



THE JEWEL OF BLOOMFIELD

FILLEY PARK RENOVATIONS *Bloomfield, Connecticut*





Filley Park has been referred to by numerous town residents as “Bloomfield’s Jewel”. Located just north of the Town center, the park features a pond, a brook, and an island set against a wooded hillside. In it’s century of history, the park has hosted egg hunts, skating, fishing, concerts, ceremonies, and winter carnivals.

In recent years, however the shine has come off of the jewel and the park has begun to show its age. The pond has silted in; the hut and bridges are closed; and the pond edge is failing. About the only thing enjoying the park now are the Canada geese!



But, geese and an urban park with an island and much lawn don’t mix. Geese are wild animals, and wild animals poop. And, when you get a lot of geese congregating in one small area, well... The poop makes the lawn quite unusable for us humans, and rainwater dissolving it and running into the pond isn’t healthy for the water. The Town is looking at many ways to deter the geese in the redone park; but the most important step is:

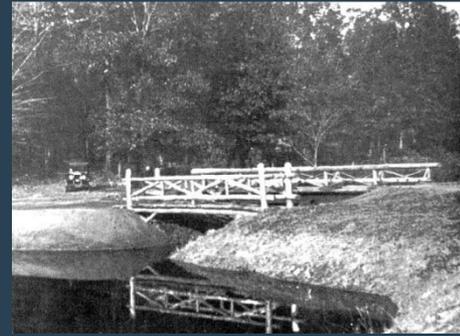
Don’t Feed the Geese!



In 2008, Bloomfield decided that it was time to re-polish the jewel and to give it a new setting. The Town Council appointed a committee of hard working, enthusiastic residents to guide the process. The Filley Park Committee engaged CR3 consultants to help them engage the public and determine what the community wanted for its jewel, and to create a preliminary concept plan based on that input, with a successful outcome.

The Committee and the Town then selected the consulting firm Fuss & O’Neill to dig deeper into the various factors affecting the park, especially the environmental and flood related issues, and thereby rework & refine the concept into a final design development plan. Above is the designer’s rendering of the overall plan; and on the accompanying pages are pictures and descriptions of the vision that the talented professionals at Fuss & O’Neill working with the Committee and Town staff have come up with to let our jewel sparkle like never before!

- 1910 ▶ Albert Filley donates 6½ acres on east side of “Whirlwind Hill” to Village Improvement District; named “Filley Park”.
- 1911 ▶ Easement acquired to build a road & bridge to connect the park across the brook to Tunxis Avenue.
- 1930 ▶ Wilbur Filley & Grace [Filley] Bidwell (nephew & niece of Albert Filley) donate 5 acres of meadow extending the park across the brook to Tunxis Avenue.
- Early 1930s ▶ Original earthen dam constructed & Scott Trail created on west side of the brook; named for James W. Scott.
- 1940 ▶ Additional 1 acre of frontage along street acquired for park.
- 1942 ▶ Channel dug on west side of pond creating the island.
- 1959 ▶ Winter Carnival at Filley Park draws over 2000 attendees to skating performance. Also, Town assumes maintenance of park and expands the park to present size.
- 1960 ▶ Current concrete dam installed.
- 1979 ▶ Town acquires ownership of Filley Park from Village Improvement District.



Historic Bridges
Pre 1930



Aerial View
Early 1930s
Current brook/pond
alignment in red



Skating on pond
1940's

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

FILLEE PARK RENOVATIONS Bloomfield, Connecticut



Restoring & Enhancing the Environmental Assets of the Park

FILLEY POND:

- Existing pond silted in and choking on organics
- Pond to be excavated to restore depth for fishing & skating
- Pond taken off-line from stream to reduce siltation



Existing pond & island in Autumn

Example of rock ramp fishway



WASH BROOK STREAM RESTORATION:

- Dam removal to provide a number of environmental benefits
- Rock ramp fishway proposed – also adds ‘rapids-like feature’
- Enhanced, stabilized stream shoreline to be provided

WETLANDS MEASURES AND LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT:

