



12

CITY OF DANBURY
155 DEER HILL AVENUE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

(203)797-4652
FAX: (203)796-1526

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 7/27/09
TO: HON. MARK D. BOUGHTON VIA THE COMMON COUNCIL
FROM: DAVID W. ST. HILAIRE, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE *DWS*
RE: RESOLUTION- 2009 RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT

Attached for your review is a resolution that will allow the City of Danbury Health, Housing and Welfare Department to apply for and accept funding from the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection for its 2009 Recreational Trails grant program.

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

The proposal submitted will be for \$21,500, with the State funding \$17,000 and the City funding \$4,500. City funding is available in the existing Still River Greenway continued appropriations budget which has a current balance \$77,485.

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

Attach.

cc: S. Leroy

DWS/sk

RESOLUTION

CITY OF DANBURY, STATE OF CONNECTICUT

_____ A. D., 200_

RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Danbury:



WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has notified the City of Danbury Health, Housing and Welfare Department of the opportunity to submit a request for proposal for the current cycle of funding for the Recreational Trails grants, which assist in creating and maintaining greenways; and

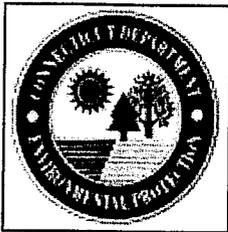
WHEREAS the City of Danbury has created a functional greenway on the Still River that can be utilized as environmental education laboratories for teaching students about the values of river and floodplain environments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Danbury Health, Housing and Welfare Department wishes to submit a grant proposal for a total amount of \$21,500.00 to provide the means for trail maintenance and to subsidize environmental education activities; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, funding from the State will be \$17,000.00 with the City responsible for \$4,500.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Mark D. Boughton or Scott T. LeRoy, Director of Health, Housing & Welfare as his designee, is authorized to apply for and accept said funding and the Mayor is authorized to sign any contracts/documents in connections therewith to effectuate the purposes of said grant.

12-2



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS & PUBLIC OUTREACH

Recreational Trails Program Application

Print or type unless otherwise noted.

NOTE: Projects selected for funding under this program are subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the Clean Water Act (CWA); the Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Uniform Act); the American with Disabilities Act and the Civil Rights act of 1964; and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), each as amended. No recreational project using federal funds shall discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin and may not exclude any person from the use of such improvement or new trail facility. For more information please see 49 CFR Part 21. The requirements of Section 4(f) of the FHWA regulations do not apply to this program.

DEP USE ONLY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved
<input type="checkbox"/>	Denied

Part I: General Information

Project Title: "Exploring the River": Equipment for accessing the Greenway				
Estimated Project Cost: \$ 21,500		(include labor)		
Total Amount Requested: \$ 17,000		(up to 80% of total cost)		
Total Project Area:	Acres: 27	Length of Trail: 1mile		
Project Proposal Type (check appropriate box):				
Development	Renovation	Maintenance	Acquisition	Education X

Part II: Applicant Information

1. Applicant Information:			
Name: City of Danbury		Title: Director of Health	
Mailing Address: 155 Deer Hill Avenue			
City/Town: Danbury		State: Ct	Zip Code: 06810
Business Phone: 203-797-4625		ext.	Fax:
Email: S.Leroy@Ci.Danbury.Ct.US			



123

CITY OF DANBURY

HEALTH, HOUSING, & WELFARE DEPARTMENT
155 DEER HILL AVENUE, DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

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

Central Welfare Office
203 - 797-4569
Fax 797-4566

July 23, 2009

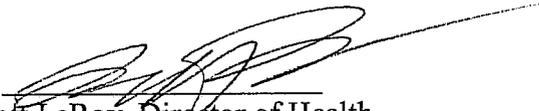
The Honorable Mayor Mark Boughton and Members of the Common Council
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, Connecticut

Dear Mayor Boughton and Members of the Common Council:

I respectfully request your consideration to authorize the Health, Housing & Welfare Department to make application to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection for a Recreational Trails grant. This grant would provide a trail maintenance vehicle and tools to the Public Works Department to service the Still River Greenway, the Ives Trail and other greenways that the City will construct in the future. It would also subsidize the promotion of the greenways for environmental education for the Danbury Schools. We are requesting \$17,000 from the State of Connecticut. The City's \$4,500 match would be subsidized by existing funds from the Still River Greenway budget.

I request your authorization to apply for this grant and to authorize the Mayor to execute agreements with the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection if it is awarded.

Respectfully yours,


Scott LeRoy, Director of Health

Cc: David St. Hilaire
Laslow Pinter

Medical Outreach 797-4567
Eviction Prevention 797-4565
Information-Referral 797-4569

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Connecticut Services!

Emergency Shelter 796-1661
Em. Shelter Fax 796-1660
Administration 796-1504

12-4

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 history¹. 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 scaled down 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 \$17,000 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 \$4,500 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 this Riverine ecosystem. Hence, funds are requested primarily for water quality monitoring, floodplain observation instruments and data recording equipment that will sustain a permanent database of environmental data. The tools requested in this grant application will be made available to students of all ages to encourage our citizens to learn about rivers and floodplain of the Still River.

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).

¹ 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.