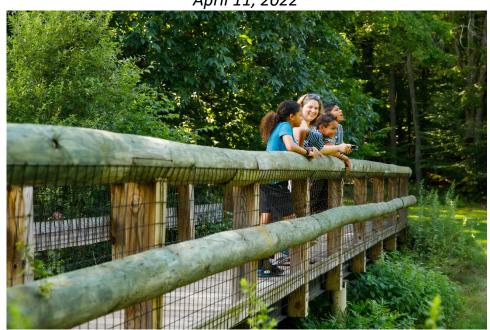


# Connecticut Trail Census Statewide multi-use trail user study



## **2021 Trail Use Count Data Report**

April 11, 2022













## **Acknowledgements**

### **Trails Program Staff and Volunteers**

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#### **Overview**

This report includes the final adjusted infrared (IR) counter data from 21 multi-use path locations in Connecticut for 2021. This is the fifth year of counts for most locations<sup>1</sup>. Counts are recorded using TRAFx brand infrared (IR) pedestrian counters. Trail counter technical issues at the Naugatuck River Greenway in Derby resulted in less than 3 months of usable data, therefore this location is not included in the 2021 aggregated analysis. The CT Trail Census team is working on modeling estimates for 2021 trail use.



Figure 1. Trail Counter Sites

This user count summary is part of a larger multi-use trail data collection effort called the Connecticut Trail Census<sup>2</sup> which is a statewide volunteer data collection program intended to inform a better understanding of multi-use trail use and to make the information available to trail user groups, administrators, government agencies, and the general public. In addition to this report, the team has also created a data portal to visualize trail use data. Please visit the website to view the data portals. The project is funded by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) Recreational Trails Program. Project partners include the Connecticut State Greenways Council and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Exceptions are the two Riverfront Recapture sites in Hartford and East Hartford (added in late 2017), the Air Line JState Park Trail in Portland, Charter Oak Greenway in Manchester, G & S Trail in Groton (added in summer 2019), and Bluff Point State Park (added July 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://cttrailcensus.uconn.edu/

#### **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.

#### **Understanding the Data**

The count data presented in this report shows the number of *uses*, not individual visits or visitors. Infrared counters register warm bodies passing by the IR scope. 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 ½ of the count total.

The raw data was adjusted or "calibrated" using manual counts completed by volunteers in the beginning of 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 the same time periods. Individual adjustment factors were then established for each trail location by dividing the manual count total by the IR count total. The count data in this report only provides information about use at the point on a trail where the counter is installed. The figures are not indicative of use of an entire trail or trail network.

### **Missing Data**

There were issues with several counters that resulted in missing or corrupted data and therefore incomplete datasets for the 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 a malfunction was removed from the dataset. 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 are based on the adjusted (calibrated) counts, but still reflect the missing or removed data. More detailed information about methodology can be found on the website.

### 2021 Trail Use: Key Takeaways

- **Summary**. Trail use decreased in 2021 following the 2020 surge but remains higher than 2019 pre-COVID levels.
- Shifts in Trail Use Reflect Pre-Pandemic Patterns. A shift back to mid-day trail use patterns was observed, similar to patterns prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, trail use continues to be more dispersed through the afternoons.
- Trail Specific Monthly Trail Use Patterns. 2021 Monthly patterns of trail use are very trail specific.

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. Although the majority of trail use occurs in the summer/spring and fall, roughly 10%
of use occurs in winter. Even on rainy days with moderate temperatures, people still use
trails.

## 2021 Yearly Count by Trail

The most heavily used trails in the study in 2021 were Bluff Point State Park, the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Hamden, and the Still River Greenway in Brookfield. The CT FasTrak Trail in New Britain and the Air Line Trail counter in Thompson recorded the lowest use. Trail counter technical issues at the Naugatuck River Greenway location in Derby, a heavily used trail, resulted in less than 3 months of usable data and was therefore not included in the 2021 aggregated analysis. A total of 1,957,392 uses were recorded across the 20 sites in 2021, for which data was available. Using average daily counts to account for missing data, the 20 sites had an estimated 1,963,582 uses in 2021.

