



Outreach Summary March 20, 2017

- Kick-off meeting (October 2016, 80 attendees)
- Teacher meeting (November 2016, 25 attendees)
- Youth Advisory Council (15 members)
- Environmental Education Providers meeting (January 2016, 32 people from 19 organizations)
- Surveys (17 in English, 9 in Spanish)
- Conversations with Boys and Girls Club staff
- Follow-up meetings with teachers, school staff, PSD Facilities, PSD Curriculum staff
- Listening sessions and site visits to each school
- Youth survey created by and distributed by Youth Advisory Council (January, 2017, 120 responses)
- Inventory of career pathways opportunities and follow-up discussions with providers
- Prioritization Open House (February 2017, over 100 attendees)

Common Themes

- Trail connections and safe routes for bikes and pedestrians, support for biking, walking as outdoor activities.
- Support for nearby outdoor facilities at schools and Boys & Girls Club (gardens, outdoor classrooms, play spaces) including streamlined bureaucracy.
- Barriers include gear, training, staff and coordination, time/interest, and physical discomfort (hot, cold, bad weather, bugs).

Kick-off Meeting

1. Trail connection between Lincoln and Poudre Trail
2. Sidewalks on Vine Drive
3. Popular “inspiration” photos:
 - Edible trail
 - Camping
 - Exercise
 - Nature playground
 - Ropes course

Teacher Meeting

- Prefer onsite facilities to address time and transportation challenges
- Support is needed- training and additional help from administration
- Don't yet feel commitment from District, administration
- Need resources such as gear, training, facilities
- High interest in gardens and outdoor classrooms, but lots of barriers to implementation.
 - Menu of options that are pre-approved from Facilities?
- Clubs and after-school programs could be a good avenue

Youth Advisory Council

- More trees, trails, parks, places to bike and summer camps.

Environmental Education Providers

- Trail connections
- Gardens at schools
- Outdoor classrooms
- Natural outdoor play spaces
- Bike park/bike features along trail
- "Garden trail"- front yard gardens creating safe route from neighborhood to school

Survey of Boys and Girls Club Members, Salud Health Clients

- Parks, trails, sports facilities
- Strategies to make nature more comfortable (for example, shade).

Boys and Girls Club Staff

- Increased access and add appealing features to park behind their facility including camping overnight option and a supervised campfire.

Follow-up meetings with teachers, staff and PSD facilities dept.

- Lincoln MS- COPACK program successful and could use a place to teach beginning level camping and outdoor skills before capstone trip out of state. Learning garden proposed by Kitchen Community, limited engagement between school and Inspire coalition, Facilities not aware of garden proposal, status of courtyard gardens?
- Poudre HS- Would like outdoor classroom, enhance habitat of wetland area, trail, seating, learning/ entrepreneurship garden. Wetland project could address Facilities drainage issues.

- Irish Elem- Would like to clean-up and add seating to outdoor nature area, install greenhouse (approved by PSD, needs funding)
- Putnam Elementary- highly functioning Kitchen Community garden, would like some small improvements, more plantings, address retaining wall issue. Follow-up with PSD Facilities revealed resolution for retaining wall concern- Jerry Garretson will follow-up.
- Huidekoper Park- Not very feasible due to complex City Parks/PSD partnership, lack of water tap, not on Parks' timeline to address for several years. Would consider small scale, temporary improvements generated by B&G Club members, limited planning efforts.
- PSD Facilities Dept's top priority is the Lincoln to Poudre Trail connection, okay to share other ideas for prioritization, but would like to accomplish this project to completion rather than start several ideas that don't get finished.

Youth surveys by Youth Advisory Council

- Survey created by Youth Advisory Council, 120 responses collected by YAC members.
- Favorite activities to do outside: sports, biking, walking/running, and hiking.
- Most reported spending more than 90 minutes outside during the week and weekend. The next most common answers were 30-60 minutes during the week and 60-90 minutes on weekends.
- The most often mentioned barriers to the outdoors included homework, weather, lack of people to accompany, family responsibilities and chores.
- "If my family and friends liked getting outside more", "nature areas close to home or school" and "If there were easier access to get outside (bike trail, bus, etc)" were the top suggestions to encourage outdoor activity.

Inventory of Career Pathways, Provider Discussions

- Career pathway opportunities are severely limited in the study area.
- There is a gap in 6th-8th grade programming of any type.
- Natural resource careers generally preclude low income students due to need to forgo summer employment for unpaid internships/field courses, and limited ability to sustain seasonal wage work for extended time prior to being hired for full-time benefitted positions.
- Existing career pathways could be easily improved by current provider agencies with investment in stipends for interns and increased coordination.

