
Open Space Stewardship Program Workshop March 31, 2006

**Office of Educational Programs
<http://www.bnl.gov/education>**

Open Space Stewardship Program Issues and Resolution

- Can we do this? Answer was “yes”
- First challenge: matching stewards, properties, and schools
- Next:
 - Common ground to drive protocols, teacher preparation, and database structure/content
 - Funding resources/opportunities to secure equipment and other necessary support
 - Visibility and ongoing support: website, press releases, other means (seminars, etc.)
 - Establish teacher workshop structure, content, and timing

Open Space Stewardship Program Summer Teacher Workshops

- Suggested date: July 24-28, 2006
- Possible content:
 - Use of Global Positioning Systems
 - Use of test kits – Hach, LaMotte, etc.
 - Ecological survey techniques – grids, population analysis, dichotomous keys
 - Sediment analysis for metals
 - Molecular biology techniques such as DNA analysis
 - Land use policies and issues
- Questions:
 - Separate elementary/middle school grade level components
 - Incorporation of other subjects – language arts, graphic arts
 - In-service credits; stipends

Open Space Stewardship Program Protocols

- BNL Facilitator: TBD
- Critical, as it drives workshops and database structure
- For first year: focus on protocols that provide baseline data
- Divide into age-appropriate categories
- Use FERN program forest health monitoring
- Identify other protocols such as EPA, etc.

Open Space Stewardship Program

Protocol ideas from last meeting

- General:
 - stormwater run-off, kinds of contamination, chemistry impacts
 - erosion, wetlands, setbacks
 - environmental indicators, diversity over time
 - prescribed burning, succession monitoring
 - monitoring recreational use – impacts (train erosion, trash, types of use)
 - field recovery as populations recapture habitats
 - rare species sightings, DNA assessments
- Newly acquired properties:
 - community and species characterization
 - layout of trails, and what access points exist
 - ideas for stewardship and use

Open Space Stewardship Program Funding

- BNL Facilitator: Scott Bronson
- Options to consider:
 - Grants
 - Private funding support
 - Corporate
 - Government agencies and participating groups
 - Others????

Open Space Stewardship Program

Web Structure

- BNL Facilitator: Jen Clodius
- Centralized repository
 - data collection
 - analysis tools
 - archive student projects
- Other related support:
 - related activities
 - report compilation
 - links to town and school sites
 - list-serv(s)