Regional Trails Mapping – Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Introduction

Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC) is expanding its trail work to develop a publicly accessible regional trails network database. Our database will inform individuals on where to park, amenities along the trail, and permitted uses to help them plan for a safe and enjoyable experience. Staff will be mapping trail locations and collecting a comprehensive set of attributes about the accessibility and condition of each trail. This data will be made available in the form of paper and interactive mobile maps, to allow users to access trails information on the go!

Goals and Products

SRPC staff will develop a GIS database of trails throughout the SRPC region to increase awareness of regional trails and their connectivity to other transportation options. This includes things like pedestrian and bicycle facilities, bus and rail transit, and commuter facilities. We recognize that trail use is not only a leisure activity, but when integrated into the larger network can facilitate the use of alternate modes for commuting and other short trips.

Once compiled, this data will be used to create static and interactive online maps. Both types will be publicly available on the SRPC website and be updated over time as more data is collected.

SRPC staff had a unique opportunity to pilot the trails mapping program at the Branch Hill Farm and NH Farm Museum in Milton, NH. Along with McKenzie's Farm, the three groups are developing a trails network to connect the properties and allow visitors to experience the agricultural, historical, and natural resources of the area.
Data Collection

SRPC staff will work with local conservation commissions, recreational groups, stakeholders, and other interested parties to determine a prioritized list of trails to map. This project builds off another trails program through SRPC: MapMyHike. MapMyHike is a free mobile application that the public can use to easily map trails in their area and share the data with SRPC. It is critical to the success of both projects to have continued support from individuals and stakeholders who are collecting and sharing local trails data using MapMyHike. Through this program, numerous trails have been mapped and shared with SRPC that otherwise may not have been recorded.

For more information about how to map and send trails data to SRPC, contact:
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How is this new mapping project different from other efforts?
SRPC staff will use a professional-grade GPS unit to perform high-accuracy data collection of trail locations. Unlike using the GPS on your mobile phone, the Trimble GeoExplorer’s advanced GNSS receiver is designed to collect more accurate results and other features simultaneously. A full list of features and attributes to be collected is listed below:

Trail Attributes:
- Trail Name
- Property Name
- Surface Type
- Trail Type
- Allowable Uses (hiking, biking, equestrian, skiing, ATV, snowmobile)
- Restrictions
- Fees
- Parking availability
- Trailhead location/description
- Trail-end location/description
- Primary Managing Agency
- Town
- County
- Other comments

Points of Interest:
- Parking lot
- Kiosk
- Restroom
- Scenic lookout
- Bridge
- Stream with no bridge crossing
- Trail sign
- Gate
- Cultural site
- Park/Recreation
- Bench
- Crosswalk
- Road with no crosswalk
- Water access
- Other

To learn more about the trails mapping project or to get involved, contact:
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