Prioritization Open House, 2/28

Places in priority order (as ranked by participants) with notes about next steps:

1. **Putnam Learning Garden Enhancements**- confirm that no design work is required, include in implementation grant.

2. **Outdoor Classroom at Poudre HS**- better fit for City of FC Natural Areas Certification and Enhancement Fund, and/or Nature in the City, requires significant planning and potential federal permitting due to wetland means this is not as feasible as other projects to include in implementation grant. Work with school to use existing spaces to fullest potential through PSD outdoor coordinator.
3. **Learning Garden shared by Lincoln MS and B&G Club**- revisit to understand courtyard garden situation, explore including a garden in trail enhancement corridor.
4. **Outdoor Gear Library**- explore scale, where it would be housed, costs etc- likely include in implementation grant.
5. **Trail Connection from Lincoln to Poudre Trail**- include in implementation grant - needs engagement from Lincoln MS, B&G Club, stakeholders, Overland Mnt Bike Club, PSD, Nature in the City, Parks Planning, Safe Routes to School, FC Bikes focused on site-specific ideas such as garden and bike elements, then needs landscape architecture design, exploration of legal aspects, cost estimate etc.
6. **Enhance Trail Connection**- most opportunity for innovation, include in implementation grant, see above.
7. **Learning landscape and greenhouse at Irish**- support learning landscape clean-up and seating by connecting with Natural Areas service learning coordinator and other volunteer involvement. Unclear if greenhouse is supported by entire school community. Continue to explore other funding options.
8. **Sidewalks on Vine**- not feasible to include in implementation grant, continue to support the effort including advocating for a protected bike lane on Vine.
9. **Huidekoper Park** enhancements- not feasible at this time, work with B&G Club staff and outdoor coordinator to use existing space to fullest potential.

Way Forward:

- Discussions are ongoing between Coalition and Design Workshop (consultant on Project Outdoors) to arrange site visits and engagement for trail connection/enhancement. Stakeholders will be invited to engagement opportunity. *Nature in the City* program (Justin Scharton, Stephanie Kopplin) will likely manage the trail connection/enhancement project and preparing it for implementation grant.
- Follow-up to plan Gear Library specifics will begin soon, be in touch with Zoe Shark if you are interested in participating in further planning on this aspect.
- Follow-up with Putnam Elementary to confirm that no design/landscape architecture work is needed and refine cost estimate (Sue Schafer).
- Follow-up with each school about their projects and next steps.
- Follow-up with City of Fort Collins' Rob Mosby about sidewalks, Parks Planning about Huidekoper and trail connection.

PLACES contacts are Zoe Shark, Heather Young, and Nature in the City staff (Justin Scharton and Stephanie Kopplin).

Program Priorities

Coordinators are assumed as a requirement- open house participants may not have understood because coordinators ranked lower than programming. Ranking by open house participants is below:

1. In school programs (early childhood, high school, elementary school)
2. Pathways training for providers
3. Middle school programming (in-school and after school)
4. High School programming (after school and summer)
5. Middle school summer programming
6. PSD Outdoor Education Coordinator (see note)
7. Elementary school summer and after school
8. B&G Club outdoor coordinator(see note)
9. College age opportunities

Programs Way Forward: Pathways training for providers could be done without grant funding and is a more urgent need (2017 versus 2018-2020), so it is no longer being considered for implementation grant, but will likely occur in the fourth quarter of 2017 or early 2018 organized by CSU, City of Fort Collins Natural Areas, Larimer County Department of Natural Resources and anyone else interested. College age opportunities are recognized as a need, but GOCO has indicated that scholarship funding would not be eligible for implementation grant funding so alternate funding will be sought.

Implementation grant programs and pathways priorities:

1. Coordinator for PSD to focus on in school programs (priority order: early childhood, high school, elementary school, middle school), funding for providers to do activities.
2. Coordinator housed at B&G Club to focus on afterschool and summer programming (priority order: high school, middle school, elementary school), funding for providers to do activities.

Next Steps: A draft sequence of in-school experiences is being created from ranking, programming proposals, and follow-up conversations. Similarly, sequence for after-school and summer is also being drafted and will be discussed with stakeholders.

Contact Sue Schafer and Nicole Stafford (K-5th grade) and Diane Wendt and Rob Novak (6th-12th grade).