

**BCPS High School Forest Buffer Restoration Project
Office of Science/Outdoor Science Education
Fall 2008 and Spring 2009**

**To Students and Teachers of Environmental Science
and
Advanced Placement Environmental Science (APES)**

BCPS Outdoor Science is very excited to announce the fourth annual “BCPS Forest Buffer Restoration Projects” in which every high school in Baltimore County has the opportunity to participate. Last year, in the spring of 2008, almost 900 high school students from 18 Baltimore County Schools took part in the restoration effort which resulted in the planting over 700 native trees and shrubs. Our desire is to make this worthwhile project an annual event. The project is possible due to a joint partnership with BCPS, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, Baltimore County Forestry Board, and Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks. As in last year’s program, the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Forestry Board will provide funding for bus transportation, equipment, trees, and other necessary materials, while both the Forestry Board and Recreation and Parks will support the project with personnel. All of the tree plantings took place at school grounds, parks, or landfills located within the school community thus ensuring that the students would feel they were positively contributing to their community and impacting their neighborhood watersheds.

The BCPS Forest Buffer Restoration Projects provide important, authentic applications for the high school Environmental Science Forestry Unit and the Advanced Placement Environmental Science Stream Study. Students will not only have the opportunity to positively affect the environment, but they will also understand through classroom study why their work positively affects local streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

Every Baltimore County High School is invited to participate in both the Fall Forest Buffer Restoration Project and the Spring Forest Buffer Maintenance Project. We encourage teachers to involve as many environmental science and APES students as possible. We are hoping to provide maintenance for trees planted last year in the fall and plant at least 40 new trees per school in the spring. If the maintenance or restoration site is on your school campus, there is no limit to the number of students who may participate. If the restoration site is off campus, the number will be limited to 45 students and teachers due to bus capacity (although, we may be able to provide an additional bus if necessary). Depending on the location of the site, the restoration projects will only take about two hours and can be modified as needed. Equipment will be provided. It is our goal to have every BCPS High School participate in this valuable experience.

During the Forest Buffer Maintenance Project students will map the planting areas to show where the trees and shrubs were planted, complete a survival/mortality count, and perform maintenance on the plantings such as pruning and staking. These activities are taught in the Forestry Unit of the High School Environmental Science Curriculum. Outdoor Science has two maintenance kits with equipment and instructions that can be used to perform the necessary tasks. These kits will be delivered to schools with on-site restoration areas when requested. Buses will also be provided free of cost to provide transportation to and from off site restoration areas. Dates for these trips will be assigned as request forms are received.

Dates for the Fall Forest Buffer Restoration Project (tree and shrub plantings) may take place on the schoolyard or at an off-site area in October. The Spring Fall Forest Buffer Maintenance Project will be taking place in April.

BCPS Forest Buffer Restoration and Maintenance Project
Fall 2007
Maintenance and Mapping

Earlier this year, your students participated in the BCPS Forest Buffer Restoration Project. As part of this project, and as a requirement for the CBT grant, it is necessary to perform tree maintenance and to track the yearly survival rates of tree/shrub plantings. This Maintenance Project is an excellent experience for students in which they can see the full process of forest restoration as opposed to just planting trees and leaving without any follow-through work. The mapping component of the Maintenance Project is an authentic extension of the BCPS Environmental Science Forestry Unit in which students have the opportunity to apply their classroom learning to a real situation. In many cases, students will return to the same area year after year to plant and maintain the trees.

Buses and equipment will be supplied by the Office of Science through a Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant.

Please supply the following information in order to schedule a BCPS Forest Buffer Maintenance Project in the fall 2007.

School _____ School Tel. # _____

Restoration Teacher Liaison _____ Home Tel. # _____

Check one of the choices below and supply the necessary information:

_____ 1. I planted trees on my school campus and only need to borrow **tree maintenance equipment**
No bus is needed.

List 4 possible dates in September, October, or November when you wish to use the equipment.

_____ 2. I want to schedule a **bus** to transport students to the off-site planting area (tree maintenance equipment will be included). The activities should take approximately two hours or less.

List 4 dates from the time frames below when you wish to schedule a bus

September 10th - 28th - October 1st - 11th - November 5th - 9th

_____ 3. I do not wish to participate in the BCPS Forest Buffer Maintenance Project.

Return by email to Pat Ghingher at pghingher@bcps.org, or send through the BCPS interoffice mail to Pat Ghingher at the Office of Science, Pulaski Park.

Please contact me with any questions you might have regarding the BCPS Forest Buffer Restoration and Maintenance Project at the email above or by phone at (cell) 410-294-0426 or (office) 410-887-4251.

I look forward to working with you in the near future.

Pat

**BCPS High School Forest Buffer Restoration Project
Spring 2008**

**Environmental Science
and
Advanced Placement Environmental Science**

School _____

School Phone Number _____

Approximate Number of Students Participating _____

On-Site or Off-Site Planting _____

AM or PM Trip (trip takes approximately 3 hours door to door) _____

Restoration Liaison's Name _____

Restoration Liaison's Email _____