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**CITY OF DANBURY**  
155 DEER HILL AVENUE  
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

**DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE**  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

(203)797-4652  
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**M E M O R A N D U M**

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**DATE:** 9/22/10  
**TO:** HON. MARK D. BOUGHTON VIA THE CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE *DWS*  
**RE:** RESOLUTION- 2010 RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT

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Attached for your review is a resolution that will allow the City of Danbury Health and Human Services Department to accept funding from the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection for its 2010 Recreational Trails grant program.

This funding will be used to provide environmental education activities for the existing Still River Greenway.

The proposal submitted is for \$43,000, with the State funding \$33,000 and the City funding \$10,000. City funding is available in the existing Still River Greenway continued appropriations budget which has a current balance \$33,789.

The City Council is respectfully requested to consider this resolution at its next meeting.

Attach.

cc: S. Leroy

DWS/sk



# RESOLUTION

9-1

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

\_\_\_\_\_ A.D. 2010

**RESOLVED** BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANBURY

**WHEREAS**, the State of Connecticut has notified the City of Danbury Health and Human Services Department of funding from the 2010 Recreational Trails grant program; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Danbury has created a functional greenway on the Still River that can be utilized as environmental education laboratories for teaching students about the values of river and floodplain environments; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Danbury Health and Human Services Department wishes to implement a grant proposal for a total amount of \$43,000 to provide the means for educational opportunities along the Greenway; and

**WHEREAS**, funding from the State will be \$33,000 with the City responsible for \$10,000.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Mayor Mark D. Boughton or Scott T. LeRoy, Director of Health as his designee, is authorized to accept said funding and is authorized to sign any contracts/documents in connection therewith to effectuate the purposes of said grant.



92 RECEIVED  
FINANCE DEPT.

SEP 27 2010

## CITY OF DANBURY

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
155 DEER HILL AVENUE, DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

Central Health Office  
203 - 797-4625  
Fax 796-1596

Social Services Office  
203 - 797-4569  
Fax 797-4566

September 20, 2010

Mayor Mark Boughton and Members of the Common Council  
155 Deer Hill Avenue  
Danbury, Connecticut

Dear Mayor Boughton and Members of the Common Council:

The City's Health and Human Services Department submitted a grant proposal to the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection for its 2010 Recreational Trails Grant program. In August 2010, we were notified by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that the City will be awarded this grant in the amount of \$33,000 and a \$10,000 local match for promoting environmental education programs on the Still River Greenway.

I am therefore requesting your approval to accept this funding through the attached Resolution.

Sincerely,

Scott T LeRoy MPH, MS  
Director of Health & Human Services

**Summary:** *Exploring the River: Tools to promote environmental learning on the Still River Greenway*

The City of Danbury seeks funding from DEP to subsidize equipment and the organization of a permanent process for conducting environmental observation field trips, research activities on the floodplain and riverine environments and maintenance of the Greenway to facilitate access to the observation and research sites.

The development of the Still River Greenway has been a decade-long effort, initiated by City of Danbury in 1996. The creation of the Still River Greenway stemmed from the success of the 1993 upgrade of the Danbury Sewage Treatment Plant which removed ammonia from its discharge. Almost immediately after the Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade came on line, fish were observed in the Still River for the first time in recent history<sup>1</sup>. As a result of the environmental success story of the return of aquatic life to the Still river, the City of Danbury embarked on the creation of the Still River Greenway to showcase the restored natural resource of the River and its floodplain.

The City strived to create the greenway, obtaining easements from private property owners for the corridor strip where the Greenway trail was planned, designing and installing environmental restoration demonstration projects on the river bank and the floodplain, installing "history wall" museum display in the floodplain, building a handicap accessible pedestrian bridge (along with a half mile handicap accessible walking path) and developing an environmental walkway with interpretive signs, terminating at a bird sanctuary at the Danbury-Brookfield border. All of this work was subsidized by City budget appropriations, corporate donations, and state and federal grants (including two completed Recreational Trails grants). In 2002, the City received the State of Connecticut Greenway award for this project.

The City is now in the end stage of completing the Greenway, striving to complete a fully functional 1 mile corridor of the Greenway in 2009. The City has resurrected the "Still River Alliance" as a steering organization to sponsor annual events to introduce the public and the school systems to learn about the River and its floodplain.

As the City completes the construction phase of the Still River Greenway, we are now focusing on the long term maintenance and use of the Greenway. One of the centerpiece user groups of the Greenway is the school systems. Outdoor class observations in the floodplain and the stream are already occurring on an ad-hoc basis. However, the City needs to assure maintenance of the Greenway and equip schools with environmental observation tools and instruments to establish a formal curriculum to bring school groups to conduct water quality surveys, invertebrate monitoring and flood plain studies at all points of the Greenway.

The City seeks \$33,000 from the Connecticut DEP to subsidize the essential equipment for providing the citizens of western Connecticut an opportunity to learn about the river and its floodplain. The City will provide a \$10,000 match as its commitment to this project. The primary focus of this project is to connect students of local schools to an experiential learning activities on their Riverine ecosystem. Hence, funds are requested for developing environmental education activity guides, creating an environmental observations database, and equipment for water quality monitoring, floodplain observation and data recording equipment. Funding is also requested to develop a sustainable program for fostering the Greenway to the general public through two pilot "River Celebration Days" in 2011 and 2012.

Finally, it should be noted that the City is cooperating with regional efforts to extend the Danbury Greenway into a continuous 20 mile corridor from the trailhead of the Danbury corridor to the mouth of the Still River at Lover's Leap on the Housatonic River (see letter of support from the Mayor of Danbury).

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<sup>1</sup> Documented by fish surveys conducted at the confluence of Limekiln Brook and the Still River in 1992 and 1993 by the DEP Fishery Division, which cited an unexpected diversity of small fish where previous surveys (prior to the STP upgrade) identified a monoculture of suckers.