



# CTDEEP TRAILS & GREENWAYS PROGRAM

**Presented by: Kimberly Bradley – Trails & Greenways Coordinator  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation**

# KIMBERLY BRADLEY

## Education:

- **BSc UConn - Environmental Sciences/ EEB**
- **MSc UConn - Oceanography**

## Prior Professional Experience:

- **UConn CT Trails Program**
  - CT Trail Census
  - CT Trail Finder
- **CT Institute of Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) Living Shoreline Specialist**
- **Environmental/Ecological Consultant**

## Volunteer:

- **Land Trusts/ CLCC**
- **NEMBA**
- **Eightmile Wild & Scenic Watershed Coordination**
- **Inland Wetland Conservation Commission**



# CTDEEP - CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS & TRAILS PROGRAM

- - Serves as DEEP's liaison to The CT Greenways Council (CGC) and Equine Advisory Council, other agencies, municipalities, non-profits and volunteers including: CT DOT Bike/Ped Plan Update Advisory Committee, CT DOT TAP, CT Forest & Park Association, New England Mountain Biking, CT Off Road Enthusiasts (COREC), and national organizations such as Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and American Trails.
- Review and/or advise on public recreation rules and regulations as it relates to programs under purview. Advises and/or instruct Park and Recreation Supervisors on programs, policies and regulations involving recreational resource management, trail use, design, construction, and maintenance.
- - Administers DEEP's state and federal grants associated with trails and greenways.





# BENEFITS OF TRAILS & GREENWAYS

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Trails and greenways positively impact individuals and improve communities by providing not only recreation and transportation opportunities, but also by influencing economic and community development. Some of the many trails and greenways benefits include:

- making communities better places to live by preserving and creating open spaces;
- encouraging physical fitness and healthy lifestyles;
- creating new opportunities for outdoor recreation and non-motorized transportation;
- strengthening local economies;
- protecting the environment; and
- preserving culturally and historically valuable areas.

# CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS COUNCIL

Connecticut Greenways Council members are appointed by the Governor and the leaders of the General Assembly in accordance with CGS. 454 23-102.

Duties include:

- Establishing criteria for designation of greenways.
- Advising and assisting in the coordination of state agencies, municipalities, regional planning organizations and private citizens in voluntarily planning and implementing a system of greenways;
- Providing assistance to state agencies, municipalities, regional planning organizations and private citizens in the technical aspects of planning, designing and implementing greenways, including advice on securing state, federal and nongovernmental grants;
- Advising DEEP on selection of CT Recreational Trails Program grants
- Meets every second Tuesday, meeting agendas & minutes found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/Greenways/Connecticut-Greenways-Council>



# CT OFFICIAL GREENWAYS

Definition of a Greenway is found in the CGS section 23-100

"Greenway" means a corridor of open space that:

- (1) may protect natural resources, preserve scenic landscapes and historical resources or offer opportunities for recreation or nonmotorized transportation,
- (2) may connect existing protected areas and provide access to the outdoors,
- (3) may be located along a defining natural feature, such as a waterway, along a man-made corridor, including an unused right-of-way, traditional trail routes or historic barge canals or
- (4) may be a greenspace along a highway or around a village.

