

ACTION CHALLENGE

Building a successful cross-sector team

Local community leaders can play active roles to ensure that nearby nature spaces exist and that those children and families with limited access feel comfortable using those spaces. Coordinated efforts between municipal agencies, school districts and community-based organizations maximize benefits to young people. Such partnerships also readily align with community priorities to address public health, academic, economic, environmental and equity outcomes.

Defining a cross-sector team

For purposes of the NE Action Challenge, a cross-sector team includes team members from more than one organization or department. Team members represent different sectors of a community such as government agencies, school districts or community organizations. For the Action Challenge, we ask teams to be composed of a minimum of three individuals from different sectors.

Considerations for forming a cross-sector team

For geographic areas, community teams would benefit from a combination of **institutional partners** (such as school district and municipal, county and regional government representatives and decision-makers) and **essential community partners** (such as BIPOC-led organizations and others that have been traditionally excluded from community planning and decision making – and organizations and nonprofits representing the sustainability, health, education, youth development, outdoor rec, family service and other sectors).

For organizations with statewide reach, a successful team might include a representative mix of leadership and programmatic staff at various levels from multiple locations; key partners and stakeholders; and diverse voices from audiences served, with a focus on those not traditionally included in conversations about program design and service delivery

For any type of community, we encourage registrants to strike a balance between including youth voices and intergenerational and BIPOC leadership, and local leaders involved in budget and policy decision-making.

See it in action: Stories from the field

- [The Power of Partnerships: Grand Rapids, MI has become a national leader in connecting children to nature](#)
- [Collaboration by nature: Getting children outdoors gets top billing when organizations work together](#)