**Table 1**. 2021 Total Trail Use Counts and Daily Averages by Trail Location

Trail Location	Total Count	Days with Data*	Daily Average	Daily Average X 365
Air Line Trail, East Hampton	81, 441	365	223	81,441
Air Line Trail, Portland	35,594	365	97	35,594
Air Line Trail, Thompson	18,352	365	50	18,352
Bluff Point State Park*, Groton	358,020	359	985	359,477
Charter Oak Greenway, Manchester	67,522	365	185	67,522
CT FasTrak Trail, New Britain	12,586	365	34	12,586
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Cheshire	168,186	365	461	168,186
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Hamden	182,799	352	498	181,745
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, New Haven	138,817	365	380	138,817
G&S Trolley Trail, Groton	42,813	365	117	42,813
Hop River Trail, Bolton	86,255	327	222	80,915
Hop River Trail, Vernon	147,770	365	405	147,770
Larkin State Bridle Trail, Oxford	33,466	365	92	33,466
Middlebury Greenway, Middlebury	73,255	365	201	73,255
Norwalk River Valley Trail, Wilton	47,168	280	160	58,294
Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford	55,489	365	152	55,489
Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford	97,633	365	267	97,633
Shoreline Greenway Trail, Madison	96,727	365	265	96,727
Still River Greenway, Brookfield	163,272	365	447	163,272
Sue Grossman Trail, Torrington	50,227	365	138	50,227
TOTALS	1,957,392			1,963,582

<sup>\*</sup>Notes

<sup>-</sup> Red values indicate sites where less than 365 days of data were collected.

<sup>-</sup> Naugatuck Valley Greenway Derby is not included in this 2021 table due to limited data collection.

<sup>-</sup> Bluff Point data collection began in June 2020 and is therefore not included in yearly comparisons.

## **2021 Counts by Month**

#### **Key Takeaways**

- Warm weather increases trail use. As observed in previous years, the heaviest trail use occurred, in general, between the months of March and October. There was a seasonal trail use increase in March 2021 which is similar to the trend observed in 2020 and 2019.
- May had the highest trail use for most trails. The pattern of peak use in the late spring/early summer has been observed throughout the CT Trail Census data collection program. Table 4 shows totals for aggregated monthly 2021 CT Trail Census sites, were May had the highest level of trail uses, 218,671.
- Reduced commuting patterns in 2021 are consistent with 2020. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, use on trails such as the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in New Haven and the CTfasTrak Trail in New Britain demonstrated commuter use patterns which are defined by evenly distributed uses over the week and year. However, trail use patterns were much more trail specific in 2021 with no clear commuter patterns. This may reflect remote or hybrid work transitions.
- Patterns are trail specific. Percent of Total Annual Trail Use by Month counts show that trail use patterns were highly trail specific in 2021. Appendix A provides individual trail comparisons of monthly data collected between 2018 and 2022.

The tables below present trail use totals by month. *Table 2* details adjusted count totals for each site by month. *Table 3* shows the percentage of total annual counts by month with higher percentages shaded darker green. Note that the percentage totals for months with missing data are highlighted pink. Additional information on data management approaches can be found in the *Understanding the Data* section at the beginning of this report. *Figure 2* provides a comparison of monthly data for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 for 15 sites where data was collected over the time period. Appendix A provides separate charts for each of the 15 sites, demonstrating differences on a site-by-site basis.