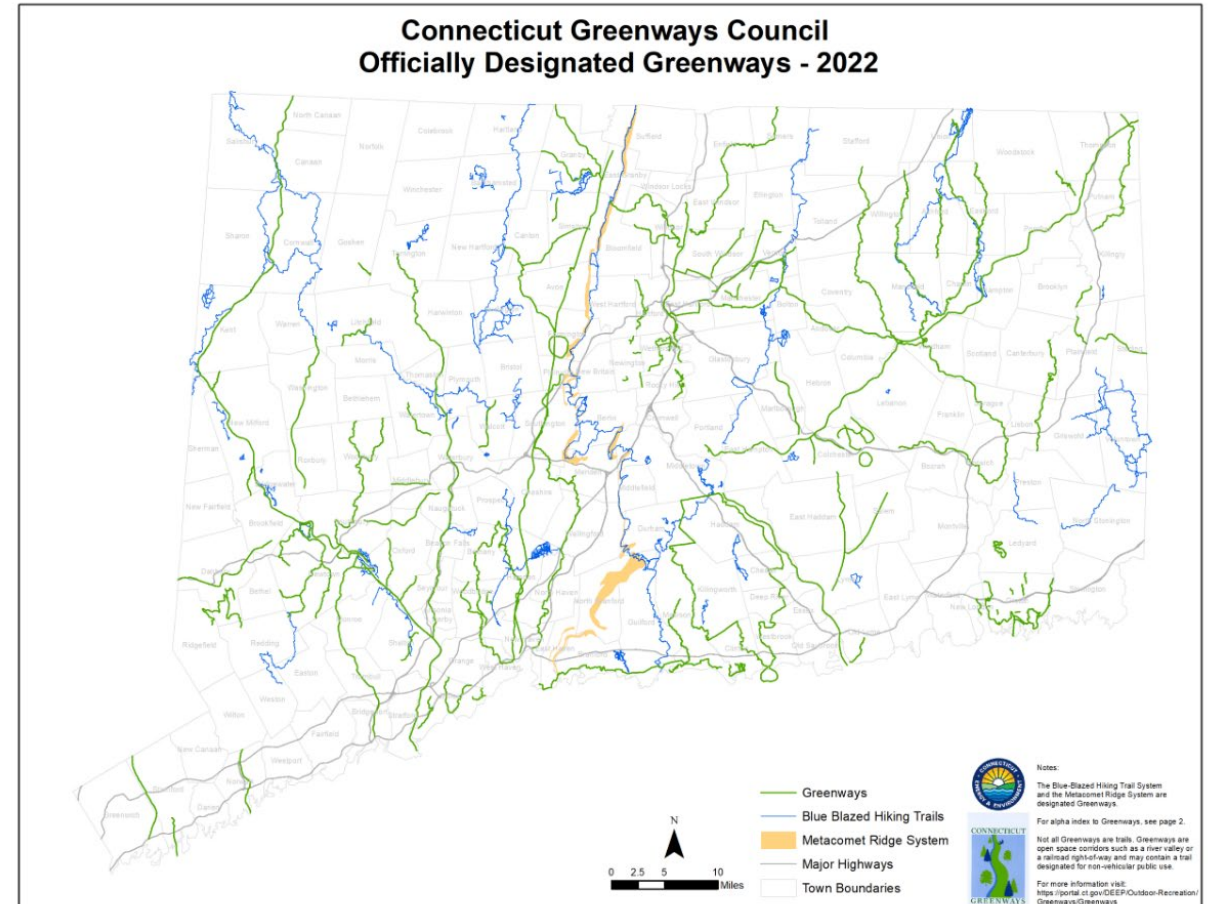
**Greenways nomination application available here:**

**<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/Greenways/Greenway-Nominations>**



# CT OFFICIAL GREENWAYS

- There are currently 95 Official Greenways in Connecticut.
- Any interactive map of CT Greenways can be viewed here:
- <https://ctdeep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=94bd90174c5d4265b23eba4274a32988>
- Most Greenways are regional, many are statewide.
- Greenway projects are prioritized with CT Recreational Grant Funding.
  - Provide planning tool and encourage municipal and public input.
- Notifications and review for projects proposed in the vicinity of a State Greenway.



# CONNECTICUT TRAIL SYMPOSIUM

- Annual conference/ meeting intended to bring together trails partners including representatives from CTDEEP, CTDOT, DECD, CTDOH, municipalities, tribal governments, advocates, trail user-based organizations, etc.
- Attendees are offered opportunities to make connections with each others and ask questions of experts covering various topics including planning, design, construction, maintenance, mapping, diversifying users, and volunteer management.
- 2023 Expanded opportunities to film fest, mobile clinics, and guest speakers/film screening.
  - **Opened up new model for partnership between Council and Municipal host.**

# Connecting Connecticut

5th Annual CT Trails Symposium

*New and More Immersive Experience!*

October 10-13, 2023 | Torrington, CT



Tuesday Night  
Oct. 10



American Trail Film Festival  
*Organized by the City of Torrington*



Warner Theatre

Wednesday  
Oct. 11



Self-guided & instructor-led  
mobile clinics



Various locations

Thursday Night  
Oct. 12



Film screening of 'Why We Walk'  
with networking and afterparty



Five Points Center  
for Visual Arts

Friday  
Oct. 13



5th Annual CT Trails Symposium  
Includes a full day full of concurrent sessions,  
panel discussions and networking opportunities  
bringing together the CT trails community

*Sponsorship Opportunities Available*

Registration Now Open and Film Festival Tickets Available!  
<https://cttrails.uconn.edu/symposium>



# CT RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM

Established in 2015, per CGS Section 23-103, as amended by Public Act No. 15-190, to provide funding to any private nonprofit organizations, municipalities, state departments and tribal governments in support of trail projects including:

