

# NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, MA 02460

Office of Elementary Education

Telephone: (617) 559-6105

Fax: (617) 559-6158

Memo To: David Fleishman, Superintendent  
School Committee

From: Joseph Russo, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education

Re: Countryside Task Force Recommendations

Date: June 20, 2011

\*\*\*\*\*

This memo provides updated information on the proposed new buffer zones and additional staffing requests for Countryside School. There are three new proposed buffer zones including Countryside/Angier, Countryside/Angier/Zervas, and Countryside/Bowen. The additional staff is listed below, with cost estimates for FY12. It is hereby recommended that the School Committee vote to approve the new buffer zones and additional staffing.

Cost Description	Base Amount	FY12 Additional Request	FY12 Additional Cost
Teacher-in-Charge Stipends	\$1,415	2.00	\$2,830
Northeastern Co-op Student	\$12,350	1.00	\$12,350
Lunch Attendants	\$3,078	2.00	\$6,156
Additional ISS Days	\$3,614/day	3.0 Days	\$10,842
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL STAFFING COSTS</b>			<b>\$32,178</b>

The chart below shows the current number of public school students residing in the new buffer zones for the 2010-11 school year, as well as the average number of public school students per grade.

Elementary District (Including Proposed New Buffer Zones)	Grade						Total Students	Average
	KF	1	2	3	4	5		
<u>In-District Students</u>								
Countryside	36	46	40	41	33	35	231	39
Countryside-Angier	23	29	21	32	26	25	156	26
Countryside-Angier/Zervas	10	5	2	5	2	3	27	5
Countryside-Bowen	8	9	11	8	11	11	58	10
Countryside-Zervas	1	1	1		1		4	1
Countryside-Memorial-Spaulding	1						1	0
<b>Total In-District Students</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>81</b>
Out-of-Assigned District Students	2	1	3	2	2	2	12	2
<b>Total All Students</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>83</b>

At last check, according to the projected September 2011 enrollment, of the 34 students residing in the Angier – Countryside and/or Angier/Zervas – Countryside buffer zones, 16 are students new to Countryside. All of the 8 students living in the Bowen – Countryside buffer zone are students new to Countryside. If all these students currently assigned to Countryside were shifted to the buffer school, a kindergarten classroom would be reduced at Countryside School and added to Angier School.

Attachment: June 13<sup>th</sup> Memo Re: Countryside Task Force Recommendations

To: Superintendent David Fleishman  
School Committee

From: Joseph Russo, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education

Re: Countryside Task Force Recommendations

The Countryside Task Force reconvened to examine the suggestions made at the May 24<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. After careful review the Task Force has endorsed some specific short and long term recommendations to ease growing student enrollment at Countryside. Working with Deputy Superintendent, Sandy Guryan, Budget Analyst Sean Mannion, Transportation Director Regina Moody and GIS Specialist Doug Greenfield, Countryside student data was used to develop city maps indicating potential buffer zones around Countryside School.

#### Recommendations

- Adopt additional buffer zones with Angier School, Zervas School, and Bowen School to allow for more flexible placement for incoming students. We recommend implementing these buffer zones for incoming K students immediately, either mandatory or on a volunteer basis to be determined by the School Committee. (See attached maps)
  - In placing students from the buffer zones, the Assistant Superintendent will reexamine enrollments, consider busing implications and staffing assignments before placing students.
  - Written communication from the Office of Elementary Education will be directed to affected kindergarten families in the buffer zones explaining changes and their impact.
  - Communication with the schools and families new to the buffer zones (Angier, Bowen, Zervas) will be made through the principals and the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education.
  - Incoming students in grades K-5 would be subject to the buffer zones beginning July 1, 2011.
  
- We recommend the installation of a moveable wall system for the cafetorium area to allow for two additional instructional spaces for tutorial/small group work to be completed as close to September 1, 2011 as possible.

We recommend the following staffing additions for September, 2011:

- Addition of two teacher-in-charge stipends for existing staff to provide administrative support to the principal in the areas of daily staffing, student supervision at lunch, and morning entrance/dismissal supervision.
- One additional Northeastern Co-op student
- Two additional lunch attendants
- Three additional days of ISS support

Long term recommendations are more complicated, but must include planning and implementation of the Long Range Facilities plan to replace and increase capacity at Angier and Zervas and then reduce Countryside enrollment closer to the preferred 480 student size along with the potential for more permanent redistricting plans.

The Task Force was comprised of the principal, Emily Ostrower; parents, David Kallis, Christina Kulich-Vamvakas, Jon Zaff; teachers, Kate Philipson, Michelle Powers, Andrea Youngsman, ; School Committee member Susan Rosenbaum, and Assistant Superintendent Joseph Russo.