 Table 2. Monthly Trail Use Counts by Trail

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Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Air Line Trail East Hampton	4,923	2,434	8,383	7,869	8,593	7,879	8,153	6,857	8,280	9,061	5,114	3,895
Air Line Trail Portland	3,460	842	4,168	3,988	3,623	2,711	3,206	2,149	3,213	3,185	2,664	2,385
Air Line Trail Thompson	1,729	894	1,767	2,134	2,050	1,344	1,664	1,570	1,574	1,635	1,220	771
Bluff Point	22,874	11,228	30,094	38,717	45,944	52,894	51,359	25,940	22,261	21,892	18,179	16,638
Charter Oak Greenway Manchester	2,950	839	6,998	7,699	9,466	8,687	7,725	6,434	6,050	5,331	3,220	2,123
CTFastrak Trail New Britain	840	606	1,331	1,261	1,204	1,184	1,176	998	1,089	1,076	983	838
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Cheshire	6,691	862	12,304	16,125	19,545	21,496	20,147	19,155	21,436	15,744	8,925	5,756
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Hamden	6,435	4,539	17,949	19,273	22,090	23,667	20,219	20,172	22,286	14,507	7,069	4,593
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail New Haven	8,667	8,457	14,295	14,800	12,900	10,568	11,146	8,205	14,126	15,515	11,770	8,368
G&S Trolley Trail Groton	3,348	1,557	4,280	4,141	4,454	3,737	4,120	3,758	3,778	3,782	3,296	2,562
Hop River Trail Bolton	4,769	2,745	5,930	8,420	7,275	6,091	7,571	9,922	13,394	9,507	6,800	3,831
Hop River Trail Vernon	9,299	3,313	12,444	8,494	14,200	14,378	15,805	16,625	17,895	16,137	11,825	7,355
Larkin State Bridle Trail Oxford	2,647	1,004	2,686	3,104	4,057	3,489	2,861	2,856	3,057	3,361	2,170	2,174
Middlebury Greenway	5,095	113	5,968	7,460	8,634	8,034	7,456	7,052	7,779	6,809	5,196	3,659
Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton	5,241	1,708	4,279	4,265	4,790	2,214	981			8,462	7,853	7,375
Riverfront Recapture Trail East Hartford	1,451	1,098	3,833	5,794	8,026	7,863	5,018	5,250	5,638	6,176	3,098	2,244
Riverfront Recapture Trail Hartford	3,365	2,872	7,461	8,191	10,073	10,324	10,628	12,028	11,175	13,673	4,440	3,403
Shoreline Greenway Trail Madison	5,829	1,474	7,283	7,051	9,775	11,869	13,529	11,721	11,687	7,728	4,533	4,248
Still River Greenway Brookfield	9,408	5,820	14,234	11,497	16,833	14,196	15,219	14,704	18,337	18,503	13,224	11,297
Sue Grossman Trail Torrington	3,693	664	6,396	5,689	5,139	4,527	3,957	4,519	2,925	5,384	4,119	3,215
Totals	112,714	53,069	172,083	185,972	218,671	217,152	211,940	179,915	195,980	187,468	125,698	96,730

<sup>\*</sup>Pink highlights indicate months with totals including missing data.

