



Youth articulate the vision for a nature-rich city, March 5 2016.

Madison Connecting Children to Nature: Planning Grant

Proposed Goal: Every child growing up in Madison will have the opportunity to connect to nature in a meaningful way. This broad vision will provide the backbone for the following planning goals:

- 1) Clearly identify assets and opportunities to connect children to nature, focusing specifically on increasing equity in opportunity among children of color
- 2) Develop and articulate shared goals and metrics to measure progress, ensuring that youth engage in leading the effort
- 3) Specify a path toward a sustainable financial model to support connecting children to nature in our community, understanding that this will take time

Critical questions to address include the following:

- 1) What are key indicators of progress?
- 2) How do lived experiences of people of color in our community fundamentally shape perceptions of spending time in nature, and how do we create the space to honor and heal from those experiences?
- 3) How can we ensure transformational and restorative experiences in nature to children facing many other day-to-day challenges?
- 4) What resources and partnerships are necessary to do this and sustain it over time, ultimately shifting community norms?

Madison Connecting Children to Nature: Timeline 2016

| Month | Day | June | July | August |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Involvement/role | March | April | May | June |
| National level | 2 calls | 2 calls | 4 calls | 3 calls |
| Connect to resources, cities | | | Natl. mtg. St. Paul | Funder site visit 7/8-9/16 |
| Planning team | Planning team | Feb, March meetings | May 17: Review | June 28: Set |
| Guide vision, leverage local resources, identify opportunities | | | assessment data, establish goals | Objectives |
| Youth and community | Contract with community organization to shape and manage community interviews and summer youth internship | Design youth engagement process (Center for Resilient Cities, Public Health, Centro Hispano, Community Groundworks) | Community interviews with diverse stakeholders; broaden perspectives; particularly from people of color | Youth engagement and interviews Youth assessment process: Photomapping, video production, messaging Youth reach diverse community partners Youth synthesize assess, barriers, vision Feed information into plan |
| Madison educators, organizations, advocates for connection to nature | Madison educators, Park Visioning | "Citizen effort" to collect and document perspectives from youth, others | | Community plan review Tuesday, July 26 (Open house format 4-7pm) |
| Open youth opportunities, leverage support | Invite community and environmental education experts to map assets, barriers, vision | Educators' forum | | |
| Staff team | Shepherd process, analyze and synthesize data, organize partners, communicate progress, navigate city, community systems | Complete assessment data (Public Health staff) | | Draft plan "Pitch plan" |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesize existing data and begin to establish measures to inform goals Madison demographic profile Child health outcomes, focused on equity: e.g. Obesity/overweight, physical activity, Mental/emotional wellbeing Neighborhood and community outcomes: e.g. social connectedness Participation in programs connected to nature Physical space and community features: e.g. Safe routes to parks, green spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract for and begin MMSD School grounds assessment | | |
| | | Analyze qualitative data | | |
| | | Conduct policy and systems scan | | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to shape how, where, with whom children spend time in nature Apply criteria and identify geographic areas of need | | |
| | | Define communications plan. Work with City Channel, Parks/Pub Health, media, neighborhood centers | | |
| Funders, agency leads, leads at complementary institutions | Lead, commit | Sustainability planning | | |
| | | Develop sustainable model Estimate current community investment in children & nature Identify opportunities for synergy, leverage Project annual organizational capacity to reach goals Project annual "community budget" necessary to reach goals Identify "investors" | | |

Madison Connecting Children to Nature

Steps in community engagement process (March – August 2016)

| Action step | Principal questions | Status |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of community visioning registrants (n=55) | What two things would you do to improve children's connection to nature? | Analysis complete. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review city data, multiple dimensions | Focus on disparities Geospatial analysis of poverty, demographics, green space, amenities, etc. Health indicators (including small area where available) | In analysis |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community visioning session (n=85) | Focus on identifying assets, barriers and "dreams." Used a systems change framework to code emergent themes. | Analyzed, prioritized Overarching priority is using green space/open space as a way to improve belonging, social connectedness, in communities—especially within communities of color, but also among racially/ethnically/ economically diverse communities. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community interviews (n=15-20) | How is access to nature seen/valued? What works? What geographies/areas need attention? | In progress: Focusing on specific barriers, assets locally, with people of color and those who are deeply involved in advancing opportunity within communities of color. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher input session (n = 10-15 MMSD, other educators) | How can educational institutions shift to prioritizing outdoor learning? What works? What gets in the way? | Planning in progress |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth engagement, youth voice and community interviews | Interviews (individual and group) Observations What are lived experiences of people in our community (especially youth and older adults) with respect to connection to nature? | In progress Susila Isabela Alesha Jayla Tatianna Lydia |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event: Public review of plan | What stands out? What is missing? What would make this plan "shine"? Achieve meaningful impact? | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges in the process, "missing links" | Identifying gaps as we go. | |