CT Land Trusts play an important role in protecting 190,193 acres of land in CT.

Cheshire Land Trust (CLT) stewards ~600 acres in Cheshire.

Fresh Meadows (32.8 acres)—one of CLT’s properties—is an important wildlife corridor, abuts the Mill River, an important water body within the South Cheshire watershed.

It is also a popular site for the public to enjoy as a natural open space.

**Why Fresh Meadows?**

- Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary is located at Cook Hill Road, Cheshire, CT.

Steps we took to complete the project were:

1. Walked the trails to see the kinds of paths. We chose to map: (1) Ridge Trail & (2) Mill River Trail.
2. Mapped 2 trails & took waypoints & pictures of wildflowers & natural features using Track Kit GPS (Fig. 1A; required multiple visits).
3. Set up wildlife trail cams in the upland on the Ridge Trail (Fig. 1B) & in the bog on Mill River Trail (Fig. 1C) from August 2017 to January 2018.
4. Imported tracks of trails & waypoints from Track Kit to Google Maps & tailored the map to have photos, videos and pop-up informational boxes about wildlife & features of the trail.

**Objectives**

To showcase the diversity of wildlife & wildflowers at Fresh Meadows for the public to enjoy, we aimed to:

- Create a digital trail map of Cheshire Land Trust’s Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary, which would be useful and informative to the public.
- Collect data (waypoints, photos) on wildflowers & natural landmarks to make the trail map interactive.
- Document the animals that you can see in the wetlands & uplands of Fresh Meadows using trail cams & create a video from the trail cam footage to be linked to the map.

**Methods**

- **Steps we took to complete the project were:**
  1. Walked the trails to see the kinds of paths. We chose to map: (1) Ridge Trail & (2) Mill River Trail.
  2. Mapped 2 trails & took waypoints & pictures of wildflowers & natural features using Track Kit GPS (Fig. 1A; required multiple visits).
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  4. Imported tracks of trails & waypoints from Track Kit to Google Maps & tailored the map to have photos, videos and pop-up informational boxes about wildlife & features of the trail.

This project resulted in an interactive map of 2 trails at Fresh Meadows. People can access the map on their phones by clicking a web link or QR code. As they hike, they can navigate the trail & learn about the animals that use the trails. We also put together a few videos that the public can see that has information about each animal that walked by the trail cams.

**Interactive Map and Videos**

Interactive Map @ goo.gl/Yb5s6L

Bog video @ https://youtu.be/-Jw3Y2Ujlhw

Upland video @ https://youtu.be/9NvV-SlunE0

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