

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Urban Green & Community Garden Initiative (UGCG)
Grant Application
Deadline: June 1st, 2020



Project Title: Mill River Trail Urban Green Space

Applicant: City of New Haven City Plan (partnering with Save the Sound)

Applicant Address: 165 Church Street, 5th Floor, New Haven, CT 06510

Name and Title of Chief Executive Officer: Mayor of New Haven, Justin Elicker

Name and Title of Preparer: Nicole Davis, Save the Sound Phone: 804-366-1636

Total Project Cost: \$50,000

Total Project Area (acres/sq.ft.): 0.4 acres/ 17,700 square feet

1) Project Description

- **Location: Describe the project location. Where is the site and how will the community access it? What is the present condition of the site?**

The project site centers around the intersection of Haven and Exchange Streets in the Fair Haven neighborhood of New Haven. Fair Haven is an area of racial and socioeconomic isolation where connectedness, green space, and access to the waterfront were long ago sacrificed to industrial uses. Among Fair Haven's 17,141 residents, 64% live on less than 200% of federal poverty level (making it the third poorest New Haven neighborhood); 66% are Hispanic and 17% are Black (compared to 14% and 15% respectively for the City overall); and 29% are under 18 years old. The project will most directly serve the 550 students at adjacent John S. Martinez (K-8) School, 54.6% of whom qualify for free or reduced lunch (compared to 51% for the district) and 42.3% of whom are English Language Learners (vs. 15.2% for the district). Plans for New Haven dating as early as the Olmsted-Gilbert 1910 plan depicted greenways ringing the City from West Rock to East Rock, but have excluded Fair Haven. A hundred years later, Fair Haven remains cut off from the rest of the city by highways and train tracks.

We are building a visible, accessible entrance to the Mill River Trail in Fair Haven by converting four blocks of degraded roadway and vacant land into a linear trail and green stormwater-capture park, improving resilience, restoring habitat, and supporting the health and wellbeing of Fair Haven residents. This represents approximately a quarter of the City's goal for the Mill River Trail, a greenbelt that will connect New Haven's Fair Haven neighborhood with the Mill River and 300 acres of New Haven parkland in East Rock Park. It will provide community access to the rest of the Mill River Trail constructed by the City to the north and recently upgraded Criscuolo Park to the south, providing much needed opportunities for walking, running, biking, and other outdoor recreational activities—as well as access to the Mill River.

The site is currently a dead-end road that's blocked to vehicles and has collected garbage and illegally dumped materials. The project includes removal of degraded pavement and invasive plants, construction of a pervious trail system and park entrance, and installation of interpretive signage and benches. Green stormwater infrastructure techniques, such as porous pavement and rain gardens, will also reduce persistent flooding at the adjacent playfield at John S. Martinez School (which is currently unusable after

significant rains) and mitigate raw sewage overflows into the Mill River that occur during major rain events.

- **Plans: Describe the work to be performed. What will the project accomplish? Who will complete the work? What is the timeline for completion?**

In collaboration with the City of New Haven, neighbors, volunteers and community groups, we are converting a degraded impervious roadway and vacant land into a community greenspace, with a linear trail, signage, and green infrastructure features in the public right of way. The project includes the transformation of a closed roadway into a nearly 14,000 square foot community greenspace, which will consist of a multi-purpose trail and a series of native pollinator gardens and bioretention areas, drawn directly from the recommendations of the Mill River Watershed Based Plan and the Mill River Trail Framework Plan (both completed in 2018).

Work will include removal of pavement from the portion of Exchange Street west of Haven Street and permanent conversion of the lot from automobile access to multimodal access. This will reduce water pollution and flooding, by replacing 14,000 square feet of impervious surface with 10,000 square feet of pervious landscape. The project also includes removal of 4,000 square feet of invasive *Phragmites*, installation of a multiuse trail, and creation of 4,000 square feet of bioretention. Modifications to the site will manage runoff from more than 104,000 square feet of surrounding roadway and parking lots and divert more than 2.4 million gallons of stormwater from entering combined sewer system each year.

