Connecticut Trail Finder Overview

Kimberly Bradley, CT Trail Census & CT Trail Finder Program Coordinator,
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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!

https://cttrails.uconn.edu/
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

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 Lawerence 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
Data Collection Approaches

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:

- 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/)
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

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

- 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
Social Media Connection

Instagram: @cttrailfinder

Facebook: @CTTrailFinder
Trails Email Listserv

- 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:

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Visit us on the web: cttrailfinder.com and
https://cttrails.uconn.edu/
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