



# The Naugatuck River Greenway Trail

## RAISE Design Project – Innovative Approach to Financing

CT Trail Symposium  
October 4, 2024





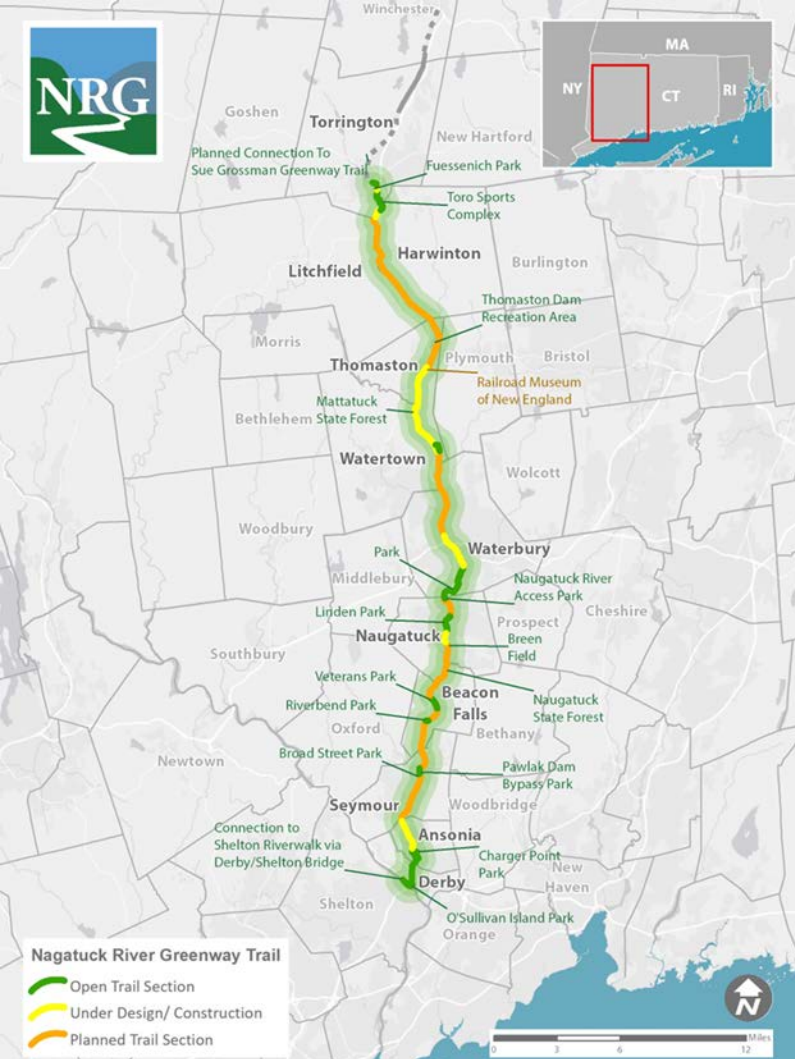
Regional Planning Organization for a 19-Town Region in West Central Connecticut

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Waterbury Area- Transportation Planning

Long industrial past - famous for brass, clocks, and rubber.

Compact walkable downtowns, but little or no connectivity

[www.nvcogct.gov](http://www.nvcogct.gov)

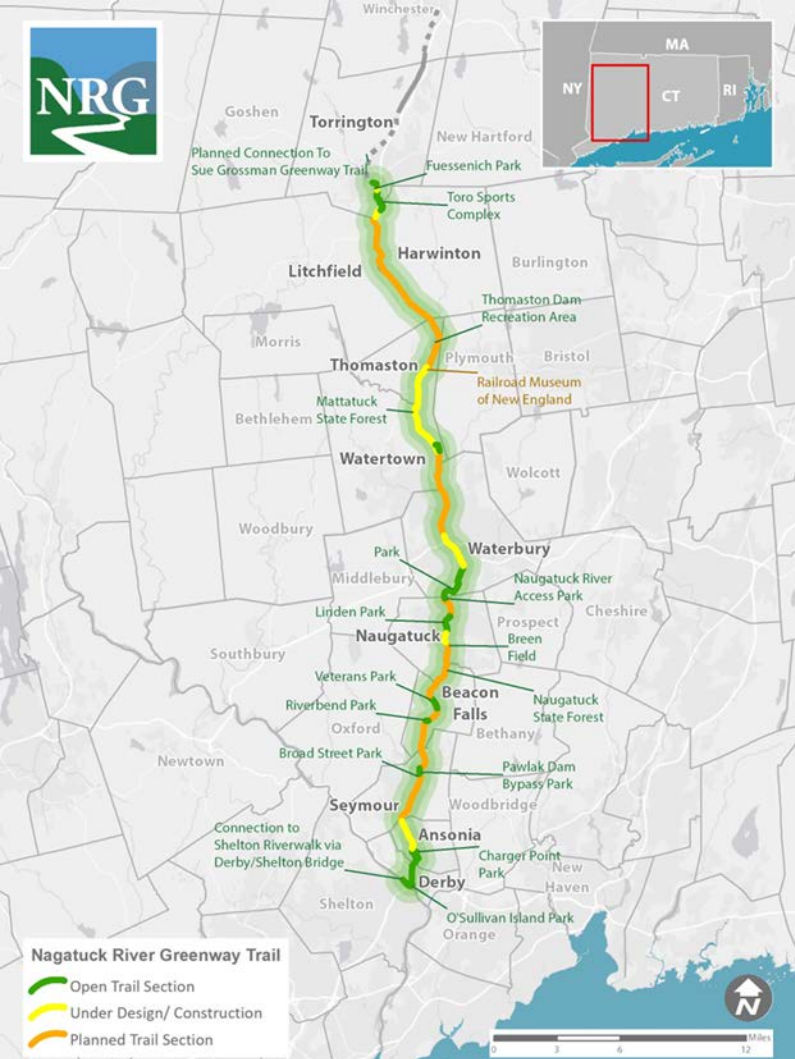


# Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Overview

The NRG was designated a CT Greenway 2001, 2006, 2007

The NRG Trail is a 44 mile multi-use trail following the Naugatuck River through 11 communities

- Non - Motorized
- 10ft+ wide
- Paved or Compacted Stone Dust
- Off - Road/ Separated
- Accessible



# Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Overview

## Benefits:

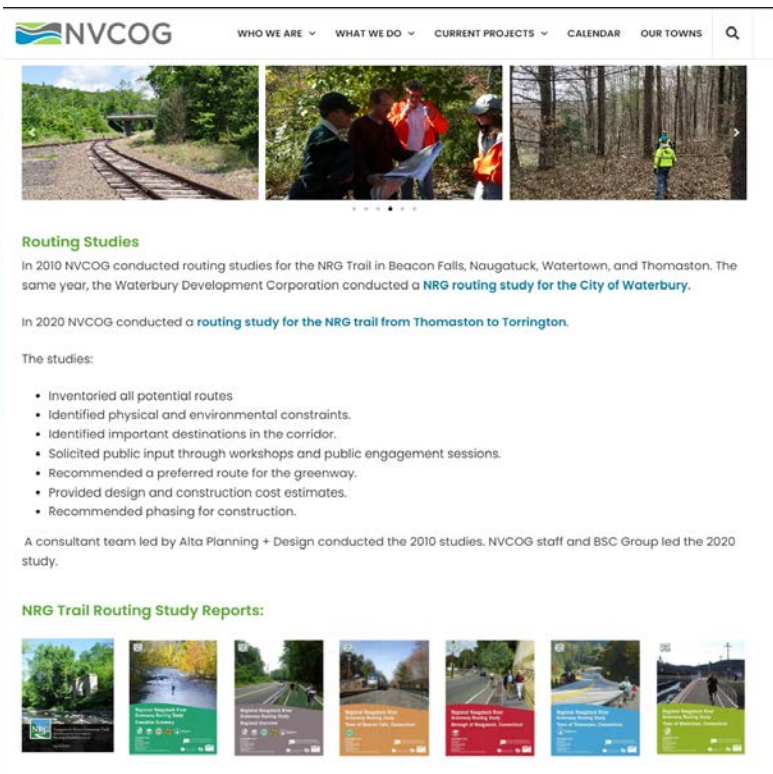
- Improve health and quality of life
- Provide a viable transportation option
- Restore river access
- Provide economic opportunities
- Central spine of an Active Transportation Network

## Obstacles:

- No Single ROW
- Constrained Corridor
- Industrial Legacy
- \$\$\$ Cost \$\$\$



# NRG Trail Routing Studies



The screenshot shows the NVCOG website with a navigation menu and a main content area. The navigation menu includes: WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, CURRENT PROJECTS, CALENDAR, OUR TOWNS, and a search icon. The main content area features three images: a gravel path, a group of people in safety vests looking at a map, and a person in a yellow vest walking on a wooded path. Below the images is the heading "Routing Studies" and two paragraphs of text. The first paragraph states that in 2010 NVCOG conducted routing studies for the NRG Trail in Beacon Falls, Naugatuck, Watertown, and Thomaston, and that the Waterbury Development Corporation conducted a NRG routing study for the City of Waterbury. The second paragraph states that in 2020 NVCOG conducted a routing study for the NRG trail from Thomaston to Torrington. Below this is a section titled "The studies:" followed by a bulleted list of six items: 1. Inventoried all potential routes. 2. Identified physical and environmental constraints. 3. Identified important destinations in the corridor. 4. Solicited public input through workshops and public engagement sessions. 5. Recommended a preferred route for the greenway. 6. Provided design and construction cost estimates. 7. Recommended phasing for construction. Below the list is a paragraph stating that a consultant team led by Alta Planning + Design conducted the 2010 studies, while NVCOG staff and BSC Group led the 2020 study. At the bottom of the screenshot is a section titled "NRG Trail Routing Study Reports:" followed by seven small thumbnail images of report covers.

**NVCOG** WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO CURRENT PROJECTS CALENDAR OUR TOWNS

## Routing Studies

In 2010 NVCOG conducted routing studies for the NRG Trail in Beacon Falls, Naugatuck, Watertown, and Thomaston. The same year, the Waterbury Development Corporation conducted a [NRG routing study for the City of Waterbury](#).

In 2020 NVCOG conducted a [routing study for the NRG trail from Thomaston to Torrington](#).

The studies:

- Inventoried all potential routes
- Identified physical and environmental constraints.
- Identified important destinations in the corridor.
- Solicited public input through workshops and public engagement sessions.
- Recommended a preferred route for the greenway.
- Provided design and construction cost estimates.
- Recommended phasing for construction.

A consultant team led by Alta Planning + Design conducted the 2010 studies. NVCOG staff and BSC Group led the 2020 study.

### NRG Trail Routing Study Reports:



Naugatuck River Greenway Trail  
Thomaston to Torrington  
Routing Feasibility Study

April 2020

# NRG Trail Economic Impact Study

Partnered with UConn and the CT Center for Economic Analysis to conduct the Study

Provide data about economic and health benefits of continued construction of the NRG

**Substantial economic return on investment**

Report published March 2017

[www.nvcogct.gov](http://www.nvcogct.gov)

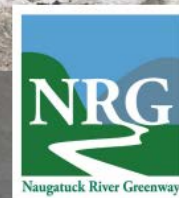
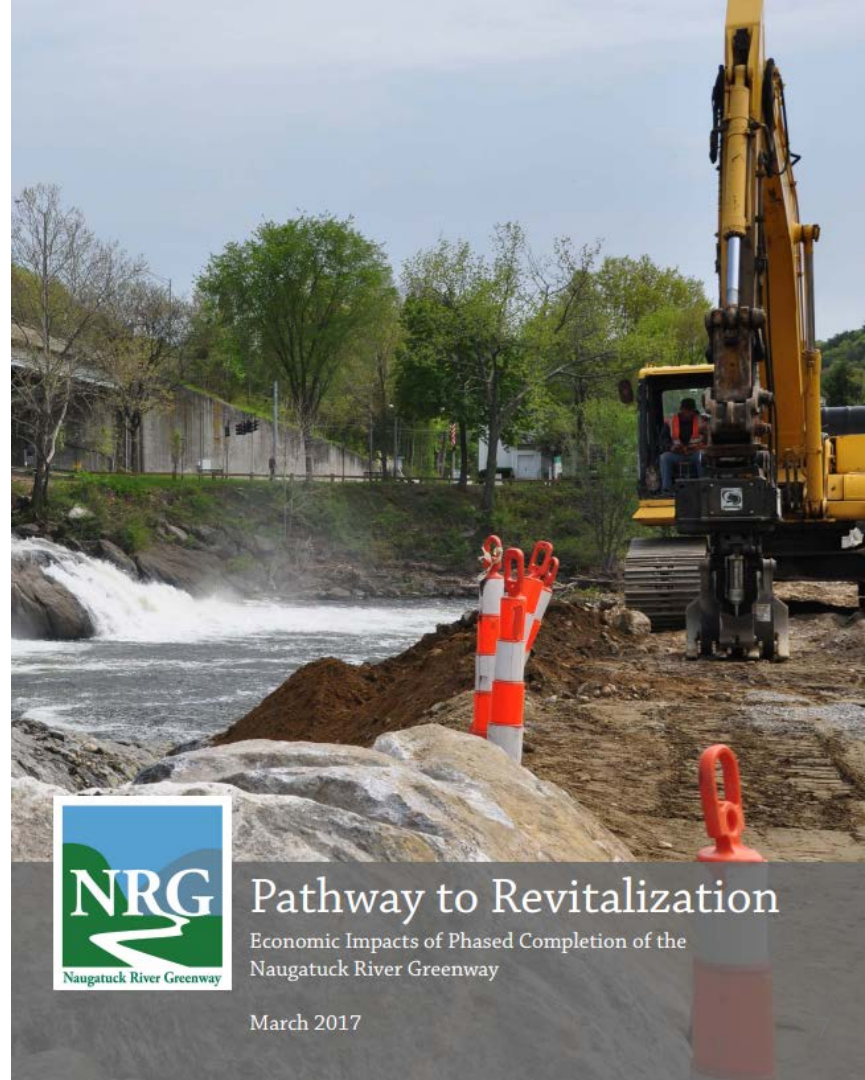


KATHARINE  
MATTHIES  
FOUNDATION

**UConn**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
HEALTH AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY**  
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS



## Pathway to Revitalization

Economic Impacts of Phased Completion of the Naugatuck River Greenway

March 2017



## Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Design and Management Guide

August 2022



# NRG Trail Guidance

## NRG Signage Program

[Home](#) / [What We Do](#) / [Naugatuck River Greenway](#) / [NRG Signage Program](#)

The Naugatuck River Greenway signage program was established to ensure unified signage along the entire greenway. The [Naugatuck River Greenway Uniform Signage and Wayfinding Design Manual](#) is intended to guide the planning, design, installation, and maintenance of signage along the route of the NRG and to formalize a standardized branding policy for the entire greenway.



