URBANWATERS
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP
Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENT

NOV 2021

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The following documents can be found and are navigable on the left pane of the PDF portfolio.

Invited Speaker Biographies

Factsheet: Program Highlights

Urban Waters Program Progress Report

Agenda

Urban Waters Federal Partnership
10-Year Anniversary Celebration Event

Day 1: November 9, 2021
2-3:30 pm EST

Objectives:
(1) **Celebrate partner accomplishments** at the 10-year milestone
(2) **Recommit to Federal Partnership** by re-signing the original Vision, Mission, Principles and committing to a Framework for the Future

2:00 – 2:45 Welcoming Remarks and Federal Recommitment

2:45 – 2:50 Location Highlight: Bronx Harlem

2:50 – 3:58 National NGO and Local CBO Speakers
- Erik Meyers, The Conservation Fund
- Darryl Haddock, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

2:58 – 3:02 University Partner
- President Ronald Mason Jr., the University of the District of Columbia

3:02 – 3:10 The Urban Waters Learning Network
- Nicole Silk, River Network
- Steve Burrington, Groundwork USA

3:10 – 3:15 Location Highlight: Blue River

3:15 – 3:20 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Holly Bamford, Chief Conservation Officer

3:20 – 3:25 Location Highlights: Green Duwamish

3:25 – 3:30 Thank you and Next Steps: Invitation to Workshop Panels

Day 2: Workshops

10-Year Anniversary celebrations will continue:

December 1st
10:30am-2pm EST

Objective: Provide information sharing and capacity building learning opportunities to location partners on key Administration, NGO and community priorities through two workshops.

Workshop 1: Climate Equity

10:30AM – 12:00 PM

- A panel discussion with Urban Waters Partners regarding experiences and opportunities to foster greater equity and justice through processes and outcomes of climate resilience planning, assessment, research, and project implementation
- Breakout Groups: Develop recommendations for the national program and federal partnership on how they can improve equity integration in climate and resilience projects

Workshop 2: Youth Engagement and Job Creation

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

- A panel discussion with selected federal, NGO, academic and location representatives sharing their visions, organizational offerings, best practices and challenges regarding local jobs and career paths related to Urban Waters
- Interactive session will outline a Jobs Workbook for locations and Network Communities as well as scope the design of an Urban Waters Job Fair

If you haven't already, you can register with the link below.

Register Here!

Speaker Index

Names of the Federal, NGO, Academic speakers and signatories from the November 9, Urban Waters 10-year Anniversary Celebration Event are listed in alphabetical order and are linked to full bios in the appendix.

Non-Profit Speakers

Holly Bamford, Ph.D.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Chief Conservation Officer

Stephen Burrington
Groundwork USA
Executive Director

Darryl Haddock
West Atlanta Watershed Alliance
Education Director

Ronald Mason Jr.
University of the District of Columbia
President

Erik Meyers
The Conservation Fund
Vice President, Climate and Water Sustainability

Nicole Silk
River Network
President

Federal Principals and Speakers

Diana Bauer
Department of Energy, Advanced Manufacturing Office
Acting Deputy Director

Sharunda Buchanan, Ph.D.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Director, Office of Priority Projects, Innovation, and Environmental Justice

Michele Chang
U.S. Economic Development Administration
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy

Reginald Chapple
National Park Service
Acting Assistant Director of Partnerships and Civic Engagement

Andrea Suarez Falken
U.S. Department of Education
Director, Green Ribbon Schools/Recognizing Inspiring School Employees Award

Radhika Fox
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Assistant Administrator for Office of Water

Meryl Harrell
USDA Forest Service
Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment

Jodie Harris
Community Development Financial Institutions
Director of the CDFI Fund

Melissa Klembara
Department of Energy, Advanced Manufacturing Office
Acting Consortia Program Manager

Letise LaFeir, Ph.D.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Senior Advisor

Scott Lundgren
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Director of the Office of Response and Restoration

David I. Maurstad,
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Deputy Associate Administrator for Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration

Michele P. Perez
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Assistant Deputy Secretary for Field Policy and Management

Jaime Pinkham
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (OASA/CW)
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works

Shaun Sanchez
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Deputy Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System

Yasmeen Shaheen-McConnell
Americorps
Senior Advisor for Strategic Partnerships

Mike Tupper
U.S. Geological Survey
Regional Director, USGS Northeast Region

Tanya Trujillo
U.S. Department of the Interior
Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Christopher P. Weis, Ph.D
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Toxicology Liaison and Senior Advisor to NIEHS/NTP Director

Andrew Wishnia
Department of Transportation
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Climate Policy

URBANWATERS
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP
Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities

Urban Waters Federal Partnership 2021 Partner Recommitment

Our Vision

Through our partnership, we will **revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them**, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival.

Our Mission

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.

Our Guiding Principles

- Promote clean urban waters.
- Reconnect people to their waterways.
- Water conservation.
- Use urban water systems as a way to promote economic revitalization and prosperity.
- Encourage community improvements through active partnerships.
- Be open and honest; listening to the communities is the best way to engage them.
- Encourage community improvements through active partnerships.

Urban Waters Partnerships are located across the country. While this map shows them as cities, Partnerships work with all municipalities in their watershed. Local Urban Waters Partnerships have an average of 37 member organizations from diverse sectors.

Framework for the Future

Ten Years of Accomplishment Provide a Strong Foundation for Growth

- Mission, Vision and Principles that continue to resonate today with the Administration emphasis on environmental justice and water equity.
- Twenty partnership locations across the country form a unique collaboration of public, private, non-profit, academic and community institutions.
- Fifteen federal agency partners, several of which provide funding support for Urban Waters Ambassadors and local Urban Water projects.
- Active NGO partners and hundreds of local stakeholder agencies and groups.
- A vibrant Urban Waters Learning Network with available information resources (e.g., webinars and training) on key community issues like water equity and climate.
- Recent program accomplishments include the first UWFP Program Progress Report, a strategy document that describes opportunities to support existing locations and a process to evaluate new locations and USGS Cooperative Matching Funds that have generated nearly $7M for on-the-groud water quality projects since 2017.

Three Themes to Advance the Urban Waters Federal Partnership in the Next 10 Years

1. Strengthen and Formalize the Existing Program.

- Establish a Steering Committee to Oversee the Program
- Build Sustainable Federal Funding for Ambassador Positions
- Increase Funding for Projects in UWFP Locations
- Energize and Enhance the Contribution of NGO Partners and Academic Institutions

2. Increase the Number of Underserved Communities Benefitting from the UWFP.

- Expand the Number of Urban Waters Partnership Locations
- Implement Modified Urban Waters Approaches to Equity and Engagement in Communities Beyond the Official Partnership Locations
- Expand the Urban Waters Learning Network to Provide New Resources, Tools, and Expert Dialogue for More Urban Communities

3. Leverage the UWFP to address Administration and Community Priorities.

- Environmental Justice (including Justice40)
- Climate Resilience and Justice
- Other Actions (Infrastructure, 30x30)

URBANWATERS
FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP
Restoring Urban Waters, Revitalizing Communities

Announcing the

URBANWATERS

Collaborative of NonGovernmental Organizations and Academic Partners

November 9, 2021

As nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions aligned with the Urban Waters mission and actively supporting one or more Urban Waters locations, we join in celebrating the Urban Waters Program at its tenth anniversary.

During the past decade, the Urban Waters movement has strengthened connections of underserved communities with local waterways, waterfronts, and watersheds to generate environmental, social and economic benefits. Together with federal agency and local partners, we have collaborated with residents and community partners through small grants, technical support, training, research and networking to build capacity and generate just outcomes in the 20 Urban Waters locations.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

This *Statement of Support* sets a path for broadened engagement of nongovernmental and academic institutions in advancing the Urban Waters agenda. We, the signatory organizations, commit to helping communities more easily conserve, restore, and revitalize America's urban waterways and surrounding lands. Likewise, we commit to supporting associated needs related to equity and justice, public health, affordable and safe housing, increased climate resilience, local civic leadership, and conditions promoting sustainable and equitable economic development. We will help institutionalize the existing Urban Waters Program by employing our individual and collective expertise. We will seek to share Urban Waters' knowledge and other resources with more communities. We seek to increase the Program's visibility to help leverage more funding for Urban Waters Ambassadors and community-directed restoration and improvement projects.

