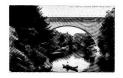
NEWTON UPPER FALLS AREA COUNCIL



May 1, 2020

Jennifer Steel Chief Environmental Planner City of Newton 1000 Comm. Ave. Newton, MA 02459 By email: jsteel@newtonma.gov

Dear Ms. Steel:

We are writing in support of your excellent and persistent work on creating a safe connection between the Upper Falls Greenway and the Upper Falls Riverwalk, in particular the construction of a stairway between the two paths.

Completing the stairway will create a trail loop connecting existing, but disconnected, trail fragments. It will connect parcels of open space, which is a long-standing goal of the city, and will advance the goals established in Newton's Open Space and Recreation Plan. For example, this trail loop will greatly improve the pedestrian options in Newton Upper Falls, which is an environmental justice community. And completing the trail loop will give Newton residents improved access to the towns of Wellesley, Needham, and Dedham, as the connection will allow access all the way from Hemlock Gorge to the DCR river pathways to Cutler Park and beyond.

Thank you for all of your hard work on this connection, and we look forward to the city finding a way to complete the stairway and cross the finish line in 2021. If there is anything at all the Upper Falls Area Council can do to help, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Anil Adyanthaya

President

Newton Upper Falls Area Council

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Cc: Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

City Councilor Deb Crossley

City Councilor Andreae Downs

City Councilor Bill Humphrey

Director Barney Heath, Planning & Development Commissioner Nicole Banks, Parks & Recreation

Newton Upper Falls Area Council