



## ABOUT THIS EVENT

### Property History

The Groton Planning Commission is seeking public comment in developing a community vision for the Groton Gateway Park Master Plan. The Town of Groton has recently acquired former Lower Groton Hydroelectric Dam property which is adjacent to existing town property (the former stump dump & town gravel pit) on Little Italy Road. This acquisition will allow for expanded public use and recreational access along the Wells River adjacent to the railbed trail and across the river from the Village Center.

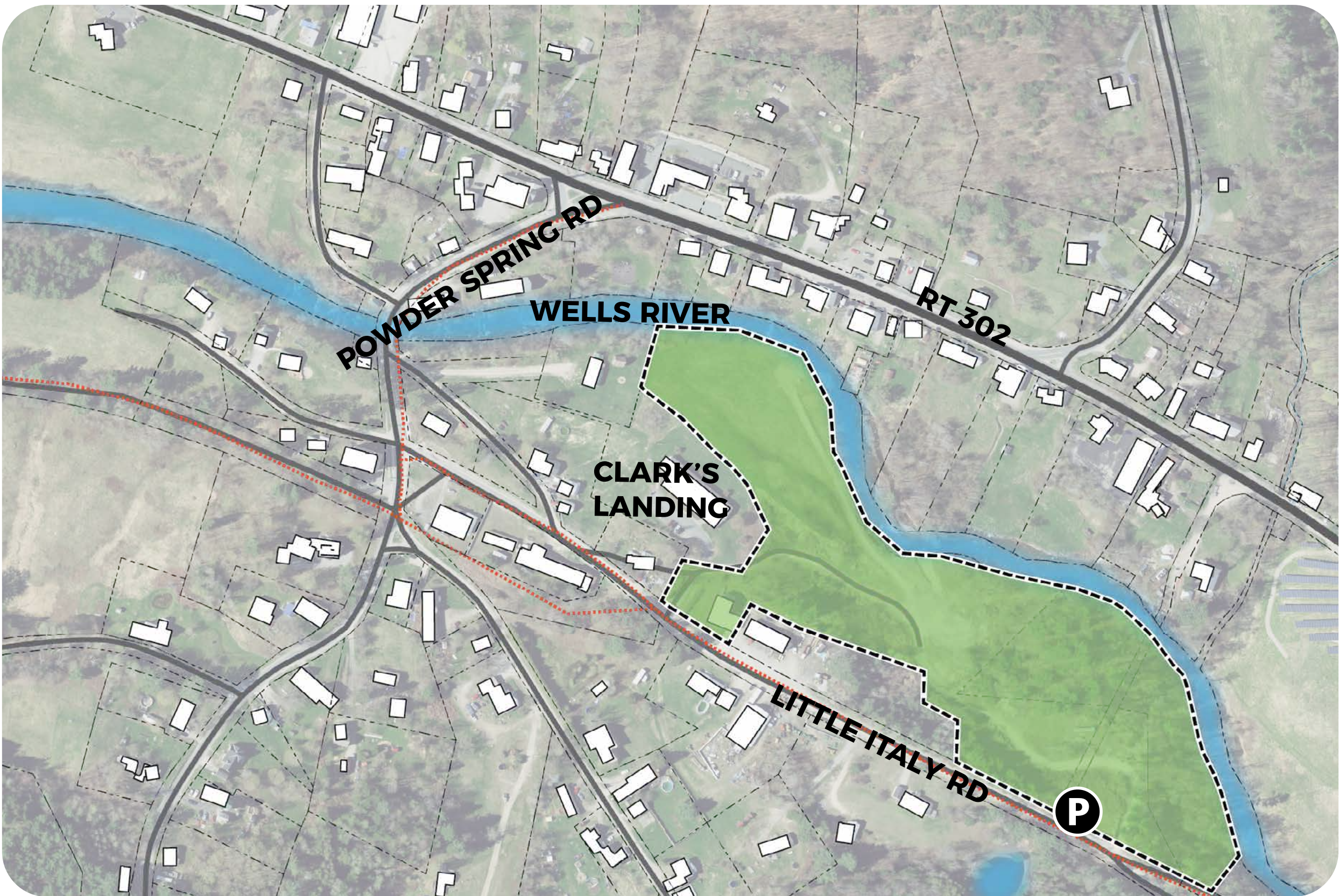
### Project Goals

Developed concurrently with recreation project improvements to the Groton railbed and in conjunction with Cross Vermont Trail and VAST Trail system, the proposed Groton Gateway Park Master Plan seeks to enhance community use and recreational access on Town land while ensuring appropriate conservation and land management practices for the area within the Wells River floodplain.

