

Ulster County *REConnect*

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Environment



Michael P. Hein, County Executive

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities are Abundant in Ulster County

Approximately:

255,000 acres of protected lands are open for recreation
(35% of the land in Ulster County)

155,000 acres of those are state-designated as
“forever wild” (21% of the land in Ulster County)

11,000 Acres of “flat water” are open

500+ miles of multiple use trails are open

40+ miles of Hudson River **shoreline**

90+ Municipally-owned parks and areas open for outdoor
recreation (does not include NYCDEP lands)

7.7 miles (77 acres) of Public Fishing Rights

17 of 35 Catskill High Peaks

and so much more....so where should we even begin?

Wanna go hike somewhere different?
Or better yet, your B&B guests just asked you to
recommend a place to go hiking that has **X**, **Y**, and **Z**?

Get out your “box of maps” and start digging....

Who owns that parcel of land again?

Wasn't it **New York** something...

State DEC....State Parks ... City DEP...New Jersey Trail Conference...

Nope, maybe it was **Hudson**
something....

Scenic....River Valley

Greenway....River Estuary Program...

Ok I Found it!

*Unfortunately the map was from
five years ago and they have
since added more trails, now
allow hunting, don't allow dogs,
and have or closed or re-located
some of the campsites!*

Well, I'd better look online.....

And if you click around enough you will find a few interactive mapping
websites, but nothing overly COMPREHENSIVE or even that USER-
FRIENDLY



New Jim Smith Memorial Lean-to near Pine Hill

Other Interactive Mappers:

Trail Finder

HOME | ABOUT US | JOIN/RENEW | DONATE | PUBLICATIONS | BUY ERIE CYCLING GUIDE | NEWS ROOM | E-NEWS | CONTACT
CANALWAY TRAIL | GREENWAYS & TRAILS | PARKS & TRAILS ADVOCACY | FIND A TRAIL | BIKE TOURS

DONATE **KEEP INFORMED - SIGN UP FOR FREE E-NEWS**

Help ? Print Map

Find a Trail

Trail Name: ----- Pick a Trail -----

Select Allowable Use*

- XC Skiing
- Horseback Riding
- In-Line Skating
- Fishing
- Snowmobiling

Select Surface Type*

- All
- Paved
- Stone Dust
- Natural / Unfinished
- On Road

Length: []

Distance
Within [] Miles
Of Zipcode: []

* You may also enter a city and state instead of a zipcode.

Search **Clear**

* To choose multiple use types or multiple surface types hold down the control key while selecting your choices.

Map Search

Clear

* Search the map for any of the following categories.

Bike shops [] **Find**

Map Legend

- Trail
- On Road Segment
- Proposed Trail
- Trail Center Point
- Selected Trail
- Bed & Breakfasts
- Parking Areas

D&H O&W Rail Trail (Ulster County)

Open Miles: 13
Proposed Miles: from Kingston to PA
Surface: cinder, paved
Wheelchair: Yes
Download: [GPS Coordinates](#)

Zoom To Trail

Search Results **Clear**

- Show/Hide Parking Areas (Visible when zoomed in)
- Allegheny River Valley Trail
- Ballston Veterans Bikeway
- Buffalo and Erie County Riverwa
- Catharine Valley Trail
- Catskill Scenic Trail
- Chautauqua Rail-Trail
- Chenango Canal Towpath Trail
- City of Oswego Walkways
- Colonial Greenway Trail
- Connetquot Shared Use Path
- D+H Canal Linear Park (Sullivan
- D+H Washington County - Gran
- Delaware River Heritage Trail
- Erie Canalway Trail- Buffalo to R
- Erie Canalway Trail- Rochester to
- Erie Canalway Trail-Syracuse to
- Erie Canalway Trail-Little Falls to
- Fonda, Johnstown and Gloversv
- Frank Ludovico Sculpture Trail
- Genesee Riverway Trail
- Genesee Valley Greenway
- Glens Falls Feeder Canal Trail
- Governor's Island Trail
- Hudson Valley Rail Trail
- Jamestown Riverwalk
- Jim Schug Trail
- Keuka Outlet Trail
- Lake Trail (City of Fulton)
- Lehigh Valley Trail (Monroe Cour
- Maple City Trail
- Niagara River Greenway Trail

Other Interactive Mappers:

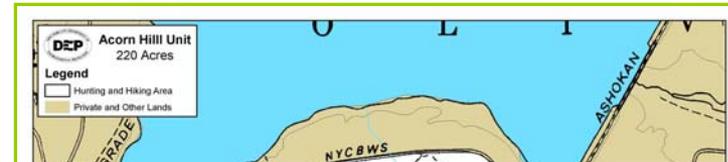
The screenshot displays the State Lands Interactive Mapper (SLIM) web application. The browser window title is "Use the State Lands Interactive Mapper - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows the URL "www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/45415.html". The page header includes the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation logo and a search bar. The main interface features a map of the Catskill Forest Preserve with a hiking trail highlighted in blue and yellow. The trail is labeled "Bingle Hill Trail" and is located within "CEC Region 3". The map includes various navigation and tool buttons such as "Trails", "Go To", "Select", "Layers", "Measure", "Overview", "Results", and "Print". A popup window titled "Hiking Trail (1 of 5)" provides details for the selected trail:

- State Land Name: SUNDOWN WILD FOREST
- Trail Name: BINGLE HILL TRAIL
- Trail Marker Color: Null

The bottom of the screen shows the Windows taskbar with the Start button and several open applications, including "Use the State Lands I...", "Aaron Bennett - Inbo...", and "Microsoft PowerPoint ...". The system clock indicates the time is 11:10 AM.

1,000s of Acres of Accessible Lands...with Many Different Owners!

