

Nature and Health: A Cells to Society Approach



A note from the Steering Committee: >>>

Thank you so much for attending the Nature and Health: A Cells to Society Approach at Brown University on September 19-20, 2024. This workshop brought together almost 100 people, including researchers from Brown and our partners from other national and international academic institutions, community organizations, and sectors. We hope you enjoy the inaugural edition of this newsletter, which includes a reflection on the workshop, news from the community, and future learning opportunities.

Spotlight	1
Announcements & Publications: Steering	2
Announcements & Publications: Speakers	3-5
Poster Session Prizes	6
Nature Meditation	7
New & Noteworthy	8
Looking Forward...	9-10

<<< Contents

Spotlight

Nature and Health: Across the Lifespan

Check out all of the wonderful work and resources of the [Children & Nature Network](#).

Children & Nature Network



Photo: Space to Grow

THEIR VISION

A world in which children have access to the benefits of nature everywhere they live, learn and play.

THEIR MISSION

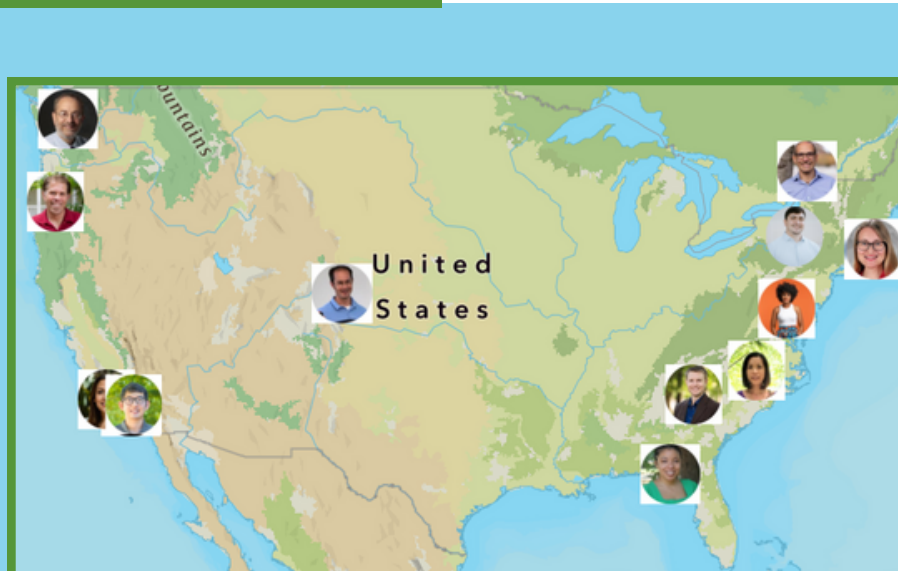
To increase equitable access to nature so that children—and the natural world—can thrive.

Nature and Health Story Map



Nature and Health: Across the Map

Check out this [ArcGIS interactive map](#) of our Nature and Health speakers, created by Dr. Jue Yang.



Check out
the
exciting
work of
our
steering
committee

Announcements & Publications: Steering

Since September 2024

»»» Diana Grigsby-Toussaint



- [Project G-SPACE: protocol for exploring the influence of green space on sleep and mental health among children](#)

»»» Kelly Holder



- [Burnout in Practicing Neurologists A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis](#)

»»» Jeff Huang



- [Chirp: The Impact of Private Online Self-Disclosure on Perceived Social Support](#)
- [Portallink: 2.5D Visual Storytelling with SVG Parallax and Waypoint Transitions](#)

»»» John McGeary



- [Project G-SPACE: protocol for exploring the influence of green space on sleep and mental health among children](#)
- [Insomnia treatment effects on negative emotionality among veterans in treatment for alcohol use disorder](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facility Rehabilitation Intensity and Successful Discharge in Persons with Dementia](#)
- Awarded SPRINT Suicide Prevention Pilot Grant: *Identifying Drug Repurposing Targets for Veteran Suicide*

