

**PEC**

Advancing Education  
Programming

# Park for Every Classroom: Advancing Education Programming

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### Objectives:

- Understand the SAMA/SAIR/ENHA partnership as it evolved with Park for Every Classroom
- Consider ways you could apply model through partnerships in your own professional communities



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### Opportunity for Partnership:

- NER Pilot 2011: Park for Every Classroom  
→ provides opportunity to meet goals by training teachers to use parks/public lands/community resources with students



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### Challenge:

- PEC based on a collaborative, partnership model → need for a community partner and teacher
- Essex Heritage is great fit → shared goal (connecting people to place) and established partnership, BUT they do not have a designated education person



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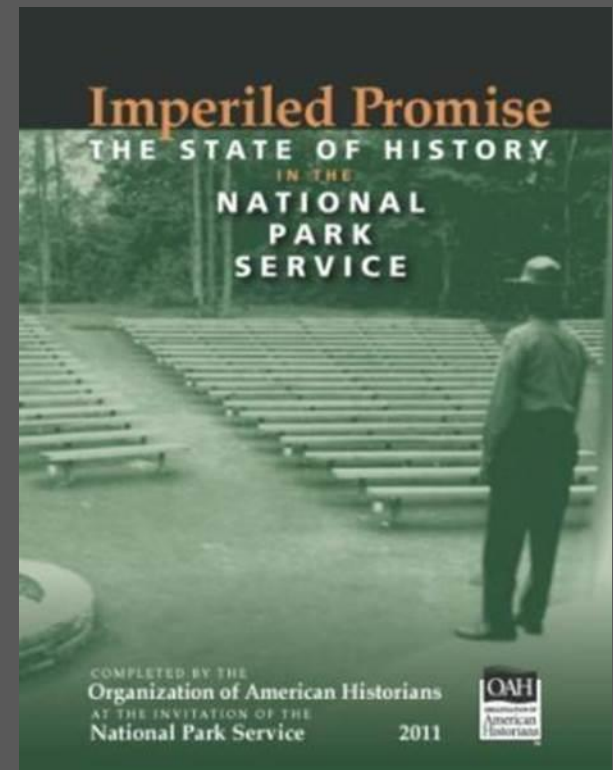
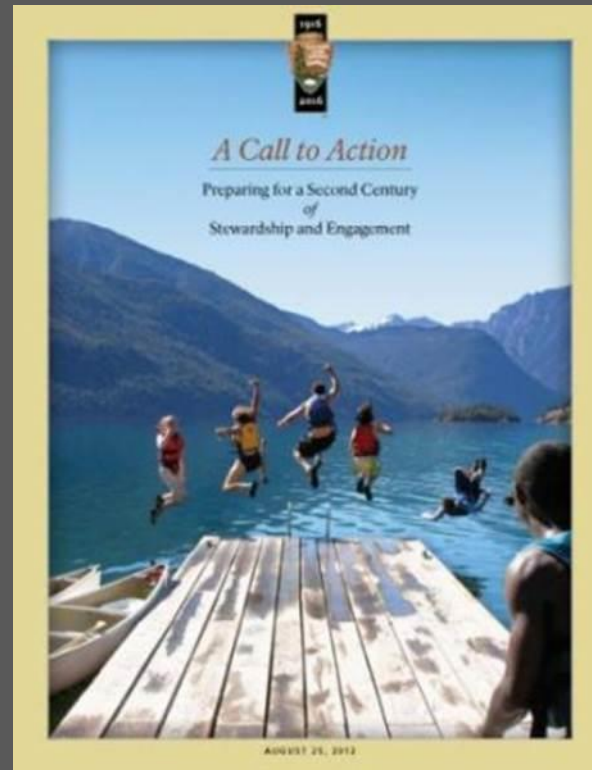
### Advancing Education Programming

## Documents Inspire Partnership

- Desire and broader vision to expand education programming and the use of parks as places of learning



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## Transformative Vision Inspires Partnership:

- “...the NPS must collaborate with partners and education institutions to: expand NPS education programs and the use of parks as places of learning.” ~A Call to Action
- “...strengthen collaborations with partners, including community nonprofit organizations, and teachers at every level, to research and develop educational services and programs in and related to the parks and their natural and cultural surroundings.” ~Advancing the National Park Idea
- “...expand interpretive frames beyond existing physical resources...emphasize connections of parks with the larger histories beyond their boundaries.” ~Imperiled Promise



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### Proposed Solution:

- Acting Superintendent (willing to try new things) proposes that Beth, who has been working as a NPS consultant, is to take on role of community partner representing Essex Heritage



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# What is Park for Every Classroom?

## Teacher Professional Development:

- Week-long Summer Teacher Workshop
- Strong reliance on partnerships
- Implement and document PBSL projects



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PLACE



ACADEMIC RIGOR



SERVICE



Community Engagement  
Through Partnership



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## Partnership Learning Curve:

- Essex Heritage
- NPS
- Teachers/Schools
- Higher education
- Other historic, natural resource based organizations in heritage area



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## Partnership Challenges:

- Stay within park, or broaden vision of PEC to include heritage area resources
- Time
- Communication
- Roles



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## Solutions:

- Being flexible and adaptive, willing to change course when needed
- Partnership models and training
- Building on prior experience and try new things
- Previous working relationship



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## Who benefits?

Teachers:

- The workshop serves them professionally, but also nurtures them personally → find and reflect on their own connections to place



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## Who benefits?

### Students:

- “It is different learning outside. When you are in the classroom learning, the teacher teaches the information. But, when we’re outside we are teaching it to ourselves.”



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## Who benefits?

### Community

- Open Space Committee uses work with students to justify funding for bridge on trails project- students' civic engagement results in support for this funding.



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**DAILY NEWS**  
www.newburyportnews.com

February 14, 2013

### Riverbend Trail plans win backing for CPA funds

#### Sixth-graders use area as backyard resource

**BY JENNIFER SOLIS**  
CORRESPONDENT

WEST NEWBURY — A plan to build a boardwalk and bridge along the 129-acre Riverbend Trail network behind Page Elementary School is one step closer to becoming a reality.





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## Who benefits?

### Park and Heritage Area:

- Force-multiplier → hundreds more students engaged in resources than we could ever have done individually!



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## How do we know? They tell us so!

Role of the NPS as an educational institution and parks as places of learning is strengthened.

*"I didn't know the national parks had great capacity to train teachers. They did an outstanding job connecting the teachers to the national parks."*

Teachers view SAMA/SAIR/ENHA as a valuable teaching resource.

*"I value the National Park Service so much more now-I feel I have overlooked, underappreciated them-now I just want to use them so much more!"*

Students' awareness of local resources increases and are engaged in activities that lead to stewardship.

*"We could be the people that change our whole community. This could be the year people find out about the trails."*

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## Sustaining Partnership:

- Partnership is attractive to grant funders
- PEC becomes part of NPS budget
- Essex Heritage hires Beth
- Barriers with teachers, schools, sites
- How can we make more progress?



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