

**Maryland Partnership for Children In Nature  
2012 Action Items**

**October 2012**

<b>I. Promoting Outdoor Play &amp; Learning (i.e. Outreach and Communication)</b>					
<b>MAIN FOCUS AREA LEAD: DNR Britt Slattery bslattery@dnr.state.md.us</b>					
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>WORKGROUP: AGENCY</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>OUTPUT(S) (tangible)</b>	<b>Target date for completion</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Outreach and marketing campaign to promote getting outdoors</b>					
1. "Celebrate Maryland Outdoors" joint promotional week- or month-long event	USFWS DNR	Karen Mullin Jill Kubatko	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of events across the state;</li> <li>Number &amp; types of people participating collectively in all the events;</li> <li>Number of organizations, parks and places participating.</li> </ul>	June 2012	Purpose: to get as many people outdoors enjoying nature as possible at once; to help raise awareness of places to visit / things to do outdoors. June recommended – it is Great Outdoors Month. All Partners invited to provide activities at their locations.
Enlist sites to host events			Develop and distribute flier - distribute to Maryland Recreation and Parks Meeting April 3	April 3	<b>Event completed June 2012</b>
			Steering Committee review/ discussion	April 5	
			Distributed to networks CIN, MD NCLI, MAEOE	April 10	
Organize host sites			Conference Call for all interested event hosts	April 18 & 25	
Advertise event			Seek exposure through local press: Chesapeake Family magazine, etc.	April 20 thru June 23	
			Call potential hosts, seeking grounds outside of the 'choir' including HOAs and religious organizations		
			Host a gnome house building activity at the Green Schools Summit. Pass out website business cards		
Develop website			Draft web material	April 9	Until June 1 the website will be organized by Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. After June 1st there will also be a calendar view to allow for daily choices.
			Website goes live	April 20	
Hold the Event				June 9-23	
Compile and announce results				After June 23	TBA

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2. Develop plan to improve awareness, attitudes and behaviors about the outdoors/ spending time outdoors:	CBT MAEOE AFF	Kacey Wetzel Laura Collard Lori Arguelles			Develop methods to communicate effectively with target audiences about outdoor activities, outdoor play, and opportunities to access public lands, etc.;
a. Continue and expand statewide efforts to increase awareness of benefits of outdoor time. Include short term outreach/communications efforts to implement now.					Better inform people of places/ opportunities for outdoor experiences – Utilize scouts/ youth orgs networks, parents groups, etc. to help spread information, motivate audiences. <i>Work at county level to promote outdoor/ nature play)</i>
Convene a meeting to address short and long term marketing – ways to promote getting outdoors, creative/ new ways to reach parents, caregivers, new audiences – identify our message(s), audiences, effective delivery mechanisms			<b>Develop a marketing plan for CIN.</b>	Meet by early Sept 2012, plan drafted by Dec	building of Celebrate MD Outdoors with other activities; utilize CIN their in-house marketing/ expertise measurably changing knowledge of a particular
Link to our other actions going on (eg, health, ag, schools, etc.) as opportunities to get messages out.			Integrat		
b. Address the need for innovative mechanism to change behavior.					ing methodology to audience(s), barriers, and outdoor play/use and identify actions to be promoted and tracked.
Conduct literature review, what case studies exist on topic?  OR... <i>Do we need to lobby some to do develop a social marketing campaign? Or coordinate with other campaigns like Michelle Obama etc. define the message and then task all Partners to report what they are doing and what the effects are.</i>			social needs – design outreach program around the results of research for that audience/community		Possible sources: NWF study (long term), CN&N, USFWS survey, NCLI, CBT diversity initiative listening session results  – if nothing exists, consider feasibility of doing our own (scaled down) barrier and benefits study
Write more specific goals re behavior change including what we want people to do, which people, and where – figure out what messages follow that and test them.			-- write goals -- test messages on focus group as feasible		How do we reach the ppl who are not participating in outdoor activities? What are the barriers to MD parents getting their kids outside and how can we help to overcome them?
Look into funding sources/ programs that may be able to help provide some direction.					Private \$ available – Rebecca Ruggles Green Funders group – NFWF behavior change social marketing program

