

11. CPA PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

[CPC Use Only: Date Received 2/24/22 By: SAMMIE KUL
Assigned CPC #2023-04

If possible, use word processor to fill out form. Please answer all questions, use "N/A" if not applicable.

1. a.) Applicant Name and Organization: Last Funch First Paul
Organization: Groton Trails Committee
- b.) Regional Project: Yes ☐? or No? ☒ If Yes, Town/Organization: _____
2. Submission Date: 2/24/2022
3. Applicant Address: St. 92 Reedy Meadow Rd.
City/ State: Groton ZIP: 01450
4. Ph. # 978-302-9854 Email: pgfunch@verizon.net
5. CPA Purpose. Check all that apply:
Community Housing ☐ (Affordable Housing: ☐ Historic Preservation*: ☐ Open Space: ☐
Recreation ☒

* As per MA General Law Chapter 44B, proposed historic projects that are not on the structures listed on the state's registry of historic places require a determination by the Groton Historic Commission that the proposed project is of historic significance.

6. Town Committee or boards participating: Groton Trails Committee
7. Project Location/Address: J. Harry Rich State Forest, Nod Rd., Groton, MA
8. Project Name: Nashua Riverwalk
9. Additional Responsible Parties (If applicable):

Role (specify)	Name	Address	Ph. (w) (cell)	Email
Property/Site Owner	Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)	Willard Brook State Forest 599 Main St. W. Townsend, MA 01474	978-597-8802	matthew.amadon@state.ma.us
Project Manager	Paul Funch, Chair, Groton Trails Committee	92 Reedy Meadow Rd. Groton, MA 01450	978-302-9854	pgfunch@verizon.net
Project Consultants	Elizabeth A. Campbell, Executive Director, Nashua River Watershed Association	592 Main St. Groton, MA 01450	978-448-0299	eac@nashuariverwatershed.org

10. As appropriate, indicate if proposal requires P&S agreement N Deed N
Option agreement N Other-describe: For DCR's approval of this project, see Attachments 1 and 2.

11. a.) Assessor info. (map/ block/ lot id.(s)): 216-71-0 b.) Tax classification type: _____
12. Permits required: Zoning: _____ Historic Preservation: _____ Other: WPA, NHESP, MHC (Attachment 2)
13. Historic Commission Approval signoff (when required): not required Date: _____
14. Funding: a.) Project Cost: \$70,080 Professional Quotes obtained: \$69,708 (**Attachments 7 and 8**)
b.) Requested from CPC: **\$62,580** c.) Committed from other sources: \$
d.) Annual anticipated total income: \$ e.) Annual anticipated total expense: \$
f.) Anticipated net income (loss): \$ g.) Estimator name/company: multiple quotes
15. CPC Objectives - OSRP 9.3.4, OSRP 9.5.1, OSRP 9.5.4, 9.7.1
16. Project Timelines: Proposed Start Date: October 2022 Projected Complete Date: June 2023
17. Estimated Delivery Date of Completion Report to CPC: June 2023

18. Project description and explanation:

The proposed Nashua Riverwalk project will build a fully accessible trail that will go along the Nashua River in the J. Harry Rich State Forest for a distance of about 0.25 miles and will connect with the similar accessible John Tinker Trail. Groton has over 100 miles of trails, but currently less than 0.25% of the total is accessible; the need for more accessible trails is clear. The trail itself will provide a wonderful forest experience along one of the most beautiful stretches of the Nashua River for people of all ages and abilities, including children in strollers, those using walkers or wheelchairs, and bikers. The trail will be supplemented by two rest areas with benches, a larger observation area at the terminus, and a doubling of the size of the current parking area off Nod Rd. The observation area will have two handicap tables and four benches as well as high-quality educational signs. The signs will be designed by staff of the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA), Josh Vollmar (historian), and a representative of local Indigenous people, with assistance by the company that produces the signs. The National Park-type signs will describe the river ecosystem, the efforts that Marion Stoddart has led for over 50 years to restore and protect that environment, the continuing efforts required to sustain a healthy river ecosystem, the plant and animal life (including humans) that depend on that healthy ecosystem, and historical points of interest in the area.

The Nashua Riverwalk will serve to educate the public about one of Groton's most dedicated conservationists and will bring attention to and greater appreciation of the rich natural landscape that is the pride of Groton. Pending future requests to, and approval by, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Nashua Riverwalk will be renamed the Marion Stoddart Riverwalk.

Details of the project area, including maps, and all the work that will be performed are provided in **Attachment 4**. The management of the various organizations involved in the project, the different environmental and historical reviews that will be required before work commences, and the overall schedule, is provided in **Attachment 5**. A cost estimate spreadsheet, based upon the quotes obtained, is provided in **Attachment 8**. This estimate provides a detailed break out by material and labor costs for all the different aspects of the Nashua Riverwalk project.

While this application requests \$62,580, representing 90% of the total cost of this project, funding of this project will also be sought through grants from five other organizations to reduce as much as possible the money required from the CPA Fund. It is anticipated that the most likely use of CPA funds will be roughly \$30,278, or 43% of the total project cost. Details of which grants will be used for the various parts of the project are provided in **Attachment 6**.

19. Feasibility:

The very similar John Tinker Trail in the J. Harry Rich State Forest was constructed in 2015 with funds obtained from the Massachusetts Recreational Trails (RTP) grant program as well as CPA funds. The Nashua Riverwalk will be constructed in exactly the same manner, and it is actually a bit simpler in that no new trails need to be created; existing trails (see **Attachment 3**) will be enhanced to provide for accessibility.

Environmental assessments will be conducted first by DCR to secure the landowner's sign-off (see **Attachment 2**). The appropriate Wetlands Protection Act forms will then be submitted to the Groton Conservation Commission for their determinations. A Notice of Intent (NOI) will be required since the project area is within the Squannassit Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

Archaeological pre-assessments will be conducted by DCR (**Attachment 2**). Then the required Project Notification Form (PNF) will be prepared for the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) by DCR.

Preliminary discussions with DCR and the Groton Conservation Commission have not identified any issues that would raise high levels of either environmental or historical concerns if standard mitigation techniques are applied. These techniques include limiting construction to the months November through March and excluding soil excavation and removal of trees.

20. List of attachments:

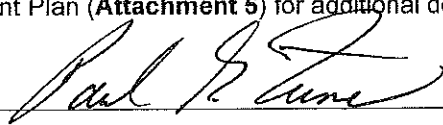
1. DCR's Landowner's Approval of the Nashua Riverwalk Project
2. DCR's "Trail Proposal and Evaluation Form"
3. Representative Photos of Project
4. Project Area and Work Descriptions
5. Management Plan
6. Potential Sources and Uses of Additional Grant Funds
7. Quotes from Vendors and Contractors
8. Cost Estimate for Nashua Riverwalk
9. Letters of Support

21. Management Plan:

As with the John Tinker Trail, Paul Funch will act as the project manager and will coordinate the efforts of a) the landscape contractor; b) vendors of tables, benches, granite, and signs; c) sign designs developed by NRWA, Josh Vollmar, DCR, et al.; and d) volunteers to help with trail and parking area preparations.

See attached Management Plan (**Attachment 5**) for additional details.

22. Applicant Signature: _____



Date: _____

2/22/22

Attachment 1 - DCR's Landowner's Approval of the Nashua Riverwalk Project

Paul

From: Norwood, Jennifer (DCR) <jennifer.norwood@state.ma.us>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:29 AM
To: Paul
Subject: RE: Status of trail approvals
Attachments: Harry Rich SF_DCR Section of Trail Proposal with Review_Rev_Final.pdf

Hello Paul,

Attached please find approval of your proposed trail project in Harry Rich State Forest. This document can be used as proof of landowner support of a project concept, particularly for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant.

Please note:

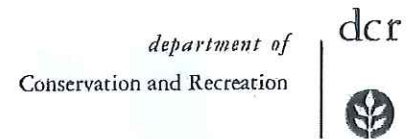
- DCR supports the project concept, however design and permitting may impact DCR's support as it moves along
- DCR is NOT in support of the parking lot expansion. Further planning is needed to address concerns regarding tree removal and habitat impact, DCR does not have the resources at this time to address appropriately.

However, there is no need to revise your grant application.

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

Jennifer Norwood
Director of External Affairs and Partnerships
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

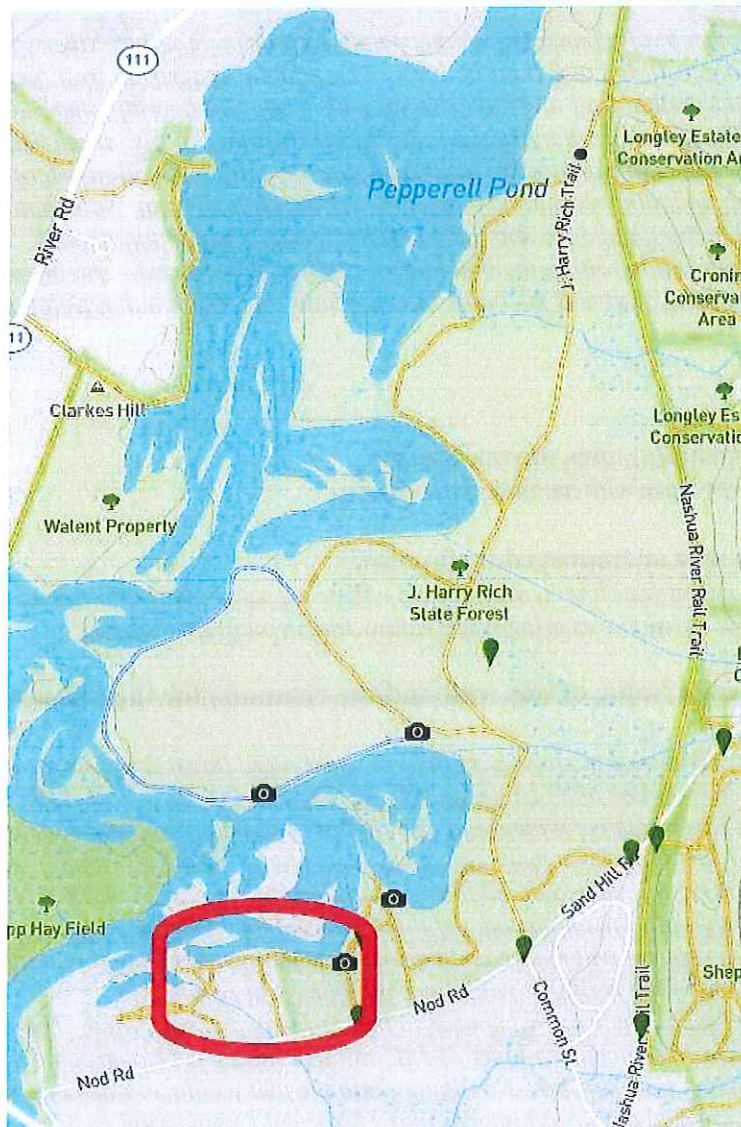
Attachment 2 - DCR's "Trail Proposal and Evaluation Form"



