

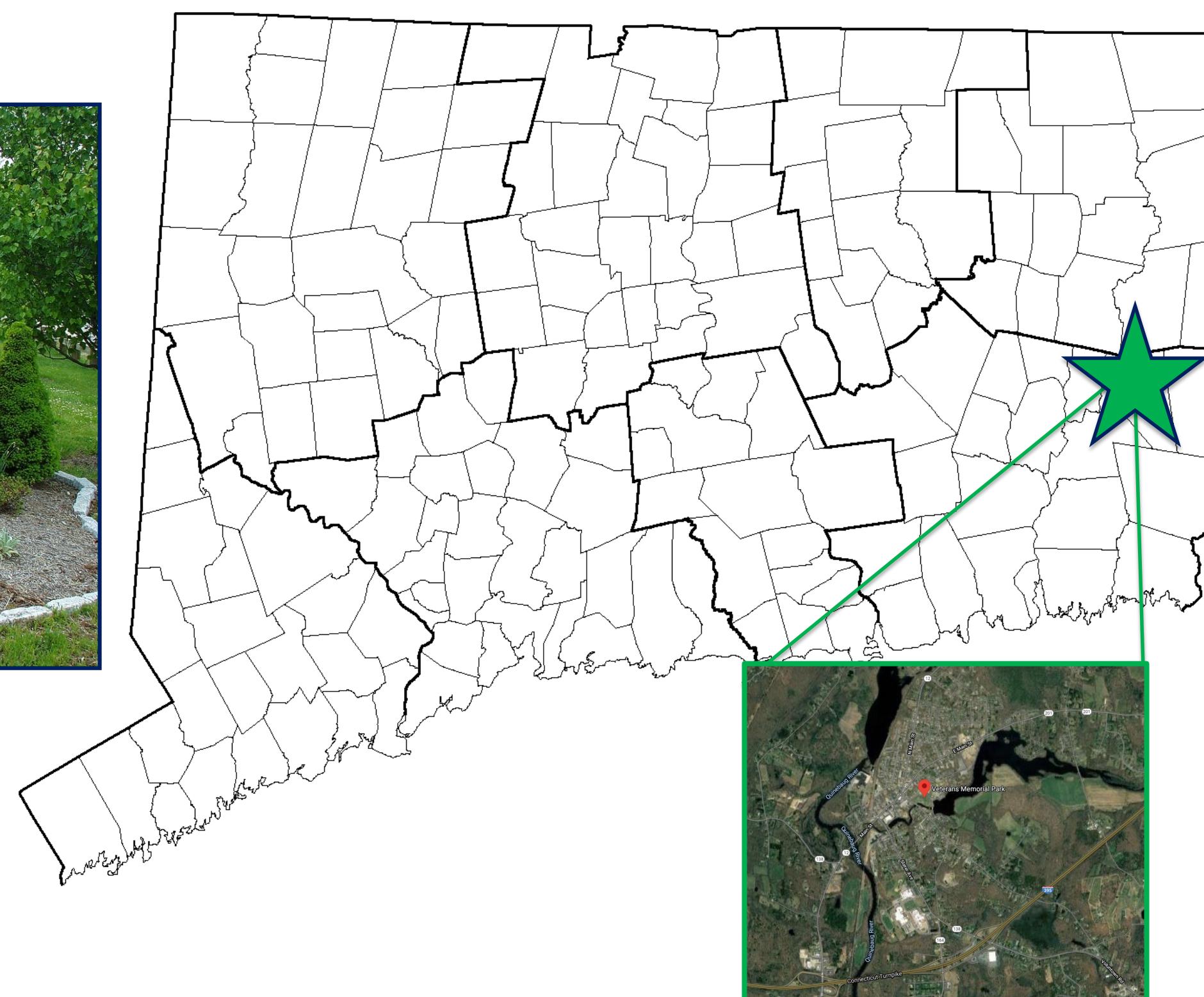


Veteran's Memorial Park Cleanup

Griswold, CT

Introduction

- Veteran's Memorial Park, situated along the Quinnebaug River, has always been an essential part of the community in Griswold
- It serves as a memorial for the veterans of our town and is a popular spot for people to walk and meet as community members
- However, in recent years the park has fell into decay as people neglect to take care of it, it became overgrown and full of trash so we decided to clean it up and show our community how important it is to take care of our environment
- We were also concerned about how the trash and litter would effect the wildlife in the park as well