»»» Kevin Mwenda



- Invited to give a talk as part of the Yi-Fu Tuan Geography Lecture Series at the University of Wisconsin titled "[Beyond Maps: Integrating Place and Space for Community Resilience](#)"

»»» Kurt Pennell



- [A randomized controlled trial of a housing intervention to reduce endocrine disrupting chemical exposures in children](#)
- [Adsorption of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances on biochar derived from municipal sewage sludge](#)
- [Simulating PFAS transport in effluent-irrigated farmland using PRZM5, LEACHM, and HYDRUS-1D models](#)
- [Transport and competitive interfacial adsorption of PFOA and PFOS in unsaturated porous media: Experiments and modeling](#)
- [Fate and Transformation of 15 Classes of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Aqueous Film-Forming Foam \(AFFF\)-Amended Soil Microcosms](#)

Check out
the
exciting
work of
our
speakers

Announcements & Publications: Speakers

Since September 2024

»»» Rosella Alfano



- [Exposome Analysis of Maternal and Cord Blood Cholesterol in the ENVIRONAGE Birth Cohort](#)

»»» Matthew Browning



- [Can pre-visit exposure to virtual tours of healthcare facilities help reduce child and parent anxiety during outpatient surgical procedures?](#)
- [Intra-neighborhood associations between residential greenness and blood pressure](#)
- [Nature exposure and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic: A Navigation Guide systematic review with meta-analysis](#)

»»» Michael Charles



- [With research and data, professor empowers Indigenous communities](#)
- [Weaving innovative fabrics of knowledge between institutionalized sciences and Indigenous ways of knowing](#)

»»» Somayeh Dodge



- [Disaster vulnerability in road networks: a data-driven approach through analyzing network topology and movement activity](#)
- [A research agenda for GIScience in a time of disruptions](#)

»»» Xiaoqi Feng



- [Contact with nature may be a remedy for loneliness: A nationally representative longitudinal cohort study](#)
- [Nature contact and burnout](#)
- [Reduce Speed Limits to Minimize Potential Harm and Maximize the Health Benefits of Street Trees](#)
- [Contact with nature, nature prescriptions, and loneliness: Evidence from an international survey of adults in Australia, India, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and the United States](#)
- [When does greener mean slimmer? Longitudinal analysis of green space, trees, grass, and body mass index in a cohort of 50,672 Australians: Exploring potential non-linearities and modifying influences of household relocation and gender](#)
- [Benefits of Green Space for Mental Illness, Sleep, and Cognitive Health in Mainland China](#)

»»» Howard Frumkin



- [Cli-Fi—helping us manage a crisis](#)
- [Biophilic Solutions Podcast, Episode #88: Protecting Nature to Protect Ourselves with Dr. Howard Frumkin](#)

Announcements & Publications: Speakers

Since September 2024

>>> Viniece Jennings



- [Place-Based Conservation in Coastal and Marine Ecosystems: The Importance of Engagement with Underrepresented Communities](#)

>>> Jihong Min



- [A wearable aptamer nanobiosensor for non-invasive female hormone monitoring](#)
- [Open-World Object Detection with Instance Representation Learning](#)

>>> Christopher Minson



- [Carbon monoxide inhalation for performance: dancing with the devil?](#)

>>> Richard Mitchell



- [How could 20-minute neighbourhoods impact health and health inequalities? A policy scoping review](#)
- [Inequalities in geographical distribution of heritage in Scotland, investigating spatial exposure to heritage sites through area-based and individual-based \(GPS\) measurement](#)
- [Commentary: A road map for future data-driven urban planning and environmental health research](#)
- [Public and professional stakeholders' perceptions of alcohol advertising and availability policies: A qualitative study](#)
- [Inequality in green space distribution and its association with preventable deaths across urban neighbourhoods in the UK, stratified by Index of Multiple Deprivation](#)

>>> Wendy Nilsson, Providence Parks Dept.



