

From: [Ana Lee](#)
To: boe@hcpss.org; [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Education Budget Cuts
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 12:42:44 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Ana Lee

Respass, Charity

From: Brianna Pecore <brianna_pecore@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 1:19 PM
To: Ball, Calvin; CouncilMail; boe@hcpss.org
Subject: PLEASE READ

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Thanks

Brianna Pecore

From: [Brittany A. Franckowiak](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Support for Environmental Education in HCPSS
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 8:16:13 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Honored County Council Members:

I am in my 13th year teaching biology here in HCPSS, & I am writing to express my disappointment over proposed cuts to funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate KNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Ann Strozyk is an award-winning environmental educator who has created exceptional, rigorous programming for students of all ages. Every year Ms. Strozyk joins my 9th & 10th grade students at the Faulkner Ridge stream for an authentic watershed assessment. She coordinates volunteers, equipment, and set-up at our field site. Without her expertise and labor, this field experience will not exist for my students at WLHS; I lack the time and capacity in my position as a full time classroom teacher to create that experience for our students. Ms. Strozyk facilitates essential collaboration between science educators at different HCPSS schools and leads enriching professional learning for secondary science.

It is, quite frankly, astonishing to me that HCPSS is even considering eliminating resources for environmental literacy at this particular historical moment. Most Maryland school systems have invested resources into operating their own environmental education center. HCPSS is fortunate enough to be able to participate in an efficient partnership with the Howard County Conservancy.

Our students are inheriting a planet in dire need of intensive stewardship & evidence-based interventions to slow the unfolding catastrophe of human-caused climate change. Our students inherit this incredible burden because current & preceding generations of adults have failed to prioritize the well-being of future generations. Eliminating funding for an environmental educator would be yet another short-sighted disservice to our young people. The least we can do now is continue to invest resources to ensure that students have the knowledge & experience they need to manage the climate crisis we've created.

B. Franckowiak (she/hers & they/them; [why I include my pronouns](#))
B.S., M.A.T., M.S., National Board Certified Teacher

Wilde Lake High School:

AP Biology / Biology GT / LGBTQ+ Studies
Teacher Development Liaison
Co-advisor, Gender/Sexuality Allyship

Please note that my working hours are from 6:50AM until 2:45PM, Monday through Friday. Thank you for not expecting immediate responses from me during evenings, weekends, or holidays.

From: [Dr. Chao Wu](#)
To: [BoE Email](#)
Cc: [Michael Martirano](#); [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: please keep the FTEs for Robinson nature center and HoCo Conservancy
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 8:21:38 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Board Members,

I heard that there would be potential cuts of 2 positions due to budget constraints. Please find other ways to balance and keep these two long established positions. These two positions have been so helpful for HCPSS's curriculum.

Thank you.

Chao

Chao Wu, *PhD*
Maryland House of Delegate, District 9A
website: <https://www.chaowu.org>
Official website: [Members - Delegate Chao Wu \(maryland.gov\)](#)

From: [Drew Carlson](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Proposal to cut funding for the Environmental Educator Position
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 8:03:29 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Council Members,

Yesterday, I learned of a proposal to cut funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy, so today I write this letter that I could have never imagined I would need to do given my knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the myriad educational opportunities that this small investment has generated for our children in Howard County. Shortly after I retired in 2019, I volunteered to help with the Watershed Report Card program. Your Educator at the Conservancy, Ann Strozyk, provided coherent, practical, and effective instruction for my role that was complemented by my shadowing of more-experienced volunteers whose respect for her leadership abilities and organization skills was always evident.

In the last two years I also helped with the middle school climate curriculum as it developed from a pilot program in 2021-2022 to this year's effort that amazingly offered the program to every sixth grader in Howard County. In the development of this program, I witnessed Ann's exceptional skills in her interactions with students, teachers, volunteers, and conservancy staff. In designing this program, your Environmental Educator sought input from all these stakeholders to develop what I strongly believe is a highly effective program. She also had to recruit many new volunteers since more than fifty are needed to support this unique and valuable opportunity for our children.