INTENT TO CREATE A COLLABORATIVE

To facilitate this cooperation and coordination, we pledge to participate in a new *Urban Waters Collaborative of Nongovernmental Organizations and Academic Partners*. In collaboration with our Federal and local partners, we will harness the power of our combined networks to create the required resources and conditions to bring wide-spread implementation of locally-scaled solutions that result in healthy watersheds and sustainable and equitable urban waterway communities.

Initial activities of the Collaborative are likely to include the following:

1) Hold quarterly meetings.

2) Hold small group and/or multi-sectoral discussions to develop and implement action plans on priorities. Recent discussions have identified strong interest in locational funding, youth activation, jobs and metrics. Strengthening these areas will increase the value of the Urban Waters' designation.

3) Participate in site visits to gain on-the-ground understanding of hurdles and best practices.

4) Establish memoranda of understanding to formalize substantial commitments of non-governmental organizations and academic institutions to the Urban Waters Program.

COMMITMENTS

"American Rivers believes all people should have healthy rivers and clean water. Unfortunately, many urban rivers and communities that depend on them have suffered from years of disinvestment, pollution and aging infrastructure. The Urban Water Federal Partnership is a key part of restoring and connecting urban rivers and communities and providing important federal resources to do so. American Rivers is proud to participate in and support the Urban Waters Federal partnership program as part of our work to restore damaged rivers and ensure clean water for people and nature."

— Tom Kiernan

President and CEO, American Rivers

"The Urban Waters Program is our call to action for the convergent infrastructure planning of healthier cities with living rivers as a central feature and for orchestrating 'youth power' in the transformation of blighted areas to inclusive places of celebration of nature. Our mission in Los Angeles is to create an "Emerald Necklace" natural infrastructure network of river greenways (parks, trails and green schools) in underserved areas throughout the Los Angeles Basin, connecting the Mountains to the Sea, offering equitable access to nature, protecting our environment and protecting urban communities from the threats of climate change."

— Claire Robinson

Managing Director,
Amigos de los Rios - Emerald Necklace Group

"The Water Quality Management department at Red Rocks Community College supports the commitment by providing education and resources about conservation, restoration, and revitalization of America's urban waterways and surrounding lands."

— Chelsea Campbell

Department Chair/Faculty Lead, Water Quality Management Technology, Red Rocks Community College

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Through an inclusive, citizen-driven process, the San Antonio River Authority collaborated with Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other local and federal entities to complete one of the nation's largest urban riverine ecosystem restoration projects. The success of the Mission Reach Project has helped the San Antonio River Walk garner an international reputation for its combination of riverfront development, ecosystem restoration, and cultural connections to the San Antonio Missions, which are designated as a World Heritage site. The San Antonio River Authority has been an active supporter and participant in the Urban Waters Program since its inception. We join in the 10th Anniversary celebrations and offer our ongoing support to help communities more easily conserve, restore, and revitalize America's urban waterways and surrounding lands."

— Steven Schauer

Direct of External Communications,
San Antonio River Authority

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"The Conservation Fund pursues a mission of conserving the Nation's land and water resources to ensure they are sustainable for people who depend on them for their economic livelihood, cultural heritage, physical and emotional well-being. By focusing attention and resources on the restoration and revitalization of degraded or ignored urban waters and communities and promoting stewardship for all water resources, the Urban Waters program serves as a catalyst for realizing a thriving environment for all. We are proud to align with the Program's partners - federal, state, and local governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations - in pursuit of this vision."