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

Wilton         Riverfront Recapture Trail,       3%       2%       7%       10%       14%       14%       9%       9%       10%       11%       6%         East Hartford       3%       3%       8%       8%       10%       11%       12%       11%       14%       5%         Hartford       Shoreline Greenway Trail,       6%       2%       8%       7%       10%       12%       14%       12%       12%       8%       5%	ibie 3. Tereent of Te	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Hop River Trail, Bolton         6%         3%         7%         10%         8%         7%         9%         12%         16%         11%         8%           Hop River Trail, Vernon         6%         2%         8%         6%         10%         10%         11%         12%         11%         8%           Larkin State Bridle Trail, Oxford         8%         3%         8%         9%         12%         10%         9%         9%         10%         6%           Middlebury Greenway, Middlebury         7%         0%         8%         10%         12%         11%         10%         11%         9%         7%           Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton         11%         4%         9%         9%         10%         5%         2%         18%         17%           Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford         3%         2%         7%         10%         14%         14%         9%         9%         10%         11%         14%         5%           Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford         3%         3%         8%         8%         10%         11%         11%         14%         5%           Shoreline Greenway Trail, Shoreline Greenway Trail, Shoreline Greenway Trail, Shoreline Green	•	6%	6%	10%	11%	9%	8%	8%	6%	10%	11%	8%	6%
Hop River Trail, Vernon 6% 2% 8% 6% 10% 10% 11% 11% 12% 11% 8%  Larkin State Bridle Trail, Oxford 8% 3% 8% 9% 12% 10% 9% 9% 9% 10% 6%  Middlebury Greenway, Middlebury 7% 0% 8% 10% 12% 11% 10% 10% 11% 9% 7%  Morwalk River Valley Trail Wilton 11% 4% 9% 9% 10% 5% 2% 18% 17%  Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford 3% 3% 8% 8% 10% 11% 11% 12% 11% 14% 5%  Shoreline Greenway Trail, 6% 2% 8% 7% 10% 12% 14% 12% 12% 8% 5%	&S Trolley Trail, Groton	8%	4%	10%	10%	10%	9%	10%	9%	9%	9%	8%	6%
Larkin State Bridle Trail, Oxford       8%       3%       8%       9%       12%       10%       9%       9%       9%       10%       6%         Middlebury Greenway, Middlebury       7%       0%       8%       10%       12%       11%       10%       10%       11%       9%       7%         Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton       11%       4%       9%       9%       10%       5%       2%       18%       17%         Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford       3%       2%       7%       10%       14%       14%       9%       9%       10%       11%       6%         Shoreline Greenway Trail, S	pp River Trail, Bolton	6%	3%	7%	10%	8%	7%	9%	12%	16%	11%	8%	4%
Oxford       8%       3%       8%       9%       12%       10%       9%       9%       9%       10%       6%         Middlebury Greenway, Middlebury       7%       0%       8%       10%       12%       11%       10%       10%       11%       9%       7%         Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton       11%       4%       9%       9%       10%       5%       2%       18%       17%         Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford       3%       2%       7%       10%       14%       14%       9%       9%       10%       11%       6%         Shoreline Greenway Trail, Sh	pp River Trail, Vernon	6%	2%	8%	6%	10%	10%	11%	11%	<b>12</b> %	11%	8%	5%
Middlebury         7%         0%         8%         10%         12%         11%         10%         11%         9%         7%           Norwalk River Valley Trail         11%         4%         9%         9%         10%         5%         2%         18%         17%           Wilton         Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford         3%         2%         7%         10%         14%         14%         9%         9%         10%         11%         6%           Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford         3%         8%         8%         10%         11%         11%         12%         11%         14%         5%           Shoreline Greenway Trail,         6%         2%         8%         7%         10%         12%         14%         12%         12%         8%         5%	,	8%	3%	8%	9%	12%	10%	9%	9%	9%	10%	6%	6%
Wilton       11%       4%       9%       9%       10%       5%       2%       18%       17%         Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford       3%       2%       7%       10%       14%       14%       9%       9%       10%       11%       6%         Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford       3%       8%       8%       10%       11%       11%       12%       11%       14%       5%         Shoreline Greenway Trail,       6%       2%       8%       7%       10%       12%       14%       12%       12%       8%       5%		7%	0%	8%	10%	12%	11%	10%	10%	11%	9%	7%	5%
East Hartford 3% 2% 7% 10% 14% 14% 9% 9% 10% 11% 6% Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford 3% 8% 8% 10% 11% 11% 12% 11% 14% 5% Shoreline Greenway Trail, 6% 2% 8% 7% 10% 12% 14% 12% 12% 8% 5%	•	11%	4%	9%	9%	10%	5%	2%			18%	17%	16%
Hartford 3% 3% 8% 8% 10% 11% 11% 12% 11% 14% 5% Shoreline Greenway Trail, 6% 2% 8% 7% 10% 12% 14% 12% 12% 8% 5%	•	3%	2%	7%	10%	14%	14%	9%	9%	10%	11%	6%	4%
5% 5% 7% 10% 12% 14% 12% 12% 8% 5%	•	3%	3%	8%	8%	10%	11%	11%	12%	11%	14%	5%	3%
Madison 270 270 270 270 270 270 270 270 270 270		6%	2%	8%	7%	10%	12%	14%	12%	12%	8%	5%	4%
Still River Greenway, 6% 4% 9% 7% 10% 9% 9% 9% 11% 11% 8% Brookfield	• •	6%	4%	9%	7%	10%	9%	9%	9%	11%	11%	8%	7%
Sue Grossman Trail, 7% 1% 13% 11% 10% 9% 8% 9% 6% 11% 8% Torrington	,	7%	1%	13%	11%	10%	9%	8%	9%	6%	11%	8%	6%

