

History

Native Americans were the first to settle the area along the river. The first Europeans to move into the area settled the hills of the southern Berkshires (including Danbury), building towns in the river valleys. Both Indian and early Yankee settlers lived a simple lifestyle in harmony with the river. In return, the river provided a healthy sustenance for water supply, fishing and agricultural activities with its clean water, the fertile topsoil of its floodplains, and a healthy fish population.

Abuse

The Transformation from a natural, vibrant watercourse to a sewer did not occur overnight; it gradually occurred over two centuries. Pollution from Mill sites and hat factories discharged directly into the river. In addition the individuals of Danbury were using the river as a personal sewage.

Revenge

As a result of developing land right up to the shoreline of the river, human settlements along the river became victims of the rivers tendency to flood over its channel during major storms in an attempt to flow out on to a floodplain which no longer existed. Specifically the hurricanes of 1939 and 1955 caused devastation to the city of Danbury



Banishment

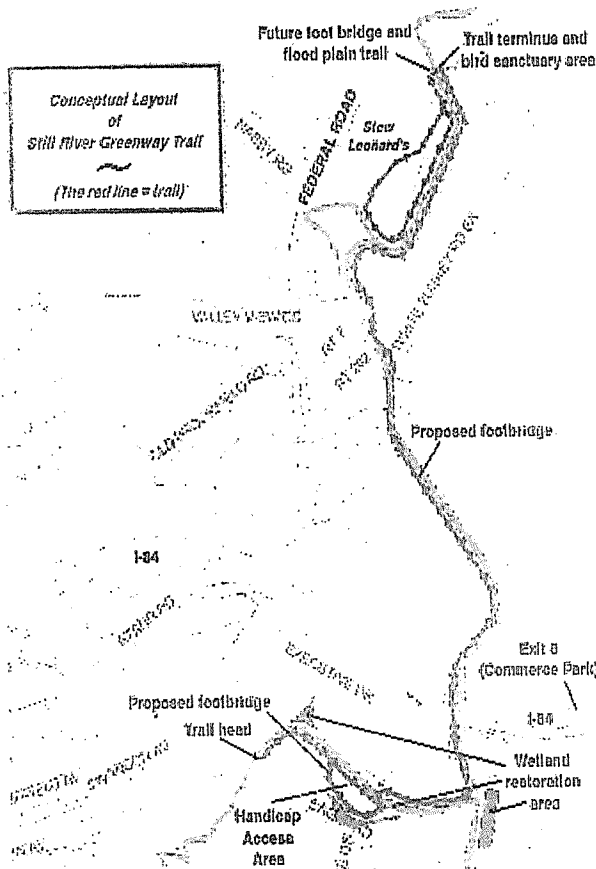
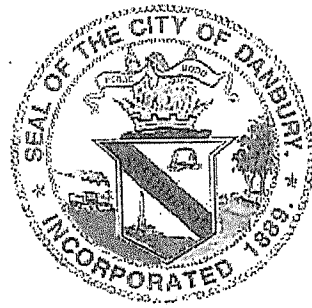
Due to the river's revenge, Danbury had to take steps to live with the abuse of a growing population, which infected the river. The most visible manifestation of the Banishment was the concrete box that was constructed downtown after the 1955 floods to prevent future flooding. This channelization project, built by the US Army Corps of Engineers, took the river out of its natural channel and placed it in a concrete sluice that extended from Main and White Street for approximately 1 mile to the location where the Still River crosses Caspar Street



