

CT Trail Census and CT Trail Finder

CT Trail Symposium, Oct. 13, 2023

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Outline

- Program Overview
- CT Trail Census
 - Overview
 - Count Program
 - Dashboard Demo
- CT Trail Finder
 - Overview
 - Status
 - How and why to contribute

UConn CT Trails Program

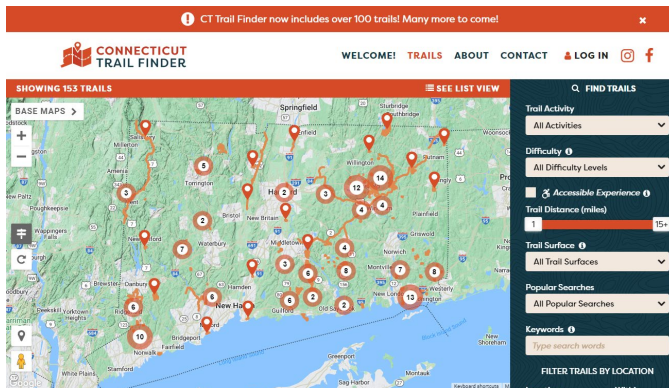
<https://cttrails.uconn.edu/>



CT Trail Census



CT Trail Finder



cttrailfinder.com



Active Living (PATHS)

People Active on Trails for Health & Sustainability



Active Living (PATHS)

People Active on Trails for Health & Sustainability

Educators and outreach professionals connecting communities to their environment through active living.



- > provides tools and resources to achieve equitable communities and a sustainable landscape
- > informed by research and engagement to respond to environmental concerns, opportunities/barriers to outdoor activity, and community health risks



Trail Etiquette

For Walkers, Hikers, Runners

- Keep dogs on a short leash. Other trail users may be frightened by dogs or be unsure how to pass safely.
- Dog poop on the trail is a major complaint among other trail users. Clean up after your dog, and take the waste home to dispose of it. UConn Extension educator Dave Dickson explains why it's important to scoop poop: <http://uconn.edu/kgg>.
- Yield to equestrians.

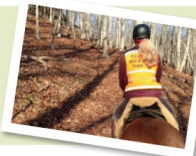


For Bicyclists

- You move fast – and many other trail users will be startled, especially if you approach from behind. Greet other trail users early to alert them of your presence.
- Anticipate other trail users around blind corners.
- Yield to hikers and equestrians.

For Equestrians

- Communicate your needs. Most people aren't familiar with horses and are intimidated by them – let other trail users know what will help make the situation safer for everyone.
- Slow down to a walk to pass other trail users.
- Clean up any manure your horse may leave at trail heads and on trails whenever possible.



Personal Safety

All trail users should follow basic tips for personal safety.

1. Be aware of your surroundings and other people on the trails and in parking lots. Do not wear headphones or earbuds.
2. Park in well-lit areas and lock the doors of your vehicle, and trailer for equestrians.
3. If possible, don't go alone. Walk or ride with a friend. If you think someone is following you, go towards public areas.
4. Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back. Share your route with them.
5. Carry your cell phone, but be aware that you might not have cell phone service in all areas.
6. Carry a map. Know your route, and carry the map anyway.
7. Carry pepper spray for protection if it makes you feel more comfortable.
8. Wear blaze orange or reflective material during hunting season.
9. Carry water and sunscreen.
10. Pay attention to trail markers so you can identify your location.

Leave No Trace

Seven Principles of the Leave No Trace Program

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

For more information on these principles and other resources visit LNT.org.

For All Trail Users

Avoid Wet Trails. Minimize trail erosion and ecological impact around wet trails by walking/ biking/riding through the center of the trail, even if muddy, to keep the trail narrow.

Stay on the Trail. Do not go off trail (even to pass), create new trails, or cut switchbacks. Narrow trails mean less environmental impact and happier critters.

Respect. If you offer respect, you are more likely to receive it. All user groups have rights and responsibilities to our trails, and to each other.

Don't Block the Trail. When taking a break, move to the side of the trail.

Smile. Greet. Nod. Every user on the trail is a fellow nature lover. Be friendly and expect to see other folks around every corner.

Travel on the right side of the trail, and pass on the left.

Remain Attentive. If you wear headphones, keep the volume down, or only wear one earpiece so you can hear other trail users.

Expect the Unexpected. Humans and animals can be unpredictable.



What Does "Yield" Mean? Yielding means slow down, establish communication, be prepared to stop if necessary, and pass in a safe and friendly manner.

CT Trail Finder

cttrailfinder.com

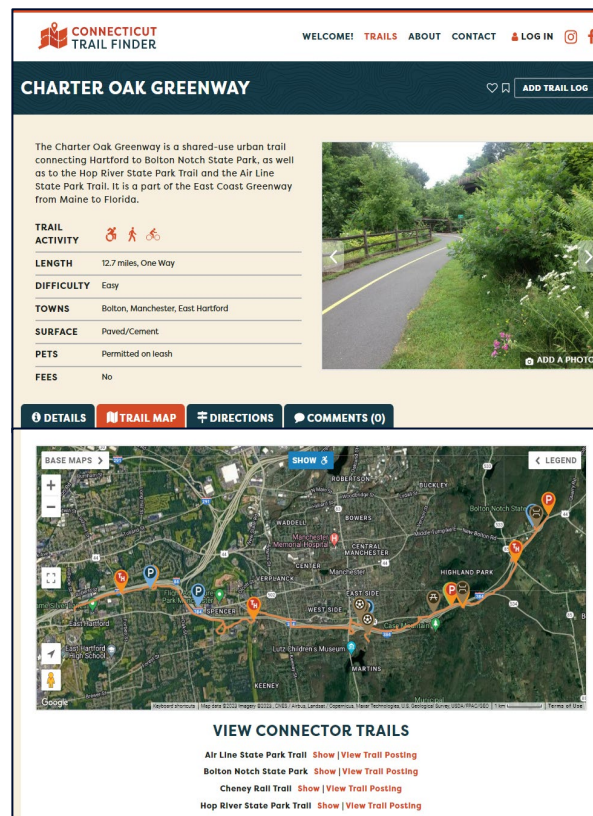
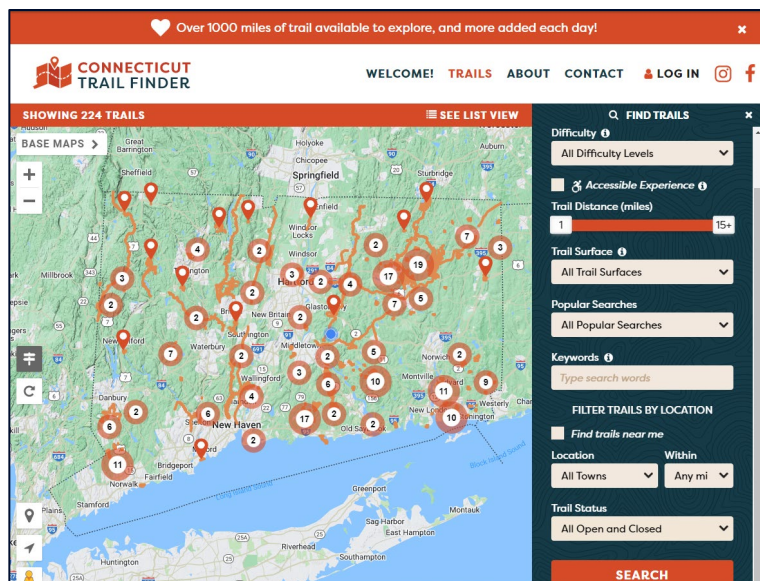


CONNECTICUT TRAIL FINDER

The go-to website for discovering trails.

- > All trail postings are manager-approved ensuring accurate information for authorized uses
- > Trail connections by location
- > For ALL audiences

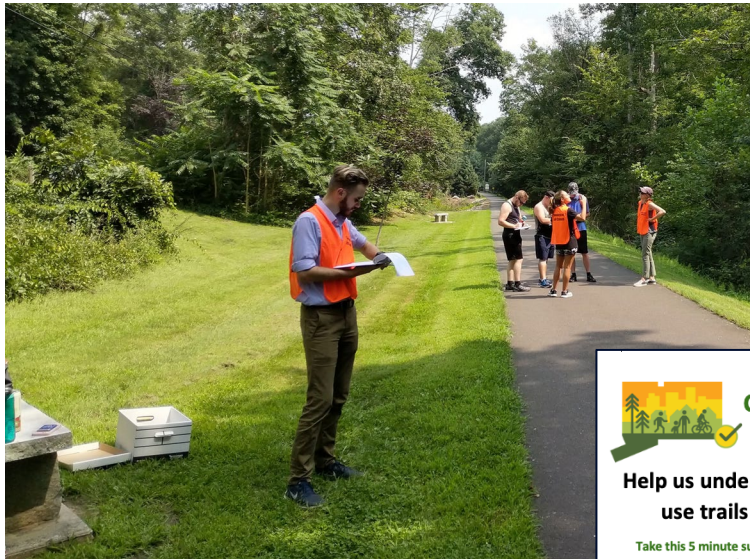

- > **260 postings** and growing
- > **1450+ trail miles** and growing
- > Coming Soon: Trailside services, Badges



BONUS
Statewide trails GIS layer

CT Trail Census


Trail use counts recorded by infrared counters, trail user surveys, and public education.

Connecticut Trail Census Survey

Help us understand how people use trails in Connecticut

Take this 5 minute survey by scanning the QR Code or type this link in your browser s.uconn.edu/trailcensus2020



Thank you!

Learn more at cttrailcensus.uconn.edu, find us on Facebook or email cttrailcensus@gmail.com

STATEWIDE

- > Urban, rural, suburban multi-use paths

MULTI-YEAR

- > 7th year of data collection
- > Identify patterns and trends

VOLUNTEER-BASED

- > Active community participation
- > Data informed decision-making

2015–2016 Naugatuck River Greenway Economic Impact Study

Provide municipal officials with data about economic and health benefits of continued construction of the NRG

NVCOG partnered with UConn and the CT Center for Economic Analysis and UConn Extension to conduct the Study

