

GPS in use to map out town trails in Wilton

BY BRIAN SHEA

To update the town's trail guide, a summer employee at the Conservation Department recently went out with a global positioning system to chart the town's trails.

"We'll have accurate mapping of our parks the next time we do the trail guide," said Patricia Sesto, director of environmental affairs for the town. She said that up until now, the trail guides have published an artistic rendering of the town's trail systems.

The employee, Justin Goggins, is a student at the University of New Haven working on a master's thesis in global information systems, the program that the town uses to map out such items as zoning information and roads.

Ms. Sesto said Mr. Goggins covered all the land on the trail guides, including the land owned by the town and various land trusts. Part of the reason he was hired was for his expertise with GPS, she added.

Beyond giving those who wish to enjoy Wilton's natural beauty a more accurate map, Mr. Goggins also located bridges and other features of the trails. Ms. Sesto said that information is useful to the town when trying to determine such information as why a bridge has been rebuilt three times in the last 10 years. The mapping will also be helpful to emergency personnel in the case of someone getting hurt on the trails.

The new trail guide is not expected to come out for a few more years, Ms. Sesto said.

