## **FIND YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE:**

# Web-based Models for Promoting Trails

Stephen Engle, Director Center for Community GIS

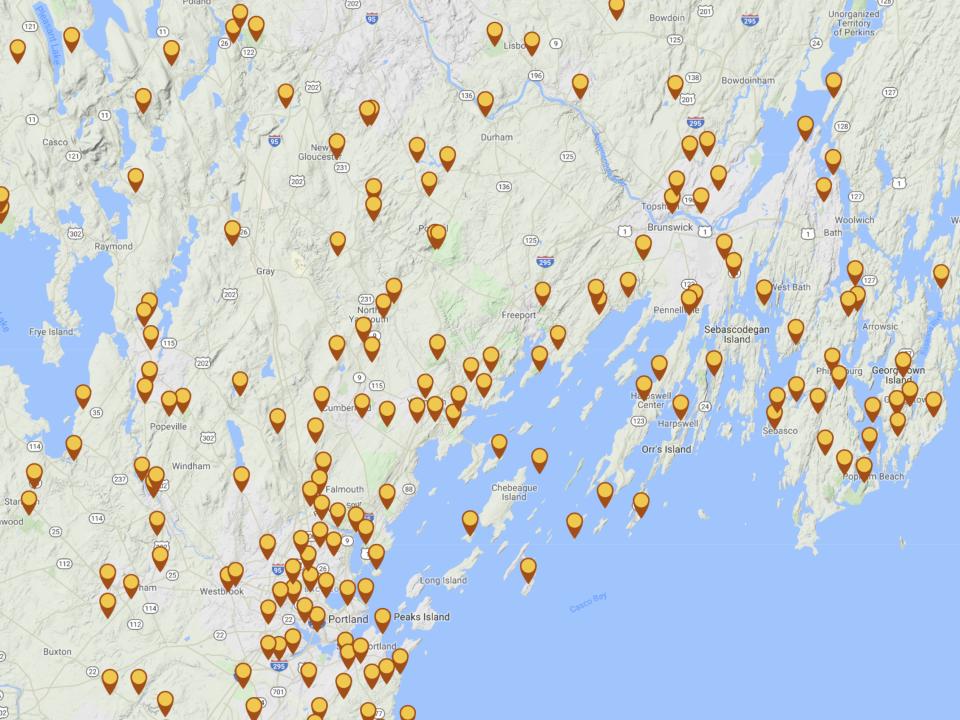












## THE NEED

Easy, fast, and <u>centralized</u> access to <u>reliable</u> information about outdoor recreation opportunities.

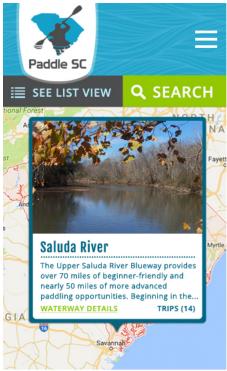




### MaineTrailFinder.com







GoPaddleSC.com





## **CCGIS-BUILT TRAIL FINDERS**

- > MaineTrailFinder.com\* (2010, 2015, 2018-19)
- ➤ CarolinaThreadTrailMap.org (NC/SC 2012)
- TrailFinder.info (VT/NH 2014, 2019)
- >QCTrails.org\* (IL/IA 2015)
- ➤ GoPaddleSC.com (SC 2017)
- >STLCTrails.com (Upstate NY 2018)

