

The Helene Mellon Memorial SPIRIT 2010 Award Winner For Business and Industry

Sponsored by Adirondack Initiative for Wired Work hosted by Clarkson University

Spotlighting Progressive Implementation of Reversed Innovative Technology Award

Congratulations on your achievement in technology and innovation on behalf of the St. Lawrence County Information Technology Committee!

Contact Information

Organization Name: Bryan R. McBride, Geographic Information Solutions
Address: 2016 Morrow Ave, Niskayuna, NY 12309
Phone: 518.451.6041
Web: www.bryanmcbride.com
Email: mcbride.bryan@gmail.com
Contact Name: Bryan R. McBride, GISP

Describe the Innovative Technology Implemented

Developed a web-based municipal Geographic Information System for St. Lawrence County based entirely on Open Source technology and software. The "Open GeoPortal" has been embraced by the County Planning, Real Property, and Information Technology departments as an integrated part of the County website redesign.

The application serves up large GIS datasets, including Tax Parcels, Wetlands and Soils to a user-friendly map based website.

<http://www.opengeohost.com/maps/stlawrence/>

Describe the problem that this technology is intended to overcome.

The Open GeoPortal website takes advantage of low-cost Open Source technology to provide services which are often prohibitively expensive with traditional proprietary software. Residents now have tremendous access to public GIS data and services that were previously unavailable due to the lack of a cohesive distribution platform. Users can search the Tax Parcel database by address, owner name, or parcel ID and immediately zoom to that parcel on the map. They can measure the area of wetlands on their land and determine what soil types are present. The system also links to the Assessor's tax lookup database, so users can quickly view property and tax records. This application gives 24x7 access to data which had been difficult and time consuming to access.

Briefly Describe the Organization.

Bryan is originally from the Watertown area and received his degree in Environmental Planning and Resource Management from Plattsburgh State's Center for Earth and Environmental Science. He has instructed numerous GIS training courses, including Intro to Open Source GIS at Adirondack Community College, and his experience in the industry includes work on projects for the private sector, municipal government, and academia. More information and a list of Featured Projects can be found on the web at www.bryanmcbride.com/featured_projects.

Describe how this project met the original objective.

The original objective was to develop a proof of concept application, which demonstrated the functionality, efficiency, and usefulness of Open Source Web GIS technology for municipal clients. This project has met and exceeded the original objective by proving that this technology is viable, stable, and economical. The application has advanced from a proof of concept to a production environment and is currently servicing the residents of St. Lawrence County 24x7. The application was launched on January 24th, 2010 and has had approximately 633 page visits during the first month of operation.