

# Keeping Conservation in the COVID-19 Classroom

October 22nd, 2020



# Welcome

- Jack Hilgert
  - Conservation Education Assistant
  - PLT and WET State Co-Coordinator
  - Started at NFS in May 2020, Started doing EE in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.
  - UNL: Bachelors of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife emphasises in Zoo Animal Care and Conservation Biology, minors in Biological Sciences, Business Administration, and Environmental Education
  - Worked at Omaha, Lincoln, Scottsbluff, and Manhattan (KS) Zoos.



- Nebraska Forest Service
  - UNL Affiliate through IANR
  - *To enrich the lives of all Nebraskans by protecting, restoring and utilizing Nebraska's tree and forest resources.*



# Essential Questions



1. Why is Conservation and Environmental Education Important?
2. How can we continue to provide quality environmental experiences during COVID-19?
3. How can NFS help provide you the resources you need?

# Who are these people or characters?



# What are the common names of these?



# Why does Pokémon Matter?



- Young children clearly have tremendous capacity for learning about creatures, being able at age 8 to identify nearly 80% of a sample drawn from 150 synthetic “species.”
- It appears that conservationists are doing less well than the creators of Pokémon at inspiring interest in their subjects



# What else makes EE important

- Physical Health

- Exposure to nature significantly reduces
  - Blood pressure
  - Cortisol levels (stress)
  - Heart rate
  - Incidence of diabetes
- The association between greenspace exposure and positive health outcomes was stronger for people with low socioeconomic status.

Twohig-Bennett, C., Jones, A., (2018). The health benefits of the great outdoors: A systematic review and meta-analysis of greenspace exposure and healthy outcomes. *Environmental Research*, 166, 628-637.



- Mental Health

- Access to nature promotes
  - Attention restoration
  - Memory
  - Competence
  - Supportive social groups
  - Self-discipline
- Access to nature also
  - Moderates stress
  - Improves behaviors and symptoms of ADHD

McCormick, R., (2017). Does access to green space impact the mental well-being of children: A systematic review. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 37, 3-7.

A connection to nature makes people want to do something.



NEBRASKA ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

	Common Name	Scientific Name	State Status	Federal Status
<b>BIRDS</b>	Eskimo Curlew*	<i>Numenius borealis</i>	Endangered	Endangered
	Whooping Crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	Endangered	Endangered
	Interior Least Tern	<i>Sternula antillarum athalassos</i>	Endangered	Endangered
	Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Threatened	Threatened
	Rufa Red Knot ^	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Threatened	Threatened
	Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Threatened	
<b>MAMMALS</b>	Black-footed Ferret*	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	Endangered	Endangered
	Gray Wolf ^	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
	Swift Fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>	Endangered	
	River Otter	<i>Lontra canadensis</i>	Threatened	
	Southern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys volans</i>	Threatened	
	Northern Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Threatened	Threatened 4(d) rule
<b>FISH</b>	Pallid Sturgeon	<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
	Topeka Shiner	<i>Notropis topeka</i>	Endangered	Endangered
	Sturgeon Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis gelida</i>	Endangered	
	Blacknose Shiner	<i>Notropis heterolepis</i>	Endangered	
	Lake Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	Threatened	
	Northern Redbelly Dace	<i>Chrosomus eos</i>	Threatened	
	Finescale Dace	<i>Chrosomus neogaeus</i>	Threatened	
<b>INSECTS</b>	American Burying Beetle	<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
	Salt Creek Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela nevadica lincolniana</i>	Endangered	Endangered
<b>REPTILES</b>	Western Massasauga	<i>Sistrurus tergeminus</i>	Threatened	
<b>MUSSELS</b>	Scaleshell Mussel	<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>	Endangered	Endangered
<b>PLANTS</b>	Blowout Penstemon	<i>Penstemon haydenii</i>	Endangered	Endangered
	Colorado Butterfly Plant	<i>Gaura neomexicana</i> ssp. <i>coloradensis</i>	Endangered	Threatened
	Saltwort	<i>Salicornia rubra</i>	Endangered	
	Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	<i>Platanthera praeclara</i>	Threatened	Threatened
	Ute Ladies'-tresses	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Threatened	Threatened
	American Ginseng	<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	Threatened	
	Small White Lady's Slipper	<i>Cypripedium candidum</i>	Threatened	





Green jobs are jobs that produce goods or services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources.