**This section of the plan is on hold – outreach and marketing efforts surrounding ways to “get more children outside” will be incorporated into and tested through the Community Health Initiative.**

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<b>Communication about CIN</b>					includes communication among partners <b>as well as outreach</b> about CIN goals/ actions to broader audiences
3. Provide current information about CIN actions, related issues, E-Lit, events.	MD NCLI CIN (DNR) MAEOE	Julie Dieguez Britt Slattery Laura Collard		ongoing	Use effective format(s) for partners + for external/ outreach audiences. Coordinate/ streamline <u>outreach</u> efforts among CIN, MD NCLI, MAEOE.
Quarterly progress reports for members/ partners ( <b>see #4, below</b> )	CIN (DNR)	Britt Slattery (info provided by leads)	Progress reports	Janu, April, July, Oct 2012	Distribute to CIN members, post on CIN website.
Monthly newsletters for educators	MAEOE	Joanne Schmader	MAEOE Green Schools and Green Centers electronic newsletters	Begin April, monthly	Incorporate pertinent info from progress reports, alerts, incidentals, press releases. For Green Schools network.
Twice / month member alerts	MD NCLI	Julie Dieguez	MD NCLI Alerts will include select info about CIN actions from progress reports etc.	As info warrants throughout year	Distribute to CIN and NCLI members via email. Consider combining mailing lists to use for alerts to avoid duplication.
Incidentals for any audience	MD NCLI CIN (DNR) MAEOE	Julie Dieguez Britt Slattery Laura Collard	Announcements, emails with links, materials attached, etc. (coordinate distribution)	As needed	To announce or distribute products and other business that members and our audiences need (eg, e-lit guidance materials, nature play spaces link, etc.).
Media outreach	<b>CIN (DNR)</b> (MD NCLI) (MAEOE)	<b>Britt Slattery</b> (Julie Dieguez) (Laura Collard)	Press releases, social media feeds; post press releases online, send link to members	As needed to announce events, news	Work through/ coordinate with DNR Office of Communications (OCM).
“Go-to” info – ways people can seek us out via internet, social media	MD NCLI CIN (DNR) MAEOE	Julie Dieguez Britt Slattery Laura Collard	CIN website (and links w/ MAEOE, NCLI); Access DNR Facebook/ Twitter; MAEOE Facebook/ Twitter and newsletters; MD NCLI Facebook	Begin April, update regularly	Distribute to members info on finding / connecting with these sources. -- MAEOE follow Access DNR on Twitter so they can connect audiences. -- Friend MAEOE, NCLI, and Access DNR (and each other) on Facebook.
Upcoming activities website link	CIN (DNR)	Britt Slattery / IT	Provide space on CIN website for events, activities, conferences, news, etc. provided by members/ partners	June 2012 and update monthly or as needed	Means to draw attention to activities that are directly pertinent to CIN work.
Members/ Partners help distribute and use information	All Partners		Forward information as appropriate to networks, audiences, etc. via email, social media, other tools	ongoing	
CIN branding	CIN (DNR)	Britt Slattery / OCM	Develop and use a logo for CIN (if allowed by state)	May 2012	Helps with identity and recognizable
<b>4. Develop and distribute quarterly progress reports on CIN actions.</b>	CIN (DNR) All Partners	Britt Slattery All Leads		Janu (complete); <b>info due</b> April 13, July 6, Oct 5	All Leads provide information on actions and progress.
Simplify preparation of information - 1-2 highlights from each action item useful for any audience.	CIN (DNR)	Britt Slattery	Develop a simple template to follow - sample writeup and list of points to cover or	by April 5	Review draft at 4/5 Steering Committee meeting and distribute to leads to use to prepare 4/13 reports.

