

# Hidden Treasures Park

Town Council update October 10, 2017

By the Hidden Treasures Park Committee

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# Hidden Treasures Park Aerial view



# *Our Immediate Goals: Phase 1*

- To make the park usable (kayaking, canoeing, fishing, walking, enjoying the views of the river, camping)
- To make the park safe

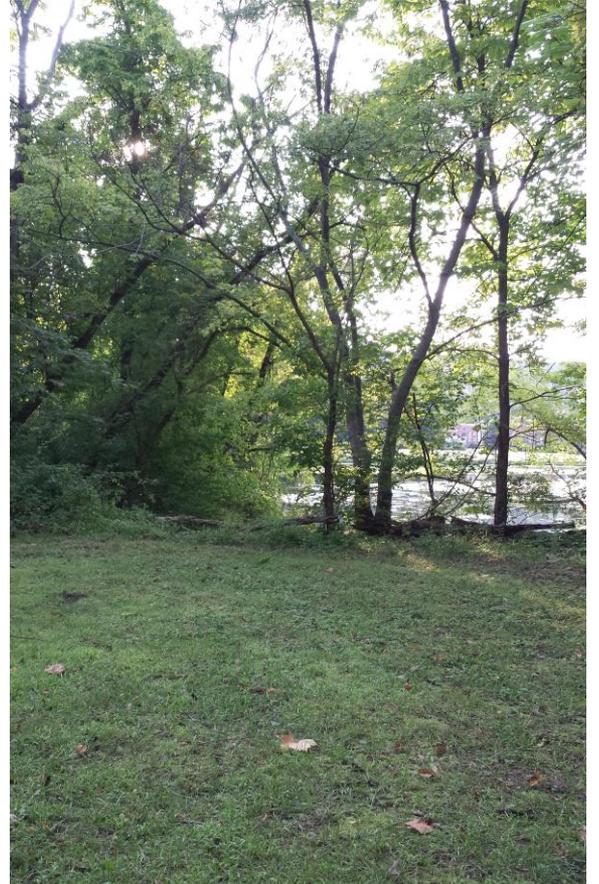
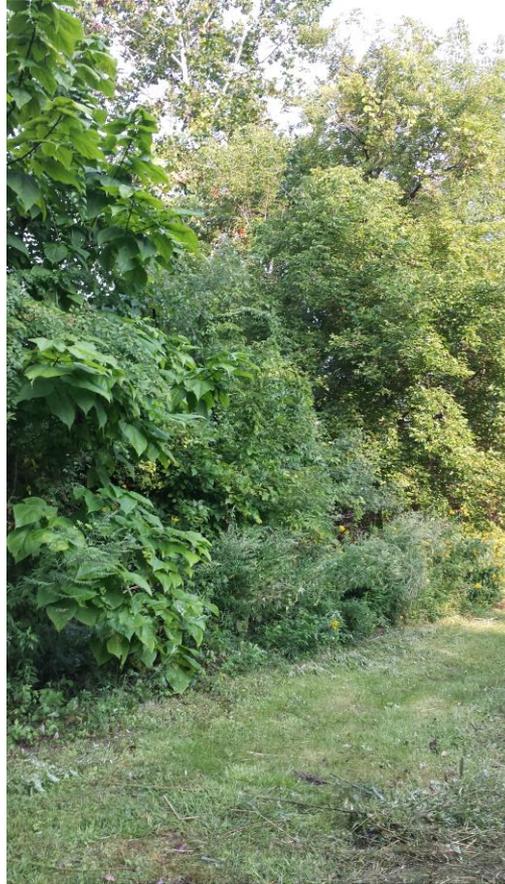
# *Status of the Park*

**Thanks to the generous contributions of services from three local businesses: Bruzzi Landscaping, J.C. Merritt Construction and Advanced Construction, and with the help of Inland Wetlands we have been able to:**

