

**4-H Bristol County Envirothon Team's Cultural Landscape Project  
in the Town of Berkley Massachusetts  
Team Advisor: Nancy Possinger**

We began to learn about heritage landscapes by attending workshops, reading the Envirothon manual, discussing our favorite places with the suggested "Sense of Place" activity, interviewing Historical Society and Commission members and then we visited many, many places to gain understanding of different types of cultural landscapes. Some favorites were The Irish Mossing Museum, Waquoit Bay Reserve, New Bedford Whaling Museum, Mass. Maritime, and Eastham Aquaculture Technology Center, and the BigDig exhibit at Mass. Historical. We then explored our own town, including visits to a 1700's house, Berkley Library (a Carnegie Library), a neighborhood location and Dighton Rock State Park and more.

Dighton Rock State Park was chosen as the focus for further investigation. We talked with people from DCR, Trustees of Reservations, local residents and a local historian.

Dighton Rock has carvings on it. There are four theories of the source of the writing. There are theories that the Phoenicians, the Vikings, the Native Americans, and/or the Portuguese left inscriptions on the rock. The state park property surrounds the rock. This site was an excellent place to look for clues as to the use of the land along the Taunton River through the years. We looked at stone walls, found an old stone foundation from the 1700s, found house and well remains from the 1930's, looked at tree varieties, densities, stages of succession and did some tree borings and GPS readings.

The rapid population increase and development in Berkley is an area of concern because preservation efforts are not keeping up. There are the beginnings of community interest in town with the Berkley Garden Club, the Save Our Bridgers, the School feasibility study group, and the Friends of Dighton Rock State Park. The National Wild and Scenic River vote is going to town meeting in June. The team arrived at recommendations for programs at Dighton Rock to bring the community together to encourage interest in heritage landscapes and their preservation.

The club has lead walks to look at plants used by Native Americans, made a display for the Oktoberfest and farm stand and begun publicity for upcoming programs that they will help with and lead in the summer.

**Team: Acton-Boxborough Regional High School**  
**Town of Acton Massachusetts**  
**Team Advisor: Brian Dempsey**

After much deliberation our team decided to focus on the unique history of South Acton and how the land developed as the town grew in the past three centuries. We investigated the start of the mills within our town and how they were falling into disrepair without a strong effort to help restore them. We discovered that Acton was a very early pioneer town to venture inland, which was created at first as an appendage of Concord. After looking additionally at the ecological effects of the dams that were built as a result of the mills, and the sense of history and pride that these mills create we came to the realization that they are of great historical importance and embody a cultural landscape. Along with this and the comprehension that the cultivation of the fast moving rivers allowed for a great town to develop we understood the cultural importance of Acton's humble beginnings as an offshoot of Concord, embodied by the remaining mills.

Our plan developed into creating an organization titled Acton Historical Mill Association, or AHMA. Our town has attempted to preserve this area through some minor organizations and an attempt to reconstruct the mill village (South Acton) however this effort does not aid in getting younger people involved in the history or reconstruction. Moreover, all these organizations are not completely accessible by the public and tend to be run by a small group of people. Our organization would help to keep a watchful eye on the mills and aid in their reconstruction, specifically working with the businesses that have taken over the buildings and may not have the resources or the motivation to restore the mills themselves.

AHMA will potentially have a "home base" or headquarters in a museum possibly within an already existing historical building. AHMA would oversee the building of a mill trail that would tour around Acton, passing the five major mills and mill sites that exist today. High school students who could pass it on and help get other kids involved would ideally head the organization. The entire idea of this is not to simply preserve, though that is a major goal, but also to spread awareness to the new families that are moving into Acton because of the prestigious high school. In the end, the importance and legacy of Acton does not lie in the schools, but rather in the significance of the history. Students busy with studies or parents at work are those responsible for upholding the historic landscapes of which they do not have extensive knowledge. Thus, a plan for community integration is vital to the continued existence of the South Acton historic culture and cultural landscapes.

Ultimately, our Envirothon team learned a great deal about the history of our town, something that we hope to spread on to others. The knowledge of how our town started gives us a new pride that we are a unique town that developed around the obstacles put in front of us. We learned the importance also of team cooperation and allowing ourselves time to work on a prospective project. Talking to residents and historians earlier gave us time to let the ideas gel in our minds and mold into the final product.

Currently, we have not projected this plan to the town and the details are still to be decided. Depending on how the success of our idea and if it is accepted, we may pursue the plan to an end. Of course there is much more to be done, it would be amazing to build the mill trail so that the community can understand the intimacy of human development and that of the land. The mills provide a starting point for our town and drastically changed the land and for those reasons, an organization that aims to preserve, protect and raise awareness would be an important addition to the town.

**Barnstable High School  
Town of Barnstable Massachusetts  
Team Advisor: David Gorrill**

Ways to water are town owned pieces of land that lead to any body of water – oceans, ponds, lakes, etc. They can be roads, pathways “cracks” or the like.

Who hasn’t gone to the beach for a relaxing stroll in the sand? Since water is the most significant feature of Cape Cod we chose public access points to water as our Cultural Landscape Protection Issue. The town has identified 102 ways to water but only 75 are official. These access points are important to Barnstable because the essence of Cape Cod as a whole is its water, whether it be for fishing, shell fishing, recreation or aesthetic value.

We learned that there are dozens of more ways to water than we would have ever thought but more importantly that we are in danger of losing several of them. Many have simply been forgotten about over the years and are now grown over or have boulders blocking them. Other access points that have been taken for granted for centuries are now under fire by land owners on adjacent lots who don’t want people on “their” land and will go as far as to put up “No Trespassing” or “No Parking” signs, and chains to keep them off. These ways to water need to be protected so that future generations can enjoy them the same as we do.

Currently, our project has been discussed with the significant people of the town including David Anthony, the Barnstable Procurement Officer, in hopes of securing the 30 disputed ways in the near future.

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**Bedford High School  
Town of Bedford Massachusetts  
Team Advisor: Michael Griffin**

As the Bedford High School Envirothon team, we began by learning more about the rich history of our town. Bedford was originally settled in the 1600s, chartered as a town in 1729, and was an influential factor of the Revolutionary War. Sandwiched between Lexington and Concord, both known for their significance in the Revolutionary War, Bedford is known for its 24-hour Stop and Shop, and possession of the oldest flag in the country. The Bedford Minuteman, Nathaniel Page, carried the Bedford Flag to the Concord Bridge on April 19, 1775, and it is now located in the Bedford Free Public Library for public viewing, but under secure conditions. Many residents of Bedford actively participated in the Revolutionary War, and most or all of them are buried in the Old Burying Ground, which includes the tombs of Nathaniel Page and his family.

The Old Burying Ground is a significant element of the Old Bedford Center National Historic District, and is being threatened by neglect and surrounding developments. It is located on Springs Road and is separated from the busy road by five feet and a stone wall. A Preservation Plan for the Old Burying Ground is currently underway through the Community Preservation Commission and includes the appropriation of \$50,000 from the Community Preservation funds for the restoration and reclamation of the property. This money comes from a 3% property tax collected for such efforts.

