



Route 123/140 Project Cluster

What is this project?

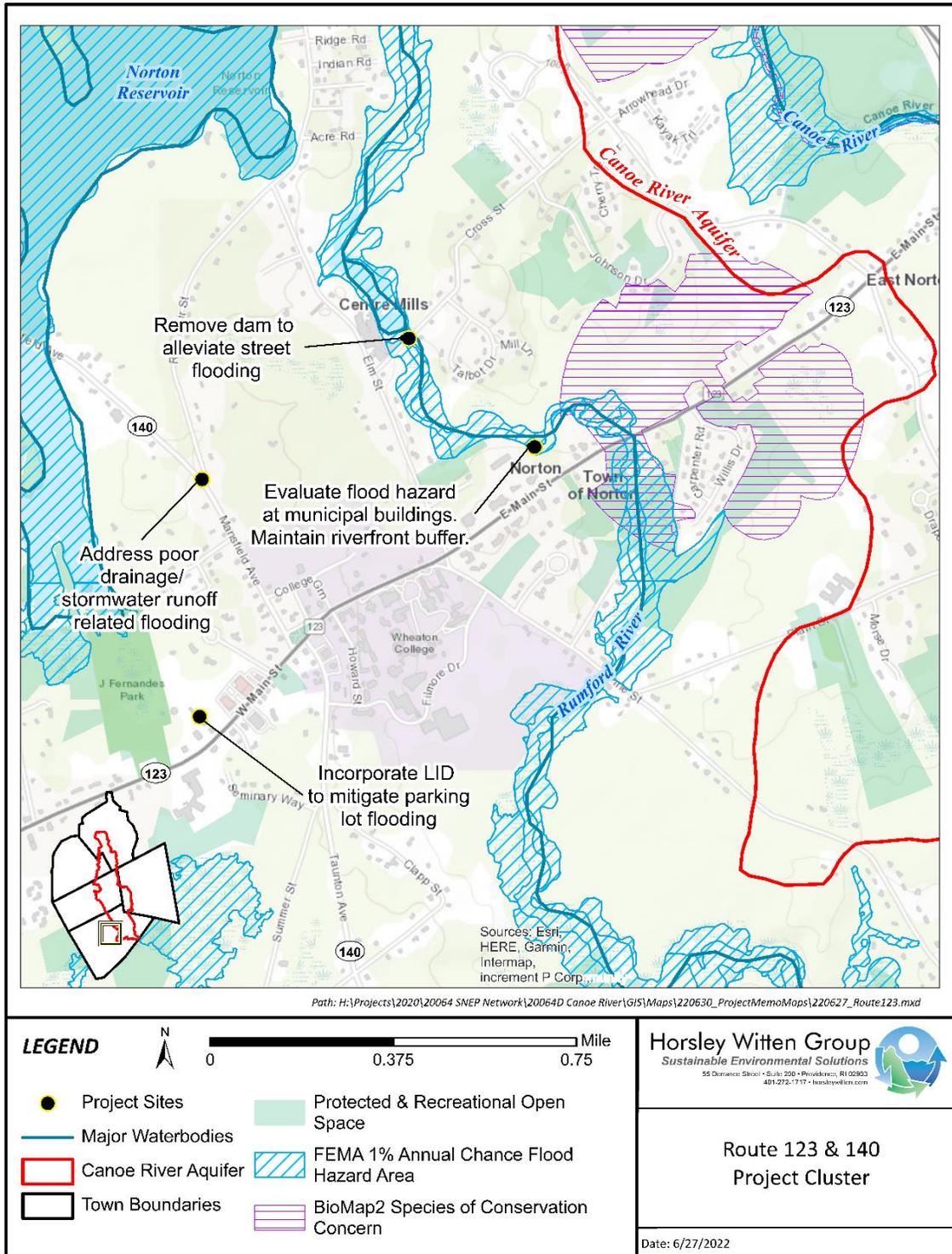
The Route 123/140 Project Cluster focuses on improving existing infrastructure and addressing flooding concerns around the Rumford River and Norton Reservoir in Norton, MA. The project includes an assessment and potential removal of the Cross Street Dam along the Rumford River. Removing the dam may alleviate flooding concerns and restore water quality and natural flows to the River. In addition, the removal could restore aquatic connectivity in the region, reconnecting wildlife habitats and benefitting a variety of wildlife species. Dam removals also reduce threats to public health and safety by removing flooding hazards that could damage roads, bridges, and other downstream infrastructure. The project also includes the assessment of three areas prone to flooding, with the likely implementation of stormwater retrofits and low impact development practices, including nature based solutions such as rain gardens, to minimize flooding and enhance the natural treatment of stormwater runoff. Because these areas prone to flooding are located near municipal buildings and major roadways, improvements to drainage and infiltration at these sites could decrease the likelihood of flooding events and restore water quality in the region.

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

- **Restoration of habitat.** Restoring how water naturally circulates through the Rumford River will help improve aquatic connectivity and consequently water quality and habitats for a variety of aquatic species and wildlife, including the Eastern Pondmussel.
- **Ecological benefits to the region.** Waterbodies and wetlands are interconnected. Restoration would help not only the Rumford River, but also other interconnected waters with critical habitats.
- **Improved flood storage.** Restoring how water naturally circulates through the Rumford River will protect the community from flooding by enabling the watercourses and surrounding vegetated land to absorb more stormwater runoff during storm events.
- **Protection against drought.** Restoring how water naturally circulates through the Rumford River 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. The Rumford River Cross Street Dam in Norton, MA (Martin Gavin).



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

Town of Norton Conservation Commission
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