

STUDENT NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:

Salutations, Home Owners!

Your families live in households positioned along the riverbanks of the Maple River ... and what a slice of paradise it is! Your family enjoys being able to experience the beauty of nature right in your backyard. And your riverbank creates special places for your family to swim, sightsee, and fish. But now, it is being invaded ... Your city is growing and the river is becoming more popular than ever. Anglers, kayakers, boaters, and other outdoor recreationists are populating the river. Your property does not feel so private and special anymore. And now, your state wildlife agency plans to alter the habitat to improve the environment and river recreation, which will invite more people to invade your area.

The Natural Resources Board will be hearing the public's opinions before making a final decision on a management plan for the river. This is a prime time for you to voice your opinions and share your vision of how the river should be managed. You and other home owners will create and present a poster that illustrates your beliefs on how the river should be managed and regulated. But plan with care ... for your presentation could save the future of your livelihoods!

Consider the following topics that you have identified as real concerns:

- You believe the riverbed near your property is yours, and anglers and other recreationists should not trespass or damage the property.
- You also value your scenery. Having a clear view of the river from your backyard is a must! So you would like trees and brush lines to go from your shoreline.
- You also enjoy seeing the beautiful forests and vegetation across the river. You do not wish for these to change.
- Anglers like to fish under or on your docks. But you do not want your family members to get hooked while swimming (OUCH!) nor have your property invaded.
- You have found plastic trash and fishing lines floating on your shoreline while swimming. You would like to reduce pollution in the river and keep the river's water quality high.
- You do not appreciate the loud, late-night boaters from the park who are partying near your house. There must be a way to avoid this!
- You've heard talk about removing the dam, and you are concerned that seasonal fluctuations in water level might flood your shoreline in the spring, making it more difficult to put in your pier.



Analyze the map of the river handed out by your teacher.

How would you alter the map to address your concerns? With signs? Changes in rules? Or include additional buildings or resources? **Research and brainstorm with your teammates. Then illustrate your own map of the river on a poster board.** You will present your poster to the class with supporting research and reasoning for changes on the map. But make sure it is an eye-catcher. Let your creativity shine and use paints, markers, construction paper, or glue on natural resources like pebbles, grass, moss, sticks to recreate the river habitat and human developments. Now go make a great poster that will wow your audience.

