

ENGAGING YOUTH IN URBAN FORESTS

CASE STUDY: BROCKTON AUDUBON PRESERVE

Massachusetts
Recreational
Trails
Conference

November 14,
2015



MISSION STATEMENT

The Wildlands Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving land and preserving the natural heritage of Southeastern Massachusetts. We work to permanently protect and steward important habitats and landscapes, including woodlands and fields, ponds, coastal areas, agricultural lands, and river systems.



WILDLANDS TRUST AT A GLANCE

- Founded in 1973
- Southeastern MA
- Over 7100 acres protected
- 35 communities
- **One urban preserve**



ABOUT BROCKTON

- Incorporated as a city in 1881
- Previously known as North Bridgewater
- Almost 95,000 residents
- 7th largest city in Massachusetts
- 21.6 square miles
- Mostly urban – the Salisbury Plain River runs through the city and was used to power the many shoe factories
- During the Civil War, was America's largest producer of shoes
- Brockton High School is one of the largest high schools in the United States, with 4200-4600 students at any given time



THE BROCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

MRS. AMELIA C. BROWN DIES; ONE OF CITY'S BELOVED WOMEN

*Former Proprietor of Brown's Hat Shop and
Interested in Women's Organizations--Sis-
ter of Herbert L. Tinkham.*

Following a long illness, death came early this morning to Mrs. Amelia C. Brown, widow of Walter L. Brown, at her home, 76 Lewis street. She was in her 87th year. Her husband was formerly proprietor of the men's furnishing shop, Brown's Hat Shop, on Main street, and following his death about 24 years ago, Mrs. Brown assumed the management of the store and continued in the business nearly 15 years, when her interest was taken over by Clayton J. Litchman.

Mrs. Brown was born in Middleboro, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Tinkham. She attended the Middleboro schools and was graduated

Mrs. Amelia C. Brown.



Dies in 87th Year.

- Started in 1919
- 88 members
- Led by Amelia Brown
- Inspired by national Audubon movement
- By 2010, membership had dwindled to just 3 trustees



BROCKTON OPEN SPACE MAP

Located in the
NW corner of
the city on the
Easton line.



Open Space Map

August 2012

ACQUISITION BACKGROUND



THE BEGINNINGS OF AN IDEA



WILDLANDS TRUST
YOUTH UNPLUGGED INITIATIVE

- Lack of programs for teens ages 12+
- Disconnect with technology and nature
- Need for more experienced stewardship staff
- Opportunity to connect with a group in need

MAKING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

BROCKTON HIGH SCHOOL



STONEHILL COLLEGE



BIOBLITZ

October 4,
2014



WHAT IS A BIOBLITZ?

“An intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Groups of scientists, naturalists and volunteers conduct an intensive field study over a set time period.”



WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR A BIOBLITZ?

- TEAM LEADERS
- PROPERTY MAPS
- FIELD GUIDES
- BINOCULARS
- CAMERAS
- RECORDING FORMS
- CLIPBOARDS & PENCILS
- SNACKS





ON A COLD RAINY MORNING

About 15
Brockton High
School
students and
20 Stonehill
students
showed up at
7:30am on a
Saturday
morning.



WORKING ON TREE ID

Putting a face
to “shagbark
hickory.”



MAKING NEW FRIENDS

High school
and college
students
working
together.

MAKING CONNECTIONS WITH WILDLIFE





GOING OVER RESULTS

After a pizza lunch, groups gathered and reported their most exciting findings of the day – then Stonehill students gave BHS students a tour of the science center.

THE TAKEAWAY



*“Even if it’s not new
to the world, it’s new
to us.”*

-Kristina, 16

ENVIROTHON

Brockton
High
School &
Wildlands
Trust





HELPING OUT AT FALL CLEAN-UP DAY

A few weeks
after the
BioBlitz, BHS
students
showed up to
help with our
fall cleanup!