Signs developed using these guidelines will provide for confident wayfinding along the trail, and will also introduce new users to the trail and introduce those on the trail to attractions, facilities, and businesses in the communities along the route. Well-designed interpretive signs will also educate trail users about natural and cultural features along the trail, and the history of the river and river communities. Overall, properly designed signage will provide for a safe, enjoyable, and informative user experience, and help integrate the trail into the communities through which it will pass.

Some examples of interpretive and directional signage highlighted in the manual:







# Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Progress

## Derby

- 2 miles+ loop trail
- **300,000** trips annually/ +150,000 visits
- New connection to Shelton Riverwalk





# Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Progress

## Ansonia

- 2/3 mile contiguous to Derby Greenway
- Division Street to Pershing Drive
- Parallel trail on east bank – loop
- Designing Northern Section (Rec Trails)



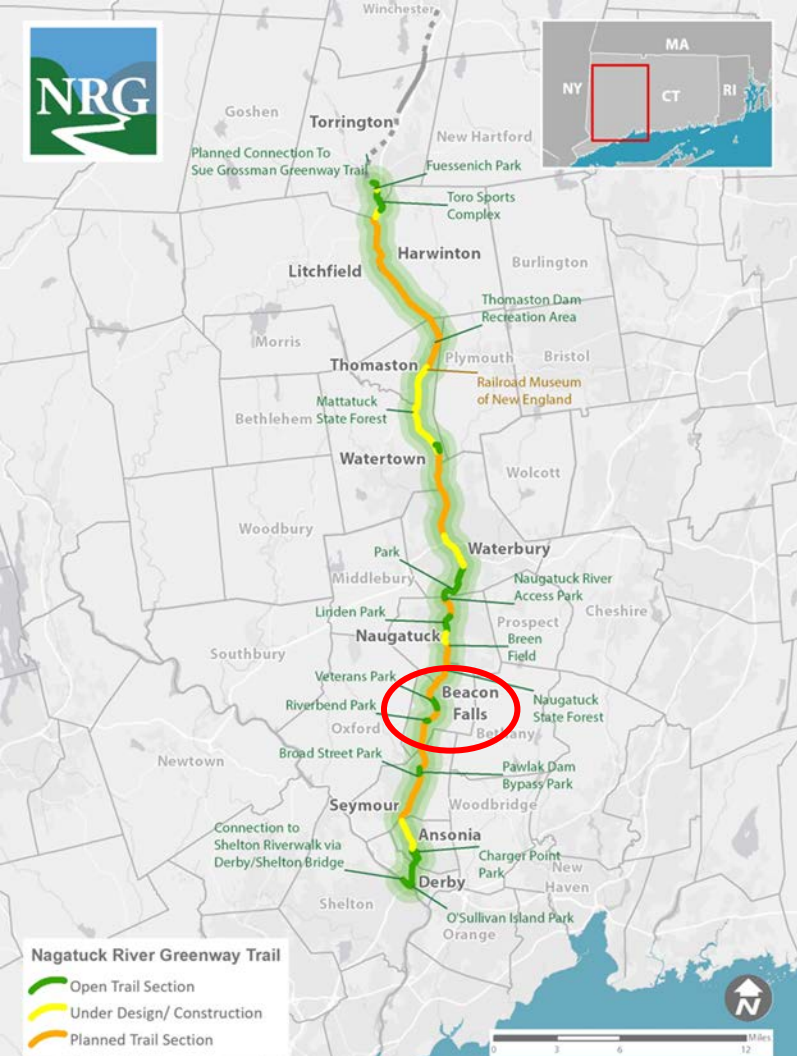


# Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Progress

## Seymour

- 1,400ft section opened 2018
- Bank Street to Tingue Dam Bypass Park

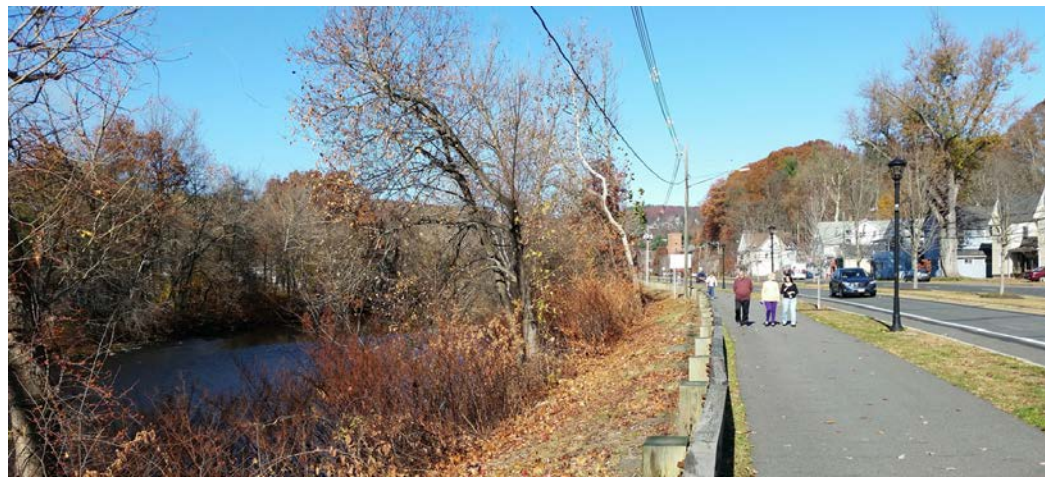


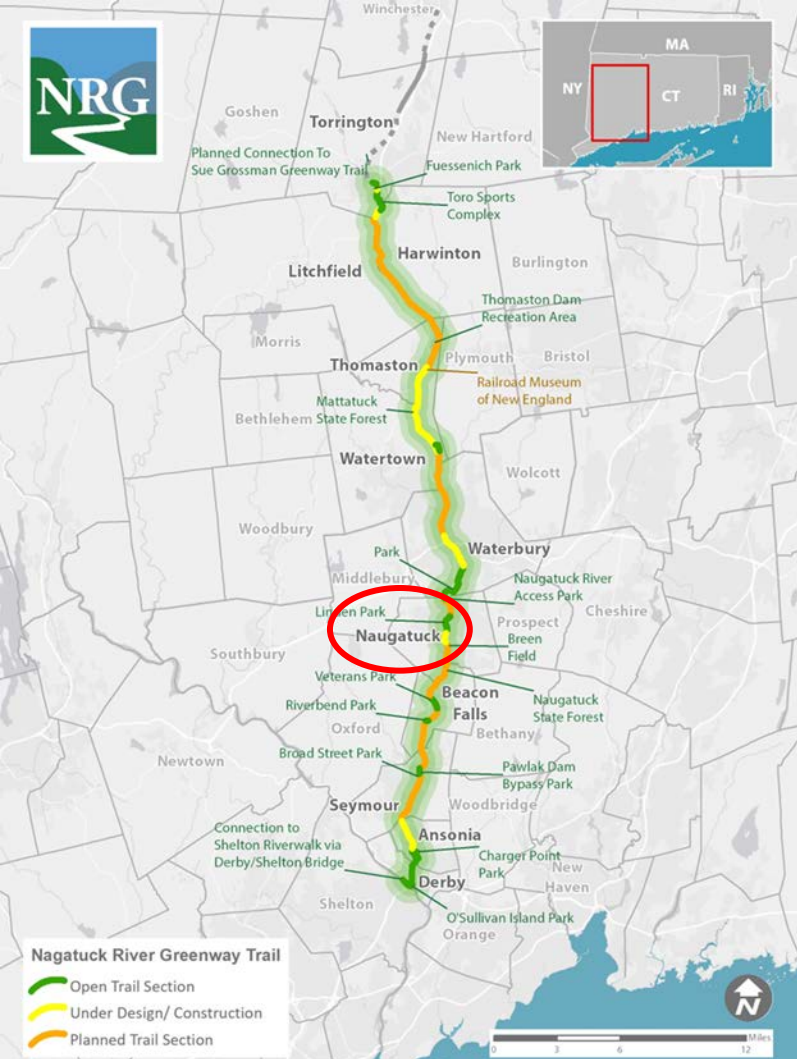


# Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Progress

## Beacon Falls

- 1800 ft road diet from Veterans Park to Rte. 42
- Riverbend Park





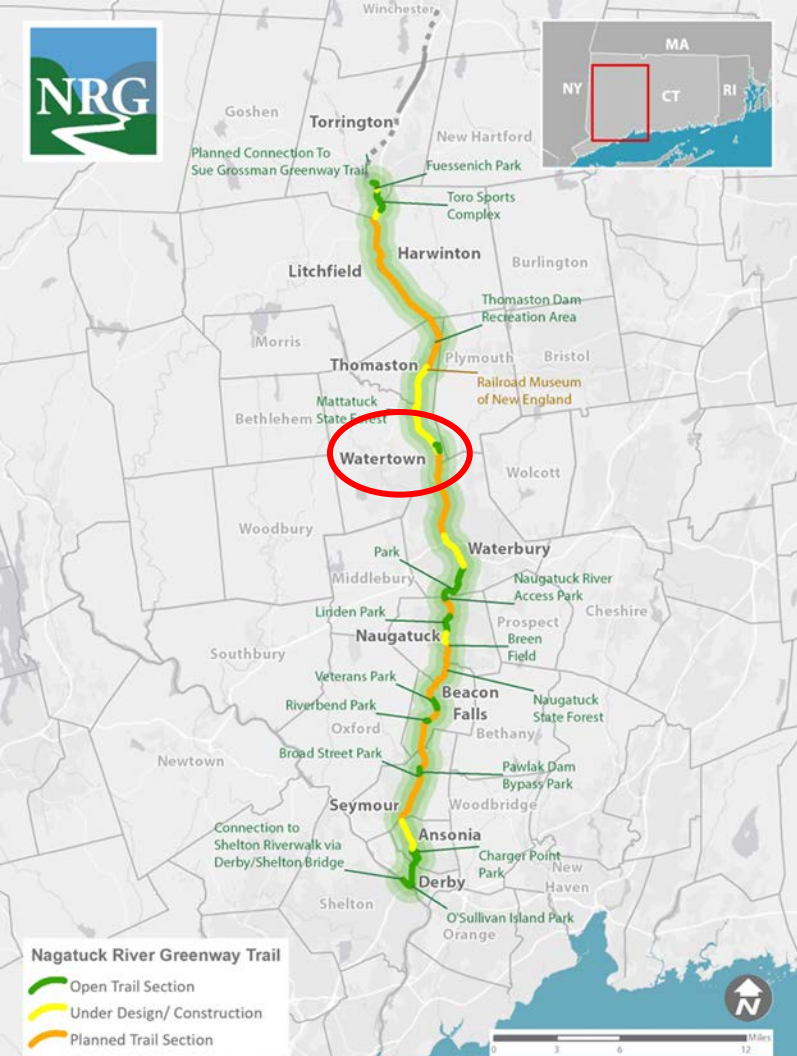
# Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Progress

## Naugatuck

- 1 mile from Maple St. to Bridge St.
- Linden Park
- Design/ Construct Maple St. to Breen Field (Rec Trails/ LOTCIP)





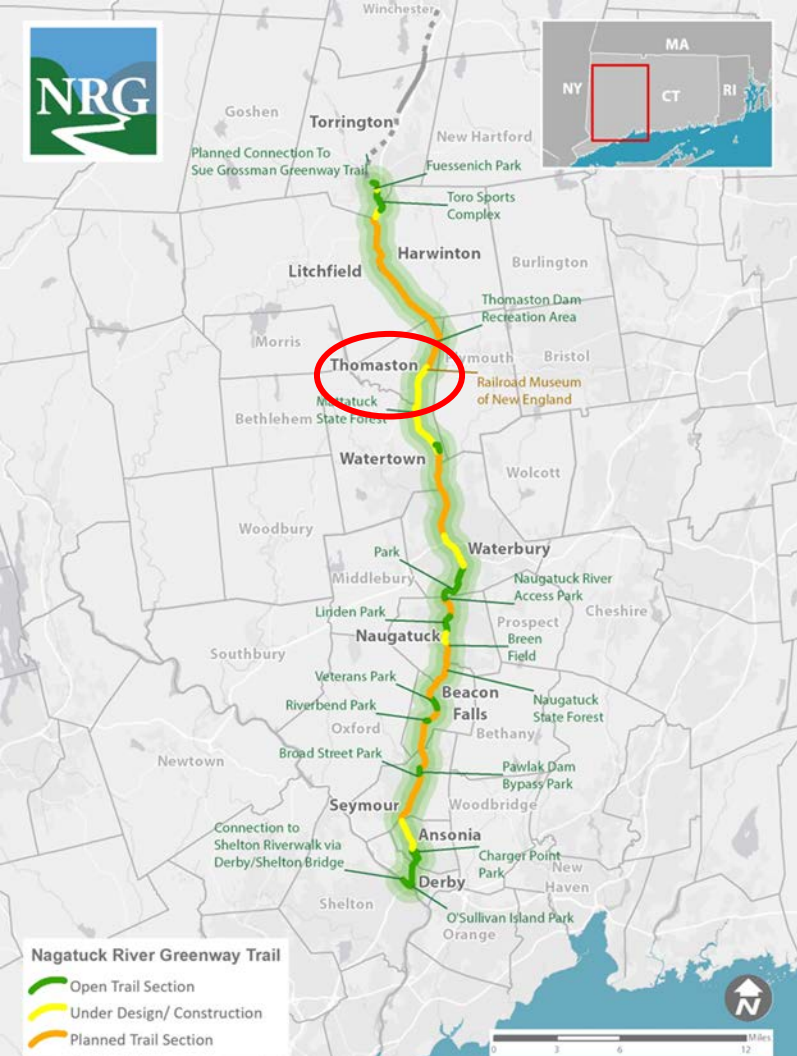


# Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Progress

## Watertown

- ½ mile from Echo Lake Road to Rail
- DOT Bus Maintenance Facility
- Design/Const Echo Lake Rd. to Branch Brook (Rec Trails/ LOTCIP)





# Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Progress

## Thomaston

- Design /Const – Elm Street Side Path (Local/LOTICIP)
- Const - Elm St to Watertown Rd (TA)
- Partial Design – Watertown Rd. to Old Waterbury Rd. (Rec Trails)
- Const – Waterbury Road to Watertown (Rec Trails/LOTICIP)









# NRG Trail Priorities

- Connect two complete or soon to be complete sections of NRG Trail, OR;
- Connect a complete or soon to be complete section of NRG trail with an important destination or population center.

Town	Section NRG	From	To	Length (Miles)	AB Length (Miles)	Current Status	2023 Regional Priority	2023 Est. Cost (Adjusted)	Const. Funding	Design Funding
Torrington	TDRR-1	Sue Grossman Trail	East Main Street/ Franklin		4.7	In Design		5,500,000	No	Yes
	TDRR-2	East Main Street/ Franklin	East Albert Street (Senior Center)	0.4		Partially Complete	Regional Priority	TBD	No	No
	TDRR-3	East Albert Street	Toro Field	0.8		Complete	Complete		X	X
	TDRR-4	Toro Field	Bogue Road	1.0		Designed		TBD	No	Yes
Litchfield/Harwinton	LITC/HARW-1	Bogue Road	Thomaston Road Park and Ride	1.0		Routed		4,200,000	No	No
	LITC/HARW-2	Thomaston Road Park and Ride	Campville Hill Road	2.4		Routed		12,600,000	No	No
	LITC/HARW-3	Campville Hill Road	Wildcat Hill Road	1.5		Routed	Regional Priority	33,800	No	No
	LITC/HARW-4	Wildcat Hill Road	Thomaston Dam - Vista Picnic Area	2.8		Routed		4,300,000	No	No
Thomaston	THOM-1	Thomaston Dam (Vista)	East Main and Elm Street	1.7		Routed		5,200,000	No	No
	THOM-2	East Main and Elm Street	Watertown Road	1.2		In Design	Active	3,845,000	Yes	Yes
	THOM-3	Watertown Road	Old Waterbury Road Trailhead	1.0		In Design	Regional Priority	2,600,000	No	Yes
	THOM-4	Old Waterbury Rd.	Branch Brook Bridge	0.2		Designed	Active	710,000	Yes	Yes
Watertown	WTTN-1	Branch Brook Bridge	Frost Bridge Rd.	2.4		In Design	Active	2,700,000	No	Yes
	WTTN-2	Frost Bridge rd.	Waterbury Line	0.7		Routed		1,300,000	No	No
Waterbury	WTBY-1	Watertown Line	Huntington Ave.	1.7		Routed		16,800,000	No	No
	WTBY-2	Huntington Ave.	W. Main St.	2.4		Routed		See WTBY-1	No	Yes
	WTBY-3	W. Main St.	Eagle St.	2.1		In Design	Active	9,900,000	Yes	Yes
	WTBY-3a	Washington Road	313 Mill Street	0.5		In Design	Regional Priority	3,000,000	No	Yes
	WTBY-4	Eagle St.	Naugatuck Line	1.8		Complete	Complete	6,400,000	X	X
Naugatuck	NAUG-1	Waterbury Line	Pulaski Bridge	1.4		Routed	Regional Priority	5,500,000	No	No
	NAUG-2	Pulaski Bridge	Maple St.	1.0		Complete	Complete		X	X
	NAUG-3	Maple St.	Breen Field	0.5		In Design	Active	4,600,000	Yes	Yes
	NAUG-4	Breen Field	Beacon Falls Line	1.2		Routed		2,900,000	No	No



Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Project Priorities

November 2023





# Funding Mechanisms

NRG Projects have been funded by various sources:

Federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program:

- Competitive, constrained funds & requires 20% local match

Federal High Priority Program (HPP):

- Replaced by other discretionary programs

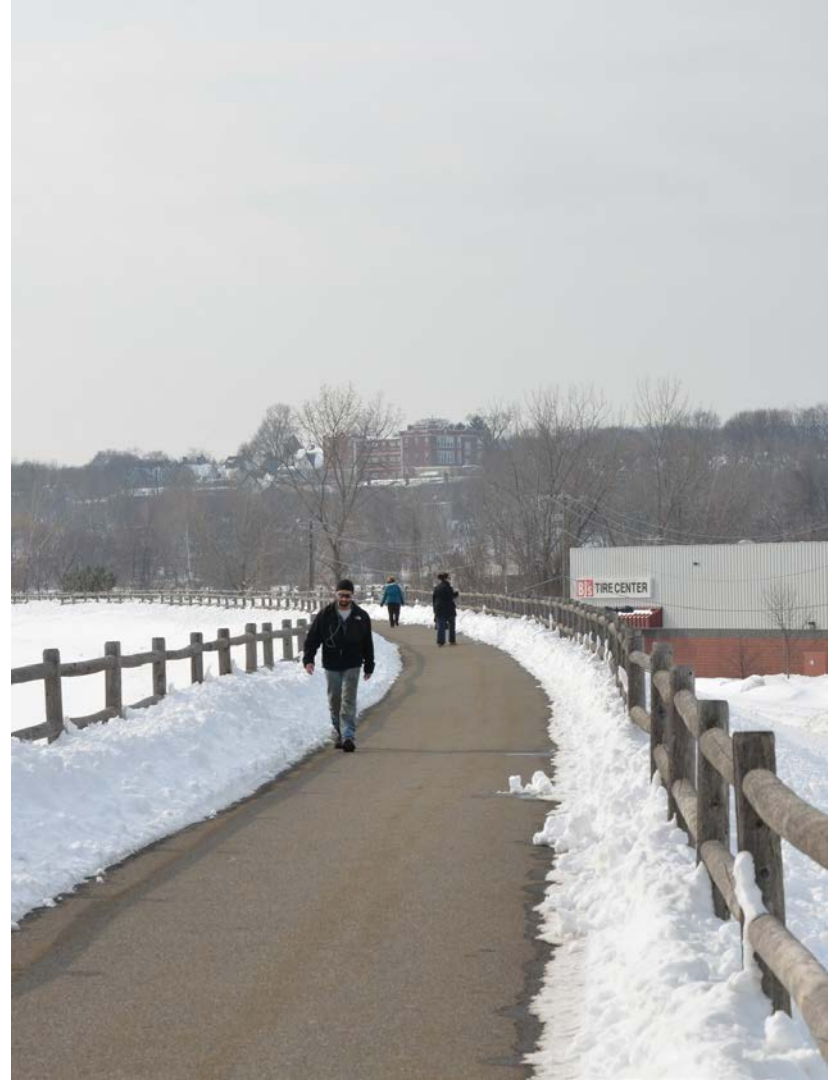
State Recreational Trails Program:

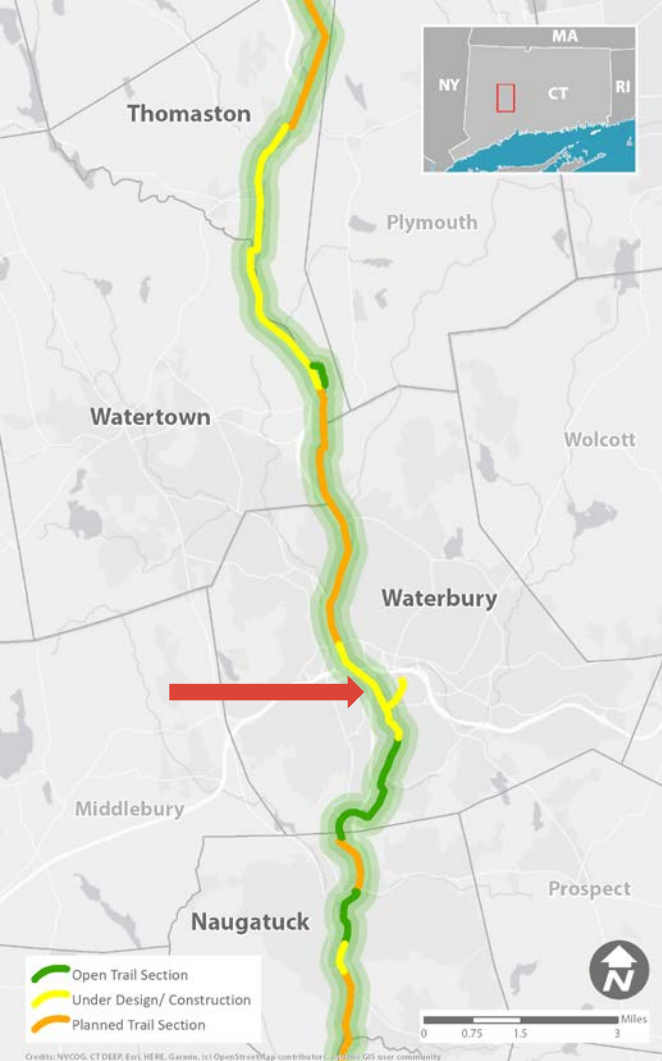
- Good source for planning & design tasks

Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP - Construction Only)

Local Cash Contributions:

- Typically, at least 20% of project cost

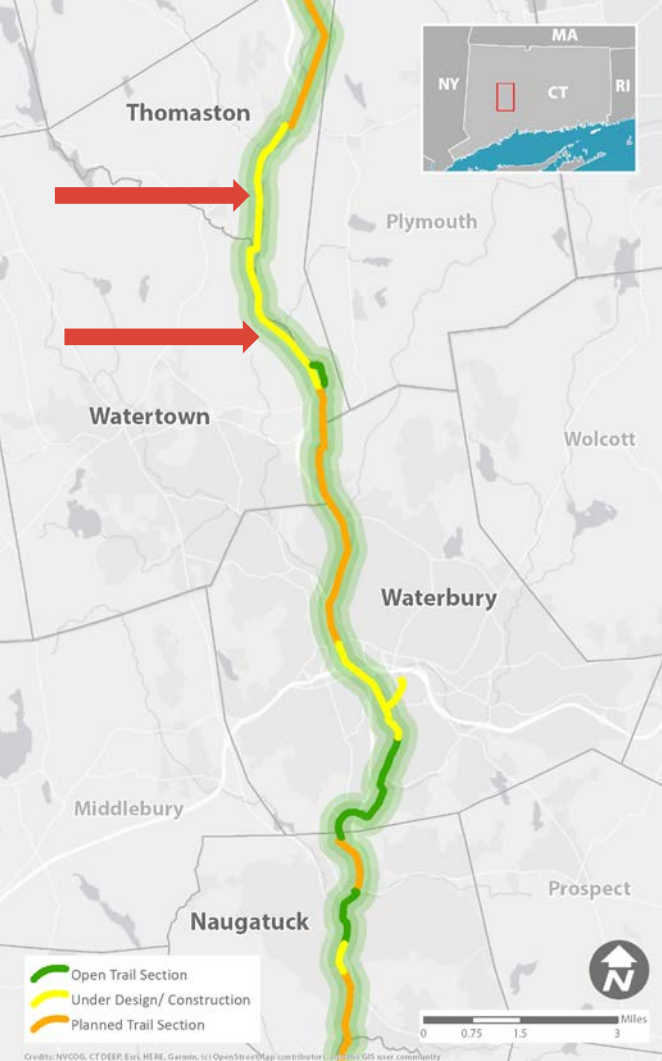




# Naugatuck River Greenway Coming Soon

## Waterbury

- 2.1 miles from Eagle Street to West Main Street
- City awarded RAISE grant in 2022
  - \$9.9 million for trail extension
- In design
- Environmental Assessment underway
- Connects to section opened in 2022 & provides access to downtown



# Naugatuck River Greenway Coming Soon

## State Recreational Trails Grants

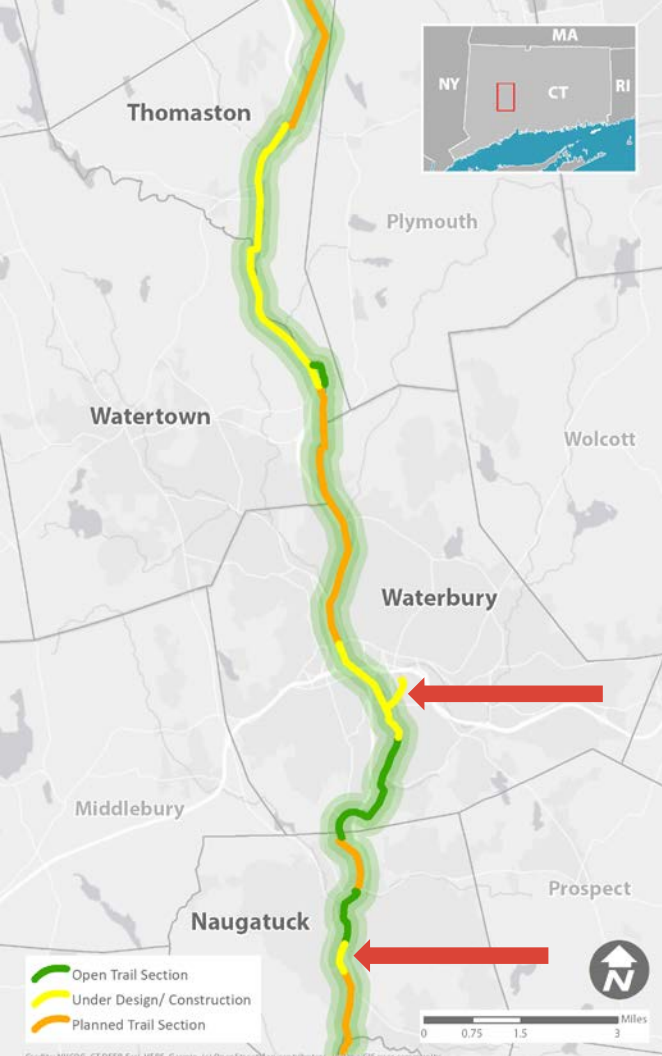
- 4 towns received grants to design sections of the NRG