**Note:** Darker greens indicate higher use counts. The null or zero percent for Norwalk River Valley Trail reflect missing data.

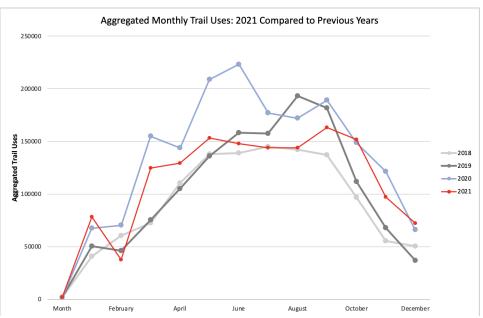


Figure 2. Aggregated Trail Use Comparisons by month for 2018-2021

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

## 2021 Counts by Day

## **Key Takeaways**

- Decrease in average daily trail use in 2021 compared to 2020, with increases over 2019. The average daily use across 15 of the 21 trail counter locations with full datasets for 2019-2021 decreased from 300 in 2020, to 263 in 2021. This is higher than the average daily use of 224 observed in 2019.
- **Highest trail use days are in July and March.** The two highest daily total trail use for all trails combined was Saturday, July 31, 2021, with 18,653 use counts and Sunday, March 21, with 17,010 trail uses.
- 62% of total uses were on weekdays and 38% on weekends. This trend has been consistent since 2017. Similar to 2020, the most active trail day in 2021 was Sunday, closely followed by Saturday. Weekday activities were evenly distributed with Wednesday having a slightly higher percentage of use and Tuesday and Thursday were slightly lower.
- Most trails saw heavier use on weekend days than weekdays. The exception is the CT FasTrak 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 CT FasTrak Bus Rapid Transit line. More uniform use was observed on Sue Grossman Trail in Torrington, Farmington Heritage Canal Trail New Haven, and the Riverfront Recapture Trail in East Hartford.

## **Day of Week**

The day of week summary shows the year's counts grouped by day of the week. Table 4 shows total counts by the day of week and Table 5 shows the percentage of trail use by day of week for each trail with higher values shaded darker green.

