Sustainable DU: Greenspace Alliance

Transformative Direction 4: One DU

Acting as the academic partner in initiatives related to urban green space, working on strategic projects with Great Outdoors Colorado, the Greenway Foundation and other organizations

MetroDNA
METRO DENVER NATURE ALLIANCE

University of Denver as Academic Partner

Engaged Courses

David Carlson, *The Importance of Nature for Human Health and Well-Being* (Korbel)
Andrew Goetz, *Urban & Regional Planning* (Geography)
Megan Kelly, *Writing and Research* (University Writing Program)
Cara DiEnno, *Community and Environmental Wellness* (Wellness LLC)
Cara DiEnno, *Civic Engagement* (BACP 3400)
Rebecca Powell, *Remote Sensing* (Geography)
Patience Crowder, *Community Economic Development Clinic* (Law)
Susan Daggett, *Urban Conservation Workshop* (Law)
Julie Morris, *Sustaining Life* (Biology)
Sarah Bexell and Praneitha Mudliar, *Just Sustainabilities* (GSSW)
CCESL Fellows 2016/17 and 2017/18
Graduate students in Geography, Korbel, and Law have worked on directed research projects.

What is mDNA?

The Metro Denver Nature Alliance (Metro DNA) is a growing coalition of non-profit, government, research, and private sector partners seeking to align nature-based efforts to ensure more equitable access to nature and to promote healthy people, communities, and natural places. Through shared visioning and sustained collaborations, Metro DNA works for a future when:
- Metro Denver residents have equitable access to parks, open spaces, and other kinds of nature meaningful to them.
- Metro Denver communities integrate nature to promote healthy, active residents.
- The metro Denver region protects, restores, and stewards natural systems that support people, wildlife, and ecological function.

Underlying Metro DNA's approach is the belief that a coordinated alliance can achieve more than the sum of its parts: as partners jointly consider the intersections among key regional issues, they can develop and implement more equitable, effective, and sustainable solutions. Specifically, Metro DNA holds that greater partner alignment and integrated strategies will lead to:
- increased investment in nature;
- greater prioritization of nature in land use decisions;
- stronger public support for equitable access to nature; and
- heightened engagement with nature across diverse communities.

In support of these goals, Metro DNA will perform three mutually reinforcing roles:
Facilitating collaboration and alignment among the many partners working to advance healthy people, communities, and nature.
Championing nature-based efforts by publicizing partners' work, showcasing their successes, and raising public awareness and support for nature, broadly defined.
Building partner capacity by promoting resource sharing and leveraging joint activities.

Recent Updates:

Colorado Nonprofit Development Center, accepted as project, fiscal sponsor.
- Assistance from DU's Community Economic Development Clinic and RMLUI

Hired Dana Coehlo of the US Forest Service's Community Forestry Program, first full-time Director.
Launching first collaborative project, the Nature Narratives Project
- build capacity and assist partner organizations in communicating their individual and collective roles in promoting access to and engagement with urban nature in the Denver Metro area.
- Supported by DU's writing program, involvement by communication department in 2018/19

Working closely with the US Forest Service to launch the Denver Urban Field Station research collaborative organizing and leveraging applied research on urban ecology.
- CCESL Fellows and RMLUI have worked to ensure that DU will have an active role in the DUFS

mDNA Partners

Denver Zoo
Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver Butterfly Pavilion
Denver Parks and Recreation
Trust for Public Lands
The Nature Conservancy
Metro Denver Boys and Girls Club
Denver Regional Council of Governments
National Wildlife Federation
Mile High Connects
US Forest Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
City Wild
Environmental Learning for Kids
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
Alliance for Sustainable Colorado
Groundwork Denver
And more…..

Faculty Cluster

Andy Goetz*
Megan Kelly*
David Carlson*
Keith Miller
Laura Meyer
Sarah Bexell*
Shawn Aifrey
Dean Saitta
Don Mayer
Cecilia Orphan
Becky Powell*
Robin Tinghitella
Hillary Hamann

Shannon Murphy
Patience Crowder*
Sheila Davis
Anna Sher Simon
Tom Romero
Janney Carpenter*
Praneitha Mudliar*
Julie Morris*
Cara DiEnno*
Chad King*
Erika Polson
David Coppini
Corey Martz (PhD student)
*denotes active engagement

RMLUI ROCKY MOUNTAIN LAND USE INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY of DENVER STURM COLLEGE OF LAW 125 YEARS OF LEGAL INNOVATION

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