\* American Trails award-winning sites

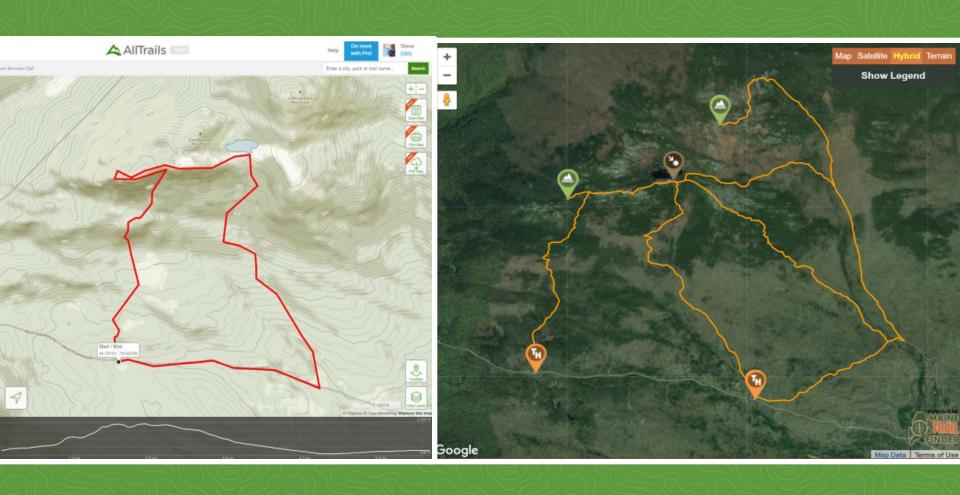
October 28, 2019

## **CATALYZING FORCES**

- Broad-based, multi-sector interest in promoting trails
- Dispersed, outdated, sometimes conflicting information about trails
- Trail managers with limited capacity to promote their own trails
- User expectations for fast, easy access to information on the Web