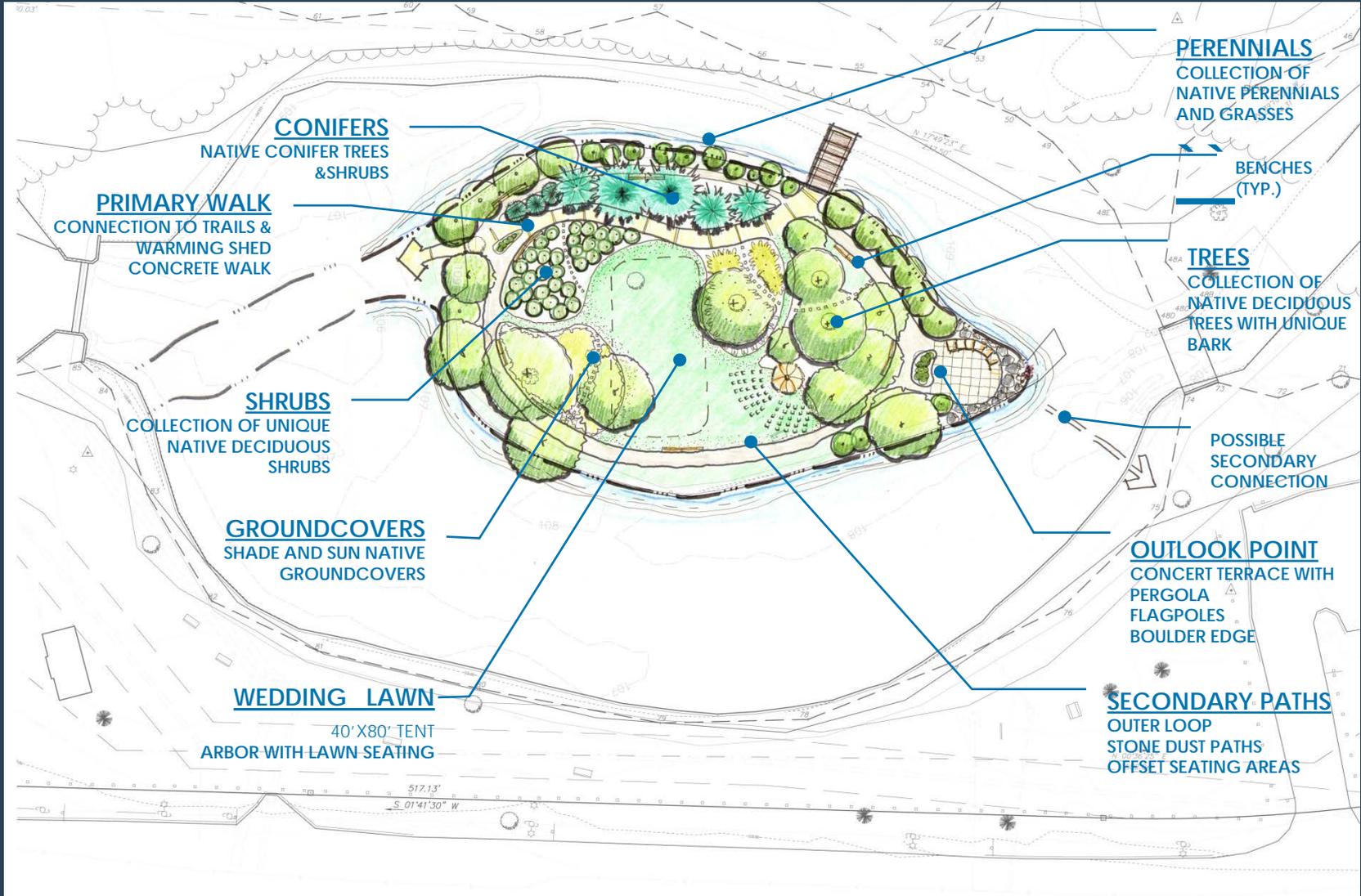
- Wetlands connections reestablished and enhanced
- Invasive species removal and control
- Rain garden and use of pervious pavement where possible



Example of a rain garden

ARBORETUM ISLAND-CONCEPT

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NATIVE PLANT COLLECTIONS



CONIFERS



PERENNIALS



SHRUBS



GROUNDCOVERS



TREES





WHAT IS A NATURAL PLAYGROUND?