Table 4. Average Use by Day of Week

, , ,	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Air Line Trail, East Hampton	186.2	188.3	184.9	180.3	179.8	331.5	311.7
Air Line Trail, Portland	84.7	89.6	84	85.2	85.2	115.1	139.1
Air Line Trail, Thompson	39	34.8	36.5	31.8	43.6	79.4	87.1
Bluff Point, Groton	826.2	848.6	792.7	800.5	809.8	1394.7	1428.3
Charter Oak Greenway, Manchester	175.5	190.5	168.3	168.4	168.9	228.6	195
CTFastrak Trail, New Britain	34.8	38.1	34.9	36.2	34.7	30.4	32.3
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Cheshire	382.9	408.9	399.9	370.9	386.5	641.7	636.3
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Hamden	398.5	427.8	422	385.6	404.4	721.3	723.4
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, New Haven	352.2	382.7	370.4	367	352.1	444.6	393.8
G&S Trolley Trail, Groton	92.5	105.6	93.4	90.2	88.5	169.4	182
Hop River Trail, Bolton	181.2	192.6	165.3	171.5	172.5	349.8	323.2
Hop River Trail, Vernon	359.6	365.5	379.3	339.3	345.9	495.4	550.2
Larkin State Bridle Trail, Oxford	76.3	81.7	75.3	78.6	83.1	120.5	126.6
Middlebury Greenway, Middlebury	187.7	202	189.8	181.3	183.4	217.3	243.9
Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton	140.9	134.8	132.5	145.2	145.7	187	232
Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford	140.1	158.4	165.4	144.5	125.3	180.5	150.5
Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford	213.2	227.9	243.5	224.8	197.4	400.5	366.6
Shoreline Greenway Trail, Madison	232.4	228.4	217.9	210.6	230.8	354.1	381.5
Still River Greenway, Brookfield	421.2	426.5	423.8	398.3	422.1	509.8	530
Sue Grossman Trail, Torrington	137.5	150.3	141.3	136.2	130.4	131.9	135.8

Table 5. Percentage by Day of Week

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Air Line Trail, East Hampton	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	21%	20%
Air Line Trail, Portland	12%	13%	12%	12%	12%	17%	20%
Air Line Trail, Thompson	11%	10%	10%	9%	12%	23%	25%
Bluff Point, Groton	12%	12%	11%	12%	12%	20%	21%
Charter Oak Greenway, Manchester	14%	15%	13%	13%	13%	18%	15%
CTFastrak Trail, New Britain	14%	16%	14%	15%	14%	13%	13%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Cheshire	12%	13%	12%	11%	12%	20%	20%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Hamden	11%	12%	12%	11%	12%	21%	21%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, New Haven	13%	14%	14%	14%	13%	17%	15%
G&S Trolley Trail, Groton	11%	13%	11%	11%	11%	21%	22%
Hop River Trail, Bolton	12%	12%	11%	11%	11%	22%	21%
Hop River Trail, Vernon	13%	13%	13%	12%	12%	17%	19%
Larkin State Bridle Trail, Oxford	12%	13%	12%	12%	13%	19%	20%
Middlebury Greenway, Middlebury	13%	14%	14%	13%	13%	15%	17%
Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton	13%	12%	12%	13%	13%	17%	21%
Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford	13%	15%	16%	14%	12%	17%	14%
Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford	11%	12%	13%	12%	11%	21%	20%
Shoreline Greenway Trail, Madison	13%	12%	12%	11%	12%	19%	21%
Still River Greenway, Brookfield	13%	14%	14%	13%	13%	16%	17%
Sue Grossman Trail, Torrington	14%	16%	15%	14%	14%	14%	14%

Note: Darker green indicates higher counts.

## 2021 Counts by Day and Weather

## **Key Takeaways**

- Weather is an influential factor impacting levels of daily trail use. On days that are warm to mild (55-75 degrees F), trails are the most used overall. Although most of the trail use occurs in the summer/spring and fall, ample use (10%) occurs in winter (Figure 3). Even on rainy days with moderate temperatures, people are still using trails (Figure 4).
- Snow cover decreases trail use. Snow depths ranged from 3-10 inches throughout February 2021, and reduced trail use was observed across all trails. Several trails showed increased use when snow cover was present indicating participation in winter activities (Figure 5).
- **Spring Fever!** On rare days in winter and early spring when temperatures rise, trail use increases. For example, on January 2, 2021, the weather was unseasonably warm (48 degrees) and total daily trail usage spiked to 8,320 uses (Figure 3).

To visualize daily totals by individual trail or in aggregate, visit the <u>CT Trail Census Interactive</u> Data Visualization Portal<sup>3</sup>.