### Goals of Today

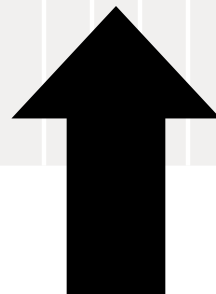
Your input today will be summarized and processed by the project team and will be used as a guiding reference for the community’s vision for Groton Gateway Park. The recommendations of the site concept plan will aim to address the feedback received at this Open House, the online survey, and in stakeholder conversations to meet the needs of the community in this open space area.

## PROJECT AREA



## PROJECT SCHEDULE

TASK	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
TASK 1: INFORMATION GATHERING									
TASK 2: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT			1						
TASK 3: PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS							2		
TASK 4: MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT								3	4



### KEY PROJECT POINTS

- 1 Community Visioning Workshop and Survey
- 2 Preliminary Concepts Community Meeting
- 3 Master Plan Presentation
- 4 Final Master Plan
  - Preferred Concept
  - Opinion of Costs for the park improvements
  - List of potential permits, approvals, permission, and long-term leases
  - Phasing & timeline for development of facilities & resource protection



# GROTON GATEWAY PARK | GUIDING PRINCIPLES



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles were developed based on the goals of the RFP, and feedback from community visioning session, and site visit and research by the client team.

### COMMUNITY RECREATION

- Foster space for connection to nature for all
- Family-friendly and accessible recreation
- Provide equitable access to recreation



### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- Protect important habitat areas
- Respect the river while protecting the necessary site elements
- Provide flood storage capacity and limit flood risks to infrastructure and amenities
- Manage invasive species



### GROTON'S RECREATION ECONOMY

- Draw visitors to village core area through the park and parking area
- Attract visitors to recreational and economic activities in the Gateway Park



### COMMUNITY “CANVAS”

- Foster space for community gathering, both small/informal and large events
- Provide area for economic activity such as food trucks and markets
- Accommodate educational, interpretive, historical or artistic installations and programming