The town is very proud of its history and works hard to preserve what remains. However, we believe that it is not only the preservation of the specific site, but also the commitment to maintaining the atmosphere of the historical significance. Developments across the road may be a great economic benefit to the Bedford community, but is it really worth the cost? No. We are going to work to call attention to this current conundrum and educate the residents of Bedford of the value and importance of the Old Burying Ground.

Zee End.

**Belchertown High School**  
**Town of Belchertown Massachusetts**  
**Team Advisor: John Skorupski**

The relationship between people and their environment is known as a cultural landscape. Usually what people do in the past has a major impact on the nature around them in the future. Belchertown, Massachusetts has seen its share of changes throughout the centuries. Belchertown started as an isolated settlement called the Village of Cold Spring and has become a suburb of Springfield due to urban sprawl.

The beginning of the town was with the Native American tribe the Niprone, who freely roamed what is now Belchertown to hunt and fish. They built forts on either side of the Connecticut River and lived off the land as farmers. The Native Americans respectful of the land and only took what was needed to survive. They were relatively friendly to the white settlers, who lived near them in the Connecticut Valley. These white settlers eventually took over the land that the Niprone once occupied and forced the Native Americans to leave.

The settlers built up many different villages, such as Springfield, Holyoke, and Cold Spring. The settlers who shaped what is now known as Belchertown (originally Cold Spring) were primarily hunters and farmers. The settlers, like the Native Americans before them, used the land as a primary source for a living. The area was ideal for dairy farming, which was common in the region. The decline of the farming culture was inevitable as the populations grew and less land was available for living. This region was reputed as the best hunting ground and hunters used to set fires to make deer hunting easier, thus destroying much of the original forest. This is one of the first instances of the settlers abusing the land on which they lived. Another example of abuse of land is the flooding of Quabbin Reservoir to supply the population of the city of Boston with fresh water. Not only was this an abuse of the land, it also led to the relocation of many people into Belchertown and the surrounding counties. This was another catalyst for the decline of farming in Belchertown.

Shortly after, the settlers made advances in transportation and industry due to the Industrial Revolution. This caused the isolated settlement to become a bustling agricultural town. With the industrial boom, cities' populations grew as a result of new job opportunities. The overcrowding of cities caused people to want to move to more rural areas. Trains brought people from the bustling cities of Holyoke and Springfield to the more rural areas like Belchertown. Industry proved to be another problem for the farmers. Farmers could not keep up with the rise of industry and many sold their land to urban developers, in order to support themselves. Though they knew that they were destroying their roots, they had to give up their passion in order to keep their livelihood. Soon Belchertown had developed into a bedroom community.

Today, Belchertown is still very much a bedroom community and has little if any roots left in farming. In the past ten years the population in Belchertown has had a 22.5% increase in its population. This population increase has over powered the land and left little forest and simply no room for farming. In 2000, the farming community has decreased to simply 62 farms from an entire community of farming. This leaves one out of every 209 people in Belchertown as farmers. Today, farming is the minority where it was once the majority. Though most people have shown little interest in the cultural landscape and the decline in farmland, there are the few individuals who are bent on saving it. Preservation attempts in Belchertown include Ingate Farms. Ingate Farms has been a controversy in the town as part of the greater issue of preserving farmland from urbanization.

**David Prouty High School Panthers**  
**Town of Spencer Massachusetts**  
**Team Advisor: Mary McLaughlin**

Cultural landscapes are created by the interactions of humans and their environment, and therefore, reflect the activities and lives of people in the community. They embody the historic, scenic and environmental qualities of the community. Thus, they allow us to look into our past to see how our communities have evolved. Based on this, we determined that cultural landscapes can be, pretty much, any place that is important to families, holds cherished memories, has sentimental, aesthetic, religious, or historic value, is the habitat for wildlife, or is used for recreation, athletics, or transportation.

Spencer is located about twelve miles west of Worcester. It has several lakes and ponds, and many rolling hills with winding streams and brooks. It is part of the watershed for the Chicopee and French Rivers. Historically, it has been a mill town and a dairy farming community.

We considered places significant to each of us and came up with a lengthy list. Some of the landscapes on this list were: The Town Beach, the 4-H Camp, The Spencer Fair Grounds, Browning Pond, Sugden Lake, Buck Hill, St. Joseph's Abbey, Treasure Valley, The Mid-State Trail, Balance Rock, Powder Mill Park, Spencer Airport, The Old Town Cemetery, Seven Mile River, Cider Mill Pond, David Prouty High School (original), Fire Station, Lower Wire Village Canals, the Old Railroad Beds, and Boston Post Road.

We interviewed Malcolm Speicher from the Conservation Commission. He explained the work that has been done on the Old Railroad Beds to convert them to a bike trail, which will be completed for this summer.

We also interviewed members of the Historic Commission, Anna Hughes, and the Historic Society, Mary Baker Woods, as well as a long time resident, Mary Baker. We shared our list with them and asked if they had any projects related to this topic that we could assist with or complete. Members of the Historic Society suggested putting a pamphlet together that tourists could use when they visit Spencer.

We narrowed the list down to seven places and created the pamphlet. Those places are: The Seven Mile River, Powder Mill Park, The Spencer Fair Grounds, The Lower Wire Village Canals, Cider Mill Pond, The Fire Station and David Prouty High School.

The Seven Mile River was named for being seven miles from Brookfield. It runs through most of Spencer and was the main source of power for many of the mills in Spencer. Today it is used for canoeing and fishing. Its waters eventually flow into the Connecticut River.

Powder Mill Park was the site of the town's filter beds for sewerage. It is located close to The Seven Mile River and the site where Spencer's powder mills once stood. It was reclaimed by the Conservation Commission and was the site of the peewee soccer fields for many years. Recently it has been converted into a playground for the younger generation of the area.

The Spencer Fairgrounds are located near the Powder Mill Park. The Spencer Fair is one of the oldest agricultural fairs in the state. It began on the dining room table of Henry Green in 1883. The Fair committee organizes agricultural and commercial exhibits, shows on the main stage, a carnival crafts, and farmers' goods.

Lower Wire Village Mill, which made card wire, originally belonged to the Prouty brothers. Richard Sugden later bought the property and named the wire company Spencer Wire Company. The mill was powdered by water from Turkey Hill Brook, which had seven dams on it, including Sugden Reservoir and Thompson Pond. Canals were dug in the brook to direct water during the dry season. A red barn and some dilapidated canals are all that are left today to remind people of the wire industry.

Cider Mill Pond is located in the center of town. It originally powered a cider mill. Later, it was used to power the boot factories and to provide water for the fire department to fight fires with. It was a very popular place for locals to socialize. It was used for ice-skating in the winter and for boat cruises in the summer.

