



THE URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP
& THRIVABLE COMMUNITIES
14TH ANNUAL NEW PARTNERS FOR SMART GROWTH CONFERENCE
BALTIMORE, JANUARY 29, 2015

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

- ◆ Key initiative of EPA's Urban Waters program
- ◆ EPA, DOI and USDA co-leads
- ◆ **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."

Partnership Principles

Promote clean urban waters

Reconnect people to their waterways

Promote water conservation

Use water to promote economic revitalization

Encourage community improvements through active partnerships

Be open & honest; Listen to communities to learn.

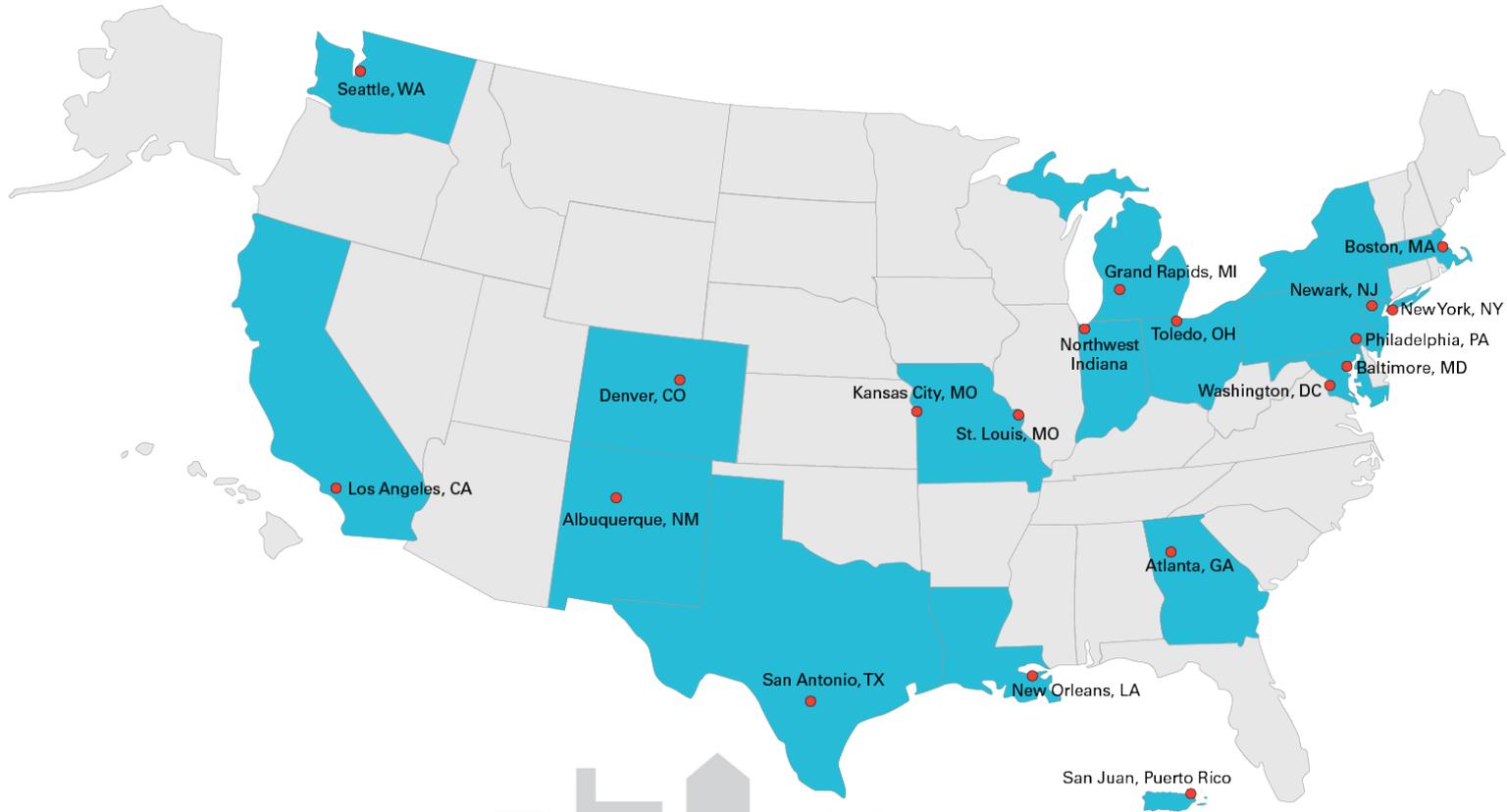
Measure success & evaluate to fuel future success

Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Powerful Inter-Agency Platform supported by WH CEQ and DPC
Breaking down federal program silos; Engaging communities first.



