Refresher Webinar 2020
Connecticut Trail Census

Monday June 1, 2020 2:00-3:00 pm

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Agenda

● Trail Census Background
● Getting your data
● New online trail user survey for 2020
● Infrared counts
  ○ Monitoring the infrared counter
  ○ Manual counts
● New initiatives in 2020

https://cttrailcensus.uconn.edu/volunteerresources/
Statewide volunteer-based data collection & education program on multi-use trails

To encourage data informed decision-making & promote resident participation in trail monitoring & advocacy

www.cttrailcensus.uconn.edu
STATEWIDE
Urban, rural and suburban multi-use trails - 20 sites in 2019

MULTI-YEAR
Multi-year information about trail use, user demographics, economic impacts, and trail amenities
Identification of patterns and trends

VOLUNTEER - BASED
Active community participation
Data informed decision-making
21 Participating Trail Sites

www.cttrailcensus.uconn.edu
Finding the Data

Click on a circle or the list to see trail statistics below. Multiple sites may be selected. Infrared counters report the number of times the counter is passed, which is different than the number of users or visitors. Additional calibration factors have been applied to account for known errors.

Total Uses* 393,537
Average Daily Uses 228
Missing Days* 95

* Aggregate of all sites selected

www.cttrailcensus.uconn.edu
Reports

Trail Census Reports

Special Reports

COVID-19 Trail Impacts.pdf - April 13th, 2020
Making Connections: Completing the Hop River-Charter Oak Gap.pdf - March 9th, 2020
Farmington and Cheshire Trail Usage Report.docx - August 15th, 2020

Count Reports

2018 Trail Use Count Report.pdf - March 15, 2019
2017 Trail Use Count Report.pdf - February 12th, 2018

Survey Reports

2019 Intercept Survey Report.pdf - March 9th, 2020
2018 Intercept Survey Report.pdf - March 15th, 2019
2017 Intercept Survey Report.pdf - February 12th, 2018
Intercept Surveys

Volunteer assessed
Paper survey *(suspended)*
Why and how are trails used
Demographics, spending & health
We can't interview every trail user, so we take a sample.

Sampling recommendations aim to reduce error so the sample is representative of the total population.
About the survey

- Data collected by volunteers belongs to partners
- Partners provide data to the Trail Census for inclusion in annual analysis
- Survey reviewed annually by the survey workgroup
- NOT a way to generalize about all Connecticut trail users
- NOT a way to understand users on the entire trail
- NOT a university research project
Survey questions

Goal to understand trail users and their behaviors at a particular point on the trail

Where they come from?
When they use the trail, how often and how long?
Do they spend money on the trail?
Demographics
Experience: Favorite things/what could be improved
QR survey volunteer duties

Sites have been allocated lawn signs and posters for the QR Survey.

→ Check posters and lawn signs weekly and notify the Census of any change.
This is a survey about trail use, conducted by the Connecticut Trail Census. It will take about 5 minutes.

All data and information collected will be aggregated, kept confidential, and your responses will not be individually identifiable. At the end of the survey you will have the opportunity to provide your email, if you so choose, to receive additional information about the study and information about participating in ongoing research. Your contact information will not be sold or disseminated to any other parties for any other purpose. The aggregated data set and data report will be made publicly available for researchers and the general public at http://attniprogress.uconn.edu.

You do not have to participate if you do not want to, if you agree to complete this survey, but later change your mind, you may stop at any time. There are no penalties or consequences of any kind if you decide that you do not want to participate. This project has been approved under UConn IRB Exempt Study Number X18-181. Click to view the participant information sheet.

For more information contact the Principal Investigator Laura Brown, University of Connecticut Department of Extension, 203-407-3567, laura.brown@uconn.edu

☐ Yes, I would like to participate in the survey.

☐ I do not wish to participate at this time.

http://s.uconn.edu/censuspreview
Infrared Counters
Volunteer Responsibilities

1. IR Counter Monitoring
2. Manual Counts
Counter Monitoring

Why?

We only see counters quarterly

We want to catch issues early:

- Malfunction
- Insects
- Vegetation
- Vandalism
Counter Monitoring
How?

Periodic - At least 2x/month

- Still There?
- Vandalism?
- Obstructed? (Clear it if you can)
- Is it working?
  - Open it up
  - Red 1x/5 seconds
  - Green when tripped

Beware of bees / avoid wet weather
Counter Monitoring
How?

Report to cttrailcensus@gmail.com:

- Tampering/Vandalism
- Obstruction (even if cleared)
- Red light not flashing
- Red light flashing rapidly
- Green light not flashing when tripped
- Green light flashing when not tripped
- Anything out of the ordinary
Manual Counts

Why?

In-Person Counts:

- Used to develop a calibration factor for more accurate IR counts
  - Typically Undercount
- Collect information that IR counters cannot:
  - Mode (Bike, Ped, Other)
  - Group size
  - # of children
Manual Counts
How?

You will need...

- A watch with a second hand OR a smartphone with service at counter location
- Clipboard*
- Manual Count Form*
- Pen/Pencil*
- One page instruction sheet*

*Provided
Manual Counts

How?

1. **Synchronize with “Official US Time”**
   - Counters are on US Official Time (DST)
     [www.time.gov](http://www.time.gov)
   - All manual counts need to start at the top of the hour and continue for entire hour.
Manual Counts

How?

1. Synchronize with “Official US Time”
2. **Choose A Location**
   - Line of sight to counter
   - Bring a chair or sit in car
   - Be unobtrusive - you should be a *passive observer!*
Manual Counts

How?

1. Synchronize with “Official US Time”
2. Choose A Location
3. Check the Counter
   - Is it working?
   - Clear Scope?
   - Red 1X/ 5 seconds.
   - Green when tripped.
Manual Counts

How?

1. Synchronize with “Official US Time”
2. Choose A Location
3. Check the Counter
4. Prepare Count Form
   - Date
   - Location
   - Volunteer Name
   - Time Start (www.time.gov)
   - Weather
Manual Counts

How?

Examples:
Group of 3 walking
Manual Counts

How?

Examples:
- Single runner
Manual Counts
How?

Examples:
Adult pushing a stroller
Manual Counts

How?

Examples:

4 adult bicyclists
Manual Counts

How?

Examples:

2 adults walking with 2 children on bicycles
Manual Counts
How?

Examples:
Adult pushing a double stroller (occupied) AND single adult walker in opposite direction
Manual Counts

How?

Examples:
4 adults - 3 walking, 1 in a wheelchair
Manual Counts
How?

At the end of the hour:

- Total up all peds, bike and others
- Begin a new sheet if continuing
- E-mail a scan or image of the sheet to cttrailcensus@gmail.com
Manual Counts

How?

For best results...

- **10 full hours** per year per counter
- Varied days of week and time of day
- Avoid bad weather/ low volume times
- Get there early!
- Counts most important to record if you get overwhelmed
- Official US time & full hours
- Record anything else of note
Information/ Support
Volunteer Resources Section
www.cttrailcensus.uconn.edu
Other Volunteer Responsibilities

Volunteer hour tracking
Talk to local decision makers
Be in touch & get involved
Use the data!
Next steps & opportunities

- Statewide Trailfinder mapping project - DEEP & DOT
- Research on Trails and Community/Family Resilience
- Bike Walk CT / community education programming
- Multi-State Colloquium on Bike/Ped Monitoring
- Advisory committee
Questions/Discussion

crtrailcensus@gmail.com