The Old Fire House was built in 1882. It was the first one built in Spencer and was centrally located near the boot factory and Cider Mill Pond. It pumped some of its water from Cider Mill. Today, the fire house is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The last landscape on our brochure is David Prouty High School. It was opened in 1888, with only one student from Spencer. Tuition was mandatory for all students. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Hampshire Regional High School  
Town of Westhampton Massachusetts  
Team Advisor: Tara Kisiel**

The town where our current issue took place was Westhampton, MA. The main focus of our current issue protection issue was that of protecting our small town. Westhampton is a very rural community made up of families that have been a part of the town since it came to be in the 1700's. Small, family owned businesses are a focal point of the community that has very little crime. These businesses include fruit and vegetable stands, a campground, a seasonal restaurant (sugar shack), and a car repair shop. There is not even a gas station in our town. We opted to find the benefits of this type of a community.

With very little crime, Westhampton is home to Hampshire Regional High School, which houses students from five towns. The town has very little traffic, although it is located on Route 66. There is not even a stop light in our town! In interviewing historic society members as well as life-long residents, we found that the people who live in Westhampton want to keep it small. They enjoy the peacefulness of the stars at night (there are very few street lights). They enjoy spending time with each other at important events (like breakfast at Steve's Sugar Shack during maple syrup time). They enjoy leaving the hustle and bustle of the 'city' behind when they return home in the evening from their city jobs.

These things are of huge importance to the town! Many of the people in town do not mind the high gasoline prices. They monitor their time and travel. What we learned through this study was that people in Westhampton are proud of their town. They enjoy where they live and they want their town to stay the way that it is!

As for the future, there are no plans in the works for any major retail stores coming to Westhampton. Conservation land remains conservation land. Our town will hopefully stay the way that it is for a very long time!

**Envirothon Team of Springfield, MA  
High School of Science and Technology  
Town of Springfield Massachusetts  
Team Advisors: Ronald St. Amand and Jennifer Manfredi**

We are the Envirothon Team at the High School of Science and Technology located in the city of Springfield. Our current issue project took place at a section of the Connecticut River near the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield. Our team advisors through the project were Jenni Manfredi and Ronald St. Amand.

The Connecticut River has been a major part of Massachusetts history as much development and travel has taken place along side of it. Today the river is in a much more shabby condition.

The issue we are facing at the Connecticut River is the unsanitary conditions along side of it. The section we observed, Riverfront Park, is easily accessed by the public, as a bike and walking path follows along side of it. Over the railing, which follows along side of the path, one can look over and see the river. The forested area along the river is in a poor condition as it's scattered with pollutants and trash. Within plain view one can see trash bags and clothing in the trees, old building materials, bricks, newspapers, wrappers, canisters and ample amounts of trash discarded in the area. Along with trash comes an unpleasant odor that one would not find enjoyable if trying to enjoy the aesthetic value of the River.

This part of the river was chosen as a problem in the cultural landscape because of the general degradation in urban society. As more and more areas become populated the natural resources, such as the river, are lowered in to less than prime condition. The river should be restored to return some of the social integrity and aesthetic quality that it provides the community.

From doing this project our team learned the importance of natural features in the community. The urban society has taken a toll on the river and by renewing the landscape the sense of belonging might return to those who enjoy or visit the river.

The current status of our project is still pending as the exact action to take hasn't been established. Meetings with members of the city council and concerned members of the community will be needed to achieve initiative to restore the river to something suitable. We hope that more people take interest in this natural beauty running through our crowded cities. Perhaps if enough volunteers are rounded up the first step to cleaning the side of the river could possibly be underway.

**Hopkinton High School Envirothon Team**  
**Town of Hopkinton Massachusetts**  
**Team Advisor: James Marzec**

The issue we chose to follow was the creation of the Woodville Historical District. We researched the process through which the town had gone through in creating the district according to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40C.

Woodville is a part of Hopkinton, which has preserved a part of their own history. It was once a thriving industrial area of Hopkinton, featuring the second cotton mill in the United States. There was also a print shop, shoe factory, a tavern, and the L. E. Coolidge Carriage Manufactory. When nearby Lake Whitehall was seized by the Metropolitan Water Works of Boston as a reservoir, the factories were torn down, and all that remains today is the post office, and some old houses most from the early 1800's.

The central downtown area of Hopkinton has already been declared a Historical District, and the town wanted to expand this by-law to include Woodville. First there was a study committee formed. Then, a survey of Woodville and Hopkinton residents was conducted, and a meeting was held with Woodville residents. A preliminary study report of the architectural and historical significance of Woodville was created and approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. A public hearing was then held, and during the Hopkinton town meeting, the town passed the proposed bylaw upon a two-thirds vote.

The creation of the local historical district will help to preserve the unique character of Woodville, and will provide for the review of any additions to the protected buildings. It does not affect the color of paint, storm windows/doors, roof material and color, along with anything on the interior of the buildings.

Our team learned not only about the process of creating a local historical district, but a lot about town government as well. After meeting with some local committees and representatives, we saw how the numerous organizations of the town collaborate to solve problems. Also we observed how positive people can act towards historic preservation even if it means they have to go through a longer process to change anything on their homes.

Upon the conclusion of this project, we decided to research how people can receive help to preserve or restore their historic homes. We thought it would be a good idea to create a local grant through which people could use funds for restoration purposes only. Another possibility is the creation of a program similar to the one in Georgia, which helps communities to preserve history. The Georgia Historic Preservation Act created a trust to help fund restoration, and preservation projects, and helps advocate for further funding and protection. Perhaps the creation of a Massachusetts Historic Preservation Act would help further protect the many historic communities of the state.

**Leicester High School**  
**Town of Leicester Massachusetts**  
**Team Advisor: Joanne Bernier**  
**"Preserving Cultural Landscapes" Towtaid Park**

This year, our Envirothon team chose to focus our efforts on preserving the cultural landscape we know and love -Towtaid Park in the Cherry Valley village of Leicester, MA. This area is somewhat remote and unfamiliar to many Leicester residents.

In its 25 acres, lies a cemetery, areas for walking trails, the ruins of an old textile mill, called Olney Mill, a play ground with a basketball hoop, tennis courts, a playground with several rather dilapidated swings and two open fields. At the edge of this property lies the only stone arch bridge left in the town of Leicester, built about 1840 by Irish immigrants that had once worked on the Blackstone Canal. This area is basically just sitting there and could be sold for development or, as we would prefer, rehabilitated into a magnificent park for both recreational and environmental educational use.

We are proposing a major rehabilitation including walking trails, interpretive signage, in pursuit of historical education, improving the existing tennis courts, basketball courts and playground.

The cemetery needs some upkeep and could be restored to its original radiance with just a little effort. It too could be made into an area to stroll through on a warm summer's day. It is on a beautiful hillside that includes many mature trees.

We would also like to preserve the woodland found around the outskirts of the areas we described. This area provides habitat for many species and is necessary to insure biodiversity within our town.

With any hope, our dreams could become a reality and the money necessary to fund such an extensive and worthwhile endeavor will become available. Respectfully submitted by the 2005 Leicester Envirothon Team

**Lexington High School  
Cultural Landscape Preservation  
Town of Lexington Massachusetts  
Team Advisor: Steve Wilkins**

The Lexington Envirothon Team, with the guidance of coach Steve Wilkins, undertook a multi-faceted investigation of cultural landscaping which included in-depth research of historical and conservation sites in Lexington, as well as an attempt to apply the ideals of cultural landscape preservation to the high school grounds.

