

Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature

2012 Action Plan Highlights

Promoting Outdoor Play and Learning

- Celebrate Maryland Outdoors week – *June 9 – 23, 2012*
 - A coordinated advertisement and promotion of the many opportunities to explore nature and outdoors events across Maryland taking place during this 2-week time period, in conjunction with Maryland's Great Outdoors Month. CIN partners as well as other local and community organizations' events will be compiled and advertised jointly, with information hosted on the CIN website.
- Develop a Marketing Plan for CIN – *thru 2013*
 - Assess options and approaches for increasing awareness and opportunities for behavior change and develop a plan to implement recommended techniques and media.
- CIN Partnership Communication – *ongoing*
 - Provide current information regularly to partners and others on CIN actions, issues and progress through news releases, website updates, media outreach and ongoing activities.
- Report Progress – *ongoing*
 - Provide quarterly progress reports to the Partnership and post online.

Environmental Literacy – Support for EL in Schools and the Community

- Professional Development – *March through August 2012 and beyond*
 - Plan and conduct 7 regional workshops to facilitate increased communication and collaboration between schools and providers to assist with implementation of new EL requirements.
 - Plan and conduct a webinar for EE providers as a follow-up to regional meetings.
 - Plan and conduct professional development opportunities to include a statewide Summit for school system Environmental Literacy Planning teams.
- Student Focused Actions –
 - Every Student Every Year – Develop recommendations for meeting the goal of providing outdoor experiences for every student every year – *May 2012*
 - Develop and test a data collection tool to include a workshop on research based Best Practices – *through November 2012*
 - Co- sponsor the MAEOE Youth Summit – *June 2012*
- Policy Actions –
 - Integrate schoolyard habitat with MD Green Schools program – *December 2012*
 - Support National Green Ribbon Schools program – *April through October 2012*
 - Promote 'greener schools' policy with MSDE and school design / facility managers – *ongoing*

Communities and Community Planning

- Enhance access to green spaces and the state trails network, by assuring that people have the information needed to connect with outdoor areas:
 - Develop interactive land and water trail maps to make the maps more accessible to the public. – *December 2012*
 - Provide information and guidance to schools on local resources to visit. – *ongoing*
- Provide equitable access to green space and outdoor opportunities for all communities:
 - Complete Park Equity Analysis and use it to provide for new trail connections, new green spaces. Complete peer review, develop and test interactive tool, provide for partner use. – *fall 2012*
 - Provide input into county and state recreation plans. Develop a best practices review of local LPPRP (e.g., Long Range Parks and Recreation Plan) plans – *fall 2012*; and policy guidance to be incorporated into State Plan (SCORP) – *December 2012*.
- Continue to develop and promote Nature Play Spaces at parks and community resources. – *ongoing*
- Engage parks staff (state/ county/ local) in an interest group that works cooperatively to identify and address needs for improving access to nature and interpretive/ recreational programs.

Health and Food (Agriculture) Connections

- Host a forum with representatives of the health field to determine priority issues for our involvement and identify objectives and actions. – *June 2012*
- Promote/ contribute to expanding on statewide level programs that prescribe active outdoor time to improve health. – *ongoing*
- Infuse agricultural education and local foods awareness into school and community programs:
 - Map and align Ag education to EL standards. – *December 2012*
 - Promote Farm to School Program through workshops and the development of lesson plans to accompany podcast for *Maryland Harvest* documentary. – *Summer through December 2012*
- Increase community awareness of the benefits of locally grown food through the Maryland Homegrown School Lunch week and information distribution to communities. – *Fall 2012*

Additional Actions

- Continue to conduct and build the Conservation Jobs Corps to serve youth statewide. – *ongoing*
- Determine funding needs and priorities to support CIN actions, and explore opportunities to build support.
- Keep abreast of Federal and/or National initiatives that align with our priorities, and determine ways to support and cooperate with them.