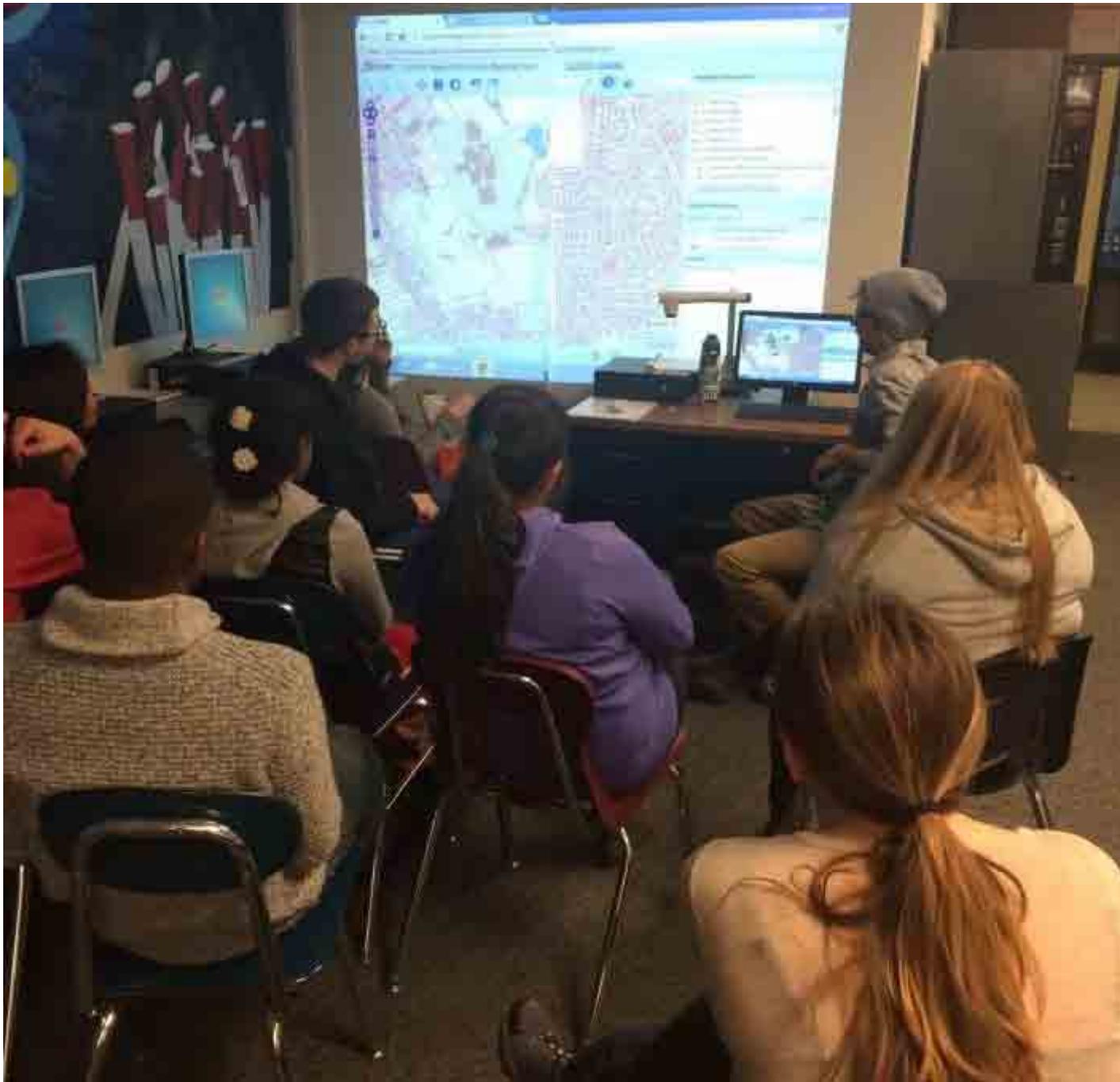
WHAT IS ENVIROTHON?



- Soils
- Water
- Wildlife
- Forestry

Plus:

- Current issue topic presentation
- Community Action Project



LEARNING NEW SKILLS

Envirothon
members learn
about GIS from
MassLIFT
AmeriCorps
member
Andrew at the
Brockton High
School
computer lab.



STUDYING WILDLIFE

Practicing
wildlife
identification
and knowledge.



DIGGING DEEPER

**NRCS Soil
Scientist
Maggie Payne
teaches the
Soils team how
to dig a test pit
and evaluate
soil samples.**



LEARNING FROM A MASTER

Wayne Petersen led multiple walks for us during the year, helping us learn more about birds and forestry.