- **Planning, design and construction of new trails (motorized and non-motorized).**
- **Maintenance and restoration of existing trails (motorized and non-motorized).**
- **Access to trails by persons with disabilities.**
- **Purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment.**
- **Acquisition of land or easements for a trail, or for trail corridors.**
- **Operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as related to recreational trails.**





# CT RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM – UPCOMING GRANT ROUND

CTDEEP & CT Greenways Council updated application and CT RTP Proposal Review Guidelines

- **2022 Update to grant scoring criteria incorporate**
  - Increase scoring transparency
  - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion & Accessibility
  - Community Input & Connections
- **Comparable Standard & Educational Program Evaluation Criteria**
- **2023 Updates to Application Forms - Application and Grant Guidelines Documents**

Anticipated December 2023 RFP, March 1, 2024 Deadline.

# CT RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM – APPLICATION SUPPORT

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[CT Rec Trail Application Story Map](#)

<https://arcg.is/1rKSum> AND

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/Trails/CRT--Funding>

- Grant Application Overview Webinar – Early January 2024
- Office hours / Direct Outreach

11/17/2023



## Connecticut Recreational Trails Grants

2023 Grant Round Overview

Amberly Bradley, Trails and Greenways Coordinator, DEEP State Parks and Public Outreach

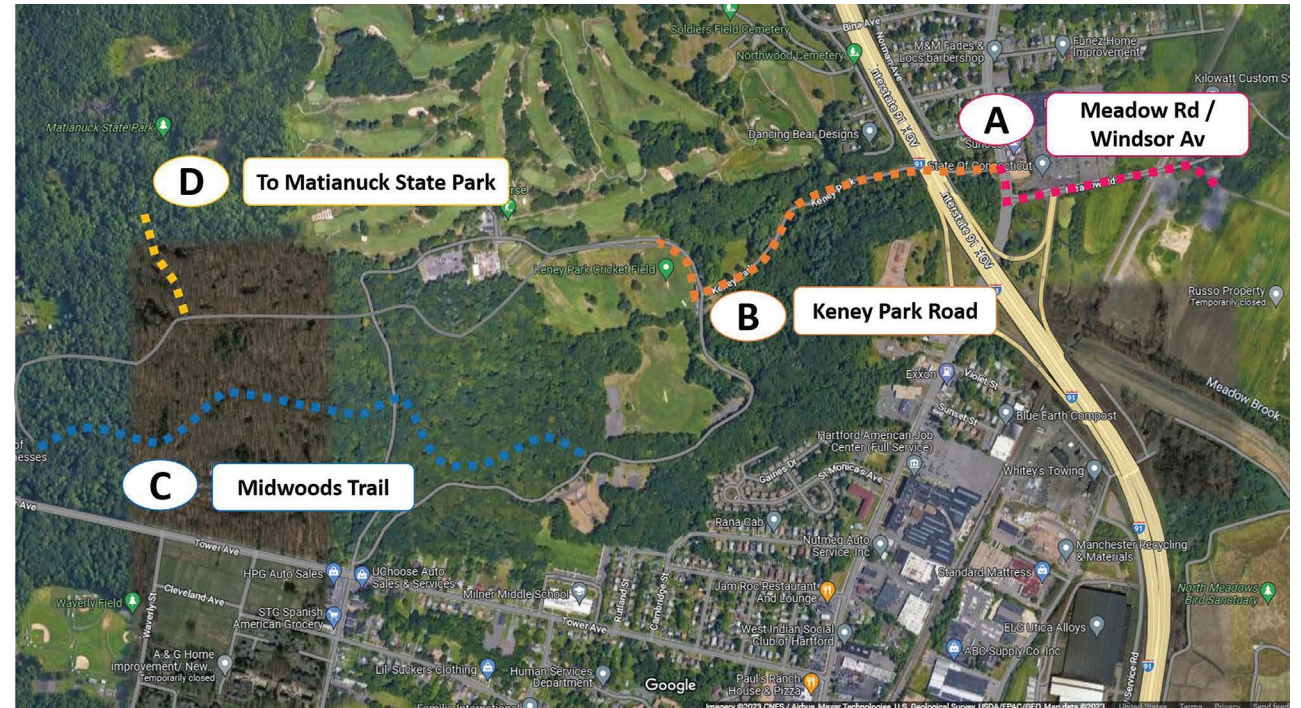
January 12, 2023

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

# CT RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUNDED PROJECTS – PLANNING/DESIGN



(2018-2019) CT RC&D's Master Plan for the Air Line State Park Trail to include resource inventory wayfinding, economic opportunities, bike to work assessment, increase safe routes to schools, maintenance plan.