Abundance of crowd-sourced content

# **WHO TO TRUST?**

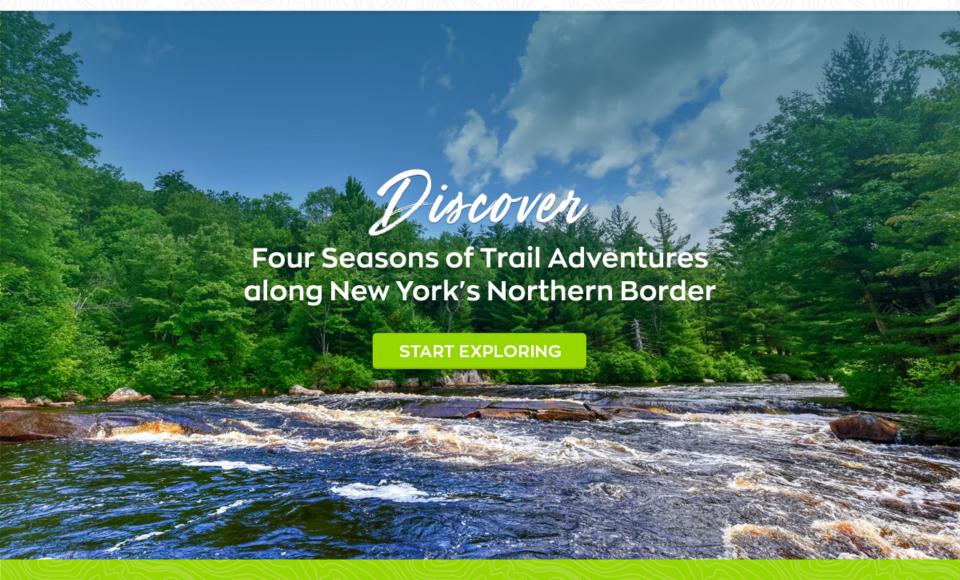


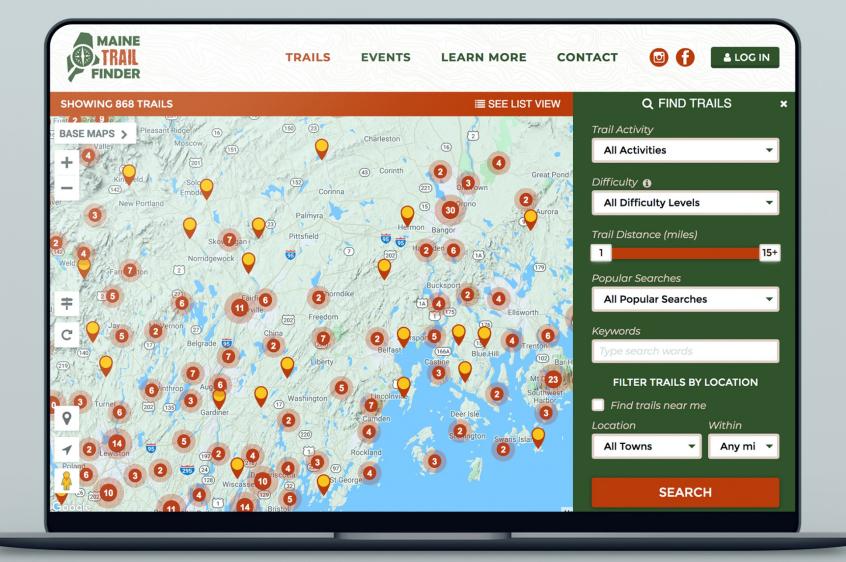
# **CORE ELEMENTS**

- > Standalone website
- Unique brand/design
- Search interface
- Detailed trail pages
- > User accounts
- Mobile-responsive design
- Location aware but not an app



























DISCOVER TRAILS LEARN MORE CONTACT US



#### Discover LAMPSON FALLS TRAIL

Wide smooth trail access to a 100-foot waterfall with an

TRAIL ACTIVITY	<b>法</b>
LENGTH	2.4 miles, Network
DIFFICULTY	Easy, Moderate
TOWN	Clare
SURFACE	Dirt/Forest Floor, Rocks/Ledge
PETS	Leashed dogs allowed
FEES	No



1 DETAILS









Partly Cloudy

64.9°F

#### DESCRIPTION

The Lampson Falls Trail provides relatively easy access to one of the largest and most popular waterfalls in the North Country. These impressive falls drop 100 feet over a smooth rock face into a large, swirling pool at the bottom.

From the trailhead on NY-27, the trail extends for 0.5 miles along a wide and flat path to the top of the falls. Though unpaved, this first section of the trail accommodates wheelchairs.

Continuing past the top of the falls, the trail narrows and drops steeply down to the beach below the falls, then continues over a rocky outcrop opposite the waterfall. In summer, many people stop here to pick blueberries, sunbathe, and admire the falls from the rocks.

To extend the hike into a longer loop-hike, look for yellow trail markers on the trees that will lead you further downstream along the banks of the river. This section can be overgrown in the summer, but offers scenic views of the Grasse River. After about one mile of walking along the river, near the remnants of an old bridge, the trail turns right and continues gradually uphill on the old Lampson Falls Logging Road. After another mile the old logging road returns to the Lampson Falls Trail just above the falls.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

Powerful, fast-moving water makes Lampson Falls one of the most impressive sights in the North Country. It can also be dangerous - exercise caution while hiking or swimming near the falls.

These trails are part of the Grass River Wild Forest, a 54,000-acre collection of public forest preserves located in the towns of Clare, Clifton, Colton and Fine in St. Lawrence County and managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

#### TRAIL MANAGER

For more information, please visit the New York State Department of ntal Conservation online, or contact:



Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Potsdam Sub-Office 6739 US 11 Potsdam, NY 13676 Phone: 315-265-3090

#### CURRENT WEATHER

May 24, 2018

Dew Point: 39°F



Wind: Calm Humidity: 40% Source: Weather Underground

### **Nature**

Explore this area on the

#### **NEARBY GEOCACHES**



Find aecaches near Lampson Falls Trail

#### **NEARBY BUSINESSES**

The Guest House

**M** Bears Paw

Hermon Heritage Hall

**Boyden Brook Body Works** Retail Site

View All Businesses

### TRAIL TIPS

#### Respect Wildlife

Avoid known animal mating or nesting areas during sensitive times.