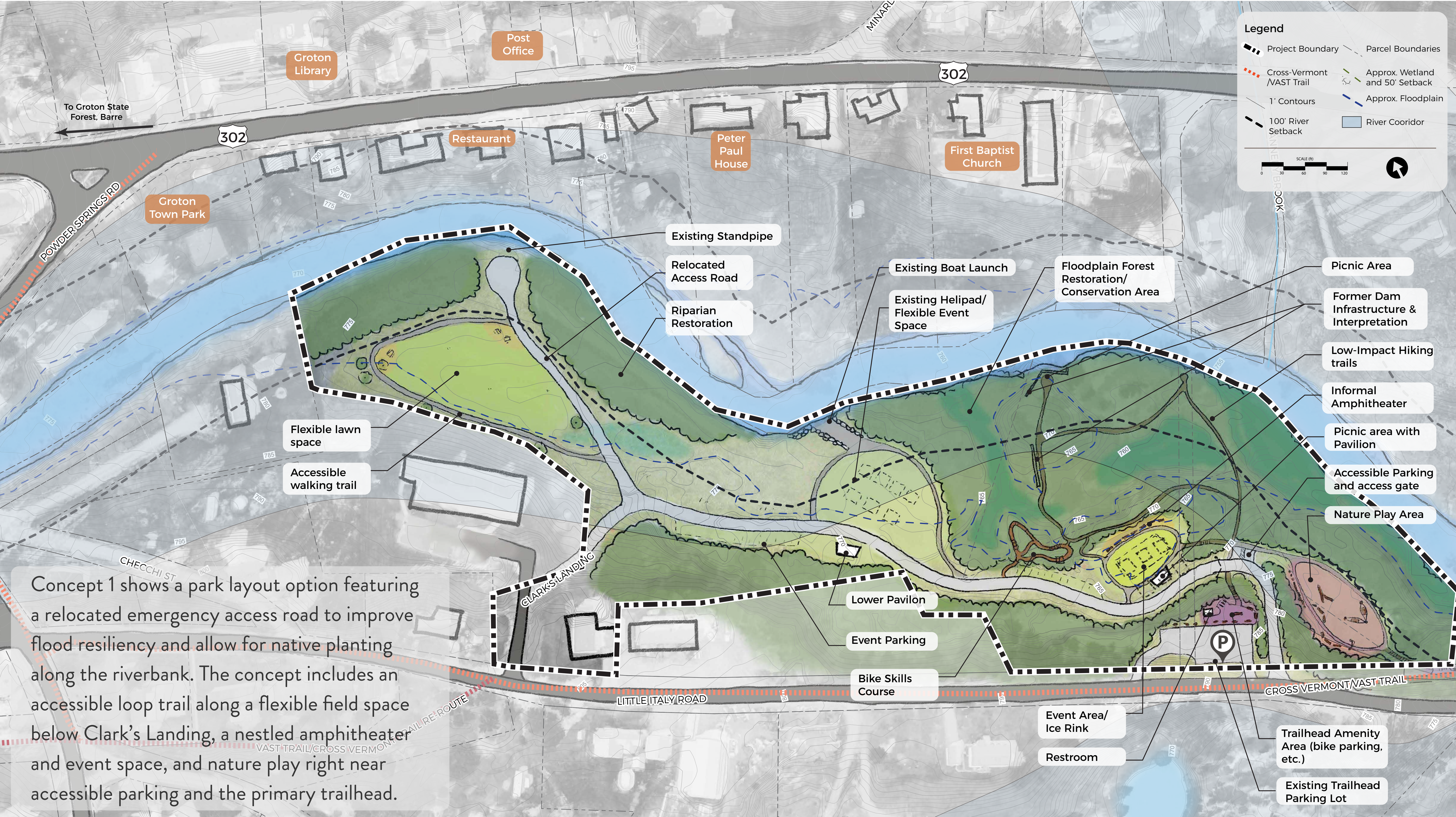
### SAFETY

- Accommodate emergency services needs on the site
- Ensure there is visibility and security for the park site
- Safe circulation for all modes





# GROTON GATEWAY PARK | CONCEPT 1





# GROTON GATEWAY PARK | CONCEPT 2





# Which Park Concept Do you Prefer?

Place a sticker to indicate your preference

Concept 1

Concept 2


# Which Park Elements do you Like?

Place a sticker on the aspects of either of the park concepts that you would like to see included in the final concept plan.

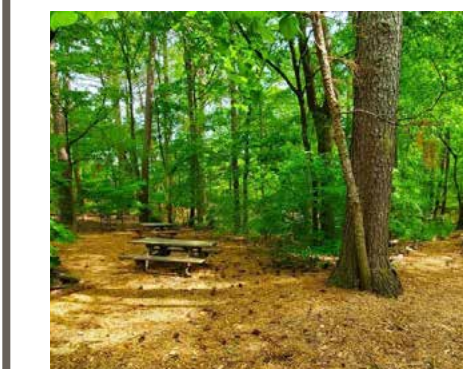
RELOCATED ACCESS DRIVE


OVERLOOK TOWER

ICE SKATING RINK AREA

LARGER PUMP TRACK

NATURE PLAY AREA IN UPLAND AREA


PICNIC AREA IN UPLAND AREA


ACCESSIBLE LOOP TRAIL WITH LAWN SPACE

MOWN PATHS IN MEADOW

AMPHITHEATER/GATHERING AREA

NATURE PLAY ON SLOPE

RIVERBANK RESTORATION

EMERGENCY ACCESS DRIVE TO REMAIN



# GROTON GATEWAY PARK | ACTIVITIES

These engaging elements can be incorporated throughout the park in either design. Which elements would be a meaningful addition to Groton Gateway Park to serve both local needs and attract visitors?

Please place a dot to indicate your priorities



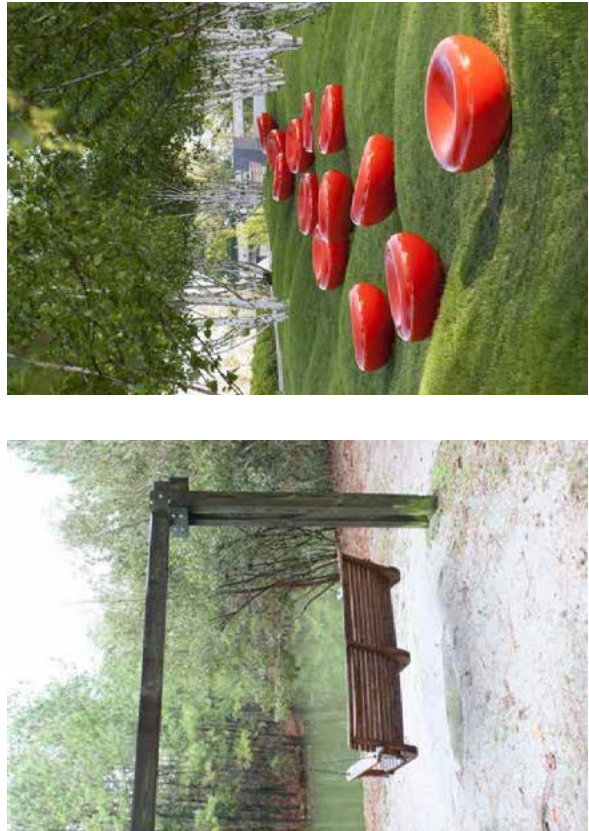
## NATURE “PLAY”

