

# *Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire CT*

George Noewatne, Director of Public Works and Engineering  
October 19, 2017



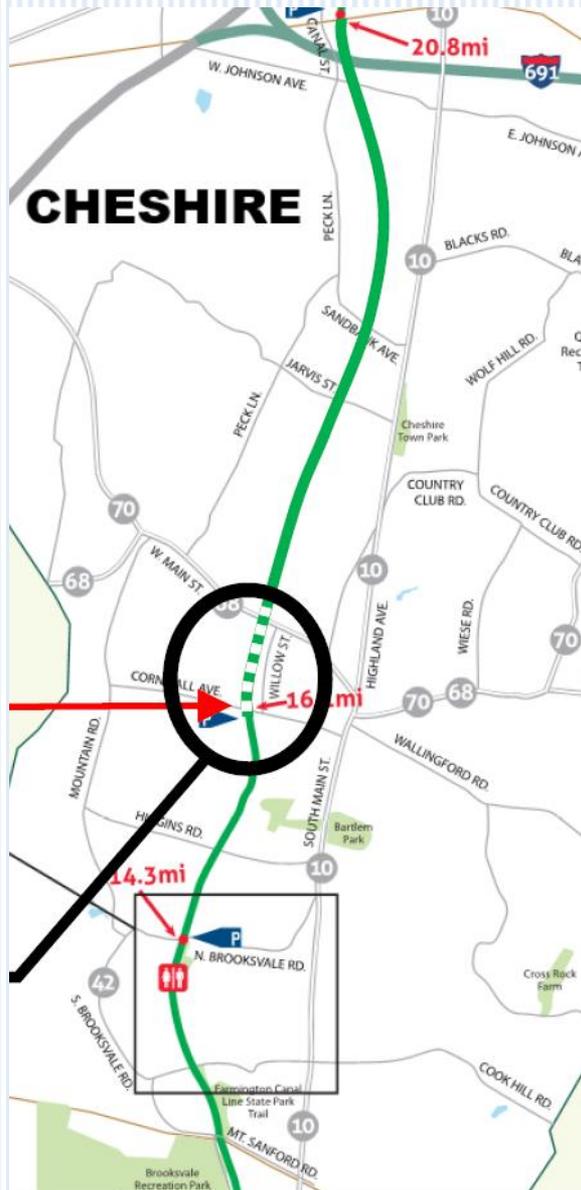
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# *Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire*

- ❖ Measures about 8 miles
- ❖ Will include 4 parking lots, three restroom locations
- ❖ Is 10'-12' wide with grass on one side and stone dust shoulder on the other
- ❖ Includes a viewing platform and benches along its length
- ❖ Allows recreation, nature, and history appreciation opportunities



# Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire



Trail measures about 8 miles from Southington to Hamden

2/3 mile to be completed



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# *Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire*

## **TIMELINE for Cheshire's Trail**

**May, 1994** – dedication of 2.9 miles north of Hamden

**July, 2016** – dedication of 1.5 miles in town center

**September, 2016** – dedication of 2.5 miles south of Southington

**April, 2017** – groundbreaking for final center section

**October 2018 (anticipated)** – dedication of final section



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The Trail is enjoyed by runners, bikers, and walkers



