



CITY OF SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

Kimberley Driscoll
Mayor

January 26, 2011

Road Runners Club of America
1501 Lee Highway, Suite 140
Arlington, VA 22209

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Salem I am voicing my support for naming Salem, Massachusetts as a Road Runners Club of America Runner Friendly Community. Over the years interest in running has grown in Salem thanks, in no small part, to the efforts of Salem's Park, Recreation & Community Services Department.

Runners and joggers are a common site on Salem's streets and there are many great routes for runners of all abilities – from the ¼ mile dirt path around the Salem Common, to architecturally interesting and flat Derby Street, to the scenic Salem Willows Park and the rolling scenic coastal neighborhoods surrounding it. And, under our Parks Department, runners have been able to enjoy clinics, running clubs and races that cater to all ages and all skill levels.

Salem offers something for runners in every season, from the Summer Youth Track Club to the Wild Turkey 5-Mile Run on Thanksgiving – which has attracted over 1,500 participants. Even when it's too icy and cold for most to run, over 200 snowshoers signed up for our snowshoe race at the Olde Salem Greens Golf Course. The Wicked Running Club, which has its headquarters in Salem and was co-founded by Park, Recreation & Community Services Department Director Doug Bollen, has attracted over 300 members and has a plaque recognizing its weekly Saturday morning run starting point.

Perhaps the greatest indication that running has taken off in Salem is that the t-shirts from our races and the jackets given out to runners who complete our free Salem Road Race Series have become coveted collectors items throughout the area.

Even residents who don't participate as runners have gotten involved with our races and clinics. Numerous local businesses have become regular sponsors of our events and many of our residents and community groups pitch in to help with races.

Being named a Runner Friendly Community would not only acknowledge the hard work of City staff, runners and volunteers, but would also serve as another way for Salem to promote running and other fitness activities.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any further questions, or if I can be of assistance, please contact my office at (978) 745-9595 ext. 5600 or mayor@salem.com.

Sincerely,



Kimberley Driscoll
Mayor