



The Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail Association

Fall, 2016

Dear Friends,

Do you know you make magic happen every day?

You create the reality of a ribbon for walking, biking, running, blading, strolling and simply getting away from the ubiquity of the car culture. That's magical. I'm proud that the remaining gaps in our trail continue to shrink.

The final four miles of the Cheshire section on the north end of town have officially opened. That means you can run a marathon entirely on the trail from New Haven to Southington – there is more than 26.2 miles of gap-free greenway to enjoy now in southern CT.



We are just one of many partners supporting what has become a diverse and inclusive focal point for community action at many levels.

The trail is a place you can walk into art. In New Haven, a mural celebrating the trail was unveiled this fall.

The trail is a place you can walk into nature. An energetic partnership led by the New Haven Friends of the Trail received a grant from the Audubon Society and the Fish and Wildlife Service to build a corridor of native plant species along the trail for migrating birds and butterflies.

The trail is a place you can meet new friends and neighbors. This spring and summer, I attended clean-ups sponsored by businesses and residents in Hamden, and pancake breakfasts held on the trail organized by local church groups in New Haven.

With your help we can conjure up some more magic. Please join us by making as generous a donation as you can.

Sincerely,

Lisa Fernandez, President



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

<http://www.farmingtoncanalgreenway.org>

News on Individual Sections of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail



New Haven: (1.6/3.4 miles; 47% complete) For years, the New Haven portion of the trail from Hillhouse Ave. to the Hamden town line has been open. It is with increasing frustration that we report that despite approval by CONNDOT more than three years ago, the final design for the portion from Hillhouse Ave. down to Long Wharf (Phase IV) has not yet gone out to bid, pending permission from three property owners in the below-grade section between Whitney Avenue and Grove Streets. The funds obligated to this project are eroding in value due to inflation and increasing construction costs. At least the Canal Dock Boat House, which will be the official southern terminus of the trail, is under construction.

A mural by celebrated local artist Kwadwo Adae was unveiled this fall in Newhallville (pictured above with New Haven Mayor Toni Harp at the event). Also in that neighborhood, the New Haven Friends of the Trail and the Bridge Project received a grant from the Audubon Society to create natural plantings for migrating birds and bugs.

Hamden: (9.5 miles; 100% complete) The Hamden Public Works Department completed maintenance projects including asphalt patching, fence repair and tree/shrub trimming in the north section of the trail. An emergency phone was installed at the Lockkeeper's house at Lock 14, near the Shepard Avenue crossing. The Public Works Department is expected to replace the stone dust on the jogging path and shore up embankments in coming months.

A 1,000 foot trail spur is planned and funded from the Farmington Canal trail to "Town Center Park" (aka, "Meadowbrook"). This would connect with the trail north of the Skiff Street tunnel where it bends around to the west, via a bridge over Shepard Brook behind LA Fitness, to the rear of the Hamden Middle School fields. Hamden has a state \$218,000 grant that will be matched with \$54,000 from Hamden. We believe the contract may be signed by next spring. "By linking ...we will encourage alternative means of travel to the town's most popular gathering spot."

[Town of Hamden Farmington Canal Commission](#)

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 has recently been completed and was celebrated at a ribbon cutting on November 19. The last section between Cornwall Avenue and West Main Street (3,500 feet of which 740 feet will be elevated Permatrack) is expected to begin in 2017. 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 is scheduled to be completed by SRS New England in 2017.

[Town of Southington Farmington Canal Heritage Trail](#)

Plainville: Funds have been made available by CTDOT to fund a comprehensive planning study which will have 2 parts:

Examine all trail alignments currently proposed for Plainville and any new ones that develop during initial fact finding, then evaluate and select the one that scores highest using a "solution selection matrix" developed for this purpose. Included in the study will be some conceptual sketches of what improvements for such a solution might look like;

Once a final alignment has been selected for Plainville, the study will focus on a route to connect it with the CTfastrak station in downtown New Britain and, once there, to the 4 mile multi-use trail along the guide-way to Newington Junction station (Willard Ave. /Newington Rd.).

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has teamed with VHB (an engineering and design firm), Mobycon (a research and consulting company for traffic, transportation and mobility) and Bluezones to study the possible routes to connect the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail with the communities of Plainville, New Britain, Southington, and the CTfastrak station in New Britain by way of a world-class multi-use trail network. A participatory process of workshops and public input meetings has begun and is expected to conclude by the end of 2016. Once complete, the project will be immediately submitted to CTDOT for funding to complete design and construction. No timetable is available for this, but 2 years seems reasonable, yielding a construction completion date of 2018.