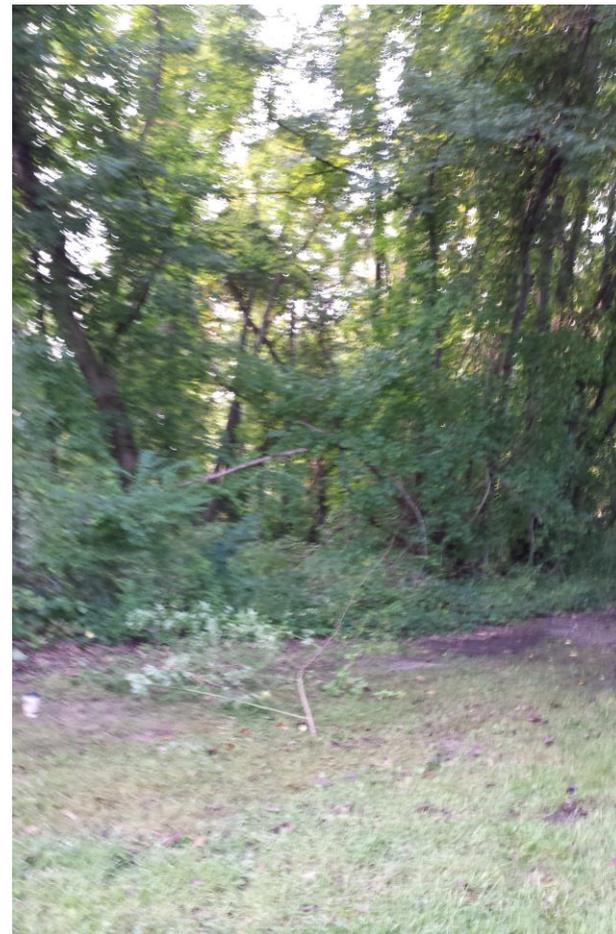
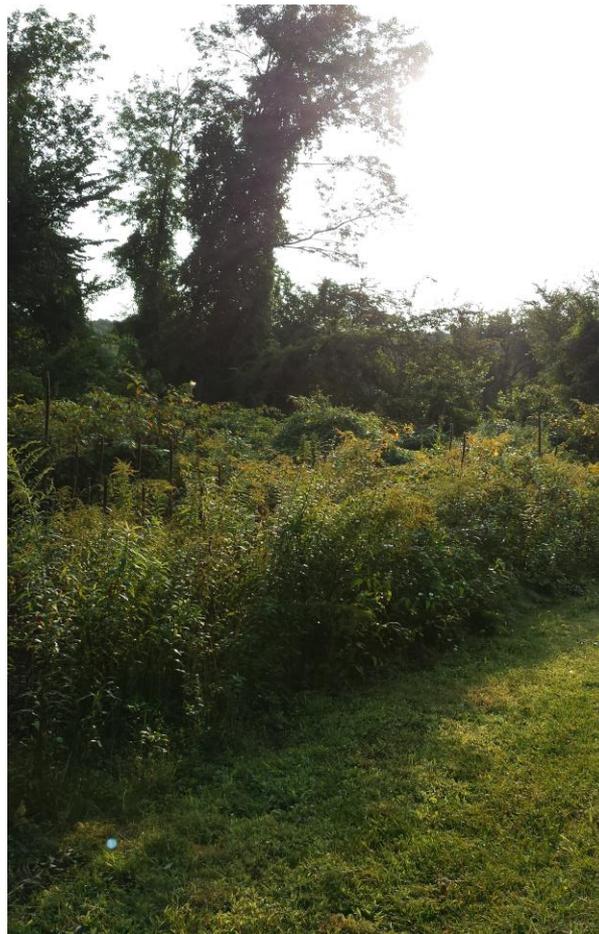
- **Clear and remove much of the invasive growth**
- **Remove damaged, non-native trees**

**The Result: You can see the beautiful Housatonic River again!**

# Before



# Before



**Clearing begins with cutting of vines and “hand pulling” with small excavators**



**Larger equipment was brought in for tree removal, brush hogging and stump grinding**





**After**



**After**



# More After Photos



# Before: Looking from building towards end of peninsula



# After: Looking from building towards end of peninsula



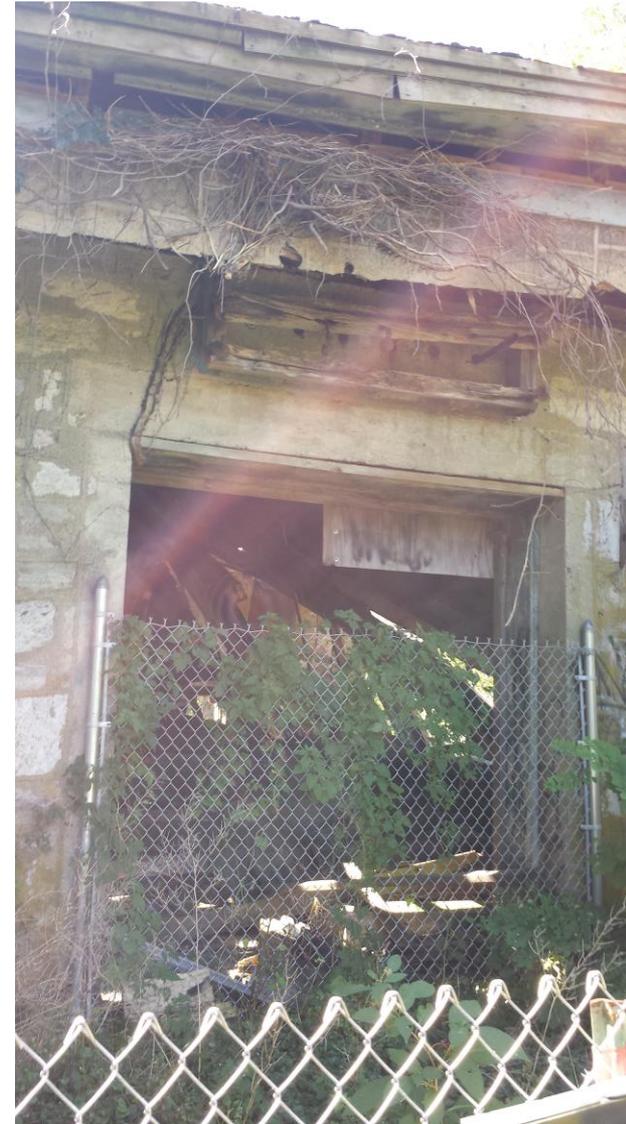
# *Safety Concerns*

- **Dilapidated roof and debris inside Pump House building**
- **Water tower filled with water**
- **Uneven kayak/canoe portage entrance/exit area**

