

Project Update

The Town Of Groveland Board of Selectmen

October 1, 2018



[FOLLOW US:](#)

www.GrovelandCommunityTrail.org

[Facebook.com/GrovelandCommunityTrail](https://www.facebook.com/GrovelandCommunityTrail)

Agenda:

1. *Project Team*
2. *Project Review*
3. *Project Status & Next Steps*
4. *Two asks for the BOS*



Project Team:

- 1. Michael Davis** – Chair, Groveland Open Space and Trails Committee
- 2. Denise Dembkoski** – Finance Director, Town of Groveland
- 3. John Hendrickson** – Stantec
- 4. Aleece D'Onofrio** – Stantec

Critical stakeholders: MVPC; MassDOT; NGRID, Natural Heritage

Other partners: BOS, DPW, Water & Sewer, Conservation, abutting land owners, CPC, Chesterton & other local businesses

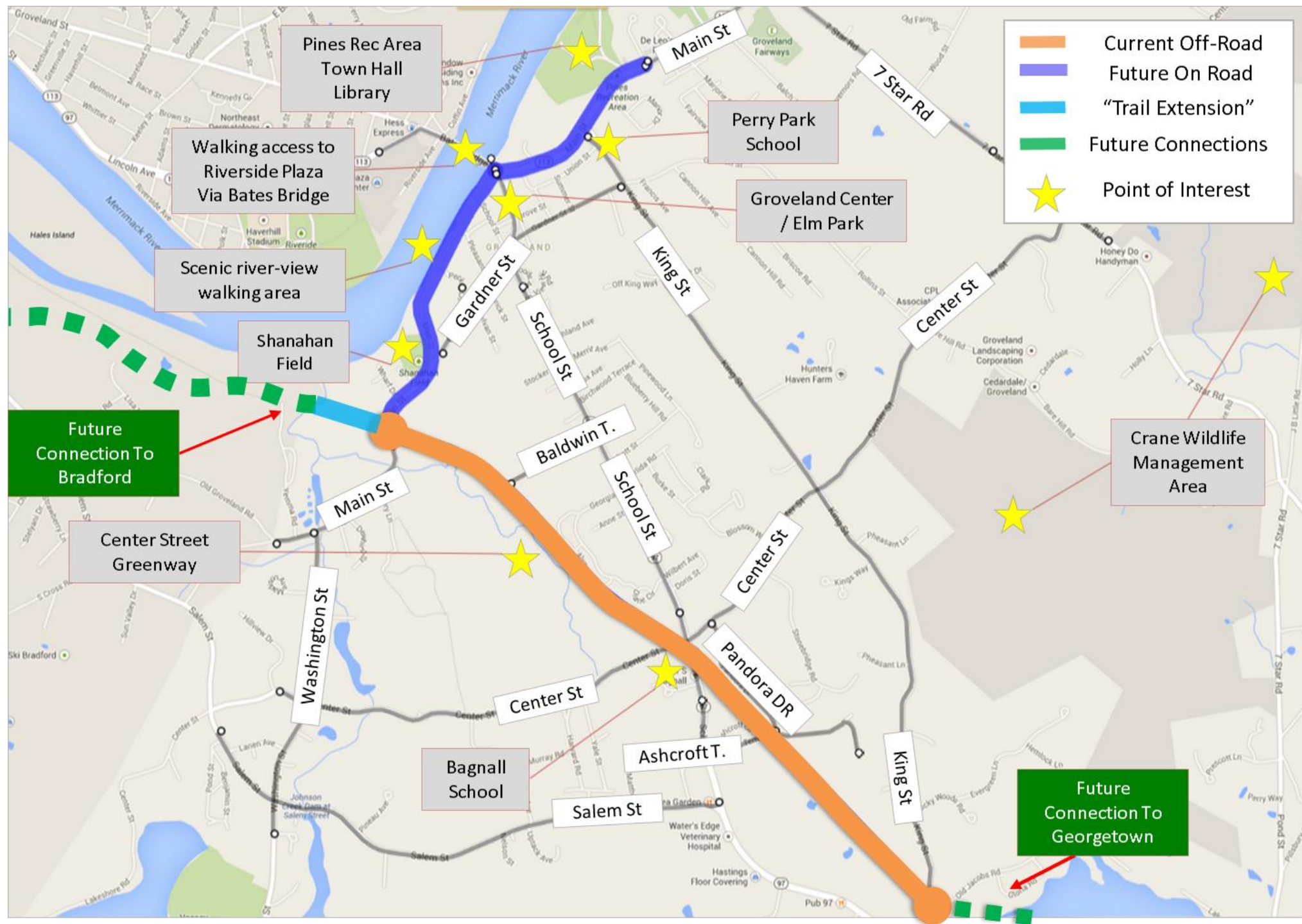


Project Review:

- **What is the Groveland Community Trail:** a proposed ~2 mile shared/non-motorized used paved path (*a.k.a. a rail trail*) along NGRID's existing utility corridor from 441 Main Street (*old Esty Lumber*) to King Street (*at NGRID substation*) with a major crossing at School & Center Street (at Bagnall Elementary School)
- **Vision:** a more connected Groveland
- **Mission:** To sustainably provide safe, scenic, & healthy outdoor recreation & pedestrian transportation to all ages & abilities
- **Connected Town assets:** Bagnall Elementary, RT97 improvements, Center Street Greenway, Shanahan Field, Groveland Center, Elm Park, Bates Bridge, multiple residential neighborhoods
- **Design Costs:** funded by the Town (\$355,300) – 100% from CPA funds
- **Construction Costs:** funded by MassDOT (~\$2,400,000) – this is a 6.6x ROI
- **Strong public support:** MVPC, Essex Heritage, Sen Tarr, Rep Mirra, Chesterton
- **Strong local/Town support:** three (3) Annual Town Meeting approvals for design funds (\$150K; \$150K; and \$55,300)
- **Ongoing public engagement:** multiple public forums in 2015; BOS meetings; 25% Design Public Hearing ('17); Facebook
- **Self sustaining maintenance plan:** following other Towns, we will pursue a mix of paid (e.g., mowing) and volunteer (e.g., Chesterton) maintenance which will be self-sustained through mile-marker sponsorships
- **501.c3 established:** *Friends of the Groveland Community Trail* was set up in 2016 with MA Secretary of State



Project Review:



Project Review:

Milestone accomplishments:

- 2012: **MVPC Feasibility Study**
- 2014 (April): **Town Meeting Vote #1** (\$150,000) to fund title review & 25% Design Plan
- 2014 (July): **Title review by attorney shows clean title**; ROW is fully owned by NGRID
- 2015 (March): **Board of Selectmen public update**
- 2015 (Feb, March, April): **multiple public forums** to raise project awareness
- 2015 (April): **Town Meeting Vote #2** (\$150,000) to fund 100% Design Plan (441 Main Street to King Street; 1.98 miles)
- 2016 (January): **Board of Selectmen public update**
- 2016 (March): **25% Design Plan submitted** to MassDOT; **project ID# assigned**
- 2016 (April): **Town Meeting Vote #3** (\$55,300) to fund 100% Design Plan (441 Main St to Haverhill City line; .25 miles)
- 2016 (August): **assigned to MassDOT FY2019 TIP** for construction funding
- 2016 (October): **site walk with DOT**
- 2017 (June): **25% Design Public Hearing** with MassDOT
- 2018 (January): **75% Design Plan submitted** to MassDOT
- 2018 (July): **reprogrammed for MassDOT FY2021 TIP** for construction funding
- 2018 (September): **100% Design Plan submitted** to MassDOT and NGRID

Remaining hurdles:

- **Turtles:** habitat mitigation
- **NGRID:** 99-year lease



Project Status & Next Steps:

100% Design Submission

- Submitted to MassDOT on September 7, 2018
- Trail Design:
 - 8-ft wide paved surface
 - wood rail fence along habitat sensitive areas
- Coordination with both Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and National Grid to develop the submission
- Next Submission would be Plans, Specs & Estimate (PS&E) for Advertisement
 - Need Environmental Permits approved and 99-year National Grid Lease Agreement signed prior to Advertisement and Project Construction



Project Status & Next Steps:

Next Steps

1. Obtain Environmental Permits (*i.e. from Groveland Conservation Commission, NHESP, etc.*)
2. Obtain 99-year lease agreement from National Grid

Also: ongoing, utility coordination with Groveland Water & Sewer Department



Project Status & Next Steps:

Environmental Permitting

Conservation Management Permit (CMP)

