

State of Delaware's Children In Nature Taskforce --- Leave No Child Inside



Children In Nature Taskforce

Delaware Nature Society: **Helen Fischel**

Nemours Health and Prevention Services: **Ron Breeding**

US Fish and Wildlife Service: **Flavia Rutkosky**

Delaware Association for Environmental Education: **Jennifer Holmes**

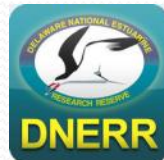
Center for the Inland Bays: **Sally Boswell**

Department of Health and Social Services: **Fred Gatto**

Department of Education: **Tonyea Mead**

Department of Education: **John Ray, Co-Chair**

DNREC: **Ray Bivens, Co-Chair**



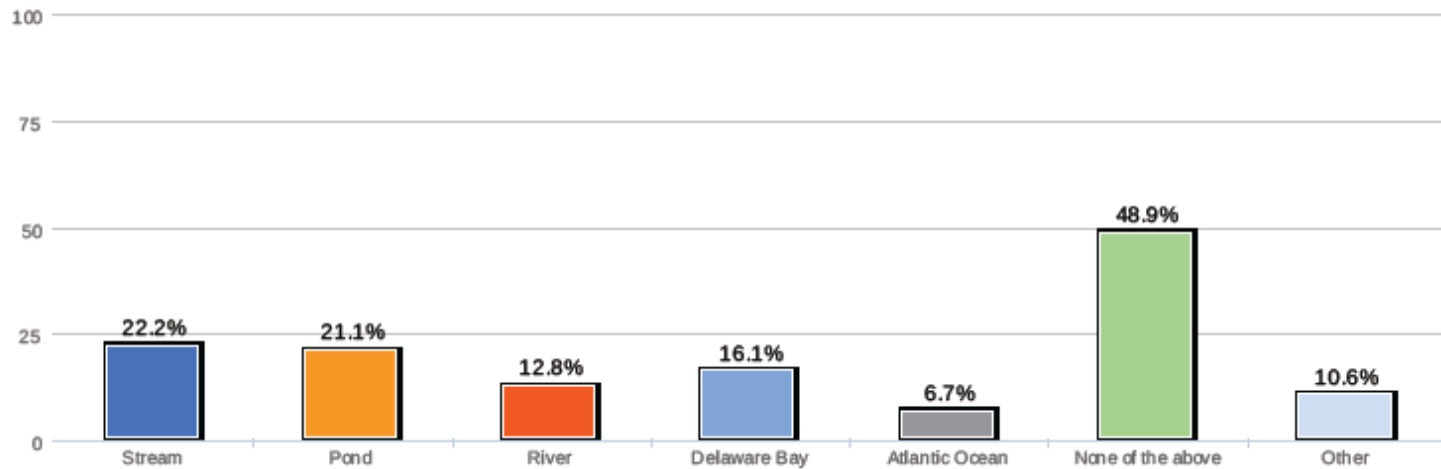
Delaware Health and Social Services



Highlights in Delaware

- Completion of Children in Nature/No Child Left Inside Initiative Taskforce Report
- Support of First Lady Carla Markell as Chair of Children in Nature Ambassadors group.
- DNREC provides penalty funds to support implementation.
- Recent cooperative work between Department of Education and environmental education community
- Green Ribbon Schools Program was launched this November 2012.
- DE Dept of Education focuses on 4 major points:
 - more outdoor field trips while providing teachers professional development
 - focus on Green Ribbon Schools
 - invite more informal educators to monthly meetings,
 - aligning Next Generation Science Standards with informal and formal educators

National science standards emphasize the importance of watersheds. Do your students have the opportunity to learn about watersheds through hands-on experiences in the following settings?
(Please select all that apply)



**National science standards emphasize the importance of watersheds. Do your students have the opportunity to learn about watersheds through hands-on experiences in the following settings?
(Please select all that apply)**

Value	Count	Percent %
Stream	40	22.2%
Pond	38	21.1%
River	23	12.8%
Delaware Bay	29	16.1%
Atlantic Ocean	12	6.7%
None of the above	88	48.9%
Other	19	10.6%

Statistics	
Total Responses	180

What is the biggest limitation to your ability as a teacher to participate in quality environmental education field experiences? Please rank biggest limitation (1) to least limiting factor (7).

Item	Total Score ¹	Overall Rank
Program cost	1001	1
Transportation	878	2
Student testing	710	3
School district policies	635	4
Lack of quality program experiences	531	5
State school policies	526	6
Administrative support	428	7

Total Respondents: 180

¹ Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is the sum of all weighted rank counts.

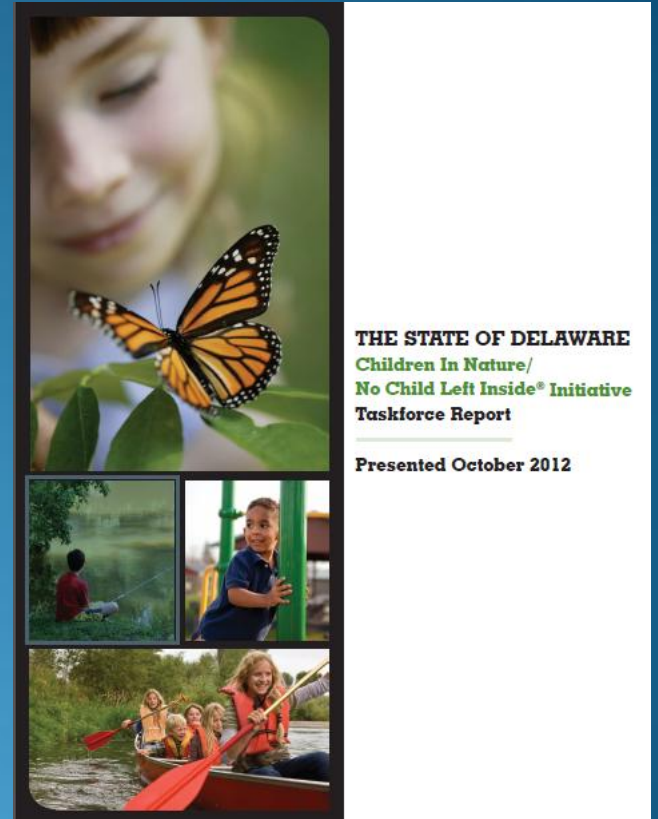


The Delaware Children in Nature Kickoff

featuring keynote speaker, author
Richard Louv

Held on Monday, October 1, 2012
7 - 8:30 p.m.

Delaware Technical and Community
College Conference Center
Terry Campus, 100 Campus Drive,
Dover, DE



Barriers

- The focus in schools is on Race to the Top
- Funding for implementation of plan
- Historically no unified voice for Environmental Education in Delaware, DAEE off to a great start
- Common Core in Math and Reading, and state testing in Reading and Math leaves little or no time for environmental sciences

Future Plans

- Delaware Department of Education and Delaware Department of Natural Resources will host an event to celebrate winners of the Green Ribbon Schools Program, Spring 2013
- Keep developing partners to help fund and support our efforts
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) will have Children in Nature Focus, will be released Spring 2013