“OPEN ENDED PLAY ENVIRONMENT OCCURRING IN NATURE”

BENEFITS:

- CONNECTS CHILDREN BACK TO NATURE
- COMBATS NATURE DEFICIT DISORDER
- IMPROVES CONCENTRATION
- PROMOTES CREATIVITY & ABSTRACT THINKING
- ENHANCES MOTOR SKILLS



NATURAL PLAYGROUNDS

FILLEY PARK RENOVATIONS Bloomfield, Connecticut

LOCATION:



ZONES/ COMPONENTS :



CLIMBING



GATHERING

DIGGING/ SAND



HIDE AND SEEK



BUILDING AREA



MUSIC & MOVEMENT



DISCOVERY AREAS



WATER PLAY

BEFORE:



AFTER:

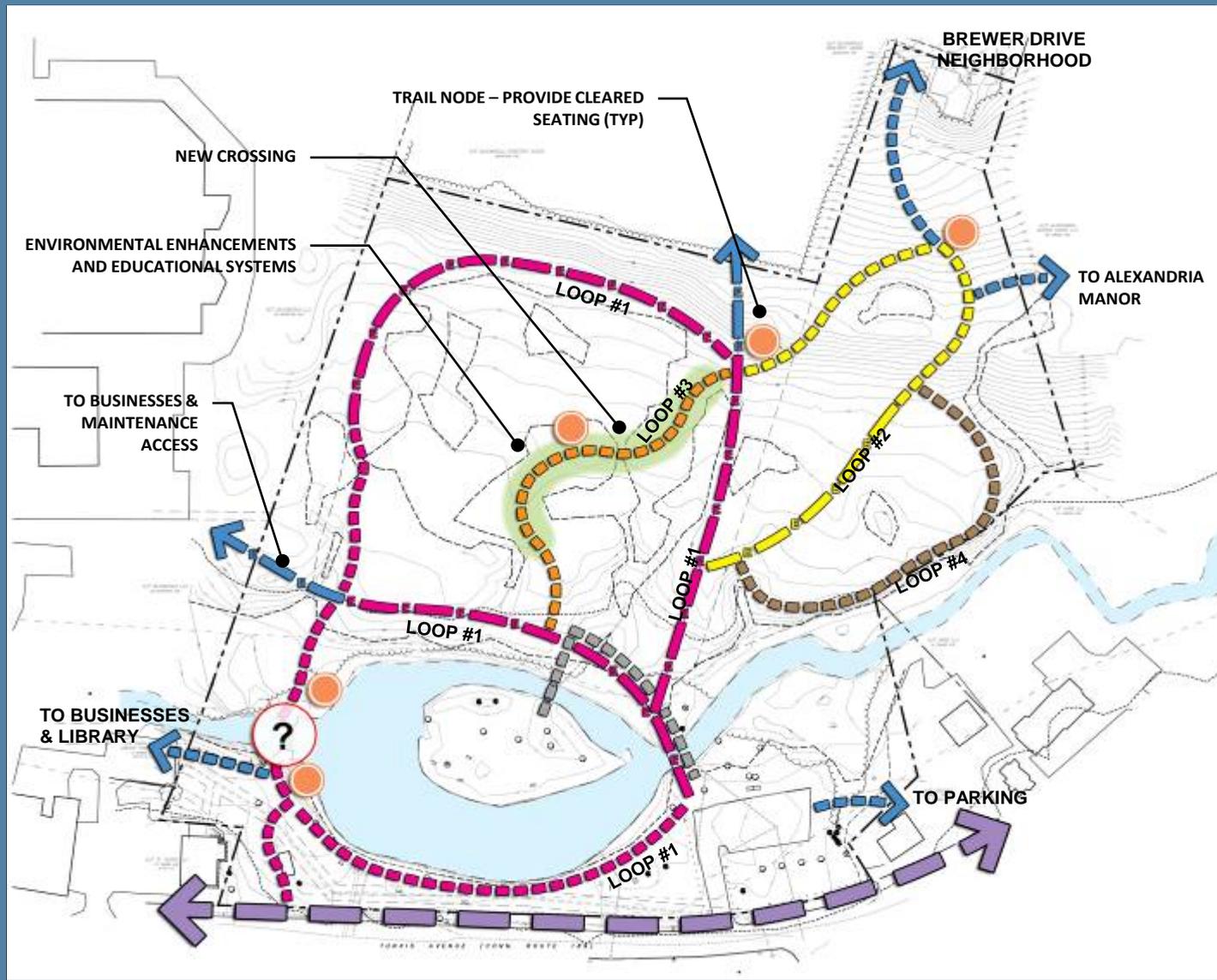


An enhanced & expanded trail system is proposed to highlight the natural beauty and features of the wooded hillside of 'Whirlwind Hill'. The trail system will feature cleared sitting areas, picnic areas, educational opportunities, exercise areas, and a peaceful walk in the woods near Bloomfield center!

LEGEND

- EXISTING PATH SYSTEM
- PROPOSED PATH SYSTEM
- STREETSCAPE
- POSSIBLE CONNECTION
- SITTING AREA

- LOOP #1** – PRIMARY PATH SYSTEM
- LOOP #1 & #2** – PAR COURSE SYSTEM
- LOOP #3 & #4** – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



