

GCH 103H: A River Runs Through It

Project two: Restoration Snapshot

Important note:

Your syllabus lists this project as a 10 pg. restoration snapshot (group project) + 4 pg. individual reflection (20%). Instead, this 10 pg. restoration snapshot has become TWO LARGE SIGNS FOR THE SAUGATUCKET RIVER IN WAKEFIELD + 5 pg. individual reflection (20% of final grade).

Dates:

Thursday, Oct. 29

Saugatucket River visit #2 – focusing on signage

Thursday, November 12

Group conferences with Dr. Druschke to discuss snapshot ideas and plans

Tuesday, November 24

Group restoration snapshot and individual reflection due (and presentation of snapshot)

Your task:

For years now, two empty signholders have sat along the boardwalk above the Saugatucket River. The Town of South Kingstown received funding to create the signholders but ran out of money before they could create any signage for them. One sits facing the schoolyard at Wakefield Elementary, while the other sits directly in front of the newly restored fish ladder.

Your task for this revised restoration snapshot is to work in groups to offer researched designs for each of these signholders. Each group will design two separate signs. One will likely be focused on the dam, mill, and/or fish ladder. The other might be focused more on the river in general, invasive species along shore, wildlife, the nature classroom, riverfire, etc. Each group should decide how to prioritize and then present what they feel would be most important for visitors along the boardwalk to know about the river.

Process:

Groups should rely on in-class readings, including documents about the Saugatucket's history and about the work of the now defunct Saugatucket River Heritage Corridor Coalition. Groups should synthesize their ecological knowledge of the river, incorporating aspects of watershed ecology, watershed change, and stream corridor structure. Groups **MUST** conduct original research for this project, which might include interviews with local stakeholders and relevant local, state, and federal managers, research in the state historical archives about the mill, surveys with local business owners or residents, research into migratory fish in Rhode Island, surveys of invasive vegetation, and so on. Your job is to add something new to this conversation!

Grading:

Groups should work together to create and design their two signs, but then each group member will work individually to create a 5 pg. reflection about the project, including the steps of the process, her role in the group work, the prioritization of information, original research, etc. Convince Dr. Druschke that this was the ideal intervention for visitors to the Saugatucket.

Consequences:

There are no current plans for signage, which means that if you do a great job with these, some of your designs may actually end up in the signholders on the Saugatucket! There are REAL consequences here.