### PRINT TRAIL INFO









#### ..... ACCESS .....

Put in: Columbia Canal Diversion Dam

North end of Riverfront Park at Diversion Dam

→ Access Details P 👬

A gravel road that follows the canal for about a mile leads to the parking lot at the diversion dam. Carry your boat across the diversion dam walkway to the put-in on the other side of the canal. Gate closes at 9pm.

Barney Jordan Landing

9 611 Rosewood Dr, Columbia, SC 29201

Access DetailsP

#### ..... TRIP DETAILS .....

The trip begins just beneath the Columbia Canal diversion dam, and continues through the confluence with the Saluda River, which forms the Congaree River, right at downtown Columbia. This trip is a fantastic way to quickly get 'away from the city'; even though are you downtown, you'll feel miles away.

This float is great for after work in the summer or an easy but exciting weekend float. Rapids are small, but having someone with paddling experience in your group is suggested for navigating the shoals. The shuttle for this trip is very easy, and you can easily find a good restaurant when you're finished paddling.

At lower flows, deeper channels can be followed by sticking to the river right.

Waterways: Broad River Congaree River

### TRIP RESOURCES Download map files for your own use. Learn more Point Data → Point Data KML Line Data



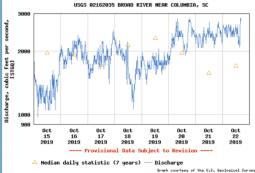












**CURRENT CFS** 3380

Flows for safe padding (cfs)

**MINIMUM** 600

**MAXIMUM** 10000





### **RUNAROUND POND RECREATION AREA**

+ ADD TRAIL LOG

This small network of trails at the eastern end of Runaround Pond highlight a unique ravine and old quarry at the pond's outlet.

Trail Activity	* A Charles of the Ch
Length	0.8 miles, Network
Difficulty	Moderate
Town	Durham
Surface	Dirt/Forest Floor, Rock/Ledge
Pets	Permitted
Fees	No



**1** DETAILS



**†** DIRECTIONS

COMMENTS (0)

¶ SERVICES



### **VIEW CONNECTOR TRAILS**

Chandler Brook Paddling Route Show | View Trail Posting Runaround Pond Paddling Show | View Trail Posting



















**GRAFTON NOTCH STATE PARK -OLD SPECK MOUNTAIN AND EYEBROW LOOP** 



+ ADD TRAIL LOG



The western portion of Grafton Notch State park offers two advanced hiking trails that offer excellent views of the mountain range and challenging terrain.

ACTIVITY

沙众人

LENGTH

7.6 miles, round trip

TOWN

Advanced RATING

SURFACE

Grafton township Dirt/Forest Floor,

Rock/Ledge

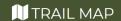
PETS

Leashed dogs allowed

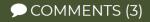
FEES

Yes









¶ SERVICES

**▲** TRAIL ALERTS

### TRAIL ALERTS



#### LIMITED PARKING AVAILABLE AT LITTLEJOHN ISLAND PRESERVE

This Preserve is frequently at capacity, any time of day, any time of year, requiring visitors arriving by car to turn around and go elsewhere. Parking rules are simple: Four cars only. Only in the parking lot. Sunrise to sunset. Never on the shoulders. Never at the end of the lane. Thank you for understanding.

DETAILS

**■**TRAIL MAP

**†** DIRECTIONS

COMMENTS (0)

¶ SERVICES

A TRAIL ALERTS

### TRAIL ALERTS

**A** Trails

### PRIVATE PROPERTY

This trail passes through private property. Please respect the landowner and protect future access by staying on the marked trail and following all rules.

Roads

#### LOGGING ROAD ACCESS

Access to the trailhead/put-in is on gravel logging roads managed and maintained to transport timber. Be aware that logging trucks have the right of way and be prepared to pull to the side of the road when encountering logging trucks. Do not park in the travel portion of the road or block side roads. Yield to any equipment working on roads. Logging roads may be closed during active logging operations.



