



Trail Status Update

October 2025

Joyful New Beginning

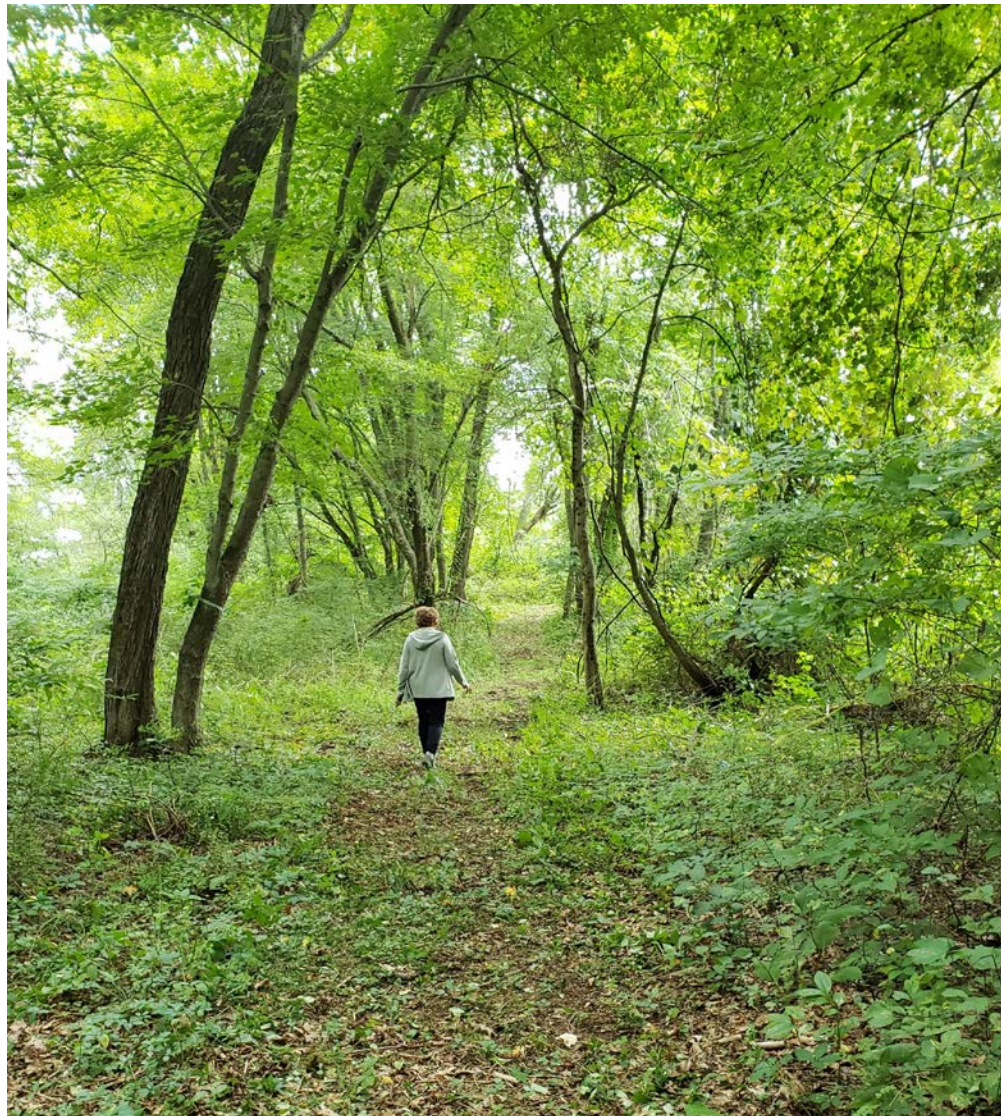
June 2020

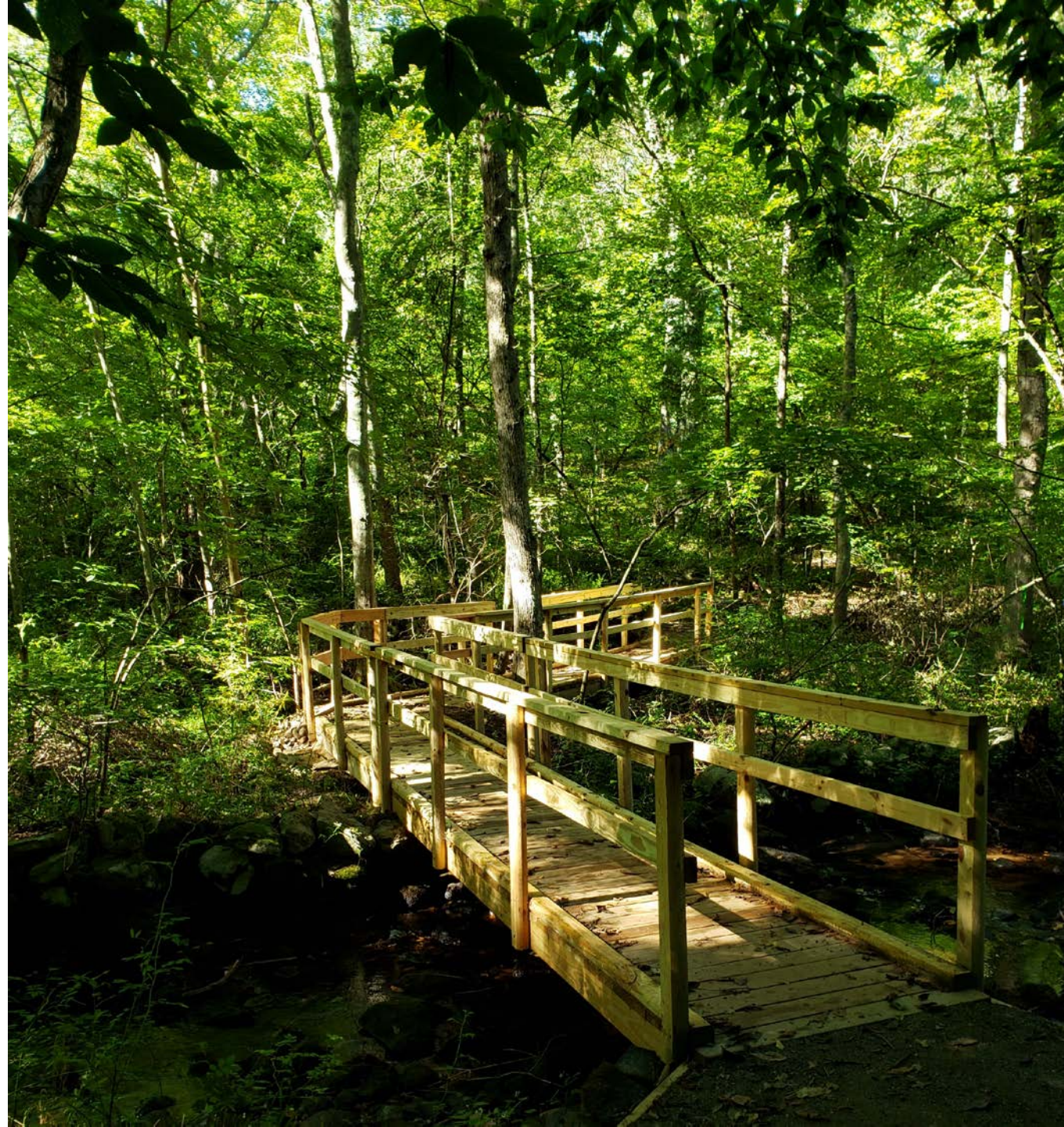


Taking Our 1st Step



Woodlands heading to Joe Clark Brook





Crossing at Joe Clark Brook
North Bridge
September 2020



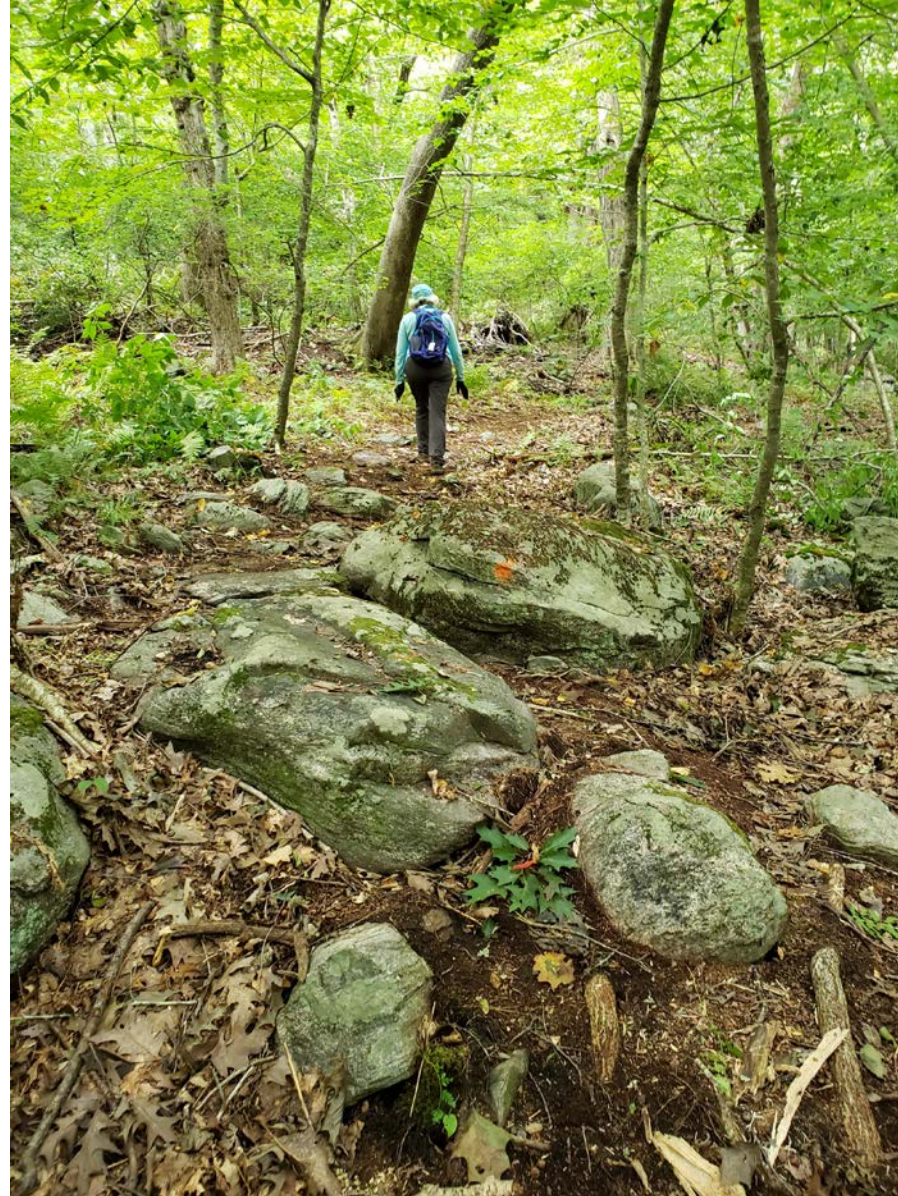
Crossing at Joe Clark Brook
North Bridge
May 2025

Bridge elevation raised and
moved down stream ~25 feet
due to Sep 2020 flooding
from hurricane Ian

Fern Area Along Woodland Trail



Boulder Interest Along Trail



Joe Clark Brook – Scenic Overlook



Working Farmland on Clark Farm



Native Plants



Butterfly Milkweed

Connecticut College Biology Department

- Conducted a detail study of the flora along the trail
- Included: Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Grasses, Ferns, Forbs and Invasives
- Developed an online dedicated website inventory:

https://cjones.digital.conncoll.edu/tritowntrail/?fbclid=IwAR3NK4lx_QO6fGs3TvGvi-x135Lj1Wy0vofdbU0vHLueAz5VsSiqSD0GKq8



Common Milkweed

Fungus, Mushrooms, Ferns and Skunk Cabbage

Turkey Tail Fungus



Hoofed Fungus



Flame Bonnet Mushrooms



Hay-Scented Fern
(*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*)



Christmas Fern
(*Polystichum acrostichoides*)



Sensitive Fern
(*Onoclea sensibilis*)



New York Fern
(*Thelypteris noveboracensis*)

