



GROTON

CONNECTICUT | ESTABLISHED 1705

State of the Community 2023

Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut
Mystic Chamber of Commerce

Hilton Mystic | April 28



Local Leadership

Town Council Members



Town Council

Mayor, Juan Melendez Jr.
Portia Bordelon
Melinda Cassiere
Rachael Franco
Edward Jacome

Bruce Jones
David McBride
Juliette Parker
Scott Westervelt

Fiscal Management



Balancing the Books

Latest Budget Update

Overall Financial Health

- Fund Balance: \$31.5m (22.1% of the FYE 23 GF Budget)
- Moody Aa1 rating
- S&P AA+ rating
- Town pension UAL as of 7/1/22: \$36,038,183 (79.6% funded)
- OPEB UAL as of 7/1/22: \$30,369,938 (49.7% funded)

4

(Other Post-Employment Benefits; Unfunded Accrued Liability)

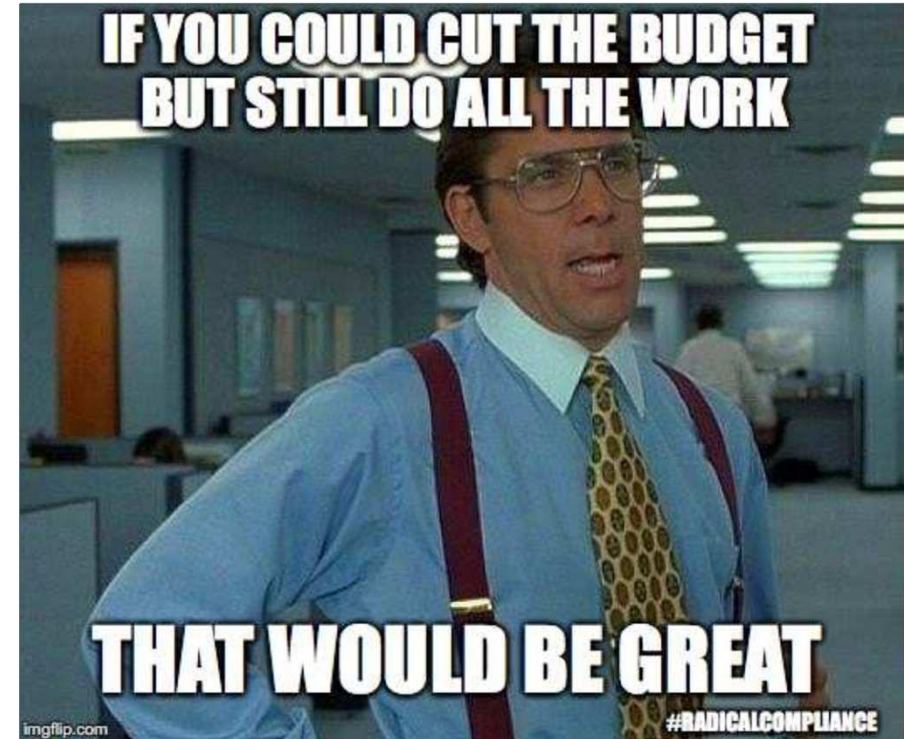


Balancing the Books

Latest Budget Update

FYE 2024 Budget

- Existing FYE 2023 budget: \$143,398,970
- Existing mill rate: 21.28
- TM proposed budget: \$149,398,180
- TM proposed mill rate: 22.24 (.96 or 4.5% incr.)
Use of \$4.5m fund balance
- TC adopted budget: \$148,986,140
- TC tentative mill rate: 22.20 (.92 or 4.3%)
Tentative fund balance use: \$4.5m



Building the Future

Capital Improvement
Projects



Growth & Development





Entrepreneurial Spirit

New & Expanding
Businesses

- Businesses expanding:
 - Mystic Pizza – adding rooftop deck
 - Mix Cocktail Bar – adding a deck roof to allow for year round use
 - Chelsea Groton Headquarters renovation
- TreeTrails Adventures – new ownership
- New Businesses: NY Deli, Astin J's, Pizza & Provisions, Ford's Black & Blue, Burgee Mystic, O'Reilly's Auto Parts, ATY Confections



Anchoring the Community

Major Employers

- Total Employees in Groton: 29,000
- US Naval Submarine Base
 - 10,750 employees
- General Dynamics Electric Boat (located in City of Groton)
 - 9,200 employees
- Pfizer Inc. (located in City of Groton)
 - 5,300 employees

Other notable growing businesses:

- ThayerMahan Inc.
- Doncasters expansion
- ATY Hospitality



Transforming Unused Space

Excess Property
Development Updates

- Claude Chester Elementary
- Groton Heights
- Pleasant Valley Elementary
- S.B. Butler



Meeting Housing Demand

Private Developments in the Pipeline

- Triton Square
 - 304 units
- Former Groton Inn & Suites, 99 Gold Star Hwy
 - 115 units
- Former Col. Ledyard School
 - 64 units
- Drozdyk Drive/Ledges Phase II
 - 201 units
- Days Inn Conversion
 - 60 units
- Bridge Landing
 - 28 total units + 9,200 SF comm.

