



Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee

Torrington • Harwinton • Litchfield • Thomaston • Watertown • Waterbury • Naugatuck • Beacon Falls • Seymour • Ansonia • Derby

October 24, 2018

Laurie Giannotti
Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Laurie:

This letter is being submitted in strong support of the City of Ansonia's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program for the funding to conduct a routing study of the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) Trail from Pershing Drive north to the Seymour Town Line. Extension of the Naugatuck River Greenway Trail will greatly enhance trail user experience, draw more utilitarian atrial users, and will be one more step in developing a safe, convenient, and enjoyable bicycle and pedestrian network that will make non-motorized transportation in the region a real option.

When complete, the NRG trail will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. The NRG Steering Committee (NRGSC), consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize multiuse trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. In fact, a study commissioned by the NRGSC and published by NVCOG in 2017, estimated that if completed, the Ansonia section of NRG would drive \$8.3 million in annual spending and more than \$50 million in cumulative health benefits by 2031.

Ansonia is actively pursuing the completion of its NRG section. The City has recently installed a pedestrian bridge over the Waterbury Branch Rail Line to Pershing Drive, and is working with a federal grant to improve access to the trail from downtown. There is a gap in established routing between Pershing Drive and Seymour which the proposed study would close. It is the logical next step for Ansonia to take to fulfill its commitment to complete the trail through the City, and we hope that you will consider their proposal.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Ansonia's Recreational Trails Program submission, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
NRGSC Co-Chairs:

Rista Malanca

Jack Walsh

*"The Naugatuck River from Torrington to Derby is rich with history, stunning scenery and wildlife. Just as the river built and shaped our towns and cities, the Naugatuck River Greenway will be a driving force for the next century and beyond.
Our mission is to harness the vitality and protect the health of the river for economic development and quality of life for all."*



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Laurie Giannotti
Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Laurie:

This letter is being submitted in support of the Town of Bethlehem's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program for funding to improve trails at the Swendsen Farm Preserve.

The Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, improved health and quality of life and drivers of local economies. While the Swendsen Preserve is not along the NRG, we welcome all efforts to expand and enhance recreational opportunities and the growing trail network in the region and across the state.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Bethlehem's proposal, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
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Jack Walsh

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Laurie Giannotti
Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Laurie:

This letter is being submitted in support of the Town of Cheshire's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program for funding to expand parking on the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT).

The Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, improved health and quality of life and drivers of local economies. While the FCHT is not along the NRG, we welcome all efforts to expand and enhance recreational opportunities and the growing trail network in the region and across the state. We hope one day to witness the interconnection of major multiuse trails including the FCHT and NRG in order to fully realize the recreational potential of trails, and to make non-motorized transportation a viable alternative for more of Connecticut's residents.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Cheshire's proposal, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
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Laurie Giannotti
Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Laurie:

This letter is being submitted in strong support of the University of Connecticut's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program for the funding for the continuation and expansion of the Connecticut Trails Census Program (CTTC). Over the past two years, the CTTC Pilot has provided valuable information about multiuse trail use across the state. We look forward to the continued collection, analysis and availability of this information, allowing trail planners, administrators, and managers to make informed decisions related to trail development and maintenance.

Consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the Naugatuck River, along with regional, state and federal representatives, the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) Steering Committee serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG trail. In the past, a common and universal complaint we have heard from municipalities and trail groups that are trying to fund and build multiuse trails is about the lack of trail user data in Connecticut. This type of information is crucial when applying for funding in order to demonstrate the need for and benefit of multiuse trail and greenway projects. A lack of good trail user data also makes it difficult for trail administrators to plan, design and construct or maintain trail facilities to best meet the needs of users. The CTTC Pilot has begun to collect this data and make it available to the public, and its value of the program's work is apparent. Our communities are already using this information to apply for grants and promote their trails. With the knowledge provided by the CTTC, we are also able to make better informed and persuasive arguments for the expansion of the NRG.

We fully support the continuation and expansion of the CTTC, knowing that a better understanding of trail use in the state will help us and other trail organizations promote and built trails that will best serve communities, residents and visitors alike. If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for the Recreational Trails Program, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
NRGSC Co-Chairs:

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Laurie Giannotti
Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Laurie:

This letter is being submitted in strong support of the City of Derby's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program for funding to replace fencing along the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) trail and install interpretive signs about Derby history.

