Friends of Worcester welcomes you to a community presentation and discussion

WHAT IS WORCESTER’S FUTURE?

November 14, 2005
Friends of Worcester

We are working –
To educate citizens and government
To preserve open space
To conserve Worcester’s historic resources
To protect our future
We know Worcester residents value open space and look to a future that will preserve as much of it as possible.
Why Is Open Space Important?

1. Quality of life

2. Preserve Worcester’s rural & historic heritage for future generations

3. School taxes - control the increase
1. Quality of Life

- Open space feels like home
- We don’t need more traffic
- Protect natural habitat – birds, animals, fish, even insects
- Recreation opportunities
  - Walking & jogging
  - Horseback riding
  - Birding & fishing
  - Family activities
2. Preserve Worcester’s Rural and Historic Heritage

We care about future generations
Historic houses are our homes
Working farms define Worcester
3. Control the Growth of School Taxes

The average home in Worcester ...

Sends 0.8 children to school
Costs $8643 to educate 0.8 child
Pays $5475 in school taxes

Costs all taxpayers ($3168) each year
What do school taxes really cost us?

A 50-acre farm could become 22 homes, each costing taxpayers $3,168 per year.

That's a total tax burden of $69,696 each year, from just one development!
So preserving these 50 acres can --

Save Worcester taxpayers $69,696 in school taxes each year.

Avoid increased local taxes for municipal services such as

• Police force
• Road improvements
• Sewer authority
• Snow plowing
It’s true what they say ...