- [Awarded PPS Award for Betsey Williams Sycamore Tree Preservation and featured in short film](#)
- [Awarded \\$500,000 Municipal Resiliency Program grant for India Point Park](#)
- [Awarded \\$250,000 Coastal Resources Program grant for India Point Park](#)
- [Awarded \\$40,000 Children & Nature Network Nature Everywhere seed grant](#)
- [Featured in Projo for Providence Rink Restoration](#)
- [Featured in RI monthly Magazine - North Burial Ground](#)
- [Hosted First Annual Providence Parks Dept. Conference: "Everyone Has a Hand in Parks" in Roger Williams Park](#)
- [Completed over 10 capital improvement projects, with more to come](#)

>>> Amelia Rose, Groundwork Rhode Island



- [EPA announces over \\$1 million in new awards to advance climate resilience in disadvantaged communities across Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts](#)

Announcements & Publications: Speakers

Since September 2024

»»» Jennifer D. Roberts



- [Complete Highway Removal vs. Highway Removal to Boulevards vs. Caps: Redressing Past Wrongs while Addressing the Decay of America's Most Ambitious Public Works Project](#)
- [Outdoor physical activity is not associated with better mental health in a sample of predominantly Black people, but spending time in parks is](#)

»»» Liisa Tyrväinen



- [Comparison between three different delivery technologies of virtual nature on psychological state related to general stress recovery: An experimental study](#)
- [The effect of investments in recreational trail development on trail-related business operations and profitability: a case study of Northern Ireland](#)
- [Luonnonvara- ja biotalouden tutkimus 76/2024 Luontoympäristön terveysvaikutukset ja niiden](#)
- [Green space quantity and exposure in relation to the risk of immune-mediated diseases: a scoping review](#)
- [Innovation and future pathways in nature-based tourism – the outlook from an international expert panel](#)

»»» Jason Watson



- [Investigating the benefits of viewing nature for components of working memory capacity](#)

»»» John P. Wilson



- [Elevating Street Trees to Infrastructure Status: A comparison of street tree spacing guidelines in Los Angeles with U.S. peer cities](#)
- [Collaboration between artificial intelligence and Earth science communities for mutual benefit](#)

»»» Jue Yang



- [Project G-SPACE: protocol for exploring the influence of green space on sleep and mental health among children](#)

»»» Robert Zarr



- [Association of children's electronic media use with physical activity, cognitive function, and stress](#)

Poster Session Prizes

6

Congratulations to the following winners:

1st Place (\$500) >>> Jihong Min

Affiliation: California Institute of Technology

Title: A wearable sweat sensor powered by a flexible perovskite solar cell

2nd Place (\$250) >>> Jue Yang

Affiliation: Brown University

Title: Seasonal Impact of Greenspace on Child Opportunity: An Analysis of NDVI and the Child Opportunity Index Across US Census Tracts

3rd Place* (\$100) >>> Elena Hurtado Solberg

Affiliation: Brown University (PLME) & Stanford University (Summer Research Intern)

Title: The Role of GRIN2A in Mediating E-Cigarette-Induced SMC Phenotypic Modulation

3rd Place* (\$100) >>> Zainab Iftikhar

Affiliation: Brown University

Title: Re-imagining Mental Health Access: The Role of Human, AI and Design

Nature Meditation

Choose a time of day to go out in--10-20 minutes--at the same time of day for 7 or more days. For example, a week of taking the same route at lunch or after work. Or an early morning jaunt at a favorite park. Notice what changes occur over the 7 days: The way the light falls, the soundscape, the weather patterns... if you happen to have a child around, take them, too!

Notice it together, the sometimes small and sometimes big ways the natural world changes every day.

Allow yourself to also be changed by it.

