

Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership – All Partners Meeting
Villanova University
May 12, 2015
Facilitated Breakout Sessions

Question 1: *Questions you have or topics you are interested in discussing, sharing information, and working together related to the themes of ♦ Brownfields ♦ Water Quality & Quantity ♦ Trails, Parks & Open Space ♦ Climate Resiliency ♦ River Protection & Restoration.*

General:

- Does the UWFP have any established goals, or metrics that it is trying to meet?
- Federal funding needs as they relate to all of these areas, especially upcoming opportunities to help shape priorities, allocations, appropriations, etc
- How aware are organizations here of the local businesses around who can support this work?
- How organizations here see the private sector supporting work in these areas?
- If so, how are they measured and evaluated and reported? How do we define success
- School curriculum
- What projects have resonated with communities engaging them long term?
- Define what quality means
- Going out to communities to hear what they want/need
- Streamlining and coordinating permitting among agencies
- Where do you look for best background information on a site or regional area? Historical, brownfields, land ownership, ecology, impervious area, hydrology, soils, contaminants, cultural use, stories lore, back taxes owed
- Better cross collaboration for – grant writing, project identification, expertise. Practical approaches to broaden scope beyond project level
- How can this aggregate of partners put their vision for a healthy vibrant Delaware River into practice? A recurring theme today was community placemaking – that was cool and refreshing
- What is the role of education and outreach?
- What is the unique value – add of the partnership?
- For future meeting – Philly WSP
- How do sustainable community principles like an economically diverse housing stock fit into brownfield redevelopment in underserved communities with homogeneously low economics including low housing
- Regional sustainable green economic development strategy that enhances resiliency
- How to engage a community in need / distress find common value on all the issues above?
- Which criteria should we use to prioritize projects (brownfields, green infrastructure)
- Funding for projects that go beyond the site scale

Brownfields:

- Although the brownfields folks identified the cross program ties to brownfields, cross program goals existing elsewhere. How will these be identified to help drive all program areas and especially to drive climate change adaptation planning
- Brownfields/restoration - how to leverage private funded reuse/redevelopment with open space, public access needs
- Would like to hear from communities when this geographic partnership or potential brownfield sites and redevelopment ideas tied to these sites
- Converting brownfields to greenfields in an effort to reclaim open space in our cities
- Better cross collaboration for – grant writing, project identification, expertise. Practical approaches to broaden scope beyond project level
- How do sustainable community principles like an economically diverse housing stock fit into brownfield redevelopment in underserved communities with homogenously low economics including low housing
- How stormwater management / GSI on contaminated lots affects groundwater, soil contaminants, vapor intrusion
- Can GSI be a part of brownfield remediation process
- Comparison of GSI tools on water quality and quantity
- GSI for climate change
- Which criteria should we use to prioritize projects (brownfields, green infrastructure)

- How to scale up (from site specific to neighborhoods and watersheds) green infrastructure benefits?
- Funding for projects that go beyond the site scale
- How to go beyond brownfield cleanup standard methodology and add up environmental stormwater benefits?

Water Quality:

- Although the brownfields folks identified the cross program ties to brownfields, cross program goals existing elsewhere. How will these be identified to help drive all program areas and especially to drive climate change adaptation planning
- Delaware River Basin Conservation Act
- How has green infrastructure (rain gardens etc) improved water quality and reduced flow to streams. Are there data to show improvements
- Increased awareness/support for the Delaware River Basin Conservation Act as a means of furthering work in these areas
- Science Planning - involving enough science based approaches?
- Stormwater is a major problem in urban areas - the regulatory programs are frequently at odds with permittees to reduce stormwater pollutants. How can the non-resource programs help resources?