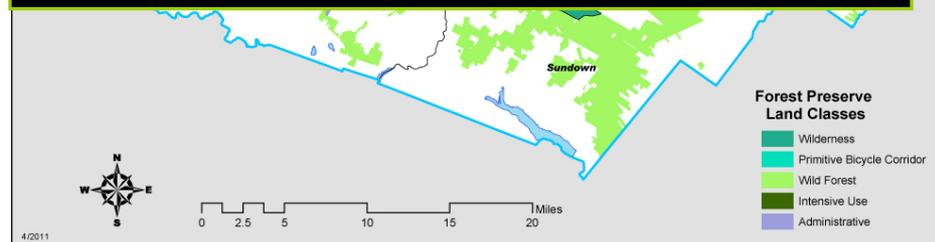
- **NYSDEC** (*Forest Preserve [Wilderness, Wild Forest, Primitive Bicycle Corridors, Intensive Use Areas, Administrative Areas], Wildlife Management Areas, State Forests [Unique Areas, Multiple Use Areas]....*)
- **NYSOPR&HP**
- **NYCDEP** [Public Access Areas, Entry By Permit]
- **USF&WLS** (Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge)
- **22 Different Municipalities with Recreation Lands!**
 - (Denning & Hardenburgh do not)
- **Ulster County** (Ulster Landing Sojourner Truth Park)
- **Woodstock Land Trust**
- **Wallkill Valley Land Trust**
- **Kingston Land Trust**
- **Scenic Hudson**
- **Mohonk Preserve**
- **Esopus Bend Nature Preserve**
- **Frost Valley YMCA**
- **Open Space Institute**
- **Nature Conservancy**



TOO CONFUSING!

For both Tourists and local residents

Most people don't really care who owns or maintains these accessible lands, they just want to know what they can and can't do there, what the highlights/uses are, and how to access it!





I ♥ NY

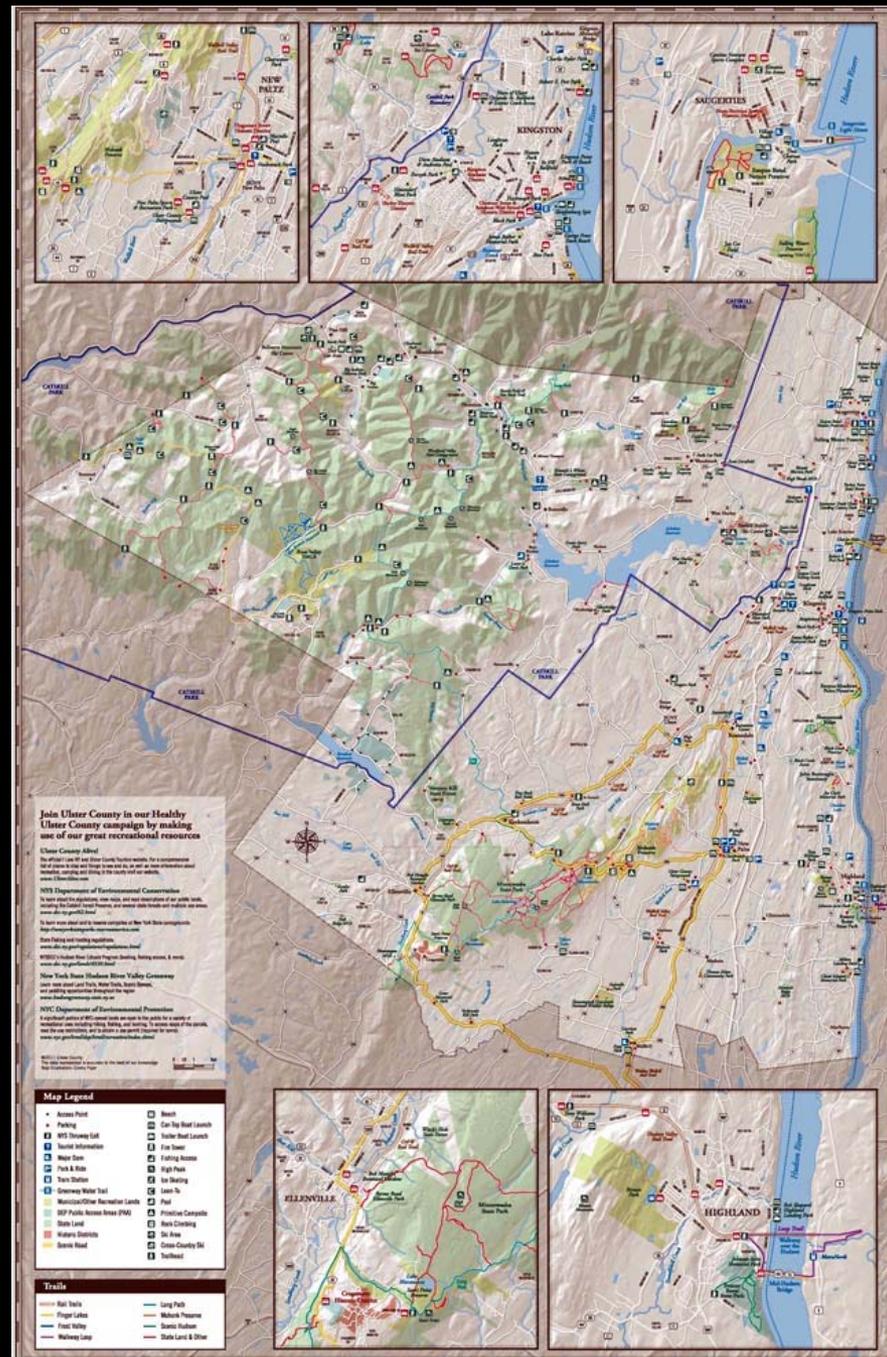
Ulster County

TRAVEL GUIDE



ulstercountyalive.com
Hudson Valley/Catskill Regions

And the subsequent need for REConnect



2007 Ulster County Open Space Plan

Category 7 – Recreational Resources

Goal 1: Plan for and create additional Recreational opportunities -

Recommended Actions included:

Working with partners, create a spatially connected system of open space/ recreation/ historic sites that connects trails, park lands, and other recreational areas with and through towns, cities, and villages.

Priorities include:

Linking the Shawangunk Ridge and the Catskill Park lands; Completing rail trails throughout the county so there are no gaps; For the Catskill Forest Preserve, support linkages of rail trail and non-motorized facilities with the existing state trail network and an active recreation network for the Bluestone Wild Forest.

Connect built places and communities with open spaces, including rail trails, greenways, town/county parks, historic sites, state lands, and beyond. Encourage these connections at the local level through marked, dedicated bike-lanes, hike/bike trails, clear signage and information.

Produce a detailed recreation study, including:

Identification and inventory of needs and gaps (compare with SCORP index);

Detailed mapping of

recreational resources – state lands, trails, county/city/ town/village parks, rail trails, fishing access, etc.



Phoenicia Overlook on the Tan Bark Trail

2007 Ulster County Open Space Plan

Category 7 – Recreational Resources (cont.)

