U.S. Department of Commerce

## National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Ocean Service







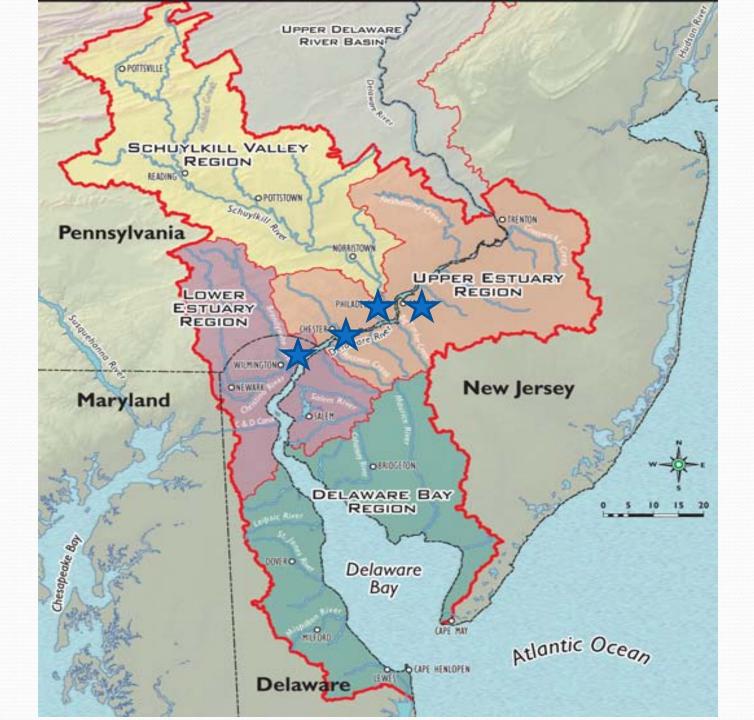
OFFICE of RESPONSE and RESTORATION

## THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP-PHILADELPHIA AND THE URBAN DELAWARE RIVER

**Brownfield Community of Practice** 

Simeon Hahn, NOAA & Julie Ulrich, TNC







## Urban River Coastal Communities Present Several Challenges

- Industrial History and Legacy Contaminants
- Large amount of ecological habitat loss (wetlands, fish passage, riparian areas, in stream habitat, forests)
- Water quality issues
- Outdated infrastructure
- Flooding/Combined Sewer Overflows
- Recreational Access
- Redevelopment plans
- Vulnerability to climate change
- Economic issues/unemployment
- High crime rates
- Environmental Justice Issues
- Federal funding is complex and limited





## ...and Several Opportunities

- Cleanup and restoration of waste sites
- Brownfield recovery and reuse
- Stabilizing shorelines and improving fish and wildlife habitat
- Adding recreational access —bringing communities to the water
- Planning for climate change
- Mitigating flooding
- Leveraging limited funding





### NOAA Coastal Flood Exposure Mapper

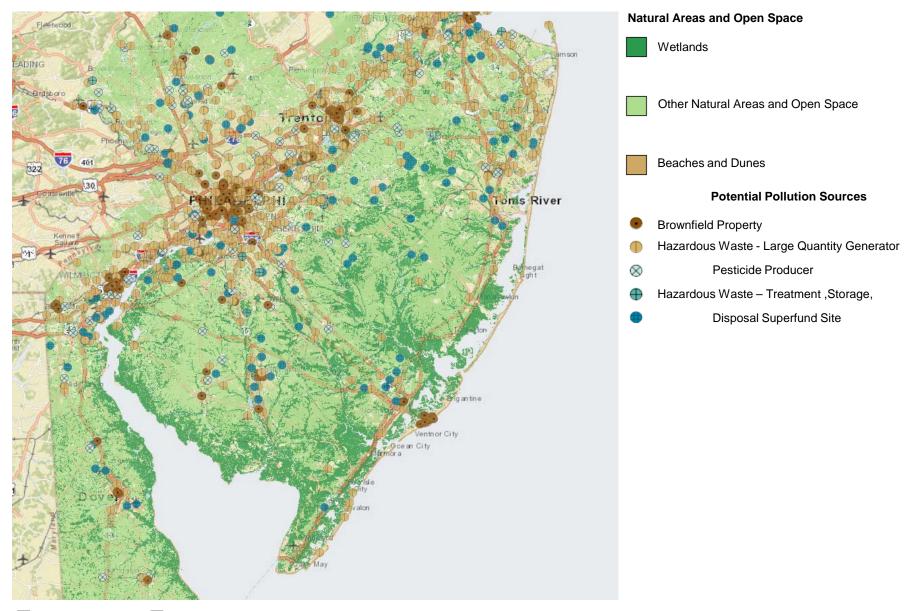
Produced by the NOAA Coastal Services Center

#### http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/flood-exposure

The current geography includes most of the Hurricane Sandy impact area (coastal counties of Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York). Expansion plans are underway for the rest of the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico.

