

Overview and Definitions

The **Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG)** trail is a planned 44-mile multipurpose trail following the Naugatuck River from Torrington to Derby. When complete, the NRG trail will link 11 municipalities, help reclaim the Naugatuck River for recreation, provide an alternate mode of transportation, support tourism and economic development in the region, and improve residents' quality of life.

Overseen by the Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) and the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis (CCEA) at UConn, with support from UConn Extension, conducted an economic impact study of the development of the NRG. The study addresses the primary question: "How will communities and residents along the Naugatuck River benefit from their investment in building the proposed trail?" The study involved a literature review, collection of new quantitative and qualitative primary data through trail counts, a trail user intercept survey and three focus groups, as well as deployment of the Regional Economic Impact Model (REMI) to estimate total economic impacts of the proposed trail.

All figures presented assume complete trail buildout in 2030 following an aggressive construction schedule. The local community impacts presented herein were disaggregated from the total trail figures based on estimated completed trail use.

Construction Cost: Estimated financial cost of construction of the planned trail (in 2016 dollars).

Direct Spending: Visitor spending related to trail use, estimated at approximately \$14 per visit from local survey data.

Estimated Annual Visits: Estimated using current trail use data collected on open sections of trail and converted to a per-mile figure.

Health Impact: The value of extended lifespans attributable to improved health and avoided disease resulting from increased physical activity.

Consumer Surplus: the value that consumers are willing to pay over and above what they actually pay for consumption of a good or to participate in an activity, calculated based on avoided transportation costs. These surpluses are often reflected in increased property values.

Employment, GDP and Personal Income: Measure of impact on the wider economy that the direct economic impacts will have, as calculated by the Regional Economic Impact Model (REMI). All figures are the impacts to the economy in 2031 with construction of the trail as compared to a base scenario without construction of the NRG Trail.



Photo: Alta Planning and Design

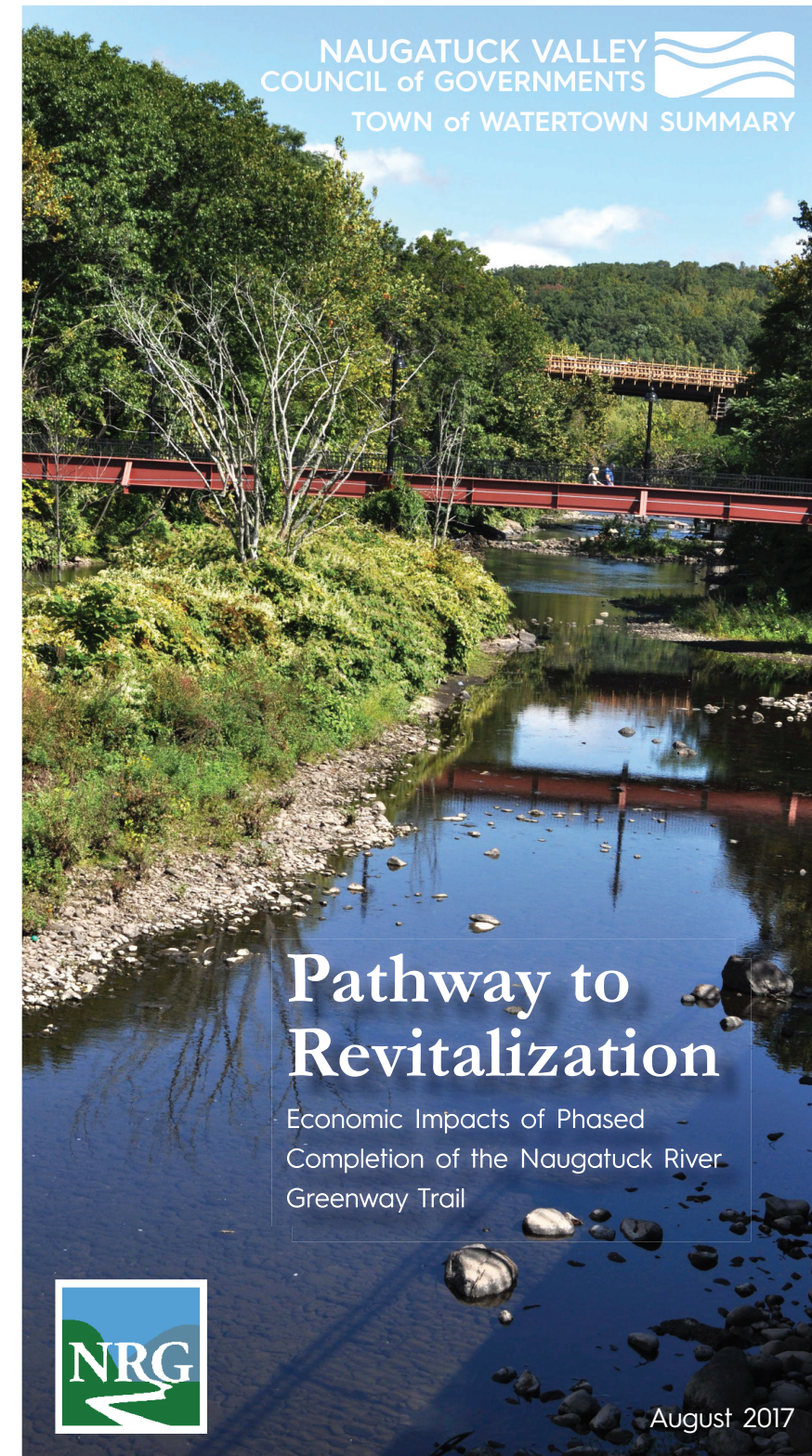
The Naugatuck River Greenway Economic Impact Study was made possible by funding and support from the following organizations. Thank you.