When complete, the NRG trail will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. The NRG Steering Committee (NRGSC), consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize multiuse trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. Derby was the first community to build out their section of NRG, and it has become a very popular destination for residents and visitors alike. The CT Trail Census has recorded over 300,000 annual trips taken on the trail at Division Street, making the NRG in Derby one of - if not the - busiest multiuse trail in CT. Having been open since 2006 with such heavy visitation, parts of the trail are in need of replacement and renovation. The trail is lined for much of its length with wooden fencing that is in need of replacement. The funding being requested by the town would allow for that work to be done, providing for the continued safe use of the trail into the future. It would also allow for added user enjoyment and public education through the implementation of a long planned series of interpretive signs about the history of the community.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Derby's Recreational Trails Program submission, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
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Laurie Giannotti
Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Laurie:

This letter is being submitted in support of the Borough of Naugatuck's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program for funding to make improvements and expand trails in the area of Nichols Road. Extension of the Borough's connected trail network will greatly enhance trail user experience, draw more utilitarian and recreational users, and will be one more step in developing a safe, convenient, and enjoyable bicycle and pedestrian network that will make non-motorized transportation in the Naugatuck Valley a real option.

The Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize multiuse trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. When complete, the NRG will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. While the trail in question is not officially part of the NRG Trail, there are long term plans for connections to the NRG. The addition of safe connections from the NRG through Naugatuck's trail network to the Larkin Bridle Trail and Mattatuck State Forest is an exciting prospect. It will enhance user experience by making more destinations accessible from the NRG, and provide access to the trail network to a larger set of users.

Looking to successful examples of trail development around the country, trail usage, especially by cyclists, is closely related to trail length and interconnections. We welcome all efforts to expand and enhance the growing non-motorized transportation network in the region and across the state. If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Naugatuck's proposal, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista.Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
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Laurie Giannotti
Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Laurie:

This letter is being submitted in support of the Town of Oxford's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program for funding to develop a trail at the Little River Nature Preserve.

The Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. When complete, the NRG will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. While the trail in question is not officially part of the NRG Trail, the Little River Nature Preserve is part of a regional vision of a bike/ped friendly Route 67 corridor which would connect to the NRG in Seymour. We welcome all efforts to expand and enhance the growing trail network in the region and across the state.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Oxford's proposal, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

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Laurie Giannotti
Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Laurie:

This letter is being submitted in strong support of the Town of Thomaston's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program for funding to design the next section of the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) trail from the trail and trailhead on Old Waterbury Road set to be constructed in 2019 north to the sidewalk network in downtown Thomaston.

When complete, the NRG trail will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. The NRG Steering Committee (NRGSC), consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize multiuse trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. In fact, an economic impact study commissioned by the NRGSC and published by NVCOG in 2017, estimated that if completed, the Thomaston section of NRG would drive \$2.6 million in annual spending and more than \$15.9 million in cumulative health benefits by 2031. Thomaston has been working hard to make the trail a reality. The town is working with the town of Watertown on a project to construct a short section of NRG trail with trailhead on Old Waterbury Road in Thomaston, and design elements of the NRG trail in Thomaston. They are working to obtain LoTCIP funding to build a pedestrian bridge over Branch Brook connecting the two towns. Construction is expected to commence in 2019. The town's next priority will be to extend the trail being developed along Old Waterbury Road into downtown, making connections to the sidewalk network and providing access to residents, businesses and the municipal center. The logical next step for the town is to design the next section of trail, and we hope you will consider funding their request.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Thomaston's proposal, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
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Laurie Giannotti
Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Laurie:

This letter is being submitted in strong support of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Government's (NVCOG) application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program for the funding to conduct the Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway Phase I Extension Environmental and Engineering Analysis Study. Waterbury Phase I Extension is a critical link between the soon to be constructed NRG Phase I, and Downtown Waterbury. The complexity of the corridor requires the additional due diligence that the proposed project will provide, and it is an important step to make the trail a reality.

When complete, the NRG trail will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. The NRG Steering Committee (NRGSC), consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize multiuse trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. In fact, a study commissioned by the NRGSC and published by NVCOG in 2017, estimated that if completed, the Waterbury section of NRG would drive \$11.8 million in annual spending and more than \$72 million in cumulative health benefits by 2031.

