CT Trails Program Team Efforts: CT Trail Census and CT Trail Finder

Aaron Budris, Environmental Planning Director, NVCOG

Laura Kelly, CT Trails Program Coordinator

Emily H. Wilson, Geospatial Extension Educator, UConn CLEAR, CT Trails Program

Anita Morzillo, Associate Professor, UConn Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment

Outline

- CT Trails Program Overview
- CT Trail Census
  - How Does it Work?
  - Need Count Data?
  - Data Dashboard
  - Partnerships
- CT Trail Finder
  - Demo
  - What's New
  - Partnerships
- Questions



UConn CT Trails Program

https://cttrails.uconn.edu/

UCONN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

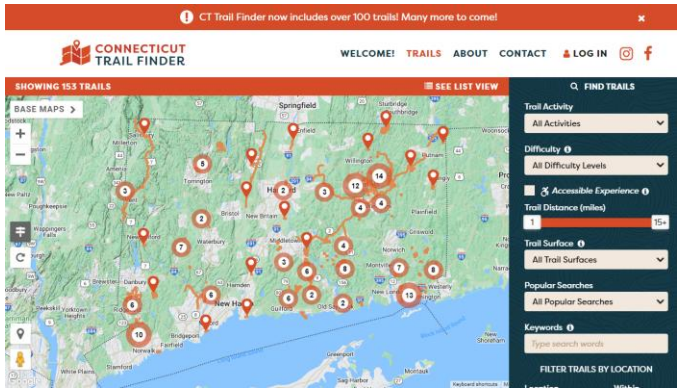
CONNECTICUT ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

NVCOG

CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS

CLEAR Center for Land Use Education & Research

CT Trail Finder



cttrailfinder.com

CT Trail Census



Support the Trail Community

Active Living (PATHS)

People Active on Trails for Health & Sustainability





Infrared Trail Counters

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



Trail counts ongoing



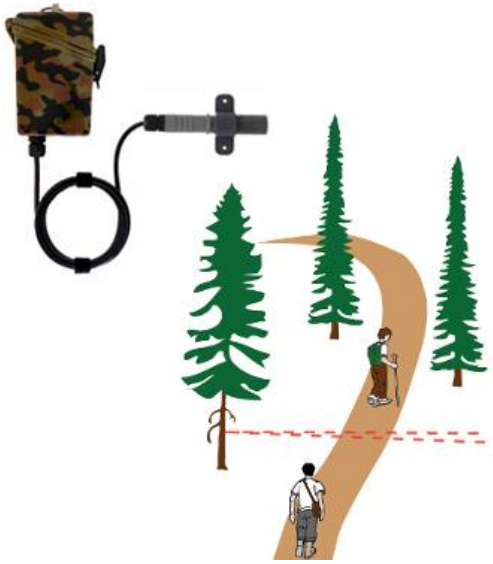
Intercept Surveys

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

Surveying Paused in 2022



Trail Counts How Does it Work?





Trafx Infrared Pedestrian Counters

Trail Managers

- Request assistance
- Local permissions
- Monitor counter

CTTC Staff

- Install and Maintain Counters
- Quarterly data downloads
- Data processing and distribution
- Some analysis

Volunteers

- Conduct manual counts
  - 10 hours/ year
  - Correction & mode share

CT Trail Census – Figures at a Glance



Currently in 10th year of data collection

Collected data at 72 trail locations

Counted over 25 million trail uses/trips

Surveyed 5,361 trail users

CT Trail Census – How is the data used?

- Grant and funding requests
- Amenities
  - Lighting
  - Comfort stations
- Management and maintenance
- Before/after
- Engineering and design
- Covid use tracking



CT Trail Census – Need Count Data?

We Can Help!

Short-Term Counts

- CTTC can provide equipment
- Can extrapolate to estimate annual use
- Data added to report and dashboard

Long Term Counts

You provide equipment, CTTC assists

Have trail count data?

We can add it to the dashboard!

Please reach out to trails@uconn.edu



CT Trail Census – Survey Data Access

Annual survey data reports on the website!

