

# CT Trails Symposium – October 19, 2017

Presented by the CT Greenways Council

In Partnership with and Held on the East Hartford Campus of Goodwin College

9am-3pm

## AGENDA

Engage in conversation about why and how to put your local trail systems to work for your community. Speakers and panels will use local examples to illustrate the demand for and benefits of local trails and how your community can sustain a world class trail system.

### 9:00 – 9:15 **Registration / Networking & Continental Breakfast**

9:15 – 9:30 **Welcome:** Todd Andrews, Goodwin College, VP Economic & Strategic Development and **Overview of Day:** Bruce Donald, CT Greenways Council Chair and Tri-State Coordinator for the East Coast Greenway

### 9:30 -10:30 – **Connecticut’s Own Success Story: The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail**

Over 80 miles of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT) and the eighteen miles of the Farmington River Trail constitute one of the most picturesque and historic greenways in New England. The Connecticut section from New Haven to Suffield runs 54 miles through eleven towns and connects with many more biking and walking trails. The FCHT has been designated a Community Millennium Trail under the federal Millennium Trails Initiative based upon its special value to the communities it serves. You will be able to talk with a panel including member municipalities, non-profit organizations, local businesses and volunteers who have worked to create this world class trail system. The panel will give insight into collaboration, construction, marketing, and maintenance as well as some of the greatest benefits now being enjoyed.

10:30 - 10:45 **Break** & refreshments (enjoy displays)

### 10:45 -12:00 **Everyone Wants Local Trail Systems**

- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) – DEEP’ Bureau of Outdoor Recreation will discuss the SCORP trail user survey results, how they have driven State Parks future agenda and opportunities for local municipalities and land trusts to use the data and collaborate with CT State Parks.
- CT Trail Census – UCONN Cooperative Extension, the Naugatuck Valley COG and UConn’s Center for Landuse Education and Research will discuss results and on-going plans as well as how local communities can use the information and get involved.
- Group discussions and information exchange – UCONN Cooperative Extension will facilitate. Each table of attendees will be provided with information and question(s) to discuss and report out on based upon the above two presentations.

12:00- 1:00 – **Lunch** provided. Enjoy Goodwin College’s CT Riverside Trail or the East Coast Greenway

1:00 – 2:45 – **Concurrent Sessions** themes include how to market and maintain trail systems, collaborate on larger trail systems, and enjoy economic and other benefits

1:00 – 1:45 **Session One**

- Connecticut Forest & Park Association –Finding the Right Trail Crew for You. CFPA's Trails Stewardship Director, Clare Cain, will feature four trail crew models that have been used on the Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail System. The discussion will cover pros & cons, planning, costs, and requirements of each crew type. Are you ready to host your own crew? Come ready to learn and be inspired!
- Naugatuck Valley COG Economic Development Study - results and implementation discussion lead by Aaron Budris and Mark Nielsen
- CT Trail Census – This session is a feedback session for participants in the CT Trail Census Trail User surveys.
- Eversource Energy, a Unique Trail Partner - Learn the process of getting easements, partnership opportunities and information on trusted Best Management Practices for corridor construction and maintenance. Jamie Lintner, Land Management Administrator

2:00 – 2:45 – **Session Two**

- Town of Cheshire- One of CT's first town's to embrace the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail discusses trail planning, maintenance and patrol programs and how these are funded.
- City of New Britain – How and why the City has dedicated time towards planning, construction and maintenance of its trail system. Carl J. Gandza, Engineering Project Manager.
- Regional Trail Planning –Northwest Hills COG's trail mapping project (Rick Lynn, Executive Director).

2:45 - 3:00 **Wrap-up** – Thank you and Evaluations