### Thomaston

- 1.0 miles from Watertown Road to Old Waterbury Road Trailhead
- \$150,000 award + \$25,000 local

### Watertown

- 2.4 miles from Branch Brook Bridge to Frost Bridge Rd/Rt 262
- \$299,935 award + \$103,877 local



# Naugatuck River Greenway Coming Soon

## Waterbury

- ½ mile spur trail from Washington Road to 313 Mill Street & Community Center
- \$390,000 award + \$97,500 local

## Naugatuck

- ½ mile from Maple Street to Breen Field
- \$352,800 award + \$88,200 local



## Issues & Concerns

- Trails being developed “piecemeal”
- Limited State Rec Trails Program funds
- Awarded grants are not sufficient to complete full design plans; only 4.4 miles would be designed
- Federal TA Program grants require 20% local cash contribution
- Cost to design some sections beyond the financial resources of towns
- Possible environmental constraints





# RAISE Proposal

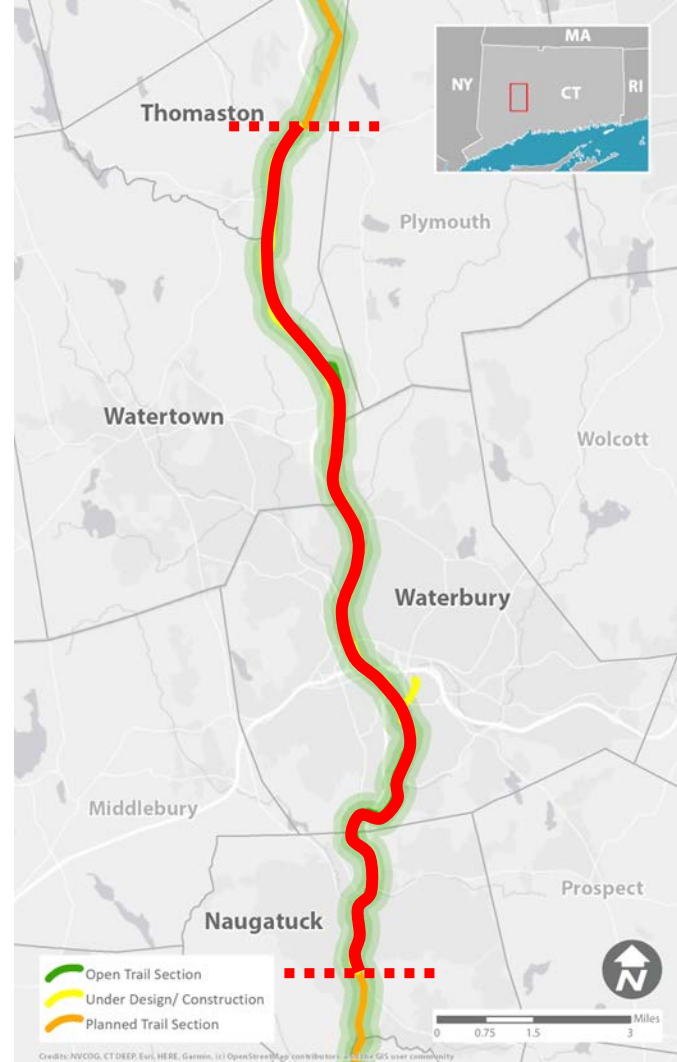
## Planned Corridor:

- Breen Field in Naugatuck to Elm Street in Thomaston
- Distance = 16.9 miles
- Divided into 13 sections
  - 2 completed: 2.8 miles
  - 1 underway, fully funded: 2.1 miles
  - 4 state Rec Trails funded: 4.4 miles
  - 7 sections – no activity

## Concept:

- Design all sections along planned corridor
- Leverage Rec Trails allocations

Transportation focus; not just "recreational"

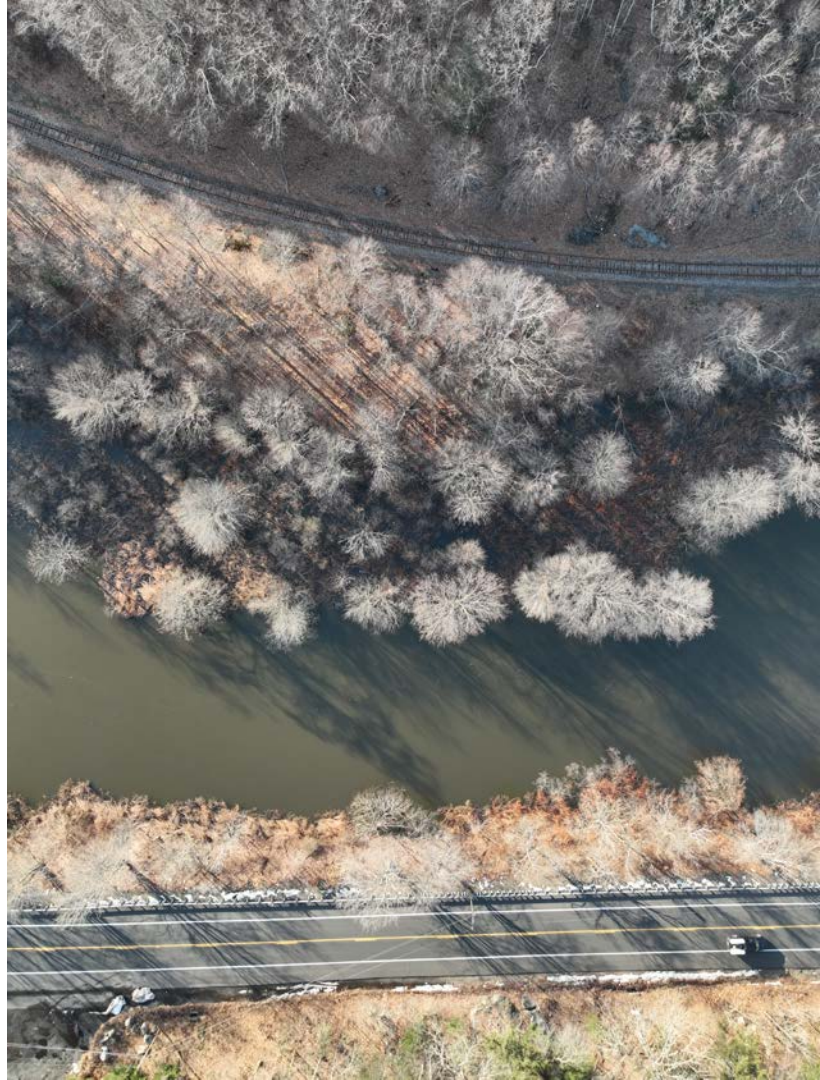






# RAISE Proposal – Why a Regional Approach?

- Single Project = Consistent design
- Transportation Project – Connects downtowns via alternative travel options
- Deal with Design Constrains
  - Complex sections justify regional approach
  - Towns may not be able to independently design
- Address Special Conditions:
  - New crossings of the Naugatuck River
  - Alignments adjacent to active rail lines
  - Placement on or along flood control levees or walls
  - Rehabilitation of existing bridges