Trail Proposal and Evaluation Form

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

- 1. Requester's Contact Information:** *(Include Name, Organization, Title, Address, Phone and Email)*
Paul Funch, Chair, Groton Trails Committee, Groton Town Hall, 173 Main St., Groton, MA 01450
pgfunch@verizon.net, 978-302-9854 (cell), 978-448-2813 (home)
- 2. DCR Contact and/or Field Operation Team Leader:**
Matthew Amadon, Willard Brook HQ
- 3. Location of Proposed Trail:** *(Specify the location of the proposed trail with as much detail as possible. Attach a topographic locus map showing location. See the MassGIS Viewer to create a locus map online: http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/map_ol/oliver.php)*



RICH STATE FOREST'S MARION STODDART RIVERWALK (PROPOSED)

Area circled in red is where the trail will be upgraded to make it accessible to mobility-impaired users. The entire proposed trail will be within the boundaries of the Rich State Forest. See details in map below.



The above map shows the existing John Tinker Trail connecting to the proposed Marion Stoddart Riverwalk (red line). The John Tinker Trail is an accessible trail that was built in 2015. The existing equestrian trail (yellow line) would remain as is. Where the proposed accessible trail and the existing equestrian trail overlap, there is sufficient room to have the two trails side by side. The two short black boxes indicate the locations of rest areas where benches will be installed. The larger black box at the end of the trail indicates the general location where educational signage and additional seating and tables would be placed in an observation area. Note that the Rich State Forest extends to Nod Brook (thin blue line) and does not end where the green-shaded parcel ends. In other words, the entire Marion Stoddart Riverwalk will be within the boundaries of Rich State Forest. The brown box next to Nod Rd. is the location of the existing parking area and the black box indicates the additional parking area that will be required.

4. Objective/Purpose of trail:

a. If the trail exists, what user group(s) does the trail serve?

The current trail serves all users except those with mobility impairments.

b. Which user group(s) will the new or improved trail serve?

The proposed accessible trail improvement (red line in map above) will serve users of all abilities except equestrians. Equestrians will continue to use the existing trail (yellow line in map above) as is.

c. Describe the significance, need or value of this trail and the reason(s) for the proposed change:

The John Tinker Trail is the only accessible trail in Groton that offers users a full forest experience with exceptional scenery. It has become very popular and has demonstrated the need for more such trails in Groton. This location for the Marion Stoddart Riverwalk is an ideal one as it is flat, outside of the flood zones, very scenic, and combines with the John Tinker Trail for a more extensive experience. This trail would also be intended to honor Marion Stoddart, of Groton, who founded the nearby (around the corner on Rte. 119) Nashua River Watershed Association, and to highlight the importance of the conservation work she began to preserve the riparian environment. Educational signage will be created for these purposes and situated in a large accessible observation area near the end of the trail that will also contain benches and tables.

In order to make the existing trail accessible, the treadway needs to be hardened and smoothed. This will be achieved by compressing a six-foot wide, five-inch deep layer of 3/8" minus crushed rock aggregate over landscape fabric installed over the current trail surface. No digging into the soil will be required for this installation process. This process is expected to meet Massachusetts Historical Commission requirements for

not disturbing any potential archaeological artifacts that might exist in the area since the same process was used for the John Tinker Trail that was approved by the MHC in 2015.

5. Trail Specifications:

Upgrade of existing (X) Relocation of existing () New trail () Change in Use ()

a. Description of Trail Purpose:

The Marion Stoddart Riverwalk will extend the John Tinker Trail with an additional 0.25 mile section of accessible trail. It is intended to provide both a high-quality recreational experience and an educational experience that highlights the importance of the riparian environment and the conservation efforts initiated by Marion Stoddart over 50 years ago.

b. Trail Length:

Roughly 1,400 feet.

c. Class of the Proposed Trail: (See DCR Trail Guidelines Manual, Section III, Trail Classification, page 35, and Appendix F)

This will be a Class 5 trail. It will be hardened with a six-foot wide compacted crushed rock (3/8" minus aggregate) surface (to allow two-way travel) and will be fully accessible. It has negligible grade or cross-slope and no sharp turns.

d. Designed Use Parameter: (See DCR Trail Guidelines Manual, Section III, Trail Classification, page 35, and Appendix F)

The Designed Use Type is Hiker/Pedestrian. The existing equestrian trail may need to be narrowed a bit along the initial 600 feet of the trail to make room for the parallel accessible trail, but both trails will be at least six feet wide.

6. Support and Success of Trail Project:

a. Who supports this initiative?

This project has received broad support from the Town of Groton including the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board, the Greenway Committee, the Commission on Accessibility, the Groton Conservation Trust, the Groton Senior Center, the Seven Hills Pediatric Center, and the Nashua River Watershed Association. A Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant application for this project in a different location was submitted in February 2021 but a private land purchase that was required was not accomplished and a search for a new location commenced in September 2021. Four other potential sites were considered, and this site is the one that is preferred and most feasible.

This proposed trail is within 200 feet of the Nashua River Ox Bow and is in Core Habitat area identified in the Massachusetts BioMap2. The area is designated as Priority Habitat of Rare Species and also Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife on maps produced by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. A Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) will be filed with the Groton Conservation Commission and construction of the trail will be restricted to only November through March to avoid impacts to potential endangered species in the area. The nearby John Tinker Trail was similarly situated near the Ox Bow and within Core Habitat and all applicable approvals were sought and obtained in 2015.

b. What is the evidence for demand for this project?

The adjacent John Tinker Trail has become very popular since it opened in 2015. It is used daily by many people, including the primary targeted population of mobility-impaired individuals (elderly, physically handicapped, children in strollers, et al.).

c. Who will build, or improve this trail?

A contractor will be selected to install the trail, the observation area, the resting areas, and the expanded

parking area that will be required. Depending on availability, DCR staff, equipment, and materials may be used to install benches and curbing that may be offered by the Willard Brook Headquarters for this project. Many volunteers are available through the Groton Trails Committee and its volunteer list to assist with preparing the trail surface for the contractor (manually clearing it of branches and logs and raking off the forest floor or duff, as required). The educational signs will also be contracted for, including both their design and their construction, but review and approval by DCR will be part of the procurement process.

d. What costs are associated with this project and how will this project be funded?

The Groton Trails Committee will apply for an RTP grant in February 2022 to pay for the accessible trail treadway, expanded parking area off Nod Rd., and the rest areas. The matching portion of the grant (20%) will be met through donations of time and materials as well as by Groton's Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. An initial application for CPA funds to cover whatever matching funds are not met by the time and material donations, as well as for the observation area and educational signage was initiated in October 2021 and a final CPA application will be submitted in January 2022. The CPA funds will become available in July 2022 if the application is successful. A grant will also be sought from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts (CFNCM) to help pay for designing the educational signage. (A grant was submitted to CFNCM in February 2021 for this very purpose and was funded, but we declined the grant since the RTP grant we submitted at the same time was not funded.)

A final cost estimate has not been established yet, but a very rough approximation at this point would be \$35,000 for the trail treadway, \$10,000 for educational signage, \$10,000 for concrete benches, \$5,000 for the observation area and benches and tables, and \$5,000 for expansion of the parking lot off Nod Rd., for a total of \$65,000.

e. Who will maintain this trail project for future use?

As this is not a new trail, trail maintenance will be continued by the Groton Trails Committee as is done currently. This includes clearing the trail of any blockages or trash, as well as trimming back the bushes and limbs on the sides of the trail and over the trail. Any maintenance of, or repairs to, the compacted crushed rock surface that are required in the future may be performed by DCR personnel, or by the Groton Department of Public Works, or by private contractors, and will be supported by future fund-raising initiatives.

DCR Review of Proposed Trail Project:(To be filled out by DCR staff)

Harry Rich SF Accessible Trail

1.Is this project supported by existing DCR plans? Is it embodied in an RMP or Trail Plan? If not, is the project supported by DCR Operations and the Greenways and Trails Section?

No, it is not supported by an RMP or plan. Yes, the accessible trail expansion is supported by the Trails & Greenways section. However, the parking lot extension is not supported due to issues with tree removal, lack of staffing, and habitat issues.

2.What are the potential short-and long-term management issues associated with this project?

Short-term: permitting and construction

Long-term: trail user enforcement and trail maintenance will be continued by the Groton Trails Committee

3.Would this trail need to meet FSTAG accessibility standards? Yes/No? Why? List Conditions for Departure.

Yes, the trail will be designated as an accessible trail and there are no major obstacles to its construction.

4.Site Evaluation:

a.Description of topography: **0-15% slope(x) 15-30% slope () > 30% slope ()**

b.Soil description: **Carver loamy coarse sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes**

c.Historic, Cultural or Archeological resources/impacts: **A Section 106 review is necessary. DCR Historic, Cultural, & Archeological comments are pending**

d.Forestry management resources/ impacts: **The Forest is designated as a Woodland. Forestry should assess potential impacts. DCR Forestry comments are pending.**

e.Rare, Endangered and Threatened species or natural community resources / impacts: Is the trail located in NHESP Priority Habitat?

