

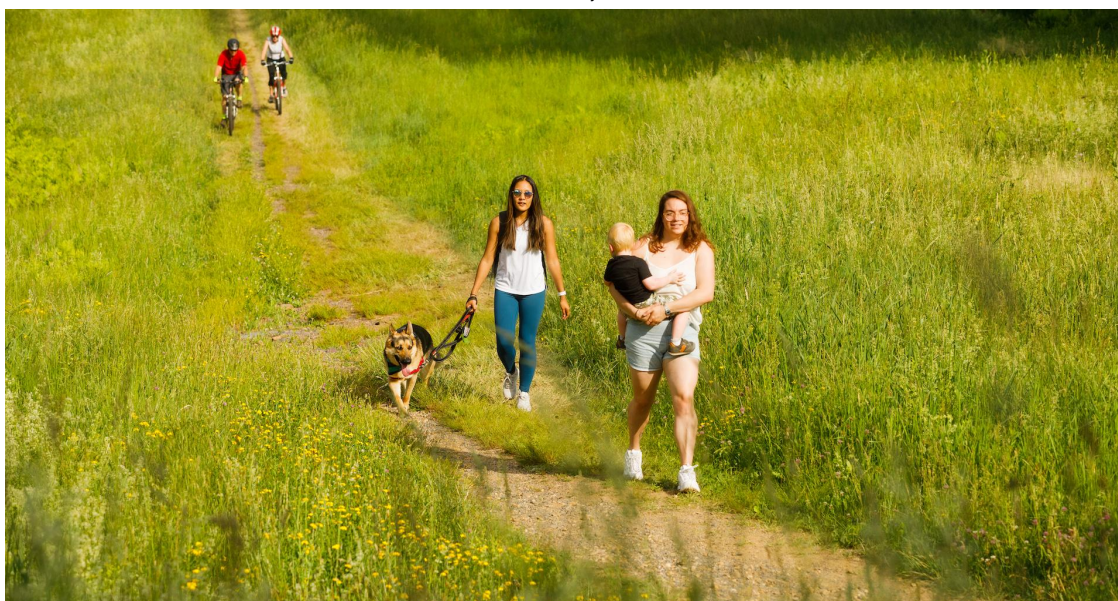
# Connecticut Trail Census

Statewide multi-use trail user study



## 2020 Trail Use Count Data Report

*March 10, 2021*



## Acknowledgements

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The Trail Census Advisory Committee meets quarterly and provides invaluable support to our staff and programs:

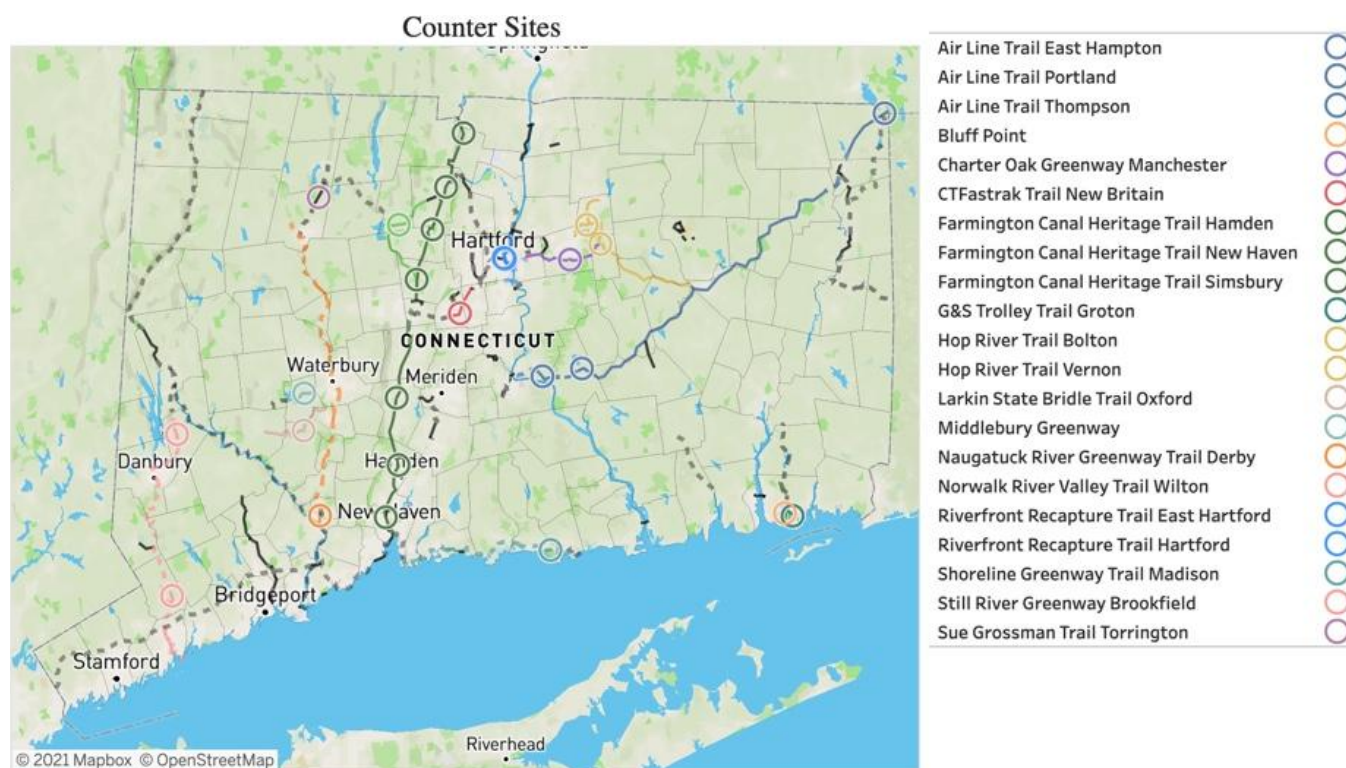
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## Overview

