

*Connecting people, science,
and nature for a healthy
Delaware River and Bay*



Urban Water Federal Partnership Survey Feedback

Urban Waters Federal Leads Planning Call
Wednesday, September 2nd, 2020

Urban Waters Survey

- Distributed Google Survey out to updated Urban Waters partner database of 400+ contacts
 - Survey distributed on Tuesday, August 11th (with one follow-up email)
 - August 25th deadline for feedback
 - Brief survey with 3 short answer questions, 3 multiple choice, and contact info
 - ~20 total respondents



Delaware River Urban Waters Survey

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary is collecting feedback from partners on the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) at the Delaware River Watershed location.

The goal of the UWFP is to restore and reconnect urban communities, particularly those that are overburdened or economically distressed, to waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies. Each Urban Waters location collaborates with local community-led revitalization efforts to improve water systems and promote their economic, environmental, and social benefits.

The Delaware River Watershed UWFP location includes the major cities of Wilmington, DE, Philadelphia, PA, Chester, PA, and Camden, NJ, as well as the surrounding suburban and rural landscape.

This brief survey includes four sections and should only take about 5-10 minutes to complete.

Please provide your survey responses by Tuesday, August 25th!

If you have any questions about the survey or this Urban Waters location, please reach out to Emily at EBaumbach@DelawareEstuary.org.

For more information about Urban Waters, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners>.

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Urban Waters Survey Respondents

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Region 3
- Appalachian Mountain Club
- Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology – University of Pennsylvania
- DNREC
- DVRPC
- Delaware Nature Society
- Let's Go Outdoors
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- Philadelphia Water Department
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center
- William Penn Foundation



Photo Credit: Aaron Maffei, Fortescue, NJ

1. Please describe any previous Urban Waters success stories you have from the Delaware River Watershed location (if applicable):

- Expanding the Schuylkill Banks trail as an Urban Waters success story
- Coordination between PDE and Forest Service to continue to host the climate roundtable/community of practice
- Continue activity for Brownfields Community of Practice
- Climate Educators Roundtable to provide platform for collaboration (continue to provide these types of opportunities)
- Canoemobile was very successful
- Prevent fracking in this watershed
- Link to success of Delaware River trails, parks, ecological restoration projects better to Urban Waters (e.g., Lardner's Point riverfront park)
- Link to Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) efforts to Urban Waters where efforts include working with federal, state, and local government
- Link to success of Delaware River Basin Conservation Act and Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund, etc.



2. Are there gaps in our watershed that the Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership location can help to fill?

- Connect disadvantaged neighborhoods to trails and waterfronts
- Make the Delaware River more attractive/accessible in Chester, PA and other areas of Delaware County
- Funding
- Need for better understanding of various federal sources of funding from USDA/USFS, NOAA, DOI, EPA that can be leveraged
- Federal agencies to provide more data that supports health of the watershed to NGOs
- Greatest needs are in Wilmington, DE and Chester, PA (already robust programs in Philadelphia, PA and Camden, NJ)
- Continuity in federal agencies to provide consistent staff participation at events, meetings, workgroups, etc.

