

## Berlin School Forest Needs Assessment

Name: Berlin Area School District Results Position: Teachers K-12  
School: \_\_\_\_\_ Subjects Taught: \_\_\_\_\_

### School Forest Use

1. Do you know that the school district has three school forests? 43 yes 54 no

Check the school forests you are aware of:

Pine Bluff (Hwy. E)  $79/97 = 81\%$

Hunter Street Pine Plantation (near Walmart)  $61/97 = 63\%$

Seward Family Memorial (by Mascoutin)  $62/97 = 64\%$

2. Are you currently using or do you intend to use one of the school forest this year?

48 yes 49 no

If yes, how many times did /will you take students to the school forests this year, and which school forest property did/will you utilize?

Pine Bluff = 58 times

Hunter Street = 4 times

Seward = 7 times

3. Did you ever encounter problems that prevented your use of the school forests?

12 yes 85 no

If yes, what were the problems?

Weather/rain Gate was closed and locked.

Timing/scheduling/availability

Not enough staff to put students in small groups.

Bathroom Facilities

Asian Beetles

Lack of trails

Inadequate facilities for handicapped individuals

4. If you are not currently utilizing all three school forests properties, do you have an interest in doing so?

43 yes 54 no

### School Forest Facilities

1. Are the current facilities at the school forests adequate? 61 yes 36 no

2. The following is a list of potential improvements to the school forest. Check all of the improvements that will enhance your use of the school forest.

34 Create trails

37 Improve existing trails (clear and make accessible)

28 Develop new trails

62 Create a trail map for each site

42 Prepare map of the three school forest and directions to get there

44 Develop tree tours for each school forest

18 Improve/create a parking lot at each school forest

63 Build restrooms at each school forest

47 Build an education classroom

- 52 Build an education shelter
- 26 Develop a cross-country/snowshoeing trail
- 32 Develop a fitness course
- 15 Pursue timber sales and harvesting practices
- 5 Others – Please list: Archery Range Nature Trails ID Guides in Binder  
Bird Release Center Indoor Facility

### **School Forest Logistics**

What areas do you feel need to be improved to better utilize the school forests?

- 6 Transportation to and from the school forest
  - Suggestions: District transportation budget for school forests.
  - Cost of transportation
  - Raise money for transportation
  
- 11 Scheduling of classes at the school forest
  - Suggestions: High School forest buddies to assist teachers/teach mini-lessons
  - School Forest scope and sequence
  - Dates determined at beginning of school year.
  - Subs for art and music teachers so they can attend with classes.
  - Put schedule on the district shared drive
  - Introductory activity for teachers using the forest the first time.
  - Ropes course used by a variety of high school classes.
  - Information on how to schedule a trip to school forest.
  
- 6 Safety considerations while at the school forests
  - Suggestions: Two way radios for communication from top and bottom of bluff
  - Cell phone and first aid kit on site. Bee sting epi-pens.
  - Trails/bathrooms assessable to handicapped students.
  - More wood chips on existing trails
  - Shelter for inclement weather.
  
- 8 Others – Please list: Bathrooms: some people have physical challenges that require clean, nearby facilities.
- Field trips to school forest for teachers – staff development
- Encourage parochial schools to use school forests.
- More staff to keep student/teacher ratio low.
- Bathrooms: some people have physical challenges that require clean, nearby facilities.
- Ideas of how forests can be incorporated into specific course areas.

### **School Forest Equipment and Materials**

Please list materials and equipment that would enhance your activities at the school forest:

- Arial maps of three school forests
- More seating available
- Snowshoes
- Smaller drawing/dry erase boards
- Labeled trees and plants
- Grade level specific activities
- First Aid equipment housed on site
- Indoor shelter for winter
- Library books/videos about environment.
- Equipment for students with physical disabilities.
- Shelter with a ramp entrance.
- Archery targets.
- Storage space for equipment on-site.
- Education building with lab for chemical analysis of water, soil, etc.
- Tree ID tour with markers.
- Meter markers on trails.
- Running water on site: well
- Binoculars
- Compass
- Environmental educator (Pat Arndt) out there part or full time to assist teachers/teach

### **Professional Development**

Do you feel you have enough knowledge of natural resources and environmental education (forestry, soils, water, wildlife, etc) to effectively utilize the school forest?

46 yes 51 no

On what topics would you like more information?

- All of the above topics: forestry, soils, water, wildlife
- Have packets/ID guides of information available on various topics

Which professional development opportunities would be most valuable to you (select as many as you wish)?

- 36 Content (background information of forests, wildlife, water, soils, etc.)
- 45 Outdoor education methods
- 18 Environmental Education (background on EE, how can it be used, state EE standards)
- 28 Environmental Education curriculum (e.g. LEAF, PLT, WET, WILD)
- 11 Forest Management
- 4 School Forest Development and Administration
- 3 Other – Please list \_\_\_\_\_

- High Ropes Course for staff during in-service.
- Low Ropes Course training.
- Ideas to tie outdoor education into curriculum