



June 17, 2013

The Allen Creek  
Greenway  
Conservancy

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The Conservancy  
is dedicated to  
creating a Greenway  
along the historic  
alignment of Ann  
Arbor's Allen Creek  
from Stadium  
Boulevard to the  
Huron River.

The Conservancy  
is a 501(c)(3)  
not-for-profit  
corporation.

525 West William St.  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
48103

AllenCreekGreenway.org

Dear Mayor Hieftje and Members the of Ann Arbor City Council,

I am speaking on behalf of the Allen Creek Greenway Conservancy to ask for a vote of "Yes" for Resolution R-13-0700, which will support the 721 North Main Project and the greater efforts of building a greenway in Ann Arbor.

A greenway through the heart of Downtown Ann Arbor has long been a vision of the City. The first acknowledgement of the possible Allen Creek Greenway appeared almost 32 years ago in the *July 1981 Plan for Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces*. In the past decade several resolutions have passed in favor of a greenway and in support of the Allen Creek Greenway Conservancy (the Conservancy). Resolution R-13-0700 is the next step in the City's realization of a greenway. This resolution serves as a transition for the City from supporting the concept of a greenway to committing to break ground on a greenway. The community has invested significant time and energy to the planning and assessment of the 721 North Main site and the approval of this Resolution constitutes an essential action to move this project forward. The 721 North Main Project will benefit the community in many ways: it begins to address downtown green space issues, serves as an important component of the North Main entrance into the City, and enables the building of the first element of the Allen Creek Greenway. The overall implementation of the Allen Creek Greenway will help address safety issues by separating bicyclists, walkers, joggers and in-line skaters from vehicular traffic. The Greenway will also provide a safe connection to the Border-to-Border trail and access to the Cascades and Argo Pond. The benefits of the Greenway move past safety and connectivity to overall health and wellbeing of both the people of Ann Arbor and our environment.

The Conservancy is confident the "identified funding sources" in the Resolution will be granted. The Conservancy has and will continue to provide support and endorsements for the 721 North Main Project and the City's efforts for a greenway. The Conservancy believes this project is the imperative beginning to the Allen Creek Greenway. As stated by Carl Johnson in 2006, "Now is the time to act. Each day lost will result in compounding the difficulty in realizing the dream of a lifetime. The Allen Creek Greenway is truly an once-in-a-lifetime dream and should not be missed." The time to begin moving the Greenway from paper to ground is now and it begins with the passing of this Resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Robert Galardi  
President, Board of Directors