

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection CT Recreational Trails Grants Program**

New Haven City Plan

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Funding request: \$280,000

The City of New Haven has a strong partnership with the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to build out portions of the Mill River Trail in the Fair Haven neighborhood. The City's proposal to design and construct portions of the northern and southern legs of the trail to the 2017 Recreational Trails funding round was awarded. In 2020, DEEP awarded the City an Urban Green and Community Garden grant to design and construct a portion of trail adjacent to the John S. Martinez School.

City Plan is applying to the 2023 round of this fund to build upon previous successes on Mill River Trail. The first part of proposed project scope addresses a critical juncture between the northern and southern legs of the trail that is currently impassible due to private ownership and rough terrain. This proposed segment of the trail is roughly 850 feet of railroad-abutting property beginning at the southwestern edge of the parking lot of 370 James Street and ending at the railroad overpass on Humphrey Street. The land is to be acquired from the owner, cleared, grubbed, and graded, and a multi-use dirt path is to be established as close to ADA and bicycle-friendly standards as possible, with a design focused on longevity and minimal maintenance requirements. The second part of the project is to establish approximately 750 linear feet of new sidewalks and street trees along Haven and Mill Streets and implement improved pedestrian crossings at the intersection of Mill Street and Chapel Street and across Humphrey Street. The third piece of the project is to implement identifiable *Mill River Trail* signage on existing sign poles throughout the southern leg of the trail between Humphrey Street and Criscuolo Park. The final piece of the project is to work with the project planner to conduct route mapping and conceptual planning on connecting the current terminus of the trail on Willow Street to East Rock Park. Grant funds will be used to hire a design engineer/planner, a contractor, and a construction inspector to implement the project.

The full budget amount of the proposed project is \$350,000. The funding request to DEEP is \$280,000, and the City will be required to match 20% of the project budget, or \$70,000 either with in-kind services or cash.