Report published March 2017

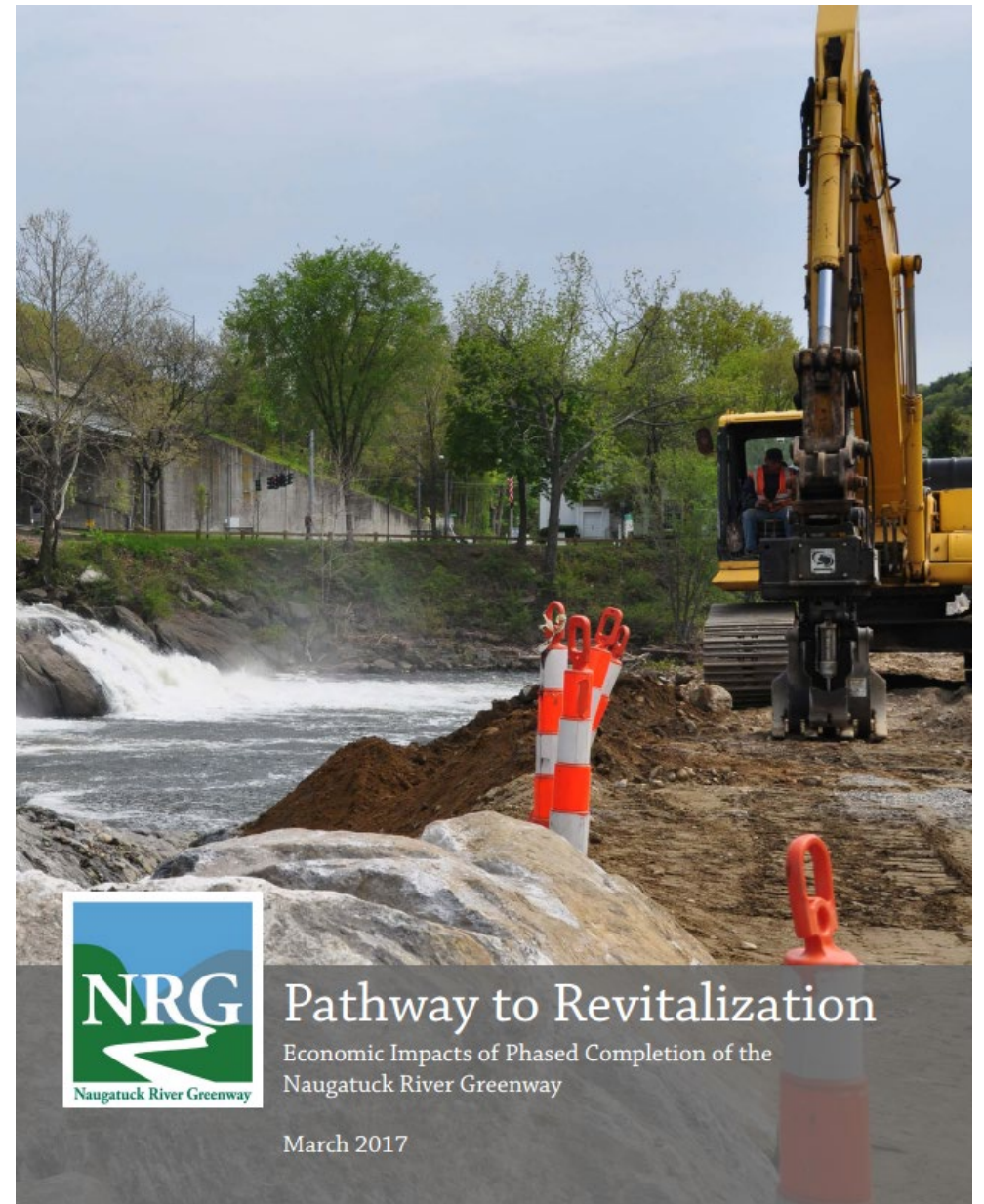
www.nvcogct.org



KATHARINE
MATTHIES
FOUNDATION

UConn
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

EXTENSION



Pathway to Revitalization

Economic Impacts of Phased Completion of the Naugatuck River Greenway

March 2017

2015–2016 Naugatuck River Greenway Economic Impact Study

Very little trail use/user data out there

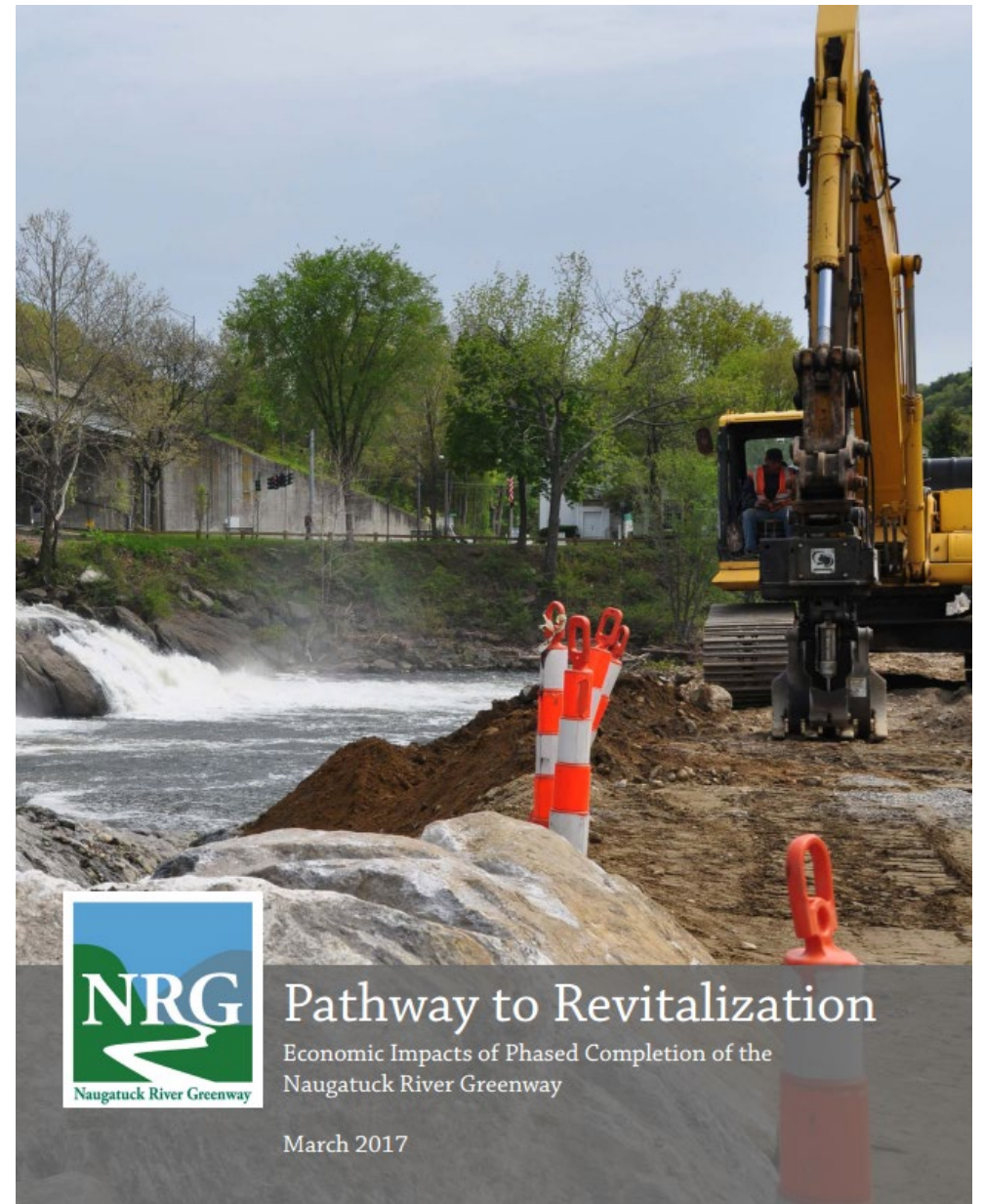
Methods unclear, and data was sometimes misrepresented

To conduct the economic study, we needed data about trail users.

Ended up collecting our own:

- IR Trail Counts
- Intercept Surveys
- Focus Groups
 - Business Owners
 - Trail Administrators
 - Health Professionals

“Wouldn’t it be great if we could collect this information statewide on a regular basis?”



Pathway to Revitalization

Economic Impacts of Phased Completion of the Naugatuck River Greenway

March 2017

CT Trail Census



GOALS

- > collect multi-year information about trail use, user demographics, economic impacts
- > understand who is using trails when, why, how
- > promote local participation in monitoring to understand the value of trails
- > educate about trails and their impacts



Infrared Trail Counters

How many trail uses?
When are uses occurring?
Use patterns?

Trail counts ongoing



Intercept Surveys

Who is using the trails?
How are the trails being used?
Spending? Health Benefits?

Nearly 5,000 surveys completed
2017–2021 – Surveying Paused

Trail Counters

- TrafX brand infrared counter
- Registers warm bodies passing by
- USES not USERS




Generally undercounts

- > People walking side by side
- > Groups
- > Fast cyclists

Calibration

- Manual counts by volunteers
 - Minimum 10 hours/counter/year
 - Different times of year and times of day
- Hourly manual counts are compared to actual trail counter counts
- Calibration factor is created for each location



Connecticut Trail Census
Statewide multi-use trail user study

Manual Count Form

All times Eastern Daylight Saving (www.time.gov). Begin at top of the hour, record for full hour.
 Record groups on the same line. Record bicyclists and pedestrians separately.
 Record strollers, skateboards, wheelchairs, etc. as "other", list type in comments.
 Record additional activity in comments - jogging, walking dog, etc.
 Denote the number of children (under 18) in the group in "#<18" column.
 (note that children should be included as "Ped, Bike or Other" as well)
 Scan completed forms and email to: cttrailcensus@gmail.com. Thank you!

Date: Oct 9
 Location: Sharp Hill Rd
 Name: Brian DeBso
 Time Start: 10:00 Count 1 Hour
 Weather: 49° Clear

#	Time	Ped	Bike	Other	Comment	# <18	#	Time	Ped	Bike	Other	Comment	# <18
1	10:00	2			Walking SD		41						
2	10:00	1			Running SD		42						
3	10:02	1			Walking SD		43						
4	10:04	1			Running OD		44						
5	10:05	2			Walking OD		45						
6	10:11	2			Walking dog SD		46						
7	10:12	1			Walking dog OD		47						
8	10:15	1			Walking OD		48						
9	10:17		2		Biking OD		49						
10	10:17	2			Walking SD		50						
11	10:18	1			Walking dog SD		51						
12	10:19	1			Walking OD		52						
13	10:20	2			Walking dog SD		53						
14	10:24	1			Walking SD		54						
15	10:26	2			Walking OD		55						
16	10:28	7			Walking OD		56						
17	10:32	1			Running OD		57						
18	10:32	1			Walking SD		58						
19	10:37		1		Biking OD	1	59						
20	10:38	1			Walking SD		60						
21	10:37	2			Walking OD		61						
22	10:40	2			Walking dogs SD		62						
23	10:40		2		Biking SD		63						
24	10:41	1			Walking SD		64						
25	10:43	1			Walking SD		65						
26	10:46	2			Walking dog OD		66						
27	10:46		1		Biking SD	1	67						
28	10:49	1			Walking OD		68						
29	10:47	1			Walking dog SD		69						
30	10:51	1			Walking OD		70						
31	10:55	1			Walking SD		71						
32	10:56	5			Walking OD	1	72						
33	10:57	1			Walking OD		73						
34	10:57	1			Walking SD		74						
35	10:58	1			Walking OD		75						
36	10:59	3			Walking dogs SD	1	76						
37							77						
38							78						
39							79						
40							80						
TOTALS:						48	6	=	54				4

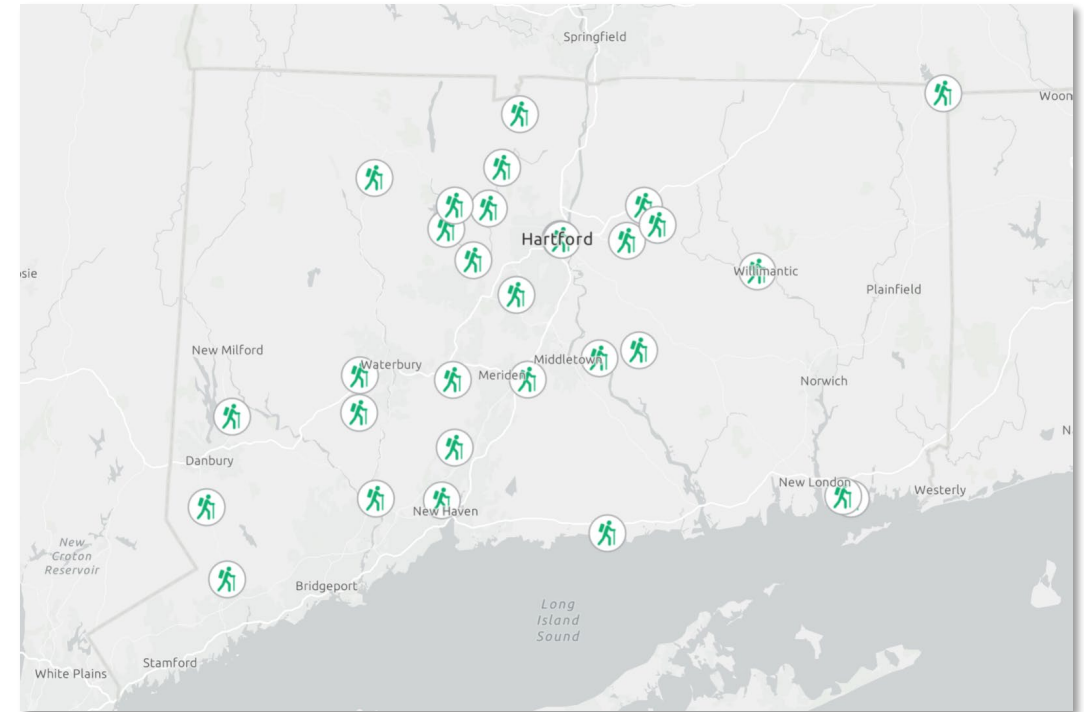
Data Collection

- Trail Census Team visits each counter quarterly
 - Check status, removes insects, etc.
 - Download data and reset the counter
- At the office, upload to TrafX data portal
- Review and clean data
 - Upload to Data Portal
- At the end of the year
 - Determine and apply calibration factors
 - Annual Report



CTTC Trail Count Program 2023

- 24 long term counters installed
- 6 partner counters
- Investigating supplemental/ novel data sources
- Temporary Counter Pilot



