

Connecticut Trail Finder Overview



Photo: Joe Gaylor Photography.



*Kimberly Bradley, CT Trail Census & CT Trail Finder Program Coordinator,
University of Connecticut Extension*

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we recreate is the territory of the Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, Nipmuc, and Lenape Peoples, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We thank them for their strength and resilience in protecting this land, and aspire to uphold our responsibilities according to their example.

*For links to more information and a pronunciation guide, please visit our **resources** page.*

Connecticut Trails Projects at UConn Extension

Connecticut Trail Census

A statewide, volunteer-based data collection program on multi-use trails



Active Living

People Active on Trails for Health & Sustainability (PATHS)

An interdisciplinary team at UConn committed to understanding and promoting the benefits of trails and natural resources for health, community & economic development and implementing a social ecological approach to health education.

Connecticut Trail Finder

TODAY!



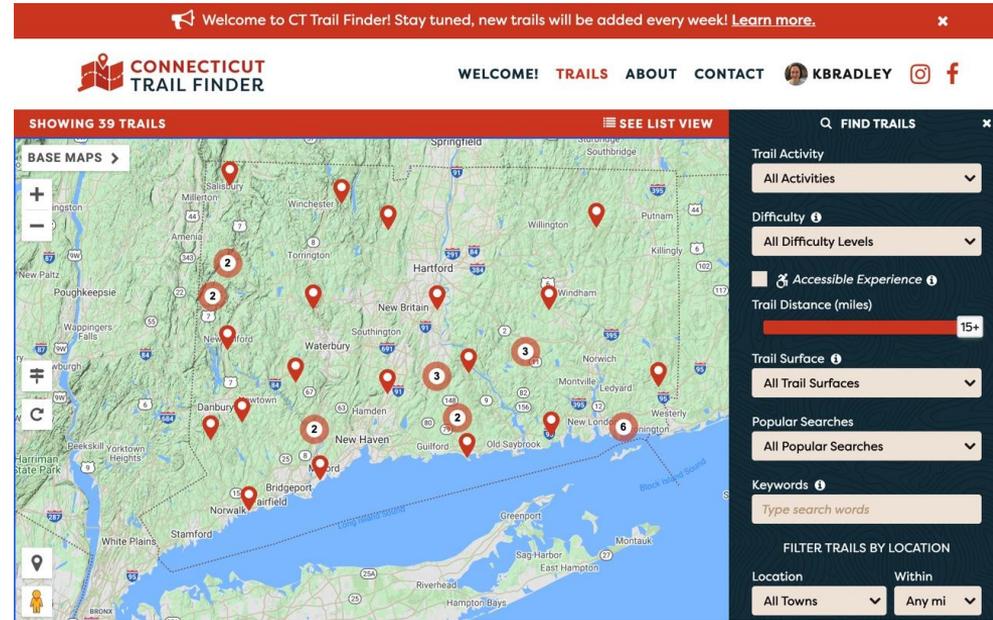
**CONNECTICUT
TRAIL FINDER**

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

Connecticut Trail Finder - Overview

Connecticut Trail Finder:

- Interactive website
 - Mobile- responsive design
- Searchable Interface
- Detailed Trails Pages
 - Direct link to Trail Management Organizations
 - Advisory Capacity
- User Accounts



Connecticut Trail Finder - Goals

Goal is to provide Statewide Resource for Information on Trails and Outdoor Resources

- ◆ State Parks & Forests (CTDEEP)
 - ◆ Municipal Lands
 - ◆ Land Trusts
 - ◆ Connecticut Forest & Parks Association (CFPA)
-
- Reliable Trail Manager approved information
 - Education about lesser known trails
 - Connect Trail Users with Trail Management Organizations
 - Focus on new users, and providing access to local events and trailside services related to trails