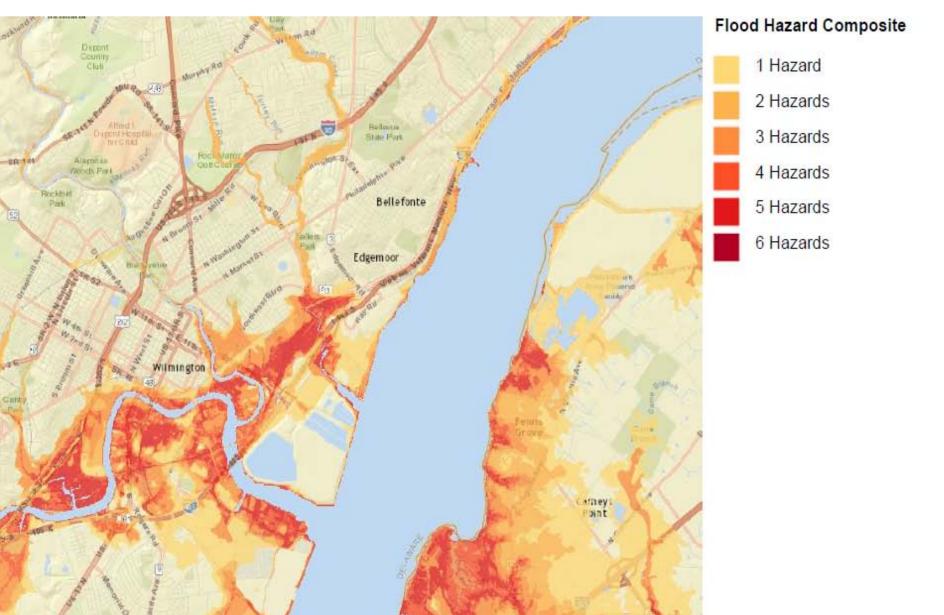
#### <u>Features</u>

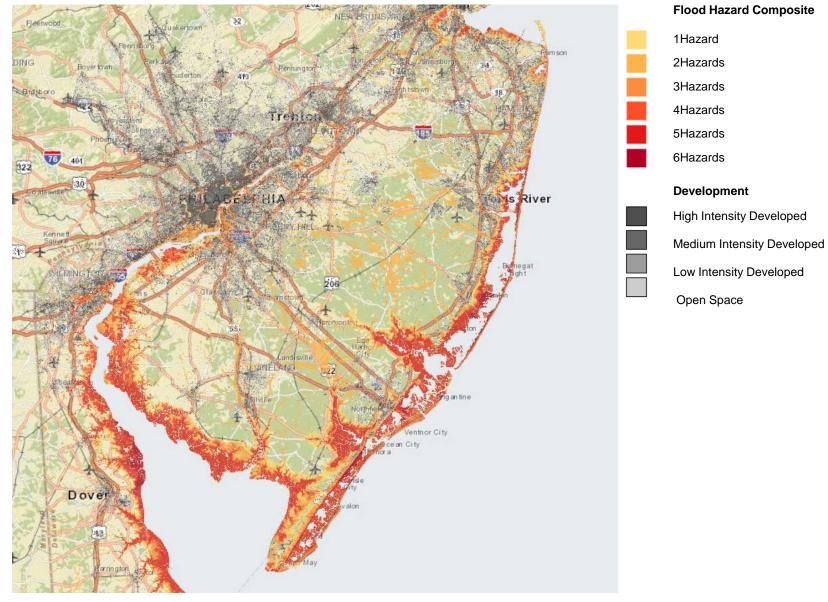
- •Allows users to select a location and explore maps that show people, places, and natural resources exposed to coastal flood hazards
- •Creates a collection of maps to download or share online to communicate flood exposure
- Provides guidance for using the maps to engage community members and stakeholders in conversations about potential coastal flood impacts
- Offers access to map services and tips on using them in an online mapping platform



**Ecosystem Exposure**Potential Pollution Sources

## Urban areas are extremely vulnerable..





Infrastructure Exposure
Development

### **Keystone Species**

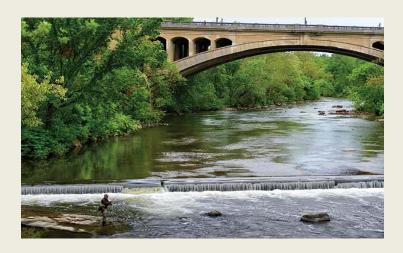












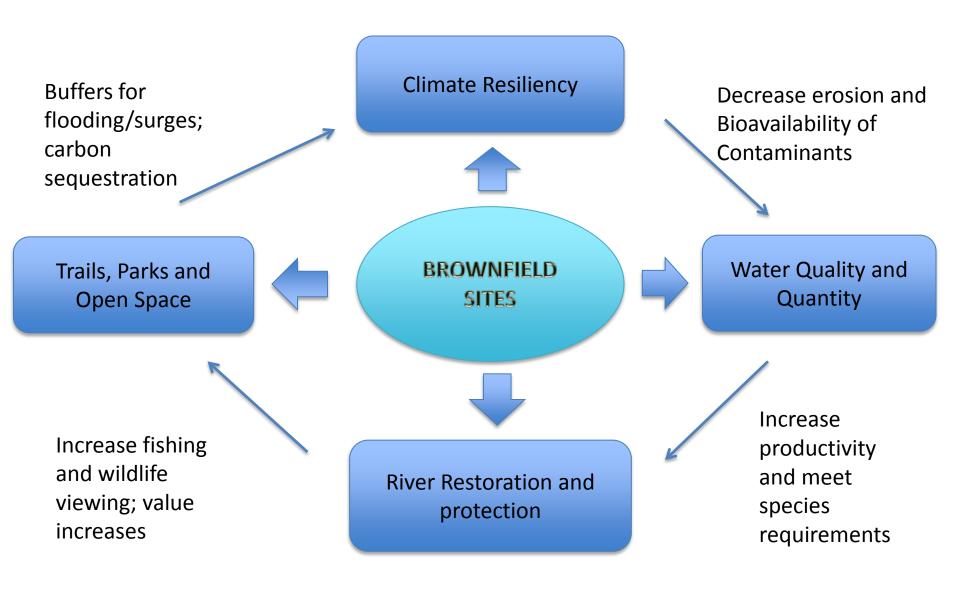
## **Updates:**

- Meetings and Site Visits in Camden, Chester, and Wilmington to Discuss and Highlight Brownfield Sites, Activities, and Priority Sites related to UWFP Goals
- Discussion of Brownfield Program authorities, funding opportunities, policies, etc
- Two Specific Topics for White Papers:
  - "Triple Bottom Line" Approach
  - Permitting/Living Shorelines and other Restoration Issues

## Performance Goals for Brownfields

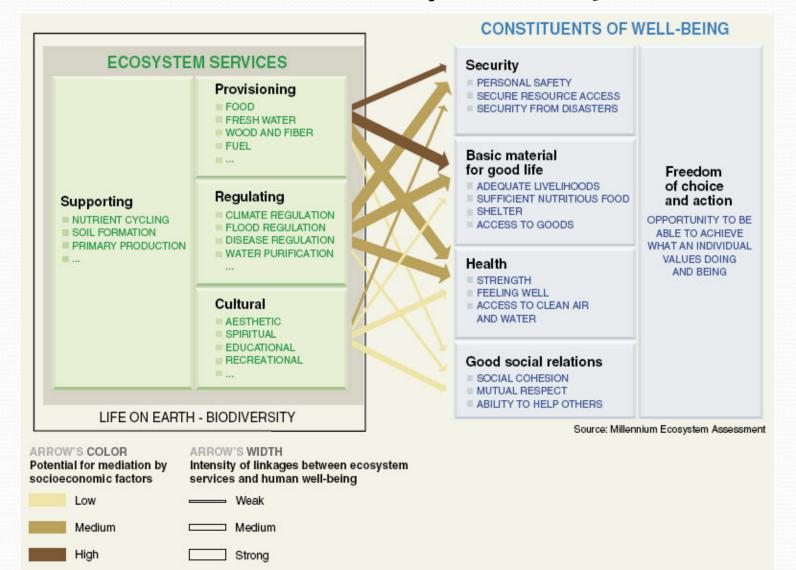
- Integrate with other Programs/Efforts:
  - PCB TMDL
  - Delaware Estuary Program CCMP Goals
    - Living Resources
    - Wetland/Riparian/Shoreline Habitats
    - Water Quality
    - Climate Change Resilience
    - Socio-Economic/Community Needs
  - Beneficial Use of dredge Material

