

# GOOD SPORTS

The annual Greenway Challenge is known for adventure, scenery and one great rivalry.



The course is always top secret until just before the race, but triathletes in the annual UniBank Greenway Challenge know they'll run, paddle and bike over two states on some of the most historic and scenic trails, back roads and waterways of the Blackstone

River Valley. (This year's race starts at Waters Farm in Sutton, Massachusetts, and finishes at Lincoln Woods State Park.) Local businesses, politicians and outdoor enthusiasts all get into the act, but Rhode Island's DEM and DOT have been each other's biggest competition since the race's inception. The inside scoop on these rivals:

## DEM vs DOT

### BEST COMPETITIVE YEARS

Beat out DOT in 2001-2004	Beat out DEM in 2005, 2006
------------------------------	-------------------------------

### RECRUITING STRATEGY

"A lot of begging," says 2008 team captain Kate McPherson.	Planning, says kayaker Stephen Kut. "We mark the calendar for next year."
--	---

### SECRET WEAPON

"Eating Sports Beans and hoping for the best," says cyclist Shelley Ducharme.	"We shifted strategy to have an 'A Team,' and DEM hasn't beaten us since," says team captain Michael DeRotto.
--	--

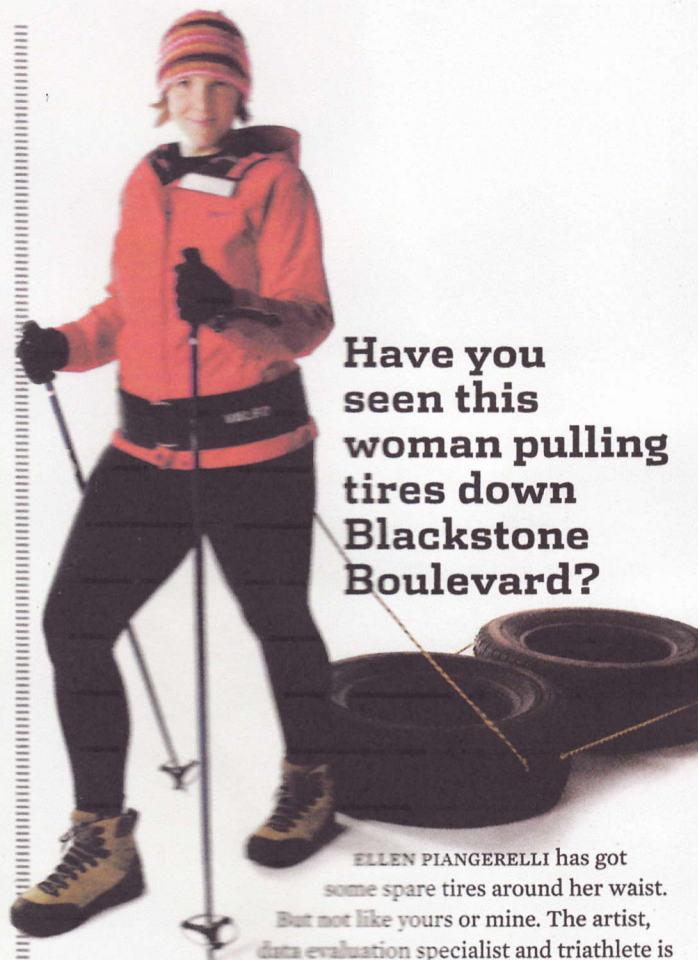
### RACE HIGHLIGHT

"Finding parts of the state I've never been to before," says support driver Pam Galli.	"The challenge of trying new things, like mountain biking," says the team.
--	--

### MUTUAL THREAT

Massachusetts DEM, Corporate Cup winner 2007-2008	("I heard they recruit statewide," adds DeRotto.)
--	--

This year's race will be held September 26. For information, visit [greenwaychallenge.org](http://greenwaychallenge.org). —SUSAN SPENCER



## Have you seen this woman pulling tires down Blackstone Boulevard?

ELLEN PIANGERELLI has got some spare tires around her waist. But not like yours or mine. The artist, data evaluation specialist and triathlete is training for the 2008 Polar Challenge, a close-to-insane race across 320 nautical miles of the North Pole. She's tired-up because, for the twenty-or-so days she'll be there next spring, she and her two teammates will be dragging sleds carrying all their food, water and shelter. (Plus, of course, shotguns in case of a polar bear attack.) *Wired* magazine is covering the \$45,000-per-person entry fee for the team, formed after a boot-camp-style competition last year; Piangerelli is fundraising to cover other costs. Read Ellen's blog at [thefrozenbanana.blogspot.com](http://thefrozenbanana.blogspot.com). —PIPPA JACK

# College Unbound

It might be the smallest freshman class ever. This fall, eight teens are the first students in College Unbound, a new school from Big Picture Learning, the brains behind South Providence's alternative high school, The Met Center.

"Colleges have not been able to educate all kids," says program co-director Dennis Littky. "We're looking to create a much more engaged place." In addition to spending three full days a week in internships, students live together with a faculty member-in-residence, who not only arranges cultural outings and dinner-

table debates, but makes sure students learn real-world skills such as budgeting and cooking. On the academic front, advisers help students craft an individualized degree program through Roger Williams University. "If we do our job," says co-director Jamie Scurry, "it will hopefully transform the students, the community and institutions." Visit [bigpicture.org](http://bigpicture.org). —JENNA PELLETIER