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			questions to answer.		
Workgroup leads prepare progress information	MD NCLI CIN (DNR) DNR NWF MDA + workgroups	Julie Dieguez Britt Slattery Sandi Olek Kim Martinez Karen Fedor + group members	Progress reports produced	Quarterly as above	Leads take initiative to collect progress information from workgroup members, consolidate to follow format, provide to CIN coordinator by due dates. Use due dates as target deadlines for workgroup achievements/ meetings.
Distribute reports	CIN (DNR) All Partners	Britt Slattery	Provide at quarterly CIN meetings and via email; post online; partners distribute to their external audiences, post on their websites, etc.	CIN is main audience, but all members should use it to select items of interest to promote to their audiences/ networks. [MAEOE and NCLI coordinate to avoid duplication]	

## II. Environmental Literacy – Support for EL in schools and in the community

<b>MAIN FOCUS AREA LEAD:</b> MCPS      Laurie Jenkins      Laurie_C_Jenkins@mcpsmd.org      (Montgomery County Public Schools) Nat'l Aquarium      Joe Harber      jharber@aqua.org					
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<b>TRAINING/ PROFESSIONAL DEVEL.:</b>					
<b>5. Increase communications and cooperation re EL:</b>					
<b>a. Plan and conduct regional EL workshops between (LEA) and (EE providers).</b>	MD NCLI CBT DNR MSDE MAEOE MCPS	Julie Dieguez Jamie Baxter Britt Slattery Gary Hedges Laura Collard Laurie Jenkins	Facilitate increased communication & collaboration between providers and LEAs leading to the development & implementation of effective, quality ELPs	Completed March 2012	Increase provider familiarity with EL requirements & recommendations; provide access to materials to facilitate curricular alignment of offerings; provide information and recommendations for communicating with LEA EL point(s) of contact and local EE providers; address common issues & challenges and identify potential solutions, exemplars.
			Follow-up: identify common challenges, follow-up actions and emerging exemplars to share with LEA reps and providers:		
			• LEA Briefing	Completed: March 2012	
			• Asst. Superintendents Briefing	Summer/Fall 2012	
			• Share w/ workshop attendees & through MDNCLI Coalition & Partnership	June 2012	

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b. Plan and conduct additional professional development opportunities in EL, to facilitate program planning and implementation.	Same as above	Same as above (MSDE lead)	Host 5-day Environmental Literacy Summit: each LEA represented by a team of 5 educators to work on developing their ELP's.	August 2012 Completed	Funded by MSP Grant to Alleghany County and supported by ACPS staff
			Host EL Professional Development workshops for EE Providers (MAEOE & partners)	Fall / Winter 2012	(with CBT funding)
c. Establish regional/county EL liaisons to facilitate continued communication & collaboration amongst providers and between providers and LEAs, provide support as needed to help ensure effective implementation of county ELPs.	MSDE: lead MAEOE: support	List of liaisons available from MSDE, teams of 2 identified for of seven regions throughout state.	Seven regional liaisons have been selected to facilitate follow up meetings to the EL summit – the liaisons include one LEA person and one EE provider. Work on the ELPs will continue at these meetings (ongoing process).	Selection completed July 2012  Support ongoing  Workshops Fall 2012 Spring 2013	MSDE (Gary Hedges) is lead contact for regional liaisons; Alleghany County MSP Grant is providing organization and resources.
6. Improve coordination w/ higher education	MCPS HCPSS U MD Towson U	Laurie Jenkins Mary Weller Mark Stewart Sarah Haines	Host a forum with representatives from higher education institutions from throughout MD.  Discuss current and future practices/programs; Make recommendations for strategies/ implementation.	Sept 2012 Completed 9/27/12	The meeting addressed improving collaboration between higher education and preK-12 education with a focus on sharing current and potential future practices/programs in the preparation and continued professional development in EE for pre-service and in-service teachers.
			Next Steps:  Research is needed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EE Certification</li> <li>• Endorsement for EE</li> <li>• Professional Development schools</li> </ul>	Jan 2013	
Continued...					

