


Connecticut Trail Census

Statewide multi-use trail user study



Taking a look at the completed pilot year results and looking ahead to the the future of this innovative, statewide volunteer-based data collection and public education program

Kristina Kelly, CTTC Statewide Coordinator
Connecticut Trails Symposium
Goodwin College, October 25th, 2018

A scenic view of a paved path with a wooden fence overlooking a rocky shoreline and a river under a blue sky with clouds. The path is paved with asphalt and curves to the right. A rustic wooden fence with three rails runs along the left side of the path. Beyond the fence is a rocky embankment that meets a calm river. The background shows a line of green trees under a bright blue sky with a few white clouds.

Learning Objectives:

Program Background

Pilot Year Data Results

Updates From This Year

Examples of Data Utilization

Evaluation Results

Program Mission:

Develop a better understanding of multi-use trail use by training volunteers to collect **trail data** in the state and by making this important data and supplementary public education programs available to trail user groups, administrators, government agencies, and the general public.



EXTENSION



16 Participating Trail Sites



Airline Trail - Thompson



Sue Grossman Greenway



Hop River Trail - Vernon



Riverfront Recapture Trail



Hop River Trail - Bolton



CTFastrak - New Britain



Airline Trail - East Hampton



Middlebury Greenway



Farmington Canal Heritage Trail - Cheshire



Still River Greenway



Larkin State Bridle Trail



Farmington Canal Heritage Trail - Hamden



Naugatuck River Greenway



Farmington Canal Heritage Trail - New Haven



Shoreline Greenway Trail



Norwalk River Valley Trail

Thompson

E.Hampton

New Britain

Cheshire

New Haven

Hamden

Bolton

Vernon

Oxford

Middlebury

Derby

Wilton

Madison

Brookfield

Torrington

*Hartford



Trail Use Count Data

- Infrared (IR) pedestrian counters
 - Monitored & calibrated by volunteers





Connecticut Trail Census Manual Count Form

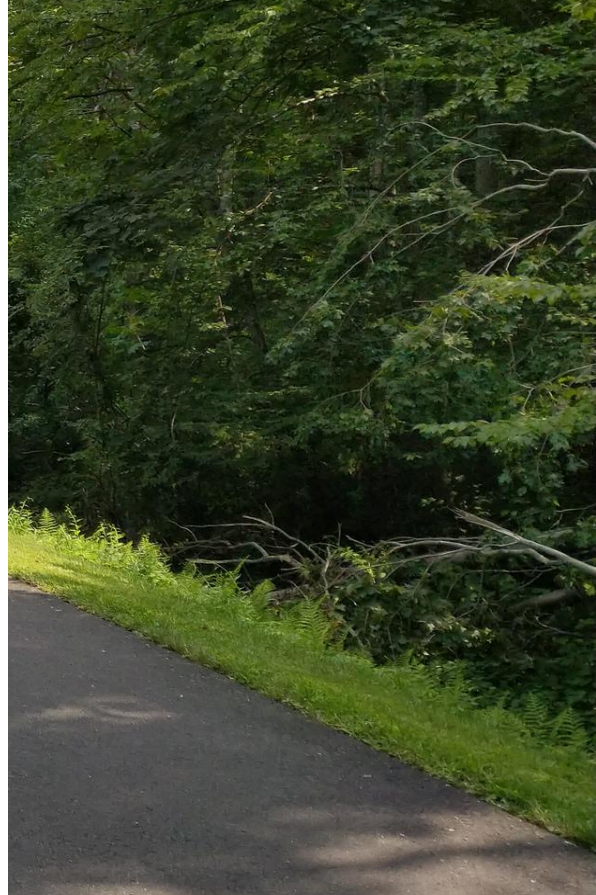
Location Airline Trail E. Hampton
 Name Aaron Budris
 Date March 30, 2017
 Time Start 12:00 pm
 Time End 1:00 pm
 Weather 60 degrees, sunny

All times Eastern Daylight S.
 Record multiples passing co
 Record strollers, skateboar
 Record activity in comment
 Send completed forms to:
 Aaron Budris, NVCOG, 49 Le