In closing, I cannot state my disagreement with the proposal to cut the funding for the Environmental Educator position strongly enough. As a proud parent of two HCPSS graduates, I regard the proposal as best "penny wise and pound foolish", and at worst a major blow to one of the premier school systems in our Nation.

Sincerely,

Drew E. Carlson

3706 Chateau Ridge Drive

Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

From: [Erika Wunderlich-Hite](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#); [BoE Email](#)
Subject: proposed Environmental Educator budget cut
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 8:03:49 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. I am a science teacher and have seen firsthand the benefits of this position for our students and educators. When I started teaching in HCPSS 20 years ago, we had no nature center and no centralized environmental education program, unlike most of the surrounding school districts with robust offerings. I have been thrilled to see our environmental education program grow and flourish. As I network with teachers from other districts, many of them have complimented our high school Watershed program, which I have participated in as a Biology teacher.

Cutting this position would undermine our efforts to meet the state requirement for environmental education and would leave HCPSS teachers and students without enough support to provide quality environmental education. With the effects of climate change looming, and an urgent need to educate and empower young people to combat it, cutting this position would be a mistake.

It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Erika Hite

Mrs. Erika Hite, NBCT (she/her)
Science Teacher, SNHS Advisor
Wilde Lake High School
@MrsH_sci

From: [F.Keenan](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#); boe@hcpss.org; [Ball, Calvin](#)
Subject: Keep Environmental Education position
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 12:05:54 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Elected Officials -

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Also, while I understand budget decisions are extremely difficult, we need to strongly consider the formulas and assumptions that are used when calculating fees developers pay and our mix of proposed commercial v. residential growth. The County is on an unsustainable path unless APFO is further strengthened.

Sincerely,

Frances Keenan

From: [Hampson Fields](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Critical Funding for Environmental Education
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 8:15:08 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Hamp Fields

From: [Jake Burdett](#)
To: [Jacquelin McCoy@hcpss.org](mailto:Jacquelin_McCoy@hcpss.org); [Robyn Scates@hcpss.org](mailto:Robyn_Scates@hcpss.org); antonia_watts@hcpss.org; [CouncilMail](#);
jennifer_mallo@hcpss.org; jolene_mosley@hcpss.org; linfeng_chen@hcpss.org; student_member@hcpss.org;
yun_lu@hcpss.org
Subject: Don't Cut HCPSS Environmental Educator Position
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 10:09:37 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

As a proud resident of **District 3** in Howard County for 20 years, I have seen the impact of our environmental education curriculum on the children and neighborhoods of Howard County. I implore you to keep the position of the Howard County Public School System Environmental Educator. The position is crucial to inspiring our youth to care for the planet and is mandatory to help meet local, state and federal environmental and stewardship laws and regulations. As a shared position with the Howard County Conservancy, it is a brilliant example of how public private partnerships can work effectively.

Ann Strozyk the current Environmental Educator, has been educating young minds for over 25 years, educating 20,000 students a year for 13 years and receiving many awards including the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators from the EPA, the Above and Beyond Award from MD DNR, the Carl Weber Award, the Crystal Flame Award from HCPSS, the STEM Educator of the Year from Tech Council of Maryland, and the Robinson Foundation Green Footprint Award from Robinson Foundation. Ann initiated programs in the county including schoolyard Assessments and Stream Surveys, the Howard County Watershed Report Card (WRC) and developed lessons that aligned with the Common Core, Next Generation Science Standards, and Environmental Literacy. She has helped secure DNR, NOAA, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation grants which have allowed for expanded programs such as the Youth Climate Institute. When taken together, these facts show that one educator position elevated our school system nationally and put it on the cutting edge of environmental education and climate conservation.

The position also has a huge impact on our local children and the future of our planet.