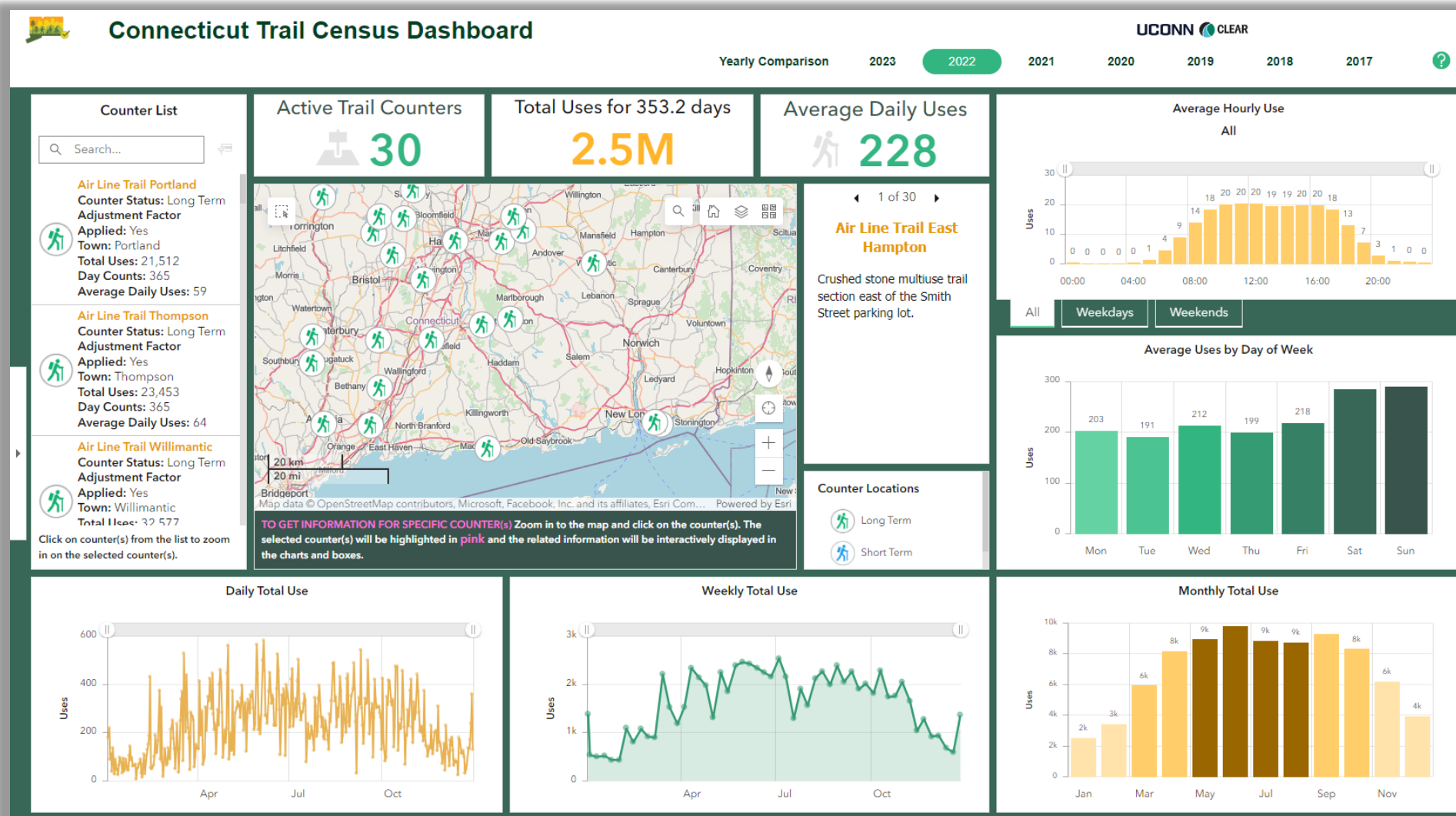
CTTC Trail Count Program 2023

- 24 long term counters installed
- 6 partner counters
- Investigating supplemental/
novel data sources
- Temporary Counter Pilot

- AND... a brand spankin' new
data dashboard!



Demo time!! <https://cttrails.uconn.edu/dashboard>



Connecticut Trail Finder



CONNECTICUT
TRAIL FINDER

- CT Trail Finder Overview, Project, & Process
- CT Trail Finder Postings
 - Data Collection - Narrative
 - Data Collection - Geographic
- Coming Soon!

Administered by UConn
Extension with Center for
Community GIS (CCGIS)

Funded by CT DEEP and the
Greenways Council, DOI

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2017-2022

Goal 3: Ensure that all residents and visitors can locate and access all outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Strategies

- A. Implement a wide range of public outreach and communication tools
- B. Increase accessibility to outdoor recreation areas and facilities for people with disabilities
- C. Remove impediments to visiting outdoor recreation facilities
- D. Identify, increase, and promote the availability of public transportation to and from outdoor recreation facilities

Connecticut Trail Finder is a free, interactive website designed to help people find all kinds of trails across the state.

The goal is to help people get out, be active, and explore Connecticut.



Benefits for the Trail User

- Find ALL kinds of trails (state, local, land trust, non-profit, etc.)
 - Search by many characteristics
 - Trail activity (hike, bike, horseback, etc.)
 - Difficulty and distance
 - Accessible trails
- Authorized trails only (all are manager approved)
- Accurate maps and information
- Show connections between trail and trail posts
- Easy to use even for new-comers (remove barriers)



Benefits for the Trail Manager

- Only Manager-approved trails (including info & map)
- Ability for alerts (closures, hazards, etc.)
- Connect users to the trail organization
- Tie trails to local economies
- Compliment and promote local activities (does NOT replace them)
- Prevent overuse by spreading it out



MANAGER BONUSES

- Free GIS work
- Link to the trail finder post
- Use a map that includes ALL of your trails
- Manager access to edit posts (optional)
- Work with nice people

Trail Finder is NOT

- A crowd-sourced app
- A tracking app
- A GPS data collector
- Automatically populated in any way
- A replacement for any of these or your organizations website



TRAILS EVENTS SERVICES STORIES ABOUT CONTRIBUTE

MENU

TRAIL FINDER

LOG IN

FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE

START EXPLORING

Joe Klementovich
View trails

All Towns Any mi

Trail Status
All Open and Closed

SEARCH

Trail Status
All Open and Closed

MENU TRAIL FINDER LOG IN

SHOWING 796 TRAILS SEE LIST VIEW FIND TRAILS

BASE MAPS

Trail Activity: All Activities

Difficulty: All Difficulty Levels

Accessible Experience

Trail Distance (miles): 1 to 15+

Popular Searches: All Popular Searches

Keywords: Type search words

FILTER TRAILS BY LOCATION

Location: All Towns Within: Any mi

Keyboard shortcuts: M

Welcome to CT Trail Finder! Stay tuned, new trails will be added every week! [Learn more.](#)



WELCOME! TRAILS ABOUT CONTACT LOG IN

EXPLORE EVERY CORNER

FIND TRAILS

[Demo](#)

Welcome to CT Trail Finder! Stay tuned, new trails will be added every week! [Learn more.](#)

CONNECTICUT TRAIL FINDER

WELCOME! TRAILS ABOUT CONTACT LOG IN

SHOWING 89 TRAILS SEE LIST VIEW

BASE MAPS >

Trail Activity: All Activities

Difficulty: All Difficulty Levels

Accessible Experience

Trail Distance (miles): 1 to 15+

Trail Surface: All Trail Surfaces

Popular Searches: All Popular Searches

Keywords: Type search words


FILTER TRAILS BY LOCATION

Location: All Towns Within: Any mi

Trail Status: All Open and Closed

Trail Post Process

1. Outreach
2. Data Gathering
 - Narrative
 - Geographic Data
3. Website Trail Posting Development
4. Trail Manager Review & Approval
5. Publish Posting
6. Follow-up, Advisory Notifications, Updates





WELCOME! [TRAILS](#) [ABOUT](#) [CONTACT](#) [LOG IN](#) [IG](#) [FB](#)

CHATFIELD HOLLOW STATE PARK

♡
ADD TRAIL LOG

Hike trails in search of Native American caves, explore the jagged rocky ledges and recesses, relax by the cooling waters, or picnic in the soft pine woods at Chatfield Hollow State Park.

TRAIL ACTIVITY	
LENGTH	10.1 miles, Network
DIFFICULTY	Easy, Moderate, Advanced
TOWN	Killingworth
SURFACE	Packed Earth/Dirt, Gravel/Crushed Stone, Boardwalk, Paved/Cement, Lake/Pond, Wetland
PETS	Permitted on leash
FEES	Yes (Out-of-state Residents)



ADD A PHOTO

i DETAILS

M TRAIL MAP

D DIRECTIONS

C COMMENTS (0)

A TRAIL ALERTS


DESCRIPTION

Families, hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers will enjoy approximately four and half miles of trails on gently rolling terrain. Trails lead to Little and Big Falls, as well as the giant Mountain Laurel. A 1.5 mile hike or park nearby to view scenic Wadsworth Falls as it cascades over a twenty foot drop on the Coginchaug River.

The majority of trails within the park are wide, easy walking carriage roads established by Clarence Wadsworth. This includes the 1.5 mile one way walk to the Big Falls from the main park area. Hikers should follow the Orange trail to its terminus at Cherry Hill Road, then turn right on Cherry Hill Road to cross the active train tracks and reach the Big Falls area. The Yellow trail in the northeast corner is a moderate singletrack trail that parallels the Laurel Grove Brook. The Blue Trail located west of the Orange trail is an advanced trail that leads down into

CURRENT WEATHER


OCTOBER 04, 2021




58°F


Today's High: 62°F
Today's Low: 58°F
Outlook: Light Rain
Forecast: Moderate Rain

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[ADD A PHOTO](#)

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 **TRAIL MAP**

 **DIRECTIONS**

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Data Gathering - Narrative

- Trail Names
- Location (Town/County)
- Trail Attributes (allowable uses, difficulty, surface, fee, pet policy)
- Accessibility
- Trail Manager contact information
- Descriptive Sections
 - Abstract
 - Trailhead
 - Trail Description
 - Other Information

We can help!



Trail Posting Template

Instructions
 Thank you for helping develop new trail listings for Connecticut Trail Finder! The purpose of this Trail Posting Template is to help you compile your trail information and knowledge according to the organizational structure that will be used for all trail listings on the website.

Please use the free software program, **Adobe Acrobat Reader**, to enter in your information using convenient check- and text-boxes. The file can then be emailed to trails@uconn.edu.

Key Information

Trail System Name(s): _____
 Alternative Trail Name(s) (if applicable): _____

Compiler Information (not shared publicly)
 Name (first and last): _____
 Date Completed: _____
 Organization (if applicable): _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email: _____

Maintained Uses:

(Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Biking
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-Country Skiing	<input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding
<input type="checkbox"/> Paddling	<input type="checkbox"/> ATV Riding
<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling	

Town(s) Indicate all those crossed by the trail

County(ies):

Data Gathering – Narrative

Anatomy of a Trail Posting

Features of a Trail Page

- A Trail Abstract:** A concise description of the trail's key features along with a thumbnail photograph. Appears on CT Trail Finder's search page.
- B Quick Facts:** Basic "statistics" about the trail, some of which can be queried from the search page.
- C Photos:** High-quality images help users better visualize each trail experience. Account holders can also upload photos to postings.
- D Details Tab:** Trail info, items 1 - K.
- E Trail Map Tab:** The trail and key points of interest on an interactive Google Map. Users can pan, zoom, toggle backgrounds, click lines and points for more info, and adjust info shown via the legend. An optional **View Connector Trails** section below the map shows adjacent trails on the map and links to those trail postings.
- F Directions Tab:** Directions to the primary trailhead(s) and an interactive map of parking areas.
- G Comments Tab:** User-submitted comments from account holders and trail managers.
- H Trail Alerts Tab:** Alerts on trails, facilities, roads, and safety. (Optional, only visible if an alert is set).
- I Description:** A narrative description of the trail route, conditions, surrounding environment, and any unique attractions.
- J Other Information:** Additional info about the trail property, history, regulations, etc.
- K Trail Manager:** Contact info and link to the trail manager's website. More than one entity can be listed as a trail manager.
- L Current Weather:** Provides the current weather conditions in the vicinity of the trail (provided by Open Weather).

The screenshot shows the 'NATCHAUG TRAIL' page on the Connecticut Trail Finder website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'WELCOME!', 'TRAILS', 'ABOUT', 'CONTACT', and 'LOG IN'. Below the trail name, there are tabs for 'DETAILS', 'TRAIL MAP', 'DIRECTIONS', 'COMMENTS (0)', and 'TRAIL ALERTS'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- A Trail Abstract:** A short paragraph describing the trail's route and unique features, accompanied by a thumbnail photo of a river with colorful autumn trees.
- B Quick Facts:** A table-like section listing trail statistics: LENGTH (20.5 miles, Network), DIFFICULTY (Moderate, Advanced), TOWNS (Ashford, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton), SURFACE (Packed Earth/Dirt, Rock/Ledge), PETS (Permitted on leash), and FEES (No).
- I DESCRIPTION:** A detailed narrative description of the trail, including its history and wildlife sightings.
- L CURRENT WEATHER:** A weather widget showing the date (JUNE 18, 2021), a sun icon, and a temperature of 74°F, along with high/low forecasts and a clear sky outlook.
- M TRAIL TIPS:** A section titled 'Plan Ahead and Prepare' with advice on using common sense.
- N DOWNLOAD:** Two buttons for downloading trail data: 'Download Trails (lines)' and 'Download Points of Interest (points)'.
- K TRAIL MANAGER:** A section for the trail manager, including contact information and a link to the CFPA website.