Thank you for being a valued member of the Maine Trail Finder community! Below is your account information.

NAME	Steve Engle
EMAIL	sengle@community-gis.org
USERNAME	englest

11 TRAIL LOGS

2 FAVORITE TRAILS

1 WISH LIST TRAILS

4 BADGES EARNED

54.3 MILES LOGGED



**♥** FAVORITES

■ WISH LIST

▼ MY BADGES

A MY PROFILE





### **#** 7/6/2019

### MARS HILL MOUNTAIN

MILES LOGGED: 2.0 miles

COMMENTS: Slept in parking lot and climbed up starting st 4:45. Didn't catch sunrise. L ots of loopin and whirring turbines.







### ≜6/30/2019 ASH POINT PRESERVE

MILES LOGGED: 0.9 miles

ACTIVITY: \*\(\hat{\bar{\psi}}\)

COMMENTS: Stopped by on the way to take Bento camp. Loved the reindeer moss in the trees along the shore.







## **100% TRAIL MANAGER APPROVED**

- **USERS:** High quality info direct from the source
- MANAGERS: Increased exposure, stewardship messaging
- > ADMINS: Connecting users and managers



**Maine Trail Finder** by the Numbers



IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS



TRAILS THAT CAN BE SEARCHED

**4,388** miles of trail

MILES MEDIAN TRAIL LENGTH FOR TRAIL POSTINGS 316

TRAIL MANAGERS CONTRIBUTING CONTENT

928

1,184,090 **TOTAL PAGE VIEWS IN 2018** 

TRAIL POSTINGS

118,516 TOTAL TIMES THE MOST-VIEWED TRAIL PAGE HAS BEEN DISPLAYED

(Pleasant Mountain Trails - Bridgton & Denmark)

TOTAL UNIQUE USERS:

396,803 OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS

13,989 DURING THE FIRST 12 MONTHS

12,095 **FOLLOWERS** ff+⊙

September 2019







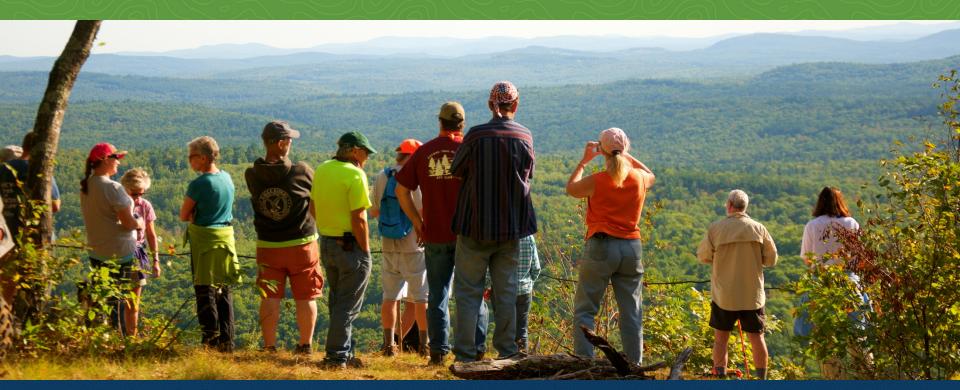
### **ANNUAL USAGE**

+35%



## PRIMARY IMPACT

State visitors and residents are learning about wider opportunities to be outdoors and active.



"Today I searched your site and found several other trails around Poultney (VT) that we did not know about. I've lived here for 30+ years and only knew of a few of those trails." –Ann TrailFinder user





These awesome businesses support our goal of connecting people to outdoor adventures in Maine!



#### ORANGE CAT CAFE

We are a cute, little cafe in the western mountains of Maine... right on your way to Sugarloaf & the Canadian Border! We like good food. We like the earth. We like the word "ish". And we'd like you to come here. Our Breakfast menu is small, but delish. We do bagels, breakfast sandwiches, Super...