Yes, the trail is located within NHESP Priority Habitat and will require a MESA filing, including Green Docket Review. DCR Ecology comments are pending.

f.Other critical wetland, natural resource or wildlife habitat resources/impacts:

The trail is located within the 200-foot River Front Area and will need to be permitted through Wetlands Protection Act.

g.Other potential impacts or conflicts: **n/a**

DCR TRAIL PROPOSAL APPROVALS

Facility Supervisor

Comments or Recommendations:

Signature
and Date:

1/5/22

Approve



Disapprove



Matt Amadon: Supports project to enhance accessibility

Management Forester

Comments or Recommendations:

Signature
and Date:

1/5/22

Approve



Disapprove



Mike Waterman: Generally Support. Would not support Parking Lot Expansion. Facility is not staffed. Since 2015 have seen a significant uptick in the amount of trash and dumping that occurs at this site. Expanding the parking lot would require the removal of trees that would impact forestry operations. Increase maintenance

Regional Director / District Manager

Comments or Recommendations:

Signature
and Date:

Approve



Disapprove



Dwayne Ericson: Supports

Cultural Resources

Comments or Recommendations:

Signature
and Date:

1/4/22

Approve



Disapprove



Jeffrey Harris: The trail construction itself should not have archaeological impacts, as you are adding material atop the existing grade. We will need more details on the benches, tables, signage, observation area, and new parking lot construction. There is some archaeological sensitivity to the area, so we would recommend avoiding

Ecology

Comments or Recommendations:

Signature
and Date:

Approve



Disapprove



Nancy Putnam: Review Pending. Will need permitting thru WPA and NHESP. Both reviewed at Green Docket. No commitment. approve specifics.

Greenways and Trails

Comments or Recommendations:

Signature
and Date:

GA 1-11-22

Approve



Disapprove



Gerald Autler: Recommend trail project but not parking lot expansion. Trail project will require final review by DCR to ensure that staff comments esp. from Cultural Resources and Ecology are incorporated.

Within one month of the date submitted, please finalize approval or disapproval and email the signed copy of the completed form to:

Paul Jahnige
State Park Trails Planner
Department of Conservation and Recreation
paul.jahnige@mass.gov

Photos of project area:

1. Section where accessible trail will be on the right (river side) and equestrian trail will be on the left:



2. View of snow-covered Nashua River seen to the right of the trail in the photo above:



3. View of Nashua River and the Ox Bow seen from the planned observation area:



4. Adjacent John Tinker Trail, built in 2015:



5. Rest area with bench on John Tinker Trail:



6. View from parking area of John Tinker Trail. Nashua Riverwalk starts off to the left at the end of the visible trail.



7. Rest area at end of John Tinker Trail, with granite curbing wall at edge of riverbank:



Area Description

The proposed Nashua Riverwalk trail is located within the J. Harry Rich State Forest in Groton, MA, which is highlighted in yellow in Figure 1. The portion of the J. Harry Rich State Forest that is encircled in red is where the Nashua Riverwalk project will be constructed.

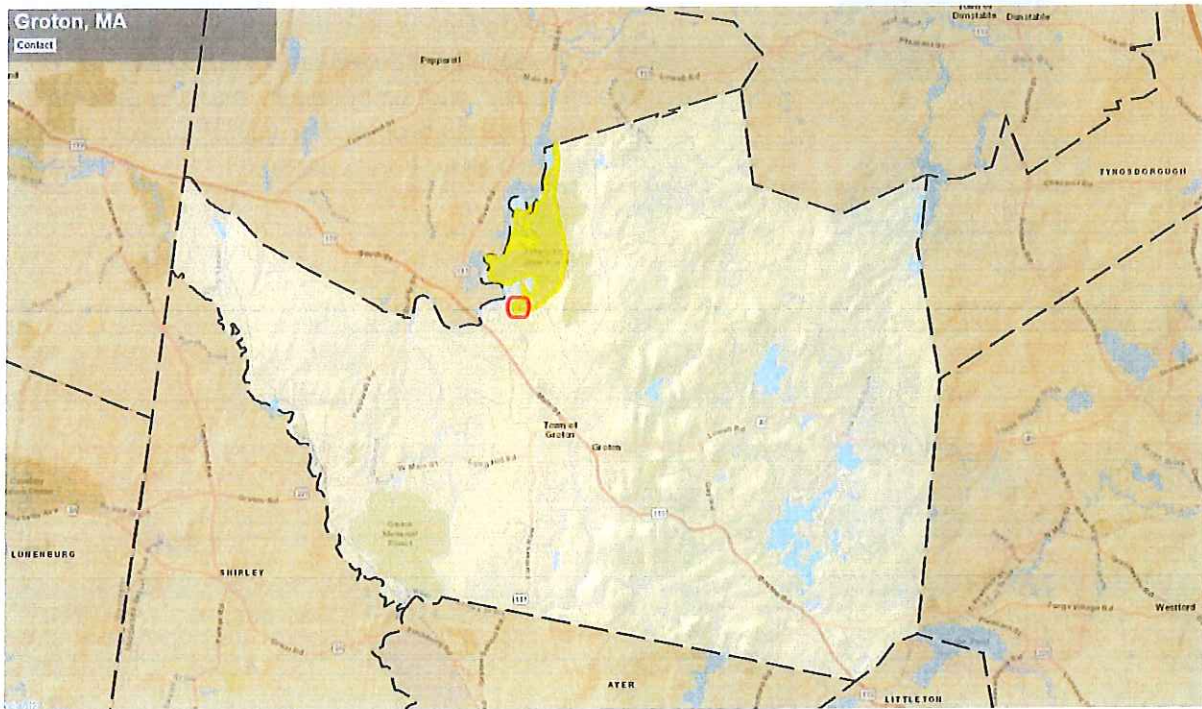


Figure 1. Location of the J. Harry Rich State Forest within Groton

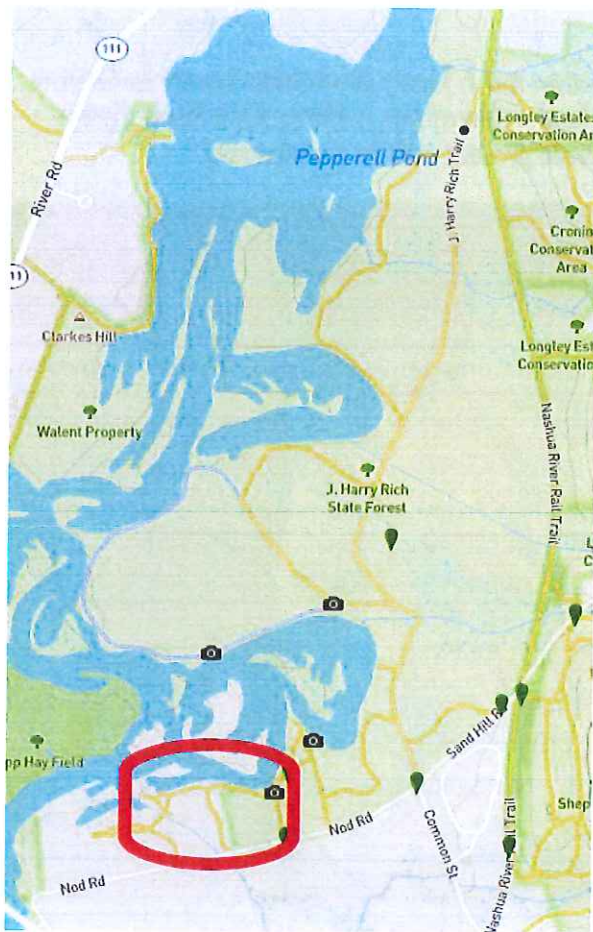


Figure 2 provides a higher magnification view of the J. Harry Rich State Forest and the location of the Nashua Riverwalk within it. Note that within the red oval, the State Forest land (light green shading) extends west all the way to Nod Brook (thin blue line) despite what this and other on-line maps show. The State very recently surveyed and marked the boundary, and the boundary markers make it clear that the proposed project is entirely within the Rich State Forest parcel.

Figure 2. Location of project site within the J. Harry Rich State Forest



Figure 3 is a higher magnification of the red-encircled area shown in Figures 1 and 2. It shows the proposed Nashua Riverwalk trail and additional parking area (maroon) and the Priority Habitat of Rare Species (cross-hatching) and the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (green shading). These designations require that we file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Conservation Commission and the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and that a Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) review be conducted.

Figure 3. Priority habitat in the vicinity of the proposed trail

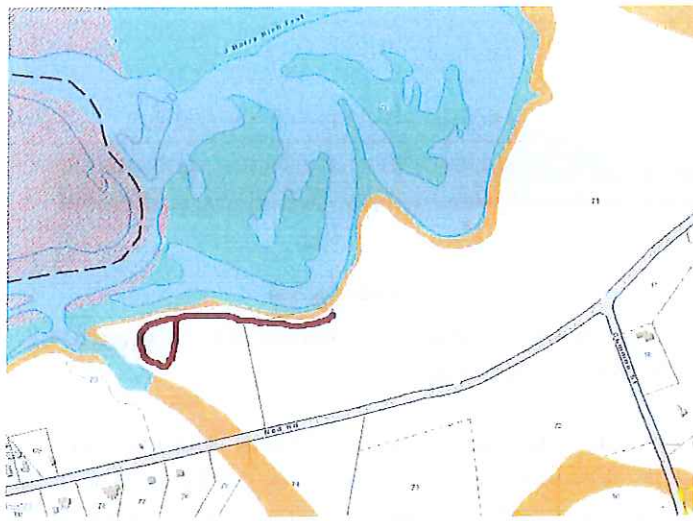
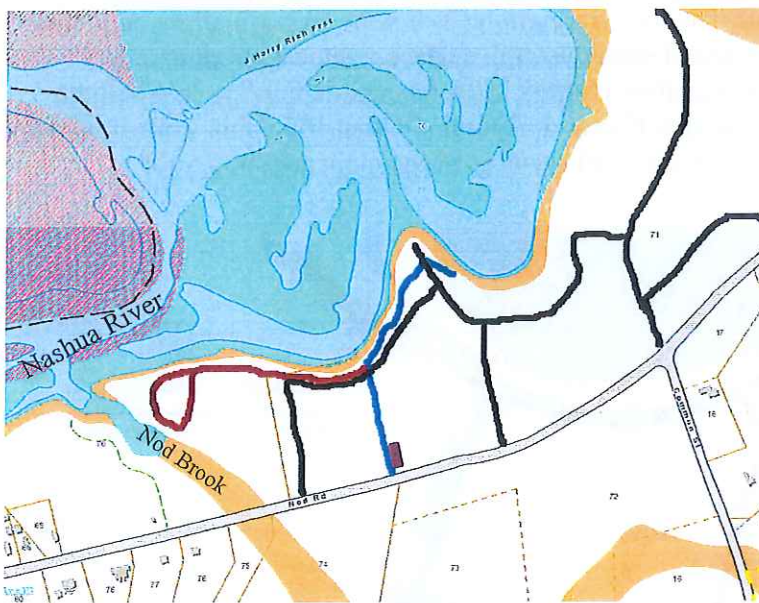


Figure 4 shows the Nashua Riverwalk trail in maroon and shows the flood zones (orange and light blue shading) that surround the trail. No part of the project is within any flood zone.

