

Grand Opening - River Trail, Boat Launch and Fishing Platform in New Milford, Connecticut  
Connecting People to Nature, NRDAR

On Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, Molly Sperduto joined town officials, the New Milford River Trail Association, the Housatonic Valley Association, and members of the community to officially open the quarter-mile New Milford River Trail. The festivities began with the arrival of a flotilla of kayaks and canoes, led by New Milford's Mayor David Gronbach. After a ribbon cutting ceremony, participants walked along the newly created trail, fished from the new boat launch and fishing pier, and participated in other family friendly events. The boat launch, trail construction, and river bank stabilization work were partially funded by \$180,000 from the Trustees for the General Electric - Housatonic River NRDAR settlement. Town funding and generous donations from local businesses provided more than \$350,000 to complete the project. Ultimately, the Town hopes to extend the trail to the towns of Kent and Bridgewater. The project helps to compensate for lost recreational use as a result of historic contamination from the General Electric facility to the river. Trustees include the Department of the Interior, represented by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

For more information:

<http://www.newmilfordspectrum.com/news/article/Riverside-park-celebration-planned-at-Young-s-11200405.php>

<http://www.newstimes.com/local/article/Young-s-Field-Riverfront-Trail-opens-11227763.php>



Clockwise from top left: native plantings, kayakers arriving at the event, fishing demonstration, and walkers enjoying the trail.