Nature Score

A Tool to **Inspire** Nature Play and Discovery
We can see...

Every 2.5 minutes, the American West loses a football field worth of natural area to human development.

- The Disappearing West
We know...

10 percent of youth say they are spending time outdoors every day. Barriers to getting outdoors include:

1. Uncomfortable being outdoors
2. Lack of transportation to natural areas
3. Few natural areas near their homes

- 2011 Nationwide poll from The Nature Conservancy
We realize... 

66 percent of youth say they ‘have had a personal experience in nature,’ that made them appreciate it more.

- 2011 Nationwide poll from The Nature Conservancy
How... do we encourage youth of today to care about this place,
When...
they live here...
PURPOSE

Describe an ANALYSIS PROCESS for identifying priority areas for improved connections to the outdoors to **Inspire** Nature Play and Discovery
OBJECTIVES

DEFINE. Important qualities of natural experiences

ASSESS. Parks and Open Lands System

IDENTIFY. Nature Disadvantaged Areas

PRIORITIZE. Improvements to the natural experience
Community

SURVEY.
491 Adults
487 Youth

LISTENING SESSIONS.
Educators
Program Providers
Career Pathways
Youth

63% of Youth and 66% of Adults Experience Nature at their Local Parks

60% of Greeley Youth spend 2+ Hours Outdoors on a Typical Weekday

Nationwide, 61% of Youth Spend 2+ Hours Outdoors on Weekdays

85% of Parents Would Like Their Children to Spend More Time Outdoors

68% of Youth and 81% of Adults had a Meaningful Experience in Nature That Encouraged Deeper Appreciation

Nature in their Community is Important to 77% of Youth and 72% of Adults
### Barriers

‘Greeley is missing a culture of outdoors recreation’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth</th>
<th>Adult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know where to go.</td>
<td>Don’t know where to go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too busy.</td>
<td>Lack of interest in spending time in nature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No places of interest nearby.</td>
<td>No one will go with them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No way to get there.</td>
<td>No places of interest nearby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost is too high for equipment, programs etc.</td>
<td>Too busy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No one to go with.</td>
<td>Nature makes them uncomfortable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictions.</td>
<td>Restrictions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature makes me uncomfortable.</td>
<td>Cost is too high for equipment, programs etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places are too crowded.</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family will not let me spend time in a natural area.</td>
<td>Places are too crowded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too much risk of getting hurt.</td>
<td>Not accessible to those with disabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other.</td>
<td>Too much risk of getting hurt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not interested.</td>
<td>Personal health issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not accessible to those with disabilities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal health issues.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opportunities

Top 40 Things Youth in Greeley Like To Do Outdoors

- Play and explore (70%)
- Camp (64%)
- Walk, jog or bike on paved trails (57%)
- Picnic (54%)
- Bike or bike on natural trails (53%)
- Enjoy water (52%)
- Fish (48%)
- Experience natural beauty (47%)
- Walk their dog (45%)
- Mountain activities (42%)

Improvements Needed to Encourage Youth to Spend More Time Outdoors

- Surround trails with nature (62%)
- New nature parks (60%)
- Connect paths to parks and open lands (58%)
- Add natural areas to existing parks (54%)
- Enhance programs connecting youth to nature (47%)
- Provide transportation to natural places (47%)
- Introduce natural areas to schoolyards (44%)
- More learning centers and education facilities (28%)
- Maintain current status of parks and open lands (12%)
## Nature Score Assessment Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature Score Matrix</th>
<th>Splash</th>
<th>Play</th>
<th>Discover</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be close to water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water body [pond, reservoir]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water is accessible/ Not fenced off</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Splash
- **Swim**
- **Fish**
- **Kayak, canoe, paddle board, etc.**

### Play
- **Explore wild nature**
- **Get outside with friends**
- **Get outside with family**
- **Self-Discovery**
- **Learn new skills**

### Discover
- **Care for plants and the environment**
- **View natural and/ or interesting scenery**
- **Peaceful and relaxing retreat**

#### River
- **Beach**
- **Fishing access**
- **Boat access**
- **Hike or walk on paths or trails**
- **Playgrounds**
- **Picnic areas**
- **Explore trails within the park/ natural area**
- **Outdoor classrooms space and/ or learning landscape**
- **Community garden**
- **Mountain views**
- **Benches**

#### Canal
- **Swimming Access**
- **Signage/ kiosks about fish species and/ or riparian ecosystems**
- **Boat rentals**
- **Nature play areas**
- **Youth Outdoor recreation programs**
- **BBQs**
- **Trails that connect to other parks/ natural areas**
- **Programs that teach skills**
- **Ranger or volunteer programs**
- **Natural landscapes/ Native short-grass prairies**
- **Secluded areas/ Tree canopy cover**