Figure 4. Flood zones in the vicinity of the proposed project

Work Description



No new trail will be constructed for this project. This project is an enhancement of part of the existing trails in the area (black, blue, and maroon lines in Figure 5) to create an accessible trail (maroon line) for the Nashua Riverwalk. The main accessible trail will be roughly 1,000 feet long and 6 feet wide. For the first 600 feet (starting at the John Tinker Trail, the blue line), the accessible trail and the equestrian trail (black line) will share the trail corridor, as shown in cross section in Figure 6.

Figure 5. Existing trails in the vicinity of the proposed trail

At the western end of the Nashua Riverwalk trail, there is a loop trail (maroon line) that is 460' long and 3-4' wide. This loop trail is intended to provide a more close-up experience for trail users and it will also provide a view of Nod Brook at its confluence with the Nashua River. DCR has expressed reservations about making this loop trail accessible, perhaps because it was not made clear in our proposal that the trail would not be widened to 6 feet. Such widening would not be possible without removing trees and excavating some portions of the loop

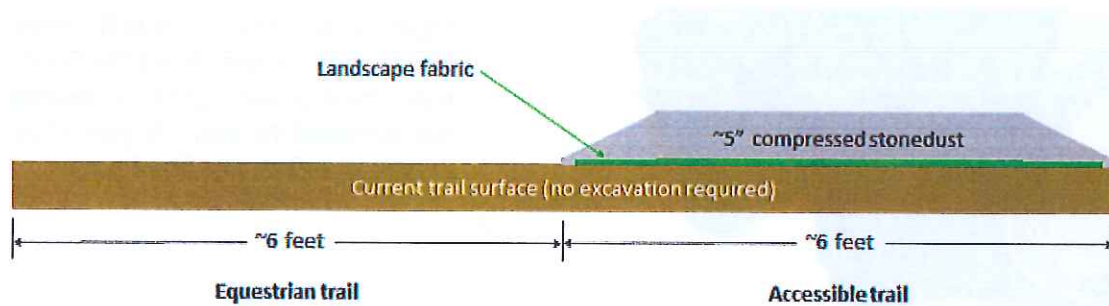


Figure 6. Cross section of parallel equestrian and accessible trails where they run parallel to each other for the first 600 feet of the Nashua Riverwalk.

trail, but the existing 3-4'-wide trail corridor is sufficient for an accessible trail without being widened or excavated. However, even if DCR does not approve of any work on the loop trail, the rest of the project would not be impacted. While this narrower and thus more intimate trail (e.g., touching nearby bushes and flowers) adds a worthwhile experience for trail users, it is not essential to the other substantial benefits of the Nashua Riverwalk. Eliminating this loop trail would reduce the project cost by \$5,300.

The existing trails have negligible grade or cross-slope. As shown in Figure 6, the main accessible trail will be hardened with a roughly 6'-wide compressed crushed rock (stonedust) surface that will allow two-way travel. The loop trail will be 3-4' wide and will allow only one-way travel for wheelchairs. The compressed stonedust trail surface will be approximately 5" thick and will be installed over landscape fabric (Mirafi 140N Geotextile Fabric). It should be noted that the vertical scale is exaggerated in Figure 6. A total of about 145 cubic yards (cu.yds.) of stonedust will be required for the accessible trail surfaces of the main and loop trails.

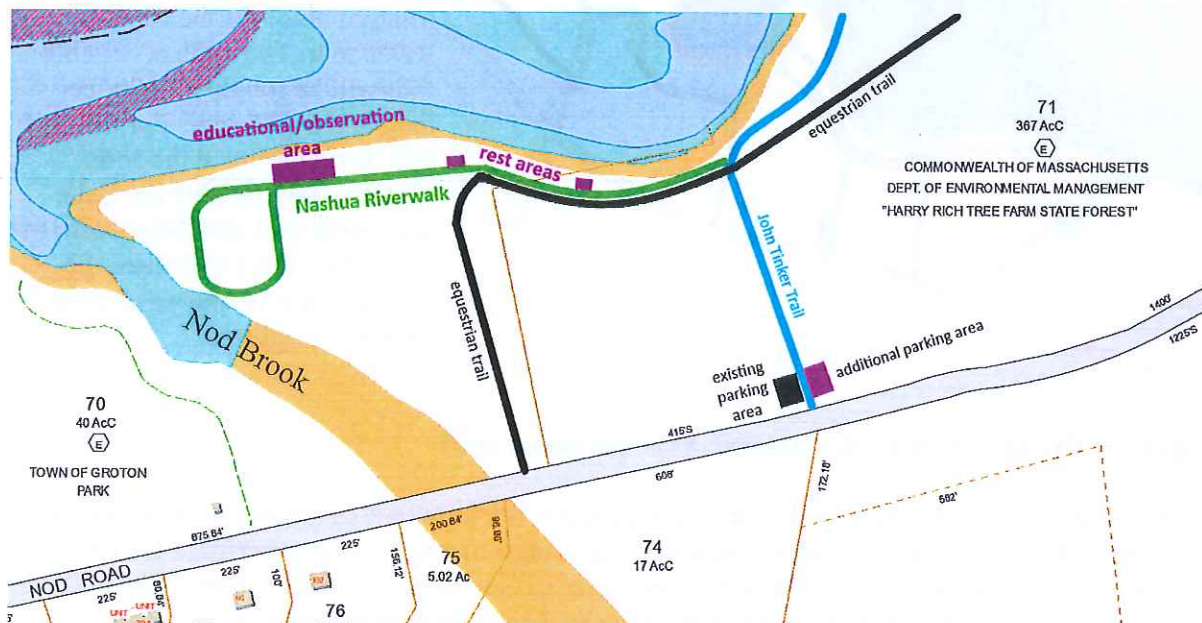


Figure 7. Details of Nashua Riverwalk including accessory areas

In addition to the accessible trail, an observation area, two rest areas, and an expanded parking area are also planned for the Nashua Riverwalk. These areas are shown as lavender rectangles in Figure 7. Roughly 19 cu.yds. of stonedust will be required for the observation area, 7 cu.yds. for the rest areas, and 42 cu.yds. (9" compressed stonedust) for the expanded parking area.

The additional parking area, built to the east of the John Tinker Trail parking area on Nod Rd., will be roughly the same size as the existing area (30 feet by 50 feet), which has two handicap parking slots and three standard ones. However, to avoid the cutting of any large canopy trees, the parking area shape will not be rectangular; it will create parking spaces in between the few large trees in that area. Only one additional handicap parking spot will be added; four other spots will be for any car or van. We will use granite curbing to provide a border around the parking area on three sides. If the Massachusetts Historical Commission approves, the curbing will be set in concrete in a trough around the parking area; otherwise, we will place the curbing on top of the ground.

As noted in DCR's "Trail Proposal and Evaluation Plan" (Attachment 2, pages 5-6), concerns were raised about creating the additional parking area. However, DCR also stated in their approval of the trail project (Attachment 1) that they were open to addressing this issue further and that it could remain as part of the grant request. In fact, it is possible to build the additional parking without cutting any canopy trees. This approach has not yet been discussed with DCR, but we believe they will approve this plan. As with the loop trail, no other aspects of the Nashua Riverwalk would be impacted. The impact would be on the users of the trail who are likely to need to park on Nod Rd. if the additional parking area is not provided. The current parking lot is currently often filled at some point each day. Eliminating the additional parking area would reduce the project cost by \$7,150.

We will develop two small rest/viewing areas along the Nashua Riverwalk, each 20 feet by 10 feet in size, and each will have a concrete bench (Figure 8). We will use granite curbing to provide a safety barrier between the rest area and the river (see Attachment 3, Photo 7, page 4). We will place the curbing on top of the ground and we have no plans for excavation.



Figure 8. Six-foot concrete bench, Belson TF5029, for rest areas and observation area

Near the end of the Nashua Riverwalk, an educational/observation area will be developed that will be 50 feet by 30 feet. In this area, five permanent signs such as the one shown in Figure 9 will be installed to educate visitors about river and riverbank ecology, past efforts by Marion Stoddart to clean up and preserve the Nashua River Watershed, ongoing and future conservation efforts to protect and to sustain the watershed, and the activities of Indigenous, colonial, and more recent people in the area. Two handicap accessible tables and four benches will also be installed in the educational/observation area to encourage interactions among visitors. A double layer of granite curbing along the river side, laid on top of the ground, will provide a safety barrier between the educational/observation area and the river.



Figure 9. Sample of single-pedestal educational sign planned for the Nashua Riverwalk.

Installation of the signs in the educational/observation area will be done in such a way as to conform with Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) regulations that aim to preserve archaeological artifacts. The “Groton Communitywide Reconnaissance Archeological Survey, Management and Interpretive Planning Project,” published in March 2011, indicates that the area around Nod Brook and west to Rte. 119 had a number of corn, grist, saw, and paper mills over the period from 1794 until the 1920s. There was also a “stony fordway” across the Nashua River in the vicinity of Nod Brook. The archeological survey states that there is a “high potential” for Native American sites along the eastern plain of the Nashua River, including at the Nod Brook

drainage and particularly along the border with Pepperell. In addition, an existing granite historical sign at the end of Nod Rd. indicates that John Tinker, a petitioner for chartering the Town of Groton and one of the original members of the Select Board of Groton, ran a trading post for a few years that may have been near the Nashua Riverwalk project site. It is for this reason that no excavation is planned as part of the construction of the accessible trail, both rest areas, and the observation area planned along the river. Instead, we will use helical piers, shown in Figure 10, to support a single-pedestal sign, an example of which is shown in Figure 9.