Goal 2: Promote and enhance greater access to existing recreational resources - *Recommended Actions included:*

- Support multimodal transportation access to parks, etc
- Where feasible, develop county-owned land for recreation and access purposes
- Coordinate with UC Tourism to develop and implement “eco-tourism” and heritage tourism plans.
- Create a web presence for recreation.



Map, alidade and view north from Red Hill Fire Tower

Purpose of *REConnect*

- **WHY:** Roughly one-third of the lands and waters of Ulster County are publicly-accessible for recreation. Other than the folks in this room - most people don't know where they are and how accessible they are.
- **HOW:** *Ulster County REConnect* was an initiative of the County Executive. Developed by UC Information Services, UC Dept of Environment, UC Tourism, UC Planning Dept, and the UC Transportation Council.

GOALS:

- To strengthen the connection between residents and visitors to the fabulous recreational opportunities that exist throughout Ulster County.
- Encourage residents to enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle by learning about and ultimately making continued use of these resources that the county is so fortunate to have.
- To provide a comprehensive database this of this information make it available 24/7 and be free of charge.
- To better direct residents and visitors to where they can find detailed and specific information regarding their destination BEFORE they arrive there.

Creation of *REConnect*

Solicitation for Existing Data - Other partners in this endeavor (by generously sharing their data):

- *Esopus Creek Conservancy*
- *Finger Lakes Trail Conference*
- *Frost Valley YMCA*
- *Mohonk Preserve*
- *New York / New Jersey Trail Conference*
- *NYC Department of Environmental Protection*
- *NYS Department of Environmental Conservation*
- *NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation*
- *Scenic Hudson*

Identified gaps

Created the missing data

Data verification

Made needed changesand launch

***REConnect* launched on *National Trails Day* (6/4/11)**

How to Use REConnect

3 “Views” – Street, Aerial, and Topo

Each view has either eight or nine “zoom levels”.

Within each of the four categories, multiple layers of information can be toggled on/off (by expanding/collapsing each using the “+” sign at left).

RECREATION

swimming
boating
camping
rock climbing
parking
trailheads
trails

FISHING

fishing access sites
public fishing rights

POINTS OF INTEREST

tourist info kiosks
lighthouses
fire towers
covered bridges
notable peaks
scenic byways & scenic roads

ATTRACTIONS

golf courses
historic districts

More detailed is available by **clicking on the feature**

Some of the layers listed above will turn on and off at various zoom levels.

Additional Ulster County REConnect functions include:

- **Creating personalized bookmarks; Searching for a specific address; Drawing / measuring distance; Printing customized maps.**



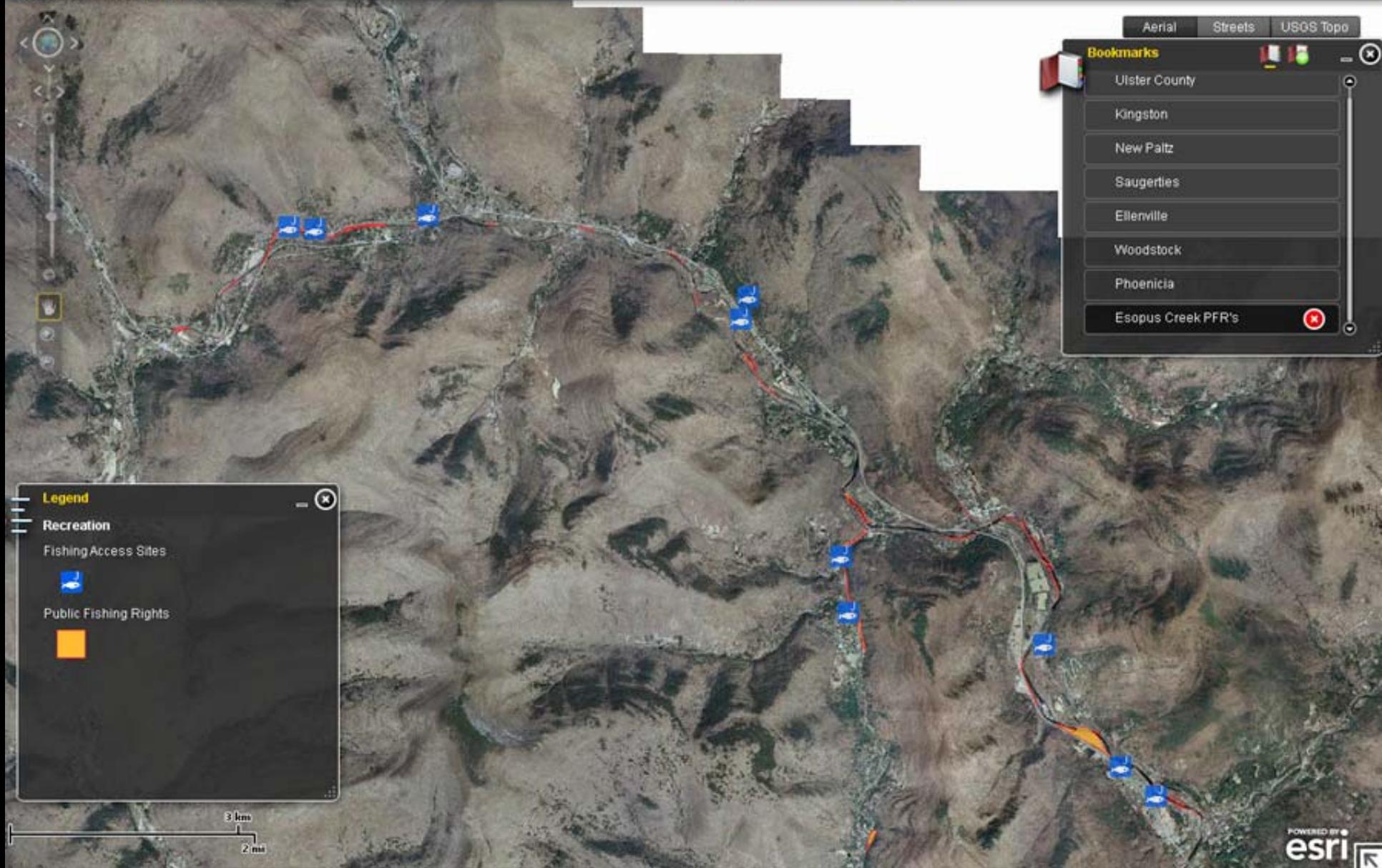
Hiking

Finger Lakes Trail
Beaverkill Rd to Denning Trailhead (end)
The FLT is 558 miles long, the last 70 miles of which are in Ulster County, FLT ultimately ends in the Town of Denning; also yellow-blazed Neversink-Hardenburgh trail

