

**Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School
& Theodore R. Sizer Teachers Center
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July 2, 2018

Jamie Fosburgh, NPS, Manager, Northeast Region Rivers Program
Lucy Wallace, Chair, NRWSR Study Committee
Nashua River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee
c/o Nashua River Watershed Association
592 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Dear Mr. Fosburgh and Ms. Wallace:

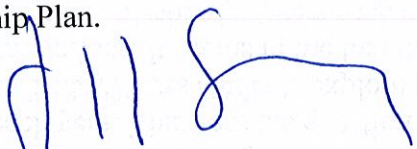
As Principal of the Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School at Devens, Massachusetts, I am pleased to see that one of the many goals in the *Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan* is to “Foster, Stimulate and Support the Next Generation of Conservationists.”

Our Charter Public School organizes our inquiry-based curriculum around an Essential Question each year. This year the question has been: “How Can We Make Tomorrow Better Than Today?” As students explore such a question they of course come up with many interpretations. It seems to me that the prospect of designating the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers as Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers is heartening to both youth and adults alike as we look toward a better tomorrow.

Another of the goals in the *Stewardship Plan* strikes me as particularly apt: “Preserve the History of the Clean-up of the Nashua River as a National Model and Preserve ‘The Marion Stoddart Story.’” I have become very familiar with this story as an educator, a conservationist, a Groton resident, and a former Director of the Nashua River Watershed Association. I have long felt that finding creative ways to keep this empowering, internationally important story alive will have exponential positive results.

After designation, when the Stewardship Council is established, I look forward to exploring ways in which Parker and its students can help forward the goals of the Stewardship Plan.

Sincerely,


Todd Sumner
Principal