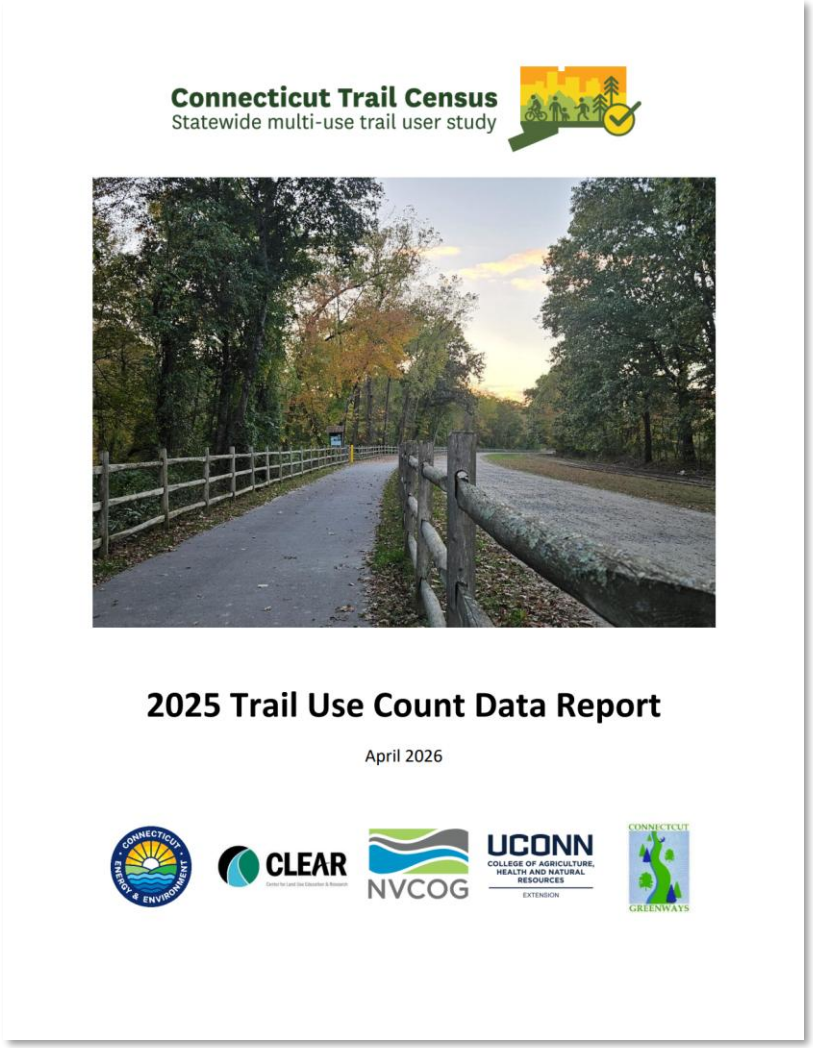
cttrails.uconn.edu/pubs/reports



Survey Data Review

- Data summary forthcoming
- Questions? trails@uconn.edu

CT Trail Census – Count Data Access



Annual Reports:

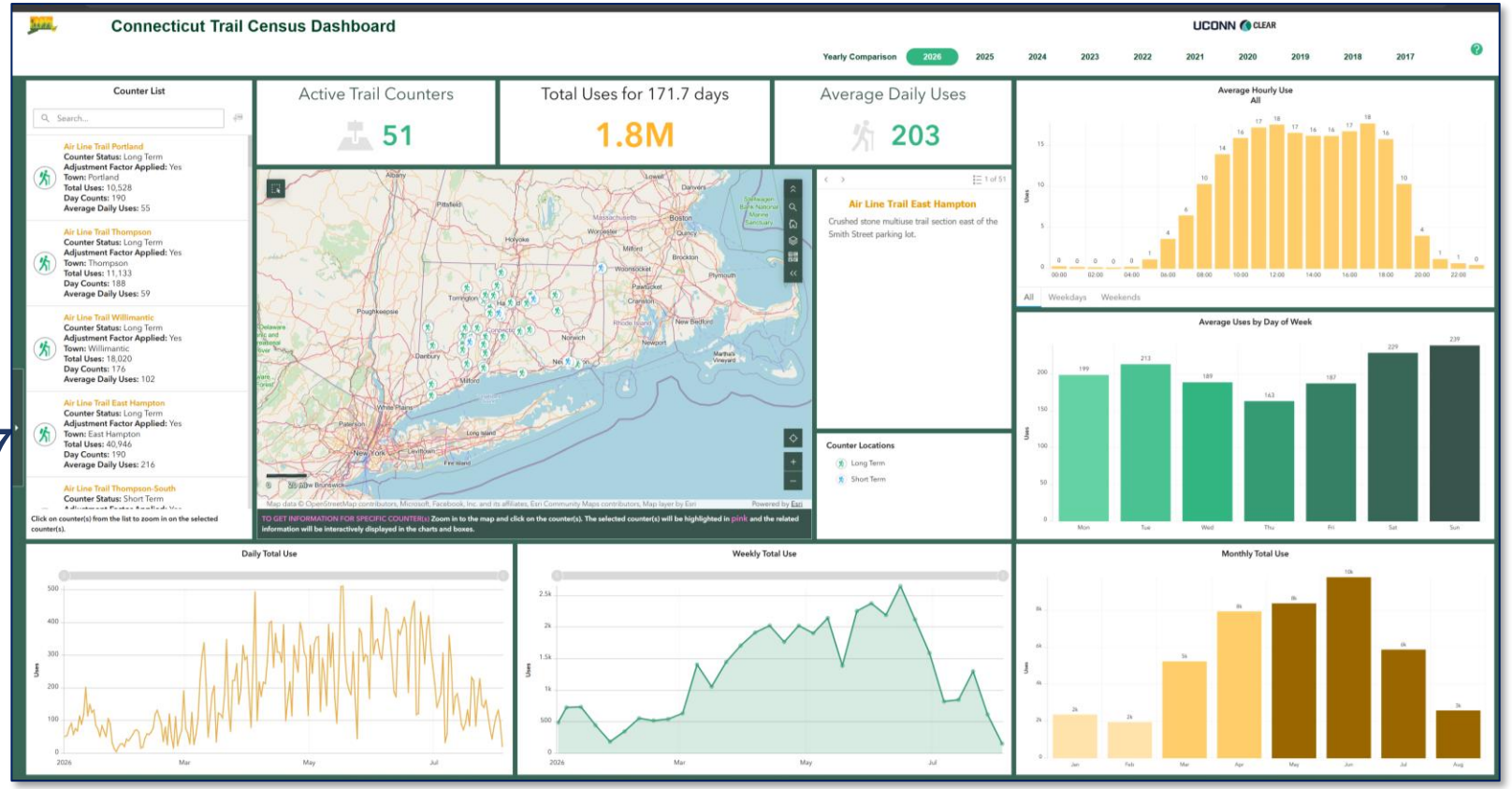
- "Official" annual estimates (account for missing/ incomplete data)
- Extrapolation of short -term counts
- Weather impacts
- Mode share information
- Discussion & key takeaways

