Investigating people’s attachment to place: 
Getting the idea off the ground.

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Methodology
- Survey invitations to a sample of the overall population.
- Surveys could be completed online using SurveyMonkey® or by paper.
- Open and close ended questions.
- Place attachment and program evaluation style questions.

The objective
The project is investigating parent and guardian attachment to their children’s school. Built institutions, such as schools, often bring together a diverse group of people, and are not well understood in terms of place attachment. This research will help fill that gap.

I am very attached to Sunrise.
77% responded with agree or strongly agree. (N=44)

Place Identify and Dependence
Bonding to Nature and the Built Environment
Social Bonding

How important are the following to your attachment to Sunrise?
The opportunity to spend time outside in a rural setting.
The natural outdoor components of the campus, such as the gardens and green spaces.
The upkeep of the grounds and buildings.
The aesthetics of the buildings.
The use of natural materials in the classrooms.
The lack of technological instruments in the classroom.
In all cases, 90% or more of respondents replied that these items are at least moderately important to their attachment.

Conclusions (so far)
It would appear that nearly all parents and guardians have attachments to Sunrise Waldorf School. This is particularly true in terms of place dependence and environment bonding.

The next step
My larger research project is investigating the relationship between certain storied narratives and place attachment. The research presented here will provide baseline data for the larger project. Stay tuned!

Research support
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