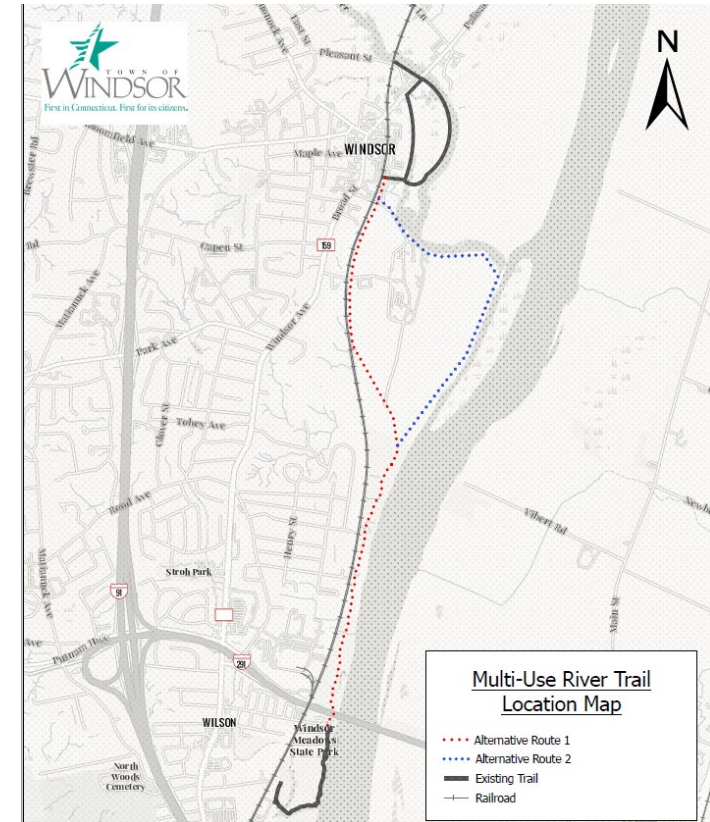


(2022-2023) The City of Hartford was funded to study, identify, and plan vital trail connectivity opportunities between interior Keney Park trails and the Hartford Riverwalk.

# CT RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUNDED PROJECTS – DESIGN



(2015-2016) Structural engineering and survey to provide the project site plan, permits, land survey, and design work. One-mile multi-use path connecting Waterfront District of New London, CT (transportation center) with Fort Trumbull.

