



**Nature, Children and Families:
A Necessary Connection**

Friday, April 4th, 2008

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

MacMillan Auditorium, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

ABOUT THIS CONFERENCE

Can a tree planted in a public space really make a difference in the lives of local residents? Is it true, children who spend more time outside pay better attention inside? What is the connection between exposure to nature and increased test scores? How can we best share current research with public officials and community leaders?

Enhance your professional knowledge, widen your network and gain a deeper understanding of the emerging trends that support nature's impact on the health, safety, development and socialization of children, families and communities. Meet national and regional experts in the field ready to share their knowledge and best practices. Enjoy a day at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum!

KEYNOTE: Dr. Andrea Faber Taylor



Child Environment and Behavior Researcher from the famed Landscape and Human Health Laboratory at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign will present systematic evidence of the developmental benefits of green space for children, families and communities. Dr. Faber Taylor's research provides a rich understanding on the effects nature has on all children, as well as children living in impoverished public housing and those coping with

AD/HD. Following the morning keynote, Dr. Andrea Faber Taylor will present an afternoon session for those interested in translating and citing current research in support of specific public and private projects.

Including presentations by:

- Dr. Martha Farrell Erickson, Director, Harris Programs (Center for Early Education & Development); Co-Chair, President's Academic Initiative on Children, Youth & Families, University of Minnesota; National Board Member, Richard Louv's Children and Nature Network; international speaker, widely published author, television commentator and radio host.

- Nancy Rosenow, Executive Director, Dimensions Education Research Foundation, Lincoln, Nebraska; Nature Explore Design Consultant; Early Childhood Educator and published author whose work was recently featured in the journal *Young Children*.

Who should attend? Join educators, health care professionals, community leaders, policy

makers, designers, urban planners, public housing officials, open space advocates, outdoor recreation, parks and environmental specialists, children and youth practitioners and concerned citizens alike for what promises to be an enriching day.



CONFERENCE TOPICS

- Incorporating Nature Research in Project Design and Planning
 - Policy Round Table: Emerging Trends and Legislative Initiatives
 - Children and Nature Network: National & Regional Developments
 - Using Nature to Build Children's Visual-Spatial Skills
 - Green Engagement for Families & Children: Resource Mapping
 - Nurturing the Wild in the Child: Models, Designs & Initiatives
 - Telling Your Story: Tools for Successful Fund Raising
- Plus... explore the Arboretum and tour the award-winning Marion Andrus Learning Center