— Erik Meyers
Vice President, Climate and Water Sustainability, The Conservation Fund

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"Its efforts to create a national coalition to improve water quality in our urban areas is vital to providing safe, clean water for our citizens living in our most densest population centers and the watersheds our urban areas are situated in."

— Stanton Lambert
Executive Director, Wabash River Enhancement Corporation

"The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is a critical multi-sector approach to both preserving and protecting our nation's waterways and connecting communities to the recreational, economic, and health benefits of access to nature. Wilderness Inquiry connects people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to each other and the natural world through shared outdoor adventures. Public lands and waterways are vital to our programs and mission to create equitable opportunities in the outdoors for our diverse community of partners and participants."

— Julie Edmiston
Associate Executive Director, Wilderness Inquiry

"The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) strongly supports the Urban Waters Program. WCS advocates for the ecological restoration, protection and improvement of the Bronx River and Coney Island Creek in New York City by leveraging the platform of the Bronx Zoo, New York Aquarium and its full network of wildlife parks. WCS seeks to monitor, protect, and restore the health of these important urban waterways by engaging, informing and empowering community stakeholders whose actions can affect positive conservation outcomes and benefit surrounding communities."

— John F. Calvelli, *Executive Vice President, Public Affairs, Wildlife Conservation Society*

SIGNATURES

American Rivers
Tom Kiernan, *President and CEO*

American Rivers
Destinee Henton, *Associate Director*

Amigos De Los Rios-Emerald Necklace Group
Claire Robinson, *Managing Director*

Anacostia Watershed Society
Erin Borgeson Castelli, *Senior V.P./Chief Operating Officer*

Arbor Day Foundation
Alana Tucker, *Program Manager, Tree City Programs*

Clean Water Action
Lynn Thorp, *National Campaigns Director*

Conservation Legacy
Amy Sovocool, *Chief Operating Officer/ Acting Chief Executive Officer*

Earth Force
Vince Meldrum, *President & CEO*

Groundwork USA
Steve Burrington, *Executive Director*

Heartland Conservation Alliance
Samuel Bennett, *Interim Executive Director*

Ironbound Community Corporation
Drew Curtis, *Senior Equitable Development Manager*

Missouri State University
R.T. Pavlowski

Mystic River Watershed Association
Patrick Herron, Executive Director

National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
Kristina Surfus, *Managing Director, Government Affairs*

One World One Water Center at Metropolitan State University of Denver
Nona Shipman, *Associate Director*

Proctor Creek Stewardship Council
Donna Y. Stephens, *Co-chair*

Red Rocks Community College
Chelsea Campbell, *Department Chair/Faculty Lead, Water Quality Management Technology*

River Network
Nicole Silk, *President*

San Antonio River Authority
Steven Schauer, *Direct of External Communications*

Save the Dunes Conservation Fund
Katie Hobgood, *Program Director*

Society of Municipal Arborists
Earl Eutsler, *Board of Directors*

St. Louis University
Jason Knouft

The Conservation Fund
Erik Meyers, Vice President, Climate and Water Sustainability

The Greenway Foundation
Ryan Aids, *Deputy Director*

University of Missouri Extension
Misti Ritter

US Water Alliance
Scott Berry, *Director of Policy and Government Affairs*

Valparaiso University
Julie Peller, *Professor of Chemistry*

Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
Stanton Lambert, *Executive Director*

Wilderness Inquiry
Julie Edmiston, *Associate Executive Director*

Wildlife Conservation Society
John F. Calvelli, *Executive Vice President, Public Affairs*

Stay Connected!

Urban Waters Program

Learn more about the Urban Waters Partnership on our website:
https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters

You can send general inquiries to urbanwaters@epa.gov

For location specific contacts, please refer to our location pages here:
https://www.epa.gov/urban-waters-partnership/20-designated-urban-waters-locations

Urban Waters Learning Network

Stay connected to the Urban Waters Learning Network events, resources, blogs and more at
https://urbanwaterslearningnetwork.org/

Send inquiries to: Diana Toledo
dtoledo@rivernetwork.org

Maria Brodine
maria@groundworkusa.org