## **Ecosystem Service Connectivity Example**



### Why Focus on Urban Water Areas?

MEA Defined Ecosystem Services as "the Benefits that People Obtain from Ecosystems (2005)



# Restoration Planning and Implementation/ Living Shorelines



Poured Asphalt at Philly Coke Site



Failing Bulkheads at Old Phila. Piers



Unstable Shoreline at Lardners Point - Restored!

#### Value Added Restoration Matrix

High Service Value

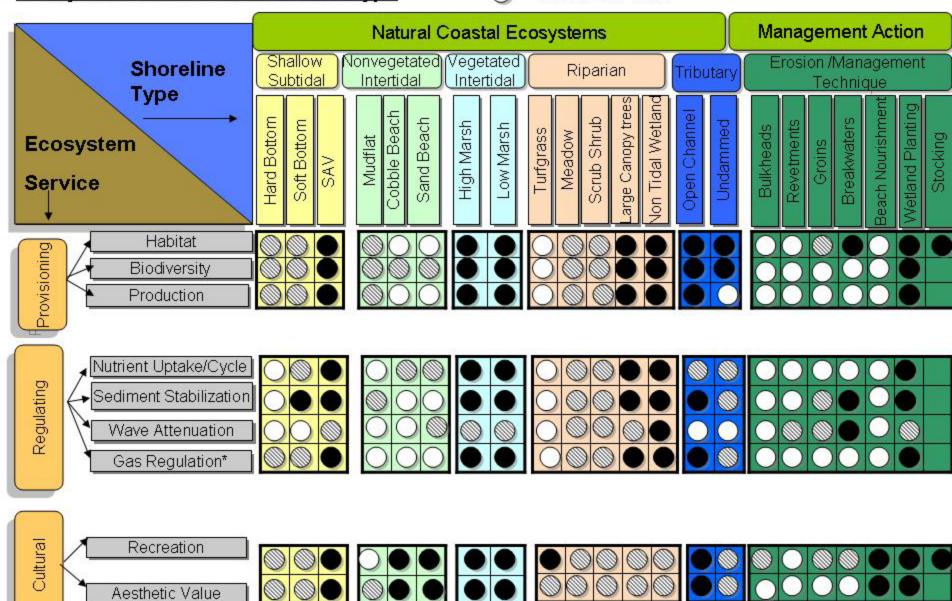


Intermediate Service Value

**Ecosystem Service vs Shoreline Type** 

0

Low Service Value



\*Gas regulation is carbon sequestration, carbon dioxide and oxygen production

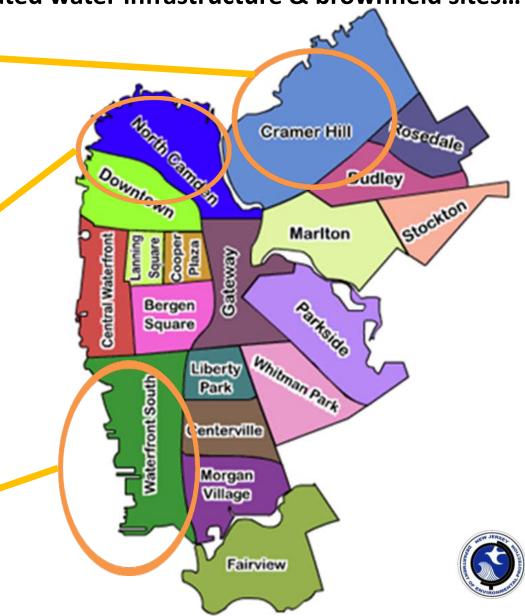


#### Camden:

Deteriorated water infrastructure & brownfield sites...