CONNECTICUT
TRAIL FINDER

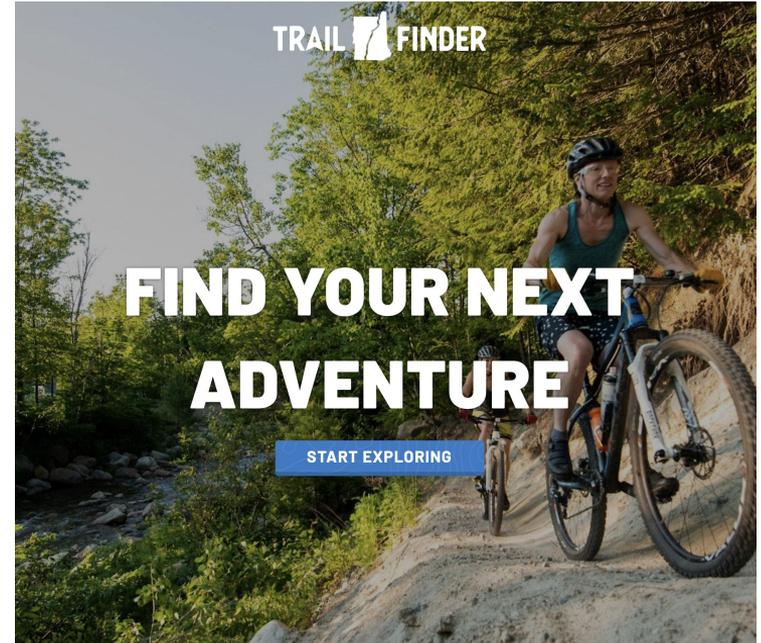
www.cttrailfinder.com

Center for Community GIS (CCGIS)

Contracted to UConn Extension to build Connecticut Trail Finder Website

Previous Experience Building these Websites:

- Maine Trail Finder - <https://www.mainetrailfinder.com>
- Vermont New Hampshire Trail Finder - <https://www.trailfinder.info>
- Saint Lawrence County, NY Trails - <https://www.stlctrails.com>



Connecticut Trail Finder - Project Timeline



Project Initiated - Summer 2020

UConn Extension - CT Trail Census/ Trails Team
Funded by CTDEEP (Rec Trails) and CTDOT

Target Initial Website Launch - June 2021

- 25-60 Trails
 - Across CT Geographically
 - Range of Trail Types/Uses
 - Land/Trail Management Organizations

June- Spring 2022

- Expand Trail Postings
- Build Trailside Services
- Events Calendar
- Develop User Interface

Data Collection Process

1. Outreach - Email contact
Presentation/Zoom
2. Data Gathering
 - GIS Data to UConn
 - Narrative draft
3. Website Trail Posting
Development
4. Trail Manager Review and
Approval
5. Publish Posting
6. Follow-up, Advisory
Notifications, Updates

The screenshot shows the Connecticut Trail Finder website interface. At the top, the logo for 'CONNECTICUT TRAIL FINDER' is on the left, and navigation links for 'TRAILS', 'SERVICES', 'EVENTS', 'ABOUT', 'LOG IN', and social media icons are on the right. The main heading is 'CHATFIELD HOLLOW STATE PARK' with a heart icon and an 'ADD TRAIL LOG' button. Below the heading, there is a descriptive paragraph about hiking trails, followed by a table of trail details. To the right of the table is a large photo of a waterfall with an 'ADD A PHOTO' button. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'DETAILS', 'TRAIL MAP', 'DIRECTIONS', 'COMMENTS (0)', and 'SERVICES'. The 'DESCRIPTION' section provides more details about the trail, and the 'CURRENT WEATHER' section shows the date as MAY 06, 2021 and the temperature as 58°F.