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<b>STUDENT-FOCUSED ACTIONS:</b>					
7. "Every student every year" (ESEY) guidance.  a. written recommendations	MCPS CBT NOAA	Laurie Jenkins Jamie Baxter Shannon Sprague	Revise & finalize document detailing existing <i>Common Qualities of Effective EL Programs</i> guidelines	Jan 2013	Develop written recommendations for meeting goal of providing an outdoor experience for "every student every year." Includes guidance for schools as well as non-formal EE providers/ sites, etc. In conjunction with Federal Mid-Atlantic EL strategy.
b. develop tool to collect and report numbers of students getting quality outdoor experiences.			NOAA and CBT host workshop on best practices in delivering a MWEE and development of an implementation tool for tracking MWEE implementation.  Follow-up workshop on Research-Based Best Practices and Metrics Draft Data Collection Tool Final Data Collection Tool & Implementation Plan Pilot Implementation	August 2012  November 2012 Nov 2012 April 2013 Summer 2013	NOAA/CBT supported workshop conducted in partnership with the Mid Atlantic Education Workgroup of CBP; Multi-state tool that tracks common metrics across states; MD tool can be expanded to capture addl CIN metrics; 2012-2013 School Year.  EPA- funded CBT Workshop
8. Co-sponsor and assist with planning the 2012 Youth Summit.	MAEOE MAEOE DNR DNR MD NCLI	Laura Collard Joanne Schmader Cindy Etgen Britt Slattery Julie Dieguez	Full summit planning meeting Promotion of event (alerts, social media) Ongoing planning, registration (attendees, exhibitors, volunteers) - MAEOE	Nov 2011 Completed Spring 2012 Completed Spring 2012	In conjunction with MAEOE and Green Schools Awards Ceremony.
Begin planning for 2013 Youth Summit	MAEOE TBA	Laura Collard TBA	Planning meeting	December 2012	
<b>POLICY AND RELATED ACTIONS:</b>					
9. Coordinate with Maryland Green Schools Program:					To help expand program to meet current needs/ recommendations.
a. Integrate schoolyard habitats with the MD Green Schools program.	USFWS MAEOE	Karen Mullin Joanne Schmader	Marketing strategy for existing habitats.		
			Workshop presentations for schools	Dec 2012	

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<i>(a. Integrate schoolyard habitats with the MD Green Schools program. – continued from above)</i>			Develop county based templates for streamlined and transparent decision making regarding schoolyard based habitat action projects		
			Assess need, potential for an online tool for LID landscaping w/ school construction projects	July 2012	
			Ensure that the Green School application and website represent Schoolyards as integrated into the GS concept		
<b>b.</b> Support National Green Ribbon Schools Program.	MAEOE MSDE	Joanne Schmader Gary Hedges	USGRS: -Announcement, Application, Scores, Nominees, Celebration	April 2012; prep for 2013	Provide process for nominating MD schools; assist schools in preparing applications. Incorporate components into MD program to align the two.
			Coordinate facilities w/ Green School efforts in LEAs	Oct 2012	
<b>c.</b> Elevate “greener” school construction guidelines/ methods as policy.	USFWS	Rich Mason	Communicate with MSDE to confirm or encourage the use of the Green Book for schoolyard habitats and school construction	Initial: May 2012  Fall 2012-ongoing	How can existing guide be brought back into focus and used to formulate policy? Align w/ Ches Bay Fed Strategy. Will need to work w/ school construction folks.
<b>10.</b> Determine how to support/ cooperate with federal/ national environmental literacy initiatives as appropriate.	NOAA	Shannon Sprague	Brief CIN Partnership on the FY <a href="#">2012-2013</a> federal Action Plan and work with CIN coordinator to set up coordination meetings with appropriate federal program managers as needed	Completed: Mid-Atlantic Ed workgroup meeting Summer 2012  Ongoing	Make recommendations for implementation of strategy(ies) identified. <i>[some aspects of this apply to E-Lit, some may be outreach-related, and some community related – TBD]</i>