Town Initiatives



Updating Our Cannabis Regulations

-
- A photograph of a glass display case filled with numerous jars of cannabis. The jars are arranged on two shelves. The top shelf contains jars labeled 'KEY'S KUSH', 'PURPLE POWER', 'FIRE DRAGON', 'BLUE HAZE', 'GORILLA', 'PUBBLE', 'BLUE SPICE', 'MADNESS', and 'MADNESS'. The bottom shelf contains jars labeled 'LEMON HAZE', 'CITRON OG', 'HIGH MOUNTAIN', 'PUBBLE', 'PUBBLE', 'PUBBLE', and 'PUBBLE'. Each jar is filled with dried cannabis buds and has a white label with the strain name and weight. The display case is set against a red wall, and the floor is made of light-colored wood.

Building Resilience

Our Plan for Tackling Environmental Issues

- Sustainability and Resilience Manager hired in August 2022
- Downtown Mystic Resiliency and Sustainability Plan development underway
- Climate Action Plan development process will be launched this spring/summer
- Youth Climate Summit being planned for fall 2023



Neighborhood Revitalization

Grant Funding for Poquonnock Bridge Village

- \$8.4 million awarded by CT Dept. of Economic & Community Development
- Advances Mixed-Use Village envisioned by 2019 study
- Improves bicycle and pedestrian connectivity
 - Adding bike lanes & sidewalks
 - Poquonnock River boardwalk deck replacement & pedestrian bridge planned
- Supports affordable and market-rate housing: about 250 units total



Bouncing Back

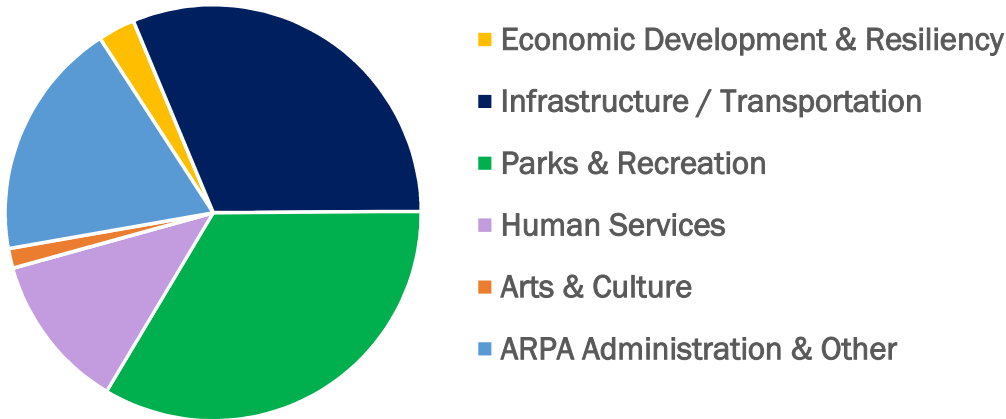
COVID Recovery Through ARPA Funding

- Engaged the Groton community with Budget Simulator to produce ARPA Needs Assessment published in June 2022
- Building a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making transformational investments that support long-term growth
- Key investments that:
 - Support local businesses
 - Leverage nonprofit partnerships
 - Contribute to regional recovery and connectivity initiatives
 - Enhance Town of Groton facilities and services for residents

Town Council Approved Allocations - Portfolio Summary

Recovery Category	Allocations by Category (Number of Projects)	Percent of Portfolio	Needs Assessment Recommendation
Economic Development & Resiliency	\$219,000 (5)	2.9%	15%
Infrastructure & Transportation	\$2,371,930 (8)	31.2%	36%
Parks & Recreation	\$2,563,303 (16)	33.7%	12%
Human Services	\$924,175 (12)	12.2%	12%
Arts & Culture	\$116,095 (3)	1.5%	3%
ARPA Administration	\$1,414,240 (7)	18.6%	22%
Total Portfolio	\$7,608,743	100% (\$7,608,743)	100% (\$8,587,894)
Total ARPA Award: \$8,587,894			