CONNECTICUT TRAIL FINDER TRAILS SERVICES EVENTS ABOUT LOG IN

CHATFIELD HOLLOW STATE PARK

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)

DESCRIPTION

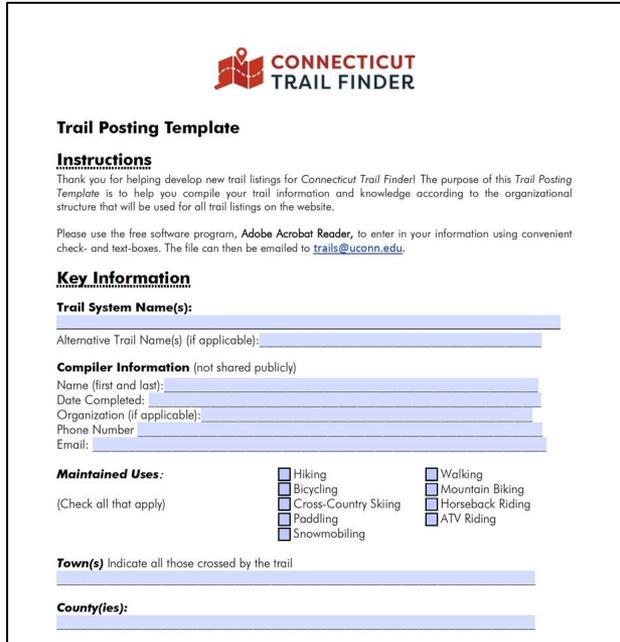
Families, hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers will enjoy approximately four and half miles of trails on gently rolling terrain. Trails lead to Little and Big Falls, as well as the giant Mountain Laurel. A 1.5 mile hike or park nearby to view scenic Wadsworth Falls as it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

CURRENT WEATHER

MAY 06, 2021

58°F

Data Collection Approaches



CONNECTICUT TRAIL FINDER

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): _____

Trail Documentation Guidance

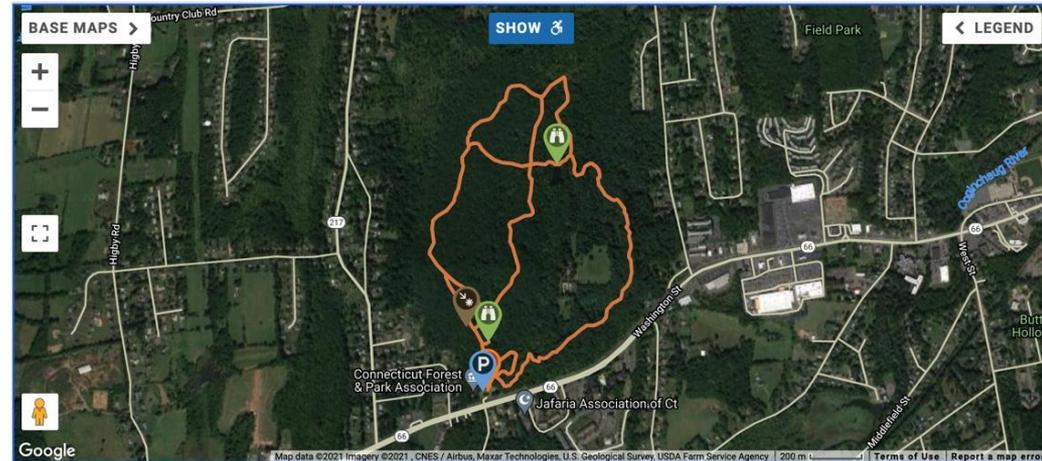
- Forms of data collection:

- Narrative Data
 - Fillable PDF to provide Trail System Name, Contact Information, Trail Attributes, Trail Abstract, Descriptions, etc.
- Mapping Data (GIS)
 - Trail Lines
 - Points of Interest (Point Data)
- Photos
 - Activities & Trail Surfaces

GIS Data Collection

GIS Data:

- Range of GIS Files
 - GPS (gpx) file, KML, KMZ, Shapefiles
- Council of Government and CTDOT/ Municipal Data sets
- UConn CLEAR Support
 - [CT Trails GIS Standard](https://ctgis.uconn.edu/standards/)
(<https://ctgis.uconn.edu/standards/>)



Have a Trail to Add?

