

Urban Waters National Training Workshop

July 26-28th, 2016
Sheraton Pentagon City
Arlington, Virginia

Welcome!

We welcome you to the 2016 Urban Waters National Training Workshop. This workshop is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, on behalf of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership – an innovative union of fourteen agencies working to provide integrated support to communities – particularly underserved and economically distressed communities – as they transform their local urban waters into treasured centerpieces for community revitalization.

Workshop Goals:

1. **Connect, share, and learn** with other innovators to accelerate our cross-sector work on the ground.
2. **Inspire and strengthen** the urban waters movement to build and sustain robust effective partnerships across the country.
3. **Strengthen** our skills in working with underserved communities to address community-based priorities and environmental justice challenges.

We encourage you to take full advantage of the structured sessions; “participants’ choice” sessions that you create; peer-to-peer networking opportunities; site-visits; and opportunities to meet with community, local, state, tribal, federal, and NGO leaders.



Acknowledgements

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership recognizes this event is possible only with the extraordinary support of the many individuals whose effort, time, and insights have brought us together for our fourth National Training Workshop – the Partnership’s premier event. The contributions of our Steering Committee: **Na’Taki Osborne Jelks** (West Atlanta Watershed Alliance), **Natalie Johnson** (Ambassador for the Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Partnership), **Alice Ewen** (USDA – Forest Service), **Lisa Pelstring** (Department of the Interior), and **Jennifer Ousley** (US Environmental Protection Agency), were instrumental in shaping and ensuring our agenda resonates and adds value to all the diverse individuals, agencies, and organizations in our Partnership. We would also like to thank all our DC-area partners who mobilized participation in this event locally, including: **Dennis Chestnut** (Groundwork Anacostia), **Dwane Jones** (University of the District of Columbia), **Brenda Richardson** (Earth Conservation Corps), **Jim Foster** (Anacostia Watershed Society), and the Smithsonian's UPO program.

Workshop Co-Leads, **Amelia Letnes** and **Jennifer Ousley**, coordinated the many moving parts of event planning and outreach with support from **Emily Simonson** (ORISE Participant, EPA). Key guidance was provided by the Urban Waters staff at EPA, **Michael Shapiro**, **Benita Best-Wong**, **Dave Evans**, **Surabhi Shah**, **Larry Weinstock**, **Roy Simon**, **Gina Bowler**, **Terri Johnson**, **Robin Parker**, **Abu Moulta-Ali**, **Caroline Klos**, **Elyse Bilardo** (US Environmental Protection Agency) and support from **Ibrahim Goodwin** (EPA), **Mustafa Ali** (EPA), **Pauline Louie** (EPA), **Vernice Miller-Travis** (Skeo Solutions), **Alisa Hefner** (Skeo Solutions), and **Stacey Burger** (SRA International).

We especially appreciate all those who accepted our invitation to present your ideas and offer up your expertise at this event. Your contributions inspire and strengthen our resolve to revitalize urban watersheds to the benefit of communities across the nation.

Finally, EPA is grateful for the firm commitment of our partners in the federal family, without which this Workshop would not be possible.