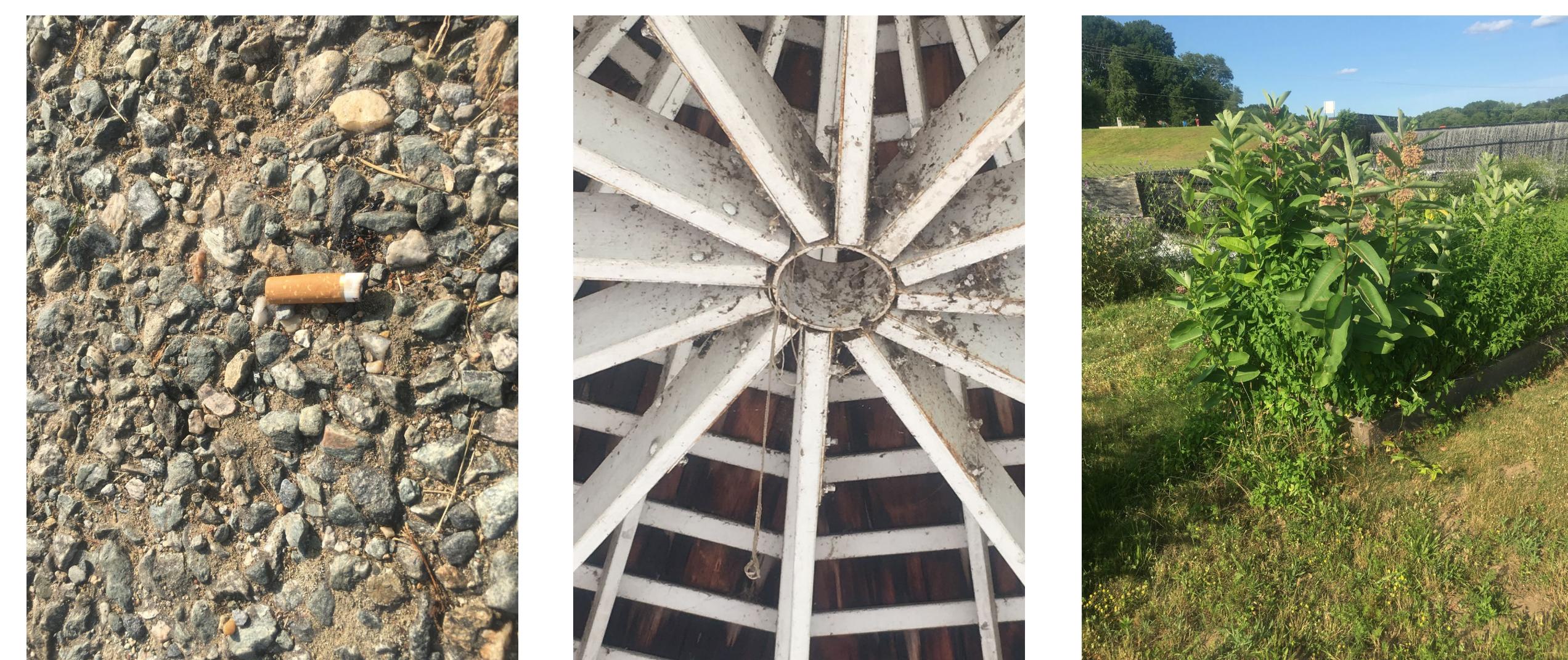
Project Steps

Our goals with the project were to:

- Clear all trash & litter
- Remove overgrown vegetation
- Restore the Veteran's Memorial
- Repaint the gazebo
- Create a community garden to be maintained by the Youth Center
- Our initial step was to survey the park and we composed a list of everything that needed to be done
- We presented our plan at a Town Hall meeting in order to gain the permission to alter the park and we were granted permission after two meetings
- We chose a date for the cleanup and posted posters all over local businesses asking people to come and help
- Thanks to the help from our community we were able to create the garden and clear all trash and brush in one day

Issues at the Park

- Over the past few years, the town and its members had neglected to take care of the town
- The park was experiencing issues like:
 - Overgrowth
 - Trespassing
 - Excessive litter
 - Cigarette butts, broken glass, general plastic and garbage, alcohol containers, etc.
 - General decay



