

The Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail Association

November, 2020

Dear Friends,

You have no doubt noticed that the trail has become an even more frequented place than usual this year. It's a place of refuge, the go-to local place where we set aside our anguish and find some respite from these troubled times. The CT Trail Census confirms that visits to the trail have surged this year, more than doubling in some towns, and exceeding 100,000 in New Haven alone.

Has the trail become a victim of its success? Those of us who steward can attest that this is not the case. We've prioritized safety while expanding what the trail is: supporting rest areas, information kiosks, and pollinator gardens, to name just a few examples. I am also proud to say that a statue celebrating William Lanson, a Black leader and entrepreneur of 1820s New Haven who built Long Wharf and the canal, cutting for it still-visible rock from his own quarries, was unveiled in September along the trail. The location – just north of Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven - is an official spot on Connecticut's Freedom Trail. The event and the marker reminds us of the word *heritage* in the name of our trail, a heritage that connects all of us who have built it and cared for it through the ages up to the present day.

The trail tells many stories and teaches us many lessons, about our history, about the nature of work and play and resilience and patience, as we still push to close the final gaps in the trail in Plainville, Southington and New Haven. I'd like to invite you to join me on this journey of what the trail is becoming. As a donor, you are the power behind the trail fulfilling its potential. 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,

Lisa Fernandez, President





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

www.fchtrail.org

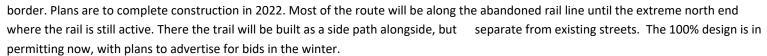
News on Individual Sections of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail

New Haven: (1.6/3.4 miles; 47% complete) Construction of the final portion down to Long Wharf (Phase IV) has been delayed by a year as all proposals came in over budget. An award on the re-bid should be made in time for construction to begin in spring 2021. A statue celebrating William Lanson, a Black leader of New Haven and the builder of the canal in the 1820s was unveiled 9.26 at a site on the trail by Lock Street where Lanson's work can be seen. It is designated an official stop on the CT Freedom Trail.

Hamden: (9.5 miles; 100% complete) As in other towns, the story this past year for the trail has been one of cleaning up after two damaging storms, and a huge increase in trail users. In Hamden we were lucky to have a Public Works dept. that was aggressive in quickly cleaning many downed trees and branches.

Cheshire: (7.5/7.5, 100% complete) Asphalt crack repairs made, storm cleanups

Southington (7.1/9.4 miles; 75% complete) CT DOT approved the design of the remaining 2.3 miles by BL Consultants from Lazy Lane north to Townline Road on the Plainville





1. South: from the junction of the Southington trail with Townline Rd., north to Norton Park, 0.8 miles. CTDOT projects a design presentation in mid-2021, and construction in 2023.

2.North: from the current terminus of the FCHT at Northwest Dr. south toward Plainville Center. These 3 miles will involve a new tunnel under a limited access highway. Possible completion in 2024.

3.Center: a challenging 1.3 densely settled miles involving either on-road routing or other tbd approaches. This will be the final phase of the gap closure, with a projected completion date of 2026.

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 in Connecticut. 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, FCRTTA, 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517

Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail Association Board

Lisa Fernandez, <i>President</i>	John Paturel <i>, Board Member</i>
Douglas Noble, Vice President	Aaron Goode, <i>Board Member</i>
Norm Berg, Acting Secretary	Dalton King, Safety Advisor
Bill Horowitz, <i>Treasurer</i>	Bruce Donald, Tri-State Coordinator ECG (Ex-Officio)
Barbara Collins, FVTC	Looking for Additional Board Members!

