

Criteria / Areas of Impact	Basic Definition	Example(s)
Habitat Protection / Restoration / Enhancement	<p>Protection: Preserving the quality, diversity, abundance, and serviceability of habitats for the purposes of maintaining or recovering populations of wildlife.</p> <p>Restoration: The return of an ecosystem from a disturbed or altered condition to a close approximation of its ecological function prior to disturbance.</p> <p>Enhancement: Improving an ecosystem to ensure the survival of organisms, enhance the reproduction of specific populations, and strengthen overall ecosystem integrity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of new property • Conservation easement • Restoration of existing property to improve habitat quality • Enhancement of existing habitat with improvements to species resilience, reproduction, and ecosystem function
Regional Habitat Connectivity	<p>Improving or protecting and ecosystem in order to ensure organisms or natural processes can move unimpeded across habitats in the region while enhancing and focusing on key, high value properties.</p> <p>Structural Connectivity: The physical arrangement of habitat patches or areas that are suitable for many different species. This would allow organisms to move freely between different parts of their range.</p> <p>Functional Connectivity: This refers to the ability of organisms to use the landscape effectively; how landscape features facilitate or impede the movement of species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of new property that supports connectivity • Conservation easement that supports connectivity • Restoration or enhancement of habitat that supports connectivity
Thriving Interrelationship with Nature	<p>Relationships between people and nature are reframed and characterized by reciprocity, integrity, and respect. All people share the opportunity to care for nature, feel connected to nature, to belong in and feel safe in nature. Integrating nature into our living environments allows us to develop interrelationship with nature.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making signage more accessible to all people • Improving on-site and nearby safety (e.g., lighting, etc.) • Improving / creating wildlife observation areas • Environmental education / experiential camps
Environmental and Green Justice for All	<p>Past and present environmental harm is healed by highlighting and disrupting patterns of oppression against marginalized racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, including lack of access to nature and green space; and by repairing and rebalancing the disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences they face. Green gentrification (increases in property values and cost of living that occurs when urban ‘greening’ improvements are made in a neighborhood) is avoided by alleviating involuntary displacement of residents with lower incomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating / using anti-displacement strategies • Reparation and reduction in existing and historic environmental injustice
Easy Urban Access to Nature	<p>People in urban areas (particularly communities of color and those with low incomes) have opportunities to access nature, including green spaces, parks, trees, trails and natural areas, both close to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of new parks, open spaces, trails, trees, etc. • Improvements to existing parks, open spaces, trails, trees, etc.

Metro DNA – Regional Vision Demonstration Projects
 Selection Criteria (Draft)



	home and afar, in order to realize the many physical and mental health benefits that nature provides.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to pedestrian access for existing / new nature areas • Improvements to create greater safety (e.g., lighting, signage, etc.) for existing / new nature areas
Guaranteed Physical Accessibility	Safe physical access to and enjoyment of natural environments are available to all people, regardless of cognitive, developmental, intellectual, mental, physical, or sensory abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing / improving more physically accessible infrastructure • Investing in products / technologies that improve physical access • Ensuring there's bathrooms in green spaces • Using universal accessibility principles
Diverse and Inclusive Nature and Recreation Sector	Marginalized racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups, particularly people with Indigenous roots, have opportunities to make decisions about how nature is accessed and managed. This includes participation in nature-related policy making and programming; inclusive practices in recruitment, hiring, and retention; as well as equal access to environmental education and leadership opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase hiring of marginalized people and identities in the nature and recreation sectors • Diverse representation in marketing/signage
Equal Access to Health and Prosperity	All people (particularly racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups with unequal access to opportunity) experience positive social and physical environments that promote good health and the potential to thrive. Improved social determinants of health—housing, transportation, jobs, quality education, healthy food, and health care—expand opportunity overall, including access to and enjoyment of nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements that directly address and/or include aspects that support social determinants of health
Geographic Diversity	Selecting a suite of projects from across the seven-county metro Denver region to ensure a diverse array and equitable investment across the region.	N/A
Reinforce Regional Partnerships / Coordination	Projects that include multiple partners working together that ultimately help reinforce a coalition and collective impact model for a regional vision.	N/A
Support High-Priority / Vulnerable / Underserved Communities	Projects that support vulnerable, under-served, and/or frontline communities as defined and demonstrated by a suite of indicators and lived experience.	N/A