



Chestnut Street Area Flooding Project Cluster

What is this project?

The Chestnut Street Area Flooding Project Cluster consists of three areas with poor drainage and reported flooding issues along Chestnut Street and Main Street in Foxborough, MA. Two are instances of known roadway flooding. The third is nuisance flooding at a residential development of 18 single-family homes resulting from poor drainage infrastructure.¹ Chestnut Street, Main Street, and North Street are arterial and collector roads, making unimpeded access a high priority to ensure safe travel by residents. Flooding in these identified areas may also have more widespread effects. The Foxborough Public Safety Building—which includes the Police Department, Fire Department, and Emergency Operations Center—is located at the intersection of North Street, Payson Road, and Chestnut Street, and substantial roadway flooding could impede emergency response during a flood hazard situation.²

These areas should be assessed to determine if stormwater retrofits, including green infrastructure, could be implemented to reduce flooding and improve infiltration on the site. Foxborough's draft 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan reports that nuisance street flooding caused by poor drainage is a frequent occurrence in the town. The reduction of nonpoint source pollution from stormwater runoff may have the added benefit of improving water quality in the nearby Neponset Reservoir.

Why is this project important for the environment and for Foxborough?

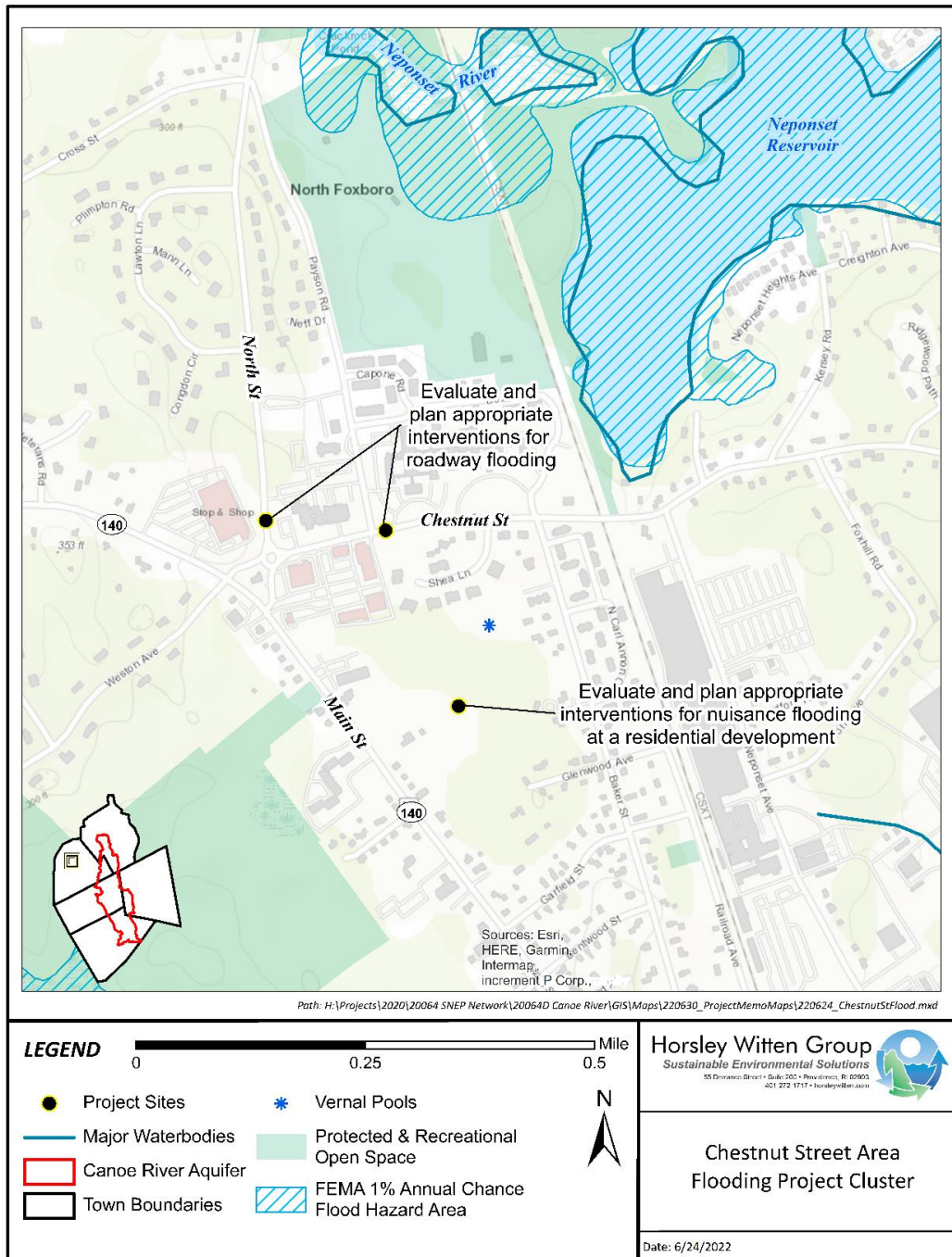
- **Public safety and health benefits.** Alleviation of flooding in the project area will reduce traffic hazards during wet periods, and a reduction in nonpoint source water pollution may help improve drinking water quality.
- **Ecological benefits to the region.** Improved stormwater management and infiltration has the potential to reduce pollution and eutrophication (e.g., nutrient overload that can cause harmful algal blooms, fish kills, and areas of reduced oxygen in water) of the nearby Neponset Reservoir.
- **Improved flood storage.** Improved stormwater management should reduce flood hazards in the highly urbanized area around Chestnut Street.



Figure 1. Green stormwater infrastructure, like this project located in the Neponset Watershed, can help capture polluted stormwater runoff and improve infiltration (Neponset River Watershed Association).

¹ Town of Foxborough, Hazard Mitigation Plan (2020 Draft for Public Review), https://cdn5-hosted.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_15207780/File/Departments/Fire/00_FoxboroughHMP_DraftforPublic.pdf.

² Ibid.



Note: The map base layer predates the construction of the residential subdivision. As such, the subdivision's buildings and internal road network is not visible on the above map.

If you care about this project, what should you do?

If you are interested in supporting efforts to make this project a reality, we encourage you to reach out to the Conservation Commission in Foxborough to voice your support. Let your community know that addressing this project should be a priority for the environment and for Foxborough!

Town of Foxborough Conservation Commission
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