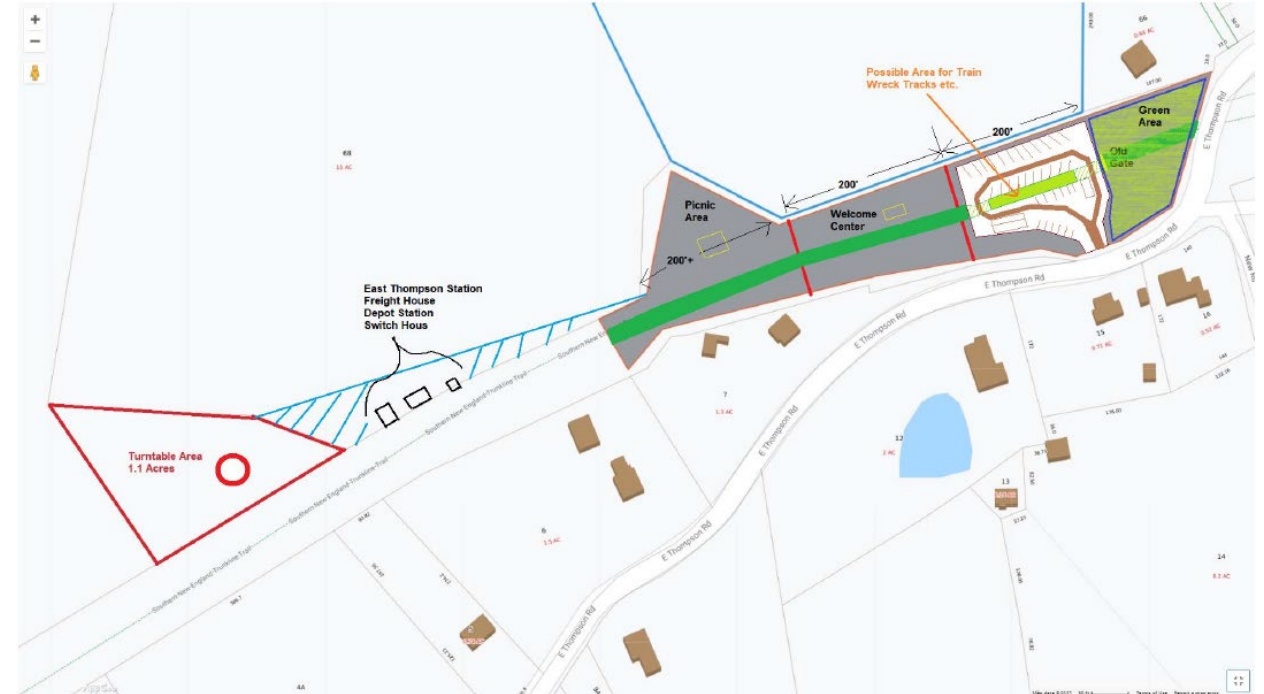


(2020-2021) The Town of Windsor will conduct design of a significant segment of the state and regional Connecticut riverfront trail. The proposed trail will link two of Windsor's village centers, Windsor Center and Wilson, through Windsor Meadows State Park to the broader Riverfront Recapture trail system.

# CT RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUNDED PROJECTS – LAND ACQUISITION



(2015-16) Acquisition of 2.4 acres by Manchester Land Trust and development of 1 mile trail link. This award provided funds required to obtain access to the railroad property in order to connect the Hop River and Cheney Rail trails.

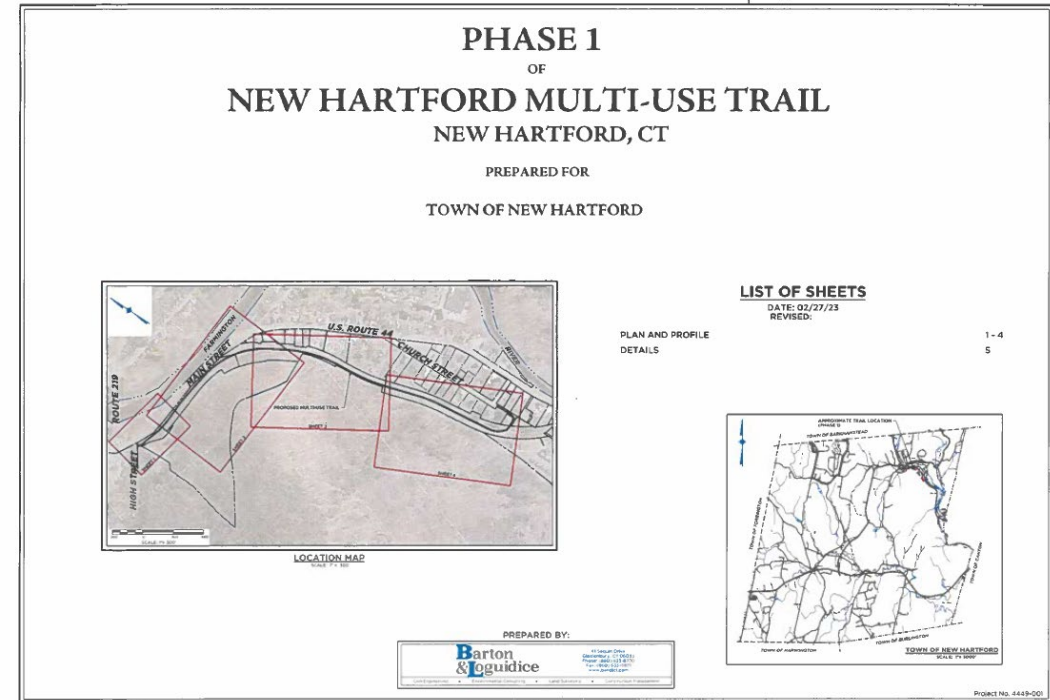


(2020-2021) The Town of Thompson will begin work on Train Wreck Park, including an acquisition of 1.1 acres of land, which will provide a cultural amenity adjacent to the Air Line State Park Trail in that town.

# CT RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUNDED PROJECTS – CONSTRUCTION



(2015-2016) Construct a 9,300 foot, 6-foot-wide natural trail extending from an existing ADA-compliant trail segment south on the Goodwin University Campus along the Connecticut River toward Glastonbury linking East Hartford trails at the Putnam Bridge to a regional trail network.



(2022-2023) The Town of New Hartford to construct Phase I of the New Hartford Multi-Use Trail.