Trail documentation guide:

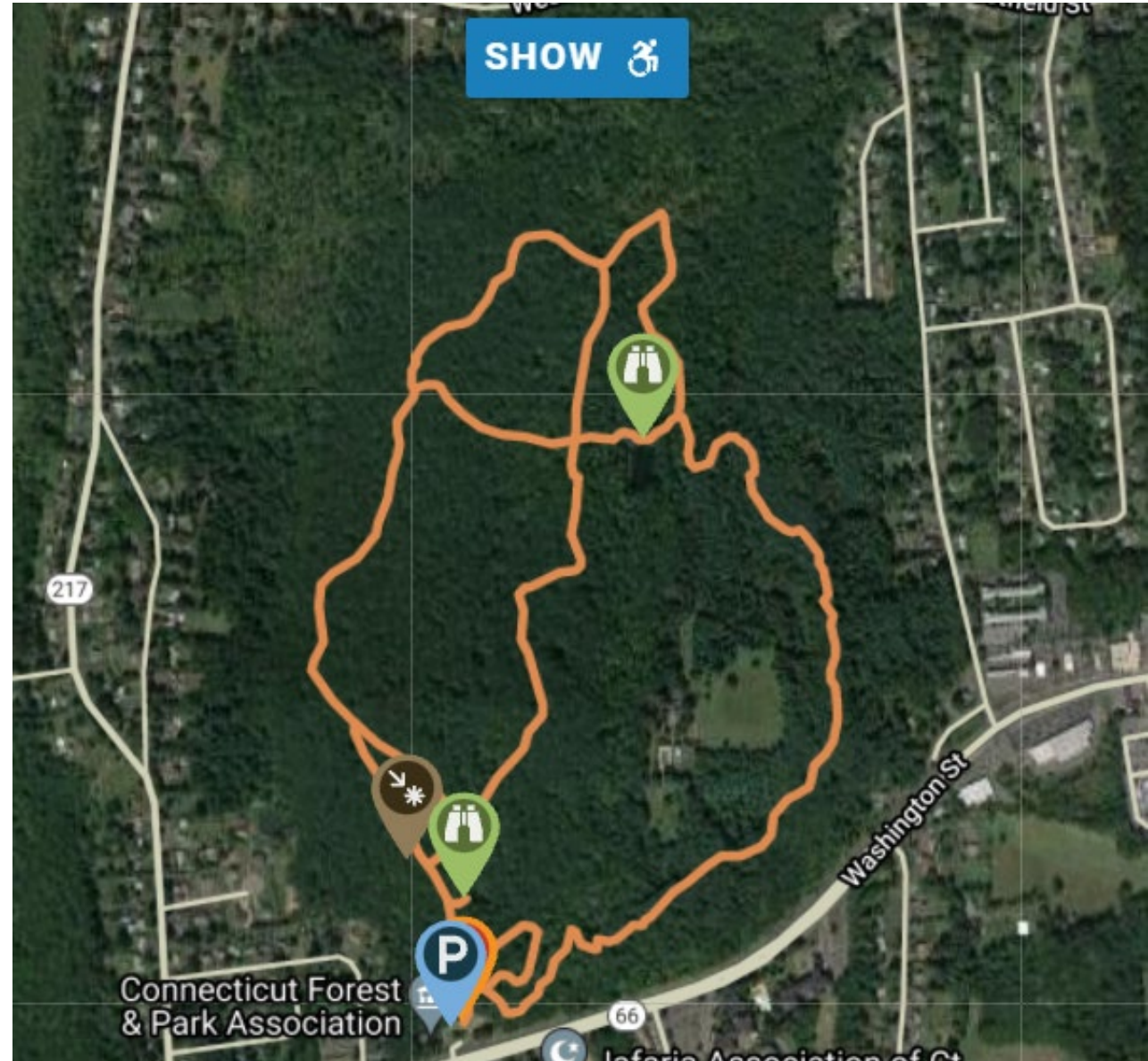
<https://cttrails.uconn.edu/trailfinder/add/>

- Also need at least one photo and logo

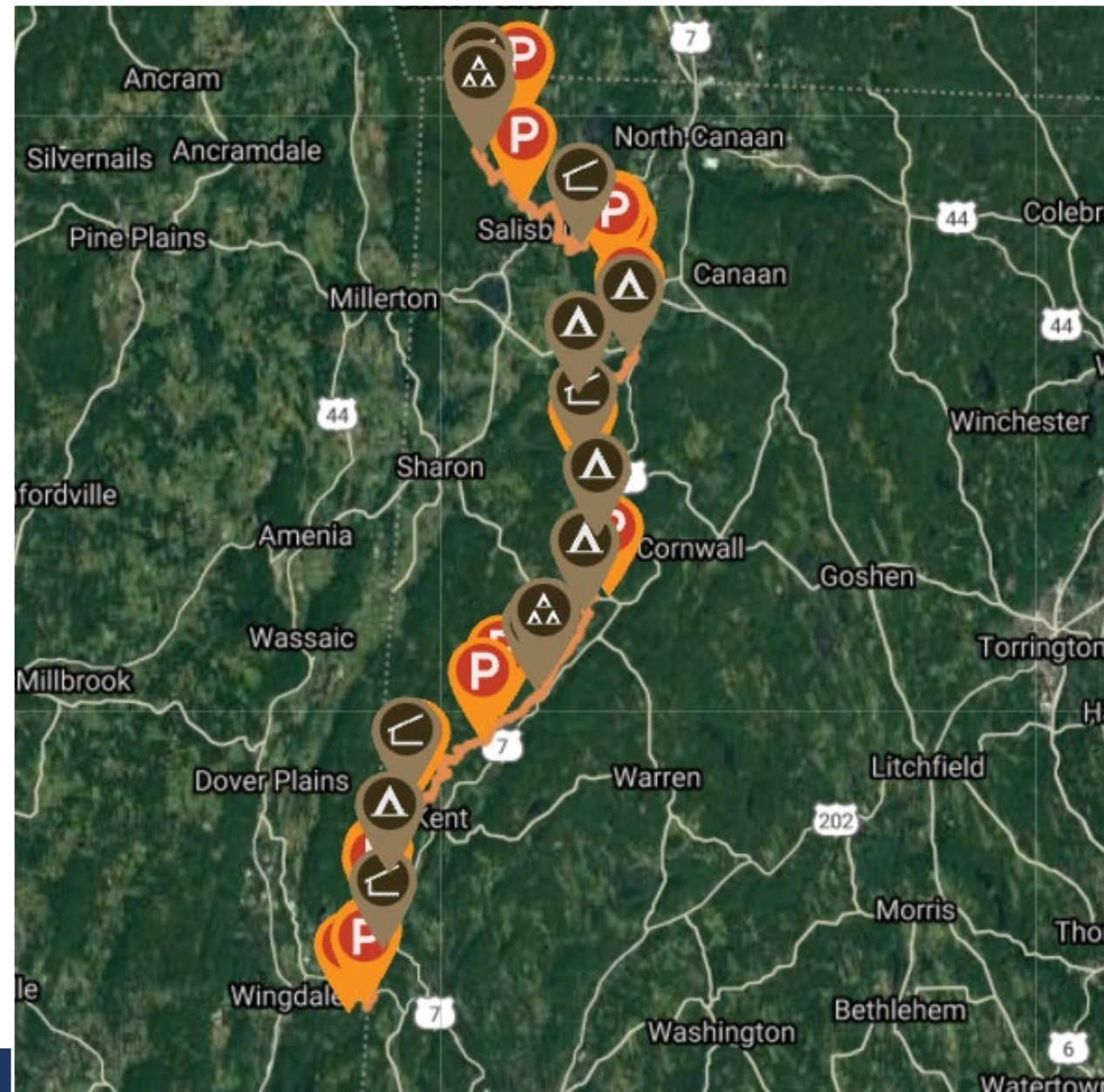
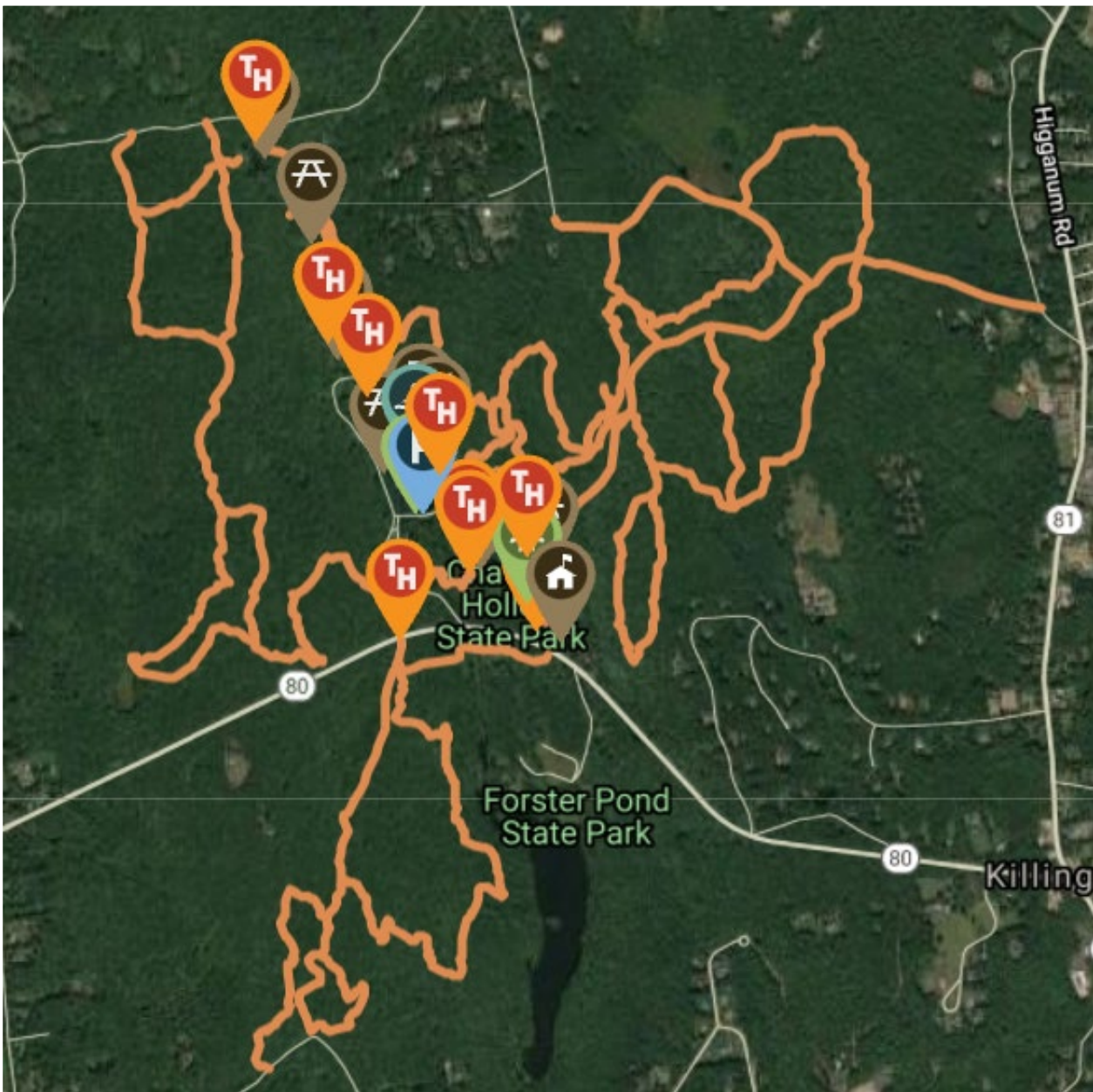
Data Gathering - Geographic