Figure 10. Helical pier and installation example

The sign content will be developed in collaboration with the Nashua River Watershed Association, historian Josh Vollmar, a representative of a local Indigenous people's group, and Matt Villamaino, DCR's Regional Interpretive Coordinator for the Central Region. The final production design of the signs will be performed by the manufacturer of the signs, such as Pannier Graphics of Gibsonia, PA.

In addition to the signs and concrete benches, two handicap tables like the one shown in Figure 10 will be installed in the observation area. The flush mount will be attached to a helical pier that will be screwed into the ground to minimize soil disturbance.

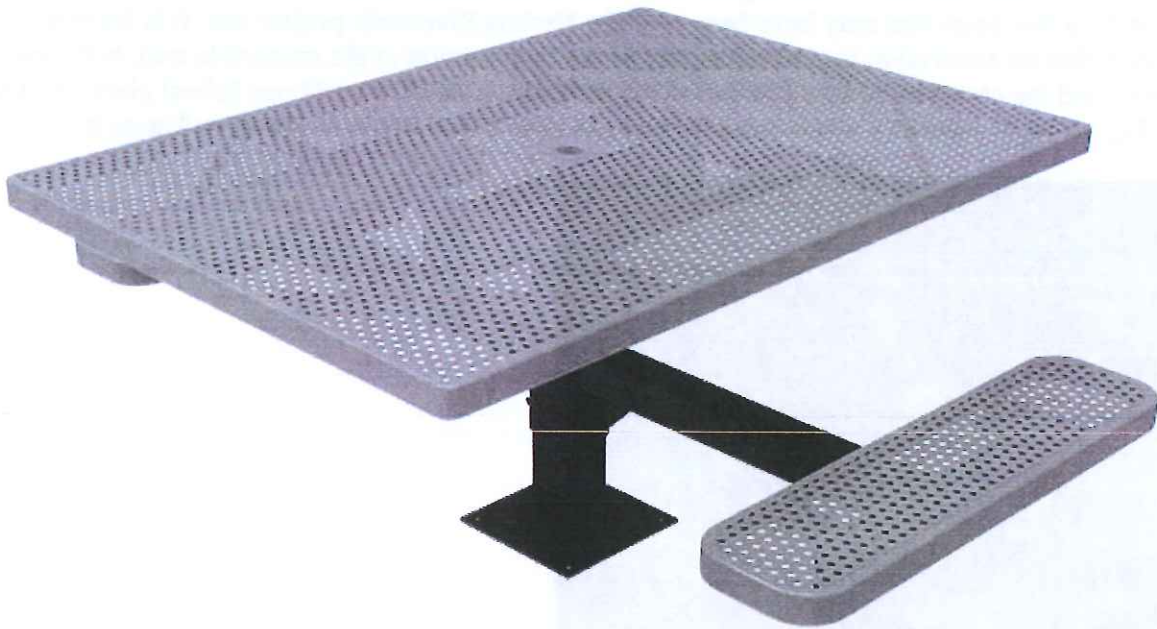


Figure 11. Handicap table by Belson, Model #TSQP462HS-PA.

Attachment 5 - Management Plan

Following approval of the funding for the Nashua Riverwalk project at Annual Town Meeting on April 25, 2022, I will submit filings for the several environmental and historical regulatory approvals that are required. Specifically, the filings first need to be submitted to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the landowner, and then to the Groton Conservation Commission, the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), and the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) for their review. We believe successful reviews of these filings will be obtained around July 2022.

Prior to the actual trail construction that will start in November, volunteers will clear and widen the existing trail corridor by carrying away dead limbs and branches and cutting down small trees and brush within the 6-foot accessible trail corridor and the 12-foot corridor where the accessible trail and the equestrian trail run alongside each other (see Attachment 4, Figures 5, 6, and 7). The 3-4'-wide terminal loop trail (pending DCR approval of this segment of the trail) will not be widened but will simply be cleared of debris. The rest areas, observation area, and expanded parking area will be similarly cleared of limbs and branches. Then, just prior to the start of actual trail construction, the duff layer in the rest areas, observation area, and expanded parking area will be removed to prepare the ground for the landscape fabric. In the parking area, only a few small trees will need to be cut down (if DCR approves of our plan to avoid cutting down any canopy trees) and all stumps will be removed.

The major trail construction work will likely be restricted by the NHESP to November 2022 through March 2023. We plan to begin construction in November, when the rare and endangered species (e.g., blundings turtles) have migrated to their winter hibernation spots near the water. The trail construction will be performed by a contracted landscape firm and will take approximately one month. The work involves laying down landscape fabric on the ground, spreading the stonedust on top, wetting it, and then compressing it.

The granite curbing for a safety barrier on the riverside of the rest areas and observation area and the concrete benches will be procured from vendors and delivered for installation once the construction of the trail itself is complete. The curbing and concrete benches will be moved and put in position by volunteers. The landscape contractor will set the granite curbing in concrete around the parking area (if the Massachusetts Historical Commission approves).

The two tables for the observation area will be procured from a vendor and delivered for installation after the granite curbing work is complete. The landscape contractor or other suitable firm will drill helical piers into the ground to provide a stable support for the single post of each handicap picnic table.

In the fall of 2022, grant applications will be submitted to the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts (CFNCM), the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA), the Freedom's Way Heritage Association, and the Groton Cultural Council to design and procure the educational signs. These grants will have funding dates starting between October 2022 and April 2023 and each organization may fund distinct aspects of the work according to their rules. Therefore, the design and procurement work will proceed as the type of funding that becomes available can be used. The design work will take about two months, the construction and delivery of the signs is expected to take about two months, and the installation of the signs on helical piers will take a month. I anticipate that the entire project will be completed by the end of June 2023.

Attachment 6 - Potential Sources and Uses of Additional Grant Funds

The major funding source for this project is intended to be from the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Program (RTP). However, RTP grants can only be used for trails and not parks. In February 2021, the Trails Committee submitted an RTP grant application to construct the Nashua Riverwalk in the Taisey Family Trust parcel along the Nashua River. The grant was never funded because the Taiseys would not agree to sell their land for the appraised price. However, I received feedback from the RTP grant evaluators that the observation area and signs were viewed as being components of a park and that they did not meet the eligibility requirements of the grant. As a consequence, this year I propose to use CPA funds, supplemented by other grants from one or more of the following: the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts (CFNCM), the Wild and Scenic Community Grants Program managed by the Nashua River Watershed Association, the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area's Partnership Grant Program, and the Groton Cultural Council, to pay for the construction of the observation area, the design and purchase of the educational signage, and the benches, tables, and granite curbing in the observation area. In fact, last year I was awarded a \$1,500 grant from the CFNCM for part of the design of the signs. I anticipate that these other grant sources will provide roughly \$7,500 towards the \$30,788 cost estimated for all these items. The remaining balance of \$23,288 is being requested from the CPA funds.

The accessible trail cost is estimated to be \$39,292, which covers the cost of the trail itself, the rest areas and benches, and the parking area expansion. The RTP grant will be used to pay this cost. However, the RTP grant requires a 20% cost match from other sources. Therefore, the CPA contribution to the cost share will be \$7,858 and the remaining \$31,434 will be received from the RTP grant. However, because the RTP grants are becoming more competitive even as the grant funding pool has increased 3-fold from a few years ago, I am applying for CPA funds to pay for the full amount of the Nashua Riverwalk project, not just the matching component. This is what I did in 2015 for the John Tinker Trail when I requested \$24,932 in CPA funds. The actual cost of the trail project was \$25,583 and the RTP grant paid \$24,135, leaving a balance of \$1,448 that was paid with the CPA funds. This left \$23,484 in unspent CPA funds, which was returned in 2016. The rest of the matching costs required for the 2015 RTP grant were covered by volunteer labor hours used to prepare the trail and by donations of benches and granite curbing by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). For this project, volunteer labor will be used to prepare the trail corridor for the landscape contractor and to move the benches and curbing to their positions. But it is estimated that volunteer hours will only contribute about \$868 towards the matching component and no material donations are anticipated at this time. As a result, CPA funds will be needed for most of the 20% match this time.

In summary, the total estimated cost of the Nashua Riverwalk is \$70,080. The total amount being requested from CPA funds is \$23,288 for the observation area and its accessories plus \$39,292 for the accessible trail and parking area expansion, for a total of \$62,580. However, if the RTP grant is awarded, it is likely that a total of only about \$30,278 in CPA funds will be required.

Attachment 7 - Quotes from Vendors and Contractors

- 1. Ream Design**
- 2. Fletcher Granite**
- 3. Belson Outdoors**
- 4. Pannier Graphics**
- 5. Consultants for Designing Signs**



CONSTRUCTION SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. ACCESSIBLE TRAIL

1. INSURANCE

Ream Design LLC maintains the following insurance coverages.

- General Liability Insurance
- Workers Compensation Insurance
- Professional Liability Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Excess/Umbrella Full Coverage Insurance

2. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Disposal and related fees.
- Portable restroom.
- Furnish and install erosion control as needed and/or as required by town municipalities.
- Final clean up.

3. ACCESSIBLE PATH

- Layout path configuration as specified. Roughly 1460' long x 6'-7' wide.
- Furnish and install woven textile fabric.
- Furnish and install 6" deep of $\frac{3}{4}$ " graded base material and compact.

4. REST AREAS

- Layout (2) rest area configurations along path as specified. Areas to be 10' deep x 20' wide each.
- Furnish and install woven textile fabric.
- Furnish and install 6" deep of $\frac{3}{4}$ " graded base material and compact.

5. PARKING AREA

- Layout parking area configuration as specified. Area to be 30' deep x 50' wide.
- Furnish and install woven textile fabric.
- Furnish and install 12" deep of $\frac{3}{4}$ " graded base material and compact.
- Install granite curbing along back side of parking area to serve as a curb stop for vehicles. Granite to be set within concrete setting bed. Granite curbing to be supplied by client.