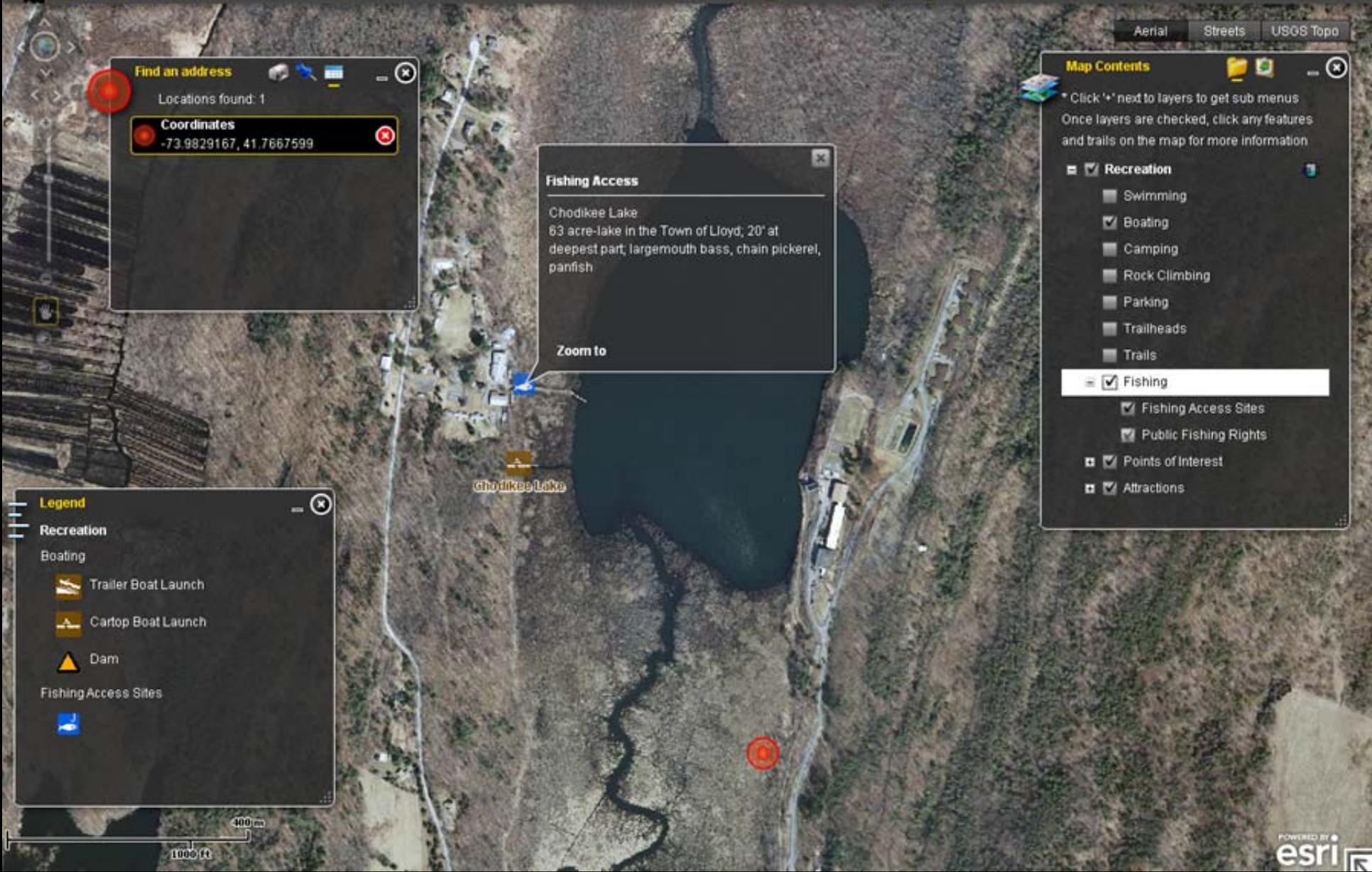
<http://www.fltconference.org>

Zoom to

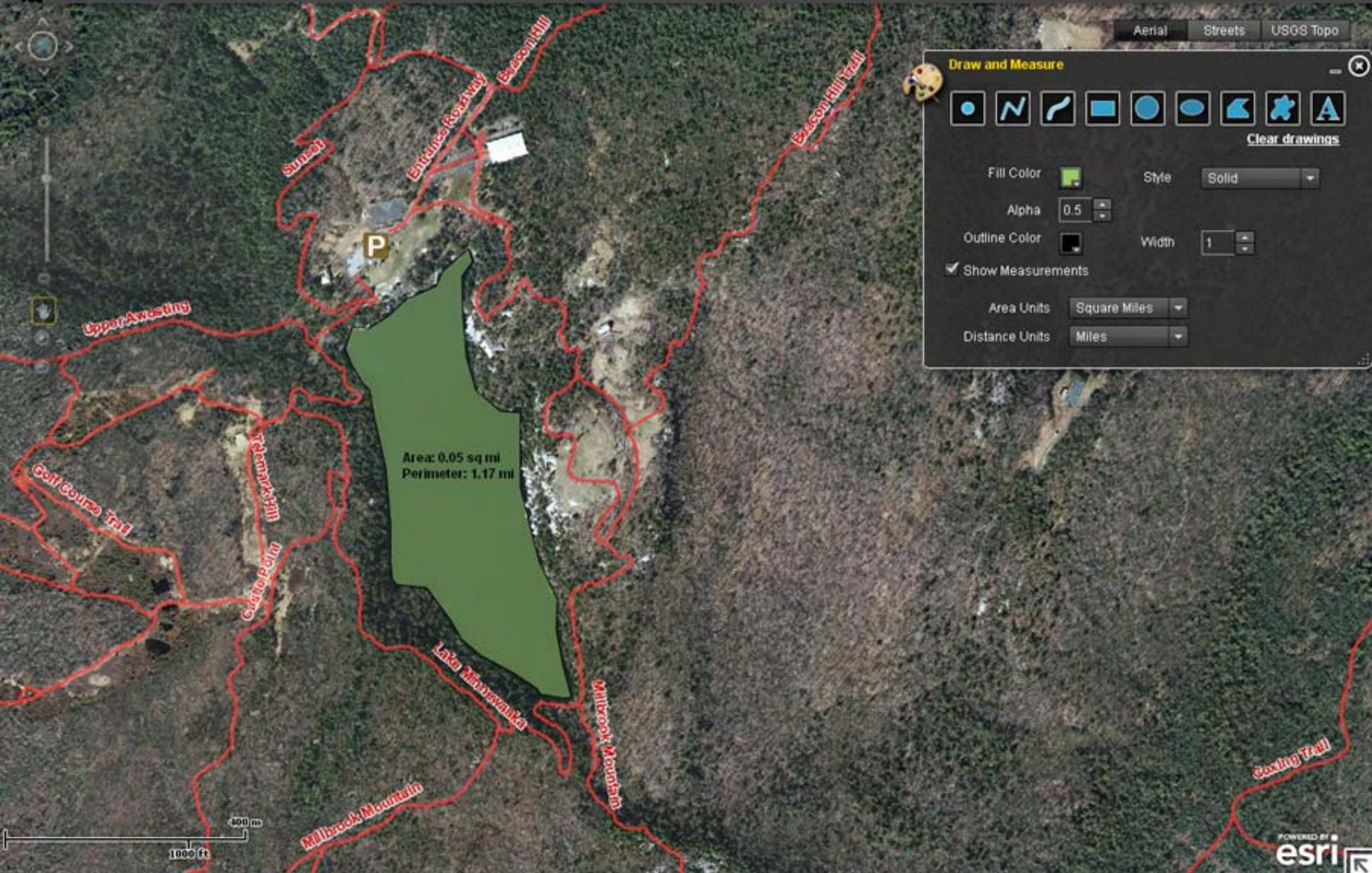
Frost Valley trail network; The Finger Lakes Trail w/pop-up box; Aerial view



