



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **White House Council on Environmental Quality Chair Brenda Mallory Visits Denver to Highlight Outdoor Equity, Expanding Access to Nature**

**Denver, CO, May 23, 2023** - Yesterday, the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Brenda Mallory, visited Denver to meet with community members, nonprofit leaders, and park rangers to discuss the importance of nature and stewardship in urban communities. Chair Mallory was hosted by the Next 100 Coalition, Environmental Learning for Kids, and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge to highlight significant strides being made to advance access to nature, natural resource jobs and opportunities, conservation efforts, and environmental learning programs for families and youth in communities such as Montbello and Commerce City.

President Biden's Investing in America agenda is expanding access to nature for communities with drastic infrastructure and natural resource shortages due to historical underinvestment. Chair Mallory's presence was one of many visits across the U.S. to learn and show support for the significance of environmental investments in local communities.

"Equitable access to nature is a cornerstone of building healthier, happier, and safer communities in Colorado and across the nation," said **Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Council Brenda Mallory**. "I am grateful for strong partners like Environmental Learning for Kids and the Next 100 Coalition who are building on the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to break down barriers to outdoor access and advancing environmental justice in all communities."

"Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) is honored to have the CEQ-Chair Brenda Mallory visit ELK's Education Center in Montbello. Our organization works towards cultivating a diverse community of leaders and environmental stewards by increasing outdoor equity. For the past 27 years, we have worked to connect over five thousand youth and families annually to nature and a critical aspect of their success is for them to see themselves reflected in leaders such as the CEQ Chair," said **Juan Pérez Sáez, Executive Director, Environmental Learning for Kids**.

“When I was young I spent time playing in creeks and rivers at my grandparents’ farm in Mexico, which sparked my appreciation for nature and taking care of the places we love. This connection to the outdoors only grew after my family immigrated to Denver and I became involved in programs like Generation Wild, Next 100, and the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, which helped lead me to become an Urban Park Ranger,” said **Isis Rivera Lopez, Urban Park Ranger, Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge**. “I hope that our efforts to engage families and youth, combined with federal resources, only serve to further inspire and connect people to our environment and natural resources in their own way and that is meaningful to them and their communities.”

“The recent federal investments in urban natural resources, such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, deeply support and demonstrate the various ways people, regardless of the zip code they live in, can connect to and care for our environment,” said **Chela Garcia Irlando, Executive Director of the Next 100 Coalition**. “Our mission as an organization is to ensure that the next 100 years of our lands, waters, and communities are stewarded to advance the prosperity and resilience of both people and nature. We are thrilled by CEQ’s energy to continue to support the connection between federal, state, and local conservation efforts.”

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