

## Maryland Partnership for Children In Nature

### Actions for 2013

<b>For approval January 2013</b>
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- **Environmental Literacy** – *Leads: Laurie Jenkins, Montgomery County Public Schools and Joe Harber, National Aquarium*
  - Continue to develop a connection with the higher education community to bring professional development experiences in environmental education (EE) to pre-service and in-service teachers through a focus on the “professional development school” (PDS), an institution formed through partnerships between professional education programs and PK-12 schools.
  - Continue regional meetings with formal educators from Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and non-formal environmental education providers to further help LEAs to develop and improve their Environmental Literacy Programs (ELP). Use input from these meetings and ELP survey to target follow-up actions to meet local needs.
  - Conduct/ support EE provider meetings to build their capacity to understand and contribute to environmental literacy instructional strategies [to enable them to “speak the language of MSDE E-Lit”].
  - Facilitate regional collaboration on EE/ E-Lit and develop metrics that show the effectiveness of E-Lit and accomplishments across the state.
  - Assist in planned update / expansion of the MSDE guide, “Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment...on School Sites” (aka, “the Green Book”), to include more current practices and add sections on using school grounds for outdoor learning. Support/ participate in associated “Maryland School Grounds for Learning” training program (pending funding).
  - Complete recommendations for providing Every Student with an outdoor learning experience Every Year (ESEY), identify model examples, and provide document online.
  
- **Community/ Community Planning** – *Lead: Sandi Olek, MD Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*
  - Support the Community Health Initiative by providing coordination with ongoing community revitalization work, developing best practices and building partnerships to support the initiative.
  - Develop a review of local LPPRP (e.g., county Long Range Parks and Recreation Plan) plans and/or policy guidance to determine best practices which can be incorporated into the Statewide Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. Use this process also to identify potential proactive role for CIN in assisting future county practices in providing / utilizing nature areas in parks (e.g., a workshop to facilitate exchange between counties re successes, challenges, etc.).
  - Continue promotion of Nature Play Spaces through distribution of guidance, and establishment of demonstration projects.
  - Engage parks staff (state/ county/ local) in identifying and addressing needs for improving access to nature and interpretive/ recreational programs.
  
- **Health** – *Leads: Kim Martinez, National Wildlife Federation and Catherine Shanks, DNR*
  - Complete planning for and begin implementation of Community Health Initiative (CHI) – *see the framework document.*
  - Explore outside partnerships for implementation.
  - Explore potential funding of CHI.
  
- **Agriculture** – *Lead: Karen Fedor, MD Department of Agriculture*
  - Integrate agriculture education initiatives into school curricula and map (align) to the state environmental literacy (EL) standards.
  - Engage non-formal agriculture educators in aligning their programs to EL standards for use with students.

**more...**

- Connect environmental science, science and agriculture educators to share ideas and to improve integration of disciplines.
  - Increase awareness of benefits and ability to access locally grown foods (e.g., through the CHI).
- **Communication/ Promoting Outdoor Play and Learning** – *Lead: Britt Slattery, DNR*
    - Plan and conduct the second annual Celebrate MD Outdoors Days (June), and build an online resource of outdoor opportunities from entries from the 2012 event.
    - Work with DNR Office of Communications on “generic” promotional materials for the Partnership itself, and on more of a presence in social media re CIN activities.
  - **Funding Strategy** – *Lead: Jamie Baxter, Chesapeake Bay Trust*
    - Present issues to Leadership Team for guidance; actions identified pending their direction.

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