The Trail Map

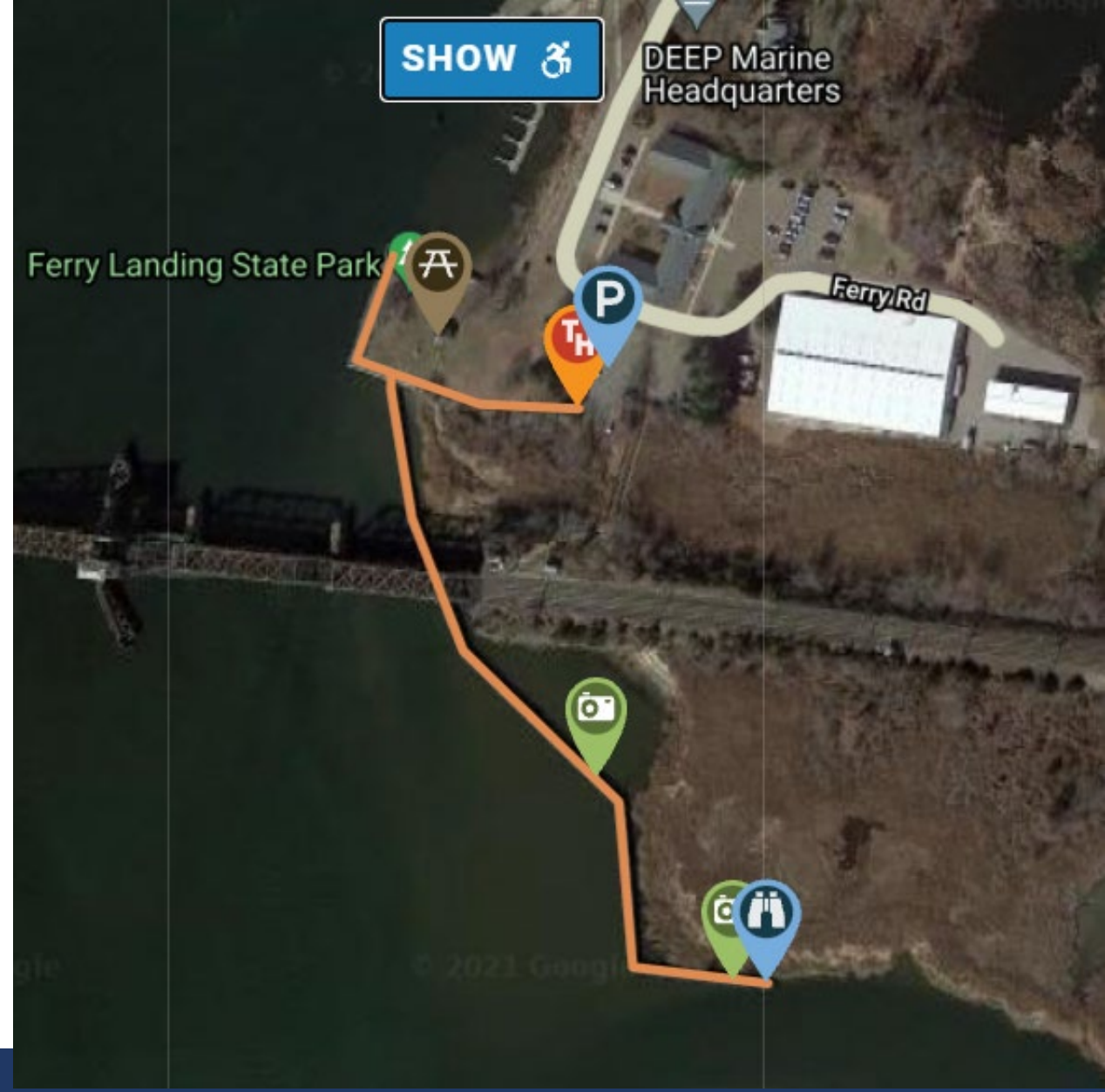
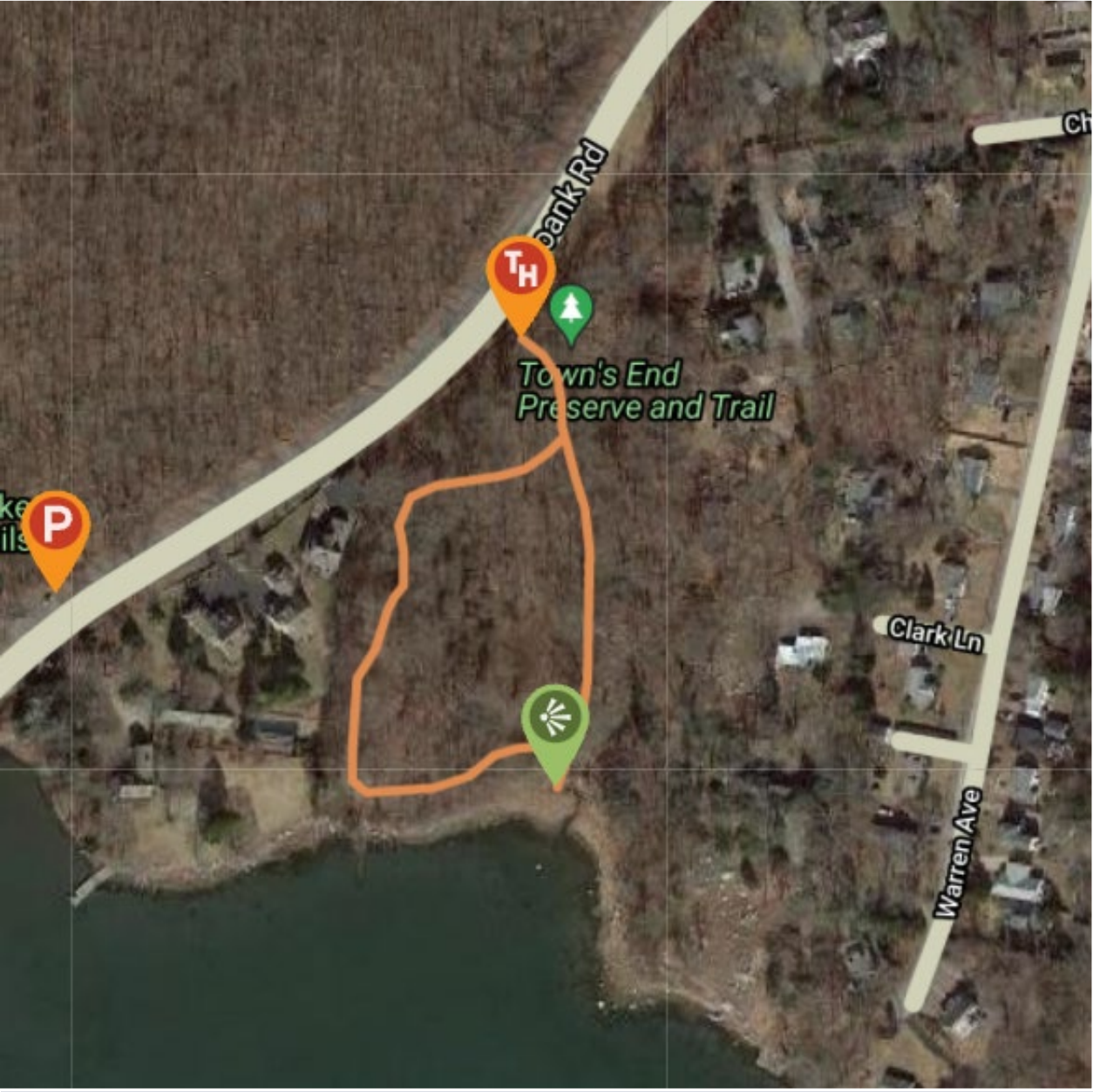
- Trail Lines
- Points of Interest



Range of Complexity



Range of Complexity



How do we get from

East Hampton

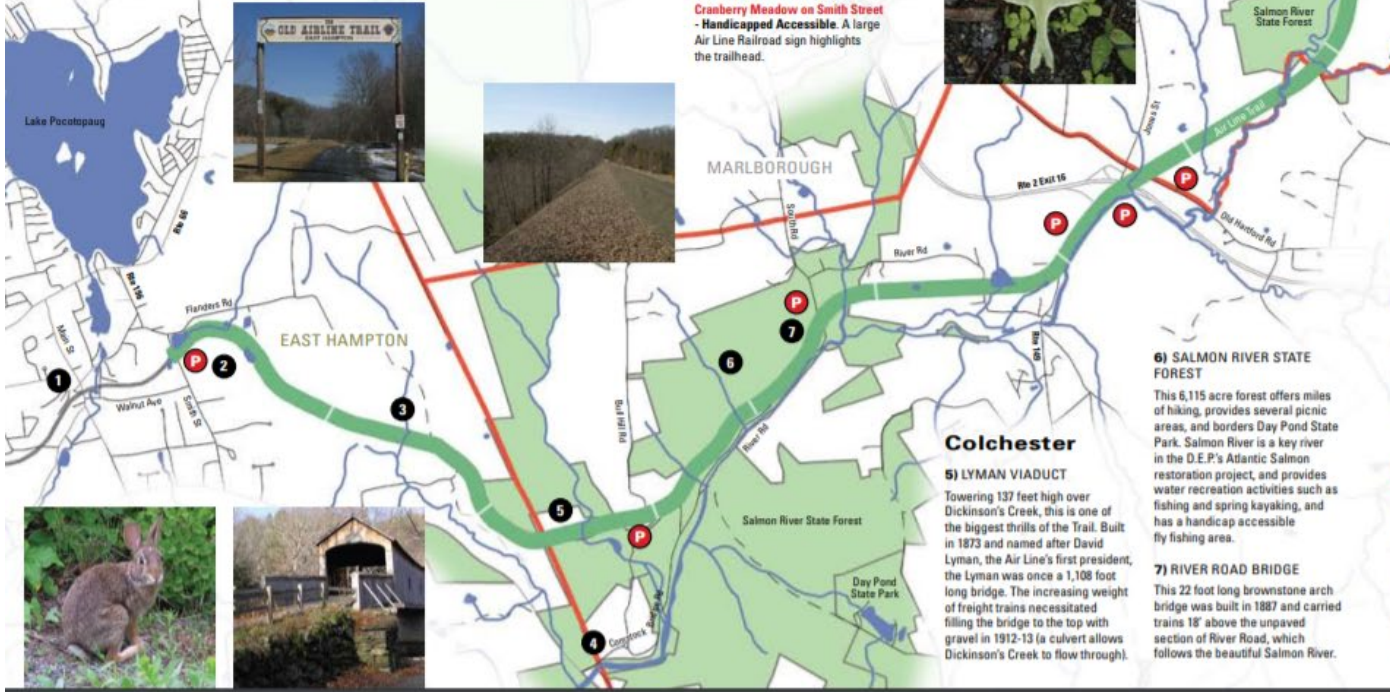
1) BELL TOWN VILLAGE CENTER & LAKE POCOTOPAUG
East Hampton is called "Bell Town" as it was the center of the bell making industry for the country. Taking a detour off the Trail at Cranberry Meadow onto Smith St and traveling west leads to the Bell Town Village Center, a mecca for antique shoppers. Traveling north leads to the business center of East Hampton and Lake Pocotopaug. Caution is advised on busy roads.

2) CRANBERRY BOG
This pond offers benches for resting; the sights of wildflowers and sounds of bullfrogs in the summer, and picturesque ice skating and hockey games in the winter. Cranberry Meadow and Bog was once a natural cranberry producing bog. During the 1920's and 30's, the cranberries were harvested, transported to grocers, and bartered for groceries.

3) RAPALLO VIADUCT
Built in 1873 (as was its sister, the Lyman Viaduct, 1-1/2 miles east in Colchester), the Rapallo bears the name of a railroad director and was built for two train tracks. Originally a 1,380 ft. long bridge 60 ft. high above Flat Brook, the increasing weight of freight trains necessitated filling underneath it in 1913. The spectacular views of the marsh to the north and other natural surroundings make this a rare treat.

4) COMSTOCK BRIDGE
The Comstock Bridge was built in 1791 and rebuilt in 1860. It is one of only three remaining covered bridges in Connecticut. The Comstock Bridge links East Hampton and Colchester and is approximately 1-1/4 miles south of the intersection of Colchester's Bull Hill Road and the Air Line Trail. The bridge is open to pedestrian traffic and has a picnic area nearby.

PARKING & TRAIL HEAD
Cranberry Meadow on Smith Street - Handicapped Accessible. A large Air Line Railroad sign highlights the trailhead.