As a historical town, it is impossible to separate the conservation of open space in Lexington from the preservation of historical sites dating back to the American Revolution. In order to further our understanding of cultural landscape protection, we chose to investigate both Lexington conservation in general and the conservation of two individual sites of particular significance: Lincoln Park and North Street. While these sites do not constitute nationally recognized historical sites, their significance to wildlife as well as to the Lexington community is incontestable.

Lincoln Park, a site which contains a forested board-walk areas and playing fields, is the most widely used conservation land in Lexington and the closest one to the high school. Over the years, the team has spent endless hours practicing plant identification, wading through marshes, pinpointing invasive plants and eradicating Glossy Buckthorn, Multiflora Rose and Garlic Mustard. The team is proud to have been involved, in conjunction with the Conservation Commission, in defending the beauty and biodiversity of a site so important to the people of this town.

Another fascinating site, and a microcosm of environmental politics, is a twenty-five acre parcel locate along North Street in Lexington and the subject of Article 19, a motion by the Conservation Commission to transfer the land into conservation. Eager to learn how conservation is achieved in the real world, the team visited te site on North Street, attended the town meeting during which Article 19 was debated, and spoke with town meeting members. The controversy lay in conflicting values: on the one hand, the town is in need of more affordable housing and a new senior center, and on the other hand, this beautiful land provides critical wildlife habitat and a buffer against over development. Ultimately, the town voted to transfer the land into conservation, demonstrating an enormous commitment to environmental stewardship; this land represents a legacy of open space which Lexington has ensured for its future generations.

Our hours of research condensed into a single definition of cultural landscape preservation: an integrated approach to conservation and land-use which recognizes both the environmental and the cultural value of a piece of land.

With the approval of the Lexington Conservation Commission and with a nearly four thousand dollar grant from the Lexington Education Foundation and the PSTA, the team has begun to remove invasive plants from a drainage basin outside the science building and to replace them with native grasses and flowers. Not only do we hope to enhance the ecological health and biodiversity of the pond, but we hope to benefit our high school community by beautifying the grounds, providing environmental stewardship opportunities, and raising awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the threat posed by invasive plants. During the remaining months of school and in the years to come, we will continue to eradicate Purple Loosestrife and to plant in its stead Joe Pye Weed, Little Blue Stem, and other native species raised in the safety of the classroom.

Thus, we have expanded the notion of the "cultural Value" of land to include not only its historic significance, but also the opportunities which it affords for recreation, reflection, and education.

**Lunenburg High School  
Town of Lunenburg Massachusetts  
Team Advisor: Mr. Peter Farmer**

The Cultural Landscape Protection Issue that we have chosen is to look at the effect that acid rain has had on stone structures in Lunenburg. We collected data on the amount of weathering that has occurred on gravestones in the towns two cemeteries by using a visual weathering index that rates how easily the letters can be read. These grave markers were particularly convenient because they are made of three basic types of stone; slate, marble and granite. Also, their age could be assumed to be very close to the death date inscribed on the stone.

What we found out is that the slate and the granite showed very few signs of chemical weathering while marble showed quite a bit. More importantly, the age of the marble markers had very little to do with the amount of weathering that they have had. On the average, a marble stone from the 1920's had the same amount of weathering as the ones from 1820's. What this implies is that most of the chemical weathering has taken place since 1920. This time period corresponds very closely to the rapid increase in the burning of fossil fuels which causes acid rain.

This problem was chosen by the team because most of the team members are interested in the history of the town. After thinking about a few possibilities we decided on this one because there was a system in place for collecting data and analyzing it.

What the team learned from this project is that Lunenburg definitely has been affected by acid rain even though there really aren't any factories near by nor is there a lot of traffic.

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**Methuen High School  
Town of Methuen Massachusetts  
Advisor: Mary Robinson**

Hello to the sponsors of the Envirothon. We are the Methuen High School Envirothon team, the Rangers. We are from Methuen, MA, and so is our current issue: the turtle highway of Emerald Pines Country Club. This is where the designers of the country club attempt to compensate with building a country club on an endangered species land by building them a roadway to get around danger zones. This can cause many problems. Our advisor is Ms. Robinson, teacher of environmental science.

Problems that occur with our issue include such queries as the animals results to our expected adaptation, and if they will comply with the highways, and if the animals which are supposed to be safe truly will be. We learned a lot about doing this project and how many species are in danger of extinction. We also found out a lot about Methuen that we didn't know about, such as the Native Americans, where they lived and how they lived. We really want to help the future of Methuen and try to save the species that are endangered or becoming endangered. To help Methuen do these things for the animals and also the land it would cost a lot of money.

This was a lot of fun to be apart of the Envirothon and it has been an experience that we will remember. Thank you for having us.

**Millbury Junior Senior High School**  
**Protecting Cultural Landscapes**  
**Town of Millbury Massachusetts**  
**Advisors: Terry Hamilton**

**Issue Description:** As soon as our team began researching the cultural landscape of our town, it became pretty apparent that Millbury was losing its cultural heritage. There was/is so much development going on that we are losing valuable open space, farmlands, forests and historical buildings. When we got the *Envirothon* map in the mail, we noticed that our town did not even have any historical districts designated. So, our issue became, where IS Millbury's History: what are our historical landmark sites and how can we better preserve them? This issue is important to our town because there has been a lot of development and we hoped to learn about and create some interest in Millbury's Cultural Heritage before it all disappeared.

**What We Learned:** We chose four sites to research and along the way; we ended up being side-tracked to many other historic sites in town. We learned about - some of the families who settled in our town first, the history of some of the mills in town, the loss of some of our farms, the areas of development, how our town is changing from rural to more urban (*especially within the last decade*), and we learned how to read maps, conducting & organizing research, and teamwork. Most importantly, we observed a contrast between how some people in town are trying to preserve our town's history while others know very little about it. The reason that many families move to our town is that "*small town charm*", and we are losing it very quickly. One article read that Millbury was a "boom town"! The most important observation was the rate at which areas in town were being clear-cut and developed. The most major project being our new mall, "*The Shoppes at Blackstone Valley*" on Route 146. This mall is located next to a school playground, and is surrounded by farms. The mall also destroyed acres of beautiful forests and displaced many animals from their woodland home. All over our town housing and business developments are springing up faster than areas can be environmentally protected. Since the town's Conservation Commission is only a part time board, they can't seem to keep up with the development.

**Current Status of Projects:** Our team interviewed many townspeople, including long-time residents, public officials and members of the historical commission. Our recommendations are:

- have more events at the historical sites in town to create interest.
- incorporate Millbury's Cultural History into the middle school curriculum
- have student representatives (who have an interest in history or are in the history club) attend historical commission meetings/events

Future projections for Millbury are noted on the town buildout map and suggest that future development will occur. Areas that **can** be developed, **will** be developed unless land can be protected. Many people see development as prosperity and will continue to encourage it.