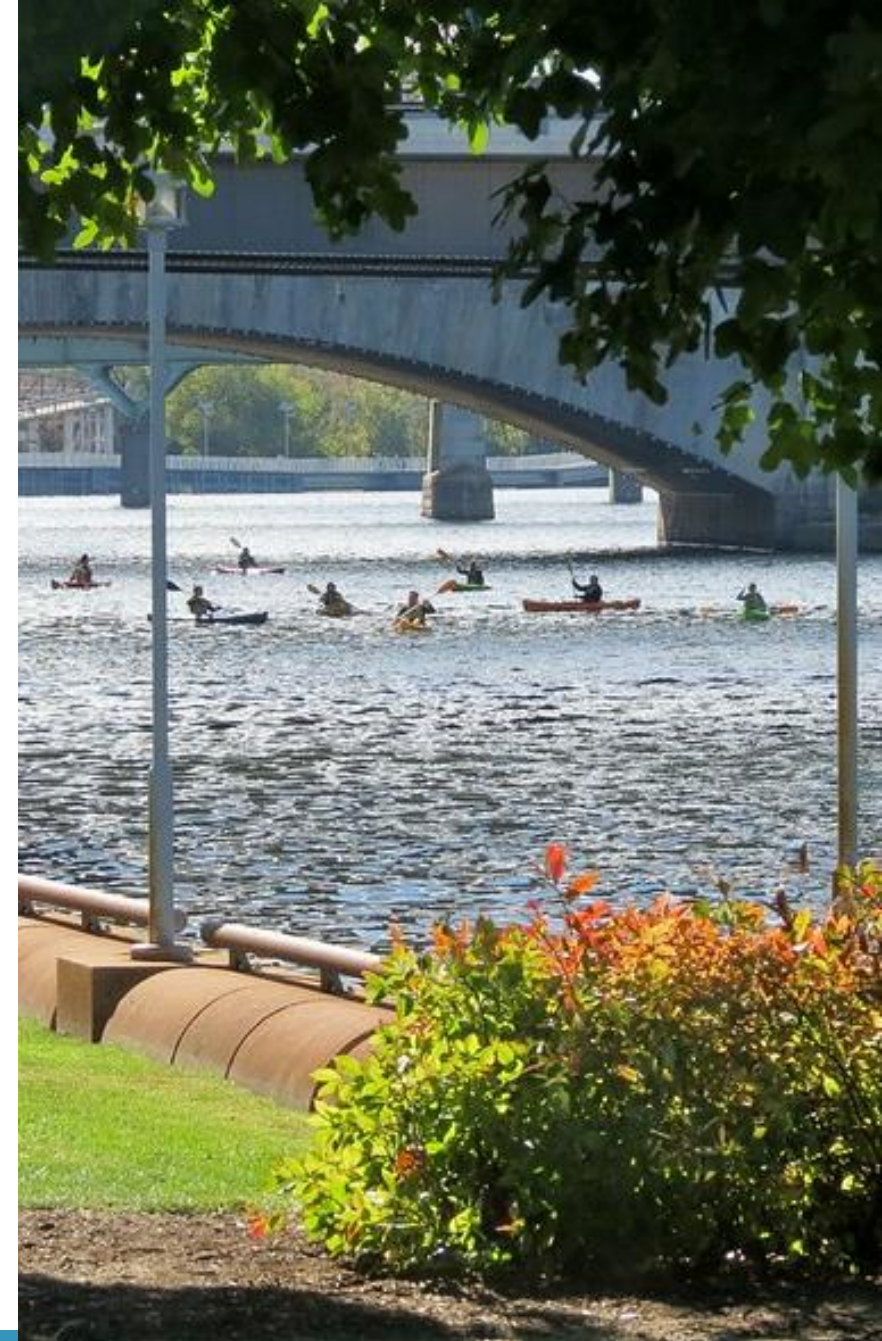


Photo Credit: Lane Fike, Schuylkill River, Philadelphia, PA

CONTINUED: 2. Are there gaps in our watershed that the Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership location can help to fill?

- Swimmable waters in urban Philadelphia
- A coordinated effort across all four Urban Waters cities (don't think something like this exists, could do community gardens or wildlife programs)
- Funding – gap in way agencies plan for remediation, resilience, restoration projects. These projects could be combined instead of separate to receive the funding.
- Outreach and engagement program that better reflect communities of color and densely populated urban environments. Collaborate with partners to create resources/materials more geared towards communities of color within cities
- Improve coordination/collaboration between NGO's, municipal, state, federal agencies
- Coordination and facilitation with partners in urban areas
- Expansion of the Delaware River Conservation Fund for further development of public recreational opportunities