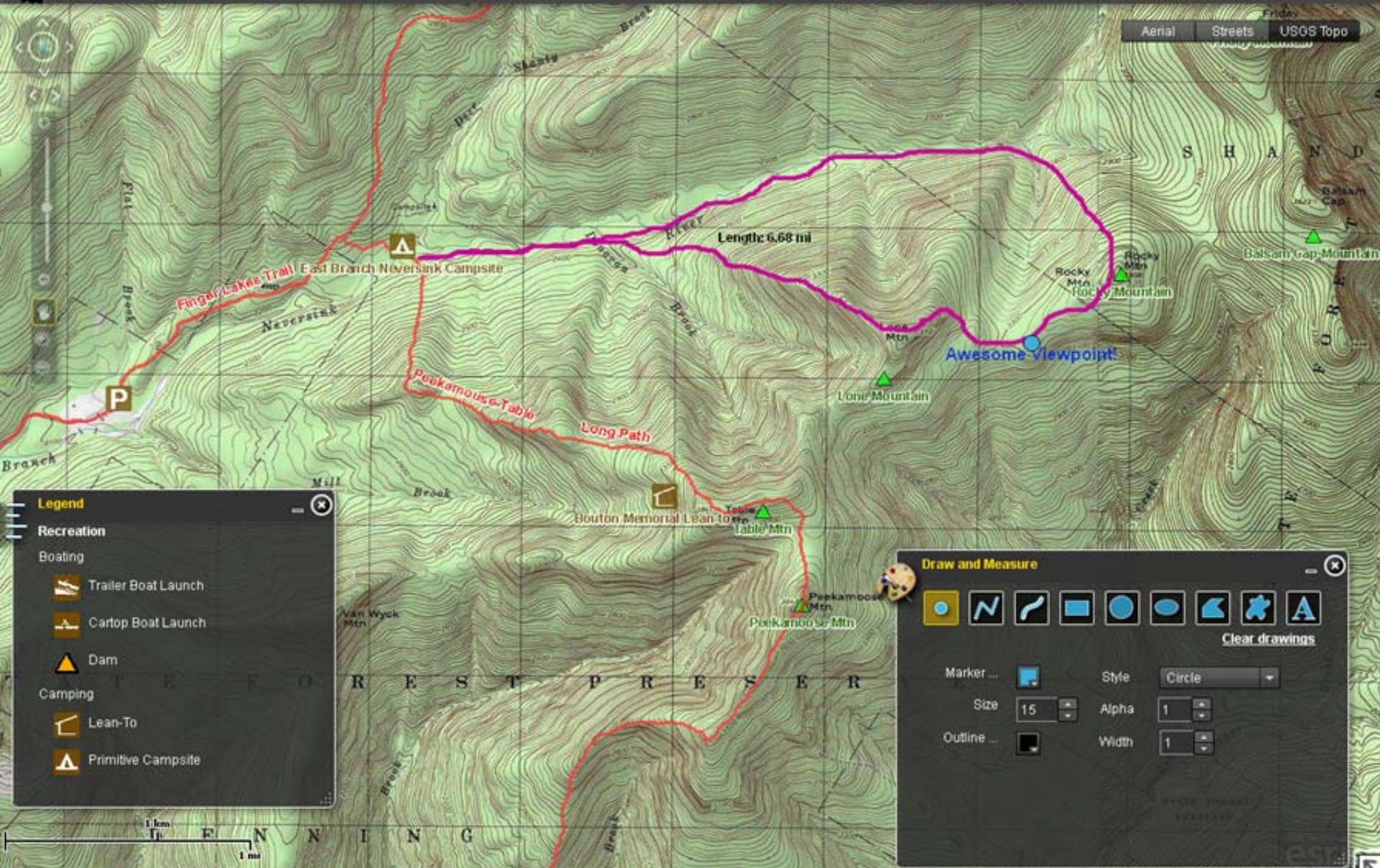
Fishing access sites and Public Fishing Rights (in red) along the Upper Esopus Creek; Customized “Esopus Creek PFRs” bookmark; Aerial view