# CT RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUNDED PROJECTS – TRAIL AMENITIES/ EQUIPMENT



(2016-2017) The Last Green Valley purchased and is utilizing the upgraded High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP) equipment, plus training new volunteers and hosting new events. The support provided by this grant will enable us to improve accessibility on many miles of trails.



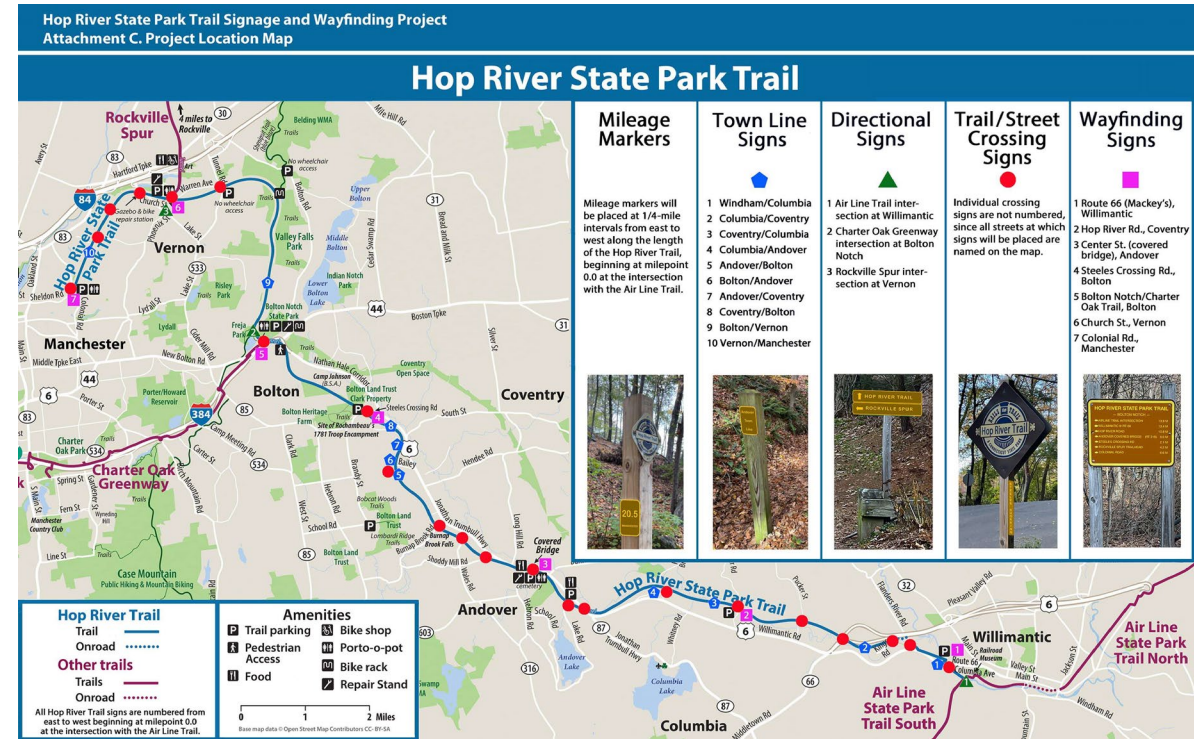
(2022-2023) Riverfront Recapture will purchase and install trail security cameras and video analytic software to report trail visitor data along the Riverwalk Trail in both Hartford and East Hartford.



# CT RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUNDED PROJECTS – AMENITIES

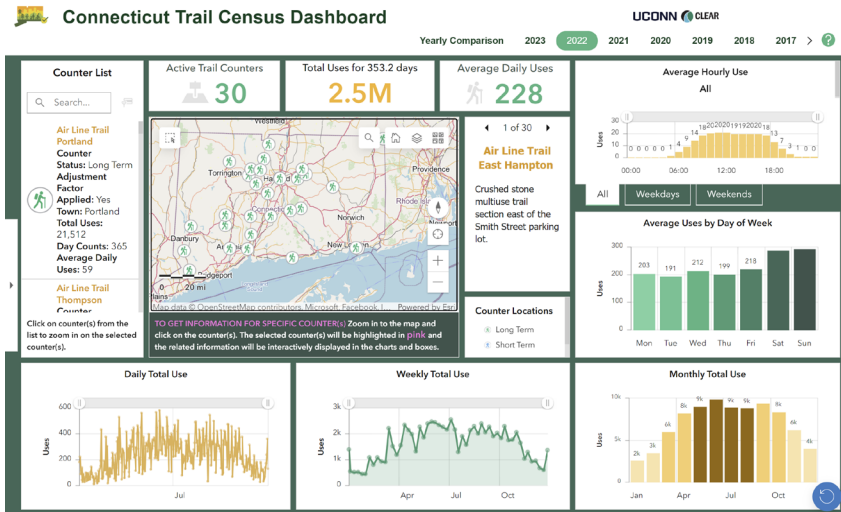


(2020-2021) The Town of Windham is improving the current condition of the Air Line Trail which includes deteriorated fencing, insufficient safety measures, signage, and other aesthetics.



