

# Town of West Hartford

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50 South Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06107-2431

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Friends of Fernridge Park gives Town \$20,000 for Park Improvements**

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. (November 7, 2018) – Friends of Fernridge Park will present town officials with a check for \$20,000 at the Town Council’s meeting on November 13, 2018. The money will help pay to build new paths in Fernridge Park and reconstruct existing ones.

“The Town is fortunate to partner with community organizations like Friends of Fernridge Park,” said Helen Rubino-Turco, Director of Leisure Services and Social Services for West Hartford.

“Not only have they worked hard to lay out a comprehensive, long term plan for the park, but they are also raising funds to help make it a reality. This is a wonderful example of a successful public-private partnership.”

The funding will go towards the reconstruction of a path that leads into the park from Keeney Avenue and will link the path to new paths around either side of the pool. These new paved routes will eventually connect to form a 1,000 foot circular “promenade” that will surround the pool area and link all paths in the park. The Promenade is the centerpiece of the Friends long-term vision for Fernridge Park and will ultimately be lined with trees and benches to create a gathering place for park visitors to meet, stroll and play.

The park plan was developed with input from the community and assistance from landscape architect Peter Miniutti, a professor from the Community Research and Design Collaborative of the University of Connecticut’s Department of Landscape Architecture.

The path project will also link the parking lot near the tennis courts with the newly refurbished Keeney Avenue entrance path, creating a more accessible path to the swimming pool.

(more)

“It is so exciting to see the first phase of our plan taking shape,” said Rosemary DaCunha, Board President for Friends of Fernridge Park.

“The community has been very supportive, and we hope its support will continue as we work to finish the Promenade and make future improvements to the park.”

Established in 2012 as a non-profit organization, Friends of Fernridge Park works in partnership with the Town of West Hartford to maintain and enhance Fernridge Park’s natural beauty and recreational resources through planning, fundraising, advocating, and fostering volunteer involvement.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Friends’ effort to complete the Promenade, can donate through the organization’s website, <http://www.friendsoffern.org>, Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsoffern>, or by contacting Esther Spigel, Fundraising Chair, at [espigel134@gmail.com](mailto:espigel134@gmail.com).

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