Portfolio Components by Community Recovery Category



Building the Future

American Rescue Plan Act

ARPA Awards

- Facilities Improvements: \$980,000 (Sutton Park)



Building the Future

American Rescue Plan Act

ARPA Awards

- Facilities Improvements: \$980,000
- Groton Roller Hockey Rink Repairs & Lights: \$225,000



Building the Future

American Rescue Plan Act

ARPA Awards

- Facilities Improvements: \$980,000
- Groton Roller Hockey Rink Repairs & Lights: \$225,000
- Golf Course Work: \$740,000



Building the Future

American Rescue Plan Act

ARPA Awards

- Facilities Improvements: \$980,000
- Groton Roller Hockey Rink Repairs & Lights: \$225,000
- Golf Course Work: \$740,000
- Pickleball Court Renovations: \$175,000
- M&N Library Park Accessibility: \$71,095
- Street Tree Inventory: \$60,000
- Bill Memorial Library: Fiber Connection: \$23,000
- Community Connectivity Program: \$210,000
- Shore Ave Sea Wall: \$1.4 million
- Poquonnock & Village Ln Signal: \$425,000



Building the Future

American Rescue Plan Act

ARPA Awards

- Housing Assistance/Rehab Funds: \$175,000
- Human Services ARPA Aid: \$300,000
- Mobile Service Meals (GCM): \$131,575
- Groton Ambulance: \$189,000
- Economic Assistance Funds: \$100,000
- HUD-Approved Housing Counseling (NLHHC): \$100,000
- Groton Wheels 2 Work (Always Home): \$62,500



Road Infrastructure

Safer Transportation
Pavement Condition



Condition Description	PCI	
Excellent	85-100	
Good	70-84	
Fair	55-69	
Poor	40-54	
Very Poor	25-39	
Serious	10-24	
Failed	0-9	
Jurisdiction	Avg. PCI	Miles
Town of Groton	75	100
City of Groton	74	30
Groton Long Point	84	7
Mumford Cove	78	3
Overall Average	76	
Total Miles		140
Roads orginally inspected in Dec. 2019		
Town of Groton Avg. PCI in 2019	71	