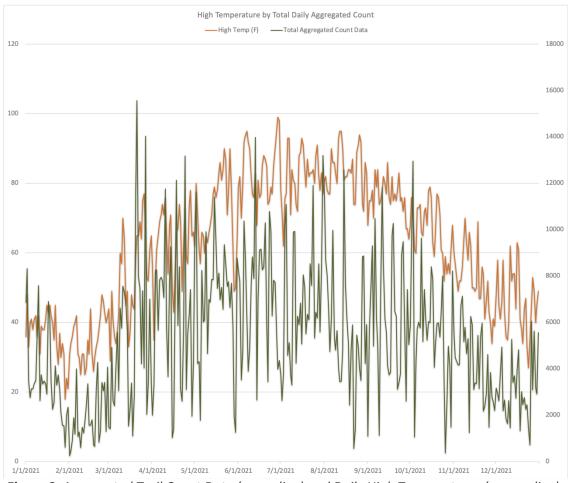
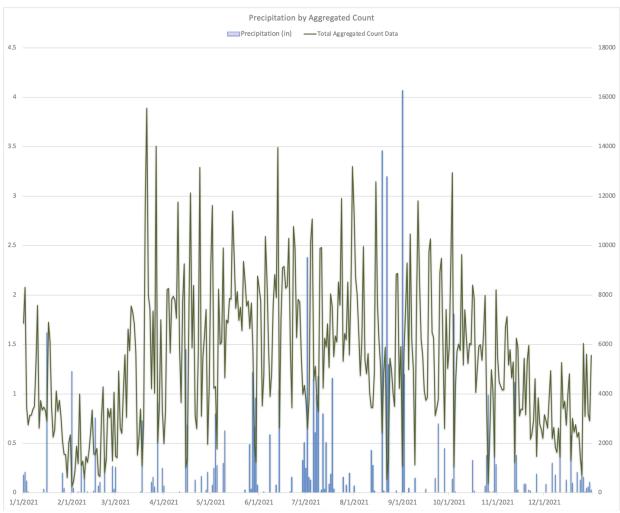


Figure 3. Aggregated Trail Count Data (green line) and Daily High Temperatures (orange line).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://clear.uconn.edu/projects/ct\_trail\_census/visualizations.htm



**Figure 4.** Aggregated Trail Count Data (green line) plotted with Precipitation (in) (blue line).

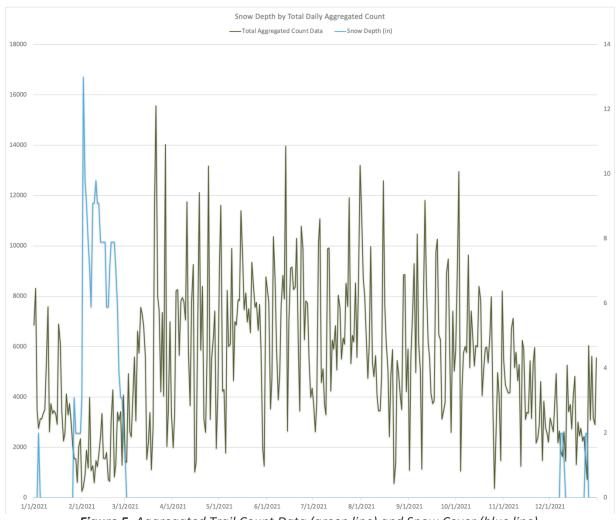


Figure 5. Aggregated Trail Count Data (green line) and Snow Cover (blue line)