cttrails.uconn.edu/pubs/reports

CT Trail Census – Count Data Access

Data Dashboard:

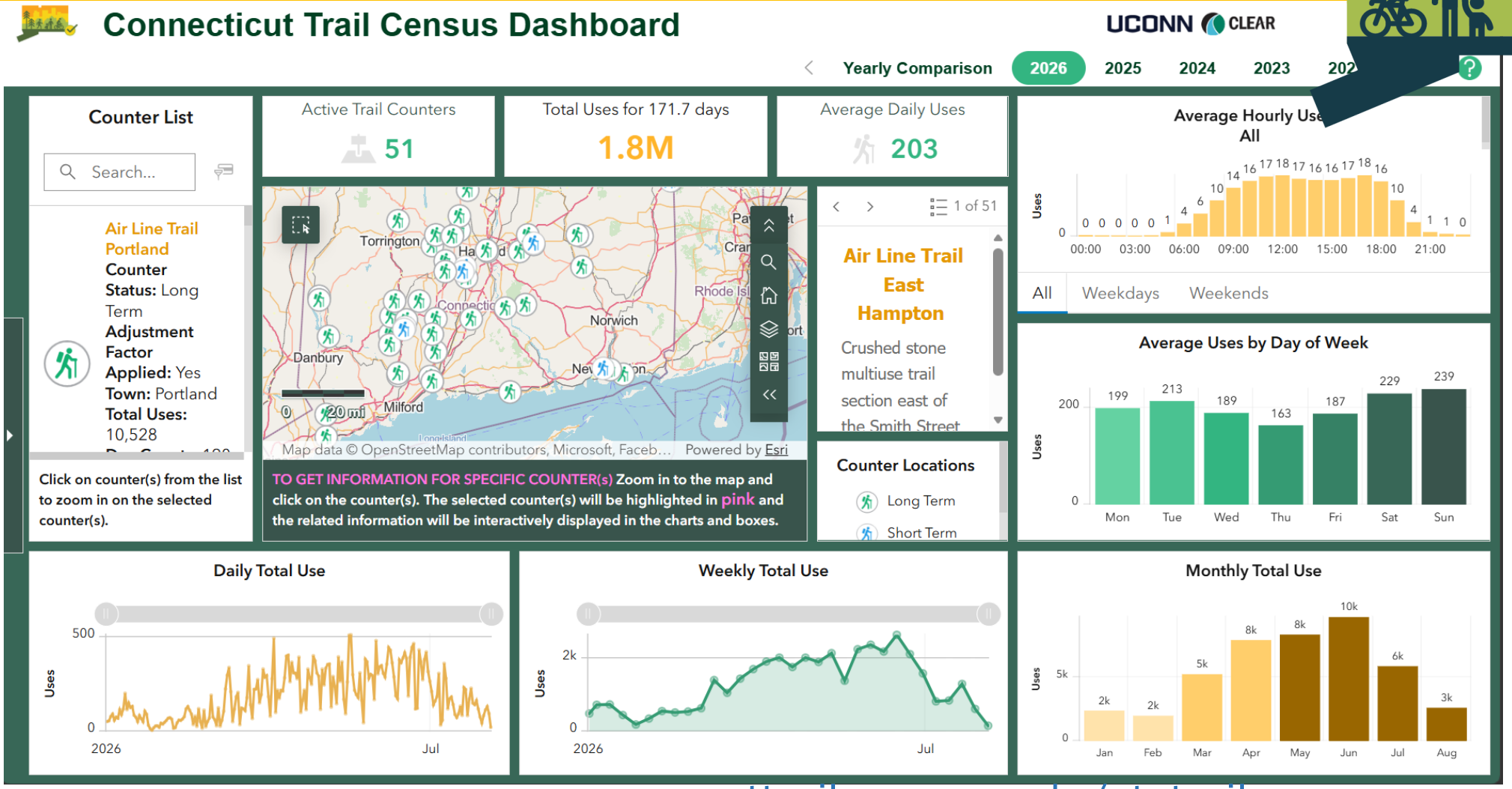
- Interactive
- Explore the data!!
- Count locations
- Yearly comparisons
- Annual data since 2017
- Combined totals



cttrails.uconn.edu/ct_trail_census

CT Trail Census – Data Dashboard





cttrails.uconn.edu/ct_trail_census

CT Trail Census – Partnerships and Data Impacts



- Daytime Lighting Installed in Bolton Notch Tunnel
  - Hop River Trail Alliance & Bike Walk Bolton
- Installed ADA compliant bollards along Hop River State Park Trail
  - Hop River Trail Alliance
- Contributions to successful grant applications
  - Many of our partners!
- Inform maintenance of recreation facilities
  - Town of Brookfield Parks & Recreation
- Snow removal from Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in New Haven
  - New Haven Friends of the Farmington Canal Greenway
- Many more!