(2022-2023) The Hop River Trail Alliance, whose member towns include: Andover, Bolton, Columbia, Coventry, Manchester, Vernon, and Windham will design and install signage along the entire 20-mile length of the State-owned Hop River State Park Trail, as well as a 0.5-mile section of the Willimantic River Greenway that connects the Hop River State Park Trail and the Air Line State Park Trail.

# CT RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUNDED PROJECTS – PUBLICATIONS/EDUCATION



(2018-2019) UConn Extension Statewide volunteer-based CT Trail Census - trail data collection and education program implemented as a pilot from 2016-2018 on 16 multi-use (bicycle, pedestrian, equestrian) trail sites across the state. Design and launch of CT Trail Finder website providing a statewide access to the trail manager approved trail maps and information, building statewide trail database for planning and development.

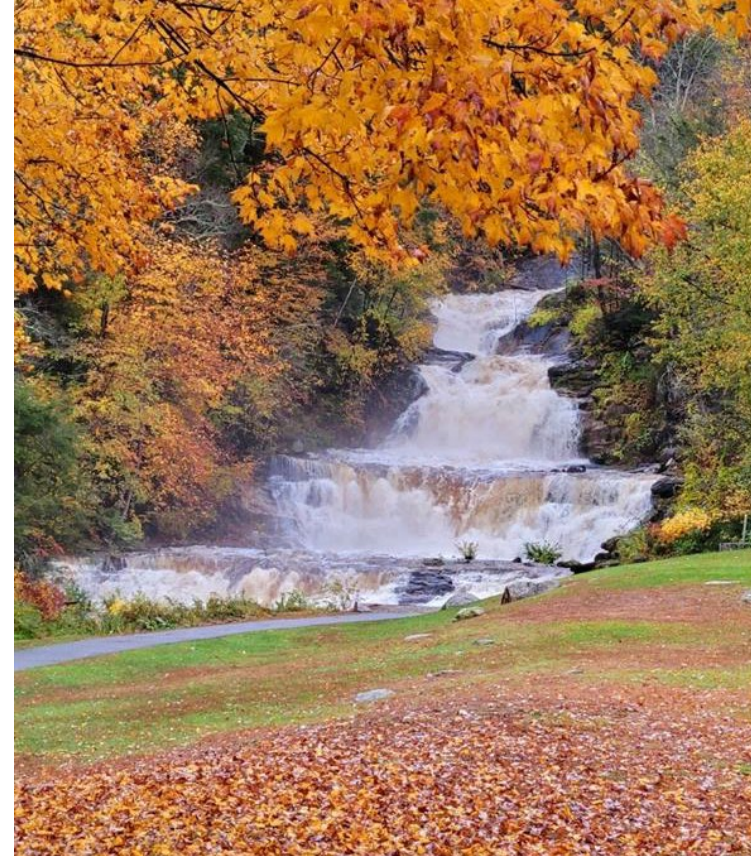


(2015-2016) CFPA Trails Weekend booklets, marketing, data collection, Great Park Pursuit; walk book, trail educational materials for distribution, signage, Kiosks, maintenance equipment and materials; chainsaw training.

# CT RECREATIONAL TRAILS FUNDED PROJECTS – MAINTENANCE



(2018-2019) CFPA Statewide Maintenance of Blue-blazed hiking trails.



(2020-2021) CTDEEP Kent Falls trail repairs.