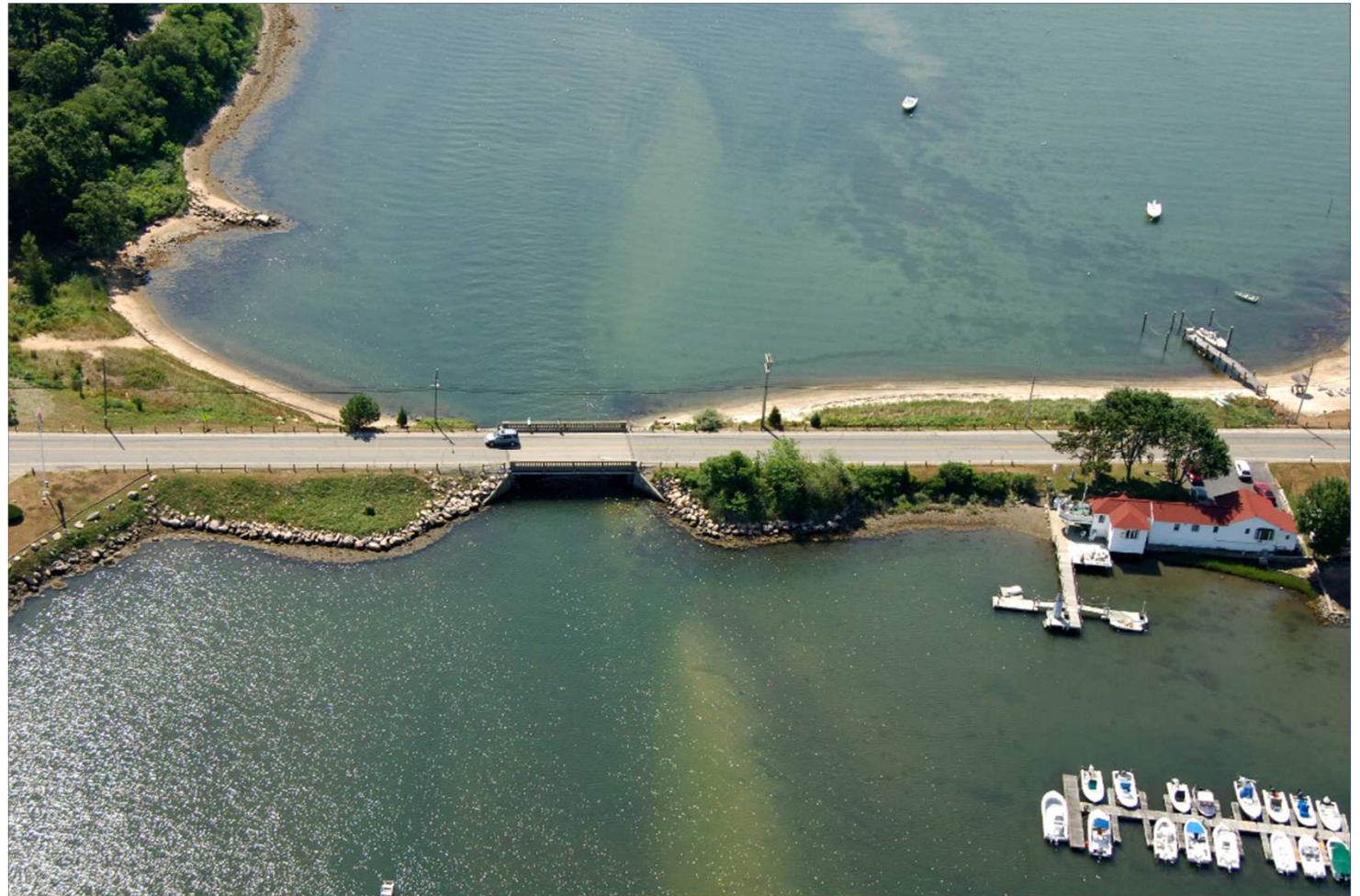
Road Infrastructure

Safer Transportation

GROTON LONG POINT ROAD BRIDGE



- \$8.4m cost (\$1.7m local)
- CTDOT



Quality of Life

Improving Pathways & Parks with Grant Funding

- 21 Parks w/ 241 acres
- Athletic fields: 7 sites w/17 fields
- Open Space: 11 locations 2/ 974 acres
- 28 miles of trails
- Transportation Alternative Plan (TAP) Grant: \$936k w/match of \$234k
- Community Connectivity Grant: \$345k
- Long Island Sounds Future Fund: \$700k
- Community Connectivity Plan



