



Education Update

September 2018

Last updated 9.10.18

Presentation Overview

- Review
 - February 13, 2017 Nature Education Presentation
 - Board's Motion
 - Terminology
- Public Programs
 - Evaluation
 - Implementation
- School Programs
 - Evaluation
 - Implementation
- Next Steps

Review - February 2017 Presentation

▪ ***Action Plan Summary for Recreation & Education Department:***

Goal: Create broader recreation and education programs that inspire more users to experience MCMP for the value it provides to the community.

Objectives :

Identify gaps in recreation and education services in the community, and develop programs to fill those needs.

Determine the current standards in place for educational programs and make changes to those programs to provide consistency across MetroParks departments.

<http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Mill-Creek-MetroParks-Strategic-Master-Plan-FINAL.pdf>

http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Action_Plan_Summary-1.pdf



Review – February 2017 Presentation

- ***The goal & objectives challenge us to:***
 - Meet objectives and goals set forth by the Strategic Master Plan adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners in 2013.
 - Work in a proactive manner to be as efficient and organized as possible.
 - Address outdated practices, improve long-range planning, better identify needs.
 - Be responsive to community needs identified in the Strategic Plan.

Review – February 2017 Presentation

- ***Actions to address goals & objectives:***

- Evaluate public program offerings against public needs, and fit to mission. Adjust public programming accordingly.
- Evaluate school program offerings against Ohio Learning Standards, the needs of community educators and students, and MCMP mission. Adjust school program offerings accordingly.
- Implement a comprehensive, park-wide, coordinated approach to interpretive (education) programming.

Review – Board Motion

▪ November 13, 2017

*“Jeff Harvey, and Kat Paull spoke regarding the Nature Education Standing Committee’s recommendation, from the October 10, 2017 Board Meeting, that all school programs offered by Mill Creek MetroParks can be **correlated with state standards**. Lee Frey motioned that the recommendation be accepted. Germaine Bennett seconded the motion. After discussion, and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:*

Voting Aye: Bennett, Frey, Frost, Ragan, Shipka

Voting Nay: None”

Note: <http://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Nov-13-2017-final-minutes.pdf>



Review – Terminology

■ **Public Program:**

Programs planned on a wide variety of topics for general or specific audiences,

Available to all visitors who have an interest in attending.

These programs are placed on our public calendar of events.

■ **School Program:**

Programs specifically planned for and offered to educators and their students.

School programs are not available to the general public.

They are not placed on our calendar of events.

School groups are diverse, including formal, non-formal, public, charter, private, homeschool, pre-K through adults, and special needs.



Mill Creek Metroparks strives to bring the best of environmental education to our school program offerings. We provide hands-on learning experiences outdoors throughout Mill Creek Metroparks or at your school.

- We welcome homeschool, scout, and other youth groups.
- Outreach Programs are held at your school (Mahoning County Schools only).
- Most programs can handle up to 60 students at a time, unless otherwise noted.
- Suggested chaperone ratio 1:10

Review – Terminology

- ***Correlation with State Standards:***

Process of identifying existing connections or relationships between each program element and the statements of required knowledge or skills in the Ohio Learning Standards.

- ***Alignment with State Standards***

Process of making adjustments to programs so that program elements or activities correlate in the best way possible - changing, moving, eliminating, developing activities or even whole programs.

Review – Terminology

- **Ohio's Learning Standards**

“Learning standards explain the knowledge and skills Ohio students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 need to have.”

“Ohio's Learning Standards emphasize skills like critical thinking and problem solving — qualities most sought by today's employers. By teaching our students to apply these skills to what they are learning in school, we can make sure they are on track to graduate from high school and enjoy success in college, careers and life.”

See: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/OLS-Graphic-Sections/Learning-Standards>

Public Programs

- ***Evaluation***

- Development of scoring factors for each public program:
 - Mission
 - Community Needs
 - Maximizing MCMP locations
- Identification of needed changes to public program areas

- ***Implementation***

- Incorporation of identified needs into public programs
 - Example: Summer Discovery Camps



School Programs – Overview

- ***Evaluation***

- Team Formation
- Streamlining
- Correlation

- ***Implementation***

- Revision
- Initial Development
- Participation



School Programs – Evaluation

- ***Team Formation***
- ***Streamlining***
 - Centralization of school program scheduling
 - Revision of teacher contact materials
 - Online request form
 - Online school program description/information

Scheduling Process

Please schedule **four weeks or more** in advance. Submit online form with program inquiry and a member of the education team will be in touch to schedule your program.

Fees

- Programs are free for Mahoning County schools
- Non-Mahoning County schools pay \$3/student, or \$20 minimum

 School Program Request Form



<https://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/school-programs/>

millcreekmetroparks.org

School Program Request Form

Thank you for your interest in bringing your group to Mill Creek MetroParks. Please fill out the form below and the Recreation & Education Department will get back you to schedule your trip.

Contact Information

Date of Submission *

School Name *

School District *

Contact person *

Work Phone *

Cell Phone (optional)

<https://www.millcreekmetroparks.org/school-program-form/>



millcreekmetroparks.org

School Programs – Evaluation

■ **Correlation**

- Comparison of school programs with Ohio's Learning Standards – Science content statements (2010)
 - Ohio approved revisions to the Learning Standards in February 2018
- Identification of programs currently meeting requested needs
- Identification of programs with promising alignment

Example of program element and OLS statement:

Seeds carry the beginnings of plants inside them. A seed has a seed coat covering it for protection. Inside, there is a baby plant. This baby plant is a living thing even while it is inside the seed. Seeds come in different shapes and sizes, and come from different locations according to the plant from which they came.

