



SUDBURY
VALLEY
TRUSTEES

Protecting the natural resources of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord River Valleys since 1953

July 13, 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 write to support the preservation of Estabrook Woods.

Estabrook Woods' importance to conservation is a matter of public record. It has been designated "core habitat" by the state's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, which means it supports rare animals or plants, or exemplary natural communities. A glance at the statewide distribution of core habitat shows most of it in the west and southeast regions; little remains in eastern Massachusetts.

The mission of Sudbury Valley Trustees is to protect wildlife habitat and the ecological integrity of the Concord River Basin. We regard Estabrook woods as a unique and extremely valuable natural resource.

Generations of naturalist-authors have made Estabrook Woods nationally significant. Its biological importance as a large forest stems from the fact that, because a little stand of woods offers no suitable conditions for plants and animals that require interior forest, a region without extensive woodland areas loses biodiversity.

I urge Middlesex School to place protection of Estabrook Woods as a priority value in any plan for campus expansion. Please do not send bulldozers slashing toward the heart of this precious forest.

Sincerely,

Ron McAdow
Executive Director