The Great Outdoors

Exploring Groton's Parks & Trail Systems

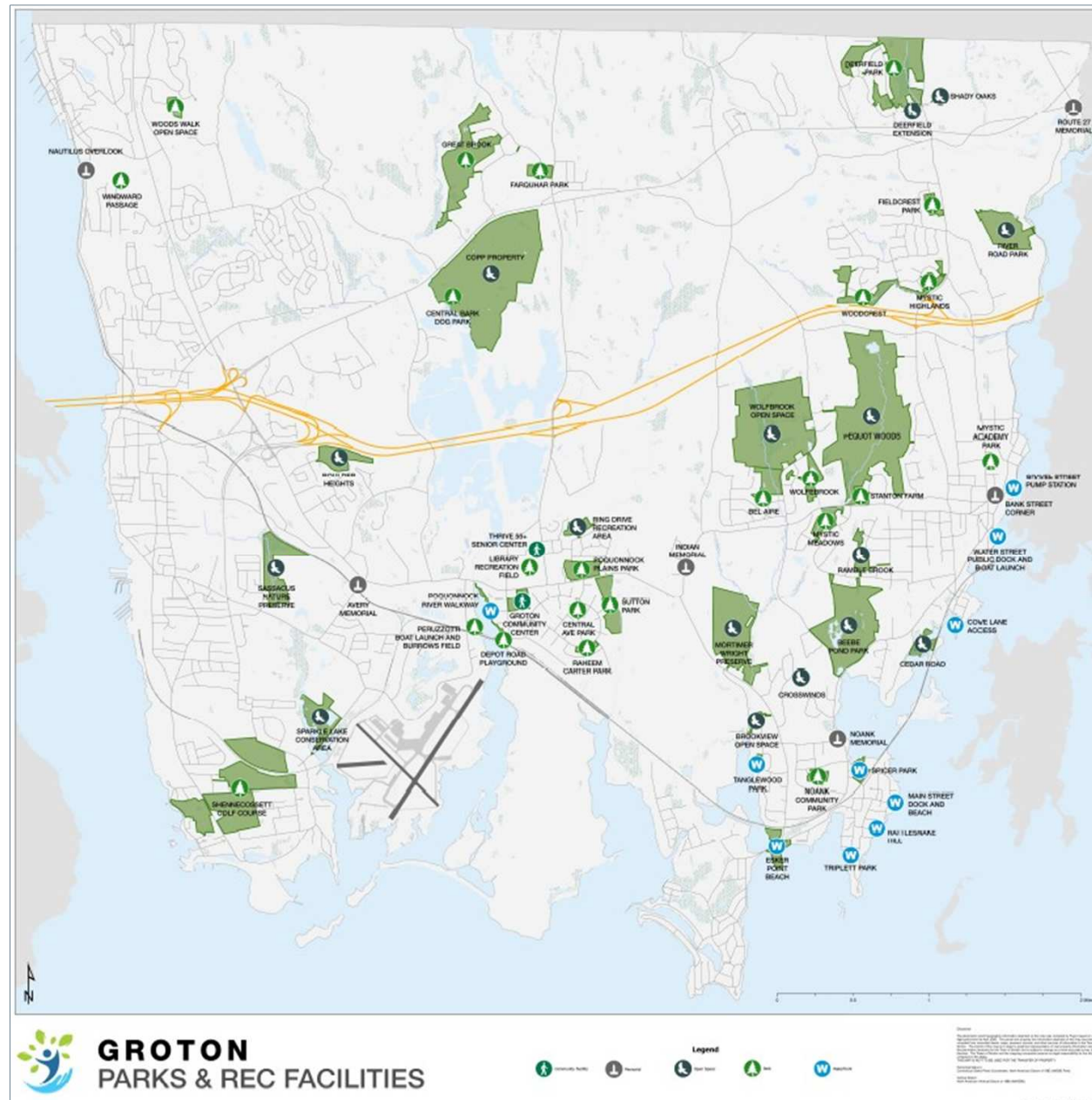
32 Coastal Access Points

28 Miles of Trails

241 Acres of Town Parks

950 Acres of Preserved Open Space

25



The Future of Mobility

Complete Streets for Safer Transportation