CT Trail Finder



- 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!
- Administered by UConn Extension with Community GIS (CCGIS);
- Funded by CT DEEP, CT Greenways Council, & CTDOT

Why CT Trail Finder? Needs of trail users and managers

Trail users

- A one-stop shop to find trails across the state!
- Wide range of difficulties, surfaces, activities, etc.
- Use search to find a match
- Accurate, approved information and map
- Learn about the managing organization

Trail managers

- Convey YOUR information
- Update as needed with changes or alerts
- Link to trail post, embed map, and easily share

See how trails connect, even with different managers!

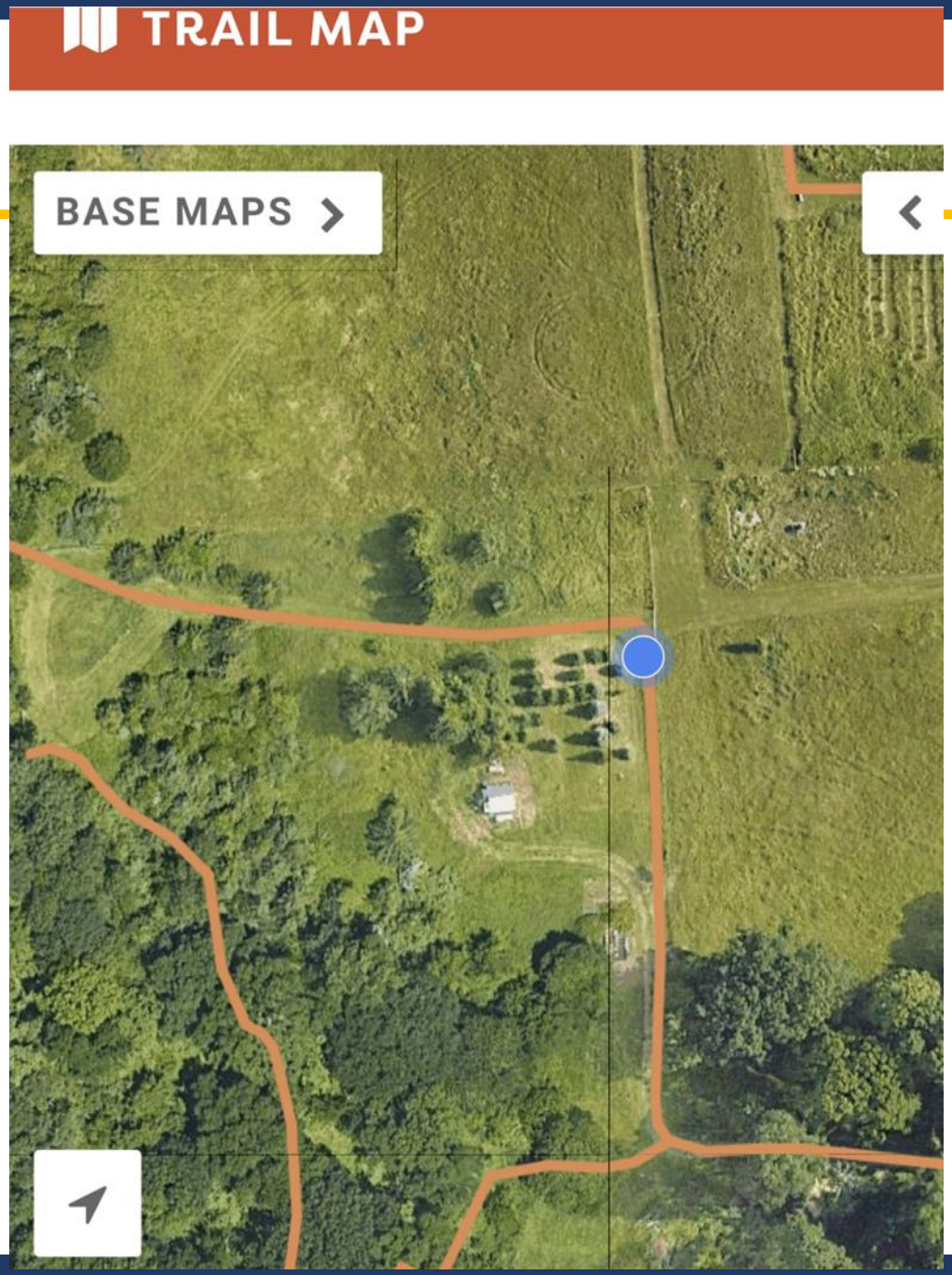
Demo

Trail Finder is NOT

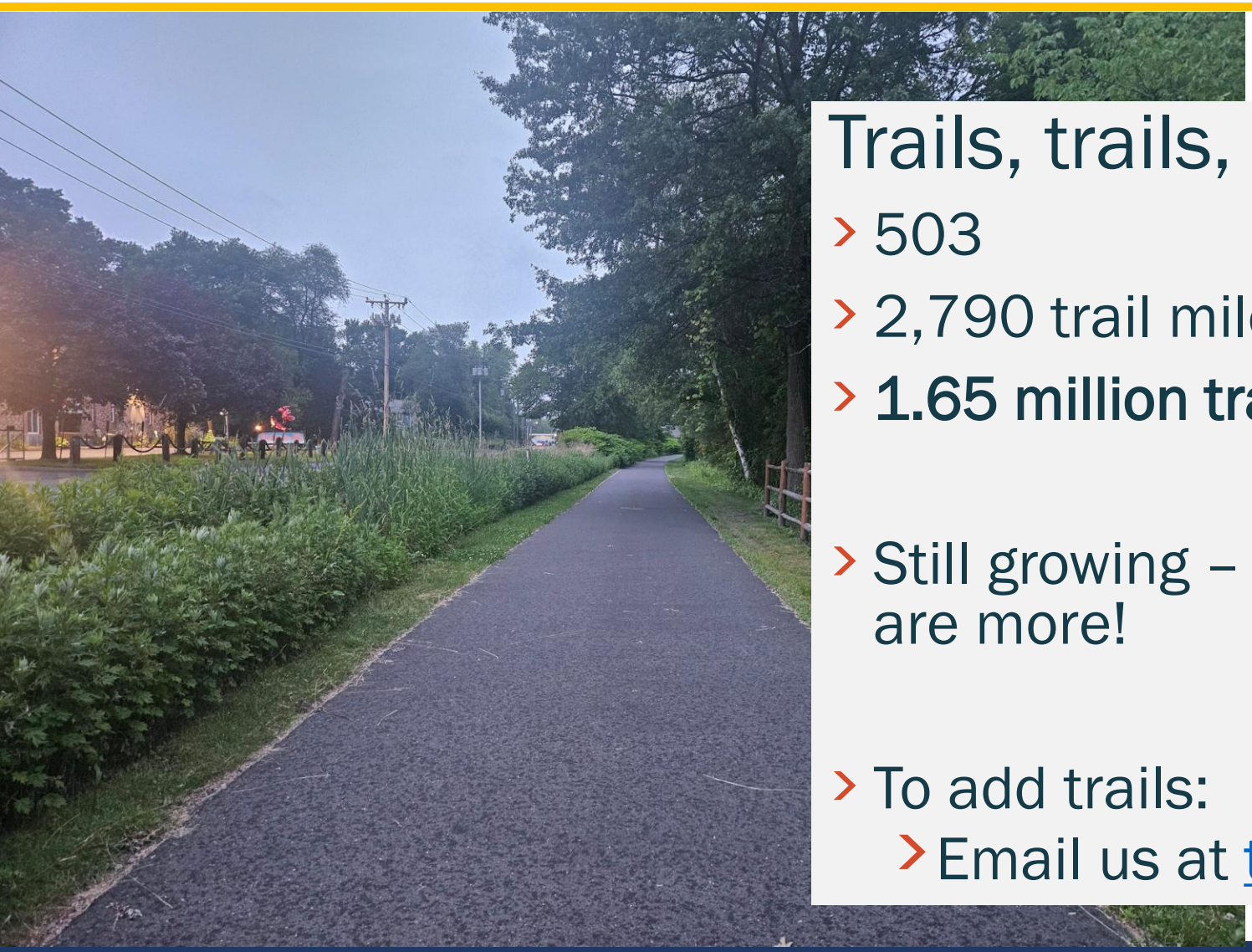
- A crowd-sourced app
- A tracking app
- A GPS data collector
- Automatically populated in any way
- A replacement for any website or tool

It is Mobile-Friendly!

