

Regional Environmental Council  
P.O. Box 255  
Worcester, MA 01609

**Organization:**

Founded in 1971 as a private non-profit, membership-based advocacy organization, the Regional Environmental Council (REC) provides environmental education to residents in Worcester, Massachusetts. REC builds public awareness of local environmental issues through research and education. Programs focus on inner-city neighborhoods with many minority and/or low-income residents who have traditionally been excluded from the environmental decision-making process. REC also spearheads local and regional environmental advocacy, especially for parks, trails, open and green space, Brownfields redevelopment, recycling, environmental justice and water protection.

**Project:**

REC, in conjunction with Worcester Polytechnic Institute and local residents, will work to identify major sources of potential public health and environmental risk in the Quinsigamond Village, a historically industrial corridor in Worcester. REC will lead a team of academics and community partners in the development and testing of community-based research methods. REC and its partners will characterize potential hazardous exposures by gathering community knowledge and data on historical and current land use. REC will organize several community meetings and four site walks to discuss and collect information on historical and current sources of potential exposure. Data collected from this research will be used in the future development of a community risk assessment.

Neighborhood Of Affordable Housing  
143 Border Street  
East Boston, MA 02128

**Organization:**

Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) is a community-based, non-profit community development corporation located in East Boston, Massachusetts. NOAH's mission is to expand the supply of affordable housing and foster economic growth, especially through homeownership. In 1998, East Boston and Chelsea residents, the Neighborhood for Affordable Housing, Chelsea Green Space and Recreation Committee (Green Space) and the Urban Ecology Institute formed the Chelsea Creek Restoration Project (CCRP). The mission of CCRP is to reclaim land along Chelsea Creek as an environmentally sound recreational area, a public health benefit, a vital economic engine for jobs and an educational resource for youth and adults living on both sides of the creek.

**Project:**

As part of the Chelsea Creek Vision Plan, NOAH and its partners will train two environmental youth crews to identify and categorize contamination levels at key sites along the creek using available site histories and local knowledge. Based on the type and level of contamination, the crews will research and identify best practices for remediating those sites, as well as determine possible liability issues. Students from the Urban Ecology Institute will research policy barriers preventing the transfer of control over the identified sites to partners wishing to create public open space on the site.