- Water quality - planning / implementation of nutrient reduction strategies in river/estuary
- Prioritization of water quality projects and tools
- Connecting the dots between upstream and downstream restoration and protection projects and downstream benefits and community impacts
- How are organizations tracking outcomes of water quality projects
- What information are organizations using to prioritize water quality projects
- Streamlining the process of waterfront and wetlands/riparian permitting with multiple agencies
- Linking restoration to water quality (ie. floodplain / wetland restoration)
- Better cross collaboration for – grant writing, project identification, expertise. Practical approaches to broaden scope beyond project level
- How can this aggregate of partners put their vision for a healthy vibrant Delaware River into practice? A recurring theme today was community placemaking – that was cool and refreshing
- How stormwater management / GSI on contaminated lots affects groundwater, soil contaminants, vapor intrusion
- Can GSI be a part of brownfield remediation process
- Comparison of GSI tools on water quality and quantity
- GSI for climate change
- Litter reduction / plastics pollution
- In my work with Schuylkill Action Network we have a lot of partner organizations that implement BMPs to protect and restore the river. Interested in hearing about river protections, restoration and water quality
- How to balance conservation / protection / restoration priorities with recreation and education priorities
- Measuring effectiveness of green infrastructure (what is effective?) measuring water quantity and quality in urban areas
- Who is funding / doing the water quality monitoring?
- Which criteria should we use to prioritize projects (brownfields, green infrastructure)
- How to scale up (from site specific to neighborhoods and watersheds) green infrastructure benefits?
- Funding for projects that go beyond the site scale
- How to go beyond brownfield cleanup standard methodology and add up environmental stormwater benefits?
- Level of contaminants that is acceptable for stormwater control

Trails Parks and Open Space

- Although the brownfields folks identified the cross program ties to brownfields, cross program goals existing elsewhere. How will these be identified to help drive all program areas and especially to drive climate change adaptation planning

- Brownfields/restoration - how to leverage private funded reuse/redevelopment with open space, public access needs
- Engaging more paddlers, hikers, anglers, etc from the recreation community, in clean-ups, monitoring, restoration projects, advocacy
- How do we get the resources needed to acquire land to create publically accessible linear greenways?
- Identifying and improving existing natural resources and determining the best way to utilize them
- Improving access to waterways
- Trails, parks and open space - improving signage, maps, connecting more urban trails, getting more people on trails
- Quality of greenspace access
- Trails serve to connect in many ways (geographic - socio-economic)
- Trails enabling connectivity to multiple levels, between across socio-economic spectrum
- Converting brownfields to greenfields in an effort to reclaim open space in our cities
- Issues of gentrification and greening programs
- How greening initiatives address the socio-economic issues affecting the neighborhoods they are implementing in
- Streamlining the process of waterfront and wetlands/riparian permitting with multiple agencies
- Urban shoreline restoration
- Linking shoreline/riverbank restoration with greenway trails
- Linking restoration to water quality (ie. floodplain / wetland restoration)
- Neighborhood access to parks
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- Can GSI be a part of brownfield remediation process
- Comparison of GSI tools on water quality and quantity
- GSI for climate change
- Connecting neighborhoods to existing open spaces/trail assets
- Engaging communities and creating inviting greenspaces that qualities need to be present to create sense of safety, inclusion, and welcoming atmosphere?
- How to balance conservation / protection / restoration priorities with recreation and education priorities
- Measuring effectiveness of green infrastructure (what is effective?) measuring water quantity and quality in urban areas
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Climate Resiliency

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River Restoration

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Question 2: What project or activity that you are working on would benefit from assistance or collaboration across the partnership? Do you have a *project you would like to showcase to the Urban Waters Partnership*?

Brownfields:

- Brownfield success site visit: collaboration on site identification that has partners in place and plans for redevelopment. Schuylkill River Development best management successes along the river
- Phoenix Park brownfields restoration and living shoreline

Water Quality:

- Continued report outs from recipients of Urban Waters Small grants awarded by EPA and other grant funded projects too
- Municipal assistance with upcoming MS4 requirements - calculations of pollutants in impaired streams and relative effectiveness of BMPs to address pollutants.
- Discussion between EPA and NRCS on benefits of agricultural BMPs to water quality in terms of meeting MS4 or TMDL requirements
- Presentations and tours of Philly GSI program
- Schuylkill Action Students green infrastructure school projects. Schuylkill Action Network could visit some projects or possibly help find resources for schools implementing stormwater BMPs in Schuylkill watershed

Trails Parks and Open Space

- "Dragonfly" trail - using the Schuylkill River Trail and other areas in the City of Philadelphia to educate the public on the natural world and its adaptations to the urban environment
- Effort to link shoreline restoration and greenway trail work along Delaware River Philadelphia. Gathering input from river ward communities as restoration and trail work occurs. Soak it up adoption program education and involving communities in green stormwater
- Quality vs quantity in regards to greenspace access