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- GOTTA HAVE IT! →



## STORYWALK

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- GOTTA HAVE IT! →



## PLAYFUL SEATING

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- GOTTA HAVE IT! →



## HISTORIC INTERPRETATION

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- GOTTA HAVE IT! →



## FOOD FOREST / EDIBLE PLANTING

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- GOTTA HAVE IT! →



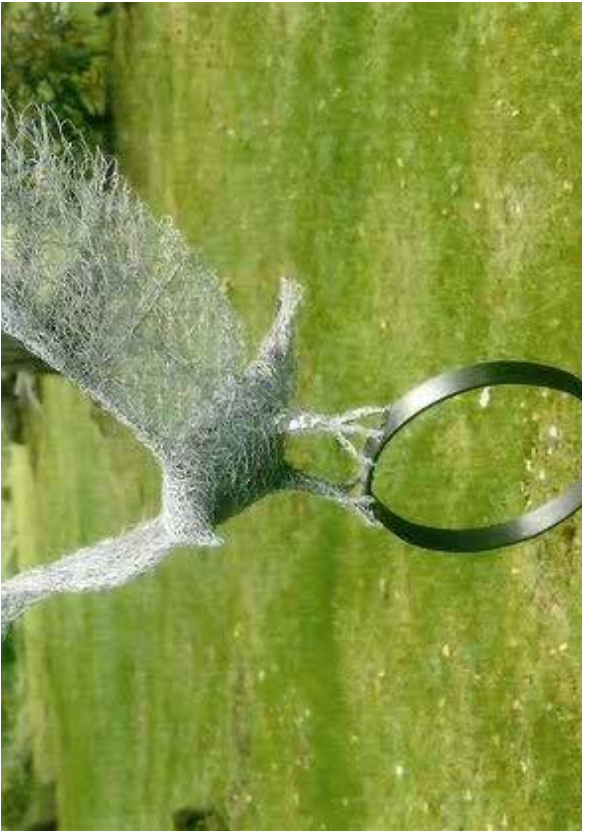
## ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETATION

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- GOTTA HAVE IT! →



## PICNIC AREAS

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- GOTTA HAVE IT! →



## PUBLIC ART

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- GOTTA HAVE IT! →

OTHER IDEAS? PLEASE DESCRIBE IN GENERAL COMMENTS



# GROTON GATEWAY PARK | AMENITIES

Amenities including parking, accesible parking, a wayfinding/informational kiosk, and hiking/walking trails designed to meet wetland best-management practices will be implemented in any concept. Additional amenities can be incorporated in the park in either design. Recognizing that there may be challenges with feasibility of all of these options, which amenities do you think would be the most valuable to have in the park?



ACCESSIBLE PARKING



TRAILS



KIOSK

Please place a dot to indicate your priorities



## BIKE REPAIR STATION

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- → GOTTA HAVE IT!



## CHARGING STATION

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- → GOTTA HAVE IT!



## EV CHARGING

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- → GOTTA HAVE IT!



## DRINKING WATER

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- → GOTTA HAVE IT!



## PORTALET/COMPOSTING TOILET

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- → GOTTA HAVE IT!



## RESTROOM WITH PLUMBING

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- → GOTTA HAVE IT!



## WIFI CONNECTION

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- → GOTTA HAVE IT!



## PAVILION/SHELTER

← DON'T NEED IT ----- NICE TO INCLUDE ----- → GOTTA HAVE IT!

OTHER IDEAS? PLEASE DESCRIBE IN GENERAL COMMENTS



# GROTON GATEWAY PARK | A WELLS RIVER BRIDGE?



For decades, there have been community discussion about adding pedestrian access across the Wells River to improve connection to the Village Core. We heard in initial community engagement that this was a high priority for the community.