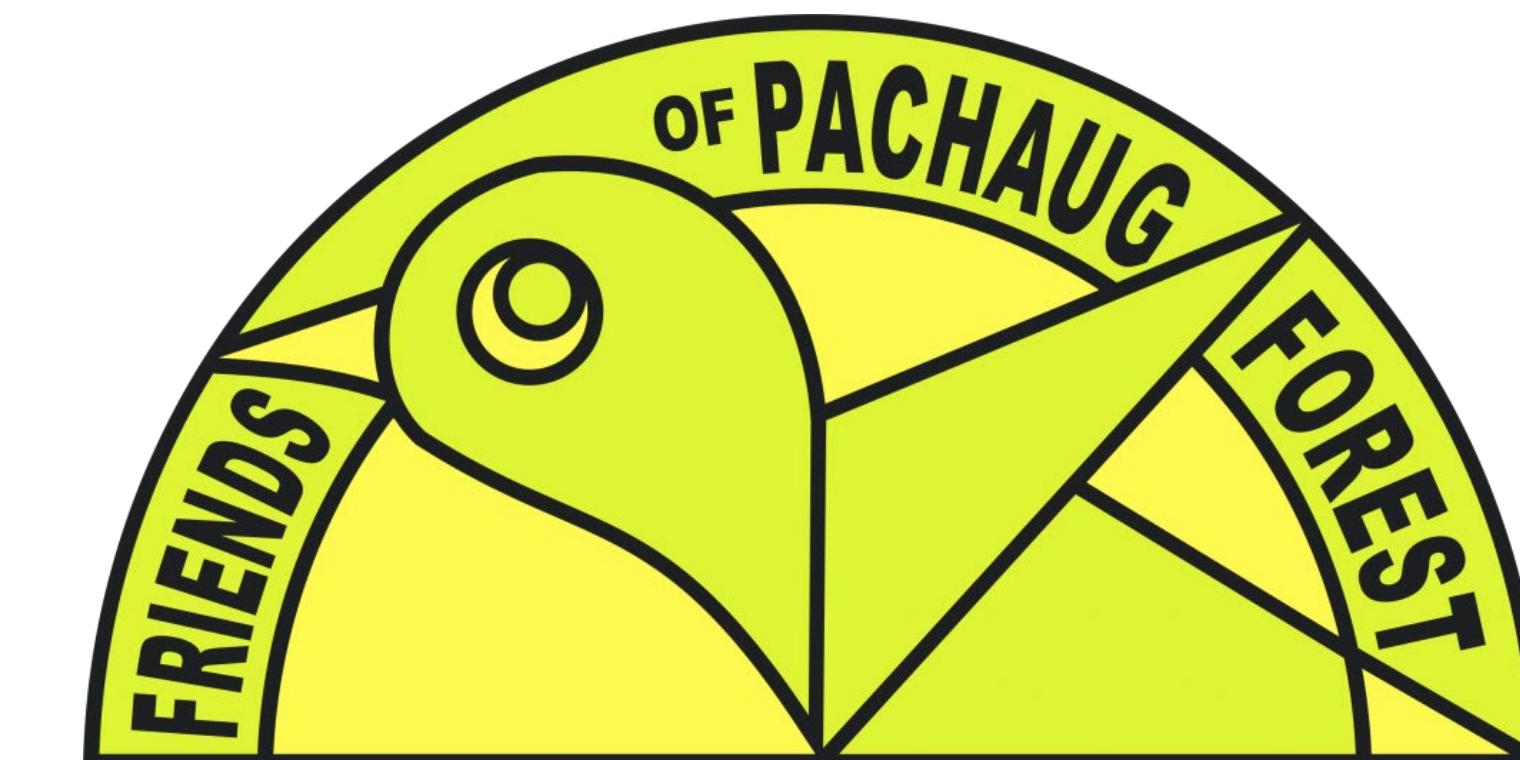
Issues the park was experiencing before we began our clean up project

Project Outcome



Community Involvement

- In order to receive the necessary materials to complete our project we had a lot of help and donations from businesses in our community
- We received help from:
 - Jewett City Greenhouse – donated flowers for the garden
 - Geer Sand and Gravel – donated topsoil and mulch
 - Friends of Pachaug Forest – members volunteered time and labor to help with the cleanup



Project Stats

- Filled about 3-5 large trash bags with litter from around the park
- Filled a large dumpster with vegetation/brush that was cleared from fences, bridges, walkways, etc.
- Planted about 25-30 perennial plants in the community garden

Impacts and Next Steps

- The cleanup process greatly impacted our community by creating a more clean and safe place for them to gather
- Multiple people have commented on the beauty of the garden or the improvement of the park's appearance
- We plan to get the Griswold Youth Center participants involved in up keeping the garden in order to teach them about the little impacts the environment has in their community
- We also plan to create a virtual TrackKit map that shows examples of the renovations and improvements we made to the park



Wildlife observed at the park

Emily Perry¹, Armaun Bakhshalizadeh¹ & Mauro Diaz-Hernandez²

¹Griswold High School & ²Higher Edge, Inc.