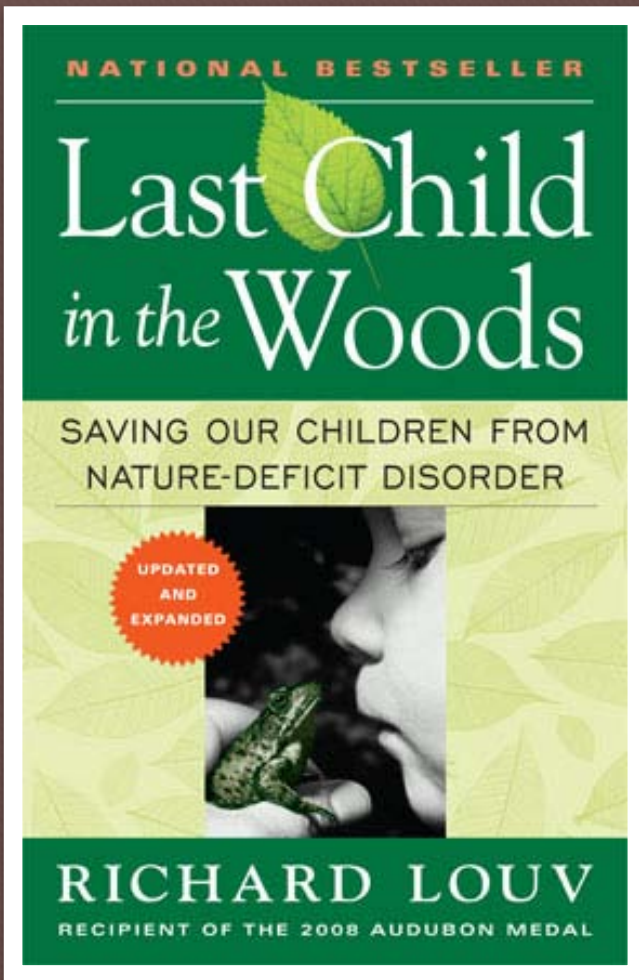
A stylized, light-colored illustration of a plant with several leaves and a cluster of small, round fruits or berries, positioned on the left side of the slide.

Using the Principals of the **“Children & Nature Network”** to Provide Outreach in Local Communities

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Nature Deficit Disorder

Hypothesis made by Richard Louv that the decrease in children and adults spending time outdoors has led to an increase in behavioral and physical problems.

- ADHD
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Obesity

“The woods were my Ritalin.
Nature calmed me, focused me, and
yet excited my senses.”

— Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*



Photo Credit Life on the Edge 2009



Vision

A world in which all children play, learn and grow with nature in their everyday lives.

Mission

The Children & Nature Network is leading the movement to connect all children, their families and communities to nature through innovative ideas, evidence-based resources and tools, broad-based collaboration and support of grassroots leadership.



D E L A W A R E Children in Nature

Vision

Delaware will be recognized as a leader in environmental education for all of the state's children. At school and at home, in parks, backyards and other outdoor spaces, children and adults will experience a multitude of ways to improve health and well-being and enhance life-long learning through encounters with and growing knowledge of the natural world. No child will grow up without having had a positive outdoor experience. All families will have access to green spaces. Children will reconnect with the natural world in meaningful ways and there will be no child left inside!

Mission

To improve environmental literacy, create opportunities for children to participate in outdoor experiences, promote healthy lifestyles and provide better access to green space through schools and community programs.

Roadblocks for Resource Managers

- The common issues I have run into:
 - Apathy
 - Economics
 - Distrust in Government Control
 - Misinformation
 - Disconnection





Hypothesis

Planning events to share your research with the end goal of getting children and families back outside will provide the following benefits to your community:

- 1) A reconnection to the resource
- 2) Healthy communities
- 3) Informed citizens
- 4) An increase in the likelihood that your research will be used in the decision making process



Make a Splash

Mission Statement: To engage Delaware's 4th grade students in exploring Delaware's water resources (past and present) through hands-on activities which are focused on the Delaware Land and Water and Delaware State History educational Units.

Objectives:

Students participating in this event will be:

- 1) aware that water moves in a cycle;
- 2) aware that impacts to the headwaters of our rivers and streams will ultimately impact the waterbodies downstream (such as our estuaries);
- 3) aware of historical water use (specific to the 18th century) and how those uses impact us today; and,
- 4) aware of how water access, availability, and use impact land use decisions.



Watershed Festival

For example, after completing an assessment on the health of a watershed hold an outdoor event within the watershed. At the event include activities like:

- Canoeing
- Nature Hikes
- Activities on how the members of the community can improve their watershed
 - Rain Barrel Building
 - Planting Native Species

These connections and firsthand learning experiences help to foster a sense of ownership, which leads to personal action and the eventual improvement of the watershed.



Questions?

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