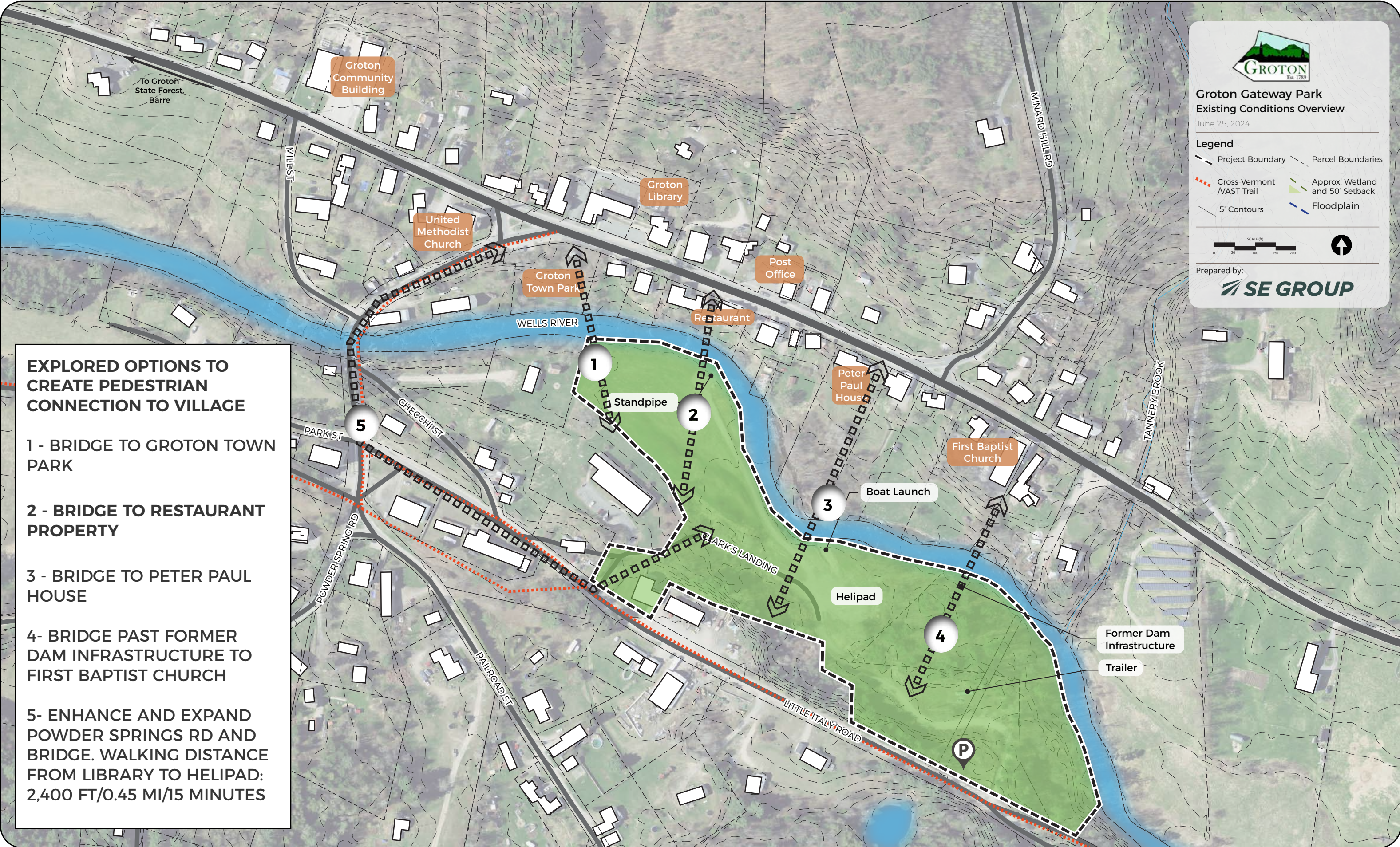
Given challenges with river flow, topography, regulatory requirements, easements, and funding, there will be significant challenges to creating a pedestrian bridge across the Wells River in this location. The sections illustrate some of the challenges with getting the bridge above design base flood elevation (2’ above flood levels), negotiating property lines, and steep slopes to get from river level back up to Route 302.

The project team will continue to explore feasibility of the bridge options, understanding that option 5, improving the Powder Springs Road connection may be the most reasonable and cost effective option for the Town.

