

## NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

**RE:** **RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS** Authorizing the mayor to apply for, execute, acknowledge, implement, and deliver any and all documents as may be considered necessary or appropriate for the Connecticut Recreational Trails Grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the Mill River Trail. (City Plan Director)

**REPORT:** 1521-08

**ADVICE:** Approval

### BACKGROUND

The City seeks DEEP Connecticut Recreational Trail grant funding for planning, design permitting, and construction of portion of the Mill River Trail. The City Plan Department submitted this application to the Department of Energy and Environment Recreational Trails Grant for \$288,351.00, to be matched by in-kind services. This grant would advance planning and design, permitting, and construction of the trail connection between Fair Haven and East Rock Park, with an emphasis on the area below I-91, which is state owned. Such efforts would build on work by volunteers who have cleared existing portions of the trail of brush and invasive species, created a website, and designed signs to mark the trail's path.

### PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The trail is a coastal trail that follows the Mill River from the Harbor at Criscuolo Park, along the east bank of the river, joining the network of trails in East Rock Park. There are other spur or loop trails that access nearby destinations. Work on the existing trail, particularly in East Rock and the coastal public access easements between Humphrey Street and Grand Avenue has been carried out by several groups of volunteers who remove invasive species, and mark and groom the trail. The trail will support recreational and non-motorized transportation use, and enhance the health and quality of life as well economic competitiveness of New Haven. The grant would help bring to fruition portion of a trail that has been proposed in various City planning documents over the past few decades, including the 2004 *Plan for Greenways and Cycling Systems* and the 2015 Comprehensive Plan, *Vision 2025*.

### ADVICE

The Commission finds the Resolution in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

**ADOPTED:** August 24, 2016  
Edward Mattison  
Chair

**ATTEST:**   
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA  
Executive Director