**Minnechaug Regional High School**  
**Summary of Current Issue**  
**Town of Wilbraham Massachusetts**  
**Advisor: Sonya Vickers**

The current situation in Hampden and Wilbraham prompted our project this year. With each of our small towns growing daily, and more families moving into the area, a primary concern of the school system has become an issue of space. Our high school, Minnechaug Regional High School, was built in 1957, and has been basically untouched for the past 35 years. With costs to renovate the school so high and the extra space needed so much, the school may be rebuilt on the current school property where there are fields as of now. The Environmental Club became concerned with the issue of rebuilding the school upon finding several foundations in the woods behind our fields.

The land Minnechaug was built on was once owned by the Merrick family of Wilbraham. That land and the surrounding area was used for farm land by the family. We consider this fact and the history of the land occupied by the school as an important part of our history as a community. The use of the land before it became a school should at least be noted and recorded for future generations to know what was around them. Upon research, the Club discovered that one foundation and a well that had been found were not documented by anyone. Fearing that this important history of our school would be lost if the new high school were to be built over the area, the Club acted.

The foundation itself we determined to be possibly a barn in the midst of the extensive fields that we know to have been in the area based on the tree succession and a series of maps. We also know that there existed a road to the area of the site from a 1940's series map. The well nearby is a very large one, possibly for watering farm animals, but was filled in some time ago. Otherwise, the town historian and the library could not tell us much about it. With the possibility of the area being cleared for sports fields, and the lack of knowledge surrounding our landscape, it seemed appropriate to take research and preservation initiative.

Our research has involved everything from meetings with the superintendent of schools, to phoning the town historian, to actually digging up artifacts in the foundation to date it. We hope to eventually form a comprehensive history of the land use on the school property in order to make this information available to those who also see the importance of our history. While we understand that the new school may not be built immediately as it depends upon an override by the town, we also see that in the future our Club may not be around to care about the history of our school environment. We feel that preserving our cultural and environmental heritage falls under our Club's duty to the school and that doing so was important and pertinent to this year's Envirothon topic.

**Minuteman Regional High School**  
**"Protecting Cultural Landscapes"**  
**Town of Lexington Massachusetts**  
**Advisors: Dan Stark, Terry Regan and Carol Zanin**

On behalf of the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT), the students in the Environmental Technology Program at Minuteman Regional High School in Lexington, Massachusetts (Minuteman), prepared a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the parcel of land identified as the Schofield Property, located off of Cranberry Lane in the Town of Hudson, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (the Property).

According to their web site, The Sudbury Valley Trustees is a regional land trust, founded in 1953. Their primary mission is to protect wildlife habitat and the ecological integrity of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord (SUASCO) River Valleys for the benefit of present and future generations. SVT strives to preserve open space "through land acquisition and stewardship, advocacy and education", and through "partnerships with towns, watershed associations, and other environmental organizations" within the SUASCO Watershed. SVT currently owns, through gifts and purchase, more than eighty properties in fourteen towns, totaling over 2,000 acres. The Environmental Technology Program at Minuteman Regional High School has formed a cooperative relationship with the SVT to assist them in conducting ESAs on properties being donated to the organization.

The objective of a Phase 1 ESA is to evaluate potential environmental liabilities on the Property based on current and past land use of the Property and surrounding parcels. This is important for an organization such as the SVT because "strict liability" provisions in environmental laws make the owner of a property responsible for cleanup costs regardless of fault. Therefore, if the SVT were to unknowingly acquire a contaminated property, they could be held responsible for a potentially very costly cleanup cost.

The four main components of the ESA are records review, site reconnaissance, interview, and report. The ESA conducted by Minuteman included local records review at the Hudson Fire Department, Department of Public Works, and Town Hall. At the completion of the ESA, a Report was submitted to the SVT with the findings.

Based on the records review, site reconnaissance, interviews and assessment of maps and environmental records, Minuteman concluded that no obvious evidence of oil or hazardous material being used, stored or disposed on the Property was found. An assessment of surrounding land use found there were several nearby sites identified as hazardous-waste sites, but none that would appear to have an environmental impact on the Property through migration of contaminants in groundwater flowing beneath the Property. In summary, based on information obtained during the ESA, no "recognized environmental conditions" as defined in the ESA guidelines, were observed on the Property. Minuteman recommended to SVT that acquisition of this property would not likely result in an environmental liability for the SVT.

**Team Name: AquaTeens (New England Aquarium)**  
**Town current issue took place: Boston (Charlestown)**  
**Advisors: Jenna Sigman & Nick Carlisle**

The AquaTeens have chosen to research the Charles River as a Cultural Landscape Protection issue. This area, while being a large part of Boston's Culture is highly overlooked. The Charles River is 80 miles long and flows from Hopkinton to Boston and once covered the majority of the city. The Charles River is currently used for a variety of activities including the herring run, crew, and sailing. It is home to a diverse group wild life as well as plant life. The uses of the Charles River such as the annual fireworks and the Hatch shell are well known but not many know about the wonders beyond that. The Charles River is used for more than its beauty and through education our goal is to get the message out to the public. We only hope to preserve The Charles River because of its importance to the ecosystem.

Everyone on our team has glanced at the Charles River or even walked by it, but none of us have ever taken the time to think about it as part of Boston's History. We chose this area because it is part of us and our culture, but we don't know much about it. One of our teens was extremely interested in this area because of its proximity to his school. He convinced us that such a place like the Charles River deserved our attention. Since we have started this project we have not only learned about the River itself but its history, relation to our city, and why was it important. We also have learned why it was important to the Native Americans and the first settlers here, and reasons why it is our job to preserve it.

We hope in the future that there will be a program that educates the public about the Charles River using teens as tour guides and educators. Right now, there are tours of the River that emphasize its major problems as well as its beauties. With education we know that the public will be more appreciative of the culture they have right in their backyard and will embrace it so that more of the Charles River may become one of Boston's most visited features like it should be.

**North Attleboro High School Envirothon Team**  
**Town of North Attleboro Massachusetts**  
**Advisor: Mrs. Donna Cochrane**

The Cultural Landscape Protection Issue chosen was to research the town's historic areas, including the open space plan, buildings, waterways, roads, and monuments. The team researched these areas and now can trace the roots back to landscapes that have helped to shape the course of the town's development.

Upon colonization during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, North Attleboro began as an early farming community. Such modern day historical sites, such as the Woodcock Garrison house, represent this farming basis. However, as industrialization increased, most of these farms were replaced with jewelry factories, which used flowing rivers to power their plants. These factories created a lot of industrial waste, most of which ran off into the Ten Mile River. The remnants of this waste still cause ecological disaster for modern day North Attleboro. Yet, some waterways remain in tact today. For example, Falls Pond, created in 1831 after the construction of a dam on the Ten Mile River, serves ecological importance to modern North Attleboro.

Along with the Ten Mile River, there were many small ponds that made North Attleboro a desirable place to live for farmers and businesses. These areas were used to provide water for farmers, and to serve as waste collecting center. The town was an industrial center between Boston and Providence, and was a perfect location for trading between two major trading cities. Main roads, such as Old Post Road, Route 1, and Mount Hope Street made traveling from Providence to Boston easier, and also fueled North Attleboro's growing industrialization.

