

Situation:

Geospatial technologies (GIS, GPS and remote sensing) are of ever-increasing importance in all aspects of today's society, ranging from town planning to natural resource conservation, youth development, to economic development. For New Hampshire citizens to better utilize these tools in their jobs and homes, they need to become more aware of the uses of geospatial technologies, and have hands-on experience with software and equipment.

UNH Cooperative Extension's Response:

To provide general education and hands-on experience with geospatial technologies, the UNH Cooperative Extension Geospatial Technologies Training Center (GTTC) offers workshops throughout New Hampshire for skill levels ranging from novice to advanced.

The GTTC also collaborates with a variety of state and regional organizations to offer additional workshops with a regional focus. Finally, GTTC promotes the use of GIS and GPS throughout UNH Cooperative Extension programs, including Forestry and Wildlife and 4-H Youth Development.

Here's a sample of the workshops and trainings held specifically in Belknap County:

Workshops and Training - October, 2006 - September, 2008, in Belknap County

- Introduction to ArcGIS – Laconia – 3 days – 2 events – 18 participants
- Pictures, Points & Places – Laconia – 1 day – 1 event – 10 participants
- Getting to Know NH GRANIT Data Mapper – New Hampton – 2 hours – 1 event – 15 participants
- GPS and GIS for Teachers – Alton – 1 day - 1 event – 14 participants
- 4-H Teen Group Fairground Mapping – Laconia – 3 hours – 1 event – 12 participants

Workshops and Training Attended by Belknap County Residents Outside Belknap County

- 19 Belknap County residents attended GTTC workshops – a variety of events ranging from two hours to 10 days in length

Workshops and Training in Belknap County Scheduled from October, 2008 - December, 2008

- Introduction to ArcGIS – Laconia – 3 days – 1 event
- ArcGIS Drivers Permit – Laconia – 1 day – 1 event
- GPS & You I: GPS Basics – Laconia – 3 hours – 1 event
- GPS & You II: Pictures, Points & Places – Laconia – 3 hours – 1 event
- Using GPS in 4-H Youth Programs – Laconia – 1 day – 1 event

How We Made a Difference:

A total of 69 people attended GIS/GPS training events in Belknap County and 18 Belknap County residents received training in other towns for a total of 88 participants. All workshop participants became more familiar with the uses of geospatial technologies and all received hands-on training in GIS, GPS and/or remote sensing. The 4-H teen group fairground mapping effort produced a map used as an important part of the Belknap County fair in August of 2008.

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