#	Time	Ped	Bike	Other	Comment	#
1	12:03	2			Walking OD	41
2	12:05	1			Jogging	42
3	12:10	2			Walking SD, 1 w/dog	43
4	12:11		1			44
5	12:13	1		1	Walking w/stroller	45
6	12:13			1	rollerblades	46
7	12:15	1			Walking	47
8	12:19	2	1	1	SD, walking w/stroller	48
9	12:31	1			Walking Dog	49
10	12:39		1			50
11	"		1			51
12	"		1		Bikes in line	52
13	12:48	2			Jogging SD	53
14	12:50	1		2	Walking, double stroller	54
15	12:52	1		1	Walking, Scooter	55
16	12:56		3		SD	56
17	12:58	3		1	Walking, 1 in wheelchair	57
18						58
19						59

78						
79						
80						

TOTALS: 17 8 7 = 32



Calibrating the IR Counters: Manual Counts

Trail	# Manual Counts	Calibration Factor
CT FasTrack New Britain	9	2.653846154
Hop River Trail Bolton	10	2.363057325
Larkin Trail Oxford	8	1.847457627
Naugatuck River Greenway Derby	8	1.839464883
Shoreline Trail Madison	8	1.81372549
Hop River Trail Vernon	10	1.614973262
Still River Greenway Brookfield	5	1.55
Sue Grossman Trail Torrington	10	1.544354839
Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton	5	1.291262136
Middlebury Greenway	0	1.291262136
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Cheshire	0	1.291262136
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Hamden	0	1.291262136
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail New Haven	0	1.291262136
Air Line Trail East Hampton	1	1.291262136
Air Line Trail Thompson	0	1.291262136



Time spent conducting manual counts make a difference!

On this day last year...

WEDNESDAY, OCT 25



Waxing Crescent 🌙

68° / 58°
Cloudy
↓0.65in

Record High 80°
Record Low 24°

Sunrise 🌅 7:15 am
Sunset 🌇 5:53 pm

	Air Line Trail Thompson	Air Line Trail East Hampton	CTFastrak Trail	FCHT Cheshire	FCHT Hamden	FCHT New Haven	Hop River Trail Bolton	Hop River Trail Vernon	Larkin State Bridle Trail	Middlebury Greenway	Naugatuck River Greenway	Norwalk River Valley Trail	Sue Grossman Greenway	Shoreline Greenway Trail	Still River Greenway	Total Uses
10/25/17	0	60	138	123	101	93	73	247	107	56	546	220	179	147	574	2,664



Intercept Surveying



While trail users fill out the surveys, many volunteers report that they enjoy chatting about their shared interest: the trail!



The East Hampton Air Line Trail volunteer team intercepting and surveying. This couple shared that they were using the trail while they visited all the way from MA!



Connecticut Trail Census

Statewide multi-use trail user study

Pilot Year 2017 Results

Counted

5

total uses
across all trails

Utilized a train-the-trainer model
to engage 63
community members
who invested a total of 818
recorded hours into the
program.



Connecticut Trail Census

Statewide multi-use trail user study

Pilot Year 2017 Results

Intercepted &
1,003
surveyed

trail users on 11 of the 15
trails.

Utilized a train-the-trainer model
to engage **63**
community members
who invested a total of **818**
recorded hours into the
program.

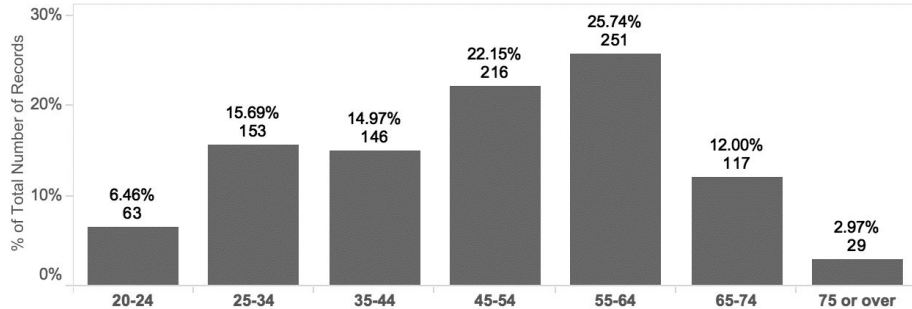
Volunteers involved in surveying trail users contributed to a grand total of **34 survey trips** in 4



Results 2017 survey data

What age groups are using Connecticut's multi-use trails?