The following report includes the final adjusted infrared (IR) counter data from 20 multi-use path locations in CT for 2020. This is the fourth year of counts for all locations, except the two Riverfront Recapture sites in Hartford and East Hartford (added in late 2017), the Air Line Trail in Portland; Charter Oak Greenway in Manchester; and G & S Trail in Groton, (added in summer 2019). A new site at Bluff Point State Park was added in July 2020, however, this site was not included in the 2020 analysis as a full year of data has not yet been collected. Counts are recorded using TRAFx brand infrared (IR) pedestrian counters.



**Figure 1. Trail Counter Sites**

This user count is part of a larger multi-use trail data collection effort, the [Connecticut Trail Census](#), a statewide volunteer data collection program intended to inform a better understanding of multi-use trail use and to make this information available to trail user groups, administrators, government agencies, and the general public. In addition to this report, we have also created a new data portal to visualize trail use data. Please visit our website to view the data portals. The project is funded by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program; project partners include the Connecticut State Greenways Council and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments.



## Connecticut Trail Census Goals

1. Understand when, who, how, and why people use Connecticut's trails
2. Educate trail user groups, administrators, state and local government agencies, and the general public about trails and their impacts
3. Obtain multi-year information about trail use, user demographics, economic impacts, and trail amenities for identification of patterns and trends
4. Promote citizen participation in monitoring and understanding the value of trails and to encourage data-based trail design, construction and management.

## 2020 Trail Use: Key Takeaways

- **Trails Use Increase:** Overall, trail use increased by **38.3% in 2020** compared to uses in 2019, based on trail use data aggregated across trail locations and throughout the year. Approximately 2,135,669 uses were recorded in 2020 across the twenty sites evaluated in this report, as compared to 1,544,158 uses recorded in 2019. The global pandemic and encouragement from the State of Connecticut to utilize outdoor spaces and trails in a responsible and socially distanced manner has encouraged increased outdoor recreational use.
- **COVID Pandemic Shifts Trail Use Patterns:** Most recreational trails saw much higher levels of use during COVID restrictions. Trail use shifted to higher levels of afternoon use as compared to higher mid-day use previously. Trails with normally heavy commuter use, such as the CTFAstrak Trail in New Britain saw drops in the level of use.
- **Weather Rules:** Weather appears to have a major influence on the volume of trail use. On days with mild to warm temperatures and clear conditions, trails see higher user volumes overall. It is worth noting that although the majority of trail use occurs in the summer/spring and fall, roughly 12% of use occurs in winter. Even on rainy days with moderate temperatures, people are still using trails.



## 2020 Totals

A total of 2,135,669 uses were recorded across all 20 sites. Using average daily counts to account for missing data, the 20 sites had an estimated 2,162,502 uses in 2020. This is an increase of approximately 591,511 uses, or 38.3% annual growth in trail use. The most heavily used trails during 2020 were the Naugatuck River Greenway in Derby, the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire, and the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Hamden. The CTFastrak Trail in New Britain and the Air Line Trail counter in Thompson recorded the lowest use.

**Table 1. 2020 Total Trail Use Counts and Daily Averages by Trail Location**

Trail Location	Total Count	Days with Data*	Daily Average	Daily Avg. x 365
Air Line Trail East Hampton	107,179	366	293	107,179
Air Line Trail Portland	51,662	366	141	51,662
Air Line Trail Thompson	23,891	366	65	23,891
Charter Oak Greenway Manchester	76,671	366	209	76,671
CTFastrak Trail New Britain	16,133	366	44	16,133
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Cheshire	186,299	318	545	199,539
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Hamden	180,226	338	473	173,064
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail New Haven	170,004	366	464	170,004
G&S Trolley Trail Groton	57,320	366	157	57,320
Hop River Trail Bolton	136,621	366	373	136,621
Hop River Trail Vernon	149,794	366	409	149,794
Larkin State Bridle Trail Oxford	44,514	349	126	46,142
Middlebury Greenway	82,235	321	237	86,663
Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Derby	334,417	364	914	334,433
Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton	45,043	261	163	59,727
Riverfront Recapture Trail East Hartford	49,696	366	136	49,696
Riverfront Recapture Trail Hartford	126,399	366	345	126,399
Shoreline Greenway Trail Madison	104,041	366	284	104,041
Still River Greenway Brookfield	135,433	366	370	135,433
Sue Grossman Trail Torrington	58,091	366	159	58,091

TOTALS	2,135,669	7,075	5,908	2,162,503
*Note: Red values indicate sites where less than 366 days of data were collected.				

