

## **Draft Potential Lower Passaic River Urban Waters Federal Partnership Projects**

- Advance Green Infrastructure (Some examples of site projects)
  - o Newark Doing Infrastructure Green (DIG) is a collaboration of groups working towards making Green Infrastructure Newark's first line of defense in managing storm water.
  - o Reconstruction of a traffic triangle – Newark DIG needs technical support and implementation funding.
  - o Shorty's Green Infrastructure Skate Park – additional resources are need to transform a vacant, city-owned piece of property into a green infrastructure skate park.
  - o Overall, there is a lack of funding and technical assistance to implement green infrastructure projects identified in feasibility studies. Therefore, assistance with identification of resources – government or private – is the biggest overall need.
  - o There is also a need for rain barrels, stormwater planters, and cisterns for current rain gardens and expansion of stormwater management.
  
- Address Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Properties on the River and in Flood Zones
  - o Cleanup, restoration/parks, greening and resiliency/flood control
  - o Terrell Homes in Newark were significantly impacted by Sandy and require flood mitigation. There is an opportunity for the USACE, EPA, Essex County, NJDEP and HUD to restore the abandoned space between housing and the river (restoration of park/habitat) to create a green buffer and expand Riverfront Park.
  
- Identify FEMA Hazard Mitigation & Emergency Preparedness Opportunities
  - o Need support of community developed plans and identified projects that would help mitigate flooding in low lying areas of Ironbound.
  - o Need assistance in developing multi-lingual plans for better emergency preparations and response, and stronger coordination between municipal, federal, and state during environmental emergency responses.
  
- Enhance Public Involvement and Outreach at USACE Flood Risk Management Projects
  - o Ensure frequent opportunities for public input in the USACE's flood risk management studies within the Lower Passaic River. For the Passaic River Tidal Protection Area Project - ensure the project considers all the changes that have occurred along the lower Passaic River waterfront since the authorization of the original design. Flood risk management measures should be coordinated with recent and future planned improvements for parks (e.g., Riverfront Park in Newark, etc.), public access and restoration opportunities.
  
- Build Green Schoolyards in Newark
  - o First two green schoolyards were constructed by the Trust for Public Land and now a third project is in the planning stages. Additional resources are needed in order to construct this next project and additional green schoolyards in the region. These types of projects provide an educational opportunity and are also ideal ways to provide more

tree canopy and green infrastructure, including both on and off-site storm water retention.

- Maintain, Enhance and Expand Riverfront Park
  - o Work with Friends of Riverfront Park and the Trust for Public Land to enhance the Riverfront Park project.
  - o Find ways to fund programming, stewardship and expansion.
  - o The City of Newark is working on a bond initiative to potentially support a major expansion of the Riverfront Park. Work with the City and other partners to incorporate green infrastructure into future design and development of riverfront parks in Newark.
  
- Promote Community Tree Plantings
  - o Work with the NJ Tree Foundation to build resiliency tree pits and bump outs. Additionally, there is a need for tree planting education, outreach and support for maintenance.
  
- Prepare GIS Maps of All Regulated Entities/Contaminated Sites
  - o Work with USGS or others to prepare maps that identify contaminated sites within local neighborhoods with particular interest in surface contamination in flood zones.
  - o Provide comprehensive details on contamination at sites, discharges allowed and emergency plans in place at the sites.
  
- Establish Guiding Principles for All Projects in Area
  - o Outline principles/protocols for coordination with local communities, mechanisms for public input and sharing of information.
  - o Development of best management practices and technical support to industries within flood zones, especially in the industrial zone and mixed use neighborhoods.
  
- Increase Opportunities for Education and Job Training
  - o Provide riverfront poster developed by Ironbound Community Corporation with the assistance of funding from the Urban Waters Federal Partnership grant to all schools, conduct outreach events and provide resources for environmental education.
  - o Want job training that is linked with actual jobs – e.g. link the EPA Superfund Job Training Initiative to the proposed 8-mile Remedial Action.
  - o Develop a green jobs training program, with resources or connection to future employment.