



New London's Green Spaces: Highlighting Natural Spaces

Issue

- New London (NL) residents, and visitors to the area, are not well acquainted with the green spaces NL has to offer.
- Many urban areas lack green spaces, yet they are vital to the well-being of the community.
- Not only do green spaces provide area for leisure and recreation, but are shown to have impacts on people's physical and mental health, as well as numerous benefits to the natural environment (such as soil erosion control, carbon sequestration, water and air filtration, & wildlife habitats).

Methods

Our group mapped trails of Fort Trumbull State Park, Connecticut College Arboretum, and Ocean Beach Park. We proceeded by:

1. Mapped and photographed 3 locations using Track Kit smartphone GPS (October 2018)
2. Uploaded trail maps to Google Maps (February 2019)
3. Created pamphlets and poster (February 2019)
4. Distributed pamphlets to several community sites that encourage people to get outdoors, such as New London Parks and Recreation, Ledge Light Health District, and Three Rivers Community College.

Objectives

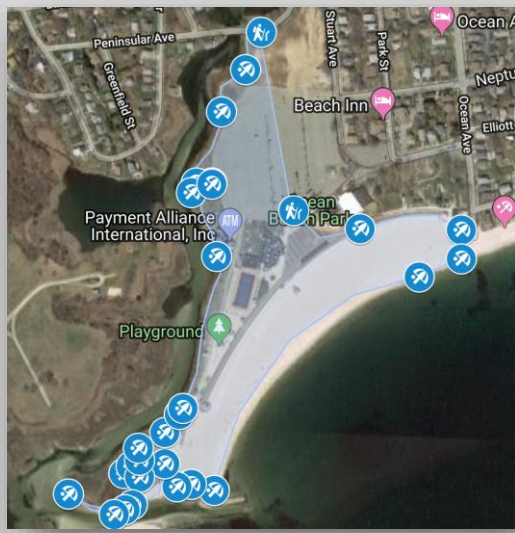
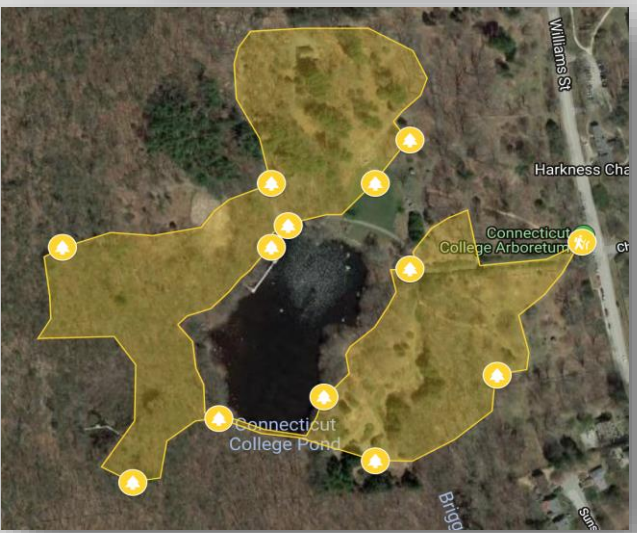
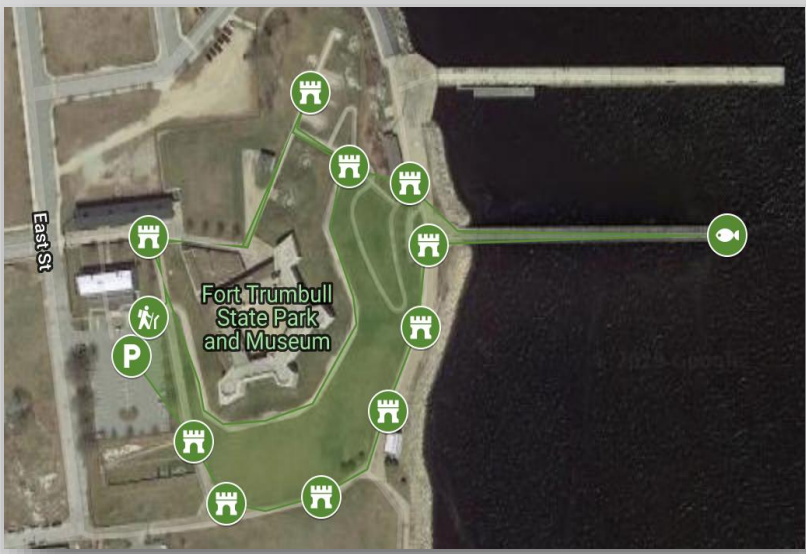
1. To encourage people to take advantage of green spaces available to them within City of New London limits.
2. To highlight key green spaces within New London using mapping tools and photography.
3. To educate the community about why green spaces are critical to human, wildlife, and environmental health through the development of a pamphlet.



(Left) View of downtown New London from the ramparts of Fort Trumbull. Note commercial fishing vessels in mid-ground, and commercial buildings to the left. (Right) Forested area in the autumn at Connecticut College Arboretum.

New London Green Space Interactive Maps & Pamphlet

Interactive Google maps of the 3 NL trails can be accessed by using the following QR code:



The trail maps and pictures of (top) Fort Trumbull State Park and the view facing Thames River & Long Island Sound, (bottom left) Connecticut College Arboretum and the Connecticut College Pond, and (bottom right) Ocean Beach and the observation deck overlooking Alewife Cove. Waypoints (icons along trails) indicate trail markers, maps, historical information, vistas, and other attractions.

We created pamphlets to inform the public about our project's objectives and pertinent trail information to distribute throughout key New London locations and surrounding towns. Focal sections in the pamphlets included:

- Park overviews, including locations, trail length, fees, hours of operation, and features
- The importance of green spaces, specifically in urban areas
- A QR code link to our online trail maps with photos and waypoint information



Implications and Next Steps

- Our group sees an opportunity to use our project to encourage outdoor education and appreciation within the community, and especially among the youth. This will be done by distributing pamphlets to frequently visited locations (e.g. schools, hospitals, health centers).
- We will keep updated versions of trail maps and photos to reflect any changes to locations.
- We will collaborate with community partners, such as New London Parks and Recreation, to make our maps available through their website.

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