## Monthly Summary

The tables below present trail use totals by month. Table 2 details adjusted count totals by site by month. Table 3 shows the percent of total annual counts by month, and is formatted with higher percentages shaded in darker green. Be aware that the percent of total for months with missing data reflects that fact. Additional information on data management approaches can be reviewed in the Understanding the Data section at the end of this report (pg. 13). Figure 1 provides a comparison of monthly data between 2018-2020 datasets.

## Key Takeaways

- **Warm Weather and COVID-19 Restrictions May Have Impacted Use :** The heaviest use occurred between March and October. A seasonal trail use increase occurred in March 2020, with a similar increase taking place later in the spring, in April of 2019. This earlier shift in 2020 may have resulted as a combined result of warm weather and encouragement to responsibly utilize outdoor resources based upon state level COVID-19 restrictions.
- **Trail Closures due to COVID-19 result in reduction in local use levels:** The Still River Greenway in Brookfield was the only trail which experienced temporary closures due concerns of crowding and COVID restrictions. The trail was closed between March 27 - June 10 and the count data table shows low trail use occurring during this period.
- **The highest trail use volume for most trails was in the Month of May.** June had the highest volume in 2019, encouragement of outdoor recreation during COVID lockdowns combined with warm clear weather conditions encouraged use earlier in the season.
- **Commuting Patterns on Trails Were Less Consistent in 2020:** In previous years use on trails such as the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in New Haven or CTfastrak Trail in New Britain have demonstrated commuter use patterns, i.e. evenly distributed uses over the week and year. However, with work from home orders, trail use patterns were more consistent across all multi-use paths with no clear commuter patterns.
- **Monthly Total Uses Increased for January - June and September - December in 2020.** Increases in trail use in 2020 occurred across the year, with a slightly lower level of use August which may in part be due to the



impacts of Tropical Storm Iasi which caused major tree damage and left various parts of Connecticut without power for close to a week. Trails were impacted by debris as well.

**Table 2. Monthly Trail Use Counts By Trail**

Trail	Date											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Air Line Trail, East Hampton	2,675	3,207	8,353	10,373	14,315	13,219	11,216	10,956	12,201	9,036	7,610	4,018
Air Line Trail, Portland	1,692	1,568	5,277	6,312	7,904	5,677	4,324	3,736	4,530	4,315	3,845	2,482
Air Line Trail, Thompson	791	979	2,396	3,073	3,757	2,079	1,442	1,661	1,987	2,271	2,161	1,294
Charter Oak Greenway, Manchester	2,603	2,376	5,517	7,109	11,492	10,644	8,572	7,761	7,274	6,733	4,650	1,940
CTFastrak Trail, New Britain	1,034	968	1,259	1,299	1,791	1,621	1,681	1,604	1,422	1,408	1,159	887
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Cheshire	4,818	5,080	12,997	7,897		28,654	24,319	19,454	26,413	20,241	16,540	6,957
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Hamden	4,730	4,633	11,784	14,279	24,172	11,001	12,396	18,609	21,859	16,875	13,599	5,887
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, New Haven	8,838	9,446	15,517	18,607	24,181	16,381	13,094	12,288	17,294	15,651	11,426	7,281
G&S Trolley Trail, Groton	2,427	2,138	4,843	6,003	8,232	6,724	5,475	4,319	5,088	4,924	4,521	2,626
Hop River Trail, Bolton	3,257	3,007	8,951	11,845	19,375	16,072	15,681	15,893	16,516	12,720	9,733	3,571
Hop River Trail, Vernon	4,511	4,675	12,388	14,378	20,673	17,723	15,297	14,429	13,915	13,662	11,534	6,609
Larkin State Bridle Trail, Oxford	424	1,428	3,519	4,387	5,938	5,255	3,605	3,487	5,032	4,399	3,890	2,635
Middlebury, Greenway	2,262	2,926	3,687	0	3,933	12,690	10,085	9,815	10,656	8,532	7,345	4,077
Naugatuck River Greenway Trail, Derby	22,500	16,319	38,885	34,118	35,424	37,925	22,011	23,739	29,678	28,811	25,374	17,821
Norwalk River Valley Trail, Wilton	3,489	3,708	8,158	7,504	7,979	3,550				2,516	2,543	3,145
Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford	2,499	2,383	5,083	4,004	7,985	6,477	4,458	4,372	4,706	4,029	2,649	1,051
Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford	3,743	3,660	7,248	6,678	17,063	27,230	17,498	16,933	10,688	7,697	5,524	2,437
Shoreline Greenway Trail, Madison	4,512	3,946	10,106	9,955	13,410	6,063	9,600	12,515	12,813	8,798	8,039	4,284
Still River Greenway, Brookfield	11,871	11,865	23,687	277	609	8,921	12,184	13,383	17,173	14,468	12,496	8,499
Sue Grossman Trail, Torrington	2,249	2,828	6,698	7,572	8,996	7,065	3,906	3,072	3,724	4,922	4,048	3,011

