

Metro DNA – People and Nature Demonstration Projects

Project Solicitation Form - Draft

Background

In August 2023, the Metro Denver Nature Alliance (Metro DNA) Steering Committee unanimously decided to create a vision that lays the foundation for a regional collective impact model and greater resources for our collective goals. In service of that vision, Metro DNA will be providing funding for multiple demonstration projects designed to help prioritize and catalyze greater investments in habitat protection and connection, and equitable access to nature across the seven-county metro Denver region. One of our goals is to gain greater understanding of barriers, opportunities, and best practices in urban conservation in the region. In keeping with the “experimental” nature of this first round of projects, Metro DNA will be engaging recipients in learning how the projects might inform, guide, and strengthen the foundation for a regional vision for people and nature.

- In the initial funding round, we will be prioritizing projects from existing members of Metro DNA and/or organizations closely affiliated and/or in partnership with existing members of Metro DNA.
- Metro DNA will also be prioritizing projects that are already partially funded and plan to be completed within one year of the grant award.
- In hopes of providing high-level guidance for how Metro DNA will likely be selecting projects, [we have created this document](#) with a range of likely selection criteria, definitions related to those criteria, and some example projects.

Timing

- **Proposals are due Friday, November 15, 2023.**
- We will be hosting a virtual **open house session** to learn more about the funding opportunity on **Monday, October 23 at 2:00 pm** (Link to Zoom meeting: <https://tnc.zoom.us/j/99922708436?from=addon>).
- We plan to **provide notice on grant awards to all who apply by Friday, December 15, 2023.**

Basic Information

- Name
- Email
- Phone Number
- Organization Name
- Organization Website (if applicable)
- Is your organization currently a member or affiliated with an existing member of the Metro Denver Nature Alliance?
- If your organization is affiliated with an existing member organization, please identify the existing member organization here:

Basic Project Information

- Project Name

- Project Location (text box and map option)
- In which seven counties of the Metro DNA geographic scope does this project take place? (Multiple choice with multiple selection of the seven counties)
- Project Start Date (Approximate)
- Project End Date (Approximate)
- Requested Amount of Funding (Up to \$30,000)
- Total Project Budget
- Existing Matching Funding

Project Goals

- Please provide a brief description of the project and how it will advance the mission of Metro DNA. (Metro DNA mission: *Align nature-based efforts to ensure more equitable access to nature and to promote healthy people, communities, and natural places.*)
- Habitat
 - How does the project protect, connect, restore, and/or enhance habitat in the seven-county Metro DNA region?
 - (If applicable, please use the Regional Conservation Assessment map viewer to highlight the habitat value of the project found [here](#).)
- Equitable Access to Nature
 - How does the project help achieve Metro DNA's vision for equity in nature?
 - (If applicable, please refer to Metro DNA's Regional Equity Framework and please briefly describe how the project contributes to the "Six Dimensions of Equity in Nature" found [here](#).)
- Other Considerations
 - How does the project reinforce regional partnerships, cross-organizational collaboration, and/or other aspects of furthering the regional mission of Metro DNA?
 - Is your organization committed to working with Metro DNA to evaluate and share lessons learned from the project that inform co-creation of a regional vision for people and nature?
 - How does the project help Metro DNA inform and provide structure for co-creating a regional vision for people and nature?
 - How does the project support underserved, under-resourced, and/or frontline communities in the seven-county region?
- Please attach any relevant documents, images, or other material regarding the project and its impact.
- Are there other projects in the region that you would suggest for future consideration?