## **2021 Counts by Hour of Day**

### **Key Takeaways**

- Most trail use (78%) takes place between 9 am-5 pm. This is consistent with findings throughout the Connecticut Trail Census data collection.
- In 2021, trails were busiest from 10 am-4 pm. The busiest hour was 12pm-1pm on average. This is a shift back to mid-day trail use patterns observed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, trail use continues to be more dispersed through the afternoons. Similar mid-day use was observed during weekend activity periods, however weekdays had average peak use during the 5-7 PM timeframe.
- Commuter use shifts: The CT FasTrak Trail in New Britain, which is used by commuters, displayed reduced morning use and more heavily weighted evening use than pre-Covid data collected prior to 2020. These use patterns are consistent with use patterns observed in 2020 data. The Hartford and Riverfront Recapture East Hartford had notable peaks of use during the 12-2 PM and 5-7 PM timeframes. This suggests those returning to work may be continuing outdoor lunchtime and afterwork trail based activities.

The Hour of Day summary shows trail use by time of day. Table 6 shows percentage of daily use by hour of day for each trail and for all trails combined. Higher values are shaded darker green. For summary totals, visit the data portal.

Table 6. Percentage of Daily Use by Hour of Day

able 6. Percentag	- 1		1				- 1	Day –		_	Σ	Σ	Σ	_	_	_		_	_	_			Σ	Σ
	12:00 AM	1:00 AM	2:00 AM	3:00 AM	4:00 AM	5:00 AM	6:00 AM	7:00 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 AM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
Air Line Trail, East Hampton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	4%	6%	8%	9%	10%	10%	11%	11%	10%	9%	5%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Air Line Trail, Portland	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	6%	7%	9%	10%	8%	8%	9%	9%	10%	10%	6%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Air Line Trail, Thompson	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	3%	6%	9%	10%	11%	12%	12%	11%	9%	6%	4%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%
Bluff Point, Groton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	4%	6%	8%	9%	10%	11%	11%	10%	10%	8%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Charter Oak Greenway, Manchester	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	7%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%	10%	8%	6%	2%	1%	0%	0%
CTFastrak Trail, New Britain	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	4%	3%	4%	5%	5%	6%	6%	<b>7</b> %	9%	11%	11%	7%	5%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Cheshire	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	4%	<b>7</b> %	9%	11%	10%	10%	9%	9%	8%	<b>7</b> %	5%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Hamden	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	6%	8%	8%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, New Haven	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	6%	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	6%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%
G&S Trolley Trail, Groton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	5%	<b>7</b> %	9%	10%	9%	9%	9%	11%	10%	9%	6%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Hop River Trail, Bolton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	5%	<b>7</b> %	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%	10%	10%	8%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Hop River Trail, Vernon	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	3%	6%	9%	10%	9%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	8%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Larkin State Bridle Trail, Oxford	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	5%	5%	8%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	5%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Middlebury Greenway, Middlebury	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	5%	7%	10%	10%	9%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	8%	6%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	5%	8%	11%	11%	10%	10%	9%	10%	10%	8%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Riverfront Recapture Trail, East Hartford	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	4%	8%	7%	8%	11%	9%	7%	7%	8%	9%	9%	6%	2%	1%	0%	0%
Riverfront Recapture Trail, Hartford	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	6%	6%	6%	<b>7</b> %	9%	9%	8%	8%	9%	9%	8%	5%	2%	1%	0%	0%
Shoreline Greenway Trail, Madison	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	5%	8%	11%	12%	11%	9%	9%	9%	8%	<b>7</b> %	4%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Still River Greenway, Brookfield	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	6%	8%	9%	9%	9%	8%	8%	9%	10%	9%	6%	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Sue Grossman Trail, Torrington	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	4%	<b>7</b> %	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	5%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Note: Darker green indicates higher percentage of count data.

## Appendix A – Trail Specific Comparisons of 2018-2020 Monthly Data

Trail uses plotted in all charts included in Appendix A are based on hourly trail count data collected from trail sites with data available from 2018 to 2020. These sites are located in East Hampton, New Britain, Cheshire, Hamden, New Haven, Bolton, Vernon, Oxford, Middlebury, Wilton, Hartford, East Hartford, Madison, Brookfield, and Torrington