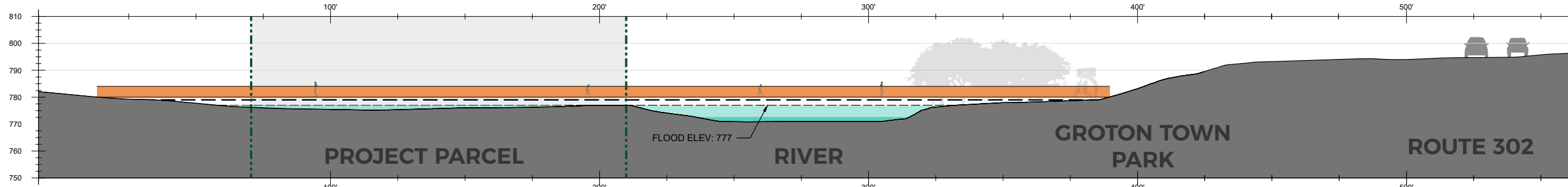
LONG-SPAN PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



## VILLAGE/PARK CONNECTION DIAGRAM

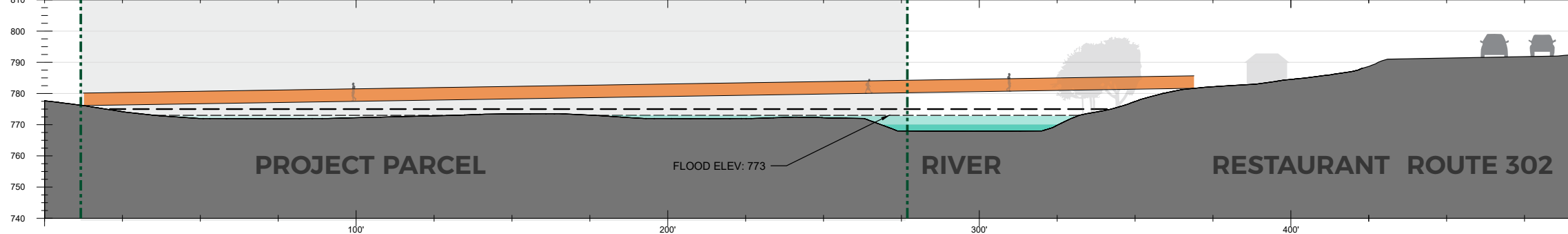


### SECTION 1 : BRIDGE TO GROTON TOWN PARK



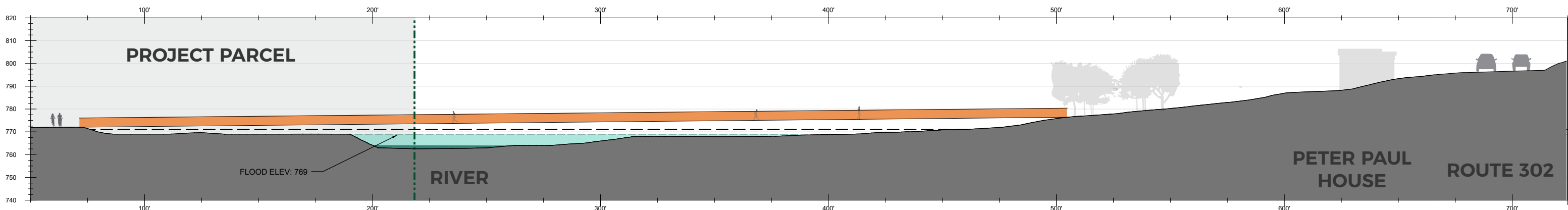
TOTAL BRIDGE SPAN: 350'  
DESIGN BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (BFE + 2'): 779  
WALKING DISTANCE FROM LIBRARY TO HELIPAD: 1,500 FT/0.28 MI/9 MINUTES