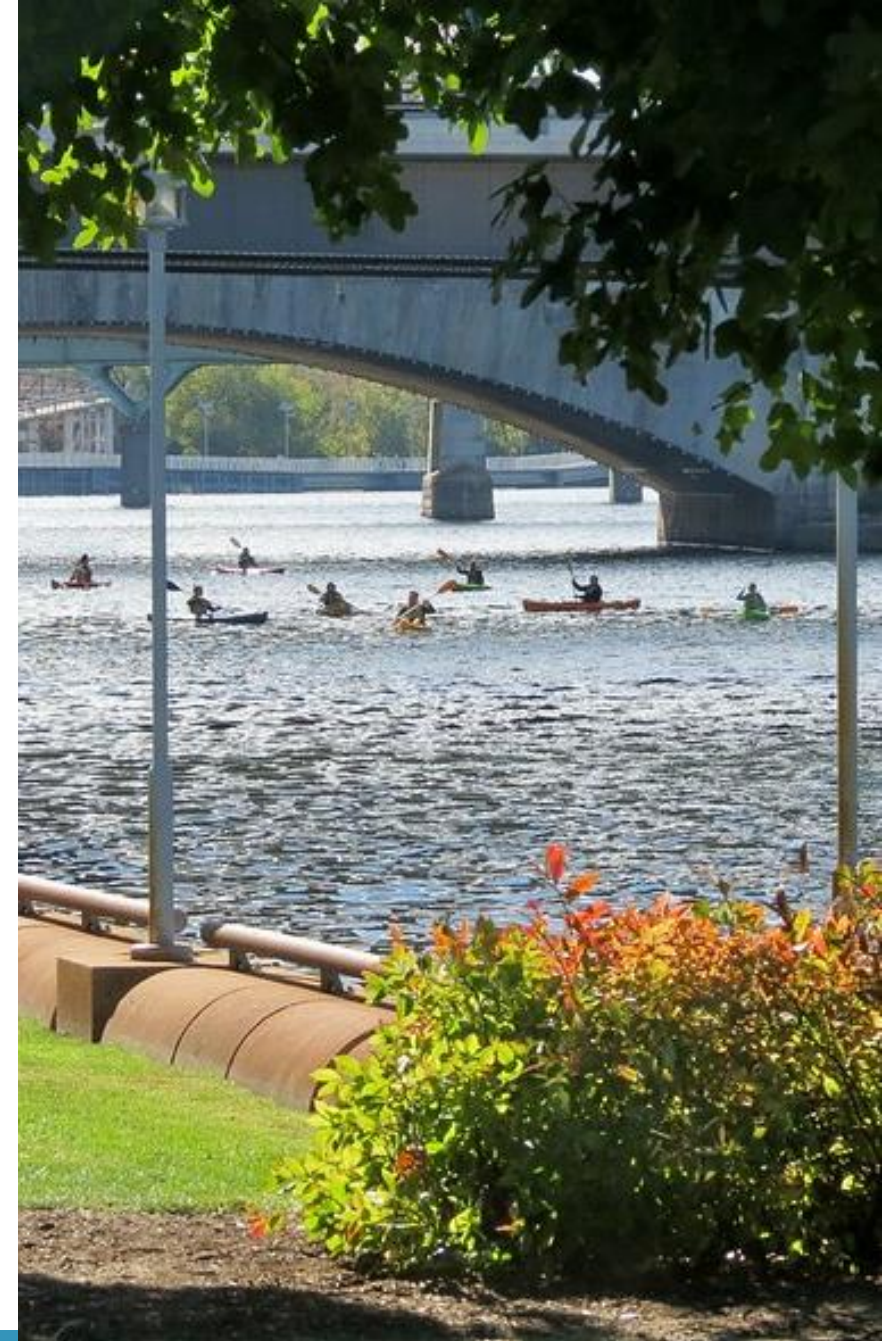


Photo Credit: Lane Fike, Schuylkill River, Philadelphia, PA

3. How can this Urban Waters location add value to the cities involved (Wilmington, DE, Chester, PA, Philadelphia, PA, Camden, NJ)?

