

# Urban Waters Flagship Update

## FY2011 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

- Active participation in the National River Rally Conference (6/4/11)
- UW Federal Partnership Press Release in Baltimore MD (6/24/11)

### Highlights of Progress this Quarter

- UW Strategic Action Plan released internally (4/7/2011)
- Coordination with the Groundwork USA Anacostia River DC initiative. The OW DAA, in concert with the National Park Service, DC Mayor Vincent Gray, and DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton were key note speakers in the official public launch (5/19/2011)
- Sponsorship of the Federal Partners Urban Waters Session at the 2011 River Rally National Conference in Charleston, SC. OW DAA and numerous staff participated in local volunteer efforts and led a planning workshop focused on “Federal Tools for Urban Watersheds” (6/4/2011)
- The EPA Administrator in coordination with senior federal and local officials announced the new Urban Waters Federal Partnership initiative to restore and revitalize waterways in cities across the nation (6/24/2011)

### Planned Activity for Next Quarter

- Bi-weekly UW Federal Partnership Coordination (July-Sept)
- UW Federal Partnership Workshop in Washington DC (July 21-22)
- UW Strategic Action Plan Press Release (July-Sept)
- Announce Federal Partnership Pilots (July-Sept)

### Metrics

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