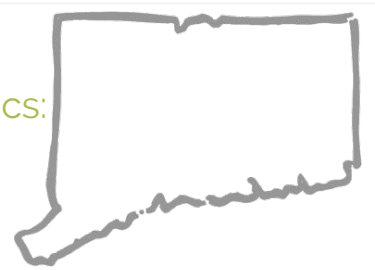
Age of Respondent
n=975



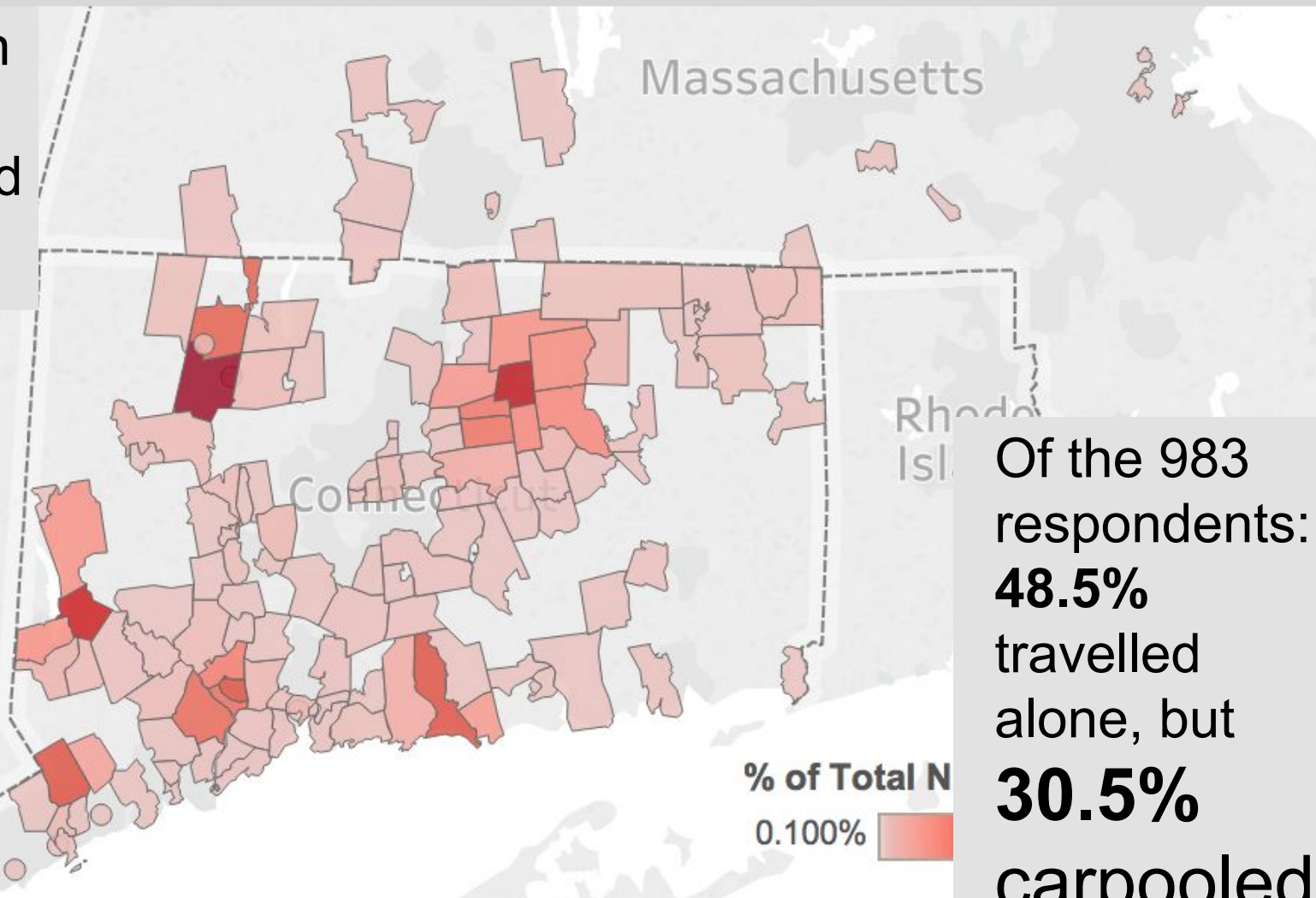
Is there a disparity in use between genders?