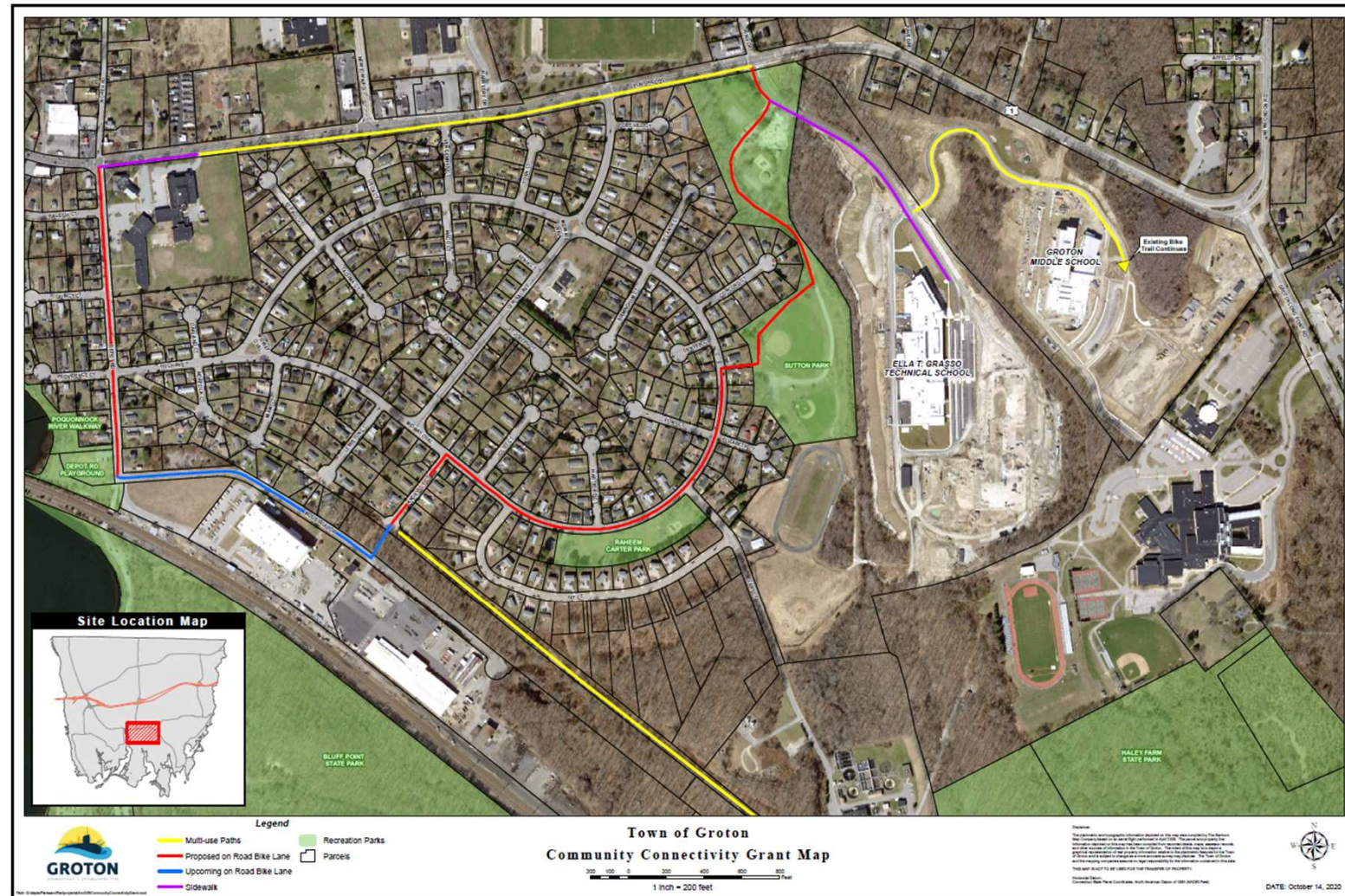
- Complete Streets Policy & Committee



Quality of Life

Improving Pathways & Parks with Grant Funding

- Community Connectivity Grant
- Safe access for all



Quality of Life

Improving Pathways & Parks with Grant Funding

- Transportation Alternatives Grant (TAP)