<b>III. Communities and Community Planning</b>					
<b>MAIN FOCUS AREA LEAD: DNR Sandi Olek solek@dnr.state.md.us</b>					
<b>11. Enhance access to green spaces and the state trails network.</b>	DNR	Steve Carr			Work with federal, state, and local governments to enhance the state trail network.
Assure that people have the info needed to connect with outdoor areas by working across agencies on interactive land and water trail maps; and making maps more accessible to the public.			Interactive map of trails on line.	Dec 2012	Meetings have been ongoing with SHA and MDOT, working on interactive trail map. Interagency communication has increased.
Park & Forest managers submit trailhead information for on-line map.			Data Assembled and verified	June 2012-Complete	
Integrate MDOT & DNR on-road & off-			Draft Map ready for Review	September	

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road map.				2012- Complete	
Final map is completed and posted on the DNR website.			Interactive Interface Ready	December 2012. Map posted Fall 2012, some revisions may still occur.	Market maps, provide info on accessing maps as means for people to find outdoor opportunities; <a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/map_template/trailmaps/trail_atlas.html">http://www.dnr.state.md.us/map_template/trailmaps/trail_atlas.html</a>
<b>12.</b> Provide equitable access to green space and outdoor opportunities for all communities.			<i>These actions include strategies to promote equity within populations who have less access to nature and to environmental programs. Some initiatives are more focused on urban communities as well as rural and suburban communities with fewer resources within easy reach.</i>		
a. Complete Park Equity Analysis and use it to provide for new trail connections, new green spaces.  (continued...)	DNR	Sandi Olek	Powerpoint and background materials. Product will be launched tool available to the public.	August 2012	Draft Tool available for peer review. Looking to use it with local planners, parks and others to identify needs, priorities. <i>Will need help taking messages re gaps to local officials for action.</i>
Peer review and data development.	DNR	Sandi Olek	Data developed, reviewed	May 2012 Completed	Peer review ongoing.
Develop interactive tool interface.	DNR	Sandi Olek	Data ready for public use	August 2012 - Expected Final October 2012	
Pilot tool with local partner.	DNR	Sandi Olek	Pilot test analysis and results	Fall 2012. Piloting with JHU Food Equity Map and others, September 2012	Potential to present to Parks and People (Michael Dorsey). Montgomery County Parks has done similar analysis. Could look at how it compares.
Provide information and guidance on tool for local and partner use.	DNR	Sandi Olek	Informational materials.	Fall 2012 - Expected Nov 2012	
b. Provide input into recreation plans and help promote existing plans that include access to nature.					
Develop a best practices review of local LPPRP (e.g., Long Range Parks and Recreation Plan) plans.	Montg Parks MRPA	Stephanie Oberle Tom Donlin	Parks group will survey local members and develop a model for identifying best practices. Will have later start and conclusion date.	December 2012 Plan Developed	Have components about children/playgrounds . LPPRP- 5 year rec plan- currently reviewing and sending comments. Counties are in process of looking at comments. Due in July 2012. Long term plan for state comes after county docs are in.
Develop policy guidance to be incorporated into State Plan (SCORP).  <i>[Statewide Conservation Outdoor</i>	DNR Mont Parks	Steve Carr Stephanie Oberle and Parks group	Planning guidance as part of policy.	March 2013 <i>[Plans due to National Park Service for state funding by Dec 2013]</i>	Group wants to have more discussion on the spectrum of outdoor experiences. What is defined as a meaningful outdoor experience? Does Docs in the Park