Additionally, the green infrastructure will reduce persistent flooding at the adjacent playfield at John S. Martinez School (allowing for additional programming and informal community use) and mitigate combined sewer overflows into the Mill River that occur during major rain events. Additionally the trail and community greenspace will provide much needed opportunities for walking, running, biking, and other outdoor recreational activities—as well as access to the Mill River. The Urban Green Space entrance will serve as a trail head and destination along Mill River Trail, with a community green space and interpretive signage designed to engage trail users and educate them about green stormwater infrastructure and the impairments facing the Mill River. Please see Attachments 1c i. MRT Conceptual Design, 1c ii. MRT renderings and 1c iii. MRT Existing conditions)

Converting this area to a community greenspace will also create urban habitat refuge for birds and other pollinators. Pavement will be replaced by native, local genotype plants, selected for their habitat and foraging value for native pollinator species. The full Mill River Trail will ultimately provide a connection from Long Island Sound to East Rock Park, which has been designated as an Important Bird Area by Audubon Connecticut and is one of the most important springtime landbird stopover areas in Connecticut. Our work will expand flora and fauna habitat, creating opportunities for diverse species to flourish.

A grant from the Urban Green & Community Garden Initiative will enable us to expand the scope of our existing funded project, extending the community green space and multimodal trail. USGC funding will focus on the connection from the Exchange Street section of trail south to Wolcott Street and re-envisioning the entrance to the John S. Martinez School playing fields to create a more cohesive and accessible greenspace. Permit ready designs will be prepared, and we will remove a large stand of *Phragmites australis* that currently prohibits access through the proposed trail area. This initiative will build on momentum from the recent opening of the first segment of the Mill River Trail, storm drain art and trail markings installed by students at neighboring John S. Martinez School and Cold Spring School, green infrastructure installations across New Haven, and the enthusiasm of the Mill River Watershed Association.

To implement this project, the City of New Haven Planning and Engineering Departments will work closely with partner and project manager Save the Sound. Save the Sound contracted the engineering firm

Biohabitats in May 2019 to complete a permit ready 75% design level plan set for the first section of trail and bioretention areas along the unused portion of Exchange Street Attachment 1 c iv. MRT Exchange St 75% design).

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.

Our activities include:

Task	Outcome	Responsible Party	Timing
Final Construction Documents for Exchange Street trail segment	Complete construction specifications and cost estimates	Save the Sound, New Haven Planning and Engineering Departments	August 2020
Permits	Complete permitting	Save the Sound, New Haven Planning and Engineering Departments	August-October 2020
Construction of Mill River Trail Urban Green Space Exchange Street segment	Complete first phase of construction on Exchange Street: removing pavement	Save the Sound, Construction Contractor	October 2020 – November 2020
Design of trail connecting Exchange to Wolcott Street	Gather input from community groups and develop construction-ready design documents	Save the Sound, New Haven Planning and Engineering Departments, BioHabitats	December 2020-March 2021
Completion of the Exchange Street section of the Mill River Trail Urban Green Space	Hold community workshop and volunteer planting event	Save the Sound, John S. Martinez School, Cold Spring School, Fair Haven Community	April – June 2021
	Complete construction of Mill River Trail Park and Urban Green Space (rain gardens, pollinator gardens, trail, community space, paths, and signage)	Save the Sound, Construction Contractor, New Haven Engineering Department, City Planning	June – August 2021
<i>Phragmites</i> removal	Contractor to treat and remove 4,000 square feet of <i>Phragmites</i> from the western trail area	Save the Sound, Invasive Species Contractor	August – October 2021
Operations & Maintenance Plan	Create plan and identify responsible parties to ensure longevity of project	New Haven Planning and Parks Departments in coordination with Save the Sound and Mill River Trail Advocates	September-November 2021
Grand opening	Promote the opening of the Exchange Street section of trail with a celebration event	Save the Sound, City of New Haven	September 2021

- **Management: Explain how the site will be managed and who will manage it. If there are two applicants, what role(s) will each play in the project?**

The City of New Haven is the applicant and site owner. City Parks staff will be responsible for regular maintenance, with support from the Mill River Trail Advocates volunteers. Save the Sound will manage the project and work with the City of New Haven to develop and Operations and Maintenance Plan that outlines the roles and responsibilities of all parties, including litter removal, trail repairs, weeding, and other maintenance activities to ensure the bioretention areas function as designed.

