

Name: _____ Hour: _____ Date: _____

Unit 6.1 Unit Challenge Scenario

Part of our community used to be a forest surrounding a stream. The stream did not flood during storms and made a good home for fish, ducks and other wildlife. In the past, locals and tourists would visit the area to enjoy the forest and stream. The local businesses made money from tourists visiting their shops.

As our community grew, the forest was replaced with parking lots and a building. Sadly this building was abandoned and eventually torn down. Today, all that is left is a concrete parking lot and an empty field.

The community is having a problem with the stream. The stream floods after large rainstorms. The floods have reduced the number of recreation opportunities. For example, the floods forced a popular bike path to close. The local businesses are worried because fewer people are visiting and shopping in the community. A local environmental group is concerned with the loss of trees and wildlife habitat caused by the flooding.

The owner of the empty piece of land is willing to donate the land to the town, but only if the town's planning committee can convince the owner that the town will make changes to the empty land to help people, businesses, and the environment to thrive.

Unfortunately, the planning committee does not know what causes the stream to flood. There have not been changes in the amount of rain and snow over the years. This makes the planning committee think that this problem has something to do with how the land changed from forest to the parking lot and field. However, to convince the landowner to donate the empty land, they will need to show how the changes to the land caused flooding. They will also need to show that they have good ideas that will reduce the flooding and help people, businesses, and the environment to thrive.

The planning committee is so excited about building on the empty land that they already came up with a large list of ideas. Their list includes ideas like a rain garden, skate park, or even an indoor waterpark. They need you to identify which solutions on the list could improve community well-being and which ones won't. They will take your improved list of ideas and use it to help convince the owner to donate the land!