



March 30, 2018

Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy  
610 Main Street  
Waltham, MA 02452

Waltham City Council  
c/o Assistant City Clerk Joseph Vizard  
610 Main Street  
Waltham, MA 02452

Waltham School Committee  
c/o Dr. Drew Echelson  
617 Lexington Street  
Waltham, MA 02452

Dear Mayor McCarthy, City Council and School Committee members:

I am writing to you regarding the City of Waltham's search for a new high school site. I certainly recognize the challenge facing you to find a suitable property.

It is our understanding that the Storer Conservation Land and the Chesterbrook Woods are being considered for development for the new high school. These properties are part of a 1,300 acre regional greenway, the Western Greenway, which is a rare amenity and ecological treasure in this densely developed part of Massachusetts. Mass Audubon, through its Habitat Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, has been involved in establishing and maintaining the Western Greenway, which has become an important and beneficial regional resource for people and wildlife.

Mass Audubon believes it is in the long-term and best interests of Waltham and its residents to uphold the protection of lands that have been donated or purchased for land conservation purposes. Conserved lands provide many irreplaceable values and benefits, particularly in areas where little undeveloped and unprotected open space remains available.

Mass Audubon urges the City of Waltham to reconsider using these two culturally and ecologically significant tracts of land for a new high school.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary Clayton  
President