Green Jobs have grown by 250% in the last decade

In 2017 there were 9.8 million green jobs, by 2030 there will be an additional 15-60 million green jobs

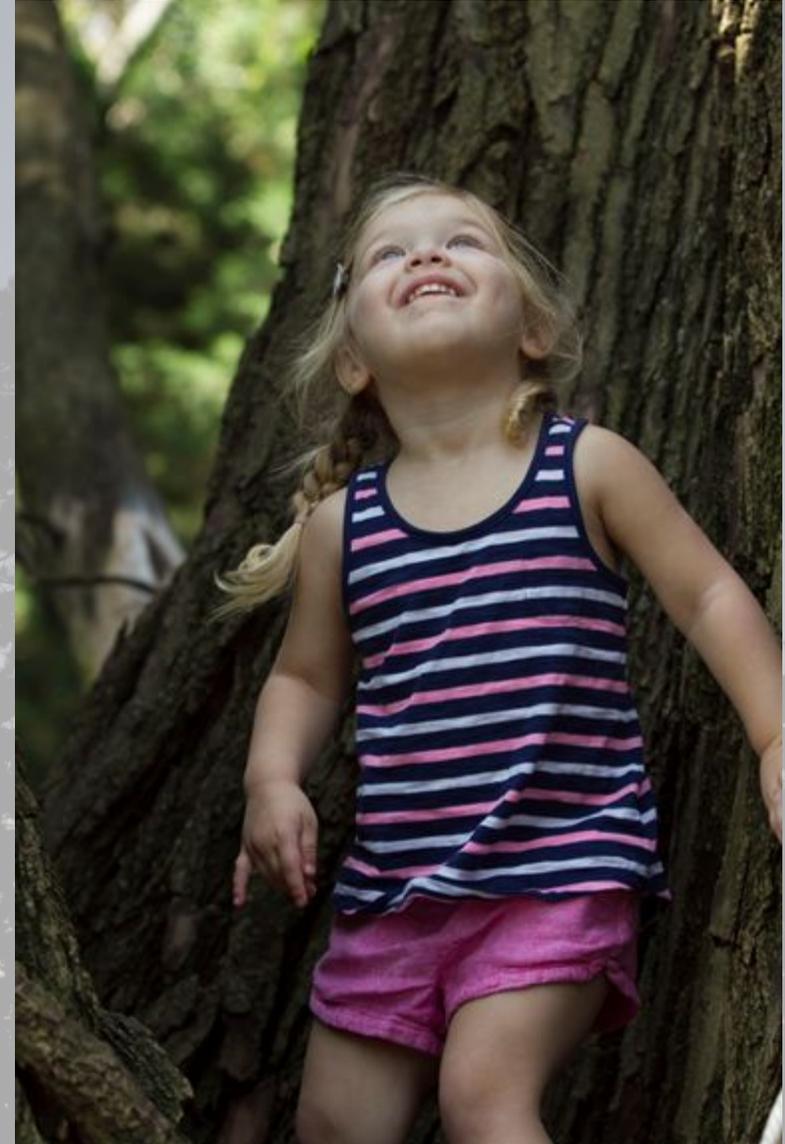


Frequently Asked Questions on Green Jobs. International Labour Organization. [www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/WCMS\\_21247\\_EN/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/WCMS_21247_EN/lang-en/index.htm) The Future of Jobs. World Economic Forum.

Green Jobs: Measuring Green Jobs. U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics. [www.bls.gov/green/home.htm](http://www.bls.gov/green/home.htm)

*What does this mean for you?*

- It is our responsibility to inspire interest
- It is our responsibility to expose children to a wide variety of experiences.



# COVID-19 Impacts

Community Spread is less likely outdoors

Students and educators are getting technology fatigue, time outside is desperately needed

Providing similar experiences to the pre-COVID educational experience.

Make experiences tied to standards.



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WATER EDUCATION TODAY





# Upcoming Workshops

## MiniWorkshops:

Community Trees (Grades 6-8)

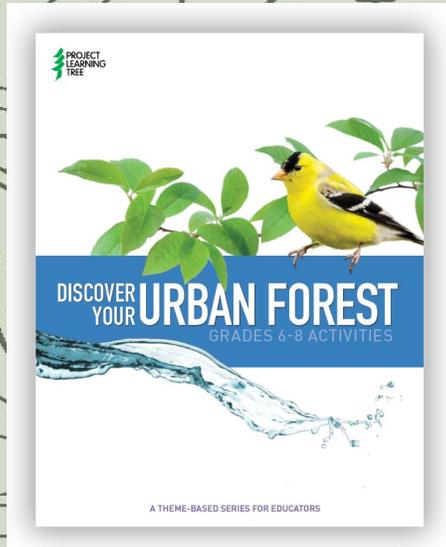
Wed. Nov. 11th, 6:30-8 PM, \$5 per person

[go.unl.edu/plt-miniworkshop](https://go.unl.edu/plt-miniworkshop)

Seasonal, Sensational Trees (Grades K-2)

Wed. Dec. 2nd, 6:30-8 PM, \$5 per person

[go.unl.edu/dec-pltminiworkshop](https://go.unl.edu/dec-pltminiworkshop)



# Virtual Classroom Visits

Approximately 20-45 minutes

Free for any Nebraska Educator

Lessons targeting:

*Trees, Water, and Climate*

Early Childhood

K-2

3-5

6-8

9-12



Contact us!

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