Metro DNA Stakeholder Convening  Dec. 17, 2019
Welcome!

Alliance Director, Dana Coelho

CU Boulder MENV Capstone Team
- Alexa Cotton
- Alex Handloff
- Madi Kraus
- Nicole Chernick
Agenda

0900-0915 Welcome + Introductions + Recognition
0915-1000 Co-Creating a Regional Vision for People + Nature
1000-1015 Recognition + Networking Break
1015-1100 Identifying Affinity + Opportunities for Collaboration
1100-1115 Sharing Out + Transition
1115-1200 Working Groups

1200-1400 Lunch @ Comal
Steering Committee (Current)

- Butterfly Pavilion, C. Parker McMullen-Bushman, Vice President for Education & Interpretation
- Denver Parks & Recreation, Gordon Robertson, Planning Director; Leslie Pickard, Recreation Director
- Denver Botanic Gardens, Sarah Olson, Associate Director of Education
- Denver Regional Council of Governments, Brad Calvert, Director, Regional Planning & Development
- Denver Zoo, Jennifer Whitener, Director of Conservation Leadership Programs
- Environmental Learning for Kids, Loretta Pineda, Executive Director; Kim Weiss, Education Director
- Great Outdoors Colorado, Chris Yuan-Farrell, Senior Program Officer, Stewardship & Trails
- National Wildlife Federation, Sarah Konradi, Program Director, Early Childhood Health Outdoors (ECHO)
- The Nature Conservancy, Chris Hawkins, Urban Conservation Program Manager, Colorado
- The Trust for Public Land, Chandi Aldena, Project Coordinator, Park Planning, Design & Construction, Colorado
- University of Denver, Susan Daggett, Executive Director, Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Kellie Flowers, Marketing & Communications Manager
Steering Committee (Former)

- Arapahoe County, Josh Tenneson, Grants & Acquisitions Manager, Arapahoe County Open Spaces
- Mile High Connects, Jeff Su & Deya Zavala, Executive Director; Maggie Lea, Program Manager
- Denver Botanic Gardens, Jennifer Riley-Chetwynd, Director of Marketing & Social Responsibility
- Great Outdoors Colorado, Jackie Miller, Director of Programs
- National Wildlife Federation, Brian Kurzel, Colorado Executive Director
- Trust for Public Land, Emily Patterson, Director, Parks for People Program, Colorado Program
- US Fish & Wildlife Service, Delissa Padilla Nieves, Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, Mountain-Prairie Region
- US Forest Service, Dana Coelho, Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager, Rocky Mountain Region
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Anna Zawisza, Director of Community Relations & Strategic Partnerships
- CityWILD, Jes Rau, Executive Director
Special Recognition
Special Recognition

Equity Committee Co-Leads

Parker McMullen-Bushman, Butterfly Pavilion & Ecoinclusive

Jes Rau, cityWILD
Introductions

Name
Organization
Your favorite plant
Align nature-based efforts to ensure more equitable access to nature and to promote healthy people, communities, and natural places.

Connecting Communities. Championing Nature.
Through shared visioning and sustained collaborations, we work for a future when:

- Residents have equitable access to nature meaningful to them.
- Communities integrate nature to promote healthy, active residents.
- The region protects, restores, and stewards natural systems that support people, wildlife, and ecological function.
Growth

**Phase I:**
Metro DNA Founded (2015)

**Phase II:**

**Phase III:**
Strategic Business Plan (2017)

**Phase IV:**
Partner Launch (2018)
Co-Creating a Regional Vision for People + Nature

Nikki Chernick, Madi Kraus, Alexa Cotton, Alex Handloff, Graduate Capstone Team

Stakeholder Convening | December 17, 2019
Capstone Team
Nikki Chernick, Madi Kraus, Alexa Cotton, and Alex Handloff
University of Colorado Boulder
Masters of the Environment (MENV)
Sustainability Planning and Management
Project Evolution & Process