- **Site Use: When will the public have access to the site? What types of recreation will be offered? Will public events and community gatherings be permitted? If fees will be charged, describe the fee structure and how the funds will be managed.**

Upon completion the project, the site will be open free to the public for passive recreation as a community greenspace, from sunrise to sunset, 365 days a year. The New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees has expressed interest in being able to use the community greenspace for programming—and plans to expand programs at the adjacent John S. Martinez School playing fields due to reduced flooding there because of this work. The City of New Haven will retain ownership of the community greenspace and will be responsible for maintenance activities following construction.

To promote community use of the trail and parklet—and raise awareness around stormwater problems and solutions in the watershed—Save the Sound will conduct public outreach and education efforts. This includes engaging volunteers (when/if possible while observing social distancing protocols) in natives planting events, trailblazing, and green infrastructure installations that will provide hands-on learning and stewardship opportunities for neighbors. We have also received a private foundation grant to support sixth-grade students from the adjacent public school (John S. Martinez School) and a nearby private school (Cold Spring School) coming together to study flooding, erosion, water quality, and green infrastructure. This will include a field trip to see other local green infrastructure installations, hands-on projects in class, and planting a portion of the community greenspace.

Supporting Material

- 1a. Map showing project location (roads, streets, compatible uses)
- 1b. Property boundary map
- 1c. Design plan
- 1d. Map showing public access and proposed and existing recreational resources.

2) Budget Narrative

Describe the total project budget and costs (all costs should align with the project description).

Costs should be broken down to show source of funding (i.e. grant and match funds).

Expenses	Cost	Match Funds	Grant Funds
Project Management and Coordination	\$ 25,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000
Final Design documents for Exchange Street trail segment	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	
Construction of Mill River Trail Green Infrastructure Corridor segment by licensed contractor including: pavement removal and excavation, infiltration basins and installation, and multimodal trail installation.	\$ 133,761	\$ 133,761	
Engineering design documents for second section of trail connecting to Wolcott Street and playing field entrance	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000
<i>Phragmites</i> abatement by licensed contractor (4,000 sf remove)	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000
9 Shade Trees (Gray Birch, <i>Betula populifolia</i> ; Easter Redbud, <i>Cercis canadensis</i> ; Eastern Red Cedar, <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> ; Common Persimmon, <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> ; (#7))	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,350	
3 Perennials (Common Milkweed, <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> ; Butterfly Weed, <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> ; Crowned Beggar's Tick, <i>Cleome coronata</i> ; Purple Coneflower, <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> ; Purple Joe-Pye weed, <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> ; Blue Flag Iris, <i>Iris versicolor</i> ; Soft Rush, <i>Juncus effusus</i> ; Dense Blazing Star, <i>Liatris spicata</i> ; Cardinal Flower, <i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> ; Great Blue Lobelia, <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> ; Wrinkle-leaf Goldenrod, <i>Solidago rugosa</i> ; Seaside Goldenrod, <i>Solidago sempervirens</i> ; New England Aster, <i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i> ; (Quart))	\$ 2,683	\$ 2,683	
189 Plugs (Pennsylvania Sedge, <i>Carex pensylvanica</i> ; Lanceleaf tickseed, <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> ; Wild Bergamot, <i>Monoarda fistulosa</i> ; Foxglove Beardtongue, <i>Penstemon digitalis</i> ; Mountain Mint, <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i> ; Black-eyed Susan, <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> ; Little Bluestem, <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> ; (2"))	\$ 1,512	\$ 756	\$ 756
Materials and supplies including mulch and compost	\$ 900	\$ 450	\$ 450
Design and installation of interpretive signage	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000
Grand opening celebration event	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	
Public involvement, education and outreach	\$ 17,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 5,000
Volunteer planting (80 volunteers, 3 hours @ \$25.43/hour)	\$ 6,103	\$ 6,103	
Coordination of Operations and Maintenance Plan	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000
Total Costs*	\$ 245,309	\$ 180,103	\$ 65,206

***Urban Greenspace & Community Garden Initiative comprises part of a larger project totaling \$245,309. Matching funding for the larger project will be supported DEEP SEP funding through local and foundation grant funding administered by Save the Sound.**

3) Funding Mechanism

This is a matching grant program that covers 50% of the total project cost. Provide documentation showing the source of matching funds including cash on hand to complete the project. Will other grant funds be applied for? All funding sources should be disclosed. This grant program accepts in-kind contributions (e.g., staff/volunteer time and donated materials).