Quality of Life

Athletic Fields

Claude Chester



Claude Chester Feasibility Study
Conceptual Plan Option 3
January 5, 2022

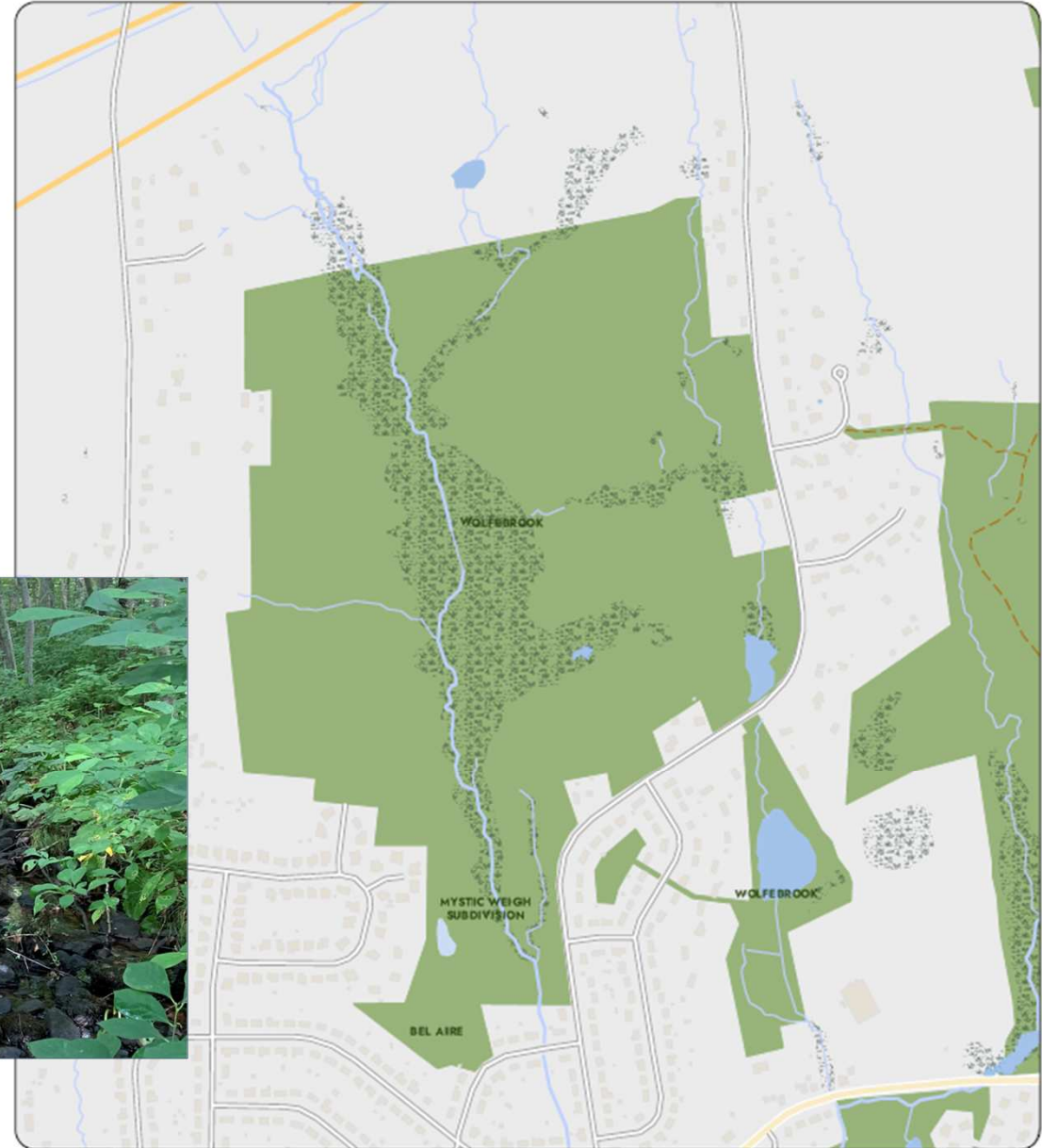


Protecting Natural Ecosystems

Open Space Conservation Efforts

Wolfebrook property

- Open Space/Passive Rec
- 161 Acres
- Wildlife
- Vernal pools
- History
- Financing:
 - DEEP Grant: \$352K
 - GOSA: \$210k
 - Town: \$220k



Keeping Our Community Safe

Police Department Initiatives

- State Radio System
- Social Workers
- Body cameras
- Downtown Mystic Enforcement
- LCC meeting with bars/restaurants
- Speed signs/ Patrols/Boat



Sharing a Vision

Upcoming Initiatives & Future Opportunities

Accomplishments

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- Capital Improvement Projects
- Economic Development
- Expansion of meeting accessibility
- Groton 2020 Plan
- Groton Long Point Bridge Funding
- Police Department fully staffed