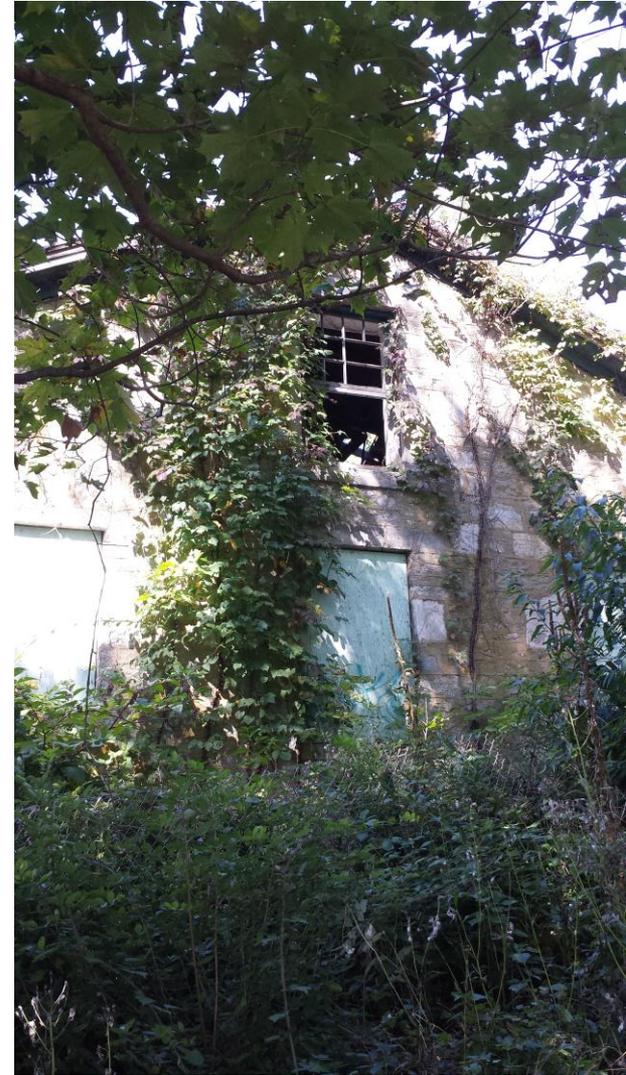
# Pump House



# More photos of Pump House



## More Photos of Pump House



# Fencing around the Pump House building



# Water Tower



# Portage area # 1



## Portage Area # 2



## **Additional Steps Needed to Open the Park**

- **Cleanup:** A small machine with a York rake is needed to collect wood, leaf and flood debris, then load and haul away using dumpster (labor estimated as 3 men for 4 days)
- **Topsoil:** Need to bring in and spread out topsoil (200 Cubic Yards be spread over sandy loam areas to establish no mow)
- **Seed:** Need to stabilize ground by planting seeds (High seed with Verdyol Biotic earth black with no mow fescue (80,000 square feet))
- **Demolish:** Need to demolish and remove roof and debris in pump house building with dumpsters and repair the chain link fence
- **Parking:** Need to establish parking area with fencing, as well as put fencing around the pond: 3 high split-rail fencing @ 400 lineal feet, as well as bollards
- **Drain:** Drain water tower
- **Repairs:** Repairs to Kayak Portage/ramp (3 men, 2 days with excavator, 60 ton of 1.25" processed stone)
- **Amenities:** Signage, benches, garbage cans, miscellaneous expenses
- **Estimate \$75,000**

## *Future Considerations: Phase 2*

- **Researching options for the Pump House building once cleared :**
  - Leave “as is”, even though it would be an attractive nuisance that obstructs the view of the Housatonic River and dam
  - Repair walls, add a new roof or seasonal canopy
  - Tear down the building providing better access to the dam for inspections and repairs, opening up the view of the Housatonic River, clearing the way for the New Milford River Trail to pass through the area to cross the river with a bridge that extends over the dam
- **Trails, additional clearing and signage**
  - The Boy Scouts and Youth Agency may be able to help with adding amenities, upkeep and projects as needed, along with signage
- **Maintenance**
  - We are keeping the park as natural and low-maintenance as possible, but brush hogging and invasives control will be needed.

**Additional things to note:  
Survey and Topographic Information  
and the New Milford River Trail**

An A-2 survey of the Hidden Treasures property is being conducted in October by CCA, LLC. It is being paid for with a grant from First Light obtained by New Milford's Town Planner.

Engineering firm Milone and MacBroom, who have been hired to identify the New Milford River Trail's potential phases and routes, are recommending the trail pass through the park, and are providing topographic information shortly. They are recommending a rolled gravel base trail through this property, with a pedestrian bridge over the dam and Housatonic River to Pickett District Road.