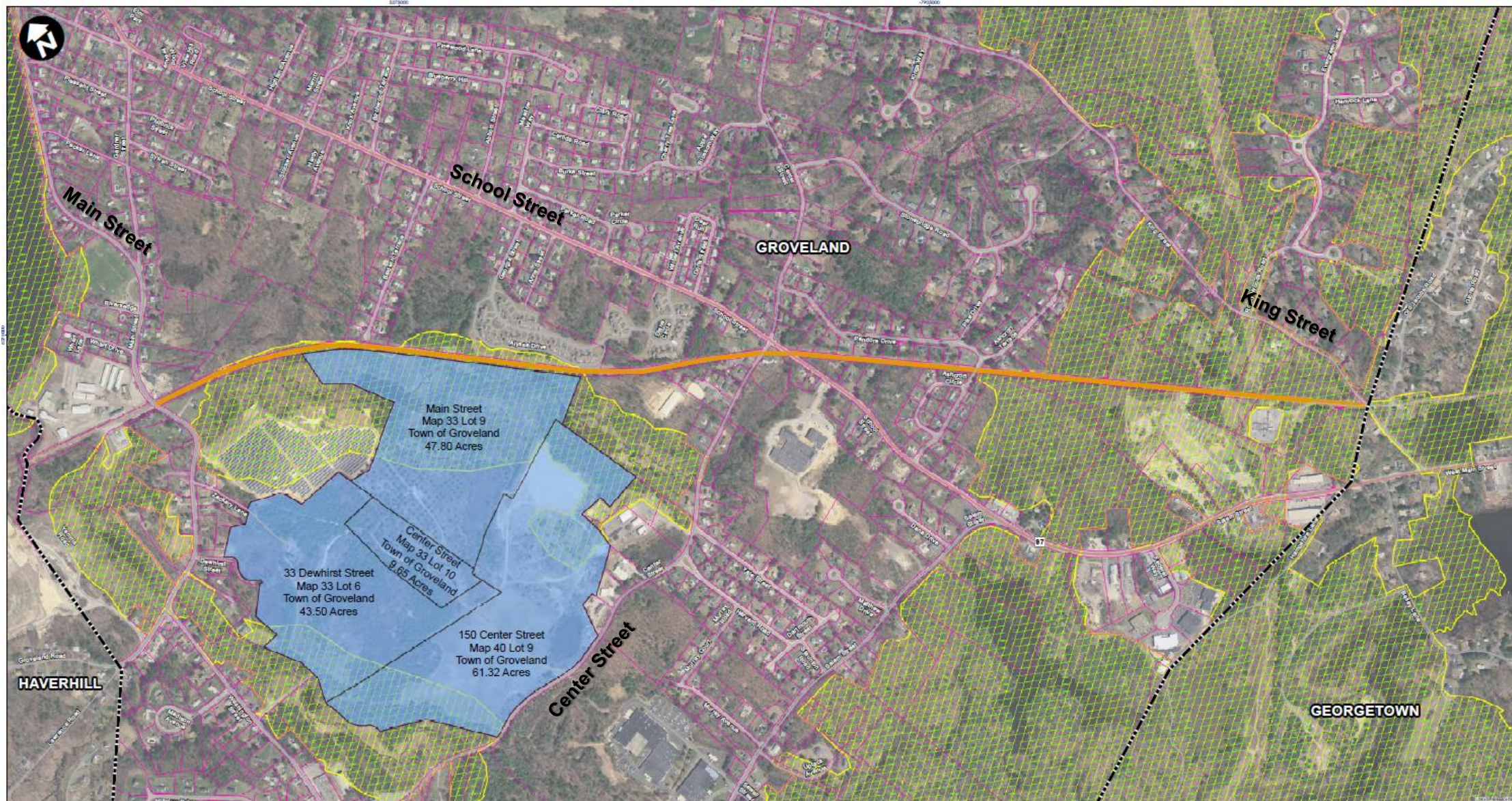
- Project is located within Priority Habitat mapped by NHESP for state-listed species under MA Endangered Species Act (MESA)
- 2.5-acres of wood turtle habitat impact requiring Net Benefit Mitigation
- Seeking approximately 8-acres of mitigation requiring permanent habitat protection through a Conservation Restriction (CR)
- NHESP has suggested a coordinated effort with the Town's master planning and trail habitat mitigation at the Center Street parcel (Center Street parcel was identified as a desirable location suitable for wood turtle habitat)

Notice of Intent (NOI) & MEPA Environmental Notification Form (ENF)

- Coordinated application effort with CMP
- ENF may be triggered based on impacts and is currently under evaluation

MassDOT issues Environmental Clearance once permit process is complete





Legend

- Groveland Community Trail
- Parcels Suitable for Habitat Mitigation
- Groveland Assessor's Parcels
- NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife
- Town Boundary



Project Location	Groveland, MA
Client/Project	Town of Groveland Groveland Community Trail
Figure No.	1
Title	Parcels Suitable for Habitat Mitigation



Project Status & Next Steps:

National Grid Coordination

- 100% Design Submission sent to National Grid on September 12, 2018
- National Grid Engineering review of plans and impacts to facilities
- Town is responsible for coordinating 99-year lease agreement

MassDOT issues ROW Certificate for compliance with FHWA once 99-year lease is signed.



Our asks of the BOS:

- **Now (October):** for your help to mitigate eight (8) acres of suitable turtle habitat to comply with Natural Heritage's proposed mitigation plan; we are open to ideas, however there is urgency to satisfy this need in the immediate term.
- **Soon (2019):** to support the execution of 99yr lease with NGRID for use of its ROW; a draft of this document is under review with Town Council, with plans to submit for review with NGRID soon.

NOTE: it benefits the Town to satisfy both items promptly; as TIP projects & dollars shift, Groveland could accelerate its construction timeline if everything is fully ready with the design plans and lease.



Thank You

Michael Davis

Chair, Groveland Open Space and Trails Committee

GrovelandCommunityTrail@gmail.com

FOLLOW US:

www.GrovelandCommunityTrail.org

Facebook.com/GrovelandCommunityTrail