- Instructions and documents
(work in progress)

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

- Email trails@uconn.edu



What's Next ? - Trailside Services

The screenshot shows the Trailside Finder website interface. At the top, there is a notification banner: "MUD SEASON IS HERE! Protect the trails we all love by sticking to open, dry areas. [Learn more!](#)". Below this is a navigation bar with a "MENU" icon, the "TRAIL 7 FINDER" logo, and a "LOG IN" button. The main heading for the listing is "THE SPRINGFIELD FOOD CO-OP". A yellow status bar indicates "This trailside service is currently OPEN." The listing details include: CATEGORY (marked with a vertical bar icon), LOCATION (335-1 River St. Springfield (VT) with a "Get directions to here" link), WEBSITE (springfieldfood.coop), PHONE (802-885-3363), EMAIL (promotions@springfieldfood.coop), and FOLLOW (Facebook and Instagram icons). To the right of the text is a photo of a grocery store produce section with a green sign that says "LOCAL". Below the listing are three buttons: "DETAILS", "MAP / DIRECTIONS", and "NEARBY TRAILS". At the bottom left, a yellow box titled "CURRENT OPERATIONS & COVID-19" contains the text: "Open from 7 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturdays, and 10 AM to 5 PM Sundays." To the right of this box is the Springfield Food Co-op logo, which features a red apple icon and the text "Springfield FOOD CO-OP".

Connecting Businesses to Trail Users

- Trailside Services Module will be developed over summer 2021.
- Listed businesses on Trailside Service will have their own page.
- Listings will appear on detailed trail pages based on their proximity to each trail.
- All services will also appear on a fully searchable interactive map.

What's Next - Events Calendar

EVENTS + SUBMIT EVENT

▼ FILTER EVENTS +

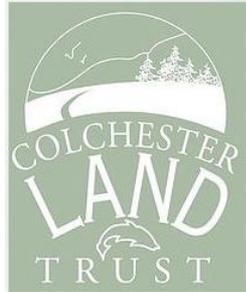
Date	Title	Location	Time	Cost	Activity
APR 29	Story of Place: Peters Brook & Penny's Preserve	Online, Blue Hill	4:00 PM to 5:00 PM	Free	Presentation / Talk / Film, Virtual Event
APR 30	Salamanders and Algae: From Roommates to Intimate Partners	Zoom Virtual Event, Boothbay	10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Free	Presentation / Talk / Film, Virtual Event
MAY 1	Spring Birding on Pleasant Mountain	Southwest Ridge Trail, Pleasant Mountain, Denmark	8:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Free	Moderate Hiking / Walking, Nature / Wildlife / Birding
MAY 1					
MAY 1					
MAY 5					

Events Calendar

- Develop guidelines for events that can be promoted on the page
- Submit events through user accounts
- Coordinating with the Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Alliance (CORA) on Events Calendar



