

## **Connecting Youth with Nature**

Nature inspires! It stimulates imagination and creativity, builds confidence, and invites children to explore. Research shows that for youth to connect to, care about, and therefore become stewards of the land, they need repeated access to it – whether in nearby natural areas like a backyard or a neighborhood park, or on their public lands. These connections then lead to a sense of purpose and confidence in young people’s ability to protect nature, especially amid rapid environmental change. The pending climate crisis will impact youth and future generations to a greater degree than older generations. People of all ages, including youth, will need to work together to find innovative ways to learn to live within and with nature.



Currently, OSMP staff are working with many organizations and the community to develop nature discovery areas and other amenities to support youth connection to their natural environment and foster stewardship.

### **Representative projects:**

- **Woods Brothers Interpretive Trail -2024/25**
- **Sawhill Ponds Nature Discovery Area -2024**
- **South Mesa Trailhead Nature Discovery Area -2025**
- **Marshall Mesa Eco-Healing Interpretive Area -2024**