



Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail

Hike It! Bike It! Like It!

July 29, 2019

To Mayor Bouley and City Council,

We write to express our strong support for City efforts towards completing the initial phase of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT) as part of the Terrill Park improvement project. Specifically, we support the construction of a 1/3-mile long, 12-foot wide paved trail, currently estimated at \$138,000, by pledging the City's 50 percent match, \$69,000, for the estimated cost of the trail. We ask City Council to accept our donation and we urge Council to approve this first phase of the project, with construction to begin in 2020.

As councilors will recall, the City was awarded a \$100,000 matching federal grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in September 2015 to begin construction of the boardwalk section of the MRGT. Between October 2015 and January 2018, FMRGT contributed \$65,548.72 to the City for environmental permitting and engineering design expenses related to the boardwalk. To date, no City or LWCF funds from the grant have been expended.

Due to events beyond the City's or FMRGT's control, including an increase in the anticipated cost of construction, the boardwalk was put on hold. The City, with assistance from the FMRGT, successfully applied to repurpose the LWCF grant to (1) complete the trail in Terrill Park, (2) relocate the dog park, and (3) build a lighted, paved parking lot.

Thanks to the generosity of many local business and individual donors, we are able to back our pledge with cash on hand. We note that our pledge would bring our contribution for the Terrill Park portion of the MRGT to over \$134,500.

The trail and other improvements in Terrill Park will provide access to and views of the Merrimack River for Concord residents and visitors, particularly those in the vicinity of Manchester Street. We are pleased to be able to participate in this excellent opportunity to begin to revitalize one of the City's most underutilized parks.

The Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail look forward to continuing to partner with the City to extend the trail north and south.

Sincerely,

(Electronic Signature)
Kelly Ovitt Puc
Chair

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MRGT.org | info@MRGT.org | P. O. Box 954 | Concord, NH 03302
*Board of Trustees: Greg Bakos, Roland Berube, Chris Kane, Dick Lemieux,
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