Sincerely,
Jake Burdett

From: [Jake Burdett](#)
To: [Jacquelin_McCoy@hcpss.org](#); [Robyn_Scates@hcpss.org](#); [antonia_watts@hcpss.org](#); [CouncilMail](#);
[jennifer_mallo@hcpss.org](#); [jolene_mosley@hcpss.org](#); [linfeng_chen@hcpss.org](#); [student_member@hcpss.org](#);
[yun_lu@hcpss.org](#)
Subject: Re: Don't Cut HCPSS Environmental Educator Position
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 10:27:45 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Resident of District 1*

On Wed, May 24, 2023 at 10:09 AM Jake Burdett <jakeburdett11@gmail.com> wrote:

As a proud resident of **District 3** in Howard County for 20 years, I have seen the impact of our environmental education curriculum on the children and neighborhoods of Howard County. I implore you to keep the position of the Howard County Public School System Environmental Educator. The position is crucial to inspiring our youth to care for the planet and is mandatory to help meet local, state and federal environmental and stewardship laws and regulations. As a shared position with the Howard County Conservancy, it is a brilliant example of how public private partnerships can work effectively.

Ann Strozyk the current Environmental Educator, has been educating young minds for over 25 years, educating 20,000 students a year for 13 years and receiving many awards including the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators from the EPA, the Above and Beyond Award from MD DNR, the Carl Weber Award, the Crystal Flame Award from HCPSS, the STEM Educator of the Year from Tech Council of Maryland, and the Robinson Foundation Green Footprint Award from Robinson Foundation. Ann initiated programs in the county including schoolyard Assessments and Stream Surveys, the Howard County Watershed Report Card (WRC) and developed lessons that aligned with the Common Core, Next Generation Science Standards, and Environmental Literacy. She has helped secure DNR, NOAA, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation grants which have allowed for expanded programs such as the Youth Climate Institute. When taken together, these facts show that one educator position elevated our school system nationally and put it on the cutting edge of environmental education and climate conservation.

The position also has a huge impact on our local children and the future of our planet.

Sincerely,
Jake Burdett

From: [Jana Borahay](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: A Student's Perspective on a Prospective Cut
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 8:10:57 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hello and Good Morning to the Howard County Council!

I am Jana Borahay, a sophomore at Marriotts Ridge High School.

I am writing this email to talk about my perspective of the prospective cut for the Environmental Educator position, which would impact the work of one of the Youth Climate Institute's leaders, Mrs. Strozyk.

For me, the Youth Climate Institute helped me personally in establishing friendship. I am naturally a shy person, I find it hard to establish close relationships with anyone, in part because I find it hard to be vulnerable.

YCI offers a multitude of volunteer opportunities, and one of them that I have engaged in is tree-planting.

While planting trees, I worked with students from other high schools, and through this, I conversed with them. The thing is, this time was different than other times I tried to talk to others.

Normally when I try to make friends, the conversations end awkwardly, in part because I can't find anything to talk about.

This time, everything was different, because two students in particular, I immediately found out they took the same classes as I did, and they have the same interests as I do, interests that I normally don't talk about with others because I can't find anyone interested in them.

The conversation with these new peers flowed so eloquently, I felt very comfortable talking in their presence, it was as if I found my twins! I exchanged numbers with them, and despite that we go to different schools, I talk to them daily and I am truly elated that I found peers to be myself around. I credit YCI for helping me find these friends.

Please don't cut the Environmental Educator position, the work done by Mrs. Strozyk is very useful, not only for the environment, but also for establishing close relationships in the community.

From,

Jana

From: [Janine Pollack](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Fully fund environmental educator position at HoCo Conservancy
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 8:25:28 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council Members,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. My son was also a participant in the student-led assessment that developed recommendations for Ellicott City under Ms. Strozyk's guidance. The culmination of their efforts was the student team presenting their findings to County Executive Calvin Ball. These sorts of opportunities are invaluable for our children and help develop our leaders of tomorrow. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Janine Pollack

Respass, Charity

From: Joanne Winters <jwinters6347@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 9:46 AM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Statement of Support for Ann Strozyk

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Hi!