# RAISE Proposal – Funding Allocation

## USDOT RAISE Program Award

- \$5,725,699

## State Recreational Trails Funding

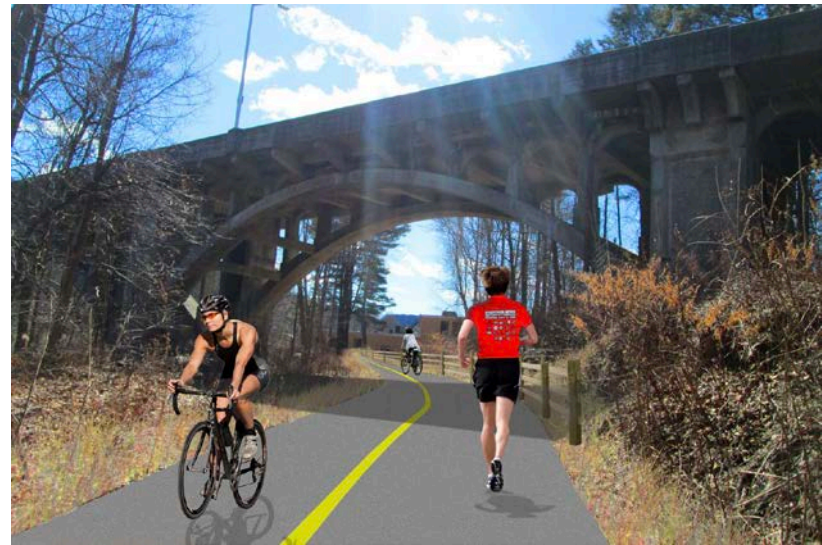
- Total awards to the 4 towns
- \$1,192,735

## Local Contributions:

- Municipalities committed funds when they applied for Rec Trails grants
- \$342,536

## Total:

- \$7,260,940





# RAISE Proposal – Planning & Design Activities

## NVCOG Planning:

- Data collection, public engagement, equity

## Environmental Assessment:

- NEPA, wetlands, possible environmental constrains, cultural resources

## Preliminary Engineering:

- Determine alignments, constructability

## Design:

- Supplement & complete designs underway
- Preliminary & Final Design of all gap sections – full design sets, PS&E



# Innovative Financing Plan

## USDOT RAISE Program Award

- Requires 20% non-federal share
- \$1,431,425

## State Recreational Trails Funding

- Municipalities agreed to consolidate individual Rec Trails projects into a regional project
- CT DEEP provided go-ahead to credit funds as the non-federal share of the RAISE grant

## Non-Federal Share:

- Rec Trails + Local = \$1,535,271
- 21.1% funding ratio





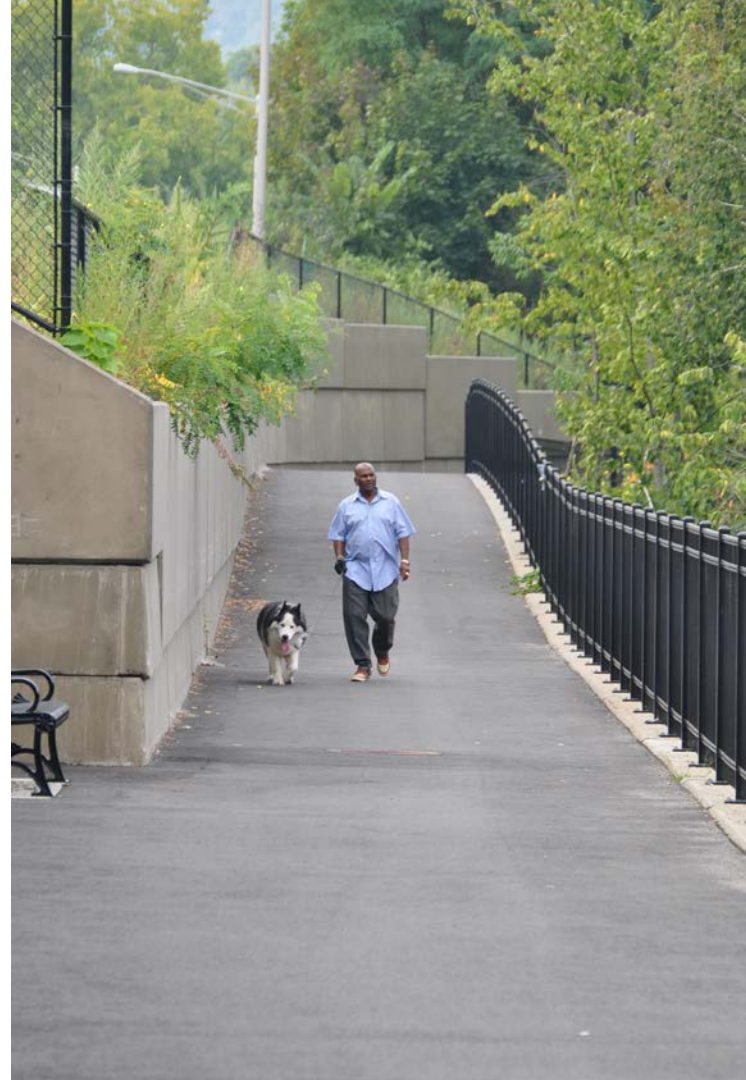
## RAISE Proposal – Tapered Match

USDOT funded programs are reimbursable, meaning project sponsors incur costs & request reimbursement

Funding ratio is typically 80% federal, 20% non-federal

Progress payments usually adhere to 80:20 cost share

Tapered Match applies federal share to the “total” project, instead of applying to each progress payment





## Tapered Match – Why is this Important?

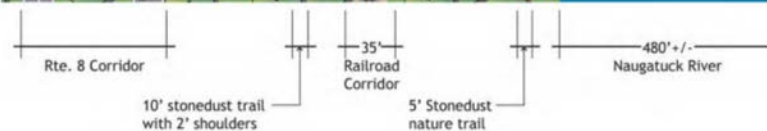
Allows progress payments to deviate from 80:20 funding ratio

Allows project tasks to proceed when ready

Allows Rec Trails funds to be allocated to the sections for which they were awarded

Provides state Rec Trails funds to more effectively leverage federal funds

Federal share will not exceed 80% of total project costs





## Next Steps...

Execute agreement with US  
DOT

Develop project scope/timeline

Issue RFQ for consultant  
services

Initiate project:

- Community outreach
- Planning/Preliminary  
Engineering to determine  
alignments
- Environmental Assessment
- Design



# Q&A

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