

Metro Denver Nature Alliance

Stakeholder Convening

October 8, 2019 @ 7:30 am - 12:00 pm

University of Denver, Anderson Academic Commons

[2150 E Evans Ave, Denver, CO 80208, USA](#)

Purpose

Metro DNA's semi-annual Stakeholder Convening is an opportunity for partners and friends to get together and network, learn, and co-create collaborative projects. At this gathering we are focused on building capacity to act on our [Equity Principles + Commitments](#) and co-creating a Regional Conservation Assessment to anchor the [Regional Vision for People + Nature](#). As the news of rapid and widespread extinctions and bird population decline make headlines, our work defining collaborative conservation priorities across the 7-county planning area is more urgently needed than ever before.

Notes

We began the day with introductions and sharing of our favorite wildlife species found in and around the region - from Colorado's little known native fireflies to pronghorn, pika, foxes, and tarantulas. Ensuring that they too have space to thrive is part of what we do.

Parker McMullen-Bushman, Chair of the Metro DNA Equity Committee, led a workshop on the 4 I's of Oppression, grounded in her personal and professional experiences as a woman of color and nature lover. We explored themes of bias, representation, and the historical context of disparities that exist today. We have a unique opportunity as Metro DNA to build our organization on equity from its roots, before bias gets baked in.

Brad Calvert opened up the next workshop, focusing on the Regional Vision for People + Nature, and offered attendees the opportunity to reflect on their "nature connection". Chris Hawkins and Terri Schulz from The Nature Conservancy dove into other projects informing the Regional Conservation Assessment, highlighting the potential to use community-created biodiversity data and why resilience in the face of climate change is so important to identifying and connecting conservation priorities. Claudia Browne (Biohabitats), Harriet Crittenden LaMair, and Cathy McCague (HLCC) shared their work exploring ecological and social assets and vulnerabilities along the High Line Canal, one of the region's most precious cross-boundary natural and recreational assets. Brad returned to lead the group through another exercise to envision their ideal nature network across the region.

Shane Wright, from Lincoln Hills Cares, spoke to the importance of creating opportunities for youth to provide their input into the Regional Conservation Assessment and Regional Vision for People + Nature and Travis Warziniack invited us to participate in an emerging project of the Denver Urban Field Station to explore the

region's environmental stewardship capacity, the Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (STEW-MAP).

The group's closing reflections spoke to an eagerness to continue working together and find more opportunities to transform our words into action.