TRAILS

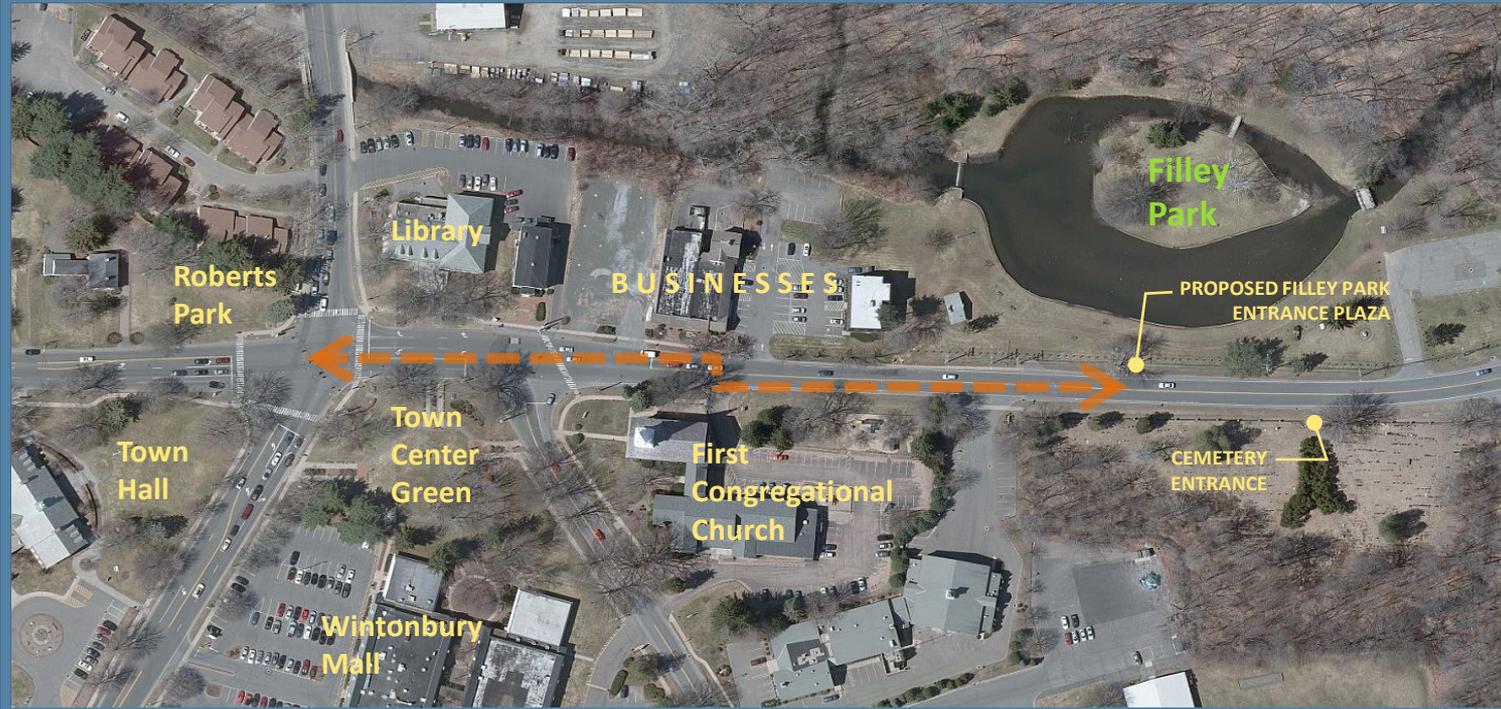


EDUCATIONAL



PICNIC

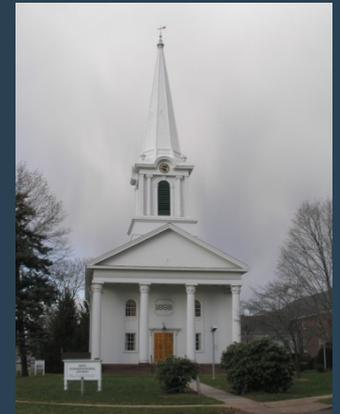




The Filley Park streetscape is intended to be the first part of an integral streetscape system to link, both aesthetically and physically, Filley Park and the historic cemetery across Tunxis Avenue to the Library, Town Hall, Roberts Park, the Town Center Green, churches, the Wintonbury Mall and other businesses, and the rest of the Bloomfield town center. The streetscape will look to incorporate historic elements such as the stonework of the cemetery entrance, the brick of the Town Hall and the Library, the ornate benches of the Park, and the monuments of the Green, and new elements such as decorative lighting and plantings to look to give Bloomfield town center a distinctive character of regional significance.

STREETSCAPE ELEMENTS & LOCATIONS

FILLE PARK Bloomfield, Connecticut



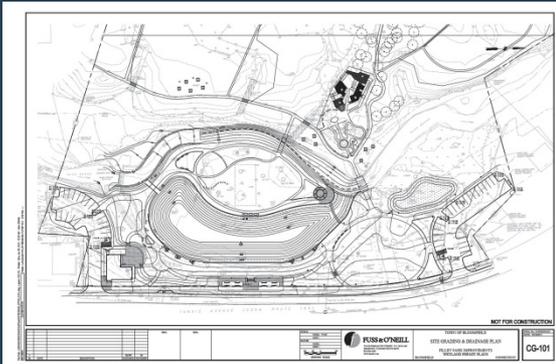
PAVILION BUILDING:

- Expand the existing warming hut to a new multi-purpose building
- Recreate the signature chimney, with fire places inside and outside
- Include a sitting room that will serve as a warming room in the winter
- Include a great room that can host meetings, reunions, receptions, etc.



PERMITTING, FUNDING, AND CONSTRUCTION:

- The project needs many environmental permits from all levels of government
- Permit applications will be made in spring 2012, and take many months to acquire
- Funding is expected from diverse sources: the Town, grants, & private donations
- The project includes “plaque-able items”, to accommodate larger donations
- The design is ‘modular’ to allow for construction as funding becomes available



And, someday in the not-too-distant future:

You will be able to sit on the great lawn and take in the beauty of Bloomfield's restored jewel: **FILLEY PARK!**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FILLEY PARK RENOVATIONS *Bloomfield, Connecticut*



FILLEY PARK COMMITTEE:

- ❖ Albert Reichin, Chair
- ❖ Keith Bell, Vice Chair
- ❖ Doug Barnard
- ❖ Bonnie Bercowetz
- ❖ Ernestine Griffin
- ❖ David Cooney
- ❖ Jane Nadel-Klein
- ❖ June O'Connor
- ❖ Carol McCrann Proom
- ❖ Jim Lehman
- ❖ Leslie Warren
- ❖ Carol Weaver
- ❖ Shirley Williams



Town Council Liaisons:

- Robert Berman
- Joan Gamble

Town Staff Liaison:

- Jonathan Thiesse, Town Engineer

Design Consultant:

Fuss & O'Neill

- Chris Ferrero, Project Director
- Phil Forzley, Project Manager
- Stephanie White, Lead Designer



Logo design & marketing assistance provided gratis by:

Ryan Marketing Partners

- Pat Ryan, President



Questions or comments should be emailed to: filleypark@aol.com