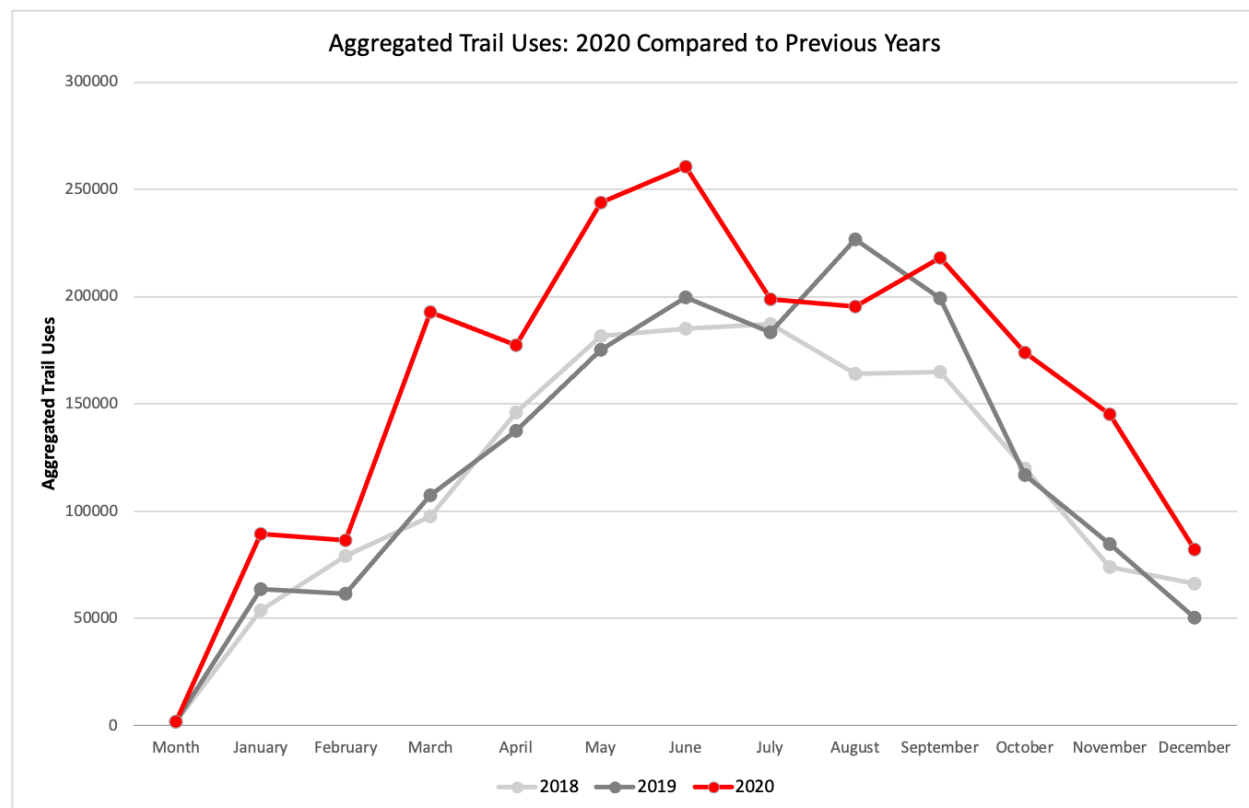


**Table 3. Percent of Total Annual Trail Use by Month**

Trail	Date											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Air Line Trail, East Hampton	2%	3%	8%	10%	13%	12%	10%	10%	11%	8%	7%	4%
Air Line Trail, Portland	3%	3%	10%	12%	15%	11%	8%	7%	9%	8%	7%	5%
Air Line Trail, Thompson	3%	4%	10%	13%	16%	9%	6%	7%	8%	10%	9%	5%
Charter Oak Greenway, Manchester	3%	3%	7%	9%	15%	14%	11%	10%	9%	9%	6%	3%
CTFastrak Trail, New Britain	6%	6%	8%	8%	11%	10%	10%	10%	9%	9%	7%	5%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Cheshire	3%	3%	7%	5%		17%	14%	11%	15%	12%	10%	4%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Hamden	3%	3%	7%	9%	15%	7%	8%	12%	14%	11%	9%	4%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, New Haven	5%	6%	9%	11%	14%	10%	8%	7%	10%	9%	7%	4%
G&S Trolley Trail, Groton	4%	4%	8%	10%	14%	12%	10%	8%	9%	9%	8%	5%
Hop River Trail, Bolton	2%	2%	7%	9%	14%	12%	11%	12%	12%	9%	7%	3%
Hop River Trail, Vernon	3%	3%	8%	10%	14%	12%	10%	10%	9%	9%	8%	4%
Larkin State Bridle Trail, Oxford	1%	3%	8%	10%	13%	12%	8%	8%	11%	10%	9%	6%
Middlebury, Greenway	3%	4%	5%	0%	5%	17%	13%	13%	14%	11%	10%	5%
Naugatuck River Greenway Trail, Derby	7%	5%	12%	10%	11%	11%	7%	7%	9%	9%	8%	5%
Norwalk River Valley Trail, Wilton	8%	9%	19%	18%	19%	8%				6%	6%	7%
Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford	5%	5%	10%	8%	16%	13%	9%	9%	9%	8%	5%	2%
Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford	3%	3%	6%	5%	13%	22%	14%	13%	8%	6%	4%	2%
Shoreline Greenway Trail, Madison	4%	4%	10%	10%	13%	6%	9%	12%	12%	8%	8%	4%
Still River Greenway, Brookfield	9%	9%	17%	0%	0%	7%	9%	10%	13%	11%	9%	6%
Sue Grossman Trail, Torrington	4%	5%	12%	13%	15%	12%	7%	5%	6%	8%	7%	5%

