

## Urban Waters Delaware River Location -Draft Workplan Activities (2021 & beyond)

*Note: Topics listed below are based on ideas previously discussed on Urban Waters workgroup calls, feedback received from the Delaware River location partner survey in August, and other ideas from PDE.*

### Discussion Questions:

1. *What are the top ~3-5 priority items we want to focus on in 2021?*
2. *What other items do we want to focus over the next few years (2-3 year workplan)?*
3. *Are we missing anything?*
4. *Do we want to collect input on the workplan from other partners (e.g., share at PDE Science Summit, email to Urban Waters Delaware River listserv, share at an upcoming partner meeting)?*

### **Activities that PDE has already agreed to focus on during end of 2020 through 2021**

1. **Assist/support with programs that help foster youth environmental stewardship, mentorship program for students to pursue jobs in the environmental field**
  - PDE to go actively look into/apply for funding opportunities to support this work for future projects
  - Project ideas:
    - Create a program/project that youth can do in each of the Urban Waters cities
    - Pilot program beginning with one of the four UW cities (start with Wilmington?)
  - Examples of current programs: Delaware Green Jobs, Alliance for Watershed Education fellowship program, Power Corps – PHL & Camden, Boys & Girls Club, Bartram’s Garden, Camden Children’s Garden
2. **Expand Urban Waters workgroup to include representatives from each of the four cities (on monthly calls, planning process etc. to include on monthly calls beginning in 2021)**
  - City Contacts:
    - Philadelphia, PA – Chris Anderson, Philadelphia Water Department
    - Wilmington, DE – Alison Quimby, City of Wilmington
    - Camden, DE – Maggie McCann, Camden County Parks?
    - Chester, PA – (Kathy and Emily to speak with Ann Faulds for Camden and Chester contacts)
    - Other invited call participants:
      - UW webinar contacts since connected with their communities (Center for Aquatic Sciences Camden, UrbanPromise, AWE, Discovery Center, DelMNH, John Heinz – can ask contacts if they have other suggestions)
      - Respondents from Urban Waters partner survey
3. **Hold annual Brownfields Community of Practice meeting (as discussed on last call, virtual ~2-hour meeting, early in 2021)**
4. **Periodic Estuary News newsletter Urban Waters stories and updates**
5. **Urban Waters track at the 2021 Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit (placeholder for UW panel or talks from 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>)**
6. **Urban Waters: Connecting Youth to Urban Waterways 3-part webinar series**

### Ideas Discussed on Previous Urban Waters Workgroup Calls

- Virtual meeting/webinar series with community members and federal agencies for tech-transfer and information sharing on strategies to collaborate on community projects
- Support Urban Bird Treaty Program (expansion to Wilmington based on success in Philadelphia)
- Youth summit to convene youth and educators from across the four cities
- Support for brownfields outreach (e.g., newsletter updates)
- Annual All Partners Meeting
- Hold additional Urban Waters webinar series
  - Potential topics discussed: Urban Bird Treaty Program in Philadelphia, Trust for Public Land's Green and Healthy Camden Tool / CamdenSMART
  - Federal agencies and community members to discuss projects – tech-transfer for agencies and community members
- Other Communities of Practice meetings (Climate Outreach Roundtable, Environmental Justice)

### Feedback from Urban Waters Partner Survey

- Connecting disadvantaged neighborhoods to trails and waterfronts, increase accessibility, park enhancement (emphasis on doing this in Chester, PA and Wilmington, DE)
- Increase federal agency engagement – providing data that supports health of watershed to NGOs, attendance at meetings/events/workgroups
- Create coordinated efforts across all four of the Urban Waters cities
- More thoughtful engagement with urban communities (more equity-focused), outreach and materials that reflects communities, attending community/city meetings
- Build capacity in existing organizations and identify funding sources to implement projects, and work with current partners (there should be adequate resources, information, knowledge already)
- Create signature programs for this Urban Waters location (education-based programs, stormwater programs, citizen science, promoting access)

### Other PDE Ideas

- Help facilitate the work of the ARRC (Aquatic Research and Restoration Center), background information below:
  - Partnership to coordinate large-scale restoration efforts that do not currently exist in the Philadelphia region
  - Restoration of local aquatic ecosystems, including the reintroduction of freshwater mussels and river shad to the Delaware Estuary
  - Current partners include the Academy of Natural Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences of Drexel University, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Philadelphia Water Department and Department of Parks and Recreation, Bartram's Garden, and the Independence Seaport Museum