My name is Joanne Winters and I am a retired Educator from the Howard County school district. I am writing to ask that you continue funding to support environmental education. I have volunteered at the Howard County Conservancy for the past ten years and can tell you that the field trips that we support are wonderful. So many students have told me that it is the best field trip they have ever been on. (Especially when they get to rate the health of a stream. The watershed program that Ann Strozyk runs is fantastic!)

So please support this program and Ann Strozyk who does a remarkable job for the students of Howard County.

Joanne Winters

From: [Kurt Schwarz](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Please Help Preserve Funding for the Environmental Educator at the Howard County Conservancy
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 12:14:40 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Members of the Howard County Council:

The Maryland Ornithological Society and its Howard County Chapter, the Howard County Bird Club, are very disappointed that the Howard County Board for Education proposes to cut the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy. Howard County, unlike most other counties, does not have a school system-funded environmental education center, and this position at the Conservancy provides a very cost-effective means of meeting state-mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements.

Our environment is in crisis, as we in the birding world have observed. In North America, we have lost almost a third of our birds since the 1970s. This is caused by habitat destruction and fragmentation, climate change and sea-level rise, invasive species, collisions with glass, pesticides, etc. We can only imagine what losses are occurring among other less-studied classes of wildlife such as insects, other invertebrates, plants, fungi, etc.

Our students need to learn about threats to the environment, so they can hopefully advocate to mitigate and perhaps even reverse these environmental declines. The state mandates environmental literacy, and the position of Environmental Educator at the Howard County Conservancy not only addresses that requirement, but does so in a very cost-effective manner. We urge the Board of Education to reconsider and restore funding to this position.

Kurt R. Schwarz
Conservation Chair Emeritus
Maryland Ornithological Society
Howard County Bird Club
7329 Wildwood Court
Columbia, MD 21046
krschwal@verizon.net
410-461-1643

From: [Maia Boswell](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Cutting the Environmental Educator Position
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 9:12:41 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Good evening Howard County Council,

I am one of your many constituents and a 17 year old high school student in Howard County. The Board of Education's recent considerations of cutting many valuable positions, considering that of the Environmental Educator position, is extremely upsetting for me and many other youth in our community. I have been so lucky as to work with Ms. Ann Strozyk, our Environmental Educator, for two years now. Her role is vital to creating the next generation of climate advocates and even further, students who genuinely understand how their actions impact the environment. In the time of the impending climate crisis, people like Ms. Strozyk are necessary to protect our planet. Incredible county programs such as the Watershed Summit and Report Cards, or the Youth Climate Institute, are clear signs of Ms. Strozyk's massive impact on the youth. Environmental education in this time is so necessary, and blocking youth from receiving this education by removing this position is doing this county's youth a major disservice. If anything, we need ADDITIONAL climate education. Our county is a leader in environmental progress, and cutting this position is, frankly, a slap in the face to the major steps we've taken.

My time in the Youth Climate Institute has been nothing but valuable. I attend seminars with guest speakers in a variety of sectors: waste management, weather patterns, bird-safe buildings, and more. I am generously provided with connections to legislators and other advocates who are paving the way with their respective environmental bills. I have met what I know will be forever friends who are passionate in so many categories of environmental justice and are inspirations at their young age. I am surrounded by supportive mentors who help me find the right path to environmental justice. None of this would be possible without the work of Ann Strozyk.

My personal testimony is not unique whatsoever; so many youth have received the unfailing guidance of Ms. Strozyk. Ms. Strozyk is the cornerstone to educating Howard County's youth about the environment.

Please continue her position, which is therefore continuing the education of Howard County's youth in our environment. Now is the time that we need more education, not less.

