



Audubon MARYLAND-DC

State Office

Patterson Park Audubon Center
Important Bird Areas Program

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Laura Johnson Collard
Executive Director
Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education
7761 Waterloo Road
Jessup, Maryland 20794

February 26, 2013

Dear Ms. Collard,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Patterson Park Public Charter School (PPPCS) as they seek to become a Maryland Green School. Patterson Park Audubon Center has had a great partnership with the PPPCS since the school was founded, engaging hundreds of students in hands-on outdoor environmental education in Patterson Park, our best resource.

Every student in Pre-K through third grade experiences nature-based learning with Audubon, multiple times each year. In addition to helping PPPCS students meet Maryland's Environmental Literacy Standards, Audubon programs get kids excited about science and stimulate their curiosity in the natural world. PPPCS teachers have reported their students feel more comfortable in the outdoors and gain a better understanding of science concepts following their time with Audubon in Patterson Park. Their enthusiasm is translated in other areas as well – students better understand their place in the community and their community's place in the larger landscape. With this, students develop a greater sense of environmental stewardship by working locally, but thinking globally.

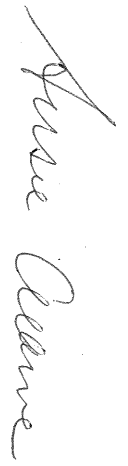
PPPCS students enthusiastically anticipate Audubon field trips each season and know to expect fun and learning, including important environmental lessons. Second graders explore bird migration by running through obstacle courses, competing for resources, and dodging predators, fully experiencing their struggles. Third graders examine the body parts of an insect and catch wild butterflies, grasshoppers, milkweed bugs, and praying mantises in their urban park habitat, observing them in their own hands. Kindergartners discover what trees need to survive, enact the life of the famous Wye Oak, sing about animals that rely on healthy trees, and make their own binoculars. Audubon classes also handle live reptiles, take real wildlife population data, explore varied habitats, and practice keeping our environment clean and green.

These activities, among others too numerous to list, produce young students who are mindful of their actions and how they might affect the world around them. They are eager to protect the outdoor spaces they've come to love and respect and the plants and animals that live there.

PPPCS is a strong partner of ours and always willing to support environmental activities. In spring 2013, the school is hosting community workshops led by Audubon: wildlife gardening at home and storm drain stenciling for leaders. The latter is a Baltimore Green Week event.

I highly recommend the Patterson Park Public Charter School for Maryland Green School status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susie Greamer".

Susie Greamer
Education Coordinator
Patterson Park Audubon Center