The Naugatuck River Steering Committee oversaw this study, and consists of members from all 11 municipalities along the NRG: Torrington, Harwinton, Litchfield, Thomaston, Watertown, Waterbury, Naugatuck, Beacon Falls, Seymour, Ansonia and Derby, along with regional, state, and federal officials and other stakeholders.

For more information, visit NVCOG's website at: www.nvcogct.org or contact Aaron Budris, Senior Planner, at abudris@nvcogct.org

NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS TOWN of WATERTOWN SUMMARY



Pathway to Revitalization

Economic Impacts of Phased
Completion of the Naugatuck River
Greenway Trail



August 2017

Naugatuck River Corridor Impacts

If completed by 2031, the construction of the Naugatuck River Greenway Trail is estimated to have the following impacts on the area’s economy:

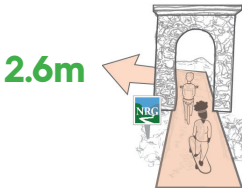
Construction Cost



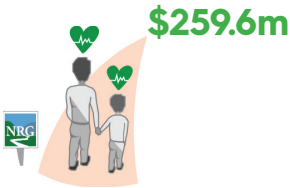
Annual Direct Spending



Estimated Annual Visits



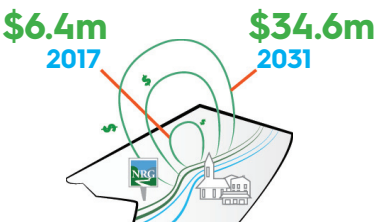
Cumulative Health Impact



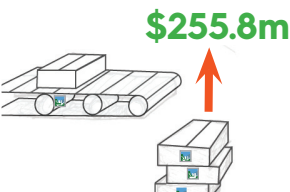
Employment in 2031



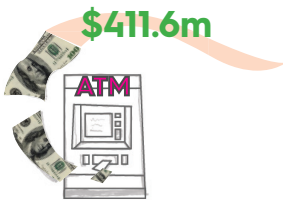
Annual Consumer Surplus



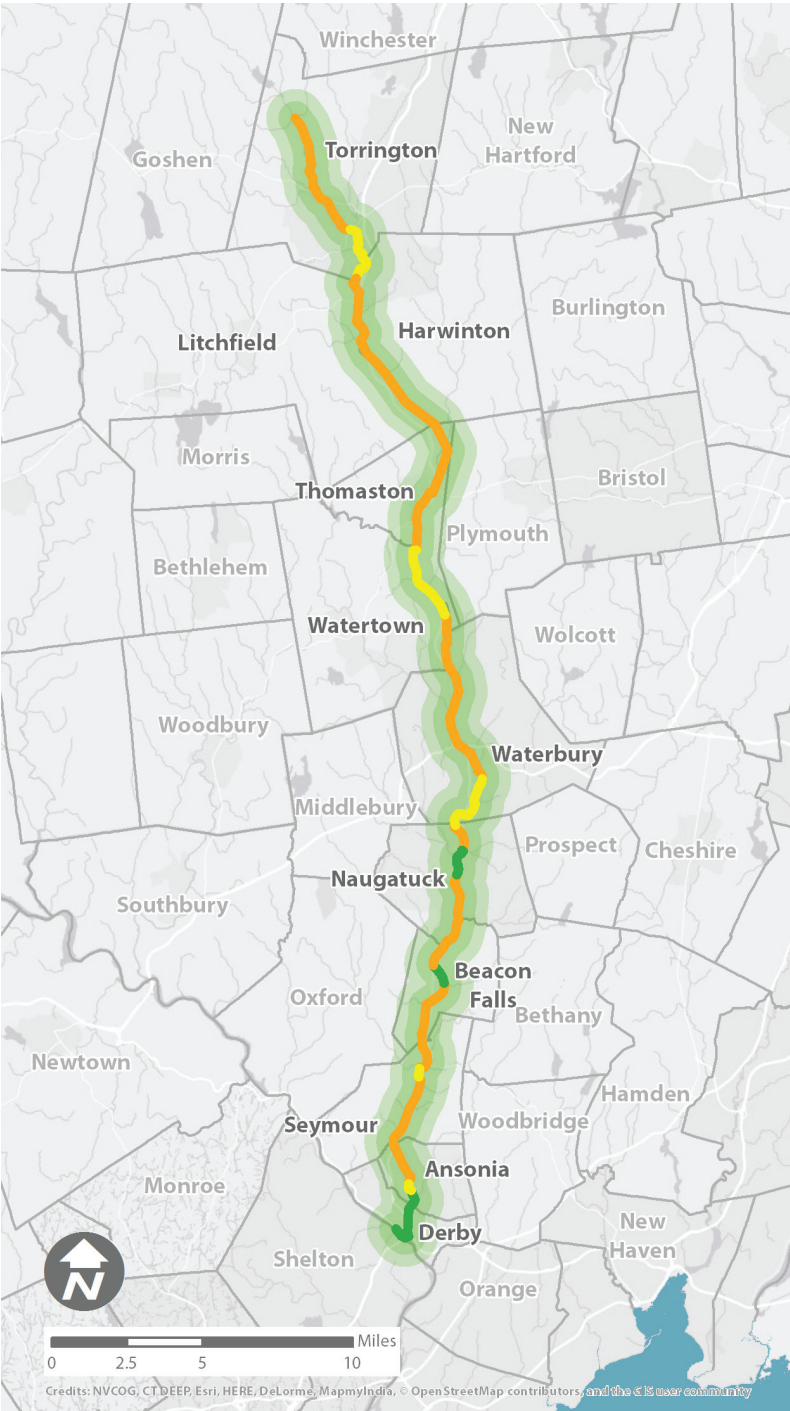
GDP in 2031



Personal Income in 2031



CORRIDOR TRAIL PLANNING



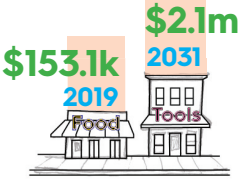
Town of Watertown Impacts

Based on completion of the total NRG trail, the portion of total trail economic impacts attributable to Watertown’s trail section are estimated to be as follows:

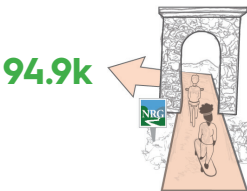
Construction Cost



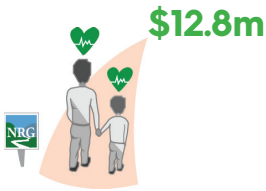
Annual Direct Spending



Estimated Annual Visits



Cumulative Health Impact



TOWN OF WATERTOWN TRAIL PLANNING

