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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

Connecticut Hosts the Largest Trails Day Celebration in the Nation

Rockfall, CT (May, 2010) – On Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6, 2010, residents from across the state will hit the trails to take part in the 18th Annual Connecticut Trails Day Celebration. Coordinated by the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA), a private, non-profit organization dedicated to conserving Connecticut's land, trails, and natural resources, this long-standing event celebrates the state's spectacular trails, the many joys and benefits they provide, and the countless supporters and volunteers who make them possible. There will be events for everyone—including hiking, biking, trail maintenance, kayaking, educational walks, bird watching, geocaching, and more.

Once again, Connecticut will hold the record for the largest Trails Day celebration in the nation, with 162 events scheduled in over 88 towns throughout the state. These events are guided by knowledgeable volunteers from local hiking clubs, parks and recreation departments, state agencies, conservation groups, and land trusts. Every year, Trails Day inspires thousands of Nutmeggers to participate in activities that educate the importance of nature, promote healthy living and mental well-being, and protect and instill excitement for the outdoors.

14 of the Connecticut Trails Day events will once again be partnership efforts with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Great Park Pursuit (www.nochildleftinside.org/pursuit). The Great Park Pursuit is a multi-week outdoor family adventure connecting children and their families to the wonders of Connecticut's state parks and forests. 13 of the Connecticut Trails Day events will also take place on the New England Trail—the most recently designated National Scenic Trail in the U.S. (more info at www.newenglandtrail.org).

The success of Connecticut Trails Day would not be possible without strong participation by organizations like the DEP, Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), local and regional land trusts, town agencies, outdoors-oriented businesses, volunteers, CFPA, and many dedicated financial sponsors—including DEP in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, Connecticut Light & Power, and Stanley Black & Decker.

Connecticut Trails Day is part of National Trails Day, a nationwide hiking initiative established by the American Hiking Society in 1993. Trails Day encourages the public and outdoor enthusiasts nationwide to seek out their favorite trails while participating in numerous events held in each state.

A full listing of Connecticut events is published by CFPA in an annual Connecticut Trails Day booklet. Booklets are available at the CFPA office (16 Meriden Road; Rockfall, CT 06481), libraries, the DEP Bookstore, and at outdoor retailers North Cove Outfitters, L.L. Bean, Cabela's, REI, and Eastern Mountain Sports. The Connecticut Tourism district offices and many YMCA locations also have booklets available. For more information and to view the event booklet online, visit www.ctwoodlands.org/CT-TrailsDay2010.

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Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA), founded in 1895, is a non-profit organization serving Connecticut to protect forests, parks, walking trails, and open spaces for future generations. CFPA maintains the 825-mile Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail system. CFPA is also creating healthier communities through its WalkCT initiative. Visit www.ctwoodlands.org and www.walkct.org for more information.