

Metro Denver Nature Alliance Stakeholder Convening



December 17, 2019 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 The Nature Conservancy, Denver -- 3rd Floor Conference Room
[3575 Ringsby Ct, Denver, CO 80216](https://www.nature.org/usa/about-us/our-work/locations/the-nature-conservancy-denver)

Notes

We enjoyed another well-attended and active Stakeholder Convening, thank you for bringing your energy!

Following a welcome from Dana Coelho (Alliance Director) and Chris Hawkins (meeting host) and a round of table-based introductions, Metro DNA’s University of Colorado - Boulder Masters of the Environment (MENV) Capstone Team summarized their work with partners this past year helping to build our shared vision of a thriving region for people + nature and informing Metro DNA’s continued evolution as a backbone organization supporting regional collaboration.

The MENV Capstone Team then facilitated an interactive session exploring partners’ and friends’ current projects and priorities for the coming year. Written comments are summarized below. **Additional ideas may be submitted for discussion online @ <https://www.metrodna.org/convene/dec2019/>.**

2019 Accomplishments	2020 Priorities
Walk2Connect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GES Caminatas Fitness ● Sand Creek partnership and connecting Swansea neighborhood ● Boulder partnership 	Walk2Connect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Camino de Colorado - Western Slope ● Refugee and immigrant programs ● Continuing pedestrian dignity/walkability work
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GOCO partnership with Generation Wild and Wilder ● Alpine stewardship training with CFI, WRV, RMFI, and others ● Multi-year and multi-project partnership with Castle Rock to create more reliable and sustainable funding sources 	Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased citizen science and ecoregional restoration and climate change mitigation projects ● JEDI efforts (figuring that out) ● Increased online stewardship and leadership skills training with Colorado Mountain College

<p>Denver Park Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched organization on July 1, 2019 • Engaged Cole community around St. Charles Place Park • Defined partnership with Denver Parks & Rec 	<p>Denver Park Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add capacity in development and community outreach • Partner with Bellevue-Hale neighborhood around Lindsley Park • Build relationships in Villa Park around opportunities to partner on Martinez Park
<p>High Line Canal Conservancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stewardship programs • Completed and endorsed framework plan • Map & guide to explore all 71 miles of the High Line Canal 	<p>High Line Canal Conservancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the framework plan • Expand stewardship and outreach programs • Increase use of and access to the Canal (Loretto neighborhood improvement project)
<p>Denver Parks & Recreation, Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a Smart Ash residential planting • Working with schools, special projects, outreach to get word out and plan trees in areas other than the public right of way 	<p>Denver Parks & Recreation, Forestry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting more trees into low income neighborhoods and keep them alive! • Use less water in parks and greenspaces (convert to more native/natural plantings, use less turf)
<p>CU Denver, College of Architecture & Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate student projects on regional conservation assessment • Launched Denver Urban Field Station (DUFS) 	<p>CU Denver, College of Architecture & Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue student work on regional conservation assessment, including GIS data collection and analysis • Continue DUFS efforts, launch STEW-MAP project • Residential irrigation modeling project with Aurora Water, CU Denver, and Babbitt Center to help with future water demand management and landscaping strategy
<p>The Wilderness Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CORE Act veterans camp out and video at Camp Hale • Just starting to think about TWS POP body of work • SEJ Conference in Fort Collins 	<p>The Wilderness Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Equity Fund conversations • U2W scoping/intern