CT statewide gender statistics:
48.8% male,
51.2% female

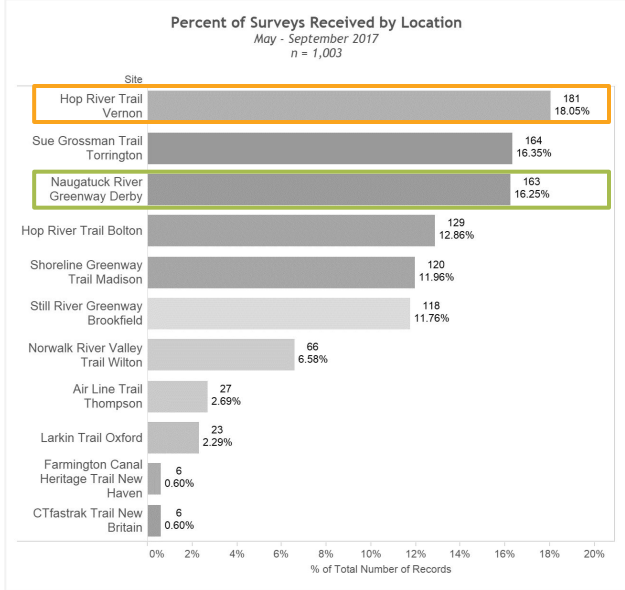
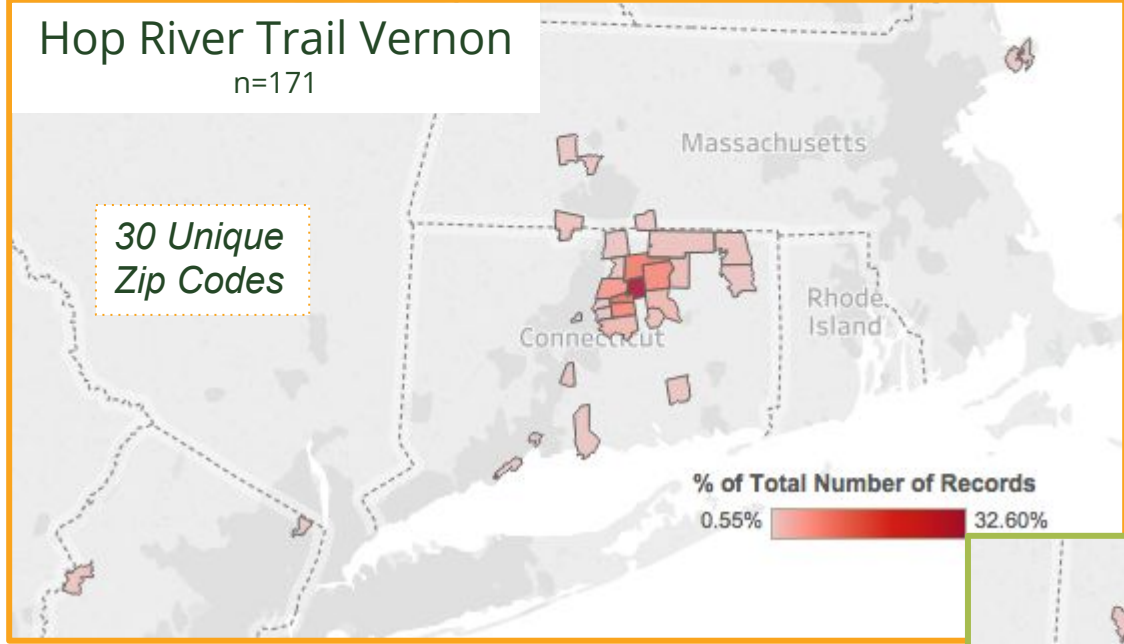


Respondents represented **165** unique zip codes !