COMPETITION 2015





THE TEAM AT THE QUABBIN RESERVOIR

Ready for
competition!

(L-R)
Kristina
Rachel (WLT)
Dhruvi
Taylor
Belmira
Davriana
MaryKate
Lily
Obinna
Jessica
Mrs. Voorhis
Dan
Katie (WLT)

ENVIROTHON COMPETITION 2015



ENVIROTHON COMPETITION 2015



ENVIROTHON COMPETITION 2015



SUCCESS!

- **4th place - Soils**
- **4th place - Water**
- **5th place - Current Issue Presentation**
- **Plus a t-shirt award for “Most In Keeping with the Spirit of Envirothon”!**

GREEN TEAM 2015

Ayala
Dan
Hunter
Lily
Obinna
Taylor



WILDLANDS TRUST

WHAT IS GREEN TEAM?

- Hands-on service-learning opportunity
- Career exploration
- Teens 14-17
- Selective process
- 2x/week for 3 weeks
- \$175 stipend





WORKING HARD

We kicked off the first day of Green Team by heading to Brockton Audubon Preserve to learn more about forestry with MA Forester Joe Perry & then practice stewardship safety skills with Wildlands Trust staff.



GUIDED WALKS WITH SKILLED GUIDES

Naturalist Ellyn Einhorn leads the Green Team members on a nature walk in Marshfield.



INSPIRING CURIOSITY

Busy teenagers take time to explore and learn about the wildlife in their own community at Brockton Audubon Preserve.



HANDS-ON LEARNING

**Green Team
members learn
proper trail
construction by
building a new
trail at Cato's
Ridge for
Plympton
PARKS.**



TRYING NEW THINGS

Obinna experiences the ocean for the first time during a day of shellfishing with natural resource wardens in Plymouth.

THANKS TO OUR COLLEAGUES

- Joyce Voorhis & Brockton Public Schools
- Sue Mooney & Stonehill College Faculty
- Brita Dempsey & Massachusetts Envirothon
- Jim Sweeney
- Wayne Petersen
- Jones River Watershed Association
- Heidi Ricci of MassAudubon
- Joe Perry, MA Southeastern District Forester
- New England Wildlife Center
- Glorianna Davenport of Tidmarsh Farms
- Plympton PARKS
- Soule Homestead Education Center
- Ellyn Einhorn, Naturalist
- Jen & Amy Friedrich of Holmes Farm
- Evan Dalton of Manomet
- Plymouth Natural Resource Department
- MassLIFT AmeriCorps Members Rachel, Andrew & Liz
- Wildlands Trust Stewardship Crew (Erik, Owen, Danny)

...AND MANY MORE!

RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOURCES

THINGS
WE'VE
LEARNED



WILDLANDS TRUST

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reach out to as many people as possible
- Let the community lead
- Recognize the bounty in your own backyard
- Make the experience practical & hands-on
- Engage professionals
- Bring snacks!



WILDLANDS TRUST
YOUTH UNPLUGGED INITIATIVE

USEFUL **FREE** WEBSITE & APP

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist.org website interface. At the top, the logo "iNaturalist.org" is on the left, and navigation links for "Observations", "Species", "Projects", "Places", "Guides", and "People" are in the center. On the right, there are icons for messages (0) and notifications (0), and a user profile for "katieodie".

The main banner features the text "CAMPUS BI BLITZ" with icons of a bird, a ladybug, a dragonfly, and a frog. Below this is "Stonehill College 2015 BioBlitz" with the date "October 04, 2015, 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM EDT". A red button says "ADD OBSERVATIONS".

Under "Event Stats", there are four columns of data:

- Totals:** 706 observations, 141 species, 44 people.
- Most observations:** riblock (100 observations), katieodie (32 observations), mplwrd (31 observations), bmeigs (29 observations).
- Most species:** riblock (85 species), katieodie (21 species), sdrinar (20 species), zinnia (16 species).
- Most observed species:** Blue Jay (7 observations), Tufted Titmouse (6 observations), Song Sparrow (5 observations), Great Murrelet (5 observations).

At the bottom of the stats section, there are links for "All observations", "All species", "All people", and "About bioBlitz results".

AND NOW FOR THE YOUTS...