Please see the above budget table. Match funding will be provided from a DEEP Special Environmental Projects Matching Grant awarded to Save the Sound in March of 2020, foundation funding from the Dorr Foundation and in-kind services identified in the table above. Save the Sound and DEEP are in the process of executing a contract for the Special Environmental Projects award.

Supporting Material

- ☐ Budget showing total project cost, matching funds, and grant funds requested
- ☐ Resolution authorizing applicant and co-applicant to enter into an agreement and authorizing the expenditure of funds
- ☐ Budget line item where funds are held or committed, if applicable
- ☐ Proof of available stewardship funding or viability of non-profit co-applicant, if applicable

4) Existing Ownership

The ownership of this site is to be held in fee by a municipality. The property must be free from any liens, claims, encumbrances or easements that would prevent the land from being used for a community garden or passive recreation area.

The entirety of this project site is located in the municipal right of way owned by the City of New Haven.

Supporting Material

- ☐ Copy of current deed and, if applicable, a municipal/non-profit land use agreement – Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic the current deed was not available. Attached please find the current property card for the site, which is owned by the City of New Haven.

5) Accessibility for people with disabilities is a civil right defined, for these purposes, as equal opportunity for the use and enjoyment of community garden and restoration projects. Such consideration is relevant to elements such as parking, gates, garden beds, and pathways.

Define how accessibility is to be integrated into the design of the project.

The City of New Haven and Save the Sound are committed to ensuring this project is accessible to all members of the community. All improvement projects undertaken by the City are required to be accessible and meet all ADA criteria. Design guidelines and specifications were developed for the City of New Haven for the Mill River Trail to guide the design of all segments of the trail. In addition to promoting a consistent and uniform trail, the design guidelines ensure that all elements of the multimodal trail are ADA compliant, including substrate materials, pathway widths and slopes, entry gates, etc. Where no specifications are provided or if there is a question regarding accessibility, Save the Sound and the City of New Haven will work to ensure accessibility.

6) Community Need

Explain why a community garden or passive recreation area would be a welcome addition to the community. What other recreational opportunities are available within close proximity? What major population center(s) and neighborhood(s), are within the service area for the

project? What is the population density of the subject municipality and specific census tract?

Fair Haven is the third most densely populated neighborhood in New Haven, with approximately 17,300 people per square mile, compare to roughly 6,800 people per square mile for the whole of New Haven.¹

The Fair Haven neighborhood is an area of racial and socioeconomic isolation where connectedness, green space, and access to the waterfront were long ago sacrificed to industrial uses. Plans for New Haven dating as early as the Olmsted-Gilbert 1910 plan depicted greenways ringing the City from West Rock to East Rock, but always excluding Fair Haven. A hundred years later, Fair Haven has one of the lowest levels of urban tree canopy in the city at 23%².

The Mill River Trail Urban Green Space will establish the southern segment of the Mill River Trail, which will eventually connect this almost-entirely-paved community—long isolated from the rest of the city by rivers, train tracks, and interstate highways—to a green corridor that connects residents to the Mill River and more than 300 acres of City greenspace. The Trail will encourage walking, running, biking, and other healthy recreational activities, promote community programming that doesn't currently exist at the site, foster a stronger sense of community through intentional public landscape design, and strengthen environmental awareness. Located within a short walk or bike ride from many other neighborhoods, this project will also connect this neighborhood to the City and provide opportunities for residents of other areas to experience the rich culture and vibrancy of Fair Haven. This section of trail constructed by this project will connect to the Fair Haven walking trail, a 5.8 mile, on-road, urban trail along the Fair Haven peninsula created by community partners to promote physical activity in the community.