Of the 983 respondents:
48.5% travelled alone, but
30.5% carpooled

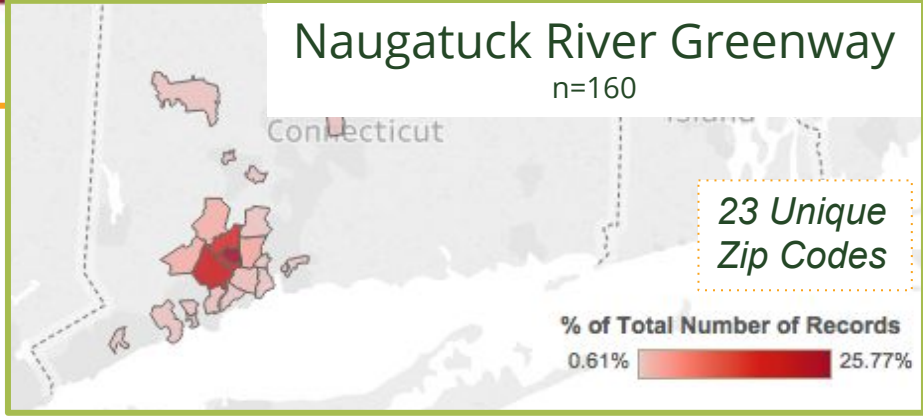
Respondent's Home Zip Codes



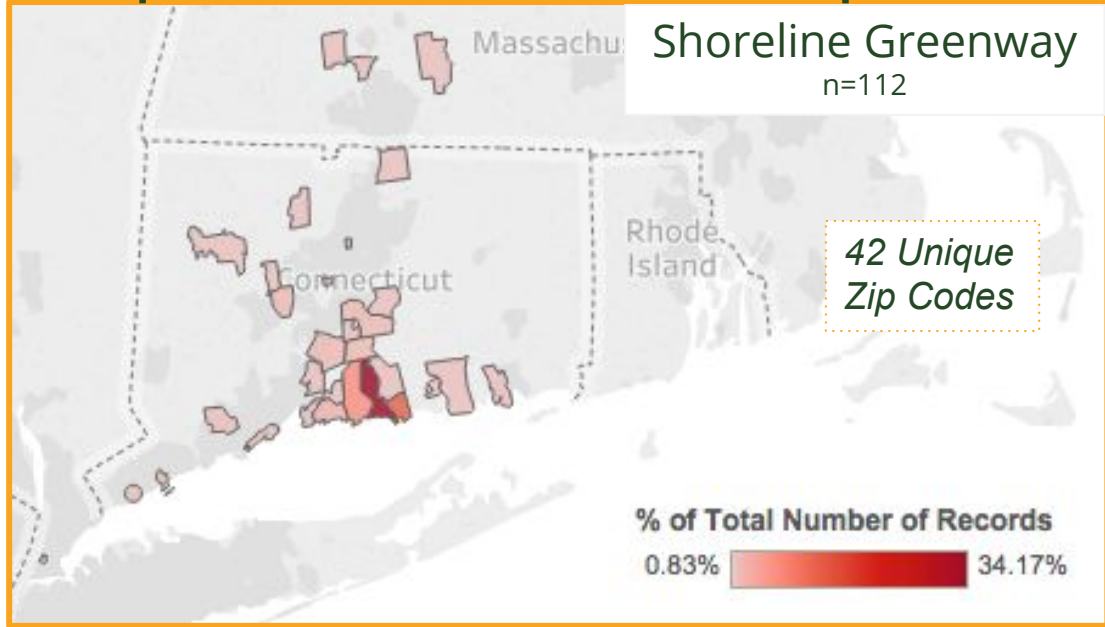
Total recorded uses: 133,016
Total surveys collected: 181

