



Queset Brook Project Cluster

What is this project?

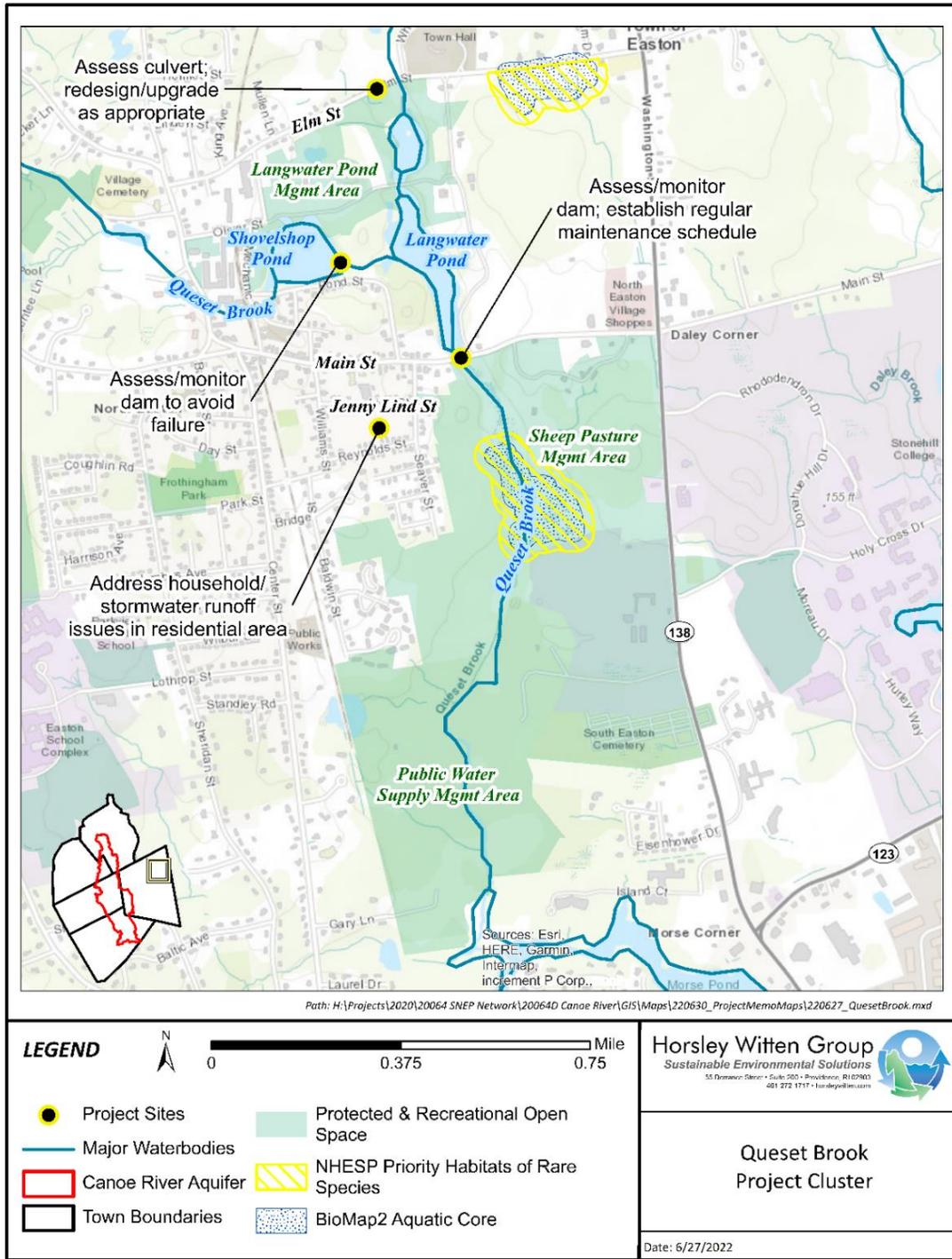
The Queset Brook Project Cluster focuses on improving existing infrastructure along a stretch of the Queset Brook in Easton, MA. The project includes an assessment of one culvert along Elm Street which may currently be undersized for the brook. Culvert rightsizing is critical to ensure adequate water flow to aquatic habitats during times when water is low during droughts, as well as managing peak flows from stormwater runoff and flooding. In addition, the project will involve assessments of two dams, Shovelshop Pond and Queset Brook Dam, to determine if there are any potential structural concerns. Dam failures are a public health and safety concern because they can impair roads, bridges, and downstream infrastructure. In addition to these three infrastructure priorities, the Project Cluster also includes the Jenny Lind Street area neighborhood, which has reported flooding and stormwater runoff issues. This area should be assessed for stormwater retrofit options, including nature based solutions like rain gardens, which can improve flooding concerns. Currently, runoff from the neighborhood drains to Queset Brook, onto a Natural Resources Trust property, near a Town public drinking water supply well, and to a state-identified critical habitat area for species of conservation concern. Investing in stormwater upgrades to the neighborhood would reduce pollution from stormwater runoff into aquatic habitats, and also limit flooding occurrences and potential damages to homes and property.

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

- **Restoration of habitat.** Restoring how water naturally circulates through Queset Brook will help a variety of plant and aquatic species, including species of conservation concern.
- **Ecological benefits to the region.** Waterbodies and wetlands are interconnected. Restoration would help not only Queset Brook, but also Hockomock Swamp to the south, as well as other interconnected waters.
- **Improved flood storage.** Restoring how water naturally circulates through Queset Brook will protect the community from flooding by enabling the surrounding vegetated land to absorb more stormwater runoff during storm events.
- **Protection against drought.** Restoring how water naturally circulates through Queset Brook and surrounding drainage areas 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.



Figure 1. A nearby Easton dam in Borderland State Park (Town of Easton).



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 to voice your support. 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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