(6.7 mi from trail location)

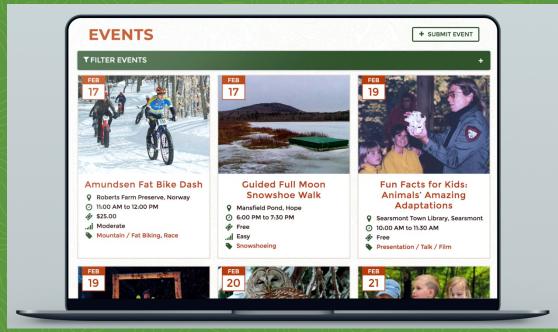


#### ROLLING FATTIES

Casual restaurant in beautiful downtown Kingfield serving healthy, Maine-sourced Fatties (burritos), bowls, and Maine craft beer and wine. Check out the menu and the list of summer events. Eat in, order online, or take out available. Open December 1 though Sugarloafs Reggae weekend and June 1...

(6.9 mi from trail location)





## **OTHER BENEFITS**

- Information sharing efficiencies
- Comprehensive GIS trail data
- Website analytics/ assessing demand



Interactive Map | Order a Free Guidebook | Sign up for Emails | Blog

ABOUT THE REGION | THINGS TO DO | PLACES TO GO | WHERE TO STAY

#### Hiking & Climbing

Aroostook County is a great place to hike for all skill levels. From Aroostook State Park to portions of the Appalachian Trail, you can enjoy many different terrains and trails.

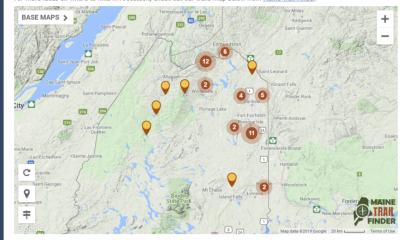
Looking for a fun family day trip? Bring the kids on a hike! Smaller mountains are abundant in Aroostook, but don't be fooled by the short trails; the mountains are rugged, and the views from the peaks are spectacular. Along Route 11 between Portage and Eagle Lake, look for the Hedgehog Mountain trailhead and rest area; you'll hike three quarters of a mile to the summit. In Castle Hill (between Ashland and Presque Isle on Route 163), take the kids up our short and steep Haystack Mountain for 360-degree views of our mountains, woods, and fields.

For mid-level hikes, take a look at some of our trails between 2 and 5 miles. Mount Chase, just off Route 11 north of Patten in southern Aroostook, will take you just about 2 miles to spectacular views of Mount Katahdin. <u>Scopan</u> public reserve land, just outside of Mapleton and Chapman, features a 3.5mile loop suitable for families and hikers of most abilities.



Further off the beaten path, <u>Deboullie Mountain</u> in Deboullie public reserve land (26 miles in the woods west of Portage) can be done in either 4 miles or as a 7-mile loop; it's a challenging but rewarding hike suitable for adventurous families. As an added bonus, Deboullie hikers are treated to views from a historic fire tower; it's no longer manned, but brave souls can climb its 48-foot ladder into the cab on top.

Not quite up for a mountain climb? We have plenty of walking trails that will keep you closer to sea level. In Limestone, enjoy five miles of trails at the Aroostook National Wildlife Refuge. In Perham, visit the Salmon Brook Lake Bog public reserve land for an easy series of loops up to five miles



October 28, 2019

## **AFTERNOON SESSION**

- **Process**
- **Workflow**
- **Platform**
- Challenges
- >Web vs App
- **Costs**
- Partnerships
- New initiatives





## **THANK YOU!**

Stephen Engle sengle@community-gis.org (207) 578-2968



## **PROCESS**

- > Articulate need (and fundraise)
- > Build team (for the long haul)
- > Engage trail managers
- >Implement web application
- Develop and publish trail content
- **Promote**