



URBAN WATERS

Ecosystem Restoration Gateway Webinar Series

Roy Simon, US Environmental Protection Agency
Shawn Komlos, US Army Corps of Engineers

27-March-2012



The Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Today's Discussion:

- Roy Simon
 - Background
 - Vision
 - Participation
- Shawn Komlos
 - USACE Engagement
 - USACE Perspectives



Urban Waters Federal Partnership

- Vision
 - “Through our partnership, we will revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival.”
- Mission & Principles focus on:
 - Underserved and distressed communities
 - Integrating natural resource and community & economic development agencies

Partnership Agencies

EPA
USDA
DOI
HUD
DOT
USACE
NOAA
EDA
CDC
NIEHS
CNCS
ED

with
WH-DPC

potential new partner

DOE

Partnership Principles

- **Promote clean urban waters**
- **Reconnect people to their waterways**
- **Conserve water**
- **Use urban water systems as a way to promote economic revitalization and prosperity**
- **Encourage community improvements through active partnerships**
- **Be open and honest. Listening to communities is the best way to engage them**
- **Focus on measuring results and evaluation to fuel future success**





Agency Commitments

- CNCS: Will leverage AmeriCorps NCCC, VISTA, and RSVP programs to support short term shovel ready projects and longer term capacity building to supplement the Ambassadors program.
- USDA: Support 2-3 Ambassadors (via either contract money or FTE), co-chair Ambassadors group, lead agency supporting 3 pilots.
- DOI: Management support for staff leading pilots, pursuing contribution to Ambassadors. Leading Future Pilots subgroup and participating on Impacts/Measures subgroup.
- USACE: Established district, division, and headquarters points of contact for each pilot. Participate on Impacts/Measures subgroup. Federal toolbox. Exploring additional support opportunities.
- EPA: Fund \$1.8-\$3.8 million for small grants for urban waters projects, support 2 Ambassadors, technical assistance (facilitation and website support totaling \$450,000), Brownfields grants, assessments (TBA) and technical assistance (TAB), lead for Measures subgroup.
- HUD: Assigned staff representatives for all pilots and actively participating with local pilot teams.
- DOT: Provide DOT/Highway/Public Transit contacts for each pilot location, and participate on Future Pilots subgroup. Exploring additional support opportunities.
- NOAA: Supporting some pilot locations with representatives in the field.
- EDA: Making Urban Waters a funding priority. Supporting pilot locations with representatives identified for each pilot. Participate in Impact/Measures subgroup.
- CDC: Will send a full write-up of how the pilot locations can apply to CDC for public health assessments or other assistance.
- NIEHS: Will provide a write-up of how the pilot locations can apply for NIH health assessments, or other assistance as needed.
- DOE: Considering signing on as full partner. Commitment to hold a Community Leadership Institute (CLI). Exploring other possible DOE contributions (i.e. weatherization programs).
- ED: Connecting school communities to local outdoors and developing students' science and civic engagement skills with hands-on learning to prepare them for jobs of the future.

Federal Partnership Pilots

- Provide coordinated federal support to communities with existing resources and put in place a new paradigm for delivering services.
- Learn by working together on the ground; inform programs & policies
- Seven Pilots were Selected in June 2011.

Anacostia River (DOI) DC/MD

Baltimore (USDA) – MD

Bronx/Harlem (DOI) – NY

Denver (USDA/EPA) – CO

Los Angeles (EPA) – CA

New Orleans (EPA) – LA

NW Indiana (USDA) - IN





What is Now Going On ?

