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Love Sullivan County? New Website Collecting Photos

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Newport — Do you have a favorite restaurant, a historic building or hiking trail in Sullivan County?

If so, now you can tell, and show, others in the county, state, region and beyond about that special place using a new county website

(<https://unhcoopext.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StoryMapCrowdsource/index.html?appid=f57fae9b93cf44f1ab7af72e2ea56b7f>) dubbed "LoveSullivan."

Launched last week, the website features about 50 photos to date — including Sunapee Harbor, the inside of the community center in Claremont, the largest honey locust tree in the state at Saint-Gaudens Historic Site in Cornish, the Sugar River Recreational Trail in Newport and a sunset view of French's Ledges in Meriden.

Penny Whitman, who joined the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension last year as the economic development field specialist for Sullivan County, said the goal of the project is to get people talking about what makes the county stand out.

The idea for "LoveSullivan" grew out of a regional economic profile that Whitman, the program facilitator, has been working to develop with community leaders, business owners, elected officials and volunteers.

"The (profile) work was broken into three task forces and one task force was to focus on regional identity," Whitman said. "When trying to identify what makes Sullivan County unique, they decided to turn that question back on to the community and ask them what makes the county special."

"We want to then leverage that advertising to attract new residents, businesses and developers," she said.

She also wants to share the link with the state division of Travel and Tourism to promote the county to a more national audience.

Using a mapping platform, ArcGIS, Whitman created an app that makes it easy to add an image and write a brief description. Residents can take a photo using a smartphone or a regular camera and then upload the picture to the website and add the description. The website, bit.ly/LoveSullivan

(<https://unhcoopext.maps.arcgis.com/apps/StoryMapCrowdsource/index.html?appid=f57fae9b93cf44f1ab7af72e2ea56b7f>), also provides instructions.

Whitman said including the location of the photo and description are what matter the most.

"That is what is most important: not just the place, but what makes it special," she said.

Each morning, Whitman reviews the submissions, checks them for accuracy and then adds them to the profile, she said.

Volunteers are distributing promotional cards advertising the project with instructions on how to upload images.

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