## Please attend the Public hearing on Tuesday, September 11th at 6pm County Government Building Save something for our children! Stop taking down forest for more development Approve high quality Outdoor Education for our children!

Save Pomonkey Forest, next to two schools, J.C. Parks Elementary and Matthew Henson Middle, it is an ideal location for an outdoor environmental education center.

Please testify to Approve the conservation easement



J.C.Parks students on an out-door education walk... at Pomonkey Forest

## The site is extraordinarily environmentally sensitive. The 210 acres:

- \* is fully forested, including ecologically valuable "hub forest" within a "targeted ecological area"
- \* is laced with streams and contains a Wetland of Special State Concern
- \* is almost 50% stream valley, which should be protected according to the Army Corps of Engineers,
- \* is mostly deep forest habitat for forest-interior dwelling wildlife
- \* is adjacent to Maryland Wildlands and Audubon Important Bird Area
- \* forms the headwaters of an especially high-quality fish spawning tributary feeding Mattawoman
- \* is in a Stronghold Watershed, most important for protecting Maryland's aquatic biodiversity, and
- \* contains uncommon Sweet bay Maanolia seepaae swamps, officially rare wildflower.

The development of this site is still being pushed by some politicians, the real-estate lobby and developers who for years have tried to urbanize the area with public taxpayer subsidies, even though infrastructure is already available in the built up areas of Bryans Road, Waldorf, and the town of Indian Head still has boarded-up buildings. In fact, a belated taxpayer-funded market study concluded that the site's location and isolation made it undesirable for commercialization.