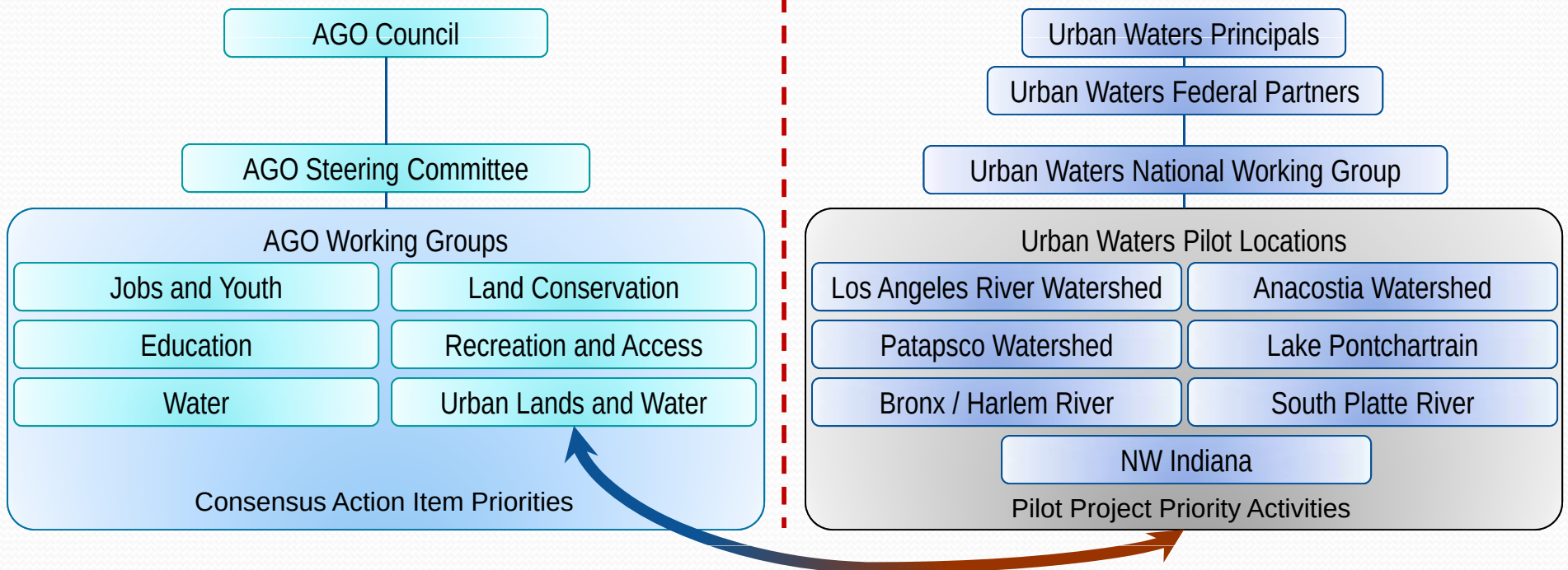
- Identifying agency resources and authorities to support pilots
 - Exploring “Ambassadors” for coordination
- Developing tools for broader use
- Enrolling new partner communities
- More at epa.gov/urbanwaters

Helpful Clarifications

Urban Rivers Restoration Initiative ≠ Urban Waters Federal Partnership

In 2002, The US Environmental Protection Agency entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with US Department of the Army to facilitate restoration of degraded rivers. The MOU was subsequently update and reissued in 2005, and again in 2006.

America's Great Outdoors ≠ Urban Waters Federal Partnership

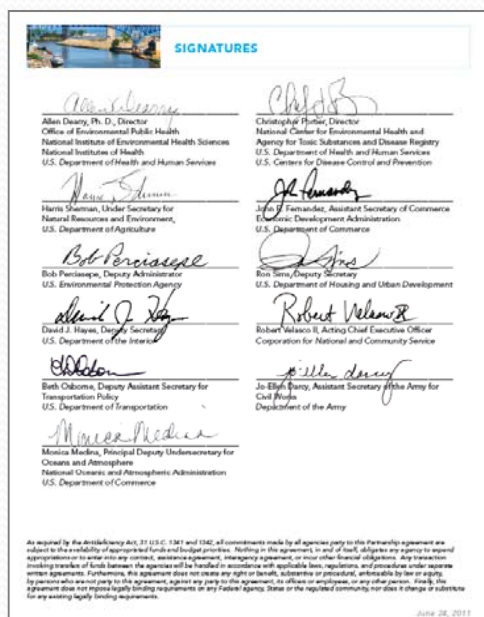


Mutual support
Common staff
Minimize potential for duplication of effort

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Vision - *“Through our partnership, we will revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival.”*

