



The Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail Association

Fall, 2017

Dear Friends,

Did you know you can see a Blue Heron searching for fish, turtles sun bathing themselves on rocks, or even walk the original tracks on the trail?

If not, then you should definitely explore these new sections completed just last year in Cheshire and experience nature in its finest!

If so, then you have already been enjoying walking, biking, running, blading, strolling and simply getting away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life with a breath of fresh air on the trail right in your own back yard!



You can also express your creativity at the upcoming Ball and Socket Art's Center which resides along the last section of trail being constructed in Cheshire or stop by Brian's Guitars next door to spread a little musical cheer while strumming a guitar. All these exciting things are happening on the trail as we write this newsletter.

Your help and past support has allowed us to continue moving the trail forward to encompass these great natural and cultural experiences to share with our friends and neighbors.

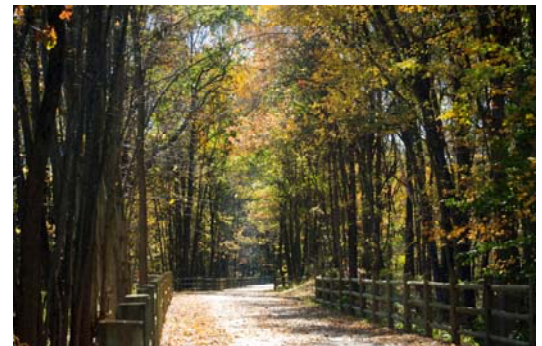
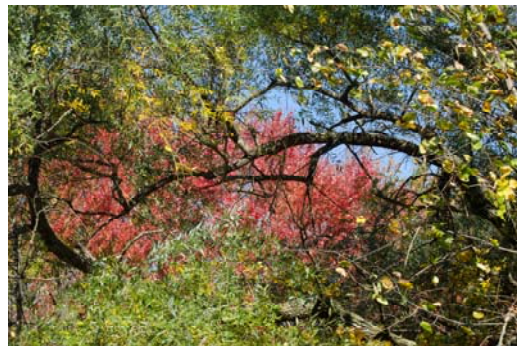
Please help keep the trail moving forward and join us by making as generous a donation as you can.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Fernandez'.

Lisa Fernandez, President



Growing a heritage greenway for open space, biking and walking from the Long Island Sound into Massachusetts.

www.fchtrail.org

News on Individual Sections of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail

New Haven: (1.6/3.4 miles; 47% complete) The city has been unable, for 4 years since design approval by CONNDOT, to obtain the necessary easements to go out to bid on construction for the below-grade section from Hillhouse Avenue to Grove St. Despite these delays, a cycle track has opened on Brewery Street and the official terminus of the trail on Long Wharf Drive by the soon-to-be-completed boat house will soon be in place.



The Newhallville Learning Corridor and the New Haven Friends of the Trail (on Facebook) have hosted many successful celebratory and stewardship events on the trail, growing neighborhood ties to the trail in this historic neighborhood including a well attended “Harvest Festival” on a warm October Saturday (pictured).

Yale’s new residential colleges opened up in August creating a sweeping curve of brick and stone on the trail’s east side by Canal Street. Two stone carvings telling the history of the trail grace the apex of archways leading to the trail.

Hamden: (9.5 miles; 100% complete) The Hamden Public Works Department continued maintenance projects including asphalt patching, fence repair and tree/shrub trimming in the north section of the trail. The Public Works Department is expected to replace the stone dust on the jogging path and shore up embankments in coming months

[Town of Hamden Farmington Canal Commission:](http://www.hamden.com/content/7089/7093/7966/8231/default.aspx)
www.hamden.com/content/7089/7093/7966/8231/default.aspx

Cheshire: (6.85/7.5, 91% complete) Hamden/Cheshire line to Cornwall Avenue, a 2-plus mile stretch, has been open and heavily used for several years. The trail between West Main Street, past Jarvis Street (including a 77 space parking lot and solar rest rooms) and through to the Southington line was completed last year. The final section between Cornwall Avenue and West Main Street (3,500 feet of which 740 feet will be elevated Permatrack) has been under construction since the beginning of 2017 and is slated to be done in the Fall of 2018, finishing the trail in Cheshire. While that section is under development, trail users can travel on Willow Street (across the street from the Cornwall parking lot) to reach the new trail head on West Main Street.



Southington: Southington’s section of the FCHT from Curtis St to Lazy Lane has been completed in 2017 and had a ribbon cutting on the north end of the trail at Lazy Ln.

www.southington.org/LinearTrail

[Option 3: Median Bikeway Boulevard](#)



Plainville: It’s been a busy year for “gap closure” in Plainville. Meetings and many workshops of various kinds have been held throughout the year with large numbers of the public on hand. The early workshops were the most fun, when small groups were asked to develop “string diagrams” linking various features within both towns of Plainville and New Britain (to which the final location of the trail in Plainville will connect) on maps of those towns. These diagrams suggested certain preferences for connectivity in each town that began to indicate possible locations for trail alignments. Plainville route alignments were refined to one (Alignment C) that seemed to be the most preferred and then presented at a meeting in July for public feedback. The next step is for the newly elected Town Council to determine how best to proceed with review and approval of the final alignment before the project is turned over to CTDOT for design and engineering.

For details about the final alignment, how it might look in various sections please check out the project website at:

www.gapclosurestudy.com

Farmington and towns northward into Massachusetts have mostly been completed.

Please visit the [Farmington Canal Heritage Trail](http://www.fchtrail.org) website at: www.fchtrail.org for more information.

Hundreds of Association members generously contribute to our organization and provide virtually *all* of our financial support. We're at 78% build-out of the trail now. That's more than 44 miles of trail. Your renewed support will help us close the remaining gaps. As in the past, Association leaders remain involved as significant advocates of Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail activities at intra-state and local levels. If you would like to participate, send an email to:

info@farmingtoncanalgreenway.org, or write us:

FCRTTA, 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517

Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail Association Board

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Construction of the trail in Cheshire Connecticut, between West Main St. and Cornwall Ave, Fall 2017