River Restoration

- Phoenix Park brownfields restoration and living shoreline (Peter Kroll, CCMUA)
- Effort to link shoreline restoration and greenway trail work along Delaware River Philadelphia. Gathering input from river ward communities as restoration and trail work occurs. Soak it up adoption program education and involving communities in green stormwater projects
- Showcase Schuylkill Action Students, Living shorelines, Citizen science ie mussel surveys

Case Studies

- Topics/projects (urban focused) for upcoming watershed forum in Oct 2015
- USGS green infrastructure project in Baltimore
- Examples of good waterfront redevelopment projects that capture it all – flood control, waterfront access, green infrastructure, jobs, commerce, public amenities, sustainable, green design; shoreline ecological enhancements, recreation opportunities; successful triple bottom line process (possible example – Phila Navy Yard?)

Education / Outreach

- How to better engage the public to become advocates for their water? Can we do it collaboratively? Can it help with increasing federal funding in the basin
- Building support/awareness of DE River Basin Conservation Act, understand public agencies are limited in ability to advocate but can help raise awareness, make connections, etc
- Public education on public health and economic benefits regarding the value of trails (land and water) in the urban environment - need advocates to explain to general public
- Working on a study of urban youth environmental education initiatives, and would benefit from collaborating with several partnership organizations. Particularly interested in learning more about members of the local neighborhoods are engaged when greening initiatives are taking place
- Presentations and tours of Philly GSI
- What projects do you have that would benefit from assistance from Natural Lands Trust (NLT) in an urban area? NLT has 42 nature preserves and there is a lack of public transportation near them. Do you have a need for outdoor classrooms that we can collaborate with at one or multiple sites?
- Delaware River Basin Source Water Collaborative – interested in hosting webinars
- Showcase Schuylkill Action Students, Living shorelines, Citizen science ie mussel surveys
- Volunteer mussel surveys with the Partnership for Delaware Estuary

Metrics

- Triple bottom line and other performance metrics

Partnerships

- Corporate and Community Environmental Partnerships: employee volunteer days, on-site GSI design and implementation, off-site GSI installation at parks and schools, county partnerships to green and retrofit (basin re-planting and rain gardens), working with oil companies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, flooring manufacturers, etc.
- Philadelphia Green Schools – partnership potential

Projects

- Gateway Park – Camden County, NJ – would love more partners; in next 12 months onward, will be lessons learned that can be shared / replicated
- Phoenix Park brownfields restoration and living shoreline
- Implementation/assessment plan for urban Brandywine in Wilmington
- Schuylkill Action Students green infrastructure school projects. Schuylkill Action Network could visit some projects or possibly help find resources for schools implementing stormwater BMPs in Schuylkill watershed
- Project – Port Royal Stormwater Gully (?) at Schuylkill Center – seeking partners, grant funding, collaboration
- Project – possibly North Philadelphia Choice Neighborhoods Revitalization Grant project for Norris Apartments with Philadelphia Housing Authority

Technical assistance

- How to get this info down to the municipal level (technical and financial assistance, cooperative models)

Workgroups

- Coalition workgroups - evolving, federal funding, planning, marketing and messaging, habitat

Plus (What's working?)

- Full partners meeting
- Meeting others from different backgrounds
- Face to face networking
- Mutual support
- Sharing knowledge and perspectives
- Frequency and content of info (emails)
- Learning about a diversity of topics (well-rounded perspective)
- Fostering collaboration - initiatives, coming together, checking in
- Hearing federal voice - perspective and input
- Site visits, meetings
- UWFP emails and updates
- Demonstrating impact
- Passionate Brownfields CoP

Delta (Upgrades/ Improvements for the future)

- Developing goals and metrics to measure success
- What does success look like?
- Understanding how this initiative fits with other - what is the niche of this partnership
- Knowing where/what projects are happening to plug into
- Support all communities of practice – action plans?
- Follow up with groups that dropped out
- Who isn't here? Engage new partners
- Help understanding funding
- Follow-up from federal agency after understanding local needs
- Emergent contaminants – sharing new information
- Encourage watershed scale perspective – move away from ad hoc
- CoP – see brownfields as underutilized opportunity
- Involve State reps
- Setup a table for flyers from partners to set out at meetings