

2021

CT TRAILS & ACTIVE LIVING PROGRAM

Accomplishment
Report

Cockaponset State Forest



Podcast Series:

On the Trail, hosted by Neva Taylor

Walk With Me, hosted by Neva Taylor

The Connecticut Trail Census



Connecticut Trail Census
Statewide multi-use trail user study

- Planned for program sustainability through fee for service program development and grant writing
- Installed infrared counters, maintained, collected and analyzed count data at trail 26 sites.
- Designed and implemented QR based survey data from 685 trail users across the state.
- Communicated data and implications to the public through an interactive data portal.
- Interacted with the public through 12 monthly newsletters.
- Supported the next generation of trail leaders - Hired and supervised applied economics graduate assistant to conduct gap estimation, demand modeling analysis and summer and fall undergraduate interns to support social media outreach and participate in the project team.



Our Volunteers have plugged in over 250 hours of in-kind support

Volunteers have contributed over 250 hours of In-Kind Support. Over \$35,000 of match has been provided to the programs in 2021.

- Gained regular feedback from stakeholders through quarterly Connecticut Trail Census steering committee meetings.
- Coordinated regular monthly and/or quarterly meetings with partners
- Planned for program sustainability through fee for service program development and grant writing.
- Research and publication of Anti-racism in the Outdoors resources to help UConn staff, administrator, and organizations be effective allies.

CONNECTICUT TRAIL FINDER



www.cttrailfinder.com
www.cttrails.uconn.edu

- Launched the Connecticut Trail Finder website on National Trails Day June 5, 2021, and publicly published over 100 trail manager approved trail systems by December 2021, far exceeding project goals.
- Created and launched Connecticut Trail Finder Facebook and Instagram social accounts.
- Communicated to the general public reaching 25,034 likes and follows on social media and 37,461 site page views
- Public Outreach through quarterly CT Trail Census Newsletters, an interactive trail data portal, updates to the UConn Extension CT Trails website, and launching the Connecticut Trail Finder Facebook and Instagram social accounts, and Blog postings including the development of My Environmental Story Blog.
- Established and finalized the first ever CT Trail GIS (Geographic Information System) data standard.
- Developed a structured curriculum and trained trail managers on how to input geographic and trail posting data input and manage postings
- Collected data on trail use on 23 multi use paths across the state using infrared data collection and trail user surveys, and publication of reports on 2020 trail use and user data supporting evaluation of COVID-19 pandemic influences on outdoor recreation.
- Developed working relationships with 75 agencies, municipalities, and organizations including hundreds of land use and trails managers statewide
- Supported the next generation of leaders Recruited, hired and supervised two student interns and convened UConn Trails Team in weekly coordination meetings to ensure progress towards program and project objectives

Awards



Silver Award - On the Road and Walk with me Podcasts - Electronic Media Audio 2 – Podcasts, Neva Taylor, Association of Communication Excellence

Bronze Award – On the Road and Walk with Me Podcast – Diversity 5 – Electronic Media, Neva Taylor, Association of Communication Excellence.

Our Staff

Laura Brown - Community & Economic Development Educator, UConn Extension

Kim Bradley– Trail Census Coordinator, UConn Extension

Aaron Budris - Senior Regional Planner, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Emily Wilson – Geospatial Educator, Center for Land Use Education & Research, UConn Extension

Khadija Shaikh – Summer CAHNR Extension Intern

Neva Taylor- Communications Coordinator

Eniola Fasola - Data Analyst

Emely Ricci- Fall and Spring CT Trail Finder Intern

Academic Publications

Brown, Laura E, Molly Basak-Smith, Kimberly Bradley, Stacey F Stearns, Anita Morzillo, and Sohyun Park. Exploring the Implications of Increased Rural Trail Use During the Covid-19 Pandemic on Health, Equity, and Inclusivity. Choices, 2021. Volume 36, Quarter 3.



UConn | COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
HEALTH AND NATURAL RESOURCES

EXTENSION

OUR PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

Ansonia Nature Center
 Appalachian Mountain Club-CT Chapter
 Audubon Connecticut
 Avalonia Land Conservancy
 Bolton Land Trust
 Capitol Region COG
 City of Ansonia
 City of Hartford
 City of West Hartford
 Colchester Land Trust
 Connecticut Audubon Society
 Connecticut College
 Connecticut Department of Health
 Connecticut Forest & Park Association
 Connecticut Greenways Council
 Connecticut Land Conservation Council
 Metropolitan Council of Governments
 Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Alliance
 Connecticut Recreation and Park Association
 Connecticut River Conservancy
 CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection
 Dension Pequotsepos Nature Center
 CT Dept. of Transportation
 East Coast Greenway
 East Haddam Land Trust
 Farmington Valley Trail Council
 HealthQuest Northeast Connecticut
 Housatonic Valley Association
 Joshua's Trust
 Keney Park Sustainability Project
 Kent Land Trust
 Ledyard Conservation Commission
 Ledyard Historic District Commission
 Ledyard Parks & Recreation
 Lower CT River Valley COG
 Lyme Land Conservation Trust
 Madison Land Trust
 Nation Park Service

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
 New England Mountain Bike Association
 North Branford Land Trust
 Northeastern Connecticut COG
 Northeast District Department of Health
 Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy
 Northwest Hills COG
 Norwalk River Valley Trail
 Ragged Mountain Foundation
 Ridgefield Conservation Commission
 Riverfront Recapture
 Shoreline Greenway Trail/ SCRCOG
 South Central Regional COG
 Southeastern Connecticut COG
 ves Trail and Greenway Regional Association
 The Last Green Valley
 The Nature Conservancy
 Town of Derby
 Town of East Haddam
 Town of Farmington
 Town of Groton
 Town of Lyme
 Town of Madison
 Town of Manchester
 Town of Mansfield
 Town of Milford
 Town of Old Lyme
 Town of Seymour/ NVCOG
 Town of Thompson
 Town of Watertown
 Town of Wilton
 Town of Winchester
 Town of Woodbury
 Tritown Trail Association
 United States Army Corp of Engineers
 Western Connecticut Council of Governments
 Wyndham Land Trust

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND CT TRAIL CENSUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Aaron Goode
 Don Bellingham
 Mark Linehan
 Barbara Amodio
 Sylvia Oinpu
 Virginia Raff
 Charley Taney
 Roberta B.
 Jack Walsh
 Louis Pear
 Beth Bernard
 Kathy Reiley
 Carl Gandza
 Steve Crusberg
 Cathy Smith

Michelle Skowronek
 Charlie Obert
 Kim Clouser
 Elizabeth Mayne
 Matt Davis
 Diane Ciano
 Martha Conneely
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 Kate Rattan
 Doreen Abubakar
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Barbara Amodio
 Phil Birge-Liberman
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 Laura Brown
 Martha Conneely
 Bruce Donald
 Ryan Faulkner
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 Sourav Guha
 John Kochinskas

Steven Mitchell
 Anita Morzillo
 Charles Obert
 Michael Puglisi
 Katherine Rattan
 Stacey Stearns
 Stephanie Stroud
 Jack Walsh
 Emily Wilson



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