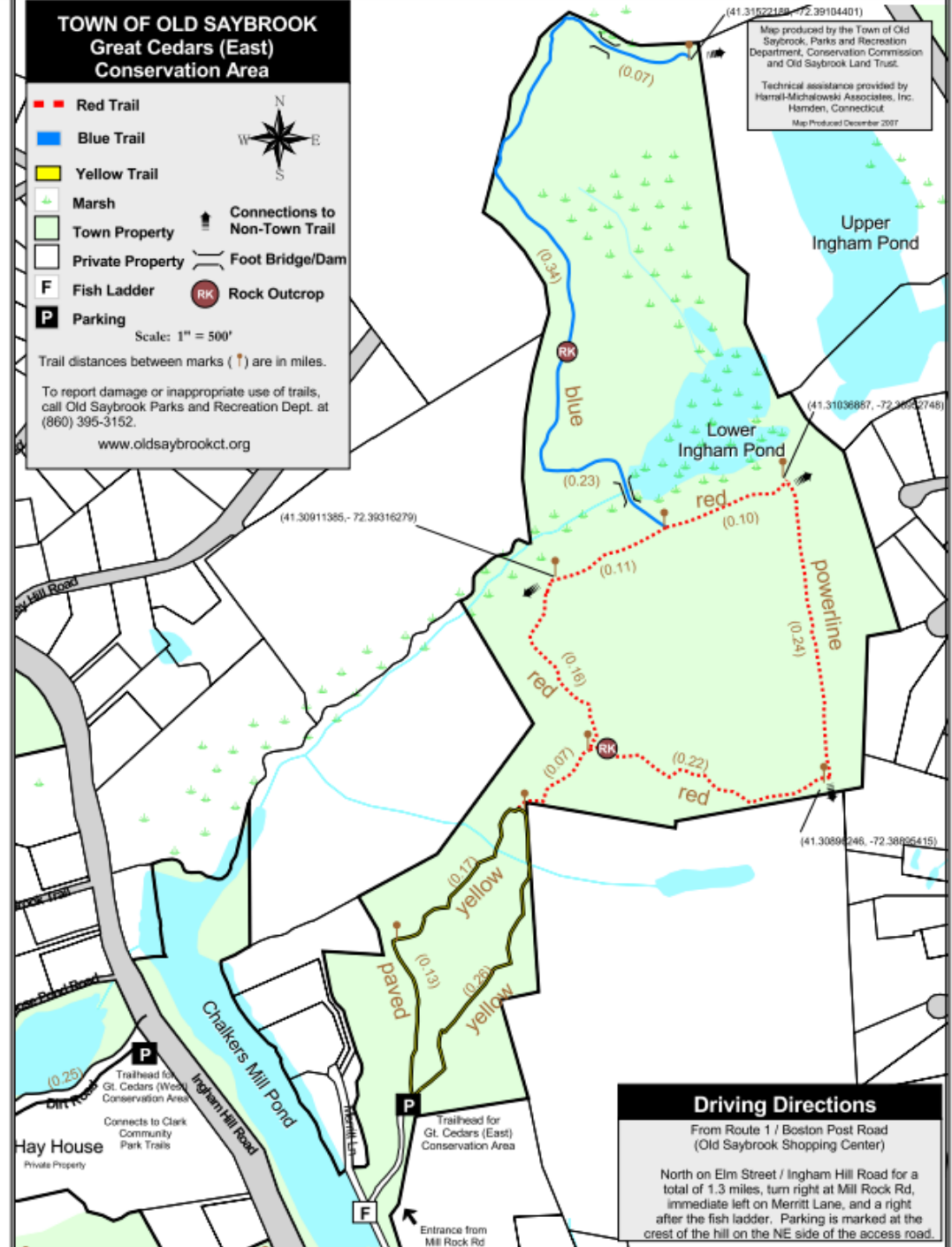


Colchester

5) LYMAN VIADUCT
Towering 137 feet high over Dickinson's Creek, this is one of the biggest thrills of the Trail. Built in 1873 and named after David Lyman, the Air Line's first president, the Lyman was once a 1,108 foot long bridge. The increasing weight of freight trains necessitated filling the bridge to the top with gravel in 1912-13 (a culvert allows Dickinson's Creek to flow through).

6) SALMON RIVER STATE FOREST
This 6,115 acre forest offers miles of hiking, provides several picnic areas, and borders Day Pond State Park. Salmon River is a key river in the D.E.P.'s Atlantic Salmon restoration project, and provides water recreation activities such as fishing and spring kayaking, and has a handicap accessible fly fishing area.

7) RIVER ROAD BRIDGE
This 22 foot long brownstone arch bridge was built in 1887 and carried trains 18' above the unpaved section of River Road, which follows the beautiful Salmon River.



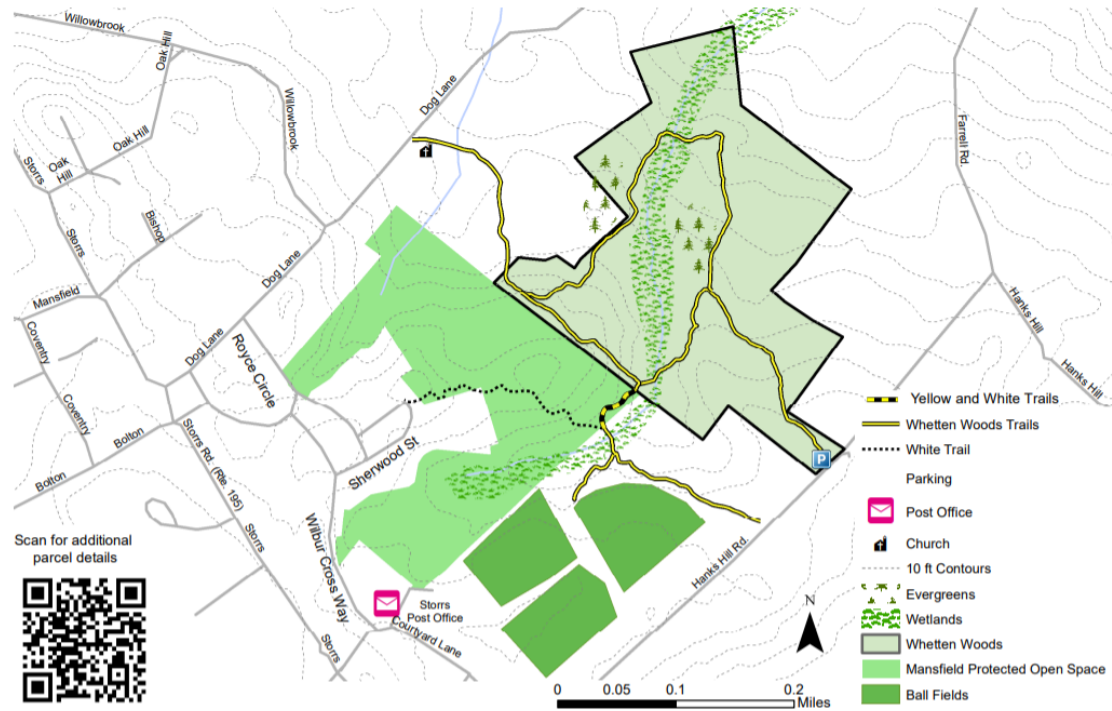
Driving Directions
From Route 1 / Boston Post Road (Old Saybrook Shopping Center)
North on Elm Street / Ingham Hill Road for a total of 1.3 miles, turn right at Mill Rock Rd, immediate left on Merritt Lane, and a right after the fish ladder. Parking is marked at the crest of the hill on the NE side of the access road.

How do we get from

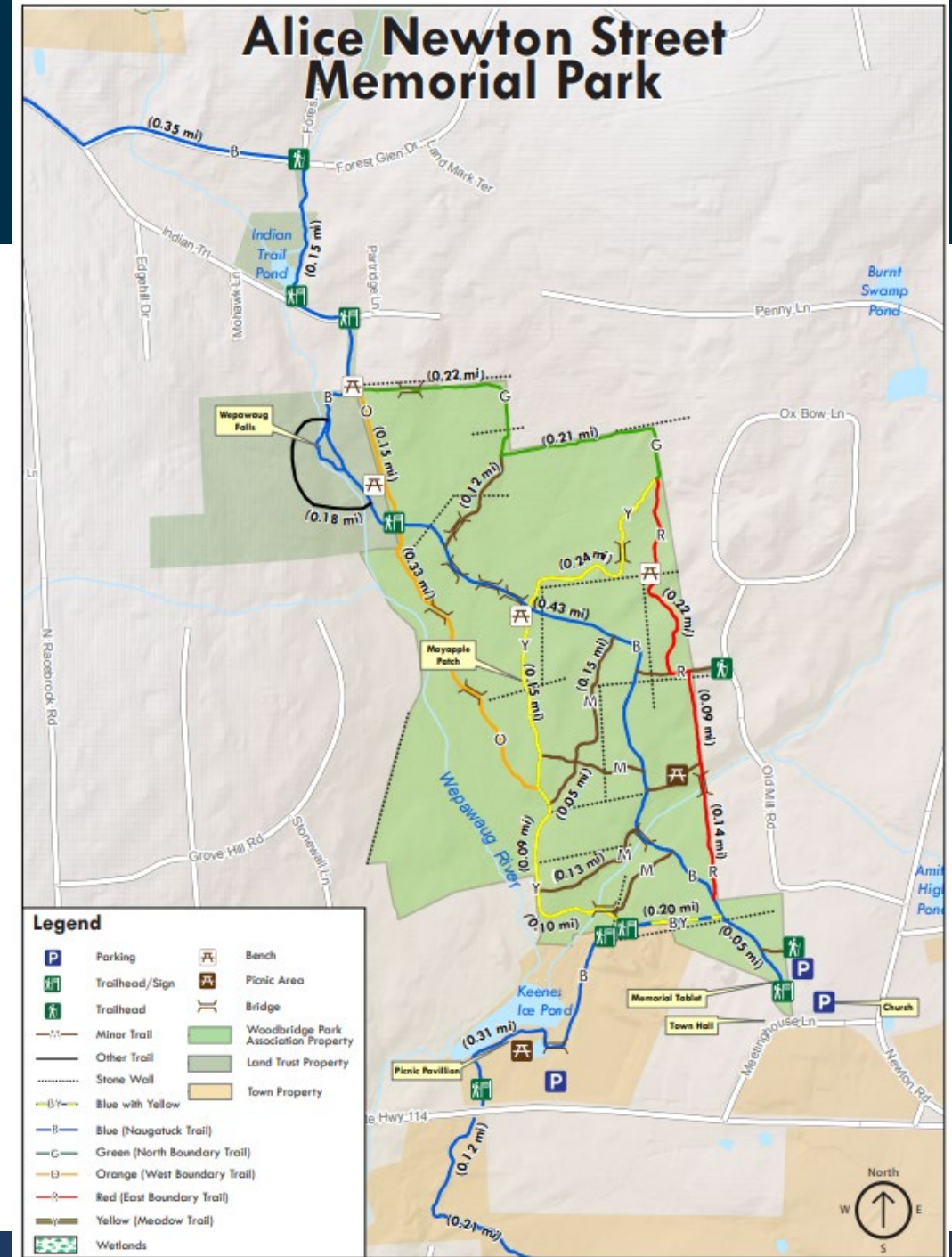
Whetten Woods Preserve Mansfield, CT



To report a problem, please contact us at: 860 429-9023 or administration@joshuastrust.org
Learn more about the Trust at: joshuastrust.org