Note: Green shading depth increases with higher levels of use count data. The null or zero percent for Farmington Canal Trail, Norwalk River Valley Trail, and Middlebury reflect missing data whereas Still River Greenway reflects trail closure shifts in use.

**Figure 2. Aggregated Trail Use Comparisons by month for 2018-2020**



Note: Trail uses are based on hourly trail count data collected from trail sites from which data was available from 2018-2020 located in East Hampton, New Britain, Cheshire, Hamden, New Haven, Bolton, Vernon, Oxford, Middlebury, Derby, Wilton, Hartford, Madison, Brookfield, and Torrington.



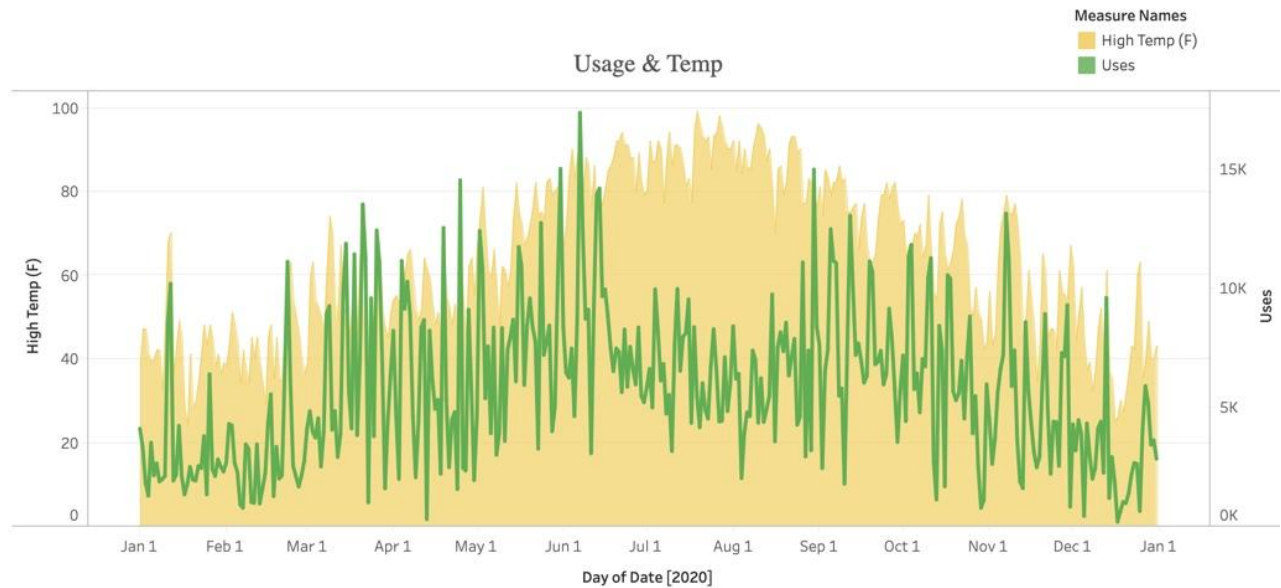
## Daily Totals and Weather Detail

For visualizing daily totals by individual trail or in the aggregate, visit the CT Trail Census [Interactive Data Visualization Portal](#). The [Trail Use and Weather](#) site integrates trail use and daily high temperature, precipitation, snowfall, and snow depth.