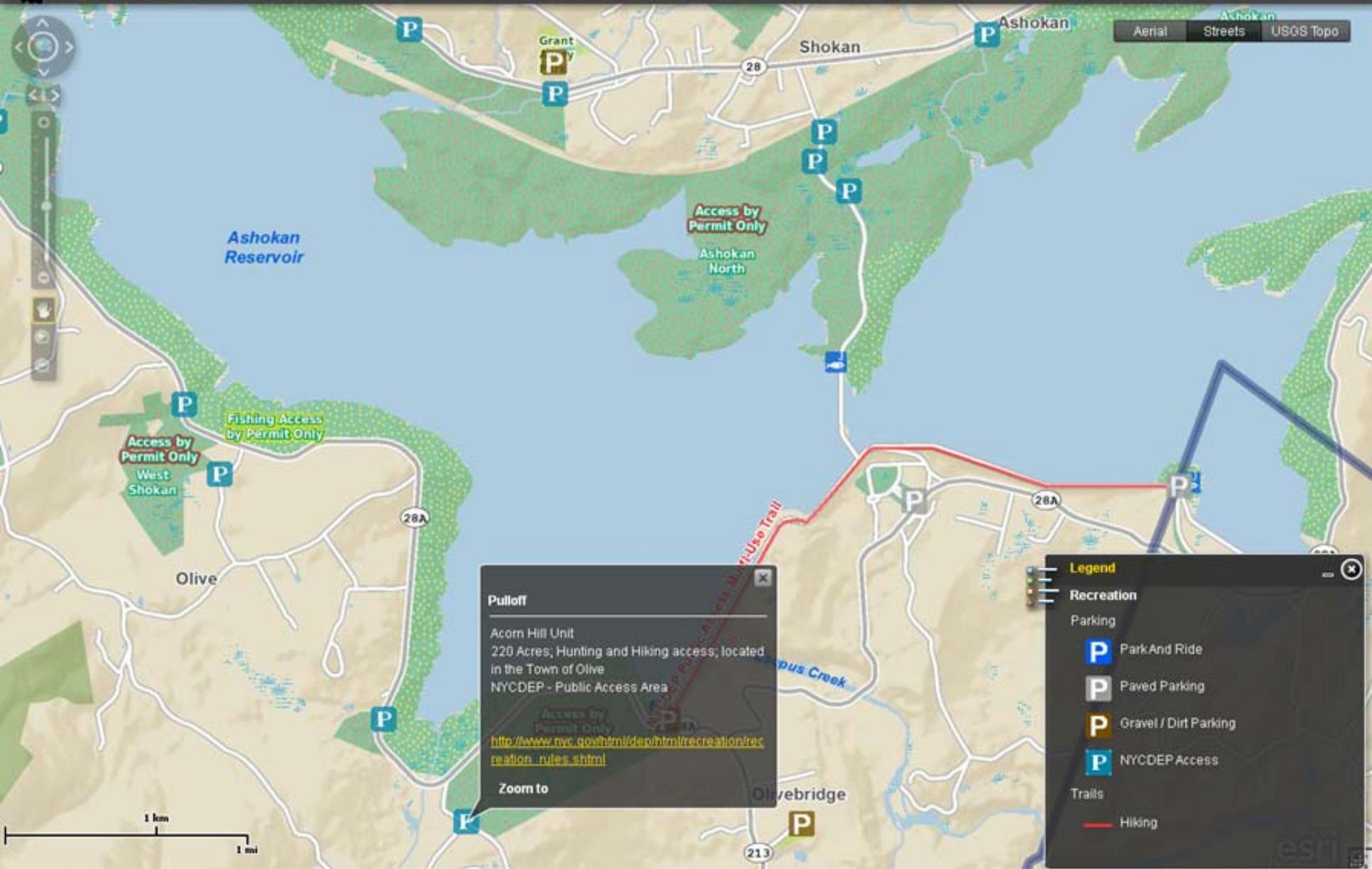
Chodikee Lake boat launch and fishing access with pop-out box; Find An Address feature with Lat/Lon coordinates; Aerial view



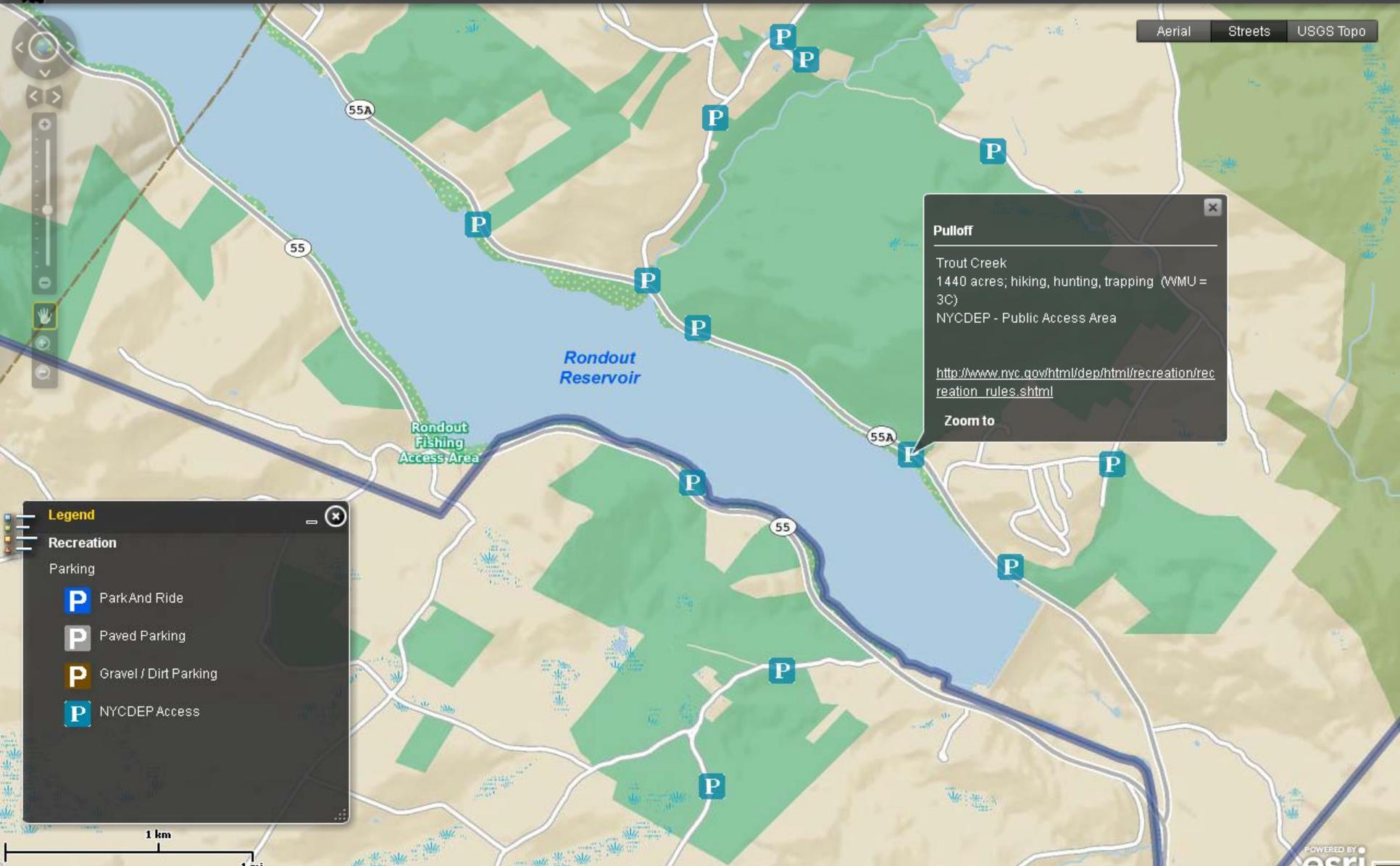
Lake Minnewaska and surrounding trail network; Draw & Measure feature demonstrating the Area and Perimeter (green); Aerial view