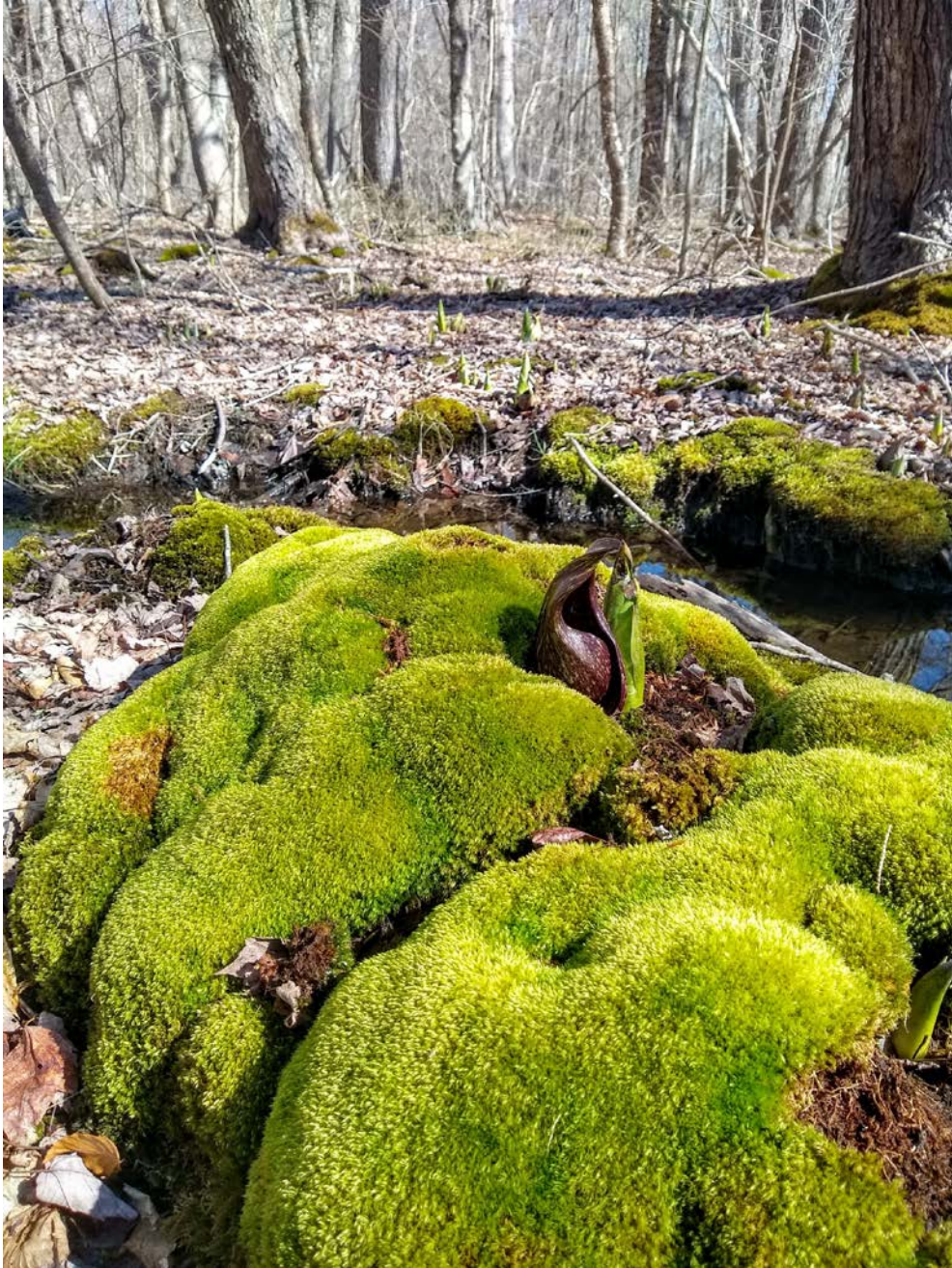


Royal Fern
(*Osmunda regalis*)



Cinnamon Fern
(*Osmunda cinnamomea*)