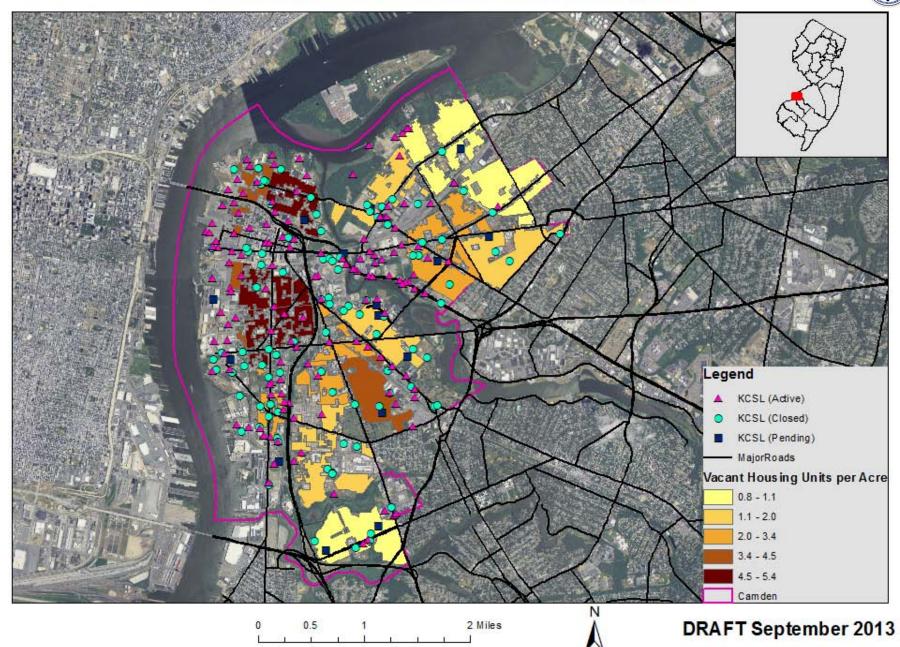




...contribute to flooding & quality of life issues

#### Camden Contaminated Sites and Vacant Housing Units







## **Brownfield Redevelopment in Camden:**

NORTH CAMDEN: EXISTING LAND USE

(41%) Brownfields

(32%) Vacant Residential

>1-mile of brownfields along riverfront

Brownfield redevelopment improves stormwater management & ecosystem services thru...

- (1) Existing sites: impervious surfaces, buildings, foundations, and highly-compacted soils
- (2) Redevelopment: requires removal of impervious surfaces & contaminated soils AND soil improvements and upgraded stormwater management
- (3) Urban riparian zone restoration

EPA (2011) found that brownfield redevelopment reduced stormwater runoff by 47-62%





## Former American Minerals site becomes...

### **PHOENIX PARK**





#### **BENEFITS:**

- Connects community to waterfront
- 5.5-acre park on former brownfield site Manages >5 million gallons of stormwater/yr
- Resilient shoreline & water quality benefits

#### **FUNDING**:

\$800,000 Camden County Open Space \$2.7 million NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust \$655,000 (p/o) NJDEP Supplemental Environmental Project \$19,000 NJDEP/USEPA Living Shoreline Grant

Groundbreaking August 7, 2014



#### Camden Brownfield Reuse for Stormwater Mgmt.

#### **Waterfront South Rain Gardens Park**

#### **BEFORE:**

Abandoned contaminated gas station ~1/2 million gallons of contaminated stormwater runoff every year



#### **Funding Sources:**

DEP C&E Supplemental Env't Project (p/o\$655,000) DEP SRP Petroleum UST Fund Grant (\$122,000) EPA Brownfields Petroleum Ass't Grant (\$100,000) Rutgers 319h Watershed grant (p/o \$300,000)