Mission - *“Help urban and metropolitan areas, particularly those that are underserved or economically distressed, connect with their waterways and work to improve them.”*



Principles

- Promote clean urban waters
- Reconnect people to their waterways
- Water conservation
- Use urban water systems as a way to promote economic revitalization and prosperity
- Encourage community improvements through active partnerships
- Be open and honest, and listening to the communities is the best way to engage them
- Focus on measuring results and evaluation will fuel future success



Urban Waters Federal Partnership - Initial Pilots

Purposes

- Alignment of federal resources
- Improve communication and collaboration
- Identify and overcome programmatic and policy barriers
- Deliver benefits to underrepresented or disadvantaged communities
- Facilitate learning (among agencies and stakeholders)
- Reconnect people in urban areas to the environment

Screening Process

- Existing level of federal agency involvement
- Capacity of federal agency to serve as lead for Federal Partnership
- Availability of federal resources (existing funds, available capacity)
- Momentum and probability of near-term action and success

Screening Results

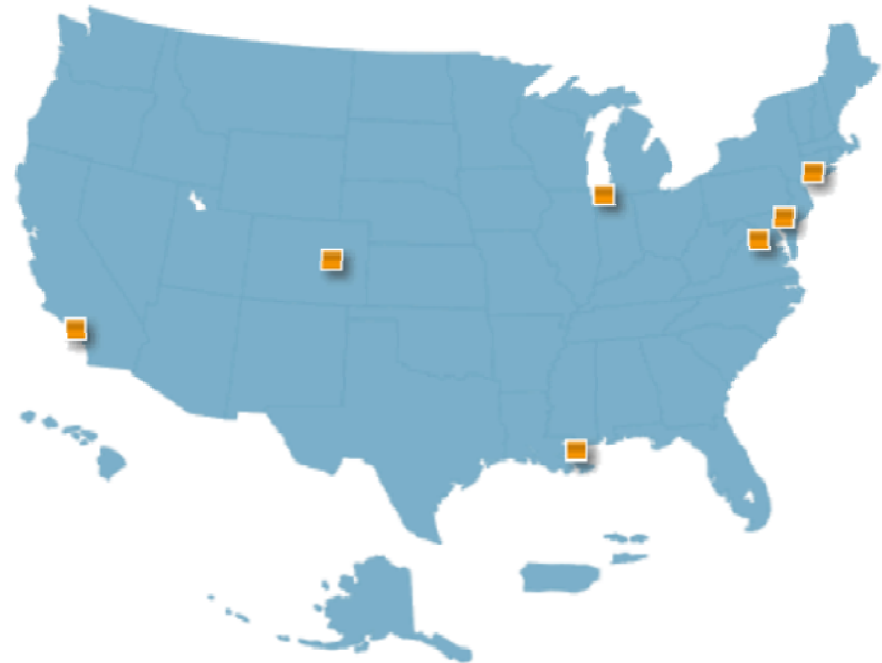
- 26 initial locations screened
- 7 initial locations selected

Urban Waters Federal Partnership - Initial Pilots

First Phase Pilots with Communities

To begin our efforts, the partnership identified seven pilot locations in which to enhance existing work:

- Anacostia Watershed (District of Columbia / Maryland)
- Patapsco Watershed / Baltimore Region (Maryland)
- Bronx & Harlem River Watersheds (New York)
- South Platte River in Denver (Colorado)
- Los Angeles River Watershed (California)
- Lake Pontchartrain Area in New Orleans (Louisiana)
- Northwest Indiana Area



■ First Phase Federal Partnership Pilots

Urban Waters Federal Partnership - Initial Pilots

REVITALIZING THE SOUTH PLATTE FROM THE SOURCE TO THE CITY TRANSFORMATION THROUGH COLLABORATION

ABOUT THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP
The South Platte River in Denver, Colorado is one of seven locations selected for help from the nation's new Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This partnership will reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their watersheds by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with local officials and effective community-based organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

In an effort to improve water quality, increase public access, and restore the River's ecosystem, there are some projects the Partnership is currently engaged in:

REINVESTING IN THE BALTIMORE REGION LINKING COMMUNITIES ENVIRONMENT

- Break down federal program silos to promote more efficient and effective use of federal resources that better coordinate and target federal investments
- Recognize and build on local efforts and leadership, engaging and serving community partners
- Work with local officials and effective community-based organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs
- Learn from early and visible victories to fuel long-term action

Led by three federal agencies and coordinated by the White House Domestic Policy Council, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership closely aligns with and advances the work of the White House's place-based efforts, including the [EPA's Sustainable Communities](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/02/02/20120202-sustainable-communities), to revitalize communities, create jobs and improve the quality of life in cities and towns across the nation. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership also advances the work of the American's Great Outdoors Initiative (<http://www.americansgreatoutdoors.gov>).

For more information, visit www.urbanwaters.gov

ABOUT THE DENVER PARTNERSHIP

The South Platte River Urban Waters Federal Partnership project strives to protect one of Denver's primary sources of drinking water, while supporting ongoing ground projects, education, and research, and foster growing population's connection to its urban watershed. Federal partner agencies plan to work with the City and County of Denver, The Greenway Foundation, Greenway Foundation, and the Denver Public Library, Colorado State University, and local non-governmental organizations, and business activities in the Denver metro area are also part of the Green Initiative Initiative.

For more information, visit www.urbanwaters.gov

ABOUT THE BALTIMORE PARTNERSHIP

The Baltimore Urban Waters Pilot project will create a coordination committee and develop projects devoted to protecting and restoring urban waters, promoting community revitalization and strengthening the social fabric through the removal of blight, establishment of open spaces, and creation of economic development to serve as catalyst opportunities for disadvantaged neighborhoods, and capitalize on the social and economic benefits derived from improved urban waters and adjacent lands. Federal partner agencies will work together with the City, County, and State Agencies, local NGOs and CDCs, and communities groups.

For more information, visit www.urbanwaters.gov

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

The Patuxent River in Baltimore, Maryland is one of seven locations selected for help from the nation's new Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This partnership will reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their watersheds by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with local officials and effective community-based organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs.



NEW LIFE FOR THE ANACOSTIA RIVER WATERSHED THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

ABOUT THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP
The Anacostia River Watershed is one of seven locations selected for help from the nation's new Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This partnership will reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their watersheds by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with local officials and effective community-based organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

Below are planned or ongoing federal and local projects to improve water quality, restore habitat, enhance local economies, and work with local communities:

NEW LIFE FOR THE LOS ANGELES RIVER COLLABORATION TO SUPPORT

- Break down federal program silos to promote more efficient and effective use of federal resources that better coordinate and target federal investments
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ABOUT THE ANACOSTIA PARTNERSHIP

The federal partner believes a deeper connection to its water bodies will bring a new cycle of community hope, energy resulting in healthier urban waters, improved health, strengthened communities, and new jobs, as expanded education, recreational, housing, and economic opportunities. Led by CDC, EPA, senior Federal agencies, and local officials, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership also advances the work of the American's Great Outdoors Initiative (<http://www.americansgreatoutdoors.gov>).

For more information, visit www.urbanwaters.gov

ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES PARTNERSHIP

The Los Angeles River Watershed Urban Waters Federal Partnership Pilot project will support local watershed revitalization efforts, which include enhancing flood protection, improving water quality through green infrastructure, enabling safe public access, and restoring ecosystems. The federal partners will work with the City, other interested municipalities, California State agencies, and local nonprofits.

For more information, visit www.urbanwaters.gov

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

The LA River has potential to connect communities, and greatly expand recreation options. More than 70 percent of the city's residents do not live within a quarter mile of a park or open space. This pilot could help expand parks and open space access while driving economic development and job creation.