Lady Slipper and Moss



Springtime Skunk Cabbage



Scenic Overlook



Volunteers Constructed Crossings

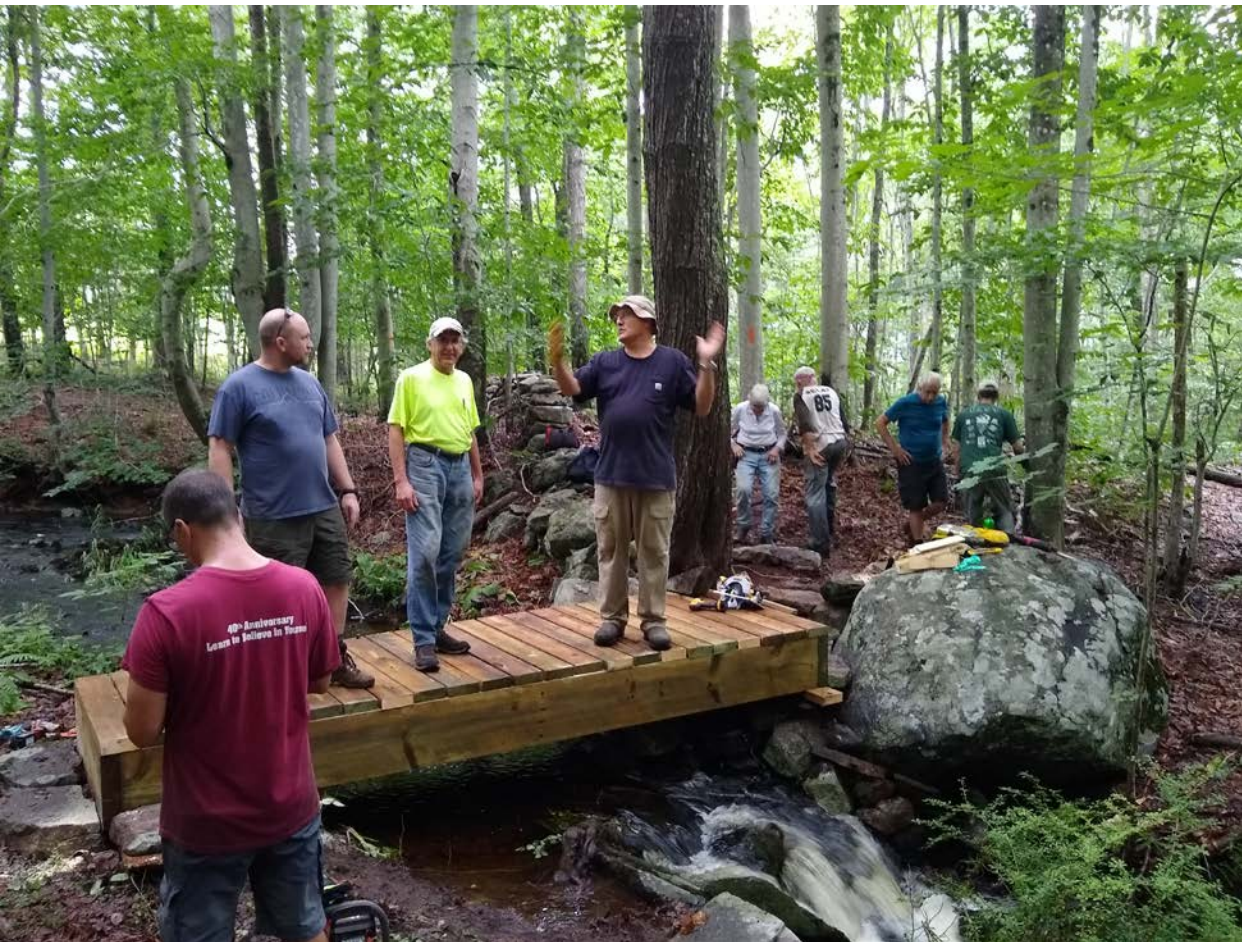
Starting March 2021



Preparing for a New Crossing.







Spicer Bridge

Puncheon along the trail



Oct 3rd 2021 Tri Town Trail Northern Section Grand Opening Event at Preston Community Park



Events included Ribbon Cutting with Senior Town Officials;
Fun runs lead for adults and kids by Amby Burfoot;
Docent led hikes and trail history briefings; Face Painting;
Food Trucks; Sneaker Donation; Petting Zoo; and Music