<p>Davey Resource Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched Colorado State Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration project - Front Range Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan 	<p>Davey Resource Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood utilization workshop • Digital release of EAB management plan • Your Ash Is On the Line website
<p>US EPA, Region 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and deployment of SOND unit to monitor for orthophosphate in the South Platte River • Funding for Lincoln Hills Cares and Groundwork Denver from EPA Environmental Justice and Urban Waters grants • Support Adams County brownfields assessment to create whitewater park along Clear Creek 	<p>US EPA, Region 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 3 of the Water Quality Assessment Tool (South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership, SPRUWP) • Work with Colorado Springs on assessment of brownfields to create connected open space • Support SPRUWP partners • Support Sun Valley research
<p>Westminster Open Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Junior Ranger Program at Standley Lake (funded by GOGO Generation Wild) aimed at families in the area who had never visited the regional park • Rehabilitation project at McKay Lake engaging city volunteers and UPP Butterfly Pavilion monitoring • Awarded \$30,000 to do sustainability planning post-Generation Wild award 	<p>Westminster Open Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating 35 years of Open Space in Westminster! • Integrated pest management mapping and social trail mapping • Wayfinding
<p>Westminster Open Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a GIS program • Implementing invasive species inventory mapping • Networking with Jefferson County and City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks to develop mapping standards and protocols 	<p>Westminster Open Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory Westminster trail network • Provide easy to use maps and online resources to promote trail and open space recreation • Inventory and assessment of all park and open space assets; create monitoring program for wildlife (prairie dogs, burrowing owl, bobcat, etc.)
<p>University of Denver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationally, DU is getting close to adopting 	<p>University of Denver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue building research partnerships

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> an Integrated Pest Management plan for campus Partnership building for research, curriculum development, student projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convert to more native/natural landscape on campus
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Following this facilitated session, participants went into a networking break and self-facilitated themselves right through to 11 AM, finding natural affinities with one another, meeting new folks, and deepening existing connections. Discussion as a whole group and notes contributed on the worksheets yielded the following collaborative project ideas and potential collaborators. **Additional ideas may be submitted for discussion online @ <https://www.metrodna.org/convene/dec2019/>.**

Collaborative Project Ideas	Potential Collaborators
Data sharing & mapping	Westminster Open Space, UC Denver, US Forest Service, USGS, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
Host panel sessions across sectors; Connect people to share mutually beneficial knowledge and opportunities	Twiggs & Co., Xcel Energy Foundation, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Good Business Colorado
Engage and inform the Denver Climate Action Task Force	CU Denver, WeCan Sustainable Neighborhoods
Engage and empower college and high school students and their parents in Promotores programs	Conservation Colorado, Americas for Conservation + the Arts (Promotores Verdes)
Work with the Next 100 Coalition on conservation + equity issues, policy work, etc.; Host a focus group re” equity in the outdoors policy	Conservation Colorado, cityWILD, Environmental Learning for Kids, Butterfly Pavilion
Explore toxins in our environment as an important frame for thriving people + nature	People & Pollinators Action Network, Colorado Environmental Health Association, EPA
Engaging community in creating safe walking and nature experiences	Walk2Connect
Partner and Tribal engagement in the US Forest Service Community Forest Program - create local open space, reclaim tribal land, conserve traditional plants and practices	US Forest Service, Trust for Public Land
Create equity and access to public spaces	Walk2Connect

Refugee and immigrant engagement, create connections to open spaces, city parks, etc.	Walk2Connect
Create and deliver shared messages and marketing campaigns	Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
Continue and expand Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) training and learning opportunities	Butterfly Pavilion, Ecoinclusive, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
Inform Denver regional oil and gas development decisions (impacts include habitat fragmentation, water, air, noise, and watershed pollution -- local and state government are already working together on this, but is the NGO sector in cooperation/collaboration?)	US Forest Service

We scheduled at least half a dozen follow up meetings, events, and informal coffee dates that will keep our momentum going into the new year, create new, and deepen existing relationships among partners and friends. Several folks walked over to Comal for lunch together. SOOOO delicious! If you haven't dined there yet, we highly recommend it.

Evaluation forms completed during the meeting resulted in the following ratings and comments. **You can still provide feedback online @ <https://www.metrodna.org/convene/dec2019/>.**

- Participants who completed their evaluation on site (6) rated their overall experience at 4.3 / 5, meeting content at 4.2, and the meeting location at 4.5.
- Excellent work sensing the energy in the room and allowing side conversations to continue.
- Knowing more about the agenda ahead of time helps us to decide who from our organization should attend, especially for longer meetings.

Event Photos



Group photo, Dana Coelho



Group Photo, Parker McMullen-Bushman