

Mapping Cheshire Land Trust's Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary



Why Fresh Meadows?

- 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.

Methods

- 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:

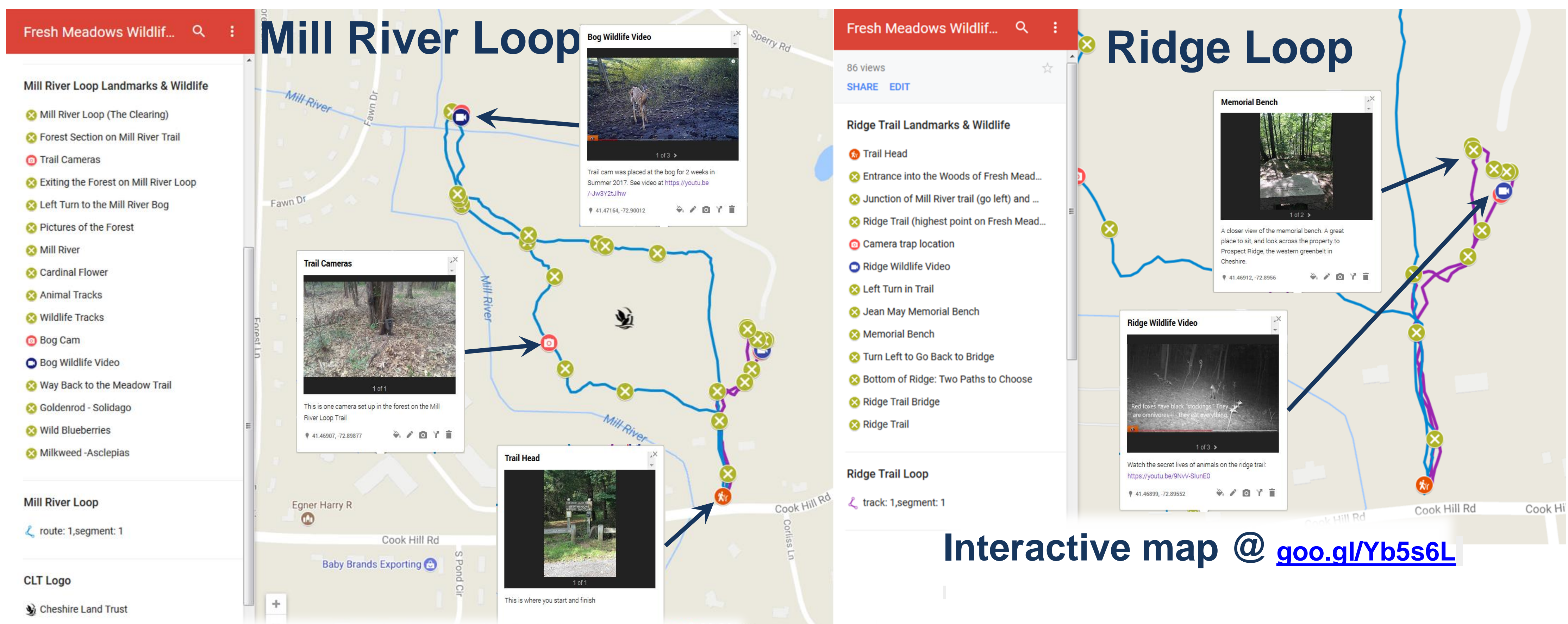
- Create a digital trail map of Cheshire Land Trust's Fresh Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary, which would be useful and informative to the public.
- Collect data (waypoints, photos) on wildflowers & natural landmarks to make the trail map interactive.
- Document the animals that you can see in the wetlands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



Fig. 1: (A) Taking pictures & waypoints of plants along trail using smartphone app Track Kit. (B) Assembling trail cam to put in upland site. (C) Gabby & Joy put up trail cam on tree at bog site!

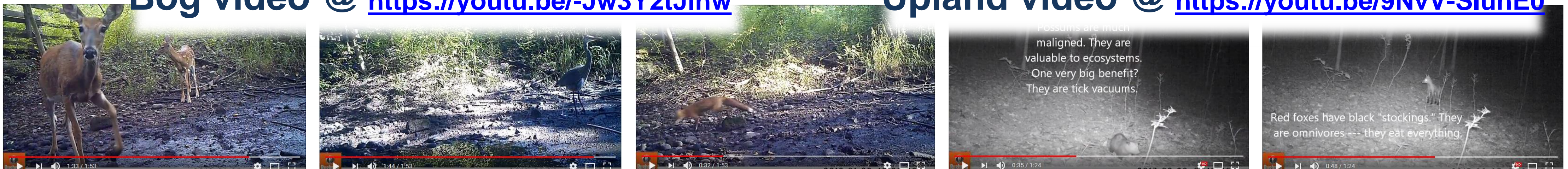
Interactive Map and Videos

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.



Bog video @ <https://youtu.be/-Jw3Y2tJlhw>

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



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