The research centered on historical locations around the town, such as houses and monuments, and how the town preserves them today. It is important for the town to know the stories behind areas, and know that these areas are being properly protected for future generations. The team also learned of the areas being preserved by the town now, such as the WWI Memorial Park, and of areas that have been lost, such as the old farmlands, due to industrialization.

The Open Space Plan explains many things about these areas. This plan both describes what organizations control different areas of North Attleboro and how large these areas are. Yet, the most important feature of the Open Space Plan is that it describes the current conditions of the space and provides ideas as to what the land should be utilized for in the future. Currently, the Conservation Commission as well as the town and the Park Commission of North Attleboro maintain most of the Open Space areas in the town that have historical significance. The team will continue to gather research regarding the town. It is important to preserve the town's historical landscapes, and to present this information to new generations.

**Old Rochester Regional High School  
Town of Mattapoisett Massachusetts  
Advisor: Lynn Connor**

The Cultural Landscape Protection Issue that we have chosen is the water testing and protection of the Mattapoisett River Estuary at Bed's Point. We also have been working in the support of a wind project in our community. The use of wind power would decrease the need for oil and therefore protect our cultural landscape. Our team chose this Cultural Landscape Problem because the Mattapoisett River needs to be protected by our community. Since the Mattapoisett River connects to both Mattapoisett and Buzzards Bay, it is important that we protect the River and maintain healthy water. By water testing, we can keep track of the quality of the water and prevent pollution.

The water and land associated with the Mattapoisett River is used not only for fresh drinking water, but supports the economy and social culture of the community. Shell fishing, and fishing have been main staples of the community throughout time since the Wampanoag's summered here. Today, the summer is celebrated with boating, fishing, shell fishing, wharf dances, and canoe races on the river. We feel the Mattapoisett River watershed needs to be protected because historically, and today, the Mattapoisett River area in town has been the center of community life.

From this project we learned that the community social and economic life revolves around the Mattapoisett River area. We also learned that the activities that are taking place today, like the River Race, the Wharf Dances, shell fishing, fishing and boating mirror the activities that historically have occurred here since people have inhabited this area. The Mattapoisett River watershed is an area that is under constant watch by town officials, schools and others. The Mattapoisett Land Trust protects much of the watershed as wellhead areas, and students and volunteers from the Coalition for Buzzard's Bay continue to perform water quality tests, and the wind to power project is in initial stages of data collection. Data will be collected for one year before a decision is made as to where the wind turbine will be located. Earthfest was successful in raising money that can be donated when the time comes to support the Wind project.

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**Oliver Ames High School  
Town of North Easton Massachusetts  
Advisors: Maria Annunziato and Ed Hands**

Under our advisors, Maria Annunziato and Ed Hands, our Envirothon team is working on a cultural landscape project to protect the famous Sheep Pasture in Easton, Massachusetts. Our team is going to restore part of a historical garden originally designed by the famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead. We chose this cultural landscape problem due to the general lack of interest in the historic gardens of our town. We decided that it was very important to keep people well aware of the importance of gardens throughout the town. From doing this project, we learned about the plants that Olmstead was going to include in his original planting plan. Our working site is very important because it is one of the only places around Sheep Pasture that involves color, which is like a missing key to the final planting plan and the way the landscape has developed in the last hundred years. Our project is underway. We have already gone to our site many times to identify the number and types of plants included in the planting plan and what is there now. We have also looked around the site, and found out that some of the plants that we need for our planting are located in various places around Sheep Pasture.

The next phase of the project is to raise the fund needed for the planting. We have done preliminary research on costs and have approached local groups for possible donations of plants. We also have the permission of the Natural Resource Trust of Easton to continue to develop our plan. They have committed to removing the stumps from our site this summer opening the way for some planting to begin this fall.

**Pioneer Valley Regional High School  
Town of Northfield Massachusetts  
Advisors: Kate Dollard and Karen O'Neil**

Although Pioneer Valley Regional School is in Northfield, it took us a little while to decide which of the four towns represented at Pioneer we should base our current issue research in. Eventually, we decided upon Northfield and later upon the Schell Bridge. Our advisors and coaches, Kate Dollard and Karen O'Neil were a great help to us in our community research and in planning for our presentation.

After talking to many different people in town about important cultural landscapes, including JoAnne McGee, the curator of the Northfield Historical Commission, we concluded that the Schell Bridge was a pressing current issue. Edward Shaw had originally constructed the Schell Bridge in the 1800's, for a man by the name of Francis Schell (Mr. Schell also built the Northfield Chateau, which has since been torn down). The bridge was closed to through traffic by MASS Highway in 1985, slated for demolition in 1992, and has since been in the middle of a controversial debate over whether the community should raise money to save the Schell Bridge, or wait until the Town has enough money to finally tear it down. As it stands, the bridge is inaccessible to even pedestrians and is blockaded by a sheet of steel to prevent admission.

As a team, we chose to take on the Schell Bridge as our research topic for a variety of reasons. First of all, the Connecticut River is the major natural feature of the landscape in the town of Northfield, and Schell Bridge once connected the western and eastern portions of the town. Additionally the community is well aware of the problems associated with an unused bridge, as well as its historical value, and many people have joined an organization designed to save the bridge, Friends of the Schell Bridge ([schellbridge.org](http://schellbridge.org)). Among those assisting the Friends of the Schell Bridge is a small group of engineering students from Smith College's Picker Engineering Program. Eidan Webster and his fellow students at Smith College displayed their findings about the Schell Bridge at a special Town Hall presentation on May 5. The more notable discoveries included the fact that the end bearings, lateral bracing, abutments, foundations, and end floor beams need replacing or fixing and that narrowing the deck width to 12' (one of the more feasible options) would cost upwards of \$700,000, (not including construction costs). Even then, 23 members (pieces of steel) would be overstressed and need frequent replacing, the railings would have to be moved, and the bridge would only be big enough for one lane of traffic. On the plus side however, if opened, the Schell Bridge would unite the two sides of Northfield divided by the Connecticut River, and allow emergency vehicles quicker access to patients.

Secondly, we chose the Schell Bridge because most of the people (Deb Kern, Sue Ross, and Gail Zukowski) we talked to regarding important places that needed preservation in the community, mentioned the Schell Bridge. Thirdly, we discovered that this issue is important to the town, because many would like to see the bridge welcome both pedestrians and bicyclists and connect to the Franklin County Bikeway, a biking program already established in neighboring towns. Others, such as Marie Ferré, Betty Cogdon, and Carolyn Spencer want to see the Schell Bridge preserved for the history that surrounds it. However, one of the biggest problems with saving the bridge is that making the bridge accessible is costly, and like many small towns, Northfield operates on a very limited budget. Our team learned many things through working on this project. Mostly, we learned about the Schell Bridge and the history of Northfield but we also gained a new understanding of how to use the community for research and as resources for information we needed for our topic. Our recommendation for an immediate step toward preserving Schell Bridge is to raise public awareness of the problems at hand with trying to somehow preserve this bridge. We need to somehow find a way to get everyone's support in the community and to get them involved in the efforts to save the bridge in order to gain support to get historic designation. This would make the bridge eligible for federal grants and tax breaks.

