, bus routes, government facilities, parks, points of interest and more. Demographic and Economic Development Applications are being developed for future use.

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“We are very excited about the release of this new platform because we believe it allows us to better serve our residents by providing them direct access to a wealth of information whenever they want it,” said Douglas Schuetz, Director of GIS. “We expect to reap great benefits from the standardization, centralization and flexibility of the platform. These benefits result in cost savings for the County, improvements in personnel efficiencies and improved services to the community”.

The GIS team developed the applications, maps and data currently on the Portal. The County’s Personnel, Emergency Services, Board of Elections and Sheriff’s Departments were involved in a thorough review of the Portal, along with various municipalities and utilities. In the future, other County departments, local governments, non-profits, academia and the private sector may also be able to post data, maps and link applications to enable the site to fully serve as a gateway for all Rockland County geospatial data.

The Rockland County GIS team serves as the lead agency for GIS development for Rockland County. The County worked with the James W. Sewall Company to develop the Portal as a pilot project that will serve as a prototype for other municipalities. Because County staff played a significant role in developing the data, applications and maps in-house, the project was completed at significant cost savings. Most of the \$34,000 cost was funded through the NY Metropolitan Transportation Council’s Unified Planning & Work Program (UPWP). A portion of the County’s staff time on the project was also reimbursed.

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