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Via email: Magazine@Globe.com  
The Boston Globe Magazine  
PO Box 55819  
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Dear Editor,

Melanie Plenda's article ("Into the Woods," Boston Globe Magazine, October 6, 2013) highlighted the tip of a very real problem: children don't spend enough time outdoors.

But what about poor, urban children who face very real logistical and economic barriers to spending time in natural settings? Beneath the surface of this problem are deeply rooted issues of equity and access. Too many children have no green space near their homes, and they are more frequently confined indoors by concerned parents due to neighborhood violence. Unlike the population Plenda addressed, who are able to afford and attend a nature based preschool, children from low income, urban areas and their parents often do not have the luxury of disposable income, ease of transportation, or the free time necessary to travel from their homes to local public green spaces in the city, much less those outside.

How do we get the children who need nature most out in it?

Having a safe opportunity to enjoy nature provides all children with respite and inspiration. We need to ensure that the conversation includes children who are most disconnected due to larger social and economic forces.

Programs like ours offer these youth the opportunity to hike in the woods and explore pond life – or just rest on the grass to watch the clouds roll by. Farrington Nature Linc provides a vital connection to the natural world that may otherwise be out of their reach. We reach about 1,000 children a year.

Solving the equity and access problem requires a more systemic solution, which, as we all know is not a quick or easy fix but that doesn't mean it shouldn't be part of the discussion.

Sincerely,

Wendy S. Matusovich  
Executive Director  
Farrington Nature Linc