#### **AFTER:**

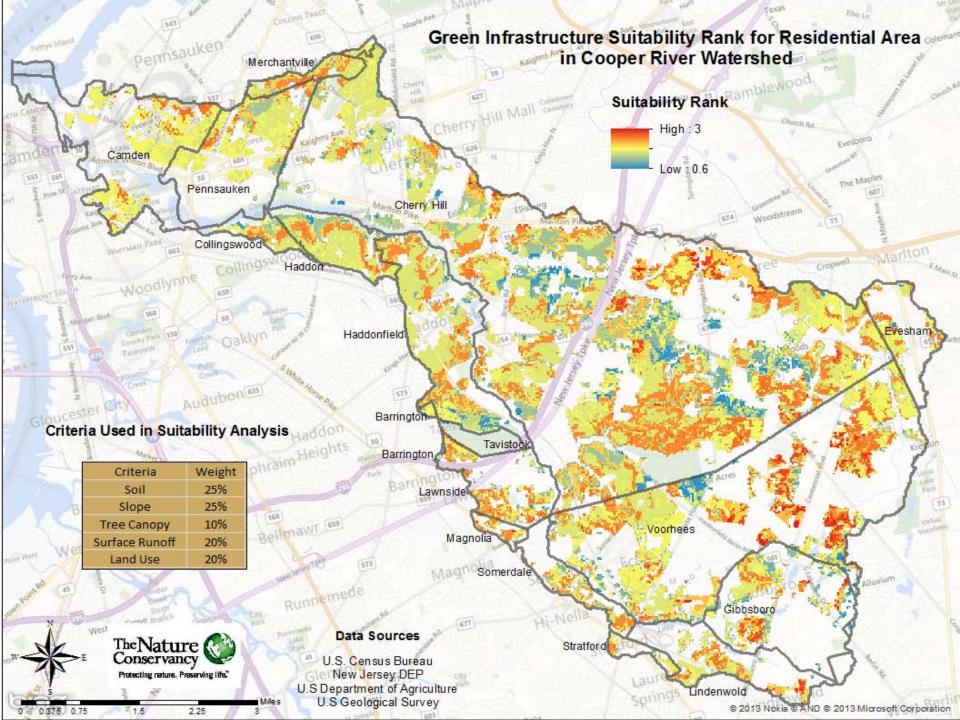
Gateway/pocket park Manages/treats >1 million gallons of stormwater each year from site & streets!

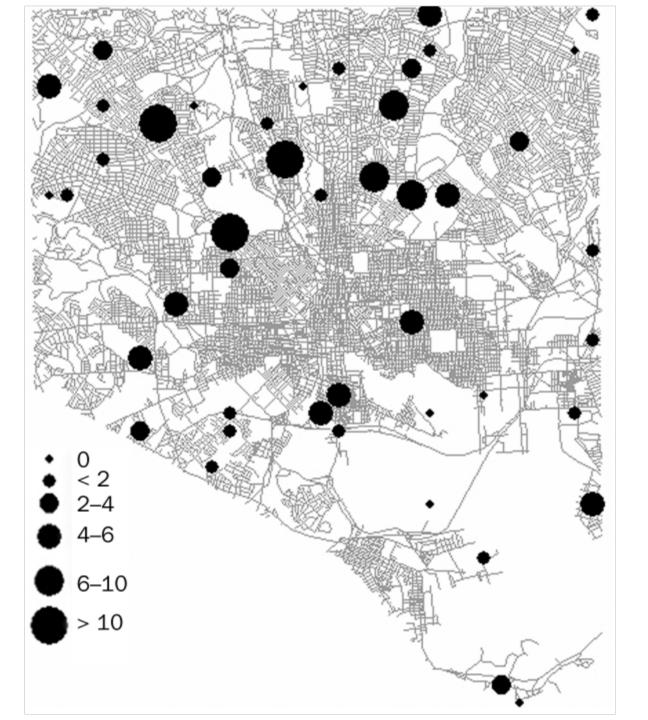


Heart of Camden / Sacred Heart Church Center for Environmental Transformation

Camden County Municipal Utilities Auth. (CCMUA) New Jersey Department of Env't Protection (NJDEP) Camden Redevelopment Agency

Camden SMART (City of Camden, Cooper's Ferry Partnership,





## **Moving Forward**

- •This is an emerging project and one that will most benefit from wide collaboration and partnership within Urban Waters Federal Partnership
- Just beginning initial phase of a potential multi-phase initiative
- Begin incorporating needs of Urban Water partner cities to develop an effective tool to be shared
- •Collaborating With: NJ DEP, CCMUA, CRA, Cooper's Ferry, Camden SMART, NJCF, NJIT, NOAA, USFS