Community comparisons

Total recorded uses: 303,550
Total surveys collected: 163



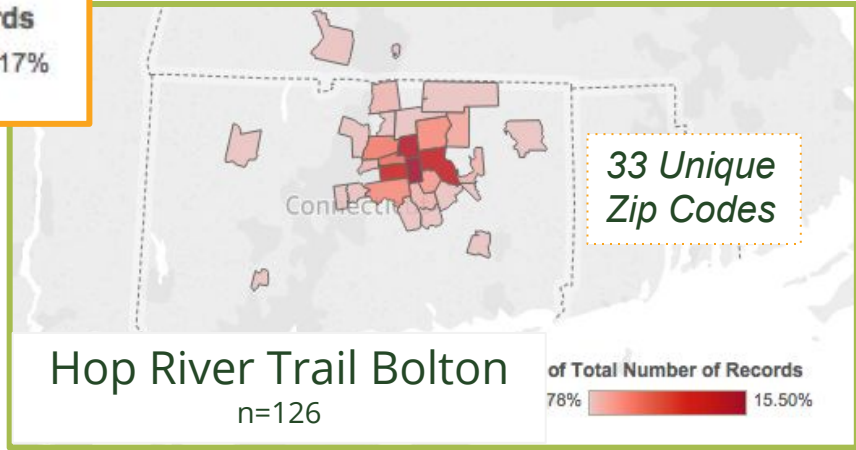
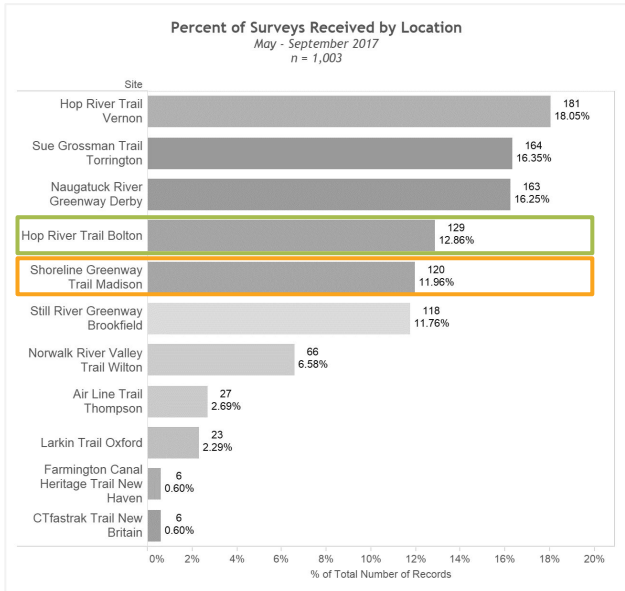
Respondent's Home Zip Codes



Estimated total uses: *100,518
Total surveys collected: 120

Community comparisons

Total recorded uses: 60,945
Total surveys collected: 120



Program Update: Second Year



Participating Trail	Total	Uses/Week	Uses/Day
Naugatuck River Greenway Derby	174,128	6,697	957
Hop River Trail Vernon	56,170	2,160	309
Still River Greenway Brookfield	54,937	2,113	302
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail New Haven	51,189	1,969	281
Shoreline Trail Madison	40,845	1,571	224
Sue Grossman Trail Torrington	38,812	1,493	213
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Cheshire	36,197	1,392	199
Norwalk River Valley Trail Wilton	33,285	1,280	183
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Hamden	29,221	1,124	161
Airline Trail East Hampton	28,401	1,092	156
Hop River Trail Bolton	22,497	865	124
Middlebury Greenway	19,456	748	107
CTfastrak Trail New Britain	18,565	714	102
Larkin Trail Oxford	13,245	509	73
Airline Trail Thompson	1,113	43	6

Current total uses: 618,062

January 1 – June 24, 2018

Updated Survey Tool

Trail Census Trail User Survey

None of the information gathered will be used to identify you individually. All data will be kept confidential and will be aggregated for analysis.

