

Mill River Trail Urban Green Space
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Grant
Urban Green and Community Garden Initiative

Synopsis:

The City Plan Department hopes to apply to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for an Urban Green and Community Garden Initiative grant of \$65,206. The goal of the grant is to transform the road surrounding the John S. Martinez School playground into an accessible greenspace. The process will consist of finalizing the design process for the trail segment in collaboration with Save the Sound and the Engineering department, as well as through extensive public engagement. The funds will be used to build 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. The site is currently a dead-end road that's blocked to vehicles and has collected garbage and illegally dumped materials. 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. 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.

Key Partners: Partners in the grant include the City Engineering Department and Save the Sound.

Budget: Total amount: \$65,206, Matching funds for this grant are already secured through DEEP.

Key Dates:

- August 2020: Finalize construction documents for Exchange Street trail segment
- August-October: Complete permitting process
- October-November: Construction of Mill River Trail Urban Green Space Exchange Street segment
- December 2020-March 2021: Design of trail connecting Exchange and Wolcott Streets, gathering community input
- April-August 2021: Remove 4,000 square feet of *Phragmites* from trail area
- September-November: Create Operations and Maintenance Plan to ensure project longevity
- September: Grand opening celebration event