Finger Lakes Trail and Long Path junction; Draw & Measure feature with “homemade” trail (purple) /mileage/custom text; Topo view



NYCDEP Watershed Recreation Lands (permits required); Parking pop-up w/additional info; Streets view



Pulloff

Trout Creek
1440 acres; hiking, hunting, trapping (WMU = 3C)
NYCDEP - Public Access Area

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/recreation/recreation_rules.shtml

Zoom to

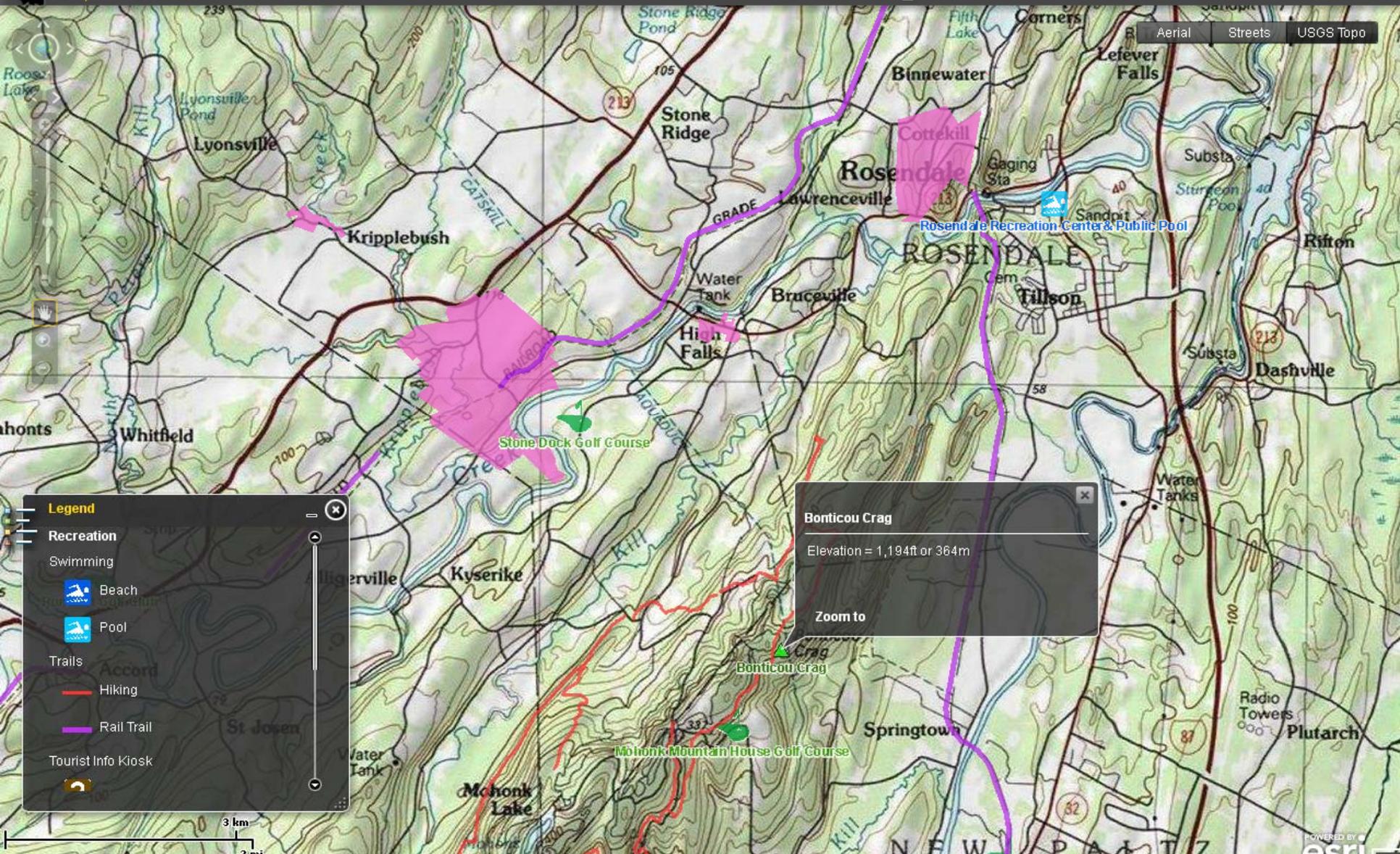
Legend

Recreation

Parking

- Park And Ride
- Paved Parking
- Gravel / Dirt Parking
- NYCDEP Access

NYCDEP Watershed Recreation Lands (Public Access Area & Fishing Access – permit req'd); Parking pop-up w/additional info; Streets view



Historic Districts (pink); trails, swimming, golf courses, and notable peaks layers displayed; Topo view

Layers we are considering adding

Waterfalls

Popular (&safe) bicycle and mountain bike routes/trails

Popular cross-county ski trails

Wine Trails / Wineries

Pick-You-Own locations

Bus Routes and Stops

Any Other Ideas?



Shandaken Brook waterfall along County Route 47

Opportunities we are working on or exploring....

FEATURES & FUNCTIONS:

Have the accessible lands polygons appear on the Aerial and Topo layers

Allow Export of Customized Maps to PDF

Make accessible to iPhone/Apple users

(currently uses FlashPlayer, which isn't supported)

PROJECTS / COLLABORATIONS:

Extend mapper into neighboring Counties?

