Response to Reviewer 1 Comments

Point 1: The manuscript I have received has not been re-written, it is the same manuscript I had commented on May 27. The authors only added their explanations on the methodology choice and informed that, they 'de-emphasized the Sense of Belonging in Urban Nature Questionnaire' role and they removed the Sense of Belonging from the title. Therefore I still maintain my stance that the paper in present form does not contribute to the international scholarly literature.

Response 1: Thank you for your time in reviewing our manuscript again. We have made further modifications and revisions to the manuscript. Descriptions of the changes we have made are below.

1. Summary of how the Kruskal-Wallis test differs from an ANOVA test has been added to the methods section.
2. Justification for not including demographic control variables in the change in frequency analyses has been included in the methods.
3. The stepwise variable selection model and its implications has been elaborated upon in the methods section. We also added discussion about why this method was chosen in the methods section.
4. A discussion of the scale variables that were not significant in the stepwise variable has been expanded upon in the results section. The implications of that have also been included in the discussion.
5. More discussion of the control variables which were not significant in the stepwise regression analysis has been included in the results. The implications of this is expanded upon in the discussion.
6. The discussion and conclusion have been significantly reorganized to improve flow and cohesion, and to add more substance to the conclusion.
7. The discussion of resiliency among urban Communities of Color has been added to the conclusion to round out the long-term implications.
8. Discussion of the types of urban nature interactions residents engaged in before and during the pandemic and the implications has been added to the conclusion. The larger approach that this data speaks to– Interaction Pattern Design– is now developed in the conclusion.
9. The novelty of this study has been highlighted throughout the manuscript:
    a. The first is that we begin by approaching racial inequities, especially urban nature racial inequities, from a historical perspective. This not only provides more context about the study location but lays the foundation for the environmental injustice we continue to see today and why inequities may be especially apparent during a pandemic.
    b. Our study is also unique in that we recruited an equal number of participants from each of the four included racial/ethnic groups, something that is relatively uncommon. This equal representation helps ensure that experiences across the racial/ethnic groups are captured and allowed for comparisons between racial/ethnic groups to be made with higher confidence. The uniqueness of our sample composition is now discussed in the methods section.
    c. Many inequity and COVID-19 studies aggregate participant groups and results into White and non-White or some similar grouping. For this study, we were able to report results disaggregated by racial/ethnic group. This is important as the experiences among non-White racial/ethnic groups is not homogenous. If we were aggregated results into

White and non-White groups, we would not have captured how the Asian participants experienced no change in urban nature interaction while the Black and Latino participants experienced a decrease. We have added a discussion of this point into the introduction.

d. As part of this study, we use the theory of *interaction patterns* to help bring some more depth to our understanding of how people interacted with urban nature before and during the pandemic. We report a list of types of urban nature interaction, or interaction patterns, and percentages of each racial/ethnic group who engaged in each type of interaction before and during the pandemic. Although we consider this data exploratory, it allows for greater nuance when considering how resiliency might be increased in urban centers. We have elaborated on the novelty of this approach in the conclusion.

e. The most unique characteristic of this study is the Sense of Belonging in Urban Nature Questionnaire, developed and implemented in this study. In the existing urban nature inequity literature, there is a common theme of belongingness across many studies. Despite the prevalence of belonginess in urban nature inequity studies, there exists no multi-item scale or measure for Sense of Belonging in Urban Nature. We began developing an exploratory sense of belonging in urban nature measurement for use in this study based on a review of the existing literature and created six items, each capturing one facet of belongingness in the existing literature. The literature on People of Color's feelings of exclusion from urban nature spaces shows a relationship between three dimensions: The self, the social, and nature. Sense of belonging, as it is currently characterized in the literature, largely centers around one's place within society—capturing the self and the social dimensions—and lacks the relationship to nature dimension. Sense of place and place attachment both focus on the relationship between the individual and nature, but do not include a larger social dimension. A sense of belonging in urban nature measurement has the potential to bridge the self, the social, and nature to understand the intricate relationships between these dimensions. Discussion of the novelty of the Sense of Belonging in Urban Nature Questionnaire has been added to the introduction section.