Volunteers Installed 10 Benches Along the Trail

Spicer Section



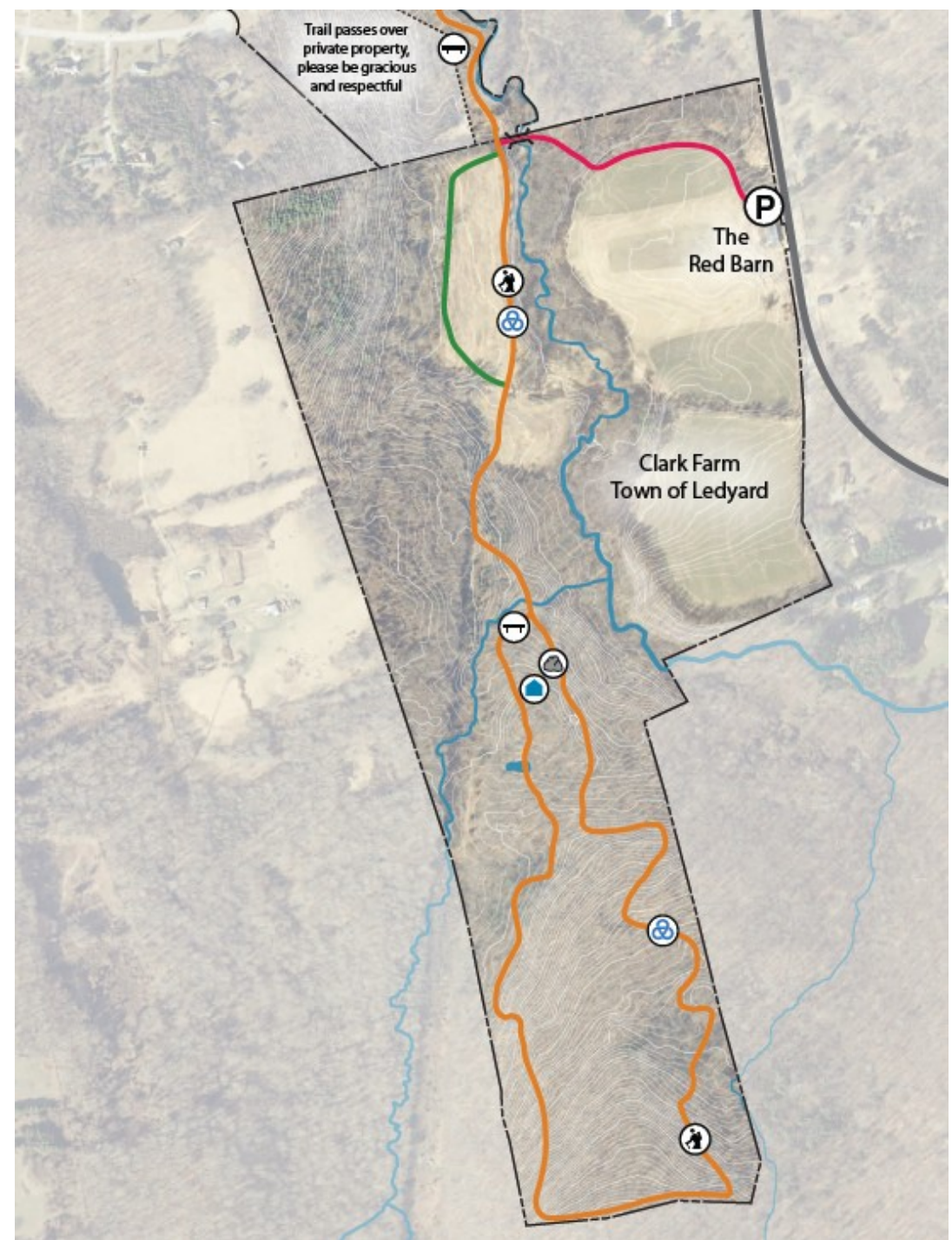
Along the Trail



Along Joe Clark Brook



Spicer Highlights





Spicer Ruins on the Clark Farm

Working with Ledyard Historical Commission on state recognition and preservation plans

Located at Mile 1.2 of the Tri Town Trail

Rock Wall Pen
Old Stone Well
Stone Wall Entrance to Ruins

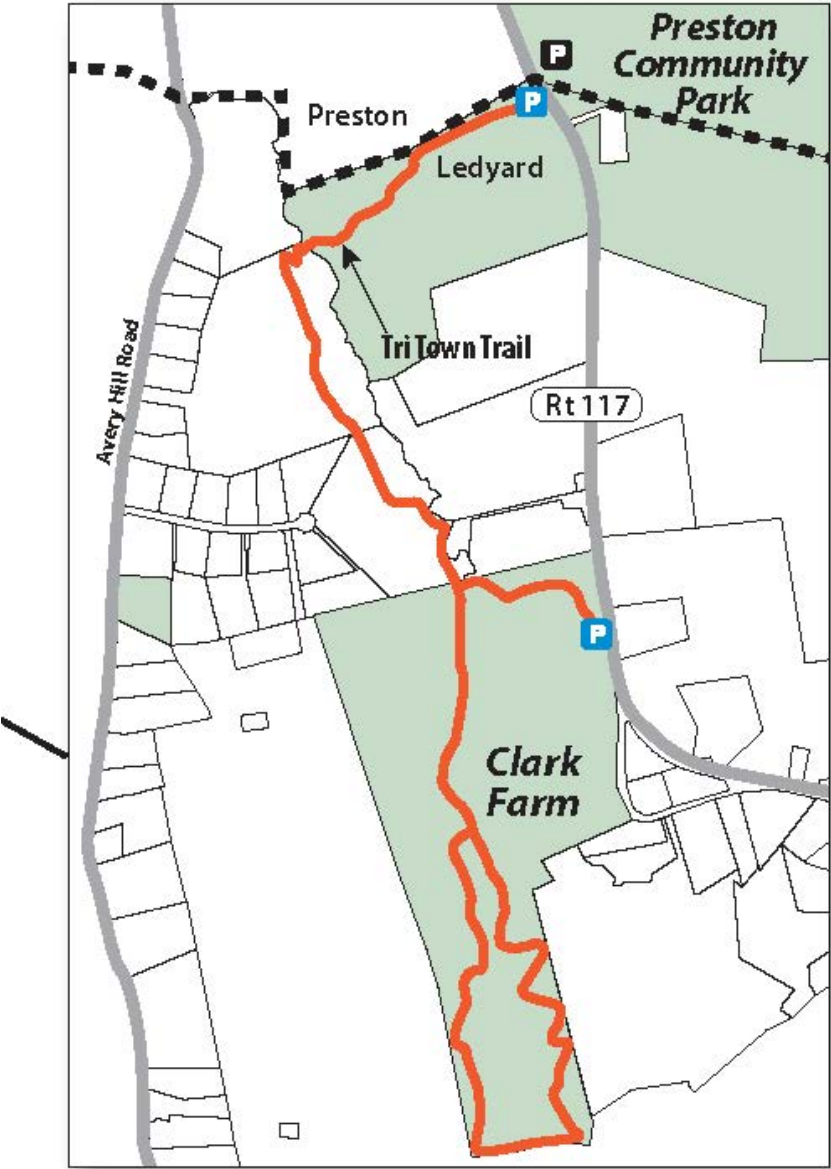
Spicer Rock with Reporter
Steve Fagin and Friends