CONSTRUCTION SCOPE OF SERVICES

B. OBSERVATION/EDUCATIONAL AREA

1. OBSERVATION/EDUCATIONAL AREA

- Layout observation/educational area configuration as specified. Area to be 20' deep x 50' wide.
- Furnish and install woven textile fabric.
- Furnish and install 6" deep of $\frac{3}{4}$ " graded base material and compact.

2. STEEL PEDESTAL TABLES

- Install (2) handicap accessible steel pedestal tables as specified.
- Furnish and install (1) helical pile footing for each table. Includes custom fab as needed to make table connections.
- Assemble tables as needed.
- Steel pedestal tables to be supplied by client.



CONSTRUCTION SCOPE OF SERVICES

SERVICES	FEES
A. ACCESSIBLE TRAIL	\$33,344.00
B. OBSERVATION/EDUCATIONAL AREA	\$7,410.00
TOTAL	\$40,754.00



Fletcher Granite Curb LLC
535 Groton Rd.
Westford, MA 01886
Phone # 978-692-1312

Estimate

Date	Estimate #
1/11/2022	22-010

Name / Address
Paul Funch 92 Reedy Meadow Road Groton, MA 01450

			Project	
			Groton Trails Committee	
Description	Qty	U/M	Rate	Total
618S (6' x 18' (VA4) Straight)	250	LF	20.70	5,175.00T
Dunnage 3" x 3" (Dunnage to be determined at the time of shipping (Refundable))	1	ca	5.00	5.00T
Delivery	1	LS	345.00	345.00
Please note: -Curbing comes in random lengths -250 LF of 6" x 18" curbing weighs approximately 30,000 lbs. (120 lbs. per LF)				
Customer is responsible for unloading. Customer is responsible for ALL final quantities. There will be a 3.0% escalation per annum for material delivered beyond 2022. Refundable charge for dunnage \$5.00/piece. This proposal, including pricing, is valid for 30 days and is a binding agreement when executed by Fletcher Granite Curb LLC, however, buyer by acceptance of the first delivery of material will be deemed to have accepted the Terms & Conditions herein, regardless of whether this document has been executed by the buyer. Credit card payments will be assessed a 3% processing fee at the time of payment. Fletcher Granite Curb, LLC does not accept return of curb without specific prior written approval.			Subtotal	\$5,525.00
			Sales Tax (6.25%)	\$325.75
			Total	\$5,848.75

You have received this Quote per your request from Belson Outdoors (belson.com).
If you are having trouble reading this email? [View it in your browser](https://www.belson.com/Secure/Request.aspx?OrderID=299740&Key=5235.5966278207) or go to
<https://www.belson.com/Secure/Request.aspx?OrderID=299740&Key=5235.5966278207>

Quote #
WQ 299740

Here is the Quote as per your request. The 'Shipping' total has been applied.
To place an order, simply click 'Submit Order Confirmation' below.
Please print this page for your records.
Customer Order Confirmation is **required** to process order.



627 Amersale Drive
Naperville, IL. 60563
sales@belson.com

Toll Free: 1-800-323-5664
Phone: 1-630-897-8489
Fax: 1-630-897-0573

QUOTE #
WQ 299740

Model #	Description	Lbs	Quantity	Unit Price	Unit Total
TF5029	6' Concrete Bench, No Back -A23 Acid Wash Gray	940	6	\$566.00	\$3,396.00
		Subtotal	5,640	Subtotal	\$3,396.00

6.2500% Tax ~~\$212.25~~

Customer Order Confirmation is required to process order.

Shipping \$1,030.17

Your Order will not be shipped without your "Order Confirmation"

Grand Total ~~\$4,638.42~~

First Name* Paul

First Name Paul

Last Name* Funch

Last Name Funch

Company Groton Trails Committee

Company Groton Trails Committee

Address* 173 Main St.

Address* 173 Main St.

Address 2

Address 2

City* Groton

City* Groton

State* MA

State* MA

Zip Code* 01450

Zip Code* 01450

Country US

Country US

Phone* 978-302-9854

Phone 978-302-9854

Fax

Fax

Email pgfunch@verizon.net

Email pgfunch@verizon.net

Phone Call 24 Hours Prior to Delivery

Delivery to Residential or Non-Commercial Truck Route Addresses

Power Liftgate Service - Driver will lower shipment from the truck to the ground (Only)

Order Power Liftgate Service if — You will be unable to unload the shipment from the truck.

Does Not apply to UPS shipments



627 Amersale Drive
Naperville, IL 60563
sales@belson.com

Toll Free: 1-800-323-5664
Phone: 1-630-897-8489
Fax: 1-630-897-0573

Model #	Description	Lbs	Quantity	Unit Price	Unit Total
TSQP462HS-PA	46" x 62" Square Top Pedestal Frame Picnic Table, 2 Seats, Accessible (Double Overhang), Surface Mount, Punched Steel - Advantage Coating Choose Top/Seats Color Choose Frame Color	312	2	\$2,128.00	\$4,256.00
Calculate Shipping		Zip Code 01450		Subtotal	\$4,256.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call Service				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tax Exempt / For	TBD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liftgate Service				Resale	
After changing quantity, please click Recalculate below		Calculate		Shipping	\$672.49
				Grand Total	\$4,928.49

Shop for More

Recalculate

Empty Cart

Get Quote

Secure Checkout

Paul

From: Timmer, Summer L. <slt@pannier.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 1:40 PM
To: Paul
Subject: RE: Pannier Signs

Hi Paul,

One more thing! Just realized I didn't include the design prices. To design (5) signs, it'll be about \$2,300-2,800.

Thanks!
Summer

From: Timmer, Summer L.
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 1:38 PM
To: 'Paul' <pgfunch@verizon.net>
Subject: Pannier Signs

Hi Paul,

Great speaking with you today! Per our conversation, here's those ballpark numbers for your park signs.

(5) 36" w x 24" h Fiberglass panels: **\$215-230 each**
(5) Low profile bases (Traditional T or Cantilevered): **\$530-580 each**

Shipping to 01450: **\$215**

Please let me know once you've received this email, and if you have any questions! Otherwise, I'll look to hopefully hear from you sometime in April.

Thanks!
Summer



Summer Timmer / Customer Support Specialist
345 Oak Road, Gibsonia, PA 15044
(o) 724.265.4900 x207 (f) 724.265.4300
www.FannieGraphics.com
If you are attaching files larger than 5MB, use our [DropBox!](#)

Please make note of Pannier's facility closures for the holidays:
Closing Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at 12:00 PM EST, reopening Monday, January 3, 2022

Labor Quotes for Educational Signs Design					
		# Signs	Hours	Hourly Rate	Total
Production-quality layout	Pannier Graphics	5			\$ 2,800
- River, Stoddart, Animals, Future	NRWA	4	22	\$ 50	\$ 4,400
- Historical	Josh Vollmar	1	8	\$ 25	\$ 200
+ additional	NRWA	1	22	\$ 50	\$ 1,100
+ advisor	Indigenous	1	8	\$ 50	\$ 400
Total		5 signs			\$ 8,900

Attachment 8 - Cost Estimate for Nashua Riverwalk													
Stonedust													
Material	Number	Length	Width	Square Feet	Thickness	Cubic feet	Cubic yds	Tons	Cost per ton	Total Cost			
Main Path	1	1,000	6	6,000	0.5	3,000	111	144	\$	\$ 8,667			
Terminal Loop Path	1	460	4	1,840	0.5	920	34	44	\$	\$ 2,658			
Observation/Education Area	1	50	20	1,000	0.5	500	19	24	\$	\$ 1,444			
Additional Parking Area	1	50	30	1,500	0.75	1,125	42	54	\$	\$ 3,250			
Rest Areas	2	20	10	400	0.5	200	7	10	\$	\$ 578			
Total				10,740			213	277		Stonedust Total	\$ 16,597		
Truckloads	11	300	(20 Yd. capacity)										
Stonedust Delivery	11	88	Rate/Hour	# people						Delivery charge	\$ 3,300		
Labor (move, spread, and compress)	11	88	\$	70	2	(1@75, 1@\$65)							\$ 12,320
Landscape fabric													
Material	Number	Length	Width	Sq. Ft.	TheoryRolls	ActualRolls	Paramount Materials Mirafra 140N Geotextile Fabric - 15' x 360' Roll - TenCate						
Main Path	1	1,000	6	6,000	1.11	1.39	15	360	5400	1+	\$1,197.86		
Terminal Loop Path	1	460	4	1,840	0.34	0.43				2+	\$917.34		
Observation/Education Area	1	50	20	1,000	0.19	0.22				3+	\$809.74		
Additional Parking Area	1	50	30	1,500	0.28	0.28				10+	\$761.16		
Rest Areas	2	20	10	400	0.07	0.11	# Rolls	Per Roll	Total Fabric Cost (free shipping)				
						2.43	3.00	\$809.74	\$	2,429			
Labor (cut and lay over ground)	2.43	8	\$	65	2				\$	1,040			
Benches													
Material	Number	Per Bench	Cost	Concrete Bench									
Main Path	2	\$	566	\$	1,132	6' Classic Concrete Bench							Belson Outdoors
Observation/Education Area	4	\$	566	\$	2,264	TF5029							
Total	6	\$	566	\$	3,396	\$	1,030	\$	4,426	Total Benches	\$ 4,426		
Tables													
Material	Number	Per Table	Cost	Freight	Total Cost	Square Coated Steel Pedestal Table	Total Tables	Belson Outdoors					
Observation/Education Area	2	\$	2,128	\$	4,256	672	\$	4,928	\$	4,928			
Installation Labor													
Helical Piers	2	\$	400	\$	800								
Installation	2	\$	300	\$	600								
Total				\$	1,400				\$	1,400			
Granite curbing													
Material	Feet	\$ per foot	Cost	Shipping	Total Cost	Weight	pounds/foot	Fletcher Granite					
Parking area	110	\$	21	\$	2,310	\$	-	\$	2,310		Chelmsford Grey		
Rest Areas	80	\$	21	\$	1,680	\$	-	\$	1,680				
Observation/Education Area	100	\$	21	\$	2,100	\$	-	\$	2,100				
Total	290	\$	21	\$	6,090	\$	345	\$	6,435	\$	6,435		
Installation Labor (set in concrete)													
Parking Area	110	\$	8	\$	65.00	2			\$	1,040			

