



Fall, 2018

Dear Friends,

There are so many different paths we can take to achieve the kind of world we want to live in. I'm glad you've chosen to support the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. By walking, strolling, biking, and running up and down this beautiful linear trail, you are connecting with history, art, nature, and culture.

Your support of the trail has propelled us toward important victories this year, including:

- ◆ The completion of the trail through Cheshire, creating a marathon-length continuous ribbon of off-road greenway from New Haven to Southington.
- ◆ A bright and vibrant mural on the trail at the Hamden-New Haven border celebrating women's empowerment and affirming the creation of an arts corridor in this section of the greenway.
- ◆ A well-attended "Ride the State" event in June with CONNDOT Commissioner James Redeker.
- ◆ Breaking ground for construction of water access directly on the trail to support plantings in a bird conservation corridor in Newhallville, New Haven.

But we need to do so much more. Your gift to FCRTTA will:

- ⇒ **Establish a signed route through Plainville**, the last significant gap in the trail in Connecticut.
- ⇒ **Push New Haven to finally build the last section of the trail** down to its terminus at the Canal Dock Boat House on the Long Island Sound.
- ⇒ **Enhance the trail through more art, signage and other infrastructure** like kiosks, water fountains and repair stations.

Please help maintain and improve the 45 trail miles now built with a contribution today!

Sincerely,

Lisa Fernandez, President



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

[www.fchtrail.org](http://www.fchtrail.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. Five years ago, the design for the final portion down to Long Wharf (Phase IV) was approved by CONNDOT. The project is being held up by one remaining property owner, Konover Corporation, who, despite years of negotiations with the city and funding to cover legal costs, has yet to provide easements in the below-grade section between Whitney Avenue and Grove Street. This hold-up is threatening the availability of funds obligated for the construction of the trail here, as the monies will sunset in 2019 if the easement is not granted soon. The city has negotiated, and in good faith has handed over tax payer dollars to cover Konover's legal costs. IT's TIME FOR KONOVER TO PROVIDE THE EASEMENT and allow construction to proceed! Please write to Konover urging them to sign at:

**Konover Commercial Corporation. 265 Church St # 200, New Haven, CT 06510**

In better news in New Haven, the Canal Dock Boathouse (pictured) on the Long Island Sound opened in September. It is the official southern terminus of the entire trail, and an attractive destination in its own right.

**Hamden:** (9.5 miles; 100% complete) Painter Kwadwo Adae's second mural (pictured) on the Hamden / New Haven Newhallville section of the trail was unveiled to great fanfare in October. The Hamden Public Works Department also continued maintenance projects including asphalt patching, fence repair and tree/shrub trimming in the north section of the trail.

[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](http://www.hamden.com/content/7089/7093/7966/8231/default.aspx)



**Cheshire:** (7.5/7.5, 100% complete) Exciting news with the final section of the trail finally being opened this past September between Cornwall Avenue and West Main Street (3,500 feet of which 740 feet is elevated Permatrack). A ribbon cutting (pictured) was held on September 9th commemorating the event with a large turnout of supporters including Ct DOT Commissioner James Redeker.

**Southington / Plainville:** The trail has been completed south in Farmington, with a bridge over Rt 6, to a parking lot in Plainville at Northwest Drive and Johnson Ave. That ends just above the small airport runway. In addition, last year the trail was completed in the north of Southington to a parking lot at Lazy Lane, across from the Southington Police Station.

To avoid congested Route 10 to connect the gap, there is a safe if circuitous way from Curtiss St. in Southington north to the new Northwest Drive trailhead in Plainville. The interim route is mapped on the East Coast Greenway website:

[www.greenway.org/states/connecticut](http://www.greenway.org/states/connecticut)

CTDOT will be designing the route along another alignment over the gap. CTDOT has not yet released the schedule for this design, which was recently approved by Plainville Town Council.

[www.ridewithgps.com/routes/28983216](http://www.ridewithgps.com/routes/28983216)

There are a lot of side streets and driveways on this route, so bikers should wear Hi-Viz clothing and ride WITH traffic.

[www.southington.org/LinearTrail](http://www.southington.org/LinearTrail)



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

[www.gapclosurestudy.com](http://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](http://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 79% build-out of the trail now. That's more than 45 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](mailto:info@farmingtoncanalgreenway.org), or write us:

**FCRTTA, 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517**



**Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail Association Board**

**Scan Here!**

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