



January 25, 2021

Amanda Lewis
MassTrails Program Manager
Department of Conservation & Recreation
136 Damon Road
Northampton, MA 01060

Dear Ms. Lewis,

On behalf of the North and South Rivers Watershed Association please accept this letter of support for the Town of Hanover's FY22 DCR Recreational Trails Grant Application. The North and South Rivers Watershed Association is a nonprofit dedicated to protecting our waters here on the South Shore. Saving land and opening it up for public access has been a major component in our work to engage the public in caring for their waters and watersheds. The NSRWA has been involved the development of the rail trail on the Hanover side of the Indian Head River to increase public access to this important tributary to the North River. We wholeheartedly support the Hanover application, which will provide funding to improve the former Hanover Branch Rail Line. The Hanover Branch Rail Trail already runs through Rockland and into Abington as a regional, handicap accessible, and safe greenway on the South Shore. Bringing the trail improvements into Hanover will provide additional accessible recreational opportunities and is part of a larger vision of connecting the entire rail trail throughout its length and connecting an extensive trail network along the Indian Head River in Hanson, Pembroke and Hanover.

This is an excellent regional project that furthers healthy recreational opportunities for residents in Abington, Rockland, Hanover, as well as many on the South Shore. The trail as it exists offers residents 13,728 linear feet of paved Rail Trail on which to enjoy non-motorized recreation and this grant will help fund an additional 4,276 linear feet to the Trail. This grant application will afford Hanover the opportunity to permit, clear, grade, and pave a trail connecting another community to a regionally important recreational opportunity.

Our region, located close to Boston and comprised of mostly mature suburbs, is being increasingly developed into dense residential and commercial areas. It is critically important to safeguard and grow our recreational opportunities. This project is a unique high quality recreational experience because it allows visitors to walk, bike or skate through three diverse communities on the South Shore. Trail users can experience the natural beauty of woods and wetlands in Hanover, a small-town center in West Hanover, as well as the larger town, post-industrial settings in Rockland and Abington. We urge

The North & South Rivers Watershed Association Inc.
P.O. Box 43, Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
(781) 659-8168 Fax (781) 659-7915
www.nsrwa.org



NSRWA

you to approve this grant request, which will revitalize the former rail line, and help Hanover increase accessible recreational opportunity in our region.

Sincerely,

Samantha Woods
Executive Director