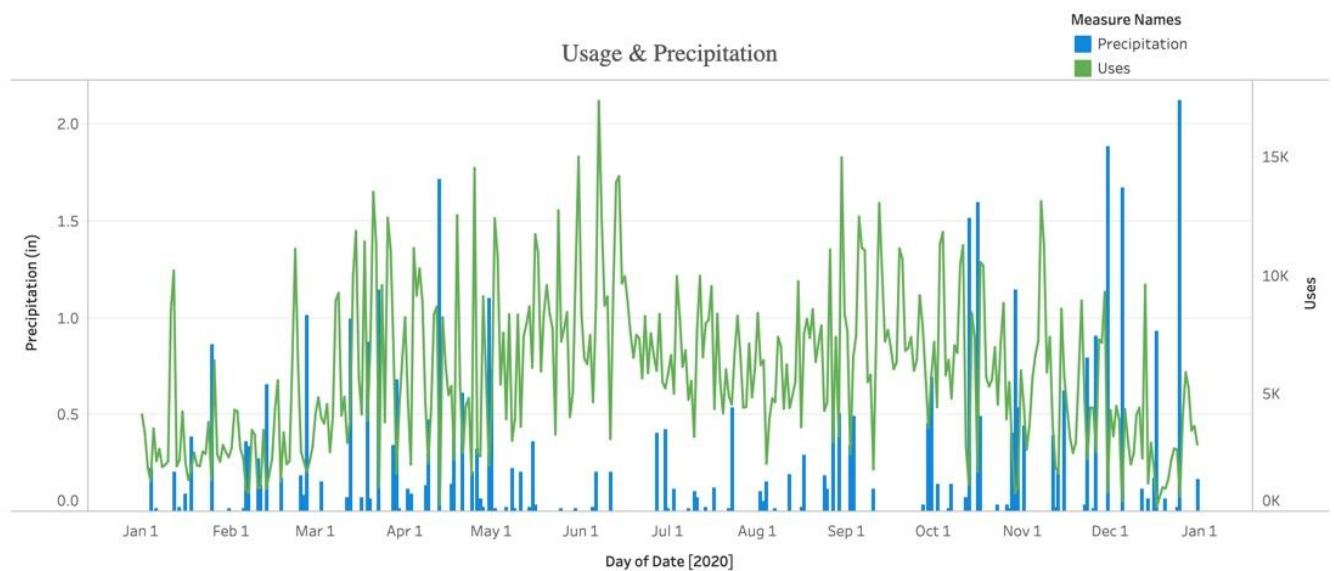
## Key Takeaways

- **Increase in Average Daily Trail Use:** The average daily use across all trails increased from 246 in 2019, to 295 in 2020.
- **Highest Trail Use Days in August and June:** The two highest daily total trail use for all trails combined was Sunday, August 30, 2020 with 20,905 uses and Sunday, June 7, with 19,545 trail uses. The high use on June 7 may be in part due to National Trails Weekend, a warm (66°F) and clear day. Connecticut also entered Phase 1 Reopening of COVID-19 restrictions on May 18, 2020 and outdoor gathering restrictions were amended on June 1.
- **Weather is Likely the Most Significant Factor Impacting Daily Trail Use.** On days that are warm to mild, trails get the most use overall. It is worth noting that although the majority of trail use occurs in the summer/spring and fall, significant use (12%) occurs in winter. Even on rainy days with moderate temperatures, people are still using trails. Decreases in trail use counts in late July and early August occur at the same time that Tropical Storm Iasi impacted Connecticut.
- **Trail Plowing or Grooming Encourages Use:** Trails that plow and remove or groom snow after storms experience rapid rebounds in use following major snowfall. For example, a major snow event on December 15-16, 2020 reduced trail use across all trails. Trail use in Derby, where the trail is plowed, rebounded quickly. Several trails showed increased use when snow cover was present indicating participation in winter activities.
- **Spring Fever?** On rare days in winter and early spring when temperatures rise, trail use increases. On January 12, the weather was unseasonably warm (70 degrees) and total daily trail usage spiked to 11,235 uses.

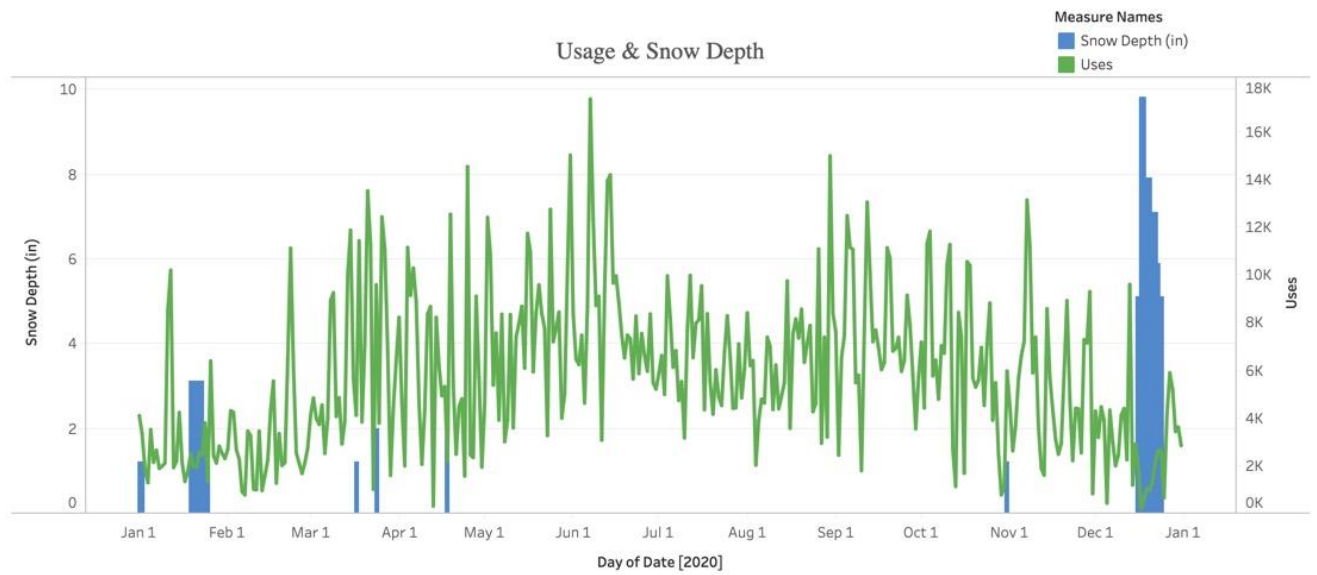
**Figure 3. Aggregated Trail Use and Daily High Temperatures**