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<i>Recreation Plan]</i>					and/or athletic fields count?
<p>c. Student action project: mapping routes to green spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop tool</li> <li>• Identify pilot project</li> <li>• Launch and refine project</li> <li>• Promote project on statewide basis</li> </ul>	Need to identify	Need to identify [UMD may be interested in this for 2013]	Product developed, school project and accompanying lesson plan/ materials developed. School or student group identified.	Pilot activity by Dec 2012- Move to 2013.	Engage students, youth groups – map routes from schools and communities to local parks etc., identifying access barriers and using results to recommend improvements to local officials. Using interactive Internet mapping tool ( <i>see NJ Mapper model</i> ).
<p><b>13. Nature Play Spaces (NPS) –</b></p>	DNR Parks & People MD NCLI USFW Parks & People UMBC MRPA Independent MSDE Independent CBT MD DNR	Sandi Olek Michael Dorsey Julie Dieguez Karen Mullin Mary Hardcastle Mary Rivkin Lisa Shore Cheryl Corson Gloria Mikolajczyk Nancy Strineste Kacey Wetzel Amy Henry			
<p>Develop and distribute guidance.</p>	Workgroup as above	Workgroup as above	Published pattern book, NPS Guidance and White paper	July 2012 Complete	Promote new pattern book/ materials to guide development of new model projects; Distribute among planning professionals. Promote existence of NPS to users. <a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/cin/nps">www.dnr.state.md.us/cin/nps</a>
<p>Develop promotion plan for Nature Play Spaces.</p>	workgroup	workgroup	Includes presentation materials, expanded pattern book, NPS Tour	November 2012	
<p>Continue to develop demonstration projects.</p>	workgroup	workgroup	Develop how to guidance and lessons from on the ground urban and/ or school projects.	Projects identified- July 2012 Project Installation and associated materials- Dec 2012.	Potential Baltimore City Community Projects or need to identify school projects. Rocks State Park, Greenbelt, Robinson Nature Center?
<p><b>14. Engage parks staff (state/ county/ local) in identifying/ addressing needs for improving access to nature and interpretive/ recreational programs. Initiate an MRPA Interest Group for Naturalists (who provide nature programs, interpretation) for networking, sharing best practices, and</b></p>	Montg Parks MRPA Anne Arundel Balti. City Baltimore Co. Harford Howard Prince Geo.	Stephanie Oberle Tom Donlin Chris Swarth Bill Vondrasek Shannon Davis Amy Harris Stacey Yankee Greg Lewis	Form interest group  -- Identify need(s), develop/ provide guidance	April 2012  -- Dec 2012	<p><b>e.g.</b> pairing parks and schools to work together; serving “new” populations (diversity, language/ cultural matters); promote smoke-free parks            -- Identify a common need that CIN can meet to advance ability of orgs to provide after school and community / family programs that connect people to</p>

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implementation of Partnership actions.	MD DNR	Angela Baldwin			nature and mirror EL taught in schools
Survey state/county/local parks to catalog the range of environmental literacy programs targeted at non-school group audiences; determine breadth of services provided; and identify gaps that may be opportunities for future programming.	MRPA/ Parks Group	See Above	Develop survey of programs	November 2012	
Promote non-school group environmental literacy programs in state/county/local parks through a single on-line clearinghouse.	MRPA/ Parks Group	See Above	Determine best methods for sharing best practices and information	Summer /Fall 2012 - ongoing	can <a href="http://www.baybackpack.com">www.baybackpack.com</a> serve non-school groups/ individuals?