Attachments:  
Countryside Buffer Zone Maps

# Buffer Areas for Countryside School District

**Legend**

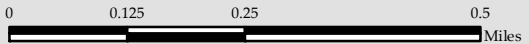
**Countryside District**

**Buffer Zones**

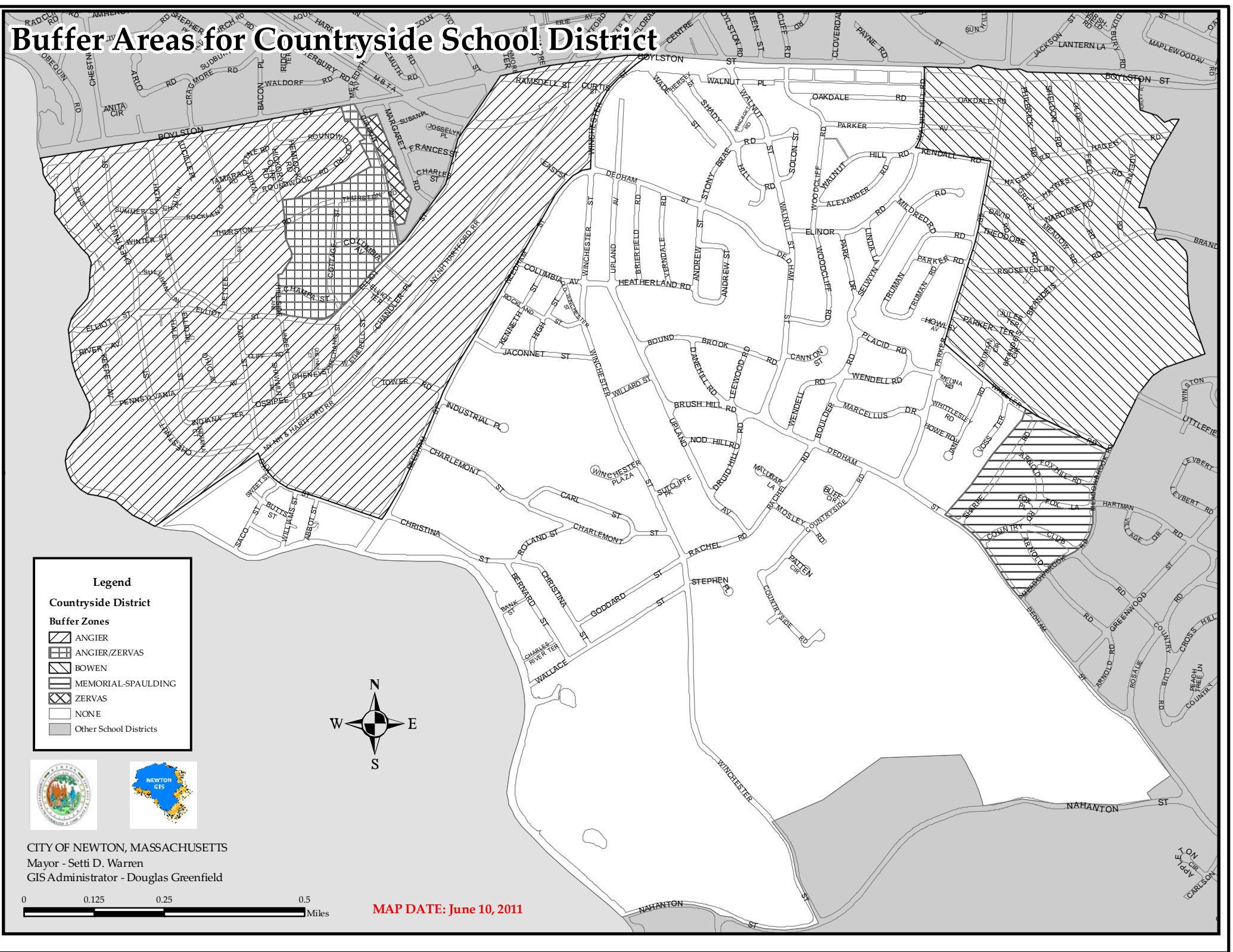
-  ANGIER
-  ANGIER/ZERVAS
-  BOWEN
-  MEMORIAL-SPAULDING
-  ZERVAS
-  NONE
-  Other School Districts



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
 Mayor - Setti D. Warren  
 GIS Administrator - Douglas Greenfield



**MAP DATE: June 10, 2011**



# Countryside District

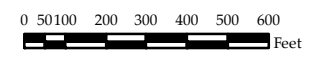
## District

*Bowen Buffer Zone*



The information on this map is from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). The City of Newton cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information. Each user of this map is responsible for determining its suitability for his or her intended purpose. City departments will not necessarily approve applications based solely on GIS data.