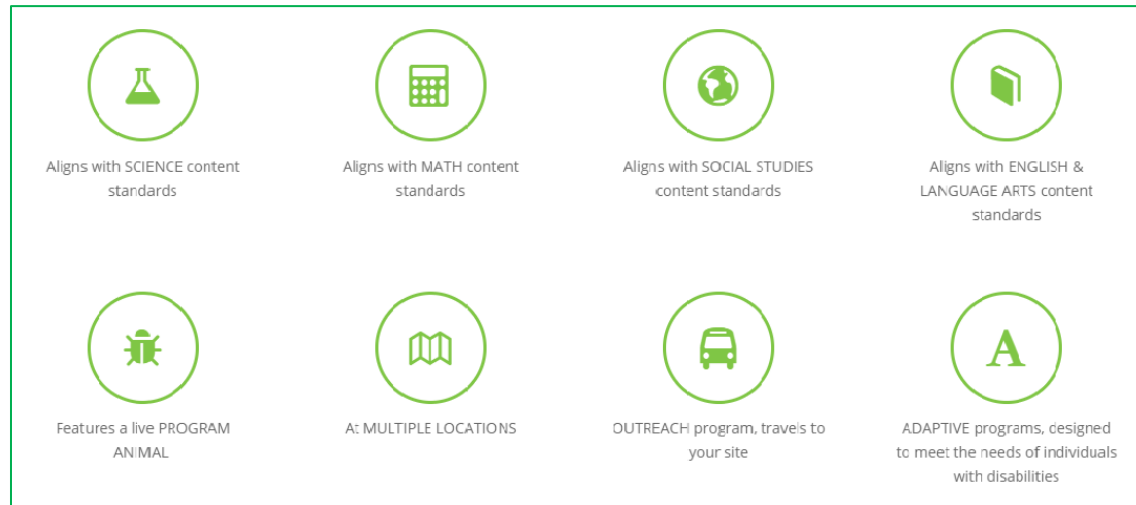
“K.LS.2: Living things have physical traits and behaviors, which influence their survival.”

2010 Science - <http://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Ohios-Learning-Standards/Science/ScienceStandards.pdf.aspx>
February 2018 revision overview - <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Learning-in-Ohio/Standard-Revision-Overview>

School Programs – Implementation

■ *Revision of school program activities to:*

- Accommodate alignment with Ohio's Learning Standards – Science
- Incorporate increased outdoor contact – 80-100%
- Incorporate best use of MCMP resources
- Inclusion of additional quality hands-on/ inquiry activities



Ohio's Learning Standards - Kindergarten - Grade 8 - Science Topic Index

			Daily & Seasonal Changes	Physical & Behavioral Traits of Living Things	Sun, Energy & Weather	Basic Needs of Living Things	The Atmosphere	Interactions with Habitats	Earth's Resources	Behavior, Growth & Changes	Earth's Surface	Earth's Living History	Cycles & Patterns in the Solar System	Interactions within Ecosystems	Rocks, Minerals
Super Seeds	K-1		K.LS.2	1.ESS.1	1.LS.1										
Nature Friends	1				1.LS.1 1.LS.2										
Habitat is Home	1-2				1.LS.2		2.LS.2								

Millin' Around

Kindergarten – Grade 1

A hands-on program that is especially geared for younger students. Learn how pioneer children lived and try your hand at grinding grain. Maximum number of students: 30

Length: 1 hour

Season: Autumn, Spring

Location: Lanterman's Mill

Max: 30 students



Habitat Is Home

Grades 1 – 2

Take an exciting journey through a variety of habitats. Learn what makes up a habitat and how these places meet the needs of the creatures within them. Make observations in local habitats to discover and investigate how animals and people interact with them.

Length: 1.5 hours

Season: Any



Super Seeds

Kindergarten – Grade 1

Students will explore the importance of seeds and learn how we use seeds every day. See and touch different colors, textures, and sizes of seeds and learn how seeds travel to new places to grow.

Length: 2 hours

Season: Autumn, Spring



Food Power Tower

Grade 2

Explore nutrition based on the current "MyPlate" guidelines. Students will discover the food groups and their sources on the farm. To reinforce food group concepts, students will play a food bingo game.

Length: 1 hour

Season: Any



Nature Friends

Grade 1

Meet real live nature friends with this hands-on adventure. Uncover the clues animals leave behind that tell us where they live and what they have been doing. Investigate how the surrounding environment helps fulfill wildlife's basic needs.

Length: 1.5 hours

Season: Any



School Programs – Implementation

- ***Initial Development of new School Programs***

- Upper Elementary Programs
- Focus on Land Forms & Ecosystems
- Collaboration with Youngstown City School District
 - Establishing a basis for working with other school districts within Mahoning County and beyond

- ***Participation in School Programs***

- 2013: 22,691 individuals
- 2014: 23,488 individuals
- 2015: 19,236 individuals
- 2016: 21,745 individuals
- 2017: 23,104 individuals
- 2018 (Jan-June): 10,187 individuals
- 2018 Requests for Autumn: 33 requests,
representing approximately 1500 students

Next Steps

▪ ***Public Programs***

- Continue to address identified needs & gaps in public programs
- Continuous evaluation and updating of public programs

▪ ***School Programs***

- Alignment completion
 - Adjust to 2018 Revised Ohio Learning Standards – Science
 - Extend alignment to Social Studies, Math, English & Language Arts.
- Additional School Program development to address identified needs
 - Launch of Upper Elementary Programs
 - Additional Middle School programs
 - New High School programs



EXPLORE. EXPERIENCE. ENJOY.

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