Scan for additional parcel details



How do we get from

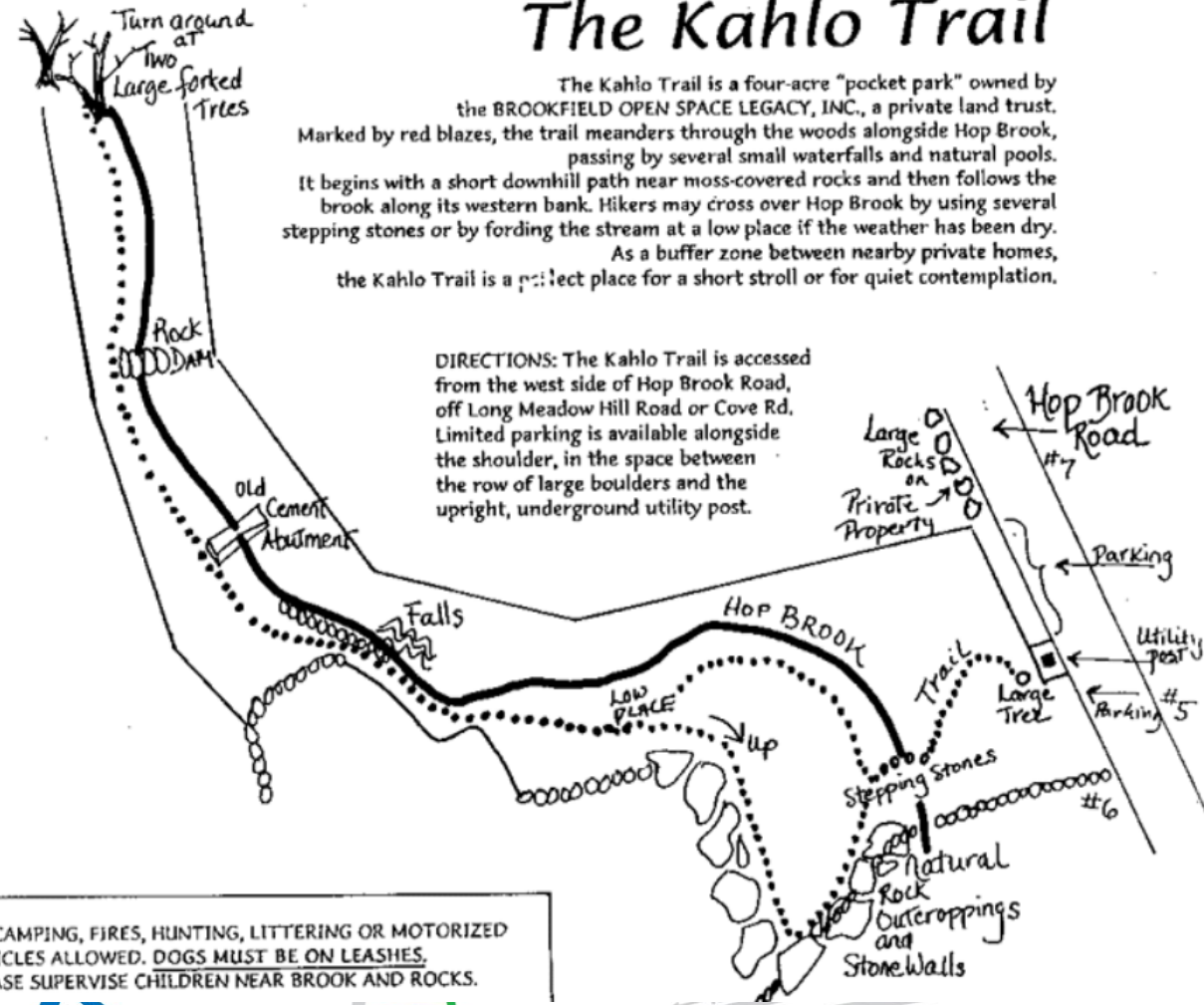


Still River
B R O O K

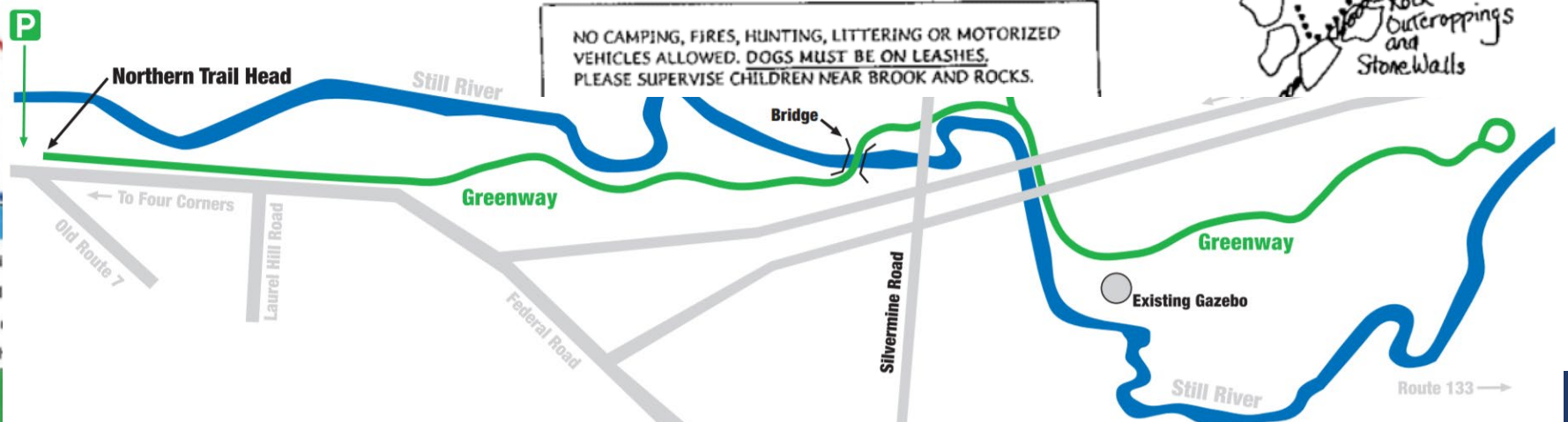
The Kahlo Trail

The Kahlo Trail is a four-acre "pocket park" owned by the BROOKFIELD OPEN SPACE LEGACY, INC., a private land trust. Marked by red blazes, the trail meanders through the woods alongside Hop Brook, passing by several small waterfalls and natural pools. It begins with a short downhill path near moss-covered rocks and then follows the brook along its western bank. Hikers may cross over Hop Brook by using several stepping stones or by fording the stream at a low place if the weather has been dry. As a buffer zone between nearby private homes, the Kahlo Trail is a perfect place for a short stroll or for quiet contemplation.

DIRECTIONS: The Kahlo Trail is accessed from the west side of Hop Brook Road, off Long Meadow Hill Road or Cove Rd. Limited parking is available alongside the shoulder, in the space between the row of large boulders and the upright, underground utility post.



NO CAMPING, FIRES, HUNTING, LITTERING OR MOTORIZED VEHICLES ALLOWED. DOGS MUST BE ON LEASHES. PLEASE SUPERVISE CHILDREN NEAR BROOK AND ROCKS.



Choose your own adventure!

START

GIS = Geographic Information System. How we work with geographic data (maps) using software on a computer. GIS is also a tool and a profession.



Audience = Trail Managers

GIS Points and Lines for Trail Finder



REQUIRED

- Accurate enough (we can edit)
 - Location – in the right place
 - Information – blaze colors, etc.
- Includes authorized trails only
- Acceptable format
 - GPS (gpx), KML, KMZ, shp, gdb
- Parking and Trailhead point locations

OPTIONAL

- Additional Points of Interest

We can help!

Collecting Geographic Data



Collect it.

Handheld GPS

(hopefully you know how to use it)
Send us the GPX line file



Smartphone App

use any you like or
Avenza Maps App
Send us the files





New Training!

Introduction to GPS Mapping with Avenza Maps

A focus on data collection

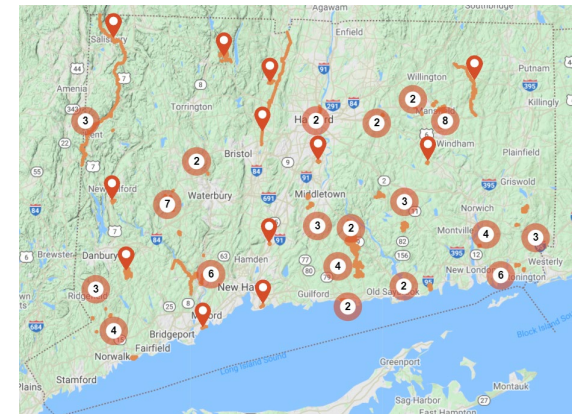
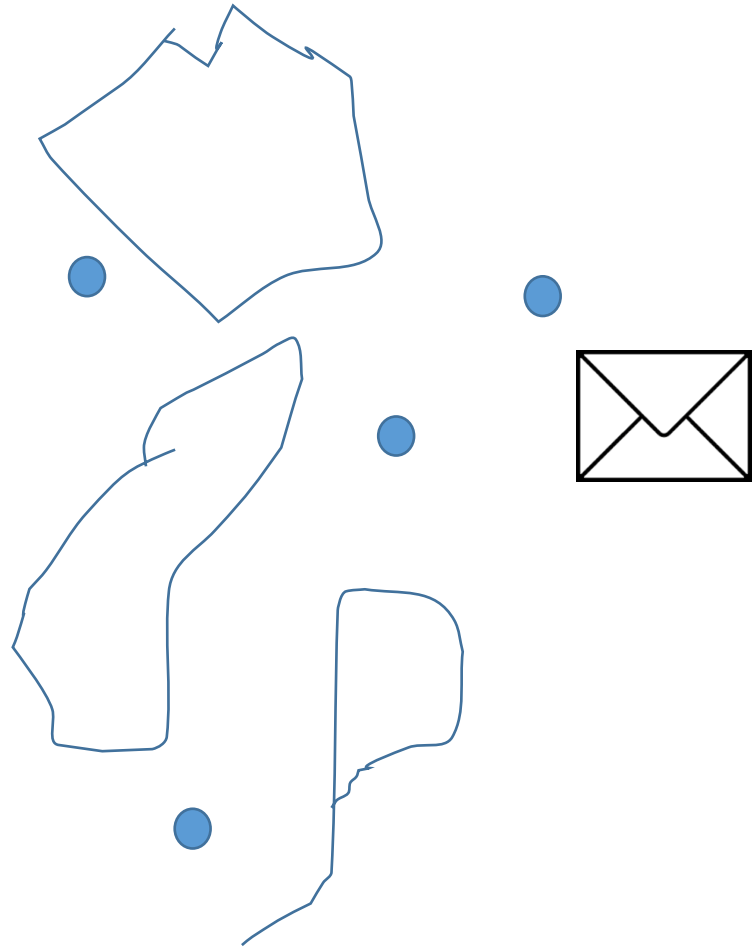
- How to collect GPS tracks, placemarks, geolocated photographs, and more.
- Data formats and strategies including the use of data schemas.
- Potential uses of the GPS data including **CT Trail Finder**, sharing, and strategies for other mapping software including Google Maps, QGIS, and ArcGIS.

First one!

November 9, 2023, 9am-12pm
Middlesex County Extension Center

Data Gathering - Geographic

Points and Lines

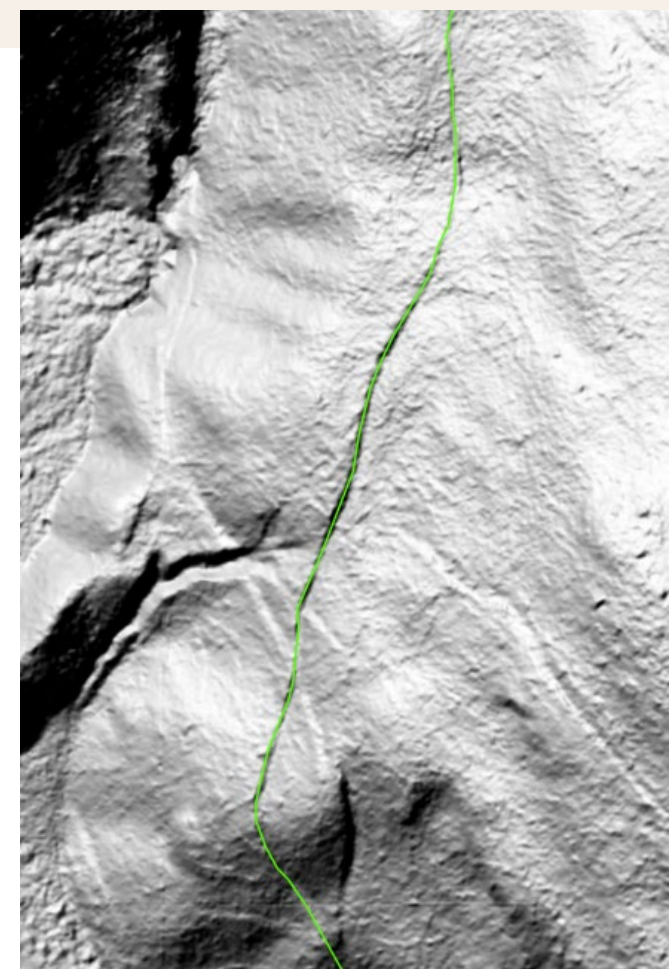


GIS Work - Lines

- Data format conversion (if necessary)
- Clean any hanging lines, snap intersections
- Check line location for accuracy, edit



GIS Work - Lines

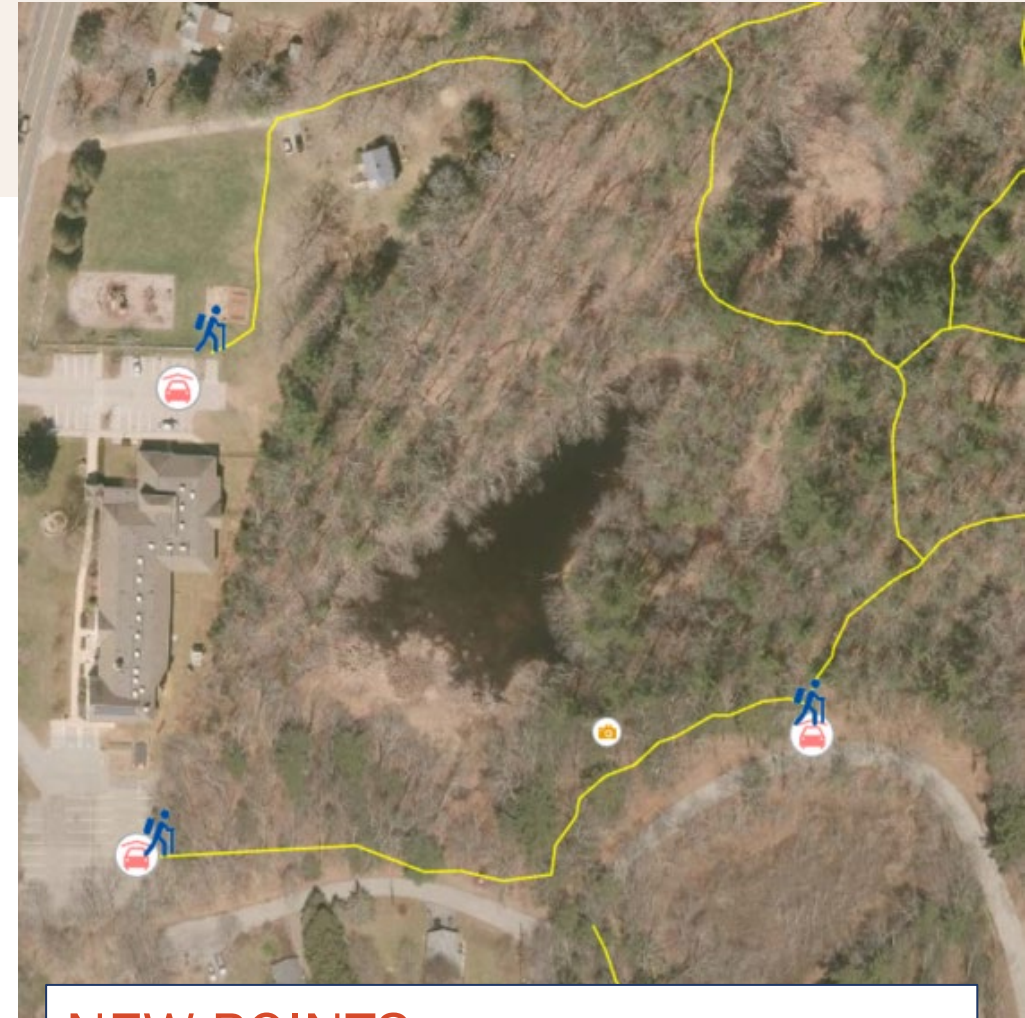


- Create segments (cut and merge) to match trails
- Add attributes to the table (name, system, blaze, surface)
- Calculate attributes for each segment (distance, min & max elevation, average slope)