Waterbury will be beginning construction on its first section of NRG, Phase I, in the spring. That project had previously been delayed due to unforeseen environmental concerns and cost overruns associated with constructing a multiuse trail in an urban and postindustrial area. With that experience in mind, the approach that NVCOG and the City of Waterbury is taking to proactively assess environmental and engineering needs will be critical to the success of trail development in a difficult and demanding environment. This study is a smart next step for NVCOG and the City to take to ensure the success of future trail development into downtown, and we hope that you will consider their proposal.

If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for NVCOG's Recreational Trails Program submission, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
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Laurie Giannotti
Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Laurie:

This letter is being submitted in strong support of the Town of Watertown's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program for the funding for work toward the expansion of the Steele Brook Greenway Trail. Extension of the Steele Brook Greenway Trail will greatly enhance trail user experience, draw more utilitarian and recreational users, and will be one more step in developing a safe, convenient, and enjoyable bicycle and pedestrian network that will make non-motorized transportation in the Naugatuck Valley a real option.

While the Steele Brook Greenway Trail is not officially part of the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) Trail, plans do call for it to connect to the NRG in the future. When complete, the NRG will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. The addition of a spur connection to a completed Steele Brook Greenway will effectively extend access from the NRG to downtown Watertown. The NRG Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize multiuse trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies.

Looking to successful examples of trail development around the country, trail usage, especially by cyclists, is closely related to trail length. We welcome all efforts to expand and enhance the growing non-motorized transportation network in the region and across the state. If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Watertown's Recreational Trails Program submission, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
NRGSC Co-Chairs:

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Laurie Giannotti
Trails & Greenways Program Coordinator
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Laurie:

This letter is being submitted in support of the Town of Woodbury's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Program for the funding for work toward the improvement of the trail at Trolley Bed Preserve. These improvements at the newly acquired public preserve will allow the trail and property to be enjoyed safely by a wider audience, and will be one more step in developing a safe, convenient, and enjoyable bicycle and pedestrian network in the Naugatuck Valley.

When complete, the Naugatuck River Greenway will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. The NRG Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize multiuse trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. While the Trolley Bed Trail is not officially part of the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) Trail, plans do call for it to connect to the NRG in the future, following the old trolley bed on the completed Middlebury Greenway to Waterbury and the NRG. The addition of a spur connection along this trolley bed will effectively extend access from the NRG to downtown Middlebury and Woodbury.

Looking to successful examples of trail development around the country, trail usage, especially by cyclists, is closely related to trail length. We welcome all efforts to expand and enhance the growing non-motorized transportation network in the region and across the state. If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Woodbury's Recreational Trails Program submission,, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

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November 6, 2018

Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being submitted in strong support of the Town of Thomaston's application to the Department of Transportation Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program for funding to construct a section of the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG), a pedestrian bridge over Branch Brook and a trailhead on Old Waterbury Road.

When complete, the NRG trail will stretch 44 miles along the Naugatuck River from Torrington South to Derby. The NRG Steering Committee (NRGSC), consisting of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG route along with regional, state and federal representatives, serves to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG and connections to other transportation facilities and amenities. We recognize multiuse trails as not only recreational facilities, but a means for alternative transportation, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies. In fact, an economic impact study commissioned by the NRGSC and published by NVCOG in 2017, estimated that if completed, the Thomaston section of NRG would drive \$2.6 million in annual spending and more than \$15.9 million in cumulative health benefits by 2031.

Thomaston has been working hard to make the trail a reality, working with the Town of Watertown and the NVCOG to design a section of trail and trailhead with funding from a Federal Recreational Trails Grant. The original plan to use an old trolley bridge to cross Branch Brook had to be abandoned due to poor condition of the structure, resulting in a funding shortfall to construct the trail. Allocation of LoTCIP Funds will allow the remaining Recreational Trails grant funds, originally intended for construction, to be used for design and permitting of a new bridge. LoTCIP funding would then be used to fund construction of the bridge, trail and trailhead, creating the originally intended connection to the Watertown section of the NRG and Mattatuck State Forest. Without LoTCIP funding, the town will be left with a dead end trail without connections to either.

This project represents a big first step in completing the NRG trail in Thomaston, and we hope you will consider it favorably. If you have any questions about the NRGSC or our support for Thomaston's proposal, please do not hesitate to contact NRGSC Co-Chairs Rista Malanca at Rista_Malanca@torringtonct.org, or Jack Walsh at johnwalshderby@comcast.net.

Sincerely,
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