[Farmington Canal Heritage Trail](#)

Farmington: (2.3/4.8 miles; 48% complete) The final 2.5-mile section from Red Oak Hill Road to Northwest Drive in Plainville was designed by the Town of Farmington and AECOM and is currently under construction. The project includes a 135-foot bridge over Route 6 and a 28-space parking lot adjacent to Northwest Drive with a pavilion and bike fix-it station. This is the first time in state history that Connecticut has completely funded a section of multi-use ADA-compliant trail without using federal money. Paving is complete and the prefabricated bridge will be lifted into place in the early spring, with a ribbon-cutting shortly thereafter.

[Town of Farmington - Farmington Valley Greenway](#)

Collinsville: The **Farmington River Trail** is an 18.2-mile loop trail which links to the **Farmington Canal Heritage Trail** at points in Farmington and Simsbury passing through the villages of Unionville and Collinsville and the towns of Burlington and Canton to create a 29.5-mile loop connecting five towns. In Collinsville you will find newly installed repair station near the kiosk. Installations are being planned for each town along the bike trail enabled by a grant from REI.

[Town of Canton – Farmington River Trail](#)

Avon to Suffield: (18.8 miles; 100% complete) In Suffield, the 2006 Coca-Cola North America grant of \$55,000 was finally used to build a parking area and kiosk, with funds from Farmington Valley Trails Council (FVTC). A granite CT/MA border crossing monument will be erected in 2016.

[Farmington Canal Heritage Trail](#)

Southwick, MA: (6.2/6.2 miles; 100% complete) Southwick's trail is now paved from the Connecticut line to the Westfield line.

[Friends of the Southwick Rail Trail](#)

Westfield: (2.4 of 7.4 miles completed) Phase 1 and 2 of the Columbia River Trail are complete and open. Continuation to the Town Center is almost complete. The northern section over the Westfield River is scheduled to begin in 2016 and the Central section to connect both ends of trail is scheduled to go out to bid in 2019.

[Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail](#)



Southampton: (3.9; 0% complete) The town's Open Space Master Plan calls for the purchase of the ROW from Pan Am Southern Railway. Voters approved the purchase in November 2012.

[Friends of Southampton Greenway Facebook Page](#)

Easthampton: (3.7; 100% complete) The Manhan Trail is now 6 miles long and is part of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT). The trail winds its way between Easthampton and Northampton, with a spur trail leading out The Oxbow near Mt. Tom.

[Manhan Rail Trail](#)

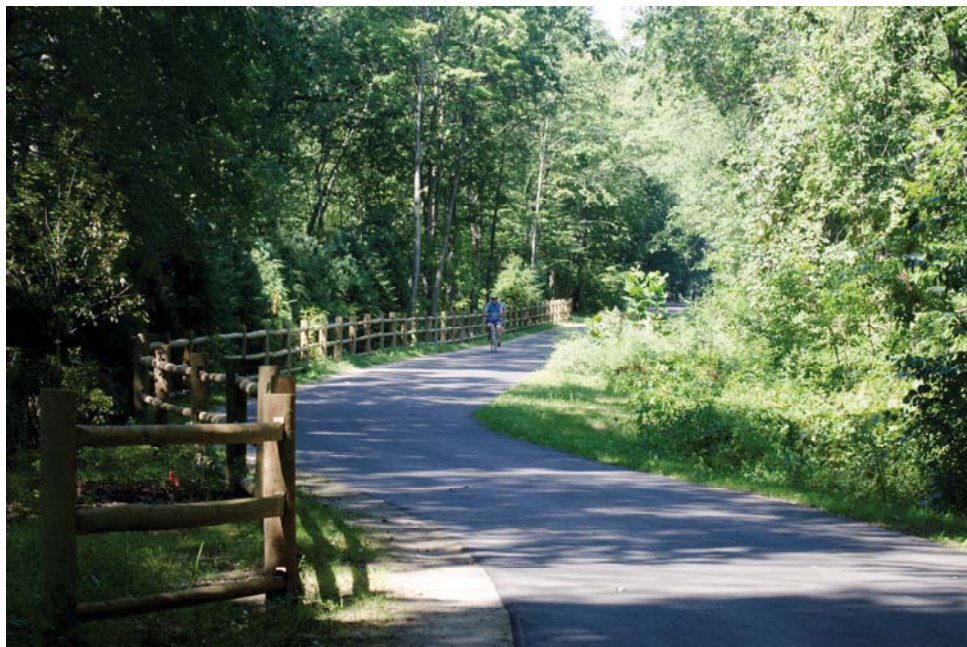
Northampton: (3.5; 100% complete)

[Friends of Northampton Trails and Greenways](#)

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 achieves at intra-state and local levels. If you would like to participate, send an email to : [**info@farmingtoncanalgreenway.org**](mailto:info@farmingtoncanalgreenway.org), or write us: **FCRTTA, 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517.**

Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail Association Board

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New Section of the trail in Cheshire Connecticut, between West Main and Jarvis Streets, Summer 2016