GIS Work - Points

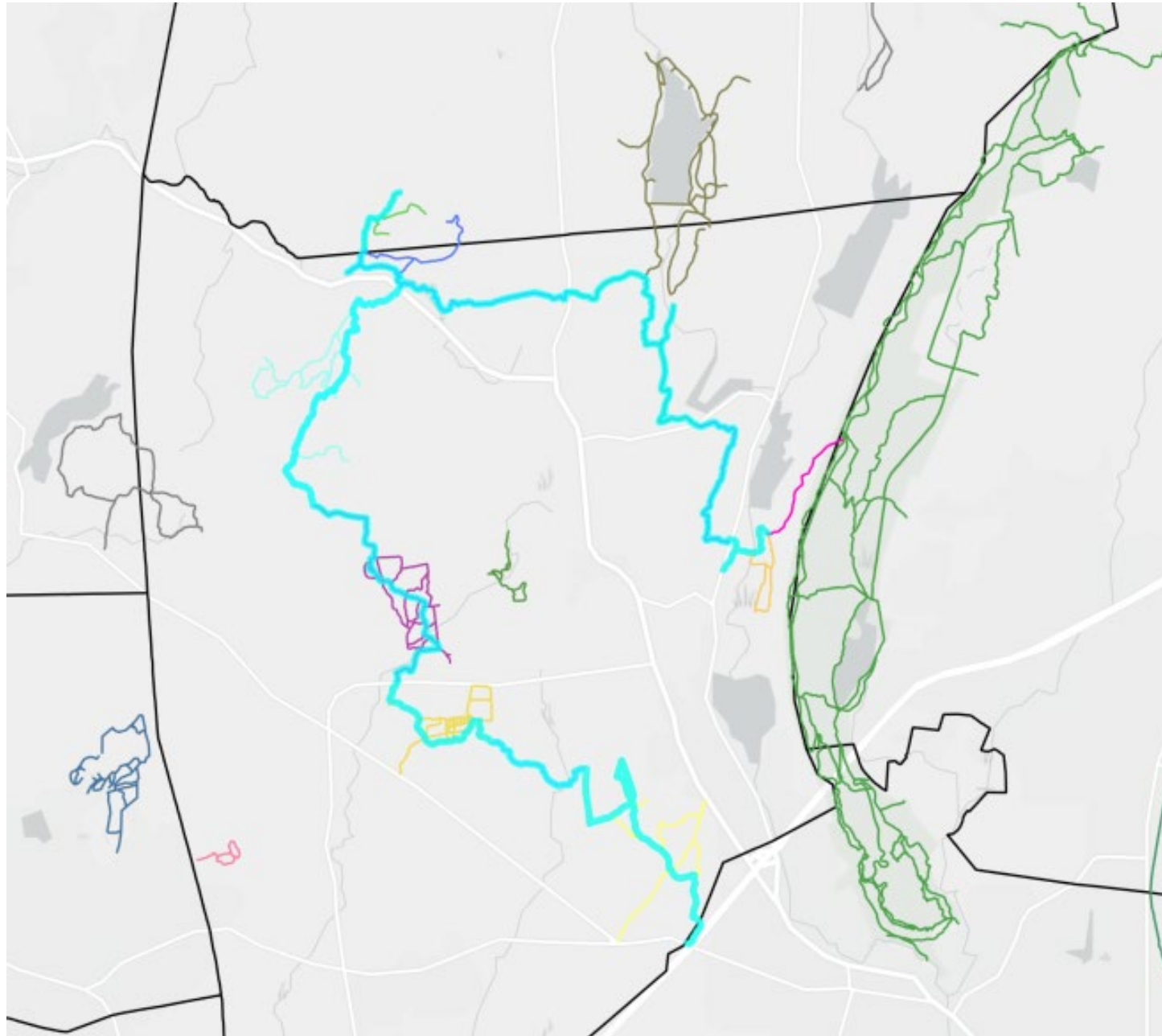
- Data format conversion (if necessary)
- Check location for accuracy, edit
- Add attributes to the table (name, type, notes)

Bench	Hand-carry Boat Launch	Photo (if geotagged)
Bicycle Repair Station	Hut/Lodge/Cabin	Rapids/Falls
Boat Launch <i>(put Marina/Ferry in notes)</i>	Kiosk/Information	Recreation Facility
Bridge	Landmark	Scenic View
Campground	Lean-to Shelter	Store
Caution	Lookout Tower	Summit
Cultural Attraction	Natural Attraction	Swimming Area
Dam	Park Office	Tent Site
Fishing Area	Parking <i>(specify lot vs. shoulder in notes)</i>	Trailhead
Gate	Picnic Area	Waterfall
Group Tent Site	Playground	Wildlife Viewing
Hand-carry Boat Launch	Portage	



NEW POINTS

- EV Charging Station
- Junction
- Public Transportation

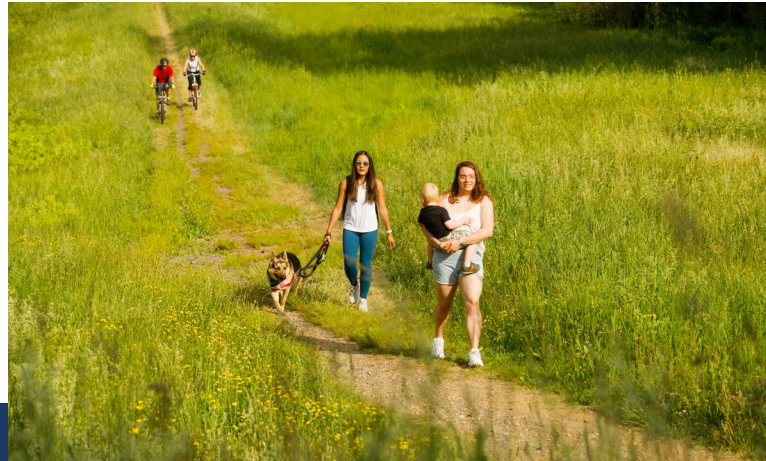


Have Trails to Add?

- Email us
trails@uconn.edu
- Instructions and documents



https://cttrails.uconn.edu/trailfinder_add/



Coming soon

Badges

Provide motivation

Align badges with
outreach programs

EARN BADGES

COMPLETE TRAILS. EARN BADGES.

We already think you're cool if you use Maine Trail Finder! Use your MTF account to keep track of all the trails you have visited, and Maine Trail Finder will automatically award you digital badges as you complete any of the following trail challenges.

Earning badges is all based on the honor system and your trail log reports. Did you really hike 10 miles yesterday, or did it just feel like that? It's on your conscience.

Wear your badges with pride! And don't hesitate to brag just a little bit. Use Maine Trail Finder's social media sharing links to tell your friends about your accomplishments and general awesomeness!

FEATURED BADGES

Contact us to learn about creating personalized badges.



FEATURED BADGES



FEATURED

ADVENTURE WITH ENOCK

You've followed along with Enock's Adventures and now you've visited 3 of his favorite trails!

Show eligible trails



FEATURED

WINTER WANDERER

Cold weather doesn't slow you down. You've logged 5 trails this winter!

ALL BADGES



7 IN 7

Quite a stretch! You've completed seven trails in as many days!



ADVENTURE WITH ENOCK

You've followed along with Enock's Adventures and now you've visited 3 of his favorite trails!

Show eligible trails



CROWN COUNTY PADDLER

Paddle two water trails in Aroostook County to be crowned with this badge.

Show eligible trails



EASY RIDER

Now you're rolling! You've got three paved multi-use trails under your wheels (or feet).

Show eligible trails



FALL FANATIC

Hey autumnal ace, you've logged 5 trails this fall!



FUN IN THE SUN

A hot weather hero. You've logged 5 trails this summer!

Coming soon

Trailside Services

Connect local businesses and services to trails

AIRLINE CYCLES

DETAILS

MAP / DIRECTIONS

NEARBY TRAILS

TRAILS WITHIN 10 MILES OF THIS LOCATION



SALMON RIVER STATE FOREST

Get a glimpse of earlier times as you walk through one of Connecticut's covered bridges or enjoy a day of fishing and a picnic along the Salmon River.



Moderate

7.0 miles, Network

class="Trails-distance"> (3.7 mi from trailside service)



HURD STATE PARK

Visit Hurd State Park and enjoy scenic views of the Connecticut River while surrounded by nature.



Easy, Moderate, Advanced

13.2 miles, Network

class="Trails-distance"> (3.9 mi from trailside service)



MACHIMOODUS STATE PARK

Machimoodus State Park is noteworthy for its 300 acres of uplands, woodlands, meadows, river and cove waterfronts, hiking trails, bird watching and scenic vistas.



Easy, Moderate

11.2 miles, Network

class="Trails-distance"> (5.2 mi from trailside service)


Bringing it together: custom “embed” map

MIANUS RIVER PARK AND STATE PARK

♡ 🔖 ADD TRAIL LOG

Mianus River Park is a 391 acre nature reserve on the Greenwich/Stamford border in Connecticut. The park feature a stretch of the beautiful Mianus River, forest lands, vernal pools, glacial outcroppings, varied wildlife and miles of rolling trails.

TRAIL ACTIVITY	🚶 🚶 🚲
LENGTH	12.3 miles, Network
DIFFICULTY	Easy, Moderate
TOWNS	Greenwich, Stamford
SURFACE	Packed Earth/Dirt, Gravel/Crushed Stone, Paved/Cement
PETS	Permitted on leash
FEES	No



📷 ADD A PHOTO

📄 DETAILS
🗺️ TRAIL MAP
📍 DIRECTIONS
💬 COMMENTS (0)
🚨 TRAIL ALERTS

DESCRIPTION


The Mianus River Park and State Park is an urban park containing over 12 miles of trails. The park includes a variety of paths and is well know for its flora and fauna. The Nature Trail (green) is 2.6 miles long with 13 points of interest marked with green letters. Visit the **Nature Trail** for a description of each point. The Yellow Trail is a 4.5 mile loop covering most of the park. Many smaller trails intersect and connect.

Mianus River Park spans two municipalities and consists of three contiguous properties:

- *Mianus River and Natural Park*, 110 acres, owned by the Town of Greenwich

CURRENT WEATHER

OCTOBER 06, 2023


70°F

Today's High: 71°F
 Today's Low: 63°F
 Outlook: Light Rain

New Map Options

- We select which trail posts to include

Show trail lines
 Yes

Markers to show
 Below are multiple options of how you can show trail markers

Show the primary trail marker
 Yes

Show parking markers
 No
If enabled, these markers will always show

Show trailhead markers
 No
If enabled, these markers will always show regardless of which POI markers are selected in "Show selected POI markers".

Show selected POI markers

0 items selected Filter Add all

Drag an item here or click the "+" button to select it

Bench	+
Bicycle Repair Station	+
Boat Launch	+
Boat Launch-Accessible	+
Bridge	+
Campground	+
Campground-Accessible	+
Caution	+

Show Trailside Services
 Below are options to choose how to display Trailside Services

Show all trailside services
 No

Show trailside services within a certain distance of the primary trail pins (miles)

[Copy iframe code](#)

```
<iframe width="769" height="564"
src="https://www.cttrailfinder.com/trails/embed/513ec23d-2823-4b63-85dc-2df71885aedf"></iframe>
```

Drag an item here or click to select it



Thank you and Questions?

Aaron Budris

abudris@nvcogct.gov

Emily Wilson

emily.wilson@uconn.edu



<https://cttrails.uconn.edu/>