- Connect local partners through technical assistance to leverage funding
- Establish cohesive narrative around activities in each of the cities and elevate and support the work in public eye and with funders
- Coordinate federal programs and work in meaningful way – don't use effort to only generate curated lists of funding opportunities/announcements
- Tap into the current partners (there should be adequate resources, information, knowledge already)
- Build capacity in existing organizations and identify funding sources to implement projects
- Continue to bring partners together to share challenges and solutions, a place to collaborate
- Urban Waters location to create some signature programs (education-based programs, stormwater programs, etc.)
- Serve as collaborator sharing ideas, knowledge and lessons learned in these communities



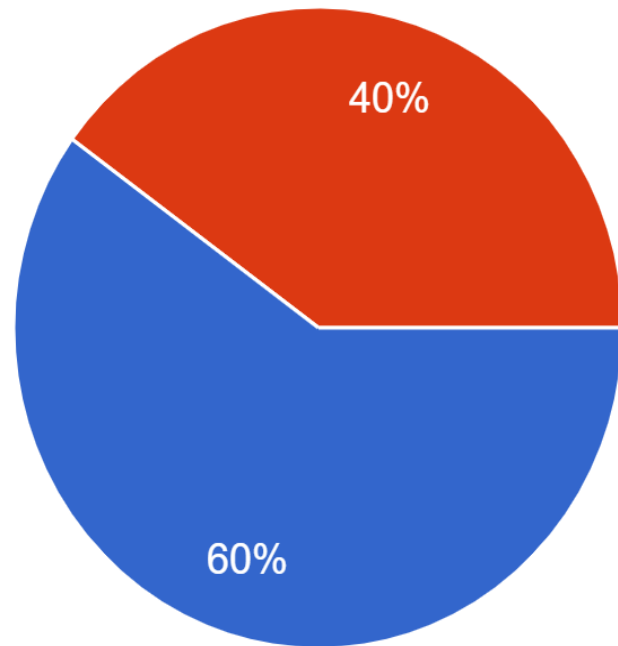
CONTINUED: 3. How can this Urban Waters location add value to the cities involved (Wilmington, DE, Chester, PA, Philadelphia, PA, Camden, NJ)?

- Unique location since can collaborate with EPA R2&R3 to share expertise and resources from both regions
- Focus on citizen science and access to the water
- Opportunities for park enhancement and creation exist in Philadelphia's Delaware Riverfront area, along with restoration
- Chester does not have a waterfront suitable to engage people, while all the other cities have improved public access to the water
- Initiatives underway in Chester to restore the riverfront and add public access/trail/recreational access
- Many gaps in significant tracts of private land that needs to be acquired to complete projects that requires aggressive support from local governments and funding
- Visit the cities for meetings and take virtual tours of projects
- Recruit participation to help provide oversight of the Chester City Stormwater Authority



Are you interested in serving on a steering group for the Delaware River Watershed Urban Waters location to provide periodic input on activities related to this effort?