Attachment 8 - Cost Estimate for Nashua Riverwalk									
Signs	Material	# Signs	\$ per sign	Cost	Shipping	Total Cost			
	Signs (2'x3')	5	\$ 230	\$ 1,150					
	Supports (Cantilevered)	5	\$ 580	\$ 2,900					
	Total			\$ 4,050	\$ 215	\$ 4,265			\$ 4,265
	Design Labor								
	- For production	Pannier	5			\$ 2,800			
	- River, Stoddart, Animals, Future	NRWA	4	22	\$ 50	\$ 4,400			
	- Historical	Josh Vollmar	1	8	\$ 25	\$ 200			
	+ additional	NRWA	1	22	\$ 50	\$ 1,100			
	+ advisor	Indigenous	1	8	\$ 50	\$ 400			\$ 8,900
	Total					\$ 8,900			
	Installation Labor								
	Helical Piers		5		\$ 400	\$ 2,000			
	Installation			5	\$ 200	\$ 1,000			
	Total					\$ 3,000			\$ 3,000
Project Cost Summary									
		Without RTP	With RTP	Trail Only		Observation Area		Totals:	Materials
	Total Project Cost	\$ 70,080	\$ 70,080	Stonedust	\$ 29,352	Stonedust	\$ 2,864	Totals	Labor
	minus:			Landscape	\$ 3,209	Landscape	\$ 260	\$ 32,217	\$ 27,700
	RTP payment	\$ -	\$ 31,434	Benches	\$ 1,475	Benches	\$ 2,951	\$ 3,469	\$ 70,080
	Other grants	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	Tables	\$ -	Tables	\$ 6,328	\$ 4,426	
	Volunteer Labor		\$ 868	Granite	\$ 5,255	Granite	\$ 2,220	\$ 6,328	
	Maximum CPA Cost	\$ 62,580				Signs	\$ 16,165	\$ 7,595	
	Likely CPA cost		\$ 30,278	Totals	\$ 39,292		\$ 30,788	\$ 16,165	
								\$ 70,080	
	Quotations Received:	Tables	Benches	Signs	Curbing	Ream	Total	Delta	
		\$ 4,928	\$ 4,426	\$ 13,165	\$ 6,435	\$ 40,754	\$ 69,708	\$ 372	
Volunteer Match for RTP Grant									
		# Volunteers	Hours	Rate/Hour	Total Cost				
	Preparation of trail areas	10	2	\$ 31	\$ 620				
	Moving material								
	Curbing	4	1	\$ 31	\$ 124				
	Benches	4	1	\$ 31	\$ 124				
	Total				\$ 868				

Attachment 9. Letters of Support

Organization	Page #
Commission on Accessibility	2
Council on Aging	3
Destination Groton	4
Greenway Committee	5
Groton Conservation Trust	6-7
Park Commission	8
Planning Board	9
Seven Hills	10



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450
Telephone (978) 448-1105
Fax: (978) 448-1113

Office of the
Commission on Accessibility

February 15, 2022

Community Preservation Committee
Town Hall
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

RE: "Nashua Riverwalk" CPC Application by the Groton Trails Committee

Dear Committee Members:

As the ADA Coordinator for the Town of Groton I fully support the Groton Trails Committee's request for Community Preservation funds for the Nashua Riverwalk project. This project involves the construction of a 1/4 -mile-long accessible trail along the Nashua River in the J. Harry Rich State Forest on Nod Rd that will connect with the existing accessible John Tinker Trail. The Commission on Accessibility (which has not been able to meet remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic), strongly supports the development of additional accessible recreational opportunities for citizens and neighbors of Groton to enjoy. The Trails Committee shares our goal of providing the public access to our town's scenic forests and rivers regardless of any mobility impairment. The accessible trail in Rich State Forest is frequently used by many people with mobility challenges and their friends and family.

The Trails Committee's plan for the Nashua Riverwalk project is to add a small observation and picnic area along the Nashua River that will also conform to all ADA requirements for accessibility. Benches and tables in this area will make this an attractive park for people of all abilities to enjoy. In addition, educational signs placed in this park will be very helpful for increasing public understanding of the many reasons we need to conserve our rivers and their tributaries. We support the Trail Committee's plan to dedicate this trail and park to an outstanding citizen of Groton, Marion Stoddart, who for 50+ years has been advocating to improve and protect the health of the Nashua River and its tributaries. Adding a much-needed accessible trail park in Groton to honor Marion Stoddart is a wonderful contribution to Groton's infrastructure.

Very truly yours,

Michelle Collette

Michelle Collette
ADA Coordinator



The Groton Center
163 West Main Street
Groton, MA 01450
978-448-1170

1/28/2022

Groton CPC
Town Hall
173 Main St.
Groton, MA 01450

To the Groton CPC,

I am writing to express the Groton Council on Aging's support for the Groton Trails Committee to receive CPC funding for the proposed Nashua Riverwalk accessible trail. The proposed Nashua Riverwalk in the J. Harry Rich State Forest will include a fully accessible trail that will follow along one of the most beautiful stretches of the Nashua River for people of all ages and abilities, including those who require walkers, wheelchairs, and strollers. The two rest areas will have benches, and the larger observation area will have two handicap tables and four benches. Educational signs will describe the river ecosystem, the plant and animal life, and historical points of interest. The Nashua Riverwalk accessible trail will be an asset for all of Groton's residents to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Shaheen, Groton's Council on Aging Director



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450
(978) 448-1111
FAX: (978) 448-1115

Destination Groton Committee

Gregory M. Sheldon, Chair
Jeff Gordon, Vice Chair
Mairi Elliot, Clerk
Julie Platt, Member
Joni Parker-Roach, Member

24 February 2022

Mr. Richard Hewitt, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
173 Main St.
Groton, MA 01450

RE: Support for "Nashua Riverwalk" - 2023-04

Dear Community Preservation Committee:

At our February 23, 2022 meeting, the Destination Groton Committee voted 5-0 in favor of the Groton Trails Committee CPC application for the Nashua Riverwalk.

The proposed Nashua Riverwalk will include a fully accessible trail, additional parking, two rest areas with concrete benches and a larger observation area serving residents and visitors of all ages and abilities. This project will also offer an educational experience for those interested in learning about the Nashua River ecosystem and the effort led by Marion Stoddart to reclaim and preserve it for future generations.

The Destination Groton Committee is dedicated to promoting civic pride in celebrating Groton's rich history and its many attractions. How wonderful it will be to connect the Nashua Riverwalk (soon to be renamed: the Marion Stoddart Riverwalk) with the John Tinker Trail. That connection will celebrate both Groton's earliest "explorer" with Groton's most renowned conservation "visionary."

Sincerely yours,

Gregory M. Sheldon

Gregory M. Sheldon, Chair

January 28, 2022

Groton Community Preservation Committee
Groton Town Hall
173 Main St.
Groton, MA 01450

Greetings:

The Groton Greenway Committee voted unanimously on January 27, 2022 to support the Groton Trails Committee's 2021 application for a Community Preservation Act funding request to fund the construction of the Nashua Riverwalk accessible trail in the J. Harry Rich State Forest, in Groton, MA. This project entails the construction of an accessible public trail along the Nashua River greenway connecting to Nod Road. This proposed accessible trail will follow along a natural corridor along the Nashua River. The project will provide educational and interpretive signage describing the Nashua River's recovery and the ecological importance of protecting the streams and greenways in the Nashua River Watershed.

The Groton Greenway Committee appreciates the dedication of this important trail to Marion Stoddart's outstanding advocacy to clean up and protect the Nashua River and its natural corridor. The goals of the Greenway Committee include increasing the protection of the Nashua and Squannacook River Greenways along with facilitating low-impact recreational access along the Nashua River corridor and providing educational and interpretive opportunities pertaining to the importance of the rivers and greenways in Groton. The Nashua Riverwalk accessible trail project aligns well with these goals.

Sincerely,



Adam Burnett

Chairperson, Groton Greenway Committee
Groton Town Hall
173 Main St.
Groton, MA 01450



P.O. Box 395
Groton, MA 01450

gctrust.org

February 23, 2022

Mr. Richard Hewitt, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
Town of Groton
173 Main St.
Groton, MA 01450
Via Email: communitypreservation@grotonma.gov

Re: Letter of Support for the Groton Trails Committee's Application 2023-04 Nashua Riverwalk

Dear Mr. Hewitt,

This letter is to express the enthusiastic support of the Groton Conservation Trust (GCT) for the Groton Trails Committee's application to the Community Preservation Committee for financial support for its proposed Nashua Riverwalk. The GCT believes that this project is consistent with our mission of conserving Groton's natural landscapes, fostering education of the public, and facilitating the public's enjoyment of the out-of-doors. Providing access to our natural landscapes to those with different abilities is a very important goal of the GCT and the proposed project would contribute greatly to that goal.

It is increasingly recognized that time spent in nature provides both psychological and physical benefits. As you may know, physicians in some European countries prescribe time spent outdoors as a means of improving their patients' health and welfare. I believe that the notable increase in Groton's trails and parks during the Covid pandemic have been of great value to the citizens of, and visitors to, Groton.

By providing accessible trails such as the Nashua Riverwalk, these benefits are made available to people who would otherwise miss out. Based on my frequent visits to the John Tinker Trail, I can attest to its popularity and its use by not only those with handicaps but with families, including those with strollers, interested in a lovely, non-challenging visit to the banks of the Nashua River. The Nashua Riverwalk would extent these opportunities to the banks of the river proper and would also provide more amenities to improve the visitors' experiences.

The GCT endorses the installation of accessible tables and benches along the proposed trail. Again, my experience indicates that these will be used and appreciated. We also applaud installation of educational signs regarding the river's ecosystem, something all ages would enjoy, and which is so important in fostering a life-long appreciation of the natural world.

The GCT enthusiastically endorses educating the public on the important role that Marion Stoddart has played in reversing the environmental damage to the Nashua River and ensuring its future protection. Marion Stoddart is a pioneering environmentalist of national and international stature. What better place to describe her contributions than the banks of the Nashua in Groton? Of course, we also approve of naming the proposed project in her honor.

The GCT also appreciates the importance of adequate parking, particularly for those that rely on wheelchairs. Therefore, we are glad to see the proposal to expand the existing parking lot.

