January 13, 2020

Sohyun Park, Assistant Professor  
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture  
University of Connecticut  
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Re: Community Partner Support for Impact of Trail Environments on Family and Community Resilience Research Project

Dear Professor Park,

The Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee (NRGSC) offers our enthusiastic support for your application to UCONN's FY 2021 Competitive Capacity Grants Program to advance multi-year research into the benefits of trails, parks and green spaces as important assets for family and community resilience. We understand that a component of this research will involve outreach to selected Connecticut communities for research and development of educational materials and programs to raise community awareness of the value of trails, forests, parks and green spaces.

The Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee https://nycogct.gov/who-we-are/commissions-committees/nrg-steering-committee/ is made up of representatives from all 11 municipalities along the NRG corridor along with regional, state and federal representatives and other stakeholders serving to promote, support and help guide the development of the NRG. We recognize the Greenway and NRG Trail as not only a recreational facility, but a means for alternative transportation, a way for residents and visitors to connect to the revitalized Naugatuck River, and ultimately, as a driver of local economies.

We are happy to engage with the research team on this project by providing time on our agenda for the team to discuss the project at our regular meetings, providing assistance with participant recruitment and outreach, assisting and advising in the development and implementing of pilot education programs, and learning from the results of the study.

The goal of the study, and especially the community outreach component, align strongly with the mission and objectives of the NRGSC. We believe your work could not be more timely and relevant. We look forward to providing consultation and support to advance the success of this important research in Connecticut.

Respectfully,

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.”