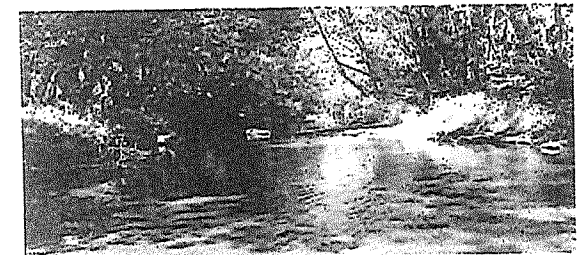
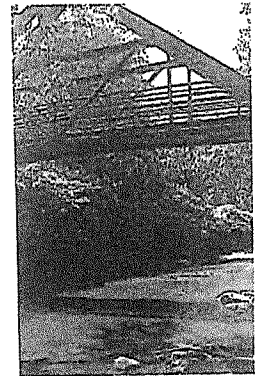
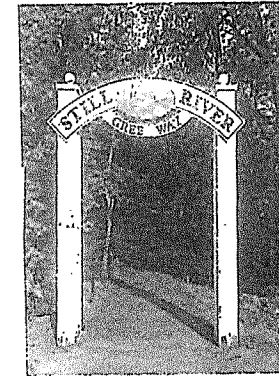
Rediscovery

The onset of the environmental age, in 1970, brought sweeping changes, nationwide, with the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state environmental agencies, including Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection, pro-active environmental health and restoration programs by local governments, strict environmental controls of discharges to waterways, new technologies to clean up water pollution that were installed by local industries and sewage treatment plants and citizen action, spurred on by the first Earth Day of 1970.

The effort of the past 28 years has been a noteworthy success. The water is clear again. It is no longer tainted by toxic pollutants, solids and odors. And the fish are back !!! But we can still do better. Our Environmental Restoration /Greenway project is all about the celebration of the Still River's revitalization.



Still River Alliance Commission of Danbury, CT



"Bringing new life to an old River"

Email : StillRiverAlliance@Gmail.com

Web site: <http://stillriveralliance.wix.com/danbu>



Still River Alliance Commission of Danbury



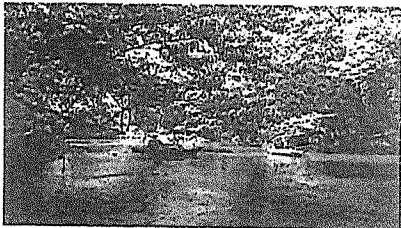
The Greenway

For many years, the Still River is a cultural icon in Danbury and the watercourse was abused by industrial and sewage discharges. This abuse took its toll on the River, and it gradually lost its beauty and ability to support aquatic life. The citizens of Danbury considered the River to be "dead".

Today the Still River offers many activities such as Hiking, Kayaking and Nature Walks.



The trail head for the Greenway is located at 1 Corporate Drive, Danbury CT (Behind Kimchuck). This trail offers a 2 mile in and out hike, easily accessible for the entire family.



There is a kayak launch located at 3 Eagle Road in Danbury CT (Behind the Marriott Courtyard). There are portages behind Loews movie theatre in Danbury and at 777 Federal Rd Ste 5. Brookfield, CT (behind Osaka resutraunt)

What do we do?

With the help of our many Still River Stewards, the Still River Alliance is able to keep the river clean fun!! Here are some events that we hold over the years!!

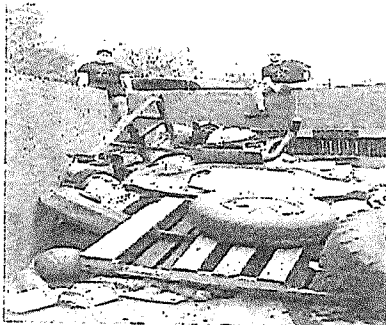
River Blockage Clean Ups



Environmental Education Day



City Clean Day



Volunteering

Are you interested in helping the community and the Still River Alliance in keeping the Greenway and River clean?

We need YOUR help for activities such as:

- Trail Maintenance
- River Blockage Clean Ups
- Event Volunteers
- Monthly Meetings

The Still River Alliance is a commission of the City of Danbury and holds its' monthly meetings as followed:

When: The 2nd Monday of Every Month

Time: 5:30 pm

Where: The Danbury Park and Recreation Office at 7 E Hayestown Rd, Danbury, CT 06811

For more information please contact us :

Email : StillRiverAlliance@gmail.com

Facebook: Still River Alliance Commission