As you know, the GCT also has an application in front of the Community Preservation Committee for an accessible trail of approximately one quarter mile on its Bates land on Old Ayer Road. We do not find that these two proposals are redundant in any way. If both projects were constructed, less than one percent of Groton's trails would be handicap accessible, a number we should all hope to improve upon. In addition, while the Nashua Riverwalk would provide access to the forest and vistas of the river, our proposal would allow passage through streams and meadows with views of some of Groton's lovely drumlins.

We believe that the Nashua Riverwalk would contribute to Groton's becoming a successful destination community by providing an increased range of activities to a broader spectrum of people.

In summary, the GCT believes that the proposed Nashua Riverwalk is an excellent candidate for a grant from the Community Preservation Committee. We share the Groton Trails Committee's thought that this effort would expand access to the "pride of Groton", its wonderful landscapes.

Please call me at 978.337.5935 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Gerath', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Gerath
President, Groton Conservation Trust

January 19, 2022

Sammie Kul, Administrative Assistant
Groton CPC
Town Hall
173 Main St.
Groton, MA 01450

RE: Groton Trails Committee Application 2023-04 for the "Nashua Riverwalk"
Dear Ms. Kul:

The Groton Park Commission voted unanimously on January 18, 2022, to support the Groton Trails Committee's application (2023-04) to use \$60,154 of Community Preservation Act funds for the Nashua Riverwalk project. This project involves the construction of a 1/4 -mile-long accessible trail along the Nashua River in the J. Harry Rich State Forest on Nod Rd that will connect with the existing accessible John Tinker Trail. The Park Commission strongly supports the development of additional accessible recreational opportunities for citizens and neighbors of Groton to enjoy our scenic town regardless of any mobility impairments they may have.

In addition, the Nashua Riverwalk project will create a small observation area along the Nashua River. Benches and tables in this area will make this an attractive park for all to enjoy. Educational signs placed in this park will be very helpful for increasing public understanding of the need to conserve our rivers and their tributaries. We support the Trail Committee's plan to dedicate this trail and park to an outstanding citizen of Groton, Marion Stoddart, who for 50+ years has been advocating to improve and protect the health of the Nashua River and its tributaries. While the Park Commission will have no oversight responsibilities for this park, we feel it will be an important and scenic addition to Groton's parks.

Sincerely yours,



Donald R. Black
Groton Park Commission
Town Hall
Groton, MA 01450



Office of the
PLANNING BOARD

TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450
Tel: (978) 448-1105
Fax: (978) 448-1113
Planning@townofgroton.org

February 16, 2022

Mr. Richard Hewitt, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Hewitt:

The Groton Planning Board voted unanimously on January 27, 2022 to support the Groton Trails Committee's application for Community Preservation Act funding to construct the Nashua Riverwalk project. This project was identified as a priority in the 2014 Groton Trails Vision and in Groton's 2019 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The proposed Nashua Riverwalk will include a fully accessible trail along the Nashua River in the J. Harry Rich State Forest for a distance of about 0.25 miles and will connect with the existing, fully accessible John Tinker Trail. The trail will provide a scenic forest experience along one of the most beautiful stretches of the Nashua River for people of all ages and abilities, including children in strollers and those using walkers or wheelchairs. It will include two rest areas with benches and a larger observation area at the terminus. The observation area will have two handicap tables and four benches as well as high-quality educational signs. The signs will describe the Nashua River ecosystem, the efforts that Marion Stoddart has led for over 50 years to restore and protect it, the continuing efforts required to sustain it, the plant and animal life (including humans) that depend on it, and historical points of interest.

The Planning Board members enthusiastically support making this scenic location accessible to people of all ages and abilities. We are also very pleased to support the project's plan to provide educational signage about the Nashua River ecosystem and its decades-long recovery led by Marion Stoddart.

The Groton Planning Board urges you to act favorably on the Trails Committee's application for the Nashua Riverwalk.

Sincerely yours,

Takashi Tada
Land Use Director/Town Planner
For the Groton Planning Board



□
22 Hillside Avenue
Groton, MA 01450
(978) 448-3388
Fax (978) 448-9695

February 22 2022

Executive Offices
Seven Hills Foundation
81 Hope Avenue
Worcester, MA 01603
(508) 755-2340
Fax (508) 849-3882
TTY (508) 890-5584
www.sevenhills.org

Mr. Richard Hewitt, Chair
Community Preservation Committee
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Hewitt:

My apologies for any delay in relaying this letter to you. Holly Jarek NHA retired in November of 2021, and I have assumed the role of NHA. Seven Hills Pediatric Center, an Affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation wishes to lend our support to the Groton Trails Committee's 2022 application for a Community Preservation Act grant to fund the Nashua Riverwalk project. This project will include the construction of a one quarter mile-long accessible trail in the J. Harry Rich State Forest off Nod Rd. in Groton that will connect with the previously built John Tinker Trail, which is also accessible. This project will construct two rest areas as well as a larger observation area along the riverbank that will provide exceptional views of the Nashua River and provide a stimulating forest environment for all trail users.

Seven Hills Pediatric Center is a pediatric skilled nursing facility with 83 children and there is also a medical group home for five residents that is very close to the John Tinker Trail. All children are in wheelchairs and there are few places in our area where staff can take children to enjoy the outdoors that is accessible. We enthusiastically support making this scenic location accessible to all members of the public regardless of any mobility impairments they may have and we urge you to act favorably on the Trails Committee's application for funding for the Nashua Riverwalk.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Andrews".

Cynthia Andrews NHA MSN VP

Seven Hills Pediatric Center

22 Hillside Avenue

Groton MA 01450

978*732*5299

candrews@sevenhills.org

9. CPA SUMMARY PROJECT FORM

[CPC Use Only: Date Received 10/22/2021 By: SAMMIE KUL
Assigned CPC #2023 - 04]

This form may be copied. Please type or print clearly, answer all questions, use "N/A" if not applicable. Use additional paper as needed.

1. a.) Applicant Name: Last Funch First Paul
and Organization(s) (if appropriate) Groton Trails Committee
b.) Regional Project: Yes or No? N If Yes, Town/Organization: _____
2. Submission Date: 10/28/21
3. Applicant Address: St 92 Reedy Meadow Rd.
City/ State: Groton, MA ZIP: 01450
4. Ph. # 978-302-9854 Email: pgfunch@verizon.net

5. CPA Purpose. Check all that apply:

Community Housing: ☐ Affordable Housing: ☐ Historic Preservation*: ☐

Open Space: ☐ Recreation: ☒

* As per MA General Law Chapter 44B, proposed historic projects that are not on the structures listed on the state's registry of historic places require a determination by the Groton Historic Commission that the proposed project is of historic significance.

6. Project Location/Address: J. Harry Rich State Forest, Nod Rd., Groton, MA
7. Project Name: Marion Stoddart Riverwalk
8. Community Preservation Plan Objectives - use codes from **Section 5** to indicate all that apply:
OSRP 9.3.4 OSRP 9.5.1, OSRP 9.5.4, 9.7.1

9. Project basic description: The Marion Stoddart Riverwalk will be a fully accessible trail that will be created in the J. Harry Rich State Forest on Nod Rd. It intersects with the John Tinker Trail to the north. It goes south on an existing trail next to the Nashua River Ox Bow for about 1,500 feet. Along the way will be two small rest areas, each with a concrete bench, and at the end there will be a larger observation area with more benches. The observation area will have interpretive signs that will honor Marion Stoddart, who founded the nearby Nashua River Watershed Association. The educational signs will highlight the importance of the conservation work she began to repair and sustain the riparian environment. The signs will also describe the importance of the riparian environment and the challenge that remains in protecting it from point and non-point sources of pollution. (The location of the signs being adjacent to the Old Town Dump will not go unnoticed!)
- The existing trail will be made accessible by hardening and smoothing it. This will be achieved by compressing a six-foot wide, five-inch deep layer of 3/8-inch and smaller (3/8"-minus) crushed rock aggregate over landscape fabric installed over the current trail surface.
- The first 600 feet of the accessible trail will be parallel to the existing trail that is a popular equestrian trail. There is ample room for a six-foot wide equestrian trail and a six-foot wide accessible trail to share the existing trail corridor.
- The existing parking lot for the John Tinker Trail will need to be expanded to handle the anticipated increase in use of this larger accessible trail. This expansion and all other aspects of this project need

9. Continued - Project basic description: to be approved by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which owns and manages the Rich State Forest. DCR's Trail Proposal process has been initiated and final approvals will be required for this project to be viable. This same process was used when we created the John Tinker Trail and DCR has indicated strong support for the current Marion Stoddart Riverwalk project, so we are confident they will approve this proposal as well.
- The Groton Trails Committee will apply for a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant from the state in 2/22 that can be used for the accessible trail treadway and the surfaces of the observation and rest areas, but not for the benches in the observation area or for the educational signs as those things are considered to be for parks, which are not supported by the RTP funds. In addition, the RTP grants are matching grants and require 20% of the funds to be accounted for by a combination of volunteer labor, materials donations, or other sources of funds. A well-researched cost estimate has not been established yet, but a very rough approximation at this time would be \$30,000 for the accessible treadways, \$10,000 for concrete benches, \$10,000 for design and construction of educational signage, and \$5,000 for expansion of the parking lot, for a total of \$55,000. We would like to request this whole amount from CPA funds, with the reasonable expectation that our RTP grant application will be funded for roughly \$24,000 (80% of \$30K). In 2021, we applied for and received a grant from the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts to help pay for the educational signage, but we declined the grant since the RTP grant we submitted at the same time was not funded. We plan to reapply for the CFNCM grant next year to further reduce our need to use all of the CPA funds we request.
- To avoid impacts to endangered species, specifically turtles, in the project area, the work of building this trail will need to be conducted between November 2022 and March 2023. Based on the timeline required on the John Tinker Trail project, the Stoddart Riverwalk project will require 1-2 weeks to put down the crushed rock aggregate treadway. Benches could be installed at any time after that and the design of the educational signage could start as soon as funds are available and the signs could be installed anytime after the treadway is completed.

10. Applicant Signature: Paul G. Funch

Digitally signed by Paul G. Funch
Date: 2021.10.22 13:02:43 -04'00'

Date: _____

Co Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Co Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____