#### Water body [pond, reservoir]
- **Mountain Bike on soft surface trails**
- **Disc Golf**
- **Picnic Shelter**
- **Youth enrichment programs**
- **Equipment and/ or features that provide a chance to learn outdoor skills (i.e. swim, boat, fish, hike, mountain bike)***
- **Signage/ kiosks about wildlife species and/ or ecosystems**
- **Riparian areas**
- **A place to "get away; Over 5 acres in size**

#### Water is accessible/ Not fenced off
- **Trail run on soft surface trails**
- **Skate Park**
- **Toddler play areas**
- **Access to electricity to support programs/ equipment**
- **Public Art**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
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<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Results of the Nature Score Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Rank</th>
<th>Park or Natural Area</th>
<th>Nature Score</th>
<th>Epoch</th>
<th>Play</th>
<th>Discover</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Twin Pines Park- MacCabe Trail Reserve</td>
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<td>Credit Park</td>
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<td>Doral Park</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Gables Park</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A** NATURAL AREA
**B** NATURAL AREA
**C** EAST MEMORIAL NATURAL AREA

**A** PARK
**C** PARK

**A** GLENMERE PARK

**C** COYOTE RUN PARK
Nature Disadvantaged Areas

- Household within 10-minutes of a quality natural experience.
- Household outside of 10-minutes of a quality natural experience

Nature Disadvantaged Area
Indicators
Socio-demographic makeup of Greeley and its Nature Disadvantaged Area

**POPULATION 2016**
- Total Population: 104,252
- Hispanic Population: 81,938
- Total Population Under 18: 7,237

**2021 Projected**
- Total Population: 110,956
- Hispanic Population: 87,294
- Total Population Under 18: 7,514

**ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**
Total Population Speaking English “Not Well” or “Not at All.”
- Ages 5 to 17: 0.3%
- Ages 18 to 54: 11.7%

Legend:
- City of Greeley
- Nature Disadvantaged Area
- Focus Area: East Memorial Neighborhood
Indicators
Socio-demographic makeup of Greeley and its Nature Disadvantaged Area

**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

- **Greeley**
  - 2018: $49,154
  - 2021: $50,574
  - Increase: .55%

- **Nature Disadvantaged Area**
  - 2018: $45,436
  - 2021: $46,361
  - Increase: .40%

- **East Memorial Neighborhood**
  - 2018: $38,979
  - 2021: $36,255
  - Increase: .09%

**HOUSEHOLDS BY POVERTY STATUS**

- Total Households with an Income in the past 12 Months Below Poverty Level:
  - 19.5%
  - 22.0%
  - 32.8%

Note: Data provided for illustrative purposes only.
Potential Impacts
To Greeley and the East Memorial Neighborhood

What would the NATURE MOBILE be filled with?
Potential Impacts
To Greeley and the East Memorial Neighborhood

QUALITY OF PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS
- "A" Park or Natural Area
- "B" Park or Natural Area
- "C" Park or Natural Area

NATURE DISADVANTAGED AREA
- Greater than 1/2 mile walking distance from an "A" or "B" park or natural area.

Priority Areas
- HIGH
  - 2,000+ Households
  - 1,000 - 2,000 Households
  - Under 1,000 Households

Focus Area: East Memorial Neighborhood
What improvements would encourage youth in this neighborhood to get outdoors?

Youth Voice

Splash . Play . Discover
Amenities and Activities
Desired by Youth in the East Memorial Neighborhood
Conceptual Plan
East Memorial Natural Area

- Community and Path connecting East Memorial Park and Ball Romaya K-8 Campus to the East Memorial Natural Area
- Bridge providing access over a retention pond to the East Memorial Natural Area
- Interactive Water Play created by diverting a small channel of water from the retention pond into the Natural Area
  Target Area: Elementary to High School Age Groups
- Nature Play area created by fort area
  Target Area: Elementary to High School Age Groups
- Hammock Grove located as a cozy vegetative area
  Target Area: Middle to High School Age Groups
- Climbing and Bouldering area with rock climbing walls and natural boulders for all fitness levels
  Target Area: Elementary to High School Age Groups
- Picnic area with a large picnic area and a playground surrounded by a natural berm
  Target Area: Elementary to High School Age Groups
- Wading Stream featuring a small wading area with a stream and aquatic life
  Target Area: Elementary to Middle School Age Groups
- Waterfall Loop integrated with natural earthwork's retaining steps and cascades
  Target Area: Elementary to High School Age Groups
- Natural Play area featuring natural play elements, including natural play structures and features
  Target Area: Elementary to High School Age Groups
- Outdoor Classroom featuring outdoor learning and teaching areas
  Target Area: Elementary to High School Age Groups
- Agility Course featuring a variety of obstacles and challenges
  Target Area: Elementary to High School Age Groups
CREATING A RELEVANT AND INCLUSIVE FUTURE