**Figure 4. Aggregated Trail Use and Precipitation**



**Figure 5. Aggregated Trail Use and Snow Cover**





## Day of Week Summary

The day of week summary breaks down the annual adjusted counts by day of week. The first table details total counts by the day of week and the second table shows the percent of trail use by day of week for each trail, and is formatted with higher values shaded darker green.

## Key Takeaways

- **Overall, 60% of total uses were on weekdays and 40% on weekends**, a similar trend for data collected since 2017. The most active trail day in 2020 was Sunday, closely followed by Saturday. This is a shift from 2019 where Saturday was the most popular day for weekend trail use. Weekday activities were evenly distributed with Wednesday having a slightly higher percentage of use and Thursday and Fridays were slightly lower.
- **All trails saw heavier use on weekends than weekdays**, with the exception of the CTFastrak Trail, for which use was slightly higher in the middle of the week. This use pattern is indicative of heavier commuter use, as the trail runs parallel to the CTFastrak Bus Rapid Transit line.



**Table 4. Day of Week Summary Table:**

Trail	Date						
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Air Line Trail, East Hampton	25,335	12,071	12,645	12,661	11,653	11,101	21,713
Air Line Trail, Portland	11,029	5,953	6,979	6,750	5,906	5,613	9,432
Air Line Trail, Thompson	6,502	2,222	2,490	2,331	2,244	2,242	5,860
Charter Oak Greenway, Manchester	14,845	10,794	10,483	9,786	8,941	8,813	13,009
CTFastrak Trail, New Britain	2,194	2,227	2,437	2,471	2,407	2,252	2,145
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Cheshire	39,808	20,199	19,804	19,891	18,860	19,756	35,052
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Hamden	34,910	17,490	17,942	18,627	17,751	17,837	35,267
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, New Haven	28,935	21,525	24,380	23,731	21,577	21,091	28,765
G&S Trolley Trail, Groton	13,330	6,127	7,006	6,831	6,326	5,830	11,870
Hop River Trail, Bolton	33,692	14,789	14,426	14,788	14,622	13,992	30,312
Hop River Trail, Vernon	31,089	18,025	18,835	19,823	17,180	17,846	26,996
Larkin State Bridle Trail, Oxford	10,049	4,973	5,357	5,148	4,822	4,616	9,034
Middlebury, Greenway	13,513	11,026	10,498	11,349	9,359	8,850	11,413
Naugatuck River Greenway Trail, Derby	58,753	43,213	47,250	49,469	40,962	36,962	55,996
Norwalk River Valley Trail, Wilton	9,179	5,190	5,522	5,916	4,890	4,069	7,826
Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford	8,078	7,053	7,528	7,419	6,597	5,660	7,361
Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford	24,372	17,167	19,583	17,603	14,599	13,641	19,434
Shoreline Greenway Trail, Madison	23,794	12,372	11,967	12,675	10,871	11,025	21,337
Still River Greenway, Brookfield	28,212	17,749	16,289	18,701	16,223	16,111	22,148
Sue Grossman Trail, Torrington	10,116	7,955	8,664	8,601	7,187	6,873	8,695

**Table 5. Day of Week Summary Percent of Totals Table:**

Trail	Date						
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Air Line Trail, East Hampton	24%	11%	12%	12%	11%	10%	20%
Air Line Trail, Portland	21%	12%	14%	13%	11%	11%	18%
Air Line Trail, Thompson	27%	9%	10%	10%	9%	9%	25%
Charter Oak Greenway, Manchester	19%	14%	14%	13%	12%	11%	17%
CTFastrak Trail, New Britain	14%	14%	15%	15%	15%	14%	13%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Cheshire	23%	12%	11%	11%	11%	11%	20%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Hamden	22%	11%	11%	12%	11%	11%	22%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, New Haven	17%	13%	14%	14%	13%	12%	17%
G&S Trolley Trail, Groton	23%	11%	12%	12%	11%	10%	21%
Hop River Trail, Bolton	25%	11%	11%	11%	11%	10%	22%
Hop River Trail, Vernon	21%	12%	13%	13%	11%	12%	18%
Larkin State Bridle Trail, Oxford	23%	11%	12%	12%	11%	10%	21%
Middlebury, Greenway	18%	15%	14%	15%	12%	12%	15%
Naugatuck River Greenway Trail, Derby	18%	13%	14%	15%	12%	11%	17%
Norwalk River Valley Trail, Wilton	22%	12%	13%	14%	11%	10%	18%
Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford	16%	14%	15%	15%	13%	11%	15%
Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford	19%	14%	15%	14%	12%	11%	15%
Shoreline Greenway Trail, Madison	23%	12%	12%	12%	10%	11%	21%
Still River Greenway, Brookfield	21%	13%	12%	14%	12%	12%	16%
Sue Grossman Trail, Torrington	17%	14%	15%	15%	12%	12%	15%

Note: Green shading depth increases with higher levels of use count data.



