

# 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](mailto: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

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