7) Plan of Conservation and Development

Is this project consistent with the State and Municipal Plan of Conservation and Development? Is the Municipal Plan of Conservation and Development less than 10 years old? ☒Yes ☐No(See eligibility)

Supporting Material

☐ **Municipal Plan of Conservation & Development and/or Recreation Plan (Do not attach the entire plan or whole chapters of the plan. Only provide relevant excerpts)**

New Haven Vision 2025 - City of New Haven Masterplan (2015)

<https://www.newhavenct.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=25816>

Excerpt: "The subsequent chapters discuss specific recommendations for each planning topic that would help achieve the community vision of a...sustainable, healthy, and vibrant city where: the neighborhoods are well connected and revitalized; residents are adequately connected to jobs, transit, and support services; small and minority-owned businesses are thriving; the Downtown core continues to remain a vibrant regional business and cultural center; the neighborhood business corridors are transformed into Main Streets; local workforce is trained for 21st century jobs; the city stabilizes its position as a regional growth center; a continuous and inter-connected bike/pedestrian facilities system exists; adequate housing, employment and recreational opportunities exist for all; the parks serve as focal points for community interaction and are well connected with a system of trails and pedestrian network within the city and along the waterfront; the city's wealth of natural, historic, and cultural resources are preserved and enhanced; there is a high quality of built and natural environment; public health and safety are prioritized in planning decisions; residents are well prepared to deal with emergencies and natural disasters; and the city is also recognized as a destination for families with children, and a hub for

¹ US Census Bureau. [American Community Survey 2017 5-year estimates](#). 2018

² DataHaven. [Urban Tree Canopy Neighborhood Metrics for New Haven, CT](#). 2010

entrepreneurs.”

Open Space/Recreation- “Partner with non-profit organizations such as the New Haven Land Trust to acquire vacant lands, to build an integrated trail network with the city” (See Environment chapter.) III-10

Greenways - “Partner with non-profit organizations such as the New Haven Land Trust to acquire adequate vacant lands and easements to link the proposed network of trails within the city and to buffer some of the existing industrial/ commercial land by the waterfront.” VII-24

☐ **Regional Conservation Plan (Do not attach the entire plan or whole chapters of the plan. Only provide relevant excerpts)**

South Central Region: Plan of Conservation and Development 2018-2028

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: Goal 1. Open Space – “The Region’s natural resource systems, water resources, and natural habitats are preserved, protected, and appreciated for their contributions to the environment, economy, and quality of life of current and future generations.” Strategies: “Encourage resident access to open spaces and recreational assets within the region through the expansion of existing bike/ pedestrian network connecting open spaces and other existing/proposed regional trail connections.” Pg. 40 <https://scrcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2018-07-SCRCOG-POCD-report-online.pdf>

☐ **Other Municipal or Community Plans**

Mill River Trail Framework Plan (2018)

“Riddled with highways, train tracks, and privatized, abandons and polluted properties, the lower section of the river nonetheless draws residents to its banks for recreation, exploration, rest and reprieve. This crucial section of the Mill River Trail connects to a broader network of urban trails that aim to reknit and enhance the city with ecological, social, economic, and cultural benefits-and is a public resource the requires stewardship, care, and investment.” Pg. 15 https://issuu.com/millrivertrail/docs/mrt_frameworkplan

Mill River Watershed Based Plan (2018)

Section 4.3 - Mill River Trail Park, Haven and Exchange Street Green Infrastructure

“... the design proposed at this location focuses on the north end of the property that has not yet received attention. The proposed project will convert four blocks of degraded roadway and vacant land into a linear trail park, create a parklet that incorporates Green Infrastructure adjacent to the playfields at John S. Martinez School, and expand the Mill River Trail Phase 1 currently under construction by the City of New Haven.”Pg. 104-

http://www.ctenvironment.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/FINAL_Mill-River-Watershed-Management-Plan_MainBody_Compressed.pdf

City of New Haven Climate and Sustainability Framework

Section: Land Use & Green Infrastructure – “the Framework encourages the continued installation of green infrastructure in the public right-of-way, on public property, and private property... Goal 1: Increase stormwater infiltration on private and public property... Goal 4: Increase quantity and quality of green space prioritizing projects in neighborhoods with disproportionately low access... Goal 5: Increase urban tree canopy... Goal 6: Engage public in urban environmental education/stewardship.” pg. 26 – 29

<https://www.newhavenct.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=31458>

8) Local Support

Explain what support this project has received and how the public has been involved in the planning and design process. How and when was the decision to undertake this project made? What kind of interest have community members expressed about the project? Has the community been involved with the design?

