When was the last time YOU took a hike?

NRCA Student: Kyle Dolce

Community Partners: Michael Hveem and Paul Pribula

1E.O. Smith High School; 2Joshua’s Tract Conservation and Historic Trust

“There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country.” – Theodore Roosevelt

Abstract

In Connecticut, there are over 100 state parks and forests as well as a number of preserves managed by local land trusts; however, many people are unaware of these areas for recreation. The main objective of the project was to make the public aware of the great outdoor recreational assets of one of CT’s largest land trusts using interactive online mapping technology. Using ArcGIS online and story maps, I created a customized preserve map that allows the public to explore what their local trails have to offer. The story map and guide provided here is a prototype of a more detailed story map that the Joshua’s Tract Conservation and Historic Trust will continue to develop after a workshop that I will hosting in the future.

Introduction

The Problem

• Since Richard Louv’s 2005 Last Child in the Woods book, there has been a lot of discussion on how to get more people out in the local preserves to reduce Nature Deficit Disorder.1
• Connecticut (CT), although a densely populated state, has over 100 state parks and state forests, with the largest state forest having more than 23,000 acres.2
• CT currently has 108 active land trusts, who collectively conserved 190,193 acres.3
• For example, Joshua’s Tract Conservation and Historic Trust protects more than 4,000 acres across 14 towns in northeast corner CT.4
• Interestingly, 60% of outdoor enthusiasts (ages 18-44) use technology to search for information about outdoor recreation.5

Our Objectives

• To make the public aware of the great outdoor recreational areas of Joshua’s Trust properties via interactive online mapping tools:
  o Use innovative ArcGIS online and GPS technology to create interactive maps of several Joshua’s Trust properties;
  o Create an online story map based on the interactive ArcGIS maps to provide preserve information in an exciting way to the public; and
  o Train Joshua’s Trust volunteers how to expand on the new story map to showcase more properties to the public over time.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank everyone that helped make this entire project possible. I would also like to thank the Joshua’s Tract Conservation and Historic Trust group, and more specifically Michael Hveem and Paul Pribula. I would also like to thank Carrie and Emily from UConn CLEAR for lending me a GPS unit. Last but not least, I would like to thank Laura Cisneros for being an amazing mentor and helping me out when I didn’t understand something.

References

7Louv’s Last Child in the Woods.