

Urban Waters Flagship Update

FY2011 – 1st Quarter



Description of Flagship Effort

- The Urban Waters effort falls under the “Expanding the Environmental Conversation with Communities” Flagship Theme
- The goal is to help communities, especially underserved communities, access, restore and benefit from their surrounding waters
- EPA is leading an Urban Waters Federal Partnership including eleven agencies and support from the White House Domestic Policy Council to integrate federal support from communities
- EPA is working to develop new Web 2.0 tools for community-to-community information sharing, reach out to non-digital audiences, and provide technical assistance to communities
- Why this effort?
 - Urban waters throughout the country are substantially impaired, impact large populations, and are typically entangled in complex issues
 - When urban rivers, lakes, streams or wetlands are inaccessible or degraded, the surrounding communities miss the benefits of community stability and growth that clean urban waters bring
- There is a special emphasis on environmental justice

Stakeholders

- Public
- Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)
- State, Tribal and Local governments
- Centers of learning
- Other Federal Agencies
- Community-based organizations

Milestones/Status

- Region 1 UW Practitioners Visit (October 7)
- Groundwork USA Watershed Workday (October 22)
- UW Microsite development (Oct-Dec)

Highlights of Progress this Quarter

- Continued Urban Waters Federal Partners Coordination to agree on partnership principles and pilots (September 7)
- Sponsorship and volunteer participation with the Groundwork USA “Watershed Workday” along the Anacostia River. Administrator Jackson announced the Urban Waters Partnership Initiative and stressed the importance of continued coordination with Groundwork USA. The UW theme was “Trying it All Together” (October 22)
- Coordination with the Americas Great Outdoors Initiative (October 26)

Planned Activity for Next Quarter

- Production release of the new UW Microsite as a public knowledge sharing resource (March)
- UW Strategic Action Plan Press Release (March)
- Planning for UW participation and sponsorship in the 2011 National River Rally Conference (Jan-March)
- Bi-weekly UW Federal Partnership Coordination (Jan-March)

Metrics

- Number of events: 2
- Target audiences reached: All Stakeholder groups named above
- Number of partnerships: 4