### SECTION 2 : BRIDGE TO RESTAURANT PROPERTY



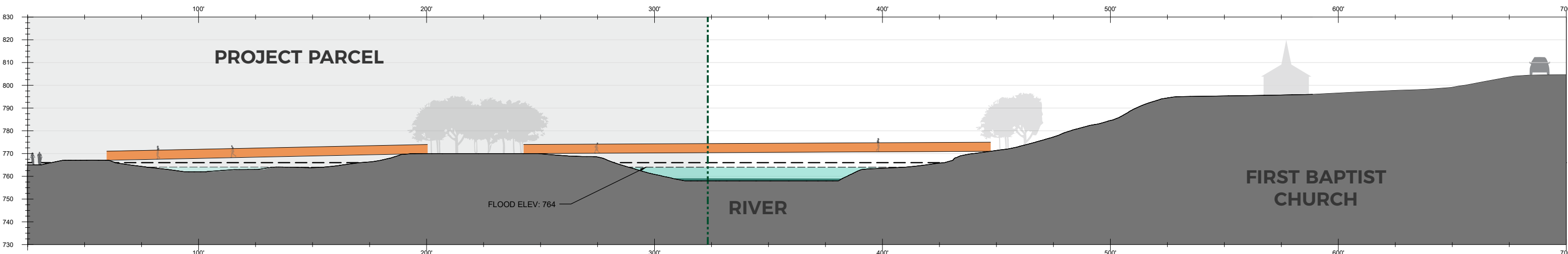
TOTAL BRIDGE SPAN: 330'  
DESIGN BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (BFE + 2'): 779  
WALKING DISTANCE FROM LIBRARY TO HELIPAD: 1,250 FT/0.23 MI/7 MINUTES

### SECTION 3 : BRIDGE TO PETER PAUL HOUSE



TOTAL BRIDGE SPAN: 430'  
DESIGN BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (BFE + 2'): 771  
WALKING DISTANCE FROM LIBRARY TO HELIPAD: 1,500 FT/0.28 MI/9 MINUTES

### SECTION 4 : BRIDGE PAST FORMER DAM INFRASTRUCTURE TO FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



TOTAL BRIDGE SPAN: TWO SPANS AT 140' + 205'  
DESIGN BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (BFE + 2'): 764  
WALKING DISTANCE FROM LIBRARY TO HELIPAD: 2,000 FT/0.37 MI/12 MINUTES

COMMENTS?  
Please describe



# GROTON GATEWAY PARK | ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION



## (ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION) CONNECTIONS GOALS

- Improve safe roadway connections between Cross VT Trail, Groton Gateway Park and Village for all modes of travel
- Improve safe pedestrian and bicycle circulation through central village
- Create clear wayfinding and signage to foster connections
- Consider future connections via a bridge between Gateway Park and Village

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### 1 - IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS AND THE VILLAGE STREETSCAPE

Despite the density of destinations and established sidewalk, there are no marked pedestrian crossings in Groton Village. Consider future scoping studies explore adding designated safe crossings, sidewalks on both sides of the streets, and other accommodations for bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

### 2 - SIMPLIFY THE INTERSECTION

The geometry of the Powder Springs Road/Route 302 intersection makes it easier to drive a car through quickly – but more dangerous to cross or navigate on foot or bicycle. The Railroad St / Powder Springs Rd. intersection has a similar issue with lower speed traffic. Future studies could look at redesigning either intersection into a more traditional 'T' geometry, which could improve safety and also create additional public space that could be utilized for wayfinding and placemaking purposes.

## IMPROVED STREETSCAPES EXAMPLES



### 3 - INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY OF SIDEWALKS

Groton is fortunate to have a sidewalk on the northern side of Route 302, and the western side of Powder Springs Rd. However, these sidewalks are aging and not fully accessible. Future studies could look at how improving sidewalk condition or adding new sidewalk to opposite sides of the street could benefit the community through improved access and public safety.

### 4- IMPROVE POWDER SPRINGS ROAD AND BRIDGE

Unless a pedestrian bridge is built linking the gateway park to the village, Powder Springs Road will be the main access point between Cross Vermont Trail and Groton Gateway Park and the Village center. In the short term, adding shared lane markings (often referred to as "sharrows" on Powder Spring road could create a clearly identifiable corridor for bicycle travel between the Cross Vermont Trail corridor and Village Businesses. In the long term, roadway expansion could create space for full bike lanes. Future repairs or replacement of the Powder Springs Road bridge should look at making the bridge wide enough to accommodate dual direction bicycle, automotive and bicycle traffic.

Which of the following transportation improvements do you think will serve the town best to improve safety, accessibility, and navigation for cyclists, pedestrians, drivers and all users, both residents and visitors?

