



The Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail Association

November, 2019

Dear Friends,

The trail is yours. Yours to stroll, run, bike, and scoot. Yours to enjoy. And yours to steward. The trail needs your support to give you what you need: peace and restoration, and a long green ribbon where you can get away from car and truck traffic. Your gift to FCRTTA will help guarantee the trail remains yours to find what you need.

As you well know, the trail is a hit. With that popularity come obligations: to maintain what makes it such a draw, and to ensure safe passage for the many types of users the trail attracts. The trail embraces us, and we need to love it back, by practicing and promoting good stewardship, and safety. You are a critical partner in these efforts, by offering your support and service.

We are focused more than ever this year on enhancing user safety on the trail, particularly as the mix of riding technology grows with e-scooters and e-bikes. Keep an eye out as we announce guidelines and best practices for all trail enthusiasts, whether you're propelled on your own two feet or by high-tech wheel systems.

We're delighted that new sections of the trail will be constructed in 2020, adding the final 2.3 miles in Southington, and starting the final 3.4 miles down to the Sound in New Haven.

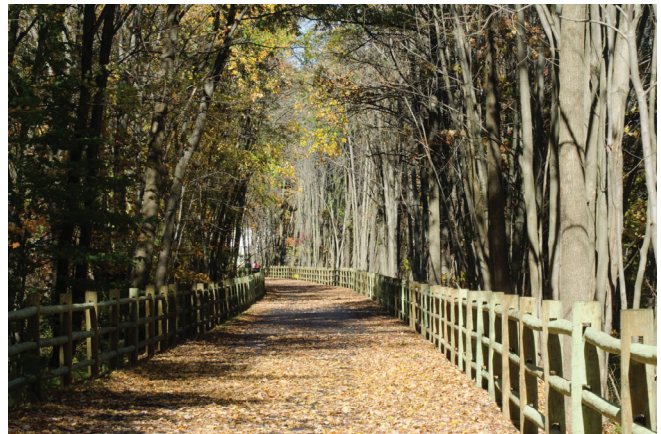
People power up and down the trail is evident every day, whether by volunteers organizing clean-ups, rides, and races, or individuals and groups walking and biking (or even, very occasionally, a little cross-country skiing!).

Thank you for your continued support, to sustain what's built and to finish the rest. Please join other committed FCRTTA members by making as generous a donation as you can.

Yours,

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) With all easements now signed, construction of the final portion down to Long Wharf (Phase IV) was advertised beginning in October 2019. Awarding is projected for winter, with construction to begin in spring 2020.

Hamden: (9.5 miles; 100% done) The spur trail connecting the FCHT east of Dixwell Ave. to Town Center Park is open.

Cheshire: (7.5/7.5, 100% complete)

Southington (7.1/9.4 miles; 75% complete)

CT DOT approved the design of the remaining 2.3 miles from Lazy Lane north to Townline Road on the Plainville border. Plans are to complete construction in 2020. Most of the route will be along the abandoned rail line until the extreme north end where the rail is still active. There the trail will be built as a side path alongside, but separate from existing streets.

Plainville (0/5.1 miles; 0% complete)

Town Council approved the community-led gap closure study this year, and selected CTDOT to design and engineer the trail along the chosen route. Funding for that and for eventual construction has been secured by CTDOT, so now the focus is on choosing the best design options. CTDOT project manager Scott Bushee, who led the State effort to close the gaps in Cheshire, has divided the project into three parts:

South: from the junction of the Southington trail with Townline Rd., north along remnants of the Farmington Canal, to Norton Park, 0.8 miles. This will provide a logical extension of the completed Southington trail into an area with excellent trailhead parking and sanitary facilities. CTDOT projects a design presentation in early 2020, and construction in 2022.

North: from the current terminus of the FCHT at Northwest Dr. south toward Plainville Center. This section, 3 miles, will traverse some of the little remaining open space in town, and will involve a new tunnel under a limited access highway. It will provide a meandering path, in contrast to the straight corridor that typifies rail trails. Possible completion in 2023.

Center: this is the toughest part, 1.3 miles and involves either on-road routing or other as yet to-be-determined approaches to navigating this densely settled area. This will be the final phase of the gap closure, with a projected completion date of 2024.

Go to these links for safe, alternate routes to take in the meantime:

www.greenway.org/states/connecticut

www.ridewithgps.com/routes/28983216

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.

Four fifths of the trail is now done. That's more than 45 miles of trail. Your renewed support will help us close the remaining gaps. Beyond needed dollars, we welcome your volunteer service, on the board and as a member.

Email : info@farmingtoncanalgreenway.org, or write:

FCRTTA, 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517



Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail Association Board

Scan Here!

Lisa Fernandez, <i>President</i>	John Paturel, <i>Board Member</i>
Douglas Noble, <i>Vice President</i>	Aaron Goode, <i>Board Member</i>
Vacant, <i>Secretary</i>	Jim Jinks, <i>Board Member</i>
Bill Horowitz, <i>Treasurer</i>	Dalton King, <i>Safety Advisor</i>
Barbara Collins, <i>FVTC</i>	Bruce Donald, <i>Tri-State Coordinator ECG (Ex-Officio)</i>