

NEW YORK'S GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION GATEWAY:
EMPOWERING THE PUBLIC THROUGH DATA ACCESS

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The New York Department of State's Office of Planning and Development (OPD) recently developed the Geographic Information Gateway (Gateway), a new website that makes geographic data publicly accessible, supports planning activities of local governments and state agencies, and weaves together interactive maps, illustrations, and videos into compelling stories about New York's diverse resources.

This demonstration provides an overview of the Gateway's development process and the suite of innovative tools the Gateway offers, with an emphasis on empowering the public through data access and interactive modules that tell the story behind the data. The Gateway vision was achieved using a collaborative design process, which provided an adaptive framework allowing incremental updates, structured feedback, and systematic testing of functionality. Currently, the Gateway focuses on OPD's Atlantic Ocean and resilience planning activities, but will continue to expand to ensure its utility as a statewide resource. The Gateway's user-friendly interface allows the public to visualize and overlay geographic datasets using an interactive map viewer; download data in a variety of different formats, including open source options; and, understand what the available geographic data mean and how geographic data can be used to inform planning decisions. Specifically, this demonstration will highlight case studies of local governments using the Gateway's tools to inform planning and decision-making processes, and will showcase interactive stories designed to engage a wide range of audiences about the myriad ways in which geographic information can be applied to understand a topic – from the ecology of underwater canyons to assessing coastal risk.