

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Delaware River Location Draft Workplan Activities (~2021-2024)

Note: Items listed below are based on ideas previously discussed on Urban Waters workgroup calls, feedback received from the Delaware River location partner survey that was distributed to the full partner database in August 2020, and additional ideas from PDE.

Activities Urban Waters Workgroup has 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, family-oriented events around access and the environment**
 - PDE to go actively look into/apply for funding opportunities to support this type of 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
 - Pilot Delaware RiverFest event at Chester Riverfront
 - Creation of mini grant program for restoration and stewardship for work in the four Urban Waters cities
 - 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. UW Workgroup Planning & Development: Expand workgroup to include representatives from each of the four cities and community groups to incorporate diverse feedback in workplan development and decision-making processes**
- 3. Hold annual Brownfields Community of Practice meeting** (virtual meeting in late March 2021)
- 4. Periodic *Estuary News* newsletter Urban Waters stories and updates**
- 5. Urban Waters track at the 2021 Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit and gather feedback on draft workplan from participants**
- 6. Urban Waters: Connecting Youth to Urban Waterways 3-part webinar series** (took place November 2020)
- 7. Brownfields to be added to overarching priority of workplan – list of current related projects with project descriptions**
- 8. Relationship building and community involvement interviews and proceeding webinar(s)**
 - Conduct interviews with organizations in four urban centers (TTF Watershed Partnership, Bartram’s Garden, Camden Collaborative Initiative, etc.) to learn about organizational history and building relationships with their local communities
 - Hold webinar following interviews for organizations to present on community projects
- 9. Hold 2-3 webinar series in 2021**
 - How to engage communities in green infrastructure projects for local community benefits

i. Urban Engineers - Matt Marquardt and Angelo Waters

Additional 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, Camden, and Chester 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
- Additional Urban Waters webinar series topics
 - 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
- Hold additional Communities of Practice meetings (Climate Outreach Roundtable, Environmental Justice)
- Offering a workshop that reviews how to put a community-led grant project together
- Hold a training/workshop that reviews what a grant program is
 - Provide contacts for available grants, resources available, technical support/assistance
 - Help organizations become more self-sustaining
 - Apply for and manage grants
 - Walk through how to get from an idea to a funded project
 - Training to help build capacity and teach 'how to's'
- Create a small grant program and provide a trainer to the organizations
- Funding for pollinator corridor project
 - Potential to expand project across the four UW cities
 - Looking at DRWCF and PACZM program funding

Feedback Received from Urban Waters Partner Survey

- Connecting disadvantages 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 for Urban Waters Efforts

- 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