

NEW HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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October 25, 2021

Ms. Allyson Clarke
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Land Acquisition and Management Unit
Office of Constituent Affairs/Land Management
79 Elm Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127

Re: Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program

Dear Ms. Clarke:

The Environmental Advisory Council, the official liaison for environmental issues between the people of New Haven and the New Haven government, strongly supports the City's application to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's 2021 Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program. Addressing the limited access of the Hill neighborhood to usable greenspace makes this project an important endeavor for the City.

The proposed improvements to Kimberly Field would enhance the Hill neighborhood's largest park and offer additional recreational opportunity for people in the area. Despite being the most populous in New Haven, the Hill neighborhood is among those with the least access to greenspace. Kimberly Field comprises over half of the neighborhood's twenty-one acres of parkland. The construction of a walking trail in Kimberly Field would likely increase the use and enjoyment of the park, and better connect the community to the demonstrated health benefits of interacting with nature.

For these reasons, the Council supports the grant application submitted by the City of New Haven in conjunction with the Urban Resources Initiative.

Sincerely,

The New Haven Environmental Advisory Council

Contact: Laura Cahn, Chairwoman
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New Haven, CT 06515
203/397-2338