



Cocasset Street Railroad Underpass Flooding Project

What is this project?

The Cocasset Street Railroad Underpass Project Cluster includes one area with poor drainage and reported flooding issues at the railroad underpass in Foxborough, MA. This project is located immediately within the Canoe River Aquifer. Flooding in this area results from inadequate drainage infrastructure: four 12-inch pipes send water into the drainage structure at the underpass, but the outlet is a single 12-inch pipe.¹ This mismatch between inflow and outflow drainage capacity causes the area to flood frequently. During cold weather, icing of the roadway may occur and worsen road safety.² This area should be assessed to determine if stormwater retrofits, including green infrastructure, could be implemented to reduce flooding and improve infiltration on the site.

A site visit and more information are needed to understand the cause of flooding at this identified flood hazard area and inform the most appropriate flood reduction interventions needed to alleviate roadway flooding and freezing.

Why is this project important for the environment and Foxborough?

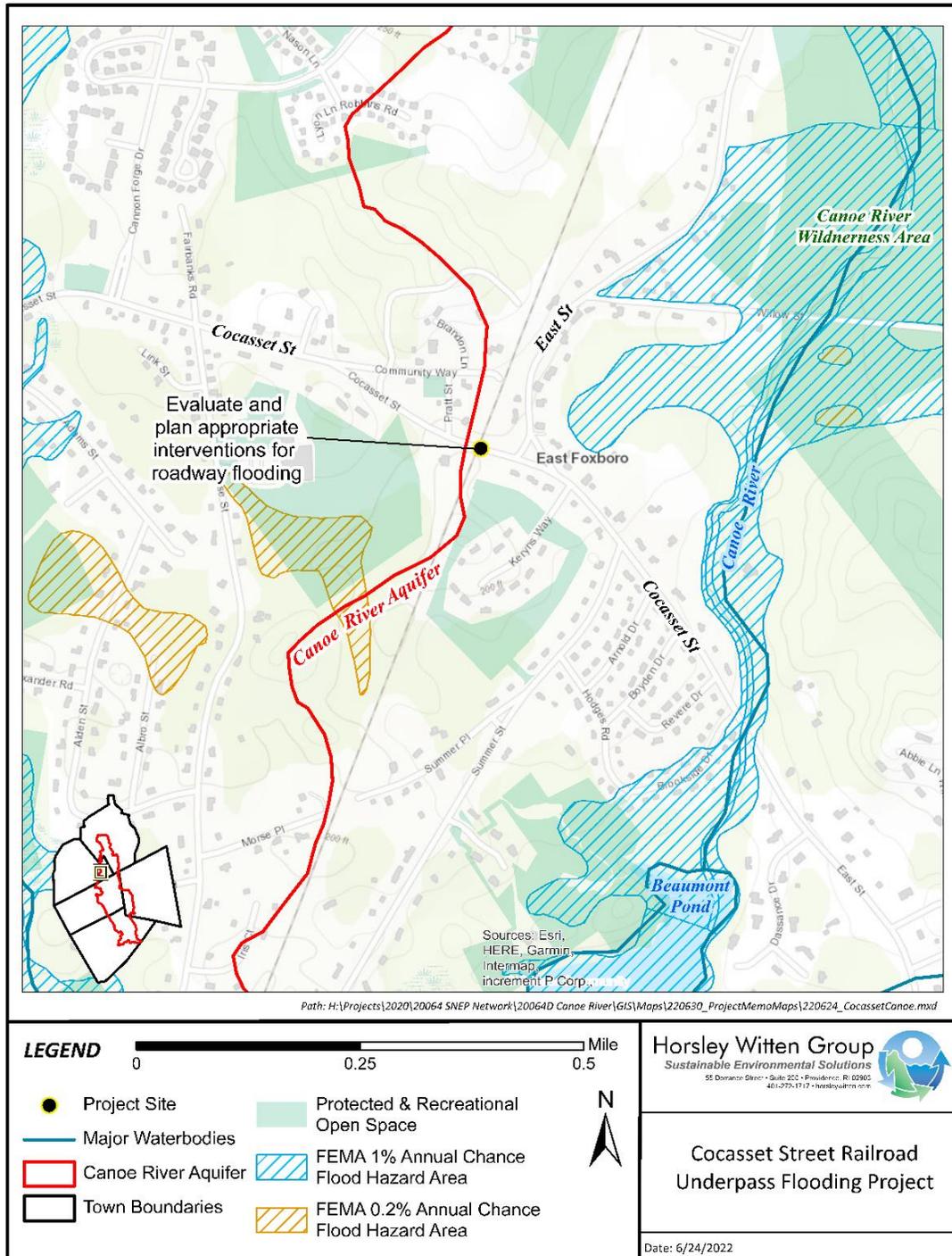
- **Reduced flood hazard.** Town staff and community members have identified this site as a problem flooding area. Appropriate flood reduction efforts can alleviate street flooding and reduce traffic hazards during wet and freezing conditions.



Figure 1. Flooding at the Cocasset Street Railroad Underpass caused by a water main break. While this is not a typical cause of flooding, it is illustrative of where floodwaters are prone to collecting at the underpass (Brian Guild via The Sun Chronicle).

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.



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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