NEW URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP FOR NORTHWEST INDIANA A UNIQUE COLLABORATION

ABOUT THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP
Northwest Indiana is one of seven locations selected for help from the nation's new Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This partnership will reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their watersheds by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with local officials and effective community-based organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

The Northwest Indiana partnership has decided to:

- Encourage federal government agencies to learn about each other's urban waters related projects
- Encourage existing programs and create meaningful new ones
- Ensure that local communities are full partners in restoring and protecting the watersheds
- Work with local officials and effective community-based organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs
- Learn from early and visible victories to fuel long-term action

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For more information, visit www.urbanwaters.gov

ABOUT THE NORTHWEST INDIANA URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP

The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership Pilot project strives to develop green spaces, reduce flood risks, improve quality, and create a vision for greenway preservation and water trail development. Federal partner agencies are working with interested municipalities and counties, local State agencies, and local non-government organizations.

For more information, visit www.urbanwaters.gov

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

The Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership Pilot project strives to develop green spaces, reduce flood risks, improve quality, and create a vision for greenway preservation and water trail development. Federal partner agencies are working with interested municipalities and counties, local State agencies, and local non-government organizations.

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For more information, visit www.urbanwaters.gov

NEW LIFE FOR THE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN AREA A COMEBACK THROUGH COLLABORATION

ABOUT THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP
The Lake Pontchartrain Area is one of seven locations selected for help from the nation's new Urban Waters Federal Partnership. This partnership will reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their watersheds by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with local officials and effective community-based organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

The Partnership brings federal agencies together with the City of New Orleans, other interested municipalities, state agencies, and local non-governmental agencies to provide safe public access and to reconstruct and restore local ecosystems. Current federal and/or local projects include:

- Break down federal program silos to promote more efficient and effective use of federal resources that better coordinate and target federal investments
- Recognize and build on local efforts and leadership, engaging and serving community partners
- Work with local officials and effective community-based organizations to leverage area resources and stimulate local economies to create local jobs
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ABOUT THE NEW ORLEANS PARTNERSHIP

The Lake Pontchartrain Urban Waters Federal Partnership Pilot project strives to support local restoration efforts. Goals include enabling safe public access, restoring essential facilities and structures, and providing environmental education to the community. Federal partner agencies will work with the City of New Orleans, other interested municipalities, Louisiana State agencies, and local non-governmental agencies to make these goals a reality.

For more information, visit www.urbanwaters.gov

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

While the community continues to recover from lingering impacts of Hurricane Katrina and the recent oil spill, Lake Pontchartrain has become a vital resource for recreation and economic development. The lakefront has historically been utilized by a wide range of New Orleans' diverse community members, and this project seeks to reconnect citizens to the Lake by restoring abandoned lakeshore areas, restoring damaged structures, and educating citizens about their environment.

For more information, visit www.urbanwaters.gov

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www.urbanwaters.gov



US Army Corps of Engineers - Engagement

Support

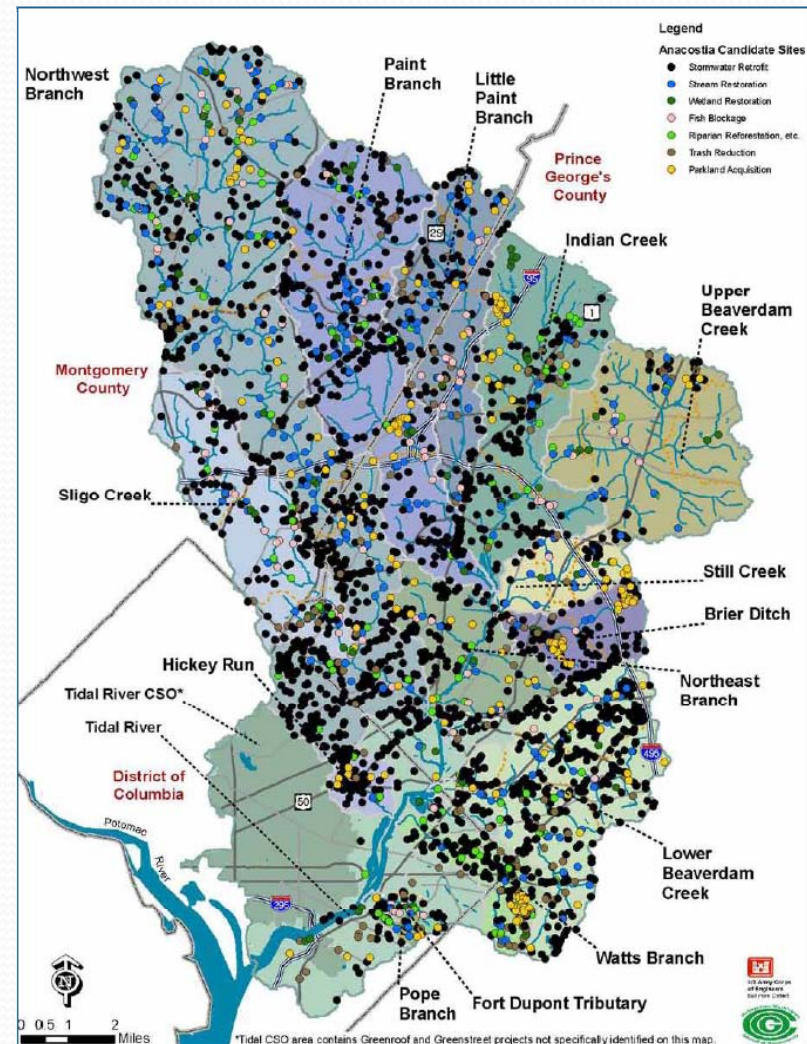
- Collaboration and engagement
- Synthesis of information
- Analyses

