

STUDENT NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:

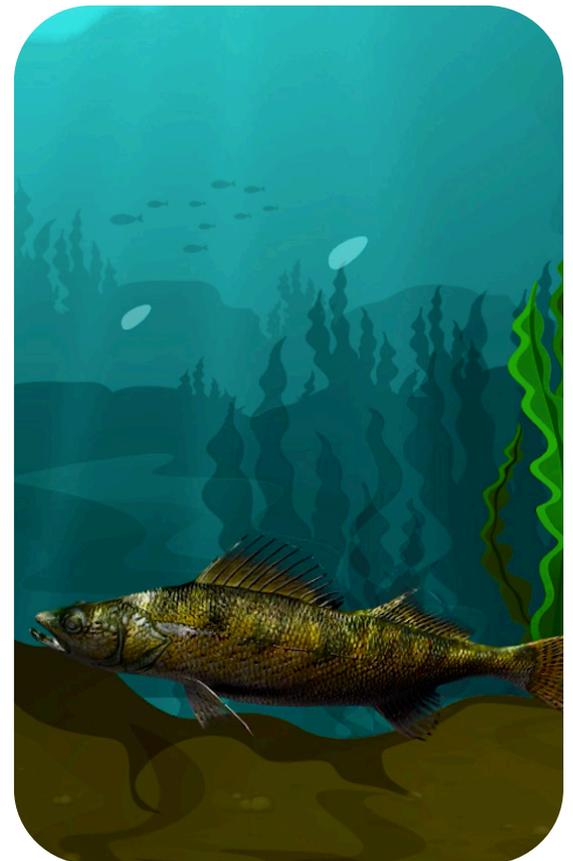
Greetings, Park Visitors!

Waterfront State Park is a public space near the city that your family appreciates visiting in your spare time. The area includes playgrounds, beaches, boat launches, and trails that create fun experiences for the family to get out into nature. In fact ... this park is so popular that it is nearly booming with visitors every day! But the heavy traffic of people is putting stress upon the shoreline, wildlife, and the Maple River. You hope that something will be done soon ... otherwise your family's get-away location may be ruined.

Your state wildlife agency plans to alter the river habitat to improve recreation opportunities. 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 park visitors 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:**

- To accommodate the boom of park visitors, you believe more beaches, trails, picnic areas, and boat launches should be developed.
- You value having clean parks and waterways, but you have seen plastic trash littering the water and shorelines as well as smelly fish guts on the shore. You believe visitors should practice "leave no trace" principles when near or on the river.
- People swimming have gotten stuck on fishing lines in the water. What's more concerning is diving waterfowl are getting tangled up in the lines!
- Boaters and water tubers are concerned about colliding with underwater logs that are close to the surface.
- Your family enjoys seeing the beauty of the river, but that cannot happen if brush or trees are in the way. This has caused people walking along shorelines to go off trail and disturb shoreline vegetation or wildlife.
- The beach is becoming clogged with weeds, which makes swimming uncomfortable.
- You often cross the dam to get to some of the trails on the far side of the river. If the dam is removed, you'll have to drive through the city to get to recreation opportunities on the other side, meaning more driving and less time outdoors!



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.

