

July 12, 2006

Middlesex School Board of Trustees
Middlesex School
P.O. Box 9122
1400 Lowell Road
Concord, MA 01742

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental League of Massachusetts in support of the preservation of Estabrook Woods. The Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) was founded in 1898 as the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association. ELM has a long history of working to protect those places that make the Commonwealth special including park land, forests, coastlines, wetlands, farms and urban parks. ELM voices citizens' concerns, advocates for strong, responsible environmental laws and policies, and educates the public about these issues.

Generally ELM does not comment on site specific projects, but our concerns about impacts from the school's proposed projects to the important ecological values of Estabrook Woods prompts us to contact you.

Estabrook Woods is part of the fabric of the surrounding communities and has been identified as a Core Habitat area by the state. These areas are critical to protecting the state's biodiversity. Using or impacting land of such high ecological value for playing fields, particularly given the opportunities that have been offered for alternative uses and outcomes is truly shortsighted.

We urge you to reconsider this decision and ensure that these beautiful and significant lands remain in their natural state so that their ecological, historical and aesthetic values can benefit generations to come.

Sincerely,

Nancy Goodman
Vice President for Policy
Massachusetts Environmental League