

Hope Davey

Town of Waterbury
Conservation Commission

Community Partner Pitch

A.Marshall-Carney, Chair

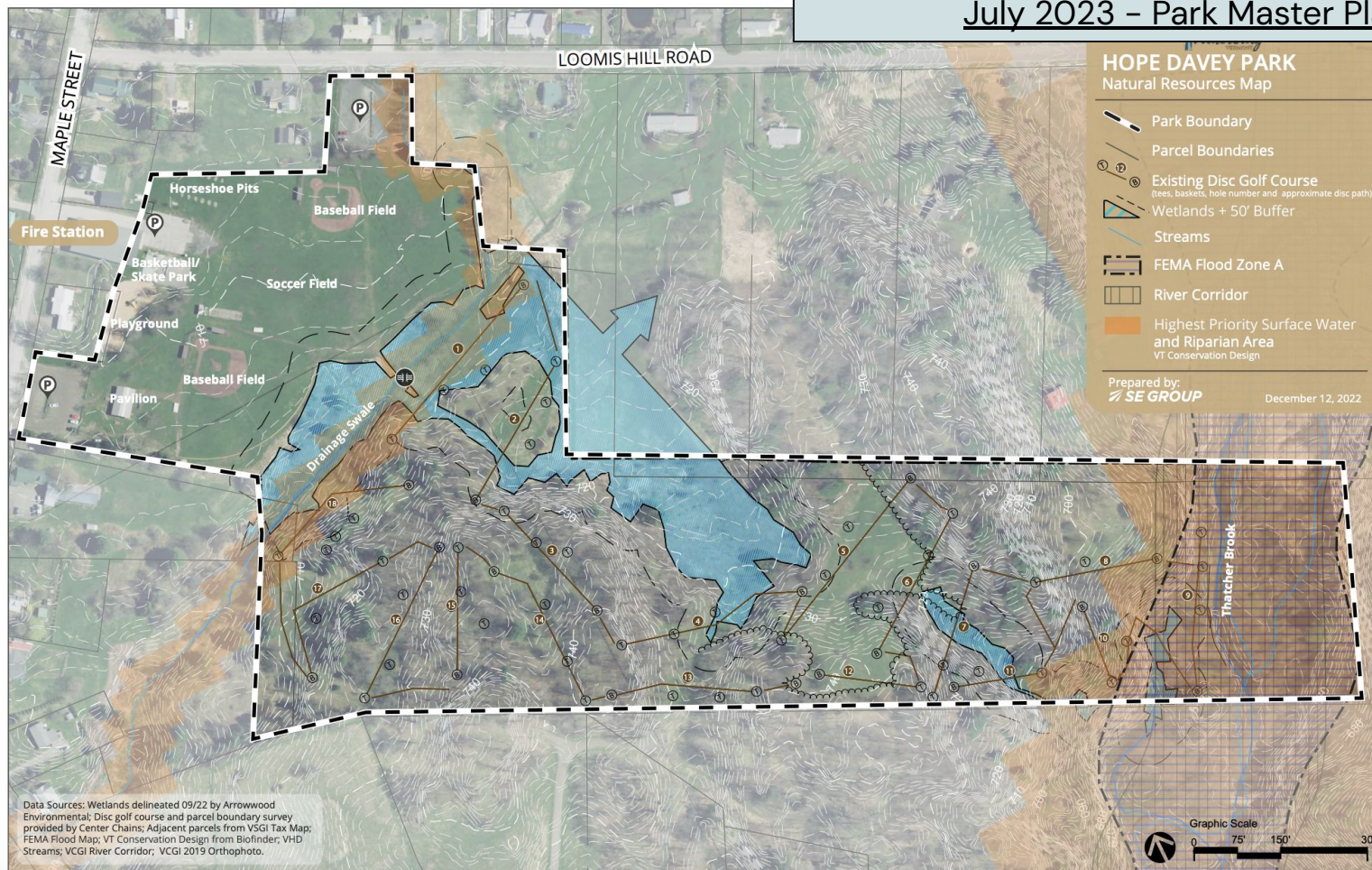


1. **Hope Davey Today**
2. **Defining the Problem**
3. **Objectives & Goals**

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HOPE DAVEY PARK is a 28.7-acre parcel in Waterbury Center. An 8+/- acre area in the western portion includes ballfields, a playground, basketball court, small skatepark, horseshoe pits, and a picnic shelter. The easterly 20+/- acre area was developed with a nature trail in the late 1990's, and an 18 hole disc golf course in the early 2000's. Thatcher Brook flows through the eastern portion of the site. Several acres on the eastern side of Thatcher Brook are not accessible directly from the main park area as there is no existing stream crossing for public access. Eastern wood turtle habitat is present in the riparian corridor for Thatcher Brook. There is a wetland complex present in the park featuring both wet-meadow and forested wetlands, that provide habitat and water resource management benefits. A vernal pool is present near the park and Thatcher Brook, but beyond the property boundaries.





The 2022-23 park planning efforts were initiated due to community interest in re-establishing the nature trail path, evaluating the impact of both passive and active recreation on ecological resources on the parcels, and assessing recreational assets on the site, some of which were recognized as in disrepair and either over or under-utilized.

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Decades of use, land degradation, invasive species proliferation, wetland degradation and habitat fragmentation have compromised the site's ecological integrity. Native plant and animal communities have declined, bank mass failure has occurred and natural features are under pressure.

- Implementation of identified solution approaches shared in the park plan have yet to occur.
- The Town of Waterbury has experienced 3 major floods since the park plan was developed *July 9–11, 2023, December 18–19, 2023, and July 9–11, 2024*
- Erosion along the banks of the Thatcher Brook has continued
- Thatcher Brook has also been included on the 2016 Stressed Waters List due to morphological instability and sediment pollution.
- The impact of the disc golf and passive recreation shows substantial difference in soil compaction around traveled pathways and launch platforms when compared to adjacent areas.
- The Class II wetland and riparian areas have been further degraded

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There is a critical need to restore and protect the ecological health of the site while maintaining equitable access and use by the public. Balancing these goals requires a strategic and inclusive approach to ensure the land can provide long-term environmental, recreational, and educational value.



Ecological
Health



Sustain-
ability



Balanced
Use



Community
Value



Thank You!