**Quabbin Regional High School  
Town of Barre Massachusetts  
Advisors: Becky Bottomley and Stacey Hill**

Team Members: Phil Bock, David Bottomley, Jon Gorman, Tom Hale, Brian Kentris, Rachel Metterville

Our team chose to focus on the Prince River in Barre, Massachusetts. The Prince River is located in the Ware River Watershed. It is a small but important river, as it provided power to over 20 mills and shops in Barre in the 1800's.

Because of this role in our community's history, the Prince River is a significant cultural landscape. It made Barre an important regional center, providing a livelihood to many workers and products to people locally and beyond.

The issue is important because many people who now live in Barre are not informed and do not know about the historical significance of the Prince River. Town residents should be informed about their local history.

Before working on this project, many team members were not aware of the Prince River's existence. We were surprised to learn that such a small river could be so useful, providing power to many mills producing a wide variety of goods. The hay tedder was invented and produced at one of the shops. Other products included straw hats, razor strops, window sashes, and the Yankee hay rake.

We learned that Barre was a self-sufficient town, with large stores providing everything that townspeople might need. People came from all over to stay at one of the 7 hotels, to attend fairs and concerts, and to enjoy the natural beauty of the area.

Currently, the Prince River is largely forgotten. It and the surrounding land are mostly unprotected. However, Barre has an active Historical Commission working to protect cultural resources. As a first step, we hope that Barre will soon have an Open Space Plan. This would help to guide conservation efforts and possibly allow for grant funding to help preserve the Prince River and other important cultural landscapes.

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**R.C. Mahar Regional High School  
Town of Orange Massachusetts  
Advisors: Kurt Enko and Mike Magee**

**Project Description:** Our project initially looked at the "history" of Orange, Massachusetts from a variety of viewpoints. We investigated how industry, agriculture, town government and "culture" were interwoven to make our town unique. At that point, we looked at how present day regulations protected various segments of our town. Our final piece of this project was to determine what could be done to allow for the continued growth of Orange without compromising its integrity or character.

**Why Project Was Chosen:** We have a concern that without a "master plan" for Orange, uncontrolled growth (primarily with housing) will change this town and a significant portion of its character may be lost. We are not only concerned about the loss of our natural resources, but also the loss of historic buildings, the loss of this town's unique culture and the town's identity.

**What We Learned:** During this project, we learned that the town does have a variety of bylaws, zoning laws and codes that are designed, in part, to regulate growth concerning new construction. We also were made aware of the Community Development Plan which is designed to "guide" the growth of Orange. We discovered that there are a large number of regulations associated with the use of the available natural resources. Our greatest satisfaction, however, came from listening to the people who have lived in this area for a very long time and the genuine concern that they have for maintaining the integrity and characteristics of Orange in every possible area. We still have some concerns that with the existing zoning laws, especially within the area near the center of town, building lot minimum sizes are so small that houses are being constructed very close to each other which surely impact the environment in a negative way.

**South High Community School Envirothon Team**  
**Preserving Cider Mill**  
**Town of Worcester Massachusetts**  
**Advisors: Bob Mills and Susan Snay**

As students at South High School, many of the members of our team walk through the woods in back of the school on a daily basis. The woods are where we have our field studies for class as well as a shortcut home. But other than using the area behind South High School as a cut-through, most of us knew very little about the history of the area prior to beginning the research for this project.

In the state of Massachusetts, one of the criteria for preserving an environmental landscape is determining it's historical significance. The area we have researched is commonly known as Cider Mill, a name that originates in 1812 when the first of four generations of Parsons purchased this land as a sheep farm. The land would go on to have many other uses, including housing a stop on the underground railroad but the change which would make it's name was the building of the cider mill in the late 1800's. This mill was operational until 1976 and defined the area, powered by the damming of the brook that cuts through these woods.

In order to further explore the historical and environmental significance of this area, our group traveled to the local historical society, our public library's Worcester Room and conducted several impromptu interviews. For first hand knowledge, we were fortunate enough to have easy access and walked through the woods once or twice a week. During these walks, we looked not only for evidence of a diverse environment that merited protection, but also evidence of the human influences on the area over the years. We examined stone walls dating back over 150 years, found iron water pipes from the 1940's, and walked on the old buggy paths that circle the ponds. Although the area is widely thought to be extremely polluted, tests of the dissolved oxygen content of the water exceeded our expectations and we were pleased to find that the "Res" is an ecosystem extremely conducive to life in many forms.

As a result of our research, we have universally concluded that the Cider Mill area is an area well worth preserving. It has environmental, historical, and aesthetic value and represents one of the many treasures of our city that has yet to be recognized.

**Tahanto Regional High School  
Town of Boylston Massachusetts  
Advisor: Susan Moore**

Topic: "Protecting the Cultural Landscape"

The Tahanto Envirothon Team chose Wachusett Watershed as a cultural landscape to study. Before Wachusett Reservoir was built, there was a village called Sawyer's Mills in the Nashua River Valley. It had a saw mill, grist mill, and textile mill in addition to farms.

When Boston started running out of water in the late 1800's, the Nashua River Valley became the source of water. The village of Sawyer's Mills was moved and immigrants from Italy and Poland help build Clinton Dam and Wachusett Reservoir. At the time, it was the largest dam in the world and it was the world's last hand-dug reservoir in the world!

During our research with the Curators of many Historical Societies and with Archivist at the Mass Archives in Boston, we discovered that it was the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the last stone put in the Clinton Dam. No one at the state level was planning a celebration, so the Tahanto Envirothon did! We organized the "Wachusett Watershed Centennial Celebration" for May 14, 2005.

At 10am, there will be a formal dedication at the Clinton Dam with state dignitaries and state agencies. At 11:30, there will be a dedication of the Tahanto Nature Trail with a guided walk to Sawyer's Bluff over-looking what used to be Sawyer Mills. At 1pm there will be a ceremony at Tower Hill where the Survey Tower was for the triangulation of the Reservoir. In addition, all of the Historical Societies will have displays at Tower Hill to depict the history of Sawyer's Mills and the construction on the Reservoir. There will also be a wildlife artist and a local photographer with a display of artwork at Tower Hill. At 2:30pm, there will be a dedication of Stillwater Farm Interpretive Site with displays of watersheds and open space. Throughout the day, there will be guided tours of the Springdale Mill Site on the Mass Central Rail Trail on the Quinapoxet River.

Visitors will find their way from site to site with a "Quest", similar to a treasure hunt, designed by the Envirothon Team.

We hope that many of you will join us in learning about our cultural heritage!

**The Windsor School  
Town of Boston Massachusetts  
Advisor: Gail Lima**

Franklin Park is one of the most versatile landscapes in the Boston Area. It is not just a park, but it is also the site of the nation's second oldest golf course, Boston's premier zoo, a world famous cross country course, and is a venue for multiple Boston cultural festivals. Not to mention its frequent appearances in the news for its being the location of crime. Its varied uses maintain a diverse group of people who frequent the park.

