

UCGC GRANT ACTIVITIES DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, EXECUTE, ACKNOWLEDGE, IMPLEMENT AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GRANT: URBAN GREEN AND COMMUNITY GARDEN INITIATIVE

A \$65,206 grant from the Urban Green Space & Community Garden initiative Grant Program, matched 276% by State funds from the Special Environmental Projects (SEP) program, will support expanded scope for Save the Sound's work to:

1. Coordinate with the City and Biohabitats to finalize construction documents for the Exchange Street section of trail.
2. Solicit a licensed, experienced contractor to initiate construction activities along Exchange Street section of trail: complete pavement removal, install infiltration basins, install trail, and install other trail amenities.
3. Manage all aspects of the project, including design, permitting and construction.
4. Host a community planting event.
5. Design interpretive signage and organize community engagement events for the public.
6. Promote stakeholder awareness, education, and engagement through its social media channels, blog, e-mail newsletter, and earned media.
7. Coordinate with the City to hire an engineering firm to complete permit ready designs for the Mill River Trail connecting Exchange Street to Wolcott Street through the Martinez School playing fields to create a more inviting, accessible space and enhancing the connectivity between the newly built trail, Urban Green Space, and the playing fields.
8. Solicit a licensed, experienced contractor to remove invasive *Phragmites australis* from the 4,000 square foot area that connects the Exchange Street section of the trail south to Wolcott Street.
9. Coordinate with the City in the development of and Operations & Maintenance Plan. The plan will identify the responsible party(s) for ensuring the trail, green space, and bioretention areas are maintained and continue to function as intended.

At the conclusion of the this grant project, the Mill River Trail Urban Green Space will be constructed fully along the Exchange Street Section, including a community green space, with pavement from the unused portion of Exchange Street (west of Haven Street) removed and replaced with planted infiltration basins/rain gardens, native landscaping, a trail along the existing Exchange Street road bed, interpretive signage, and a trail head for the Mill River Trail. Permit ready designs for the next segment of trail connecting to Wolcott Street and a re-envisioned entrance to the John S. Martinez School playing fields will be prepared; and an extensive stand of *Phragmites* will be removed along this portion of the project area, so that the next phase of the project is ready to go to construction as additional funding becomes available.