

Children In Nature Plan's 3 Key Themes and corresponding 10 Recommendations:

A. Connecting communities and families to nature:

- 1. Incorporate nature play spaces into community health planning, land use planning and community development design.** *Lead: Sandi Olek, MD-DNR Office for a Sustainable Future*
- 2. Establish a MD Trail Development Office to address trail planning and funding, trail advocacy, a one-stop trail GIS database, and the development of a new MD Trail Town Program.** *Lead: John Wilson, MD-DNR Assoc. Director of Stewardship & Land Acquisition & Planning*
- 3. Develop a strategic state park and public lands Interpretive and Outdoor Classroom Plan, identifying funding needs to support a greater presence of park rangers and seasonal naturalist staff.** *Lead: Matt Ritter, MD-DNR Chief Interpretation*

B. Reaching out to underserved communities that have the least access to nature:

- 4. Develop and implement a comprehensive program to increase access and utilization of public lands and waterways for underserved communities.** *Leads: MD-DNR and Chesapeake Bay Trust*
- 5. Expand and improve the existing Civic Justice Corps (CJC) model to serve 1,000 at-risk youth statewide by 2015 with summer conservation jobs and outdoor enrichment activities.** *Lead: Fred Banks, MD-DNR CJC Program Director; Captain Peyton Taylor, Exec. Director Conservation Corps & Interpretation for MD Park Service*

C. Strengthening Children's Connections to Nature During the School Day:

- 6. Provide an annual meaningful outdoor environmental education experience for every student every year, pre-K through grade 12.**
- 7. Require for graduation that every high school student take and pass a designated course of study on environmental literacy.**
- 8. Establish a comprehensive initiative to green all schools and school grounds, and embed schoolyard habitat programs as integrated indoor and outdoor instructional components of the curriculum , to create opportunities for outdoor learning experiences for students and members of the community.**
- 9. Provide professional development for teachers, state park rangers and naturalists, and other service providers.**
- 10. Adopt the Maryland State Environmental Literacy Standards.**