

## Chapter 5 Appendix: Visioning and Managing a Nature-Based Program Planning Tool

FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM COMPONENTS	
Question	What is the mission and vision of your program?
Answers	
Challenges	
Recommendations	
Action Steps	

Question	What is your educational philosophy? How do you believe children learn best?
Answers	
Challenges	
Recommendations	
Action Steps	

Question	How do assessment methods support your vision and educational philosophy?
Answers	
Challenges	
Recommendations	
Action Steps	

<b>Question</b>	What is the rhythm of the day for children and staff? What is the amount of time classes are held indoors and outdoors each day? How are timeframes determined?
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	

<b>Question</b>	What learning environments are needed or best suited to your vision? Include thoughts on indoor and outdoor settings, as well as emergency spaces.
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	

<b>Question</b>	Who will be able to access your program? What will you do to cultivate equitable access and a welcoming atmosphere? (E.g., Families with limited income, single parent or nontraditional households, families who identify as BIPOC or LGBTQ+, multilanguage speakers, children with special medical or behavioral needs, unhoused families.)
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	

<b>Question</b>	How will your program model values consistent with conservation, sustainability, and environmental literacy? How could community partners support your efforts?
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

### Question

What income and expenses does your program have?  
What financial aid options are available to families?  
Does it provide adequate support? What questions do you have about liability, health, and safety practices?  
How will you address these questions?

### Answers

### Challenges

### Recommendations

### Action Steps



<b>Question</b>	Do your educators have appropriate skills and knowledge for a nature-based program? What kind of training and credentials do teaching staff and administrators need to implement this vision?
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	

<b>Question</b>	What will the staffing pattern look like? What hiring and staff evaluation procedures are in place? What compensation and benefits will be available for staff to ensure fair, livable wages?
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	

APPROACHES TO TEACHING AND LEARNING	
<b>Question</b>	What skills and values do you prioritize for your learning community?
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	

Question	What intentions, goals, or objectives do you have for learning?
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	

Question	What is the purpose of your curriculum?
Answers	
Challenges	
Recommendations	
Action Steps	

Question	How do the children's ideas factor into the curriculum?
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	

<b>Question</b>	How are children nurtured based on their unique backgrounds, needs, and interests?
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	

Question	How is nature-based learning part of daily practices, teaching, and learning in your program?
Answers	
Challenges	
Recommendations	
Action Steps	



<b>Question</b>	How do you make the process of learning visible? What strategies are used to document learning? What forms of assessment are used?
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	

Question	In what ways do educators address early learning standards?
<b>Answers</b>	
<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Recommendations</b>	
<b>Action Steps</b>	