Metro Denver Nature Alliance

Connecting Communities. Championing Nature.
Networks are sets of relationships and the patterns they create.

These patterns influence the quality of communication and the likelihood of collaboration and innovation.
Agenda

1:00 - 1:15 pm  Introductions + Grounding Activity
1:15 - 2:00 pm  Regional Vision for People + Nature
2:00 - 2:45 pm  Nature Narratives
2:45 - 3:15 pm  Moving from Equity Principles to Action
3:15 - 3:30 pm  City Nature Challenge
3:30 - 3:45 pm  Stewardship Mapping
3:45 - 4:00 pm  Closing and next steps
Introductions + Grounding Activity

Name, Organization, Title

What brings you here today?

What is your favorite plant found in the Metro Denver region (native or environmentally-adapted)?
Regional Vision for People + Nature

Learning from others...
Regional Vision for People + Nature

Process...

Vision
- Threats
- Criteria
- Goals

Data/Tools
- Assessment
- Mapping
- Evaluation

Strategy
- Opportunities
- Policy

Implement
- Land use
- Acquisition
- Evaluate/Adapt
# What we heard...

## Elements
- Water and air
- Wildlife
- Land
- Healthy people and places
- Equitable access to nature
- Intersections with other values and systems

## Goals
- Balance development, recreation & conservation
- Environmental literacy
- Climate resilience
- Functional, connected ecosystems
- Community engagement & empowerment
- Invest in nature
What we heard...

Process

- Leverage existing resources
- Create and stay true to a representative process
- Implementable, understandable & relevant
- Consider multiple scales
- Build and sustain trust
What has been going on & what’s next...

Discovery Phase

- **Apr 4**, convened county and municipal open space planning directors
- **May 29**, Rapid Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Background/Baseline Ecological Assessment
- **CU MENV Capstone Project**
Our Roles

Data Collection

Working group involvement + Interviews with partners

Synthesis of a qualitative regional vision

Madi + Alex
Rapid Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Nikki
People & Policy

Alexa
Ecology & Biodiversity

Engage with stakeholders to obtain stories and goals for nature integration
Share Your Nature Narrative

Tell us your organization's story, so we can incorporate it into the Regional Vision for People + Nature

- One-hour interview
- Discuss your nature-based efforts
- With the option to be featured in our podcast: Nature Narratives

Contact madison.kraus@colorado.edu to schedule an interview or for more information
Deliverables

Regional Vision
- Framework
- Chapter
- Infographic

Nature Narratives
- Partner Network Map
- GIS Story Map
- Podcast

Other
- Monthly 2019 Newsletters
Nature Narratives

Upcoming Workshops

- **April 25,** [Be Seen! Strategic Storytelling Skill-Building Workshop](#) @ Partners in the Outdoors Conference, Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- **TBD,** second workshop with Westwood GOCO Inspire Youth Advisory Council

Resources (coming soon!)

- Video manual & worksheets
- Interview guide
- Funding!

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**How a Story Works**

**Beginning/Setup**

[Opening image of smiling kids leaving their games and going outside.]

“At Kid Nature, we get kids away from fluorescent lights - - and into sunlight.”

**Middle/Adventure**

[Exciting shots of children running, playing, building forts, splashing in a creek, having adventures, etc.]

“We believe getting muddy... and maybe even a scraped knee or two... should be a part of every child’s life.”

**Resolution/Call to Action**

[Organization’s website and logo]

“Find out how you can help get kids outside at...”
Equity Principles & Commitments

Turning aspirations into action...
Equity Principles

Why these principles exist... To achieve our vision, it is vital that Metro Denver residents have equitable opportunities to access nature through recreation, education, conservation, and other ways that are meaningful to them. We believe that individuals with unique voices and viewpoints must be heard and honored in meaningful, substantive ways.

Building A Learning Community... Metro DNA is committed to continue learning and adapting together to best support a collaboratively built regional vision for people and nature. We acknowledge that our goals will be best achieved by creating an open, shared, and adaptive learning environment that actively seeks to include broadly diverse perspectives.
Equity Principles

Reducing Systemic Barriers

Mutual Respect of Diverse Ways of Being, Knowing, and Experiencing

Recognizing Dynamics of Power and Privilege

Supporting Representation

Access

The Use And Collection of Data and Information
What we heard...

December 2017 convening & external reviews

- Thank you!
- Define and refine
- Create a “container” for constructive criticism
- Action and accountability
- Communicate clearly

“The inventories show that less than one-half of nature-based organizations (41%) currently have an equity focus; in comparison, 72% of coalitions explicitly address equity in their mission and/or programming.” - Metro DNA Gap Analysis | 2017

#ecoinclusive
What has been going on & what’s next...

- **March 21**, Metro DNA Steering Committee affirmed and adopted the Equity Principles & Commitments
- **Metro DNA Equity Committee** continues to meet and grow
- **Exploring action items** related to an Equity Strategy, communications plan, training, and funding to support our work
- **June 24-25**, Inclusive Denver: Equity and Accessibility Summit for Action (IDEAS)
City Nature Challenge

City Nature Challenge 2019: Boulder-Denver Metro Ar...

APR 26, 2019 - APR 29, 2019

www.wild.org/naturechallenge
Stewardship Mapping

STEW-MAP: The Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project

and other updates...
What’s next? YOU are Metro DNA!

Become a partner.

Join a committee or working group.

Attend workshops and events.

Tell a friend.

www.metrodna.org