*Shared by Lynn Koerbel,
Mindfulness Teacher and Professor of the Practice at
the Brown School of Public Health, who led the
mindfulness nature immersion opportunity for our
speakers*





More on nature and health



- [Digging Into Nature: Outdoor Adventures for Happier and Healthier Kids](#)
- [What has Contributed to Green Space Inequities in U.S. Cities? A Narrative Review](#)

- [Our Planet, Our Health: 2025 Climate Action Convention](#)
 - [March 2-4](#)
- [2025 Nature and Health Alliance Conference](#)
 - [Abstract Submission: January 10](#)
 - [Conference: April 27-29](#)
- [2025 Nature Everywhere Conference](#)
 - [Conference: May 13-16](#)
- [Northwest Nature and Health Symposium](#)
 - [Conference: May 21](#)
- [4th World Conference on Forests and Parks for Public Health](#)
 - [Abstract Submission: January 30](#)
 - [Conference: May 21-24](#)



2025 conferences and learning opportunities

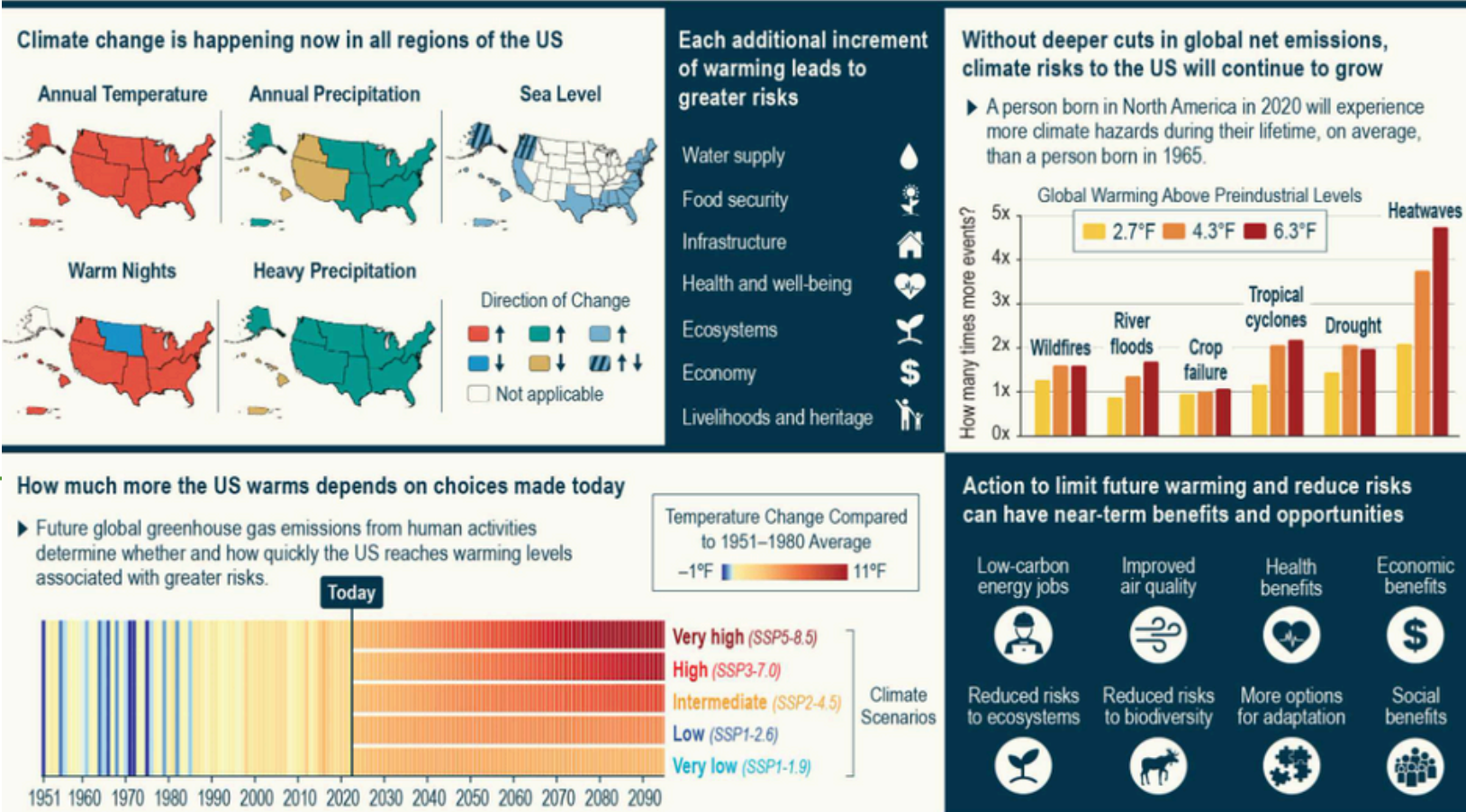
US National Nature Assessment



Nature Assessment

The First National Nature Assessment is in the early stages of development by the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and is anticipated to be released in 2026.

