

## Guiding Principles

The **Baltimore Children and Nature Collaborative** follows these guiding principles to promote connections to the natural world:

- **Nature as Teacher and Nurturer** – All children need time to explore nature through unstructured and self-directed play in nearby natural spaces.
- **Connection-** Nature provides an opportunity to deepen our relationship to our self, each other and our environment.
- **Community and Society** - Preserving and creating natural settings, especially on public lands, provides restorative places for families and neighbors to interact and grow within the community.
- **Role Models** - Caring adults who share a love of the natural world can inspire a sense of awe and wonder in a child.
- **Respect-** Learning to respect nature and others is fundamental for our well being, the wellness of others and the Earth as a whole.
- **Access** – To engage and connect in nature, children and adults need access to information, resources and developmentally appropriate activities.