## Hour of Day Summary

The Hour of Day summary reports use broken out by time of day. The table shows percent of daily use by hour of day for each trail and for all trails combined. The Percent of Daily Average table is formatted so that cells with higher values are shaded darker green. For summary totals, visit the data portal.

## Key Takeaways

- **Most trail use (83%) takes place between 9am-5pm.** This is consistent with findings throughout the Trail Census data collection.
- **In 2020, trails were busiest from 1pm- 4pm,** with 3 pm- 4 pm being the busiest hour on average, This is a marked shift from data collected in 2019 and previous years data, where trails were busiest from 10am-1pm, with 12 pm-1 pm being the busiest hour on average. This pattern shift was observed during weekdays and weekend activity periods.
- **Reduced Commuter Hours:** The CTFastrak Trail in New Britain and the Farmington Canal Trail in New Haven that have displayed heavier morning/evening use in previous years, had reduced morning use and more heavily weighted afternoon use consistent with other trail systems in 2020.

**Table 6. Hourly Percent of Totals**

Trail	Hour																							
	12 AM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM	5 AM	6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM
Air Line Trail East Hampton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	4%	6%	8%	9%	10%	11%	11%	11%	10%	9%	5%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Air Line Trail Portland	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	5%	7%	8%	9%	9%	9%	10%	9%	10%	9%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Air Line Trail Thompson	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	3%	4%	8%	10%	11%	13%	13%	12%	10%	7%	4%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Charter Oak Greenway Manchester	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	4%	6%	7%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	9%	10%	8%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%
CTFastrak Trail New Britain	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%	4%	4%	3%	5%	5%	5%	6%	8%	8%	11%	10%	9%	6%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Cheshire	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	5%	7%	9%	10%	10%	9%	9%	10%	9%	8%	5%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Hamden	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	4%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	10%	11%	11%	10%	7%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail New Haven	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%	6%	6%	7%	8%	8%	7%	7%	8%	9%	10%	7%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%
G&S Trolley Trail Groton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	5%	7%	8%	9%	10%	9%	10%	10%	10%	9%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Hop River Trail Bolton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	5%	7%	8%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	9%	8%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Hop River Trail Vernon	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%	6%	8%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Larkin State Bridle Trail Oxford	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	6%	7%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	5%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Middlebury Greenway	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	6%	7%	9%	10%	9%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	8%	6%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Derby	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	4%	5%	6%	8%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	7%	6%	4%	2%	1%	0%	0%
Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	5%	7%	9%	9%	9%	9%	10%	11%	11%	9%	5%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Riverfront Recapture Trail East Hartford	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	3%	5%	6%	6%	9%	11%	8%	7%	8%	11%	10%	7%	3%	1%	1%	0%
Riverfront Recapture Trail Hartford	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	3%	4%	4%	6%	7%	10%	12%	11%	10%	9%	7%	6%	4%	2%	1%	0%	0%
Shoreline Greenway Trail Madison	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%	11%	10%	10%	10%	10%	9%	8%	5%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Still River Greenway Brookfield	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	5%	6%	7%	8%	8%	9%	10%	11%	11%	10%	7%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Sue Grossman Trail Torrington	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	5%	7%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Note: Green shading depth increases with higher levels of use count data.

## Understanding the Data





The count data represented in this report shows the number of uses or trips, not individual visits or visitors. Infrared counters register warm bodies passing by the IR scope. Therefore, trail users who travel out and back on the same route will pass the counter twice and

be counted twice. For trails with primarily out and back traffic, trail visits can be estimated at  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the count total. The raw data was adjusted or “calibrated” using manual counts completed by volunteers in the beginning in 2017. The manual counts of trail use at the counter locations were compared to the counts registered by the IR counter in that location for identical time periods. Individual adjustment factors were then established for each trail location by dividing the manual count total by the IR count total. Since the count data in this report also only provides information about use at a single point on a trail where the counter is installed, the figures may not necessarily be indicative of use of an entire trail or trail network. For more information about specific locations of counters, please see the program webpage.

## Missing Data

There were some issues that resulted in missing or corrupted data, so not all counters produced complete data for the entire year. Data issues included moisture in the IR scope, heated vegetation within view of the IR scope, nesting insects obstructing IR scope, and in one case a traffic accident that removed a counter from service for several weeks. Missing data or data during time periods when a malfunction was identified was removed from the dataset. In order to account for missing data on annual use estimates, the annual totals were calculated by multiplying the average daily use for days with valid data on each trail by 365. All other breakdowns of the data are based on the adjusted (calibrated) counts, but still reflect the missing or removed data. More detailed information about methodology can be found on our website.