## Historical signpost: The Irish Digger

Irish immigrants hand dug the canal between 1825 and 1835



Cheshire Street Trolley bridge, circa 1920

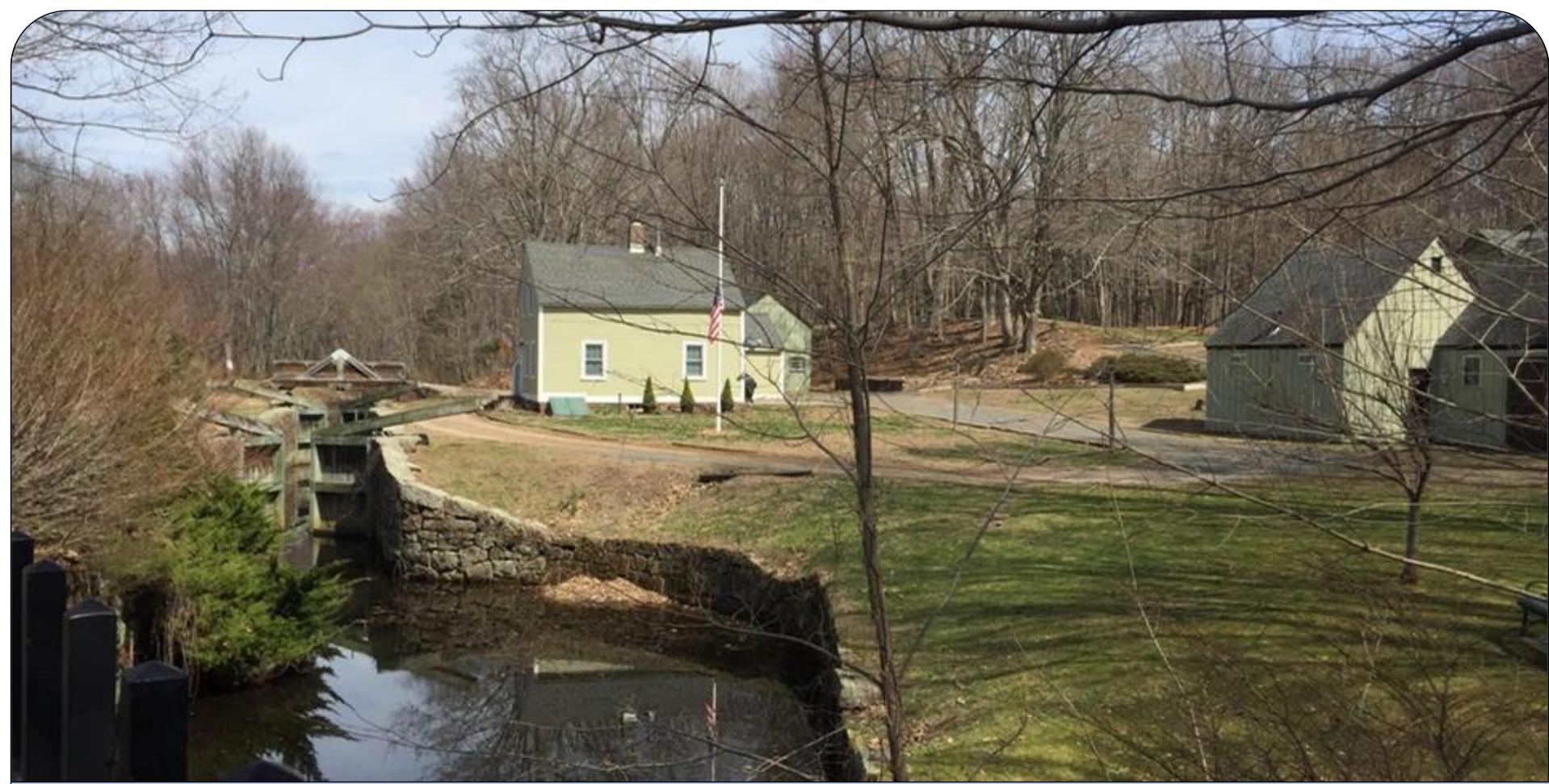


Remaining abutments of Cheshire Street Bridge



## Lock 12

Of the original 28 locks along the Farmington Canal, Lock 12 alone remains fully intact.



Lock 12 Lockkeeper's House

# Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire

## Trail Extension Cost, 2013-2016 (1.5 miles)

Design/Oversight:	\$400,000.00
Construction base bid amount:	\$2,600,000.00
Viewing platform:	\$87,000.00
Construction Change Orders:	\$160,000.00

**Approximate Total: \$3, 247,000.00**

Payment: 10% Town  
90% - State, Federal Grants



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# *Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire*

## *Trail Maintenance*

**Cost:** Approximately \$35,000/year

**Hours:** 16 hours/week during season

**Tasks:** Empty trash receptacles

Restock doggy waste bags

Clean bathrooms

Tree maintenance

Blow debris from path (fall)

Plowing 1.5 miles



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# *Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire*

## *Future Capital Projects for oldest trail section*

Repaving: \$20/foot (\$105,000/mile)

Replace wooden deck bridges: \$5,000 each

Repair/replace entrance signs: \$2,500 each



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# *Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire*

## *Public Safety: Police Patrols*

Focus on parking lots

Routine bicycle patrols

Motorcycles used for emergency response

Bollard removal allows emergency vehicle access

Crime statistics are not tracked separately



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## *Public Safety: Pedestrian Crossings*

### **HAWK (High-Intensity Activated crosswalk)**



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# *Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire*

## *Advantages for Community*

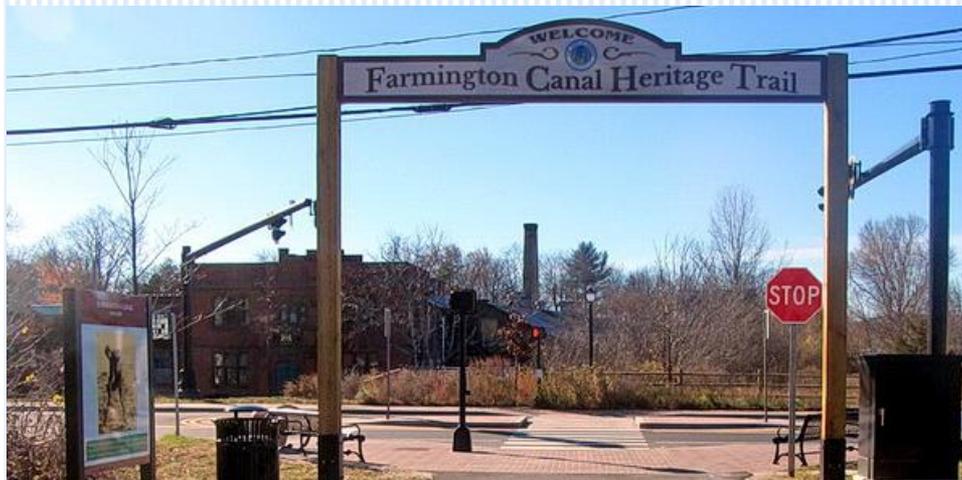
Provides a destination for tourists

Promotes health and fitness

Builds a sense of community

Provides educational opportunities for schools

Benefits local businesses



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# Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire

## Final Thoughts

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And I have been lost for forty-five minutes.



# *Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Cheshire*

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