



Prospect & Purchase Street Project Cluster

What is this project?

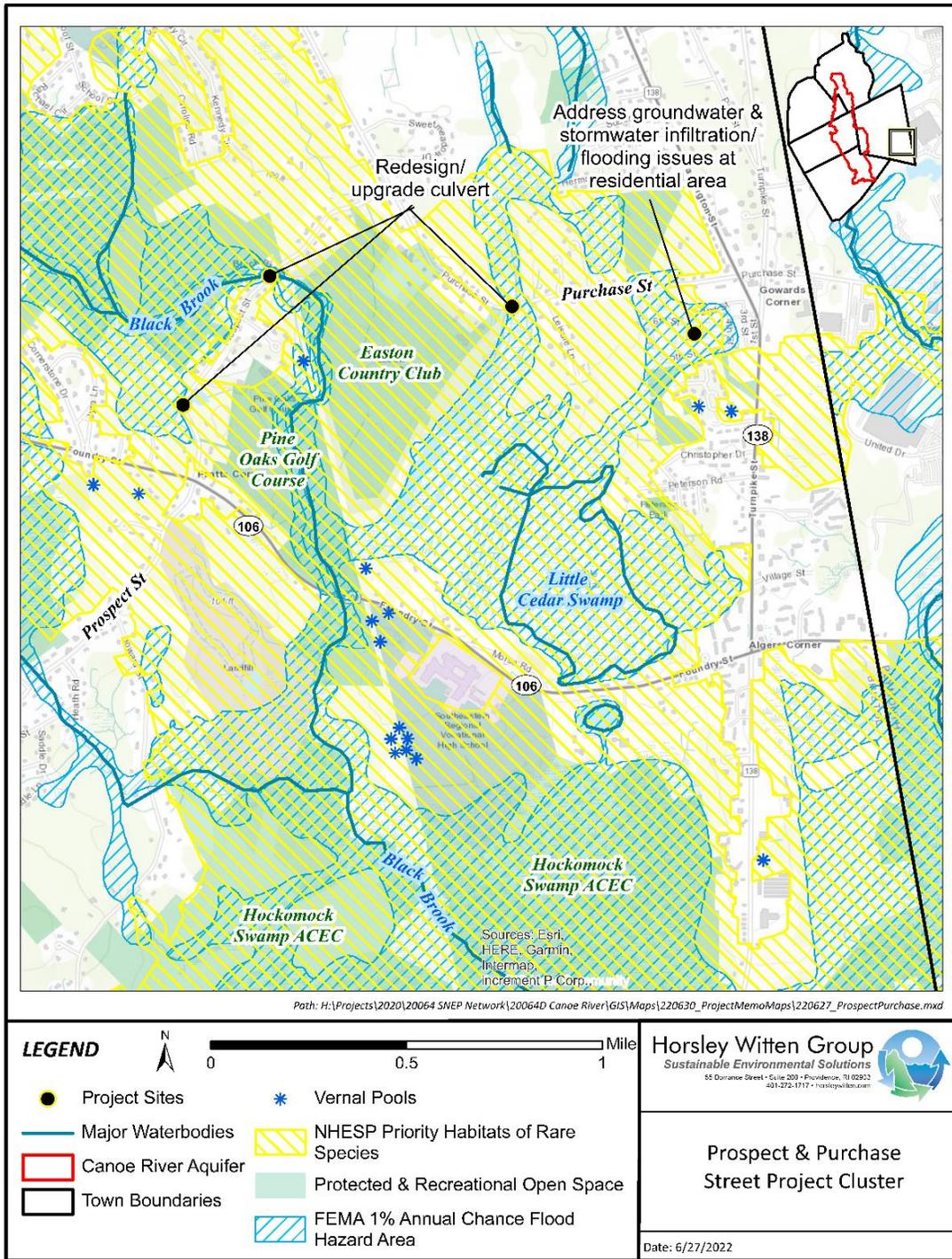
The Prospect and Purchase Street Project Cluster includes three culverts and one area with poor drainage which result in flooding issues concentrated around Black Brook in Easton, MA. The area with poor drainage is in the Easton Mobile Home Park and should be fully assessed to address groundwater and stormwater issues. This area is a strong candidate for stormwater retrofits, including green infrastructure. The culvert at 80 Prospect Street is in a state of disrepair and likely needs to be replaced. The other two culverts would benefit from upgrades to ensure that they are sized correctly for the brook. The culverts included in this project cluster were identified in the Easton MVP plan as contributors to flooding. Culvert redesign to meet the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards will restore natural flow and help reduce flooding in problem areas. Opportunities to also implement Best Management Practices (e.g., minimal mowing, chemical use reduction, green stormwater infrastructure) at nearby golf courses and cranberry bogs should be reviewed to further enhance water quality and habitat along the Black Brook stream network.

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

- **Restoration of habitat.** Restoring stream connectivity and flow in the Black Brook will enhance habitat quality, including habitat for rare turtles and salamanders. This is especially important as Black Brook drains to Hockomock Swamp, the largest vegetated freshwater wetland system in Massachusetts and critical habitat for a diversity of common and rare species.
- **Reduced flood hazard.** The culverts in this project cluster contribute to flooding. Redesigning the culverts to Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards will ensure they are sized correctly for water flows and reduce flooding of roadways and residential areas.
- **Ecological benefits to the region.** Incorporating Nature Based Solutions, green infrastructure, and other Best Management Practices at adjacent properties will help collect and filter stormwater. This enhances water quality, groundwater recharge, and inland flood resilience in the area. Black Brook and its associated wetlands and floodplains are connected by an underlying system of medium- and high-yield aquifers that can supply useful quantities of drinking water. Enhancing groundwater recharge in this area will be beneficial if the aquifers are needed for public drinking water supplies.



Figure 1. Roadway flooding at the Easton Mobile Home Park after a drainage pipe was flooded by stormwater (Easton Mobile Home Owners Association).



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 Easton!

Town of Easton Conservation Commission
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