

URBAN WATERS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Chris Orvin, EPA UW HQ Team Lead
Office of Wetlands Oceans and Watersheds

October 7, 2020

Overview of the Urban Waters Program

The Urban Waters Program reconnects urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies

Five key components:

1. Urban Waters Federal Partnership
2. Urban Waters Ambassadors
3. Urban Waters Learning Network
4. Five Star and Urban Waters Grant Program
(operated through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)
5. USGS Cooperative Matching Funds

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

- 15 Agencies and 28 NGOs working together in 20 designated watersheds



The Urban Waters Federal Partnership will help urban and metropolitan areas, particularly those that are **underserved or economically distressed**, connect with their waterways and work to improve them.



Child playing along Duwamish River

Urban Waters Ambassadors

- Ambassadors and their functions are a major component for the success of Urban Waters Partnerships
- The Ambassadors' functions are:
 - Liaison / Point of Contact and Facilitator / Convener
 - Reporter / Communicator / Collaborator
 - Navigator



Darryl Haddock, Urban Waters Ambassador for the Proctor Creek location, during a cleanup event.

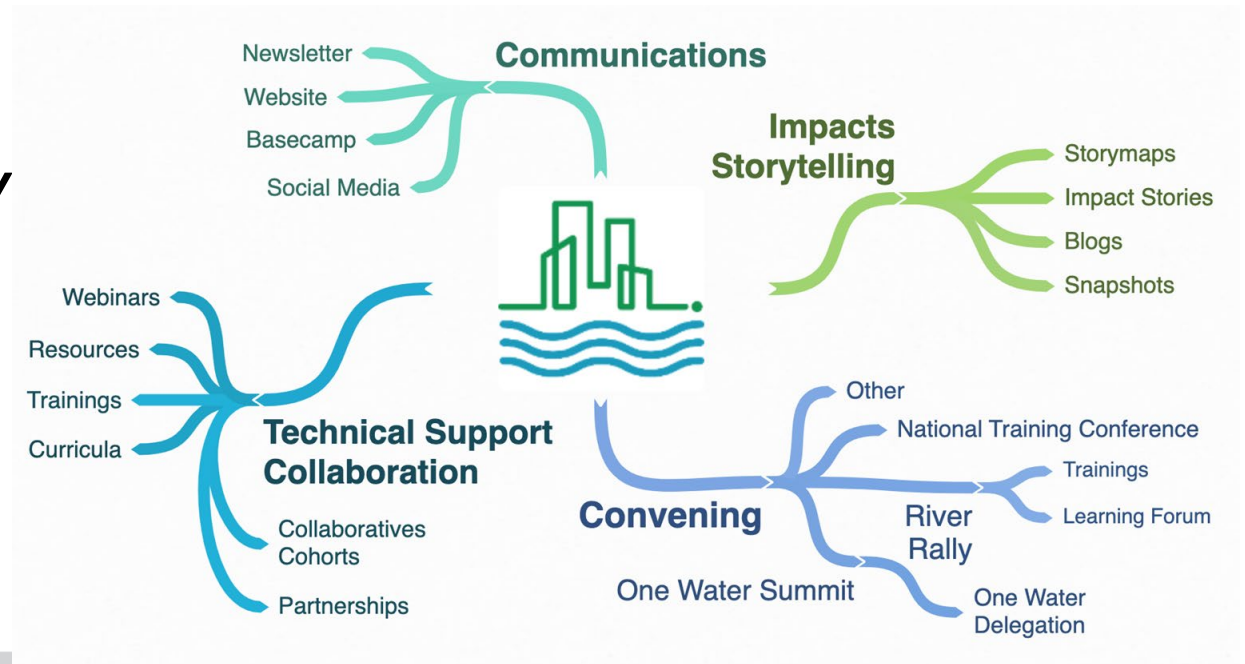
Urban Waters Learning Network



URBAN WATERS LEARNING NETWORK

A peer to peer community where urban waters practitioners share experiences, tools, and resources to support on the ground projects and build local capacity (580+ members)

- Networking
- Training and knowledge sharing
- Mentoring and coaching
- Boosted effectiveness
- Funding and technical resources



For more information please visit: urbanwaterslearningnetwork.org

Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Grants (Managed by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

Develop community capacity for urban waterway restoration projects by funding diverse local partnerships

- Public/Private Partnership funding by EPA, USDA-Forest Service, US DOI Fish and Wildlife Service, Southern Company, FedEx, and BNSF Railway.
- Over 300 projects over 5 years (Approximately \$45K each) and matched locally.
- Federal agencies provided over \$5 million in project funding since 2014.

For additional information please visit:

<https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program>



Plaster Creek partners planting in the watershed.

USGS Cooperative Matching Funds

- Funds allocated by Congress, FY 2017-2020 (\$1 million in 2020, ≈\$700K previously)
- Water-quality related monitoring, assessment, management practice evaluation, and educational activities.
- Done in cooperation with municipal, state, and regional partners focused on restoring and revitalizing urban waterways.
- 14 UWFP locations with projects
- For more information visit:
<https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/urban-waters-federal-partnership-cooperative-matching-funds>



Collection of fish from a pond at the Kansas City Municipal Farm. (Credit: Jing Tao, Kansas City Missouri Water Services Department.)

Tomorrow's Urban Waters Federal Partnership

- Urban Waters Futures Strategy and New Locations
 - Development and interagency approval of UWFP “Futures Strategy” defining the future of the program:
 - Support for current locations – federal role and activities; local efforts.
 - Process to consider potential new locations – criteria, benefits, etc.
 - Announcement of Rio Reimagined (Greater Phoenix, AZ) project as first new UWFP location in 7 years on September 1, 2020.
- Recently posted online:
<https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/sustaining-urban-waters-program-2020-and-beyond-new-strategies-support-program>

Additional Information:
<http://www.urbanwaters.gov>

Contact Information:

Chris Orvin
orvin.chris@epa.gov