Our project is a compilation of interviews with park users, research about the history and current use of the park, and investigation of the effects of the pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers applied to the golf course on nearby Scarboro pond. The William J. Devine Golf Course runs many programs for Dorchester and the surrounding communities, such as the Boston Junior Golf Program, in which more than 600 children participate each year. It also serves to bring a wider population of people to the area than might come if the golf course were not there. We appreciate the social role of the golf course in Franklin Park, but we want to make sure that in fulfilling this role, the golf course does not harm other aspects of the park.

Tests on pond water samples showed normal pH, nitrate, and dissolved oxygen levels. We know that the pesticides have not been sprayed yet this year, which is the reason for the normal results. The weather was rainy around the time the pond samples were tested, which could have diluted any concentration of the chemicals. We plan to go back to test the pond water after the pesticides are sprayed later this spring. Our research revealed that although the Parks department considers the park's long term welfare, Sterling Golf Management, which runs the golf course, is interested only in "short term profits." We would like to see Sterling Golf Management implement more sustainable landscaping practices, such as integrated pest management or using more eco-friendly lawn products such as CioZyme-600 PC and Ultra Organic Golf Course Turf Care. We are still trying to establish contacts with knowledgeable Sterling employees. However this is difficult, as the Management is reluctant to share information about exactly what types of lawn products they use, and the recent change in management has brought new administrators who are not yet familiar with the Park and its practices.

**Waltham High School Environmental Club**  
**Town of Waltham Massachusetts**  
**Advisors: Sonya McKnight and Ellen Stanton**

**Got greenway?**

...greenways are networks of land and water that help protect a variety of unique resources. Greenways weave parks, cultural treasures and natural places into our daily lives.

**BACKGROUND**

- \* Waltham was once mostly composed of farms and woods
- \* It was also a vacation get-away for the wealthy
- \* The Industrial Revolution resulted in commercial development of the Charles River area on the south side of Waltham
  - \* The incoming labor force increased the need for housing which was built on open land
- \* Easy access via Route 128 led to commercialization on the north side of Waltham which had been mostly pig farms
- \* Large amounts of the remaining farmland were purchased for use as hospitals where, it was believed, patients would recuperate faster in a country setting.

**PRESERVATION**

- \* Several large estates of the wealthy as well as Colonial homes are listed on the historic register
- \* Some of the commercial sites from the Industrial Revolution have become museums or were deeded to the city with restrictions for their use
- \* As hospitals have closed, the large land areas they occupied have been at risk for development. The Waltham Land Trust has been instrumental in advocating for smart growth and preservation of green space including the Western Greenway

**THE WESTERN GREENWAY**

- \* Contains over 1000 acres of undeveloped land in Waltham, Belmont and Lexington and includes historic estates, vernal pools, cultural landscapes as well as diverse habitat
- \* Some of the land is privately owned, some protected and some owned by the City of Waltham. A critical piece is Lot 1, the former Metropolitan State Hospital, which has been declared Surplus Land by the state.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- \* Throughout the state, land designated as Surplus has been dealt with differently ("outside Section 548") within the last two years and auctioned off to the highest bidder without regard to smart growth.
- \* Lot 1 was about to be auctioned by this June, but concerned citizens have spoken out against the sale of Lot 1 which resulted in the State Legislature's decision to remove it from auction
- \* Members of the MA State Legislature have submitted proposals to deal with the sale of surplus land in a more environmentally friendly manner
- \* Sign our petition supporting proposals to the MA State Legislature for a better way of dealing with surplus land

*"Never doubt that a group of thoughtful committed people can change the world... Indeed it is the only thing that ever has!" - Margaret Mead*

**West Roxbury High School**  
**Town of West Roxbury in Boston Massachusetts**  
**Advisor: Brooke Spencer**

We chose a landscape protection issue that is not traditional. It was special to us because the park was transformed from a dump. Also, when the park was created, not all parts of the city were not involved in the planning, which makes an issue because the population of the school does not live in West Roxbury.

Initially, the school was more involved in the planning of the park, but as time progressed, the students have grown to dislike the park altogether. The school is interested in this issue because the students feel as though Millennium Park does not accommodate the activities of interest to the students and instead the park caters to the population of West Roxbury. The town seems interested in the issue because Millennium Park has a gate that is always locked so the students are not easily granted access to the park.

The team learned a lot about the history of Millennium Park and the cultural boundary that exists as well. The park was originally a dump, but when the project was finished Millennium Park turned out to be a good place for residents of West Roxbury and the students of West Roxbury High to do different types of activities.

Most of the time, there are white people in the park walking their dogs or running. Since most of the population of West Roxbury is white, that's what was expected. The community that surrounds the school is an example of people not being very welcoming. When a few students went to Roche Brothers Supermarket to conduct a survey, not many people stopped to listen to what we had to say. There were two white girls doing surveys and people treated them a lot differently. Few people, teachers and students, from West Roxbury High School use the park because of the limitations.

The current status of the project is that a field guide of Millennium Park will be developed by the class.

**Westford Academy Environerds  
Town of Westford Massachusetts  
Advisor: Mr. Joseph Poynton**

**Cultural Landscape:**

Our cultural landscape subject is East Boston Camps, a parcel of open land located in the center of Westford. It is a forested area encompassing 286 acres, including a lake and a certified vernal pool. In 1937, the camps were created by the Hyman Foundation to provide a recreational location for children. The camp includes several small cabins which comprise the only developed portion of the parcel. Each year, fifth graders from Westford Public Schools attend a week-long camp program where they participate in nature hikes, swimming, arts and crafts and games. The camp buildings and land are also used by other organizations for nature hikes and programs. Recently, due to economic strain and a failure to maintain them, the Hyman Foundation offered to sell the camps and surrounding land. The town of Westford in conjunction with the Westford Conservation Commission and aided by private donations was able to purchase the land for conservation purposes.

**Why??**

We chose this landscape because of its rich cultural past and unknown future; a combination that begs for attention. Our interest in its conservation for future generations came from a special place in our heart: many of us attended the camp as fifth graders. Also, the natural resources and endangered wildlife living in the vernal pool magnify the importance of conservation.

**What we learned:**

In conducting a survey of Westford voters, we were able to realize and quantify the value Westford residents place on preserving this cultural landscape. We learned details and strategies concerning the maintenance of public lands and the logistics involved with conserving open spaces. Also, identifying disturbances in the natural ecosystems became second nature to us. This was a great lesson in problem solving and satisfying the greatest number of voters.

**Current and Future Status:**

Currently, the camps future remains undecided. The town has agreed that the land will be leased annually to the Hyman Foundation to continue fifth grade camp. However, the use of the vast acres of woods and water remain unplanned and undecided. We recommend in the best interest of the voters and to maximize affordable and sustainable use, that the proceeds from the camp should be used to build and repair hiking and cross country trails, construct picnic areas, and provide locations for wildlife observation. In short, we propose that these trails and natural sites be advertised and cared for with respect to the existing ecosystem.