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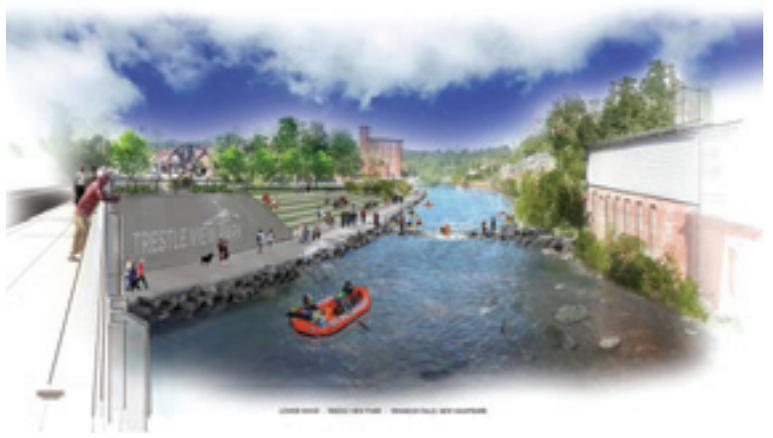
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Artist's concept of what part of Franklin's future Mill City Park might look like.

## Franklin's Mill City Park Receives Major Grant

One of several projects  
 happening in Franklin

Steve Foley

It may have been a drizzly and gray day, but spirits were high as area residents, community leaders and business people gathered under a tent at Trestleview Park in Franklin for the announcement of a major step forward for the proposed Mill City Park, a whitewater recreation area to be built along the banks of the Winnepesaukee River in Franklin.

Opening remarks about this project in conjunction with other things that are happening in Franklin were given by interim Mayor, Scott Clarenbach. Later in the program, Charles Chandler, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Franklin Savings Bank took to the podium to announce that the Bank was donating \$250,000 to the project. Chandler stated that the board of directors were unanimous in voting to donate to the project which he described as being "transformative for Franklin." The project also recently received a grant for \$180,000 from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. With these major grants proponents are hoping to get the project moving forward.

The Winnepesaukee River runs from

kayakers have gathered on New Year's Day to run the rapids on the Franklin section of the river beginning on Cross Mill Road. The water is relatively flat above Cross Mill Road. Almost immediately below the bridge the rapids begin and continue to the large former railroad trestle in downtown Franklin. After negotiating the



Charles Chandler, Chairman of the Board of Franklin Savings Bank, announces a donation of \$250,000 to Mill City Park. The announcement took place in Trestleview Park which already serves as a take out point for whitewater paddlers. Photo: Steve Foley

tricky rapids under the trestle paddlers are shot into a stretch of flat water being held back by the dam at the former Stevens Mill. A ramp was built many years ago in Trestleview Park so that the paddlers would be able to easily exit the river.

The popularity of whitewater sports has increased in recent years and the Franklin group, led by Mary Parichand, owner of One New England in downtown Franklin, hopes to develop a unique recreation area that focuses on whitewater sports as well as a Pump Track and other features that will attract people to come and play in Franklin. They believe that it will be key to the revitalization and resurgence of Franklin.



Workers putting the finishing touches on new windows installed in the Franklin Light and Power housing project in downtown Franklin. Photo: Steve Foley

Lake Winnepesaukee to Franklin where it joins the Pemigewasset to form the Merrimack River. The Franklin section of the river is known to have some of the best whitewater in the state. For many years,

So what is a pump track? The Mill City Park Website describes it as "a looping bike trail system of dirt berms and rollers, See Park on page 34