- Mobile view = blue dot!
- Navigation assistance through the trail system



What's New: CT Trail Finder



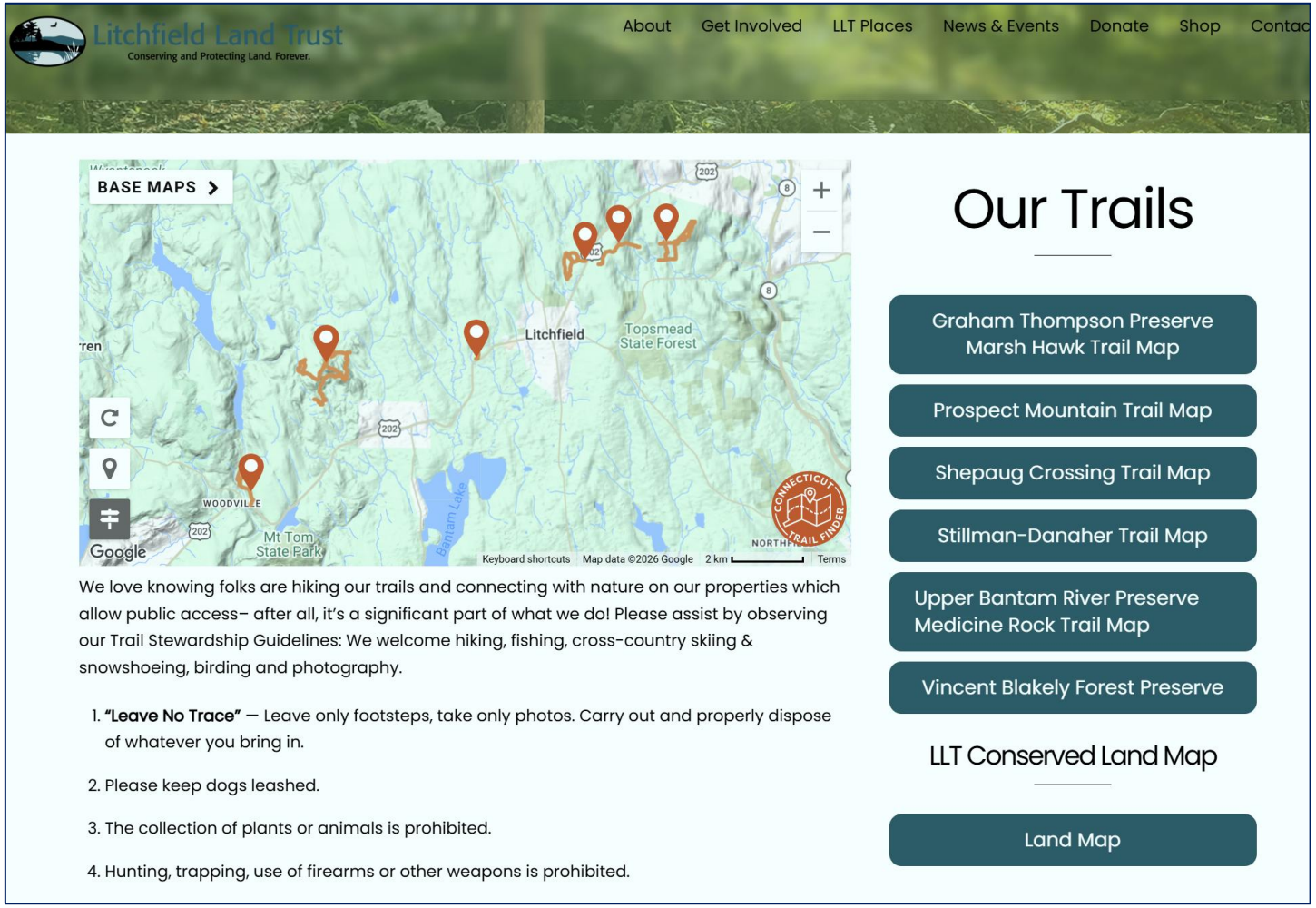
Trails, trails, trails!

- 503
- 2,790 trail miles
- **1.65 million trail post views**

- Still growing – We know there are more!

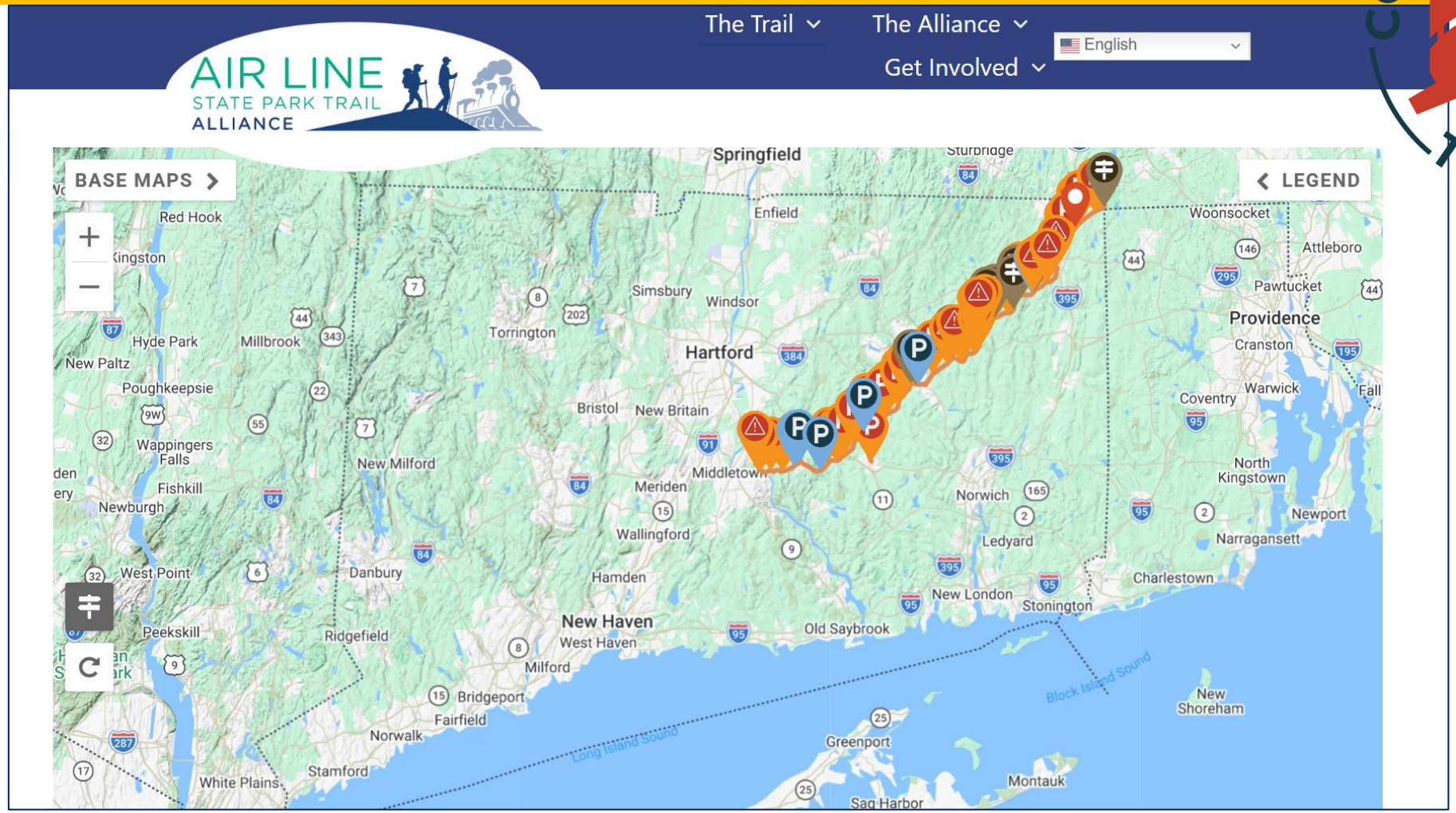
- To add trails:
  - Email us at trails@uconn.edu

Partnerships



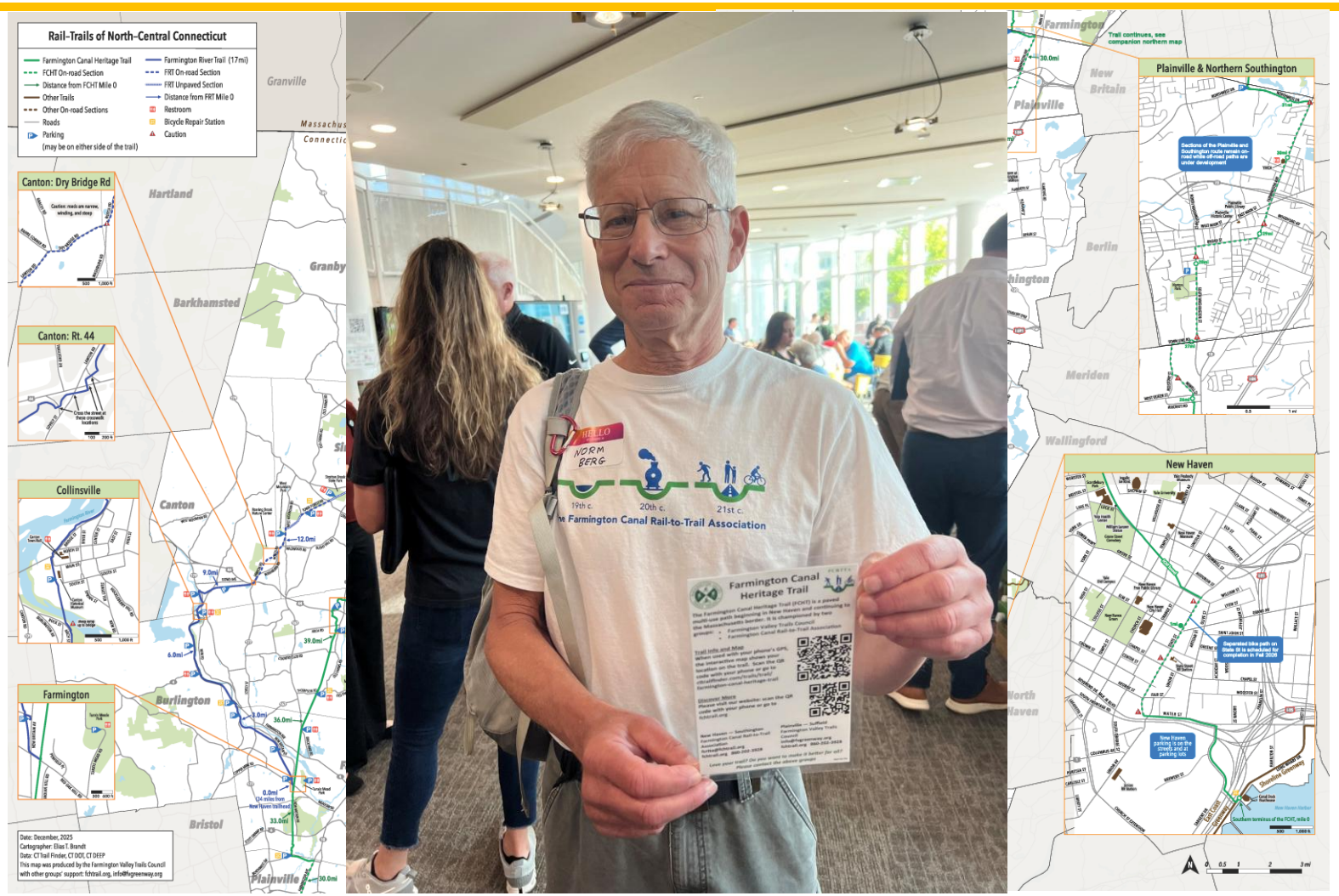
[Litchfield Land Trust – Conserving and Protecting Land. Forever.]