Prioritization

- Problems and opportunities
- Initiatives, actions, and projects
- Institutional knowledge

Involvement

- Data
- Models
- Research
- Reports



US Army Corps of Engineers - Relevance

Potential Contributions

- Investigations – Scoping of problems, opportunities, and measures
- Planning and technical assistance
- Plan implementation

Potential Benefits

- Scoping of solutions (Organizations, requisites, and measures)
- Collaboration and networking
- Leveraging of resources and funds (force multipliers)

Potential Impediments

- Authority
- Funding
- Authority to leverage funds/resources

Potential Concerns

- Perceived or actual alteration of influence over, and accountability for performance
- Thinning of resources
- Differences in organizational tempos
- Mission priorities' influence on budget priorities (credibility of partnership)

The image shows two overlapping web pages. The top page is the 'Planning Community Toolbox' from the US Army Corps of Engineers. It features a navigation bar with links like Home, Planner's Library, Project Delivery, People, Tools, Processes, Training, and Search/Ind. A sidebar lists various resources for visitors, including public agencies, tribes, and newsletters. The main content area has a 'Planning News F' section with a headline about the Planning Community of Practice Conference scheduled for Spring/Summer 2013. Below this is a section for the 'U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Feasibility Study Program I'.

The bottom page is a USGS Newsroom article titled 'NOAA, USACE, and USGS Partner to Support Water Resources Management'. It is dated 5/11/2011 2:30:00 PM. The article provides contact information for Chris Vaccaro at NOAA, Kara Capelli at USGS, and Gene Pawlik at USACE. It also includes a 'Share' button and a 'In partnership with' section featuring logos for the US Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA. The article text discusses a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the agencies to address water resources challenges, including climate change, land-use changes, and aging infrastructure.



US Army Corps of Engineers - Contributions

Prior

- Army/USACE participation in identification and **screening of locations**
- Army, HQUSACE (Regional Integration Team Deputies and Planning Leads), MSC, and District participation in preliminary **fed-to-fed discussions**: Characterization of USACE activities at each location

Ongoing

- Civil Works participation on Urban Waters National Workgroup
- Civil Works participation in media events
- Civil Works involvement in identification of problems and opportunities
- **Consider: USACE authority and availability at each location relative to:**
 - Role/significance of USACE studies at pilot location
 - Role/significance of USACE partners
 - Significance, adequacy, and sustainability of investments
- **Consider: Opportunities for leadership at pilot locations**

Future

- Opportunity to serve as lead agency (complex challenges and opportunities)
- Greater involvement in implementation and/or planning of actions at pilot locations
- Collaboration on investigations and research
- Interagency support