Partnering Organizations



AVALONIA

GROTON
PARKS & RECREATION

SCRCOG



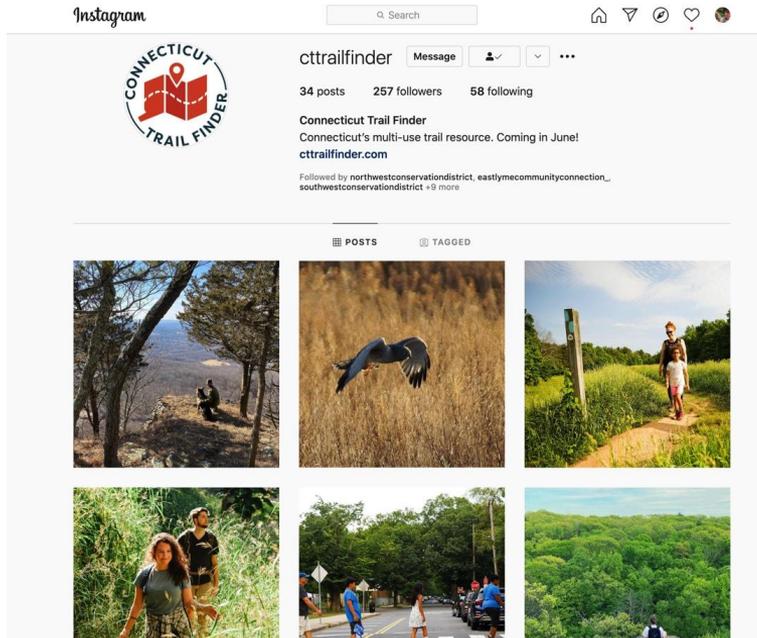
THE CONNECTICUT
Audubon
SOCIETY



Connecticut Trail Census
Statewide multi-use trail user study

Social Media Connection

Instagram: @cttrailfinder



Facebook: @CTTrailFinder



Trails Email Listserv

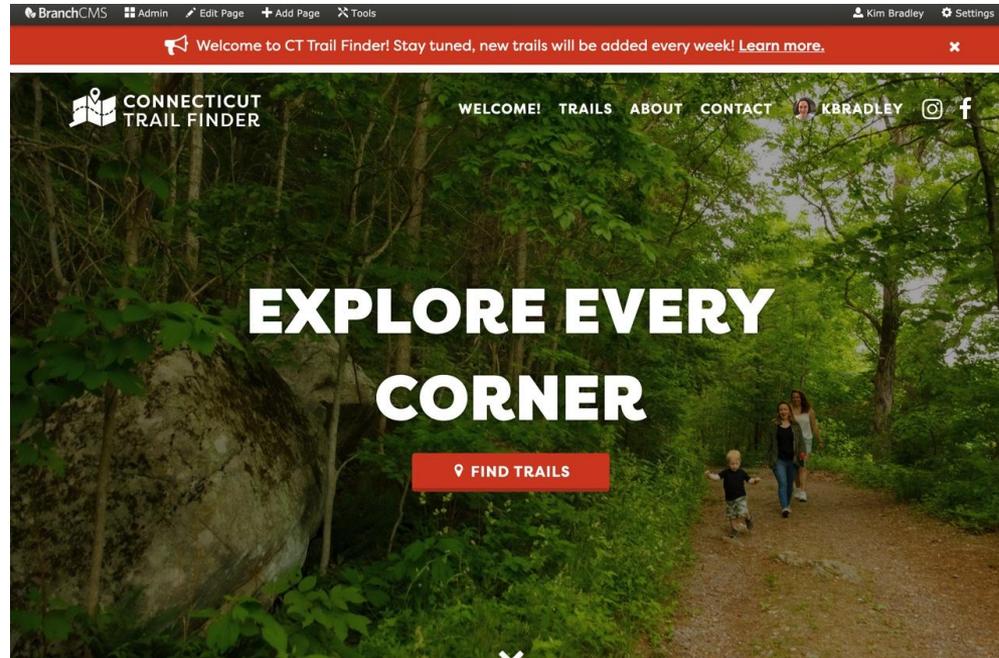


Photo Credit: CFPA

- Just getting started (covers all trail-related programs)
- Topics
 - announcements about meetings, seminars and conferences,
 - raising questions and providing answers
 - requesting and providing trail-related information
 - job openings

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

Let's Take a Tour of Connecticut Trail Finder!



Thank you:

Kimberly Bradley

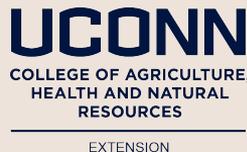
Connecticut Trail Finder/
Connecticut Trail Census
Program Coordinator

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CONNECTICUT TRAIL FINDER

Visit us on the web: cttrailfinder.com and
<https://cttrails.uconn.edu/>
or trails@uconn.edu



CLEAR