# OTHER GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES

## CTDEEP Grant and Funding Opportunities

Grant	Division	Focus	Amount	Match	Grant Round?
Urban and Community Forest Planning Grant	DEEP Forestry	Collect baseline data that can be used to inform future management decisions	\$2,500 – \$65,000	50%	Open
Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA)	DEEP Land Management	Acquisition land for open space, and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II water supply property.		25-35%	Closed 10/2/2023
Urban Green Community Garden Grant Program	DEEP Land Management	Creating, enhancing or restoring an urban green space or community garden		50%	Closed 10/2/2023

# OTHER GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES

## CTDOT Grant and Funding Opportunities

Grant	Division	Focus	Amount	Match	Grant Round?
Local Transportation Capitol Improvement Projects (LOTICIP)	CTDOT Local Roads	State funds to urbanized area municipal governments in lieu of Federal funds otherwise available through Federal transportation legislation			Closed
Community Connectivity Program	CTDOT	Provide funding for targeted infrastructure improvements to support bicycles and pedestrian that are commonly identified through RSA's, or other transportation planning initiatives.	\$100,000 - \$800,000	25-35%	Closed
Transportation Alternatives Fund	CTDOT	Federal funds for addressing the needs of non-motorized transportation users with a focus on safety, accessibility and connectivity.		50%	Closed



# MANAGING TRAILS ON CONNECTICUT DEEP STATE LANDS

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- Limited land, dense population, high recreational demand.
- [DEEP Policy #310](#)
  - Provides structure for review of new trails, trail authorizations, and trail re-routes
  - Brings in Bureau of Natural Resources & Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Representatives for Review
- Land & recreational uses balanced with natural resource conservation and protection with land as a limiting resource
- Agency internal coordination with Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Bureau of Natural Resources (Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries), Division Land Acquisition and Management, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, etc.

# MANAGING TRAILS ON CONNECTICUT DEEP STATE LANDS

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- State lands have a range of management objectives.
- [DEEP Policy #310](#) - Multiuse Trail Policy for DEEP Properties
  - **State Parks** are intended to be managed for public recreation that balances public access with natural and cultural resource protection.
    - Trail review and decision-making lead by Parks and Recreation Supervisors and Leadership.
  - **State Forests** are intended to be managed for ecological integrity of the forest and support forest recreational uses where appropriate.
    - Trail review and decision-making is concurrence between by Parks and Recreation and Forestry supervisors and leadership.
- **Wildlife Management Areas** are intended to be managed for the purposes of wildlife conservation and wildlife-based recreation.
  - New trails only considered for crucial trail linkages, and if the enhance wildlife management. Wildlife leadership performs trail review and decision making.
- **ALL proposed projects on state land must have approval by DEEP.**



# CONNECTICUT STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

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The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) is a planning document that identifies outdoor recreation issues of statewide significance and evaluates the supply of and the demand for outdoor recreation resources and facilities in Connecticut. The SCORP provides unified guidance to state and municipal officials as they develop and expand outdoor recreation opportunities for their respective constituents. The completion of a SCORP also satisfies a requirement of the federally administered Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

CTDEEP is completing the 2024-29 update to the SCORP. The Draft SCORP is now open for public review and comment [HERE](https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/SCORP):

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/SCORP>







# CTDEEP OUTREACH: SKY'S THE LIMIT & NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE PROGRAMS

Sky's the Limit Hiking Challenge (STL):

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Skys-the-Limit-2023>

- Goal is to increase awareness of trails and access to state lands and motivation for outdoor activities
- CTDEEP Staff develop challenge around state lands, participants who hike or walk 10 of the 15 trails identified annually will receive awards.

No Child Left Inside® (NCLI):

<https://portal.ct.gov/ncli>

- Launched in 2006, No Child Left Inside® is a promise to introduce children to the wonder of nature – for their own health and well-being, for the future of environmental conservation, and for the preservation of the beauty, character and communities of the great State of Connecticut.
- 2023 held 16 programs range of partners including DEEP Boating, DEEP CARE, DEEP Wildlife, Last Green Valley, Library Programs,
- Storywalks at four state parks.



# CONNECTICUT TRAILS LEARNING COMMUNITY

The Connecticut Trails Community aims to connect trail volunteers and managers across the state, to network, learn from each other's experiences, and discuss topics pertaining to trails and green spaces in Connecticut.

Meets every 4th Wednesday of Month on Teams (some in person events)

Next meeting is November 30 (due to holiday)

Member-lead discussion topics

Networking contacts

Support the planning for 2023 CT Trail Symposium

# QUESTIONS???

## **Kimberly Bradley**

CT Trails and Greenways Program Coordinator

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation / Division of State Parks and Public Outreach

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

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**Connecticut**  
**Department of Energy &  
Environmental Protection**

*Conserving, improving, and protecting our natural resources and environment;  
Ensuring a clean, affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy supply.*

[CT Recreational Trails](#)

[Connecticut Greenways Council](#)