



**NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF
ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE MIKE HEIN**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE MIKE HEIN LAUNCHES RECREATIONAL
MAPPING WEB SITE**

***Ulster County REConnect* Allows Outdoor Enthusiasts to Further Explore the
Abundant Outdoor Recreational Opportunities within Ulster County**

Kingston, N.Y. (May 31, 2011) – On the heels of the expanded 2011 Ulster County Travel Guide, County Executive Mike Hein is pleased to announce the creation of *Ulster County REConnect*- an online mapping tool that aims to strengthen the connection between those who want to have fun in Ulster County and the County's fabulous outdoor recreational opportunities.

In honor of National Trails Day on Saturday June 4, and in support of his ongoing "Healthy Ulster County" and "UlsterAlive" initiatives, County Executive Hein is offering *Ulster County REConnect*, an interactive web tool to entice outdoor recreation enthusiasts to our region and encourage local residents to enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle.

"With this user-friendly and interactive mapping tool, residents and visitors alike will have twenty-four hour instant access to information about our pristine forestlands, lakes, streams, municipal parks, beaches, and trails like never before," said County Executive Mike Hein. "For the first time ever, this information will be available in one place, free of charge, and right at the fingertips of anyone with an internet connection."

"The Palisades Interstate Park Commission is pleased to see Ulster County's leadership in making user-friendly recreation information available to the general public", said Executive Director Jim Hall. "These significant natural resources are such an important asset of the County it is good to see this connection to recreational tourism being put in place."

"As an organization that maintains hundreds of miles of trails in Ulster County, a new tool like this is a great opportunity to introduce people to the vast recreational resources of Ulster County and for those who want more detailed hiking information, the Trail Conference maps for the Shawangunks and the Catskills are a perfect extension of the resources on *REConnect*. We look forward to continuing to work with Ulster County to increase awareness of these resources and strengthen our volunteer trail maintenance efforts throughout the County" said Ed Goodell, Executive Director, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

This powerful mapping tool includes all lands and waters that are open for enjoyment and exploration by the public, extending from the high peaks of the Catskill Mountains, to the scenic Shawangunk Ridge to the Hudson River. It includes the vast areas of NYS Forest Preserve, dozens of community parks, other municipally owned lands, and nature preserves.

The interactive nature of *Ulster County REConnect* allows users to toggle on/off recreational assets such as boat launches, swimming beaches/pools, hiking and multi-use trails, bike routes, backcountry campsites and great fishing locations. Other points of interest such as fire towers, lighthouses, notable high peaks, covered bridges, and designated scenic byways can also be viewed on the map. Users can create and print customized maps that measure distance, and even save “bookmarks” of favorite areas.

Ulster County REConnect evolved out of the recently-completed recreation map included with the Ulster County Tourism Travel Guide. County Executive Hein applauds the joint efforts of Ulster County Departments of Information Services, Tourism and Environment. To access *Ulster County REConnect*, visit: www.ulstercountyny.gov/recreation. To obtain a free copy of the 2011 Travel Guide, please call the Ulster County Tourism office at 1-800-342-5826 or email your request to tourism@co.ulster.ny.us.

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