



Mulberry Brook Project Cluster

What is this project?

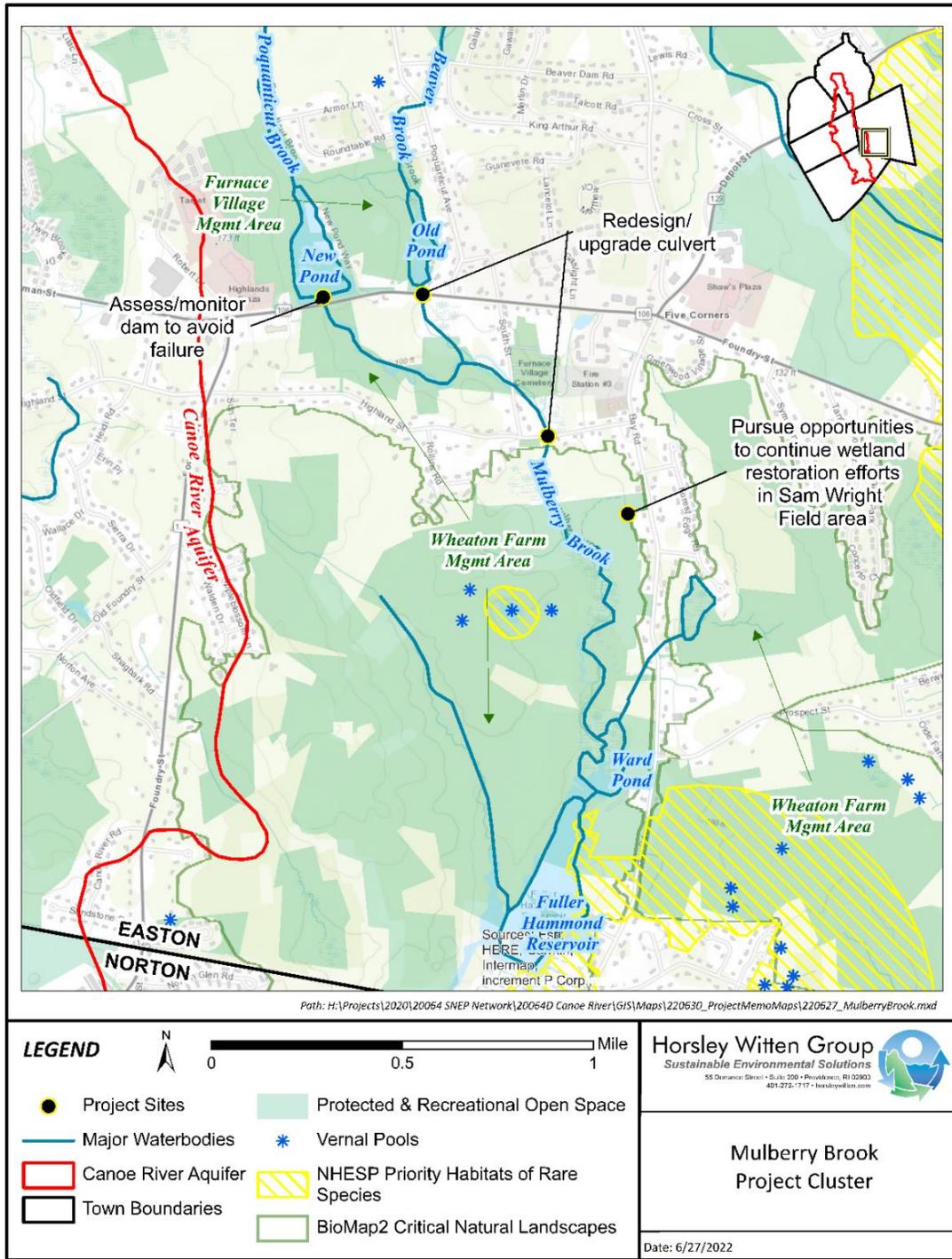
The Mulberry Brook Project Cluster in Easton, MA includes proposed upgrades to existing infrastructure in addition to wetland restoration around Mulberry Brook. One of the most critical infrastructure components in need of repair in this Project Cluster is the New Pond Dam which has been rated by the Commonwealth as a “significant hazard” and is owned by the Town. The Town would benefit from the development and implementation of a local flood mitigation/dam management program, including regular inspections and maintenance for present functions and stormwater management potential in the surrounding area. The Project Cluster also includes two culverts where Mulberry Brook passes under Route 106 (Foundry Street) and Highland Street. Both are in poor condition and need improvements. Improvements will require hydrologic and habitat assessments to ensure the culverts are rightsized for the Brook, allowing for adequate flow and wildlife passage at the sites. This Project Cluster is also connected to an ongoing wetland restoration initiative at Sam Wright Field. Continued restoration efforts will expand on the success of the Sam Wright Field restoration and improve the site’s functions for flood control and aquifer recharge.

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

- **Restoration of habitat.** Restoring how water naturally circulates through Mulberry Brook will improve natural water flows and consequently water quality and habitats for a variety of aquatic species and wildlife. Currently, New Pond Dam is a severe barrier to aquatic connectivity. Improved hydrological connectivity and enhanced water quality for this area will support the protection and restoration of critical habitats.
- **Ecological benefits to the region.** Waterbodies and wetlands are interconnected. Restoration would help not only Mulberry Brook, but also other interconnected waters with critical habitats.
- **Improved flood storage.** Restoring how water naturally circulates in the Mulberry Brook will protect the community from flooding by enabling the watercourses and surrounding wetlands to absorb more stormwater runoff during storm events.
- **Protection against drought.** Restoring how water naturally circulates through the Mulberry Brook, in addition to restoring the natural drainage abilities of surrounding wetlands, will improve the ability of the floodplain to capture stormwater and store more groundwater, helping protect the region against future droughts when rainfall is low. Improvements to groundwater recharge and drought resilience are especially important to protect Easton’s community groundwater sources downstream.



Figure 1. New Pond Dam in Easton, MA (Waymarking).



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 Easton. Let your community know that addressing this project should be a priority for the environment and for Easton!

Town of Easton Conservation Commission
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