Urban Waters Federal Partnership Locations



What can a local Urban Waters Partnership initiative achieve?

Imagine...

- All waters clean for fishing and recreation and for cleaner intake water for drinking
- All Urban Waters locations with economic progress in communities that surround them, including distressed communities
- That people's lives are better in communities surrounding urban waters
- The people in urban, suburban and rural communities on the same river or lake collaborating to clean up the river or lake and connect culturally



Imagine Clean Water for Fishing and Recreation, and Cleaner Intake Water for Drinking

- Urban rivers and lakes are clean enough in cities to be fishable and support recreation, and if used for drinking water, cleaner water for intake to drinking water systems
- Fish caught are eatable and families can fish for free (with reasonable restrictions)
- Urban residents can enjoy the river through boating or sitting by the river or walking on a trail through wonderful trees on wonderful clean trails



Imagine Economic Progress in *All* Communities that Surround Urban Waters Locations

- New businesses and projects, like green infrastructure, green streets, playgrounds & roofs are driving new jobs for urban residents
- Water-friendly manufacturing businesses are opening or expanding near urban rivers and lakes and supplying new middle-class paying jobs because businesses want to be near beautiful urban waters
- New projects and jobs for urban residents are being created near urban waters to build public housing, weatherize old buildings, build trails, establish urban farms and food distribution, re-green vacant lots, plant trees, establish orchards



Imagine that People's Lives are Better in Communities Surrounding Urban Waters



We could have better physical surroundings in neighborhoods with:

- New refurbished housing
- Clean streets
- New green infrastructure for green streets, green playgrounds, green sidewalks, green buildings/roofs
- New trails, trees and parks
- Weatherized public housing or housing for middle-class families
- Green schools
- Green restored vacant lots with trees and parks

Imagine Urban, Suburban and Rural Communities Connecting Culturally and Collaborating to Clean Up Shared Rivers and Lakes



- From the headwaters of the South Platte River in Denver through to the City of Denver – collaboration between the urban, suburban and rural-based people near the river, working together on the same day to clean up “Their River” for multiple goals such as recreation on the whole river and clean drinking water.

- Or here in Baltimore, from the headwaters of the Patapsco through into the City, people from rural to suburban to urban working for and on the River.
- Developing a joint cultural interest among these three segments of American Society (urban suburban, rural) using the River as a Cultural Collaboration Vehicle



National Urban Waters Actions and Approaches

2010 – Present

National Urban Waters Federal executives and appointed workgroup launched:

Partnership Vision, Mission & Principles

Locations Learning Network

Partnership Work Plan



2011 – 2014

Designating and building 19 Partnership locations with federal, state and local government, local NGOs and businesses

Establishing Ambassadors

Working with national NGOs, foundations corporations



2015 – 2016

Advancing and documenting progress in 19 locations

Publishing a “How To” Handbook & sharing this tool for all urban locations in the nation

Identifying and spreading best practices with locations

Examples of Accomplishments from Partnership Locations

In **Atlanta, GA**, the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance is working in underserved communities and engaging residents and youth in outdoor and volunteer activities to protect and restore local green spaces.



In **Los Angeles, CA**, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership is cleaning up the Los Angeles River upstream to downstream with local partners. One primary goal is to restore sections of the river to its natural state and promote use of the riverfront.

In **Philadelphia, PA**, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is training and educating local residents through its job training program. The program has a course on stormwater and green infrastructure to train skilled workers and expand Philadelphia's workforce



What's Next?

Building the Partnership. Growing our Impact:

- Launch the Partnership's Handbook for communities nationwide
- Work with the 28+ national NGOs signed on to the Partnership
- Deepen our work within the 14 federal agencies in the Partnership

Questions? Please visit:

www.urbanwaters.gov