1. What is your home ZIP code? _____
2. How are you traveling on the trail today?
 Walk Equestrian
 Run/Jog In-line skate
 Bike Other _____
3. If there are children age 18 or under using the trail with you today list how many _____
4. How many minutes do you plan to spend on the trail? _____ # minutes
5. What is your purpose? (select all that apply)
 Recreation Exercise - Manage weight
 Relaxation Exercise - Preventative
 Dog walking Exercise - Endurance
 Travel to school Exercise - Prescribed
 Travel to shopping Family time
 Travel to work Socializing
 Tourism/sightseeing Other _____
6. Does the availability of this trail impact your decision to exercise or the frequency at which you exercise? ___ Yes ___ No
7. How did you get to the trail today?
 Car/Motorcycle (alone)
 Car/Motorcycle (with someone else)
 Public Transit (bus/train)
 Bicycle Other _____
 Walk
 Run/Jog
8. How often do you use the trail at this location?
 First time Once a week
 5 or more times/week Once a month
 2-4 times/week Every few months
9. During which seasons do you generally use the trail? (Select all that apply)
 Summer Winter
 Fall Spring
10. On this trip to the trail only, if you have spent or plan to spend money, please write how much you will spend on the following in whole dollars (If nothing write "0"):
Beverages \$ _____
Food (snacks, etc.) \$ _____
Meals at a restaurant \$ _____
Gas \$ _____
Retail (gifts, clothing, etc.) \$ _____
Equipment rental \$ _____
Lodging \$ _____
Nearby activities (recreation/ amusements) \$ _____
Other _____ \$ _____
Total \$ _____
11. How much do you spend each year on goods or services related to trail use? Include gear, clothing, equipment rental, repairs, auto accessories, etc. \$ _____
12. What are your favorite things about this trail?

13. What would improve your trail experience?

14. In the past week, how many days did you get in 30 minutes of extra activity that was NOT part of your daily routine? Includes things like jogging, playing soccer, fitness or dance classes, or exercise videos. The 30 minutes could be all at once or 10 minutes or more at a time. Do not count housework, taking care of kids, or walking from place to place.
_____ # days/week
15. How many of these days included vigorous exercise? Causing increase in breathing or heart rate
_____ #days/week
16. What is your age range?
 Under 18 45-54
 18-24 55-64
 25-34 65-74
 35-44 75 or over
17. What best represents your household income?
 Under \$24,999 \$100,000 - \$199,999
 \$25,000 - \$49,999 \$50,000 - \$99,999
 \$50,000 - \$99,999 Over \$200,000
18. What is your race or ethnicity? (Select all that apply)
 White Asian
 Black or African American Pacific Islander
 American Indian Spanish, Hispanic
 Other _____ or Latino
19. What is your gender?
 Male
 Female
 Prefer to self describe _____



Connecticut Trail Census
A statewide multi-use trail user study
www.cttrailcensus.uconn.edu

Program Update: Second Year

2018 Surveys Received to Date

Trail Site	Bolton	Vernon	Derby	Torrington	Madison	Wilton
# of Survey Trips	9	4	4	6	3	3
Total Surveys Received	269	163	160	138	103	60

Current total surveys received:

893

- As of October 16th, 2018 -

What people are saying...

Results of an evaluation survey distributed Sept. 2018

Responses to the statement:

“Participation in the Trail Census is valuable for our community”

- overwhelmingly positive
- 88.2% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing.

“Volunteer investment in this program is worth what we receive in return”

- 47.06% strongly agree
- 41.18% agree

Thoughts about the program...

Results of an evaluation survey distributed Sept. 2018

“It is important when promoting the trails, especially the building/ improvement of them, that we have statistics supporting their use [and] to counter the "I never see anyone using the trails" argument.”

“[I enjoyed] talking to people about their experiences on our trails, the different types of wildlife that people have seen or found signs of and seeing how far they have come to walk our trails.”

“Have provided data to Mayor and Town Administrator [who] put together a press release about our local trail system.”

Data Utilization

as reported in evaluation survey distributed Sept. 2018

“Our trail is already developed. However we use the data to continue to build support.”

“Used [CTTC trail use data] as part of town’s Branding Committee efforts to get more/better access to downtown from the trails.”

“We are using data to prove need for a port-a-potty in this area.”



Thank you:

- For your interest!
- To our dedicated volunteer teams
- Volunteer Trail Site Coordinators
- Program supporters
- CTTC Steering Committee

- Laura Brown
- Aaron Budris
- Ryan Faulkner
- Emily Wilson



Visit us on the web: Cttrailcensus.uconn.edu
Questions? Reach me at cttrailcensus@gmail.com



CLEAR