Partnerships



[Home – Air Line State Park]

Partnerships



[Farmington Canal Heritage Trail & Farmington River Trail – Welcome]

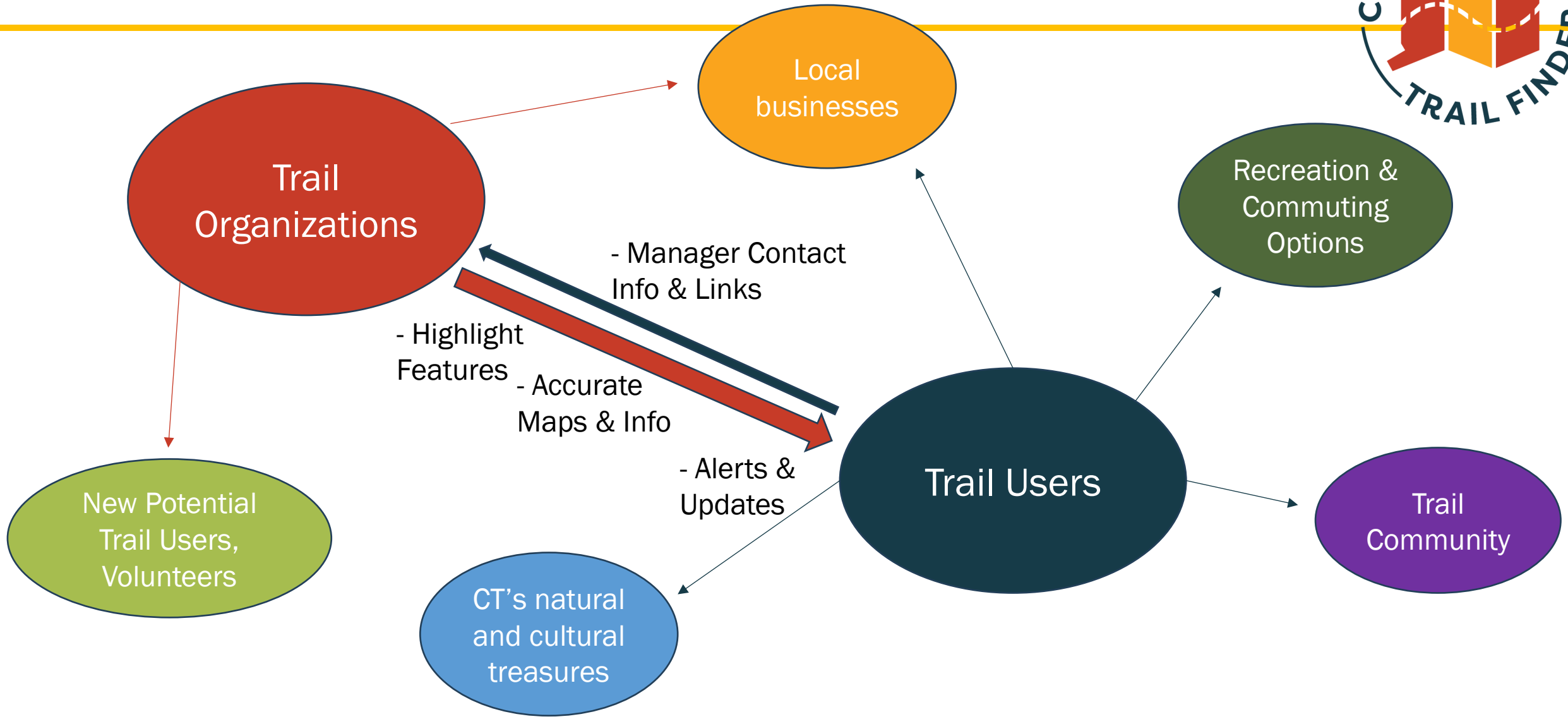
Partnerships





[Home - Town of Fairfield, Connecticut]

Connections



Upcoming

CT Trail Census

- Focus on Air Line State Park Trail

CT Trail Finder

- Trail blaze colors! 🎉

Lots more pending funding 🤞



Work with us!





Thank you

trails@uconn.edu

https://cttrails.uconn.edu

https://cttrailfinder.com

https://www.facebook.com/CTTrailFinder/

https://www.instagram.com/cttrailfinder/