

MEETING NOTES

Metro DNA

March 8th, 2017 | 8:30am

In Attendance

Jeff Su, Emily Patterson, Susan Daggett, Kristen Greenwald, Sara Abdulla, Sarah Thomas, Liz Drogin, Delissa Padilla, Heidi Sherk, Melake Getabecha, Asnoldo Benitez, Stephanie Stowell, Shane Wright

Today's Purpose

- 1) Begin to identify how change will occur for three different results areas already identified by mDNA. What are the preconditions... in other words, what needs to happen to achieve these results? As opposed to indicators, which are signs that results are achieved, the preconditions are what needs to be in place for results to happen. The preconditions help to describe the how & why of change.
- 2) Start to identify roles and strategies that you think will have the greatest influence on results

Activity 1: Identifying Preconditions

We divided into three groups and brainstormed preconditions necessary for success in each of the results areas:

- Ensure all people in the metro Denver area have access to quality natural spaces
- The metro Denver region supports healthy and connected engineered and native natural systems
- All people in metro Denver are engaged and invested in nearby nature.

Steering Committee members were then asked to place a dot next to the preconditions that the Metro Denver Nature Alliance has the capacity to influence. The charts below capture the preconditions described by the Steering Committee. Asterisks reflect the number of dots each precondition received.

Activity 2: Identifying Roles and Strategies

Steering Committee members then reviewed models of similar coalitions (e.g. Intertwine, ROSS, Bay Area Open Space, Nature in the City, etc.) and were asked to draw on these models to identify one most promising role/strategy for each result area. The charts below capture these promising roles/strategies.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, please email Sarah and Liz with your additional thoughts. We would appreciate your input on both preconditions and promising roles/strategies.

Result #1: Ensure all people in the Metro Denver area have access to quality natural spaces

Preconditions	Promising Roles/Strategies:
-Parks, trails and pathways are located near where residents live and work*****	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convening (helps understand gaps, get alignment in programs; we will convene to figure out priorities)• Stewardship working group - real need for some
-Knowledge of where parks, trails, etc. are located****	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Budgets, equitably distributed* -Maintenance of parks -Stewardship***** -Policy*** -Programming to bring people to parks** -Interpretation/inspire curiosity/engagement -Amenities in parks that reflect community desires** -Park rules reflect community use (e.g. multi-use)* -Information (community boards)* -Comfort and convenience (e.g. restrooms, seating) -Safe spaces (perceptions and access) -Safe connections to spaces** -Outreach and community organizing; collaboration and communication***** -Trust and flexibility (innovation)***** 	<p><i>working group around this - lessons learned and create support network for community stewards (this cross-cutting)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Equity strategy and unique ways to access</i> • <i>Creating connected system of trails/plans with equity strategy</i> • <i>Data management with regional demographic data – equity focus</i> • <i>Tax money and getting money centered in lower-income areas, equity focus</i> • <i>Regional trail system vision</i> • <i>Convene/gathering and branding/communications</i> • <i>Communications platform (technology and show how to access)</i> • <i>Equity strategy</i>
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Result #2: The Metro Denver region supports healthy and connected engineered and native natural systems

Preconditions	Promising Roles/Strategies:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Key wildlife linkages identified across jurisdictions and public-private lands -Regional conservation plan, connected with infrastructure and resilience plans***** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - what are priority habitats and resources? - do we have functional water cycle, energy cycle? - do we have resilience for storms? - leads to information about what we have, what we need (e.g. water in system, protected flood plains, native habitats)* -Political and human systems to get us there; regional buy-in***** -Economic case for ecosystem services***** -Funding: SCFD for nature***** -Mission alignment of land managers, agencies; way to address stewardship/management (long term)** -Gap analysis: resources/funding already available (eg. organizations, landscapes, species)***** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Collaborative initiatives – distill to the public</i> • <i>Regional Conservation Plan – identify critical needs and goals, strategies to get there</i> • <i>Biodiversity goal for public and private lands (tangible things that community/city can take and track and measure goal and very focused, specific)</i> • <i>Priority landscapes – identify these</i> • <i>Collaborate on conservation plan</i> • <i>Conservation plans (Bay Area)</i> • <i>Links to Natural Areas planning, ongoing initiatives</i> • <i>Regional Conservation Plan</i> • <i>Regional trail system, interconnections</i> • <i>Regional conservation strategy</i> • <i>Regional vision</i>

Result #3: Ensure all people in Metro Denver are engaged and invested in nearby nature

Preconditions	Promising Roles/Strategies:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -People feel safe and welcome in nearby nature**** -Personal connection to nature** -History, culture, family history -Fun positive experiences*** -Personal story/memory** -Knowledgeable instructors*** -Understanding what the barriers are***** -Incentives for professionals/employers**** -Early outreach/education* -Information about nature, how to engage, why it's important***** -Access* -Groups vs. "the city" – balancing stakeholder interests (e.g. Columbus Park vs. La Raza) – changes level of investment from the community* -Information about engagement opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Communication and awareness building (websites, etc.)</i> • <i>Communications and branding – why important to engage, blog, smart phone apps, etc.</i> • <i>Equity strategy (member support and training) - no real place to go right now for this</i> • <i>Project network map (need to see what being done and gaps)</i> • <i>Creating connected system of trails/plans with equity strategy/ Communication</i> • <i>Communication (Intertwine app and blog)</i> • <i>Branding using shared inclusive open communications, (e.g. expand beyond Westwood)</i> • <i>Convening and research role (struggle with this space for mDNA; not sure how can add value)</i> • <i>Training and education</i> • <i>Stewardship working group – like the approach of doing work to connect with places and that creates and investment in the space</i> • <i>Joint branding</i>

Announcements & Updates

- Update on meeting with Denver Urban Field Station: Emily advocates for this serving as the research arm of Metro DNA and factoring them into the strategic plan in some manner. They have shared goals so very important to explore opportunities to partner.
- Outside Connections event: Will have a Metro DNA presence at this event
- Teaching Outside the Box event: Melake will be presenting.
- Resilient Communities proposal: Heidi and Missy will explore this opportunity and make a recommendation.
- Targeted outreach: Susan, Shane, and Emily will help Sarah and Liz continue to develop this list and strategies.