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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

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May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Sugarland Run Trail Improvements in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is The Town of Herndon, located at 777 Lynn Street, Herndon, VA, 20170.

Project: Sugarland Run Trail Improvements

Recipient: The Town of Herndon, Virginia, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon, VA, 20170

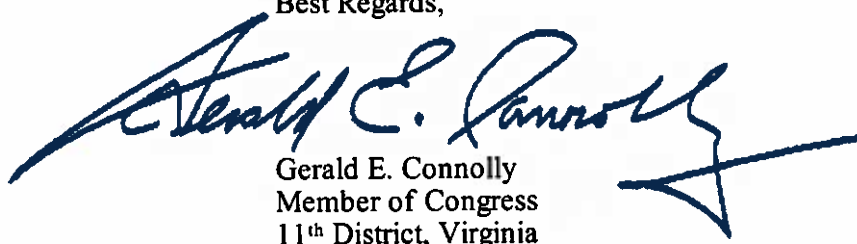
Amount: \$1,000,000

Background: This project will provide trail improvements for 3,500 feet of the Sugarland Run Trail through Runnymede Park. The project includes trail improvements through the 58-acre nature park to provide improved accessibility for individuals with decreased mobility and to provide improved bicycle connections to the regional trail. Sugarland Run Trail is a regional trail that connects Runnymede Park to the Fairfax County trail system. The section in Runnymede Park is an unimproved natural surface trail that does not meet ADA standards, preventing use by those with decreased mobility. Trail improvements such as paving, boardwalks, and observation areas would make the trail available to individuals with limited mobility, and for cyclists who desire to connect to the regional trail system for access to Metrorail/transit, employment and retail centers, and recreational opportunities. Runnymede Park is used for community events such as the Fishing Derby, Naturefest, and monthly birding walks. The proposed improvements would allow members of the community who, due to limited mobility, cannot currently participate and enjoy these community events and experience the natural beauty of the stream valley to have access, as do others, to these benefits. This trail improvement project will expand the use of the park while helping to preserve and protect its natural environment. This project is a good use of taxpayer dollars because it will ensure that public facilities are accessible to more members of the public and will enhance economic development and public recreation opportunities in the region.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Best Regards,


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia