



County of Rockland
Department of Planning & Public Transportation
NEWS RELEASE

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County's GIS Portal Receives International Award

POMONA, NY – The **Rockland County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Portal** recently received the GeoWorld Magazine **Geospatial Leadership Award** in the Public Enterprise Category. The announcement was made last week at the start of the 2010 GeoTec Event (geospatial technology conference) in Markham, Ontario.

The Public Enterprise Award is given to a government entity or non-profit association that has pushed the boundaries of what's possible to achieve broad system buy-in and use by a large number of constituents. Rockland County was one of the five final nominees in the Public Enterprise category. Other nominees included the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), for the HAZUS Program; Government of Mongolia, for the Mongolia National Land Information System; Milwaukee County Department of Transportation and Public Works, AE&ES Division, for the Milwaukee County Interactive Mapping Service; OpenGeo, A Division of the Open Planning Project, for the OpenGeo Suite. Other award categories included Private Enterprise and the Innovator Award.

Finalists in the Public Enterprise category were selected from an international pool of candidates nominated by GIS professionals and the GeoTec Media audience, including *GeoWorld Magazine*, GeoPlace.com and the GeoReport e-newsletter. These nominees were placed into final voting online through GeoPlace.com where approximately 42,000 voters cast their ballots.

“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 County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef. “Our Portal meets that commitment by providing a “gateway” to these resources, while making County operations more efficient. I congratulate the Planning Department’s GIS team for being recognized by their international peers with this prestigious award.”

Rockland’s GIS Portal was launched in October 2008 and since that time has had more than 25,000 visitors and more than 35 gigabytes of map downloads. The Portal is an Internet tool that allows the public to access GIS information and computer-generated mapping for all of Rockland County. 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 provides 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.

“The GIS Portal enables the County to more proactively meet customer demand by improving the accessibility of County data by providing commonly requested geographic information via the web,” said Rockland County GIS Director Doug Schuetz. “Using a standard browser, users can access the GIS Portal to make use of interactive map applications, view and download maps, and download digital data upon request.

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“The Portal has truly changed the way we are able to make data available to the public and has moved us further toward the goal of becoming a more electronic government and digital County. We appreciate the support we have received from our Portal users and are grateful to those who voted for us to receive this award.”

“When GeoWorld Magazine celebrated its 20th anniversary, we gave a lot of thought on how we could repay the industry for our success,” said Jo Treadwell, Vice President, Group Publisher for GeoTec Media. “This annual awards program was designed to recognize and honor the groups that have strengthened our industry through vision and achievement. Congratulations to Rockland County, New York in the Public Enterprise category for their GIS Portal.”

The GIS Portal also offers users an opportunity to customize their own map. The applications currently available online include the District Mapping Application, the Base Mapping Application, and applications related to Indian Point emergency planning and the Transportation Improvement Program. 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.

Accepting the award on behalf of Rockland County was Patrick Graham, the director of engineering at James W. Sewall Company – the company that worked with Rockland County to design, implement and maintain the Rockland County GIS Portal.

The County worked with the James W. Sewall Company to develop the Portal. Most of the initial \$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.

The GIS Portal is accessible through the homepage on the County's website: www.rocklandgov.com. Users may access the Portal directly by going to <https://geopower.jws.com/rockland/>.

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