The Mill River Trail Urban Green Space addresses community needs for greening, recreation, park access, and economic development that have been identified by community leaders, local organizations, and the City through multiple stakeholder working groups, public meetings, and public comment periods. This project was proposed by community groups during the development of the Mill River Watershed Plan, which was completed in the fall of 2018 with excellent citizen involvement. Through the year-long, multi-town process of creating the plan, we engaged 250 youth and adult volunteers in ecological restoration and water quality improvement in the New Haven area. Volunteers participated directly through public meetings, streamwalks, and the release and celebration of the final plan, which generated press coverage in all local newspapers. Many community groups participated and will continue to participate in this process, including the Mill River Watershed Association, Mill River Trail Advocates, New Haven Bird Club, New Haven Bioregional Group, Friends of East Rock Park, New Haven Land Trust, and the City of New Haven—and these groups remain deeply involved with its planning and design. The project has been positively received by the Fair Haven Community Management Team, which we will continue to engage as a partner.

During the fall of 2019, students at the two neighboring elementary schools helped bring awareness to the project by installing trail markers along the route that will connect this project to the existing section of the Mill River Trail constructed by the City to the North and South of the John S. Martinez playing fields Criscuolo Park. The two schools also partnered to design and paint a storm drain mural that highlights the project area.

Numerous individuals and organizations are at work in the Fair Haven community and the Mill River watershed to increase access and connectivity to the river, improve community cohesion, and address environmental inequities in this community. The positive response to this project and the connection with these community-driven planning initiatives in the Mill River watershed showcases how community driven collaboration can effect change and connect the community to green spaces and their river.

Supporting Material

- ☐ **Municipal Support Letters (planning, inland wetland, conservation, open space)**
 - City of New Haven Engineering
- ☐ **Regional Planning Agency Support Letters (RPA or COG corporate/executive board)**
 - South Central Regional Council of Governments
- ☐ **Community Organization Support Letters**
 - MRT advocates
 - RWA
 - GNHWPCA
 - Cheshire Land Trust
 - Ward 8 Alder
 - Cold Spring School
 - John S. Martinez
 - Mill River Watershed Association

9) Operation, Maintenance and Stewardship Capabilities

Provide evidence of the applicant's or co-applicant's capability to operate and maintain the project. Who will manage the project and what is their management level and experience?
Will the maintenance of this facility be a cooperative effort between the municipality, land conservation organization(s) or local community groups?

Upon completion of this project the City of New Haven will be responsible for all operations and maintenance activities. The City currently maintains over 2,200 acres of parks, trails and open space. Save the Sound and volunteers of the Mill River Trail Advocates will also assist with stewardship and

maintenance activities. The Mill River Trail Advocates currently conduct weekly trail maintenance from April through October and through the winter months as permitted, the proposed project site will be incorporated into their regular maintenance activities.

Supporting Material

- ☐ **A draft plan for the operation, maintenance, and/or stewardship of the project**

The City of New Haven has prepared specifications that govern operations and maintenance of the entire Mill River Trail. Document available upon request.

10) Past Grant Compliance

Has the applicant received a UGCG grant in the past? If so, provide a brief update on the project(s). How has the site been maintained? How has the public reacted to the project(s)?

If site(s) is no longer active, please explain.

No, the site has not received a UGCG grant in the past.

Supporting Material – N/A

- ☐ **Three photographs of each UGCG funded project in their current state (JPEG)**
- ☐ **A photograph of the permanent sign or plaque recognizing DEEP funding for each funded project (JPEG)**