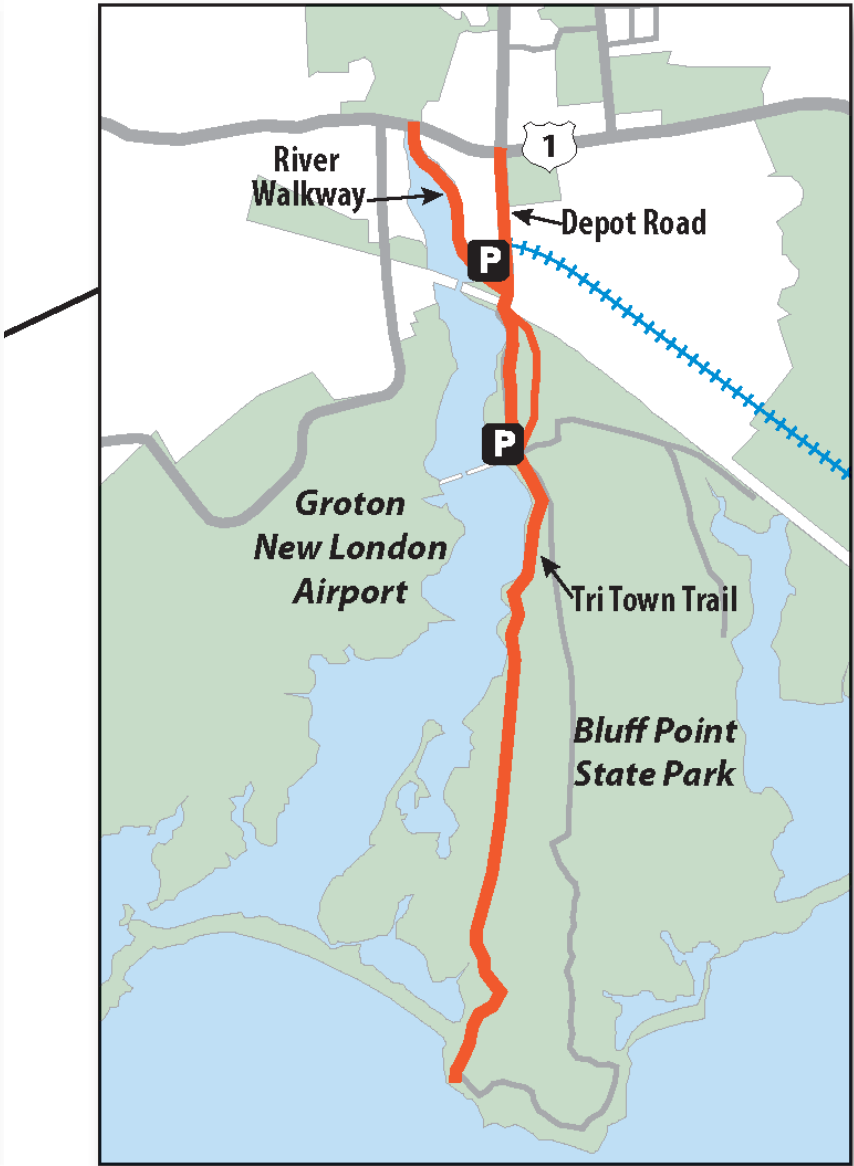
Trail Extension

Steps to Move Forward

Preston - Ledyard Section



Groton Section

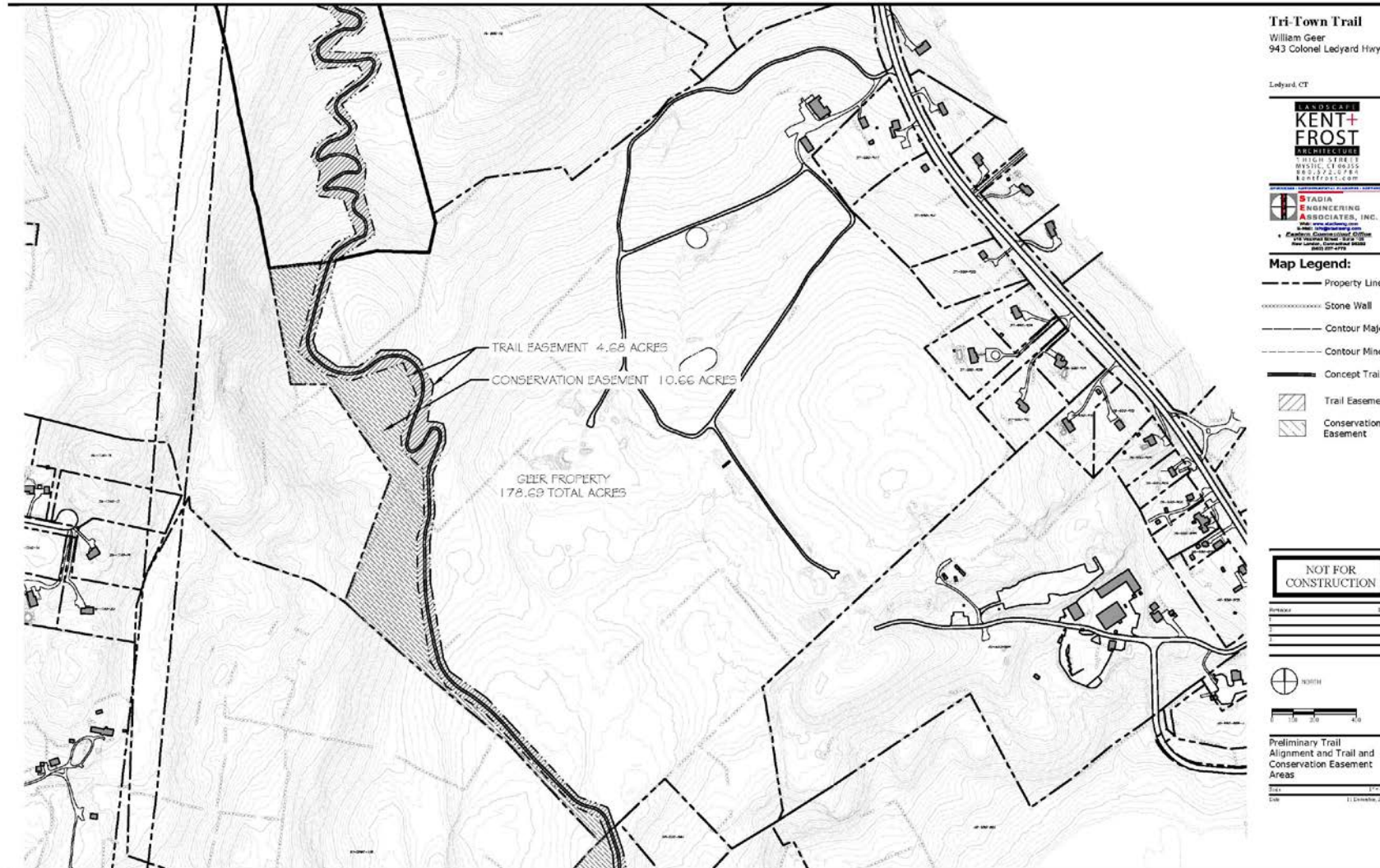




Trail Development Actions

- Grant Connecticut State Greenway Designation June 2022
 - Provides linkage to local Greenways:
 - Pequot Trail Greenway at Preston Community Park
 - Groton Cross Town Greenway near Bluff Point State Park
 - Potential to Ledyard Great Oak Greenway
- 2023 CT – DEEP Recreational Trails Grant awarded to Town of Ledyard
 - \$170,000 for planning the next trail portion from Clark Farm to Rt 214
 - Initial routing easement not approved by parcel owner
 - Grant time extension executed to allow for alternative routing
 - Working to develop new easement with parcel owners

Trail Development – to Route 214



- Using the 2022 CT Recreational Trails Grant
- Kent & Frost developed proposal to establish an easement on the Geer property for the trail
 - Town of Ledyard approached the family, but were rejected
 - Developed alternative easement proposal for the Hagen Property
 - Further actions are pending grant extension

Trail Development Actions



- Groton Utilities (GU) Commission Interactions
 - 2022 – GU funded comprehensive Watershed Trails Evaluation to determine feasibility of trail on GU property
 - Finding – the trail can be established, but will require amending CT – DPH permit
 - Pilot program recommended to test possible impacts and additional needs
 - 2023 – GU Commission actions
 - Staff analysis and concerns from study formally presented
 - Focus on trespass, trash and need for additional security
 - Budget and rate concerns raised by management
 - Resulted in water department staffing reductions
 - Commission voted 3-2 to NOT proceed with pilot program
 - No further actions proposed until stabilization of patrol staffing achieved
 - Looking towards re-evaluation of proposed trial trail in 2026
 - Includes access at gate location from Route 117
 - Use of patrol road, and trail near reservoir
 - Linkage to unauthorized trail system and Copp Family Park

SUMMARY

People make it happen for People
... and YES, there are lots more People... THANK YOU ALL!



Come Experience the Pastoral Setting

*“Take only memories,
leave only footprints”*

Chief Seattle – Duwamish and Suquamish Peoples