#### IV. Health and Food (Agriculture) Connections

**HEALTH FOCUS AREA LEAD:** **NWF** **Kim Martinez** **[martinezk@nwf.org](mailto:martinezk@nwf.org)**

**FOOD/ AGRICULTURE LEAD:** **MDA** **Karen Fedor** **[Karen.Fedor@maryland.gov](mailto:Karen.Fedor@maryland.gov)**

<b>15. Promote outdoor activities as part of healthy lifestyle</b>					<b>Identify strategy(ies) and make plans for implementation.</b>
<b>a.</b> Host a forum w representatives of health field to determine objectives and actions for a Community Health Initiative.	MRPA NWF	Tom Donlin Kim Martinez	Compile responses from representatives from health field and identify workgroup members.	June 13, 2012 Completed	Include health insurance community, also schools component.
<b>b.</b> Convene Community Health Initiative (CHI) workgroup to draft a strategic plan.	DNR DNR NWF	Britt Slattery Catherine Shanks Kim Martinez	Create CHI vision and identify goals.	Sept 11, 2012 Completed	Various partners (CIN and others) involved in workgroup. Will refine vision and goals with feedback from SC.
<b>c.</b> CHI workgroup to develop community selection criteria for CHI pilot.	DNR DNR NWF	Britt Slattery Cathie Shanks Kim Martinez	Overlay multiple sources of data to develop criteria.	October 1, 2012 Completed	Use data from Park Equity Analysis, Food Desert Mapping, community schools, and local programs to establish criteria for community selection.
<b>d.</b> CHI workgroup to reach consensus on vision, goals, community selection criteria and recommended action items.	DNR DNR NWF Parks & People	Britt Slattery Catherine Shanks Kim Martinez Mary Hardcastle	Parks & People to share existing community/ centralized framework (P&P, community schools, etc.) as model for implementation of CHI.	End of October, 2012	Incorporate feedback from Steering Committee and Partnership members; research models for implementation.
<b>e.</b> Complete CHI draft of strategic plan.	DNR DNR NWF	Britt Slattery Catherine Shanks Kim Martinez		Nov 16, 2012	To present plan to Leadership Team for approval in January 2013, for implementation in 2013.
<b>f.</b> Promote/ contribute to expanding on statewide level programs that prescribe active outdoor time to improve health.	NWF Parks & People	Kim Martinez Mary Hardcastle	Participate in outreach events to educate the general public and targeted audiences (schools, youth groups).	Ongoing	Promote, support, connect with programs as appropriate such as the Healthy Kids Outdoors Act; Let's Move and Be Out There campaigns; Docs in the Parks and/or Prescription for Nature programs. e.g., participate in events sponsored by these programs; host additional training for medical professionals; assist w/ policy changes?

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g. CIN representative participate in Institute for a Healthiest Maryland (advisory board).	MRPA	Tom Donlin	Infuse recommendations for outdoor activity into health initiatives.		Working to strengthen the relationship with key stakeholders.
<b>16. Infuse agriculture education and local foods awareness into school and community programs.</b>					
<b>Schools –</b>					
a. Integrate ag education initiatives into the curricula and map (align) to the state environmental literacy standards.	MDA MAEF CBT	Karen Fedor Peggy Eppig Jamie Baxter			
Work with MSDE to map ag education to e-lit standards.	MSDE	Gary Hedges	Develop a matrix and distribute at MAEF's teacher workshops and to educators.	Dec 2012	
Promote Farm to School program to engage more formal and nonformal educators in using it with students.	MDA MAEF workgroup	Karen Fedor Peggy Eppig workgroup	Hold 1 or 2 Farm to School workshops for science teachers at the high school and/or middle school levels. <i>[revise based on feedback from E-Lit Summit: Host Ag tour at 2013 MAEOE conf.]</i>	Summer, Fall 2012	Focus on high school or middle school teachers for 2012 due to the fact that most of the interest is in environmental sciences as it crosses over to ag sciences. <b>COMPLETED:</b> Farm to School program and MAEF spoke at the E-Lit summit and at a science coordinator's meeting.
			Hold 1 Farm to School workshop for farm-based non-formal educators.	February 2013 Nov 2012	Incorporating Farm to School into 2 farm-based non-formal educator's workshops in November and December.
Develop supplementary educational materials for use in the classroom.	workgroup	workgroup	Lesson plans to accompany podcast for <i>Maryland Harvest</i> documentary.	Dec 2012 <b>Pending funding</b>	Documentary follows the growing season, chronicles partnerships being formed betw farmers and chefs to provide consumers w/ fresh, local food throughout the year.
Connect environmental science, science and agriculture educators to share ideas and improve integration of disciplines.	workgroup	workgroup	Propose joint meeting of MD Ag Teachers Assoc w/ envi science teachers.	June 2013	Explore this possibility with teacher groups in 2012.
Identify a food systems/ ag – focused environmental issue and work with school system to develop and pilot lessons.	MDA MAEF CBT	Karen Fedor Peggy Eppig Jamie Baxter	Create action lesson plan that addresses a variety of Env. Lit standards, and/or to meet the student action project indicator in Standard 1 of the E-lit standards and a key component of the High School grad requirement	June 2013 <b>Pending funding</b>	<b>UPDATE:</b> Applied for USDA Farm to School grant to develop a school garden/ food systems curriculum among other items related to Farm to School including a webinar for teachers. The Maryland Farm to School program also hosted Dr. Kathleen Merrigan, USDA Deputy Secretary, for the USDA Farm to School grant announcement.
b. Explore options to integrate agriculture initiatives into Maryland Green Schools application.	MAEF MAEOE	Peggy Eppig Laura Collard	Work with MAEOE Green Schools staff to add elements as appropriate (and test as necessary before formally adding to program).	Sept 2012 Completed	Coordinate with Green Schools process – components in place for summer PD workshops; have content ready by Sept; schools start working on applications in Dec-Jan, due in April. <b>UPDATE:</b> Held meetings with MAEOE and will submit