Place a sticker on options you believe are important



Create Pedestrian Crossings on Route 302



Add bike lanes to Route 302



Change Powder Springs Road/Flag Road/Route 302 into a T intersection, removing slip lane



Change Powder Springs Road/Railroad Rd into a T intersection, removing slip lane at new Cross Vermont Trail crossing



Improve and add sidewalks on Route 302 and Powder Springs Road



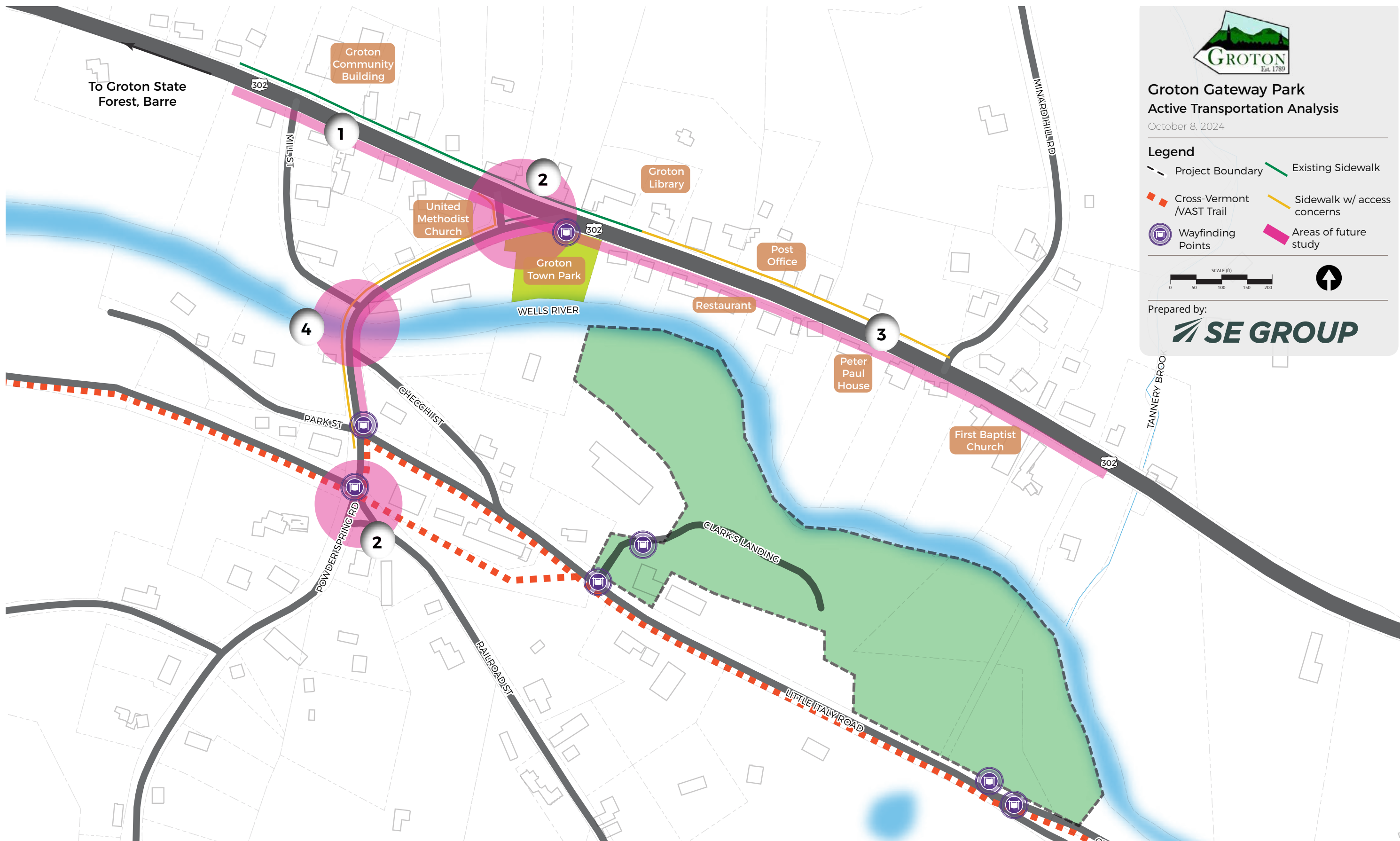
Add shared lane markings to Powder Springs Rd.



Make better space for people walking and biking on Powder Springs Road bridge

Other ideas? Please describe in general comments!

## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS DIAGRAM





# GROTON GATEWAY PARK | FEEDBACK

What are you most excited about in the future Groton Gateway Park?

Please describe

What is missing from the concepts presented today?

Please describe



# GROTON GATEWAY PARK | OVERALL COMMENTS

General Comments