15 responses

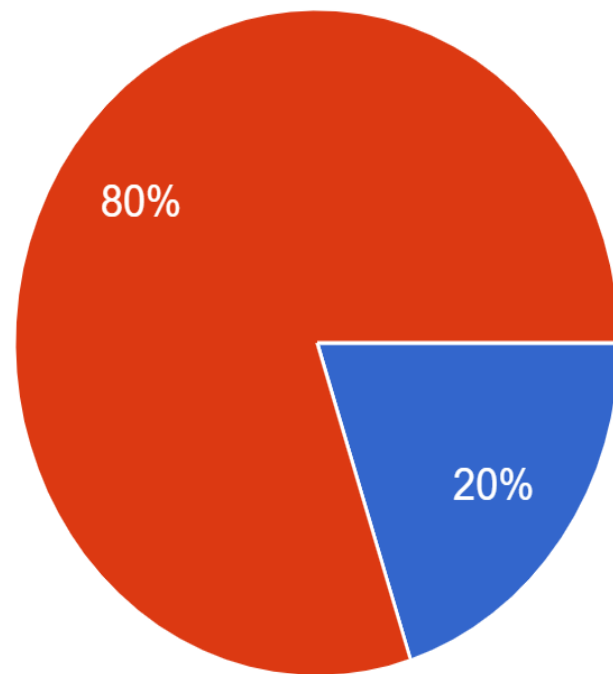


● Yes
● No

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Region 3
- Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology – University of Pennsylvania
- DNREC
- Delaware Nature Society
- Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- Philadelphia Water Department
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center

Are you interested in PRESENTING on an upcoming fall webinar related to connecting youth to urban waterways?

15 responses

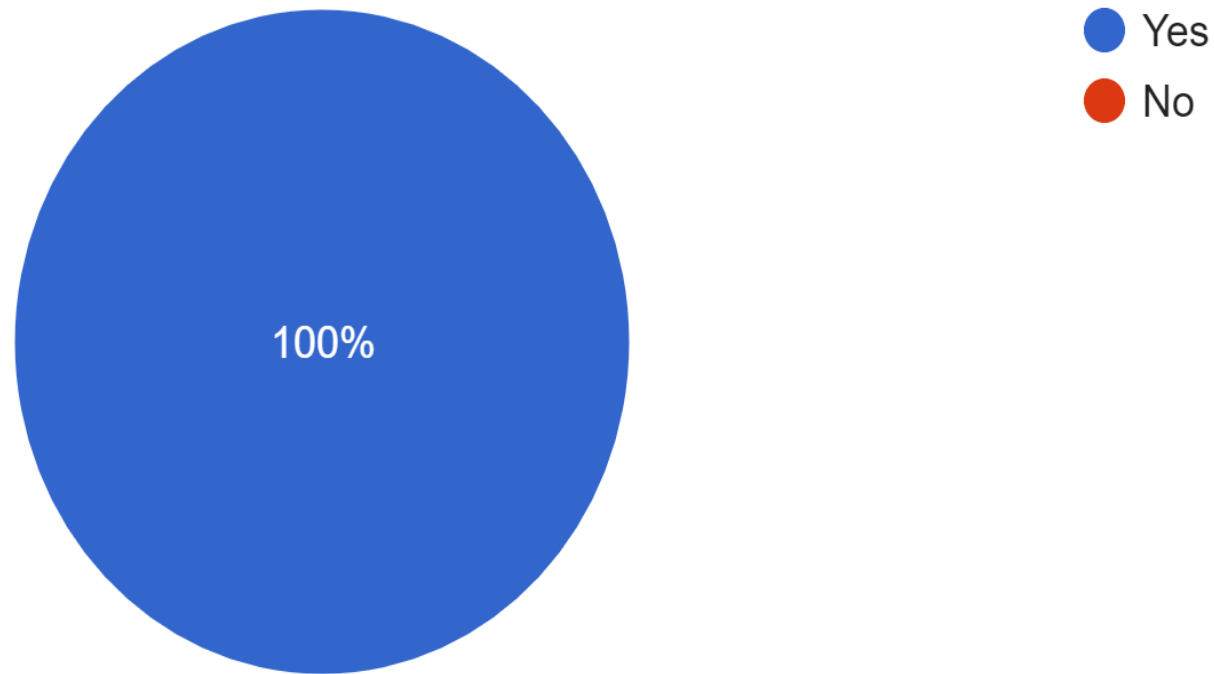


● Yes
● No

- DNREC (Todd Keyser)
- Delaware Nature Society (John Harrod)
- The Nature Conservancy (Maria Dziembowska)

Are you interested in ATTENDING an upcoming fall webinar related to connecting youth to urban waterways?

14 responses





Partnership for the
**DELAWARE
ESTUARY**

Let's Collaborate

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