- Engage partners - 32 one hour interviews.
- Story sharing - Nature Narratives podcast
- Interview analysis - coding.
- Develop introduction to Regional Vision
  - Can be stand-alone for the organization, includes internal recommendations
Engagement process
Create buy-in
Create shared language
Encourage co-creation of knowledge
Increase participation and collaboration
Allow room for stories and unique details
How do you define nature?
What cultural factors influence our definition of nature?
What is your vision for nature in the Denver Metro Region?
What are some barriers to achieving your vision for your organization and Denver as a whole?
Key Takeaways

- Regional collaboration
- Diversity of input
- Qualitative analysis
- Common language
"The white dominant culture will drive to a trailhead, get out, hike, take in the view, take a selfie, and then go home, right? For some of our Latinx families, they bring their whole family, they have a picnic… are they welcome into the same space? Frequently, they're not. And that's where we have to think about how do we consider access and the use of our natural spaces?"

-- Cindy Chang, Executive Director: Groundwork Denver
What top THREE projects, programs, or accomplishments from 2019 would you like to highlight?

What are your top THREE priority projects, programs, or activities looking ahead to 2020?
Moving Forward
How do you want to engage?
Special Recognition
Special Recognition

CU Boulder MENV Capstone Team

- Alexa Cotton
- Alex Handloff
- Madi Kraus
- Nicole Chernick
Special Recognition
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Moving Forward
How do you want to engage?

Identifying Affinity + Opportunities for Collaboration
Current Collaborative Projects

- City Nature Challenge – led by Wild Foundation, CO DNR, and TNC
- I.D.E.A.S. for Action -- led by the Butterfly Pavilion, Ecoinclusive
- Nature Narratives -- led by Metro DNA
- Regional Conservation Assessment -- led by Metro DNA, TNC, and Biohabitats; Youth Advisory Council development led by El Laboratorio and Lincoln Hills Cares
- Rx for PRONTOS -- led by Colorado Public Health and Parks & Rec Collaborative, CDPHE, Metro DNA, and NPS
- Safe Summer Kick Off on Get Outdoors Day -- led by SouthWest Denver Coalition, Denver Parks & Recreation, Metro DNA, and NPS
- Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (STEW-MAP) -- led by USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, Denver Urban Field Station
Which city has the most nature?

The 2020 City Nature Challenge will help us find out! Last year Denver Metro Area and Boulder County competed against 159 cities throughout the globe and came up with some impressive numbers:

- 6,211 total observations
- 970 plant and wildlife species identified
- 406 observers
- 259 identifiers
Nature Narratives is a collective storytelling project, providing opportunities for partner organizations to elevate our work and the ways we are promoting healthier people, communities, and natural places in metro Denver.
Defining the ecological and community goals we share and articulating strategies to achieve those goals is critical to our success in building an active and aligned network of partners and empowering strategic, equitable, and conservation-forward land use decision-making in our region.
The Colorado Outdoor Health Collaborative is developing to support efforts to advance statewide awareness, accessibility, and effectiveness of outdoor recreation health advocacy programs.
Safe Summer Kick Off on Get Outdoors Day is a free, family-friendly event designed to promote access to healthy and safe outdoor spaces, support under-resourced communities, and celebrate nature exploration.
STEW-MAP aims to put our region and your organization’s great work “on the map” -- to document, understand, and deepen our shared capacity to create and sustain stronger, healthier, greener, and more resilient communities through environmental stewardship.
What priorities are emerging for collaborative projects (existing, ongoing, and/or new ideas)?

How do you want to contribute and organize around these ideas (committees, working groups, task forces, workshops, ongoing dialog, time-limited campaigns, funding, etc.)?
Moving Forward

How do you want to engage?

Working groups, etc.
Current Committees

- Communications
- Equity
- Fundraising
- Partner Outreach
- Programs
  - Nature Narratives
  - Regional Conservation Assessment
- Steering
Align nature-based efforts to ensure more equitable access to nature and to promote healthy people, communities, and natural places.

Connecting Communities. Championing Nature.