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Ongoing

- Evaluation of Partnership Performance
 - Reporting of Partnership Actions
 - Partnership leads
 - Pilot leads
 - Signatory agencies
 - Evaluation of Partnership Practices
 - Communication
 - Collaboration
- Expansion of the Partnership
 - Increased agency representation
 - Growing stakeholder interest/investment
 - Broader application of piloted concepts
- Broader distribution of leadership roles

URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP		NATIONAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES				GTM G										NARRATIVE					
Project Activity Region - Partner		Indicate which Party of the activities listed are related to the following National Support Director				Indicate which Party of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership are responsible for the activity listed										Please provide a brief description of how the activity supports the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, and how the Partnership has contributed to the success of the activity					
Activity		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Please describe how this activity supports the goals of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership		Please describe how your Agency has facilitated planning or existing economically distressed communities through this activity, if applicable		Please describe how this project advances the goals and objectives of your Agency	
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Urban Waters

Restoring Watersheds. Revitalizing Communities.

Search Ideas

Search

Urban Waters

Restoring Watersheds. Revitalizing Communities.

How can we work together to make restored urban waters a centerpiece of your community? Help us answer these questions and achieve our shared vision for revitalized urban waters.

• How can we all help communities reconnect with their local urban waters?

• What can we do to increase public ownership of urban waters in their projects?

• How can we work together to foster a series of public ownership off-urban settings?

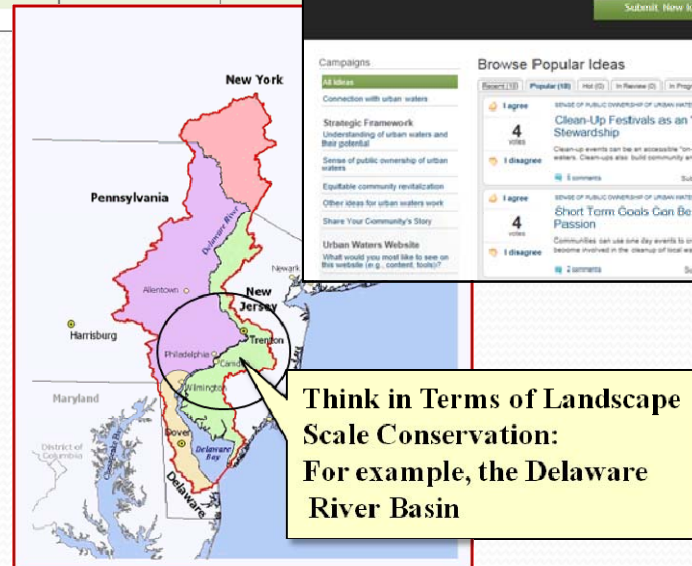
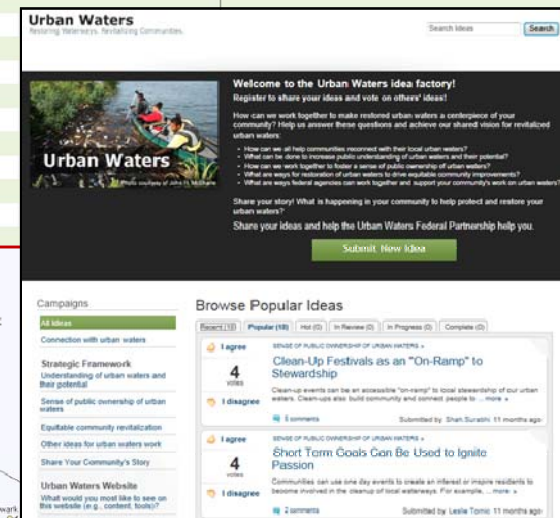
• What are ways for restoration of urban waters to drive equitable community development?

• What are ways to build agencies can work together and support your community's work on urban waters?

Share your story! What is happening in your community to help protect and restore your urban waters?

Share your ideas and help the Urban Waters Federal Partnership help you.

Submit Now Ideas



Urban Waters Contacts

Surabhi Shah

Director, EPA Urban Waters Program

shah.surabhi@epa.gov

202-564-3833

Shawn Komlos

USACE Institute for Water Resources

shawn.b.komlos@usace.army.mil

703-428-6605

Learn more at: www.urbanwaters.gov