Thank you,
Maia Boswell

From: [Marti Ellerbrock](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Environmental Education Budget
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 6:17:13 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Marti Ellerbrock

From: [Pey Lian Lim](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Continue funding Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 1:18:39 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Howard County Council,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,
Pey Lian Lim

From: mullers2@verizon.net
To: [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#); boe@hcpss.org
Subject: Environmental Educator Funding
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 11:03:27 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

I am writing to express our disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. We hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Robert Muller and Margie Reyes

8814 Sandrope ct.Columbia

From: [Robin Todd](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Keep funding the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 9:02:39 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council,

I am absolutely shocked to learn that the County has proposed cutting the funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy. Howard County Bird Club members have frequently seen how effective this program is while we are birding at the Mount Pleasant property. Many of these kids do not understand or appreciate the natural world until they are taken on a Conservancy field trip. The prevalence of smart phones, social media and other distractions mean that today's youngsters are often disconnected from nature. Given the many dire threats to our natural world, there is a huge need for the next generation of environmental stewards. This program plants the seeds for this next generation. Please ensure that funding for this program is maintained.

Sincerely,

Robin G. Todd PhD
Chair, Howard County Bird Club Conservation Committee
(HCBC is a Chapter of the MD Ornithological Society)
410-491-5333
10174 Green Clover Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042

From: [Sara Smith](#)
To: boe@hcpss.org; [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Howard County Conservancy Budget cuts
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 8:31:59 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Leaders,

I was surprised and disappointed to hear that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. I can't think of a more important educational goal than supporting our next generations of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader in Climate and Ecological education. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Most Sincerely,

Sara Smith

Community Member, Family Nature Club Leader, Parent

From: [Stephanie Oberle](#)
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Subject: Support Environmental Literacy!
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 6:37:26 AM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements.

Environmental literacy is essential to teach our kids to understand science, examine data, and take wise action as environmental stewards. In this critical time of climate change, we need to ensure our kids care for the land, so that the land can care for us.

Neighboring jurisdictions invest much more in informal science education. I work in Montgomery County, which supports two public gardens, five nature centers, and an MCPS run outdoor education center. Each facility funds multiple science educators who run programs designed to connect kids to nature through meaningful outdoor experiences.

Please continue to fund this critical position.

Stephanie Oberle
7018 Newberry Drive
Columbia, MD 21044

From: fultonse3@gmail.com
To: [Ball, Calvin](#); [CouncilMail](#); boa@hcpps.org
Subject: Environmental Education at the HoCo Conservancy
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 4:42:31 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Executive Calvin Ball, the HoCo Board of Education and the HoCo Council, I am writing to express my disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWLEDge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader. I hope you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students. As we face a critical climate crisis, we cannot go backward on the environment

Sincerely,

Susan Fulton
5005 Durham Rd. East
Columbia, MD 21044

From: merkfam2@verizon.net
To: [CouncilMail](#)
Cc: meg.boyd@howardnature.org
Subject: Environmental Educator - Howard County Conservancy
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023 2:09:40 PM

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear County Council Members,
I am writing to express my EXTREME disappointment that funding for the Environmental Educator position at the Howard County Conservancy is proposed to be cut. This position is essential to HCPSS's ability to meet the state mandated environmental literacy graduation requirements. Programs like the countywide Watershed Report Card, Climate kNOWledge and Youth Climate Institute rely on this position to provide hands-on STEM learning for ALL county students. It is essential that we support our next generation of environmental stewards across the Howard County Public School System and position Howard County as a leader.

It is inconceivable to me how the Board of Education or the County Council can even consider eliminating funding for this position. I challenge you to find another HCPSS position or program that makes better use of county funding to provide thousands of students with a positive environmental sciences learning experience.

I trust you will reconsider funding this critically important program for our county students.

Sincerely,

Woody Merkle
Volunteer Naturalist - Howard County Conservancy
Past Chair - Howard County Personnel Board