Climate Change Risks and Opportunities in the US



Looking Forward...

10

Nature and Health Workshop Report

Check out the full summary of events, coming soon!

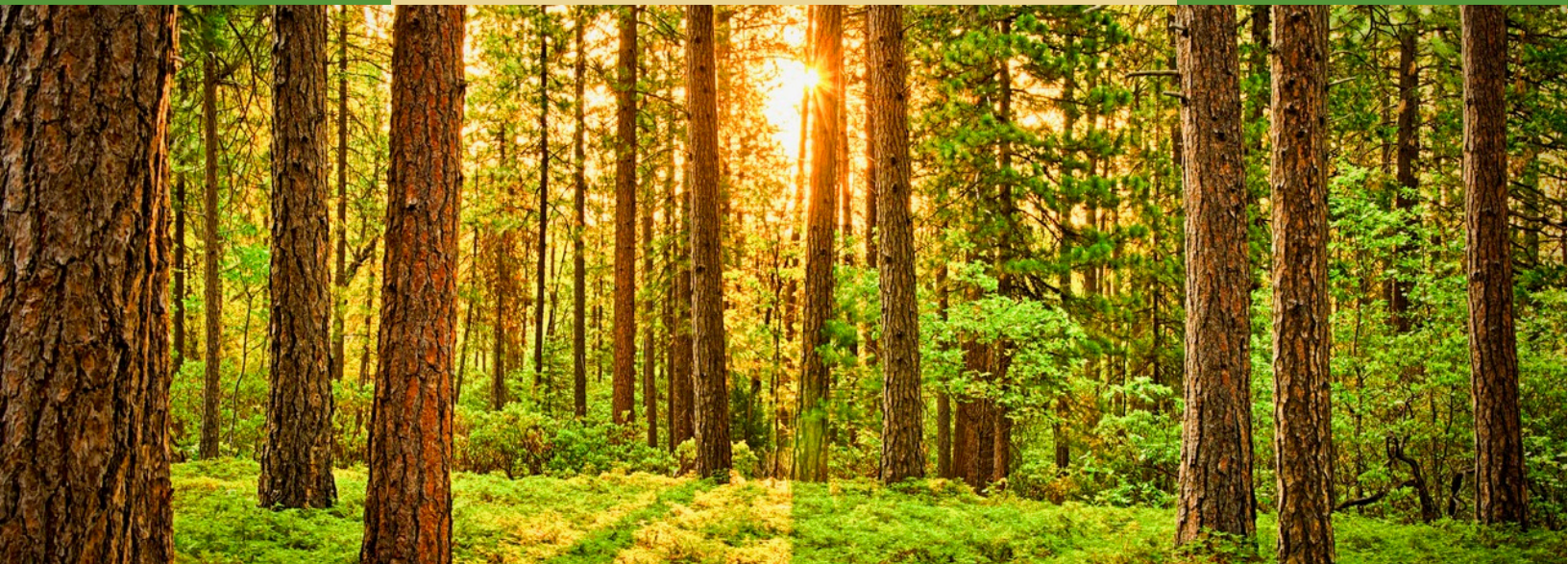


DOI:

[10.17605/OSF.IO/3V5W2](https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/3V5W2)

“As you walk, look around, assess where you are, reflect on where you have been, and dream of where you are going. Every moment of the present contains the seeds of opportunity for change. Your life is an adventure. Live it fully.”

-- Dr. John Francis



There is so much exciting research and work going on both within and outside of this newsletter community. Please let us know if we missed something or if you would like to highlight any work or news items in a future edition.

**Announcements, Comments, or Solicitations:
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