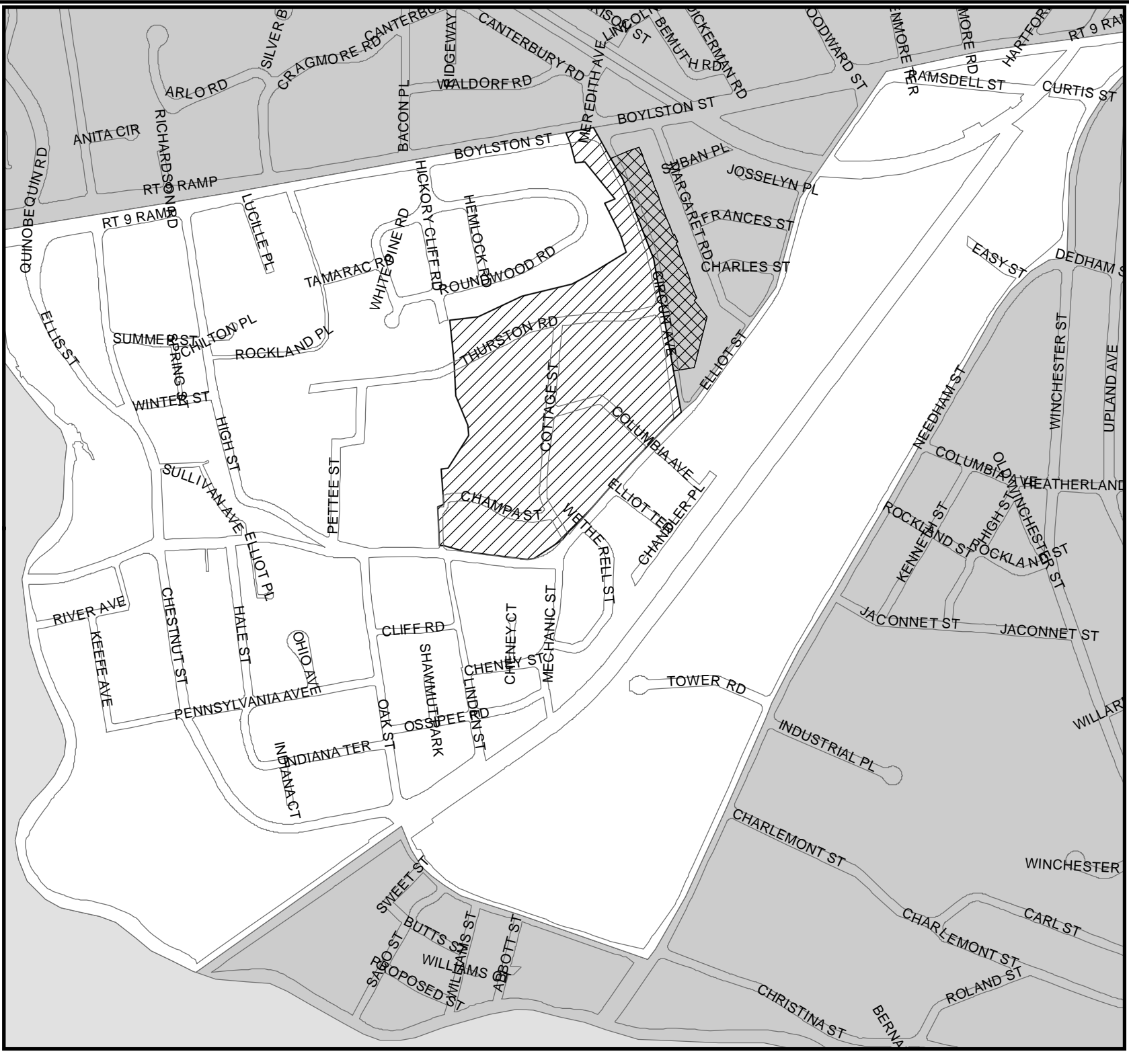
CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
Mayor - Setti D. Warren  
GIS Administrator - Douglas Greenfield






**MAP DATE: June 09, 2011**

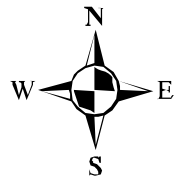
# Countryside District

## Angier and Zervas Buffer Zones



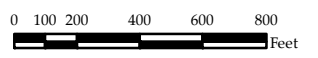
**Legend**

-  Angier Buffer Area
-  Zervas Buffer Area
-  Angier/Zervas Buffer Area



The information on this map is from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). The City of Newton cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information. Each user of this map is responsible for determining its suitability for his or her intended purpose. City departments will not necessarily approve applications based solely on GIS data.

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
 Mayor - Setti D. Warren  
 GIS Administrator - Douglas Greenfield



**MAP DATE: June 10, 2011**