

## **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grant Case Study**

**Municipality:** Littleton

**Project Title:** Watershed Protection for Climate Resiliency – Brown's Woods Acquisition

**Award Year (FY):** FY21 FY22

**Grant Award:** \$ 763,050

**Match:** \$ 289,475

**Match Source:** Town funds, Sudbury Valley Trustees

**One or Two Year Project:** Two year

**Municipal Department Leading Project:** Conservation

**Project Website URL:**

### **Community Overview:**

- Littleton has a population of about 10,000, located in Metrowest
- Not in town

### **Project Description and Goals:**

- 119 Tahattawan Road
- Co-benefits addressed by the land acquisition include biodiversity, restoration, improved water quality, improved air quality, carbon sequestration, public health, long-term maintenance
- Specific goals besides the acquisition itself included management of almost one acre of Phragmites
- Did your project meet the goals set forth in your application in terms of:
  - Employing nature-based solutions – the project protected the biodiversity of the Long Lake watershed area, protected acres of woodland that provides carbon sequestration, and provides a key link in a cross-town trail connection.
  - Implementing the public involvement and community engagement plan set forth in your application – the public has been very vested in the education about and control of both wetland and terrestrial invasive species on the site, and scout projects are planned for the area.
  - Finishing the project on time – the project was able to complete within the grant time frames. Management of the invasive species will be an ongoing effort

### **Results and Deliverables:**

- Describe, and quantify (where possible) project results (e.g. square footage of habitat restored or created, increase in tree canopy coverage, etc.). Report out on the metrics outlined in your application. Twenty-two acres of habitat was protected at the top of the Long Lake watershed. Almost one acre of Phragmites is undergoing management which is expected to be an ongoing process. Approximately two acres of the site are

currently a target for organizing invasive species management for species such as burning bush, barberry, bittersweet and multiflora rose. A 0.47 trail is being installed

- Provide a brief summary of project deliverables with web links, if available. Main deliverables include the invasive species management plan and recording of the Conservation Restriction and the accompanying Baseline Documentation Report.

#### **Lessons Learned:**

- What lessons were learned as a result of the project? Focus on both the technical matter of the project and process-oriented lessons learned. The most difficult part of the project was making sure that the various tasks were accomplished in order to meet grant deadlines, and to respond to unanticipated issues. For example, a Phase 1 report was required for an underground storage tank, and that needed to be completed before the house could be demolished. Also minute deed issues had to be resolved before the property transfer was recorded.
- What is the best way for other communities to learn from your project/process? The best way would be to contact the Conservation Department to discuss.

#### **Partners and Other Support:**

- Include a list of all project partners and describe their role in supporting/assisting in the project. Sudbury Valley Trustees supported the project both in preparation of the grant application as well as preparation of the Invasive Species Management Plan, the Conservation Restriction and the Baseline Documentation. The Littleton Conservation Trust provided initial owner contacts and their Land Stewards have provided labor for invasive species management and trail building. Both the Town Department of Public Works and Light Department have assisted with tasks such as parking lot construction, debris removal and signage/kiosk installation. Both Building Department and Conservation Department provided permitting assistance. Aggregate Industries donated gravel for the parking lot.

#### **Project Photos:**

- In your electronic submission of this report, please attach (as .jpg or .png) a few high-resolution (at least 300 pixels per inch) representative photos of the project. Photos should not show persons who can be easily identified, and avoid inclusion of any copyrighted, trademarked, or branded logos in the images. MVP may use these images on its website or other promotional purposes, so please also let us know if there is someone who should receive credit for taking the photo.

Photos provided of typical upland, Phragmites area, vernal pool, house, and parking lot construction.



Typical upland



House (since demolished) and old lawn





Potential vernal pool



Phragmites area before treatment





Parking lot construction

