

**“Connecting Connecticut”**  
**CT Trails Symposium – Friday, October 13, 2023**

**AGENDA**

Located in the Five Points Arts Center Auditorium

8:00 - 9:00 **Registration / Networking & Continental Breakfast - displays**

9:00 - 9:10 **Welcome and Overview of the Day:** **Bruce Donald**, Southern New England Manager for the East Coast Greenway Alliance. **Judith McElhone**, Five Points Arts Center Founder & Executive Director.

9:10 -9:45 – **Keynote:** Joseph Dickerson, CT DEEP, Sr. Advisor for Outdoor Equity. Development of a roadmap for internal and external stakeholder engagement that empowers CT DEEP to recognize, listen, and serve the full array of people who love the CT outdoors.

9:45 -10:30 - **Panel Discussion of Accessibility/Inclusion in the outdoors** facilitated by Joseph Dickerson. The panel will discuss outreach, engagement, and how to create meaningful outdoor experiences that resonate as relevant and inviting to all lovers of the outdoors.

- Urban Hikers - A community-oriented group dedicated to exploring cities on foot, uncovering hidden urban treasures, and fostering a sense of connection with the urban environment. The group promotes physical well-being, cultural awareness, and social interaction through organized walking events. Members include locals, newcomers, and visitors, creating a diverse community of various ages, backgrounds, and fitness levels.
- CT DEEP - Akiebia Hicks, PhD, Durational Project Manager
- CT Land Conservation Council - Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director
- Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments - Emely Ricci, Community Planner
- Outside Perspectives – Nicola Wood, Executive Director, Outside Perspectives
- “Many Paths up the Mountain”, spring 2023, [CT Woodlands Magazine article](#) - Greg Gregory author

10:30 - 10:45 **Break** & refreshments (networking and enjoy displays)

10:45 - 11:30 Inclusive and Accessible Conservation for All – CT Land Conservation Council

11:30-12:15 Barriers to Meaningful Wilderness Experiences - Nicola Wood, Executive Director, Outside Perspectives

12:15 - 1:15 **Lunch** provided and prepared by Ciesco Catering

1:15 – 2:00 **Session 1** (Four Concurrent 45 min Sessions) Locations as noted.

1. Connecting Across Time - How Trails and History Can Work Together- Aaron Maracavitch, Executive Director, CT Landmarks. *Auditorium*
2. Building Community Through Partnerships - Oxford CT - Joe Lanier; Youth Conservation Corps Coordinator/Founder, Oxford High School. *Community Room*
3. Social Carrying Capacity Among Trail Users in High-Use Recreation Areas - Laura Kelly and Anita Morzillo, UConn Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment. *Conference Room*
4. Trail Protection Techniques on Private Land - Clare Cain, Trails Director, and Jeb Stevens, Trails Protection Coordinator, CT Forest & Park Association. *Library*

2:15 – 3:00 **Session 2** (Four Concurrent 45 min Sessions) Locations as noted.

1. Working Together to Grow the Outdoor Recreation Economy - Carolann Oullette, ME Office of Outdoor Recreation. *Auditorium*
2. CT Trail Census and CT Trail Finder - UConn Cooperative Extension - Aaron Budris, Environmental Planning Director at the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, and Emily Wilson, Geospatial Educator at the University of Connecticut, Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR). *Community Room*
3. Improving Equity and Access in the Outdoors for All - Neil Johnson, Store Manager of REI Co-op in Milford and a founding member of The Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Alliance (CORA). *Conference Room*
4. Building Community to Preserve Outdoor Recreation - Mick Ferraro, Director, Membership & Outreach, New England Mountain Bike Association. *Library*

3:15 - 3:30 **Wrap-up** (Auditorium) – Group impressions, ideas for next year, Thank you and Evaluations. Bruce Donald, Southern New England Manager for the East Coast Greenway Alliance

3:30 Optional Hike