Connecticut Trail Census
Multi-Use Trail User Data Collection Program

Kristina Kelly, Statewide Coordinator
Emily Wilson, UCONN CLEAR
Objectives

- Program background
- Data collection methods and preliminary results
- How to access the data
- How this data may be used
- The future of the Census
- How to get involved
Develop a better understanding of multi-use trail use in the state and make this important information available to trail user groups, administrators, government agencies, and the general public.
Program Background:

- Volunteer and community based
- Collect demographic data about trail users and quantitative data about trail uses.
- Funded by the CT Recreational Trails Program
- 18 month pilot program: Winter 2017–Winter 2018
15 Total Trail Sites

- Naugatuck River Greenway
- Larkin State Bridle Trail
- Middlebury Greenway
- Norwalk River Valley Trail
- Shoreline Greenway Trail
- Still River Greenway
- Sue Grossman Greenway
- CTFastrak Trail
- Air Line Trail (2)
- East Hampton
- Thompson
- Hop River Trail (2)
- Bolton
- Vernon
- Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (3)
- Hamden
- New Haven
- Cheshire
Data Collection Method #1: Intercept Surveys

Survey Respondent Demographics

Age of Respondent

- 20-24: 16.84%
- 25-34: 23.12%
- 35-44: 12.78%
- 45-54: 8.64%
- 55-64: 10.46%
- 65-74: 4.05%
- 75 or over: 3.63%

Survey Respondent Use Data

How Respondents Got to the Trail

- Car/Motorcycle (alone): 47.06%
- Car/Motorcycle (with someone): 31.19%
- Walked: 10.46%
- Bicycle: 8.05%
- Run/Jog: 2.41%
- Other: 0.60%
- Public Transit (Bus/Train): 0.20%

Observed Gender of Respondent

- Female: 55.92% (355)
- Male: 44.08% (201)

Race of Respondent

- White: 83.33% (420)
- Black or African American: 3.57% (18)
- White, Other: 5.36% (27)
- White, Pacific Islander: 3.57% (18)
- White, Black or African American, American Indian: 0.40% (2)
- White, Black or African American: 0.20% (1)
- Black or African American, American Indian: 0.20% (1)

Primary Activity

- Walk: 68.25% (331)
- Bike: 16.49% (80)
- Run/Jog: 14.43% (70)
- Other: 0.82% (4)

Frequency of Use

- 3-5 times/week: 30.14%
- 1-2 times/week: 25.35%
- 2-4 times/month: 20.76%
- Daily: 10.38%
- First time: 6.79%
- 1-2 times/year: 6.58%
Survey Results
Economic Question Responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Spending Per Year</th>
<th>$210.61</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Spending On This Visit</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Spending Per Visit</td>
<td>$5.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beverages</th>
<th>Snacks</th>
<th>Meals</th>
<th>Gas</th>
<th>Retail</th>
<th>Lodging</th>
<th>Equipment Rental</th>
<th>Nearby Activities</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<td>$3.42</td>
<td>$1.95</td>
<td>$6.64</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$2.60</td>
<td>$6.81</td>
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Survey Results
What is your favorite thing about this trail?
Survey Results
What could be improved about this trail?

- dog
- nothing
- longer
- make
- poop
- parking
- trails
- signs
- clean
- mile
- length
- trash
- ticks
- much
- good
- nice
- lighting
- fence
- access
- bathrooms
- shade
- stone
- river
- walk
- parking
- trail
- make
- dogs
- poop
- cans
- trail
- winter
- safety
- fountain
Data Collection Method #2: Infrared (IR) Counters
# Data Calibration: Manual Counts

## Connecticut Trail Census Manual Count Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:04</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Walking w/ Stroller</td>
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<td>Jogging</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jogging w/ Hill</td>
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<td>09:05</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jogging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Walking Dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jogging</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Jogging</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:40</td>
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<td>Jogging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:45</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>10:20</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:25</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:55</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jogging</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Totals:**

- Same Direction: 38
- Opposite Direction: 3

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**Note:**
- All times Eastern Daylight Saving (www.time.gov).
- Record multiples passing counter simultaneously on the same line.
- Record people, skateboards, wheelchairs, etc. as "other." Fill in comments.
- Record activity in comments - jogging, walking, dog, etc.
- Send completed forms to:
  Aaron Budde, NVDOT, 69 Lebanon St., 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702
Data Calibration:
Comparing Manual Counts to IR Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Manual Ped</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9211</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>232</td>
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<td>1.11</td>
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<td>1.15</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>1.13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Adjust Factor: 1.172413793
Mode Share
- Ped: 78%
- Bike: 19%
- Other: 4%
**Counter Results**

**Preliminary Analysis of IR Counter Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Total Counts</th>
<th>Average Daily</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Line Trail Thompson</td>
<td>1,965</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Line Trail East Hampton</td>
<td>28,916</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT Fastrak Trail New Britain</td>
<td>7,902</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Cheshire</td>
<td>23,277</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Hamden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farmington Canal Heritage Trail New Haven</td>
<td>33,508</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hop River Trail Bolton</td>
<td>12,202</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hop River Trail Vernon</td>
<td>43,835</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larkin State Bridle Trail Oxford</td>
<td>10,180</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middlebury Greenway</td>
<td>18,517</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naugatuck River Greenway Derby</td>
<td>105,506</td>
<td>486</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton</td>
<td>29,149</td>
<td>134</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sue Grossman Greenway Torrington</td>
<td>34,904</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoreline Greenway Trail Madison</td>
<td>26,179</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Still River Greenway Brookfield</td>
<td>52,172</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

438,171 Total Count - All Trails
2,395 Average Daily Count
UCONN CLEAR Interactive Website Development

Launch Website
Preview
Program Impact: How This Data May be Used

- Improve trails and amenities
- Raise funds
- Show trends over time
- Research opportunities
- Build partnerships
- Engage the community
- Advocate for trails
- And more.
Looking Forward:
The Future of CT Trail Census

- Wrapping up this year of data collection
- Program improvement
- Exploring funding options

Developing the program into a self sustaining volunteer based data collection program with annual benchmarking to understand how trail use changes over time.
Get Engaged!
How to Get Involved with the Census

- Visit our website to sign up for our newsletter
  - CTTrailCensus.uconn.edu
- “Like” our page on Facebook @CTTrailCensus for updates
- Reach out to me if you would like to volunteer next year
Thank you!

Kristina Kelly
CT Trail Census Statewide Coordinator
CTTrailCensus@gmail.com