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					case studies to them by mid-July.
<b>Community</b> – Increase awareness of benefits/ ability to access locally grown foods.	MDA	Karen Fedor			Use Maryland Farm to School program, MAEF
a. Use Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week to spark attention among students, help get information to families.	workgroup	workgroup	20 + school systems to participate [exceeded goal – ALL 24 systems participated]	3rd week of Sept, 2012 Completed	1 million students have received the message of MHS Lunch week for the past 4 years through promotions in school cafeteria, menus, bookmarks and posters. <u>UPDATE:</u> Maryland Homegrown School Lunch week held Sept 17-21, 2012 with kickoff event in Dorchester Co.
b. Help distribute information on sources for locally grown foods and/or CSAs and make available to communities, especially in underserved areas.	workgroup	workgroup	Utilize information available through MDA's Maryland's Best program, determine new avenues for distributing info to new audiences.	By Fall 2012 ongoing	Distribute farmers markets information and MD's Best (statewide program to promote local products) brochures on an ongoing basis. MDA's Farmer Market Nutrition Program specifically targets SNAP recipients to purchase fruits & veg products at farmers' markets.

V. Overarching Initiatives / Actions serving multiple focus areas					
<b>10. Federal Coordination</b> – Keep abreast of Federal and/or National initiatives that align with our priorities, and determine ways to support and cooperate with them. <i>e.g., Chesapeake Bay Program Chesapeake Bay Executive Order Environmental Literacy Strategy, Youth in the Great Outdoors, Urban Waters Initiative, etc.</i>	NOAA NOAA	Shannon Sprague Kevin Schabow		ongoing	<i>Make recommendations for implementation of strategy(ies) identified.</i>  <i>Some aspects of this apply to E-Lit, some may be outreach-related, and some community related – TBD</i>
<b>17. Finance Strategy</b> – plan, implement	CBT DNR	Jamie Baxter Catherine Shanks		Draft proposal to Leadership Team January 2013	Determine a target funding needs and priorities for this year to support CIN actions, and explore opportunities to build support (possibly transportation for student outdoor experiences at natural areas; may also aim to fund one component of CIN work, such as the Health Initiative).
<b>18. Conservation Jobs Corps (CJC)</b> – Continue to conduct and build the CJC to serve youth statewide.	DNR – MD Park Service	Nita Settina	Strive for continued growth – #s of youth served, partnerships/ financial support, diversity of projects and experiences for participants.	ongoing	<i>Continue to explore options for expanding the program beyond summer, possibly as an after-school program or part of a vo-tech curriculum option.</i>