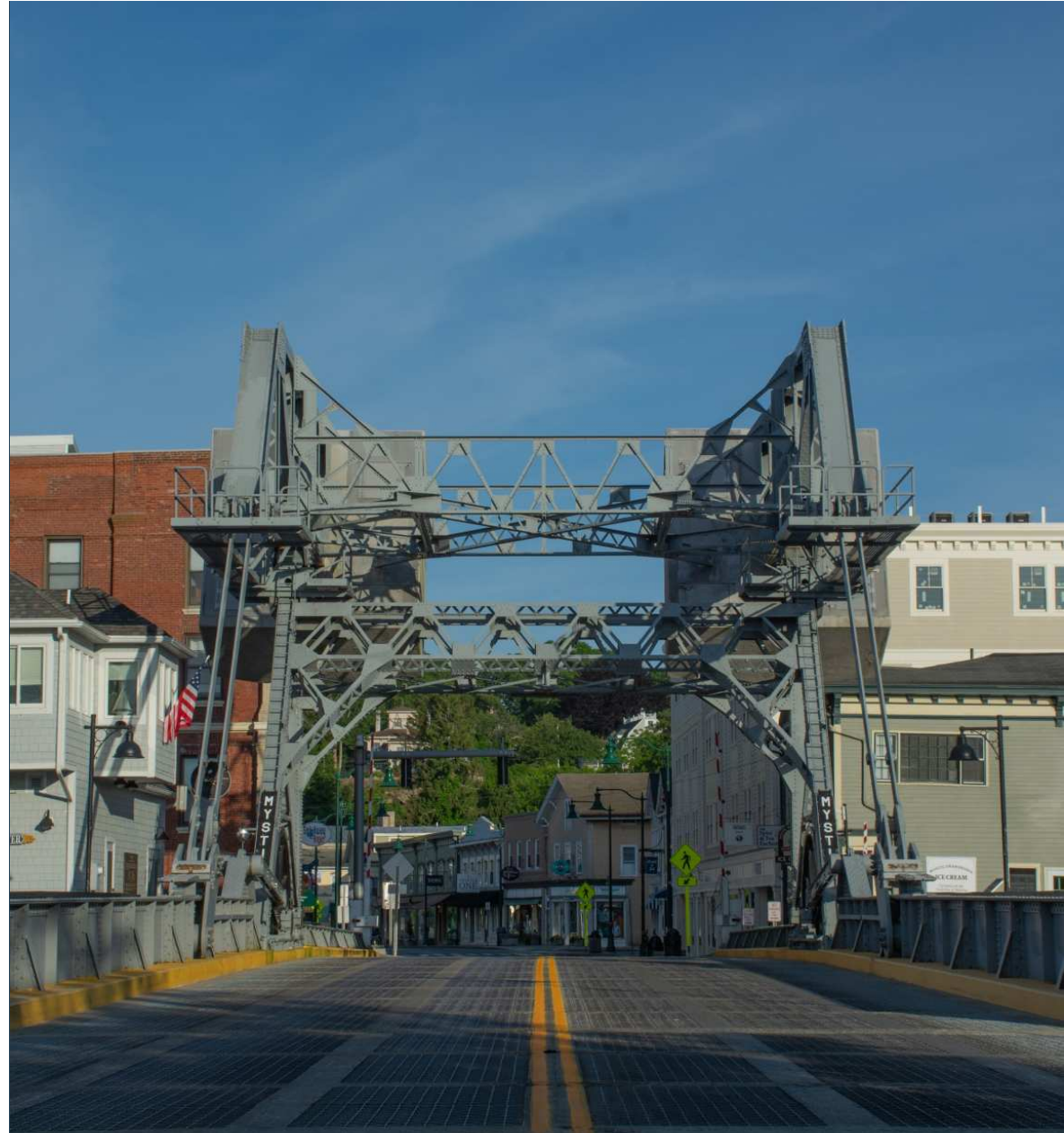


Sharing a Vision

Upcoming Initiatives & Future Opportunities

Challenges/Opportunities

- Housing Quantity & Affordability
- Downtown Mystic Parking
- Electric Boat
- Navy Base
- North Stonington Rd Bridge
- Pfizer
- POCD 2026 Update
- Town Hiring
- UCONN Avery Point

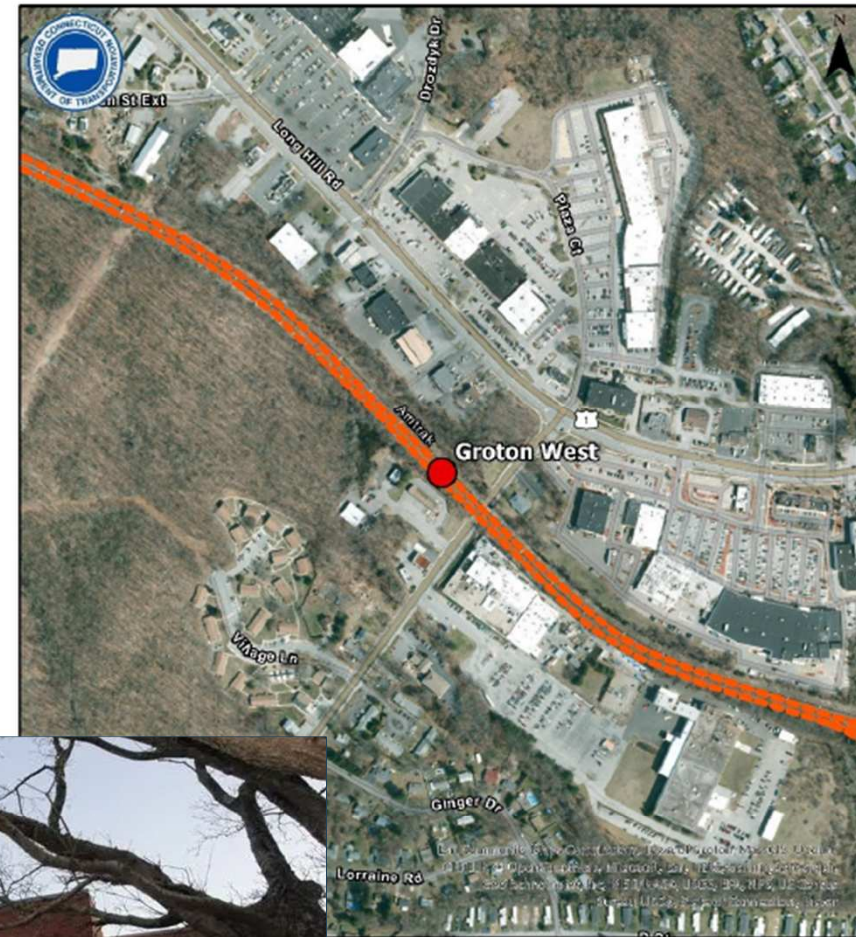


Sharing a Vision

Upcoming Initiatives & Future Opportunities

Town Council Focus Items

- Athletic Facilities
- Downtown Mystic Parking
- Fair distribution of parks/open spaces on west side of Town
- Former Fitch Middle Renovations
- Groton Train Station
- Property Re-Use/Sale Process
- Resiliency
- Revitalization of Downtown Groton
- TVCCA new facility



Thank you!



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