Support the County's *Healthy Ulster* initiative

Support the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee

Support Ulster County Tourism in developing a *Hunting Guide* and updates to the outdated *Fishing Guide*



Group hike to summit of Balsam Mountain
near Big Indian

What we could use your help with

Spreading the Word:

Help yourself to some just-printed (as in yesterday) palm-cards

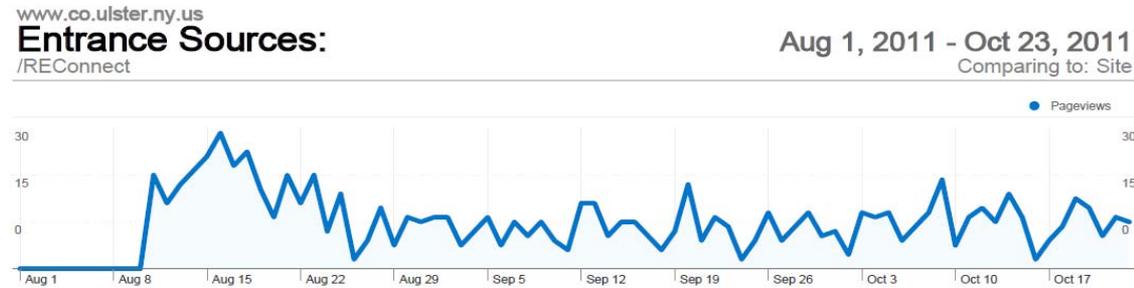
Consider providing a link to www.ulstercountyalive.com/REConnect
- chances are very good that we already have one to you!

Keeping it Relevant and Accurate:

Help us keep it “alive” by sharing any updated data
- (NYCDEP has agreed to update bi-annually)

Provide us with any Comments, Suggestions, Corrections, Additions, Deletions, etc

Help us determine what bike/ski trails (for instance) should be included



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Content Performance						
Pageviews	Unique Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page	Bounce Rate	% Exit	\$ Index	
817 % of Site Total: 0.19%	817 % of Site Total: 0.29%	00:00:00 Site Avg: 00:01:04 (- 100.00%)	100.00% Site Avg: 39.32% (154.30%)	100.00% Site Avg: 32.59% (206.83%)	\$0.00 Site Avg: \$0.00 (0.00%)	
Source	Pageviews	Unique Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page	Bounce Rate	% Exit	\$ Index
ulstertourism.info	421	421	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
(direct)	216	216	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
ulstercountyalive.com	99	99	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
shandaken.us	30	30	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
google	10	10	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
facebook.com	9	9	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
ashokanstreams.org	6	6	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00
nycwatershed.org	6	6	00:00:00	100.00%	100.00%	\$0.00

www.UlsterCountyAlive.com/REConnect

Ulster County
REConnect



Ulster County Recreation Map
County Executive Mike Hein

Legend
Recreation

10 mi 30 km

Main About

Welcome to Ulster County REConnect!

Ulster County is rich in recreational resources. In fact, roughly one-third of the lands and waters of Ulster County are publicly-accessible for recreation. Ulster County REConnect includes the lands and waters of Ulster County that are open for enjoyment and exploration by the public, and much, much more. For the first time ever, all of this information is available online - in one place, and free of charge.

The purpose of this interactive mapping tool is to strengthen the connection between Ulster County residents and visitors to the fabulous recreational opportunities that exist throughout Ulster County, NY. It is our hope that Ulster County REConnect will also encourage our residents to enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle by learning about and ultimately making continued use of the

Don't show again

Accept

Ulster County Department of the Environment



Contact Us

Name	Title	Phone #
Amanda LaValle	Coordinator	845-338-7455
Aaron Bennett	Deputy Coordinator	845-340-3522
Amanda Wolfson	Environmental Resource Technician	845-338-7287

To email the Department of the Environment, please use environment@co.ulster.ny.us

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E-mail: environment@co.ulster.ny.us

Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mon-Fri



Some ideas maybe collectively we could/should pursue...

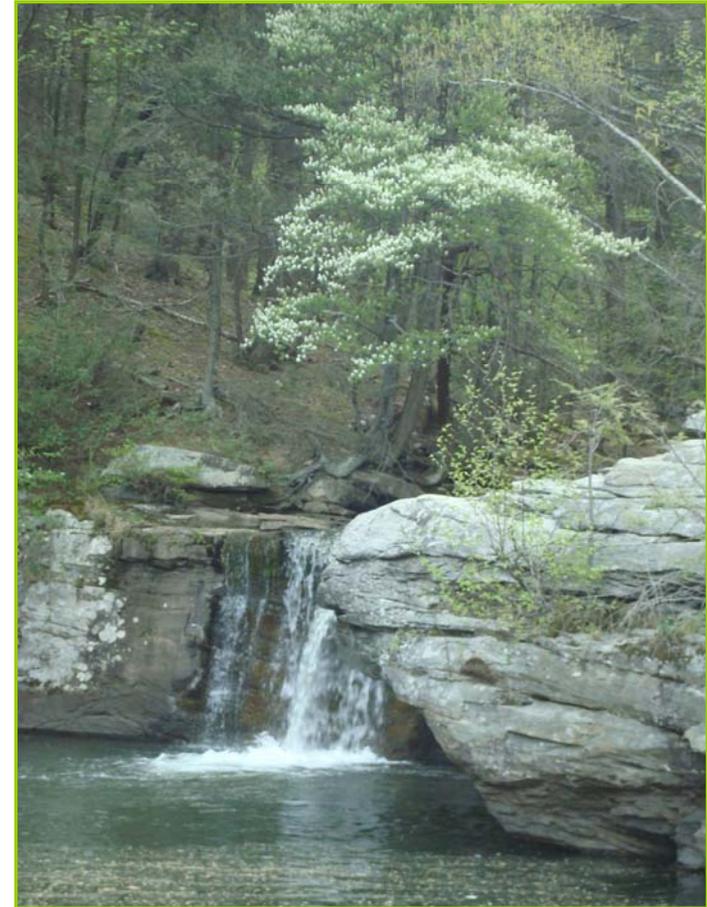
1999 NYSDEC Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan

- Recommended the creation and marketing of *Inn-to-Inn Trail Systems*
- *Couldn't this work throughout the rest of Ulster County?*

Creation of trails / paths on NYCDEP Watershed Recreation lands

11,700 acres (50 parcels) [excludes waterbodies]

- use NYNJTC's new "Community Trails" program?



Bridal Veil Cove in West Shokan

Now's the time to work together so we can fill in THE GAPS in what could become the premier trail network in the northeast



Red-blazed Onteora Lake Trail