



Matching Grant  
Challenge 2022

MAKE YOUR DOLLAR  
**GO TWICE AS FAR**

TO BUILD THE RIDGEFIELD RAMBLE



For every **\$1** you pledge  
our generous  
donor will match up  
to **\$62,500**  
for a total of **\$125,000!**

When we reach **\$200,000**  
it will unlock a **\$3,000,000**  
grant from the State of CT.

*We appreciate your interest in learning more about the Norwalk River Valley Trail and bringing this much-loved community amenity to Ridgefield.*

The following is some background information on this legacy project.

## ORGANIZATION

The NRVN is a 501c3 nonprofit formed in 2012. Its twelve-member Board of Directors includes representatives from the five towns through which the NRVN will run; Norwalk, Wilton, Ridgefield, Redding and Danbury. The NRVN is primarily a volunteer organization, with the exception of its Executive Director hired in January 2022. The NRVN meets monthly and the meetings are open to the public.

## MISSION

The mission of the NRVN is to facilitate the design, construction, and maintenance of a regionally significant, safe, multipurpose trail linking Norwalk, Wilton, Redding, Ridgefield, and Danbury.

When completed, the 30-mile, ten-foot wide, multi-use trail will run from Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk, passing through Wilton, Ridgefield and Redding, terminating at Rogers Park in Danbury.

The Trail will reflect the needs and desires of these communities and will foster increased recreational opportunities, alternative transportation options, and a healthy lifestyle.

## NRVN OVERALL CURRENT STATUS

Nearly eleven (11) miles of trail have been completed in Norwalk, Wilton and Redding, with another mile in Norwalk opening in September 2022.

Three (3) additional miles in Ridgefield, Wilton, and Danbury are in the process of being designed, approved, and funded.

Currently, there are a myriad of ARPA infrastructure investment grants available on the State and Federal level providing opportunities for more NRVN trail building in the near future.

## RIDGEFIELD RAMBLE TRAIL STATUS

The NRVN has designed its first section in Ridgefield, the 1.66 mile Ridgefield Ramble. Working in partnership with the Town of Ridgefield, a State grant of \$3,040,000 has been requested to construct this section. These State funds are for construction only.

The Friends of the NRVN must raise approximately \$200,000 in pre-construction costs to trigger the \$3 million grant.

Pre-construction includes surveying, engineering plans, wetlands permits and environmental assessments. The Town of Ridgefield is awaiting the funding letter from the State.

# RIDGEFIELD RAMBLE FUNDRAISING STATUS

## \$62,500 MATCHING CHALLENGE

Approximately \$75,000 has been raised to date and these funds are financing the early stage of pre-construction for the Ridgefield Ramble. We are thankful for the generous donors bringing us to this important juncture. This leaves \$125,000 remaining to be raised of the \$200,000 in pre-construction costs.

Recently, an anonymous donor pledged 50% of the \$125,000, or \$62,500 as a Matching Challenge. The Friends of the NRV T now seeks donors to meet this Matching Challenge.

By raising the full \$200,000, the NRV T will be in a ready position to implement construction of the Trail when the \$3 million of State funding is released.

## FAQS

### WHERE WILL THE RIDGEFIELD RAMBLE BE CONSTRUCTED AND HOW LONG WILL IT BE?

The southern end of the Ridgefield Ramble begins at the intersection of Simpaug Turnpike and Rt. 7, just across from the Little League field. The beautiful property begins at a pond adjacent to the Norwalk River and follows around the pond. It then begins a climb into the Berkshire foothills - all off road through beautiful woodland - to its northern terminus at Fire Hill Road at the Ridgefield/Redding town line.

A parking lot and trailhead will be constructed on the northeast corner of this intersection. The Ramble will run for 1.66 miles.

### WILL THE RIDGEFIELD RAMBLE CONNECT TO OTHER PARTS OF THE NRV T?

Yes. The Ramble will connect to the Redding Mile at Fire Hill Road which was completed in late 2021. Therefore, when the Ramble is completed, the NRV T will run for over 2.5 miles, all off road, connecting Redding and Ridgefield.

### WHO CAN USE THE NRV T?

The NRV T is a ten-foot wide, stone-dust trail designed for use by everyone: hikers, bikers, runners, parents with baby strollers, dogwalkers, young and old alike. It is handicap accessible for wheelchairs. Horses and motorized vehicles (except motorized wheelchairs) are not allowed on the NRV T.

### WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?\*

September 2022:	Receipt of the DOT funding letter
July-October 2022:	Raise the \$200,000 in pre-construction costs.
Fourth Quarter 2022:	Complete permitting and pre-construction.
First Quarter 2023:	Issue Request for Proposal for Construction bids
Second/Third Quarter 2023:	Select contractor; begin construction

*\*Timing is dependent on receipt of the DOT funding letter.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The NRVT was voted the #1 amenity in town by the citizens of Wilton.
- The NRVT is one of fifteen trails participating in the CT Trail Census run by UCONN. During the COVID pandemic, the infrared counter saw the foot traffic on the Wilton Loop increase by 260%. During COVID, the NRVT has been a real asset to the community's health and well-being.
- Teams of volunteers have adopted sections of the Trail to keep it well maintained.
- The NRVT partners with the Norwalk River Watershed Association to extend the Pollinator Pathway wherever possible along the NRVT.
- Trails and greenways increase residential property values in the neighborhoods and communities they are located in.



## WHO CAN I SPEAK WITH ABOUT THE NRVT?

Please call or email:

Charlie Taney, *President Friends of the NRVT*  
[ctaney@nrvt-trail.com](mailto:ctaney@nrvt-trail.com), 203-536-5618

Andrea Gartner, *NRVT Executive Director*  
[agarnter@nrvt-trail.com](mailto:agarnter@nrvt-trail.com), 203-470-8005

## HOW CAN I DONATE TO THE NRVT?

You can donate via the NRVT web site  
[www.nrvt-trail.com](http://www.nrvt-trail.com)

Checks can be made out to the NRVT, with  
Ridgefield Ramble on the memo line,  
and mailed to:  
NRVT | PO Box 174 | Georgetown, CT 06829



# RIDGEFIELD RAMBLE



**Stantec**

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.  
55 Church Street Suite 601  
New Haven CT 06510-3014  
Tel: (203) 495-1445  
www.stantec.com

Client/Project  
**TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD**

NRVT RIDGEFIELD RAMBLE TRAIL

Project No.  
**192311285**

Title  
**USGS LOCATION MAP**

Scale  
**1" = 2000'**

Reference Sheet

Date  
**01/27/2022**

Figure No.  
**A**

# RIDGEFIELD RAMBLE IN-DEPTH

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- Receipt of the grant for the Ridgefield Ramble announced in June 2021. <https://news.hamlethub.com/ridgefield/places/69854-nrvt-receives-3-million-construction-grant-for-ridgefield-ramble>
- The Town of Ridgefield is awaiting a funding letter from the State DOT awarding \$3,040,000 for the construction of the Ridgefield Ramble.
  - ✓ LOTCIP Project Number L117-0002.
    - \* More information on LOTCIP grant guidelines can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DOT/documents/dhighwaydesign/LOTICIP-Guidelines-November-2021-Final-Web.pdf>
  - ✓ Project involves construction of a 10' wide stone dust trail along with several boardwalks over wetlands. A small parking lot and drainage culverts are also part of the project along with several local roadway crossings. Total length of the trail is approximately 8,800 linear feet.
    - \* The length of the gravel portion of the trail – 8,300 linear feet
    - \* The length of the boardwalks – 460 linear feet
    - \* Total length of planned Trail 8,760 linear feet or 1.66 miles
  - ✓ All DOT questions have been addressed. The funding letter is being drafted by the State DOT and expected soon.
- The building of the Ridgefield Ramble provides a major push for the NRV T and will help spur further Trail development.
  - ✓ By connecting to the new segment built in Redding last year, the Ridgefield Ramble will provide a recreational trail use on the eastern side of town where there are fewer opportunities.
  - ✓ The completion of the Ramble will continue to demonstrate the proven success of the NRV T Trail in fulfilling its mission.
  - ✓ With an impressive level of performance and a myriad of federal AARP infrastructure funding available for just such projects, the future looks golden in expanding the NRV T.
  - ✓ The NRV T can build on this success. For example, recent conversations with Danbury leaders have been promising and there is active interest in having the NRV T come to Danbury.
  - ✓ Working with CT Trails, the NRV T has two infrared counters along the Trail with one in Wilton (installed 2020) and Redding (installed June 2022). While the counters are not perfect and almost undercount (people walking side by side or in groups counted as one; missing high-speed cyclists, etc.), there is a correction factor applied. The following figures for June apply the correction factor used for Wilton in 2021 (raw data \*1.1037).
    - \* Wilton Loop – 8,064
    - \* Redding Mile – 1,116
- Other important details:
  - ✓ The grant will cover all construction for the Ridgefield Ramble.
  - ✓ It is the single largest grant received by the NRV T since its inception in 2012
  - ✓ Ridgefield Ramble's beautiful property begins at Rt. 7 and Simpaug Turnpike following around a pond (a former educational study area) along the Norwalk River then begins a climb into the Berkshire foothills.
  - ✓ When completed, one can hike from the Ridgefield Ramble parking lot at Rt. 7 up to Fire Hill Rd, and connect to the Redding Mile for an over 2.5-mile-long excursion, or approximately five miles out and back.

# GOAL

## \$200,000

